VOL. 29, No. 10

SERVING ANTHONY, VINTON, CANUTILLO, EAST MONTANA, HORIZON, SOCORRO, CLINT, FABENS, SAN ELIZARIO AND TORNILLO

MARCH 7, 2002

## **NEWSBRIEFS**

## Clint High block info

Parents and students of Clint High School will have an opportunity to learn more about the new block scheduling during a community meeting March 13 at 6 p.m. in the high school cafeteria. Effective the beginning of the 2002-03 school year, Clint High students will attend classes on A and B days, with each day having no more than four 90-minute classes. Students will still earn four credits per semester. Principal Paul Pearson said the schedule will eliminate time spent in passing periods between classes. "We will start the school day a little later and have a little longer lunch without sacrificing academic instruction," he said. "There are numerous advantages for the students." He said the meeting will last "as long as it takes" and include an extensive question and answer period. Contact Hilda James, 851-2344, for more information.

## **ESL** teachers learn

Out-of-state educators have come to El Paso to learn how to teach English as a Second Language for the 12th consecutive year, visiting Socorro ISD's ESL/Bilingual Education Dept. From Oregon and Idaho, 24 teachers, principals and bilingual program coordinators shadow SISD personnel at Elfida Chavez, H.D. Hilley, Sierra Vista, Socorro Middle, Ernesto Serna and Montwood High campuses.

## In other news

- The San Elizario Genealogy and Historical Society Enchilada Luncheon will be March 17 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Los Portales Museum and Information Center, 1521 San Elizario Rd. Proceeds will benefit the completion of four exhibits in the Museum, and the 10th Annual Historical Conference on April 27. The public is encouraged to attend. Information: 851-1682.
- "Nuts and Bolts of Looking Ahead" is the subject of a free seminar on aging on Tuesday, March 12 beginning at 6:30 p.m. Presenters include financial consultant Leo Schuster of Lifetime Solutions; Julia Merkt, attorney; and Rev. Kathleene McNellis of Sunset Funeral Home. The seminar is presented at the Church of the Incarnation, 15000 Darrington Rd. in Horizon City. Refreshments and brochures will be offered. Information is at 852-4171.
- Benito Martinez Elementary in the Socorro ISD expects about 200 parents and students during the Family Reading Night 6-7 p.m. on March 7. Guest readers will be Principal Jessie Bombach and Assistant Principal Rose Mary Carreon. The Mission Valley's H.D. Hilley Elementary will also have Family Reading sessions from 1-2 p.m. with Principal Eleanor Coldwell and Assistant Principal Lucy Borrego as guest readers.

Day-traders do not make money in the stock market. They merely take it from somebody who guessed wrong.

Quips and Quotes

# 'House party' may be the last event a teen attends HCPD declares zero tolerance for youth drinking parties

Courier Staff Reports

HORIZON CITY — So-called "house parties" are becoming a source of extreme danger to area teens and the Horizon City Police Department has declared zero-tolerance for this

type of event.

this type of gathering from anywhere in the county by calling 546-2280.

The El Paso community has repeatedly been rocked by the violent deaths of young people in cars — one such event originated recently at a "house party" in Horizon City when an alterca-

tion between two young men led to a multiple The community is asked to quickly report car chase. Two teenage girls ran a red light while pursuing another vehicle on Loop 375 and both were killed in a collision with a truck.

> History repeats itself, and Horizon City Police Sgt. Ron Swenson said the HCPD was faced with a similar incident on Feb. 20, when about 40 youth gathered at a Horizon City residence during the morning hours of a Wednesday.

> Swenson said the HCPD was notified at about 10:30 a.m. of a disturbance. When the two officers on duty responded, the group scattered in all directions — one "escapee" went over the back fence of a nearby residence into the waiting arms of an off-duty El Paso police officer who lived there.

> Evidence was discovered that the group had consumed more than three six-packs of Zima and a 30-pack of Bud Lite, and an additional two 30-packs were discovered "apparently in reserve" on the roof top, Swenson said.

> Seven officers from the Socorro Independent School District, including Police and Truancy Officers as well as a K-9 unit, responded as backup for the Horizon officers, and the district subsequently sent a bus to transport the

> Swenson said charges filed against the youth ranged from evading arrest to alcohol consumption by a minor to truancy.

> What makes these gatherings so dangerous is that they have no positive purpose, are not organized and move from place to place. The Feb. 20 "house party" originated in El Paso and subsequently moved to Horizon City in cars that were likely driven by teens who have been drinking.

> A recent survey by the Paso Del Norte Health Foundation of some 900 El Paso area youth found that 59 percent of these 7th and 8th graders have experience with drinking and 19 percent have tried marijuana and/or inhalants all before age 15.

> El Paso County youth are not strangers to dangerous living and the Horizon Police Department is sending a message that gatherings which endanger the health and safety of the participants will not be tolerated.



## School invaded by fanciful characters on Dr. Seuss's birthday

HORIZON CITY — Frank Macias Elementary School of the Clint Independent School District celebrated Dr. Seuss's birthday on March 1 as one of Dr. Seuss's most popular books, "The Cat In The Hat," celebrated its 40th anniversary. The school hallways were decorated with Dr. Seuss scenery and the administration dressed up as "Cat in the Hat" characters. Many guests came to read to the students from their previously selected favorite Dr. Seuss book, including Clint ISD Superintendent Dr. Sylvester Perez, shown in the photo, right. His wife Dee, center, joins in illustrating the story as Cindy Lu Who, and Pre-K teacher Lupe Piña, left, looks on with her class. In honor of another of Dr. Seuss's popular books, "Green Eggs and Ham," the cafeteria served green eggs and ham for breakfast. Principal Pamela Howard furnished the green eggs which were produced by hybrid chickens. These eggs were a great tool for "show and tell" as they were new to many of the students.

- Contributed by Arleen Beard

# Canutillo district invites public ideas for new high school, discusses options

By Don Woodyard Courier Staff Writer

CANUTILLO — "Construction" began Saturday, March 2 on the new Canutillo High

It began in the sense that public input began to flow into the overall construction process and will have impact on its final form. The Canutillo ISD and Dimensions Architects International heard from a handful of community members Saturday morning at Childress Elementary School in the first of two meetings focused on getting public feedback on the design of the new high school.

The second meeting will be held from 6-9 p.m. Thursday, March 14 at Damian Elementary, 6300 Strahan.

"This is the beginning of a great project," said Sergio Martinez, at the outset of the meeting attended by approximately a half dozen people, the majority of whom were district employees or school board members.

