

WEST TEXAS COUNTY COURIER

VOL. 28, No. 49

SERVING ANTHONY, VINTON, CANUTILLO, EAST MONTANA, HORIZON, SOCORRO, CLINT, FABENS, SAN ELIZARIO AND TORNILLO

DECEMBER 6, 2001

NEWSBRIEFS

Clint Water

El Paso Water Utilities officially transferred water service for the town of Clint to the Lower Valley Water District on Nov. 13. Currently, there are only 300 to 320 recipients of public water service. An agreement between the El Paso Water Utilities and the Clint Independent School District allowed for a specific number of water connections in Clint. Since then, Clint has seen little growth due to the lack of water service connections as installations will be based on availability of existing water lines. Residential trash pickup is also available with the water service through El Paso Disposal, and there will be no billing until January 2002. Residents in Clint should receive their first bill from the LVWD in December.

In other news

■ EL PASO — Nominations are being sought for the Year 2002 El Paso Animal Hall of Fame inductee, which will be celebrated during National Pet Week next May at the El Paso Veterinary Medical Association's (EPVMA) 18th Annual Veterinary Community Awards Banquet. The entry deadline is Dec. 31, 2001. Application forms are available from participating veterinary hospitals, Valley Feed Pet Food Centers and animal service organizations, or call (915) 584-3459 for an application. Categories include Hero, an animal that has performed an incredible act of bravery or saved a human life; Companion, an animal that has provided a special benefit to its community of human companions; and, Professional, a remarkable specially trained assistance, performance or an education animal. The winner will receive a plaque at a zoo dedication ceremony from the EPVMA and elected officials from the city and county. A corresponding founded plaque will be on permanent display at the El Paso Zoo's Recognition Garden near the entrance to the Asian Exhibit.

■ The United States Postal Services reminds the people to send their mail, letters, holiday cards and packages, especially with those sent to other continents. If you send packages, please put in a card with the address of the receiving party inside the package. The dates to start sending mail overseas are Dec. 3 for Africa, Central and South America; Dec. 10 for Mexico, the Caribbean, Asia, the Pacific Rim, Australia and New Zealand; and Dec. 14 for Canada for all air letters, cards and air parcel post. For more information, contact your local post office or log on to www.usps.com.

■ The El Paso Softball Umpires Association will have its first meeting for the 2002 softball season on Dec. 17 at 6 p.m. at the Ysleta Independent School District Building on 9600 Sims. The EPSUA is recruiting individuals interested in officiating high school and ASA fast and/or slow pitch softball games. New and seasoned officials are welcomed. Training clinics will be provided. For more information, call 568-9369, 585-8200, and 598-8684.

See BRIEFS, Page 6

Once upon a time movies were rated on how good they were, not on who was allowed to see them.

— Quips and Quotes

Clint ISD names new school, mascot and principal

By Debra Dominguez
Special to the Courier

New school. New principal. New mascot. For Clint Independent School District students, the future is fresh.

Clint ISD's Board of Trustees approved on Nov. 19 the name, mascot, colors and principal for the district's new middle school, which is being constructed at 14651 Horizon Blvd.

Clint ISD Deputy Superintendent Ricardo Estrada said the up and coming facility, which is scheduled to open fall 2002, has been named Horizon Middle School. The new principal will be Jesse Herrera, former Clint High School assistant principal.

"I look forward to taking on the challenge as the instructional leader within the Horizon educational community," Herrera said. "Without a doubt, this is a great honor bestowed on me by Clint ISD. I intend



Construction continues on Clint ISD's newest school on Horizon Blvd.

to fulfill the highest expectations and ensure that this middle school becomes the best in Region 19."

Estrada said the board approved black and silver as the school's colors and the Scorpion as the new school's mascot. Clint ISD Superintendent Sylvester Perez said future students of the school were adamant about having the Scorpion as their mascot and black as one of their colors.

The Scorpions, however, can only go so far without a good leader. And that's exactly what Perez calls Herrera "an innovator, a strong leader and the man for the job."

The superintendent said he was impressed by Herrera's strong and diverse work experience, which includes being an educational diagnostician, special education instructor, behavior improvement teacher, mental retardation rehabilitation coordinator and sheriff deputy.

Alfredo Solis, Clint ISD's human resources director, said Herrera brings with him "experience, knowledge and a desire to develop a program that will inspire students." Solis said Herrera's four years of administrative experience at Clint High School and his extensive background in special education will allow him to bring forward a program that will be tailored to student needs and that will enable and empower students to choose pathways to success.

"We would like to welcome Mr. Herrera aboard," Solis said. "He joins the ranks of principals that have established a reputation for risk taking and innovation. We know his success at Clint High School will allow him to build a strong foundation for the students of the new Horizon Middle School and will assist him in forging a magnet school concept — second to none in West Texas."

District officials say the new school will eventually evolve into a high school that will "build world class leadership with its international academy of business course offerings," including telecommunications, global marketing, banking and investments.

Chamizal National Memorial explores the nature of peace



The Chamizal Memorial will host *Chamizal Presents* on cable Channel 7, a program that will discuss current border issues.

The 11th monthly *Chamizal Presents* with anchors Cordell J. Roy and Virginia Ness will air Friday, December 14 at 7:30 p.m. on Cable Channel 7.

The theme focuses on the nature of peace, "a particularly appropriate theme given Chamizal National Memorial's origins," according to Roy, superintendent of the Memorial.

The Memorial, El Paso's National Park, was formed to commemorate the resolution of the Chamizal Problem, a near century long border dispute between of Chamizal. That treaty was carefully crafted under the direction of diplomatic representatives from both Mexico and the United States.

"This mutual coming together in peace is always of importance," Roy said, "but today, in this season and at this time a reaffirmation of what peaceful resolution and determined good will can accomplish is most appropriate."

"The broadcast features a wonderful discussion between the Consuls General of Mexico and the United States," Ness said.

Edward H. Vazquez, Consul General for the United States, and Antonio Meza Estrada, Consul General de México, continue the tradition of strong relations with Chamizal National Memorial. But more importantly, they are simply dedicated to working together to solve problems across a broad realm of issues from health, to border crossings, to immigration, education and culture. They are perfect representatives for the spirit of Chamizal," Ness added.

The show also features a conversation with the El Paso Community Foundation's Gary Williams.

"Williams, much like the consuls general, has a vision of peace and problem resolution," Ness said.

As coordinator for the Pass of the North Heritage Corridor, Williams has been a catalyst in bringing regional historical resources together in a positive effort to better understand our history as it relates to our present and future.

Chamizal Presents is a public service program produced by Time Warner Communications. It airs every other Friday.



First time donors put 103 pints in the bank

Mountain View High seniors Janet Estrella and Saul Castro donated blood during Monday's blood drive for United Blood Services at their school. The Lobo Student Council collected 103 pints from 135 possible donors. Of the blood donated, 99 percent came from first-time 17 and 18 year-old students. The Lobos are planning two more blood drives — one in March and one in May. For information regarding future blood drives you can contact Student Activities Director Elva L. Chávez at 857-1011.



One perspective

By Francis Shrum

Getting sick

HORIZON — I hate being sick.

It starts with a little tickle in the throat, a stuffy nose, a sore neck, an achy feeling in the back, and it just goes down hill from there.

I've got this box of vitamins that sits on top of the refrigerator, full of vitamin C—including chewables—cod liver oil capsules, echinacea and multi-vitamins. Every morning my family gets "treated" for the El Paso cold and flu season.

A major milestone we use to determine whether a person is "really" sick is when they complain that their hair hurts.

A friend of ours told me once that El Paso is a control group for the rest of the nation. When a nasty foreign bug crosses the border, she said, health professionals can judge how serious it is by how many people it takes down in the El Paso County population.

I think she may be right.

Every year our family tiptoes through the wilderness of flu bugs. Some years we have more casualties than others. Some years are so bad that we refer to them in historical terms: "Remember that winter when...?"

One year we caught the granddaddy of all flu bugs. I was so sick that it was too much effort to watch, much less assimilate, what was happening on TV. Then my two littlest caught it. They lay side by side on the bed for days, unmoving, staring with sightless eyes at the cartoons dancing across TV screen. Every half hour or so I'd take their pulse, their temperature and force-feed them liquids. They lived.

Thankfully, we've never all had such a major illness at the same time. I shudder when I read about those folks in pioneer days when they got sick with typhoid, diphtheria or some such, and were all down at the same time. Sometimes they owed their

very survival to a tiny tot who could still bring them a drink of water.

The community knew to stay away from that house until the disease had been eradicated.

We don't handle sickness in such very logical manner anymore.

If you have kids in public school you know that if your kid misses more than three days due to illness, you must have a doctor's excuse to get them back in.

Now everybody knows that it takes about a week to get over the common cold. If you go to the doctor for it, he or she will probably tell you to "rest and drink plenty of liquids."

But this holds no water with the schools. Apparently, they don't believe a mother is capable of diagnosing a cold or flu, so you have to go buy an excuse from a medical professional. If you have a kid in high school, you are limited to one and a half colds per season, because if he or she misses more than nine days they yank all the kid's credits.

