



NEWSBRIEFS

Reach out and vote

Touch-screen voting has made casting a ballot easier than ever for El Paso County voters, according to the El Paso County Elections Administrator Helen Jamison. Persons wishing to take advantage of early voting can now do so at any early-voting location in the County, regardless of whether it is within their regular voting precinct. On election day, however, voters must cast their ballots at their regular voting location. Early voting days are April 16-April 29, and early voting locations are located from one end of the county to the other. A listing of these locations are listed on Page 5.

Library bug in Anthony

The Valley Community Library, located at 735 Church Street in Anthony, is planning to debut a new mascot, "Binnie the Book Bug," at a funfest event on April 12, 10 a.m. to noon on the library grounds. Admission is free and a variety of fund activities for children of all ages are planned. The event is sponsored by the Friends of the Valley Community Library. Binnie is the result of a contest to design and name a mascot for the Library. Binnie's appearance is similar to a ladybug and the book bug pulls a little red wagon loaded with books. Photos of children with the mascot will be available for \$2. The concept was designed by La Union 5th grader, Clarisa Escamilla. Information on the event is available at (505) 882-7982.

In other news

■ Last week Border Patrol agents at the Las Cruces Traffic Checkpoint on Interstate 25 seized 51 pounds of cocaine, valued at \$1.6 million, discovered inside a door panel of a late-model sedan. The driver, a 21-year-old female with a border crossing card, was arrested in the incident

■ National Youth Service Day, coordinated in El Paso County by the Texas A&M Cooperative Extension, will be held April 12 at Ft. Bliss with a massive carnival organized by NYSD volunteer organizations including Youth Service America, National Youth Leadership Council, Parade Magazine, Big Brothers and Big Sisters of America; Campfire USA; Habitat for Humanity; National Education Association; the U.S. Conference of Mayors and YMCA. Between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. there will be an Easter egg hunt and activity booths, both indoors and out, will feature face-painting, entertainment, food and photo opportunities. A local goal of this event was to involve at least 500 volunteers of all ages in this endeavor to spotlight the role of youth in community service organizations. For more information about local events and

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In many ways the past two hundred years of our history have changed this country from independence to government dependence.

— Quips & Quotes

Vote by Vinton council makes county sports district official

By Don Woodyard
Courier Staff Writer

VINTON — The El Paso County Sports Venue District became official March 4 as the Vinton Village Council became the first municipality to vote in favor of its creation.

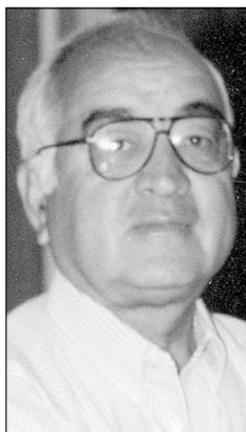
Council was divided on the issue that was eventually approved on a 3-2 vote. A proposal to table action failed by a 3-2 margin.

Mayor Tony Castro and alderman Yassu Grier urged caution.

"I am for it, but I am cautious," Castro said, expressing concern about the village being the "sacrificial lamb (or) scapegoat" if things don't work out.

"I think we should wait," Grier said, "to have time to look it over." Some council members were concerned that voting for it would impose a tax burden on Vinton.

Jose Alarcon, mayor pro-tem, disagreed. "I give it 100 percent support. We need to move the community forward — and take



CAUTIOUS: Vinton mayor Tony Castro (above) and alderman Yassu Grier want to look closer at the sports district project.

on the challenge. "The district is going to happen. Will we have a voice at the table?"

Adding his voice to the approval of the district was Anthony Mayor Art Franco who attended the Vinton meeting. "It's going to happen. We have to throw caution to the winds. I have a dream to build it here. We have to dream a little."

Franco was referring to the 50-acre site offered by American RV and Marine at its location in Anthony between Anthony and the

See SPORTS DISTRICT, Page 6

Anthony mayor cites several examples of improvement in his community

By Don Woodyard
Courier Staff Writer

ANTHONY — It used to be, reflects Anthony Mayor Art Franco, that nobody gave Anthony a second look. It was not the place in which businesses would set up operations.



FULL AHEAD: Anthony mayor Art Franco wants to move on the sports district project.

That's not the case any more, he says.

Cases in point: American RV and Marine is in operation on the east side of I-10 between the Anthony and Vinton exits. And it has plans for expansion to attract

tourists with a proposed sports arena built on 50 acres of land donated by CEO Jim Paxton. As reported in the Feb. 27 issue of the *Courier*, County Commissioners voted to create a sports district in conjunction with Anthony.

The action was later amended by Commissioners Court, according to coliseum manager Brian Kennedy, to allow for its creation with the approval of any municipality in the county. Vinton voted its approval last week.

Franco said he had been prepared to bring a request for approval for the sports district at a special Anthony Town Council meeting. Action by Vinton made such action unnecessary.

- Groundbreaking was held last week for a new Blockbuster Video store in Anthony.
- The mayor says a "major store," which has branches in El Paso, is looking at expanding in Anthony. He declined to give the name of the store because of on-going discussions about it coming into the Upper Valley community.

"My goal is to make the town more financially stable. We seem to be doing good right now," says the 10-year mayor who indicates he will be running for re-election in May.

Franco hopes that some of that financial stability will be reflected in new revenue generated from visitors to the community.

This money is expected to come from two

See ANTHONY, Page 6

Duran appointed to serve on Presidential advisory committee for environmental affairs

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Arturo "Tury" Duran, general manager of the Lower Valley Water District, has been tapped by President George W. Bush to serve on the Joint Public Advisory Committee of the Commission for Environmental Cooperation.



PRESIDENTIAL APPOINTEE: "Tury" Duran was appointed to serve on an environmental committee.

In a Feb. 12 memo from the Office of the White House Press Secretary, Duran was among several appointments announced by President Bush to the national press.

As the sole representative from the U.S./Mexican border area, Duran joined Patricia Clarey of California, Dinkerai Desai of New Jersey, Jane Gardner of Connecticut and Patricia McDonald of Wyoming as appointees to the Commission.

Duran was notified of his appointment in Nov. 7 of last year in a letter from James L. Connaughton, Chairman of the White House Council on Environmental Quality; and Clay Johnson, Assistant to the President for Presidential Personnel and Deputy to the Chief of Staff.

"Your appointment is a great honor and also brings with it great responsibility," Connaughton wrote. "You are a representative for the United States and the President.

"The Office of Presidential Personnel has enjoyed working with you throughout the appointment process, and we are excited for you to join the President's team."

Duran said the appointment was a pleasant surprise and as a result of his experiences in environmental issues in both the U.S. and Mexico, he appreciated an opportunity to have input into national policies.

A reception in honor of his appointment was held in El Paso at the Camino Real Hotel.

An active participant in areas of debt reduction and tax reform on the state level, Duran serves as a member of the Business Advisory Council to which he was appointed by the National Republican Congressional Committee.

Additionally, Duran has also been notified he will be presented the Texas 2003 Businessman of the Year Award by the National Republican Congressional Committee during an Awards Luncheon March 18 in Washington, D.C., and has been invited to participate in the Congressional Tax Summit on the President's economic stimulus plan.

