



NEWSBRIEFS

Social Security increases checks

Monthly Social Security and Supplemental Security Income benefits for more than 53 million Americans will increase 3.3 percent in 2007, the Social Security Administration announced. Social Security and Supplemental Security Income benefits increase automatically each year based on the rise in the Bureau of Labor Statistics' Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W), from the third quarter of the prior year to the corresponding period of the current year. This year's increase in the CPI-W was 3.3 percent. The 3.3 percent Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA) will begin with benefits that nearly 49 million Social Security beneficiaries receive in January of 2007. Increased payments to more than 7 million Supplemental Security Income beneficiaries will begin on Dec. 29. Some other changes that take effect in January of each year are based on the increase in average wages. Based on that increase, the maximum amount of earnings subject to the Social Security tax (taxable maximum) will increase to \$97,500 from \$94,200. Of the estimated 163 million workers who will pay Social Security taxes in 2007, about 11 million will pay higher taxes as a result of the increase in the taxable maximum in 2007.

Parade invitation

An invitation has been issued by the Horizon City Lions Club, sponsors of the 2006 edition of the Annual Horizon City Christmas parade, for all interested organizations, businesses and individuals to attend one or both organizational meetings to be held on Nov. 15 and on Dec. 5, at 6:30 p.m. at the Horizon City Town Hall. The first meeting will address questions about the parade and second meeting will be for confirmed parade participants with parade line-up and final details. The parade itself will be Dec. 9, however, applications must be turned in no later than 5 p.m. on Dec. 1. Applications are available at the Horizon City Town Hall. Call 852-1875 for more information.

In other news

■ Members of the FCCLA (Family, Career and Community Leaders of America) from Mountain View High School recently participated in the Southern New Mexico and Far West Texas State Fair, held in Las Cruces. Most of the Mountain View students placed high in their categories — 26 brought home blue ribbons, 10 red second place ribbons, and "Best of Lot" in both first and second place was won in the cake category for entries baked by Jorge Rodriguez and Elaine Gamboa. A quilted fabric mosaic, a hand-made doll, and home-made cookies and candies rounded out the winning entries. The numerous prize-winning recipes will be compiled

See BRIEFS, Page 4

Faith in mankind will be a reality when they stop hauling money in armored cars.
— Quips & Quotes



— Photo courtesy Canutillo ISD

POLICE PROTECTION — Agent Jimmy Hernandez, left, and Agent James Warren demonstrate how they use their bike as a protective tool in the field.

Area agents help kids understand war on drugs during Red Ribbon Week

By Kim Guzman
Special to the Courier

UPPER VALLEY — Canutillo Middle School, to promote a drug free environment, provided students the opportunity to meet with Border Patrolmen and National Guardsmen during Red Ribbon Week and to learn about the tools they use to fight the war on drugs.

Bobby Leyva, CMS Campus Drug Free coordinator, arranged for sixth, seventh and eighth grade classes at CMS to tour the different displays. He reminded the students that National Red Ribbon week serves as a tribute to Special Agent Enrique Camarena, who was kidnapped and brutally tortured and murdered by drug traffickers in Mexico several years ago.

Displays of alcohol and drug paraphernalia were provided to students informing them of the various dangers involved with drug usage.

National Guards — Sr. Airman Marcos Nevarez, Sgt. Robert Phenix, Sr. Airman Ashley Kelly and Spc. Luis Munoz answered questions and helped students understand the risks associated with using drugs and alcohol.

Border Patrol agents were on hand to demonstrate the different vehicles, equipment, and animals used in this region to stop drug trafficking. Students were given the opportunity to meet Dusty Bottoms and Jesse James, veteran horses that are used to patrol the desert and mountainous areas between Mt. Cristo Rey and Columbus, New Mexico by Agents Richard Duggan, Mitch Keeling, Hector Rodriguez, and Rocky Ortega.

Border Patrol Agents Brian Mills and Jose Maldonado Jr. demonstrated how they do their job using specially equipped bicycles; and Agents Jimmy Hernandez and James Warren demonstrated their use of quads, or four-wheelers, to patrol the desert area of East El Paso.

Hall, Dwyer, honored by El Paso Historical Society

EL PASO COUNTY — The El Paso County Historical Society will honor two contributors to the quality of life and culture in El Paso County during special ceremonies this Sunday, Nov. 5 at the El Paso Country Club.

Arthur Sheldon Hall will be inducted into the Hall of Fame along with, posthumously, Alice Lorraine Dwyer.

Sheldon Hall

Arthur Sheldon Hall's influence on the way El Paso views itself historically cannot be measured.

Founder and life member of the Mission Trail Association, Hall introduced the revolutionary concept that the San Elizario area of El Paso County was actually the site of the First Thanksgiving celebration held on American soil, by explorer Juan de Oñate and his entourage. The idea spawned a media wave of historical interest in this area.

In what was itself a historical event, Hall led a group of "Conquistadors" to the traditional site of the First American Thanksgiving, Plymouth, Massachusetts, which historically took place in 1628. Hall declared that history was wrong — that San Elizario experienced that

event in 1598. He accomplished it all in a diplomatic and good-humored fashion.

Hall was appointed by then-Texas Gov. George W. Bush to the chairmanship of the Quadricentennial Commission, which subsequently donated \$50,000 to initiate the restoration of the historic Socorro Mission. He also fostered the program and design plans for the restoration of the San Elizario Presidio. The result of both these actions have come to fruition, a most evident benefit to the entire Mission Valley.

Born in Columbus, Ohio, Hall captained the State Championship Cross Country Team while at Miami University in Ohio. He became a pilot in the Army Air Corps and served at a test pilot at Wright Field. He married and raised a family while founding the Blair Hall Company and serving on the boards of many

charitable organization in the area, many with a historical interest.

Hall has been honored in his home country but also internationally. He was granted membership in the *Granaderos de Galvez* in Spain and has had many audiences with King Juan Carlos. His Majesty also awarded Hall the *Cruz*



Sheldon Hall



Alice Dwyer

See HONOR, Page 5

'Charity' scams always accompany the holiday season

By Javier Sambrano
Special to the Courier

EL PASO COUNTY — As the holiday season nears many become more giving but at that same time others take advantage of the community's willingness to help those in need. The El Paso Police Department wants to remind everyone to ensure that donors do their homework before donating cash or goods.

Consumers often receive mail or phone calls asking for donations for certain organizations. The following are some tips by the Attorney General's Office to keep in mind when dealing with these types of solicitations.

