

NEWSBRIEFS

School dedicated

More than 40 years after his death in Vietnam, Sgt. Roberto Ituarte's legacy lives on and his code of trust, integrity, and honesty will be instilled in future generations. On Nov. 8, Socorro Independent School District formally dedicated the first El Paso school named after a Vietnam War veteran. Sgt. Ituarte Elementary which opened in July 2006 held a ceremony to recognize the 24-year-old El Pasoan who was killed in action in Vietnam in 1965. Held to commemorate Veterans Day, the school located at 12860 Tierra Sonora, welcomed friends and family of Sgt. Ituarte to tour the school and witness the official dedication. Students sang, family members spoke with pride and former soldiers held back tears as the school was dedicated in honor of Sgt. Roberto Ituarte.

Pricey girdles

U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officers performing anti-terror inspections at the Paso Del Norte international crossing in El Paso seized 14.9 pounds of cocaine Saturday night. Two Mexican women were taken into custody following the drug bust. The seizure was made at approximately 6:15 p.m. when a 2005 Ford Focus with two female occupants arrived at the port from Mexico. A CBP officer at the primary inspection booth interviewed the driver and passenger of the car and noted they were nervous and evasive during routine questioning. The vehicle was sent to the secondary inspection area for a more thorough exam. During the secondary inspection, CBP officers determined that both women had bundles concealed under their clothing. CBP officers continued the inspection and found that each woman had cocaine-filled bundles held in place against their abdomen with elastic girdles. The women were taken into custody. U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) special agents arrested both women in connection with the failed smuggling attempt. The driver of the car, 30-year-old Maria Mercedes Hidalgo Lopez of Camargo, Chihuahua, Mexico, carried three cocaine-filled bundles weighing 7.4 pounds. The passenger, 20-year-old Armida Prieto Vasquez of Camargo, Chihuahua, Mexico, also carried three cocaine-filled bundles weighing 7.5 pounds.

El Paso grants

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has awarded \$17 million to the El Paso community, Congressman Silvestre Reyes, D-El Paso, announced today.

- \$16.3 million to the Region 19 Education Service Center to fund El Paso's Head Start centers. "Head Start provides basic educational and social services that El Paso children might not otherwise receive,

See BRIEFS, Page 8

Kindness is a language the deaf can hear and the blind can see.

— Quips & Quotes

Socorro ISD students serve their community



— Photo by Stacy Kendrick

CARING — Chester E. Jordan Elementary students collected food for distribution prior to Thanksgiving.

By Irma Flores
Special to the Courier

Students across Socorro Independent School District are working to make the holidays brighter for families living in the El Paso area. From blanket and toy drives to collecting warm coats and providing Christmas dinners, students from kindergarten through 12th are supporting various non-profit organizations this holiday season.

Several schools conducted food and clothing drives through the month of Nov.. Socorro ISD's newest school, Chester E. Jordan Elementary held its first canned good drive. Along with Jordan teachers who donated turkeys, the student body collected canned food to provide a complete meal to area families. The food baskets were handed out on Nov. 16. Inside Angie Arellano 3rd grade classroom, students were busy packing boxes with canned food.

"We got tons of stuff to give to families in our community because we know there is a great need," said Arellano. "All these students

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Canutillo students recognized for Big Brothers, Big Sisters efforts

By Alfredo Vasquez
Special to the Courier

Canutillo Independent School District Board of Trustees recently recognized seven Canutillo High School students for their accomplishments as participants in the Big Brothers Big Sisters (BBBS) program.

CHS Seniors Miriam Garcia and Paolo Sanchez were honored for being named 2006-07 Bigs of the Year. Garcia and Sanchez have been instrumental in helping the BBBS program grow to include more than 400 students

throughout the District.

CHS Freshman Frances Rodriguez and Sophomores Andres Rodriguez, Elizabeth Hernandez, Katrina Nunez, Clarissa Castillo, and Kayla Hinson were presented certificates of appreciation for their participation in the Summer Leadership program, "Leaders For Life Camp", in Syracuse, New York as part of Canutillo High School's STARS (Students Together Achieving Real Success) program.

Also recognized were BBBS facilitators Teresita Ballard, CHS Teacher, and Rosario Olivera, CISD Completion Facilitator.



— Photo courtesy Canutillo ISD

STARS — Canutillo High School students were recognized for their participation in the "Leaders For Life" Summer Camp in Syracuse, New York. From left are Katrina Nuñez, Andres Rodriguez, Elizabeth Hernandez, Frances Rodriguez, and Clarissa Castillo.