Aguilar removed as interim superintendent at Socorro ISD

EAST EL PASO COUNTY — The Socorro Independent School District Board of Trustees, on a split vote, released Mario Aguilar from his position as interim superintendent Monday, March 10, returning him to the position as assistant superintendent for operational services.

Voting in favor of the action were Board President Craig Patton and Trustees Brenda Castaneda, Barbara Perez Pena, and Isela Rosales.

Voting against the measure were Board Vice President Martha Contreras and Trustee Guillermo "Willie" Gandara.

Board Secretary Alex Vidales abstained. Aguilar, who was not at the March 10 meeting, was appointed interim superintendent following the resignation of Superintendent Don Schulte in August of 2002.

Patton said the move to return Aguilar to his former position was prompted by Aguilar's decision to seek the superintendency permanently.

Patton said he did not want other applicants for the superintendent position to be under the impression that they were competing with an applicant already holding the interim position. He added that his vote to approve Aguilar for

the interim spot was based on the assurance that Aguilar did not want the permanent position.

Contreras said she did not think it was fair to remove Aguilar from the interim position until he was allowed to address the issue.

The Board will meet in special session on Thursday, March 13, to hire someone else to fill the interim position.

A search is currently underway for a permanent superintendent with a deadline of March 6 for applications. Patton said that the board plans to choose finalists as a special board meeting March 20.



One perspective

By Francis Shrum

Moving around

There are folks in this country who move all the time.

I don't mean just from this city to that but I'm talking coast to coast, even continent to continent. They get pretty good at it. They are organized and efficient. Sometimes they don't even get everything unpacked before they move again.

Our family moves, too — just all around in the same house.

We've lived in this house for about 15 years now and we've used every room in nearly every possible configuration and practically every member has occupied each of the bedrooms at least once.

My mother says that for people who don't ever move anywhere we sure do move alot. She says that every time she comes to see us the whole house looks different.

But it isn't just because we like to move things around. It's that somehow our various family members have different needs at different times, between the time they hatch and the time they fly the coop.

For instance, when we first moved into this house it was all nice and neat. Three bedrooms, two parents sharing one, one little girl and one little boy. Like I said, nice and neat.

Then I got pregnant again — and again. It's all been downhill from there. We've had teenagers and toddlers in the house all at the same time — talk about your varied needs.

But the one family member that has created the most havoc in our living arrangements is Family Business.

My husband says Family Business resembles a two-year-old that never grows up. It's always demanding attention, not quite capable of caring for

itself and waking up on a different side of the bed everyday — you never know what mood it is going to be in.

As a result our Family Business has occupied five different locations in Horizon City over the past 20 years, some of them twice.

It has moved back home a few times though, like a recalcitrant teenager, it always moves back out again. It has lived in the family room — we moved the couches out from the wall and lined it with desks, files and computer screens. The littlest baby occupied a nearby cradle during those days. At one point, Family Business lived in one of the bedrooms when the garage/office/classroom was needed as temporary lodging for family members in transition.

Like any two-year-old, Family Business manages to strew its things from one of the house to the other.

So this week, we moved again. Family Business found new lodging in a nice new location down on Ashford Street after spending a few months back at home.

Our friend loaned us his trailer again — he says we have visitation rights since it has been in our possession so much. We lugged the usual file cabinets, computers, office supplies and books from here to there, one more time. Somehow, in spite of the discomfort of aching backs and chaos, Family Business seems to configure comfortably to where ever we move it, sort of like a life-sized jigsaw puzzle with an endless variety of ways it can fit together.

I'm glad to see Family Business move out once again — I can move

See MOVING, Page 4



30 Years WEST TEXAS COUNTY COURIER

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

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Homesteader News, Inc.
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Border legislation targets needs of El Paso, surrounding region

We all know that we have unique strengths and needs along the Southwest border. Working with my colleagues from other border communities, we have recently introduced several bills with the goal of bringing new funding and increased federal attention to the infrastructure, health care, and security needs of El Paso and the region as a whole.

The Southwest Regional Border Authority Act

In order to better coordinate and stimulate regional economic development, and bring new funds to the border region, I introduced the Southwest Regional Border Authority act in the House with the support of my fellow border colleagues. A companion version of the bill was introduced by Senators Jeff Bingaman (D-NM) and Kay Bailey Hutchison (R-TX) in the U.S. Senate.

This act would create an independent agency, led by one Senate-confirmed federal representative and the

governors of Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, and California, to unite local and national leaders as they address the long terms needs of the border region. Technology and workforce development are at the heart of this bill, which also recognizes the key role played by small businesses and therefore would help them gain access to capital. The bill authorizes \$50 million for the first year, followed by increasing amounts in subsequent years.

SCAAP

A major burden on our local law enforcement is the cost of dealing with undocumented criminal aliens. The State Criminal Alien Assistance Program, know as SCAAP, helps offset these costs with federal funds. Last year, El Paso received over \$772,471 from SCAAP. However, SCAAP is due to expire at the end of the 2004 fiscal year and the White House has proposed eliminating it even earlier. This would be a big loss for El Paso. Therefore I joined my colleagues in introducing a bill to extend the program through 2010 and

fund it at \$750 million starting next year.

The Border Infrastructure and Technology Modernization Act

Congressman Jim Kolbe of Arizona has introduced the Border Infrastructure and Modernization Act, which focuses specifically on the unique homeland security needs of the Southern and Northern borders. This legislation includes additional funding for inspectors at our ports of entry and a number of measures, such as expanding supply chain security programs, aimed at both improving security and facilitating cross border trade.

The Undocumented Immigrant Health Care Bill

This bill will bring much-needed federal relief to El Paso hospitals and other healthcare providers, and would authorize \$1.45 billion per year for 4 years to compensate providers, counties and states for undocumented immigrant emergency medical costs. Of the \$1.45 billion, Texas would likely receive nearly \$300 million in funding annually.



AMERICA AT WAR



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

Left-wing attack on a Hispanic hero



Unless you've turned off your television, stopped listening to your car radio and ignored all the newspapers you've probably caught news about the Miguel Estrada nomination. This is an important moment for Hispanics across our nation. Our United States Senate has the opportunity to nominate a highly qualified Hispanic to the highest level of our judiciary.

Unfortunately, liberal members of our Senate are threatening to filibuster the nomination. They're ignoring the fact that Mr. Estrada has received the highest possible rating from the American Bar Association. He has been endorsed by countless organizations — not to mention the President of the United States. The more the opposing Senators talk, the more it is clear their reasons are purely political.

Dick Morris, a former consultant to President Clinton, Sen. Trent Lott (R-Miss) and other political figures recently wrote a pointed editorial on the issue. He hits the nail on the head when he questions the Miguel Estrada nomination process. This is an editorial worth reading. It's such an important statement that I'd like to give Mr. Morris the space of my column so that you have the opportunity to read his views. So without further adieu, here is an excerpt of Dick Morris' column from *The Hill* newspaper:

The Democrats are talking themselves to death in their filibuster against the nomination of Miguel Estrada to the federal bench.

No imputed bias. Not even any clear indication of a strong right wing or left wing political philosophy. The burden of the Democratic argument seems to be that Estrada has not ruled, in advance, on all the cases that will come before him. What many would take as a refreshing lack of prejudice and the indication of an open mind, the Democrats assume is evidence of a great conspiracy of silence.

