

West Texas Count

VOL. 30, No. 27

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

JULY 3, 2003

Post-4th cleanup

An "After the Fourth" beautification and clean-up project will be held Monday, July 7, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the East Montana community, co-sponsored by Pct. 6 Judge Ruben Lujan, County Commissioner Miguel Teran, and State Rep. Chente Quintanilla. "Many El Pasoans choose to celebrate the 4th of July by popping fireworks and having picnics outside the El Paso city limits in the (East) Montana Vista community that leave the area with trash build-up after the celebration. That is why this effort will be set in practice in order to restore the area of trash and fireworks debris," Judge Lujan said. The project was planned six months ago as part of Lujan's Juvenile Offender program out of Pct. 6. Joining program offenders and their parents in the effort will be community organizations and area volunteers. Commissioner Teran has arranged to provide clean up supplies and a dump truck and driver to collect the refuse. The volunteers are to meet at the corner of Montana and Flagger St. For more information contact Dora Y. Oaxaca with Rep. Quintanilla's office at 859-3111 or 740-1117.

Safety urged

The Texas Department of Public Safety is asking the public to celebrate during the Fourth of July weekend with an added sense of safety on the roadways. "With many opportunities for people to drive carelessly, Texans must share the responsibility of keeping roadways safe this holiday," said DPS Director Col. Thomas A. Davis Jr. Texas is one of several states participating in Operation CARE (Combined Accident Reduction Effort) — a nationwide campaign by state police agencies to reduce fatalities during holiday periods. All available troopers will be patrolling Texas roadways targeting speeders, drunk drivers and seat belt violators during the Fourth of July holiday weekend. The DPS also is supporting a nationwide crackdown on drunk drivers during the Fourth of July holiday — the "Drink, Drive, Go to Jail" campaign.

In other news

- The El Paso Border Patrol Sector announced the selection of 25-year veteran Michael D. Moon as the Deputy Chief of the El Paso Sector, a branch of the Bureau of Customs and Border Protection. At 51, Moon is a native El Pasoan who graduated from Austin High and has a Bachelor in Political Science from UTEP. His entire career has been dedicated to the El Paso Sector, working the TorC, Fabens and the El Paso Station. He replaces Jerry L. Armstrong who retired in April of this year.
- The Student Council of San Elizario High School is currently accepting nominations for the Outstanding Ex-Student for

See BRIEFS, Page 4

There is not true greatness where simplicity, goodness and truth are absent. - Quips & Quotes

NEWSBRIEFS Graffiti Wipe Out program makes ugly scrawls disappear like magic



HORIZON CITY — An El Paso otherwise convicted of graffiti vandalism. from walls, streets and curbs was oper- panies each crew. ating in Horizon City last week at the invitation of the Horizon City Police Department.

Graffiti had been sprayed with paint on the walls and curbs in several alleys in Horizon Manor. In a matter of minutes the markings were sand-blasted away, with no sign of the gang-related scrawlings left behind.

Guermo Morales, a supervisor with the West Texas Community Supervision and Corrections Department which administers the Graffiti Wipe-Out program, said crews respond when alerted to sites of graffiti. After attending to the specific site, he said they will survey the surrounding area for other markings.

The program has an interesting twist. The graffiti removal crews are made up of young people convicted of various offenses — often they are former "taggers" themselves, either caught in the act or

County program that removes graffiti A supervisor from the WTCSCD accom-

The service is provided free of charge, with some restrictions, when requested by public officials such as the police or by private individuals.

Wipe-Out crews will respond free of charge every time they are contacted to remove graffiti from single-family residences, apartment buildings with four or fewer units and commercial or retail buildings smaller than 2,000 square feet.

Larger apartment complexes and commercial establishments larger than 2,000 square feet qualify for two free removals. Thereafter, labor is provided free of charge but cost of paint and materials must be paid by the requesting business, Morales said.

When working on private property, the property owner must fill out an application granting the crews permission to

See GRAFFITI, Page 5

REMOVING THE TRACES — Gang graffiti is not an uncommon sight in El Paso County. Graffiti Wipe Out utilizes young offenders doing community service for various offenses, including "tagging" for cleaning up the graffiti. A sandblaster is used to wipe out the unsightly markings on streets, walls and curbs

Journey through heartland of America is one of renewal

By Don Woodyard Courier Staff Writer

MIDDLE AMERICA — A 4,300-mile odyssey found middle America awash in brilliant colors — principally red, white and blue and yellow.

And then there was the orange.

