

WEST TEXAS COUNTY COURIER

VOL. 29, No. 52

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

DECEMBER 26, 2002

NEWSBRIEFS

Crime

State Rep. Joe C. Pickett said last week that he has completed his work on the Governor's Anti-Crime Commission. The working group was created by Gov. Rick Perry by executive order in May 2002 to advise him on the most effective ways to protect Texans from the far-reaching impact of drug trafficking, the threat of sexual predators, and the economic toll of crime. The commission is co-chaired by the Hon. John Hill, former Texas Supreme Court Justice and state Attorney General, and the Hon. Susan D. Reed, current district attorney of Bexar County. The commission conducted six public meetings throughout the state including El Paso where commission members received testimony and discussed the types of technology that exist and are being used by state and local law enforcement agencies. Some of the recommendations by the commission include strengthening the state's laws to better protect Texans against pedophiles and sexual predators; provide continued support to Project Spotlight, which targets gang populations on probation in an intensive effort to break the gang cycle; and support enhancement of penalties for crimes against the elderly.

Lots of pot

Border Patrol agents in the Santa Teresa area seized 3,331 pounds of marijuana on Dec. 19, loaded into two vehicles traveling on New Mexico Highway 9. Two Mexican nationals were arrested in the incident and a firearm and electronic communications equipment were confiscated. Agents said the marijuana was wrapped into 250 bundles and they were surprised at the labor that must have been required to store that much of the illegal plant into every conceivable hauling space in the vehicles.

In other news

■ The Kellogg Community Partnership Volunteer Community Health Advocate *Promotora Program* held at Lorenzo Loya School in San Elizario has resulted in producing 20 "brilliant and committed women of the San Elizario community" who are sufficiently educated in health care issues that they may begin sharing that knowledge with the community. From Aug. 20 through Nov. 20 this year the women attended classes given by area health agencies on health issues and community development skills, including managing diabetes, cholesterol, CPR and first-aid, communicable diseases, drug abuse and environmental health among others. On Dec. 13, the women were honored with a luncheon and graduation event at the Montana Vista Hall in East Montana, hosted by Letty Paez, director of the Kellogg Partnership. Special recognition

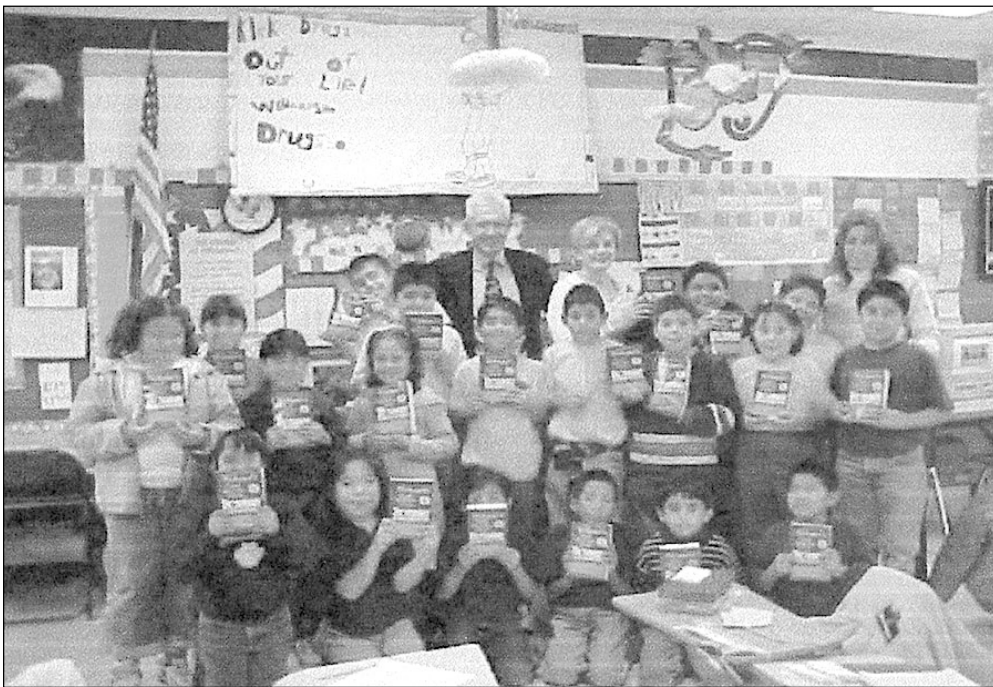
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One gallon of gas plus one pint of liquor often adds up to a first-class funeral.
— Quips and Quotes



Hueco Elementary hits the reading jackpot with 1,000-book donation

EAST EL PASO COUNTY — Hueco Elementary School students Jessica Dominguez and Daniela Barrios listen to Magnolia Coca-Cola's Clark McKean read from one of the 1,000 hardback books the firm recently donated to the school.



Fabens kids receive valuable learning tools from Robisons

EAST EL PASO COUNTY — Fabens ISD third graders thanked Mr. and Mrs. J. Kirk Robison in person last week for the donation of individual Webster dictionaries the couple donated to the class. The Robisons were invited to O'Donnell Elementary and Fabens Primary School on Dec. 16, where they were given a huge thank you note from the kids. But the only thanks Mr. Robison wanted was their promise that they would use their dictionaries daily in their schoolwork. "The students were more than happy to give their promise," said Fabens Curriculum Facilitator Cindy Belton.

Metz receives Bill Newkirk award

EL PASO COUNTY — Leon Metz, El Paso area historian/author, was given the annual Bill Newkirk Award for Hospitality Greatness in memory of the association's former executive director during the El Paso Hotel/Motel Association's second annual Banquet of the Bell, held Dec. 5 at the Hilton El Paso Airport.

Metz was also the evening's featured guest, holding forth about the history of El Paso's hotel.

One of the El Paso area's most popular speakers, Metz claimed to be "flabbergasted, lost for words" when called to the podium to

receive his plaque and a standing ovation from association members and guests.

About 60 members and guests applauded as Richard Cane, general manager of the Hilton El Paso Airport was named Hotel General Manager of the Year and Kaywyn Byram, owner/president of Si El Paso Tours was recognized as Associate Member of the Year.

The El Paso Hotel/Motel Association is a non-profit organization whose purpose is the improvement and advancement of the hospitality industry in El Paso

Effort to discuss relationship between Socorro's mayor and council fails during public meeting

By Arleen Beard
Special to the Courier

SOCORRO — For the past seven months, communication between Socorro Mayor Irma Sanchez and the City Council has been tense — as a result an effort to improve communication and maintain professionalism was placed on the City Council agenda for the regularly scheduled Council meeting on Dec. 19.

Both parties said they want to discuss ways to eliminate discrepancies regarding their communication.

Part of the problem, according to members of Council, stem from unwillingness to cooperate with each other.

During discussion, several accusations were made. In general, City Council members said they would like to see Mayor Sanchez practice her open door policy.

After several minutes of heated discussion, where no progress was being made, some concerned citizens in the audience spoke up and expressed their disappointment in the lack of respect being shown for one another.

One concerned citizen suggested all of Council, including the Mayor, should attend some sort of retreat to iron out their differences. After some members of the audience expressed their disapproval of the relationship, Council went on to the next item on the agenda due to lack of accomplishment in settling the issue. No final decision was made on the agenda item.

In other business, Sen. Eliot Shapleigh made a presentation to Council regarding the Rio Vista Farm Historic District. Sen. Shapleigh informed Council of his support for the City of Socorro to acquire the deed for the property located at 860 Rio Vista.

Congressman Silvestre Reyes also sent a letter of support for the acquisition of the deed. The expense for acquiring the deed would include the appraised value of the property, which is around \$140,000, and Council was in agreement to pursue the deed.

