

WEST TEXAS COUNTY COURIER

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

JANUARY 10, 2002

NEWSBRIEFS

New EPCC prez

Newly appointed President Richard Rhodes of El Paso Community College will address the community during the Spring 2002 Faculty Development General Session on Friday, Jan. 11 at 9 a.m. in the Mission Valley Ballroom and Convention Center in Socorro, 10600 North Loop Road. In his welcoming address the new president will challenge school employees to "go about breaking down barriers and building community with greater zeal and commitment," a spokesman said. Information: 831-2201.

Musicians honored

Socorro Middle School's Guitar Performing Group has won a national prize from the Musicians' Educational National Conference Association's "How Cool Is Your School?" contest. The grand prize of \$1,250 was awarded to the group of first-year guitarists led by teacher Emma Caylor. The students performed in a video presentation, that was shot and edited within a two-week deadline, in collaborative effort with George Cordova of the School District's Communication Department. The presentation included narration, two dancers and four songs.

In other news

■ Register now for children's Hands-on Science Outreach classes, "Architecture and Engineering" that will be held on eight Saturdays, Jan. 19-March 9 at the UTEP Centennial Museum. "Shape Makers" is for kindergarten-first grade, "Towers and Tales" will be held for grades 2-3, and "Behind the Magic" will be held for grades 4-6. Registration is \$40 per child, limited to 11 children per class. For information, call Genny Mooser at 747-6665.

■ The Texas Boll Weevil Eradication Foundation says that the impact on the boll weevil population has been well-documented in other cotton-growing states and that similar results are now becoming evident in Texas. Two recent studies draw a stark contrast between areas in eradication zones and those still struggling with the damage caused by cotton's most consistent enemy. Texas A&M agricultural economist John Robinson says there are stark comparisons between cotton production in South Texas/Winter Garden Eradication Zones and that in nearby counties not conducting eradication efforts. His findings were provided in the *Southwest Farm Press*. Information: (915) 672-2800.

■ El Paso County's second Texas Master Naturalist Program will begin Feb. 6, in which apprentice naturalists receive in-depth training in wildlife and natural resource management. The mission is to develop and certify a group of well-intentioned volunteers to provide education, outreach and service dedicated to the beneficial management of natural resources and natural areas within the community. The program is sponsored locally by the Texas Agricultural Extension Service,

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The best things in life are free — plus tax, of course.

— Quips and Quotes

Texas given new emergency response authority to fight animal disease outbreaks

AUSTIN — With 2002, Texas animal health officials have been equipped with emergency authority to fight a foreign animal disease outbreak. New emergency response and management regulations for the Texas Animal Health Commission, (TAHC), the state's livestock health regulatory authority, became effective Jan. 1.

"We must be ready for action if a foreign animal disease is accidentally or intentionally introduced into Texas," said Dr. Linda Logan, Texas state veterinarian and TAHC executive director.

"New emergency response regulations will streamline our ability to immediately declare livestock movement restrictions statewide, if needed, establish quarantines and start fighting a foreign animal disease without waiting for the 12 TAHC commissioners to convene a meeting. Any delays in action to stop disease spread could be costly for Texas livestock producers."

Dr. Logan explained that the new regulations do not exclude the 12 governor-appointed TAHC commissioners, but allow her or designated deputies to act immediately on their behalf to fight the spread of disease. In an emergency, the commissioners would convene as quickly as possible in an open meeting to address the disease outbreak.

"The TAHC commissioners will retain ultimate authority, and they will be involved in deliberations with industry stakeholders to direct the agency in responding to an emergency," commented Gene Snelson, TAHC general counsel. "Furthermore, this new authority will be used only when a foreign animal disease has been introduced into the state. While the TAHC always has had broad-based legal authority to eradicate or control livestock disease, the authority to be more direct in responding to such a livestock emergency must be legislatively modified. These new regulations, however, provide an interim framework to ensure that we can address problems if they arise prior

to the next legislative session."

"In Great Britain's 2001 foot-and-mouth disease outbreak, authorities determined the virus had been in their country for two or three weeks before sick swine were seen at a slaughter plant in February 2001. In the ensuing battle to contain infection, more than 6 million head of livestock on 9,662 farms were slaughtered in Great Britain. The cost of the outbreak will run well over \$4 billion," said Dr. Logan.

"Foot-and-mouth disease is the most destructive and costly livestock disease, because it can infect all animals with split hooves, including cattle, sheep, goats, pigs and llamas. Free-ranging animals, such as white-tailed deer and feral swine also are susceptible.

Foot-and-mouth disease maims animals, leaving them lame, blistered and unable to eat or drink. To stop the outbreak, infected and exposed animals must be slaughtered and properly disposed of, either by burning or deep burial. Foot-and-mouth disease is particularly difficult to battle because the virus can travel not only via live animals, but also on the wind, on clothing and footwear, on contaminated vehicles and equipment, in uncooked and undercooked meat products, and in manure," she said.

"If the disease was introduced into Texas, and we halted livestock movement immediately, we have a chance at stopping the spread of the disease. Until now, commissioners had to hold an emergency meeting in order to enact widespread livestock movement restrictions," she said. The emergency response regulations also authorize the slaughter and disposal of infected and exposed animals, and provide for the TAHC to assist owners with obtaining any indemnity funds available from



Dr. Linda Logan

the state or federal government.

"Regulations, laws and extra manpower and equipment are helpful in an outbreak, but they will never take the place of our first line of defense: the livestock owner and private veterinary practitioner. Keeping a sharp eye on livestock and promptly reporting any unusual signs of disease could save billions of dollars in the long run," said Dr. Logan.

"Our hotline, operated by the USDA and TAHC is available 24 hours a day. A foreign animal disease diagnostician is always on call and can be reached by calling the

toll-free number, 1-800-550-8242. There is no charge by the USDA or TAHC for conducting a foreign animal disease investigation."

Socorro's long-sought transportation finally coming

By Arleen Beard
Special to the Courier

SOCORRO — The reality of having public transportation in the City of Socorro was announced by Mayor Amado Padilla at the regularly scheduled Socorro City Council meeting on Jan. 3.

Mayor Padilla expressed his excitement about seeing a project come to fruition that has been worked on for quite some time by Mayor Pro-Tem Jesus Hernandez and himself.

The bus service was originally set to begin at the early part of the month but was delayed due to a lack of available buses. The new date for the bus service to begin is Jan. 28, 2002.

Schedules and routes for the bus service will be made available to Socorro residents in this month's water bill.

Mayor Pro-Tem Hernandez announced there would be free rides on the first day as a promotional event. Mayor Padilla encouraged everyone in attendance at the meeting to utilize the bus service. This is something the citizens of Socorro have wanted and now it is becoming a reality, he said.

Council approved the First Reading of Ordinance No. 222, Amendment 1, creating an on-call tow truck services provider list and establishing rules and regulations for their operation.

Mayor Pro-Tem Hernandez added he would like for the provider list to be limited to businesses in Socorro would like this stipulated in the second reading, prior to the ordinance's approval.

There was also discussion regarding a proposed ordinance regarding ATVs (All Terrain Vehicles). This ordinance is scheduled to be considered at the next regularly scheduled Council meeting, Jan. 17, 2002.

Council unanimously approved the need for a uniform Departmental Approval Policy and Attorney Richard Contreras was instructed to create the policy for approval by City Council.

Accountability group has serious doubts about validity of TAAS test replacement

AUSTIN — In the next school year Texas students will be required to take a new statewide academic assessment test that replaces the TAAS and "unless test design problems are quickly addressed, this test could suffer from the same educational shortcomings of its predecessor while undermining the state's accountability system," according to research released this week by the Texas Public Policy Foundation, a non-profit, non-partisan research institute.

The TPPF says that development of the test has been largely hidden from independent scrutiny and public view and that the Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (TAKS) is now in the final stages of a three-year development process within the Texas Education Agency.

Given the important role the test will play — both in school accountability and determining student promotion — TPPF says it has examined the state policies and practices used to develop the tests, explored legal requirements and relevant judicial rulings, and gathered TEA and independent research on current assessment tests (the TAAS).

