



## NEWSBRIEFS

### Replenishing aid

In El Paso County, hundreds of residents will contribute to the fourth annual MLK (Martin Luther King) Canned Food Drive, which will be held from Jan. 5 to Jan. 16, 2006. Since its inception five years ago El Pasoans have donated over 70 tons of non-perishable canned or dried food to organizations in our community, which serve the less fortunate. Starting on Thursday, Jan. 5, there will be hundreds of drop-off sites throughout the county where individuals can place their donations. On Jan. 16 the food will be collected and sent to a warehouse where it will be sorted by volunteers and distributed among several beneficiaries including the Salvation Army, the Opportunity Center for the Homeless, the Houchen Community Center the Center Against Family Violence, The Montana Vista and Sparks Community Centers and others. The donations will help replenish much of the food supply, which was depleted during the holiday season. Look for the large donation bins at many local supermarkets. For more information on where to donate call 740-3325.

### Drug arrest

Over half a ton of narcotics was seized by agents of the U.S. Customs and Border Protection in the Santa Teresa area on Dec. 23, when they followed tire marks from the border and attempted a traffic stop on a 2005 Gold Chevrolet pickup. The truck, with taillights covered by tape, did not stop until tire deflation devices were deployed. The driver, 20-year-old Jose Guadalupe Medina Perez of Leon Guanajuato, Mexico was arrested. The pickup matched a stolen vehicle report out of El Paso. Estimated street value of the 1,387 pounds of marijuana recovered is over \$1 million. During fiscal year 2005, agents made over 281 seizures, confiscating more than \$50 million in illegal narcotics.

### In other news

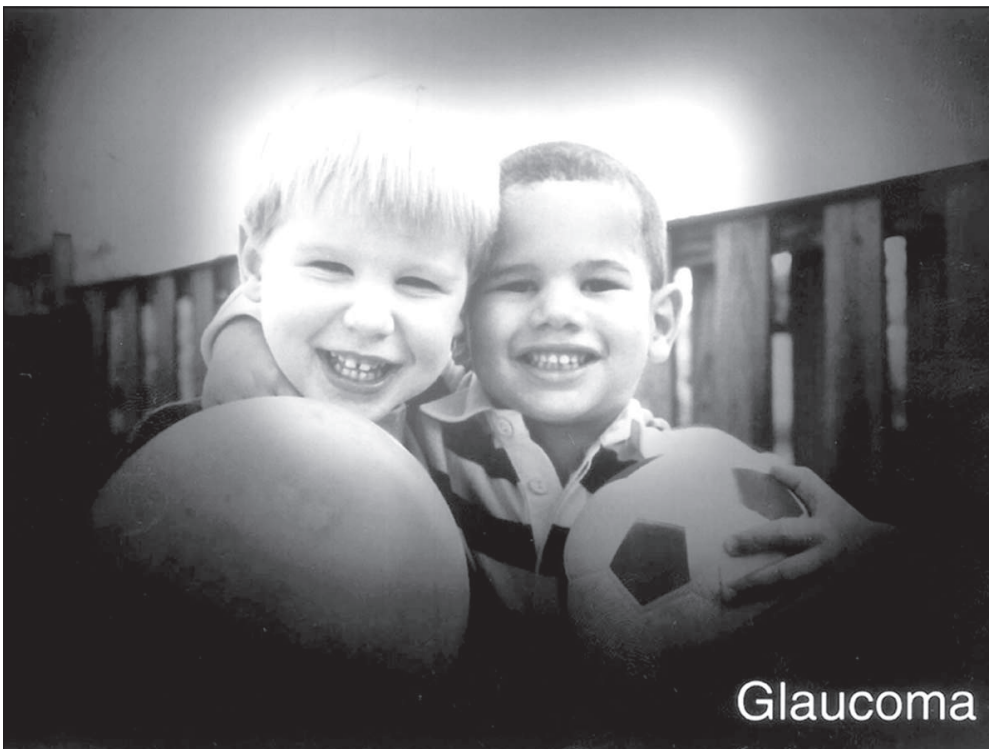
■ The Horizon City Youth Association will host sign-ups for the Youth Basketball season for both boys and girls, ages 7-12, at the Horizon Vista Food Store on two Saturdays, Jan. 7 and Jan. 14, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and on two Sundays, Jan. 8 and Jan. 15, from 1-4 p.m. Fee per child is \$25. For more information call Keenan Gresheth, 852-1001.

■ The International Coin Club of El Paso will hold its 43rd Annual Coin Show on Feb. 17-19 at the El Maida Shrine Center, 6331 Alabama Street in El Paso. Show hours begin at 1 p.m. on the 17th; and 9 a.m. on the 18th-19th. Over 50 coin dealers from eight states will be on hand to buy and sell. The ICC also meets the first and third Thursdays of each month at Mike and Anna's Mexican Restaurant, 1850

See BRIEFS, Page 5

*Occasionally you meet one of those strange people who is polite and isn't trying to sell you anything.*

— Quips & Quotes



— Photos courtesy EyeCare America

THE HALO EFFECT — What a person with glaucoma might see.

## National eyecare group works to prevent blindness by providing free eye exams

EL PASO COUNTY — Like the back up caused by a heavy down-pour, poor drainage of a person's eye can lead to glaucoma, a leading cause of blindness in the U.S. Nearly three million people have glaucoma, but half do not realize it because there are often no warning symptoms.

During Glaucoma Awareness Month, January of 2006, EyeCare America, the public service foundation of the American Academy of Ophthalmology, encourages those without insurance to take advantage of its national Glaucoma EyeCare Program. There are approximately 40 ophthalmologists in El Paso County participating in the project.

In a healthy eye, fluid is constantly being made and drained through a microscopic, drainage canal. When something blocks or prevents this natural drainage, the pressure inside the eye goes up. Glaucoma is often caused by increased pressure that can develop when the fluids in the eye are not draining properly. This condition eventually damages the nerve that connects the eye to the brain (the optic nerve)

and leads to loss of vision.

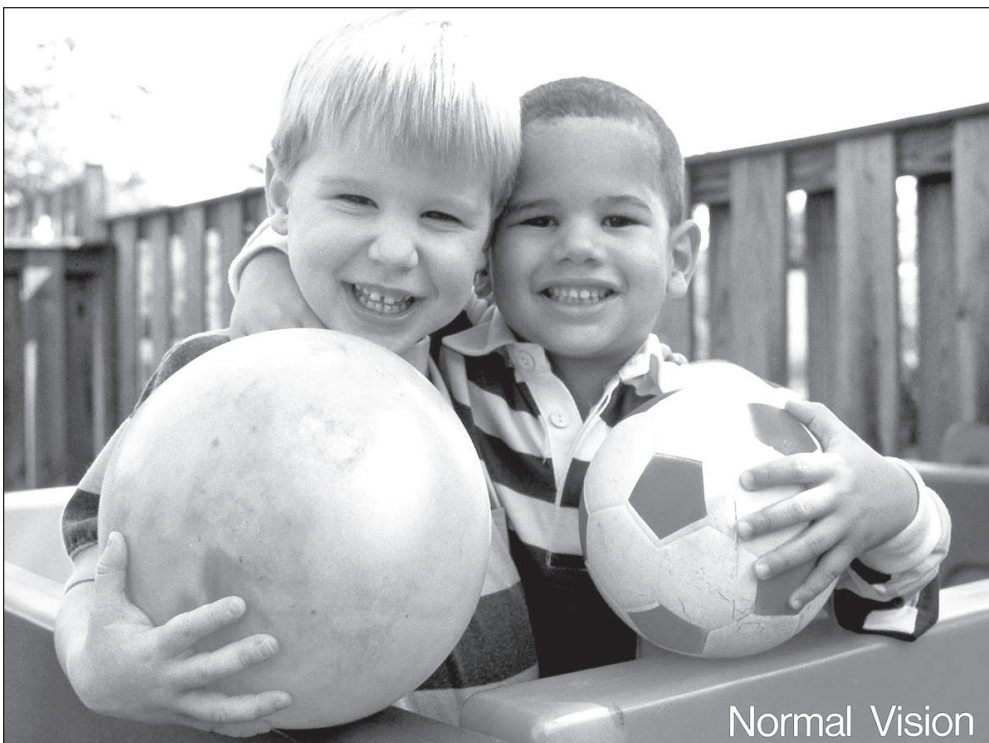
The EyeCare program offers glaucoma eye exams for those at increased risk of glaucoma. To see if you, a relative or a friend, is eligible to receive a referral for an eye exam and care, call 1-800-391-EYES (3937), 24 hours a day, every day, year round. All eligible callers receive a referral to one of EyeCare America's 7,500 volunteer ophthalmologists.

Those eligible for a referral through the glaucoma program receive a glaucoma eye exam and the initiation of treatment, if deemed necessary. Uninsured patients will receive the above care at no charge.

While occasionally, glaucoma may come on suddenly; most cases progress so slowly there are often no warning signs before damage inside the eye has already occurred. In most cases, a person's side vision (peripheral vision) is noticeably affected.

The causes for glaucoma are not completely known, but risk factors for its development

See GLAUCOMA, Page 4



CRYSTAL CLEAR — What a person would see through healthy eyes.

## Texas fighting wildfires from ground and air

RINGGOLD — Gov. Rick Perry traveled to Nacona and Ringgold this week, two towns in fire-ravaged Montague County where 3,200 residents were evacuated to safety this week. Perry met with local officials and took a helicopter tour to assess damages.

