West Texas Count

VOL. 29, No. 14

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

APRIL 4, 2002

NEWSBRIEFS

SPAL boxer to nationals

Joe Gutierrez, an amateur boxer from Socorro, will represent the Texas boxing team at the National Tournament to be held in Las Vegas, Nevada April 2-7. This is the first time that a boxer from the Socorro People's Athletic League (SPAL) has won the USA Texas State Championship and been chosen to represent all of Texas at the national competition.

EPCC cancels election

Two candidates for the El Paso Community College Board of Trustees were expected to be certified on Tuesday, April 2, without an election as they are running unopposed. The election was canceled as a result of unopposed filings for two positions. Brian J. Haggerty was expected to be certified for District 2 and Arturo "Turi" Huerta for District 3.

In other news

- District 75 State Rep. Manny Najera was asked to assist the Texas Health and Human Services Commission in developing a Medicaid/CHIP Pediatric Asthma management pilot program in El Paso County. At Najera's recommendation, the program has been awarded to the Border Health Institute to be headed by Dr. Stanislaus Ting of Texas Tech. The program will specialize in patient education in pediatric asthma management to improve quality of life and reduce emergency room visits. In a second matter, Najera testified during the Border Environmental Cooperation Commission meeting in Austin on March 20 in support of some \$10 million in assistance for the El Paso County WCID #4 in Fabens to improve the water and wastewater system for the Fabens community.
- The Oz Glaze Senior Citizen Center will host a Rib Dinner on April 21 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. as a fundraising event. Donation of \$7.50 per plate is accepted. Call 852-0062 for information.
- The Clint School District Board of Trustees will have two positions on the ballot on May 4, currently filled by incumbents James R. Pendell and Bobby Caraway. Pendell, owner/manager of the Big 8 Food Store in Fabens, has filed for reelection; other candidates include Lupe C. Gonzales, a federal agent for the Social Security Administration; Scott P. Spitzberg, pastor of the Methodist Church in Clint; and Janice Armstrong, co-owner of the Clint Feedyards.
- Educator Hilda Lopez joined the Socorro schools as the Director of Guidance and Counseling effective March 25. She will oversee 65 counselors who serve Socorro's 28,000 students. Lopez comes to Socorro from the neighboring Ysleta school district, where she was a counselor at the Ysleta Pre-Kindergarten Center. Lopez was a state finalist for Texas Elementary Teacher of the Year in 1997. Lopez has been part of the Ysleta district's

See BRIEFS, Page 7

It appears that Congress feels its a lot easier to trim the taxpayer than the expenses.

— Quips and Quotes

Farm has heritage of serving the less fortunate Rio Vista officially recognized as state historic site

all along, but Rio Vista Farm in Socorro has now been officially recognized by the Texas Historical Commission as having historic significance, the event during the dedication ceremonies on

placed at this heritage-rich site.

The East County community will celebrate



-Photos by Rick Shrum

MARKS OF HERITAGE — The Texas Historical Marker, in English and Spanish, is already in place in front of the Rio Vista Farm building that is now Rio Vista Community Center. Socorro City Council Representative Trini Lopez, shown here, said official public dedication will be April 12. Farther in the background to the right, behind Lopez, the barracks buildings are in the process of renovation — several have new roofs and are in use by Texas Tech University. The arch and broken wall in front of the barracks are not part of the original structure — they were built by a movie crew as part of the background where the recent movie Traffic was filmed. Lopez said the arch and wall will eventually be removed.



HOSPITAL TO COURT — This structure, facing the Rio Vista Community Center, was once the El Paso County Hospital. It later became an El Paso County Sheriff's Substation until it was leased by the City of Socorro in 1993. After considerable renovation, the City's Planning and Zoning Department and Municipal Court moved to this location in October of 2000.

SOCORRO — El Paso County has known it and an Official Texas Historical Marker has been Friday, April 12 beginning at 11 a.m. at 801 Rio Vista Road in the City of Socorro.

> Constructed in 1915, the Rio Vista Farm has served a number of purposes during its long life. From 1915 to 1964 it was El Paso County's "poor farm," operating as a familial foster home for over 4,000 children and neglected elderly during those years.

> The farm was originally operated by wealthy farmer John O'Shea and his wife, Agnes, until 1929, when O'Shea died. The farm would have been closed at that time except for the intervention of their daughter, Helen O'Shea Keleher, who left her home in San Antonio to share responsibilities with her mother on the farm. She would later write that the 50 years she spent with the children of the Rio Vista Poor Farm were her proudest accomplishment.

> Rio Vista served a variety of other welfare purposes during those years, particularly during the Great Depression of the 1930s when the Texas Transient Bureau and the Works Progress Administration completed the construction of the 17-building camp intended to house transient workers.

> The camp was first used as the temporary base for a Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) unit and later as a shelter for hundreds of homeless people including entire families.

> Later, in the 1950s, the camp was the reception and processing center for the Bracero Program in which Mexican citizens were encouraged to seek temporary labor in the valley farms of El Paso County and other areas of the country.

> By 1964 the new federal welfare programs and state law had reduced the population of the farm to only four, and it was closed that year.

> The 17 buildings that comprise the Rio Vista Farm Historic District were placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1997. Since then, several of the buildings have been restored and currently function as a community center and offices for the City of Socorro.

> Socorro City Council Representative Trini Lopez said the City of Socorro has been seeking funding for several years to restore the entirety of the farm. In addition to those already in use by the City, he said, several others now have new roofs.

> Some of the buildings are also in use by Texas Tech University for various community service projects in partnership with the City.

> Willis Debusk, Chairman of the El Paso County Historical Commission which has sought the historical designation for Rio Vista, said that as the community moves forward it should not forget its past.

'Not only will the official Texas Historical Marker provide awareness in the community of the fascinating history of the Rio Vista Farm, it will become a building block for the promotion of local heritage tourism," he said.

AHA places life-saving devices in emergency vehicles in El Paso and Hudspeth Counties

sociation Texas Affiliate has awarded more than \$800,000 in matching grants to help rural communities place 796 automated external defibrillators (AEDs) in their first-responder vehicles. These life-saving devices are used to restart the heart when a person suffers from sudden cardiac arrest.

The grants were made to 189 different agencies in 93 counties. The majority of these lifesaving devices will be placed in law enforcement vehicles, such as police and sheriff deputy cars, and in fire and EMS vehicles.

