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Highlands artists lead winner's field in 'Battle of Flowers Band' contest

Fourteen of 30 award-winning designs celebrating San Antonio's favorite festival were created by students from a SAISD campus, the most of any competition entries.

The creations of talented artists representing Highlands High School were among 150 works submitted by students from 11 South Texas high schools in the Battle of Flowers Band Festival program cover design contest.

"Congratulations to these visual art students and teachers whose abilities to convey ideas through art bring honor to the District," said SAISD Fine Arts Specialist Isabel Romero.

The winners were recognized and their work exhibited during a March 25 awards ceremony and art show at the San Antonio Garden Center. Their art also will be on display at the San Antonio Central

Library throughout Fiesta. Judges for the contest were professional artists and the winning entries were selected based on over all effect, lettering, color, creativity, and on how well each expressed this year's theme "Miles and Miles of Texas."

The Highlands students - honored in the category of artistic merit - are Jesse Betancourt; Zara Boudreaux; Samantha De La Cruz; Stephanie Gonzalez; Mayra Guerrero; Mark Guzman; Joshua Longoria; Eduardo Parra; Amanda Paez; Gabriel Rios; Gabriela Rodriguez; Vincent Soriano; Joseph Tellez; and Katherine Wells. Their teachers are Annette Hoffman and Moises Alfaro.

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The Pan American Library will host a presentation from the American Diabetes Association on Tuesday evening April 10 at 6:30. Come and learn the facts about this condition and how to control it. We will have free information booklets on: how it starts, diabetes prevention, nutrition and recipes, and much more. The Pan American Branch of the San Antonio Public Library is located at 1122 West Pylon Ave. (along Northbound IH-35 between Southcross and SW Military). This program is free and open to the public, but we ask that you call and register at 924-8164. www.sanantonio.gov/library

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Former Kelly Air Force Base Restoration Advisory Board (RAB)

The Air Force Real Property Agency Invites you to attend the next Kelly RAB meeting.

Tuesday
April 10, 2007
6:30 p.m. - Meeting Begins
8:00 p.m. - Public Comment Period
Port Authority of San Antonio - Main Boardroom
143 Billy Mitchell Blvd., Suite #6, San Antonio, TX 78226

A variety of issues concerning the Cleanup at the former Kelly Air Force Base will be discussed.

Call the Kelly Public Information Line at (210) 925-0956 for more information.

If a Spanish translation or sign language interpretation is needed, call (210) 925-0956 at least two days in advance. (Si usted necesitará un traductor de español, por favor llame al (210) 925-0956 con no menos de dos días de antelación)

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Woman is found dead in South Side apartment

Cops mum on cause of death, saying it could compromise probe.

By BRIAN CHASNOFF
EXPRESS-NEWS STAFF WRITER

A 57-year-old woman was found slain Wednesday morning inside her far South Side apartment, police said.

The woman, identified in a police report as Caryll Jean Allen, was found on her back in a first-floor unit at the Rancho Sierra complex in the 1300 block of Mission Grande. Police refused to release the cause of her death, saying it could compromise their investigation into the city's 32nd homicide of the year.

But according to a police report, Allen had "extensive bleeding from the chest area." Blood also was discovered inside the residence, where Allen lived alone, Sgt. John Bocko said. Bocko said Allen's sister found

her body shortly before 10 a.m. The sister last had spoken to Allen Tuesday afternoon, and because she hadn't heard from her Wednesday, the sister went to the apartment to check on her, the police report said.

The sister, who wasn't identified by police, knocked several times on the front door and called out Allen's name. But after her cries were met with silence, the sister used a key to let herself into the residence.

Inside, she found Allen's body on the bedroom floor. Missing from the apartment, the sister told police, was a computer, printer and two television sets. And Allen's SUV—a teal Toyota Rav4—wasn't parked in its usual spot outside Allen's apartment.

A medical examiner technician responded to the crime scene, and an ambulance took Allen's body to the medical examiner's office for an autopsy.

Cynthia Saenz, an apartment manager at Rancho Sierra, said Allen moved into the complex af-

ter fleeing Hurricane Katrina in 2005.

