

Viva! El Paso returns to McKelligon Canyon

### JUNE 22, 2006

## NEWSBRIEFS

### Safe summer food

The lazy days of summer are prime time for outdoor eating at backyard barbecues, picnics, and family reunions. They're also prime time for getting lazy about handling food safely. The free Summer Food Safety package from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration and the Federal Citizen Information Center can help with tips on safely handling food at home. For instance, keeping raw foods like burgers and ribs and their juices away from other foods and washing hands and food prep areas often - will keep bacteria and germs from spreading. There are also tips to prevent food from spoiling. And don't let down your guard when you get takeout or eat out - order meat, poultry, eggs, and fish fully cooked. And when you take leftovers home, refrigerate them within two hours or throw them out. Following food safety rules can head off serious illnesses from food-grown bacteria, viruses, and parasites that are especially dangerous for infants, the elderly, and those with weakened immune systems. To get your free package send your name and address to Summer Food Safety, Pueblo, Colorado 81009, or visit http://www.pueblo.gsa.gov/rc/ n41summerfoodsafety.htm to place your order online or to read or print out these and hundreds of other federal publications for free. Summer Food Safety is available online at: http://www.pueblo.gsa.gov/ press/nfcfoodsafety06.htm. You can also call toll-free 1 (888) 878-3256, weekdays 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Eastern Time and ask for the Summer Food Safety package. Get even more information and take advantage of government services online at http:// www.FirstGov.gov and http:// www.Espanol.gov - your official English and Spanish web portals to the Federal government.

## Help to lose

A free diet and weight control program is being offered this summer to people of all ages courtesy of Paul Aston through the El Paso Community College Senior Adult Program June 24 through Aug. 12. Meetings are 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the El Paso Community College Valle Verde Campus in Room B-241 of the B Building, 919 Hunter. Aston, who lost 50 pounds in 2004 and is still maintaining his weight, said there is no fee for the program but participants must be willing to follow guidelines to reach a desired weight. Call 831-2701 for more information.

EL PASO COUNTY - Viva! El Paso, the with the Texas Accessibility Standards (TAS) musical retelling of the history of El Paso, is re- and improvements on stairs, ramps, walkways turning to the beautiful McKelligon Canyon and parking have been made.

Amphitheatre for 12 shows from June 23 to July 29, 2006.

Shows will be Fridays and Saturdays at 8:30 p.m. and are being presented by the El Paso Association for the Performing Arts in conjunction with the El Paso Convention and Visitors Bureau. This is the 29th season of the outdoor drama that chronicles the 400-year history and cultural evolution of the El Paso region through traditional dance, original songs, colorful costumes and special effects.

Last year's performances were held in the Abraham Chavez Theatre due to the \$1.6 million McKelligon Canyon Park improvement plan. Since its creation in 1978, Viva! had performed in the McKelligon Canyon Amphitheatre and this season's return outdoors promises visitors a spectacular show in a newly-reno-

vated amphitheater. from June 23 to July 29, 2006. In its 29th season, the outdoor drama chronicles 400 years of history and culture in Improvements to the the El Paso region through dance, songs, colorful costumes McKelligon Canyon Amphiand special effects. theater and Pavilion complex

include newly landscaped grounds, refurbished ing restrooms have been upgraded to comply vention and Visitors Bureau at 534-0600.

Tickets to the show are available through all flooring along with a new electrical system that Ticketmaster locations or by calling 544-8444. increases power and lighting abilities. Exist- For more information, contact the El Paso Con-

Photo courtesy Viva! El Paso

## Horizon's new councilmen take seat with view to promote the city

**By Arleen Beard** Special to the Courier

HORIZON CITY - There are two new members seated on the Horizon City and one new member who has served before. Jennifer Whiskeyman and Carole Zimmerman, sister of former Mayor Diane Whitty, are new to the seat, while Ralph Padilla previously served as a council member during the years when Pat

who do not live in Horizon City have a different perspective of the city, one which is not very positive. She said she would like to clear that up by promoting all its positive assets. "I'm proud of Horizon City and all it has to offer," she said.

The remainder of City Council was in agreement with the need to promote the city. Councilman Walter Miller said promotion of the area is ongoing by Horizon City Improvement Association (HCIA) and he said he would contact the property-owners association to obtain records from their effort to promote Horizon City. This item was not an action item but discussion only.

## **Baking heat** leaves Texas landscape burning

Hot, dry weather continues to bake Texas landscapes, lawns, gardens, fields and forests - and increasing both the number and the risk of wildfires.

An extended weather pattern of hot days relieved by only isolated showers has left grasses and other vegetation much drier than normal. The result is that without significant

**"Texans could** be facing a bad summer fire siege if increased winds should accompany hot, dry weather." widespread, long-duration rains, Техаѕ firefighters foresee a growing threat of wildfires.

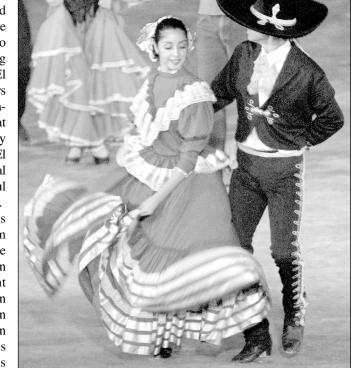
Conditions now are similar to those that occurred in summer 1998, during which Texas experienced one of the worst years on record for wildfires, according to Tom Spencer, wildfire risk assessment coordinator with Texas Forest Service.

"The similarities between weather and vegetation conditions in 1998 and now are very alarming, from a wildfire standpoint," said Spencer. "Texans could be facing a bad summer fire siege if increased winds should accompany hot, dry weather. Strong, gusty winds contributed greatly to the major wildfires experienced earlier this year."

What the whole state needs is slow, steady rainfall spread over many hours so most of the rain will soak into the ground and not run off, Spencer added. Many areas of the state, particularly in far West Texas, haven't received enough rain to stimulate full spring green-up, and even where green-up has occurred, grasses are wilting and turning brown in the heat.

Regional fire coordinators have also reported that wildfire activity has picked up across the state.

