

VEST TEXAS COUNT

VOL. 30, No. 2

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

JANUARY 9, 2003

NEWSBRIEFS

Riverpark meeting

The Rio Grande Citizens' Forum of the U.S. Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission will provide updates on the El Paso River Park and related projects during it meeting on Jan. 13 at 6:30 p.m. at the Chamizal national Memorial Administration Building Conference Room, 800 S. San Marcial in El Paso. An explanation will also be given by U.S. Bureau of Reclamation representative Lorenzo Arriaga about why some of the water stored in Rio Grande Project reservoirs in southern New Mexico belongs to upstream users. The public is encouraged to attend. Call Sally Spener at 832-4175 for information or e-mail at sallyspener@ibwc.state.gov.

Kids to concert

The El Paso Symphony will present the 62nd Young People's Concerts on Jan. 22 through 24, 2003 bringing over 15,000 5th grade students from El Paso and the surrounding area by bus to the Abraham Chavez Theater for concerts that are presented free of charge. Various schools districts and private schools in the County participate in the annual program that gives students a taste of classical theater, some for the very first time. This year's program will feature the music of Beethoven. Dan Wright portrays Beethoven and narrates the story of his life and events leading up to the composition of each piece performed. Winners of the 2002 Young Artist Competition are also scheduled to perform with the El Paso Symphony. Docent materials are sent to the teachers prior to the concerts and are incorporated into lesson plans. These concerts are funded by the El Paso Symphony Guild and El Paso Electric Company. For information call (915) 532-3776.

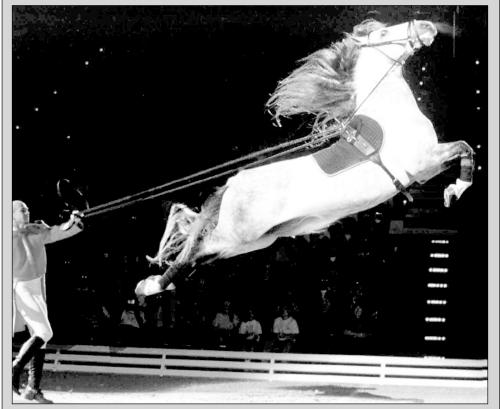
Campus celebration

The Upper Valley branch of the El Paso Community College, known as the Northwest Campus, will host a three-day grand opening celebration for the Library and Classroom/Laboratory Buildings Jan. 27-29. Located at 6701 S. Desert Blvd., the Northwest Campus will be almost double in size as a result of the project, which provides more than 10,000 square feet of library space that will house state of the art technology. The classroom addition includes eight classrooms, eight offices and laboratories for math, geology, biology ESL and reading. Grand opening festivities begin at 1 p.m. Jan. 27 with a ribbon cutting ceremony followed by chamber music and tea in the library, campus tours and a nature walk. Other activities during the three-day event include a resource fair, photography workshop, talent contests, poetry readings, star gazing and biology demonstrations, a weight-lifting

See BRIEFS, Page 5

Whether or not this is a free country depends on what you want to do.

— Quips and Quotes



Up, up and away

The exploits of the world famous Lipizanner Stallions will be on display for one night only in El Paso during their 33rd Anniversary tour. Story, Page 4.

'Self-driven' Mountain View teacher sets example, garners state and local honors

By Debra Dominguez Special to the Courier

EAST MONTANA — Mountain View High School English teacher and Student Council

Sponsor Elva Chavez only has two biological children. But one might think otherwise if they walked the halls of this East Montana high school where she works, where many of the school's students cherish her nurturing leadership so much they call her "Mom."

Chavez's biological children — Mark, who is an 18-year-old MVHS senior, and Manny, a 13year-old East Montana Middle School eighth grader — don't Elva Chavez



seem to mind sharing their mother.

"She's one of the best teachers here at this school," Mark said. "I would also rank her up there as one of the top women in history. I'm honored to have her as my mother, I don't mind that the other students call her 'mom,' and in

fact, feel quite lucky to have her as my real mom."

Chavez, who has taught English at MVHS for the last four and a half years, was recently named "District 9 Texas Association Advisor of the Year" and will be honored at a Student Council State Convention April 26 in Arlington, Texas. If all goes well, she'll be competing nationally

See CHAVEZ, Page 4

Long-time Clint resident/postmaster celebrates 99th birthday

By Holly Fields Special to the Courier

CLINT — The name Fern Fields might be familiar if you have lived in Clint anytime since 1906. Fern celebrated her 99th birthday on December 27. Though she wouldn't want to linger much on the number of birthdays she has celebrated, she does like to talk about the days — or better yet — the years she was Postmaster at the Clint Post Office.

Fern served as Clint Postmaster from 1932 to 1973. She clerked for two years prior to being the Postmaster, which gives her one of the longest postal service careers in the area at 43 years.

To help celebrate her birthday, current Clint Postmaster, Fernando Sepulveda surprised Fern with an extra large postcard full of birthday wishes from Postmasters throughout far West Texas.

Postmasters from 17 post offices such as

Canutillo, Fort Hancock, Balmorhea, Marfa, Terlingua, and many more all signed the big birthday card and shared birthday wishes for the former Clint Postmaster.

Before sending the postcard on to the next town, each postmaster added their town's postmark next to their birthday greeting.

Sepulveda, who instigated the brilliant traveling postcard back in October, wrote most appropriately, "Thank you for setting the example."

Sepulveda also gave Fern commemorative stamps representing each decade to signify the entire century. Her response to the gifts was, "It was such a surprise. I can't believe he went through all that work just for me. That had to take a lot of time and effort. I'm very touched."

Reminiscing about her days as postmaster, Fern said, "I liked the job and I always wanted to be a postmaster, but I loved even more seeing and visiting all the people everyday as they came in to the post office."

The feeling was likely mutual.

Citizens of Socorro protest residential development

Divided council turns down request to rezone

By Arleen Beard Special to the Courier

SOCORRO — A recommendation from the Planning and Zoning Commission of the City of Socorro brought out many concerned citizens to the regularly scheduled City Council meeting on Jan. 2. They protested one particular recommendation for rezoning of property, located on Nichols and Buford, from designation for agricultural purposes to "R-3 residential."

Several residents present at the meeting were against changing the area from rural to high density housing. Marta Loya, one concerned resident, even compiled a list of 10 reasons why rezoning from agriculture to residential should not be approved. One reason mentioned on the list included that current infrastructure does not support additional subdivisions and residential areas such as streets, lighting, water, sewage systems and schools.

