



NEWSBRIEFS

Clint chooses Estrada

At a special school board meeting on Dec. 19, 2004, the Clint Independent School District Board of Trustees voted to name Ricardo Estrada as superintendent for Clint ISD, formalizing his unanimous appointment as interim superintendent during the regular meeting only days earlier, on Dec. 15. He will take office following a mandatory 21-day waiting period. Formerly the Deputy Superintendent for the district, Estrada has been with Clint ISD for 35 years. Beginning as a teacher and a coach in 1969, he moved on to administration in 1977 as an assistant principal. Since then he has served as principal, bilingual coordinator, Director of Bilingual Education and Special Programs, assistant superintendent and deputy superintendent. He will fill the post recently vacated by Dr. Donna Smith, who moved to San Antonio.

Gold-rush footsteps

Fourteen students and three history teachers from Slider Middle School will climb aboard a wagon train on Jan. 4 to retrace a portion of the route of a gold-rush adventurer, William P. Huff, who left behind a 300,000-word journal of his gold-seeking trek from Houston to Fresno, California, about 150 years ago. Students from various schools along the way from California through Texas will make at least a portion of the trip — the Slider students will be replaced by a group of 14 students from Dell City ISD when they reach a camp about eight miles from there. The students will have opportunity to harness and drive the mule teams, as well as experience camp life much as it was in the 1800's. The students' experiences will ultimately be recorded in a hardcover and electronic book entitled *Following the Steps of William P. Huff*.

In other news

■ The Friends of the Fabens Library — an advocacy group composed of community members — will host a community gathering on Dec. 23, 1-3 p.m. at the County Library in Fabens. The theme of the event, "Be an Angel: Give the Gift of Literacy," promotes literacy and the many resources that the library offers to the Fabens community. The event is open to the public and will feature entertainment and refreshments. For information call 764-3635.

■ The Clardy Fox Branch Library is hosting a unique international exhibit featuring artists from Latin America. The exhibit entitled *Encuentros* or "Encounters" in English, features a blend of cultural influences from the countries of Mexico, United States, Argentina and Chile. *Encuentros* is symbolic of the encounters that reunite the artists, cultures and people

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Bad jokes never die — they just smell that way.

— Quips & Quotes

Four die, one faces charges in alcohol-related car crash

EAST EL PASO COUNTY — Four young people from the East El Paso County community were killed Monday night and a fifth was hospitalized and facing criminal charges following a one-vehicle crash.

A spokesman for the El Paso County Sheriff's Office Special Traffic Investigators said about 10:53 p.m. on Dec. 20 a blue 1998 Ford Explorer swerved off the road and struck a tree almost head-on. The vehicle then slid on its side, coming to rest wrapped around another tree. Four passengers were not wearing seatbelts and were ejected from the Explorer.

The vehicle had five occupants. The driver Abigail DeLeon, 18, of Clint, was found in the car behind the steering wheel, with her seat belt on. The SO spokesman said she was conscious

and transported to R. E. Thomason Hospital where, at last report, she was being held for observation.

Killed in the accident were:

- Jennifer Chavez, 18, of Clint.
- Christopher Reyes, 19, of Fabens.
- Joe Rey Gomez, 20, of Fabens.
- Marco Antonio Ortiz, 19, of San Elizario.

DeLeon faces four counts of manslaughter, and her bond was set at \$80,000. Upon release from the hospital, the SO spokesman said, she was to be booked into the El Paso County Downtown Detention Facility. Alcohol is considered a contributing factor to the accident and the charges may be upgraded to four counts of

See CRASH, Page 4

Texas okays expanding flu shot target groups

AUSTIN — Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) officials said this week they will support the recommended expansion of flu shot priority target groups announced last Friday by the national Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The recommendation — which will not be effective until Jan. 3 — adds people 50 and older, out-of-home caregivers for the high-risk, and household contacts of those at high risk of severe complications should they get the flu.

"The delayed implementation will give those in the current priority categories who haven't been vaccinated a few more days to find a flu shot," said Texas Commissioner of State Health Services Eduardo Sanchez. "The supply is still

limited and may vary from city to city, but the vaccine has become more readily available in recent weeks. We urge those who have tried and failed to try again."

Sanchez emphasized that the recommendation allows local public health officials to continue to follow the more-restrictive recommendation if they believe the vaccine supply in their specific areas is not sufficient to cover the demand from members of the current high-risk groups.

The current priority groups are children 6 months through 23 months of age, adults 65 and older, anyone with underlying chronic

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San Eli students find out what's in a piñata besides candy

By Phillip Cortez
Special to the Courier

SAN ELIZARIO — Piñatas come in all shapes and sizes; some might take the form of your favorite cartoon character or superhero.

Some, well, some you have no idea what the piñata maker was going for, but one thing is certain: they all have candy stuffed inside and kids will do just about anything to get their hands on it.

The Spanish I and II students at San Elizario Middle School decided to have a little fun while learning the history of piñatas shortly before the winter break, by making their own traditional piñatas, according to Marisela Grado, a Spanish teacher at the school.

"It took the students about two weeks to do the project," Grado said.

By using materials available at any store —

balloons, tissue paper, newspaper, wire and art paste or flour mixed in warm water called engrudo — Grado and fellow teacher Ignacia Robles, guided their students through the process of making a traditional piñata while helping them understand the origin of what they were making.



VESSEL OF HISTORY — Students in Marisela Grado's Spanish class display their bright piñatas.

For example, many students did not know that the piñata's origin is actually Chinese, not Hispanic. According to materials the class

See PINATA, Page 4

Mayor looks to the future while reviewing town of Anthony's progress

By Don Woodyard
Courier Staff Writer

ANTHONY — Mayor Art Franco had a quick answer when asked what his main wish was for 2005 — completion of the soccer fields and the community center.

"We need recreational activities for kids badly," the six-term mayor of Anthony says.



Art Franco

Work is already under way in the area off Franklin Street across from the park. The soccer complex eventually will have 15 soccer fields of different sizes for adults as well as youth. The Anthony Town Council approved the project first proposed by the Desert Rats Soccer Club.

The mayor is looking for funding for the soccer complex in the private sector through partnering with area business.

