



NEWSBRIEFS

Flowers for moms

• Horizon City Lions will deliver a bouquet of roses to your special mothers for Mothers Day for \$15 a dozen. Orders may be taken no later than April 25. Call 852-3372 or 852-9153 to order.

• The Upper Valley Lions Club will deliver to your special someone a dozen roses for \$15. Delivery will be May 9-10, orders must be placed by May 6. To order call 587-6848 or see an Upper Valley Lion Club member.

Proceeds from these events will be used to benefit area charities and help local children attend the Texas Lions Camp.

Red Road Pow-Wow

The Native American Alliance of Texas will host the Awakening of the Red Road Pow-Wow with a camp-out and festivities on May 3-4 as part of Heritage Week in the Mission (Lower) Valley. Native American dancers and arts, crafts and food booths will delight attendees. The public is invited to take part in the camp-out Saturday night. Admission is free at San Elizario Plaza, off Socorro Road on the Mission Trail. Call Suky Ramos "Eagle Feather" at 422-1700 for information.

In other news

■ Canutillo Independent School District voters will have an opportunity to meet the candidates who are running for a position on the Canutillo ISD Board of Trustees during a Candidates Forum scheduled 6-7:30 p.m., Thursday, April 24, at the CISD Administration Building, 7965 Aircraft. Eight candidates are vying for the four seats up for election during the May 4 voting day. Incumbents running for reelection are Sergio Coronado, Gonzalo (Chalo) Garcia, Yvonne S. Sanchez, and Laure Searls. Also running for the Board are Carl Frieze, David Garcia, Frank Lerma, and Rafael Reyes. The Candidates Forum is presented by Canutillo High School and Canutillo Elementary School students. The public is invited to attend. For more information, call 877-7482.

■ Fabens ISD School Health Advisory Council presents the 2nd Annual Healthy Kids Fair on Saturday, April 26 from 9 a.m. 1 p.m. at Fabens High School. Basketball tournaments, football toss, hula hoop and jump rope contests will all be part of the fun. Immunizations will be offered at \$10.00 per child, and health screenings for blood sugar testing (must be fasting), blood pressure, breast exams, physicals, weight and body mass index measurements will be administered. Amber Cards will be issued by the Sheriff's Department (parent must be present and bring copy of child's birth certificate) There will also be nutrition demonstrations and much more.

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When a speaker says, "Well, to make a long story short" — it's too late.

— Quips & Quotes

Community says 'no' to more high risk inmates in Horizon-area prison

By Don Woodyard
Courier Staff Writer

HORIZON CITY — The word from community members came through loud and clear to representatives of Avalon Correctional Services, Inc. at a public hearing April 16.

And that word from the majority who spoke was "No" to a proposal that Avalon has submitted to the Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ) to establish a pre-parole-transfer (PPT) program in its multi-use facility at 1700 Horizon Blvd.

Approximately 70 attended the hearing, which lasted about an hour. It consisted primarily of hearing the pros and cons regarding the PPT program for which Avalon was bidding. The public hearing was a required step in the bidding process.

An unidentified audience member's question went unanswered when he asked prison officials: "Why don't you take this building and put it in your backyard and then see how safe you and your family feel?"

However, two men did express support for the program and the rehabilitative work the facility now carries out. John Schaeffer and Archie Davis are volunteers who work in a prison ministry that deals with the spiritual aspects of inmate rehabilitation.

William Boothe, facility administrator, said full transcripts

and documents of the hearing are being forwarded to Austin for review by the TDCJ. He later said he is "optimistic" about Avalon being awarded the contract. The company presently operates 14 correctional facilities in Oklahoma, Texas and Colorado.

Avalon's mission statement, in part, reads: "To operate safe, humane and secure correctional

See PRISON, Page 5



UNHAPPY NEIGHBOR — Lucy Rivas, director of Ice Castles Too, stands in front of her daycare facility which houses around 150 children daily. The daycare sits just over one half mile from a detention facility that houses sexual offenders, among others. She's against more inmates.

City of Socorro moves forward to install a city manager

By Arleen Beard
Special to the Courier

SOCORRO — Since the acceptance of the Socorro Charter by the voters of Socorro, back in November 2001, city council has made every effort to operate by its guidelines. The most recent action taken by council at the regularly scheduled meeting was evidence of their efforts to abide by the City Charter.

The Socorro council unanimously approved the recommendation from Civil Service Commission concerning the job description of the city manager post and authorized to advertising for the position.

Creating a position for a city manager was one

major items included in the Charter. Details and qualifications being sought by city council for the positions are available at City Hall.

In other business, a presentation was made by Interim Police Chief Jesus Ortega regarding an unannounced audit that was conducted on the Socorro Police Department by the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement Officer Standards and Education.

The audit consisted of a review of records in three areas of department operations as authorized by Texas Occupations Code, Chapter 1701. There were minimal deficiencies identified which Chief Ortega accepted the audit, he said. Proposed corrective action has been

See SOCORRO, Page 5

Clint High School students charged in rash of campus burglaries

CLINT — The Clint Police Department has arrested three juveniles and one adult for a series of burglaries committed at Clint High School. All four individuals are students at the high school.

"One of the juveniles had stolen a master key from a teacher and was using it to enter in the school during the early evening hours targeting computers, money, and just about anything they could carry off," Clint's Chief of Police K.W. "Bill" Mansion said.

Since the beginning of the school year, the campus had been plagued by burglaries and

thefts from classrooms and the cafeteria. Chief Mansion, who headed the investigation, said the case has produced unexpected results.

"Additional thefts were discovered during the investigation (that) had not yet been reported," he said. "Stolen property was recovered from the homes of the subjects, who were all students."

The four students, whose names are being withheld, were charged with several counts of burglary and engaging in organized criminal activity. The adult was booked into the El Paso County Detention Facility and the juveniles were taken to the Juvenile Probation Department.



NEW SISD LEADER — Robert Duron

Dr. Robert Duron selected to head Socorro ISD

EAST EL PASO COUNTY — Dr. Robert Duron of Houston's Clear Creek Independent School District is the new superintendent of the Socorro schools. Socorro's Board of Trustees approved a contract by a 6-1 vote for Duron during a special board meeting April 21. Duron replaces interim Superintendent Dr. Gary Brooks, and plans to begin his duties June 1. After the vote, Duron shook hands with each board member and expressed his appreciation to the crowd.

"I want to thank all the people who made this possible for me," Duron told the crowd. "I am standing on their shoulders, every paraprofessional, every teacher, assistant principal, principal, every parent and community member that supported me in my 20-year career I stand on their shoulders. They taught me a lot, they guided me."

