



## NEWSBRIEFS

### Shot clinics

A series of immunization clinics to provide injections to all children through age 17 will be held at Socorro ISD's campuses of O'Shea Keleher Elementary and Escontrias Elementary. Cost is \$5 per shot and \$10 for two. Students 18 and older and adults can receive shots at the same price with some variation. The clinics are co-sponsored by the SISD and the El Paso County Health District. The schedule for Escontrias is Feb. 7, March 6, April 3, May 1 and June 5. At O'Shea Keleher, dates are Feb. 21, March 20, April 17, May 15 and June 19. For more information call the District's Health Service at 937-4044.

### Deadline extended

The Texas Department of Agriculture has extended the stalk destruction deadline for cotton producers in Zone 10 because of recent heavy rains preventing growers from entering their fields, completing their harvest and destroying cotton plants. The new deadline is Feb. 8 for this year only. This deadline applies to El Paso County and a portion of Hudspeth County. Information: TDA West Texas office (806) 799-8555.

### In other news

■ El Paso's Rescue Mission — located just west of Downtown at 1949 West Paisano Drive — is getting some help from Montwood High School students, parents and administrators. The school is making a community project out of an effort to repaint the Mission's dining room walls and installing a mural on one of those walls. "We felt we could make their dining area a brighter place to eat," says Montwood's Student Activities Director Laura Price. "This is a project the kids discovered and wanted to do." LH & R Signs is donating paint and plastic wrap for the project.

■ Needed construction at Fort Bliss and White Sands Missile Range (WSMR) is included in President Bush's fiscal year 2005 military construction budget, according to Congressman Silvestre Reyes, a member of the House Armed Service Committee (HASC). The following are included:

- \$16.5 million for the Missile Defense Instruction Facility at Fort Bliss.
- \$33 million for the Electromagnetic Vulnerability Assessment Facility at WSMR for research and testing.
- \$31 million for housing at WSMR.

■ Montwood High School's Media Technology class is getting practical, hands-on experience in making public service announcements for television. Assisted by Thomason Hospital's Project Care — part of R. E. Thomason Hospital's Rio Grande Safe Communities Coalition — the class

See BRIEFS, Page 4

*The most humiliating thing about science is that it keeps filling our homes with gadgets smarter than we are.*

— Quips & Quotes



**JACKPOT — Kayla Schuler, of McCamey, Texas, was selected Grand Champion in the Market Division and won the livestock trailer shown in background. The Goat Jackpot pays off big for young competitors.**

## Over 100 compete in Canutillo's goat jackpot

By Don Woodyard  
Courier Staff Writer

CANUTILLO — Duffy Galloway stands in the middle of the sawdust arena. He rubs his chin thoughtfully as he intently studies the goats lined up in front of him. The judge, an ag-science instructor from the Hereford, TX, school district, walks closer and examines the animals that are held in show position by nervous kids.

Kids holding kids, but the young people do not kid around. They are very serious as they await the verdict of the judge who, after deliberation, awards coveted banners saying Best Doe of Show or Reserve Grand Champion.

The occasion is the 3rd Annual Canutillo

FFA Goat Jackpot held last Saturday in a field adjacent to Childress Elementary in the Canutillo Independent School District. Fittingly the site of the Goat Jackpot is the location of the district's planned agricultural-science center.

More than 100 young people participated in the show which drew entrants from New Mexico and West Texas and as far away as Lubbock. Hosted by Canutillo High's FFA chapter, the all-day event included market and breeding shows and Junior and Senior Peeewe Shows.

Taking Best of Show, Grand Champion honors in the Market Class was Kayla Schuler from McCamey, TX. Canutillo High School student

See JACKPOT, Page 4

## Two Clint High seniors will compete for NHS scholarships

By Laura Cade  
Special to the Courier

Tracy Estrada and Sara Gonzales, both Clint High School seniors and members of the Clint High School National Honor Society, have been nominated to compete in the National Honor Society scholarship sponsored by the National Association of Secondary School Principals.

Morris Aldridge, Clint High principal, announced the nomination which places Estrada and Gonzales in the national competition. Two hundred national NHS winners will be chosen this spring to receive \$1,000 college scholarships.

High School National Honor Society chapters from across the country were eligible to nominate two senior high members to compete. Nominees were selected based on their leadership skills, participation in service organizations and clubs, achievements in the arts and sciences, employment experience, and academic record. They also were required to write

an essay.

Cocurricular activities are considered as an essential part of the school curriculum.

While at Clint High School Estrada has been president of the National Honor Society, member of the varsity volleyball team, and UIL spelling and vocabulary participant. This fall she plans to attend Trinity University to study English. Gonzales has been vice president of the Clint High School NHS and is involved in several service projects. She plans to attend Texas Tech University in the fall to study business.

The National Honor Society and the National Junior Honor Society are the nation's premier organizations recognizing outstanding middle and high school students who demonstrate excellence in the areas of scholarship, leadership, service, and character and are sponsored by the National Association of School Principals. The NASSP also sponsors the National Association of Student Councils, which provides leadership development opportunities to prepare and empower students to serve their schools and communities.



**SCIENCE WHIZ — Tommy Chavez took top honors in SEISD science sweepstakes with a magnetic personality and project.**

## Second grader noted for innovative thinking

By Don Woodyard  
Courier Staff Writer

SAN ELIZARIO — Tommy Chavez, a second-grader at Borrego Elementary in the San Elizario school district, grins broadly and holds a trophy about as tall as he is.

You might say he has a magnetic personality, because Tommy is clutching the sweepstakes trophy he earned last week in the district science fair for his entry, "La Cajita Magnetica," or The Magnetic Box." His project earned him top honors in the elementary-grade level contest that pitted him against students in the third-, fourth- and fifth-grades.

"He won against some tough competition," says Celia Aguilar who describes herself as a "very proud" second-grade bilingual teacher. "He is extremely articulate; the judges were very impressed by his answers.

"He is imaginative; he is creative. He can create things on a moment's notice. His mind is going so quickly," Aguilar says.

With assurance, Chavez describes his project in detail, underscoring his teacher's praise of him. He is not intimidated by adults as he explains the purpose of his work that incorporates small Plexiglas surfaces to which magnetic strips are attached.

In the two-piece Plexiglas structure, parallel magnetic strips are placed on the floor of the box as well as on the lid. The lid fits snugly between the walls of the box and presses down against the floor to show how opposites attract and like magnetic strips repel.

