

# WEST TEXAS COUNTY COURIER

VOL. 29, No. 30

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

JULY 25, 2002

## NEWSBRIEFS

### Socorro floods

Concerned by the damage to property in Socorro as a result of flooding from recent rains, State Rep. Manny Najera said last week he has contacted three sources in an attempt to raise emergency funds. Letters of request for assistance were sent to Gov. Rick Perry, the Historical Commission of Texas and the Office of Rural Communities Assistance (ORCA). El Paso County was not among Texas counties who were awarded funding through the National Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) for use in the Emergency Watershed Protection program due to recent flooding because flooding here was not general and did not affect large numbers of people. But recent rains in East El Paso county have illustrated the need for a watershed program to conduct levee repair, stream bank restoration, sediment removal and other flood-related activities. The County of El Paso has designated funding for flood control in the Sparks community, but extensive development in the East County has created a wide-spread problem. County officials have said an extensive project is still years away.

### Upper Valley pets

Beginning Saturday, July 27 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Animal Rescue League will have animals available for adoption at the 126 Shadow Mountain Valley Feed location every other Saturday throughout summer. Costs are \$85 for dogs and \$65 for cats, if available. Fees are tax deductible and includes spaying/neutering, age-appropriate shots, deworming for puppies/kittens, heartworm checks for adults and grooming. Future dates include Aug. 10 and Aug. 24. Persons who have a specific kind of animal in mind to adopt are asked to call Loretta Hyde at 877-3785, ext. 3. For other information call Cheryl Reno at 584-3468. The event seeks to provide a convenient adoption outlet for pets rescued by Animal Rescue League which is located at 7256 La Junta in Canutillo. The Animal Rescue League of El Paso is a non-profit organization dedicated to serving stray, abandoned, orphaned, abused and injured companion animals by providing medical care and shelter in times of need, locating lifelong homes and promoting responsible pet ownership through education, legislation and pet sterilization.

### In other news

■ The KEYS Academy, the Socorro school district's alternative school, has been awarded \$42,027 in grants funds from the Texas Telecommunications Infrastructure Fund (TIF), according to an announcement from State Rep. Manny Najera. This non-competitive grant will assist the campus to install telecommunications equipment, upgrade infrastructure and equipment, and connect to high speed internet access. Najera said the fund is targeting alternative schools which typically provide instruction to at-risk and economically disadvantaged students who would otherwise have little

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*TV's medical programs aren't realistic. You never see a doctor collecting a fee.*  
— Quips and Quotes



**TEACH BY EXAMPLE** — Charles Hart, Canutillo ISD Superintendent and State Superintendent of the Year, was a guest speaker during the TxBESS symposium held in Austin recently.

## Canutillo and Socorro ISD reps tell state officials how they help new teachers survive first year

By Alfredo Vasquez  
Special to the Courier

EL PASO COUNTY — Texas Beginning Educator Support System (TxBESS) is a state-sponsored program that is helping reduce the turnover rate among new teachers. It works on the premise that an effective solution to school staffing problems is to decrease turnover rather than to focus solely on increasing the supply of teachers.

Ted Kepple, TxBESS coordinator for the Region 19 Education Service Center, said the state sponsored program that just completed its third year has helped keep first-year teachers on the job. Before TxBESS, 50 per cent of new teachers in Texas left during the first three years on the job. Now the retention rate is 89 per cent after the second year.

El Paso, Socorro, Canutillo and Anthony independent school districts in El Paso County and Fort Hancock in Hudspeth County participated in TxBESS during the 2001-2002 school year. A total of 229 teachers and a like number of mentors were in the program during that school year. This total included first-year teachers and alternative certification trainees from the two counties in the Region 19 service area.

TxBESS is used to design support systems for pre-service teachers, fully certified teachers, and alternative certification interns. It can also be used to help teachers with emergency certification and using district permits and those employed as long-term substitutes.

According to Kepple, beginning teachers who participated in a support program had only a 15 per cent resignation rate after three years, compared to 26 per cent for teachers who did not have this kind of support. Such programs provide new teachers with mentors and a variety of support programs including ways to improve their teaching performance, release time for training, ways to cope with stress, and professional development.

TxBESS' success was highlighted during its

recent state conference held in Austin recently. Two local school districts were featured during the conference as examples of the programs success in teacher retention and support.

Charles Hart, Canutillo ISD superintendent and Texas State Superintendent-of-the-Year, was a guest speaker. He spoke to the audience of about 300 attendees on the merits of this country's public schools system.

Socorro ISD representatives discussed the approach they used to mentor 64 teachers who were new to their district last year.

Hart said that those who are continually criticizing the public school system tend to forget that the men and women who are running the country and help make this the greatest nation in the world are mainly graduates of the public schools. Public school products are in leadership positions in all facets of this country including industry, medicine, sports and government.

"Yes, we have problems and are taking steps to address them," Hart said. "TxBESS is one of those approaches. Keeping the good new teachers is a major task, and TxBESS will help to reduce their turnover."

Maria Saucedo, Diane McSwain, and Ben Causey, instructional specialists in Socorro ISD, presented an overview of SISDs Teacher Institute of Professional Services (TIPS), which is an induction program that is open to teachers just out of college, new to the district, and those who received alternative certification.

According to Saucedo TIPS provides information that focuses on classroom management. TIPS participants are taught how to address specific concerns they may have in the classroom and are given training on discipline and effective instructional strategies. As part of the program, new teachers are helped by teachers who are instructional specialists with masters degrees in their specialized areas and are paired with mentor teachers who have undergone TxBESS training.

The 2001-2002 school year marked the end of the three-year federal grant. However, the

## Commissioners vote to support area water authority with elected board

EL PASO COUNTY — The first fledgling steps toward founding a regional water authority were taken on Monday when the El Paso County Commissioners' Court majority voted to support a resolution calling for an area water provider with an elected board of directors.

The vote is in opposition to the stance taken by El Paso Water Utilities Public Service Board — members of which are all appointed by the El Paso City Council — that it can fulfill the role of regional water planner/provider, and that such a water authority with an elected board would be a duplication of effort and resources.

