



NEWSBRIEFS

Blackjack replacement

His name is Remo and he signed his certificate of deputation with his paw. A replacement for honored El Paso County Sheriff's K-9 Deputy Blackjack was named April 1, after Blackjack's untimely death last summer. Remo comes to El Paso County from Aquila, Texas, where the 14-month-old Belgium-Malinois was trained to detect narcotics. His handler will be Deputy Louie Almonte, who was part of an award winning duo with Blackjack.

Border patrol forums

The El Paso Sector Border Patrol will host a series of community forums in the El Paso area, designed to provide the public with an opportunity to ask questions share concerns and to learn more about the operations and procedures of the agency and its role in the Dept. of Homeland Security. The forums, free and open to the public, will be held at the Fabens Community Center, 201 W. Camp St., at 6:30 p.m. on April 8; at the Ysleta Branch Library, 9321 Alameda near Loop 375, at 6:30 p.m. on April 14; and at Burnet Elementary, 3700 Thomason, 6:30 p.m. on April 15. For information call 834-8311 or 834-8313.

In other news

■ Several art students attending Capt. Walter E. Clarke Middle School competed and won awards for their work from the El Paso Art Awards show, now celebrating its 50th anniversary. Opening night was April 1 at the International Museum of Art, 1200 Montana Street. First place prizes were awarded to seventh graders Cesar Torres, and Andi Noyes. Seventh graders Daisuke Goya and Chris Ferman, and sixth-grader Hector Mata received second place awards. Their art teacher is Josie Viel.

■ A free seminar on benefits available for Texas veterans will be held 6 p.m. Wednesday, April 14, at the Ysleta Independent School District Building Auditorium, 9600 Sims Drive, just off I-10. The seminar is intended to help Texas veterans learn about improved benefits available from the Texas Veterans Land Board. Among issues to be discussed are:

- Major financial relief for active-duty Texas Reservists and National Guard members who have Veterans Land Board loans.
- Texas State Veterans Homes, which provide long-term, skilled nursing care in state-of-the-art facilities. The new nursing homes were built entirely for Texas veterans, their spouses and Gold Star parents.
- Low-cost home loans to veterans.
- Discounted home loans to veterans who become, or remain, public school teachers. Discounted home loans are also available for public school teachers married to

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A gentleman is a man who makes it a cinch for a woman to remain a lady.

— Quips & Quotes



BLACKTOP — Road crews spread asphalt and rolled it smooth last week during the final stages of a street project in Horizon City begun in August 2003. The project widened all of Darrington Rd., through town, to four lanes and resurfaced all existing two and four lane portions. Coby Nichols, a TXDOT inspector, said he thought the intersection at Horizon Blvd. could be fully functional around mid-April.

Darrington paving near completion

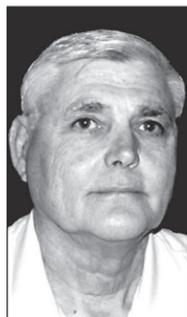
Former Horizon City mayor pleased to see street projects come to fruition

By Don Woodyard
 Courier Staff Writer

HORIZON CITY — You might characterize former Horizon City Mayor Walt Lee as a Road Warrior.

Certainly he is not in the Mel Gibson-mold of Road Warrior.

Rather he has fought a different kind of fight, a fight that began seven years ago. It has been



Walt Lee

a fight, not on the roads, but, rather, for better roads in Horizon City. And the fruits of that fight are more and more evident in the East El Paso County community.

The widening of Darrington to four lanes south from Homestead to the city limits covers 1.5 miles and nears completion. Blanca Del Valle, public information for the Texas Department of Transportation (TXDOT) says completion is scheduled in mid-May of this year on the \$1.5 million project. It began in August of 2003.

The project began to take shape for Lee after he was elected mayor in 1997. He saw the need for improving the streets, continuing the efforts of his predecessor, Lillard Thompson.

He targeted three streets as most needing improvements. They were Darrington, Ashford and Ryderwood. He said the problem came in finding the money to do the work.

Lee found that funds for highway projects came from the Transportation Policy Board and

the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO). As mayor he was a member of the MPO policy board along with other mayors, elected officials and members of TXDOT. He became involved with the workings of the two organizations. "I went to every meeting I could," he says.

As a result, he became the policy board's vice chairman in 1998.

Lee said small towns such as Horizon City were not adequately represented and were getting short shrift in funding recommendations coming from the MPO staff, which allocates state and federal highway monies based on funding requests.

He also saw that money was not going to small town projects, but rather to larger entities like the city of El Paso. As a consequence, he and other members of the board rejected the 1998 MPO budget. The budget was redone and included money for the Horizon City projects.

While identifying the funding source, Lee was also setting about to get the Horizon City roads "functionally qualified" to receive the state and federal money. He praises the "tremendous support" of state Rep. Joe Pickett as well as TXDOT for assisting in getting the projects under way.

"I relied on Joe Pickett heavily," Lee says. "Everything I asked about, he got answers for."

Another obstacle, Lee recalls, was the 20 percent matching money required from the city requesting financial aid. He said he was able to persuade the state that Horizon was not a rich, high-income community — criteria that

See ROAD, Page 4

Motivational speaker inspires SEHS students by telling her story

By Phillip Cortez
 Special to the Courier

SAN ELIZARIO — She didn't look like your typical Lieutenant Colonel, maybe more like your mother or favorite aunt, but by the time Consuelo Castillo Kickbusch finished speaking to an auditorium full of San Elizario High School students, she had gained the respect and admiration of everyone in the house.



C. C. Kickbusch

The motivational speaker stopped by in support of her self-published book, "Journey to the Future" and as part of the Yo soy el Army grant, a grant in which San Elizario High was 1 of 22 schools in the country to be given.

"Because I work with your generation," Kickbusch began, "I speak three languages. English, Spanish and eTeen."

And so began what might turn out to be one of the most entertaining lectures San Elizario students have witnessed this year as Kickbusch "honored" the students by telling her life story. But to call this a mere lecture would be a disservice. Kickbusch's presentation was more like a transformation through time, as she painted a picture of her humble beginnings as one of 10 children in Laredo, Texas. It was then as a young teenager Kickbusch imagined she was an Aztec princess, telling students that her only priority was herself.

From there, Kickbusch talked about the transformation she went through as a person, when she realized that she wanted to be a leader rather than a follower.

"My realization came when I looked at a wedding picture of my parents and saw how much my mother had changed from that day," Kickbusch said, as she described an old, overworked woman who had traveled many miles from Mexico with her husband to work in fields and even live inside a boxcar for nearly 5 years.

"I realized the incredible sacrifice that parents make," she said.

As Kickbusch continued describing her transformation, including a powerful revelation in which she admitted that her getting arrested for truancy might have led to the heart problems that eventually killed her father, an incredible transformation also took place in the packed auditorium listening to her.

What started out as an energetic buzz from students excited to be free for a cool 40-minute classroom break turned into a compelling lesson of self-esteem and respect that had them exploding with laughter one minute, quiet and reflective the next, as evidenced by her hilarious story of her encounter with "two vatos" and looking like a Christmas tree at a San Antonio Taco Cabana to her emotional and eye-opening story of a 14-year-old serving time for the negligent death of her infant baby.

"To have a career, a vision and the luxury of doing what you want with your life starts with how you see yourself," Kickbusch said. "Clothes do not make you. What makes you is your soul."



One perspective

By Francis Shrum

Girls with hammers

I believe there really are a few rare women who can successfully use a hammer. Then there are the rest of us.

The woman I was watching the other day on the female version of a television home fix-it show had to have been computer-generated. Not only could she use a hammer but she was good-looking. I don't think so.

Still, there are women who can and to those fortunate few, I take off my sweaty old gardening hat. But for those of us who can't, there is hope.

Personally, my deliverance has been wire, string, duct tape and those handy little plastic tie-downs that once you pull the tab through the fastener it never comes back out until the sun causes it to crack and fall apart. Whatever you tied together usually collapses, too.

But never say die. Your back yard may look like a modern art studio, but that's okay as long as you have kept the dog from digging up the flower beds and the kid from getting in the street. If the grape vine has something to cling to and the gate something to swing on, you are a success, in my opinion.

Besides, who wants a back yard that looks like it was done by a professional? A yard with square corners and no character? Well, maybe a man does, but who's asking?