"Texas is continuing to make every effort to protect lives and property," Perry said. "And we have received much-appreciated aid from other states, including Alabama, Florida, Louisiana, Tennessee, and Wisconsin, and support from the U.S. Forest Service."

Last week, the state responded to 58 wildfires which destroyed 72 homes and burned almost 50,000 acres of land. Ringgold was particularly hard-hit, with its approximately 100 residents losing 32 homes. To battle these blazes, aircraft flew 122 missions dropping more than 147,350 gallons of fire retardant.

"I want to thank the thousands of fire fighters throughout the state who — at great peril — have saved the lives and homes of their fellow Texans. Their efforts have been remarkable," Perry said. "Since the fires began, more than 500 homes and entire towns have been saved."

More than 520 state and out-of-state fire fighters are on the ground helping the thousands of local and volunteer fire fighters. Texas has 97 aircraft fighting the blazes from above, in addition to the 88 bulldozer crews and 32 fire engines fighting the fires from the ground.

Perry has taken the following steps to assist the communities impacted by the fires:

- Issued a statewide declaration of emergency Dec. 27 for all 254 Counties due to the extreme wildfire threat,
- Asked Small Business Administration and the U.S. Department of Agriculture to make low interest loans available to affected farmers, ranchers and business owners,
- Requested a presidential disaster declaration on Dec. 28 to make impacted counties eligible for federal public assistance to help rebuild communities and defray the millions of dollars spent by local governments to fight the fires, and
- Amended his presidential request on Dec. 30 to request that individuals and families be made eligible for federal assistance to help rebuild their lives and homes.

Since the rash of wildfires began in December, 139 fires have consumed more than 80,000 acres of land and destroyed 241 homes across the state. Three Texans have lost their lives.

"We share in the grief of those who have lost family members and loved ones, and we offer you our prayers," Perry said. "I thank communities across Texas for the strength you have shown."

Perry also warned that the wildfire threat is expected to continue in the days and weeks ahead. Weather conditions are projected to worsen with sustained low humidity and above average temperatures. Forecasters are also predicting high winds, which increase the difficulty of fighting the fires from the air. "Firefighting (are being) assets pre-deployed so that we can immediately respond to new wildfire threats wherever they appear," Perry said.





# One perspective

By Francis Shrum

## A year of PC

Political correctness (PC) reached new heights this year when we almost had riots in the streets over whether to call this time of year the Christmas season or the more socially general “holiday season.”

There was a movement to replace “God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen” with “God Rest Ye Merry Persons” — apparently to comfort all those people who are offended by the fact that the God they are supposedly calling on chose to give them a gender.

We even got down to calling all those dead trees we set up and stick baubles on in town squares all across this country “holiday trees.”

Now, I don’t care what you call it. A Christmas tree is a Christmas tree. It is what it is. Just like a thief is a thief and a liar is a liar.

Perhaps the more politically correct way to say that would be “A rose by any other name...”

If we were really all that concerned that somebody was going to be of-

fended by a Christmas tree, we just shouldn’t put the thing up. It’s not going to help by calling it something we figure will make it a little less unpalatable.

But that’s what it’s all about, isn’t it?

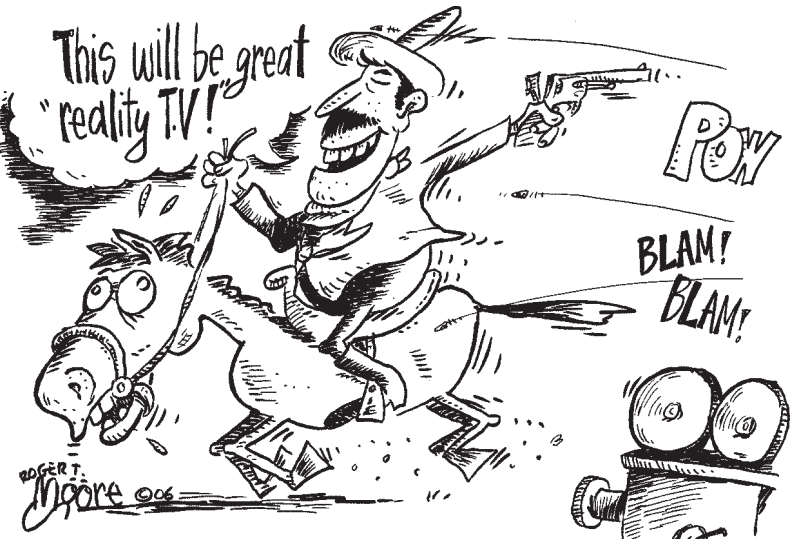
Let’s keep it PC, always. That way black isn’t black anymore nor white, white. There is no need to acknowledge, accommodate, forgive or otherwise suffer personal discomfort.

It all becomes just one ugly, nauseating, comatose, offensive shade of gray.


There’s this group of folks that call themselves the Global Language Monitor, a non-profit organization that monitors the way we humans use the gift of language. Every year they release a list of words or terms that, over the past year, have managed to raise the eyebrows of even those most injured by political correctness.

Get this one: Some folks wanted to replace “brainstorming” with “thought shower” so as not to offend those who have brain disorders.

Or this: The British Broadcasting



**Moore Texas** by Robert T. Moore Jan.3,1914:Pancho Villa contracts with a Hollywood Movie Co. to record his army in action.



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Corporation, in it’s unending search for news content that is utterly objective and devoid of emotionalism, decided to call terrorists “misguided criminals.”

Hmmm.

And one that I found amusing was an attempt to substitute the term “deferred success” for “failure” by Britain’s Professional Association of Teachers in their fervor to bolster the self-esteem of less-than-motivated students.

That one shouldn’t be surprising at all. We’ve practically made it an art form in this country. In fact, we’ve made it possible for folks to defer success right up to the moment they stop breathing.

Ironically, the same folks who want everybody to be the same “Merry Persons” want to neuter the human species from a whole new angle — by denying any connection at all between the genders. They wanted to change the spelling of “women” to “womyn” to distance it from the spelling of “men.”

Meanwhile, one university professor nearly lost his job when he used the term “intrinsic aptitude” in addressing the reasons why more men than women are involved in engineering and science.

So much for variety being the spice of life. In a society which professes to celebrate cultural diversity and tolerance of social differences, we are in a terrible hurry to make everything the same — or at least pretend that they are.

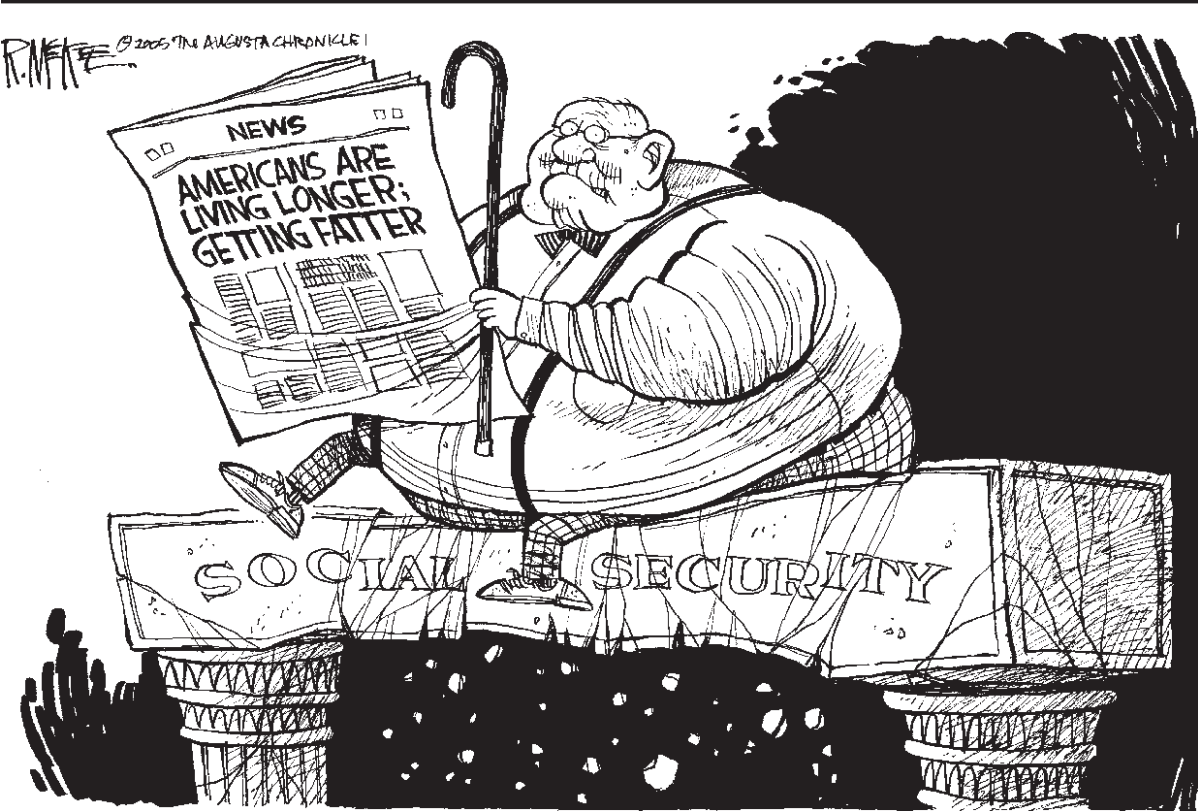
It’s a simple fact — there are some folks that are just smarter than others. Some people wear glasses, have lost limbs due to birth defect or injury, have skin of lighter or darker color, were born within or outside of artificial boundaries drawn on the ground, have varying personality traits, strengths or weaknesses.