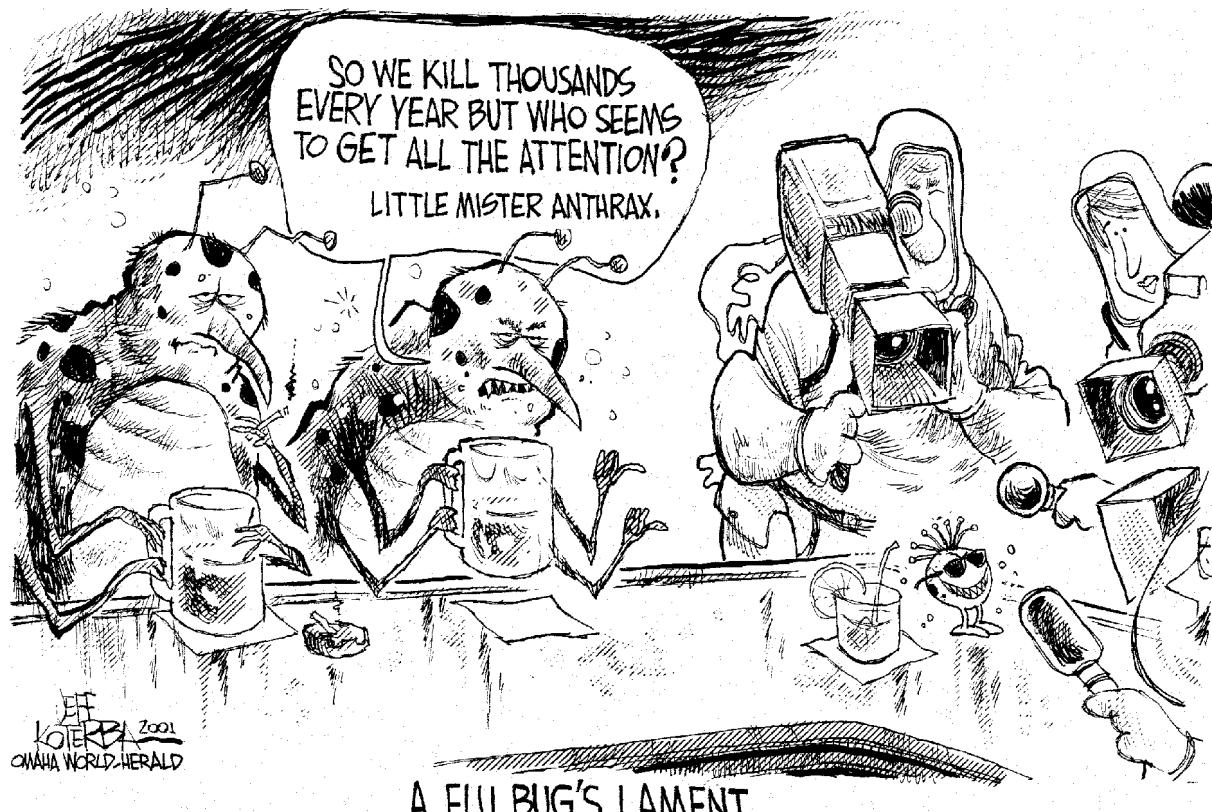
Worst of all, this mentality brings hundreds, maybe thousands, of sick kids into the schools everyday to expose otherwise healthy kids to whatever bug they happen to be infected with.

Ah, whatever happened to quarantine?

This mentality also inspires the wholesale prescribing of antibiotics, which in turn creates super bugs resistant to treatment. Afterall, Mom has to go to work, and she can't send junior back to school without some sort of verification he was "really" sick and that she is "really" doing something about it.

Besides, there is that bicycle on the line that the school is going to award to some hardy kid for his perfect attendance.

At work, even with benefits provided by sick leave and personal leave, we still drag our damaged bodies out of bed, fill ourselves full of some kind of artificially life-giving medication, and weave our way



A FLU BUG'S LAMENT



through rush-hour traffic to our jobs, either out of a sense of duty or a sense of fear that some up-and-coming person is going to make the company realize that they really can get by without us.

With a system like this, we don't even need bio-terrorism introduced

by an enemy to infect our populace. We do a pretty good job of it all on our own.

You know, I just hate being sick.

WEST TEXAS COUNTY COURIER

SERVING ANTHONY, VINTON, CANUTILLO, EAST MONTANA, HORIZON, SOCORRO, CLINT, FABENS, SAN ELIZARIO AND TORNILLO

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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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Monday 4 p.m. for Thursday publication.

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

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

Lending a helping hand to those in need

The holiday season is upon us, and what a wonderful time it is to spend with family and loved ones reliving old memories and making new ones. While we cherish these special moments, we should not forget about those among us who are not as fortunate.

All around our communities are hard working folks who, because of unfortunate circumstances, cannot stretch their paychecks for enough food for themselves or their families. Setting aside a portion of your afternoon or weekend to assist those less fortunate than us could make a huge difference — especially in this holiday season.

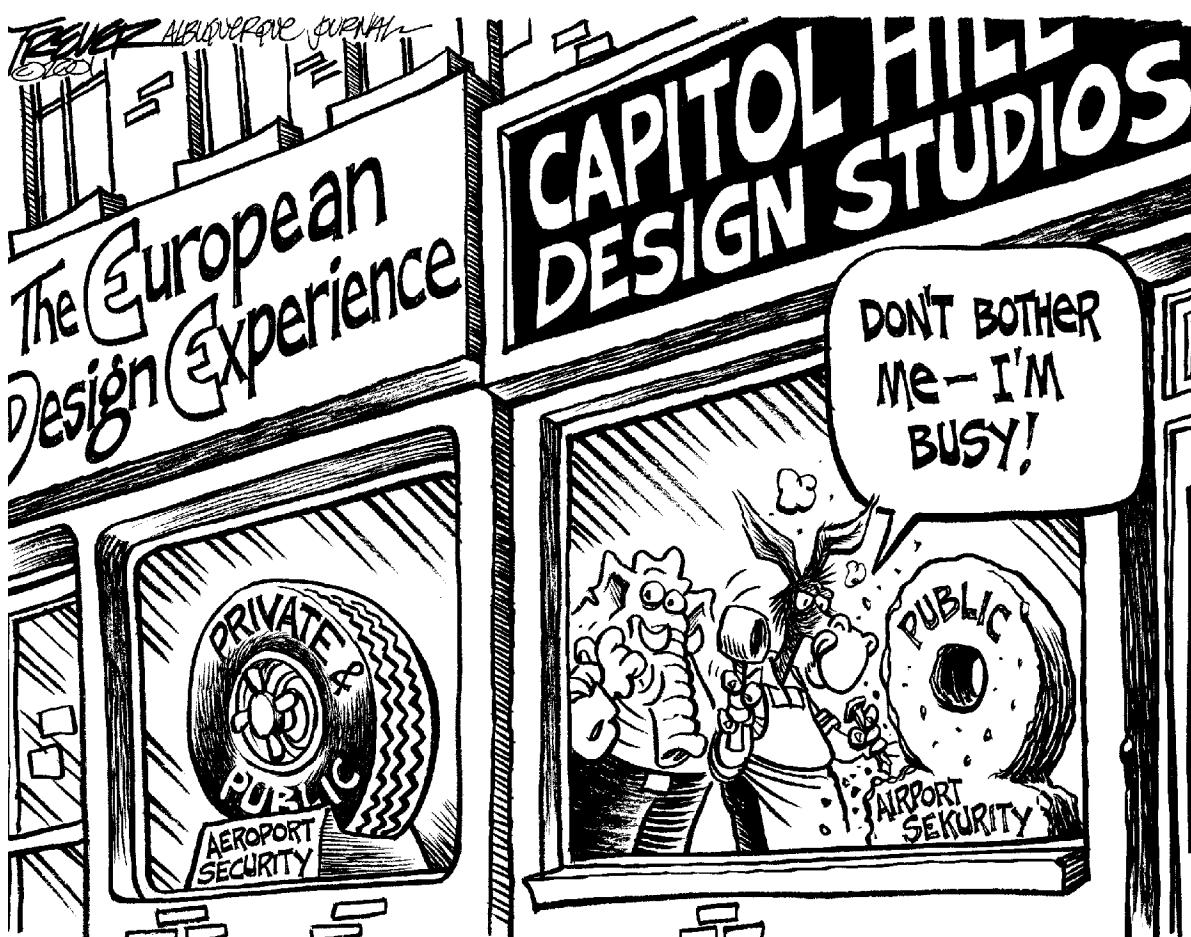
This country was built on individualism, which includes an individual's responsibility to his or her neighbors. Part of this responsibility is to lend a hand to a neighbor in their time of need. By giving a little of yourself, you not only empower your neighbor, but you also make your community stronger and more united.

There is perhaps no better example of people uniting and working for the common good of the community than in small towns in South and West Texas. In these small Texas towns people are naturally charitable. Texans haven't forgotten to make it a priority to give something back to our communities. And it's not like you don't

have anything else to do. You lead busy lives. You work, take care of families, go to church, coach little league, and yet still make the time to volunteer.

Many people think heroes are the people who beat the odds and achieve the impossible. But the people who do succeed against the odds aren't the only heroes. America is full of them. Heroes are the people who not only recognize that the world is full of need, they do something about it. They get up in the morning and decide they are going to do something to make their community a better place.

