

WEST TEXAS COUNTY COURIER

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

DECEMBER 5, 2002

NEWSBRIEFS

Smuggler rams vehicle

Agents from Santa Teresa, New Mexico seized nearly a ton of marijuana on Dec. 2 but not before the suspected smuggler rammed a patrol vehicle with his stolen 1997 Ford Expedition in an attempt to escape back across the border. The suspect, identified as 20-year-old Saul Daniel Lopez of Juarez, was seen crossing into the U.S. about two miles west of the Santa Teresa Port of Entry. When a vehicle stop was attempted he fled, ramming a parked vehicle, and requiring use of a tire-deflation device to stop his flight. The agent in the vehicle was not injured. Following his arrest, agents found 256 wrapped bundles in his vehicle containing 1,865 pounds of marijuana, valued at about \$1.5 million.

Memorial presented

The design for the Freedom Flag Memorial was presented to the Socorro ISD board of trustees during the Nov. 19 meeting. A reflecting pool, block monuments, sequential land forms and areas for contemplation and remembrance are all part of the design, to also include a garrison-sized U.S. flag and 10 smaller banners. El Paso architect Guillermo Barajas' presented the drawings, and said the project will be built adjacent to the north end of the Student Activities Complex. Estimated cost is \$150,000. Barajas, a member of the architectural firm of Prestige, Smith, Razloznik, Bustamante and Barajas, said the design is available for viewing at www.psrbb.com/sites/freedomflag. Donations are still welcomed at SISD Communications, 12300 Eastlake Drive, El Paso, Texas 79928.

Bring back the tubs

"We are simply asking our customers to return our equipment," said Fernando Sepulveda, postmaster of the Clint Post Office. "We are in the middle of our Fall mailing season and headed into our peak period with a shortage of plastic flat tubs." The tubs are sometimes left behind when postal deliveries are made and the public has found many uses for them. However, they were designed and purchased to transport USPS mail, Sepulveda said. "These flat tubs cost about \$3.30 each and replacement costs directly impact our bottom line and postage rates," he said. Customers should drop the tubs by the post office or simply give them to their letter carrier. Information: 1-800-275-8777.

In other news

■ The 2002 Outstanding Lobo Student Council, in conjunction with United Blood Services, will host the Lobos Save Lives blood drive on Dec. 4 at Mountain View High School, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. The event is student planned and all donations come from students who are eligible. Information: Elva L. Chavez, 857-1011.

■ Socorro ISD trustees have approved a timeline for the selection of a new superintendent and have scheduled a Town Hall meeting for Thursday, Dec. 12 at 7 p.m. to obtain input from the public regarding the process and qualifications of the new superintendent. The search will be conducted

See BRIEFS, Page 4

Language is the dress of thought; every time you talk your mind is on parade

— Quips and Quotes

Clint and San Eli students pitch in to help Hudspeth County neighbors



STEPPIN' OUT — Mark Tegmeyer resembled the Pied Piper as he led a group of students during a recent Walk-a-Thon to benefit Ft. Hancock students from neighboring Hudspeth County who recently lost their school in a fire. Tegmeyer is a 4th grade teacher at Surratt. Walking back up from left is Lizbeth Ortiz, Angie Vargas, Vanessa Rivera, Raul Ponce, Manny Cano, Manuel Olivares, and Israel Salazar

Surratt Elementary turns shoe leather to cash

CLINT — Students at W.D. Surratt Elementary in Clint ISD held a Walk-a-Thon on Nov. 26 to benefit their neighbors in Ft. Hancock who recently lost their middle school to a fire. The Surratt students and their families joined the walk, raising over \$600.

The class with the most parent participation earned an additional reward. The walk also helped the students with another project: they are learning to emphasize exercise and a healthy lifestyle as part of their participation in a CATCH grant.

Socorro ISD opens Loma Verde School

EAST EL PASO COUNTY — More than 720 Loma Verde Elementary School students walked into their new school building Dec. 2, as Socorro's newest operating campus opened for business.

The new pre-k-5th grade expandable campus, at 12150 Ted Houghton Drive, is just northwest of the Rojas Drive/Loop 375 intersection. It was designed by the architectural firm of Prestige, Smith, Razloznik, Barajas and Bustamante and built by Urban General Contractors for \$5.8 million.

Principal Al Garcia says opening day was the "fruition of a year of planning. It's very exciting...at times, we've had a lot of time to think and reflect, and make sure we made the right decision."

The school is divided into the world's continents, with the administration area being dubbed "North America."

"This is beautiful!" says Gracie Chavez, parent of a Loma Verde kindergartner. "The architecture is really nice and the library is

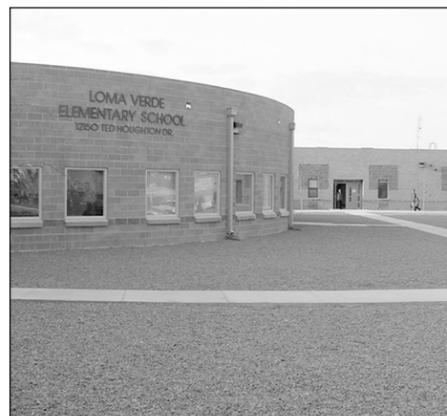
really special." The interior walls of Europe are done in pale Prada green after the European retailer, complemented by blues and tans throughout the rest of the building.

Kindergarten student Claire Shu likes the Loma Verde playground the best. And after her first lunch at the new school, Claire's pal Valerie Terrazas praised the cafeteria meal of chicken and potatoes. Opening day went smoothly, even as construction workers continued to build a large rock retaining wall at the western end of the campus.

Fifth-grade student Matthew Crouse said he felt like he was traveling the world. He says he likes the way the school is built. "It's very close to my house. You just have one hall, and I like the idea that they constructed it around the seven continents. At first, I kind of got lost at lunch, I had to go get the lunch ticket and I walked all the way down to South America, all the way to the end, and I thought, 'Oh, my gosh!' Then I came back to Africa."



NEW NEIGHBORS — Loma Verde students Jessie Barron, Valerie Terrazas, Claire Shu, Maria Ramond and Marisa Carmona made friends with each other on the new school's playground.



Borrego Elementary hands out supplies

SAN ELIZARIO — During the Thanksgiving season many think of reasons to be thankful and the students at Borrego Elementary School in the San Elizario Independent School District can find a big reason. After experiencing first-year growing pains as a school, the students now have all the resources and a beautiful building in which to learn their school lessons.

One of those lessons taught to the students by counselor Letty Otero is that of being a caring citizen. So when a 4th grade teacher approached Otero about doing something to help the students at Ft. Hancock High School, whose school building in neighboring Hudspeth County was recently destroyed by fire, an idea was formed.

"I thought, what a great opportunity both for the students at Borrego and those at Ft. Hancock," said Otero. "In helping and contributing to the students of Ft. Hancock, we can show our students how rewarding and honorable it is to be good, caring citizens."

The Borrego began to donate new school supply items including paper, pens, and pencils. "When a student donates a school supply," said Otero "the students write their name on a paper hand made by our 5th graders. The hand then become 'feathers' on our turkey decoration on the front display board of the school."

At first, Otero wondered if their turkey would be left with few feathers. "But then I remembered what wonderful kids we have here and how much they enjoy helping out," said Otero.