Who wants your money? If you are unfamiliar with the charity, get its full name, address, and telephone number. Many organizations have names that are very similar to well-known charities. Ask whether the organization has obtained charitable tax exempt status from the IRS — the organization should be able to confirm that they are a 501 C (3) tax exempt organization and provide you with a receipt to substantiate that your contribution is tax deductible as a charitable contribution.

What will be the use your donation? Find out the substance of the appeal and the planned use of your money. For example, are the organization's main goals education and research, or service and distribution.

What percentage would go toward true charitable purposes? Ask for written information that will show you a comparison of how much money the organization spends on administrative and fundraising fees and expenses versus how much it spends directly on the intended recipients or projects of the charity. You cannot make an informed decision about supporting a charitable organization unless you have financial information that discloses how contributions from previous years have been utilized. Is the organization willing to provide you with this information?

The following items should signal you that the call may be bogus:

- High pressure phone calls. A worthwhile organization should be willing to provide you with sufficient time to check out factual background information about the organization. Do not give into pressure tactics requiring that you make an immediate decision.
- Prizes. Most worthwhile charities do not try to entice you to give by telling you that you have won a prize when you have not even entered a contest.

- Avoidance of the U.S. Mail. Some organizations may avoid doing business through the mail to avoid federal prosecution under postal statutes. Instead, they will insist on using a private courier service or picking up your check themselves.

The following actions items could help protect you:

- Get information in writing from the charity before giving, including an annual report or other financial information.
- Do not give cash. Write a check in the name of the charity, or if your giving other property ask for a receipt.
- Do not give your credit card number over

See SCAMS, Page 5



One perspective

By Francis Shrum

Space invasion

There's this obscene place on the internet where most grownups are afraid to go — unless they are child predators — and a great many grownups are also apparently too afraid to make their kids stay out of it, too.

It's called My Space.com.

Space, in this case, is simply a location on the internet where young people go to express themselves on line. And like most things available to and partaken of by unsupervised young people, it's nothing *your* kids should be involved with.

But that's just one perspective.

Anyway, space is a priceless commodity these days. Our world is becoming a smaller place everyday. The horizons are encroaching and, without even realizing it, we begin to feel antsy, defensive, even angry when others begin to invade that space.

I recently read that in Japan, a nation with a land-space roughly the size of California, there are almost 128 million people. Their 10 largest cities each have a population greater than one million.

Talk about ground cover.

That makes me claustrophobic just thinking about it.

Apparently there are a lot of other people, even in the spacious wide-open spaces of West Texas, who feel that there is a shortage of space and therefore have a distinct need to be in yours.

I've noticed this most evidently in the way people park their cars. I'm not a perfect parker by any means but I always check the line before leaving my car just to make sure I stayed between the navigational beacons.

This is not simply a matter of courtesy. It's a matter of survival. Nine times out of 10, when I come back to my car, somebody else will have sucked up whatever few inches I have provided to insure the well-being of my transportation. It's not because their car is too big for the parking space I carefully left vacant for them, because there is usually about a foot or more unused space on the other side of their car.

Now, I've tried to convince myself that this is a conservation thing — you know, save the space, save the trees. If they park only inches from me, and the next guy does the same to them, and so on, at the end of the parking lot we will have managed to create *one whole new parking space!*

Believe that? I don't either.

Since I also don't believe that any motorists is actually concerned about their car getting lonely while they are away from it, the only other conclusion I can come to is that it's more a matter of people simply failing to respect other people's space.

It happens in the checkout line at the grocery store and I've got sore heels and a flat nose to prove it. It happens in the clothing store when

another shopper figures you weren't really very serious about examining that blouse in your hand and shoves in real close for a good look herself.

It happens while you're waiting in line to be seated at a restaurant and the folks behind you somehow think that by breathing down your neck, it will somehow speed the process along.

But the place I've noticed space invasion with the greatest trepidation is on the highway — those wide open, four lane thoroughfares upon which Americans traverse their nation at breath-taking speeds. With all that room and all that zoom, motorists shouldn't feel any urge to push one another around, right?

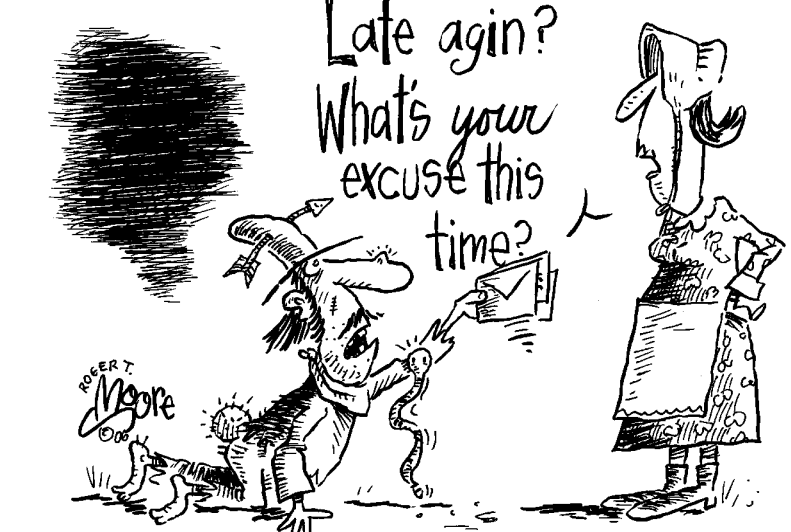
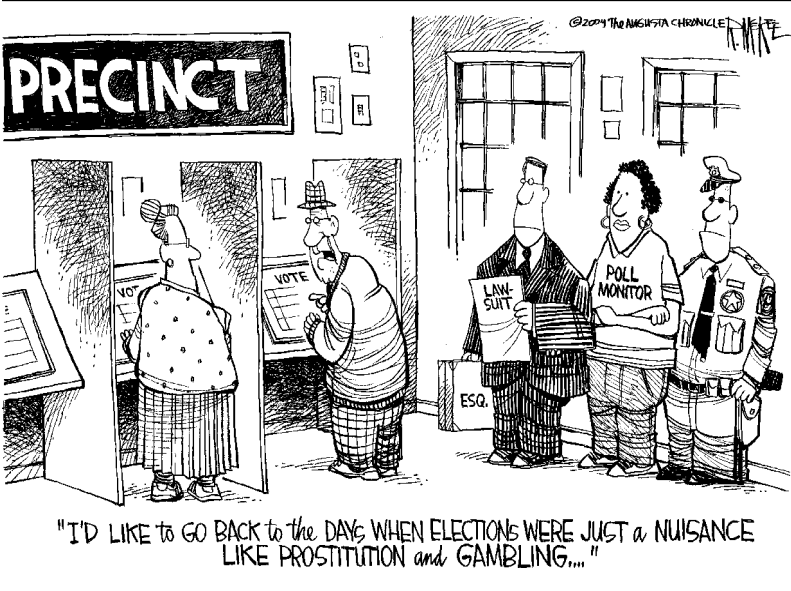
Guess again. It seems the more room we have on the road the closer on your bumper that little car is going to get before whipping around you and back under your grill with only bare inches to spare. And chances are, it will immediately slow down so you have to brake.