In El Paso and Hudspeth Counties, 39 AEDs were funded for the following agencies: two for the El Paso County Emergency Services District #1 in San Elizario/Clint; 36 for the El

WEST TEXAS — The American Heart As- Paso County Emergency Services District #2 in Horizon; and one for the Sierra Blanca Volunteer Fire Department and Rescue.

"In rural areas, often the sheriff's deputy or fire department volunteers arrive on the scene critical minutes before the ambulance gets there. In many cases, having an AED onboard these first-responder vehicles means that a cardiac arrest victim will get the shock needed to restart their heart within the first couple of minutes of collapse. In some remote areas of Texas, the ambulance response time can be much longer," said David Loose-Mitchell, Ph.D., president of the American Heart Association Texas Affiliate.

He added that, in cases of cardiac arrest, the most crucial factor is often the time between

when the heart stops and when it is restarted with an AED. While CPR can keep blood flowing to the brain until the AED arrives, it can't restore the normal heart rhythm. The longer the person waits for the AED, the less chance that the normal rhythm will be restored.

"Each minute we lose waiting for an AED means a 10 percent less chance that the patient will survive," said Dr. Loose-Mitchell. "If we can get an AED to these folks in under five minutes, we can save thousands of lives every

Each year, 18,000 Texans suffer sudden cardiac arrest, either from heart disease or from trauma such as drowning or electrical shock.

See AHA, Page 3



One perspective **By Francis Shrum**

Turning the other cheek

"cheeky."

You know, that sort of behavior where a person exceeds the limits of acceptable behavior with complete disregard for his fellow humans.

It happens everyday in a thousand little ways, like when your fellow shopper leaves his cart in the parking space you are attempting to pull into and "smiles" at you as he walks away.

But it also happens on a larger, more intense scale, and thanks — or perhaps no thanks — to national media, we know about it.

Consider: A one-legged inmate set to be executed in a Texas prison requested an artificial leg so he could walk to the death chamber. He said he came into the world with two legs and wanted to go out with two legs — at a cost of \$8,000 in tax dollars. He didn't say how many legs his victim had when he killed a man during a robbery.

Consider: An undercover television reporter in Madrid won a regional Spanish beauty pageant though she was seven years over the age limit and tottered unsteadily on her high heels. You see, she paid a beauty pageant organizer 27,000 euros (\$23,870) to fix the deal so she would win. She said she was doing it for the benefit of all women because they are treated "like fairground monkeys" — but she didn't withdraw from advancing to competition for the title of Miss Spain until she was found out.

Consider: A frustrated would-be deer hunter in Florida who failed to find a deer instead took his blood lust out on two horses and a dog. When few folks on "the other side," it seems

My grandmother called it the 20-year-old didn't find a deer, his friends said, he shot up a few street signs, then went looking for a live kill. He randomly wounded a horse and a dog with his shotgun as he drove along the road, then stopped, climbed into the back of the truck and fired a bow and arrow at an Arabian gelding, killing it.

> Sounds like the legendary dragon which, if not provided the wealth and treasure of the kingdom, will devour the children instead.

> Consider: In Germany, a man was trying to park his car but was unable to do so because a car behind him was blocking his way. The man got out to ask the other driver — a kickboxing enthusiast in his early twenties — to move his car. He was subsequently delivered a kick to the head and died one hour later in a hospital.

> Now, I can't help but wonder what went on in the lives of people who do things like this — what was it that tipped the scales in their minds toward the belief that it was acceptable to trod on the well-being of others just because they felt like it?

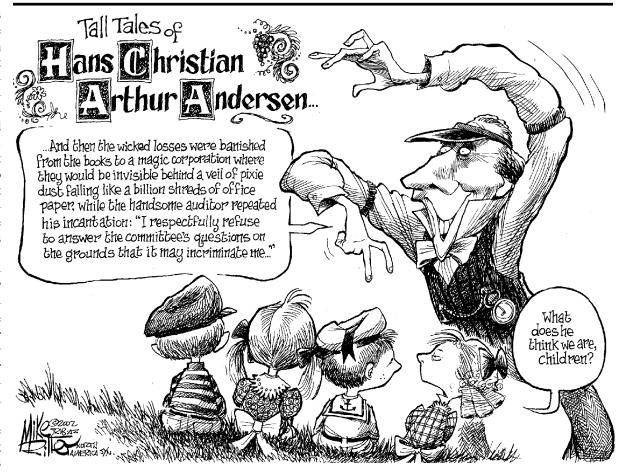
> Were they abandoned, abused, neglected, or are they just plain mean?

> Still, we see it in our own neighborhoods, our own schools, maybe across our own dinner table if we ever sit down to it. How well do we know the young person who used to be our little darling but is now our little daredevil? Have we set the right example, made the right connections?

> Oddly, as we learn more and more about the dangerous and growing number who would blow themselves up in an airplane or a crowded street or restaurant in the hope of killing a



HUMAN REPRODUCTION in the NOT-TOO-DISTANT FUTURE



they do so with the blessing of their closest community, even their relatives, with the possible exception of life. their mothers.

Like my grandmother said, cheeky behavior won't get you very far in

And maybe that is the whole another.

Too many people seem to just be anxious to get out of life, one way or

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Letter must not be more than 250 words in length. They should be dated, must be signed and have an address and daytime phone number. Only the name and city will be printed with the letter. The Courier reserves the right not to print letters to the editor or other submitted materials it considers inappropriate

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Monday 4 p.m. for Thursday publication.

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\$5 for 15 words, \$10 for 35 words. Ad must be in writing and pre-paid. The classified advertising it considers inappropriate.

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

A taxing time of year

Many of you are no doubt reading this column at the breakfast structions every table, juggling the morning paper, cup of coffee, and cereal as you try to get off to work. If your son or daughter were to ask why you

go to work, you would probably say something like, "to buy groceries, buy your clothes, and pay the bills."

Fair enough. But in the coming week, we'll be staring down the biggest bill of all: the federal income tax. It's a bill that costs the average American more than food, clothing, and shelter combined. The first two hours of every work day is spent making enough money to pay for your slice of the government's tax revenue pie.

Spring should be the time of year when we take stock and focus our attention on the year ahead. But for most of us, Spring is the season of headaches and frustration as we crunch and re-crunch numbers while filling out those dreaded IRS forms before the April 15th deadline. Instead of spending time with our families, we are stuck trying to figure out the federal tax code.

As you finish filling out your tax forms and write yet another check to the IRS, here are some facts to help put in perspective the amount of time and money that is taken from us each year to pay our taxes.

• Americans pay more in taxes than for food, clothing and shelter combined.

