



NEWSBRIEFS

Featured artist

Horizon City artist Jim Munafo will be featured in a show of pencil drawings, colored pencil, watercolor, and pen and ink etched on ceramic tile by the Rising Artists of the Valley from March 21 to April 23 with a reception March 31 from 3-5 p.m. at 1155 N. 5th, in Anthony. The Rising Artists group is seeking new artists that have not yet exhibited their work for exhibition. To inquire about scheduling a show or for other information contact Sharon Aggie Rhine, curator, at 505-882-9419 or at risingartists@yahoo.com.

New NJHS

To recognize junior high school students' high grades, hard work, positive attitudes, and consistent support and loyalty to their school, the National Junior Honor Society was created, and a chapter has been chartered at Tornillo Junior High School, according to Emily Baker. On Feb. 29 the new NJHS chapter held its first induction ceremony. Eighth graders inducted were Lucero Alvidrez, Carlos Moreno, Jissel Reyes, Manuel Reyes, Veronica Terrazas, Tracey Valdez, and Benjamin Valencia. Seventh grade honorees were Benito Aguirre, Linda Amaro, Yuriko Barrera, Leticia Carrillo, Christina Cortez, Lizeth Delgado, Ricardo Esparza, and Luz Rivera. All of the students inducted into NJHS had a grade average above an 85 and are excellent representatives of Tornillo Junior High. These students will be given opportunities to earn service hours by participating in a range of volunteer activities. Although the eighth grade students will move on to Tornillo High School next year, the recognition and honor will remain. The seventh graders inducted will further the goals of NJHS next year.

In other news

■ All El Paso Public Library facilities will be closed on Sunday, March 27 in observance of Easter Sunday. All libraries will close again on Friday, April 1 for Staff Development Day. On April 1, library staff will participate in workshops and training designed to improve service to the community. Regular business hours will apply during all other days. For more information call 543-5468 or visit www.elpasolibrary.org.

■ Children ages Pre-K to third grade are invited to attend Storytime at Horizon High School Community Library, 14651 Horizon Blvd., at 3 p.m. April 5, 26 and May 17. Stories and related activities are shared with the child, who must be accompanied by an adult.

■ Clint Methodist Church will have its annual Big Yard Sale on Sat. April 2, at 201 McKinney Street from 8 a.m. until 5

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SEHS HOSA students qualify for state

By Phillip Cortez
Special to the Courier

SAN ELIZARIO — The San Elizario High School Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA) program will once again send students to the state competition in Dallas, set for April 6-9. SEHS seniors Cecy Martinez and Alonzo Rodriguez were among hundreds of participants in their respective categories and each came away with first place finishes at the Area HOSA Competition held in El Paso in early March.

In order for Martinez to advance to the skills portion of Category II Skills, Sports Medicine, she had to score among the top 20 percent in the written examination. Martinez then demonstrated outstanding technique in the ankle wrap. Ankles are a common area of injury among athletes.

Rodriguez demonstrated strong interviewing and resume writing skills in Category III Job Seeking Skills. Rodriguez was required to write a letter of application, a resume, undergo an interview, and submit a letter of thanks.

"I think it says a lot for our program in San Elizario," said Mathilda Mirabal, HOSA coordinator at the campus. "It says a lot for the kids."

According to Mirabal, the HOSA program allows students to meet their potential, building up their confidence and self-esteem.

"It's encouraging them to think about post-



— Photo courtesy San Elizario ISD

STATE IN SIGHT — Alonzo Rodriguez and Cecy Martinez were among hundreds of students entered in the Area HOSA Competition earlier this month in El Paso. Both qualified for the state competition, April 6-9, 2005 in Dallas, Texas.

secondary education, even if it's not in the medical field."

For Martinez and Rodriguez, both would like to explore opportunities in the medical field as they decide which routes they will take after high school. As state-qualifying HOSA students, it looks like they have a nice head start.

County Courthouse holds open house on April 13

El Paso County will open its Courthouse doors again this year for its second annual celebration of National County Government Week on April 13.

"This is a great opportunity for El Pasoans of every age to learn what their County government does and how it spends taxpayers' money," said Commissioner Betti Flores, who will be part of the welcoming committee during the event. "We'll have booths, with displays and exhibits, from every County department showcasing what they do and how they

benefit the community."

The doors from the County Courthouse will open for the festivities from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Wednesday, April 13 at 500 E. San Antonio, with members of Commissioners Court welcoming visitors. The entertainment will begin with the Cathedral High School Choir, followed by Bowie High School's Los Osos Orgullosos Mariachi, folk dancing and more. Tours of the Courthouse and the individual

See COURTHOUSE, Page 4

Medical association advises taking control of your healthcare, life while you can

By Pamela Baggett
Special to the Courier

Every Texan owes it to his or her family to execute an advance medical directive and medical power of attorney, according to Bohn D. Allen, MD, president of the Texas Medical Association.

"We are witnessing the anguish that follows when families face the question of what quality of life is acceptable — what degree of medical intervention is appropriate — when a loved one's life is in balance," Dr. Allen said. "All of this can be avoided if you, if I, if all of us, make the very simple effort to fill out two simple but critically important forms to designate who has the right to make that decision when we are unable to do so for ourselves, and to let that person know exactly what our wishes are."

The Texas Medical Association Web site has a link to the Medical Power of Attorney form and the Directive to Physicians at www.texmed.org/directive. The link also leads to information about the responsibilities of the

person granted the power to make decision on your behalf, and responsibilities of medical professionals in carrying out those wishes.

The most dramatic life-or-death cases make headlines, but sometimes health decisions that are serious, but not life-threatening need to be made, perhaps while a patient is under anesthesia.

"There is a chance in everyone's lifetime of being seriously injured, ill, or otherwise unable to make decisions regarding health care," Dr. Allen said. "If this should happen, it would be helpful to have someone who knows your values and in whom you have trust to make such decisions for you."

"Almost everyone is discussing with the people around us our wishes should we be in a condition where we cannot speak for ourselves," Dr. Allen added. "Be clear, be very clear with your loved ones and the person you grant the power to make that decision on your behalf, exactly what you want. This includes deciding whether to donate your organs for the benefit of others after you die."