Now, I tend to pay pretty close attention to where my kids go on the internet, and My Space.com is one of those places they better not be found. But I discovered that my teenage student driver — which I mention with white knuckles and shallow breath — has a pretty good sense of exactly where her space is.

Coming home from school, with this tiny little slip of a person behind the wheel, I noticed that she was driving well under the speed limit. At that moment, we were dwarfed in the shadow of a big, fast-moving SUV as it flashed by.

I glanced questioningly at the speedometer and she shrugged.

"I had to either make him slow down or go around," she said. "He was invading my space."



View from here

By Marc Levin

Texans should ask: Is that really a crime?

If you go dancing at a local bar, you may cause the manager to commit a criminal offense. That's right. The

manager on duty at Rack Daddy's pool hall in south Dallas was issued a criminal citation earlier this year when of-

ficers from the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission and Dallas Police Department observed patrons dancing. It seems the bar did not have a dance hall permit from the City of Dallas. A trial is set for November.

This is just one example of the trend toward over-criminalization, in which criminal law is increasingly extended well beyond the realm of murderers, rapists and thieves to ensnare ordinary businesses and individuals. The problem on the federal level is well documented, as there are over 4,000 criminal laws. Most recently, the Violence Against Women and Department of Justice Reauthorization Act passed earlier this year made "annoying" someone on the Internet a federal crime punishable by up to two years in prison.

However, over-criminalization is also a state problem. In addition to customers' dancing, there are many examples of ordinary business activities criminalized in Texas law. No longer can any Texan simply look at the Penal Code to determine what is a criminal offense; hundreds of other criminal offenses are littered throughout complicated codes on topics such as agriculture, finance, and natural resources.

Consider that Section 14.072 of the Agriculture Code makes it a separate felony offense for each day a person transacts in the public grain warehouse business without a current state license. Whether or not grain warehouses need to be regulated, it hardly seems necessary to make an infraction of the licensing scheme a third degree felony, which is punishable by up to ten years in prison.

There's also something fishy about

Moore Texas by Roger T. Moore Oct.30,1836:John R. Jones is appointed Texas' 1st Postmaster. Mail delivery was dangerous and unreliable.

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

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Clint ISD campuses honored by ESC 19

By Laura Cade
Special to the Courier

EAST EL PASO COUNTY — Two campuses from the Clint Inde-



— Photo courtesy Clint ISD

EXCEPTIONAL ACHIEVEMENT — Pictured from left are Desert Hills Elementary Principal Robert Bowermaster, Assistant Principal Julia Truax, 2005-2006 Principal Mark Ayala and Superintendent Ricardo Estrada.

Canutillo school teacher receives UTEP Award

By Alfredo Vasquez
Special to the Courier

CANUTILLO — Jessica Melendez-Carrillo, fourth grade teacher at Canutillo Elementary School, is the recipient of a 2006-07 Mathematics and Science Partnership Action Research Award presented recently by the University of Texas at El Paso Center for Research on Educational Reform.

Carrillo will receive \$3,000 and her UTEP faculty mentor will receive \$1,000 to help conduct science and



Jessica Melendez-Carrillo

math projects in her fourth grade two-way dual language classroom this academic year.

The second year CES teacher said that she would use Tablet PC's and Power Point animation capabilities, as well as manipulatives such as counters and connecting blocks, to enhance student learning.

"This approach will allow me to use technology to develop a variety of word problems that will encourage students to analyze and create their own approaches to solving word problems," Melendez-Carrillo stated. "It is my hope that after this pilot study is completed in my classroom that the same approach will be extended to other CES classrooms."

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pendent School District — Frank Macias Elementary and Desert Hills Elementary — were honored by the Education Service Center for Region 19 for receiving high student performance ratings by the Texas Educa-

tion Agency (TEA) for the 2005-2006 school year. During a ceremony on Oct. 16, Dr. James Vasquez, Executive Director for ESC 19, presented Superintendent Ricardo Estrada and campus principals with a medal and a certificate for the accomplishment.

Photos of each campus were unveiled during the ceremony and placed in the service center's Hall of Fame. Frank Macias Elementary was one of three schools in El Paso County that received an "Exemplary" rating, the highest possible, by TEA. To achieve this rating, 90% of the students at Frank Macias Elementary had to meet the standards on all subjects of the Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (TAKS) tests. Frank Macias Elementary also met the Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) standards of the federal government and received the Governor's Educa-

tion Excellence Award for demonstrating high levels of student achievement.

Desert Hills Elementary was recognized for achieving a "Recog-

nized" rating from TEA for student performance on all subjects of the TAKS test. The school also met the standards of AYP for the 2005-2006 school year.



— Photo courtesy Clint ISD

A TOKEN OF HONOR — Shown from left, Frank Macias Elementary Principal Emi Gonzalez, Assistant Principal Bill Patti, Assistant Principal Terri Mena, Superintendent Ricardo Estrada, 2005-2006 Principal Pam Howard are presented with a medal and certificate by Executive Director for ESC 19 Dr. James Vazquez.

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Tornillo Independent School District Youth Basketball League

LEAGUE INFORMATION: A skills clinic will be held on Saturday, Dec. 2 for 3RD through 6TH grades; and on Saturday, Dec. 9 for K thru 2ND grades. Games will begin on Saturday, Dec. 16.

FOR: All Students Grades K thru 6TH
COST: \$12

SIGN UP: Fill out a registration form for your child with the League Directors in the Intermediate School Gym. Times and dates are:

Saturday, November 4th 9:00-11:00 a.m.
Wednesday, November 8th 4:30-6:30 p.m.
Thursday, November 9th 4:30-6:30 p.m.
Saturday, November 18th 9:30-11:00 a.m.

Contact Information: Coach Benson at 764-2040 ext. 283 or 637-8451.

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Sunday Worship: 10:30 a.m.
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Briefs

From Page 1

into a cookbook available from advisor Nita Thompson at the school.

■ About 128 flu shots were given to people attending the recent Horizon City Health Fair, which offered a wide variety of

other free health screenings and informational exhibits. Ten pneumonia shots, 100 cholesterol and glucose tests, and 67 hearing exams were administered, and 55 kids were fingerprinted by the Horizon City Police Department as part of the Amber Alert registration. The annual event was sponsored by the Horizon City and Socorro Lions Clubs, the Oz Glaze Senior Center and Del Sol Medical Center.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Horizon Regional Municipal Utility District

The following changes to the Horizon Regional Municipal Utility District Rules and Regulations were adopted by unanimous vote at the regular Board Meeting conducted October 26, 2006 at 6:00 P.M. at 1539 Pawling Drive, Horizon City, Texas 79928.

