

## NEWSBRIEFS

### National competitor

Patrick Carillo of Socorro High School will attend the Business Professionals of America 2003 National Leadership Conference in Dallas, April 30-May 4. Norma Ayala, BPA sponsor, said Carillo will join over 5,000 conference delegates from across the nation to participate in national-level business skills competition and workshops. Carillo has been an officer and state-qualified for the SHS Chapter for the past three years. A multi-talented student, he participates in National Vocational-Technical Honor Society, Thespian Troupe #2600, One-Act Play, and sits on the Principal's advisory board. He plans to pursue a career in theatre arts and criminal justice.

### Youth meeting

CASA (Canutillo Action for Students and Adults), a youth group intent on improving its environment, will hold a public meeting to share the results of a community assessment survey that it conducted recently. The meeting is scheduled for 6:30 p.m., Wednesday, April 30, at the Canutillo High School Cafeteria, 7311 Bosque Road. "Basically, the survey was to find out what Upper Valley residents felt were the problems, needs, and resources in the area as it related to youth," said Carmen Monrreal, CASA coordinator. "Over 1,400 individuals participated in the survey." Members will also present a proposal for a community sports complex. CASA consists of a youth council that promotes activities to help teenagers stay out of trouble and to develop healthy habits. Some of the activities that the group has sponsored include a talent show, neighborhood cleanup, paint-a-thon, Christmas toy drive, Thanksgiving Day food basket distributions, and visits to a nursing home. CASA is funded through a Paso Del Norte Health Foundation grant. Information: 877-7378.

### In other news

■ A recent talent search by Duke University has identified five Socorro ISD middle school students to be in the top 25 percent of the talent search pool. Alejandra Salazar and Omar Velos of Ernesto Serna School, and Sarahi Alvidrez, Alexis Vargas and Analycia Villarreal of Col. John O. Ensor Middle School took the SAT exam normally taken by high school students and their TAAS scores were also used to determine ranking. "This honor opens doors for them," said Ensor counselor Nancy Lara.

■ Children in grades kinder through 6th grade are invited to participate in CiA (Children in Action) on Wednesday, May 7 at 7 p.m. at the First Baptist Church of Horizon City. CiA is an adventure club offering boys and girls opportunities to be

See BRIEFS, Page 6

*Who is more foolish — the child who is afraid of the dark, or a man who is afraid of the light?*

— Quips & Quotes



**UNLIMITED SPACE** — Americas High School students will work for NASA this summer. From left are Jason Davis, Omar Valverde, Michael Perkins and teacher Troy Byrne.

## NASA taps three from Americas High

EAST EL PASO COUNTY — Three Americas High School juniors will be working with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) during their summer break. Jason Davis was the only student in El Paso County to be selected for the High School Aerospace Scholars Program, while Michael Perkins and Omar Valverde will participate in NASA's Summer High School Apprenticeship Research Program, or SHARP.

Davis will be studying math, science, engineering, and computer sciences by interacting with engineers at the NASA Johnson Space Center online and for one week in June. He's understandably excited about working with NASA personnel.

"The High School Aerospace Scholars Program," says Davis, "will broaden my horizons on all aspects of the space program, such as future ventures to Mars. I was shocked to get

in. I hope to learn all about NASA and to work with them."

Troy Byrne is the Americas High School teacher behind the trio.

He says he wasn't shocked. "I am very excited that they made it and very happy that they will be able to investigate what they want to do in their future occupations."

Perkins and Valverde will learn research techniques and receive a salary for working on NASA projects during eight weeks at two undetermined NASA sites. Perkins says the program is one more step toward college. "NASA-SHARP will prepare me for a new and brighter future. It will give me greater insights into my college life."

Valverde also considers participation a step toward his future. "By being in the NASA-SHARP program, I will come to learn what being an engineer really means."

## San Eli computer whiz takes first-of-kind project to state competition

By Don Woodyard  
Courier Staff Writer

SAN ELIZARIO — "Control, Alt., Delete," was the enigmatic answer from confessed computer addict Alex Aguirre, a senior at San Elizario High School.

The question dealt with his science project, a test that measured different aspects of computer addiction. It was hoped that it didn't refer to dreaded "blue screen of death," the answer to which, according to experts, is hitting control, alt. and delete almost simultaneously on the computer keyboard.

Aguirre says his addiction began in the sixth-grade when he attended a computer lab. He says he was fascinated by what he could do with the stroke of a key or a click of the mouse.

"I do consider myself addicted," says Aguirre who admits to spending between seven to 10 hours a day in front of the computer, including time in school computer classes. However, he qualifies his addiction and puts it into perspective.

"The computer is one of my best friends," he says. "I like it, but I control it. It doesn't alter my way of living; it doesn't rule my life."

His Internet Addiction Test introduction addresses the subject.

"This test will determine if you are having difficulty with Internet usage...it will give you

an idea of the symptoms of Internet addiction, what you should be looking for, and how the Internet has affected your life."

The test is not his own. He credits a student at an eastern university with the developing the test. Aguirre says he only made some changes in it. He tested 100 in the 15-20 age range.

The test is in two parts. The first deals with the addiction. The second part is an Internet applications questionnaire.

Questions from the first part:

- "I have been in trouble at school or work because of the Internet."
- "I get irritable or upset when I am not able to go online."
- "I have sleep problems related to my Internet use."

Questions from the second part covered the number of hours a week a person spent with such computer activities as auction (e-Bay), audio/video chat, online dating or online games.

In compiling data from the test, he found that males favored Internet activity that required interaction with another person while females preferred activity on the Internet that did not require interaction.

Aguirre placed second in regional competition at UTEP although it didn't place at the state level, he says. "It was the first of its kind," he adds. "They liked everything about it, (but) hadn't seen anything like it before."

## Pendell appointed to governor's Texas School Safety Board

EAST EL PASO COUNTY — James "Jim" Pendell, lifelong businessman/farmer in East El Paso County, has been appointed by Texas Gov. Rick Perry to serve as one of five members of the School Safety Center Board, with his term to expire Feb. 1, 2005.

The board governs the Texas School Safety Center in San Marcos, which provides schools with research, training and technical assistance.

Pendell is a longtime member of the Clint ISD school board, with many years as president of that board. As owner and operator of

S&S Big 8 Food Store in Fabens, he is one in a long line of Lower Valley farmers. He currently is chair of the Far West Texas School Board Association and is a member of the Texas Association of School Boards. He holds two bachelor's degrees and a master's degree from Texas Tech University.

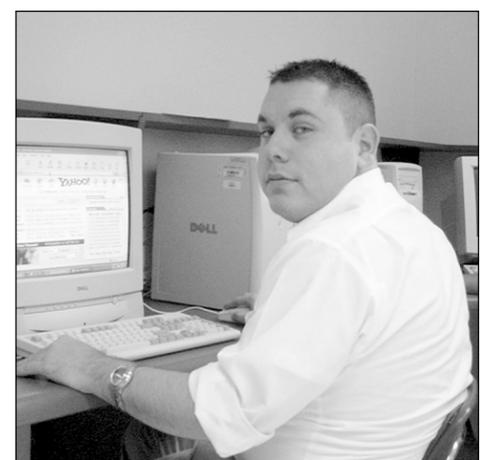
His appointment was approved by the Texas Senate on April 8, and he was sworn in by Judge Ruben Lujan on April 18.

"I hope (my appointment) will benefit our area and state," Pendell said.

Pendell is the sole appointee from this area of the state. He serves with Severita Sanchez of Laredo; Lucy Rubio of Corpus Christi; Janace Pope Ponder of Amarillo; and Judge Cheryl Lee Shannon of Dallas, all of which are being reappointed to these positions.



