



WEST TEXAS COUNTY COURIER



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SERVING ANTHONY, VINTON, CANUTILLO, EAST MONTANA, HORIZON, SOCORRO, CLINT, FABENS, SAN ELIZARIO AND TORNILLO

DECEMBER 16, 2004

NEWSBRIEFS

Phantom flush

In a part of the country where water conservation is high on the agenda, water companies are urging customers to watch out for the phantom that may be flushing your toilet — even when no one is at home. The phantom is a leak in the tank of your toilet — and the problem is so common it affects as many as 25 percent of all toilets. A mere dribble, leaking a cup of water a minute, can waste as much as 2,700 gallons of water a month. To see if you have a leak, water officials recommend putting a few drops of food coloring in the tank, waiting about 10 minutes, and checking to see if the coloring appears in the bowl. Replacing worn or improperly seated flappers, refill valves or other mechanisms usually solves the problem. Call 852-3917 for more information.

New director

Florence “Kit” Thomas has been seated as the newest member on the board of directors of the Horizon Regional Municipal Utility District. A member of the Horizon community for over 10 years, with a lengthy record of experience with military, civic and local government service entities, she takes over the vacated position of Bruce Truesdale Sr.

In other news

■ The Dorris Van Doren Regional Library, 551 Redd Road, invites the public to a performance by The El Paso Playhouse Kids and Company troupe of fractured fairy tales on Saturday, Dec. 11, 11:30 a.m. The mime ensemble will act out some of our favorite classic tales. Then, on Saturday, Dec. 18, a visiting Santa Claus will be at the Library at 11 a.m. Both programs are free to the public. For information call 543-5470 or visit www.elpasolibrary.org.

■ Students at Socorro ISD’s Robert R. Rojas Elementary School have collected more than 2,000 items for needy families. Students and staff sorted the items this week for distribution at 2:30 p.m. Dec. 16 at the school. Coach Andrew McMillan started the drive, and says all of the school’s 540 students participated. “It’s so gratifying to see the kids’ response in an area where so many families are in need,” McMillan says. Fifth-grade student Adolfo Lopez says he collected a trash bag and a smaller bag full of cans and toys. Why? “Because I felt good when I received toys. I was proud to be able to do it.”

■ Montwood Middle School’s Mighty Moose Band is planning a holiday dinner and concert starting at 5 p.m. Dec. 16 in the school cafeteria, 11710 Pebble Hills Drive. Tickets are \$6.50 in advance and available from band members or in the

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It is important that people know what you stand for; it is equally important that they know what you won’t stand for.

— Quips & Quotes

Newspaper teaches real world accountability to budding reporters

By Phillip Cortez
Special to the Courier

SAN ELIZARIO — Walk into room 400 at San Elizario High School and you’re not walking into a typical classroom. In fact, it’s a totally different environment altogether. It’s a classroom where the students are the ones in charge and where assignments are not dreaded but eagerly anticipated.

It’s a place where things happen fast, where a student’s grade is not only directly linked to productivity, but is dependent on how many extra assignments are turned in. The young men and women in Alex Navarro’s class don’t just show up, they help turn a classroom into a newsroom, producing the *San Elizario Eagle Post*, the school’s brand new newspaper. Like a good fisherman, Navarro casts his

young reporters into the field, allowing them the opportunity to gather news information before reeling them back in time for deadline the way any solid editor would do.

“Make sure there’s a photo assignment for all of those stories,” Navarro instructs senior



PRESSING AHEAD — San Eli’s student journalists are (back row, left to right) Bernie Torres, Esmeralda Alvarez, Bertha Ruiz, Christina Rivera. In the front row, from left, are Alonso Rodriguez, Eric Rodriguez, Roxana Barraza, Laura Martinez, Thais Hernandez, Delilah Buck, Elizabeth Lomeli, and Adviser Alex Navarro.

Joanna Lira, the paper’s photo editor.

“It’s important that I look for action in a

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Canutillo ISD introduces full vision screenings for students

By Alfredo Vasquez
Special to the Courier

UPPER VALLEY — Vision plays a vital role in the learning process, and Canutillo Independent School District would like to take a closer

look at the numbers of students who have a vision related learning problem, or an undetected and uncorrected vision deficit.

Canutillo ISD kicked off a complete vision-screening program recently at Deanna Davenport Elementary. Dr. Kris Koplos, O.D., will perform the full optometric vision screenings on all kindergarten and fifth grade students in the district, about 800 students. “We will con-

tinue to move through the district’s elementary campuses and hope to be finished by the end of the school year,” said Rachel Aguilar, CISD occupational therapist.

A partnership with the optician program at El Paso Community College will help provide students with glasses at a nominal cost. The glasses will be kept in the students’ classrooms. Parents will also be able to buy a pair of glasses at a low cost for the children to use outside of school.

Dr. Koplos said this is the first time she has heard of a school district taking on this initiative and that Canutillo ISD should be commended for helping uncover why some children are turned off by reading.

“Preliminary optometric research find-

ings indicate that Hispanics have high numbers, as well as high grades, of astigmatism. Children, and adults, will have impeded learning when trying to work through astigmatism. We want to identify these deficits earlier rather than later, before they interfere with learning,” said Aguilar. Research findings will be

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New Anthony High School principal advocates departure from old school

By Don Woodyard
Courier Staff Writer

ANTHONY — Conventional and traditional are definitely two words that do not describe Edmond Martinez, the man who took over last July as principal of Anthony High School.



Edmond Martinez

He is another “graduate” of Bel Aire High School where he served as assistant principal under then-principal Vern Butler, now the superintendent of the Anthony Independent School District.

He is an advocate of change and sees it permeating the educational structure. He sees it as a necessity in today’s world in coping with changes, underscored by the 9/11 terrorist attack on the World Trade Center.

Martinez, who began his teaching career at Cathedral High School in 1981, said his primary job is changing a basic concept of education. In teaching, he wants to emphasize the blending, rather than the separation, of disciplines in the classroom and “turning students into thinkers.”

He wants students to think differently — “to cultivate a different way of thinking” that, in time, will give them a “bag of skills” that enables them to deal with the complex problems of the future,” problems which themselves are changing, he adds. Downplaying the more traditional memorization aspects of learning, Martinez challenges graduating students “to go into professions where they have to diagnose and think.”

To further achieve his primary goal, he describes a “sub-vision” to change some of the structuring of education. This entails, in addition to turning students into thinkers, turning teachers into philosophers of the classroom.

“I am impressed with the intellect of the faculty,” adds Martinez who has met with the teachers and wants them “to think differently in the classroom. I think they can become philosophers.” He doesn’t necessarily want his teachers to be experts in “content area.” Rather he looks for them to better understand the philosophy underlying their content areas.

Another structural change he envisions is a diminishing use of the traditional bell system that marks the beginning and end of classes throughout the day. Teachers would have more of a say in just how long a class should be — determining how much time is necessary to cover the subject.

In bringing about these changes, Martinez hopes to create “a culture of expectation — to sell the kids on themselves.”

He wants them to know that college is

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One perspective

By Francis Shrum

Adventures in PTO

We stand there like a row of crows on a fence, watching with anxious helplessness. The tension in the air is almost palpable — each of us is acutely aware that the second hand is sweeping away the precious time and the dilemma is far from solved.

I'm here with a bunch of other moms ready to make and sell gorditas for a PTO fund-raiser and the deep fryer won't light.

I've made my way around a few cafeterias in my time and the one thing I know for sure — there's nothing simple or easy about running one. Every piece of massive equipment needed to prepare food for large numbers of people is a complicated — and expensive — work of art when brand new. Give it a few years of hard labor and it develops more character quirks than even I have.

The deep fryers are the worst. You have to establish a personal relationship before it will even talk to you, let alone cook anything. You have to know at just what angle to hold the match to light it, how long to depress the gas switch, what poetry it wants to hear whispered over the burner.