There is nothing more satisfying than helping an impoverished child learn to read or delivering a good, hot meal to an elderly grandmother. Not only do you bring smiles to the faces of those you volunteer to help, but you get a warm feeling in your heart that lasts a long time. The opportunities to help are boundless. If you're not involved, get involved. Make the decision to just do it. Whether it's stopping along the highway and picking up trash, or organizing a fundraiser to donate money to charity. You can make a difference. And to those who are already doing it, a hearty thank you. Giving to those in need around us, helping our neighbors, and assisting those with special needs — that is the true meaning of the holiday season.



MARGULIES
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www.northjersey.com/margulies

View from the porch By Linda Mussehl



Back biting

Pardner's main horse, Big Boy (Bee for short), has a nasty habit of biting Harley, our other gelding.

When they are at their leisure in the horse trap, Bee will drive Harley ahead of him with sharp little galvanizing bites. Sometimes when they are standing companionably nose to tail in the shade, both presumably asleep, Bee will haul off and sink his teeth — hard — into Harley's rump for no apparent reason.

What's really ironic about it all is the Bee was the one driven ahead of grumpy old Roany when Roany was still on the place. As soon Roany left and Harley arrived, Bee switched from being bitten to doing the biting. Rank has its privileges, I guess.

Harley is pretty thin-skinned, literally, at the best of times, but in addition to his normal scratches and welts, he always has a collection of bit marks in different stages of healing. He seems to take no offense at Bee biting him. It's more like a stolid acceptance: "it's his job to bite and my job to be bitten."

In both cases, it was the younger, larger, stronger gelding that was bitten and driven ahead of the older dominant horse.

The geldings were hanging out near the house recently, hoping for a handout, when Bee snaked his head over and bit Harley behind his withers, right where the saddle sits.

"That's it," Pardner said. "If Bee starts back biting,

he'll have to go to the sale barn."

I guess I had never thought about it. A back-biting horse could put a whole working string out of service overnight. No matter if the back biter was the best horse around, if he made sores on the other horses so they couldn't be saddled and ridden, he was a liability.

That started me thinking about the phrase "back biting." It's a common enough figure of speech, but I had never realized its origin or implications. It's sure a common enough human behavior.

Back in the dim, dark reaches of time when I was in the corporate world, I supervised an office staff. Back biting is occasionally a problem in any office. (I've always acknowledged the truth in the old saying: If you supervise more than two people, you're running an asylum.)

It was always hard to know exactly how to handle a back biting problem in the office. One hates to overreact and come down too hard on the instigator, the back biter, the person who is always stirring up little personnel problems. After all, each incident is small, hardly worth notice, and always denied by the perpetrator.

However, the cumulative effect of all those snotty remarks, gratuitous nastiness and pettiness is a workforce in turmoil. It's hard for the rest of the staff to give their best when they are still smarting from the office malcontent's last bite.

Now, blessed with 20/20 hindsight, I understand that the back biter's cost to the office far outweighed any contribution the individual might have made. I also see that I was remiss in not sending the offender to the corporate equivalent of the sale barn — the unemployment line.

View from here by Bill Hammond

Tough times are a good time for tax cuts

AUSTIN — Americans are closing ranks and staying at home.

Hot-spot eating establishments known for long waits and constant hum of voices are eerily quiet. Shopping malls, usually chock full of sale-seekers, feature vast, empty parking lots. Once-popular air flights between big cities are only half-filled with travelers. Routine business meetings are being replaced by teleconferences.

What is happening is that responsible individuals as well as the corporate community, sensing economic uncertainty, are pulling in the reins on spending.

The sluggish American economy is not just the result of terrorist attacks on New York. This downturn has been a long time in the making and is further complicated by the public's fear over the state of foreign affairs. But virtually every industry and trade is now feeling our hangover from an irresponsible spending spree in the '90s, as we confront economic decisions personally and as a nation.

When citizen Ronald Reagan assumed the Presidency in 1981, the old guard, liberal establishment sharpened their swords for a battle with him over tax cuts. They characterized his approach to taxation as simplistic and reckless. But in the end, Reagan was able to rally the Congressional troops and prevail. He proved the naysayers wrong with a tax package that jump-started the lackluster economy for what became an unparalleled period of growth.

The Bush Administration has already backed tax breaks to help industries like the airlines adversely affected by the terrorist attacks. That is the right thing to do in order to save those companies that are essential elements of American life. But beyond those cuts, we must consider other businesses as well. The Administration may be heeding the advice of Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan who has stated that "temporary" tax cuts may offer a shot in the arm to the economy.

Why temporary? A reduction in the capital gains tax should be permanent and should be enacted now. That would do more to spur investment and stimulate the economy than most anything else. A reduction in the corporate tax rate by five percent would allow businesses to use the cuts for debt reduction, savings or investments. Accelerating the individual tax cuts scheduled for 2004 would grant additional relief to Americans at the taxation saturation point. There is an immediate need to repeal the corporate alternative minimum tax (AMT) because companies in AMT pay higher taxes when profits are down, hardly the time to pull money out of the company coffers.

Then there is a more novel idea, and one we don't hear much about — reducing government spending. That's just what rank and file Americans do when they feel the pinch of economic stress. Why should government be exempt from fiscal responsibility?

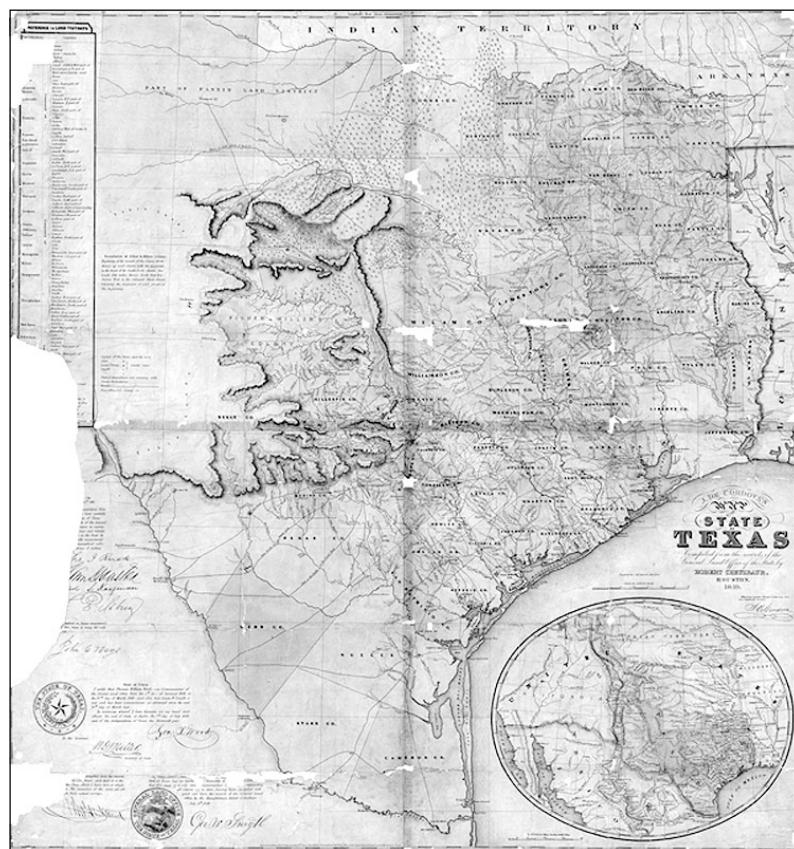
The terrorist attack has dampened our spirit, but just for the moment. Americans have an inbred resilience. We will come out of our homes and return to a normal life, but government can and should do its part to bring our confidence back. Tough times demand bold decisions. Congress should act swiftly but judiciously in enacting tax incentives to individuals and businesses. This will bring about investments, expansion and new jobs that make up the cornerstone of American economic prosperity.

Remember the words of Ronald Reagan: "If not us, who? If not now, when?"

(Bill Hammond is president of the Austin-based Texas Association of Business and Chambers of Commerce.)

TRUE TEXAS FACTS by Roger Moore Dec. 4, 1835, Texian volunteers storm San Antonio against the orders of their officers.





This is an 1849 Jacob De Cordova map of Texas, with the inset of Texas going west into New Mexico and north into Wyoming. The online (www.glo.state.tx.us) search number for this map is #78165.

Historic map collection available through state

Looking for something unusual? Texas Land Commissioner David Dewhurst has launched a new service on the Web site of the Texas General Land Office that contains a database of thousands of historical maps and sketches, along with thumbnail images of hundreds of scanned maps.

High-quality color copies of the scanned maps now are available for purchase by the public. The scanned maps include those that have been conserved under Dewhurst's successful Adopt-A-Map program, along with numerous smaller maps and sketches that do not presently need



This Stephen F. Austin map of Texas was published by Tanner in 1837. The online search number for this map is #2114.

conservation. More images will be added to the Web as maps are conserved and scanned in the future.

"We have spent several years and a whole lot of hard work to get to this day and we are very excited to make these wonderful maps available to the public in time for the holiday season," Dewhurst said. "They make fantastic gifts for any Texan."

Instead of having to come to our office, Dewhurst said the public may now view these maps from their home computers when deciding which ones to order, with no guess-work about how the copies will look.

