

WEST TEXAS COUNTY COURIER

VOL. 29, No. 42

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

OCTOBER 17, 2002

NEWSBRIEFS

Border shooting

A Border Patrol agent was shot in the leg by smugglers in a shoot-out near Ft. Hancock in neighboring Hudspeth County on Saturday, Oct. 12 after a suspected narcotics smuggler drove his vehicle into the Rio Grande river. With two agents in pursuit, the smuggler fled on foot into Mexico. In an ambush-style fashion, gunfire erupted from the Mexican side of the river. The agent, a female officer from the Ft. Hancock Station, was wounded when a bullet came through the side of her vehicle. Extensive gunfire was exchanged, a spokesman said, before the shooters withdrew. The officer was airlifted to Thomason Hospital and was later released. The abandoned vehicle contained 1,901 pounds of marijuana, with an estimated value of \$1.5 million. Earlier last week, agents at the Ft. Hancock Station discovered 539 pounds of marijuana in the tires of a John Deere farm tractor, after stopping the vehicle on a roadway in a notorious smuggling area, about five miles east of the Ft. Hancock Port of Entry.

EPCC health fair

The Mission del Paso campus of El Paso Community College will host an International Health Fair on Tuesday, Oct. 22, 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. The event is free to the public and will offer screenings of vital signs, glucose, EKG, optical health, weight and height. The EPCC Health Occupations program students will be on hand, including students from Honduras, Panama, Dominican Republic, Guatemala, El Salvador and Nicaragua. Medicare Part B recipients may receive flu shots at no cost. Information: 831-4454.

In other news

■ This week is Homecoming Week for Mountain View High School in East Montana, with a parade on Thursday featuring State Sen. Eliot Shapleigh and State Rep. Innocente Quintanilla as Grand Marshalls, followed by a pep rally and homecoming carnival. On Friday the Lobos will play the San Elizario Eagles at 7 p.m. On Saturday the homecoming dance will feature the homecoming court which is selected based on leadership, character and service, including good grades, attendance, leadership roles and club involvement.

■ Sanchez Middle School will host a Fall Festival on Oct. 26 from noon to 5 p.m. at 321 North Rio Vista Road in Socorro. This Mission Valley campus will be filled with fun, games and entertainment, including dance teams and cheerleaders. Food booths and game booths will be on hand. Money raised from the festival will fund student enrichment programs and incentives for academic achievement. Call 872-7000.

■ The Region 19 ESC Anthony Head Start Center, 500 Popular in Anthony, Texas is now enrolling children into its pre-school center. To qualify children must be 3 or 4-years-old by Sept. 1, 2002, immunizations must be current and families must meet federal household income

See BRIEFS, Page 8

The only thing dirtier and harder to clean up than a little boy is politics.

— Quips and Quotes

Developer begins removal of unauthorized signs on Eastlake Dr.

Courier Staff Reports

HORIZON — A controversy over the placement of a political sign relating to the proposed rewrite of the Horizon City Charter erupted this week after a developer requested that the sign

be removed from Eastlake Drive.

The sign, urging Horizon City voters to turn down the proposed rewrite, had been posted on Eastlake Drive on a tract of property owned by the Texas General Land Office (GLO).

Walt Lee, a member of the group opposing the Charter rewrite on the conviction it will bring unwarranted tax burden on the community, said the sign had been taken down several times.

"We didn't know who was taking it down, so we kept putting it back up," he said.

John Ensor, a long-time community advocate, has also been involved in the effort. One day last week, while not at home, Ensor received a call from David Ballard, a developer with B&G Land Management.

In a recorded

See SIGNS, Page 4



SIGNS, SIGNS, EVERYWHERE SIGNS... — Getting your message out is going to become more expensive as the GLO begins enforcing regulations prohibiting signs that do not have paid contracts with the state of Texas. Most of the signs, shown above, at the intersection of Horizon Blvd. and Darrington Rd. will soon be removed, one source said.

Alarcon students were 'beary' generous in 9-11 remembrance

By Don Woodyard
Courier Staff Writer

SAN ELIZARIO — Students at Alarcon Elementary in the San Elizario Independent School District remembered the tragedy of 9/11 in a special way last Thursday.



BEARING GOODWILL — Sheriff's deputy Veronica Garcia accepts a donation of stuffed bears from an Alarcon student representative. The bears will help ease trauma for child victims.

See BEARS, Page 5

Dedication of Alderette building resembles a family reunion

By Don Woodyard
Courier Staff Writer

CANUTILLO — It was a gathering of families, the Jose Alderette family and the larger family of the Canutillo community, last Friday.

The occasion, attended by more than 200, was the dedication of the Canutillo Middle School building in honor of Jose J. Alderette, Sr., a pioneer Upper Valley resident. It was also a celebration of his life and recognition of his

contributions to the school district and the community as a whole.

Family members unveiled a sign reading "Jose J. Alderette, Sr." on a brick wall in front of the school on Talbot. A plaque will be placed in the present CMS building after it moves to the present high school after completion of the new high school.

Pride was a common theme in remarks from family members and others who spoke during the ceremony.

Alderette's son, Joe, said he was very proud

See ALDERETTE, Page 3

Desert Hills Elementary earns Clint district's first rating of "Exemplary"

By Debra Dominguez
Special to the Courier

HORIZON — Ask Desert Hills Elementary Principal Mark Ayala what it means for his school to have the district's first "Exemplary" Texas Education Agency Rating, and he'll respond — while trying not to get teary eyed: "It means DHE has teachers who have a great passion for teaching and genuine care



Mark Ayala

for our students. For that I truly thank them. We did it."

Ask five-year-old DHE kindergartner Victoria Rodriguez the same question, and she'll answer quite matter-of-factly: "It means our school is popular."

Whichever, the news of DHE making history by receiving the district's

first TEA Exemplary Rating ignites feelings of pride, happiness and great accomplishment for members of DHE's Bobcat family.

And if numbers don't lie, then DHE, which has a student population of 730, is doing pretty good. The school's recent Texas Assessment of Academic Skills (TAAS) scores without a doubt say it all. In reading, the school had a 91.0 percent passing ratio, in math a 95.3 percent passing ratio and in writing, a 94.1 ratio. The school also had an aggregate total of 90 percent in all three subject areas, along with a 90 percent or higher rating in all demographic subgroups.

So what's the secret to success?