"Local fire departments everywhere are making more frequent runs on wildfires, and our own fire crews have battled many wildfires, including several recent fires more than 100 acres in size," said Bill Rose, Texas For-



SHOWTIME — Viva! El Paso returns to McKelligon Canyon

## In other news

■ Michelle A. Farley, formerly of Horizon City, was recently selected as one of five international graduate students, and the sole representative from the U.S., to present their research findings at the

### See BRIEFS, Page 4

Child psychology is what children manage their parents with. — Quips & Quotes Randleel served as mayor.

One of Councilman Whiskeyman's primary areas of interest to pursue as a representative of Horizon City is to promote the city. She said she wants to enlist residents to help design a new logo and a slogan for promoting the city's image.

Whiskeyman said she believes many people

Council agreed to pursue this matter.

In another matter of business Council voted to retain Miller as mayor pro tem. Zimmerman made the nomination and the vote was unanimous. Miller abstained during the vote, but graciously accepted the responsibility.

## Socorro takes on contentious rezoning issues

**By Arleen Beard** Special to the Courier

SOCORRO – There was a large turnout of Socorro residents at the regularly scheduled City Council meeting on June 15, 2006. Most of the residents who turned out came to oppose a the reconsideration of the proposed rezoning of the corner of Winn Rd. and Apodaca Rd. Chacon Development wanted to rezone Tracts 17A & 17B, Block 21 Socorro Grant,

from A-1, Agricultural to R-2, Medium Density Residential.

Prior to discussion from members of the audience, Mayor Trini Lopez asked City Manager Carol Garcia, why the item was placed on the agenda since the issue had been considered in January 2006. Garcia informed Lopez that the item was deleted and never acted on. She had been approached by Socorro City Attorney Richard Contreras to place this item on

### See SOCORRO, Page 4

est Service chief regional forester for resource protection in East Texas.

He noted that accidental fires due to escaped debris burning continue to be the primary cause of wildfires, particularly in the eastern half of the state. Sparks-producing equipment, hot vehicle exhaust systems and careless disposal of smoking materials also cause many wildfires. In addition, Texas Forest Service fire investigators attribute several recent fires, including a 253-acre wildfire in northern Walker County, to the work of arsonists.

Firefighters across the state could also face a seasonal wildfire risk if dry conditions continue.

"Irresponsible fireworks use through the Fourth of July holiday period could spark additional fires, if dry conditions prevail and vegetative fuels, particularly grasses, continue to dry out," said Rose. "We don't want to put a damper on holiday celebrations, but we do urge folks to use common sense and celebrate safely during the upcoming holiday period."

#### WEST TEXAS COUNTY COURIER

decided that shopping carts would

become the dumping ground of ev-

ery foul thing about us, from our trash

to our manners, and we've been

dumping on them - and therefore

each other - with a gusto that makes

I don't know how we arrived at a

point in our thinking that made us

believe that not only were shopping

carts something to which we should

have ready access but that their use

and abuse is somehow included in

There is a major shopping club to

which people pay money to be mem-

bers. They have really big stalls to hold their shopping carts, placed at

convenient intervals along each row

of parking spaces. They buy new

carts at regular intervals to replace

the ones we tear up. Still, on any

given day, you can find shopping

carts abandoned against the bumper of

the next car or blocking an otherwise

empty parking space within spitting

Like we were royalty or something.

Like somebody died and made us

distance of the cart depository.

our inalienable rights.

look like a kindergarten sport.





person in the world.

You pay your bills, wash your car,

get your kids to school on time and

call your mother once a week. You

meet your obligations to Uncle Sam

every tax season, salute the flag and

even run errands for the neighbor

But you and I have a blind spot

smack dab in the middle of all that

niceness and it allows us to blot out all

sense of common courtesy, responsi-

bility or ethics. And it's causing chaos,

frustration and damage to property in

the parking lots of virtually every shop-

I personally am of the opinion that

the way Americans use and abuse

shopping carts is a festering blight on

ping center in America.

lady who can't drive any more.

**One perspective By Francis Shrum** 

## A common discourtesy

You may the reputation of this nation not only be the nicest in the eyes of every person who visits here, but worse yet, in our own.

> I ask you — if you can manage to push a shopping cart through a store loading it up with all your goodies, walk it out through the parking lot to your car and unload all your goodies out of it, why on earth can't you take the few additional steps to put the unloaded cart — hence much lighter and easier to push - into the stall provided for it?

> Or at least bother to put it in an empty parking spot already occupied by a number of other carts if the stall is full?

> Why is this simple principle, the smallest of common courtesies, such a hard concept for Americans to accept, let alone practice?

Somewhere along the time line of

our evolution as a society, Americans the godlings of the parking lot.

> Like the moment we were through using the cart it became so much trash that we were somehow entitled to leave lying on the ground for the next guy to deal with.

Where do we get off with this kind the consumption of German beer of attitude?

> Of course, not everyone treats this benefit provided to us by the merchants in such a rude fashion. I've seen folks who not only took their cart safely back to the depository but stopped along the way and cleaned up after some other folks who left theirs standing.

> I'm sure in the back of some of our minds there is a haunting refrain of "the way it used to be," when an attendant pushed our cart out to the car for us, unloaded it for us and took it away for us. That was nice. Unfortunately, its one of those things that is gone forever, like the gas station attendant who used to pump gas for us while cleaning our windshields.

But just because we have to pump our own gas and carry out our own groceries, it still doesn't give us the right to abuse property that — while not as nice and convenient as it was of discourtesy.

with a helper attached to it - is still provided as a courtesy for us.

Over the last month I've seen shopping carts piled up behind cars whose owners are still in the store, which they will have to remove before they can move their car. I've seen them rammed against the sides of parked cars. I've seen them lying on their sides in the landscaping. I've seen them blocking empty parking spaces and drive-throughs.

I even saw one otherwise very nice looking lady simply let hers go on a slope and walk away without looking back, even as it rolled down and smashed into another car.

I've seen them full of trash left over from someone's stroll through the store – advertisement flyers, drink containers empty or otherwise leaking out whatever was left in the cup, chewing gum, candy wrappers, wadded up paper towels and napkins, used diapers, and packaging from some item the shopper wanted to use immediately but didn't want the litter in his or her car.

