



NEWSBRIEFS

Tree disposal offered

The City of El Paso Solid Waste Management Department will accept cut Christmas trees for recycling. The service, which will reduce the tree to mulch, will be provided through Jan. 12, 7:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. except where noted: Westside at Doniphan and Frontera, and at 7700 N. Desert Blvd. at the old Canutillo Landfill; in East Montana at 14698 Van Lane; in the City of Socorro at 241 Old Hueco Tanks Rd. from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.; and at the McCombs and Clint Landfills. Most sites are free, however, call 593-2784 to check.

County security

In conjunction with the recent Homeland Security elevation of the security level in the nation, the El Paso County facilities of the Courthouse on 500 San Antonio and the MDR Building, which houses the El Paso County Sheriff's Dept., will have new procedures in effect of which the public should be aware. All persons wishing to enter, visit or conduct business at these county facilities will be required to produce identification and may be asked to sign a visitors log and be issued a temporary pass for specific areas. All persons entering will be subject to search of their person, briefcase, packages, purse, etc.

Socorro robbery

The Good Time in Socorro at 12370 Socorro Rd. was robbed on Monday, Dec. 22 at about 5 a.m. but the suspect didn't remain at large for long. The store clerk told El Paso County Sheriff's Deputies that a man entered the store and took more than \$5,000 at knifepoint and described the automobile he fled in. The police found the vehicle abandoned shortly thereafter and picked up the suspect at his home in Socorro, at 11521 about an hour later. He was identified as Angel Garcia, 21, and was charged with aggravated robbery. Bond was set at \$50,000.

In other news

■ Marine Corps Lance Cpl. Oscar Garcia, son of Guadalupe and Erasmo Garcia of Tornillo, recently was promoted to his current rank while serving with Battalion Landing Team 1/6, 22nd Marine Expeditionary Unit, Camp Lejeune, N.C. He was promoted based on sustained superior job performance and proficiency in his designated specialty. Garcia graduated in 2002 from Tornillo High School and joined the marines in August of 2002.

■ A new book published by the Texas Public Policy Foundation explores the issue of public school finance reform from the perspective of twelve ideologically and politically diverse authors. *Putting the Sides Together* is a 222-page work

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One trouble with trouble is that it usually starts out like fun.

— Quips & Quotes

Reading is FUN-damental in San Elizario

By Phillip Cortez
Special to the Courier

SAN ELIZARIO — The man walked into the library with a confident stride, a sharp suit and a determined look on his face. It was the calm before the storm, the pre-game warm up



SEE SPOT RUN — County Attorney Jose Rodriguez was one of several attorneys taking time to read to young San Eli students.

attorneys go through before addressing an unsympathetic jury at trial.

As County Attorney Jose Rodriguez browsed the shelves in the bright room, flipped a few pages and gathered his thoughts, he was about to speak to what could have been one of the toughest audiences of his career — a classroom of pre-kindergartners.

Rodriguez was just one of several attorneys who read to students at Loya Primary School in San Elizario on Tuesday, Dec. 16, 2003, as a part of the Reading Is Fundamental (RIF) celebration at the school. A group of assistant county attorneys from Rodriguez' office took time out for the event.

According to Linda Carrasco, librarian at the school, 494 books were given to Loya students during RIF Week. The RIF program prepares and motivates children to read by delivering free books and literacy resources to those families who need them the most, according to RIF documents.

"The students must select their own book that they want," Carrasco said. "That's what makes it a great program because nobody is forcing them to read something they don't want to."

RIF, Inc. is the oldest and largest children's and family nonprofit literacy organization in the nation and operates through 435,000 volunteers at 23,000 sites nationwide. RIF has provided more than 250 million books for children to choose and keep, thanks to the support from the U.S. Department of Education, corporations, foundations, community organizations and individuals.

In San Elizario, free books were available to every student in the district during RIF week. Aside from the 494 students at Loya who chose books, 983 students at San Elizario High School, 803 students at San Elizario Middle School, 493 at Alarcón Elementary, 439 at Sambrano Elementary, and 450 at Borrego Elementary had the opportunity to receive a free book.

In Maria Teresa Velez's pre-k class, 16 mesmerized four-year-olds were given an entertaining dose of Dr. Seuss — in Spanish. Carrasco says that part of the RIF program is to offer books for every population in the school, whether students speak primarily English or Spanish.

"We provide Spanish books, board books (pages are made of cardboard because small hands can still do big damage), and audio books," Carrasco said. Last year, she added, audio books were pivotal in helping an autistic student enjoy reading.

"The teachers were very satisfied and the other three attorneys that came did a very good job," Carrasco said. "The kids were encouraged to read through the help of community leaders."

US meat supply is safe, disease surveillance system works says Texas' state veterinarian

The diagnosis of mad cow disease or Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) in a cow in the state of Washington has proven the U.S.' disease surveillance system is working, resulting in a meat supply that is safe, said Dr. Bob Hillman, Texas' state veterinarian and head of the Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC), the state's livestock and poultry health regulatory agency.

BSE is commonly nicknamed "mad cow disease" because infected cattle stumble, become unable to walk, develop head jerking and sensitivity to light as the fatal disease progresses.

Dr. Hillman stressed that BSE is in no way related to foot-and-mouth disease (FMD), a fast-moving virus that causes cloven-hooved animals, such as cows, pigs or sheep, to develop blisters around their mouth, teats or hooves.

Dr. Hillman said the four and a half year-old dairy cow in Washington was slaughtered Dec.

9 at a small processing plant near Yakima. Brain and nervous tissue samples were collected from the animal and tested for BSE, because the cow was unable to stand, a problem apparently resulting from recent calving. Positive presumptive test results on the cow were announced Dec. 23, and tissue samples were forwarded to the world's BSE reference laboratory in England for confirmatory testing. The diagnosis was confirmed last Thursday.

"At least 23 countries, including Canada, have had at least one confirmed case of BSE in domestic cattle since the disease was initially seen in the United Kingdom in 1986," said Dr. Hillman. "From all evidence, it appears the disease is transmitted through feed supplements comprised of rendered by-products from an infected animal. As knowledge about this emerging disease has been gained,

See MEAT, Page 4

Sheriff warns merchants to check checks

EL PASO COUNTY — The El Paso County Sheriff's Office is warning merchants of a check fraud/forgery scheme involving fake checks that look official. These checks are made to resemble the Bond Inmate Trust Section (BITS) checks issued by the El Paso County Sheriff's Office. BITS checks are issued to an inmate from the money in his or her account when the inmate is released from the County Jail.

During the past three holiday seasons, several bogus checks have been presented for payment at various stores in the county or at money exchange houses. The Sheriff's Office advises merchants to be extra vigilant through Jan. 15, 2004.

Individuals in the past have attempted to cash fraudulent checks that bear the Sheriff's Office logo. In 2002 approximately 50 bogus checks turned up in El Paso County. This scam was traced to group of people from New Jersey.

On Jan. 10, 2003, an El Paso man was arrested for forgery as he allegedly attempted to pass a forged check at the Melek Service Center at 306 E. Paisano, in south-central El Paso.

If you doubt the authenticity of check issued by the El Paso County Sheriff's Office (BITS) you can contact the Bond and Inmate Trust Office at 546-2293 and have the check verified.

Texas Department of Health offers five lifesavers for the New Year

It's that time of year when people make resolutions. You know the vows: clean out the garage, keep in better touch with friends and family, save money.

But there are some health and fitness resolutions that could save your life, according to Texas Commissioner of Health Eduardo Sanchez, M.D.

"If people would remember to do just five things, they could live longer, healthier lives," Sanchez said.

The five are:

- Eat smart;
- Get fit;
- Get shots;
- Get checkups and screens;
- Don't smoke.

Each of these suggestions alone is good for anyone to consider, Sanchez said. But together they provide a solid plan to help a person get healthy and stay that way.

First, more than 60 percent of the people in Texas are overweight or obese. Preliminary analysis by the Texas Department of Health (TDH) suggests that overweight and obesity cost an estimated \$10.2 billion in health care in 2001 in Texas.

Healthy benefits come, nutritionists say, if people eat five to nine servings of fruit

See HEALTH, Page 6



One perspective

By Francis Shrum

Driving lessons

I don't think human beings were designed to drive cars.

Don't tell that to the car manufacturing industry. Quite the contrary, everything about the automobile is designed, they will say, to suit the particular needs of the human body — the shape of the seats, the adjustment features for steering wheels, the heating and cooling systems that provide maximum comfort, even built-in entertainment to make our trek from here to there more enjoyable.