"High teacher expectations, a no-excuse attitude for creating uncommon results that no one else had attained, and dedicated teachers and staff who have pride in what they do," said Ayala, whose campus was only 1.4 percent short of being named Exemplary in 2000-2001.

"I knew we had some fine-tuning to do if we wanted to take it to the next step," Ayala said. "We were all excited in 2001 when we were so close to being Exemplary."

With the smell of victory in the air, Ayala's team knew that in order to take the campus from Recognized to Exemplary in 2002, it would have to closely examine all its areas of strengths and weaknesses.

"This helped us build more cohesion within our school so that we all knew — here's where we need to be. Here's where we want to be. We didn't leave it to chance."

Newly-hired Clint ISD Superintendent Dr. Donna Smith is more than impressed with the overall academic achievement in the district. She's pretty elated.

"It's great to know that I'm coming into a district that has 11 campuses, and seven are Recognized and one is Exemplary," Smith said. "Not every district can say that. Congratulations!"



One perspective

By Francis Shrum

How things should be

"At least you don't have cancer." It may have been an odd thing to say to a teenager. After all, most teens aren't in any real danger of getting cancer. It's us old fogies who have to worry about that.

But I was making a point. I don't know how we Americans became so convinced of "how things are supposed to be." Worse yet, the way we behave when our ideals are not met is equally baffling.

We seem to think we're all entitled to have everything "good" — a mind-boggling, artificial standard set for us by economic analysts and commercial television — and when we don't have everything "good," we throw a sort of temper-tantrum, woe-is-me, pity party during which exactly nothing is accomplished.

Don't like where you are? Change it. But first maybe you ought to take a close look at whether or not your life is really all that bad.

What we need most these days is a good dose of gratitude.

A recent article in *Fortune* magazine by Noshua Watson chronicles the plight of so-called "Gen-Xers," who are just the saddest bunch of little people.

One lady worked her way through college only to find that she couldn't get the sort of job she wanted with the paycheck she felt she deserved. So she quit her field of expertise and now is working real estate to help her husband establish himself as a bar owner. Sounds like a pretty gutsy lady who is making a success of her life.

Except she describes herself as "angry" and "bitter" because she has only \$5,000 in her 401K and \$20,000 in home equity and "can't seem to catch a break."

She's only 32, apparently has an industrious husband, and says nothing about bad health, a handicapped child, ailing parents, or a recent house fire.

Poor thing. And she doesn't have cancer, although she may develop bad health from worrying so much about how she is going to pay for health care.

The article goes on to say: "Ideally, someone her age should have at least \$100,000 stashed away."

Says who? Maybe that is the "ideal" but who among us is living the "ideal" life? And who gave economic "experts" the right to tell Americans what they should or should not have when there is nothing more certain in life than its uncertainties?

Setting financial goals is one thing, but letting yourself somehow believe your nation owes you the fulfillment of those goals is nothing short of irrational.

I don't feel sorry for the lady because of her financial situation. I do feel sorry for her because at 32 all she can do is look back on her life with extreme dissatisfaction because she hasn't been provided all she perceives as her due.

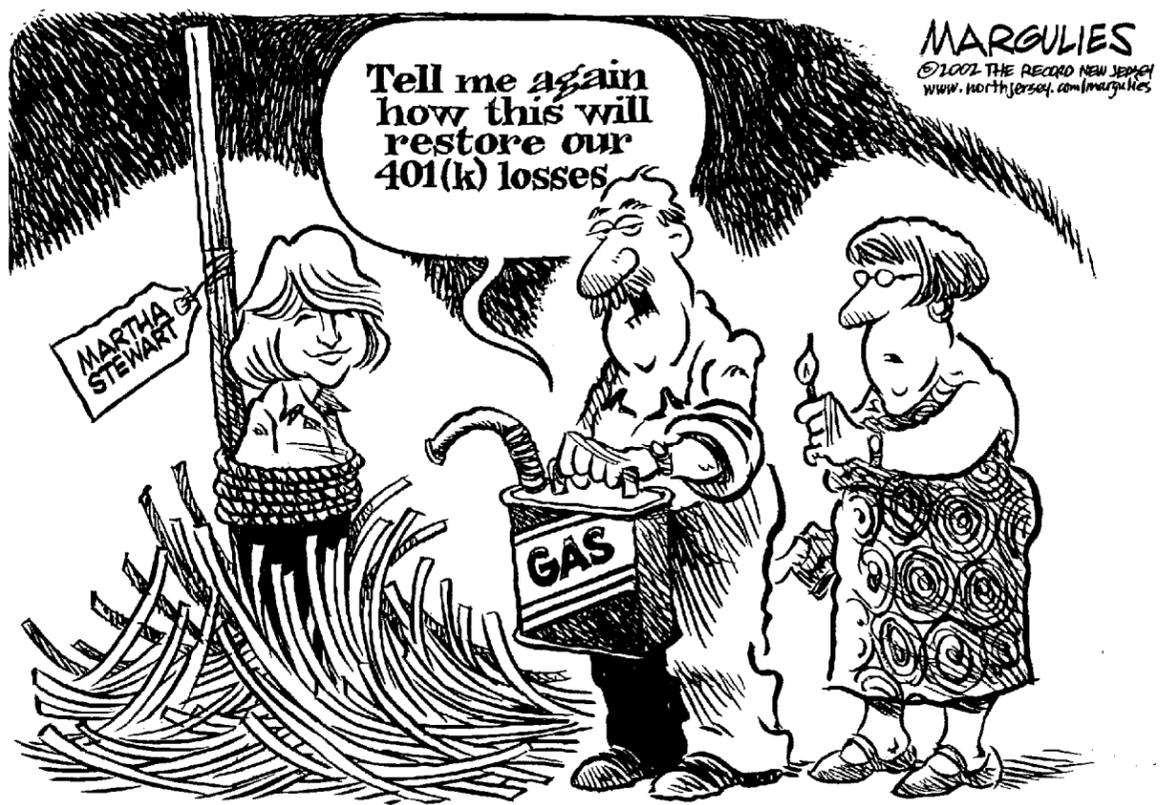
Guess what — life is hard and then you die. If you are not in pain you're probably dead. Things are tough all over. Shall I go on?

Life isn't fair, but it is 90 percent what you make of it, and the rewards that really count are not those that can be deposited in the bank or listed on your portfolio.