Dewhurst said that thanks to members of the Texas Society of Professional Surveyors, Frost Bank and many other generous donors, copies of about 30 of the maps are available for the first time. The Adopt-A-Map program allowed these maps to be professionally conserved.

Until conservation, they could not have been scanned in their previous precarious conditions. Now, the public will have access to them via the Internet and without any further damage to the original maps. As more maps come back from conservation, they too will be scanned and added to the Web site.

The map database is based on the Land Office's archival map collection, which consists of more than 10,000 maps dating from as early as the 1820s. Most are county maps, along with numerous state maps, large maps of the old land districts

See MAPS, Page 5

Classified Ads

NOTICE OF INTENT

El Paso Electric Company (EPE) intends to secure a Certificate of Convenience and Necessity (CCN) from the Public Utility Commission of Texas (PUCT) for the construction and installation of one 115kV transmission line in east El Paso County, Texas. The PUCT requires EPE to publish notice in a newspaper having general circulation in the county(ies) where the CCN is being requested. Persons with questions about this project should contact EPE, Lawrence F. Thoenen at (915) 543-5811 or Martha A. Velasco at (915) 543-4025. Persons who wish to intervene in the proceeding or comment upon action sought, should contact the Public Utility Commission of Texas at P.O. Box 13326, Austin, Texas 78711-3326, or call the Public Utility Commission at (512) 936-7120 or (888) 782-8477. Hearing- and speech-impaired individuals with text telephones (TTY) may contact the commission at (512) 936-7136. The deadline for intervention in the proceeding is January 14, 2002, and a letter requesting intervention should be received by the commission by that date.

The project is contained within a 30-square-mile area located 2 miles east of Loop 375 at the Montwood/Zaragosa intersection. The proposed 7.8-mile line will connect EPE's Montwood Substation to the Coyote Substation.

EPE has a preferred route and two alternative routes, which are described below. Acquisition of right-of-way will be required.

Preferred Route (G)

The preferred route begins at the Montwood Substation located in the northwest corner of Section 2, Block 79, Township 3 the route heads east, paralleling the north section line of Section 2, Block 79, Township 3 and heads east, paralleling the north section line of Section 2, Block 79, Township 3 and existing roads for approximately 4 miles to a future substation site at Ascension Street. From this point, the line turns north and parallels Ascension Street for approximately 1.6 miles, then heads west for approximately 0.7 mile. From this point the line heads north for approximately 0.6 mile through vacant land and continues 1 mile north along Krag Street to the Coyote Substation located at the northwest corner of Marvin and Krag in Section 5, Block 78, Township 2.

The estimated cost of this project is \$2,689,462.61. A map of this project may be viewed at the El Paso Electric Company office located at 123 W. Mills Street, El Paso, Texas, in Suite 295. A copy of the map may be obtained at this same location or from Lawrence F. Thoenen, EPE, at (915) 543-5811 or Martha A. Velasco, EPE, at (915) 543-4025.

AVISO

La compañía El Paso Electric (EPE) intenta obtener un Certificado de Necesidad (CNN) de la Comisión de Servicios Públicos de Texas (PUCT) para la construcción de una línea de transmisión de 115kV en el este del Condado de El Paso Texas. La PUCT requiere que EPE publique un aviso en alguno de los periódicos de circulación general. Aquellas personas con preguntas con respecto a este proyecto, deberán comunicarse a la oficina de EPE, Lawrence F. Thoenen al (915) 543-5811 o Martha A. Velasco al (915) 543-4025. Las personas que deseen intervenir en este procedimiento o que deseen hacer algún comentario sobre esta acción, deberán comunicarse con la Comisión de Servicios Públicos de Texas a la siguiente dirección, P.O. Box 13326, Austin, Texas

78711-3325 o llamar a la Comisión de Servicios Públicos al (512) 936-7120 o al (888) 782-8477. Las personas sordomudas con teléfonos de texto TTY pueden ponerse en contacto con la Comisión llamando al (512) 936-7136. El último día para intervenir en este procedimiento es el día 14 de Enero del 2002, enviando una carta solicitando intervención que deberá ser recibida por la Comisión para esa fecha.

Este proyecto abarca dentro una área de 30 millas cuadradas localizado 2 millas al Este del Loop 375 en la intersección Montwood/Zaragosa. El proyecto de 7.8 millas de línea conectará a la subestación Montwood con la subestación Coyote de EPE.

EPE tiene tres rutas, una de preferencia ya dos alternativas, las cuales se describen a continuación. Se requiere adquisición de derecho de paso.

Ruta Principal (G)

La ruta principal da principio en la subestación Montwood ubicada en la esquina Noroeste de la Sección 2, Block 79, Township 3 con camino hacia el Este, paralela con la línea Norte de la Sección 2, Block 79, Township 3 y caminos existentes con una distancia de aproximadamente 4 millas hacia el lugar de la futura subestación en la calle Ascension. A partir de este punto, la línea corre hacia el Norte y paralela con la calle Ascension a una distancia de aproximadamente 1.2 millas, continuando hacia el oeste a lo largo de la línea hacia el sur de la Sección 17, Block 78, Township 2 a una distancia de aproximadamente 0.7 millas. A partir de este punto la línea corre hacia el Norte a una distancia de

de aproximadamente 1 milla pasando por un terreno baldío y continuando a una distancia de aproximadamente 1 milla hacia al Norte a lo largo de la calle Krag con dirección hacia la subestación Coyote, ubicada en la esquina Noroeste de las calles Marvin y Krag en la Sección 5, Block 78, Township 2.

Ruta Alternativa (F)
Comenzando en la subestación Montwood ubicada en la esquina Noroeste de la Sección 2, Block 79, Township 3, la ruta se dirige hacia el este paralela con la línea Norte de la Sección 2, Block 79, Township 3, y caminos existentes a una distancia de aproximadamente 0.6 millas pasando por un terreno baldío y continuando a una distancia de 1 milla a lo largo de la calle Krag hacia la Subestación Coyote ubicada en la esquina Noroeste de las calles Marvin y Krag en la Sección 5, Block 78, Township 2.

El costo aproximado del proyecto es de \$2,689,462.61. Un mapa del proyecto está disponible para consulta en la oficina de El Paso Electric, ubicada en el 123 W. Mills, El Paso, Texas, Suite 295. Si desea una copia del mapa, se puede obtener en las mismas oficinas con el Sr. Lawrence F. Thoenen, EPE, número de teléfono (915) 543-5811 o Martha A. Velasco, EPE, número de teléfono (915) 543-4025.

WTCC: 12/06 & 12/13/01

AUCTIONS

U.S. TREASURY DEPT. PUBLIC AUCTION
December 12, 9:00AM
5900 Luckett Ct
El Paso, TX

Over 75 Vehicles
Incl '98 GMC Pickup,
'96 Ford Mustang
and much more!

INSPECT & REGISTER:
Dec 11, 10am- 4pm.
02-24-057/058.
CWS13627.

Call (703) 273-7373
treas.gov/auctions/customs

and much more!
INSPECT & REGISTER:
Dec 11, 10am- 4pm.

02-24-057/058.
CWS13627.

Call (703) 273-7373
treas.gov/auctions/customs

City on Mondays through Saturdays at 8 p.m. Call 859-0484 for information.

Tiene problemas con el alcohol? Hay una solución. Visítemos. Alcohólicos Anónimos, Grupo 8 de Enero, 15360 Horizon Blvd., Horizon City, sesiones lunes a sábado a 8 de la tarde. Informacion: 859-0484.

SERVICES

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Maps

From Page 4

and colonies and some city maps.

Some of the maps were compiled by Stephen F. Austin, first Land Commissioner John Borden, a short story writer O. Henry (William Sydney Porter), architect Conrad C. Stremme, land agent Jacob De Cordova and other important settlers, surveyors and cartographers.

County maps

The foundation of the archival collection are maps of Texas' 254 counties, all showing the original land grants in each county.

Beginning in the early 1840s, the majority of the county maps were compiled and drawn by draftsmen at the Land Office. Most are manuscript maps, meaning original hand-drawn artwork.

Several well-known individuals drew maps at the Land Office, including the short story author O. Henry (William Sydney Porter), artist Hermann Lungwitz, and architect Conrad C. Stremme.

GLO county maps show the locations of original land surveys in Texas. The maps reveal development as settlement progressed, reflecting changes as new counties were created out of old ones and adding new surveys, towns, roads, and railroads.

Republic of Texas, Colony and District maps

The collection includes several maps of connected surveys in areas settled by empresarios. These include Stephen F. Austin's well-known early colonies in Central and Southeast Texas and the troubled Peters Colony in North Texas.

A number of maps in the GLO collection were created during Texas' time as an independent nation. Some of these maps show Texas with its largest boundaries, land holdings reaching into modern-day Wyoming.

District maps include over-sized manuscript maps of the large districts that feature multiple counties. These include an 1839 map of portions of the Bexar District around San Antonio, a map of the Fannin District stretching across North Texas, huge maps of the Nacogdoches District in East Texas and a map of the Robertson District in North Central Texas.

Social Security: Q & A

by Ray Vigil

Q. I am a young widow supporting four children. Are my children able to receive any financial help through Social Security?