Franco has a go-slow policy toward development of the soccer fields.

He hopes to have some of the fields ready for use next summer with the remainder being completed over a three-year period. He says he wants to be able to build and maintain the facilities without overtaxing the town's resources. He wants to avoid the problems faced by the county that has been trying to divest itself of recreational facilities it cannot take care of.

Earlier this year the Canutillo Independent School District turned down the county's offer to take over operation of Gallegos Park.

With a grant of \$263,000, the home of the first mayor of Anthony is being renovated and turned into a community and cultural center, the mayor says. Located at the corner of Magnolia and Main, the residence was donated by Becky Dutro, long-time resident of Anthony. Her husband was the town's first postmaster.

Franco hopes the new community center will be ready by February of 2005.

The mayor says economic development is continuing. New industry has come into the town that more than makes up for the financial loss of the Pillsbury/Mountain Pass operation, including:

- A shopping center and 36-unit apartment complex on Omar Street
- A proposed 200-unit subdivision on the mesa east of town across I-10 with houses in the \$65,000 range
- Commercial and residential development along Wildcat Drive/Spur 6. The road, completed last year, connects Franklin near the freeway and Doniphan. Commercial development is seen on the southside of the road and residential homes to the north, Franco says.

Grants are a major factor in the future of Anthony. More than three-quarters of a

See FRANCO, Page 7



One perspective

By Francis Shrum

Play it again

She said I was a traitor for loving the fiddle more than the piano. My aunt is the first person I think of when it comes to playing the piano. She sang, too, and her repertoire of country music hits and timeless cowboy ballads was formidable. She'd listen to the radio, pen and notebook at the ready, and write down the words to songs by the likes of Hank Williams, Johnny Horton, Charlie Pride, Loretta Lynn and Conway Twitty. She had volumes of spiral notebooks filled with the lyrics. Then she'd sit at the piano and fill a room with her magic. Her voice wasn't high and lilting, though. It was throaty and powerful and sent chills down your spine. She had hands like you'd expect to see on a horse-woman, strong and gentle at the same time, and she played the piano the way really good riders handle a good horse — she respected it, but she was in charge. She had long, beautiful fingers and she kept her nails clipped straight across and unpainted.

You see, I was paying attention, because she was one of the most beautiful women I have ever seen, and she didn't have a clue. She was so talented she was scary, and she didn't know that, either. She just played for family, friends and for the joy of it. Though we can't listen to her play it again, the music she made is recorded inside all of us who did.

My parents got a piano for me when I was in grade school and after school I'd get off the bus at another aunt's house and she gave me a few lessons. But I didn't stick to it, something I regret to this day. Maybe that's one of the reasons my two youngest have become pretty competent on the keyboard. It's what many parents do, I guess — encourage our children to succeed where we feel like we fell short. I'm glad they like to play and they sure give their mother considerable joy listening to them, just like I had sitting on the bench beside my beautiful aunt.



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YEARS

OF PUBLICATION

WEST TEXAS COUNTY COURIER

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

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Reyes Reports By U.S. Rep. Silvestre Reyes

Happy holidays to those both at home and abroad

With the holidays just around the corner, many families are gathering together to celebrate the spirit of the season. However, many of our men and women in uniform are spending their holidays far from home defending America, and many military families will be left to celebrate without their loved ones this year.

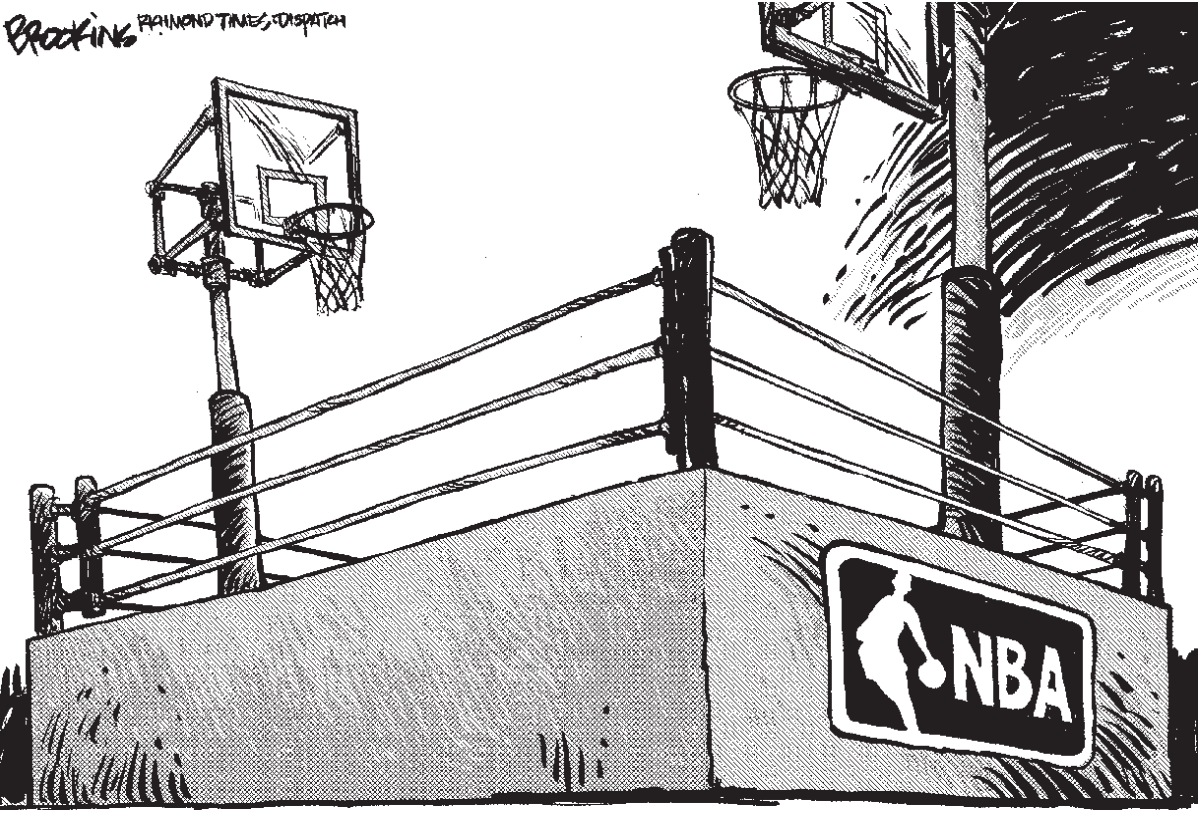
As a combat veteran, my heart goes out to these men and women and their families. I know how hard it is to spend the holidays separated from both home and family.

