

WEST TEXAS COUNTY COURIER

VOL. 28, No. 51

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

DECEMBER 20, 2001

NEWSBRIEFS

Post office closures

Fernando Sepulveda, postmaster of the Clint Post Office, reminds area residents that the post office which serves 79836 will close at noon on Dec. 24 and all day on Dec. 25. Similarly, the facility will close at noon on Dec. 31 and remain closed all day Jan. 1, 2002. He added that the Tornillo Post Office, serving zip code 79853; the Fabens Post Office, serving zip code 79838; the San Elizario Post Office, serving zip code 79849; and the Canutillo Post Office, serving zip code 79835, will observe the same schedule.

High-stepping honors

The Socorro Navy JROTC underwent military inspection Dec. 13 at the Socorro High School athletic field, passing in review before inspecting officer Commander Rick Bonner from the Naval Recruiting District in San Antonio. The inspection was followed with performances by the award-winning drill teams. Socorro's JROTC is assigned to Area 10, according to spokesman Mariann McQuiddy, which includes 60 units from Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, Oklahoma, Kansas and Colorado. The program has placed in the top 30 percent of all units for the past 13 years. The SHS unit was recently named the best JROTC unit in the Sun Bowl Parade. The Armed Drill Team and Unarmed Drill Team won overall first place at the UTEP Army ROTC Drill and Field Meet at the Sun Bowl, with the Color Guard placing second, McQuiddy said.

In other news

■ A community effort by the U.S. Border Patrol in Fabens and Sam's Club at Cielo Vista Mall have resulted in gifts being given to 14 children of the New Life Children's Home in Tornillo. Gifts were presented at an event on Dec. 15. This is the third year this community project has been successful. Information: 765-2502.

■ The Upper Valley Lions Club is sponsoring a Fruit Basket Sale in which they will deliver a bountiful basket to anyone of your choosing through Dec. 22. All proceeds of sales go to the Lions charitable activities which have both local and international effects. Contact Lion Aubrey Cherry at 584-0130.

■ Socorro High School seniors Abel Navejas and Jackie Gurany were recently selected to represent SHS at the Presidential Classroom Scholars Program in March of 2002 in Washington, D.C.

■ The El Paso Community College has been taken off its one-year accreditation probation by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) according to a news conference on Dec. 13. SACS placed EPCC on probation for governing violations by the college's former president, Bill Campion, a college spokesman said.

■ Socorro ISD board members recognized the special achievements of several persons during the regular board meeting

See BRIEFS, Page 7

Parents these days don't bring up their children — they finance them.

— Quips and Quotes



A new state law, which allows school districts to award diplomas to honorably discharged World War II veterans, made it possible for Robert Ray Pryor to receive his diploma from Clint High School. With him is his wife, Bettie.

Clint student gets his high school diploma — at age 75

By Debra Dominguez
Special to the Courier

EL PASO COUNTY — World War II Veteran Robert Ray Pryor never gave up on his dream of receiving a high school diploma from Clint High School.

As a matter of fact, the 75-year-old Deming, N.M., resident was determined to transform his dream into reality.

And thanks to a new state law, which allows school districts to award diplomas to honorably discharged World War II veterans who were supposed to graduate from high school between 1940 and 1951 — he has.

Pryor was expected to graduate from Clint High in May 1945 but instead volunteered to serve his country by joining the U.S. Army at the beginning of his senior year. He is the latest Clint Lion to graduate from the Clint Independent School District.

After recently applying for a high school diploma and working with the Office of Continuing Education and School Improvement in Austin, Clint ISD's Board of Trustees officially

granted a delayed Clint High School Diploma to Pryor on Dec. 12 during its regular school board meeting.

Pryor — who volunteered to join the U.S. Armed Forces after his three older brothers were drafted — attended Clint High School until October of 1944 when his military obligation swept him off to assigned duty in the Philippines.

"I am very proud to have received this diploma," Pryor said. "I want the young kids to know that I was turned down for so many job opportunities because I didn't have this diploma. And now, I can only tell the young people of today to go to school, finish school and get your diploma."

Pryor, who was born June 11, 1926, was the vice-president of his Junior Class at Clint High, played center for the Clint Lions Basketball Team, and was on the District Championship Tennis Team.

He attended and received credits for courses from the University of Texas, Western New Mexico University and New Mexico State University.

In 1947, he married Bettie Vick, and today they have two daughters and four grandchildren.

"Our WWII veterans deserve this honor,"

One found guilty in Fabens water board fiasco

Charges pending on six others

FABENS — The long, troubled history of the Fabens water provider, El Paso County WCID #4, may be on the mend following the conclusion of the trial of a board member, however, legal clouds still hover over several others in related charges.

A total of seven people were charged earlier this year for allegedly using water company credit cards to pay for personal items, and some allegedly received payment for services they did not render.

Jesus M. Ochoa of Fabens was convicted earlier this month in the 120th District Court on charges of engaging in organized criminal activity and misapplication of fiduciary property valued between \$100,000 and \$200,000.

Though Ochoa was sentenced to 10 years in prison, the sentence was suspended in favor of 10 years of probation. He was fined \$10,000 for the first charge and an additional \$7,500 for the second. Judge Robert Dinsmoor, the presiding judge, also sentenced Ochoa to 320 hours of community service.

Ochoa was still sitting on the EPCWCID #4 board at the time of his conviction Dec. 4.

- Others charged in the case include:
- Francisco Bustamante of Fabens, a former EPCWCID #4 board member.
 - David Estrada of Fabens, a former EPCWCID #4 board president.
 - Luis Ramirez of Fabens, a former EPCWCID #4 board member.
 - Rosendo Sanchez, a former EPCWCID #4 board member.
 - Raul Lopez, former general manager of the EPCWCID #4.

Lopez is also charged with additional counts of bribery.

Lawrence Ozaine of Missouri City, Texas, EPCWCID #4 water consultant, faces similar charges as well as bribery.

The Fabens water provider has continued to operate in the face of the massive legal difficulties, however, the use of records in prosecution of the charges has hampered the clerical staff in some instances, it was reported.

said Pryor's daughter, Robin J. Bishop. "And I am thankful that the Texas Legislature passed this piece of legislation. I just wish they had thought of it years ago."

