



## NEWSBRIEFS

### Big mistakes

ACT, a non-profit organization that administers college-entrance exams, says the biggest mistakes made by students on their college applications are simple ones that could easily be prevented but which can result in rejection by the college of your choice. Among those listed were: misspellings and grammatical errors in answering questions; failure to sign the document; failure to read instructions carefully; listing as extracurricular activities that aren't extracurricular; applying online but failing to "submit" at the end of the application; writing illegibly; using an e-mail address that might appeal to your friends but won't to college admissions boards; and letting Mom or Dad fill out the application for you — administrators can tell. Helpful hints to do it right can be found in the student section at [www.act.org](http://www.act.org).

### School dedication

The Loma Verde School, 12150 Ted Houghton Drive, will hold dedication ceremonies at 5:30 p.m., Dec. 2. The school, which serves pre-K through 5th graders, has been open for one year, during which time they selected the bear as their mascot. The school's charter choir will perform and children will read their impressions of the school's first year. Principal Al Garcia will be keynote speaker on "The Dream: The Trials and Tribulations of Opening Loma Verde."

### County event

The County's Parks and Recreation Department will turn on its annual "Winter Wonderland" display of light and Christmas cards with a ceremony at 5:30 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 23 at 6900 Delta, according to Sally Gavlik, the County's Parks and Recreation director. The festivities will include music from the Riverside High School Choir and the Danza Teatro de las Fronteras folklorico dance group. Refreshments also will be served. "The County bought some additional displays this year from Amarillo, and they're really great. Together with the ones we already had, the park and lake will really be a wonderland of light and sound," Gavlik said. Admission to the park will be \$1 per vehicle. For more information, please call 772-5605.

### In other news

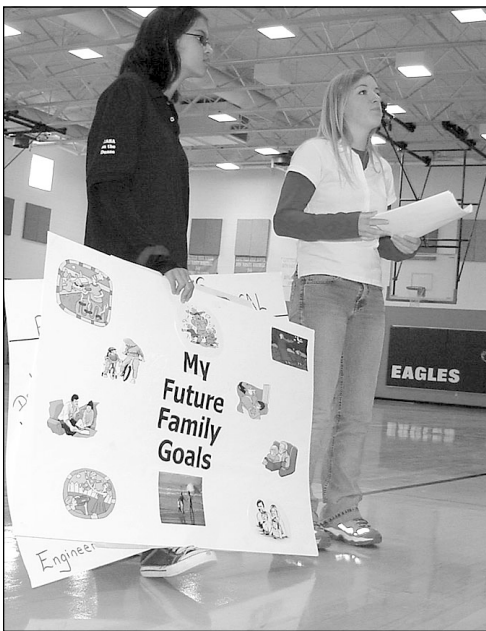
■ The Lee and Beulah Moor Children's Home Christmas Village display will be on exhibit 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays beginning Dec. 1 through Jan. 9. Featuring hundreds of figurines, the Village is on display in the auditorium of the Home's MacGuire Administration Building, 1100 Cliff Drive. It was donated to the Home by Dorothea Purvis. Information: 544-8777.

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*Things would be a lot nicer if antique people were valued as highly as antique furniture.*

— Quips & Quotes

## CASA teens help students make plans for a healthy, hopeful lifestyle



— Photo contributed by Alfredo Vasquez

**TOUGH DECISIONS — Canutillo CASA Youth Presenters, shown in photo from left are Elizabeth Nova and Sunny Baker as they lead the discussion with CHS students on making decisions that impact their future.**

By Don Woodyard  
Courier Staff Writer

CANUTILLO — Teachers aren't the only people handling instructional duties in the Canutillo Independent School District.

High school students, members of the CASA Youth Council, are taking sex education into classrooms throughout the district with fact-based, peer-level presentations in grades five through 10.

Annette Brigham is principal of Childress Elementary where the CASA (Canutillo Action for Students and Adults) council students recently launched their district-wide program. She praises CASA's efforts. "It's kids teaching kids, (and) kids listen to kids. They are teaching them on their level."

Teachers are present in the classroom during the students' presentations and report that the students are well behaved and listening.

"You could hear a pin drop," adds Brigham in reporting the teachers' observations on the presentations.

It is not mandatory for students to attend these sex education classes. They must have a permission slip from their parents before they can take part in the class. Classes are divided up with girls in one session and boys in another.

Carmen Monrreal is coordinator for the CASA program that comes under the umbrella of the Paso del Norte Health Foundation. The program is a result of a survey by the council of the most important issues reported by fellow students as well as members of the community. Sex education was high on the list of major health concerns.

Fourteen students, ranging in age from 12 to 18, comprise the council. Three of them are the children of Carmen and Sam Monrreal. Sam Sr. is the former long-time mayor of Vinton. The children are Samuel, 17; Carmen A., 15; and Isaac, 14. All three attend Silva Health Magnet School in El Paso.

Samuel stresses the importance of teen abstinence from sex before marriage and has

See CASA, Page 8

## Americas High School dedicates new building

Speakers told the crowd that the new Career and Technology Education building at Americas High School had been "a long time coming."

And on Nov. 12, Socorro ISD officials and friends gathered to dedicate the District's newest such facility.

State Representative Inocente "Chente" Quintanilla gave the keynote address during a lunch time ceremony. Quintanilla, who spent 37 years with the school district before his election to the Texas House of Representatives, and said the new building was among the last projects he helped plan.

Instructor Lee Fisher said teaching auto mechanics courses will be much easier in the new building, located northeast of the main campus, between the main building and tennis courts.

"When we started, all Tony Baca (then-principal of AHS) could give us was a room on the second floor," Fisher told the crowd, laughing. "It was hard, but we hauled those car parts up the elevator to the classroom!"

S.I.S.D.'s Director of Career and Technology Education Allen Long says the new building has three main shops — automotive, electrical trades/construction and plumbing/welding skills.

Socorro Superintendent Dr. Robert J. Duron thanked the crowd, including Board of Trustees Vice-President Martha Contreras and trustees Ray Rodriguez and Barbara Perez. "This building represents what we are doing in the Socorro schools to better the lives of our children," Duron said.