Duron also praised the members of the Socorro Board of Trustees.

"These are community members that make a great sacrifice for one reason — because they love the students and the staff of Socorro. I certainly will not take that lightly and will commit my heart and soul to the District." Duron says if things go according to plan, he'll visit the District during May to ensure a smooth transition of leadership.

He comes to Socorro after six years as an assistant superintendent of the West Cluster of the Clear Creek district — similar to a large feeder pattern. Duron has also trained campus and central office administrators as an adjunct professor at the University of Houston's Clear Lake branch, and previously served as an elementary and middle school principal in the Waco Independent School District.

Duron earned his doctorate in education administration from Baylor University in 2000, plus a master's degree in education administration in 1993, and a bachelor's degree in secondary education in 1981, both from Texas A & M University.

Dr. Duron was selected as the lone finalist on March 31, however, according to law, the district was required to wait three weeks before permanently appointing him to the position.

He was offered a three-year contract, at a base salary of \$175,000 a year with a \$500 monthly auto allowance and \$500 monthly expense account.

Clear Creek ISD mirrors the Socorro ISD in terms of enrollment and number of campuses. The 110-square-mile district is situated between Houston and Galveston in southern Harris County and northern Galveston County, with an enrollment of 31,643 in 31 campuses with an enrollment of 31,643.

Socorro ISD has 30 schools with an enrollment of 30,228 — but the fast-growing district has three schools currently under

See DURON, Page 5

View from here By J. David Breemer

Stewards of the earth

Earth Day, April 22, is a good occasion to revisit the question: Do we have to choose between protecting the environment and growing the economy?

Whether they'll admit it or not, a lot of environmentalists think that the answer is yes — that more factories, jobs and homes, and greater economic freedom necessarily means dirtier water, air and land. So they busy themselves fighting new construction projects, protesting industrial expansion and trying to micro-manage how property owners can use their land.

But evidence from around the globe suggests their basic assumptions are off. The truth is, hindering the economy hurts the environment. In fact, there may be no greater environmental threat than a stagnant GDP.

At its extremes, this phenomenon was on display in the old Soviet Union and its colonies. While the economy was in suspended animation under communism, raw sewage went untreated in Poland; acid rain dissolved the gold roof of Cracow's famous Sigismund Chapel; East Germans lived under a permanent, dark fog of pollution; and Czechoslovakian sulfur dioxide concentrations were eight times U.S. levels.

During these same decades, the United States and other industrial countries were making great strides in purifying both water and air.

Recent economic research quantifies the relationship between health in the economy and the environment. Princeton University scholars have demonstrated that national environmental quality begins to improve once per capita income exceeds \$9,000. More importantly, their study finds that the greater the income, the better the environment.

The reasons for this correlation are simple: economic growth fuels a popular demand for environmental protection and leads to technological innovations that minimize environmental harm. Indeed, another study, by University of Chicago professor Don Coursey, found that for every one percent increase in income, the demand for environmental quality increases 2.5 percent. It should come

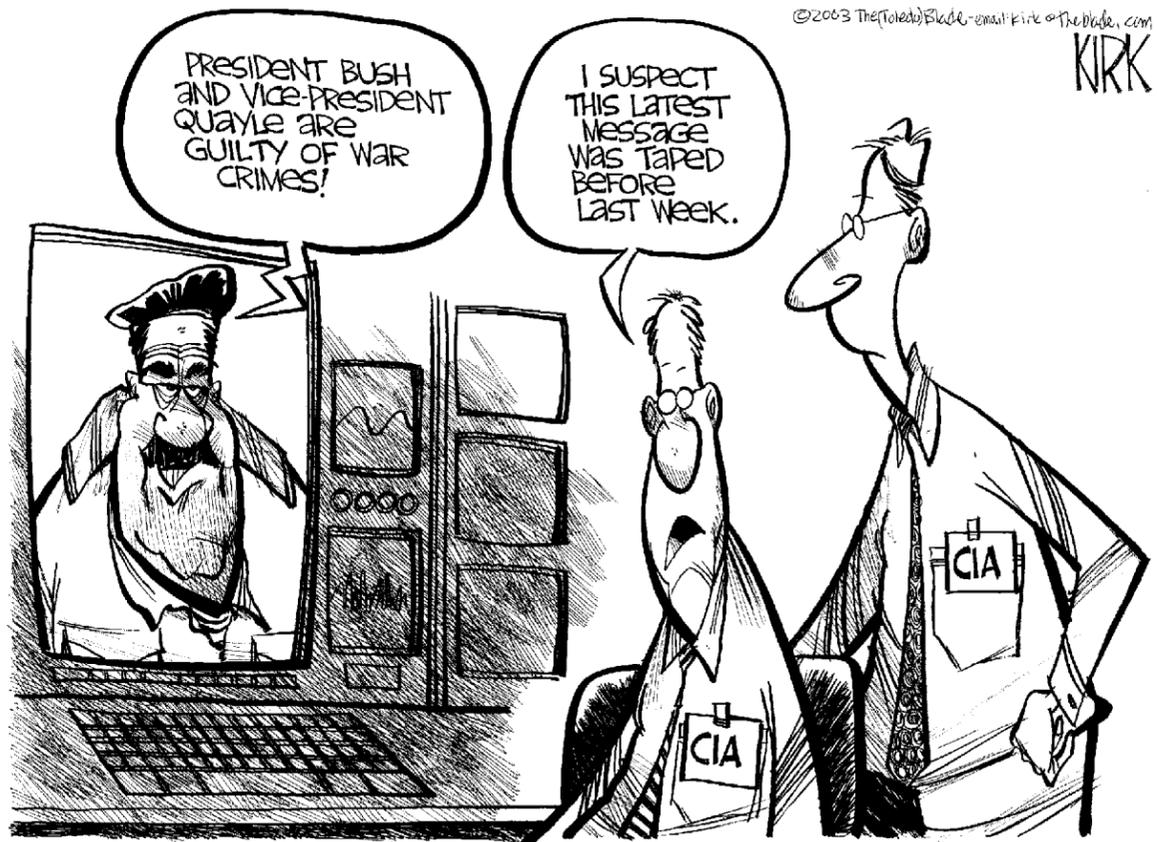
as no shock that the income of Sierra Club environmentalists is much higher than the national average.