Horizon City selected as new site for Region 19 head-start facility

By Arleen Beard
Special to the Courier

HORIZON CITY — A new facility to host a Region 19 Head-Start Program will be constructed in Horizon City, according to a report to the Horizon City Town Council by John Dixon, Director of Public Works, during the regular meeting on Dec. 11.

Region 19 Head Start provides educational opportunities and services to enhance the quality of life to economically challenged children and their families.

Services are provided throughout 12 school districts within El Paso and Hudspeth Counties to infants, toddlers and pregnant women. Children are provided with a learning environment to help them develop socially, intellectually, physically and emo-

tionally in a manner appropriate to age and stage development.

Dixon said the Clint Independent School District would be leasing land to Region 19 for a new Head Start building, to be located just west of Frank Macias Elementary School. The land consists of a five-acre parcel. The facility would include classrooms for the students and some playground equipment outside of the building. Anticipated dates for the building are not yet available.

For more information regarding the Head Start Program, Dixon referred interested parties to Region 19's website at www.escl19.net.

Other business conducted during the Council meeting consisted of approving the purchase

of a new vehicle for the police department. Cost for the vehicle is \$21,650.00.

Council considered and approved recommendations on revisions to Zoning Ordinance No. 0006, recommending separate permits for plumbing, electrical and mechanical construction. This ordinance would require the plumbers, electricians and mechanics working on construction to be licensed in their field.

There was a public hearing held regarding the 2nd Reading Ordinance No. 0098 for Continued Taxing for leased autos. There was no public input, therefore, Mayor Pat Randleel closed the hearing and Council approved the 2nd Reading.

In other business, Joe Oswalt was re-appointed to the Board of Adjustments.



John Dixon



One perspective

By Francis Shrum

Sleepover magic

I remember when sleepovers were some major kind of event. Now I wonder where the magic went.

My daughters are all hyped up about an upcoming sleepover at a friend's house. They'll spend a considerable chunk of time deciding which jammies to wear, what games they'll play, whether or not to take their own pillows. It's big stuff.

My oldest grandboy came to supper tonight and decided to sleepover. I couldn't tell who was taking the bigger step — him or his mother.

He did some major politicking and finally talked her into it. He dressed up in one of my girl's big T-shirts, some baggy shorts, and made big decisions about where to put his cot — we're *much* too old to sleep with the girls.

They picked out a movie to watch which they did with his flashlight flickering back and forth across the screen — lots of giggling and squirming.

At age four, this is really big stuff. I'm wondering where the magic went.

Every night was something of a sleepover for me growing up with two big sisters but my first real out-of-my-parents-house sleepovers were with my grandparents. The first few times were just trial runs. I'd decide during a visit that I was going to stay overnight, then I would chicken out when the folks started leaving for real.

The first time I actually did it I'm afraid it was less than a raving success. I remember crying at bedtime until my grandmother firmly told me to hush and get in the bed, that she wasn't going to drive the 30-odd miles to my parents' home to humor me.

After that it became much more fun. Cousins' houses, friends' houses. But I'm wondering where the magic went.

I've noticed recently that I'm get-

ting as sentimental about my own bed as I was about my parents when I was a kid. Sleeping over has become something of a chore, if not just downright dreaded.

And I never spend time wondering whether to take my own pillow. I just always do.

There's something about getting older that makes you appreciate the finer points of comfort — the easing of a tender back with that familiar lumpy pillow, the knowledge of just how far you can stretch your sore knee before it comes into contact with the wall, your mate, or hangs off the edge of the bed.

Dimly remembered are the rubber bones and liquid muscles of youth that flowed easily over hard and bumpy surfaces where we spread out sleeping bags and bounced up unaffected next morning.

Nowadays I more closely resemble the princess and the pea.

There's also a comfort in knowing where all the furniture is in the dark, where all the light switches are, in knowing where all the spooky pets are sleeping or — better yet — that there aren't any in the house.

There's comfort in knowing that thumping noise you just heard was the wind banging a tree branch against the roof in the back yard because you've been thinking about getting it pruned for several years now.

Since this is the first sleepover for my grandboy tonight we'll see how it goes. He's a pretty independent little guy, so I don't expect any tears at bedtime.

Still, I wish I could remember exactly what my grandmother said when she told me to hush and get in bed. But not to tell him.

I might need to repeat it to myself the next time I have to sleep away from home.



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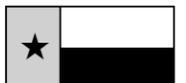
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Eye on D.C. By U.S. Rep. Henry Bonilla



When Santa doesn't come

When I was growing up, my parents didn't have a lot of money. I was nearly twelve before I realized that not all moms and dads hold down two or three jobs a piece.

I know my parents must have dreaded Christmas. When you're little, everybody's quick to tell you that Santa Claus brings toys only to good little boys and girls. If you don't get much under the tree on Christmas morning, you must have done something to get on the wrong side of Santa.

A tree was a luxury we couldn't always afford at Christmas. But, until the year I turned 10, there were always presents.

That year, 1964, things were harder than usual. By then our family had grown to include five children, including me. My dad would stay up late at night, adding, subtracting, and dividing the bills in a crazy kind of math that never gave him the answers he wanted. About two weeks before Christmas, my mom took me aside. "Henry," she said, "you're the oldest, so you should know what's happening. It looks like we're not going to be able to buy any presents this year. I need you to help your brothers and sisters understand." I nodded, but inside I was worried. How do you tell a five year old that Santa won't be coming this year?

The next two weeks went faster than I would have wanted. Suddenly, it was Christmas Eve. That evening, my mom made her famous tamales and bunellas. Dad read the Christmas story, and we sang a few songs. But I noticed my brothers and sisters weren't as excited as usual. They'd been warned days before that there were

lots of kids in the world, and the North Pole toy factory was having a hard time making all of the toys.

The next morning, as I was just waking up, I heard my brother Nate shout. I ran into the next room. There, in the corner, was a Christmas tree, standing about four feet tall with shiny red, blue and yellow balls on it. But that wasn't what surprised me the most. Under the tree were presents! There were new coats, games, and dolls for my sisters. Somehow, my parents had found the money for Santa to come. My throat tightened as I thought about the extra shifts mom must have taken, and the nights when dad could barely sleep before heading off to the next job.

