



## NEWSBRIEFS

### END over

State and federal quarantines restricting bird and poultry movement have been released in Socorro, in El Paso County, officially bringing to a close the Exotic Newcastle Disease (END) outbreak in Texas that was first detected April 9, 2003. This spring, nearly 800 flocks in El Paso and surrounding counties were tested, and about 2,000 diseased or exposed backyard birds were euthanized to stop the spread of the END virus, which does not affect human health or food quality, but is deadly to birds. "In April and May, quarantines restricted bird movement within and from El Paso and Hudspeth Counties in Texas, and from Dona Anna, Luna and Otero Counties in New Mexico, while teams from the Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC), New Mexico Livestock Board and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) worked to wipe out the disease," said Dr. Bob Hillman, Texas state veterinarian and executive director for the TAHC, the state's livestock and poultry health regulatory agency. "By June 5, confident that the disease had been wiped out, the state and federal quarantines were reduced to a few blocks within Socorro, where the infection had been detected. As of Wednesday, August 13, this last quarantine was released, and poultry and birds can be moved without restriction."

### See red

Next week will be historic date in the relationship between the Earth and sister planet Mars — on Aug. 27 the red planet will be the closest it has come to Earth in nearly 60,000 years, astronomers say, and that it won't happen again until 2287. Typically about 60 million miles from Earth, Mars is the planet most closely related to by Earthlings in that it has a solid surface that has already been touched by probe missions. Just after sunset on that date, the El Paso Astronomy Club will set up a viewing center at the picnic area on Transmountain Rd. Information, 779-4400. Other viewing spots will be the McDonald Observatory near Ft. Davis, (432) 426-3640 or [www.mcdonaldobservatory.org](http://www.mcdonaldobservatory.org); Insights El Paso Science Museum, 505 N. Santa Fe, 534-0000; and the Astronomical Society of Las Cruces, Tombaugh Observatory at New Mexico State University, [www.zianet.com/asic](http://www.zianet.com/asic). Other Mars info is on the web at <http://mars.jpl.nasa.cog/> or [planetary.org/mars](http://planetary.org/mars) or [sse.jpl.nasa.gov/index.cfm](http://sse.jpl.nasa.gov/index.cfm).

### Double take

■ You might think you're seeing double this year at Myrtle Cooper Elementary, but it will probably only be that you are seeing one of nine sets of twins who are attending the campus this year. The

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## San Eli's Grijalva flies high with top ten finish in national HOSA competition

By Phillip Cortez  
Special to the Courier

Even though San Elizario High School senior Jonathan Grijalva despises getting on airplanes — he scared his fellow passengers on a flight to Dallas last spring — good things usually occur during the trip.

In fact, the only times Grijalva had ever set foot on a plane was for Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA) competitions, where his previous trip to Dallas resulted in a first place finish at the state HOSA competition. The win guaranteed a spot for Grijalva to compete at the national HOSA competition.

But with the success came one big problem: more flying. The competition was held in Atlanta, Georgia, June 18-21.

"It's just too high up in the air," Grijalva laughed. "I just hate flying."

So his mother packed extra doses of Dramamine and together with Grijalva's

HOSA instructor at San Elizario High School, Mathilda Mirabal, the three boarded the plane, watched Grijalva sleep through the flight, and applauded a top ten national finish in a competition loaded with talent across the country. Grijalva placed 8th in the Clinical Specialties category, but placing was



Jonathan Grijalva

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## Canutillo ISD school board approves pay raises

By Alfredo Vasquez  
Special to the Courier

UPPER VALLEY — Canutillo Independent School District Board of Trustees approved a \$1,215 pay raise for returning teachers, librarians, and nurses during Tuesday's Aug. 11 regular school board meeting. This represents a three percent increase at the midpoint of the teachers' pay scale.

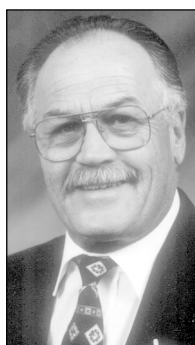
The Board also approved a three percent pay increase for manual trades employees, paraprofessionals, and administrators. In addition, Canutillo ISD will continue to provide free health care insurance for all of its employees. The compensation package total for the coming school year is \$710,854.

"The pay increase will be funded through a combination of approaches including addi-

tional money received from the state, minimal budget cuts district-wide, and a reduction in the district's workers' compensation allocation," said Tony Reza, Canutillo ISD controller.

"We had to look at adjustments in the current budget to fund salary increases because Canutillo ISD's current tax rate is \$1.50 for maintenance and operation (M&O), which is at the state maximum level," Reza said. "Canutillo ISD is a growing school district that is making every effort to utilize existing available funds to provide a compensation package that does not necessitate dipping into our fund balance."

"The pay raises are necessary to remain competitive with the surrounding school districts," said Charles Hart, Canutillo ISD superintendent. "We appreciate all of our employees, and we want them to stay with us," he added.



Charles Hart

## TDH warns of health hazards from Mexican cheese

The Texas Department of Health is warning consumers not to eat unpasteurized, soft, white cheese from Mexico illegally sold in the state. The cheese has been linked to listeriosis in six pregnant women and seven babies in South Texas and in the Houston area over the last several months. Two of the babies died.

The cheese, commonly called "queso fresco" or "queso blanco", may contain Listeria, a bacterium found in soil and water. TDH officials say the suspect cheese is typically sold in flea markets and by street vendors and that the warning does not apply to pasteurized, properly labeled, soft, white, Mexican cheese sold in reputable stores and markets.

Genetic fingerprint testing by the TDH laboratory in Austin determined that the Listeria that caused the infections in the pregnant women and their unborn babies most likely came from the same original source. TDH epidemiologists identified the cheese as the com-

mon-denominator food eaten by the mothers.

State and federal regulations require that imported soft cheese be pasteurized, labeled in English and be continuously stored at 45 degrees F or lower.

Most of the suspect cheese is not labeled or is labeled only in Spanish and is usually sold in wedges, chunks or blocks wrapped in cellophane or plastic wrap. Officials believe the imported cheese often is not pasteurized or safely stored. Pasteurization or cooking kills Listeria.

Symptoms of listeriosis include fever, muscle aches and sometimes diarrhea or nausea. Headache, stiff neck, confusion, loss of balance or convulsions may occur if the infection spreads to the nervous system. The incubation period is usually from 12 hours to three weeks but can be longer.

Healthy adults and children rarely become

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## Freeze in pay causes dissatisfaction among Horizon police officers

By Arleen Beard  
Special to the Courier

HORIZON CITY — An amendment to adjust the compensation plan in the Horizon City personnel manual as approved in February this year stirred up quite a bit of controversy with the Horizon City Police Department at the regularly scheduled city council meeting on Aug. 12.

The compensation plan amendment eliminates the step increase for all police officers for at least one year. This plan freezes the new officers' salaries after six months and there is no increase until the second year. This will affect all the current officers who were scheduled to receive a small increase. This would also freeze the salaries of the two corporals at the current rate for one year.

Police Chief Antonio Aguilar stated this would be demoralizing for the Police Department and all its employees.

"We are taking steps backwards. If the city cannot afford any pay increase for any police employee, then freeze the current plan, as is, and wait until next year and come up with a better plan," said Chief Aguilar. He added that his department was willing to give up the purchase of a new police unit in order to allow an increase for the police officers.

The amendment would hold the starting pay the same at \$20,000 a year, which, besides the Clint Police Department of \$18,720, would make it the lowest entry level salary in the El Paso County law enforcement area, including the school districts that have their own police department, it was stated.

Sergeant Swenson also addressed City Council regarding the amendment and urged City Council not to make their jobs harder than they already are, causing morale to drop. Sgt. Swenson went on to say he was willing to compromise his own step increase in order for the rest of the police officers to receive theirs.

"We, the Horizon City Police, love working here, love the community and appreciate what we have. We would like to keep what we have worked hard to earn," said Sgt. Swenson.

After considerable discussion, Council approved the amendment by a vote of 4-3, with the no votes being Aldermen Mary Beasley, Bethani Sellers and Art Borst.

Immediately after the amendment was approved, Mayor Dianne Whitty said, "If there are any police officers who would like to go to other law enforcement entities, I will fully support their decision and I will stand behind them."

Shortly after Mayor Whitty's comments, Sellers said she wanted to go on record that the Socorro ISD Police Department still pays their police officers much better than the Horizon City Police Department. Mayor Whitty responded, "But they also have a tax rate at around \$1.50 compared to our \$.2875."

In an interview following the meeting, Sellers stated: "Part of the mayor's platform

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There should be music in every home —  
except the one next door.

— Quips & Quotes





# One perspective

By Francis Shrum

## Getting hitched

There was some hoopla in the news this week about a woman in Boston trying to help her daughter find a husband.

The lady set up her front yard like a garage sale with her daughter, age 22, as the sole merchandise. As the suitors lined up they were to provide an essay and a headshot of themselves. The girl's parents and two friends are to make the final selection for her.

The girl and her mother said they decided to take this bazaar, I mean, bizarre approach because the daughter just can't seem to find a suitable man.

Maybe she's been looking in the wrong places.

Maybe she still is.

After all, what kind of a man will this sort of process invite, especially since the prize — though not unattractive — is no Miss America, already has a four-year-old daughter, and readily admits to a history of making bad choices in her relationships?