She was right — at last count there were over 100 "feathers" adorning the turkey and more still coming in. "We should be thankful for our school," said second grader, Denise Araujo.

Ft. Hancock High School Superintendent Jose Franco said, "The idea was a very nice thing for the students to do for us." He also added "the students at Ft. Hancock were heart broken about losing their personal items in the fire."

As it turns out, the turkey at Borrego Elementary will be covered in feathers this Thanksgiving and the students at both schools will benefit.

Second grade student Abigail Reyes said "The project will let them know we are friendly like the pillars we learn in counseling (Citizenship, Caring, Fairness, Trustworthiness, Respect, and Responsibility.)"

"I think we'll keep the turkey and try and feather him again next year," said Otero. "We can always find a need and I know we can always count on our students and staff."



FEATHER THE NEST — Hands form the feathers of this Thanksgiving bird. Each hand represents a school supply donated by a Borrego student.



One perspective

By Francis Shrum

With family like that...

There is an old saying that goes: "With friends like that, you don't need enemies."

Unfortunately, we'll have to revise it to include "with family like that..."

We see enough horror on the news about people, particularly young people, committing all kinds of atrocities against their offspring and though our minds reel at the prospect, we somehow come to the conclusion they are either stunted in their emotional development or just plain crazy.

But we don't expect it out of older, more mature parents.

Maybe we should have.

A new and terrible kind of child abuse is surfacing among parents with children of college age — you know, that time when parents have traditionally faced sacrificing their retirement to pay for the kid's education.

Well, the tables have turned and it is turning out ugly.

Identity theft and credit fraud is occurring at epidemic levels in which the thieves are family members of children who are unknowingly indebted, sometimes even before they have reached the age at which they qualify for credit.

We all invested in shredders to thwart the deadly "dumpster divers" we've been warned about. We shroud the keypad as we punch in the numbers on our calling card so they can't be stolen at a pay phone by an evil binoculars-wielding spy person. We don't put our social security numbers on our kids' soccer application anymore and we watch with eagle eye and bated breath till our credit cards are returned to our trembling fingers

at the check-out counter. Buy on-line? Never!

But, turns out, the enemy was us.

A credit expert in Florida says he sees it happen all the time — people who have messed up their own credit with over-spending cannot resist taking advantage of the snowy-white potential of their children's unblemished credit — and they are messing that up, too.

For a co-signing relative to indent a child all he or she needs is a birth date and a Social Security number.

In short, bad habits are hard to break. Kids today may reach the age of maturity to find they are the "responsible party" for utility bills, cable TV and credit accounts, thanks to their credit junkie parents.

The stories are as sad as they are devastating, and the cases that get reported are likely just a tip of the iceberg, experts say — kids would rather suffer the consequences of their parents crime than report them to the authorities.

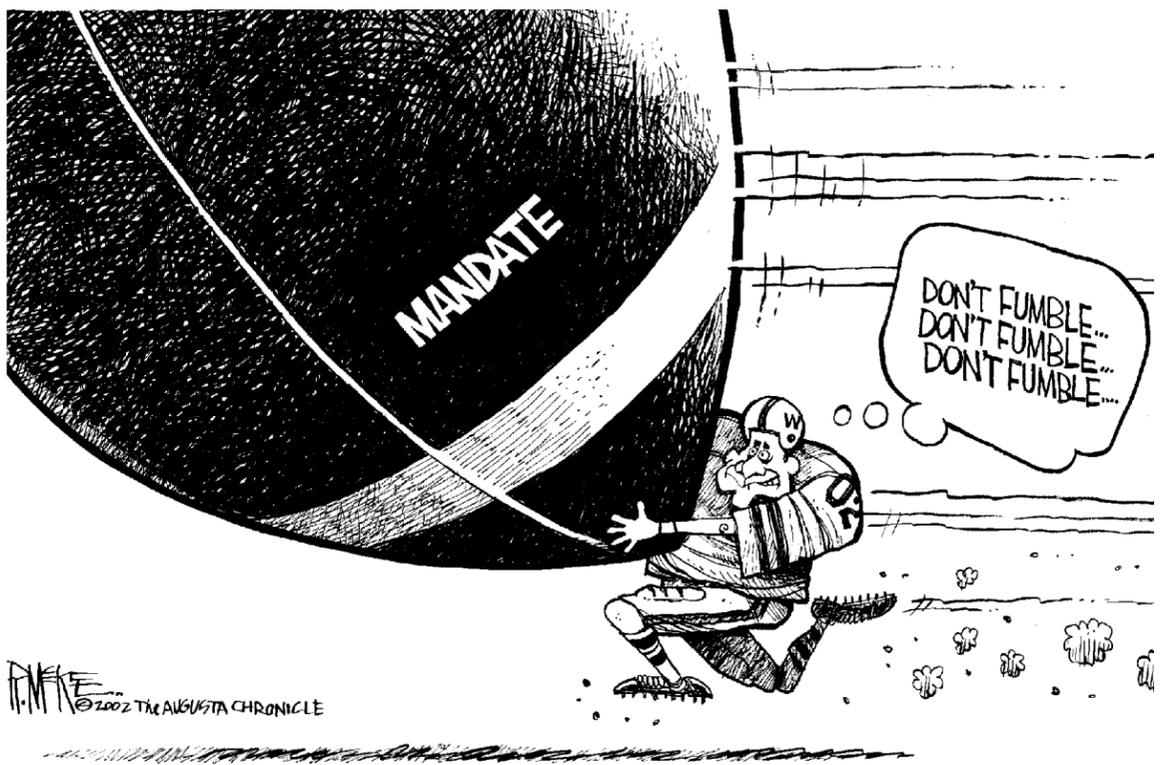
So what's the experts' answer? That's the part that would almost be funny if it weren't so tragic.

Financial experts are advising young people to "check their credit reports often."

At that age I didn't even know what a "credit report" was, let alone how to check it, and with today's mish-mash of financial do's and don'ts, it still isn't any piece of cake for the average adult person.

Outside financial institutions have much easier access to review your credit than you do.

It is really a shame that our kids are having to inherit the wind, so to speak, of our financial system — a



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ADDRESS:
15344 Werling Court
Horizon City, TX 79928

Phone: 852-3235
Fax: 852-0123
E-mail:
wtccc@wtccourier.com

Publisher
Rick Shrum

Business Manager
Francis D. Shrum

Contributors
Don Woodyard
Steve Escajeda
Arleen Beard

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system that makes it way too easy for you to become indebted, then bleeds you dry in interest so that you never really pay anything off, never really own anything, from cradle to grave. Before this week is out I'll have

ripped up at least a dozen new credit card applications. Many of them are so simple that a third grader could fill them out. Some of them virtually scream out to be accessed — just endorse and deposit the check, no

questions asked.

But just because we've handled our own finances badly is no excuse to burden our kids with such a legacy.

With all the enemies in the world, they don't need families like that.

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

Lend a helping hand to those in need

The holiday season is upon us, and what a wonderful time it is to spend with family and loved ones reliving old memories and making new ones. While we cherish these special moments, we should not forget about those among us who are not as fortunate.