Magnets had always interested him since he had found a magnet and wondered how it worked.

Tommy is the son of Tomas and Magala Chavez. Borrego principal Sylvia Hopp praises his parents as "very supportive and very involved in the education of their children." Tommy has a sister Jasmine who is in the fourth-grade.

Hopp says this is not the first time Tommy has been recognized. She says he won overall first prize last fall in a citywide competition showing how recycled materials can be used. He used toilet tissue and paper towel rolls and cardboard to construct a toy tank that moved.





One perspective  
By Francis Shrum

A valued customer

I knew we were in for it when our bank informed us that we could now take advantage of a whole new range of “services.” This utterance from any company can be loosely translated into regular human speak as “we are going to want a lot more of your money.” We’ve banked in the same building for almost 20 years, though it hasn’t been owned by the same bank. It started out years ago as First City, then SunWest and finally Bank of America.

Every time a new institution took over we were offered more “services.” Every time it cost more money.

Now, the average person probably doesn’t know about, let alone utilize, all the “services” that are available to them. In fact, you can buy life insurance from the same company that sells you toilet paper. Why a company that sells toilet paper would want to go into the life insurance business is beyond me — other than they can charge you more for the toilet paper because they are offering you a phantom “service” you will never use.

All I want from my toilet paper supplier is toilet paper. All I wanted from my bank was simply a place to put my money, what little of it there is, so I could keep track of it — you know, because of the taxman and all.

I must be in the minority, though, because with the latest buyout of my bank I got a big envelope stuffed to capacity with a plethora of “benefits” I couldn’t even understand, let alone use, all offered at one low price which was about twice what I was already paying.

The price of progress, I figured,

until about a year and a half ago I begin getting all these little extra charges on my bank statement. One of them was something called “Overdraft Interest Charge” except I didn’t have an overdraft — not the kind for which you get dinged a solid \$25.

The way they explained it at the bank is that this tidy little charge covers the milliseconds in which there may be a deficit on my account before the electronic credit arrives from some financial institution on some unknown planet. It ranged anywhere from two cents to a quarter.

Then one day we found that some on-his-toes clerk had discovered that we still had \$500 overdraft protection on our account which carried over from the last institution. It had an interest rate of about three percent if we had to activate it.

So this sharp little boy instead attaches the overdraft protection to our Bank of America credit card.

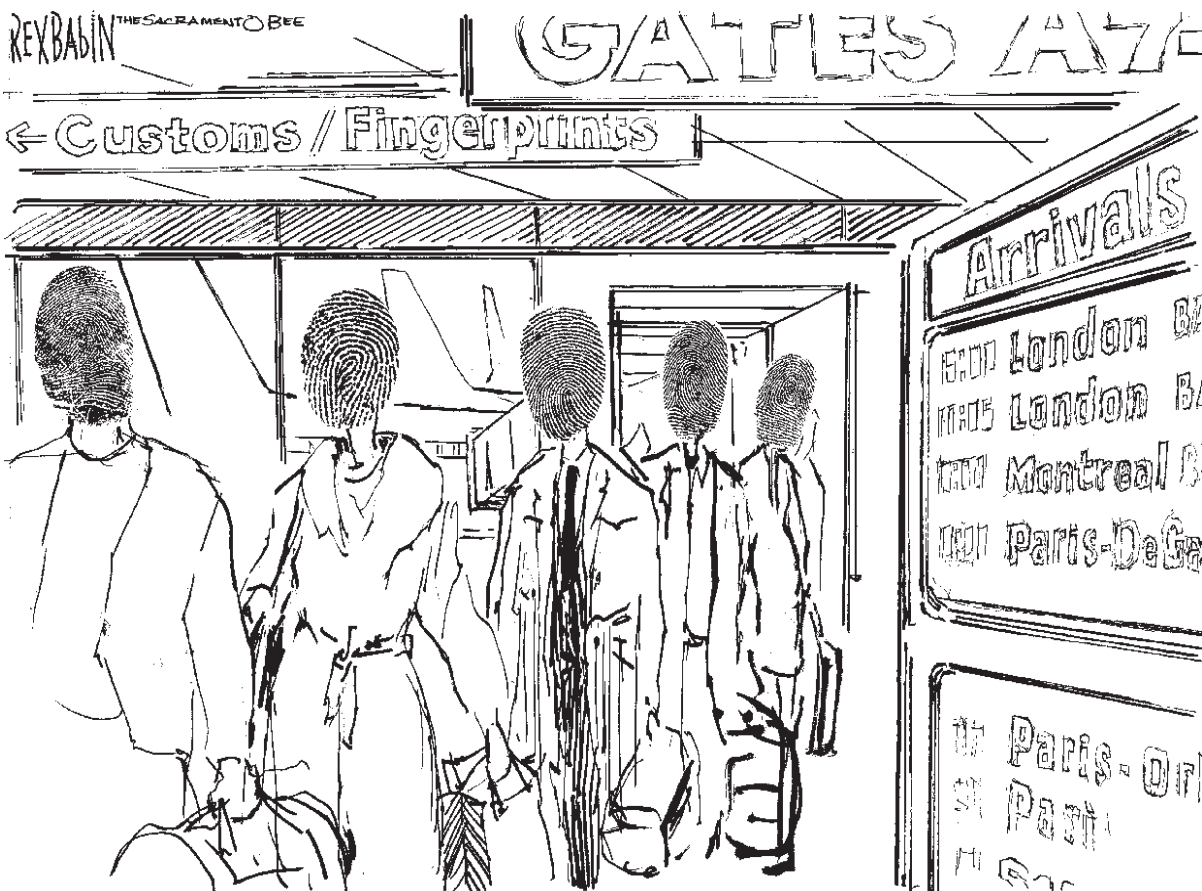
That way, should there be an overdraft, it would be charged to our credit card in lump sums of \$100, and the transaction charged as a cash withdrawal — with an interest rate of about 19 percent.

We took that one in stride, as well. Afterall, an overdraft could be interpreted as a genuine inconvenience for the bank, right?

However, the last straw was the day I found a \$5 charge on my statement for having used the overnight deposit drop.