I learned a few lessons about home repair from my grandmother. She could do more with less than any person I've known since. She made planters out of cooking pots that had developed leaks, and she fashioned window flower boxes out of scrap lumber. She taught me how to use hay bailing wire to fix the fence so the animals didn't get out. She also taught me a few things about milking a cow.

Now, they don't use wire to bail hay anymore, and few folks routinely keep a milk cow, but the basic idea behind those lessons has served me well over the years. Use what you have and do the best with it you can — and don't spend a lot of time waiting around for someone to come do it for you, or it'll never get done.

My grandboy, age three, and I built a fence around some freshly set tomato plants the other day. I wouldn't need to do this except the dog finds something irresistible about the moist, composted soil and seeks to locate that elusive scent with both paws. Unprotected the baby plants won't last long.

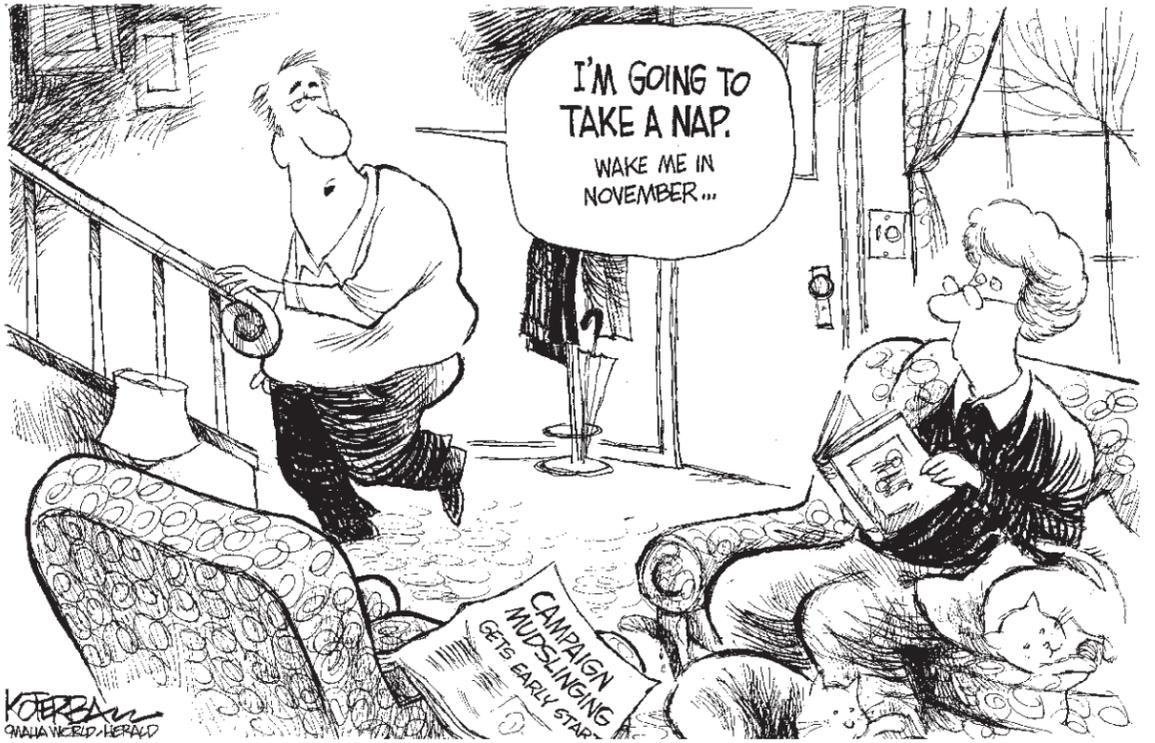
The boy is still at that wonderfully adorable, but sadly brief, age when he thinks Granny is interesting and capable. He'll soon learn better, but let me enjoy this while it lasts.

We put on our hats, gloves and sandals and head out into the warm morning sun. We keep making trips to the shed to get different tools, but we don't take the one we're using back, so our pile keeps growing.

He keeps taking side trips to push the wagon around and jump on the nearby trampoline, where his hat flies off and he hollers, "Ride-em, cowboy!" But all in all, what he lacks as a handy man he makes up for as an entertainer. Besides, his gloves are so big he can't keep get his fingers all the way into the holes, so he can't grip anything very well.

I set a few landscaping poles and string some net wire around them, actually managing not to bruise my fingers while I tack the wire in place with nails. But to my dismay, the length of wire is about two feet too short to reach all the way around.

Not to worry. I fashion a garden gate out of a wooden frame and some leftover closet shelving. No hinges?



No problem. Braiding some heavy-duty twine will do fine.

When I finish up, the poles are not set at perfect 90 degree angles, and the whole thing looks a little unorthodox, but the dog, having watched all this activity with interest, looks a

little downcast so I figure it will serve the purpose fine.

My toes are sunburned and the boy's face is getting pretty pink so we start hauling tools back to the shed before heading to the house.

Later that afternoon, when my hus-

band comes home, I proudly lead him out to the back yard to show off my handiwork. He stands there just looking at it for a moment before he shakes his head and says, "That's amazing."

I knew he'd be pleased.

WEST TEXAS COUNTY COURIER

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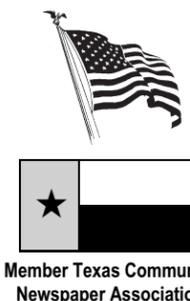
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View from here By Gov. Rick Perry

Taxpayers deserve a voice in the education debate

As the debate begins in Austin over how best to fund education in Texas, I believe it is important to make sure that the people who pay the bills have a voice in the process. We need to protect taxpayers and control property taxes by confronting the critical cost drivers that cause many Texans to continue to pay more.

Since 1999, total statewide property tax levies have increased by on average 10.4 percent a year. This increase is more than twice the combined annual rate of growth for inflation and our population.

For too long Texas homeowners and employers have been the victim of an insidious, back door property tax hike that comes in the form of higher appraisals. Instead of raising rates to generate more revenue, local governments often depend upon the local appraiser to generate additional money for them.

Texans were told a property tax cut was on the way in 1997, but when they opened their bills many found

that their rate cuts were offset by appraisal hikes. I want a tax cut to be a tax cut, not a sleight of hand where the end result means Texans pay more.

One of my priorities in any special session on education will be to pass a Taxpayer Protection Plan that will ensure we not only cut property taxes, but cap and control them too.

First, I want to cap appraisal growth on Texas homesteads at 3 percent each year.

The median value of a Texas home is just under \$129,000. The annual property tax bill on that home is just over \$3,500. Under current law, even without a property tax rate hike, that Texas homeowner could see their bill increase \$350 in one year and even more year after year.

It's a phenomenon called appraisal creep and it is nothing less than a tax hike by any other name.

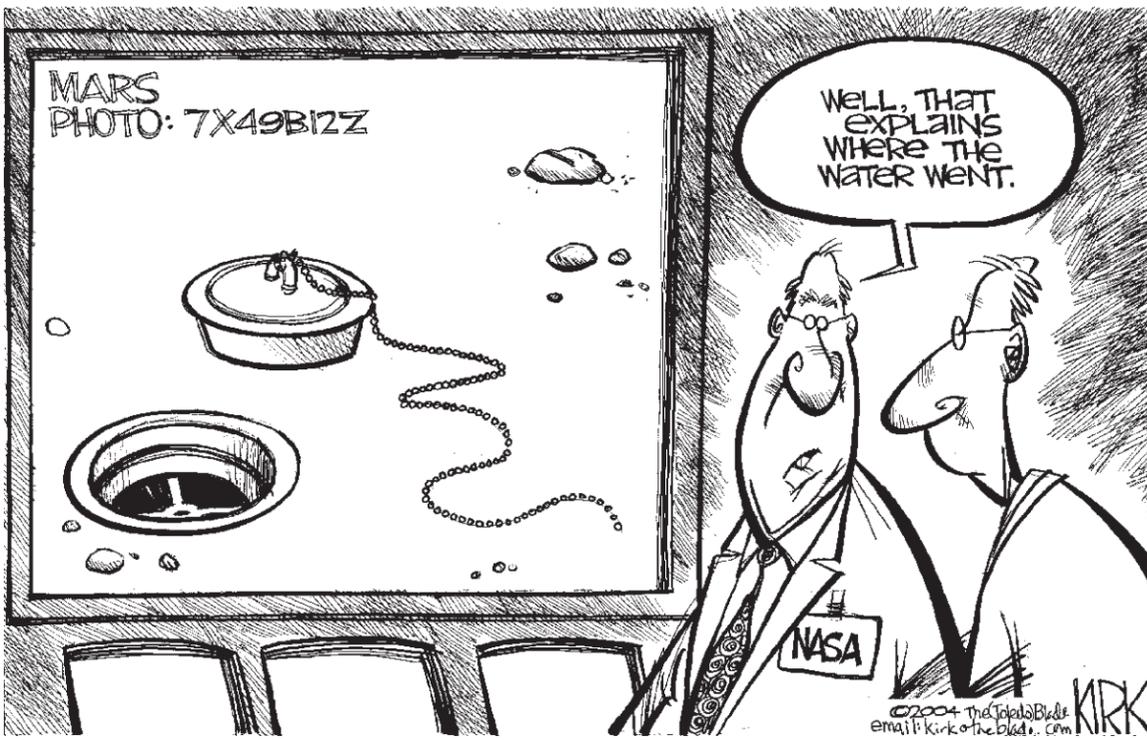
In order to make sure a tax cut actually is a tax cut, I also believe we need a cap on the annual growth