All around our communities are hard working folks who, because of unfortunate circumstances, cannot stretch their paychecks for enough food for themselves or their families. Setting aside a portion of your afternoon or weekend to assist those less fortunate than us could make a huge difference — especially in this holiday season.

This country was built on individualism, which includes an individual's responsibility to his or her neighbors. Part of this responsibility is to lend a hand to a neighbor in their time of need. By giving a little of yourself, you not only empower your neighbor, but you also make your community stronger and more united.

There is perhaps no better example of people uniting and working for the common good of the community than in small towns in South and West Texas. In these small Texas towns people are naturally charitable. Texans haven't forgotten to make it a priority to give something back to our communities. And it's not like you don't have anything else to do. You lead busy lives. You work, take care of families, go to church, coach little league, and

yet still make the time to volunteer.

Many people think heroes are the people who beat the odds and achieve the impossible. But the people who do succeed against the odds aren't the only heroes. America is full of them. Heroes are the people who not only recognize that the world is full of need, they do something about it. They get up in the morning and decide they are going to do something to make their community a better place.

There is nothing more satisfying than helping an impoverished child learn to read or delivering a good, hot meal to an elderly grandmother. Not only do you bring smiles to the faces of those you volunteer to help, but you get a warm feeling in your heart that lasts a long time.

The opportunities to help are boundless. If you're not involved, get involved. Make the decision to just do it. Whether it's stopping along the highway and picking up trash, or organizing a fund-raiser to donate money to charity. You can make a difference. And to those who are already doing it, a hearty thank you. Giving to those in need around us, helping our neighbors, and assisting those with special needs — that is the true meaning of the holiday season.





For Sanity's Sake By Taprina Milburn

Solitude

I said goodbye to my son and husband, handing them sandwiches for their camping trip. My daughter hugged me and threw her bag in the car so she could be dropped off at a friend's house for a sleepover.

Poor Mom doesn't have any plans, they said as they waved, asking if I'd be OK.

I think I did a pretty good job of looking pitiful, highlighting my performance with a speech about how terribly quiet the house would be.

"Woe is me. What will I do without my family here?" I looked at my watch. "Don't you need to be going?"

OK, between you and me, I'm not always so eager to push my family out the door. But it had been nearly three years, five months, six days and two hours since I'd had the entire house to myself overnight — no kids, no husband, no dog (my son invited her to go on the camping trip, too). I was ready for a little space.

I walked back in the house and passed through the laundry room to see a pile of clothes that needed to be washed and a basketful that needed to be folded. There were bulbs I should plant in my garden before the first frost, which would be any day now, and weeks ago I had promised to start remodeling my son's room. I could strip wallpaper tonight and be ready to paint tomorrow. Without anyone in the house, all it would take is an all-nighter and some of these projects would be on their way to being completed.

Anne Morrow Lindbergh wrote, "If women were convinced that a day off or an hour of solitude was a reasonable ambition, they would find a way of attaining it. As it is, they feel so unjustified in their demand that they rarely make the attempt."

The gift of solitude had been served to me on a platter. I didn't even have to ask for it. Why waste a perfectly good evening alone on work? So I did what any other run-ragged mom — aka the resident plumber, maid, cook, vet, physician and driver — who wrestled with momentary guilt and won would do.

I indulged.

There's an art to indulging that I want to share with you. You first begin by literally shutting the door on the work that needs to be done. In my case, I shut the doors to my son's bedroom and the laundry room, promising myself that I wouldn't be like a moth drawn to light; I wouldn't be pulled in the direction of clothes that needed to be laundered or wallpaper that needed to be stripped.

Second, you have to create a retreat mood. I pulled out of my secret hiding places all those froufrou candles and bath products friends have given me over the years. I lit candles and then I lathered, sprinkled and slathered myself until the house smelled like a perfumery.

Third, I took time preparing my meal. No, it wouldn't be a night of fish sticks or grilled-cheese sandwiches. I was in the mood for a big salad, and not a bag salad, either. I wasn't in a hurry to get dinner on the table for my brood. Luckily my fridge and pantry were stocked with all the ingredients I'd need — capers, baby spinach leaves, olives, almonds, feta cheese and balsamic vinegar. I sprinkled the almonds with a little sugar and toasted them in the oven to top off my salad. Then I sat in my quiet, candle-lit house, ate my big salad and tasted every bite.

Finally, I finished the evening with a video I wanted to watch, a sappy love story with a lot of crying, kissing and hugging — the kind of show that requires Kleenex, and makes my husband and kids gag.

The next day my family, who can't imagine how I endured an entire night without them, returned, and I happily (after all I was refreshed and still smelled pretty good, if I do say so myself) resumed my role as mom.

When I described my evening to my kids, they both laughed and said something about how bored I must have been.

Terribly. Can't wait to be that bored again.

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TRUE TEXAS FACTS by Roger Moore August 27, 1837, Mexican ships force the Brutus and Invincible aground, thus marking the end of the first Texas Navy.



Town of Horizon City PUBLIC NOTICE

A PUBLIC HEARING will be held at **6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, December 10, 2002** during the **Regular City Council Meeting** at City Hall, 14999 Darrington Road, Horizon City, Texas. Purpose of the public hearing is to allow any interested persons to appear and testify regarding the following proposed ordinance(s):

- 1) Proposed Ordinance No. 0120 to codify Zoning Ordinance No. 0006 including Amendments Nos. 001, 002, 003, 004, 005, part of 008, 010, 011, 013, 015, 016, 018, 019, 020, 021, 022, 023, 024, 025, 027, 028, and 029. for the Town of Horizon City, Texas.

Those who are unable to attend may submit their views in writing to the City Clerk of Horizon City. Ordinances are too extensive to print. Ordinances are always available for viewing or copying upon request from the City Clerk at the above address.

Sandra Sierra
City Clerk

WTCC: 12/05/02

Combined Public Notice Notice of Finding of No Significant Impact on the Environment and Request for Release of Funds

El Paso County, Texas
Office of the County Judge
500 East San Antonio
El Paso, Texas 79901
(915) 546-2098

West Texas County Courier
December 5, 2002

TO ALL INTERESTED AGENCIES, GROUPS AND PERSONS:

Seventeen (17) days after publication, the above named County will request the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs (TDHCA) to release Federal funds under Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (P.L. 93-383) for the following project:

Project Name: El Paso County Self Help Center
TCDP Contract No.: 722003
Purpose/Location of Project: To provide self help center services and training to residents of Agua Dulce and surrounding areas in El Paso County.
Estimated Cost of Project: \$1,208 M

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

It has been determined that the request for release of funds for this project proposal will not constitute an action significantly effecting the quality of the human environment and accordingly the above-named County has decided not to prepare and Environmental Impact Statement under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (P.L. 91-190)

The reasons for such decision not to prepare such statement are as follow:

- 1) Negative impacts to the environment as a result of the project are not anticipated.
- 2) Disturbance (noise, dust) will be of a temporary nature and cease upon completion of the project.
- 3) The project will not affect or be affected by the 100-year flood plain.
- 4) No effect is expected on protected or endangered wildlife or vegetation.