Deep fryers hate to be cleaned and they get finicky and cantankerous afterward. Besides that, practically everybody hates to clean them so they are generally pretty dirty and distasteful, sort of like *Sesame Street's* Oscar the Grouch or Pig Pen from *Peanuts*.

So here we all arrive to do our voluntary duty and the deep fryer is stone cold, full of smelly old oil. It has to be drained, cleaned, new oil added, and given about 40 minutes to arrive at gordita-frying temperature. Under the best of circumstances this is a lengthy process if done right — and we are supposed to start serving piping hot, made-from-scratch gorditas in less than two hours.

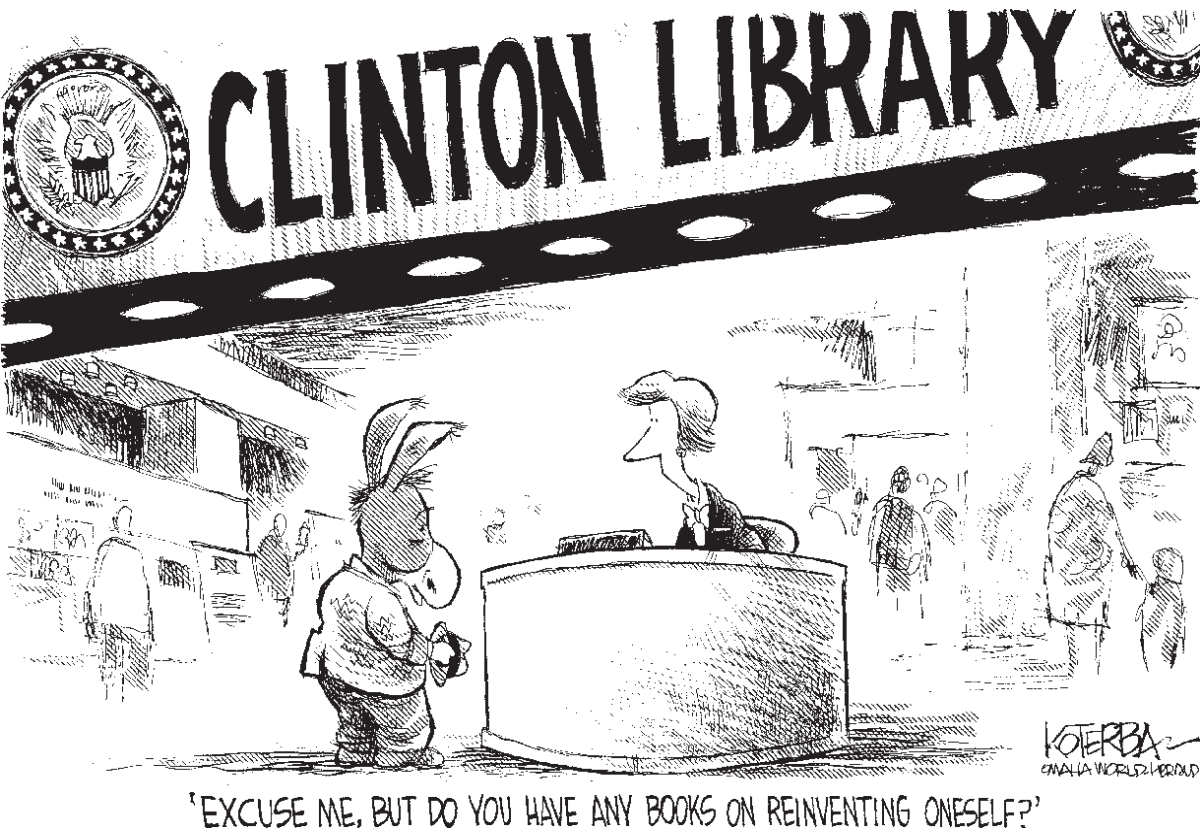
We could have pulled it off, too, we hardy band of brothers — I mean, mothers — who will march through fire and around each other to raise money for our kids. We've already proven our mettle on the battlefield of fund-raising by hauling the little buggers door-to-door selling tickets and making promises of tasty culinary treats to our hapless neighbors. Now we just have to produce them.

But the chemistry isn't right, and the fryer is in a terrible mood. Or maybe it is like me, and doesn't understand the language in which our principal is coaxing, sighing, joking and cajoling as he lights match after endless match, burning his fingers but, amazingly, never losing his temper.

I've never made a gordita in my life, though I've eaten enough of them that I should be an expert. We spent the previous evening learning and re-learning the ageless art of dispensing the right amount of masa, rolling it into little balls, then patting them into precious little patties we spread along squares of wax paper. The poor *abuela* trying to teach us kept shaking her head with mournful sighs before demonstrating once again how to pat, roll, pat, roll.

So today I get to help fry up our creations and it looks like we're going to have to forget the deep fryer and do it the old-fashioned way — individual pots of hot oil. I was a little unnerved when I dropped the first one in. It promptly sank like a rock and lay bubbling on the bottom of the pan before miraculously surfacing like a golden lily pad.

I was even more unnerved when the ladies at the end of the assembly



31 Years of Publication

WEST TEXAS COUNTY COURIER

SERVING ANTHONY VINTON, CASUTELLO, EAST MONTANA, HORIZON, SOCORRO, CLINT, FARMER, SAN ELIZABETH AND TORNILLO

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line promptly gutted the lovely crisp orbs with gordita-gutting knives, scooping out pieces of steaming masa with less concern for our works of art than the average fisherman shows when he cleans his latest catch.

But time's a-wasting and I've promised to deliver a hot gordita dinner directly to the door of my hungry customers in my neighborhood by 5 p.m. The big problem is that my customers are not here, and there's a growing line of other anxious-looking customers waiting at the counter who have become painfully aware that their dinner is going to be anything but timely.

So I stand there for a second, wondering whether to risk the wrath of

See PTO, Page 7

Reyes Reports By U.S. Rep. Silvestre Reyes

EPIC celebrates 30 years

The El Paso Intelligence Center (EPIC) recently celebrated 30 years of excellence as the preeminent intelligence institution in the U.S.-Mexico border region. As a former Border Patrol chief, I have worked closely with EPIC since its inception in 1974 and know the critical importance its counter-narcotics and counter-terrorism intelligence plays in law enforcement activities along the border and across the country.

