



NEWSBRIEFS

Day of the Children

El Paso icon Rosa Guerrero will be the honored guest at this year's Children's Day celebration at Washington Park on April 29, sponsored by the El Paso Public Library. Guerrero has been an El Paso institution of dance and education for many years and was present at the very first Día de los Niños celebration 10 years ago when she led hundreds of children in an impromptu rendition of the Macarena. Guerrero will open the festivities at 11 a.m. with a presentation and exhibition. Following Guerrero's presentation, there will be hundreds of activities for kids as well as live entertainment for the whole family all day, and free books. For more information, call 274-3336 or visit <http://www.elpasolibrary.org>.

Friend at UTEP

The public is invited to the a Millennium Lecture Series event at UTEP featuring John Friend, senior vice president of Cartoon Network Enterprises. Friend will speak at 4 p.m. Monday, March 27 at the Undergraduate Learning Center, Room 106. The event is free. Friend oversees global consumer products for the Cartoon Network and works with the network's ad sales division on promotional licensing opportunities. He is also a member of the Cartoon Network Creative Council, responsible for approving new programming. Fluent in English, Spanish and Portuguese and holding a bachelor of arts in history and literature from Harvard University, Friend has extensive business experience in Latin America. He served as senior vice president of business development and strategy for Latin America for Turner Broadcasting System International. He has also overseen projects in Argentina, Chile and Brazil. There will be a question and answer session after Friend's lecture, followed by a reception in the UGLC lobby.

In other news

■ City of Socorro Mayor Pro-Tem Trini Lopez has been invited to attend the NALEO (National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials) Policy Institute on Sustainable Communities in Phoenix, Arizona this month. He will join 45 other municipal and county officials from across the Southwest to consider ways to solve the economic, infrastructure, and environmental challenges that face communities in this area. The three-day seminar is designed to enhance the professional development of elected Latino officials.

■ The Escontrias Early Childhood Center will host their 8th Annual Career Fair on Tuesday, April 11, at 10 a.m. The U.S. Border Patrol horses and robots, the Socorro Police Dept., the El Paso Fire and

See BRIEFS, Page 5

The world needs more warm hearts and fewer hot heads.

— Quips & Quotes



— Photo courtesy Canutillo ISD

ALL IN THE FAMILY — Little Brothers Juan Gonzalez, CES; Juan Beck, CMS; Daniel Torres, CHS; and Kenneth Cooper, Big Brother of the Year and CES teacher/coach, shown during his recognition award ceremony held at a recent Canutillo ISD Board Of Trustee Meeting.

Canutillo teacher, coach is Big Brother of the Year

By Kim Guzman
Special to the Courier

CANUTILLO — Kenneth Cooper, teacher and coach at Canutillo Elementary School, was named recently Big Brother of the Year by the Big Brothers/Big Sisters (BBBS) of El Paso. Cooper's selection was based on his commitment, devotion, dedication, participation in activities, and rapport with his "Littles."

Cooper was selected from a group of about 300 mentors in the BBBS program from El Paso. He has been involved with BBBS since January of 2003.

"Not only has he been dedicated to his Little Brothers, but to all the children at CES. Cooper has been an inspiration to those around him. He uses humor to inspire change and always has a smile to share," said Rosario Olivera,

Canutillo ISD BBBS coordinator.

Cooper was matched with his first Little Brother, Juan Beck, Canutillo Middle School student in January of 2003. Beck's mother said that with his Big Brother's guidance, Juan became quite the gentleman and learned to be much more polite. Cooper was then matched with another Little Brother, Daniel Torres, Canutillo High School student in September 2004. He now has three Little Brothers with the addition of Juan Gonzalez, an elementary student from Canutillo Elementary School.

When Gonzalez was first matched with Cooper, he was having behavioral and academic problems. After only two months, Gonzalez's mother reported that Juan began to improve in his grades and behavior. She said, "Juan's face lights up when he talks about his Big Brother."

See BROTHER, Page 4

PSB buys Painted Dunes golf course, wants to avoid 'Emerald Springs situation'

EL PASO COUNTY — The Public Service Board (PSB) has entered into an agreement to purchase Painted Dunes Golf Course from Bank of America for \$1.875 million. Bank of America currently owns the golf course assets and leases the land from the City of El Paso. The closing is set for March 31, 2006.

Painted Dunes is surrounded by PSB land in Northeast El Paso. The PSB master plan for the land is complete, and the engineering consulting firm URS Corporation has been selected to develop a phasing plan and make recommendations on its development. URS has identified the golf course as a key element for implementing a successful master plan.

At today's City Council meeting, City Council approved the transfer of the 275-acre Painted Dunes property to the Public Service Board at no cost. The property will continue to be operated as a golf course and will remain open to the public. The PSB will be responsible for managing and operating the course

through a golf management company.

"Public Service Board control of this facility for the near term is important so the course can be included in planning and implementing land sales in Northeast El Paso," said El Paso Water Utilities General Manager Ed Archuleta. "We believe that with recent City Council activities to develop vacant land through a well-planned community process, this acquisition allows a tremendous opportunity to accomplish those objectives."

"We certainly do not want a situation to develop at the course such as what has occurred at Emerald Springs in Horizon City," he said.

The agreement with Bank of America followed weeks of intense negotiations according to Archuleta. The asking price was \$2.8 million, and the course had previously been offered at nearly \$4 million. Archuleta said the transaction works financially because the City is transferring the land to the PSB and no lease or fee payment will be made to the city.

El Paso County throws doors open during County Government Week

By Guadalupe Silva
Special to the Courier

EL PASO COUNTY — El Paso County is throwing its doors open to celebrate County Government Week.

