

WEST TEXAS COUNTY COURIER

VOL. 29, No. 26

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

JUNE 27, 2002

NEWSBRIEFS

Smuggling disrupted

An international alien-smuggling ring was disrupted last week by Anti-Smuggling (ASU) agents from the El Paso Sector Border Patrol, following the discovering of 13 illegal foreign nationals and three suspected smugglers at two stash-houses in El Paso. The undocumented immigrants were confirmed to be from China, Columbia, Dominican Republic and Guatemala. Each was to pay the smugglers \$1,600 for transportation to their first destination in the interior of the U.S., and come up with additional funds to finance their arrival in New York City, a total of about \$2,000 to \$5,000 each. ASU agents said sometimes smugglers force the undocumented immigrants to go into servitude for long periods of time to "pay off" their debt. The smugglers, one a U.S. citizen from El Paso, were turned over to the U.S. Attorney for disposition; the aliens are being held by the INS pending repatriation. They told ASU agents they had arrived here by a variety of methods — some by plane, others transited by way of Mexican buses.

Campus to expand

The El Paso Community College's Mission Del Paso Campus — considered by some to be the county's best-kept secret — is apparently secret no longer. The college will soon add a 10,500-square-foot classroom addition to accommodate growing enrollment. The expansion, to cost about \$600,000, will serve a student body that has swelled from 1,000 when it first opened in 1998 to about 1,500 currently. The campus sits on a 100-acre lot owned by EPCC, with plenty of room for expansion.

In other news

■ The first regular meeting of the Socorro City Council for the month of July will be Tuesday, July 2 at 6:30 p.m. The dates for the meeting have been moved from the regular dates due to the July 4th holiday. Information: 858-2915.

■ The Socorro Independent School District has approved the names for two of the new schools now under construction. The new high school at 12401 Edgemere — the district's fourth high school — will bear the name "El Dorado High School" and will open to serve grades 7th, 8th and 9th initially. The new pre-K through 5th expandable campus at 12150 Ted Houghton will be dubbed "Loma Verde School." The names resulted from recommendations made by a committee at the June 18 meeting of the board.

■ The eastbound Lee Trevino Blvd. Exit Ramp from IH-10 was closed beginning Wednesday, June 19, according to the Texas Department of Transportation. Eastbound traffic can detour at the Lomaland Dr. Exit Ramp. There will always be at least one lane open to traffic on Gateway East. The ramp closure will last approximately six weeks and is necessary to reconstruct the pavement on Gateway East. All work is dependent

See BRIEFS, Page 5

Vistors to Las Vegas are divided into two groups — the "haves" and the "hads."
— Quips and Quotes

Fireworks caution urged due to drought conditions

WEST TEXAS — Vegetation in West Texas is extremely dry and fire-prone. With summer heat expected to continue to take its toll on vegetation across the state, state fire control leaders urge everyone to take extra precautions when using fireworks to celebrate our nation's birthday during this year's celebration.

Fire departments across El Paso County went on alert as numerous fireworks stands opened this week, with area municipalities including Horizon City, Socorro and El Paso reminding the public that fireworks are prohibited within their city limits. Those violating the ban will

be subject to fines, as high as \$2,000 in the City of El Paso.

The extremely dry conditions have also led Texas and New Mexico to ban the popular bottle rockets and missiles with fins

"When dry weather coincides with the Fourth of July holiday period, irresponsible fireworks use increases the likelihood of wildfires," says Bobby Young, associate director for forest resource protection with the Texas Forest Service. "The threat of wildfires is highest in the southern half of the state; but even in the rest of the state where danger is generally

low to moderate, vegetation will dry rapidly and become increasingly fire-prone if hot, dry conditions persist for any length of time.

The County was extremely fortunate last year with no significant fires or accidents involved with the celebration. However, a wish list by residents in the County popular with the public for setting off fireworks, such as East Montana, includes that these revelers would pick up after themselves when finished — unexploded fireworks present a health hazard

See FIREWORKS, Page 6

Fabens ISD to bid farewell to 'Dr. Lu'

FABENS — Dr. Lu Anna Stephens has tendered her resignation from the Fabens ISD superintendency to be effective Aug. 31. She will join the Texas Women's University in Denton, Texas as a full-time faculty member and professor.

Dr. Stephens said she had been hoping to join a prestigious Texas college staff toward the end of her career. "Now it is a reality and I cannot pass up this outstanding opportunity," she said.

District spokesman Maureen Graham said many positive things have happened during Dr. Stephens' two-year tenure at FISSD — she has presided over three outstanding DEC visits from the Texas Education Agency; has increased student achievement standards; has cut costs and increased the district fund balance; begun campus renovation projects; reconfigured the elementary schools to improve student achievement; reorganized personnel utilization; emphasized parent and community involvement programs; and saw the FISSD athletic programs achieve at district, regional and state levels.



Lu Anna Stephens

Don't wait — vaccinate...

Rabies a very real threat to West Texas

By Michelle J. Brown
Special to the Courier

EL PASO COUNTY — An ill puppy brought to El Paso from the Mexican interior for veterinary care has been confirmed as the first case of domestic pet animal rabies in El Paso in 20 years, health department officials reported last week.

The four-month-old animal, with distemper-like symptoms similar to that of rabies, was euthanized and subsequent tests established that it did have rabies.

"Except for the owners, and individuals on the ranch where the puppy lived 120 miles south of here in Mexico, we're not aware of any other El Paso area people or pets that came into contact with the dog," said Dr. Guy Johnson, past president of the Texas Veterinary Medical Association and board member of the El Paso City/County Health and Environmental District.

The owners are undergoing treatment for possible exposure, comprised of a 28-day, seven-shot rabies vaccination series in the arm. It's believed that the puppy was bitten by a rabid skunk.

"This should serve as a serious wake-up call to every El Paso area pet owner," said Johnson, owner of Johnson Animal Hospital, who spoke with the owners and has

consulted with El Paso Animal Regulation and Disease Control on the case.

"The fact that less than 50 percent of all dogs and cats are current on their rabies shots makes this incident especially troubling," he said.

According to Animal Regulation and Disease Control, there are about 150,000 to 200,000 dogs and cats in the El Paso area, based on common one-to-four population ratio formulas.

Of these, only about 73,000 are currently vaccinated. 2002 year-to-date totals are down 656 over the same time in 2001 (29,727 vs. 30,383).

"It's not only a pet issue but a serious public health risk," explained Johnson. "Once rabies takes hold in a person, death is imminent. It's always fatal. No one survives rabies."

Massive brain swelling. Extreme agitation and delirium. The slightest breeze across the arm hairs generates pure agony, then seizures. Next comes the coma...and silence forever. This is death by rabies, health officials say.

A virus affecting the central nervous system, rabies kills thousands of humans worldwide every year. Transmitted through saliva, it must be injected into

See RABIES, Page 4

Clint board appoints interim superintendent

By Debra Dominguez
Special to the Courier

EAST EL PASO COUNTY — The reins of the Clint Independent School District has passed to new hands as the Clint school board appointed Ken George as interim superintendent Monday, June 17, during the regular school board meeting.

George's appointment was contingent and effective upon acceptance of Dr. Sylvester Perez, current superintendent, as head of the San Marcos Consolidated Independent School District, and in a seven to nothing vote Monday this week, June 24, the San Marcos trustees made his selection final. He is expected to begin his duties in San Marcos, just outside Austin, on July 1.

"I was not seeking to leave Clint ISD," Dr. Perez "But this position presented itself as a good professional opportunity. It's centrally located and is not only a promotion but provides professional advancement."

Olivia Campos, assistant superintendent of Curriculum, Instruction, Evaluation and Administration with Clint ISD, said Perez helped to positively restructure and reinvent the district from his first day in December of 1999.

He led the district to its first Texas Education Agency "Recognized" status in 2001-2002; helped pass a \$67 million bond election; and has been "a great mentor and inspiration to us all," Campos said.

"We're sorry to see him go," Region 19's Executive Director James Vasquez said. "He was an effective member of our education community in El Paso. But I know he's happy going to a school district close to his hometown. There were things he had to overcome in Clint ISD, but he always did so with a smile on his face. He moved that district in the right direction. And academically, he did extremely well for the district dur-

ing its last couple of years. I'll really, really hate to see him go."

Meanwhile, Clint school board members are expressing confidence that George will make the transition over the next few months much easier because of his qualifications and knowledge of the district.

"Clint ISD is a strong district," said George, who is taking a leave of absence from his current position as field representative for Region 19. "I know a lot of its employees and administrators and have kept close to them through my work with Region 19. So, I'll be very comfortable working with them. I glad I may be given the opportunity to work in Clint and look forward to being successful."

Jim Pendell, president of the Clint board of trustees, said Clint is fortunate to have George available.

"He's a proven leader as he has shown by serving as superintendent in other districts. I am confident he will lead us well during the interim as we search for a permanent superintendent.

For now, we have a quality superintendent in Ken George," Pendell said.

Vice-president Mary Macias echoed Pendell's confidence.

"Because of his strong experience, I think he will make the transition this next two months or so a lot easier," she said.

Pendell added that Perez' tenure at Clint has made it a stronger, more stable district for the next superintendent to move into.

"Dr. Perez had done a great job for our school district," Pendell said. "I'm sad to see him go. He was a good leader during his two and a half years with us, and I know he'll do a good job in San Marcos. He always does a good job with whatever it is he pursues," he said.

"He's left the district in good shape, so that will make it easier for us to bring in another good superintendent as soon as possible."