• The IRS sends out 8 billion pages of forms and in-

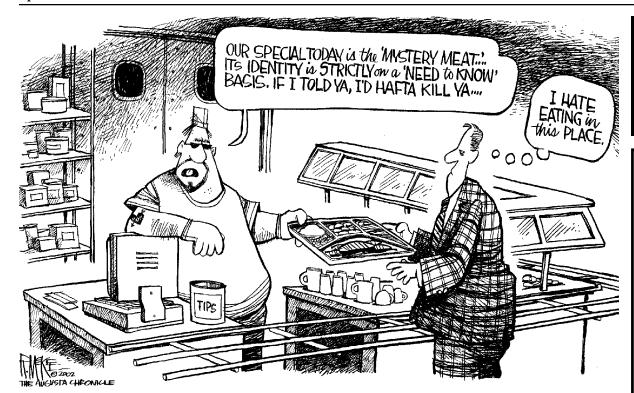
year. Laid end to end, they would circle the globe 28

- Taxes eat up over 38 percent of the average family's income. • The average American worked until May 7 last year just to pay his or her share of federal, state and local
- taxes. That's the first 128 days of your year. • This year nearly 60 percent of Americans will be forced to pay a tax professional to help them with their
- Almost the entire second income of a two-income family goes to pay taxes.
- Instructions for the 1040EZ, the easiest personal income tax form, are 33 pages long.

These are just a few reasons why this Congress worked so hard last year to reduce your tax burden. We made great strides, but we still have a long way to go. I feel confident that with your support and President George W. Bush's assistance, we will solve the tax trouble once and for all.

Families in Texas should not have to pay so much of their hard earned money in taxes or be hassled by a burdensome tax code. You deserve to keep more of what you earn so you can do more for your families, churches and communities. After all, it is your money.





LUNCHTIME in the SECRET SHADOW GOVERNMENT BUNKER CAFETERIA





from left is Miguel Sifuentes, sophomore platoon leader; Admiral Paul K. Arthur, Edgar Felix, senior executive officer; Edgar Rodriguez, senior company commander inspector; Freshman Cadet Mindy Bosanko.

Canutillo given excellent rating after NJROTC inspection

School NJROTC cadets received an excellent rating after going through their annual inspection recently. Retired Admiral Paul K. Arthur conducted the personnel inspection as part of the program's requirements.

Admiral Arthur, accompanied by Gunners Mate Second Class Chris Stuitt and Fire Controlman Second Class Antonio Chavez, also reviewed the NJROTC program including curriculum, facilities and achievements.

"The overall rating of the program was excellent. The Admiral said that

CANUTILLO — Canutillo High the cadets looked very well," said Captain Charles Young, CHS military science instructor. Young, a retired Marine captain, has been head of CHS's NJROTC program since 1979. Assisting Captain Young is Petty Officer First Class Pete Soto, who is in his second year at Canutillo High.

This year's Student Commander is Edgar Rodriguez, senior. Executive Officer is Jacob Felix, senior. CHS's WEST TEXAS COUNTY NJROTC program has 60 students enrolled in the program this semester.

Canutillo High's Naval program has Newspapers work! been in existence since 1972.

AHA

From Page 1

Currently, more than 95 percent of those victims die before reaching a hospital.

The grant award requires each agency to purchase their AEDs within 90 days of the award. Except for a few agencies where training will be needed, the AEDs can be put into use within 24 hours of delivery.

"The American Heart Association Texas Affiliate has made emergency response a priority in its programs," said Pat Ayala of El Paso, Chair of the Board of Directors for the Te Affiliate. "Not only are we helping to fund AEDs in first responder vehicles, we're spending \$1.5 million to put thousands of CPR-trained citizens into Texas communities through our CPR in Schools program. In 2002, the Texas Affiliate is investing nearly \$2.4 million dollars to ensure that we do a better job of saving lives. That's in addition to the more than \$8 million we're spending on Texas research programs and the \$11 million on prevention, treatment and professional education programs."

Put us to work for you. 852-3235

The History of Texas Lands will continue next week due to space considerations.



PENDELL **School Board** Trustee

Clint Independent School District

Serving the Clint, East Montana and Horizon Communities

- Clint School Board Secretary: 1993 1998
- Clint School Board President: 1998 Present
- Owner/Operator Fabens S & S Big 8 Food Store My children attend Clint schools

Election Day: May 4, 2002 Early Voting: April 17 - 30, 2002

Pol. adv. paid for by Jim Pendell, 14501 North Loop Rd., Clint, TX 79836

City of Horizon City PUBLIC NOTICE

FAIR HOUSING A Fundamental Entitlement for all Americans

As we approach the 34th anniversary of the National Fair Housing Law, Horizon City joins others in El Paso County urging all citizens to become aware of and support the Fair Housing Law. Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968, as amended, prohibits discrimination in housing and calls for a national policy for fair housing. This national policy can only be successful with the cooperation of all Americans. This policy prohibits discrimination against any person on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, age, handicap, familial status or national origin in the sale or rental of units in the housing market. The City Council of Horizon City proclaims April as Fair Housing Month.

For more information on Fair Housing or to report possible Fair Housing discrimination, call the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development at 1-800-669-9777.

> Sandra Sierra City Clerk

WTCC: 04/04/02

TRUE TEXAS FACTS by Roger Moore April 13, 1839, Waterloo, on the east bank of the Colorado River, is selected as the site for the Capitol City of the Republic.



View from here

David and Goliath - never ending?

(The following is an opinion piece that appeared in the March issue of the Gazette, a publication of the El Paso County Water Improvement District No. 1. It was submitted to the Courier by R.C. Wilson of Clint.)

How is it that the Biblical battle between David and Goliath did not stop when David placed a stone in his slingshot and knocked

down Goliath?

Today the age-old defeat of the giants by someone or some entity much smaller continues to happen. It seems that Corporate America continually challenges small businesses. Look at what Wal-Mart has done to the small businessperson. They have put him/her out of business or at least have tried to put them out of business.

In the world of water the cities have allowed their

populations to explode without any effort to curb such population expansion. Once the city reaches an alarming level of growth, they become the giant and/or Goliath and take the attitude that water belongs to them and everyone should lay down and let them take what they need at a very low or no cost. Yet, they charge high enough rates to build large administration buildings, purchase acres and acres of land regardless of price, or even hire more consultants than they ever use properly.

The El Paso Water Utilities Public Service Board (Goliath) has recently filed a complaint with the Texas Natural Resources Conservation Commission (TNRCC) complaining about the cost of water under the Third Party Implementing Contract in which the PSB and District agreed to and signed in January 2001. It is interesting that the PSB signed the Contract agreeing to the different prices but now wants to change these prices. What a shame! What a shame!

