



## NEWSBRIEFS

### National Night Out

An event intended to get neighbors acquainted and involved in neighborhood safety, National Night Out, will have a new participant when the lights go on and the fun begins at John O. Ensor Middle School. This is the first year the school will participate in the event which is sponsored by community groups and law enforcement agencies. From 6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. neighborhoods are encouraged to turn on their outside lights and come outdoors to meet their neighbors. At EMS, there will be food and music, and the basketball and tennis courts will be open for use. Call School Resource Officer Eric Gammon for further information at 355-1483.

### Anthony/El Paso funds

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) awarded the following grants to local housing authorities through their Capital Fund Program:

- The Housing Authority of the City of El Paso received \$8,856,286
- The El Paso County Housing Authority received \$132,757
- The Housing Authority of Anthony received \$41,196

"This funding will allow the El Paso and Anthony housing authorities to improve the interior and exterior of their public housing sites. HUD's investment in El Paso demonstrates the federal government's commitment to supporting local infrastructure," said Congressman Silvestre Reyes, D-El Paso. HUD's Capital Fund Program grants are awarded annually to finance modernization, development and management improvements of public housing agencies. "The Capital Fund Program is an approach that allows local authorities the flexibility to decide the best way to meet low-income housing needs. It will ultimately mean better public housing in El Paso, and will provide our lower income residents with a better place to call home," said Reyes.

### Survey says...

A survey of 500 Texans statewide by the independent polling firm Survey USA, commissioned by KVUE television of Austin, found that 53 percent of those polled said they disapproved of the Democratic senator's walkout over the redistricting issue, while 37 percent said they approved. Ten percent said they were unsure. The poll has a 4.4 percent margin of error.

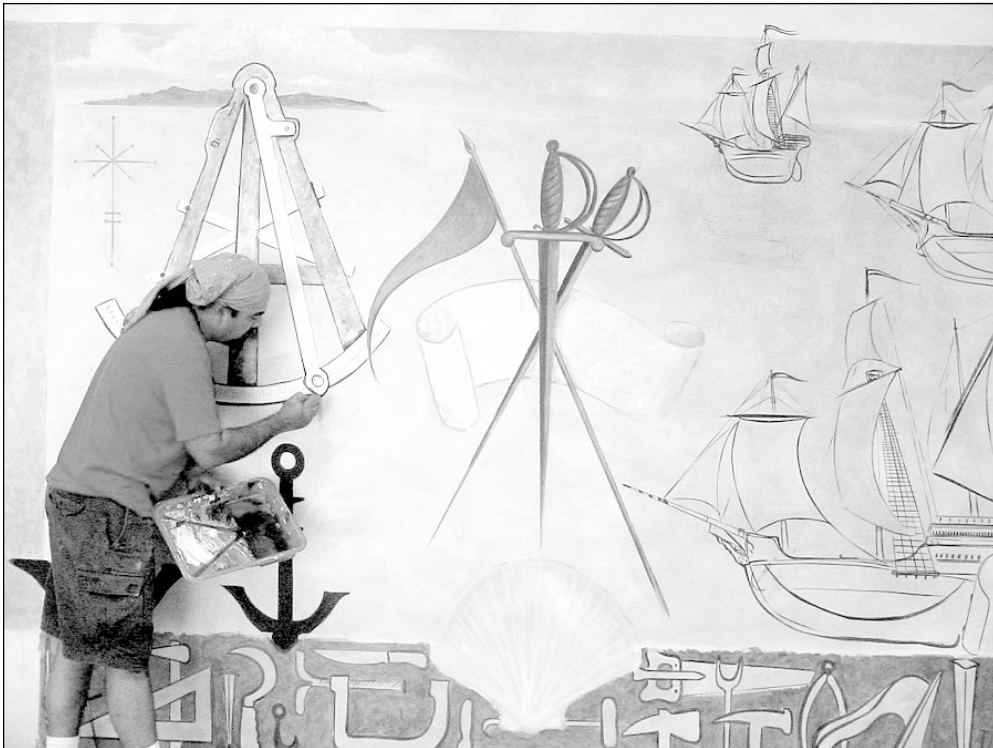
### In other news

■ Border Patrol Agents in the Las Cruces sector rescued two children, ages six and seven, Thursday night last week after they were thrown onto a moving flatbed rail car in an attempt to further a family's illegal entry into the U.S. A concerned citizen

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*Confidence is that quiet, absolutely assured feeling you have just before you fall flat on your face.*

— Quips & Quotes



**AAARGH, MATEY** — 'Tis a pirate's legacy that muralist Roberto Salas will be leaving in his wake for his fellow sea lovers at Myrtle Cooper Elementary School. This mural evokes a sense of all things nautical with images of boats, sextants, oars and ocean fish.

## Muralist fascinated by the sea

EL PASO COUNTY — The legacy of the ocean — long part of the symbolism of Socorro ISD's Myrtle Cooper Elementary School — is greeting students, employees and campus visitors.

The school has commissioned muralist Roberto Salas to paint the school's library entrance with scenes of the continents, fish, and seafaring equipment. He's using acrylic wa-

ter-based paint, and should finish the work by mid-August. His assistants are "first mate" Joe Marquez and El Paso ISD student Andrew Escandon.

Sixth grader Crystal Morales has been watching the progress of the three-part mural. "It's very interesting. It fits perfectly with us

See MURAL, Page 6



**IF YOU BUILD IT, THEY WILL COME** — This Canutillo CASA group wants to build Gallegos Park for Canutillo. Shown front row from left, Carol Rivera, senior; Ruby Palacios, senior; Jesus Esparza, seventh grader; Denise Martinez, college freshman; Carmen Monrreal, junior; back row, from left, Carmen Monrreal, Coordinator, Nathaniel Deragowski, freshman; Isaac Monrreal, sophomore, Nanci Esparza, freshman, Andres Cuevas, sophomore; Jose Perez, college freshman; and Samuel Monrreal, senior.

## Despite obstacles CASA group says Gallegos project will be built

By Don Woodyard  
Courier Staff Writer

CANUTILLO — The wheels of change are moving in Canutillo, rolling toward Gallegos

Park, and they seem to be picking up speed.

Behind this movement is a group of young people who seek to make a positive difference in the Upper Valley community. The group is

See PARK, Page 7

## Check your health plan for loopholes that could leave you holding the bill

AUSTIN — Think "HIPAA," and you're likely to think "privacy." But for one Houston-area patient and possibly hundreds of thousands of others statewide, a whole new HIPAA meaning has been discovered.

The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act, passed by Congress in 1996, carries with it a loophole allowing non-federal government agencies like school districts, municipalities, and state agencies, to choose exemptions in their health insurance coverage if they self-insure, reports according to the August issue of Texas Medicine magazine.

Self-insuring means they keep funds in reserve and pay claims from those funds, rather than hiring an outside insurance company. Employees of cities, counties, state agencies, universities, school districts, hospital districts, and government-related health insurance pools are all susceptible, depending upon what their employer chose.

The HIPAA loophole is Alan Barnett's \$77,000 nightmare. The employee of the Klein Independent School District elected, with his physician's input, to undergo a procedure to eliminate his kidney stones. Twice his insurance company confirmed coverage for the procedure, according to Texas Medicine, so Barnett's physician, Howard Lippman, MD, proceeded. After the stones were blasted away, Barnett was blown away by a bill for \$77,000.

"We expected to spend approximately \$2,500, but now we owe about \$80,000. We were duped into a situation that could leave us bankrupt," said Barnett's wife, Evelyn.

While Barnett was a long-time employee of the school district, he had not been enrolled in its self-funded insurance plan because his wife's company-provided insurance was superior — until she was laid off. They continued their same coverage under COBRA (Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act), until it neared expiration, at which time he signed up for his work plan. While his new coverage was taking effect he had a regular check-up, which discovered his recurring health problem. The Barnetts and their physician chose to proceed with treatment only after assurances that his plan would cover it.

But his new insurer then saw evidence of pre-existence, and, leaping through the loophole, refused payment after the procedure took place. They did so even though he had never let his coverage lapse.

According to Texas Medicine, the new law allows non-Federal government entities with self-funded health plans to choose any or all of six exemptions.

Under the six exemptions, such employer/self-insurers:

- Can skip holding special insurance enrollment periods;
- Can discriminate against participants & beneficiaries based on the individual's health status;
- Can include the use of pre-existing conditions to deny coverage for patients with continuous health insurance coverage;
- Can dictate benefits/hospital stays for mothers and their newborns, less than the

See LOOP HOLES, Page 7





One perspective

By Francis Shrum

Media types

We just thought it was a new phenomenon. You know, manipulating public opinion through the media.

Hardly. Francisco “Pancho” Villa was savvy enough to start doing it way back in 1913, when the movies were silent and the images so stylized no one could possibly believe them.

But Pancho believed them, and with uncanny foresight he understood that he could influence world opinion through the lens of the movie camera.

I had the unexpected pleasure of being among the 1,000 or so folks in the Abraham Chavez Theatre last week for the premiere of “And Starring Pancho Villa as Himself,” an HBO movie which will be aired on Sept. 7. We sat way up in the balcony so that the super-size of screen didn’t overwhelm the story.

And some story it is.

Shot entirely in Mexico — in the state of Guanajuato — the realism of the El Paso-like desert scenery makes an effective backdrop to the dressed-up version of how Villa successfully wooed the movie industry in New Jersey to send a movie crew to the desolate border region and pay him for the privilege of filming his revolution — in gold, no cash, please. Hence, there exists a more extensive photographic record of Pancho Villa’s exploits than of any military conflict prior to that time.

The film portrays Villa as both an embittered, hardened and ruthless revolutionary and as an alternate personality filled with idealistic love of country, black-slapping good-humor, and a taste for the newly discovered delicacy, ice cream. Both were prob-

ably true, depending on the day or the hour.

Pancho Villa was a man of extremes with no middle ground. The film effectively delivers the irrefutable truth that he was a man people either idolized or hated and usually with good reason.

The story is told from the perspective of young Frank Thayer, production assistant to the movie magnate head of Mutual Movie Company. The young man, played by Eion Bailey, is given the Villa assignment and during the five months or so covered by the film, we see young Thayer and his film crew progress from green, frightened city boys — one actually wets his pants while filming a gruesome battle — to a team of seasoned film makers who successfully rewrite Villa’s story to conform to the emotional mind-set of American audiences of that time.

We also are given a grim view of the way people use each other — Villa uses the impressionable young Thayer for money and influence while Thayer uses Villa to build his career in film-making.

Art influences life even to the degree that Thayer requests that Villa invade Torreon from the west rather than the east so the crew won’t have to film into the sunrise — and the contract signed between Villa and the Mutual film company actually contains a clause that Villa will do all his fighting during daylight hours.

That agreement, of course, whether true or fictional, was inevitably broken.

Neither does the film shy away from the grim reality of war, the flash-fire results of Villa’s temper, or his sometimes ruthless treatment of others.

A colorful portrayal by Alan Arkin

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30 Years WEST TEXAS COUNTY COURIER

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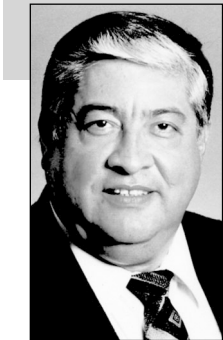
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Por la Gente By State Rep. Chente Quintanilla

Texas redistricting should not take priority over Texas families



Since when did the issue of redistricting take priority over the needs of our children and Texas working families?

A study conducted by the Urban Institute and Robert Wood Johnson Foundation finds Texas with the highest percentage of uninsured children in the nation. Gov. Rick Perry categorizes redistricting as important but to me it’s not more important than the issue of insuring that all children in Texas receive equitable treatment.

This issue has caused both the House and Senate to become sorely divided. Allow me to explain why and how this is causing our Texas families emotional and financial grief.

Recently, I received an email from a Republican constituent. He wrote to me in a desperate manner to help him restore hospice services under the CHIP program.

I replied to him, *que mas diera yo!* What more would I want, than to restore all funding in the CHIP program. Unfortunately, during our regular session the Republican majority decided to reduce funding on CHIP and eliminate other social service programs that affect children and elderly, thus creating an emotional and financial hardship on people who most need social service assistance.

