

NEWSBRIEFS

Duran appointed to international post

Arturo "Tury" Duran's portfolio of water expertise in the El Paso and border region was recently expanded when he was tapped by President George Bush to become the new U.S. Commissioner to the International Boundary and Water Commission, an ambassador-level post. As a result he leaves his post as general manager of the Lower Valley Water District where he has been since July of 2001. Duran replaces former El Paso Mayor, Carlos Ramirez, who resigned recently for health reasons. Duran, 36, has already assumed his duties. A naturalized U.S. citizen, Duran immigrated from a village between Juarez and Chihuahua City. He holds a bachelor's and master's degrees in Chemical Engineering from New Mexico State University, and has 12 years of managerial experience in the private sector as well as federal and local government, including working as a consultant for the IBWC he now heads. He was previously appointed by the President to serve on the Joint Public Advisory Committee of the Commission for Environmental Cooperation. Duran inherits several difficult international water issues including the "water debt" Mexico owes the U.S. While Duran may currently lack the name recognition of his predecessor, his influence has been felt strongly over a relatively short period of time on the local water scene when he defied, through use of facts, figures, water regulation and personal effort, an attempt by the El Paso Water Utilities Public Service Board to consolidate the LVWD into PSB operations. Duran argued, and proved, that the LVWD could provide services at a lower cost to Lower Valley residents. Duran is replaced as LVWD general manager by Mario Aguilar, a member of the LVWD board of directors. Aguilar, a former assistant superintendent with the Socorro ISD, has filed suit against the Socorro district for wrongful termination.

Early release

Almost 33,000 students in the Socorro school district will be released early in the day Dec. 19 to begin their two-week mid-winter break. Elementary schools will release at 11:30 a.m., high schools at 12:15. Students and teachers will return to classes on Jan. 6, 2004.

In other news

■ A special candlelight service will be held at the Horizon Community Chapel on Christmas eve, Dec. 24 at 6:30 p.m. The community is invited to attend. Information: 852-3154.

■ Live music and country Italian cuisine will be on the menu at Montwood Middle

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It has been rightly said that forgiveness is the quality of heart that forgets the injury and forgives the offender.

— Quips & Quotes

Canutillo Elementary principal, assistant principal eat worms

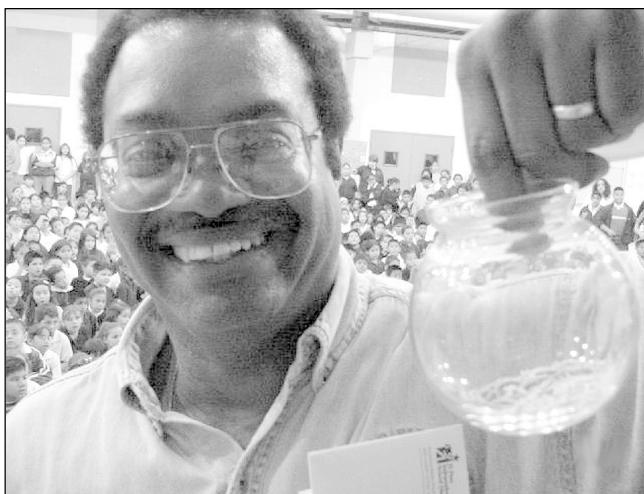
By Alfredo Vasquez
Special to the Courier

CANUTILLO — Canutillo Elementary School administrators will apparently do just about anything to encourage their students to read more.

Hector Giron, principal, and Mike Dillard, assistant principal, accepted the student body's challenge recently and ate worms as a way to highlight the outstanding campus participation in the Reading Renaissance program.

"We told our students at the beginning of the school year that if they met their personal goals in the reading program this semester then we would meet their challenge," said Giron. "Well, they did their part, so we had to hold up our end of the bargain."

The principal and assistant principal ate a special order of gourmet worms, called larvets,



EAT WORMS AND... — Canutillo Elementary School Assistant Principal Mike Dillard holds up a jar of gourmet worms that he had to eat as part of the Reading Renaissance challenge.

before an excited student body during a recent school assembly.

CES students checked out and read more than 10,000 library books each month this semester, said Giron. Students had to pass a computerized test on each book they read. CES has 730 students.

HCPD implements programs to increase community contact

"It is the mission of the Horizon City Police Department to provide professional police services with integrity and dedication, to enforce the law fairly, and to work in partnership with the community, through the Community Policing philosophy to enhance the quality of life in the Town of Horizon City."

HORIZON — The Horizon City Police Department modified its previous mission statement to the above soon after Chief Anthony Aguilar became Chief of Police in 2001. The modification added the "Community Policing" which has been implemented over the past few years to a much higher degree than before.

"We are trying to work closer with the community and find out what the citizens want and need," said Sgt. Ron Swenson "We are trying our best to be pro-active rather than re-active and to enforce laws by preventing the opportunity for crimes rather than responding and trying to solve them once they have been committed".

Several new programs have been implemented and are working well, he said. These programs include office volunteer

work, emergency preparedness volunteers, ride-along program, job shadowing with Clint ISD students, town hall meetings, police bike patrol, and neighborhood watch groups. They are all meant to create a closer relationship with the community and to keep the channels of communication open.

To date, there are a total of five volunteers that help out the HCPD with routine paperwork, answering the phones and filing paperwork. They help by alleviating paperwork requirements and give officers more time to be on the street. The emergency preparedness volunteers help in case of natural disasters, acts of terrorism, and training.

"Without the volunteers it would be difficult to accomplish a lot of our goals. They also get an opportunity to see the police department from within," said Sgt. Swenson. The job shadowing with Clint ISD is similar to the ride-along program which allows citizens and students to ride in a patrol car with an officer during his tour of duty.

Students who participate have expressed an

See HCPD, Page 4



HOLIDAY PERFORMANCE — Mariachi musicians Wilfredo Chavira of Salvador Sanchez Middle School, left, and Kevin Elizalde, a third grader at Desert Wind Elementary School performed during the annual SISD Mariachi Holiday Concert for Toys December 10.