Fabens student serving on Fed board

FABENS — The El Paso Branch of the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas, has announced their new 2007-2008 Student Board of Directors. One of this year's members is Albert Toca

from Fabens High School. Being a junior at FHS, Toca was one of the six students chosen

See BOARD, Page 6

IRS has undelivered refund checks for Texans

By Lea Crusberg
Special to the Courier

An average refund of \$856 is waiting for 9,627 Texas taxpayers whose refund checks were returned to the Internal Revenue Service this year as undeliverable. The refunds can be claimed as soon as their owners update their addresses with the IRS. In some cases, a taxpayer has more than one check waiting.

The IRS wants Texas taxpayers to get this money as soon as possible. It's easy to update your information and claim your refund by using the "Where's My Refund?" tool on IRS.gov — it enables taxpayers to check the status of their refunds. A taxpayer must submit his or her social security number, filing status and amount of refund shown on their 2006 return. The tool will provide the status of their refund and in some cases provide instructions on how to resolve delivery problems.

Taxpayers can access a telephone version of "Where's My Refund?" by calling 1-800-829-1954.

The number of undeliverable refunds each year is a relatively small portion of all refunds returned to taxpayers. So far in 2007, the IRS has processed nearly 105 million refunds, totaling about \$240 billion, either by mail or direct deposit.

In fact, undeliverable refunds account for less than one-tenth of 1 percent of all refunds, or about one in a thousand.

A refund check is normally returned as undeliverable when a taxpayer moves without updating his or her address with either the U.S. Postal Service or the IRS.

The list of taxpayers due undeliverable refunds this year rose about 21 percent from 95,746 last year. The sharp increase is due in part to the Telephone Excise Tax Refund. The refund is a one-time payment available on 2006 federal income tax returns. It was designed to return to taxpayers previously collected long-distance telephone taxes. Individuals, businesses and tax-exempt organizations are eligible to request it.

Bad addresses also cause delays. Refund checks are mailed to a taxpayer's last known address. Checks are returned to the IRS if a taxpayer moves without notifying the IRS or the U.S. Postal Service.

Taxpayers can update their addresses with the IRS on the "Where's My Refund?" feature. Also, taxpayers checking on a refund will be prompted to provide an updated address if there is an undelivered check outstanding within the last 12 months. Taxpayers checking on a refund over the phone will be given instructions on how to update their address.

A taxpayer can also ensure the IRS has his or her correct address by filing Form 8822, Change of Address. Download the form from IRS.gov or request it by calling 1-800-TAX-FORM (1-800-829-3676).

Those who do not have access to the

See REFUNDS, Page 3



One perspective

By Francis Shrum

A view to die for

I'm scared of heights. Though I kept gasping a little, like you do when jumping off into a pool of cold water, my lack of courage didn't keep me away from the edge.

The Grand Canyon is one of the world's greatest marvels. It's one of those places where you can experience earth's majesty up close and personal, for a few breath-taking moments, for an entire day, or longer. I don't think you could ever see it all.

The wondrous colors intertwined with modulation of depth and shadow are mesmerizing. I could almost feel myself float out across the yawning abyss like the hawk that was surfing the afternoon breeze.

Because this landmark is so awesome, its fame is global. It attracts people by the thousands daily, of practically every age, circumstance and nationality. Unfortunately, because it is so up close and personal, people can become numb to the reality of the place, as if it were simply a part of an interactive video game, with no real consequence other than if you fall, maybe you lose one of your lives.

Equally unfortunate is that, in real life, you have only one.

The day I was marveling at the Canyon's edge was Oct. 6. I was accompanied by numerous members of my family, including two grandboys, ages six and three.

A scant three days later, at about 11:30 a.m. on a beautiful fall morning, a four-year-old girl fell nearly 450 feet from the Canyon's edge, from one of the places I had stood taking pictures. She didn't live long. She died at the scene from blunt force trauma, primarily to her head.

According to news reports, she was

there vacationing with her parents, two brothers and a family friend. They had only been there about 30 minutes. The tragedy occurred at one of the places where a paved trail runs parallel to the Canyon, several yards back from the edge. Her parents were walking along the path when the little girl began to wander toward the rim.

Witnesses told news reporters that her mother told the child, "in a stern manner," to stay on the path. As they turned and resumed their walk, the child reportedly ran back to the edge, lost her balance, and tumbled over.

Her father, a fighter pilot stationed at Luke Air Force Base near Phoenix, scrambled over the edge after her. When he reached her, he started CPR and was soon joined by a Park Service ranger who rappelled down. A second ranger, lowered by helicopter, determined the child was dead.