During the first called special session numerous attempts were made to amend the CHIP’s program funding that was cut and passed during the regular session. Again the Republican leadership refused to reinstate program funding, even though the money had been found in the budget and was available to be used in education for teachers and for programs such as CHIP and Medicaid.

On our second day of the second called special session, new efforts were attempted to introduce an amendment to a bill and reinstate funding for CHIP and Medicaid programs. Unfortunately, the majority voted to earmark the funding available for transportation projects.

Furthermore, that same day the Republican leadership suspended rules that protect minority points of view. The redistricting bill was re-introduced, then approved in its final form by the Texas House in just a few minutes — without a public hearing — with only 20 minutes of debate, and without any meaningful discussion.

I disagree with our Governor’s remarks that if the 11 senators don’t come home they will jeopardize the vital increase in funding of \$167 million for doctors and hospitals by killing legislation that will ensure a higher Medicaid reimbursement rate and \$36 million for community care services.

They don’t need the 11 Democrats to come home to restore these cuts. They don’t even need to bring back their Republican colleagues who are at a conference in Washington, D.C. The truth is the 11 people they need to restore these cuts are Governor, Lt. Governor, Speaker and eight House and Senate members on the Legislative Budget Board.

If public education finance, health and human services are truly the priority, then redistricting should be taken off the table. I believe that our Texas families’ needs are first priority.

As I ever I remain your friend and representative,  
Chente for La Gente





# Community health centers: Neighbors helping neighbors

For over 30 years, community health centers have provided community-based care to patients who otherwise may not have received necessary medical treatment. This month our nation celebrates “Community Health Center Week.” It’s an opportunity to remind folks about the important role that community health centers play in our lives.

Just recently, I had the honor of touring a new building at the Gateway Community Health Center in Laredo, Texas. I hold this building especially close to my heart because it was named in my honor.

As I walked from room to room, I was reminded of the miracles that take place every day in centers just like this one. Community health centers — like the ones in Laredo and Uvalde — serve the millions of people who choose to live in rural America. They fill a critical role in health care and should not be taken for granted.

Whether it’s because the only doctor is too far away or is too expensive, receiving proper medical care is just not an option for some folks. This is where community health centers step in.

We all know that being healthy is important to being a productive member of your family and the larger

community. But too often in poor and rural regions of Texas, parents and children are forced to go without proper health care. Community health centers are able to provide important health services for rural



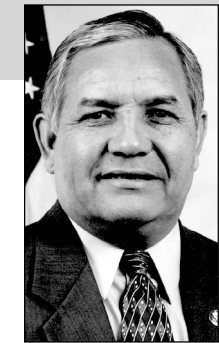
## Eye on D.C.

By U.S. Rep. Henry Bonilla

America. Whether it’s preventive prenatal care or early detection of diseases like diabetes or breast cancer, community health centers increase access to much needed care.

But community health centers do much more than just treat illness. They also help prevent disease and strengthen entire communities. Community health centers improve citizens’ health, but they also provide jobs, strengthen schools, stabilize neighborhoods and enhance community pride. Workers are able to be more productive, children are able to stay in school, and mothers are able to care for their newborn babies. Community health centers work because they are neighbors helping neighbors to keep their community healthy and happy.

I’d like to say thank you, once again, to all the people who have dedicated themselves to these important institutions. We owe you a great deal of gratitude and in many instances, we owe you our lives. Thank you and keep up the good work!



## Reyes Reports By U.S. Rep. Silvestre Reyes

### Sept. 11 report shows need for all agencies to work together

El Paso and the world now have the opportunity to learn more about how the nation came to be attacked on Sept. 11, 2001 — and how the country responded. The House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence and the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence recently released the 832-page report of the Joint Inquiry into Intelligence Community Activities Before and After the Terrorist Attacks of Sept. 11, 2001. This massive document is the result of months of our exhaustive investigation, careful examination of over 500,000 documents, numerous meetings, and open and closed hearings with the nation’s top intelligence experts and officials. As a member of the House Intelligence Committee, I took part in its lengthy deliberations, working with my colleagues to piece together how these attacks happened and what we can do to safeguard against another

terrorist attack. The Sept. 11, 2001 attacks changed the perspective of the U.S. intelligence community. Prior to the 9/11 attacks, the U.S. intelligence community (which consists of the National Security Agency (NSA), Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA), parts of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), intelligence components of the military and federal agencies such as the State, Treasury, and Energy Departments, the National Reconnaissance Organization, and the National Imagery and Mapping Organization, did not have a clear-cut anti-terrorism strategy. There was a lot of information coming in that was not even being analyzed. Different agencies and departments did not work together and share necessary information that might have alerted us that these attacks were in the making. Military leaders were also reluctant to use their resources in counterterrorism

efforts. After 9/11, the intelligence community realized that it could not afford not to share its information. The different departments and agencies that make up the intelligence community have to share what they know and work together to effectively fight terrorists. Organizations such as the FBI and the military have had to slightly change their mission to make terrorism their main focus. The intelligence community needs improved funding and technology. Until recently, the FBI did not have the technology that even local police departments have and lacked effective data storage and analytical tools to be effective. Many FBI agents didn’t even have e-mail. Congress and the Administration need to provide all intelligence agencies with increased funding. In order to effectively analyze data that is coming in, we need more foreign

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Carlisle Navidomskis  
M.Ed., LPC  
Family Counselor

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**TRUE TEXAS FACTS** by Roger Moore August 1, 1918, Emma Banister in Coleman County becomes the first female sheriff in the U.S.



View from here

By Marge Bartoletti

Damage caused by cross border partying is a preventable problem

Most El Paso and Ciudad Juarez residents know that thousands of youth cross the border every week-end night to party in Mexico. Lured by cheap drinks and a legal drinking age of 18, cross border underage and binge drinkers are responsible for car crashes, assaults, thefts, and rapes, which significantly lessen the quality-of-life for us all.

What perhaps isn't widely known is the fact that there are proven ways to prevent the problems linked to cross border underage and binge drinking. It is critical that we learn more about these proven methods and duplicate them in our own bi-national community.

Alcohol-linked problems are not unique to our region. All border communities face extraordinary challenges of working in a bi-national environment with two languages, cultures and customs. The many layers of federal, state and local government from both sides of the border

further complicate matters. It is no surprise to find that the same problems appear in most other border communities. Nonetheless, while the obstacles to effectively reduce the problems are daunting, they are not intractable by any means.

Perhaps the best example of a border community successfully reducing underage and high-risk drinking is San Diego and Tijuana. According to the Pacific Institute for Research and Evaluation, from 1996 to 2000, actions taken by the San Diego-Tijuana Border Project led to a 26 percent reduction of late night partiers and 37 percent reduction in late night border crossers with blood alcohol levels over the legal limit (.08%). Even more impressive is the fact that traffic deaths associated with cross-border binge drinking plummeted from nearly two dozen in 1999 to only five in 2000.

So, what are they doing to get these results? They address the drinking

environments themselves and employ strategies to change the underlying conditions that cause the problems. While it is no quick fix, doing so caused consistent and predictable outcomes. In fact, the results were so remarkable that the United States Center for Substance Abuse Prevention (CSAP) designated the Border Project as a "model program" to be replicated.

Armed with this knowledge, I, along with representatives from the El Paso Police Department and the Ciudad Juarez City Council, visited our counterparts in San Diego and Tijuana to publicly advocate for policies such as uniform bar closing and vigorous ID checks at the border. Our visit included private meetings with high-level public officials, a midnight tour of Tijuana's drinking district and participation with federal, county and municipal law enforcement officers conducting "Operation Safe Crossing" at the border.

Recently, the El Paso Times reported that the Rio Grande Safe Communities Coalition received a grant to replicate the same approach that proved so successful on the San Diego and Tijuana border. First, we are creating a local version of the Bor-

der Project, which we call "Operation BRIDGE". We will link "Operation BRIDGE" with the Border Policy Council, a border-long advocacy body. Participants of both the local and border-long groups are absolutely committed to replicating proven cross border underage and binge drinking-related methods. Creating these two prevention advocacy partnerships is only the first of many steps to increasing our local ability to prevent alcohol-related deaths and crime. But they are important steps in the right direction.

Car crashes, assaults, thefts, and rapes caused by cross border underage and binge drinkers are not inevitable. In fact, it is a proven fact that they are preventable. Now that we know what to do, it's time to get to work — together.

Marge Bartoletti is the Director of the Rio Grande Safe Communities Coalition. She can be reached at [mrb.rgsc@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mrb.rgsc@sbcglobal.net) or by phone: 775-2555.

Greyhound to be inducted into Animal Hall of Fame

The El Paso Animal Hall of Fame Induction is set for Wednesday, Aug. 13 to honor Edie/Sum Hope the greyhound, selected as the 2003 Companion Canine Extraordinaire.

This is the Sixth annual official induction ceremony of the El Paso Animal Hall of Fame, free and open to the public at the El Paso Zoo, 4001 E. Paisano, in the Recognition Garden near the entrance to the Asian Exhibit. The Garden was constructed by the Zoo's facilities staff to highlight special people and animals.

The El Paso Animal Hall of Fame recognizes the contributions of El Paso's animals which have shared their lives and their talents by saving a life, stopping crime, serving as a personal companion, performing for audiences or educating the public.

Refreshments will be served. For information: Dr. Jim Koschmann, (915) 584-3459.

— Michelle Brown

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING TO DISCUSS BUDGET AND PROPOSED TAX RATE

The **Tornillo Independent School District** will hold a public meeting at 5:00 p.m., Tuesday, August 19, 2003 in the TISD Administration Building, 19200 Cobb Street, Tornillo, Texas. **The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the school district's budget that will determine the tax rate that will be adopted.** Public participation in the discussion is invited.

The tax rate that is ultimately adopted at this meeting or at a separate meeting at a later date may not exceed the proposed tax rate shown below unless the district publishes a revised notice containing the same information and comparisons set out below and holds another public meeting to discuss the revised notice.

Comparison of Proposed Rates with last Year's Rates						
	Maintenance & Operation	Interest & Sinking Fund*	Total	Local Revenue Per Student	State Revenue Per Student	
Last Year's Rate	\$ 1.5000	\$ 0.2181*	\$ 1.7181	\$ 579	\$6,454	
Rate to Maintain Same Level of Maintenance & Operations Revenue & Pay Debt Service	\$ 1.6750	\$ 0.0150*	\$ 1.6900	\$ 622	\$6,744	
Proposed Rate	\$ 1.5000	\$ 0.0150*	\$ 1.5150	\$ 540	\$6,744	

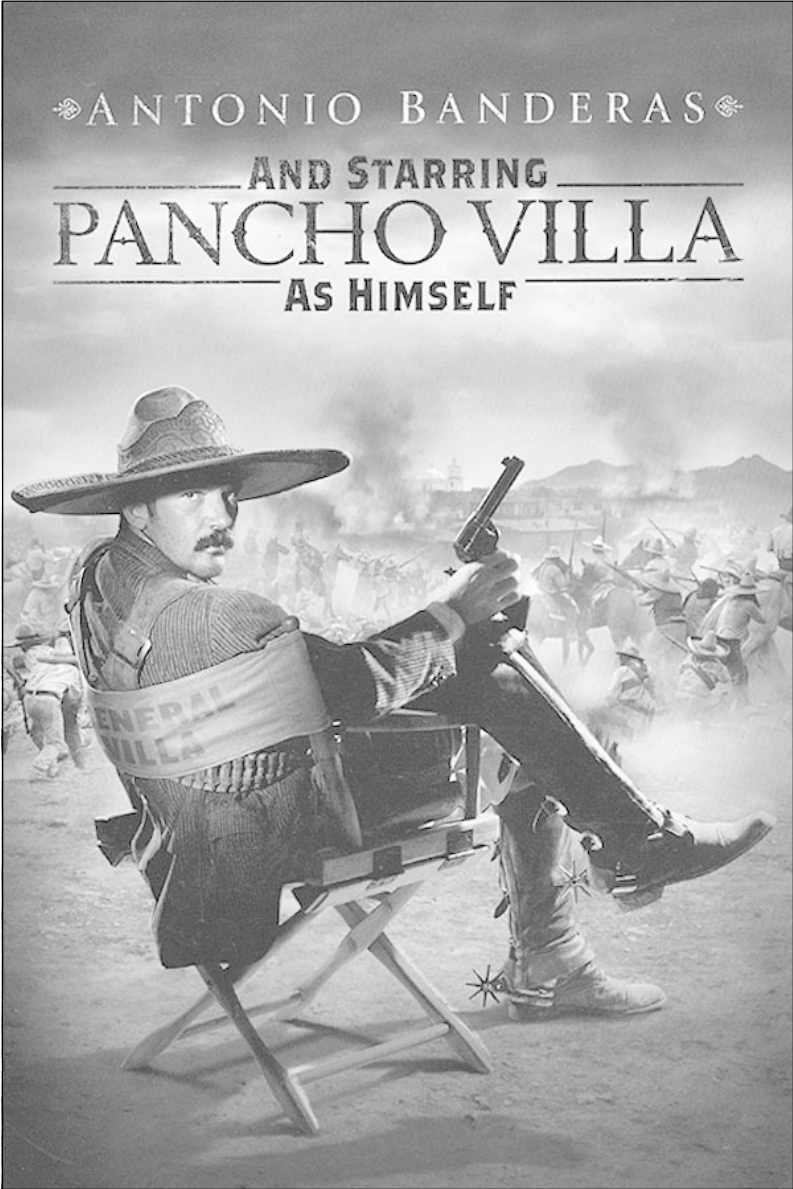
\*The Interest & Sinking Fund tax revenue is used to pay for bonded indebtedness on construction, equipment, or both. The bonds, and the tax rate necessary to pay those bonds, were approved by the voters of this district.