It was stated that the City has already invested over \$500,000 in the project at the Rio Vista Farm Historic District to improve existing historic structures and to establish a community center.

Marguerite Rivera Houze, Director of Immigration Museum Project at The University of Texas at El Paso, spoke to Council and shared several ideas for the property on Rio Vista. One idea includes an Immigration Museum depicting the history of immigration and aspects of immigration as it exists today.

UTEP representatives said they would like to make this a joint effort with the City of Socorro. Ms. Houze went on to say there are ways to fund ideas such as this.

In other business, Council approved "Agreements to Dedicate" from property owners along a private roadway located off Melendez Road and gave authorization to advertise for engineering, surveying, and legal services that will be required to accept and pave this road.



One perspective

By Francis Shrum

Hearts of the fathers

I was about 12 years old when it occurred to me that my father was not going to live forever.

It was a frightening, chilling realization. I cried myself to sleep for several nights trying to accept this fact.

My hairdo is now frosted with natural gray and he is still around. That's sure a good thing because I need both my parents. I like them and respect them. They've been there for me through thick and thin. I need their counsel, their encouragement, their calm and measured response to life's ups and downs.

I consider myself to be extremely fortunate, because it has been my sad realization that family relations don't always turn out that way.

Judge Max Higgs has announced that he is launching an investigation into the Adult Protective Services here in El Paso. He points to the recent death of an elderly man in a fire in his apartment and of several old folks who were found to be living in absolute squalor while under the supervision of APS.

He is calling for a restructuring of the program, for local accountability, for better training of APS field workers.

I appreciate his outrage and concern but I'm afraid the solutions run far deeper than those he may impose as a matter of law. Because, you see, this is not a matter of law.

It's a matter of the heart.

There are hundreds, maybe thousands, of elderly people who live alone and unassisted in El Paso County right now. They struggle just to dispense with the everyday duties that younger, stronger folks consider routine — keeping the bills paid so they don't get too hot or cold, keep-

ing up with the dishes and the laundry. Keeping food on the table, even for one, can be a continual challenge. Never mind the doctor visits, pet care, banking and handling repairs of their appliances or home.

For all of us, the time will eventually come when we just can't handle these things alone. Everybody, everywhere is going to need help sometime.

It is a sad truth that no matter how much we may believe in President Bush's vision of a nation where neighbor takes care of neighbor, there are some issues involving the elderly that are best handled by family members.

Sure, friends and neighbors can give them a ride to the doctor when asked, pick up groceries and help with minor home repair. But the bottom line is, rather than increase America's neighborliness quotient, we need to heal America's families.

All modern social forces encourage the fulfilling of "personal potential," the obtaining of every material good. When our parents are out-of-sight it is not hard to push them out-of-mind, too. After all, time is already so short and we have our own lives to live, don't we?

Left alone and lonely, it is also mighty easy to become self-focused, to stop reaching out, to be blinded to the ways we could become less lonely, ways we could contribute, could nurture family bonds.

Unless somebody takes some kind of positive action the differences grow, the rifts widen.

Judge Higgs is worried about the financial exploitation of senior citizens. He's worried that some of these folks are living in filth, that they need

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"I understand you provided milk and cookies for Santa Claus... I'm Mr. Claus' attorney..."

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SERVING ANTHONY, VINTON, CANUTILLO, EAST MONTANA, HORIZON, SOCORRO, CLINT, FARENS, SAN ELIZABO AND TORNILLO

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Reyes Reports By U.S. Rep. Silvestre Reyes



Gore no more, just in case you missed it

Former Vice President Al Gore's exit from the 2004 Presidential sweepstakes stirred mixed reactions in D.C. — but the buzz gets louder by the minute.

Early entries in the 2004 Democratic Presidential sweepstakes include Senate Democratic Leader Tom Daschle; House Democratic Leader Richard Gephardt; Sen. Joe Lieberman; Sen. John Kerry; Sen. John Edwards; Sen. Joseph Biden; and Vermont Gov. Howard Dean.

Some are well-known names. Others will cause you to do some digging. This isn't the short list — you can bet on it.

Meanwhile, tax reforms may take an unexpected turn in the weeks to come, as the Bush administration outlines plans to shift more of the tax burden to low income families.