"Don't assume everyone knows what you

No beach parties here, but El Paso/Juarez is a spring break hot spot

EL PASO COUNTY — This week more than two million students are traveling to a party paradise on Spring Break and as many as 97 percent of those under legal age will use this break as an opportunity to drink, even binge, on alcohol, according to Laura Villarreal, Program Coordinator for Operation BRIDGE (Bi-national Responsibility to Interrupt the Drinking Gateway Environment).

For six years, the Pacific Institute for Research and Evaluation has been sending a team of surveyors from San Diego to conduct research on the Santa Fe Bridge. Their studies show that youth from Fabens, Canutillo, Anthony, San Elizario, Ysleta, Clint, Ruidoso, Dell City, Carlsbad, Truth or Consequences, Cloudcroft, Las Cruces, Deming, Silver City, and Alamogordo, drive to El Paso with the express intent of crossing the border and partying in Juarez, Mexico.

The average male student on Spring Break will down almost 20 drinks a day, the average female almost a dozen. Some will exceed the average to a dangerous degree, those studies show.

"Local and national media will focus on the tragic consequences that follow — incidents of alcohol poisoning; automobile crashes; public drunkenness and destruction of property; high-risk sexual behavior, including rape; and even the possibility of death," Villarreal said. "According to the American Medical Association, 97 percent of college students under 21 are likely to drink during spring break and 80 percent of parents said they were concerned about students drinking alcohol during spring break. "Devastating consequences aside, the abuse of alcohol by underage drinkers will largely be met with a wink and a nod among public officials, and outright promotion by an industry that derives 20 percent of its income from illegal underage drinking," she said.

want. Take the extra step to write out some scenarios that you might face, and state your wishes," he said.

- A spouse has a heart attack, oxygen is cut off to the brain for 10 or more minutes, and consciousness does not return for days.

- A firefighter is burned so severely he loses fingers, toes, ears, and perhaps other limbs, and faces years of excruciating surgeries.

- A young man is in an automobile accident and suffers severe brain trauma that alters not only physical abilities, but also limits ability to learn, to make safe decisions for him or others.

- An elderly grandparent suffers a stroke leaving him unable to speak, swallow, or move one side, and there is no improvement months later.

- A young mother is losing her struggle with cancer, although some hold hope of remission, beyond the opinion of treating medical professionals.

The Directive to Physicians form also can help one know what kind of decisions must be

See CONTROL, Page 4

Keeping a budget is an orderly way of getting through part of the month.

— Quips & Quotes



One perspective

By Francis Shrum

A smashing performance

There are a lot of events I enjoy but don't go to as often as I'd like. The symphony is one of them.

I wasn't raised on classical music. It was sort of an acquired taste in adulthood. Like most genres of music, some of it is enjoyable, some of it not. I'm not much on listening to the heavy, dark stuff.

Last weekend was something of an exception though. You can always count on Joseph Haydn's compositions to be uplifting and relatively lighthearted, and the first half of the performance held true to form. The second half, however, took something of a different turn, with a dark, moody piece by Dmitri Shostakovich about the massacre of some 1,000 unarmed workmen protesting during the Russian Revolution in 1905.

Now, I'm about as far from any kind of valid music critic as you can possibly get. The responses evoked in my thought processes by symphony performances are about as low-brow as they come, because, you see, the thing I enjoy most about the symphony isn't the music.

It's the musicians.

There's something mystical and extraordinary about people who play music professionally, especially on the level of symphony performance. The precision, the timing, the code written into tiny black symbols of dots and squiggles, the ambiance of wood, string, brass and black clothing all combine for a most intriguing effect. Like every other specialized sector of our society, it has it's own unique language, rules of conduct, dress code and patterns of behavior.

Therefore, to an incurable people watcher, the people who participate in this process are extremely interesting.

They come in all shapes and sizes of both sexes, of all ages. Some are beautiful, some not; some have friendly, smiling faces, others are scowling, or have arrogant or austere expressions; some have unreadable faces but expressive hands.

I love to sit way up high for effect, preferably in the balcony, but binoculars are a must to catch the really good stuff.

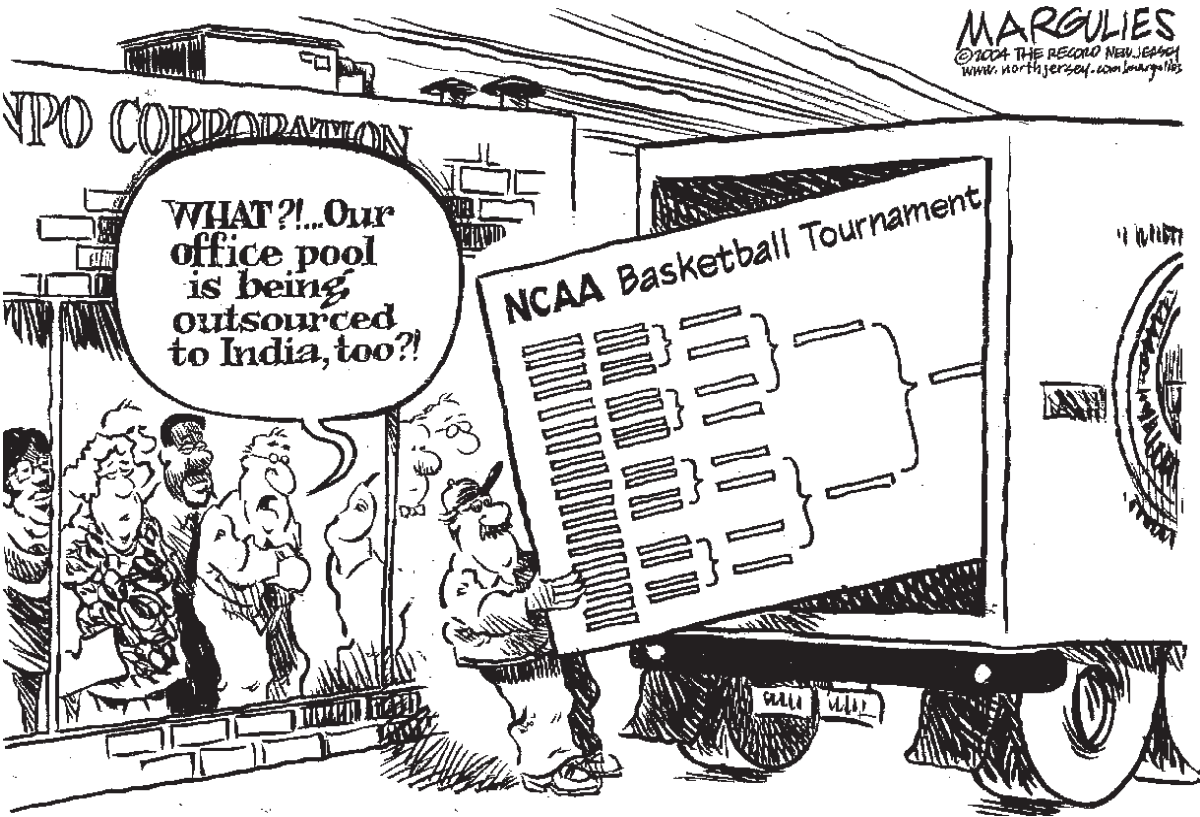
One thing I've noticed is that the long, dark, dramatic performances require a lot more people to make all the special little sounds, so watching a live performance is much more interesting than listening to a CD.

