



NEWSBRIEFS

Montwood incident

A six-member fact-finding committee has been appointed to investigate an incident on Jan. 29 in which hundreds of students at Montwood High School were involved in a protest demonstration that resulted in the arrest of several students and subsequent disciplinary actions for others. Mario Aguilar, Interim Socorro ISD Superintendent, said the committee will investigate the actions of the students, faculty, administrative staff, parents, SISD security personnel and the local law enforcement officers. The committee will be chaired by Dr. Gary Brooks, an administrator at UTEP and professor of Educational Leadership, who has coordinated the complaint and grievance procedure for the Socorro District since 1996. Other committee members include Mack Quintana, publisher of the El Paso Times; Rosa Guerrero, parent volunteer; Vanessa Duran, Americas High School Student Body President; Dr. Richard Sorenson, UTEP professor; and J.R. Grijalva, Chief of Police of the El Paso Community College. A report and recommendations will be prepared by the group, Aguilar said.

Mission volunteers

Want to know how to mix and apply lime plaster in the same historic way early settlers of El Paso County did? Then Socorro Mission Volunteer Day is for you, on March 1, 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. The Socorro Mission Preservation Project crew and La Purisima Restoration Committee invites the community to participate, and extends appreciation to those volunteers who help make thousands of adobe bricks to repair deteriorated walls around the Mission during a previous Volunteer Day. Lime washing and lime plastering will be done on the project because more modern methods of cement stuccoing and plastering will not preserve the integrity of the adobe. A spokesman for the project said it is important for the parishioners and members of the community to be knowledgeable about traditional materials and techniques so that the Mission can be continually maintained after the restoration project is completed in August of this year. Information: 858-4655 or e-mail jeanfulton@earthlink.net

Small business fair

The El Paso County Small Business Fair Series continues with a seminar on Feb. 13, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at Desert Hills Elementary School, 300 Eastlake in Horizon City. Opportunities to meet one on one with business lenders, learn about City/County of El Paso resources for small business such as the Revolving Loan Fund which helps low-equity businesses get credit, obtain free economic counseling, and access opportunities to learn about

See BRIEFS, Page 4

A man's reputation is a blend of what his friends, enemies and acquaintances say behind his back.

— Quips & Quotes

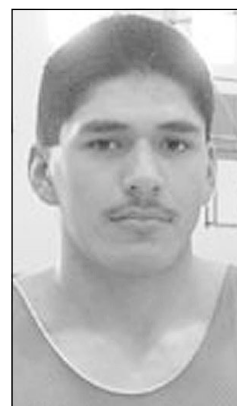
Canutillo athletes earn All-State academic honors

By Alfredo Vasquez
Special to the Courier

CANUTILLO — Texas High School Coaches Association (THSCA) has selected Canutillo High School Seniors Hector Saldivar and Jeremy Fietze to the All-State Academic Team in football. Saldivar was named to the all-state second team and Fietze earned honorable mention.

"Being named to the all-state academic teams is great for these athletes because the coaches are singling them out for their accomplishments in the classroom. They considered hundreds of football players for this recognition, so being selected is a big honor," said Canutillo High School Head Football Coach Scott Brooks.

Saldivar has a 94.6 grade point average and ranks nineteenth among his class of 240 seniors. Fietze ranks twenty-fifth with a 93 grade point average. Saldivar plans to study electrical engineering after high school but has not decided on a college. Fietze said that he hopes to attend Texas Tech and major in engineering or business administration.



Hector Saldivar



Jeremy Fietze

Gutierrez is an unassuming champion who refuses to lose

By Steve Escajeda
Special to the Courier

SOCORRO — At 5-foot-7 and 170 pounds, Luis Gutierrez looks about the way he should in his Socorro ISD uniform. At first glance the 28-year old air conditioning maintenance engineer looks the part, no less and no more — but underneath that unassuming facade beats the heart of a champion with a vicious right hand.

Gutierrez, whom some say reminds them of Mike Tyson or Rocky Marciano, is El Paso's lone representative at this year's men's U.S. National boxing tournament in Las Vegas on April 1-6.

Gutierrez advanced to the country's most prestigious amateur boxing meet by winning both of his fights by knockout at the state championships last Jan. 10-12.

Though he is about to compete with the best amateurs in the United States, Gutierrez, a light heavyweight, is no stranger to this kind of pressure, or this tournament for that matter.

"I advanced to the Nationals last year but I didn't know what to expect," said Gutierrez. "I made it all the way to the semifinals last

year and I found out that I was just as good as any of those other guys."

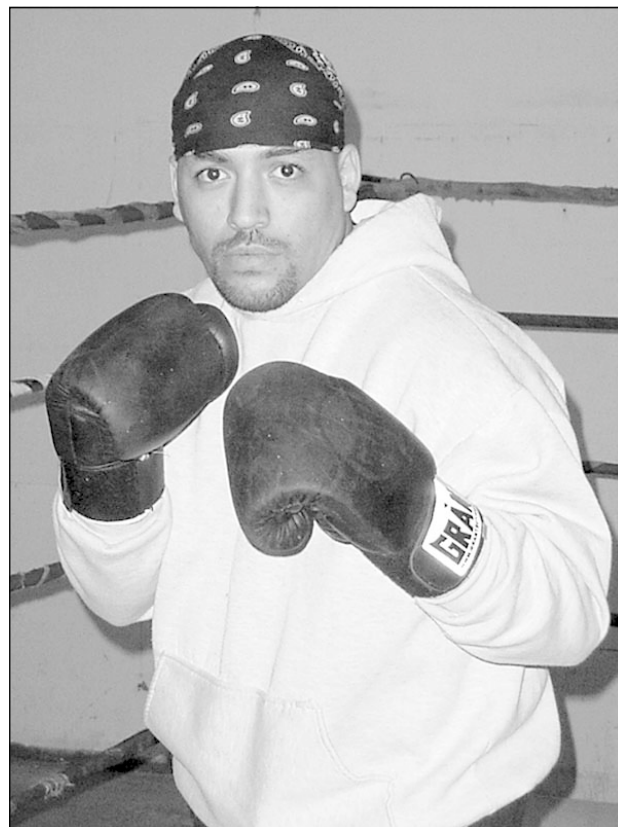
Gutierrez feels making the second trip to the nationals gives him an edge, "I don't have that feeling of fear anymore. I know what to expect. I really feel like I can win this thing, with the help of God, of course."