The inability of our young people to "roll with the blows" is a little disconcerting. The ingenuity, gut-level courage, and sense of humor that brought many of our ancestors



"I WAS ALL FOR PRESIDENT BUSH'S SCHOOL CHOICE PLAN UNTIL MY MOM TOLD ME THAT NOT ATTENDING WASN'T ONE OF THE CHOICES...."



through adversity is sadly missing in the character of young America.

I knew a minister once who lost his corporate employment a few months shy of his maximum social security retirement benefit. So he went to work flipping burgers at McDonald's. He was able to produce many a humorous and enlightening

sermon from his experiences.

That kind of thinking is in short supply these days. Instead of counting the blessings we have, our national mentality seems bent on lamenting those we don't.

I recently watched a television interview with an elderly man who had just joined a hockey team com-

posed of 80-plus-year-olds. He said a good practice session for his team was if nobody had to be taken to the hospital.

When asked how he was doing personally, he replied, "Well, I haven't been painted over yet."

Hallelujah. That's how it should be.

WEST TEXAS COUNTY COURIER

SERVING ANTHONY, VINTON, CANUTILLO, EAST MONTANA, HORIZON, SOCORRO, CLINT, FABIENS, SAN ELIZABO AND TORRELLA

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: wtccc@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.



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

It's time to kill the death tax

In America we get a certificate when we're born, a license when we marry, and a bill when we die. As unfair as it is, the federal government actually taxes us when we die - and it's not a cheap bill. In fact, it's so expensive to die in

this country, that the loved ones we leave behind pay a huge price.

Not only do our loved ones have to deal with funeral arrangements, memorial services and comforting each other through a tough time, they have to deal with the IRS, which is hovering in the wings ready to take a bite out of what many hard working Americans leave behind.

This is not a tax that only wealthy Americans have to deal with. The death tax hits farmers, ranchers and small business owners especially hard. When it comes to farms and ranches, assets are often tied up in land that has been passed down through the family for generations.

Not a lot of people have thousands of dollars in their bank accounts to pay off the death taxes. Often times families have to sell off part or all of their land just to pay the taxes. This is causing the demise of the American farm and ranch. The death tax is simply un-American.

The fact that we are so heavily taxed when we die is unjust, cruel and extremely insulting. After all, part of the

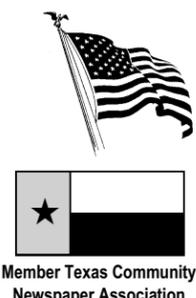
American dream is to make life better for our children and grandchildren. But because of the way the current tax laws are written, leaving our children a farm, ranch or family business is very difficult, if not impossible.

According to the National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB), one-third of small business owners today will have to sell a part or all of their firms to pay estate taxes, more commonly referred to as the "death tax." Half of those who must liquidate to settle with the IRS will have to eliminate 30 or more jobs.

Last week the House of Representatives voted again to end the death tax. It's now in the hands of the Senate - and they must act! Texas is lucky to have two Senators who are working hard to kill this burdensome tax, but it takes more than two. Repealing this tax will make it easier for people to pass their businesses and farms down to their children and grandchildren - a cherished part of the American dream.

No one should have to meet the undertaker and the IRS on the same day. It's time to bury the federal death tax. The winners will be consumers, small businesses, family farms and loving families all over the country who have enough to think about when there is a death in their household.

Paying Uncle Sam should not be part of the grieving process.





RICHMOND BROOKS
TIMES DISPATCH

"...AND THE BAD NEWS IS YOU COULDN'T WIN IN FLORIDA UNDER THE NEW SYSTEM, EITHER..."



©2002 THE AUSTIN CHRONICLE

Social Security: Q & A By Ray Vigil

Q: My Social Security Statement shows I do not have enough work credits to qualify for Social Security retirement benefits. But I expect to get benefits on my ex-husband's Social Security record. Can I get a copy of his Social Security Statement?

A: To receive benefits based on your ex-husband's work record, you must have been married to him for at least 10 years. If your former spouse is still living, privacy rules prohibit us from giving you his statement. But if you call or visit your local Social Security office, we can tell you what benefits you may be entitled to, after we have established your relationship to him.

Q: Why does my Statement have my old address on it? I moved months ago.

A: If you received a Social Security Statement showing an incorrect address that means the U.S. Postal Service forwarded it to you. It also means you need to contact the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) (1-800-829-3676) to ask for a change of address form (IRS Form 8822). Otherwise you may not get your Statement next year. Social Security doesn't maintain addresses for people who are not receiving monthly benefits. Instead, IRS furnishes Social Security with the addresses for the Statements.

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

Village of Vinton PUBLIC NOTICE

A PUBLIC HEARING will be held at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, October 21, 2002 during the Planning Commission meeting at Vinton Village Hall, 436 Vinton Rd., Vinton, Texas. Purpose of the public hearing is to allow any interested persons to appear and testify regarding the following proposed items:

- 1) Consider and take action on preliminary plat on portions of Tracts 5C and 6, Maria Rodriguez Survey No. 35, Village of Vinton, El Paso County, Texas (corner of I-10 and Valley Chile Road).
- 2) Consider and take action on request for Special Permit to allow a Wooden Pallet Business on Lot 10, Block 1 Vinton Hills Commercial Park, Unit 1, Village of Vinton, El Paso County, Texas (located on Vinton Road).

Those who are unable to attend may submit their views in writing to the Village Clerk of the Village of Vinton.

CAMILLE CASTILLO
Village Clerk

WTCC: 10/17/02



FAMILY HERITAGE — Jose (Chuy) Alderete's children address audience during dedication ceremony at Canutillo Middle School. Shown from left, Emily Franco, Joe Alderete Jr, and Margie Chacon stand before the wall that now bears their father's name.

Alderette

From Page 1

of this recognition of the fact that his "dad did something right for the community; we thank you all." Echoing her brother, Emily added, "It is an honor to be a part of all of these families. In our hearts, mom and dad are with us here today. Thank you for joining us in this proud day." Also taking part in the unveiling was another sister, Margie.

U.S. Rep. Silvestre Reyes, whose family roots are in Canutillo, was the featured speaker. His mother, Estella, was Alderette's sister.

As a nephew and a "proud member" of the family, Reyes spoke

with affection for his "Uncle Chuy," noting that no one stands so tall as he who stoops to help a child. "This community has given so much to our family. You honor Chuy; you honor an American story. You honor an American legacy."

Reyes paid tribute to the family. He said the character we are taught to us by our parents. "We are who our parents make us."

He added, "We are Americans because we are proud of our country." Listing the names of families linked to the Alderette's by marriage, he said, "We are diversity, diversity that makes our country great."