Martinez is one of the three principals of the architectural firm selected to come up with the educational specifications for the high school. into the building. There are no bad ideas; we

encourage all ideas."

He said the most important thing is that a school. proper "learning environment" be provided for not static. He said the building should versatile and multi-functional in meeting not only the needs of the students but the community as

The essence of those ideas, he said after the meeting, was that the needs of technology are important and that the school should be designed with that in mind. Adaptability and convertibility of space is another necessary aspect necessary in a new school — being able to accommodate both large and small classes.

Morris Brown, another principal in Dimensions, echoed the need for convertibility. He sees the building becoming a "lasting landmark" serving the community, a fun place, a comfortable place to go to, a building that has convertibility.

That school, Brown continues, would reflect the values of the community and at the same time have a humanness and a sense of intimacy

Other issues discussed:

• A pod system — this could be either sepa-"We want to have a lot of ideas to incorporate rate grade-level pods or pods in math, science, reading, etc. Also, that the fine arts program

should be separate from other parts of the

- Lockers whether they should be in the the students, an atmosphere that is dynamic, hallways or in a different location. Concerns were voiced over number of books students would have to carry in backpacks.
  - Hallways widths of 40 to 60 feet mentioned. Wider hallways might afford greater safety and security and less congestion between
  - Cafeteria possibly having food courts or snack centers to augment and ease the burden on more traditional cafeteria-style eating. This was tied together with having a closed campus and having to feed all of the students.
  - Library how big does it need to be? Do we need to have as many books with accessibility to books through the Internet?
  - Storage space "Historically schools do not have enough storage space," said Dr. John Kessinger, assistant superintendent for operations and planning. Storage space needed not only for band and fine arts activities, but for school clubs as well.

Kessinger suggested a cap of around 2,200 students in the new high school. There are 1,200 in the high school now. It is estimated that would grow to 1,400-1,500 when the school is completed in three years.

## One perspective **By Francis Shrum**

# Politics in the wind again

told me that "The best way to ruin a good man is elect him to public office.'

It wasn't Mark Twain that told me that, but the line may have been borrowed from his rambunctious observations on American politics.

the dust storms and this year is no exception. The same day El Paso enjoyed its first full-blown sandblasting, two of El Paso's legislative delegation hit the air waves and print media with a full scale assault on a fellow legislator in a typically petty attempt to discredit him, like teenagers squabbling over the car keys.

They favor his opponent, see.

I watch politics with a sort of morbid fascination, incredulous that the same tactics seem to work over and over at every level, from dog catcher to president.

An out-of-town political forum over the weekend provided a chuckle when one of the candidates for Hudspeth County Commissioner announced his appreciation for the fact that his two opponents hadn't engaged in "back biting or back stabbing — this time."

I figure many politicians must believe that if you repeat a bad thing about your opponent enough times people will start to believe it. Interestingly enough, it's true.

Part of that itching-ear syndrome brought on by our human nature, I

people go down in ignominious defeat at the polls because of rumors, some true and some not. I've also who are so interested in road-side wondered just how clean the closets are of their accusers, and how well they would hold up under the feeding-frenzy.

are most capable of running the counnext spring.

old- try are sitting in their rocking chairs timer once on the porch. Of course they are. Their good sense tells them that you should never wrestle with a pig — you both get dirty and the pig likes it.

It is sometimes amusing to see the tactics engaged in by the supporters of candidates. For instance, how Politics blow in every spring with many votes do you think are going to be won by defacing or stealing somebody else's political signs along the road?

> Apparently somebody thought this was a good idea and cut the centers out of numerous signs in the Horizon area belonging to a candidate for district judge. I'll bet that really swayed a lot of voters.

It's also interesting to see how much money people will spend on advertising, signs and the like, to get their name out to the public when only a fraction of that public is going to go to the polls.

Personally, it seems to make better sense to throw a real whing-ding of a party and only invite those who are registered to vote. It probably wouldn't cost too much here in El Paso County where the few make decisions for the many — but once the many got wind of how much attention and favors the few are getting, the many would join the few.

Candidate forums are as good a way as any to take the measure of a person running for office. At least you know whether he or she can string two words together in a sentence, has a limp handshake or I've seen some pretty capable doesn't look you in the eye — something you can't tell from a billboard.

I wish we could get those folks political signs before the election to be equally interested afterwards.

If they'd steal a few then we'd have same kind of scrutiny and media fewer political signs cluttering the landscape along with the rest of the I've heard it said that the men who wind-blown litter — at least until







CAN'T THEY COME YMA HTIN GU THING ORIGINAL IN HOLLYWOOD ANYMORE?

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scott@batemania.com

BATEMAN







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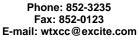
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Eye on D.C. By U.S. Rep. Henry Bonilla

# The glory of Texas

occasion for our great state. It was the anniversary of our great state's independence from Mexico. On March 2, 1836 a convention of 54

men met in the small settlement of Washington-on-the-Brazos to sign the Texas Declaration of Independence.

The Texas Declaration of Independence was produced, literally, overnight. Its urgency was paramount. While the founding fathers of Texas prepared the document, the Alamo in San Antonio was under siege by Santa Anna's army of Mexico. In near-freezing weather, in an unfinished building, the convention voted in the early morning hours of March 2nd to unanimously accept the resolution. Ultimately, 58 members signed the document.

And thus was born the Republic of Texas.

The declaration sent a sign to Mexico that Texans would no longer live under what many of them regarded as a tyrannical rule from a distant source. It was testimony that Texans were ready and willing to fight for their freedom. And fight they did.

Four days after signing the document, William Barret Travis and 184 brave men concluded their gruesome battle against more than 5,000 Mexican troops. The odds were against the Texas volunteers, but they were determined to stay the course and fight until the end. When the battle was over, only 15 people - mostly women

Last Saturday marked a special and children — were spared. Familiar names like Davey Crockett, James Bowie and Juan Badillo lost their lives that fateful day. These brave souls did not give their lives in vain. The casualties that the Texas forces mounted against Mexico, and the time lost in reducing the Alamo cut short Mexico's campaign. It gave Sam Houston just enough time to perfect his plans for the defense of Texas and enabled him to win the Battle of San Jacinto on April 21, 1836. This victory spelled a final freedom for Texas.

In the saga of Texas history, there is no period as distinctive as Texas' struggle for independence. The period's heroes are remembered in the names of cities and towns, streets, plazas and public buildings. The Lone Star flag, inherited from the original Texas Republic, still flies proudly throughout our state.

I'd like to leave you with a quote by Sam Houston just before the Battle of San Jacinto.