So they left it there for you and me, as a testament to their most common

## **Comptroller offers calculator to help businesses estimate new taxes**

### **By Dick Ellis** Special to the Courier

AUSTIN – Texas Comptroller Carole Keeton Strayhorn today unveiled a tax calculator on her web site that will allow Texans who are in business to estimate how much more in taxes they will pay to the state under Gov. Rick Perry's business tax increase.

"I urge every businessman and businesswoman to use this useful tool to estimate their potential franchise tax liability the Governor has signed into law," Strayhorn said. "Businesses will have to pay the tax in May of 2008, but under Gov. Perry's plan, for some, the tax began June 1, 2006.

"More than 200,000 Texas businesses that currently do not pay taxes will have to pay or file taxes under the new law. Texans need to know now how much they will be paying and begin preparing today by setting aside dollars for the new tax," she said.

The new Franchise Tax Calculator is an easy way to give businesses an idea of what their franchise tax liability will be - especially those businesses that are not familiar with this new margin tax concept.

The tax calculator takes basic information provided by the businesses and automatically calculates the estimated tax. Results will vary from industry to industry and businesses within the same industry depending on specific financial data.

"The new tax calculator, available the service industry and not subject property tax cut at all." today at the Comptroller's web site, www.window.state.tx.us, is a way all businesses affected by Perry's Tax Plan can get accurate and confidential estimates of their taxes, and better plan for the future," she said.

For example, a small manufacturer that had gross revenue of \$10 million last year will see a 50 percent increase in taxes, from \$21,400 under the old franchise tax to \$32,000 a year under the new Perry tax plan.

A convenience store that had \$10 million in gross revenue last year will see a 207 percent increase in taxes, from \$3,740 under the old franchise tax to \$11,500 a year under the new Perry tax plan.

to the old franchise tax, with \$1 million in gross revenue last year paid no taxes, will now pay \$6,120 a year under the new Perry tax plan.

"Gov. Perry's tax plan is a massive increase in business taxes that will increase the state's budget by \$6 billion a year, and includes an unconstitutional income tax on partnerships and unincorporated associations," Strayhorn said. "It leaves a \$23 billion hot check, increases the number of businesses that will have to pay or file taxes by 200,000, increases business taxes by 200 percent, and gives the average homeowner a \$52 property tax cut in school taxes only, this year, with most of our senior citizens and Tex-A dry cleaner, considered part of ans with disabilities receiving no payroll," she said.

Comptroller Strayhorn sent a letter to Gov. Perry on May 2, in which she stated: "First and foremost, the Bill will require 200,000 businesses that currently do not pay taxes to either file or pay taxes. Most of that astounding number of Texans will not realize they are in this group of new taxpayers until they are told before the tax is due in May, 2008.

"Among others, this group includes dry cleaners, lawn services, barbers, beauty shops, janitorial services and doctors," she wrote.

"To use the tax calculator, a business owner will have to know their annual business gross revenue and the cost of doing business in either cost of goods purchased for resale or



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## Reyes Reports By U.S. Rep. Silvestre Reyes

## Identity protection for veterans

On May sible effects of this breach, protect the Theft Prevention Act of 2006, a bill

22, the U.S. veterans and servicemembers whose that would provide real security for Department information was compromised, and the military families at risk of idenof Veterans prevent its reoccurrence. To date, the tity theft. This bill enacts the follow-Affairs (VA) Subcommittee on Oversight and In- ing through the VA:

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Est. 1973 News, Inc. Arleen Beard · Jan Engels

announced that a computer disk containing identifying information such as names, Social Security numbers, and birthdates of veteractive duty and ans servicemembers was stolen from the home of a VA data analyst. It is estimated that the electronic data contained information of up to 26.5 million veterans and spouses, 1.1 million active duty service members, and 430,000 members of the National Guard. Both the FBI and the VA Inspector General's office are investigating the situation, and it is believed by authorities that the burglars had no knowledge of the data contained in the computer.

I am deeply concerned by this incident, and along with my colleagues tant that the VA moves forward on the House Veterans' Affairs Committee, I immediately urged the leadership of the Veterans Committee to hold hearings to investigate the pos-

vestigations, of which I am a member, has held two hearings on the subiect, and the full Veterans' Affairs Committee has held one hearing, and is scheduled to hold two additional hearings.

We have heard testimony from VA Secretary Jim Nicholson and other high level VA officials, who identified serious information technology deficiencies. Officials admitted that the VA lacks a robust information security program that should have included appropriately controlled access authority, adequate physical security controls, consistent implementation of software changes and others.

As hearings continue, it is imporquickly to implement concrete security measures. I am a co-sponsor of H.R. 5588, the Comprehensive Veterans' Data Protection and Identity a.m. - 9 p.m.

 Free credit monitoring for a year and free credit reports for two years; · Free credit fraud alerts for veterans for one year;

· Free credit freeze for veterans for one year:

· Protection of sensitive information of veterans:

• Prompt notification to veterans if their personal information has been compromised by a data breach: and

• Creation of an Ombudsman for Data Security in the VA who is responsible for assisting veterans that are victims of a data breach or identity theft.

Currently, veterans and military families can visit the following website or call the toll-free number for more information: http:// www.firstgov.gov, 1-800-FED-INFO (333-4636), Monday - Saturday, 8

## View from here By Bill Peacock

## Kelo anniversary reminds us much work left to be done El Paso on the verge of becoming the next New London

Susette Kelo has lost the battle. downtown El Paso as "the destina- in 1915. Or the owners of Starr West-And her home.

While there will be an outpouring of support for private property rights as the first anniversary of the Supreme Court's Kelo v. New London decision passes by, it will not help

Ms. Kelo. The city council in New London, CT, recently voted to evict her from her property.

This is the last step in the process to make way for a new master-planned community designed to boost tourism, com-

merce and tax revenue for the City of New London. It could feature amenities such as high-end condominiums, upscale restaurants and stylish retail outlets.

It is not likely to feature Ms. Kelo, however. It is doubtful that she'll receive enough compensation for her home to afford one of the new residences - perhaps even occupying her old lot in these fashionable environs.

Here in Texas, the same is probably true for many residents and small business owners in downtown El Paso.

