



NEWSBRIEFS

Party funds

Mini-grants are being made available by the Texas Dept. of Transportation to help stop traffic crashes which are the leading cause of deaths and serious injuries incurred by teens ages 15-19 who attend drinking parties and then drive on Texas streets and highways. TxDOT is offering mini-grants of \$500 to support Project Celebration, which promotes drug and alcohol free parties for high school students. These funds are provided to area high schools as "seed money" to prepare graduation celebrations in May and June of 2004. For information contact Irma G. Rojas at 790-4336.

UTEP legend honored

On the eve of UTEP's 2004 NCAA tournament game, Don Haskins, coach of UTEP's 1966 NCAA championship-winning men's basketball team, is the subject of legislation introduced on the floor of the House of Representatives. Congressman Silvestre Reyes, D-El Paso, introduced a resolution honoring Haskins for his work and congratulating him on his 50 years of contributions to the game of basketball. Haskins' decision to start five African-American players in the 1966 NCAA tournament championship game broke down existing racial barriers and greatly accelerated the integration of the sport.

In other news

■ A 45-year-old man, identified by the El Paso County Sheriff's Department as Silvestre Bustos, has been arrested in the stabbing death of 32-year-old Rosa Isela Gonzalez on Thursday night at the CnN Sports Bar at 11683 Alameda. According to the Sheriff's spokesman, witnesses said Gonzalez left the bar with Bustos about 10:53 p.m., but returned almost immediately, bleeding. She was transported to Thomason Hospital where she was pronounced dead. The suspect was found near the 8900 block of Alameda and was arrested. A weapon was recovered at the scene.

■ Six finalists have been selected as Teachers of the Year in the Socorro ISD from the 33 campus teachers already named. Elementary finalists are Angela Gabaldon of Chavez Elementary, Virginia Rocha of Cooper Elementary, and Yolanda Nieto of Rojas Elementary. In the secondary school category, Catherine Morrel of El Dorado High, Patricia Arellano of Montwood High, and Michelle Romero of Slider Middle were named. The finalists are judged by a five-member panel and the decision will be announced during the annual Teacher of the Year Banquet to be held April 22 at the Camino Real Hotel ballroom.

A move is under way too abolish the exclamation point. People aren't surprised at anything anymore.

— Quips & Quotes



ARRESTED FOR GOOD — Robert Sepulveda was led away from Fabens High School by Officer David Dominguez, as an unidentified contributor stuffs "bail money" into the collection jug for MDA research.

Fabens High School principal calmly surrenders to arrest for a good cause

FABENS — Robert M. Sepulveda, Fabens High School Principal, was arrested Thursday morning, Feb. 26, at Fabens High School by Officer David Dominguez in front of the student body.

Sepulveda, a repeat offender of raising funds for Muscular Dystrophy Association (MDA), calmly left the high school and returned that afternoon after posting bail which had been set at \$1200.

By allowing himself to be arrested, Sepulveda raised over \$1339 in checks, cash and donations to help Jerry Lewis' kids and the MDA in fighting the dreaded disease. Administrators, teachers, cafeteria personnel, custodians and students from Fabens

High School alone donated a total of \$314.35 to get Sepulveda out of "jail."

Sepulveda said he would like to thank all staff and students from Fabens High School,

staff from Fabens Independent School District and members of the community of Fabens for their generosity, and the business men and women who contributed to this worthy cause.

Everyone that contrib-

uted — from the student IOUs to the donations that ranged from 10 cents to \$100 — helped Sepulveda get out of "jail," as the \$1200 bail was raised Thursday around 4 p.m. He was back at work by 4:30 that afternoon.

Wonder what your donations can do? The MDA has released the following estimates:

- \$5,250 sponsors 10 children at MDA summer camp;
- \$3,420 buys 1 jour of MDA research
- \$2,000 can assist with the purchase of a wheel chair, set of leg braces or communication device;
- \$1,200 covers 12 months of support group meetings;
- \$525 pays for a week of fun, friendship and laughter at MDA summer camp for one child;
- \$200 provides an initial diagnostic workup at an MDA clinic;
- \$150 pays for a physical therapy consultation at an MDA clinic;
- \$100 covers an MDA support group session;
- \$57 funds one minute of research;
- \$25 pays for a flu shot.

SISD selects 14 to sit on influential bond oversight committee

EAST EL PASO COUNTY — Fourteen community members have been selected to form the District's 2004 Bond Election Oversight Committee. The committee will meet every nine-12 weeks to monitor the progress of construction and renovation projects funded by the \$188.7 million generated by the bond sales. Minutes of the meetings will be available via the District's web site, www.sisd.net.

The members, nominated by the SISD Board of Trustees are:

- Hector Muñoz - Director of Recreational Sports, University of Texas at El Paso. Daughter is a Montwood High School graduate; son attends O'Shea Keleher Elementary School;
- Susan Hill - Parent volunteer, member of the 2004 Bond Election's Facilities Advisory Committee;
- Keenan Greseth - Horizon City alderman, parent of students at Col. John O. Ensor Middle School and Horizon Heights Elementary School;
- Ernest Ramirez - Police Officer, El Paso Police Department and parent volunteer at Paso del Norte School;
- Betty Vigil - Director of Religious Information, St. Thomas Aquinas Parish and parent volunteer for 13 years;
- Christy Guereque - Montwood High School student and active volunteer;
- Herb De La Rosa - Consultant, Workforce Consulting Group and member of the District's Facilities Advisory Committee;
- Dolores Acosta - Communications and Public Affairs, Del Sol Medical Center;
- Enedina Serna - District Director for State Representative Inocente (Chente) Quintanilla;
- Amelda Hermosillo - Home educator with Region 19 Education Service Center's Migrant Department. School volunteer,

See COMMITTEE, Page 4

Three 'Destination' teams take problem-solving to the state level

EASTELPASO COUNTY — Three Socorro ISD "Destination Imagination" teams won the right to compete for state recognition April 2 and 3 in Mesquite, Texas.

Destination Imagination is a problem-solving challenge for all ages which encourages teamwork and divergent thinking skills. It sponsors contests throughout the United States and Canada.

Two teams from William D. Slider Middle School and one team from O'Shea Keleher Elementary School advanced from the regional tournament March 6 at Chapin High School.

Slider teacher Sonja Kern led the Cartoon Dimensions team (in costumes) which included included Karina Lazcano, Victoria Pagan, Lauren Howes, Brittany Diaz, Raul



SOLVING MEGA-PROBLEMS — One of two Destination Imagination teams from William D. Slider Middle School are shown from left, back row, Karina Lazcano, Victori Pagan, Lauren Howes, Brittany Diaz. In front, David Lopez, sponsor Sonja Kernand Bryana Porras.

Carrasco, David Lopez and Bryana Porras. Slider parent Laura Belles mentored the Plot

and the Pendulum team to a first place regional win. Members include her daughter Krystiana Belles, sisters Angie and Emily Izquierdo, Cathy O'Hara, Rachel Baray and Christina Espinoza.

O'Shea Keleher students competing in the Upbeat Improv event included Kayla Ambrose, Prissilla Escobar, Nohemi Rey, Angelica Martinez, Priscilla Ultreras, Raymundo Palma and Nora Rausch. Team sponsors are Catherine Whitaker and Tony Miramontes, who sponsored last years' Global Championship team in Knoxville, Tennessee.

The competitions involve both "team challenges," taking several months to solve, and "instant challenges" which test a team's ability to create solutions within a few minutes.



One perspective

By Francis Shrum

The best laid plans...

I got a little tickled the other day watching a newscast about the dogsled races in Alaska. There was an animal rights activist all up in arms about how these races amount to animal abuse. Apparently some of the more radical animal rights activists would like animals to live and be treated like people. If this could somehow be achieved, I wonder what animal society would be like — would it be happy, peaceful and utopian? Or not...

Several years have passed since the Animal Rights (AR) squads began injecting animals with the magic potion known as Human Nature Serum (HNS). Every animal given the injection had an opportunity to move into the Animal Kingdom, an experimental utopian community development project designed for and governed by HNS-injected animals.

Most of the animals that were given the serum had no more idea than a goose — pardon the expression — what was going on until they were smuggled away from their owners under cover of darkness by the AR squads. By the time their owners found them it was far too late. They had already developed human attitudes and hired lawyers to defend their rights.

The Bovine family was among them.

Mrs. Bovine now sat in her parlor, unsuccessfully attempting the pinkie-in-the-air method of sipping tea — maybe it had something to do with the hoof on the end of her massive leg.

She could see her calves playing croquet on the lawn while they waited for their father, Mr. Bovine — known to his close friends and fam-

ily as Bull — to come home from his job at the Animal Kingdom Stock Market.