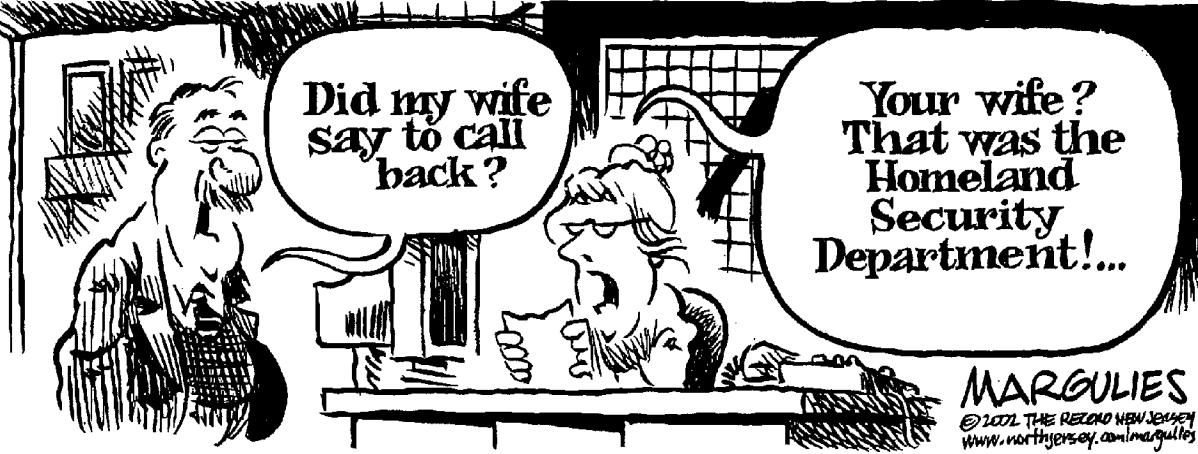
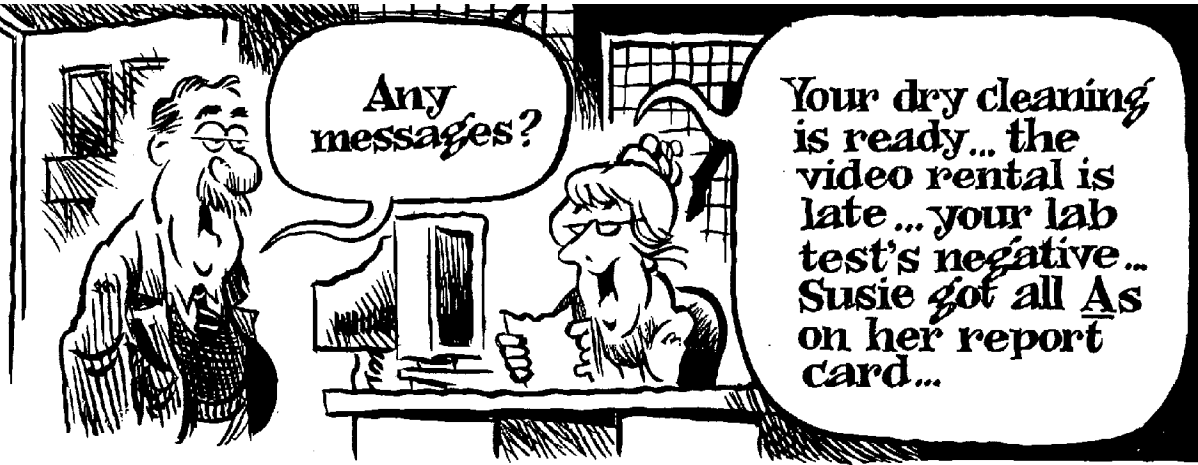
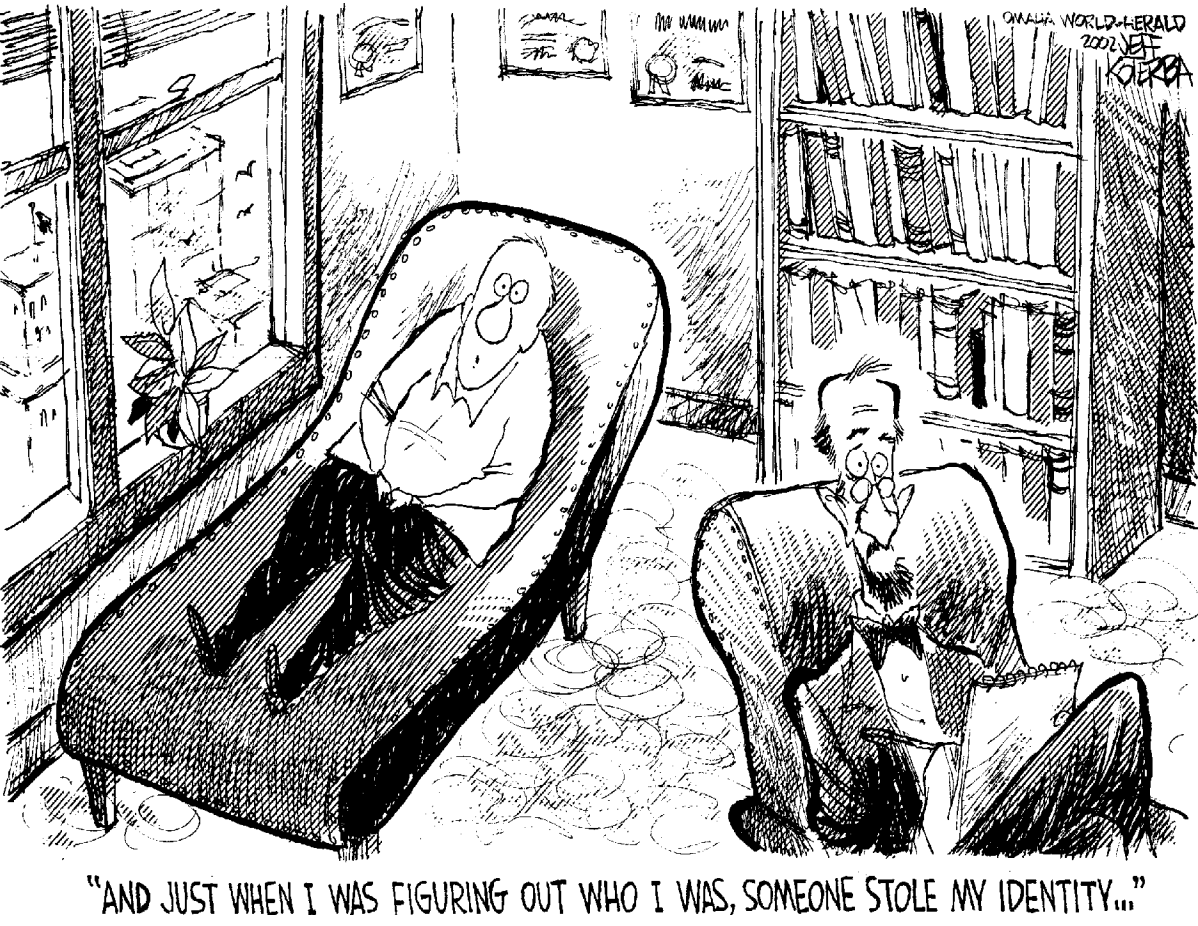
The Treasury Department is busy drafting proposals, and the Administration has made no secret of their intentions. Administration officials point to what they perceive as a growing tax burden on the rich and a declining burden on the poor. The 2003 Economic Report to the President is due out in late January or early February and will shed more light on the plan, which is sure to include new methods for calculating

tax burdens in an attempt to justify the plan. This announcement comes on the heels of the controversial Bush tax cut, which included permanent tax cuts for large corporations.

A peak at the new economic stimulus proposals reveals few signs of relief for working families. The Bush proposal grants middle income individuals earning \$35,000-\$50,000 a year an average of only \$146 in stimulus relief. In contrast, those earning \$150,000-\$200,000 would pocket over \$1,500 each

The CHIP program participation is declining in El Paso. The Children's Health Insurance Program, a dual state-federal program, is the only form of health insurance that many low income El Paso families have, and yet CHIP enrollment in El Paso is down 15-percent over the past 10 months.

The CHIP program is affordable, with enrollment fees as low as \$15 a year, and not exceeding \$18 a month. Eligible families must meet set income requirements. Currently in El Paso, a family of four earning between \$18,100 and \$36,200 a year qualifies for the CHIP program. If you think your family or someone you know could benefit from the CHIP program, contact the El Paso CHIP office at (915) 351-6466.



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

A New Year's resolution

The new year is upon us and once again I find myself wondering where time has gone. It seems just days ago I sat on my couch, watching football and regretting my second-helping of pecan pie on Thanksgiving. The holiday season seems to pass so quickly. It's already time to consider New Year's resolutions. So much has changed in the last two years. I find myself contemplating what New Year's really means.

Unlike many of our traditional holidays, the meaning of New Year's is unclear. Although it is the world's most celebrated holiday, it lacks a single central theme. It is a collection of good intentions. Perhaps, New Year's is simply a yearly detour on the road to self-improvement, enlightenment and finding happiness. A new beginning we are allowed each year.

This year, New Year's finds us at our absolute greatest. Americans have bound together to show their pride and patriotism for our amazing country. Let's ring in this New Year's with an unconquerable will. Let's continue to support our servicemen and women; let's boast our unwavering patriotism; and let's continue to proclaim confidence in our President.

Here are a few suggestions to keep your New Year's resolution on track:

- Don't try everything at once. Odds are in your favor,

if you begin small. Consider sending an encouraging message to troops deployed away from home. Or perhaps scheduling more frequent phone calls to friends and family.

- Be flexible. Allow your resolution to grow with you throughout the year. Don't make a specific resolution, that does not allow for change. Less specific wording such as "this year I will express my patriotism," provides room to challenge yourself to be creative with your resolution throughout the year.
- Make a plan. Search for ways you can volunteer. Help by filling-in roles left behind by those deployed away from home. Devote a specific amount of time to any causes you choose. And ask friends and family to join in the act.

There's no reason why we shouldn't continue to make the traditional resolutions to lose weight and get organized. But it is my hope that we will also focus our resolutions on developing the true spirit of America. Remember to smile and laugh every chance you get. The soul needs to be balanced, as well as the scale. Don't pass up an opportunity to make a difference in someone's life. And most importantly, don't leave anything unsaid. Let's ring 2003 as a nation united and rebuilding together.



For Sanity's Sake By Taprina Milburn

Family resemblance

A relative came through town, and over French toast and scrambled eggs we talked about family. He's my grandmother's nephew and someone who's interested in keeping the family — young and old — connected to our roots.

He told me that he had built a home on family land in the east Texas town of Quitman, where my grandmother was born and raised, and where he's lived all his life.

The visit was fun because he shared stories with me about relatives I've never met and gave me phone numbers of relatives with whom I've lost touch. He told me of births and deaths, reunions and weddings. Before I said goodbye to him, he handed me a family tree that listed my relatives on my grandmother's side dating back to the late 1800s.

All of this would have bored me to tears when I was in my 20s, but as I get older I crave to know the family from which I come.

His visit also was special because he shares with me a love for my grandmother, and I have missed her so lately, upset with myself that since her death I have had very little contact with her side of the family. When he called and we met on my birthday it was as if a present had been dropped out of the sky — and to think there are still people who say God isn't in the small things of life.