"We view ourselves on the eve of battle. We are nerved for the contest, and must conquer or perish. It is vain to look for present aid: none is at hand. We must now act or abandon all hope! Rally to the standard, and be no longer the scoff of mercenary tongues! Be men, be free men, that your children may bless their father's name."

Texas Independence Day is an occasion for all Texans to stand proud and remember the men who stood up for their rights and fought for their freedom.

God Bless Texas!





## Write stuff

## **Dear Editor:**

All the dentists in El Paso should move to Juarez, Mexico. This way, they can work on all potential illegals and get reimbursed from the U.S. government for this patriotic and humanitarian service.

The illegals will not have the risk of crossing the border and harassing the INS. These Texas dentists should not be required to fill out all the U.S.approved paperwork or pay income tax because they would be living in

All the dentists in Juarez, Mexico should move to El Paso, Texas and be granted automatic dental privileges. This way, they can perform better work on all the veterans and senior citizens for one-fourth of the price charged by U.S. dentists. Americans will not have to risk crossing the border. These dentists should not be required to speak English or fill out paperwork.

This way, everybody makes more money, gets better dental care and does less paperwork.

And the government will have its politically correct solution.

**Mark Connolly Horizon City** 

TRUE TEXAS FACTS by Roger Moore March 2, 1836, The Texas Declaration of Independence is adopted at Washington on the Brazos. Sam Houston turns 43.



# As the Indians became less of a threat Mexico began to worry about the Norteamericanos

History of Texas Public Lands - Part Eight

this series on how Texas came to be what it is today, we find that the eastern part of Texas had come into development, and confrontations with Native American tribes were becoming fewer and farther between.

The San Antonio Road was one of three main roads which dated into Spanish times and provided a connection from interior Mexico to Nacogdoches. The La Bahia Road was situated about 25 miles south of the San Antonio Road and connected with it east of the Navidad River. Also important was the Atoscocito Road, running east to west about 50 miles south of the San Antonio Road; it provided a route from La Bahia to

Most of the new settlements in Mexican Texas were located between the coast and the San Antonio Road. Although Native Americans and settlers still had periodic confrontations, this area was safer than others farther west. Many Native American tribes in east Texas had been "pacified" by the Spanish missions there. Going farther west or north increased the likelihood of danger by attack from the original inhabitants of the land.

Austin's Colony occupied the most ideal location, which favored its development. Though slower to develop, the area east of Austin's Colony, from Nacogdoches south, y Terán in 1829, "Norteamericanos" also acquired a large immigrant outnumbered Mexicans in Texas by population.

## Legacy of the empresarios

Mexico made more than two dozen empresario contracts, about half of which were even partially carried out. However, empresarios brought about 50,000 settlers to Texas between 1821 and 1836.

Stephen F. Austin was the most successful of the empresarios. He brought more than 1.100 families to Texas and received 22 sitios of land in payment. In addition to his contract under the 1823 law, he secured a contract under the Colonization Law of 1825 to settle 500 families, another in 1827 for 100 families, and one in 1828 for locating 300 families in the coastal area. Austin's colo- however, some came from Ireland in towns but on farms and on the cot- lies and settle them along the coast. ton or sugarcane plantations they established. Austin enforced the rules of settlement; he evicted several undesirable families, and he sometimes had questionable immigrants publicly whipped. Though strict in enforcing the taking of an oath of loyalty to the federal and state constitutions of Mexico, however, Austin allowed his personal fees to be paid either in farm products or in installments — and if a settler could not afford to pay, he waived the fee altogether.

Green C. DeWitt was another of the Mexican-era empresarios. DeWitt was one of the first Americans to become interested in Texas colonization. With Austin's help, he succeeded in obtaining a grant to bring 400 families to an area west of the Colorado River. When Indians sacked the principal town of Gonzales in 1826, the settlers moved farther south where they came into Land Office.)

TEXAS — As we continue with conflict with de León's settlers. The Mexican government settled the boundary dispute between the two empresarios in favor of de León, and DeWitt's people returned to Gonzales. Eventually, 166 land titles were issued in DeWitt's colony.

> Mexican land laws were very favorable to settlers and land-hungry Americans flooded into Texas between 1821 and 1836.

For example, the Homestead Exemption decree of 1829 prohibited the seizure of a colonist's land by creditors; only the fruits of the land or cash could be seized as payment for debt. Land in Texas cost considerably less than it did in the United States. For the price of about 90 acres in the U.S., a colonist could get 4,428 acres in Texas.

It's not surprising, then, that Anglo Americans came to Texas in great numbers; they soon made up the largest percentage of the Texas population, a fact Mexican officials noted with concern. Their alarm increased with incidents such as the unsuccessful Fredonian Rebellion in Nacogdoches in 1827, as a result of which Empresario Haden Edwards and his supporters were ousted from Texas.

This ill-fated rebellion was only one source of anxiety of the Mexican government. According to a report made by General Manuel Mier 10 to one. Mexico feared that it would lose Texas to the United States. As a result, the Mexican Congress passed the Law of April 6, 1830 prohibiting further immigration from the U.S. Foreigners entering Texas "from the North" would be required to show a passport issued in their own country by a Mexican consul. Although the law cancelled all empresario contracts, Austin was able to receive special permission to fill his contract; he also secured the same permission for DeWitt.

Another successful empresario during the Mexican period was Martín de León who, in 1824, made an agreement with the Mexican government to bring Mexican families of good moral character to Texas. Not all of León's colonists were Mexican, nists were generally educated settlers and the United States. In 1829, he "of good character" who didn't live contracted to bring another 150 fami-De León located his colony on the lower Guadalupe River. The capital of the colony, Guadalupe Victoria, had a population of more than 200 by 1833.

> Although most of his colonists were Mexican, many of them supported the Texas Revolution. The Mexican army considered them traitors, and treated them cruelly whenever passing through Victoria. After the Revolution, veterans of the Texas army labeled the citizens of Victoria "enemy aliens" and dispossessed many of them. Mexican officials were removed from office, and a new local government was organized.

> (Part IX will continue next week. The information contained in this historical series can be accessed at www.glo.state.tx.us, and is reprinted with permission of the Texas General

# Newly renovated Chamizal brings Siglo de Oro and Border Film Festivals to El Paso community

By Michelle J. Brown Special to the Courier

EL PASO COUNTY — Historical events and border life will be celebrated in special events and festivals in March at the expanded and improved Chamizal National Memorial in El Paso.

The recently renovated facilities at the national park host the 26th Annual Siglo de Oro Drama Festival March 1-9 and documentary producer Paul Espinosa's Border Film Festival March 15-17.