Now, 37 Christmases later, my son and daughter have never gone to sleep on Christmas Eve afraid that Santa's forgotten them. But that doesn't mean we haven't tried to show them what it's like for other children who aren't as lucky as they are. Every year, Project ABC (Any Baby Can) here in San Antonio matches us with a family that doesn't have enough money to give their kids the Christmas they deserve. The families that Project ABC helps all have children with expensive medical problems. One year, our family was matched with a family that had a boy my son's age who had muscular dystrophy. Our family goes out and buys presents we think the children (and their parents) will like. We also bring them everyday things like canned food or pots and pans.

We're not the only family who plays Santa. Today, there are dozens of charities that try to make sure that "all" good girls and boys have a Merry Christmas. They do it not because of some rule or regulation the government has passed. They do it because they care about their fellow Americans. They are what Christmas and our country are all about.

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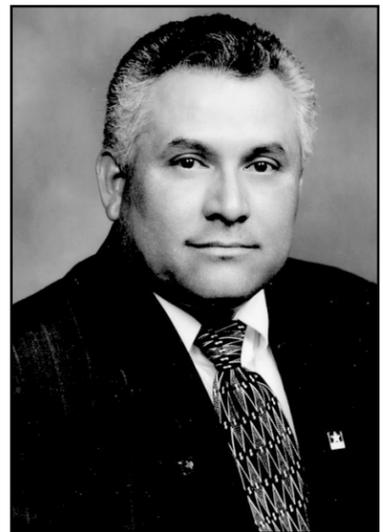


NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING EL PASO COUNTY, TEXAS

ECONOMICALLY DISTRESSED AREAS PROGRAM
TCDP CONTRACT #719185, CANUTILLO

Notice is hereby given of a scheduled public hearing to be held at 6:00 PM, Thursday, December 27, at the El Paso County Courthouse, 500 E. San Antonio, Suite #306, El Paso, Texas 79901. Purpose of the meeting is to hold a final hearing to receive comments on the completion of the Canutillo Economically Distressed Areas Program, Contract #719185. Citizens are encouraged to attend this public hearing and present their views to the County. Interested persons who cannot attend or require special assistance are asked to contact Rodrigo Mercado, El Paso County Community Development Department, El Paso County Courthouse, 500 E. San Antonio, Suite #313, El Paso, Tx 79901, (915) 543-3845.

WTCC: 12/20/01



Happy Holidays

from Judge Ruben Lujan, Justice Court #6 in Clint, TX — wishing you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

As we enter into the year 2002, I will keep working hard on behalf of the citizens I am honored to serve. School truancies and environmental issues will continue to be top priorities for my Court. I want to continue these much needed programs — they are already having a positive impact on our communities. Please vote Ruben Lujan for Justice of the Peace, Precinct #6 on March 12, 2002.

May God bless you, and God bless America.

Political advertising paid for by Ruben Lujan, Treasurer.
Campaign to Elect Ruben Lujan for Justice of the Peace, Pct. 6.



View from the porch By Linda Mussehl

The gift

I came across an old Christmas gift the other day. I go months, years even, without thinking about it, but when I unearth it, I am transported back to a Christmas straight out of Norman Rockwell.

Packed in a storage box, the gift has moved along with me throughout the corporate migrant worker portions of my life. It crossed the oceans four times on a container ship.

The gift even survived the childhood of my children, but only because it stayed on a high closet shelf. The girls never cared to play with it much, probably because I hovered in the background nervously supervising, "Careful, now. Play nice."

My grandparents and aunt had made the gift, an elaborate four-poster, canopied doll's bed. The lathed and turned bed posts were from the back of a walnut child-sized chair. The made-to-fit foam mattress and two pillows were covered in black and white ticking. The bottom sheet was fitted. The top sheet and pillow cases were edged with the same material as the one-foot-square hand-stitched quilt on top. A white, ruffled canopy tester topped it off.

It must have taken them weeks to plan and craft, the three of them each taking a piece of the project that suited their skills.

I'm sad that I can't pass that Christmas spirit along. I look back to the Christmas gifts I myself gave to my children. I suppose I did my best to fulfill the year's wish list, but none come immediately to mind. In fact,

I can't remember what I bought for the grandsons last year. Or did I send my daughter a check for her to buy what the kids really wanted?

I know we can't roll the calendar back to a simpler, less commercial time. I know I don't have the skills, time or interest to craft a special, memorable gift for a grandchild. I also know the kids could care less.

Throughout this year I've been lobbying the family to redefine our holidays, to go in a more meaningful direction. Perhaps, rather than the adults swapping gift certificates and checks on a break-even basis, that we make a group donation to Heifer International.

Heifer International is a charitable group that has provided livestock and training to poor people around the world for the last fifty years. It started from relief efforts during the Spanish Civil War, to "give a cow rather than a cup of milk."

Active in 46 countries worldwide — from Afghanistan to Zimbabwe, including the U.S. — the group provides livestock appropriate to local culture and conditions, training in animal health, forage development and marketing. Then the program backs off to let the recipients (often female heads-of-household) carry on from there. Heifer International's website lists programs centered around twenty species, from alpacas to yaks. A cornerstone of all local programs is that the animals' first female offspring must be passed along to another family in the community, providing food and outside income for yet another family.

My idea bombed this year. It turns out that my daughters like swapping gift certificates. I'll try again next year.

If you too are looking for an alternative to holiday confusion and consumerism, check out Heifer International: 1-800-422-0474 or at www.heifer.org.

TRUE TEXAS FACTS by Roger Moore December 19, 1836, Texas Congress establishes national boundaries.



Social Security: Q & A by Ray Vigil

Q: I read something about Medicare coverage being extended for disabled beneficiaries who are working or thinking about working. How do I find more information? Is there any information on the Internet?

A: It's true that Social Security beneficiaries with disabilities who are working, or thinking about working, may be eligible for expanded Medicare coverage. The coverage increases

from 39 to 93 months after the end of the trial work period. This is the first provision under the Ticket to Work and Work Incentive Improvement Act that was signed into law by President Clinton in December 1999. This provision will become effective December 2002 in the State of Texas.

Q: I get Supplemental Security Income (SSI) for a physical disability. I would like to try going to work. Am

I allowed to get a part-time job without risking loss of my benefits?