Economic growth is critical for advancing material and environmental well-being, but such growth does not occur spontaneously. An economy that is continually creating more jobs and opportunities requires a legal system that respects and protects private property rights. When these rights are guaranteed, individuals have an incentive to create and build. Certainty of ownership facilitates the transfer of resources to those who will put them to the most economically efficient and socially desirable use. When these rights are absent, as they are in most third world countries, investment dries up and governments strive in vain to secure national economic health. No one has the time, will or means to fix environmental problems.

Uncertain private property rights imperil the environment. This is because secure ownership carries incentives to care for property, whether it's a field, a forest, a farm or a factory. Experiments in collective property ownership in America and abroad have underscored this truth time and again. Where will you find more litter — on your private driveway or the public highway? Or compare rentals with owner-occupied homes. Which are more likely to be clean, tidy and well-maintained, signaling the residents' engagement, pride and concern?

More environmentalists need to open their eyes to the fact that environmental improvements happen because of, not in spite of, private property and free enterprise. If they really want to protect the earth, they should support, not subvert, private property rights — and export this fundamental doctrine around the world. By doing so, they will help feed the hungry, house the poor, and generate the public demand and tools necessary for cleaner air, land and water.

J. David Breemer is an attorney with Pacific Legal Foundation (www.pacificlegal.org), a Sacramento-based public interest law firm that litigates for a balanced approach to environmentalism.



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Reyes Reports By U.S. Rep. Silvestre Reyes



Republican ploy to gain mid-term Congressional redistricting would cost Texas' minorities plenty

With all of the unresolved fiscal issues on the Texas Legislature's plate, the state's Republican leadership is attempting a brazen and appalling gerrymander of Texas Congressional representation.

Now, two years after the federal court did the Legislature's job of congressional redistricting in Texas in 2001, Congressman Tom DeLay has his fingerprints all over State Rep. Joe Crabb's bill to redraw congressional district boundaries to favor Republicans.

Baiting the move with a ploy to create a new congressional district that ostensibly favors Hispanics in South Texas is something more than crass. The Legislature had its chance to participate two years ago but opted out — and mid-decade is no time to throw Texas' Congressional delegation into chaos.

Republican Crabb, who chairs the House Redistricting Committee, hypocritically says his House Bill 3398 is intended to settle the new congressional redistricting established by three federal judges. It's hard to believe Crabb when he says he hatched the belated redistricting

himself without any direction from House Speaker DeLay.

Crabb's bill sets the stage for full-blown redistricting that will require new rounds of public hearings across the state. Also, new redistricting would no doubt end up back in court and cost taxpayers millions of dollars.

The guarantee is slim that any new district in the Rio Grande Valley will benefit minorities statewide since redrawing district boundaries appears to further disenfranchise minorities even in the huge adjacent border District 23 held by Republican Henry Bonilla. It also places five current Democratic districts in jeopardy.

The Legislature ducked redistricting in 2001 and now Republicans are poised for an outright power-grab after the court-drawn plan minimally changed the state's 32-district map, returning 17 Democrats to Congress.

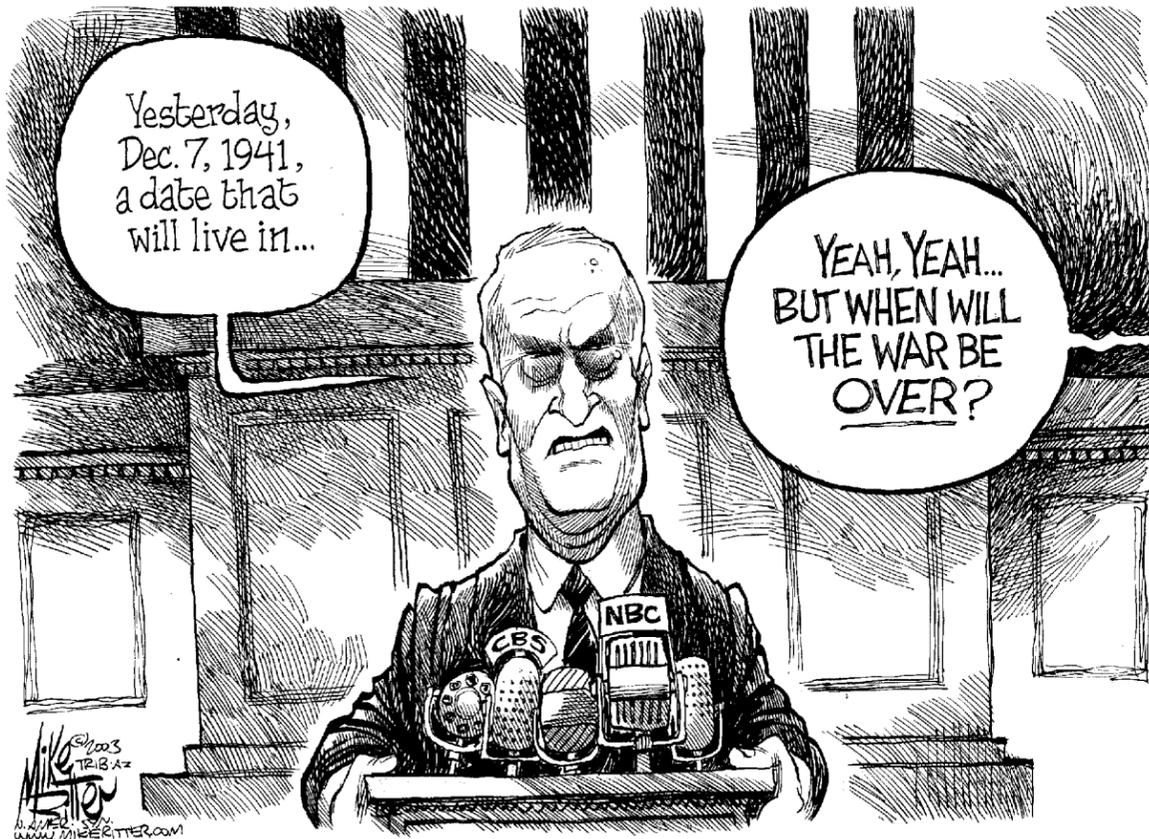
Democrats could pick up a new district in South Texas, but such wholesale redistricting would inevitably see the Republican majority attempting to cluster existing Democratic districts so that incumbent Democrats would end up opposing each other.

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Email: kirk@toledoblade.com



For Sanity's Sake By Taprina Milburn

It must have been love

When I finally got around to sewing a patch on my son's white taekwon do uniform, I realized I'd sewn it on lopsided. I used my scissors to cut the thread loose and cut my finger in the process, bleeding on the uniform.

"That's OK, Mom," he said. "You can just wash it."