But even with all-around air bags and numerous "safety" features, the one thing the manufacturers cannot design around is the human factor, the gray matter between our ears, the freedom of choice that allows people to pilot multi-ton objects of steel at incredible speeds with little — or sometimes no — training.

The way we drive is frequently influenced by the general attitude of our society. The generally more civil decades immediately following the invention of the automobile have given way to our me-first, get-out-of-my-way-or-else attitudes on the highways.

It is also unfortunate that our vehicles have since been endowed with the ability to go much faster than the early models did.

If you don't believe that societal attitudes have anything to do with our driving habits, consider the ever-evolving situation in Iraq.

Welcome to what has been called the toughest place in the world to learn to drive — Baghdad, Iraq — where accidents are not settled with tickets and calls to your insurance company, but with fists or guns. The designated driver is the toughest man in your group.

Traffic control lights mostly don't

work and drivers ignore the ones that do. Cutting across multiple lanes, driving the wrong way or even using pavements on Baghdad's bridges and sidewalks are all common driving habits.

Driving schools actually *do* exist in Iraq. There about 10 to serve the five million people in Baghdad — but they seem like an anachronism.

"People are insane, no-one follows instructions," one Iraqi traffic policeman is quoted in an overseas publication. "But I actually don't blame people, they were under oppression for 35 years."

During the decades of dictatorial rule under Saddam Hussein you could get arrested for running a red light. Nowadays Iraq still has driving rules, and requirements to hold a drivers license, but many regulations are ignored in Baghdad because drivers know local police — overwhelmed by more pressing problems like staying alive — are too busy to bother with minor traffic infractions.

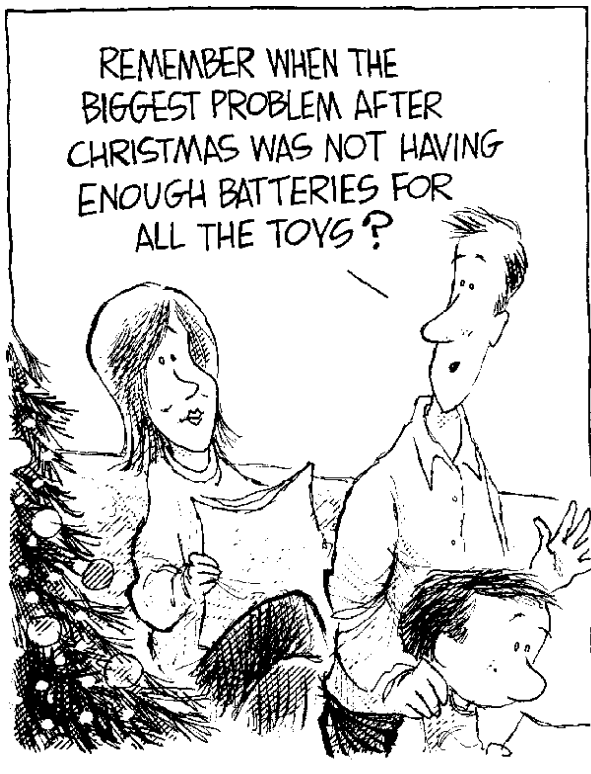
Adding to the chaos, of course, are the new cars that have flooded into Iraq in the absence of customs rules — Iraqis who can afford one want to show how fast their new Mercedes and BMWs can go, only to find their chariots to glory usually end up smashed in a wrecking yard.

Societal "conveniences" have also affected our driving habits worldwide.

We all know it's true, we've all seen the evidence ourselves while just driving to the local market, but there are now studies to prove that motorists talking on mobile phones while driving are more dangerous than those who are over the legal drinking/driving limit.

According to recent tests conducted by the Transport Research Laboratory in England, drivers' reaction times were on average 30 per-

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cent slower when talking on a handheld mobile phone compared to when they have been drinking alcohol. They were also less able to maintain a constant speed and found it harder to keep a safe distance from the car in front, the report said. The insurance company which commissioned the research said that four out of 10 drivers admitted using a mobile

phone when driving. Hands-free mobile phones were also found to be a considerable distraction.

Then there was the eight-year-old Tampa, Florida boy who drove himself to school in a stolen car after missing the school bus. He could barely see above the dashboard but managed to cross at least one busy four-lane intersection on the 1.5-mile

route from his home to the school. He got caught because he bragged about it to his classmates.

He said his uncle, who was then under arrest for vehicle theft, had taught him how to drive.

Unfortunately, we've proven that the human factor is the deadly design flaw — the proverbial loose screw behind the wheel.

WEST TEXAS COUNTY COURIER

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

A New Year's resolution

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

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

each year.

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

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

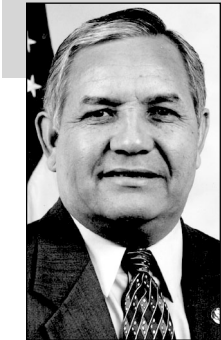
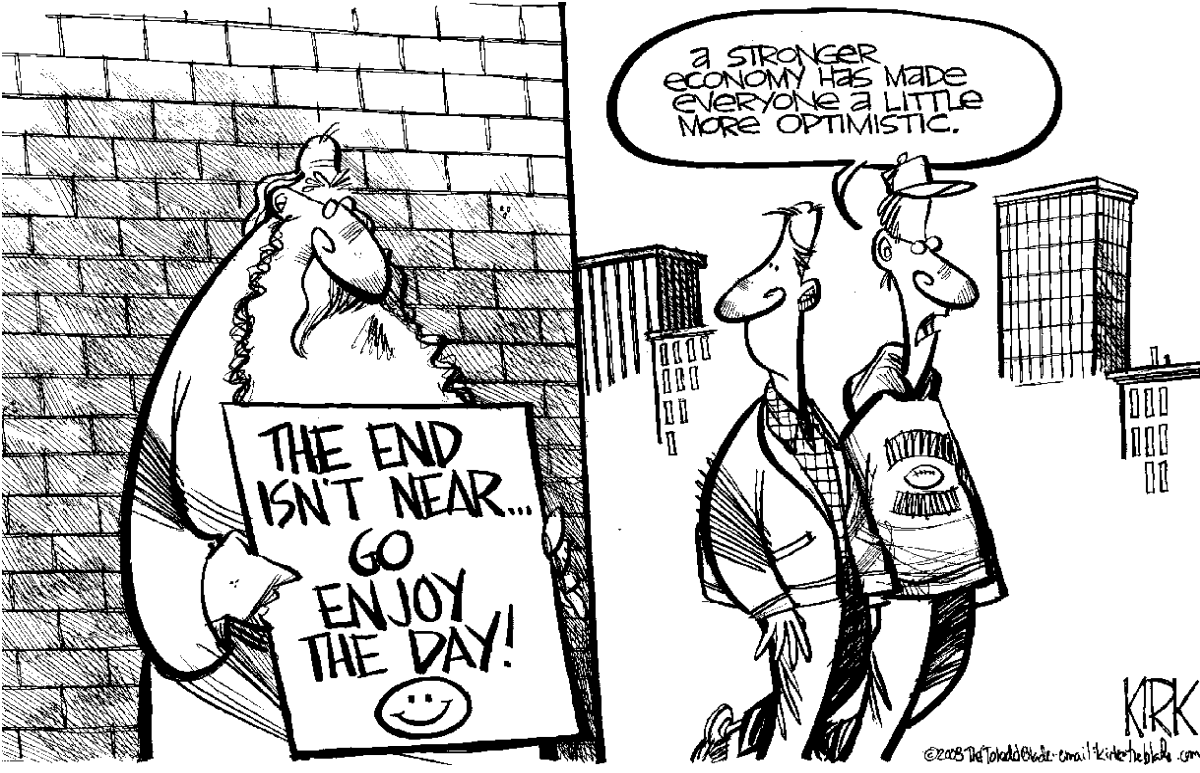
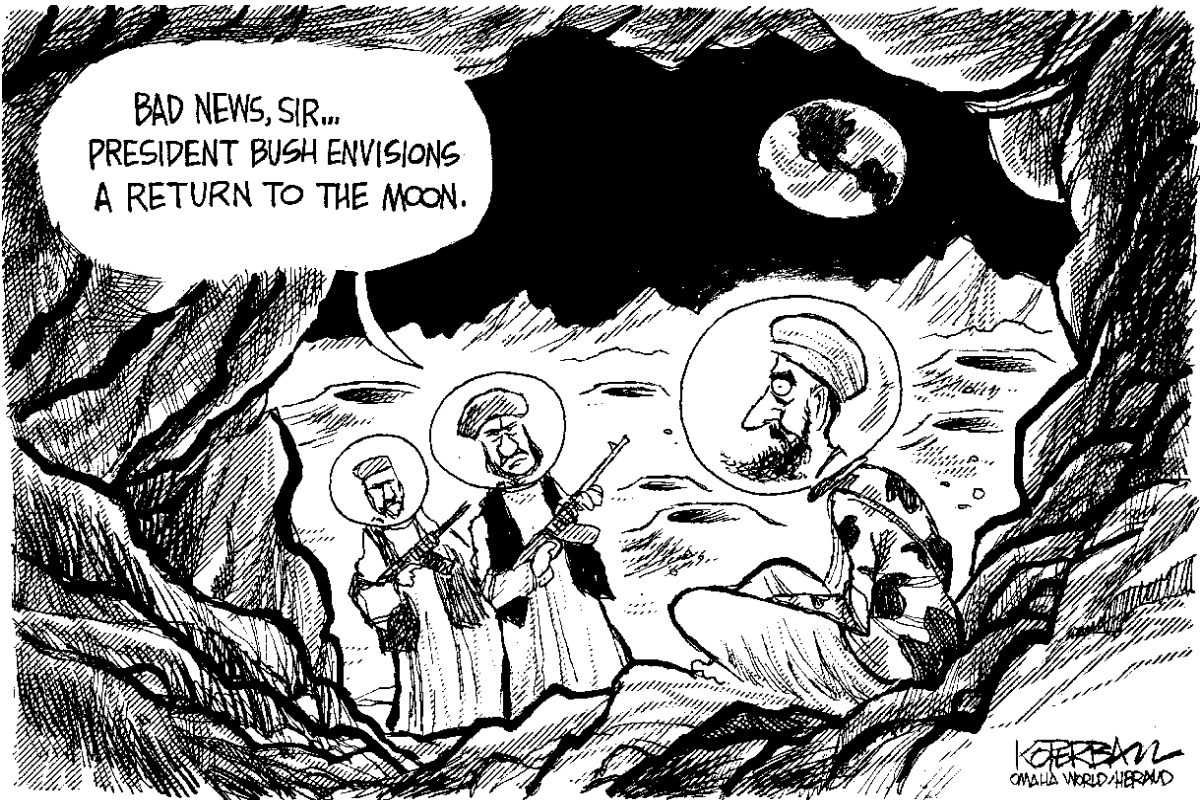
- Don't try everything at once. Odds are in your favor, if you begin small. Consider sending an encouraging message to troops deployed away from home. Or perhaps scheduling more frequent phone calls to friends and family.