It’s not too hard to open a bank account. Closing one, we found, was nothing short of a nightmare, especially with today’s financial institutions which guard their local

See CUSTOMER, Page 5



31 YEARS OF PUBLICATION  
WEST TEXAS COUNTY  
COURIER

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

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\$5 for 15 words, \$10 for 35 words. Ad must be in writing and pre-paid. The Courier reserves the right not to print classified advertising it considers inappropriate.

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Reyes Reports By U.S. Rep. Silvestre Reyes

Help is available for victims of identity theft

In 2003, 681 El Pasoans were victims of identity theft. While some might have had their purse or wallet stolen, the majority of these individuals’ identities were stolen through everyday transactions such as writing a check for groceries or applying for a new credit card.

The Federal Trade Commission (FTC), a federal agency that protects the needs of consumers, recently released their listing of the top ten fraud complaint categories for 2003. For the fourth year in a row, identity theft topped the list. Other complaints included foreign money offers and internet auctions.

Identity thieves, a new type of criminal that surfaced during the 1990s, prey on seemingly innocent activities that include personal information. Identity thieves find ways to access your social security number, address, or income from, say, a credit card application and use it to their advantage. Identity thieves then take out loans, open bank accounts, buy cars, open credit accounts in various stores, use debit cards, and buy cell phones — all in your name.

Victims may lose job opportunities, be refused loans for education, housing, cars, or even be arrested for crimes they didn’t commit. In order to retain their good credit, victims spend huge amounts of time working with credit bureaus, sifting through collections notices, and filing police reports trying to reclaim their identity. The whole experience can be a long, humiliating and frustrating one.

The FTC is leading the fight against identity thieves. Their guides, entitled “ID Theft: What’s It All About?” and “ID Theft: When Bad Things Happen To Your Good Name,” are available in English and Spanish both in paper copies and on their website: [www.ftc.gov](http://www.ftc.gov). You can obtain paper copies by calling 1-877-FTC-HELP. They include information on protecting yourself against identity theft and a course of action if you are a victim.

In addition to protecting yourself against identity theft, it is also important that you make informed decisions when deciding what to purchase. Every day, consumers make financial transactions that require educated decisions: shopping for a mortgage or auto loan, understanding and reconciling credit card statements and telephone bills, picking a gym, choosing a retirement plan, comparing health insurance policies, understanding credit reports, or deciding something as seemingly simple as whether to pay by cash, credit or debit card.

The FTC has designated this week, Feb. 1-7-, as National Consumer Protection Week (NCPW), to make all these decisions a bit easier. “Financial Literacy: Earning a Lifetime of Dividends” is the theme. During

See REYES, Page 5







# View from here

By David Aguilera, Mike Diaz and Orlando Flores

We have recently had the opportunity to exercise our rights as American citizens to run for the El Paso County Water Improvement District #1 board of directors.

Although there are many issues, there are two that are very important to us. The first one being equal and fair representation. Out of about 34,000 accounts in the district, 30,000 are small tracts. We believe all tracts have agricultural potential, perhaps in a different form, or perhaps for personal applications, but it is the water user’s right to make that decision.

The distribution of water — how much and when you get it — should be based on fair policy, not on politics. As elected representatives we will propose the following: form grower committees, small tract committees, and employee committees to ensure broad input into the decisions that ultimately affect everyone in the district. It is also important to have a comprehensive evaluation of current policies in order to reduce or eliminate privilege and prejudice.

Our second issue is to improve community relations. We are not convinced that community interest is currently a priority over protecting self interest. We, as district taxpayers, are paying an average of \$32,000 per month in attorneys fees. This is a big problem, when you consider a recent layoff of 12 employees with a much smaller payroll than the district’s legal costs.

As elected board members, we intend to ask for an audit, to ensure our tax dollars are being spent wisely. This is a much better approach for the district, for its employees, and for its customers. This will not happen if the district continues to operate in isolation, defensively postured, and threatened by differences of opinion.

As elected representatives we will propose the following: More open dialogue and joint committees to work on regional water issues with implications for the district. Bottom line, a commitment to get along and work together. We are three individuals committed to working for our community by being a voice for all water users. We ask you for your support and your vote on Feb. 7, 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

## Briefs

From Page 1

wrote and shot public service announcements, called PSAs, for seatbelt and pedestrian safety. The class presented the pedestrian safety PSA to El Paso County Commissioners Feb. 2. The new announcement should be available to local television channels during the next few weeks. Pat Arellano is the class instructor. “Project CARE of the Coalition is the sponsoring organization,” Arellano says, “and they have arranged for local time on the MTV, VH1, BET, the Entertainment News Network, TNN, SPIKE and Telemundo channels to run this announcement. Plus KINT-TV Channel 26 is running the English-language spots on their Spanish language station.” El Paso County’s chief medical examiner, Dr. Corinne Stern, was part of the seat belt project currently on the air. Mary Ellen Hernandez, Youth Services Coordinator for the Coalition, says the students are doing an effective job. “Mrs. Arellano has been instrumental in helping us with the PSAs and billboards. The students come up with the story lines, the filming and editing. Arellano says her students Marco Escudero and Crystle Lopez managed production and other students are working on billboard and bench ads for the campaign.

■ Texas wants input on the re-organization of the Texas Dept. of Health and Human Services & the Texas Commission on Alcohol and Drug Abuse (TCADA). A public hearing will be held this Thursday, Feb. 5, 3-8 p.m. in the El Paso Community College Administration Center Auditorium, 9050 Viscount Building A to address the following:

- Request for public input regarding Substance Abuse Services, Mental Health Services, and the Dept. of Human Services in Texas;
- Request for input regarding the new HHSC organizational structure;
- Request for input regarding funding from the state for the El Paso region regarding these services. Changes taking effect as a result of House Bill 2292 (the consolidation of all the state’s health and

human services) will have a major impact on local alcohol and drug services. Historically, it has been a battle for the border region to obtain resource regarding substance abuse issues and the TCADA has been responsible over the past two years to develop statewide and border specific plans. Under the recommended restructuring plan TCADA, the single state agency and model program will be divided into three separate parts. Rio Grande Safe Communities Coalition Director Marge Bartoletti said this change will result in the loss of expertise and identity of this highly specialized field as well as dilute areas of service. “We have advocated for years to address this issue from a continuum of care perspective and raise awareness at all levels,” Bartoletti said “The implications for urban and rural border communities are grave. Your attention to this issue would be greatly appreciated. For additional information visit the TCADA’s web site at [www.tcada.state.tx.us](http://www.tcada.state.tx.us) and Health and Human Services site at [www.hhsc.state.tx.us/](http://www.hhsc.state.tx.us/), then go to hhs consolidation.

## NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING COUNTY OF EL PASO TEXAS COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM COLONIA CONSTRUCTION FUND PROJECT #723055

The County of El Paso is considering a proposed amendment to its approved 2003 Texas Community Development Program (TCDP) contract #723055 with the Office of Rural Community Affairs to include additional water system improvements. The proposed activities will take place in the Leisure Valley Addition along the following streets: Leisure Lane, Little Joe, Sleepy Lane, Helen Rushing and Windgail, pending funding availability. These improvements will be in the general vicinity of other water system improvements already under construction through a County approved TCDP project.

A public hearing concerning the proposed amendment is scheduled for Tuesday, February 10, 2004, 6:00-7:00 p.m., at the Lower Valley Water District Office, 1557 FM 1110, Clint, Texas, 79836. The purpose of this public hearing will be to discuss the proposed amendment and solicit citizen input on the proposed change in the scope of the county’s TCDP project.

All citizens are encouraged to attend this public hearing and present their views to the County. The El Paso County Courthouse is accessible to the disabled; individuals who might have difficulty in attending this public hearing should contact the Community Development Division to arrange for special assistance. If anyone interested in attending the public hearing requires a translator, please contact the Community Development Division prior to the public hearing so arrangements may be made. If you cannot attend in person, written comments may be submitted and will be accepted by the County until this public hearing is concluded.

A copy of the proposed amendment is available for review during normal business hours at the El Paso County Courthouse address listed above. For further information concerning the County’s 2003 TCDP project and/or this proposed contract amendment, please contact Jack Alayyan, Division Manager, County of El Paso, at (915) 543-3845.

WTCC: 03/21/02

## Town of Horizon City PUBLIC NOTICE

A PUBLIC HEARING will be held at **6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, February 10, 2004** during the **Regular City Council Meeting** at City Hall, 14999 Darrington Road, Horizon City, Texas. Purpose of the public hearing is to allow any interested persons to appear and testify regarding the following proposed ordinance(s):

- 1) Proposed Ordinance No. 0117 to rezone a portion of Section 31, Block 78, Township 3, Texas and Pacific Railroad Company Surveys, El Paso County, Texas. Area is presently zoned R-2, Single Family Residential and R-4B, Single Family Residential to R-4, Single Family Residential. Request submitted by JNC Development Inc.
- 2) Proposed Amendment No. 006 to Zoning Ordinance No. 0102 — to add Section 101.6-Re-zoning to Chapter 1, Administration, Section 101 General.
- 3) Proposed Amendment No. 007 to Zoning Ordinance No. 0102 changes to Chapter 1, Section 101.4.1 — Town Council to delete the required vote for an overwrite from Council on a recommendation from Planning & Zoning.
- 4) Proposed Amendment No. 008 to Zoning Ordinance No. 0102, Chapter 8 — General Provisions and to include a new Section 811 — Drainage Ponds.
- 5) Proposed Amendment No. 011 to Subdivision Ordinance No. 0035, Section 5.17 — Drainage and Storm Sewers adding Section 5.17.4 and subsequent subchapters.

Those who are unable to attend may submit their views in writing to the City Clerk of Horizon City. Ordinances are too extensive to print. Ordinances are always available for viewing or copying upon request from the City Clerk at the above address.

Sandra Sierra  
City Clerk

WTCC: 02/05/04

## Jackpot

From Page 1

Michelle Bolner won the Senior Showmanship award in Breeding Showmanship.

On a chilly and breezy day, there were goats with coats in a variety of colors. There were goats with muzzles. There were goat T-shirts (“Goat-Ts”?) for sale.

They had colorful names. Freshman Jason Flores bought a young goat through the FFA and named it Master Chief, after a character in a video game, he says. He feeds the animal twice a day and exercises it. He likes the program.

“It’s fun,” he says. “It teaches me responsibility.” He’s enjoyed traveling to shows and will be going to another show soon in San Angelo.

Canutillo ag-science instructor Mike Morales says the FFA has its own breeding program through which students can purchase the animals. About 20 have done so.

Alexandra “Alex” Fraire is a junior, and she too purchased a goat through the program and named it Pepe. More recently she has purchased a second goat and named it Powder because it is all white.

“This is a good experience. It gives me something to do,” she says of the elective high school subject. The experience has had a humorous and colorful moment. She recalls that after she had cut and trimmed the hair of one of her goats that she put a fluorescent coat of many colors on it, a coat of pink and yellow and purple.

Freshman Carlos Delgadillo says he has a “very smart goat,” one he has named Dexter. “He is always trying to open gates.”

Also a friendly goat, he has an apparent amorous streak in him. He had at one time tried to kiss Alex.

“These are the cream of the crop,” says Superintendent Charles Hart, dressed in cowboy hat and jeans and watching the events intently.



Customer

From Page 2

phone numbers like they are CIA secrets and which won't even let you into their miles-long answering service unless you know your Access ID number — which, by the way, is *not* your PIN, your account number, your mother's maiden name, your social security number or your birth date.

In fact, the closest thing I can compare closing these accounts to is surgery to remove cancerous tentacles embedded in your brain — you can never be sure if, even after all the pain and suffering, you actually got it all.

We called for instructions on how to close out our accounts, followed them to the letter, and still have had to make five lengthy telephone calls to clear up the \$20 overdrafts we keep

getting charged for monthly account maintenance, long after the accounts were closed.

The latest notice came this week, threatening to turn us into a credit agency if we didn't come up with \$20 to cover last month's account maintenance charges.

We called a local number — which had been obtained through long hours of bloody battle with bank personnel — and talked to a young lady who requested a long and detailed account of our complaint. We told her up front we needed to speak to at least a bank vice-president. We now insisted.

She hesitated, then said, "I'm a vice-president." Why didn't she say so up front, we wondered.

"I had to make sure you were someone I wanted to deal with first," she said.

It's nice to be such a valued customer.

Reyes

From Page 2

NCPW, representatives from federal, state and local agencies and national advocacy organizations will help consumers — of all ages — understand how the decisions they make in the marketplace affect their overall "fiscal" fitness.

