



NEWSBRIEFS

Citizens' forum

The U.S. Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission invites the public to the Rio Grande Citizens' Forum on Feb. 15, 6:30-8:30 p.m. at 4171 N. Mesa, The Commons, Bldg. C. Among items to be discussed are Rio Grande canalization projects to raise and rehabilitate flood control levees in the region, including the Canutillo Floodwall, along 106 river miles running north from El Paso to the Percha Dam in New Mexico. For a complete agenda call 832-4706 or e-mail selmarivera@ibwc.state.gov.

HCPD chief contracted

The Horizon City Council approved the contract of Police Chief Antonio Aguilar in a special meeting on Feb. 4, following several months of meetings in which the contract was postponed due to lack of enough council members being present to affirm or disapprove the contract. During the special meeting Chief Aguilar's contract was approved by four affirmative votes from Councilmen Walter Miller, Bethany Sellers, Jackie Rutledge and Keith McClellan. Three votes in opposition were cast by Councilmen Byron Taylor, Jay Blobner and Luis Najera. Aguilar has been the head law enforcement officer in Horizon City for five years.

Bond approved

A low turn-out of voters of the Canutillo ISD approved a \$39 million bond issue on Feb. 4. Fewer than 750 of the more than 8,115 registered voters went to the polls to cast their vote for two propositions. Proposition One was approved, 494 to 241, to provide for acquisition of property and construction of new schools and school upgrades. Proposition Two, approved 446 to 271, allows the district to refinance funds to be paid out as debt service. The Canutillo district thanked voters on its website and school officials called the election "a boost in confidence."

In other news

■ An internal audit of the City of Socorro was conducted during the summer of 2005 by Weiner Strickler, L.L.P. There was an agenda item during the regularly scheduled Socorro City Council meeting on Feb. 2 but the item was moved into executive session. According to Mark Threadgill, the item became a no action item and what was discussed by council behind closed doors was not divulged to the public, a common practice for items taken into executive session. This audit had been requested by previous city councils and followed through by the current council. Results of the complete audit are posted on the City of Socorro website at www.socorrotexas.org.

See BRIEFS, Page 5

Conscience is that small inner voice that tells you the IRS might check your return.

— Quips & Quotes

Wife gives husband new life



By Don Woodyard
Courier Staff Writer

ANTHONY — This is a love story.

A very special love lives in the lives of Terry-Ann and Ernie Rodriguez.

It is not just a love symbolized outwardly by the wedding ring.

Rather it is an extraordinary love symbolized inwardly as well by literally giving of oneself — in which Terry-Ann donated one of her kidneys to save the life of her husband Ernie who had gone on dialysis and was in end-stage renal failure.

Terry-Ann is the principal of Anthony Middle School, and Ernie is an assistant city attorney for the City of El Paso, representing the police and fire departments. They have four children, ages 16, 14, 12 and 9.

"She is my hero; she really is," Ernie says eloquently. About her expression of love for him, he adds, "action speaks louder than words."

Sitting in her school office, Terry-Ann speaks humbly of the surgery. She and members of his family had undergone extensive tests to find a compatible donor. "Let me be a match; let me be a match," she recalls praying. Her prayers were answered.

Terry-Ann turned out to be the only suitable

See GIFT, Page 3

COMEBACK TRAIL — Rodriguez started her return to running by taking short jogs. By November 2005 she was going 20 miles again. This photo was taken during the 2006 Chevron Houston Marathon.

New San Eli library well deserved, superintendent says

By Phillip Cortez
Special to the Courier

SAN ELIZARIO — According to San Elizario ISD Superintendent Dr. Michael Quatrini, the library is the focal point to any school. On Wednesday, Feb. 1, San Elizario High School held a ribbon cutting ceremony to commemorate the opening of its brand new library, a facility he felt students and community members in San Elizario always deserved.

"The new San Elizario High School Library represents the Board of Trustees' and the districts' belief that the students of San Elizario ISD are deserving of the very best," Quatrini said. "We hope that not only the current students of SEISD, but also our former students as well as parents and community members, will utilize the library's resources to the fullest extent as well as enjoy its environment."

Thanks the support of the SEISD Board of Trustees as well as \$1.8 million in Instructional Facilities Allotment monies from the state, the 11,000-foot structure was built in the same style as the current high school but is a separate building; a covered breezeway joins the two structures, complete with a flowing fountain,

benches, and desert landscaping. Inside, the new library has enough books to exceed state requirements for school libraries, study modules and a classroom wired with the technology needed to achieve student success.

Students will not be the only ones to be able to take advantage of the new library, however. The San Elizario community will benefit from extended library hours that will allow them to



— Photo courtesy San Elizario ISD

BRAND NEW — The 11,000 square-foot structure was built in the same style as the current high school. A covered breezeway joins the two structures. A fountain, benches, and landscaping dress up the facility.

utilize the many computers, study space, and educational materials found inside. The library will be open Monday-Thursday, 7:30 a.m. to 6:15 p.m.; Fridays, 7 a.m. to 4 p.m.; and Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 12 noon.

For more information contact San Elizario High School at 872-3970.

Morales has had busy first year as Horizon City's mayor

Courier Staff Reports

HORIZON CITY — With nearly a full year of service as Horizon City's Mayor, Raymond Morales says he has been assessing needs of his community's government and taking steps that he feels will improve its effectiveness. He said code enforcement, settling litigation against the city, and moving on annexations (story on page 4) that would protect Horizon City have been high on his list of priorities.

Primary on Morales' list of governmental issues have been the proposal of several changes to the Charter of the City of Horizon that he says he will soon be asking council to send to the voters this spring on May 13.

According to a recent draft proposal drawn up by Morales, one of these proposed changes involves the number of votes required from the seven council members to pass a mandate, a resolution or other council business and request reconsideration of a mayor's veto.

Currently, the Charter requires four affirmative votes to approve such measures — Morales' proposal is to change this to a majority of the councilmen present at the meeting. His reasoning is that only four councilmen are required to form a quorum to conduct a meeting, however, if the agenda includes such measures as require four affirmative votes, and a split vote is cast, the measure dies until the next meeting. Therefore, the proposal is to change the requirement to a simple majority.

An example of this was the recent inability by council to approve or deny the contract for the chief of police — only enough council members were present to conduct a meeting but not enough to move forward with or to deny the contract. Morales said the current configuration inhibits the ability of the town council to conduct business.

The measure would not apply to passing ordinances.

A similar proposal, to reduce the number of yes votes necessary to approve an agenda items, was presented to the voters in 2005 and was defeated.

Morales also noted he feels the Horizon City Chief of Police should not be handled through separate contract and instead should be a full-time city employee without separate terms of employment via contract. Therefore, he is proposing a Charter amendment that the police chief be appointed as a city employee by the mayor with the approval of council.

Because the office of the elected mayor also serves as that of chief executive officer (CEO), and is a full-time position, Morales said he will propose an amendment authorizing a salary of \$2,000 per month for that office. A proposal to provide a yearly salary and a per-meeting stipend for councilmen was rejected by voters in 2005.

Morales will also propose that the mayor's

See HORIZON, Page 4



One perspective

By Francis Shrum

Unnatural children

A modeling agency ran an ad, sent out an e-mail, or otherwise sounded the casting call and they lined up, holding their breath and carefully checking out the competition, waiting to see who would be chosen.

No, I don't mean the prospective models. I'm talking about their mothers.

I don't care how natural they claim it has all become, it's still unnatural. No kid is allowed at a modeling contest without his or her parent or guardian — and no person with natural parenting instincts would subject a kid to that kind of lifestyle that early in life.

A fashion show last week staged by *Child* magazine in New York for kids

ages four to 12 was seeking a more natural child, they said, a child who can be comfortable in Bill Blass and Kenneth Cole as they amble down catwalks in front of flashing lights and a sea of strange faces, where hardened, six-foot-plus, anorexic glamour stars ordinarily walk.

Sorry. Kid and comfortable under those circumstances are oxymoronic. No five-year-old with skinned elbow and gapped-tooth smile read the audition ad and asked "Mommy, please, can we go?"

Natural, though, with a few missing teeth and knobby knees, is what it's all about now, say those at the top of the child-usage market.

No more sex-pot JonBenets, said Gay Morris Empson, an editor with

Child in a Feb. 7 Reuters article by Ellen Wulffhorst.

Methinks she doth protest too much.

What it is all about is money, greed and production of what sells. If the popularity of tiny, blond, child bombshells in heavy makeup and beauty-parlor nails and hair hadn't taken a nose-dive due to an unfortunate murder, this lady would still be in the market for it.

And the moms — or whoever controls the little darlings — would still be hawking it like stolen watches on an inner city street corner.