After lively discussion of the issue, commissioners voted four to one to support a resolution introduced last week by Commissioner Dan Haggerty, on behalf of Lower Valley Water District General Manager Arturo "Tury" Duran, which calls for one countywide water authority with an elected board of directors to represent all geographical areas involved, to serve as regional water and waste-water planner for the entire county, and to be the recipient/administrator of state and federal water funds.

As many as 100 residents of the East County, primarily Las Colonias subdivision, were on hand to support the resolution, because they contend that no one is taking the initiative to bring water to their area of the county.

The non-binding resolution was amended from the original form, with support of an action meeting on water issues to be set in the near future, to include the El Paso legislative delegation, elected officials, area water district representatives and county residents to obtain input.

Unconcerned about the changes in the resolution, Duran said it was fulfilling its purpose by bringing all interested parties into a meaningful debate on the water issue.

Commissioner Charlie Scruggs cast the lone dissenting vote because he said the resolution places the county in opposition with the City of El Paso and with the Texas Legislature which has designated the City of

El Paso's water representative as "regional planner." He said the El Paso area should speak with one voice.

However, Edd Fifer, representative of the El Paso County Water Improvement District No. 1 which manages irrigation water, said one voice was what the resolution could bring about.

He said the many water boards and districts in the county with varying jurisdictions and conflicts of interests make it difficult to move forward effectively with water projects.

He said the irrigation district strongly supports an elected board to oversee water.

Texas Workforce Commission, working with the Governors Office, has agreed to dedicate an additional \$3 million to continue TxBESS in the 2002-03 school year. The State Board for Educator Certification (SBEC) will continue to work with education service centers and districts to improve and expand support to beginning teachers.



## One perspective

By Francis Shrum

# No two ways about water

The water status quo in the El Paso County has a problem.

The future is now, and now is too soon.

When I came to El Paso County in 1985, the Lower Valley Water District (LVWD) was just coming into existence, under the guidance of State Rep. Nick Perez.

Perez represented District 75, which included the many thousands of people in the Lower Valley who lived without community water or sewer services, paved roads or even electricity.

With the Sparks community becoming a national poster child for El Paso County's — and Texas' — dirty laundry, something had to be done, and the Texas legislature figured the LVWD was a pretty good stop-gap measure.

El Paso's Water Utilities Public Service Board (PSB) had water, but it also had a pretty firm policy of no-water-provided-outside-our-city-limits-until-we-are-good-and-ready.

We'll call this ITS (Ivory Tower Syndrome). It has other names, of course, like Money, Power, and Old Boys in Charge (OBC) but we'll go with ITS for now.

Under pressure from the Texas legislature, they agreed to provide water to the LVWD, but not without strings — some would say not without chains — attached. They would sell the LVWD water but required that for every so many gallons they received, the LVWD must turn over to the PSB irrigation rights they would extort — oops, I mean, extract — from property owners being offered community water.

I remember the ad campaigns directed at Lower Valley residents: "Turn over your irrigation water rights to us and we'll offer you the

wonderful bargain of *not having to pay taxes on these rights!*"

The LVWD wasn't too legally savvy in those days, so this water-rights-for-water deal ran into all sorts of pitfalls. Today, some say the LVWD turned over way more water rights than they should have. The PSB, of course, says they didn't turn over near enough.

But nobody figured it would go on this long.

I remember that historic day in late 1989 when the PSB announced it was dissolving its policy of no-water-provided-outside-our-city-limits.

This was big news.

Except they didn't dissolve the second part of that policy: Until-we-are-good-and-ready. This effectively left the PSB afflicted with ITS.

In no way do I mean to degrade the good things that have happened in the East Montana area, in which the PSB has, with state and federal funds, upgraded and expanded the water services offered by the Homestead Municipal Utilities District. Nor do I disregard the infrastructure improvements in the Upper Valley.

The PSB has spent millions to develop new water supplies and on planning studies. This also commendable. But I have to say that El Paso's PSB is still hopelessly suffering ITS, brought on by an acute case of conflict-of-interest, aggravated by a terrible infection of we-want-it-both-ways.

On one hand it would like to claim status as the beneficent regional water provider while on the other hand failing to provide when it comes into conflict with the interests of its first love — the City of El Paso.

Many East County observers expected that by now the LVWD would

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## WEST TEXAS COUNTY COURIER

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

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have been absorbed into the PSB, along with the El Paso County Water Authority (EPCWA) in Horizon, and that it would be well on its way to taking in the El Paso County Water Control and Improvement District No. 4 (EPCWCID #4) in Fabens and winding toward San Elizario Grant Municipal Utility District (SEGMUD) and the Tornillo Water Improvement District (TWID).

But for a variety of reasons this didn't happen — mostly because ugly step-children are rude, ill-behaved and hard to raise. They don't come in neat packages, with insurance and spending money attached. They require hard work, patience, and above all, honest concern for their well-being and even willingness to take a loss.

The PSB is ill-equipped to deliver on these requirements.

Though it has garnered the legislative designation of "regional water-

planner" the PSB is still holding up the "Be Patient Until I Get Ready" sign and the East County step-children aren't buying it. They've become teenagers now and are not willing to accept the detached authority of a self-important step-parent.

The PSB has passed up several golden opportunities to lead the East County which, once past, may not come again. The step-children are demanding a seat at the table and a say in the how the household budget is spent.

In short, the PSB hasn't taken the time nor made the effort to develop a mutually beneficial working relationship with the LVWD, Horizon's EPCWA — and probably not Fabens' EPCWCID #4 which has been distracted with its own laundry problems.

Certainly in the case of LVWD general manager Tury Duran, the PSB is reaping the fruits of its failure to compromise.

Duran will leave no stone unturned in his effort to get the attention of the County of El Paso, the state legislature and the general public in seeking equal representation for the LVWD service area.

It may well be that the time has come for an elected water authority outside the control of the PSB. The argument that duplication of resources are wasteful has become stale, as has the claim that introducing politics into the water issue would be unnecessarily disruptive.

Truth is, politics have been there all along.

Meanwhile, portions of the East County have begun providing for themselves and especially in the case of EPCWA, the heady taste of power won't be soon forgotten.