Additions are underlined and deletions are struck through.

E. CONNECTION AND DISCONNECTION POLICIES

3. Deposit To Secure Payment and Service Charge.

A security deposit shall be collected on all new connections, and on all re-connections after termination for delinquency, in the amounts as reflected in the District's Rate Order. **The security deposit will not be collected after a customer's total deposit reaches a sum of \$200.00.** The deposit shall be refundable as a credit to the customer's account, after 12 consecutive months of timely payments or as a refund check when ownership is transferred. No interest shall be paid by the District on any deposit.

5. Discontinuing and/or Connecting Service.

(b) Discontinuing Service and Removing Meter For Failure to Pay Bills/Taxes When Due

(i) The District shall have the right to discontinue water and/or sewer service to a Consumer at any time after his bill becomes delinquent. A bill shall include charges for any work done by or on behalf of the District which is attributable to a problem in the Consumer's system or a problem in the District's system which, in the opinion of the District is caused by a Consumer or a Consumer's system. **If a customer is given notice that service will be disconnected because of the customer's delinquency in making payment, then regardless of whether or not service is physically disconnected,** service shall not be restored until receipt of the following charges:

- a. a deposit fee, in accordance with the District's Rate Order,
- b. a service fee in accordance with the District's Rate Order,
- c. payment of the delinquent bills plus any penalties required by this Order.

All payments of such amounts shall be in cash or cash equivalents. **Checks are acceptable as cash equivalents only if the customer has not had a check returned for insufficient funds during the past 90 days.**

Students in San Elizario learn bus safety tips

By Phillip Cortez
Special to the Courier

SAN ELIZARIO — A sea of hands shot to the air in front of David Acosta, SEISD transportation worker and guest speaker at Sambrano Elementary School on Oct. 18 Acosta had just finished asking students for volunteers.

"OK, *mijo*, you go here, you two stand in the back of the bus, and I'm going to need someone to sit in the driver's seat," he said.

A sea of even more hands shot to the sky.

"Now look in the mirror and tell me what you see," Acosta said.

The answer was nothing, and from the student's response, Acosta began to let the excited kids know all about blind spots and how important it is



— Photo courtesy Canutillo ISD

THE WHEELS ON THE BUS — David Acosta explains bus safety tip to students at Sambrano Elementary School on Oct. 18. All three elementary schools had bus safety training.

for students to exit the bus and stay away from it.

"Don't think the driver is going to see you after you get off the bus," he warned the students, all third graders at Sambrano.

This was just one class in a very busy schedule for the transportation department's bus safety presentations this school year. From not standing up to not changing seats, students learned the do's and don'ts of riding the bus and staying safe.

For example, Acosta told students how important it was for them to not

wear their jackets and sweaters around their waists while getting off the bus.

"We might close the doors on your sweater or jacket sleeve on accident," he warned.

Perhaps the most important lesson Acosta gave was telling the students what to do after the bus has dropped them off.

"Go home and tell your parents you are home," he said.

Bus safety presentations were scheduled for all three elementary schools and at Loya Primary.

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It's Basketball Season

Men's Basketball

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vs.

UTEP

Sunday, Nov. 5th 3pm

Don Haskins Center

Women's Basketball

Houston Jaguars

vs.

UTEP

Wednesday, Nov. 1st 7:05pm

Don Haskins Center

Honor

From Page 1

de Caballero de la Orden de Isabella Catolica and he was named Academico de Merito by Academia Balcar de la Historia in Spain.

Speaking on behalf of the EPCHS, Marilyn Gross summed up Hall’s contributions.

“Sheldon has contributed his work and talent to most of the charitable and health-connected organizations in the area as well as most of the historical organizations,” she said. “His organizations are far too many to enumerate, suffice it to say that El Paso history and, indeed, the entire area would be much poorer without the leadership, guidance and vision of Arthur Sheldon Hall.”

Alice Dwyer

Alice Dwyer is being hailed as a pioneer in the profession of law which was heavily dominated by men during the years that she became one of the first Hispanic female attorney in El Paso County.

With ancestors in the Flores, French, Magoffin, Stephenson, Nordstrom, Bermudez and Ascarate families, Dwyer had historical roots at birth. She married in 1952 and went to Paris with her husband who was a Fulbright scholar studying at

the University of Paris, Sorbonne. As a young woman she suffered many setbacks including contracting rheumatic fever while pregnant. Fortunately, she and the baby both survived, and the child grew up to be Dr. Nancy Harvey, a prominent veterinarian.

While working on her doctorate, Dwyer’s adviser unexpectedly died. She also faced an uphill battle within her family, as her father felt it would not be wise for her to pursue her lifelong goal of becoming a lawyer and encouraged her to pursue more “traditional” roles.

Dwyer worked for many years in the El Paso ISD in many roles including teacher of history and related social studies, and as a cooperating teacher in the Practice Teaching department at UTEP.

After her father’s death, she pursued her goal of becoming a lawyer at Southern Methodist University School of Law and graduated in 1970. She practiced law independently and in cooperation with Sib Abraham and Gus Rallis, and her brothers Pat and Sam Dwyer.

In summing up Dwyer’s influence in El Paso County, Gross commented:

“Alice was a devoted mother, scholar, teacher and lawyer and competed in what was a man’s world. She opened doors for the many professional women to follow her lead.”

Scams

From Page 1

the telephone in response to telephone solicitation.

- Protect your account information.
- Be careful of organizations that send runners to pickup donations, and of those that are not willing to provide you with the caller’s name, their com-

pany, their address, and phone number.

All charities operating in Texas must be certified and registered by the State and citizens can call 834-5800 for more information. If anyone has a complaint about a specific charitable solicitation, they can contact the Charitable Trusts section of the Attorney General’s Office at (800)621-0508 or the Financial crimes section of the El Paso Police Department at 564-7130.

Laws

From Page 2

Section 436.011 of the Health and Safety Code, which makes it a criminal offense for selling shellfish and crabmeat that came from a “closed area,” does not place every word on the label exactly as required by the state, or was not processed or packaged precisely according to the state’s Byzantine regulations. Again, whether or not the case for government control of this industry holds any water, it can surely be accomplished without putting seafood sellers and processors in prison.

