

THE MONITOR
SERVING THE RIO GRANDE VALLEY SINCE 1909

GENERATION GINSENG?
Study: Many of today's youths use alternative medicine
Nation | 5A

HERE'S QUINCY
Dorados welcome former Cowboys QB as part of squad
Sports Day | 1C

FIRE ON THE ICE
Junior Killer Bees play hard
Valley Life | 1D

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2008 | WWW.THEMONITOR.COM | 50 CENTS DAILY

12 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS | THE SECOND DAY

'She's our princess'

EVELYN SANCHEZ, AGE 7, is carried up the stairs to her home in Alton by her grandfather Isais on Monday. Blind from birth and requiring a wheelchair for mobility, Evelyn lives with her two brothers under the care of their grandparents while her mother is away doing migrant work in Minnesota.

Family, teacher see blind girl through daily fight
By AMY NICHOL SMITH | ASMITH@THEMONITOR.COM

Evelyn Sanchez starts her day as the sun rises, then waits at 7 a.m. for the bus. She spends the day in a class of six, learning, playing and interacting with her classmates and teachers.

Her newest toy is a baby doll that cries loudly when it isn't being held. Her teachers are trying to show the 7-year-old how to hug the baby doll.

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Evelyn often tosses the doll across the room, then laughs at the sound of the toy hitting the floor. She listens intently to the crying, then reaches forward and drags herself across the floor toward the sound.

The girl was born blind and is still learning how to use her other senses. She is also learning how to walk — most babies start crawling and walking because they see something they want and can't otherwise reach.

Carolyn Metzger, a vision impairment teacher, comes in several days a week to work specifically with Evelyn. She also brings Evelyn clothes, hats and scarves to help keep her warm in

EVELYN SANCHEZ takes a few careful steps with the help of Silvia Treviño at Salinas Elementary in Alton on Tuesday. We learn to walk by watching other people, her teacher says, and Evelyn never got that chance.

VALLEY & STATE | 1B
NO PLACE LEFT TO GO
After the University of Texas Medical Branch's clinic in downtown McAllen shut its doors last week, those who worked there wonder where the women it served will go for guidance.

NATION | 4A
SURVEILLING BABY JESUS
Gone are the days of the old lock and chain — many churches, synagogues and even citizens are relying on GPS technology to protect their holiday displays from theft.

TODAY'S WEATHER | 8B
Sunny, pleasant; turning chilly
HIGH 68 | LOW 43

VALLEY & STATE | 1B
100 YEARS LATER
A century ago, Valley cities entered an era of change. Have current events ripened the region for its next phase?

AROUND TOWN | 4D
ART OF GLASS
A couple lovingly crafts glass and marble works out of their Mission garage a decade after learning the skill.

Fugitive found at store in Mexico

>> Man who confessed to 2006 killing of Nelly Casas extradited to U.S.

By JEREMY ROEBUCK
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HIDALGO — Jose Luis Cantu began a new life in a Mexican hamlet, landed a job as a security guard and even started a family in the two years since he dodged a U.S. murder warrant after his accidental release from a Reynosa prison.

But all that came to an end Wednesday after a bizarre twist of fate that resulted in his arrest and extradition back to the United States.

Reynosa's former prison director — whose facility mistakenly released Cantu in 2006 — spotted the wanted fugitive

See FUGITIVE | 4A

Mother, children escape death

>> Another family proved less lucky at hands of their father

By SEAN GAFFNEY
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EDINBURG — Sylvia Anzaldúa showed her children off the sidewalk Sunday morning, saving them from their father, who police say was bent on running over the young family.

Abel Ocasio III is accused of speeding toward Anzaldúa and the couple's 5- and 6-year-old girls with his Pontiac Grand Am outside their Edinburg home early Sunday morning.

"He was in a rampage," the 29-year-old Anzaldúa said Wednesday. "I've been telling him we need to get separated

See VIOLENCE | 7A