Located at 800 South San Marcial between the Bridge of the Americas and Bowie High School, the Chamizal is operated by the National Park Service of the U.S. Department of the Interior.

The Siglo de Oro Drama Festival

March 1-9 marks an annual celebra- with Chamizal National Memorial, is awarded to parks like the Chamizal ter also had the roof replaced. tion of the dramatic arts from Spain's Golden Age with professional and collegiate performing groups from Spain, Portugal, Mexico, Puerto Rico and Hollywood in performances of classic works by Sor Juana Iris de la Cruz, Lupe de la Vega, Tirso de Molina and Pedro Calderon de la Barca. Admission is free.

Through the power of the camera, renowned independent documentary filmmaker Paul Espinosa has given audiences around the world a deeper and fuller understanding of the complex U.S.-Mexico Border. To recognize Espinosa's critically acclaimed and award-winning contributions to art, film-making, and his career's focus on Mexican-American issues and border culture, the El Paso Community Foundation, in collaboration

hosting a three-day film festival that do not charge. showcasing Espinosa's border-related works March 15-17, 2002. Admission is free, but seating is limited.

Though many of the Chamizal's events are free — there's no admission to the Memorial itself — most movement. The seat installation comrenovations were funded by the National Park Service's Fee Demonstration Program, which takes portions of fees from admittance-charging national parks and distributes them to all national parks for improvement projects. This project resulted from congressional recognition of the funding problems facing national parks, authorizing some parks to be innovative and experiment with fees revenues for renovations and expansions. The remaining 20 percent is

With the funds, the Chamizal was able to replace all theatre seats, which were originals from 29 years ago, with more comfortable seating arranged with wider aisles to ease access and pletes a continuing renovation project of the theatre and Visitors Center.

In the past two years, the Chamizal received a series of servicewide grants and fee support to completely upgrade the aging facility. The theatre now supports a new lighting and sound system and has new curtains and a refurbished dressing room for performers. Visitors Center bathrooms were just refurbished and ofwhile retaining 80 percent of those fice and gallery space in the building have been extended. The Visitor Cen-

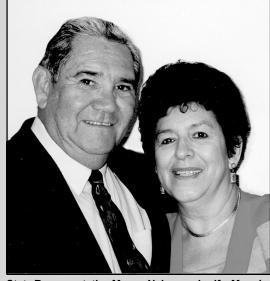
For more information about the Chamizal National Memorial and its upcoming special events, call Peggy Boone at (915) 534-0692 or Virginia Ness, Chamizal Arts Directors, at (915) 532-7273.

## Phamiliar phrases "pan out"

During the days of gold prospecting, shallow metal pans filled with water were used to sift mined material. Swirling the water slowly would spill out dirt and debris and leave the heavier gold particles behind. The modern usage indicates

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State Representative Manny Najera and, wife, Maggie.

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Proposition 7 — Veterans Benefits legislation for additional Nursing Homes and Low Interest Loans;

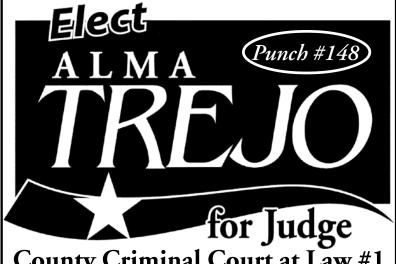
SB 19 — Healthy Kids Amendment that directs school districts to serve Elementary Students Healthy Food and to bring back both Physical Education and Health Classes.

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## **LEGAL**

## SOCORRO INDEPEN-**DENT SCHOOL** DISTRICT Invitation to Respond:

Competitive Sealed Proposals to provide all labor and materials for the construction of the Socorro Middle School Fine Arts Facility will be received at Socorro Independent School District, 12300 Eastlake Drive, El Paso, Texas 79927 until 2:30 p.m., local time, March 12, 2002, at which time the identity of the respondents will be publicly read out loud.

Proposals shall be addressed to Socorro Independent School District; all proposals

must be sealed and clearly marked as follows:

## Socorro Middle **School Fine Arts Facility**

Proposal documents will be available Feb. 28, 2002. Bidders may obtain proposal documents by contacting:

**Dimension Architects** International 4150 Rio Bravo Drive, Suite 102

El Paso, Texas 79902 Attn: Geoffrey Wright Phone: (915) 533-0875 Fax: (915) 532-8839

Proposal deposit is refundable \$100 per set in the form of a cashier's check or certified check payable to Socorro Independent School District.

A pre-proposal conference will be held on Tuesday, March 5, 2002 at 9 a.m. at the Socorro Middle School, located at 321 Bovee Road, El Paso, Texas 79927. At this conference all bidders will be afforded the opportunity to survey existing conditions and to ask questions and discuss any aspect of each project. All bidders are responsible for the information discussed, and are strongly urged to attend.

Proposals will be received at Socorro ISD Education Center, Business Services Department, 12300 Eastlake Drive until the specified times. Socorro ISD offices are open Mondays through Fridays between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. WTCC-03/07/02

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## **SELF-HELP OPPORTUNITIES**

Alcoholics Anonymous Group Paso Del Norte meets at 8501 Kingsway in Westway, Monday-Saturday, 8 p.m. Call 886-4948 for information.

Alcohólicos Anónimos Grupo Paso Del Norte sesiones lunes a sabado, a 8-9 de la tarde, 8501 Kingsway, Westway. 886-4948 para informacion.

### problem with alcohol are offered a free source of help locally. Alcoholics Anonymous Group 8 de Enero meets at 15360 Horizon Blvd. in Horizon City on Mondays through Saturdays at 8 p.m. Call

Persons who have a

Tiene problemas con el alcohol? Hay una solucíon. Visitemos. Alcohólicos Anónimos, Grupo 8 de Enero, 15360 Horizon Blvd., Horizon City, sesiones lunes a sábado a 8 de la tarde. Informacion: 859-0484.

859-0484 for information.

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# Priscilla and Gabriel Mendoza bring home the science gold

By Kelly Mosby Special to the Courier

HORIZON CITY — Priscilla Mendoza and her brother, Gabriel Mendoza, are bringing home the family gold.

Each won a Gold Sweepstakes Award at the Sun Country Regional Science Fair competition at UTEP

Priscilla, now a freshman at Americas High School, won first place and Sweepstakes at the Socorro ISD Science Fair on Jan. 26, then won first place and Gold Sweepstakes at UTEP. She also won the U.S. Navy and Marine Corps Distinguished Achievement Award and a \$250 U.S. savings bond from the Greater El Paso Section American Society of Quality.