Liberals see the Estrada filibuster as providing a precedent for a new level of disclosure for all nominees to the federal bench. Rather than nominate and confirm good people and let them decide cases, the Democrats are now asking for clear commitments on each area of judicial decision-making that a new judge is likely to confront. The independence of the judiciary is at stake in this new assertion of legislative prerogative.

But the Democrats should realize that they have chosen a terrible target for their new level of scrutiny. By filibustering an Hispanic nominee and going to such lengths to block his confirmation, even when there is no clear reason to do so, they are asking the Hispanic voters to turn against them in droves.

Remember the stakes, folks. The Hispanic population grew by 4.7 percent last year, while blacks expanded by 1.5 percent and whites by a paltry 0.3 percent. Hispanics

There is no ethical problem here. No rash statements.

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For Sanity's Sake By Taprina Milburn

Real women

American women are singing praises to Jamie Lee Curtis, the actress/author who not long ago bared her authentic self in a women's magazine.

Curtis, known for many years as a woman with a perfect Hollywood body, allowed photographers to capture what she looks like before hair stylists and makeup artists did their work. Dressed in a sports bra and spandex shorts, she also showed America that she, a woman over 40, now has a doughboy belly and not-so-perfect thighs. If you don't believe me, look at the magazine yourself.

In a television interview promoting the issue, the actress says she wants to help women to accept their bodies as they age and, most importantly, to remember that a woman is more than her looks.

Of course, as I watched the program I was applying eye and lip liner, looking for my support hose and waiting for my curling iron to heat up.

It's nice that Curtis is coming clean about what magazines and Hollywood do to perpetuate the myth of a perfect body and face — hours in the hair and make-up chair, air brushing of photographs to banish cellulite, wrinkles and other imperfections.

What I saw in that picture is a woman who's figured out, despite our looks-obsessed culture, that she is still valuable, desirable, intelligent and creative beyond her firm, perky, wrinkle-free years, and who's willing to share the secret with other women who don't already know this. (Do men know this secret about us?)

Although Curtis' revelation has freed some women to abandon their

hair-color products and Thigh Masters, I believe there are many of us women who were already privy to her revelation.

Growing up as a women's-magazine junkie, it took becoming the mother of a daughter for me to remember that we start out as young girls knowing what "real" looks and feels like. However, after years of looking at what the media presents as normal, we can lose touch with the truth. Early on my daughter picked up on the perfection myth.

"Mom, I don't know any woman who looks like Barbie," she said. And, "Why do models on TV and in magazines look so bony? They don't look healthy."

I have made it my personal goal as a mother to help her hang on to that picture of truth she started out with, to keep in front of her the examples of what real women look like and are made of. That we come in all shapes and sizes; that our intelligence isn't determined by our dress size; that the body and mind we're issued at birth grows into the body and mind we will carry with us into our elderly years. Everything we do to it throughout our life — negative and positive — can have lasting effects.

No, I'm not up to the Curtis challenge. I'm not giving up Cover Girl or canceling my appointment to get my hair highlighted. Call me shallow, less evolved as a woman, but those are things I do to make myself feel good. But I will continue to point my daughter to the mirror and say, "That's what 'real' looks like."

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Write stuff

Dear Editor:

(In Horizon City) you pay for water twice — on your El Paso County Water Authority levy on your yearly tax bill and on your water bill. You pay high taxes as there is no tax base. The developers have rezoned land from commercial to low cost housing. We have a city council that keeps

raising taxes and only using it for administration cost and raises. Many roads will be beyond repair. No city services exist. We need to replace our big spenders running our city for the benefit of the developers.

Mark Connolly
Horizon City

Reading program helps make up for lack of public library in San Elizario

By Phillip Cortez
Special to the Courier

SAN ELIZARIO — Reading Is Fundamental.

There can't be a clearer way of establishing the mission for RIF, a nationwide program started in 1966 that develops and "delivers children's and family literacy programs that help prepare young children for reading and motivate school-age children to read regularly."

What started out as a single campus program has blossomed into a district-wide initiative the last four years in the San Elizario Independent School District, according to Ernesto Rodriguez, Director of Research and Development in San Elizario. RIF funding increased in the district, from \$13,458 in 2001-2002 to \$17,934 in 2002-2003 because of the program's success. And the proof was in the wide variety of campus reading activities that centered on Read Across America's Dr. Seuss Week March 3-7, kicked off by a book relay from campus to campus.

From "There's a Wocket in My Pocket" to "Thidwick the Big-Hearted Moose," children of all ages throughout the district enjoyed the rhythm, rhyme and imagination of one of the world's most renowned children's writers, read by professionals throughout the district as well



CHARACTERS: San Eli professionals and community members dressed their parts as they read to interested young audiences.

as members of the community, including former East Side Rep. Dusty Rhodes, who read "Bartholomew and the Oobleck" to Sambrano Elementary fourth graders.

Even high school students got involved in stressing the importance of reading to students much younger than themselves. Amanda Duran, Elvia Jasso, Leilani Lopez, Angelica Pacheco, Iliana Prieto, Joseph Candelaria and Andrew Soliz (who portrayed the eagle mascot) read and

acted out "Hooray for Diffendoofer Day" to a group of excited Loya Primary kindergarteners.

"It was an ingenious way to use the skills that these kids have to stress the importance of reading," Rodriguez said. "You could see the enjoyment in the children's eyes."

Amidst all the fun, the district knows the importance of having RIF in San Elizario, where there is no public library, according to Rodriguez, which is why RIF book distributions at all grade levels are so important. Three times a year, all campuses give out free books to students.

"Reading is like air," Rodriguez said. "We can't live without it. It's a constant in our lives so why not promote the lifetime interest in it?"

City of Horizon City PUBLIC NOTICE

A PUBLIC HEARING will be held during a **Regular Planning and Zoning Meeting on Monday, March 24, 2003 at 6:30 p.m.** at City Hall, 14999 Darrington Road, Horizon City, Texas. The purpose of the public hearing is to allow any interested persons to appear and comment regarding proposed rezoning of the following property:

- 1) Rezoning from R-2, Residential to C-1, Commercial; of Lots 1, 2 and 3 of Eastlake Commercial Center, Unit #2 Subdivision; being a portion of Tract 3 Section 31, Block 78, Township 3, Texas and Pacific Railway Company Surveys, Town of Horizon City, El Paso County, Texas comprised of 7.062 acres of land.

Those who are unable to attend may submit their views in writing to the City Clerk of Horizon City at the above address.

Sandra Sierra
City Clerk

WTCC: 03/13/03

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PUBLIC NOTICE FOR COMMENT PERIOD

PUBLIC IS INVITED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE EI PASO METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION'S PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT PROGRAM

WHO, WHAT?

The El Paso Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) announces a 30-day public comment period for its **Transportation Improvement Program 2004-2008 (TIP) beginning on March 10, 2003 and ending on April 9, 2003.** The TIP includes transportation related projects that are scheduled to be executed in these years in the El Paso metropolitan area.

WHY?

Every citizen living in this region has the right to be informed and to participate in the decision making process of how to improve our transportation systems. Your opinion is important and it counts.

WHERE?