Not exactly a picture of marital stability.

People have become married for a variety of reasons over the centuries and, during the early years of our national history, they mostly stayed that way. It's just that nowadays we can't seem to stick it out with the person we stood up and promised ourselves to.

Maybe it has something to do with the reasons we did it in the first place.

Harry Chapin, the songster of "Cat's in the Hat" fame, recorded a heart-rending ballad about a mail-order bride, Annie Halsey, who comes to the Dakotas to live with a dirt farmer she has never met in person.

In the song, the farmer tells her

she's not as pretty as he hoped she'd be, but then he adds that he is no real prize, either.

He tells her that their future is going to be hard and lonely — that there will be few neighbors for her to visit, few amenities to brighten her days. Out on the plains, he says, "There's you, there's me, and there's God."

He goes on to say that the only really important thing is "what's in a woman when she's up against the land."

"Mail Order Annie" tells a story of need. People who need each other. She was a poor city girl with few respectable prospects, he a lonely, isolated man with only one way to find a wife.

He comforts her by saying that he doesn't mind her crying. "Your tears are sweet rain in my empty life," he says.

That kind of need doesn't really exist anymore in the liaisons we make in our society. We marry so we won't have to go out to parties alone. We marry to enrich ourselves financially. We marry out of lust, laziness and self-gratification.

And because we don't have that survival-level need of one another anymore, gratitude is also missing — appreciation for the simple things another person does for us, the shelter and protection their presence provides.

There are, of course, exceptions. I don't mean to put down the young men and women who step up to the plate with all good intentions and live up to their promises. But they are becoming a rare and endangered species. More and more of our young people are living out their own version of "reality TV" in sad, futile,

See HITCHED, Page 3



30 Years

WEST TEXAS COUNTY COURIER

SERVING ANTHONY VINTON, CASUTELLO, EAST MONTANA, HORIZON, SOCORRO, CLINT, FARMER, SAN ELIZABETH AND TORNILLO

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# Reyes Reports

By U.S. Rep. Silvestre Reyes

## Empowerment Zones helped out these non-profit organizations

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) recently celebrated El Paso's Empowerment Zone (EZ) by showcasing five El Paso non-profit organizations as "success stories" on their website. Each of these organizations receives support from the EZ.

EZs are areas designated by the U.S. government for economic and social renewal. Communities apply to HUD for EZ status and once approved, organizations within an EZ receive federal funding to help carry out their missions.

In 1998, El Paso community leaders and I worked hard together to apply for EZ status. El Paso's subsequent designation in 1999 is a testament to our commitment to improving our quality of life, as only 15 zones were designated nationwide. El Paso's EZ includes parts of the Westside, Southside, South Central, Five Points, and Lower Valley.

Many organizations and projects in El Paso benefit from EZ funding. HUD included the following five organizations on their website:

Project ARRIBA (Advanced Retraining and Redevelopment Initiative in Border Areas) is a hugely successful program aimed at providing high-skill, high-wage job training. Project ARRIBA provides critically needed training in health care, computers, and other fields that offer higher-paying jobs. Currently, Project ARRIBA has over 300 participants and an over 80-percent retention rate. Over 74-percent of Project ARRIBA participants are studying in the allied health field. As El Paso is experiencing a shortage of health professionals, our community as a whole benefits from the program — especially since they recently graduated 60 participants into occupations that would otherwise be filled by people outside our community.

Creative Kids, Inc. is a non-profit agency that has collaborated with area schools to create an arts program. Creative Kids, Inc. teaches young El Pasoans about computers and the latest technology available, while allowing them to express themselves artistically. The youths' creations have impressed many El Paso organizations, who have asked them develop their websites, custom posters, and other materials.

The El Puente Community Development Corporation is working to rejuvenate El Paso's Southside through the construction of "Uxmal," an affordable housing apartment building for NAFTA-displaced workers and low-income residents. The apartments are larger than average and will put residents on the road to home-ownership.

Sun Metro and the El Paso Transportation Alliance partnered to create "Job Express — the M.O.V.E (Mobilize Occupation, Vocation, Education) El Paso! Program." Many

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View from here By Alan F. Holmer

New drugs offer hope in the war on cancer in Texas and El Paso County

This year, some 556,500 Americans are expected to die of cancer – more than 1,500 people a day. Right here in Texas, 33,298 died from cancer in 2000, the last year for which statistics are available. In El Paso County, the number was 880, making it the second highest fatal illness after heart disease with 1,006 dead.

Even one death from cancer is too much. Pharmaceutical researchers are working on 395 new medicines for cancer. Many of these are high-tech weapons that fight the disease in new ways, while some involve research on new ways to use existing medicines. The research is being conducted by 181 pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies and by the National Cancer Institute.

The medicines in development, all of which are either in clinical trials or under review by the Food and Drug Administration, include 70 for lung cancer, the leading cause of cancer death in the United States; 49 for breast cancer, which is expected to

strike 200,000 American women in 2003; 48 for colon cancer, the third most common cancer in both men and women in this country; and 48 for prostate cancer, which is expected to kill 29,000 American men this year. Additional medicines target kidney cancer, pancreatic cancer, brain cancer, skin cancer, ovarian cancer, and others. In addition, companies are working on medicines to improve the quality of life for people undergoing cancer treatment.

This commitment to research promises to continue and accelerate the remarkable progress made against cancer in the past decade, which led to declines in both cancer cases and cancer deaths. Death rates for eight of the top ten cancers were level or declining during the 1990s, according to a report published in the Journal of the National Cancer Institute. These encouraging statistics raise hopes for an eventual victory in the war on cancer. Said Dr. Leonard Saltz of New York City's

Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center: "I don't think we're going to hit home runs, but if we can get a series of line-drive singles going and put enough singles back to back, we can score runs."

In the past few years, pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies have made progress against cancer by bringing cutting-edge new cancer treatments to patients. These include:

- A breakthrough drug for a chronic myeloid leukemia that works by blocking the chemical signal responsible for cancer cell growth.
- A monoclonal antibody engineered to zero in on and kill non-Hodgkin's lymphoma cells.
- A medicine that keeps growth factors from feeding certain types of breast cancer cells.

Many of the new medicines in the pipeline also use new approaches and technologies to fight cancer. For example:

- A medicine for pancreatic cancer that works by blocking the pathway

Hitched

From Page 2

hopeless versions of "Who Wants to Marry a Millionaire?" or "Bachelorette."

There is a quality lacking in the dating process and in the young people who cheapen the process with trash talk and provocative dress.

I wonder how the young woman wearing more makeup than clothing would manage "up against the land," or the brazen young man if he had to provide for her with the sweat of his brow and the strength of his hands.

There is a new twist on the court-

Reyes

From Page 2

El Pasoans do not live and work in the same part of town. This can cause problems for those of us who do not own cars. Job Express provides transportation to those who need it to get to school, work, interviews, or job training. The cost is minimal and there are also free or discounted tickets available.

Urban living is now a reality through the Downtown Lofts project above the Union Fashion Center. This retail/housing complex breathes life into downtown El Paso and Empowerment Zone funds keep rent down. The popularity is evident through the waiting lists to live in the apartments and the shops, cafés and galleries offer entertainment and retail opportunities.

ship scene called eight-minute dating. A group of young people spend eight minutes interviewing one another before they switch partners, thus spending a few minutes with each prospect in the room. Then they can go back and further explore a relationship with those they found most interesting.

Like all things in our get-it-now society, this method of finding your fairy-tale romance is fast, efficient and instantly gratifying.

Sadly, the "happily ever after" part will be just as brief.

Tunes For Tots

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Despite the progress, cancer remains the second leading cause of death by disease in the United States,

exceeded only by heart disease. The pharmaceutical industry's commitment to research, evidenced by the 400 medicines in development for this disease, is our best hope of stemming this toll.

Holmer is president of the Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America (PhRMA), the trade association that represents the nation's research-based pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies. You can visit their website at [www.phrma.org](http://www.phrma.org)



# Horizon City Police to join Labor Day traffic crackdown

HORIZON CITY — During the Labor Day weekend Horizon City Police will join nearly 1,800 other law enforcement agencies in a crack-down on Interstates 10, 20, 30, 35, 40 and their feeder routes in the states of Texas, Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, New Mexico, and many of the Indian Nations, according to Sgt. Ron Swenson.

“Horizon officers and more than 77,000 other law enforcement officers will be patrolling and ticketing drivers who ignore traffic laws. We will be watching for motorists who are not buckled up and don’t have their kids properly restrained. We will be cracking down on drinking and driving, aggressive driving, and speeding violations” Sgt. Ron Swenson said.

This multi-state cooperative law enforcement effort, “Operation Blue TALON: Crash Crack Down,” will begin at 6:00 p.m. Friday, Aug. 29, and run until midnight Monday, Sept. 1. Municipal police, sheriffs, state police, and tribal enforcement agencies will participate.

This is the fifth year of this operation which is sponsored by Region 6 National Highway Safety Administration (NHTSA) and the state highway offices of Texas, Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, and New Mexico (TALON), as well as many of the

Indian Nations.

“We are pleased to be involved with this crackdown on violations that annually account for many injuries and deaths. We hope to make the roadways in our area safer for all holiday travelers,” Sgt. Swenson said. “Additionally we are very proud to be participating in the El Paso Area Coalition of Law Enforcement Agencies Combating Intoxicated Offenses. This is a county-wide coalition created to identify problem areas in the El Paso area and combine law enforcement resources to effectively combat and reduce intoxicated offenses.”