Her nephew gave me the gift of sitting with someone who knew her long before I did and hearing him speak her name, Sybil. Her name runs through my mind often, but to hear it spoken by someone so many years after her death is as refreshing as

hearing an old friend call out your own name in a crowd.

Sybil opened her home to people who needed a place to stay, he remembered, and she loved to laugh, sing and play the ukulele and mandolin. Also, she could tell a ghost story that would make the hair on your arms stand.

How do I emphasize to my own kids that we need to sit across the table from the older generation, listen to our family histories and share tales about relatives, both living and dead?

Speak their names.
Honor their memories.
Laugh at their quirks.

By taking part in this process we learn a little more about who we are, what we've carried with us from generations past, and where we're going.

On the day I sat across from my grandmother's nephew I listened, but I also stared, and that's when I noticed something. Right in front of me was a little bit of my grandmother. He has the same forehead, the natural curl in his hair, the nose, the gift of gab, and, of course, there was that east Texas drawl.

I believe that we can't know who we are without looking at who the people in our family are — accepting that we hold within us pieces of them, similar physical, and, certainly, emotional traits.

As you meet with relatives for the holidays have a good listen and a good look.

Receive the gift of family resemblance.

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Hearts From Page 2

to see a doctor. Unfortunately, he is mandating that APS must tread on very delicate ground.

These are issues that even people who know and love the person in question soon find are a minefield fraught with emotional trauma, anger, and the pride of the elderly person involved.

I don't know that any "APS field worker" will ever be qualified. Caution also to the caring neighbor who gets too deeply involved. Chances are you'll face recrimination from the absent offspring — who often become noticeably more concerned after their parent is dead, especially if property is involved. Even with the best intentions it is practically impos-

sible to keep from eventually offending the elderly person when you try to resolve what they consider "sacred" issues.

Enter the family. And how well the family is able to deal with these matters is roughly equivalent to how well they have handled their relationship in the past.

There is a very old and much-ignored book of wisdom with quite a bit to say about family relations — about turning the hearts of the fathers to their children and vice versa and what happens when this vital relationship is ignored.

I'm afraid too many of America's families are experiencing the living consequences of heartlessness.

So, have you written to or called your kids recently just to see how they're doing, to tell them you care? Oh, and you kids, how's your mom?

TRUE TEXAS FACTS by Roger Moore Dec. 31, 1842 Austin citizens keep the state's archives from being moved to Houston despite Pres. Houston's orders.





INTERESTING ART — Gabriel Mendoza, left, top winner at the El Paso Kermezaar Art Show had words of appreciation for art teacher Maka Jones, right, for making art both fun and interesting.

Ensor student takes top honors at Kermezaar Show

By Kelly Mosby
Special to the Courier

HORIZON CITY — Gabriel Mendoza, an eighth grader at John Ensor Middle School in Horizon City, recently won first place and Best of Show for grades sixth through ninth at the Kermezaar Art Show held at the El Paso Civic Center.

Gabriel credits his art teacher, Macka Jones, for helping him develop his artistic ability.

“Mr. Jones not only teaches you how to do it right, but he also makes the class very interesting and lots of fun,” Mendoza said.

He has more words of appreciation

for his coaches and other teachers at Ensor Middle School who “motivate me to do my best” in areas that include earning the Socorro School District Championship in Maps, Graphs and Charts over the past two years, as well as those in math and spelling. Last year he won the Regional Gold Sweepstakes Award in Science at UTEP and was awarded \$450 for his research in microbiology. He won sweepstakes in the Ensor science fair in November and now advances to district.

He is also a regional qualifier in cross country track, plays basketball and is a senior advanced student in Kung Fu, as well as Senior Patrol Leader in Boy Scouts Troop 55.

Briefs

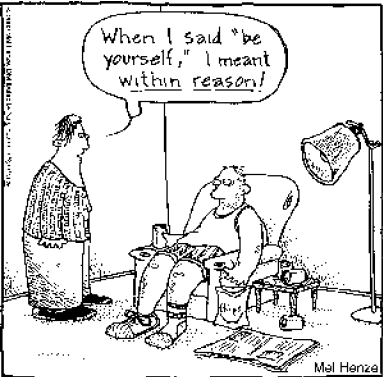
From Page 1

was given to Ernesto Rodriguez, director of Research and Development with the San Elizario school district, for his assistance and support in making the program a success.

■ The Rio Grande Citizen’s Forum of the U.S. Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission will hold a public meeting Jan. 13 at the Chamizal national Memorial Administration Building Conference room at 6:30 p.m. Agenda items to be discussed include the El Paso River Park, the diplomatic process as it relates to the Commission and credit water in Rio Grande Project Reservoirs. For information call Sally Spencer at 915-832-4175.

■ Helen Ball Elementary School, in the Socorro ISD, hosted a silent auction on the internet recently to benefit student Luis Galdos, the six-year-old student who needs a heart transplant. The auction raised about \$2,200. The Galdos family needs to raise \$250,000 to defer expenses associated with the transplant that is not covered by insurance. Principal Paula Wulff, who organized the auction, said an account has been set up at the Chase Bank under the name “Medical Fund for Luis Galdos,” account number 166806524965. Anyone wishing to donate to this fund is invited to stop by the Chase Bank.

■ The TexCare CHIP office, which assists families applying for CHIP and Medicaid, has posted holiday hours of operation. The office will be open Saturdays, Dec. 21 through Jan. 4, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. The office will close Tuesday, Dec. 24 at noon and reopen at 1 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 26. The office will be closed the same hours beginning Dec. 31 through Jan. 2. For information call 351-6466. The office is located at 814 Wyoming Ave. in El Paso.



Greyhound Adoption League requests public assistance

By Michelle J. Brown
Special to the Courier

EL PASO COUNTY — A Greyhound Wish List Tree, with requests for food, supplies and toys from generous pet lovers will be open through Dec. 31. at the Valley Feed/PETsBARN at 1790 Zaragosa just south of the Wal-Mart SuperCenter, far East El Paso.

The purpose of the tree is to support the Greyhound Adoption League.

“Greyhounds make great family pets,” said spokesman Amy Wren. “They adapt well to domestic life and are good with kids. They love playing in water and are very social and docile. Greyhounds get along well

with most other non-aggressive dog breeds, and some cats!”

Females average 50-60 pounds, males 60-75 pounds, and are best suited to be house dogs — greyhounds have very thin skin and coats.

The Greyhound Adoption League was founded in El Paso five years ago to help retired racing dogs find loving, permanent homes. Since its inception, more than 170 dogs have been placed. Most of the greyhounds come from the Tucson Greyhound Park. They vary in age from 18 months to seven years and have proven themselves to be good pets in foster homes prior to adoption to acclimate them to domestic life.

For information contact Wren at (915) 849-0653.

SSQ&A

From Page 8

Medicare in another country. I have a friend who retired in Ireland, and he got a form to fill out for Medicare.

A: Medicare coverage does not extend to other countries. But your friend in Ireland might want to consider applying for Medicare in case he ever comes back to the U.S. and needs it. Or, he may be just visiting someday and need medical care. There are two parts to Medicare. He might as well sign up for hospital coverage, or Part A of Medicare, because it’s free. But Part B, sometimes called doctor’s coverage, costs \$54 per month in 2002 and \$58.70 in 2003. Depending on how often he plans to visit the U.S., your friend will have to decide if Part B coverage is worthwhile.

For more information visit your local Security office, see <http://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.



Men’s Basketball

VS

Hawaii Rainbow Warriors

Thursday, January 2
At the Don Haskins Center
Tip-Off 7:05 PM

For information call: 747-6150

Maybe It Wasn’t That Heavy Shopping Bag.

