EST TEXAS

VOL. 34, No. 51

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DECEMBER 20, 2007

NEWSBRIEFS

Dinner and dance

Noche Encantada de Gala, an evening of dinner, entertainment, and a dance takes place Friday, Dec. 28, from 7 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. at El Campanario Ballroom, 649 Apodaca Drive, Socorro, across from the Socorro Mission. The program features flamenco dancers, solos by classical guitarist James Clarkston and violinist Nathan Stell-Smith, songs of Spain and original poetry by Bernardo Fresquez, and Latin dance performances by professional ballroom dancers. The event is a benefit for the Holy Spirit Retreat and Renewal Center, a project of Open Arms Catholic Community. Everyone is welcome. Tickets are \$35.00. Includes show and dance, dinner, tea and coffee. Other beverages available for purchase. Space is limited. Reservations and information: 691-5819 or 820-2692.

Dance

A New Years Eve dance will be sponsored by La Embajada Banquet Hall, 141 Vinton Road in Vinton on Dec. 31 beginning at 8 p.m. Tickets are available for \$27 in advance, \$30 at the door. Ticket price includes a live band, Los Fronteras, refreshments and party favors. For more information call 479-3465 or 383-8946.

Going to sea

Coast Guard Seaman Apprentice Raul D. Porras, son of Ligia D. and Raul D. Porras of El Paso, Texas, recently graduated from the U.S. Coast Guard Recruit Training Center in Cape May, N. J. During the eight-week training program, Porras completed a vigorous training curriculum consisting of academics and practical instruction on water safety and survival, military customs and courtesies, seamanship skills, first aid, fire fighting and marksmanship. A major emphasis is also placed on physical fitness, health and wellness. Porras is a 2007 graduate of Montwood High School of El Paso, Texas.

Business info

Have you ever dreamed of setting your own hours, being your own boss, or taking a favorite passion and turning it into a profitable business? If so, have you also dreamed about writing a business plan, raising capital, or being someone else's boss? To be a successful small business owner, you'll need to do all this and more. Get the tools you need to start a business with a solid future when you order Being an Entrepreneur, a free brochure from the U.S. Internal Revenue Service and MetLife. It's filled with helpful tips, questions to ask, and resources that will help you take your idea from dream to reality. For your free copy, send your name and address to the Federal Citizen Information Center, Dept. 589R, Pueblo, CO 81009. Or call toll-free 1 (888) 878-3256, and ask for Item 589R. Visit www.pueblo.gsa.gov to read or print this and hundreds of other FCIC publications for free.

Worry is interest paid on trouble before it falls due.

— Quips & Quotes

Canutillo ISD elementary schools host visiting teachers

By Alfredo Vasquez Special to the Courier

Elementary schools in the Canutillo Independent School District(CISD) were host recently

to 45 visiting teachers from Chihuahua, Mexico as part of the Science Across Borders for Educators in Mexico to promote Outstanding Schools (SABEMOS) project, a joint bi-national collaborative between the University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP) and the Instituto Tecnologico y Estudios Superiores de Monterrey (ITESM).

The visiting teachers were divided among CISD's five elementary school campuses. Each group had the opportunity to visit a campus and observe teachers at

"They embarked on this trip to get a bet- laborative activities. ter grasp of the educational system within the United States and Texas," stated Dr. Judith Munter, associate dean and associate

professor with the College of Education at

Dr. Munter said that the primary goal of the SABEMOS project is to enhance the skills and knowledge of teachers and teacher educators in Chihuahua, Mexico through bi-national col-



Photo courtesy Canutillo ISD

INFORMATION EXCHANGE - Teachers from Chihuahua, Mexico listen to Canutillo ISD Superintendent Pam Padilla.

"We want to complement this significant

See TEACHERS, Page 2

Horizon High School students participate in Texas **Federation of Republican Women Convention**

By Laura Cade Special to the Courier

Horizon High School JROTC Cadets and Dual Credit American Government students were called upon to assist at the Texas Federation of Republican Women Convention held at the Convention Center in downtown El Paso in November.

The Horizon HS JROTC all-female color guard presented the colors during the convention. The members of the color guard were Bailey Hutchison. "The Convention was a taken back stage and introduced to and took real eye-opener for my students," said Karen tary of State Robert Williams. They also had Hayes worked closely with convention orthe opportunity to meet other VIPs as well. "We ganizers to make the volunteer experience were very nervous and interested at the same educational and meaningful.

time. This was a great experience for the color guard, "said Jessika Hernandez, Color Guard member. The Horizon High School Color Guard, instructed by 1SG Gil Kelly, took first place in the Borderland JROTC Skills Meet.