After the Haydn piece, which required only enough musicians to fill about half the seats on the stage, the cavalry arrived in force. They kept coming until I was afraid there wouldn't be room for the energetic little conductor, Christopher Zimmerman, to find his way from the wings back to the podium. But he was just as agile weaving his way past the percussion section and dodging viola bows as he was leading his musical troops through the crashing chords of turn-of-the-century Russia.

A few folks were seated along the walls who, at first, seemed to have no purpose. They sat with folded hands through most of the hour-long event. But I've discovered that they reward these patient ones by letting them make the biggest, most astonishing and outrageous noises, like the gong or the cymbals. The gong-lady, at the height of the massacre scene, was even allowed to give what one of my companions called a "gong solo."

I've never seen a more passionate cymbals man than the one on duty

See SMASHING, Page 6



Reyes Reports By U.S. Rep. Silvestre Reyes



U.S.-Mexico border region is focus of conference

It's not often that CNN's Lou Dobbs — best known for his nightly "Broken Borders" segment — and the CEO of the National Council of La Raza, Janet Murguia, get together to discuss illegal immigration.

However, a roundtable discussion I moderated at the Ninth Annual U.S.-Mexico Border Issues Conference last week brought together not only Dobbs and Murguia, but Congressman David Dreier (R-CA) and Congressman Bob Menendez (D-NJ) — leaders in their respective parties — as well. I led this spirited discussion, which focused on one of the most emotionally charged issues facing our nation today.

We didn't create sweeping legislation to reform our broken federal immigration system — yet we did something equally important that is unfortunately all too rare in Washington. We held a bipartisan conversation — as Republicans and Democrats, as policy leaders with differing ideological persuasions — during which we shared our opinions, listened (yes, listened!) and learned.

In fact, education and conversation was the goal of the entire conference — one I think we achieved. I have played a leadership role in this conference, which is sponsored by the U.S.-Mexico Chamber of Commerce, for the past nine years. We aim to educate federal policymakers about the issues plaguing the border region — issues that have the potential to affect our country as a whole. For example, as a nation, we cannot afford to continually underfund border security or reimbursements for healthcare providers in the border region who provide care for undocumented individuals. Moreover, we can no longer abide by a broken federal immigration policy.

In this day-long program, officials and experts from both the U.S. and Mexico addressed an audience of bipartisan members of Congress, Congressional staffers, and other interested individuals. We held two panel discussions — the morning panel focused on water scarcity and health and included panelists such as the El Paso Water Utilities' CEO Ed Archuleta and leaders of the Pan American Health Organization and the United States-Mexico Foundation for Science.

El Paso native Al Martinez-Fonts, who is the Private Sector Liaison at the Department of Homeland Security, gave the keynote address during the luncheon. The afternoon panel followed the Immigration Roundtable with Rep. Dreier, Rep. Menendez, Dobbs and Murguia. This panel focused on the need to strike a balance between security and the free flow of trade at our ports of entry. Individuals testifying included experts with the Department of Homeland Security's US-VISIT program and the International Bank of Commerce. Sen. John McCain (R-AZ) wrapped up the day as the keynote speaker at our closing reception, stressing the need to create a fair and strong federal immigration policy.

For the ninth year in a row, this conference has educated policymakers about the U.S.-Mexico border region — something I have worked hard to do throughout my career in Congress. With a dialogue that was both spirited and insightful, we presented ideas and suggestions that will help shape federal policies affecting both our region and the nation.