"Texas school children deserve an academically rigorous assessment, but there is little evidence the TAKS tests will be much different from the TAAS," says Chris Patterson, TPPF Director of Education Research and author of the study. "Texas needs a world-class

test, not one reflecting the low standards of the past."

The study sheds light on flaws in the TAAS, noting that the TEA's test development process has not changed in preparing the TAKS. Among the study's findings based on information currently available, the TAKS test will:

- Measure and reward student achievement below national and international standards;
- Allow students to pass grade-level tests by answering questions on below grade-level material;
- Encourage curriculum narrowing as "teachers teach to the test," because assessments measure only a portion of the curriculum standards rather than all the requirements;
- Trivialize questions by imbedding answers in the question rather than requiring students to demonstrate acquired academic knowledge and skills;
- Set and measure a level of academic difficulty that is based on the current level of student performance as opposed to the expectations set by state curriculum standards.

Among the policy recommendations, the TPPF study suggests that independent national experts be immediately hired to validate the TAKS to ensure it will meet state requirements and public expectations.

The study, including test question examples, and all the findings and recommendations are available online at: <http://www.tppf.org/>



One perspective

By Francis Shrum

A revolution in resolutions

It's time somebody came right out and said it.

New Year's resolutions are a farce. For starters, we make them at the wrong time of year. Only the tiny number of truly dedicated sun-worshippers can possibly be aware of the minute extension in the amount of sunlight we get each day.

That's not much impetus to make life-altering, earth-shaking, bone-jarring changes in our outlook and behavior during the dead of winter when most of us are at our lowest level of fat-laden motivation.

In many parts of the country, we've been battling months of icy roads, cold wind and mud. Even here in sunny El Paso County our primary source of comfort has been the undemanding companionship of the sofa with a cup of something hot and calorie-loaded.

The kids don't go out and play so they — and therefore, we — are bored and cranky and downright tired of being in such close quarters with each other. We've all been weakened by colds and flu, thanks to those close quarters which makes sharing them easy, so our energy levels are low.

Lots of folks have newly acquired debt this time of year, so we're in no mood to delve into our financial structure — especially since our property tax bill says "now due" and it is time to sort through all those itty-bitty scraps of paper shoved in a file drawer, hoping we can keep Uncle Sam from repossessing our first born this year.

Not a pretty picture.

So we expect our populace to run right out and pay big bucks to join a gym club they will never go to and resolve to be nicer to the nasty neighbor whose cat does unmentionables

in the front yard every morning? I don't think so.

I think we should instead begin a national campaign for everyone to have as little contact with each other as possible until spring. Even Rudy Giuliani would be amazed at the drop in crime rates.

Consider spring. Unlike Jan. 1, which is little more than a number on about a jillion sheets of calendar paper, spring time comes along with tangible signs of life reawakening.

That's when nature makes its resolutions.

The little birds resolve to raise a whole new crop of birdlings, undaunted by the fact that the bigger birds and the nasty neighbor's cat are probably going to kill off most of them.

My delicate purple iris blossoms will emerge with gusto, fearless in the face of the looming West Texas sand storms that will rip them to shreds.

The birds and the bees are convinced that this is a new beginning and so are we.

The nurseries do a booming business as the eternally optimistic gardening types rush out and buy vines and rose bushes that will likely die from a late frost or blistering heat later in the summer. We plant endless rows of seeds for produce we don't like, but which looked *really* good on the packet, certain that we're going to feed our families and the world with fresh fruits and vegetables — if we remember to water them and if the tomato worms and squash bugs don't devour them first.

We are so optimistic in the future that we forget all vanity and personal modesty, running around in clothing that flaunts our blazing white arms and legs, pudgy middles and saggy chests.



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But do we care? No! There's nothing we can't do! We envision that in only a few short weeks we will have lean brown limbs and flourishing green landscapes, never

mind that we'll likely still be pudgy, just sun-burned to a crisp and sore from engaging in activities our minds remembered but our bodies had forgotten.

So let's not make those life-changing resolutions now, while our mind is the only part of us still working. Let's wait until spring when it goes on vacation.

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Bonilla will seek reelection

As we enter a new year, our country finds itself under unique circumstances. We all understand the need to move forward as a nation. In order to continue on our current path, our nation — and the 23rd district — need proven leadership.

We need leaders who have stood the test of time and know how to get the job done. We need leaders who

can work in a bipartisan manner and put the needs of the people first. We need leaders who are willing to fight for a stronger national defense, lower taxes, better education, improved healthcare and less burdensome federal regulations. I have fought these battles for almost a decade and have found great success.



Henry Bonilla

ous and successful campaign. I've built my reputation on straight talk, honor for my office and respect for my constituents. I think the people of the 23rd district appreciate my dedication and the long-standing relationships we've built. We have worked well together for more than nine years. I look forward to representing them for many years to come.

I look forward to running a vigorous campaign for many years to come.

Horizon City Community Chapel

Sunday School 9:45 a.m.
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

Spanish Services

Estudio Dominical 9:45 a.m.
Servicios en Español .. 10:45 a.m.
Estudio en Español
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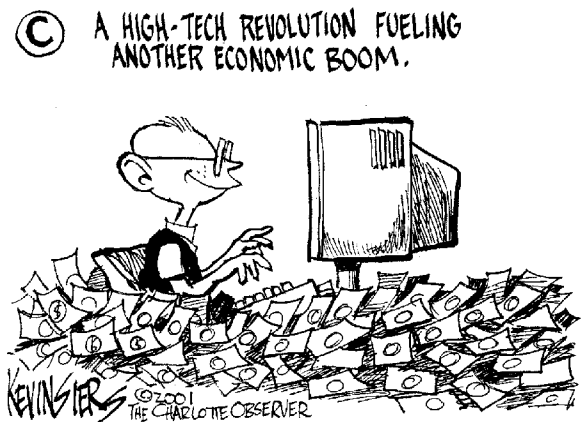
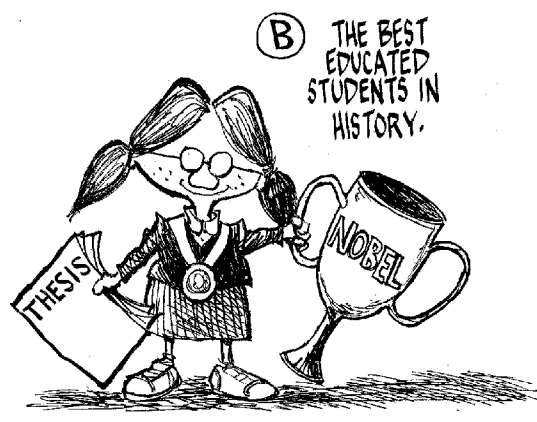
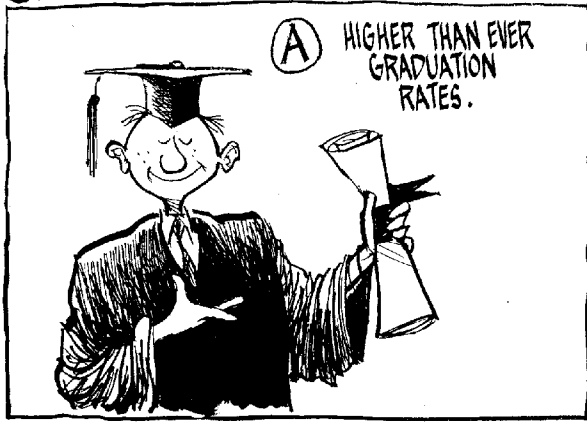
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Q: HIGHER ACADEMIC STANDARDS AND TOUGHER TESTS HAVE RESULTED IN:



DPS urges Texans to resolve to drive better

Many people make New Year's resolutions regarding diets or breaking bad habits. Instead of emphasizing the negative in 2002, why not focus on something positive that will show immediate results? Resolve to drive better.