When asked about whether his lack of size was a problem, Gutierrez answered without hesitation, "Not at all. I try to work inside their

reach and go hard to the body to wear them down. The fighters that give me the most trouble are the really speedy guys."

Gutierrez is under the tutelage of Joe Hernandez, a long time boxing trainer who runs a boxing gym at the former Socorro ISD transportation dept. building.

Hernandez, who has run the after-school gym on a volunteer basis since 1994, feels Gutierrez's chances at the



EXPERIENCE — Luis Gutierrez believes his second trip to Nationals will give him an edge.

nationals are better than ever. "Jose has the same determination as Rocy Marciano," Hernandez said. "He has devastating punch and can turn a fight around with one blow."

Hernandez feels Gutierrez's stamina and a sustained body attack is the key.

"Luis reminds me of some of the old time boxers," Hernandez said. "He has a tremendous knockout punch and he goes to the body like Marciano. But his biggest weapon is his heart — he refuses to lose."

Even more astounding than the power in Gutierrez's right hand is the fact that he began boxing just under five years ago.

"I always wanted to be a boxer, ever since I was a little kid," Gutierrez said. "To be honest I just never pursued it. One day my brother Rigo told me about (Joe) Hernandez's boxing gym and I decided to check it out. Next thing you know, here I am."

Gutierrez said that if he wins the nationals he would stay an amateur long enough to possibly compete in the World Championships or eventually the Olympics. If he doesn't win the nationals, it will be time to turn pro.

"As good as he is now, Luis' style would be even more successful in the professional game," said Hernandez. "He has the perfect style for a pro fighter but we still have some work to do in the amateur ranks."

Asked where he sees himself in 10 years Gutierrez looked to the ceiling and thought for a second. "Naturally I still hope to be fighting professionally but if not I'd like to be coaching boxing. I want to give something back to the kids and to the community like Joe (Hernandez) gave back to me."

Mission Trail Association receives grant to help xeroscape Socorro project

The Chihuahuan Desert Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) Area, Inc. has awarded that the Mission Trails Association a matching grant of \$500 through the 2002

Matching Grant program to allow the Association to provide xeroscape landscaping for the Socorro Mission Restoration project. Native desert plants will be purchased to landscape the grounds at the Mission.

"We received 12 applications for worthy community projects in six counties," Board member Annette Gutierrez of the Chihuahuan Desert RC&D said. "Our Grant Evaluation Committee reviewed and rated each proposal based on community need, expected benefits, and local commitment."

The RC&D program is authorized by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and administered by the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS). The individual RC&D councils direct the program to the needs of the local communities. For more information contact Mark Donet, Coordinator at 915-837-8247.



LANDSCAPING THE TRAIL — Mary Davis, Executive Director for the Mission Trails Association, receives a \$500 check on behalf of the Association from Chihuahuan Desert RC&D, Inc. board member, Annette Gutierrez.



One perspective

By Francis Shrum

Red, white and blue sacrifice

At the risk of sounding heartless, I deplore the national hand-wringing and emotional gyrations of mourning our media goes into everytime somebody in uniform dies these days. New York's finest at the Twin Towers, Special Forces in Afghanistan, astronauts that disintegrated over Texas. You can't think about these people without a small shiver, an inner salute.

But with their passing, we are subjected to the frightening reality that the very people who are supposed to inform us are the least informed about the personal dedication and commitment that existed in the lifestyles of these people long before disaster brought their faces into our living rooms. I believe that "media mourning" weakens the resolve and dedication of their surviving families and dishonors the very courage by which they lived and died.

These people accepted the risks involved in their careers. They knew that the death wolf slept a little closer to their door than mine. They understood that they could be called upon to make the ultimate sacrifice at a moment's notice and were willing to do it.

So were their families. Rarely do you hear the wives, the children, or the parents of military personnel, fire fighters or law enforcement bemoaning the unfairness of their loved one's passing in a national forum.

It happens, occasionally, but mostly those left behind who have time to bother with the national media do so with a lift of the chin, a straightening of the shoulder, a glint in the eye. Mostly they talk, with a muted sort of

reverence, about how proud they are of the one they lost, how much he or she loved what they were doing and how they gave their lives willingly for a cause — something many in our world today cannot say about our own daily existence.

Maybe that makes them the lucky ones.

So if the people closest to those lost are handling it with this kind of emotional maturity, what is it in our national psyche that makes our media feel that we should do the weeping and mourning for them?

It certainly is not the case that these families are not grieving. They are just doing it in private, within their homes and the circle of their personal relationships where grief belongs.

Not on national television. On any given day these days, the front pages of our newspapers feature the heart-breaking pictures of children crying in the uniformed arms of their departing soldier parents as they prepare to go off to war, who knows where or for how long or if they will even come home at all.

It's enough to reduce you to tears, enough to bring a nation to its knees, enough to break our national will. Afterall, if the media of this nation thinks it's a crying shame — no pun intended — for people to sacrifice themselves for the greater good, then why should anyone step up to do so?

I got a strange, squeamish feeling listening to public declarations by Shannon Spann, the widow of slain Marine Captain/CIA Operative Mike Spann, the first known American combat death in the fighting in Afghanistan. Mrs. Spann stood at the national podium and called for the head of John



Reyes Reports

By U.S. Rep. Silvestre Reyes

Prescription drug coverage the bait for total Medicare revamp

Most in Congress are nervous about White House plans to revamp Medicare. The White House envisions an overhaul that includes Medicare helping out with prescription drugs by getting beneficiaries to sign onto a "new" Medicare with prescription coverage available by joining up with health maintenance organizations and physician plans.