The El Paso MPO is hosting public meetings during the 30-day period to inform the citizens about the **2004-2008 TIP**, and to encourage discussions and comments about it. MPO staff will be available to receive comments and answer any questions. The public meetings are scheduled as follows:

Tuesday, March 18, 2003

San Martin De Porras Catholic Church
Parish Hall
1885 McNutt Road
Sunland Park, NM 88063
6:00 p.m. — 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, March 19, 2003

Socorro City Hall
Council Chambers
124 S. Horizon
Socorro, TX 79927
6:00 — 7:30 p.m.

Thursday, March 20, 2003

La Mujer Obrera
Centro Obrero Fronterizo
2000 Texas Ave.
El Paso, TX 79901
6:00 p.m. — 7:30 p.m.

Copies of the TIP 2004-2008 will be available at these meetings and throughout the 30-day period at all Public Library branches and at the following locations:

El Paso MPO
10967 Gateway Blvd. West, S.605
El Paso, TX 79935

Texas Department of Transportation
13301 Gateway Blvd. West
El Paso, TX 79928

City of El Paso Planning Dept.
2 Civic Center Plaza, 2nd floor
El Paso, TX 79901

Town of Horizon City
14999Darrington Road
Horizon City, TX 79927

Sun Metro
700 San Francisco
El Paso, TX 79901

City of Sunland Park
1000 McNutt Road
Sunland Park, NM 88063

Village of Vinton
436 Vinton Rd
Vinton, TX 79821

Town of Clint
200 N. San Elizario Road
Clint, TX 79836

Town of Anthony
401 Oak St.
Anthony, TX 79835

The public is encouraged to review and comment on the TIP 2004-2008 as well by logging into the MPO's web page at www.elpasompo.org. For more information, contact Ricardo Dominguez at the El Paso MPO Office, (915) 591-9735.

WTCC: 03/13/03

Moving

From Page 2

the girls' desks out of the living room back into the classroom and you can hear my desk let out a sigh of relief as it gains a few inches of breathing room.

Now that Family Business has moved out I can look around and see some new ways I can use all this empty space — I could put that over there and this back there...

As she carried a box filled with rulers, calendars, pencils and pushpins out to the car my twelve-year-old looked at me with the weary wisdom of age.

"Why does this situation seem so familiar?" she asked.

You know, she's got a point. For people who never move anywhere, we sure do move alot.

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Briefs

From Page 1

volunteerism contact Jim Rodgers at 859-7725 or visit www.nysdelpaso.com.

■ Dr. Bob Hillman assume duties April 1 as Texas' new state veterinarian and executive director for the Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC), the state's regulatory agency responsible for livestock and poultry health. Dr. James Lenarduzzi, interim TAHC executive director since December 2002, will return to his duties as director of TAHC's Area 5. A native of Cameron, Texas, Dr. Hillman graduated from Texas A&M University's School of Veterinary Medicine in 1971. He worked as a field veterinarian for the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) in Wichita Falls before moving to private practice, first in Vernon, Texas, then as a practice partner in Burley, Idaho. In 1981, Dr. Hillman joined the Idaho State Department of Agriculture as chief of the Bureau of Animal Health. Since 1990, he has served as the administrator of the Division of Animal Industries in Idaho.

■ Horizon's award-winning Scorpion cheerleading squad is seeking members for divisions pee-pee through high school. The group performs regularly at com-

munity events such as the Sun Bowl half-time, the Thanksgiving parade and at area competitions. Information: 852-4235.

■ Cotton producers in the El Paso/Trans Pecos Boll Weevil Eradication Zone referendum are reminded that their ballot must be postmarked by March 17 to be considered in the decision whether or not to continue an eradication program. Growers who have not received a ballot should call the Texas Dept. of Agriculture at 1-800-835-5832. Growers in this zone approved a boll weevil eradication program in March of 1999 and a maximum assessment of \$20 per land acre to fund it. If the program is continued the current assessment rate will not be affected. The El Paso/Trans Pecos zone covers about 60,000 acres in 15 counties including El Paso and Hudspeth.

■ As part of National Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month, Del Sol Regional Oncology Center is offering a free screening for colorectal cancer 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday, March 15 at the Del Sol Regional Oncology Center, 10460 Vista Del Sol. Space is limited to the first 200 participants, first-come, first-serve. For more information, call 915-593-5108. Colorectal cancer affects both men and women and the risk increases with age, but it is easily treated and often curable when detected early.

■ Registration for new students at Lorenzo G. Loya school in San Elizario, ages three to five, will be held March 25, 8 a.m. to noon, and March 26, 1:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. in the gymnasium. Registration requires birth certificate, Social Security card, proof of address and immunization record. Proof of income required for pre-kinder only. There will be a shot clinic available on March 25 from 8 a.m. to noon and 1. to 4:00 p.m. Information: contact Luz Maynez at 872-3940.

■ For those who think a workout means running or weights and that a pool is just for play, the coaches and physicians of United States Masters Swimming (USMS) have news for you: Swimming can be a rigorous, effective fitness workout — and be fun in the process. And just putting on a swimsuit can be an effective motivation to lose a few pounds! United States Masters Swimming (www.usms.org) is a national organization that provides organized workouts, competitions, clinics and workshops for adults aged 18 and over. Programs are open to all adult swimmers (fitness, triathlete, competitive, non-competitive) who are dedicated to improving their fitness through swimming and maintaining a healthy lifestyle. Founded in 1970, USMS is organized with 500 clubs in 53 regions throughout the nation.

■ Continuing a 20-year Muscular

Dystrophy Association tradition, patrons across the country are each donating \$1 to the fight against neuromuscular diseases by buying and signing shamrock mobiles at thousands of supermarkets, convenience stores, restaurants, gas stations and other retailers. The nation's largest charitable campaign associated with St. Patrick's Day, Shamrocks Against Dystrophy in 2002 raised more than \$13 million. MDA is a voluntary health agency working to defeat more than 40 neuromuscular diseases through programs of worldwide research, comprehensive services, and far-reaching professional and public health education. For information about MDA or the Shamrocks program, call 800-572-1717 or visit www.mdausa.org.

■ Signups for Horizon City Little League will be held Saturdays and Sundays, March 1 through March 16, from 1 to 3 p.m. at the Horizon Vista Food Store for players age 8-12 (must not be 13 before Aug. 1). The team, sanctioned through Little League, Inc., will play a minimum of a 12-game season beginning April 19. Tryouts will be held at the Horizon Municipal Park on March 22. Registration fee is \$25 per player. Coaches, umpires, field maintenance and concession help also needed. Call John Dixon at 852-9349 or Van Boatright at 852-3949 for more information.