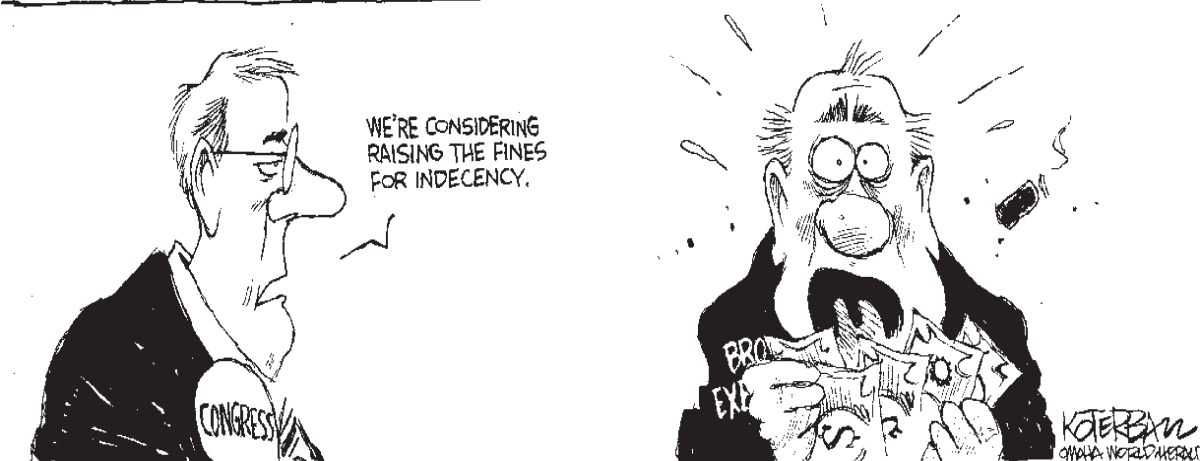
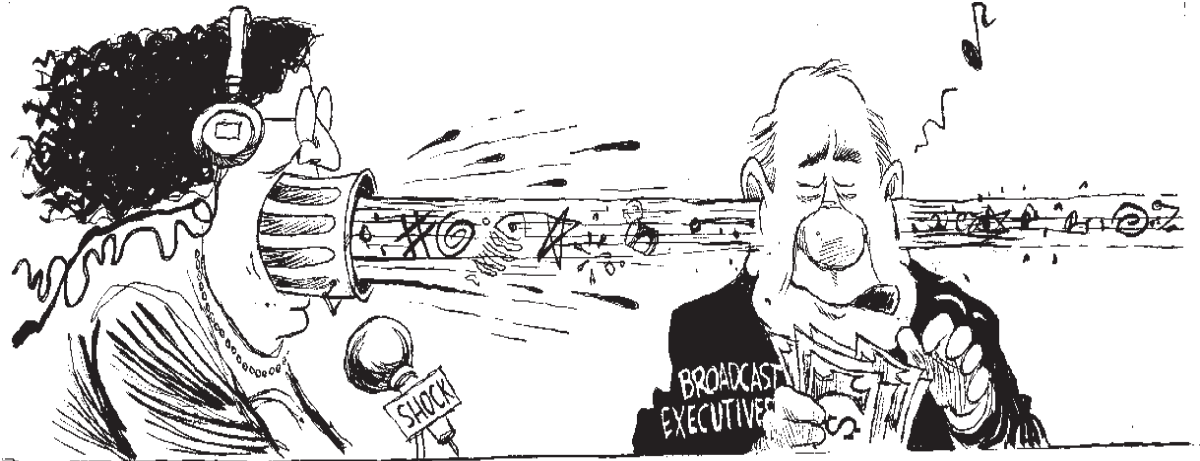
Mrs. Bovine was worrying about why the AR people never answered her invitations to tea. She had developed sensitivity to social slights, now, including jokes about bulls in china shops. In fact, her family was so refined these days that she had replaced the china only twice last year.

But there were other issues also on her mind. Like the wolf twins. She had become uncomfortable with the way they stood at the edge of her lawn and watched her calves at play. She had taken the baby bulls out of Cub Scouts after Mrs. Wolf was elected Den Mother.

And then there were the pig neighborhoods. Would they never clean up? The Pig Section of town was beginning to smell up the rest of the Kingdom. She was really dreading Phase II of the Animal Kingdom project which called for integrating the various species into neighborhoods. She sure didn't want to live next door to a pig.

As if that weren't enough, she had heard rumors that the wolf twins had been quoting selected passages of that terrible human novel, "The Three Little Pigs," during class. Maybe she should petition the Kingdom Council for more community sensitivity training.

The ding-dong of the door bell broke her thoughtful reverie. It was her neighbor, Mr. Chicken, calling for Mr. Bovine. Some animals were saying Mr. Chicken had once been a real cock-of-the-walk, but since receiving HNS, he had developed paranoid tendencies and was inclined to avoid confrontations. Bull said he hoped they would soon replace him on the



Kingdom Council because when it came to making hard decisions he would — and she hated using this expression — chicken out.

"Do come in," Mrs. Bovine said. "I want to talk to Bull about those wolf twins," he cackled. "They have been writing 'Eat Mo' Chikin' on my back fence."

Mrs. Bovine sighed. "I wish we would all start acting more animal toward one another. And the way some of us are not accepting our new

civilized status is very disturbing. Why, I saw Mr. and Mrs. Husky trying to teach their pups to pull a sled the other day! And those Stock Horses! If it weren't for all the Rottweilers on the Kingdom Security Force, I do believe they would attempt to pen my babies in the yard again!"

"Have you seen the latest People Kingdom program?" Mr. Chicken asked. He flipped on the television and switched over to the People

Planet channel. It showed crowds rioting in the streets, striking one another and shouting obscene insults, as the People Police vainly attempted to restore order.

He shook his head at such conduct. Mrs. Bovine, too, was watching the mayhem with horror.

"I don't know what the AR people had in mind for the Animal Kingdom," Mr. Chicken said sadly. "But if we go on this way we'll soon be no better than *them*!"

Horizon City police to step up enforcement of security alarm regulation and other ordinances

HORIZON CITY — The Horizon City Police Department will be stepping up its enforcement of a city ordinance regulating security alarm systems and false alarms in Horizon City.

"It's been over a year since the Town City Council passed the ordinance on Feb. 11, 2003. Since its inception of the ordinance, only a hand full of residents and some commercial businesses have complied with the alarm permit requirement," said HCPD Chief Tony Aguilar.

"For approximately three months (after the ordinance passed) we passed out flyers with the new alarm ordinance requirements; we announced it in the local newspapers; officers gave verbal and written warnings; and we did not enforce the new alarm ordinance until May 5, 2003. Since then, we have issued numerous warnings, both verbal and written to resident owners and businesses with alarm systems that have not obtained a permit from the city to operate their alarm. This warning period is over. We will now concentrate on enforcement of the ordinance. Every time that an officer responds to an alarm call, officers will now be checking for alarm permits. If the resident owner of the alarm system can not produce a permit, he/she may be issued a citation for non-compliance."

Failure to comply with the permit requirement may result in a fine of up to \$200 for each offense. Each day that a violation is permitted to exist shall constitute a separate offense, Chief Aguilar said, citing Section 103.160-C, Violations; penalty; corporations, partnerships and associations.

"The main intent of the ordinance was to provide our citizens with a safe and secure environment. By implementing the alarm ordinance, we have striven to maintain and enhance the security for our citizens while at the same time we are attempting to reduce the number of false alarm calls that our police officers are presently responding to," said Chief Aguilar.

"Since May 5, 2003 through March 6, 2004, we have recorded 282 False Alarms in the Horizon City area. Seventy percent were residential and 30 percent were commercial alarms. Out of those false alarm calls, only 19 had obtained a permit from the city, and only 47 permits have been recorded with the Public Works, Licens-

ing Department. This is a very low compliance rate. We have to do better," said Chief Aguilar.

The ordinance is very clear on the requirement of having a permit. Section 103.020 Permit-Required reads as follows:

A. No person shall operate or cause to be operated an alarm system, whether new or existing, without an alarm permit issued by the city. A person commits an offense if he operates or causes to be operated an alarm system without a valid permit issued under this article. A separate permit is required for each alarm site..."

B. Each permit issued pursuant to this article shall be valid for three years. Each permit must be renewed three years after its initial issuance and every three years thereafter. Provided, however, that if a permit holder sells or disconnects the alarm system or sells or moves from the residence or business where the alarm system is located, the permit shall no longer be valid and new permits must be obtained.

C. The permit fee for the initial permit for a residential permit shall be thirty (\$30.00) dollars and the same amount for subsequent renewal of such permit, unless waived as provided herein. The permit fee for the initial permit for a commercial permit shall be sixty (\$60.00) dollars and the same amount for subsequent renewal of such permit. If a permit holder has zero false alarms for the three year period of the permit, said permit holder will not be required to pay the renewal amount for the permit for the succeeding three year permit..."

Chief Aguilar stated, "We encourage all Horizon City residents and businesses to voluntarily comply with the alarm ordinance. I have instructed all officers to assist any person that requires information or assistance to obtain the alarm permit. Officers will be carrying flyers and application forms to assist persons that may not have access to City Hall for whatever reason."