House or Senate supporters are keeping quiet, knowing that a broad scheme to revamp Medicare will be difficult if not impossible.

The plan being pushed by President Bush is being sold on the basis of offering better preventive care and limits on big expenses along with prescription drug coverage. But Sen. Edward M. Kennedy (D-Massachusetts) publicly labeled it "an outrageous attempt to force senior citizens to give up their family doctor and join HMOs."

Former Mexican Foreign Minister Jorge Castañeda, who was not a National Action Party (PAN) member and who envisioned a new era of foreign and domestic warmth, is gone. His successor, economist Luis Ernesto Derbez, visited Washington and, apparently, Mexico and Fox want a more back-to-basics relationship between Mexico City and Washington. Fox is trying to bolster PAN's agenda, nearing July elections.

Fox is especially hopeful that White House and Republican support materializes with something close to full amnesty for millions of Mexicans illegally in the U.S. Republicans seem more sympathetic to offering temporary work visas.

Mexican agriculture is still trying to gain a competitive footing against subsidized U.S. imports in the wake of removal of most tariffs last month from NAFTA. Non-subsidized Mexican farmers say the competition isn't fair.

Real reforms in Mexico's petroleum industry — which is the third highest U.S. supplier — would be welcome on the brink of war with Iraq and Venezuela still immersed in crisis. And a turnaround in Mexico's slump in attracting foreign investment would re-ignite Fox's star at home.

The Army's idea to privatize up to 214,000 military and civilian jobs went silent after my letter, signed by 67 other House members, was sent to Army Secretary Thomas E. White.

White proposed last October to review jobs held by 58,727 military personnel and 154,910 civilian employees in search of better efficiency at a cheaper cost.

But, it would be at the expense of national security to replace support functions in accounting, legal counsel, maintenance and communications slots. The Army's initiative could affect more than one in six Army jobs around the world and follows two earlier waves of privatization over the past 20 years.

As a member of the House Armed Services Committee who circulated the letter, I said the Defense Department was too focused on cutting costs when the country is fighting terrorism and facing a possible war with Iraq. "They're looking at the bottom line...without regard to the impact that it would have on our national security if we continue on this binge to privatize," I wrote to Secretary White. "As far as I'm concerned, we're down to the bone."

Walker Lindh on a platter.

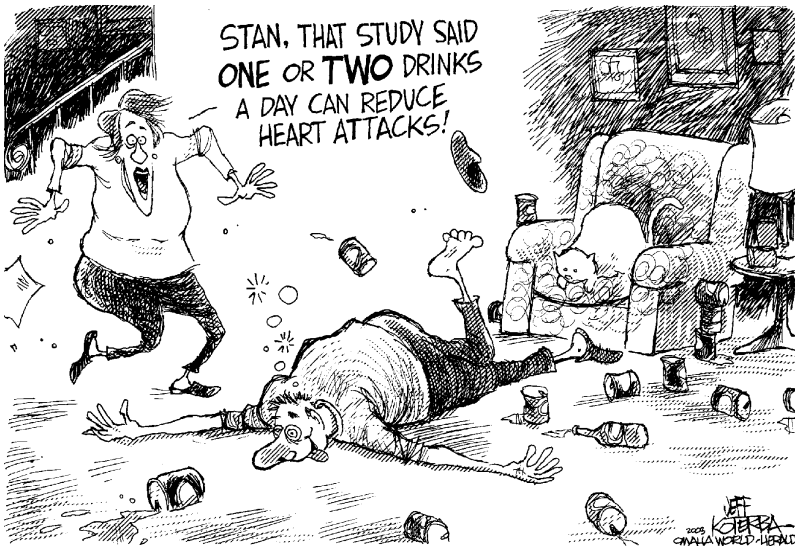
Without making excuses for Lindh, it should be noted that though he had been interrogated by Spann there is no published evidence, nor charges made by the court, that he was directly involved in Spann's death.

Still, here was Shannon Spann, herself a CIA counter-terrorism officer, calling for blood — for vengeance and recompense that was not hers to ask. Her husband died in service to his country. He knew the risks. So did she. But she crossed the line to become an individual seeking personal revenge.

It was the kind of scary behavior that is, thankfully, missing from the reaction of most families who have lost someone in national service. But we are seeing it more and more often as our media cries out that not one life should be lost, not one person should suffer, not one sacrifice be made for the good of others.

It is the kind of unrealistic, unconscionable thinking that those who have gone before us would find astonishing and unbelievable.

Rather than diminish and dishonor the integrity of the sacrifice these people have made by whipping up howls of artificial mourning, it would be far better for our media to simply salute them — and then step aside so the next hero can step up.



30 Years WEST TEXAS COUNTY COURIER

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ADDRESS:
15344 Werling Court
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Phone: 852-3235
Fax: 852-0123
E-mail: wtxcc@wtccourier.com

Publisher
Rick Shrum
Business Manager
Francis D. Shrum

Contributors
Don Woodyard
Steve Escajeda
Arleen Beard

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

‘To touch the face of God’

More than 33 years ago America made reality out of a dream. We put a man on the moon. We achieved a feat that many on Earth thought was impossible.

Those of us from the black and white TV generation remember where we were on that July day when Neil Armstrong lowered himself onto the moon’s surface and uttered the words: “This is one small step for man and one giant leap for mankind.”

That monumental mission — and the dozens that have followed it — remind us that dreams really can become reality. But with reality comes tragedy and sorrow. Sadly, on Saturday, Feb. 1, 2003 we were reminded of this fateful fact.

Seven brave and dedicated astronauts lost their lives while pursuing a national dream. Words cannot express the gratitude we owe to those courageous souls, their families and loved ones.