So how do you evoke natural in such an unnatural setting?

Well, it involves being comfortable in your clothes and not looking like you're being forced to be out there, Empson said. "It's really about (kids) being comfortable with themselves."

In other words, still performing like a grown-up.

I have to grin over that one. From birth to death, the state of being "comfortable with yourself" is pretty rare, even in adults, and especially not in a highly competitive, looks-

only, superficial environment where what you look like is all that counts.

By its very nature, the entertainment industry — which encompasses modeling — focuses only on the image that entertainers are able to project, not on who or what they actually are.

In fact, once people actually "make it," they find they are forced to go to extreme measures to separate their private lives from their public persona.

That's tough enough for supposed grown-ups. Try forcing that on a child who is already being guided by someone who has a rabid competitive nature — there's no other reason you'd do that to a kid.

It pretty amazing the reasoning that beauty-pageant moms come up with. Why, she *loves* it! they exclaim with wide eyes. I'm only doing this for *her!* I'm the man in the moon, too.

One mom at the *Child* fashion show proudly produced an overflowing portfolio of print advertising work already done by her 11-year-old son. She said the "experience" only "compliments who he already is."

Who she has made him into, I'd have to add. By 11, you certainly

have to begin giving kids some choices but not in areas of life where the pressure to perform is so extreme, the competition so fierce, the rewards so over-inflated — and where failure is so devastating. There are few children who willingly perform in this way without coercion, and even those few don't have the maturity to understand the underlying nature of "the business."

I don't care how good a mom you are, you can't shield a child in the modeling industry from these harsh realities.

Like all forms of greed and competition, the kids wouldn't be there if the money wasn't, so you have to hold the fashion industry as responsible as you do the parents. The smoke-and-mirrors public relations performance they go through is as nauseating as it is transparent. They want non-sexy, "natural" kids, never mind that one little fellow walked the runway with a tear running down his face.

But it's all okay, you see — these designer children's outfits used in this show will be auctioned off for charity.

How touching.

What's up, doc? By Albert M. Balesh, M.D.

Fall from Grace

Years go by, memories fade, and doctors forget things. Then tragedy strikes, like it did to a friend of mine, and sounds a call to arms that comes far too late and at too high a price.

I had forgotten just how devastating cervical cancer could be, and I was pushed to revisit its dire consequences when a young friend of mine was stricken. Cancer of the cervix was once the most common cause of cancer death in women in the U.S., but heightened awareness and widespread screening with Pap smear have done much to stem the flow of its onslaught. In 2004, about 10,500 new cases of invasive cervical cancer were discovered, and more than 50,000 non invasive forms were also detected, leading to a death toll of 3,900. What had these women done to deserve such a fate? Why had they

been condemned to this "fall from grace?"

Young and old, rich and poor, no one is immune. Underdeveloped countries, with their utter lack of adequate medical services, stagnant economies, and nonexistent patient education have borne the brunt of the attack. This becomes even more obvious when we consider that 85 percent of the deaths related to this malady in 2004 occurred in women who had never been screened via Pap smear. When an ounce of prevention is truly a matter of life and death, and when cures can be instituted only at the sound of early alarms, every effort must be made to follow the recommendations of the American Cancer Society and the American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology.

While the former strongly suggests

two consecutive yearly Pap smears in women after onset of sexual activity, or older than age 20, with repeat every 3 years, the latter recommends yearly Pap smears with routine annual pelvic and breast examination. Life is oftentimes unfair, and, while the U.S.-based protocols are fine and dandy for our own citizens, what about those less fortunate?

Cervical cancer is the major gynecological cancer in the Third World, where poverty, early initial sexual activity, multiple partners, and smoking contribute to its prevalence. In both the U.S. and internationally, its cause has been linked to sexual transmission of the human papilloma virus (HPV). Currently, promising studies are underway to create a low-cost vaccination to HPV and subsequent solution to the problem of provision of affordable preventive measures to underdeveloped areas of the world. Screening via repeat Pap smears (90-95 percent accurate in detecting early lesions of cervical cancer) and follow-up are simply not

feasible in those regions. Screening strategies involving a two-visit, visual inspection of the cervix by a healthcare professional and viral DNA testing are being examined as possible, cost-effective alternatives to traditional, three-visit screening programs employing Pap smear in this country. After all, right to life is God-given, and must not be subservient to national origin, race, or simply luck of the draw.

Regardless of which side of the tracks, fence, or border a woman is born on, the signs of cervical cancer are unmistakable, and should at the least incite "healthy suspicion" and immediate visit to a qualified healthcare professional. While procrastination is human and no one likes to be pinched and prodded, failure to recognize the signs of abnormal bleeding and postcoital spotting, inter menstrual or prominent menstrual bleeding, yellowish vaginal discharge, low back pain, and urinary symptoms can be downright fatal in the long run. Immediate action is

called for in those cases. It goes without saying that the earlier the diagnosis and treatment of cervical cancer, the greater the chances of success and the longer the survival rate.

Depending on the stage of the disease, treatment modalities run the gamut from biopsy and abdominal hysterectomy to radiation therapy and chemotherapy. Combinations of these elements are no more effective than the single regimens themselves, and advanced stage cervical cancer has a five-year survival rate of only seven percent. Why, oh why, did those women (and their partners) not take prevention more seriously?

While it was too late for my friend, if this short piece in an obscure quotidian crosses the desk and catalyzes preventive gynecological examination of just one reader, then her "fall from grace" will serve as a fitting epitaph and message of salvation.

(2006, Albert M. Balesh, M.D. All rights reserved.)
In memoriam, for "Grace."

WEST TEXAS COUNTY COURIER

PUBLISHED:
Published each Thursday by Homesteader News, Inc. Appreciation to our many contributors. Office open Monday through Thursday.

COPYRIGHT:
Entire contents © 2006 Homesteader News, Inc. Individual authors retain all rights. Pictures, drawings and written material appearing in the West Texas County Courier may not be used or reproduced without written permission of Homesteader News, Inc.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR:
Letter must not be more than 250 words in length. They should be dated, must be signed and have an address and daytime phone number. Only the name and city will be printed with the letter. The Courier reserves the right not to print letters to the editor or other submitted materials it considers inappropriate.

AD DEADLINE:
Monday 4 p.m. for Thursday publication.

CLASSIFIED RATES
\$5 for 15 words, \$10 for 35 words. Ad must be in writing and pre-paid. The Courier reserves the right not to print classified advertising it considers inappropriate.

DISPLAY RATES:
Open rate — \$20 per column inch. Call for more information or to set an appointment. The Courier reserves the right not to print advertising it considers inappropriate.

MAIL SUBSCRIPTIONS:
52 issues for \$35.
Delivery via 1st class mail.

ADDRESS:
14200 Ashford
Horizon City, TX 79928

Phone: 852-3235
Fax: 852-0123
E-mail: wtxcc@wtccourier.com
Website: wtccourier.com

Publisher
Rick Shrum

Business Manager
Francis D. Shrum

Contributors
Don Woodyard
Steve Escajeda
Arleen Beard • Jan Engels

Homesteader
Est. 1973
News, Inc.



Member Texas Community
Newspaper Association



Reyes Reports By U.S. Rep. Silvestre Reyes

Calling all young Americans

On October 4, 1957, the Soviet Union launched Sputnik, the

first artificial satellite to enter outer space. The Russians loaded it with high-frequency radio transmitters that they used to broadcast a simple message: "We're up here, and you're not."

This Soviet technological feat sent many in the United States and our Cold War allied nations into a panic. White House advisors told President Eisenhower that these scientific advances by our enemy could well provide an edge we would not be able to overcome. From what people could tell, the Soviets were winning.

U.S. policymakers reacted with urgency and purpose. The next year, 1958, Congress passed the National Defense Education Act (NDEA). The bill provided federal funding to encourage opportunities for people to pursue degrees in math and the sciences, expand and improve scientific equipment in schools, and teach Americans foreign languages. In the

following decades, in the context of that investment, America won the Cold War and established the highest standard for innovation and prosperity in the world.

Today, the world is drastically changed. New threats challenge our ability to adapt, and our workers and products now compete with determined, growing nations like China and India. Although we lack a defining moment or a catalyst like Sputnik, the need for action is even greater than it was during the Eisenhower Administration.

Our country has let the foundations of its innovation-based economy deteriorate. Government commitment to basic research is shrinking. The number of scientific papers published by Americans is declining. Americans are receiving fewer Nobel Prizes in the sciences. And almost half of the industrial patents we award go to foreigners. Most worrisome is the trend that sees fewer and fewer young Americans pursuing education and careers in the sciences. This is a broad and fundamental problem — one that

threatens our very standard of living and our leadership in the world.