Texas, along with the rest of the nation, celebrates National County Government Week this year from April 23-29, with festivities in every one of its 254 counties. Some go all out like Victoria County, which featured a week full of activities last year. Others, like El Paso, celebrate only one day, but with an open house and a big bash.

This year, as it has done in the past two years, El Paso County will celebrate by opening its doors to the public to show off all the innovative programs and the multiple services it offers El Paso's families.

Under the theme of "Protecting Our Communities — Come Find Out What the County Can Do For You," the Open House will show you how to feel safe and secure in your home and community, including how to get legal help, pay your property taxes, register a vehicle or register to vote, get a copy of your birth certificate and much more, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Wednesday, April 26 at the El Paso County Courthouse, 500 E. San Antonio.

Every county department will have a booth or exhibit of the programs and activities it has available to benefit every El Paso family. A representative from each department will be on hand to answer questions. There will be music and entertainment, guided tours of the Courthouse and of its historical mural by artist Carlos Callejo, food and drink, raffles and giveaways. Art works from El Paso students will be on display.

"The goal of Commissioners Court with this Open House is to make El Pasoans aware of what County government can do and does for El Paso's families," said County Judge Dolores Briones. "Quite often, people ask me what exactly it is that county government does. They wonder if we perform the same services as the city. The truth is we are different and provide different services," she said.

County government structure and responsibilities are spelled out in the Texas Constitution, the judge explained. The County is the primary source of government services in areas outside the city limits. Yet, counties do not have zoning or general ordinance-making powers. Unlike cities, counties only have the powers vested in them by the state legislature.

County government responsibilities include operation of the judicial system and the administration of jails, providing law enforcement, maintaining public records, collecting property taxes, issuing vehicle registrations and transfers, and conducting elections.

Among the exhibits at the Open House will be those from the judicial, legal and law enforcement systems, which provide a

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One perspective

By Francis Shrum

Branded

I thought branding was something livestock owners did — the most effective and permanent method to mark ownership of an animal with a hot iron, searing forever your mark into hide and hair in a swirling rush of heat, smoke and dust.

Not anymore. Now it's something corporate advertising agencies are doing to your kids. The method, however, is just as primal, visceral, fear-some — and permanent.

According to advertising experts, children spent more than \$28 billion of their own money in 1999. In 2000, they directly influenced the spending of more than \$600 billion by their parents. Who could resist? It's an advertising mecca — all that money at the disposal of immature minds just looking for a way to satisfy passing lusts. No, I'm not talking about teenage boys — these are children, under the age of eight.

With the efficiency of a hot iron in the grip of a leather gloved fist, corporate interests have set out to make each one of these little cash producers their very own for life. Not with a hot iron, of course. They've got a

much more effective weapon.

It's called a child psychologist.

You think I'm kidding, right? What self-respecting person who has spent his or her educational years studying children and their needs, vulnerabilities and natural responses would use that knowledge against them?

Apparently, there's lots of 'em. Everybody has a price.

With some \$12 billion-plus in the yearly advertising budget to produce 40,000 or more manipulative TV ads directed specifically at children, who could resist? The latest fashion accessory attached to every advertising team of a major corporation is a child psychologist.

I'd heard about these little gadgets

called "Migos" long before I actually saw one. Apparently migo is a rip-off of the Spanish word *amigo* for friend. The one I saw was lime green. It is a child's cell phone from Verizon, but I'm sure by now most cell phone companies market at least one comparable version. It has only a few buttons, programmed to dial and receive calls from a few specific sources like Mom, Dad and maybe Grandma in a perfect world.

What's not to love? You can almost

Some child-eater made big bucks off of the kiddie cell phone idea.

There are some child psychologists, however, who still have a conscience. During an advertising conference in New York several years ago dealing with marketing and advertising to kids, a child therapist named Susan Linn sponsored an anti-conference at the same hotel, same time, one floor down, examining the negative aspects of child-marketing.

While the advertising gurus upstairs were saying things like "full frontal attack on kids" and "brand them when they are babies!" Linn and her group, called SCEC (Stop Commercial Exploitation of Children) sponsored a demonstration outside asking "But is it good for them?"

They've

Childhood (CCFC) and has pulled in some pretty hefty support, partnering in a lawsuit against popular Kellogg and Viacom's Nickelodeon to stop their marketing of junk food to children.

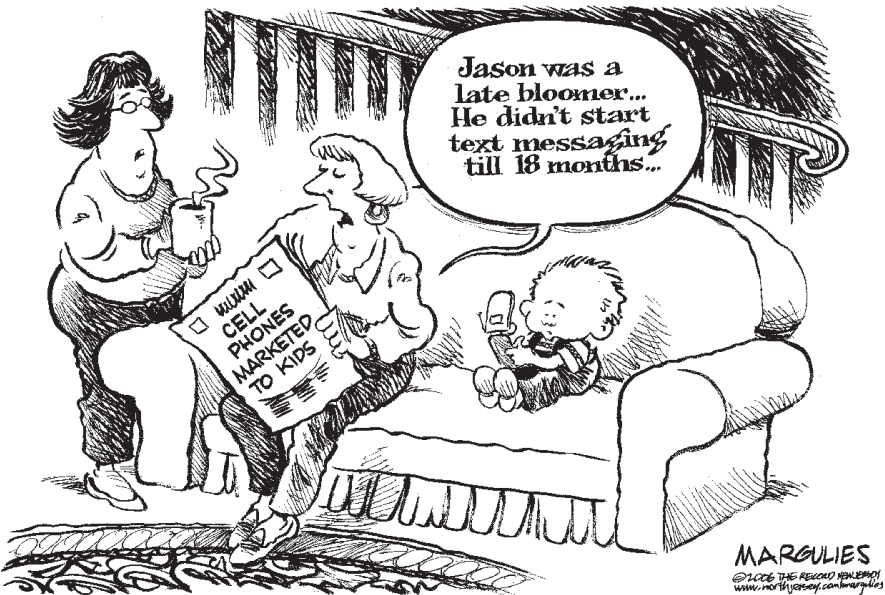
Still the beat goes on and until parents in general make the informed decision that they — not their toddlers nor their teens — will decide what cereal will be bought, what clothes will be worn and what programs will and won't get air time on the boob tube, advertisers have their foot firmly in the door, branding iron in hand.