I think President Ronald Reagan said it best in 1986 when he expressed a national gratitude to the space program after learning that the Space Shuttle Challenger had been lost. I would like to leave you today a portion of his poignant remarks:

“Perhaps we’ve forgotten the courage it took for the crew of the shuttle...they were aware of the dangers, but overcame them and did their jobs brilliantly. We mourn seven heroes...We mourn their loss as a nation together...For the families of the seven, we cannot bear, as you do, the full impact of this tragedy. But we feel the loss...Your loved ones were daring and brave, and they had that special grace, that special spirit that says, ‘Give

me a challenge, and I’ll meet it with joy.’

“They had a hunger to explore the universe and discover its truths. They wished to serve, and they did. They served all of us.

“We’ve grown used to wonders in this century. It’s hard to dazzle us. But for 25 years, the United States space program has been doing just that...We’ve grown used to the idea of space, and perhaps we forget that we’ve only just begun. We’re still pioneers. They, the members of the Challenger crew, were pioneers.

“The future doesn’t belong to the fainthearted; it belongs to the brave. The Challenger crew was pulling us into the future, and we’ll continue to follow them...I’ve always had great faith in and respect for our space program. And what happened today does nothing to diminish it. We don’t hide our space program. We don’t keep secrets and cover things up. We do it all up front and in public. That’s the way freedom is, and we wouldn’t change it for a minute...We’ll continue our quest in space. There will be more shuttle flights and more shuttle crews...Nothing ends here; our hopes and our journeys continue.

“The crew of the space shuttle Challenger honored us by the manner in which they lived their lives. We will never forget them, nor the last time we saw them, this morning, as they prepared for their journey and waved goodbye and ‘slipped the surly bonds of earth’ to ‘touch the face of God.’”



Village of Vinton
PUBLIC NOTICE

For the customers of:
Vinton Village Estates Water System
Villa Alegre Estates Water System
Vinton Hills Water System

A PUBLIC HEARING will be held at 7:00 p.m. during the Regular Council Meeting on Tuesday, March 4, 2003 at Vinton Village Hall, 436 Vinton Rd., Vinton, Texas. Purpose of the public hearing is to allow any interested persons to appear and testify regarding:

- 1) RH Brown, the owner of the water systems listed above is proposing a rate increase as follows:
- 3,000 Gallons — \$12.00 Minimum Charge;
- Each Additional 1,000 Gallons — \$1.50.

Those who are unable to attend may submit their views in writing to the Village Clerk of the Village of Vinton.

CAMILLE CASTILLO
Village Clerk

WTCC: 02/06/03

Por la Gente By State Rep. Chente Quintanilla



Hola, mi gente – greetings from your State Capital

As I prepare to work hard to represent your interests in the Texas State Legislature, I am pleased to announce that you will be hearing from me on a regular basis. Thanks to Rick Shrum, publisher of the *West Texas County Courier* — the newspaper that keeps East El Paso and the Mission Valley people informed, aware, and on top of the news — I will be writing a column every two weeks. My aim is to keep my constituents in the know regarding the inner workings of our Legislative body.

As a long-time educator, of course, my heart and soul belongs to our children. We must continuously find ways to better educate our community, so that our children will have the opportunity to improve their lives. With a solid educational background, there’s no telling how successful our young people can become.

That’s why I’m very concerned with efforts by some legislators to do away with the Robin Hood Law. Even though we’ve barely started our legislative session - which began on

Jan. 14, 2003, and continues through June 2, 2003 — at least two key lawmakers have filed legislation to force the Legislature to develop an alternative plan for funding our schools. These two bills — filed by State Sen. Florence Shapiro, R-Plano, and Rep. Kent Grusendorf, R-Arlington — if approved, will force us to change the funding mechanism before Sept. 1, 2005.

As many of you are well aware, the Robin Hood Law does exactly what that legendary character was doing in Sherwood Forest. That is, taking from the rich to give to the poor. Our Robin Hood Law does essentially the same. Because the State has failed to fund education in an equitable manner, and has not abided by our State Constitution, the State has shifted its burden to local tax payers.

Under this law, the state has lowered its share of school funding to less than half, while the share from local property taxes has increased with higher property appraisals. Although the bills, if approved, won’t take effect until Sept. 1, 2005, the fact is that we will be forced to come up with in-

novative ways to provide for our schools. This is very disheartening. But, I promise that I will fight hard to maintain the Robin Hood Law, because that’s the only way that schools in our poorer districts will receive an equitable share of money. Otherwise, we will be forced to return to the days when some schools were forced to educate our children with only the barest minimum of necessities. We can’t afford to go back to the days when our youngsters were being cheated out of a quality education, simply because their parents were poor.

Even though I wasn’t appointed to the Public Education Committee, I was asked by the Chairman of that Committee, Kent Grusendorf to serve as an ex-officio member. That means that I will still be able to offer input, and I will be able to contribute to the debate on whether rich school districts should continue to be tapped to fund the poorer districts in Texas. I feel honored that, as a freshman legislator, I have been given this very important responsibility. Thank you, and until next time. I remain,

Chente for la gente

Town of Horizon City
PUBLIC NOTICE

A PUBLIC HEARING will be held at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, February 11, 2003 during the Regular City Council Meeting at City Hall, 14999 Darrington Road, Horizon City, Texas. Purpose of the public hearing is to allow any interested persons to appear and testify regarding the following proposed ordinance(s):

- 1) Proposed Amendment No. 030 to Zoning Ordinance No. 0006; rezoning the southwestern corner of Eastlake Drive at the intersection of Darrington Road from R-2, Residential to C-1, General Commercial requested by Texas General Land Office;
- 2) Proposed Ordinance No. 0104; rezoning the southern portion of Section 43, Block 78, Township 3 from M-1, Industrial to R-9, Single Family Residential requested by E.P. Core Property Co.;
- 3) Proposed Ordinance No. 0103, an ordinance regulating security alarm systems and false alarms within the Town of Horizon City.

Those who are unable to attend may submit their views in writing to the City Clerk of Horizon City. Ordinances are too extensive to print. Ordinances are always available for viewing or copying upon request from the City Clerk at the above address.