- Be flexible. Allow your resolution to grow with you throughout the year. Don't make a specific resolution, that does not allow for change. Less specific wording such as "this

year I will express my patriotism," provides room to challenge yourself to be creative with your resolution throughout the year.

- Make a plan. Search for ways you can volunteer. Help by filling-in roles left behind by those deployed away from home. Devote a specific amount of time to any causes you choose. And ask friends and family to join in the act.

There's no reason why we shouldn't continue to make the traditional resolutions to lose weight and get organized. But it is my hope that we will also focus our resolutions on developing the true spirit of America. Remember to smile and laugh every chance you get. The soul needs to be balanced, as well as the scale. Don't pass up an opportunity to make a difference in someone's life. And most importantly, don't leave anything unsaid. Let's ring in 2004 as a nation united and rebuilding together.



Reyes Reports By U.S. Rep. Silvestre Reyes

Future agenda outlined for El Paso

January brings with it high hopes for the year ahead, but also gives one pause to reflect upon the past 12 months. In Congress, last year was one of accomplishment, but also left much to be achieved when Congress reconvenes this month. El Paso now has two new federal judges, continued funding for the Plaza Theatre and our public health building, and millions of dollars for our regional military installations. Legislation passed this year removing many barriers to service members and their families seeking application for citizenship, and I worked with the U.S. Department of Justice, urging them to change their regulations that denied survivor benefits for families of public safety officers killed in the life of duty outside the country, which is important to border communities such as ours.

However, there is still a lot that needs to be accomplished for El Paso, the border region and the country as a whole.


Efforts will continue to expand the child tax credit to include children of working families. There are 16,500 military families with children at Fort Bliss who could potentially benefit from this credit; however, when the tax cut package passed last year, a provision that would have fully extended the child tax credit to families making between \$10,500 and \$26,626 a year, which describes a number of current and former military families, was excluded from the final bill signed by President Bush. In addition to 250,000 children of active-duty military families nationwide, this excluded 750,000 children of veterans from receiving the child tax credit. One of the President's concerns was that some of these families pay limited federal income taxes, even though they do pay many other types of taxes.

Before Congress adjourned last year, numerous Members of Congress worked to extend unemployment benefits to those without jobs. Unemployed workers are eligible for 26 weeks of state unemployment benefits. In tough economic times, such as now, the federal government has stepped in to help those still without work by offering an additional 13 weeks of assistance. For many El Pasoans, these unemployment benefits are crucial. Unfortunately, despite the efforts of myself and many of my colleagues, Congress failed to pass legislation extending unemployment benefits. When Congress reconvenes, I can assure you that I will continue to work to ensure that the unemployed who need these benefits receive them and also have more opportunities to find long-term work.

I will continue to work with my colleagues in Washington, DC and locally to provide the child tax credit and unemployment benefits, ensure that the next Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) round will be positive for our region, and see to it that our economy and job prospects will improve. This new year looks like a bright one for El Paso, and I will make every effort to see that it is one.

IT'S BACK:

The 852 Horizon Area Telephone Directory!



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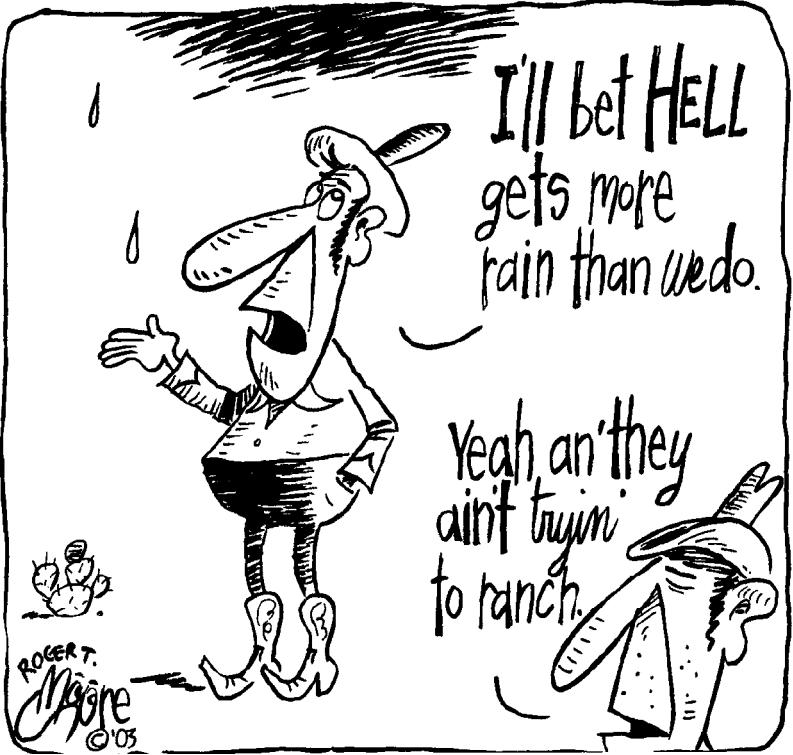
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DESERT DESOLATION — Horizon artist Jim Munafo created this pictorial depiction of the fragile and receding West Texas water supply in response to a recent move by the Texas General Land Office to contract with a private company to pump and sell water from beneath tracts of state-owned land in West Texas. An accompanying inscription reads: “For you have taken that which is ours; The very lifeblood of our existence; And squandered it; Not so much for good purpose; But for the enrichment of the choice few.” Texas Land Commissioner Jerry Patterson has said the sale of West Texas water is justified to provide funding for public education in Texas. The public is invited to add their comments to the record by contacting Patterson at: Land Commissioner Jerry Patterson, 1700 N. Congress Ave., Austin, TX 78701-1495, (512) 463-5256 or at the website at www.glo.state.tx.us.