Too many parents, most if we're honest, have from time to time appreciated those few quiet moments we were afforded by the blinking box of colors we call the television. Too many of us haven't taken the time and effort to actually look at and analyze what it is our kids are absorbing through their eyes and ears. And we have and will pay the price.

I heard recently an account of a young mother who was fending off requests from her seven-year-old who wanted a kiddie cell phone. The youngster was doing an admirable job of selling the idea, mentioning the comforting aspect of having mother-daughter communication as close as a big, comforting button. The mom said she was beginning to warm up to the idea until her child said: "Besides, so-and-so has one!"

The mom promptly exercised the one and only effective neutralizer that can defeat the most clever of child psychology marketing.

She said no.



see the wheels turning in their little brains: "I'm just like the so-called big people in my family. Do they think I'm so dumb I can't re-program this sucker to call Eddie? I'm the only one in the house who can take off a child-proof lid!"

pushed the American Psychological Association to declare that it is unethical for a child psychologist to assist child marketers in their appeal to children.

SCEC has since renamed itself Campaign for a Commercial Free

Write stuff

Dear Editor:

Each year, hundreds of news articles, opinion columns, editorials and letters critical of our public education system are printed in newspapers throughout our country. Yet few, if any, propose getting rid of taxpayer-funded education and allow the free market to provide our educational needs.

Education and opinion cartels claim that elimination of public

schools would mean the death of education. They paint a bleak picture of a nation of unschooled illiterates who would not even be able read and write, much less acquire technological or scientific expertise.

To discover the truth, we need to examine American history from colonial days until well into the 19th century. During that vast stretch of time (except for a few public schools in New England) the free market pro-

vided all educational needs. Home schooling and the one-room school were very common. Private schools supported by parents, churches or charitable institutions flourished without the benefit of government subsidies and directives. Parents controlled the teaching of their children.

The absence of government funding did not hinder the students of this free-market approach to education. Without compulsory attendance laws and other controls mandating a "good" education, they somehow managed to transform a supposedly backward wilderness nation into the envy of the world.

Colonial and post-colonial generations of Americans not only knew

how to read and write, they also possessed values that are under attack today. These include responsibility, respect, self-reliance, honesty and perseverance. Because parents controlled the education of their children, they could transmit to their offspring the same traditional values that they cherished.


Tragically, many Americans mistakenly believe that public schools are an integral part of our government. Separation of school and state is not a revolutionary development in our history. It is a welcome return to our philosophical and cultural roots.

Today, we pay public education taxes for life even if we have no children. In a free market, we would pay

none. Parents would save considerable money to pay for the education of their own children. Also, parents could select schools teaching the curriculum and values of their choice. Competition among the many new private schools needed would keep tuition costs low and supply abundant choices. Charity would provide for the poor.

Our public education system continues to require more of our tax money while producing declining academic results and increasing social problems. The only viable solution is to separate school and state and return to a tried and proven free market in education.

Dominick Odorizzi
Northridge, California



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Letter must not be more than 250 words in length. They should be dated, must be signed and have an address and daytime phone number. Only the name and city will be printed with the letter. The Courier reserves the right not to print letters to the editor or other submitted materials it considers inappropriate.

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Por la Gente

By State Rep. Chente Quintanilla

Support needed, appreciated

Hola, mi gente — I come with a great debt of gratitude — your support, your hard work on my behalf, and, most importantly, your votes helped to propel me to the Democratic nomination for State Representative from District 75. I am humbled and honored that you chose to continue your support of my efforts in Austin.

I cannot claim victory as yet. I still have one more campaign to run against a Republican opponent. That election will take place Nov. 7, 2006, an election which will determine who goes to Austin to continue the hard work of coming up with a new funding mechanism for our public schools, among other major issues. Hopefully, though, we will have a so-

lution even before then, as Gov. Rick Perry is calling for a special session in April 2006. I will be there along with my colleagues from El Paso to iron out this difficult chore.