EL PASO COUNTY ELECTIONS DEPARTMENT

Early Voting Sites for the May 3, 2003 General Elections
April 16-29, 2003
(Polling will be open on Saturday, April 26 at Numbers 4 through 13)

1. Anthony City Hall, 401 Oak St., 8:30-4:30
2. Vinton City Hall, 400 Vinton Rd., 3-6
3. Canutillo Elementary, 651 Canutillo Ave., 8:30-4:30
4. El Paso County Courthouse, 500 E. San Antonio, 8-5
5. Promenade Shopping Strip, 7500 N. Mesa, 9-6
6. Kern Place, 9-6
7. Bassett Center, 6101 Gateway West, 9-6
8. Montwood Mall, 2200 Yarbrough, 9-6
11. Pavo Real Rec. Center, 9301 Alameda, 9-6
12. Burgess Library, 9600 Dyer, 9-6
13. Sunrise Shopping Center, 8500 Dyer, 9-6
14. Oz Glaze Sr. Center (Horizon), 1396 Veny Webb, 8-5
15. Vista Del Sol Elementary, 11851 Vista Del Sol, 8-5
16. Montana Vista Elementary, 3550 Mark Jason, 8-5
17. Montwood High School, 12000 Montwood Dr., 8-5
18. Socorro High School, 10150 Alameda, 8-5
19. Clint Jr. High, 13000 Alameda, 8-5
20. Borrego Elementary, 13300 Chicken Ranch Rd., 8-5
21. Rogelio Sanchez Center, 1331 N. Fabens St., 9-4

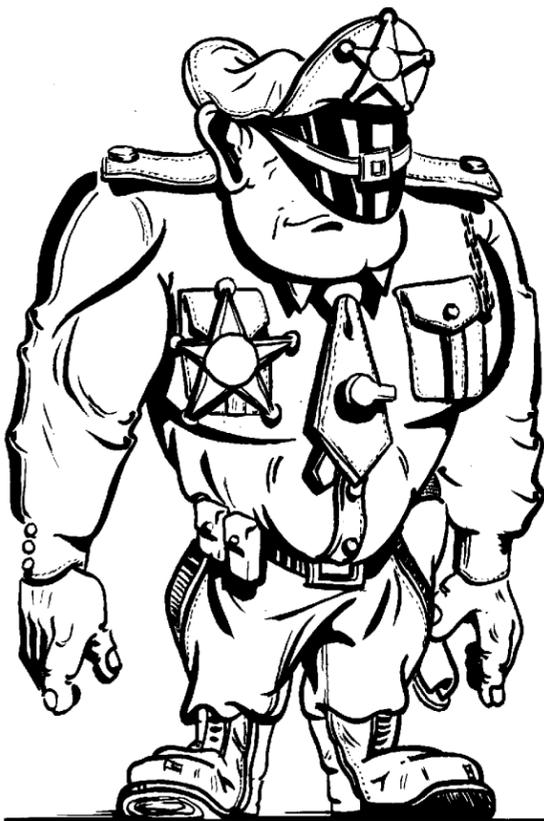
Bonilla

From Page 3

cast 6 percent of the vote in 1990 and 12 percent in 2000. If their numbers expand at the current pace, they will be up to 18 percent in 2010 and 24 percent in 2020. With one-third of Hispanics voting Republican, they are the jump ball in American politics. As this vote goes, so goes the future.

Republicans got off on the wrong foot by listening to the likes of Pat Buchanan and other Nativists. Their English-only and anti-immigration initiatives stopped them from appealing to newly arrived Hispanic voters. But President Bush has changed all that. Estrada symbolizes the transition. If Bush takes it the next step and embraces some of Mexican President Vicente Fox's ideas about earned amnesty for Mexican-Americans, he can truly bring Hispanics into the Republican fold for decades to come.

Estrada is no Clarence Thomas, so clearly out of step with his voters as to make his nomination suspect. And Hispanics are not blacks, so committed to the Democratic Party that it would take an act of genocide to breach their unity. Hispanics are up for grabs and each day of the filibuster drives them further toward the GOP.



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Private mail boxes provide security for your mail that a home box just can't offer. Applicants are now being accepted for Horizon's only private boxes. Please apply, in person, at 14200 Ashford, Ste. C or call 852-3235.

GREAT FOR:

- Business address drop
- Securing payments
- Peace of mind



The Horizon Contract Post Office has moved to 14200 Ashford, Ste. C. — In the Horizon Communities Improvement Association Building —
Open: 9 AM to 3 PM, Monday through Friday

The boys of Bonaventure showed little courage in spineless decision

By Steve Escajeda
Special to the Courier

One of the very first things I taught my son concerning the wonderful world of athletics was how to be a good sport.

I told him that he wasn't always going to win and that though winning is good, he would learn so much more about himself through adversity than he ever would by always winning.

I taught him that it was important to win with dignity, class and respect for his opponent but that it was even more important to display those qualities after a loss.

It's important for all young kids to grow up with these rules of life. It will make them better men and women as they grow older.

I guess the most important rule that I've taught my son is never — I don't care how bleak things look, how insurmountable the odds are, how improbable the chances are of succeeding — ever quit.

There is nothing worse than a person who quits. Quitting, like anything else in life, can become a nasty habit. And once you do it, it gets easier and easier to quit again after that.

But it's rather evident that not every young man is lucky enough to learn these valuable

lessons — and even more tragic is the fact that some older men sometimes forget them.

Where does all this take us? To the St. Bonaventure men's basketball program of course.

Seems the St. Bonaventure basketball team was dealt a mighty blow last week when it was determined that one of its players was ruled ineligible for falsifying his eligibility status to play at a major university.

Instead of earning an Associate's degree at a junior college, Jamil Terrell had actually earned, of all things, a certificate in welding.

Needless to say, the players and coaches were distraught at the news that the team would have to forfeit six wins and now would be ineligible for the Atlantic 10 conference tournament.

Now, like I said earlier, it's during times like these that we show who we truly are, deep inside. And with just two games left in the season, the St. Bonaventure players, coaches and administrators let their true colors show...they decided to quit and not play their last two games.

The players took a vote and decided that rather than face the adversity head-on like men, they chose the coward's way out and opted not to even try.

Even more shameful are the actions of those in charge. After several discussions between

school administrators and coaches, it was determined that the team and school would abide by the players' decision.

No person of authority, who should have shown the strength of a true leader, stepped forward to talk the students about bravery, integrity and maturity and tell them that playing out the season was the only thing to do.

Coach Jan van Breda Kolff gave in to the players' decision, even though he claimed he wanted to play the games. School spokesman David Ferguson said the team was going through many emotions and found it difficult to play at this time.

Found it difficult to play? If it was up to this guy the basketball players would be forced to wear legwarmers and precious headbands at every game...provided the players were emotionally sound. Wow, a tower of strength Ferguson is not.

As a result of the spineless leadership at St. Bonaventure, heads eventually rolled. School President Robert Wickenheiser resigned last Sunday as a result of the school's actions.

The St. Bonaventure board of trustees, which unanimously sought Wickenheiser's resignation, also placed athletics director Gothard Lane and head coach van Breda Kolff on administrative leave.

Wickenheiser's son, Kort Wickenheiser, who was an assistant coach under van Breda Kolff, was also placed on administrative leave.

What a mess. But we can still thank all the individuals involved in this fiasco for giving us an example of what the right thing to do is...the opposite of what they did.

The really sad thing is that everyone involved will live with the repercussions of this incident for many years to come, and some won't ever be able to shake it off.

It's a shame that these are the type of young men we have to look forward to for our future.

Makes you wonder how these young men will respond to real adversity in the future. How the heck will they survive if they lose their jobs? What if they have to be strong for a loved one in need? What if they are ever called upon to defend their country?

Those are some pretty stressful situations...and these guys couldn't even suck it up enough to play two insignificant basketball games.

But the older guys have no excuses either — just when young people needed a hero, a true leader to emerge and lead the way, St. Bonaventure's coaches and administrators made a critical choice between the "feelings of boys" and the "duty of men." And they chose poorly.