Eleven seniors in the Horizon HS Dual Credit American Government class were the only public school students invited to participate in the convention. They volunteered to serve as pages during the convention. The students had the opportunity to meet several VIPs such as Congresswoman Kay photos with Governor Rick Perry and Secre- Haves, American Government teacher,



Photo courtesy Clint ISD

WITH THE GOV — HHS Color Guard members from left, Corina Solis, Jessika Hernandez, joined Gov. Rick Perry, with Lizeth Juarez and Angie Duran at the Texas Federation of Republican Women Convention in El Paso.

Car thieves, burglars target unattended vehicles as holiday shopping hits peak

By Michelle Lanham Special to the Courier

This holiday season, auto burglars will shop the easy way — by stealing gifts, purses, wallets, packages, electronics, or other valuables you leave in plain sight in your vehicle. Every two minutes, a vehicle is burglarized in Texas and the contents stolen. These crimes escalate during the holiday season when people increase shopping and don't always take necessary precautions to protect items left in a vehicle.

Burglars scout malls, shopping centers, and other large parking lots this time of year for the perfect opportunity to break into a vehicle. Within seconds, they can take your purchases, your belongings, information to steal your identity, and sometimes your car. Texas drivers need to understand that carelessness with items left inside vehicles actually helps auto burglars and thieves carry out their crimes more efficiently.

The Texas Automobile Burglary and Theft Prevention Authority (ABTPA) and RATT offer three basic safety tips to motorists to help prevent these crimes during the holidays and throughout the year: hide belongings from view, lock your vehicles, and take the keys. Last year, thieves stole over 95,000 vehicles in Texas. In some jurisdictions, more than half of reported thefts occurred because vehicle keys were left inside. Once a vehicle is stolen, the thief will have easy access to everything left inside, including items such as garage door openers, house keys, and personal information, which can all lead to additional and more serious crimes as well as further victimization of the vehicle owner.

"We want everyone to enjoy the holiday season and not experience the violation and frustration of having their vehicles burglarized or stolen. We encourage all vehicle owners and operators to help prevent such crimes from happening," said Susan Sampson, the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) director for the ABTPA.

ABTPA was created by the Texas Legislature in 1991 to fund programs to reduce vehicle thefts. The passing of House Bill 1887 earlier this year expanded the scope of the program to include automobile burglary prevention and added the term "burglary" to the Authority's title. The legislation also amended the Texas Penal Code by increasing the punishment for burglary of a motor vehicle to a state jail felony for those previously convicted two or more times of vehicle burglary.

For free information on auto burglary and theft prevention, statistics, contact information for any of ABTPA's 30 vehicle crimes task forces in Texas, visit the following websites: www.txwatchyourcar.com or www.nctcog.org/cs/ratt.

Michelle Lanham is the program manager for Reduce Auto Theft in Texas (RATT) public awareness task force at the North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) in Arlington, TX.



One perspective **By Francis Shrum**

TV time out

television is going to re-

ally deteriorate if some solution isn't found — and soon — to the Hollywood writers strike.

producers are worried that — gasp! — viewers may stop watching TV.

I have a theory about that, something to do with an imaginary location reputed to have a very hot climate suddenly freezing solid, but what do I know.

It's not that I don't enjoy watching a little television. Occasionally, time permitting, I'll watch an extended run of some program that I enjoy. The a good, solid joke. biggest problem I run across, though, is that I have to turn many programs

They say off because of the profanity and the quality of sexual impropriety that constantly permeates everything, especially if it is considered "comedy."

Oddly, the references to illicit sexual behavior, implied or specific, usually have little to do with It could get so bad that television whether a situation or a joke is funny. It's just that we apparently don't believe that anything can be funny unless it involves that aspect. You know, like it was back in grade school, when any reference to a "forbidden" subject made it entertaining to say it out loud.

America hasn't grown up much. We're still mired in the idea that offcolor is funnier than the substance of

Or are we?

Exactly who is it that is writing this

stuff, anyway?

I understand why the writers feel they need to flex their pen-holding muscle. Given the nature of the entertainment money flow, the writers stand to get lost in the shuffle as new technology revamps the face of the entertainment industry.