Comparison of Proposed Levy with Last Year's Levy on Average Residence		
	Last Year	This Year
Average Market Value of Residences	\$ 29,818	\$30,034
Average Taxable Value of Residences	\$ 14,795	\$15,034
Last Year's Rate Versus		
Proposed Rate per \$100 Value	\$ 1.7181	\$ 1.5150
Taxes Due on Average Residence	\$ 254.19	\$ 227.77
Increase (Decrease) in Taxes		\$ (26.42)

Under state law, the dollar amount of school taxes imposed on the residence homestead of a person 65 years of age or older or of the surviving spouse of such a person, if the surviving spouse was 55 years of age or older when the person died, may not be increased above the amount paid in the first year after the person turned 65, regardless of changes in the tax rate or property value.

Notice of Rollback Rate: The highest tax rate the district can adopt before requiring voter approval at an election is 1.7500. This election will be automatically held if the district adopts a rate in excess of the rollback rate of 1.7500.

Fund Balances	
The following estimated balances will remain at the end of the current fiscal year and are not encumbered with or by a corresponding debt obligation, less estimated funds necessary for operating the district before receipt of the first state aid payment:	
Maintenance and Operations Fund Balance(s)	\$ 1,431,150
Interest & Sinking Fund Balance(s)	\$ 76,260



DIRECTOR, ACTOR, REVOLUTIONARY — Part fact, part fiction, this colorful story illustrates how the media first came to film a battleground. Pancho Villa, “playing himself,” controlled the story but wasn’t above adjusting battle plans to accommodate filming. Antonio Banderas, above, is shown in his portrayal of the revolutionary.

Media

From Page 2

of an American mercenary fighting in Villa's revolution was an unexpected surprise.

Like all stories, the history of Pancho Villa, the man and his mission, is interpreted through the filter of each viewer. Joshua Maurer, executive producer of the film, introduced his work to the El Paso audience as a "labor of love," bemoaning the lack of understanding between the American and Mexican cultures.

"The Rio Grande may be a 'piddling stream' but it represents a giant gulf between our countries," Maurer said. During his five-year

research for the film, Maurer said he was "amazed at the lack of understanding" about Pancho Villa and the ideals for which he stood.

Villa's story as chronicled by HBO skips from the decisive battle of Torreón in 1914 to a brief reference to his assassination in 1923. It does not explore his later conflicts with the U.S. brought on by his raid on the border town of Columbus, New Mexico, and the subsequent — and unsuccessful — pursuit mounted by Gen. John Pershing out of El Paso.

The hefty reality of Pancho Villa's silhouette is slenderized by the graceful stance of Antonio Banderas in the starring role. His roundish face is given a more chiseled profile.

Media type that he was, I think he would have approved.

# Texans can update their driver license on line

AUSTIN — The Texas Department of Public Safety is utilizing the internet to improve service to license holders. The department’s web site allows eligible license and identification holders to conveniently update the address on or renew their driver license or identification card from home or work using a valid credit or debit card.

“We are pleased to be able to expand our online services to include address changes,” said Col. Thomas A. Davis Jr., director of the DPS. “Drivers and identification card holders are required by law to change their address on their card within 30 days.”

The online process is simple by logging on to [www.TexasOnline.com](http://www.TexasOnline.com). License and identification holders only need information from their current driver license or identification card to complete the transaction. Address changes may be made separately or in conjunction with a driver license renewal. The online change of address service costs a total of \$11. If you renew at the same time, the total cost is \$25.

To be eligible, the license or identification card must not be expired, the applicant does not currently hold a provisional driver license, is over

18 years of age and their record indicates no current suspension or revocations. This service is only available for Class C and CM type licenses.

Visitors can access [www.TexasOnline.com](http://www.TexasOnline.com) with confidence because the website incorporates the highest level of security available today, a DPS spokesman said. Services are available in both English and Spanish. DPS has offered drivers the option of renewing

their driver license over the internet for the last two years. To date, more than 440,000 people have taken advantage of convenient online services that are safe and secure.

“In providing this internet option, Texans no longer must adjust their schedules to coordinate with the office hours of state government. Technology allows this service to be available at the customer’s convenience,” Col. Davis said.

## Reyes

From Page 3

language speakers, better computer and communications systems, and more staffing. If we want to change the intelligence gathering process so an attack like 9/11 will not occur again, we need the technological capacity to do so.

The Joint Congressional Intelligence Committees’ investigation looked at information from as far back as the 1980s. We had to knock down many institutional barriers that existed between agencies and hold numerous hearings to gain a full understanding of what we need to do to safeguard against another attack. The Administration, Congress, the intelligence community, and local first responders all need to work together to correct the errors of the past and ensure the safety of our future.


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## NOTICE OF EFFECTIVE TAX RATE

### 2003 Property Tax Rates in Town of Anthony

This notice concerns 2003 property tax rates for the **Town of Anthony**. It presents information about three tax rates. Last year’s tax rate is the actual rate the taxing unit used to determine property taxes last year. This year’s *effective* tax rate would impose the same total taxes as last year if you compare properties taxed in both years. This year’s *rollback* tax rate is the highest tax rate the taxing unit can set before taxpayers can start tax rollback procedures. In each case these rates are found by dividing the total amount of taxes by the tax base (the total value of taxable property) with adjustments as required by state law. The rates are given per \$100 of property value.

<b>Last year’s tax rate:</b>	
Last year’s operating taxes	\$180,314
Last year’s debt taxes	78,766
Last year’s total taxes	259,080
Last year’s tax base	84,030,397
Last year’s total tax rate	.308317/\$100

<b>This year’s effective tax rate:</b>	
Last year’s adjusted taxes (after subtracting taxes on lost property)	\$255,708
+This year’s adjusted tax base	
(after subtracting value of new property)	78,273,752
=This year’s effective tax rate	.326684/\$100
x1.03 = maximum rate unless unit publishes notices and holds hearings	.336484/\$100

<b>This year’s rollback tax rate:</b>	
Last year’s adjusted operating taxes (after subtracting taxes on lost property and adjusting for transferred function, tax increment financing, and/or enhanced indigent health care expenditures)	\$177,967
+This year’s adjusted tax base	78,273,752
=This year’s effective operating rate	.227365/\$100
x1.08 = this year’s maximum operating rate	.245554/\$100
+This year’s debt rate	.243125/\$100
=This year’s rollback rate	.488679/\$100

#### Statement of Increase/Decrease

If the **Town of Anthony** adopts a 2003 tax rate equal to the effective rate of **.326684** per \$100 of value, taxes would **increase** compared to 2002 taxes by **\$957**.

#### SCHEDULE A Unencumbered Fund Balances

The following estimated balances will be left in the unit’s property tax accounts at the end of the fiscal year. These balances are not encumbered by a corresponding debt obligation.

Type of Property Tax Fund	Balance
Maintenance & Operation (M&O)	\$234,753
Debt Service (I&S)	26,635

#### SCHEDULE B 2003 Debt Service

The unit plans to pay the following amounts for long-term debts that are secured by property taxes. These amounts will be paid from property tax revenues (or additional sales tax revenues, if applicable).

Description of Debt	Principal or Contract Payment to be Paid from Property Taxes	Interest to be Paid from Property Taxes	Other Amounts to be Paid	Total Payment
'74 GOB	\$6,000	\$ 3,994	\$-0-	\$9,994
SIB#1	16,540	661	-0-	17,201
SIB#2	15,611	14,798	-0-	30,409
2002 GOB	88,000	22,502	-0-	110,502
2002 Certificate of Obligation	13,000	12,419	-0-	25,419

Total required for 2003 debt service	\$193,525
-Amount (if any) paid from funds listed in Schedule A	-0-
-Amount (if any) paid from other resources	-0-
-Excess collections last year	-0-
=Total to be paid from taxes in 2003	193,525
+Amount added in anticipation that the unit will collect only 100% of its taxes in 2003	-0-
=Total Debt Levy	\$193,525

This notice contains a summary of actual effective and rollback tax rate calculations. You can inspect a copy of the full calculations at the City of El Paso Tax Office located at the intersection of Durango and Franklin streets.  
**Name of person preparing this notice:** Juan F. Sandoval  
**Title:** Tax Assessor/Collector  
**Date prepared:** July 25, 2003

# www.wtccourier.com

## —CORRECTED NOTICE— NOTICE OF EFFECTIVE TAX RATE

### 2003 Property Tax Rates in the City of Socorro

This notice concerns 2003 property tax rates for the **City of Socorro**. It presents information about three tax rates. Last year’s tax rate is the actual rate the taxing unit used to determine property taxes last year. This year’s *effective* tax rate would impose the same total taxes as last year if you compare properties taxed in both years. This year’s *rollback* tax rate is the highest tax rate the taxing unit can set before taxpayers can start tax rollback procedures. In each case these rates are found by dividing the total amount of taxes by the tax base (the total value of taxable property) with adjustments as required by state law. The rates are given per \$100 of property value.

<b>Last year’s tax rate:</b>	
Last year’s operating taxes	\$1,614,113
Last year’s debt taxes	338,754
Last year’s total taxes	1,952,867
Last year’s tax base	440,689,490
Last year’s total tax rate	.443139/\$100

<b>This year’s effective tax rate:</b>	
Last year’s adjusted taxes (after subtracting taxes on lost property)	\$1,949,846
+This year’s adjusted tax base (after subtracting value of new property)	413,660,424
=This year’s effective tax rate	.471363/\$100
Maximum rate unless unit publishes notices and holds hearings	.475940/\$100

<b>This year’s rollback tax rate:</b>	
Last year’s adjusted operating taxes (after subtracting taxes on lost property and adjusting for transferred function, tax increment financing, and/or enhanced indigent health care expenditures)	\$1,611,614
+This year’s adjusted tax base	413,660,424
=This year’s effective operating rate	.389598/\$100
x1.08 = this year’s maximum operating rate	.420765/\$100
+This year’s debt rate	.055175/\$100
=This year’s rollback rate	.475940/\$100

#### Statement of Increase/Decrease

If the **City of Socorro** adopts a 2003 tax rate equal to the effective rate of **.471363** per \$100 of value, taxes would **increase** compared to 2002 taxes by **\$222,961**.

#### SCHEDULE A Unencumbered Fund Balances

The following estimated balances will be left in the unit’s property tax accounts at the end of the fiscal year. These balances are not encumbered by a corresponding debt obligation.

Type of Property Tax Fund	Balance
Maintenance & Operation (M&O)	\$1,327,526
Debt Service (I&S)	\$2,838

#### SCHEDULE B 2003 Debt Service

The unit plans to pay the following amounts for long-term debts that are secured by property taxes. These amounts will be paid from property tax revenues (or additional sales tax revenues, if applicable).

