



NEWSBRIEFS

Hazardous waste

Hazardous waste and banned or unwanted pesticides and other recyclables will be accepted for disposal on Friday, Dec. 16, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Fabens Transfer Station, 1550 Fabens St. free of charge. The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) is offering rural Texans the opportunity to dispose of used motor oil or filters, lead acid batteries, automotive waste products including antifreeze, brake and transmission fluids, oil paint, solvents, varnish, stripper, wood preservatives, insecticides, weed killer, rat poison, drain cleaner, moth balls and cleaning concentrates. All agricultural chemicals will be accepted except pesticides or herbicides containing 2, 4, 5-T-Silvex in quantities greater than five gallons. Also excluded are explosives, compressed gas cylinders, or pesticide or wood preservatives containing pentachlorophenol. No tires or clean plastic triple-rinsed containers used by professional applicators will be accepted. Non-mercury thermometers will be exchanged for those containing mercury. For more information about these collections call Extension Agent Sara Downing at 859-7725.

Firearm safety

Project ChildSafe (PCS) will be in El Paso County assisting the Sheriff's Department in educating the public on numerous firearm safety issues and distributing free gun locks Wednesday-Friday, Dec. 7-9, at the Big 5 Sporting Goods, 8900 Viscount, from 1-6 p.m. and also on Saturday and Sunday, Dec. 10-11, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Kmart, 655 Sunland Park. As part of a 40-day tour in Texas, the nation's largest firearm safety program is conducting community events to educate firearm owners on proper handling and storage techniques that will reduce the number of preventable accidents. The focus is to educate and remind adults — including parents, grandparents, relatives and other grownups — about the importance of teaching children firearm safety. "Thanks to the overwhelming support of our state and community partners, Project ChildSafe has now distributed free firearm safety kits in nearly every single community in America and in all 50 states," said Doug Painter, president of the National Shooting Sports Foundation. "We will continue to remind all gun owners to safety store their firearms in the home." The learn more, visit www.projectchildsafe.org.

In other news

■ There is no way to count the number of trees devastated by Hurricane Katrina, but the National Arbor Day Foundation is creating opportunities for people to help replant them. As part of the Katrina Tree Recovery Campaign, the Foundation and

See BRIEFS, Page 3

The law will protect everyone that can afford to hire a good lawyer.

— Quips & Quotes



— Photo courtesy Socorro ISD

DRIVING HOME A POINT — It's not real but this mock drunk-driving accident at El Dorado High School had students taking notice.

'Shattered Dreams' stages mock drunk-driving accident at El Dorado

By Carlos A. Briano
Special to the Courier

EAST EL PASO COUNTY — The entire El Dorado High School campus was visibly shaken. Two of their classmates had died in a terrible drunk-driving accident on Nov. 16. One

died on the scene while the other died later in the hospital. And the person responsible for the accident — who was immediately arrested — was also a student. The following day at the student's memorial service, students could not help but cry for their lost friends.

Fortunately, the incident was not real. The entire scenario was a vivid dramatization put

on by "Shattered Dreams." Nevertheless, the impact on the students was definitely real, especially when student activities director Monica Bustillos told of her own loss. Bustillos lost her sister in a drunk-driving accident five years ago and illustrated the devastating

See ACCIDENT, Page 4



— Photo courtesy San Elizario ISD

Jacqueline del Villar

Colorful San Elizario senior earns title of National Hispanic Scholar

By Phillip Cortez
Special to the Courier

SAN ELIZARIO — There is no such thing as a blank canvas for San Elizario High School senior Jacqueline del Villar. In fact, everywhere the 18-year-old looks, del Villar sees potential. While some people see an empty white wall, del Villar might see a colorful mural; while some people might see a small closet space, del Villar might see a dark room or studio.

While some people might see del Villar as a typical teenager making her way through high school, her family, teachers, and friends now see her as San Elizario's first National Hispanic

Scholar. Del Villar is one of approximately 4,800 Hispanic students in the country recognized by the College Board for this prestigious honor out of a pool of roughly 150,000.

According to the College Board, students enter the National Hispanic Recognition Program by taking the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test. By scoring so high on her test — she scored an 1830 in addition to having the highest ACT score in school history, according to lead counselor Dickie Garza — and by identifying herself as Hispanic, the College Board was able to determine her worthiness for the honor.

While some students see high school as an obstacle, del Villar has looked at her experience in San Elizario as an opportunity to elevate herself into a career she has dreamed about since she was 16 — when she finally got to sleep in her own room.

"When I was little I never had my own room, I had to share it with my brother so the walls were always blue," she said. "My grandma kind of freaked out because I was painting pink everywhere."

She had so much fun, that instead of wanting to fulfill a dream of becoming a lawyer, del Villar decided to focus on a career of designing homes and decorating them for her own clients as an architect/designer. To prepare for such a career, she is looking to take her education to Columbia University or Rice.

To attend such prestigious universities is an honor that del Villar would not take lightly, which is why she is committed to applying the same work ethic in school — she is ranked #2 in her class — as well as in the world of work. In fact, del Villar works roughly 30 hours a week at McDonald's after school and

See SCHOLAR, Page 5

El Paso Sheriff's office removes two explosive devices from home in Fabens

FABENS — El Paso County Sheriff's Deputies retrieved two homemade explosive devices from shrubbery near a home in Fabens on Nov. 26 after being notified by the residents of that location, and both devices were found to be unarmed.

Officers notified 741st EOD (Explosive Ordinance Disposal) from Fort Bliss. Military authorities from that department arrived on scene and collected and disposed of both items. The El Paso County Sheriff's Office has an agreement with Ft. Bliss EOD to handle all explosive device calls for the Sheriff's office in the county.

"We took a call late last night — Friday, Nov. 25 — around 11 p.m. regarding a subject with a weapon," said Rick Glancey, Public Information Officer with the El Paso County Sheriff's Of-

fice. "When deputies arrived on scene family members were able to secure the weapon. Family members committed this individual to a local mental health facility for evaluation."

It is suspected this individual may have had knowledge of the homemade devices, Glancey said. The unnamed person is still in a local mental health facility, he said.

Family members were working in the front yard when they discovered the items.

"We appreciate the immediate response and cooperation from Ft. Bliss. They provide an invaluable service to our community. We will wait for an official report from Ft. Bliss regarding the materials recovered to complete our investigation," Glancey said.

No one was injured and the scene was cleared by 4:45 p.m. The investigation continues.



One perspective

By Francis Shrum

Playing well

If it was me, I'd be downright insulted. But I guess that's why I'm not in politics.

If it was me, I'd tell the big boys with the big bucks to find themselves somebody else if they are interested only in how well I could play patty-cake in Austin. But that's politics for you, and nobody said it was pretty. Or honest. Or that you didn't have to pay your dues to get to play.

But I'd still be insulted. I'm referring to a recent revelation that some pocket-heavy Republicans feel like nine-term State Rep. Pat Haggerty just isn't cutting the mustard in Austin and they have thrown their support behind someone to challenge him locally in the Republican primary.

That someone is former Clint High School principal, more recently El Paso ISD board of trustee member, Lorraine O'Donnell.

A Nov. 16 *El Paso Times* article heralded that Ted Houghton, Texas Department of Transportation commissioner; Rick Francis, Texas Tech University System regent; Woody Hunt, former University of Texas System regent; and Harold Hahn, president of Rocky Mountain Mortgage Co. — all heavy duty contributors to the Republican cause — have abandoned support for Haggerty.