To ease the burden on our servicemen and women, the United Services Organization (USO) is continuing their tradition of providing a "touch of home" for those stationed overseas. Just recently, they held a "Care Package Stuffing Party" on Capitol Hill, offering Members of Congress the opportunity to help fill thousands of packages with music, comic books and phone cards — the most popular item — that will arrive in Iraq and Afghanistan during the holidays.

Knowing the importance these actions hold for deployed soldiers, and as a founding member and co-chair for the Congressional USO Caucus, I was proud to help. In fact, I hosted USO President Ned Powell on my weekly television show, Congress on the Border, highlighting the care packages and emphasizing how those of us here at home can help the USO and our men and women in uniform.

I have traveled to Iraq and Afghanistan several times since the start of combat operations and know how dedicated and committed our soldiers are to their mission. On one of these trips, I had the opportunity to meet with the men and women of Fort Bliss's 31st Combat Support Hospital (CSH) in Balad, who were hard at work providing medical care to Coalition and Iraqi forces injured in Fallujah. I've also met with Marines from El Paso who were serving under the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force in Fallujah. It was a privilege to see our men and women in action. Even while working in the sweltering heat in the stress of a combat situation, "GI humor" prevailed and morale was high.

To our brave servicemembers, I wish you a safe holiday and a swift return home. We are grateful for your sacrifice and your service. To our military families, please know that you have my utmost respect, appreciation, and support. You are all in my thoughts and prayers this holiday season and always.



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

Don't forget the soldiers abroad

It's not too late to help soldiers abroad this holiday season

The holiday season can be mad-dening. There are so many gifts to buy, cards to send, lights to hang, homes to decorate, parties to attend, and people to see. Just thinking about it can be a burden. It seems like since before we even marked Halloween off our calendars, department stores wanted us in this holiday frenzy.

I think I speak for most Americans when I say that over the last few years, people have wanted to tone down the extravagance and do more for others. Watching our brave soldiers every night on the news has helped people pause and recognize the things for which we are truly grateful this holiday season.

In most cases, those "things" can't be bought in a store, wrapped in a bow, or stuffed in a stocking. People who used to splurge — or even compete — when it came to holiday gift-giving, just want to spend time with their loved ones.

I've heard people say they don't

want anything for Christmas; they just want to spend time with those who matter most. Now more than ever this holiday season, people are counting their blessings — faith, family and friends top the list. No doubt about it, also on that list is freedom.

One of the most important things we can do as a country is show strong support for our military men and women. This holiday season, I urge those who just want to "do something," to send gifts to our troops online through Operation Santa's Gift from the Homefront.

Just log onto www.aafes.com and click on the camouflage-clad Santa. You can purchase certificates in \$10, \$20, or \$25 denominations accepted at any military exchange (AAFES, NEX, MCX, Coast Guard Exchange) retail store around the world, including those supporting Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom. There will be a shipping charge added depending on the number of certificates sent.



One of the many benefits of this certificate is that soldiers will be able to use it right away. AAFES ensures that soldiers will have immediate access to merchandise from home — like American candy bars — in Iraq. Also, this allows soldiers to buy things when they need them, and not have to worry about the logistics of heavy packages.

Serving your country is a great honor. However, that doesn't keep our soldiers from missing family, friends, or America. Receiving gifts and messages of support from back home is a real boost and a great way to stay focused on the mission at hand — winning the war for freedom.

Please consider sending a gift to a soldier abroad. Your gift of support may be the most touching present a soldier far from home receives this holiday season.

Thank you.

God bless you and God bless America.

Missing daughter sought

Elaine Sepulveda, 15, is missed dearly by her family. She went missing from Oak Harbor, WA on Nov. 6, 2004. Her mother, Mary Loa Jimenez, said the police are

treating the case as an abduction/homicide but have not found Sepulveda to date. Jimenez has not given up hope.

Jimenez said her family lived in the El Paso area before moving to Washington. She said, "Elaine has relatives in El Paso and she may have gone back." Posters have been placed around the county. Sometimes she goes by the name "Mandi."

Jimenez is asking for help. "This is my daughter. I'd do anything to get her back." If anyone has any information they can call her at (360) 679-3771.

People can also contact the Oak Harbor Police Department at (360) 679-9567 or National Center for Missing & Exploited Children at (800) 843-5678 (800-THE-LOST).



Elaine Sepulveda (Mandi)

Elaine Sepulveda Info

DOB: Mar 30, 1989
Missing: Nov 6, 2004
Height: 4'11" (150 cm)
Eyes: Brown
Race: White/Hisp
Age Now: 15
Sex: Female
Weight: 115 lbs (52 kg)
Hair: Brown
AKA: Mandi
From: Oak Harbor, WA

National Center for Missing & Exploited Children
1-800-843-5678
(1-800-THE-LOST)

Oak Harbor Police Dept.
(360) 679-9567

Mother's Info:
Mary Loa Jimenez
2107 B Swan Drive
Oak Harbor, WA 98277
(360) 679-3771

Jackie's Corner By Jackie Rutledge

Horizon has new opportunities as community grows

HORIZON CITY — In May of this year you elected me as an Alderman for the town of Horizon City. I advised you that my phone number would be available for all the citizens that I represent. That number is 852-8942.

Since being elected I have been very busy representing not only you, the citizens, but also our town. I was able to put together a pharmacy, which will open just after the new year begins, in Horizon Vista Mall. Three different doctors will be building a doctor's office complex that will eventually have a lab-xrays and the pharmacy will relocate with the doctor's office.

I am also working on a plan to take over of the former West Texas Air-

port (now Horizon Airport- ny name change).

I also assisted other businesses to open here Horizon. I plan to try and bring some factories here also, but that may be much more difficult. I am also working on getting motorcycles for our police, since I can get two motorcycles for the price of one car.