“The chances for any driver in any vehicle getting stopped for ignoring speed limits, drinking and driving, and not being buckled up will be very high.

“If our officers don’t stop you, another agency most likely will. By working together, we are increasing the odds that travelers will get home safely,” Sgt. Ron Swenson said.

## Anthony Independent School District Public Notification of Nondiscrimination in Career and Technology Programs

- 1) The Anthony Independent School District offers career and technology education programs in:
- Business Professions;
  - Human Service Professions including culinary arts and cosmetology;
  - Commercial Arts Professions
  - Health Professions;
  - Industrial Professions including air conditioning and refrigeration, electronics, plumbing and metal trades;
  - Computer Professions including Macromedia certification, Microsoft Windows NT, microcomputer technician, and telecommunications and networking, and;
  - Automotive Professions including diesel mechanics and automotive technology.

Admission to these programs is based on appropriate age, grade, aptitude and ability.

- 2) It is the policy of Anthony Independent School District not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex or handicap in its vocational programs, services, or activities as required by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended; Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended.
- 3) It is the policy of Anthony Independent School District not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, handicap or age in its employment practices as required by title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended; Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended; and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended.
- 4) Anthony Independent School District will take steps to assure that lack of English language skills will not be a barrier to admission and participation in all career and technology programs.
- 5) For information about your rights or grievance procedures, contact the Title IX Coordinator/Section 504 Coordinator: Mr. Robert Ortega, (915) 886-6500, 610 Sixth Street, Anthony, Texas 79821.

## Notificacion Publica de no Discriminar en los Programas de Carrera y Tecnologia

- 1) El Distrito Escolar Independiente de Anthony ofrece programas de carrera y tecnología:
- Profesiones en negocios;
  - Profesiones en servicios humanos incluyendo artes culinarias and cosmetologia;
  - Profesiones en arte comercial;
  - Profesiones en al salud;
  - Profesiones industriales incluyendo aire acondicionado y refrigeración, electrónica, plomeria y oficio en el metal;
  - Profesiones de computación como certificacion de macromedia, Microsoft Windows NT, Técnico en micro-computación, telecomuncaciones, y red de radiodifusión, y;
  - Profesiones automotrices incluyendo mecánica diesel y tecnología automotriz.

Para admisión a éstos programas se basa en edad apropiada, grado, aptitud y habilidad.

- 2) Es norma del Distrito Escolar Independiente de Anthony no discriminar por motivos de raza, color, origen nacional, sexo, ó impedimento, en sus programas, servicios, ó actividades vocacionales, tal como lo requieren el Título VI del Acta de Derechos Civiles de 1964, según enmienda; Título IX de las Enmiendas Educativas de 1972, y la Sección 504 de la Acta de Rehabilitación de 1973, según enmienda.
- 3) Es norma del Distrito Escolar Independiente de Anthony no discriminar por motivos raza, color, origen nacional, sexo, impedimento ó edad en sus procedimientos de empleo, tal como requieren el Título VI del Acta de Derechos Civiles de 1964, según enmienda; Título IX de las Enmiendas Educativas de 1972, la Ley de Discriminación por Edad de 1975, según enmienda; y la Sección 504 de la Acta de Rehabilitación de 1973, según enmienda.
- 4) El Distrito Escolar Independiente de Anthony tomará las medidas necesarias para asegurar que la falta de habilidad en el uso de la lengua inglés no sea obstáculo para la admisión y participación en todos los programas carrera y tecnología.
- 5) Para más información sobre sus derechos ó procedimientos para quejas, comuníquese con el Coordinadora del Título IX/Coordinador de la Sección 504, Mr. Robert Ortega, (915) 886-6500, en 610 Sixth Street, Anthony, Texas 79821.

## Highest civilian award presented to youngest recipient

AUSTIN — The Texas Department of Public Safety has presented the Director’s Award to its youngest recipient in a special ceremony in Arlington. Cameron Coplin, 13, received the award, which is the highest honor bestowed to civilians by DPS.

On Aug. 16, 2002, Cameron and her family were traveling south-bound on Interstate Highway 35 in Travis County when Keith Williams, Cameron’s stepfather, went into insulin shock while driving the family’s Suburban. The car began to cross all three lanes of traffic. For several miles, Cameron tried to control the car by holding the steering wheel, but had great difficulty because Williams was unconscious. Finally, Cameron was able to steer the vehicle and used her hand to press down the brake to bring the Suburban to a stop.

Williams recovered and no one was injured during the incident, thanks to Cameron’s quick thinking. Arlington Mayor Robert Cluck also proclaimed Aug. 1 as Cameron Coplin Day in the city.

## Briefs

From Page 1

campus, however, is feeling something of a loss — last year there were 11 sets of twins enrolled. School librarian Laura Juarez works with all the twins and says that it is their personalities that make them all distinctly different. “There’s always a little something in their face, in their eyes, in their sparkle,” she said.

## In other news

- Kids can bring their grandparents to school at the Loma Verde Elementary on Friday, Sept. 5, 8-10 a.m. The special guests will be welcomed to commemorate Grandparents Day, the first Sunday after Labor Day. The grandparents are invited to read to their grandchildren’s classrooms. Breakfast will be served.
- Jody Kotys, a teacher at Socorro High School, will depart this November for Tokyo as a participant in the Fulbright Memorial Fund Teacher Program. Selected from a national pool of more than 2,500 applicants by a panel of educators, Kotys will join 200 other distinguished educators for three weeks in practical orientation to Japanese life and culture. They will also travel in groups of 20 to other parts of Japan for visits with government officials, educators, students and schools. They will homestay with a Japanese family.
- Navy Seaman Recruit Maribel Sanchez Prospero, daughter of Francisca and Jesus M. Sanchez of San Elizario, recently com-

- pleted U.S. Navy basic Training at Recruit Training Command in Great Lakes, Illinois. With an emphasis on physical fitness, her training also included instruction in naval customs, first aid, fire fighting, water safety and survival, and shipboard and aircraft safety. Sanchez-Prospero is a 2003 graduate of San Elizario High School.
- The Socorro Superintendent Dr. Robert Duron is hosting a series of community meetings to share his vision and obtain input from the community. Meetings will be held at 6 p.m. in the Band Rooms of the following schools: Socorro High, Aug. 20; El Dorado High, Aug. 21; Montwood High, Aug. 27 and Americas High, Aug. 28.
  - Girl Scouts of the Rio Grande have teamed with the El Paso Zoo to provide an opportunity to learn more about Girl Scouting and animals during half-price admission day on Sunday, Aug. 24, 9:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. Fun and free activities, as well as information on scouting activities, will be provided. The public is invited.
  - Historic farms and ranches are being sought for recognition by the Texas Dept. of Agriculture Family Land Heritage Program. To qualify, a farm/ranch has to have been in production for 100 years or more and in line of ownership through direct lineage or marriage; must fit the old U.S. Census definition of a farm; owner must be actively managing the place; and at least 10 acres must not be rented/leased to others. Deadline to apply is Nov. 15. Log on at [www.agr.state.tx.us](http://www.agr.state.tx.us) or call (512) 463-2631.

# Sosa brings Uruguay back to Socorro classroom, students

EAST EL PASO COUNTY — Hueco Elementary School’s Ismael Sosa brought something extra to share with his students this school year.

Sosa spent June 21- July 21 in the South American country of Uruguay as a Fulbright exchange teacher. He explored the country’s educational system, learned Uruguayan ways of living and teaching and made friends.

“We studied different things how the system works. I was able to participate with children and they got to know more about the United States’ culture. I became a goodwill ambassador for my country, and I was able to show my Mexican roots and my Texas roots. I was able to tell them that I was there basically so

that we could exchange ideas, and that I could show them that we’re people just like they are.”

Classroom technology in Uruguay is hard to come by, but Sosa says he’s working on a project to allow his current Hueco students to write and receive messages from Uruguayan students via the Internet.

As for show and tell, Sosa says he took dress clothes to show to the Uruguayan students. “I took a Mexican charro outfit and a cowboy outfit and the kids were very curious about life in the United States.” They’re fascinated by cowboys, he says not sur-

prising in a country with 3 million people and 11 million cows. “The students feel very isolated it’s a very small country, but they feel like everybody else is very far away.”

He spent much of his time in the city of San Jose and in the state of the same name. He also went to the capital city, Montevideo. “Their education system is undergoing some kind of reform, but it’s greatly affected by the economy. The students go to school four hours per day, and it rains often. It’s humid, but not hot. Sometimes with all the rain, the students can’t get to school.”



TRAVELIN’ MAN — Teacher Ismael Sosa shares some of the souvenirs and lessons he learned in Uruguay with the students in his class.

— Photo courtesy Socorro ISD

Sosa says the country’s economic success or stagnation directly affects the education system.

“The money was devalued to about 30 Uruguayan pesos to \$1. A principal over there makes about \$500 per month; a teacher about \$300 per month. Gasoline is \$4 per gallon.”

But time was the biggest adjustment Sosa had to make.

English. If I found a student named ‘Jorge,’ I’d call him ‘George’ and wow that would make his day. But I was able to teach what I preach with a little bit of extra effort, you can go from good to being the best. The kids over here, sometimes, take our schools, with their football fields and other facilities — for granted. And when opportunity comes knocking, don’t let it pass.”