Jim Pendell



Alex Aguirre

He has qualified for the state contest since the eighth-grade, but had gone in only the last two years.

"It's an honor to go to state," he said.

Aguirre plans to go to UT El Paso and major in international business with a minor in computer science. He hopes to conduct a test like this one, but on a larger scale while at UTEP.

"He is a very creative student," said Veronica Casas, a physics and science teacher who accompanied him to the state competition.

Casas says she has found her pocket PC very helpful and useful in planning her upcoming marriage.

"Don't be afraid of technology," she said.



## One perspective

By Francis Shrum

# Not so free speech

Some things in life are not free, and speech is proving to be one of them. In fact, it can be pretty costly.

Our much-touted freedom of speech doesn't mean never having to say you're sorry but some progressive-thinking minds have a different view.

Apparently their belief is that you should be able to say whatever you want without consequences for having letting your mouth run away with you.

I never read the part of the Constitution that says this but apparently it's in there because lots of people are saying that just because pretty little Natalie Maines — lead singer for the Dixie Chicks, a "country" music singing trio — dissed our president in front of a foreign audience she shouldn't have to explain herself to her fans back home.

On the other hand, however, quite a few Americans who were former fans of the trio are tossing the Dixie Chicks CDs into the trash can. A few radio stations are also cutting their play time by quite a bit — well, by 100 percent.

Our more forward-thinking people believe this is inhibiting the Chicks right to free speech and are equating these acts of disapproval, apparently, with getting thrown into a Moscow prison for the rest of your natural life, or shot in the back of the head in China, or disappearing without a trace in Cuba — you know, the usual methods by which people are encouraged to shut up in public.

When I was growing up, it was pretty well understood that whatever came out of my mouth was going to be my responsibility. There were a

few choice things I learned might early on not to let slip.

Since then, as a supposedly grown-up person, I have had to deal with things I said — and wrote — that gave other people offense. But I've learned that the best course of action is, if you are wrong, just admit it and it will all blow over — or, if you don't think you are wrong, give other people an opportunity to vent their disapproval and the whole thing will blow over.

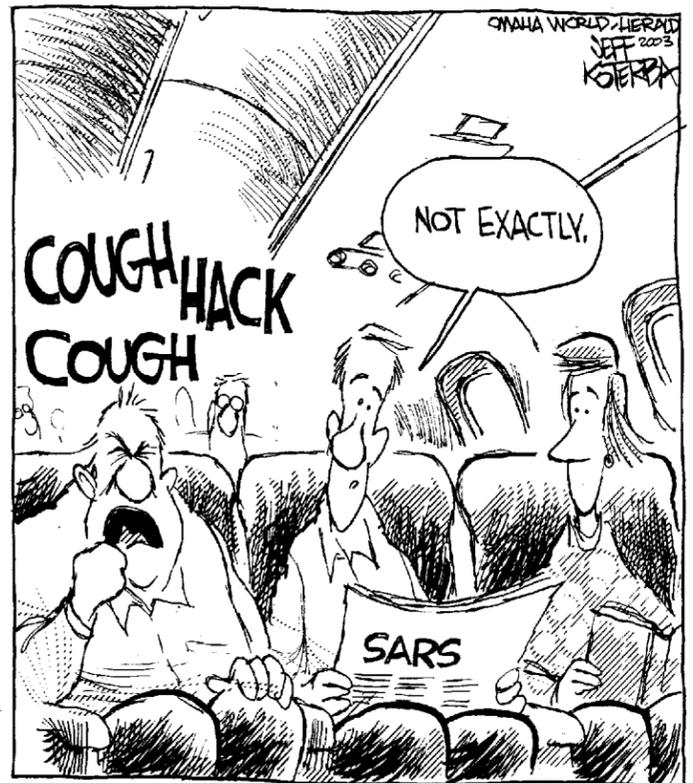
Of course, this is my solution because I'm not cute, blonde, and don't sing very well.

If I were, I'd have the likes of Bruce "The Boss" Springsteen coming to the defense of my right of "self expression" and I would, like Natalie and her band have done, "take on my critics" by taking off my clothes and posing in the nude on the front cover of *Entertainment Weekly* with all kinds of interesting labels printed on my various appendages.

May I digress for a moment and mention this is something else I don't understand. All the way back to Lady Godiva, people have claimed to "make statements" by taking off their clothes in public. The only meaning I could ever read into this act is more than a little self-indulged stupidity.

But, of course, like I said, I am not cute, blonde, nor do I sing very well.

Back to these chicks, though, their current situation is illustrative of this free-speech-without-consequences idea which falls right in line with a lot of other common-senseless thought such as: If I find myself with an unwanted pregnancy it is perfectly okay for me to murder my unborn child to escape the consequences of



my actions — after all it is "my right" to choose.

If I don't pay my lawful taxes, I'm a patriot. If I am caught on camera shoplifting, my right to privacy has been invaded. And if I shoot to death a whole playground full of kids it, is not my fault but rather the fault of my parents and society for giving me a raw deal somewhere back in my raising — probably something heinous like being denied ice cream after supper when I was two years old.

I have honestly been a little encouraged by those folks that chose to dump the Chicks CDs and boycott their concerts. Even if they don't keep it up, at least they made a statement of disapproval in the one medium that everybody understands — money.

I sure don't want these girls to have to stand in the bread line or anything like that. I just hope that somehow they heard and understood the message that if you open your mouth

against someone, you must deal with the backlash. I wish they understood that no freedom is ever really free — it always comes with a responsibility that you appreciate more and more with age, and time, and experience.

I expect that people will soon forget about the indiscretions of a cute little blonde singer. And no matter what they may have seen on the cover of *Entertainment Weekly* on May 2, they'll soon order chicken strips again.

## 30 Years WEST TEXAS COUNTY COURIER

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

### Helping soldiers serving America

Like most Americans, I've spent recent weeks carefully following the war in Iraq. Our military has provided the world with a shining example of America and the goodness of the American people. Among the heroes currently serving our nation are many legal immigrants.

These young men and women have followed America's immigration laws. In fact, some of them have simply been unable to attend a ceremony to be sworn in as a citizen, due to long deployments overseas, or in tragic cases where they have made the ultimate sacrifice for our nation.

These patriotic men and women have willingly volunteered to carry out one of the most solemn duties that any nation can ask of its citizens — the defense of freedom. More than most, they have truly earned their opportunity to become citizens of the country whose uniform they wear so proudly.

That's why I have cosponsored a bill that will remove

many of the barriers faced by legal immigrants who serve in the United States Armed Forces. This bill reduces the residency requirement to two years, it waives the naturalization fee, and it enables servicemen and women to be sworn in as citizens while stationed overseas.

Other conditions for citizenship will remain in place:

- 1) be of good moral character,
- 2) commit themselves to the principles of the Constitution,
- 3) demonstrate the ability to read, write and understand English, and
- 4) pass a test on U.S. government and history.

To many legal immigrants, joining the Armed Forces is a bold expression of their dedication to freedom and democracy. Enacting HR 1275 is a way that America can do the right thing for those defending the American way.



Member Texas Community Newspaper Association



**View from here** By Michael Quinn Sullivan

**Eliminating the tax and spend mentality begins between our own ears**

Texans overwhelmingly oppose tax increases, that much is clear. Poll after poll — including the most important one on Election Day '02 — demonstrate that we as a people generally understand the economic importance of setting taxes low.

But to keep more of our own money, each of us has the responsibility to stop asking our legislators to spend it. We already have one of the most fiscally efficient state governments in the nation. But the \$9.9 billion expected budget shortfall tells us we still have work to do.