"She was a very quiet lady. We never heard from her," she said. "It's a very weird situation because everything was locked."

Everything remained tightly shuttered at the gated community Wednesday Standing guard at the entrance was Rancho Sierra management and a Bexar County constable. Neither would comment on the incident nor would they allow reporters into the complex, built two years ago beside the Mission del Lago Golf Course.

Brandy Hilaro, a resident of the complex and pregnant mother of two, said the slaying frightens her. Hilaro and her husband recently sold their home to move to the country, she said, and are renting a unit there temporarily.

"This was our worst fear coming into an apartment," she said.

Neither a suspect nor a motive was immediately identified in Wednesday's slaying.

bchasnoff@express-news.net



BOB OWEN/STAFF

A police officer investigates the slaying of a 57-year-old woman in her first-floor apartment in the Rancho Sierra complex in the 1300 block of Mission Grande. No suspects were immediately identified.



JOE HERMOSA/ASSOCIATED PRESS

Grand jury's leader heard in Willacy case

District attorney wants indictment, investigation voided.

By LYNN BREZOSKY
ASSOCIATED PRESS

EDINBURG — A grand jury forewoman told an appeals court Wednesday that jurors took it upon themselves to bring charges against Willacy County District Attorney Juan Angel Guerra because they knew time was running out for them.

Their indictment alleging Guerra tried to take money from a bail bond company and used his office for personal business came after a Court of Appeals stay ordering the investigation by Gustavo "Gus" Garza halted until the appellate court could hear the matter.

"We felt that we had the right to move on," jury forewoman Mary Alice Diaz-Chandler testified.

Testimony was to continue today with both Garza and state District Judge Migdalia Lopez, who appointed Garza, taking the stand.

Guerra has petitioned the appeals court to nullify Garza's appointment and thereby void the investigation and indictments. He also is seeking to have Lopez and Garza held in contempt of court for not stopping the grand jury after the order.

While they won't rule until the proceedings conclude, the justices seemed troubled by some of what they heard. Guerra's investigation led him to seize computers and files from the district attorney's office. Guerra since has refused to prosecute cases, saying he needs his computers and fears files may have been viewed by someone on the other side of the cases.

Willacy County District Attorney Juan Angel Guerra has been protesting his arrest on corruption charges for a week.

"It appears that Mr. Garza may have overstepped... basically taking over and disrupting the entire DA's office," Justice Linda Yanez said.

Justice Rose Vela asked Lopez attorney Yolanda de Leon if she thought it was a conflict of interest for a public defender to take computers and other materials from the prosecutor's office.

De Leon said there was no evidence Guerra reviewed the files. Guerra maintains Lopez and Garza are out to get him.

Lopez ordered the investigation Jan. 17, citing concerns grand jurors brought to her about Guerra's courtroom conduct.

Guerra attorney Gilberto Hinojosa claims Garza is not only a longtime political opponent of Guerra's but also a defense attorney on cases Guerra is prosecuting. He said Garza is a justice of the peace in a neighboring county, a conflict of interest with the prosecutor's post. He told the court Lopez should have appointed someone else.

He wants the appeals court to nullify the Jan. 17 order, thereby voiding the investigation and three indictments against Guerra. The indictments allege Guerra extorted money from a bail bond company and used his office for personal business. A previous set of indictments was dismissed by a municipal judge.

"This guy is just running around and he's going to get back what he could not get after running against this guy four times," Hinojosa said.

De Leon said Guerra was asking the court to take measures that should first be considered in lower courts. She said Garza had already been sworn in as special prosecutor on other cases and was a ready choice for Lopez on this one.

"It defies common sense to say a sitting DA can investigate himself," she said.

Deputy shoots Boerne man during traffic stop

By ROGER CROTEAU
EXPRESS-NEWS STAFF WRITER

NEW BRAUNFELS — A Comal County Sheriff's deputy shot a 36-year-old Boerne man during a traffic stop on FM 306 early Wednesday.

William Grady Orr Jr. was attacking the deputy when the deputy, whom officials refused to identify, pulled his semi-automatic .357-caliber handgun and fired several shots, Comal County Sheriff's Department spokesman Tim Kolbe said.