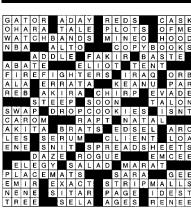
She will travel to Louisville, Kentucky on an all-expense paid trip to participate in the International Science and Engineering Fair in May.

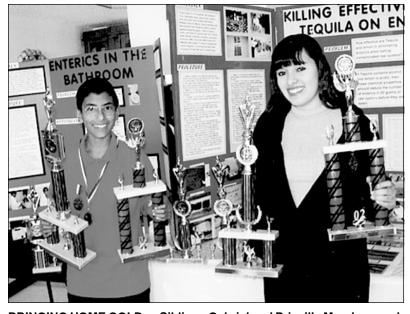
She is a member of the SISD math and science organization COSMOS, and last year advanced to the National Science Fair competition while still a student at Col. John Ensor Middle School. She is active in UIL science competition, basketball, track and golf, is an advanced senior student in Kung Fu, and president of her class at AHS.

Her younger brother, Gabriel, is currently a 7th grader at Ensor Middle, and also advanced to the Sun Country Regionals by winning first place and Sweepstakes at both his campus and at the district level for middle schools on Feb. 26. He topped the middle school division at UTEP with both first place and Gold Sweepstakes. Special awards from that competition included the Intel Excellence in Environmental Health and Science Award with a \$200 cash award; and \$250 savings bond award from the Greater El Paso Section American Society of Quality.

He is also active in UIL math, spelling, charts and graphs, cross country and track, basketball and is an advanced senior student in Kung Fu.







BRINGING HOME GOLD — Siblings Gabriel and Priscilla Mendoza each won a Gold Sweepstakes Award at the Sun Country Regional Science Fair competition at UTEP March 2.

## Children continue to die because they ride unrestrained, law officials say

ment and state officials kicked off National Child Passenger Safety Week by emphasizing the importance of properly restraining children while transporting them.

Texas and National SAFE KIDS Coalitions, the Texas Department of Public Safety, the Texas Department of Health Safe Riders Programs, and the Texas Department of Transportation opened the event by releasing the results of a national study on how many children ride unrestrained. Despite nationwide efforts to educate the public on the importance of using passenger restraints, failure to use safety restraints remains the leading cause of child traffic fatalities.

In 1999 alone, a total of 299 were killed in traffic crashes, and

AUSTIN — Texas law enforce- 154 of these were not restrained. According to the National Traffic Safety Administration, 64 percent of children killed in traffic collisions nationwide were completely unrestrained.

> Since Sept. 1, Texas law requires the following:

- Children under 4 years old or less than 36 inches tall must ride in a child safety seat in accordance to the manufacturer's instructions.
- All children ages 4 through 16 must be restrained in a seat belt, regardless of their position in the vehicle, and
- All persons age 17 or older must be restrained in a seat belt when seated in the front seat.
- Children under 18 cannot ride Texas children ages 16 and under in the open bed of a pick-up truck or trailer on a public road.



# Punch #81 CHENTE QUINTANILLA

FOR STATE REPRESENTATIVE

Pol. Ad Paid For By Hector Delgado, Treasurer; 3120 High Point, El Paso, TX 79904

# & KEEP JUDGE



## DEMOCRAT **JUSTICE OF** THE PEACE, PRECINCT 6

Endorsed by: Rtd. Judge Frank Macias Commissioner Miguel Teran El Paso Sheriff's Association

**PUNCH #205** 

Your vote for me will ensure continued, effective enforcement of our truancy and juvenile programs, and environmental health issues.

I am fully committed to our Lower Valley and East Montana Communities. I will establish a monthly Trash/Cleanup Day in these communities. We have the resources to do this through Justice of the Peace #6 Community Service Personnel Programs.

**Vote For Progress — Punch #205** Political ad paid for by Ruben Lujan, Treasurer. Campaign to Elect Ruben Lujan for Justice of the Peace, Pct. 6.





The Lettunich Family Paul Tres, Paul, Becky, Kasey, Tyler and Catherine

## QUALIFICATIONS:

- ★ Practicing attorney for 12 years St. Mary's University
- ★ Former assistant district attorney and head of gang task force
- ★ Former Clint ISD board member, 1994-2000
- ★ Former Democratic precinct chairman
- ★ CEO of Southwestern International Livestock Show and Rodeo
- ★ Born and raised in Clint, Texas, El Paso County
- ★ Lives and works in the district
- ★ Bilingual
- ★ Experienced business person

## **ELECT A QUALIFIED CANDIDATE**

Pol. adv. paid for by Frank D. Harrison, Treasurer, 6700 N. Mesa, Ste. 200, El Paso, TX 79912

# Abra, cadabra, watch WAC glory go up in smoke

By Steve Escajeda Special to the Courier

As far back as I can remember, I've always loved magic acts.

As a kid I would sit there in utter amazement as the bearded man in the black cloak and white gloves would make something that was once there disappear, like — well, like magic.

Something would exist and then just as suddenly, it was gone, just like all the momentum the UTEP football and basketball teams established last season.

Last year every El Pasoan could pump their chests out a little bit and call themselves WAC football champs. And everyone knew that we would follow last season's NIT basketball campaign with an NCAA berth this year.

But, like pulling a rabbit out of a hat, the expectation rug was pulled out from under UTEP's and all El Paso's feet.

revenue leaders, football and basketball, combined for an impressive 31-13 record and 17 total WAC wins.

Then — presto, chang-o, collap-so. This year, after last Saturday's 86-68 loss to Louisiana Tech, the two teams have combined to go 12-30 and have pulled out a mere four WAC victories.

What a year, heck, even Tim Floyd's and Nolan Richardson's jobs have disappeared.

Some El Pasoans say all the losing began when Mr. Magician put Rocky Perez and Brandon Wolfram in a box at the end of their respective season, twirled it around once or twice and made them vanish — trouble is they failed to materialize this year.

Can there be any other explanation? Other than the magical mystical world of illusion, what else could have caused this complete collapse?

Some have mentioned the Aggie curse. Sorry, I don't believe in curses I believe in magic. Hey, that could be a nice title for a song.

Anyway, what El Paso should do is take the long summer off and root for the Diablos. Get all this losing out of their minds. Oh, wait — didn't the Diablos have their worst season ever

61 Any time now

63 Exchange

72 Pool shot

74 Spellbound

75 Birth-related

77 Japanese dog

80 Extinct lemon?

84 Guitarist Paul

89 Chemical ending

91 Make the beds?

94 State of confusion

85 Antitoxin

87 Regular

88 Mauna

95 Trickster

96 Host a roast

97 Mournful poem

99 Dieter's dish

90 Tizzy

Triomphe

78 Your neighbor's

81 Paris' L'\_ de

62 Hook on a hawk

66 Forgo snacks?

71 "Say It \_ So" ('83

last summer? Forget that.