# Major road project set to begin in Horizon City

HORIZON CITY — A long-awaited, 1.68-mile road project in Horizon City will soon be underway, encompassing the intersection of Darrington Rd. and Horizon Blvd. in a \$1.45 million project expected to last at least six months.

The rehabilitation of Darrington Rd. will extend beyond the intersection of Horizon Blvd. north about .3 miles and to the south about 1.23 miles through the Horizon City Industrial Park.

It will also extend .08 miles west and .07 miles east of that intersection.

The contractor for the project is C. F. Jordan. The project will include grading, widening, installing flexible base material, asphaltic concrete pavement, continuously reinforced concrete pavement, curb and gutters, sidewalks, and providing drainage, signage, delineation and signals.

Horizon City Public Works Director John Dixon extended the town’s apologies for the inconveniences to area drivers, however, he noted that speed limits and other safety issues will be strictly enforced by the Horizon City Police Dept.

## Anthony Independent School District Public Notice Of Non-Discrimination

It is the policy of the Anthony Independent School District to prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender or any person who has a disability in the admission or access to programs, delivery of services or employment.

The Anthony Independent School District is fully committed to meeting its responsibilities as specified by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended; Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972; prohibiting sex discrimination, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended; the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended; and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

Inquiries concerning your rights may be referred to Mr. Robert Ortega, 610 Sixth Street, Anthony, Texas 79821, (915) 886-6500.

## Notificacion Publica

Es la norma de conducta de el distrito escolar de Anthony prohibir la discriminación a base de raza, color, origen nacional, sexo o deshabilidad en la admisión o el acceso a programas, entrega de servicios o empleo.

El distrito escolar de Anthony esta comprometido a cumplir con las responsabilidades especificadas por el Título VI del Acta de Derechos Civiles de 1964, como enmendado, el Título IX de la Enmienda de Educación de 1972, como enmendado, que prohíbe la discriminación sexual, la Sección 504 del Acta de Rehabilitación de 1973, como enmendado, la Ley de Discriminación por Edad de 1975 como enmendado, y el Acta de Americanos con Deshabilidades.

Para información tocanta a sus derechos comuniquese con Mr. Robert Ortega, 610 Sixth Street, Anthony, Texas 79821, (915) 886-6500.

WTCC: 08/21/03

## Anthony Independent School District SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES

Anthony Independent School District provides the following educational program/services to identified children with disabilitieswho reside within the district beginning on the third birthday through age twenty-one.

Instructional Program: including Early Childhood (beginning on the third birthday through age five), Resource (grades K-12) and Self-Contained (grades K-12); 2) Diagnostic Services; 3) Transportation Services; 4) Speech Therapy; 5) Counseling Services; 6) Adaptive Equipment Services; 7) Physical Therapy; 8) Occupational Therapy; 9) School Health Services; and 10) Homebound Services

Services are provided to identified auditorial and visually impaired children who reside within the district from birth through age twenty-one.

In compliance with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 and Public Law 105-17, parents and adult students have the right to inspect educational records. District policies FL and FL-E provide for record access, confidentiality, and complaint procedures.

If you would like more information or know of a child with disabilities who is not receiving educational services, please contact: Pat Caballero, 610 Sixth Street, Anthony, Texas 79821, (915) 886-6570.

## El Distrito Escolar de Anthony SERVICIOS DE EDUCACION ESPECIAL

El distrito escolar de Anthony provee los siguientes programas/ servicios educacionales a niños que son identificados como desabilitados que viven dentro del distrito comenzando con el tercer cumpleaños hasta los 21 años.

Programa de instrucción: infancia temprana (comenzando con el tercer cumpleaños hasta la edad de cinco años), cuarto de recurso (K-12), y clases contenidas (K-12); 2) servicios diagnósticos; 3) servicios de transportación; 4) terapia de habla; 5) servicios de consejo; 6) servicios de equipaje adaptivo; 7) terapia fisica; 8) terapia ocupacional; 9) servicios de salud escolar; y 10) servicios de clases en el hogar

Se provee servicios a niños identificados como desabilitados audible y visualmente que viven dentro del distrito desde nacimiento hasta la edad de 21 años.

Conforme al Acto de Derechos y Confidencia Educacionales de Familia de 1974 y Ley Publica 105-17, padres y alumnos adultos tienen el derechos de ver los archivos educativos. Polizas FL y FL-E explican los derechos, la confidencialidad, y el proceso para quejarse.

Si usted desea mas información o sabe de un niño/niña desabilitado que vive en el distrito escolar de Anthony que no esta recibiendo servicios educacionales, favor de comunicarse con: Pat Caballero, 610 Sixth Street, Anthony, Texas 79821, (915) 886-6570.

WTCC: 08/21/03



# Clint school district opens new school year fiscally sound

By Laura Cade  
*Special to the Courier*

EAST EL PASO COUNTY — Clint Independent School District will begin the 2003-2004 school year fiscally sound. Despite personnel reductions in March, the district was able to restructure finance to provide equity and consistency in the district's new academic initiatives. At the District Convocation held on Aug. 11, Clint ISD Administration announced that all returning staff

members will receive a retention stipend to offset the decrease in the state health insurance supplement. This is in addition to the six percent average salary increase approved by the Board of Trustees back in April. Through an innovative energy conservation program, the district was able to achieve more than \$2.1 million in savings since 1996 which has also contributed to the district's sound financial footing. In a public hearing to be held before the regular school board meeting Aug. 20, the constituents of Clint

ISD can anticipate the approval of a six cent tax rate decrease by the Board of Trustees. According to Assistant Superintendent, Olivia Campos, the District feels that their actions in March have enabled them to channel funds into pay raises, improved benefits, retention of quality employees, a reduced tax-rate, and to redirect funds to support instructional activities. For the first time in several years, a deficit budget has been eliminated. The new budget provides for all areas of need while rebuilding the fund balance that had declined over the past several years. Dr. Donna Smith,

Clint ISD Superintendent, said, "The focus of the district is to prudently manage the tax dollar while focusing on instructional programs and personnel. The new budget reflects this commitment and will provide for student success and opportunity this year and in the years to come." The district has also sold additional bonds to fund new facilities, as well as improvements on existing facilities. The district currently is preparing to move its central office from the town of Clint to a new "state of the art" building in Horizon to better serve the entire district.

## Socorro council considers draft of ordinance to provide public information

By Arleen Beard  
*Special to the Courier*

SOCORRO — For the past few months, discussion regarding the inconsistency of obtaining records from Socorro city hall has been a regular item of interest at city council meetings. In conjunction with this issue, Former city councilman Trini Lopez has continued to address council regarding his feelings of prejudice towards himself from council members whenever he has requested miscellaneous public records prior to council meetings. Lopez said he does not understand why he has been asked to sign a request form to obtain a copy of the council meeting agenda prior to the meeting. He said meeting agendas had routinely been offered in the past to the public without charge and without special request. Mayor Irma Sanchez and council members have directed City Attorney Chris Borunda to draft an ordinance to adopt procedures and charges for public records and information provided by the City of Socorro. A public hearing was held regarding this ordinance and the draft was made available to the community members present at the regularly scheduled meeting on Aug. 7, 2003. The draft is currently 13 pages long and includes different charges on information depending on the type of information, be it paper, cassette tape, computer generated or video tapes. Complete details of the charges are well explained in the draft of the ordinance. Lopez addressed council to once again voice his disappointment on the handling of public records whenever he requests information. He does not blame the city employees, but rather city council members. There was no other input from the public regarding the ordinance, therefore, Mayor Sanchez closed the public hearing. In other business, Council considered and took action on the first reading of Ordinance 30, Amendment 4. This is an amendment establishing the criteria and procedures necessary to secure building permits for new construction and improvement and repair on existing structures within the City of Socorro, Texas. According to City Manager Reyes Fierro, the building codes are being upgraded. The adoption of these codes is done to facilitate proper inspection activities by the city. Council approved the first reading. In another agenda item, Council approved the first reading of Ordinance 109, Amendment 2. This is an ordinance amending Ordinance No. 25, requiring the cleaning and maintaining of private developed or undeveloped tracts of land or lots in the Socorro. Council also approved the authorization to advertise for the Chief of Police position, once again.

### Fabens Independent School District SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES

Fabens Independent School District provides the following education program/services to identified children with disabilities who reside within the district beginning on the third birthday through age twenty-one.

Instructional Program: including Early Childhood (beginning on the third birthday through age five), 1) Resource (grades K-12) and Self-Contained (grades K-12); 2) Diagnostic Services; 3) Transportation Services; 4) Speech Therapy; 5) Counseling Services; 6) Adaptive Equipment Services; 7) Physical Therapy; 8) Occupational Therapy; 9) School Health Services; and 10) Homebound Services.

Services are provided to identified auditorial and visually impaired children who reside within the district from birth through age twenty-one.

In compliance with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 and Public Law 105-17, parents and adult students have the right to inspect educational records. District policies FL and FL-E provide for record access, confidentiality, and complaint procedures.

If you would like more information or know of a child with disabilities who is not receiving educational services, please contact: Richard Ortega, Special Education Director, P.O. Box 697, Fabens, Texas 79838, (915) 764-3816.