Other reasons were that no protection is provided for the city's Mission Trail, which affects tourism; and the rezoning would bring a burden to the community because of loss of property; a major increase in traffic; and no tax benefit.

Ernie Valdez, representing the developer of the land, spoke to City Council to answer some of the concerns of the citizens. Valdez focused primarily on the concern of additional traffic. He stated this land would have 37 lots with homes costing an average of \$115,000 and the area would be a gated community with only one entrance and exit, making it a safe area.

Valdez also said he purposely researched the traffic issue at the closest school, Escontrias Elementary on Buford St., during the hour between 7-8:00 a.m. on Dec. 16, 2002. He counted around 300 cars during the hour and most of these cars were mainly dropping off children at the school. He said traffic was virtually non-existent on Buford after the 8 a.m. hour.

In addition to the traffic issue, Valdez also informed City Council the land in question is not located on any historical trail. Reyes Fierro, city engineer, confirmed Valdez's statement.

After extensive discussion, City Representative Gloria Rodriguez recommended the item be tabled since two city representatives were not present to vote.

However, Lorenza Fraire, a Socorro resident, challenged City Council to make a decision due to the fact there was a quorum present. City Representatives Sam Brewster and Gary Gandara then voted to accept all recommendations from the Planning and Zoning Commission except the area being protested at Nichols and Buford.

Rodriguez voted no. The land being protested therefore was not rezoned to residential and remains as agricultural.

In other business, Council designated the Human Resource Manager to investigate a complaint against the City Clerk and Attorney Chris Borunda was designated as investigator regarding complaints against Civil Service Commissioners.



One perspective **By Francis Shrum**

Good credit

has special and deep significance. any kind of time payments. You must have it. Your children must have it. You must protect it at all costs and never leave home without it.

It is your Good Credit.

Bumpkin that I am, I didn't know I had credit, good or otherwise, until I was well into my 20s. Until then, I labored under the misconception that you obtained only that for which you paid. Otherwise, you went without.

Doing without is something we don't do anymore. It is un-American. Bombarded with financial brain washing from all mediums we even very early ages — namely in adolescence when their brains are already on vacation. We provide security and then usually pay a hefty penalty for the lessons our kids don't learn.

Credit is a heady thing, like drinking alcohol. Improper use can result in disastrous consequences. Some rare few people are born knowing how to handle their finances wisely — the rest of us have to learn.

The day I learned about my credit was when I was told that, in order to rent a particular apartment, the management had to review my credit report. Oh, really? What's that?

Of course, my credit report was not actually loan you money. extremely short. But though it showed no financial mismanagement on my part, I was penalized because neither did it show anything "good." Needless to say, my rental deposit numbers somewhere in the skateywas substantial.

The thing that startled me was that my credit report already showed every major legal event in my life and included all the various banks where I had accounts in the past, even

They say it in hushed tones, like it though these accounts did not include

Since then, my credit report has grown. It contains a running record of every financial move I make late payments, early loan payouts, disputed accounts, etc. Finding out what is in a credit report is profitable for the companies that gather all this information — they don't do this as a public service. I was dinged \$25 to review my own credit the first time. There are ways that you can check your credit report nowadays without a fee, but it is still far easier for financial institutions to get into it than get credit accounts for our kids at it is for the person to whom it "belongs."

> Of course, the headaches involved with attempting to get your report corrected if wrong information is recorded in it are enough to - well, give you a headache.

> Credit reports have quirky ways of determining credit penalties and rewards. Recently we bought a new vehicle and during the process our credit was checked by several institutions. It was only later that we were informed by an "insider" that creditors may penalize you for the number of times your credit report has been reviewed by institutions that did

> I was surprised, however, to find that a person is not penalized very much for late payments provided that the payments the person is making eight gazillions.

> In other words, the more you pay the more you can play. And once you are into the game, the more the

> > See CREDIT, Page 3





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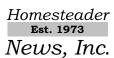
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Reyes Reports By U.S. Rep. Silvestre Reyes

It's time for economic stimulus

House Democrats have put to- cluding homeland security. gether an economic stimulus plan that is fast-acting, fair and fiscally responsible. We all know that it's long past time to jump-start this

to work. We need targeted, fiscally responsible tax cuts and investment that creates jobs.

The Democratic plan would create approximately one million jobs, pumping \$136 billion into the struggling economy by putting money in the hands of consumers, encouraging businesses to create jobs, and investing in a ing money in the pockets of average Americans, boosting secure and healthy future.

The need for an economic stimulus is urgent, especially in El Paso. There are currently 24,300 unemployed workers in the El Paso area, and our unemployment rate is 8.4 percent. This is significantly higher than the Texas state average of 5.8 percent and the national average of

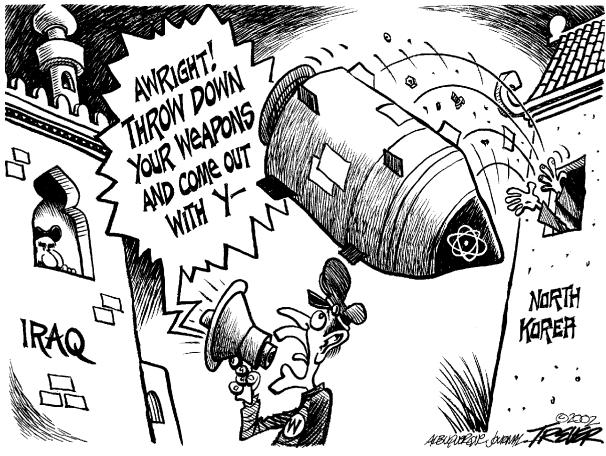
Nationwide, an average of 69,000 jobs a month are being eliminated rather than created. That's the worst job growth record our nation has had in the past 58 years. Over two million private sector jobs have been eliminated since January of 2001 and long-term joblessness has more than doubled in that time, now totaling more than three million.

States are facing huge deficits and are being forced to cut critical health and education spending. Texas alone has a \$5 billion deficit. While state governments fight to asked to spend more than ever on a range of items in- takes to get our economy back on the right track.