The PSB hasn't proven it can fill the unbiased leadership role needed to solve the County's water needs, and the East County is tired of waiting.

## Clint High School initiates freshman camp

EAST EL PASO COUNTY — Fall registration at Clint High School will be highlighted by the first-ever Freshman Camp Aug. 8-9, 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. both days.

Other grades will register on Aug. 5-7.

All incoming freshmen are required to attend the camp, with registration held 8:30-10:30 a.m., followed by a tour of the high school and lunch in the cafeteria.

The remainder of the day they will hear presentations from school administrators and counselors. The following day's camp will include activities to acquaint them with the school and extra-curricular and athletic activities available.

Registration for other grades are as follows, 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. — Seniors on Aug. 5; Juniors on Aug. 6 and Sophomores on Aug. 7.

Registration packets, including bus

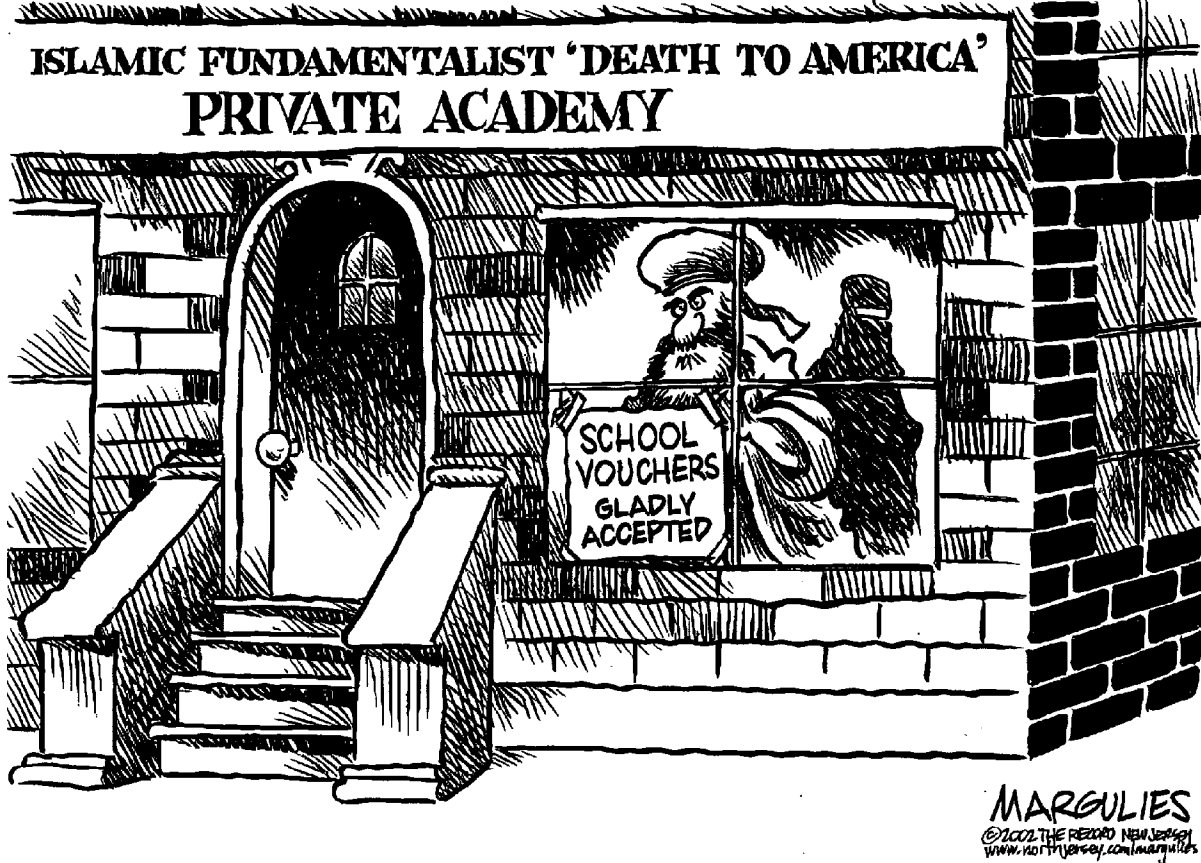
schedules, have been mailed to those already enrolled in high school, and to students who are transferring from Clint Junior High.

Clint High School Principal Paul Pearson said those not receiving a packet may visit the school or phone 851-2344 weekdays between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m.

Attire of students attending registration must meet district dress code, Pearson said.



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



**Protecting the Stars and Stripes**

This symbol inspires our soldiers in the midst of battle and provides the direction and morale they need to protect our freedom. It unifies our citizens in times of trouble and gives us reason to reflect on and celebrate our freedom. It is, of course, our American flag and it is perhaps the ultimate symbol of our freedom.

Throughout American history, our flag has always held the value and meaning of what it means to be an American. The Stars and Stripes continues to command respect and admiration around the world.

Freedom is America's greatest and most recognized attribute. Freedom is symbolized by our flag and the treatment of our flag is the ultimate expression of the honor we bestow upon this symbol. If we afford the flag our deepest respect, we are cherishing our freedom. When we fail to recognize the significance of our flag, we fail to recognize the significance of our freedom...that it does not come without sacrifice. Many men and women have sacrificed themselves for our freedom.

We, as a nation, must recognize the thoughtful objections of our opponents and their concern that such an amendment that changes First Amendment freedoms. However, protecting the flag is imperative because it is our greatest symbol of the freedom for which we strive.

We cannot take our freedom for granted. We must teach our children and our future leaders the importance of our freedom and the American flag. We cannot forget the courage and sacrifice of those who have fought to strengthen and preserve the values that America holds and that the flag represents.

It is time for the value we hold in the American flag to be reflected in our laws. By doing so, we are formally addressing the significance of the flag. More importantly, we are formally addressing the significance of our freedom.

**Canutillo High School holds student orientation**

CANUTILLO — Canutillo High School will hold freshmen orientation July 31 and Aug. 1. Schedules for returning students will be available the following week. Classes for all students begin Monday, Aug. 19.