Sandra Sierra
City Clerk

WTCC: 02/06/03

TRUE TEXAS FACTS by Roger Moore Feb. 6, 1971, Alan Shepherd hits golf balls on the moon. They bear the names of Jack Harden, the pro at the River Oaks Country Club in Houston.



Write stuff

Dear Editor:

I recently attended a Socorro ISD board meeting. I was impressed with the order and respect for one another that prevailed among all the normal, well-meaning individuals in that room. Congratulations on their very well conducted meetings. Keep up the good work. It was a pleasure being there and I hope to (attend) more often. They follow the rules and have everything under control.

Gloria Rodriguez
Socorro





Socorro schools celebrating Black History Month

EAST EL PASO COUNTY — Sixth grader Daisy Morales draws an image of actor James Earl Jones during the first week of Black History Month. Morales is a student in Glenda Hawthorne’s art class at Capt. Walter E. Clarke Middle School. Socorro students and teachers are joining many other schools in remembering the life of Dr. Martin Luther King during February. Though the

famed civil rights leader was killed in 1963, his words and his goals that his, and all children be judged “not by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character.” Among the activities and events scheduled for the Socorro schools:

- Bill Sybert School Literacy-through-Music teacher Jane Richardson is teaching African-American spirituals and freedom songs.

- Art teacher Glenda Hawthorne of Capt. Walter E. Clarke Middle School is having sixth graders draw portraits of famous black people for entry in the Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority’s Black History Art Contest.
- Seventh graders in Martina Morgan’s William D. Slider Middle School writing class are reading, reviewing and learning about the Underground Railroad.
- The Montwood High School band, directed by Ron Pingor, will march in the Feb. 22 nd Black History Parade in Central El Paso.

Briefs

From Page 1

government contracts. The seminar is free and more information is available by calling Melodya Salaices at 543-3845; Adrian Madrigal at 633-7025 or the Horizon Town Hall at 852-1046. The Series is co-sponsored by the County of El Paso, the Small Business Administration, El Paso Community college, and the Regional Economic Development Group.

Horizon summit

The Horizon Economic Development Summit, held at the Frank Macias Elementary School last Friday, was attended by over 60 people, including business and community representatives, elected officials, public authorities and state agencies. Partici-

pants were welcomed by State Sen. Eliot Shapleigh, State Rep. Chente Quintanilla and the Mayor of Horizon City, Pat Randleel. The organizers are now working on an action program to implement the goals set by the summit.

In other news

■ It’s a walk in the park — the Rio Bosque Wetlands Park, that is, on Saturday, Feb. 8, with a guided tour, bird-watching, hiking, and educational and children activities conducted by Friends of the Rio Bosque, UTEP and the City El Paso during the free community event. The 372-acre wildlife refuge hosts thousands of migratory birds, native plants and the history of the Rio Grande River.

■ Four Socorro High School students competed in the 2003 Texas Special Olympics in Austin Jan. 24 and returned with first place

awards in the Power Lifting events:

- 200-Lb. Division - Eddie Ortiz, 1st place gold in bench press 140 lbs., dead lift 300 lbs., and combination 440 lbs.
- 250 Lb. Division - Joe Payan, 1st place in bench press 155 lbs., dead lift 255 lbs., and combination - 460 lbs.;
- 175 Lb. Division - Nick Arellano 1st place in the 155-lb. bench press, 225-lb. dead lift and combination 340 lbs.

Adaptive Physical Education teacher Jose Morales coached and trained the students for the annual statewide competition.

■ The El Paso County Emergency Services District #1 is seeking applications for the Board of Commissioners. The Board oversees the management of the District, which encompasses 151 square miles, including Horizon City. Interested residents of District #1 should contact the administrative office at

14151 Nunda, 852-3204, or 8201-7480 for further information and an application.

■ Horizon Communities Improvement Association (HCIA) has had to delay the distribution of trees for Horizon View Estates streets by one week. Unit 17 residents should now be able to collect their trees on Saturday, Feb. 15, not Feb. 8 as originally advised. HCIA will confirm the distribution with individual residents by letter.

■ Border Patrol Agents in Ft. Hancock seized 675 pounds of marijuana over the weekend and arrested three people in connection with an encounter between agents and a vehicle traveling in the area near the Ft. Hancock Port of Entry. Agents said they could see several burlap sacks in plain view in the bed of the truck as they approached and one bag fell from the lap of one of the occupants of the

vehicle as she got out.

■ The deadline to apply for the Federal Farm Program is April 1. Jaime Bustamante, County Executive Director for the El Paso/Hudspeth/Culberson County Farm Service Agency reminds area farm owners to make an appointment to sign-up for the Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program. The deadline is mandated by legislation and cannot be extended. He encourages farmers to log on at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/pas/farmbill/tools.asp> to simplify the interview process or call (915) 857-0351, Ext. 2.

■ This was no small-time theft. Sometime between Nov. 8 and Nov. 12 of 2002, 20 pallets of coiled electrical strip connectors were taken from Tyco Electronics located at 1281 Joe Battle. The material was secured in octagonal shaped cartons and placed on wooden pallets, each weighing about 400 pounds each, for a total of about four tons. The combined value of the theft is about \$175,000. Information about this case is worth \$1,000 if it leads to an arrest. Callers can remain anonymous by calling 566-TIPS (8477).

■ Not enough people in this country are receiving flu vaccines, and deaths and hospitalizations are surging as a result, a national expert on influenza has told Texas physicians. “This is an alarming situation that really challenges the medical community to find better ways to deliver vaccines,” said W. Paul Glezen, MD, head of the Preventive Medicine section in the Department of Pediatrics at Baylor College of Medicine at Houston. Ideally, he said, 160 million people in this country should receive annual flu shots, but “we don’t even make that many doses.” For the 2002-2003 flu season, 93 million doses are available. Dr. Glezen sees hope in a nasal spray flu vaccine expected to gain FDA approval next year. He said the flu is spread primarily by school children and working adults.