Next football season is about six months away. Maybe, just maybe, the Miners can get things together and make the horrible season that just was, disappear.

It can happen! Why, I recently saw an entire power company in Houston disappear.

## **Nolan's Hogwarts**

What the heck happened with Nolan Richardson last week? I can remember getting upset at times in my life but at least my ranting made

Richardson was bought out of his Arkansas contract last week for \$3 million after making some generalized accusations at the university during a weekly press conference.

First, he said the school had only one black head coach.

He said that he was treated differently than the other coaches.

Then he looked out at the report-Let's just do the math. Last year's ers in the room and commented that even none of them were the same color as he.

> That's fine Nolan, and you were probably right on the generalizations but why the "Sam Kennison" explosion? What specific things ticked you off so much that you practically blackmailed the Razorbacks into doing the only thing they could do and severe all ties.

> Don't get me wrong, I've sat down with Richardson in the past for an interview and found him to be candid, gracious, cheerful and always professional. But if you are going to blow up in front of the cameras, you better back up what you say with some facts or you just come off looking like — well, like Bobby Knight.

> Nolan, if you feel unappreciated, come home. We'd like to have you and if we have another basketball season like this past one, we'd love to have you.

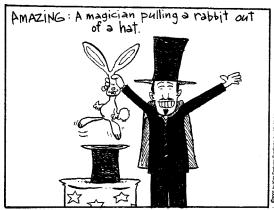
## Great basketball gym in the sky

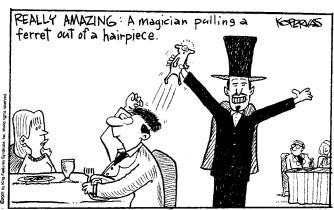
"It happened here." That's something basketball fans won't be able

See ESCAJEDA, Page 8

## **Comix**

## **OUT ON A LIMB** By Gary Kopervas





**GOT A LIFE** By Terri Davis









## THE SPATS By Jeff Pickering







22

R.F.D. By Mike Marland



# **King Super Crossword**

18

## **GET THINGS GOING**

**ACROSS** 

- 1 Florida athlete 6 TV's "Queen for ' 10 Some wines
- 14 Barrel 18 "Pal Joey" author 19 Hoffmann creation
- 20 Schemes 22 "All \_" ('84 film)
- 23 View a parade? 25 Sal of "Giant"
- 26 Parka feature 27 Shaq's pack 28 Palo \_, CA
- 29 Plagiarize? 31 Perplex 33 Mendicant monk
- 36 Bathe in butter 37 Diminish
- 40 "The Waste Land" poet 41 Nomad pad
- 42 Downsize the WBA?
- 46 Tigris-Euphrates land
- 47 Globe 50 Neighbor of Tenn.
- 51 Thiss and thaat
- 53 Norm 54 Yank opponent
- 56 Nest noise
- 58 Dodge
- 100 Corday's prev 103 Prepare to wrestle? 105 Paretsky or 52 Reeves of "Sweet Teasdale November' 106 "Well, I'll be!" 109 Kuwaiti ruler 110 Precise 55 Director Kurosawa 112 Shop till you drop? 115 Hawaii's state bird 116 Ravi-shing instru-60 Exorbitant ment?

- 117 Kid at court 118 What i.e. stands for 119 Genealogy diagram 120 Ward of "Sisters"
- 121 "Its been \_!" 122 Soprano Fleming

## **DOWN**

- 1 Wedding wear 2 "Pequod" captain
- 3 "Cheerio!" 4 Mythical monster 5 "Go. team!"
- 6 In any way 7 Football's Lavelli
- 8 Designer Gucci 9 "Absolutely!" 10 Tach meas
- 11 Bring to light 12 Patron 13 \_ aerobics
- 14 Share the mike 15 In progress 16 Cure
- 17 Converse competi-
- 21 Tofu source 24 "\_ Girls" ('79
- smash) 30 Feast 31 Enjoyed 30 Down
- 32 Vanguish 33 Terrier's tormenter
- 34 Rock's \_ Supply 35 Lewis stats
- 37 Out of range 38 III temper
- 39 Jeddah gentleman

- 40 Singer James 41 Pitfall 43 Vexed
- 44 Rosey of the Rams 45 Silent star? 46 Cloth finish?
- 47 Iridescent stones 48 Hazardous gas 49 Sportscaster Musberger
- 52 Pain in the neck 56 Egg plants? 57 Owl's crv
- 59 Colorado resort 60 Detect 61 "Git, Garfield!" 63 Prepare perch
- 64 Rouse 65 Originate 67 Bloomsbury buggy 68 Curry country
- 69 Facilitated 70 Commando weapons
- 73 Rub 76 Gibson of tennis 78 Soft cheese 79 Furrow
- 80 Gen. Robt. 81 Templeton or Baldwin 82 Learning method
- 83 Instance 86 Pepsin and lipase 87 Muck
- 91 Costa del \_ 92 Green org. 93 CPR provider

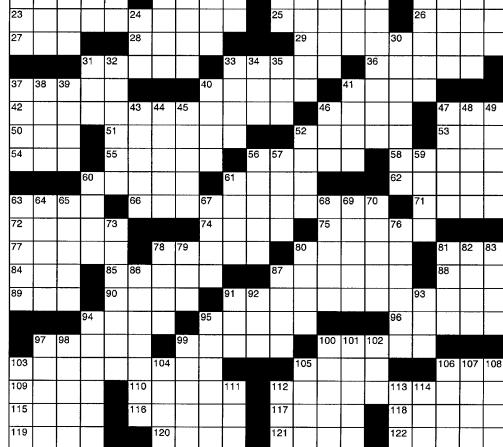
94 Lay down the law 95 Imp 97 Glue guy 98 Singer Frankie 99 Condition 100 Mrs. Simpson 101 Sign of spring 102 Seance sound 103 Confined 104 Geometry term 105 Fawn's father 106 Singer Campbell 107 Otherwise 108 Tivoli's Villa d' 111 Singing syllable

112 Loser's locale

Schoen" ('37 song)

114 Citrus cooler

113 "Bei \_ Bist Du



**Answer Page 5** 

# Build it, and then we'll see what happens

My son recently completed a my unbiased opinion, the best science project since the Big Bang.

My reason for this bold assertion is simple: I didn't have to help.

I would probably say the same thing if my son had taken two paper cups, attached them with a how the Internet works.