Freshmen orientation, or SOAR (Student Orientation And Recreation) program, is scheduled from 8:30 a.m. to 12 p.m., Wednesday and Thursday, July 31 and Aug. 1, starting in the new gym. Different activities are planned, snacks will be served, and transportation will be provided.

"It is very important that all freshmen attend both days to receive schedules, student ID's, turn in shot records, tour the school, and make friends," said Fred Hurd, CHS assistant principal.

Returning students may stop by the school between 1:30 and 3:30 p.m., to pick up schedules, fill out important documents, and have ID's made according to the following schedule: Sophomores-Aug. 6; Juniors-Aug. 7; and Seniors-Aug. 8. "After Aug. 21, schedules will remain as issued unless there are extenuating circumstances," said Hurd.

Students new to the district and enrolling at the high school should stop by the Canutillo HS Office to register as soon as possible. New students should bring social security card, a utility bill, shot records and report card or transcript from previous school.

For more information, call the high school office, at 877-7500.

**City of Socorro PUBLIC NOTICE**

A PUBLIC HEARING will be held at 6:00 p.m. on August 13, 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 rezoning(s):

1. Lot 25 Block 4 Grijalva Gardens, 761 Lupe Anna Ln. from R-1, Single Family Residential (Legal Non-conforming) to R-2, Medium Density Residential by Jose L. Barbosa.

TERE RODRIGUEZ  
Interim City Clerk

WTCC: 07/25/02

**San Elizario Independent School District PUBLIC NOTICE**

The San Elizario Independent School District hereby provides an opportunity for public comment on the Application for Federal Funding covering Title III and The No Child Left Behind Act Program provisions & assurances for the School Year 2002-2003. The application will be available for public comment at the San Elizario Administration building, located at 1050 Chicken Ranch Road, on Monday, July 29 and Tuesday, July 30, 2002 between 8:00am — 5:00pm. For additional information, call the SEISD Department of Bilingual Education at (915) 872-3920, ext. 3564.

**Distrito Escolar de San Elizario NOTICIA AL PUBLICO**

El Distrito Escolar de San Elizario presenta la oportunidad al público que comente sobre la Aplicación para fondos Federales cubriendo Título III y el No Child Left Behind Acto programa de provisión y seguridad para el año escolar 2002-2003. La aplicación está disponible para los comentarios del público en el edificio de Administración de San Elizario ubicado en 1050 Chicken Ranch Road, el lunes 29 de julio y el martes 30 de julio 2002 entre las horas de 8:00am — 5:00pm. Para información adicional llame a SEISD Departamento de Educación Bilingüe al número (915) 872-3920, ext. 3565.

WTCC: 07/25/02

**TRUE TEXAS FACTS** by Roger Moore July 26, 1863, Sam Houston dies in Huntsville. He utters "Texas" several times with his dying breath.



## Tornillo Water Supply Corporation PUBLIC MEETING

A public meeting will be conducted on **JULY 25, 2002, 6:00 P.M. at the TORNILLO HIGH SCHOOL CAFETERIA , 300 OIL MILL ROAD, TORNILLO, EL PASO COUNTY, TEXAS** to present the financial information of the proposed Wastewater Facility Plan Update – Expanded Project Area in Tornillo, El Paso County, Texas. The Tornillo Water Supply Corporation proposes to construct this infrastructure project to provide for residents in Town of Tornillo with an improved Wastewater System. This is the second public meeting being held per requirements for certification by the Border Environment Cooperation Commission (BECC).

This Public Meeting on this project will include a briefing on the financial aspects including the proposed rates and a hearing of public comments.

This project includes the construction of approximately 30,000 linear feet of wastewater collection piping, manholes, and service connections. Project construction locations will be in public right-of-ways and small parcels of private lands that will be purchased within the Town of Tornillo.

The proposed plant under the EDAP project will be expanded to an additional 0.59 MGD for this phase. The total treatment capacity of the plant for both projects will be sized to 1 MGD.

The project is being funded through the Border Environment Cooperation Commission (BECC), EPA Border Environmental Infrastructure Fund (BEIF) that is administered by the NADBank, and Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) - Environmental Distressed Areas Program (EDAP).

A Copy of the Facility Plan is available for public review at the Tornillo Water Supply Corporation Office at 19225 Highland St., Tornillo, Texas 79853, between the hours of 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. Monday through Friday. For after hours review, please call (915) 764-2966 to make an appointment.

All interested citizens are invited to attend this meeting and express their views. Oral and written comments may be presented at this Public Meeting. For Further information contact the Business Manager, Tornillo Water Supply Corporation, P.O. Box 136, Tornillo, Texas 79853 or telephone (915) 764-2966.

## Corporación Proveedora de Agua de Tornillo REUNION PUBLICA

*Se llevará a cabo una reunion pública a las 6:00 P.M. el 25 de JULIO 2002, en la CAFETERIA DE TORNILLO HIGH SCHOOL, 300 OIL MILL ROAD, TORNILLO, CONDADO de EL PASO, TEXAS para presentar los aspectos financieros del Anteproyecto de Ampliación del Sistema de Agua Residual en Tornillo, Condado de El Paso, Texas. La Corporación Proveedora de Agua de Tornillo propone construir este proyecto de infraestructura para dar a los residentes de Tornillo un mejor sistema de agua residual. Esta es la segunda reunión pública que se lleva a cabo por requisitos de la Comisión de Cooperación Ecológica Fronteriza, (COCEF).*

*En esta reunión se presentarán los aspectos financieros del proyecto y las tarifas propuestas y se invita comentarios del público sobre dicho proyecto.*

*El proyecto incluye la construcción de aproximadamente 30,000 pies lineales de tubería para agua residual, alcantarillado y conexiones. Las zonas de construcción serán las vías públicas y pequeñas parcelas de propiedad privada que serán compradas dentro del pueblo de Tornillo.*

*La planta tratadora de agua residual propuesta bajo el Programa de Areas Económicamente en Desventaja (EDAP, siglas en inglés), se ampliará a 590,000 mil galones por día. Con este proyecto adicional, la capacidad total de la planta será de de 1 millón de galones por día.*