We are also threatened in the world when we're isolated by our own incomprehension. As America faces enemies from far-away cultures who speak languages different from our own, we are finding we don't have people with the language skills to listen in when we need to and communicate when we must. As other countries teach their citizens two, three, four, and five languages, America — a nation of immigrants — has chosen not to make the acquisition of foreign languages a priority. And we are less secure as a result.

In response to these disturbing trends, I have committed myself to two endeavors:

First, I have decided we can't just tinker in the margins any longer. We must lay the foundation for a massive project to propel America forward, to make our nation both prosperous and secure in this new century. That foundation is education, and that

See REYES, Page 3

Gift

From Page 1

donor for her husband whose kidney function had begun deteriorating in January of 2004. For her, there was never any doubt about what had to be done. There was no hesitation, no butterflies in the stomach.



Terry-Ann Rodriguez

"Let's do it." They did. Six months later, she gave a gift of life, her left kidney, to her husband. "God thought I was worthy enough to save a life," she says. "It is quite an honor to do so — that I was given that opportunity."

"It was a part of life. I was able to help. It was just one of those things you do," she adds. "It was an expression of love. It brought us closer together."

The surgery did not interrupt or change her life in one important aspect — running. She was a soccer mom who felt she needed to be more active as a runner than passive as a watcher. So, nine years ago, when her youngest had turned one, she and friends began walking and then running regularly around a track adjacent to the soccer field.

She found that running gave her more energy to keep up with her four children "who were going in all directions."

She has been into a running regimen since then. She tries to run at least five times a week after getting home from school. She estimates she has run in at least 25 major distance events.

She remembers the first, the Trauma Trot, sponsored by Thomason Hospital in June of 1997. She finished third at 30 minutes and some seconds. In addition to smaller

5K or 10K events, she went in for longer races. She has competed in the Chicago Marathon and more recently the Chevron Houston Marathon. She estimates she has run a total of at least a thousand miles in practices and races since she began.

The four-hour operation only slowed her down for a little while until she could get back on track.

Terry-Ann was born in Whildensham, England. She and her parents moved to Tampa, Florida, where she went to elementary school.

They moved to Houston where she eventually graduated from the University of Houston. She met her husband-to-be in Houston in the early 1980s when they both lived in the same apartment complex. He was attending South Texas School of Law.

They were later married in El Paso, his hometown, in March of 1988.

She has been principal of middle school in the Anthony ISD since July of 2003. Before that she was a teacher in the Ysleta ISD and at Loretto Academy.

"We are very fortunate to have her on staff," says Vern Butler, superintendent of the Anthony ISD. "She is an excellent administrator. She has a heart for kids."

Boxing connoisseur wants her money back

EL PASO COUNTY — I was there... but almost wished I wasn't at "Tonight's Fight Card" presented by Top Rank, Inc. of Las Vegas and Gary Shaw Productions out of Denver on Saturday, Feb. 4.

Unfortunately it proved to be a "boring, booing" night for many fans. True, the under cards were entertaining but you don't spend \$200 per ticket to see beginning fighters who are working their way up to the big money" Even "hometown" Rene Armijo proved to be a disappointment to the crowds as he was taken down by Francisco Villa of Midland, Texas. Salvador Valentino did a great job of announcing the six under cards fights and adding some flavor to the matches.

The NABF lightweight 12 round under card to the main event proved to be the most interesting but even it had its comical moments. In the middle of the 7th round Edner Cherry "Bomb" ran to the ropes and leaned over them as if to catch his breath. As he did, Jose Armando Santa Cruz, the defender, chased after him and continued to beat on his backside while the referee, Rocky Burke, looked on in dismay.

Then in the 8th round the roles were reversed with Santa Cruz taking the beating and eventually Cherry drawing blood. The following four rounds were a "touch and go" for

each fighter with both fighters hugging the ropes several times. It could have been anyone's game but the judges unanimously gave the decision to Santa Cruz.

Then came the main event. The 12-round Jr. Welterweight with Jose Luis Castillo, two-time World Champion against Rolando Reyes, #5 WBO World Contender. Well, Champion and Contender of what? It was a boring 12 rounds. The crowd of approximately 2,000 booed and shouted "refund" throughout the fight, the match gals ran out of Round cards for the 11th and 12th



See FIGHTS, Page 6

— Photo by Betti Flores

PHOTO OP — Castillo takes a moment for a post-fight photo with Jan Engels.

GEICO IS RIGHT DOWN THE STREET.

Auto and cycle insurance.
Immediate coverage by phone.
Low down-payment.
Convenient payment plans.
Round-the-clock claim service.

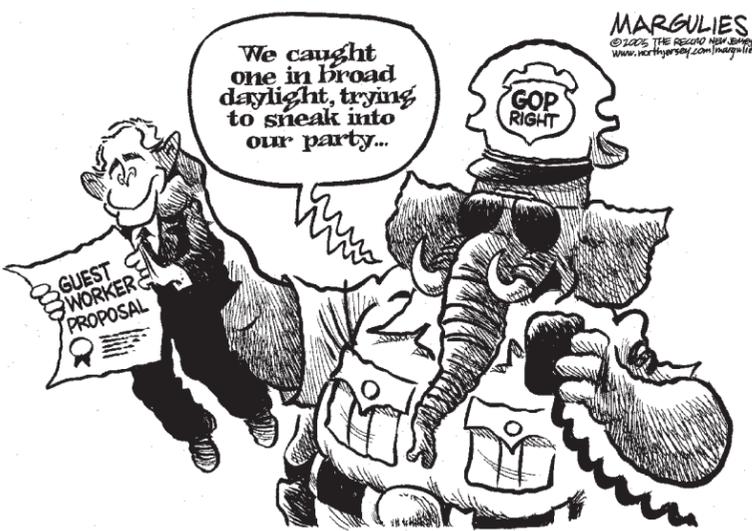
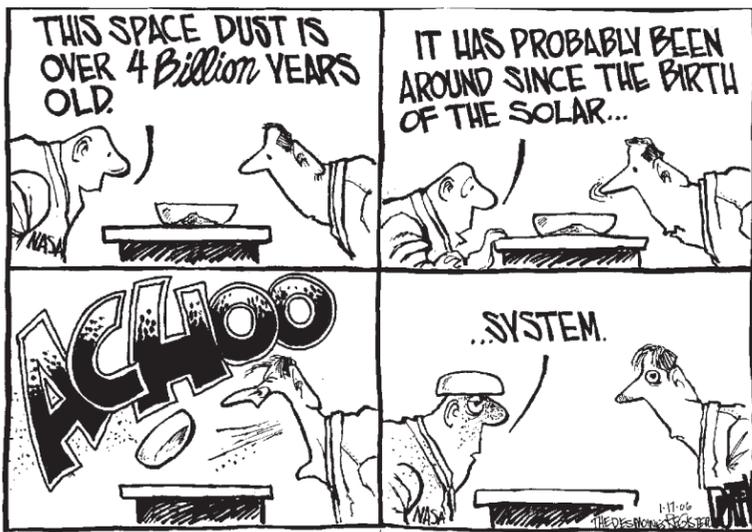
GEICO

CALL OUR LOCAL OFFICE FOR A FREE RATE QUOTE.

915-779-2489

6560 Montana Ave., Suite 6
El Paso

Government Employees Insurance Co. • GEICO General Insurance Co. • GEICO Indemnity Co. • GEICO Casualty Co. • Colonial County Mutual Ins. Co. • GEICO, Washington, DC 20076. © 2005 GEICO



Moore Texas by Roger T. Moore Feb. 9, 1914: Singer Ernest Tubb is born in Crisp...his first big hit was "Walking the floor over you" .

Reyes

From Page 2

foundation will support an innovation agenda for the 21st Century. Legislation I am introducing this week, the 21st Century National Defense Education Act, would provide the policy prescriptions pro-innovation policy.

Second, I am issuing a call to patriotic young Americans interested in national service. In 1961, John F. Kennedy famously encouraged, "Ask not what your country can do for you; ask what you can do for your country." Today, the pursuit of math and science answers that call. By going into these fields, you are not only opening doors to great opportunities that can provide a comfortable life to you and your family; you are doing a great service to America. It is time to ask not what science can do for you. It is time to ask what you can do for science — and ultimately what science can do for your country.

There are few paths of public service more noble and necessary than the path that started with the accomplishments of Americans like Thomas Jefferson and Benjamin Franklin, that continued with American programs like NASA, and that led to American innovations like the internet. Young Americans, you have the opportunity to be part of something greater than yourself. I encourage you to take it.