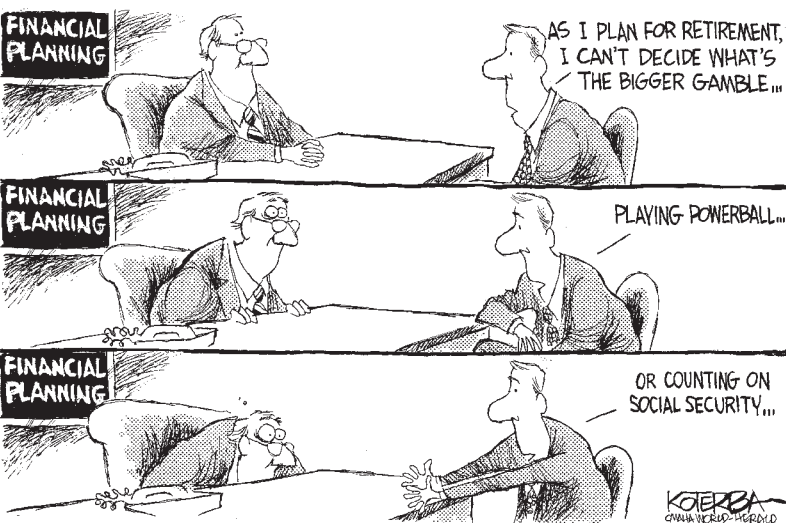
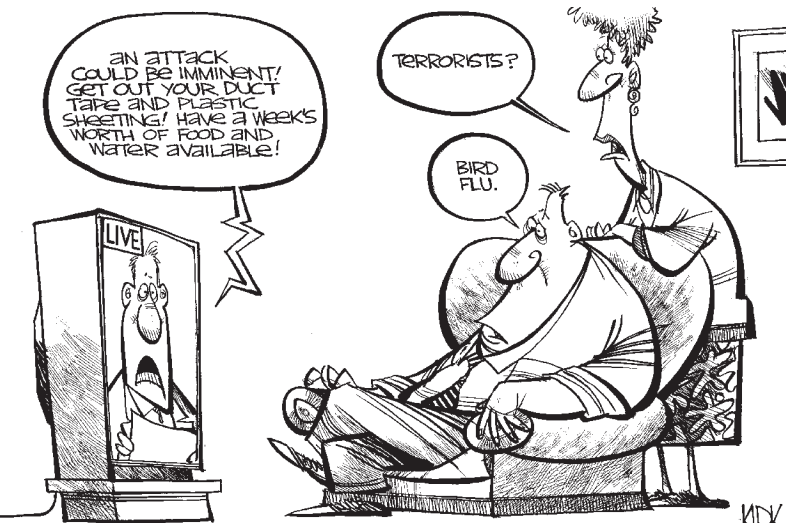
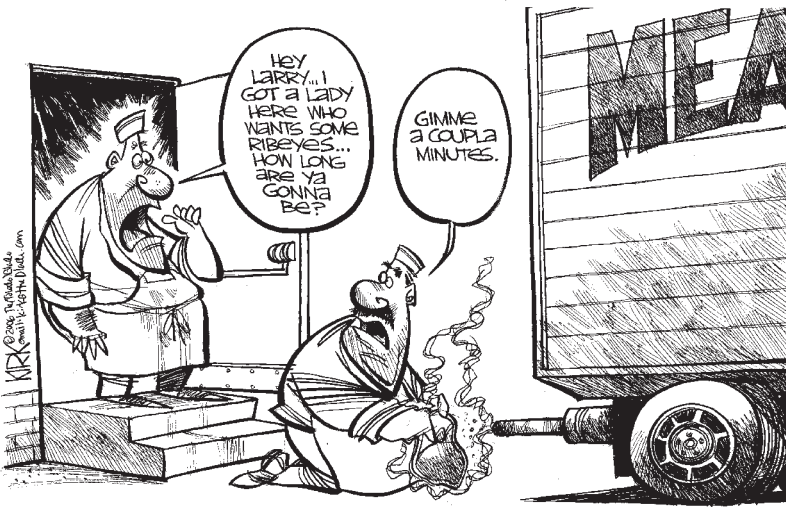
Beyond that, however, I am extremely pleased that you came out to support not only me, but other candidates as well. As you already know, your vote is the most crucial element in these elections — elections that seem never-ending, but which are vital in our society that promotes free will, free elections, and public servants who will listen to your voice. That is why I am having a Celebration Rally to honor you — an opportunity that I will seek to publicly thank those who voted for me. The reception in your honor will take place on Saturday, March 25, from 6 p.m. to 11 p.m. at the Mission Valley Ballroom, 10600 North Loop, at the corner of North

Loop and Horizon Blvd.

We still have a ways to go before I can claim my seat in Austin. But, in the meantime, I feel it is important to take the time to thank everyone for their support. The fact that you voted is the most important factor. Even if you didn't vote for me, I'd still like to thank you for participating in what is probably the most basic freedom which we have as citizens of these United States — our voting right. Without your vote, we can never be a truly free society. We must all exercise our vote. Win, lose, or draw, we are participants in this great freedom that this nation affords us.

As always I thank our veterans who served in our armed forces and our men and women who are currently in uniform. Once again thank you, and we'll see you there. Your friend and public servant, Chente for La Gente!

FDA ALLOWS CARBON MONOXIDE TO BE USED TO MAKE MEAT LOOK FRESHER



Reyes Reports By U.S. Rep. Silvestre Reyes

Conference opens doors to productive communication

For those of us in the border region, the issues of immigration reform, access to health care, and water scarcity have long been important. Throughout my career in Congress, I have always worked to educate my colleagues and other policymakers about the unique needs along the border, and based on the success of the Tenth Annual U.S.-Mexico Border Issues Conference, held last week in Washington, DC, it's apparent that the public is sitting up and taking notice. In fact, we even reached a national audience due to the fact that C-SPAN covered the event live, and re-aired the tape throughout the week.

As in years past, I played a leadership role in the Border Conference, which is an annual event hosted by the U.S.-Mexico Border Conference at which we gather subject experts and Congressional leaders on border issues. Our goal is not only to educate but also to stimulate discussion and debate about solutions to these concerns. This year's conference focused on enduring issues, as well as current developments such as the pandemic flu and the "Border Pro-

tection, Antiterrorism, and Illegal Immigration Control Act of 2005," a bill the House of Representatives passed in December. This is especially timely given the fact that the Senate Judiciary Committee was holding a hearing that very day on the Senate's immigration reform bill.

I opened the conference at the Welcoming Ceremony, and spoke to a standing-room only crowd, welcoming the many participants and speakers, highlighting the report by the U.S.-Mexico Border Counties Coalition that looked at the 24 counties along the U.S.-Mexico border as a 51st state, and compared our health, education and other needs to other states. Throughout the morning we heard from panelists such as Dr. Manuel de la Rosa of Texas Tech Medical Center, Dr. Jorge Magaña, Director of the El Paso City-County Environment & Health District, and leaders of the Pan American Health Organization and the Good Neighbor Environmental Board. Senators Kay Bailey Hutchison (R-TX) and Jeff Bingman (D-NM) joined us and spoke during the luncheon.