Anthony Independent School District

Combined Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balances -All Governmental Fund Types and Expendable Trust Fund Year Ended August 31, 2001

			Governmental Fund Types			Totals (Memorandum Only)	
Data Contr Code		100-199 General Fund	200-499 Special Revenue Fund	500-599 Debt Service Fund	600-699 Capital Projects Fund	98 August 31, 2001	97 August 31, 2000
	REVENUES: Local and Intermediate Sources: Investment Income Other Local and Intermediate Sources	\$ 136,436 1,565,101	\$ <u> </u>	\$ 1,609 170,915	\$ 100,327 —	\$ 238,372 1,736,016	\$ 340,016 1,719,938
5700 5800 5900	Total Local and Intermediate Sources State Program Revenues Federal Program Revenues	1,701,537 3,944,241 304,345	45,080 422,631	172,524 237,287 —	100,327 — —	1,974,388 4,226,608 726,976	2,059,954 4,126,872 627,193
5020	Total Revenues	5,950,123	467,711	409,811	100,327	6,927,972	6,814,019
	EXPENDITURES: Current:						
0010 0020 0030	Instruction and Instructional-Related Services Instructional and School Leadership Support Services - Student (Pupil)	3,385,550 320,895 877,151	425,314 31,729 10,423	_ _ _	_ _ _	3,810,864 352,624 887,574	3,442,688 221,366 769,647
0040 0050 0060	Administrative Support Services Support Services - Nonstudent Based Ancillary Services	413,533 769,536 19,962	245 —	_ _ _	_ _ _	413,533 769,781 19,962	384,718 532,529 20,144
0070 0080	Debt Service Capital Outlay	127,875 5,625	_ _	409,989 —	1,487,580	537,864 1,493,205	527,075 3,522,019
6030	Total Expenditures	5,920,127	467,711	409,989	1,487,580	8,285,407	9,420,186
1100 7020	Excess (Deficiency) Revenues Over (Under) Expenditures Other Resources	29,996	_	(178)	(1,387,253)	(1,357,435)	(2,606,167) 1,235,000
1200	Excess (Deficiency) of Revenues and Other Resources Over (Under)			-			1,233,000
	Expenditures and Other Uses	29,996	_	(178)	(1,387,253)	(1,357,435)	(1,371,167)
0100	Fund Balance — September 1 (Beginning)	3,950,881		(219,232)	900,084	4,631,733	6,002,900
3000	Fund Balance — August 31 (Ending)	\$ 3,980,877	\$ —	\$ (219,410)	\$ (487,169)	\$ 3,274,298	\$ 4,631,733

Classified Ads

LEGAL

SOCORRO INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT Invitation to Bid/ Respond:

Sealed bids/proposals/ CSP to furnish the District with the following products and/or services accepted at the following

> **CAFETERIA UTENSILS AND EQUIPMENT** CSP NO. 199-0416-0250 TUESDAY, APRIL 16, 2002, 2:30 P.M.

Proposals will be received at Business Services Dept., 12300 Eastlake Drive, until the specified times. Detailed specifications are available from the above office between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. Mondays through Fridays.

WTCC-4/4/02

SOCORRO INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT Invitation to Bid/ Respond:

Sealed bids/proposals/ CSP to furnish the District with the following products and/or services accepted at the following

LANDSCAPING, **XERISCAPING AND MASONRY MATERIALS** CSP NO.199-0411-0245 THURSDAY, **APRIL 11, 2002,** 2:00 P.M.

Proposals will be received at Business Services Dept., 12300 Eastlake Drive, until the specified times. Detailed specifications are available from the above office between 8 a.m. and Fridays. WTCC-4/4/02

SOCORRO INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT Invitation to Bid/ Respond:

Sealed bids/proposals/ CSP to furnish the District with the following products and/or services accepted at the following

AIR CONDITIONER ACCESSORIES CSP NO. 199-0410-0243 WEDNESDAY, **APRIL 10, 2002,** 3:00 P.M.

Proposals will be received at Business Services Dept., 12300 Eastlake Drive, until the specified times. Detailed specifications are available from the above office between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. Mondays through 4 p.m. Mondays through

Fridays. WTCC-4/4/02

THE EL PASO COUNTY WATER CONTROL AND IMPROVEMENT DIS-TRICT NO. 4 in Fabens, Texas at 117 East Main Street, 79838 will be acception applications for TWO full-time positions in water and wastewater operations. The applicant would preferably have a double "C" license certification in water and wastewater operations. Any license for water and wastewater and/or experience will be considered for all applicants. Previous applications will be considered. Apply and deliver applications in person only to the District office at 117 East Main Street in Fabens, Texas. Positions to be filled im-

mediately.

WTCC-4/4/02

PET CARE

Canine to Feline: Pet care at your convenience, in your house. Call Patty, 852-3873.

REAL ESTATE

LOTS WITH UTILITIES Horizon area. Close to schools. Five minutes to

grocery, bank, gas, bakery, deli and other amenities. One-quarter to one acre. Financing available. 852-3069 2/28-4/18

THREE BEDROOM, 2 bath, 2-car garage, 15355 Northport Crt. in Horizon City. Fully renovated, has appliances. Call 590-2975.

RENTALS RESIDENTIAL

FOR RENT: Three bedroom, 2 bath house in Horizon City. Available

April 15, Call 852-3054 or 755-1730.

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.

Persons who have a 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 859-0484 for information.

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

SERVICES

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852-1079

View from here By Bill Hammond

Texas voters concerned about health care, jobs

It's no secret that because of health care as one of the most critisteadily rising costs Texas employers have struggled for years to continue providing health insurance to their employees. Small business owners know this story as well as anyone, and for most businesses health insurance is a top priority.

Most people expect their benefit package at work to include a health insurance component. It's almost a given in today's business world; an incentive to attract and keep valuable

This state's employers are the primary source of private health insurance for those citizens who are fortunate enough to have coverage.

Business owners across this state have watched in dismay as rising health care costs, which they have almost no control over, fueled an increase in premiums of more than 10 percent last year. Employers are increasingly frustrated with the benefits they can afford to provide their employees even though health insurance is a substantial cost of doing business.

Against this backdrop, the Texas Association of Business & Chambers of Commerce (TABCC) recently commissioned a statewide survey to find where employees, who are the citizens and voters of Texas, stood on the issue.