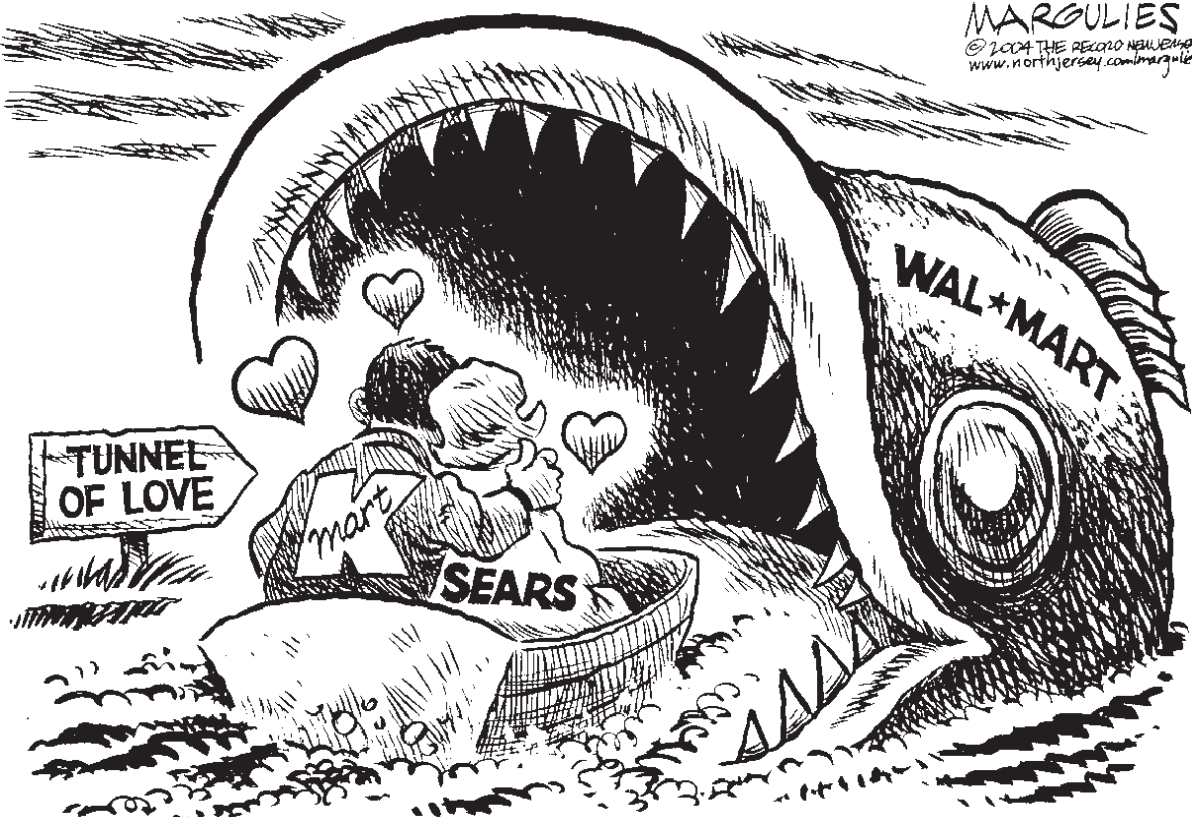
While serving in the U.S. Border Patrol, I encouraged other law enforcement officials across the country to utilize what was then an innovative new resource. EPIC's original role as the "hub" of an intelligence network on border-related activities between the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration and the Immigration and Naturalization Service, with the U.S. Customs Services quickly joining the effort, was unprecedented. Its quick growth beyond the border is testament to its success and significance.

Just as in the Border Patrol, I continue to tout EPIC as a critical law enforcement resource in Congress and among administration officials. Throughout my career in Congress, I have constantly worked to ensure that EPIC remains a prominent asset to the Department of Justice — and now the Department of Homeland Security — and that it grows to suit the needs of the future.

Following the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks, it quickly became apparent that EPIC could — and should — play a critical role in counter-terrorism efforts as well as their current counter-narcotics efforts. I worked with then-Department of Homeland Security Tom Ridge, ensuring that he recognized the unique resources EPIC offers the law enforcement community.

Recognizing that EPIC's increased mission and size demand increased funding, I have worked with DEA Administrators Asa Hutchinson and Karen Tandy to increase the annual budget for EPIC. I have constantly advocated for increased staffing and technology and secured an additional \$4.8 million and four additional positions for EPIC in the recently-passed fiscal year 2005 omnibus spending bill.

EPIC's growth — both in size and scope — is positive for the safety and security of the nation. We are living in dangerous times that demand constant coordination by the many law enforcement agencies across the country. EPIC's involvement in these efforts will ensure that the trust and information sharing necessary for this coordination will occur. I applaud EPIC on their 30th anniversary and look forward to working with them in the future.



VERY LITTLE DIFFERENCE - Leadership forum helps students overcome disabilities. Shown from left are veteran participants Ivan Lamas, Adrian Rodriguez, Julio Ramirez. Bottom, from left, are Sandra Rubio and Joanna Ruiz.

Deadline Friday to register for important leadership forum

By Phillip Cortez
Special to the Courier

SAN ELIZARIO — For the fourth straight year, high school students with disabilities will be able to participate in the Paso Del Norte Youth Leadership Forum, “an exciting, fun, educational, three-day vocational awareness program” that takes place April 1-3, 2005 in El Paso. But the deadline to register for this very worthwhile conference is Dec. 17, 2004, which is right around the corner.

What sets the Youth Leadership Conference apart from others is that this is where students play a vital role in taking responsibility for ensuring the success of the weekend, as evidenced by San Elizario High School students Ivan Lamas, Joanna Ruiz, Julio Ramirez, Sandra Rubio and Adrian Rodriguez, all of them veterans from past conferences. Disabled individuals from all walks of life who are successful in the every day world serve as role models and facilitators, but it’s the student mentors who have experienced prior conferences who help bridge the gap between facilitators and conference delegates, who are sophomores and juniors in high school.

“I learned to be a leader despite having a disability,” Ruiz said. “We met with people with different disabilities and learned how they

handled their disabilities.”

Ruiz, a senior, has fond memories of some of the activities during past conferences, such as performing at the annual talent show — she pantomimed a scene from the musical “Chicago” one year — and how she might not have had the courage to do so before. As a soccer player for San Elizario High, Ruiz has danced on the field in helping the Lady Eagles build a solid program. Next year, she will attend Our Lady of the Lake University in San Antonio.

Other activities that delegates can look forward to are a fire truck pull, talent show, dance, and discussion topics such as principles of leadership, the experience of disability, living on my own, reaching my career goals, and leading in my community, to name a few.

Sandra Rubio remembers participating in her first conference and being very scared to spend the night in a hotel.

“At the end of the conference, I didn’t want to go because I met other kids from other schools,” Rubio said. The 18-year-old is quiet by nature, but the valuable life learning and leadership skills she has picked up from past conferences has helped boost her self-confidence. “All people are different, but sometimes people treat us like we’re from a

See FORUM, Page 7



Eye on D.C. By U.S. Rep. Henry Bonilla

What happens when Santa doesn't come?

When I was growing up, my parents didn’t have a lot of money. I was nearly 12 before I realized that not all moms and dads hold down two or three jobs a piece.

I know my parents must have dreaded Christmas. When you’re little, everybody’s quick to tell you that Santa Claus brings toys only to good little boys and girls. If you don’t get much under the tree on Christmas morning, you must have done something to get on the wrong side of Santa.

A tree was a luxury we couldn’t always afford at Christmas. But, until the year I turned ten, there were always presents.

That year, 1964, things were harder than usual. By then our family had grown to include five children, including me. My dad would stay up late at night, adding, subtracting, and dividing the bills in a crazy kind of math that never gave him the answers he wanted. About two weeks before Christmas, my mom took me aside. “Henry,” she said, “you’re the oldest, so you should know what’s happening. It looks like we’re not going to be able to buy any presents this year. I need you to help your brothers and sisters understand.” I nodded,

but inside I was worried. How do you tell a five year old that Santa won’t be coming this year?

The next two weeks went faster than I would have wanted. Suddenly, it was Christmas Eve. That evening, my mom made her famous tamales and bunellas. Dad read the Christmas story, and we sang a few songs. But I noticed my brothers and sisters weren’t as excited as usual. They’d been warned days before that there were lots of kids in the world, and the North Pole toy factory was having a hard time making all of the toys.

The next morning, as I was just waking up, I heard my brother Nate shout. I ran into the next room. There, in the corner, was a Christmas tree, standing about four feet tall with shiny red, blue and yellow balls on it. But that wasn’t what surprised me the most. Under the tree were presents! There were new coats, games, and dolls for my sisters. Somehow, my parents had found the money for Santa to come. My throat tightened as I thought about the extra shifts mom must have taken, and the nights when dad could barely sleep before heading off to the next job.