Canutillo Independent School District Notice of Public Hearing

AEIS Report

Canutillo Independent School District will hold a public hearing to discuss the District's 2005 Academic Excellence Indicator System (AEIS) report as part of the regular monthly School Board meeting, which is scheduled for 6 p.m., Tuesday, February 14, 2006, at the CISD Administrative Offices, 7965 Artcraft.

The public is invited to attend. The AEIS report will also be available for review after the hearing at all Canutillo ISD campuses and central office.

For more information, call 877-7444.

Junta Publica Distrito Escolar Independiente de Canutillo

El reporte "Sistema de Índices de Excelencia Académica"

El Distrito Escolar Independiente de Canutillo tendrá una Reunión Pública para informar el reporte "Sistema de Índices de Excelencia Académica" (AEIS) del año escolar 2005. El reporte será parte de la reunión mensual de la Mesa Directiva del distrito programada para el Martes 14 de febrero 2006 a las 6:00 p.m. en el edificio de las oficinas administrativas localizado en 7965 Artcraft.

Todos los individuos interesados están invitados a asistir. El reporte AEIS estará disponible después de la reunión en todas las escuelas del distrito y en el edificio de las oficinas administrativas.

Para mayor información, favor de llamar al 877-7444.

WTCC: 02-09-06

Border counties to get \$3.8 million more for security/drugs

AUSTIN — Gov. Rick Perry has announced an additional \$3.8 million to detect and deter border-related criminal activities, bringing to nearly \$10 million the total amount he has dedicated to border security since December. The funds will sustain and support Operation Linebacker, an initiative developed by the 16-member Texas Border Sheriff's Association to increase law enforcement presence along the Texas-Mexico border, particularly between legal points of entry.

"Operation Linebacker is increasing our law enforcement presence along the border, making life more difficult for those trying to smuggle drugs, weapons and people into Texas," Perry said. "It has never been clearer that increasing security along our 1,200-mile border is a public safety and homeland security imperative."

Perry noted that Operation Linebacker played a key role last week in thwarting an attempt by drug smugglers to bring three SUVs loaded with illegal drugs across the border in Hudspeth County.

Counties that receive Operation Linebacker funds are Brewster, Cameron, Culberson, Dimmit, El Paso, Hidalgo, Hudspeth, Jeff Davis, Kinney, Maverick, Presidio, Starr, Terrell, Val Verde, Webb, and Zapata. Each county received \$376,500 in December, and will receive an additional \$223,000 apiece. The funds provide manpower, specialized equipment and planning resources; the funds also support Citizen Police Academies to train local volunteers and strengthen community involvement in border protection.

The Linebacker funds will be distributed in the coming weeks through the Governor's Criminal Justice Division, after each county's Commissioner's Court approves the grant contracts.

— Contributed by Kathy Walt

El Paso denies request from Horizon City to release land

Courier Staff Reports

HORIZON CITY — The City of El Paso Council voted seven to one on Monday to deny a request from Horizon City to begin formal negotiations to release two parcels of land integral to Horizon's interests from El Paso ETJ (Extra-Territorial Jurisdiction).

Horizon City Mayor Raymond Morales said last week that he has been meeting with officials from the City of El Paso regarding the relinquishing of El Paso's ETJ over C.D. Stewart Sections 320 and 321, both of which are adjacent to the Horizon City limits and the development of which will and already does have significant impact on the township.

In a letter dated Oct. 3, 2005 to El Paso Mayor John Cook, Morales requested formal negotiations between the two municipalities. "Because our two cities' respective jurisdictions

cannot overlap, we (Horizon City) have virtually no (jurisdiction) along our western or northern boundaries. Obviously, this creates for potential confusion. Of greater concern, we lack control over adjoining properties that, once developed, will have a market influence on the long-term future of our city," Morales wrote to the El Paso mayor

Morales pointed out that both parcels in question are contiguous with the boundaries of Horizon City and the ongoing development of one (Emerald Park Unit 1-3, Emerald Estates Unit 1-2, and Emerald Springs Retreat) has already produced financial implications for the town.

"This new development has three streets that intersect Ashford Street — a street that is within but at the western periphery of our City," Morales said. He noted that Ashford is inadequate for its current usage and has deteriorated significantly.

"Had the recently-developed sub-

divisions been within our jurisdiction, we could have required the (private) developer to improve this perimeter street, as is required by our Subdivision Ordinance. Unfortunately... it is the public sector that will instead bear the full cost of the street reconstruction. A further inequity is that our taxpayers will bear at least part of the cost for the street reconstruction that is made necessary, in part, by the new development, yet our municipality will derive no benefit to our tax base..."

The second parcel, located at the intersection of Horizon Blvd. and Darrington Rd., is bounded by Horizon City on its east and north boundaries. It is currently controlled by the GLO (State General Land Office). Morales' letter of request to El Paso was accompanied by a letter from the GLO office, under the signature of Deputy Commissioner Richard B. Tanner, asking El Paso to release its jurisdiction so that the parcel could be annexed by Horizon City.

"We again find ourselves in a circumstance where property that is contiguous with our current incorporated limits and logically an extension of our community nonetheless falls outside of our jurisdiction," Morales wrote.

It was unclear at presstime what steps Horizon City will pursue following El Paso's denial of the request.

Horizon

From Page 1

term in office be extended from two years to four.

A fifth proposal he intends to present to council includes the stipulation that ordinances approved by council become effective on the date of vote rather than the subsequent date on which they are published.

Meanwhile, Morales said enforcement of ordinance violations have been a priority for his administration. A total of 112 code violations have been reported, 90 of which were actual violations. Of those, all but 17 have been resolved. He said a total of seven parcels within the city have been cleaned by city personnel, and five of those have required that liens be placed on the property to cover the cost incurred in the process.

On another front, Morales said it appears that two lawsuits filed against the town will be successfully settled through arbitration. Both lawsuits, one involving Land of Texas developments and a second by B&G Development, arose following the declaration of a moratorium on development during the administration of former Mayor Dianne Whitty.

Anthony Independent School District Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balance Governmental Funds For the Year Ended August 31, 2005

Data Control Codes	10 General Fund	60 Capital Projects	Other Funds	Total Governmental Funds
REVENUES:				
5700 Total Local and Intermediate Sources	\$ 1,830,216	\$ 5,238	\$ 573,349	\$ 2,408,803
5800 State Program Revenues	4,025,227	—	335,800	4,361,027
5900 Federal Program Revenues	382,524	—	682,125	1,064,649
5020 Total Revenues	6,237,967	5,238	1,591,274	7,834,479
EXPENDITURES:				
Current:				
0011 Instruction	2,967,506	—	567,401	3,534,907
0012 Instructional Resources and Media Services	147,346	—	1,500	148,846
0013 Curriculum and Instructional Staff Development	2,989	—	55,156	58,145
0021 Instructional Leadership	153,007	—	27,770	180,777
0023 School Leadership	345,374	—	6,937	352,311
0031 Guidance, Counseling and Evaluation Services	61,090	—	38,759	99,849
0032 Social Work Services	5,843	—	—	5,843
0033 Health Services	104,174	—	1,000	105,174
0034 Student (Pupil) Transportation	42,962	—	1,165	44,127
0035 Food Services	331,842	—	33,276	365,118
0036 Cocurricular/Extracurricular Activities	219,853	—	—	219,853
0041 General Administration	426,395	—	1,564	427,959
0051 Plant Maintenance and Operations	693,562	—	37,185	730,747
0052 Security and Monitoring Services	23,281	—	—	23,281
0053 Data Processing Services	194,066	—	750	194,816
0061 Community Services	70,000	—	—	70,000
Debt Service:				
0071 Debt Service - Principal on long-term debt	21,499	—	171,000	192,499
0072 Debt Service - Interest on long-term debt	3,282	—	280,352	283,634
0073 Debt Service - Bond Issuance Cost and Fees	—	—	25,016	25,016
Capital Outlay:				
0081 Facilities Acquisition and Construction	—	154,317	406,528	560,845
Intergovernmental:				
0093 Payments to Fiscal Agent/Member Districts of SSA	—	—	4,769	4,769
6030 Total Expenditures	5,814,071	154,317	1,660,128	7,628,516
1100 Excess (Deficiency) of Revenues Over (Under) Expenditures	423,896	(149,079)	(68,854)	205,963
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES):				
7911 Capital Related Debt Issued (Regular Bonds)	—	203,000	897,000	1,100,000
7915 Transfers In	40,325	162	—	40,487
8911 Transfers Out (Use)	(40,325)	—	(162)	(40,487)
8940 Payment to Bond Refunding Escrow Agent (Use)	—	—	(905,000)	(905,000)
7080 Total Other Financing Sources (Uses)	—	203,162	(8,162)	195,000
1200 Net Change in Fund Balances	423,896	54,083	(77,016)	400,963
0100 Fund Balance — September 1 (Beginning)	412,007	746	84,092	496,845
3000 Fund Balance — August 31 (Ending)	\$ 835,903	\$ 54,829	\$ 7,076	\$ 897,808



Briefs

From Page 1

■ The 2006 852-prefix telephone directory is currently under production. The telephone listings that appear in this directory are purchased from a professional listing service registered with the Federal Trade Commission, and therefore may not contain some numbers with the 852 prefix which are unlisted or are registered on a Do Not Call list. If your 852 prefix number has been registered on a Do Not Call List but you would like to have your number appear in this community directory, you must provide Homesteader News, Inc. with written authorization. If we receive your written authorization by Feb. 28, 2006 your number will be included. Please send authorizations to: Homesteader News, Inc., 15344 Werling Court, Horizon City, TX 79928.