Somewhat surprisingly, the poll found 45 percent of Texans say health care is as important to them as their job or the economy and they view

cal issues facing their families. TABCC discovered that that availability of health insurance isn't just an employer issue, but a broad-based consumer issue.

The pollster could not recall health care polling as high as it did in this survey. Nearly half the 800 voters surveyed during the week of Feb. 10-14, 2002, ranked health care and economic concerns ahead of education, taxes, crime and traffic.

Other key findings of the survey

- Three in five voters 62 percent - are looking to the Texas Legislature to keep health care affordable.
- 81 percent of voters identified holding the line on costs as the single more important health care issue.
- 78 percent of poll respondents receive health insurance coverage through their employer.

This poll clearly shows how acute the issue of health care has become, and now is the perfect time to address

All Texans are feeling the effects of a slowing economy. Employers are being squeezed between reduced profits and astronomical increases in their premiums. Since business owners are often forced to choose between eliminating benefits and reducing their workforce to make ends meet, it's understandable that the public's top concerns are jobs and

One fourth of Texas residents almost 5 million people — lack health insurance, the highest percentage of any state in the nation. Inaction will result in insurance being priced out of the reach of more and more employers and employees, and the number of uninsured will swell.

I urge officeholders and candidates at all levels to make health care the top-level issue that Texas voters have identified it as and begin addressing the problem immediately. But little progress is likely without a commitment from all interested parties. That includes consumers, medical providers, insurance firms, pharmaceutical companies, state regulators and

Health care is bigger than TABCC or any single group or industry. It is a non-partisan issue that is too important to be left to special interest groups. As a public policy issue, it should rank at the top of this state's

I call on all interested parties to sit down together and work toward a solution that results in an affordable, accessible system of health care that all Texans can point to with pride.

(Bill Hammond is president and CEO of the Austin-based Texas Association of Business & Chambers of Commerce (TABCC), which represents 140,000 employers and 200 local chambers of commerce in this state.)

Former Horizon resident, Louise Hill, dies

former resident of Horizon City, a health care center in Louise Hill, has passed away at the Wernersville, Pennsylvania, near age of 95 years.

Mrs. Hill had lived in Horizon her health had been in decline. for many years and with her husmental in founding the Horizon City Community Chapel.

Fred Hill died some years ago

WERNERSVILLE, PA — A and Louise Hill had been living in relatives. Since the first of the year

She is survived by four children, band, Fred Hill, she was instru- 10 grandchildren and 14 greatgrandchildren.

> Contributed by Henrietta Brown

Anthony Independent School District PUBLIC NOTICE

A PUBLIC HEARING will be held at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, April 16, 2002 during the Regular School Board Meeting at the Anthony Middle School Library, 610 Sixth Street, Anthony, Texas. Purpose of the public hearing is to allow any interested person to appear and testify regarding the following proposed First Date of Instruction Waiver.

1) Anthony Independent School District is intending to request a waiver from the Texas Education Agency to begin school for the 2002-2003 School Year on August 14, 2002.

Those who are unable to attend may submit their views in writing to the Office of the Superintendent, Anthony Independent School District, 610 Sixth Street, Anthony, Texas 79821.

WTCC: 04/04/02

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Date: Saturday, April 27, 2002 Time: 9:30 a.m.

Location: 5523 Naranjo Road (NOTE: From the Intersection of HWY 273 and Naranjo Rd. go east 1/4 mile on Naranjo Rd. to sale site. WATCH FOR SIGNS ON HWY 273.)

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PUBLIC NOTICE CITY OF SOCORRO, TEXAS

PROCLAMATION OF APRIL AS FAIR HOUSING MONTH

WHEREAS Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968, as amended, prohibits discrimination in housing and declares it a national policy to provide, within constitutional limits, for fair housing in the United States; and

WHEREAS The principle of Fair Housing is not only national law and national policy, but a fundamental human concept and entitlement for all Americans; and

WHEREAS The thirty-fourth anniversary of this National Fair Housing Law, during the month of April, provides an opportunity for all Americans to recognize that complete success in the goal of equal housing opportunity can only be accomplished with the help and cooperation of all Americans.

NOW, THEREFORE, WE, the City Council of the City of Socorro, do proclaim April as Fair Housing Month in the City of Socorro and do hereby urge all the citizens of this locality to become aware of and support the Fair Housing law.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF we have affixed our signatures and seal on this the 3rd day of April 2002.

> Amado D. Padilla Mayor

Witness: Tere Rodriguez Interim City Clerk

WTCC: 04/04/02

Davis is a ray of sunshine after Indiana's long, dark Knight

By Steve Escajeda Special to the Courier

I wonder how the idiots of Indiana are feeling right about now?

Oh, I don't mean all the people of Indiana, of course. I mean all the idiots that were so taken with winning basketball games that they made excuse after excuse for every embarrassing thing Bobby Knight did year after year.

Huh, kind of reminds me of Clinton's sup-

Anyway, those people flipped common decency on its head when it came to Knight. Parents said they didn't care if Knight kicked, hit or choked their kid — they would still send them to play for him. Talk about child abuse.

The college put up with so much for so long just because they had a chance to win basketball games and make more money. It didn't matter that Indiana basketball had become a national embarrassment.

It didn't matter that Knight verbally abused his players, verbally abused faculty and staff members, threw chairs on courts, punched foreign policemen, physically threw a reporter out of the locker room, fired a blank starter's pistol at a reporter, punched a courtside telephone, shoved an LSU fan into a garbage can, chewed out a cheerleader during a game, kicked, choked and head-butted players...oh, and once as you possibly can — you will hear the words

even made the comment during a Connie shouted out from every part of the country. Chung interview that if rape was inevitable, relax and enjoy it.

Well, how do you feel now? Those people must feel pretty small today after what the Hoosiers, under new coach Mike Davis, accomplished this year.

One Indiana player put it best recently — he said there was no longer a sense of fear at Indiana. Davis has instilled calm, courtesy and class to the Hoosiers' basketball program.

Maybe we should add professionalism and grace to that list.

When was the last time you heard any of those words and "Bobby Knight" in the same

Those idiots in Indiana now realize there is a right way and a wrong way to do things and they supported the latter for way too long.

Congratulations, Mike Davis, on teaching the young Hoosiers how to win in basketball, and teaching the old Hoosiers how to win in

The new Indiana: Number two in the NCAA tournament but firstr in class.

Play ball

It's here, it's finally here. And you can't mis-

If you stay quiet for just a second, step outside and stretch those ears to hear as far away

Yes, those two beautiful words..."Play ball!" The long and vet wonderful season of baseball has finally begun and every team in the

majors and every fan of every team in the majors feels they've got a chance to win the World Series...except the Red Sox and Cubs, of course.