Description of Debt	Principal or Contract Payment to be Paid from Property Taxes	Interest to be Paid from Property Taxes	Other Amounts to be Paid	Total Payment
Certificates of Obligation 1999	90,000	48,878	-0-	138,878
Certificates of Obligation 2001	14,400	26,990	-0-	41,390
Park & Ride	8,000	-0-	-0-	8,000
Public Service	10	-0-	-0-	10
First National Bank	12,192	3,641	-0-	15,833
First Capital Group	1,798	12	-0-	1,810
U.S. Trust	1,000	-0-	-0-	1,000
Interlease	395	-0-	-0-	395
First National Bank	23,635	3,169	-0-	26,804
First National Bank	18,136	2,437	-0-	20,573

Total required for 2003 debt service	\$254,693
-Amount (if any) paid from funds listed in Schedule A	-0-
-Amount (if any) paid from other resources	-0-
-Excess collections last year	-0-
=Total to be paid from taxes in 2003	254,693
+Amount added in anticipation that the unit will collect only 100% of its taxes in 2003	-0-
=Total Debt Levy	\$254,693

This notice contains a summary of actual effective and rollback tax rate calculations. You can inspect a copy of the full calculations at the City of El Paso Tax Office located at the intersection of Durango and Franklin streets.  
**Name of person preparing this notice:** Juan F. Sandoval  
**Title:** Tax Assessor/Collector  
**Date prepared:** July 26, 2003



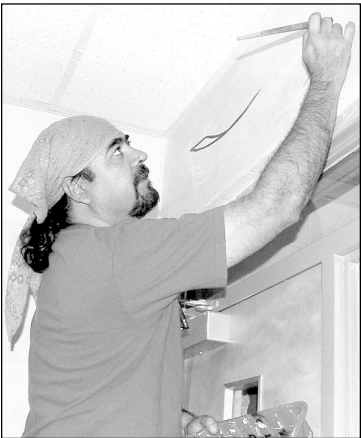
Mural

From Page 1

because we're pirates. It's very nice because it has different kinds of ocean life, and I'm looking forward to it being finished."

Principal Rubina Rodriguez says the artist will teach students about his art. "We're going to bring the students in to talk to him about the process he uses to design a mural. We wanted to beautify the school, and it incorporates the nautical theme of the school."

Cooper school's mascot is the pirate, but Salas says his mural has a more serious purpose. "This is in a more educational kind of format. We're creating symbols that are teaching symbols. Teachers will be able to discuss geography, trade routes, wind currents and directions. Of course, there are a lot of nautical themes such as boats and hooks, sextants, a compass, ship-building tools and different kinds of oars, palm trees and ocean fish, and a border at the top. It's juxtaposing different images next to each other, and it tells a story —



**NOT A LAND-LUBBER** — Roberto Salas may be hundreds of miles from the sea but in his heart he carries the memory of his first visit to the ocean, a vision he shares with students through his ocean mural. "It tells a story," he says, "but it's not uniform."

but it's not uniform." Salas, who holds bachelor's and master's degrees in fine arts, is from El Paso and maintains studios in El Paso and in San Diego. "I remember the first time I ever saw the ocean — it was an overwhelming experience. To this day I still feel a tingle in my stomach. I'm fascinated by it."

Canutillo ISD names top two teachers of the year

By Alfredo Vasquez  
Special to the Courier

UPPER VALLEY — Kyann McMillie, Canutillo Elementary School second grade teacher, will represent Canutillo Independent School District's elementary school teachers; and Rebecca Flórez, Canutillo High School Spanish teacher, will represent the district's secondary level teachers, in the annual Teacher of the Year Awards program sponsored by Region 19 Education Service Center.



Kyann McMillie



Rebecca Flórez

Region 19's teacher of the year event is in conjunction with the Texas Teacher of the Year program that is coordinated by the Texas Education Agency (TEA). A special banquet will be held Thursday, Aug. 28, at the Camino Real Hotel, to recognize the nominees from Region 19's nine participating school districts.

Through the Texas Teacher of the Year program, Regional Teachers of

the Year at the elementary and secondary levels are selected in each of the state's 20 education service center regions. These Regional Teachers of the Year each receive a \$500 cash award from Southwestern Bell Foundation and become semi-finalists for the state

Teacher of the Year award.

The Texas Elementary and Secondary Teachers of the Year are chosen from the regional winners. The state winners each receive an additional \$3,500 as

Academies, and an instructor in reading at the University of Texas at El Paso.

"When I was told that I was chosen as teacher of the year for my school district, I was honored, and quite frankly, somewhat humbled. I don't see myself as being a better teacher than anyone that I work with; in fact, I wish every member of the faculty of Canutillo Elementary School could be nominated for this award," stated McMillie.

Flórez has been an educator for 23 years, the past two years at Canutillo High School. She taught in Canutillo ISD from 1979

well as other recognition and awards. The panel that selects these two outstanding teachers also selects one of these teachers to represent Texas in the National Teacher of the Year program.

McMillie has been a teacher for eight years, all at Canutillo Elementary School. She is a teacher in CES's bilingual two-way dual language program, campus coordinator for the Accelerated Reading Instruction and Reading Renaissance Summer programs, trainer for the Texas Reading

to 1987. Then, she moved to Forney, Texas, where she taught Spanish at Forney High School from 1988 to 2001.

"I believe that learning a language goes beyond grammar and translation. Learning Spanish in the State of Texas is essential. Students must be prepared to be active participants in our global economy. Returning to teach at Canutillo High School has made this point take on an even greater importance," stated Flórez.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING TO DISCUSS  
BUDGET AND PROPOSED TAX RATE

The **Fabens Independent School District** will hold a public meeting at 6:00 p.m., Thursday, August 20, 2003 in the Boardroom of the Central Office, 821 N.E. "G" Street, Fabens, Texas. **The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the school district's budget that will determine the tax rate that will be adopted.** Public participation in the discussion is invited.

The tax rate that is ultimately adopted at this meeting or at a separate meeting at a later date may not exceed the proposed tax rate shown below unless the district publishes a revised notice containing the same information and comparisons set out below and holds another public meeting to discuss the revised notice.

Comparison of Proposed Rates with last Year's Rates					
	Maintenance & Operation	Interest & Sinking Fund*	Total	Local Revenue Per Student	State Revenue Per Student
Last Year's Rate	\$ 1.500000	\$ 0.078496*	\$ 1.578496	\$ 575	\$5,851
Rate to Maintain Same Level of Maintenance & Operations Revenue & Pay Debt Service	\$ 1.417500	\$ 0.076100*	\$ 1.493600	\$ 579	\$5,598
Proposed Rate	\$ 1.500000	\$ 0.078496*	\$ 1.578496	\$ 627	\$5,676
*The Interest & Sinking Fund tax revenue is used to pay for bonded indebtedness on construction, equipment, or both. The bonds, and the tax rate necessary to pay those bonds, were approved by the voters of this district.					

Comparison of Proposed Levy with Last Year's Levy on Average Residence		
	Last Year	This Year
Average Market Value of Residences	\$ 39,167	\$39,193
Average Taxable Value of Residences	\$ 24,159	\$24,181
Last Year's Rate Versus Proposed Rate per \$100 Value	\$ 1.578496	\$ 1.578496
Taxes Due on Average Residence	\$ 381.35	\$ 381.70
Increase (Decrease) in Taxes		\$ 0.35
Under state law, the dollar amount of school taxes imposed on the residence homestead of a person 65 years of age or older or of the surviving spouse of such a person, if the surviving spouse was 55 years of age or older when the person died, may not be increased above the amount paid in the first year after the person turned 65, regardless of changes in the tax rate or property value.		

**Notice of Rollback Rate:** The highest tax rate the district can adopt before requiring voter approval at an election is 1.621666. This election will be automatically held if the district adopts a rate in excess of the rollback rate of 1.621666.

Fund Balances	
The following estimated balances will remain at the end of the current fiscal year and are not encumbered with or by a corresponding debt obligation, less estimated funds necessary for operating the district before receipt of the first state aid payment:	
Maintenance and Operations Fund Balance(s)	\$ 4,597,400
Interest & Sinking Fund Balance(s)	\$ 191,231

Public Notice  
City of Socorro

Balance Budget Recap for FYE 09/30/2004

1. Revenues	\$8,144,805
General Fund	
2. Administration	834,130
3. Public Works	591,728
4. Police	1,144,885
5. Court	437,243
6. Planning and Zoning	310,098
7. Health	197,703
8. Special Projects (M&O)	297,464
9. Rio Vista Community Center	71,605
10. Human Resources	88,688
Sub-total General Fund	\$ 3,973,544
Debt Service Fund	
11. Debt Service	254,692
12. Interest	1,404
Sub-total Debt Service	\$ 256,096
Other Funds	
13. Special Projects	1,383,375
14. Tourism-Hotel Tax	11,160
15. Interest	10,160
Sub-total Other Funds	\$ 1,404,695
Allocations	
16. Court, Planning, Museum 2001 Series	357,470
17. Court-Savings	20,000
18. Parks-Reserve	83,000
19. Settlements-Savings	50,000
Other Expenses	
20. Settlements-Savings	2,000,000
Sub-total Allocations & Other	\$ 2,510,470
Total Expenses	\$8,144,805
Expenses Over Revenues	\$ -0-

# Loop holes

From Page 1

standard duration;

- Can refuse to cover reconstructive surgery following mastectomies; and
- Can set limits to mental health benefits lower than medical/surgical benefits.

According to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, 218 Texas agencies had claimed at least one such exemption — and most took all six, the TMA magazine reports.

Lewis E. Foxhall, MD, chair of TMA’s Council on Socioeconomics, summed what few options patients covered by those plans may have. “Fixing this loophole may require the Texas Legislature to address the problem,” he said.

TMA is the largest state medical society in the nation, representing more than 38,000 physician and medical student members. It is located in Austin and has 120 component county medical societies around the state.

# Park

From Page 1

the 10-member CASA Youth Council (Canutillo Action for Students and Adults). It is part of a six-year Action for Youth Initiative funded by the Paso Del Norte Health Foundation and is one of 11 in the El Paso area, Juarez and southern New Mexico.

The \$12 million grassroots initiative is, according to a foundation paper, “designed to build the capacity of the communities to support youth and parents for the development of healthier youth.”

“I believe in teamwork to make this happen,” says Carmen Monrreal, CASA coordinator when discussing the Gallegos Park project.

She emphasizes teamwork and praises the youths’ yearlong efforts in gathering data from various sectors of the community regarding a proposed 50-acre expansion of Gallegos Park. Highlighting the project will be a recreation center, a BMX track and a skateboard park.

“This year has been a blessing to

see the kids grow, that they — despite differences — have overcome obstacles and learned to work as a team,” she said.

Sitting in quarters in the old Canutillo Elementary School, Monrreal points out that these are adolescents who have learned to work as a team with their own “unique” styles.

“That is a victory.”

Another victory has been the Youth Council’s recent presentation to El Paso County Commissioners Court for the park expansion. It resulted in the Commissioners Court allocating \$1.4 million for their project. They put the project under the direction of county parks director Sally Gavlik.

Gavlik is combining two projects into one. She is coordinating not only the CASA project, but also the rehabilitation of the present park under a \$528,000 grant from the National Park Service. She has approval of the commissioners to negotiate a fee with PSRB Architects.

While still working out the details on the combined projects, Gavlik said she will report back to the court at the end of the August.

She says much work remains to be done, going through the design

phase, the bidding process and getting final approval from the National Park Service and the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.

Her timeline calls for the awarding of bids in May of 2004 with construction scheduled to start in August. Completion date is planned for March of 2005.

If the park project is completed on time, it will culminate work that began in August of 2002 for council members who had to go through extensive training to acquire skills in such areas as grant writing, conflict resolution, leadership, listening and team building.

“We never wavered in our resolve,” said Sam Monrreal II, one of the council members. “Most of us got to do what we wanted to do; the program was flexible.” Interviews were conducted with adults as well as with students to see what their needs were for the community.

“I liked the opportunity to talk with people, to make a difference in the community,” said Nathaniel Deragowski, a council member.