SISD mariachi concert trades tunes for toys

SOCORRO — Members of the Socorro High School, Salvador Sanchez and Socorro Middle Schools mariachi bands performed during the groups' annual holiday concert for toys Dec. 10.

Almost 200 fans of Mexican music came to the concert and donated more than 240 toys to be distributed by the Socorro District's "Christmas Store" program.

Socorro High School Principal Oscar Troncoso introduced the first large group of students from all three schools. The Christmas Store, now in its 11th year, is the annual project of SISD Operational Services employees, who gather, sort and distribute donated toys, canned foods, clothing, and home furnishings to needy Socorro families.



DONATING EFFORT — Freshman violinist Selene Salcedo collected toys during the Socorro mariachi groups' annual concert.



One perspective

By Francis Shrum

Common scents

According to news reports, Saddam Hussein was concerned about the way he smelled, even at the depths of his fall from strong-manhood. The newspapers say in the bedroom of the humble farmhouse where he was living, soldiers found — along with some rat poison and bug spray — a bottle of Lacoste Pour Homme cologne.

It seems humans have always had a fascination with smelling good — the ancients used oils and flower water and we’ve been perfecting the art ever since.

There are famous women who have a special scent created for themselves and market it under their celebrity moniker. There are perfumes for Elizabeth Taylor, Jennifer Lopez, Jane Seymour, Cindy Crawford and a host of others.

But I wonder, do they wear their own or do they buy each others so they can smell like someone else? And who wants someone else smelling just like you do?

They way a creature smells has tremendous impact on the way our eco system works.

Mama animals and baby animals are able to determine, out of the gazillion other animals of their particular species, which one belongs to them just by their smell. Sort of like a natural, air-borne hospital ID bracelet.

Likewise, a male animal creature knows from the scent of the female of his species whether she is in an amorous mood or whether he should steer clear.

Unlike our animal counterparts, the human female doesn’t use her scent

in such a predictable fashion. The most dangerous human female alive may smell extremely inviting.

Apparently, some folks believe their scent defines who they are, or can transform them into what they want to be — why else would somebody pay thousands of dollars for an ounce of odor?

I can’t help but get a chuckle out of the names given to perfumes and colognes, and wonder what reasoning people use when they decide to smell like a name.

Some of them are kind of upbeat and inviting, like American Original, Life Essence, or Celebrate — I might like some of that.

Other names for women’s fragrances may sound glamorous, or sensual, like Obsession, Infini, White Shoulders or Le Chic. But what makes a woman choose a perfume called Cuba Jungle, which comes in the varieties of Snake, Tiger or Zebra?

Some cologne names are downright scary. I don’t want to meet the person wearing Ambush, Hypnotic Poison or Arsenal in a dark alley, or find out I’m on their bad side in a squabble.

What is a man thinking about when he splashes himself with something called Diesel Plus? Or Fun Water, One Man Show, even What About Adam? I wonder about men’s scents called Intuition, Eternity, or Curve.

What’s attractive about a cologne named Cigarillo or Cigar Aficionado? Sounds more like a shady political deal or a back-room poker game than a good smell. Stetson is pretty popular — it might be all right as long as the Stetson was a new one.

There’s no accounting for taste,

they say. Though I’ve never confirmed the historical accuracy of it, I’ve heard it was Napoleon Bonaparte’s habit that, having concluded a military campaign and heading home for France, he would send word ahead to his wife, Joséphine, that she should not bathe.

Maybe this inclination would account for the multitude of perfumes and colognes that carry French names.

There are some things that smell

good to me that cannot be duplicated — the way my hands smell after I unsaddle a horse, like leather and horse sweat and dust. Bread baking in the oven isn’t bad either. And there is no sweeter smell than a breeze blowing through the greasewood brush after a rain.

Combined, smells like these make up the smells of life. More than likely, at the end of the day, we smell more like where we’ve been and what we’ve been doing than what we applied to wrist and

throat in the morning. I’ve tried shopping for perfumes at the smell-good counter in the Mall, but with little success. After sniffing the first couple of squirts on wrist or arm, my poor nose gets so confused, it can’t tell the difference anyway. They also say that every perfume smells different on every person because of unique body chemistry. That should simplify everything — why not market just one cologne? We could call it Common Scents.



Reyes Reports By U.S. Rep. Silvestre Reyes

Buying a home is essential to building a solid financial base

During my seven years in Congress, El Paso has grown at a rapid pace. Not too long ago, a drive to the eastside of El Paso from my home in the Upper Valley meant driving as far as Cielo Vista Mall! Today, East El Paso stretches far beyond to areas once occupied only by desert landscape. Beautiful new homes, neighborhoods, and subdivisions are now erupting not only in the eastside, but also around North Hills and other areas of our city.

The development of quality, affordable homes is key to the evolution of our community. Homebuilders, along with local financial institutions and businesses, are not only key to the growth of El Paso but also, and more importantly, to the growth of El Pasoans.

A study released by the Federal Reserve Board revealed a substantial gap in net household wealth between Hispanics and other American households.

Net household wealth is the economic term for all individual or fam-

ily economic assets, including home equity, minus consumer debts. According to the Federal Reserve Board Survey of Consumer Finances data, the typical Hispanic household held a net wealth of \$11,450, compared to the net wealth of \$86,100 held by typical (median) American households.

The reasons for this gap are directly related to a lack of asset building and the saving and spending patterns of Hispanic families.

The ability to purchase a home is key to building wealth and assets. Buying a home requires long-term financial planning and the building of a solid financial foundation. Families who might not have utilized banks or credit unions in the past open accounts to save money, earn interest and build upon their assets. In addition, the home equity earned as a result of purchasing allows for opportunities to borrow, and the investment into a home can lead to profits when reselling.

A broad coalition of nonprofit, corporate, and governmental groups created “America Saves,” a national

program to assist individuals and families with saving money and building wealth. El Paso organizations launched our local campaign, “El Paso Saves,” to promote these issues in our community. A majority of the credit unions in El Paso are participating by offering low or no-cost savings accounts to participants.