It was a journey to attend a class reunion in Ohio, a journey to trace family history and a journey to visit with family and friends. It was not profound. It offered no great insights into the human condition. I came away with no particularly lofty views of life in general.

There is no time for such thoughts when you



MILES AND MILES OF COLOR Cloverdale, Indiana flies Old Glory from every light pole and every picket fence along mainstreet, thanks to a little patriotic armtwisting by some school children and veterans' groups.

are suffering from "rump rage" after long hours behind the wheel of your car as you carefully thread through a maze of ever-present orange traffic cones at construction sites and watching for 18-wheelers in your rear view mirror.

The closest thing to a deep thought is that there are three certain things in life — death, taxes and a feeling of "truckulence" - that sure and certain knowledge that you are never going to get around all of the trucks on the road. There will always be one or more up ahead or a convoy thundering past you.

The journey for me was one of comfort and peace. Those reassuring feelings washed over me in diverse places — from the mountains of southern Ohio to the prairie of Kansas. These places reflected the enduring strength and timeless beauty of our nation.

It came over me in Cloverdale, Indiana, where American flags flew from every light pole in the small community, where they flew from white picket fences along Main Street. This expression of patriotism, a motel manager told me, came about through the grass-roots efforts of school children who, along with veterans' organizations, pushed elected officials to take action.

It came over me in old cemeteries in southern Ohio where tombstones date back to the mid-1800s. American flags adorned many gravesites. In many cases the flag holder carried the letters "GAR." It stands for Grand Army of the Republic, soldiers in blue who fought in the Union Army in the Civil War. It reminded me that this nation has a heritage of heroes, men and women who have given their lives in service to their country for more than 200 years.

We honor those who fought in Operation

See JOURNEY, Page 7



Fabens crowns Senior Queen

FABENS — The Fabens Senior Center recently crowned another Fabens community resident as Mother's Day Queen for 2003. The coronation was held during the annual Mother's Day Dance at the Center. Three contestants participated: Maria Hernandez, Tella Hernandez and Manuela Ruiz. From the slate, Maria Hernandez was crowned, escorted by Judge Ruben Lujan. She accepted the honor from outgoing 2002 Queen Catalina Cortez. "We thank Mrs. Cortez, and all these lovely ladies, for their participation," said Elena Slape, director of the Fabens Center. Above, from left, is Catalina Cortez, Maria Hernandez and Judge Ruben Lujan.

One perspective

By Francis Shrum

A prisoner of our patriotism

Paso County where they celebrate the Fourth of July in the ideal and patriotic fashion you see in advertising and hear about from our politicians.

But it doesn't happen in East El Paso County.

The Fourth of July has to be one of the holidays I dread most. I don't look forward to a hearty picnic with friends and relatives or the fireworks displays or a peaceful time when the community can reflect on the blessings and liberties we enjoy.

prisoner.

I try really hard not to leave my place of residence on the Fourth of July because I'm afraid that in transit I will run over someone in the street, be injured myself in an accident, or have my car lit up with exploding ordnance as I drive by.

You see, the reason I feel this way is because that has been the reality for at least the past 10 years.

I've tried going out of town for the Fourth. That works OK — unless I have to come home on that evening. Then the streets and roadways, particularly on the immediate outskirts of our incorporated municipalities, are nothing less than war zones. Children, intoxicated or careless adults, and frequently unrestrained dogs are all participating in what we term "patriotic celebration."

Unfortunately, they are so consumed in their celebration that many have forgotten simple rules of survival — number one being that if you come in direct contact with a multiton moving vehicle made of steel and fiberglass, the vehicle always wins.

Cars and trucks are frequently

There may parked halfway into the lane of trafbe parts of El fic on both sides of the roads. Your moving vehicle, attempting to thread its way through the melee, is little more than an attractive target.

Forget common courtesy.

I shouldn't complain too much, though. If the Fourth falls during a really dry spell, there are folks out in the colonias who spend the evening on the roof of their mobile home armed with a water hose to keep the place from going up in smoke.

Not too many emergency personnel relax on the Fourth of July, ei-No, in fact, I don't feel very liber- ther. The morning after they ated at all. I actually feel more like a breathe a sign of relief if they didn't have to haul a maimed child to the hospital or watch someone's life-long possessions disappear into the night sky on the smoke of a fireworks-related fire.

> I don't know what happens to perfectly responsible people when they get an opportunity to blow something up. I've seen grown men who work endless hours to provide for their kids put those same kids directly in harm's way when it comes to fireworks.