The economic stimulus proposal set forth by the Democratic leadership makes sense, and focuses on the following:

- Putting Money in the Hands of Consumers The economy and put America back plan would provide a temporary tax cut (of up to \$300 for single taxpayers or \$600 per couple) for all working Americans, as well as providing unemployment benefits to the more than three million laid-off Americans whose unemployment benefits have expired or will expire in the first half of 2003. Within months, the proposal will put spendconsumer demand and the business investment to meet it.
 - Spurring Business Investment and Help States with Investment in Critical Needs — The Democratic plan would provide immediate tax relief for small businesses and for all businesses to invest in new plant and equipment in 2003. It would allow small businesses to expense up to \$50,000 of the cost of new investments made in 2003. Further, the plan would help the states through their fiscal straits, addressing critical needs like homeland security and medical care while providing funds to states that will promote economic growth, such as highway funding.
 - Jump-starting the Economy in a Fiscally Responsible Way — While pumping \$136 billion into the economy this year, the plan's budget impact declines to \$100 billion over 10 years.

It's time for Congress to come together and pass an economic stimulus bill that will provide relief and ensave health care and education programs, they are being courage investment and growth. This plan has what it





For Sanity's Sake **By Taprina Milburn**

Cable television

Attention. The views you are about to read do not necessarily represent the views held by the publishers of this newspaper, their staff, the columnist's husband, oldest child, youngest child or any of their friends.

I'm unpopular in my own home. But who said parenting was about winning a popularity contest?

I've nixed cable TV. Yep. You read it right. I'll give kids parked and out of my hair. you a moment to collect yourself.

Why did I do something that would throw my family do with my children's brain atrophy.

I noticed they could recite commercials and give monologues they'd heard on their favorite, mindless cartoons, but when it came to important historical events, their grandparents' first names or where their bedrooms are located in our house, their IQs had taken a nose dive.

What does cable television have to do with this?

Let's look at it this way. Regular TV, the kind with very limited channels, is more like the shop that offers only vanilla ice cream. My kids like vanilla, but really they can do without it. Cable TV is more like Ben and Jerry's. My kids want to try everything and just when you think they've had enough, they've discovered a new flavor (or channel) and they must have it.

Just one more Mom, they whine.

It's easier to drag them away from plain vanilla than it is to drag them away from Chunky Monkey or Cherry Garcia. In relation to cable TV, I was tired of the battle. The television had become the centerpiece in our home rather

than an accessory. Relinquishing oodles of channels didn't come as a surprise to our kids, though. I'd talked about it for months

preparing them for the inevitable.

On the first day cable was gone, my son said: "There's no life without cable."

Admittedly, it felt that way the first week — a disconnected feeling. And I was the one who had the most difficulty. I'd grown used to staying up all night watching the cable decorating show "Trading Spaces," and how would I stay abreast of world news and politics without the non-stop coverage of CNN?

But most of all (ooh, here's the clincher), how was I going to keep the kids entertained? On too many occasions I had used the tube and all its channels to keep my

What were we going to do?

In a tone of voice one might use to ask another how back into the middle of the 20th century? Well it had to they live without indoor plumbing, a friend asked my daughter how we live without cable.

'We read a lot now," my daughter said.

Remember, we still have a television. We still watch just less. If I told you my children had ceased to gripe about the decision and have thanked me for saving their brains, I'd be a liar. They still think I've taken them off life support.

But this is what I've noted so far in my experiment. The kids aren't rushing through their homework and piano practice to race to watch cartoons. When we do watch television, it's usually a video we've chosen as a family. And the kids aren't fighting over channels anymore because...well, there aren't any channels to fight over.

And what about my husband? For the first week, out of boredom, he tweezed a lot of nose hairs. When he acclimated to life without cable, he dusted off his neglected guitar and has begun to make music again.

Saying "It's saving us money, Honey," also helps. Why not boycott television all together? Come on. There's no life without PBS.

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Credit

From Page 2

financial institutions are willing to give you, as long as it is more than you will ever possibly be able to repay.

You know, like gambling.

If you are a first time player, however — like a single mother who needs to take her kid to the dentist or put new tires on her car — it is likely you won't find a lot of loving kindness when you apply.

If you are dishonest, you could live your entire life on someone else's credit because all the vital information you need to access it is available on a daily basis in the

mail of ten gazillion Americans. Invitations to misuse these little pieces of garbage are often printed on the outside of the envelope in large, glaring letters: "Simply cash this check for \$\$\$\$\$. You are preapproved!"

Shredders are no longer fixtures in the offices of men like Ollie North they are a major profit center for Wal-Mart these days. You must expend a lot of time and effort, even money, to obliterate these leaks in your personal security.

Otherwise, you might wind up with (hushed tones again) Bad Credit.

Bad credit is when you can't get credit, which basically means you are back where you started.

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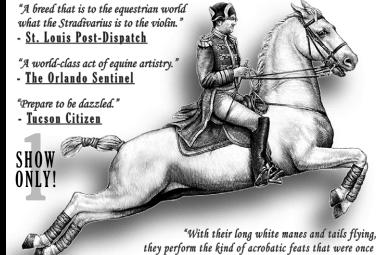
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TRUE TEXAS FACTS by Roger Moore January 7, 1858, Anson Jones, last President of Texas, shoots himself.



Lipizzaner Stallions come back to El Paso

Anniversary Tour in 2003, commemorating a long and exciting performing career that began in 1970 when producer Gary Lashinsky created a new family arena attraction, starring The "World Famous" Lipizzaner Stallions.

The tour will make a one-night-one performance at UTEP on Jan. 23.

Many horses and riders were brought from Europe to perform in this unique family-oriented arena attraction. Over the years, 23 million people throughout North and South America, Great Britain, Europe, Australia and Hawaii have seen this internationally acclaimed spectacle.

All new music, choreography and routines have been incorporated in this anniversary edition with a major emphasis on the historical background and foundation of the Lipizzaner breed, from its original breeding and use as a horse of war to a horse of nobility and aristocracy to a living form of equestrian art. The show emulates the Spanish Riding School of Vienna, Austria, in its pre-

EL PASO COUNTY — The sentation of Lipizzans, and maintains Lipizzaner Stallions are on their 33rd a traditional as well as entertaining performance similar in many ways to what you would see at the Spanish Riding School of Vienna.

> Also included in the performance is a segment called the "Airs Above the Ground." These are the spectacular leaps and maneuvers, once used by riders in saddle to protect and defend themselves on the battlefield, which are now preserved as an equestrian work of art. When you see the Lipizzans perform, it is like stepping back four hundred years and viewing one of the greatest equine ballets in history.

> The Lipizzan is a rare and unique breed; its history and culture is chronicled in the Walt Disney movie The Miracle of the White Stallions, depicting General George S. Patton saving them at the end of World War II from certain extinction. Had it not been for Patton, there would be no Lipizzans today.

The current tour features 12 to 14 stallions performing selected maneuvers as described above in an exciting presentation.