Some ideas for life-changing New Year's resolutions:

- Make buckling up everyone in your vehicle before you start the engine a habit. The latest statistics show that nearly half of those killed in traffic collisions were not properly restrained.
- Drive sober. Drunk driving kills hundreds and injures or maims thousands in Texas every year. A DWI conviction gives you a criminal history for life.
- Slow down — even a little. Speed

is the leading contributing factor in fatal wrecks. Remember to reduce your speed when weather, construction or other road conditions warrant.

- Drive courteously. Don't forget your manners when you get behind the wheel and fall into the road rage trap. Courtesy and anger are both contagious on the roadway. Which would you rather spread?
 - Put the cell phone down. A cell phone can save your life, but it can also end it if used improperly.
 - Don't tailgate. You need that space between you and the vehicle in front of you in case unforeseen problems arise.
 - Obey traffic control devices.
- DPS troopers are out there to encourage drivers to keep Texas roadways safe.

City of Socorro PUBLIC NOTICE

A PUBLIC HEARING will be held at 6:00 p.m. on January 22, 2002 during the Planning Commission meeting at City Hall, 124 S. Horizon Blvd., Socorro, Texas. Purpose of the public hearing is to receive public comments on the following proposed rezonings:

1. Tract 4D10C, Block 3 Socorro Grant, 681 S. Horizon Blvd. for Special Use Permit by Verizon Wireless and Mr. & Mrs. Rodriguez;
2. Lot 1, Block 7 Aldama Estates, 208 Midnight Sun from R-1, Single Family Residential to M-2, Heavy Industrial by Rosa M. Tellez;
3. Tracts 25B and 26B, Block 9 Socorro Grant, 266 S. Horizon Blvd., from M-1, Light Industrial to M-2, Heavy Industrial by Horizon LTD.;
4. Lot 9, Block 10 Gran Valle, 11650 Riverside Rd. from R-1, Single Family Residential to R-2, Medium Density Residential by Roberto Cardona and Rodrigo Ocon;
5. Lot 5, Block 3 Gurdev Subdivision, 10263 North Loop from R-1, Single Family Residential to C-2, General Commercial by Sara Duran.

TERE RODRIGUEZ
Interim City Secretary

WTCC: 01/10/02

View from the porch By Linda Mussehl

Taking inventory



Resolutions for a new year are tricky. Cold, gloomy January is probably the worst month to embark upon a reformation of the mind and body. It almost guarantees most of us going into February a failure once again. What a miserable way to start a new year.

Why not have April and September resolutions instead?

Budding April begs you to grow along with the Spring. It's a time of physical renewal. If "get more exercise" is a personal goal, sunny April mornings invite long walks. It sure beats January's shivery slog in the sleet.

We've been conditioned since childhood to see September as a month of new beginnings. It's time for school supplies, a blank slate upon which we can rewrite our lives. The weather promises cooler days sometime soon, an elixir invigorating the mind and body.

Then what the heck shall we do with January?

The month is named for Janus, the two-faced Roman deity who looked both back in time and to the future. Instead of January resolutions, perhaps it should be a time of inventory, both personal and pragmatic.

On the pragmatic side, January's look back at the previous year lets us stay cozy in the house and rack up last year's business, reconciling bank statements and organizing the tax records. Hey, it's a bummer, I know, but it's a warm and dry job that will have to be done sometime soon anyway. This way we won't have

to waste those beautiful spring days hunched over a calculator.

January is also a good time to take a personal inventory, maybe just a list of things, silly or significant, we've learned along the way. Here are a few of the things I've learned:

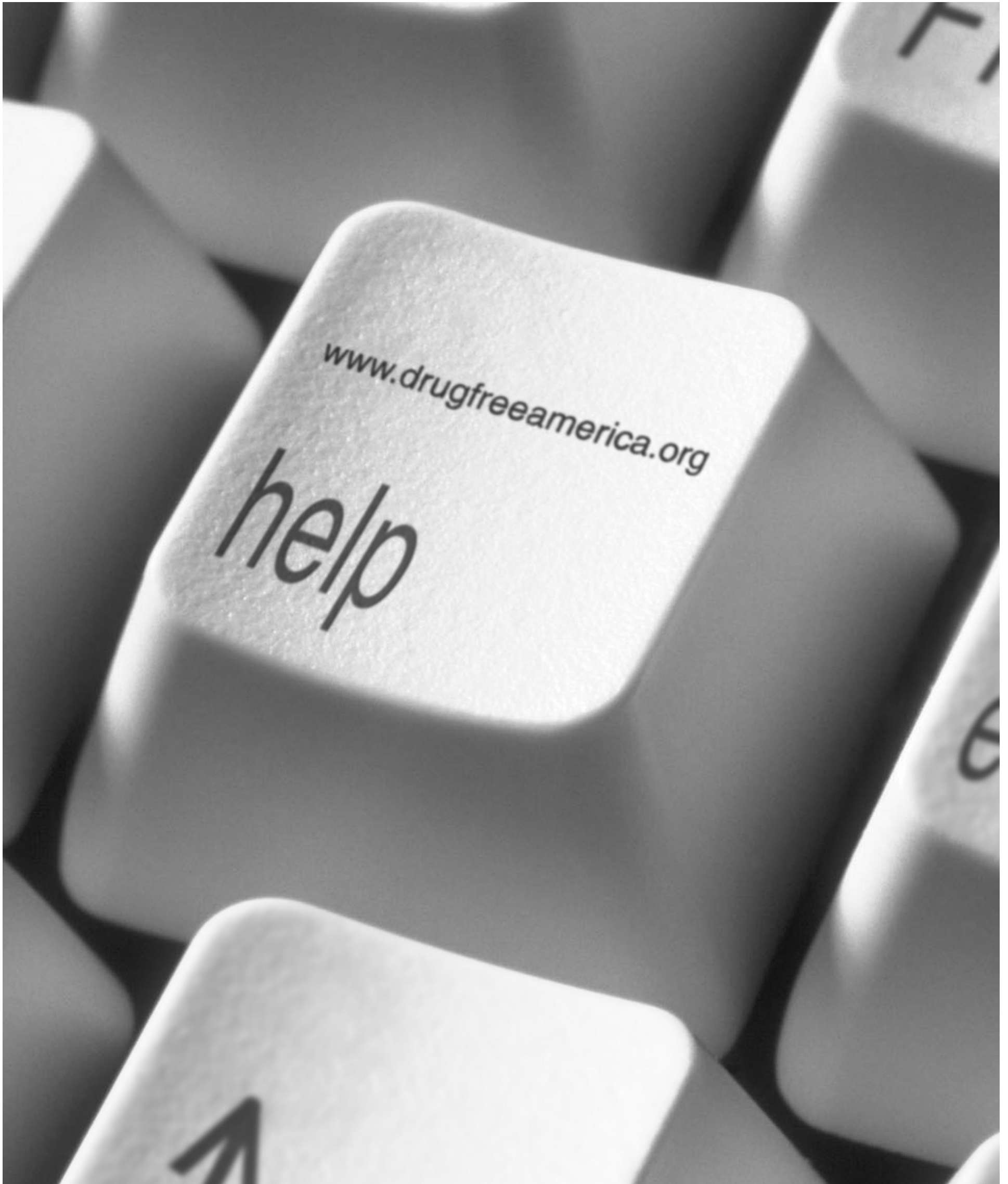
- If an item is offered for sale at 50% off, it was probably overpriced to begin with.
- A grown man's toenail clippings can fly over 20 feet, depending on windage and elevation.
- Those who are tall enough to see the dust on top of my refrigerator — and are brave enough to comment on it — are old enough and tough enough to clean it.
- If the trash is torn open and spread around the yard, I should probably blame the horses before I scold the dogs.
- "Getting organized" is just another name for procrastination.
- There is wisdom to be found on bumper stickers, e.g., "Dull women have immaculate homes."
- Life is way too short to sit through meetings conducted according to Robert's Rules of Order.

An honest personal inventory should also have a section for shortcomings. Some things can't be fixed; others just aren't worth the effort. Face them, then file and forget. Here are just a very few of mine:

- If I have an audience, I am incapable of opening a gate from the back of a horse.
- I'll never be able to back a trailer.
- I'll never be able to carve a bone-in ham.
- And no matter what I yet achieve, they'll never be able to say, "And she did it so young."