Sylvester Perez



Jim Pendell



One perspective

By Francis Shrum

Of mice and men

Last week I wrote about the co-existence between humans and animals on this planet which produces results that, whether you agree with either side, are always interesting. The following are a few real-life manifestations.

In Winnipeg, Manitoba, they planned to hold a gopher shoot. After all, the farmers had been consistently losing the war with these cute, crop-eating rodents which love to burrow into fields, creating holes that can break the legs of unwary livestock or damage farm equipment. After trying just about everything from traps to poison — even giant vacuums — the gopher population is estimated to number in the millions. So they put a price on their heads — cash prizes for the 10 top guns that produced the largest number of dead gophers over several days. They figured it was more humane and safer than some of the poisons used to exterminate the rodents. Entrants paid \$12.60 to sign up for the derby and some of the money will go to fund wildlife preserves. But the plan drew flak from animal rights activists who launched an international letter-writing blitz. "A sharing attitude might be the first thing," said Sinikka Crosland, who suggests fencing, crop rotation and relocation. She didn't say what she plans to do about Mother Nature, who usually takes a hand to cut down the gopher population when run-off from the spring melt flows into dens and drowns many of the animals.

The competition among Australia's prize poultry performers is fierce —

so much so that they've taken to stealing one another's prize birds. Frustrated breeders say theft of the birds, which can cost up to US\$424 each, has been a big problem for years. So some have started inserting computer chips into their birds, after experimenting with imprinting distinctive patterns on their chickens' feet and attaching bands under their wings proved ineffective. Poultry farmer John Pearce, who won several awards for Old English red chickens at the 116th Hawkesbury Show, said, "I walk down the road with a scanner and I can tell which ones are mine...but I'm not telling you where I put the chip," Pearce told Reuters news agency.

The Hawaiian Humane Society spent \$50,000 trying to rescue a mixed-breed terrier stranded on a crippled refueling tanker in April after the crew evacuated the vessel. The Insiko, which caught fire March 13, was adrift when fishing vessels hired to rescue the animal arrived for what was expected to be a simple retrieval. But there was a language barrier — the pooch was used to hearing commands in Mandarin Chinese and the would-be rescuers only spoke English. Rusty Nall, vice president of American Marine Services, the company that coordinated the search for the lucky dog, said the dog kept going below where rescue workers were reluctant to follow because of fire danger. The event captured the attention of people around the world who, by the end of April, had donated about \$40,000 to the organization.

Packs of wild monkeys are invad-



RICHMOND TIMES-DISPATCH BROOKINGS



WEST TEXAS COUNTY COURIER

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

PUBLISHED:
Published each Thursday by Homesteader News, Inc. Appreciation to our many contributors. Office open Monday through Thursday.

COPYRIGHT:
Entire contents © 2002 Homesteader News, Inc. Individual authors retain all rights. Pictures, drawings and written material appearing in the *West Texas County Courier* may not be used or reproduced without written permission of Homesteader News, Inc.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR:
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.

AD DEADLINE:
Monday 4 p.m. for Thursday publication.

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

DISPLAY RATES:
Open rate — \$16 per column inch. Call for more information or to set an appointment. The *Courier* reserves the right not to print advertising it considers inappropriate.

MAIL SUBSCRIPTIONS:
52 issues for \$30. Delivery via 1st class mail.

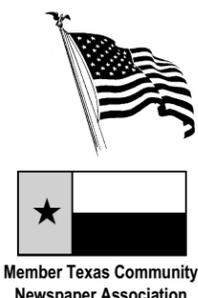
ADDRESS:
13899 Horizon Blvd., Ste. 2
Horizon City, TX 79928

Phone: 852-3235
Fax: 852-0123
E-mail: wtcc@excite.com

Publisher
Rick Shrum
Business Manager
Francis D. Shrum

Contributors
Marjorie F. Graham
Don Woodyard
Steve Escajeda
Arleen Beard

Homesteader
Est. 1973
News, Inc.



ing parks and neighborhoods in Hong Kong, aggressively begging for food and sometimes snatching bags from people who don't comply. The macaque monkeys are a frequent sight around Kowloon where many people feed them in the parks. But the monkeys have come to rely on handouts and can become aggressive toward people not willing to feed them. Concerned the monkeys — whose population has doubled since 1992 — are posing a growing health hazard and nuisance, the government has begun testing the world's first monkey birth control program. They capture the creatures, anesthetize them and inject them with an

immunovaccine which sterilizes the males permanently and makes the females infertile for up to five years. Animal rights activists say they prefer this plan as a humane alternative to trapping and killing problem populations. They are passing out pamphlets urging people not to feed the monkeys, and are planting more food plants in the hills away from Hong Kong's urban sprawl to encourage the monkeys to learn to live on their own. But faced with an angry monkey, odds are that people will keep handing over the goodies — so why go forage in the hills for what you can get with a little intimidation?

Dr. Erich Ritter, chief scientist for the Princeton, New Jersey-based Global Shark Attack File, was seriously wounded when he was bitten in the calf by what was believed to be a 350-pound bull shark during filming of a Discovery Channel program off Walker's Cay, Bahamas, in April. Dr. Sam Gruber, a University of Miami shark expert, said Ritter's methods were not accepted by the scientific community and called him "an accident waiting to happen. He believes he can read the minds of sharks and that he knows everything about shark behavior so he can predict what they are going to do."

San Elizario names new Middle School principal

SAN ELIZARIO — John F. Tanner will become the new principal at San Elizario Middle School effective July 1, 2002. The decision was made during the June 12, 2002 Board of Trustees meeting.

"I am looking forward to working with the best students and staff in El Paso County," Tanner said.

The 2002-2003 school year will mark Tanner's tenth year in education. His teaching career began



John Tanner

with a four-year stint at Cathedral High School in 1993. He then spent two years at the Ysleta ISD before joining the San Elizario ISD team in 1999 as an Assistant Middle School Principal.

In 1985, Tanner received a Bachelor's in Science from Texas Christian University in Fort Worth and then earned his Master of Divinity from the Jesuit School of Theology at the University of California at Berkeley.

Write stuff

Dear Editor:

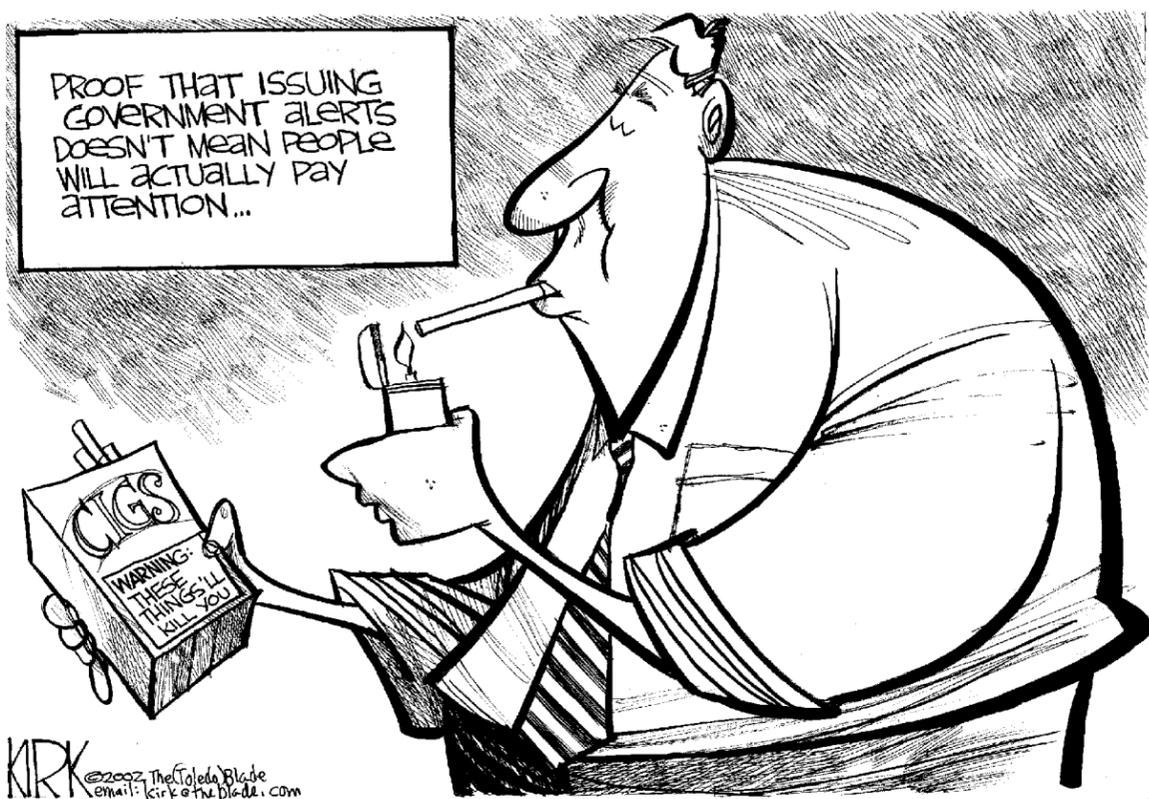
I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere appreciation to the Socorro Volunteer Fire Department for their outstanding support and hard work on Friday, June 14, during the flooding of homes. The Franklin Canal broke near Passmore Street and Alameda. My thanks also go out to our street crew, the police department and the Reclamation District.

Sam Brewster
Councilman
City of Socorro



- Master Licensed Plumber #M18624
- Bonded and Insured
- Senior Citizens Discount
- Sewer and Drain Cleaning
- Faucet and Sprinkler Repair
- Appliance Installation
- Mobile Home Repair

Horizon Plumbing
852-1079



Buyers & Sellers!