Immigration reform is an issue to which we devoted a significant amount of time at the conference. I led the Roundtable discussion on

Pioneer of El Paso County, Margaret Cochran, dies at 90

ALTO, N.M. — Margaret Sparrow Cochran, an early resident of Clint in El Paso County died at her home in Alto, N.M. on March 14, 2006. She was 90.

Born Jan. 10, 1916 in Clint to Mary Humble Churchill Sparrow and Sam Houston Sparrow, Margaret married William B. Cochran on May 6, 1939. She was a lifelong member of the United Methodist Church, beginning in Clint where she attended the church her grandfather, A.F. Humble, and his sons built in 1910.

Mrs. Cochran lived almost 70 years in Clint before moving to the



Ruidoso, N.M. area. She was devoted to her church, her husband, her children and her friends and had a passion for painting.

She is preceded in death by her husband, Sam Sparrow, in 1992, and by her sister, Fern Churchill Fields who was a longtime postmaster at the Clint Post Office. Also a grandson, Joseph Sterling Hannsz.

She is survived by four children, Mary Margaret Milburn who teaches in the Clint ISD; Maxine Farmer and husband Bob of Orla, Texas; Vaughn Cochran and wife Diane of Christoval,

Texas; Pamela Cochran of Alto; and six grandchildren: Cary Hannsz, Joe Milburn, Casey Hannsz, Carl Milburn, Heather Cochran Anderson, and Blake Cochran. Also six great grandchildren and one great-great grandchild.

She is also survived by a nephew, J.W. Fields Jr. and wife Sue of Clint; and sisters-in-law Alice Littlejohn of Clint; Dorothy Rowden of Lindale, Texas and Bertha Cochran of Odessa, Texas.

Margaret Cochran was buried March 18, 2006 at Restlawn Cemetery in Ruidoso.

The family would like to express their gratitude to Ruth Ewen and Yesenia Garcia and to the staff of Ruidoso Home Care and Hospice. Memorial contributions are suggested to Bond Memorial Methodist Church in Clint and Community United Methodist Church in Ruidoso.

Perez announces candidacy for City of Socorro District 3 seat

SOCORRO — Socorro native Victor Perez has announced his candidacy to seek the District 3 seat on the Socorro City Council. "My reason is simple," Perez said. "I want to give back to the town that has given so much to my family and me."

Born and raised in Socorro, Victor is the son of Francisco and Piedad Perez who still reside in Socorro. Perez is married to Cecilia Barron-Perez and has three daughters, Paulette, Isabela and Emilia. He says that he wants to see his daughters grow up in a thriving community rich with history and opportunity.

Perez has been active in the community in various capacities for the past 20 years, since the age of 16. "I've been on several committees, commissions and

boards of directors," he said.

He is currently the vice chairman of the City of Socorro Board of Adjustments and a founding member of the board of directors of the Socorro Independent School District's Foundation for Excellence in Education.

With a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science and a Master of Education degree, Victor is a professional educator and is an assistant principal with the Ysleta Independent School District. Prior to his career in education, Perez worked as a Program Coordinator with the Rio Grande Council of Governments.

Perez says that the campaign will not be easy, but, he said, "I also recognizes that anything worthwhile never comes easy."

County

From Page 1

multitude of programs to help citi-

zens with legal problems. These include the Public Defenders, Adult Probation, Juvenile Detention, the County Attorney, District Attorney, the Sheriff's Department and Domestic Relations Office.

Other department's present will be those that provide entertainment and

quality of life services, such as Ascarate Park, Sportspark, Agricultural Extension, Road and Bridge, Family and Community Development and others.

Admission is free. Information: 834-8235 or on the County's web page at <http://www.epcounty.com>.

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No Boys... I'd never live in a country that would have me as the King!

Apologies to GRUNCH COHEN Moore

Moore Texas by Roger T. Moore 1842: The Texas Congress passes a bill making Sam Houston a virtual dictator. Sam vetoes it.

— *Contributed by Alfredo Vasquez.*

The USDA Farm Service Agency is an equal opportunity provider and employer. Complaints of discrimination should be sent to: USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Washington DC 20250-9410.

WTCC: 03-23-06

“Cooper’s continuous involvement with students and families in the Canutillo community shows just what a big heart he has,” said Pam Padilla, Superintendent for Canutillo ISD.

Pol. Ad Paid For By Hector Delgado, Treasurer; 3120 High Point, El Paso, TX 79904

Briefs

From Page 1

Police Departments, law enforcement K-9 units, and the Insights Museum are all expected to enhance the event.

■ **Navy Fireman Recruit**
Jeanette V. Morales, daughter of Eva and Octavio Morales of San Elizario, recently completed U.S. Navy basic training at Recruit Training Command, Great Lakes, Ill. Morales completed a variety of training over an 8-week stretch which included classroom study and practical instruction on naval customs, first aid, firefighting, water safety and survival, and shipboard and aircraft safety. Morales is a 2004 graduate of San Elizario High School.

■ Registration for Pre-K and Kindergarten at Horizon Heights Elementary will be held March 27-April 28, 8-11 a.m. weekdays. Parents may call 937-7400 for more information.

■ Want to peek into the smoldering summit of a live volcano without risking death? With an Internet connection and a computer, anyone can do just that. About 30 cameras and other recording devices set up on Alaska's Augustine Volcano are streaming information to a Web site hosted by the Alaska Volcano Observatory. The site, <http://www.avo.alaska.edu/activity/Augustine.php>, has become a popular destination for everyone from scientists to amateur volcano buffs who want to keep up with the active 4,134-foot volcano.