Homebuilders in El Paso who continue to produce quality, affordable homes are helping make home ownership a reality for many. I would like to congratulate Bobby Bowling IV, who was sworn in as the new President of the Texas Association of Builders in October. The Bowling Family name is synonymous with homebuilding in El Paso, and I am certain he will do an excellent job representing the interest of homebuilders in El Paso and across the state.

With the help of the Bowlings and other El Paso homebuilders and programs like “El Paso Saves,” our families will benefit from home ownership and our city’s future will be bright.



Por la Gente By State Rep. Chente Quintanilla

Christmas is a time for cherishing memories

Christmas in the Valley has always been special for me, especially as it relates to the beautiful people who reside in this most unique of El Paso’s neighborhoods. As the weather starts turning cold the air smells fantastic, as fireplace after fireplace is lighted so that warmth and good cheer fill a home with love and happiness.

First is the trek to the river to pick up ample armloads of mesquite or other fragrant woods that not only warm our homes, but also give them that special aroma. Those cold, winter evenings, as we sit with our loved ones, drinking egg nog, or hot chocolate, brings back memories of Christmases past, when we would sit by the fire until the small hours of the morning, waiting for that jolly old elf to make his appearance — sliding down our chimney to place toys and other gifts under our tall Christmas tree.

Our children would go to bed early. Of course, what child doesn’t like go-

ing to bed early on Christmas Eve? They’ve been warned that if they don’t go to sleep early, Santa Claus won’t be able to deliver their toys. I remember back then, how my kids would practically beg me and my wife, Gracie, to let them go to bed. They were on their best behavior, especially knowing that Santa could still check his list twice — right up to that final minute, before his appearance.

What a joyful scene, as finally our children would rise — oh, say, about 4 in the morning. Gracie and I would virtually glow with happiness, because our children were safe, happy, and because they were such a wonderful group of young people. As they tore into their colorful wrapped packages, they would shout and exclaim with happiness at whatever Santa had brought them.

Gracie and I would sit there, enjoying the scenes that passed before us. We were totally happy that we were able to provide for our kids. We’d be drinking either hot chocolate, or egg-nog laced with a little bit of the dog that bit you, and eating a

tamale or two. The Christmas tree would be lighted to its fullest, lending light to an already sparkling morning. Sometimes there would even be snow on the ground. If when, then we would all go outside to build a snowman, or to throw snowballs at each other.

Now, our children are grown. Now, they are creating their own Christmas memories for their own children. Yet, there always will remain a little bit of childhood, a little bit of wonder. I hope that all of you enjoy your Christmas this year the happiest of New Years.

During this season, I have begun a tradition to thank my constituents and celebrate this beautiful season. I cordially invite everyone to join me at my Third annual Holiday Pachanga on Sunday, Dec. 28, 2003 from 2 to 7 p.m. at the Mission Valley Ballroom, 10600 North Loop Rd. — admission is free. Please join us and bring your family to enjoy an afternoon of music, food, and great holiday spirit.

Chente for La Gente

30 Years

WEST TEXAS COUNTY COURIER

SERVING ANTHONY VINTOS, CASUTELLO, EAST MONTANA, HORIZON, SOCORRO, CLINT, FARENS, SAN ELIZABO AND TORRELLA

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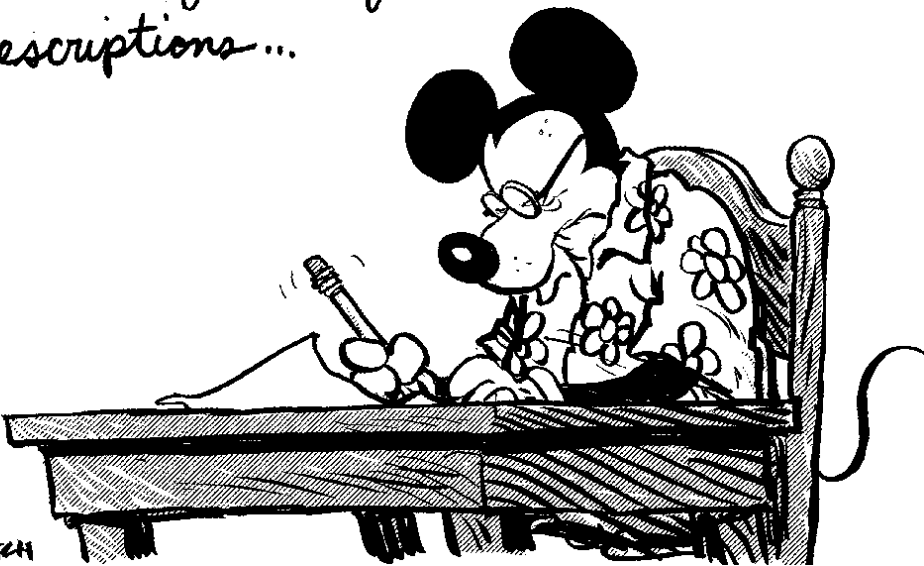
Homesteader

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News, Inc.

Dear Congressman,

I am a 75-year-old bachelor living in Florida. I can't afford to stop working because of the high cost of my prescriptions...



BRACKINS
RICHMOND TIMES-DEPARCH

I WANT TO HIT THE GROUND RUNNING... A QUICK AND LOW-KEY SWEARING-IN, NO BIG FESTIVITIES! WHAT'S THIS?

THE INAUGURAL BALL...

\$25 BI DEFICIT

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR OF CALIFORNIA



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

What happens when Santa doesn't come

When I was growing up, my parents didn't have a lot of money. I was nearly twelve before I realized that not all moms and dads hold down two or three jobs a piece.

I know my parents must have dreaded Christmas. When you're little, everybody's quick to tell you that Santa Claus brings toys only to good little boys and girls. If you don't get much under the tree on Christmas morning, you must have done something to get on the wrong side of Santa.

A tree was a luxury we couldn't always afford at Christmas. But, until the year I turned ten, there were always presents.