Orr was struck in the torso at least twice, Kolbe said. His condi-

tion wasn't available Wednesday afternoon, but he was out of surgery at University Hospital, Comal County sheriff's Capt. Tommy Ward said.

The deputy stopped a 1998 green Ford two-door vehicle at about 5:10 a.m. near Eagle Rock Drive, east of U.S. 281, because its muffler was dragging. A San Antonio woman, whom officials refused to identify, was a passenger.

Kolbe said Orr gave misleading information about who he was, had no proof of insurance and no information on who owned the car.

After about 30 minutes of ques-

tioning, the deputy decided to detain Orr and tried to handcuff him.

Orr spun around and attacked the officer as he tried to handcuff him. Kolbe said a knife came out of the man's pants pocket but wasn't used in the attack. However, Orr kicked the deputy in the head and torso and struck him with his fists.

"The deputy feared for his life and fired his weapon several times," Kolbe said.

Investigators wouldn't say how many shots were fired.

Orr was taken by ambulance to University Hospital. The deputy

was taken to McKenna Memorial Hospital with cuts and bruises.

Texas Rangers are investigating the shooting.

Kolbe said the female passenger is cooperating with investigators.

Orr has outstanding warrants for parole and probation violations, Ward said. He did not know what the original charges that led to his parole and probation were.

Investigators were preparing to charge Orr with aggravated assault of a public servant Wednesday.

rcroteau@express-news.net

Stinson: Speed trap on 281 maybe not so dumb

CONTINUED FROM 1B

ing this during heavy morning commuter traffic is setting the scene for a major chain-reaction accident.

"Don't you think this is stupid?"

Absolutely.

I asked the e-mailer for more info to help me give SAPD a deserved thrashing.

"My husband called me on his way to work to tell me about it," she said. "He wasn't pulled over, but he said because of the chase cops everyone was slamming on brakes and almost having accidents."

"I contacted the Police Department to complain, but I haven't heard back."

I, too, contacted SAPD and

asked for a response to the woman's criticism to see if police officials were sympathetic to her complaint and argument.

Hardly.

"Yes, we do that sort of traffic enforcement," a police spokesman said. "The officer has a laser gun that captures the speeds."

"He radios the description and speed of the car to the waiting officers for the stop."

"It's an effective program and hasn't caused any accidents."

"Drivers who go over the speed limit are not expected to like the project."

(Harrumph.)

I pushed for more info to help me make my "radar sting" case:

"How many tickets were issued at the U.S. 281 site?"

It took SAPD a few days to col-

lect the data, which was e-mailed to me in this note:

"On March 29, from 4:30 a.m. to noon, 51 speeding tickets were issued on 281 between San Pedro and 1604."

"Side note: In 2006, there were 269 accidents in that area."

"Furthermore, one fatality occurred the day before, on the 28th."

I remembered the March 28 reports of the traffic jam, but the "fatality" didn't ring a bell.

A quick search of Express-News databases found the sad story of a young mother who on a March afternoon, while driving in heavy commuter traffic, swerved to miss a car moving

into her lane and lost control of her Jeep, which hit a concrete divider, flipped over and skidded

down U.S. 281 North.

The police report made no mention of speed being a factor in the fatal crash.

But I wonder...

If the stream of traffic — under the threat of radar guns and chase cops — had been moving a little slower...

Could the young mother have maintained control of her vehicle... or struck the divider at a less deadly speed... or avoided a turnover...

And with only bumps and bruises, might she be alive today, looking forward to Easter with her daughters, ages 5 and 15 months?

To contact Roddy Stinson, call (210) 250-3155 or e-mail rstinson@express-news.net.

21-year-old pleads not guilty in abduction

Someone wearing scrubs took newborn from Lubbock hospital.

By BETSY BLANEY
ASSOCIATED PRESS

LUBBOCK — A 21-year-old woman accused of slipping into a hospital maternity ward wearing medical scrubs and abducting a days-old baby girl pleaded not guilty Wednesday to a kidnapping charge.

Rayshaun Parson, wearing shackles as she stood with her attorney, entered her plea on the charge stemming from the March 10 abduction of Mychael Darthard-Dawodu. A trial date was set for May 7.