■ The Texas Elementary Principals and Supervisors Association has named James Vasquez of H.D. Hilley Elementary as District 19's Assistant Principal of the Year, an award that recognized outstanding school administrators for leadership and dedication to children. He was recognized Feb. 6 in Austin. The UTEP graduate has worked for Socorro ISD for 10 years, and this is his second year as an assistant principal.

■ Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class Roberto E. Acevedo, son of Enriqueta and Fernando Acevedo, and his fellow shipmates are in the middle of a scheduled deployment while assigned to the amphibious transport dock USS Austin, homeported in Norfolk, Va. USS Austin deployed with Expeditionary Strike Group 8 to 5th Fleet Area of Operations to conduct Maritime Security Operations (MSO). MSO denies international terrorists use of the maritime environment as a venue for attack or to transport personnel, weapons or other materials. Acevedo is a 2000 graduate of Americas High School of El Paso, Texas and joined the Navy in July 2000.

■ Coast Guard Seaman Francisco J. Cortez, nephew of Antonio Medina of San Elizario, recently graduated from the U.S. Coast Guard Recruit Training Center in Cape May, N. J. During the eight-week training program, Cortez completed a vigorous training curriculum consisting of academics and practical instruction on water safety and survival, military customs and courtesies, seamanship skills, first aid, fire fighting and marksmanship. He joins 36,000 other men and women who comprise Coast Guard's force. Cortez is a 2003 graduate of San Elizario High School of San Elizario, Texas.

■ Top track athletes from 11 high schools will converge at the Socorro ISD Student Activities

Complex on Feb. 17-18 where El Dorado High School will host its first varsity track meet. Athletes from Socorro, Fabens, Del Valle, Americas, Montwood, Horizon, Franklin, Hanks and Lubbock Coronado will participate beginning at 2 p.m.

■ Persons considering starting or expanding a business are invited by the Small Business Administration to a seminar in Horizon City on Wednesday, Feb. 15, 2006 at Col. John O Ensor Middle School, 13600 Ryderwood, 5 to 7 p.m. Reasonable arrangements for persons with disabilities will be made if requested at least two weeks in advance. Call for reserve seating or other information at 633-7001. Among topics to be discussed are Express Programs which can include loan amounts of up to \$250,000, with as much as \$5,000 - \$25,000 without collateral, minimized paperwork, seven-year repayment terms, targeting to rural areas and free training and support provided.

■ Region 19 will host a meeting for parents of children in Special Education on Feb. 20, 3-7 p.m. at the Education Center at 11670 Chito Samaniego Drive in El Paso. For more information contact your individual campus or call the Region 19 Center.

■ The UTEP Office of Special Events is looking for musicians to participate in the 2nd annual UTEP Border Music Festival March 7-10. The four-day event will feature three bands, in three different genres. A total of 12 groups will be chosen to represent the city's best in hip-hop, rock, alternative, acoustic and more. Bands will be required to perform a 45-55 minute set, attend meet-and-greet sessions, autograph signings and do media interviews one week prior to the event. Musicians interested in participating should contact Ricky Nichols, coordinator for the UTEP Border Music Festival, at 747-5481.

Canutillo Middle School basketball teams win district championships

By Alfredo Vasquez
Special to the Courier

UPPER VALLEY — Canutillo Middle School boys basketball seventh and eighth grade teams won their respective district championship title to culminate outstanding seasons for the Upper Valley school.



— Photo courtesy Canutillo ISD

PERFECT SCORE — The Canutillo Middle School eighth grade basketball team compiled a perfect 7-0 record. Shown front row from left: Daniel Dovali, John De La Rosa, Sammy Gutierrez, Oscar Cenicerros, Dominick Ruiz, Marcus Quintana, Ricardo Fraire; back row from left are manager Amanda Arreola, Shawn Castro, Emmanuel Reyes, Isaac Alvarado, Coach Bueno, Carlos Rucker, Misael Garcia, Abraham Maldonado, and managers Diane Hernandez and Reyna Siqueros.

CMS seventh grade team defeated Clint Middle School, 56 to 52, in the championship game held at Horizon High School to finish with six wins and one loss in district play. The seventh grade boys ended the season with an overall record of eight wins and four losses. Point guard Jonathan Porras was named the team's most valuable player.

CMS seventh grade coach is Christopher Scott, a physical education

See BASKETBALL, Page 6

To ADVERTISE CALL 852-3235

**Canutillo Independent School District
Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balance
Governmental Funds
For the Year Ended August 31, 2005**

Data Control Codes	10 General Fund	60 Capital Projects	Other Funds	Total Governmental Funds
REVENUES:				
5700 Total Local and Intermediate Sources	\$10,383,665	\$ 221,415	\$ 1,709,613	\$ 12,314,693
5800 State Program Revenues	22,551,646	—	2,959,709	25,511,355
5900 Federal Program Revenues	3,082,263	—	5,678,530	8,760,793
5020 Total Revenues	36,017,574	221,415	10,347,852	46,586,841
EXPENDITURES:				
Current:				
0011 Instruction	19,307,822	—	3,106,639	22,414,461
0012 Instructional Resources and Media Services	377,849	—	393,481	771,330
0013 Curriculum and Instructional Staff Development	403,250	—	1,152,647	1,555,897
0021 Instructional Leadership	864,621	—	235,617	1,100,238
0023 School Leadership	1,713,760	—	14,707	1,728,467
0031 Guidance, Counseling and Evaluation Services	801,087	—	118,061	919,148
0032 Social Work Services	85,089	—	1,074	86,163
0033 Health Services	306,113	—	33,515	339,628
0034 Student (Pupil) Transportation	1,294,459	—	13,334	1,307,793
0035 Food Services	2,988,617	—	229,530	3,218,147
0036 Cocurricular/Extracurricular Activities	763,195	—	31,726	794,921
0041 General Administration	1,825,425	—	10,125	1,835,550
0051 Plant Maintenance and Operations	3,545,725	—	155,001	3,700,726
0052 Security and Monitoring Services	10,614	—	—	10,614
0053 Data Processing Services	494,146	—	84,259	578,405
0061 Community Services	189,817	—	446,781	636,598
Debt Service:				
0071 Debt Service - Principal on long-term debt	595,000	—	1,360,000	1,955,000
0072 Debt Service - Interest on long-term debt	189,364	—	2,061,171	2,250,535
0073 Debt Service -Bond Issuance Cost and Fees	37,397	—	6,022	43,419
Capital Outlay:				
0081 Facilities Acquisition and Construction	351,530	13,910,980	299,182	14,561,692
Intergovernmental:				
0093 Payments to Fiscal Agent/Member Districts of SSA	—	—	544,475	544,475
6030 Total Expenditures	36,144,880	13,910,980	10,297,347	60,353,207
1100 Excess (Deficiency) of Revenues Over (Under) Expenditures	(127,306)	(13,689,565)	50,505	(13,766,366)
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES):				
7911 Capital-related Debt Issued (Regular Bonds)	750,000	—	—	750,000
7080 Total Other Financing Sources (Uses)	750,000	—	—	750,000
1200 Net Change in Fund Balances	622,694	(13,689,565)	50,505	(13,016,366)
0100 Fund Balance — September 1 (Beginning)	6,811,316	17,761,819	2,235,590	26,808,725
3000 Fund Balance — August 31 (Ending)	\$ 7,434,010	\$ 4,072,254	\$ 2,286,095	\$ 13,792,359

Former Miner Antonio Davis hits behavior bump — his wife's

By Steve Escajeda
Special to the Courier

Former UTEP basketball star Antonio Davis finds himself in a Toronto Raptors uniform today — for the second time in his career. It's the third different uniform he's worn in less than a year.

Davis finished last season with the Chicago Bulls, he opened this year with the New York Knicks and was just traded back to Toronto.