Fabens Independent School District Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balance Governmental Funds For the Year Ended August 31, 2002

Data Control Codes	10 General Fund	50 Debt Service Fund	Other Funds	Total Governmental Funds
REVENUES:				
5700 Total Local and Intermediate Sources	\$ 1,802,900	\$ 99,864	\$ 1,262	\$ 1,904,026
5800 State Program Revenues	14,196,205	613,680	1,283,699	16,093,584
5900 Federal Program Revenues	1,111,563	—	2,403,491	3,515,054
5020 Total Revenues	17,110,668	713,544	3,688,452	21,512,664
EXPENDITURES:				
Current:				
0011 Instruction	9,290,767	—	2,645,641	11,936,408
0012 Instructional Resources and Media Services	265,328	—	—	265,328
0013 Curriculum and Instructional Staff Development	56,264	—	70,793	127,057
0021 Instructional Leadership	389,083	—	391,958	781,041
0023 School Leadership	855,603	—	72,692	928,295
0031 Guidance, Counseling and Evaluation Services	336,362	—	55,959	392,321
0032 Social Work Services	57,245	—	25,057	82,302
0033 Health Services	191,596	—	49,135	240,731
0034 Student (Pupil) Transportation	198,587	—	—	198,587
0035 Food Services	1,008,485	—	17,188	1,025,673
0036 Cocurricular/Extracurricular Activities	537,204	—	—	537,204
0041 General Administration	820,893	—	10,499	831,392
0051 Plant Maintenance and Operations	2,079,599	—	8,080	2,087,679
0052 Security and Monitoring Services	237,899	—	105	238,004
0053 Data Processing Services	59,228	—	—	59,228
0061 Community Services	11,102	—	26,697	37,799
Debt Service:				
0071 Debt Service - Principal on long-term debt	240,051	175,000	—	415,051
0171 Debt Service - Interest on long-term debt	5,642	515,634	—	521,276
Intergovernmental:				
0093 Payments to Fiscal Agent/Member Districts of	—	—	313,787	313,787
6030 Total Expenditures	16,640,938	690,634	3,687,591	21,019,163
1200 Net Change in Fund Balances	469,730	22,910	861	493,501
0100 Fund Balance — September 1 (Beginning)	4,127,670	168,321	20,036	4,316,027
3000 Fund Balance — August 31 (Ending)	\$ 4,597,400	\$ 191,231	\$ 20,897	\$ 4,809,528

Horizon City Community Chapel

Sunday School 9:45 a.m.
Sunday Service 10:45 a.m.
Sunday Yth. Group 6:30 p.m.
Wednesday Night
Adult Bible Study 6:30 p.m.

Mr. Dean Pinney, Pastor

Spanish Services

Estudio Dominical 9:45 a.m.
Servicios en Español ... 10:45 a.m.
Estudio en Español
Biblico Jueves 6:30 p.m.

Mr. Pablo Gonzalez, Assoc. Pastor

Sunday Morning Nursery Available

**Non-Denominational
14802 Duanesburg • 852-3154**

NBA on a down hill slide and they don't even know it

By Steve Escajeda
Special to the Courier

In the case of an avalanche, something triggers an initial jolt, additional fragments become unstable and before you know it, everything's come apart and you have a runaway mass of debris falling out of control towards an eventual downward crash. The National Basketball Association is an avalanche in the making. How many of you sit and watch NBA games anymore? I didn't think so. Ratings show that less people around the country are tuning in to professional basketball games on TV and even more telling is the fact that attendance at NBA areas has fallen considerably this year. Why?

First of all the NBA's talent level has dropped immensely over the last 10 years. Fundamentals are a thing of the past, the team-game has gone out the window, referees don't call the game the way it should be and maybe the biggest problem in the league is the in-your-face thug element. And I'm not just talking about the players either. The coaches are catching up. NBA commissioner David Stern has lost total control of this sinking ship. It has finally happened — the inmates are in total control of the asylum. Maybe it all started when the NBA let Dennis Rodman get away with so much more than he should have back in his playing days. Then there are the pioneers of lousy behavior, the

Bill Laimbeer's, Derrick Coleman's and Isaiah Rider's of the world, The antics of these guys have led to a new list of social deviants who happen to play basketball for a living. It's one thing to play a tough hard-nosed style of basketball but many in the league make no secret of the gangster element. Have you watched Allen Iverson during a press conference? He looks like a 14-year old punk. C'mon, Iverson, even the dumbest among us have got to grow up some time.

This past week could have been the last straw. The Indiana Pacers Ron Artest, who was suspended earlier this season for throwing a \$100,000 piece of electronic equipment to the ground, was suspended once again for approaching Miami Heat coach Pat Riley and his assistant in a threatening manner. Artest showed the height of his intelligence when he proceeded to give the finger to the Miami fans as he jogged down the court. Then there was Utah Jazz coach Jerry Sloan who got so steamed at a referee's call that he pushed him dur-

ing a game last week. Sloan received a seven-game suspension. To be honest, he should have received at least a month without pay. You can't give off the impression that it's just a little bit wrong to put your hands on an official. Think I'm exaggerating about the NBA's problems? We're just at the halfway point through the season and check out the list of suspensions already: Ron Artest (7 games), Rasheed Wallace (7), Rick Fox (6), Soumaila Samake (5), Bonzi Wells (3), Chris

See NBA, Page 6

PUBLIC NOTICE FOR COMMENT PERIOD PUBLIC IS INVITED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE EI PASO METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION'S PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT PROGRAM

WHO, WHAT?
The El Paso Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) is currently under a 30-day public comment period for its **Public Involvement Program (PIP)** document. This process began on January 29, 2003 and will be ending on February 27, 2003.