Surveillance footage from Covenant Lakeside Hospital showed a woman wearing blue and flower-print hospital scrubs and a gray, puffy jacket with a hood walking out of the hospital around 1:20 a.m. She was carrying a purse as she walked past an unstaffed information desk near the exit.

The baby was found the next day in Clovis, N.M., where Parson lived. Parson has remained in federal custody since her arrest that day.

Prosecutors have said Parson scouted security measures at Covenant beforehand and went to another Lubbock maternity ward the day the baby was abducted.

U.S. District Judge Sam Cummings, who has issued a gag order in the case, last

week denied a defense motion to revoke Parson's detention order.

Helen Liggett, Parson's public defender, last month had argued that her client be allowed to stay in a psychiatric treatment facility in California near her mother and grandparents. In his March 26 ruling, Cummings shot down the argument that she be "ferried halfway across the country to a resort-style mental care facility."

Before Cummings issued the gag order, Liggett said if Cummings denied her motion to revoke detention, she would appeal to the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in New Orleans.

Parson is being held without bond in Dickens County Corrections Center.

What Would Jesus REALLY Do?

Travis Park United Methodist Church
Justice in Action Speaker Series



presents Shane Claiborne, author of "The Irresistible Revolution: Living as an Ordinary Radical." Through his ministry, Shane asks the provocative question: How can we truly embrace the radical message of LOVE espoused by Jesus? A tireless activist for the poor, Shane has worked alongside Mother Teresa, toiled in the war zone of Iraq and founded the Simple Way, a Philadelphia community seeking to embrace authentic Christianity.

Saturday, April 7th

Reception 6:30 P.M.

Free Talk 7:00 P.M.

Travis Park United Methodist Church
230 E. Travis at the corner of Navarro
Free parking across the street in Travis Park Plaza Parking Garage
Information at 226-8341 or www.travispark.org

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Shane Claiborne

Kelly Air Force Base Restoration Advisory Board (RAB)

The Air Force Real Property Agency invites you to attend the next Kelly RAB meeting.

Tuesday
April 10, 2007
6:30 p.m. - Meeting Begins
8:00 p.m. - Public Comment Period
Port Authority of San Antonio - Main Boardroom
143 Billy Mitchell Blvd., Suite #6,
San Antonio, TX 78226

A variety of issues concerning the cleanup at the former Kelly Air Force Base will be discussed.

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Social Security Administration Questions and Answers



By Oscar Garcia

Comentario:
Ahora que se ha incrementado el número de personas que conducen sus negocios vía Internet, la Administración de Seguro Social se complace en anunciar el nuevo diseño de nuestra página ubicada en www.segurosocial.gov. En 2006, tuvimos más de 50 millones de visitantes a nuestra página del Internet.

Aunque estamos muy orgullosos del éxito nuestra página, creemos que con este último diseño se le va a facilitar a usted y a sus clientes el acceso a información y la forma en que conducen sus asuntos con el Seguro Social vía Internet. Estos cambios que se han hecho son el resultado de un análisis muy detallado y sugerencias recibidas de muchos usuarios. También hicimos estudios para confirmar mayor facilidad para el usuario. Los cambios específicos incluyen: acceso a "Preguntas de mayor Frecuencia", el servicio más popular de dos lugares separados encontrados en nuestra hoja; más menús de despliegue en vez de listas largas de conexiones; la opción de búsqueda en la página principal; incorporación de los servicios más solicitados. Anteriormente, usuarios tenían que primero oprimir "Qué puedo hacer en esta página" para seleccionar un servicio; una tecla de "login" (tecla de acceso) para ayudar a visitantes a obtener una contraseña para poder navegar

rápido. Estamos muy confiados de que estos últimos cambios a nuestra página le serán útiles al público, a usted y a sus clientes para que puedan encontrar con más rapidez y eficiencia lo que están buscando.

Question:

I am getting ready to prepare my federal income tax return. Do I need to have a Social Security number for my 7 month old daughter?