And that brings me to some important questions about the upcoming season. I mean, the last time we saw this game, 911 had just occurred and we saw President Bush calmly walk onto the mound at Yankee Stadium and fire a perfect strike as if to tell the Taliban there would be more perfect strikes yet to come.

We saw Luis Gonzalez hit a little blooper to center that scored the winning run as the Arizona Diamondbacks dethroned the New York Yankees for the title.

But what kind of stories will dominate this season?

Who will be this year's Ichiro? Will Curt Schilling and Randy Johnson have the same kind of year they have last season? Will Ken Griffey Jr. put a perfect season together and hit 75 home runs? How long will it take before Carl Everett and John Rocker to go at it in the Texas Rangers' clubhouse?

The questions just keep coming. Who will the new surprise team this year? What monumentally stupid act will be perpetrated this year? Who will rise from the obscurity to be the game's next young superstar? Who will be

the big disappointment? Can the Diamondbacks repeat? Will the Astros, A's or Giants finally get over the hump?

Baseball is here, the coming of all things new, just like in nature — everything is new again.

Missing

One more observation, even though the great game of baseball goes on and on, it will look mighty different this season without Cal Ripken Jr. in Baltimore, Tony Gwynn in San Diego and Big Mac swinging that lethal piece of lumber in the batting cage.

Class is a mighty rare thing now-a-days. That's why these three names stand out.



Clint player dunks her way to the top

TWICE A WINNER — Ashley Pacheco of Clint has been selected as the Girls Offensive Most Valuable Player for the Horizon City Optimist Basketball League for the second consecutive year in the 10 and under age group. Her team, the Slam Dunkers, played nine games in the 2002 season and were undefeated, claiming the Championship title. The Horizon Optimist League fielded a total of 15 teams this year, made up of 180 players in two age groups: 8-10 years and 10-12 years. Players came from the Clint, Socorro and Horizon areas. Ashley is the daughter of Ramon and Cheryl Pacheco.



Americas dancers place first and fourth in regional competitions

The all-girl dance troupes from Americas High School entered two dance competitions during March and placed well in both. Fortissimo, the 20-girl-strong Americas dance troupe of experienced dancers, placed first in the Winterguard Rocky Mountain Regional contest in Denver, Colorado March 16. The Americas Winterguard group of 14 girls from all high school grades placed fourth in the Wintergreen International/Southwest Regional Contest March 9 in Las Vegas, Nevada. Joseph Manago is director of the teams.

King Super Crossword GUY STUFF

ACROSS

1 "Doctor Zhivago"

5 "The _ Daba Honeymoon" ('14 song) 8 Type of orange

13 Big name in travel 18 Son of Rebekah 19 Puppy bites

21 Singer Shirley 22 "_ Gay'

23 Guy Mitchell tune 26 Claire of "Brokedown Palace" 27 Jolt

28 Coarse flour 29 White lie 31 Dit's cousin 32 Seafood selection

34 Certain horses 38 Round Table knight 41 "The Odd Couple"

44 "The Jungle Book" bear 45 Artless

46 Tennis legend 47 WWII site 49 Buffalo waterfront 51 "Taras Bulha" au-

thor 54 Mineral suffix 55 Guy de Maupassant story 59 42 Down's mistress 60 Vasco the voyager 63 '70 Jackson 5 hit

64 Baby bird? 66 Zeus, to Apollo 67 "Exodus" author 68 Auto pioneer 71 McGregor of "Moulin Rouge'

72 When the French 73 Faded away 75 Guy Lafleur's team 78 Made eyes at

80 Urchin 81 Inland sea 83 Semester 84 Entreaty 85 Card game

86 Printer's stroke 3 Talk wildly 88 Recede 90 Soccer team 5 Abby's twin 93 Puzzle direction 6 Loud lout 95 Guy Kibbee film 99 Word form for 9 Everything

"outer" 100 Confer 102 "What's _ for me?" 103 Libertine 104 "So this is the thanks !" 105 Call to mind 108 Rattle

110 Abide 112 Stopped a sedan 113 Fitzgerald or Raines 114 Steep slope 115 Seed 116 Humor 118 "_, Brute?"

120 Mortgage, e.g.

123 Parcel out 126 Guy Lombardo hit 132 Steakhouse order 133 Desert refuge 134 Swedish import 135 Mozart's

Clemenza di 136 Brolin/Sellecca se 137 Range rope 138 Three, in Turin

139 1492 or 1776 DOWN

1 Actor Tremayne 2 Sale stipulation 4 Monsieur Rodin 7 Director Michael 8 One of the Bushes

10 Winter malady 11 Vassal's holding 12 Commission 13 Nourished 14 "_ Carousel" ('67

15 Guy Williams role 16 New York city 17 Hasty 20 _ Na Na 24 Foot part 25 Exile site 30 Herd word 33 They sport

dreadlocks

35 Waugh or Baldwin 36 Michael of "Caba-39 Assumed mane?

40 Revlon rival 41 A sweeping success? 42 Movie terrier

43 Guv Fawkes conspiracy 44 Candy 48 Grazing ground 50 Consumed 52 Emulate

Demosthenes 53 Filled the hold 56 Celebrity 57 Intimidates 58 Cy Young stat 61 Fxist 62 He had a gilt complex 65 Hillock

69 Presidential monogram 70 Vamp 73 Dorian Gray's cre-

ator 74 O'Neill's "_ for the Misbegotten" 75 "Fame" star 76 Cover story? 77 Board 79 "_ whiz!" 82 Yank opponent

84 Murcia money

87 It's good to have

92 Chris of "Sex and the City 94 Scotia 96 Window part 97 Nat. of Naples 98 Brawny 101 Pan for Yan 104 Irreverence 106 London's - Gardens 107 Magazine employee 109 Columnist Herb 111 French airport 112 Tolkien character 114 Mar. honoree 115 Walkway 117 Siamese 119 OB's stats 121 Sedgwick or Falco

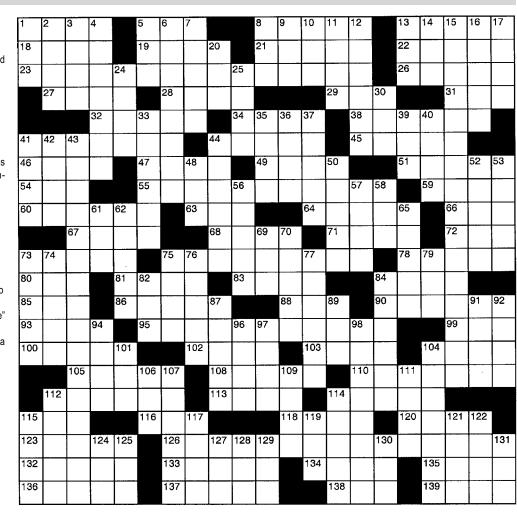
around the house

91 Part of CEO

89 Buddy

122 Part of NB 124 TV's "Life to Live' 125 Aviv 127 Maestro _ Pekka Salonen 128 Fragment 129 Botanist Gray 130 Lyman or Lincoln 131 Scand. country

Answer Page 7



Did you read the latest 'Phenomenal No. 1 Bestseller'?