in property tax revenue that local governments can raise. We need to develop a measure that will allow property tax revenues for cities, counties, schools and special taxing districts to grow in proportion to their population and rising prices.

However, if local governments want to raise property tax revenue beyond what it costs to keep up with growth and inflation, under my proposal they will have to ask voters for approval.

Democrats, Republicans and Independents all seem to agree in that property taxes are too high. We all understand that Texans have not only seen their property tax rates rise, they have been victimized by an appraisal system that too often seems arbitrary, cumbersome, unfair, and unaccountable.

It is time to give taxpayers a voice in the education reform debate. It is time to ensure that any property tax relief is real.



Reyes Reports By U.S. Rep. Silvestre Reyes

El Paso promoted in D.C.



Both the Greater El Paso Chamber of Commerce and the El Paso Hispanic Chamber of Commerce recently traveled to Washington, DC. With itineraries packed with meetings on Capitol Hill and various agencies around Washington, such as the Small Business Administration (SBA) and the Department of Homeland Security, these groups spent the week working hard for El Paso's economic and business interests.

Ever since arriving in Congress in 1997, I have informed and educated my colleagues and administration officials about the U.S.-Mexico border. Many members from other parts of the country did not know or understand the increased needs of El Paso and other communities along the Southwest border. Through my efforts and the efforts of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, the border region has gained increased exposure.

Despite these achievements, the El Paso community continues to face many obstacles, which is what makes these trips by the Greater Chamber and Hispanic Chamber so important.

The Hispanic Chamber's delegation included chamber representa-

tives and business owners representing a range of sectors from banking to recycling. Focusing on the needs of the small, minority-owned business community (which accounts for approximately 21,000 businesses in El Paso), the Hispanic Chamber delegation met with SBA Administrator Hector Barreto, officials at the General Services Administration, Departments of Treasury, Defense, Commerce, and Agriculture, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

I also had the opportunity to meet with the Hispanic Chamber delegation, as did Senator John Cornyn's office, Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison's office, and the House and Senate Small Business Committees.

The Greater Chamber led the Team El Paso delegation, which consisted of business leaders from the Chamber, local utilities and local elected officials, and representatives from Fort Bliss. Team El Paso focused on securing the future of Fort Bliss in the upcoming Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) round, as well as forwarding priorities on transportation, healthcare and homeland security.

Representatives from El Paso, Las Cruces and Alamogordo, who serve on the Alliance for Regional Military

Support (ARMS) Committee, met with Pentagon officials and lobbied Texas and New Mexico offices on Capitol Hill to highlight our regional military installations and their importance to the Army, Navy, Air Force and Marine Corps. Team El Paso's outreach complemented our on-going efforts preparing for growth in missions at Fort Bliss, White Sands Missile Range and Holloman Air Force Base for the upcoming BRAC round. The regional team provided a positive, pro-active reflection of our community and region. Team El Paso also met with Senators Kay Bailey Hutchison and Senator John Cornyn, as well as key staffers with Senators Domenici and Bingaman, and New Mexico Congressman Steve Pearce.

El Paso is lucky to have such active and committed chambers of commerce. These delegations to Washington require extensive planning, time and effort, but the positive results make their hard work well worth it. Along with the El Paso Black Chamber of Commerce and the Korean Chamber of Commerce, El Paso's entrepreneurs and business community have strong advocates on their side. The chambers and all their members drive our economy forward and our entire community appreciates their work.

Forty winks or forty wives?

By Albert M. Balesh, M.D.

As I tossed and turned on still another sleepless night, strange voices admonished me for not living up to expectations. I was told to mow the lawn, take out the garbage, pick up my dirty socks, and get off the couch. Cold beer and Sunday afternoon football were "Verboten!" and I was at my wits' end. My 40 wives were a literal pain in the butt. All I needed were 40 winks.

I was like the 70 million other problem sleepers in this country. I just couldn't get my act together. I might as well have climbed Mount Everest or won the Texas Lottery. My complaints were not singular either. They ran the gamut from restless legs syndrome, advanced sleep phase syndrome (ASPS), and delayed sleep phase syndrome (DSPS) to even sleep apnea.

Pain, stress, stimulant medications, anxiety, regular use of over-the-counter sleeping pills, depression, alcohol, lack of physical activity, poor sleep habits, and changes in my lifestyle and environment had all conspired against me. All I needed was 40 good winks, and yet, every night I was besieged by 40 bad wives.

To make matters worse, those voices in my head were exacting a toll on my performance the next day. Now, granted, I knew that the average American today sleeps about seven hours a night, about 90 minutes less than people did a century ago, but my conundrum took this to the nth degree. The convincing evidence I read that untreated sleep disorders can increase the risk of high blood pressure, coronary-artery disease, heart failure, and stroke was like a cold shower.

I also started to notice a potbelly, and getting into my pants became comparable to wearing an athletic supporter. Then I read that lack of sleep can increase the odds of developing obesity and diabetes. That was the final straw! I learned that there are five stages of sleep, and that my problems most likely stemmed not from the light sleep, transition, or deep sleep stages, but rather from the REM sleep stage (where vivid dreams appear). And my dreams were becoming "vivid," to say the least, as one of my wives, "Wanda,"

was now beginning to take on the physiognomy of a "Juan."

I decided to consult the "Three Kings:" my mother, my naturopath, and my druggist. Warm milk, turkey, and tennis balls were my mother's remedies for what ailed me. Warm milk (containing a precursor of melatonin), turkey (filled with sleep-inducing tryptophan), and tennis balls (sewn to the back of my T shirt to prevent snoring by keeping me on my sides) bordered on the ludicrous.

My naturopath suggested valerian, aromatherapy with chamomile and lavender, melatonin (which added to my nightmares and increased the wife-count to 60), and hops (which padded my already-high Budweiser bill) for the modest, all-inclusive price of \$250.

My druggist, on the other hand, was the most sympathetic of all. He recommended the non-addictive Sleep-Eze, Sominex, and Dormin (over-the-counter antihistamines), as well as Halcion (quick-acting but addictive) and Sonata (a romantic name for a short-acting, non-addictive sleep aid). He even suggested a prescription anti-depressant called Desyrel, but warned me that it might cause have side effects.

In the end, rather than pursuing the quest ad infinitum, I decided to take control and follow my version of the Ten Commandments: 1) sleep only when drowsy; 2) maintain a regular rise time; 3) use the bedroom only for sleep and sex; 4) avoid napping during the daytime; 5) avoid caffeine within four to six hours of bedtime; 6) avoid the use of nicotine close to bedtime; 7) ban alcohol within four to six hours of bedtime; 8) avoid large meals before bedtime; 9) avoid strenuous exercise within six hours of bedtime; and 10) minimize light, noise, and extremes of temperature in the bedroom.

Alas, however, I am a sinner. Commandments were not enough. What I needed was an exorcism. So, I went to the American Academy of Sleep Medicine at www.aasmnet.org, and, I must say, although demons continue to inhabit my inner sanctum, I have begun to file for multiple divorces.