Other city ordinances and code enforcement actions expected to be stepped up also are the following: junked or abandoned vehicles; large trucks parking in or adjacent to residential areas; nuisance violations such as loud music, unrestrained animals, dogs barking,

See ALARMS, Page 3



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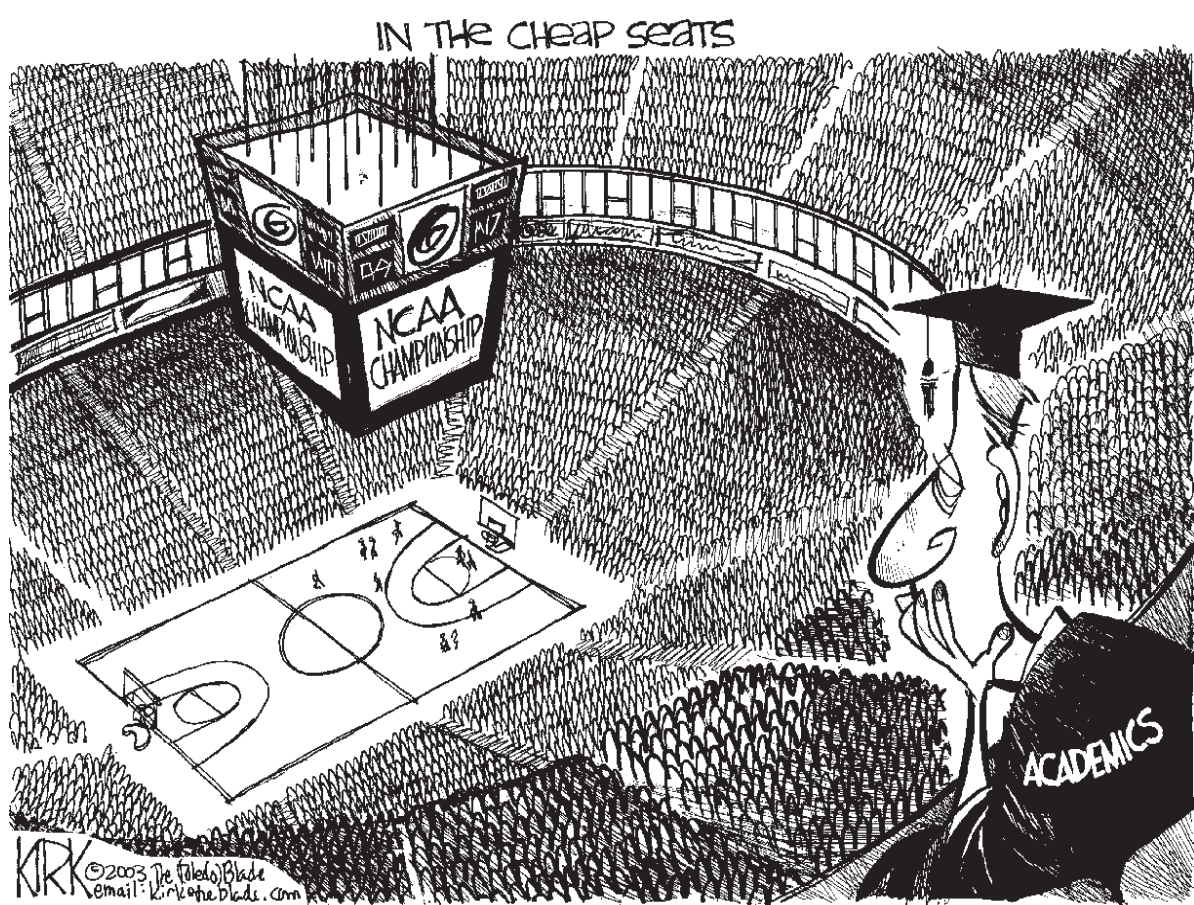
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Alarms

From Page 2

and trash and weeds violations. Ac-

cording to Chief Aguilar, Bike Patrol Officers will be deployed on special assignments to assist with code enforcement in the near future.

“Voluntary compliance is our ulti-

mate goal on all of these issues pertaining to City Ordinances, but if people refuse to comply or cooperate, then we have to take alternative measures,” said Chief Aguilar.



Eye on D.C.

By U.S. Rep. Henry Bonilla

A lasting memory

This month marks the one year anniversary of the war in Iraq. In memory of the brave soldiers who defend our nation’s freedom, I fill my column space this week with the names of Texas soldiers who have lost their lives. May God bless their family and friends and continue to bless America.

List as compiled by March 17, 2004:

- Army Spc. Edward J. Anguiano, 24, 3rd Combat Support Battalion, Brownsville, Texas
- Chief Warrant Officer Andrew Todd Arnold, 30, 1st Battalion, 10th Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Expeditionary Brigade, Spring, Texas
- Spc. Richard Arriaga, 20, 4th Battalion, 42nd Field Artillery Regiment, 4th Infantry Division, Ganado, Texas
- Pfc. Chad E. Bales, 20, 1st Transportation Support Battalion, 1st Force Service Support Group, Coahoma, Texas
- Sgt. Michael Paul Barrera, 26, 3rd Battalion, 67th Armor Regiment, 2nd Brigade, 4th Infantry Division, Von Ormy, Texas
- Capt. Ernesto M. Blanco, 28, 1st Battalion, 504th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 82nd Airborne Division, Texas
- Chief Warrant Officer Clarence E. Boone, 50, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 4th Infantry Division, Fort Worth, Texas
- Staff Sgt. Roland L. Castro, 26, Battery A, 1st Battalion, 12th Field Artillery Regiment, San Antonio, Texas
- Sgt. 1st Class Gary L. Collins, 32, 1st Battalion, 16th Infantry Regiment, 1st Brigade, 1st Infantry Division, Hardin, Texas
- Spc. Zeferino E. Colunga, 20, 4th Squadron, 2nd Armored Cavalry Regiment, Bellville, Texas
- Pvt. Rey D. Cuervo, 24, 1st Squadron, 2nd Armored Cavalry Regiment, Laguna Vista, Texas
- Capt. Eric B. Das, 30, 333rd Fighter Squadron, Amarillo, Texas
- Pfc. Ervin Dervishi, 21, Company B, 1st Battalion, 22nd Infantry Regiment, 4th Infantry Division, Fort Worth, Texas
- Staff Sgt. Joe L. Dunigan Jr., 37, 1st Battalion, 16th Infantry Brigade, 1st Infantry Division, Belton, Texas
- Pfc. Analaura Esparza Gutierrez, 21, 4th Forward Support Battalion, 1st Brigade, 4th Infantry Division, Houston, Texas
- Pvt. Ruben Estrella-Soto, 18, 507th Maintenance Company, 11th Air Defense Artillery Brigade, El Paso, Texas
- Master Sgt. George A. Fernandez, 36, Headquarters, U.S. Army Special Operations Command, El Paso, Texas
- Pvt. Robert L. Frantz, 19, 1st Battalion, 36th Infantry Regiment, 1st Armored Division, San Antonio, Texas
- 1st Sgt. Joe J. Garza, 43, 1st Battalion, 30th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division, Robstown, Texas
- Master Sgt. Kelly L. Hornbeck, 36, Company C, 3rd Battalion, 10th Special Forces Group, Fort Worth, Texas
- Pfc. Ray J. Hutchinson, 20, 2nd Battalion, 502nd Infantry Regiment, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), League City, Texas
- Chief Warrant Officer Scott Jamar, 32, 2nd Battalion, 3rd Aviation Regiment, 3rd Infantry Division, Granbury, Texas
- Spc. John P. Johnson, 24, 2nd Battalion, 6th Infantry Regiment, 1st Armored Division, Houston, Texas
- Cpl. Brian Kennedy, 25, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, Houston, Texas
- Chief Warrant Officer Johnny Villareal Mata, 35, 507th Maintenance Company, 11th Air Defense Artillery Brigade, El Paso, Texas
- Cpl. Jesus Martin Antonio Medellin, 21, 3rd Assault Amphibian Battalion, 1st Marine Division, Fort Worth, Texas
- Sgt. Daniel K. Methvin, 22, 1st Battalion, 67th Armor Regiment, 4th Infantry Division, Belton, Texas
- Pfc. Anthony S. Miller, 19, Headquarters and Headquarters Co., 2nd Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division, San Antonio, Texas
- Pfc. Stuart W. Moore, 21, 2nd Battalion, 3rd Field Artillery Regiment, 1st Armored Division, Livingston, Texas
- Sgt. Keelan L. Moss, 23, 2nd Battalion, 5th Field Artillery Regiment, 212th Field Artillery Brigade, Houston, Texas
- Spc. Joseph C. Norquist, 26, 588th Engineer Battalion, 2nd Brigade, 4th Infantry Division, San Antonio, Texas
- Capt. Eric T. Paliwoda, 28, 4th Engineer Battalion, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division,, Texas
- Pfc. James D. Parker, 20, 588th Engineer Battalion (Heavy), 4th Infantry Division, Bryan, Texas
- Staff Sgt. Hector R. Perez, 40, 1st Battalion, 327th Infantry Regiment, 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), Corpus Christi, Texas
- Spc. Jose A. Perez III, 22, 6th Battalion, 27th Field Artillery Regiment, 18th Field Artillery Brigade, San Diego, Texas
- Spc. Larry E. Polley Jr., 20, 2nd Battalion, 20th Field Artillery Regiment, 4th Infantry Division, Center, Texas
- Sgt. Ariel Rico, 25, 3rd Battalion, 320th Field Artillery Regiment, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), El Paso, Texas
- 1st Lt. Jonathan D. Rozier, 25, 2nd Battalion, 70th Armored Regiment, 3rd Brigade, 1st Armored Division, Katy, Texas
- Sgt. John W. Russell, 26, 4th Battalion, 101st Aviation Regiment, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), Portland, Texas
- Spc. Christian C. Schulz, 20, 3rd Battalion, 67th Armor Regiment, 2nd Brigade, 4th Infantry Division, Colleyville, Texas
- Pfc. Armando Soriano, 20, 3rd Squadron, 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment, Houston, Texas
- Cpl. Tomas Sotelo Jr., 20, Headquarters Troop, 2nd Armored Cavalry Regiment, Houston, Texas
- Spc. Joseph D. Suell, 24, Headquarters and Service Battery, 5th Battalion, 3rd Field Artillery Regiment, Lufkin, Texas
- Sgt. Melissa Valles, 26, 64th Forward Support Battalion, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, Eagle Pass, Texas
- Spc. James C. Wright, 27, 4th Battalion, 42nd Field Artillery Regiment, 4th Infantry Division, Morgan, Texas
- Pfc. Stephen E. Wyatt, 19, C Battery, 1st Battalion, 17th Field Artillery Regiment, Kilgore, Texas
- Sgt. Henry Ybarra III, 32, D Troop, 6th Squadron, 6th Cavalry, 11th Aviation Regiment, Austin, Texas.