An Environmental Review Record respecting the aforementioned project has been made by the above named County which documents the environmental review of the project and more fully sets forth the reasons why such Statement is not required. This Environmental Review Record is on file at the above listed address and is also available for public examination and copying upon request at the Community Development Office, 500 East San Antonio Street, Suite 313, El Paso, Texas 79901 between the hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON FINDING

All interested agencies, groups, and persons disagreeing with this decision are invited to submit written comments for consideration by the County to the Office of the County Judge 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 Federal funds or take any administrative action on this project prior to the date specified in the preceding sentence.

No objections received later than thirty-three (33) days after this publication will be considered by TDHCA.

RELEASE OF FUNDS

The County of El Paso, Texas will undertake the activities described above with Texas Community Development Program funds under Title I from its Program Year 2002 under grant numbered TCDP # 722003 from the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as amended. The County of El Paso is certifying to Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs (TDHCA) that El Paso County and Judge Dolores Briones, in her official capacity as County Judge, consent to accept the jurisdiction of the Federal Courts if an action is brought to enforce responsibilities in relation to environmental assessments, decision making and action; and that these responsibilities have been satisfied. The legal effect of the certification is that upon its approval, El Paso County may use the Texas Community Development Program funds and it will have satisfied its responsibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969. TDHCA 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 Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs, P.O. Box 13941, Austin, Texas 78711.

OBJECTION TO THE RELEASE OF FUNDS

TDHCA will accept an objection to its approval of the release of funds and acceptance of the certification only if it is on one of the following bases: (a) that the certification was not in fact executed by the chief executive officer or other certifying officer of the Contractor approved by TDHCA; or (b) that the Contractor's environmental review record for the project indicates omission of a required decision, finding or step applicable to the project in the environmental review process. Objections must be prepared and submitted in accordance with the required procedure (34 CFR 58) and may be addressed to the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs, Texas Community Development Program, P.O. Box 13941, Austin, Texas 78711-3941.

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

*Dolores Briones, County Judge
El Paso County, Texas*

Briefs

From Page 1

by Ray and Associates, Inc. and a candidate is expected to be selected by March 31, 2003.

■ American Legion Post 36 and Socorro High School Junior Navy ROTC have teamed up to provide 50 Thanksgiving donation food baskets to needy families in the district. The baskets, containing canned goods and turkeys, were presented to the families on the campus of Escontrias Elementary School beginning Nov. 23 with help from the Migrant Families Program.

■ Canutillo and Jose H. Damian elementary schools were recognized recently by the Texas Education Agency (TEA) for successfully educating their migrant students. TEA's Division of Migrant Education selected Canutillo Elementary School and Damian Elementary School as winners of the 2002 Recognized Campus Award given to school campuses that had high TAAS passing rates among their migrant students. Statewide, 280 campuses received this recognition. The purpose of the award is to recognize campuses that strive to meet the unique needs of migrant children and their families and that help migrant students meet high academic standards. There are an estimated 132,000 migrant students in Texas. Campus award recipients were honored during an awards luncheon program at the 2002 Texas Migrant Education Conference, in November, at South Padre Island.

■ Applications for emergency agricultural loans for damages and losses attributed to drought and excessive temperatures that occurred beginning Jan. 1, 2002, are being accepted by the Farm Service Agency (FSA) office in Fort Stockton. A 15-county area, including El Paso and Hudspeth Counties, has been named by the USDA as being eligible for loans to cover part of actual production and physical losses. Producers unable to obtain credit from private sources will receive an interest rate of 3.75. Applications will be accepted through June 23, 2003 but applicants are encouraged to do so as soon as possible, said William McAnally, loan manager. For information call 915-336-5206, ext. 2 or visit <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/tx>.

■ About 4,500 elementary, high school, college and university science teachers from Texas, New Mexico, Arizona and Mexico converged upon El Paso earlier this month for the annual Conference for Advancement of Science Teaching, or CAST. Hosted by the Science Teachers Association of Texas, or STAT, the conference was held at the Judson F. Williams Convention Center. In addition to keynote speakers from the world of science education and workshops focusing on the advancement of science teaching, conference goers enjoyed "field trips" to El Paso historical and cultural attractions. Field trips featured Insights Science Museum, the El Paso Museum of Art, Hueco Tanks, the Magoffin Home, Mission Trail, Wyler Aerial Tramway, and many others.

San Eli superintendent says district progress continues positive

By Don Woodyard
Courier Staff Writer

SAN ELIZARIO — “A lot of excellent things are happening on the campuses,” reported Mike Quatrini, superintendent of the San Elizario ISD at the Nov. 13 board of trustees meeting.

Quatrini outlined district activities and achievements in his progress report to the trustees. “Overall, progress is very positive; morale is high.”

Report highlights:

- Turnover is down from 50 percent to seven percent. “Teachers continue to return,” according to his written report. “This strengthens student success and achievement due to consistency of highly trained and qualified teachers.”

- “Based upon TAAS scores for 2001-02, all campuses reported increases from the previous year.”

- Two TEA Recognized schools, Alarcon and Sambrano Elementary.

- “Extremely smooth” move-in for new administration building.

- Uniforms at middle school and Alarcon. Uniforms for Borrego and Sambrano are in progress.

- Insurance and benefits upgraded for staff.

On recommendation of Support Services director Robert Longoria, the board approved low bidder Silverton Construction Co. for

wastewater improvements at Alarcon Elementary and the middle school. The contract for \$74,916 calls for the construction of an eight-inch wastewater disposal lines from the schools to connect with Lower Valley Water District. This will relieve the district of wastewater disposal responsibilities.

Longoria also reported that new sidewalks are under consideration to improve safety for children walking to school. He said the district is discussing with the County Planning Department the construction of new sidewalks from the middle school to the Good Time Store and along the road behind Borrego Elementary.

The board also approved SEISD joining the TASB Buy Board. The statewide purchasing cooperative will enable the district to buy certain items at a cheaper price. “It is well worth the investment (\$200),” said Larry Worrell, district financial director.

A donation of \$1,500 from the University of Texas Pan American to Borrego Elementary was approved by trustees. The money will go to support the school’s wellness program which educates students, parents and staff.

Joe Zavala, computer lab teacher at Borrego, was named Teacher of the Month.

Ruby Pataluna, cafeteria manager at the middle school, was named Employee of the Month.

Hudspeth County swears in first woman county judge

WEST TEXAS — The only Texas county with which El Paso County shares a border, Hudspeth County made history in the last election, choosing its first female county judge. Becky Dean Walker swept the election over two challengers, carrying all but one precinct in Ft. Hancock.

Hudspeth County has less than one person per square mile, but ranks near the top in size among Texas counties. With a land mass of 4,572, it isn’t far behind Texas’ largest county, Brewster, with 6,204 square miles of territory.

Hudspeth boasts a population of about 3,344, according to the 2000 census. One of the 254 total counties in Texas, it was carved out shortly before 1921 when the last county, Kenedy, was created. With a population that is 75 percent Hispanic and a per capita income hovering somewhere just over the \$12,000 mark, Hudspeth has never been considered a political powerhouse, though it did manage to defeat the state of Texas’ attempt a few years ago to locate a three-state low-level nuclear waste dump just outside the city limits of Sierra Blanca, the county seat.

Presenting less than a united front, the community was not so fortunate to escape becoming a sludge depository for New York for a time, a situation that has since come to a standstill, apparently due to financial attrition.