On average, one to three people die each year in falls from the rim of the Canyon. Don Singer, safety manager for the Grand Canyon National Park, told *The Arizona Republic* that research data dating back to 1925 shows that the highest risk group are young men in their 20s and 30s who fall because they put themselves in danger by doing daredevil stunts or climbing into unsafe places.

While taking photos, I personally watched several people climb down from the rim out onto a narrow point of the bluff that extended far over the Canyon's drop.

One slip, that would have been it.

Along most of the Canyon's rim, there is no railing, and Singer said there is no plan to add fencing. "People can choose the level of risk they want when they come to the Canyon. It is a natural area and we do want them to experience as natural an area as possible."



GRANDBOYS AT THE GRAND CANYON — Letting our kids experience the Grand Canyon was a white-knuckle experience. Both fathers have firm grips on their sons.

Natalie Yeargan, the child who fell, is the third death this year. A 50-year-old man fell 300 feet on Aug. 2, and later that month, a body was found 150 feet below Walhalla Overlook. Officials don't know the circumstances surrounding the man's fall.

Previously, the youngest person to die of a fall was 13. There's even a book on the subject, *Over the Edge: Death in the Grand Canyon*, by Michael Ghiglieri and Thomas Myers, which says that 53 people have died from falling into the Canyon since they started keeping records back in 1925.

The news reports about the little girl brought back vivid memories of the worried mothers and diligent fathers who kept white-knuckled grips on the hands and collars of my two grandboys as we traversed this wonderful place. I know all too well how quick a little one can move, how precious and irretrievable are those seconds between almost and all-over.

I have deep sympathy for the parents of that tiny child who will visit no more landmarks in this life. Except by the grace of God many more parents would walk in their shoes.

Dr. Scott Goodman's comment pretty much said it all for me: "Nature is beautiful, alluring and spectacular, and on the other side of the coin, harsh and uncompromising.



TEMPTING VIEW — There are many points along the canyon rim that offer the feeling of being out and over the canyon. This photo was taken from one such area that has railings. However, many outcroppings do not have safety guards — nor should they.

This should remind us all how precious life is and how quick things can change in a moment... when in an unfamiliar place, we should be extra cautious and on guard."

Amen to that. The view from the rim of the Grand Canyon should not be one to die for.



OVER THE EDGE — Just to left of center in this photo, on top of the jutting rocks, there are four people that ventured out beyond safeguards and warnings at the Grand Canyon.

1973
34
YEARS
2007

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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.



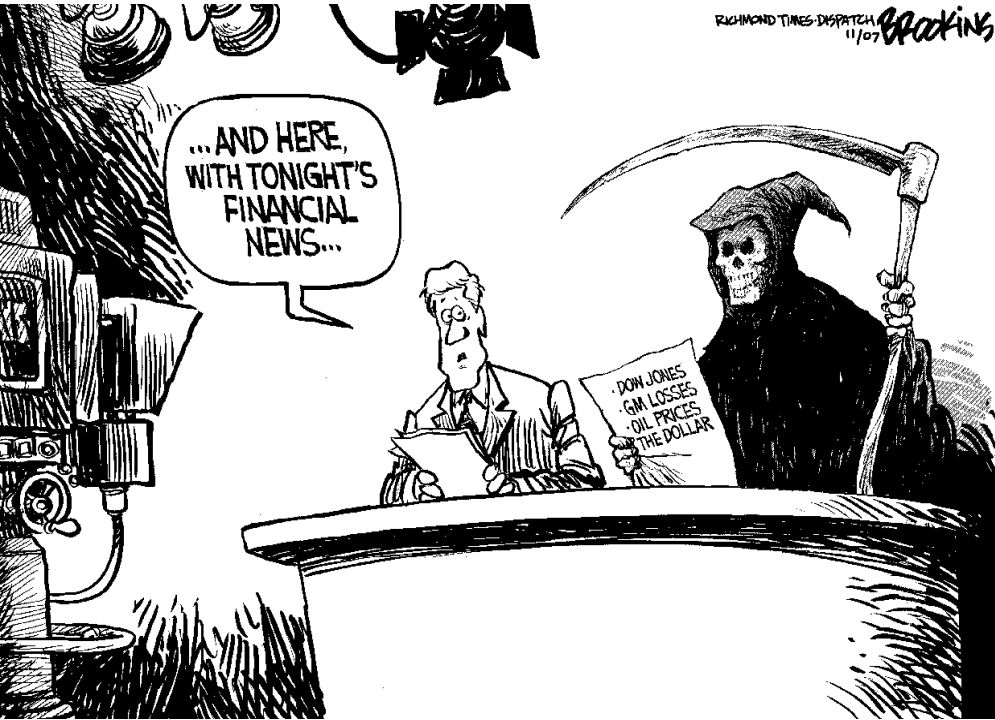
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Reyes Reports

By U.S. Rep. Silvestre Reyes

Small business, veterans need access to contracts

The U.S. House of Representatives recently passed H.R. 3867, the Small Business Contracting Program Improvements Act, which includes the essential changes for 8(a) businesses that I proposed earlier this year in H.R. 1611, the 8(a) Modernization Act, and assists small business owners in contracting with the federal government.