Now, I need *your* support. Please advise me as to what businesses you as citizens would most like to have here in our town. You may send your suggestions and comments to: Honorable Jackie Rutledge
14999 Darrington Road
Horizon City, TX 79928
My email address is jleetexas2004@yahoo.com

TRUE TEXAS FACTS by Roger T. Moore, Dec.23,1927:A gunman dressed as Santa leads robbers in the heist of a Cisco bank.



Horizon City council considers annexation of additional acreage

By Arleen Beard
Special to the Courier

HORIZON CITY — Horizon City’s City Planner Ed Hamlyn proposed annexation of almost 600 acres into Horizon City with City Council at the regularly scheduled meeting on Dec. 14.

The annexation would involve four parcels of property. One of the parcels is known as Desert Palms Unit 3, which includes around 230 acres of land. Another 245 acres being considered for annexation are located on the southern half of Horizon Blvd. up to Ascencion. The remainder of the acreage discussed at the meeting, are in two other locations. Plans to follow through with the annexation will take place in the near future.

Prior to the beginning of the Regular Agenda, Mayor Dianne Whitty announced to members of the audience the arrival of a pharmacy in Horizon City.

Advantage Pharmacy will open sometime in January 2005 with plans to expand into a medical clinic in the coming years. Mayor Whitty

thanked City Councilman Jackie Rutledge for his diligence in pursuing the much needed business.

In other business, Becky Potter, Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) trainer, presented 12 community members with certificates, certifying them as the official CERT for Horizon City. Police Chief Tony Aguilar expressed his appreciation to the new team members for making Horizon City that much more prepared to handle any disasters that might occur. Chief Aguilar went on to say, Horizon City is now more in line with what Homeland Security is asking cities to do. “We are always looking for ways to make our city safe,” he said.

It was also decided by council to fill a vacancy left by the late Art Borst through applications. City Councilmen Keenan Greseth and Taylor accepted the responsibility of reviewing applications for people who are interested in filling Place 3.

In another agenda item, council approved the purchase of only one police car as opposed to the two cars Chief Aguilar was seeking, due to budget constraints.

Canutillo ISD teacher participates in tech expo for legislature

By Alfredo Vasquez
Special to the Courier

CANUTILLO — Joan Gil, technology lead teacher for Davenport Elementary School in Canutillo Independent School District, participated recently in the *TexasEdTech: A Private Viewing for the Texas Legislature* in Austin. This event was an exhibit hall full of educational technology products for the exclusive viewing of the governmental leadership of Texas.

The Texas EdTech Expo was sponsored by the eLearning Initiative, an advisory committee on educational technology issues headed by Representative Kent Grusendorf, House Committee on Public Education. More than 400 people, including Texas legislators, their staffs and the Governors and Lt. Governor’s staffs attended the event.

“This expo was organized at the request of Rep. Grusendorf so that attendees could learn about the tech-



Joan Gil

nology and products available to Texas schools,” stated Gil.

Following the EdTech expo, the House Committee on Public Education members held a meeting for public testimony. Gil said that she testified for continued funding of technology in education.

Gil is also among a select group of technology teachers from across the state that has been invited to share lesson plans, student projects, and assessment rubrics during a full day workshop, Tuesday, Feb. 8, in Austin. This event will precede the Texas Computer Education Association (TCEA) annual conference.

About 100 exemplary technology application teachers will present their best practices for integrating technology application TEKS (Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills) into the core content areas.

Briefs

From Page 1

of these diverse corners of the earth through artistic expressions. The exhibit is free and open to the public. For more information call Martha Toscano at the Clardy Fox Library at (915) 779-2400 or visit <http://www.elpasolibrary.org>.

■ The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has awarded over \$118,000 in federal funding to area public housing authorities for HUD’s Family Self Sufficiency (FSS) program, Congressman Silvestre Reyes has announced. This funding will pay the salaries of FSS program coordinators and FSS homeownership coordinators.

- \$81,422 to the Housing Authority of the City of El Paso
- \$36,875 to the Housing Author-

ity of the City of Anthony

“HUD’s investment in El Paso is a good example of the federal government working with local communities not only to address short-term housing needs, but to help families achieve self-sufficiency and move to homeownership,” said Reyes.

■ The Friends of the Memorial Park Library invite everyone to visit one of El Paso’s hidden treasures. Memorial Park Library is offering a free basic skills computer literacy course starting Thursday, Jan. 6 through Thursday, Jan. 20 from 1-3 p.m. Seating is limited so register early. Also, the Memorial Park Friends have a book discussion group that meets the fourth Saturday of every month from noon to 1:30 p.m. On Jan. 22 the group will discuss *Rimfire* by Tom Diamond. The Library is located at 3200 Cooper. For more information call 566-1034.

Crash

From Page 1

intoxication manslaughter pending blood alcohol tests, he said.

The Ford was traveling north on south Fabens Road at the time of the crash. According to one witness, whose name is being withheld, “...Explorer was traveling at a slow rate of speed.” The witness was also traveling north on South Fabens Road and passed the slow-moving Explorer. The witness then stated, “I suddenly saw the vehicle in my rear view mirror. The Explorer was traveling at a high rate of speed and was almost on my rear bumper. I thought it was going to pass my car. The next thing I see

the Explorer is off the road ...it struck a tree.”

The vehicle traveled approximately 300 feet off the road before it came to rest. The Explorer struck one tree on the right front quarter panel. The impact forced the door to come off and it was embedded in the trunk of the tree. The roof of the Explorer was peeled off before the vehicle came to rest wrapped around a second tree. Lacking the restraint of seatbelts, the four passengers were ejected.

These deaths push the fatality count for the El Paso County Sheriff’s Office to 14 compared to the same number at this time last year. Six out of seven S.T.I. team members responded to the fatality. The road was reopened on Tuesday, Dec. 21, 2004 at 5:30 a.m.

Piñata

From Page 1

downloaded from the internet, piñatas were used to celebrate the arrival of spring. During his travels in Asia, Marco Polo brought this custom to the Spanish, French and Italians. When the Spanish came to the new world, this custom followed

them, too. In the Catholic culture, piñatas became a part of the Posada.