According to the article, they want some one who can "play well" with the state leadership.

Have these boys lost their minds? I'm not a Democrat. I'm not a Republican, either. I'm just an interested observer and it seems to me that somebody ought to gently take these boys by the hand and lead them to the tally sheet from the last primary election in El Paso County.

In that election, on April 13, 2004,

exactly 578 registered Republican voters went to the polls.

In that same election, exactly 1,800 registered Democrats went to the polls.

Somebody ought to point out to these boys the disparity in these numbers, as dismal as they may be for the overall number of people who live in this county.

They also ought to take a brief gander down the list of incumbents who hold office in El Paso County. The Republican roster versus the Democratic roster is astonishing. Of all elected positions decided solely within El Paso County in which party affiliation makes a difference — including national and state representatives, courts of appeals, district court judges, a plethora of probate court judges, county courts-at-law, county sheriff, tax assessor, clerk, attorney, and justices of the peace and their constables, about 60 elected offices — all but four of them are held by Democrats. And two of these lonely four, sore-thumb-like Republicans have the last name of Haggerty — Pat, state representative, and his brother Dan, a county commissioner. The other two are Justice of the Peace in Vinton, Bruce King, who has held office out there since 1988, and his constable, William Burkett.

Whatever it is that keeps their constituents putting the Haggerty boys — or the other two lone Republicans — back into office, it's not their party affiliation. It seems, in fact, they are getting elected *in spite of* their status as Republicans.

The rather vague reasoning against supporting one of their own from El Paso County who can actually get elected is that Haggerty voted against the recent education bill sponsored by the Republican majority in Aus-

tin and as a result failed to engender favor with the state leadership to send a little money our way for a medical school.

Now, everybody with a working brain cell — including about 14 other gutsy Republicans in Texas who voted against their leadership — knew the education bill was a bust. Interestingly enough, even Ms. O'Donnell herself openly criticized it. So what does this tell us? That her so-called "supporters" would expect her to vote against her own conscience.

I'd be insulted.

Now, these higher-thinking Republicans I mentioned are clearly a lot smarter than I am. That's what makes

me wonder exactly what it is they are trying to do, since what they *are* doing makes no sense to anybody, including El Paso Democrat Paul Moreno, who has been sent to Austin as a state rep by the voters of District #77 for over 30 years.

Moreno is quoted in the *Times* story as saying that El Paso's Republican leaders are taking a big risk. "These people that remained in the bunch trying to knock off Pat (Haggerty) are a bunch of dummies politically," Moreno is quoted. "They have no conception of what the realities in El Paso are."

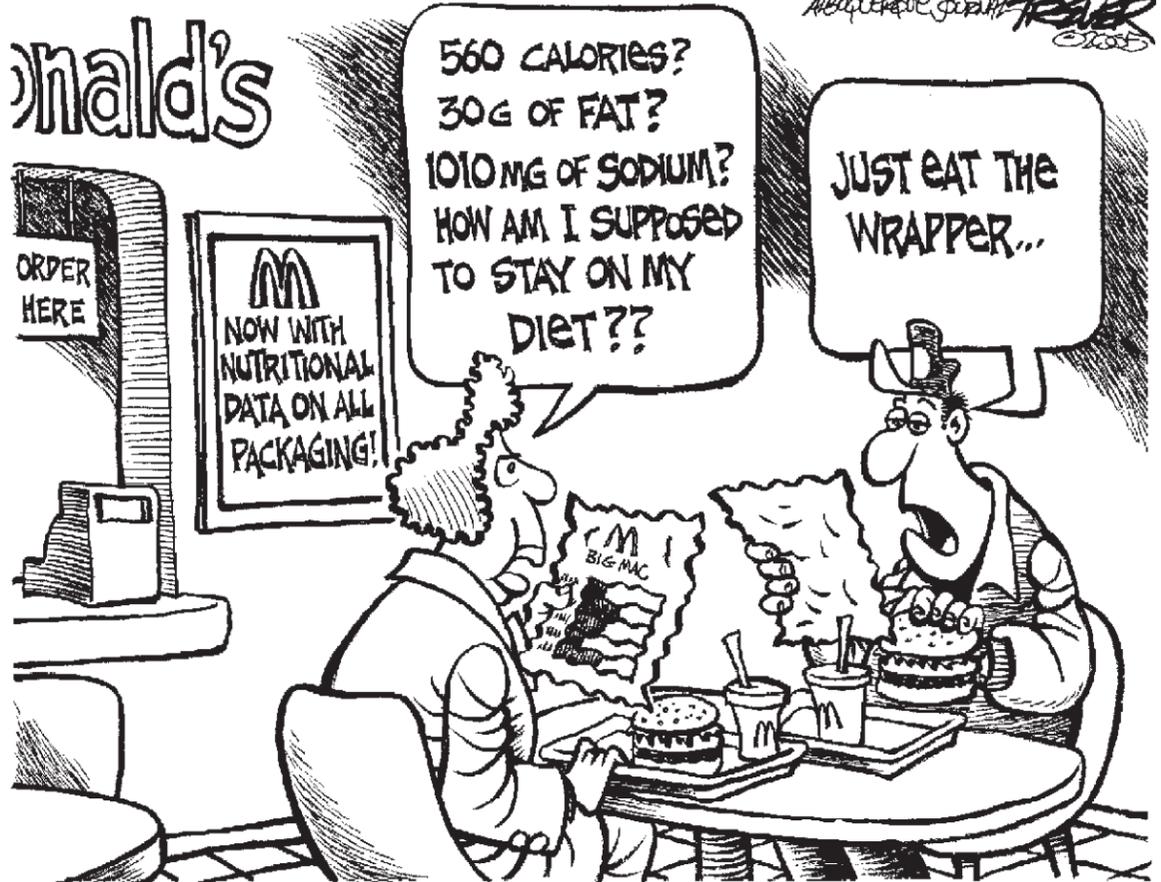
No, I don't think these higher thinking fellows really expect to get Ms. O'Donnell elected at all. What I

do think it that there's a wee bit of intimidation being exercised here, a shot across the bow of Haggerty's boat, if you will. And maybe they actually would rather have no Republican at all if he's going to be a free-thinking, free-voting one.

Haggerty doesn't look or sound a bit intimidated.

When I read the story about all this in the *Times*, I had to get all the way down to the third paragraph to even find out who it was the big boys were threatening Haggerty with. I had to go to an inside page before I found a picture of her. I guess if your job is just to play well with others, that sort of thing doesn't bother you.

But if it was me, I'd be insulted.



Reyes Reports By U.S. Rep. Silvestre Reyes



Striking a balance on the border: Environmental policy for Southwest, America

During the past half-century, environmental stewardship has become one of the most significant issues to confront our nation and our government — and nowhere is the challenge greater than here along the border and in the arid Southwest.

It is both important and possible to maintain healthy environments and promote a robust and dynamic economy that provides good jobs for Americans. This takes hard work and commitment, and I came to Congress determined to strike this balance and provide the best possible quality of life for El Pasoans.

For example, after decades of successful species protection under the Endangered Species Act (ESA), Congress was presented with the opportunity to strengthen the bill and solve basic problems that had arisen since it first passed in 1973. However, instead of working towards a responsible, balanced conservation policy, my colleagues and I were forced to oppose legislation that would gut the ESA and put some of our most treasured species on the road to extinction.