In 1968, Congress established the 8(a) program to assist small businesses owned by those who are socially and economically disadvantaged. A large part of the program's success is a provision that makes companies with 8(a) certification eligible for smaller government contracts on a sole source basis and over the years, 8(a) has helped businesses in El Paso and across the country grow and prosper by allowing entrepreneurs valuable access to federal contracts. However, in the forty years since then, Congress has failed to update the program to empower the business owners of today. In 1968, those smaller contracts were defined as contracts not exceeding \$3 million in value for services, and a small businesses' net worth was set at \$250,000, which freezes thousands of relatively small businesses today out of 8(a) assistance.

My legislation, and the Small Business Contracting Program Improvements Act, though, making critical updates to the 8(a) program. H.R. 3867 would:

- Increase the limit for sole source contracts awarded under the 8(a) program from \$3 million to \$5.1 million; and
- Increase the net worth limit for 8(a) applicants from \$250,00 to \$550,000.

The bill also improves small business opportunities for service-disabled veterans. Service-disabled veteran-owned businesses currently receive less than one percent of federal contracts. This bill:

- Places veteran small business owners at the top of the list for receiving federal contracts;
- Requires the Small Business Administration (SBA) to fulfill its obligations under Executive Order 13360, which will give veterans access to procurement assistance; and
- Creates penalties for misrepresentation of

a service-disabled veteran-owned business classification.

Through events such as the annual Veterans Business Conference in El Paso, I have taken intentional steps to provide our veterans with support and information from federal agencies. These proved helpful for El Pasoans, and the provisions of this bill will help service-disabled veterans in El Paso and across the country succeed as they work to make their entrepreneurial ideas a reality.

The bill also expands opportunities for women entrepreneurs. H.R. 3867 sets out requirements for the SBA to implement the Women's Procurement Program to help level the playing field for women-owned businesses in federal contracting. Women have been waiting nearly seven years for the SBA to implement this program, while losing tens of billions of dollars in contracting opportunities.

The bill strengthens community development, through the Historically Underutilized Business Zone (HUBZone) Empowerment Contracting Program. This program promotes business in historically underutilized urban and rural areas with lower-than-average incomes by verifying that small businesses receiving contracts under its authority are qualified. It further specifies that only local companies can get HUBZone construction contracts.

Since arriving in Congress in 1997, one of my main goals as El Paso's representative has been to improve our economic prosperity and vitality. Upon learning that a large number of El Paso businesses had never worked with the federal government, the largest buyer in the world, I joined with the El Paso Hispanic Chamber to reach out to these businesses and together, we certified many businesses as HUBZone businesses.

All these different programs take important steps to help businesses that deserve assistance most, and the Small Business Contracting Program Improvements Act modernizes and requires them to serve the business owners of today, which are increasingly women, veterans and minorities. The engine of El Paso's economy is our small businesses. I am proud to help create opportunities that allow them to contract with the federal government.

Refunds

From Page 1

internet and think they may be missing a refund should first check their records or contact their tax preparer, then call the IRS toll-free assistance line at 1-800-829-1040 to up-

date their address.

Signing up for Direct Deposit can put an end to undelivered refunds, as well lost or stolen refund checks. Taxpayers can receive refunds directly into personal checking or savings accounts. Direct Deposit is available for filers of both paper and electronic returns. Taxpayers can sign up for direct deposit on their tax form.



Moore Texas by Roger T. Moore Nov.20,1887:Birthday of Eck Robertson,a Texas Panhandle fiddler who was featured on the first commercial Country Music recording.



— Photo by Stacy Kendrick

Returning soldiers of the 401 Calvary from Fort Bliss were treated to a meal at Salvador H. Sanchez Middle School.

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Service

From Page 1

helping out, it is wonderful. They are like Christmas elves.”

Also helping their community were students at Socorro Middle School who collected more than 800 canned food items which they donated to The Christian Home. This is the third year the school has supported the charity that reaches out to nearly 900 families. The school also provided more than 70 turkeys to Socorro Middle School families.