Ft. Hancock water system gets funding from USDA rural development loan

HUDSPETH COUNTY — Bryan Daniel, state director, Texas USDA Rural Development announces today that Fort Hancock Water received a \$380,000 loan through the agency’s Rural Utilities Service Water and Waste Disposal Loan and Grant program. The effort is part of USDA’s national program to help provide rural areas with safe, dependable water and modern sewage systems. “One of the goals of USDA Rural Development is to provide water and wastewater treatment programs that target public health benefits and provide economic opportunities to America’s rural communities,” said Daniel. “Rural residents can utilize our programs to help provide essential public services that will enhance their quality of life.”

The funds will be used to drill another well and construct a reverse osmosis water treatment facility. Population served by this project is 247. USDA loans and grants are available to rural communities with fewer than 10,000 residents. Public bodies, corporations operated on a nonprofit basis, and Indian tribes, that are unable to obtain credit from other sources at reasonable rates and terms, are eligible for assistance. For more information regarding USDA Rural Development programs, contact the El Paso Local Office at 915-855-1229, Ext. 4.

Fabens ISD provides teacher training in ‘sheltered instruction’

By Rosa Garcia
Special to the Courier

FABENS I.S.D. — While students were out having a good time, Fabens High School and Middle School teachers were still in school attending staff development activities on March 12 during spring break. Elective teachers were introduced to SIOP (Sheltered Instruction Observation Protocol) strategies that

will be implemented in classrooms grades 6-12 next school year. Enrigue Perez, Bi-lingual Director facilitated the session. At the same time, Karen Davis from the Math/Science Partnership, Region 19, conducted a vertical alignment staff development for science teachers. The agenda included the practical application of using the Vee diagram to design and implement a scientific investigation, an examination of grade level TEKS, and dis-

cussion and evaluation. Math teachers received training provided by Lien Diaz and Veronica Hernandez, also from the Math/Science Partnership, in making connections lessons, improving mathematics teaching and collaborative goal setting. Language Arts and Social Studies teachers were instructed in making quality assessments. Nancy Love and Baron White, consultants from Region 19, facilitated this session.

Students lock-in for a night of technology development

CANUTILLO — Deanna Davenport Elementary School students in Jesus Hernandez’s third grade class will team-up with Canutillo High School students in Teresita Ballard’s World Geography class to design power point presentations during a Technology Lock-In Night, from 4:30 to 9 p.m., Thursday, March 25, at the school, 8401 Remington Road. The students will use the latest in

computer technology to put together their presentations and show them to parents and teachers that evening. About 40 students will participate in the technology event. “Teachers will judge the presentations according to content, appearance, style, and use of digital photos, sound, animation, and graphics. The winning entry will be submitted to a state multi-media competition

sponsored by Texas Computer Education Association (TCEA),” said Joan Gil, computer lead teacher at Davenport Elementary School. Dinner and refreshments will be provided free to parents, teachers, and visitors. Also goody bags and special t-shirts will be given to participants. For more information, call 886-6401.

Health officials investigating outbreak of Legionellosis

AUSTIN — Texas Department of Health officials said Tuesday that state and local public health officials are investigating an outbreak of Legionellosis among people who attended a national basketball tournament for home-schooled students held in Oklahoma City last week. Some 70 of the tournament attendees are from Texas. Most are from Montgomery County near Houston. Of the 70, at least 57 have sought medical attention. Test results for five of the 57 were positive for Legionella , the bacte-

rium that can cause Legionnaire’s disease or Pontiac fever, a milder form of Legionellosis. Four of the 57 were hospitalized, two in Oklahoma City and two in the Montgomery County area. Three of the four have been released. Health officials stressed that Legionellosis is not spread person-to-person. Symptoms of Legionnaire’s disease usually include fever, chills and a cough and often pneumonia. Symptoms of Pontiac fever include fever and muscle aches, but not pneumonia.

Oklahoma public health authorities are investigating to determine the source of the Legionella. The bacteria reproduce in high numbers in warm, stagnant water. Legionellosis typically occurs after people have breathed in mists from certain types of water sources contaminated with the organism. Such sources can include some kinds of plumbing systems and hot water tanks, cooling towers and evaporative condensers of large air-conditioning systems and whirlpool spas.

Committee

From Page 1

member Superintendent’s Parent Communication Committee; Linda East - Administrative Director, Communications and Public Affairs, Del Sol Medical Center. East also chaired the District’s Facilities Advisory Committee; Victor Valdivia - Principal, Cesar Chavez Middle School 32 years with YISD in various capacities; Robert Valles - Electrical engineer with Borunda and Associates, served on various SISD selection committees; David Amaya - General manager, Hoy-Fox Toyota Lexus dealership.

Flag committee hopes ‘big flag’ will be up before Sept. 11 anniversary

Socorro ISD’s Board of Trustees approved the next step toward construction of the Freedom Flag Memorial project during its March 16 meeting. Assistant Superintendent for Operational Services Thomas Eyeington says the District will soon issue a “Request for Proposals” or RFP for the flagpole and a flag. “We’ll see what that cost will be, and from that we can determine how much money would be available to do cement work and the lighting. That way, we’ll know how many dollars we have to allocate to the other parts of the project.” Eyeington says the RFP will include a set of specifications on the flag and pole plus wind gust requirements.

Once a contract is awarded, the district will begin the building process for the memorial, which will include a 100-foot flagpole to support a garrison-sized American flag, 20 feet by 38 feet, to be build at the Student Activities Complex. SISD schools, community members and El Paso area business have contributed to the project bringing the total raised more than \$38,000 dollars since fundraising began two years ago. Former SISD board president James Cardwell, who serves on the Freedom Flag committee, says the idea for a big flag began long ago — even before the Student Activities Complex was built.

“My wife Sandi and I just started talking to then-Superintendent Bill Sybert and others about a big flag to show our pride in SISD — a landmark so we could point out, ‘You know where the big flag is? That’s Socorro ISD.’” Cardwell later approached former Superintendent Dr. Don P. Schulte about the project after the 9-11 destruction. “That was before the events of September 11, and Iraq, but I think this flag will honor the soldiers and the people who have suffered.” It was after the 9-11 tragedy that SISD board trustees approved a committee to begin fundraising for the project. “The goal is to have the pole and the flag up by September 11 of this year.” Eyeington says.

SPRINGTIME INVITATIONAL

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@ KIDD FIELD**

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Establishing paternity at birth gives children solid start

By Greg Abbott
Attorney General of Texas

The birth of a child is one of the most joyous events in a couple’s life — a wonderful fact of life balanced by the stark reality that about one in every three births in Texas involves parents who aren’t married.

One of the most important jobs of my office’s Child Support Division performs is establishing paternity for children born to single mothers, guaranteeing a legal relationship between the father and his child.

Under Texas law, a child born to a man and woman who are not married has no legal father. Voluntary acknowledgment of paternity (AOP) is one way to establish legal fatherhood so that children are eligible for child support and benefits such as Social Security, veteran’s survivor benefits and health insurance. Legal paternity also guarantees a father’s rights as a parent, such as making it easier to visit his children.