WHERE?
The El Paso MPO is hosting a series of public meetings during this 30 day-public comment period, to receive public comments and discussions on the MPO's public involvement document and process. MPO staff will be available to receive comments and answer any questions you may have. The public meetings are scheduled for the El Paso MPO Region at the following locations:

- Monday, February 10, 2003**
Guillen Middle School
Parent-Training Center
900 S. Cotton St.
El Paso, TX 79901
6:00 p.m. — 7:30 p.m.
- Wednesday, February 12, 2003**
San Martin De Porras Catholic Church
Parish Hall
1885 McNutt Road
Sunland Park, NM 88063
6:00 p.m. — 7:30 p.m.

Thursday, February 13, 2003
Socorro City Hall
Council Chambers
124 S. Horizon
Socorro, TX 79927
6:00 p.m. — 7:30 p.m.

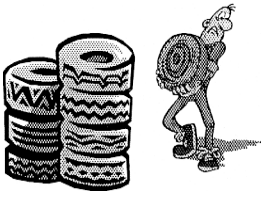
WHY?
The El Paso MPO must document the Public Involvement Process (PIP) and Environmental Justice used in disseminating transportation planning and programming in its study area.

The Public Involvement Program document is available (in both English and Spanish) at the aforementioned locations and at all Public Library branches. Other copies may be viewed and/or obtained at the El Paso MPO office, 10767 Gateway Blvd. Suite 605, El Paso, TX 79935. Copies will also be available at all scheduled public meetings. The public is encouraged to review and comment on the Draft PIP by logging into the MPO's web page at **www.elpasompo.org**. **For more information, contact Ricardo Dominguez at the El Paso MPO Office, (915) 591-9735.**

A CITIZEN'S GUIDE TO REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLANNING AND PROGRAMMING IN EL PASO COUNTY, TEXAS AND SOUTHERN DONA ANA COUNTY, NEW MEXICO



CANUTILLO, TEXAS PUBLIC NOTICE



A **SIXTH TIRE AMNESTY DAY** will be held on Saturday, February 8, 2003 from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM at Bill Childress Elementary School, 7700 Caps Carter. The line will form on the corner of Chicken Farm Road and Caps Carter at the entrance of the school bus parking lot. **You will be expected to unload tires from your vehicle.** The purpose of this tire amnesty day is to bring the Canutillo and surrounding community areas together to reach two common goals. The goals are the removal of waste tires and the control of mosquitoes. Mosquitoes can transmit diseases such as **Encephalitis, Malaria, Dengue, and Yellow Fever. Encephalitis infected mosquitoes have been found in or around your community.** The disease can be fatal especially among children, the elderly or people with a low immune system. Ideal mosquito breeding areas are tires, which we all know are found in abundance throughout El Paso County. We can find tires on the rooftops of mobile homes, yards, roadsides, vacant lots, irrigation ditches, canals, the desert, or any other location where some people manage to dump them illegally.

During this amnesty day we will only accept passenger vehicle tires (**cars and pickups**) without rims. **NO tractor, semi, aircraft, large or commercial vehicle tires will be accepted.** This service will be **FREE OF CHARGE** and there is a limit of 15 tires per person that you will be allowed to drop off during this **ONE DAY EVENT**. Since there will be a separate tire amnesty day for businesses, we ask that local tire businesses not use this day to drop off their waste tires. However, these businesses can join the rest of the community in collecting illegally dumped waste tires throughout Canutillo and surrounding areas. For further information, please contact Mario Sandoval at Environmental General, 594-1568. **ARRIVE EARLY, THE GATES WILL CLOSE PROMPTLY AT 2:45 PM! LET'S ALL COME TOGETHER AS A PROUD COMMUNITY AND MAKE A DIFFERENCE!**

AVISO PUBLICO

SE HA DESIGNADO EL SABADO 8 DE FEBRERO DEL 2003 DE LAS 9:00 AM a las 3:00 PM COMO EL SEXTO DÍA DE AMNISTÍA PARA LA RECOLECCIÓN DE LLANTAS USADAS. El lugar designado es la escuela Bill Childress Elementary, 7700 Caps Carter Road. La linea se formara empezando en el cruce de las calles Chicken Farm Road y Caps Carter road a la entrada de la yarda de camiones. **Usted sera responsable por descargar las llantas de su vehículo. Se han encontrado mosquitos infectados con el virus de Encefalitis en el area de Canutillo.** Esta enfermedad puede ser mortal especialmente en los niños, personas de edad avansada, y personas con problema del system inmunológico. El proposito de este dia de amnistia es para unir a la comunidad de Canutillo y sus alrededores con la intencion de recolectar llalntas usadas para poder mantener el control de mosquitos y evitar enfermedades como **Encefalitis, Malaria, Dengue, y Fiebre Amarilla.** Los lugares favoritos para la reproducción de los mosquitos, son los siguientes: llantas usadas tirades por las calles, carreteras, terrenos vacios, y canales de irrigación. Tambien se encuentran llantas en los patios de las casas, en drenajes y en los technos de las casas móvil.

En este dia de amnistía se aceptaran solamente llantas de vehiculos personales sin rines. **NO se aceptaran llantas de vehiculos comerciales este día. Este servicio se ofrece gratuitamente para la comunidad.** Habrá un limite en la cantidad de llantas que traigan Se aceptara solamente 15 llantas por persona. **Este evento es de un solo día.** Se les pide a los comerciantes que por favor no usen este día para deshacerse de sus llantas. Vamos a tener otro día de recolección de llantas para los comerciantes. Se le invita a los comerciantes que se unan con la comunidad para este evento tan grande en la recolección de llantas usadas que se han tirado ilegalmente en terrenos vacíos, canales y las calles de la comunidad de Canutillo y sus alrededores. Para mas informacion llame a Mario Sandoval representante de este programa al numero 594-1568. **¡Llegue temprano, las puertas se cerraran ha las 2:45 PM en punto! Juntos podemos lograr una comunidad orgullosa. ¡Hagamos la diferencia!**

EL PASO CITY-COUNTY HEALTH & ENVIRONMENTAL DISTRICT VECTOR CONTROL INITIATIVE PROGRAM

For Sanity's Sake

By Taprina Milburn

Paper trail

Notes are taped all over the house — clues to my family about how they're to survive without me for the next five days while I'm out of town. To the kids: *The animals get hungry if they are not fed regularly. Thursday is Tae Kwon Do, and grandmother will pick you up from school. The babysitter will pick you up from school the other days. Remember to study for spelling tests and practice piano.* To my husband: *The kids get hun-*

gry if they are not fed regularly. Our oldest child is invited to sleep over at a friend's house Friday night. The friend's mother will take her on to Girl Scouts Saturday morning, but you are to pick her up after that event. There are leftovers in the fridge: beans, chicken noodle soup and lasagna. You have a Sunday school party on Friday night and lunch plans after church on Sunday. I also leave a phone number where I can be reached.