*El proyecto es financiado por la Comisión de Cooperación Ecológica Fronteriza, el Fondo de Infraestructura Ambiental de la Agencia de Protección Ambiental (EPA, siglas en inglés), administrado por Banco de Desarrollo de America del Norte y el Programa de Areas Económicamente en Desventaja del Texas Water Development Board.*

*El documento Anteproyecto de Ampliación del Sistema de Agua Residual está disponible para revision pública en las oficinas de la Corporación Proveedora de Agua de Tornillo, con dirección en #19225 Highland St., Tornillo, Texas 79853 entre las horas de 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. de lunes a viernes. Para revisión después de estas horas llame a (915) 764-2966 para hacer una cita.*

*A todos los ciudadanos se les invita a participar en esta reunión de consulta y aportar sus comentarios sobre este proyecto. Comentarios orales y escritos se pueden presentar en esta reunión. Para más información favor de contactar al Gerente de Negocios de la Corporación Proveedora de Agua de Tornillo, P.O. Box 136, Tornillo, Texas 79853 o llamar por teléfono al (915) 764-2966.*

WTCC: 07/25/02

## Fabens ISD enriches students' summer with camp experiences



— Photos courtesy of Fabens ISD

**THE STARS ARE THE LIMIT** — During the Fabens ISD summer enrichment camps, which included T-Rex, Space Camp and Computer/Fine Arts, instructor Ross Robles was given opportunity to usher this group students to Alamogordo, N.M. to attend Space Camp at the International Space Hall of Fame. Students learned how to build model rockets that flew using their own ignition system.

### View from here By Bill Hammond

## Corporate America must get its house in order

Some critics are dismissing as too little too late President Bush's call for heightened corporate integrity and new criminal penalties for law-breaking executives.

In addition to being wrong, those doubters underestimate the President.

Just as when he was governor of Texas, a constitutionally weak position, President Bush understands the immense power that can be brought to bear from high-profile bully pulpits. President Bush also understands the free enterprise system — and consequently America's way of life — is now under stress, perhaps as never before.

Corporate criminals need to go to jail. That's why we support the President's proposals. Congress should quit fussing over whether those proposals are too much or too little and immediately endorse the following:

- The Corporate Fraud Task Force, which met Friday for the first time, and will have the full force of the federal government behind it and be capable of moving in quickly to address wrongdoing.

- Investor protections featuring quarterly access to critical information written in "plain English" so that investors can make informed decisions about a firm's financial performance, condition and risks.

- CEO accountability that includes doubling fraud penalties, holding executives responsible for corporate financial statements, barring wrongdoers from executive positions, and prompt public disclosure by corporate leaders of stock transactions for personal gain.

The threat of terrorism has changed life in his country — in some ways dramatic, in some ways subtle. But the threat posed by the recent revelations of corporate wrongdoing is no less dangerous and maybe even more insidious. It has shaken some of this nation's largest businesses and eroded consumer and investor confidence in our economy.

The free enterprise system provides the foundation for this

country's economic activity. It underpins our political system and it has nurtured a societal framework that — despite blemishes — offers this nation's residents unparalleled opportunity and personal freedom. It is central to this country being the most prosperous and powerful in the world.

Now, a few — but significant — number of bad actors have poisoned this nation's economic well. WorldCom, Enron, Xerox Corp., Tyco International Ltd., Global Crossing, Adelphia Communications and others have become synonymous with business practices labeled "dishonest, arrogant, and greedy." Civil and criminal investigations, and bankruptcy filings fill the headlines.

A huge segment of the damage is easily measured. Tens of thousands of people unemployed through no fault of their own, the retirement funds of millions of people decimated; dreams shattered; financial markets at post-Sept. 11 lows as spooked investors divert capital, the lifeblood of our free enterprise system, from U.S. corporations as they ponder how many more fiscal scandals are going to erupt.

But the greater damage — the longer-term threat — is the suspicion, bewilderment and even anger with which much of the public now views Corporate America. Hard-working Americans will demand hard answers when their latest 401(k) statements reveal that their child's college fund has evaporated, that retirement is out of the question, that their savings are gone.

Some politicians and regulators from the President on down realize how quickly this tear in the U.S. economic fabric could unravel, and they understand all too well the unpleasant consequences that could follow. While they are moving quickly, only time will tell if their efforts are successful.

Populist folksinger Woodie Guthrie, admittedly no friend in his

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**T-REX ALERT** — As part of the summer enrichment camps offered at the Fabens Middle School, these students became personally acquainted with T-Rex with the assistance to instructor Isabel Mendoza. She used the Voyager Program to help her students become experts on dinosaurs.

## Briefs

From Page 1

opportunity to learn technology application.

■ The San Elizario Independent School District's administration has moved into its new building on 1050 Chicken Ranch Road, caddy corner to Borrego Elementary School. Mail is still being accepted at P.O. Box 920, San Elizario TX, 79849. All deliveries will still be accepted at the District Warehouse, 200 N. Herring Road, San Elizario TX, 79849.

■ SWIPCC (S/W Int. Personal Computer Club) will meet Aug. 10 at 9:30, at the Chamizal Room at Ysleta ISD Administrative offices (Exit 28 on I-10). Joey Acosta, who is confined to a wheelchair, will show how he controls his environment, including lights and household appliances, with Voice Recognition equipment and software on his computer.

■ About 400 teacher aides and paraprofessionals employed in area schools in El Paso County went back to school Monday — to El Paso Community College, that is, to hear information about a new federal law that has increased the educational standards for Title I Teacher Aide positions. The new law now requires that persons employed in this position must hold or obtain a two-year degree or pass a state or local assessment exam to demonstrate ability to assist in teaching reading, writing and math.

■ Students in the San Elizario Independent School in need of physicals can obtain them on Aug. 3 in the San Elizario high school gymnasium at 8:30 a.m. The cost is \$10. For more information call 872-3970.

■ Debra Martinez, who works in the Socorro school district's Bilingual Education Department, is one of 250 U.S. grantees who will travel abroad for six weeks during the 2002-2003 academic year via the Fulbright Teacher and Administrator Exchange Program. She will spend six weeks in Guanajuato, Mexico in exchange with Rosa Elena Lima Gomez, who will come to Socorro ISD in September. The program was instituted in 1946 by legislation sponsored by the late Sen. J. William Fulbright to build understanding between people of the U.S. and the rest of the world.