“Our students are very humble and they do what they can to help others,” said Monica Flores, Socorro Middle counselor. “They have always exceeding our expectations when it comes to community service.”

Salvador H. Sanchez Middle School students and staff opened their doors to welcome Fort Bliss soldiers. The school hosted a luncheon to show their appreciation especially for the members of the 401 Calvary that just returned to Fort Bliss.

We wanted to show our appre-

ciation for our soldiers for what they have done and what they are doing,” said Armando Gutierrez, Sanchez math teacher. “We are just showing them some of the Sanchez hospitality.”

Paso Del Norte and Options High School delivered its food donations. Paso Del Norte worked with area McDonalds to help families in need. While Option High School Student Council food drive benefited the Migrant Farm Shelter. Campestre Elementary School students also collected food and canned items to help those at Thanksgiving and also prepare for their Christmas food drive.

Lujan Chavez Elementary teamed with the El Paso Rescue Mission to help meet the demand the mission faces during the holiday season. Also supporting the Rescue Mission was Bill Sybert School which collected 1,235 items. The school’s drive was spearheaded by the 4th grade class that held collection dates the week prior to Thanksgiving. The El Paso Rescue Mission will also be getting some needed help from the 200 plus sophomores and freshmen at Mission Early College High School who conducted the school’s annual Food Drive.

In the Mission Valley, Hueco Elementary gathered its items on Nov. 15 which will go toward helping area families in need by providing food baskets. The school collected enough cans to provide 15 families with a large basket of can goods and a turkey. The National Junior Honor Society at Jane A. Hambric sent its donations to a local food bank. Sgt. Roberto Ituarte Elementary helped collect food for Candlelighters while students at Sierra Vista Elementary supported La Posado Home for Battered Women. John Drugan School Student Council is conducting their 2nd annual “Cans for Castles” canned food drive. The students use the theme because of their mascot, Dragons and then they construct a castle using the cans which have been donated.

The El Dorado High School Creativity Action Service (CAS) Club led a clothing drive for a global cause. The clothing drive collected clothing, bedding, towels, shoes, stuffed animals, back packs and soft purses/bags that will help 3rd world families that earn less than \$200 annually.

Americas High School is working on outfitting 300 area children with shoes and socks This is the 12th year the school has donated shoes and socks to families living in the Americas feeder pattern. The school uses its annual “Woodsock” event to raise money for their holiday drive.

Four more campuses will kick off their annual food drives following the Thanksgiving break. Escontrias Elementary will host its drive from Nov. 26 until Dec. 7. The school will be helping fill the shelves at local food banks as well as providing to families in need living in the Escontrias area. The drive is part of the Core Essential Character Education traits program which will help students learn the value of helping those less fortunate. Montwood Middle School will conclude its 5th annual food drive on Nov. 30 and kick off its clothing drive the first week of Dec.. The collected items will go to filling up Christmas baskets which also hold turkeys and presents donated by the school’s faculty for families from our school. Montwood Middle Student Council members and CIS students worked after school and on Saturdays to collect can goods from area neighborhoods. Collection dates for Robert R. Rojas Elementary drive run from Nov. 26 through Dec. 15. The school is asking for donations to help our school-wide family with canned goods, non-perishable items, new toys, teddy bears and clothing. Donations can be sent to Coach Abraham McMillan in the Physical Education Department. The 7th and 8th grade AVID classes at Capt. Walter E. Clarke Middle School will be sponsoring a Christmas Food Drive Dec. 3 through Dec. 13 to help the SISD Warehouse Holiday Store. Students and teachers will be able to donate food items to their “College Team” AVID Advisory class.

Town of Anthony
PUBLIC NOTICE

A PUBLIC HEARING will be held at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, November 27, 2007 during the Regular Town Council Meeting at Anthony Town Hall, 401 Wildcat Dr., Anthony, Texas. Purpose of the public hearing is to allow any interested person to appear and testify at the hearing regarding the following proposed ordinance(s), second reading:

- 1) Ordinance No. 446. An ordinance of the Town of Anthony to Tax Tangible Personal Property in Transit Which Would Otherwise Be Exempt Pursuant To Texas Tax Code, Section 11.253, for the Town of Anthony, Texas.
- 2) Ordinance No. 447. An Ordinance of The Town of Anthony, El Paso County, Texas granting to El Paso Electric Company, a corporation, its successors and assigns, a franchise with the right to acquire, construct, erect, maintain, repair, reconstruct and operate an electric light and power plant and system in Anthony, Texas, and to erect, maintain, construct, operate and install a system of power lines over, across, upon, along and under the present existing and hereafter constructed highways, public roads, streets, alleys, bridges, viaducts, public grounds, public property and public parks and places in the Town of Anthony for the purpose of transmitting and distributing electric power to the inhabitants within the said years to expire on the 27th day of November, two thousand twenty-seven (2027) and providing for a consideration for the franchise and for regulations by the Town governing the conduct, operation, service and rates of said company, and the duration and termination of the franchise.