A. Yes, your children may be eligible for Social Security survivors benefits. Benefits may be awarded to each child should one or both parents become disabled, retire or die and assuming the parents have paid Social Security taxes. You will be interested to know that you may be eligible for benefits as a widow, if your children are under age 16 and get benefits. You should apply for benefits promptly because, in some cases, benefits may not be retroactive.

Q. How do Medicare managed care plans work?

A. Medicare managed care plans are another way for you to receive Medicare benefits. All plans must provide all of the services that you would receive under original Medicare with some added benefits. You usually must use the doctors, hospitals and providers in the plan's network. You may have to pay a monthly premium to your health plan. However, you would not need a supplemental Medigap policy if you join a managed care plan.

For more information visit your local Security office, see <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, 11111 Gateway West, Attn: Ray Vigil, El Paso, Texas 79935.

City and state

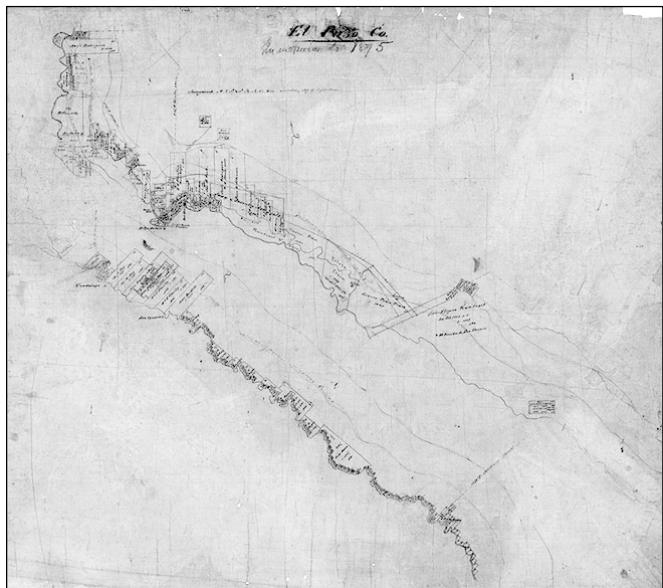
The General Land Office houses a number of historical city maps, some of cities that do not exist today. One example is the 1839 map of Calhoun, a planned city platted for Matagorda Island but abandoned by 1845. Another example is Indianola, an important early landing point for German immigrants.

There also are lavish maps originally printed to market subdivisions and developments in cities like Austin and along the Gulf Coast.

High-quality full-sized color copies of the maps will be sold for \$20 if the map is less than 48 inches and \$40 for maps over 48 inches. Shipping and handling for all sizes is \$8 per tube.

To view the maps and print out the order form, go to www.glo.state.tx.us and then go to Archives and Records. Click on Map Collection.

An 1875 map of El Paso County, mostly showing surveys along the water. The online (www.glo.state.tx.us) search number for this map is #3512.



EL PASO COUNTY WATER CONTROL & IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT #4 PUBLIC MEETING NOTICE

EL PASO COUNTY WATER CONTROL & IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT #4 IN FABENS, TEXAS WITH THE WATER AND WASTE WATER FACILITY PLAN STEERING COMMITTEE "INVITE" THE COMMUNITY OF "FABENS" TO A

PUBLIC MEETING:
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2001
FROM 6:30 PM - 9:00 PM
FABENS I.S.D. AUDITORIUM
301 CAMP ST. N.E.
FABENS, TEXAS 79838

A PUBLIC MEETING WILL BE CONDUCTED TO DESCRIBE THE PROPOSED WATER AND WASTE-WATER FACILITY PLAN IN FABENS, TEXAS. THE EL PASO COUNTY W.C.I.D. #4 PROPOSES TO THE TOWN OF FABENS TO EXPAND THE WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITY, AND PROVIDE CLEANER WATER AT A HIGHER VOLUME THAN IS PRESENTLY PROVIDED

THE PUBLIC MEETING ON THE PROJECT WILL INCLUDE A BRIEFING ON THE FINANCIAL ASPECTS AND A HEARING ON PUBLIC COMMENTS

THE DISTRICT IS IN THE PROCESS OF APPLYING FOR CERTIFICATION FROM THE BORDER ENVIRONMENT COOPERATION COMMISSION (BECC), TO BECOME ELIGIBLE FOR N.A.D. BANK FUNDING. THE BECC HAS PROVIDED TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FUNDING FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE WATER AND WASTEWATER FACILITY PLAN AND CERTIFICATION.

A COPY OF THE FACILITY PLAN IS AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC REVIEW AT THE EL PASO COUNTY W.C.I.D. #4 OFFICE, FROM 8:00 AM TO 4:30 PM M-F, AT THE COUNTY LIBRARY FROM 8:30 AM TO 5:30 PM M-F AND 10:00 AM TO 2:00 PM SATURDAYS, AND AT THE BIG 8 IN FABENS EVERYDAY FROM 8:00 AM TO CLOSING TIME. ALL INTERESTED CITIZENS ARE INVITED TO ATTEND THIS MEETING AND TO EXPRESS THEIR VIEW, ORAL AND WRITTEN COMMENTS. IN THE INTEREST OF AVAILABLE TIME, EACH SPEAKER WILL BE ASKED TO LIMIT ORAL COMMENTS TO THREE (3) MINUTES. LONGER STATEMENTS SHOULD BE SUMMARIZED AND SUBMITTED IN WRITING EITHER AT THE PUBLIC MEETING OR DELIVERED TO THE EL PASO COUNTY W.C.I.D. #4, 117 E. MAIN ST., P.O. BOX 3880 FABENS, TEXAS 79838. ATTN: STEVE RODRIGUEZ OR ADRIAN MEDELES.

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• Friday, Dec. 28
vs. San Jose State
at 7:00 PM

• Saturday, Dec. 30 vs.
Hawaii at 2:00 PM

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\$3.00-Adult • \$1.00-Youth

Wild weekend proves college football needs playoff system

By Steve Escajeda
Special to the Courier

The craziness that occurred last weekend proved, yet again, that there will be no legitimate NCAA football champion until the powers that be wake up and institute a playoff system that determines a champ on the field and not in the boardroom.

With Texas and Florida both losing last week, the BCS' main computer must have a melted a microchip or two trying to figure out what to do next.

Everybody is pretty much in agreement that the Miami Hurricanes deserve to be in the BCS title game because of their 11-0 record. But who the heck deserves a chance to battle them for the championship?

Who do you choose? Do the Oregon Ducks (10-1) deserve a chance? How about Tennessee (10-1)? The Nebraska Cornhuskers (11-1) still feel they are strong enough to win it all. Even though their schedule wasn't as strong, who's to say that Brigham Young (12-0)

doesn't deserve a shot. How about the Maryland Terrapins (10-1)? What about Illinois (10-1)?

And how about the hottest team in the country right now, the Colorado Buffaloes (10-2)? And if there was a playoff don't you think that either Texas (10-2), Oklahoma (10-2) or Florida (9-2) would all have a legitimate shot at winning it all.

I've just named 11 teams. Can you imagine adding five more to that list and holding a 16-team championship playoff at sites all around the country.

Wonder if the interest would be there. The worse any opening-round site would do is host the top team in the nation in a #1 vs. #16 matchup. Talk about filling the Sun Bowl.

One thing is for certain, when you have so many teams to choose from you have no real choice at all.

I don't care who wins the so called National Title Game each year. It has meant as much as it will this season — nothing. The only way you can truly call yourself a champion is to prove it on the field of battle.

That's how I know that my wife is the boss of our home.

Sir Charles talking again

What the heck is this I hear about Charles Barkley flirting with the idea of making a comeback.

Seems Barkley is tired of seeing his buddy Michael Jordan take it on the chin night after night. Barkley, who tips the scales at 290 pounds, said he was seriously considering joining the Washington Wizards just as soon as he losses another 25 pounds.

I don't know which will be tougher, Barkley being able to help the struggling Wizards or Barkley being able to lose another 25 pounds.

I, for one, was not excited about Jordan coming back to the NBA because I felt all he would do was tarnish his spectacular basketball-playing image.

Jordan has proved, although at nowhere near the same level, that he can still play in the league. And Jordan is having an all-star season and is probably better, at the age of 38, than about 95-percent of the other players in the NBA.

But is Barkley really serious about making a comeback? I don't think so. The former Round Mound of Rebound is round once again and it's a lot easier to lose the weight at the age of 25 than at the age of 38.

And even if Sir Charles does join MJ with the Wizards, in most games, it will still be two against five.

Gone but not forgotten

One final tribute to the Del Valle Conquistadores' football team.

They may have lost to DeSoto 56-28 last Saturday in the Sun Bowl but it was nice to cover a high school game with that much on the line this late in the season.

Del Valle finished the year with a 10-2 record and do you want to hear something really scary. The District 2-5A champions will drop down to Class 4A next season.

Doesn't seem fair does it? But just think of how far the Conquistadores could possibly go at next season's state playoffs.

Congratulations Del Valle and coach Chuck Veliz, El Paso is proud of you.