The Texas Free Enterprise and Antitrust Act of 1983 is also pernicious both because of its overly broad language and the criminal penalties for running afoul of its almost limitless sweep. The Act provides in part, “Every contract, combination, or conspiracy in restraint of trade or commerce is unlawful.” That would presumably include an artist selling her paintings exclusively through one art gallery, a common monopolistic practice that is arguably beneficial to the artist, the gallery, and the public, because otherwise there might be no place where the artist’s work can be viewed. The Act makes any such restraint on trade a felony punishable by up to three years in prison.

Many criminal laws are simply unnecessary, because they involve conduct for which there is an appro-

priate civil remedy. For example, committing libel against an individual or business has been a tort for centuries. However, the Texas Legislature in 1997 made it a state jail felony for someone to circulate an untrue statement against a bank. This provision was deposited into Section 59.002 of the Finance Code.

Ultimately, all state laws must be reviewed to determine where we have gone too far in using the blunt instrument of criminal law. Criminal penalties should be reserved for circumstances when we really want to be punitive, especially since upon conviction of anything more than a Class C misdemeanor, a person is disqualified from obtaining numerous occupational licenses and permits.

However, the danger is not just that ordinary individuals and businesses will be unfairly caught in the dragnet of the burgeoning body of criminal law, but that the traditional and legitimate use of criminal law will be trivialized.

The moral import of being labeled a criminal, and particularly a felon, is diluted by the inappropriate use of criminal law.

Creating more crimes may be appealing for legislators looking to take credit for passing another law, but the law of unintended consequences cannot be repealed by even the most powerful politician.

Marc A. Levin is director of the Center for Effective Justice at the Texas Public Policy Foundation (www.texaspolicy.com). He can be reached at mlevin@texaspolicy.com.

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Henry Bonilla has worked to promote economic growth and support tax relief for small businesses, leaving more money for job creation.

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Henry Bonilla has led the effort to strengthen our borders by doubling the number of border patrol agents.

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Romo performs CPR on Cowboys' flat-line season

By Steve Escajeda

Special to the Courier

If I may ask all of you just one question with complete decorum and utter humility, it would be this: HOW 'BOUT THEM COWBOYS?!

Now that I've gotten that out of my system, let's talk about the move coach Bill Parcells had the guts to make last Sunday.

Now, I have to admit that when the Dallas Cowboys came into camp this season, I never gave the idea of Tony Romo replacing Drew Bledsoe a single thought.

I knew Romo was an adequate backup who knew his role and he seemed happy carrying that little clipboard around.

But never in my wildest dreams did I ever think he would take a single snap this year, except maybe at the end of a game that was hopelessly out of reach.

Thanks to Bledsoe's inability to find open receivers and his lack of mobility, Parcells decided to give Romo his first start last Sunday. And not only his first start, his first start at the Carolina Panthers, a team many picked to represent the NFC in the Super Bowl.

I've got to be honest, I didn't give the Cowboys much of a chance and after they fell behind 14-0 in the first quarter, things were going pretty much as I expected.

But sometimes legends are born under the most difficult of circumstances. I'm not saying Romo is going to be a legend, but if he ever becomes one, it all started in Carolina.

Romo showed the cunning and nerve of a veteran quarterback, picking apart the Panthers defense with his arm and his legs. His presence fired up the team and every member of the Cowboys finally took their job personally.

Every member of the Dallas Cowboys played with a reckless abandon not seen this season.

The 35-14 win saved the Cowboys season. It remains to be seen if it will propel them toward a magical season but at least for now, fans across the country can be excited about a season they thought was left for dead after their embarrassing loss to the New York Giants on Monday Night Football.

Dallas has had nine different starting quarterbacks since the retirement of Troy Aikman — maybe Romo will bring a little stability to the position.

He seems to have already brought a little spark to the team.

The ultimate do-over

I've heard plenty of those, "If at first you don't succeed, try, try again," stories in my lifetime.

People always tell you to get back up on that horse, or that quitting gets easier and easier after you've done it once.

And I'm all for going after something again if you failed the first time. But this may be the world's ultimate do-over.

Five years ago Alex Zanardi was a CART race car driver and before that, he was a regular on the Formula One circuit.

All that came to an end in 2001 when Zanardi was involved in a terrible collision.

Some guys walk away from A horrible race car crash and some don't. Zanardi couldn't — he lost both his legs in the accident.

Usually, the challenge for someone in his state is just to be able to walk again. Not Zanardi. Unbelievably, his challenge was to get behind the wheel of a race car again.

And his five-year battle to get back on his souped-up horse is about to become a reality.

Zanardi returned to the German track three and a half years ago and drove 13 "ceremonial laps" in a modified car, reaching speeds of 195 mph before a CART race. He will return to Formula One next month in a test drive.

I don't know about you but I get nervous when I reached 85 mph, and I have two good legs.

Even though Zanardi lost his legs in the accident, his heart and soul was unaffected. And he has far more heart than about 98 percent of us.

Check your guns at the door

The NBA started its season this week and the talk around the league is the number of incidents players have had, involving guns.

The trend around the league is the more guns you walk around with, the "badder" a dude you are.

Seems to me the more guns you walk around with, the more trouble you're going to get into. And for these young, rich guys, who never seem to get to sleep before 3:00 in the morning, it's a recipe for trouble and disaster.

Boston's Red Auerbach died just before the start of the season. It's too bad that the class, respect and humanity he stood for died in the NBA a long time ago.

Classified Ads

LEGAL

NOTICE OF SALE

HORIZON REGIONAL MUNICIPAL UTILITY DISTRICT

(Formerly known as El Paso County Water Authority)
(A political subdivision of the State of Texas located in El Paso County, Texas)

\$7,800,000 UNLIMITED TAX BONDS, SERIES 2006

"Qualified Tax-Exempt Obligations"

The Board of Directors of Horizon Regional Municipal Utility District (the "District") will publicly receive sealed bids on the \$7,800,000 Unlimited Tax Bonds, Series 2006 (the "Bonds"), until 12:00 Noon, El Paso time, Wednesday, November 15, 2006, at the offices of the District, 1539 Pawling Drive, El Paso, Texas 79928. At the District's board meeting commencing at 1:00 p.m., El Paso time, Wednesday,

November 15, 2006, at such offices, the Board of Directors will thereupon either accept or reject the best bid.

Sealed bids, plainly marked "Bid for Bonds," should be addressed to the President and Board of Directors of the District and delivered to the offices of the District at the address noted above prior to 5:00 p.m., El Paso time, Tuesday, November 14, 2006. All bids must be submitted on the "Official Bid Form" and accompanied by a bank Cashier's Check in the amount of \$156,000 payable to the order of the District as a Good Faith Deposit.