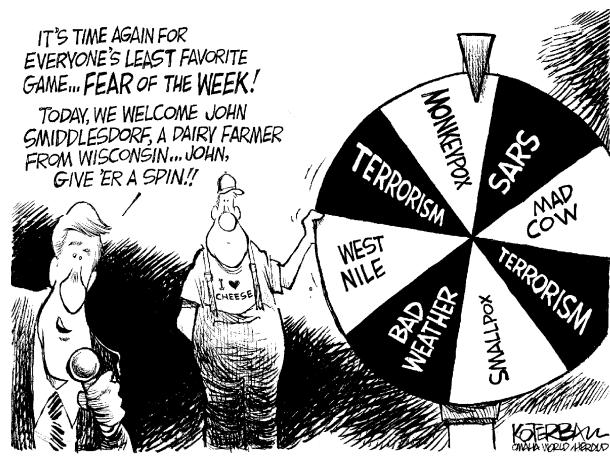
> The fact that our few incorporated municipalities in the county have outlawed fireworks inside their city limits is something of a farce.

> Fireworks have been popping in my backyard in Horizon City ever since the stands opened. I don't know how local police can help but notice this, after all, they are sending up flares to announce their violation, aren't they?

> The last time we watched the fireworks at the Veterans Center on Horizon Blvd. we wove our way through flames of shrieking explosives well inside the city limits all the way from

> > See PRISONER, Page 3





PUBLISHED:

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

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Reyes Reports By U.S. Rep. Silvestre Reyes

Regional border authority would improve economic development

nonprofit independent think tank, El Paso ranked 174 out of 200 metro areas for economic performance.

We in El Paso have long endured a depressed economy and low-paying jobs. We have some of the highest levels of unemployment and the lowest levels of income in the country.

Our economic challenges partly stem from our position as a border community. We have lessons to learn from other communities that have faced similar challenges. We need to look at cities that bucked the trend. such as Las Cruces and McAllen, and look at how other distressed regions that have dealt with their economic challenges.

Earlier this year, I introduced the Southwest Regional Border Authority Act in the House of Representatives that drew on lessons learned from regions that have faced diffi-

In a recent culty. A companion version of the bill report issued was introduced by Sen. Jeff especially important. As you know, by the Milken Bingaman (D-NM) in the U.S. Sen- the border region includes more than Institute, a ate. In the House, this bill is currently one city, more than one state, more in the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee.

This act would create an independent joint federal-state agency to coordinate economic development projects in the Southwest border region. Led by one Senate-confirmed federal representative and the governors of Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, and California, the agency would unite local, state and national leaders as they address the long term economic needs of the region.

By coordinating the efforts of leaders throughout the region, this authority will not be another layer of government and more red tape, but instead be an independent fast-track for obtaining grants to help fund economic development plans. The authority would bring additional federal funds to the region for water, sewer, telecommunications, technology and transportation infrastructure.

The "region" aspect of this bill is than one country. In our area, we actually deal with two borders: the international border to the south, and the state line between Texas and New Mexico. Establishing a regional authority for the Southwest border region recognizes that the solutions to economic challenges cannot be accomplished in just one city, one county, or one state.

Although Congress has previously created several regional economic development commissions (such as the Appalachian Regional Commission and the Delta Regional Authority) to help other areas deal with their economic problems, the Southwest border has been ignored, overlooked, and underfunded. The Southwest Regional Border Authority Act, which was initially referred to the House Subcommittee on Economic

See REYES, Page 4





"WELL, WHADYA KNOW, OSAMA?..., THEY FINALLY CAUGHT that GUY!"

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

Celebrate freedom

This July Fourth we will commemorate the birthday of our great nation. The Fourth of July is a day of celebration. It is a red-white-and-blue day of barbecues and fireworks. It is also a this day. On July 4, 1776, our found-like day of family reunions and loving tributes to the men and women who have created and defended our liberties.

On this July Fourth, as we stand on Main Street USA and watch the parades pass by, reflect on the hard earned freedom we cherish. Celebrate the Fourth of July not only as a family holiday but a community holiday. This day commemorates the American family and our bonding as a free nation.

In towns dotted all over Texas

people know what it means to be free. We celebrate the fact that we live in strong and united communities. We recognize how blessed we are to enjoy unparalleled freedom — freedom that has been earned and protected at

Let us not forget to give thanks on neighbors and ing fathers set up the greatest nation on the face of the planet. They knew that a truly free nation would not be defined in terms of its borders, but in its philosophy. For 223 years courageous Americans have risked their lives to adopt and maintain the true meaning of the Declaration of Independence: "... that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are Life, Lib-

erty and the pursuit happiness..."