Briefs

From Page 1

■ The Rio Vista Community Center is sponsoring the Christmas Give Away in Socorro. The Give Away collects winter clothing, canned goods and toys which will be given away for those less fortunate in the community. The collection sites for the Christmas Give Away are at Okoli Cafe at 10600 North Loop, City of Socorro Planning and Zoning at 910 Rio Vista, El Meson de Onate at 9993 Socorro Rd., Socorro City Hall at 124 Horizon Blvd., Lower Valley Water at 1557 Farm Rd. in Clint, and Texas A&M at 10400 Socorro..

■ The El Paso Museum of History invites the public to share in the holiday color of "Saints Preserve Us," a photographic exhibit of Texas-made retablos from the Institute of Texan Cultures. The images of saints, usually painted on wooden altarpieces, depict the patrons of many Texas towns, as well as taking a look at an interesting glimpse at early Texas history. The exhibit is free and open to the public, and runs through Dec. 31.

■ The Socorro Independent School District will present the Eighth Annual Mariachi Christmas Concert at the Socorro

High School Fine Arts Theater on Tuesday, Dec. 18 from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. The concert will feature "Los Gavilanes" from Socorro High School. Alos performing will be "Los Guerreros" from Sanchez Middle School and "Los Gavilancillos" from Socorro Middle School. New or used toys will be accepted for donations.

■ The Socorro High School Naval JROTC is having its annual military inspection on Dec. 13 at the Socorro High School athletic field. The inspection will start at 8 a.m., with a pass and review at approximately 10:30 a.m. The inspecting officer will be Commander Rick Bonner, the commanding officer for the Naval recruiting District in San Antonio, Tex. The inspection includes a personnel inspection and a basic marching drill and a pass review. Afterwards, the two award-winning drill teams will perform. Socorro's JROTC was recently named the best JROTC unit in the Sun Bowl Parade and placed first in a recent drill met sponsored by the UTEP Army ROTC.

■ The Socorro Independent School District's Operational Services Department will be again collecting and distributing canned and non-perishable food, clothing or toys in good condition to Socorro families. More than 1,000 families are expected to visit the store after students receive a referral from a school counselor. Contributions are always welcomed and

may be delivered to the store at 201 Tanton Rd. The Holiday store is open from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. from Dec. 3 through 21. Call 851-07090 for more information.

■ The El Paso Depressive and Manic Depressive Association will offer Depression and Bipolar Free Support Groups from Dec. 6 to Dec. 27. On the East Side, the session will be Dec. 17 from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. On the West Side, the meeting sessions will take place Dec. 6, 20 and 27 from 6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. Free telephone screening and counseling for holiday depression will be offered. For more information, call 541-1400.

■ State representative Manny Najera announced Monday that he filed for re-election as state representative in the Texas House District 75 for the 2002 elections. Najera represents the communities of Socorro, Tornillo, portions East El Paso, Clint, Fabens, San Elizario and East Montana.

■ AUSTIN - Information on candidates who have officially filed for a place in the 2002 Republican primary ballot is now available for public viewing at www.TexasGOP.org. The filing period run through Jan. 2. Contact information for Republican candidates and Republican county chairmen, comprehensive and informative report on the filing process and email updates may be obtained in the web site.

San Eli freshmen claim district title

By Cynthia Hernandez
Special to the Courier

"So fresh and so clean, clean" is the chorus to Outkast's latest rap song, currently receiving radio airplay. It could also be the chorus for the outcome of the San Elizario High School's freshman football season.

The frosh team brought a fresh approach and used it to knock off their opponents on the football field. Finishing the season with a 7-2 record they took the district title.

"At first we started with eight players on the team, but we succeeded and I am really proud of them," said Coach Edgar Hernandez.

The freshman team wore their jerseys proudly each Thursday, but was there ever a game they won where they had a chance of losing?

"Yes," Hernandez said. "Against Canutillo, they were playing very sloppy."

Despite how they played they still won with a final score of 25-8 on November 1, 2001.

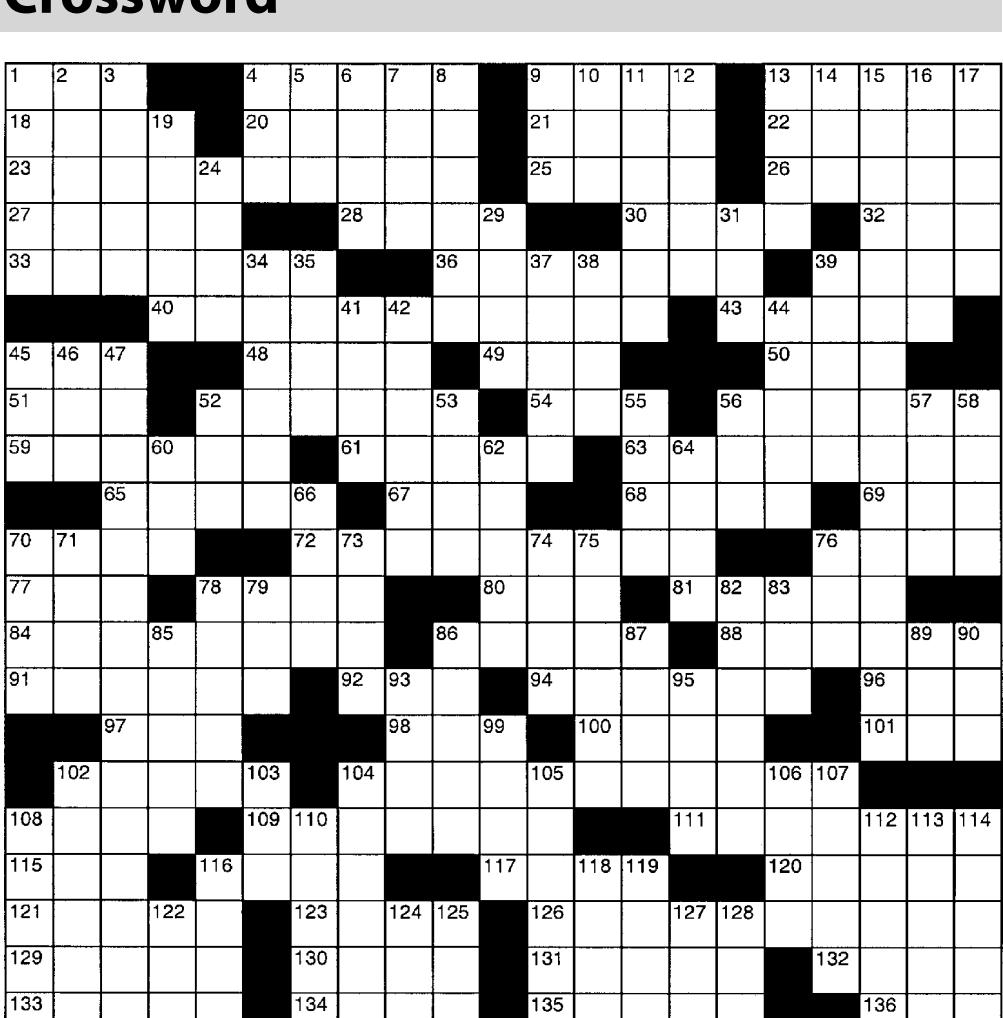
Coach Hernandez finished the season with 21 players and no drastic injuries.

Key players included quarter back Jerry Cruz, running back Chris Salazar and offensive lineman Jaime Acosta.

King Super Crossword

HOOFERS	68 Bare	131 Entertain	38 Reject	Pavlov
ACROSS	69 Start to snooze	132 Sour fruit	39 Touch up the text	95 Obligation
1 Martin Sheen, to	70 Viva _	133 Novelist Danielle	41 Journalist Jacob	99 TV host John
Emilio Estevez	72 Dancing comic?	134 Bronte heroine	42 Jeanne of "Jules"	102 Village
4 Photo tint	76 " _ of Gold" (70 hit)	135 Aden's locale	and Jim"	103 Sgt. or cpl.
9 Pipe part	77 Gray matter?	136 Minnesota twins?	44 Mrs. Kramden	104 Disney cricket
13 TV's "The - of Life"	78 Northwestern st.		45 Bandleader	105 Margin
18 Baal or Elvis	80 Philips of "UHF"		Severinsen	106 Mallard or teal
20 Bonus	81 Tonto's horse	1 Mustard type	46 "... man _ mouse?"	107 Suffers
21 Soccer superstar	84 More disreputable	2 7Hersey setting	47 Dancing states-	108 Acts like a chicken
22 Cold sound	86 Director Lang	3 Like the Taj Mahal	man?	110 Neighsayer?
23 Dancing president?	88 Flusters	4 Use a straw	52 Numbers pro	112 Actress Berry
25 Landed	91 Percussion instru-	5 Word form for "en-	53 Push a product	113 Synthetic textile
26 Range rope	ment	vironment"	55 Trick stick	114 "The Highwayman"
27 _ a customer	92 Feel awful	6 It may be bitter	56 Tie the knot	poet
28 Whip	94 Bean	7 " _ Dinka Doo" ('33	57 Thamest town	116 Genuine
30 Tranquil	96 Make cheddar bet-	8 '92 Wimbledon win-	58 Funnyman Foxx	118 Fancy fabric
32 _ 4 (Toyota model)	ter	97 Prohibit	60 Veneration	119 Horner's fruit
33 Little lumps		98 Wine vessel	62 Less vivid	122 Carrie or Louis
36 Fawning		99 Health resort	64 Van -, CA	124 On behalf of
39 Parisian pronoun	100 Yuletide	10 _ Aviv	66 Piece of fencing?	125 Ovine female
40 Dancing colonist?	101 Piglet's parent	11 Draw forth	70 Enormous	127 Poetic monogram
43 Go Fish and golf	102 Hunt or Hayes	12 Copper or cobalt	71 European capital	128 _ Buddhism
45 Comic DeLuise	104 Dancing boxer?	13 "Green Acres" set-	73 Akbar's city	
48 Muse with a scroll	108 Kid at court	ting	74 " _ the Mood for	
49 Command to acorgi	109 Hailing from Hunan	14 "Stroker_" ('83 film)	Love" ('35 song)	
50 Meyerbeer's " - Hu-	111 Mention briefly	15 Dancing body-	75 " _ bet!"	
guenots"	115 Aussie walker	builder?	76 Sprout	
51 Prospector's prize	116 Space	16 Wrecks the Rolls	78 It's up in the air	
52 "The Twelve _" ('70	117 Assistance	17 Italian wine	79 Volcano part	
film)	120 Spanish guitarist	19 Abate	82 Peruvian port	
54 At once	121 "Crazy" singer	24 Seafood selection	83 Keats composition	
56 Freezin' season	123 Widespread	29 Coop crowd	85 Dickens title start	
59 Finger food	126 Dancing cartoon-	31 Pantyhose part	86 Peel off	
61 Trickles	artist?	34 Rembrandt or	87 Move like mad	
63 Short story	129 Neighbor of Soma-	Whistler	89 Self-esteem	
65 Cognizant	lia	35 Ward of "Sisters"	90 Make a muumuu	
67 In the manner of	130 Singer Phoebe	37 Wreckage	93 Psychologist	