Town of Horizon City
PUBLIC NOTICE

The City Council for the Town of Horizon City approved the following items during the regular council meeting that was conducted on December 9, 2003:

- 1) Ordinance No. 0112 vacated a 20 foot-walkway right-of-way between Lots 15 and 16, Block 43, Horizon Heights Unit 10. This request was made by Mr. Edgar Garcia.
- 2) Ordinance No. 0113-Rezoned a parcel containing 285.91 acres being a portion of Section 31, Block 78, Township 3. The area has been rezoned to a Planned Unit Development from R-2, Single Family Residential. As requested by Land of Texas and Horizon Communities Improvement Association.
- 3) Ordinance No. 0114-Rezoned a parcel containing 3.77 acres being a portion of Section 31, Block 78, Township 3. The area has been rezoned to C-1 Commercial from R-2, Single Family Residential. The rezoning request was made by Colony Partners East L.P.
- 4) Amendment No. 004-Repealed and replaced Amendment No. 002 to Zoning Ordinance No. 0102-Sub-Contractor Permit Fees. The new fees will take into effect on February 1, 2004.
- 5) Repealed and replaced Amendment No. 007 to Subdivision Ordinance No. 0035-Standards for Deeded Parkland and Miscellaneous Issues. Payment of required parkland fees in lieu of deeded parkland shall be received prior to acceptance of recording plat for filing.
- 6) Amendment No. 003 to Zoning Ordinance No. 0102, Chapter 9-Special Regulations, Section 901-Home Occupations. The ordinance outlines
- 7) Amendment No. 005 to Zoning Ordinance No. 0102, Chapter 8, Section 809.1-Variances. The ordinance outlines that Ordinance No. 0022 needs to be referred to for fee structures and application procedures.
- 8) Amendment No. 001 to Ordinance No. 0074-Regulating Sexually Oriented Businesses. The annual business license fee increased to \$300. In addition, there will be a 20 percent penalty fee when the license is not renewed before January 15th of each year.

Ordinances are available for viewing or copying upon request from the City Clerk at Town Hall, 14999 Darrington Road, Horizon City, Texas, Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Sandra Sierra
City Clerk

Cupid’s conceit

By Albert M. Balesh, M.D.

Whether it be a broken heart of a wide-eyed adolescent, or the chest-crushing pain and anxiety of an attack on middle age, an organ the size of a human fist has no business causing so much grief. All of us are affected in some way by our pulsating companion beneath the rib cage, who we take for granted until faced with a record-breaking race to the emergency room, to the tune of flashing lights and screeching sirens.

So, let us take a brief, “heartfelt” look at three issues of concern.

At the top of our list is the subject of depression, which can be triggered by the onset of heart disease. That finding may, indeed, account for the increase in depression afflicting those of us 45 years of age and older. High cholesterol and coronary artery disease have been linked to inflammation of the immune system, which, in turn, is related to the neurotransmitter serotonin. As brain serotonin levels are known to affect mood, it takes no stretch of imagination to deduce the logical connection between a sick heart and a sick mind.

The connection between heart disease and depression has led to new strategies to reverse the latter. Lowering cholesterol and losing weight may have a distinct impact on depression. Furthermore, supplements that contain natural anti-inflammatories — such as omega-3 fatty acids — may also help to stop the cascade of chemical events associated with the symptoms of a wounded psyche.

Let us now turn our attention to “Fat America,” and the 36 million of us who need drugs to control our cholesterol levels. Target cholesterol levels depend on age (men 45+, women

55+), sex and family history, and risk factors, such as smoking, abdominal obesity, high blood pressure, high blood sugar, low HDL (“good” cholesterol), diabetes, and high triglycerides. It is all a simple matter of numbers. A person with only one heart-attack risk factor can live comfortably with an LDL (“bad” cholesterol) score of 160 (in milligrams per deciliter of blood). Those of us with two or more risk factors require a lower LDL level (130), and those already suffering from diabetes or heart disease even lower (100).

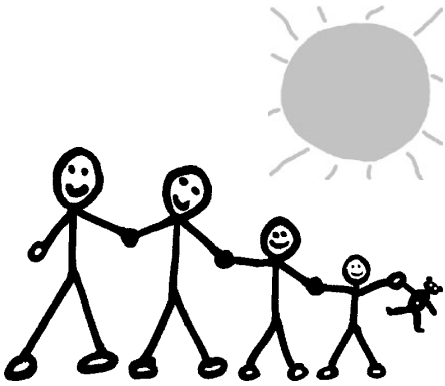
While drugs like Mevacor and Pravachol have few side effects and undeniably prevent heart attacks by lowering LDL, one has to question the wisdom and economics of creating 36 million “junkies” with \$800-a-year drug-regimen habits. Certainly, an even simpler measure is preferable. Eating six small meals a day, instead of the usual two or three large ones, can, indeed, lower cholesterol count.

Finally, a study published last year in the January 9, 2003 issue of The New England Journal of Medicine determined that regular, moderate consumption of alcohol may lower men’s risk of heart attacks. Unfortunately, although women may receive some of those benefits, the risk of dying of breast cancer is 30 percent higher among those who drink alcohol at least once a day.

When the acne-spotted youth finally comes of age, there will be much more to worry about than an arrow through the heart or a missed valentine. Cupid will move on to other quarry, but, in our conceit and overindulgence, we may be left with the wounds of darts from a far more imperious quiver.

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Meat

From Page 1

the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), in concert with other food-related agencies, states and industry associations have implemented regulations and safeguards to protect our livestock and meat supply.”

Dr. Hillman pointed out preventative and surveillance efforts:

- since 1989, the U.S. has prohibited the importation of live animals and products from countries that have had confirmed cases of the disease.

- banning the feeding of rendered by-products from ruminants (such as cattle and sheep) back to ruminants since August 1997.

- testing of brain tissue of more than 57,000 cattle in the U.S. since 1990. More than 20,000 of these tests were conducted in federal fiscal year 2003. Until Dec. 23, 2003, when positive presumptive test results were completed on the Washington state cow, all tests have been negative. Part of the national BSE plan includes targeted disease testing on cattle that exhibit central nervous system disorders or are unable to rise or walk normally.

“Our US surveillance testing is significantly greater than that recommended by the Office of International Epizootics, the organization that establishes international animal health standards,” said Dr. Hillman.

Dr. Hillman said the U.S. is following its BSE plan, put in place and improved on since 1996. The herd of origin of the cow in Washington has been identified and quarantined. USDA and Washington animal health officials will determine the appropriate disposition of the herd upon completion of the disease investigation. Food officials are recalling products which may contain meat from the animal, although the BSE organism has never been detected in milk or beef muscle tissue. The exhaustive epidemiological investigation will examine all aspects of the disease occurrence, including feed sources, in order to gain insight on how the cow became infected and if other herds in Washington — or other states — may be at risk. Dr. Hillman said the TAHC will receive frequent updates on the investigation and will share information as quickly as possible.

“As difficult and unfortunate as this situation is, we do know the disease surveillance system is working,” said Dr. Hillman. “In Texas, animals will continue to be monitored for BSE, and the USDA and TAHC will work with private veterinary practitioners and producers to investigate potential disease occurrences. For BSE, that would include cattle that exhibit central nervous system disorders, or those unable to rise or walk.” Dr. Hillman explained that the TAHC operates a 24-hour hotline, which can be accessed by calling 1-800-550-8242.

“The U.S. meat supply remains safe for consumers, because agencies, producers and livestock associations are willing to address disease problems openly,” said Dr. Hillman. “I encourage consumers to enjoy a steak, roast or tall glass of milk tonight, and know that every rational and scientifically based effort is being made to ensure the wholesomeness of our products.”

Briefs

From Page 1

introduced and edited by the Foundation’s director of research, Chris Patterson. The book is available for free online at www.TexasPolicy.com. “This is the most comprehensive primer on Texas school finance yet published,” said Mrs. Patterson. “After reading this, Texans will have a greater understanding not only of the issues surrounding school finance, but the wide, diverse set of options available for solving it.”

■ The Farm Services Agency is accepting applications for emergency agricultural loans for damages and losses caused by drought beginning Jan. 1, 2003. El Paso, Hudspeth, Culberson, Loving, Reeves and Winkler Counties have been recently named by the Texas Secretary of Agriculture as eligible for loans to cover part or actual production and physical losses resulting from drought. Detailed information and an application are available at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/tx> or by calling or writing the FSA at 2306 West Dickinson, Ste. 1, Ft. Stockton, Texas 79735, (432) 336-5206, Ext. 2.

■ Stockholders of the Southwest Texas ACA, a part of the Farm Credit System, recently returned incumbent Robert C. Surratt of Clint to the board of directors. The SWTACA provides financing for livestock equipment, rural homes, farms and ranches in South and West Texas.