The City of El Paso recently unveiled its redevelopment plan for downtown. With its stated goal "to become a leading American city," this is the Texas version of similar the one in New London.

tion for new residential housing, shopping, night-life, families and visitors [and] a culturally important place with an area dedicated specifically for U.S./Mexico art."

In order to make room for the

"new" El Paso, the plan calls for It is simply wrong to the demolition of take private property many buildings within a 127.5 from one person and acre tract. The give it to another who problem is that is politically connected, most of the El Pasoans who live, on the promise they work and own will generate increased property in the area were not tax revenues to fill the asked if they cities' coffers. thought this was a good idea.

The plan relies heavily on amassing an inventory of tracts of various sizes that can be used to attract developers and retailers to the area. The proponents of the plan need the land, whether or not the current owners and residents are interested in selling.

In a free market, this wouldn't be a problem. Either the buyers and sellers would negotiate a price that satisfies everyone, or the developers would devise plans to work around the properties of those owners who didn't want to sell.

But in the case of this plan, just like New London's, the city of El Paso will be able to exercise the right of eminent domain to seize the property of those who do not wish to sell and relocate.

These might include the owner and plans across the country, including residents of the Pablo Bay apartments, where the first novel of the It portrays a vibrant, renewed Mexican Revolution was published

ern Wear and the Juarez Boot store. Or apartment residents in the historic Segundo Barrio.

These buildings are all in the demolition zone, even though they currently provide affordable housing and space for thriving businesses. It is just that they are not exactly the type of housing or businesses that the city and the Paso del Norte Group the plan's private sector backer — are looking for.

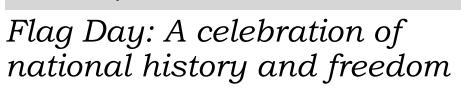
In response to the Kelo decision, various committees of the Texas Legislature are studying how to restore the private property rights of Texans stripped out of the U.S. Constitution by the Supreme Court.

While there are many abuses of eminent domain to be addressed, there would be no better place for Texas policymakers to start than by eliminating the practice at the core of urban redevelopment plans like those in New London and El Paso. It is simply wrong to take private property from one person and give it to another who is politically connected, on the promise they will generate increased tax revenues to fill the cities' coffers

By stopping this practice, the property rights movement Ms. Kelo awakened during her courageous fight could still prove victorious for men and women in downtown El Paso and across Texas.

Bill Peacock is the director for the Center for Economic Freedom with the Texas Public Policy Foundation, an Austin-based research institute. He may be reached at bpeacock@texaspolicy.com.

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



This past week on June 14th, we American Flag should never be flown died for this celebrated national Flag Day, the day upside down, or with the union down, country. designated to celebrating the most except as a signal of dire distress. recognized symbol of our independence, Old Glory. We have fought to issue of flag burning. The official keep it flying in war and in peace. guidelines state that, "The flag, when realize just how important our flag We all swell with pride as the Stars it is in such condition that it is no is. The 13 stripes represent the beand Stripes unfurls against the blue of longer a fitting emblem for display, ginnings of our nation when 13 colo-

There is much controversy over the back through



the history of our young nation, we





our spacious skies. But how many of us know and follow the rules for respecting our nation's beloved symbol?

Prior to the first official Flag Day, held on June 14, 1923, there were no official state or federal guidelines governing how to properly display of the is a symbol of the enduring principles American Flag. The National Flag Code was enacted on this historic day. but it was not until December 22, 1942, that this code became public law.

One of the most memorable rules states that when the American Flag is lowered or transported, no part of it should ever touch the ground. It should be "hoisted briskly and lowered ceremoniously." It is the custom to display the flag only from sunrise to sunset: however, the flag may be displayed around the clock if properly illuminated after the sun goes down. Old Glory should be flown on all federal holidays and election days, but not my belief that those who burn the flag

should be destroyed in a dignified way, preferably by burning." However, some people chose to burn the flag in protest, not as a respectful means of retiring it.

I believe that the United States flag of our nation and should not be desecrated. I have co-sponsored and voted for legislation that would amend the Constitution to prohibit the physical desecration of the flag in the U.S. Every year since my first election to Congress I have voted in favor of a Constitutional Amendment to protect this sacred symbol, but it has yet to pass the Senate. All 50 state legislatures have passed resolutions calling on Congress to approve the proposed amendment. For more than 200 years our flag has served as a symbol of liberty to the world. It is flown outside in bad weather. The disgrace all those who fought and

nies fought for their independence. The 50 stars represent where we are today, one for each of the United States of America. There are numerous historic narratives you can read about retelling the story of our nation's most treasured symbol. The history of Old Glory includes Betsy Ross stitching the first threads, Francis Scott Key penning The Star-Spangled *Banner* as he admired the flag waving proudly during the Battle of Baltimore during the War of 1812, and more recently as we watched Old Glory being raised over the rubble of the World Trade Center on September 11th. Our American Flag has seen it all. She is a symbol of hope, strength, and of better things to come. She symbolizes the very spirit of America, the land of opportunity. We must remember to always treat the flag with love, care, and respect, because it represents us and our great country.



numbers.



Moore Texas by Roger T. Moore June 19, 1919: The Pecan Tree is designated by the legislature as the official State Tree of Texas.



Photos courtesy Socorro ISD

THREE FROM BILL SYBERT — Rosa Gonzalez, Melissa Dixon, shown with Principal Carole Bauer and Esmeralda Armendariz will be recognized in Chicago on June 26.

## Socorro, UTEP grad finishes medical program

PAPERED UP - Dr. Ruby Navarro Rubio received her doctorate on June 3, 2006 from the University of Texas-Medical Branch in Galveston, Texas, UTMB. Rubio was among the first group of students that were accepted into the Early Medical School Program at UTEP in May 1999. She was the first graduate - graduating early — of UTEP's program and is one of the first to receive her medical degree from the overall program. She received the Herman A. Barnett Memorial Award for outstanding student in Anesthesiology in surgery. Rubio graduated from Socorro High School in 1999 and received her bachelor of Science in Biology in 2002 from UTEP.



**Ruby Navarro Rubio** 

## **Town of Horizon City Public Notice**

The Horizon City Municipal Court will be closed all day on Wednesday, July 12, 2006, and from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., Thursday, July 13, 2006.