(This is, in fact, how Al Gore invented the Internet, as part of his seventh-grade science fair project back in 1960.)

However, at the risk of seeming immodest, I believe I deserve a Nobel Prize in the Middle School Science Fair category for the role I did play: I helped get the blasted thing to school.

You see my son did a swell job building the project — a roller coaster with several billions parts – but there was one little itsy bitsy teenie weenie, yellow polka-dot bikini problem.

It didn't fit through the door.

We made this astounding scientific discovery 30 minutes before the start of the science fair.

Unfortunately, no one in my son's class had thought to build a transporter, which is kind of sad when you consider that Star Trek had fully functioning transporters more than 30 years ago.

Oh sure, they occasionally misfired, especially when the captain was in trouble, but I don't recall through intersections. them actually losing anyone.

I'm not saying I didn't appreciate the science fair volcanoes and solar systems and whatnot, but would it have killed someone to minor repairs it was OK. build a transporter?

Being late was out of the question. It would not only be highly

my son's Permanent Record.

("I see here that you had some science fair project and it was, in sort of problem with your sixthgrade science project. I'm sorry, but we hold our associates here at the Burger 'N Burp to a higher standard.")

> But a ruined project was too horrible to consider.

If the roller coaster self-destring and explained that this is structed, I knew, there would be endless tears and wailing, and I didn't want my son to see me cry.

> (Not that I'm not a Sensitive New Age Dad in touch with my emotions. I often get choked up when the Redskins lose, and believe me that's been often enough the past few years.)

We had one factor that helped with our decision-making: We had no choice.

We squeezed the project through the door, pieces falling off both sides.

"It's OK," I said.

Down the steps. More pieces. "It's OK."

Then out the front door. Still more pieces.

"It's OK."

And into the van.

"It's OK."

It was not OK. The project was shedding parts faster than a 2month-old Christmas tree sheds needles.

Next, I drove to school at 2 miles an hour so the whole thing wouldn't collapse in a heap.

I cornered carefully; I eased

Basically, I drove as though I had an atomic bomb in the back of

But we made it, and with a few

But next year, please, somebody build a transporter.

embarrassing, it would appear on (c) 2002 King Features Synd., Inc.

## NOTICE TO PUBLIC OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT ON THE ENVIRONMENT AND NOTICE OF INTENT TO REQUEST RELEASE OF FUNDS

Village of Vinton 436 E. Vinton Road Vinton, Texas 79821 West Texas County Courier March 7, 2002

## TO: All Interested Agencies, Groups and Persons:

Seventeen (17) days after this publication, the Village of Vinton, Texas intended to request the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs (TDHCA) to release Federal funds under Title 1 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (P.L. 93-383) for Project No. 721851.

**Project Title:** Street and Flood Improvements

Contract Number: 721851

**Purpose of Project:** Construction of street and flood improvements in the Village of Vinton to improve the existing poor drainage which has been a health hazard to area residents.

Location of Project: Village of Vinton, Texas Estimated Cost of Project: \$315,000.00

## Finding of No Significant Impact

It has been determined that such a request of release of funds will not constitute an action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment and accordingly the Village of Vinton has decided not to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (P.L. 91-190). The reason for such a decision not to prepare such a Statement is based upon the fact that all environmental concerns could either be minimized or mitigated.

An Environmental Review Record for the proposed project has been made by the Village of Vinton which documents the environmental review of the project and more fully sets forth the reasons why such a statement is not required. The Environmental Review Record is on file at the Office of Community Development, Village of Vinton, 436 E. Vinton Road, Vinton, Texas 79821, and is available for public examination and copying upon request between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

## Public Comments on Findings

All interested agencies, groups and persons, disagreeing with this decision are invited to submit written comments for consideration by the Village of Vinton to the address as set forth above. Such written comments must be received at the addressed specified within sixteen (16) days after this publication. All such comments so received will be considered and the Village will not request the release of funds or take administrative action on the project prior to the date specified in the proceeding sentence.

## Release of Funds

The Village of Vinton will undertake the activities described above the Community Development Block Grant Funds under the Title 1 from its Program Year 2002 under grant numbered 721851 from the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974. The Village of Vinton is certifying to TDHCA that Mr. Samuel Monrreal in his official capacity as Mayor consents to accept the jurisdiction of the Federal Courts if an action is brought to enforce responsibilities in relation to environmental reviews, decision-making and action; and that these responsibilities have been satisfied. The legal effect of the certification is that upon its approval, the Village of Vinton may use the Block Grant funds and it will have satisfied its responsibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969. THDCA will accept an objection to its approval only on one or more of the bases and the procedures described in 24 CFR Part 58.75. Objections are to be addressed to the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs, P.O. Box 13941 Austin, Texas 78711.

Objections to the release of funds on bases other than those stated above will not be considered by the TDHCA. No objections received later than thirty-three (33) days after this publication will be considered by TDHCA.

> Hon. Samuel Monrreal, Mayor Village of Vinton 436 E. Vinton Road Vinton, Texas 79821

## **Fabens Independent School District PUBLIC NOTICE**

The Fabens Independent School District Special Education Department will be destroying confidential student information on special education students who have graduated, moved or were dismissed prior to 1993. Parents of these students may come to the Special Education Department located at 603 NE Camp Street in Fabens on Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. to claim their child's file. The remaining files will be destroyed as per state directives 30 days from the date of this notice. If you have an questions, please call 764-3816.

## **AVISO**

El Departamento de Educacion Especial del Distrito Escolar de Fabens va a destruír los archivos confidenciales de estudiantes que estaban en programa de educación especial que han graduado, se han movido, o fueron despedidos en el año escolar de 1993 o antes. Los padres de estos estudiantes pueden venir a la oficina del Departamento de Educacion Especial del Distrito Escolar de Fabens en 603 NE Camp Street, de lunes al viernes de 8:00-4:00 de la tarde a recoger los archivos de sus hijos. Los archivos que no sean recogidos van a ser destruidos como manda el estado en 30 días después de este aviso. Si tienen preguntas, llamen al teléfono 764-3816. WTCC: 03/07/02

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## Social Security: Q & A By Ray Vigil

O. Do you automatically get Medicare benefits if you're eligible for Social Security disability benefits?

A. If you receive Social Security disability benefits for 24 months, you automatically will be eligible for Medicare benefits.

O. You made some assumptions about my future earnings when you estimated my benefits on my Social Security Statement. Can I get a new Statement using other assumptions about what I expect to earn in the future and when I plan to stop working?