By Don Flood

Call it the Case of the Out-of-Control Collector.

Post reporter, recently wrote a book called "The Bureau and the Mole: The Unmasking of Robert Philip Hanssen."

Lately, there's been a little attempted unmasking of Mr. Vise.

has been busy promoting his book, which has been selling quite well.

In fact, in at least one area of the country the book is more than just a bestseller: it's a Publishing Phenomenon!

That one area is Mr. Vise's own household, which during January and February purchased between 16,000 and 18,000 copies of the many of which wound up being re-

raised a few eyebrows.

There has even been some talk that Mr. Vise purposely bought a few extra, um, thousand copies as a marketing ploy, to send the book up the bestseller lists.

According to The Washington Post — which did a story on its own reporter — Vise "firmly de- business believes him.

In fact, to be completely fair, let me make sure everyone understands David A. Vise, a Washington that. Mr. Vise "denies this" and he denies it "firmly."

> (Things have gotten a little slower these days at the Post. They've been reduced to investigating each other.)

But this mention of the bestseller list leads to an extremely important As might be expected, Mr. Vise digression, did you ever wonder how it seems every book is "The Phenomenal No. 1 Bestseller!"

Wouldn't you think that every now and then a book might be the "The Somewhat Impressive No. 6 Bestseller!" or "The So-So No. 43 Bestseller!" or even, heaven forbid, "The Disappointingly Slow No. 1,217 Bestseller!"

I mean, what are the odds they're book from barnesandnoble.com, all the "The Phenomenal No. 1 Bestseller?

Well, actually they're pretty good In publishing circles, this has if Mr. Vise decides he likes your book, because he's what you might call a serious buyer.

> So what is Mr. Vise's explanation? He has a long and complicated story about buying books and shipping them back, and he says it's just a big misunderstanding.

Not everybody in the publishing

But of course, there are many other perfectly innocent, plausible explanations for Mr. Vise's purchases:

Explanation No. 1: He simply likes the book. After all, he wrote it. Why shouldn't he like it?

Explanation No. 2: He wanted a few copies for his closest friends, and he happens to be blessed with thousands and thousands of close

Explanation No. 3: He's a Binge Book Buyer. I've had this problem myself. I go to a bookstore, vowing not to buy anything, and an hour later I come out with 10,000, maybe 11,000 new books. (Dives my wife crazy.)

Explanation No. 4: Can't a man do a little early Christmas shopping, for goodness sake, without raising suspicions?

Explanation No. 5: He suffers from an advanced case of Online Trigger Finger, a serious medical condition believed to result in Dr. Phil book sales.

But in fairness to Mr. Vise, let me repeat again that he denies he had any intention of goosing sales figures, and I believe him. Firmly.

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Briefs

From Page 1

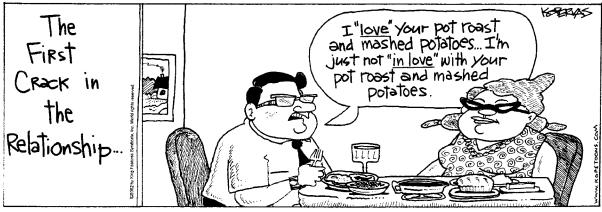
counseling staff since 1978.

- To prevent the potential introduction of Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD), the Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC) and Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) have issued separate orders that suspend the importation of live white-tailed and black-tailed deer, mule deer, and elk into Texas from any states until further notice. Recently, CWD, a fatal brain-wasting disease, has been detected in eight states in either captive elk herds and/or free-ranging or farmraised white-tailed deer, black-
- tailed deer and mule deer.
- Three former assistant principals in the Socorro school district have been promoted to principal rank as of March 19. Sherry Eichorn is the new principal of the as yet un-named Pre-K-8 campus at Lee and Edgemere Blvds. Mark Almklov, becomes principal of the KEYS Academy, and David Peña is the new principal of Socorro Middle School.
- The El Paso Art Association's Annual Spring Show and Sale will be held April 12-14 at Sunland Park Mall with over 50 artists displaying and selling their creations in the Center Court. The public is invited to the awards presentation at 7 p.m. on April 12. Information: 581-4971.
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Comix

OUT ON A LIMB By Gary Kopervas



GOT A LIFE By Terri Davis

I signed up for a sleep disorder seminar. I'm convinced my insomnia is caused by some kind of biological malfunction.





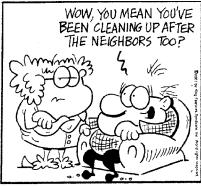




THE SPATS By Jeff Pickering







R.F.D. By Mike Marland







PUBLIC NOTICE EL PASO COUNTY, TEXAS

PROCLAMATION OF APRIL AS FAIR HOUSING MONTH

WHEREAS Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968, as amended, prohibits discrimination in housing and declares it a national policy to provide, within constitutional limits, for fair housing in the United States; and

WHEREAS The principle of Fair Housing is not only national law and national policy, but a fundamental human concept and entitlement for all Americans; and

WHEREAS The thirty-fourth anniversary of this National Fair Housing Law, during the month of April, provides an opportunity for all Americans to recognize that complete success in the goal of equal housing opportunity can only be accomplished with the help and cooperation of all Americans.

NOW, THEREFORE, WE, the Commissioner's Court of the County of El Paso, do proclaim April as Fair Housing Month in the County of El Paso and do hereby urge all the citizens of this locality to become aware of and support the Fair Housing law.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF we have affixed our signatures and seal on this the 18th day of March 2002.

> Dolores Briones County Judge

WTCC: 04/04/02



Phamiliar phrases

"strike while the iron is hot"

Blacksmiths cannot shape iron once it has cooled. The best time to forge is when the metal is still red-hot and pliable. The use of the phrase today implies taking action when the time is best.