**S.I.S.D. officials dedicate a new Career and Technology building at Americas High School. From left, Mary Ross, A.H.S. principal; S.I.S.D. Superintendent Dr. Robert Duron, Board of Trustees vice president Martha Contreras, trustees Barbara Perez and Ray Rodriguez.**

## Health Commissioner urges precautions against 'widespread' influenza

AUSTIN — Widespread influenza in the state earlier in the season than normal has prompted Texas Commissioner of Health Eduardo Sanchez to again remind Texans to get a flu shot and to take other precautions against the highly contagious respiratory illness.

The Texas Department of Health (TDH) classified last week's flu activity in Texas as "widespread," the fifth consecutive week for the highest classification.

"We're seeing a lot of influenza earlier in the season than usual," Sanchez said. "We're concerned that with increased travel during the holidays, the flu situation could worsen."

"Get a flu shot," he said. "I don't know how to say it more clearly."

TDH reports that most of the influenza in Texas has been caused by type A of the influenza virus. This season's vaccine is formulated to protect against the A/Panama, A/New

Caledonia and B/Hong Kong strains of the influenza virus and against other similar strains.

"It's too early to know how well the vaccine will protect against some of the other type A strains such as A/Fujian, but most likely it will offer some protection," Sanchez said.

Other precautions include covering your mouth and nose when coughing or sneezing and washing your hands frequently and thoroughly. And Sanchez emphasized that people with flu-like symptoms should stay home. "Don't risk infecting colleagues or classmates."

People wanting to get a flu shot should contact their doctors, employers or local public health departments or watch for announcements from supermarkets and other businesses offering the shot to the public. It takes about two weeks for the vaccine to be effective.


Most people six months or older can receive the flu vaccine. It is especially encouraged for children 6 months to 23 months, people 50 and

older, residents of nursing homes and other long-term care facilities, diabetics, women who will be in their second or third trimester of pregnancy during flu season, people with weakened immune systems and people who have asthma or other chronic respiratory, heart or kidney conditions.

Influenza is a viral respiratory illness marked by the sudden onset of fever, headache, extreme tiredness, dry cough, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose and muscle aches. The illness is spread when an infected person coughs, sneezes or talks, sending the highly contagious virus into the air.

Influenza is not a reportable illness in Texas, so exact flu case numbers are not known. Instead, TDH relies on a surveillance network of reporting sites around the state to track influenza levels and identify circulating strains of the virus. More information about the flu is available online at: [www.tdh.state.tx.us](http://www.tdh.state.tx.us)





# One perspective

By Francis Shrum

## Your business and government

Not long ago a study was done by the Texas Public Policy Foundation (TPPF) regarding government-operated business in Texas. It looked at businesses governments start up that duplicate or mirror services provided through private markets, such as selling electric power, providing internet service, running print shops, dispensing information technology and a plethora of other services.

The study found that almost \$20 billion is sucked out of the Texas economy each year by governmental bodies that get involved in activities that small businesses could otherwise provide.

Are you a small business that thinks this won't happen to you? Consider the following scenario:

Suppose you've been in business in a small community for almost 20 years. You pay your taxes, keep up your business license, and work to provide a consistent, quality product to your community.

Every year there is a small side endeavor you undertake once a year, a nonessential community service project, that makes you a little money. You've done this consecutively for over a decade but the last several years you've had some difficulty making the project pay.

However, it is a worthwhile project and there are some business indicators on the near horizon that this will be a profitable venture again in a few years. So you make a business decision to wait until those indicators come to fruition.

Now suppose that, because this is a service the community likes and is provided free of charge, you are asked with fair regularity whether you will do it again this year. Each year you explain what you are waiting for and say that, yes, you will again provide this service as soon as it becomes financially viable.

Then, suppose that one year everything comes together just like you hoped it would. The technology you've been waiting for is available

and best of all, the business climate makes it look like this will be the best year ever for your project.

So you get started. But wait! Just suppose that, while you take some time off to take your family out of town, your town government decides it will undertake this project instead.

Suppose that, odd as this may seem, none of the people involved in bringing this project to council, including the council person who is spearheading the project, contacted you as the logical local source either for a bid or for input.

No problem, though. You figure they just didn't have the whole picture, right?

Suppose, now, that the town council is made up of wise, thoughtful people who care about their small business community. Suppose you take your case to them and find that your assumptions are correct — that they really are as responsible and reasonable as you thought they were. Suppose they acknowledge their decision was based on incomplete information and agree to reevaluate the town's involvement.

So you're home free, right? Wrong!

Just suppose that the council person who proposed the project, the one who you'd think would be most concerned about local small business and in protecting the tax dollar (because, just suppose, that this person talks

about that a lot) is not in the least interested in dropping the project so you, a tax-paying business won't have to compete with the town. Not even after you offer to cover whatever expenses have already been incurred by the town toward the project.

Suppose, instead, that this council person incomprehensibly begins to lecture you about how many years you haven't performed this service (never mind all the years you did) and points out that the amount of taxes you will pay the town will be pitifully small.

Suppose that this council person makes false and misleading statements in public meeting about what you have or have not done or said in the past, about which this person cannot possibly have any personal knowledge.

In short, makes it up or repeats gossip.

Just suppose that it has become glaringly obvious that you have somehow, unbeknownst to you, offended this person and there doesn't seem to be any reasonable argument that can convince this person to gracefully let go the project and let you get on with your business.

Here is where you encounter a factor that cannot possibly be analyzed by the TPPF — or anyone else — because it has no logical reasoning.

This kind of behavior on the part

of an elected official who sits in public trust but is willing to endanger that trust to further a personal objective is so common it hurts. But it still defies explanation.

I don't know how often a busybody or hostile politician is a factor in the development of a government business plan, but I do know that government business gives politicians undue power over their constituency. Particularly in small, home-rule incorporated communities.

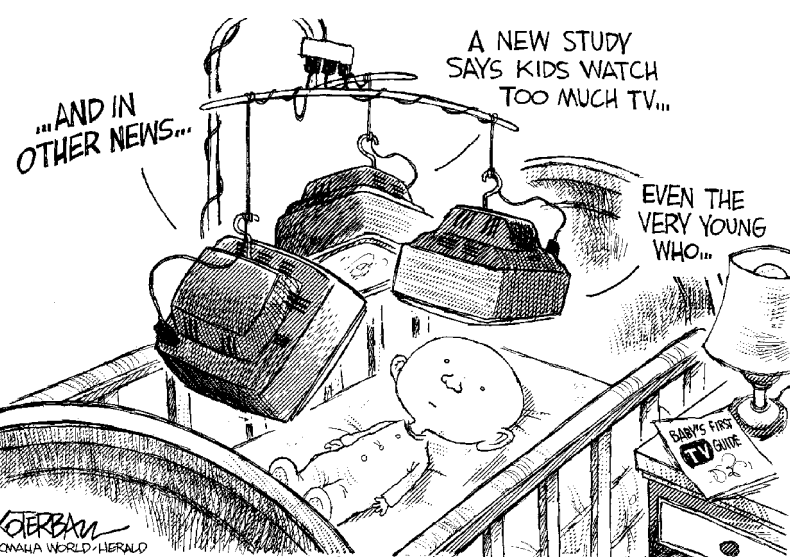
It is a wise and discerning governmental board that chooses to stay out of its people's business.