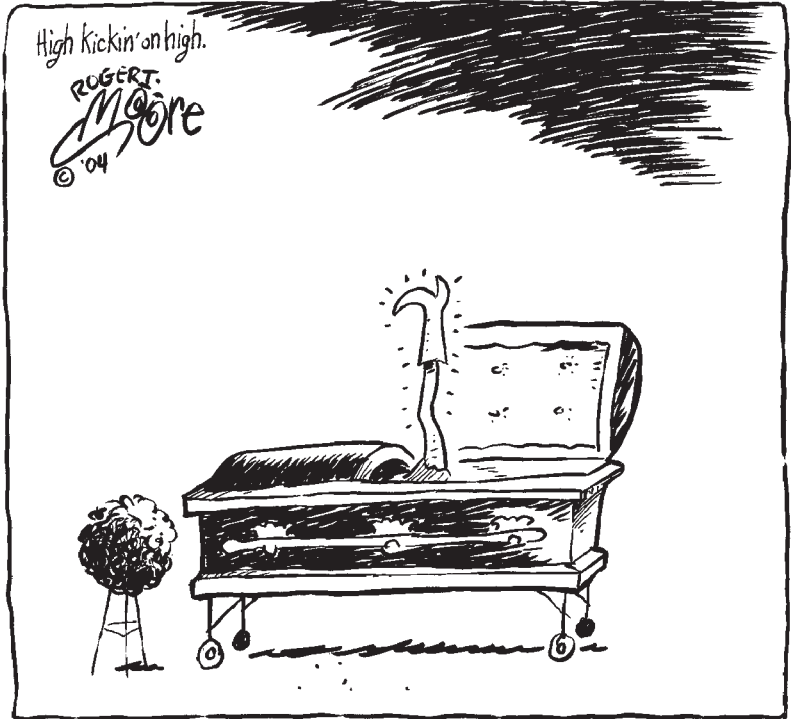
Now, 37 Christmases later, my son

and daughter have never gone to sleep on Christmas Eve afraid that Santa’s forgotten them. But that doesn’t mean we haven’t tried to show them what it’s like for other children who aren’t as lucky as they are. Every year, Project ABC (Any Baby Can) here in San Antonio matches us with a family that doesn’t have enough money to give their kids the Christmas they deserve. The families that Project ABC helps all have children with expensive medical problems. One year, our family was matched with a family that had a boy my son’s age who had muscular dystrophy. Our family goes out and buys presents we think the children (and their parents) will like. We also bring them everyday things like canned food or pots and pans.

We’re not the only family who plays Santa. Today, there are dozens of charities that try to make sure that “all” good girls and boys have a Merry Christmas. They do it not because of some rule or regulation the government has passed. They do it because they care about their fellow Americans. They are what Christmas and our country are all about.



TRUE TEXAS FACTS by Roger T. Moore, Dec. 20, 1993: Gussie Nell Davis, founder of the Kilgore Rangerettes, dies at 87.



Posse will ride into East Montana with toys and fond memories

EAST MONTANA — El Paso Posse will treat more than 500 Montana Vista children to hot dogs, drinks and dessert, followed by a visiting Santa Clause bringing them toys.

All Montana Vista residents are encouraged to register their children for the Christmas festival that starts at 1:30 p.m. and ends at 5 p.m. Friday, Dec. 17 at the Montana Vista Hall.

Robert Guardado, who heads the Posse volunteer group, described the fest as the means to send a positive message to low-income children in the colonias. “We want these children to feel that somebody cares about them,” Guardado said, explaining that he wants to give testimony of his own life and that of his brother’s. “We want them to believe we know what they are going through and hope to make a difference in their lives.”

In addition to the luncheon, a toy drive, which began Nov. 21, is still going strong with the help of Fort Bliss’ 987 MP unit. The toys are being received and warehoused at Sun Apparel and EPC Engineer Plastics Inc. Irene Performers and the Montana Vista High School Band will perform until the Santa Clause arrives at 3:30 p.m. with the Montana Vista Fire Fighters Rescue Team escorted by the Sheriff’s Department.

“While we already have some toys, many more are needed,” Guardado said. “They don’t have to be new, but they should be in good condition. Please remember there are quite a



— Photo courtesy Socorro ISD

SCIENCE OF THE FUTURE — Socorro ISD Middle School Science Fair winners were named following the district-wide contest. Shown from left are teacher Mary Mendoza, Ensor Middle School; Assistant Principal Naomi Byrne, Ensor Middle School; SISD Superintendent Dr. Robert J. Durón; Kimberly Duran, Ensor Middle School; Erin Moore, Ensor Middle School; and Matthew Crowse, Clarke Middle School.

Three picked for science sweeps

EAST EL PASO COUNTY — Three Socorro ISD students won sweepstakes trophies during the District-wide Middle School Science Fair Dec. 4, held in the Socorro Middle School gymnasium.

The sixth-grade sweepstakes winner was Erin Moore of Col. John O. Ensor Middle School. Her project analyzed the best plant food mixtures for growing tomatoes.

The seventh grade sweepstakes winner was Matthew Crowse of

Capt. Walter E. Clarke Middle School. His project dealt with environmental science.

Kimberly Duran of Col. John O. Ensor Middle School took the sweepstakes award for the eighth-grade category. Her project measured burning calories.

All three finalists are now automatically entered in the area-side Sun Country Science Fair, scheduled for February 28 in the University of Texas at El Paso’s Memorial Gymnasium.

few children out there for whom Christmas is a time for dreams that never become a reality.”

Sponsors for the party include area merchants and several elected officials.

This will be the second year the El Paso Posse Stop the Violence Community Toy Drive is featuring this Christmas party for colonia children. For more information call 855-3730.

— Contributed by Guadalupe Silva

Paper

From Page 1

photo rather than just the typical pose,” Lira explains during a break in the busy newsroom environment. “The picture needs to tell the story.”

As a member of the yearbook staff in previous years, Lira describes her involvement with the student newspaper as having more of an emphasis on writing rather than simply describing random photos. Lira also says that not being shy is vital when approaching random people, many times strangers, in an attempt to take a photo.

Because the *Eagle Post* is considered to be the first newspaper in the school’s history, according to Navarro and his students, there is an immense amount of pride in the product. Laura Martinez, a senior, was given the role as editor and says it is important that she learn while being able to lead her peers through the newspaper making process.

“I have to know what I’m doing and learn before anyone else does,” Martinez said. “Mr. Navarro has been a big help to us.”

While the San Elizario community has been able to enjoy the newspaper this year — walk into the nearby Good Time Store and you’ll see a stack of *Eagle Posts* on the same rack as major print publications — what people can appreciate the most about the end product is the responsibility it takes to produce a newspaper, whether it’s snapping a photo or verifying a fact.

Martinez says there’s a major maturity factor since there is a key difference between turning in a story assignment and turning in a typical homework assignment.

“When you’re given a homework assignment in a regular classroom it’s usually due the next day,” she says.

“Here you have an assignment and it could be due in a month. It’s up to you to do the job. You know when the deadline is.”

Navarro knows that as deadline draws near, it is vital to keep the lines of communication open with his students, as things tend to get a bit chaotic in the newsroom. Deadline, Navarro says, is attached to their grade.

“If they have enough stories in, then they are in good standing,” he says. “If they don’t, they know about it. The newsroom teaches a person to be accountable.”

What Navarro tries to do is stress to his students the “real world” aspect of what they are trying to accomplish in the classroom.

“In the real world, if you consistently miss deadlines, you get fired,” he said.

From an observer’s point of view, it’s easy to see that Navarro has good command of his staff of students coupled with the respect they show for both him and the job they do. Although this is Navarro’s first year teaching, it’s more than just coincidence that he’s been able to make a connection with them. Navarro knows that a lot of his students are facing similar circumstances that he faced growing up in a single-family household while his mother was without a job.

“I learned early on that everyone is accountable for his or her actions,” Navarro says. “I treat my students the same way — it’s up to you whether you fail or succeed.”

In this case, it will be the newspaper, the *Eagle Post*, which will serve as the measuring stick as to whether Navarro and his students succeed in their quest to continue publishing a student newspaper in San Elizario. Walk into room 400 and see students eager to participate, eager to do better.

Looks like they’re on their way.