■ Marine Corps Pfc. Hugo Maldonado, son of Socorro and Javier A. Maldonado, recently graduated from the Basic Preservation and Packaging course while assigned as a student to Marine Corps Combat Service Support Schools, Camp Lejeune, N. C., studying all basic aspects of military packaging and preservation of hazardous materials, and an introduction to forklift training and safety procedures. Maldonado is a 2004 graduate of Americas High School.

■ Drivers and cars are wanted for the Demolition Derby to be held at Lake El Paso on April 16 starting at 2 p.m. Cash prizes and trophies will be awarded to winners. Pre-registration required no later than April 10 by calling 852-2051 or 852-3382. After 7 p.m. call 852-8942.

■ The Eastside Youth Connection will host its first Young Entrepreneurs Fair, designed to showcase the creative and entrepreneurial spirit of youth ages 5-18 on Saturday, April 2 at Desert View Middle School, 1641 Billie Marie from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Vendor booth fee is \$20 with registration forms at Wayside Teen Center, 10964 Montwood Suite A, or by email or fax. For more information, call Catrina Cornell at 494-4380.

■ The Annual Masonic Information Expo will be held Saturday, April 22, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the El Maida Shrine Temple Auditorium, 6331 Alabama to provide public education about Masonry, its history and community impact. Events, parking, childcare and refreshments are all free. Organizers will provide complimentary hot dogs, soft drinks and displays showcasing Masonic activities as well as news about affiliated hospitals and burn centers, supported in part by many Masonic and Shriner efforts. "We're not a secret society, as it's been portrayed in some movies and popular culture," said Fred Roberts, El Maida Shrine Potentate, event organizer and president of Roberts Steel Co. "Masons have never concealed our existence or purpose. We don't serve as a forum for discussing religion, politics or other partisan affairs. Rather, we work to improve our lives, our families and our communities through responsibility to public service." Participating affiliates include all ten El Paso area Masonic Lodges, DeMoly and Rainbow Girls, Scottish Rite Bodies, York Rite, El Maida Shrine and Shriner Units, Ladies of the Shrine, Daughters of the Nile, Sojourners and Eastern Star. For information call Fred Roberts at 587-4131 or the Shrine Temple at 562-1444.

■ Birth and death certificates can be ordered online at www.texasonline.com, the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) announced this week. However, certificates cannot be downloaded or printed. Online ordering of a birth certificate for a birth that occurred in the last 75 years is limited to the individual for whom a birth certificate is requested and to the mother or father of that individual. Online ordering of death certificates for deaths that occurred within the last 25 years is limited to the surviving spouse, a parent of the deceased and to certain funeral directors. Verification of any birth, death, marriage or divorce — regardless of date — also is available online. Forms for ordering by mail can be downloaded from the DSHS Web site, www.dshs.state.tx.us. TexasOnline.com is the official eGovernment Web site for the State of Texas.

■ The Eastside Youth Connection (ESYC) is offering the means to bring families together through Family Grants. This grant is designed to make funds available for family meals/snacks and activities and provides handbooks to help start family conversations. Grants are available to families on the Eastside of El Paso. The Family Grant is planned into six weekly activity/dinner sessions to take place at a local establishment where the family, to include at least one parent and youth-age 12-18, will complete a section of the "Let's Talk" handbook and then socialize in the establishment together. At the end of the six week program, the parent and youth will receive an ESYC "Let's Talk" t-shirt and certificate. For information on how to participate, contact ESYC Partnership Director, Catrina Cornell at 494-4380.

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PERSONALITY TYPE: THE NEGOTIATOR

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Miners finish hard fought season high on the heart-o-meter

By Steve Escajeda
Special to the Courier

Over the years there have been many great basketball teams that have walked the Texas Western and UTEP halls.

Some have been pretty good. Some have been very good. And one was the best in the entire United States.

The lopsided loss to Michigan in the second round of the NIT meant the end of the 2005-06 UTEP basketball season.

And though it wasn’t always pretty, this season, and this team, will always be remembered for one thing — never giving up though they had many reasons to do so.

Following last year’s NCAA Tournament team was going to be next to impossible for this bunch. But when you pile on all the bad luck that 2006 brought with it, the accomplishments of this team will make it one of the more admired in history.

The Miners finished the year with a 21-10 record and an 11-3 mark in their first Conference-USA season. The 21 wins are remarkable considering the improvement in UTEP’s scheduling.

For years El Pasoans have been begging for the Miners to play a better brand of bas-

ketball opponent. This year the Miners played New Mexico, Pacific, Georgetown, Texas Tech, Syracuse and two games against and improved NMSU squad during the pre-conference season.

Throw in conference opponents Memphis, UAB twice and Houston twice, and there’s no doubt the Miners took a definite step up in competition.

And though the Miners went through enough defections, injuries and suspensions to cover several seasons, there was one constant that kept the team together through all the distractions — Doc Sadler.

The second-year coach did a masterful job of being part father, philosopher, motivator, tactician and drill sergeant.

Sadler had to work without the services of Gio St. Amant, Stanley Branch and Tremaine Fuqua, who quit the team. He had to coach without Vernon Carr and Kelvin Davis, who missed the entire season due to injury. He had to deal with the controversial decision of benching Jason Williams for just one game after he caused freshman Stefon Jackson to miss seven games with a broken jaw. He went without Miguel Ayala for five C-USA games due to a groin injury.

Then Sadler had to deal with the loss of his best player and emotional team leader

John Tofi at a time he could no longer afford to lose anyone.

And yet, the Miners kept winning.

Through it all, Edgar Moreno was still driving to the basket, Stefon Jackson was still hitting that pull-up jumper, Kevin Henderson was still playing his all-around game, Miguel Ayala was still hitting that 3-point jumper, Will Kimble was still getting that key rebound and Jason Williams was still doing everything humanly possible.

And the orchestra leader, Doc Sadler, managed a few hours of sleep every night — I hope.