Ordinances are too extensive to print. Ordinances are always available for viewing or copying upon request from the Town Clerk at the above address. Those that are unable to attend may submit their written comments to the Town of Anthony, P.O. Box 1269, Anthony, Texas 79821. Persons in need of assistance to attend are encouraged to contact the Town Clerk at 886-3944.

Myriam P. Uribe
Town Clerk

WTCC: 11/22/07

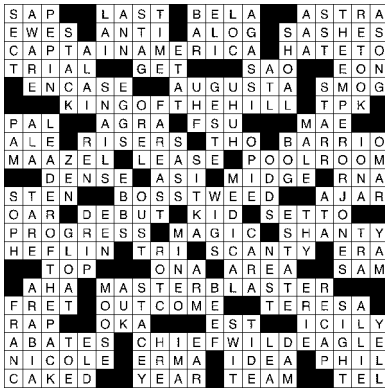
Hola mi gente y...

...Happy Thanksgiving

Please give thanks this holiday for the men and women that serve our country and protect this nation.
Pray that our fellow Texans and all the other fine men and women of this great nation giving service will come home safely.

— Chente Quintanilla
State Rep., District 75

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Happy Thanksgiving

From Congressman Silvestre Reyes
16TH Congressional District

Let's remember to be thankful for the good gifts of life we enjoy in America as Americans.

And, in our giving of thanks, we are thankful for and need to especially remember our troops in Iraq, Afghanistan and in other places throughout the world who are defending freedom!

Classified Ads

LEGALS

LEGAL NOTICE

On October 19, 2007, Open Arms Community of El Paso filed an application with the Federal Communications Commission requesting authority to construct a new noncommercial educational FM radio station to serve Horizon City and surrounding areas. The application proposes a Class A FM station operating at 91 meters with ERP: 0 kW(H) 1.18kW(V) from Horizon City. A copy of the application is available for inspection during business hours in the proposed main studio at 8210 N. Loop, El Paso, Tx.79907

WTCC-11/22/07

SOCORRO INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

Invitation to Bid/Respond:

Sealed bids/proposals/CSP to furnish the District with the following products and/or services will be accepted at the following times:

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 2007

BACKFLOW PREVENTERS
CSP NO. 199-1130-8007
ACCEPTED UNTIL 2:00 P.M.

ANNUAL PM FOR MECHANICAL WATER TREATMENT
CSP NO. 199-1130-8008
ACCEPTED UNTIL 2:30 P.M.

EMPLOYEE UNIFORMS FOR OPERATIONAL SERVICES
CSP NO. 199-1130-8012
ACCEPTED UNTIL 4:00 P.M.

RELOCATION OF PORTABLES AND RELATED SERVICES
CSP NO. 199-1022-8011
ACCEPTED UNTIL 4:15 P.M.

Proposals will be received at Business Services Dept., 12300 Eastlake Drive, El Paso, Texas 79928 until the specified times. Detailed specifications are available from the above office between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. Mondays through Fridays.

WTCC-11/22/07

SOCORRO INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

Invitation to Bid/Respond:

Sealed bids/proposals/CSP to furnish the District with the following products and/or services will be accepted at the following times:

MONDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2007

FINANCIAL TPA SERVICES
RFP NO. 199-1203-8019
ACCEPTED UNTIL 10:30 P.M.

FUEL FACILITY TANK INVENTORY AND LEAK DETECTION SYSTEM
CSP NO. 199-1203-8020
ACCEPTED UNTIL 2:30 P.M.

MISCELLANEOUS REPROGRAPHIC SERVICES
CSP NO. 199-1203-8001
ACCEPTED UNTIL 3:00 P.M.

SUNSCREEN CANOPIES
CSP NO. 199-1203-8013
ACCEPTED UNTIL 3:30 P.M.

DISTRICT SERVICES CENTER AUDIO/VIDEO/STUDIO
CSP NO.

INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

Invitation to Bid/Respond:

Proposals will be received at Business Services Dept., 12300 Eastlake Drive, El Paso, Texas 79928 until the specified times. Detailed specifications are available from the above office between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. Mondays through Fridays.