“It was awesome to do this for the community. The people didn’t expect us to do it,” said Denise Martinez, another member of the council.

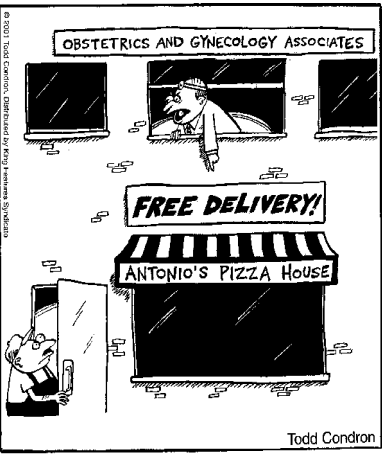
It is estimated that more than 3,000 hours were spent by the students in the data-gathering process.

“We were looking for a benefit for the community,” Monrreal added.

“We were looking for the joy of the whole community. We did this for the community; we did this for the kids.”

Isaac Monrreal, another Youth Council member, adds, “This was a great experience overall — despite all of the troubles that have come up. I would do it again in a heartbeat.”

Underscoring Isaac’s remarks, Sam Monrreal affirms, “Despite the obstacles, we will stand strong. We will succeed; we will overcome.”



“Move the sign!”

# Briefs

From Page 1

alerted the Border Patrol after they saw the “very small children” tossed onto the moving rail car. The witnesses said the accompanying adults were unable to board after them because the train sped up, and they appeared to subsequently follow the train in a Dodge van. One man and three women in the van, including the children’s mother, were subsequently detained by Dona Ana County Sheriff’s officers. Burlington Northern/Santa Fe officials stopped the train in Rincon, New Mexico, finding the children unharmed and three additional adults, two men and another woman, also hiding on the train. They admitted to traveling as a group. The van’s driver, Carlos Lozano, 23, of El Paso, was charged with alien smuggling; the women and children were granted voluntary return to Mexico; and the two men were detained as material witnesses.

■ The University of Texas at El Paso will receive a \$242,570 federal grant from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association (NOAA) as part of NOAA’s Educational Partnership with Minority Serving Institutions (MSIs). It is provided through NOAA’s Environmental Entrepreneurship Program and will be used to develop a new Bachelor of Science program focusing on weather-related sciences at UTEP. It is intended to attract minority students to pursue advanced academic study and entrepreneurship opportunities in the environmental, atmospheric and oceanographic sciences.

■ Arts, crafts and antiques vendors from the greater west Texas/southern New Mexico region are invited to contact the El Maida Shrine Temple to participate in the 11th Annual Arts Bazaar Nov. 8-9, 2003. For inclusion in the Bazaar or for more information

about exhibit opportunities, interested parties should call Jim Davis at (915) 592-7555.

■ The Clint Independent School District campuses have announced a change in the school day start and end times for the 2003-2004 school year. The elementary schools will begin classes at 7:45 a.m. and end the day at 2:45 p.m. The secondary campuses will start school at 8:45 a.m. and end the day at 3:40 p.m. This change was a result of increased student enrollment, the need to bus the children to the schools on time, and to eliminate the traffic congestion around the campuses. Call your child’s campus for any changes in bus pick up time.

■ Are you one of the seven out of eight who have not prepared an updated will? When you die you must leave behind everything for which you have worked and saved. The question is, to whom? If you have a will, you leave instructions to others to act according to your wishes. If you do not have a will, the State will simply distribute your estate according to law. Without a will, the State may determine the disposition of your assets, the welfare of your spouse, and the guardianship of your children. Probate costs, taxes, and fees may increase. Moreover, family members left behind are often at a complete loss and confusion cripples better judgment. The Salvation Army offers a free booklet on wills and estate planning. The booklet is intended to demonstrate that many of the ideas and opinions about wills are entirely wrong. Also available by request is additional information on examples of estate planning, what specifically does one need to know about estate planning, who needs to do estate planning, using trusts in an estate plan, setting goals and objectives, avoiding mismanagement of assets by unskillful heirs, pre-planning for incapacity, and reducing taxes. To receive a copy of the Will booklet, call toll free: 1-800-569-1765.

## NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING TO DISCUSS BUDGET AND PROPOSED TAX RATE

The **Clint Independent School District** will hold a public meeting at 6:00 p.m., Thursday, August 20, 2003 in the Carroll T. Welch Middle School Library, 14510 McMahon, Horizon City, Texas. **The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the school district’s budget that will determine the tax rate that will be adopted.** Public participation in the discussion is invited.

The tax rate that is ultimately adopted at this meeting or at a separate meeting at a later date may not exceed the proposed tax rate shown below unless the district publishes a revised notice containing the same information and comparisons set out below and holds another public meeting to discuss the revised notice.

Comparison of Proposed Rates with last Year’s Rates					
	Maintenance & Operation	Interest & Sinking Fund*	Total	Local Revenue Per Student	State Revenue Per Student
Last Year’s Rate	\$ 1.50000	\$ 0.29400*	\$ 1.79400	\$ 893	\$5,362
Rate to Maintain Same Level of Maintenance & Operations Revenue & Pay Debt Service	\$ 1.34160	\$ 0.22550*	\$ 1.56710	\$ 826	\$5,591
Proposed Rate	\$ 1.50000	\$ 0.22546*	\$ 1.72546	\$ 883	\$ 5,635
*The Interest & Sinking Fund tax revenue is used to pay for bonded indebtedness on construction, equipment, or both. The bonds, and the tax rate necessary to pay those bonds, were approved by the voters of this district.					

Comparison of Proposed Levy with Last Year’s Levy on Average Residence		
	Last Year	This Year
Average Market Value of Residences	\$ 48,212	\$50,006
Average Taxable Value of Residences	\$ 33,114	\$34,918
Last Year’s Rate Versus		
Proposed Rate per \$100 Value	\$ 1.79400	\$ 1.72546
Taxes Due on Average Residence	\$ 594.07	\$ 602.49
Increase (Decrease) in Taxes		\$ 8.42
Under state law, the dollar amount of school taxes imposed on the residence homestead of a person 65 years of age or older or of the surviving spouse of such a person, if the surviving spouse was 55 years of age or older when the person died, may not be increased above the amount paid in the first year after the person turned 65, regardless of changes in the tax rate or property value.		

**Notice of Rollback Rate: The highest tax rate the district can adopt before requiring voter approval at an election is 1.74892. This election will be automatically held if the district adopts a rate in excess of the rollback rate of 1.74892.**

Fund Balances	
The following estimated balances will remain at the end of the current fiscal year and are not encumbered with or by a corresponding debt obligation, less estimated funds necessary for operating the district before receipt of the first state aid payment:	
Maintenance and Operations Fund Balance(s)	\$ 2,576,337
Interest & Sinking Fund Balance(s)	\$ 279,755

Beem

From Page 10

Halberg will fly to New York to prepare and serve a Southwestern style feast for about 100 people.

Beem, an avid patron of Café Central since he moved here about seven years ago, said he chose the gourmet team because of their stellar reputation, classy presentation and unique culinary creations utilizing regional flavors.

“Café Central was my first and

only choice,” said Beem. “I wanted to do something different, to showcase what we’re famous for — the southwest tastes that are grown and authentically prepared right here, like chiles. This dinner is a chance to show the PGA members and champions what we have and what we can do.”

“This is a tremendous honor for us,” said Apodaca. “We are proud to represent El Paso and its culinary arts to the international world of the PGA at this most prestigious dining event.”

—CORRECTED NOTICE—  
NOTICE OF EFFECTIVE TAX RATE

2003 Property Tax Rates in  
Homestead Municipal Utility District

This notice concerns 2003 property tax rates for the **Homestead Municipal Utility District**. It presents information about three tax rates. Last year's tax rate is the actual rate the taxing unit used to determine property taxes last year. This year's *effective* tax rate would impose the same total taxes as last year if you compare properties taxed in both years. This year's *rollback* tax rate is the highest tax rate the taxing unit can set before taxpayers can start tax rollback procedures. In each case these rates are found by dividing the total amount of taxes by the tax base (the total value of taxable property) with adjustments as required by state law. The rates are given per \$100 of property value.

Last year's tax rate:

Last year's operating taxes	\$89,259
Last year's debt taxes	172,567
Last year's total taxes	261,826
Last year's tax base	59,505,909
Last year's total tax rate	.440000/\$100

This year's effective tax rate:

Last year's adjusted taxes (after subtracting taxes on lost property)	\$261,826
+This year's adjusted tax base (after subtracting value of new property)	59,431,449
=This year's effective tax rate	.440551/\$100
Maximum rate unless unit publishes notices and holds hearings	.442568/\$100

This year's rollback tax rate:

Last year's adjusted operating taxes (after subtracting taxes on lost property and adjusting for transferred function, tax increment financing, and/or enhanced indigent health care expenditures)	\$89,258
+This year's adjusted tax base	59,431,449
=This year's effective operating rate	.150186/\$100
x1.08 = this year's maximum operating rate	.162200/\$100
+This year's debt rate	.280368/\$100
=This year's rollback rate	.442568/\$100

Statement of Increase/Decrease

If the **Homestead Municipal Utility District** adopts a 2003 tax rate equal to the effective rate of **.440551** per \$100 of value, taxes would **increase** compared to 2002 taxes by **\$9,635**.

SCHEDULE A  
Unencumbered Fund Balances

The following estimated balances will be left in the unit's property tax accounts at the end of the fiscal year. These balances are not encumbered by a corresponding debt obligation.

Type of Property Tax Fund	Balance
Maintenance & Operation (M&O)	\$323,000
Debt Service (I&S)	\$123,000

SCHEDULE B  
2003 Debt Service

The unit plans to pay the following amounts for long-term debts that are secured by property taxes. These amounts will be paid from property tax revenues (or additional sales tax revenues, if applicable).

Description of Debt	Principal or Contract Payment to be Paid from Property Taxes	Interest to be Paid from Property Taxes	Other Amounts to be Paid	Total Payment
Series 1995 Tax Refunding Bonds	\$80,000	\$ 77,915	\$-0-	\$157,915
Series 1995-A Tax & Rev. Bonds	5,000	9,844	-0-	14,844

Total required for 2003 debt service	\$172,759
-Amount (if any) paid from funds listed in Schedule A	-0-
-Amount (if any) paid from other resources	-0-
-Excess collections last year	-0-
=Total to be paid from taxes in 2003	172,759
+Amount added in anticipation that the unit will collect only 100% of its taxes in 2003	-0-
=Total Debt Levy	\$172,759

This notice contains a summary of actual effective and rollback tax rate calculations. You can inspect a copy of the full calculations at the City of El Paso Tax Office located at the intersection of Durango and Franklin streets.  
**Name of person preparing this notice:** Juan F. Sandoval  
**Title:** Tax Assessor/Collector  
**Date prepared:** July 25, 2003

Eye-atollah

By Albert M. Balesh, M.D

Like a desert sheik stealing through the night in search of a fertile bed, a welcome crumb, and a drop to quench his thirst, cataracts stealthily infiltrate the tranquillity of our aging population. But where do they come from, and what is their grand design?

Simply put, a cataract is nothing more than a painless, cloudy area in the lens of the eye, which blocks the passage of light from the lens to the nerve layer of the retina. Unlike a sultan's harem, which at the least has vigilant, muscularly well-endowed eunuchs to halt the march of an unholy infidel, the retina is defenseless to the onslaught. In fact, some cataracts grow larger or denser over time, causing severe vision changes leading to blindness, glaucoma, or a loss of independence in older adults.

While aging, ultraviolet radiation from sunlight, eye injury, poorly controlled diabetes mellitus, glaucoma, steroid medications, and frequent radiation treatments of the head all contribute to the clouding effect of cataracts, some degree of lens opacity is expected in everyone over the age of 70.

Risk factors for cataracts are as multivariiegated as the colors of a Persian rug, and some of them can literally represent straws to break a camel's back. There are those, for example, that one cannot change, such as age 65-74, Native American and African American race, female sex, and family history. Others, like life-long, chronic diseases (diabetes, glaucoma, and high blood pressure), when kept in check, can be temporarily thwarted in the inexorable march toward cataract. Still other risk factors, for example chickenpox during pregnancy, smoking, exposure to ultraviolet light, long-term use of steroid medications, and even alcohol, should not be underestimated.