Briefs

From Page 1

MMS band room. Dinner will be catered by Carino’s Restaurant, and will include spaghetti with meat sauce, salad, roll, drink and dessert. Dinner will be served from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. in the cafeteria, with entertainment by the Mighty Moose Jazz Band. The concert, featuring the Honor, Symphonic and beginning bands begins at 7 p.m. in the gym. For more information, call 937-5822.

■ The Department of Homeland Security has awarded the El Paso Fire Department \$682,421 for Operations and Firefighter Safety initiatives under the Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program, according to announcements from Congressman Silvestre Reyes and Sen. John Cornyn. The Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program provides federal financial assistance

directly to fire departments to help support the nation’s firefighters and improve basic fire delivery services across the United States. Operations and Firefighter Safety initiatives may include training, equipment, personal protective equipment, wellness and fitness efforts, and modifications to fire stations and facilities.

■ Dec. 17 is the last day of classes for Socorro ISD students and faculty before the annual midwinter break. More than 34,000 students will be released early from classes on that day, and will return to regular school hours Jan. 4, 2005. The District’s early release schedule for Dec. 17 begins at 11:30 a.m. for regular elementary and regular middle school campuses. Combo schools, those that have both elementary and middle school grades, and Socorro’s high schools will release students at 12:15 p.m. For more information, contact your child’s school.

UTEP BASKETBALL

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Canutillo teacher achieves national milestone

CANUTILLO — Sandra J. Kreps of Canutillo Elementary School earned her profession’s top honor by achieving National Board Certification, in 2004, according to the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS). National Board Certification (NBC) is the highest credential in the teaching profession. She is one of only four teachers from Region 19 to have attained this certification.

Kreps teaches fifth grade at CES in the Canutillo Independent School District. She has been a teacher for 19 years and holds a Bachelor’s degree from the University of Northern Colorado.

“With teacher quality serving as the benchmark in determining a student’s academic success, the National Board congratulates all teachers who went through the rigorous NBC process,” said former Georgia Governor Roy E. Barnes, chair of the

NBPTS Board of Directors. “Sandra’s achievement is especially significant when you consider the powerful research released this year confirming that teachers who earn this distinction represent the gold standard in teaching and are among the most effective teachers in our nation’s classrooms today.”

“Through National Board Certified teachers, states and communities are realizing the enormous benefits of using NBC as a tool to attract, reward and retain highly accomplished teachers,” said NBPTS President Joseph P. Aguerrebere. “It is important to understand the NBC process not only identifies accomplished teachers, but also is a profound professional development experience. This is a process that forces teachers to demonstrate how their activities, both inside and outside of the classroom, improve student achievement.”



Sandra Kreps



— Photo courtesy San Elizario ISD

San Eli students put skills to use

SAN ELIZARIO — San Elizario High School students in the Building Trades vocational class have been busy spending time at the local Kellogg Clinic the past few days. Not that there’s anything wrong with the students, they’re simply providing the clinic with a rebuilt wheelchair ramp. The current structure had been worn out by the weather, so according to SEHS principal Irma Baquera, it was only right for San Eli students to put their skills to use and help out a clinic, led by Dr. Tony Islas, that helps out the campus so much throughout the school year.

New ‘mini’ courthouse inaugurated

NORTHEAST EL PASO — Northeast residents will no longer need to travel to downtown El Paso to get a copy of their birth certificate, pay their taxes, register their vehicle or learn about their veteran’s benefits. They will now be able to conduct their County business in their neighborhood.

El Paso County’s new Northeast Annex was inaugurated with an official ceremony at 2 p.m. on Monday, Dec. 6 at 4640 Cohen Drive. The new 13,900 square-foot building will house the offices of Justice of the Peace Pct. #2, Tax Assessor Collector, County Clerk, Adult Probation and Veteran’s Assistance.

Commissioner Dan Haggerty, who represents the Northeast in Commissioners Court and who advocated for construction of the \$824,928 building, described the new mini-courthouse as much needed to bring all those services under one roof.

“By having them all under the same roof, it will be easier for families to access them,” Haggerty said. “This new building is a great addition to the community, one that has been long in coming.”

Lorenzo Aguilar, the County’s project manager, described the new building as exhibiting three basic concepts: functionality, good design and respect for the taxpayer. The building, which opened for service on Monday, was designed by El Paso architect Ed McCormick and built by Vistacon Constructors.

“The big plus is that it was finished on schedule and on budget,” Aguilar said. “It’s a good looking, well built building that will serve its purpose far into the future.”

— Contributed by Guadalupe Silva

Hold your fire: Study says desalination can alleviate future water woes

AUSTIN — Water fights are not new to Texas; since before the Lone Star State joined the Union, water rights have been bartered, litigated, fought over, bought and sold for years, and are as contentious today as they have ever been. But a new study from the Texas Public Policy Foundation finds an emerging technology might alleviate those fights in the future.

The study, *Hold The Salt: The Promise Of Desalination For Texas*,

was written by James Smith, Ph.D., a professor in the Department of Construction Science at Texas A&M University.

This report succinctly explores the opportunities and costs of desalination. Smith notes that if the technology is to be used to the greatest extent possible, it will have to happen as a result of public water works allowing the private sector to have an enhanced role in the design, construction, operations and maintenance,

and financing of desalination facilities.

“Declining water resources, coupled with inexorable population growth, demand that the state find alternative solutions for its future water supply needs,” writes Dr. Smith. “Desalination is an option with a long history around the world and it deserves a good look as an option for the future in Texas.”

Smith notes three desalination projects are currently undergoing a

feasibility study in Texas — Corpus Christi, Freeport and Brownsville. But desalination is not just for seawater, Smith notes. It can also be used to make brackish water found in more arid regions useful for consumption.

Around the world, some 800 million gallons per day of water is made available through desalination.

Hold the Salt and other studies focused on natural resources policy, are available online at www.TexasPolicy.com.

Vision

From Page 1

available shortly after school ends in May.

Dr. Derek Cunningham, a clinical faculty instructor at Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center, will

Martinez

From Page 1

available to those of average IQ and not just for the “super smart.”

As a promoter of change, the new Anthony High principal sees himself in still another important role.

“What do I do?” he asks. “I help dreams come true. This is the most important thing I do. I help them dream big and then help them get to that point.”

He again wants change, where they are not just thinking of what’s going on right now, but of their future and their role in it as “good citizens.”

Martinez envisions Anthony High School as a place where “there are so many good things,” that people will want to come — to bring their sons and daughters. And where teachers will want to come as well.

In addition to being a force for change and helping dreams come true, there is another bold aspect of Martinez.

“We are going to be risk-takers; we will ask for forgiveness later.”

study the initiative’s research findings. He said that some studies indicate that a rudimentary eye examination conducted by schools fail to catch upwards of 30 percent of vision related problems. He hopes the more thorough screenings being done at Canutillo will help spark interest throughout the educational community.

sion related problems. He hopes the more thorough screenings being done at Canutillo will help spark interest throughout the educational community.

www.wtccourier.com

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Public Hearing Notice Village of Vinton

Texas Community Development Program

The Village of Vinton intends to submit an amendment to the existing CDBG Contract #723849 to use remaining funds to install water on 7840 Kiely Road (Kiely Mobile Home Park) to the Office of Rural and Community Affairs under the Texas Community Development Block Grant Program. This amendment must primarily benefit low and moderate income persons. Interested residents of the Village of Vinton are invited to recommend eligible projects at a public hearing to be held at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 21, 2004, at 436 E. Vinton Rd., Vinton, Texas 79821. Citizens unable to attend this meeting may submit their views and proposals to Mayor Juvencia Rio-Ontiveros at Village Hall. Persons with disabilities that wish to attend this meeting should contact Village Hall at least two days before the meeting so that appropriate arrangements can be made. For additional information, please contact Mayor Juvencia Ontiverios at (915) 886-5104.