Weakness On One Side May Mean A Stroke.

Recognizing the signs of stroke and acting fast may make a difference between life and death. Call 9-1-1 immediately if you experience one or more of these signs: sudden weakness especially on one side of the body; trouble speaking or understanding; dizziness, loss of balance; trouble seeing in one or both eyes; and severe headache with no known cause. New treatments can help reduce damage to the brain

but only in the first few hours after symptoms begin. Every minute counts.

To learn more about stroke, call the American Heart Association at 1-800-AHA-USA1 or visit us online at www.americanheart.org/tx

American Heart Association
Fighting Heart Disease and Stroke

9-1-1
HEART ATTACK & STROKE
Read the signs. Raise a flag.

San Eli reported to have ‘done well’ in TEA inspection

By Don Woodyard
Courier Staff Writer

SAN ELIZARIO — Indicating “very significant increases” in some areas, Maria Nistas highlighted the AEIS report for trustees of the San Elizario Independent School District at their Dec. 11 meeting.

Nistas, assistant superintendent for SEISD, went over the comprehensive Academic Excellence Indicator System report that comes from the Texas Education Agency (TEA). The accountability report covers all aspects of the district’s academic operation.

As had been reported earlier, she noted that Sambrano and Alarcon Elementary schools were designated as “Recognized” campuses. The district as a whole was rated academically “Acceptable.”

The district administrator went over the improved test scores in different schools. She also pointed out academic areas that were weak and needed strengthening. Those areas that will require special attention are in middle school writing, algebra and Spanish reading.

“You all are doing an excellent job,” interjected board president Antonio Araujo. “A lot of positive things

are happening in the district.”

Nistas also reported that the district was presently being evaluated by TEA for compliance with the bilingual and ESL (English as a Second Language) programs. As of last Monday she indicated that the district had done “very well” in the three-day TEA assessment that was completed the previous Friday. In other action:

- Technology coordinator Alice Ramos updated the board on ERATE funding for the current school year. Total cost of technology funding equipment and services is \$610,761 of which the district has to pay only 10 percent. Its cost will be \$61,076. Services include Internet access, long distance service, cellular phones and network management services.
- An attorney for the law firm of Delgado Acosta Spencer Linebarger Heard and Perez summarized delinquent tax collection efforts. More than \$129,000 in delinquent taxes have been collected. Seventeen lawsuits have brought in more than \$31,000. Four judgments collected in the amount of more than \$4,000. To recover taxes, properties were sold for more than \$12,000.
- Support services director Robert Longoria said the district was looking

into ways of getting a traffic light at the intersection of Herring and Socorro Roads. Also it is hoped that grant money can be obtained to provide side-

walks for children along Chicken Ranch Road behind Borrego Elementary.

Connie Loya, a teacher at Sambrano, was named Teacher of

the Month. Lupe Sanchez, a physical educational instructional aide at Sambrano, was named Employee of the Month.



We Invite You
To Join Us
New Year’s Eve

Champagne Dinner
Midnight Toast
New Year’s Breakfast

Festivities Begin 8^{PM} Tuesday, December 31, 2002 Party Ends 2^{AM} Wednesday, January 1, 2003

Live Music By KEVIN
\$85 Per Couple
Please Call For Reservations

Happy New Year
from
Emerald Springs

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LEGALS

SOCORRO INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT
12300 Eastlake Drive
El Paso, Texas 79928

Request for Proposals for CM At Risk
RFP No. 199-1107-0331

The Socorro Independent School District is requesting the submission of **REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS** for **CMAT RISK** to provide professional services. Request for proposal forms may be obtained from and submitted to Mark W. Vechione, SISD Education Center, 12300 Eastlake Drive, El Paso, Texas 79928, phone (915) 937-0160. Request for Proposal are to be clearly marked:

CM AT RISK
RFP NO. 199-1107-0331

LATE AND FAXED REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.

Socorro Independent School District retains the right to accept or reject any and all request for proposals in the best interest of the school district.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS ARE DUE:
10 A.M., Tuesday, Jan. 07, 2003

NOTE: The District Offices will be closed from Dec. 23, 2002 to Jan. 5, 2003. Voicemail, inquiries, faxes, etc. will not checked as regularly. The District will attempt to be as responsive as possible during this time.

Proposals will be received at the Business Services Department, 12300 Eastlake Drive, until the specified times. Detailed specifications are available from the above office between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. Mondays through Fridays, and available at www.sisd.net. WTCC-12/26/02

BARGAINS

FOR SALE: 1997 three-bedroom doublewide mobile home. Contact 764-0352 or 764-3904. 1/2

FINANCIAL OPPORTUNITY

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SELF-HELP OPPORTUNITIES

Alcoholics Anonymous Group Paso Del Norte meets at 8501 Kingsway in Westway, Monday-Saturday, 8 p.m. Call 886-4948 for information.

Alcohólicos Anónimos Grupo Paso Del Norte sesiones lunes a sábado, a 8-9 de la tarde, 8501 Kingsway, Westway. 886-4948 para informacion.

Persons who have a problem with alcohol are offered a free source of help locally. Alcoholics Anonymous Group 8 de Enero meets at 15360 Horizon Blvd. in Horizon City on Mondays through Saturdays at 8 p.m. Call 859-0484 for information.

Tiene problemas con el alcohol? Hay una solución. Visitemos. Alcohólicos Anónimos,

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY

HORIZON DESIGN CONSULTANTS will hold two studio classes this spring entitled Graphic Design: Creating a Dialogue. Part One will be March 18-22; Part Two April 1-5. This is a 30-hour foundational level course introducing concepts and techniques used by graphic artists to create effective visual works. For more information call 852-4817. TFN

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Domestic and Foreign 852-3523 1558 Oxbow,

Grupo 8 de Enero, 15360 Horizon Blvd., Horizon City, sesiones lunes a sábado a 8 de la tarde. Informacion: 859-0484.

A walk down memory lane: Weird moments in sports

By Steve Escajeda
Special to the Courier

Well, the end of the year is finally here and I hope you all are enjoying the season with your loved ones. For me, this time of year means exactly the same thing, only I also take time to reflect on the year that was.

And in this case I review the year in sports 2002. I'm not going to bore you with the stuff you already know, like the Lakers winning their third straight NBA title, or Barry Bonds having the kind of year most 38-year-olds only dream about or Tom Brady's all-American Super Bowl story leading the Patriots past the Rams.

No — I like to look at the stories that made you raise an eyebrow and utter, "what the heck?"

2002 was a year chock full of heroic stories like that of Tour de France winner Lance Armstrong and Sarah Hughes' electrifying performance at the Winter Olympics and new Notre Dame coach Ty Willingham's resurgence of the Fighting Irish, but the year also had its weirder moments.

One of the first concerned the Oakland Raiders and how they will always feel that they,

and not the New England Patriots, should have been in the Super Bowl. Remember the Raiders causing a Tom Brady fumble that would have clinched the game for Oakland only to have the referees reverse the call and say that Brady's hand was moving forward. Bad call, refs.

The World Series pitted the San Francisco Giants and the Anaheim Angels. Great series and a great Angels win, but the play I remember most was a play at the plate that included the shortest player I've seen since the legendary Eddie Gaedel. No, wait, that wasn't a player, that was Dusty Baker's son Darren Baker. Remember the three-year-old running to home plate just as J.T. Snow was scoring. The little guy escaped any harm but the incident caused MLB to set the minimum age for batboys at 14.

One of the year's most memorable moments came when Oscar De La Hoya silenced his critics forever by knocking out the confident Fernando Vargas. Vargas said he would rather die than lose to De La Hoya. Well, Vargas lived — but his ego did suffer a fatal blow.