Don't think it can happen to you? It can. It does.

For the sake of supposition, let's say that the above scenario ended well and they all lived happily ever after. Still, it pays to be watchful.

Because I guarantee that Busy Body — sorry, I mean Big Brother — is all too real.

(The TPPF article appeared in the October 23, 2003 issue of the *West Texas County Courier*. It is available online at [www.wtccourier.com](http://www.wtccourier.com) or you can check the TPPF site at [www.TexasPolicy.com](http://www.TexasPolicy.com). Click the Research and Reports tab, then the Governmental Efficiency side-menu listing. Two articles by Wendell Wilcox: "The Business of Government?" and "Policy Perspective: The Business of Government?" are available.)



# Canutillo ISD to help honored teacher fulfill statewide responsibilities

By Don Woodyard  
Courier Staff Writer

CANUTILLO — Kyann McMillie was honored by the board of trustees of the Canutillo Independent School District at its Nov. 11 meeting.

McMillie, who teaches first grade at Canutillo Elementary, was recognized and praised for her recent selection as Texas Elementary Teacher of the Year.

McMillie spoke of how her life has changed since receiving the statewide honor. She the board that for the first time in her life, she now has a social calendar. She spoke of being recognized on the street as she was going to the post office.

"Thank you so much for your overwhelming support; I appreciate it," she told the board. "I wanted to be Elementary Teacher of the Year for us — not just for me."

"There is nothing but greatness about you," said Yvonne Sapien-Sanchez, president of the school board. "We are so blessed to have you."

Hector Giron, principal of Canutillo Elementary, said McMillie has an "abundance mentality," which he defined as her ability to serve the school district and the community in "so many, many ways." He added, "she provides a tremendous amount of service, but still maintains a balance in her life. She has energy and vitality. There is more than enough of her to go around."

The board approved budget amendments to provide travel funds for McMillie in carrying out responsibilities as Texas Elementary

30 Years

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"If China can send a man into space, Israel can, too..."

See CANUTILLO, Page 7





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

### Medicare bill hurts El Paso seniors

*(The following article regards H.R. 1, the Medicare Prescription Drug and Modernization Act of 2003, currently being debated in the House of Representatives.)*

It is with great regret that I oppose the conference report on the Medicare Prescription Drug and Modernization Act of 2003.

I regret that I must do so, because I have long been a strong advocate for providing America's senior citizens with an affordable, comprehensive prescription drug benefit under Medicare. Unfortunately, however, the bill before us today would harm rather than help the more than 77,500 Medicare beneficiaries in El Paso County, Texas, which I represent, and millions of others like them across the country.

For example, instead of a comprehensive, continuous prescription drug benefit, the bill offers a benefit that has a \$2,800 gap in coverage that will leave about half of Medicare beneficiaries without any prescription drug coverage for part of the year, even though they will still be paying monthly premiums. While without coverage, many Medicare beneficiaries in my district will have to pay the entire cost of their prescription drugs out of their own pockets, which is the very circumstance we are supposed to be remedying.

Rather than doing more to help

low-income seniors, this bill fails to ensure that they will receive the prescription drugs they need under the proposed new program. The bill would, for the first time, prohibit federal Medicaid funding from being used to pay for drugs not paid for by Medicare. In Texas alone, it is estimated that 389,400 Medicaid beneficiaries would pay more for their prescription medications under the bill. In my congressional district, where approximately one in five people over age 65 lives below the poverty line, this change could be devastating.

At the same time, the bill requires states to make large annual payments to the federal government, offsetting the savings states would have realized by having the federal government provide drug coverage for low-income seniors under Medicare. In short, for the first time ever, states will have to fund a federal Medicare benefit, at a time when my state of Texas and many other states are facing serious budget troubles.

Instead of expanding re-importation of prescription drugs, with appropriate safety checks, the bill blocks re-importation. By doing so, it ensures that Americans will continue to subsidize low drug prices in other countries, while paying the highest drug prices in the world here at home.

Rather than empowering Medicare with the authority to use its purchasing power to negotiate better drug prices, as the Veterans Administration currently does, the bill specifically prohibits Medicare from doing so. As

a result, the pharmaceutical companies benefit, but hard-working taxpayers will have to foot the bill for the higher costs.

Perhaps most troubling, this bill puts us on a path toward privatizing the entire Medicare system, breaking our government's solemn promise to America's senior citizens to provide guaranteed, quality healthcare under Medicare. Two generations of seniors have relied on Medicare and Social Security to ensure their quality of life in their retirement years. For many poor seniors in my district, these programs are their only safety net. To jeopardize that safety net would be unconscionable.

This bill, with all its shortcomings, will cost the American people nearly \$400 billion over the next decade. It does include a few provisions that I strongly support and have voted in favor of repeatedly — most notably provisions providing increased Medicare reimbursement rates for healthcare providers and funding to reimburse local governments and emergency medical providers for providing care to undocumented immigrants. However, the bill would do such significant harm to Medicare recipients and the Medicare program that, on balance, I find that I cannot support the legislation.

I urge my colleagues to oppose this conference report, so Congress can instead offer America's seniors the kind of Medicare prescription drug benefit they desperately need and truly deserve.

## Counting our blessings on this Thanksgiving

Each year on the fourth Thursday of November, families and friends across America gather together to celebrate Thanksgiving. This holiday gives us the chance to reflect on the many blessings we possess as citizens of this strong and wealthy nation.

As we celebrate Thanksgiving 2003, and face our new challenges in America, it's important to give thanks for the many blessings we share as Americans.