### El Distrito Escolar de Fabens SERVICIOS DE EDUCACION ESPECIAL

*El distrito escolar de Fabens provee los siguientes programas/ servicios educacionales a niños que son identificados como desabilitados que viven dentro del distrito comenzando con el tercer cumpleaños hasta los 21 años.*

*Programa de instrucción: infancia temprana (comenzando con el tercer cumpleaños hasta la edad de cinco años), 1) cuarto de recurso (K-12), y clases contenidas (K-12); 2) servicios diagnósticos; 3) servicios de transportación; 4) terapia de habla; 5) servicios de consejo; 6) servicios de equipaje adaptivo; 7) terapia física; 8) terapia ocupacional; 9) servicios de salud escolar; y 10) servicios de clases en el hogar.*

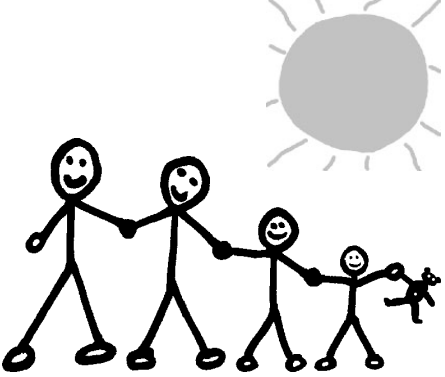
*Se provee servicios a niños identificados como desabilitados audible y visualmente que viven dentro del distrito desde nacimiento hasta la edad de 21 años.*

*Conforme al Acto de Derechos y Confidencia Educacionales de Familia de 1974 y Ley publica 105-17, padres y alumnos adultos tienen el derechos de ver los archivos educativos. Polizas FL y FL-E explica los derechos, la confidencialidad, y el proceso para quejarse.*

*Si usted desea mas información o sabe de un niño/niña desabilitado que vive en el distrito escolar de Fabens que no esta recibiendo servicios educacionales, favor de comunicarse con: Richard Ortega, Director de Educación Especial, P.O. Box 697, Fabens, Texas 79838, (915) 764-3816.*

WTCC: 08/21/03

Carlisle Navidomskis  
M.Ed., LPC  
Family Counselor



## Horizon Family Counseling

By appointment only • Se habla español  
Medicaid and insurance accepted

14200 Ashford  
Horizon City, Texas 79928

(915) 433-7727  
cnlpc@earthlink.net

## Public Notice El Paso County Rural Transit

Notice is hereby given that El Paso County has filed an application with the Texas Department of Transportation for Section 5311 assistance to provide fixed-route bus service to the non-urbanized areas of El Paso County for Fiscal Year 2004 Funding. Following is the Section 5311 project proposed for Fiscal Year 2004 Funding:

<b>Program of Projects</b>	
<b>Project Description, Non-Urbanized Fixed-Route Bus Service</b>	
<b>FEDERAL SHARE:</b>	<b>\$125,473</b>
<b>STATE SHARE:</b>	<b>\$172,726</b>
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$298,199</b>

Any person who would like to comment on the Section 5311 project or request a public hearing regarding this grant application, including private transportation providers, should contact El Paso County Rural Transit, 500 E. San Antonio, Suite 404, El Paso, Texas 79901, or phone (915) 543-3848, attention Mr. Richard Sowell. Should no interest be expressed within 10 days of this notice, no public hearing will be held. The Program of Projects (POP) will be considered a final document, unless the final (POP) is changed significantly and raises significant issues which interested parties could not reasonably have foreseen from the public involvement efforts. If that should happen, an additional opportunity for public comment on the revised (POP) shall be made available.

Richard Sowell  
Transit Coordinator  
El Paso County  
Rural Transit

WTCC: 08/21/03

# Horizon Kiwanis ready for another terrific school year, social service

“I’m a Terrific Kid.” That was the message heard by 14,000 kindergarten and elementary school children in the Socorro, Clint and San Elizario School Districts this past school year from the Kiwanis Club of Horizon City. The Club currently sponsors a Terrific Kids program in “8 elementary schools.

Kids who have worked to meet Terrific Kid goals of prompt attendance of classes, doing their best, and behaving respectfully toward themselves and others — receive a certificate inscribed with their name, a sticker and a colorful pencil.

At regular intervals, teachers select children from their classes and presentations are scheduled for the children to receive their awards in the presence of their classmates, school staff, parents and a member of the Kiwanis Club of Horizon City.

In addition to the award items, children receive applause, warm handshakes and words of praise and encouragement.

The motto of Kiwanis International is “We Build” — by encouraging children to develop good habits and values at the elementary level, Horizon City Kiwanians feel they are contributing to the development of character and citizenship.

Key Club International is a Kiwanis service organization for high school

students sponsored on the local level to develop initiative and leadership, an attitude of community service, and the daily living of the Golden Rule in all human relationships.

The Horizon City Kiwanis Club has sponsored Key Clubs at Americas and Socorro High Schools. These clubs have sponsored numerous projects to benefit children, the elderly, the needy, and the community as a whole.

Marty Culpepper, currently president of the Horizon City Kiwanis Club, also serves as Key Club advisor. He attends Key Club meetings and works closely with the students and their school sponsors.

The Horizon City Kiwanis Club provides \$1,000 scholarships to selected Key Club members and this year, scholarships were awarded to four students — Vanessa Duran and Jennifer Contreras from Americas High School and Lisett Maldonado and Jennifer Nieves of Socorro High School.

The Kiwanis Club also provides continuing financial support to Little League baseball, scouting, youth boxing, local churches, La Clinica Guadalupeana, the Child Crisis Center, the Assistance League and several other worthy endeavors. Funds to support these service projects come from the American Flag program and from Charitable Bingo. Kiwanians, along with numerous other community volunteers, place up to 600 American flags along the streets of Horizon City on five holidays each year.

None of the funds raised from the community are used for the benefit of the membership, according to club rules. Periodic independent audits are performed and no problems with management of Kiwanis funds were found during recent audits by the Texas Lottery Commission and by an independent CPA.

Horizon City residents wanting more information about local Kiwanis Clubs are invited to attend weekly meetings at 8 a.m. every Saturday morning at the Oz Glaze Senior Center in Horizon City, or call Culpepper at 852-4796, Secretary Pat Randleel at 852-3848 or Treasurer Ann Miller at 852-4837.

## Farmers Insurance to reimburse \$2.4 million to Texans who overpaid for car repair

AUSTIN — Texas Attorney General Greg Abbott recently announced a settlement with Farmers Insurance Group that requires the company to refund an estimated \$2.4 million to about 13,000 Texas motorists who may have paid more for vehicle repairs than was required under their policies. (Note: this settlement is not related to a proposed \$117.5-million settlement with the state involving allegations the company deceived homeowners and misused credit scoring data.)

Today’s settlement marks the ninth such settlement obtained since 2000 with major auto insurers, emphasizing again that companies such as Farmers may not deceive motorists who pay deductibles and make proper claims for vehicle repair work.

This unlawful practice known as “betterment,” an insurance industry term, involves supposedly increasing the value of a policyholder’s vehicle by paying for repairs with better or newer parts. Companies such as Farmers have routinely reduced the amount to be paid to the motorist for repairs by an amount believed to equal the improved value of the vehicle because upgraded parts were installed, such as new rather than rebuilt transmissions.

“Companies have used this perceived loophole in the standard Texas auto policy to rationalize their way into consumers’ pocketbooks,” said Attorney General Abbott. “They reasoned that if they increase the value of their policyholders’ vehicles, then they should be able to deduct an amount for improving the value of the vehicle. Auto policies in Texas just do not allow for this kind of deception and we’re fortunately seeing a turnaround in the industry.”

Under the settlement, Farmers will continue to refrain from deducting for betterment on its policyholders’ claims. The company agrees to refund the amount charged for betterment, plus interest, to policyholders who had an auto repair claim paid from Feb. 14, 1996, to the present.

Farmers will mail checks directly to policyholders who had electronic estimates that indicated the company made these deductions for betterment. For those policyholders whose deductions cannot be identified though electronic estimates, Farmers will mail notices requesting that eligible persons make a written claim.

If a policyholder makes a written claim, Farmers will review the claim file and send a refund check if the file indicates the company deducted for betterment. Farmers agrees that this settlement will not affect its insurance rates. Farmers will also pay \$175,000 in attorneys’ fees and other expenses to the Attorney General’s office.

Since 2000, the Texas Attorney General’s office has also obtained betterment settlements with State Farm, Nationwide, USAA, Geico, Travelers, Safeco, Sentry and Liberty Mutual insurance companies for an estimated \$7.9 million in total refunds. Several betterment lawsuits against other insurers are still pending.

### Public Notice San Elizario Independent School District 2003-2004 School Meal Policy

The San Elizario Independent School District serves breakfast and lunch every school day. All children in the district will receive a reimbursable meal at no charge through the academic year of 2003-2004. All children will receive a free breakfast and free lunch regardless of income. In the operation of the child-feeding program, no child will be discriminated against because of race, color, religion, gender, disability, age or national origin.