A: Yes! Social Security encourages recipients with disabilities like yourself to try to go work. If your only income is SSI and you start to work, only a small portion of your income reduces your monthly benefit amount. Also, in most cases you are able to keep your medical coverage.

Q: Last year I received a flu shot and pneumonia vaccine. Are these shots covered by Medicare every year?

A: Yes. Generally, the cost will be paid if the vaccine is provided at a doctor's office or by a hospital, skilled nursing facility, home health agency, rural health clinic, federally-qualified health center, outpatient physical therapy provider, a comprehensive outpatient rehabilitation facility or health maintenance organization.

Q: What is Medicare?

A: Medicare is a federal health insurance program for people 65 years and older, certain people with disabilities

and people with permanent kidney failure treated with dialysis or a transplant. Medicare has two parts — Part A which is hospital insurance and Part B which is medical insurance.

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, 1111 Gateway West, Attn: Ray Vigil, El Paso, Texas 79935.



The Night Before Christmas

(This poem was written by a U.S. Marine, stationed in Okinawa, Japan)

This Holiday Season, please remember and give thanks for the men and women serving our country around the world.

This Holiday Reminder from Congressman Silvestre Reyes.

Political Ad paid for by Ron Pate, Treasurer
310 N. Mesa St., Ste. 400, El Paso, Texas 79901

'Twas the night before Christmas,
he lived all alone,
in a one bedroom house
made of plaster and stone.

I had come down the chimney
with presents to give,
and to see just who
in this home did live.

I looked all about,
a strange sight I did see,
no tinsel, no presents
not even a tree.

No stocking by mantle,
just boots filled with sand,
on the wall hung pictures
of far distant lands.

With medals and badges,
awards of all kinds,
a sober thought
came through my mind.

For this house was different,
it was dark and dreary,
I found the home of a soldier,
once I could see clearly.

The soldier lay sleeping,
silent, alone,
curled up on the floor
in this one bedroom home.

The face was so gentle,
the room in such disorder,
not how I pictured
a United States soldier.

Was this the hero
of whom I'd just read?
Curled up on a poncho,
the floor for a bed?

I realized the families
that I saw this night,
owed their lives to these soldiers
who were willing to fight.

Soon 'round the world,
the children would play,
and grown-ups would celebrate
a bright Christmas day.

They all enjoyed freedom
each month of the year,
because of the soldiers
like the one lying here.

I couldn't help wonder
how many lay alone,
on a cold Christmas Eve
in a land far from home.

The very thought
brought a tear to my eye.
I dropped to my knees
and started to cry.

The soldier awakened
and I heard a rough voice,
"Santa don't cry,
this life is my choice,

"I fight for freedom,
I don't ask for more,
my life is my God,
my country, my Corps."

The soldier rolled over
and drifted to sleep.
I couldn't control it,
I continued to weep.

I kept watch for hours,
so silent and still,
and we both shivered
from the cold night's chill.

I didn't want to leave
on that cold, dark night,
this guardian of honor
so willing to fight.

Then the soldier rolled over
with a voice soft and pure;
whispered, "Carry on Santa,
it's Christmas Day, all is secure."

One look at my watch,
and I knew he was right.
Merry Christmas, my friend,
and to all a good night.

Classified Ads

LEGALS

SOCORRO INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT Invitation to Respond:

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

FRIDAY, DEC. 21, 2001, 3 P.M. COMPUTER LABORATORY HVAC UPGRADE FOR SLIDER MIDDLE SCHOOL CSP NO. 199-1221-0228

Bidders may obtain copies of the bidding documents and project plans beginning Monday, Dec. 10, 2001 by contacting the Project Engineer's office at:

Fluid Systems, Inc.

6851 Doniphan Drive Canutillo, Texas 79835
Phone: (915) 877-2148
Fax: (915) 877-1947

A deposit of \$25 per set will be required for each set of drawings a contractor wishes to receive. If the plans and specifications are returned in good condition, the deposit will be refunded.

A pre-bid conference is scheduled to be held at 10 a.m., Friday, Dec. 14, 2001, at Socorro ISD Operational Services, 201 Tanton Rd., El Paso, TX 79927. At this conference bidders will be afforded the opportunity to ask questions and discuss any aspect of this project. Although attendance at the pre-bid conference is not mandatory, all bidders are responsible for the information discussed at the conference, and are strongly urged to attend.

Proposals will be re-

ceived at the Business Services Dept., 12300 Eastlake Drive, until the specified times. Detailed specifications are available from the above office between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. Mondays through Fridays.
WTCC-12/20/01

SOCORRO INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT Invitation to Respond:

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

FRIDAY, DEC. 21, 2001, 2 P.M. KEYS ACADEMY VENTILATION UPGRADE CSP NO. 199-1221-0227

Bidders may obtain copies of the bidding docu-

ments and project plans beginning Monday, Dec. 10, 2001 by contacting the Project Engineer's office at:

Fluid Systems, Inc.
6851 Doniphan Drive Canutillo, Texas 79835
Phone: (915) 877-2148
Fax: (915) 877-1947

A deposit of \$25 per set will be required for each set of drawings a contractor wishes to receive. If the plans and specifications are returned in good condition, the deposit will be refunded.

A pre-bid conference is scheduled to be held at 9 a.m., Friday, Dec. 14, 2001, at Socorro ISD Operational Services, 201 Tanton Rd., El Paso, TX 79927. At this conference bidders will be afforded the opportunity to ask questions and discuss any aspect of this project. Although attendance at the pre-bid conference is not mandatory,

all bidders are responsible for the information discussed at the conference, and are strongly urged to attend.

Proposals will be received at the Business Services Dept., 12300 Eastlake Drive, until the specified times. Detailed specifications are available from the above office between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. Mondays through Fridays.
WTCC-12/20/01

HELP WANTED

Hair Slingers in Horizon City is seeking experienced cosmetologist. Apply in person after 2 p.m. at 13899 Horizon Blvd., Ste. 4, Horizon City.
TFN

OFFICE SPACE

Office for lease in Horizon City. Corner of

Darrington and Horizon Blvd. \$350/month. Call Horizon Properties, 852-3331.

SELF-HELP OPPORTUNITIES

Alcoholics Anonymous Group Paso Del Norte meets at 8501 Kingsway in Westway, Monday-Saturday, 8 p.m. Call 886-4948 for information.