We should give thanks for living in a free country ruled by the people. It's easy to forget how fortunate we are to be a democracy. But the War on Terrorism has brought us new reason to reflect. The people of Afghanistan and Iraq did not have the opportunity to elect their leaders. Their leadership took over their government and ruled by nothing short of a dictatorship. Let us be thankful we live in a democracy where we enjoy the freedoms of religion, speech, the press and the right to assemble.

Another simple blessing that is often overlooked is America's free, prosperous economy. Unlike any other nation, America's spirit of individualism and independence has produced

the world's top economy. From the very first families who struggled to farm this country's rich soil to today's high-tech entrepreneurs, the pioneer spirit has propelled our nation to the forefront of discovery and exploration.

Finally, we should give thanks for the thousands of men and women who protect us on a daily basis. The men and women of the armed services, who dutifully watch over our nation; the firefighters who protect our homes and places of business; the police officers who look over our family and friends. Each of these groups does their part to keep our nation safe from harms way. We would not be the nation of the free, if we were not also the home of the brave.

As our nation faces the War on Terrorism, now more than ever, we are thankful for the blessings our nation has provided each of us. I hope that on this Thanksgiving day, as family and friends gather around the table, each of you will say a special thanks for the amazing blessings our nation.

God bless each of you and may God continue to bless America. Happy Thanksgiving to you and yours.

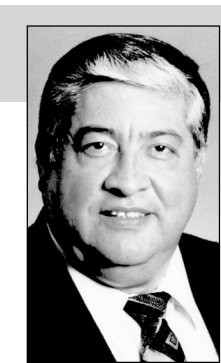


### Eye on D.C.

By U.S. Rep. Henry Bonilla

[www.wtccourier.com](http://www.wtccourier.com)

**TRUE TEXAS FACTS** *by Roger Moore.* In 1977, "Yellow Dog" Marsh cooked a pot of "Texas Red" Chili with 2300 lbs of beef and a 100 lb drum of spices.



## Por la Gente By State Rep. Chente Quintanilla

### Thanksgiving is a time to reflect on our good fortune as Americans

As you good people sit back and reflect on yet another Thanksgiving, I'm aware that there is much for which we need to be thankful. Not only do we live in the greatest nation on this earth and we are thankful that we are Americans. We are fortunate that we have the ability, the intelligence, and the power to do what's right, to do what's good for our country.

We must remember that we are engaged in a dreadful conflict in Iraq. We must realize that some of our finest young men and women are placing their lives on the line every single day, as they fight to protect our Democratic principles. Sure, there are disagreements regarding the war. Some people think that we shouldn't be there because our young people are dying. Others believe that we have every right to topple the murderous regime of Saddam Hussein.

My stance is somewhere in the middle. I bemoan the loss of lives, and I wish we could bring Democracy to every corner of the world, without having to undergo war, mayhem and destruction. Unfortunately, that's not the case. While the loss of lives is frightening, I'm also aware that loss of lives in a conflict like this is sometimes a necessary evil. We must support our troops — they wish they could be home for the holidays,

but that's not possible.

They are our fighting men and women. They understand their duty, they understand that they must abide by the rules and regulations of the military machine under which they are operating. So, for their sakes, let's wish for a speedy end to this war. Let's wish for a speedy return to their families.

I'm also thankful for the support that my constituents have given me. You, the people who voted for me, stood behind me during some very difficult times this past legislative session. I know it wasn't easy for you to see the battles that we waged to protect our democratic principles against those who would create their own rules.

I'm pleased and proud that we were able to have the sopaipilla — sweet bread — adopted as the State Bread of Texas. Thanks to the students in the San Elizario ISD and from the Tigua Reservation for their efforts to bring about this great feat. Some people might not consider this very important, but, to me, it was vital. These students now understand how laws are made. They were able to stand before a group of people and fight for something in which they believed.

I'm thankful for the support I've received, in general. We should all be thankful that we live in the greatest nation on earth, where a man or woman can stand alone with their own beliefs, whether they be of a re-

ligious or a secular nature. We should all be thankful that we live in our beautiful Valle Hermoso — that there is still farm land.

El Paso is a beautiful place. El Paso nurtures its citizens, it protects its people from nasty storms and the like, and it makes us happy to live near the border with Mexico. If you stop and think about it, Mexico is also a free society. There is peace in Mexico, and its people interact with us. We are Mexicans and we are Americans. Together we have managed to provide a safe haven for anyone who cares to live in our sister communities.

I'm thankful for my wonderful and beautiful family. My wife, Gracie, has stood by me through thick and thin, through good times and bad times, elements which made us into a family. My daughters, delightful grandchildren, and my sons-in-law, my daughters-in-law. I love them all. I dearly appreciate my staff, they have made it possible for me to concentrate on the tasks at hand, being a State Representative, yet knowing that the hard work is actually going on behind the scenes.

While I'm at the front lines, my staff — people like Dora Oaxaca and Nina Serna — has made it easier for me to get my work done. I can't be everywhere, but with the fine staff that I have, I don't have to be everywhere.



They are behind me, and they are the wheels that make this wagon go.

In short, I'm thrilled to live in the greatest nation on earth, to be surrounded by the ones I love and who, hopefully, love me in return.

Now, if we could only bring peace to the warring nations in the Middle East, we'd be that much further along the road to peace and progress. But, we're getting there, slowly but surely. As you reflect on what we have to be thankful for this year, just remember that we are blessed that we live in America, we are blessed to have our families, and we are blessed that we are part of this wonderful world.

With all its problems, there yet remains some very wonderful elements that make this Thanksgiving one of the best I've ever had. I wish the same for you, my friends. And, so, as always, I remain:

Chente for la gente





— Photo by Keri Moe

**A GIFT TO THE FUTURE** — Board members of the Pioneer Association were on hand to make the gift official. From left, front row, is James Day, president of the association; Sharon Cowell, Glen Warwick and Ralph Hamilton. Back row, left, is R.C. Lovelace, and Bruce Hubbard.

Girl Scouts made gift of recreational facility Camp Pioneer

SUNLAND PARK — For more than 50 years girls from the Girl Scouts of the Rio Grande have been going to Camp Pioneer, a 24-acre property nestled in the heart of the Upper Valley near the Rio Grande River. Last month the organization was given title to the camp by the Pioneer Association. Straddling the New Mexico/Texas border, primarily in New Mexico, the property was owned by Zachary White, who, in 1923, deeded the place to the Pioneer Association to be used for recreational purposes. The Girl Scouts of the Rio Grande began leasing the camp in 1937 so that scouts could have an appropriate place to make new friends, explore the outdoors and participate in numerous other activities. Jule Simet, board president, said in accepting the property on behalf of all Girl Scouts that, “The generosity of the Pioneer Association will benefit the Girl Scouts of today and the future.”