LEARNING TO BE LEADERS Canutillo High School Family and **Consumer Science** students attend leadership conference in St. Louis, Missouri. Shown in photo, standing from left are Abigail Renteria, FCCLA chapter president; Angelina Bencomo, Canutillo HS teacher and FCCLA sponsor; and Eyesenia Munoz. Seated from left are Miriam Capetillo and Kandice Chavez.

Canutillo HS students attend national conference

UPPER VALLEY — Four attended workshops and sessions that Canutillo High School students participated in the Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) leadership training conference held recently in St. Louis, Mis-

Canutillo HS students Kandice Chavez, sophomore; Miriam Capetillo, junior; Eyesenia Muñoz, junior; and Abigail Renteria, senior,

challenged, informed, and motivated participants to "create connections" through FCCLA. Accompanying the four students was Angelina Bencomo, Canutillo High Family and Consumer Sciences teacher and FCCLA chapter adviser.

"I really enjoyed the trip. We visited a lot of neat places. The conference sessions were really fun too. We all had a blast, and I hope we can do it again," said Chavez.

Over 3,000 students and advisers from all over the United States attended the weekend event. Workshops included training in leadership, peer education programs, membership drive campaigns, and violence prevention activities.

"One of the things that we learned at the conference that we want to introduce in our community right away is to develop ways to communicate with students and parents about crime prevention, like holding community meetings to promote safety issues," said Renteria, chapter president.

FCCLA is a national student organization that helps young men and women become leaders and address important personal, family, work, and societal issues through family and consumer sciences education. The organization has over 220,000 members and approximately 7,500 advisers from 50 state associations and the District of Columbia, Guam, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands.

Chavez

From Page 1

in February or March.

The dedicated student council sponsor — who also serves as the school's student activities sponsor, yearbook sponsor and University Interscholastic League Coordinator and coach for eight UIL. events also was recently named the Price's Creameries "Give 'Em Five Outstanding Teacher" and was honored at the Don Haskins Special Events Center Nov. 26 during the UTEP basketball game half-time show.

"I have such a love for kids," said Chavez, a 13-year educator who recently led her 20-plus-member student council to being named one of nine "Outstanding Student Council" winners in the state.

"I guess I take up so much work and can't say 'no' to jobs people ask me to do because the kids want and need the help, programs and sponsorship. And, well, I don't want to let them down.

"Plus, it seems nobody else wants or has time to do these jobs. But it's important to know everything I do at this school is all for the students," she said.

Corina Cantu, a 15-year-old MVHS sophomore, said she learns a lot from Chavez and appreciates how much she gives to her school.

"She is a very self-driven woman, who pushes us to do our best," Cantu said. "If she wasn't here, I don't think many students would be motivated to do their best."

Cantu isn't the only one singing words of praise over Chavez's work. Clint ISD Superintendent Dr. Donna Smith also was quite impressed to hear Chavez earned local and state recognition.

"I've heard a lot of good things about Elva Chavez's work," Smith said. "I think we're very fortunate to have such a dedicated and hardworking educator on our team. It's nice to know that our students have someone they can always count on - whether they need a friend, a mentor or a teacher. I commend and thank her for caring so much about making a difference in our students' lives."

NOTICE TO TAXPAYERS

Cora Viescas, Executive Director/Chief Appraiser, El Paso Central Appraisal District, is currently accepting application(s) for the following:

RENDITIONS

- 1. Personal Property
- 2. Real Estate

DEADLINE FOR FILING OF RENDITIONS, PROPERTY INFORMATION REPORTS, AND REPORTS OF DECREASED VALUE IS TUESDAY, APRIL 15, 2003.

EXEMPTIONS*

- 1. Residential Homestead Exemption
- 2. Over-65 Exemption**
- 3. Over 55 Surviving Spouse of a person who received the Over-65 Exemption
- 4. Medical Disability Exemption
- 5. Veteran's Disability Exemption
- 6. Widow of Disabled Veteran Exemption

*If you received a Homestead and/or an Over-65 Exemption, or an Over-55 Surviving Spouse of a person who received the Over-65 Exemption, a Disability Exemption, or a Disabled Veteran's Exemption in 2002, it is not necessary for you to file again this year.

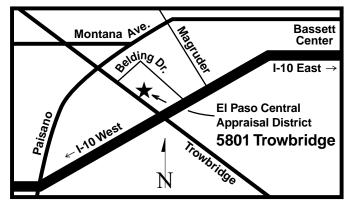
**The Over-65 School Homestead Exemption can be transported to another home within Texas on a percentage basis. (Please contact the Appraisal District for forms and explanation.)

SPECIAL USE EVALUATIONS

Agricultural Valuation - Applications are being accepted for Ad Valorem Tax purposes as provided under Article III, Section 1-d and 1-d-1 of the Texas State Constitution. Properties qualifying under these Amendments are valued on the basis of Agricultural Productivity rather than their market value. The tax that would be levied on market value is deferred. Information on agricultural use valuation is available in the State Comptroller's Publication, Taxpayers' Rights, Remedies & Responsibilities. Copies are available at the Appraisal District Office.

DEADLINE FOR FILING FOR EXEMPTIONS AND APPLYING FOR SPECIAL USE VALUATIONS IS APRIL 30, 2003, FOR ALL TAXING JURISDICTIONS. ALL OF THE ABOVE APPLICATIONS MUST BE FILED EITHER IN PERSON OR BY MAIL AT THE EL PASO CENTRAL APPRAISAL DISTRICT, 5801 TROWBRIDGE, EL PASO, TEXAS 79925. FOR APPLICATIONS OR FURTHER INFORMATION, CONTACT THE APPRAISAL DISTRICT AT (915) 780-2131.





NO FEE IS REQUIRED FOR FILING ANY OF THE ABOVE RENDITIONS, EXEMPTIONS OR SPECIAL USE VALUATIONS

Classified Ads

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY

HORIZON DESIGN CON-SULTANTS will hold two studio classes this spring entitled Graphic Design: Creating a Dialogue. Part One will be March 18-22; Part Two April 1-5. This is a 30-hour foundational level course introducing concepts and techniques used by graphic artists to create effective visual works. For more information call 852-4817.

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. 8864948 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 solucion. Visitemos. Alcohólicos Anónimos, Grupo 8 de Enero, 15360 Horizon Blvd., Horizon City, sesiones lunes a sábado a 8 de la tarde. Informacion: 859-0484.