Answer:

Yes, you will need a Social Security number to claim your newest family member as a dependent on your federal tax return. Approximately one in 10 parents last year did not apply for a Social Security number for their newborns before leaving the hospital. Do not wait until April 15 to apply for that number. You need to apply now. Here is what you need to do to get a new Social Security number. Complete an Application for a Social Security Card (Form SS-5). This form is available online at www.socialsecurity.gov/online/ss-5.html. If you do not have online access, you can request a form by calling Social Security's toll-free number, 1-800-772-1213, or visiting a local Social Security office. You also will need to provide documents that prove both

your and your child's identity, and documents that show your child's U.S. citizenship and age. All of these documents must be either originals or copies of originals that are certified by the issuing agency. We do not accept copies or notarized copies of documents. Keep in mind there are strict requirements on what documents Social Security can accept to prove citizenship and identity. For example, only certain documents can be accepted as proof of U.S. citizenship. These include a U.S. birth certificate, a U.S. passport, a Certificate of Naturalization or a Certificate of Citizenship. In addition, Social Security will need to verify your child's birth record before you can be issued a card. You must take or mail the completed Form SS-5 to the nearest Social Security office, together with the originals or certified copies of your supporting documents. We will return your original documents right away, and we will then mail a Social Security card as soon as your documents are verified, which can take several weeks.

Once you have a Social Security number for your newborn, you should safeguard that number, as well as the numbers of other family members. Keep that card in a safe place with your other important papers. Do not carry your Social Security card in your wallet.

Cuenta San Antonio con una economía sólida

Por Indra Castro

Un crecimiento en las inversiones del sector empresarial respaldado por la solidez económica que tiene San Antonio, es el panorama que se augura para la ciudad, esto de acuerdo con el estudio económico del 2006.

El informe preparado por The Greater San Antonio Chamber of Commerce fue presentado por Joe Krier, Chamber President & CEO y Travis Tullos, Texas Perspectives, Inc, Chairman.

En éste se resaltó que la generación de empleo se ubica en un 1.6 por ciento, cifra estadística que se considera de entre las mejores que se ha tenido en los últimos años.

Travis Tullos resaltó que la mayor inversión será en la construcción residencial, además de tiendas comerciales, esto tanto en el norte como en el sur de la ciudad.

"Muchos distribuidores relacionados con Toyota tienen el interés de ubicarse de manera estable en la ciudad, algunos ya están planeando hacer sus edificios, pero todo este trámite siem-



Joe Krier, Chamber President and CEO y Travis Tullos, Texas Perspectives, Inc, Chairman. (Foto por Indra Castro)

pre tarda tiempo para consolidarse", dijo.

Todavía todo lo relacionado con la Planta Toyota es nuevo, agregó, muchos de sus empleados están viajando a sus casas, pero una vez que estén seguros de su trabajo cambiarán su lugar de residencia de manera definitiva a San Antonio lo que implicará la construcción de nuevos complejos de departamentos o casas.

Reiteró que países del extranjero ven a San Antonio como "el local" a donde quieren ir para cambiar sus operaciones, situación que se crece por el optimismo de los que manejan los negocios en la ciudad.

"En generación de empleo estamos en 1.6 por ciento que com-

parado con el promedio histórico que es de 2.2 por ciento estamos dentro de parámetros favorables.

"El empleo y la generación de la construcción residencial están creciendo a la par", reiteró.

Aunque ante los "ojos" del extranjero sale a relucir la posición de las grandes empresas, consideró, no hay que demeritar los negocios pequeños, mismos que representa un fuerte impulso para la economía de San Antonio.

"La mayoría del surgimiento de la economía viene de los negocios pequeños, pero siempre nos enfocamos en los grandes, y para los próximos dos años se tiene una certeza de que todo saldrá bien por lo que no hay que preocuparse", concluyó.

International good neighbor council invites you to join

The International Good Neighbor Council is a non-profit organization founded in 1954 by prominent Mexican and American businessmen. The objective of the association is to promote the principle of good neighborliness and friendship among different cultures, particularly the United States and Mexico.

There are currently a total of 24 chapters in the southern U.S. and Mexico, and they participate

together in activities that encourage social, cultural and business interactions and exchanges. Some of the goals of the IGNC are to raise funds and/or materials for educational and health-related causes on both sides of the border, while forming life-long friendships and bonds throughout the region.