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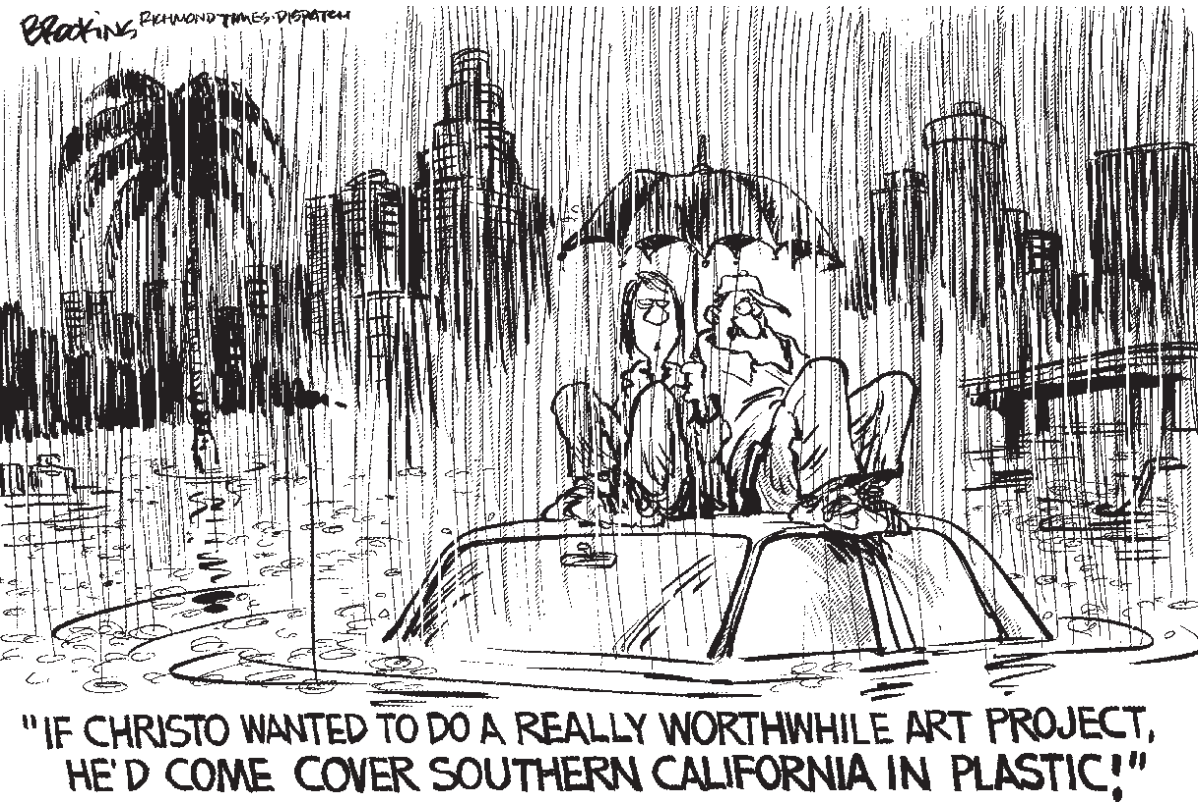
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Eye on D.C. By U.S. Rep. Henry Bonilla

The touch of agriculture

I had a meeting the other day with some folks from the Texas Farm Bureau. They're a great group of people and I always look forward to talking with them. In our meetings, we discuss everything from the price of livestock to the latest cotton regulations to foot and mouth disease. An interesting point was brought up in our last discussion. Does the American public realize how often agriculture touches their daily lives?

It's not something we think about every day. You probably don't get up in the morning, put on your clothes, and consider who raised the sheep for your wool pants or who grew the cotton for your shirt. When we get to the breakfast table, we often forget about the corn that was harvested for our morning bowl of cereal or the cows milked for our tall glass of calcium. When our children arrive at school, we seldom think about the school lunch program they are provided each day. Nor do we think about the vaccinations that keep them safe from disease. And when we stop at the grocery store on our way home, how often do we take for granted the high quality of the products we purchase. The produce and meat are fresh, and the aisles packed with availability and variety. Not many countries have this type of luxury.

I make this point because it's important we understand how fortunate we are to have a safe and successful agriculture industry. Agriculture affects so many aspects of our lives. Beyond food and clothing, the agriculture industry accounts for one in every six U.S. jobs. Farmers and ranchers are not the only people working for this huge industry. Agriculture supports your neighbor who works at the clothing production plant, your friend who manages the local grocery store and even your family pharmacist.

No doubt about it — agriculture fuels our economy. The agriculture industry accounts for two percent of our nation's gross domestic product. It also accounts for \$50 billion in exports each year. Let's not forget that farmers pay incredible sums of money to cover their business expenses. In recent years, farmers paid as much as \$73 billion in purchases and over \$25 billion in employee wages.

When you add up the products, the jobs and the economic advantages you can come to just one conclusion: the agriculture industry is literally the backbone of our country. This was true when the founding fathers met in Philadelphia, it was true during the industrial revolution of the 1800s, and it is still true today.

So the next time you're in the grocery store picking out apples or at a department store selecting a new shirt, think about the time and energy invested in every product you see. We may take these things for granted, but for thousands of people nation-wide these items are truly a necessity of life. Let's be thankful for our agriculture industry and for the men and women who work hard every day to keep it strong.



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Write stuff

Dear Editor:

I would like to thank everyone who donated to the Friends of the Library (El Paso County Library in Fabens). I am not able to describe into words my absolute gratitude. On behalf of all the Friends group members and myself, thank you very much!

We are currently looking for new members. If you would like more information, please contact me at 526-3787 or Elena Slape at 764-3747.

The next meeting is scheduled for March 31, 2005 at 4 p.m. in the El Paso County Library meeting room.

Aurora Avila Fabens

Dear Editor:

Wencho and Ofelia Bosquez and family wish to thank friends, relatives and the community for the expressions of comfort and support, and especially for their prayers, in the loss of their daughter, Angela, on Feb. 26, 2005.

Wencho and Ofelia Bosquez Tornillo

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Punch #4

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Pol. adv. paid for by Jim Pendell, 14501 North Loop Rd., Clint, TX 79836

TRUE TEXAS FACTS by Roger T. Moore

Mar.24 1880:Gen.Phil Sheridan apologized in a speech for saying "If I owned Texas and all of Hell I'd rent out Texas and live in hell."

I should've said "To Heck with Hell, and To Hell with Texas!!"

Fabens trustees attend TASB seminar

CORPUS CHRISTI — Fabens ISD Board of Trustee members Greg Spence, board president; Pepe Ramirez, vice president; Adan Escobar, secretary; and Danny Salcido, member, joined more than 400 local trustees from across the state at the Texas Association of School Boards’ (TASB) Winter Governance and Legal Seminar Feb. 17-19 in Corpus Christi.

The seminar offered practical con-

tinuing education on key issues facing local districts, including school finance, federal and state accountability systems, student readiness for higher education and the workforce, and

trends in personnel, financial management, and school district efficiencies. Participants also explored legal updates on personnel, student, and governance issues, district planning and budgeting,

student speech at school, avoiding conflicts of interest, successful bond elections, open meetings and fair labor standards acts, building leadership teams, and superintendent evaluations.