You NEED
Horizon Properties
as Your Agent.
852-3331
1-800-404-8078

Our Professional Real Estate Agents will make your home buying or selling experience more pleasant and less stressful.

Buying vs. Renting? New Home vs. Resale? How much home do we want? Can we qualify? Who will finance us? What steps must we take? What do all these real estate terms mean?

Home buying and selling can be confusing. Do you have questions? We have the answers!

Call and ask for Scott Fabiano.

From qualifying to move-in know your next step before you take it.

**WE WILL HELP YOU!
HORIZON PROPERTIES**

San Eli school employees get across-the-board raises

By Don Woodyard
Courier Staff Writer

SAN ELIZARIO — Teachers, administration and support staff in the San Elizario school district have received a 2.5 percent across-the-board pay raise. For teachers, the raise is in addition to their regular step increases. School board members passed the salary increases for the 2002-03 year at its June 12 meeting. The pay plan was one of eight pay packages presented by the administration for board consideration. Larry Worrell, the district's financial director, pointed out that the increases still leave the district with a "positive fund balance."

Salaries and fringe benefits account for approximately 80 percent of the district's \$25 million budget for the coming school year.

Superintendent Mike Quatrini felt it was important that all of the district's family pay groups were equally compensated. "We have excellent teachers doing an excellent job," he added.

Cynthia Martinez, district TAAS coordinator, reported the preliminary test scores that indicated that Sambrano, Alarcon and Borrego Elementary schools would be rated "Acceptable," as would San Elizario Middle and San Elizario High schools. However, she said the overall

scores were going up and that, when the final results were in, one or more of the elementary campuses could be rated "Recognized."

In commending the efforts of teachers and staff, Quatrini added, "We have shown marked improvement; the students are doing very well."

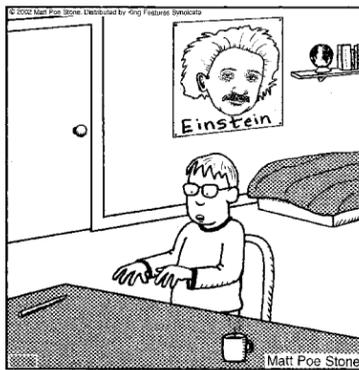
A report on the bilingual education program by Isela Rosales indicated that overall students are doing well and that test scores are rising.

In his report, Dan Gonzalez, construction manager in charge from Urban Associates, said the work is nearly complete on the new administration building and expects to have everything complete by the end of June.

Manuel Padilla, Jr, Border Patrol agent in charge of the Ysleta station, made a presentation to the board in which he said his agency wants to get more involved in the work of the school district, such as reading to different grade levels. He offered to have officers available to make presentations to various groups and campuses and address special issues and their concerns.

In other action, the board:

- Approved the renewal of a three-year contract with Intmed, a company that assists the district regarding students who qualify for Medicaid.
- Approved renewing agreement with Socorro Independent School District on Access health insurance plan.



Seattle, 1967: While most 12-year-old boys dream of life as a rock star, young Bill Gates practices playing "air computer."

WEST TEXAS PROPANE

FULL SERVICE PROPANE DEALER

TANKS FOR RENT OR SALE

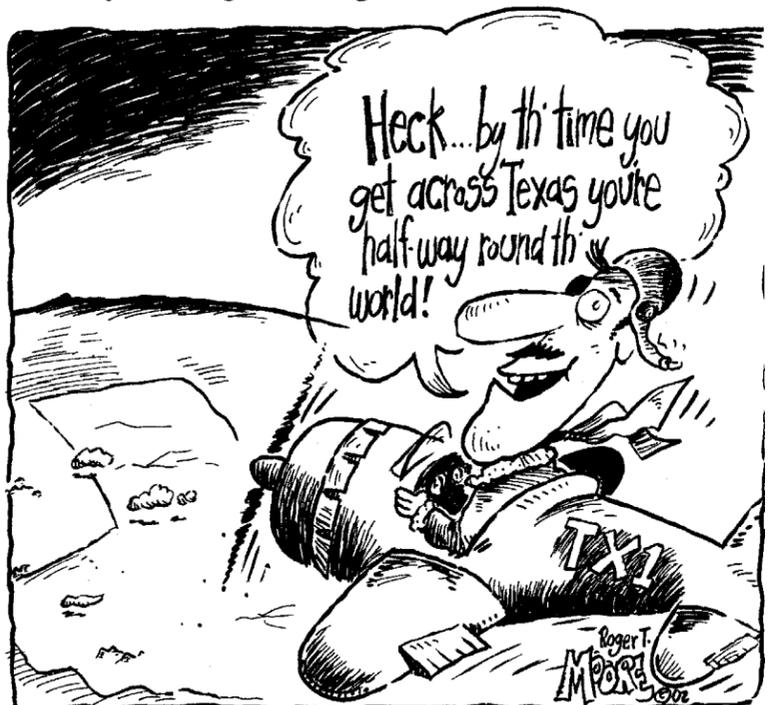
1-800-858-2807

• DOMESTIC DELIVERIES • BOTTLES FILLED • MOTOR FUEL

12450 ALAMEDA • CLINT, TEXAS

851-2900

TRUE TEXAS FACTS by Roger Moore June 23, 1931 Texan Wiley Post begins his flight around the world.



Rabies

From Page 1

the system, usually by bites, a fresh scratch or cut, the eyes or the mouth.

In the late 1950s, an El Paso woman died of rabies she caught from her own dog. No one knew until the autopsy.

"Rabies is rarely suspected in humans," said Dr. Russell Johnson, past president of the El Paso Veterinary Medical Association. "If an exposed person receives prompt, proper treatment of the weekly arm shot series, they'll be fine. But more often than not, it's usually discovered after death."

Many people are still under the misconception that stomach shots are used in people exposed to rabies, when in fact, stomach shots haven't been used for more than 15 years. Yet rabies remains the only disease that is vaccinated for after exposure.

El Paso's geographic location and seasonal changes make it a rabies hot spot. The proximity to Mexico, which doesn't have vaccination laws and extensive animal control authority, greatly increases the risk of an outbreak.

So does the Rio Grande, with periodically high water levels that discourage crossing by infected animals. Decades of data consistently show that the higher the river level, the fewer rabies cases in El Paso.

Combined with the cyclical nature of rabies, it's return was inevitable.

During El Paso's 1970s quarantine, when it garnered the distinction as rabies capital of the U.S., 71 cases of domestic animal rabies were reported in just two years (1979 and 1980). Most occurred in the Upper and Lower Valley regions of open wild

or agricultural areas.

Twenty years have passed since the last domestic outbreak, and officials predict that it will strike again in those same parts of the county, which are now full of subdivisions, densely populated colonias and hundreds of loose, unvaccinated animals.

"Conditions are right for real tragedy," said Dr. Guy Johnson. "The potential for disaster is there."

Only one or two cases have been reported north of I-10, he said. "But that does not mean animals north of the freeway are protected. Animals can come from anywhere, not just Mexico."

Since more people are out in the summer, coming into contact with wild animals, more attention is often spent on rabies, especially with this week's confirmed Mexican puppy case. However, because the river levels are higher due to irrigation, the risk may actually be decreased. The really dangerous time for domestic rabies may be winter, from December through March. Data also supports this, with most dog and cat rabies reported in those months.

An on-going rabies public information program sponsored by the El Paso Veterinary Medical Association has helped generate awareness through radio spots, public service announcements and outdoor boards that city, county and state laws require rabies vaccinations for all dogs and cats by four months of age.

"People have become complacent because we haven't had domestic rabies activity in two decades," said Dr. Guy Johnson. "But people must take action to keep rabies at bay in El Paso. They feel safe, but they aren't."

"It's not a question of if anymore, but when," said Dr. Russell Johnson. "People must protect their families and their pets by getting their dogs and cats vaccinated. Pet ownership

is a privilege with many obligations. Pet owners are responsible for the health and well-being of their pets, but just as importantly, they must consider the safety of their families and other people and animals by keeping their animals vaccinated against rabies. Rabies vaccinations are considered the cheapest life insurance you can buy."

Animal authorities discover wild animal rabies every year, usually in spring and fall with migratory bats and throughout the year in skunks, raccoons and foxes. While bats are the most common rabid animals in El Paso, the worldwide threat is dogs.

"Many other cultures don't even have a word for 'pet,'" said Dr. Guy Johnson. "They may have goats in the house, but not pets accepted as family members like you have in most of North America and Western Europe. They're not vaccinated, they run wild and rabies is rampant."

As evidence, 30,000 to 40,000 people in India die of rabies every year. Local health authorities receive hundreds of calls each year regarding suspected rabies.

"People see mouth foaming and think it's rabies," said Dr. Johnson. "But that's more likely a sign of distemper. Rabies has no obvious signs. It doesn't look like anything. Rabid dogs and cats may eat, drink, play and appear normal. They don't know they're supposed to foam and act like Cujo or the Tasmanian Devil. And if there aren't recognizable signs in humans, we certainly won't see anything obvious in animals."

Authorities cite the movie *Old Yeller* as an example. "He was fine until the very end," said Dr. Johnson. "He ate, played, did everything, but he was rabid."

Instead, the latter signs of rabies include behavior changes. Anything

abnormal is suspect: friendly animals may attack or mean ones suddenly become affectionate. Another sign is unexplained paralysis, usually a limb, side of face or throat.