### Noticia Publica Poliza de Comida del Año 2003-2004 del Distrito Escolar Independiente de San Elizario

*El Distrito Escolar Independiente de San Elizario servira desayuno y almuerzo cada dia escolar. Todo los niños recibirán comida sin cobro durante el año escolar 2003-2004. Todos los niños recibirán un desayuno y un almuerzo gratis sin importar sus ingresos. En la operacion del programa de comidas para niños, ningun niño sera discriminado por su raza, color, religion, genero, incapacidad, edad o origennacional.*

In accordance with Federal law and U.S. Department of Agriculture policy, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability. To file a complaint of discrimination, write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington D.C. 20250-9410 or call 202/720-5964 (voice and TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

*El Departamento de Agricultura de los EE.UU. (“USDA”) prohíbe la discriminación en todos sus programas y actividades en base a la raza, color de la piel, país de origen, género, edad o discapacidad. Para presentar una queja de discriminación, escriba a USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 o llame al (202) 720-5964 (voz y para sordos). “USDA” es un proveedor y empleador que ofrece igualdad de oportunidades.*

*For information about your rights or grievance procedures please contact Robert Longoria, Director of Support Services or Alicia Grijalva, Food Service Coordinator, at (915) 872-3980.*

WTCC: 08/21/03

### Town of Horizon City Notice of Public Hearing on Tax Increase

The **Town of Horizon** City will hold a public hearing on a proposal to increase total tax revenues from properties on the tax roll by **9.6 percent**. Your individual taxes may increase or decrease, depending on the change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in taxable value of all other property and the tax rate that is adopted.

The public hearing will be held **Friday, August 29, 2003 at 6:30 p.m.** at Town Hall, 14999 Darrington Rd., Horizon City, TX 79928.

**FOR proposal:** Council Members: Beasley, Baerbock, Borst, Miller, Reyes, Sellers, and Greseth

**AGAINST the proposal:** none

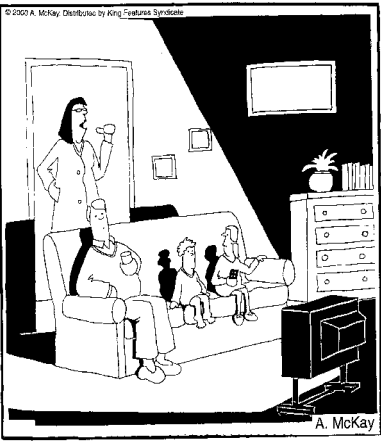
**PRESENT and not voting:** none

**ABSENT:** none

The following table compares taxes on an average home in this taxing unit last year to taxes proposed on the average home this year. Again, your individual taxes may be higher or lower, depending on the taxable value of your property.

	Last Year	This Year
Average residence homestead value	\$79,901.00	\$81,873.00
General exemptions available (Amount available on the average homestead, not including senior citizen's or disabled person's exemptions)	\$-0-	\$-0-
Average taxable value	\$79,878.00	\$81,857.00
Tax rate	.258900/\$100	.287500/\$100 (proposed)
Tax	\$206.80	\$235.34

**Under this proposal taxes on the average homestead would increase by \$28.54 or 13.8 percent compared with last year's taxes. Comparing tax rates without adjusting for changes in property value, the tax rate would increase by \$0.028600 per \$100 of taxable value or 11.05 percent compared to last year's tax rate. These tax rate figures are not adjusted for changes in the taxable value of property.**



“Right, kids! Kiss goodnight to the television and then off to bed.”

# Safety issues being resolved at San Elizario ISD

By Don Woodyard  
Courier Staff Writer

SAN ELIZARIO — Matters of safety for students were discussed again at the Aug. 13 meeting of the board of directors of the San Elizario Independent School District.

“It looks good out there,” said Robert Longoria, support services director. “We will be safe and clean.”

He discussed two specific safety issues, gas lines at the high school and sidewalks.

Longoria said the district was working with Texas Gas Services to eliminate a “few” leaks found in pressure

testing of gas lines at the high school. He said that some of the gas lines were being shut down and pipes refitted as a part of correcting the problem.

The support services director reported progress in the matter of safety of middle school students walking along Socorro Road past the fire station. Working with El Paso County, the Lower Valley Water District and the fire department, students would have, by the end of August, a safer route off the shoulder of the road and away from traffic.

Computers came up for discussion in two related agenda items.

Alice Ramos, technology coordinator for the district, outlined year six

ERATE funding for the various computer-related support services for the upcoming school year. Through federal funding, the school district, she explained, only has to pay 10 percent of the overall cost.

The district will receive \$508,970 in technical support for only \$50,897. Support service approved for funding includes internet access, long distance services, wireless access points at all campuses and a district network server upgrade.

One of the ERATE services denied for the coming year was \$95,900 for a network management services company. In the second computer-related agenda item, Ramos proposed revis-

ing the current job description of and increasing the pay scale for a network specialist who would perform the work of a network services company.

Two motions to approve revising the job description and increasing the pay of a network specialist ended in 3-3 deadlocked votes. A compromise which called for continuing the current pay scale was approved 5-1.

Dr. Mike Quatrini asked the board if the administration could come back and again request a pay hike if the district is unsuccessful in finding a network specialist at the present rate. The board agreed.

In other action, the board:

- Approved continuing an agree-

ment in which the district purchases various items as a member of a Region 19 purchasing cooperative.

- Approved bids from companies for providing food services for the district.
- Approved continuing an agreement with the El Paso Independent School District for services of its Regional Day School for the Deaf. Three San Elizario students attend the school. Cost is \$7,100 per student, up from \$5,000 last year.

## Grijalva

From Page 1

something he was not expecting in the 3,300-student competition.

“I just wanted to be there,” Grijalva said during a break from class. “I had never been to Atlanta before.”

Although Grijalva remained humble about his accomplishment, Mirabal recognized the significance of a top 10 finish in a HOSA program that was in its first year of competition.

“I am very proud of him,” Mirabal said. “He really put San Elizario on the map for Texas. This was truly an experience that he will never forget and the exposure of the trip and meeting others from other states was enlightening. He also got to play a little and saw some of the sites in Atlanta.”

Whether it was the size of the airport or the size of his hotel — it was the biggest he’d ever been in before and had it’s own Kinko’s — Grijalva knew that the size of the competition could not affect his presentation.

“It was just me standing behind a podium in a small conference room with four judges and two door monitors,” he said. “The rules were a lot stricter than at previous competitions.”

With a solid year of competition under his belt, Grijalva will begin his senior internship working in the County Medical Examiner’s office. He hopes to use his HOSA experiences in becoming a forensic pathologist.

“I’m going to try to become one, at least,” he said.

Odds are pretty good that he will.

## Cheese

From Page 1

seriously ill from Listeria infection. But pregnant women and people with weakened immune systems are at greater risk.

Pregnant women may only have mild cases of the illness, but infections during pregnancy can lead to premature delivery, miscarriage, stillbirths or babies being born with infections that can be life-threatening.

TDH and Hidalgo County Health Department staff conducted the investigation.



## NOTICE OF EFFECTIVE TAX RATE

### 2003 Property Tax Rates in the Town of Clint

This notice concerns 2003 property tax rates for the **Town of Clint**. 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 _____	\$104,691
Last year's debt taxes _____	-0-
Last year's total taxes _____	104,691
Last year's tax base _____	30,491,311
Last year's total tax rate _____	.343347/\$100

<b>This year's effective tax rate:</b>	
Last year's adjusted taxes	
(after subtracting taxes on lost property) _____	\$104,632
+This year's adjusted tax base	
(after subtracting value of new property) _____	30,093,756
=This year's effective tax rate _____	.347686/\$100
x1.03 = maximum rate unless unit	
publishes notices and holds hearings _____	.358116/\$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) _____	\$104,632
+This year's adjusted tax base _____	30,093,756
=This year's effective operating rate _____	.347686/\$100
x1.08 = this year's maximum operating rate _____	.375500/\$100
+This year's debt rate _____	-.0-/ \$100
=This year's rollback rate _____	.375500/\$100

#### Statement of Increase/Decrease

If the **Town of Clint** adopts a 2003 tax rate equal to the effective rate of **.347686** per \$100 of value, taxes would **increase** compared to 2002 taxes by **\$343**.

#### 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)	\$-0-
Debt Service (I&S)	-0-

#### 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
NONE	\$-0-	\$-0-	\$-0-	\$-0-
Total required for 2003 debt service _____				
-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 _____				-0-
+Amount added in anticipation that the unit will collect				
only 100% of its taxes in 2003 _____				-0-
=Total Debt Levy _____				-0-

This notice contains a summary of actual effective and rollback tax rate calculations. You can inspect a copy of the full calculations at 500 E. Overland Avenue Suite 101, El Paso, Texas 79901.

**Name of person preparing this notice:** Victor A. Flores

**Title:** County Tax Assessor-Collector

**Date prepared:** August 8, 2003

## NOTICE OF EFFECTIVE TAX RATE

### 2003 Property Tax Rates in El Paso County Emergency Services District #1

This notice concerns 2003 property tax rates for the **El Paso County Emergency Services District #1**. 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 _____	\$350,205
Last year's debt taxes _____	-0-
Last year's total taxes _____	350,205
Last year's tax base _____	368,636,842
Last year's total tax rate _____	.0950000/\$100

<b>This year's effective tax rate:</b>	
Last year's adjusted taxes	
(after subtracting taxes on lost property) _____	\$350,132
+This year's adjusted tax base	
(after subtracting value of new property) _____	364,738,135
=This year's effective tax rate _____	.0095995/\$100
x1.03 = maximum rate unless unit	
publishes notices and holds hearings _____	.098874/\$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) _____	\$350,132
+This year's adjusted tax base _____	364,738,135
=This year's effective operating rate _____	.095995/\$100
x1.08 = this year's maximum operating rate _____	.103674/\$100
+This year's debt rate _____	-.0-/ \$100
=This year's rollback rate _____	.103674/\$100

#### Statement of Increase/Decrease

If the **El Paso County Emergency Services District #1** adopts a 2003 tax rate equal to the effective rate of **.095995** per \$100 of value, taxes would **increase** compared to 2002 taxes by **\$37,606**.