In the wake of Hurricane Katrina, Congress considered legislation that

should have relieved energy pressures in America; however, I again had to oppose legislation that would have undermined the Clean Air Act and left local authorities powerless to control the locations of new oil refineries.

Americans and residents of the United States' Southwest should know, however, there are potential solutions to our energy and environmental needs that can make America both the best place to find a good job and breathe clean air. I support making the following policies priorities in the coming decade:

- Fund clean air and clean water on the border. On the border, traditional approaches to protecting the environment do not apply. Just as we live in a binational community, we are part of a binational environment. Federal programs, such as the Border Environment Infrastructure Fund (BEIF), which fund infrastructure improvements on both sides of the border, can reduce air pollution and expand the distribution of potable water. Commonsense, dynamic approaches, such as increasing Department of Homeland Security funding to reduce wait times at international ports of entry and the resulting auto emissions, can also make a great deal of difference.

- Challenge ourselves to use more renewable energy. The creation of a federal Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard, a market-driven policy through which we derive ten percent of energy from renewable sources, would help America retain its competitive edge in the global energy economy, create good, high-tech jobs, reduce our dangerous reliance on foreign carbon energy, and improve the environment.

- Combat climate crisis. A cap and trade system for reducing the amount of greenhouse gases we emit into the atmosphere would provide industries with the flexibility to reduce emissions and set an example for the world that America is serious about global warming.

- Preserve our open spaces and natural heritage. We must defend tax credits for land conservation, which are important for preserving open spaces such as arroyos and wilderness. It is also important to limit road-building and the damaging clear-cutting of forests in certain national parks and forests. These reasoned and practical approaches to environmentalism will help us promote a dynamic economy and maintain a healthy environment in the border region and the nation as a whole.

WEST TEXAS COUNTY COURIER

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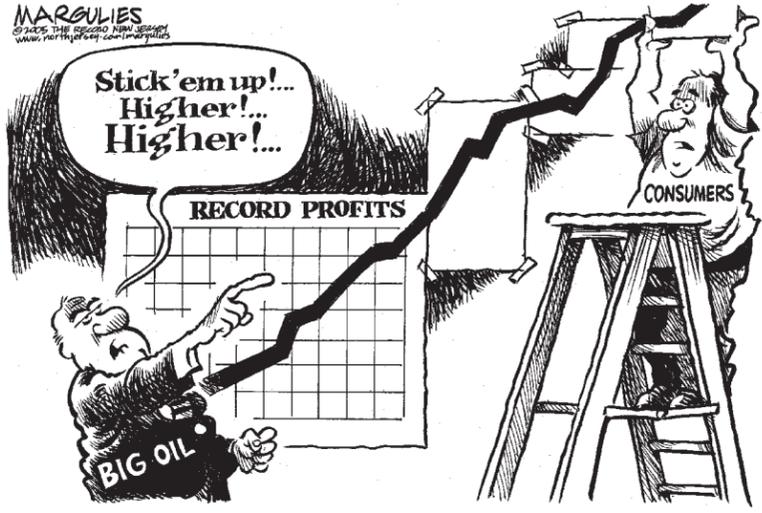
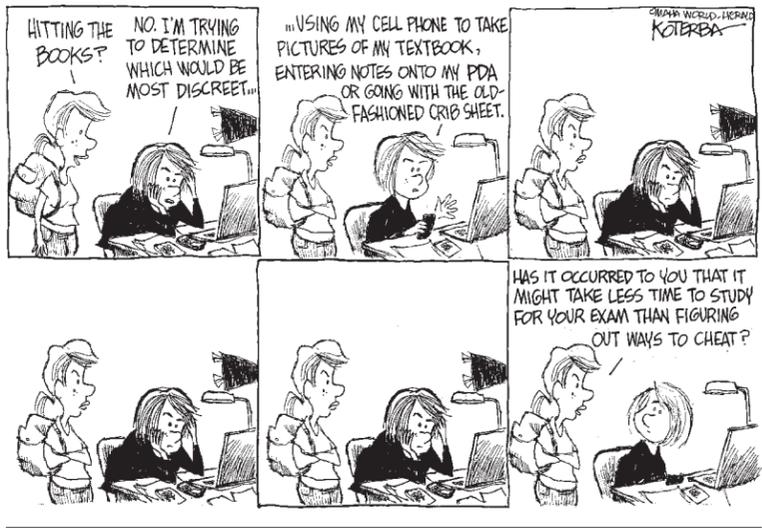
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BRADKINS RICHMOND TIMES DISPATCH



Moore Texas by Robert T. Moore Dec. 4, 1892: A New York newspaper reports a rain making failure by the Dept. of Agriculture...high explosives were discharged near Midland and San Antonio to no avail.

Town takes over sponsorship of Horizon City's Christmas Parade

HORIZON CITY — The Town of Horizon City will sponsor the annual Christmas Parade this year, according to an announcement from Edwin Quinones, Public Works Director for the city.

"It is unfortunate that this year the Horizon City Youth Association will not be able to organize this year's Christmas parade," Quinones said. "The City has received many calls from previous participants requesting information on the status of (the) Christmas parade."

"It is the Town of Horizon City's pleasure to announce that Horizon City will sponsor the 2005 Christmas

parade. It will take a lot of hard work and with very little time to organize this event. But with everyone's cooperation I am sure we will have a successful event for all the citizens of Horizon City to enjoy," he said.

The scheduled date for the parade will be Dec. 17, at 10 a.m.

"We will need confirmation of participation no later than Dec. 7," Quinones said. "Please contact the Town of Horizon City Town Hall at 852-1046 to confirm or fax your confirmation to 852-1005."

He said each organization and volunteers will meet with the parade committee on Dec. 8 at the Town Hall

at 6 p.m. to discuss various details.

The event will begin at the staging area on Ryderwood Ave. between Horizon Heights Elementary School and Col. John O. Ensor Middle School, and along Ashford Street. The parade route is approximately 2.5 miles. For participants using animals in the parade, "please provide personnel to pick-up droppings along parade route," Quinones said.

"Time is of the essence so please confirm your participation as soon as possible," Quinones said. "We look forward to the citizens of Horizon City turning out to enjoy this festive event."

Briefs

From Page 1

the National Audubon Society will see that for every dollar donated to the Campaign a tree of native species will be planted in coastal Mississippi and Louisiana, counter-acting some of the destruction caused by Katrina, restoring and rebuilding communities. Send donations to Katrina Tree Recovery Campaign, National Arbor Day Foundation, 100 Arbor Ave., Nebraska City, NE 68410 or contribute online at arborday.org/katrina.

■ A Mariachi Benefit Concert featuring performers from Sanchez Middle, Serna Elementary and Socorro High School will be held on Thursday, Dec. 8 at 7 p.m. in the Socorro High School auditorium to collect toys for area children. The 12th annual event is open to the community — price of admission is a new or used but undamaged toy, unwrapped. Mariachi instructor Roger Rosales said the musicians have been working hard and are hopeful the concert will be a success.

■ Thirteen students from Jane Hambric School, grades 6-8, participated in the El Paso Commu-

nity College Art Competition on Nov. 17, and all won awards for their entries. Their artwork is on display at the El Paso Community College Administrative Services Center, 9050 Viscount, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. through Dec. 2.

■ Socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers — defined by the USDA Farm Service Agency as women, blacks, American Indians, Alaskan natives, Hispanics, Asians and Pacific Islanders — may be able to obtain funding to purchase farms, livestock and equipment. For more details contact William H. McAnally, farm loan manager, at (432) 336-5206, ext. 2, or e-mail bill.mcanally@tx.usda.gov.

■ The second annual tree-lighting ceremony at Socorro High School will be Monday, Dec. 5 at 1 p.m. at 10150 Alameda, a reminder that the efforts of all clubs at the school were united in the project.

■ An Annual Christmas Fair sponsored by the Teatristas of Socorro High School will be held on Dec. 3, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the St. Timothy Lutheran Church, 11050 Montwood, to raise funds to travel to Edinburgh, Scotland in August of 2006. Numerous fun and entertaining events are planned as well as vendors and crafters. Booths are still available for \$20. Informa-

tion: Blanca Romero, 859-2865.

■ Americas High School will host its 10th Annual Christmas Fair on Friday, Dec. 2, 5-9:30 p.m. The school's rotunda, cafeteria and one of the hallways will be transformed by the presence of over 75 vendors of arts and crafts, gifts, toys, jewelry and clothing. Groups from numerous El Paso area schools will perform. Admission is free and the public is encouraged to attend. For more information, contact Miyesser Collins at 937-2832.

■ Dinner and a movie — or a play, rather — will be featured on Friday, Dec. 9, 6-8 p.m. at the Sun Ridge Middle School, 2200 Sun Country Drive, as the mystery of *Murder at the Manor* is performed on stage with food provided by Johnny Carino's. An art show will be on display in the foyer and the advanced orchestra group will perform sounds of the season. Tickets are \$10 and must be purchased in advance at the school. Call Christine Ponsford at 937-6600 for further information.

■ A Winter Wonderland Carnival will be held on Dec. 2, 4-8 p.m. at the Salvador Sanchez Middle School, 321 N. Rio Vista Rd. Music and lots to do and see will be the rule. Call Ruth Harris, 937-5211 for information.

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

Lend a helping hand to those in need

The holiday season is upon us, and what a wonderful time it is to spend with family and loved ones reliving old memories and making new ones. While we cherish these special moments, we should not forget about those among us who are not as fortunate.

All around our communities are hard working folks who, because of unfortunate circumstances, cannot stretch their paychecks for enough food for themselves or their families. Setting aside a portion of your afternoon or weekend to assist those less fortunate than us could make a huge difference — especially in this holiday season.

This country was built on individualism, which includes an individual's responsibility to his or her neighbors. Part of this responsibility is to lend a hand to a neighbor in their time of need. By giving a little of yourself, you not only empower your neighbor, but you also make your commu-

nity stronger and more united.

There is perhaps no better example of people uniting and working for the common good of the community than in small towns in South and West Texas. In these small Texas towns people are naturally charitable. Texans haven't forgotten to make it a priority to give something back to our communities. And it's not like you don't have anything else to do. You lead busy lives. You work, take care of families, go to church, coach little league, and yet still make the time to volunteer.

Many people think heroes are the people who beat the odds and achieve the impossible. But the people who do succeed against the odds aren't the only heroes. America is full of them. Heroes are the people who not only recognize that the world is full of need, they do something about it. They get up in the morning and decide they are going to do something to make their community a better

place.

There is nothing more satisfying than helping an impoverished child learn to read or delivering a good, hot meal to an elderly grandmother. Not only do you bring smiles to the faces of those you volunteer to help, but you get a warm feeling in your heart that lasts a long time.

The opportunities to help are boundless. If you're not involved, get involved. Make the decision to just do it. Whether it's stopping along the highway and picking up trash, or organizing a fundraiser to donate money to charity. You can make a difference. And to those who are already doing it, a hearty thank you. Giving to those in need around us, helping our neighbors, and assisting those with special needs — that is the true meaning of the holiday season.



Accident

From Page 1

impact by showing pictures of her nephew. The first photo was prior to his mom's death and the second photo was a current picture.

"The smile is gone," she told the El Dorado crowd. "You can see the hole in his heart."

"Shattered Dreams" is a community endeavor designed to illustrate to campuses in El Paso County the terrible effects of student drunk driving. The organization uses the participation of the District Courthouse, the El Paso Fire Department, El Paso Police, Crestview Funeral Homes, MADD, Rio Grande Safe Communities, Texas Alcohol Beverage Commission, Texas Department of Public Safety and Thomason Hospital to stage a mock accident.

Some students are rushed to trauma centers via ambulance, the "dead" are transported to the County Morgue in a hearse and the arrested students are processed and booked in the County Jail. Mock trials are conducted and students are sentenced to prison.

"This is a very solemn, sad event. Luckily, it was only a dramatization," says El Dorado principal Nora Paugh. "We had two fatalities, two people that are very well liked in our campus. Their deaths would have been devastating. And imagine the effect on the families. But it's something that could be totally preventable. And that's why we do this — not because we have a drinking and driving problem at El Dorado High, but because we want to reach our kids before they become drivers."

And according to Mary Ellen Hernandez, a member of Shattered Dreams executive committee, that is exactly the goal of the organization.

"The first Shattered Dreams in El Paso was in 1999," she says. "We continue to do it because we still have a need for this type of educational program. Underage drinking is still a very big problem in our area."

Jazmin Tibuni, a junior at El Dorado, says that even though the event is staged, it



— Photos courtesy Socorro ISD
SAVING THE VICTIMS — This student represented an injured passenger being treated after being hit by a drunk driver.

is still effective.

"A lot of people think that something like this won't happen to them," she says. "Maybe seeing students in our school going through something like that will help impact them. It's different when you know the person in the casket. Even though it's not real, you feel it because you start thinking, 'what if that really happened?' I think people will now think twice before drinking and driving."

Shattered Dreams isn't limited only to students. The parents of the students are asked to participate as well, either receiving the news that their child has been hurt in an accident or has been arrested. Officers take parents to the hospital or to the County Jail.

Sonia Huerta, mother of Diane Huerta who "died" on the scene of the mock accident, was hesitant when first approached about participating.

"I thought it was horrible. I didn't want my daughter to do it at first, only because it's hard for me," she says. "But she was excited and wanted to do it, so I said OK. But I definitely got emotional about it."

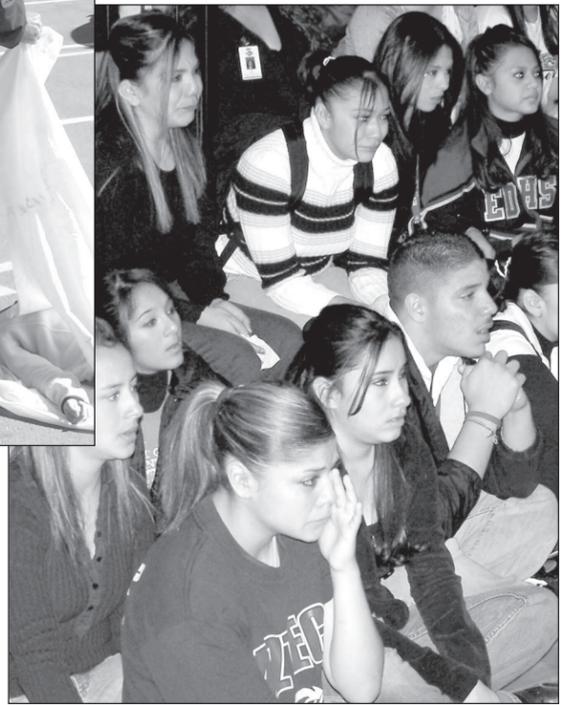
EXCEPT BY THE GRACE OF GOD — It's a scene that is repeated with heartbreaking frequency everyday, but it doesn't have to. This young man saw and felt the consequences during a staged arrest for drunk driving.