"Our blood, sweat and tears have made this country great."

Museum of Art

EXPERIENCE LIFE WITH ESTILO

Estilo. Style. San Antonio pulsates with it. From historic architecture to cultural flare, the greatest challenge you'll face is taking it all in. That's why staying in Balcones Heights makes sense. At the crossroads of San Antonio, we put it all within reach. Call 1.866.CORAZON or visit www.heartofsa.com for info, discounts and reservations.

The Heart of San Antonio
balcones heights

Horizon Council approves three police volunteer programs

By Arleen Beard
Special to the Courier

HORIZON CITY — Horizon City Police Chief Antonio Aguilar presented three programs to the Horizon City Council on Oct. 8, during the regularly scheduled City Council meeting, seeking approval to begin implementing the programs.

Chief Aguilar said he and his staff have been hoping to implement programs that would involve community members in keeping Horizon City safe.

The three programs include a Police Volunteer Program, a Citizens Police Academy and Emergency Management Volunteers.

Citizens who become involved in the Police Volunteer Program would be asked to help with the myriad of administrative details necessary to manage a modern police department.

The volunteers will work at all hours of the day, throughout the department. Some duties include answering phones, typing, entering computer data, and running errands, to name a few. The volunteers would work the hours that best suit their preferences.

The Citizen's Police Academy is a course of instruction conducted by the Department. Topics include training, communications, criminal investigations, Internal Affairs Investigations, and specialty teams. Emphasis is on patrol operations, the area of police work where the majority of citizen/police contact is made. Any citizen who is at least 21 years of age and has a sincere desire to learn about the Department may attend.

This academy is to provide citizens of Horizon with an orientation of the mission, structure, and the philosophies of the Horizon City Police Department. It is designed to in-

crease the level of police/community cooperation and to encourage citizens to become active participants in community policing.

The Emergency Management Volunteers (EMVs) will be part of the Emergency Management Preparedness Team for the Town of Horizon City. EMVs will be called out to assist in case of major emergencies, such as high-wind destruction, flash-floods, tornadoes, explosions, terrorist attacks, and so forth. These volunteers are subject to be called upon when needed, seven days a week, 24 hours a day. Citizens who are at least 21 years of age are eligible to apply.

Applications for any of the above mentioned programs are available at the Horizon City Police Chief's office. Background checks will be performed on all volunteer applications and will be processed by the Police Sergeant before being permitted to perform volunteer work. Further detailed information regarding any of

the programs may be obtained at the Horizon City Police Department.

After presentation of the programs, City Council approved the implementation of each of the programs.

In other business, City Council received an update regarding the School Resource Officer Program with the Clint Independent School District. The full-time SRO has been reduced to a part-time SRO to work three hours a day, five days a week during the peak school hours at \$18.50 per hour at the expense of the Clint ISD. Final approval is pending approval from the Clint ISD School Board. Most of the efforts for the SRO would be concentrated at the new Horizon Middle/High School.

Mayor Pat Randleel appointed Joe Paxton and Lynn Cordova to the Planning and Zoning Board and also appointed Rudy Alvarez and George Cordova to the Board of Adjustment.

Signs

From Page 1

message, after identifying himself, Ballard requested that Ensor's group remove the sign or face charges of trespassing.

"I'm trying to keep signs off of this Eastlake Blvd. Anybody putting signs out there is trespassing on the state property (that) we have under contract, and the state has authorized us to remove the signs.

"So please do me and you and everybody else a favor and make sure that the sign gets down. I would really appreciate it. Sorry to have to be this way but we've taken the sign down a couple of times already and you all insist on putting it back up," Ballard's message said.

A local pizzeria was also asked by Ballard to remove their sign from the same tract of property along Eastlake Drive.

However, Lee said this week that he doesn't understand why Ballard is removing all signs from the property with the exception of those promoting enterprises in which Ballard has interests.

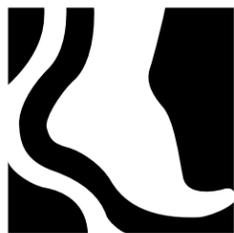
In a later interview, Ballard said his purpose in contacting Ensor was to avoid having to take legal action. He said all of the signs that will remain on the GLO property are either authorized by paid contract or because they promote projects that are specifically beneficial to the GLO. He noted that projects on which the GLO makes profit specifically benefit the Texas Permanent School Fund.

Ballard said removal of the other signs is intended to clean up the area — he said his company has been involved with two major Eastlake Dr. clean-ups in recent months. He said it is his understanding that the GLO will be targeting other unauthorized signs, such as those outside Horizon City limits at the intersection of Horizon Blvd. and Darrington Road, for removal as well.

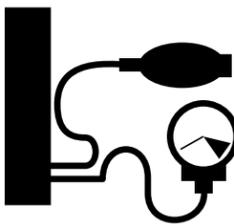
Emily Rostvold, press secretary with the GLO, said that technically "Mr. Ballard does not have the authority to file a trespass complaint on behalf of the Land Office. However, as a citizen, Mr. Ballard or anyone else can notify local law enforcement if they observe laws being broken such as theft of sand, destruction of property, building a structure, etc."

She further said that any use of GLO land "must have a permit in the form of an easement or lease."

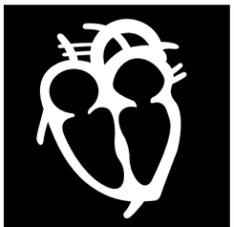
In reference to GLO property under purchase contract she said that "we will not issue permission to anyone wanting to use the land without agreement from the Purchaser. Those who have permits pay rent and have other contract obligations that must be followed."



Horizon City Health Fair



SPONSORED BY
Horizon City Lion's Club and Del Sol Medical Center
Oz Glaze Senior Center



9 A.M. - 2 P.M. ON SATURDAY, OCT. 26, 2002
Oz Glaze Senior Center
13969 Veny Webb
852-0062



FREE SCREENINGS

- Blood Sugar*
- Blood Pressure
- Vision
- Cholesterol
- Wound Assessment
- Hearing and Speech

* Participants are encouraged to wait 2 hours after eating before they have their blood sugar tested.