Bonds will mature serially on February 1, 2026 through 2032, and will be dated December 1, 2006. The "Official Notice of Sale," the "Preliminary Official Statement" and the "Official Bid Form" may be obtained from the District's Financial Advisor, Bill Blitch, SAMCO Capital Markets, Inc., 11111 Katy Freeway, Suite 820, Houston, Texas

77079-2118. The District reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to waive any and all irregularities except time of filing. This notice does not constitute an offer to sell the Bonds but is merely notice of sale of the Bonds as required by Texas law. The offer to sell the Bonds will only be made by means of the "Official Notice of Sale," the "Preliminary Official Statement" and the "Official Bid Form."

Dated this October 26, 2006

Bonnie F. Moorhouse
President, Board of Directors
Horizon Regional Municipal Utility District

WTCC: 11/02/06

PUBLIC NOTICE

As per Article V, Sec. 5.05(a), all owners and lienholders have ten (10) days from this date to reclaim their vehicles at Southwest Wrecker, 1401 Darrington Rd., 855-1900, 851-2091-fax, or it will

be sold at public auction for charges:
VIN - WWWAA0160JW632242, 1988 Volkswagon Jetta 2-door, black, Chihuahua, Mexico license 407-SHT-4
VIN - JA3EA26AXRU028942, 1994 Mitsubishi Mirage 4-door, red, no license
VIN - IFAPP604ILHI56737, 1990 Ford Thunderbird, 2-door, white, 2007 Texas license 784-CNB
WTCC-11/02/06

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HELP WANTED

The San Elizario Genealogy and Historical Society has an opening for Operations Director at Los Portales Museum. Bi-lingual, part-time, Tuesday thru Sunday, four hours daily, plus some meetings. Duties: grant writing, public interaction, computer skills, etc. Contact Martha Garciaa, 851-1682. 11/23

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Deadline: Mondays

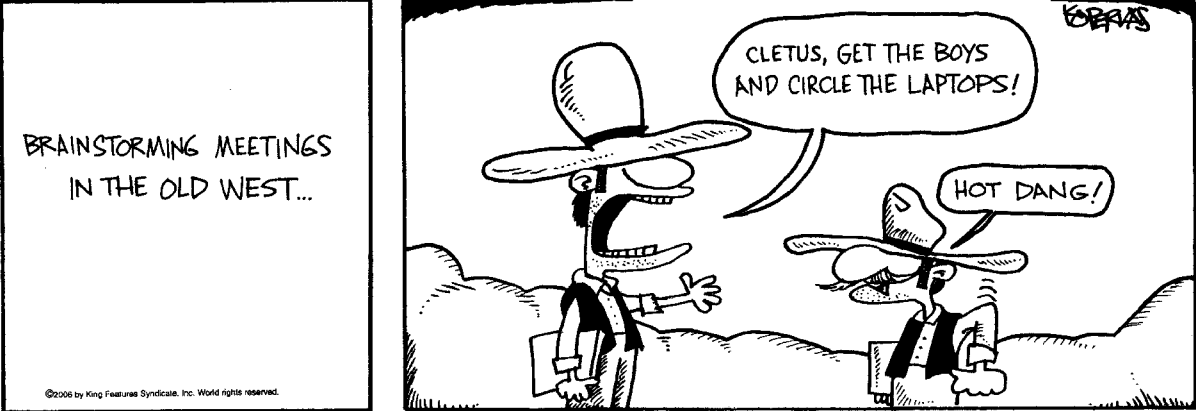
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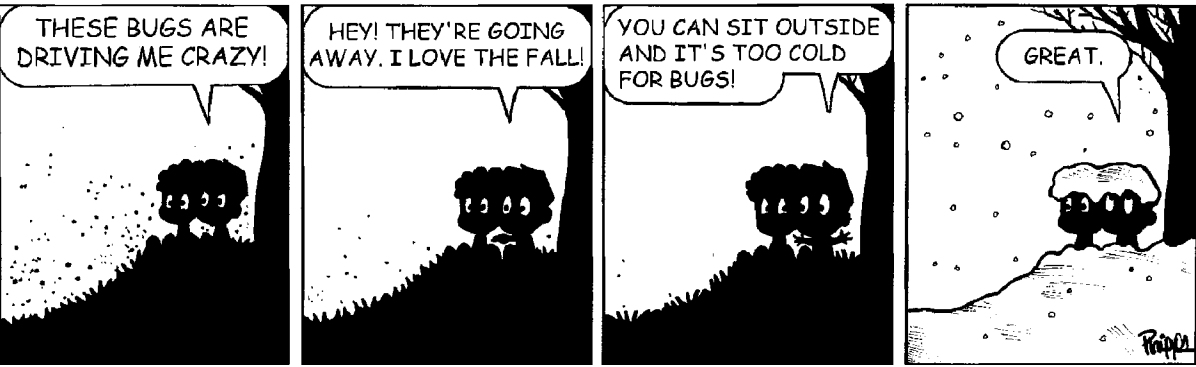
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Comix

OUT ON A LIMB By Gary Kopervas



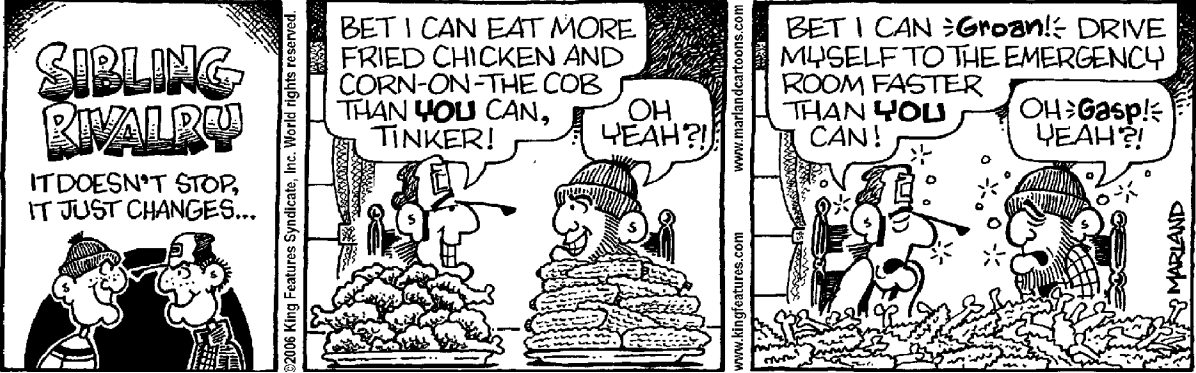
AMBER WAVES By Dave T. Phipps



THE SPATS By Jeff Pickering



R.F.D. By Mike Marland



Odds are we can build voter interest

By Don Flood

Hungarian Prime Minister Ferenc Gyurcsany recently admitted that his government had accomplished “nothing” and that he had “lied morning, noon and night” to get re-elected.