A. Yes, you can request a Statement with your own assumptions by completing Form SSA-7004, Social Security Statement Request Form. We will send you a new Statement in about four weeks. You also can go to our Benefits Planner at "http:// www.ssa.gov/planners/" to calculate other estimates yourself.

Q. If I work after I start receiving Social Security retirement benefits, will I have to pay Social Security and Medicare taxes?

Security and Medicare taxes on work or self-employment earnings, but your extra earnings may increase your benefits. We examine each beneficiary's record periodically to see if additional earnings may increase the monthly benefit amount. We consider any additional earnings the beneficiary may have, and the original benefit is recomputed automatically.

For more information visit your local Security office, see http:// www.ssa:gov, or call us at 1-800-772-1213. If you have any questions that you would like to have answered, please mail them to the Social Security Office, 11111 Gateway West, Attn: A. Yes, you never stop paying Social Ray Vigil, El Paso, Texas 79935.

## Escajeda

From Page 6

to say in a few weeks.

It all happened there in 1966. Five black starters in a championship game for the first time ever from a place no one, and I mean no one, had ever heard of, against the all-white kings of college basketball, the Kentucky Wildcats.

An unknown coach who was doing all he could to help integrate the game of college basketball against a famous coach that did everything he could to prevent it.

The winner: Texas Western. The loser: Kentucky. The place: Cole Field House.

The game is just a memory now and soon the gym will be as well. The University of Maryland will begin destruction of the 47-year-old building now that the regular season is over. They begin play in their new stateof-the-art facility next season.

"All good things must come to an end," I've heard it said. And the historic place that won all of us more than just a basketball game back in 1966 will soon be no more.

Maybe not in sight or touch but always in our minds, hearts and in the belief that something once considered unattainable can be changed forever through dreams and courage.

Goodbye, Cole Field House, may you rest in peace.

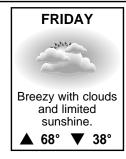
# VEATHER

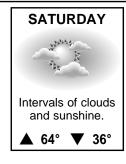
AccuWeather.com

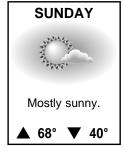
# SEVEN-DAY FORECAST FOR EL PASO

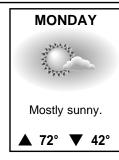


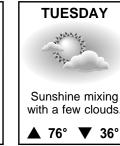


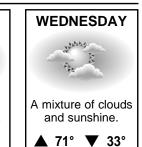












Mon

Cun

### **UV INDEX** Statistics for noon.

The higher the UV Index, the greater the need for eye and skin protection.

Thursday .	6	Moderate
	6	
	7	
	7	
	7	
Wednesda	y 6	Moderate
DEAL	CCCI T	

## REAL FEEL IEMP'

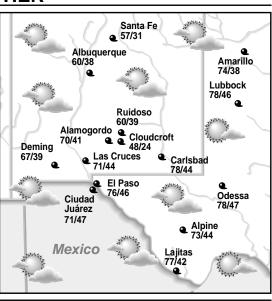
A composite of the effects of temperature, wind, humidity, sunshine intensity, cloudiness, precipitation, and elevation on the human body

itation, and diovation on the naman body.	
Thursday	78
Friday	66
Saturday	60
Sunday	
Monday	70
Tuesday	76
Wednesday	73
•	

## **TEXAS WEATHER**

Anthony	76	46			
Canutillo	77	47			
Clint	71	46			
E. Montana	76	47			
Fabens	71	45			
Horizon	77	47			
San Elizario	69	43			
Socorro	74	45			
Tornillo	71	45			
Vinton	77	47			
Chaum in Thuraday's					

Shown is Thursday's weather. Temperatures are Thursday's highs and Thursday night's lows.



## TRAVELERS CITIES

	i nur.	Fri.	Sat.	Sun.	won.
City	Hi/Lo/W	Hi/Lo/W	Hi/Lo/W	Hi/Lo/W	Hi/Lo/W
Albuquerque	60/38/pc	56/30/pc	54/30/s	60/34/s	61/32/s
Atlanta	66/47/pc	68/49/pc	72/45/pc	58/38/c	56/30/s
Atlantic City	56/36/pc	56/44/pc	58/42/pc	52/26/sh	42/20/s
Austin/San Antonio	74/57/pc	72/55/c	71/39/pc	61/40/s	69/39/s
Baltimore	60/38/pc	60/40/pc	62/40/pc	54/30/sh	42/20/s
Boston	54/36/c	46/36/c	54/42/c	48/30/r	36/18/pc
Chicago	44/38/sh	54/46/c	50/24/sh	36/20/s	34/18/sf
Dallas/Ft. Worth	72/56/pc	74/52/c	62/42/c	57/44/s	63/36/s
Denver	56/34/pc	46/24/pc	40/22/pc	52/28/s	56/24/pc
Flagstaff	45/27/pc	39/13/c	45/15/s	52/22/s	55/21/pc
Houston	76/60/pc	78/60/pc	72/48/pc	64/43/pc	70/38/pc
Kansas City	60/44/pc	69/36/c	54/18/c	40/22/s	50/30/s
Las Vegas	60/42/pc	60/38/pc	62/40/s	69/46/s	74/46/s
Miami	79/69/r	81/70/sh	81/67/s	82/64/s	75/53/s
Minneapolis	32/24/sn	38/26/sn	30/12/sn	28/14/pc	34/22/pc
New Orleans	73/58/pc	74/61/pc	73/50/t	64/46/pc	66/39/s
New York City	56/40/pc	52/40/pc	58/40/pc	50/32/r	40/22/s
Philadelphia	58/38/pc	58/40/pc	61/38/pc	52/30/sh	44/20/s
Phoenix	72/50/pc	66/46/pc	72/46/s	78/50/s	77/47/pc
Portland	42/32/sn	46/36/pc	50/40/c	53/40/sh	54/43/sh
San Francisco	52/42/pc	56/42/s	60/48/pc	58/44/sh	54/42/c
Seattle	39/32/c	44/34/pc	50/38/r	51/40/sh	52/43/sh
Tucson	72/46/pc	66/38/pc	68/40/s	72/44/s	73/41/pc
Washington, DC	62/42/pc	62/42/pc	64/46/pc	54/32/sh	46/26/s

Sat

Weather (W): s-sunny, pc-partly cloudy, c-cloudy, sh-showers, t-thunderstorms,

## AGRICULTURE

Partly sunny and pleasant on Thursday with winds from the south at 6-12 mph. A cold front will move across the region on Friday, resulting in a mostly cloudy day. No precipitation is expected with this frontal passage. A bit cooler on Saturday with clouds and sun-

All maps, forecasts and data provided by AccuWeather, Inc. ©2002

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