FLU AND PNEUMONIA SHOTS

- Provided by ProAction
- Cost is \$15.00 (Medicare accepted)

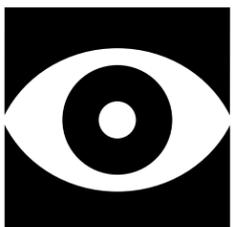


INFORMATION

- Cancer
- Sleep Disorders
- Maternity
- Women's Services
- Hip, Knee, and Shoulder Pain

Children's Emergency I.D. Cards (Fingerprinting)

Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) Registration



FOR MORE INFORMATION:



Horizon City Lion's Club
852-1988
Del Sol Medical Center
594-5938



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

Tornillo youth attends national conference

EAST EL PASO COUNTY — Theresa Chavez of Tornillo attended the Global Young Leaders Conference (GYLC) this summer in Washington, D.C. and New York City.

The GYLC is a unique leadership development program for secondary school students from around the world who have demonstrated leadership potential and scholastic merit. Chavez is among 350 scholars from around the world attending the Conference.

The theme of the GYLC is Leaders of Tomorrow Preparing for Global Challenges and Responsibility of the Future. Chavez is interacting with key leaders and newsmakers with powerful influence over politics, finance, culture and diplomacy, and is taking part in a carefully designed curriculum, which includes thought-provoking simulations to build leadership skills.

"The events of Sept. 11 have made it more important than ever for young people like Theresa

Chavez to become involved in preventing other similar acts in the future," said Michael Lasday, Executive Director of the Congressional Youth Leadership Council (CYLC), the organization that sponsors the GYLC.

Past highlights of the program include welcoming remarks at the National Press Club, a briefing at the U.S. Department of State, an address at the United Nations and site visits at financial institutions on Wall Street, among several other events.

Theresa Chavez, 17, is a senior at Loretto Academy, a member of National Honor Society, Teens in Prevention, member of the Texas State 4-H Council, District VI 4-H Council, president of the El Paso County 4-H Teen Council, president of Desert Valley 4-H Club, member of El Paso Horse Club, and a member of the El Paso Leadership Team.

She expressed appreciation for the donors who made her attendance possible.



Bears

From Page 1

dispute.

"I have seen a child traumatized," Garcia says. "They are crying. We give them a bear. It is a security blanket, and it comforts the child and gives them something to hold onto. It is a wonderful idea.

"It is nice seeing kids helping other kids — to come up with this idea to

help others less fortunate," she adds.

The other 87 bears went to the Battered Women's Shelter in the name of the San Elizario Fire Department.

Cathy Hale, the school librarian and coordinator for the event, says this will not be a one-time event. The Student Council will have an annual community service project to honor those who died.

In the face of the tragedy of 9/11, Hale says the students wanted to do something special in remembrance of what happened. Rather than just re-

Socorro ISD plans sessions to help parents of gifted and talented children

EAST EL PASO COUNTY — The Socorro Independent School District is offering a training and support group for all parents of gifted and talented children. Dr. Maria Arias, Director of the District's Gifted and Talented program, is planning the series of sessions to help all parents find the best ways to grow and challenge their gifted and talented offspring. "We'll have English-Spanish translation service available during the sessions," Arias says, "and we encourage all parents to participate if they think they might have a G&T child. Sometimes these children are bored with school, and have never been tested for G&T abilities."

Lynn de Leon is the instructional specialist for the G&T program. "When parents speak on behalf of

their children, people listen. The more involved parents become, the better the education is for their children," she says. "For example, how do we find resources to challenge these kids?"

This is the second year the District has sponsored meetings. The sessions are scheduled from 6-7:30 p.m. in the Board Room at the Socorro Education Center, 12300 Eastlake Drive. The meetings are open to parents throughout the city.

This year's topics and dates include:

- October 29, 2002: Finding Resources and Support — Where can I find the most current information and support groups to help my gifted child?

- January 7, 2003: Scholarships for the Gifted Child - Information pro-

vided on summer scholarships available for gifted children and how to apply.

- February 4, 2003: Nurturing Social and Emotional Growth - Ideas and strategies on how to effectively deal with the unique personalities and needs of these children.

- April 1, 2003: Learning Outside of the Classroom - Setting up mentorships and partnerships between the gifted child, the school, and the community; encouraging our children to become civic leaders today and global leaders tomorrow.

- May 1, 2003: Gifted Showcase - First-ever Gifted Fair! Student projects and presentations from all over the District will be on display.

For more information, contact De Leon, 860-3605.

Canutillo ISD accepting letters of interest for board vacancy

UPPER VALLEY — Canutillo Independent School District Board of Trustees voted recently to accept letters of interest from district residents who want to be considered for appointment to the Board position left vacant by the resignation of Carl Frieze.

His term ends in May, 2004. However, the individual selected to fill Frieze's position will serve until

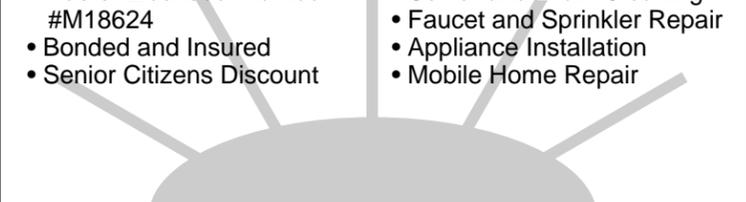
May 2003 when the next Board elections are held.

Frieze submitted his letter of resignation and the Board accepted it during the Oct. 8 regular school board meeting. He stated that he was resigning for personal reasons.

To be eligible for consideration, an individual must be a United States citizen, 18 years of age, a registered

voter, resident of Canutillo ISD for six months, and be willing to serve without compensation.

Individuals should submit a letter of interest to Canutillo ISD Board of Trustees President, 7965 Artcraft Road, or mail to P.O. Box 100, Canutillo, Texas 79835. The deadline is 4 p.m., Friday, Oct. 18. For more information, call 877-7444.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Master Licensed Plumber #M18624 • Bonded and Insured • Senior Citizens Discount 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sewer and Drain Cleaning • Faucet and Sprinkler Repair • Appliance Installation • Mobile Home Repair
 <p>Horizon Plumbing 852-1079</p>	

A CLEAR CHOICE

PUBLIC SERVICE

ENDORSEMENTS:

- Texas Farm Bureau
- Veterans of Foreign Wars — PAC
- Texas Association of Business
- National Rifle Association

AWARDS:

- Guardian of Small Business (NFIB)
- Property Rights Champion (League of Private Property Voters)
- American Cancer Society Public Policy Leadership
- Friend of the Taxpayer Award (Americans for Tax Reform)
- Champion of Small Business (Small Business Survival Committee)
- Guardian of Seniors' Rights
- National Association of Community Health Centers Champion of the Year Award
- TRIO Honorary Achiever Award (Education)

HONORS:

- Co-Chair Congressional Border Caucus
- Co-Chair Community Health Center Caucus
- Rural Health Care Coalition (Steering Committee Member)



BONILLA

Paid for by Texans for Henry Bonilla, Jill DeYoung, Treasurer

SELF SERVICE

Next time you see Henry Cuellar, ask him, "Why?"