The Horizon City Municipal Court will reopen on Thursday, July 13, 2006, at 2:00 p.m. and regular hours will resume on Friday, July 14, 2006.

Any individuals affected on these dates will be allowed an extension until Tuesday, July 18, 2006, to make payments, extensions or other arrangements. We apologize for any inconvenience. If you have any questions, please call 915-852-1048.

> Mario A. Gonzalez Horizon City Municipal Judge

WTCC: 06/22/06 and 07/06/06

## **Town of Horizon City**

## Counseling programs at Bill Sybert School and El Dorado high receive national honor

bara Blackburn.

By Carlos A. Briano Special to the Courier

EAST EL PASO COUNTY - The counseling programs at Bill Sybert School and El Dorado High have been nationally commended by the American School Counselor Association (ASCA) as a Recognized ASCA Model Program (RAMP). The counseling staff at both schools will be acknowledged publicly with a plaque at the association's national conference in Chicago June 26.

"Recognized program schools are an important part of a research

Socorro

From Page 1

the agenda after the developers approached Contreras about having the issue reconsidered.

sure the item had been placed on the agenda legally. Representative Sergio Cox also wanted the legality of the agenda item to be clarified. Contreras confirmed Garcia's statement and verified the item was placed on the agenda legally.

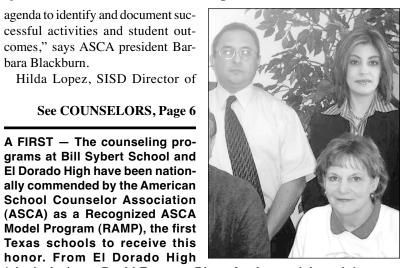
Several Socorro residents expressed their opposition to the rezoning of R-2. It was their hope to rezone the area in question to R-1. Most of the objections were traffic related. The residents wanted to keep traffic to a minimum since the roads are currently not con-

ducive to high traffic.

Mr. Ray Mancera, representing tive Victor Perez voting no. Chacon Development said the development would only bring in 21 new ond Reading and Adoption of Ordihomes and the developer has a plan nance 76 Amendment 1-A, to elimifor creating outlets in this area to alleviate the flow of traffic.

Lopez asked Contreras to confirm mayor noticed on his agenda - imwhat Garcia had stated and to make mediately below the agenda item that it stated that the item had been denied on January 05, 2006. Lopez quickly turned to Garcia and asked her to explain why she had stated earlier that the item had been deleted and not denied, again questioning the legality of the agenda item.

> Garcia then told Lopez she had said it had been denied and not deleted. in July - to bring some attention to Contreras once again supported Garcia the good things and good people in and said the agenda item was legal. After almost two hours of discussion between Socorro residents and City Council, the rezoning was approved. Mrs. Sandra Reinhardt.



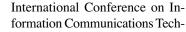
(clockwise) are David Esparza, Diana Aguirre and Jane Johns.

The vote was 4 to 1 with Representa-

Council also considered the Secnate Section 8.4 from the City of Socorro Zone district Regulations, Prior to voting on the item, the related to R-3, High-Density Residential. Council denied the agenda item, therefore R-3, High Density Residential will remain in the City of Socorro Zone district Regulations.

In another matter, the City is moving forward with plans to honor two Socorro educators with a "Life Time Achievement Award." The idea was put forward by Cox — who would like to see some type of ceremony happen Socorro. The first two nominees are Socorro High baseball coach Chris Forbes and retired Socorro ISD teacher

Briefs From Page 1





nologies in Education. The ICICTE is host to over 25 countries and 70 universities and will be held July 6-July 8 on the Island

Greece. Michelle's research focuses on effective training of higher education instructors in making the transition from face-toface to online teaching. Research of specific goals of instructor training will be presented as well as examples of successful documented instructor training programs. Michelle is currently employed at New Mexico State University-Alamogordo as the Coordinator of Instructional Technology. She will obtain a master's degree in Curriculum and Instruction from NMSU during the fall 2006 semester and will begin work on her Ph.D. this fall.

■ The Lower Valley Housing Corporation held a special celebration on June 6 to showcase the completion and building of some 348 so-called "sweat equity" homes in the Horizon area subdivisions of Green Desert, Greendale and Horizon Hills. Under this program, six to 10 families are approved for financing in groups. They then work together to actually build at least 65 percent of the individual homes themselves to help drive down the cost of the houses, thereby making the monthly payments more affordable. Each family member provides whatever contribution they have the skills or the ability to perform. The LVHC, a non-profit corporation, works with local lending institutions, the USDA Rural Development and state housing funding sources to assist families in financing their homes. For more information, call 764-3413.

## **PUBLIC NOTICE**

During the Regular Council Meeting on Tuesday, June 13, 2006 the Town of Horizon City Council approved the following ordinance(s):

1) Repealed and Replaced Ordinance No. 0131 - Powers and Duties authorizing the Code Enforcement Officer to issue written citations setting out the alleged violation to the owner of the premises or the person in control of the premises.

Ordinances are always available for viewing or copying upon request from the City Clerk at Town Hall, 14999 Darrington Road, Horizon City, Texas, Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. or call 915-852-1046.

> Sandra Sierra City Clerk

WTCC: 06/22/06





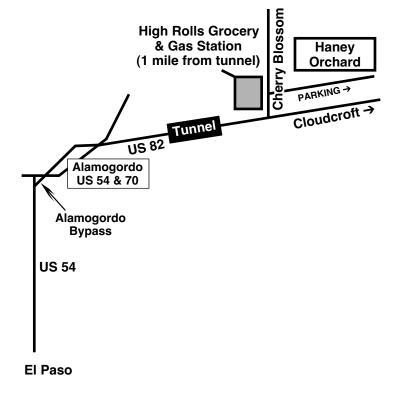
ADP Associates 5500 N. Desert Blvd., Ste. A1 El Paso, TX 79912 (915) 584-2100

RMLS



Come get yours. Open daily from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

# Haney Cherry Orchard High Rolls, NM (505) 682-3286



## Hard heads still need helmets when it comes to motorcycles

By Steve Escajeda Special to the Courier

I've got to admit that when I was younger, and fearless, and invincible, I rode a motorcycle.

For many years that's all I had. I rode up and down the freeways of Los Angeles for about three years.