Sweet sounds at San Eli Middle School earn all region honors

By Phillip Cortez  
Special to the Courier

SAN ELIZARIO — There are some pretty nice sounds coming from San Elizario Middle School these days, specifically Room 311, Leslie Hittle’s band room. That’s because four of his top students qualified for the 2003-2004 All Region Band competition earlier this year. “These kids competed against all students in El Paso,” Hittle said as he addressed the San Elizario school board earlier this month. “Last year we were fortunate to have the first San Elizario Middle School student qualify for the all region band. This year, I challenged the kids to see if we could do better.”

The four students who rose to the challenge were Denise Ibarra, Carlos Prieto, Kimberly Martinez and Iris Carrasco. Ibarra, who plays the Baritone or “baby tuba,” earned first chair in the first band, the highest honor a middle school student can get because younger students do not compete in all area or state competitions. “I started crying when I found out,” Ibarra said. “It was something I thought I could really do and I did.” All four students knew they could do well, according to Hittle, who saw them spend numerous hours practicing on their own time in the band room. “They all worked very hard, coming in after school to spend time working with me,” he said. “They’re all good kids and are pretty active in school.”

According to Hittle, students are judged and are ranked from top to bottom and are placed in the first or



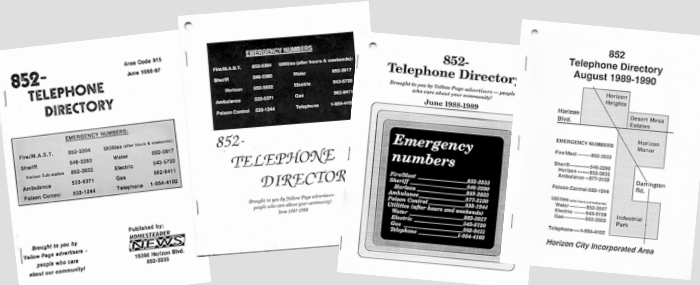
**SWEET SOUNDS** — From left are band teacher Leslie Hittle, Denise Ibarra, Iris Carrasco, Carlos Prieto, and Kimberly Martinez. The students met their teacher’s challenge to become better.

second band depending on how many chairs or slots are available for each instrument. Ibarra and Prieto were chosen to play in the first band while Martinez and Carrasco were selected to play in the second band. While the four students can look forward to perfecting their respective instruments this year, at least three of them are looking at the challenge of taking up new instruments next year.

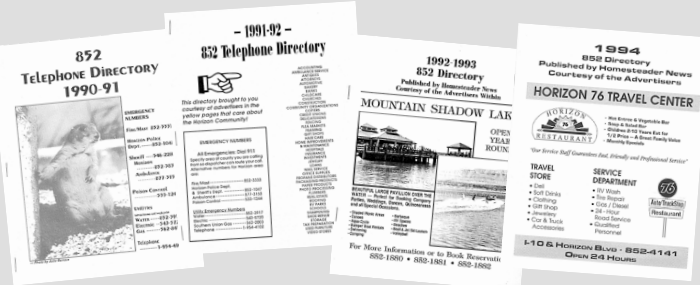
Prieto plays the bass clarinet “because the sound isn’t too high or low but just right” and he earned 6th chair in the first band. He says he wants to try the French horn when he gets to high school next year. Carrasco, a seventh grader, wants to move from clarinet to percussion. “After I saw the movie *Drumline* and saw the different moves that they do, I thought it’d be pretty cool to play,” Carrasco said.

Ibarra is also pursuing percussion, mainly because it might be difficult to march with a small tuba. “The baritone might get too heavy,” she said. “The drum might be lighter.” Martinez says she’ll stick to the French horn because of the challenge it provides her. “It’s all about finding that pitch,” she said. “I started the instrument because it looked interesting but I enjoy the sound more than anything now.” No matter what instrument these students decide to play, the sounds coming from Room 311 are sure to become sweeter and sweeter as long as the kids follow Hittle’s philosophy: “Our goal should be to become better than we were last year, not us against them, but us to better ourselves.”

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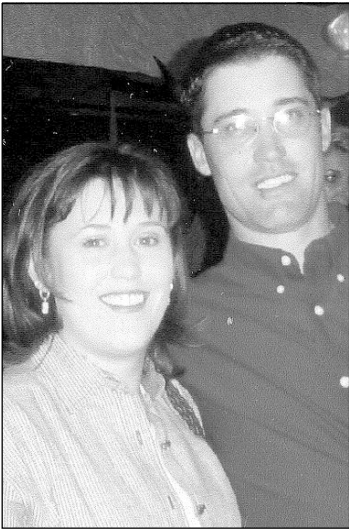


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Briefs

From Page 1



Stephanie and Joey Onick

■ The Horizon City Community Chapel is welcoming a new pastor, Joey Onick and wife Stephanie. Onick, 33, has conducted his own mobile ministry, Claypot Ministries, in the Lower Valley communities including Fabens and Clint for sometime, but this will be his first official congregation, a HCCC spokesman said, and the community is invited to stop by and get acquainted.

■ Childress Elementary School, in Canutillo Independent School District, will host its First Annual Christmas Bazaar, from 3 to 5 p.m., Friday, Dec. 5, in the school cafeteria, 7700 Cap Carter Road, off of Doniphan Drive in Vinton. The Bazaar will include the sale of various arts and crafts items made by CISD employees and Canutillo citizens. Also, a Sponge Bob bouncing balloon will be available for children to enjoy. The Christmas Bazaar is sponsored by Childress ES's Wellness Team. Funds raised during the event will be used to support wellness activities held throughout the school year. The public is invited to attend. For more information, call 877-7715.

■ The Mission Valley Ballroom and Lijuro Inc. will host a Charity Gala on Sunday, Nov. 30 from 6-12 p.m. to benefit the "Reach for a Star" program which works to make a wish come true for a terminally ill child. The formal event, at 10600 North Loop in the Fiesta Mercado, will include fashion show, dance, and "a guaranteed good time," organizers say. Cost is \$20 per person. Information: 859-6424.