I didn't tell him that earlier in the day when I did the wash, I turned the white collar of his Tiger Cubs T-shirt pink. Despite efforts to fix the problem, I failed. I have too much pride as a mother to send my son to Boy Scouts wearing pink, so I drove 45 miles to the city to buy him a new shirt before his pack meeting.

Oh yes, someone once said there would be days like this.

But I don't think anyone let my husband and children know that this might be as good as it ever gets living with a domestically challenged female.

Growing up, I eagerly listened to "Women can be anything they want to be," something I still believe, but maybe now with an eye on the bigger picture. I'm positive that I find myself in a good company of women who today excel at their jobs, but after trying to figure out a sewing machine or giving their family a burnt offering for dinner last night now realize that "being anything you want to be" was somehow a sprint in the opposite direction of domestic goddess.

This handicap is useful, though, I'll

admit. My kids know that I'm not a cookie-baking mom. I'm the mom who sends grapes and cheese to homeroom parties. I've convinced them that it's because my offerings are healthier, but it's really because limbless gingerbread men are simply pitiful and embarrassing.

My husband has learned the hard way to farm out tailoring to his mother — unless, of course, he wants pants that are hemmed unevenly or not hemmed at all. With those duties out of the way, I'm trying learn the lessons my grandmother would have taught me if only I'd listened years ago.

For example, did you know that you must add yeast to flour if you want homemade bread to rise? Ergo, the flat, hard bread I served for dinner last week. As I mentioned earlier, red clothes and white clothes do not mix well in the wash for obvious reasons, and before you put clothes in the dryer, always check pockets for such things as crayons, chocolate malt balls, grape Fruit Roll-Ups and ink pens. Hence, my family's lovely rainbow-colored clothing.

Not long ago I asked my husband if he had any hint before we married of my domestic awkwardness.

He told me it was pretty obvious. "I figured I'd been a bachelor long enough and knew how to fend for myself," he replied.

It must have been love.

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San Eli student wins first in state and qualifies for national HOSA competition on shaky legs

By Phillip Cortez
Special to the Courier

SAN ELIZARIO — It must have all been a part of Jonathan Grijalva's plan.

After all, who would have ever guessed that a guy who's never flown in his life — he began scaring other passengers on the flight to Dallas last week, he was so scared — who was so nervous about competing in the state Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA) competition that he almost

passed out, would end up taking first place and qualifying for nationals in Atlanta?

"I thought I did horrible," said the San Elizario junior. "My ears were ringing, my legs were shaking. I started seeing spots."

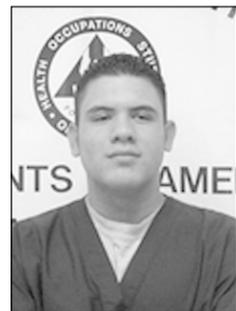
Grijalva was able to pull himself together in time for the two-hour Clinical Specialty presentation in Forensic Pathology and surprise even himself — after some clarification, at least.

"The hardest part was waiting for the results," he said. "When they called out the winner, they mispronounced 'San Elizario' so bad that I thought I lost."

Accompanying Grijalva at the state meet was Brenda Acevedo, who took fourth place. Since the top three finishers qualify for nationals, Acevedo will be an alternate.

"The hard work really paid off," said Mathilda Mirabal, who heads the HOSA Program at San Elizario High School. "Not a bad finish for the first year in competition."

Not bad at all — at least until Grijalva gets back on the plane for the June 18-21 Atlanta trip. Somebody bring the sedatives.



Jonathan Grijalva

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

Vaccinate your infants today

Would you be surprised to learn that there is one simple step you can take to keep your children healthy? It's not a magic drug. And it won't cost you thousands of dollars. It's a very simple task and one that we all should follow: get your child vaccinated and do it on schedule.

This week marks the ninth annual National Infant Immunization Week (NIIW). Across the nation, efforts are being made to immunize more precious infants. In Texas, you will see this campaign in full swing as little red boots scoot their way across the state to promote "Shots Across Texas."

Vaccinating your children may sound like an obvious step in raising a healthy child, but life is hectic and this step is too often forgotten or put-off for far too long. Vaccinations offer the single best protection for the health of our children and our future.

In today's society, immunization is no longer a luxury, it's a necessity. We all know the old adage, "you're only as strong as your weakest link." In this case, the weakest link is the unvaccinated child.

We often forget how fortunate we

are to have access to vaccinations. I have first-hand appreciation of vaccinations. You see, I grew up in a public housing complex in South San Antonio. The people living there were poor, but they provided a hard-working, labor force for the city's factories and military bases. In those days, many of today's vaccinations did not exist. Far too many children suffered serious illnesses that today can be avoided by a simple vaccination.

As Chairman of the Agriculture Appropriations Subcommittee, I oversee funding for the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). This important administration approves, regulates and monitors all vaccines. I have diligently worked to increase funding for the FDA. I understand that too many families are without health insurance. This is unfortunate in itself. But as we work to increase healthcare coverage, let's remember that vaccinations are still one of the best and cheapest ways to protect our children's health. They could mean the difference between life and death — especially if adequate health care is not available.

I am proud of the many parents

who have helped increase immunization coverage among children in the United States. Over ninety percent of infants today receive the most critical vaccines by age two. These efforts have translated into a ninety-five percent reduction in vaccine-preventable deaths. This is tremendous progress, but we must work to stop any child from remaining unvaccinated. There's just no excuse.

There is no reason for any parent to delay having their children vaccinated. If cost is a concern, there are a host of resources to help. Public Health Policy wisely picks up the tab for vaccinating anyone who can not afford to pay. Parents can get more information on vaccines, by asking a local physician or calling the National Immunization Hotline at 1-800-232-2522.

Remember, there is no better way for you to protect your children from disease than by immunizing them. Protect the littlest Texans by vaccinating your infants on schedule.



Briefs

From Page 1

Food and entertainment will be provided, plus prizes every half hour. For more information contact Antonio Vidalez at 764-2712.

■ The National Association of Letter Carriers again will sponsor a food drive on May 10 — their 13th annual event — to help stock the Paso Del Norte Food Bank, which assists the less for-

tunate in the El Paso community. On that Saturday the community is invited to leave nonperishable food items beside their mailboxes to be collected with their mail. For more information, call 533-2434, ext 266, or 593-1396.

■ The El Paso County Library in Fabens invites the community to join in celebrating *El Día de los Niños/El Día de los Libros*, a celebration of childhood and bilingual literacy. Children join in the fun with stories, finger plays, entertainment, and goody bags. The event

is Wednesday, April 30 from 3:30 to 5 p.m. the 1331 N. Fabens St., Fabens. For more information, contact Leticia Garay, Programs Coordinator at (915) 764-3635.