Visit [www.consumer.gov/ncpw](http://www.consumer.gov/ncpw) on the FTC's website to access a clearinghouse of information for consumers. Whether you are buying a car, choosing a school or investing your money, various federal agencies (such as the Federal Citizen Informa-

tion Center or the Social Security Administration) and private organizations (such as AARP or the Better Business Bureau) are there to help you.

Today's world is full of complicated choices — and unfortunately those who hope to exploit those choices. My website, [www.house.gov/reyes](http://www.house.gov/reyes), and the FTC's website provide important information that will empower you as a consumer in today's economy. As the 681 El Paso identity theft victims know, identity theft and other forms of consumer fraud are out there. By arming ourselves with knowledge, we can protect ourselves and our good names — and hopefully put an end to consumer crime.

# UTEP MINERS™

## THURSDAY, FEB. 5TH

### VS. RICE

## SATURDAY, FEB. 7TH

### VS. TULSA



## SPONSORED BY:



## 7:05 PM @ "The Don"

# TICKETS: 747-5234

Classified Ads

LEGAL

**SOCORRO INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**Invitation to Bid/Respond:**

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

**AUTOMOTIVE PARTS - OEM CSP NO. 199-0206-0451**  
**ACCEPTED UNTIL FEB. 06, 2004, AT 2:30 P.M.**

Proposals will be received at Business Services Dept., 12300 Eastlake Drive, El Paso, Texas 79928 until the specified times. Detailed specifications are available from the above office between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. Mondays through Fridays. WTCC-02/05/04LEGAL

**SOCORRO INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**Invitation to Respond:**

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

the following times:

**POWER MONITOR METER UNITS FOR VARIOUS SCHOOLS CSP NO. 199-0213-0452**  
**FRIDAY, FEB. 13, 2004 AT 2:30 P.M.**

Bidders may obtain copies of the bidding documents and project plans Jan. 30, 2004 by contacting the Project Engineer's office at:

Borunda & Associates, Inc. 9900 Montana Ave., Suite E El Paso, Texas 79925  
Phone: 592-7611 Fax: 592-7622

A deposit of \$100 per set will be required for each set of drawings a contractor wishes to receive. If the plans and specifications are returned in good condition, the deposit will be refunded.

A pre-bid conference is scheduled to be held at 2:30 p.m., Friday, Feb. 6, 2004, at the at Socorro ISD Education Center, 12300 Eastlake Drive, El Paso, TX 79928. At this conference bidders will be afforded the opportunity to ask questions and discuss any aspect of

this project. Although attendance at the pre-bid conference is not mandatory, all bidders are responsible for the information discussed at the conference, and are strongly urged to attend.

Proposals will be received at the Business Services Dept., 12300 Eastlake Drive, until the specified times. Detailed specifications are available from the above office between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. Mondays through Fridays. WTCC-02/05/04

**SOCORRO INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**Invitation to Bid/Respond:**

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

**ARMORED CAR SERVICES CSP NO. 199-0212-0453**  
**ACCEPTED UNTIL FEB. 12, 2004, AT 2:30 P.M.**

Proposals will be received at Business Services Dept., 12300

Eastlake Drive, El Paso, Texas 79928 until the specified times. Detailed specifications are available from the above office between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. Mondays through Fridays. WTCC-02/05/04

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 - IB4GP44RITB334344, 1996 Dodge Caravan, charcoal, New Mexico license, FNB 528 VIN - 2G2AF35W8G9253430, 1985 Pontiac station wagon, white, Colorado plates IPAL 485 VIN - IG3NT27UXC039980, 1985 Oldsmobile Galais, maroon, New Mexico plates FAF 497 WTCC-02/05/04

**NOTICE TO PUBLIC HORIZON PALMS**

Tropicana Building Corporation is mak-

ing an application for Housing Tax Credits with the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs for the Horizon Palms development, located in the Horizon City's ETJ off Darrington Rd, El Paso, Texas 79928. This new development is a four-plex community comprised of 76 units of which 61% will be for tenants with incomes less than 60% of the AMGI, 17% will be for tenants with incomes less than 50% of the AMGI, 13% will be for tenants with incomes less than 40% of the AMGI, and 9% will be for tenants with incomes less than 30% of the AMGI. Income levels range between \$8,650 to \$28,680 for families with sizes 1-6 household members. The total restricted income percentage of the Development is 100%. The number of units and proposed rents (less utility allowances) for the subject property's tax credit units are:

24 - 1 Bedroom Units for \$159-\$237  
36 - 2 Bedroom Units for \$380-\$437  
16 - 3 Bedroom Units for \$546

If awarded credits, this development would be ready for

occupancy by December 2005. For more information on this notice, please contact Tropicana Building Corporation, Bobby Bowling IV, 4655 Cohen Ave, El Paso, Texas 79924, (915) 821-3550. For more information, see [www.tdhca.state.tx.us](http://www.tdhca.state.tx.us). WTCC: 02/05/04

NOTICE TO PUBLIC SOCORRO PALMS

Tropicana Building Corporation is making an application for Housing Tax Credits with the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs for the Socorro Palms development, located on the 10200 Block of Alameda Ave, Socorro, Texas 79927. This new development is a four-plex community comprised of 36 units of which 61% will be for tenants with incomes less than 60% of the AMGI, 17% will be for tenants with incomes less than 50% of the AMGI, 11% will be for tenants with incomes less than 40% of the AMGI, and 11% will be for tenants with incomes less than 30% of the AMGI. Income levels range between \$8,650 to \$28,680

for families with sizes 1-6 household members. The total restricted income percentage of the Development is 100%. The number of units and proposed rents (less utility allowances) for the subject property's tax credit units are:

8 - 1 Bedroom Units for \$159-\$237  
16 - 2 Bedroom Units for \$380-\$437  
12 - 3 Bedroom Units for \$546

If awarded credits, this development would be ready for occupancy by December 2005. For more information on this notice, please contact Tropicana Building Corporation, Bobby Bowling IV, 4655 Cohen Ave, El Paso, Texas 79924, (915) 821-3550. For more information, see [www.tdhca.state.tx.us](http://www.tdhca.state.tx.us). WTCC: 02/05/04

Town of Clint, Texas Request For Qualifications Engineering Services

The Town of Clint is accepting qualifications for engineering services for water system improvement projects funded by the Office of Rural Community Affairs. The

projects include a Small Town Environmental Project - First Time Water Service and Community Development Block Grant - Water System Improvements. Proposals must be submitted to the Town Clerk by February 18, 2004, before 5:00 PM at the Clint Town Hall, 200 N. San Elizario Rd., PO Box 350, Clint, Texas 79836. WTCC: 02/05/04; 02/12/04

HELP WANTED

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANT - El Paso, PFT, \$26,195. Announcement TX-RD-04-11, closes 2/10/04. Benefits included. View announcement at [www.usajobs.opm.gov](http://www.usajobs.opm.gov), application forms at [www.opm.gov/forms/index.htm](http://www.opm.gov/forms/index.htm). For information (254) 742-9750, TDD (254) 742-9712. USDA Rural Development is an EOE. WTCC-02/05/04

FOUND

FOUND: Wristwatch near Horizon Blvd. Call 852-4817.