A variety of colorful piñatas hang from the ceiling of Grado’s classroom, the result of hard work by her students. These piñatas don’t look like Scooby Doo or Dora the Explorer, however. These colorful objects are round with seven coned-shaped points that symbolize the seven deadly sins. According to Grado, breaking the piñata with a stick (a symbol of love), symbolizes the destruction of these sins. The outpour of candy that falls to the ground once the piñata is broken symbolizes the forgiveness of sins and a new beginning.

These days, piñatas are used to mark a variety of special occasions, most notably birthdays. Thanks to this very interesting activity, these San Elizario students were able to have fun while learning a little history.

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“Happy Holidays to all!”



“As we are truly fortunate to enjoy this holiday with loved ones, let’s remember our men and women in uniform — and their families — who safeguard our freedoms and our country.”


Congressman Silvestre Reyes
16TH Congressional District

Battle of I-10 turns into lopsided skirmish

By Steve Escajeda
Special to the Courier

I've been attending UTEP-New Mexico State basketball games since I was just a little reporter and you could always count on one thing — every game was a knockdown-dragout affair no matter who was favored or where the game was played.

Through the years, the Miners have had spectacular top-25 teams that had oodles of trouble

in their games with the Aggies.

The Aggies have had teams advance to the final four and yet struggled mightily in their regular season tussles against the Miners.

And that was in front of the fortunate few that witnessed the games. You've always had to go to the ticket counter early if you wanted to attend the contests because both games every year, in El Paso or Las Cruces, were automatic sellouts.

The games are always played in December — so toss in the holiday season and you had a

festive, yet highly competitive, evening.

All that being said, the Miners and Aggies just finished their home-and-home series for 2004 and both games were about as exciting as any insurance seminar.

And I don't mean any disrespect to those who run insurance seminars.

UTEP is about where it should be in the young season but NMSU is just a shell of what it used to be. And though I'm a huge UTEP fan, I must admit that I miss a highly competitive NMSU team.

of the year and that has got to help.

Players can watch him return from the ailments he's suffered over the last two years and hopefully draw some inspiration from that.

If they don't, the Aggies are going to be treated as rudely in their Sun Belt Conference season as the Miners treated them last week.

Good job, Miners, for sweeping the New Mexico State Aggies. I still feel cheated as a fan that UTEP wasn't able to play the Aggies at their best.

Hey, maybe next year's game will be more like those of the past — with the Miners still winning, of course.

Suns on fire

When the NBA season started this season all the talk surrounded Shaq and his new team (Miami Heat), Kobe taking over the reins of the Lakers and whether or not the Pistons could repeat.

Very quietly, under the radar screen, there's a team out west that is begin to steal the thunder.

And that team, amazingly, is the Phoenix Suns.

Can anyone out there explain to me what is going on with this team? Talk about not seeing this one coming.

The perennial middle-of-the-road basketball team is the biggest surprise of the young NBA season and off to a 22-3 start.

And the Suns aren't just doing it at home against the weaker teams of the league.

Phoenix already owns 11 road wins against only one loss.

You might recognize three of the names leading the team — Shawn Marion, Quentin Richardson and Amare Stoudemire. But everything on this Earth that moves with any kind of velocity needs a catalyst of some kind.

The Suns found their catalyst in point guard Steve Nash. Nash seems to be the final piece of the Sun's winning puzzle. And this team reminds me a lot of Nash's old team, the Dallas Mavericks — only faster!

The Suns are the NBA's version of Nolan Richardson's old "40-minutes of hell" teams at Arkansas.

I know the NBA season isn't even a third of the way done yet and it's still to be determined whether they can keep up this frantic pace for the whole season — but keep your eye on the Phoenix Suns.


After the infamous basketbrawl game, they're a pleasant surprise in what has to be one of the darkest NBA seasons ever.

COME OUT TO SEE YOUR MINERS IN ACTION!

ARKANSAS ST. VS. UTEP

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 29TH

7:05 P.M. @ THE DON



UTEP

You GOTTA BELIEVE!

GROUP TICKET INFORMATION: 747-5817

GENERAL TICKET INFORMATION: 747-5234

King Super Crossword

- I WITNESS ACROSS

1 Cheryl of "Charlie's Angels"

5 _ ghanouj

9 "Sister _" ('92 film)

12 Rodeo ropes

18 "America's Most Wanted" info

20 Panache

21 Chase away gray

22 Changes

23 Start of a remark by Gene Perret

26 Rice dish

27 Tangle

28 Quahog, e.g.

29 Consumed a knish

31 Cart

32 Altar oath

34 Hair ball?

36 "The _ Is High" ('80 hit)