Reflecting on the entire project, Huerta now understands why it was necessary to make the event as real as possible.

"I'm hoping this presentation had a big impact," she says. "With the way kids are today, they need as much education as they can get. It may not reach everyone, but for the ones it does reach it will make a big difference."



HITTING CLOSE TO HOME — Many students reacted with tears during emotional portions of the presentation.



“Even though it’s not real, you feel it because you start thinking, ‘what if that really happened?’ I think people will now think twice before drinking and driving.”

BELIEVE

Men's Basketball
 12/3 vs. Texas Southern - 7:05 PM
 12/11 vs. Louisiana Lafayette - 2:05 PM
 12/17 vs. New Mexico State - 7:05 PM
 12/20 vs. Pacific - 7:05 PM

Women's Basketball
 12/4 vs. UT Arlington - 2:05 PM
 12/18 vs. Illinois State - 2:05 PM
 12/21 vs. UT Permian Basin - 7:05 PM

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Public Notice
Fabens Independent School District

A PUBLIC MEETING will be held at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, December 5, 2005 at the Fabens ISD Administration Building, 821 NE G Avenue, Fabens, Texas. The purpose of this public meeting is to gather public input on the effective operation and performance of the Fabens Independent School District's English as a Second Language (ESL) program through one or more community focus groups that address a set of predetermined questions. This district public meeting is a required component of the new performance-based Texas Education Agency's Bilingual Educational/ESL Monitoring System. Please plan to arrive thirty minutes early for registration.

Accommodations for handicapped persons will be available; handicapped persons in need of special assistance for attending the meeting are encouraged to contact Enrique Perez at 764-2025, twenty four (24) hours prior to this meeting.

WTCC: 12-01-05

Government officials noted for efforts to improve area quality of life, receive grants

WEST TEXAS — The Office of Rural Community Affairs (ORCA) honored a number of area government officials on Oct. 21 during the Rio Grande Council of Governments meeting in El Paso for securing more than \$4.3 million in grants.

ORCA honored 25 grant recipients from the RCGOG region for receiving a total of \$4,323,865 in grants between Sept. 1, 2004 and Aug. 31, 2005, utilized for a variety of community projects including planning and development, water and wastewater projects, disaster relief, healthcare enhancements, improvements to medical facilities and recruitment of healthcare professionals.

"We commend the efforts of every recipient for their dedication to supporting their rural Texas community," said ORCA Executive Director Charlie S. Stone. "ORCA was created to assist rural Texans with building their own communities and I applaud everyone who applied for funding to address the needs of their community."

Among those honored were representatives from the municipalities of Clint, Horizon City, Vinton, Socorro and El Paso, and the Counties of Hudspeth and El Paso.



Ray Morales, mayor of Horizon City, and ORCA Executive Director Charlie Stone.



Clint Mayor Dale T. Reinhardt and ORCA Executive Director Charlie Stone.



Juvenia Ontiveros, Mayor of Vinton, is joined by Councilman Patsy Leos and ORCA Executive Director Charlie Stone.



RGOC Rep. Ray Rodriguez, left, joined City of Socorro's accountant Esperanza Garcia, City Rep. Trini Lopez, ORCA Executive Director Charlie Stone, and City Rep. Jesse Gandara Jr.



Judge Becky Dean-Walker of Hudspeth County and ORCA Executive Director Charlie Stone.

— Photos courtesy ORCA

Scholar

From Page 1

on weekends. It is here where she has learned how to cope with the differences between the classroom and a regular job.

"I'm more vocal at school, my teachers will tell you that I can't keep my mouth

shut," she laughs. "But at work you just do what you're told."

"But right now all my hard work is really paying off. It gets hard but you have to keep on pushing."

It's the right attitude to have when you're the role model for three younger brothers, a 13-year-old and twin two-year-olds, where baseball and a love for the Yankees are common between the four. It was their grandma

who used to take them to watch baseball games in Juarez, she says.

With this positive outlook, del Villar will not have to worry about living within the confines of blue walls ever again. And whether it's pink, lilac or any color that fits her expression as a designer, it's a good bet that she'll be living her life like it's golden.

Now, if she can only meet Yankees short-stop Derek Jeter.

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Turnovers on your plate: Good; Turnovers on the field: Bad

By Steve Escajeda
Special to the Courier

How was your Thanksgiving? Mine was very good, thanks for asking.

I did make the same mistake as last year even though I said I wouldn't... I ate more than I should have.

I had tons of turkey, stuffing, mashed potatoes, gravy, pumpkin pie and even some sweet potato turnovers.

I don't know how many turnovers I had, but I know it was a lot. And though I had so many that I had a tough time getting out of my seat, I still didn't come close to having as many turnovers as the UTEP Miners did last weekend.

Both kinds of turnovers are deadly. Mine cost me about two or three pounds around the middle, UTEP's cost them a share of the conference USA title, a chance to play in the C-USA championship game next week and approximately \$750,000.

I guess my overeating doesn't sound so bad. The big question on everybody's lips is "what happened to the Miners?"

UTEP was rolling right along at 8-1, ranked

24th in the nation, the only question was whether they would host the conference's title game and whom would they play.

But then the unthinkable happened. The Miners went out and got blasted in their last two games by 12 and 13 points respectively.

The losses won't cost the Miners a bowl appearance but it will cost them a ton of dough. The Miners were looking for an invitation to the Liberty Bowl, which would have earned the school about \$1.5-million.

Now it appears that UTEP will play in one of those \$750,000 bowls. Not bad, not bad at all, but very disappointing considering what the Miners had in front of them.

So back to the why question, I'll tell you what I think. I co-hosted a local radio show back in the summer and a caller wanted to talk UTEP football. As we were speaking the Miners had just released their football schedule on their website.

The first game that caught my eye was not the Marshall game here in El Paso, or the New Mexico game, or the UAB game, or the Houston game.

The first game that caught my eye was the Texas Southern game. Not because of how

tough they are — please, they play Division-II football — but because of when they played.

I saw that the Miners would be in the heart of their C-USA season. I thought it was strange that UTEP would, in a sense, take a week off to play a team it had no business playing in the middle of the conference season.

I remember thinking that UTEP would be forced to lose its concentration against Texas Southern, and be forced to regain it the next week against UAB.

I never had any idea it would have this kind of impact, but surely going out of conference against such an inferior opponent really hurt the Miners.

If UTEP were going out of conference to take on, let's say, Texas Tech, or Oregon, or Arizona State, things would have been different. But playing such a beatable foe does nobody any good.

It takes the entire team out of its rhythm.

Don't believe me, just take a look at the video tape of the last two games.

T.O. gets the heave-ho

I know the presidential election is still about three years away but I already know who I'm

going to vote for — Richard Bloch.

Why Richard Bloch? Because he stands for truth, justice and the American way — he was also the guy who stuck it to Terrell Owens.

Well, I guess he didn't stick it to T.O., but he did do the right thing by sending a message to all those selfish athletes in the NFL who think they are far and away more important than the teams they work for.