■ Socorro High School students Lizzette Dominguez and Perla Garcia each received a \$10,000 college scholarship at the Exxomobile Science and Engineering Fair in Arlington, Texas.

■ Earth and Arbor Day celebrations were marked at H.D. Hilley Elementary by digging the dirt — for students to plant trees. On Tuesday, April 22 the students planted 25 Afghan Pines and Italian Stone Pines, as a collaborative effort with Keep El Paso Beautiful, the El Paso Zoological Society and the West Texas Urban Forestry Council.

■ The Fabens Nutrition and Senior Center will have its Mother's Day Dance on May 16. The council and volunteers will host a gordita sale on April 26 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. to raise money for this event. You can enjoy your own gorditas for \$2.50 a plate. For delivery in Fabens call 764-3580.

■ San Elizario ISD will be holding summer school during the months when students are traditionally on summer break. Locations, dates and hours are as follows:

• San Elizario High School: June 6-July 3, 2003 from 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Transportation will be provided beginning at 7:45 a.m. and immediately after lunch service, which will be provided at Loya Primary.

• San Elizario Middle School: June 9 to July 3, 2003 from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. Transportation will be provided and lunch will be provided at Alarcón Elementary.

• Alarcón, Borrego & Sambrano Elementary Schools: June 6 to July 3, 2003. Transportation will be provided at all campuses. Lunch for Sambrano kids will be provided at Loya Primary; Borrego and Alarcón students will have lunch at the Alarcón Elementary cafeteria.

• Loya Primary: June 6 to July 3, 2003 from 7:45 a.m. to 11:45 a.m.

Meals and transportation provided.

■ In its third El Paso season, the Santa Fe Opera will present a public program designed to highlight different operatic styles representing many opera favorites as part of the 2003 Apprentice Artist Tour. The 90-minute performance is slated for Saturday, May 3 at 3 p.m. in the theatre at Chamizal National Memorial, 800 South San Marcial, El Paso. Admission is free. First come, first served. The concert, which will feature the talents of soprano Christina Major, tenor Arthur Espiritu and baritone Timothy Kuhn will offer arias and duets from Die Fledermaus, The Barber of Seville, La Bohème, Romeo and Juliette and The Most Happy Fella. Selections from Werther and Don Giovanni will also be presented. For information, call 915 532-7273.

■ Socorro High School held a rally to protect education funding on April 19 at the campus. The rally featured State Sen. Eliot Shapleigh and Reps. Innocente "Chente" Quintanilla and Norma Chavez. The event was intended to draw public attention to the current legislative issue of dissolving the current "Robin Hood" form of funding education which redistributes education over property-rich and property-poor districts alike.

■ Faces and Places of the Chihuahuan Desert, a project of the Chamizal National Memorial, the El Paso Museum of History, the National Park Service, the Centennial Museum at UTEP, the Library Archives at UTEP and the U.S. and Mexican Consulates is presenting three free events in April:

• April 25: History of Casas Grandes Valley presentation and discussion by Dr. Tom Estes in Chamizal National Memorial Conference Room, 6:30-8 p.m.

• April 26-27: FloraFEST 2003: a sale of native plants and an accompanying education program at the Centennial Museum and Chihuahuan Gardens at UTEP, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

• April 29: Opening of exhibition featuring Meston travel slides on

the Chihuahuan Desert, at the Library (Archives) at UTEP.

■ The 14th Annual Developmental Disabilities Symposium on children with special health care needs will be held May 17 at Bowie High School, 801 S. San Marcial, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Hosted by the Children's Disabilities Information Coalition, El Paso ISD and the El Paso Rehab Center, the day-long event will feature workshop topics and a health fair with special events. This annual event is open to parents, professionals, paraprofessionals and others with interest. Admission is \$10 for parents, \$25 for professionals. Lunch is included. Keynote speaker is Dr. Barbara Coloroso, internationally recognized speaker and author. Information: Lydia Hernandez at 544-8484.

■ As the Texas marijuana growing season begins, DPS Narcotics investigators, local law enforcement agencies, the Drug Enforcement Administration, the Texas Army National Guard and multi-jurisdictional task forces are beginning their 2003 domestic marijuana eradication efforts. The Domestic Marijuana Eradication (DME) program, which has operated in Texas since 1987, targets both indoor and outdoor grow sites. DPS Narcotics officers work with the Texas Army National Guard, the DEA Air Wing and DPS Aircraft, which support the ground efforts by providing aerial reconnaissance and some plots are located by helicopter. Other times, investigators receive information from members of the public. Those with information about marijuana cultivation or smuggling are encouraged to contact DPS Narcotics investigators by calling 1-800-868-6274. Calls to the hotline number can be made anonymously. In 2002, more than 416,000 marijuana plants were eradicated in Texas during the DME program. Of those, 48,995 were cultivated by marijuana traffickers. DPS investigations into marijuana cultivation (indoor and outdoor) resulted in the arrests of 161 people and the seizure of 149 firearms.

Public Notice Town of Clint

FAIR HOUSING, IT'S THE LAW

This year marks the Thirtieth-fifth (35th) Anniversary of the National Fair Housing Law. To promote Fair Housing Practices, the Town of Clint, El Paso County, encourages potential homeowners and renters to be aware of their rights.

Title VIII of the Civil Rights Acts of 1968, as amended, prohibits discrimination against any person on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, age, handicap, familial status or national origin in the sale or rental of units in the housing market.

For more information on Fair Housing or to report possible Fair Housing discrimination, call the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's Toll-free Hotline at 1-800-669-9777.

WTCC: 04/24/03

PUBLIC NOTICE EL PASO COUNTY, TEXAS

PROCLAMATION OF APRIL AS FAIR HOUSING MONTH

WHEREAS Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968, as amended, prohibits discrimination in housing and declares it a national policy to provide, within constitutional limits, for fair housing in the United States; and

WHEREAS The principle of Fair Housing is not only national law and national policy, but a fundamental human concept and entitlement for all Americans; and

WHEREAS The thirty-fifth anniversary of this National Fair Housing Law, during the month of April, provides an opportunity for all Americans to recognize that complete success in the goal of equal housing opportunity can only be accomplished with the help and cooperation of all Americans.

NOW, THEREFORE, WE, the Commissioner's Court of the County of El Paso, do proclaim April as Fair Housing Month in the County of El Paso and do hereby urge all the citizens of this locality to become aware of and support the Fair Housing law.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF we have affixed our signatures and seal on this the 24th day of March 2003.