WHY did Henry Cuellar suddenly *quit* as Secretary of State after only eight months, *without explanation and without telling the Republican Governor who appointed him?*

WHY did Henry Cuellar request *compensation pay*, expecting taxpayers to pay his salary as Secretary of State, *even after he left?*

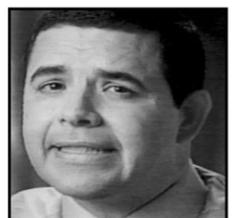
WHY did Henry Cuellar suddenly *quit* the Texas Legislature, leaving his district without representation as *a critical legislative session* began?

WHY did Henry Cuellar pass *laws that benefitted his business?*

WHY did Henry Cuellar *give up* our seniority in the State House and now wants to take away our seniority in the US Congress?

WHY is Henry Cuellar supported by Hillary Clinton and Ted Kennedy?

HENRY CUELLAR TOO MANY QUESTIONS TOO LITTLE TRUST



TV viewers must learn to face reality

By Don Flood

By now you have probably heard about the continuing onslaught of TV "reality" shows.

In fact, if you're like most Americans, you're trying to line up your own reality show.

Once upon a time, Americans used to be concerned about Peeping Toms invading their privacy.

Nowadays, they're ashamed if the most intimate details of their private lives aren't broadcast on big-screened TVs.

(Why these "peepers" were always named Tom, I don't know. Perhaps some of my readers — especially those named Tom — could shed some light on this bizarre phenomenon.)

But let's say your family is too boring even for a reality show.

Let's say, for instance, that all your family does is watch reality shows.

Would that, in turn, make a good reality show?

I don't think so, but I have a feeling TV executives are beginning to scrape the barrel, so your family might still stand a chance!

Here's why: they're resurrecting both "The Beverly Hillbillies" and "Green Acres" — as reality shows!

No, they're not bringing back Jed Clampett or Granny or even Ellie May, they're taking a "real" rural family and sticking them in a Beverly Hills mansion, where they can fix vittles, swim in the cee-ment pond and in general alarm the neighbors with their hillbilly antics.

What fun!

And "Green Acres," naturally, will show rich city folks moving to the countryside.

According to a CNN.com story, the idea is to have cameras "observe as the former socialites, deprived of

access to bank accounts and beemers, attempt to get a job, buy groceries and fit in with average Americans."

What a hoot!

Watching people buy groceries! Imagine!

How are we to get on with the daily business of our lives when they keep serving up an endless supply of must-see TV?

Here's the thing though. It may be just a teensy-weensy difficult for the rich folks to "fit in with average Americans" when they're accompanied by a team of cameramen.

Then again, maybe that's what Americans expect in 2002:

"Hey, honey, did you meet the folks who moved in next door? Seem like a nice couple, and their camera crew is very polite."

And TV's trash heap includes more classics that can be recycled as reality shows, such as:

"My Mother the Car" — Admittedly something of a technical challenge, this show would require taking a mother and morphing her into an automobile. As in the original '60s show, the mom would speak through the car radio.

In the interest of updating the show, of course, it might be necessary to change it to "My Mother the SUV."

Another good update would be to give it a "Fast and the Furious" slant, with the son drag racing his fuel-injected, all-wheel-drive mom around town. ("Oh, my aching tires! Take it easy on the corners, son!")

Sure, she might balk at being turned into a car, but tell your mom it's her chance to be on her very own reality TV show!

(c) 2002 King Features Synd., Inc.

Putting a sports arena at Ascarate has that familiar smell of failure

By Steve Escajeda
Special to the Courier

To vote for it or vote against it? Now that is one heck of a question.

At last, the long-awaited sports arena El Paso has been asking for is only a vote away.

But there's one hitch.

The El Paso County Commissioners shocked everyone within a 100-mile radius of the city last week by choosing the property at Ascarate Park as the place on which to build the new 10,000-seat arena.

Of all the potential sites that have been tossed around over the last couple of years, Ascarate Park was never among them.

What happened to the Airport? Or Downtown, or next to Cohen Stadium? What about far East El Paso, the Westside or out near Anthony?

Of all the places to put a new state-of-the-art arena, why did they pick Ascarate Park?

There is no room for the additional businesses that always pop-up around major arenas like restaurants, shops, motels and nightclubs. And what about access? How are you going to get 10,000 people to and from Ascarate without creating a full-scale bumper-to-bumper wait-a-thon?

I guess the real question we should be asking ourselves is: Why are we surprised that Dolores Briones and the rest of the El Paso County Commissioners picked Ascarate Park?

Didn't we already know that if there is one thing the County Commissioners could always be counted on...it's doing the absolute opposite of the best, wisest, most appropriate, smartest, proper and correct thing.

Collectively this group is having a worse season than the UTEP football team.

I mean, this is the same group of visionaries that chased Western Playland from the area, and seemingly holds monthly meetings to pick the right color tiles to patch the Coliseum roof with...again.

The commissioners of the past were no different. They promised a world-class Olympic-sized aquatics center and built a glorified hole in the ground, instead.

And there's no truth to the rumor that Ascarate golf course is in such bad shape that the normal progression of shots is from the tee, to the fairway, to the "brown."

And don't forget that collaborative effort from the current commissioners and their predecessors with Ascarate Lake. The fact is that fish stand a better chance of survival

walking along the lake's edge than actually swimming in it.

So what are our options here? Do we vote for a mere 10,000-seat stadium when we already have a 12,000-seater at UTEP and a 14,000 seat job just 45 miles away in Las Cruces?

Do we vote for an arena location that just might be the worst decision the County Court has come up with since asking for a raise?

I say "no," but unfortunately, the answer might just be...yes. Maybe the lesser of two evils is the way to go.

Why? Against my better judgment, like it or not, we're running out of options. Do you remember how long it took for the Cohen Stadium canopy — which was last seen in the skies over Vancouver — to get completed?