The more savvy big boys are already riding the new revenue streams of syndication, internet and other new media to increasingly huge income bases. It's only fair that every person who participates in the creative process shares a little of the after-dinner dessert. The Writers Guild wants a

Still, it might not be a bad idea if the network television industry and the writers alike take a breather and take a closer look at their industry. Are they producing what the public needs or are they simply pandering to the more base instincts of society? Something to think about.

There was a good little piece circulating recently about the stranger who came to visit a young boy's home. He virtually ended family din-

household by constantly interrupting. He had no manners at all. He talked dirty and was openly hostile to the needs of anyone but himself. He openly advocated ideas and behavior that the boy's parents had forbidden. But still he was given preferential treatment, avid attention, and a permanent place in the household. The family even paid him to come live with them and listened to everything he said, even if it meant ignoring one another. After the boy grew up and moved away, when he came home for visits, he had to compete with the same rude stranger — the television — for the attention of his

Oddly, as much as he resented the stranger, he had not only one, but several, living in his own home, and was constantly ignored by his own family so they could listen to the stranger.

Somebody writes lines for these strangers that have invaded our homes. Now the producers are a little concerned because while they intend to keep saying all the same old gar- American Idol.

ners and useful conversation in the bage, they are running out of new and provocative ways to say it.

> It's been 20 years since the last writers strike and the media certainly hasn't improved during that time — I'd say the exact reverse has happened. Maybe a TV time-out is what they need.

> It's unfortunate, however, that strikes are always about money. Wouldn't it be cool if the writers one day said, "No, we're not going to write anymore of this junk. We're only to going to write high-quality scripts with decent humor and thought-provoking ideas."

> I can just imagine the scene in the board room. People falling all over themselves with laughter, shouting, "Right, and who is going to buy that? Nobody will watch it! We'd be slitting our own throats!"

> In that case, at least, they would be suffering financial loss for the right reason. As it is, the entire industry is suffering loss to one degree or another, and the freshest thing they can offer this season is

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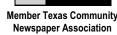
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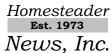
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Francis D. Shrum **Contributors Don Woodyard** Steve Escaieda Arleen Beard • Jan Engels



Mitchell Report is a must read for baseball fans And they all ended up being less

By Steve Escajeda Special to the Courier

I have to admit that I haven't enjoyed this kind of reading since I was

Of course, I'm talking about the fascinating tales of dastardly deeds, intriguing idiocy and baffling bamboozlement found throughout the Senator Mitchell Report.

The 409-page document that named names. The 409-page document that finally gave baseball fans the names of baseball players who tried to deceive their way through the last decade by better chemistry.

By now you've heard all the names, Roger Clemens, Barry Bonds, Andy Pettitte, Miguel Tejada, Mark McGwire, Rafael Palmeiro, Sammy Sosa and dozens and dozens of stars, semi-stars and not-so-stars.

Some guys have vehemently denied the report's allegations of taking steroids or human growth hormone. And some guys have admitted to kind-of, sort-of, taking a little something to help them heal after a nagging injury.

With some players yelling bloody murder and character assassination, do I think the report is accurate?

I believe the report is not only accurate, I think it's just the beginning.

I've heard too many professional erybody made tons of money. athletes jump up and down and deny later that they lied.

Remember Pete Rose, Marion Jones, Rafael Palmeiro, Sammy Sosa, Michael Vick and Floyd Landis? All these athletes swore up and down that they did nothing than truthful.

So what does this report mean to everyone involved. And by everyone, I mean players, coaches, agents, owners, the player's association and the commissioner?

It's one thing to speculate whether a vast amount of players in a particular sport are doing something wrong, but it's quite another to see a list of actual names of wrongdoers that everybody can read and understand.

I believe the players, coaches, owners, agents and the commissioner all share the blame for this ugly time in Major League Baseball.

The players are guilty for obtaining and using the stuff. And for any dummy who claims it wasn't against baseball rules at the time, it was against the law to take steroids. I hate to break this to some people, but the rules of law supersede the rules of baseball.

The coaches and owners and the commissioner are guilty for looking the other way. The 1994 strike chased a lot of fans from the game but the 1998 home run race between McGwire and Sosa brought the fans back like never before.

The fans came back and that meant a lot of money for the teams, the players and the league. Everybody pretended everything was okay, and ev-

The agents are guilty for turning a wrongdoing, only to have to admit blind eye to the situation. Is there anyone out there who believes these greedy agents didn't know their clients were juiced? More power means more home runs and more home runs means bigger contracts and bigger contracts means a bigger piece of the pie for the agent's pocketbook.