*Dolores Briones
County Judge*

WTCC: 04/24/03



MAIL BOXES NOW AVAILABLE IN HORIZON

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- Securing payments
- Peace of mind

Wall of Honor makes military sacrifice more real to students

HORIZON CITY — Horizon Middle/High School Student Council has established a Wall of Honor in their hallway next to the library. The wall consists of photographs and news clippings of teachers, friends, and family who are or were at one time in the military — at Horizon Middle School, there are currently 14 teachers and or staff members who meet that designation. The wall was put up on Thursday, April 10 and since then many teachers, students, and staff has been bringing pictures daily. Freshman Erica Alejo, whose father, Eddie Alejo, was in the United States Marine Corps, says that having the Wall of Honor “allows the students to see who in our own school community has or is protecting our country.” The student council sponsor is librarian Sylvia Apodaca. “Students stop and study each and every picture with great American pride,” she



said. “Eighth grader George Garcia stated that he thanks a veteran everyday for his freedom because freedom is never free as the banner on the Wall of Honor states.”

Prison

From Page 1

facilities, (and) protect the public ...”

“There were no surprises in the meeting,” Boothe added in an interview the following day. “We took it in stride. We understand their concerns. We want to be a good neighbor.”

To reassure residents, Boothe pointed out that PPT inmates would be kept inside. Presently, the facility is about filled to capacity, approximately 300 people. Of that number, 150 are parole violators; 100 are residents of a half-way house program that seeks to reintegrate inmates into the community. It is coordinated with local parole officers.

The other 50 are in what Boothe termed a “therapeutic community” in which they undergo intensive treatments for issues such as substance abuse. They take part in intensive safety and substance abuse programs.

The problem many community residents find with the facility, however, is that it sits too near areas with vulnerable citizens — namely that within a four-mile radius lies three truck stops, numerous residential subdivisions, numerous schools from elementary to high school, a major intersection with Interstate 10 and a daycare which houses between 150 and 160 children ages infant to 13-years.

And the facility has not had a history of high security, in that several inmates have escaped.

With its facility at virtual capacity, Boothe indicated that changes in the inmate population would be necessary if Avalon is successful in its bid for the program. Change, he noted, would not include expansion of the building.

“We do not want this facility,” said Irene Chavez, a seven-year resident of Horizon City who does not want the facility as a neighbor. She was the first of eight who spoke out against the program. Chavez and others in opposition to the proposed program voiced concerns about “sexual offenders” and “sexual predators” housed in the facility and the risk they pose to the safety of children.

“We do not want these men here,” Chavez added bluntly. “These men are not rehabilitated; they stay here; they do harm; we are sick of it. No, not this time.”

Echoing Chavez was Lucy Martinez. “It is not good for the com-

munity. Please find another place. I hope all cities go against it.”

Counters Schaeffer, “I have seen changes in behavior (of inmates). I am for the facility — to address their spiritual needs.” He was the first to speak. Davis, who attends the Sergeants Major Academy, spoke of benefits from the prison ministry as he reported seeing a “reconstruction of thinking” of the inmates.

Others from the law enforcement field and those who deal with parolees and probationers expressed concern, rather than outright opposition, to the possible influx of dangerous inmates who might be released into the El Paso area.

Capt. Larry Wilkins, with the Criminal Investigation and Process Division of the El Paso County Sheriff’s Department, recognized the need for having a facility of this type. He said he was speaking as a private individual and also representing the views of County Sheriff Leo Samaniego and the Sheriff’s Department.

His main concern, however, was not so much with Avalon officials, as it was with the Texas Department of Criminal Justice that determines which offenders will be sent to the Horizon City facility.

“We have become a dumping ground for sex offenders,” Wilkins

stated. “Austin needs to look at who they are sending here. They don’t respect us.”

To underscore his contention, Wilkins Monday cited statistics that the Austin Center, which is comparable to the El Paso facility, has no sex offenders housed there. Bryan Collier, director of the Parole Division of the TDCJ in Austin, said 75 sexual offenders are housed in the Avalon facility.

Horizon City’s Chief of Police, Tony Aguilar, said the current prison facility administration is communicating well with the town law enforcement.

Collier said there were no plans to increase the number of sexual offenders in the El Paso area. He said there were only four such facilities throughout the state. He said the department considers other options, but also pointed out that the Horizon facility was the only one of its kind in West Texas.

Wilkins said El Paso has three percent of the state population, but 14 percent of sex offenders’ population.

As an afterthought, in a “sense of fairness,” he observed that wouldn’t it be nice if the El Paso area would get the same percentage of state aid for highway funding as it presently does in the percentage of sexual offenders.

Duron

From Page 1

construction set to open in 2003-04, including a high school which will be the district’s fourth.

Duron’s wife Jodi, and his father, Guadalupe Duron, accompanied him to the April 21 meeting. “My mother could not be here. She is in poor

health, but I know Mom’s out there, as always, cheering for me and supporting me, and she always taught me to say ‘I’m sorry’ and ‘thank you,’ and I’m going to continue to do that. What you can expect from me is that I will pour my heart and soul into this job. You really need to know that Socorro has a reputation for being a luxury liner...for being an outstanding district. I have a real responsibility to keep that reputation alive.”

Socorro

From Page 1

defined and Ortega said the department would take immediate action on them.

Overall, the audit revealed the Socorro Police Department is in compliance with the State of Texas, he said.

Chief Ortega went on to mention

that the previous audit, conducted in March 2002, showed the SPD to be in poor condition. Chief Ortega said he is proud of the operation of the Socorro Police Department under his supervision.

In another agenda item, the Socorro council approved a contract with the Texas Department of Transportation regarding the landscaping on Socorro Road.

Public Notice

Village of Vinton, Texas

FAIR HOUSING, IT’S THE LAW

The Village of Vinton hereby declares its support of fair housing practices. It is hereby declared to be the policy of the locality to bring about, through fair, orderly, and lawful procedures, the opportunity of each person to obtain housing without regard to race, color, creed, religion, sex, national origin, physical or mental handicap, martial status, parenthood, or age.

It is further declared that such policy is established upon a recognition of the inalienable rights of each individual to obtain housing and, further, that denial of such rights is detrimental to the health, safety, and welfare of the inhabitants of the locality and constitutes an unjust denial or deprivation of such inalienable rights which is within the power and the proper responsibility of government to prevent.

The Village of Vinton has a Fair Housing Policy that may be examined and copied by interested groups or individuals at the Vinton Village Hall between the hours of 8:30 A.M. and 4:30 P.M., Monday through Friday. The Village of Vinton is an Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action employer.