So, when does cataract warrant the same concern demonstrated by the head of a clan, unable to find a suitable husband for the eldest of his eight daughters? Severe eye pain, sudden change in vision or eyeglass prescription, and blurred or double vision all mandate recourse to the healing arts. Surgery becomes necessary when vision loss caused by a cataract affects the patient's quality of life. Until then, not smoking, wearing sunglasses in the sun, eating a diet rich in vitamins C and E, limiting alcohol intake, avoid-

ing steroid medications, keeping high blood pressure and diabetes under control, taking estrogen for menopause, and using mydriatic eyedrops to dilate the pupil do as much to prevent or postpone surgery, as a "toke" on a water pipe and a good cup of Turkish coffee do to make a reluctant suitor more malleable to the manipulative whims of a prospective father-in-law.

When standard extracapsular surgery, in which the lens and its anterior membrane are removed, or extracapsular surgery using phacoemulsification, in which sound waves are used to break the lens up into small pieces, becomes necessary, subsequent placement in the eye of a new intraocular lens will usually guarantee most adults 20/40 vision or better within three weeks to two months after surgery.

It therefore goes without saying that, dollar for dollar, an ounce of prevention and informed consent do far more than smart bombs and cruise missiles to halt unwanted incursions of the "Eye-atollah." Remember, cataracts are no fun, and belly dances are performed at night!

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING TO DISCUSS  
BUDGET AND PROPOSED TAX RATE

The **Anthony Independent School District** will hold a public meeting at 6:30 p.m., Thursday, August 21, 2003 in the Board Room, Anthony Middle School Cafeteria, 610 Sixth Street, Anthony, Texas. **The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the school district's budget that will determine the tax rate that will be adopted.** Public participation in the discussion is invited.

The tax rate that is ultimately adopted at this meeting or at a separate meeting at a later date may not exceed the proposed tax rate shown below unless the district publishes a revised notice containing the same information and comparisons set out below and holds another public meeting to discuss the revised notice.

Comparison of Proposed Rates with last Year's Rates					
	Maintenance & Operation	Interest & Sinking Fund*	Total	Local Revenue Per Student	State Revenue Per Student
Last Year's Rate Rate to Maintain Same Level of Maintenance & Operations Revenue & Pay Debt Service Proposed Rate	\$ 1.500000 \$ 1.570103 \$ 1.500000	\$ 0.192300* \$ 0.200699* \$ 0.200699*	\$ 1.692300 \$ 1.770802 \$ 1.700699	\$2,427 \$2,119 \$1,809	\$4,552 \$4,530 \$4,529
*The Interest & Sinking Fund tax revenue is used to pay for bonded indebtedness on construction, equipment, or both. The bonds, and the tax rate necessary to pay those bonds, were approved by the voters of this district.					

Comparison of Proposed Levy with Last Year's Levy on Average Residence		
	Last Year	This Year
Average Market Value of Residences	\$ 53,306	\$53,256
Average Taxable Value of Residences	\$ 38,206	\$38,182
Last Year's Rate Versus Proposed Rate per \$100 Value	\$ 1.692300	\$ 1.700699
Taxes Due on Average Residence	\$ 646.56	\$ 649.36
Increase (Decrease) in Taxes		\$ 2.80
Under state law, the dollar amount of school taxes imposed on the residence homestead of a person 65 years of age or older or of the surviving spouse of such a person, if the surviving spouse was 55 years of age or older when the person died, may not be increased above the amount paid in the first year after the person turned 65, regardless of changes in the tax rate or property value.		

**Notice of Rollback Rate: The highest tax rate the district can adopt before requiring voter approval at an election is 1.830802. This election will be automatically held if the district adopts a rate in excess of the rollback rate of 1.830802.**

Fund Balances	
The following estimated balances will remain at the end of the current fiscal year and are not encumbered with or by a corresponding debt obligation, less estimated funds necessary for operating the district before receipt of the first state aid payment:	
Maintenance and Operations Fund Balance(s)	\$ 500,000
Interest & Sinking Fund Balance(s)	\$ (41,000)



Social Security Q&A

By Ray Vigil

# Summer travels and your Social Security

Are you a Social Security beneficiary who is traveling this summer? You have a few things to think about, especially if you are planning some trips abroad.

If you're one of the relatively few Social Security recipients who still has a check mailed to your home, then you probably have made arrangements with the post office or a friend to safeguard your mail, including any Social Security checks that might come while you're gone.

But you should know that any worries you might have about that check lying around in a post office or a friend's house could be alleviated if you had direct deposit. It's a safe, easy and convenient way to receive your benefit. Just visit your bank, credit union or other financial institution and tell the folks there that you want direct deposit. They'll take it from there.

If you are planning a trip outside the United States, you also should know that you won't be covered by Medicare overseas. In case something happens to you while you're traveling, you should make sure you have other insurance that will cover any medical treatment you might need. The only time Medicare may cover you outside the United States is in certain emergency situations while traveling in Canada and Mexico.

There is one more travel-related issue that may affect your Social Security benefits. Imagine yourself lounging on a padded porch swing under some lemon trees in the back yard of a quaint "bed and breakfast" inn somewhere in the hills of Tuscany. The warm sun is just setting over the gold and green hills, the fragrance from nearby grapevines overcomes you, and you turn to your

spouse and say, "Honey, we're moving to Italy!" And your spouse, being a bit more practical than you, says, "But what about the grandkids, our house and our Social Security checks?"

I can't help with the house and the grandchildren, but I can ease your mind about Social Security. That scene is not as far-fetched as you might think. There currently are more than 400,000 Social Security beneficiaries who live overseas. If you are a U.S. citizen, we can send your Social Security benefits to almost any country in the world. If you are not a U.S. citizen, you still may be able to get your Social Security benefits in other countries, sometimes for as long as you live outside the United States, but other times for only six months. In some cases, we have to withhold taxes from any Social Security benefits sent overseas. Also, many foreign countries tax U.S. Social Security benefits. If you are thinking of moving overseas, you should contact that country's embassy in Washington, D.C., for tax information.

If you want more information about Social Security benefits and overseas travel or a possible overseas

move, read our publication, Social Security: Your Payments While Outside The United States.

For more information visit your local social security office, see [www.socialsecurity.gov](http://www.socialsecurity.gov) or call us at 1-800-772-1213. If you have any questions that you would like to have answered, mail them to the Social Security Office, 11111 Gateway West, Attn: Ray Vigil, El Paso, Texas 79935.



## NOTICE OF EFFECTIVE TAX RATE

### 2003 Property Tax Rates in Town of Horizon City

This notice concerns 2003 property tax rates for the **Town of Horizon City**. It presents information about three tax rates. Last year's tax rate is the actual rate the taxing unit used to determine property taxes last year. This year's *effective* tax rate would impose the same total taxes as last year if you compare properties taxed in both years. This year's *rollback* tax rate is the highest tax rate the taxing unit can set before taxpayers can start tax rollback procedures. In each case these rates are found by dividing the total amount of taxes by the tax base (the total value of taxable property) with adjustments as required by state law. The rates are given per \$100 of property value.

<b>Last year's tax rate:</b>	
Last year's operating taxes	\$554,435
Last year's debt taxes	-0-
Last year's total taxes	554,435
Last year's tax base	214,150,251
Last year's total tax rate	.258900/\$100

<b>This year's effective tax rate:</b>	
Last year's adjusted taxes	
(after subtracting taxes on lost property)	\$554,260
+This year's adjusted tax base	
(after subtracting value of new property)	211,320,490
=This year's effective tax rate	.262284/\$100
Maximum rate unless unit publishes notices and holds hearings	.267738/\$100

<b>This year's rollback tax rate:</b>	
Last year's adjusted operating taxes	
(after subtracting taxes on lost property and adjusting for transferred function, tax increment financing, and/or enhanced indigent health care expenditures)	\$554,260
+This year's adjusted tax base	211,320,490
=This year's effective operating rate	.262284/\$100
x1.08 = this year's maximum operating rate	.283266/\$100
+This year's debt rate	.035956/\$100
=This year's rollback rate	.319222/\$100
-Sales tax adjustment rate	.051484/\$100
=Rollback tax rate	.267738/\$100

**Statement of Increase/Decrease**  
If the **Town of Horizon City** adopts a 2003 tax rate equal to the effective rate of **.262284** per \$100 of value, taxes would **increase** compared to 2002 taxes by **\$47,795**.

<b>SCHEDULE A</b>	
<b>Unencumbered Fund Balances</b>	
The following estimated balances will be left in the unit's property tax accounts at the end of the fiscal year. These balances are not encumbered by a corresponding debt obligation.	
<b>Type of Property Tax Fund</b>	<b>Balance</b>
Maintenance & Operation (M&O)	\$395,958
Debt Service (I&S)	-0-

<b>SCHEDULE B</b>				
<b>2003 Debt Service</b>				
The unit plans to pay the following amounts for long-term debts that are secured by property taxes. These amounts will be paid from property tax revenues (or additional sales tax revenues, if applicable).				
<b>Description of Debt</b>	<b>Principal or Contract Payment to be Paid from Property Taxes</b>	<b>Interest to be Paid from Property Taxes</b>	<b>Other Amounts to be Paid</b>	<b>Total Payment</b>
Computer System	\$17,551	\$5,111	\$-0-	\$22,662
Software System	\$13,969	\$1,790	\$-0-	\$15,759
Vehicle (2002)	\$7,207	\$472	\$-0-	\$7,679
SIB Note	\$24,088	\$10,197	\$-0-	\$34,285
Vehicle (2003)	\$7,155	\$922	\$-0-	\$8,077
Software	\$2,637	\$-0-	\$-0-	\$2,637
Total required for 2003 debt service				\$91,099
-Amount (if any) paid from funds listed in Schedule A				-0-
-Amount (if any) paid from other resources				8,540
-Excess collections last year				-0-
=Total to be paid from taxes in 2003				82,559
+Amount added in anticipation that the unit will collect only 100% of its taxes in 2003				-0-
=Total Debt Levy				82,559

This notice contains a summary of actual effective and rollback tax rate calculations. You can inspect a copy of the full calculations at the City of El Paso Tax Office located at the intersection of Durango and Franklin streets.  
**Name of person preparing this notice:** Juan F. Sandoval  
**Title:** Tax Assessor/Collector  
**Date prepared:** July 31, 2003

## Texas Commission on Environmental Quality



### NOTICE OF CONCENTRATED ANIMAL FEEDING OPERATION APPLICATION

TPDES Registration No. WQ0003169-000

APPLICATION: TONY TUNIS BOS, 15151 North Loop, Fabens, Texas 79838 has applied to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) for renewal of TPDES Registration No. WQ0003169-000 to authorize the applicant to operate an existing dairy cattle facility at 6,000 total head of which a maximum of 3,130 are milking head in El Paso County, Texas. The application was received by TCEQ on September 18, 2002. No discharge of pollution into the waters in the state is authorized by this registration except under chronic or catastrophic rainfall conditions. All waste and wastewater will be beneficially used on agricultural land.

The existing facility is located on the east side of State Highway 76 approximately 2 miles northwest of its intersection with State Highway 20 in El Paso County, Texas. The facility is located in the drainage area of the Rio Grande below Riverside Diversion Dam in Segment No. 2307 of the Rio Grande River Basin.

The application is available for inspection by the public during normal business hours at the Clint Public Library, 12625 Alameda, Clint, Texas 79836.

The Executive Director of TCEQ has prepared a draft registration which, if approved, would establish the parameters and limitations within which the facility must operate.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** Written public comments may be submitted to the Office of Chief Clerk, at the address provided in the information section below, within 30 days of the date of newspaper publication of this notice. The Executive Director will consider all relevant information pertaining to whether the applicant meets the requirements for the registration will issue a written determination as to any final action on the application for registration and a response to all comments.

**INFORMATION:** Written public comments should be submitted to the Office of the Chief Clerk, MC 105, TCEQ, P.O. Box 13087, Austin, Texas 78711-3087. For additional information, about the application on the procedure for public participation in the registration process, individual members of the general public may contact the Office of Public Assistance at 1-800-687-4040. General information regarding the TCEQ can be found at our web site at [www.tceq.state.tx.us](http://www.tceq.state.tx.us). Please note that the 77th legislature changed the agency's name from Texas Natural Resources Conservation Commission (TNRCC) to Texas Commission of Environmental Quality (TCEQ). Both names are interchangeable for a short period of time, until the phase-in is completed.