#### 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)	\$484,768
Debt Service (I&S)	-0-

#### 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
NONE	\$-0-	\$-0-	\$-0-	\$-0-
Total required for 2003 debt service _____				
-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 _____				-0-
+Amount added in anticipation that the unit will collect				
only 100% of its taxes in 2003 _____				-0-
=Total Debt Levy _____				-0-

This notice contains a summary of actual effective and rollback tax rate calculations. You can inspect a copy of the full calculations at 500 E. Overland Avenue Suite 101, El Paso, Texas 79901.

**Name of person preparing this notice:** Victor A. Flores

**Title:** County Tax Assessor-Collector

**Date prepared:** August 8, 2003





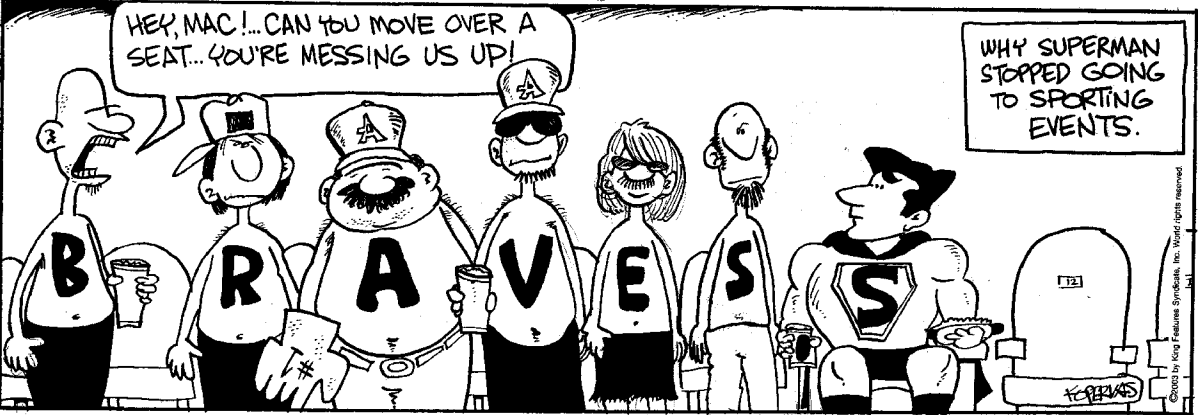




Comix

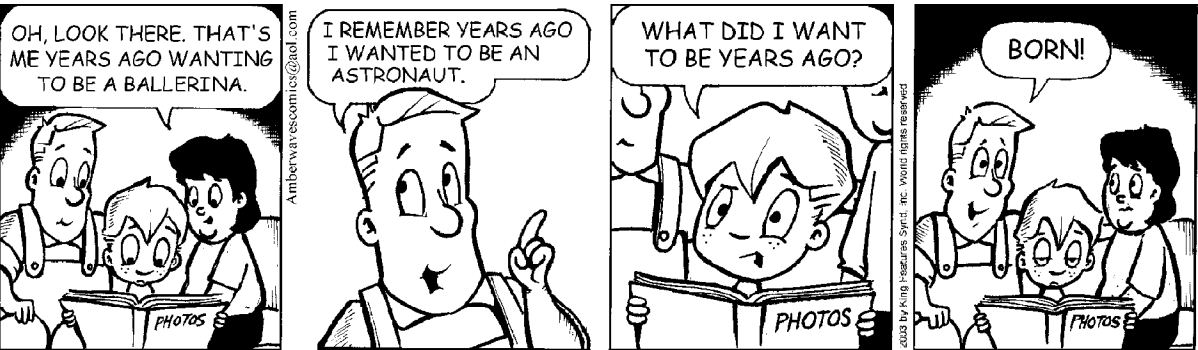
OUT ON A LIMB

By Gary Kopervas



AMBER WAVES

By Dave T. Phipps



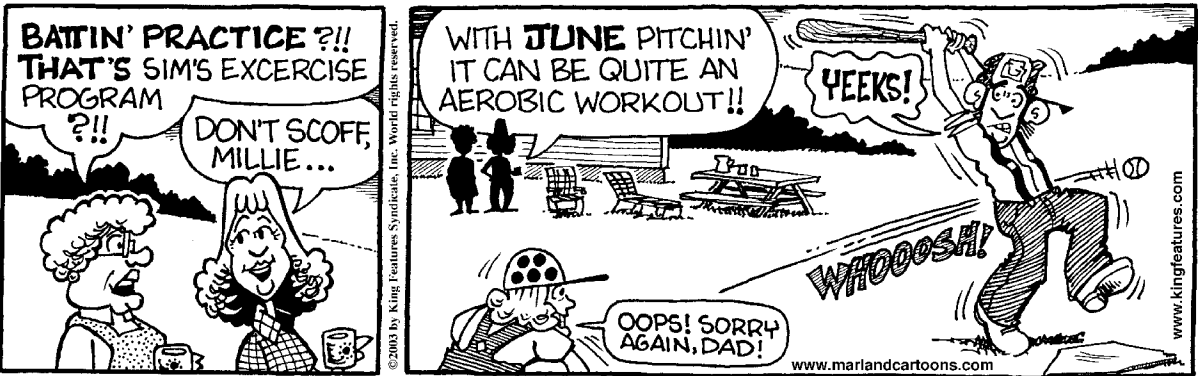
THE SPATS

By Jeff Pickering



R.F.D.

By Mike Marland



Classified Ads

LEGALS

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 - IGCDI1928J8243204, 1988 Chevy S-10, white, Arizona license 592-CGY VIN - D3I17GGBI1446, International F5070, red, Wisconsin plates QX-1037 WTCC-8/21/03

BUSINESS PROSPECTS

Need extra income? Use the Internet? We just

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

LOCATION WANTED

MEETING HALL TO SEAT 80 in the Westside area between Canutillo and UTEP. Must have refrigerated air conditioning and bathrooms for both men and women. Looking for safe, attractive location with parking. Small stor-

RENTALS

ROOMMATE WANTED to share 3 BR home in Horizon. \$300 plus 1/2 utilities. 852-4527. 8/21

REAL ESTATE

LOTS FOR SALE: 3/4 acres, utilities, financing available. Close to schools, amenities. 852-3069 or 433-7557.

WATER SYSTEMS

The importance of clean water becomes more obvious every day. The eSpring®! Water System is designed

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

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Domestic and Foreign 852-3523 1558 Oxbow, Horizon City

HORIZON CITY PLUMBING 852-1079

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FLAT ROOF FLOUNDERING? Foam It! (915) 355-FOAM (3626) Inverse Coatings www.inversecoatings.com

SELF-HELP

Persons who have a problem with alcohol are offered a free source of help locally. Alcoholics Anonymous - call 562-4081 for information.

Tiene problemas con el alcohol? Hay una solucion. Informacion: 838-6264.

SERVICES

Device translates catty remarks

**By Don Flood**

As Dr. Sigmund Freud once asked, “What do *cats* want?” (He also, of course, famously asked: “What do *women* want?” — but that question drove him nuts!) But soon it may be easier to understand our feline friends, with the help of — yes, this is for real — the Meowlingual, a device that will translate cat meows into human speech!

Do I believe in this junk? Let me put it this way: Anyone who would buy this — for \$74! — is a meow-meow idiot!

(Editor’s note: Sorry, we’re not allowed to translate that “*meow-meow*” in a family newspaper.)

OK, OK, I know I’m being a little catty (HA!), but it’s frustrating to realize someone else has come up with one of the most brilliant product ideas of all time. No matter how dumb this is, nobody will complain.

All you have to do is make sure the device translates the cats’ meows into appropriately cutesy phrases, such as:

“I love you so-o-o-o much!”

“Please scratch behind my ears!”

And here are some phrases they probably *won’t* have the cats saying:

“Cut the baby talk and just put some food in my bowl!”

“No offense, but you look pretty ugly naked.”

“Those friends of yours? Behind your back they say you’re a loser.”

Not that the device doesn’t have at least one major drawback: For it to “work” you have to hold a microphone up to your cat and wait for it to “say” something.

Oh, yeah, this will be time well spent.

Maybe you can put on some music and pretend it’s Cat Karaoke Night.

Imagine the fun at holiday gatherings when Aunt Gertrude wants to demonstrate her amazing talking cat:

AUNT: (sticking microphone in cat’s face.) She just said something! What did you say?

CAT (silent smirk):

AUNT: Here, speak into the microphone!

CAT (enjoying newfound power over idiot human):

AUNT: Come on, kitty! Say something!

CAT (realizing it has now achieved total mastery over Aunt Gertie):

AUNT (getting down on all fours): You can do it! Meow-meow! Meow-meow! MEEEE-owww!