38 Hazard

42 Part 2 of remark

47 Bete noire

48 Reserved

50 Mideast gulf

51 Supp.

52 Way in

55 Lend a hand

56 Noah's eldest

57 Cornmeal concoction

58 Part 3 of remark

62 Surround

63 West ender?

64 Greene of
- "Bonanza"

65 Author LeShan

66 Picturesque

68 _ shui

69 Switchboard abbr.

70 Irish island group

71 Asian island

73 Joanne of "Red River"

74 Cavalry weapon

76 Spare part?

79 French dynast

80 Part 4 of remark

83 _ of passage

84 University ordeal

86 Family vehicle

87 A hole near the sole

88 Sten relative

89 Profess

90 Walked off with

93 Pickable

94 Part 5 of remark

97 Act like a mirror

100 Dweeb

101 Empower

102 Dernier _

103 Bear's advice

105 Puppy bark

107 Role for Liz

111 Stout

115 Reach

117 End of remark

121 Hispanic

122 Cover the cake

123 The _ Brothers

124 Lofty spaces

125 Exchanged
- 126 Getz's instrument

127 Sammy or Stubby

128 No sweat
- DOWN

1 Chou En- _

2 Charity

3 Anthropologist

Fossey

4 Arp's art

5 Role for a rat

6 Baldwin of "Malice"

7 Cry like a baby

8 Novelist Seton

9 "Tobacco Road" character

10 Nosy guy?

11 Try out

12 Drink like a dachshund

13 '92 Disney film

14 Audiophile's equipment

15 Ward of "Sisters"

16 French airport

17 Govt. agency

19 Printer's stroke

24 Robert of "Rhapsody in Blue"

25 Fireplace fragment

30 Practice piece

33 Vintage

35 Manipulate

37 Bookkeeping entry

38 Dad-to-be, often

39 Like Machu Picchu
- 40 Rock hound?

41 Find out

42 Designer

Gemreich

43 Cowardly Lion

Bert

44 Mother Judd

45 Jerkin

46 Draft animals

47 Movie piglet

49 Boxer Tyson

53 Taciturn

54 Teatime treat

56 Where the gulls are

57 Quaker colonist

59 As a result

60 Link

61 Banned pesticide

62 Cordial

66 "The Thief of Bagdad" star

67 Minos' realm

68 Manumit

69 Misjudge

71 Feltlike fabric

72 Eye-related

73 Singer Shannon

74 Ginger cookie

75 One of the Yokums

76 Antique

77 Like a lummoxx

78 _ the bullet

79 Muck

80 Dupe

81 Roman poet

82 Present
- 84 Mind _ matter

85 Actor McDowall

89 "Sweet _" (1903 song)

90 Heifer or hen

91 Good speller?

92 Cal. page

95 Like mother-of-pearl, often

96 Llama kin

98 Starting at

99 Neighbor of Niger

103 Christmas-tree topper

104 Singer James

106 Mascagni opera

108 Plumbing problem

109 "Cope Book" aunt

110 Heed

112 Punta del _

113 Blood components

114 " _ Coming" ('69 song)

115 Cockpit fig.

116 Head motion

118 John Ritter's dad

119 Language suffix

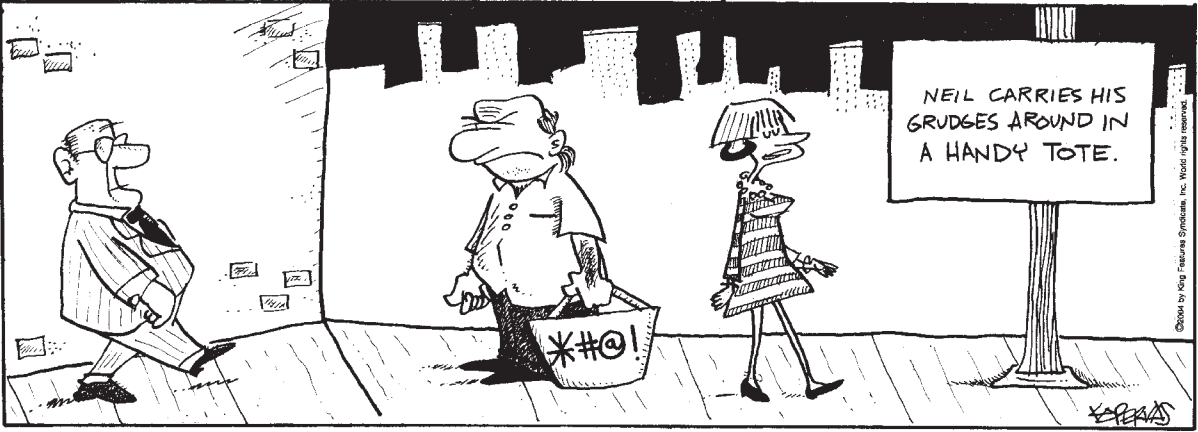
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Comix

OUT ON A LIMB

By Gary Kopervas



AMBER WAVES

By Dave T. Phipps



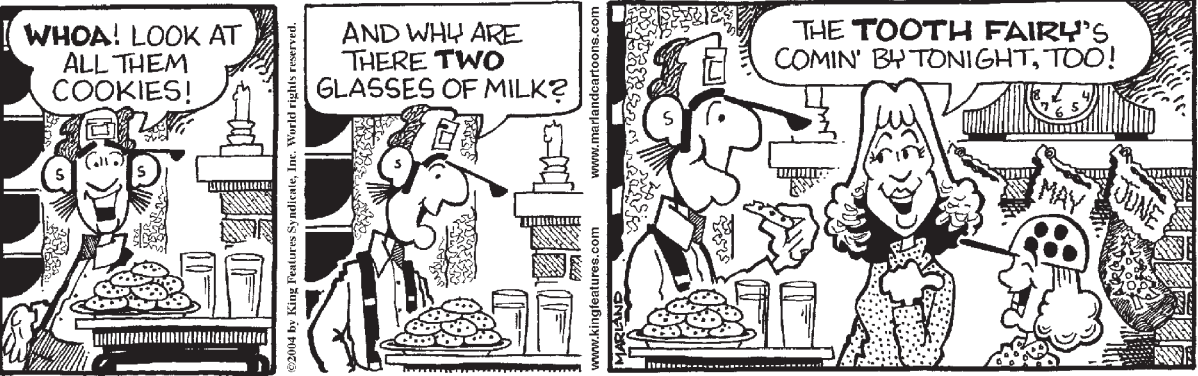
THE SPATS

By Jeff Pickering



R.F.D.

By Mike Marland



Classified Ads

LEGAL

SOCORRO INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

Invitation to Bid/Respond:

Sealed bids/proposals/CSP to furnish the District with the following products and/or services will be accepted at the following times:

MONDAY, JAN. 17, 2005 3 P.M.

DISTRICT WIDE INTERSECTION UPGRADE CSP NO. 199-0117-0579

Proposals will be received at Business Services Dept., 12300 Eastlake Drive, El Paso, Texas 79928 until the specified times. Detailed specifications are

available from the above office between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. Mondays through Fridays.