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Take steps to prevent fire injury or death to older Americans

EL PASO COUNTY — The facts speak for themselves: Americans over the age of 65 are one of the groups at greatest risk of dying in a fire. Every year over 1,200 Americans over age 65 die in fires. People over the age of 80 die in fires at a rate three times higher than the rest of the population.

However, there are a number of precautionary steps older Americans can take to dramatically reduce their chances of becoming a fire casualty.

Older Americans are at risk for fire death and injuries for a number of reasons:

- They may be less able to take the quick action necessary in a fire emergency.
- They may be on medication that affects their ability to make quick decisions.
- Many older people live alone and when accidents happen others may not be around to help.

There are a variety of fire hazards that are a threat to older people. The following are a few.

- Cooking accidents are the leading cause of fire related injuries for older Americans. The kitchen is one of the most active and potentially dangerous rooms in the home.
- The unsafe use of smoking materials is the leading cause of fire deaths among older Americans.
- Heating equipment is responsible for a big share of fires in seniors' homes. Extra caution should be used with alternate heaters such as wood stoves or electric space heaters.
- Faulty wiring is another major cause of fires affecting the elderly. Older homes can have serious wiring problems, ranging from old appliances with bad wiring to overloaded sockets.

There are, however, some simple safety tips that can help prevent injury and death to senior citizens.

- Most kitchen fires occur because food is left unattended on the stove or in the oven. If you must leave the kitchen while cooking, take a spoon or potholder with you to remind you to return to the kitchen. Never cook with loose, dangling sleeves that can ignite easily. Heat cooking oils gradually and use extra caution when deep-frying. If a fire breaks out in a pan, put a lid on the pan. Never throw water on a grease fire. Never use a range or stove to heat your home.
- Buy only Underwriter's Laboratory (UL) approved heaters. Use only the manufacturer's recommended fuel for each heater. Do not use electric space heaters in the bathroom or around other wet areas. Do not dry or store objects on top of your heater. Keep combustibles away from heat sources
- Don't leave cigarettes burning unattended. Use "safety ashtrays" with wide lips. Empty all ashtrays into the toilet or a metal container every night before going to bed. *Never smoke in bed.*
- Finally, having a working smoke alarm dramatically increases your chances of surviving a fire. And remember to practice a home escape plan frequently with your family.

Information: http://www.usfa.fema.gov/dhtml/public/retire.cfm

Briefs

From Page 1

contest, and program booths including massage, cosmetology and self-discovery. The kids aren't forgotten with a jumping balloon and magic tricks. All events are free and open to the public. For a full schedule of events call Lorely Ambriz at 831-8840 or e-mail lorelya@epcc.edu.

In other news

■ Socorro ISD's Bill Sybert School — the District's newest pre-K-8 campus — will host an information session for the parents of third grade students at 9 a.m. Jan. 11 in the school cafeteria. The session will explain the new Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills, or T.A.K.S. test to the parents of third-grade monolingual and bilingual students. Third-grade students will be expected to pass the reading portion of the T.A.K.S. test before being promoted to fourth grade. The actual reading test will be given March 4, 2003. Parents will have an opportunity to take a practice reading of the test, allowing them to understand what their children will be expected to know. For more information, call principal Sherry Eichorn or assistant principal Susie Acosta, 937-4400.

- Clint ISD Deputy Superintendent Ricardo Estrada recently provided an update on the projects currently underway in the Horizon area of the district utilizing proceeds from publicauthorized bonds:
- Horizon Middle School: Warranty work repairs are being completed as necessary. Installation of gym bleachers is complete. Marquee has been delivered and computer software and antenna are being installed to make it functional. The El Paso Area Teacher Federal Credit Union site is scheduled for completion within weeks.
- Central Administration Building Project in Horizon: The building pad is almost complete. Entire project bids package was advertised Nov. 3 and bids were opened Nov. 21, 2002.
- The Texas Master Naturalist program is being offered in El Paso to assist apprentice naturalists with indepth training in wild-

life and natural resource management with the intent that they then volunteer in community outreach, research and service projects. This is a nationally recognized program, 13 weeks with training topics to include geology, botany, archeology and desert ecology. Teachers include experts from universities, museums, special-interest groups and government agencies. The course begins Thursday, Feb. 6 but applications must be entered by Jan. 22. Classes are held each Thursday evening, 6-9 p.m. at the State Building at 401 E. Franklin in downtown El Paso. Five Saturday morning field trips will take place during the session. For application and infor-

■ The Socorro High School Missionettes will host a dance camp on Saturday, Jan. 25, 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. for both boys and girls ages three to 17. The camp is a fundraiser to assist the Missionettes to attend a contest in March in San Antonio. Cost is \$8 per student. Register by Jan. 16 to receive a certificate of completion, however walk-ins will be accepted as late as 8 a.m.

mation call 859-7725.

of the event. Call 937-2246 for more information.

■ David Mills, the former producer of VIVA EL PASO! and Shakespeare on-the-Rocks, is focusing his attention these days on productions of a different kind in a new partnership with the El Paso Convention & Performing Arts Center (CPAC). Mills, who joined the VIVA EL PASO! staff in 1979, was recently recruited to be the Special Projects Coordinator for CPAC. His first project is the dance spectacular ZAP!, which opens January 10 at the Abraham Chavez Theatre. ZAP! is an updated version of Zapateados, a colorful production of the Performing Arts Center in 2000 and 2001. The performance now includes a choir and features the worldclass Matachines, performed by the University of Juarez Folkloric Dance Company. Performances are Fridays through Sundays, January 10-19, 2003 at the Abraham Chavez Theater. Tickets, from \$5 to \$20, are available at all Ticketmaster outlets. For more information, call 534-0600.

Town of Anthony PUBLIC NOTICE

Invitation to a Public Hearing Community Park Project Texas Parks and Wildlife Department

The Town of Anthony will conduct a public hearing to solicit the input and participation of all its residents in the preparation of a proposal for park improvements. Please attend this meeting and voice your opinion regarding park and recreation needs, opportunities, and proposed improvements.

Location of the Hearing:

Council Room, Town Hall in Anthony, Texas

Date and Time:

Tuesday, Jan. 14, 2003, at 7 p.m.

There will be a discussion of available and potential assistance from the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department for part improvements. The Texas Recreation and Parks Account Program will be discussed, and these discussion will include amounts of funds available, requirements, and schedules for applying for assistance. The possible projects to be presented for funding, general cost estimates, locations, and timing will be discussed as well.

Individuals unable to attend this public hearing may submit their views and proposals regarding parks and recreation to the Town by calling (915) 886-3944.