TRUE TEXAS FACTS by Roger Moore January 10, 1901, Lucas gusher comes in at Spindletop. The oil boom arrives.





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Spain, Mexico and the Austins begin settling the wilds of Texas

History of Texas Public Lands - Part One

TEXAS — Are you a Texan, descended from Texans? How did you and your ancestors come to be a part of the history, the legacy of this “whole other country?” How well do you understand the historical forces that shaped and molded this second-largest state in the U.S. into what it is today?

The Texas General Land Office contains — and maintains — detailed

records with fascinating information about this great state — information that every Texan, whether by birth or choice, should know.

“The history of Texas is the history of land; land was vital to the development of Texas,” GLO history begins. “Indians who first inhabited the area used and defended it but had no concept of private land ownership. It was the Spanish who brought this

idea to Texas. The government of Spain, and later Mexico, attempted to maintain its hold over Texas by settling people on the land. Large amounts were sold or given away to a few people. As a republic and then a state, Texas disposed of more and more land. It was often Texas’ only available resource for providing defense, promote internal improvements, pay debts and fund a system of public education. Most importantly, land lured people to Texas.”

It was the “luring” of these people, and their colorful behavior in the settling of Texas, that have made this state the fascinating mix of nationalities and cultures that we know today.

The following are excerpts are made available from GLO files.

Spain’s claims

Spain claimed the land that is now Texas in 1519, when the explorer Alonzo Alvarez de Piñeda sailed along the Gulf Coast to the Rio Grande. Later, in hopes of finding mineral riches, other Spanish explorers came to Texas. But because they didn’t find the quick wealth they sought, Spain ignored Texas until 1685, when France’s René Robert Caviler, Sieur de la Salle, established a fort at Matagorda Bay and claimed the area for France.

To protect its claim, Spain needed to establish a Spanish population in Texas. But with plenty of land at home, Spanish subjects in Mexico were unwilling to move to faraway, dangerous Texas. The Spanish had a policy of incorporating peaceful Indian tribes into their society — Spain next attempted to transform the Indians into loyal Spanish subjects by establishing missions in Texas. The Texas Indians, who had no concept of individual land ownership, learned in the missions how to own and settle the land.

The first Spanish land grant in Texas was made in 1690 to the East Texas mission San Francisco de los Tejas. For the next 130 years Spain continued to issue land grants in Texas. The Spanish king personally — not the nation or people as a whole — owned all Spanish land, and he granted it as a political favor, for money, or as a gift.

While it controlled Texas, the Crown granted large quantities of land to a small number of individuals. Often this land was purchased at auction, usually for a nominal price. Because the Spanish recognized that ranchers needed large amounts of

land for grazing purposes, a league (4,428.4 acres) or more was granted for ranching; smaller parcels close to settlements were granted for farming. According to Spanish colonization laws, wealthier subjects were entitled to purchase three or four square leagues, while poorer subjects could acquire one or two leagues. Frequently, individuals obtained additional amounts by applying for grants in the names of relatives or by marrying their children into families on adjoining ranches.

France’s sale of the Louisiana Territory to the United States in 1803 meant that the U.S. now became a threat to the Spain’s control of Texas. The specter of an expanding United States led the Spanish government to encourage private grants anywhere north of the Rio Grande. Texas was too remote for Spain to control directly, so the government made private agents responsible for finding settlers and helping them locate land. The first of these agents in what is now Texas was Colonel José de Escandón who, in 1748, was awarded a colonization grant to settle land from Tampico to the Nueces River. Unlike earlier Spanish colonizers, Escandón brought no soldiers to his colony; the settlers themselves were to provide defense.

Although the Spanish king owned the land, he empowered local officials to issue grants; the governor of the province of Texas could grant land there. A person hoping to receive a land grant sent a petition to the governor. If the governor approved the petition, he sent a local officer to visit the tract, accompanied by the petitioner, witnesses, owners of adjacent property and a notary, if one was available. The land was measured in *varas*, a Spanish unit of measurement later standardized at 33.3 inches and adopted by the state of Texas as its official land measure. The officer next noted the property lines of the tract by using natural land features or by creating markers (piles of rocks, carving in a tree trunk). After a survey was made and the neighboring landowners agreed that it didn’t in-

trude on their land, ceremonial acts of possession were performed by the new owner, such as firing a gun, pulling grass and throwing rocks across the land. The land title was a record of all of these proceedings written on paper bearing the official government stamp.

Then came Austin

Until 1819, land grants were awarded predominantly to Spanish subjects, but things changed in December 1820, when Missourian Moses Austin rode into San Antonio. Nine years later his son, Stephen F. Austin, described this important visit:



“...on presenting himself (Moses Austin) to the Gov. he received a preemptory order to leave the capital

instantly, and the province as soon as he could get out of it. This order was issued in consequence of the general regulations, then existing, prohibiting any foreigner from entering the Spanish territory without a specific description of passport. There was no remedy; and he left the Governor’s house to prepare for his departure. In crossing the public square he accidentally met the Baron de Bastrop, with whom he had a slight acquaintance, in the United States, many years previous. Mr. Austin had been a Spanish subject in Upper Louisiana, in 1799, and de Bastrop went to the Governor with the documents which he had brought with him to prove the fact; a second interview was thus obtained with the Governor, and after several days deliberations, and consultations, with the Cabildo, a memorial was presented by Mr. Austin asking for permission to settle three hundred families in Texas; which was sent on to the superior government of the Eastern Internal Provinces, strongly recommended by the local authorities of the Province.”

(Part II will continue next week. The information contained in this historical series can be accessed at www.glo.state.tx.us, and is reprinted with permission of the Texas General Land Office.)



FLYING THE COLORS — The Horizon City Lions Club participates in the Horizon City Flag Project in which flags are placed in the yards of subscribers for \$25 a year.

Horizon City Lions club keeps roaring into community projects

HORIZON CITY — The Horizon City Lions Club is among the earliest service clubs chartered in this growing community, and its members include long-time residents as well as new arrivals.

A participant in the Lions Clubs of Texas, the group seeks community-minded people willing to dedicate a little time and effort on behalf of those less fortunate.

Morgan Knapp, president of the Horizon City group, said the list of projects undertaken by the Lions is long and productive.

Long know for support in various eye care programs, the Lions collect and distribute used eyeglasses, sponsor training programs for the blind, and maintain the Leader Dog Program for see-

ing-eye dogs. Each year in October, the Horizon Club helps sponsor the Horizon Health Fair which features free eye tests, cholesterol and glucose tests and a host of other health information. Flu shots and pneumonia shots are available at the fair at a low cost.

The Horizon group also contributes to the Texas Lions Camp, a summer camp free of charge for disabled children.

The group meets for breakfast on the second and fourth Saturday’s of each month at the Oz Glaze Senior Center in Horizon City — a \$5 breakfast is served at 7:30 a.m.

For local information call 852-3372 or log on at www.lionsclubs.org.

Briefs

From Page 1

Texas Parks and Wildlife and the Texas Forest Service. Classes are held for 16 weeks on Wednesday evenings from 6-9 p.m. at the EPCC Trans-Mountain Campus, with seven Saturday morning field trips. Call Dr. Raymond F. Bader or Christina Espinosa at 859-7725 for registration information before Jan. 20.

■ Individuals and companies who bid on contracts with the City of El Paso may soon be required to prove that they provide health insurance for their employees as a factor in obtaining such contracts. El Paso Mayor Ray Caballero held a news conference on Monday, recommending that the City of El Paso encourage its contractors to provide health insurance for their employees by using that factor as a rating to ensure the City receives the “best value” from its vendors, shielding the City from possible injury claims.

Canine heart disease can be fatal

By Michelle J. Brown
Special to the Courier

EL PASO COUNTY — Although it is common for people in today’s fitness-minded society to monitor their own cardiovascular health, pet owners nationwide should be concerned about the heart health of another member of the family: their dog.