This UTEP basketball team won’t go down as one of the ten best in school history, but when it comes down to sheer heart, will, guts and determination, it’ll be tough to find any other that even comes close.

T.O. in Big D

The very thought of Terrell Owens wearing a Dallas Cowboys uniform sickens me. But I guess all Dallas Cowboy fans across the Earth, including me, will have to deal with it this coming season.

Am I the only one or can you still picture Owens disrespecting the organization by standing on the star on the field, claiming it as his own, before he was helped off it by George

Teague.

How can the Cowboys do this?

I know that football is a business but how about a little self respect? How about an itty bitty amount of integrity?

I can’t think of a player that Dallas Cowboys fan hate more than T.O. So how are they going to warm up to the guy that virtually everybody loves to hate?

For the first time in 40 years my loyalty to the Dallas Cowboys is severely going to be tested this season. And I suppose I won’t be the only one approaching this crossroad.

Jerry Jones, you broke my heart and tested my patience this week by tarnishing, AGAIN, the mystique of one of the best organizations in professional sports.

But you accomplished one thing — which was a shrewd business deal — you put the Cowboys back in the national limelight.

But at what cost? Let’s ask the San Francisco 49ers, the Baltimore Ravens and the Philadelphia Eagles what the eventual cost was of doing business with this guy.

Watch out, Drew Bledsoe — you’re next. Remember T.O. saying that Jeff Garcia was gay, and that Donovan McNabb wasn’t in shape or tough or as good as Brett Favre?

Dallas, you seem to have forgotten the past. Now you are condemned to repeat it.

San Eli ballplayers create their own field of dreams

By Phillip Cortez
Special to the Courier

SAN ELIZARIO — Amidst the Madness of March lies the steady emergence of spring, where all across the country, outfield greens are gently manicured like fine carpets, lines of chalk look like powdered sugar atop mocha infields, and the beads of moisture on every blade of grass glisten in the sun like diamonds.

To some observers, a baseball field is, well, a baseball field. To the players who play on that field, it’s a sanctuary — it’s a place where you can remain locked in a time warp and stay a kid. At San Elizario High School, the baseball field has become a symbol of pride and teamwork that goes beyond the clubhouse. According to Coach Peter Viola, the field at 13981 Socorro Road is a second home for him and his ball players, sporting rakes, hoses, and brooms before and after the gloves come off. Go to a practice and when the hitting and ball shagging is over, one might get a lesson on turf maintenance from, say, an infielder, who dutifully combs the dirt better than some beauticians comb hair.

“They’ve sort of become territorial about it,” laughs Viola, who in his second year at the helm of the varsity squad has his team out to a 2-1 district mark, including a tough road win at Clint to start district play. “They have the attitude that you’ve got to put work into it in order to play on it.”

Viola believes that every kid deserves to play in a place that matches his or her pride. What was once an idea of what a baseball field should look like has become a reality for Viola and his team, who now play on one of the nicest baseball fields in the County, according to SEISD Athletics Director Bernie Del Hierro.

“I’ve never seen a group of kids work so hard,” Del Hierro said. “As soon as practice is over each kid has a job to do and they get after it. They’ve empowered themselves into having one of the nicest fields around.”

While the players maintain their home turf — some of the duties include watering, raking, cleaning out the bullpen, sweeping the dugouts and fixing the baselines — much help and support has come by way of Principal Joe Keith and the district grounds crew personnel as well as organizations within the high school campus. The school’s advertising and graphic design students created the signage along the outfield fence and backstop as well as students from the building trades program. In fact, it was the building trades program that built a custom-made bat and helmet rack for the home team — the visitor’s dugout will soon have one, too — as well as a practice pitcher’s mound.

“Rudy Loya and his crew at grounds have been great,” Viola said. “Every little area of concern I’ve brought to them, they’ve addressed. I really like their drive — they’re not satisfied with just ‘good’ work.”

And the team is not satisfied with just playing on a beautiful field. Viola hopes that the pride that comes from taking care of their home turf will result in the effort on the field after the first pitch has been thrown. The community can check out both the field and the team, Friday, March 24, when the Eagles take on Ysleta at 4 p.m. The team will play on another professional baseball field, Saturday, March 25, when they take on Parkland at Cohen Stadium. The first pitch is at 7 p.m.



— Photo courtesy San Elizario ISD

HOME FIELD ADVANTAGE — The San Eli players know every inch of their field because they maintain it. Duties include watering, raking, cleaning out the bullpen, sweeping the dugouts and fixing the baselines.

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Texas Boll Weevil Eradication Foundation, Inc. is soliciting bids for the manual application of pink bollworm pheromone ropes. Ropes will be tied to cotton plants at an approximate rate of 200 ropes per acre at certain stages of growth. A minimum of 20-30 people over a two to four-week period will be needed for this activity. Applications of ropes in the El Paso and Trans Pecos areas will begin in late May or early June. Bidders must furnish the Foundation, Workers Compensation coverage prior to contract approval. Bids will be accepted through March 31, 2006. For more information and detailed instructions, please contact the local Foundation office at (877) 765-2139, or the Foundation Headquarters office at (800) 687-1212 Ext. 3124. WTCC: 03/23/06

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El Paso establishes special curfew hours around bridges into Juarez

EL PASO — Young people who plan to cross over into Mexico for an evening of partying will find their entrance and exit from El Paso’s sister city of Juarez and bit more restricted following action by the El Paso City Council.

This past Tuesday, March 13, the El Paso City Council passed an amendment to the City’s Curfew Ordinance (title 10 Municipal Code). This amendment added “Special Curfew Areas” and “Special Curfew Hours” to the existing ordinance.