A copy of the proposed application will be available for public examination at Town Hall after Feb. 1, 2003, between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. daily.

Accommodations for handicapped persons will be available; handicapped persons in need for special assistance for attending the hearing are encouraged to contact the Town Clerk at (915) 886-3944.

La presentacion y discusiones sobre la propuesta del proyecto del parque seran en espanol para aquellas personas que asi lo solicitan.

Art Franco, Mayor Town of Anthony, Texas West Texas County Courier 01/09/03

Public Notice Want to Report an Environmental Problem?

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality is available day or night to receive complaints and to discuss evidence of possible environmental violations.

To submit a complaint or ask questions:

call toll-free: 1-888-777-3186 or e-mail: cmplaint@tceq.state.tx.us.

To report information online, go to:

www.tnrcc.state.tx.us/cgi-bin/ enforcement/complaints

Ad sponsored by the Town of Clint, Texas; made possible through a grant from the TCEQ. WTCC: 01/09/03

Clint Independent School District Notice of Public Hearing

Clint Independent School District will hold a Public Hearing for the discussion of the 2002 District Annual Report on Wednesday, Jan. 15, 2003, at Carroll T. Welch Middle School, 6:30 p.m. during the regularly scheduled School Board meeting. All interested individuals are welcomed to attend. The Report will be available to the public after the hearing at all Clint District school campuses, the Clint Public Library and the Clint Post Office.

Aviso

El districto escolar de Clint tendra un junta para descutir el Reporte Annual del Districto el miercoles, 15 de enero de 2003 en Carroll T. Welch Middle School a las 6:30 p.m. Todos individuales interesados estan invitados a asistir. El Reporte se puede obtener en estos lugares; todas las escuelas publicas del districto, la biblioteca publica de Clint, y el Correo de Clint.

WTCC: 01/09/03

UTEP's win is one to remember — what a difference a little leadership makes

By Steve Escajeda Special to the Courier

A couple weeks into the season I made the observation that the UTEP Miners would fail to win a single WAC basketball game this season. And who could blame me?

players and since then, two of them, Roy Smallwood (out for the year with an injury) and Brandon Clausen (left

guys to go to battle with.

And let's face it, UTEP lost to lowly Columbia in its own tournament and then got shellacked by Air Force the next night. Air Force used to be a team the Miners could destroy in their sleep.

In fact, the only stat the Miners The team consisted of only 10 have been consistent in is turnovers. UTEP has been averaging near 20 miscues a game all season.

Last Saturday, it looked like the the team), are gone leaving first-year same old thing in the first half against

outscored UTEP 7-1 down the stretch to take a 31-24 half-time lead. It wouldn't take long for the Miners to fall apart in the second half and keep the losing streak alive.

And I was right, there was a streak to open the second half, only I was wrong — it wasn't San Jose St. who would come out strong — it was UTEP.

The Miners came out for the second half with a sneer on their faces and an intensity that past UTEP champions would have appreciated and

half's first seven to take a 40-33 lead.

Lately, the Don Haskins Center has sounded more like a trip to the El Paso Museum of Art or the public library than El Paso's home of basketball. But on this night, the crowd was as loud as I've heard them in a couple years.

And the crowd knew exactly what they were watching.

They know the Miners will finish near the bottom of the WAC standings and the chances to cheer a victory will be few. But the crowd cheered this team's hustle and heart – and they were cheering a coach that refuses to face the obvious...that his team can't win.

Gillespie was asked by a Hawaii reporter recently about how difficult it was coaching a team that wasn't really his? Gillespie turned to the reporter like a father would if someone had just insulted his son and answered, "this is my team."

Spartans 80-68 to earn their first WAC win in just two tries.

And who led the way? Two freshmen, two last-second transfers and a senior who has finally discovered his role.

Freshmen Gio St. Amant and John Tofi scored 15 and 13 points respectively.

When Keion Kindred hesitated to sign with the Miners, they picked up Chris Craig...as insurance. When four players left the Miners' program last summer, they picked up Omar Duran...out of desperation.

Mr. Insurance, Craig, scored 16 points and dished out seven assists while Mr. Desperation, Duran, the former Cathedral High star, led the

Phamiliar phrases

process which involved heating lime until it became incandescent:

a special lens reflected that light as a single beam onto the actor on the stage. Nowadays, we use this phrase to describe someone

"in the limelight" Stages used to be lit by a

at the center

of attention.

coach Billy Gillespie with just eight San Jose State. The Spartans outscored the Spartans 16-2 in the Miners with 19 points including 10 in the game's last 4:21.

And Justino Victoriano, the team's only playing senior, has finally found his niche — it's rebounding and defense. Victoriano, who leads the WAC in rebounding, grabbed 15 against the Spartans and blocked three shots for good measure.

The Don Haskins Center had a different feel to it last Saturday. After the game, the players and coaches had the look of past UTEP teams that simply took care of business at home.

This win was special. This win meant something. This win will be remembered.

About 45 minutes after the game I was making my way through a hallway of offices at "the Don" when I passed Gillespie's office. I saw him through the corner of my eye as I passed the door's window. I took a step back and we made eye contact - I then gave coach one of those Well, Gillespie's team whipped the index-to-thumb and three fingers up 'way to go" signs with my right hand.

> Gillespie responded with what has to have been one of the biggest smiles ever recorded.

> You can't help but genuinely like and admire this coach.

> The wins may not come in bunches this year but the improvement will. In the game of basketball, just as in the game of life, there are sometimes more important things than winning.

> Self-respect, honor, integrity, hustle, responsibility, reliability and teamwork are not among the statistics kept by the WAC. But if they were, the UTEP basketball program might finish the season undefeated.



"This calls for more research and

Men's Basketball

Tulsa's Golden Hurricanes

Halftime performance by Giant Bicycle Stunt Team

Thursday, **January 16 At the Don Haskins Center**

Tip-Off 7:05 PM

65 Repeated

67 TV's "_ City"

74 Witch doctor

77 Support

69 Part 3 of remark

73 Temporary calm

76 Synonym source

79 Sheet of stamps

80 Heady quarts

87 White House

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93 Bunch of bass

100 Reach

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102 Rubbish

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95 Part 4 of remark

99 Black or Valentine

104 Mortarboard part

106 Cookbook author

109 Guitar features

110 John - Passos

115 Last name in talk

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For information call: 747-6150

King Super Crossword

SWEET TALK ACROSS

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- 17 Coleridge's
- 18 Piled up 20 Honest name 21 Nutritional abbr.
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- 51 Mischievous 52 Trigger-happy guy?
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- 58 Virginia 60 Small combo
- 61 Adolescent
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- 46 Tennis pro Nastase
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- preposition 71 Puccini heroine 72 Indian export 74 Health club 75 Character 78 Essence
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 - **Answer Page 7**

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And now for something new in gardening calendars

By Don Flood

When I was in grade school, shortly after the Fall of Rome, Neil Sedaka famously wrote about his "Calendar Girl":

Yeah, yeah, my heart's in a whirl, I love, I love, I love my little calendar girl.