Bloch is the arbitrator who ruled against T.O. and the NFL Player's Association in their appeal of the Eagles' decision to put Owens in the doghouse and throw away the key.

I've got to admit I was shocked when I heard the ruling. I couldn't believe there was still a place in sports where integrity could win out over selfish stupidity.

But it did. Now T.O. can enjoy the rest of the season from his lounge chair at home and on occasion, he can stand in front of the mirror and conduct those stupid antics for himself that the rest of us had to endure week after nauseating week.

One more thing. I wonder who Bloch will pick as his incompetent, do-nothing running mate — hey, maybe Drew Rosenhaus.

Two Socorro High School teams excel in athletics

SETTING THE STANDARD — The Socorro High School cross country boys tore through the competition in the 2005 season. The team received its first honor by winning the team title of the Far West Cross Country Championship. The team went on undefeated in district, finished third in the regional competition and 12th in the state tournament. Five



of the runners were named to the All-City team. The team includes Mark Fuentes, Jesus Rodriguez, Gama Mendez, Ramon Acosta, Rodney Snyder, Rodrigo Molina, & Pedro Candelaria. They are coached by Jeff Barros.



— Photos courtesy Socorro ISD

FOOTLOOSE — In addition, the Socorro High School varsity soccer team received their Bi-District championship trophy in November. Jesus Guevara was named best forward in the city and Edgar Retana was named best goalkeeper in the city. The rest of the championship team included Jose Bustamante, Edgar Guevara, Esteban Loya, Alberto Lopez, Moises Martinez, Eliazar Ponce, Mario Rubio, Luis Villanueva, Fernando Martinez, Richard Bernal, Javier Reyes, Bernabe Jara, Ramon Tarango, Gabriel Tarango, Nainn Morga, Angel Valencia, Joe Ramos and Luis Zamudio. Their coaches are Alex Delgado & Ernie Espinoza.

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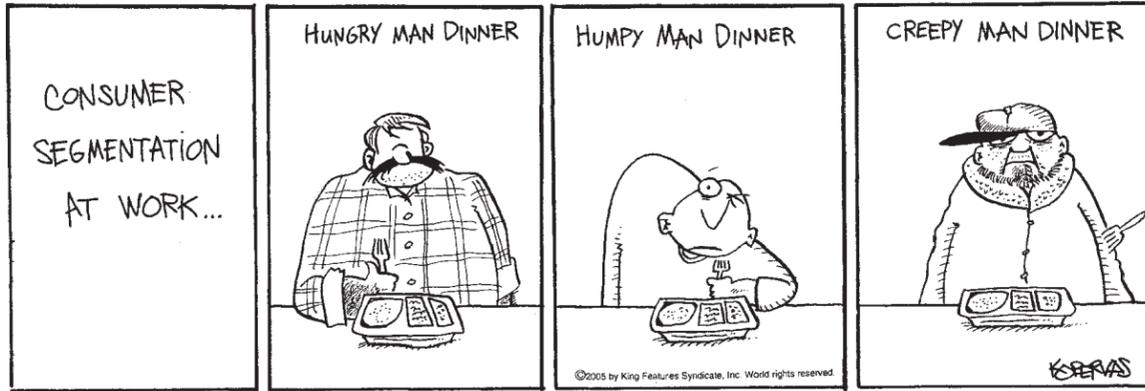
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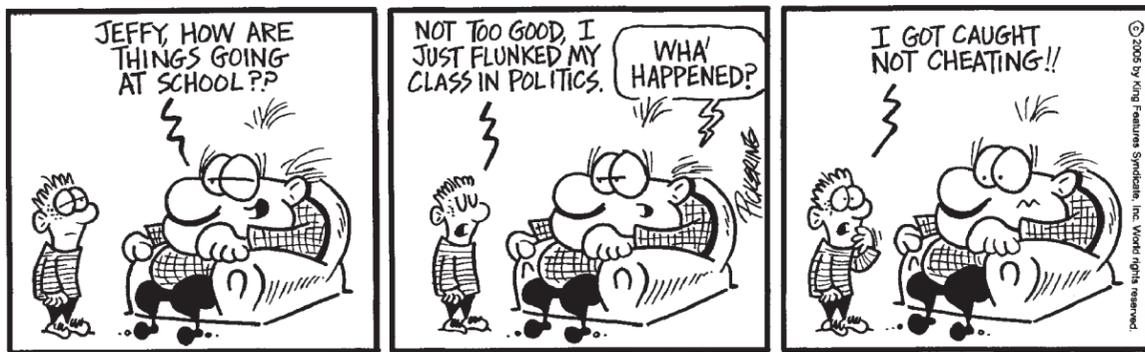
OUT ON A LIMB By Gary Kopervas



AMBER WAVES By Dave T. Phipps



THE SPATS By Jeff Pickering



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Rats starting to outsmart scientists

By Don Flood

Aubrey de Gray, a 42-year-old British biogerontologist, has announced that there's no reason we can't live 1,000 years or more.

Other scientists, however, downplayed the report, pointing out that a longer life wouldn't be a benefit "unless there were substantial improvements in cable TV offerings."

Good point. We can't seriously be expected to watch Sopranos episodes for more than a couple of hundred years.

And who knows what we'll be paying 500 years from now — a couple of billion dollars a month to watch sitcoms from the 1960s?

On the positive side, we might live long enough to see many extraordinary and exciting developments, such as women driving in Saudi Arabia.

It's true. It could be coming any century now.

In an actual interview with Barbara Walters, Saudi King Abdullah said, "I believe the day will come when women drive."

Imagine! Driving licenses for women "will require patience," the king continued. "In time, I believe it will be possible."

Wow, you'd think this was the People's Republic of California.

But on to this week's topic, and yes, there is one: Rats.

No, I'm not going Charlie Brown on you. Rats are in the news again, as they've started outsmarting the scientists who are studying them, just as I predicted they would.

(Editor's note: He predicted no such thing.)

According to an actual CNN.com report, scientists were unable to find a rat released on a small island, despite traps, sniffing dogs and — get this! — a radio collar on the poor creature.

These scientists spent four months on a deserted island looking for a rat fitted with a radio collar.

How do I get this job and, yes, I'm willing to spring for the beer.

Even more amazing, the rat finally left, swimming 400 meters to a neighboring island, where it promptly set up a maze to test scientists' intelligence.

The results, to appear in next month's "Scientific Rat" magazine, are said to reflect poorly on the scientists' navigational skills and willingness to ask for directions. Fortunately, they had been fitted with radio collars and were led out of the maze before starving to death.

Also on the small-rodent news front are reports that male mice sing in the presence of female mice.

Getting to hear the mice, which rarely perform at karaoke bars, was not easy. According to the actual CNN.com story, the scientists "developed a way to hear the sounds by recording them on tape and reconstructing them four octaves lower."

The result? A passable — though not professional quality — rendition of "Pretty Woman."

"Frankly, we were disappointed," said one scientist who admitted to being a fan of "American Idol's" Simon Cowell. "At first it seemed pretty cool listening to a singing mouse, but when he got to the chorus, he just didn't deliver the goods."