Courthouse

From Page 1

courtrooms will be offered, including a historical description of the Courthouse mural by artist Carlos Callejo.

Every County department will have a display or exhibit of the work it performs, including the Medical Examiner, Elections, Public Defender, Child Advocacy, Child Welfare, Sheriff’s, County Attorney, District Attorney,

Parks and Recreation, Community Development, Sports Commission and more. Every booth will have giveaways, including pens, key chains, cookies, candies and other goodies. Some departments will hold raffles, such as the Purchasing Department, which will raffle off an Epson 850 printer, a Dell jukebox and a personal organizer, calculators and more.

Ben Murillo, a teacher at Tornillo High School, who attended last year’s Open House along with 30 of his senior government students, described the event as “critical for

young people to understand how their County government works.”

“Government teachers don’t have that much time to teach their students about city or county government,” Murillo said. “We mainly concentrate on federal government and state. By coming to the Open House they were able to learn volumes about the County in one day.”

El Paso County’s Open House celebration is free to the public and everybody is invited.

For information call 834-8235.

— Contributed by Guadalupe Silva

Control

From Page 1

made. But just filling out the form is not enough, Dr. Allen said. The form and your decisions should be discussed with your physician and included in your medical record. And the person who will represent you in those decisions also needs a copy of the form.

A third form is helpful for individuals in nursing homes, assisted living, or at home. It is called the Do-Not-Resuscitate Out-of-Hospital form. This is critical if one does not want extraordinary measures being used by paramedics responding to an emergency call.

“Other situations fall to parents to make decisions for their minor children,” Dr. Allen noted. “Such as those born with birth defects so severe the infant will never survive without con-

tinuous medical intervention. Or any of the accidents that children and teenagers suffer that can be so critical as to be life threatening.”

To read more about all three forms and to download them, go to www.texmed.org/directive. “Print out the information, read it, study it, discuss it with your family, and fill out the forms,” Dr. Allen said. “Promise yourself, and your family, that you will fulfill this responsibility within a week. Why on earth wouldn’t you?”

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Public Notice

Do You Want to be Involved in Spending Over \$500 Million of YOUR Tax Dollars?

WHO, WHAT?
The El Paso Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) is affording an opportunity to all residents of El Paso County and the City of Sunland Park NM (MPO study area) to review, comment and/or offer ideas on spending over \$500 million dollars on transportation projects. The 2006-2010 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) is being presented for public review, and is a document that describes projects that will be implemented in 5 years in the El Paso MPO study area. Projects include construction and maintenance of highways as well as improvements to transit service and facilities. The 30-day comment period will begin on **March 24, 2005 and will end on April 22, 2005.**

WHY?
All residents have the RIGHT to be informed and to participate in this transportation decision-making process. Your opinion is important and it counts. The TIP is a document that uses your tax dollars for regional transportation projects.

WHERE?
The El Paso MPO is hosting **Public Meetings** during a 30-day public comment period to inform residents about the 2006-2010 TIP; to encourage discussions and comments about the TIP and where the document will be available. MPO staff will be present to receive comments and answer questions. The public meetings are scheduled as follows:

Aviso Público

Quiere opinar sobre como se deben invertir \$500 Millones de dólares de sus impuestos?

QUE, QUIEN?
La Organización Metropolitana de Planeación (MPO) de El Paso anuncia el inicio del período de 30 días para recibir comentarios de los habitantes de la zona de estudio de la MPO, que incluye al Condado de El Paso y la Ciudad de Sunland Park, Nuevo Mexico, sobre el **Programa para el Mejoramiento del Transporte (TIP) 2006-2010**. Este documento programa los proyectos de transporte que se implementarán en el area metroplitanan de El Paso durante los próximos 5 años, que incluyen la construcción y el mantenimniento de carreteras, y las mejoras al servicio e infraestructura del servicio de transporte público. El período de 30 días comenzará el **24 de marzo de 2005 y finalizará el 22 de abril de 2005.**

PORQUE?
Toda persona que vive en la zona de estudio de la MPO tiene el derecho de estar informado y de participar en el proceso de toma de decisiones sobre los proyectos y planes de transporte. Su opinión es importante y cuenta.

DONDE?
La MPO ha programado una serie de **reuniones públicas** durante el periodo de 30 días para presentar el TIP 2006-2010 a la comunidad y para recibir comentarios y sugerencias. Personal de la MPO estará presentes para hacer las presentaciones y para aclarar cualquier duda. Las reuniones están programadas como sigue:

<p>Monday, March 28, 2005 Lunes, Marzo 28 de 2005 San Martin de Porras Catholic Church 1885 McNutt Road Sunland Park, NM 88063 5:30 p.m. — 7:00 p.m.</p>	<p>Tuesday, March 29, 2005 Martes, Marzo 29 de 2005 Guillen Middle School 900 S. Cotton St. El Paso, TX 79901 5:30 p.m. — 7:00 p.m.</p>	<p>Wednesday, March 30, 2005 Miercoles, Marzo 30 de 2005 Northeast Regional Command Center 9600 Dyer El Paso, TX 79924 5:30 p.m. — 7:00 p.m.</p>
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The 2006-2010 TIP is available at the Public Library branches, and at the following locations:

Village of Vinton Town Hall 436 Vinton Rd Vinton, TX 79821	Texas Department of Transportation Advanced Transportation Planning 13301 Gateway Blvd. West El Paso, TX 79928	City of El Paso Planning Dept. City Hall - Second Floor 2 Civic Center Plaza El Paso, TX 79901
Town of Horizon City Town Hall 14999 Darrington Road Horizon City, TX 79928	Sun Metro 700 San Francisco El Paso, TX 79901	City of Sunland Park Town Hall 1000 McNutt Road Sunland Park, NM 88063
Town of Clint Town Hall 200 N. San Elizario Road Clint, TX 79836	Town of Anthony Town Hall 401 Oak St. Anthony, TX 79835	City of Socorro City Hall 124 S. Horizon Blvd. Socorro, TX 79927

For more information and/or to view the TIP, please contact Roger Williams at the El Paso MPO Office, 10767 Gateway Blvd. W., Suite 605, El Paso, TX.; (915) 591-9735, Ext. 24 or log on to www.elpasompo.org to make comments on the TIP.