Issued: July 23, 2003

LaDonna Canstauela, Chief Clerk  
Texas Commission on Environmental Quality



# NCAA enforced rules against Majerus with Gestapo gusto

By Steve Escajeda  
Special to the Courier

You’ve got to admit that it’s difficult to find a diehard fan of the NCAA out there anywhere.

I mean it’s dangerous for any organization to have as much power as this one does and not have to answer to anyone.

Organizations like that have been known to start world wars.

If you’re not aware, the National Collegiate Athletic Association sets the standards and guidelines for the way college athletics are run — or run amok — depending on how you look at it.

Well, the NCAA proved once again

last week that its Gestapo-like tactics make very little sense and are as outdated as the world being considered flat and the popularity of disco.

Case in point, the NCAA put the University of Utah men’s basketball team on probation for three years for violations which, supposedly, would give them an unfair advantage on the basketball court.

Now that we’ve heard about the penalty, let’s take a close look at the unforgivable crimes perpetrated by head coach Rick Majerus and his evil staff.

One violation had to do with Majerus being so scandalous as to buy his players some food. See, the NCAA says a coach can buy food for his players as long as he does so in

his own home.

Problem is, Majerus bought food for his players at a motel near the Utah campus.

Truth is, Majerus *lives* in the motel near the Utah campus.

Somehow the NCAA couldn’t make the connection and Majerus, according to their self-serving little minds, committed a blatant no-no.

The meals bought by Majerus were done so during meetings with certain players to discuss things like possible church missions, academics and other personal matters.

One meeting occurred when Majerus sat for a long while and talked to a player whose father had just died.

It’s not like these meals included

fillet mignon and a bottle of Dom Perignon. This was a burger and a coke at the motel.

The so-called infractions are so ridiculous that even the NCAA finally figured it out and changed the rules to now allow coaches to do exactly what Majerus did then. But not until after Majerus did it.

Of all the things to lose a scholarship a year, for the next three years, over.

No cheating on games, no money laundering, no academic fraud, no girls in the dorms — only a burger between a player and his coach.

Hey, who knows, maybe they were plotting the overthrow of the government of the free world over those hamburgers. And wasn’t that sauerkraut and jalapenos in those burgers — don’t those things come from other, non-American countries?

Majerus conceded on a national radio talk show that maybe he used bad judgment, but he said he just couldn’t bring himself to say to that one player, “Gee, that’s real sad about your dad dying and all but can I have nine dollars to pay for your half of the meal.”

with Michael Jordan, maybe not on the basketball court but certainly in the endorsement field, Bryant is beginning to see corporations distance themselves from him.

This week, Ferrero, an Italian company with its U.S. headquarters located in Somerset, N.J., discontinued all promotions having to do with Kobe Bryant.

The company makes a chocolate spread in Europe. Kobe spent a lot of his youth living in Italy.

Now that one company has decided to cut its ties with Bryant, will others follow? Will there be a mass exodus of businesses that once desired the Los Angeles Lakers guard?

Not helping Kobe was the news last week of two separate 911 calls made from Bryant’s residence. One was made the day before Bryant turned himself in to police and another was made back in March.

Both times, paramedics were called out to the residence to treat an “unidentified female.”

What the heck is that all about? An unidentified female? He lives with his wife and infant daughter. Looks like there may be more here than we thought.

If it turns out that Kobe has a history of troubled behavior it will be a sad day for sports and another black eye from an individual everyone thought was the exception, the good guy, the decent human being who also happens to play basketball.

Time will tell, but in the mean time, things don’t look good.

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Open 24 hours — Full family menus plus spectacular buffet and salad bar.  
I-10 at Horizon Blvd., 790-4514. **Not Valid with any other coupon or offer.**

Stopping Centers  
The Quality Difference

## Backlash begins

It will still be a number of months before we learn, if ever, what really happened in that motel room between Kobe Bryant and the girl the media has now tagged as “the accuser.”

But in the mean time, things are looking worse for Kobe every day.

Once considered to be on a par

## Rich Beem chooses local El Paso restaurant to cater PGA dinner

By Michelle J. Brown  
Special to the Courier

EL PASO COUNTY — Reigning PGA Champion and El Pasoan Rich Beem has requested his hometown’s Café Central to cater the 85th Annual PGA Champions Dinner in his honor at the Oak Hill Country Club in Roch-

ester, New York on Aug. 12. Each year’s champion selects the chef/restaurant of his choice for catering the Champions Dinner the following year.

Café Central proprietor V. Trae Apodaca III, Executive Chef Michelle Roetzer and Sous Chefs Armando Pomales and Jacob

See BEEM, Page 8

## King Super Crossword

- GREAT SCOTTS!**

**ACROSS**

1 Piglet's papa

5 It's up your sleeve

8 Waugh's "The Loved \_"

11 Vapor

14 \_ check

18 Eban of Israel

19 Geometric figure

21 Hibiscus garland

22 Commedia dell'\_

23 Scott Hamilton's rival

25 Chemical ending

26 Obtains

27 New Hampshire campus

28 \_ ex machina

29 Jury members

31 "Ready! \_! Go!"

32 Ordered

34 Gilpin of "Frasier"

37 21st President

39 Chews the scenery

41 Annual award

42 Bewitching

location

43 Dealt with a dragon

44 \_ Japanese War

46 Harvest

48 Hurler Hershiser

50 Rock's \_ Supply

51 Scott Wolf series

55 With 89 Across, "Batman" star

57 Al of "Insomnia"

60 Bond rating

61 High-flying agcy.

63 Claire or Balin

64 Component

65 Nab a gnat

68 Adjusted an ascot

69 Mil. base

70 Show indifference

72 Scott Baio co-star

75 Column style

77 Flicka's food

78 Lohengrin's love

80 Actress Mia

81 Reject

82 Periodontists' org.

83 Wander

84 With 120 Down, Bowzer's group

86 Uproar

89 See 55 Across

91 Scott Glenn film

96 Liechtenstein's cont.

97 Command at a corner

99 Iridescent stone

100 Atmosphere

101 Hotels

102 Shortstop Pee Wee

105 Vatican virtue

107 99 and 007

109 "The Producers" star

110 \_ vera

111 "Fantasia" frames

112 Prohibit

113 On \_ (doing great)

115 Vittle statistics?

118 "April Love" singer

122 Riyadh resident

124 By means of

125 Scott Joplin composition

128 Hint

129 Sixth sense

130 Varnish

131 Pavlova or Paquin

132 Table d'\_

133 Dem.'s opponent

134 Predatory fish

135 Theater sign

136 " \_ my lips!"

**DOWN**

1 Conifer covering

2 Bassoon relative

3 Singer Lane

4 Heavenly sight

5 4 Down's shape

6 Zimbabwe, formerly

7 Grimace

8 San Luis \_ CA

9 TV's "The Flying -"

10 Slalom curve

11 Merriment

12 Vergil's vagabond

13 \_ Leone

14 Give in to gravity

15 Scott Turow novel

16 Furry fisherman

17 Try out

20 East Lansing coll.

24 Tidy

29 Damascus dish

30 Normandy site

33 Tyrant

35 Spanish river

36 Shorten a sail

38 Olympic first lady

39 Director Kazan

40 Scott Carpenter's profession

41 "... say \_ do"

43 Fool

45 New Deal agcy.

47 1492 vessel

49 Hawaiian island

52 Applauds a bore?

53 Self-smitten

54 Language suffix

56 Not fem.

58 Shiba \_ (Japanese dog)

59 Neighbor of Mali

62 "Farewell!"

66 "I \_ Rock" ('66 hit)

67 Museum piece

70 Clarinetist Artie

71 Hot spot?

72 "Comic Dictionary" author

73 Dack of "Dallas"

74 New Jersey city

76 Baseball's "Master Melvin"

79 Bud's buddy

81 Sail with Sinbad

85 \_ Simbel

87 Kennel features

88 Cen. segments

90 Stocking stuffers?

92 Horrify

93 Brad, for one

94 Role for Liz

95 Prophetic

98 Wilson of "La Femme Nikita"

101 To such an extent

103 Restaurant employee

104 Plaza Hotel kid

106 Tone down

108 Isle near Corsica

109 Mrs. Phil Donahue

112 Baroque composer

114 Certain Finn

116 Pipe connection

117 "I Remember Mama" character

119 Sarah \_ Jewett

120 See 84 Across

121 "My word!"

123 Hum bug?

125 Flavor enhancer: Abbr.

126 "Gotcha!"

127 System starter

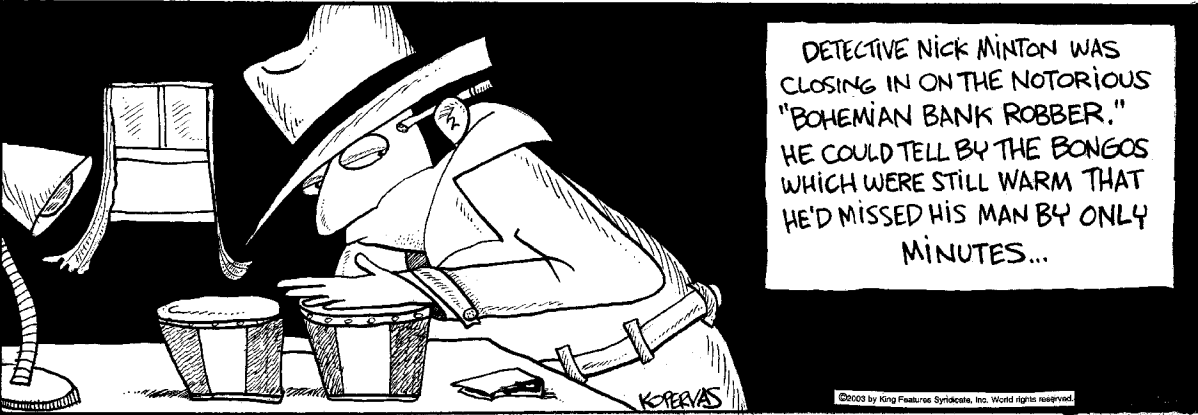
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Comix

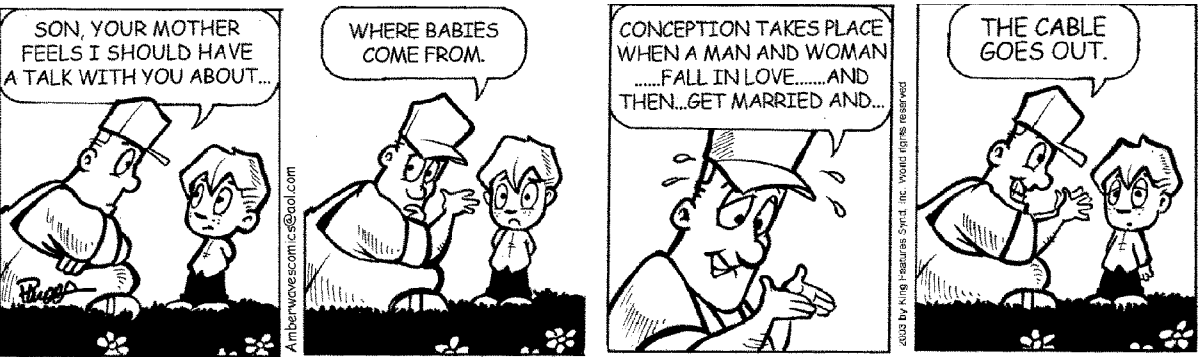
OUT ON A LIMB

By Gary Kopervas



AMBER WAVES

By Dave T. Phipps



THE SPATS

By Jeff Pickering



R.F.D.

By Mike Marland



Take me out to the ball game

By Don Flood

“Oh, I’d love to be an Oscar Mayer wiener. That is what I’d truly like to be. Cause if I was an Oscar Mayer wiener, everyone would be in love with me.”

Yes, we all know the song, with the odd, bittersweet lyrics that tell the universal tale of wanting to be loved for oneself, but realizing that true acceptance will come only when one’s internal organs are ground up, mixed up with filler and inserted into sausage casings.