■ Michelle Farley of the El Paso County Emergency Services District #1 has completed the National Fire Academy's Community Education Leadership course in Emmitsburg, Maryland, on June 28. The course provides skills needed by personnel of emergency organizations to effectively educate the public on health and safety issues. The program is provided by the U.S. Fire Administration's National Fire Academy, the Emergency Management Institute and FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency).

■ You never know who's in town. Director Spike Lee's latest movie, *The 25th Hour*, recently wrapped filming portions of the around the El Paso region including aerial footage. Much of it was done near Salt Flat, located on 62/180 between El Paso and Carlsbad, according to Susie Gaines, El Paso Film Commissioner. Although a few locals were hired, most of the crew came in from New York, where the majority of the movie was filmed. The *25th Hour* generated \$87,000 in economic impact for El Paso, Gaines said. A crime/drama slated for release Dec. 25, 2002, the film depicts the last day of freedom for a man before he begins serving a seven-year jail term for drug dealing.

## NOTICE TO PUBLIC OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT ON THE ENVIRONMENT AND NOTICE OF INTENT TO REQUEST RELEASE OF FUNDS

County of El Paso  
500 E. San Antonio, Suite #313  
El Paso, Texas 79901

West Texas County Courier  
July 25, 2002

### TO: All Interested Agencies, Groups and Persons:

Seventeen (17) days after this publication, the County of El Paso, Texas, intends to request the Office of Rural Community Affairs (ORCA) to release Federal funds under Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (P.L. 93-383) for Project No. 720016.

### Environmental Assessment Activities Reid, Robin, Cruz and Gallo Roads

An Environmental Review Record for the proposed project has been made by the County of El Paso, which documents the environmental review of the project. The Environmental review Record is on file at the Office of Community Development, El Paso County Courthouse, 500 E. San Antonio, Suite #313, El Paso, Texas 79901, and is available for public examination and copying upon request between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

### Finding of No Significant Impact

It has been determined that such a request of release of funds will not constitute an action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment and accordingly the County of El Paso has decided not to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (P.L. 91-190). The reason for such a decision not to prepare such a Statement is based upon the fact that all environmental concerns could either be minimized or mitigated.

An Environmental Review Record for the proposed project has been made by the County of El Paso that documents the environmental review of the project, and more fully sets forth the reasons why such a statement is not required. The Environmental Review Record is on file at the Office of Community Development, County of El Paso, 500 E. San Antonio, Suite #313, El Paso, Texas, 79901, and is available for public examination and copying upon request between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

### Public Comments on Findings

All interested agencies, groups and persons, disagreeing with this decision are invited to submit written comments for consideration by the County to the address as set forth above. Such written comments must be received at the address specified within sixteen (16) days after this publication. All such comments so received will be considered and the County will not request the release of funds or take administrative action on the project prior to the date specified in the proceeding sentence.

### Release of Funds

The County of El Paso will undertake the activities described above with Community Development Block Grant funds under Title I from its Program Year 2001 under grant numbered 720016 from the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974. The County of El Paso is certifying to ORCA that Dolores Briones in her official capacity as County Judge, consents to accept the jurisdiction of the Federal Courts if an action is brought to enforce responsibilities in relation to environmental reviews, decision-making and action; and that these responsibilities have been satisfied. The legal effect of the certification is that upon its approval, the County of El Paso may use the Block Grant funds and it will have satisfied its responsibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969. ORCA will accept an objection to its approval only on one or more of the bases and the procedures described in 24 CFR Part 58.75. Objections are to be addressed to the Office of Rural Community Affairs, P. O. Box 13941, Austin, Texas 78711.

Objections to the release of funds on bases other than those stated above will not be considered by the ORCA. No objections received later than thirty-three (33) days after this publication will be considered by ORCA.

*Dolores Briones*, County Judge  
500 E. San Antonio, Suite #313



# You betcha, camp was a good time

By Don Flood

Camping, it appeared, had tired our son out. But that was natural of course, after a full week of the traditional and strenuous camping activities — hiking, climbing, archery, wall-climbing, all-night poker games.

OK, they weren't all-night poker parties, but judging by the bags under my son's eyes — large enough pack a week's worth of clothes, plus a small kayak — they had continued past the average raccoon's bedtime.

It was partly our fault, of course. For some reason, we had packed for him the Play Poker Till You Drop All-Nite Party Light.

That's not what it said on the package. No, the package described it as a reading light, if you can believe that one — which, amazingly enough, we did.

As we realize now, "reading light" is a camp code word for "all-night poker light."

The stakes: candy, with a three Tootsie Roll limit. Naturally, poker isn't exactly what I expected my son to learn at camp, so I had some pretty tough questions ready for him, such as:

"In blackjack, would you split a pair of 3's if the dealer is showing a 5, 6 or 7?"

"Would you hold at 15 if the dealer is showing 9 or better?"

I wanted to know if we got our money's worth. Isn't that the point of sending your boy to camp?

You want him to have fun, of course — though perhaps not too much fun — but you also want him to learn something that will help later in life.

Learning about archery and sailing and camping is nice, but an ability to play poker is a life skill.

How often is a company president going to say, "Hey, we need Howard here for the big meeting today! If there's anybody in this company who can build a fire using just plain wooden sticks, he's our man!"

Maybe it's time to get away from the outdoor woodsy stuff and send kids to something a little more relevant.

Caring parents, I'm sure, would respond to the following pitch:

"Parents can relax knowing they have sent their children to Camp Casino, the very finest betting camp for children ages 8 through 12.

"Located in a modern high-rise betting facility far away from the unnecessary dirt and bugs that plague many camps, Camp Casino will help your children explore the fascinating world of big-league gambling.

"In addition to standards games such as Blackjack and Five Card Draw, campers will explore the finer points of craps, slots and the roulette wheel.

"Think how your child's self-esteem will grow as he or she masters the intricate rules of casino games and betting!

"And there's more! "Special-interest seminars will also teach campers about sports betting and reading a racing form.