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THE TEXAS FACTS by Roger T. Moore, Marble Falls, Texas was laid out by a blind man in 1886.



Many faces of technology reflected by student on the tech team at AISD

By Don Woodyard
Courier Staff Writer

ANTHONY — It doesn't take long to see the many faces of technology in the Anthony Independent School District.

It's hard not to see Face of Technology No. 1 when you walk in the front door of the Anthony Middle School.

You see a large TV screen behind a glass display case. It shows an ever-changing video display of activities in the school district — from the inside of a school bus to the inside of a classroom.

The second face is also immediately apparent.

Located just to the left of the TV is the MDF, the Main Distribution Facility, but better known as the wiring closet, says James Covey (Face of Technology No. 3), the district's technology coordinator. The wiring closet, carved out of a section of the library and situated behind a large window, is the heart of the district's computer technology.

You see an impressive array of wires, the high-tech "arteries," connected to the 13 servers stacked in racks. These wires branch out and carry voice and data to approximately terminals located in classrooms and administrative offices.

Covey, who has worked in the Anthony ISD for three years, has a predictably computer-cluttered office a short distance down the hall in the middle school.

His daunting three-fold job, as he explains is to keep the Internet con-

nections working; to keep all computers in the district working and to keep all programs working — in short, AISD technology "working at its highest level."

Another essential part of his job, he says, is helping teachers to more effectively integrate computer technology into the curriculum. There is pressure from the state level for teachers to learn the necessary skills for their classroom use. Covey estimates that about 60 percent of the district's teachers are "working pretty good" with the computers. The other 40 percent "aren't comfortable" with the new and evolving technology. For that 40 percent and the others as well, he sees an important part of his work as "helping teachers teach at an enhanced level."

Requirements of the new TEKS program (Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills) now mandate that students attain higher levels of proficiency with computers.

Covey does not work alone.

He has a small group of students who work with him to help solve computer problems throughout the district.

One of these students is junior Hipoloto "Hippy" Sarabia, still another face of new technology. He is the district's webmaster who designed and periodically upgrade the district website. He became interested in computers in the ninth grade and learned the inner workings of computers through books and instruction from Covey.

"He's pretty good at digging for

answers to computer problems," Covey says. "I am always learning," the student responds. Covey estimates that Sarabia has worked on approximately one-third of the district's computer at one time or another.

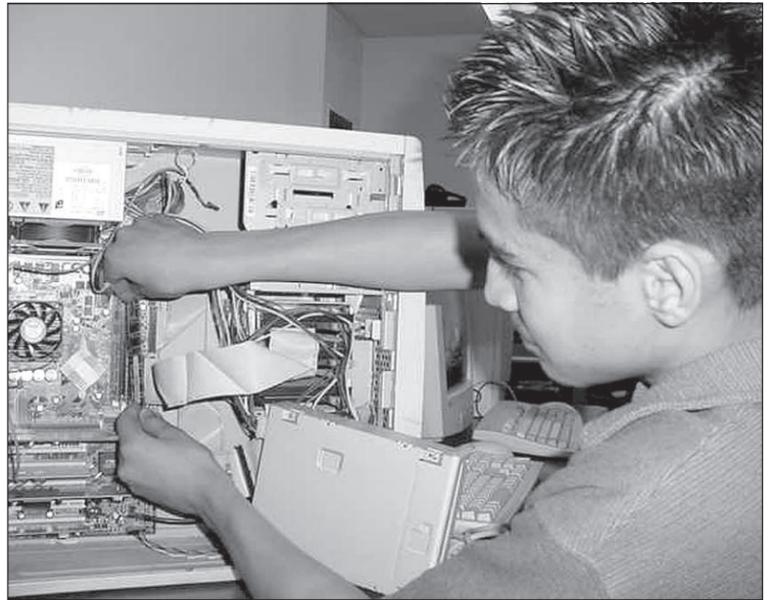
Yvonne Tovar, a special education teacher, appreciates the work of Covey's troubleshooting tech students. She praises their quick responses to her calls for assistance.

Covey, a graduate of Western Technical Institute, goes back a long way with interim superintendent Vern Butler. He grew up on the eastside of El Paso and attended Hanks High School. He was a senior at Hanks when Butler was in his first year as its principal.

"I'm doing what I love," Covey says.



James Covey



TECH TRAINEE — Hipoloto "Hippy" Sarabia digs into a computer.

Urban legends: Don't believe everything you read in e-mail

By Linda Anderson
Special to the Courier

COLLEGE STATION — What do shampoo, bottled water, plastic water bottles, artificial sweetener and sun screen have in common?

All are the subjects of urban legends. "Urban legends are scary stories circulating through the internet by e-mail," said Dr. Carol Rice, Texas Cooperative Extension health specialist.

Many of these stories are false, but they just keep making the rounds over and over.

"The shampoo one hit e-mails in 1998, and it's still circulating," she said. This urban legend claims that some shampoos and toothpastes con-

tain sodium lauryl sulfate, which is reported to cause cancer in alarming numbers.

"It's totally and completely false," Rice said.

Yes, these products do contain this substance, and no, it doesn't cause cancer.

What it does cause is diarrhea if too much is swallowed. Because of that fact, as of April 1998, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration requires that fluoride toothpaste packaging carry warning labels about swallowing too much toothpaste that contains sodium lauryl sulfate, as well as sorbitol and fluoride.

"What's interesting to me is this (myth) has been circulating relatively unchanged for years," Rice said. "It wastes a phenomenal amount of time for people to look these things up. It wouldn't keep coming up if it wasn't continually forwarded."

Another urban legend that can cause health concerns claims 75 per-

cent of Americans are chronically dehydrated because they fail to drink eight to 10 glasses of water each day.

Not true, Rice said.

"While it's not a hazard to your health to drink eight to 10 glasses of water a day, it's not true that 75 percent of Americans are chronically dehydrated. How much water needs to be taken in depends on how much you lose."

And it doesn't have to be water. Other liquids and food can replenish fluid that is lost from daily activities.

"The body works to replenish what we lose, and most of us have a pretty good system that lets us know when we need to replenish liquid," she said.

What about those plastic water bottles? Reusing them causes them to break down into cancer-causing chemicals, right?

Wrong, Rice said.

Refilling plastic water bottles with more water won't release any

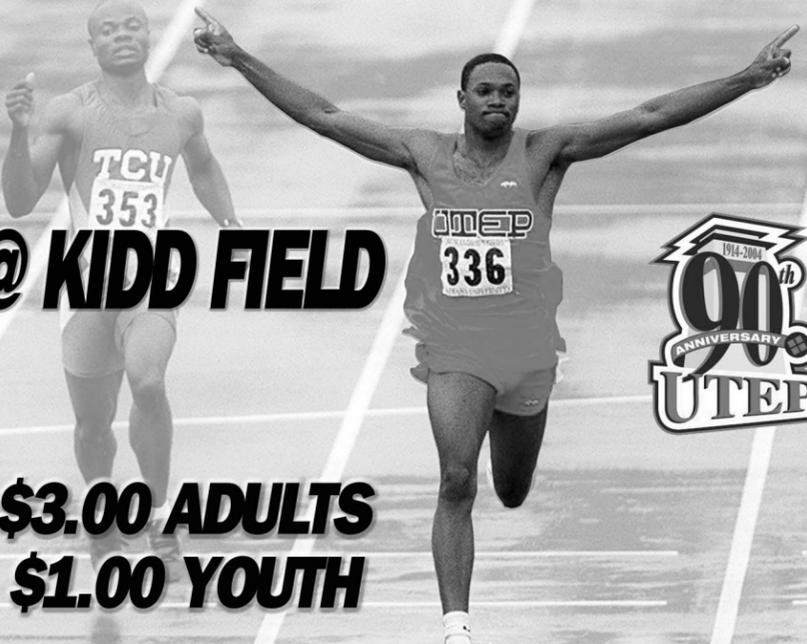
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Road

From Page 1

had previously kept Horizon out of the running for state aid. He pointed out that sales tax figures were more relevant criteria on which funding should be based. As a result, the required 20 percent match was reduced to only nine percent.

The funds to improvement Ashford and Ryderwood were diverted in a subsequent Horizon City administra-

tion in a change order to pay for the widening of Darrington from Homestead to Horizon Boulevard.