Beware of tax reduction scams aimed at seniors

By Greg Abbott
Attorney General of Texas

The Texas Attorney General’s office recently took legal action to halt alleged violations of the Deceptive Trade Practices Act by an outfit offering “tax reductions” to seniors for a fee.

In Texas, certain tax advantages are available to persons over the age of 65. Any homeowner, not just a senior, can apply for a homestead exemption on a primary place of residence. However, there are special, additional exemptions available to seniors. You can contact your local tax assessor/collector for more information.

There is no fee for making the application for a homestead exemption. However, certain companies offer to “process” the application for a fee. Generally, the company is simply filling out the application and filing it for you. You could easily save the fee by filling out this simple application for yourself.

Some companies in the past have styled their advertising to make it appear that they are an official taxing authority, or that their fee must

be paid in order for the homeowner to receive the exemption. In fact, the law requires the company to make it quite clear that they are not a governmental agency.

Our regional Consumer Protection Office in Dallas, acting on consumer complaints, filed a lawsuit and obtained a temporary restraining order on Dec. 17, 2003, against a company that presented itself as a “tax processing center.” The company mailed a solicitation to Collin County seniors, seeking a \$55 fee. In addition to taking immediate legal action, we issued a Senior Alert to inform homeowners that the reductions offered in the sales pitch were all available directly from their local taxing authority.

The solicitation also mentioned a tax “freeze” for the elderly. This is a reference to another option available to seniors. The option is better described as a ceiling, rather than a freeze, because it provides that their property taxes will not go up for that home so long as there are no new improvements, once they have registered as over-65 homeowners. If for

some reason their property is reassessed at a lower value, their taxes may go down, but they may not go up. There is no fee for applying for this benefit.

Another tax provision that may benefit a senior homeowner is the property tax deferral. This is an arrangement that makes it so that seniors may defer, or delay, the payment of taxes. The tax must still eventually be paid, but it is allowed to simply accrue during the homeowner’s lifetime. The unpaid taxes do accrue interest, however. The deferred taxes and interest are then eventually paid out of the estate after the homeowner’s death.

The tax deferral can be a great benefit for certain homeowners with limited income. If the homeowner has applied for deferral, there are no penalties for delaying the payment of the taxes. However, a tax lien is placed on the property. Seniors may choose not to use the deferral option, because it can significantly reduce the value of their estate and the amount their heirs will inherit. But

for some senior homeowners, it may provide much needed relief.

Beware of any solicitation that involves a fee to apply or register you for tax reductions, freezes, ceilings or deferrals. You can apply for any of those benefits yourself from your local taxing authority.

In conclusion, remember:

- No fee to apply for special homestead exemptions
- No fee to register for tax ceilings
- No fee to apply for deferrals
- Deferrals are recouped from the estate, with interest
- Tax deferral creates a tax lien on the property

Contact your local county tax assessor-collector for more information.

Sign up to receive our Senior Alerts in the Senior Texans section of our Web site at: www.oag.state.tx.us

Contact your local Area Agency on Aging to inquire about programs and services for seniors at (800) 252-9240. The Legal Hotline for Older Texans free legal advice to Texans age 60+ is at (800) 622-2520.

Funds appropriated for medical, transportation and water projects in El Paso County

WASHINGTON. D.C. — The House of Representatives has passed an omnibus appropriations bill that allocates funds to eleven federal departments and numerous agencies. Congressman Silvestre Reyes said the following important El Paso County priorities in these bills were secured:

- \$7 million for continued construction of the desalination plant in east El Paso
- \$250,000 for El Paso’s Regional Medical Complex
- \$1 million for the replacement of

Sun Metro buses

- \$775,000 to the City of El Paso for Sun Metro’s Job Access Reverse Commute (JARC) program
- \$300 million for the State Criminal Alien Assistance Program (SCAAP)
- \$200,000 to the El Paso Water Utilities to help connect Village of Vinton residents to municipal water service
- \$150,000 for the continued renovation of the Plaza Theatre
- \$300,000 to improve the El Paso County Sheriff’s Office’s terrorist

response capabilities

- \$30 million for the Southwest Border Prosecutors’ Initiative
- “The passage of this bill ensures that these programs will receive funding. Addressing El Paso’s water and law enforcement needs are top priorities for

our community. The increased funding for Sun Metro’s buses and JARC program will make it much easier for many El Pasoans to get to and from work, and the renovation of the Plaza Theatre is key to downtown revitalization,” said Reyes.

Town of Horizon City
PUBLIC NOTICE

A PUBLIC HEARING will be held at **6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, January 13, 2004** 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 Annexation Ordinance No. 0115 on three parcels of land by the Town of Horizon City. A portion of Section 21, Block 79, Township 3, El Paso, Texas, consisting of full 120-foot-of-right-of-way width of that portion of Eastlake Boulevard beginning at the existing Town limits at the common boundary between Sections 21 and 30, Block 79, Township 3, and extending west a distance of 4,076.92 feet to the centerline of the intersection of Eastlake Boulevard and Darrington Road, said parcel containing approximately 11.23 acres. The southern one-half of Section 32, Block 78, Township 3, El Paso, Texas, said parcel containing 321.56 acres. The northern 960 feet of Section 4, Block 78, Township 3, El Paso Texas, all of Blocks 484, 485, 487 and 488, and portions of Blocks 483 and 489, and intervening plat- ted street rights-of-way, Horizon City Unit 63; and all of Blocks 488 and portions of Blocks 489, 490, 491 and 492, and intervening street rights-of-way, Horizon City Unit 64, said parcel contains 116.93 acres.

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

UTEP MEN'S BASKETBALL

Saturday, Jan. 3rd

Boise St.

VS

MINERS

@ 7:05 PM

"PAINT THE DON ORANGE"

*First 4,000 fans receive an ORANGE t-shirt!!

Sponsored by:

ERA-Sellers, Buyers, & Associates

Advance'd Temporaries

&

KFOX

THINK ORANGE WEAR ORANGE

UTEP sports program rises from the ashes like a Phoenix

By Steve Escajeda
Special to the Courier

I know we don’t live in Phoenix, but UTEP must be feeling like one of these mythical birds these days. You know, the bird that flies out of the ashes for a second chance at life.

Here we are at the end of 2003 and on the verge of a new year. 2004 has all El Pasoans feeling like better things are on the horizon — sports wise any way.

But let’s face it, when most people feel good about their sports teams, they feel a little better about their city. And El Pasoans are feeling pretty good these days.

Let’s look at things around here a year ago. UTEP had just finished a miserable 2-10 football season and the basketball team was in the middle of what would end up being a horrible 6-24 campaign.

The Diablos were never in contention during the summer and the Buzzards dissolved entirely thanks to an owner who could be best described as an incompetent brat.

After compiling a combined 8-34 record in

its two major revenue-producing athletic teams, UTEP could have easily been considered the worst division-1 college athletics program in the nation.

But all that changed this year. Like the Phoenix, Bob Stull, UTEPA.D., got a second chance to fix his hiring blunders of Gary Nord and Jason Rabedeaux.

Stull hired Billy Gillispie for basketball and more importantly, had the guts to hire former Washington State and kind-of-former Alabama coach Mike Price for football.

The hiring of Gillispie — while most people were hoping that maybe Nolan Richardson could be talked into returning home — has been outstanding. Gillispie has had the smarts to surround himself with top quality assistants and has recruited some very talented players.

What’s more, the most positive feature about these players is their unselfishness. They have learned, and rather quickly, that the way to winning is to be a team and not a bunch of individuals. The Miners are off to a great start and are beginning to raise eyebrows across the country.

Every sporting outlet in the country wanted

the news about the Mike Price hiring at UTEP. ESPN, CNN/SI, The Sporting News, CBS, FOX, NBC, ABC... everyone... wanted the story of the coach who was fired in disgrace, getting a second chance — you know, like the Phoenix.

There he was, standing in front of a UTEP Miners backdrop. It didn’t seem real. Could that actually be the same guy who was hired to coach the storied University of Alabama Crimson Tide football program, now being announced as UTEP’s next football coach?

UTEP, the football program that has averaged 2.8 wins per season — for the last 33 years or as columnist Joe Muench once put it, “the place where coaches come to die.”

But it was real. And Price looked very happy to be getting a Phoenix-like second chance. He said during his press conference that that is what life was all about — getting a second chance.

Price hasn’t coached a single UTEP game yet. Heck, he hasn’t held a single practice. But El Pasoans are excited about the possibilities of fielding a top-notch football team.

After all, Price coached Washington State, which was no powerhouse before he got there,

to two Rose Bowl games and five bowl games all together. I’m sure he can coach UTEP to the upper level of the WAC conference.