"Here's a real-life testimonial from one satisfied father: 'Before I sent my son to Camp Casino, he didn't know a royal flush from two pair. Now he's cleaning up from the neighborhood kids and earning money for college!'

"Camp Casino — You Can Bet Your Kids Will Have a Good Time."

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### PUBLIC MEETING

The Transportation Policy Board (TPB) of the El Paso Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) will hold a **PUBLIC MEETING on FRIDAY, JULY 26, 2002, at 9:00 A.M., at The El Paso MPO Office, c/o The Gateway Business Center, 10767 Gateway Blvd. West, Suite 605, El Paso, Texas 79935**, to discuss the following agenda:

1. Approval of Minutes.
2. Discussion and Action to Appoint Steven Cheatum to the Executive Committee.
3. Discussion and Action to Accept the Recommendations of the Executive Committee on the following Items:
  - a. Approval the FY 2003 Unified Planning Work Program;
  - b. Approval of the Performance Evaluation of the Executive Director for the El Paso Metropolitan Planning Organization;
    1. Executive Session  
The Transportation Policy Board may retire into Executive Session pursuant to Section 551.074, Personnel Matters, of the Texas Government Code, to deliberate the Performance Evaluation of the Executive Director for the Metropolitan Planning Organization.
4. Discussion and Action to Amend the Unified Planning Work Program FY 2002:
  - a. Subtask 5.6 Camino Real Corridor — Border Improvement Plan
5. Discussion and Action to Amend the 2002-2006 Transportation Improvement Program:
  - a. Move Lee Trevino Drive Project # P508X from Priority 1 to Priority 2 Status;
  - b. Increase Funding for the Construction of FM 76 Phase 3 (North Loop Dr.) #P501B;
  - c. Move Paisano Drive (US 85) Project # R302X from Priority 2 to Priority 1 Status;
  - d. Increase Funding for the Transportation Management System Project # S004X Phase 7 & 10.
6. Discussion and Action on the Port Authority Task Force.

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.

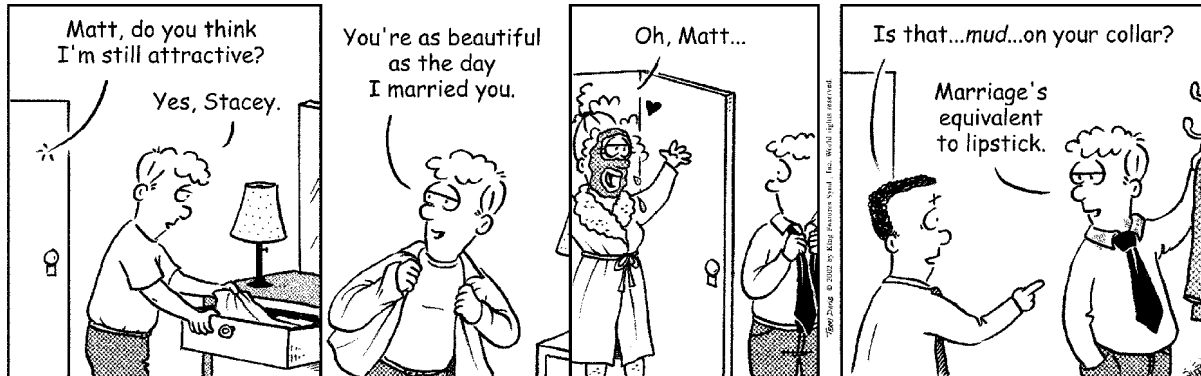
WTCC: 07/25/02

## Comix

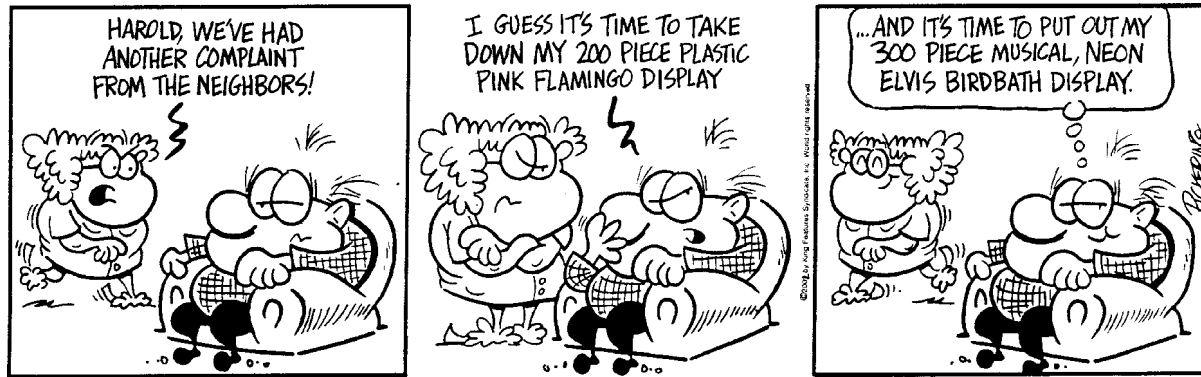
### OUT ON A LIMB By Gary Kopervas



### GOT A LIFE By Terri Davis



### THE SPATS By Jeff Pickering



### R.F.D. By Mike Marland



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MOWN	ARA	MYNA	APEX
ACH	VIOS	ERA	SAIGON
THEBLACK	HEARTS	LOLA	
TERRA	YODA	SIL	BERET
REARED	UGH	DEAL	POE
DYNASTY	ONEOFUS		
APO	NOSH	MME	SLEETS
RELAX	HOP	ANAT	SLEPT
ELAL	PLAYIT	ASITLAYS	
AFFIRM	SAW	OSLO	SRA
SUEZ	NASA	KAT	WEIR
RATTLES	REV	SWAMI	
HOI	BACTERIA	AGGIE	
AUSTRALIA	VALENE	EWING	
IGLOO	OFT	ETUDES	ANTA
REEVE	TIA	DEMOTE	MOOD

# Corporate

From Page 4

time of big business, sang, "Now as through this world I ramble, I see lots of funny men. Some will rob you with a six-gun, some with a fountain pen."