Hudspeth County has only three “major” communities with slightly more than 500 population each — Dell City, Ft. Hancock and the county seat of Sierra Blanca. The blink-your-eye-and-miss-it township of Cornudas out on 62-180, though privately-owned, claims the status of a community.

The county is dotted with used-to-be communities, like Acala and McNary, which fell victim to a decrease in population after the 1950s when Hudspeth hit its peak population of 5,000-plus during a farming boom. Today the county boasts little other industry.

Walker was raised just over the county line in Otero County, New Mexico, the daughter of sheep-ranching parents, Clifton and Millie Dean. Graduating from high

school in Dell City, she married Dennis Walker of Malaga, New Mexico.

Now mother of two — son Kyle and daughter Whitney

— Walker has a history of judicial service in Hudspeth County, having been Justice of the Peace in Ft. Hancock for several years before moving to Sierra Blanca. The family ranches and operates a heavy equipment construction company.

She was sworn in early — her actual elected term would have begun at 12:01 a.m. on Jan. 1 — due to the ill health of her predecessor, James

Peace, who chose to resign his office a month early.

With the Hudspeth County Courthouse under renovation, the swearing-in was conducted in the fellowship hall behind the almost-century-old First United Methodist Church in Sierra Blanca by County Clerk Pat Bramblett.

The Texas Constitution gives broad judicial and administrative powers to the position of county judge. Walker will preside over a five-member commissioners court, with budgetary and administrative authority over county government operations.

Under Texas law, a county judge also handles such widely varying matters as hearings for beer and wine license applications; admittance to state hospitals for the mentally ill and mentally retarded; juvenile work permits and temporary guardianships for special purposes.

The judge is also responsible for calling and posting election notices and for canvassing the election returns. The county judge may also perform marriages.

The Hudspeth county judge also has judicial responsibility for certain criminal, civil and probate matters including appellate jurisdiction over matters arising from the justice courts.

The county judge is also head of civil defense and disaster relief, county welfare and, because Hudspeth is under 225,000 population, the judge also prepares the county budget along with the county auditor or county clerk.



PLEDGING TO UPHOLD — Becky Dean Walker, right, promises to uphold the law while being sworn in to office as Hudspeth County Judge on Sunday, Dec. 1. Hudspeth County Clerk Pat Bramblett does the honors.



Classified Ads

LEGALS

PUBLIC NOTICE

As per Article V, Sec. 5.05(a), all owners and lienholders have ten (10) days from this date to reclaim their vehicles at Southwest Wrecker, 1401 Darrington Rd., 855-1900, 851-2091-fax, or it will be sold at public auction for charges:
VIN - JHMB5447GCO72143, 1986 Toyota, gray
VIN - IC3BT66EOHC268142, 1989 Dodge, brown
VIN - 2G3AJ5130J2374888, 1987 Oldsmobile, brown
WTXCC-12/05/02

HELP WANTED

PECAN BUSINESS one mile south of Fabens needs full time employee that is computer skilled, bilingual, and speaks fluent English with good telephone skills. Packaging and shipping included. Must be reliable, and references required (include all employment past five years). Five days per week, may require some travel. Must

have drivers license. Starting salary \$9.25 per hour. Send resume to Secretary, P.O. Box 777, Fabens, Texas 79838. 11/28

LOST/FOUND

FOUND: Child's immunization record found in Horizon City. Call to identify. 852-4577. 12/5

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We can't tell if new sensitive Bobby is the Black Knight or Sir Galahad

By Steve Escajeda
Special to the Courier

I guess I was kind of disappointed, but not really.

I expected for a chair to be thrown or a neck to be choked or a head to be butted...but not really.

I was kind of disappointed that I didn't see basketball's type-A personality poster boy Bobby Knight go...well...you know...Bobby Knight all over somebody during last week's game against the Miners.

But not really.

Not after I heard Knight talk so glowingly about former UTEP coach Don Haskins after the game.

Knight was in total control, almost jovial after the contest. I mean, let's face it, the Miners didn't exactly give Knight any reason to get even a little peeved let alone go totally ballistic.

Knight's team came close to setting a record for causing UTEP turnovers in a game, forcing 31 big miscues. The irony was the fact that UTEP's all-time record for turnovers is 33, also caused by a Bobby Knight

team, the 1979 Indiana Hoosiers.

But it was still good to see the much maligned Knight show his softer, dare I say more sensitive, side after the game.

Yes, this newsflash just in...Bobby Knight does seem to have a sensitive side.

Knight said that he's always considered Haskins a kind of big brother. In fact, Knight, with tongue firmly planted in cheek, called Haskins a much older and much bigger big brother.

Knight said that he and Haskins

had gone out to eat the day before his Texas Tech Red Raiders routed UTEP 83-60. Knight said that he got a little worried because Haskins drove him around for a while before they finally stopped at a place.

But, Knight explained, that is just the way it always is with Haskins... "he talks for the entire ride and I just sit and listen," Knight said. And he said it with the body language of a man expressing that the pleasure was all his.

Bobby Knight received a standing ovation when he walked onto the Don Haskins Center floor last Saturday.

Many of the over-10,000 in attendance who were applauding were saluting "The General," but many more were saluting the fact that Knight loves our coach Haskins — and any friend of coach is a friend of ours.

Until the opening tap, anyway.

Blazing same old course

They say the world is in a constant state of change.

That things never remain the same and that the only thing you can truly count on is the fact that tomorrow is a new day, full of new possibilities...unless of course, you root for the Portland Trailblazers.

After hours of exhaustive research I have learned that the city of Portland is the only place on this planet where things never change...at least when it comes to the basketball team.

You see, for years the Trailblazers have owned the most individual talent of any other team in the NBA, but individual talent can only get you so far.

Players have got to believe in each other and work together to become a successful team.

This is where Portland falls a little short, year after year. It's not that the players don't have the physical talent to put it all together. The problem is that all combined, the entire team's mental intellect can fit on top of one of those Native American dollar coins.

And to prove their inter-cranial deficiency, the Portland Trailblazers had three of their players arrested in the span of less than a week recently. Wow, we're talking Mike Tyson and O.J. kind of stuff. Seems that Damon Stoudamire and the ever-immature Rasheed Wallace were cited for marijuana possession. Not only were they stopped in their vehicle with the stuff but police officers claimed that Stoudamire and Wallace both admitted to smoking marijuana.

Hey, nobody said they weren't honest.

If that weren't enough, forward Ruben Patterson was charged with assaulting his wife less than a week later.

How the heck can the Trailblazers win an NBA championship when there are no women in the league to beat up on?

The Portland Trailblazers...the one constant...in an ever-changing world.

Don't miss the I-10 RIVALRY!



VS NMSU Aggies

Monday, December 9

At the Don Haskins Center

Women's Tip-Off 5:05 PM

Men's Tip-Off 7:35 PM

For information call: 747-6150

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(Premier Freightliner Sales Building)
(915) 852-7171

Horizon City Community Chapel

Sunday School 9:45 a.m.
Sunday Service 10:45 a.m.
Sunday Yth. Group 6:30 p.m.
Wednesday Night
Adult Bible Study 6:30 p.m.

Mr. Dean Pinney, Pastor

Spanish Services

Estudio Dominical 9:45 a.m.
Servicios en Español ... 10:45 a.m.
Estudio en Español
Biblico Jueves 6:30 p.m.