As you celebrate this day, draw close to your

grateful family remember the sacrifices of the men and women throughout history who gave their lives for the freedom we enjoy and celebrate.

Pass the brisket, slice a watermelon and draw your hand close to your heart when you see the banner of red, white and blue. I hope you and your family truly enjoy the birthday of our nation. Have a safe weekend and to all of my fellow Americans, Happy Fourth of July!

morning after. Mile after mile of trash, fireworks litter, beer bottles and

the other day, talking about going to shoot fireworks with his dad on the Fourth. He leaned on my bar and launched into a colorful description of all the fun they are going to have.

I steeled myself and bit my tongue so I wouldn't say anything. I could just envision this kid that I love very much out there in the dark during the

Then he said: "We go way out past the houses. My dad takes a trash bag so we don't leave anything out there."

I'm sure he didn't understand why this statement should bring tears to the eyes of his silly old neighbor lady.

Social Security Q&A By Ray Vigil

Understanding the Social Security Disability process

for social security disability benefits and you want the process to be less painful, there several things that you must keep in mind. First of all, let me give you a little background on the disability program. Social Security administers two different disability programs, Social Security Disability and Supplemental Security Disability. Each program has its own requirements.

Under Social Security Disability there are 3 basic categories of individuals who can qualify, a disabled insured worker under age 65, a person who became disabled prior to age 22 who is a dependent of a insured parent entitled to Social Security benefits or of a deceased insured parent and a disabled widow or widower age 50 to 60 and deceased spouse was insured under Social Security. The key to this program is that the worker on whose record the claim is being filed is insured. Under Supplemental Security Income there are two basic categories under which a

financially needy person can get payments on the basis of disability, an individual who became blind or disabled at any age. There are several factors that come into play depending on whether the individual is an adult or a child under age 18. Before we can evaluate the individualís disability, we must determine if they meet the income and resource criteria.

Both disability programs require that an individual not be performing substantial gainful work activity. That means that if they are working, they must not be earning either in earnings or self employment income, more than \$800 a month. In self employment we must also consider the number of hours they work in their business on a monthly basis.

Provided that all non-medical requirements are met for Social Security and/or Supplemental Security Disability, we will proceed to collect information on the individualís medical history.

This is where individuals applying for disability can help themselves. Before you visit the social security office, prepare a listing of all your medical sources. Keep a record of the doctors you have seen from day one

If you are thinking about applying that you started experiencing problems. Record the dates of your first and last visit with each one of the doctors. Do the same for all your other medical sources such as hospitals, outpatient clinic and even other organizations that might have medical records on you. If you have been assigned a patient number or claim number, make certain you furnish that information to Social Security. It might be necessary to locate your medical records. Make certain you provide as much information as to the reason you visited with your medical doctor, what kind of treatment, evaluation, test and/or examinations they provided you with. Also one of the factors we tend to overlook is a listing of all the medications you are presently taking. Make certain you include the name of the prescriptions, dosage and also any side effects you suffer from taking this medication.

> Another important aspect of the disability process is the time it takes to determine a disability claim. A typical disability claim can take anywhere from 3 to 4 months, sometimes even longer to be decided. The reason for this is the time it takes to obtain all the medical records from your doctors or hospitals. There are also situations in which not enough medical evidence is available and disability determination services will have to set up a consultative examination. We have experienced that in situations where individuals take it upon themselves to request records from medical sources and submit evidence with their claims, we have seen decisions return to the social security office in as little as 4 weeks.

> As you can see, you play a very important role in making certain that the process in deciding your application for Social Security and/or Supplemental Security Disability goes smoothly.

> For more information visit your local social security office, see www.socialsecurity.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.

TRUE TEXAS FACTS by Roger Moore July 1, 1901, Rancher Anna Martin founds the Commercial Bank of Mason making her the only female in the U.S to head a bank.



www.wtccourier.com

Prisoner

From Page 2

the intersection of Darrington. Not a policeman in sight.

After the fireworks we came home to be greeted by several kids popping fireworks in the dark in the middle of an intersection of a major roadway.

I can't bear what is left behind the garbage — all the responsibility of someone else or no one at all.

One of my neighbor boys was over

pseudo-celebration to come.

Write stuff

Dear Editor:

I would like to tell you about a day. person who changed so many lives over his long career. He is Lee F.