And yes, I bought my motorcycle without knowing how to drive it.

My cousin taught me how to drive it and off I went. But in the beginning when I was learning, I took a spill or two. I was in my early twenties so after I fell down, I simply got up and started again until I quit falling down.

But now that I have a teenage son who inquires about motorcycles, my gut reaction is to change the subject because I can't stand the thought of anything bad happening to him on

Counselors

From Page 4

Guidance and Counseling, says the fact that Bill Sybert School and El Dorado High are the first and only schools in Texas to receive this prestigious honor is an amazing accomplishment.

"This is a reflection of their counseling country that implements a truly compreprograms," she says. "Programs that have a hensive guidance program."

a motorcycle.

In a split second a person can be enjoying the wind in his face, and the next he's scraping the pavement with his face, especially if he's riding without a helmet.

Last week Ben Roethlisberger, the quarterback for the Super Bowl champion Pittsburgh Steelers, reminded us how dangerous riding a motorcycle is, and how stupid it is to drive one without a helmet.

Roethlisberger received a lot of criticism after colliding with a vehicle. The quarterback was not wearing a helmet and received facial lacerations, a busted nose, a broken jaw, and lost two teeth. He also cracked his head on the vehicle's windshield.

Ouch, talk about your quarterback sneak.

After the accident, Big Ben said if he ever rode a motorcycle again, he'd certainly wear a helmet. Good for him. A little too late - but good for him.

score of 42 or higher are awarded this honor.

Only 25 schools nationwide have received

the RAMP status since the program's incep-

No one could be more proud of the counse-

"It is a very high honor," Paugh says.

"We are one of the few schools in the

lors than El Dorado principal Nora Paugh and

Bill Sybert School principal Carole Bauer.

tion in 2004."

Another football player who knows exactly what Roethlisberger is going through is Kellen Winslow Jr.

The brash, young, Cleveland Browns draft pick declared that he was about the best thing since sliced raisin bread when he arrived on the scene.

The tight end came into the league with great hands but it was obvious that the most powerful part of his body was his unrelenting mouth.

Then the arrogantly-blessed athlete decided to buy a motorcycle. On a day when he was performing tricks on it in a parking lot, he hit the curb, did a 360 over the handlebars and busted his knees so bad he missed all of last season.

Winslow, who appears to have toned down his "hey, everybody look at me" attitude since the accident, has vowed never to ride a motorcycle again.

Roethlisberger and Winslow Jr. are just two examples of how to lose an argument with a motorcycle. Another is an NBA player who may never get his chance.

In 2003, Chicago Bulls guard Jay Williams was seriously injured when he ran his motorcycle into a light pole. He fractured his pelvis, he tore knee ligaments and damaged nerves in his left leg.

Williams, out of Duke, was the second overall player selected in the draft. He came in with all the promise in the world but he hasn't played a single second since the accident. He is still planning to attempt a comeback next season.

These sports are tough enough on the body without going out and risking it on the streets. Besides, why do you think video games were invented?

### I love this gaaaame

Don't get me wrong, I've enjoyed this year's version of the NBA playoffs as much as anyone. But please answer a question for me. What is it with every single public address announcer and the drawn-out pre-game festivities?

They last half-an-hour.

I never got the memo. When was it established that every announcer had to pronounce every player and team name like they were shouting goooooaaaal at a foreign soccer match.

It's like every announcer has got to say Shaquilllllllle O'Neeeeaaaaal longer and louder than that other guy can say Diiirk 

What is going onnnnnnn?

I like a little excitement too, but this is embarrassing. Every P.A. guy shouts until he turns an unnatural shade of purple and then needs an IV solution to finish the game.

Please, guys – I'm begging you – show a little class. Announce the names like a professional, not like you're auditioning for the Jerry Springer show.

Someone long ago once said, "Act like you've been there before." Oh, and one more thing for you aspiring public address announcers - be original.

Foreign

852-3523

1558 Oxbow.

Horizon City

HORIZON CITY

PLUMBING

852-1079

Electric rooter

service for sewers

and drains

Appliance

installation

Many other

plumbing services

Licensed, bonded

and insured for

your protection.

#### LEGAL

### NOTICE TO CUSTOMER

Texas Gas Service Company, a division of ONEOK, Code. Inc. ("Company") hereby gives notice of its intent to implement a new schedule of rates for approximately 191.564 residential. 12,311 commercial, 67 industrial, 825 public authority, 26 municipal water pumping and 51 standard transportation customers within the incorporated areas of El Paso, Anthony, Clint, Horizon City, Socorro and Vinton. Texas, in accordance with the proximately 0.59 Company's Statepercent. Based on ment of Intent filed the proposed rate with the Cities of El design, the average Paso, Anthony, monthly residential Clint, Horizon City bill of 45 Ccf will in-Socorro and Vinton. crease by approxi-Texas, on June 9,

mately \$ 825,952 or monthly industrial 0.59 percent. The bill of 2,926 Ccf will increase approxiproposed change does not constitute mately \$8.87, or 0.4 a "major" change as percent, the averthat term is defined age monthly muby Section 104.101 nicipal water pumping bill of 11,698 Ccf of the Texas Utilities will increase approximately \$16.11 The proposed taror 0.2 percent, and iffs include inthe average stancreases in das dard transportation sales and transporbill of 31,397 Ccf tation rates for all will increase approximately \$52.87 residential, com-

mercial, industrial, or 2.2 percent. public authority, A complete copy of and municipal water pumping custhe Statement of tomers in the incor-Intent is available porated areas of for inspection in the the El Paso Service municipalities' of-Area. The effect of fices and in the the change in rates, Company's busiwhen allowed, will ness office located be to increase the at 4600 Pollard St., El Paso, Texas revenues of the Company by ap-79930

#### **TEXAS GAS** SERVICE COMPANY

Texas A&M Univer-WTCC: 06/15 06/22, 06/29,

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of the Far West

Texas Water Plan-

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the planning group. For additional infor-Notice is also given mation, please conthat the Rio Grande tact: Barbara Council of Govern-Kauffman, ments (RGCOG) Grande Council of will submit an appli-Governments, 1100 cation for financial N. Stanton Street, assistance to the Ste. 610. El Paso. Texas Water Devel-Texas Board Phone: (915) 533opment (TWDB) to carry out 0998, ext. 121; ethe scope of work. mail: barbarak@riocog.org The application will be submitted on or before September WTCC: 06/22/06