Who does more harm to society — the robber who snatches \$6,000 from the neighborhood bank, or the CEO, top executive or accounting firm official who "cooks the books," purposely misstates earnings and expenses? In the process the latter

cripples or bankrupts a multi-billion-dollar U.S. corporation and — criminal and civil misdeeds notwithstanding — undermines our way of doing business in this country.

Most crooks have a reason for their actions, a way to explain away their crime. None is acceptable.

President Bush's proposals, coupled with current statutes, hold the potential to deter and — if necessary — punish dishonest executives who view Corporate America as their low-risk, high-yield path to illicit wealth.

Corporate America must also clean its own house. It is time for

the honest, dedicated, scrupulous business leaders — who are the vast majority — to step forward and set the example that will restore confidence in our free enterprise system. There is a lot riding on their performance. After all, the United States has not prospered for 226 years by accident.

(Bill Hammond of Austin is president and CEO of the Texas Association of Business, a broad-based, bipartisan organization representing more than 140,000 small and large Texas employers and 200 local chambers of commerce.)

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Nostradamus' second cousin's ramblings were not recorded for posterity.

# WEATHER

AccuWeather.com

## SEVEN-DAY FORECAST FOR EL PASO

THURSDAY	THUR. NIGHT	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
Mostly sunny.	Partly cloudy and warm.	Hot with sunshine and some clouds.	Partly sunny.	Partly to mostly sunny and hot.	Hot with times of clouds and sunshine.	Plenty of sunshine; very hot.	Mostly sunny and hot.
▲ 92°	▼ 72°	▲ 94° ▼ 72°	▲ 94° ▼ 74°	▲ 94° ▼ 72°	▲ 96° ▼ 68°	▲ 100° ▼ 68°	▲ 100° ▼ 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	10	Very High
Saturday	10	Very High
Sunday	9	Very High
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	106°
Friday	92°
Saturday	94°
Sunday	92°
Monday	98°
Tuesday	98°
Wednesday	98°

### AGRICULTURE

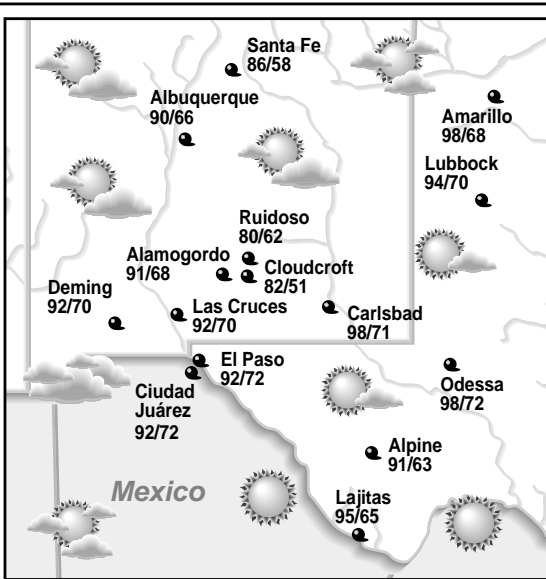
There will be 8-12 hours of sunshine on Thursday. Winds will be from the southwest at 10-20 mph and drying conditions will be excellent. A large area of high pressure will dominate the state into the weekend, bringing little opportunity for rain, and temperatures will average 3 to 6 degrees above normal.

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

### TEXAS WEATHER

Anthony	92	72
Canutillo	93	73
Clint	92	71
E. Montana	92	72
Fabens	92	71
Horizon	93	73
San Elizario	90	69
Socorro	91	71
Tornillo	92	71
Vinton	93	73

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



### TRAVELERS CITIES

City	Thur.		Fri.		Sat.		Sun.		Mon.	
	Hi/Lo	W	Hi/Lo	W	Hi/Lo	W	Hi/Lo	W	Hi/Lo	W
Albuquerque	90/66	pc	90/66	pc	90/64	pc	88/64	pc	88/62	pc
Atlanta	88/72	t	90/72	pc	92/72	pc	92/74	t	94/74	t
Atlantic City	74/62	pc	78/66	c	88/70	pc	88/70	s	90/70	t
Austin/San Antonio	98/74	s	100/74	s	102/74	s	102/74	s	98/74	s
Baltimore	82/68	pc	86/70	t	90/74	c	92/76	pc	92/73	t
Boston	76/60	s	78/64	pc	78/66	pc	84/68	pc	86/70	pc
Chicago	82/66	pc	86/70	pc	88/70	pc	86/70	pc	86/68	t
Dallas/Ft. Worth	98/76	s	100/78	s	100/78	s	100/78	s	98/72	pc
Denver	90/57	s	86/59	pc	88/57	s	86/59	s	86/59	pc
Flagstaff	82/52	pc	78/52	pc	80/52	pc	79/50	c	80/46	pc
Houston	96/74	s	94/74	s	96/76	s	96/76	s	96/76	pc
Kansas City	90/70	pc	90/72	pc	92/74	pc	92/72	pc	87/72	t
Las Vegas	102/80	s	102/80	pc	105/80	s	107/82	s	107/82	s
Miami	90/80	pc	90/80	pc	88/80	pc	88/80	pc	89/77	t
Minneapolis	78/62	sh	82/64	t	84/64	pc	86/66	t	84/62	t
New Orleans	92/78	pc	94/78	pc	94/78	s	94/78	t	94/73	pc
New York City	78/66	c	82/70	c	88/74	c	90/76	pc	90/74	s
Philadelphia	80/66	c	84/70	pc	90/72	c	92/74	pc	93/72	t
Phoenix	104/84	pc	104/84	pc	102/82	pc	102/80	pc	104/82	s
Portland	82/60	pc	80/58	pc	80/58	pc	82/56	pc	84/54	pc
San Francisco	68/56	pc	62/54	pc	62/54	pc	64/54	pc	64/54	pc
Seattle	78/56	pc	76/56	pc	74/56	pc	74/56	pc	78/54	pc
Tucson	98/76	pc	98/76	pc	96/74	pc	96/72	pc	98/74	pc
Washington, DC	84/72	pc	88/74	t	92/76	pc	94/78	t	92/76	t

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



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