The big question is why. Why is Davis suddenly so expendable?

Maybe it's the fact that he is 37 years old now and his skills have diminished a bit.

Maybe it's the incident that happened in Chicago, when he walked into the stands to confront what he

thought was an overzealous fan.

Or maybe it's the fact that his wife resembles one of those WWE wrestling gals who — when confronted — stick their finger in your face and challenge you to a steel cage death match.

I can't think of many other NBA players who conduct themselves with as much class as Antonio Davis. He's a menacing figure on the court, but a rational thinking, man's-man when off of it.

He's always in control, always careful of what he says and always mindful of his actions and his surroundings.

So if it's true that opposites attract, Davis has certainly met his one-in-a-million.

Kendra Davis is quickly making a name for herself around the league. And it's not as a candidate for Miss

Congeniality.

At first, everyone around the country thought Antonio Davis was marching into the crowd a few weeks ago to save his defenseless wife against some liquored-up imbecile who had been mercilessly taunting her.

But all accounts of the fans near the scene and all the videotape taken of the encounter clearly show that it was Davis' wife who was the aggressor.

She was sticking her finger in the face of the male fan and he was motioning the security guard to please control this unruly fan.

If this were an isolated incident most of us would still be giving Kendra Davis the benefit of the doubt. But this was not an isolated incident.

She made news again last week when a warrant was issued for her arrest after she was charged with misde-

meanor battery for allegedly throwing a cup of coffee at a woman during a traffic argument a few months ago.

Seems Mrs. Davis was also driving around with a suspended license. Now I know for a fact that the Davis' have enough money to renew her license.

She told police that she did throw coffee at the lady but said she did so because the lady had used a racial slur, which the lady denied.

As bad as all that is — there's more.

There was that incident a few years ago when she got into a verbal confrontation on the court with, of all people, Latrell Sprewell.

There was that time when Kendra was upset at what a Toronto newspaper columnist had written. So at the next practice, she verbally attacked the writer with such vulgar language that security had to intervene.

There was the time that she said she would rather play in the United States instead of Toronto so her children could learn more about their

African-American heritage. After her husband was traded to Chicago, in their first game at Toronto, Kendra wore a t-shirt which read, "I love my life" and joked to reporters that she was proud of her legacy as the woman who got A.D. traded.

I wonder what kind of t-shirt Kendra Davis will wear now that her husband is back in Toronto?

I respect Antonio Davis immensely and it's a shame that these episodes are going to tarnish what has been an impeccable record of behavior going back to his days as a Miner.

And the incident in Chicago was more than just embarrassing, it cost the Davis' around \$700,000, which was the amount of money Antonio lost for serving a five-game suspension.

I'm all for cheering your spouse on at the game. But if you're going to dish it out by wearing a t-shirt demeaning the city of Toronto, then you have to learn to take it when a fan yells at your husband.

Write stuff

Dear Editor:

Animal Heartline of El Paso rescues animals living in horrible conditions — starving, neglected, abused... the list goes on. When these animals are rescued they are screened by a vet and placed in loving foster homes while the perfect home for them is found. In order for me to take in these animals and save

them from the abuse they live in, I also need foster homes that I can place them in until I find them their new permanent home. This is where I need the help of all animal lovers out there.

I need the community to extend their homes to these neglected and abused animals while I find them a permanent home. I do not want to put them in shelters — these dogs have been through enough and they need to be in a home and experience love.

Right now I am in urgent need for

a foster home to house a beautiful tan Lab/Chow mix. He is a very friendly dog that does not bark. He is coming from a very abusive home where he was neglected and never given food or water. I need somebody to keep him until I find him a loving home that will give him all the attention and love in the world.

If you are interested in being a foster parent please call me at 833-1737.

Jessie Miller
El Paso

Basketball

From Page 5

teacher. "We started off bumpy... managed to finish third in the Eastwood Knolls tournament at the beginning of the season, but we really improved as the season progressed," he said.

CMS eighth grade team compiled a perfect seven and zero record in district play and an eight-win-four-loss overall record. The eighth grade boys defeated Fabens Middle School, 48 to 41 in the semi-final game and East Montana Middle School, 48 to 25, in the championship game. Abraham Maldonado, who played all positions during the season, was selected the team's most valuable player.

"The eighth grade team showed a lot of determination and heart throughout the season, and it paid off by going undefeated in district play," said CMS eighth grade Coach Joe Bueno, a computer applications teacher.



— Photo courtesy Canutillo ISD

DISTRICT CHAMPS — Canutillo Middle School seventh grade basketball team is shown front from left: Jorge Galan, Pablo Atondo, Jacob Larrea, Steven Aires, Robert Diaz, Julio Acevedo, Hiram Espinoza; back row from left: Jacky Ulloa, manager, Juan Garcia, Trey King, Coach Scott, Jonathan Porras, Steven Betancourt, and managers Melanie Garcia and Amanda Acevedo.

Fights

From Page 3

was happening.

Johnny Tapia, who was in the stands, got more cheers and recognition than the so-called "Champion

and Contender." It was so bad, that the organizers canceled the post-fight press conference. Now that's bad!

— Contributed by Jan Engels

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:

TUESDAY, FEB. 14, 2006

DESIGN/BUILD SERVICES FOR TRANSPORTATION SERVICE FACILITY RFP NO. 199-0214-6058 ACCEPTED UNTIL 10:00 A.M.

ABOVE GROUND STORAGE TANK CONVERSION OF EXISTING FACILITY CSP NO. 199-0214-6059 ACCEPTED UNTIL 10:30 A.M.

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 and on the Socorro ISD website: www.sisd.net. WTCC-02/9/06

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, 851-2091-fax, or it will be sold at public auction for charges: VIN - IFTDFISN9MLA34355, 1987 Ford F-150, black, Oklahoma license VDS-043 WTCC-02/09/06

BARGAINS

SHELLED PE-CANS - \$5/pound. Call 858-3857 to place order. 657 Winn Rd., Socorro, Texas

REAL ESTATE

HOUSE FOR SALE - Northeast El Paso. 3 bedroom, 1-1/2 bath, liv-room, den, kitchen. \$80,000. (915) 755-8262. 2/9

I'M MAD... at banks who don't give house loans because of bad credit, problems or new employment. I do, call L.D. Kirk, Homeland Mortgages, (254) 947-4475. 2/9

NEED A HOME? Good or bad credit, money available. Call Ruth, 821-2872, C. Starr Realty.

Lots for sale in San Elizario. Call 851-9008.

RENTALS

TWO BEDROOM HOUSE for rent, 13010 Richfield St. in Clint, Texas. References required. Call Frank Macias, 851-2007 or 588-0968. Available Feb. 1, 2006. TFN

HOUSE FOR RENT, 3 bedroom, 2 bath, 2-car garage, 1/2-acre fenced. Across from Surratt Elementary. 851-1546. 2/16

SERVICES

"Windshield Ding — Gimme a Ring"

JIFFY GLASS REPAIR

Windshield Repair Specialists By appt. at your home or office: 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 roofer service for sewers and drains •Appliance installation •Many other plumbing services Licensed, bonded and insured for your protection.

SISD swimmers excel in district championships

By Carlos A. Briano
Special to the Courier

EAST EL PASO COUNTY — The El Dorado girls swim team won the 2-4A District title for the second year in a row on Jan. 27 at Memorial pool.

The boys swim team finished in as 2-4A District runner-ups.

El Dorado had 22 regional qualifiers: Kimberley Azcarate, Brittain Burton, Stephenie Carasquillo, Julie Connor, Priscilla Contreras,

Marcela Erives, Danielle Griego, Kayla Hartford, Leeza Henry, Ashley Martinez, Cynthia Mendoza, Cassandra Meza, Cristina Montoya, Albert Barraza, Randall Henry, Oscar Lopez, Andy Martinez, Aaron Mireles, Luis Puentes, Mark Solis, Arturo Vasquez, and Timothy Worsham.

Also, Aaron Mireles and Marcela Erives were named District Swimmers of the Year and Coach John Haddox was named District Girls Coach of the Year.



— Photo courtesy Socorro ISD

TWO-TIME CHAMPS — The El Dorado girls swim team won the 2-4A District title for the second year in a row.

Morales and Katie Havlovic, won first place with a time of 1:55.51. This is the third year a Montwood relay has won this event.

Montwood is the only SISD high school to produce a state finalist in swimming.

"We have sent one swimmer each of the past two years to the State Championship Meet," says Montwood swim coach Tom Arnold. "We hope to make it three years in a row this season!"