When the governor recently addressed the state, he clearly and eloquently drew a line in the sand on tax increases. The people of our state “don’t want, don’t need and don’t deserve new taxes,” he said.

Gov. Perry also made it abundantly clear that the state’s government must economize, and even downsize, in tough times: “Texans elected us to set priorities, not to raise the price of government.”

As citizens, though, we must recognize that Texas’ fundamental budget problem is not with legislators, but ourselves. The state’s budget exceeds \$100 billion. Contrary to popular belief, that cost is not driven by a handful of pet projects promoted by a few entrenched special-interests getting legislation passed in the dead of night.

There is no budgetary boogie-man; the problem isn’t them, it’s us. It’s the letters, phone calls and gas-station chats with constituents that set spending priorities for legislators, not dinners in Austin with corporate lobbyists.

Every project, every line-item, does have value. A few tax dollars for economic development? Of course. A little more to promote fine arts? Why not? Maybe expanded health care coverage for all teachers? Repaving a road here... New computers for a school there... A few more employees in that agency... A couple more vehicles for this one... Regardless of one’s perspective, every line of spending in the state’s budget — from economically justified and morally important, to politically frivolous and hopelessly wasteful — shares one important characteristic with every other: it adds up to a bill that must be presented to the taxpayer.

Fundamentally, the tax issue is not about taxes, it’s about spending, so

we can’t have it both ways. We can’t one moment ask government to pay for our projects, and the next tell legislators to cut our taxes.

Certainly there are inefficiencies. And, yes, state agencies and programs can suffer from the inevitable onset of bureaucratic mission creep. The inefficiencies must be rooted out, and programs abolished when no longer useful. Comptroller Carole Keeton Strayhorn has identified a great number of cost-saving opportunities, while the governor has produced a substantive vision for bringing state spending in line with current revenue.

You and I as citizens and taxpayers cannot be content to grouse, complain, and then simply wait for legislators to do the right thing. We should certainly demand a reduction in spending as we converse with legislators, but more importantly we should demonstrate it in our attitudes and expectations toward state government in the daily affairs of civic life.

The Texas Legislature should move to strengthen and expand our constitution’s existing spending limitations, while implementing a supermajority vote-requirement before raising taxes. We should implement sliding-scale fees for welfare services, requiring those who can pay to pay what they can. Where programs and procedures can be privatized, do so immediately. If the private sector is providing a service, state government should not. The bureaucracy must be held accountable for the first dollar spent. Ultimately, state spending must be tied to economic analysis, not wishful thinking.

It’s been said nothing sharpens the focus of the mind like a noose around one’s neck. If that is the case, the much ballyhooed multi-billion-dollar budget shortfall is a great opportunity for Texans to examine our priorities and demand greater fiscal constraint.

While taxes are the issue, spending is the problem. And only you and I can fix it.

*Michael Quinn Sullivan is director of media and government relations for the Texas Public Policy Foundation, a think tank with offices in Austin and San Antonio. The Foundation’s research can be found at [www.TexasPolicy.com](http://www.TexasPolicy.com).*



**For Sanity’s Sake**

By Taprina Milburn

**Don’t have time for this**

On the floor of my closet is a pile of skirts, blouses, a pair of slacks and a sweater. Church starts in 15 minutes, and I’m having one of those moments where nothing I put on looks the way I want it to look.

The blue pinstriped blouse is wrinkled (from being on the bottom of last Sunday’s pile), the sweater looks as if it has polyps, and the gray and black skirts, well ... do they make my tushy look too big?

I’m no fashion diva. I could care less about the latest trends or really whether or not something matches, but here I am going through the same stupid ritual I’ve gone through since I was a teenager, and emerging from the closet with the same result: “I don’t have anything to wear.”

Somehow the 35-year-old woman that I am takes hold of the matter and I slap on a pair of black slacks and a white blouse, put on my lipstick and flag down my family as my husband backs the minivan out of the driveway.

During the sermon I remember something I’ve known for a very long time: *I don’t have time for this*. Church, yes, but the closet ritual, no.

In my office is a picture of my mom, and next to her picture is a plaque that says, “This life is not a dress rehearsal.” I put those two items near one another on

purpose. My mother died when she was 22. I know firsthand that life is short. That each day counts. That I don’t get those minutes back that I spent this morning worrying about whether or not an outfit made my tush look big. I could have been sitting with my kids at the breakfast table. You’d think I’d know better.

The divine nudge I received in church this morning reminded me that *I don’t have time to:*

- Wait for someone to ask me to be her friend; instead I need to step out and be the first to offer my friendship.
- Waste energy whining about not getting the laundry done. I can enjoy the family members who wear the dirty clothes I will eventually get around to washing.
- Act like a know-it-all, but instead learn something new now and then.
- Be overly busy. I might miss out on watching my kids play catch with their Dad in the back yard or hearing their laughter in the next room.
- Gripe about flabby triceps and crows feet, or swap gossip about family members or neighbors. We just simply do not have time for this.
- Be prideful. I need to be quick to say “I’m sorry,” “I love you,” or “How can I help?”

And really, it doesn’t take my mother’s picture to remind me how precious time is. I have children who — overnight, it seems — went from babies to elementary-school-age kids. Look at the pictures on your own wall — the picture of your 2-year-old that you pass each morning on your way to wake up the now-lanky 10-year-old.

We simply don’t have time to waste. This life is not a dress rehearsal.

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**TRUE TEXAS FACTS** by Roger Moore May 4, 1875: Kiowa chief Kicking Bird is given poisoned coffee by tribesmen who thought he had collaborated with the Army.



# Fabens youth spends three exciting weeks on the high seas



**POWER WATCH** — Jakoboski is shown checking the twin 5,000-horsepower diesel engines that power the Sturgeon.

FABENS — Fabens High School sophomore Teddy Jakoboski took his annual U.S. Navy Sea Cadet Corps training aboard the U.S. Coast Guard's 87-foot cutter Sturgeon WPB-87336, homeported in Grande Isle on Louisiana's south coast.

While other Sea Cadets were attending classes on aviation, military medicine, submarines and leadership, Jakoboski instead signed up for two weeks of what is the most exciting — and dangerous — training period to be experienced by a Sea Cadet.

Sturgeon — the same vessel recently visited by the head of Homeland Security Gov. Tom Ridge — carries out patrol missions, on a war-

time level of readiness, making armed boardings of high interest vessels.

It also carries out anti-narcotics and fish conservation law enforcement.

Jakoboski became part of Sturgeon's team. When an armed boarding party has a target, some of the 11-man crew is ferried to the vessel in question in a 19-foot rubber inflatable boat of the type used by Navy SEALs. The commanding officer and the remainder of the team remain on the mother ship to coordinate operations.

Jakoboski was selected to serve on the inflatable rubber transport boat but under normal conditions would not board the vessel under investigation. As an alternate he was trained to assist and rescue, through various means including use of firearm, any of the boarders who might suffer injury.

These dramas take place about 100 nautical miles off shore, under the watchful eye of 20-foot sharks who inhabit those waters in abundance.

Though not called on to replace a boarder, Jakoboski was part of a rescue mission to pull a boater from the waters and happily availed himself of numerous opportunities to deep-sea fish.

At the end of his two-week stint, the crew found themselves short-handed and extended him an invitation to stay on for a third week, which he readily accepted.

His time on board the Sturgeon allowed Jakoboski to prepare for and



**PERK OF THE JOB** — A deep-sea fishing expedition nets Jakoboski a 24-pound grouper.

pass the requirements for quartermaster of the watch and to navigate and operated the U.S. \$3 million cutter.

Teddy Jakoboski is excited about seeking to enter the U.S. Coast Guard Academy at New London, Connecticut following graduation.