■ The National Rural Health Association has endorsed the medicare reform legislation pending before Congress. The newly created prescription drug benefit, along with provisions for increased equity to rural providers were cited. "A stronger health care system will help revitalize rural economies which will positively impact rural Americans throughout the country," said NRHA President Wayne Myers, MD.

■ The City of Socorro will conduct a Christmas tree lighting ceremony at the Fiesta Mercado Shopping Center on Nov. 28 at

6 p.m. with Mayor Irma Sanchez and other area dignitaries. Live entertainment will be provided by children's choirs from area schools and the community is invited to attend. Information: Margie Perez at 859-8115.

■ The El Paso Playhouse will host auditions for the Wendy Wasserstein play, *Isn't it Romantic?*, on Dec. 7-8, 7 p.m. at 2501 Montana. The cast calls for four adult women and four adult men, one to play a Russian cab driver. The play will run Feb. 23-March 6 and will be directed by Jan H. Wolfe. Information: 532-1317.

■ Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst announced the appointment of several Senators to key positions. He named Sen. Robert Duncan and Sen. Steve Ogden to the Legislative Budget Board. Sen. Tommy Williams was appointed to the Legislative Audit Committee. Dewhurst also named Sen. Chris Harris to the Texas Judicial Council, Sen. Kip Averitt to the Texas Water Advisory Council, and Sen.

John Whitmire to the Task Force on Indigent Defense. "I am pleased to announce the appointments of each of these fine Senators to these critical committee positions," Lt. Gov. Dewhurst said. "During the 78th Legislative Session they exhibited leadership qualities that have positioned them as excellent candidates for their respective positions, and I am confident that they will continue to serve the state of Texas as proven leaders."

■ The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) awarded the Center for Civic Engagement at the University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP) \$395,403 to improve Spanish and English outreach, communication and networking capabilities of El Paso non-profit organizations. This grant will link El Paso's non-profit community, service-learning programs at UTEP, and Bowie High School's magnet school of public affairs. It will create a One-Stop Shop for Non-profits, with training, information and workshops with Community Housing Devel-

opment Organizations (CHDOs) through media such as low-literacy reader-friendly housing manuals. The grant will also create a profile of El Paso women to ultimately build a Women's Fund for grants and loans to female micro-entrepreneurs and will connect existing surveys, collect additional information from the colonias and create a community-wide educational campaign on diverse women's needs. A Policy-Performance Virtual Think Tank will also be funded by the grant, to document and disseminate reports on Empowerment Zone and colonias neighborhoods and to post their results in a user-friendly format to allow non-profit and community organizations with up-to-date and easy access to their needs. These postings will also provide information regarding the neighborhoods for policy makers, community activists and students. This grant was awarded through HUD's Office of Policy Development and Research, and was announced by Congressman Silvestre Reyes.

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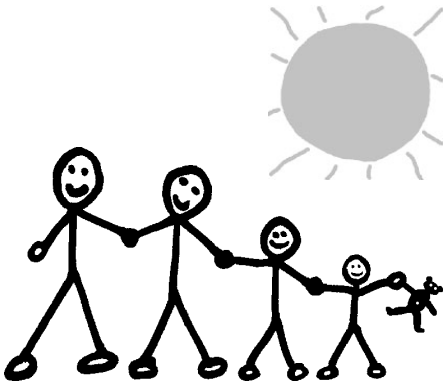
**Notice of Public Meeting  
To Discuss San Elizario  
Independent School District's State  
Financial Accountability Rating**

The San Elizario Independent School District will hold a public hearing at 4:30 p.m., Friday, December 5, 2003 in the boardroom of the San Elizaio ISD Administration Building, 1050 Chicken Ranch Road, San Elizario, Texas.

The purpose of this hearing is to discuss San Elizario Independent School District's rating on the state's financial accountability system.

WTCC: 11/27/03

**Carlisle  
Navidomskis  
M.Ed., LPC  
Family Counselor**

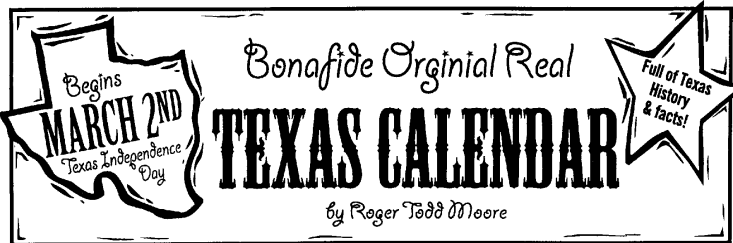


**Horizon Family Counseling**

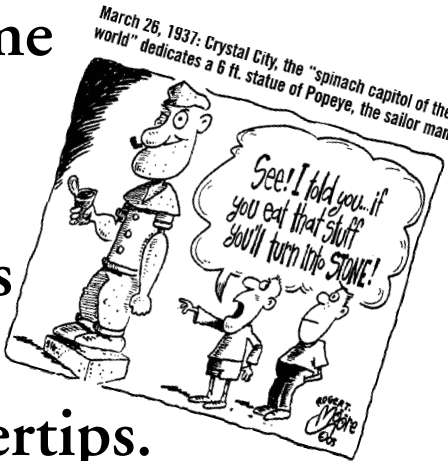
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**Any good Texan knows the New Year  
really starts on Texas Independence Day!**

**By Steve Escajeda**  
*Special to the Courier*

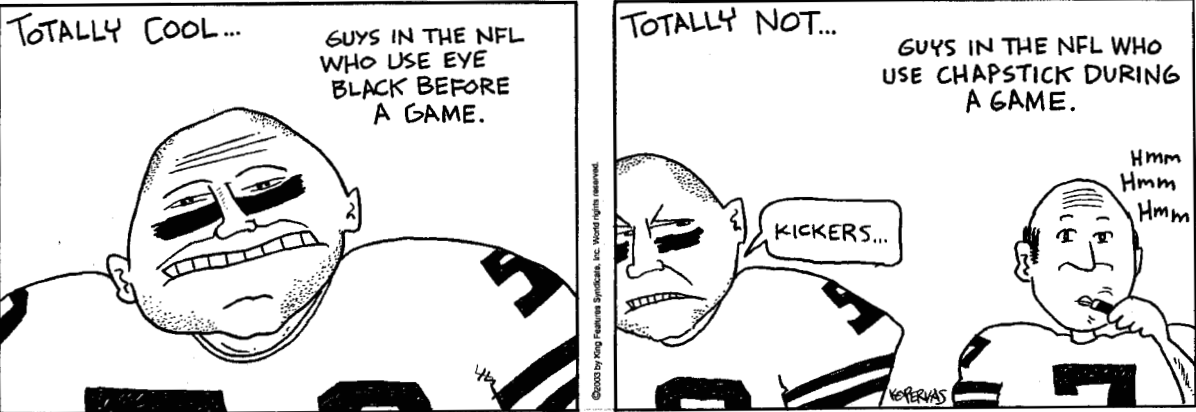
Alex Rodriguez.