"I can just imagine kids seeing a cat dragging itself across the road and thinking, 'poor kitty got hit by a car, let's take it to the vet,' when in fact it may well be rabid," said Dr. Johnson.

Not all rabid animal bites lead to infection, but doctors take no chances. When a dog or cat bites someone, it's automatically put under a ten-day quarantine for behavior observation, even if it has been vaccinated.

"If it (continues to act) normally, we know rabies could not have been transmitted," said Dr. Johnson. "It may still have rabies, but it was not transmissible at the time of exposure because the disease had not progressed far enough. The only way to make sure an animal has rabies is to euthanize it and test the brain."

With this recent wake-up call, rabies will hopefully move back to the forefront as the imminent threat that is it, say officials.

"Don't wait, vaccinate," said Dr. Johnson. "And avoid wild animals. It's not worth the risk to your life or that of your family."

For more information about rabies and how to protect people and pets, call Dr. Guy Johnson at (915) 592-6200 or Dr. Russell Johnson at (915) 858-2352.

RABIES FACTS

- Rabies is a fragile virus, easily killed by soaps, sunlight, disinfectants and alterations in temperature or moisture. When an infected animal dies and the body temp falls, the virus dies.

- Rabies can only be transmitted through saliva via bites, cuts, scratches or through the mouth and eyes. It is *not in blood, urine, feces, vomit* (stomach acids deactivate the

virus) or skunk spray.

- Incubation period is variable, as it travels along nerves. Incubation is determined by: the amount of the virus delivered; the location on the body (no symptoms show until it's in the brain, so bites on face or neck speed up incubation); the strain (fox, swine, etc.); and the species of the victim. Once bitten, it stays in the nerves for two to four days at the site, then travels along the nerves to the spinal cord, the salivary glands and the brain.

- Humans show signs usually within three weeks to three months, but it can take years. A Houston woman who had been in Laos seven years earlier was diagnosed with Laos dog rabies. Other animals take a few days to several months to show.

- Carnivores are most susceptible and most likely to transmit: foxes, skunks, raccoons, bobcats, ring tails, domestic dogs and cats, and also any species of bats. Least likely to transmit: non-predators, livestock, herbivores, rodents and lagomorphs (rabbits and hares). There is no record in history of rodent to human transmission.

- Except for some corneal transplants many years ago, there have been no confirmed reports of human to human transmission.

HOW TO PREVENT RABIES

For people, it is the only disease that can be vaccinated against after exposure.

- Vaccinate all dogs and cats, as required by state, county and city law. Violations are a Class C Misdemeanor initially.

- Keep all pets inside and in enclosed yards.

- Avoid strange animals, wild and domestic.

- Cover garbage cans and don't leave pets' food outside where it can attract wild animals.

- Do not keep wild animals as pets.

- Do not touch or pickup dead animals.

- Leave bats alone — if found sick or dead, call Animal Control.

Classified Ads

LEGAL

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 IGIBN51E8KR160751, 1981 Chevy Caprice, white, CHIH - 314SGY3 VIN - KHLB210524057, 1978 Nissan Datsun, yellow
WTCC-6/27/02

SOCORRO INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT Invitation to Respond:

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

SOCORRO STUDENT ACTIVITY COMPLEX SOUND SYSTEM UPGRADE CSP NO. 199-0708-2077 MONDAY, JULY 08, 2002, 3:00 P.M.

Bidders may obtain copies of the bidding documents and project plans beginning June 20, 2002, by contacting:

Borunda & Associates, Inc.
9900 Montana Ave., Suite E
El Paso, Texas 79925
(915) 592-7611

A deposit of \$100 per set will be required for each plan set a contractor wishes to receive. If the

plans and specifications are returned in good condition, the deposit will be refunded.

Special Notice:

1) A pre-bid conference will be held on Thursday, July 27, 2002 at 10 A.M. at Socorro Student Activity Complex (Press Box Office), located at 1300 Joe Battle Blvd., El Paso, TX 79936. At this conference all bidders will be afforded the opportunity to survey existing conditions and to ask questions and discuss any aspect of each project. All bidders are responsible for the information discussed, and are strongly urged to attend.

Proposals will be received at Business Services Dept., 12300 Eastlake Drive, 79928 until the specified times. Detailed specifications are available from the above office between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. Mondays through Fridays.
WTCC-6/27/02

SOCORRO INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT Invitation to Bid/ Respond:

Competitive sealed proposals for providing all labor and materials for the construction of the SISD El Paso Hills New Pre-K through 5th Expandable School, the following CSP Packages will be received at Socorro Independent School District, 12300 Eastlake Drive, El Paso, Texas 79928 until 2:30 p.m., local time, June 8, 2002, at which time the

identity of the respondents will be read aloud.

CSP's shall be addressed to Socorro Independent School District, all submittals MUST be sealed and clearly MARKED as follows:

SISD El Paso Hills Pre-K-5 Expandable:
• 02002 Landscaping

Those interested may obtain CSP Documents by contacting Dantex Construction Co. beginning June 21, 2002.

Dantex Construction Company
4727 Osborne
El Paso, Texas 79922
(915) 584-9300
Attn: Tyler Daniels

Bid Deposit is refundable \$200 per set in the form of a cashiers check or certified check payable to Socorro Independent School District.

A pre-bid conference will be conducted on Friday, June 28, 2002, beginning at 10 a.m. The location of the pre-bid conference is at the Socorro ISD Education Center located at 12300 Eastlake Drive, El Paso, Texas 79928.
WTCC-6/27/02

FABENS INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT FABENS, TEXAS Invitation to Bid

Cafeteria Non-Food Items
Bid No. 01-02-01

Fabens Independent School District will accept sealed bids until 10:00 a.m., June 28, 2002, at

which time they will be publicly opened at the Fabens Administration Bldg., 821 N.E. "G" Avenue, Fabens, Texas.

Specifications may be secured by requesting them from the Business Office, 821 N.E. "G" Avenue, (P.O. Box 697 by mail), Fabens, Texas 79838 or fax request to (915) 764-2968.
WTCC-6/27

FABENS INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT FABENS, TEXAS Invitation to Bid

Waste Disposal Service
Bid No. 01-02-02

Fabens Independent School District will accept sealed bids until 11:00 a.m., June 28, 2002, at which time they will be publicly opened at the Fabens Administration Bldg., 821 N.E. "G" Avenue, Fabens, Texas.

Specifications may be secured by requesting them from the Business Office, 821 N.E. "G" Avenue, (P.O. Box 697 by mail), Fabens, Texas 79838 or fax request to (915) 764-2968.
WTCC-6/27

JOBS/ OPPORTUNITIES

ANTHONY INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT ANTHONY, TEXAS Notice of Employment Opportunity

Position:

Director of Finance

Education/ Experiences:

Qualifications as may be determined by Texas Education Agency Certification Standards for the position with a minimum of a Bachelors Degree in accounting or a Masters Degree in a business-related field or educational administration with a valid Texas certificate. Such additional qualifications to the above as the school board may find appropriate and acceptable.

Skills:

- Must be able to master through specialized training and schooling an understanding of the concepts presented in: FAR (Financial Accountability Resource Guide for Public Schools published by Texas Education Agency), the Handbook on Competitive Bidding for Texas Public Schools, and the PEIMS Data Standards Manual.

- Must be skilled in financial applications, basic accounting, data analysis, word processing, spread sheets and file maintenance.

- Must be able to use personal computer, 10-key adding machine, telephone, fax, copy machine and electronic postage machine.

- Must be able to work effectively and communicate with staff and general public

Terms of Employment:
12 months.

Salary:

Anthony ISD salary 07/04 schedule for the position.

To Apply:

Send letter, resume, and copy of transcript to: Robert Ortega, Superintendent
Anthony Independent School District
610 Sixth Street, Anthony, Texas 79821-1279

Deadlines:

Applications will be accepted until position is filled.

Posting Date:
6/19/02

An Equal Opportunity Employer
WTCC-6/27/02

MEDICAL ASSISTANT required for Horizon-area pediatric clinic. Applicant must live locally. Please call Dr. Mendoza at 630-9740 or leave a message at 577-1276.
6/27

SUMMER WORK
College students/HS Grads
\$13.25 base-appt. Scholarships/ Internships
Conditions apply, FT/PT flex
Customer service/sales
Call 9am-5pm
781-1059
www.workforstudents.com

TURN SPARE TIME INTO \$\$\$
Mail-order/E-commerce business.
Pt/ft. Free info.
Full training.
Visit
www.oneuponsuccess.com
1-888-673-4945

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 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. Alcohólicos Anónimos, Grupo 8 de Enero, 15360 Horizon Blvd., Horizon City, sesiones lunes a sábado a 8 de la tarde. Informacion: 859-0484.

SERVICES

RITE-FLO CONSTRUCTION, INC.
Interior and Exterior Remodeling and Repairs
Painting and Tile Work
Landscaping and More!
Give us a call, we can build it or fix it.
852-3949

"Windshield Ding — Gimme a Ring"

JIFFY GLASS REPAIR
Windshield Repair Specialists
By appt. at your home or office:
R.V. Dick Harshberger
915-852-9082

BERT'S AUTOMOTIVE REPAIR
Domestic and Foreign
852-3523
1558 Oxbow,
Horizon City

HORIZON CITY PLUMBING 852-1079
• Electric roofer service for sewers and drains
• Appliance installation
• Many other plumbing services
Licensed, bonded and insured for your protection.