RENTAL

HOUSE FOR RENT - Two bedroom, off Alameda in Clint, nicely remodeled in quiet area. Call 598-1961 or 383-1152. 02/019

FOR RENT in Clint, 3 bedroom, 2 bath, 142 Jeff Jones. Call 851-1546. TFN

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 solución. Información: 838-6264.

SERVICES

**STAN'S Maintenance Services**  
Interior / Exterior Painting and Pressure Washing Residential / Horizon only Licensed / Insured **852-9927**

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Free Estimates **(915) 549-5774**

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- Knock down spider webs with all free inspections
- 24 hours on call 7 days a week

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Windshield Repair Specialists  
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R.V. Dick Harshberger **915-852-9082**

**BERT'S AUTOMOTIVE REPAIR**  
Domestic and Foreign **852-3523**  
1558 Oxbow, Horizon City

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• Appliance installation  
• Many other plumbing services Licensed, bonded and insured for your protection.



# Too many flags: Officials taint otherwise super game

By Steve Escajeda  
Special to the Courier

Last Sunday the NFL crowned a new champion. One team rose above the other and grabbed the game by the throat and never let go.

And, of course, every championship team has one man who leads it. A man who plays that all-important role of captain. A man who stands out front and leads the best team because he, very simply, is the best.

And everybody who witnessed the Super Bowl last Sunday knows exactly who I'm talking about. That man is referee Ed Hochuli and that team is the rest of his over-zealous officiating crew.

Don't get me wrong, the last-second 32-29 Pats' win was exciting, but c'mon, how many times do you have to watch Hochuli discussing a possible penalty with one of his crew for 30-60 seconds before coming to a conclusion?

Over and over, the yellow flags took over the game. They say the best referees practically go through the game unnoticed. This officiating crew went through the game as if they

were on American Idol or Star Search.

They got most of the attention — well, aside from Janet Jackson.

As I peaked at the time of possession for both teams in the big game, New England had the ball much more than Carolina did. The Patriots had the ball for 38:58 while the Panthers had it for 21:02.

But those numbers pale in comparison to the time that Hochuli and his crew had in front of the camera.

I would guess about an hour-and-a-half. OK, maybe it just seemed like that long, but I've never seen a Super Bowl start, stop and sputter its way through an afternoon.

The game could never get into any kind of a rhythm with the referees throwing a flag on almost every other play.

I haven't seen so much laundry on the ground since my college days.

The final tally showed that the zebras called a whopping 20 penalties in the game. And those are just the ones that were accepted.

When you calculate it, the referees threw a flag on 15-percent of the plays. I didn't even eat a chicken wing on 15-percent of the plays, and believe me, I gave it my best.

Let's take a look at last year's game between Oakland and Tampa Bay, 12 penalties. Two years ago when New England knocked off St. Louis, the refs called 11 penalties.

Heck, during Super Bowl XXXIII, when the Denver Broncos beat the Atlanta Falcons, a grand total of just four penalties were called.

In fact, this was the most penalized game since 20 penalties were called on the Dallas Cowboys and Denver Broncos during Super Bowl XII in 1978, 26 years ago!

Despite the high number of flags, this turned out to be a very good Super Bowl that went right down to the wire. But in the future, referees should concentrate on the game and have the common sense to let the players on the field decide things.

If I want to gaze longingly at a zebra, I'll go to the zoo.

## Shut up Shaq

What has gotten into Shaquille O'Neal?

I know that Shaq has never had the gift of gab, or the gift of intelligence, either, for that matter. But why the tirade last Sunday after a Lakers win?

Did you happen to catch his interview by a

local L.A. station? A reporter was interviewing the big fella when Shaq lost his mind.

Shaq had just scored 36 points in a win over Toronto but was upset over the officiating.

O'Neal said "My message to David Stern is get some people in there that understand the game and don't try to take over the game because people pay good money to see good athletes play."

Now, I agree with Shaq. I've always said that the easiest job in the world is being an NBA referee because you don't have to call anything, or just call things on the non-superstars.

But what is Shaq complaining about? Nobody in the league gets away with more under the basket than he does. If NBA officials called the game correctly, he'd foul out of every game... by halftime.

But Shaq's worst offense was that he used the F-word during his interview. When the reporter informed him that he was on live TV, Shaq did it again.

It's obvious that Shaq has muscles on his body. I'm beginning to believe that's all he has in head as well.

You're right, Shaq, the refs are bad. But once in a while, take a hard look in the mirror.

# America's High School star player decides on a league of her own

EAST EL PASO COUNTY — Americas High School senior Kathleen Corona signed a letter of intent to play softball with the El Paso Community College Tejanas Feb. 2.



**FAMILY AFFAIR** — Kathleen Corona plans to play locally for the EPCC Tejanas. During the signing she was joined by her family. Shown left to right, first row: Kathleen's father Sergio Corona, Kathleen Corona, her mother Gloria Corona. Second row: Americas High School Principal Mary Ross; AHS Athletics Coordinator Dale Reinhardt, and EPCC assistant coach Edna Garcia.

Corona is the first Americas student signed by the team.