Unsuspecting dog owners may not be aware that their pets are susceptible to forms of heart disease which can be fatal.

“Waiting until a dog displays signs of illness may mean a serious health risk for the dog and a greater expense for the owner,” said Randy Shinaut, DVM, member of the El Paso Veterinary Medical Association. “So when it comes to heart disease, the best way to ensure your dog’s health is to be prepared. That means taking your dog for a physical examination at least once a year.”

Studies show that about one in 10 dogs seen by veterinarians suffers from heart disease that can lead to

heart failure. Of these, approximately 22 percent suffer from moderate to severe heart failure, 56 percent have mild signs and the remainder have no outward signs of the disease.

Heart failure results from the heart’s inability to pump blood at the rate required to meet the body’s needs. While the heart compensates by continuing to work harder to pump blood, the result is that the heart suffers even more.

Although some forms of heart failure in dogs have no visible signs, heart disease can be diagnosed through a clinical examination by a veterinarian. Owners of dogs with mild to moderate signs of heart failure typically report that their pets experience coughing, lethargy and difficulty in breathing. Severe heart failure is characterized by difficulty in breathing (even at rest), fainting, profound intolerance to exercise, loss of appetite and weight loss.

“Although heart failure can occur in any dog, some breeds that may be particularly prone to heart failure include Poodles, Cocker Spaniels, English Springer Spaniels, Irish Wolf-

hounds, Great Danes, German Shepherds, Saint Bernards, Doberman Pinchers and English Mastiffs,” said Shinaut. That’s why it’s important to see your family veterinarian on a routine basis and have your dog examined for evidence of heart disease.”

Early detection of heart disease, however, is only half the battle. Preventive care is essential for optimal pet health.

• **Exercise:** In the wild, animals exercise naturally as they hunt for food. But at home, the most exercise many dogs receive is a walk to their food dish. Regular exercise is key to safeguarding your dog’s heart. Walking or jogging with your pet can be beneficial for both owner and dog; however, older dogs or dogs with weak hearts may not make good exercise partners. Ask for exercise recommendations.

• **Obesity and Diet:** It’s tempting to feed your dog table scraps and treats, but they may not necessarily be good for his health. Most veterinarians recommend that adult dogs be fed once a day and puppies more frequently. Establish a routine by

feeding your dog at the same time each day. Monitor your dog’s weight. If you can’t feel the ribs, he’s probably overweight. Your veterinarian can advise you as to your dog’s optimal weight.

• Another common cause of heart disease in dogs is the heartworm parasite *Dirofilaria immitis*, which can severely affect a dog’s heart, lungs and blood vessels. When a dog is bitten by a mosquito carrying infective heartworm larvae, worms mature in the dog’s tissues and then migrate to the heart and pulmonary arteries where they can grow up to 14 inches in length. Heartworms invade the heart, lungs and other vital organs, and if left untreated, can be fatal. The tell-tale signs of heartworm disease — fatigue, chronic cough and loss of appetite — may not appear until the disease is very advanced. Treatment of advanced heartworm disease may be risky to the pet and expensive for the owner. Ask for a blood test to determine if the dog is infected, and for easy preventive steps you can take.

Resolutions schmezzolutions — these guys will do as they please

By Steve Escajeda
Special to the Courier

Well, 2002 is now upon us and like you I've thought up a few New Year's resolutions that I hope to keep at least until the second week in February — which might be a new record for me.

I've put a lot of thought into what I can improve in my life and as I came up with my list I also wondered what some of the more famous sports figures would want to improve in their lives.

And so I came up with a few some resolutions I might like to see some sports figures make in 2002.

John Rocker vows that this is the year he finally makes Grand Imperial Wizard. Bobby Knight will make a concerted effort to be gentler and kinder during 2002, even if he has to kill someone to do it. Latrell Sprewell says he will never again choke another human being

— he said nothing, however, about referees.

Dennis Rodman said he would like to dedicate himself more to children but a court order put a quick end to that. Don King said he is leaving boxing because it draws too much of a criminal element and will now work for worthier causes like the Olympic site search committee or professional wrestling.

George O'Leary vowed never to lie on his resume again — which should be easy now that no one will accept it. Jerry Jones made a lot of mistakes during 2001 but said he will refuse to acknowledge them and will do everything in 2002 exactly as he did them last year.

George Steinbrenner vowed to buy the Dominican Republic for its rich baseball talent. Mike Tyson said he will no longer nibble on beauty contestants or bite his boxing opponents — he also said his 2001 New Year's resolution was to stop cussing and start smiling more.

And finally, Don Haskins said that he will watch what he eats and drinks in 2002 — and

wants to thank the anonymous person who got him the new eyeglasses for Christmas.

Goodbye old friends

Unfortunately, every new year brings with it the sobering fact that some old friends are no longer here to enjoy it with us. These legends who bid us farewell in 2001, are gone but will never be forgotten:

Affirmed, the 1978 Triple Crown winner; Tommie Agee, member of the amazing 1969 New York Mets; Earl Anthony, Hall of Fame bowler; Lawrence (Crash) Davis, former minor league ball player made famous by Kevin Costner in the movie Bull Durham; Dale Earnhart, seven-time NASCAR Winston Cup champion who died in a crash during the final lap of the Daytona 500; Harold "Happy" Hairston, member of the 1971 world champion Los Angeles Lakers; Eddie Mathews, Hall of Fame slugger who played for the Boston, Milwaukee and Atlanta Braves; Al McGuire, coach of the 1977 college basketball champion Marquette Warriors and long-time commentator; John McKay, wisecracking coach of the USC Trojans and the first-ever coach of the Tampa Bay Buccaneers; Ralph Miller, Hall of Fame college basketball coach at Oregon State, Iowa and Wichita State; Charley Pell, football coach of Florida Gators, who resigned in 1984 after NCAA levied 59 sanctions against his program; Sandy Sadler, featherweight boxing champ and boxing trainer; Hank Sauer, 1952 National League MVP for the Chicago

Cubs; Billy Ray Smith Sr., standout defensive lineman who spent most of his career with the Baltimore Colts; Willie Stargell, Pittsburgh Pirates prolific home run hitter affectionately known as "Pops"; Corey Stringer, Minnesota Vikings lineman who passed away of heat stroke at practice; Paul (Tank) Younger, first athlete from a predominately black school (Grambling) to play in the NFL; Oklahoma State's eight members (including two players) of the basketball team who died in a plane crash in Colorado; Jack Elway, innovative college football coach who also happened to be John Elway's father; Lou Boudreau, Hall of Fame baseball player who helped lead the Cleveland Indians to their last championship in 1948; University of Wyoming's eight members of the college cross country team, killed in a car accident; Eddie Futch, famous boxing trainer who trained champs Joe Frazier, Larry Holmes, Riddick Bowe and Michael Spinks, among others; Art Wall Jr., 1959 Maters' Champion, who had more than 40 holes-in-one during his golf career; Charlie McClendon, compiled a 137-59-7 record during his 18 years as head football coach of the LSU Tigers; George Young, general manager of the New York Giants instrumental in building their two Super Bowl title teams; Larry Costello, coached the Milwaukee Bucks to the NBA title with a young Kareem Abdul-Jabbar; Dick Schaap, Emmy Award winning broadcaster and host of ESPN's "Sports Reporters"; Harvey Martin, Hall of Fame defensive end for the Dallas Cowboys, named Super Bowl co-MVP.

Classified Ads

LEGALS

As per Article V, Sec. 5.05(a), all owners and lienholders have ten (10) days from this date to reclaim their vehicles at Southwest Wrecker, 1401 Darrington Rd., 855-1900, 851-2091-fax, or it will be sold at public auction for charges: VIN - OY90G666640, Lincoln Continental, beige VIN - 2MELM74W7NX696582, Mercury Grand Marquis, beige VIN - IB3BU561JDI63635, Dodge Dynasty, maroon WTCC-1/10/02

HELP WANTED

Temporary Position: Full-time Project Inspector/Coordinator for the LVWD to perform inspections for water and sewer connections to individual homes per Plumbing Codes and specs. \$9.00 - \$12.00 hourly. Fax resume: (915) 791-4483 or call (915) 791-4480.