Not long ago, my office was contacted regarding a new, unmarried father who, tragically, was dying from a brain tumor. He hadn’t yet completed an AOP, but he wanted to do so before he passed away so that his children could receive his benefits. My office contacted the parents and gave them an explanation of the rights and responsibilities associated with paternity establishment. The father was very ill. Several weeks later, we heard from the child’s mother, who said that the father had passed away but had signed an AOP before he died. She said she wanted to thank us because the child’s father was comforted to know that as a result of his signed AOP, his child was going to get his Social Security benefits.

This story poignantly illustrates how important an AOP can be in getting children the benefits they need. The best place and time to sign an AOP is usually at the hospital when the baby is born. The child’s mother and father are most likely to be present together at that time, and they are willing to do what is necessary for their child’s well-being.

Most parents come to the hospital planning to put the father’s name on the birth certificate. In Texas, however, a man who isn’t married to the child’s mother has to sign the AOP before his name can go on the birth certificate. Hospitals are required to provide unmarried parents with the opportunity to establish paternity, and with information about the rights and responsibilities of establishing paternity. Because the Acknowledgment of Paternity becomes a legal finding of paternity when it is filed with the Bureau of Vital Statistics (BVS), it is

very important that parents understand the responsibility to which they are committing. For example, a man should not voluntarily acknowledge paternity unless he is absolutely sure he is the father of the child, and the mother agrees. If the parents are certain of the child’s paternity, however, the father can sign the AOP at the hospital at the time of birth and the hospital will file the form with BVS free of charge.

I am committed to seeing as many babies as possible go home from the hospital with their paternity established. My office’s Child Support Division has developed a Paternity Opportunity Program (POP) that trains and certifies employees of hospitals and birthing centers to assist parents with the AOP process while the mother and child are still in the hospital. POP provides hospitals with brochures and a video that discuss the benefits and responsibilities of paternity establishment. Hospital staff, in turn, give this information to unmarried parents while they are at the hospital. Parents can also call 1-800-252-8014, option 4, to receive verbal information about paternity establishment in English or Spanish.

When fathers can’t be present at the hospital for their child’s birth, the Attorney General’s office is happy to work with them to facilitate the AOP process. For example, a military father can obtain and sign an AOP from my office during the mother’s pregnancy, in case he is deployed before the baby is born. If he is deployed, the mother can take the AOP to the hospital when she delivers the baby, so the father’s name can appear on the birth certificate. Not only does the certified copy of the AOP help set that child on a firm foundation, but both mom and dad also can rest in the knowledge that if the unthinkable happens, the serviceman’s child will be entitled to full veteran’s benefits.

Together, we are giving the children of Texas a sound start in life. If you would like more information about AOPs, please contact my office at 1-800-252-8014.

The AOP form is available at all hospitals, birthing facilities, and child support offices, free of charge and, once executed, should be sent to: The Bureau of Vital Statistics, 1100 W. 49th Street, Austin, TX 78756-3191

Unmarried parents can apply for free child support services by contacting the Office of the Attorney General at: Child Support Division, Office of the Attorney General, P.O. Box 12017, Austin, TX 78711-2017, (800) 252-8014

Information on this and other topics is available on the Attorney General’s Web site at www.oag.state.tx.us.



HOUSTON BOUND — Five San Eli High HOSA competitors qualified for state competition in Houston.

San Eli High HOSA squad heads for Houston

By Phillip Cortez
Special to the Courier

Even though the Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA) program is in its second year of competition, San Elizario High School has tripled the amount of state qualifiers from last year, according to Mathilda Mirabal, HOSA instructor.

“These students did a great job,” Mirabal said. “I am so proud of them and our program.”

Jonathan Grijalva, Bianca Prignano, Cecy Martinez, Eddie Alvarado, and Jennifer Garcia were the students who placed 1st — 3rd at the Regional competition in Amarillo, resulting in state-qualifying berths April 1-3 in Houston.

Grijalva, a senior coming off an 8th place finish in the National HOSA competition last year, teamed up with Prignano, a junior in the Career Health Display category.

“I know he went to Nationals last year,” Prignano said of her teammate. “So I didn’t want to mess it up. There was some pressure to qualify for state.”

While students enjoyed their experience at the Regional competition, Jennifer Garcia knows what she needs to do in order to be successful

in April. The junior competed in Clinical Specialties.

“I’m going to need to prepare more,” she said. “I was really nervous at first.”

Eddie Alvarado and Cecy Martinez participated in a tough Sports Medicine category, where their competition consisted of taking a two-part test, a written part and a skills test.

“We had to test the range of motion and strength of an ankle,” said Martinez. “For me it’s the most difficult joint to work on.”

“Also the hand,” Alvarado agreed. “The ankle is difficult to work with because when taping it, you can’t have too many wrinkles in the wrap because that leads to bruising.”

Both Alvarado and Martinez are sports trainers at San Elizario High School and credit Mike Gutierrez, SEHS Athletic Trainer, with helping the two prepare for the competition by teaching the two various types of tape jobs.

In the tough luck category, seniors Claudia Arias, Elizabeth Larquier and Vienna Sanchez participated as a team in Biomedical Debate and placed second, good enough to earn a trip to state. Judges, however, did not send anyone from the region to state because only two teams competed.

Intergenerational connections made during HOSA visits

By Laural Lee Joslin
and Victoria Estrada
Special to the Courier

FABENS HIGH SCHOOL — Gerontology and HOSA students of Fabens High School visited the Regent Care Center in El Paso during a March outing.

The students socialized with the patients at the health care facility for the elderly. They played balloon and ball games, dominoes, a game played

with washers, or simply sat and talked with them.

The students described the facility as a modern hospital with a hotel flair. The 134 patients — in a facility with a capacity for 138 — seemed to be overall pleased with the visit, as were the visitors.

While some of the elderly withdrew from the social contact of the adolescents, most seemed to particularly enjoy the activities. Many patients said that they wanted to be revisited, and some even asked them

to stay. However, the visiting hours expired and the students made their emotional goodbyes, and departed with the memory of new friends.

Ms. Jimenez, the students’ teacher, described it as a fun, enjoyable, and a memorable experience in which the old connected and retained contact with the new and younger generation. The youth who participated in this school event declared that they would love to go again to reconnect with their newfound elderly friends.

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TRUE TEXAS FACTS by Roger T. Moore, March 24, 1891, electric lights are authorized for the state capitol.

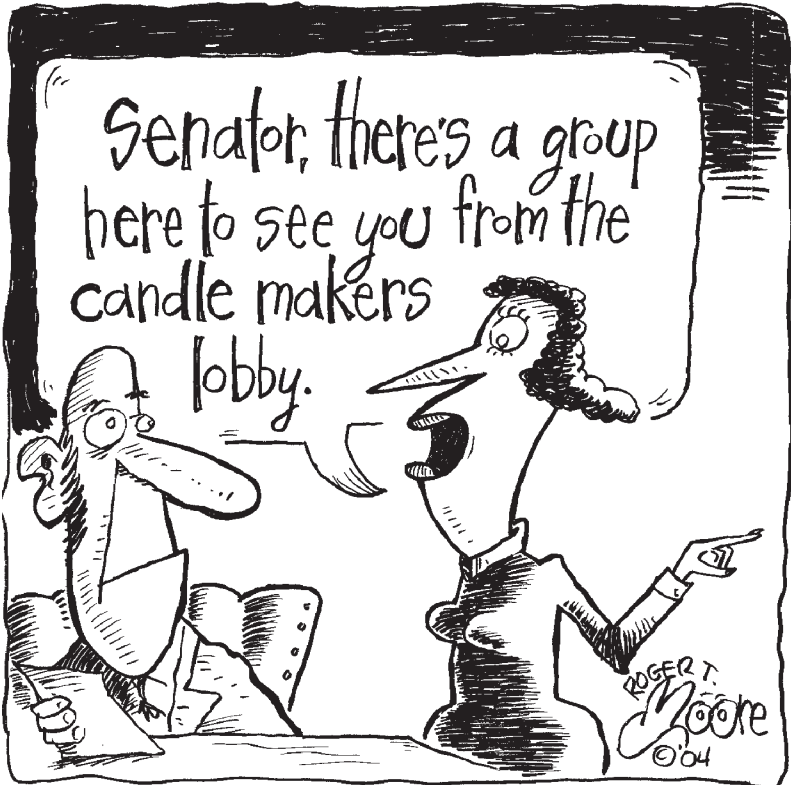
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UTEP basketball program looks promising for next season

By Steve Escajeda
Special to the Courier

Sadly, the 2003-04 dream of a season that the UTEP Miners treated us to has come to an end. The Miners made the city and the region proud by pushing the Maryland Terrapins to the limit before falling 86-83 in the first round of the NCAA Tournament.

And as much fun as it is to reminisce about UTEP's worst-to-first season, it's been a week since the loss now and it's time to look at next year, which should be even better than this one.

Though the Miners lose five seniors, only two got much playing time. Joe DeVance, Darius Mattear and Omar Duran, all of whom saw a lot more action last year, say goodbye to the program.

Two players that had to come through with improved seasons this year were Roy Smallwood and Chris Craig. And they both did outstanding jobs, but they too have graduated.