Poor Neil was a lonely guy, but he scored a big hit with that song, probably because of its provocative lyrics:

January, you start the year off fine February, you're my little Valentine March, I'm gonna march you down the aisle

April, you're the Easter bunny when you smile.

(Miss April, who posed before the days of modern Extreme Makeover techniques, had huge, rodent-like teeth and large floppy ears. Other than that, however, she was a real looker.)

But Sedaka might have been singing a different tune if he had seen the oddly named Bare Roots Calendar that I received in the mail last week.

You see, it's not the roots that are bare in this calendar, it's the gardeners themselves.

And these aren't glamour shots. They're out in the garden, trim-

ming, digging, mulching away buck naked!

Oh, the shots are tastefully done, you might say. Miss January, for instance, is sitting in her garden playing a very large and strategically placed accordion.

Sure, why not?

Whatcha doing, honey?

Oh, I thought I'd get naked and go outside and play the accordion.

Sure, happens every day in modern suburbia!

And then somebody said, "Hey, that's a great idea for a calendar!"

Because, after all, we have dog calendars and cat calendars and lighthouse calendars and farm implement calendars but, until now, there has not been a calendar featuring the middleaged men and women of the Civic Garden Center of Greater Cincinnati posing in the nude.

I can't imagine why it took so long! I think every garden club in America should sponsor its own nude calendar, as should every bridge group, birding club and Parent Teacher Association!

(Editor's note: Writer insists he's raving to make a point here. Don't you believe it.)

But I am raving to make a point!

age and you have yet to pose nude, you have missed the boat!

Face it, people! Time passes, skin sags, gravity happens!

If you are facing a mid-life crisis, there are many perfectly acceptable alternatives to posing nude. You can dye your hair, buy a sports car, take up cannibalism.

(Note to younger readers: This should not be construed as endorsement for younger people to pose nude. However, if your parents, as part of school library fundraising project, decide to pose nude for a calendar, I am endorsing the use of elephant guns to tranquilize your parents until they come to their senses.)

I wonder what Sedaka would write nowadays:

January, you're as big as a bear February, how about some underwear

March, are you out of your mind? April, watch out for your behind!

But since I'm making fun of these brave folks, I feel I should also say that those interested in buying this calendar may go to www.civicgardencenter.org.

Listen, if you've reached middle (c) 2003 King Features Synd., Inc.

United Way names Zuloaga as new leader

EL PASO COUNTY — The an excellent selection," said Chacón.

agency's executive director effective Feb. 1. 2003.

Zuloaga will lead the nonprofit organization, which supports 54 member agencies in El Paso County. She succeeds Alicia R. Chacón, who will retire on Jan. 31, 2003.

Zuloaga, currently the associate director, previously headed the Girl Deborah Zuloaga

Scouts of the Rio Grande. She has in marketing. She currently serves as

to be a proven asset to United Way and will lead the organization to new heights."

"The Board of Directors has made Board.

United Way Board of Directors has "Deborah has an enthusiastic undernamed Deborah A. Zuloaga as the standing of United Way's mission

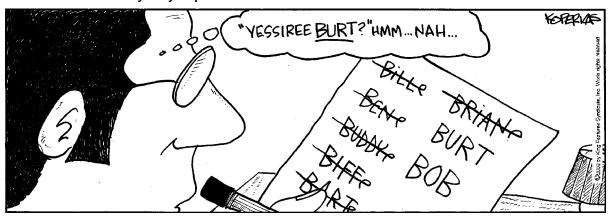
> and is completely dedicated to our community. I am confident she can and will bring our community together with a common purpose of building a better community. The best days of United Way are still to come!"

Zuloaga is a native El Pasoan and a graduate of the University of North Texas with a bachelor's

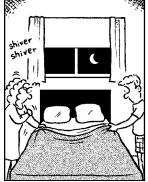
extensive experience in management, a board member of the Sun Bowl Asfundraising and community relations. sociation and vice president of the "We feel fortunate to have been Las Palmas Del Sol Sun Bowl Paable to draw someone of Deborah A. rade. She is also a member of the Zuloaga's caliber and know-how to Rotary Club of El Paso and Executhis position," said Enrique Moreno, tive Forum. In addition to her exten-Board Chairman. "We anticipate her sive community involvement, she has been selected to serve as a member and secretary of the Las Palmas Medical Center Women's Advisory

Comix

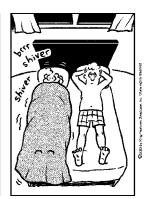
OUT ON A LIMB By Gary Kopervas



GOT A LIFE By Terri Davis









THE SPATS By Jeff Pickering







R.F.D. By Mike Marland







El Paso area cattle remain under restriction, USDA eases movement requirements on the rest of Texas

EL PASO COUNTY — The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has published its interim rule allowing Texas feeder cattle — with the exception of those in the El Paso area — to continue to move out of state without additional restrictions, at least until Sept. 30, 2003.

Dr. James Lenarduzzi, acting executive director for the Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC) said that strict requirements for identifying, testing and permitting cattle movement will continue in a designated highrisk area that encompasses about 100 herds in Texas' far west El Paso County and a portion of Hudspeth County.

"The USDA approved a special 'movement restriction zone' (MRZ) in the two counties in November of 2000 because of recurring, low levels of infection in nine dairies comprising the 'El Paso Milk Shed' along the Rio Grande. We work with producers in the MRZ to ensure movement requirements are met, so commerce can continue.

"Furthermore, the USDA is finalizing the purchase and depopulation of the dairies in the MRZ, where under Texas law, no new dairies will be permitted."

Health officials have said that the El Paso dairies recurring problem may be attributed to the nearness to the U.S./Mexico border, where contact is more likely with uninspected Mexican cattle.

Other Texas ranchers, feedlot operators and private practitioners have waited since June 6, 2002, to learn if, in 2003, they would have to apply USDA ear tags to their 1.5 million steers, feeder bull calves, and feeder heifers destined for out-of-state grazing or feedlots each year. The restrictions also would have required Texas feeder bull calves and feeder heifers to be tested for cattle tuberculosis (TB) prior to movement.





work for you. 852-3235 West Texas County Newspapers work!