Lee points out that Mayor Diane Whitty has also worked on improving Darrington, getting it resurfaced with an overlay from Homestead to Eastlake. "The mayor is working hard to fix the streets," he said.

Work on Darrington is not the only road-related project that he is proud of. He points to additional exposure for the town as a result of getting signs placed on I-10 pointing to Horizon City.

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Technology lock-in winners dazzle and inspire

By Kim Guzman
Special to the Courier

Deanna Davenport Elementary School third graders in collaboration with Canutillo High School ninth graders dazzled their audience with technology presentations during the Technology Lock-In Night held recently at Davenport Elementary School. Forty high school students and 20 elementary students worked in teams to produce power-point presentations for about 80 visitors including parents, teachers, and community members.

Two teams tied for the best presentation award during the event. Francesca Esparza, third grader, along with Ismael Sandoval and Jorge Gomez, high school students, tied with Avianna Contreras, third grader, and Iliana Loe, ninth grader, for top honors.

Tess Ballard, CHS World Geography teacher, and Jesus Hernandez, DDE third grade teacher, helped coordinate the event. "The purpose of the technology lock-in night was for third graders and ninth graders to collaborate in producing and presenting



TECH WORK — Technology Lock-In Night participants, from left, Diana Salas and Denise Varela, Canutillo High School ninth graders, along with Ivette Balderrama, DDE third grader, work on their power-point project in preparation for judging.

their power-point presentations," Ballard said. She told the audience not to assume that the third graders would be learning from the high school students. "In fact, most of these elementary students are on a higher level of technology than our ninth graders," Ballard said.

Teams of students used about 30 state of the art, high-tech wireless

remote laptop computers given to Canutillo ISD as part of the Beaumont grant, according to Joan Gil, technology lead teacher at Davenport ES. The power-point presentations' topics included geography, animals, and planets.

The presentations were judged on their originality, content, and use of technology.

Canutillo ISD's Child Nutrition Program has state-of-the-art test kitchen

By Alfredo Vasquez
Special to the Courier

UPPER VALLEY — Canutillo Independent School District Child Nutrition Program will hold the grand opening of its new Test Kitchen, from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m., Tuesday, April 6, at the CISD Administration Facility, 7965 Artcraft.

The new kitchen facility, which will be used for job training of Canutillo ISD food service personnel, is designed to address areas of food and service quality and consistency throughout the district, said Adele Balesh, CISD Food Services director. In addition, the Test Kitchen will expand the district catering services to complement the universal free lunch program in the schools, she said.

During the grand opening, recently hired Chef Paul Bellegarde will be introduced. Bellegarde is charged with providing the on-the-job-training sessions to district food service employees. Training sessions will include review of existing recipes, introduction of new recipes, sharing of ideas, food tasting and presentation.

Balesh will do the formal class presentations that are recognized by the Texas Education Agency's (TEA) Child Nutrition program. CISD food service employees will be able to earn certification on levels one through four and qualify for monetary incentives for obtaining the different levels of certification.

The new kitchen facility is approved by TEA as a learning tool and funded by CISD's Food Services department. It is equipped with tiling skillet, grill top, convection oven, steamer, and a dining area to accommodate 100 persons.

Briefs

From Page 1

veterans.

- Discounted home loans to veterans with service-connected disabilities.
- Discounted home loans to veterans who build or remodel their homes using environmentally friendly guidelines.
- Low-cost land and home improvement loans to veterans. For more information call 1-800-252-VETS (1-800-252-8387). Students in the Socorro schools will be released early Thursday, April 8 and will be off Good Friday, April 9. The holiday absence includes Monday, April 12. Classrooms will open again Tuesday, April 13. On April 8, elementary and middle schools will release students at 11:30 a. m. However, elementary and middle schools that have late start 8:15 a.m., or later because of bus considerations will release at 12:15 p.m. Socorro's high schools will release students at 12:15 p.m. April 8.

■ The choir students of El Dorado High School will host a Spring Choir Concert at 7 p.m. on April 15 at 12401 Edgemere Blvd. Under the direction of choir instructor Sara Long, nine of the singers were named to the Texas Music Educator's Association Region 22 All-Region Middle School choir. Admission is free and for more information call 937-3200.

■ Orchestra students from Socorro's elementary, middle and high schools brought their violins, violas and cellos to Americas High School April 1 for the District's annual sight-reading and concert contest. Americas High School won the sweepstakes award in varsity competition, followed by students of Col. John O. Ensor Middle School, Montwood Middle School and Capt. Walter E. Clarke Middle School who won sweepstakes prizes. El Dorado High School received a first division award in the concert competition, and Montwood High School also received a first division rank. First division non-varsity ratings were earned by El Dorado High School

in the concert competition, while Ernesto Serna School students earned a 1st Division rank in sight-reading. Socorro Middle School musicians ranked in the first division of concert competition.

■ Animal health officials have announced that an outbreak of the H5N2 strain of highly pathogenic avian influenza (AI) near Gonzales, Texas, has been eradicated, after tests on more than 352 noncommercial flocks did not detect additional infection, according to animal health inspectors from the Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC) and U.S. Department of Agriculture's Veterinary Services (USDA-VS).

■ April 14 marks a first for media studies in the Socorro schools — the first award ceremony for student-produced television newscasts. Many Socorro schools of all grade levels have made the morning announcements into live television segments, with video segments produced, written, edited and hosted by students. The program will feature clips of televi-

sion newscasts from the competing schools. The public is welcome to attend the ceremony to be held at Montwood High School Commons, 12000 Montwood Drive, 6-9 p.m.

■ The Director of the National Park Service (NPS), Fran P. Mainella, will visit Chamizal National Memorial, El Paso's National Park, on Monday, April 19 as part of her regional familiarization tour. Mainella is the sixteenth director and the first woman to lead the National Park Service in the organization's history. As director of the N P S , Mainella has policy and administrative responsibility for over 380 units and 83 million acres within the National Park System. With an annual budget of \$2.4 billion, the National Park System is managed



Fran P. Mainella

by 20,000 permanent and seasonal employees and enjoyed by more than 285 million visitors each year. "While here, we will be discussing issues of mutual interest including volunteerism, partnerships and outreach," said Isabel Montes, superintendent of Chamizal National Memorial. This is the first time that the Memorial has been visited by a director of the Park Service."

■ More than 1,300 groups participated in the April 3 "Don't Mess With Texas Trash-Off," one of the nation's largest single-day cleanups. Last year, about one million pounds of trash were picked up by more than 70,000 Adopt-a-Highway and Keep Texas Beautiful volunteers across Texas. Blanca Del Valle, public information officer for the Texas Department of Transportation, said from the El Paso District more than 725 volunteers from 55 groups collected over 1,000 bags of litter. For more information about the Adopt-a-Highway program, contact Carol Campa at 790-4325.



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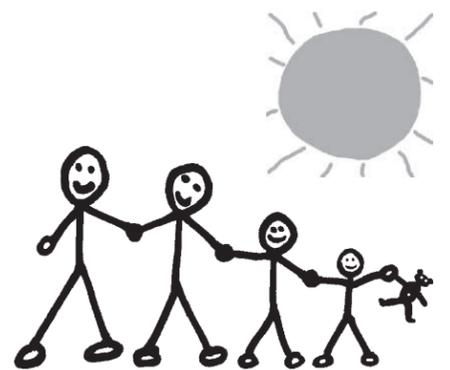
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An interesting case of athlete's-foot in mouth

By Steve Escajeda
Special to the Courier

In the United States there is a growing double standard, a kind of unwritten law that permits minorities to say certain things that whites cannot.

And I should know, being Hispanic, I see how the system allows me an unfair advantage and a free pass to do and say certain things, because of the way my ancestors were unfairly treated decades ago.

And that double standard was proven again this week when former NFL great and Notre Dame grad Paul Hornung opened his mouth during a radio interview in which he said that Notre Dame should lower its academic standards to allow it to get more black athletes in.

Many in the media were appalled by his comments but who was really insulted. Was it the black athlete, whom Hornung implied was not as smart as the average student?

Was it the white athlete, whom Hornung implied was not as talented as the black athlete?

Or was it the university, which Hornung

implied should dumb-down its academic standards for the sake of winning more games?