Finally, a tangible sign that American-style democracy is taking hold!

I admit to being skeptical about President Bush’s “freedom agenda,” but it’s clearly working in Hungary.

Sadly, there is one country where democracy is slipping away: America.

The problem is Americans are already burdened with so many decisions — what songs to add to their iPods, what brand of bottled water to drink, the best phone plan, etc. — that they have neither the time nor the inclination to vote.

One state aims to reverse that trend.

Arizona has come up with a plan — this is for real — under which voters would be eligible for a \$1 million lottery, just for casting a ballot.

This scheme goes to what political scientists see as the heart of the problem.

You go vote, and what’s your reward? You might help elect someone to Congress, which has less standing with the public than Paris Hilton.

Not everybody favors the Arizona plan.

The Arizona Chamber on Commerce and Industry said the reward would encourage people to vote “even if they are completely uninformed and uninterested.”

And their point is?

Even more bizarre, one person was quoted as saying that voting was a “privilege” and that the plan amounted to a “bribe.”

I can’t be certain, but my impression was that the person was trying to cast the word “bribe” in a negative light.

In fact, bribes have a long and honored tradition in American politics. Local bosses, with the aid of a 5 or 10 dollar bill or a pint of booze, used to work on election days to inform and interest voters about the democratic process.

Election laws, of course, are much stricter now, so much so that the only ones allowed to accept bribes are members of Congress.

Is it so surprising that interest in politics has waned?

Here are some ideas to bring the “fun” back to politics.

Candidate scratch cards — The Pennsylvania Lottery, for example, has a big “Keep on Scratching” campaign for its lottery scratch cards.

Let’s “keep on scratching” for candidates *and* cash prizes!

Voters would receive cards with both candidates and cash prizes. If you scratched and found a candidate’s face, of course, you’d be a loser.

But you could just as easily win \$25 or \$50 — or more if that’s what it takes to keep American democracy thriving.

Another idea is voting/betting parlors. These could help alleviate one of the main problems with modern elections: Voters aren’t rooting for either candidate.

Voters in the booth would see an array of candidates *and* the latest odds, just like a horse race.

By adding minor-party candidates, the “freedom” parlors also could offer exciting “exacta” and “trifecta” wagering.

Another addition could be a point or “vote spread.” That way, even a candidate with no chance of winning could still “beat the spread” and come home a winner for his supporters.

But would these plans actually get more Americans interested in politics? You betcha.

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King Super Crossword

FOR THE BIRDS

ACROSS

1 Sagan or Sandburg

5 Swarm sound

9 Montana city

14 Monterrey Mrs.

17 '58 Pulitzer winner

18 Piece of fencing?

19 He was "The Thing"

21 Pipe part

22 WREN

25 Brobdingnagian

26 For _ (cheaply)

27 Comic Costello

28 _ Na Na

29 Mascagni opera

30 Poet Wilcox

33 Lohengrin's bird

37 African antelopes

39 LARK

44 "The Optimist's Daughter" author

45 Bonanza material

46 Coveleski or Musial

47 Vichyssoise

48 veggie

49 Tip one's topper

51 Long-tailed parrot

54 Sanford of "The Jeffersons"

56 Scandinavian city

59 Griffon greeting

61 Fool

63 Missouri airport abbr.

64 Valuable instrument

66 Stowe sight

67 Screenwriter Nora

70 Elf

72 Dash

73 Sarah _ Jewett

74 Inland sea

75 QUAIL

78 Depravity

79 Easy stride

80 Bit of gossip

81 Parenthesis shape

82 Physicist Fermi

84 Corset part

85 Alfredo ingredient

87 British big shot

89 Monsarrat's "The Cruel _"

90 Tulsa commodity

91 Cheat at hide-and-seek

92 Preposterous

95 Sweetheart

99 Turn over

101 Darjeeling dress

103 Invasion

105 Frankfurter's field

106 Rent

109 CRANE

113 Church official

114 Oriental staple

115 Big rig

116 Channel

117 Actress Hagen

119 Plutarch character

122 Tole material

126 Be important

127 PARTRIDGE

133 Actor Novello

134 Kindle

135 Heart burn?

136 Time for a sandwich

137 According to

138 German port

139 Racing legend

140 Guy Fri.

DOWN

1 _ Grande, AZ

2 FBI workers

3 " _ Man" ('84 film)

4 Not as fatty

5 Neighbor of Ger.

6 Prosperous times

7 Non-nonchalant?

8 Nil

9 Crank's comment

10 Swiss canton

11 Explosive initials

12 Golfer's gadgets

13 Avoid

14 DUCK

15 Toomey or Philbin

16 Iowa city

20 Musty

21 Japanese religion

23 Hard on the eyes

24 Astrology term

31 Brown or Baxter

32 Vino center

34 Corduroy ridge

35 Writer Rogers St. Johns

36 Formerly known as

38 Moro of Italy

39 One who no's best?

40 Distinctive period

41 _ room

42 Singer Elliot

43 Bete noire

48 Adorable Australian

50 Tenor Corelli

52 One of the Judds

53 Tolstoy title start

55 Coalition

57 Play ground?

58 Bedding

60 At large

62 Word with dog or state

65 "Never on Sunday" star

66 Good-humored

67 Amatory

68 CARDINAL

69 _ Dame

71 Anaconda, for one

74 As well

76 Pursues

77 Coffee pots

83 Ring counter

86 Andretti or Cuomo

88 Fiber source

91 Swamp stuff

93 "Death of a Salesman" son

94 Pad

96 Ryan's "Love Story" co-star

97 Bud

98 Fluffy female

100 Crime writer Colin

102 PC key

104 SHAEF commander

107 "The March King"

108 Whole

110 Stamping ground

111 TV award

112 Strauss city

113 Debonair

116 _ coffee

118 Energy source

120 One of a pair

121 South Seas novel

123 New Mexico resort

124 John of "Roots"

125 Expected back

128 Bossy's chew

129 Sugary suffix

130 Guys

131 College growth

132 Empower

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140															

Answer Page 6

Social Security Q&A

By Ray Vigil

Q: I'm thinking of buying a condo and the mortgage company will want proof of what I receive from Social Security. What can I use as proof of my Social Security retirement benefits?

A: Each year Social Security sends you an SSA-1099 Form showing the amount of benefits you received in the past year. You can use this as proof. If you have direct deposit, we also sent you a notice when your monthly benefit increased because of

a cost-of-living increase. If you don't have these notices you can have one mailed to you by visiting the Social Security website at www.socialsecurity.gov.