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

Alcoholics Anonymous Grupo Paso Del Norte sesiones lunes a sabado, 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 solucion. Visitemos. Alcoholicos Anonimos, Grupo 8 de Enero, 15360 Horizon Blvd., Horizon City, sesiones lunes a sabado a 8 de la tarde. Informacion: 859-0484.

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Teachers have opportunity to learn at desert-related workshops

EL PASO COUNTY — The Centennial Museum is currently taking registrations for a Jan. 26 teachers' workshop, "Exploring Deserts," part of its series of standards-based teacher workshops.

The day-long, hands-on workshop is open to teachers of all grade levels. Workshop participants will receive notebooks including activities, designed for the El Paso area, resources, and information on our fragile desert environments. Deserts in general are covered but focus is on the Chihuahuan desert.

The Museum is also taking registrations for a Feb. 2 middle-school grade level teachers' workshop, "Discover a Watershed: The Rio Grande/Rio Bravo," as part of its series.

The program presents information on how the river and surrounding environment changes across the watershed, exploration of

some of its unique places, consideration of environmental issues such as invasive species, and discussion of border issues and what it means to share our water. Activities not only focus on our area but connect students to those who live both up and downstream from us.

All workshop activities are correlated to the Science TEKS (Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills) and are applicable across the curriculum. Teachers learn how to present activities as they participate in them themselves.

The workshops are on a first-come, first-served reservation basis, confirmed with a \$40 registration fee. Spaces are limited. Workshop hours are 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Plan to wear comfortable clothes for active participation, and bring along a bag lunch.

For more information or to register, call Dr. Kodi Jeffery, Science Educator, at 747-6857.

King Super Crossword

- REVERSE
- PSYCHOLOGY
- ACROSS
- 1 Beat into shape
- 6 Rent
- 11 Light touch
- 14 Baseball's Maglie
- 17 Ed of "Married ... with Children"
- 19 Novelist Leonard
- 21 Actress Hagen
- 22 Nav. rank
- 23 Start of a remark by
- 93 Across
- 27 Actor Chaney
- 28 _ Margaritas, Mexico
- 29 Nutritional abbr.
- 30 Deck of destiny
- 31 "_ Coming" ('69 song)
- 33 Holy
- 37 Tranquil
- 38 Part 2 of remark
- 41 Like Kojak
- 42 Chilliwack's country
- 43 See 35 Down
- 44 Slippery swimmer
- 45 Orthodox image
- 49 Pakistani language
- 50 _ Carta
- 51 Shoe type
- 52 Pindaric poem
- 53 Hum bug?
- 54 Mideastern rulers
- 56 Tooth _
- 57 Energy source
- 58 Plant disease
- 60 Deli buy
- 62 Prelim
- 63 Part 3 of remark
- 68 Alaskan city
- 70 "Untouchable"
- Ness
- 71 "Seinfeld" character
- 73 _ vera
- 74 Cheerleader's maneuver
- 76 Hands (out)
- 78 Gnome's kin
- 80 Troop grp.
- 81 Buster Brown's dog
- 82 Florida city
- 84 Maugham's "The Razor's -"
- 85 Disney dog
- 87 _ standstill
- 88 Jeremy of "Brideshead Revisited"
- 89 Combat mission
- 91 Give off
- 93 Speaker of remark
- 95 Fix
- 98 One of the Judds
- 100 Smell _ (be suspicious)
- 101 Gather
- 102 Fast flier
- 103 Singer Sumac
- 104 Large tub
- 107 End of remark
- 115 Canterbury can
- 116 Past
- 117 Peanut
- 118 Natural gas component
- 119 Bristol brew
- 120 Comics' noise
- 121 Demi or Dudley
- 122 Hook on a hawk
- DOWN
- 1 Thwart
- 2 In the know
- 3 Pull the Trigger?
- 4 "M*A*S*H" extras
- 5 Urban transport
- 6 Tourists' neckwear
- 7 "Nightmare" street
- 8 Current unit
- 9 Impresario Hurok
- 10 Before, to Byron
- 11 Sousaphone's cousin
- 12 Tucked in
- 13 Soft tone
- 14 Induce the jitters
- 15 Chef's shield?
- 16 Lenya or Lehmann
- 18 Actress Davidovich
- 20 Raison d'_
- 24 Obi, for instance
- 25 Curious
- 26 _ Gras
- 31 Son of Isaac
- 32 Inc., in England
- 33 Unexpected obstacles
- 34 Related
- 35 With 43 Across, famed puppeteer
- 36 Env. abbr.
- 37 Like some pretzels
- 38 Martin or Leto
- 39 Grasped
- 40 Steel beam
- 41 Endure
- 42 Tiny tiger
- 44 Yale or Root
- 46 Began to like
- 47 Redolence
- 48 Verne captain
- 50 Baseball essential
- 51 Express
- 54 Humorist Bombeck
- 55 Curly poker?
- 56 '78 Stallone flick
- 57 Pro foe
- 59 Draft device
- 60 Make argyles
- 61 _ Dinh Diem
- 62 Lupino and Cantor
- 64 Hagar the Horrible's wife
- 65 First name in tennis
- 66 Actress Wilson
- 67 _ de France
- 68 Novelist Bellow
- 69 "Casablanca" character
- 72 _ Marbles
- 74 Flight segment
- 75 English statesman
- 76 Virile
- 77 In addition
- 79 Charge
- 82 Spoken
- 83 Command to Fido
- 84 Formerly, formerly
- 86 It makes rye high
- 88 Adjective suffix
- 89 Juan's wrap
- 90 "Sat _ tuffet ..."
- 92 Accident
- 94 Siren
- 95 Dreadlocked one
- 96 High-tech missives
- 97 Singer Freda
- 98 Horse's relative
- 99 Forest father
- 102 February forecast
- 103 Knight time
- 104 Perfume bottle
- 105 Periodic table abbr.
- 106 MTV viewer
- 108 _ trip
- 109 _ Kippur
- 110 Overly
- 111 Cable channel
- 112 Ending for "auction"
- 113 Legendary Giant
- 114 _ Na Na

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Tyrannosaurus a wimp? Say it ain't so!

By Don Flood

School officials don't like to admit this, but one of the great drawbacks of educating your children is that eventually they start learning.

This, of course, can lead to unfortunate consequences, such as your children "educating" you concerning matters about which you would prefer to remain ignorant.

For instance, just recently my 11-year-old son dropped this bombshell: Tyrannosaurus Rex may have been a scavenger. It didn't hunt and kill animals. It waited for them to die.

I could not believe it.

When I was a boy, Tyrannosaurus was The Man.

OK, it was a really big lizard, but you know what I mean.

Nobody would ever have messed with Tyrannosaurus Rex, not even the assistant principal at my elementary school, who, frankly, was pretty scary. (I would have given her pretty good odds, though, against a triceratops, even if she did have only two horns.)

For me, learning that Tyrannosaurus might be a scavenger is a

little like learning George Washington dressed up in Martha's clothes so he could spy for the British.

It changes your whole worldview.

It's also possible that the Tyrannosaurus - which, after all, isn't here to defend itself - is being unfairly slandered, and that it was, in fact, the murderous, bloodthirsty monster we've always believed it to be.

OK, I'll admit, I am not exactly a paleontologist, but unlike many of these so-called scientists I have observed actual dinosaur behavior.

I mean, up close and personal. Right on my bedroom dresser.

When I was in elementary school, I had 20 plastic dinosaurs, all about 2 inches long.

What they lacked in size, they more than made up for in ferocity.

I don't know what they did while I was in school, but as soon as I came home they immediately started fighting. It was hard to keep them apart.

And the ringleader was always Tyrannosaurus Rex.

In fact, it wasn't unusual for Tyrannosaurus to beat up every other dinosaur on the dresser!

Scavenger! My Tyrannosaurus would have laughed at the word, if its miniscule plastic brain had been

able to understand it.