At this point, of course, in order to salvage your holiday celebration, it will be necessary to have Aunt Gertie medicated until well after New Year’s Day.

The other problem is this device will work *only* for cats.

There’s another device coming out soon for dogs — the Bowlingual — and they’ll probably come out with similar gadgets for hamsters, snakes, pet rocks, etc.

On “Star Trek” they had a nifty piece of equipment called the Universal Translator. Creatures in any part of the universe could speak to one another using this device (except for Scotty, who defied translation).

Fortunately, most of the planets had an English-only policy, which is something to consider when you hear people talk about the importance of learning other languages.

Once we get to outer space, everybody’s going to be speaking English anyway.

And that’s how I’m going to approach communication issues with our cat.

If she wants to talk to me, she’s going to have to learn English.

• • •

Correction: The sausage swatting incident mentioned in a recent column took place in Milwaukee, not in Pittsburgh.

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Area educators attend educational conference

EL PASO COUNTY — El Paso Community College GEAR UP Manager Hector Montes and Dr. Fenton Kay, research analyst, attended the National Council for Community and Education Partnerships (NCCEP) Annual Conference in Washington, D.C. on July 20-23, 2003.

Also in attendance at the conference were Poncho Garcia, Superintendent of the Fabens Independent School District, and Jesse Herrera, Principal of Clint High School. Fabens, Clint, Canutillo, and Anthony Independent School Districts are partners of the EPCC GEAR UP program.

Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs (GEAR UP) is a national effort that was initiated in 1998 to encourage more young people to have high expectations, stay in school and study hard, and go to college. The NCCEP Annual Conference is a national meeting of GEAR UP programs and college access practitioners, business and community partners.

The theme of this year’s conference was “Making Gear Up an A+ Program by Focusing on Effective Strategies that Promote Academic Achievement and Student Success.”

Workshop topics ranged from management of federally funded programs to preparing students and their parents to apply for colleges, financial aid and scholarships. Several members of the U.S. House of Representatives were among the featured speakers, including Hon. Chaka Fatah, author of the legislation that created GEAR UP, Hon. Ruben Hinojosa, Hon. Tom Cole, and Hon. Joe Wilson.

While in Washington, D.C., EPCC GEAR UP staff members and partners, joined by the U.T. El Paso GEAR UP project, met with U.S. Representative Silvestre Reyes (D-TX) of El Paso.

For Sanity’s Sake

By Taprina Milburn

Automated hell

I’ve just finished a conversation — well, I don’t think I can call it a conversation if the person on the other end of the telephone is automated and not really a being that eats, snores or flosses her teeth.

My freezer is leaking, and I need to make an appointment for a repairman to check things out. I’m having to answer a series of questions asked by the computerized receptionist.

“Please state your date of purchase, name and telephone number with your area code first.”

I give my information.

“State whether or not you need to set a date for a repair visit, find a location nearest you, or connect with customer service.”

“Date for repair visit,” I answer.

“One moment please.”

I’m then connected to another department and another automated voice.

“Please state your date of purchase, name and telephone number with your area code first.”

I just did this. Can’t my previous

automated info-taker zap this to you?

But it’s no fun to argue with someone who won’t or can’t argue back, so I give all my information again.

And then I’m put on hold where I wait... and wait... and wait.

A real human finally answers the phone, and before I can start asking my questions about my freezer, he begins to ask me a series of questions.

“What is your name and telephone number? Date of purchase?”

I’m put on hold so he can look up something.

This is either hell or purgatory. I’m not sure.

I have a suspicion that all the automated jabber that just went on was only to make me feel as if I

was being tended to — sort of a babysitter for impatient, cranky adults stuck in a telephone traffic jam. The logic, I guess, is that if you keep us busy answering questions asked by computerized receptionists, we’ll forget that we’ve really been on hold for 15 minutes.

When I refill my prescription I go through a similar experience, where I punch in my phone number, area code included, and prescription number. The automated receptionist goes through a thorough, but lengthy confirmation process (which when dealing with my medication I don’t mind) and asks if I want to pick up my prescription that day. I punch a few more buttons and I’m done. I can also bypass the checkout clerk nowadays at

some stores and scan my own groceries and punch in my own credit-card information or feed dollars and cents into a machine.

If it weren’t for my children and husband, I could literally conduct my life without talking to another person.

Some days that might be nice, but at the risk of sounding... ahem... ancient, I don’t like our automated society. It will take a lot of tweaking before an automated voice can genuinely ask: “Were you able to find everything you were looking for?”









“Sorry that I had to put you on hold, may I help you?” and “Have a nice day.”

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WEATHER

AccuWeather.com

SEVEN-DAY FORECAST FOR EL PASO

THURSDAY	THUR. NIGHT	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
							
Partly sunny.	Partly to mostly cloudy.	Partly sunny; breezy in the afternoon.	Partly sunny.	Periods of clouds and sunshine.	Mostly sunny.	Plenty of sunshine.	Mostly sunny.
▲ 96°	▼ 71°	▲ 92° ▼ 69°	▲ 91° ▼ 69°	▲ 90° ▼ 69°	▲ 92° ▼ 69°	▲ 94° ▼ 69°	▲ 94° ▼ 69°

**UV INDEX** Statistics for noon.

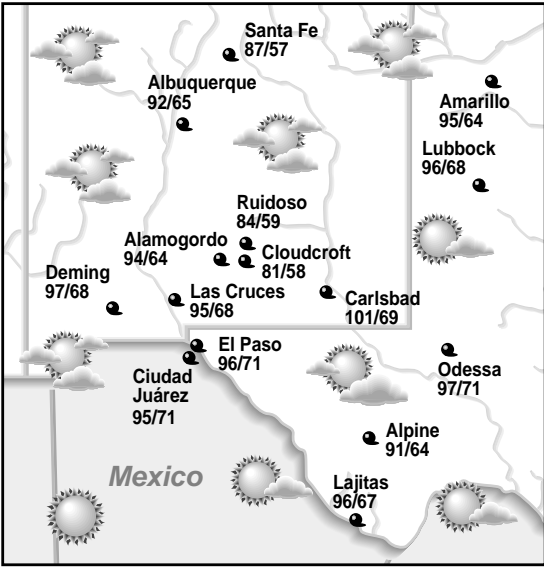
The higher the UV Index, the greater the need for eye and skin protection.

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

**TEXAS WEATHER**

Anthony	96	71
Canutillo	97	72
Clint	96	71
E. Montana	96	71
Fabens	96	71
Horizon	97	72
San Elizario	94	69
Socorro	95	70
Tornillo	96	71
Vinton	97	72

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



**TRAVELERS CITIES**

City	Thur. Hi/Low	Fri. Hi/Low	Sat. Hi/Low	Sun. Hi/Low	Mon. Hi/Low
Albuquerque	92/65/pc	85/64/c	85/64/pc	87/65/c	86/61/pc
Atlanta	88/70/pc	88/70/pc	86/68/t	86/68/t	85/66/c
Atlantic City	88/67/s	87/66/pc	83/60/pc	77/59/s	79/59/s
Austin/San Antonio	95/72/pc	95/71/pc	94/71/pc	96/71/pc	96/72/s
Baltimore	92/72/s	92/70/pc	86/62/pc	82/60/s	86/61/s
Boston	92/70/s	88/68/pc	82/62/pc	78/60/s	74/61/s
Chicago	88/64/pc	78/58/pc	80/60/s	82/60/s	80/62/s
Dallas/Ft. Worth	99/77/pc	95/74/pc	93/73/pc	93/73/pc	94/72/s
Denver	90/59/pc	90/60/pc	86/60/t	85/60/c	84/45/pc
Flagstaff	78/52/pc	78/50/pc	78/50/pc	77/50/pc	75/41/c
Houston	96/78/pc	94/74/pc	94/74/pc	92/72/c	94/74/pc
Kansas City	94/66/pc	88/64/s	90/62/s	85/64/s	85/66/s
Las Vegas	100/77/pc	99/77/s	99/80/s	102/80/s	100/78/s
Miami	89/79/pc	90/79/pc	90/78/pc	90/78/pc	90/76/pc
Minneapolis	80/58/pc	84/58/s	86/60/s	80/58/s	78/56/s
New Orleans	89/76/pc	90/77/pc	91/76/pc	90/75/t	90/74/c
New York City	90/74/s	90/70/pc	84/67/pc	80/66/s	78/64/s
Philadelphia	94/72/s	92/70/pc	86/66/pc	82/62/s	81/66/s
Phoenix	101/82/pc	104/82/pc	104/85/s	104/84/s	104/78/c
Portland	92/56/s	84/58/pc	78/58/c	76/55/pc	81/60/s
San Francisco	73/56/pc	71/59/pc	72/57/s	74/57/s	73/57/s
Seattle	82/56/s	77/56/pc	73/56/c	74/53/pc	74/53/s
Tucson	99/74/pc	98/74/pc	100/74/pc	98/74/pc	95/72/pc
Washington, DC	92/76/s	92/74/pc	86/66/pc	84/64/s	87/65/s

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

AGRICULTURE

There is little, if any, chance for precipitation right through the weekend and the first half of next week as high pressure in the upper atmosphere continues to dominate. Expect at least 8 or 10 hours of sunshine each day with excellent drying conditions, a gusty wind at times and little, if any, nighttime dew.

All forecasts and maps provided by AccuWeather, Inc. ©2003



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