WTCC: 12/16/04



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Vulgarity and violence could frost, cost NBA fans

By Steve Escajeda
Special to the Courier

You would have thought after that ugly riot at the end of the Indiana Pacers-Detroit Pistons game last month that NBA players might start thinking about trying to clean up their act.

Well, think again, buddy.

Two players, a notorious trouble maker and one quickly heading in that direction, made some unsavory news this week that will help keep the NBA heading in that seemingly never-ending downward sleazy spiral.

Our old friend Latrell Sprewell, who once tried to choke the life out of his coach with his bare hands, made news by doing the manly thing and cussing out a female fan during a game against Golden State.

Seems a lady was heckling him from the stands and the basketball player with the nerves of mush turned around and let out a sexual vulgarity at the woman that was clearly picked up by the TV mikes covering the game. Let's just hope junior wasn't watching at home.

It's not clear what the lady yelled at Sprewell. She could have yelled something just as vulgar at him, I don't know. But with Sprewell's

track record what else could the league do? He was suspended for a game by the NBA.

Oh no, this means he'll have even less money to feed his undernourished family. (He recently said a multi-million dollar contract offer was offending and cited his family's needs.)

As for the aspiring NBA hoodlum, Denver's Carmelo Anthony made a lousy impression during the recent Olympics when he sat and pouted — much like my kids did when they were three and four years old — when he didn't get as much playing time as he thought he deserved.

Now Anthony is appearing in what is referred to as a witness-intimidation DVD being sold on the streets of Baltimore.

Basically, the video deals with the idea of snitching on other gangsters, drug traffickers, murderers, and other unsavory characters. Of course, the video says it's bad and dishonest to snitch on these guys.

The DVD, in which Carmelo makes a cameo appearance, is chock-full of profanity and intimidating remarks. All the things your teenager needs to grow up healthy and well-rounded.

Law enforcement officials have said the DVD was aimed at Tyree Stewart, a man who

once ran a \$50-million drug ring in West Baltimore. He is now in prison and cooperating with investigators.

I'm sorry, gang. I'm not naive by any stretch of the imagination, but I do not understand this whole "gangsta" rap stupidity and why it has made its way into the mainstream of American society with such little interference.

The good thing is that people are starting to take notice now and they're outraged. But didn't anyone see this coming?

Of course, they did — and who are *they*? All of us, and when we pretend to see nothing until it bites us on our back sides, it's sometimes too late.

Hey, NBA, you know what happens when you let bad things go on too long? Let's put it this way — did you happen to catch any NHL games on TV today? Hint, hint!

Not much sting

Throughout the history of professional sports, there have been some teams that brought losing to a new level.

I don't just mean those tough we-almost-had-that-one kind of losing. I'm talking about those this-one-was-over-before-it-even-started kind of losing.

Some of the biggest losers that quickly come to mind are teams like the Tampa Bay Buccaneers, which lost the first 26 games they ever played.

Then there was the 1962 New York Mets who set a Major League record for most losses in a season with 120.

In 1973, the Philadelphia 76ers went 9-73. How does an NBA team not come up with at least 10 wins in a season?

Well, the 76ers may not hold the NBA crown for very much longer. After 19 games, no team in the history of the NBA has ever started off the season worse than this season's New Orleans Hornets.

At 1-18, the Hornets are actually on pace to destroy Philadelphia's unenviable record.

The team's leading scorer is Lee Nailon, who is averaging a whopping 13.1 points a game. The Hornets are averaging a league-low 85 points a game and haven't even won a home game yet.

Even this year's NBA expansion team, the Charlotte Bobcats, have four wins already.

Let's face it, with all that's happened in the NBA so far this year, the league itself isn't performing much better than the Hornets. That's the real tragedy.



— Photo courtesy Socorro ISD

The Socorro NJROTC conducted their Annual Military Inspection on Dec. 2, 2004 at Socorro High School. The inspecting officer was the NJROTC Area Ten Manager, Commander Mike Hale, who is based in San Antonio. The inspection encompasses a personnel inspection, marching demonstration, special team performance, battalion pass in review, cadet staff briefing, accounting of all government furnished materials and equipment, and administration records inspection. There were many dignitaries in attendance to display their support, the most notable was State Sen. Eliot Shapliegh who presented the Socorro NJROTC with a Texas flag that flew over the Texas Capitol. The Area Manager said he was extremely impressed with the performance of the cadets and the unit in general and evaluated them with the highest possible inspection score and offered no recommendations for improvement.



King Super Crossword

GIFT RAP

ACROSS

1 Forum wear

5 Wolf gang?

9 Drive the getaway

car

13 Positive thinker

18 Lipinski leap

19 DeeJay Freed

20 Interoffice

communicue

21 Hickman or

Strawberry

22 Canadian coin

23 Ordinary

24 "Trinity" author

25 Kind of paint

26 Start of a remark

by Don Marquis

30 Narcs' org.

31 "Agnus _"

32 Cinema sled

36 Lineman's tool

40 Seville shout

42 Renown

45 Debut recording

46 Atmosphere

47 Discontinue

49 Sharpens a skill

51 Choose, with "for"

52 Part 2 of remark

57 Cartoon canine

58 Part 3 of remark

59 Delany and

Wynter

60 Time of your life

63 Head line?

65 Susann or

Shakespeare

69 Entreaty

70 Mrs. Eddie Cantor

73 Prom date

76 Gulliver's first

name

78 Portly

79 Wattle's partner

81 Speculation

83 Conductor

Klemperer

84 Gold brick?

86 Pageant prop

89 Part 4 of remark

90 Sixth sense

93 Part 5 of remark

99 Mellow

101 Studio sign

102 " _ Breath You

Take" ('83 smash)

103 Computer image

104 Man the bar

106 Belarussian city

108 Cote cutie

109 Bantered

111 November 11th

honoree

113 Stirrup site

115 Create a chemise

116 End of remark

125 Monastery bigwigs

128 Tivoli's Villa d' _

129 Neighbor of Can.

130 Concept

131 He had things

done by Friday

132 _ breve

133 Unusual

134 It's nothing

135 Off the plate

136 Basketball's Willis

137 Black

138 Seth's son

DOWN

1 Baja bite

2 The yoke's on

them

3 Passed-on item

4 Choir member

5 Whales

6 Maui greeting

7 Poirot's concern

8 Handle

9 Tickle

10 Wodehouse's

Wooster

11 Send out

12 Peter of reggae

13 Dieter's discomfort

14 Cleared the slate

15 Cardigan part

16 Pipe cleaner?

17 Building wing

21 Signifies

27 HST's predeces-

sor

28 Crusader kingdom

29 Persian, presently

33 Early epic

34 Ref

35 Speck

36 Talk-show pioneer

37 Mechanic's

offering

38 Pressing need

39 _ de Cologne

40 Above, to Arnold

41 Installed tile

43 Unsullied

44 _ Gatos, CA

47 Basilica

48 Italian rumbler

50 Diffident

53 Kind

54 Use a toboggan

55 Handle harshly

56 "Alley _"

61 Indian export

62 Toque or topee

64 Piggy

66 Medical grp.

67 Uproar

68 Price twice

70 Infamous Amin

71 Singer Seals

72 Enhance

74 Generator parts

75 Stumble

77 Isolated

80 Tropical snake

82 Connecticut

campus

85 Spinks stat

87 Go back

88 " _ Good Men" ('92

film)

90 Decorate glass

91 Oxford, e.g.

92 Await judgment

94 As a group

95 Canvas cover?

96 Nuremberg

numeral

97 Cinnabar, for

instance

98 " _ the season ..."

99 Wilderness trans.

100 "Holy smoke!"