Always good for a laugh and even a tear are the insane ratings of Mike Tyson. Tyson went on an expletive-laced tirade before his fight with Lennox Lewis. A fight in which Lewis

dominated Tyson, relegating him to has-been status. But rest assured, Tyson's insanity still ranks up there with the best loonies sports has to offer.

The USA men's basketball team had never lost in international competition since going to professional players. 2002 was the year that the rest of the world caught up to the Americans. The World Championships not only saw the USA lose for the first time, the Americas lost three times — ouch!

One of the craziest moments was also one of the most frightening. Seems an imbecile and his 15-year-old son got so caught up in the action at a Kansas City Royals baseball game that they decided to treat first-base coach Tom Gamboa like a piñata. The cops took these two worms away but it showed everyone how vulnerable all these athletes are.

Sleaze and corruption were contributing factors in the judging of this sport. Stories of gangsters, unscrupulous committee members and judges on the take ruled this sport — no, not boxing — this was figure skating. Canadians Jamie Sale and David Pelletier should have won the gold in Olympics pairs skating but amazingly, the Russians were awarded the top spot. When everyone cried foul, French judge Marie-Reine Le Gougne admitted she was

pressured to vote for the Russian pair. She claimed she was under the direction of French skating federation president, Didier Gailhaguet. Justice prevailed and the IOC awarded the Canadians a "second" gold medal.

Locally, there were two big stories to recall.

The first was the emergence of Rich Beem. Beem shocked the world, and Tiger Woods, by holding off the world's greatest golfer, to win the PGA. It was the first time Tiger had been beaten going down the stretch of a major tournament and the world has a new hero in Beem.

The second local story isn't as bright. It's the complete demise of the UTEP basketball program. The Miners lost six members off its 2002-03 team. A coach, an assistant and four players left the program. Jason Rabedeaux, Silvi Dominguez, Luke Martin, Antone Jarrell, Nick Enzweiler and Keion Kindred were all expected to be a part of this year's team and all left, or were forced to leave. The program that once stood atop the NCAA ladder now finds itself as low as it has ever been, including the pre-Haskins years.

A wish for next year, that Gary Nord and Billy Gillespie finally earn some peaceful, restful nights. I hear winning is better for sleep than Somnex.

San Elizario volleyball team ends season with astounding success

By Don Woodyard
Courier Staff Writer

SAN ELIZARIO — The San Elizario high school girls' volleyball team and coach were honored at the Dec. 11 meeting of the board of trustees of the San Elizario Independent School District.

San Elizario High School volleyball coach David Desrosiers has been named 2002 El Paso Times Volleyball Coach of the Year. Desrosiers said his coaching philosophy is to set high standards and have fun reaching them. He gave all credit for the winning season to his team — they finished second in district play with a record of 24-5.

"It was a very special year, it was an awesome season," Coach Desrosiers. "I had a chance to work with wonderful girls. They were exciting to watch."

Added district superintendent Mike Quatrini, "Coach, you did an excellent job. We appreciate it very much."

A Desert Storm veteran, Desrosiers came to El Paso by way of upstate New York and North Carolina. He completed his teaching degree while stationed at Ft. Bliss and coached at St. Rafael, Americas and Clint high schools before coming to San Elizario.

"This was a very special season in volleyball," added athletic director Bernie del Hierro.

The assistant coaches are Erika Guerrero and Monica Mata.

Team members are Valeria Valencia, Karina Bustos, Cindy Garcia, Brenda Acavedo, Angie Lujan, Sandra Garcia, Ana Morales, Eunice Rascon, Crystal Martinez, Valeria Barraza, April Valencia, Jessica Rivera, Cathy Perez, Valerie Soto, Vicki Trevizo, Jeannette Morales, Ruby Rojas and Yadira Hernandez.



Scorpions do well in holiday competition

HORIZON CITY — The Horizon Scorpions Allstars placed second in their division at the recent Holiday Competition at Ysleta ISD, with Cynthia Hernandez placing second in jump. Ages third grade through high school, the Scorpions also performed during the annual El Paso Thanksgiving Parade.

King Super Crossword

CAN'T STANDISH STILL ACROSS

1 WWII site

7 Serenity

12 Brazos River city

16 Clerical garb

19 Point the finger at

20 Synthetic fiber

21 Christiania, today

22 Remote

23 Riddle: Part 1

25 Gershwin's " _ in Blue"

27 Beatty or Buntline

28 Gaggly gal

29 Watch part

30 Fountain order

31 Rocker Marc

33 Nature spirit

36 Sable, for one

38 Lee of "The Fall Guy"

41 Cantaloupe's cousin

43 Team

44 Skater

Berezhnaya

45 Bleak critique

46 Riddle: Part 2

51 Papua New Guinea port

52 Contaminates

55 Butz or Warren

56 Sapporo sash

57 Tactful

59 Consider

61 Ford flop

63 Maine town

64 Space

66 AI _ (cooking term)

67 Lear, to Goneril

69 Riddle: Part 3

74 Fleur-de- _

75 Desert schlepper

77 _ Romeo

78 Heap of Dickens

80 Coeur d'_, ID

81 Cartoonist

Silverstein

83 Hard to describe

88 Hurried

89 Little one

91 Prate

92 _4 (Toyota model)

93 Riddle: Part 4

98 Loafer part

99 Gladden

101 Alan of "Gilligan's Island"

102 Frequent Funicello co-star

104 Scanty

105 Roller-coaster feeling

108 1970 World's Fair site

109 Chatterley or Windermere

110 Director Nicolas

111 Skip

113 Turbine part

116 _ Goncalo, Brazil

119 Avoidance

121 Answer to riddle

125 Swell place?

126 Actor Barry

127 Murcia mister

128 Farm adolescent

129 Weaken

130 _ -Neisse Line

131 Early German

132 Spanish _

DOWN

1 Cut

2 Flu symptom

3 Like some donuts

4 Groan producer

5 Shakespearean

snake

6 Equine

exclamations

7 Kelly's possum

8 Goofs

9 Tabloid subjects

10 Dot follower

11 Minnesota twins?

12 Merit

13 '75 Wimbledon winner

14 More humid

15 "Alley _"

16 In progress

17 Soup scoop

18 Adams or Ferry

24 Actor Chaney

26 It needs to be threaded

29 Boom or gaff

31 Swindle

32 Wind instrument?

34 Spitz sound

35 Exec's deg.

37 Perplexed

38 Blend

39 Jai _

40 Army vehicle

41 "Makin' Whoopee" singer

42 Pro foe

43 "The King and I" setting

45 Brendel's instrument

47 Pigskin prop

48 Mubarak of Egypt

49 Helps a hood

50 Mosaic bit

53 Singer Tori

54 Torah, e.g.

58 Shade of green

59 Realm

60 Big bird

62 Indian city

65 Oven setting

67 _ Lama

68 Improve

70 _ kwon do

71 London borough

72 Furious

73 Short movie?

75 Funny fellow

76 Deadly

79 "It's a deal!"

81 _ terrier

82 Drill sergeant's shout

84 West. alliance

85 Improve oneself, in a way

86 Behind schedule

87 Always

90 Aged, as paper

94 Poultry serving

95 Cobbler's need

96 Palindromic name

97 Asian ox

100 Nonclerical

103 It's down in the mouth

104 Vandellas' leader

105 Lock

106 Biblical book

107 Summarize

108 Ocean vessel

109 Christie or Costello

112 Lion's pride

114 Melville work

115 Like Hitchcock's curtain

116 Couch

117 Served well

118 Creole veggie

120 _ trip

121 Ltr. addenda

122 Where flocks frolic

123 "Tell _ No" ('65 hit)

124 Outer edge

Answer Page 7

1	2	3	4	5	6		7	8	9	10	11		12	13	14	15		16	17	18		
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Cruise ships follow weight-loss trend

By Don Flood

Perhaps you've heard the latest cruise ship slogan:
Somewhere between the dinner table and bathroom, it hits you — you're not going to make it!