People are what they are on the inside, no matter whether they indulge in plastic surgery, buy a new house or wardrobe, or call themselves “womyn.”

It takes all kinds to make the world go round. If you don’t have male and female, you don’t get offspring. If you don’t have people of various aptitudes and personalities, you have jobs that won’t get done.

I was a little encouraged, though, by the position taken this year by members of the Australian Parliament when some bureaucrat decided it wasn’t appropriate for the security staff to address the members of Parliament as “mate.” Not so, the members said. *Not* being called “mate” was unpatriotic.

That’s a decision I’d say was *really* politically correct.





## Reyes Reports

By U.S. Rep. Silvestre Reyes

# New funding to aid BRAC preparations

El Paso is expected to grow by about 60,000 soldiers and family members due to the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) and overseas basing process, and local schools need to be prepared for a major influx of new schoolchildren.

The federal government already has a program administered by the U.S. Department of Education to assist schools that educate a large percentage of military children. Known as Impact Aid, it compensates school districts for tax revenue lost by a local federal presence, which in our case is Fort Bliss. Due to the location of Fort Bliss, the El Paso Independent School District (EPISD) is unable to collect sufficient operating funds through income taxes and relies on Impact Aid funding to supplement its budget. Since 1998, EPISD has received almost \$220 million in Impact Aid funding.

Knowing of the importance of Impact Aid in educating El Paso students, I successfully worked throughout the year to craft language in this year’s defense authorization bill to assist school districts that will experience significant increases or de-

creases in average daily attendance of military dependent students due to BRAC. House appropriators recently funded this program at \$7 million, which is a big success for El Paso. The bill also included \$30 million for regular military-related Impact Aid funding and \$7 million for additional military-related Impact Aid funding for Children with Severe Disabilities.

The defense bills also included millions for Fort Bliss, including:

- \$58.5 million for 45 ATACMS missiles, which are assembled at the Lockheed Martin plant in Horizon City. These will replace missiles used in Iraq, and are in addition to the 90 missiles funded through the 2005 Emergency Supplemental funding bill.
- \$2.1 million for the continuing development of the instrumentation of training facilities at Fort Bliss.
- \$2.1 million for Cognitive Air Defense Simulators (CADS) at Fort Bliss. The Institute for Creative Technologies (ICT) and Fort Bliss have worked together to develop CADS, which will improve training for Air Defenders through simulation.
- \$2.1 million for the development of Texas Regional Geospatial Service Centers at UTEP and Stephen F. Aus-

tin State University in Nacogdoches, TX. These centers will work with the Texas Army National Guard to serve Texas governmental entities to prepare FEMA-mandated hazard mitigation action plans and serve as a connection between local entities and the U.S. Geological Survey’s National Map.

- \$1.4 million for the development of mobile sensor systems, known as a Mobile Optical Tracking Systems (MOTS), which will provide high-resolution 3-D imagery information, a critical need at Fort Bliss and White Sands Missile Range.
- \$1 million in continued funding for research on communications sensors for miniaturized Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs), which are being developed by Aerospace Missions Corporation in El Paso.

As a community, we’ve been working hard to prepare for BRAC, and this funding moves us another step in the right direction. By working to improve Fort Bliss and address all aspects of our region, including education, we are ensuring a seamless transition to a new and improved El Paso for military personnel and their families.



# Medina appointed to fill vacancy on El Paso County Commissioners Court

**By Guadalupe Silva**  
*Special to the Courier*

EL PASO COUNTY — El Paso County Judge Dolores Briones has appointed former City Rep. Larry Medina to the post of Commissioners Court Precinct #1. Commissioner Barbara Perez left the post vacant when she announced her bid to run for County Judge.

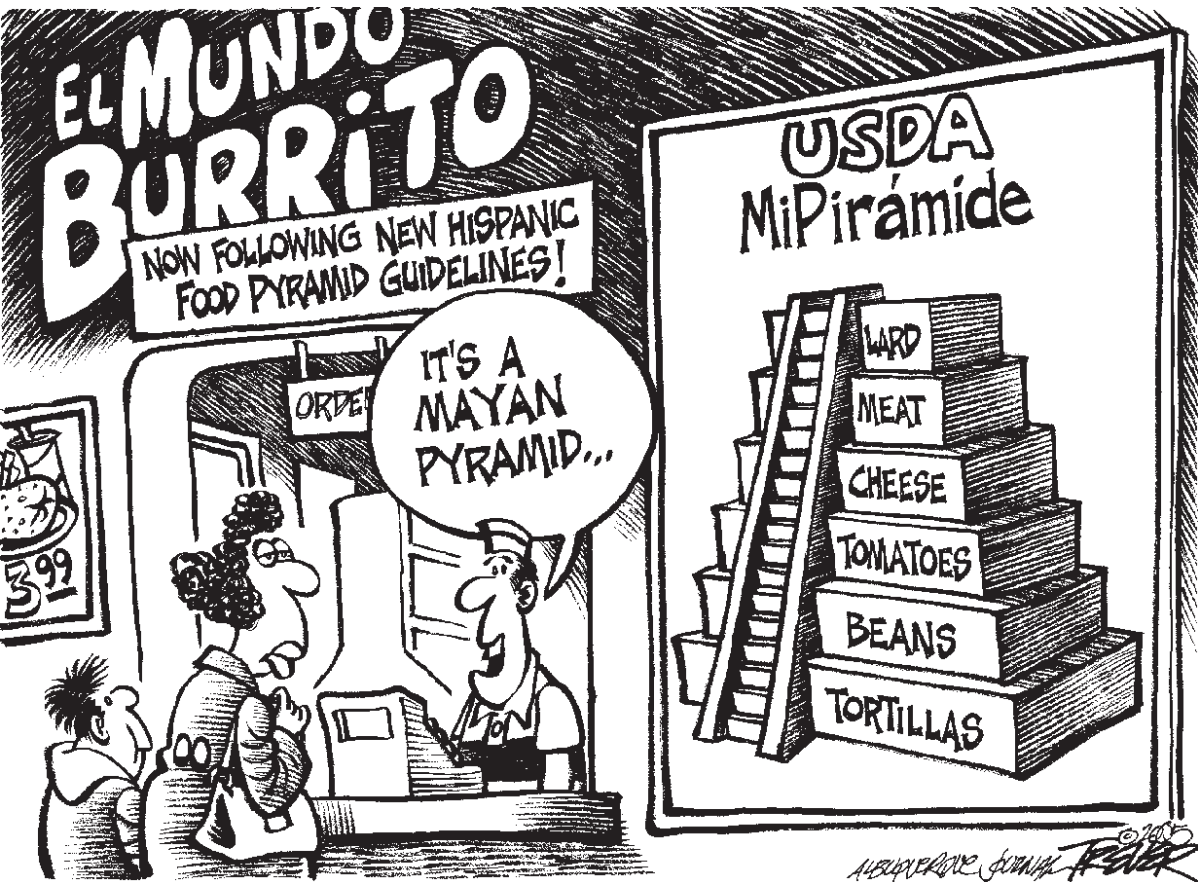
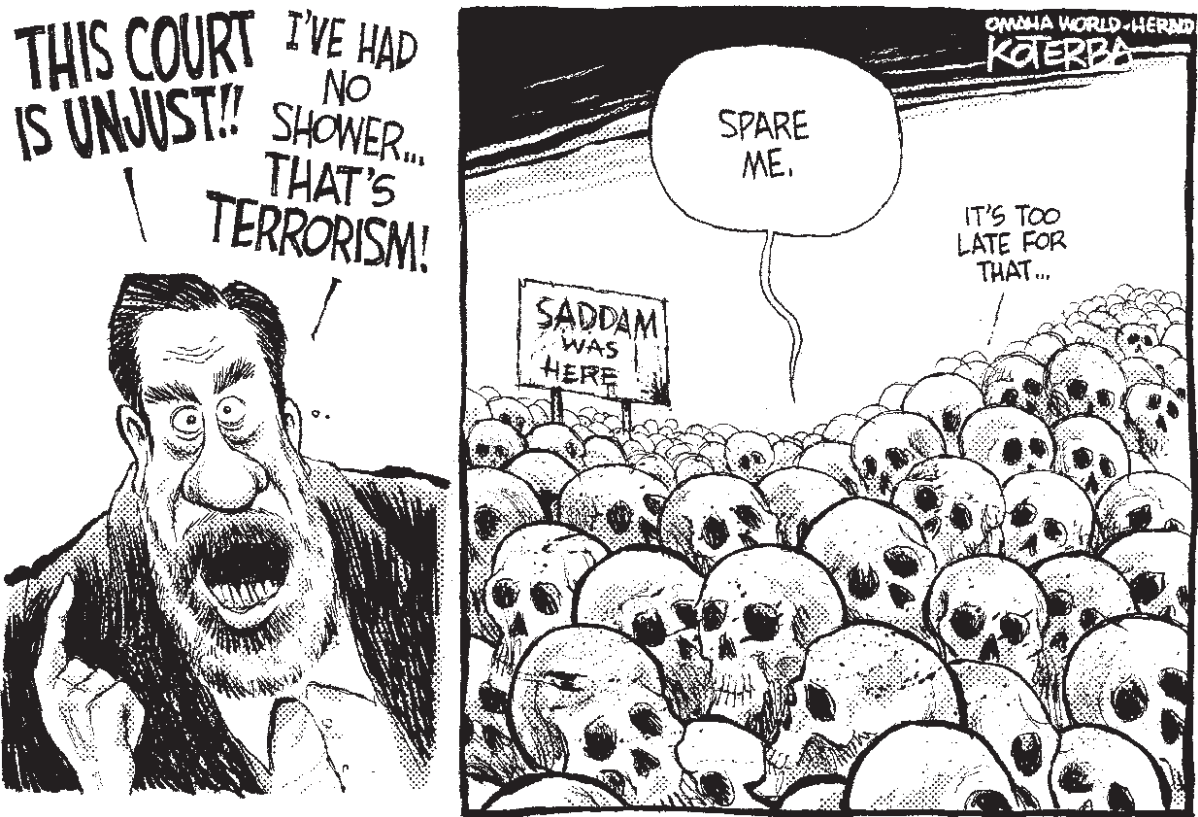
In announcing her decision, Judge Briones described Medina as a devoted El Pasoan who has served not only his constituents well but also his city. Medina, 47, represented District #3 in City Council for three terms from 1997 to 2003, one of them as Mayor Pro-Tem.