NOTE: The District Office will be closed during Dec. 20, 2004 to Jan. 3, 2005. Voicemail, inquiries, faxes, etc. will not be checked as regularly. The District will attempt to be as responsive as possible during this time. WTCC-12/23/04

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 Southwest Wrecker, 1401 Darrington Rd., 855-1900, 855-2091-fax, or it will be sold at public auction for charges: VIN

IFMCUI4TOJUB89380, 1988 Ford Bronco SUV, green, Texas license K32-LSF VIN IFTCFI5N4GKA62408, 1986 Ford F-150, red, New Mexico license GBF III WTCC-12/23/04

HELP WANTED

AVON

Calling - Buy, Sell, Free Skincare Consultation, Free Wrapping! Servicing any area! Hablo espanol 727-3626 12/30

BARGAINS

DRASTICALLY REDUCED Collectible car/trucks. Collectible porcelain Christmas Village houses, \$11.99. Unique Christmas gift/decor, 99¢ to \$9.99. Full service. No traffic jams,

easy parking. Special orders welcome. Ryan Supply/Ace Hardware, 117 North Fabens St., 20 minutes east of El Paso off I-10. Open 7 days. 764-2239 for hours/directions. 12/23

REAL ESTATE

V A L L E Y RANCHITOS, Socorro, Clint, Fabens, Tornillo. Adobe Homes: four bedroom, 3/4 acre; three bedroom, 1 acre. APODACA LAND CO., 859-5472. Commercial land. 1/6

RENTALS

Fairway Townhouse, Horizon City, view 18th hole, Emerald Springs. Two bedroom, two bath, available. 755-

1730, 494-3054. TFN

SERVICES

"Windshield Ding — Gimme a Ring" JIFFY GLASS REPAIR Windshield Repair Specialists By appt. at your home or office: (No repairs within Horizon City) R.V. Dick Harshberger 915-852-9082

BERT'S

AUTOMOTIVE REPAIR

Domestic and Foreign 852-3523 1558 Oxbow, Horizon City

HORIZON CITY PLUMBING 852-1079

•Electric rooter service for sewers and drains •Appliance installation •Many other plumbing services Licensed, bonded and insured for your protection.

ABC scores with promo of the year

By Don Flood

I saw recently that Bill Gates gets 4 million e-mails a day.

In others words, about half what I get during a single trip to the coffee machine.

Not that I mind opening 8 million e-mails. It's just difficult to compose 8 million thoughtful replies. (OK, maybe a few get deleted.)

The ones I most enjoy are from people who understand that my greatest joy in life — really my only reason for existence — is to serve them.

These messages are usually something like, "I need some information about my great uncle, who may have lived there briefly in 1948. Did you have anything about him in your newspaper?"

Sure, no problem. In fact, studying your great uncle's life has become a special passion of mine, ever since I learned he was the first man to develop a semaphore signaling system using only his ears.

OK, I'll stop ranting — well, maybe — but it's amazing to think that just a few years ago there was a movie called "You've Got Mail," which was about a woman who got excited whenever AOL told her she had e-mail.

But now on to the reason we're all gathered here today: the annual Public Relations Coup of the Year Award.

As many of you realize, this year has included two of the biggest PR coups in the history of Western Civilization.

In the first, Janet Jackson was able to parlay a minor wardrobe malfunction — which few people actually saw — into 148 billion dollars' worth of free publicity.

In most years, Jackson's stunt would have won hands down, but

ABC followed with the Great Locker Room Meltdown of 2004.

In this promo for "Desperate Housewives," Nicolette Sheridan... well, everybody knows what happened after that — especially since it received more coverage than the presidential election.

Soon as it hit the airwaves, controversy erupted. Outraged fans demanded to know: How come Teri Hatcher wasn't naked too?

But, yes, some people really were upset, and ABC realized it had to go into Crisis Mode, which means: Issue an apology so the media have a second-day story to report.

"We have heard from many of our viewers about last night's MNF opening segment, and we agree that the placement was inappropriate," ABC Sports said in a statement *as the network's PR team laughed hysterically and exchanged high fives.*

OK, I made up the part in italics, but I think that pretty well describes their mood. The only thing the PR guys found "inappropriate" was the camera angle that only showed Sheridan's back.

And the talking heads ate it up. They'd show the spot and moan about how deplorable it was. Sometimes they'd run it again, just in case one person in America had somehow missed the trashy spectacle.

(Unfortunately, since this is print, I'll have to ask you to replay the promo in your mind. Sorry.)

But I don't think anyone did, which is why it's the PR Coup of the Year.

Anyone who disagrees can drop me an e-mail.

(c) 2004 King Features Synd., Inc.

Franco

From Page 1

million dollars for quality of life issues is either pending or in hand. In addition to the community center funding:

•\$250,000 is pending for upgrading water and sewer service

•\$218,000 for home rehabilitation

•\$23,000 for town cleanup

•\$10,000 in a U.S. Forest Service grant to plant trees in private areas.

The Anthony Police Department has had controversy and problems in the past, but not any more.

"There is progress in the (reorganized) police department. I don't worry about them anymore," Franco says.

Police Chief Ed Miranda is working on having an SRO (School Resource Officer) in Anthony High School in the near future.

Shots

From Page 1

medical conditions, women who will be pregnant during flu season, residents of nursing homes and other long-term care facilities, children 6 months through 18 years on chronic aspirin therapy, medical care workers providing direct patient care and caregivers and household contacts of children under 6 months old.

DSHS is asking its regional offices and local public health departments to continue to serve as information clearinghouses to match up doctors and other providers who have the vaccine with those who need it. Doctors and other providers who have or need the vaccine should contact one of those offices.

People wanting to get a flu shot should — in order — contact their doctor, call the 2-1-1 information service and call their local public health department or nearest DSHS regional office.

Officials say it is not too late to get a flu shot. Flu season officially runs from October through May. In Texas, the heavy part of flu season typically occurs in late December, January and February.

It takes about two weeks after getting the flu shot for the vaccine to offer maximum protection.

Social Security Q&A

By Ray Vigil

Q: I started getting Social Security disability benefits just over a year ago. I have just received a notice that my eligibility for benefits is being reviewed. What does this mean?

A: All Social Security disability beneficiaries must have their eligibility status reviewed periodically to determine if they still meet the legal definition of disability. Claims are reviewed either annually, once every three years or once every seven years, depending on the severity of the disability.

Q: I recently suffered a heart attack while at work. I have applied for both Social Security disability benefits and worker's compensation. Can I receive both?

A: You are potentially due both benefits. However, regulations stipulate that the combination of your Social Security disability benefits and your worker's compensation payments cannot exceed 80 percent of your average salary before you become disabled. If the combined benefit payments exceed that amount, then one or the other of your benefits will be offset or reduced, depending on which state you live in. You should contact your local Social Security office if you think you would be affected.