105 Unseat

107 Pot

109 Dairy cow

110 Be obligated

112 Boca _, FL

114 Winning

115 Burning bit

117 Have on

118 Presque _, ME

119 Mata _

120 Dash

121 _ up (evaluate)

122 Actress Barbara

123 Sleuth Wolfe

124 New Mexico resort

125 Parker of football

126 It may be padded

127 Except

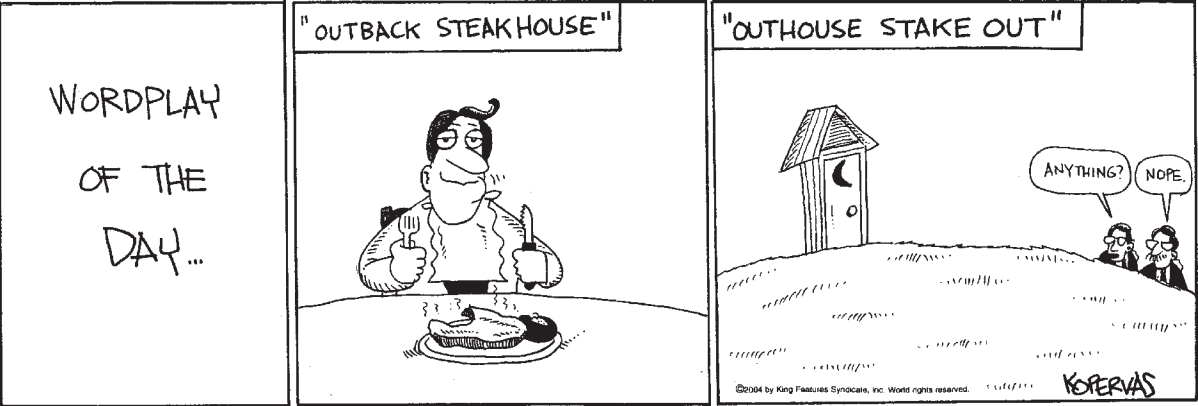
Answer Page 4

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Comix

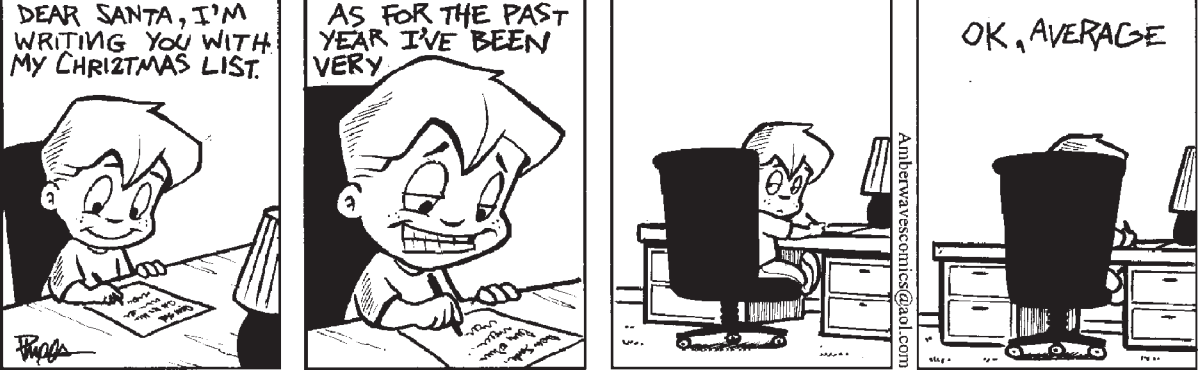
OUT ON A LIMB

By Gary Kopervas



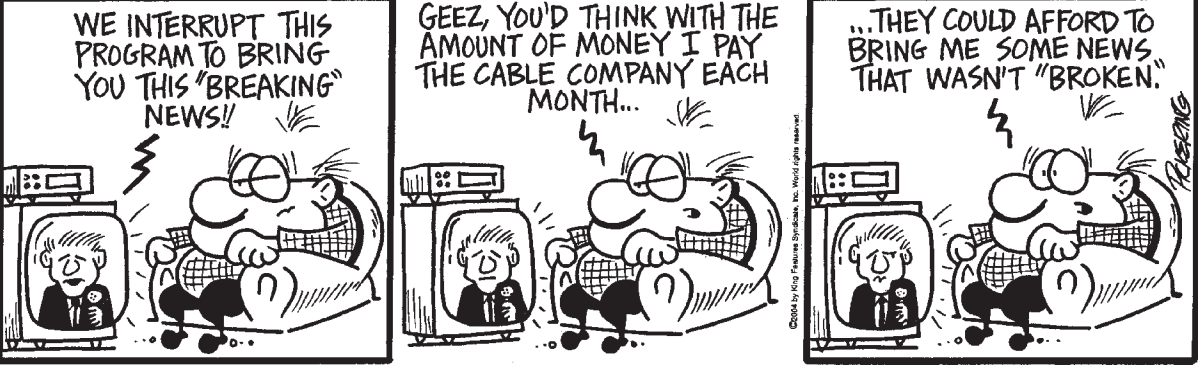
AMBER WAVES

By Dave T. Phipps



THE SPATS

By Jeff Pickering



R.F.D.

By Mike Marland



Classified Ads

LEGAL

espanol 727-3626 12/30

PUBLIC NOTICE

As per Article V, Sec. 5.05(a), all owners and lienholders have ten (10) days from this date to reclaim their vehicles at South West Wrecker, 1401 Darrington Rd., 855-1900, 851-2091-fax, or it will be sold at public auction for charges: VIN - 2MEBM75FOKX657421, 1989 Mercury Grand Marquis, 4-door, white, Chihuahua, Mexico plates 517 SEJ. WTCC-12/16/04

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Sandwich proves a heavenly investment

By Don Flood

This week in financial news: how to prepare for retirement by building a portfolio of one of the hottest investments around — grilled cheese sandwiches.

Diana Duyser, a Florida jewelry designer, recently sold, on eBay, her 10-year-old grilled cheese sandwich — for \$28,000. (This is absolutely true.)

Now you're thinking, Wow, this Duyser woman must make a heck of a grilled cheese sandwich. She should open a shop.

Or you might think, there's no way I would pay \$28,000 for a 10-year-old sandwich, especially while I'm on a low-carb diet.

But of course this isn't just any grilled cheese sandwich. It bears an image of the Virgin Mary.

On the other hand — and I don't know if the buyer took this into consideration — Duyser did take a bite out of the sandwich, which is a disgusting and even a little blasphemous:

"Bless me, Father, for I have sinned. I have taken a bite out of a Virgin Mary grilled cheese sandwich."

Also, for \$28,000 I'd expect a full sandwich, maybe a little extra cheese.

What's frustrating is realizing that, over the years, I might have eaten dozens of grilled cheese sandwiches with images of the Virgin Mary on them. I never even looked.

But it's never too late to start getting ready for your retirement, and now we finally have a benchmark determining the value of grilled cheese sandwich investments.

Before this, people were at the mercy of supposed experts:

APPRAISER: Yes, quite nice, but ordinary. You see, this is Won-

der Bread. Now if you had a nice deli-style rye bread for your Virgin Mary grilled cheese, then you'd have something of real value. The most I can offer you for this is \$5.

While I don't want to burst the bubble of anyone who considers this grilled cheese sandwich a devotional object, it doesn't really look like the Virgin Mary.

To me, it looks a little like a young Faye Dunaway, or maybe that new weather girl on Channel 13.

(Sadly the bottom dropped out of the Faye-Dunaway-grilled-cheese market with the passing of the dot-com craze. They can now be purchased for a fraction of their former value.)

So savvy investors, take note: Much of a grilled cheese sandwich's ultimate value depends on how well it is marketed.

Let's say you make a grilled cheese sandwich. Just before taking a bite you notice the sandwich bears the likeness of, say, the cast of "Seinfeld."

Whatever you do, do not blurt that out. Instead, say something like, "Look! It's the Last Supper!" and start calling the local TV stations, especially if they're looking for a "holiday" feature.

Announce immediately that you could never sell or give away anything so precious.

After that you must be patient, as you allow your grilled cheese sandwich to grow in value, helped along with periodic updates to the media.