“Larry Medina has a record of demonstrated leadership and evenhandedness,” Judge Briones said. “He served his constituents well. I am excited for the families in his precinct.”

Medina will take office immediately after being sworn in. Commissioner Perez, who resigned her office before announcing her bid to run for County Judge, pledged to stay until her replacement had been appointed. County Judge Dolores Briones announced that she would not run for re-election in September of last year.

Medina, who expected to be sworn in this week, said he felt honored and humbled by the appointment.

“I will serve to the best of my abilities and honor the commitment I make to my constituents,” Medina said. “My priorities will be public health and safety as they were with (El Paso) City Council. I know the County champions these initiatives as well.”



## Give the gift of life

This time of year is a busy one for all of us. The holiday season has come to a close. We've made our new year's resolutions and we're getting back into the swing of things. As you dash into 2006, I urge you to consider an extra new year's resolution: donate blood. The need is great, and the few minutes it takes may mean years of life for a sick or injured patient.

The good news is that millions of Americans voluntarily donate blood every year. The bad news is that this is not enough. Did you know that 60 percent of the U.S. population is eligible to give blood, but only five percent donates each year?

The demand for blood is constantly increasing, and the nation's blood banks are having difficulty keeping up. According to the American Red Cross, the amount of blood needed by hospitals increased more than 15 percent in the past year. Maintaining an adequate amount of blood for surgeries, trauma victims and treatment of diseases is becoming a year-round problem.

What's worse is that donations traditionally slump during the Christmas holiday season. Colleges, schools and businesses that normally host blood drives close and families take vacations. An outbreak of the flu and bad weather can also affect donations. That

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

means that the demand for blood is higher this time of year than in other months.

In order to avoid a critical shortage, more donors are needed. Donating blood is safe, painless and can save the lives of others. Any individual who is at least 17 years old and weighs 110 pounds or more can donate. Donating blood takes about 45 minutes to one hour, including 20 minutes for the actual blood collection. Type "O" blood is the most commonly used because it can be safely transfused to people of all blood types. You can give blood every eight weeks, but remember that with just one donation you could save a life.

There are many places where donations can be made. Bloodmobiles travel to high schools, colleges, churches, and other community organizations. People can also donate at community blood centers and hospital-based donor centers. Many people donate at blood drives at their workplace. To find out where you can donate, call the national Red Cross hotline at 800-GIVE-LIFE, America's Blood Centers at 888-256-6388, or the American Association of Blood Banks at 866-376-6968.

Every few seconds, someone in the United States needs blood. In the year 2006, make a resolution to give the gift of life: donate blood.

YOUR **Gift** IS A WAY TO CONQUER LUNG DISEASE

Give the gift that remembers by helping others ...

When you lose someone dear to you — or when a special person has a birthday, quits smoking, or has some other occasion to celebrate — memorial gifts or tribute gifts made for them to your local American Lung Association help prevent lung disease and improve the care of those who suffer from it.

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## Clint Independent School District Notice of Public Hearing

Clint Independent School District will hold a public hearing for the discussion of the 2005 district Annual Report on Wednesday, January 18, 2006, at the Clint Independent School District Administration building board room, located at 14521 Horizon Blvd., at 5:30 p.m. during the regularly scheduled School Board meeting. All interested individuals are welcomed to attend. The report will be available to the public after the hearing at all Clint District School Campuses, the Clint Public Library and the Clint Post Office.

### Audencia pública

El distrito escolar de Clint tendra una junta para discutir el Reporte Annual del Distrito de 2005 el miercoles, 18 de enero del 2006 en las oficinas administrativas localizadas 14521 Horizon Blvd. a las 5:30 p.m. Todos individuos interesados estan invitados a asistir. El Reporte se puede obtener en estos lugares; todas las escuelas publicas del distrito, la biblioteca publica de Clint, y el Correo de Clint.

WTCC: 01/05/06

## Town of Horizon City PUBLIC NOTICE

A PUBLIC HEARING will be held during a **Regular Planning and Zoning Meeting on Monday, January 23, 2006 at 6:30 p.m.** at City Hall, 14999 Darrington Road, Horizon City, Texas. The purpose of the public hearing is to allow any interested persons to appear and comment regarding proposed rezoning of the following property:

- 1) Rezoning from R-2 Single Family Residential and M-1 Light Industrial to R-9 Single Family Residential and C-1 General Commercial. Being approximately 416.062-acres described as a portion of Leigh Clark Survey 297, portions of Sections 43 and 44, Blk. 78, TSP 3, T&PRR Surveys, and a portion of Section 5, Blk. 78, TSP 4, T&PRR Surveys, El Paso County, Texas.

Those who are unable to attend may submit their views in writing to the Town Clerk of Horizon City at the above address or call (915) 852-1046.

Sandra Sierra  
Town Clerk

WTCC: 01/05/06

# TEA honors Socorro ISD and 24 schools with Gold Performance Ratings

**By Carlos A. Briano**  
*Special to the Courier*

EAST EL PASO COUNTY — A total of 24 Socorro ISD schools received 2005 Gold Performance Ratings from the Texas Education Agency due to the high percentage of students reaching Commended Performance levels on the TAKS.

In addition, the district as a whole received the ratings in both Advance Course/Dual Enrollment and Recommended High School Program.

“In 2003 when the state introduced the more rigorous TAKS, we asked our students and schools to rise to the challenge and take their performance to the next level,” says Dr. Debra Melton-Livingston, SISD Executive Director of Curriculum and Instruction. “These Gold Performance Acknowledgments prove that we are doing just that.”

Gold Performance Acknowledgments (GPAs) were created by the Texas Legislature in 2001 to recognize districts and campuses for high performances in areas that go above and beyond the basics. There are 11 different categories in which GPAs can be earned at the district level and 13 different categories and the campus level.

Three high schools received Gold Performance Ratings. Socorro received the rating for Attendance and the Recommended High School Program.

Americas received the rating for Advanced Course Completion and the Recommended High School Program. Montwood received the rating for the Recommended High School Program.

The Recommended High School Program indicator is the only GPA for which the standard increased in 2005. In order to be acknowledged on this indicator, campuses had to have 60 percent or more of their graduates meet or exceed the requirements of the Distinguished Achievement Program, up from 50 percent in 2004.

“Nationwide, the number of campuses receiving this accolade went down,” Livingston says. “But in our district, we’re proud that three of our high schools received this recognition.”

Six middle schools received Gold Performance Ratings. Socorro Middle received the rating for Attendance, Writing and Comparable Reading and Math. Salvador H. Sanchez received the rating for Attendance and Comparable Math. William D. Slider received the rating for Reading, Writing and Comparable Reading. Capt. Walter E. Clarke received the rating for Attendance and Comparable Math. Montwood Middle received the rating for Attendance and Writing. And Sun Ridge received the rating for Attendance, Social Studies and Comparable Reading.

“The real recognition goes to the hard-working teachers that continually raise the student’s test scores,” says William D. Slider Middle principal Michell C. Ferguson. “They are the real heroes.”

Fifteen elementary schools received Gold Performance Ratings. H.D. Hilley received the rating for Writing. O’Shea Keleher received the rating for Comparable Reading and Comparable Math. Vista Del Sol received the rating for Attendance, Reading, Math, Writing and Science. Hueco received the rating for Science and Comparable Reading. Myrtle Cooper received the rating for Attendance, Reading and Comparable Reading. Escontrias Elementary received the rating for Attendance. Benito Martinez received the rating for Attendance and Reading. Sierra Vista received the rating for Attendance and Reading. Helen Ball received the rating for Attendance. Elfida P. Chavez received the rating for Writing and Comparable Math. Lujan-Chavez received the rating for Attendance, Reading and Comparable Math. Desert Wind received the rating for Attendance, Reading, Math, Writing and Comparable Reading. Loma Verde received the rating for Attendance and Reading. Bill Sybert received the rating for Attendance and Writing. Robert R. Rojas received the rating for Comparable Math.

## Glaucoma

From Page 1

include family history, race and older age. Glaucoma may affect people of any age from newborns to the elderly but is more common in adults as they approach their senior years. African-Americans, Hispanics and people with diabetes are also at higher risk of getting the disease.