Mr. Pablo Gonzalez, Assoc. Pastor

Sunday Morning Nursery Available

Non-Denominational
14802 Duanesburg • 852-3154

King Super Crossword

- LETTER PERFECT**
- ACROSS**
- 1 Exercise target
 - 5 Actuate
 - 10 Boston _
 - 14 Denzel
 - Washington film
 - 19 Kansas city
 - 20 _ incognita
 - 21 Comfort
 - 22 "Middlemarch" author
 - 23 Butcher-shop buy
 - 25 Modern
 - Mesopotamia
 - 26 Numerical word form
 - 27 Theater collection
 - 28 Director Michael
 - 30 Satyric trait
 - 32 Vim
 - 33 Bond rating
 - 35 Neapolitan song
 - 38 Work over?
 - 39 Tarnish
 - 44 PBS benefactor
 - 45 Mrs. Nick Charles
 - 47 ABA member
 - 48 Shipshape
 - 50 Standard
 - 52 Court cry
 - 56 Start of a Nash verse
 - 60 Maestro Arturo
 - 63 Opening remark?
 - 64 To and _
 - 65 Rang
 - 66 Rapper Tone _
 - 67 Rained and
- DOWN**
- 1 Trim
 - 2 Sampras strokes
 - 3 Soap additive
 - 4 Chicken little?
 - 5 "... been ages!"
 - 6 "Simple Simon - ..."
 - 7 Type of sch.
 - 8 Thalia's sister
 - 9 Albert and Victoria
 - 10 Mile High Center architect
 - 11 Boathouse item
 - 12 Sacred song
 - 13 Costume sparkler
 - 14 Kid
 - 15 Castilian cry
 - 16 Hefty herbivore
 - 17 Short messages needs
 - 18 Stick 'em in your ear
 - 24 Actor Morales
 - 29 Singer Summer
 - 31 _ Canals
 - 34 Composer Thomas
 - 36 August one?
 - 37 Big revolver?
- 135 Amneris' rival
 - 136 Messy Madison
 - 137 European country
 - 138 High-tech missives
 - 139 Expensive
 - 140 Uses a trepan
 - 141 TV's "Ding _ School"
- 38 Holstein's home
 - 39 Rome's _ of Caracalla
 - 40 Lucy's landlady
 - 41 Marker
 - 42 "Aladdin" frame
 - 43 Grapefruit serving
 - 46 Way
 - 49 Deck of destiny
 - 51 Dewy
 - 53 Pickling herb
 - 54 Baseball's Slaughter
 - 55 Puerto _
 - 57 City on the Allegheny
 - 58 Reply to the Little Red Hen
 - 59 One who no's best?
 - 61 Smug smile
 - 62 "The Color Purple" character
 - 65 Kirsch kin
 - 68 Sgt. Bilko
 - 69 Campus digs
 - 71 Designer Lapidus
 - 73 Bronte's "... Grey"
 - 75 Tom, Dick, and Harry
 - 76 Skater Cohen
 - 77 Franco of "Camelot"
 - 78 Cougar
 - 79 Landed
 - 80 Gets hitched
 - 84 "... Gay"
 - 85 Big rigs
 - 86 Choppers
- 88 Deal with a dragon
 - 89 Newsboy's shout
 - 91 Kamm or Kristofferson
 - 94 Contradict
 - 95 Harnessed the oxen
 - 96 Bird of prey
 - 97 Abbreviated address
 - 100 Sodom escapee
 - 104 JFK abbr.
 - 105 Fine fiber
 - 108 Compassion
 - 109 Moved like 116
 - Down
 - 110 Woodworking tool
 - 111 Postulate
 - 112 Nile feature
 - 114 Mysterious
 - 115 Iron clothes?
 - 116 Animal that roared?
 - 119 Convent cubicle
 - 121 Namu or Willy
 - 122 Bloomsbury buggy
 - 124 Roy Rogers' birthplace
 - 125 Bruce or Laura
 - 127 "Agnus _"
 - 129 Journalist Tarbell
 - 130 Roller-coaster unit
 - 132 "... longa, vita brevis"
 - 133 Brew barrel

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| 118 | | | | 119 | | | | | | 120 | | 121 | 122 | | 123 | | 124 | 125 |
| 126 | | | 127 | | | 128 | | 129 | 130 | | 131 | | | 132 | | | | 133 |
| 134 | | | | | | | 135 | | | | 136 | | | | | 137 | | |
| 138 | | | | | | | 139 | | | | 140 | | | | | 141 | | |

Sorry guys, Jennifer Lopez is taken...again

By Don Flood

Here at the J. Lo Rumor Control Center, we've been flooded with calls ever since the announcement of Jennifer Lopez's engagement to Ben Affleck.

Most of the questions revolve around two key issues, the first one being: Does J. Lo know that Ben Affleck is bald?

Rumors of Affleck's baldness surfaced last summer, when Ben's hair supposedly flew off as he and a friend were "horsing around."

"Don't tell Jennifer," Ben reportedly begged his friend.

As far as I know, Ben's friend never has told Jennifer, and I never have either.

And while I know I can trust my readers not to tell, Affleck still has a problem here.

Lopez is the kind of woman who likes things upfront and out in the open, as anybody who saw her in that dress at the Grammy Awards can attest.

So Ben, if you really are bald, it's time to be a standup guy and think of a convincing lie about why she has to be careful about touching your hair.

The second question men want answered is, does this mean I won't be able to marry Jennifer Lopez?

Sorry, guys, but it's time to face facts. Miss Lopez will no longer be available — perhaps until late 2003, which is when Ben's charm is likely to wear off. Maybe a little earlier if his next movie tanks or she finds out he's bald or both.

Until then you'll have to bide your time. To improve your chances of being Hubby No. 4 — the one true and everlasting love of J. Lo's life — work on becoming a movie or recording star.

If that doesn't work out, seek gainful employment as a multi-billionaire.

But there is something working in favor of those who want to become the next Mr. J. Lo: Miss Lopez's current rate of man consumption.

Her first marriage, to Ojani Noa, lasted one year. (If you haven't heard from Mr. Noa recently it's because Miss Lopez is believed to have eaten him to celebrate their one-year anniversary.)

Her second marriage, to Cris Judd, lasted just eight months — a drop of four months, or 33 percent! (He is also believed to have been eaten by Miss Lopez, in honor of their eight-month anniversary.)

If this trend continues, the next marriage — presumably to Ben, unless she proceeds with a warm-up marriage in between — will last just a little over five months.

From there, the numbers start to get a little scary. Again, assuming this trend continues — and scientifically speaking, that's the best we can do — by the time Miss Lopez weds Perfect Hubby No. 10 her marriage would be expected to last but one week.

At some point soon after that, Miss Lopez is expected to enter what scientists call a state of "hyperspeed relationships," forcing her to eventually marry upward of 10, 20, 30 men a day.

At that pace, warn scientists, Miss Lopez will soon run out of men on both coasts, and she will be forced to start looking to America's Heartland for men to devour.

Run while you can.

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View from here By Mario Aguirre

A message to Fabens Directors need to attend meetings

FABENS — The El Paso County Water Control and Improvement District No. 4 in Fabens scheduled a special meeting on Nov. 13 for 6 p.m. This was an important meeting — representatives from the North American Development (NAD) Bank in San Antonio made a special trip to El Paso for the purpose of this meeting.