## CLINT, TEXAS PUBLIC NOTICE



A SEVENTH TIRE AMNESTY DAY will be held on Saturday, May 17, 2003 from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM at Clint Municipal Complex, 200 N. San Elizario Road. The line will form on N. San Elizario Road at the entrance of the Clint Municipal Complex. **You will be expected to unload tires from your vehicle.** The purpose of this tire amnesty day is to bring the Clint and surrounding community areas together to reach two common goals. The goals are the removal of waste tires and the control of mosquitoes. Mosquitoes can transmit diseases such as **Encephalitis, Malaria, Dengue, and Yellow Fever. Encephalitis infected mosquitoes have been found in or around Clint.** The disease can be fatal especially among children, the elderly or people with a low immune system. Ideal mosquito breeding areas are tires, which we all know are found in abundance throughout El Paso County. We can find tires on the rooftops of mobile homes, yards, roadsides, vacant lots, irrigation ditches, canals, the desert, or any other location where some people manage to dump them illegally.

During this amnesty day we will only accept passenger vehicle tires (cars and pickups) without rims. **NO tractor, semi, aircraft, large or commercial vehicle tires will be accepted.** This service will be **FREE OF CHARGE** and there is a limit of 15 tires per person that you will be allowed to drop off during this **ONE DAY EVENT**. Since there will be a separate tire amnesty day for businesses, we ask that local tire businesses not use this day to drop off their waste tires. However, these businesses can join the rest of the community in collecting illegally dumped waste tires throughout Clint and surrounding areas. For further information, please contact Mario Sandoval at Environmental General, 594-1568. **ARRIVE EARLY, THE GATES WILL CLOSE PROMPTLY AT 2:45 PM! LET'S ALL COME TOGETHER AS A PROUD COMMUNITY AND MAKE A DIFFERENCE!**

## AVISO PUBLICO

**SE HA DESIGNADO EL SABADO 17 DE MAYO DEL 2003 DE LAS 9:00 AM a las 3:00 PM COMO EL SEPTIMO DÍA DE AMNISTÍA PARA LA RECOLECCIÓN DE LLANTAS USADAS.** El lugar designado es en el complejo municipal de Clint, 200 N. San Elizario Road. La línea se formara empezando en N. San Elizario Road en la entrada de el complejo municipal de Clint. **Usted sera responsable por descargar las llantas de su vehículo. Se han encontrado mosquitos infectados con el virus de Encefalitis en el area de Clint.** Esta enfermedad puede ser mortal especialmente en los niños, personas de edad avanzada, y personas con problema del system inmunológico. El proposito de este día de amnistia es para unir a la comunidad de Clint y sus alrededores con la intención de recolectar llantas usadas para poder mantener el control de mosquitos y evitar enfermedades como **Encefalitis, Malaria, Dengue, y Fiebre Amarilla.** Los lugares favoritos para la reproducción de los mosquitos, son los siguientes: llantas usadas tiradas por las calles, carreteras, terrenos vacios, y canales de irrigación. Tambien se encuentran llantas en los patios de las casas, en drenajes y en los techos de las casas móvil.

En este día de amnistia se aceptaran solamente llantas de vehiculos personales sin rines. **NO se aceptaran llantas de vehiculos comerciales este día. Este servicio se ofrece gratuitamente para la comunidad.** Habrá un limite en la cantidad de llantas que traigan Se aceptara solamente 15 llantas por persona. **Este evento es de un solo día.** Se les pide a los comerciantes que por favor no usen este día para deshacerse de sus llantas. Vamos a tener otro día de recolección de llantas para los comerciantes. Se le invita a los comerciantes que se unan con la comunidad para este evento tan grande en la recolección de llantas usadas que se han tirado ilegalmente en terrenos vacios, canales y las calles de la comunidad de Clint y sus alrededores. Para mas informacion llame a Mario Sandoval representante de este programa al numero 594-1568. **¡Llegue temprano, las puertas se cerraran ha las 2:45 PM en punto! Juntos podemos lograr una comunidad orgullosa. ¡Hagamos la diferencia!**

**EL PASO CITY-COUNTY HEALTH & ENVIRONMENTAL DISTRICT  
VECTOR CONTROL INITIATIVE PROGRAM**

## A good glass of wine



UPPER VALLEY — If the number of wine-sipping weekend vineyard visitors was any indication, El Paso County residents and visitors appreciate the fruit of the vine. About 8,000 people visited La Viña Winery Blues and Jazz Festival in La Union, N.M. near Vinton for wine tasting and a relaxed afternoon of browsing the art and offering of about 55 vendors. Partakers are shown crowding the counter to sample and buy some of the 13 varieties produced by the vineyard. Ken and Denise Stark, principals of the vineyard, said around 500 cases of wine were sold over the two-day event.

THE KAT'S MEOW — It was a relaxed and mellow crowd that gathered Sunday to be serenaded by various musicians at the La Viña Winery Jazz and Blues Festival on Sunday. In the background is the Kat Crosby Band — the lead singer is from Tularosa, N.M.



# Resigning San Elizario ISD trustee has 'passion for people who have a need'

By Don Woodyard  
Courier Staff Writer

SAN ELIZARIO—The April 9 meeting of the board of trustees of the San Elizario Independent School District was the last one for Lorenza Zuniga.

Zuniga has served for eight years as a trustee and resigned because she had moved out of the SEISD and is now living in the Clint school district.

"I am saddened by the fact that I have moved from the district," she said. "It has been a privilege for me to be a part of the education process here," she added. "Muchas gracias."

"You will be sorely missed," superintendent Mike Quatrini said in tribute as he presented her a plaque in recognition of her work on the board. "You always focused on the children and on our community. Thank you for your years of service."

Board members echoed Quatrini's remarks, praising her for her work on the board.



Lorenza Zuniga

Apparently Zuniga's interest in community service will not end with her departure from the San Elizario school district.

A certified community health worker/promotora de salud with the Office of Border Health with the Texas Tech Health Sciences Center, she indicates she will be looking for opportunities to serve her new community either in town government or on the board of the Clint school district. "I am going to be very active; I will be involved in Clint."

As a community health worker, she takes the broader, holistic approach to her work. She sees not only the physical needs to health, but also the social, mental and spiritual aspects of health care.

"I have a passion for people who have a need," she says simply. She remembers the words of her father — "ignorancia es madre de todo lo malo." Translated: "Ignorance is the mother of all bad."

Her interest in serving the community goes back many years when her own children were in school. She recalls having to go to the San Elizario school district office and observing

what she felt was an unacceptable learning environment for some students. She saw not only lack of quality of service, but also a need for change.

The changes she felt needed to be made were in the alternative program and the conditions in which the students had to work.

"I wanted to be part of the change," she recalls. "I needed to be there; I wanted to be a part of the governance (school board)."

Change eventually came in the alternative program in the San Elizario school district. Where alternative students were once housed in portables adjacent to the old high school, they attend class in the spacious Excel Academy now in its own new building on Socorro Road.

She says her focus on service stems from what she learned from Latino organizations such as MALDEF (Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund) that encourages people to take a proactive stance in bringing about change in their communities.

A defining moment for Zuniga came with the groundbreaking for the new high school. She had tears in her eyes. She had come a long way. It was an emotional moment for the person who years ago had wanted to be part of change. Now, as a trustee, it had come true.

Turning the symbolic shovel-full of earth, she said it was like planting a seed for the students of the future.



ARTISTS AMONG US — Estella N. Ramos Artwork is one of the many paintings that will be on display during May at Canutillo Elementary School Galleria. Ramos lives in the Canutillo area.