Q: I will be age 62 in a couple of months, but my husband is five years younger than I am. Do I have to wait until he retires to receive Social Security retirement benefits?

A: If you have worked long enough under Social Security, you may be

eligible for benefits based on your own work record. Your husband's age and entitlement status would not be a factor. However, a married woman age 62 or older can receive benefits on her husband's Social Security record only if her husband is entitled to retirement or disability benefits. Therefore, since your husband is under the minimum retirement age of 62, you cannot receive benefits on his record at this time unless he is entitled to disability benefits.

Q: I am helping my mother put her finances in order after the recent death of my step-father, who was age

64. My mother is 54 years old and I need to know what Social Security benefits she could expect to receive as a widow?

A: At the present time, your mother may be entitled to a \$255 lump-sum death benefit, which is a special one-time death payment paid to the surviving spouse or minor child of a deceased worker insured for benefits. As early as age 60 (or sooner if should she become disabled) she could file for widow's benefits. The amount of the benefit payment would be based on her husband's earnings, and the amount a survivor receives is a percentage of the de-

ceased person's basic Social Security benefit:

- Widow(er) at full retirement age or older — 100 percent;
- Widow(er) at age 60-64 — approximately 71 - 94 percent; or
- Widow(er) at any age caring for a child younger than 16 or a disabled child of any age — 75 percent.

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.

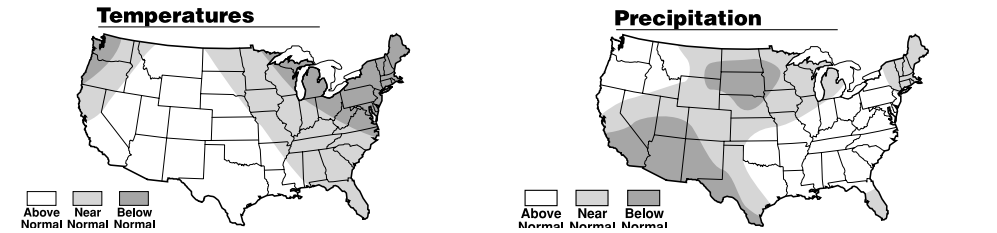
7-DAY FORECAST FOR EL PASO, TX

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71°	48°	73° 47°	75° 49°	76° 46°	70° 49°	75° 50°	77° 49°
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WEATHER TRENDS THIS WEEK



IN THE SKY

Sun	Rise	Set	Moon	Rise	Set	Full	Last
Thu.	6:23 a.m.	5:15 p.m.	Thu.	3:25 p.m.	3:01 a.m.		
Fri.	6:23 a.m.	5:15 p.m.	Fri.	3:57 p.m.	4:10 a.m.	11/5	11/12
Sat.	6:24 a.m.	5:14 p.m.	Sat.	4:32 p.m.	5:21 a.m.	New	First
Sun.	6:25 a.m.	5:13 p.m.	Sun.	5:13 p.m.	6:34 a.m.		
Mon.	6:26 a.m.	5:12 p.m.	Mon.	5:59 p.m.	7:48 a.m.	11/20	11/27
Tues.	6:27 a.m.	5:11 p.m.	Tues.	6:53 p.m.	8:59 a.m.		
Wed.	6:28 a.m.	5:11 p.m.	Wed.	7:53 p.m.	10:05 a.m.		

Forecasts and graphics provided by AccuWeather, Inc. ©2006

REGIONAL CITIES

	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
City	HI LO W	HI LO W	HI LO W	HI LO W
Abilene, TX	59 45 c	60 51 s	67 56 pc	73 57 sh
Albuquerque, NM	61 39 s	64 43 s	67 41 s	66 41 s
Amarillo, TX	55 34 s	62 42 s	67 44 s	68 43 pc
Austin, TX	62 51 c	64 53 pc	67 59 r	76 64 r
Brownsville, TX	79 65 c	79 68 c	83 68 r	84 68 c
Dodge City, KS	55 33 s	60 40 s	66 43 s	64 42 sh
Jackson, MS	64 39 pc	64 41 s	66 43 s	69 49 pc
Laredo, TX	71 60 c	68 62 c	76 66 r	81 69 c
Little Rock, AR	61 37 s	58 39 s	61 43 pc	62 49 sh
Lubbock, TX	55 40 pc	60 46 s	70 49 s	72 44 s
Memphis, TN	59 37 s	58 39 s	65 48 s	63 51 pc
Midland, TX	56 46 c	63 49 c	69 52 pc	73 50 pc
Pueblo, CO	56 22 s	69 28 s	67 30 pc	61 30 pc
Roswell, NM	55 39 pc	68 45 s	72 44 s	76 44 s
St. Louis, MO	55 32 s	54 38 s	56 43 pc	60 46 c
San Antonio, TX	65 52 c	64 57 c	71 64 sh	76 65 sh
Texarkana, AR	63 41 s	62 45 s	64 48 s	66 57 c
Waco, TX	63 47 c	65 52 pc	69 59 r	73 64 r
Wichita, KS	56 34 s	57 41 s	62 45 pc	62 44 r

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

U.S. CITIES

	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
City	HI LO W	HI LO W	HI LO W	HI LO W
Atlanta	62 39 pc	59 36 s	63 39 s	64 46 s
Boston	54 36 pc	46 34 pc	46 34 pc	48 36 pc
Chicago	44 24 s	43 31 s	48 34 c	52 40 c
Denver	50 30 s	62 33 pc	61 33 pc	55 31 c
Detroit	42 29 pc	42 28 pc	44 32 c	50 39 c
Houston	66 51 c	66 54 c	71 60 c	78 62 r
Indianapolis	48 24 s	47 29 s	49 35 pc	54 41 pc
Kansas City	51 28 s	56 40 pc	58 40 pc	60 43 c
Los Angeles	74 56 pc	74 57 s	73 56 s	74 56 s
Miami	86 71 sh	83 70 pc	82 71 pc	81 71 pc
Minneapolis	40 20 pc	42 28 s	43 33 c	47 37 c
New Orleans	70 52 pc	70 52 s	71 55 s	74 58 s
New York City	55 40 s	49 42 pc	49 40 s	48 40 pc
Omaha	45 21 s	49 35 s	59 39 pc	57 42 c
Phoenix	84 56 s	85 59 s	85 61 s	83 58 s
San Francisco	66 57 sh	66 55 c	66 52 pc	65 51 s
Seattle	49 44 r	56 45 r	56 47 r	56 45 r
Washington	56 39 pc	50 34 s	52 38 s	58 43 pc

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