Back to basketball. Before the season, everyone knew the Miners would be better than last year’s all-time worst team, but UTEP is beginning to look like a possible WAC championship contender.

Looks like the Miners will at least be an NIT team but the way they are playing it wouldn’t surprise me if they returned to the ultimate in college basketball, March Madness.

If you happen to pass an El Pasoan in the street today, and chances are you will, notice whether they’re walking with a little skip in their step.

Try to notice if their heads are held a little higher or if their chests are a little more pumped out. A winning sports program helps everyone’s attitude. It kind of brings everyone closer together.

And remember this, all of us have a new year to face. 2004 can be a year in which we all have a turnaround and improve drastically from a year ago.

You have a chance to rise above it all — just like the Phoenix.

Health

From Page 1

and vegetables a day. Other good choices include eating whole grains; taking smaller portions; selecting lean meat, fish and poultry; and reducing or eliminating fat, fried foods, sugar and salt.

In addition to an improved immune system, people who eat smart may avoid or delay problems such as diabetes, high blood pressure, elevated cholesterol and triglycerides (fats in the blood) that can lead to heart disease and stroke.

Next, are you having trouble getting moving? You are not alone. Urban sprawl means more time in the car for many, and busy schedules make getting fit a challenge.

Think about ways you can start slowly and build your activity level. Just 30 minutes of moderate to brisk exercise daily can strengthen your heart.

“Make it a family activity,” Sanchez said. “Try fun runs, walks and other activities that can include family members of all ages.”

Third, getting shots is something many adults don’t think about; but pneumonia, one of the most serious infections for seniors, is easily

prevented with a vaccine. While an influenza vaccine can’t always completely cover all strains circulating, it does provide protection, and is especially important for those at risk of serious complications or death.

“Check with your health care provider about what shots are recommended and when,” Sanchez said. “Most adults should get vaccinated against pneumonia and flu, especially those over age 65.”

Or when is the last time you had a tetanus shot? The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices recommends adults get a booster every 10 years.

Fourth on the list is getting checkups and screens. Many people don’t visit a doctor until a problem occurs. This procrastination can be deadly.

Pap smears, mammograms and colorectal exams can detect cancerous activity early when treatment is most effective. Tests for cholesterol, triglyceride levels and blood pressure, along with a family history, can indicate if you are at risk for heart disease. People at risk of developing diabetes can prevent serious complications or death if the disease is diagnosed and managed.

And finally, it’s been repeated often; but, again, smoking is bad for your health. Tobacco use can lead to deadly diseases such as lung

cancer, emphysema and stroke. When quitting, ask your doctor if nicotine replacement products are a good idea, get a friend to remind you of all the benefits of being smoke-free, and be patient — many people quit several times before they kick the habit for good.

“Make 2004 a year for positive behavioral change,” Sanchez said. “You just may save your life.”

Meanwhile, remember these tips for eating smart:

- Reduce portion size. If you eat out, order smaller portions or divide your entrée and take half home.
- Drink fewer sodas. Over a year’s time, one can of regular cola a day at 150 calories equals more than 15 pounds worth of calories.
- Write down what you eat. You may be surprised by the incidental calories — a bag of chips here, some candy there, really add up.
- Add fruit and vegetables. Substitute dried fruit for candy, add vegetables to soups, pasta, stir-fry dishes or casseroles.
- Limit snack foods, foods high in fat or sugar and processed foods since they have more calories and fewer nutrients.

Tips for getting fit:

- Take a step in the right direction. Walking 10,000 steps a day (about five miles) helps to

maintain a healthy weight. A pedometer will help you determine your steps.

- Go it on foot. Take the stairs instead of elevators, park farther from your destination and walk. Encourage your children to walk to school where feasible, walk or ride a bicycle for short trips instead of taking the car. It all adds up.
- Start small. Incorporate 10 minutes of exercise a day at first, then gradually build to half an hour a day to maintain weight or an hour a day to lose weight.
- The more television a child watches, the more likely he or she is to be obese. Consider activities as a family such as going to the zoo or park, playing catch or skating.

Tips for quitting smoking:

- For some people drinking coffee, driving or watching TV triggers a desire to smoke. Identify triggers for smoking and avoid or modify behavior.
- Choose healthy alternatives such as drinking water, taking a walk, or going to the movies or a library where smoking is not allowed.
- Be patient, most people make several attempts before they are able to quit permanently.
- Seek out a supportive friend or family member or call the American Cancer Society’s Quitline at 1-877-937-7848 for help.

King Super Crossword

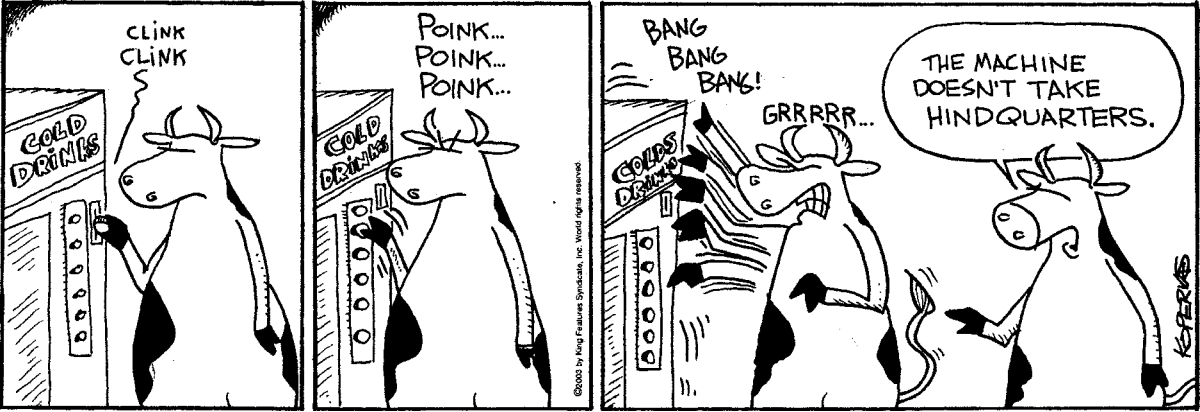
CENTENNIAL ACROSS				66 Utah city	127 Gawk	40 Bread and booze	92 '60 Hitchcock class-
1 "Home _" ('90 film)	68 Way to go	128 Payable	42 Upset	69 Donizetti's "L'elisor d' "	129 Makes lace	43 Bond foe	93 Actress Thurman
6 Faithful	70 Queler or Arden	130 Actor Gary	44 New York team	71 Heavenly hunter	131 Detection device	45 "Raid on Entebbe" weapon	94 Like some energy
11 Elated	73 Meir's successor			75 Knight's wife		46 Rub out	95 Petite pooch
15 Tighten the tent	77 Clasp	DOWN		77 Clasp		47 Bogarde or Benedict	96 Thompson or Salonga
18 Nigerian capital	78 Scale notes	1 TV ET		78 Scale notes		49 Apollo's sister	99 Rocker Whitcomb
19 Actress Verdugo	81 Ease a situation	2 Cafe au _		81 Ease a situation		55 Veneration	100 August shows
20 Paddled	82 Musical event of 1900	3 Fairy-tale fiend		82 Musical event of 1900		56 Hawthorne's was marble	101 554, to Tiberius
22 Multipurpose vehicle	86 Huck's craft	4 Snack		86 Huck's craft		58 Make amends	106 Preserve a petunia
23 Photography event of 1900	87 Service div.	5 Cosmetician		87 Service div.		59 Mideastern letters	107 Nail type
26 "Unforgettable" name	89 " _ Doll" ('64 hit)	Lauder		89 " _ Doll" ('64 hit)		60 Fly a chopper	108 Berg opera
27 Snicker sound	90 Urania's sister	6 Papal name		90 Urania's sister		61 Trams transport it	109 Blind as _
28 Mexican Mrs.	91 Skater Midori	7 Auto pioneer		91 Skater Midori		62 Barbecue	110 Callao's country
29 Have a mortgage	92 Act catty?	8 Century segment		92 Act catty?		63 Drew while distracted	111 Desire deified
30 Attack	94 Anesthetic type	9 "Lonely Boy" singer		94 Anesthetic type		67 Connecticut native	112 Use a stopwatch
32 Sniggler's quarry	97 Object	10 Research site		97 Object		69 Border on	114 Division word
34 Baseball's Piniella	98 Transportation event of 1900	11 Become an adult		98 Transportation event of 1900		70 Aussie walker	115 With 17 Down, famed saxophonist
35 TV's "Green _"	102 90 Across' instrument	12 Rob of "Wayne's World"		102 90 Across' instrument		72 Hugo's "Le _ s'amuse"	116 51 Across' missis
37 Young follower?	103 Moshe of Israel	13 Barley beard		103 Moshe of Israel		73 Lasso	119 Pretend
41 Literary event of 1900	104 Shady character?	14 "Agnus _"		104 Shady character?		74 Priced right	120 "Cry _ River" ('55 song)
48 Roberts or Tucker	105 High peak	15 Word in a Dostoyevsky title		105 High peak		76 Canine grp.	121 Yak
50 Only just	107 Multivoiced Mel	16 Coup d'_		107 Multivoiced Mel		78 Full of froth	122 Aye opponent
51 Olympic VIP	109 Coach Parseghian	17 See 115 Down		109 Coach Parseghian		79 Pianist Schnabel	123 Augsburg article
52 Med. test	110 Favorite	21 Rubble		110 Favorite		80 A little night music?	
53 Take in, perhaps	113 _ terrier	24 Boat bottom		113 _ terrier		81 Wet blanket	
54 Big bang letters	117 Massage	25 Commodious		117 Massage		83 Junket	
55 Distress	118 Culinary event of 1900	31 Guitarist Paul		118 Culinary event of 1900		84 Fade away	
56 Terror	124 Every last bit	33 Tennis stroke		124 Every last bit		85 Songwriter	
57 Exhibition event of 1900	125 Humpback's home	34 " _ Abner"		125 Humpback's home		Jacques	
62 Solidarity city	126 Luncheonette lure	35 Cain's victim		126 Luncheonette lure		87 English architect	
64 Weldon or Wray		36 Actor Gulager				88 _ deco	
65 And others		37 Rod					
		38 Actress Shire					
		39 Threshold					