Sports district

From Page 1

Vinton exits off of I-10.

The land is being offered free of charge to the county for construction of a sports arena by Jim Paxton, president and CEO of American RV and Marine.

Coliseum manager Brian Kennedy, who also attended, later explained that Commissioners Court had originally voted to establish the district with the town of Anthony, but later amended it to formalize its establishment when any one municipality votes its approval.

Dennee Knight, marketing director for American RV, made a presentation to council members on proposed development of the area to draw RVers and other tourists to the area. The sports arena, she explained, would be a part of a "1,000-

acre tourist destination complex." It would encompass the creation of a resort and rally park for RV owners as well as construction of an old west frontier town, complete with chuck wagon rides, restaurants, horseback riding and hiking trails.

"People are dying to come to this part of the country," Knight said, adding that there are approximately 5,000 RV clubs in the nation. She emphasized the positive aspects of having the arena located between Anthony and Vinton. She pointed out that RV owners would be purchasing goods and services in the communities and could be expected to comprise a significant number of attendees at various events held in the proposed arena.

According to an "Arena Fact Sheet" handed out by Knight, action to approve the facility would not be a financial burden to residents. "Because the county has exercised options to refinance current general

obligation bonds and pay off other existing bonds, this money is already built into the tax rate."

It was also pointed out that any additional taxes would have to be approved by voters.

In urging approval, Knight said, "there are opportunities" in this project — that this is a "no harm, no foul situation."

In other action: The council held a public hearing during which it outlined work done in a streets and drainage improvements project. Total cost of the project was \$300,000 and included street improvements, paving and drainage facilities. Members of the audience praised the efforts of the council. "We think you did a beautiful job," said one unidentified person. "Terrific job," echoed another.

Council approved water rate increase requests for two companies, Hillside Water Works and the Gary Richter water company.

Anthony

From Page 1

different areas. One would be from those attending events in the aforementioned proposed sports area. The second would be from the people who would attend soccer matches in a major cluster of playing fields envisioned by The Desert Rats Soccer Club.

The complex would consist of 20 soccer fields for different levels of play from toddler to championship games. Proponents of the endeavor, in a presentation to City Council last October, emphasized the ripple effect of spending by the fans who come for the weekend soccer matches.

Franco says he anticipated approval of funds by council this week for a survey of the proposed 31.7-acre site located off of Antonio Street near the Big Eight Food Store. He is optimistic about the soccer complex coming together.

In addition to new revenues from property taxes and tourism, Franco is looking to a warrant sweep on outstanding warrants to bring in more money to city coffers. "There are a lot of outstanding warrants out there."

The mayor says the town is "getting to be very progressive." However, while being progressive, he doesn't want to sacrifice the features and characteristics of the historic town. "I want to keep the old, but grow for the future," he says. "I want to keep the friendly atmosphere."

He speaks of "good growth," a controlled growth that doesn't tax the existing infrastructure and does not include mobile homes which do not generate tax revenue. Rather, Franco says, it emphasizes new homes to occupy vacant lots in the community.

Part of building for the future is a dream Franco has of a first-class community park, complete with walking trails, skateboarding areas, picnic facilities and an area for outdoor concerts.

King Super Crossword

FOR THE BIRDS

- ACROSS
- 1 Sagan or Sandburg
- 5 Swarm sound
- 9 Montana city
- 14 Monterrey Mrs.
- 17 '58 Pulitzer winner
- 18 Piece of fencing?
- 19 He was "The Thing"
- 21 Pipe part
- 22 WREN
- 25 Brobdingnagian
- 26 For _ (cheaply)
- 27 Comic Costello
- 28 _ Na Na
- 29 Mascagni opera
- 30 Poet Wilcox
- 33 Lohengrin's bird
- 37 African antelopes
- 39 LARK
- 44 "The Optimist's Daughter" author
- 45 Bonanza material
- 46 Coveleski or Musial
- 47 Vichyssoise veggie
- 49 Tip one's topper
- 51 Long-tailed parrot
- 54 Sanford of "The Jeffersons"
- 56 Scandinavian city
- 59 Griffon greeting
- 61 Fool
- 63 Missouri airport abbr.
- 64 Valuable instrument
- 66 Stowe sight
- 67 Screenwriter Nora
- 70 Elf
- 72 Dash
- 73 Sarah _ Jewett
- 74 Inland sea
- 75 QUAIL
- 78 Depravity
- 79 Easy stride
- 80 Bit of gossip
- 81 Parenthesis shape
- 82 Physicist Fermi
- 84 Corset part
- 85 Alfredo ingredient
- 87 British big shot
- 89 Monsarrat's "The Cruel _"
- 90 Tulsa commodity
- 91 Cheat at hide-and-see
- 92 Preposterous
- 95 Sweetheart
- 99 Turn over
- 101 Darjeeling dress
- 103 Invasion
- 105 Frankfurter's field
- 106 Rent
- 109 CRANE
- 113 Church official
- 114 Oriental staple
- 115 Big rig
- 116 Channel
- 117 Actress Hagen
- 119 Plutarch character
- 122 Tole material
- 126 Be important
- 127 PARTRIDGE
- 133 Actor Novello
- 134 Kindle
- 135 Heart burn?
- 136 Time for a sandwich
- 137 According to
- 138 German port
- 139 Racing legend
- 140 Guy Fri.

DOWN

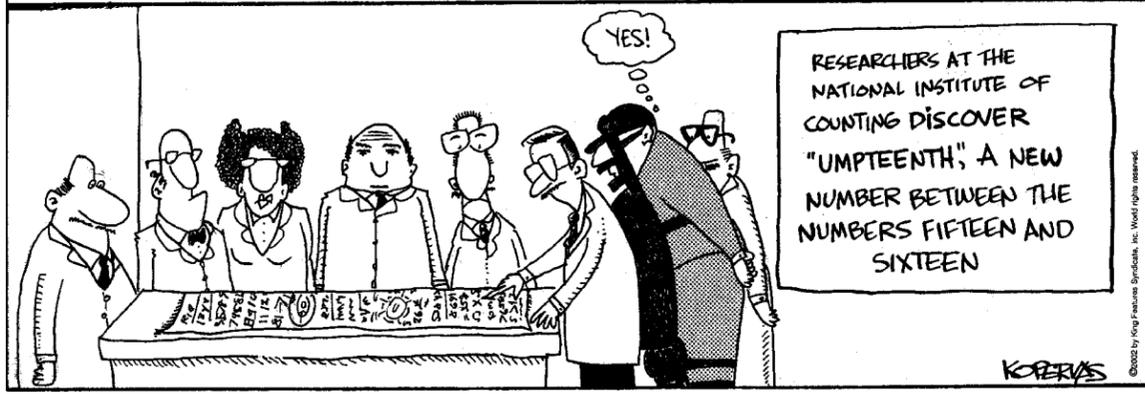
- 1 _ Grande, AZ
- 2 FBI workers
- 3 _ Man" ('84 film)
- 4 Not as fatty
- 5 Neighbor of Ger.
- 6 Prosperous times
- 7 Non-nonchalance?
- 8 Nil
- 9 Crank's comment
- 10 Swiss canton
- 11 Explosive initials
- 12 Golfer's gadgets
- 13 Avoid
- 14 DUCK
- 15 Toomey or Philbin
- 16 Iowa city
- 20 Musty
- 21 Japanese religion
- 23 Hard on the eyes
- 24 Astrology term
- 31 Brown or Baxter
- 32 Vino center
- 34 Corduroy ridge
- 35 Writer Rogers St. Johns
- 36 Formerly known as
- 38 Moro of Italy
- 39 One who no's best?
- 40 Distinctive period
- 41 - room
- 42 Singer Elliot
- 43 Bete noire
- 48 Adorable Australian
- 50 Tenor Corelli
- 52 One of the Judds
- 53 Tolstoy title start
- 55 Coalition
- 57 Play ground?
- 58 Bedding
- 60 At large
- 62 Word with dog or state
- 65 "Never on Sunday" star
- 66 Good-humored
- 67 Amatory
- 68 CARDINAL
- 69 - Dame
- 71 Anaconda, for one
- 74 As well
- 76 Pursues
- 77 Coffee pots
- 83 Ring counter
- 86 Andretti or Cuomo
- 88 Fiber source
- 91 Swamp stuff
- 93 "Death of a Salesman" son
- 94 Pad
- 96 Ryan's "Love Story" co-star
- 97 Bud
- 98 Fluffy female
- 100 Crime writer Colin
- 102 PC key
- 104 SHAEF commander
- 107 "The March King"
- 108 Whole
- 110 Stamping ground
- 111 TV award
- 112 Strauss city
- 113 Debonair
- 116 _ coffee
- 118 Energy source
- 120 One of a pair
- 121 South Seas novel
- 123 New Mexico resort
- 124 John of "Roots"
- 125 Expected back
- 128 Bossy's chew
- 129 Sugary suffix
- 130 Guys
- 131 College growth
- 132 Empower