AL'S PLACE, INC.
Household or Commercial Storage and Yard Space
Fenced and Lighted Security System
No Deposit
418 Kenazo, Horizon City
852-3949

Y&M AIRCONDITIONING 852-1516 or 726-3768
Licensed & Insured Commercial/Residential Heating & Cooling Refrigerated Air Heat Pumps Duct Work Appliances
VISA & MasterCard TX Lic.#TACLA021147E
Free Estimates on New Installations

Texas finds it has promised more than it owns

History of Texas Public Lands - Conclusion

TEXAS — As this historical perspective on Texas public lands nears its conclusion, Texas is finally facted with the fact that there is not an unending supply of land.

In 1898, Texas realized that it had promised to give away more land than it possessed. The Land Office discovered that the Permanent School Fund had not been given all its half of the land granted since 1876. Land commissioner A.J. Baker refused to issue any more patents to land until the PSF was complete. The Texas Supreme Court upheld Baker's action and declared that there was no more unappropriated land in Texas. The state owed the schools 5,902,076.67 acres. However, the state possessed only 5,884,896.40 acres of unappropriated land. In 1900, this land was given to the school fund, leaving it short 17,180.27 acres. The legislature then appropriated \$17,180.27 — estimating the land's value at \$1 an acre — to the fund to balance it. With this final appropriation, the Texas land grant policy came to an end. In 62 years, Texas, as a republic and a state, had disposed of 216,314,560 acres of land.

Today's General Land Office

Today, over 22.5 million acres of land remain in the Texas public domain. The Texas General Land Office (GLO) is directly responsible for the management of the more than 12 million acres dedicated to the Permanent School Fund. The growth of the oil industry in the 20th century helped change the state's land policy from an emphasis on income through the sale of land to an emphasis on income through resource development. The GLO collects nearly a billion dollars a year from income generated by state land for the PSF, making it the second-largest revenue-producing agency in Texas state government.

In 1939, the Texas legislature created the School Land Board, composed of the land commissioner, the governor and the attorney general, to award mineral leases on school land—the land dedicated to the PSF. The

legislature also allocated mineral income from riverbeds, bays and submerged lands.

Although school land can be sold today under the authority of the School Land Board (which is now made up of the land commissioner and two citizens appointed by the governor and the attorney general), this is rarely done. Instead, the land is leased for resource development and the revenues earned are deposited in the PSF, which stands today at over \$7 billion. The interest earned on the PSF investments is deposited in the Available School Fund each year and distributed by the State Board of Education to every school district in Texas on a per-pupil basis. The land office also deposits in that fund fines on unpaid or late royalties, commercial leasing revenues, and Outer Continental Shelf pipeline fees. Since only interest income can be spent, the principal amount of the PSF remains intact and will continue to benefit the public schools of Texas.

In 1919, the Texas Land Commissioner was authorized to lease designated public land for oil and gas production, which now accounts for most income derived from public land. The lease terms for oil and gas production on state-owned land are set by the land commissioner and the School Land Board; the state is guaranteed at least one-eighth royalty. According to the Relinquishment Act of 1919, the surface owner acts as leasing agent for the state on privately owned land where the state retains the mineral rights, and the state and surface owner share rentals, royalties and bonuses.

Although the other coastal states own three miles of tideland each, Texas land extends three marine leagues (10.4 miles) into the Gulf of Mexico. Development of oil and gas reserves on these 4,250,000 acres of submerged lands has produced revenue of more than \$2 million for the state. Prospectors without leases pay exploration fees on a per-day basis and receive permits to survey and study the submerged land. Leases on submerged land are awarded by the land commissioner to the highest bidder. In addition

to being leased of mineral production, land is leased for hunting, grazing, fishing, and commercial development. Land trades, experimental projects and in-kind gas sales also provide revenue for the state.

The General Land Office, in its role as protector of public land, preserves Texas natural resources and the environment. The Texas Natural Heritage Program began the GLO inventories of the state's biological resources in order to reduce conflicts in environmentally sensitive areas.

The agency maintains a soil conservation program to prevent the erosion of Texas beaches. Programs that protect bays and estuaries, and programs for dune revegetation and restoration, illustrate the land office's efforts to protect the land. The Adopt-A-Beach program draws thousands of volunteers every spring and fall to gather trash from Texas beaches. The GLO has taken a national leadership role in promoting natural gas as a fuel to help keep the air clean. In addition, the GLO is responsible for evaluating land owned by other state agencies and recommending to the legislature that land's highest and best use.

Besides managing the state's public land, the Texas General Land Office also administers the Veterans Land Programs.

After World War II, Texas wanted to reward its veterans but there was no longer land to give them. The legislature created the Texas Veterans Land Board, chaired by the land commissioner and having as members two citizens appointed by the governor. This board oversees the Veterans Land Programs, which make low-interest loans to eligible veter-

ans so they can buy privately owned land or houses, or to make home improvements. Because bonds are sold to finance the program, it costs the taxpayers nothing.

State-owned land is now held as a public trust for the common good. The General Land Office maximizes revenues from public land and at the

same time preserves and protects it, benefiting not just our own but future generations of Texans.

(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.)

Tornillo Independent School District PUBLIC NOTICE

TISD TO DISCUSS FEDERAL PROGRAMS

A public meeting to discuss the District's federally funded entitlement programs for the 2002-2003 school year is scheduled for 6:00 p.m. Friday, June 29 at the Tornillo High School Library, 300 Oil Mill Drive, Tornillo, Texas. The purpose of the meeting is to allow any interested citizen to receive information and comment on the application for federal funding.

The grant applications are available though the "No Child Left Behind" Act, and address four basic areas:

- Title I, Part A - Professional Development, to provide training to teachers to upgrade their skills;
- Title II, Parts A and D - Supplemental Education Services - training for students to improve their academic skills;
- Title III, Part A and Title IV, Part A - Safe and Drug Free Schools;
- Part V, Part A.

A copy of the proposals for the 2002-2003 school year funding program will be available for review at the TISD Administration Office, 19200 Cobb Street, Tornillo.

WTCC: 06/27/02

PUBLIC MEETING

The Transportation Policy Board (TPB) of the El Paso Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) will hold a **PUBLIC MEETING on FRIDAY, JUNE 28, 2002, at 9:00 A.M., at the Socorro High School - Band Room, 10150 Alameda, Socorro, Texas 79927**, to discuss the following agenda:

1. Approval of Minutes.
2. Discussion and Action to Appoint Two TPB Voting Members to the Executive Committee.
3. Report from the I-10 Emergency Operation Ad-hoc Committee.
4. Status and Plan for the El Paso Freeway Traffic Management System (TransVista).
5. Discussion and Action to Amend the 2002-2006 Transportation Improvement Program by Moving \$412,000 of STP 4C Funds (New Mexico) from FY 2002 to FY 2003 for Construction Costs of Safety Lighting on NM 273.
6. Presentation on the Draft FY 2003 Unified Planning Work Program.
7. Discussion and Action to Approve the FY 2003 MPO Operational Budget.
8. Report on the Statewide Corridor Guidelines Work Group to Revise the TxDOT Unified Transportation Plan.
9. Status Report on the TxDOT Frontage Road Policy.
10. Discussion and Action to Amend the FY 2002 Unified Planning Work Program.
11. Discussion and Action to Amend the MPO Procedures and Bylaws:
 - a. ARTICLE III. MEMBERSHIP
 1. Add Fort Bliss to the Transportation Policy Board Membership and the Project Selection Committee Membership.

Under federal legislation, the MPO, through the TPB has an expanded role in transportation project selection and programming in El Paso County and the City of Sunland Park, New Mexico. For more information call the MPO Office at (915) 591-9735.

WTCC: 06/27/02

Briefs

From Page 1

upon weather conditions, a TxDOT official said.

■ Lorenzo G. Loya Primary School in San Elizario is hosting registration from new students, ages three to five, on July 9, 8:30 to 11 a.m. Parent or guardian must accompany the child and bring birth certificate, social security card, proof of residency, immunization record and, for pre-kindergarten only, proof of income. A shot clinic will be available. For more information call Luz Maynez at 872-3940.

■ The unemployment rate in Texas is at its highest level since 1994, according to the Texas Workforce Commission figures for the month of May. "At 6.2 percent, the unemployment rate is the highest we've seen in Texas in almost eight years," said TWC Chair Diane Rath. Non-agricultural employment actually grew by 800 jobs over April, as did employment in services, transportation, communications and public utilities. But losses in two

other major sectors overshadowed those gains. Manufacturing lost another 2,900 jobs in May, part of a total 60,300 jobs lost in that sector over the year. Construction posted a loss of 1,800 jobs in May. Overall, the El Paso area was fourth highest in unemployment in the state. Information: texasworkforce.org, or call toll-free 1-866-938-4444.

■ How well Texas' national representatives are looking after business and employer interests is being rated under a new system in place by the Texas Association of Business, a bipartisan organization representing more than 140,000 small and large Texas employers and 200 local chambers of commerce. Based on their votes on business-related issues before Congress, the legislators' scorecard had a possible high score of 100 percent. Sen. Phil Gram scored 96 percent; Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchinson, 97; Rep. Henry Bonilla, 97; and Rep. Silvestre Reyes, 22 percent. The highest score was Rep. Larry Combest of Lubbock, with 100 percent, and the lowest was Lloyd Doggett of Austin, with 20 percent.

ADVERTISEMENT

"Ever have an itch so bad you can't sleep?"