It's funny to me because it seems like white media members and news anchors were more offended by Hornung's remarks than African Americans were. It seems that many more black callers on radio talk shows seemed to see the truth in what Hornung was trying to say.

And the callers were also angry. Not at what Hornung said, but at the truth about an overwhelming number of black athletes getting free passes all the way up the academic ladder because of athletics.

Many of the callers were saying that Hornung said what they have been thinking. Many young black athletes are thrown into the streets without any actual skills once their playing (college) careers are over. And despite what it looks like on TV, about 99-percent of all black athletes do not make the pros.

But again, who is offended? I mean how in the world can any of America's black leaders be offended by what Hornung said? Let's be a little honest here. Black leaders for years have been complaining about how standards are too high for African Americans.

Every time a black leader calls for affirmative action he is, in effect, saying that young blacks are not as smart as whites and need extra points just to make it fair.

I say accept me on my merits, not for my name or background.

Wasn't it Martin Luther King who said something about judging people not for the color of their skin but for the content of their character?

That's why I have never liked the idea of affirmative action. It gives the impression that I, as a Hispanic male, need a head start because I am not as smart as a white person.

I take that as a personal insult.

It's time for minorities to stop standing in line waiting for the government's minuscule handouts and take care of themselves.

People have different backgrounds and origins. But when it comes to sheltering and feeding your family, it's what you know now that makes all the difference, not who your ancestors were.

It has become so easy in this country to be offended. Some people sit around all day long just waiting to be offended. And they jump to their feet when a comment can be twisted to

meet their agenda.

What Hornung said wasn't wrong. He may not have used the right words though. But his words were out of a love for his college. He wants Notre Dame to win so bad that he put his heart before his head. To be honest, he was right and he was wrong... but he was not being a bigot.

Let's be honest, how often have you watched a basketball game and jokingly commented about how those poor white guys have no chance against those black guys? It's okay, there is some truth to the fact that for the most part, blacks are better athletes than whites at certain sports.

Why are we so afraid of admitting that?

The only thing that Hornung should have changed in his comment was instead of saying "black" athlete, he should have said just "athlete."

Oh boy, now all the athletes are going to be offended because Hornung is insinuating that they are all dumb.

Now watch all the athletes join up and write up a letter of protest against Hornung. Just one question — who's going to write it for them? Just kidding... don't be so sensitive.

All-state academic honors awarded to Canutillo athlete

UPPER VALLEY — Texas High School coaches Association (THSCA) recently named Canutillo High School Joseph Sanchez to the All-State Academic First Team in football.



Joseph Sanchez

"Being named to the all-state academic first team is great for Joseph because coaches throughout the state are singling him out for his accomplishments in the classroom. They considered hundreds of football players for this recognition; so being selected is a big honor," said Canutillo Head Football Coach Scott Brooks.

Sanchez ranks among the top ten in his class of about 240 seniors and has a 98 grade point average. He plans to enroll at the University of Texas at Austin in the fall, and he said that he is considering computer graphics as a major.

"I'm glad that I was nominated by my coaches for this award. This award will help me get into college," said Sanchez.

Sanchez played wide receiver for the CHS Eagles who were winners of the 1-4A Bi-District title last season.

Booster funds given to four Socorro schools

EAST EL PASO COUNTY — Four Socorro schools received \$13,770 in grants from the Prices' Creameries "Give 'Em Five" program March 30. Funding is raised through the sale of the firm's products and since 1999, the fund has given more than \$1,630,000 to schools and community organizations in El Paso and Southern New Mexico. This year's total was \$271,074.68.

During the annual award ceremony in the Marriott Hotel ballroom, Price's President Gene Carrejo presented oversized checks to these SISD recipients:

- Lujan-Chavez Elementary School received \$5,000 for its Star Buddy reading program.
- Helen Ball Elementary School received \$4,770 for its "Book of the Month" club.
- Benito Martinez Elementary School was given \$500 to fund its "Literacy Through Music" program.
- The Ernesto Serna Dual Language School received \$3,500 to purchase musical instruments.

Serna principal Ignacio Solis is glad to receive the grant. "It's going to mean a lot of opportunity for our kids to participate in our fine arts program and our orchestra, our band and our choir," he says. Carrejo said he was glad that his firm has been able to give back to the community for the sixth year in a row.



CREAM OF THE CROP — Representatives of SISD's Helen Ball, Lujan-Chavez, Ernesto Serna and Benito Martinez campuses received \$13,770 in "Give 'Em Five" grants from Price's Creameries March 30 at the Marriott Hotel's ballroom.

"We took our media money six years ago and put it into this. This is the only big media event we do all year. This is a community with a lot of needs, and we thought we could do more by going straight to the kids."

King Super Crossword

APRIL SHOWERS

- ACROSS**
- 1 Renowned rabbit
 - 5 Iraqi port
 - 10 Wing it
 - 15 Iowa hrs.
 - 18 PDQ, politely
 - 19 Synthetic fiber
 - 20 Artemis, in Rome
 - 21 Costa _
 - 22 Beatrix Potter book
 - 25 "L_", c'est moi"
 - 26 Stadium
 - 27 Whirl
 - 28 _ Dawn Chong
 - 29 '60s talk-show host
 - 30 "_ go braghi!"
 - 33 Latin rhythm
 - 36 Cooks chestnuts
 - 38 "Hee Haw" regular
 - 43 "Cara _" ('65 song)
 - 44 Dirty
 - 45 Maris of "Nurses"
 - 46 Verve
 - 47 Islamic deity
 - 50 Wander
 - 53 VDT unit
 - 56 Creative type
 - 58 John of "Madame X"
 - 60 _-Magnon
 - 61 Droop
 - 63 Composer Rorem
 - 64 Ordered
 - 65 Herriman feline
 - 66 Wont
 - 69 Archery item
 - 71 Fathers a foal

- 72 Get by, with "out"
- 73 Identical
- 74 Killjoys
- 77 "_ bien!"
- 78 Sphere
- 79 "The Color Purple" character
- 80 "Well, I'll be!"
- 81 Modern malady
- 83 Rimsky-Korsakov's "Le Coq _"
- 84 Got off
- 85 Fitting
- 87 Organ of equilibrium
- 88 Seville shout
- 89 Arm bone
- 90 Kathy of country
- 93 Pageant prop
- 97 Gets mushy
- 99 Feathered friend?
- 101 Poorly
- 103 Drag along
- 104 Mortgage, for one
- 106 Gentle _ lamb
- 107 '68 Temptations song
- 110 Bearse or Blake
- 112 World-weary
- 114 Zeno's home
- 115 Horror-film extras
- 116 _ Aviv
- 118 Marx or Malden
- 121 "Later, Luis!"
- 125 Anesthetize an audience
- 126 '80 Eddie Rabbitt hit
- 131 Hurler Hershiser

- DOWN**
- 1 _ California
 - 2 PC enthusiast
 - 3 Go fish or golf
 - 4 Grand relative
 - 5 Showy scarf
 - 6 French sculptor
 - 7 Disparage
 - 8 Emulated the Valkyries
 - 9 24 Down's home
 - 10 Citrus cooler
 - 11 Accomplished
 - 12 Designer Ashley
 - 13 Cuzco native
 - 14 They make lots of dough
 - 15 '91 Billy Crystal film
 - 16 Inadequate
 - 17 "Soap" family
 - 21 Fix
 - 23 Creche figure
 - 24 Domestic guana-cos
 - 31 Rage
 - 32 Vincent Lopez's theme song
 - 34 Cheerful tune
 - 35 Maglie or Mineo