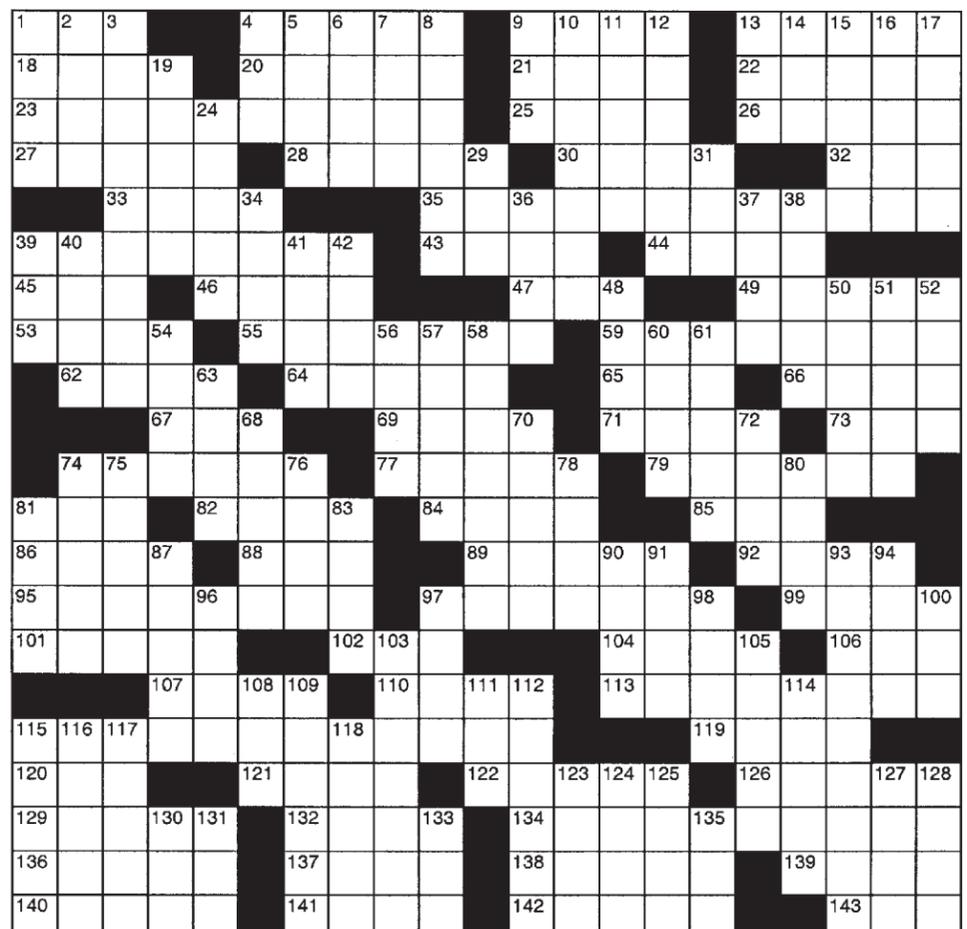
"If he expects to make it past the first round of "American Rodent Idol," he's got to have his game on."

At press time, there was no word on what would come first, Saudi women drivers or a singing rodent reality show.

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King Super Crossword

- NO CONTEST ACROSS**
- 1 Spasm
 - 4 Honshu metropolis
 - 9 Pinza or Chaliapin
 - 13 Alice's restaurant?
 - 18 Aroma
 - 20 Jeopardy
 - 21 Vivacity
 - 22 Writer Rogers St. Johns
 - 23 Start of a remark
 - 24 Across
 - 25 Parisian pronoun
 - 26 Raj address
 - 27 "Gladiator" extra
 - 28 Stick
 - 30 "Glad All _" ('64 hit)
 - 32 Lowe or Morrow
 - 33 Valuable
 - 35 Part 2 of remark
 - 39 Barren area
 - 43 "Under the Yum Yum _" ('63 film)
 - 44 Mall event
 - 45 Kimono
 - 46 Plunder
 - 47 They may be personal
 - 49 Donizetti ditties
 - 53 Male kangaroo
 - 55 More minute
 - 59 With decorum
 - 62 Abound (with)
 - 64 Actor Ryan
 - 65 Mongrel
 - 66 Roger Rabbit, for one
 - 67 "Fool" singer, Chris
 - 69 Sailed through
 - 71 "Lucky Jim" author
 - 73 Compass pt.
 - 74 Go-getter
 - 77 Part 3 of remark
 - 79 "The French Connection" name
 - 81 Comic Charlotte
 - 82 Kuvasz and komondor
 - 84 Protected
 - 85 Veto
 - 86 Fruit-tree spray
 - 88 "_ pro nobis"
 - 89 Adult tadpoles
 - 92 Canvas cover
 - 95 Forsaken
 - 97 Mobile homes?
 - 99 Dissolve
 - 101 _ Grigio
 - 102 Maestro de Waart
 - 104 Secular
 - 106 Dion's "Run-around" girl
 - 107 Plug
 - 110 Rohmer or Roberts
 - 113 Shameless
 - 115 End of remark
 - 119 Goblet part
 - 120 Mohammed _
 - Jinnah
 - 121 '72 Harry Chapin hit
 - 122 Buckwheat dish
 - 126 Defer
 - 129 Shinbone
 - 132 Temporary calm
 - 134 Speaker of remark
 - 136 Happening
 - 137 Unmarried Mme.
 - 138 Macabre
 - 139 Man the bar
 - 140 Brawl
 - 141 Actress Anna
 - 142 Man of Malmo
 - 143 John _ Passos
- DOWN**
- 1 Some turkeys
 - 2 Pastoral poem
 - 3 Cold feet
 - 4 Unlock, in poesy
 - 5 Circus barker?
 - 6 "New Yorker" cartoonist
 - 7 Last name in piracy
 - 8 Dismount
 - 9 Hum bug?
 - 10 Let
 - 11 Fusillade
 - 12 Looks like Hook?
 - 13 Lehar's "_ Land des Lachelns"
 - 14 Neighbor of Mont.
 - 15 Jawaharlal's jacket
 - 16 "Middlemarch" author
 - 17 Synagogue figure
 - 19 Competitor
 - 24 Untamed
 - 29 Cereal spike
 - 31 Nutritional abbr.
 - 34 Baseball's Cabell
 - 36 Beloved
 - 37 Blow for a bounder
 - 38 Tours topper
 - 39 Reggae's Marley
 - 40 Border on
 - 41 Major_
 - 42 Kenton or Getz
 - 48 Adoption agcy.
 - 50 Incongruous state
 - 51 Isolated
 - 52 Last word of the year?
 - 54 "Show Boat" composer
 - 56 Rely (on)
 - 57 Shoestrings
 - 58 Promote
 - 60 Type of roast
 - 61 Heavenly hunter
 - 63 Knight's quaff
 - 68 "There's _ Out Tonight" ('61 hit)
 - 70 "Moll Flanders" author
 - 72 Rotisserie part
 - 74 _ Lama
 - 75 Wish and wish
 - 76 Fairy-tale fiend
 - 78 Swing a sickle
 - 80 Student's ordeal
 - 81 Airport feature
 - 83 Mean Marquis
 - 87 Perch
 - 90 Submarine base?
 - 91 Line of clothing?
 - 93 Looked like
 - 94 Asset
 - 96 Palindromic name
 - 97 Amos or Spelling
 - 98 Jazzman Zoot
 - 100 Asian holiday
 - 103 Epic name in epics
 - 105 Terra_
 - 108 Absent
 - 109 Old Testament book
 - 111 It may be invisible
 - 112 Breaks off
 - 114 Worked in Vegas
 - 115 Postern and portcullis
 - 116 Martini garnish
 - 117 Yak's turf
 - 118 Jump for joy
 - 123 Prepare prunes
 - 124 Present
 - 125 Enthusiastic
 - 127 Jocular Jay
 - 128 Extremities
 - 130 Part of UPI
 - 131 From _ Z
 - 133 Ford of football
 - 135 Shoe width



Answer Page 6

North meets south as El Paso Mayor John Cook visits Tornillo

By Alex Macias
Special to the Courier

TORNILLO — Last Wednesday, November 16, El Paso Mayor John Cook took time out of his busy schedule to visit and address the students of Tornillo High School. This was the Mayor's first visit to the small town of Tornillo.