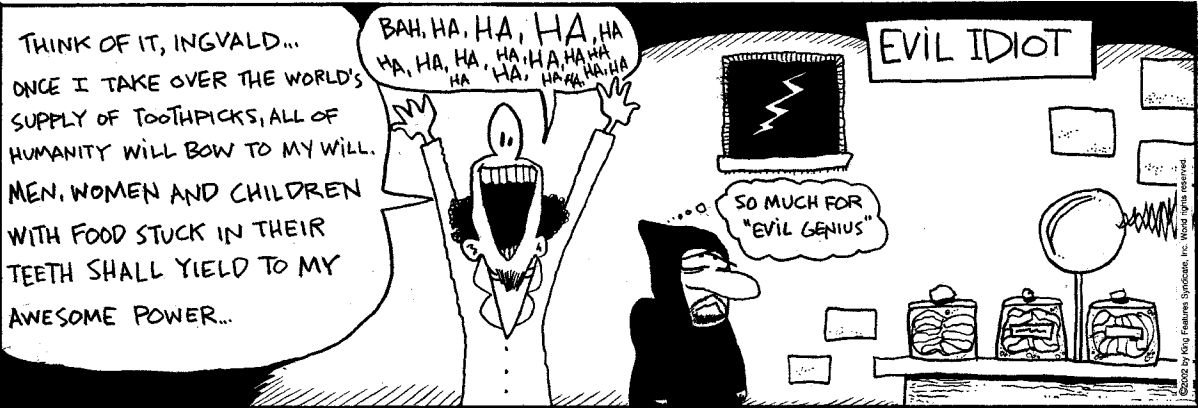
That's right, travel fans, it's more than just a whole new concept in cruising; it's the hottest weight-loss fad in years.

I'm talking, of course, about: *the Barf Boats!*

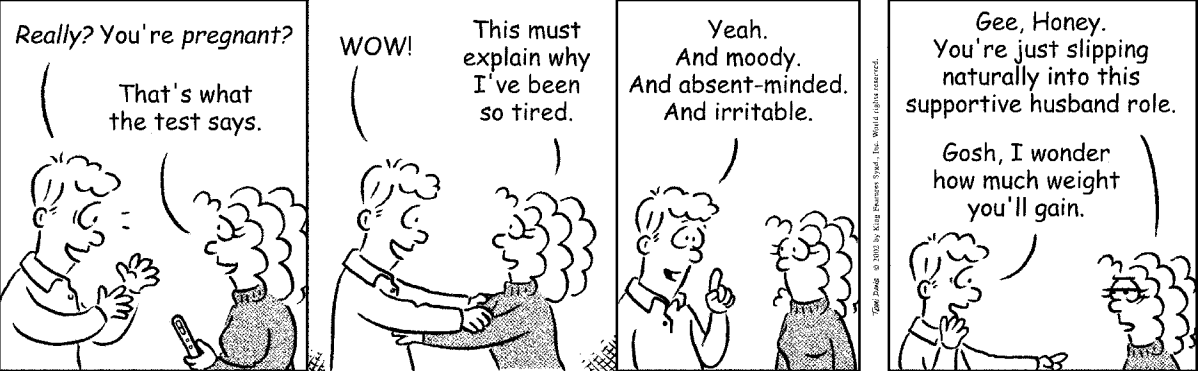


Comix

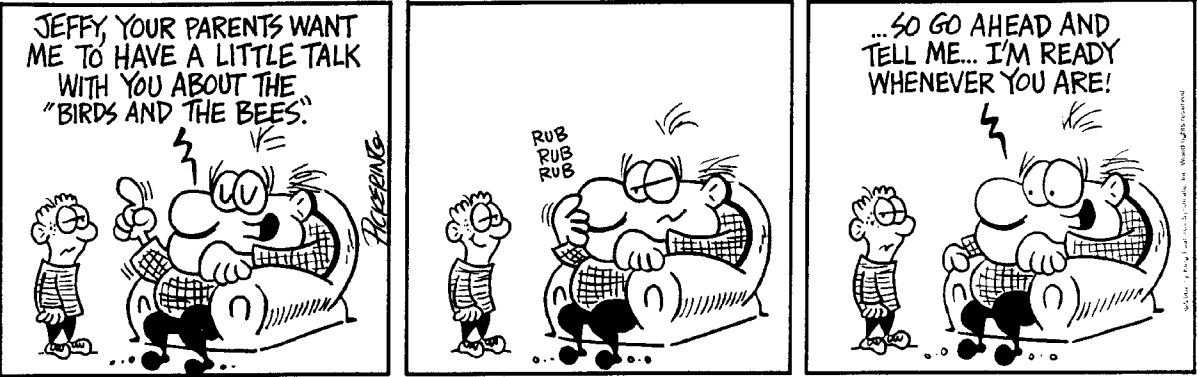
OUT ON A LIMB By Gary Kopervas



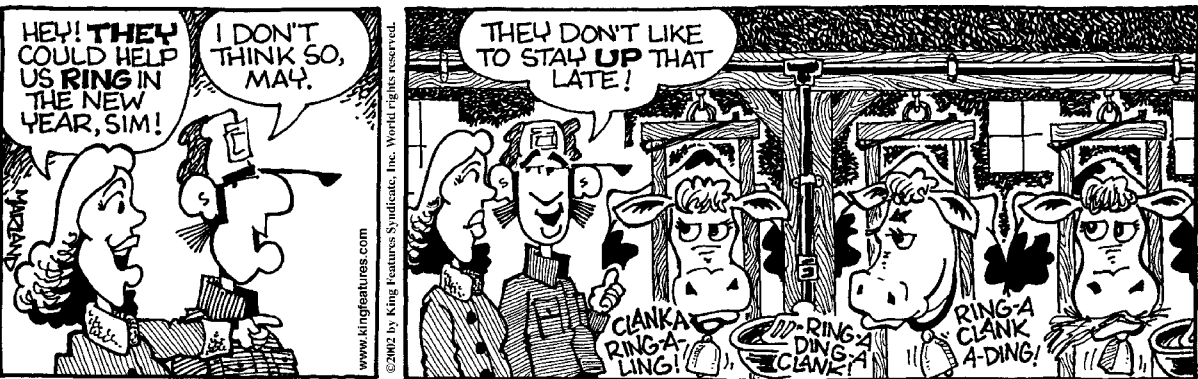
GOT A LIFE By Terri Davis



THE SPATS By Jeff Pickering



R.F.D. By Mike Marland



They've been cruising out of Florida for several weeks now, filled with hundreds of passengers anxious to experience the latest dieting trend. And so far it's working!

A November Disney cruise counted 200 passengers with gastrointestinal disorders, resulting in untold weight loss.

Carnival followed up with its own successful "quick-start" diet cruise.

According to spokeswoman Diane "Di" A. Rhea, people lost weight in a couple of different ways but "the bottom line is, not only did they lose weight, they didn't even want to look at food. The pounds just came off like magic!"

Naturally, not all cruises are going to be as successful as these two, but it's amazing the number of cruise lines jumping on the bandwagon.

Every day seems to bring a fresh report of another cruise line adding the Barf Boat option.

These are completely unlike traditional cruises, where passengers could expect to come back to port packing an extra 5, 10, maybe 85 pounds.

That's why the ships had to stop for all those shopping excursions.

The passengers had to buy new clothes because their old ones no longer fit.

By the end of the trip, people stopped buying clothes and started buying tents or airplane tarps.

And after they waddled back home, people were afraid to step on their scales.

(The scales, in turn, feared for their personal safety.)