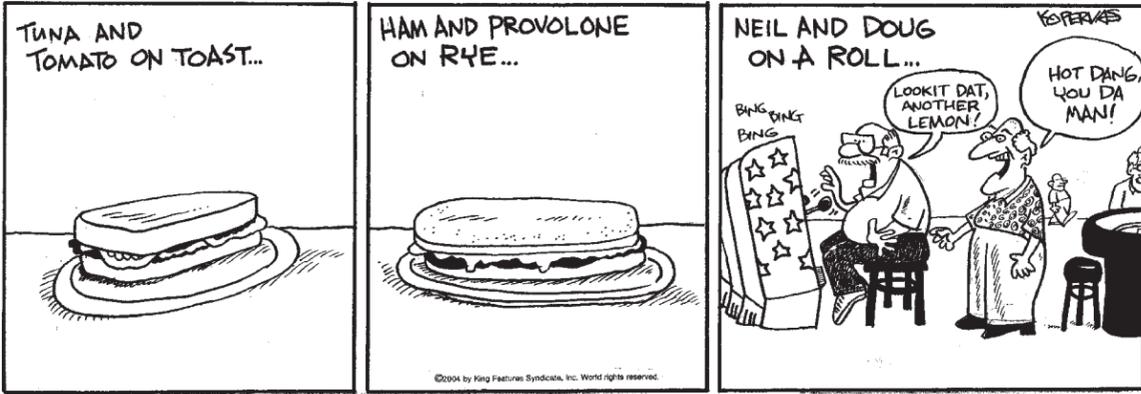
- 37 Heaps
- 38 AAA handout
- 39 A mean Amin
- 40 Baseball's Steve
- 41 Caution
- 42 "Raid on -" ('77 film)
- 48 Activist Hoffman
- 49 TV's "_ Afire"
- 51 Actor Jonathan
- 52 Shoppers' sacks
- 54 Otherwise
- 55 73 Down escapee
- 57 Adored one
- 59 "_ Fideles"
- 62 Former military chairman
- 66 King or Lombard
- 67 American magnolia
- 68 Actress Mercouri
- 70 Witty one
- 71 Doubter
- 73 Biblical city
- 75 Cronus, for one
- 76 Tidy
- 77 Austin or Garr
- 79 Brought about
- 82 Inform
- 86 Inform
- 90 Southwestern sight
- 91 Skagway's state
- 92 Shampoo additive
- 94 Mohammed - Jinnah
- 95 Pantyhose problem
- 96 Mellow
- 98 Tree trim
- 100 "For Me and My _" ('17 song)

- 102 Actor Brynner
- 105 Homegrown
- 108 "Big Bad John" singer
- 109 Novelist Gordimer
- 110 Head monk
- 111 Native New Zealander
- 112 Hunks of gunk
- 113 Big revolver?
- 117 Director Kazan
- 119 Hard to find
- 120 Inventive sort?
- 122 "_ Around" ('64 hit)
- 123 "What have I done!"
- 124 British gun
- 127 Center of gravity?
- 128 New citizen's subj.
- 129 Sgt. or cpl.
- 130 Kyoto currency

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| 135 | | | | | 136 | | | | | | 137 | | | | | 138 |

Comix

OUT ON A LIMB By Gary Kopervas



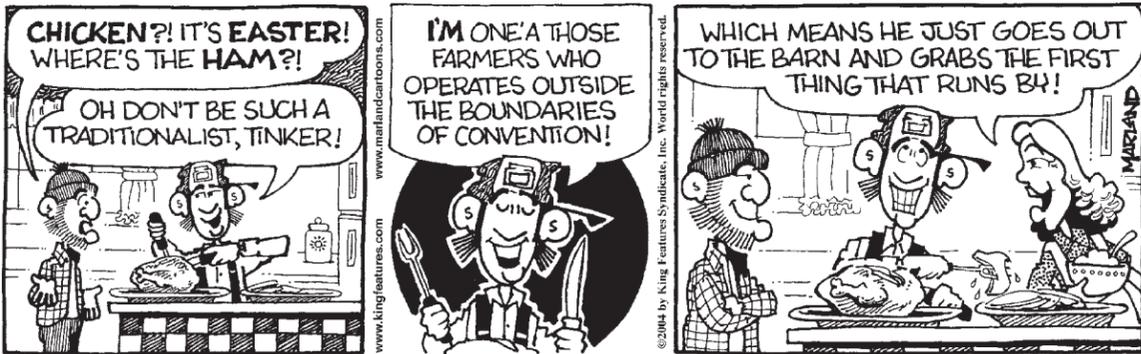
AMBER WAVES By Dave T. Phipps



THE SPATS By Jeff Pickering



R.F.D. By Mike Marland



Watch show before attending reunion

By Don Flood

Have you ever looked back wishing you could relive your Glory Days of high school?

Well, first of all, you need to put this newspaper down right away and get yourself some medication.

Those people you thought were laughing at you back then? They were. Way more than you thought.

But if you're short of medication, you might try watching "High School Reunion," which we watched because friends of ours said the graduates were from their former hometown of Austin, Texas.

Really! I wouldn't normally watch that trash!

(Editor's note: Yeah, we didn't buy it either.)

In fact, I would march on Washington to demand this show be ripped from the airwaves if I weren't such a staunch supporter of First Amendment rights and the fact that I might want to watch it again.

For the show, producers assembled 14 members of the Round Rock Class of 1993 and set them up on a tropical island for a reunion that lasted two weeks — considerably longer than the 17-minute limit at which most reunions start to go sour.

The draw seemed to be that two of the classmates, Denise and Gabe, had gotten an ugly divorce.

She wanted to get back together. With him, you couldn't tell. It was like trying to read the thoughts of a plastic tomato.

Wow, I thought, how trashy can you get? They've set this poor woman up to be humiliated and embarrassed on national television.

Oh, those were the days, back

before I had finished that first episode on March 14, 2004, when I was still young and innocent.

Unlike most high-school reunions, where it's up to the classmates themselves to produce embarrassing behavior, the Reunion show threw in a curve ball.

Or maybe I should say "curvy," because the next scene showed three cuties of the class of '95 — Bad Girl Sophomores who in high school had stolen guys from Senior Girls!

The whole reason they were sent — and I think Secretary of State Colin Powell should have been sent to mediate this issue — was to ruin any chances of the divorced couple getting back together.

Again, I thought, how trashy can you get?

That's when we got: The Back Story.

Not only did the girls come with the purpose of wrecking any relationship, two of them also had a history with Mr. Tomato Head.

In fact, said one of the Bad Girls, she had been dating Mr. Tomato Head when she got a phone call from Denise saying she was pregnant with Mr. Tomato Head's baby.

The Bad Girl went on to say the two got married and, sure enough, 15 months later they had a baby — the subtle implication being that Denise had lied about the pregnancy to steal away her man.

And now the Bad Girl was back for Revenge!

But I wouldn't recommend the show for everyone. In fact, if you'd like to see a calmer, more realistic view of high school, I suggest you rent the movie "Carrie."

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Legends

From Page 4

cancer-causing ingredients into the water.

However, she warned, "We don't recommend reusing them because if you don't wash them and keep them clean, you could have things growing in there you don't want," such as bacteria and other impurities.

Some urban legends are guaranteed to terrify parents, including the one that claims waterproof sun screen can blind a child if it gets into his or her eyes.

This is another falsehood, Rice said. If waterproof sun screen gets into a child's eyes, rinse it out with water.

"All these things have some little bit of underlying veracity, something to make people want to latch onto them and believe," she said. "If you get sun screen in your eye it will burn, but you will not go blind."

Prevent Blindness America's Web site addresses this issue at: http://www.preventblindness.org/news/releases/UV_598.html.

What about artificial sweeteners? Because watching calories and carbs has become a national pastime, soft drinks and other foods and drinks sweetened artificially are big sellers. Is consumption of the artificial sweetener aspartame — often marketed as NutraSweet — causing an epidemic of multiple sclerosis and lupus like a persistent urban legend reports?

No, it's not, Rice said. Nor is it causing increases in brain tumors or cancer or other serious illnesses.

"This legend has never been verified, it's been refuted by a number of different sources, including the Multiple Sclerosis Foundation," she said. "The only people who really have to avoid aspartame have a condition they are born with, called phenylketonuria, or PKU, and all babies are tested for it. They know who they are."

Don't be taken by these or other urban legends, Rice advised. If one shows up in e-mail, "ask yourself, if it's this serious, why is it not also in the newspapers? Why is it not more generally known?"

"These legends have been circulating since the late 1990s and they keep coming back almost in the same form," she said. "The time spent checking them out could

be spent in a more productive way, like getting out and taking a walk."

When these urban legends arrive — and they are difficult to avoid — visit a reputable Web site such as Snopes.com to find out if they are true or false.

"This is not a scientific source, but they do take time to check things out," Rice said. And please, she added: Please don't forward anything.

For more information on health issues, visit Extension's Family and Consumer Web site at: <http://fcs.tamu.edu/> and click on the link to health and safety.