Finally, when you feel the sandwich has reached its peak value, sell at an extraordinary profit.

Hey, it beats the stock market.

(c) 2004 King Features Synd., Inc.

PTO

From Page 2

those customers currently staring at me, or those who live next door. I choose risking a quick demise over long nights of anxious listening at the window, and I butt into the gordita-assembling line, preparing my orders and stacking them over to the side.

By the time I've got all my orders out, the anxious looks at the counter have disintegrated into irritated, stony stares, but I enlist my

daughters to help me load the ice chest — they won't attack a child, will they? — and slink out with all the stealth of a Army tank.

The schools of America may have official sources for the majority of their funding but an amazingly huge dollar amount that pays for sports uniforms, field trips, playground equipment, special programs and other perks are provided through the countless hours of effort and materials provided by volunteers. I'm not a veteran of these events, yet, but I expect before all my kids graduate, I probably will be.

And you know, it was fun.

Forum

From Page 3

different world," Rubio said. "We're like them, only we have a disability."

This self confidence and the ability to overcome, not only her own disability but those perceptions she faces from other people who treat her differently, will be important tools for Rubio, as she will join the National Guard after she graduates in May. As a Youth Leadership men-

tor, she will be able to pass on her knowledge and experiences to new delegates.

Adrian Rodriguez agrees with Rubio because he, too, has undoubtedly experienced differential treatment from other people.

"We all have the same heart," he said.

For more information on attending this conference, contact Angelica Rodriguez at the Educational Service Center at Region 19, 780-5095. Applications must be postmarked by Dec. 17, 2004.

Social Security Q&A

By Ray Vigil

Q: I plan to retire in a couple of months, as soon as I turn 62. Would I be better off if I apply for Social Security retirement benefits then or, if I can manage to live off of other income, should I wait until my full retirement age to apply for Social Security?

A: The decision about when to retire is always a personal one because there are so many variables — personal health, family situation, retirement plans, other income sources,

etc. Taking Social Security retirement benefits at age 62 would give you immediate income, while waiting until full retirement age could give you more money per month. If you wait until full retirement age, you generally have to live about 10-15 years to make up the money you forego by not taking early retirement.

Q: If I apply for my Social Security retirement benefits online, can I email you a copy of my birth certificate?

A: No. We need to have a certified

copy of your birth certificate. (That usually means it has a raised seal on it and the signature of the state or local official who issued the document. However, Social Security is working to develop a process for verifying birth records electronically with states.) When you apply for benefits online, you will be given several options for where you want your claim processed and how you want to provide us with your birth certificate and any other documents we might need.

Q: I have a friend who has never worked outside of the home. She told me she is going to get a wife's retire-

ment benefit, based on her husband's Social Security work record. Isn't it true that Social Security only pays benefits to non-working women after their husbands die?

A: No, it is not true. When you start receiving Social Security retirement or disability benefits, other family members also may be eligible for payments. So because your friend has never worked and has not earned her own Social Security benefit, we can pay her a wife's benefit on her husband's record. And for a spouse who has worked and is eligible for both her own retirement benefits and









benefits as a spouse, we always pay her own benefits first. However, if her benefits as a spouse are higher than her retirement benefits, she will get a combination equaling the higher benefit. Spouse's benefits change to widow(er)'s benefits when the worker dies.

For more information visit your local Security office, see www.ssa.gov or call us at 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
							
Variable clouds, breezy.	Mostly cloudy.	Partly sunny.	Some sunshine.	Partly sunny.	Partial sunshine.	Times of clouds and sun.	Partly sunny.
▲ 52°	▼ 31°	▲ 49° ▼ 30°	▲ 58° ▼ 28°	▲ 62° ▼ 33°	▲ 62° ▼ 31°	▲ 58° ▼ 29°	▲ 54° ▼ 27°

UV INDEX

Statistics for noon.

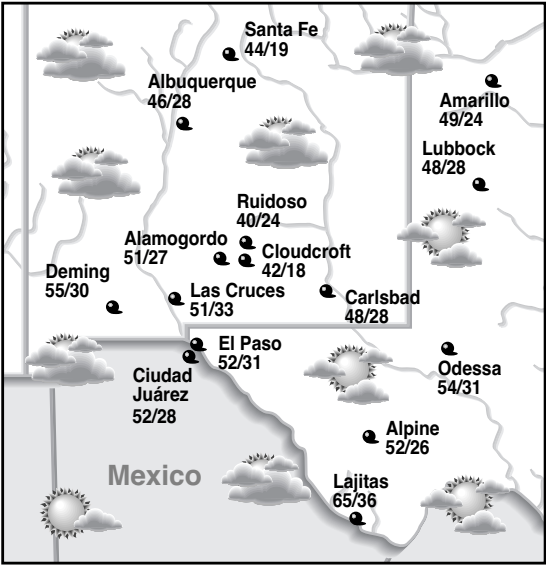
The higher the UV Index, the greater the need for eye and skin protection.

Thursday	3	Low
Friday	4	Low
Saturday	4	Low
Sunday	4	Low
Monday	4	Low
Tuesday	4	Low
Wednesday	4	Low

TEXAS WEATHER

Anthony	53	31
Canutillo	53	29
Clint	50	29
E. Montana	52	27
Fabens	50	27
Horizon	53	30
San Elizario	50	30
Socorro	50	26
Tornillo	50	31
Vinton	53	30

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



TRAVELERS CITIES

City	Thur. Hi/Low/W	Fri. Hi/Low/W	Sat. Hi/Low/W	Sun. Hi/Low/W	Mon. Hi/Low/W
Albuquerque	46/28/r	48/26/pc	52/28/s	54/30/s	52/25/pc
Atlanta	52/34/s	54/34/pc	52/36/pc	48/30/sh	45/29/pc
Atlantic City	47/29/s	45/27/pc	45/32/pc	47/33/r	42/27/pc
Austin/San Antonio	58/37/pc	56/35/pc	63/39/s	66/38/c	66/37/s
Baltimore	46/30/s	46/29/pc	43/32/pc	40/28/c	41/27/pc
Boston	42/32/s	45/28/pc	38/30/pc	43/33/sh	34/32/c
Chicago	38/26/sf	30/22/pc	34/26/sf	32/20/sf	32/17/sn
Dallas/Ft. Worth	53/35/pc	56/37/pc	63/39/s	61/38/s	63/34/s
Denver	45/21/pc	51/24/s	54/26/s	55/27/pc	52/14/pc
Flagstaff	44/19/s	42/17/s	50/22/pc	51/21/s	52/18/pc
Houston	58/40/sh	58/40/pc	62/44/s	66/42/c	66/44/s
Kansas City	42/28/c	49/31/pc	49/28/pc	49/26/pc	43/18/pc
Las Vegas	64/42/s	62/40/s	64/40/s	66/44/pc	64/42/pc
Miami	73/60/sh	73/58/sh	75/56/pc	71/53/pc	69/53/pc
Minneapolis	32/15/sn	34/26/sf	34/27/sf	38/17/sf	26/6/c
New Orleans	61/40/pc	60/38/sh	61/42/s	62/40/pc	58/41/s
New York City	44/34/s	44/31/pc	40/32/pc	47/37/r	38/34/c
Philadelphia	46/34/s	46/30/pc	42/32/pc	40/28/c	39/31/pc
Phoenix	70/50/s	68/48/s	70/48/pc	74/48/pc	74/44/s
Portland	48/40/c	48/40/c	48/40/pc	50/38/pc	49/40/pc
San Francisco	70/45/s	70/47/s	66/47/s	62/47/s	59/44/sh
Seattle	48/42/c	48/42/c	48/42/c	50/40/pc	49/43/s
Tucson	68/38/s	66/38/pc	68/40/pc	70/42/pc	69/43/pc
Washington, DC	48/32/s	50/34/c	46/32/pc	47/35/sh	41/30/pc

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

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