Glaucoma can be treated with any of the following:

- Eye drops that lower eye pressure
- Laser therapy that allows for better drainage of fluids inside the eye
- Eye surgery to create a new drainage canal


If not treated, glaucoma can and does lead to total blindness. It is easily detected with a medical eye examination. Ophthalmologists can measure the pressure inside the eye with a quick and painless office test. Glaucoma doesn’t have to interfere with leading a fully sighted life and detecting the disease early can save a person’s sight.

The Glaucoma EyeCare Program is designed for people who:

- Are US citizens or legal residents;
- Have not had an eye exam in 12 months or more; and
- Are deemed to be at increased risk for glaucoma as determined by family history, race, age.

Call the toll-free help line at 1-800-391-EYES (3937) anytime to see if you or a family member qualifies for a glaucoma eye exam or to request free eye care information.


*EyeCare America is a non-profit organization whose success is made possible through charitable contributions from individuals, foundations and corporations. More information can be found at: [www.eyecareamerica.org](http://www.eyecareamerica.org)*



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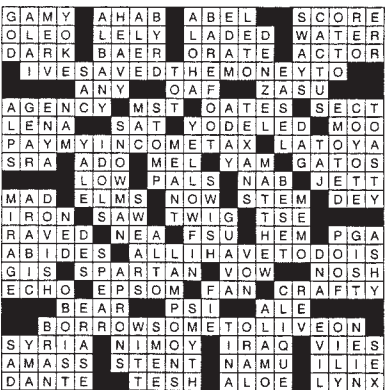
## Facts About Glaucoma

- Approximately 120,000 are blind from glaucoma, accounting for 9% to 12% of all cases of blindness in the U.S. (1)
- Glaucoma is the leading cause of blindness among African-Americans. (1) Hispanics have a 5% incidence of glaucoma, which is more than double that of the general population (2)
- The most common form, Open Angle Glaucoma, accounts for 19% of all blindness among African-Americans compared to 6% in Caucasians. (4)
- Glaucoma is the second leading

- cause of blindness in the U.S. and the first leading cause of preventable blindness. (5)
- African-Americans ages 45-65 are 14 to 17 times more likely to go blind from glaucoma than Caucasians with glaucoma in the same age group. (5)

Sources:

- (1) National Eye Health Program/ National Institutes of Health;
- (2) Los Angeles Latino Eye Study; August 2004
- (3) American Academy of Ophthalmology;
- (4) Racial differences in the cause-specific prevalence of blindness in east Baltimore. N Engl J Med. 1991 Nov 14;325 (20):1412-7;
- (5) Glaucoma Research Foundation.





View from here

By Byron Schlomach, Ph.D

Taxing businesses to fund education is bad business

Texas, we have a problem. Our school finance system is unconstitutional. And the state’s supreme court is requiring a solution by June 1 of 2006.

Although the court warned against “pouring money” into the school system, the court ruled we have a statewide property tax because districts are near the rate cap. The easiest way to solve that problem is to throw a billion or two dollars at the schools just to increase the gap between rates and the cap.

But rarely are facts and legal opinions impediments to spending more money. Indeed, the school districts who brought the lawsuit were, immediately after the decision was announced, repeating the “more money” mantra. And, as one would suspect, they have already determined which pockets to pick in that quest.

We have heard it before and no doubt we’ll hear it again: business must pony up more cash. They say business must “pay its fair share” of the tax burden. Business, we hear

again and again, needs to step up even more to fund schools.

Surely, some claim, Texas business can afford the bill.

It is a fact that Texas’ individual tax burden is one of the lowest in the country. The U.S. Census Bureau ranks Texas as having the lowest per capita state tax burden in the country. Another measure ranks Texas as having the third lowest tax burden among the states.

But wait — Texas depends more heavily on local governments, like school districts, than other states. When local taxes are thrown into the mix, Texas’ low-tax ranking drops from first or third to eighth among the states.

The bad news does not stop there. It turns out Texas businesses pay just over 60 percent of all state and local taxes, the fourth highest business tax burden in the nation by this measure. The U.S. average is 43 percent. Even California depends less on business

taxation for its state and local revenues — 41.4 percent.

Well, one might reason, maybe a lot of Texas’ tax revenue comes from business but Texas is still a low tax state, so that does not necessarily mean Texas businesses face that high of a burden. But Texas’ business tax burden is 5.8 percent of the state’s yearly gross income — the seventh highest rate among the states. Once again, Texas comes in higher even than California’s 4.5 percent; the U.S. average is 4.7 percent.

During the first meeting of the Governor’s Commission on Tax Reform, it was repeatedly — and correctly — asserted that only people pay taxes. Businesses do not. Businesses are only tax collectors. It could be reasoned that it makes no difference if we impose business taxes or some other kind of taxes, people will pay them regardless.

But that misses the point. When businesses directly pay taxes, those taxes — every dollar of those taxes — appear directly as business expenses. They do not appear on the check stubs of employees whose pay falls due to taxes. They do not appear on the price tag of the product whose price has risen due to taxes. They do not appear as an expense on

a smaller dividend check. And when some business goes under due to the extra burden of taxes, the culprit is rarely publicly named.

Business taxes make this state less competitive with other states and nations. Business taxes do not impact all businesses in the same way, distorting the way business is done and which businesses survive.

Texans have a right to know how much their government costs them. The best way for Texans to know that cost is with transparent taxes like those on consumption. Business taxes, which hide the cost of government, are

not good business. They are not good policy. They are bad for Texas.

The easiest way to avoid worrying about the school finance problem is with more money, and the easiest way to hide spending is with a business tax. But neither should be confused with a solution. Indeed, new spending and taxes only create whole new problems for everyone who lives, works, and seeks to prosper in Texas.

Byron Schlomach is the chief economist for the Texas Public Policy Foundation, a non-profit, non-partisan research institute based in Austin.

Building strong bones now will help kids forever

There are no bones about it: the health habits that kids form now can make — or literally, break — their bones as they age. Help kids build strong bones with proper nutrition and exercise with a new, free package of publications from the National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases and the Federal Citizen Information Center.

One way to build healthy bones is to eat foods rich in calcium. *Kids and Their Bones: A Parent’s Guide* has tips on creative ways to add calcium to a child’s diet. If children don’t like drinking milk, add non-fat powdered milk to soups, casseroles and hot cereal. Kids love pizza and ice cream, and the low-fat versions have even more calcium than whole milk varieties. So give them a treat after they finish their dark, leafy, calcium-rich vegetables.

Not only is eating the right kinds of food essential for building strong bones, so is exercising. The best activities are weight-bearing ones like walking, running, tennis, basketball, gymnastics and soccer. Since kids and

sports come with their own set of worries, make sure kids warm-up and cool down, wear appropriate protective gear and avoid playing when they’re tired to prevent injuries. And for the occasional sprain, use the RICE method (Rest, Ice, Compression and Elevation) described in *Handout on Health: Sports Injuries* to care for your injured athlete.

Get the facts on how a lifestyle that includes a healthy diet and physical activity can help children build and maintain bone mass by ordering the free *Kids and Their Bones* package. There are three easy ways to get these free publications:

- Send name and address to the Federal Citizen Information Center, Kids and Their Bones, Pueblo, Colorado 81009
- Online orders — visit <http://www.pueblo.gsa.gov/rc/n33kidsbones.htm>.
- Call toll-free 1 (888) 878-3256, weekdays, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Eastern Time and ask for Kids and Their Bones.

— Contributed by Shantae Goodloe

Ortega wants to be County Democratic chair

EL PASO COUNTY — El Paso native Evelina Ortega has announced her candidacy for chair of the El Paso County Democratic Party in the primary election on March 7 of 2006.

“I intend to build a stronger, bigger and better Party,” she said during her announcement. “And I have specific plans to achieve that objective. We can increase the Democratic vote in El Paso County and increase our influence in Austin.”

Ortega has practiced law in El Paso

for 25 years and was formerly a Federal Public Defender in the Texas Attorney General’s office. She is admitted to practice in Texas courts and before the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals and in the Western and Northern Districts of Texas. She is certified by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization in the practice of personal injury law and works in the area of medical malpractice litigation. She attended received her Bachelor of Arts degree with honors from UTEP and graduated from the UT

Law School.

She is a member of numerous community organizations, and served as Attorney Pro Tem for the Mental Health and Mental Retardation in the Court of Inquiry in 1994-95, and chaired the Mayor’s Environmental Task Force in 2001.

(The West Texas County Courier offers any candidate for elected office, free of charge, an announcement of their candidacy of reasonable length and subject to editing.)

Briefs

From Page 1


Trawood, at 7:30 p.m. Information: 533-6001.

■ On-line business scams are the flavor of the moment, according to the Texas Cooperative Extension, which warns that if stories hawked by work-at-home offers broadcast late at night or early in the morning. These come-ons usually involve medical billing, envelope-stuffing or craft making, and require a relatively small fee to get the program, but do not offer enough instructions or training to make the program work — for these they charge extra. Some offer instructions but no contacts. Basically, they have no products, no customers and exist simply to recruit new members. For those interested in any program like this, it is advisable to do a background check with the Better Business Bureau at <http://www.bbb.org> or with the Federal Trade Commission at <http://www.ftc.gov/> or call toll-free at 877-382-4357.

■ Sometimes a little extra organization is all that’s needed to manage money better, from daily bills to long term savings. Guidance is available through the

Consumer’s Almanac from the American Financial Services Association. Use the monthly calendars and worksheets to organize expenses, note when bills are due and plan savings. This helpful booklet costs \$1 — send name, address and check or money order for \$1 to the Federal Citizen Information Center, Dept. 343N, Pueblo, CO 81009, or call toll-free 1 (888) 878-3256 and ask for Item 343N with credit card handy. Visit <http://www.pueblo.gsa.gov> to place an order online or to read or print out this publication for free.