As a boy, I sometimes wondered what would happen if a Tyrannosaurus Rex came to life.

I mean, of course, after it ate Tokyo.

In the movies, they were always eating Tokyo - the Japanese city being considered something of a delicacy among monsters.

But I know what a scavenger Tyrannosaurus would do: It would come to my neighborhood.

Yes, my neighborhood is one of the great roadkill capitals of the world!

Every day of the year, the squirrels in my neighborhood compete in what must be the Extreme Sport Olympics of the Squirrel World.

The object, as far as I can tell, is to see if they can run under cars without being squished. Or maybe they want to be squished.

I don't know, but they do it. A lot. I figure we have enough roadkill to keep a herd of 150 or so Tyrannosaurus fat and happy.

But maybe I could get them to fight a little, just for old time's sake.

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Social Security: Q & A by Ray Vigil

Q: I plan to apply for disability due to a gradually worsening condition. I've heard these claims can take some time. What can I do to help speed up the process?

A: There are a number of things you can do to ensure faster processing of your claim. Apply as soon as you can and don't miss any appointments. Bring as many medical records as you can, but don't wait to get your medical records before you come in. Ask your treating sources to respond immediately to our requests for information. Have the names and addresses of all sources that have treated you. Complete your disability claim application as fully as possible. And notify us of changes, especially changes in contact information, like your address and phone number. All of this will help speed up the processing of your claim.

Q: Is a parent eligible to receive benefits as a survivor on the record of a deceased working child?

A: Yes, a parent who is at least 62 years old may be eligible to receive Social Security benefits as the survivor of a working child. If the deceased child was fully insured at the time of his/her death and was providing at least one-half support to a surviving parent, benefits may be payable.

Q: I can't afford my Medicare premiums. What can I do?

A: If your income is limited, you may be able to get help with your Medicare costs such as your premiums and deductibles. If you have Medicare Part A, your income is limited, and your financial resources such as bank accounts, stocks, and bonds are not more than \$4,000 for an individual, or \$6,000 for a couple, you may qualify for assistance as a Qualified Medicare Beneficiary (QMB) or Specified Low Income Medicare Beneficiary (SLMB) or Qualified

Individual (QI). For more information, you should inquire at your local Texas Department of Human Services Office.

Q: What medical supplies and equipment does Medicare Part B cover?

A: Medicare Part B helps pay for durable medical equipment such as oxygen equipment, wheelchairs and other medically necessary equipment that your doctor prescribes to use in your home. Other items covered by Medicare include:

- arm, leg, back and neck braces;
- medical supplies such as ostomy bags, surgical dressings, splints and casts;
- breast prostheses following a mastectomy; and one pair of eyeglasses with an intraocular lens after cataract surgery.

Medicare pays for different kinds of durable medical equipment in different ways. Some equipment must be rented; other equipment must be purchased. Your Durable Medical Equipment Regional Carrier has specific information.

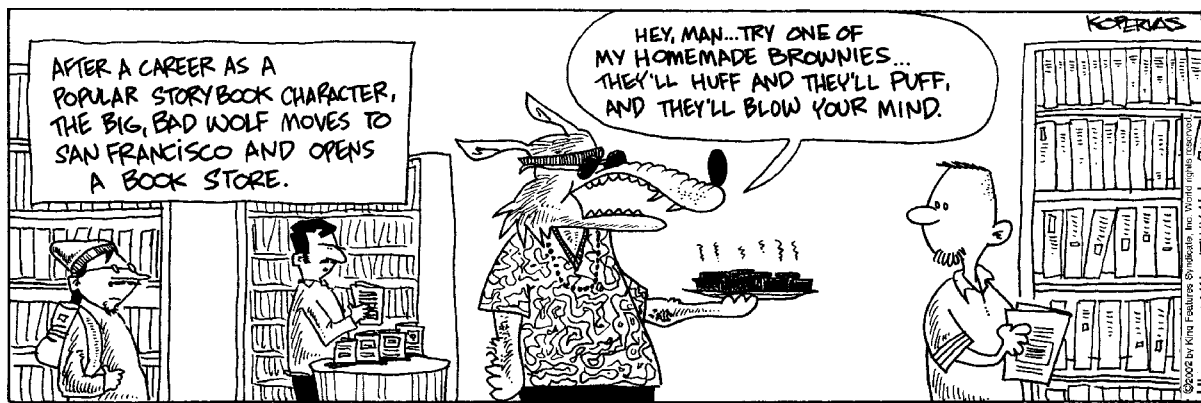
Q: Is it true that you can apply for Social Security retirement on the Internet now?

A: If you will be at least 62 years old within the next three months and plan to start getting your benefits within the next four months, you may be able to apply online. Privacy is a high priority, and we make new online services available only when we are confident that your privacy is guaranteed. We use state-of-the-art encryption to ensure that confidential information is secure.

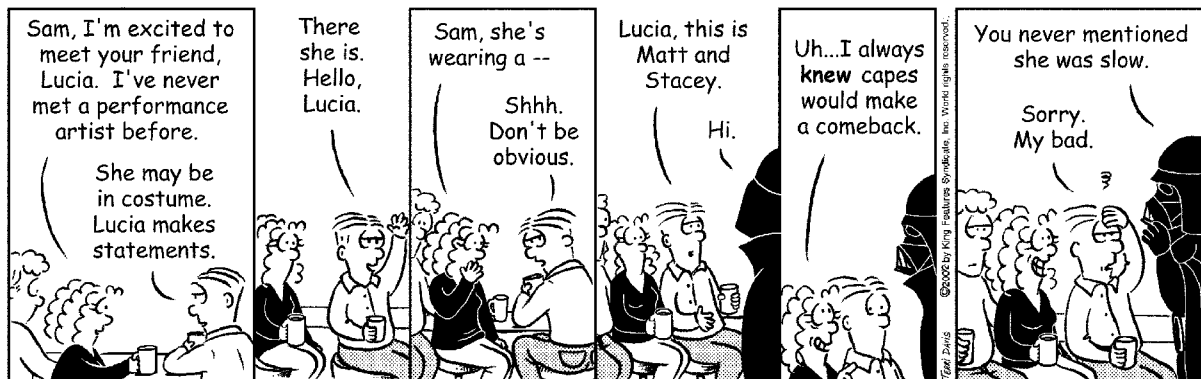
For more information visit your local Security office, see <http://www.ssa.gov>, or call us at 1-800-772-1213. If you have any questions that you would like to have answered, please mail them to the Social Security Office, 1111 Gateway West, Attn: Ray Vigil, El Paso, Texas 79935.

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SITKA	ELIOT	ELAINE	
ALOE	SPLIT	METES	ELF
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LADY	ATA	IRONS	SORTIE
EMIT	SAM	LEVENSON	
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View from here by TMA

Physicians say rules burden patients attempting to protect their own privacy

AUSTIN — Insurance customers, including health insurance customers, must notify their insurers, in writing, if they want to protect personal financial information from being shared with other entities, according to rules issued Dec. 13 by the Texas

Department of Insurance.

“It’s too bad that people have to request their privacy rather than the insurance company being required to request permission to share this information,” said Lewis Foxhall, MD, a Houston physician and chair of the

Texas Medical Association Privacy Task Force.

The new rules cover disclosure of personally identifiable financial information collected by an insurer. This includes information gathered from insurance applications, collected in the claim payment or adjustment process, or obtained from consumer reporting agencies.

“But the biggest problem is that there still are no rules protecting the privacy of personal health information held by HMOs, insurance companies, utilization review agents and other regulated entities that hold such information,” Dr. Foxhall said. “TDI is now promising these protective rules in 2002 and we can only hope

that they will be as much of a priority for the Commissioner as they are for our patients.

“We’re pleased that TDI is moving in the right direction; such rules, if adopted, would more adequately address TMA’s concerns over the confidentiality of patient information, and reflect the intent of state and federal privacy laws already on the books.”