That's what happened to me. I developed a reaction to some medicine I had to take following surgery. The doctors said there was nothing they could give me for the itching. I tried that itch cream you see all over TV. It didn't help. Nothing stopped the itching. During a return trip to the emergency room following surgery, I told the emergency room doctor I itched so bad I was about to go nuts. He told me to go right to the drug store and get a tube of ITCH-X®. I used it one time and the itch was gone. I got the first night's sleep I'd had in over two weeks. I had to take my medicine for another month and I don't think I could have made it that long without ITCH-X®.

I think that ITCH-X® saved my life!"

— Acklin H. North Muskegon, Michigan

Stop an itch before it can spoil one night's sleep. Get cooling, soothing ITCH-X spray or gel at your neighborhood pharmacy.



Available at your largest local discount store pharmacy.

www.bfascher.com

UTEP loads the deck to make a good showing at tournament

By Steve Escajeda
Special to the Courier

The lineup for this season's Sierra Providence Sun Classic Basketball Tournament was made public last week and the three teams joining the UTEP Miners are fairly well known.

Everyone's heard of Air Force, Alabama-Birmingham and Columbia. Unfortunately, the fact that these teams aren't totally unknown may be the only good thing about the event. I'll bet you that when all the early-season basketball tournament brackets are filled out, the Sun Classic Basketball Tournament may have the worst set of four teams (record wise) of any other in the country.

True, there is no Southeastern Dakota State at Pine Bluff or any Central Northwestern Tennessee Tech... but c'mon, these four teams compiled an embarrassing 43-75 record last year. And guess who had the worst record of them all? Right, UTEP. At 10-22, UTEP brings up the rear.

The other teams aren't much better, Air Force

is coming off a 9-19 record, Columbia was 11-17 and UAB was 13-17. That's "Dennis Rodman in a tutu" ugly. I understand that we want the Miners to win the darn thing but let's bring in at least one team that people can get excited about. Are you telling me that Air Force is the only former WAC team we could get? Where's Utah, BYU, Colorado State or Wyoming?

The best thing about this year's field is that the Miners should have little trouble with it. Coach Rab got his wish by getting an easier list of teams to beat in his own tournament but he may have a whole new set of problems if the Miners don't win it all. The Miners are practically going to have a whole new team on the floor this season and if they finish around .500, it will be considered a success.

So maybe selecting UAB, Air Force and Columbia was a pretty good idea after all...that is if you like winning but don't care a hoot about the teams you beat.

Mourning in Missouri

Most teams and organizations determine a bad week by the number of games they lost or

bad deals they made. The St. Louis Cardinals baseball team can only wish that last week was marred by something as simple as a losing streak.

First the Cardinals suffered through the loss of long-time announcer Jack Buck early in the week. So revered was he that his coffin was laid at home plate so mourners could pay their last respects at the very field where he spent much of his life. But Buck's death, after a long illness, was more of a celebration for a lifetime of memories and thrills he gave to the St. Louis fans.

The warmth surrounding the field turned as cold as ice four days later when it was learned that pitcher Darryl Kile had died in his sleep before a game in Chicago.

What a shocker.

Being a big Houston fan, I followed the 33-year old Kile's career very closely during his seven years with the Astros and was deeply saddened when I heard the awful news. Turns out his father died of a blood clot to the brain when he was just 44. I guess it goes to show that any day on this earth really could be your last. I guess

it's just sadder when it comes suddenly and you leave a wife and three children behind.

Quintanilla helps 'horns:

Former Socorro Bulldogs standout Omar Quintanilla collected four hits and an RBI in the NCAA World Series title games to help lead the Texas Longhorns to a 12-6 rout of South Carolina. Quintanilla, a sophomore, could not have envisioned a scenario like this playing out after the turmoil he went through to start the season.

His season began with a bit of trouble when it was learned Quintanilla accepted some tickets from a coach to fly back to El Paso and then to Mexico to play in a league there during the off season. He missed some games after being ruled ineligible, but Quintanilla was reinstated after paying back the money and promising he would be a good boy in the future.

Like the saying goes, "All's well that ends well." The next question for Quintanilla is whether he will go back to Texas next year or turn pro. My guess is that he'll go for the big bucks.

Reyes receives first annual San Eli athletic award

By Don Woodyard
Courier Staff Writer

SANELIZARIO — Jaime Reyes, a graduating senior at San Elizario High School, has received the first annual All San Elizario Student Athlete award.

A three-sport varsity player, Reyes received his award from athletic director Bernie del Hierro at the June 12 school board meeting.

In making the presentation, Del Hierro pointed out that Reyes was not only an exceptional athlete, but excelled in academics as well. He was on the A-B Honor Roll all four years of high school. In addition, he had perfect attendance from his sophomore through senior years.

"I have had the pleasure of seeing Jaime since he was at the middle school," the athletic director said later. "His coaches and teachers think very highly of him."

Adds Cathy Hale, librarian at Alarcón Elementary, "I have known Jaime since the fourth grade. I have had the opportunity to watch him grow into something special. He is a really rare kid in that he is very mature, responsible and respectful."

Reyes' athletic honors include:
• Senior: First Team, All-District Basketball; First Team, All Defensive Basketball and Honorable Mention, All City Basketball. He also lettered in football and basketball.

• Junior: First Team, All District Basketball; Second Team, All District Wide Receiver; and Second Team All District First Base. Three-sport varsity player.

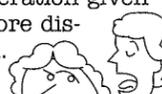
• Sophomore: First Team, All District Basketball Team. Also lettered in baseball and football.

Reyes will be the first member of his family to attend college and hopes to play basketball at Incarnate Word University in San Antonio.

Phamiliar phrases "short shrift"

In former times, condemned prisoners were given a brief time (called 'short shrift') for confession or other needs before their execution. The term now applies to any minimal consideration given to a person before disregarding them.

© 2002 King Features Syndicate, Inc.



Services

From Page 8

make certain individuals recognize which websites belong to the government and which ones are in for a profit. Individuals should be aware that the same services you are charged a fee for at the private website are offered free of charge at their local social security offices.

Social Security now offers services from downloading an application for a new or replacement social security card, applying for retirement, spouses and disability benefits online and requesting benefits estimates. If you are already receiving benefits from social security, you can request a benefit letter or replacement Medicare Card. But most important is the wealth of information that is offered by the Social Security Administration.

For more information log onto our website, www.ssa.gov or call our toll-free number at 1-800-772-1213 or visit your local Social Security office. If you have any questions that you would like to have answered, please mail them to the Social Security Office, 11111 Gateway West, Attn: Ray Vigil, El Paso, Texas 79935.

Fireworks

From Page 1

and litter a constant irritant.

The state fire control leader offered several suggestions for safe fireworks use. Adhere to all county and city fireworks laws. Use fireworks outdoors, in a safe area away from dry grass and buildings. Follow directions carefully — with close adult supervision. Keep a bucket of water, wet towels and a garden hose handy. Never shoot fireworks from metal or glass containers and never experiment with homemade or altered fireworks. Other fireworks safety tips can be found at the following Internet website:

www.texasfireworkssafety.com

Young also suggested additional outdoor fire safety tips including: comply with any outdoor burning bans, establish firebreaks around burn barrels and around brush piles to be burned, and avoid burning on dry, windy days. Avoid using welding and other spark-producing equipment around dry grass. Keep vehicles out of tall, dry grass that might contact hot exhaust systems. Dispose of smoking materials properly.

The Texas Forest Service asks that everyone help make the upcoming Independence Day holiday and the rest of the summer safer and more enjoyable by practicing good outdoor fire safety.

Loans Available
Farms - Ranches - Rural Homes
Livestock and Equipment

Jimmy Chambers
520 W. Catherine, Marfa
915-729-4351 or 1-800-663-2846.

SOUTHWEST TEXAS ACA
Your Agricultural Credit Association
Offices
Devine-Edinburg-Hondo-Laredo-Marfa
Pleasanton-San Antonio-Sonora-Uvalde
800-663-2846 - www.swtaca.com

King Super Crossword

GOURMET DISMAY CROSS

- 1 Had kittens?
- 5 Frolic
- 9 Elsie's appendage
- 14 Gather
- 19 Come unglued
- 20 Spread in a tub
- 21 Sib's kid
- 22 Send the money
- 23 Tel _
- 24 Balmy
- 25 Build a barrier
- 26 Where Athenians assembled
- 27 Combative
- 29 Speaker of remark at 34 Across
- 31 Sloth or anger
- 32 Bone-dry
- 33 Lubricate
- 34 Start of remark
- 43 Dogpatch's Daisy
- 44 Inventor Howe
- 45 _ Grande
- 46 Chop
- 48 Bronte's " - Grey"
- 51 More aloof
- 53 Merino male
- 54 Emulate Arachne
- 56 Summarize
- 57 Rocker Morrison
- 58 "Gracious me!"
- 60 Actress Wendy
- 61 Dignified calm
- 63 Writer Bret
- 64 Church instrument
- 65 Part 2 of remark
- 69 With 29 Down, "Touched by an Angel" star
- 72 Leases
- 73 Gives in to gravity
- 77 Not as messy
- 78 Bk. loan
- 79 53 Across' mate
- 81 Rock's _ Trick
- 83 Like Yale's walls
- 84 _ degree
- 85 Day or Duke
- 87 Yaphet of "Homicide"
- 88 Saucepan
- 89 Actress MacGraw
- 90 Get the soap off
- 92 "Sea Hunt" shocker
- 93 Part 3 of remark
- 101 _ G. Carroll
- 102 Mrs. Charlie Chaplin
- 103 Ferris-wheel unit
- 104 End of remark
- 110 Texas town
- 115 Tycoon
- 116 Time on the throne
- 117 Word with pad or powder
- 118 Equipment