That year, 1964, things were harder than usual. By then our family had grown to include five children, including me. My dad would stay up late at night, adding, subtracting, and dividing the bills in a crazy kind of math that never gave him the answers he wanted. About two weeks before Christmas, my mom took me aside. "Henry," she said, "you're the oldest, so you should know what's happening. It looks like we're not going to be able to buy any presents this year. I need you to help your brothers and sisters understand." I nodded, but inside I was worried. How do you

tell a five year old that Santa won't be coming this year?

The next two weeks went faster than I would have wanted. Suddenly, it was Christmas Eve. That evening, my mom made her famous tamales and bunellas. Dad read the Christmas story, and we sang a few songs. But I noticed my brothers and sisters weren't as excited as usual. They'd been warned days before that there were lots of kids in the world, and the North Pole toy factory was having a hard time making all of the toys.

The next morning, as I was just waking up, I heard my brother Nate shout. I ran into the next room. There, in the corner, was a Christmas tree, standing about four feet tall with shiny red, blue and yellow balls on it. But that wasn't what surprised me the most. Under the tree were presents! There were new coats, games, and dolls for my sisters. Somehow, my parents had found the money for Santa to come. My throat tightened as I thought about the extra shifts mom must have taken, and the nights when dad could barely sleep before heading off to the next job.

Now, 37 Christmases later, my son and daughter have never gone to sleep on Christmas Eve afraid that

Santa's forgotten them. But that doesn't mean we haven't tried to show them what it's like for other children who aren't as lucky as they are. Every year, Project ABC (Any Baby Can) here in San Antonio matches us with a family that doesn't have enough money to give their kids the Christmas they deserve. The families that Project ABC helps all have children with expensive medical problems. One year, our family was matched with a family that had a boy my son's age who had muscular dystrophy. Our family goes out and buys presents we think the children (and their parents) will like. We also bring them everyday things like canned food or pots and pans.

We're not the only family who plays Santa. Today, there are dozens of charities that try to make sure that "all" good girls and boys have a Merry Christmas. They do it not because of some rule or regulation the government has passed. They do it because they care about their fellow Americans. They are what Christmas and our country are all about.



Former Horizon resident Lloyd Sapp, 86, dies in Florida

By Paul Haney
Special to the Courier

FRUITLAND, FLORIDA — Lloyd Milton Sapp of Fruitland Park, Florida and former Horizon City resident, died Nov. 12 in Florida. He was 86.

Sapp's wife, Loretta, combined news of Lloyd's death with special boyhood church memories in his hometown of Julesburg, Colorado, and mailed it to friends in Christmas newsletter format.

The Sapps moved to Horizon City in the 1970s before moving to Florida in 1987. Loretta became publisher-editor of the Horizon *Homesteader* which today has evolved as the *West Texas County Courier*.

Sapp was a retired minister with Southside Christian Church in Council Bluffs, Iowa. Born in Deer Trail, Colorado, he was a member

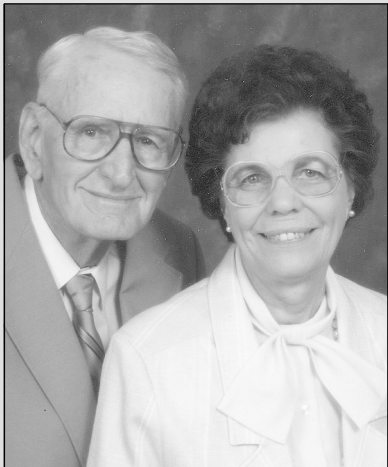
of the First Christian Church of Leesburg and served as associate pastor.

Earlier he was director of development for Nebraska Christian College in Norfolk, Nebraska. During World War II, he served as a naval aviator. In the several communities where he lived, he enjoyed tooling around in a Stutz Bearcat car which he built.

He was a John Deere dealer in Julesburg.

He is survived by wife, Loretta, of Fruitland Park; sons Richard of Fruitland Park and Ronald of Denver; eight grandchildren and six great grandchildren.

Services were held Nov. 16 at First Christian Church in Leesburg FL. Contributions may be made to Nebraska Christian College, Norfolk NE 68701, First Christian Church at 1701 Vine, Leesburg FL 34748 or Hospice of Lake/Sumter County, 12300 Lane Park Road, Tavares FL 32778.



Lloyd and Loretta Sapp posed for this photo taken on their 50th wedding anniversary in 1991.

Carlisle Navidomskis
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TRUE TEXAS FACTS by Roger Moore In 1972 Don Halsell of Keene bit the corner off an imported brick in the Texas Senate Chambers to show its poor quality.



Needs more salt!

ROGER T. MOORE
2003

Public Notice

Homestead Municipal Utility District

Notice of Water Service Restrictions

Pursuant to a contract with the El Paso Water Utilities Public Service Board, the Homestead Municipal Utility District is restricted to providing no more than 1,706 three-quarter-inch equivalent water meter connections within the District's boundaries. In order to comply with these limitations, the district's Board of Directors has adopted a policy whereby only one meter will be provided to each lot within the District that was lawfully platted and recorded with the County of El Paso as of July 22, 2003. Lots platted after April 1, 1993 will not receive a water meter until such time as the District has sufficient water supplies and meter capacity to serve new lots. Furthermore, lots which may have received a "certificate of compliance" or other County approval may still not qualify to receive a water meter.

Due to the above-described limitations, it possible that WATER SERVICE MAY BE CURRENTLY UNAVAILABLE to a particular lot or lots within the Homestead District. Therefore, OWNERS AND PURCHASERS OF LOTS WITHIN THE HOMESTEAD DISTRICT ARE ADVISED THAT PRIOR TO SELLING OR BUYING LOTS WITHIN THE DISTRICT, THEY SHOULD CALL OR VISIT THE DISTRICT OFFICES AT THE NUMBER AND ADDRESS LISTED BELOW.

Homestead Municipal Utility District
3668 Desert Meadows
El Paso, TX 79938
(915) 857-1051

WTCC: 12/18/03

HCPD

From Page 1

interest in law enforcement and want to get a closer look. The citizens may be looking into a career change or just curious about what police really do.