The proposed rules regarding financial disclosures do not protect individuals applying for insurance coverage. The rules also do not protect individuals participating in employer-sponsored plans or individuals participating in labor union health plans because these plans are shielded from state regulation by the

federal Employment Retirement Income Security Act (ERISA) of 1974.

Insurance companies must notify customers of their privilege to “opt out” of disclosure of personal financial information. Once a customer takes that step, in writing, it remains in effect until the customer, again in writing, notifies the insurer that it is OK to release personal financial information.

(The Texas Medical Association is the largest state medical society in the nation, representing more than 37,000 physician and medical student members. It is located in Austin and has 119 component county medical societies around the state.)

WEATHER

AccuWeather.com

SEVEN-DAY FORECAST FOR EL PASO

THURSDAY	THUR. NIGHT	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
Partly sunny and cooler.	Mainly clear.	Mostly sunny.	Plenty of sunshine.	Partly sunny.	Mostly cloudy with a chance of a shower.	Times of clouds and sunshine.	Partly to mostly sunny.
▲ 64°	▼ 32°	▲ 62° ▼ 30°	▲ 62° ▼ 34°	▲ 66° ▼ 36°	▲ 64° ▼ 40°	▲ 61° ▼ 34°	▲ 62° ▼ 31°

UV INDEX Statistics for noon.

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

Thursday	3	Low
Friday	4	Low
Saturday	4	Low
Sunday	3	Low
Monday	2	Minimal
Tuesday	3	Low
Wednesday	4	Low

REAL FEEL TEMPTM

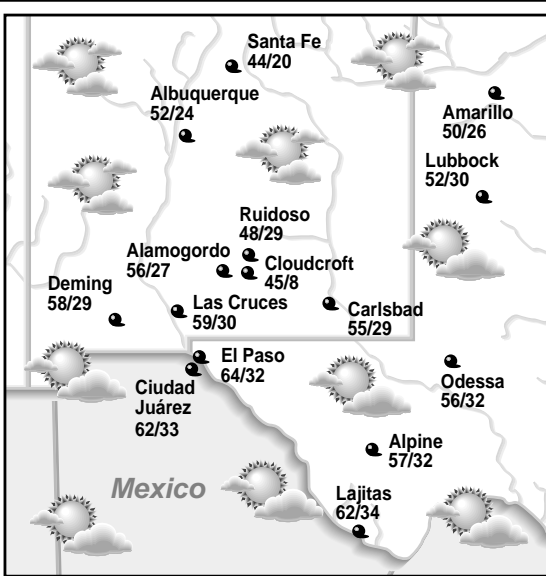
A composite of the effects of temperature, wind, humidity, sunshine intensity, cloudiness, precipitation, and elevation on the human body.

Thursday	62°
Friday	60°
Saturday	62°
Sunday	70°
Monday	60°
Tuesday	58°
Wednesday	62°

TEXAS WEATHER

Anthony	64	32
Canutillo	65	33
Clint	60	34
E. Montana	64	32
Fabens	59	33
Horizon	65	33
San Elizario	59	31
Socorro	62	31
Tornillo	60	34
Vinton	65	33

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



TRAVELERS CITIES

City	Thur. Hi/Lo/W	Fri. Hi/Lo/W	Sat. Hi/Lo/W	Sun. Hi/Lo/W	Mon. Hi/Lo/W
Albuquerque	52/24/pc	52/24/s	54/28/s	56/26/s	52/26/s
Atlanta	62/40/c	56/34/pc	52/34/s	52/34/pc	54/36/pc
Atlantic City	50/36/c	43/30/c	40/28/pc	40/28/pc	40/30/s
Austin/San Antonio	66/44/pc	62/42/pc	64/44/pc	60/44/pc	65/50/sh
Baltimore	54/36/c	44/28/c	42/26/pc	42/26/pc	46/28/s
Boston	46/34/pc	40/30/pc	36/27/sf	38/26/pc	36/12/pc
Chicago	40/28/c	38/26/pc	40/28/c	40/24/c	36/22/c
Dallas/Ft. Worth	62/38/pc	60/36/pc	60/38/s	60/44/s	59/44/sh
Denver	44/22/pc	54/24/s	60/26/s	46/16/pc	42/18/pc
Flagstaff	49/22/pc	50/19/s	52/19/s	52/22/s	48/19/pc
Houston	72/42/pc	64/44/pc	66/46/pc	65/49/s	64/51/sh
Kansas City	46/24/pc	42/24/pc	46/28/pc	50/22/s	44/28/s
Las Vegas	62/38/s	66/38/s	64/36/s	61/41/pc	61/35/pc
Miami	72/56/s	74/54/s	70/52/s	72/54/pc	73/56/s
Minneapolis	36/22/pc	34/22/pc	34/20/pc	32/20/pc	28/14/sf
New Orleans	68/48/pc	64/44/pc	64/44/pc	62/47/s	65/49/s
New York City	48/34/c	40/30/c	40/28/pc	40/28/pc	44/36/s
Philadelphia	52/36/c	42/28/c	40/26/pc	40/26/pc	46/34/s
Phoenix	77/50/pc	75/50/s	77/52/s	75/48/s	71/46/s
Portland	48/38/pc	50/38/pc	50/38/sh	48/36/c	48/36/pc
San Francisco	62/44/s	64/44/s	60/46/pc	58/46/pc	58/46/pc
Seattle	50/38/pc	52/40/c	50/36/sh	48/36/pc	48/36/pc
Tucson	74/42/pc	74/42/s	76/44/s	74/44/s	70/42/s
Washington, DC	54/38/c	44/30/c	42/28/pc	42/28/pc	48/32/s

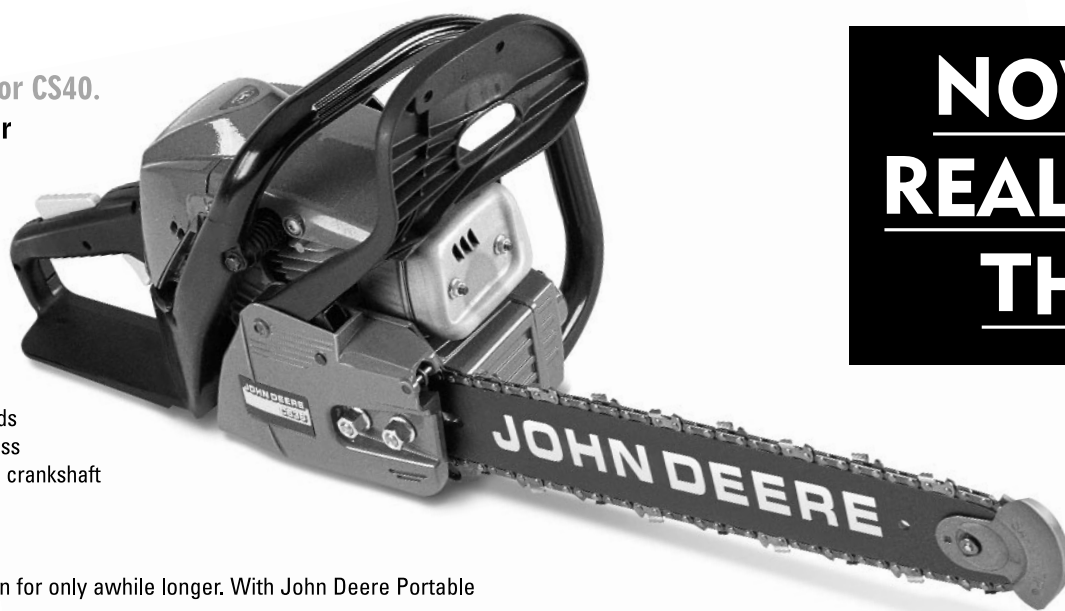
Weather (W): s-sunny, pc-partly cloudy, c-cloudy, sh-showers, t-thunderstorms, r-rain, sf-snow flurries, sn-snow, i-ice.

AGRICULTURE

Thursday through at least Sunday will be partly to mostly sunny across the region. Daytime highs will run in the lower to middle 60s, which is several degrees above normal for this time of year. The next best chance for any precipitation is Monday, when a cold front is expected to pass through.

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