Alcohólicos Anónimos Grupo Paso Del Norte sesiones lunes a sábado, a 8-9 de la tarde, 8501 Kingsway, Westway, 886-4948 para informacion.

Persons who have a problem with alcohol are offered a free source of help locally. Alcoholics Anonymous Group 8 de Enero meets at 15360 Horizon Blvd. in Horizon City on Mondays through Saturdays at 8 p.m. Call 859-0484 for information.

Tiene problemas con el

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

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Animal Hall of Fame honors Pearl the Horse

By Michelle J. Brown
Special to the Courier

EL PASO COUNTY — An official induction ceremony by the El Paso Animal Hall of Fame to posthumously honor Pearl the Horse from Therapeutic Horsemanship of El Paso was held Sept. 5 at the El Paso Zoo, in the Recognition Garden near the entrance to the Asian Exhibit. Sponsored by the El Paso Veterinary Medical Association

Members of El Paso Veterinary Medical Association, which sponsors the Animal Hall of Fame; El Paso Zoo representatives and Pearl's final caretakers, as well as participating members of City Council and County Commissioners gathered for the ceremony.

The Garden was constructed by the zoo's facilities staff to highlight special people and animals.

The El Paso Animal Hall of Fame recognizes the contributions of El Paso's animals, which have enriched the lifestyles of others by sharing their own — their talents and their love. Whether saving a life, stopping crime, serving as a personal companion, performing for audiences or educating the public, El Paso's animals teach the importance of respecting all creatures and treasuring the time we spend together.

Why Pearl?

Well, like the boy named Sue, he had to work twice as hard to prove his mettle.

Pearl spent 15 years working New Mexico trails, carrying hunters and campers through the wilderness and assisting in search and rescue missions. He even saved a drowning mule or two. His consistent strength and steadiness marked his long history of reliable gentleness and remarkable inability to be spooked.

With his strong back, sure footing and supreme nature, Pearl retired from the Gila and began his next career with Therapeutic Horsemanship. For more than 10 years, he provided Hippotherapy, recreational riding and horsemanship services to the area's disabled children and adults at a therapy facility and camps for special needs children. He also participated in parades, equestrian shows and Special Olympics.

After being named the 1997 THEP Horse of the Year, based on his hours of duty, stellar performance, willingness and terrific attitude, Pearl received the 1998 Recognition for Outstanding Volunteerism in El Paso from the Center for Volunteerism and Non-Profit Management, El Paso. He also served in annual camps for El Paso Candlelighters, Jewish Community Center and El Paso Diabetes Association.

Pearl possessed a patient and reliant attitude even under the sometimes

stressful conditions that befall the therapy horse: delayed feeding time; heat and cold; trailer-travel to unfamiliar arenas and trails; handling by new and different volunteers and riders, tack, riding equipment and therapy tools; standing patiently for long periods so that a disabled rider may mount, possibly from a wheelchair or with a crowd of volunteers, instructors and therapists.

Pearl once reflected on his long, successful career:

"As a therapy horse, I had the privilege of carrying the most special load there is. Just moving these old legs at a walk or a trot around the arena or down the trail gave these special boys and girls a chance to gain their own independence and get the therapy they needed while having a great time. It was hard work for all of us to help these riders get the most out of their ride, but it was good work and I am proud to have called myself a therapy horse," he said.

(Editor's note: We were unable to determine the exact date and circumstance in which Pearl is alleged to have made the above statement, so we are taking Ms. Brown's word that the statement is accurate. Deadline for 2002 nominations to the El Paso Animal Hall of Fame is Dec. 31, 2001. For an nomination form, contact Dr. Jim Koschmann at 915-584-3459.)

CTW sixth grader to help Bandits defend national title

HORIZON CITY — Amanda Heredia, a Carroll T. Welch Middle School sixth grader, is literally cheering for a college education.

She is a member of the Texas Bandit All Stars, a group of cheerleaders that will travel this week, Dec. 20-23, to Las Vegas to compete with other national cheerleading groups. The Texas Bandits are currently defending their title as Grand National Champions.

Amanda was among the cheerleaders who won the title last year while still in the fifth grade. She attends two-hour training sessions two to three hours a week with Noe Recreational Sports and Fine Arts Center in El Paso, which trains cheerleaders with the specific goal of earning college scholarships. The non-profit organization is headed

by Noe Mendiola and accepts all co-ed age groups preparatory to competing in college level cheerleading, on partial or full-ride scholarships.



Amanda Heredia

Though only 11 years old, Amanda is already a veteran of the cheering circuit, including numerous performances at charitable and service organization fundraisers and national competitions. She is scheduled to perform with the Bandits during the Sun Bowl half-time entertainment, as well as at Disneyland and Dallas next year.

Amanda is a member of the "Shall We Dance?" dance team, training with Katherine Martinez; plays trumpet in the CTW band; is a member of the CTW choir; and choreographs with the CTW pep squad.

Merry Christmas — Feliz Navidad para mi gente.



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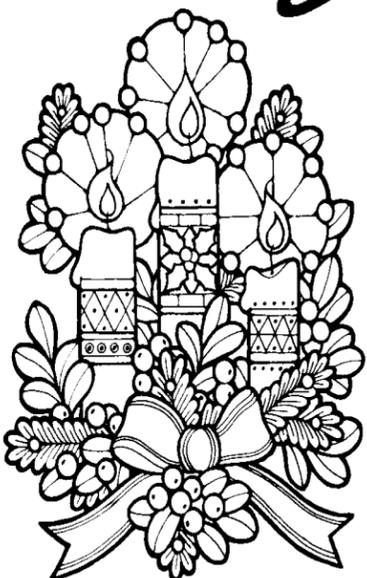
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- Meat Loaf • Fried Chicken • Mashed Potatoes
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- Corn on the Cob • Green Beans • Cranberry Sauce
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This holiday season let us count our blessings and spread a message of peace as we look toward 2002 — a year of new beginnings and new hope for the future.



Happy Holidays from the Bonilla Family.

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A few bad apples found floating in the coaching barrel

By Steve Escajeda
Special to the Courier

You know, behind every successful sports team is a quiet genius with years of experience behind him. A man who is able to teach, inspire and motivate his players to perform at a higher level than they otherwise normally would.