Who will lead the way next year? All WAC first-team point guard Fili Rivera is back. Rivera will be a senior and again, will be the engine that makes the Miners run.

UTEP's best offensive weapon, Omar Thomas, will also be back. A senior to be, Thomas should be a shoe-in as an All-WAC first-team pre-season selection.

John Tofi, the Miners' only force under the basket, will be back for his junior season. Tofi has improved in each of his first two years and indications are he should have a monster season next year.

UTEP's do-it-all forward, Jason Williams, will also be back for his junior season. Williams, who was among the team leaders in scoring, rebounds and assists, also pays dividends on the other side of the court as the Miners' top defender.

Fan favorite Gio St. Amant will be back for his junior season. Having taken on a new roll for the Miners, St. Amant proved how unselfish he was by doing less on the offensive end and focusing more on defense this year. He should come back a more well-rounded player.

One of the better 3-point shooters on the team, Brent Murphy showed signs he will be relied upon to play a significant role on next year's squad. Murphy, at 6-8, should come back quicker and stronger next year to help Tofi underneath.

These six players make up the nucleus of what should be a more explosive team in 2004-05. But six players do not make a team. Help is on the way. The Miners will have three players making their debuts next season.

Alex Galindo, Ivan Almonte and Vernon Carr will join the Miners next year.

Almonte, a 6-5, 225-pound junior, is considered a blue-collar worker. A banger, with a knack for getting the rebound and a passion for the game. The under-sized Almonte is a physical player who plays with a lot of heart and will help the under-sized Miners in the paint.

Vernon Carr, a 6-0 point guard, should give the Miners a legitimate man to run the show when Rivera needs a breather. A freshman to be, Carr is quick and very tough. He's a true point guard that can shoot the ball and lead a team.

Alex Galindo is the recruit of the year. The 6-6 small forward is considered to be among the best in the nation at his position according to many publications. Galindo, another freshman to be, has hit over 50-percent of his 3-pointers and 80-percent of his free throws. He is considered a can't-miss player who should

quickly become a fan favorite.

That gives the Miners nine players that will be able to contribute to the team's success next season. And if 6-8 senior to be, Thomas Gehrke can put some muscle on his body and improve his quickness, UTEP could have 10 players.

But the Miners are still missing one player that could make all the difference. This player that could mean the difference in making next year's Miners another WAC title and NCAA Tournament team, or making them a real contender for a national title.

UTEP still needs a physical big man. Just one 6-9 or 6-10 aggressive shot-blocker that can keep the Miners from giving up offensive rebound after offensive rebound.

The only real deficit this team has is height. And losing Smallwood doesn't help an already undersized team. If Billy Gillispie can somehow find a big player to fill that role the Miners could really be a team the rest of the nation will have to reckon with.

I know the Miners just gave us a thrill-ride of a season that exceeded everyone's expectations but it's never too early to look at next year.

And if you think this year was fun, just hold on tight and get your tickets for next season.

Canutillo high business student advances to national competition

By Alfredo Vasquez
Special to the Courier

CANUTILLO — Canutillo High School Freshman, Nanci Esparza, won first place in the Word Processing II event during the Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) state competition, which was held in Houston recently.

Esparza will now represent Texas in the FBLA National Leadership Conference competition that is scheduled for July 14-17, in Denver, Colorado. The CHS freshman won first in the area contest to qualify for state and competed with more than 30 students from across Texas to win the state title.

"I was proud when I won in the area level competition, but winning state was really sur-

real. I was amazed that I could win state," Esparza said. "It made my parents proud, and I was happy about that too."

The state contest entailed completion of a three-part test including professional letter writing and merging, 100-question multiple-choice survey, and proofreading.

Esparza said that being in Business Computers Information Systems class in the fall semester introduced her to word processing programs. "I liked using Micro-Soft Word. I had fun learning and creating documents, and to do well in these competitions you have to have fun," she stated.

Besides being in FBLA, Esparza is also involved in CHS's Robotics team, Academic Decathlon, CASA Youth group, and French Club. FBLA sponsor is Carmen Guzman, CHS Business Computers teacher.



Nanci Esparza

Outstanding business students travel to Cincinnati BPA National Leadership Conference

By Carol Silver
Special to the Courier

FABENS HIGH SCHOOOL — Top students from CCTE, including Michael E. Esparza Jr., Fabens High School senior, will be attending the Business Professionals of America (BPA) 2004 National Leadership Conference, "Savor Success," in Cincinnati, Ohio, April 28-May 2.

Over 5,000 other conference delegates from across the nation will participate in national-level business skill competitions, workshops, certification testing, general sessions, and the national officer candidate campaigns and elections while visiting exciting sites in Cincinnati.



Michael E. Esparza, Jr.

"The conference will be the culmination of a school year's worth of business workforce education and training which members of the local chapter of Business Professionals of America at CCTE have received," said chapter advisor David Romaka, who teaches I-Net+. Michael placed well enough in his Computer Network Technology individual event at the state level to proceed to the national level. He and his teammate placed seventh in their network design team, and are alternates for national competitions.

Business Professionals of America is a national organization for high school, college and middle school students preparing for careers in business and information technology occupations.

King Super Crossword

IN LINE

ACROSS

1 School tool

6 Sahara vision

12 Crestfallen

15 Pigskin prop

18 "Carmen" and "The Consul"

20 Genesis peak

21 In-your-face item?

22 Director Ashby

23 SIDE LINE

27 Extremity

28 Nurse's helper

29 East ender?

30 Sty trick

31 Composer Thomas

32 Rocky's rival

36 Author Antonia

38 Mingo's portrayer

41 Fiddling emperor

42 Turn of phrase

44 SKY LINE

52 Nonclerical

53 New Jersey athletes

54 Scuba site

55 TV's " _ Fly Away"

57 Mischief-maker

58 Rhone feeder

59 Has on

61 Singer Khan

63 Naldi or Talbot

65 Sty guy

66 Mardi _

67 Went white

68 HAIR LINE

74 Breakfast fruit

77 Jeroboam contents

78 Color

79 Criticize

83 Speak one's mind

84 Accent feature

86 Singer Vaughan

88 Mrs. McKinley

89 "Lorenzo's _" ('92 film)

90 Dividend

91 41 Across' tutor

92 Be a pest

93 LIFE LINE

99 Took on board

100 " _ No Sunshine" ('71 hit)

101 Content completely

102 Aptitude

105 " _ and Misdemeanors" ('89 film)

107 Act like a chicken

110 Belligerent deity

111 Reminder

112 Shade of green

113 Year, in Yucatan

116 BLOOD LINE

124 Actor Chaney

125 Past

126 Expects the worst

127 Maris or Mantle

128 She's a sheep date

129 _ down (destroy)

130 Petrarch product

131 Kingdom

DOWN

1 Dressing gown

2 "Once _ a midnight

dreary..."

3 Balloon material?

4 Be human

5 Tracking tool

6 Medieval weapon

7 Bother

8 Math abbr.

9 Meyers of "Kate & Allie"

10 Boyle's concern

11 Lucy's landlady

12 Made cotton candy

13 Broadcast

14 Thieves' headquarters?

15 Anatole France

novel

16 Combs of baseball

17 Glue guy

19 Pelt

24 Chemical suffix

25 Poultry purchase

26 Wise guy

31 - blond

32 Leg joint

33 Pride of the pumped-up

34 " _ pro nobis"

35 Prune

36 Vassal's holding

37 Linear measure

38 " _ a day's work"

39 Biscayne Bay city

40 "Aida" setting

43 Club cost

45 QB's stats

46 Bounded

47 Shun

48 Beatles beater

49 Cocky

50 Medicine bottle

51 Actress Sommer

56 Youngster

59 Squeezed out the suds

60 Vacation sensation

61 Numbers man?

62 Kansas city

64 Soon

66 Show one's teeth

69 Vane letters

70 Serengeti sahib

71 Cut of meat

72 Blender setting

73 Show one's feelings

74 Bovine bellow

75 "The Ramayana," e.g.