Donald Fehr and the Major League Baseball Player's Association are guilty for fighting the league at every turn. Instead of trying to work together to stop this runaway train, Fehr has fought the league every time it has tried to police itself.

If "committing murder" was one of the new rules Major League Baseball was officially putting in its books, Fehr would reluctantly agree to it — but he'd fight to make it just a 10-game suspension — with pay.

The commissioner, Bud Selig, is to blame for watching those suddenly massive guys put up the kind of numbers any video game player would envy, and doing nothing.

And why would he question Barry Bonds' ever-expanding hat size, or Mark McGwire's ridiculously large arms — his sport was flourishing. Fans were rushing through the turnstiles to watch the guys hit balls out of the ballpark.

Like Maddux and Glavin said, 'chicks dig the long ball."

This ugly chapter in professional baseball isn't over. More names will be made public and more careers will be ruined and more fans will question the sport's integrity.

But the league will continue. It has after the Black Sox scandal, it has after the amphetamine scandal, it has after numerous strikes, and it will

But what really bothers me is that it will survive while all these guilty, cheating players continue to earn millions of dollars, with cheering fans in the background.

But that's our society right. Remember all the cheers O.J. got when he was set free?

Sad.

Teachers

From Page 1

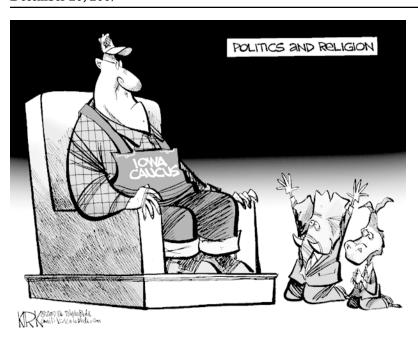
resource with an innovative bi-national partnership that will focus on developing the skills in science/literary education to enable them to train teachers who work in remote state of Chihuahua," Dr. Munter stated.

According to Lilia (Teddy) policy with UTEP when it comes to Martinez, CISD Academic Language Services department director, UTEP officials selected CISD elementary schools to showcase because of the various activities implemented by teachers in the early childhood bilingual education Pre-K through second grade classrooms.

"We have enjoyed a strong partrural/indigenous communities in the nership with UTEP's College of Education for several years, and CISD is their respective universities sponknown for having an open door sored the trip.

welcoming teachers and future teachers who are engaged in completing their field experience or observations," said Martinez.

The visiting teachers' two-day excursion to El Paso allowed them to tour UTEP and meet with the College of Education officials, as well as observe the Canutillo ISD classrooms. The college of education of



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...Merry Christmas!

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> — Chente Quintanilla State Rep., District 75

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Public Notice San Elizario Independent School District NOTICE OF VACANCY ON BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Notice is hereby given that Trustee Place No. 7, an unexpired term, is vacant. All registered voters who are residents of the School District and who are interested in being considered to become a member of the Board of Trustees should deliver or mail a letter of interest to the Superintendent's Office at 1050 Chicken Ranch Road, P.O. Box 920, San Elizario, Texas 79849-0920. All letters of interest must be received by 12:00 noon December 20, 2007 or by 5:00 p.m. January 7, 2008. The School District reserves the right to waive any formalities or extend the deadline for such letters of interest.

The letter of interest should provide any information regarding qualifications, background, commitment or other information which the applicant believes would assist the Board of Trustees in consideration of the applicant to fill the vacancy. The Board of Trustees will consider all applicants and reserves the right to conduct interviews of some or all of the applicants before making a decision. The person appointed by the Board to the vacant position shall serve to fill the unexpired term until the election held in May, 2008.

For additional information please contact the Superintendent's office at 915-872-3900 Ext. 3515.

WTCC: 12/20/07

Public Notice Canutillo Independent School District

The Canutillo Independent School District Bilingual/ESL Education Program will hold a public meeting on the Program Performance (PBMAS) Review, at 5 p.m., Wednesday, January 9, 2008, at Canutillo Elementary School, 651 Canutillo Avenue.

This meeting will allow school and community stakeholders the opportunity to conduct a needs assessment and share information regarding the effectiveness of the services provided to our English learners.

For more information, call the CISD Academic Language Services department at (915) 877-7435.