WTCC: 03/24/05

Los documentos también se pueden acceder a través de la pagina web de la MPO www.elpasompo.org donde se pueden hacer comentarios y sugerencias. Para mayor información, favor contactar a Roger Williams en la oficina de la MPO al (915) 591-9735, Ext. 24.

Briefs

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p.m. If the weather is bad, it will be in the fellowship hall. Contact Julie Jones at 851-2702 for further information.

■ St. Brendan’s Episcopal Church is sponsoring an Easter Egg Hunt in the Horizon City Park, adjacent to the Oz Glaze Senior Citizen’s Center on Saturday, March 26, at 10 a.m. The egg hunt is for children of eight years or younger, however, free hot dogs and drinks will be offered for everyone. The event is open to the community.

■ Navy Seaman Apprentice Christopher J. Arzaga, stepson of Juan Barrera and son of Bertha A. Arzaga of El Paso, recently completed U.S. Navy basic training at Recruit Training Command, Great Lakes, Ill. During the eight-week program, Arzaga completed a variety of training which included classroom study and practical instruction on naval customs, first aid, firefighting, water safety and survival, and shipboard and aircraft safety, with emphasis on physical fitness. Arzaga is a 2003 graduate of Clint High School.

■ The 14th Annual Albuquerque Antiquarian Book Fair will be held on April 1-2 at the University of New Mexico’s Continuing Education Center, 1634 University Blvd. in Albuquerque. This is New Mexico’s oldest and largest

antiquarian event, with 30 dealers of used, out-of-print, and rare materials from across the Southwest gathered in one location. For additional information call (505) 291-9653 or log on at www.unm.edu/~alshal/aabf.html. The event is sponsored by the Maxwell Museum Association.

■ \$300 million in defense funding is heading to Fort Bliss and El Paso following a recent vote on the fiscal year 2005 Emergency Supplemental Bill. Congressman Silvestre Reyes voted in favor of the \$81.4 billion bill, which in large part funds the Department of Defense for the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. Funding is also included to assist in reconstruction efforts in regions of South Asia devastated by last year’s tsunami. The Emergency Supplemental includes:

- \$22 million for a new barracks for soldiers who are mobilizing and demobilizing out of Fort Bliss for Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom;
- \$47 million for site preparation and utility work at Biggs Army Airfield (roads, water, sewers, and electricity) for the 3,800 new soldiers coming to Fort Bliss, many of whom will be returning from Iraq beginning in April.;
- \$134 million for the construction and procurement of temporary buildings at Biggs Army Airfield to accommodate the new soldiers; and
- \$91 million for 90 Army Tactical Missile System (ATACMS) missiles, which are assembled at the Lockheed Martin plant in Horizon City. These will replace missiles

used in Iraq. “Fort Bliss and El Paso are anticipating up to 10,000 new people with this new influx of soldiers,” said Reyes. “Moreover, these soldiers will start arriving beginning in April and next year’s funds will not be available soon enough to meet El Paso’s impending needs.”

■ The Business Express Loan Fair, March 30, will help small business owners learn about and apply for unsecured business loans from \$5,000 to \$25,000. The SBA’s Community Express Loan Program was designed to provide financial and critical technical assistance to the small business market to make growth capital more available. The fair begins at 4 p.m. at the Center for Workforce Preparedness Building located at 1359 Lomaland Drive, El Paso, Texas. Interested individuals can meet with representatives on a one-on-one, come and go basis.

■ There is a need for host families in the El Paso County area for international exchange students, ages 15 to 18, for the upcoming semester or school year. From a variety of countries and cultures, these students are English-speaking, have own spending money and health insurance. To learn more about these programs or to schedule an interview with a representative, call Pacific Intercultural Exchange at 1-800-631-1818 or ASSE international Student Exchange Program at 1-800-473-0696.


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Notice of Public Hearing
Town of Clint, Texas

Project Completion and Closeout
Texas Community Development Program
STEP Project #722056

The Town of Clint will conduct a public hearing to solicit the input and participation of all its residents in its Texas Community Development Program project. Please attend this meeting and voice your opinion concerning the completion of the TCDP-assisted improvements to the water system.

The hearing will include discussion of the completed activities of the TCDP-funded project and the Town’s performance in implementing the project, including location, general cost, and project benefits.

DATE OF THE HEARING: Tuesday, March 29, 2005
HEARING LOCATION: Clint Community Center
TIME OF HEARING: 6:00 p.m.

The Town of Clint has a Citizen Participation Plan that provides for and encourages citizen participation at all stages of the Community Development Program; copies are available by request. Persons unable to attend this public hearing may submit their views regarding completion of the project at the Town Hall in Clint, Texas.

Accommodations for handicapped persons will be available; handicapped persons in need of special assistance for attending the hearing are encouraged to contact the Town Clerk at (915) 851-3146.

El publico en general está invitado a asistir a esta audiencia. La presentación y discusión del Programa de Desarrollo de la Comunidad del Estado de Texas se haran en español para aquellas personas que asi lo deseen.

Dale Reinhardt, Mayor
Town of Clint, Texas
Date Published:
03/24/05



UTEP BELIEVE

THE SPRING GAME IS HERE

FRIDAY APRIL 22ND @ 7:00 P.M.