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Social Security Q&A By Ray Vigil

Q: Can children get Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits?

A: Yes, if they are blind or disabled and if they and their parents have income and assets below certain limits. To learn the limits that apply to your area, contact your local Social Security office.

Q: My wife and I are both in our 70s. I waited until age 65 to take my full Social Security retirement benefits. At that time, my wife was 62, and she took wife's benefits on my record. (She has

never worked.) A neighbor told us we made a mistake. She said that by taking wife's benefits at 62, my wife will get reduced widow's benefits if I should die before she does. Is this true?

Q: My husband receives Social Security disability benefits. He was recently incarcerated and will be in jail for at least two years. Is he required to report this to Social Security?

A: Yes, he is required to report his incarceration to Social Security. His ben-

efits must be suspended while he is in prison. Although he cannot receive monthly Social Security benefit payments while confined, you or your children can be paid benefits on his earnings record if eligible. When he is released, his benefits can be reinstated. But because he is getting benefits based on disability, he probably will have his claim reevaluated at that time to make sure he is still legally disabled.

A: No, it is not true. The amount of your wife's potential widow's benefit is not based on when she started taking her wife's benefits. Instead, it is based on her age at the time she

becomes a widow and whether or not you took reduced retirement benefits. Because she is already over age 65, and because you did not take reduced benefits, your wife will qualify for full widow's benefits if you should pass away before she does.

Q: I live on a small widow's check from Social Security. I think I might be eligible for the Supplemental Security Income (SSI) program, but I have never applied for benefits because I heard SSI caseworkers pry into my personal affairs. Is this true?

A: Because SSI is a needs-based pro-

gram, your eligibility depends on your income and assets. If you apply for benefits, we will have to verify your bank account balances, rent or mortgage payments, etc. But the strong up side is that you might qualify for extra monthly cash benefits, as well as Medicaid coverage and some other services.

For information visit your local Security office, see www.ssa.gov or call 1-800-772-1213. If you have any questions that you would like to have answered, please mail them to the Social Security Office, 1111 Gateway West, Attn: Ray Vigil, El Paso, Texas 79935.

WEATHER

AccuWeather.com

SEVEN-DAY FORECAST FOR EL PASO

| THURSDAY | THUR. NIGHT | FRIDAY | SATURDAY | SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY |
|---|-------------------------|--|---|--|------------------------------------|---|---------------------------------------|
| | | | | | | | |
| Partly sunny, t-storm possible in the p.m. ▲ 76° | Partly cloudy. ▼ 52° | Partly sunny and windy. ▲ 78° ▼ 54° | A gusty breeze with times of clouds and sun. ▲ 76° ▼ 52° | Windy with clouds and sunshine. ▲ 78° ▼ 54° | Plenty of sunshine. ▲ 76° ▼ 50° | A good deal of sunshine. ▲ 78° ▼ 52° | Mostly sunny and warm. ▲ 80° ▼ 50° |

UV INDEX Statistics for noon.

The higher the UV Index, the greater the need for eye and skin protection.

| | | |
|-----------|----|-----------|
| Thursday | 9 | Very High |
| Friday | 8 | High |
| Saturday | 7 | High |
| Sunday | 7 | High |
| Monday | 10 | Very High |
| Tuesday | 10 | Very High |
| Wednesday | 9 | Very High |

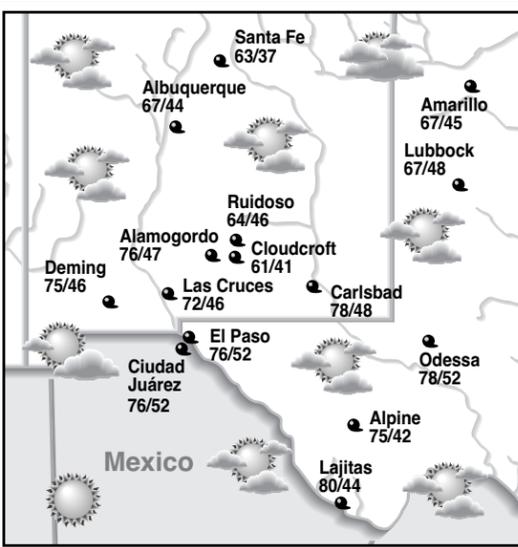
REAL FEEL TEMP™

The exclusive AccuWeather composite of the effects of temperature, wind, humidity, sunshine, precipitation, and elevation on the human body.

| | |
|-----------|-----|
| Thursday | 75° |
| Friday | 68° |
| Saturday | 67° |
| Sunday | 67° |
| Monday | 70° |
| Tuesday | 73° |
| Wednesday | 81° |

TEXAS WEATHER

| | | |
|--------------|----|----|
| Anthony | 75 | 50 |
| Canutillo | 76 | 50 |
| Clint | 76 | 51 |
| E. Montana | 76 | 52 |
| Fabens | 76 | 51 |
| Horizon | 77 | 52 |
| San Elizario | 73 | 49 |
| Socorro | 75 | 51 |
| Tornillo | 76 | 51 |
| Vinton | 75 | 50 |



Shown is Thursday's weather. Temperatures are Thursday's highs and Thursday night's lows.

TRAVELERS CITIES

| City | Thur. Hi/Lo/W | Fri. Hi/Lo/W | Sat. Hi/Lo/W | Sun. Hi/Lo/W | Mon. Hi/Lo/W |
|--------------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Albuquerque | 67/44/t | 66/44/pc | 67/42/r | 68/39/pc | 69/43/s |
| Atlanta | 72/50/sh | 70/50/sh | 70/50/t | 68/52/t | 68/42/c |
| Atlantic City | 58/36/r | 57/34/pc | 57/41/s | 57/44/r | 59/39/r |
| Austin/San Antonio | 80/51/pc | 74/57/t | 76/55/t | 69/49/r | 71/48/pc |
| Baltimore | 58/42/r | 56/40/pc | 58/40/s | 56/40/r | 58/39/r |
| Boston | 54/36/pc | 48/38/r | 54/40/s | 52/42/pc | 52/44/r |
| Chicago | 52/32/r | 48/32/pc | 46/32/r | 48/32/sh | 50/27/c |
| Dallas/Ft. Worth | 76/50/pc | 72/56/t | 70/48/t | 59/49/r | 64/46/pc |
| Denver | 56/39/c | 57/31/sh | 52/25/sh | 46/27/sh | 56/31/c |
| Flagstaff | 54/30/t | 58/32/pc | 52/30/sh | 56/28/c | 59/33/s |
| Houston | 80/60/pc | 80/62/pc | 78/58/t | 68/54/r | 68/52/r |
| Kansas City | 64/37/pc | 54/39/r | 50/35/sh | 54/35/c | 57/33/c |
| Las Vegas | 80/58/s | 82/58/s | 78/58/s | 78/60/s | 82/60/s |
| Miami | 84/69/t | 84/69/t | 84/71/sh | 84/70/sh | 84/67/sh |
| Minneapolis | 49/32/pc | 42/30/c | 40/30/c | 43/31/sn | 49/27/pc |
| New Orleans | 76/59/pc | 75/57/pc | 76/61/t | 76/56/t | 71/50/s |
| New York City | 59/39/pc | 55/41/r | 55/44/s | 55/44/r | 55/44/r |
| Philadelphia | 58/42/r | 54/38/pc | 56/38/s | 56/40/r | 58/42/r |
| Phoenix | 84/64/pc | 82/58/pc | 82/60/pc | 84/60/s | 85/62/s |
| Portland | 67/44/s | 74/44/s | 74/44/s | 68/44/s | 62/43/pc |
| San Francisco | 66/50/s | 64/50/s | 64/50/s | 64/49/s | 61/45/pc |
| Seattle | 64/44/s | 68/44/s | 68/44/s | 61/42/pc | 58/43/s |
| Tucson | 80/52/pc | 80/50/s | 80/52/pc | 82/54/s | 82/54/s |
| Washington, DC | 64/44/r | 60/42/pc | 62/46/pc | 63/48/r | 55/42/r |

Weather (W): s-sunny, pc-partly cloudy, c-cloudy, sh-showers, t-thunderstorms, r-rain, sf-snow flurries, sn-snow, i-ice.

All forecasts and maps provided by AccuWeather, Inc. ©2004

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