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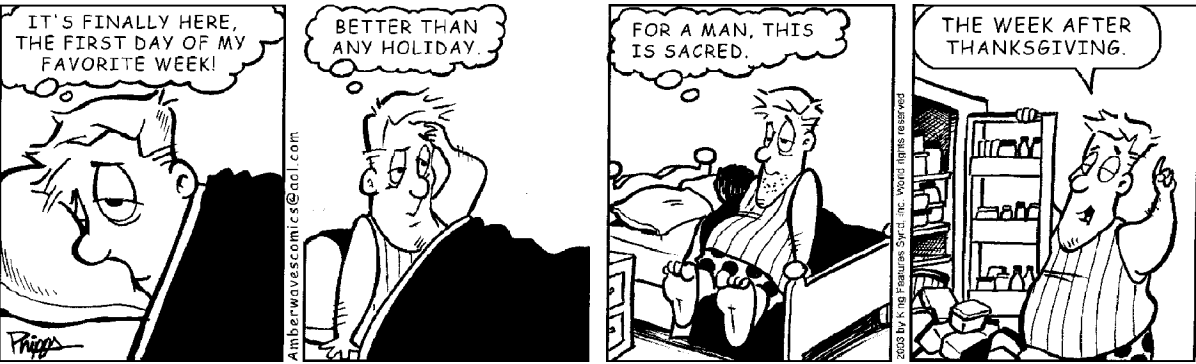


Comix

OUT ON A LIMB By Gary Kopervas



AMBER WAVES By Dave T. Phipps



THE SPATS By Jeff Pickering



R.F.D. By Mike Marland



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**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 - IGIBL5375N4144547, 1992 Chevy Caprice, white, New Mexico license plates, FRH-167 WTCC-11/27/03

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for information.

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Don't just sit there - shop!

**By Don Flood**

What — you're not shopping? You don't have time to read this! Get out there!

That was the basic message of an important, breaking-news shopping article I read last week, entitled — I'm not kidding — "Procrastinators' Peril."

It sounded like a new disease, a horrible sickness that attacks and ultimately destroys your credit cards.

The subhead set the tone for the rest of the horror story: "This Might Not Be the Year to Get a Late Start on Holiday Shopping."

If you wait until December to start shopping, the story implied, **THE STORES WILL BE EMPTY!**

You'll be running down aisle after empty aisle as if in a nightmare, grabbing hysterically at anything you can even pretend is a present.

**HUSBAND:** It's a store mannequin, dear. I thought we could have fun together dressing it up.

**WIFE'S FRYING PAN** (making contact with loved one's head): Boing!

The article reminded me of that scene in "It's a Wonderful Life," where the Jimmy Stewart character fixes to kill himself after discovering he can't buy his daughter the Holiday Barbie she wants because his credit cards are maxed out.

But, as we all know, the movie ends happily, when with the help of that annoying apprentice angel, Stewart stages a Christmas Eve hold-up and saves the family holiday.

OK, it didn't remind me of that scene at all, but I just wanted to get you in the "Christmas Spirit" and make sure you are "ready for Christmas."

Because if you don't catch the Christmas spirit pronto, all the big-screen TVs will be gone.

That's right. According to the article, "Industry watchers say high-tech products like DVD players or big-screen TVs will be hot items."

So whether you need one or not — and let's face it, if you're an American, you need one — it's time to go out and buy that 250-inch you've had your eye on.

Now some people, such as myself, never procrastinate. No, we seize the gift-buying bull by the horns and allow our wife to buy us things that we can later give to her.

Oh, don't look at me like that. I buy my wife stuff. Nice stuff.

Is it my fault that book on Civil War battlefields didn't go over as well as expected? (It was even the perfect color!)

My wife just prefers making sure there will be some presents she likes.

(When presenting a gift, I've learned not to say, "I know you're gonna like this!" I found a simple, "Don't worry, I kept the receipt," is a safer approach.)

My wife, for her part, does a remarkably good job of pretending I actually bought it myself.

"Oh, this is perfect, dear!"

And, naturally, I do a good job of basking in her praise.

"Oh, yes, I thought you might like it."

It's a little scary, really, but it seems to work.

Unknown, of course, is the ultimate effect this will have on our son: "Tales of Shame and Deceit: Children of Dads who pretended to buy presents for Mom! Next on Oprah!"

(c) 2003 King Features Synd., Inc.

Canutillo

**From Page 2**

Teacher of the Year.

In other business, Sergio Martinez, with Dimensions Architects, reported progress on construction of the new high school. He said construction documents are 95 percent complete. He praised Banes Construction for its "excellent" work in moving dirt and preparing the site for construction. All of the grading has been completed and he said the site was "overwhelming, spectacular."

A representative for Banes said the company expected to start pouring the foundation in early December, once plans had been worked out for relocating existing fiber optic cabling and phone lines. The board approved a request to grant an underground easement to El Paso Electric for existing power lines that cross the construction site.

Dr. Monica Reyes, curriculum/evaluation director, reported on three district initiatives to improve performance of students on the TAKS (Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills) tests. She said the initiatives are designed to determine the strengths and weaknesses in students' performance.

Superintendent Charles Hart reported that plans for the new agricultural research center were "right on track." He introduced R. Vargas, president and CEO of Capital Savings Bank, who spoke of how the Canutillo FFA is "dear to my heart." He praised the school district for doing a "wonderful job" with its FFA program.

Vargas presented special recognition plaques to teachers and students for their efforts and contributions to ag-science and FFA programs. The teachers are Ron Gil, Michael Morales and Frank Clark. The students are Leo Rivera, Farrell Searls, Felix Barron and Carlos Ruiz.

The board and audience were treated to a special presentation of excerpts from the musical production of *Revolucion XVI*. Jorge Valenzuela, academic language services clerk and ballet folklorico coordinator, presented the community group made of approximately 50 men, women and children.