The fact still remains that this town of nearly 700,000 people and a couple million within a 50-mile radius deserves a big arena of 16-18,000 seats. We've been told that if we build anything over 10,000 seats we'll lose \$1 million a year. But the only guy saying this is County Coliseum boss Brian Kennedy.

Has anyone verified this? Is Kennedy the only authority we have around here on arenas? Could he have an ulterior motive? Has anyone asked these questions?

I guess I am.

Why in the world can't we build a 16-18,000-seat state-of-the-art arena in the best location possible for the majority of El Pasoans?

If something like that is built imagine what might make its way here: Arena football, conventions, mega concerts, world-class championship boxing matches and rodeos and much more. The Buzzards even get a new home.

If you say you have a 16,000-seat arena near motels, restaurants with easy access — ears around the country will perk up. El Paso will be seen in a different light, as a real player.

No more straight to Phoenix, Tucson, Albuquerque, San Antonio and even Las Cruces. El Paso can start forming a new positive image of aggressively moving forward...even if the County Commissioners personify the old one.

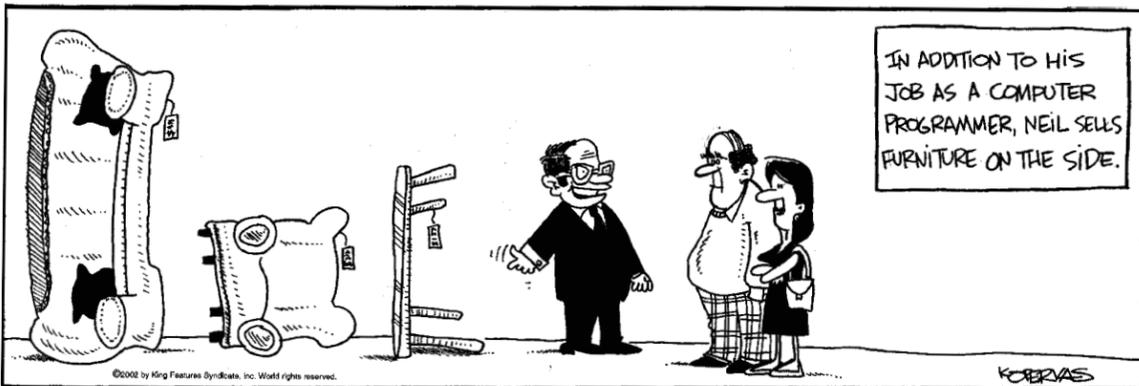
How can any thinking El Pasoan with a thimbleful of common sense want this long-awaited arena near Ascarate Park?

What are the County Commissioner's afraid of — success? This plan smells like failure. But heck, they should be used to that by now.

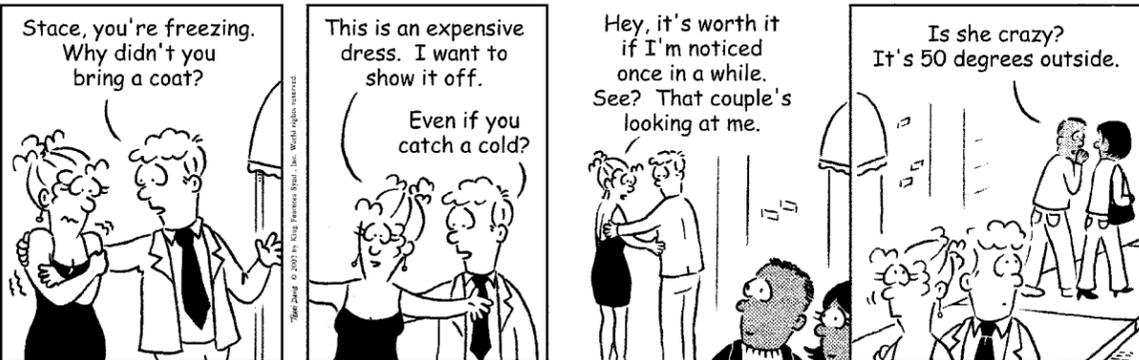
It's the only thing they're consistently good at.

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



Pepperoni's Pizza & Deli

852-2544
Limited Delivery Area

Chinese Food
Burgers & Subs



Put us to
work for you.
852-3235

WEST TEXAS COUNTY
COURIER

Newspapers work!



Briefs

From Page 1

guidelines. The Anthony Head Start Center will enroll for A.M. or P.M. sessions. Region 19 ESC Head Start and Early Head Start provides comprehensive child development programs which serve children birth to age 5, pregnant woman, and their families. Head Start offers child focus programs to increase the school readiness of young children in low-income families. For more information or to schedule an appointment call

886-2759 or 877-1095.

■ The Socorro ISD Annual Marchfest hosted a lively turnout in the audience and 19 enthusiastic groups performing a variety of traditional military, classical and jazz music on Oct. 9. Americas High School Band was among those awarded a "Superior" rating; Clint's Mountain View and Socorro's Montwood and Socorro High bands were pronounced "Excellent," and Anthony, Fabens, and San Elizario High Schools were rated "Good."

■ Rep. Henry Bonilla has announced a \$2 billion increase for

veterans health care funding. As a member of the House Appropriations Committee, Bonilla lobbied for this increase. "Our nation's veterans are an especially important group of Americans," Bonilla said. "Many of them made their commitment to our country at a very young age. And many of them made service to country their life and career. Their service and loyalty is unparalleled. Now more than ever, we must protect the health and happiness of our veterans." This funding for veterans medical care will amount to \$23 billion, \$1 billion more than the president's request and \$2 billion more than last year's

funding, to assist more than 172 medical centers, 43 domiciliaries, 137 nursing homes and 864 outpatient clinics which include independent, satellite, community based and rural outreach clinics. Bonilla also recently introduced a resolution calling for the issuance of an annual postage stamp commemorating the country's veterans. Once in print, a new and unique stamp would be released each year on Veterans' Day.

■ Texas animal health officials are urging poultry, fowl and game bird owners to check their flocks and report signs of illness among birds after Exotic Newcastle Dis-

ease (END), a highly contagious virus among birds, was confirmed Oct. 1 near Los Angeles, California. While END poses no threat to human health, some strains of the virus can kill nearly 100 percent of affected birds. "By reporting signs of disease immediately, the effects of outbreaks can be minimized," said Dr. Max Coats, assistant deputy director for Animal Health Programs at the Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC), the state's livestock health regulatory agency. He urged flock owners to check birds and report signs of illness to the TAHC at 1-800-550-8242.