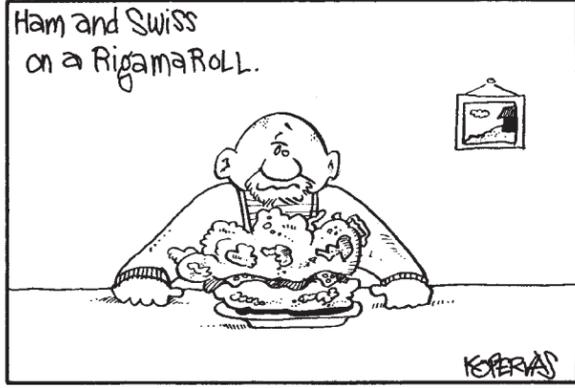
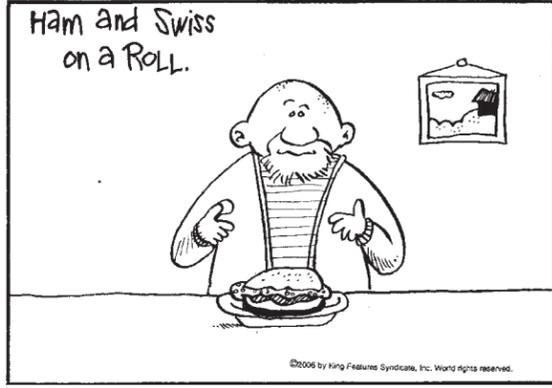


— Photo courtesy Socorro ISD

THE DEEP END — The Montwood High 200-yard medley relay team from left: Pamela Parra, Annia Parra, Coach Tom Arnold, Ileana Morales and Katie Havlovic.

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



No smoking gun for these crimes

By Don Flood

James Frey, author of the best-selling "Million Little Pieces," may have done a very bad thing. He may not have done the very bad things he said he did.

The Smoking Gun, a Web site, says Frey's memoir greatly exaggerates his criminal record.

Frey has now threatened to sue The Smoking Gun for alleging — and this is where it differs from your garden-variety lawsuit — that he *didn't* commit the crimes he said he did — a sort of anti-libel.

We may break new legal ground here:

LAWYER 1: My client is invoking the Bizarro World Fifth Amendment, which guarantees him the right to incriminate himself. I refer to episode 135 of "Seinfeld."

LAWYER 2: Your honor, the plaintiff has no right to claim he's guilty of a crime. He must prove it in this court of law.

JUDGE: Not in Bizarro World, he doesn't. He's guilty until proven innocent.

LAWYER 2: That's not fair
JUDGE: I don't have to be fair. This is Bizarro World.

LAWYER 2: No, it's not, and you are a fair judge.

JUDGE: Watch it, counselor, or I may find you *not* in contempt of court.

LAWYER 2: Where's Kramer when I need him?!

Naturally, we don't want our whole legal system to dissolve into Bizarro World, unless, of course, you're a big fan of Court TV.

So it's obvious we need a big, expensive federal bureaucracy to guarantee and certify the truthiness of our nation's memoirs, which are fast becoming the foundation of our nation's publishing industry. (My wife, for example, reads five

memoirs each night.)

In fact, if present trends continue, by April 26, 2022 the average American will have written five memoirs — by the time he turns 18.

This is important to our financial well-being, as memoir royalty payments are expected to pick up the slack once Social Security goes kaploopy.

And we have the perfect agency to do it — FEMA. Make a slight change and it becomes the *new* and *improved* Federal Emergency Memoir Administration, with the head appointed by Oprah Winfrey, as outlined in the U.S. Constitution.

The question now is what's Oprah going to do about Frey's "Million Little Pieces," which she anointed last fall as a must-buy. (Oprah watchers who do not buy the book within the specified 72-hour time limit are subject to arrest, prosecution and torture.)

But no matter what Oprah decides, my chief concern is assuring my readers that I would never falsify or exaggerate anything I write. The prestigious careers I gave up to be a columnist include: movie star, professional quarterback and — this one, I admit, I sometimes regret not following up — a lucrative job as a professional beer taster that included my own yacht and 10 months of paid vacation a year.

That proves how much I care. In fact, while some writers like Frey are satisfied with a measly 95 percent accuracy, my columns are certified by Price Waterhouse to range from 150 percent to 200 percent accuracy each week — 55 weeks a year.

And I'll sue anyone who says otherwise.

(c) 2006 King Features Synd., Inc.

King Super Crossword

POETIC PEOPLE

- ACROSS**
 1 Gravy vessel
 5 Lord of the ring?
 8 School subject
 11 Energy
 14 Early bird's reward
 18 Competent
 19 Land mass
 21 Epoch
 22 Field of study
 23 Prime-time cartoon character
 25 Speed
 27 Discern
 28 Fill to the gills
 29 Rug material
 30 W. Hemisphere grp.
 31 Lend an _ (listen)
 33 "Cheers" actress
 37 Marvels
 41 "Star Trek" navigator
 42 Novelist Ayn
 43 _Magnon
 44 Late-night name
 46 Limber with language
 48 Proclamation
 52 "In the Heat of the Night" role
 56 Grant and Elwes
 59 Muckraker Nellie
 60 Actress Braga
 61 Schoolboy's shot
 62 "Friends," e.g.
 63 NASA affirmative

- 64 Marley's music
 67 Blind part name
 70 Egg on
 71 Gary Cooper role
 75 Pacific archipelago
 78 Stain
 79 To be, to Baudelaire
 80 Muzzles
 83 Hosp. area
 84 Snow White's dwarfs, e.g.
 86 Bach's "Bist du bei _"
 88 Civil Rights org.
 90 "I kid you _"
 91 John of "The Addams Family"
 92 '37 Masters Tournament winner
 95 Mournful sound
 97 Granola fruit
 99 Challenge
 100 RN's specialty
 101 Spanish-American coin
 104 Shape
 106 Hung loosely
 109 TV pioneer
 112 Mintz or Whitney
 113 Offense
 114 A Ford
 115 Cinderella's soiree
 119 Gymnast Korbut
 122 Charm

- 124 "The Pink Panther" director
 128 Prayer finale
 129 Pub potable
 130 _ cuff
 131 James of "Rollerball"
 132 Moreno or Hayworth
 133 Take-home
 134 What a feller needs
 135 " _ Day Now" ('62 hit)
 136 Rotund wrestling?
- DOWN**
 1 Humbug lead-in
 2 Bassoon relative
 3 Charity
 4 Home on the range?
 5 Loser to DDE
 6 San _Obispo, CA
 7 Cookbook author
 8 Evaluate
 9 "Blame It on _" ('84 film)
 10 Catch some rays
 11 Problem for Pauline
 12 Pencil end
 13 Tropical treat
 14 Gum gob
 15 Sky stalker
 16 Price twice
 17 Giants Hall-of-

- Famer
 20 Intelligent
 24 Author Cornelius
 26 Malady
 29 Channel
 32 Bagel or bialy
 34 Warm embraces
 35 Pipe connection
 36 Unmatched
 37 Earlier
 38 Mezzo Marilyn
 39 Encountered
 40 Impudent one
 43 Eckerd competitor
 45 Stout
 47 Uncovered
 49 Bridge support
 50 Drain problem
 51 Little guy
 53 Tenor Beniamino
 54 Emilia's husband
 55 "Petrouchka," for one
 57 Annoys
 58 Neighbor of Oman
 62 Tempestuous
 65 Llama turf
 66 "Aida" setting
 68 Cover girl Carol
 70 Ordinary
 72 Foul-smelling
 73 Yankovic descriptive
 74 Completed
 75 Informer
 76 Computer image
 77 Burlap fiber
 81 Sample the souffle

- 82 Negative one?
 84 Honors
 85 Kind of paint
 87 Highway
 89 MBNA competitor
 92 Class ring?
 93 New Deal agcy.
 94 Hawaii's state bird
 96 Cholesterol letters
 98 Rocky hill
 102 Basketball's Dennis
 103 Store sign
 105 Cross words?
 107 Be happy
 108 Fragrant flowers
 109 TV's " _ Vice"
 110 Small bay
 111 Stephen Vincent _
 113 Night light?
 116 Alias initials
 117 " _ smile be your ..."
 118 Spinks or Trotsky
 120 Writer Shirley Ann
 121 Leading man?
 123 _ nutshell
 124 Bikini part
 125 Deli delicacy
 126 Word with cell or spell
 127 _ -Cat (winter vehicle)

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	
18				19		20				21			22				
23			24							25		26					
	27					28				29				30			
			31		32			33	34	35				36			
		37	38			39	40		41		42						
43				44		45		46		47		48		49	50	51	
52			53	54				55		56		57	58		59		
60						61				62					63		
	64			65	66		67		68			69			70		
			71				72			73				74			
75	76	77				78			79			80			81	82	
83				84			85		86		87		88			89	
90			91						92			93	94				
95				96			97		98			99				100	
			101		102	103		104		105		106		107	108		
	109	110					111					112					
113				114						115	116	117	118		119	120	121
122			123					124	125				126				127
128						129			130							131	
132							133			134				135			136

Answer Page 4

Social Security Q&A By Ray Vigil

Q: I am getting Social Security disability benefits, but now have the chance to try and work several hours a week for my neighbor. Will my benefits be affected if I work and earn money?