Alejandra, a student from Horizon High School, who participated in the job shadowing, said it helped her realize "that police are always working for our safety, they're not bad guys who want to give us tickets, but they are people who are trying to make our neighborhood a better place."

The police bike patrol has been around for some time; however, lack of personnel has always been a problem in getting them out on a more

regular basis.

Three officers are trained on the bikes and are usually seen during special events like parades and holidays.

Bike patrol officers and other HCPD officers passed out over 5,000 glow stick bracelets to children in the Horizon area during Halloween this year.

"The bike patrol is ideal for breaking down the walls between police and citizens," Swenson said. "It takes away the windows, radios and other distractions that a police car has; it makes us much more approachable."

Several neighborhood watch groups have been started in Horizon City and more areas have expressed interest. Swenson said in determining if your neighborhood needs a

watch program, simply ask yourself: Would a police officer recognize a stranger in your yard? Maybe not, he said, but your neighbors probably would.

With the town's rapid growth, calls for service have increased, too. "Our calls have increased by about 1,500 per year for the past two years; we simply are not available as much as we used to be to conduct traffic enforcement and neighborhood patrol.

"Therefore we are asking the neighborhoods to organize and help be our eyes and ears and report any suspicious activity," Swenson said. For more information on starting a neighborhood watch group or to participate in any of the above activities call 852-1047 and ask for Sgt. Swenson or Investigator Rico.

Briefs

From Page 1

School Dec. 18 as the campus jazz, symphonic, honor and beginning bands, celebrated with a concert, dinner and art exhibit entitled "Outerspace." Admission for the event is \$6. Exhibit opens at 5 p.m., dinner at 7 p.m., catered by Johnny Carino's. Information: 937-5800.

■ The 29th International Siglo

de Oro Drama Festival, held at Chamizal National Memorial Feb. 26-March 7, features plays drawn from Spain's Golden Age. The period, which was akin to Shakespearean England, highlighted the writing of such great Spanish authors as Lope de Vega, Calderon de la Barca, Tirso de Molina, Miguel de Cervantes, Lope de Rueda, Sor Juana and Juan Ruiz de Alarcon. This year's festival, which will feature presentations from the United States, Argentina, Chile, Mexico, Spain and Colombia, also offers a Student

Education Outreach Program. The program continues to feature one matinee performance in the theatre at the Memorial. It also includes an on-site visitation to selected schools by the various participating groups. Most presentations are in Spanish. Educators interested in participating in the program should contact Chamizal National Memorial Interpretation staff by Dec. 31, 2003. For additional information call 915 532-7273, ext. 125. Space is limited. Participation is free.

Visit Big 8 Food Stores: Big8.com



The Night Before Christmas

(This poem was written by a U.S. Marine, stationed in Okinawa, Japan)

This Holiday Season, please remember and give thanks for the men and women serving our country around the world.

This Holiday Reminder from Congressman Silvestre Reyes.

Political Ad paid for by Ron Pate, Treasurer
310 N. Mesa St., Ste. 400, El Paso, Texas 79901

'Twas the night before Christmas,
he lived all alone,
in a one bedroom house
made of plaster and stone.

I had come down the chimney
with presents to give,
and to see just who
in this home did live.

I looked all about,
a strange sight I did see,
no tinsel, no presents
not even a tree.

No stocking by mantle,
just boots filled with sand,
on the wall hung pictures
of far distant lands.

With medals and badges,
awards of all kinds,
a sober thought
came through my mind.

For this house was different,
it was dark and dreary,
I found the home of a soldier,
once I could see clearly.

The soldier lay sleeping,
silent, alone,
curled up on the floor
in this one bedroom home.

The face was so gentle,
the room in such disorder,
not how I pictured
a United States soldier.

Was this the hero
of whom I'd just read?
Curled up on a poncho,
the floor for a bed?

I realized the families
that I saw this night,
owed their lives to these soldiers
who were willing to fight.

Soon 'round the world,
the children would play,
and grown-ups would celebrate
a bright Christmas day.

They all enjoyed freedom
each month of the year,
because of the soldiers
like the one lying here.

I couldn't help wonder
how many lay alone,
on a cold Christmas Eve
in a land far from home.

The very thought
brought a tear to my eye.
I dropped to my knees
and started to cry.

The soldier awakened
and I heard a rough voice,
"Santa don't cry,
this life is my choice,

"I fight for freedom,
I don't ask for more,
my life is my God,
my country, my Corps."

The soldier rolled over
and drifted to sleep.
I couldn't control it,
I continued to weep.

I kept watch for hours,
so silent and still,
and we both shivered
from the cold night's chill.

I didn't want to leave
on that cold, dark night,
this guardian of honor
so willing to fight.

Then the soldier rolled over
with a voice soft and pure;
whispered, "Carry on Santa,
it's Christmas Day, all is secure."

One look at my watch,
and I knew he was right.
Merry Christmas, my friend,
and to all a good night.

Heart attacks take lives unless someone intervenes

Every day, more than 150 Texans will die from heart disease. And unfortunately, cardiovascular disease — our number one killer — doesn’t take time off for the holidays.

Some risk factors — such as high blood pressure, high cholesterol, weight gain and smoking — can be controlled through behavior modifications and healthy lifestyle choices. But certain acute events such as heart attacks are not so easily prevented — or predicted.

This holiday season, ask yourself an important question: If a family member or friend collapsed from cardiac arrest, would you know what to do? Each year, more than 250,000 adults suffer cardiac arrest, usually away from a hospital and often in their own homes. But there are steps that you can take to increase their chances of recovery and survival.

Because every single minute counts.

The most common cause of cardiac arrest is an abnormal heart rhythm known as ventricular fibrillation, which prevents the heart from pumping blood. Cardiopulmonary resuscitation, or CPR, can keep oxygenated blood flowing to the brain and heart until defibrillation or other advanced care can restore a normal heart rhythm.