Most cruises used to revolve around eating, with many ships strictly enforcing federal statutes requiring passengers to gorge themselves at the Midnight Buffet.

Once, my wife and I were on a cruise and we decided, as midnight rolled around, that we weren't really that hungry, seeing as how we had already scarfed up nine meals that day. (With willpower, however, we were pretty good about staying away from snacks.)

Later that night we were shanghaied from our cabin and escorted to the dining room, where we given a choice: walk the plank or stuff ourselves with dessert.

It's true!

OK, maybe it's not true, but we were subjected to some extreme peer pressure.

Because that's half the conversation at mealtime — what they're going to serve for the next meal, whether it's French Night, Italian Night or Twinkie Night or whatever.

(With the new cruises, I imagine, the question is whether it's Pepto-Bismol Night or Kaopectate Night.)

But what I'm really looking forward to is a comeback for Kathie Lee Gifford.

She could sing that "If My Friends Could See Now" song, only this time — instead of prancing around the ship as she sang — she would be Praying to the Porcelain Goddess.

Bon Voyage!

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MAJORS	CASABA	SIDE		
ELENA	PAN	PARTIED	WHAT	
LAE	TAINTS	EARL	OBI	
DIPLO	MATIC	DEEM	EDSEL	
ORONO	ROOM	DENTE		
DAD	SORTOF	MUSIC	LIS	
CAMEL	ALFA	URIAH		
ALENE	SHEL	INTANGIBLE		
RAN	TYKE	NATTER	RAV	
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HALE	AVALON	MEAGER		
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Social Security: Q & A

By Ray Vigil

Q: My husband died at age 61 before he ever drew any of his Social Security. A friend told me that because my husband never received Social Security, I will not be able to collect widow's benefits on his record. Is this true? If it's not, how can I find out how much I am due?

A: Fortunately, your friend is wrong. You will be eligible for widow's benefits as soon as you turn 60, or even as early as 50 if you are disabled. You would be eligible for about 70 percent of whatever your husband would have been due. The longer you can wait to start benefits, the higher the rate goes, ending up at 100 percent if you can hold out until your full retirement age. Find your husband's Social Security number and call us at 1-800-772-1213 and we will be able to tell you how much you would be due at various ages.

Q: I am 60 years old and want to know how I can get my widow's pension. And will this widow's pension help with my high medical bills?

A: You're just old enough to qualify for widow's benefits. At 60, you'd be eligible for about 70 percent of your husband's Social Security rate. To apply, just call 1-800-772-1213 to make an appointment with the Social Security office nearest your home. But I'm afraid you won't qualify for Medicare until you are 65 years old. If your income is below certain limits, you might qualify for monthly Supplemental Security Income payments that include Medicaid coverage through your state. The SSI income limits vary from one state to another, but are generally in the \$500 to \$700 a month range. When you call the 800 number, ask about SSI eligibility, too.

Q: My neighbor gets a Social Security widow's check and a supplemental Social Security check. But I just get my widow's. Why can't I get the supplement?

A: You're probably referring to Supplemental Security Income. If your income is low enough, and if you have less than \$2,000 in assets (not counting your home and your car), you might qualify for SSI. Check with your local Social Security office to learn the SSI income levels in your state.

Q: I want to know how long I will have to pay \$72.80 for Medicare. Everyone else I know pays \$54. I am paying the penalty because I did not sign up for Medicare at the time I should have. I had other insurance and thought I could save some money by not taking Medicare. I thought I was doing the right thing. How long will this penalty continue?

A: I'm afraid the extra premiums you are paying will last as long as you live. The penalty — a 10 percent per year surcharge to the basic Medicare premium — exists in part to encourage people to think twice before turning down Medicare at age 65. Except for people who are working at 65, Medicare is usually the primary insurance coverage for senior citizens. I'm not sure how you went so many years without your private insurance company telling you to get on Medicare.

Q: I want to know if you can get

See SSQ&A, Page 4

WEATHER

AccuWeather.com

SEVEN-DAY FORECAST FOR EL PASO

WEDNESDAY	WED. NIGHT	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Chilly with sun and some clouds.	Mostly clear and cold.	Mostly sunny and not as cool.	Sunny to partly cloudy.	Partly sunny and milder.	Partly sunny, breezy and cooler.	Mostly sunny and cool.	A good deal of sunshine.
▲ 46°	▼ 26°	▲ 50° ▼ 26°	▲ 54° ▼ 32°	▲ 62° ▼ 40°	▲ 58° ▼ 32°	▲ 50° ▼ 28°	▲ 56° ▼ 30°

UV INDEX

Statistics for noon.

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

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

TEXAS WEATHER

Anthony	48	26
Canutillo	49	27
Clint	46	27
E. Montana	46	26
Fabens	46	27
Horizon	49	27
San Elizario	46	24
Socorro	45	25
Tornillo	46	27
Vinton	49	27

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

TRAVELERS CITIES

City	Wed. Hi/Lo/W	Thur. Hi/Lo/W	Fri. Hi/Lo/W	Sat. Hi/Lo/W	Sun. Hi/Lo/W
Albuquerque	36/18/c	40/22/pc	46/22/pc	44/26/pc	37/15/sn
Atlanta	42/32/pc	45/28/pc	42/30/c	48/32/pc	50/34/pc
Atlantic City	39/24/sn	40/20/s	40/21/pc	40/23/pc	42/19/pc
Austin/San Antonio	52/30/pc	55/30/pc	55/33/s	63/36/s	64/42/pc
Baltimore	36/26/sn	40/24/s	40/26/pc	44/30/pc	44/25/pc
Boston	32/26/sn	34/24/s	34/24/pc	38/28/pc	38/23/sn
Chicago	28/15/c	30/20/pc	36/26/pc	35/23/c	34/26/c
Dallas/Ft. Worth	48/30/pc	44/29/pc	47/33/s	54/37/s	55/37/s
Denver	32/14/pc	42/20/pc	43/18/pc	44/25/c	43/9/s
Flagstaff	32/8/pc	36/12/pc	40/15/pc	42/20/pc	42/24/c
Houston	53/35/pc	53/32/pc	59/38/s	62/48/s	65/50/pc
Kansas City	30/18/pc	33/21/pc	36/21/s	41/24/s	30/12/pc
Las Vegas	48/30/pc	50/34/pc	52/36/c	57/41/c	59/45/c
Miami	78/64/sh	72/60/c	71/55/c	70/57/pc	72/58/s
Minneapolis	21/9/c	30/14/pc	31/15/sf	24/15/c	26/16/sn
New Orleans	53/36/pc	51/35/pc	56/41/s	58/43/s	63/51/pc
New York City	34/28/sn	36/26/s	36/28/pc	40/32/pc	41/25/pc
Philadelphia	36/28/sn	38/26/s	38/28/pc	42/32/pc	41/22/pc
Phoenix	56/38/pc	58/42/pc	63/44/pc	66/45/s	68/45/pc
Portland	46/34/r	46/32/r	44/32/r	44/39/r	43/36/sh
San Francisco	54/46/c	56/50/r	58/46/r	54/44/sh	56/50/r
Seattle	48/37/r	46/37/r	44/35/r	45/37/r	45/33/r
Tucson	52/30/c	56/36/s	60/40/pc	66/40/s	66/40/s
Washington, DC	36/28/sn	40/26/s	40/30/pc	46/34/pc	45/29/pc

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

AGRICULTURE

Dry and chilly Wednesday despite 3-6 hours of sunshine. Drying conditions will be fair to good. Winds northwest at 5-10 mph. Remaining dry Thursday and Friday with sunshine and a day-to-day warming trend. Mild Saturday, then a cold front will cross the area with some clouds, but no rainfall Sunday. Cooler early next week.

All maps, forecasts and data provided by **AccuWeather, Inc.** ©2002



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