The purpose of his visit was to show students how he was able to become not only a successful politician, but also a successful member

of the community. Many of the students, who at first really did not know what to expect, were quite excited to have the Mayor visit. "It was nice to have someone other than teachers or parents tell the students about life outside of Tornillo," said THS teacher Cynthia Cazares.

The mayor addressed the students in an open and candid manner in discussing the obstacles he faced in his life and in his career. At the same time, Mayor Cook was able to talk to the students and not at them. "His honesty and the way in which he just

talked to us was very inspirational," said THS sophomore Charles Wright. "He was really open with us." The overall attitude was very positive among the students.

The mayor wrapped up his visit with a rendition of *This Land Is Our Land*, which he performed by accompanying himself on the guitar. The students enjoyed Cook's musical talents. "All I know is that Mayor Cook can sing," said THS student Joel Reyes. Numerous students left Cook's presentation saying they were feeling inspired and thankful for his visit.



— Photo courtesy Tornillo ISD

SHIRT OFF MY BACK — Tornillo High School Principal Ray Cobos presents Mayor John Cook with a THS polo shirt during the Mayor's presentation to THS students and staff.

7-DAY FORECAST FOR EL PASO, TX

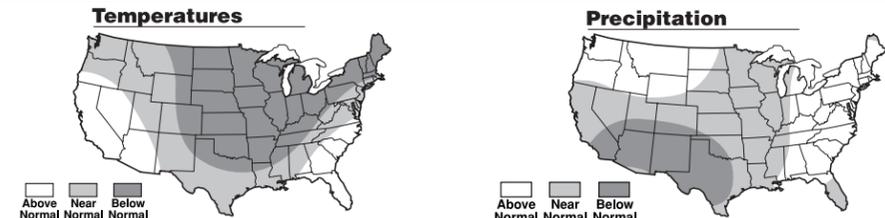
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Thursday	Thu. night	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
Mostly sunny	Mainly clear	Mostly sunny	Mostly sunny	A good deal of sunshine	Abundant sunshine	Sunshine	Sunshine
67°	42°	69° / 44°	69° / 43°	64° / 38°	55° / 31°	58° / 31°	57° / 29°
RealFeel 72°	RealFeel 35°	RealFeel 67° / 38°	RealFeel 67° / 36°	RealFeel 59° / 29°	RealFeel 60° / 27°	RealFeel 62° / 28°	RealFeel 57° / 35°

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WEATHER TRENDS THIS WEEK

IN THE SKY



Sun	Rise	Set	Moon	Rise	Set	New	First
Thu.	6:48 a.m.	5:01 p.m.	Thu.	7:00 a.m.	4:58 p.m.		
Fri.	6:49 a.m.	5:01 p.m.	Fri.	8:08 a.m.	5:56 p.m.	12/1	12/8
Sat.	6:49 a.m.	5:01 p.m.	Sat.	9:12 a.m.	7:02 p.m.		
Sun.	6:50 a.m.	5:01 p.m.	Sun.	10:09 a.m.	8:14 p.m.	12/15	12/23
Mon.	6:51 a.m.	5:01 p.m.	Mon.	10:56 a.m.	9:26 p.m.		
Tues.	6:52 a.m.	5:01 p.m.	Tues.	11:36 a.m.	10:36 p.m.		
Wed.	6:53 a.m.	5:02 p.m.	Wed.	12:10 p.m.	11:43 p.m.		

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U.S. CITIES

City	Thursday			Friday			Saturday			Sunday			City	Thursday			Friday			Saturday			Sunday		
	HI	LO	W	HI	LO	W	HI	LO	W	HI	LO	W		HI	LO	W	HI	LO	W	HI	LO	W	HI	LO	W
Abilene, TX	62	38	s	68	45	s	71	47	pc	70	44	s	Atlanta	58	38	pc	56	38	s	53	43	sh	58	45	r
Albuquerque, NM	56	32	pc	57	33	pc	55	34	pc	53	29	s	Boston	48	36	pc	44	31	sh	42	28	c	42	29	pc
Amarillo, TX	51	29	pc	61	32	pc	65	37	pc	55	28	s	Chicago	34	20	sn	30	16	sf	32	18	sf	32	22	pc
Austin, TX	68	44	pc	72	51	pc	75	52	s	77	52	sh	Denver	42	23	pc	48	26	pc	42	21	pc	38	15	s
Brownsville, TX	80	62	sh	81	64	pc	84	67	s	83	66	sh	Detroit	36	22	sn	32	18	sf	32	22	sf	34	22	c
Dodge City, KS	47	23	pc	48	23	pc	48	27	sh	45	26	pc	Houston	71	54	sh	72	56	sh	76	60	pc	76	50	sh
Jackson, MS	59	40	sh	55	45	pc	63	49	sh	71	53	pc	Indianapolis	40	20	sn	32	19	pc	37	23	sn	38	31	c
Laredo, TX	76	54	pc	76	59	pc	83	62	s	80	58	sh	Kansas City	38	21	pc	37	23	pc	39	27	sn	39	24	c
Little Rock, AR	55	33	s	48	36	pc	56	42	r	69	46	pc	Los Angeles	68	55	pc	66	52	sh	66	49	pc	68	46	s
Lubbock, TX	58	32	s	74	34	pc	76	30	pc	64	30	s	Miami	81	62	pc	79	66	s	79	68	s	80	68	s
Memphis, TN	53	35	sh	52	39	pc	53	46	r	66	50	pc	Minneapolis	24	8	sn	18	10	sf	23	12	c	22	13	c
Midland, TX	60	37	s	71	45	s	70	42	pc	71	38	s	New Orleans	71	53	pc	68	55	sh	73	58	sh	74	58	sh
Pueblo, CO	54	22	pc	56	26	pc	50	24	pc	50	16	pc	New York City	47	34	pc	44	30	pc	40	30	pc	43	34	pc
Roswell, NM	61	30	pc	67	35	pc	70	34	s	65	32	s	Omaha	30	15	pc	34	14	c	30	17	sn	29	19	pc
St. Louis, MO	41	22	pc	39	26	pc	39	30	sn	42	35	c	Phoenix	72	50	s	73	52	pc	72	49	pc	71	40	pc
San Antonio, TX	70	47	pc	72	53	pc	76	56	s	76	54	pc	San Francisco	62	50	r	58	45	sh	57	44	pc	58	46	s
Texarkana, AR	60	39	pc	56	45	pc	63	51	sh	68	47	sh	Seattle	36	34	sn	40	36	r	42	34	sh	44	35	pc
Waco, TX	65	41	pc	62	51	pc	70	52	pc	75	50	pc	Washington	48	32	pc	46	30	pc	48	32	pc	45	32	c
Wichita, KS	47	26	pc	46	26	pc	46	29	sh	45	31	c													

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