Performing CPR is critical during the first few minutes following sudden cardiac arrest. With each passing minute, the chance of successful resuscitation is reduced by seven to 10 percent, particularly if CPR is not provided. Through CPR training and the Chain of Survival, you can transform yourself from a bystander to a lifesaver.

The Chain of Survival is a four-step process that outlines how to provide treatment to victims of cardiac arrest. The steps include:

- 1) Early access to care: Early access means recognizing the symptoms of cardiac arrest and immediately engaging the emergency system. Call 911 to dispatch emergency medical services.
- 2) Early CPR: This involves prompt and correct mouth-to-mouth breathing and chest compressions to enable oxygen-rich blood to be circulated to the victim’s heart and brain. CPR can extend the time available for successful defibrillation.
- 3) Early defibrillation: A trained rescuer can deliver a shock with an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) to help restore the heart’s normal contraction rhythm. The availability of an AED is critical to correcting ventricular fibrillation.
- 4) Early advanced care: Medical personnel can administer timely

treatment through medications and advanced therapies, which are vital to survival.

More than 95 percent of cardiac arrest victims will die — usually because defibrillation occurs too late to reverse the effects. Every minute that passes before returning the heart to a normal rhythm after a cardiac arrest causes the chance of survival to fall by 10 percent. Keep in mind that the average response time for paramedics or emergency medical technicians to arrive on the scene is 6 to 10 minutes. Most victims can’t afford to wait that long.

Because there’s no time to waste.

In 2000, almost 60,000 Texans died from cardiovascular disease — and roughly half of these deaths resulted from sudden cardiac arrest. There are an estimated 17,249 sudden cardiac arrests each year in the state of Texas, and only five percent of victims will survive. CPR can help make every minute count. In 2002, more than 420,000 Texans were trained in CPR and AED use.

More than five million people each year receive CPR training from instructors taught by the American Heart Association. The timely application of CPR has helped save thousands of lives each year. Visit www.americanheart.org/cpr for more information on CPR classes near you.

Gourmet Magazine singles out Canutillo’s Little Diner for road food

By Michelle J. Brown
Special to the Courier

CANUTILLO — Gourmet Magazine’s October 2003 supplement, *Guide to America’s Best Road Food*, selected Canutillo’s Little Diner as one of only two establishments in Texas worthy of inclusion.

Located in El Paso’s Upper Valley near the Rio Grande, 7209 7th St., the Little Diner has been a West Texas icon for almost 30 years. *America’s Best Road Food* singles out its “splendid tortilla factory” while “soft corn gorditas hold chile colorado, fried-crisp flautas are rolled tight around dizzyingly flavorful shredded beef, and enchiladas are generously covered with a roasted-green chile sauce.”

The Little Diner was last recognized by the world-renowned food and dining publication in 1998.

“We’ve always focused first on tradition,” said Lourdes Pearson, who with her husband, Brent, bought the Diner in 1995. “This review validates our steadfast belief that if you feed your customers like you would feed your family by never sacrificing quality, you will succeed.”

Founded in 1976 by Lourdes parents, Rey and Irene Gallegos, the Little Diner was originally housed on Doniphan with three tables and nine chairs. Seven years later the homestyle Mexican eatery moved to its current locale, which can accommodate more than 80 people. When the Pearsons bought it, they incorporated Lourdes’ mother’s recipes utilizing the freshest, most authentic regional ingredients obtained from Valley growers.

The Little Diner, open for lunch and dinner every day except Wednesday, brings patrons from across the region seeking out its infamous gorditas and Chihuahuan-style dishes. Locals frequently herald the continuing heritage of the Little Diner as the source for much of the best Mexican food in town.

For more information about the Little Diner and its Gourmet Magazine’s *Guide to America’s Best Road Food* review, call Lourdes Pearson at (915) 877-2176.

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Yada-yada: George Costanza said there'd never be a Yankee going to Houston

By Steve Escajeda
Special to the Courier

How many of you remember the Seinfeld episode a few years ago when the George Costanza character, who worked for the New York Yankees, told some Houston Astros executives that there was no way that any Yankee player would ever be going to Houston?

It's amazing sometimes how life imitates art. Only this time "art" was wrong, a New York Yankee is going to Houston, and a second Yankee could be on the way.

Andy Pettitte, a long time symbol of Yankees success, decided to say goodbye to the Big Apple and signed a three-year contract with the Houston Astros last week. And though the thought of Pettitte with any other team than the Yankees may still be

hard to believe, isn't the idea of Roger Clemens following him there even more unbelievable?

Houston has been on the verge of some big things in recent years making the playoffs almost annually but never able to win a single post-season series.

The Astros already have two quality starters in Roy Oswalt and Wade Miller, now with Pettitte and possibly Clemens, long time Astros, Jeff

Bagwell and Craig Biggio, may finally get past the playoff's first round.

In the Seinfeld sitcom, George Steinbrenner is portrayed as a bumbling buffoon who has the attention span of a 6-year old. A rich 6-year old.

It's amazing sometimes how life imitates art. The way he handled the negotiations, Steinbrenner looks like a bumbling buffoon today all but insuring Pettitte's departure. Seems "King George" almost went out of his way to make Pettitte feel under appreciated while the Astros rolled out the red carpet.

The rest of the baseball world shouldn't celebrate too much just yet, the New York Yankees will still be the Yankees next year. They still have Jeter and Giambi and Williams and Matsui and Mussina and Posada, and they've added Gary Sheffield, Javier Vasquez, Kenny Loften and Kevin Brown.

So don't cry for the Yankees.

But you can cheer for the Astros.

Oh yeah, the Red Sox are happy about the Pettitte deal too.

Dancin' dummies

There's an old saying in football: Act like you've been there before.

That's usually said by crafty veterans who have learned that the way to a championship is through teamwork and maturity.

What I see in the NFL this year looks more like play time at a day care.

How many selfish antics do I have to see on a Sunday afternoon? Don't get me wrong, I've got nothing against the Lambough Leap, or the Ickie Shuffle, or even the old Billy "White Shoes" Johnson routine.