Answer Page 7

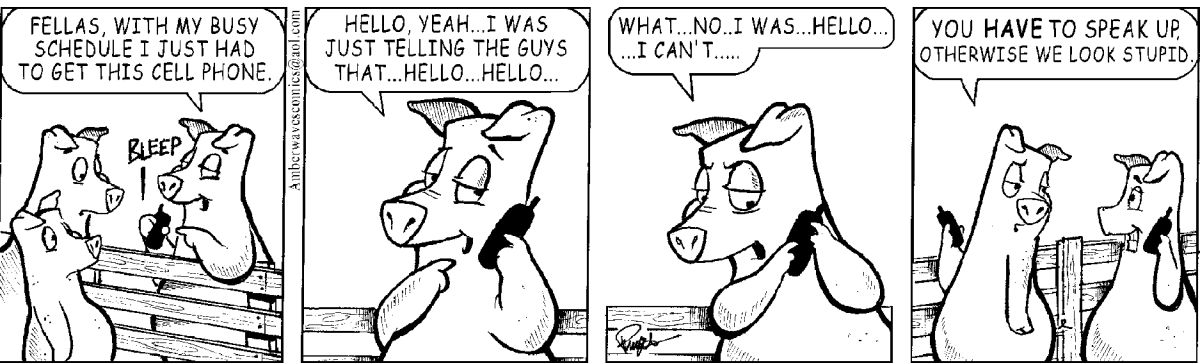
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Comix

OUT ON A LIMB By Gary Kopervas



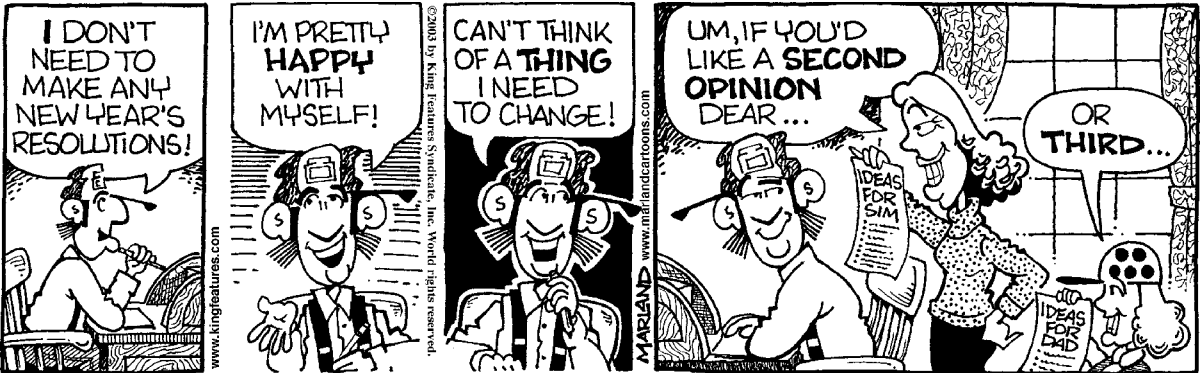
AMBER WAVES By Dave T. Phipps



THE SPATS By Jeff Pickering



R.F.D. By Mike Marland



Classified Ads

LEGALS

PUBLIC NOTICE

As per Article V, Sec. 5.05(a), all owners and lienholders have ten (10) days from this date to reclaim their vehicles at Southwest Wrecker, 1401 Darrington Rd., 855-1900, 851-2091-fax, or it will be sold at public auction for charges: VIN - IFMEUI5N2MLA5374I, black 1991 Ford Bronoco, Chihuahua license 358-SHP-4 VIN - IGILZI4A8LYI4I134, black 1990 Chevy Berreta, Colorado license ADE-1935 WTCC-12/25/03

WANTED

WORK FROM HOME
Market the GlycoLEAN Body System Commissions, bonuses, incentives, fun! Call: 915-852-2156 Mannatech Independent Associate

RENTAL

FOR RENT in Clint, 3 bedroom, 2 bath, 142 Jeff Jones. Call 851-1546.

SELF-HELP

Persons who have a problem with alcohol are offered a free source of help locally. Alcoholics Anonymous - call 562-4081

HELP

for information.

Tiene problemas con el alcohol? Hay una solución. Informacion: 838-6264.

SERVICES

CALL GREEN HORNET
915-790-1342
We'll Be Right on It!
• Free Inspection for termites
• Knock down spider webs with all free inspections
• 24 hours on call 7 days a week
SATISFACTION GUARANTEED

"Windshield Ding — Gimme a Ring" JIFFY GLASS REPAIR

Windshield Repair Specialists
By appt. at your home or office: R.V. Dick Harshberger **915-852-9082**

BERT'S AUTOMOTIVE REPAIR
Domestic and Foreign 852-3523 1558 Oxbow, Horizon City

HORIZON CITY PLUMBING 852-1079
• Electric rooter service for sewers and drains
• Appliance installation
• Many other plumbing services
Licensed, bonded and insured for your protection.

It's time to embrace change

By Don Flood

We live in a world of change — especially women.

According to a recent radio report, women are much more likely to fish through their purses looking for exact change when making a purchase.

This annoys men to no end, especially since a woman may spend up to three weeks searching for a dime she thought she had at the bottom of her purse. (It wasn't there, after all.)

By the way, this is why many men were late getting their Christmas shopping finished. It's not our fault.

Men, on the other hand, take charge. In an assertive manner we whip out our \$20 bills, even if we're only buying a pack of gum.

There's a good reason for this. Men want to get the transaction over with and go on to more manly pursuits.

But as one might expect, that wasn't the only reason mentioned in the story.

No, some woman piped up that men did this because they were lazy. (Must have been a slow news day.)

And the women? They spent time searching for loose change because *they were looking ahead.*

Women, according to this female expert, realize that if they don't get rid of the change, it will wind up in a huge pile on top of their dresser. (Heaven forbid!)

Women, apparently, are secretly terrified the piles will be discovered by the Housekeeping Police.

I say, change is good.

Each day I come home, empty the change from my pockets and dump it on the counter. I've been doing this for years.

I now have enough change to supply the monetary needs of a small nation. This change also serves as my retirement account.

While some may feel that this is not the best way to invest one's money, my Sink Counter Account (SCA) has, in the past few years, done better than my IRA.

I also administer a separate retirement account consisting of change that has fallen between the cushions of my couch — my Couch Retirement Account (CRA). It is doing equally well.

What's great about both SCA's and CRA's is that they can be set up at any time, without the help of your accountant.

They also have the advantage of being very flexible.

Most people — or men, I should say, since women don't generally understand the benefits of these accounts — make deposits daily, but you can make them on any schedule you desire.

But before setting up an account, ask yourself: What are my financial goals?

If you answer, "I don't really know but I'd like a big pile of money," then either the SCA or CRA could be your ideal savings vehicle.