76 Coloratura Pons

80 Neighbor of Niger

81 Man or stallion

82 Patrick of "A Clockwork Orange"

84 Shakespearean infinitive

85 Kind of print

86 Factions

87 Owns

90 Leonine Lahr

91 Reasonably balanced

94 See 109 Down

95 China's _ Biao

96 Skater Babilonia

97 Amis' "Lucky _"

98 Sound of disapproval

102 Under the _ (secretly)

103 Cupid's missile

104 Sierra _

106 Philharmonic section

107 Bleak critique

108 Whirlpool

109 With 94 Down, fragment container

111 Cornfield critter

112 Only

113 "Puppy Love" singer

114 Gallagher of Oasis

115 Utah city

117 Actor's lunch?

118 Self-esteem

119 Theater sign

120 Word with take or hang

121 Solo of "Star Wars"

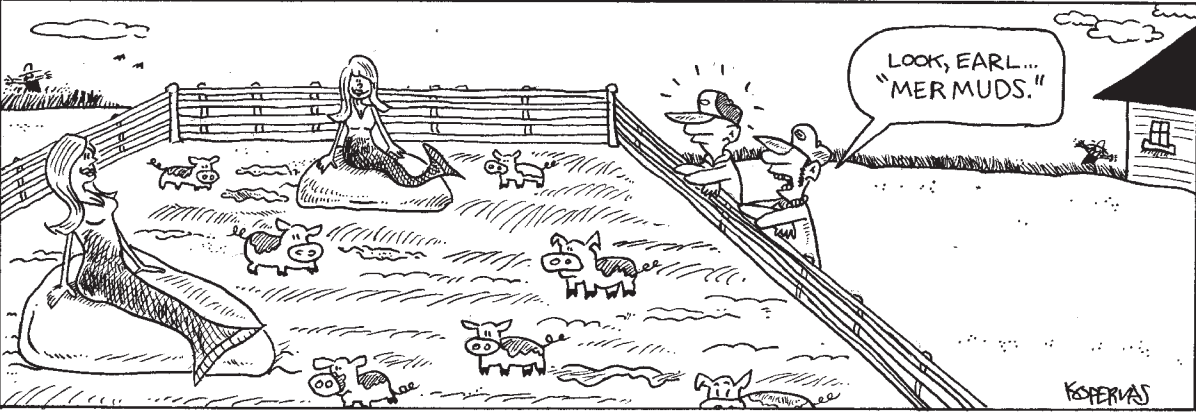
122 Coleridge composition

123 " _ Good Cop" ('91 film)

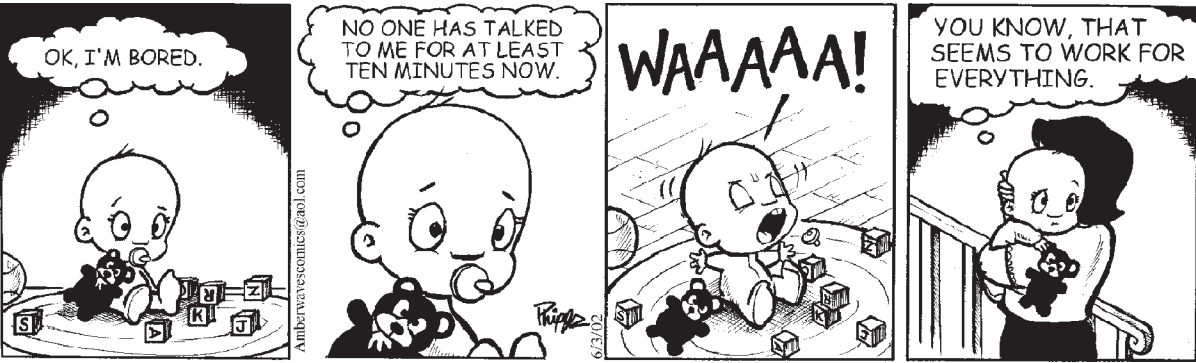
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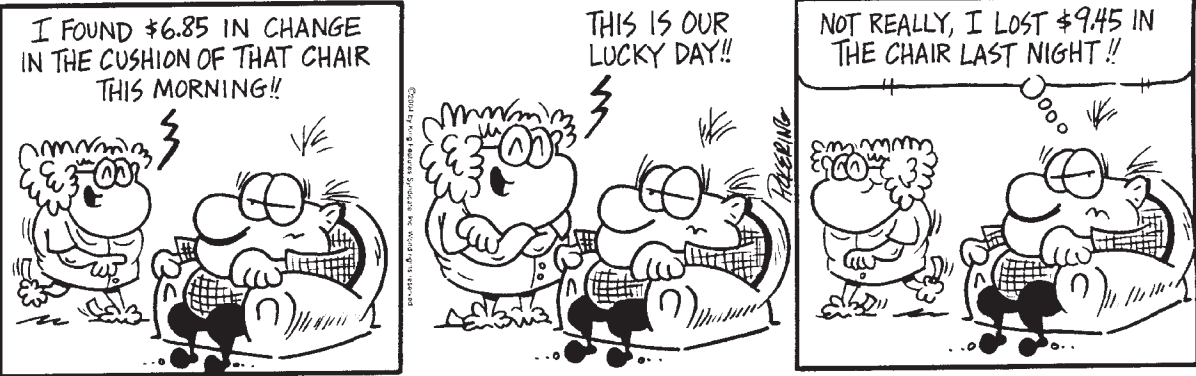
OUT ON A LIMB By Gary Kopervas



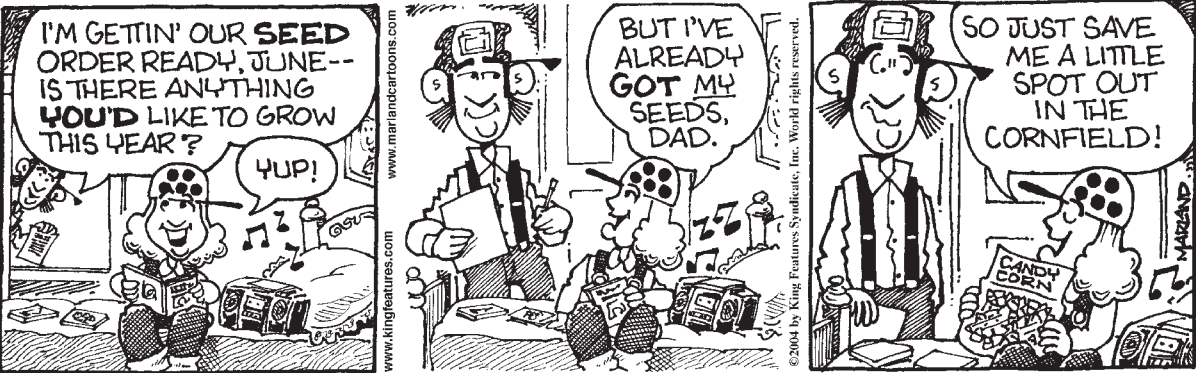
AMBER WAVES By Dave T. Phipps



THE SPATS By Jeff Pickering



R.F.D. By Mike Marland



It's all for you, Version 2.0

By Don Flood

There are many reasons to have children, but none so compelling as the pure, unbridled joy one receives from burdening that child with a stupid joke for a name.

That's the case with a self-described engineering geek from Michigan named Jon Blake Cusack, who decided that "junior" and "II" were too commonplace for his son's name.

His brainstorm: 2.0, as in version 2.0 — computer software talk.

According to the CNN story, his wife actually fought the idea for a while but then relented.

Her explanation: She had "picked out the theme of the baby's room and done other things. I decided to let Jon have this."

Have what? He's not the one with the stupid name!

HUSBAND: Dear, instead of calling our son "junior," I want to name him "2.0."

WIFE:

HUSBAND: Get it?

WIFE (Thought bubble — invisible to her husband — appears over her head): I can't believe I married this guy. I should have waited and gotten a version with more of the bugs worked out.

HUSBAND: You see, I'm version 1.0 and you are — well, I'm not exactly sure what you are, though you certainly played an important role in the development of this new product we have coming online — and our son will be 2.0. Get it?

WIFE (still in thought-bubble mode): Oh no, his hard drive has crashed again.

HUSBAND: Are you communicating to readers through invisible thought bubbles again? That's not fair! You have to at least send me an e-mail.

WIFE: OK, no more thought

bubbles. Here's what I think. It's a horrible idea that will subject our son to a lifetime of embarrassment — just so you can make a stupid joke!

HUSBAND: But you got to pick the decorating theme for his room!

WIFE (who after all married this geek, stunned into submission by force of husband's logic): Oh, you're right. Name him anything you want!

According to CNN, after 2.0's birth, the couple sent out a birth announcement — by e-mail of course.

(WARNING: The following statement from Jon Blake Cusack 1.0 is so hilarious it may render you incapable of useful work for as many as five days.)

Said Jon 1.0, "I wrote in the birth announcement e-mail stuff, like there's a lot of features from version 1.0 with additional features from Jamie."

HA HA HA HA HA HA HA!

Oh man, you'll have to excuse me. I'll be back after — HA HA HA HA! — I regain control of myself.

(Five days pass, filled with hysterical laughter.)

OK, OK, I'm back — fortunately just in time for deadline.

I mean, that makes it all worth it, doesn't it?

Sure, his son will be teased for the rest of his life, but that's a small price to pay for what must have been one of the funniest e-mails since the Bronze Age.

Of course, life might not be all laughs for Jon 1.0.

Version 2.0 may not appreciate the joke, especially if he inherited some non-geek genes.

He may even decide against coming out with version 3.0.

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Busy week for drug seizures

The U.S. Customs and Border Protection agents in Southern New Mexico made four significant narcotics seizures over the past week. Agents on Highway 54 found 29.4 pounds of cocaine, valued at about \$940,800, hidden in the modified frame rails in the front fender walls of a Ford Fiesta and they arrested the driver, a Mexican national named Ricardo Luis Ozuna Portillo, 33.

Near Lordsburg, agents found 624 pounds of marijuana, valued at \$499,504, hidden beneath a false plywood bed of a truck and two Mexican nationals were arrested: Santiago Borbon Enriquez and Francisco Montanao Felix, both 28.