Answer Page 7



Cutting back

By Don Flood

I don't know how this happened, but that fabulous "Bridge to the 21st Century" we heard so much about has led to some major downsizings.

Among them: the International Space Station.

For now, the space station will have room for just three people.

Three people! That's not even enough for a game of bridge!

(Also, hasn't NASA heard? Two's company, three's a crowd. Somebody up there is going to get his zero-gravity feelings hurt.)

Later, they plan to have room for seven people, which would give you enough for a little 3-on-3, except for the fact that the space station won't even have a basketball court!

(Designers apparently forgot about an indoor court, and NASA reportedly won't consider sticking a lousy net on the outside. Cost overruns, they say.)

Which is too bad, because I was looking forward to doing a little triple-reverse, shake-'n'-dump, in-your-face, quadruple-arm-pump, somersaulting slam-dunk.

I've tried this on Earth but there tends to be a problem with gravity.

By the way, somebody really needs to see about turning down the gravity on this planet just a little. It's gotten a lot worse since I was a kid.

Not only would we find an extra spring in our step, we'd all immediately weigh less, thereby solving our growing obesity problem.

Downsizing has hit Earth too. Take the story of Craig McCaw.

(Warning: The following story may be too heart-

wrenching for sensitive readers.)

McCaw, a telecom magnate, has seen his net worth drop 65 percent in just one year. He may now be worth no more than \$2.7 billion.

Naturally, facing this kind of setback, you cut costs: turn off a few lights, bring a lunch bag to work, etc.

But with McCaw, it got worse. Much worse. He was forced to sell his 300-foot yacht.

A fairly modest boat, it came equipped with a 40-foot speedboat, swimming pool (just one, apparently) and two helicopters.

While the article didn't say anything about Mr. McCaw getting a new boat, it's possible he may have to make do with a "one-chopper."

Which is pretty tough if you're trying to entertain.

Let's say you're having a party on the water when suddenly disaster strikes — one that even the captain of the Titanic didn't have to face — you're low on ice!

Naturally, you send a helicopter to 7-Eleven to grab a couple of bags.

Sounds like you've got the situation under control, but imagine this scenario, like something straight out of The Perfect Storm: you're low on dip too!

There's no calling your only chopper back! It's gone and now you've got to keep people from panicking as the last of the dip runs out!

May Day! May Day!

That's why I wouldn't be caught dead buying a boat with just one helicopter. Too many things can go wrong.

If you would like to help Mr. McCaw maintain his lifestyle, please send your donations to me at the Craig McCaw Two-Chopper Boat Fund, in care of this newspaper.

Who knows? The party you save may be the one you're invited to.

(c) 2001 King Features Synd., Inc.

New Texas swine-feeding law intended to protect against foot-and-mouth disease

EL PASO COUNTY — Texas pigs that are fed wastewater are going on a meat-free diet, with a new Texas law that went into effect Sept. 1 to prohibit feeding to swine any wastewater that may contain meat or any type of meat scraps. Furthermore, it is against the law to provide these products for feeding swine.

"This new law not only affects swine producers in Texas who feed wastewater containing meat and meat scraps, but it will also change the way food processors, restaurants, schools, hospitals and other establishments dispose of food scraps, if they have allowed them to be picked up for wastewater feeding," said Dr. Linda Logan, Texas' state veterinarian and head of the Texas Animal Health Commission, the state's livestock health regulatory agency. She said only fruits, vegetables, dairy products and bakery goods are allowable food items.

"The state legislature's move to ban meat and meat scraps for swine feeding stemmed from the global spread of foot-and-mouth disease (FMD), the world's most costly and highly contagious livestock disease," said Dr. Logan.

"Since January 2000, more than 34 countries have battled FMD outbreaks. The virus is most often introduced into a country by imported infected animals or in uncooked meat products derived from infected animals." (The virus can remain viable in uncooked meat products for long periods of time.)

She noted that the FMD virus does not affect human or horse health. The virus causes blisters and sores in and around the mouth,

teats and hooves of cloven-hoofed animals, such as sheep, domestic and wild pigs, cattle, camels and deer. Affected animals lose body condition and even after sores heal, the virus can remain and can be spread, causing new outbreaks. To eradicate the disease, affected and exposed animals are slaughtered, then buried or burned to prevent spread.

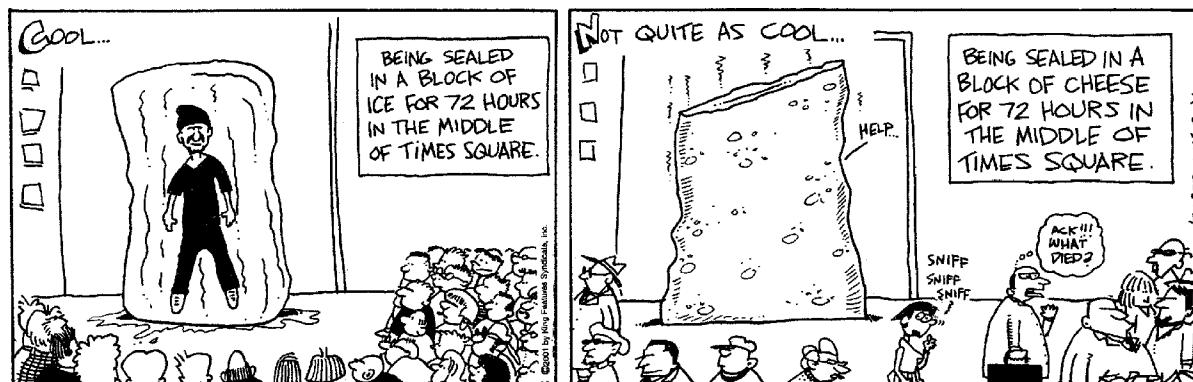
In early August, the TAHC had more than 611 swine producers registered to feed wastewater. Of these, more than 69 percent fed wastewater containing meat or meat scraps, which, under then-current TAHC regulations, must be boiled for 30 minutes. In a cooperative effort involving the TAHC and USDA, animal health inspectors check wastewater feeding complexes for regulatory compliance every 30 to 45 days.

In Great Britain, animal health workers have slaughtered more than 3.7 million animals on more than 9,000 farms to stop a FMD outbreak that is thought to have started in late February when contaminated, imported meat products were fed to British swine. Several TAHC veterinarians and a number of other U.S. regulatory, university and private practicing veterinarians have worked month-long stints on the disease eradication effort in Great Britain, through U.S. Department of Agriculture funding.

For more information about wastewater feeding requirements, regulations, or emergency preparedness, contact the Texas Animal Health Commission at 1-800-550-8242.

