

SILVER CITY SUN-NEWS

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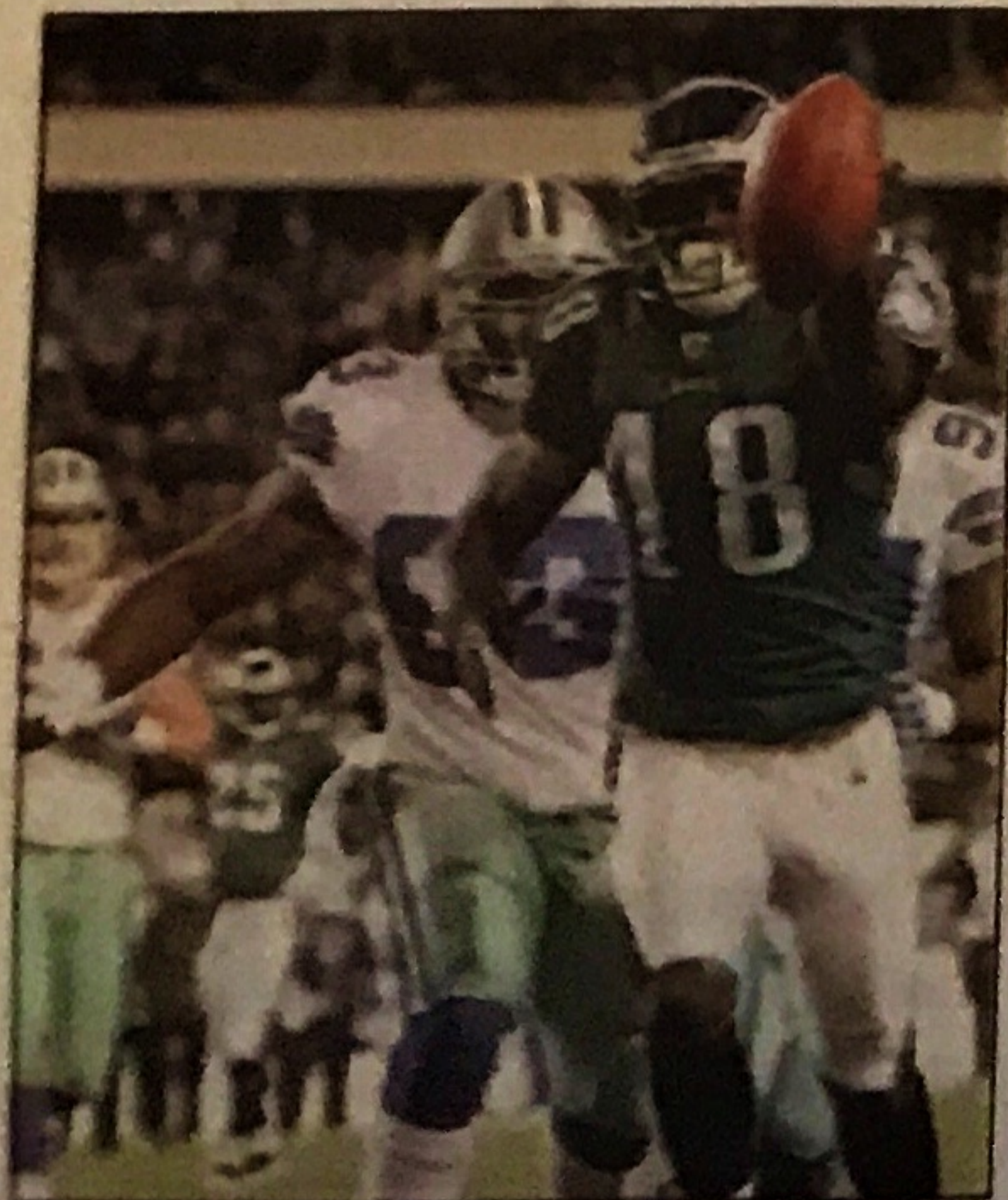
Oct. 31, 2011 ■ 50 cents

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Inside today

Sports



Young man still missing 1 year later

By Christine Steele

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SILVER CITY — One year ago today is the last time Elizabeth Ortiz saw her son, David Ortiz Jr.

David was 18 when he went missing last Oct. 31, three days after a court granted him visitation with his son, Joshua, who was then 17 months old.

Since then, there have been a lot of rumors, but few facts have emerged about what happened to David and why.

Elizabeth Ortiz said several names have come up over the

past year in reference to her son's disappearance and she has passed all leads on to the Silver City Police Department.

One name continues to come up, she said, and has been coming up since the beginning of her son's disappearance, but she said police told her they have no proof or evidence to arrest anyone.