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# CASA

From Page 1

made a personal pledge to do so himself. He sees the effects of teenage pregnancies and the adverse impact it can have on future generations. “I am (already) giving a part of me to my future wife although I do not know who she will be,” he said. “I am saving myself for her.”

Asking the kids for a pledge of abstinence is only part of the sex education presentation. The students see a 30-minute videotape, “No Apologies:

The Truth About Life, Love and Sex.” The student presenters couple this with facts about sex. They include:

- More than 1 million babies are born from teenagers.
- In the Canutillo community there has been an alarming increase in teen pregnancy.
- In the Canutillo community there has been an alarming increase of reports of STD’s (sexually transmitted diseases) and teen rape among teens and pre-teens.

Another part of the presentation is presenting a game plan to the young people, a plan to help them affirm and maintain abstinence until marriage.

“We are here today to tell you that you have a choice,” they tell the students in the presentation outline. “You have the power to choose what you want do with your body.”

To help them, the students are given an inexpensive gold ring and are asked to sign a commitment card which reads: “In order to protect my future and help me accomplish my goals, I choose to be sexually abstinent from this day forward until marriage.” And they are asked to sign it.

“I am overjoyed to see the students make the commitment,” Samuel says. He was surprised by the large number of students who have so far

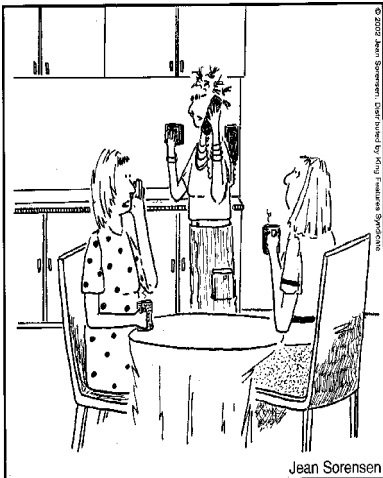
made the commitment.

The ring is a symbol of commitment and responsibility. It reminds them that when they feel peer pressure, are tempted, or feel alone, they can “look at the ring and see help. Find somebody that you can talk to,” according to the presentation outline.

Mrs. Monrreal gets great satisfaction at what she sees the council members doing for the community.

“I get very excited when I see how they grow and blossom. They are leaders.”

For the students who hear the presentation, she wants to give them “facts and hope. I want to make them think. I want to plant a seed.”



“She’s demonstrating her independence by dressing like all her friends.”

# WEATHER

AccuWeather.com

## SEVEN-DAY FORECAST FOR EL PASO

WEDNESDAY	WED. NIGHT	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Partly sunny.	Clear and cold.	Abundant sunshine.	Sunshine and patchy clouds.	Mainly cloudy and windy.	Partly sunny.	A good deal of sunshine.	Sunshine and a few clouds.
▲ 60°	▼ 32°	▲ 58° ▼ 32°	▲ 62° ▼ 40°	▲ 64° ▼ 40°	▲ 62° ▼ 32°	▲ 60° ▼ 30°	▲ 60° ▼ 30°

### UV INDEX

Statistics for noon.

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

Wednesday	4	Low
Thursday	4	Low
Friday	4	Low
Saturday	3	Low
Sunday	4	Low
Monday	5	Moderate
Tuesday	5	Moderate

### TEXAS WEATHER

Anthony	62	32
Canutillo	63	33
Clint	62	34
E. Montana	60	32
Fabens	62	34
Horizon	63	33
San Elizario	60	30
Socorro	60	31
Tornillo	62	34
Vinton	63	33

Shown is Wednesday’s weather. Temperatures are Wednesday’s highs and Wednesday night’s lows.

### TRAVELERS CITIES

City	Wed. Hi/Low/W	Thur. Hi/Low/W	Fri. Hi/Low/W	Sat. Hi/Low/W	Sun. Hi/Low/W
Albuquerque	54/27/s	52/28/s	54/32/s	51/29/c	49/22/c
Atlanta	62/46/s	58/44/c	60/42/s	58/44/s	64/47/c
Atlantic City	50/38/s	54/38/pc	54/38/s	54/34/s	56/42/pc
Austin/San Antonio	74/42/pc	68/40/s	61/42/pc	68/51/pc	68/49/c
Baltimore	52/34/s	52/38/pc	54/34/pc	56/34/s	55/41/c
Boston	48/36/s	52/38/pc	46/34/r	48/38/s	51/41/pc
Chicago	44/30/c	42/28/pc	38/24/pc	42/32/pc	47/36/c
Dallas/Ft. Worth	67/42/pc	67/40/s	60/45/s	65/48/pc	63/45/c
Denver	41/24/pc	51/32/s	54/26/pc	43/23/c	38/9/pc
Flagstaff	46/16/s	52/19/s	51/23/s	43/16/c	37/8/pc
Houston	72/54/c	68/46/s	66/48/s	70/56/pc	74/58/pc
Kansas City	48/30/pc	47/30/s	54/35/s	43/30/pc	44/28/c
Las Vegas	58/38/s	58/44/s	62/42/c	55/35/s	56/32/pc
Miami	81/69/pc	82/67/s	82/68/pc	80/70/pc	82/69/pc
Minneapolis	37/26/c	32/22/pc	34/24/pc	32/19/c	32/19/c
New Orleans	73/60/pc	72/50/c	68/49/s	69/54/s	70/54/c
New York City	49/40/s	52/41/pc	50/39/pc	52/43/s	54/47/pc
Philadelphia	50/38/s	52/40/pc	52/36/pc	54/38/s	54/46/pc
Phoenix	66/44/s	70/46/s	72/48/s	60/42/c	62/40/pc
Portland	50/44/sh	50/44/c	50/36/c	47/38/r	42/27/pc
San Francisco	60/48/s	60/48/s	60/44/c	55/45/s	58/41/c
Seattle	48/40/sh	48/42/c	48/40/c	45/37/r	41/28/pc
Tucson	66/38/s	72/42/c	70/44/s	62/41/r	63/35/s
Washington, DC	52/38/s	54/40/pc	56/38/pc	58/40/s	58/48/pc

### AGRICULTURE

An area of high pressure will bring dry weather to the region for the entire week. There will be a few more clouds on Wednesday and Saturday as a couple of upper level disturbances swing through, but no precipitation is expected. Highs will be mainly in the 60s and lows in the 30s to around 40.

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

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