■ A home equity conversion mortgage is a mortgage that allows you to take money back out of what you’ve already paid for your home and does not have to be repaid as long as you’re living in the home. If you’re over 62 years old, read *The Home Equity Conversion Mortgage at a Glance* from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to learn about the size of the mortgage you can get, and how and where it’s repaid. For a free copy, send name and address to the Federal Citizen Information Center, Dept. 598N, Pueblo, CO 81009 or call toll-free 1 (888) 878-3256 and ask for Item 598N, or visit <http://www.pueblo.gsa.gov> to place your order online or to read or print out this publication for free.



BELIEVE

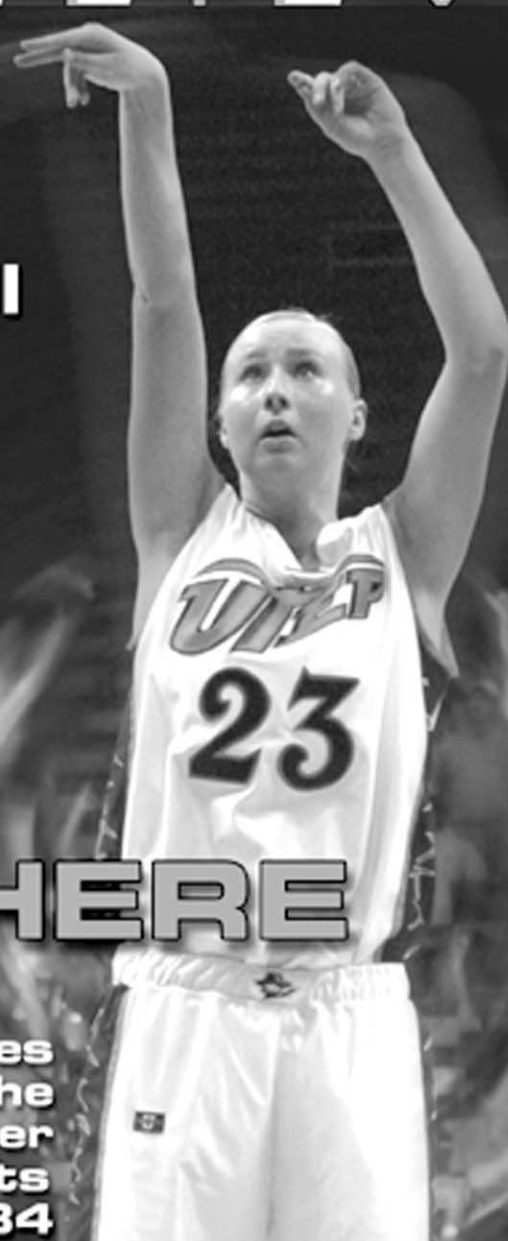
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SMU  
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# Bryant’s marketable superstar image is tarnished again

By Steve Escajeda  
Special to the Courier

And the legend of Kobe continues. Did you happen to catch all the fireworks during the Lakers’ game with Memphis Grizzlies last week? Kobe Bryant, the Los Angeles Lakers shoot-all-the-time-and-then-give-me-the-ball-so-I-can-shoot-some-more shooting guard, proved once again that anyone with half a brain can score in the NBA. During the game, Bryant drove the lane for a layup and received an elbow from Memphis’ Mike Miller. It was an aggressive elbow to the side of Kobe’s head, but it wasn’t intentional by any means. Kobe started bleeding a bit from the side of the head. He received three stitches and played on. Maybe played on is not the appropriate term. It looked more like he was stalking Miller for the perfect opportunity to pounce. And pounce Kobe did. Like a predator lying in wait, Bryant looked for the right time to get

back at Miller. The once-respected Bryant reacted in the fourth quarter with a flagrant elbow to Miller’s throat as he drove the lane. The elbow was obviously intentional and as malicious as any you’ll see in an NBA game. Bryant was suspended for two games without pay for elbowing Miller in the throat. Yet, the gutless NBA referees felt the action wasn’t enough to constitute an ejection during the game. All Kobe received from the zebras was flagrant foul. Once the league reviewed the play it was evident that something had to be done. Yes, I guess they felt that even Kobe had to be reprimanded. Naturally, Bryant has already said he is going to appeal the suspension, adding that he was shocked with the league’s decision. I have to say that I, too, am shocked. I am truly shocked that the league had the guts to suspend one of its marquee guys. Especially Kobe, in whom the league has invested much of its reputation. Now the league will have to work overtime

to convince fans that Kobe is someone you still want your kids to look up to. Well, maybe not look up to, but at least buy his brand of shoes. The once pristine reputation Kobe Bryant enjoyed is long gone. And the chance of it ever being resurrected may have been permanently squashed with the images of his flagrant elbow. Latrell Sprewell and Ron Artest are among the worst role models in the league — but unlike Kobe, at least they’re up front about it. **NY yanks Damon** I know the era of baseball players spending their entire careers with one team has long since passed, but there are still certain guys who just look like they belong with certain teams. The uniform, or the town, suits them somehow and it just seems like they belong to that franchise. I mean, could you picture Derek Jeter wearing a Pittsburgh Pirates uniform or anything else but Yankee pinstripes? How about Craig Biggio or Jeff Bagwell — can you see them in anything but Houston Astros caps?

Even though he’s worn more than one uniform, Boston’s caveman, Johnny Damon, just looks like he belongs in a Red Sox uniform. The beard and the long hair made him a legend during his short time in Beantown. A couple weeks ago Damon shocked everyone by signing with the New York Yankees. Make no mistake, Damon will be the perfect leadoff man for the Yanks, with Jeter hitting right after him. But it’s going to be hard to get used to. Damon is supposed to be a thorn in the Yankee’s side, not a feather in their cap. But get used to it. Johnny Damon — who has lost the long hair and the beard, by the way — will be spearheading the Yankee’s effort to get back to the World Series. Baseball has sure changed over the years. In the past, the Yankees would have never considered taking a man who was instrumental in breaking “the curse.” But then again, this isn’t the first time the Yankees made away with a former Boston Red Sox player. Maybe we can nickname this one “the Beardbino.”

# Elk to blaze the animal identification trail in Texas

By Carla Everett  
Special to the Courier

TEXAS — Elk being moved in Texas will sport a radio frequency identification (RFID) ear tag at the first of the year, as commissioners for the Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC) have adopted regulations for tracking the animals for disease control, including chronic wasting disease (CWD), a fatal brain disorder. There are about 300 producers of elk in the state, which are classified as exotic livestock in Texas and are under the jurisdiction of the TAHC, the state’s livestock and poultry health regulatory agency. Premises and animal identification and record keeping requirements will extend to all of the animals’ movements in commerce.

“We worked closely with elk breeders associations, including the Exotic Wildlife Association, South Central Elk Breeders Association and the North American Elk Breeders, to develop the regulations adopted by the TAHC commissioners at their meeting Dec. 6 in Austin,” said Dr. Bob Hillman, executive director for the TAHC and Texas’ state veterinarian. “The regulations were developed to enhance disease monitoring with minimal impact on marketing.” “Identification and record keeping requirements will be extremely useful for quickly tracking elk movements, if chronic wasting disease (CWD) — or other diseases, such as brucellosis or tuberculosis — are detected in the animals,” he said. “Nationally, the implementation of animal identification for exotic livestock is ‘way down the line,’ but the Texas industry saw a need to be able to track elk movement now, so these animals will blaze the trail in the state for other species.” The regulations require elk owners to obtain a unique premises identification number for their ranches prior to importing the animals, moving them to market, to slaughter, to another ranch or onto other premises within the state. Furthermore, receiving sites within the state also are to be identified. Dr. Hillman said producers of all livestock species can

easily obtain the unique seven-character premises identification number. “Producers can go online, call us or request a paper application to obtain their premises identification number. The information collected will be accessed and used only by state and federal animal health officials for disease surveillance, control and eradication purposes,” explained Dr. Hillman. Premises registration can be completed online at <http://www.tahc.state.tx.us> <<http://www.tahc.state.tx.us/>> or by calling the TAHC at 1-800-550-8242. “HB 1361, passed during the last legislative session, enables the TAHC to develop an identification program consistent with the National Animal Identification System, and provides authority to charge a fee for the premises registration. Until 2005, the TAHC was one of the few state regulatory agencies that did not charge fees for services. An industry com-

mittee, after looking at many options, determined a \$10 per year fee for premises registration is the most equitable way to support TAHC programs,” Dr. Hillman noted. Under the elk regulations, the premises identification fee, to be paid biennially, also will be effective Jan. 1, 2006, for elk producers who move their animals in Texas commerce. The fee will not be charged retroactively for premises registered prior to that date. However, as premises registration are renewed every two years, the \$10 per year fee will be applicable. Fees for premises registration for other livestock species are expected to be in effect in spring 2006. As of late December, about 4,500 of the state’s 200,000 premises have been registered. “Pasture-to-pasture movement of elk can be allowed without the electronic ear tag, provided the producer owns both sites and has them under

a single premises registration,” explained Dr. Hillman. “However, the owner must first obtain a written permit from the TAHC and fulfill the reporting requirements.” The regulations urge producers to have elk tested for CWD when they die or are harvested. Deer and elk that exhibit clinical signs of CWD, such as emaciation, behavioral changes and excessive salivation always should be reported to the TAHC, so brain tissue can be collected and tested. Although the disease has been detected in several states in mule deer, white-tailed deer and elk, and in one instance, a moose, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) do not associate CWD with any known human health effects. More than 9,413 samples from free-ranging or captive deer and elk in Texas have been tested, with no CWD detected. While mule deer and white-tailed deer also are susceptible to CWD,

these animals come under separate identification and health regulations, explained Dr. Hillman. Mule deer in far west Texas and white-tailed deer statewide are classified as native wildlife, and to own them, producers must obtain a scientific breeder permit from the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD), which has regulatory authority over these species. Scientific breeders must meet identification and testing requirements established by the TPWD. “We cannot say we don’t have CWD, if we don’t monitor susceptible species and test for it,” Dr. Hillman said. “If we do find CWD in Texas, appropriate action must be taken to control and eradicate the disease. Hunting, wildlife and exotic hoof stock are industries extremely important to the livelihood of Texas. It’s only reasonable to take precautions to ensure these animals are healthy.”