The Special Curfew Areas are those defined with specified boundaries in El Paso between 7 p.m. and 6 a.m. and applies to persons who are under the age of 17. These areas are basically the areas around the Paso Del Norte Bridge and the Stanton Street Bridge, both of which cross over the border into Juarez.

The curfew in all other areas in the city of El Paso for those under 17 remains at 11 p.m.

The Special Curfew Hours and Areas took effect on Sunday, March 19. The El Paso Police Department will continue to educate area residents about the change in the ordinance through the news media and the EPPD website.

The following boundaries have been established as Special Curfew Areas:

Special Curfew Area “A”

Beginning at the intersection of Father Rahm Avenue and Santa Fe Street;

Proceeding south on Santa Fe Street to Loop 375 (Border Highway);

Proceeding east on Loop 375 (Border Highway) to Oregon Street;

Proceeding north on Oregon Street to Father Rahm Avenue; and

West on Father Rahm Avenue to the point of beginning.

Special Curfew Area “B”

Beginning at the intersection of Mesa Street and Seventh Avenue; and

Proceeding south on Mesa Street to Eighth Street; and

Proceeding east on Eighth Street to Kansas Street; and

Proceeding north on Kansas Street to Seventh Avenue; and

West on Seventh Avenue to the point of the beginning.



7-DAY FORECAST FOR EL PASO, TX

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Thursday	Thu. night	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
Mostly sunny	Partly cloudy and chilly	Mostly sunny and pleasant	Sunny to partly cloudy	Brilliant sunshine	Sunshine	Sunshine	Partly sunny
66°	40°	72° 44°	78° 47°	78° 45°	76° 48°	77° 50°	78° 50°
RealFeel 68°	RealFeel 35°	RealFeel 71° 37°	RealFeel 75° 40°	RealFeel 75° 37°	RealFeel 76° 45°	RealFeel 80° 50°	RealFeel 77° 50°

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WEATHER TRENDS THIS WEEK

IN THE SKY

Temperatures

Precipitation

Sun

	Rise	Set
Thu.	6:06 a.m.	6:19 p.m.
Fri.	6:05 a.m.	6:20 p.m.
Sat.	6:03 a.m.	6:20 p.m.
Sun.	6:02 a.m.	6:21 p.m.
Mon.	6:01 a.m.	6:22 p.m.
Tues.	6:00 a.m.	6:22 p.m.
Wed.	5:58 a.m.	6:23 p.m.

Moon

	Rise	Set
Thu.	2:07 a.m.	11:55 a.m.
Fri.	3:00 a.m.	1:06 p.m.
Sat.	3:46 a.m.	2:19 p.m.
Sun.	4:26 a.m.	3:31 p.m.
Mon.	5:01 a.m.	4:43 p.m.
Tues.	5:34 a.m.	5:54 p.m.
Wed.	6:06 a.m.	7:04 p.m.

Last **3/22**

New **3/29**

First **4/5**

Full **4/13**

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U.S. CITIES

City	HI	LO	W	HI	LO	W	HI	LO	W	HI	LO	W	City	HI	LO	W	HI	LO	W	HI	LO	W
Abilene, TX	51	34	s	60	40	s	71	43	s	77	49	s	Atlanta	56	34	s	51	34	pc	63	37	s
Albuquerque, NM	59	35	pc	66	39	s	70	41	pc	70	39	s	Boston	42	32	pc	44	32	pc	46	33	c
Amarillo, TX	48	28	pc	56	32	s	65	36	s	73	39	s	Chicago	40	26	sf	38	26	sf	42	28	pc
Austin, TX	60	37	pc	65	38	s	72	43	s	78	47	pc	Denver	46	26	pc	56	30	s	58	32	pc
Brownsville, TX	68	55	r	72	53	pc	80	57	pc	82	61	pc	Detroit	40	27	sf	40	28	sf	42	30	pc
Dodge City, KS	41	22	pc	46	26	s	57	29	pc	57	36	pc	Houston	64	42	pc	66	42	s	70	46	s
Jackson, MS	55	34	pc	58	31	s	58	36	s	66	38	s	Indianapolis	44	26	pc	40	27	sf	42	30	pc
Laredo, TX	69	54	pc	72	54	pc	80	56	s	81	59	pc	Kansas City	43	20	sf	43	23	pc	46	30	pc
Little Rock, AR	50	32	c	55	32	s	56	34	s	63	39	pc	Los Angeles	77	52	s	77	54	s	68	54	pc
Lubbock, TX	51	30	pc	62	35	s	70	40	s	76	43	s	Miami	83	65	t	77	55	pc	73	51	pc
Memphis, TN	51	32	c	52	33	pc	55	35	s	60	40	pc	Minneapolis	34	20	pc	37	24	c	40	26	pc
Midland, TX	54	35	s	62	40	s	73	43	s	81	46	s	New Orleans	60	43	pc	60	44	s	63	46	s
Pueblo, CO	48	24	pc	60	31	s	63	35	pc	64	30	pc	New York City	48	36	pc	48	34	pc	46	34	pc
Roswell, NM	56	33	s	65	37	s	75	41	s	82	41	s	Omaha	38	20	pc	38	20	pc	44	25	pc
St. Louis, MO	44	26	c	44	29	c	48	32	pc	53	34	pc	Phoenix	81	56	s	85	58	s	84	58	pc
San Antonio, TX	66	42	pc	66	42	s	72	48	s	80	53	pc	San Francisco	64	51	s	63	52	r	61	47	sh
Texarkana, AR	52	34	pc	59	36	s	62	39	s	70	46	pc	Seattle	61	44	sh	56	42	r	52	39	c
Waco, TX	56	35	pc	60	39	s	70	45	s	75	49	pc	Washington	54	34	pc	52	36	c	52	36	pc
Wichita, KS	45	24	sh	44	26	pc	49	31	pc	55	36	pc										

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