DOWN

- 1 Scary Stoker
- 2 Sitarist Shankar
- 3 Demonic
- 4 Concoct
- 5 Bookstore section
- 6 Ken or Lena
- 7 Dissolve
- 8 Seal school
- 9 Open Old Glory
- 10 Fuel choice
- 11 Lions' lairs
- 12 "Behold!" to Brutus
- 13 Virginia -
- 14 Mideastern tongue
- 15 Word form for "great"
- 16 Run _ (lose control)
- 17 Father
- 18 Showstopper
- 28 Pewter base
- 29 See 69 Across
- 30 Card game

32 "Carmen" setting

- 34 Bet
- 35 Ergo
- 36 Master Twist
- 37 Isinglass
- 38 Thiss and that
- 39 Highfalutin' headgear
- 40 " _ Dooley" ('58 hit)
- 41 Actress Maureen
- 42 Sorbo or Spacey
- 43 Deface
- 47 Elfin
- 49 "The Bells" monogram
- 50 Bad
- 52 Showed one's feelings
- 54 Sorcerer
- 55 Unit of work
- 59 Univ. tests
- 60 Piglet's papa
- 62 Practice boxing
- 63 _ up (detained)
- 66 Imitation gold
- 67 Feature
- 68 Crusader kingdom
- 69 St. Andrews clod
- 70 Writer Wharton
- 71 Recline
- 74 "Now I've got you!"
- 75 Lorre or Lely
- 76 Gorged
- 77 Hint

79 Slezak or Eleniak

- 80 Jeroboam contents
- 82 Office seeker, for short
- 84 Eastern "Way"
- 86 Primate
- 91 Flew the coop
- 94 Refer (to)
- 95 Bank employee
- 96 Court
- 97 _ bag
- 98 Lamented
- 99 Conflict
- 100 Starting point
- 104 Hoskins in "Hook"
- 105 Puzzle part
- 106 Like kids at Christmas
- 107 Certain sandwich
- 108 Architect Saarinen
- 109 Hughes' milieu
- 110 Top-notch
- 111 Lion's pride
- 112 Jocular Jay
- 113 Teddy trim
- 114 Evangelist Roberts
- 117 Observed

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18			
19				20				21					22							
23				24				25					26							
27				28				29					30							
				31				32					33							
	34	35				36	37				38	39	40			41	42			
43				44							45					46	47			
48			49	50		51			52		53				54	55				
56						57			58	59					60					
	61					62			63						64					
					65			66	67				68							
	69	70	71					72					73			74	75	76		
77								78			79	80			81			82		
83								84			85	86			87					
88								89			90				91		92			
	93		94	95	96				97	98					99	100				
104	105	106						107	108	109				110	111			112	113	114
115								116						117				118		
119								120						121				122		
123								124						125				126		

Answer Page 7

Writer begins to lose grip on reality

By Don Flood

I hate to admit it, but I'm having a hard time dealing with reality.

For a long time I was doing OK. I was able to handle "Survivor," I held on through "Temptation Island," and I even coped through an episode of "The Fear Factor," but now I'm afraid I'm losing my grip on reality.

Reality-based TV, that is. The first sign of trouble was my lack of interest in seeing "The Osbournes," the mega-hyped MTV smash about aging rocker Ozzy Osbourne and his family. Osbourne, who first made his name in music by biting off the head of a bat in concert — Osbourne was in concert, not the bat — is the biggest TV sensation since Richard (the fat guy) went naked on "Survivor."

I tried to become interested in "The Osbournes." I really did.

I even watched a brief clip.

There was yelling and fighting and cursing, and I was able to handle it just fine, but then something very disturbing happened.

In retaliation for her neighbors

making too much noise, the mother threw a ham — that's right, a ham — on their property.

It was too much. Suddenly, I found myself unable to cope with reality TV.

But even as I gradually lost touch with reality TV, I tried to hang on.

Soon after, I tried watching "The Hamptons," a reality show that successfully captured people on vacation in the act of being boring.

It was, well, boring.

I turned off the TV and began a dangerous descent into real life.

Now I'm not sure I'll ever find my way back to reality TV.

The latest entry in the reality TV genre is the Anna Nicole Smith show.

Former Playboy model Anna Nicole is famous for one thing. OK, two things, both of which were augmented by an ambitious and over-achieving plastic surgeon.

The following is an actual — or reality-based — quote from Mark Sonnenberg, E! executive VP of entertainment: "Five minutes of life through the eyes of Anna Nicole is more fascinating than an entire lifetime for some people. She packs it in."

Right.

Listen, the only place Anna Nicole Smith "packs it in" is her blouse.

The basic hook for this show is watching what Anna Nicole and her breasts do all day.

If they really wanted to do a "reality-based" show they might show Anna Nicole's chest reduced to something normal-sized — like Dolly Parton's.

According to the story, the show will follow Smith, her teen-aged son, her attorney and her assistant as they go about their daily life.

Wow! Imagine the excitement of discovering what Anna Nicole Smith's attorney does all day!

But perhaps I'm just jealous my life isn't exciting enough for TV.

This would be a typical morning on my reality-based show: Get up, wash face, make coffee, read paper.

Yeah, I know what you're thinking. That's real, all right. Real dull. Did I mention that I regularly bite off the heads of live bats?

(c) 2002 King Features Synd., Inc.

Glen Schodde dies in Arizona

TUCSON, AZ — Glen W. Schodde, a 26-year resident of Horizon City, died May 14, 2002 in Tucson, Arizona, after a short illness. He was 93.

Schodde had lived the last three years in Tucson.

Retiring as a fire safety engineer in Minneapolis, Minnesota in 1971, he settled in Horizon City with his second wife, Mae, who passed away in 1999.

He remarried and is survived by his wife Mildred of Tucson; his daughter Casey and husband Punch Woods of Tucson; sons David Schodde of Minneapolis

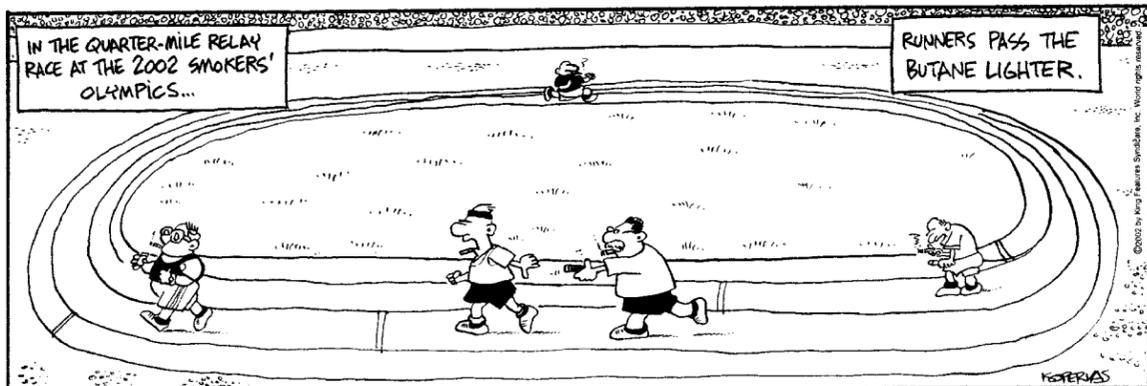
and Steve Schodde and wife, Ann, of Des Moines, Iowa. He had six grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

Family members say Glen and Mae loved their years in Horizon City and all of the many friends they had held special memories for them. Glen is well remembered for his great sense of humor which made him popular in the Horizon community.

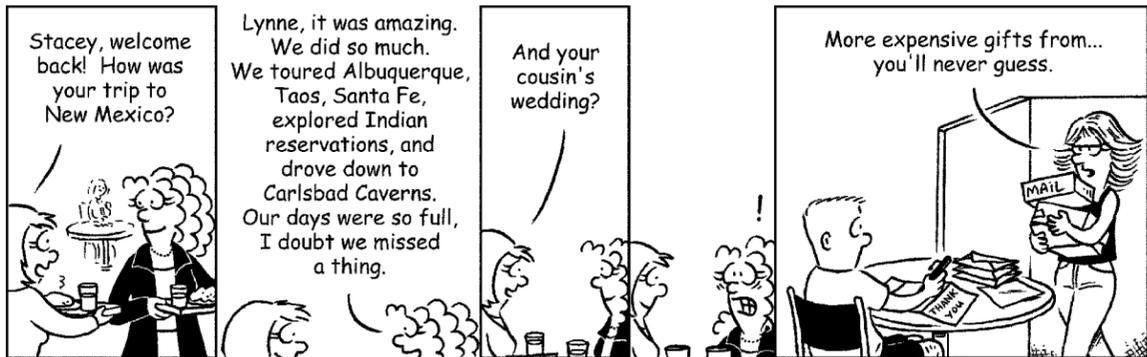
Graveside services were held in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, and memorials may be sent to the Community Food Band, P.O. Box 26727 in Tucson, AZ 85726

Comix

OUT ON A LIMB By Gary Kopervas



GOT A LIFE By Terri Davis



THE SPATS By Jeff Pickering



R.F.D. By Mike Marland

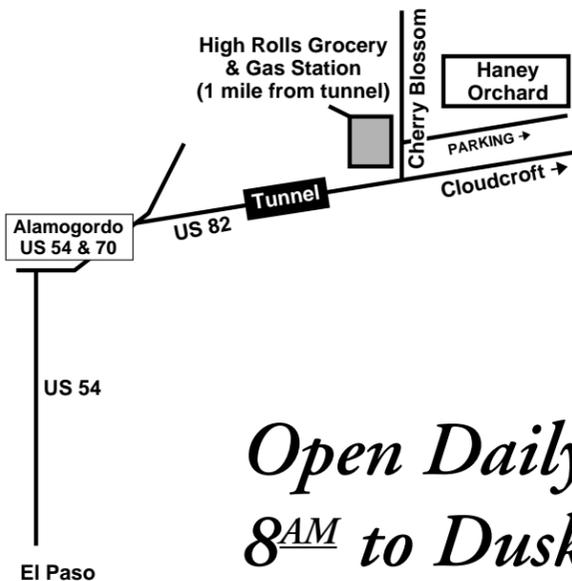


We can't hang out up here forever...