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## Classified Ads

### LEGAL

#### NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that Roberto R. Olivas and Mary Lou Olivas dba Motor and Electric Supply has become organized as Motor and Electric Supply Company, LLC, effective Jan. 1, 2006. The Limited Liability Company shall assume all the obligations and liabilities of the sole proprietorship. WTCC-1/5, 1/12, 1/19, 1/26/06

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### PERSONAL

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### SELF-HELP

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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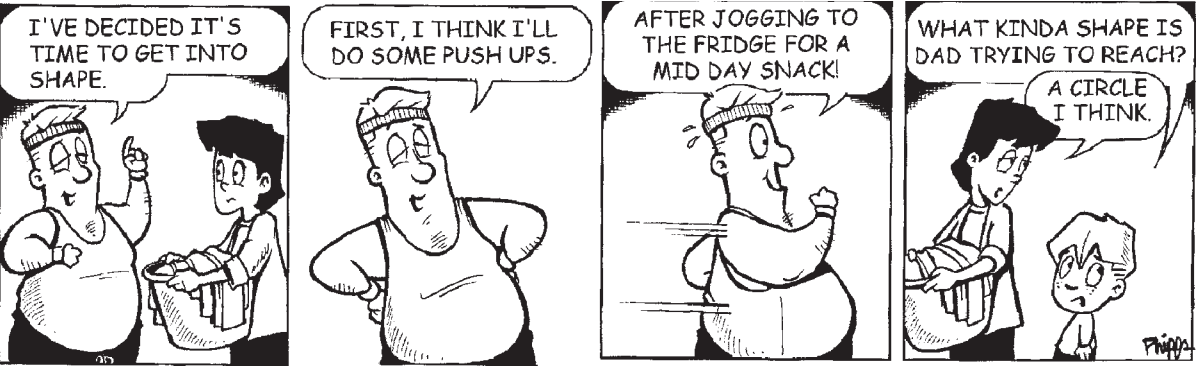
OUT ON A LIMB

By Gary Kopervas



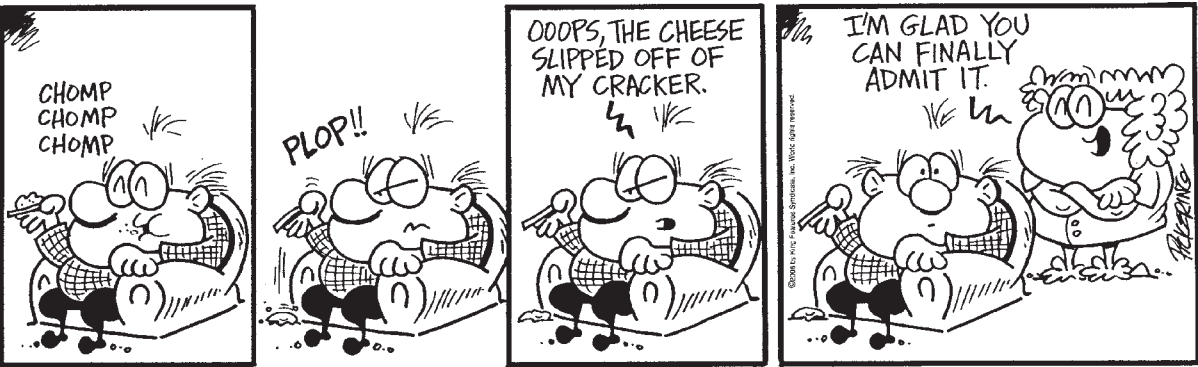
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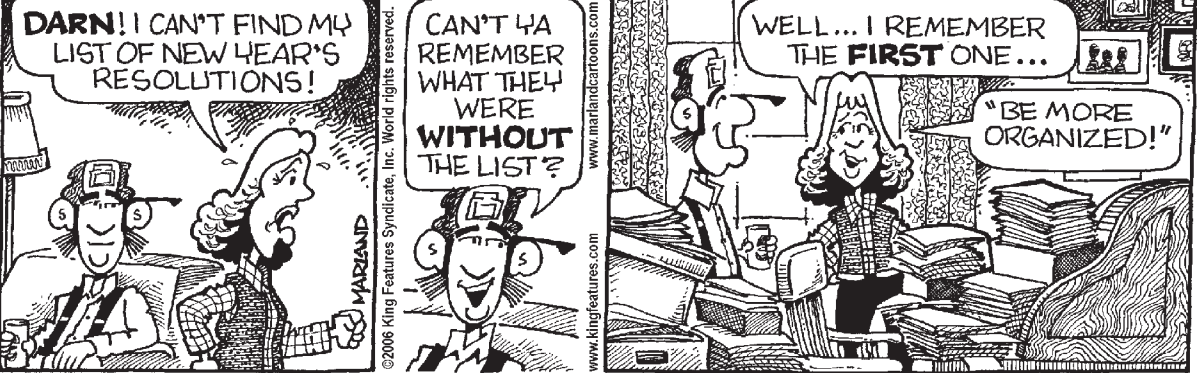
THE SPATS

By Jeff Pickering



R.F.D.

By Mike Marland



Is this book necessary?

By Don Flood

“Are Men Necessary?” asks the book title from New York Times columnist Maureen Dowd.

This bestseller sounded so important and so intriguing that I have decided, as a public service, to offer this review, following my usual custom of not reading the book first.

(You should never read books you plan to review. You’ll have too much time invested in the book to remain unbiased. I’ve found it’s far better to base my reasoning on articles, reviews and stuff I’ve made up out of whole cloth.)

However, readers, especially women, should note that I am a trained professional and should not be tempted try this at home themselves.

First off, I like the cover. (There’s an old saying that you can’t judge a book by its cover but, obviously, whoever said that is a bonehead.)

It shows a sexy babe wearing a clingy dress on a subway. She appears lost in a book. (Not literally, people!)

Predatory-looking males leer her way. It’s obvious they have one thing on their mind: What book is she reading? Perhaps it would be a good one for my book group?

OK, so much for the actual book. In one interview, Dowd said, “There’s a body of evidence that the Y chromosome is rotting at such a fast rate that it will go out of business in about 100,000 years.”

(Bonus financial-planning note to guys: You might want to plan your going-out-of-business sale now, before the rush.)

(Bonus science note for dummies: The male has an X and a Y

chromosome. The female has two X chromosomes, and they are both wearing new shoes.)

She went on to say that women don’t need men to reproduce or re-finance. (My guess is that men would still be willing to do their part regarding reproduction, but if women wanted to handle refinances that would be fine.)

“The question is,” Dowd asked ominously, “will we keep you around?”

Sounds troubling, but there’s good news for men because Dowd said, “We need you in the way we need ice cream.”

So don’t worry, guys, we’re going not anywhere soon, as anybody who has watched women scarf down ice cream can attest.

Back in the ’70s, women used to say they needed men like fish needed a bicycle.

Now we’re right up there with ice cream. If the trend continues, we’ll soon have women eating out of the palm of our hands, especially if we’re holding ice-cream cones.

But Dowd is off track when she says men will be more “ornamental.”

Obviously, Manhattan Maureen doesn’t hang out much at the local Kmart.

Nor does she watch much TV.

If she did she would realize that men are absolutely essential to the talk-show industry.

I’m not saying men are all they talk about, but give us our due: Without men and all the bad, dead-end and dysfunctional relationships we help make possible, women talk-show hosts would soon run out of material.

They’d probably just sit around and eat ice cream.

(c) 2006 King Features Synd., Inc.