## Local artist exhibits works at Canutillo Elementary

UPPER VALLEY — Artworks by local artist Estella N. Ramos will be on display throughout May at the Canutillo Elementary School Galleria, 651 Canutillo Avenue.

Ramos, who will receive a master of arts degree in painting from the University of Texas at El Paso next month, will bring her works for public viewing and to promote art appreciation among CES students.

"I want the children and parents of Canutillo to know more about our

local artists. So, I asked the school principal to allow me to display my paintings and give presentations to students to encourage them to embrace the arts and to have an open appreciation for the arts," said Ramos, who lives in the Canutillo area.

Ramos earned a bachelor of fine arts degree from Texas Tech University. She said that she also plans to pursue a master of fine arts in painting degree at New Mexico State University.

## Community responds with 'great enthusiasm' to renovate playground

CANUTILLO — Over 100 parents, students, and staff put the finishing touches this past weekend on the playground renovation project at Canutillo Elementary School campus.

"It never fails to amaze me how the community and staff responds with such great enthusiasm," said Hector Giron, Canutillo Elementary School Principal.

A "Community Build" party to assemble the playground equipment

was called on April 5. CES faculty, staff, parents, community members and business volunteers were recruited to help with this special project.

The renovated campus playground has walking paths, basketball courts, and grassy playing fields for students to use during school hours and for community residents to enjoy after school and on weekends.

— Contributed by Carmen Guzman

## San Elizario ISD gets TDH mini-grant to purchase automated external defibrillator for the community

SAN ELIZARIO — The San Elizario Independent School District has learned that it will receive a Texas Department of Health mini-grant after all, according to Ernesto Rodriguez, Director of Research & Development for the district.

The amount of the grant will total \$3,700 in funding originally scheduled to be cut by the state.

"They must have had a change of heart," Rodriguez said. "Now we have to use the funds in a short pe-

riod of time."

Using the funds won't be difficult. The district's School Health Advisory Council's Wellness Taskforce has decided to use the original award amount of \$1500 to put on a health fair in early June that will "Kick off a Summer of Health" for the community, according to Patricia Castillo, Safety Wellness Officer for SEISD.

The additional \$2,200 will be used to purchase a defibrillator for the community, Rodriguez added.

The town of San Elizario currently has one defibrillator, utilized by the local volunteer fire station. With San Elizario High School planning on purchasing a defibrillator for its campus as pertaining to strong UIL recommendations, the idea of having another, more centrally located defibrillator for community use was a logical step.

"We're excited to do the community some good in a very healthy capacity," Rodriguez said.

## They don't mess around with trash in Clint

CLINT — Final count is expect to be that more than 1,300 groups statewide participated on April 5 in the Don't Mess with Texas Trash-Off, one of the nation's largest single-day cleanups.

In Clint, more than 40 volunteers from the Clint Little League, Clint Junior High School National Jr. Honor Society, and members of Keep Clint Beautiful gathered on Saturday morning. This annual event, sponsored by the Texas Department of Transportation, targets litter prevention, awareness and clean up along Texas highways.

Last year alone, one million pounds of trash were picked up by more than 70,000 Adopt-a-Highway and Keep Texas Beautiful volunteers all across Texas.

"The large number of volunteers who turn out for monthly cleanup events shows that citizens are genuinely concerned with beautifying the state and the town of Clint," said Mayor Charles Gonzalez.

The volunteers in Clint collected 70 trash bags along 12 miles of FM 1110 and Alameda. Employees from the Texas Department of Transportation

provided the trash bags and safety vests for the event and passed out water to the volunteers along the route.

— Contributed by Jessica Garza



GATHER IT UP, HAUL IT OFF — Clint Mayor Charles Gonzalez picks up full trash bags, while volunteers from Clint Little League take a water break along FM 1110.

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# Tejanos are a welcome ray of sports sunshine in otherwise dreary El Paso forecast

By Steve Escajeda  
Special to the Courier

The El Paso area sports scene, for the most part, has been pretty much a laughing stock the past couple of years.

After flying high three years ago, UTEP football is back where El Paso fans are used to seeing it, at the very bottom of the WAC standings.

With a defense that can allow 60 points at any given game and an offense that still hasn't found a quarterback, things don't look too bright for the orange and blue in the future.

UTEP basketball has been embarrassing on and off the court. Seems like the players stink it up on the court and the coaches stink it up off it.

One coach couldn't keep his hormones in check while another doesn't know when to say when.

Minor basketball has now actually dropped lower than Minor football. Boy, I never thought I would see that in my lifetime.

The El Paso Buzzards are so embarrassing they were a regular in the national sports news because of their antics off the ice.

Let's put it this way, I'll never watch the movie Slapshot again because it's too tame compared to what I've seen surrounding El Paso hockey the past two seasons.

By the way, if they ever do make a movie about this past Buzzards' season, I hope Wayne Knight ("Newman" from Seinfeld) plays the part of former owner Billy Davidson. I think only Knight can play a part this evil.

## Where's the arena?

I remember the talk about an arena going back at least 10 years now.

Does anybody really think that El Paso will ever get a state-of-the-art 16,000-seat arena with the acoustics to host some of the best concerts, or with enough capacity to host first- or second-round NCAA tournament games?

And when I mention embarrassments in El Paso, I'd be remiss if I didn't include our county and city leaders — they can always be counted on to drop the ball just before they go in for the big score.

Lot's of bad news, huh folks?

But not all bad...

## Tejanos on a roll

I finally found a sports story that the entire city of El Paso can be proud of. And the best part is that the majority of it was accomplished by our own El Paso sons.

The El Paso Community College baseball team, which is now ranked sixth in the nation, completed a two-game sweep of Clarendon

College at last week's WJAC (Western Junior College Athletic Conference) Tournament to clinch the top seed in the upcoming Region V Tournament in Abilene, TX.

What an accomplishment! Including the two playoff wins, the Tejanos have compiled an amazing 42-9-1 record this year and with that, a gaudy 25-1 home record.

EPCC knocked off Clarendon 11-8 and 9-1 in the best-of-three series.

More than half of the team is made up of El Pasoans, the locals include Kyle Anson (Socorro High), Jason Armendariz (Franklin), Guillermo Favela (Irvin), Ruben Flores (Riverside), Eric Garcia (Burgess), Daniel Gonzalez (Cathedral), Marcelo Morales (Socorro), Ricardo Rivas (Hanks), Fernando Rodriguez (Franklin), Damian Salcedo (Franklin), Victor Sanchez (Hanks), Mike Smith (Coronado), Tino Vargas (Franklin) and Eric Wong (Address).

And the icing on the cake is the fact that head coach Ken Jacome has made all his news within the confines of the baseball diamond...how refreshing.

In a city that has taken its sporting lumps the past couple of seasons it's especially sweet to cheer on a truly local team that has a chance to make history over the next few weeks.

Do I really believe the Tejanos have a chance

to win a national championship? Well, this team has put up really impressive numbers on offense and it's going to take a Herculean pitching effort to shut this team's bats down twice in the same tournament.

Yes. Yes, I do think they can go all the way. EPCC is hitting an unreal .397 as a team and is averaging 10.1 runs per game in 50 regular season games.

If you think that's amazing, the Tejanos have seven players that are batting .400 or better and five players with 40-plus runs batted in.

Way to go, Tejanos. You have reminded El Paso what it's like to have a winner.

And whether the Tejanos go all the way or not, it's just good to have some positive sports news come our way for once.

Hey, maybe this will snowball.

Maybe UTEP will get jealous and put together successful football and basketball seasons in 2003-04. Maybe the Buzzards will bounce back and claim the championship. Why not? And maybe they'll in do it in their new 16,000-seat multi-purpose...maybe we should take it one thing at a time.