Answer Page 4

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Comix

OUT ON A LIMB By Gary Kopervas



AMBER WAVES By Dave T. Phipps



THE SPATS By Jeff Pickering



R.F.D. By Mike Marland



Men need to work on publicity

By Don Flood

Listen up, guys!
I'm not sure which one of us is responsible for this but *we have got to get a new publicist!*
Day after day, we are getting hammered out there in the press. Even when there's a story about how wonderful men are, they — and by "they" I mean the enemy — manage to turn it around. For example, I recently saw a headline: Men spend more on Valentines.

find another "expert" to say something like, "This is just another example of women being tightwads. They would much rather spend money on themselves."
That's what our publicist is supposed to be doing. Getting out our spin, our message!
The story doesn't stop there. Even though women spend way less than men, they get points because they "wrapped up their shopping earlier and men often waited until the last minute."

Sounds good, right?
You would expect the story to make the obvious points that men are bighearted, generous, caring, etc. Well, it would — if our publicist was doing his job!

Yeah, so?
Here's what one psychology professor said. "These data suggest that women do spend more time anticipating the holiday, and I suspect they place a greater value on the quality and thoughtfulness of the gift — not just getting something at the last minute."

But here's how it really went. A survey found that men spend 62 percent more on Valentine's Day gifts than women but, according to the story, "experts say that hardly means males are more romantic." What's going on? Here we have some good, hard data about how thoughtful men are, and it's used as a springboard for male bashing. And it's downhill from there.

And here's the really sad part, my friends. The professor who said that, Dennis Murray of Pennsylvania University, is allegedly a man!
How can we win when some of our teammates are playing for the other side!

The very next quote comes from a college professor with the rather unlikely name of Galdino Pranzarone of Roanoke, Va. She says, "I suspect it's an ego thing. Some (men) just don't want to be seen as a cheapskate."

OK, I'll admit, I've occasionally waited to make my Valentine purchases on, say, Feb. 14.

Excuse me? Men spend more than women and suddenly it's a negative, an ego problem?

(I have not waited until Feb. 15, even though you can pick up some really good deals. Relationship experts, however, point out one drawback to waiting until Feb. 15: You may be deceased.)

Let's take another look, shall we?
Mathematically speaking, this isn't hard to figure out. Men spend 62 percent more on Valentine's Day gifts; *therefore men are 62 percent more romantic, more thoughtful, more wonderful.*

But maybe men aren't just "waiting until the last minute."

And how come they couldn't

Maybe they're just *thinking*, trying to come up with the best possible Valentine's present — like tickets to a hockey game.
Here's a thought, guys. Let's spend less on Valentine's Day gifts and use the money to hire a better publicist.

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Classified Ads

LEGALS

SOCORRO INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT
Invitation to Bid/
Respond:

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

CAFETERIA TABLES
CSP NO. 199-0324-0347
ACCEPTED UNTIL
MARCH 24, 2003
AT 2:30 P.M.

JANITORIAL SUPPLIES
CSP NO. 199-0324-0328
ACCEPTED UNTIL
MARCH 24, 2003
AT 3:00 P.M.

ELECTRICAL PARTS AND SUPPLIES
CSP NO. 199-0325-0346
ACCEPTED UNTIL

MARCH 25, 2003
AT 2:30 P.M.
PAPER SUPPLIES
CSP NO. 199-0325-0344
ACCEPTED UNTIL
MARCH 25, 2003
AT 3:00 P.M.

Proposals will be received at Business Services Dept., 12300 Eastlake Drive, El Paso, Texas 79928 until the specified times. Detailed specifications are available from the above office between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. Mondays through Fridays.
WTCC-03/13/03

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COUNTOUR CHAIR with built-in massage in excellent condition. Hardly used. From Craftmatic Countour of Texas.
\$1,500. 852-3226.
3/13-3/20

2002 Honda Accord DX, A/C, 5-speed, 4-cylinder. 23,000 miles. Asking \$14,000. 505-546-4286.

FOR SALE: Bach trumpet, \$200. Call 852-4235. 3/6

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY

BEFORE PEOPLE WROTE WORDS... THEY DREW PICTURES!
ANYONE CAN DRAW! Drawing is the basis for all human visual communication. Anyone, from beginner to professional, will benefit from a back-to-basics "Drawing in Perspective" course offered by Horizon Design Consultants. The first class runs March 17-21. The second class is from

March 31 to April 4. Class sizes are limited to provide maximum individual attention. Call 852-4817 to reserve and for more information.

ENHANCE YOUR CAREER SKILLS! LEARN TO CREATE GRAPHIC DESIGN
HORIZON DESIGN CONSULTANTS will hold two studio classes this spring entitled Graphic Design: Creating a Dialogue. Part One will be March 18-22; Part Two April 1-5. This is a 30-hour foundational level course introducing concepts and techniques used by graphic artists to create effective visual works. Class sizes are limited so call early to reserve at 852-4817.
TFN

HEALTH

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Try the incredible GlycoLEAN® Body System! Call 915-204-7227
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3/20

LOST AND FOUND

LOST - Three-month-old female Bassett hound in the vicinity of Roslyn Drive and Darrington Rd. in Horizon City on Wednesday, Feb. 27. If you have information regarding this puppy please call 852-9195. 3/6

REAL ESTATE

FOR SALE: Single-story home for sale \$75,000, 1,427 square feet within walking distance of golf course. Established

neighborhood, corner lot with a huge front yard. Please call Carol Apodaca, Century 21 APD, 630-7956 or 779-5611.

RENTALS

HOUSE FOR RENT: Two bedroom, off Alameda in Clint. Nicely remodeled. Quiet area. Call 598-1961 or 383-1152.