He is able to take a bunch of individuals and mold them into a cohesive unit able to execute with the precision of a finely tuned engine.

And this man (or woman) is simply known as "coach".

An example of some of the most legendary coaches include the likes of Knute Rockne, Red Auerbach, Vince Lombardi, Tom Landry, Dean Smith, Joe Paterno, John Wooden Joe Torre and even Don Haskins — just to name a few.

But this column isn't about them. This column is focusing on three coaches that have had some success, but gave the rich fraternity of coaches a black eye with their actions over the last couple of weeks.

First, let's visit the coach of the once mighty

Indianapolis Colts. Did you catch the tirade that Jim Mora threw two weeks ago after a Colts loss?

I kind of like it when a coach is honest about the misgivings of his team but there such a thing as going overboard.

Mora reminded me a lot of my son — when he was two years old! Mora used the phrase "we suck," which probably was not totally inaccurate but I just can't picture Bill Walsh using that kind of language, at least not in front of the media.

Mora almost choked when he was asked about his team's chances to make the playoffs. In a high-pitched voice that would have made Michael Jackson envious, Mora yelled "PLAY-OFFS? PLAYOFFS?" as if it were ridiculous to even consider the Colts a playoff-caliber team.

Again, honesty is good, but not in public. Players see, read and start to believe that stuff.

In fact, quarterback Payton Manning was very upset when he heard the comments that Mora directed at him. That's all you need to win — dissension between a coach and a quarterback. Take my advice Mora — shut up!

The second coach I want to focus on is the Denver Nuggets' Dan Issel. Now Issel has always been known as a class act but it appears that Issel has been keeping secret his true feelings about Hispanics.

His thoughts on people of Mexican-American descent were made known at a game a few days ago when he argued with a fan in the stands.

Seems Issel got into a shouting match with a fan after a recent loss and yelled "go drink another beer you Mexican *@#&%."

Now I don't know why Issel would waste his time arguing with a fan in the stands. I don't know how he knew the guy was even thirsty. But comments like the one Issel made are never (and I mean NEVER) made by accident.

For words like that to come out of your mouth, they first have to be conscious in your soul. I'm curious if this will now make the black players who play for Issel wonder what he really thinks of them.

The final coach I want to talk about is former Georgia Tech football boss George O'Leary. You might know him now as the guy who coached Notre Dame — for five whole days.

Seems George O'Leary considers himself a modern-day Walter Middy. You remember Walter Middy, the guy who is so disappointed with the lack of adventure in his own life that he daydreams of being other men — fictitious men of adventure, stature and importance.

O'Leary's daydreaming turned into an all too-real nightmare last week when he was fired as Notre Dame head football coach for falsifying his resume.

O'Leary lied about his playing days at New Hampshire, stating that he earned three varsity letters there but turns out he never played a single down.

Then he said he received a master's degree at NYU. He attended NYU for only two semesters and last I heard that's not enough for a master's degree.

What I want to know is how the heck did it take so long for any school to find all these lies out?

By the way, there's absolutely no truth to the rumor that he also stated in his resume that he won the Heisman Trophy, invented Velcro and once dated Madonna.

Great coaches of the past...we apologize.

Write stuff

Dear Editor:

The Orona-Parra-Quintanilla Family like to thank everyone for their prayers and support during such a difficult time in the loss of our family member.

Elvia Orona Fabens

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Wed. Night Adult
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State Representative Manny Najera and wife Maggie wish you Joyous Holidays and a Happy New Year.



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WELL-ROUNDED ACROSS

- 1 Existed
- 4 Obscure
- 9 Apply lightly
- 12 Fashionably nostalgic
- 17 Choir member
- 19 City on the Mohawk
- 20 Actor Tognazzi
- 21 Shriveled up
- 22 Joe Harnell hit
- 25 In distress
- 26 Actress Shire
- 27 Individual performances
- 28 Asta's father
- 30 Police hdqrs.
- 31 Profited
- 34 NATO member
- 37 Churchill's successor
- 38 Jason Biggs film
- 41 Coasted
- 42 Fugue composer
- 46 _ Bator
- 47 Grab all the goodies
- 48 Anthony Quinn role
- 50 Pennsylvania port
- 51 Crack up
- 53 Taxi
- 55 Condemns
- 57 Where to find a fennec
- 59 Parasite
- 61 Casserole cover
- 63 Place of origin

- 65 Pack peppers
- 67 New Deal agcy.
- 68 Reggae's Marley
- 69 "Roots" Emmy winner
- 70 Blanc or Brooks
- 72 The Cyrkle hit
- 76 Narcs' org.
- 77 Sheepish sound
- 79 Sandra of "A Summer Place"
- 80 Neighbor of Tenn.
- 81 Tracking tool
- 83 Singer Tori
- 84 Spud bud
- 85 Vote in
- 87 Dull
- 90 Time and again
- 92 It may be fake
- 94 Stringed instrument
- 96 Machu Picchu native
- 97 Tolkien character
- 99 Attained
- 101 Football's Van Brocklin
- 102 Like kids at Christmas
- 103 Drescher of "The Nanny"
- 104 Hollywood award
- 108 Banister
- 109 Cheeseboard choice
- 110 Jet of yore
- 114 Fury
- 115 Encounter
- 116 "_ Lama Ding Dong"

- (61 tune)
- 119 Dropped the ball
- 121 "Blue Velvet" singer
- 123 Merv Griffin creation
- 128 Salad veggie
- 129 "_ Man" ('67 hit)
- 130 Senator Hatch
- 131 Mix
- 132 Cafe vessel
- 133 Craggy hill
- 134 Peter of Herman's Hermits
- 135 Lady lobster

- 24 Biblical book
- 29 "Mockingbird" singer
- 32 Attempt to equal
- 33 Oscar _ Renta
- 35 Tennyson's Arden
- 36 Green org.
- 37 Wades through a crowd
- 39 Julia of "Havana"
- 40 Babe in the woods
- 41 Theater sign
- 42 Arthur of "Maude"
- 43 Griffon greeting
- 44 Minnie Driver film
- 45 Successor
- 49 Bizarre
- 52 Rosemary or basil
- 54 Hunk of gunk
- 56 Hook's henchman
- 58 Transport
- 60 Plot
- 62 Bridge support
- 64 Bikini part
- 66 Whirlpool
- 68 Like mountain air
- 69 With 117 Down, Italian statesman
- 70 Exec's deg.
- 71 Actor Lincoln
- 73 Shorten a sail
- 74 Hgt.
- 75 '59 Ritchie Valens hit
- 78 Starry
- 82 Pearce piece
- 84 Remnant
- 85 Carve a canyon

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Answer Page 7

Logging on

by Don Flood

One of the great perks of newspaper work — along with the occasional free pens given out at press conferences — is the chance to be on the absolute cutting edge of early 21st century holiday trends.