WTCC-11/22/07

SOCORRO INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

Invitation to Bid/Respond:

Sealed bids/proposals/CSP to furnish the District with the following products and/or services will be accepted at the following times:

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2007

E-RATE PRIORITY 1
CSP NO. 199-1213-8029
ACCEPTED UNTIL 2:30 P.M.

Proposals will be received at Business Services Dept., 12300 Eastlake Drive, El Paso, Texas 79928 until the specified times. Detailed specifications are available from the above office between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. Mondays through Fridays.

WTCC-11/22/07

SOCORRO

HELP WANTED

ELECTRICIAN

Several positions open. Contact J&G Electrical, 512 S. Main St., Roswell, NM. Call (575) 622-0146. EOE.

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Bonds may trade his baseball uniform for one with stripes

By Steve Escajeda
Special to the Courier

I woke up this past weekend with a different attitude about our very existence on this planet.

For some reason everything was more upbeat. The sky seemed bluer, the air seemed cleaner and everything I ate seemed tastier.

All the things I began to question over the years seemed to fall in place and make sense.

Why did I come to this sudden realization?

Easy, after all the lies and all the excuses and all the false accomplishments — all the ugliness finally caught up with Barry Bonds.

Bonds, as all of you know by now, was finally indicted last week on four counts of perjury and one count of obstruction of justice.

Did I also mention that I sang in the shower for the first time in years? Oh, and there were also some new beautiful flowers growing in my backyard.

In other words, all in the world is as it should be.

Finally! And I was beginning to feel that nothing would ever come of the rumors that the former San Francisco Giant was taking anything and everything he could to make him bigger and stronger than he normally was.

From taking human growth hormone, to taking steroids, to cheating on his taxes, to lying to the grand jury, accusations were adding up daily against Bonds, but the chemically-enhanced slugger kept evading the authorities.

But Bonds proved the old adage true again, you can run but you can't hide — especially with a head the size of his.

So the obvious question is what is going to happen to Bonds' home run record? That will be determined by Major League Baseball, but I believe most people believe the record still belongs to Hanks Aaron.

If Bonds is convicted or pleads guilty, should he be banned from baseball? Of course he should. Did any of you listen to sprinter Marion Jones' denials over the last six years? She sounded a lot like Bonds didn't she.

I wonder how long it will take Bonds to hold that tear-filled news conference declar-



ing that after long reflection, he was admitting he lied and was asking for forgiveness?

Lost in all the fun and frivolity at Bonds' expense is the true danger of taking HGH or any steroids. There is a groundswell of support for testing at the high school level to keep youngsters from ever experiencing the possibly devastating substance.

Things are so bad that the state of Texas is implementing a steroids testing program for all male and female athletes in public schools.

Though the program has been slow to implement, it's a positive step to keep our sons and daughters from potentially harming themselves, as well as keeping them from cheating by gaining an unnatural advantage.

As far as Bonds is concerned, the arrogant athlete doesn't even belong in the Hall of Fame as far as I'm concerned. It's true, he was already a great player before he began taking the illegal stuff.

But Pete Rose was already a great player before he started gambling, and he is still out of the game.

And you always hear about the integrity of the game. What is more important concerning the game of baseball, players or coaching betting on some of the games, or players using illegal drugs to help them cheat while playing the games?

I say both should be treated equally.

The word is that Bonds could get 30 years if found guilty. Now you and I both know that Bonds will never serve anything close to 30 years in the slammer.

I'm not sure he'll serve any time in jail. But as long as he is found guilty, the knowledge that he broke the rules will be enough in the court of popular opinion.

Bonds is expected to turn himself in this week and he'll naturally say the same thing he's claimed for years, "I am not guilty."

He is also not the league's true home run champion.

Let's all raise a glass and apologize to Hank Aaron and Babe Ruth, the true sluggers of the game.

Aaron did it with dedication and years of brilliance. Ruth did it with a steady diet of beer and hot dogs.

Barry did it with a syringe firmly implanted in his backside.

Board

From Page 1

from all public and private schools in the El Paso area.

This past October, Toca, his family and FHS principal, Mr. Robert Sepulveda, had a welcome meeting for all new members. In order for Toca to be nominated and chosen for the board of directors, he had to be nominated, complete an application and write an essay expressing his interest in participating in the program.

"Well I was really happy because knowing that so few students got selected, it was a great honor. I'm really happy that they actually choose me to be part of this program from all the students they have. They saw the potential in me to be selected," Toca said, after being asked how he felt about being chosen.