SELF-HELP OPPORTUNITIES

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

Alcoholics Anónimos Grupo Paso Del Norte sesiones lunes a sabado, a 8-9 de la tarde, 8501 Kingsway, Westway. 886-

4948 para informacion.

Persons who have a problem with alcohol are offered a free source of help locally. Alcoholics Anonymous Group 8 de Enero meets at 15360 Horizon Blvd. in Horizon City on Mondays through Saturdays at 8 p.m. Call 859-0484 for information.

Tiene problemas con el alcohol? Hay una solución. Visitemos. Alcoholicos Anónimos, Grupo 8 de Enero, 15360 Horizon Blvd., Horizon City, sesiones lunes a sábado a 8 de la tarde. Informacion: 859-0484.

SERVICES

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JIFFY GLASS REPAIR

Windshield Repair Specialists
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R.V. Dick Harshberger
915-852-9082

BERT'S AUTOMOTIVE REPAIR
Domestic and Foreign
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HORIZON CITY PLUMBING 852-1079
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Social Security Q&A By Ray Vigil

Q: I'm 50 years old and have worked since I was 16. So I have well over the 40 credits I need to qualify for Social Security. Why am I forced to continue paying Social Security taxes if I already qualify for maximum benefits?

A: The law requires mandatory Social Security tax withholding for almost all workers. Only some government employees and career railroad workers are exempt from Social Security taxes. But you shouldn't confuse the eligibility rules with the benefit calculation rules. Although you

need only 10 years to be vested in Social Security, your retirement benefits will be based on your highest 35 years of earnings. In other words, if you were allowed to drop out of Social Security after meeting the 10-year vesting rule, you would receive a very small Social Security benefit when you reach retirement age, because we would have to add 25 years of "zero" earnings into your retirement calculation

Q: I took my own Social Security at 62 and get about \$450 per month. I was told that when my husband

turned 65 and retired, I could get one-half of his. He retired a long time ago, and I never got any of his Social Security. He gets \$1,100 per month, and by my calculations, I should get \$550. How do I get my extra money?

A: I'm sorry, but there's no extra money — at least not right now. When you took your Social Security at 62, your benefit was reduced by an early-retirement penalty of about 20 percent. A similar penalty carries over to any wife's benefits you might be due. Instead of a 50 percent rate, you would be due about 38 percent of his benefit. So your own retirement benefit pays more. But if your husband dies before you, then you can switch to a

higher widow's rate.

Q: I'm 55 years old and have had some heart surgery. I'm recuperating now and plan to go back to work soon. But in case things take a turn for the worse, how do I sign up for Social Security disability benefits?

A: Instead of waiting for a "turn for the worse," you should consider filing for Social Security disability benefits right now. File now because disability claims can take several months to process. If you end up going back to work, then you can simply drop your claim. But if you're forced into a disability retirement, your claim will be well along the way. The disability application asks

a lot of questions about how your impairment prevents you from working. Be prepared to give us the names, addresses, and phone numbers of all the doctors, clinics, hospitals, etc. where you received treatment. Make a list of all the medications you take, and make a separate list of all the jobs you've held in the last 15 years, together with a summary of your job duties..

For more information visit your local Security office, see 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, 11111 Gateway West, Attn: Ray Vigil, El Paso, Texas 79935.

WEATHER

AccuWeather.com

SEVEN-DAY FORECAST FOR EL PASO

THURSDAY	THUR. NIGHT	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
 Warm with sunshine and patchy clouds. ▲ 78°	 Patchy clouds. ▼ 46°	 Partly sunny and very warm. ▲ 80° ▼ 48°	 Mostly sunny and very warm. ▲ 82° ▼ 50°	 Partly sunny; warm in the afternoon. ▲ 80° ▼ 50°	 Windy with clouds and sun; perhaps a p.m. shower. ▲ 72° ▼ 44°	 Clouds and sun; windy with a shower possible. ▲ 68° ▼ 40°	 Partial sunshine. ▲ 70° ▼ 40°

UV INDEX Statistics for noon.

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

Thursday	8	High
Friday	8	High
Saturday	8	High
Sunday	7	High
Monday	7	High
Tuesday	7	High
Wednesday	8	High

REAL FEEL TEMP™

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

Thursday	83°
Friday	73°
Saturday	73°
Sunday	73°
Monday	71°
Tuesday	59°
Wednesday	67°

AGRICULTURE

Generally dry and unseasonably warm weather will prevail Thursday into the weekend. A disturbance taking shape over central Texas will bring the chance for showers and thunderstorms east of El Paso County on Friday. Otherwise, partly to mostly sunny skies over the next few days with near-record highs expected this weekend.

All forecasts and maps provided by **AccuWeather, Inc. ©2003**

TEXAS WEATHER

Anthony	79	46
Canutillo	79	47
Clint	78	47
E. Montana	78	46
Fabens	77	47
Horizon	78	47
San Elizario	78	44
Socorro	75	45
Tornillo	77	47
Vinton	82	47

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	72/42/s	72/42/s	68/43/s	69/40/s	64/30/s
Atlanta	70/49/sh	68/46/pc	68/46/s	70/48/pc	69/50/pc
Atlantic City	44/33/c	48/28/pc	49/35/s	56/38/s	56/30/pc
Austin/San Antonio	78/56/c	74/49/pc	74/50/s	73/56/pc	78/47/c
Baltimore	44/34/r	50/31/pc	56/36/s	60/40/s	61/35/pc
Boston	34/28/pc	40/30/pc	46/34/pc	50/36/pc	47/25/pc
Chicago	48/34/c	56/40/pc	60/42/pc	57/41/c	49/36/r
Dallas/Ft. Worth	77/53/c	77/52/s	74/53/s	72/56/s	73/45/pc
Denver	70/40/s	74/40/s	66/42/pc	67/38/pc	62/36/pc
Flagstaff	62/28/s	64/30/s	60/30/s	57/31/pc	46/8/r
Houston	79/58/c	75/54/pc	76/55/pc	75/57/pc	78/47/c
Kansas City	68/46/s	72/48/s	72/50/s	72/48/pc	61/42/c
Las Vegas	80/54/s	78/54/s	76/54/pc	70/49/sh	68/45/sh
Miami	87/70/pc	82/68/pc	80/66/pc	80/67/pc	81/60/pc
Minneapolis	46/36/s	58/42/s	58/44/pc	60/46/c	49/32/c
New Orleans	78/58/pc	74/53/pc	74/55/s	74/56/s	76/51/s
New York City	38/33/c	45/35/pc	52/39/s	53/41/s	53/32/pc
Philadelphia	42/34/c	48/34/pc	54/38/s	58/40/s	57/33/s
Phoenix	86/60/s	88/62/s	82/57/s	81/56/pc	73/36/r
Portland	60/48/r	58/46/sh	58/44/sh	55/39/r	54/30/sh
San Francisco	64/54/pc	62/50/r	60/52/r	60/52/r	59/34/c
Seattle	56/46/r	54/44/sh	54/42/sh	53/41/r	52/32/c
Tucson	84/50/s	86/56/s	82/53/s	79/50/pc	71/32/c
Washington, DC	48/38/r	52/38/pc	58/42/s	62/44/s	62/42/pc

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



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