For instance, just the other day I received a hot-off-the-e-mail press release that solved all my gift-buying worries.

(Note to my wife: Stop reading right now and set aside this column until after the holidays! And no peeking!) Lint rags! That's right, lint rags!

According to the press release, MicroCloth XL dust cloths are the perfect stocking stuffer!

(Amazingly, almost every press release I receive is about the perfect stocking stuffer, with the possible exception of the some of the larger SUVs. How do they come up with so many perfect stocking stuffers? It's incredible!)

Another important tip: for maximum holiday enjoyment, don't forget the Duraflame logs.

You know Duraflame logs, they're those plastic-like logs that come from plastic-like Duraflame trees. They're what the pioneers used before they had the sense to build gas fireplaces.

Which is why in their press release the Duraflame people listed the following as their No. 1 Holiday Tip: "Burn a Duraflame firelog in your fireplace to create a warm, soothing atmosphere."

So true! But that's just the beginning of Duraflame holiday fun.

The No. 13 suggestion said — and this is for real — "Buy a case of Duraflame firelogs to have on hand to give as favors to guests attending your parties."

That's right. When it's time for your party guests to leave, give 'em one for the road — hand them a long-lasting, clean-burning Duraflame firelog.

That way, on the way home, they can build a warm, soothing fire in the backseat of their car.

But while I hate to be critical here, it's obvious the Duraflame publicists aren't exactly the brightest-burning logs in the woodshed.

Sure Duraflame firelogs make great party favors, but that's just the beginning of Duraflame fun.

Every occasion's just a little bit brighter with Duraflame firelogs.

- Valentine's Day — Flowers may be pretty but they don't burn well. Give your special someone a basket of Duraflame logs and just wait for the romantic sparks to begin flying.

- Anniversaries — One way to keep the "home fires burning" is to give her a Duraflame firelog for each wonderful year you've been together.

Imagine how her eyes will light up when she sees 25 Duraflame firelogs set up in a romantic anniversary pile.

- Just Because — It doesn't have to be a special occasion: Show your fun, spontaneous side by surprising your honey with a "no-special-reason" gift of Duraflame firelogs.

- Romantic adventure — Trying to stir things up with an old flame? Let her know you're still carrying a torch for her with a Duraflame firelog gift pack.

- Weddings — What to give the modern bride who often has everything? She won't believe her eyes when she sees the gift table laden with Duraflame firelogs! They also make the perfect "house-warming" gift!

And don't forget, Duraflame firelogs always make the perfect stocking stuffer.

(c) 2001 King Features Synd., Inc.

Briefs

From Page 1

on Dec. 18. Among those were Ernest Serna school's 8th grader Henry Lopez who won a \$75 award from the 2001 Kermesaar International Student Art Exhibit; former SHS student Nubia Elguea, for her selection as one of 77 Blue Chip Teacher Recruits in the Texas A&M University system; and the musicians of the Americas, Montwood and Socorro High Schools choir and orchestra for their selection to compete in the UIL All-Region and Area competitions.

■ It was once the location of the old Del Camino Hotel. Today it is

an empty 10.7-acre plot of land with the potential to help the Texas Tech facility in El Paso grow closer to becoming a full, four-year medical school. The property was donated by businessman J.O. Stewart and his wife, Marlene, during a recent ceremony. Located near the current Texas Tech facility at Concepcion and El Paso Streets, the property is appraised at \$1.5 million and will be home to a research facility for which the past legislative session granted \$40 million in funding. About 420 people will be employed at the facility which will focus on the study of diabetes, infectious diseases and environmental health issues. Completion will take about four years, according to Regional Dean of the El Paso campus, Jose Manuel de la Rosa, M.D.

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BLEAT	DEE	ALA	RADAR
AMOS	EYE	ELECT	BORING
OFTEN	FUR	VIOLA	INCA
FRODO	GOT	NORM	AGOG
FRAN	GOLDEN	GLOBE	
RAIL	GRUYERE	NAMATH	
TRE	MEET	RAMA	ERRED
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Texas DPS recommends following safety checklist before you hit the road

EL PASO COUNTY — This time of year is generally a time when people tend to gather with friends and family. As such it is also a time of increased travel and alcohol consumption. To combat this dangerous mix, the Texas Department of Public Safety will be patrolling highways, enforcing traffic laws with the aim of reducing the number of fatalities associated with holiday partying.

"It won't be a very merry Christmas if you are involved in a crash," said Col. Thomas A. Davis Jr., director of the DPS. "Our troopers will be out in full force looking for drunk drivers,

speeders and seat belt violators."

Fortunately, prior thought and planning can alleviate travel stress and avoid potential problems. The DPS offers Texas motorists the following tips.

- Drinking and driving don't mix. Never drive after consuming alcohol. Plan for a designated driver, or call for a cab.

- Slow down. Driving over the speed limit was the cause of 562 traffic deaths in 1999 alone. Inclement weather provides enough of a driving challenge without adding speed to the mix.

- Increase your awareness. Driving on icy or wet roadways requires even greater caution. Navigate bridges and overpasses with care - they're the first areas to freeze when the temperature drops. Most people forget that ice can be difficult to see.

- Always wear your seatbelt, and ensure everyone in the vehicle is buckled in.

- Plan your trip carefully, even if it's to only go to the store. Be sure to allow enough time to make the trip safely. Be prepared for delays. Haste can cause crashes — one of our biggest wastes.

- Check out road conditions in the event of bad weather. Consult local news stations or the Texas Department of Transportation for road closures. TxDOT can be reached at 1-800-452-9292, or on the Internet at www.dot.state.tx.us.

- Maintain a full gas tank. This helps avoid condensation in the fuel tank.