14, 2006. Jake Jr.. SOCORRO **RGCOG Executive** INDEPENDENT Director, is the offi-

SCHOOL DISTRICT

#### Invitation to Bid/Respond:

of Brewster, Sealed bids/proposals/CSP to fur-Culberson, El Paso, nish the District with Davis. Hudspeth. Presidio the following products and/or services will be ac-The public meeting cepted at the folwill be held at the lowing times:

sity, El Paso Re-TUESDAY, search Center, at JUNE 27, 2006 1380 A&M Circle, F BAKERY Paso, Texas, on **PRODUCTS** Thursday, July 27, 2006, at 1:00 p.m. CSP NO. (MDT). Written and <u>199-0627-6112</u> oral comments will **ACCEPTED** UNTIL 1 P.M. be accepted at this meeting, and an <u>MEXICAN</u> agenda for the meeting is posted FOOD PRODUCTS http:// CSP NO. 199-0627-6114 **ACCEPTED** UNTIL 1:30 P.M. **BEVERAGES** AND SNACKS **PRODUCTS** CSP NO. 199-0627-6111 **ACCEPTED** UNTIL 2 P.M. **METAL SHADE** STRUCTURE CSP NO. <u>199-0627-6105</u> ACCEPTED

<u>P.M.</u> Proposals will be Rio received at Business Services Dept. 12300 Eastlake Drive, El Paso, Texas 79928 until the specified times. Detailed specifications are p.m. and on the Socorro ISD

**UNTIL 2:30** 

REAL ESTATE

### GARAGE SALES

GARAGE SALE: Friday-Saturday, June 23-24, 19005 Bremerton Drive in Horizon City, 7 a.m. - 2 p.m. Furniture and miscellaneous items.

historic Mission Trail. Two acres. "Windshield corner location. DAMIAN Commercial or resi-Gimme a Ring' MAUREIRA, dential. 851-9008. JIFFY GLASS 7/6 Windshield Repair SELF-HELP Persons who have a problem with alcohol are offered a

Two-story house on

By appt. at your home or office: R.V. Dick Harshberger 915-852-9082 free source of help locally. Alcoholics Anonymous - call

BERT'S AUTOMOTIVE REPAIR Domestic and

SERVICES

Ding

REPAIR

Specialists

<u>West Texas County</u> ASSIFIED AD FORN 15 words - \$5 per week; 35 words - \$10 per week

## **Classified Ads**

79902. www.sisd.net WTCC-06/22/06

available from the above office between 8 a.m. and 4 Mondays through Fridays

website:

#### LCSW - Professional Counseling/ Therapy: Youth, Adults, Marital,

COUNSELING

SERVICES

Family. Health insurance and fee scale accepted. 657 Winn Rd. in Socorro, Texas. Call 858-3857 for appointment.

562-4081 for information.

June 22, 2006

2006. The proposed effective date is for meters read on and after August 30, 2006.

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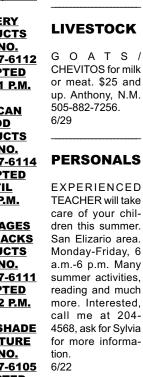
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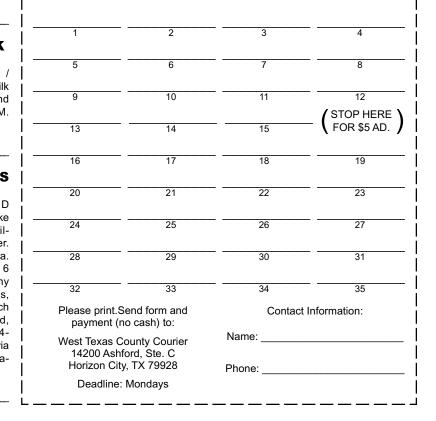
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NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING REGIONAL WATER PLANNING at

The Far West www.riocog.org/ publichearing/ Texas Water Planning Group (Region publicnotice.htm. E) will receive sug-Copies of the appligestions and reccation may be obtained from the ommendations RGCOG when it is from the public on the issues that available at the should be ad-RGCOG office. dressed or provi-Comments on the sions that should be application must be filed by September included in the scope of work for 14, 2006 with the applicant and with the amended regional water plan J. Kevin Ward, Executive Administraduring the third tor, TWDB. P.O. cycle of regional water planning at a Box 13231, Austin, public meeting of TX 78711-3231

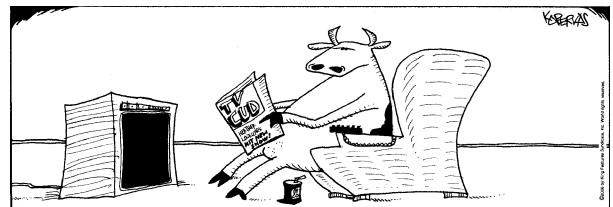


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## Comix

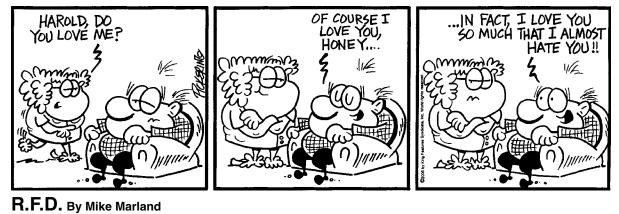
### **OUT ON A LIMB** By Gary Kopervas



## AMBER WAVES By Dave T. Phipps



### THE SPATS By Jeff Pickering



DAD! THERE'S **KEEP**A USE BOTH TURN GOOD TURN! NOTHIN' WORSE HANDS AT GRIP, ALI NOW AN A **BACKSEAT** JUNE! TIMES! STRAIGHT STEERER!!

## **Planet of the Apes, I hope**

#### **By Don Flood**

A recent news report told how apes have the ability to plan.

According to researchers at the Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology, apes can remember, for instance, which tool to bring for retrieving grapes.

This is great, great news because finally we have solid evidence that our planet actually has mammals with the ability to think and look ahead.