Each chapter is independent and locally operated, but is in constant contact with the main

headquarters in Monterrey, Mexico. There are by-annual conventions and periodic meetings on both sides of the border to ensure that members of the association have the opportunity to socialize and stay abreast of the latest news and activities.

The annual dues are minimal, and the connections and experiences are priceless. If you are interested in joining this organization and learning more about the culture and personalities surrounding us, please contact LeRoy or Caroline Harvey at 210 691-0901.

Everyone welcome.

La Junta Asesora de Restauración (RAB, por sus siglas en inglés) de la Base Aérea Kelly

La Fuerza Aérea le invita a asistir a la próxima junta de la RAB. Se discutirán una variedad de temas acerca del programa ambiental de Kelly.

martes
10 de abril del 2007
6:30 p.m. - Inicio de Junta
8:00 p.m. - Período de Comentario Público
Port Authority de San Antonio - Sala de Reunión
143 Billy Mitchell Blvd., Suite #6
San Antonio, TX 78226

Para más información, favor de llamar a la Línea de Información Pública de Kelly al (210) 925-0956.

Si usted necesitará un traductor de español o un intérprete de lenguaje de señas, por favor llame al (210) 925-0956 con no menos de dos días de antelación.

Tickets to hear world-famous tenor

The powerful voice of Plácido Domingo and the dramatic flair of opera can set imaginations soaring. Students entering an OperArt Contest or If I Could Sing Like Plácido Domingo Essay Contest by May 1, 2007, will

have the opportunity to ride in grand style in a limousine with four free tickets in hand to hear the great tenor sing in San Antonio on June 19 at the Alamo Dome. The contest is sponsored by the San Antonio Opera, AT&T and the San Antonio Public Library Foundation.

Children ages 9 to 11 are invited to use the library or the internet to inspire their designs for a costume for Domingo as he might appear in one of four operas. They can choose from:

- Radames, the heroic captain of the guards during the time of the pharaohs in ancient Egypt, in Giuseppe Verdi's Aida
- Pinkerton, the Lieutenant in the American Navy who marries a young geisha while liv-

ing in Japan in the early 1900s, in Giacomo Puccini's Madama Butterfly

• Rodolfo, a poor poet living among fellow artists in Paris in the 1830s, in Puccini's La Bohème or

• Lohengrin, the knight in shining armor who arrives in 10th-century Belgium on a boat pulled by a swan, in Richard Wagner's Lohengrin.

The most intimidating aspect of drawing can be the head; so the OperArt entry form provides Domingo's head as a starting point for budding costume designers. The forms are available at any branch of the San Antonio Public Library or can be downloaded from www.saopera.com.

Even if their families restrict them to singing in the shower, students in three age groups are invited to envision themselves appearing in any role in Aida, Madama Butterfly, La Bohème or Lohengrin for the If I Could Sing Like Plácido Domingo Es-

say Contest. By doing some brief research at the library or on the internet and submitting a short essay explaining why they have picked that role, they will become eligible to win concert tickets.

Those 12 to 14 years old are requested to limit themselves to 250 words; 15 to 17 years old to 300 words; and 18 to 21 years old to 350 words. Entry forms are available at any branch of the San Antonio Public Library or at www.saopera.com.

The first-place winner from the OperArt Contest and each of the three age levels of the If I Could Sing Like Plácido Domingo Essay Contest will receive four free tickets, plus a limousine ride, to hear the tenor sing in concert on June 19. The four second-place winners will receive four free tickets and third-place winners will receive two free tickets. For more information about Plácido Domingo in Concert, visit www.saopera.com.

The Latino Frank Sinatra



Recently Frank Lozano, aka- the Latino Frank Sinatra performed for a large audience of friends and Fox Tech graduates at the entertainment center Blanco Ballroom. Lozano was on key with all of Frankie's songs. He concluded with the great testament of the Frank Sinatra era, 'My Way.' During the event Tino Duran publisher of La Prensa announced that La Prensa Foundation will be giving a \$1,000 scholarship for a Fox Tech graduate major in music. (Photo special to La Prensa)

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