The agenda item called for an update from Brown and Caldwell, the water district's engineer, regarding the project for the Water and Waste Water Plan, which has been lengthy and moving at a slow pace.

Personnel from NAD Bank were to present to the Board of Directors and update regarding the loan for the new project.

But the meeting was canceled. Only two members attended. In order to hold a meeting, three members are required.

As board president of this water district, I would like to encourage all community members to attend these meetings, but especially the directors.

I understand that there are times when personal commitments keep us from attending meetings. As a member of the board, I've taken the initiative, made the commitment, and dedicated my time to this community. I feel very strongly that as an elected

official all efforts should be made to be available and attend district meetings, especially when representatives from out of town are scheduled to attend.

All members of the board were informed and given ample time to make arrangements to attend this important meeting.

A message to the community: Please consult with your elected officials and stress the importance of these meetings especially with the big project that is ahead of us. Let's not DELAY the improvements that are greatly needed to improve our drinking water system.

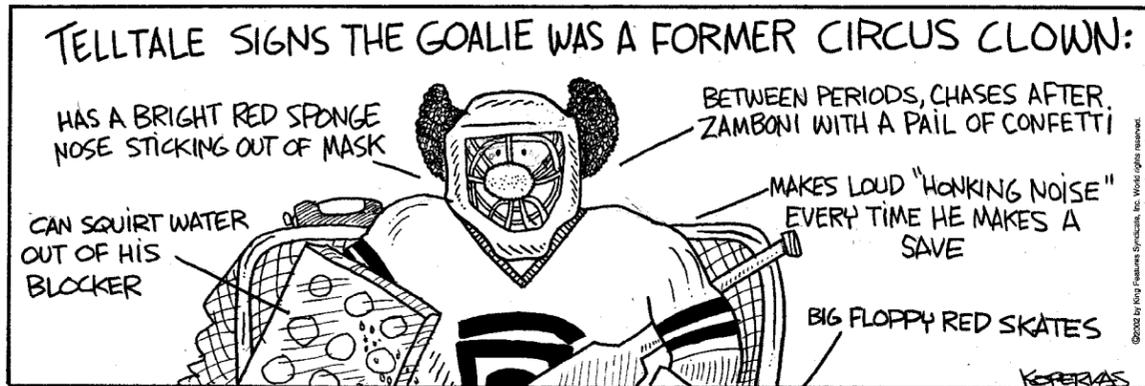
Board members that were present were Mario Aguirre, president, and Rafael Ramirez, vice-president.

Board members that were absent were Macario Olmos Jr., board member; Ernesto Chavez, board member; and Aurora Al Villar, secretary. Ms. Al Villar was out of town all week.

Others present at the meeting were the district's Interim General and Field Manager; Horacio Juarez from Brown and Caldwell; Cesar Ramos from Border Environment Cooperation Commission (BECC); NAD Bank representatives Ms. Veronique M. Lawrence from Project Development and Jose Ruiz, Project Development Officer.

Comix

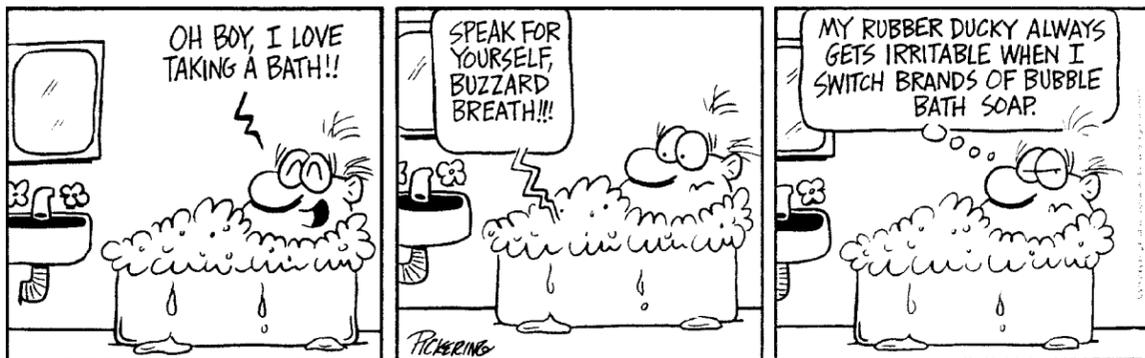
OUT ON A LIMB By Gary Kopervas



GOT A LIFE By Terri Davis



THE SPATS By Jeff Pickering



R.F.D. By Mike Marland



Teachers quit but not because of bad pay, report shows

AUSTIN — Despite the rhetoric and headlines, there is not a teacher shortage and an across-the-board pay raise will not address problems in Texas schools, according to a report issued today by the Texas Public Policy Foundation.

"There is no teacher shortage, it is a myth," said Chris Patterson, the Foundation's director of education policy. "A Texas A&M study found that school districts employed more than the anticipated number of teachers needed in the 2001-02 school year. There is, however, a shortage of qualified teachers in certain subject areas, but pay is not the problem."

While it is true 60 percent of teachers quit the profession after five years, the pay issue is a myth, Mrs. Patterson said. According to the Texas Teachers Association, 60 percent of those who leave do so because of a lack of student discipline, 54 percent because of working conditions, and 38 percent because of paperwork. Less than 25 percent say they left the profession because of pay.

"Let's put aside the dire warnings and deal with the facts: an across-the-board pay raise will do nothing to ensure kids have qualified teachers," said Mrs. Patterson. "There are many teachers who want to teach, but have left the profession because they are

fed-up with the working conditions."

Mrs. Patterson's report shatters many teacher pay myths. The surprising facts, found in an American Federation of Teachers study, include:

- Texas already pays starting teachers above the national average;
- Average Texas teacher pay ranks above the nation when adjusted for cost-of-living;
- Texas teachers are paid better than their colleagues in neighboring states;
- Texas has increased salaries 36.5 percent since 1990 — the national increase is 31.5 percent;
- Almost 41 percent of Texas' total education spending goes to teacher pay.

Among Mrs. Patterson's recommendations for teacher pay include:

- Establish a special salary schedule and fund special pay stipends for the specific areas where there is a shortage of qualified teachers;
- Establish performance-based pay that rewards performance and employment longevity;
- Create benefit incentives for teachers who remain in a school district for 10, 20 and 30 years (such as lower health insurance fees and college scholarships for children).

The full paper is available at the Texas Public Policy Foundation website at www.tppf.org.



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Social Security: Q & A By Ray Vigil

Early retirement won't reduce Social Security benefit but it could become higher

Q. If I decided to retire at age 55 and take a part-time job, will early retirement reduce my benefits at age 62, even though I paid the maximum amount of Social Security for many years?

A. If an individual stops working before retirement age he/she cannot reduce their benefits, but they may not receive as high amount as they would had they continued working up to retirement age.

The earnings of the worker are "in-

dexed," that is, adjusted for inflation. We use this amount, not the actual earnings, to figure the retirement benefit. The numbers used to index the earnings are based on national average earnings levels and vary with the person's age. If a person who retired at age 62 in 1998, for example, had earnings of \$4,800 in 1960, these earnings would be indexed to \$31,041.40. We use this amount, not the actual earnings of \$4,800, to figure the retirement benefit. Social Security benefits are based on a worker's earnings

over the number of years the person could be expected to have worked under Social Security.