WEATHER

AccuWeather.com

SEVEN-DAY FORECAST FOR EL PASO

THURSDAY	THUR. NIGHT	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
Clouds and sunshine; a stray p.m. shower. ▲ 74°	Partly to mostly cloudy with a shower possible. ▼ 50°	Mostly cloudy, cool; showers, maybe thunder. ▲ 70° ▼ 46°	Maybe a shower to start, then partly sunny. ▲ 72° ▼ 46°	Mostly sunny and warmer. ▲ 76° ▼ 44°	Abundant sunshine. ▲ 76° ▼ 44°	Sunny. ▲ 78° ▼ 48°	Sunshine and a few clouds. ▲ 80° ▼ 50°

UV INDEX Statistics for noon.

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

Thursday	6	Moderate
Friday	4	Low
Saturday	6	Moderate
Sunday	7	High
Monday	7	High
Tuesday	7	High
Wednesday	7	High

REAL FEEL TEMP™

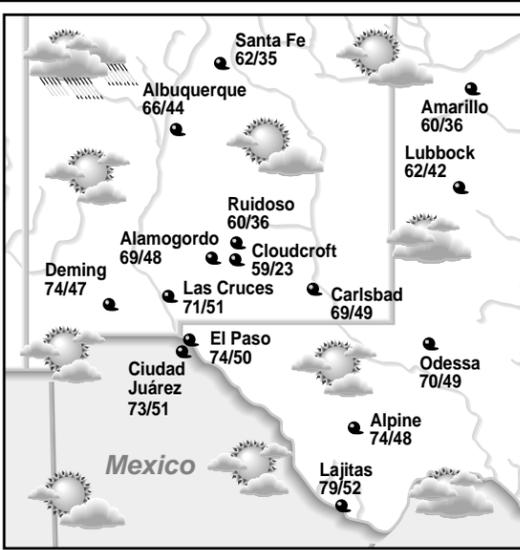
The exclusive AccuWeather composite of the effects of temperature, wind, humidity, sunshine, precipitation, and elevation on the human body.

Thursday	77°
Friday	59°
Saturday	61°
Sunday	64°
Monday	72°
Tuesday	76°
Wednesday	75°

TEXAS WEATHER

Anthony	73	53
Canutillo	74	54
Clint	73	52
E. Montana	74	50
Fabens	73	52
Horizon	74	54
San Elizario	71	51
Socorro	73	50
Tornillo	73	52
Vinton	74	54

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	66/44/pc	62/42/c	64/43/pc	65/42/s	67/38/s
Atlanta	66/49/pc	68/46/s	69/50/s	63/51/pc	67/48/pc
Atlantic City	66/46/s	60/42/pc	61/42/pc	59/41/pc	61/31/pc
Austin/San Antonio	76/54/s	68/58/sh	75/58/r	72/56/c	69/57/c
Baltimore	63/39/s	59/41/pc	63/44/pc	63/41/pc	62/33/pc
Boston	60/44/pc	60/42/pc	56/44/pc	58/43/pc	57/34/pc
Chicago	44/32/sh	46/32/pc	52/36/sh	50/33/pc	46/37/c
Dallas/Ft. Worth	72/52/s	63/53/c	65/53/r	68/53/pc	68/50/pc
Denver	64/34/s	66/39/s	63/36/s	63/34/s	59/29/s
Flagstaff	58/32/pc	60/28/pc	62/28/s	60/28/s	56/24/s
Houston	76/57/pc	76/60/sh	78/62/sh	78/60/sh	72/58/c
Kansas City	53/33/pc	55/39/s	60/41/pc	60/37/pc	59/44/s
Las Vegas	80/54/pc	80/56/s	78/54/s	82/55/s	80/55/s
Miami	83/70/s	85/72/pc	87/74/pc	87/75/pc	87/71/s
Minneapolis	38/26/c	42/32/pc	48/34/pc	43/29/pc	44/25/c
New Orleans	72/57/s	74/59/s	78/63/sh	78/60/r	76/63/c
New York City	62/48/s	56/46/pc	56/48/pc	59/48/c	60/42/pc
Philadelphia	62/46/s	59/44/pc	62/48/pc	62/44/c	60/40/pc
Phoenix	84/62/pc	82/60/pc	86/62/s	84/62/s	84/56/s
Portland	74/46/s	70/46/pc	66/46/pc	67/47/s	65/47/s
San Francisco	68/54/pc	66/54/pc	66/54/pc	68/52/pc	68/52/s
Seattle	68/46/s	64/46/pc	62/48/pc	62/48/pc	59/50/pc
Tucson	82/56/pc	78/54/pc	82/52/pc	83/55/s	82/51/s
Washington, DC	65/48/s	61/44/pc	60/46/pc	59/45/c	62/37/pc

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

AGRICULTURE

A strong upper-level low approaching from the west could trigger a shower across the area late Thursday or Thursday night; otherwise, expect 4-8 hours of sunshine Thursday. There is a better chance for a few showers and even a thunderstorm Friday and Friday night. Rainfall by Saturday morning will generally be 0.10 to 0.40 of an inch.

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

NO OTHER VAC DOES ALL OF THIS!

\$99 Available Only At Lowe's

shop-vac 16 Gallon 5.5 Peak HP Pump Vac #205046

DRY PICKUP. WET PICKUP. BUILT IN PUMP OUT FEATURE.

YOU DON'T NEED A SHOP TO NEED A SHOP-VAC! BRAND

Available Only At **LOWE'S** Home Improvement Warehouse

shop-vac THE ORIGINAL WET DRY VAC

Use this list when you buy your wet/dry vac.

- ✓ Built In Pump Feature
- ✓ Genuine Shop-Vac Brand
- ✓ Low Profile Anti-Tip Design
- ✓ Quietest Wet/Dry Vac Available
- ✓ Extra Large Tool Basket
- ✓ Convertible Blower Port
- ✓ High Performance Cartridge Filter
- ✓ Lock-On Hose
- ✓ 18 Foot Power Cord
- ✓ Top & Side Carry Handles
- ✓ Big 2-1/2" Accessories

www.shopvac.com
Shop-Vac® is a registered trademark of Shop-Vac Corporation.

www.lowes.com
Lowe's® and the gable design are registered trademarks of LF, LLC. ©2001 Lowe's® Home Centers, Inc. For the Lowe's nearest you call 1-800-44-LOWES. Prices may vary if there are market variations. 5013