Good luck, Tejanos.

## Write stuff

Dear Editor:

(This is) in response to Mrs. Lilia P. Maldonado's letter in reference to Mr. Carl Frieze running for board of trustee of the Canutillo I.S.D. What Mrs. Maldonado failed to mention is why he resigned from the school board. (If) Mr. Frieze is so concerned about the school and community why would he resign as a board member? (I believe it was) so that his wife would get a...job with the school district. It was not fair to others how (she) applied for the secretary position.

If I'm not mistaken, Mrs. Frieze was already working at Jose H. Damian Elementary School two months before he resigned from the board. Ethically this was very wrong by Mr. Frieze. I always pay close attention. So much that I remember Mr. Frieze's fishing trip in Mexico and (that he) did not attend the San Antonio conference for all school board members. The community would have never known that he did not attend the conference if it wasn't for the airplane accident in Mexico. He has never explained to the community what he was doing in Mexico fishing and not at the conference in San Antonio. I feel he owes an apology to the community and the rest of the board members. (He) should be accountable for (his) actions. (He) represented the voters of the community.

John Gauna  
Canutillo

## Briefs

From Page 1

involved in missions. Call Heather Jurado for information, mornings at 852-3027.

■ Socorro ISD will host a teacher job fair on Friday May 2 in the Education Center Board Room, 12300 Eastlake Drive, 3-5 p.m. UTEP graduates, teachers laid off from other districts and teachers enrolled in alternative certification programs and all other teachers are invited.

■ Feel like tramping the boards in costume? If you are between the ages of 16 and 90 you qualify to apply to become an actor with the El Paso Mystery Troupe, performing for corporate events, private dinner parties and other functions. Plays range from mystery to light comedy to who-dun-its. Auditions are in May. Costumers and technical assistants also needed. Call 544-5992 from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

■ The Media Tech team from Socorro High School will attend the National Skills USA VICA competition in Kansas City, Missouri this summer. The team of Corina Cortez, Joshua Barraza and Jonathan Gutierrez won at state. Two other SHS teams also placed at state.

■ Bryan Daniel, State Director for the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development, announced that the mortgage limits for the Rural Housing Direct Loan program increased significantly effective March 24, 2003. The new mortgage limits are from \$92,591 — \$122,154 with an average of \$103,774. Totals for Fiscal Years 2000-2002 reflect a USDA Rural Development investment of \$208,471,410 in rural Texas through its Rural Housing Direct Loan program which brought home ownership to close to 2,990 households. The program provides loans that assist eligible households to purchase a home located in a rural area. Qualifying applicants may obtain 100 percent financing to purchase an existing dwelling, purchase a site

and construct a dwelling, or purchase newly constructed dwellings located in rural areas. Mortgage payments are based on the household's adjusted income and require no down payment. Information is at (254) 742-9710 or the local USDA Rural Development Office generally listed in the blue pages of phone directories, or visit: <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/tx>.

■ You could save a life if you join the National Marrow Donor Program Registry. Each year, more than 30,000 children and adults are diagnosed with leukemia and other diseases for which a stem cell transplant may be the only cure. Only 30 percent of these people will find matching donors within their families. The others will look to the National Marrow Donor Program Registry for a potential life-saving match. Ethnic minorities are strongly encouraged to register because they are under-represented. For more information on registering, call 1-800-MARROW-2 or visit [www.marrow.org](http://www.marrow.org).

## King Super Crossword

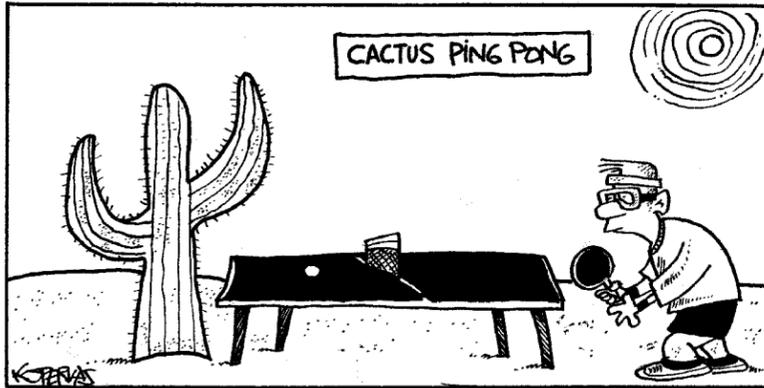
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| <b>ACROSS</b>             | 71 Defer                 | 136 Actress Dominique     | 40 Abominable              | 104 English course?    |
| 1 Pollutant               | 72 Hog heaven?           | 137 Savor the sauerbraten | 41 Plumbing problem        | 106 Bobbins            |
| 5 Next in line            | 74 Humorous pirate?      | 138 Approximately         | 42 Oaf                     | 107 Asian peninsula    |
| 9 Viola part              | 78 Antiquity, archaicly  | 139 Hammer part           | 44 Singer Davis            | 109 Dog star?          |
| 12 Irish playwright       | 79 Bug-to-be             |                           | 45 From _ Z                | 110 Roberts or Tucker  |
| 17 Strong _ ox            | 81 Trigger-happy guy?    | <b>DOWN</b>               | 46 Humorous jazzman?       | 111 Keep secret        |
| 18 Extremely hot          | 82 Payable               | 1 Fiction's antithesis    | 50 Composer Nino           | 115 Yonder             |
| 20 Prospector's prize     | 83 Rope material         | 2 9 Down character        | 52 Actress Zetterling      | 116 A la King?         |
| 21 Breakfast food         | 85 _ vera                | 3 _ Loa                   | 54 Foch or Simone          | 118 Sailing            |
| 22 Humorous TV host?      | 86 Shady character?      | 4 Repeat performance      | 56 Sitarist Shankar        | 119 Salon supply       |
| 25 Shadowy site?          | 87 Rock's Tears for _    | 5 Producer Prince         | 58 " _ Paul" ('59 hit)     | 121 Christiania, today |
| 26 Half a joint           | 89 A Muse                | 6 Celebrity hairstylist   | 59 Enraged                 | 122 Tend the sauce     |
| 27 Math relationship      | 92 Turned soft           | Jose                      | 61 _ vu                    | 123 Units of work      |
| 28 Without                | 94 Architect's add-on    | 7 Hawkeye State           | 63 Practice piece          | 125 Org.               |
| 30 " _ Blue?" ('29 song)  | 96 Center of attraction  | 8 Crowdburst?             | 65 "Phooey!"               | 127 Sturm _ Drang      |
| 31 Not as common          | 98 It holds plenty!      | 9 Eerie author            | 68 Scruggs or Butz         | 129 _ Bell Wells       |
| 33 More promising         | 99 Miller's salesman     | 10 Bungle                 | 70 Actress Saldana         | 130 Destiny            |
| 36 Fled                   | 101 _ de Cologne         | 11 Old Faithful, e.g.     | 71 TV host John            | 131 Kids' card game    |
| 37 Humorous Senator?      | 105 Coral reef           | 12 Certain steeds         | 72 Bridge term             |                        |
| 43 _ de France            | 106 "I Am _" (2001 film) | 13 Before, to Byron       | 73 Biggest part of a fish? |                        |
| 44 Mil. rank              | 108 Humorous Pilgrim?    | 14 Humorous poet?         | 75 Alaskan port            |                        |
| 47 Steakhouse order       | 112 In favor of          | 15 Gorilla or ground-hog  | 76 Magellan discovery      |                        |
| 48 Observe                | 113 New Hampshire city   | 16 Novelist Gordimer      | 77 Fairy queen             |                        |
| 49 Medical word form      | 114 Intense              | 19 Chateau valley         | 80 Apt anagram of "vote"   |                        |
| 51 Mighty mite            | 117 Item in a lock       | 21 Marsh                  | 84 Contented sigh          |                        |
| 53 Film barbarian         | 118 Seasons firewood     | 23 Prepared to propose    | 86 Gouda alternative       |                        |
| 55 Where to find an incus | 120 Win by _             | 24 Plunders               | 87 Instant                 |                        |
| 57 Tropical rodent        | 124 Milo of "Ulysses"    | 29 Graceland name         | 88 Read quickly            |                        |
| 60 Pina _                 | 126 Dull                 | 32 Chest part             | 90 Tax shelter             |                        |
| 62 Willow tree            | 128 Humorous actress?    | 34 Like chiffon           | 91 Some                    |                        |
| 64 Genesis vessel         | 132 Barrymore or Richie  | 35 Notion                 | 93 German spa              |                        |
| 66 Russian ruler          | 133 Altar answer         | 38 San Diego attraction   | 95 Tun throwaways          |                        |
| 67 Feudal figure          | 134 Do a mechanic's job  |                           | 97 Bossy's chew            |                        |
| 69 Explosive initials     |                          |                           | 100 Workday start          |                        |