BE AT THE SUN BOWL TO GET YOUR FIRST LOOK AT THE 2005 MINERS

McGwire’s performance before Congress anything but Major League

By Steve Escajeda
Special to the Courier

I must admit it was riveting television, but at the same time it was very difficult to watch. One of the most anticipated sights in all of sports over the last 10 years has been watching baseball slugger Mark McGwire step into the batter’s box and wave that huge piece of lumber at an opposing pitcher. All of us stopped what we were doing for those two or three minutes until Big Mac either struck out, flied out, or hit it about 450 feet into the stands. We’d stare at the ball as it continued on its flight with our mouths open wondering where he got the power to hit it that far. Last week, we found out. It was very difficult for many people to watch McGwire do everything, but invoke his Fifth Amendment rights, in an attempt to avoid answering questions from a congressional committee concerning steroid use in Major League Baseball. While Rafael Palmeiro defiantly pointed his finger at the group saying he had never taken

steroids or any other kind of human growth supplements, McGwire simply took the coward’s way out and refused to answer the question — looking more like a guilty mortal than an American hero. I have very few heroes in professional sports anymore, but I must admit that of the few, McGwire was one — and I must say it again — he *was* one. I have absolutely no doubt that he is sincere when he talks about wanting to be involved in trying to fix the problem for the many young men and women out there who believe a better body through chemistry is the only way to make it to the big time. I do believe that a person who has a certain problem can sometimes be the best qualified to help others with that same problem. But how can McGwire help others if he isn’t even willing to come clean about his own involvement? A lot of people lost a lot of respect for McGwire last week. It doesn’t mean he can’t get it back, but it starts with being a man and being honest. Americans respect a man who makes a mistake and then admits it, takes re-

sponsibility for it, and then goes out and does whatever he can to fix it. What Americans despise are lawyers, politicians, business owners and baseball players who dance around the question because they think the ample amount of money in their pockets allows them certain law-breaking privileges the rest of us lack. At one point in the questioning, a committee member asked McGwire if he thought taking steroids was cheating. McGwire, who fielded the question as well as Canseco once fielded a fly ball off his head, actually answered, “that’s not for me to determine.” Excuse me? McGwire couldn’t even admit that taking steroids is cheating? He started his day in front of the committee with an opening statement that talked about how he was concerned with kids getting involved with steroids. And now he can’t even tell America’s children that using steroids is cheating. How incredibly sad this one-time hero now is. Hear that whistling sound? That’s the sound of more McGwire respect escaping into thin air. And while McGwire performed dreadfully,

damaging his reputation beyond repair, he wasn’t the only person who left the hearing smelling like Martha Stewart. MLB commissioner Bud Selig and player representative Donald Fehr looked just as foolish, trying to double-speak their way through the verbal minefields set up by the committee members. Selig told the committee he didn’t think the problem was as big as they were making it out to be. Fehr, when asked if it was true that under the current agreement players could break the law (take steroids) four times before receiving a lifetime ban, answered “yes.” The amazing thing is that these two men had absolutely no clue how ridiculous they looked, and it wasn’t difficult to see that they didn’t even care. It wasn’t very hard to see that Mark McGwire was the biggest loser in these hearings. But professional baseball wasn’t far behind. In the end, what did we learn from the hearings? We learned that MLB is dishonest, disreputable and extremely arrogant. We learned one other thing, we now know how Big Mac got super-sized.

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Oscar Arrieta
Allstate Agent



Smashing

From Page 2

that night. His diminutive, benign frame exploded with energy and force each time he smashed those things together, rattling his arms, his teeth and the floor. I was envious. But the one fellow who kept me the most curious was seated at the far right front of the stage. He didn’t participate at all — other than to scratch his nose and bob his head to

the music — for so long that I decided he must be security. Until the finale. As the cymbals clashed, the brass screamed, the harp throbbed, the drums rolled, the gong thundered, the violas wept, and the cellos roared, he rose to do his part. Standing almost unnoticed near the front edge of the stage was a narrow rack hung with chimes almost as tall as he was. He stood in front of them and, with authority and gusto, struck them resoundingly with a mallet in each hand. The chimes reverberated into the crescendo with each blow.

He struck again, three times, four, and then... I watched in amazement as the rack, moved by the force of each blow, simply took a nose dive, right off the stage, crashing into the empty chairs directly below, striking some unplanned and unanticipated chords. Our man was cool to the end, though. After the initial shocked expression, he simply clasped his hands over his mallets and stood waiting for the end to come. All in all, I thought it was a smashing performance.

Classified Ads

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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:

THURSDAY, MARCH 31, 2005

SECOND LANGUAGE LEARNING CURRICULUM CSP NO. 199-0331-0596 ACCEPTED UNTIL 2 P.M.

NOVELTY AWARDS CSP NO. 199-0331-0562 ACCEPTED UNTIL 2:30 P.M.

MEDICAID

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HIE RADU SERENA OPINE
EDNORTON MAKINWHOOPEE
REAM LENA OFA EAR
LIMA ASIAN UTTERLY
PITTSBURGH STEELERS
IDI GALA LAWN OTIS
ALES CANTEEN RHODESIA
FEST UNION ION LXI
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INCKEEL ZOWIE USSR
GIUSEPPE KATRINAACHE
CROC GALL LCDS HAI
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IRKSOME LEAVE RIAL
NEE INA ODOR TAIL
THEBORNLOSER JEOPARDY
RANIN EMPLOY ADIT LEN
OBESERATON IOLA YAN

SERVICES CSP NO. 199-0331-0561 ACCEPTED UNTIL 3 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 and on the Socorro Independent School District’s website: www.sisd.net. WTCC-03/24/05

Texas Boll Weevil Eradication Foundation

Texas Boll Weevil Eradication Foundation, Inc. is soliciting bids for the manual application of pink bollworm pheromone ropes. Ropes will be tied to

cotton plants at an approximate rate of 200 ropes per acre at certain stages of growth. A minimum of 20-30 people over a two to four-week period will be needed for this activity. Applications of ropes in the El Paso and Trans Pecos areas will begin in late May or early June. Bidders must furnish the Foundation, Workers Compensation coverage prior to contract approval. Bids will be accepted through March 31, 2005. For more information and detailed instructions, please contact the local Foundation office at (877) 765-2139, or the Foundation Headquarters office at (800) 687-1212 Ext. 3124. WTCC: 03/24/05

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 South West Wrecker, 1401 Darrington Rd., 855-1900, 851-2091-fax, or it will be sold at public auction for charges: VIN - IFTEFI5Y3TLA27530,

1996 Ford F-150 pickup truck, New Mexico license FTJ 547 WTCC-03/24/05

GARAGE SALES

FIVE-FAMILY YARD SALE - 4/9-4/10, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., off Alameda, 142 Jeff Jones in Clint. Call 851-0460.