Antonio Castro, Mayor

WTCC: 04/24/03

Public Notice

Town of Anthony, Texas

FAIR HOUSING, IT’S THE LAW

The Town of Anthony hereby declares its support of fair housing practices. It is hereby declared to be the policy of the locality to bring about, through fair, orderly, and lawful procedures, the opportunity of each person to obtain housing without regard to race, color, creed, religion, sex, national origin, physical or mental handicap, martial status, parenthood, or age.

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Art Franco, Mayor

WTCC: 04/24/03

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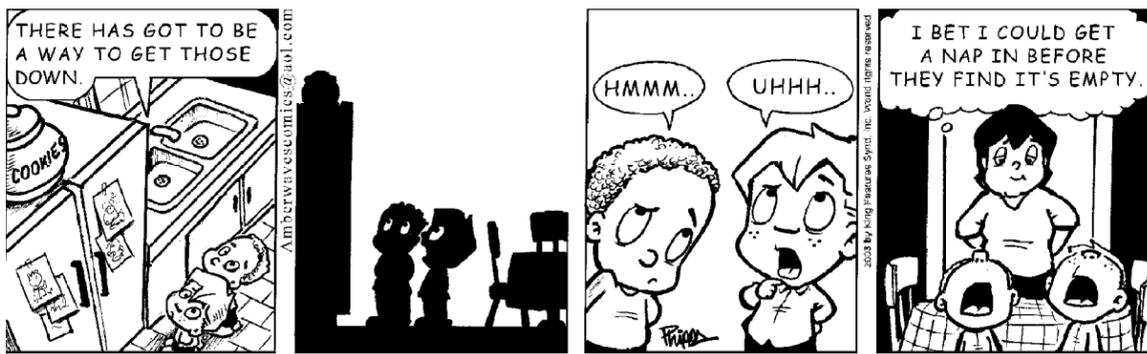
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Comix

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AMBER WAVES By Dave T. Phipps



THE SPATS By Jeff Pickering



R.F.D. By Mike Marland



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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:

MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS
CSP NO.199-0501-0348
THURSDAY, MAY 1, 2003, 2 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-4/24/03

BARGAINS

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

REAL ESTATE

FOR SALE: 760 Agua Pesada - One-third acre cul-de-sac lot with water and septic tank. Mobile home or house okay. \$16,000. Owner finance 12 years. Tres Amigos Realty, 855-3355. 4/24

FOR SALE by OWNER - 7.1 acres in Socorro School District, established yard, outbuildings, older home. 406-557-2400. 4/24/03

Residential lot, cul-

de-sac, 15311 Woodhill, Horizon City. Owner finance. 633-6684. 5/8/03

SELF-HELP

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 sábado, a 8-9 de la tarde, 8501 Kingsway, Westway. 886-4948 para información.

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

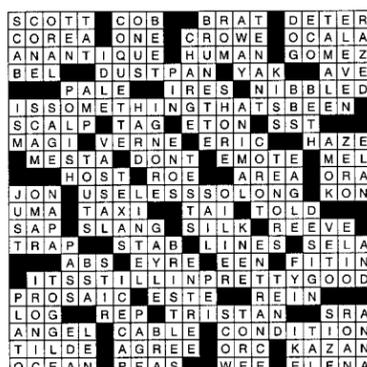
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Flattery will get you everywhere

By Don Flood

I don't claim to keep an exact count, but lately, it seems, I've been deleting upward of 3 billion e-mails a day.

These messages embrace two major themes: refinancing my mortgage and, to put it delicately, attending to various problems and shortcomings regarding my love life.

(Future grandparents will regale the young'uns with heart-rending tales of their backbreaking — well, nail-breaking — labor at the keyboards: "When I was your age, by cracky, we had to delete e-mails by hand. There was none of these fancy-schmancy filtering systems you young whippersnappers got nowadays.")

The other day, and I shudder to think about it, I almost deleted an e-mail that provided a link to: the Automated Flatterer.

It turned out to be one of the Greatest Experiences of My Life, because it made me realize I truly mattered to someone ... or some "it," since the Automated Flatterer is, as its name implies, an automatic e-mail answering system programmed to tell you how wonderful you are.

But that's no reason to doubt its sincerity!

It's simple. I typed in my name and messages began popping up: *Don Flood, you are fabulous.*

Well, thank you, and if you don't mind my saying, you ain't so bad yourself.

Don Flood, you are one of the most talented people we know.

I'm not sure who "we" is, but one thing is certain: You people are extremely shrewd judges of human potential.

Don Flood, lots of people love you.

Well, I don't know about lots,

but yes, I suppose I do have a certain charm that automated e-mail systems can't resist.

You are smart, intelligent and beautiful Don Flood.

I hate to bicker with someone who insists on calling me smart and intelligent, but beautiful, I admit, is a bit of a stretch.

The essential characteristic of beauty in the modern world is six-pack abs and — despite having had a few six-packs in my time — my abs show no evidence of even a single beer can.

(Lot of good that beer drinking did me!)

Also, as far as I know, I have not been considered for People Magazine's 50 Most Beautiful People in the World issue, but perhaps when I forward this e-mail to them they will reconsider.

I realize, of course, that this is merely the rating of an automated e-mail system, so I promise myself not to be too disappointed if I get chosen instead for another special issue, such as the 50 Most Handsome or Studly Men in the World.

But maybe People Magazine should consider a whole new angle: The 50 Smartest, Most Intelligent, Most Talented, Most Loved, Most Fabulous and Most Beautiful People in the World.

Based on my e-mail, I'd be a shoo-in.

There was one last message: *Don Flood, we enjoy working with you.*

I enjoy working with you guys too, though I'm not sure what we've worked on together.

No matter, let's do lunch sometime.

And keep in touch!

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PUBLIC MEETING

The Transportation Policy Board (TPB) of the El Paso Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) will hold a **PUBLIC MEETING on FRIDAY, APRIL 25, 2003, at 9:00 A.M., at The El Paso MPO Office, c/o The Gateway Business Center, 10767 Gateway Blvd. West, Suite 605, El Paso, Texas 79935.** A copy of the agenda can be found on our Web Page at <http://www.elpasompo.org>. For more information contact the MPO Office at (915)591-9735, Ext. 11.

WTCC: 04/24/03

Social Security Q&A By Ray Vigil

Q: I recently started a small auto repair business. How do I pay my Social Security taxes?

A: You should be steering that question to the Internal Revenue Service. That agency collects all taxes, including Social Security taxes.