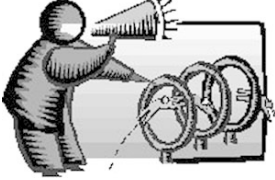
One advantage of both accounts is that withdrawals be made any time, even before you reach retirement age.

If you need some change to buy gas or a newspaper, you can access your account without paying any penalty.

Start your account today. Or check your couch. You may have started one already without even knowing it.

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Fine Art Classes

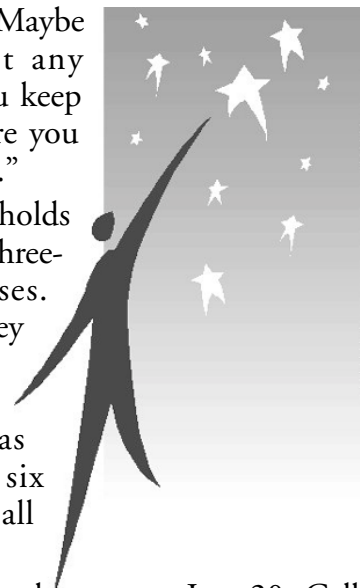


Tired of jumping through hoops? Horizon Design Studio fine art classes start in January!

Have you ever looked at a work of art or at just an image you liked and said to yourself, "I wish I could do something like that," or worse still, "I know I could do that if I just had the time. Maybe next year." Don't wait any longer! Do it now. If you keep putting it off, chances are you will never "have the time."

Horizon Design Studio holds affordable, once-a-week, three-hour, Studio Art Classes. They meet at 414 Hadley Place in Horizon City. Every student receives lots of personal attention as class size is limited to six students. Classes cover all media and design.

Reach for your star! New classes start Jan. 20. Call 852-4817 now to reserve your place. Don't put it off another day!



Social Security Q&A

By Ray Vigil

Q: I have been on disability for about one and one-half years. I understand that I am eligible for Medicare coverage in a few months. How do I apply for that?

A: You will be enrolled automatically in Medicare. You are eligible for Medicare after you have been getting disability benefits for 24 months. A few months before that anniversary, you will receive an “enrollment package” in the mail. Assuming you want full Medicare coverage, you don’t need to do anything but keep the Medicare card in a safe place.

Q: A 68-year-old neighbor who is living with a man (instead of marrying him) for fear of losing her Social Security was told by a Social Security representative that she can get married because her benefits would not be cut. But my 70-year-old mother just married the man she’s been living with, and Social Security reduced her and her husband’s SSI checks. Why?

A: It sounds as if your neighbor is getting Social Security and your mom is getting Supplemental Security Income, and there is a big difference. SSI is a program that makes payments based on financial need. The payment rate depends on a variety of factors, including living arrangements and marital status. The SSI rate paid to a couple is less than the combined rates paid to two single people. So your mother and her new husband had their individual SSI benefits reduced to the lower couple’s rate. On the other hand, Social Security is not a needs-based program. Workers earn it by paying taxes on their wages. The law places

no limits on Social Security payments to married couples. In addition, the law says that a widow who remarries after age 60 can continue to get benefits on a former husband’s record even though she has remarried.

Q: I am 56 years old and have just been approved for an SSI disability check. I thought there would also be a payment for my wife and child, but there is not. My wife is age 46 and our child is 14. How do I get their SSI checks started?

A: The SSI program does not pay benefits to dependent spouses or chil-





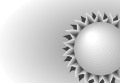



dren. If your wife and child also have disabilities, they could apply for their own SSI payments. But if they are not disabled, then you are getting all the money you are due from the SSI program. Your local Social Security office can refer you to other community agencies that might be able to help you and your family.

For more information visit your local Security office, see www.ssa.gov or call us at 1-800-772-1213. Please send questions that you would like to have answered to the Social Security Office, 11111 Gateway West, Attn: Ray Vigil, El Paso, Texas 79935.

WEATHER

AccuWeather.com

SEVEN-DAY FORECAST FOR EL PASO

WEDNESDAY	WED. NIGHT	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
							
Mostly cloudy; a shower possible in the p.m.	Cloudy with a chance of rain.	Mostly cloudy and windy.	Mostly sunny and windy.	Brilliant sunshine.	Partly sunny.	A good deal of sunshine.	Mostly sunny.
▲ 64°	▼ 42°	▲ 64° ▼ 38°	▲ 62° ▼ 40°	▲ 64° ▼ 38°	▲ 60° ▼ 34°	▲ 56° ▼ 32°	▲ 58° ▼ 26°

UV INDEX

Statistics for noon.

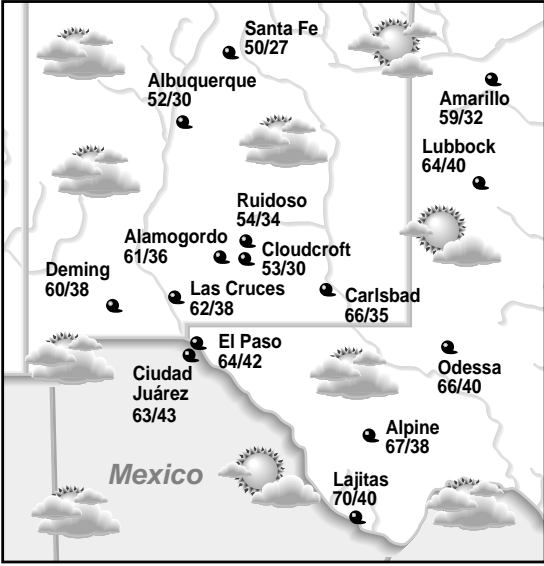
The higher the UV Index, the greater the need for eye and skin protection.

Wednesday	3	Low
Thursday	3	Low
Friday	4	Low
Saturday	4	Low
Sunday	4	Low
Monday	4	Low
Tuesday	4	Low

TEXAS WEATHER

Anthony	63	39
Canutillo	64	40
Clint	62	39
E. Montana	64	42
Fabens	62	39
Horizon	64	40
San Elizario	62	38
Socorro	63	41
Tornillo	62	39
Vinton	65	40

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



TRAVELERS CITIES

City	Wed. Hi/Low/W	Thur. Hi/Low/W	Fri. Hi/Low/W	Sat. Hi/Low/W	Sun. Hi/Low/W
Albuquerque	52/30/c	50/28/c	52/28/s	54/32/s	48/18/pc
Atlanta	56/40/s	64/42/s	62/46/c	62/46/pc	64/46/pc
Atlantic City	47/34/s	54/28/s	48/32/pc	47/37/c	54/36/pc
Austin/San Antonio	60/50/s	70/60/c	72/52/pc	74/52/s	70/50/c
Baltimore	48/32/s	51/30/s	46/32/pc	51/38/c	55/36/pc
Boston	45/32/pc	48/30/s	36/30/pc	42/34/c	46/32/c
Chicago	42/26/pc	42/32/c	46/34/c	44/28/c	41/27/c
Dallas/Ft. Worth	62/49/s	63/55/c	65/44/pc	65/44/s	59/40/pc
Denver	50/32/pc	54/28/pc	56/30/pc	58/28/s	44/12/c
Flagstaff	44/26/c	38/18/c	40/22/pc	36/18/c	37/8/pc
Houston	68/56/pc	72/58/c	70/56/c	72/58/pc	74/56/pc
Kansas City	42/30/pc	53/37/c	58/35/pc	48/28/pc	32/18/pc
Las Vegas	54/40/pc	56/42/c	58/40/c	54/36/pc	53/30/c
Miami	79/65/pc	78/65/pc	79/64/pc	79/66/pc	79/64/pc
Minneapolis	26/14/c	32/22/c	40/26/pc	36/21/c	24/-2/c
New Orleans	65/53/pc	71/55/c	71/57/c	71/56/pc	71/50/c
New York City	46/38/s	49/32/s	38/35/pc	46/40/c	51/39/c
Philadelphia	48/34/s	50/32/s	44/32/pc	48/38/c	53/39/pc
Phoenix	68/46/c	62/42/pc	64/44/s	62/42/c	64/38/pc
Portland	44/36/c	40/34/c	40/32/c	42/33/r	41/28/c
San Francisco	54/42/pc	55/47/c	55/44/c	51/44/c	52/38/c
Seattle	41/36/c	38/32/c	38/30/c	41/33/c	41/29/c
Tucson	72/44/c	61/38/c	65/39/s	65/39/pc	60/34/pc
Washington, DC	49/36/s	52/34/s	48/36/pc	52/42/c	56/40/pc

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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