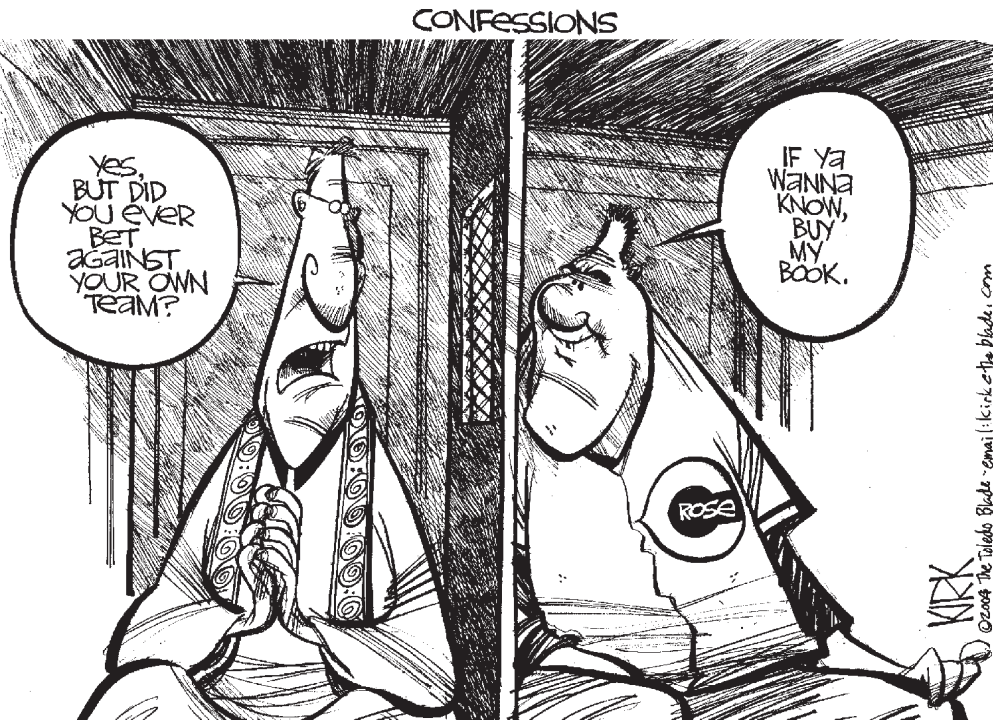
"I started catching my sophomore year, and I'm real excited," the student said just before signing.

AHS softball coach Jerry Paugh says Corona is an outstanding athlete. "Very dedicated, and she can play several positions for us, she pitched for us, she's caught for us. Whatever you ask her to do on the field, she does. She has a great attitude — that's the best part."

Corona says she expects to do her best — "play hard, and show them that they did a good job of signing me. I know how the team is — they're really strong, and

they stick together and I'm just hoping to vibe with that. Softball is my first love."

Corona's signing also means a scholarship from EPCC to help with school expenses.



## King Super Crossword

AROMANCE

ACROSS

1 Tower town

5 Ditch

9 Married Mlle.

12 "Life" ('66 hit)

17 Acted like grandma

18 Sills solo

19 Tam material

20 Sit in on a class

21 Actor Alex

22 "Aida" river

23 "Meter" leader

24 Actress Rivera

25 Throb

26 Loser to DDE

27 Author Christie

29 Stirrup site

30 Riddle: Part 1

36 Gridiron position

37 Z \_ zebra

38 Present for pop

39 Dutch export

42 Ms. Silkwood

44 Wine variety

50 Sought office

51 Famed caravel

52 Om, for instance

53 Actress Joanne

54 ABA member

55 Skater Hughes

56 Come out of one's shell

57 Dutch export

58 Sharif role

60 22 Across feature

61 Internet acronym

63 Riddle: Part 2

68 Permit

69 Grows light

70 Studio

73 Word with camp or tree

76 " \_ Rolling Stone" ('65 hit)

77 Groundwork

79 Before, to Byron

80 Mackie or Marley

81 Wobble

83 Add a lane

84 It may be white

85 Titmouse kin

87 Emulate Elle

88 \_ Castro

90 " \_ vous plait"

91 Joyce's land

92 Implore

93 Answer to riddle

104 "Exodus" protagonist

105 Plaza Hotel kid

106 Get a galley going

107 Marineland performer

108 Kanga's creator

111 Construct

112 Crow's toe

114 TV's "Mad \_ You"

115 Celebrity

116 Mispickel and galena

117 Costa \_

118 Rampal's instrument

119 \_ apso

120 Draft agcy.

DOWN

1 Doggy

2 Restless

3 Left the Union

4 Fuss and feathers

5 A Lennon sister

6 \_ setter

7 West's "Diamond \_"

8 \_ kwon do

9 Drilling site?

10 Club creed

11 Yale or Root

12 Tic- \_ toe

13 "What?"

14 "Farewell, Francois!"

15 Big guy

16 Austere

17 Close the curtains

19 Cart

26 Postfix

27 Exiled dictator

28 Mary of "Dodsworth"

31 Claire or Balin

32 Big revolver?

33 Lost

34 "The Ramayana" heroine

35 Barbie's boyfriend

39 Austrian city

40 Solemn statement

41 "Wait \_ Dark" ('67 film)

42 Ballet company

43 Santa \_ CA

44 Smith or Page

45 Like Machu Picchu

46 Utmost

47 Bizarre

48 Nest egg

49 Zombie base

51 Debra of "Love Me Tender"

52 Fountain treats

55 Use coupons

56 Shampoo ingredient

57 Middle Eastern airline

59 Electrical measure

60 Librarian Melvil

61 "The Addams Family" actor

62 Pindaric poetry

64 Stop on \_

65 Delibes opera

66 Blackboard support

67 Cry uncle

71 Cleveland's lake

72 Stagger

73 English channel?

74 Fireworks reaction

75 Kimono cummerbund

76 Peeper protector

77 Senator from Delaware

78 Humorist George

81 Stowe gear

82 Bisect

83 Sported

86 Civil War initials

87 Pixie and Dixie

88 Charge

89 Vile

91 Road curves

92 Luxury car

93 Veronica of "Hill Street Blues"

94 Maestro Leinsdorf

95 Novelist Cathar

96 St. \_ fire

97 Savanna sounds

98 Startled cry

99 Vestige

100 Dubuque denizen

101 Game fish

102 Intense

103 Behind schedule

109 Mil. base

110 Homeric character

112 \_ -Magnon

113 Back talk

114 Sternward

	1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8		9	10	11		12	13	14	15	16
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115											117					118			
119											121					122			







Social Security Q&A

By Ray Vigil

*Q: If I start receiving my Social Security at age 62, will I still get cost-of-living adjustments every year? A friend said that if I started getting Social Security benefits before my full retirement age, my payments would always be frozen at that amount.*

A: All Social Security beneficiaries get an automatic cost-of-living adjustment every year. Your benefits are never “frozen.” What your friend may have meant is that if you take reduced retirement benefits, that re-

duction generally stays with you for the rest of your life. In other words, your benefit will go up each year with the cost-of-living adjustment, but your benefit rate will always be less than it could have been had you waited until full retirement age to collect your benefits.