REAL ESTATE

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• 16 acres on Harnose
• Valley Home For Sale
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Persons who have a problem with alcohol are offered a free source of help locally. Alcoholics Anonymous - call 562-4081 for information.

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9	10	11	12
13	14	15	(STOP HERE FOR \$5 AD.)
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20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31
32	33	34	35
Please print.Send form and payment (no cash) to:		Contact Information:	
West Texas County Courier 14200 Ashford, Ste. C Horizon City, TX 79928		Name: _____	
Deadline: Mondays		Phone: _____	

Social Security Q&A

By Ray Vigil

Q: My company's pension plan benefits are based on my last five years of earnings. Are my Social Security benefits figured the same way?

A: No. Retirement benefit calculations are based on your average earnings during a lifetime of work under the Social Security system. For most current and future retirees, we will average your 35 highest years of earnings. Years in which you have low earnings or no earnings may be counted to bring the total years

of earnings up to 35.

Q: I stopped work at the end of last year, when I was 52. I don't expect to work again, and will probably file for Social Security retirement benefits when I turn 62. Will I still get the same benefit amount that is shown on the Social Security Statement that I recently received?

A: Probably not. When Social Security calculated your 35 highest years of earnings to estimate your future

benefits on your Statement, there was an assumption that you would continue to work until age 62, making the same earnings you made last year. If, instead, you have zero earnings each year over the next 10 years, your average earnings will probably be less and so will your benefit.

Q: The Internal Revenue Service has sent me a letter saying money for overdue taxes may be taken from my Social Security payments. Does Social Security allow that?

A: If you owe overdue taxes to the IRS, money can be taken from your

Social Security payments, reducing your payments by as much as 15 percent a month. However, before this would happen, you would get a letter from Social Security explaining how and why your benefits are being reduced.

Q: My insurance agent told me that I should consider buying disability insurance. But I remember hearing that I already have some disability insurance protection through Social Security. Would a private policy offset any of the Social Security disability benefit I would be eligible for?

A: No. Neither your eligibility for, nor the amount of your Social Security disability payments, is affected by any private insurance you may buy. But worker's compensation and some public disability payments may affect your Social Security benefit.

For more information visit your local Security office, see 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
Sunshine and patchy clouds.	Mostly cloudy and windy.	Times of clouds and sun; maybe a shower.	Mostly sunny.	A good deal of sunshine.	Mainly sunny.	Sunny to partly cloudy.	Abundant sunshine.
▲ 72°	▼ 52°	▲ 68° ▼ 46°	▲ 64° ▼ 41°	▲ 66° ▼ 44°	▲ 72° ▼ 51°	▲ 74° ▼ 51°	▲ 78° ▼ 54°

UV INDEX

Statistics for noon.

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

Thursday	9	Very High
Friday	7	High
Saturday	9	Very High
Sunday	9	Very High
Monday	9	Very High
Tuesday	9	Very High
Wednesday	9	Very High

TEXAS WEATHER

Anthony	71	49
Canutillo	71	50
Clint	72	50
E. Montana	72	52
Fabens	71	50
Horizon	73	52
San Elizario	69	49
Socorro	71	51
Tornillo	71	50
Vinton	71	50

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

TRAVELERS CITIES

City	Thur. Hi/Low/W	Fri. Hi/Low/W	Sat. Hi/Low/W	Sun. Hi/Low/W	Mon. Hi/Low/W
Albuquerque	58/38/sh	54/36/sh	58/34/sh	60/39/s	68/43/pc
Atlanta	68/51/s	76/56/pc	77/54/t	67/47/t	65/46/pc
Atlantic City	45/33/r	52/37/r	54/40/r	50/43/r	57/39/sh
Austin/San Antonio	80/54/pc	82/57/t	80/46/pc	60/44/pc	72/50/s
Baltimore	49/36/r	56/38/r	55/40/r	55/38/r	59/40/pc
Boston	43/34/sf	48/34/r	46/34/r	42/39/r	50/39/c
Chicago	46/36/pc	44/36/r	44/28/c	46/32/pc	53/36/pc
Dallas/Ft. Worth	76/55/pc	79/58/t	64/45/t	57/44/pc	69/51/s
Denver	52/30/pc	50/28/c	46/26/r	55/35/s	65/32/c
Flagstaff	38/30/sf	38/20/sn	43/22/sf	49/26/s	56/28/pc
Houston	80/60/t	82/62/t	80/58/t	68/50/sh	74/55/s
Kansas City	60/36/t	57/39/c	54/36/r	55/37/pc	61/43/pc
Las Vegas	64/49/c	66/44/pc	68/45/pc	70/51/s	75/49/pc
Miami	84/74/t	86/74/s	86/72/pc	86/68/pc	84/64/pc
Minneapolis	39/26/sn	36/22/sf	40/26/pc	46/31/pc	49/37/c
New Orleans	75/63/pc	80/65/pc	81/60/t	74/50/t	68/55/s
New York City	46/39/r	50/38/r	49/42/r	49/44/r	54/43/c
Philadelphia	48/34/r	52/40/r	50/40/r	50/38/r	58/42/c
Phoenix	68/50/pc	65/48/sh	70/53/pc	74/56/s	80/57/s
Portland	54/40/sh	56/44/pc	54/46/r	54/46/r	57/37/r
San Francisco	59/47/sh	61/47/pc	62/51/pc	64/51/c	64/48/r
Seattle	54/40/sh	52/44/pc	52/46/r	52/46/r	54/37/r
Tucson	66/50/pc	64/42/sh	70/42/pc	72/48/s	78/52/s
Washington, DC	48/38/r	58/42/r	58/42/r	51/47/r	60/44/pc

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

AGRICULTURE

High pressure will control the weather Thursday and bring sunshine along with mild temperatures. An upper-level disturbance will cross the area Friday and may bring a brief shower, but any rain will be under 0.20 of an inch. Sunny and windy conditions will be the rule for Saturday. Expect a gradual warming trend early next week.

All forecasts and maps provided by **AccuWeather, Inc.** ©2005

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