- Check the vehicle's fluids, including motor oil, windshield washer and transmission fluid, and the ignition system, lights, heaters and cooling system regularly. Remember to check the vehicle's battery before it

gets cold.

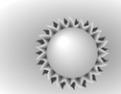
- Pack your vehicle with a blanket, first-aid kit, flares, jumper cables, tire chains, a flashlight, ice scraper and gloves. Include a supply of candy bars or dried fruit in case you become stranded.

- Carry a cell phone if possible. In the event of a breakdown or emergency, immediately contact the authorities. Motorists can call the DPS at 1-800-525-5555 to request assistance. *DPS can be used by participating cellular companies to reach the same number. Neither number is intended to replace 911.

WEATHER

AccuWeather.com

SEVEN-DAY FORECAST FOR EL PASO

THURSDAY	THUR. NIGHT	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
							
Bright and sunny.	Clear to partly cloudy.	Times of sun and clouds.	Mostly cloudy; could be showers.	Times of clouds and sun with a few showers.	Abundant sunshine.	Sunny.	Abundant sunshine.
▲ 62°	▼ 34°	▲ 64° ▼ 32°	▲ 58° ▼ 26°	▲ 50° ▼ 28°	▲ 52° ▼ 24°	▲ 54° ▼ 28°	▲ 54° ▼ 20°

UV INDEX Statistics for noon.

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

Thursday	4	Low
Friday	4	Low
Saturday	1	Minimal
Sunday	1	Minimal
Monday	4	Low
Tuesday	4	Low
Wednesday	4	Low

REAL FEEL TEMP™

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

Thursday	63°
Friday	63°
Saturday	55°
Sunday	48°
Monday	51°
Tuesday	53°
Wednesday	52°

AGRICULTURE

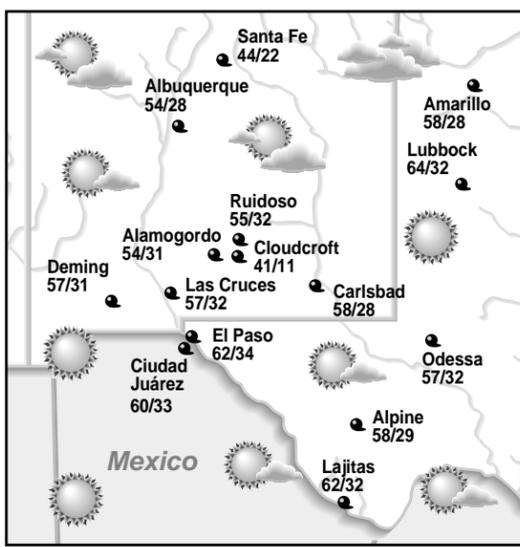
Thursday and Friday will bring plenty of sunshine to the area with dry weather. For Saturday and Sunday, expect mainly cloudy skies with a chance of some rain at times. It will get chilly at night, and then cooler weather will be on the way next week with sunshine.

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

TEXAS WEATHER

Anthony	62	34
Canutillo	63	35
Clint	57	35
E. Montana	62	34
Fabens	58	35
Horizon	63	35
San Elizario	57	31
Socorro	60	33
Tornillo	58	35
Vinton	63	35

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



TRAVELERS CITIES

City	Thur.	Fri.	Sat.	Sun.	Mon.
	Hi/Lo/W	Hi/Lo/W	Hi/Lo/W	Hi/Lo/W	Hi/Lo/W
Albuquerque	54/28/s	52/28/pc	44/22/c	42/20/pc	46/22/s
Atlanta	57/32/s	59/39/s	61/41/pc	61/49/sh	57/35/sh
Atlantic City	46/32/pc	44/28/s	50/32/s	51/33/s	54/39/sh
Austin/San Antonio	60/41/s	61/52/pc	61/40/sh	60/39/s	61/41/s
Baltimore	50/30/pc	46/26/pc	52/30/s	48/28/s	50/44/c
Boston	42/30/c	38/28/pc	40/30/pc	38/28/pc	47/40/pc
Chicago	40/22/pc	42/36/s	40/26/c	36/26/c	36/26/c
Dallas/Ft. Worth	60/38/s	60/48/pc	58/40/r	53/31/sh	58/36/s
Denver	52/24/pc	44/16/pc	32/14/sn	42/16/pc	48/20/s
Flagstaff	48/16/s	33/14/c	35/13/s	38/18/s	45/16/pc
Houston	66/42/s	68/60/pc	72/50/t	64/41/sh	63/42/s
Kansas City	50/28/s	52/32/pc	42/32/pc	42/24/pc	36/28/pc
Las Vegas	55/37/c	48/28/pc	50/28/s	55/39/s	59/36/s
Miami	77/61/pc	79/65/s	81/65/s	81/65/s	82/66/c
Minneapolis	32/20/pc	32/18/sf	30/16/sf	28/14/c	28/14/sn
New Orleans	62/43/s	64/47/s	60/59/sh	66/42/r	64/45/s
New York City	46/32/pc	42/32/pc	46/34/s	44/34/s	48/44/c
Philadelphia	48/30/pc	44/28/pc	50/32/s	46/30/s	48/44/c
Phoenix	72/48/s	66/44/pc	62/42/pc	64/42/s	68/46/s
Portland	44/34/pc	46/36/pc	46/38/c	46/36/c	48/38/c
San Francisco	54/42/r	56/42/s	58/44/s	60/44/pc	60/46/s
Seattle	44/34/pc	46/36/pc	46/38/c	44/38/c	46/38/c
Tucson	74/44/s	66/38/pc	58/34/pc	62/36/s	64/38/s
Washington, DC	50/32/pc	48/32/pc	52/34/s	48/32/s	50/46/c

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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- High-torque 2.1-hp engine
 - Powerhead weighs just 9.1 pounds
 - Best power-to-weight ratio in class
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*Carry Case offer good Sept. 1 through Nov. 30, 2001. Same-as-Cash offer ends Nov. 30, 2001 and is subject to approved credit on John Deere Credit Revolving Plan. For non-commercial use only, 10% down payment required. If the balance is not paid in full by the end of the Same-as-Cash promotional period, interest will be assessed from the original date of purchase at 19.8% APR with a \$0.50 per month minimum. Other special rates and terms may be available, including financing for commercial use. Available from participating dealers. Prices and models may vary by dealer.