A: Social Security has special rules called "work incentives" that help you keep your cash benefits and Medicare while you test your ability to work. For example, there is a trial work period during which you can receive full benefits regardless of how much you earn, as long as you

report your work activity and continue to have a disabling impairment. After the trial work period ends, your benefits will stop during the months your earnings are at a level we consider "substantial," which is \$860 per month in 2006.

Q: I understand that the new Medicare prescription drug plan went into effect this month. Does that mean it is too late for my mother to sign up?

A: No, it is not too late to sign up, but you should encourage your

mother to act as soon as possible. While the prescription drug program went into effect on January 1, 2006, beneficiaries are able to choose and enroll in a plan through May 15, 2006 without any penalty. For those with limited incomes and resources, there is still time to apply for extra financial help with the costs of premiums, deductibles and co-payments. You can qualify for this help as an individual if your total annual income is below \$14,355 and your resources are valued below \$10,000. The limits for a married couple living together are higher: \$19,245 in combined annual income and \$20,000 in resources. These resources can be

slightly higher — an additional \$1,500 per person — if you will be using some of your money for burial expenses. Even if your income is higher, you still may be able to get some help if, for example, you or your spouse supports other family members who live with you, if you have earnings from work.

Q: I turned 65 last year but didn't bother applying for benefits because my neighbor said the new retirement age was 67. Now a co-worker tells me the retirement age is 66. Who is right?

A: Social Security's full retirement

age is rising from 65 to 67, but the change is gradual. For people born in 1940, full retirement age is 65 and 6 months. For those born in 1941, it is 65 and 8 months. You can determine exactly what your full retirement age is by visiting the Social Security website at www.socialsecurity.gov.

For more information visit your local Social 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.

7-DAY FORECAST FOR EL PASO, TX

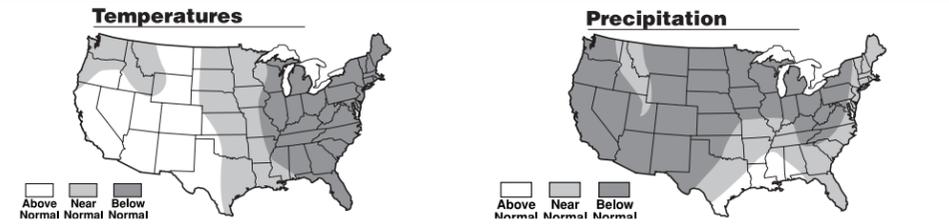
AccuWeather.com®

Thursday	Thu. night	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
Partly sunny	Patchy clouds	Variable cloudiness	Mostly sunny	Mostly sunny	Mostly sunny	Times of clouds and sun	Abundant sunshine
62°	42°	62° / 37°	59° / 34°	61° / 36°	65° / 36°	64° / 36°	65° / 35°
RealFeel 69°	RealFeel 36°	RealFeel 62° / 29°	RealFeel 55° / 27°	RealFeel 58° / 29°	RealFeel 62° / 26°	RealFeel 63° / 41°	RealFeel 70° / 42°

The patented RealFeel Temperature® is AccuWeather's exclusive index of the effects of temperature, wind, humidity, sunshine, precipitation, and elevation on the human body.

WEATHER TRENDS THIS WEEK

IN THE SKY



Sun	Rise	Set	Moon	Rise	Set	Full	Last
Thu.	6:53 a.m.	5:47 p.m.	Thu.	2:38 p.m.	4:50 a.m.		
Fri.	6:52 a.m.	5:48 p.m.	Fri.	3:37 p.m.	5:36 a.m.	2/12	2/21
Sat.	6:51 a.m.	5:49 p.m.	Sat.	4:35 p.m.	6:15 a.m.	New	First
Sun.	6:51 a.m.	5:49 p.m.	Sun.	5:33 p.m.	6:48 a.m.		
Mon.	6:50 a.m.	5:50 p.m.	Mon.	6:29 p.m.	7:18 a.m.	2/27	3/6
Tues.	6:49 a.m.	5:51 p.m.	Tues.	7:24 p.m.	7:44 a.m.		
Wed.	6:48 a.m.	5:52 p.m.	Wed.	8:18 p.m.	8:09 a.m.		

Forecasts and graphics provided by AccuWeather, Inc. ©2006

REGIONAL CITIES

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	37	s	58	33	sh	50	26	pc	53	32	s	Atlanta	40	28	s	50	32	pc	46	28	c	40	28	s
Albuquerque, NM	62	31	s	57	31	pc	53	28	s	54	28	s	Boston	30	19	pc	32	25	sn	34	23	pc	35	27	sn
Amarillo, TX	62	27	s	49	24	pc	42	21	pc	48	24	pc	Chicago	34	22	s	32	18	sf	26	14	pc	28	16	s
Austin, TX	63	35	s	65	38	sh	54	31	c	55	32	c	Denver	59	22	pc	38	13	sf	42	20	pc	46	21	c
Brownsville, TX	77	55	pc	73	59	c	68	49	r	66	49	r	Detroit	32	22	pc	34	20	sf	28	18	sf	26	17	c
Dodge City, KS	55	21	s	40	13	s	38	13	s	44	15	pc	Houston	64	44	s	64	46	sh	54	34	r	56	36	s
Jackson, MS	48	27	s	58	37	sh	45	28	pc	45	28	s	Indianapolis	32	23	s	34	21	sf	30	18	pc	30	19	c
Laredo, TX	72	52	pc	71	51	c	65	43	r	65	47	r	Kansas City	44	21	pc	37	14	pc	33	10	pc	39	16	s
Little Rock, AR	49	29	s	53	29	pc	45	25	s	44	25	pc	Los Angeles	84	50	s	76	50	s	72	52	s	74	52	s
Lubbock, TX	63	32	s	56	24	c	40	15	pc	56	28	s	Miami	69	49	pc	68	55	s	74	58	s	77	56	pc
Memphis, TN	44	28	s	50	32	pc	46	27	pc	43	27	s	Minneapolis	30	15	sf	25	9	sf	19	4	sf	22	9	pc
Midland, TX	65	35	s	61	32	sh	52	27	pc	57	32	s	New Orleans	59	38	s	62	44	pc	56	37	r	52	38	s
Pueblo, CO	64	18	pc	47	13	sh	42	11	pc	48	13	pc	New York City	34	26	pc	38	28	pc	38	28	pc	34	29	pc
Roswell, NM	68	28	s	61	30	pc	54	24	s	58	30	s	Omaha	43	15	pc	34	10	sf	28	8	pc	28	10	pc
St. Louis, MO	42	23	pc	41	20	c	34	18	sf	38	19	pc	Phoenix	77	52	pc	78	49	s	80	50	s	75	50	s
San Antonio, TX	68	40	s	63	44	sh	56	35	c	58	35	c	San Francisco	66	48	s	62	47	s	62	48	s	63	48	s
Texarkana, AR	53	34	s	58	35	pc	48	29	pc	49	29	pc	Seattle	52	36	s	50	38	s	48	38	sh	48	38	s
Waco, TX	60	38	s	62	33	sh	50	28	c	53	33	pc	Washington	37	24	pc	43	29	pc	43	26	pc	34	27	pc
Wichita, KS	51	24	pc	41	16	pc	36	15	s	37	17	s													

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

STIHL®

Premium Brand. Affordable Price.

MS 170 Chain Saw
\$169⁹⁹
 BME-SRP

Includes many of the same excellent features as our professional models.

MS 180 C-BE STIHL MiniBoss™
\$229⁹⁹
 BME-SRP

One of our most popular chain saws for use around the home, now with Easy2Start™. Equipped with electronic ignition, STIHL Quickstop® inertia chain brake, Quick Chain Adjuster and more!

BG 55 Blower
\$159⁹⁹
 BME-SRP

Makes cleanup work much easier. Primer bulb and throttle lock ensure fast starts. Two-stage air filter is easy to remove and replace. Optional vac attachment & gutter kit available.

STIHL - 8,000 Servicing Dealers Nationwide!

Available at participating dealers.

El Paso, TX
Dyer Cycle
 4501 Dyer
 (915) 566-6022

Fabens, TX
Ryan Supply, Inc.
 117 North Fabens
 (915) 764-2239