Nowadays, I've got to watch a staged production every time a receiver catches a touchdown pass.

It started with the clown prince of pass catchers, Terrell Owens, who first signed his autograph on a football with a marker he carried in his sock during the game, and then celebrated a score by grabbing a

cheerleader's pompoms and cheering for — guess who? — himself.

Last Sunday I saw two new acts rise up and I swear it won't be long before some network executive comes up with a new reality show called "Best end zone antics."

During the New Orleans Saints game, Joe Horn, who had already planned his act by stuffing his cell phone into the padding of the goal post before his game against the New York Giants, retrieved it from teammate Michael Lewis and attempted to call his family after scoring his second touchdown of the game.

Of course, all this was done in full view of the fans to get a reaction. Why does this guy need so much attention? Isn't not having a real job and playing in front of a national audience for millions of dollars enough?

In another game, Cincinnati's Chad Johnson posed in front of a teammate who was pretending to have a camera. Johnson stood there like a female model doing a photo shoot on the shores of Hawaii. Only this wasn't Hawaii — and it wasn't pretty.

Where have all the real men gone? The men who know the value of teamwork and maturity. Men confident enough to let their play on the field do all their talking.

So long Saddam

On an unrelated note, I would like to comment on the happenings of last weekend.

Especially during this holiday season of good cheer, freedom, and good will toward all men, the capture of a disheveled Saddam Hussein (in a filthy hole) did wonders for all the Iraqi people and all people of the world who desire peace.

May all the peoples of the countries of the world soon discover that the only thing that truly separates us are natural boundaries of water and land. Other than that, we are all brothers and sisters of Earth.

May we all learn to love and live with one another some day.

Men's Basketball

Monday

December 22nd @ 7:05 PM

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VS

UTEP

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Women's Basketball

BATTLE OF I-10

Saturday

December 20th @ 7:05 PM

NMSU

VS

UTEP

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King Super Crossword

- PAGEANTRY ACROSS

1 Tiffany treasure

6 Zoom

10 Likely

13 Send the money

18 Novelist Lurie

20 In the thick of

21 Med. test

22 Leave out

23 Injudicious pageant winner?

26 Williams of "Happy Days"

27 Crank's comment

28 Facilitate a felony

29 "_ homo"

30 Tropical spot

31 Literary lioness

32 Couch kin

35 Mobile homes?

37 Leading man?

40 One of twelve

41 Musical key

43 Argumentative pageant winner?

48 "The Raven" monogram

51 Cookbook phrase

52 Pan-fry

53 Dynamic start

54 Shade of green

55 Spigot

56 The _ Brothers

57 Trudge

59 Teach on the side

60 He gave us a lift

62 Homeric character

63 Pound piece

64 Chic, in the '60s

65 Bean's brother

67 Nonconformist pageant winner?

70 Come up

74 Liotta of 127 Across

75 Start fishing

76 Accounting abbr.

78 " _ Lang Syne"

79 Aromatic spice

82 Rocker Townshend

83 Unwelcome visit?

85 TV's "My Sister _"

86 Wet blanket

87 Stead

89 Sweetly, to Solti

90 Dallas coll.

91 Slangy sib

92 Inarticulate pageant winner?

97 French pointillist

99 Lose one's tail?

100 Cooking fat

101 Play ground?

102 Congenital

104 Coalition

107 "Oh, woe!"

108 Scored, to Sampras

109 Impartial

110 Exec's deg.

113 Ditka and Douglas

115 Deceptive pageant winner?

120 "Die Fledermaus" maid

121 PA hours

122 With 25 Down,

aquarium fish

123 Expiated

124 Thick

125 Crosses (out)

126 Casanova's cry?

127 "Unlawful _" ('92 film)

DOWN

1 Window part

2 Director Kazan

3 Desire

4 Slalom curve

5 Resident

6 Diplomacy

7 Aussie walker

8 Feel awful

9 Nutritional abbr.

10 Clerical vestment

11 Went on

12 Prong

13 Singer Chris

14 Weather factor

15 Abusive pageant winner?

16 Sacred cows

17 Shoe size

19 Collars a crook

24 Where goats gambol

25 See 122 Across

31 Marmaduke has two

32 Positive

33 Hesitater's sounds

34 Little one

35 Baseball's Martinez

36 Chang's sib

37 Explosive mixture

38 Expand

39 Neat _

40 Shore sight

42 Bach's "Bist du bei _"

44 Neighbor of Mex.

45 That is

46 Sonny & Cher song, e.g.

47 Mother Judd

49 Commotion

50 Part of MPH

54 Biblical region

57 Oater extras

58 Departed

59 Hen's hubby

61 Remove varnish

63 HS exam

64 Florentine family name

66 Holm of "Brazil"

68 Freeze

69 Actor Power

71 Zhivago's country

72 Star quality

73 Halley or Hillary

77 Soft mineral

79 LP replacements

80 Psychic Geller

81 Inaccurate pageant winner?

82 DDT, for instance

84 Narcs' org.

87 Italian bread?

88 "It _ far, far better..."

89 Teen title

92 Toby, for one

93 Rips to shreds

94 Slangy suffix

95 Squirrel's snack

96 RN's specialty

98 Art supporters?

101 Playground feature

103 Homes on high

104 Candy quantity

105 Ohio city

106 Declaim

107 "Diary of _ Housewife" ('70 film)