Comix

OUT ON A LIMB By Gary Kopervas



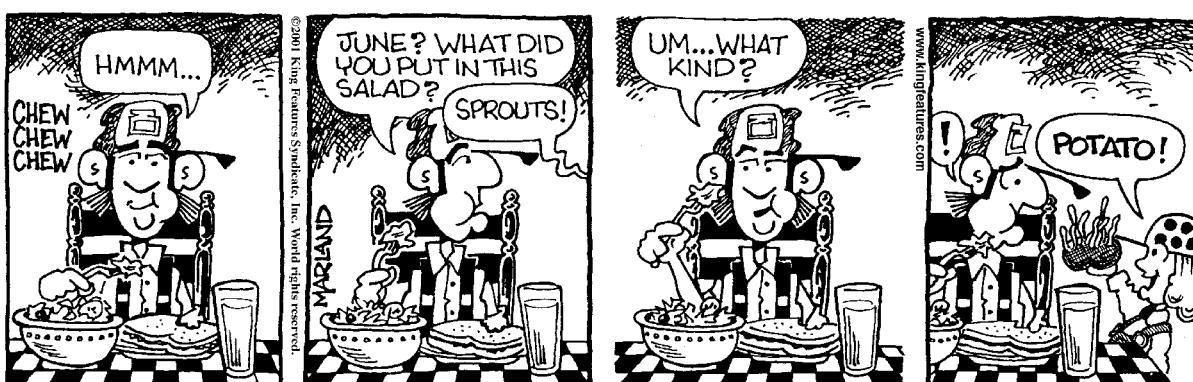
GOT A LIFE By Terri Davis



THE SPATS By Jeff Pickering



R.F.D. By Mike Marland



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Sunday Service 10:45 a.m.
Sunday Yth. Group ... 6:00 p.m.
Wed. Night Adult
Bible Study 6:30 p.m.

Mr. Dean Pinney, Pastor

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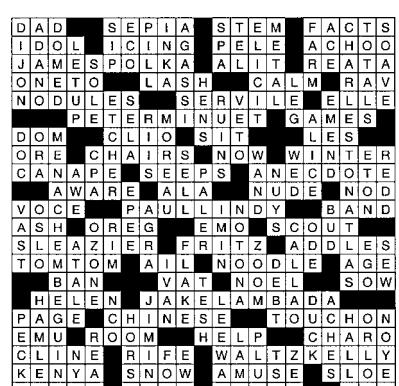
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Traffic study finds higher use of freight rail would reduce congestion, pollution

AUSTIN — Steadily increasing traffic will only worsen in the next 20 years, with big-rig trucks expected to increase 100 percent on Texas' urban roadways.

A new study of transportation issues finds the answer to the problem runs counter to conventional wisdom while providing a more cost-effective way to reduce pollution: increasing the use of rail to move freight, not people.

In a study commissioned by the nonpartisan Texas Public Policy Foundation, nationally recognized

transportation expert Wendell Cox finds that the role of moving freight over rail must be a key consideration in transportation planning, especially in a rapid-growth state like Texas.

Texas Railroad Commission Chairman Michael Williams first raised interest in this subject during a hearing he hosted on April 26 of this year.

"The study breaks important new ground in revealing the significant role freight rail can play in reducing traffic congestion," said Williams. "As the study makes clear, when deciding how

to reduce congestion, public policy should embrace the most cost-effective solutions possible."

Cox, a member of the federal Amtrak Reform Council, suggests that when policy makers in Texas seek to reduce urban and interurban congestion they should carefully consider the role of freight rail.

"Reducing congestion requires a balanced approach that relies on the most effective traffic-containing measures, rather than being biased toward a particular strategy," notes Cox.

For many years, the only strategy

considered has been new passenger rail services. There is a choice to be made, Cox argues, between an effective passenger rail system and an effective freight rail system.

"No nation in the world has both, and both seem to be mutually exclusive," said Cox. "Where rail lines are used for passengers, the amount of freight that can be shipped must be reduced. With trucks taking 3.8 times the road space of a single car, shifting freight from rail to truck quickly increases traffic and smog."

Current projections call for a 100

percent increase in truck traffic through Texas' urban areas by 2020, which would increase total urban traffic by the equivalent of 20 percent. And if rail freight's market share falls to the levels seen in Europe, truck traffic could increase 235 percent — the equivalent of a 49 percent increase in overall traffic.

Finally, Cox finds that trucks emit four times more the amount of pollutants per ton-mile than railroads.

The entire study is available at the Texas Public Policy Foundation website, www.tppf.org.

WEATHER

AccuWeather.com

SEVEN-DAY FORECAST FOR EL PASO

THURSDAY	THUR. NIGHT	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
Sun and patchy clouds; breezy in the morning.	Mainly clear.	Bright sunshine.	Sunshine.	Partly sunny.	Partly sunny.	Clouds; maybe showers.	Clouds and showers possible.
▲ 58°	▼ 34°	▲ 62° ▼ 34°	▲ 61° ▼ 32°	▲ 59° ▼ 38°	▲ 61° ▼ 41°	▲ 56° ▼ 34°	▲ 59° ▼ 36°

UV INDEX Statistics for noon.

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

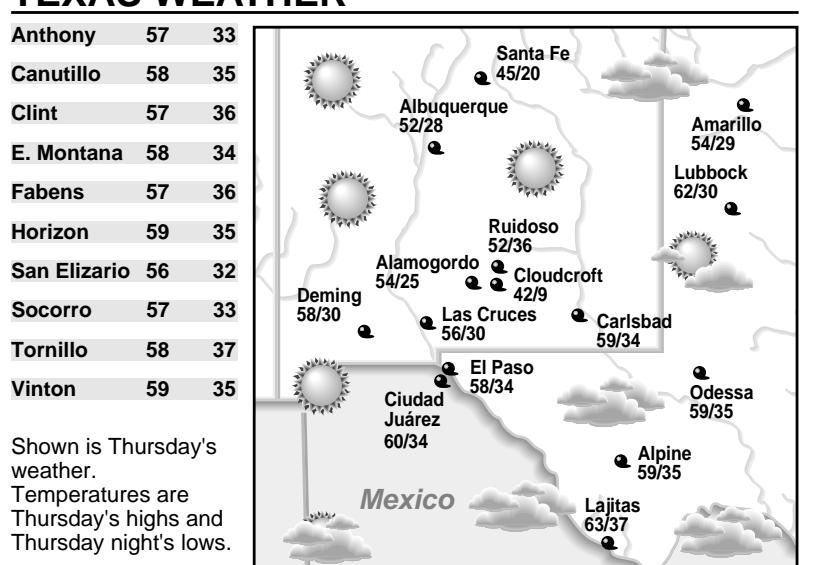
Thursday	3	Low
Friday	3	Low
Saturday	3	Low
Sunday	3	Low
Monday	2	Minimal
Tuesday	1	Minimal
Wednesday	1	Minimal

REAL FEEL TEMP™

A composite of the effects of temperature, wind, humidity, sunshine intensity, cloudiness, precipitation, and elevation on the human body.

Thursday	55°
Friday	60°
Saturday	54°
Sunday	54°
Monday	59°
Tuesday	55°
Wednesday	56°

TEXAS WEATHER



AGRICULTURE

The weather for much of the next few days will be dry and near to slightly above normal as far as temperatures are concerned. There will be plenty of sunshine with times of clouds. On Monday or Tuesday, clouds will move in and there could be some showers.

All maps, forecasts and data provided by AccuWeather, Inc. ©2001

TRAVELERS CITIES

City	Thur. Hi/Lo/W	Fri. Hi/Lo/W	Sat. Hi/Lo/W	Sun. Hi/Lo/W	Mon. Hi/Lo/W
Albuquerque	52/28/s	54/24/s	52/26/s	52/28/s	50/30/pc
Atlanta	72/50/pc	64/44/c	58/36/pc	52/34/s	54/36/s
Atlantic City	70/50/pc	61/40/pc	55/42/s	48/34/pc	46/32/pc
Austin/San Antonio	67/48/sh	69/45/c	66/42/s	62/43/s	64/52/c
Baltimore	72/45/c	60/37/s	56/37/s	48/32/pc	48/30/pc
Boston	64/42/sh	54/36/pc	48/36/c	45/32/c	45/33/c
Chicago	50/32/c	44/28/sh	38/22/c	38/30/s	42/32/c
Dallas/Ft. Worth	64/43/sh	63/42/s	60/39/s	57/42/s	58/49/c
Denver	52/24/s	46/18/pc	52/22/s	50/22/s	44/20/pc
Flagstaff	44/16/s	48/18/s	48/20/s	47/23/pc	44/17/pc
Houston	76/50/sh	66/40/sh	66/44/pc	63/46/s	67/48/c
Kansas City	52/30/s	50/28/s	42/26/s	48/30/pc	50/28/pc
Las Vegas	58/36/s	60/38/s	62/36/s	60/40/s	62/36/s
Miami	82/70/sh	80/68/pc	80/62/pc	78/60/pc	78/55/s
Minneapolis	38/22/pc	36/20/sf	32/16/pc	34/18/c	38/24/sn
New Orleans	73/54/pc	69/54/c	66/48/c	61/45/s	66/48/pc
New York City	68/50/c	56/42/s	54/44/s	48/36/pc	46/34/pc
Philadelphia	70/50/c	60/40/s	54/42/s	48/34/pc	46/32/c
Phoenix	70/45/s	72/48/s	72/48/s	70/48/s	70/48/c
Portland	50/40/sh	50/40/pc	48/40/r	46/38/sh	46/34/pc
San Francisco	60/44/pc	64/44/s	64/46/s	58/46/pc	58/46/s
Seattle	48/40/sh	48/40/c	48/40/r	46/36/sh	44/36/pc
Tucson	70/42/s	72/44/s	74/44/s	70/46/pc	68/44/pc
Washington, DC	72/50/c	60/40/s	56/40/s	48/36/pc	50/34/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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