*Q: I heard someone say that a wife can get somewhere between about one-third and one-half of her husband’s Social Security retirement benefit. How do I know which rate*

*applies to me?*

A: It depends on your age at the time you become eligible and whether you are eligible for benefits on your own earnings. You may be eligible for 50 percent of your spouse’s full Social Security benefit when you reach your “full retirement age.” If you collect benefits before then, they are reduced by roughly a half percentage point for each month of eligibility, down to about a one-third rate payable at age 62. Keep in mind also that if you’re eligible for both your own retirement benefits and for benefits as a spouse, we always pay your own benefit first.

If your benefit as a spouse is higher than your retirement benefit, you’ll get a combination of benefits equaling the higher spouse benefit. For more information about spouse’s benefits, contact Social Security at 1-800-772-1213 or visit your local Social Security office.

*Q: I get a Social Security check and a Supplemental Security Income check. I’m planning to move back to Italy. Can I have my benefit payments sent there?*

A: Supplemental Security Income payments are only paid to people liv-







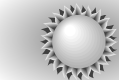

ing in the United States, so your SSI payments will stop if you move to Italy. However, your Social Security checks may continue to be paid even if you leave the country. It depends on the type of Social Security benefit you receive and on your citizenship.

For more information visit your local Security office, see [www.ssa.gov](http://www.ssa.gov) or call us at 1-800-772-1213. If you have any questions that you would like to have answered, please mail them to the Social Security Office, 1111 Gateway West, Attn: Ray Vigil, El Paso, Texas 79935.

WEATHER

AccuWeather.com

SEVEN-DAY FORECAST FOR EL PASO

THURSDAY	THUR. NIGHT	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
							
Mostly cloudy, a shower possible in the p.m.	Partly to mostly cloudy and cold.	A good deal of sunshine.	Plenty of sunshine.	Sunshine and some clouds.	Mostly sunny.	Sunny.	Clouds and sunshine.
▲ 49°	▼ 30°	▲ 53° ▼ 31°	▲ 58° ▼ 35°	▲ 60° ▼ 35°	▲ 58° ▼ 33°	▲ 60° ▼ 32°	▲ 58° ▼ 30°

UV INDEX

Statistics for noon.

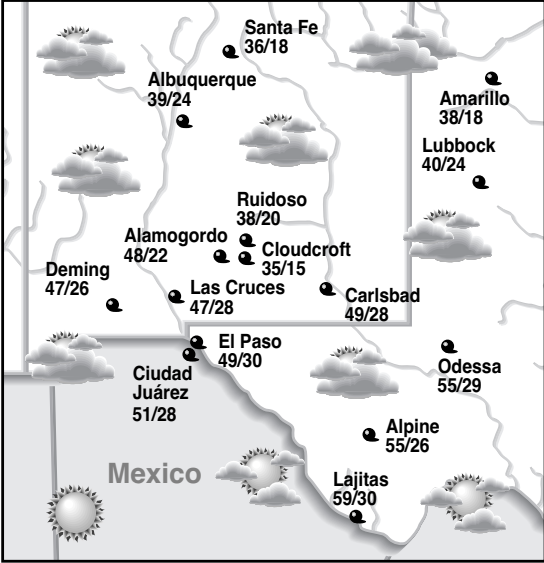
The higher the UV Index, the greater the need for eye and skin protection.

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

TEXAS WEATHER

Anthony	48	30
Canutillo	51	30
Clint	50	29
E. Montana	51	30
Fabens	50	29
Horizon	52	31
San Elizario	49	28
Socorro	50	29
Tornillo	50	29
Vinton	50	30

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





TRAVELERS CITIES

City	Thur. Hi/Lo/W	Fri. Hi/Lo/W	Sat. Hi/Lo/W	Sun. Hi/Lo/W	Mon. Hi/Lo/W
Albuquerque	39/24/c	44/26/pc	48/28/pc	47/26/c	47/22/c
Atlanta	48/46/r	56/38/c	54/32/s	48/32/s	50/30/pc
Atlantic City	36/28/pc	41/28/c	42/24/c	39/21/pc	37/18/pc
Austin/San Antonio	68/35/pc	56/32/pc	58/34/s	58/39/pc	58/36/c
Baltimore	34/28/pc	40/30/c	40/26/c	38/22/pc	40/19/pc
Boston	34/20/s	30/26/c	34/22/c	32/20/pc	32/18/pc
Chicago	26/20/sn	28/18/pc	26/16/pc	24/12/pc	28/11/c
Dallas/Ft. Worth	52/34/pc	46/28/pc	48/34/s	50/38/pc	50/31/c
Denver	28/13/sf	31/13/c	34/15/pc	41/15/c	39/11/c
Flagstaff	34/12/pc	38/18/s	40/18/c	36/16/c	39/12/pc
Houston	58/42/c	50/34/c	58/34/s	60/44/pc	60/48/c
Kansas City	28/15/c	27/11/c	23/9/pc	32/17/pc	35/13/c
Las Vegas	54/40/s	56/38/s	58/44/pc	68/42/pc	58/36/pc
Miami	81/71/pc	83/68/pc	80/63/c	77/62/pc	76/61/pc
Minneapolis	17/7/c	17/8/c	17/4/c	17/8/c	23/4/c
New Orleans	71/54/t	60/40/c	58/43/s	57/43/s	60/44/c
New York City	36/27/pc	33/30/c	39/27/c	34/25/pc	33/22/pc
Philadelphia	36/28/pc	40/30/c	40/26/c	36/24/pc	35/20/pc
Phoenix	59/39/pc	64/42/s	66/44/pc	64/44/pc	65/39/s
Portland	47/34/pc	46/35/r	48/34/pc	48/35/pc	49/32/pc
San Francisco	57/44/pc	56/44/c	56/42/s	58/43/s	57/41/pc
Seattle	46/35/pc	46/34/r	45/35/pc	46/35/c	48/33/pc
Tucson	55/34/pc	58/36/s	63/39/s	61/36/s	63/36/s
Washington, DC	34/30/pc	42/32/c	44/28/c	38/26/pc	41/23/pc

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

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