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Social Security: Q & A By Ray Vigil

time and be safe?

ting your check in the mail, the best cial Security benefits? thing to do is sign up for direct deposit. Your payment is deposited di- A. No. In calculating your retirement rectly into your account. If you can't get an account, you can open an Electronic Transfer Account.

have is a monthly withdrawal from tal gains are not counted and will not care benefits if you're eligible for

Q. In light of the recent events, I'm an Individual Retirement Account concerned about our national mail- (IRA). I pay income tax on the ing system. Will my check arrive on amount I withdraw. I plan to apply for Social Security benefits in the future. Will the money I've withdrawn A. If you are concerned about get- from my IRA reduce my monthly So-

> benefits, we count only the wages you earn from a job, or your net profit if you're self-employed. Non-work income such as pensions, annuities,

affect your Social Security benefits.

Q. I am 53 and had a stroke recently. I applied for Social Security disability benefits. How much will I receive monthly?

A. If you are eligible for disability benefits, they will be based on your average earnings. Although we cannot tell you the exact amount without knowing your earnings history, the average monthly disability benefit in 2002 is \$815. If you have a spouse and one or more children, the average family benefit is \$1,360.

Q. I'm retired and the only income I investment income, interest and capi- Q. Do you automatically get Medi-

Social Security disability benefits?

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

Q. Is it possible to receive both Social Security and SSI? Which is better? Can you be selective about SSI and Social Security?

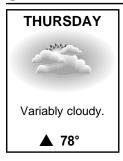
Social Security is a retirement, disability and survivor insurance program financed from social security taxes withheld from an individual's earnings. These benefits are based on the average lifetime earnings on rity Office, 11111 Gateway West, Attn: which taxes were paid. Supplemen-

tal Security Income is a need base program for individuals 65 years of age or older and blind or disabled individuals with limited income and resources. The maximum SSI benefit for an individual is \$545 and for a couple \$817. If their income were above the SSI level, individuals would not qualify for SSI.

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 Secu-Ray Vigil, El Paso, Texas 79935.

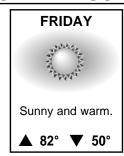
AccuWeather.com

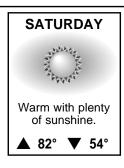
SEVEN-DAY FORECAST FOR EL PASO

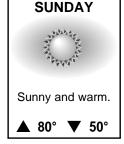


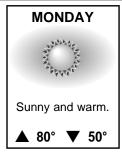


▼ 50°

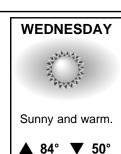












UV INDEX Statistics for noon.

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

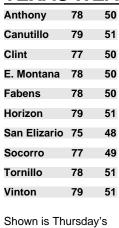
Thursday	8	High
Friday	10	.Very High
Saturday	10	Very High
Sunday	10	.Very High
Monday	10	.Very High
Tuesday	9	.Very High
Wednesday	9	.Very High

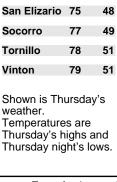
REAL FEEL TEMP™

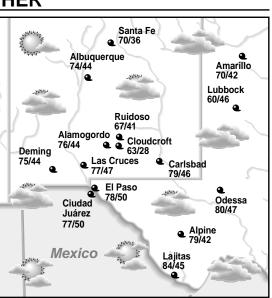
A composite of the effects of temperature, wind, humidity, sunshine intensity, cloudiness, precip-

itation, and elevation on the number body.	
Thursday	90°
Friday	84°
Saturday	86°
Sunday	82°
Monday	78°
Tuesday	76°
Wednesday	82°

TEXAS WEATHER







TRAVELERS CITIES

	Thur.	Fri.	Sat.	Sun.	Mon.
City	Hi/Lo/W	Hi/Lo/W	Hi/Lo/W	Hi/Lo/W	Hi/Lo/W
Albuquerque	74/44/s	76/44/s	72/42/pc	72/40/pc	74/42/s
Atlanta	64/42/pc	66/44/s	68/46/s	70/50/pc	72/54/sh
Atlantic City	52/36/s	50/36/s	52/36/s	58/42/s	60/52/c
Austin/San Antonio	72/48/c	76/48/c	78/58/c	78/60/c	78/54/sh
Baltimore	54/30/s	50/30/s	54/34/s	58/40/s	64/54/c
Boston	52/32/s	48/30/s	48/30/s	50/38/s	55/48/sh
Chicago	44/24/s	50/32/pc	56/42/pc	64/38/c	58/32/pc
Dallas/Ft. Worth	64/46/c	70/52/pc	74/58/pc	76/58/c	76/48/pc
Denver	68/36/s	74/40/s	66/34/pc	52/32/pc	64/36/s
Flagstaff	65/28/s	62/29/pc	61/27/s	61/27/s	66/31/pc
Houston	68/54/c	74/58/sh	74/58/c	76/58/sh	78/58/c
Kansas City	50/34/pc	64/40/s	68/46/c	64/42/c	70/35/pc
Las Vegas	82/56/s	80/56/s	78/54/s	82/59/s	83/54/s
Miami	86/70/pc	82/68/c	80/66/pc	80/70/sh	82/70/sh
Minneapolis	40/22/s	46/30/pc	52/36/sh	50/32/sh	48/30/s
New Orleans	74/54/c	72/56/s	76/58/s	78/60/sh	78/62/s
New York City	54/36/pc	48/36/s	48/38/s	56/42/s	62/54/c
Philadelphia	54/34/s	48/34/s	52/36/s	58/42/s	64/54/c
Phoenix	90/64/s	90/62/s	88/60/s	88/60/s	90/64/s
Portland	70/42/s	62/40/sh	60/42/c	62/44/pc	62/46/r
San Francisco	58/52/pc	58/50/c	62/50/pc	62/50/pc	64/50/pc
Seattle	64/42/s	56/40/c	54/42/c	56/44/pc	56/44/r
Tucson	86/56/s	88/54/s	84/52/s	86/52/s	88/54/s
Washington, DC	56/34/s	52/34/s	54/38/s	60/44/s	64/56/c

Weather (W): s-sunny, pc-partly cloudy, c-cloudy, sh-showers, t-thunderstorms, r-rain, sf-snow flurries, sn-snow, i-ice.

AGRICULTURE

Dry weather is expected to continue across western Texas for the next few days. Expect temperatures to run 3-6 degrees above normal with excellent drying conditions. Late in the week there may be a few more clouds to keep temperatures a bit lower, but warmth will return for early next week.

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





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