Junta Pública Distrito Escolar Independiente de Canutillo

El Programa de Educación Bilingüe/Inglés Como Segundo Idioma del Distrito Escolar Independiente de Canutillo tendrá una Junta Pública en la Revisión de Función de Programa (PBMAS) a las 5 p.m., el miércoles, 9 de enero, 2008, en la Escuela Primaria Canutillo, 651 Canutillo

Esta junta le dará la oportunidad a la escuela y la comunidad interesada a transmitir una valoración de necesidades e información de parte estimando la efectividad de los servicios provistos para nuestros aprendices en el idioma Inglés.

Para más información, llame al Departamento de Servicios al Lenguage Académico de CISD al (915) 877-7435.

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As per Article V, Sec. 5.05(a), all owners lienholders have ten (10) days from this date to reclaim their vehicles at Southwest Wrecker, 1401 Darrington Rd., 855-1900. 851-2091-fax, or it will be sold at public auction for charges:

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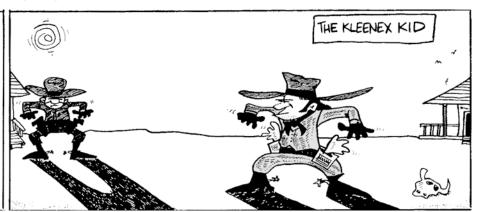
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Latest travel advisory

Pack neatly

By Don Flood

In some not-so-surprising news, Brad Pitt has dropped out of the movie "State of Play," in which he was supposed to play a journalist.

While there's been no official announcement, the problem apparently stems from Pitt's sudden realization that he simply wasn't good-looking enough to play a real-live journalist.

"Who would believe him?" was the typical remark offered by many fictional journalists, all of whom asked not to be named.

Pitt for another project that could re-energize his career and the horror movie genre: "The Man Who Hurriedly Packed His Own Carry-On Luggage."

The movie would be based on the very real terror now faced by airline travelers: The Transportation Security Administration recently launched a campaign to get people to do what heretofore has been considered cruel and barbaric: pack neatly.

It's bad enough we have to be the airport, but now Big Brother is some kind of neat freak.

I realize a person's reaction to this might depend on which side of the packing divide you fall on, namely whether or not you have a Y chromosome.

My wife, for example, likes to pack far in advance. She's already halfway packed for our 35th anniversary trip. (Our 24th anniversary is coming up next July.)

we're supposed to leave for the air-

(The absolute best part: I find my wife forgets things about as often as I do, which I take as scientific proof that it doesn't make much

difference how early you pack. True, her findings might be different, but I don't concern myself with details when the big picture is obvious.)

The reason, according to the TSA, is to save time. The real reason, according to me, is to make sure all plane delays can be blamed on the passengers:

AIRPORT LOUDSPEAKER: "Attention all travelers: All of today's flights will be delayed 20 hours because Don Flood packed his carry-on luggage with all the The change, however, will free care of a rabid squirrel freaking out on caffeine. For photos of this mess please check out our Web site, but not while eating. Have a good day."

> Actually, I reject the plan's very premise. Shouldn't security officials be suspicious if a man's carryon luggage is too neat? Could it be any more obvious that he's trying to hide something? These are the people they need to lock up.

Also, you might remember from school that the U.S. Constitution's Fourth Amendprepared to practically disrobe at ment clearly states "persons shall not be subjected to unreasonable and embarrassing criticism of how they packed their luggage, which for crying-out-loud they didn't have much time to do anyway and, besides, who really cares how the socks and underwear and shoes are stuffed in there?"

> (If that doesn't sound familiar, blame your high school civics teacher. He was lazy.)

But it's no good trying to fight I tend to pack about the time it. I'm going to have to pack earlier — about 20 minutes before we're supposed to leave for the air-

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King Super Crossword

CLEARLY STATED ACROSS

- 1 Brent Spiner role 5 Greenhouse items
- 9 Novelist Jong
- 14 Future officer 19 Mideastern gulf 20 "Typee" sequel
- 21 Reveal 22 Put up with
- 26 "The Boys From Brazil" author 27 Zola or Durkheim
- 28 Elvis, for instance 29 "Holy cow!" 31 Lennon's lady
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 - 2 Hoss' big brother
 - 4 Leg joints 5 Taro concoction 6 Word form for "all" 7 Barber Sweeney
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- 133 Fictional collie 135 Hosp. areas 136 Casino cube 137 Saxophonist Beneke 138 Fairy queen
 - **Answer Page 3**

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