Am I worried that I will return home and find my husband, children and animals shriveled up on the floor? Maybe not shriveled, but a little gaunt. The last time I went out of town, my husband tracked me down 600 miles from home to ask if frozen pizza needed to be cooked. And if so, how does the oven work? I'm the conductor of this machine I call "family" and know my job well: feed, clean, remind and transport. Occasionally I take some time off, but it's not without worry that my kids and husband will be spotted standing on the street corner with cardboard signs that read: "Our

Mom's Out of Town, Can You Feed Us and Take Us To Our Next Activity?" Or: "I'm Out of Clean Dress Shirts. Can You Pick Up My Shirts from the Cleaners?"

There's a whole lot of strategizing involved before a mother leaves on a trip. We can't throw a swimsuit in our bag, grab our plane ticket and slip away as we did before we became moms. Now every trip away from our families involves corporate long-term planning at its best. Youngest child needs birthday present for party on Saturday. Oldest child needs money for Friday night event. Write notes to teachers. Don't remember if kids have class parties while you are gone; buy cookies just

in case. Call homeroom mom; party isn't until next week. Have an early flight. Must get sleep. Oops, forgot to make list of emergency phone numbers and cough medicines. Can't forget to jot down life insurance policy information (your husband will need to use the money to hire a nanny if, God forbid, you don't return in five days. And you have to return in five days because you only left instructions on how to live without you for that long).

Note to yourself: Give copy of notes to grandmother so she can remind family of schedule in case they forget to read notes.

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WEATHER

AccuWeather.com

SEVEN-DAY FORECAST FOR EL PASO

THURSDAY	THUR. NIGHT	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
Times of sun and clouds.	Mostly cloudy; maybe a shower or flurry late.	Brisk, chilly; chance for a couple of showers.	Clouds breaking for some sun; not as chilly.	A good deal of sunshine and milder.	Partial sunshine.	Clouds and sun.	Cloudy with a chance of rain.
▲ 52°	▼ 32°	▲ 46° ▼ 28°	▲ 52° ▼ 32°	▲ 58° ▼ 30°	▲ 62° ▼ 34°	▲ 64° ▼ 34°	▲ 58° ▼ 30°

UV INDEX

Statistics for noon.

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

Thursday	5	Moderate
Friday	3	Low
Saturday	4	Low
Sunday	5	Moderate
Monday	5	Moderate
Tuesday	5	Moderate
Wednesday	2	Minimal

TEXAS WEATHER

Anthony	51	30
Canutillo	52	31
Clint	49	28
E. Montana	52	32
Fabens	49	28
Horizon	52	31
San Elizario	49	28
Socorro	50	31
Tornillo	49	28
Vinton	52	31

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

TRAVELERS CITIES

City	Thur. Hi/Low/W	Fri. Hi/Low/W	Sat. Hi/Low/W	Sun. Hi/Low/W	Mon. Hi/Low/W
Albuquerque	38/22/pc	38/25/sf	47/28/pc	50/26/s	54/28/s
Atlanta	44/36/r	44/30/c	49/33/c	52/38/pc	48/31/c
Atlantic City	35/18/s	33/17/pc	39/21/s	44/26/pc	38/10/i
Austin/San Antonio	50/37/r	45/29/c	55/37/c	62/37/c	56/30/s
Baltimore	32/21/s	32/17/pc	36/23/s	42/25/pc	38/11/c
Boston	28/18/s	26/16/sf	32/26/pc	36/22/pc	30/9/pc
Chicago	20/2/sf	22/8/pc	30/14/pc	21/9/pc	25/7/pc
Dallas/Ft. Worth	43/30/r	44/32/c	50/36/pc	53/34/c	50/29/s
Denver	22/6/c	36/16/pc	35/17/c	36/21/pc	45/14/pc
Flagstaff	34/8/pc	34/8/pc	38/18/c	43/15/s	47/22/s
Houston	59/41/r	47/36/c	56/40/c	62/39/sh	58/33/s
Kansas City	27/12/c	34/20/s	38/18/pc	36/12/c	35/19/pc
Las Vegas	52/30/pc	52/30/pc	56/39/s	59/36/pc	62/44/pc
Miami	82/68/pc	81/66/pc	79/67/pc	82/67/pc	78/57/r
Minneapolis	8/-6/sf	17/4/s	24/4/c	21/2/c	18/4/c
New Orleans	64/46/r	52/43/c	54/44/c	63/46/r	57/35/s
New York City	31/21/s	29/20/c	37/28/s	40/27/pc	34/14/c
Philadelphia	32/22/s	32/18/c	35/26/s	40/26/pc	37/12/c
Phoenix	62/42/s	62/40/pc	65/47/pc	67/46/pc	68/46/s
Portland	50/30/s	50/34/pc	50/32/s	49/33/s	51/34/pc
San Francisco	60/44/s	58/40/s	58/40/pc	58/42/s	57/46/s
Seattle	50/32/s	50/34/pc	48/32/s	48/35/pc	47/33/pc
Tucson	62/38/pc	60/34/pc	63/41/pc	68/39/s	67/39/s
Washington, DC	34/24/s	34/22/pc	38/28/s	44/30/pc	41/15/c

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



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