Q: My husband died last year at age 58. For the last 20 years, he worked as a policeman and didn't pay into Social Security. I didn't get the Social Security death benefit, because I was told he needed 40 Social Security credits and he only had 34. Was this right? And when I turn 60, will I be able to get widow's benefits from Social Security? I am 57 now and I have 36 credits, so I don't think I can get my own Social Security.

A: In some ways, Social Security works like insurance. You have to pay enough "premiums" (or in this case, Social Security taxes) in order to be "vested." When you work and pay Social Security taxes, you earn credits. Most people need 40 credits to be insured for Social Security benefits. Because your husband was six credits shy of being insured, you did not qualify for the one-time \$255 death benefit, and you will not qualify for any monthly widow's benefits. The only Social Security you might ever get is on your own record. But you, too, need 40 credits before that will happen. It might be worth your time and effort to find some work to get the extra credits you need. This year, you can get the four credits you need as soon as you earn \$3,560.

Q: I've been on Social Security disability for about 10 years. I'd like to go back to work, but am afraid if I do I'll lose my benefits and my Medi-

care. What can I do?
A: There are many incentives built into Social Security's disability law that give you the opportunity to try working without jeopardizing your Social Security benefits or your Medicare coverage.

Q: If my mother moves in with me, will the amount of her Social Security check change? I didn't think so, but a neighbor told me her mother's check was reduced when she moved in with her.

A: No, the amount of your mother's check will not change. Your neighbor's mom must receive Supplemental Security Income, not Social Security. SSI is a program for people who have little income and few resources. The amount of the SSI benefit depends on a person's living situation. So the fact that your neighbor's mom moved in with her would definitely affect, and probably reduce, her mom's SSI payment.

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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, 1111 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
A good deal of sun and windy.	Clear and breezy.	Sunny and windy.	A gusty breeze with sunshine.	Sunny.	Plenty of sunshine.	Mostly sunny.	Plenty of sunshine.
▲ 80°	▼ 54°	▲ 82° ▼ 56°	▲ 82° ▼ 54°	▲ 80° ▼ 54°	▲ 82° ▼ 54°	▲ 82° ▼ 52°	▲ 84° ▼ 54°

UV INDEX Statistics for noon.

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

Thursday	10	Very High
Friday	10	Very High
Saturday	10	Very High
Sunday	10	Very High
Monday	10	Very High
Tuesday	10	Very High
Wednesday	10	Very High

REAL FEEL TEMP™

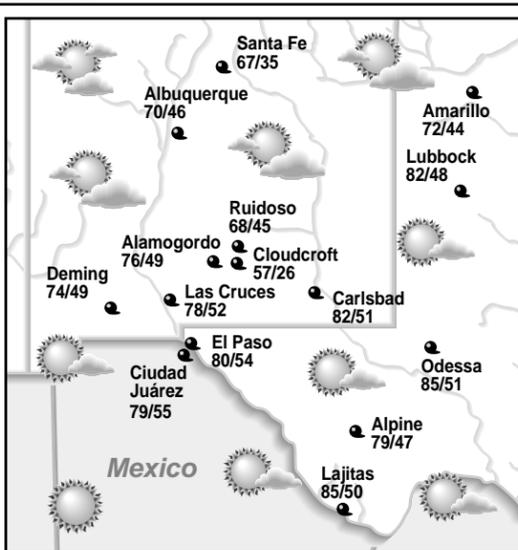
The exclusive AccuWeather composite of the effects of temperature, wind, humidity, sunshine, precipitation, and elevation on the human body.

Thursday	75°
Friday	73°
Saturday	73°
Sunday	72°
Monday	75°
Tuesday	76°
Wednesday	81°

TEXAS WEATHER

Anthony	79	55
Canutillo	80	56
Clint	79	54
E. Montana	80	54
Fabens	79	54
Horizon	80	56
San Elizario	76	53
Socorro	79	53
Tornillo	79	54
Vinton	80	56

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	70/46/pc	73/45/pc	72/44/s	70/45/s	70/34/s
Atlanta	67/54/pc	70/57/t	72/54/c	76/54/s	78/62/s
Atlantic City	67/42/s	62/46/pc	58/46/r	59/41/pc	63/35/pc
Austin/San Antonio	82/54/pc	85/55/s	84/58/s	84/59/pc	86/64/pc
Baltimore	68/42/s	70/46/pc	58/48/r	64/48/pc	67/41/c
Boston	58/42/c	60/44/s	54/44/c	56/44/pc	58/37/c
Chicago	56/42/pc	56/44/c	58/45/pc	65/46/pc	67/51/c
Dallas/Ft. Worth	80/59/pc	76/55/s	78/58/s	81/60/pc	81/62/pc
Denver	58/36/c	64/38/pc	63/35/c	60/38/c	60/31/c
Flagstaff	56/32/pc	56/30/pc	56/28/pc	54/28/pc	51/16/pc
Houston	80/64/c	83/58/pc	82/62/s	82/64/pc	83/61/c
Kansas City	64/47/c	62/45/c	68/49/pc	69/51/c	69/56/c
Las Vegas	78/54/pc	72/50/pc	70/52/s	73/52/s	73/50/s
Miami	84/72/pc	86/71/s	86/71/pc	85/72/pc	86/69/pc
Minneapolis	58/40/c	62/44/pc	62/44/pc	61/44/c	63/45/pc
New Orleans	79/67/t	84/63/pc	82/66/s	85/66/s	83/62/s
New York City	64/45/s	62/48/pc	59/47/r	59/46/pc	62/41/c
Philadelphia	66/44/s	70/46/pc	58/48/r	62/48/pc	65/38/c
Phoenix	82/58/s	80/59/s	81/57/s	82/59/s	81/43/pc
Portland	56/42/sh	58/44/pc	58/42/pc	61/44/c	62/35/c
San Francisco	58/50/sh	58/48/c	60/50/pc	60/48/pc	65/39/s
Seattle	54/42/pc	56/44/pc	56/42/pc	58/43/c	58/35/c
Tucson	80/52/s	85/54/s	82/52/s	82/52/s	80/50/s
Washington, DC	68/46/s	70/48/pc	58/48/r	66/50/pc	70/45/c

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

AGRICULTURE

There will be 10-12 hours of sunshine Thursday, Friday and Saturday with a gusty wind at times. There can be areas of blowing dust each day. Winds mostly westerly at 12-25 mph Thursday and Friday with a few gusts past 30 mph. The weather pattern will remain mainly dry Sunday into next week with temperatures near normal levels.

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



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