But for those unwilling to take that step — which is, after all, pretty final — there has always been the option of dressing up like a hot dog.

Sadly though, a recent incident at a Pittsburgh Pirates baseball game calls into question whether even that is a viable option.

At these games, you see, one of the big events is the “sausage race,” which pits against each other people who are dressed as various meat products: a hot dog, a bratwurst, an Italian sausage and a Polish sausage.

Recently, a young woman — competing that evening as a sausage — was swatted by a ballplayer as she passed by, sending her and another racer dressed as a hot dog sprawling!

Can you believe people dressed as our favorite foods would be shown such disrespect?

According to ABC News, the races have been a “fan favorite” in Pittsburgh since 1995.

In fact, these races have become so popular that, when the team is away, the Pirates will often *pretend* to have a home game.

Fans will come out and root for their favorite processed meats — never noticing that no actual baseball game has taken place.

They’ll enjoy the music, the sausage races, the seventh-inning stretch and of course The Wave, which people find much more entertaining than the game itself.

“What a game!” the fans will say.

“Yeah, great pitching!” other fans will answer.

Now some baseball purists, of which there are still some left, insist that it isn’t really a baseball game unless real players take the field and play an actual game.

Unfortunately, this is asking a lot of fans, even those enjoying cold, refreshing beverages.

To these elitists, a baseball game that consists mainly of standing up and waving your arms and races between people dressed as sausages *isn’t really a baseball game at all!*

(For the record, the Pirates organization denies that it holds pretend home games. A team spokesman, who was dressed as giant kielbasa, said, “But if any of our fans bring it to our attention that — in their opinion — no baseball game has been played on a given night, we will certainly investigate it.”)

At old-time ballgames, they didn’t have races between hot dogs and sausages.

People went to the park to — get this — watch a baseball game!

Of course this was a simpler — and frankly pathetic — time, when people had nothing better to do than watch grown men dressed in pajamas chase a ball around.

But that won’t cut it anymore.

If baseball wants to remain the national pastime, they should get rid of the disrespectful players and let the sausages and hot dogs compete.

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Classified Ads

LEGALS

SOCORRO INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

Invitation to Bid/CSP:

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

ATHLETIC EQUIPMENT SUPPLIES AND APPAREL

CSP NO. 199-0815-0386

FRIDAY, AUG. 15, 2003, 2:00 P.M.

Proposals will be

received at Business Services Dept., 12300 Eastlake Drive, El Paso, Texas 79928 until the specified times. Detailed specifications are available from the above office between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. Mondays through Fridays. WTCC-08/07/03

FABENS INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

Invitation to bid

Notice of invitation to catalog bid for Athletic Equipment, Supplies and Uniforms , Bid No. 02-03-05. Fabens In-

dependent School District will accept sealed bids until 10:00 a.m., August 18, 2003, at which time they will be publicly opened at the Fabens Administration Bldg, 821 N.E. "G" Avenue, Fabens, Texas. Specifications may be secured by requesting them from the Business Office, P.O. Box 697, Fabens, Texas 79838, phone (915) 764-2025 or fax request to (915) 764-2968. 8/7, 8/14

PUBLIC NOTICE

As per Article V, Sec. 5.05(a), all owners and

lienholders have ten (10) days from this date to reclaim their vehicles at Southwest Wrecker, 1401 Darrington Rd., 855-1900, 851-2091-fax, or it will be sold at public auction for charges: VIN 3VWVR81H4RM040612, 1994 Jetta Volkswagon, black, Arizona license 987-LLC WTXCC-8/07/03

GARAGE SALES

FRIDAY AND SUNDAY ONLY: 15344 Werling in Horizon City, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Toys, clothing

and miscellaneous.

HELP WANTED

National pharmacy referral service now hiring home telephone workers nationwide. Lead generators, recruiters, sales, and management positions. Interview now at 773-379-4645. 100% legitimate training provided. 10/9

RENTALS

FOR RENT: Cabin in Cloudcroft by weekend or by the week, in the cool breeze of the

mountains. Two bedroom w/loft will sleep six. Available year round. Contact 852-4997. 8/7

ROOMMATE WANTED

to share 3 BR home in Horizon. \$300 plus 1/2 utilities. 852-4527.

QUALITY OFFICE SPACE:

620 sq. ft. Available April 22. HCIA building, Ashford Drive, Horizon City. Call (915) 852-1811.

BANKS WHO DON'T GIVE HOUSE LOANS BECAUSE OF BAD CREDIT, PROBLEMS OR NEW EMPLOYMENT. I DO. CALL L.D. KIRK, HOMELAND MORTGAGES, (254) 947-4475.

LOTS FOR SALE:

3/4 acres, utilities, financing available. Close to schools, amenities. 852-3069 or 433-7557. 8/28

SELF-HELP

Persons who have a problem with alcohol are offered a

free source of help locally. Alcoholics Anonymous - call 562-4081 for information.

SERVICES

"Windshield Ding — Gimme a Ring" JIFFY GLASS REPAIR

Windshield Repair Specialists By appt. at your home or office: R.V. Dick Harshberger 915-852-9082

BERT'S AUTOMOTIVE REPAIR

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For Sanity's Sake

By Taprina Milburn

Real world

I now understand how cults take over the minds of their followers.

We've just returned from a 10-day Disney World vacation. We're in the process of re-entering Real World.

Now, don't get me wrong — parents can get as gaga about Mickey Mouse and Tinker Bell as their children.

"I think you're more excited about this trip than we are, Mom," my 10-year-old daughter said to me before we left.

I must confess... thinking about the trip made me feel as if I were a kid again. Once we were at Disney, I was the one who persuaded my family to stay for the fireworks show at Cinderella's Castle in the Magic Kingdom. I'd heard that Tinker Bell flew out of the castle. I grew up watching Disney movies on Sunday evenings. Every show began with a shot of the castle and Tink flitting around sprinkling pixie dust. I wanted to see the real thing.

It had been a long day, but my over-stimulated children and exhausted husband stood by me on the sidewalk of the castle — where we couldn't see the fireworks, but had a great view of where Tinker Bell would fly out (She doesn't really fly... duh... I'm not that gaga. She's hooked to a cable line). The fireworks ended, people started leaving — no Tinker Bell.

And that would have been fine except that when you stay to watch the fireworks at Magic Kingdom with all the other Disney fans, you must also leave with them — through the one and only exit offered. You don't walk out; you inch out, sweaty elbows and armpits to sweaty elbows and armpits. If you're lucky, you're out in 30

minutes.

We weren't so lucky.

That's when I started to wonder why people who are generally sensible will plan for years, saving up their hard-earned money to enter a make-believe world where you stand in line way too long for short rides or pictures with characters, as well as pay hideous prices for food and souvenirs?

It was the best vacation we've ever had.

We bought (quite literally) into it all — the rides, the characters, the parades, the shows. Everywhere we looked there was someone or something to entertain us. It was the most exhausting fun I've ever had.

And just when you think you've

had enough and return to your room for a good night's rest, you find that the wallpaper and bedspreads have Mickey imprints. The movies on television are all Disney or the stations are owned by Disney. Theme songs from "Peter Pan" or "Beauty and the Beast" are piped into the hallways.









We felt ourselves becoming a part of the Disney cult. We needed a few more days to do and see it all. But because we didn't want to start dipping into the kids' college funds, we eventually had to return home — to our real world where ice-cream sandwiches and waffles aren't in the shape of a mouse.

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WEATHER

AccuWeather.com

SEVEN-DAY FORECAST FOR EL PASO

THURSDAY	THUR. NIGHT	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
							
Mostly sunny.	Partly to mostly cloudy.	Partly sunny and breezy; a stray p.m. t-storm.	Mostly sunny; slight chance of a t-storm.	Sunny to partly cloudy; a t-storm possible.	Partly sunny.	A good deal of sunshine; a stray t-storm.	Mostly sunny.
▲ 94°	▼ 72°	▲ 94° ▼ 70°	▲ 96° ▼ 72°	▲ 96° ▼ 72°	▲ 96° ▼ 72°	▲ 94° ▼ 70°	▲ 94° ▼ 70°

UV INDEX

Statistics for noon.

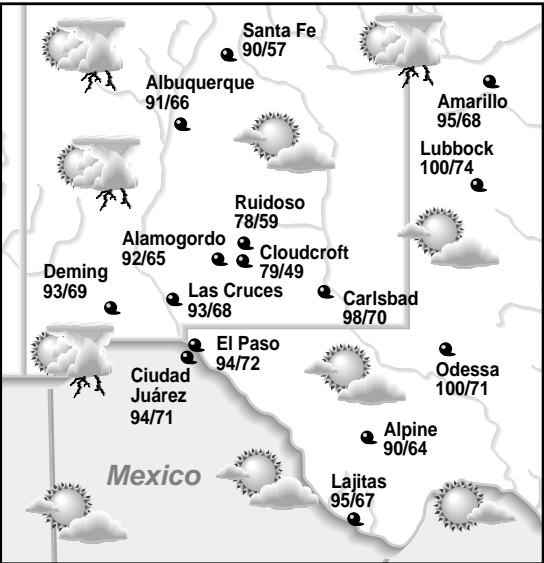
The higher the UV Index, the greater the need for eye and skin protection.

Thursday	10	Very High
Friday	10	Very High
Saturday	10	Very High
Sunday	10	Very High
Monday	10	Very High
Tuesday	10	Very High
Wednesday	10	Very High

TEXAS WEATHER

Anthony	94	71
Canutillo	95	72
Clint	94	71
E. Montana	94	72
Fabens	94	71
Horizon	95	72
San Elizario	92	69
Socorro	93	71
Tornillo	94	71
Vinton	95	72


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



TRAVELERS CITIES


	Thur.	Fri.	Sat.	Sun.	Mon.
City	Hi/Low/W	Hi/Low/W	Hi/Low/W	Hi/Low/W	Hi/Low/W
Albuquerque	91/66/pc	90/65/pc	90/66/pc	90/67/pc	89/62/pc
Atlanta	84/70/t	86/70/c	88/70/pc	88/68/pc	85/69/pc
Atlantic City	86/72/c	80/70/t	82/70/pc	82/65/pc	83/64/c
Austin/San Antonio	104/73/s	101/74/s	101/73/pc	100/72/s	97/74/pc
Baltimore	88/68/c	86/68/t	88/70/pc	88/70/pc	84/62/c
Boston	82/68/c	82/68/t	82/66/c	82/66/pc	79/67/c
Chicago	80/64/pc	80/62/pc	82/64/s	80/63/s	80/58/pc
Dallas/Ft. Worth	102/77/s	102/80/s	102/76/s	99/76/pc	96/72/pc
Denver	92/63/pc	88/61/pc	84/61/pc	86/61/pc	89/60/pc
Flagstaff	78/50/pc	82/52/pc	78/52/pc	79/51/pc	80/45/pc
Houston	100/78/s	100/78/s	100/78/pc	98/78/pc	95/78/pc
Kansas City	90/66/pc	92/68/s	88/66/pc	85/66/pc	85/63/c
Las Vegas	102/76/s	102/76/s	102/76/pc	100/77/s	100/75/s
Miami	90/78/t	91/78/t	91/78/pc	90/78/pc	91/76/pc
Minneapolis	84/66/pc	86/64/pc	86/66/pc	82/63/pc	82/61/pc
New Orleans	90/77/pc	94/78/pc	93/77/pc	92/76/pc	89/70/pc
New York City	85/72/c	85/71/t	82/68/pc	85/70/pc	82/68/c
Philadelphia	86/72/c	86/70/t	88/70/pc	88/70/pc	84/69/c
Phoenix	102/84/pc	104/85/pc	103/85/pc	105/86/pc	106/81/s
Portland	78/58/pc	77/58/pc	80/56/pc	83/58/pc	79/52/c
San Francisco	71/58/pc	70/55/s	71/55/s	71/56/s	71/49/s
Seattle	76/54/pc	72/54/pc	74/54/pc	75/56/pc	75/53/pc
Tucson	98/75/pc	100/75/pc	98/75/pc	98/77/pc	100/75/pc
Washington, DC	88/72/c	86/72/t	88/72/pc	88/74/pc	86/67/c

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




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