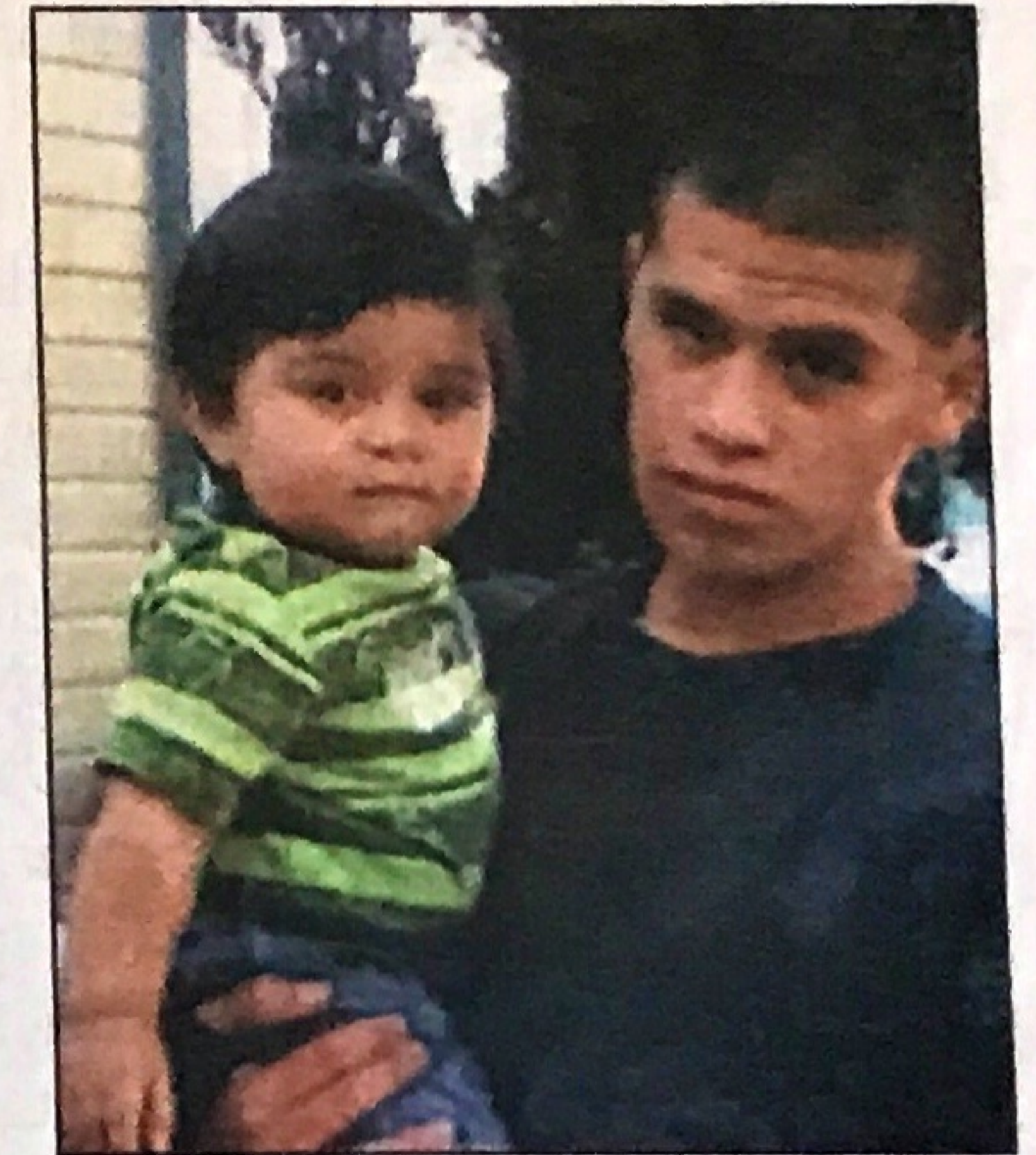
Police have followed a number of leads, including searching the landfill at the Southwest Solid Waste Authority with cadaver dogs for four days in June

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You can help

▶ Grant County Crime Stoppers is offering a \$2,500 reward for information that leads to locating David Ortiz Jr., who went missing one year ago today.

▶ Ortiz is described as a Hispanic man, 5 feet tall, 110 pounds, with short brown hair and brown eyes. Anyone who has information as to his whereabouts is urged to call the Crime Stopper Hotline at (575) 538-5254. Callers are assured anonymity if they call this number. It has no caller ID, no method of recording conversations and no way of identifying the caller. With this assured confidentiality, Crime Stoppers hopes that it will encourage someone to come forward. In order to collect the reward, the information provided must lead to the actual location of Ortiz



COURTESY PHOTO

DAVID ORTIZ JR. holds his then-17-month-old son Joshua. The photo was taken Oct. 30, 2010 — a day before Ortiz disappeared.

JUST BROWSING

Visitor center



Officials' past feud clouds new PRC audit

By Milan Simonich

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Missing

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after a tipster told the Grant County Sheriff's Office that David's body may have ended up there after being thrown in a trash bin in early November 2010.

But that search — and others — have turned up no sign of the missing teen, Silver City Police Chief Ed Reynolds said in a previous interview with the Sun-News.

Elizabeth Ortiz said her son received a veiled threat immediately after he went to court seeking visitation with his son. She said someone told David's brother Charles to tell his brother to "watch his

back."

She said the family has heard rumors that her son's body was burned, or previously dumped in a ditch in El Paso.

But with no clues and no solid information, the family no longer knows what to think.

The one-year anniversary of David's disappearance is difficult for the Ortiz family, Elizabeth said.

"God is helping us through it," she said. "When God feels we're ready, then we'll know. That's what we have to tell ourselves."

Christine Steele can be reached at (575) 538-5893 ext. 5802