Q: I have been a federal employee for most of my working life and will get a pension from the civil service retirement system when I retire. But I also worked a little less than 10 years at jobs that were covered by Social Security, and earned 38 quarters of coverage. I was told that it would not be worth it to get a job and earn the two quarters I need to be eligible for Social Security because my government pension totally offsets any Social Security I would be due. Is this true?









A: No, it is not true. Your civil service retirement pension will reduce the amount of Social Security you will be due, but it will not "totally offset" it. In other words, if you are "insured" for Social Security purposes, meaning that you have at least 40 credits, you will get a small Social Security benefit; your benefits will be figured under a modified formula. But if you have only 38 credits, you will not be eligible for any Social Security retirement benefit. For more information regarding the modified formula, you can read the "Windfall Elimination Provision" pamphlet.

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
							
Breezy and cold with a touch of rain or snow. ▲ 39°	Very cold with a few snow showers. ▼ 19°	Remaining cold with clouds giving way to some sun. ▲ 37° ▼ 23°	Plenty of sunshine with a mild afternoon. ▲ 50° ▼ 24°	Abundant sunshine and mild. ▲ 56° ▼ 29°	Becoming cloudy with a couple of showers possible. ▲ 59° ▼ 29°	Limited sunshine with the chance of a shower. ▲ 51° ▼ 26°	A mixture of clouds and sun; cooler. ▲ 48° ▼ 23°

UV INDEX

Statistics for noon.

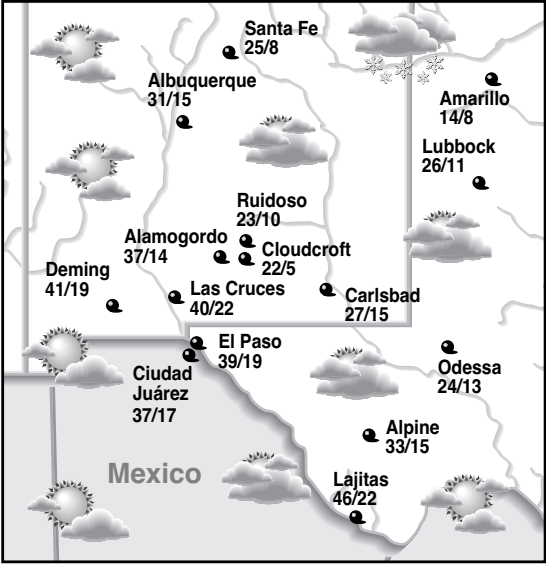
The higher the UV Index, the greater the need for eye and skin protection.

Thursday	2	Minimal
Friday	3	Low
Saturday	4	Low
Sunday	4	Low
Monday	2	Minimal
Tuesday	2	Minimal
Wednesday	3	Low

TEXAS WEATHER

Anthony	39	21
Canutillo	40	21
Clint	34	18
E. Montana	38	19
Fabens	34	18
Horizon	38	20
San Elizario	35	17
Socorro	37	18
Tornillo	34	18
Vinton	40	21

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	31/15/sf	35/22/s	44/24/s	48/26/s	48/25/s
Atlanta	48/26/pc	42/18/pc	36/20/pc	42/28/s	50/33/s
Atlantic City	56/39/r	41/20/pc	35/17/c	37/21/s	42/28/s
Austin/San Antonio	46/22/pc	39/20/pc	54/28/s	57/35/s	63/41/c
Baltimore	54/36/r	41/22/pc	31/16/pc	36/23/s	43/30/s
Boston	50/41/r	44/26/sh	30/23/c	33/26/pc	39/33/c
Chicago	16/2/sf	6/-2/pc	14/12/s	28/26/pc	35/25/c
Dallas/Ft. Worth	34/19/pc	37/22/pc	46/30/s	56/36/pc	58/41/s
Denver	9/0/sf	40/18/pc	48/25/pc	53/25/s	46/15/pc
Flagstaff	27/8/pc	40/16/s	48/18/s	49/18/s	44/10/s
Houston	44/26/pc	39/24/sn	48/30/pc	58/42/s	66/48/s
Kansas City	16/-3/pc	16/4/pc	32/20/s	42/29/c	44/26/c
Las Vegas	52/32/s	55/35/s	58/37/s	60/37/s	58/32/pc
Miami	83/67/t	79/61/sh	73/48/r	69/56/pc	73/56/pc
Minneapolis	-1/-8/pc	3/-1/pc	18/15/sf	32/18/c	24/8/c
New Orleans	48/28/c	38/23/sn	42/29/pc	51/37/s	58/43/s
New York City	53/38/r	42/26/pc	30/19/c	37/30/c	39/36/c
Philadelphia	57/38/r	42/24/pc	29/20/c	35/25/s	41/33/s
Phoenix	56/36/s	60/38/s	67/44/s	69/44/s	68/37/pc
Portland	46/34/pc	46/38/pc	48/40/r	44/28/sh	44/32/pc
San Francisco	63/44/s	59/46/s	57/46/s	56/45/pc	57/34/sh
Seattle	46/36/pc	44/38/c	46/36/r	40/28/sh	39/26/c
Tucson	52/27/s	54/30/s	62/36/s	66/36/s	66/34/pc
Washington, DC	56/35/r	41/25/pc	32/20/pc	36/25/s	45/35/s

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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\$1,599
NEW
SERIES 1000

Introducing the
all-premium
Series 1000 tractors.



New for 2004. Cub Cadet Series 1000 lawn tractors provide a precision cut at an exceptional value. These long-lasting, reliable tractors are constructed with premium features, including: easy-to-operate hydrostatic transmissions, automotive-style lug nuts and larger mowing decks. Visit your local family-owned dealer today for a test-drive.

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Hurry!
Special financing available!
To find a Cub Cadet retailer near you,
visit www.cubcadet.com,
or call 1-877-CUB-TOUGH.

*Product price—Actual retail prices are set by dealer and may vary. Taxes, freight, setup and handling charges may be additional and may vary. Models subject to limited availability. C11137-01-55080-2