Also near Lordsburg, agents discovered a backpack containing 92 pounds of marijuana, valued at about \$74,368, hidden in broken mesquite brush along New Mexico Highway 338.

In the final seizure, agents with the Horse Patrol followed fresh horse hoof prints in the area of New Mexico's Playas Valley to a brushy area where they found six burlap bundles hidden. They contained 193 pounds of marijuana, valued at \$155,088, but no arrests were made.

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Social Security Q&A

By Ray Vigil

Q: I overheard a young woman on a bus telling someone that she gets widow's benefits from Social Security. She looked to be in her 40s. Don't you have to be 60 to get widow's benefits on your deceased husband's earnings record?

A: It is generally true that 60 is the earliest age we can pay what the law refers to as "aged widow's benefits." But we also can pay benefits to widows who are disabled as early as the age of 50. And a woman of any age

can qualify for widow's benefits (the law actually calls them "mother's benefits") if she is caring for a child who is under age 16.

Q: About four months ago, I had a relatively mild heart attack. Following some minor surgery, I returned to work. I worked part-time for a while, but now I am back to a full-time schedule. A friend told me I should have collected Social Security disability benefits while I was off the job. Is this true?

A: Probably not. To qualify for Social Security disability benefits, your condition must be severe and must be expected to keep you out of work for at least 12 months. It does not sound as if your impairment would have met those requirements.

Q: I have been getting disability benefits for a couple years. But my last check was about \$60 less than previous checks. Why was my benefit cut?

A: People on disability qualify for Medicare two years after their disability benefits start. You should check with your local Social Security

office to make sure, but it is likely that the Part B Medicare premium is now being deducted from your Social Security benefit payments. You should have received a "Medicare Enrollment Package" in the mail informing you of this. The premium was \$58.70 in 2003 and is \$66.60 in 2004.

Q: My neighbor says she gets the Social Security supplement and was wondering why I did not get it. Am I eligible for the supplement?

A: There is no "Social Security supplement." But we do administer









a program called "Supplemental Security Income." It is designed to supplement the income (any income, not just Social Security income) of people 65 and older or people with disabilities who have little income and few resources. Call us at 1-800-772-1213 to find out if you are eligible.

For more information visit your local Security office, see www.ssa.gov or call us at 1-800-772-1213. If you have any questions that you would like to have answered, please mail them to the Social Security Office, 1111 Gateway West, Attn: Ray Vigil, El Paso, Texas 79935.

WEATHER

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SEVEN-DAY FORECAST FOR EL PASO

THURSDAY	THUR. NIGHT	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
							
Very warm with times of clouds and sun.	Partly cloudy.	Partly sunny, breezy and very warm.	Partly sunny and continued warm.	Periods of clouds and sunshine.	Mostly sunny.	Sun and some clouds.	Mostly sunny.
▲ 84°	▼ 54°	▲ 86° ▼ 54°	▲ 84° ▼ 50°	▲ 78° ▼ 46°	▲ 78° ▼ 48°	▲ 78° ▼ 48°	▲ 76° ▼ 46°

UV INDEX

Statistics for noon.

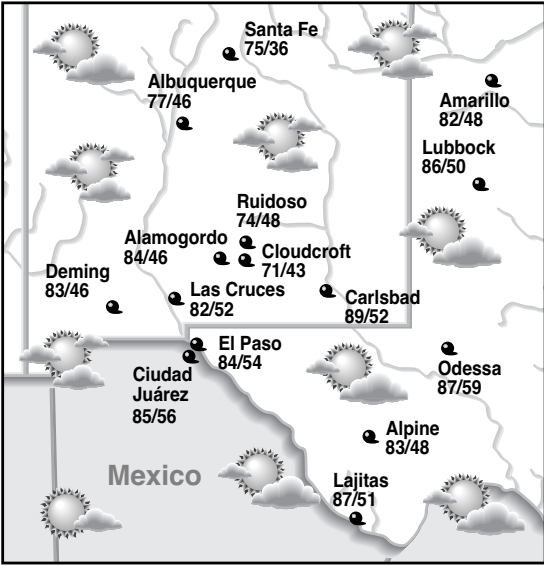
The higher the UV Index, the greater the need for eye and skin protection.

Thursday	8High
Friday	8High
Saturday	7High
Sunday	6Moderate
Monday	8High
Tuesday	8High
Wednesday	8High

TEXAS WEATHER

Anthony	85	54
Canutillo	85	54
Clint	85	55
E. Montana	84	54
Fabens	85	55
Horizon	86	55
San Elizario	83	52
Socorro	84	53
Tornillo	85	55
Vinton	85	54

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



TRAVELERS CITIES

City	Thur. Hi/Low/W	Fri. Hi/Low/W	Sat. Hi/Low/W	Sun. Hi/Low/W	Mon. Hi/Low/W
Albuquerque	77/46/pc	77/46/pc	71/44/pc	71/43/r	69/40/pc
Atlanta	72/52/pc	72/52/pc	74/52/pc	74/52/sh	74/54/pc
Atlantic City	58/46/sh	58/44/pc	60/42/sh	57/38/pc	56/40/r
Austin/San Antonio	75/60/pc	80/60/pc	83/56/s	76/56/pc	77/56/pc
Baltimore	62/46/sh	62/44/pc	64/40/sh	60/40/pc	62/43/r
Boston	53/44/r	56/44/pc	53/40/sh	48/38/pc	54/41/sh
Chicago	60/44/sh	62/46/sh	64/48/pc	68/48/r	61/41/c
Dallas/Ft. Worth	77/60/pc	80/61/pc	84/59/s	79/57/pc	76/57/pc
Denver	79/44/pc	74/41/pc	73/40/sh	69/37/r	60/34/pc
Flagstaff	65/34/pc	58/31/pc	55/28/pc	54/25/pc	50/24/pc
Houston	80/60/pc	80/64/pc	80/62/pc	80/64/pc	80/64/pc
Kansas City	72/54/sh	70/48/t	74/55/pc	75/52/pc	71/48/pc
Las Vegas	82/58/s	78/54/pc	70/50/pc	70/49/pc	72/49/pc
Miami	79/67/sh	80/66/sh	80/66/sh	82/65/s	82/65/sh
Minneapolis	60/42/sh	60/44/pc	65/48/r	58/41/r	56/37/pc
New Orleans	79/60/pc	78/63/s	80/62/s	78/61/pc	78/60/s
New York City	55/44/sh	56/45/pc	58/44/sh	54/43/pc	56/45/r
Philadelphia	60/46/sh	60/46/pc	62/42/sh	56/40/pc	59/45/r
Phoenix	90/64/s	88/60/pc	82/56/pc	78/53/pc	76/54/s
Portland	54/42/r	56/40/r	58/41/sh	59/43/s	61/49/pc
San Francisco	63/51/c	61/46/sh	64/49/pc	67/51/s	66/52/pc
Seattle	53/43/r	52/40/r	54/42/sh	56/41/pc	57/48/c
Tucson	88/56/s	86/54/pc	81/51/pc	79/48/pc	79/48/s
Washington, DC	62/48/sh	62/46/pc	64/46/sh	60/44/pc	65/47/r

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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*Deferred Interest until April 2005—Deferred Interest with Payments—Must request promotion at purchase. Offer is subject to credit approval by GE Capital Consumer Card Co. and applies to purchases of \$799 or more made between December 3, 2003, and May 31, 2004, on your Power Credit Card. No finance charge will be assessed on your promotional purchase balance if you pay the promotional purchase balance in full by the end of the promotional period. If you do not, periodic finance charges will be assessed on the promotional purchase balance from the date of purchase. Minimum monthly payments will be required on your promotional purchase balance during and after the promotional period. If minimum monthly payments are not paid when due, all special promotional terms may be terminated. Standard account terms apply to non-promotional purchases and, after the promotion ends, to your promotional purchases. Annual Percentage Rate for purchases is 18.99% (18.99% minimum) as of December 1, 2003, and may vary after that date. Minimum Finance Charge \$1. Variable APR of 22.99% as of 12/1/03 will apply if you fail to pay your minimum payment by your due date for two consecutive months. Financing promotion for residential customers only.
**Product price—Actual retail prices are set by dealer and may vary. Taxes, freight, setup and handling charges may be additional and may vary. Models subject to limited availability.
***Cub Cadet will provide an extended limited warranty for a period of 5 years or 500 hours, whichever occurs first, for the frame and pivoting cast-iron front axle and drive shaft on all new Cub Cadet Series 1000 tractors retailed after December 1, 2003. Cub Cadet will provide an extended limited warranty for a period of 5 years or 500 hours, whichever occurs first, for the frame, pivoting cast-iron front axle and drive shaft on all new Cub Cadet Series 2000, 2500, and 3000 tractors purchased after July 31, 1998. This additional limited warranty is available only to residential users and not commercial users. For complete details on 2-year and 5-year limited warranties see your Cub Cadet retailer. C11135-04-55080-1