King Super Crossword

- PERSONAL DEDUCTION ACROSS

1 Rank

5 Gregory Peck role

9 First herdsman

13 Make a point

19 Spread in a tub

19 Portrait painter

Peter

20 Packed the freight

22 Restaurant freebie

23 TV's "— Shadows"

24 Boxer Max

25 Declaim

26 Part owner?

27 Start of a remark

by Steve Allen

31 Whichever

32 Klutz

33 Actress Pitts

34 Firm

38 Yellowstone hrs.

40 Joyce Carol —

43 Faction

47 Horne or Olin

48 HS exam

49 Sang on a

mountain

51 Bovine bellow

52 Part 2 of remark

56 One of the

Jacksons

58 Mexican Mrs.

59 Hubbub

60 Ott or Gibson

61 Tasty tuber

63 Los —, CA

64 Dachshundlike

65 Cronies

67 Collar a crook

69 Rocker Joan

70 Deranged

73 O'Neill hardwoods

75 Part 3 of remark

76 Sunflower support

78 Actress Susan

79 Heavy metal

81 Proverb

82 Bit of kindling

84 Mao — tung

85 Praised passionately

87 Teachers' org.

89 Tallahassee sch.

90 Shorten a skirt

91 Woods' grp.

94 Tolerates

96 Part 4 of remark

100 "The Longest Day"

extras

101 Austere

103 Pledge

104 Hit the chips

105 Return address?

107 — salts

108 Mozart's "Cosi — tutte"

109 Artful

111 Wall Street

pessimist

113 Pressure meas.

115 Flagon filler

116 End of remark

124 Damascus' nation

126 Spock on "Star

Trek"

127 Neighbor of 124

Across

128 Competes

130 Pile up

131 Artery implant

132 Famed orca

133 Bjorn's opponent

134 Football's Lavelli

135 TV host John

136 Healing plant

137 Canadian cat

DOWN

1 Roy's "The — of Small Things"

2 Jai —

3 TV tycoon Griffin

4 Garment feature

5 Hudson River city

6 Hard to lift

7 Away from the

wind

8 Pole star?

9 "Hi, Ho!"

10 Simon's "— in the Park"

11 Dutch town

12 Apollo's mom

13 Vacillates

14 Defense plant?

15 Football Hall of

Famer Jim

16 Rock's -

Speedwagon

17 Fumble

21 Actor Washington

28 Cul-de- —

29 Little one

30 Stand for Steen

34 Heidi's hangout

35 Paraphernalia

36 "Wild Child" singer

37 "Platoon" setting

38 Bud

39 "The Bristol —" ('61 hit)

41 "An apple — ..."

42 Dan Rather and

Trini Lopez

44 Hammed up

"Hamlet"

45 Prairie wolf

46 Warm

48 Winter figure

49 Tuna type

50 Mr. Hammarskjold

53 New England

campus

54 Celebrities

55 Had in mind

57 — Mahal

62 An Apostle

66 Rustle

68 Surround

70 Sahara vision

71 The Koran's

language

72 Peaceful

74 Gives one's word

77 Note

80 Beatty or Rorem

83 Tropical fruit

86 - Plaines, IL

88 Choir member

91 Magic-show sound

92 Essence

93 Pale

95 "Aida" prop

97 Mocks

98 Ludwig — Drake

99 "Jurassic Park"

stuff

102 Stage parts

106 Orchestra member

108 "Pshaw!"

109 In-crowd

110 Gun the engine

112 Expunge

114 Rocker Patty

115 Battle site of 1836

116 Fiber source

117 Skater Katarina

118 "Peter Pan" pirate

119 Louise or Turner

120 Articulated

121 Apt anagram of "vile"

122 Ingratiating

123 Regensburg

refusal

124 Disconsolate

125 Singer Sumac

129 Gender
- Answer Page 4

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Social Security Q&A

By Ray Vigil

*Q: My ex-wife and I divorced in 1999, after 15 years of marriage. She died last month, and I am now unemployed. I wondered if I could apply for Social Security survivors benefits based on her earnings record?*

A: Because you were married for at least 10 years, full Social Security survivors benefits can be paid at full retirement age, or reduced Social Security survivors benefits can be paid as early as age 60. If a widow or widower is disabled, benefits can be paid as early as age 50.

*Q: I get Social Security disability benefits due to a severe stroke five years ago that left me partially paralyzed. I just found out Social Security is going to review my case. Why?*

A: Everyone who receives disability benefits must have their medical conditions reviewed from time to time. Your disability benefits will continue, unless there is strong evidence that your condition has improved and that you are able to return to work. You can learn more about the disability review process by referring to the online publication entitled *How We Decide If You Are Still Disabled* or by visiting our website.

*Q: My husband and I have four children and we have life insurance policies. But I have been encouraging him to also get a private disability insurance policy, too. He says that any private disability insurance would just reduce the amount of the Social Security disability benefits he would be entitled to. Is this true?*

A: No. A worker's eligibility for Social Security disability benefits is not affected by any private insurance he or she may have. But you and your husband should know that worker's compensation and certain other public disability payments may affect any Social Security benefit payments. You can learn more about the disability program by referring to the online publication entitled *Disability Benefits* or visit our website.

*Q: I get Supplemental Security Income (SSI) payments because of a disability, and money is very tight. A friend recently gave me a whole closet full of clothes that she no longer wears. Do clothes count as income that I would have to report?*

A: No. Clothing is not considered income for SSI purposes. Gifts of food and shelter, however, can count as income in some cases. For more information on the types of things you need to report to Social Security, you can refer to the online publication entitled *What You Need To Know When You Get Supplemental Security Income* (SSI) or visit our website.

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.

7-DAY FORECAST FOR EL PASO, TX

AccuWeather.com®

<div>Thursday</div> <div></div> <div>A full day of sunshine</div> <div>60°</div> <div>RealFeel 58°</div>	<div>Thu. night</div> <div></div> <div>Clear</div> <div>33°</div> <div>RealFeel 28°</div>	<div>Friday</div> <div></div> <div>Plenty of sun</div> <div>64° 33°</div> <div>RealFeel 63° 26°</div>	<div>Saturday</div> <div></div> <div>Plenty of sunshine</div> <div>67° 34°</div> <div>RealFeel 65° 29°</div>	<div>Sunday</div> <div></div> <div>Sunny</div> <div>60° 33°</div> <div>RealFeel 56° 25°</div>	<div>Monday</div> <div></div> <div>Sunny</div> <div>63° 38°</div> <div>RealFeel 69° 37°</div>	<div>Tuesday</div> <div></div> <div>Sunny</div> <div>65° 39°</div> <div>RealFeel 69° 38°</div>	<div>Wednesday</div> <div></div> <div>Brilliant sunshine</div> <div>66° 40°</div> <div>RealFeel 69° 42°</div>
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The patented RealFeel Temperature® is AccuWeather's exclusive index of the effects of temperature, wind, humidity, sunshine, precipitation, and elevation on the human body.

WEATHER TRENDS THIS WEEK

IN THE SKY

Temperatures

Precipitation

Sun

Moon

First

Full

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REGIONAL CITIES												U.S. CITIES													
City	Thursday			Friday			Saturday			Sunday			City	Thursday			Friday			Saturday			Sunday		
	HI	LO	W	HI	LO	W	HI	LO	W	HI	LO	W		HI	LO	W	HI	LO	W	HI	LO	W	HI	LO	W
Abilene, TX	62	32	s	61	34	s	70	37	s	67	37	s	Atlanta	56	32	pc	45	30	pc	45	32	s	49	37	s
Albuquerque, NM	54	28	s	58	28	s	61	27	s	58	27	s	Boston	40	28	sn	38	25	sn	32	22	sn	36	26	pc
Amarillo, TX	54	25	s	60	27	s	65	30	s	58	29	s	Chicago	36	24	sf	30	22	sf	32	24	c	36	27	sf
Austin, TX	68	35	s	66	34	s	72	39	s	72	41	s	Denver	48	24	s	60	27	s	58	25	s	51	20	pc
Brownsville, TX	74	52	sh	72	48	s	75	54	s	80	58	s	Detroit	36	24	sf	30	22	sf	32	24	c	34	26	sf
Dodge City, KS	46	23	s	53	25	s	59	25	s	51	23	pc	Houston	70	40	s	65	40	s	70	46	s	78	56	pc
Jackson, MS	60	33	s	50	23	sh	54	32	s	62	42	s	Indianapolis	41	26	c	32	23	c	34	25	pc	38	30	c
Laredo, TX	70	48	s	69	46	s	74	51	s	78	50	s	Kansas City	42	24	pc	40	23	s	50	31	s	47	29	c
Little Rock, AR	55	34	s	50	27	s	51	34	s	63	35	pc	Los Angeles	83	52	s	80	50	s	69	52	pc	70	48	s
Lubbock, TX	53	25	s	62	30	s	72	30	s	66	28	s	Miami	76	57	pc	72	50	sh	67	49	s	70	58	s
Memphis, TN	53	31	s	48	28	sh	50	34	pc	61	37	s	Minneapolis	28	14	sf	26	14	pc	30	16	sn	30	20	sf
Midland, TX	60	31	s	65	35	s	71	33	s	71	33	s	New Orleans	66	39	s	54	33	s	56	41	s	65	50	s
Pueblo, CO	50	16	s	62	22	s	64	22	s	56	13	pc	New York City	45	34	r	39	30	pc	34	26	pc	33	31	pc
Roswell, NM	60	27	s	64	27	s	72	26	s	69	25	s	Omaha	38	21	pc	40	18	pc	44	24	pc	40	23	c
St. Louis, MO	42	25	pc	38	25	pc	44	28	pc	47	32	c	Phoenix	77	46	s	81	46	s	79	46	s	78	46	s
San Antonio, TX	65	37	s	63	35	s	72	44	s	73	43	s	San Francisco	62	50	s	62	51	r	58	47	pc	57	46	pc
Texarkana, AR	67	38	s	54	32	s	60	41	s	68	41	pc	Seattle	54	44	r	50	38	r	46	38	sh	46	38	r
Waco, TX	68	37	s	60	36	s	72	44	s	72	40	s	Washington	51	34	r	40	25	pc	38	25	pc	40	31	s
Wichita, KS	48	24	pc	44	22	s	52	29	s	49	29	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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