Put us to

El Paso selected as site for new Veteran's Home

AUSTIN — The Texas Veterans approved the El Paso and McAllen located in areas where they were Land Board has selected El Paso and McAllen as the sites for two new Jan. 4. The Texas Veterans Land Texas State Veterans Homes, Land Commissioner Jerry Patterson announced on Saturday, Jan. 4.

Amarillo also received conditional approval for a future site.

"These homes are designed for Texas veterans, their spouses and Gold Star parents who need longterm, skilled nursing care," said Patterson, a retired U.S. Marine Corps Lieutenant Colonel and Vietnam veteran. "They provide dignified care for those who served our nation among the camaraderie of fellow veterans."

The Texas Veterans Land Board

sites in a public meeting in Austin on Board members are Patterson, who serves as chairman, Col. Ladd Pattillo, USAR (Ret.), and Mr. Mike Ussery, who served in Korea for the U.S. Army.

Each community selected for a Texas State Veterans Home may see more than 120 jobs and a \$3 million annual payroll from each fully operational home. Construction on the two new homes should begin in late 2003. Each home is self-sustaining, costing state and local taxpayers nothing.

The sites were selected from 40 applications. The selection process sought to ensure the new homes were

most likely to quickly achieve and sustain maximum occupancy.

In making their decision, the most important criteria considered by the Texas Veterans Land Board were:

- The number of veterans over 65 in the service area for the proposed home.
- The distance of the proposed home from an existing Texas State Veterans Home.
- The proximity of the proposed home to required U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs medical facilities and services or the equivalent.

"We received many fine proposals, but we have only been awarded enough federal funding for two homes this year," Patterson said.

tional homes to serve the approximately 500,000 Texas veterans who are 65 or older.

Patterson authored Senate Bill 1060, the legislation that established the Texas State Veterans Homes program while serving as a state senator

Patterson said five additional grants for constructing Texas State Veterans Homes are pending with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. The department determines funding priority and criteria for state veterans homes, and Texas must compete with other states each year for this funding.

He said the two new homes would complement the first four state veterans homes in Temple, Floresville,

Patterson said Texas needs addi- Big Spring and Bonham. Each facility has a similar layout to save on design costs, and houses up to 160 veterans in spacious private and semi-private rooms.

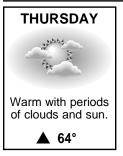
> Each home offers a broad spectrum of health care services, a comprehensive rehabilitation program, special diets, recreational activities, social services, a library and a specialty Alzheimer's care unit with its own secure yard.

> Additional information on Texas State Veterans Homes can be obtained by calling toll-free statewide (800) 252-VETS and asking for the Texas State Veterans Home division. Other general information is available on the Texas General Land Office Web site at www.glo.state.tx.us, or by calling (800) 252-VETS.

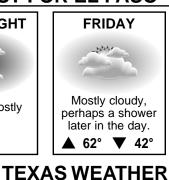
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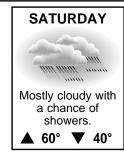
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SEVEN-DAY FORECAST FOR EL PASO

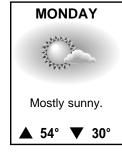


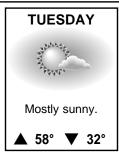




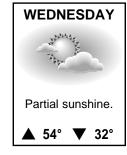








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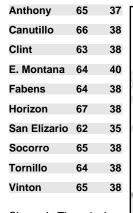
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UV INDEX Statistics for noon. The higher the UV Index, the greater

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REAL FEEL TEMP™ The exclusive AccuWeather composite of the effects of temperature, wind, humidity, sunshine precipitation, and elevation on the human body. Thursday65° Wednesday47°



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



TRAVELERS CITIES

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City	Hi/Lo/W	Hi/Lo/W	Hi/Lo/W	Hi/Lo/W	Hi/Lo/W
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Atlanta	62/38/s	53/32/pc	51/32/pc	48/33/pc	50/31/c
Atlantic City	51/34/pc	44/26/s	38/19/s	39/24/s	40/22/pc
Austin/San Antonio	72/39/pc	60/40/c	58/38/c	55/36/pc	65/36/s
Baltimore	56/36/pc	44/24/s	40/22/s	38/20/s	40/25/pc
Boston	44/30/pc	36/22/pc	32/20/pc	32/18/s	32/21/c
Chicago	38/18/c	28/12/pc	23/10/pc	25/10/pc	26/9/sn
Dallas/Ft. Worth	60/37/pc	50/34/c	48/33/c	55/34/pc	57/31/s
Denver	48/18/pc	38/16/pc	38/18/pc	48/27/pc	45/24/c
Flagstaff	48/27/pc	46/26/pc	43/22/pc	48/21/c	48/22/s
Houston	69/48/pc	59/44/c	55/43/c	62/45/c	64/36/pc
Kansas City	46/16/s	35/16/pc	32/18/pc	37/24/pc	38/11/c
Las Vegas	64/42/pc	60/40/pc	60/36/pc	63/40/pc	63/40/s
Miami	72/57/s	75/61/pc	73/60/pc	74/63/pc	76/63/sh
Minneapolis	26/4/c	16/0/c	14/4/pc	20/8/pc	19/-8/c
New Orleans	70/50/s	61/44/c	57/45/c	62/46/c	60/37/pc
New York City	50/36/pc	40/24/s	36/22/s	36/20/s	38/24/pc
Philadelphia	54/36/pc	42/23/s	38/21/s	38/18/s	39/23/pc
Phoenix	73/53/pc	70/51/pc	68/48/pc	72/48/pc	71/45/s
Portland	48/36/pc	48/38/pc	48/38/c	48/36/c	46/30/r
San Francisco	58/46/sh	56/46/c	56/48/pc	58/48/c	57/35/pc
Seattle	48/36/pc	48/38/pc	46/38/c	48/37/r	46/35/r
Tucson	72/48/pc	70/46/c	66/42/pc	70/41/s	69/43/s
Washington, DC	58/38/pc	46/28/s	42/26/s	38/24/s	44/29/pc

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

AGRICULTURE

There will be 4-6 hours of sunshine today with good drying conditions. Winds light and variable with relative humidity averaging 60-70 percent. A disturbance pushing into the Rockies will bring the chance for showers later Friday into Saturday. Cooler and mainly dry early next week.

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