Answer Page 7

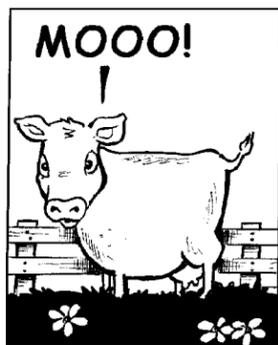
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# Comix

## OUT ON A LIMB By Gary Kopervas



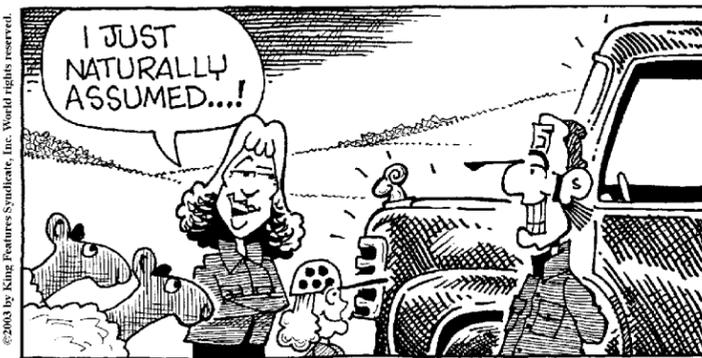
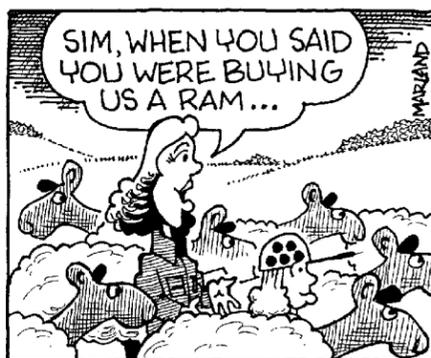
## AMBER WAVES By Dave T. Phipps



## THE SPATS By Jeff Pickering



## R.F.D. By Mike Marland



# Husband: Handsome or handy?

## By Don Flood

A recent poll showed that nearly two in three women — 64 percent — would rather marry a handy man than a handsome man.

More interesting, perhaps, is a second poll that showed that 103 percent of men felt their wives were very fortunate they didn't have to struggle with such a difficult decision.

"She got the complete package," is how most men sized up their wife's good fortune.

"I got ... a package," heartily agreed most wives.

Among the lucky ones is my own bride of 18 years.

Here's a true-life account of just one of my handyman projects, taken from a verbatim transcript provided by my wife:

"One hot summer day the power went out. This wouldn't have been too much of a problem except that I had just bought a half-gallon of our favorite ice cream.

"Don't worry," said my handy husband, who looked very handsome that day in his stained T-shirt and two-day growth of beard. "I'll have that freezer back on in a jiffy."

"Using odds and ends he found around the house, Don quickly built a nifty little nuclear reactor, which not only provided power for our refrigerator but for much of the Eastern Seaboard as well.

"When I expressed surprise that he was able to build a nuclear reactor with no manual or instructions, he modestly said it was no big deal. He said he had pretty good idea about how to build one from watching a rerun of 'The China Syndrome.'"

Hard to believe, you say? I can provide as many examples as you would like, mainly because it's part of my job to make these things up.

For a reasonable fee, I can even provide Certificates of Authenticity.

But what if you're a handsome guy who lacks my natural ability as a do-it-yourselfer?

Don't worry. You might be surprised to learn that, for demanding projects, even an expert such as myself sometimes needs to seek professional help.

Take curtain rods, for example. Recently, having experienced some difficulty adjusting a curtain rod, I asked the man at the hardware store how they worked.

He took out a rod and demonstrated the Secret of the Curtain Rod: You twist it to the desired size.

Oh. But let's say you've mastered the curtain rod; what project should you tackle next?

I recommend you pick a room — perhaps one rarely used to entertain guests, such as the closet housing the water heater — and beautify it through the magic of wallpaper.

Yes, wallpapering is tough, frustrating work but, at the end of the day, when the project is all done and your room has a sparkling new look, you'll have that warm feeling from knowing that, basically, it looks like the project was carried out by a bunch of drunken, near-sighted monkeys — only monkeys, of course, would be more adept at handling corners.

Not that my own wallpaper projects turn out like that, of course.

Through patience and practice, I've learned the secret of successful wallpapering.

I get someone else to do it.

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As per Article V, Sec. 5.05(a), all owners and lienholders have ten (10) days from this date to reclaim their vehicles at South West Wrecker, 1401 Darrington Rd., 855-1900, 851-2091-fax, or it will be sold at public auction for charges: VIN - IGNDT13WXP2211064, 1993 Chevy Blazer, red VIN - 3372203739, 1977 Volkswagen, maroon VIN - JT4VNI3D2N5077877, 1998 Toyota pickup, black VIN - IFAFP40403F360960, 2003 Ford Mustang, red WTCC-05/01/03

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

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

Alcohólicos 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. Visitemos. Alcohólicos

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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# National Chicano art exhibit travels to El Paso

MINNEAPOLIS — Touted as "an unprecedented art exhibit" and entitled simply "Chicano," a collection of traditional art and an interactive multimedia exhibit will open to the public at the El Paso Museum of Art and Insights-El Paso Science Museum in El Paso on June 14.

Chicano is a five-year, 15-city national tour that is collectively made up of *Chicano Visions: American Painters on the Verge* which is a traditional art exhibit, and *Chicano Now: American Expressions*, an exhibit for families.

Chicano first opened in November 2001 at the San Antonio Museum of Art and is currently on view at the National Hispanic Cultural Center in Albuquerque, NM.

Chicano will remain on exhibit at the El Paso Museum of Art and Insights-El Paso Science Museum through Sept. 21, 2003.

"Insights is honored to host Chicano because it truly expresses who we are, where we've been and what is unique about the majority culture in the El Paso region," said Jim Klaes, executive director for Insights-El Paso Science Museum. "This exhibit is perfect for El Paso because to non-Chicanos, it dispels stereotypes, and to Chicanos, it gives reasons for pride in one's heritage."

Inspired and directed by Cheech Marin's vision to highlight expressions of his native culture, Chicano presents the diverse voices of today's Chicanos. "We're bringing our interpretation of the Chicano experience to the American public," said Marin. "I want all Americans to understand that Chicano culture plays a big part in the patchwork quilt that is Americana. The contributions of Chicanos have been so enormous, but they tend to be overlooked."