108 NYSE rival

109 Baptism site

110 Make money

111 Transvaal resident

112 He's Devine

114 Diocese

116 Hostelry

117 Society column word

118 Crafty critter

119 Heavy weight

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Comix

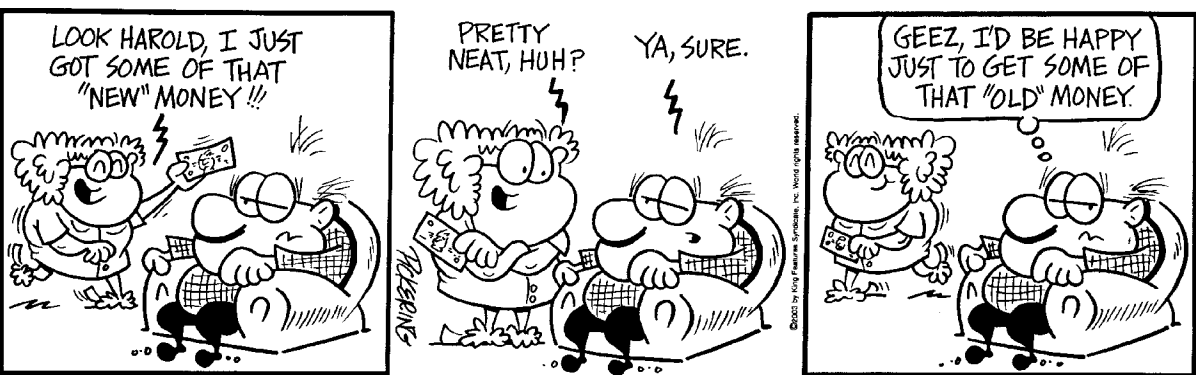
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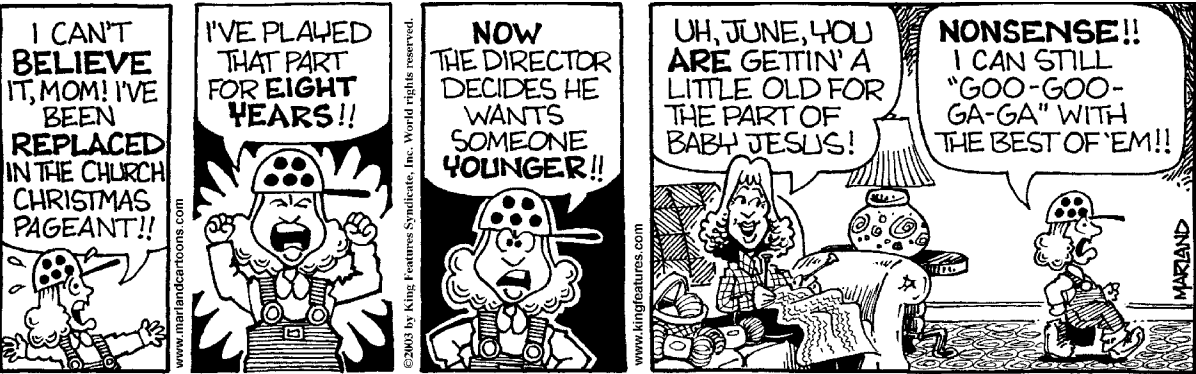
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R.F.D. By Mike Marland



Covering celebrity trials a growth industry

By Don Flood

The other day I saw a talking head on television described as a Celebrity Justice Correspondent.

I had never heard of this job title before, but my advice for young people is: Jump on it!

Later I found out "Celebrity Justice" is some kind of show, but, based on recent trends, I'd say covering celebrities who have been arrested looks to be the major growth industry for the 21st century, topping the Internet, pharmaceuticals — possibly even the hair-replacement and plastic surgery industries.

Back in the old days we had OJ. Now we've got Kobe Bryant, Phil Spector, Robert Blake, Michael Jackson — we even have Glen Campbell, for goodness' sakes!

Campbell used to open his show each week with a squeaky "Hi, I'm Glen Campbell!" like he was nicest, cleanest-living guy in the world.

Now he's out kicking cops! How long will it be before we see Julie Andrews dragged away in cuffs for extortion and gunrunning?

Not that the celebrity trial business is for just anybody.

First, you have to ask yourself: Do I have the tough-minded and well-disciplined hair it takes for this job, the kind that can stand up to hours of hot TV lights?

If you cleared that hurdle, you may have what it takes, but here are some more key questions.

Do you have the ability to:

- Pretend you know something about the law?
- Act as if a celebrity's speeding ticket is the biggest news story since World War II?
- Repeat the same old junk 3 million times in one day as if it's "hot"

breaking news? If so, you may be the right person to help our country.

According to a recent government study, the U.S. currently faces a severe shortage of celebrity trial TV reporters.

A careful reading of this fictional report uncovered this chilling assessment: "While the U.S. currently has capacity to cover one, possibly two, celebrity trials, the prospect of covering multiple celebrity trials would leave our nation woefully unprepared and understaffed."

In addition to the above-mentioned celebrities, we have other famous people who have yet to achieve criminal charges but whose escapades call for constant coverage by trained celebrity reporting professionals.

• Prince Charles — He is rumored to have done something naughty. Buckingham Palace denies it, without saying what it was. Whether he did it or not, it will need to be covered — a lot.

• Britney Spears — A recent real-life headline: "Britney Keeps Her Clothes On." Britney, who has recently appeared pretty much naked on every magazine cover from Field & Steam to Model Railroad-ing, can now make news by keeping her clothes on. She will continue to require massive coverage.

• And finally — sorry Britney! — we have the new queen of sleaze, Paris Hilton, a tall blonde heiress with a penchant for getting drunk and removing clothes in public and, well, being sort of naughty herself.

Covering Paris will require more than just a contingent of celebrity reporters. This woman requires her own cable channel.

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2003 Ford Taurus SE, gold, Alabama license 63J025L VIN - B21A03V051844, Dodge Tradesman van, black, no license WTCC-12/18/03

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Contreras earns master trustee status

EAST EL PASO COUNTY — Martha Contreras, a member of the Socorro ISD board of trustees, recently became the first among her Socorro peers to earn the level of "Master Trustee" through the Texas Association of School Boards.

Ms. Contreras graduated with the Leadership TASB Class of 2003 at the TASB Convention in September, completing a program that provides participants with opportunities to become master school board trustees and receive statewide recognition.

Through individual and team projects during the year, trustees demonstrate their leadership at local, regional and state levels.

The program involves intense study of literature on the current trends in education and of districts all over the state. It involves over 13 days of sessions with other Texas trustees.

The Texas Association of School Boards is commissioned to create leaders in school board trusteeship to ensure effective public school governance.



Martha Contreras



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