- Cherries \$2/lb.
- Cider
- Jam
- Pitters



...come and take us home with you.



Open Daily 8^{AM} to Dusk



Put us to work for you.
852-3235

WEST TEXAS COUNTY
COURIER

Newspapers work!

Social Security: Q & A By Ray Vigil

Don't pay a fee for what Social Security will give you free

There has been a recent increase in the number of businesses selling services that the Federal Government offers for free.

Computer technology has made it very easy for businesses to set up websites that look very similar to the official Social Security Administration website. The color coordination they use, the services they offer and the language are almost identical to

those offered by the agency. There's a catch though. The Social Security Administration does not charge for its services. Yes, other sites will offer you the ability to download the same forms we offer on our website but it will be subject to a fee.

Individuals looking for information on our website need to become familiar with the different domains in existence in today's Internet. So-

cial Security Online was made available in May 1994. The official website address is <http://www.ssa.gov>. The domain "gov" after the agency's name displays that the website is an official government site.

You might find addresses that end with the domain such as "org," "us" or "com." This in itself would be evidence enough to support that the site is not sponsored by a government entity.

One site might provide individuals with information and requirements for applying for a new or duplicate social security card. Along with the information, they give you the option to submit an application

on their website assuring you that they will make certain the application is processed in a timely fashion. Of course, they also introduce you to the method of payment, which is via of any major credit card. Why credit cards? Well, that's how they assure themselves of billing you for the charges up front.

So what happens after you submit the furnished them with all kinds of personal information? Do they assume the responsibility of processing your application? Can they guarantee that your application meets all requirements? No!

They will probably batch the application they have and forward them to the nearest social security office.

If the documentation is not acceptable by the Social Security Administration, guess who's receiving a package in the mail? Not the business that promised they would send you a social security card. No, it will be you.

Social security will return your application to you and explain that the proper documents were missing or not acceptable. In the meantime, guess who will be out of \$12 to maybe \$30 dollars that businesses are charging for these services? That will be you, as well.

Social Security does not want to discourage anyone from doing business via of Internet. But we want to

See SERVICES, Page 6

WEATHER

AccuWeather.com

SEVEN-DAY FORECAST FOR EL PASO

THURSDAY	THUR. NIGHT	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
Hot with periods of clouds and sunshine.	Partly cloudy.	Clouds and some sunshine.	Partly sunny and hot.	Clouds and sunshine.	Partly sunny and hot.	Sunny and very hot.	Very hot with sunshine and some clouds.
▲ 100°	▼ 70°	▲ 100° ▼ 70°	▲ 96° ▼ 72°	▲ 96° ▼ 72°	▲ 100° ▼ 68°	▲ 104° ▼ 70°	▲ 104° ▼ 68°

UV INDEX Statistics for noon.

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

Thursday	10	Very High
Friday	6	Moderate
Saturday	6	Moderate
Sunday	6	Moderate
Monday	9	Very High
Tuesday	10	Very High
Wednesday	10	Very High

REAL FEEL TEMP™

The exclusive AccuWeather composite of the effects of temperature, wind, humidity, sunshine, precipitation, and elevation on the human body.

Thursday	108°
Friday	98°
Saturday	98°
Sunday	98°
Monday	100°
Tuesday	102°
Wednesday	102°

TEXAS WEATHER

Anthony	100	70
Canutillo	101	71
Clint	100	68
E. Montana	100	70
Fabens	100	68
Horizon	101	71
San Elizario	98	68
Socorro	99	69
Tornillo	100	68
Vinton	101	71

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	94/64/pc	92/64/pc	92/66/pc	94/64/pc	94/66/pc
Atlanta	86/72/pc	88/72/sh	90/72/c	92/72/c	92/70/pc
Atlantic City	88/72/pc	88/68/s	88/66/s	88/68/s	90/70/s
Austin/San Antonio	92/72/pc	90/72/pc	92/72/t	92/74/t	92/72/t
Baltimore	94/72/pc	90/66/s	90/66/s	92/70/s	92/70/s
Boston	88/66/t	84/66/pc	84/62/s	88/66/pc	83/66/t
Chicago	82/64/pc	86/66/s	90/68/pc	90/68/t	85/71/t
Dallas/Ft. Worth	90/72/pc	92/72/pc	92/72/t	92/76/t	92/74/t
Denver	88/58/pc	88/60/pc	90/60/s	92/62/s	92/60/pc
Flagstaff	86/48/s	81/46/s	81/45/s	81/46/s	80/40/pc
Houston	90/74/pc	92/74/pc	94/74/t	94/74/t	91/74/pc
Kansas City	88/66/pc	86/68/s	88/70/s	92/68/pc	94/70/pc
Las Vegas	105/76/s	105/74/s	102/74/s	102/78/s	102/68/s
Miami	88/78/pc	90/78/r	90/78/pc	92/78/pc	91/74/pc
Minneapolis	84/64/s	86/68/s	88/70/t	88/68/t	86/66/t
New Orleans	88/76/pc	88/76/pc	92/78/pc	92/78/s	92/76/pc
New York City	90/70/pc	86/68/s	86/66/s	88/70/s	88/72/s
Philadelphia	94/72/pc	88/68/s	88/66/s	92/70/s	92/72/s
Phoenix	110/84/s	108/84/s	108/82/s	106/82/s	106/80/pc
Portland	74/56/pc	74/56/c	74/58/c	76/56/pc	78/56/pc
San Francisco	60/52/pc	60/52/pc	62/54/pc	66/54/pc	66/54/pc
Seattle	68/56/pc	68/56/c	70/54/c	72/54/pc	74/52/pc
Tucson	106/76/s	106/76/s	104/74/s	102/72/pc	102/74/s
Washington, DC	94/74/pc	90/68/s	90/68/s	94/72/s	94/74/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 and Friday will bring temperatures around 100 degrees with 8-10 hours of sunshine each day. Thursday's winds will be from the southeast at 7-14 mph. Friday's winds will be from the southeast at 6-12 mph. There will be a continuation of hot and dry weather through the weekend. The heat may re-intensify next week.

All maps, forecasts and data provided by AccuWeather, Inc. ©2002



AMERICA'S HOMETOWN INTERNET COMPANY!™ gives you...

Unlimited Internet Access

for only

\$9.95

per month* with a 12 month purchase!

IT'S SO EASY! You can sign-up online, 24 hours a day! Join today at www.chilitech.com or call toll-free 866-392-4454

100% MONEY BACK GUARANTEE!

WE ARE SO CONFIDENT THAT YOU'LL LOVE US, WE ARE OFFERING THIS RISK-FREE TRIAL!

Yes, that's our great 30-day money back guarantee! If, for any reason, within 30 days you're not happy with our Internet service we'll refund 100% of your money... no questions asked, no explanation needed. We will issue a full refund on your entire purchase price! Call us today and you'll see why thousands of people have joined ChiliTech, America's Hometown Internet Company!

Great "chili" tech support, every time!

Email Family and Friends

Do Research

Play Games

Shop Online

Download Mp3 Files

Chat with Friends

ChiliTech! Hot, Fast, Dependable, Personal, and Secure. Let our Advisor Navigators show you how!



AMERICA'S HOMETOWN INTERNET COMPANY!™

866.392.4454 • www.chilitech.com • info@chilitech.com

Ok, so here goes the fine print. You know, the stuff that some people don't really want you to read, because it might make the initial offer not seem so great, but at ChiliTech we have great offers every time. So, go ahead, read on. Thank you for choosing ChiliTech Internet Solutions, America's Hometown Internet company. *Yearly membership is available at \$9.95/month when you purchase a full year of Unlimited Internet Service for a total of \$119.40! Not a bad price! Low monthly payments are also available at \$15.95 per month. Shop online, do research, play games, download Mp3 music, and chat with friends. These are just a few examples of what you can do on the Internet. The \$119.40 fee paid yearly is not a gimmick, that's our price, no hidden fees, no extra charges. Remember, never fear change...we're here to help you. Visit us anytime online, day or night, at www.chilitech.com. The purpose of the little, white box on the right hand side of this disclaimer is so we can track our advertising campaign. Thanks again for being a part of ChiliTech, America's Hometown Internet Company! For your payment convenience we accept MasterCard, Visa, American Express, Discover, and E. Checks. If you have any questions about ChiliTech visit our website at www.chilitech.com. Our 30-day money-back guarantee is just that. If you are not happy with any of our internet services within the first 30 days we will refund 100% of your purchase price. That means, if you've joined for one year and within 30 days are unhappy for any reason, all you have to do to receive a full \$119.40 refund is notify us by phone that you are dissatisfied. Problem solved. That's our 100% money-back guarantee. Remember you must notify us within 30 days of your initial account activation or there is no refund.

Source Code
ACU-C5X