The works on exhibit date between 1969 and 2001. While the majority of the works are drawn from the personal art collection of Cheech Marin, some are on loan from other collectors and institutions.

For more information on Chicano visit [www.chicano-art-life.com](http://www.chicano-art-life.com).

The El Paso Museum of Art is located at One Arts Festival Plaza, El Paso, Texas 79901, and is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Tuesday to Saturday and noon to 5 p.m. on Sunday. For additional information: (915) 532-1707.

The Insights-El Paso Science Museum is located at 505 N. Santa Fe, El Paso, Texas 79901 and is open from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Tuesday to Friday; 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday; and noon to 5:00 p.m. on Sunday. For additional information: (915) 534-0000.

## Social Security Q&A By Ray Vigil

**Q:** I work for a city government. I do not pay into Social Security or Medicare. My husband doesn't pay Social Security or Medicare taxes either. But now that we're almost 60, we're starting to worry about medical coverage after retirement. The city I work for does not provide any health care after I retire. What are people like us supposed to do? Can we get Medicare even though we didn't pay Medicare taxes? I earned about 25 Social Security credits before I started working for the city.

**A:** Anyone older than 65 who hasn't

paid Medicare taxes and qualified for premium-free Medicare can buy the coverage. The cost would be about \$374 per month for full (Part A and B) coverage. Of course, those are today's prices, not the cost you'd pay five years from now. You might want to consider taking a part-time job. Because you already have 25 credits, you need just 15 more to get the 40 credits you'd need for the free Part A Medicare. Then you would have to pay only the Part B Medicare premium (currently \$58.70 per month). You can earn a maximum of four credits per year, so in less than four years, you'd have enough credits

for free Part A Medicare. And with the 40 credits, you'd also earn a small Social Security benefit, too.

**Q:** My husband is thinking of early retirement. Does he have to take Social Security at 62? Can he wait until age 63 or 64? Does his Social Security retirement always have to be on his birthday? If he takes it at 62 and later changes his mind and goes back to work, what happens?

**A:** Your husband can start his Social Security any month after age 62. It does not have to be on his birthday. Social Security benefits are reduced about one-half of 1 percent for each month of early retirement before his

"full retirement age." And, yes, he can change his mind. If he starts his Social Security and later decides to return to work, we'll stop his checks and start them up again when he quits working. And when we restart his checks, we will refigure his benefit, because we can apply that early retirement reduction only to those months he actually received a Social Security check before reaching his full retirement age.

**Q:** I was told you should file for your Social Security retirement benefits at least one year ahead of time. Is this true?

**A:** No. Two to three months is all the lead time necessary to file for retire-

ment benefits. In fact, if you come to your interview prepared, your claim usually can be processed in just a matter of weeks, or even days. To be prepared, you always need a birth certificate or other record of your birth. And you need last year's W-2 form or tax return if you're self-employed. And you may need other documents, such as marriage or military records, depending on your situation.

For more information visit your local Security office, see [www.ssa.gov](http://www.ssa.gov) or call us at 1-800-772-1213. If you have any questions that you would like to have answered, please mail them to the Social Security Office, 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
Mostly sunny and breezy.	Clear.	Brilliant sunshine.	Sunny to partly cloudy.	Windy with sunshine and a few clouds.	Mostly sunny.	Sunshine and some clouds.	Partly sunny.
▲ 82°	▼ 54°	▲ 84° ▼ 58°	▲ 86° ▼ 60°	▲ 82° ▼ 54°	▲ 82° ▼ 56°	▲ 84° ▼ 56°	▲ 80° ▼ 52°

### 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	80°
Friday	73°
Saturday	77°
Sunday	74°
Monday	74°
Tuesday	83°
Wednesday	77°

### AGRICULTURE

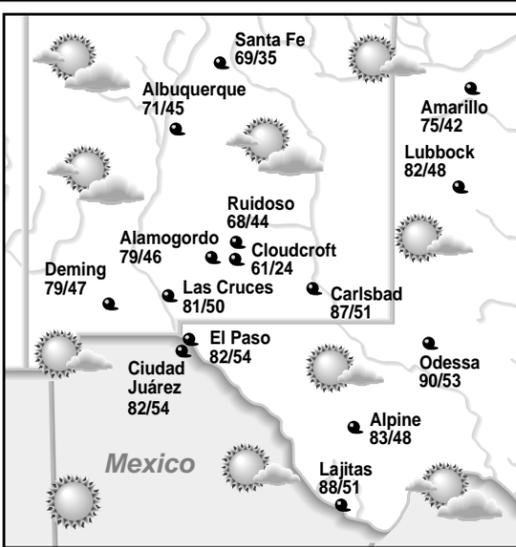
There will be 10-12 hours of sunshine Thursday and Friday. Breezy at times Thursday with west to southwest winds of 8-16 mph. Sunny to partly cloudy and windy at times this weekend with areas of blowing dust. Mainly dry weather and seasonal temperatures are expected early next week.

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### TEXAS WEATHER

Anthony	82	54
Canutillo	83	55
Clint	82	55
E. Montana	82	54
Fabens	82	55
Horizon	83	55
San Elizario	79	52
Socorro	81	53
Tornillo	82	55
Vinton	83	55

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



### TRAVELERS CITIES

City	Thur.	Fri.	Sat.	Sun.	Mon.
	Hi/Lo/W	Hi/Lo/W	Hi/Lo/W	Hi/Lo/W	Hi/Lo/W
Albuquerque	71/45/pc	74/47/s	75/47/s	69/46/c	73/31/s
Atlanta	82/62/c	78/59/t	76/55/s	74/53/pc	75/60/pc
Atlantic City	71/54/pc	74/54/c	68/48/sh	63/44/s	65/39/s
Austin/San Antonio	86/64/pc	88/63/pc	86/65/pc	84/65/c	86/69/s
Baltimore	74/55/pc	78/55/c	68/44/sh	65/44/s	69/43/pc
Boston	68/52/pc	66/52/c	62/44/sh	60/44/s	61/44/s
Chicago	70/44/t	58/42/pc	58/40/s	62/45/pc	63/41/c
Dallas/Ft. Worth	86/62/pc	80/60/pc	80/60/pc	81/62/c	81/64/s
Denver	60/34/pc	64/41/pc	70/42/pc	65/40/c	61/26/c
Flagstaff	60/26/pc	64/30/pc	60/34/pc	55/32/r	54/17/c
Houston	85/68/c	84/66/c	83/66/pc	86/66/pc	86/68/pc
Kansas City	72/47/pc	68/45/pc	67/48/pc	66/52/r	70/48/c
Las Vegas	76/54/pc	80/58/pc	74/54/c	78/56/pc	81/44/pc
Miami	85/73/t	87/72/t	88/72/pc	89/74/pc	87/72/s
Minneapolis	58/39/sh	60/39/pc	62/44/pc	60/44/c	61/29/c
New Orleans	86/69/pc	83/66/pc	84/66/pc	83/68/pc	84/66/pc
New York City	72/55/pc	71/55/c	64/49/sh	65/51/s	65/46/s
Philadelphia	72/54/pc	76/54/c	65/48/sh	63/48/s	68/42/s
Phoenix	85/61/s	88/63/s	84/62/s	82/62/pc	85/46/pc
Portland	70/46/pc	68/46/pc	66/46/pc	63/46/c	65/42/c
San Francisco	66/52/pc	66/54/c	62/50/c	60/50/pc	66/48/s
Seattle	64/44/pc	64/44/pc	60/43/pc	60/44/pc	61/44/c
Tucson	84/54/s	88/54/s	84/56/s	79/55/pc	81/40/pc
Washington, DC	75/59/pc	78/59/c	70/52/sh	68/52/s	71/46/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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