The number of years used to figure the average earnings is usually five years less than the number of years:

- after 1936 (when the program began);
- after 1950 (when the law was amended to cover millions of additional jobs) or;
- if later, after age 21 and up to the year in which the worker reaches age 62, becomes disabled, or dies.

The period used is the one that results in the highest benefit.

To figure the benefit amount for most workers now reaching age 62, we consider all Social Security-covered earnings after 1950 through the

year before retirement.

For most people retiring now and in the future, we consider 35 years of earnings to figure retirement benefits. We total the highest 35 years of earnings during the applicable period and divide by 420 (the number of months in 35 years) to find the average monthly earnings.

Once the average is figured, another formula is applied to figure the full benefit rate, referred to as the primary insurance amount. If a person wants to receive benefits before full retirement age, this figure is reduced to account for the longer time benefits will be received. For example, when a worker begins to receive retirement benefits at age 62, the earliest month for which such benefits can be paid, and the primary insurance amount is

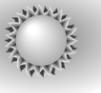
reduced 20 percent. If you were born prior to 1938, maximum reduction would be 5/9 of one percent (20 percent reduction for the first 36 months.) For individuals born after 1938, an additional reduction of 5/12 of one percent for each month of reduction in excess of 36 months, equivalent to additional maximum 10 percent for the next 24 months.

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

WEATHER

AccuWeather.com

SEVEN-DAY FORECAST FOR EL PASO

| THURSDAY | THUR. NIGHT | FRIDAY | SATURDAY | SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Sunshine and cool. | Clear and cold. | Sunny to partly cloudy and milder. | Partial sunshine. | Variable clouds; chance for a shower. | Partial sunshine. | Clouds, some sunshine; perhaps a shower. | Partial sunshine. |
| ▲ 54° | ▼ 30° | ▲ 60° ▼ 34° | ▲ 62° ▼ 36° | ▲ 54° ▼ 32° | ▲ 56° ▼ 32° | ▲ 56° ▼ 34° | ▲ 60° ▼ 32° |

UV INDEX Statistics for noon.

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

| | | |
|-----------|---|-----|
| Thursday | 4 | Low |
| Friday | 4 | Low |
| Saturday | 4 | Low |
| Sunday | 3 | Low |
| Monday | 4 | Low |
| Tuesday | 4 | Low |
| Wednesday | 4 | Low |

REAL FEEL TEMP™

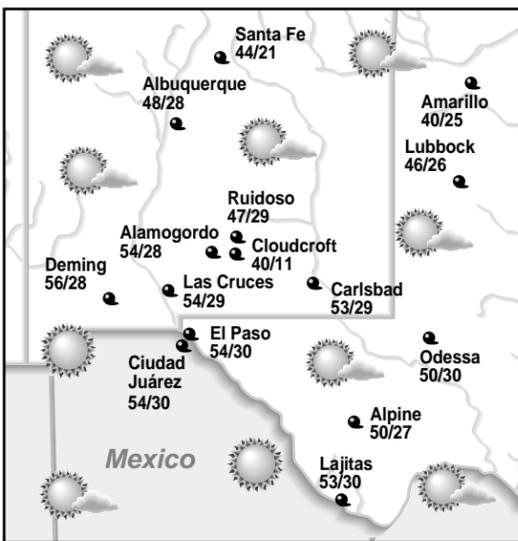
The exclusive AccuWeather composite of the effects of temperature, wind, humidity, sunshine, precipitation, and elevation on the human body.

| | |
|-----------|-----|
| Thursday | 56° |
| Friday | 48° |
| Saturday | 47° |
| Sunday | 41° |
| Monday | 49° |
| Tuesday | 49° |
| Wednesday | 58° |

TEXAS WEATHER

| | | |
|--------------|----|----|
| Anthony | 54 | 30 |
| Canutillo | 55 | 31 |
| Clint | 53 | 31 |
| E. Montana | 54 | 30 |
| Fabens | 53 | 31 |
| Horizon | 55 | 31 |
| San Elizario | 52 | 28 |
| Socorro | 53 | 29 |
| Tornillo | 53 | 31 |
| Vinton | 55 | 31 |

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 | 48/28/pc | 51/30/s | 48/28/pc | 46/27/pc | 46/21/s |
| Atlanta | 42/25/pc | 44/28/s | 50/37/s | 50/39/r | 49/25/c |
| Atlantic City | 36/24/sn | 38/24/s | 42/30/s | 45/32/pc | 45/20/r |
| Austin/San Antonio | 50/30/pc | 57/38/s | 62/46/pc | 60/32/c | 56/31/s |
| Baltimore | 34/21/sn | 37/21/s | 42/27/s | 46/30/c | 47/18/r |
| Boston | 32/22/sn | 36/26/pc | 40/28/pc | 42/30/c | 39/26/sn |
| Chicago | 26/14/pc | 30/18/pc | 34/20/sf | 30/16/c | 27/12/pc |
| Dallas/Ft. Worth | 44/33/pc | 51/42/s | 59/42/pc | 52/34/c | 52/27/s |
| Denver | 42/22/pc | 50/24/pc | 41/22/pc | 43/25/s | 40/18/s |
| Flagstaff | 48/18/s | 50/21/s | 41/17/c | 44/16/pc | 44/13/s |
| Houston | 52/34/pc | 58/40/s | 64/50/pc | 64/50/r | 58/36/s |
| Kansas City | 36/18/pc | 40/26/s | 42/24/pc | 34/16/pc | 40/22/s |
| Las Vegas | 64/38/s | 60/40/pc | 58/38/pc | 58/37/s | 60/39/s |
| Miami | 83/62/t | 73/59/pc | 77/67/pc | 79/69/pc | 79/67/sh |
| Minneapolis | 24/12/pc | 32/16/pc | 28/12/sf | 20/8/pc | 26/16/c |
| New Orleans | 50/34/pc | 55/41/s | 63/51/pc | 62/44/r | 53/35/s |
| New York City | 36/28/sn | 34/24/s | 40/30/s | 44/34/c | 42/24/sh |
| Philadelphia | 34/24/sn | 38/24/s | 42/30/s | 46/30/c | 42/19/r |
| Phoenix | 72/48/s | 70/46/s | 66/46/pc | 67/44/s | 67/37/s |
| Portland | 48/34/pc | 48/34/c | 48/36/pc | 47/40/c | 48/44/sh |
| San Francisco | 62/50/pc | 58/50/c | 58/48/c | 58/48/pc | 59/40/sh |
| Seattle | 48/36/pc | 46/36/c | 46/36/pc | 46/38/c | 48/44/r |
| Tucson | 68/42/s | 70/42/s | 64/40/pc | 66/39/s | 65/35/s |
| Washington, DC | 36/26/sn | 38/26/s | 44/32/s | 46/34/c | 43/22/r |

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

AGRICULTURE

A weak upper-level ridge will promote 5-7 hours of sunshine Thursday and Friday with a day-to-day warming trend. Seasonable and remaining dry Saturday with sunshine and some clouds. A trough digging into the Rockies this weekend could bring a couple of showers to the area Saturday night or Sunday.

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