Sadly, homo sapiens haven't acquired this ability. The latest estimates are that government entitlement programs will go broke faster than expected.

But our Congresspeople homo sapiens all - don't seem to notice. They keep spending money like there's no tomorrow.

It doesn't seem to matter if they're Republican or Democratic homo sapiens. They're still human.

What we need instead are leaders capable of looking at a problem realistically and planning for the future. In other words, we need apes.

I'm not so foolish to suggest apes are the answer to every problem. We may also require help from the monkeys.

(Can you imagine an ape or a chimp adding all those pork-barrel projects to a budget already overflowing with red ink? Me neither.)

Now, I know what you're thinking: "Sure, Don, I'd love to have apes representing me in Congress and the Administration, but that's not realistic. People aren't ready to vote for apes."

Not to brag, but fortunately for you I possess a near ape-like ability to plan. (Just ask my wife.) I have a Plan B: geckos.

Certainly you have all seen the gecko spokesman that sells insurance for Geico. I don't know his name, which is a little embarrass-

ing since I'm endorsing him for president, but he appears to combine honesty, sincerity and intelligence.

He also brings to the table something I fear ape candidates might lack: charisma.

(Another asset: He's obviously familiar with insurance, and so would be well-qualified to help us tackle Social Security and Medicare issues.)

Unfortunately, I have to admit Plan B has problems, especially regarding a gecko presidency.

Namely, we are saddled with a Constitution that specifically limits the presidency to mammals who have been born in the United States.

The Geico gecko, a reptile with an Australian accent, appears to be neither.

One way to solve this problem would be to pass an amendment allowing non-native geckos to serve as president (while specifically barring aging action heroes named Arnold).

But even if a Constitutional amendment were to pass, would Americans be able to rise above their traditions and prejudices to elect a gecko president?

(A gecko-gorilla pairing, of course, would be ideal, but for a balanced ticket we might need a human for the vice-presidential slot.)

I have reason to be optimistic. In the most recent election revealing voters' preferences, Americans showed themselves willing to vote for a gray-haired white guy singing '60s soul as the next American Idol. This is a goofy guy who wears purple jackets and rallies his supporters by yelling out inanities like "Soul Patrol!"

I think the gecko's got a chance.

(c) 2006 King Features Synd., Inc.

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## **King Super Crossword**

TOOTH PASTE	62 Alpine area	121 Early computer	39 Detailed
ACROSS	63 Soccer superstar	122 Pianist Jose	description
1 Self-confidence	64 Gounod opera	123 Billy _ Williams	40 Continental
7 Lady of the house	65 "Fantasia" frame	124 Scent	currency
12 Pacific	68 Part 3 of quip	125 Musical movement	41 Bill of Rights grp.
archipelago	73 Narcs' org.	126 Get in shape	42 Femme
16 Fit _ fiddle	74 Old Testament		43 Couturier Christian
19 Not as affluent	character	DOWN	46 _ Vicente, Brazil
20 Let up	76 Jet-setter's need	1 Lhasa _	47 Zhivago's love
21 "East of Eden"	77 Spine-tingling	2 Magic_show	48 Audibly
character	79 Middle Eastern	sound	49 Din
22 Negligent	money	3 Linda, CA	50 Actress Burke
23 Start of a quip by	80 Play ground?	4 Zinc or copper	52 Long lunch?
Ogden Nash	82 Cajole	5 Ran into	53 Mighty mite
25 Massachusetts	86 Cry of dread	6 NBC newsman	57 Satellite
27 "Kind _ Drag" ('67	87 _ Na Na	7 Actor Damon	58 Witherspoon of
hit)	88 Tuscan town	8 _ Dhabi	"Legally Blonde"
28 Little fox	89 Surfeit	9 Historic org.	59 Soprano Gluck
29 Does some	90 Part 4 of quip	10 Had some halibut	60 Zuider _
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32 "Pequod" captain	96 Vintage	13 "Dies _"	hummingbird
34 Whippet or wolf	97 62 Across sight	14 Control lever	65 Chocolate
37 Raptor feature	98 Grown-up grub	15 Officeholders	substitute
39 Dugong, for one	99 Cumin or	16 Battle site of 1836	66 Yale or Root
42 Salon offering	coriander	17 Fancy fabric	67 Inclined
43 Faint	102 Pieces	18 Salchow kin	69 Palindromic name
44 Fashionable	103 Noisy birds	24 Spare part?	70 Most modern
Emilio	104 Tibia	26 _ Aviv	71 MTV viewer
45 Part 2 of quip	105 Walker's "The _	30 "_ in America" ('63	72 Precinct
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colleague	107 Kennel feature	32 Say yes	78 Decorates glass
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kindergarten the Education Service Cen-

TEACHES FROM THE teacher at Desert Hills El-HEART – Lizeth Carroll, a ementary, was recognized as

## **Clint ISD honors teachers**

ter-Region 19 Teacher Preparation and Certification Program Intern of the Year for EC-4. From left, Desert Hills Principal Mark Ayala with Region 19's Jerry Antwine and Mary Schmidt presented Carroll with a trophy during the Spirit Celebration. She was selected for the award because "she is a dedicated educator and contributes her accomplishments to her students who are the most important teachers in her heart," according to Schmidt, the Program Manager.



NOT BAD FOR A ROOKIE Laura Feldman has been se-

lected as the 2006 Clint ISD Rookie Teacher of the Year. Feldman, a fourth grade teacher at C.T. Welch Intermediate, was awarded with a trophy, a check for \$500, and a gift package worth over \$1000 of donated instructional materials during the Clint ISD Annual Spirit Celebration in May. She was selected by a committee of veteran educators in the district based on her concern for students, her ability to inspire learning and to adapt and work with others, her willingness to get involved in special projects and professional organizations, and her will-

ingness to share ideas with others. "Laura exhibits wisdom that is rare in a first year teacher. Her understanding of people has helped her develop many effective and thoughtful assignments," says Ruth Valdez, C.T. Welch **Teacher. The Clint ISD Rookie Teacher of the Year Program** is designed to recognize outstanding first year teachers who have made a positive impact on students, schools communities, and public education. Superintendent **Ricardo Estrada presented** Laura Feldman with her awards during the ceremony. - Contributed by Laura Cade

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