During his semester on the student board,

he and the rest of the participants will meet monthly at the El Paso Fed. As in every program, there are rules to follow. This program requires students have to maintain a high GPA, follow school rules, behave properly, and attend all monthly meetings. Toca is also an R.O.T.C. cadet, where he is a Lieutenant Junior Grade, and member of the National Honor Society.

— Cindy Hernandez & Julissa Lechuga



Albert Toca



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15 words - \$5 per week; 35 words - \$10 per week

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*The Staff of
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Store wishes
you and your
family a Happy
Thanksgiving!*

Social Security Q&A

By Ray Vigil

Gather around the computer

Each year, people from across the nation spend Thanksgiving Day enjoying good food and quality time with their families. During this year's holiday we hope you will consider assisting a loved one by visiting www.socialsecurity.gov.

The Social Security Administration has a cornucopia of services, many of which are online. You can visit us at www.socialsecurity.gov/onlineservices from the privacy of your home or office. Using the agency's website is convenient, easy and secure.

Here are a few of the things you can help your loved ones do online:

• **Apply for benefits**

You can help them apply for Social Security retirement, spouse's or disability benefits. After you have applied, you can check back online for the status of the application as well.

• **See if they qualify for Social Security**

You can use our online Benefit Eligibility Screening Tool (BEST) to see which kind of benefits they might be eligible for. Just answer a series of questions and find out whether they're eligible for retirement, disability or Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits. You can even find out whether they might be eligible for Medicare. All of this can be done by completing one simple questionnaire, and it only takes five to ten minutes.

• **Change your address or phone number**

If you currently receive Social Security benefits, it's important that you keep us updated about changes to your mailing address and phone number in case we need to contact you—even if you have direct deposit. The most convenient way to update your information is by using our online services. You can change your address, phone number, even your direct deposit information.

• **Apply for help with your Medicare prescription drug costs**

Social Security has an easy-to-use online application that anyone — family members, friends and caregivers — can complete. If a loved one has limited income and resources, they may qualify for extra help paying the premiums, deductibles and co-payments. This extra help — available through Social Security — can pay part of the monthly premiums, annual deductibles and prescription co-payments and could be worth more than \$3,600 per year.

These are just a few of the many services now available online from Social Security. So once the dishes are put away, pass the laptop and visit Social Security at www.socialsecurity.gov/onlineservices.

Briefs

From Page 1

such as books, dental exams or nutritionally balanced meals," said Congressman Reyes. "With Head Start building the foundation for healthy children and families, these children are in a much better position to excel academically." Region 19 Head Start provides educational opportunities and services for economically challenged children and their families. It is home to the third largest Head Start program in the state of Texas and services are provided in twelve school districts in El Paso and Hudspeth counties.

• \$610,976 to the Project Vida Health Center for doctors, nurses, utilities, equipment, and supplies to supply critically-needed health care to the underserved and poor. "Project Vida continues to do an outstanding job in the El Paso community by providing a safety net of services to those who need their assistance most," said Reyes.

Horizon parade

Eastlake Lions Club would like to remind everyone that this year's Christmas parade will be held on Saturday, Dec. 15, 2007. We are hoping the merchants in Horizon City will take part by having parade day sales and specials. The parade will begin at approximately 10:00 a.m. and conclude at just after noon. The parade route will begin on Kenazo at Highweed and proceed southbound to Horizon Boulevard, westward along Horizon Blvd to Darrington, travel northbound on Darrington to Ryderwood and Disband upon entering Ryderwood and proceed to Ensor Middle School. Any club, school organization or business wanting to become a participant can pick up an information packet at Horizon City Town Hall (14999 Darrington) or at National Self Storage (490 N. Kenazo). Packets can also be returned to the same location. For information you can call Blanca at 852-8300. All participant packets must be returned by Nov. 30. This year all vehicle and participant must adhere to the Christmas theme.

ORANGE FEVER CATCH IT

UTEP vs. NMSU

Tuesday, November 27 @ 7:05 pm

1966 NCAA Championship Team HALL OF FAME Recognition.

"Orange Out"

FREE 1966 team commemorative photo for the first 5,000 fans
FREE orange T-shirts while supplies last

Women's

Thanksgiving Tournament

Donate a toy and receive \$2 off adult ticket and \$1 off youth ticket
Regular price: \$3 Youth \$7 Adult

Friday, November 23rd

Saturday, November 24th

SFA vs. Nevada
@ 4:35 pm

Loser of game 1 vs.
Loser of game 2
@ 4:35 pm

UTEP vs. Cal State Fullerton
@ 7:05 pm

Championship Game
@ 7:05 pm



For more info call 747-5234
All games in Don Haskins Center

myspace.com/utepwbbball
Text "wbk" to 72556 for updates