He was the Chief of the San Elizario Fire Department. One thing about this remarkable man, he always put 150 percent into everything he did for the fire department and the communities of San Elizario, Clint, Socorro, Fabens and the Lower Valley.

Lee was a very intelligent, funny and hardworking man. He made the fire department what it is to-

However, I'm disappointed in the San Elizario Fire Department for the reason they have taken personal belongings from us, his family, that belonged to my grandfather. Even though we have repeatedly asked them for it back, they have failed to return it. But he will always be a hero to everyone he

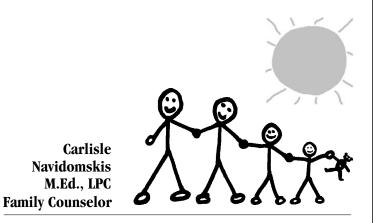
> Felicia Murati Granddaughter of Lee F. Murati

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PUBLIC NOTICE El Paso County Water Authority

The Consumer Confidence Report for 2002 (Drinking Water Quality Report) was mailed to El Paso County Water Authority customers on June 23, 2003. If you did not receive a copy or need additional copies, you may pick them up at the Authority's office, 1539 Pawling Drive, Horizon City during normal operating hours.

WTCC: 07/03/03



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Briefs

From Page 1

2003. Candidates should have graduated from San Elizario High School prior to 1993 and should have achieved success in a chosen field of endeavor. The Honored Ex will be expected to attend Homecoming activities on Friday, Sept. 12. To nominate an individual, submit a letter to the SEHS Student Council, P.O. Box 920, San Elizario, TX 79849, prior to Aug. 25, 2003. Letter should include information about the individual's high school achievements as well as details about post secondary education and career. Also include address and phone number for the nominee and the name and phone number of the person submitting the nomination.

■ Navy Seaman Omar Avila, son of Carmen and Oscar Avila of Fabens, recently assisted the 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit during a two-week bilateral training exercise in Albania while assigned to the amphibious assault ship USS Iwo Jima, homeported in Virginia. Avila graduated in 1999 from Fabens High School. Also, Coast Guard Seaman Apprentice Omar Andrade, son of Maria and Jose Adrade, recently returned from a three-month deployment while assigned to the U.S. Coast Guard Cutter Munro. While patrolling the coast of Central America, Andrade's ship seized nearly 7,000 pounds of cocaine with a street value of about \$60 million; detained eight suspected drug smugglers; and assisted eight mariners in distress in three separate search and rescue cases. Andrade joined the Coast Guard in August of 2002.

- A Master Gardener course to last 14 weeks, one day per week, is offered by the Texas Cooperative Extension to people interested in learning and sharing knowledge about plants and gardening. Beginning Aug. 14 with an orientation session, the all-day classes will be held every subsequent Thursday until Nov. 20. After completion, participants will be required to volunteer at least 50 hours of community service, and after the volunteer hours, participants will be certified as Texas Master Gardeners. Cost of the class is \$125, \$175 for commercial horticulture employees. Enrollment is limited and deadline to apply is July 25. For information and application call 859-7725.
- The Horizon City Police Department has free gunlocks for residents who own guns to secure their personal weapons at home. The gunlocks are provided free of charge to any person over the age of 21. Any HCPD supervisor can provide the lock and instructions to the easy-to-install device. However, arrangement should be made in advance by calling 852-1047.
- The assailant who broke into a house in the Van Horn Housing Area of Ft. Bill may have received more than he bargained for. Police are looking for a man suspected of attempted burglary, aggravated assault and attempted sexual assault, described as five-feet, five-inches tall, about 160 pounds and stocky built. However, police say he probably sustained cuts and abrasions as a result of a struggle with the

woman he attacked. Further description were difficult as the assailant work a black "baklava" mask with his light-gray sweat suit which said "Army" on the left pant leg. Rewards from Crime Stoppers, the U.S. Army and CID are being offered for information in this case. Call 566-TIPS (8477) 24 hours a day. You may remain anonymous.

- The Pacific Intercultural Exchange program is seeking host families for foreign high school students to arrive for the 2003-04 high school academic session. Students are ages 15-18 years old, are English-speaking, have their own spending money, are insured, and can be placed in almost any family situation from large families to single parents to retired couples. For further details call toll-free, 1-800-631-1818.
- Horizon City American Legion Post #598 will again host a celebration of the Fourth of July honoring the independence of our nation. Community festivities will begin at 6 p.m. with food, games, door prizes and something special for the kids. Fireworks will begin at dark. The Post is located at 13000 Horizon Blvd. Call 852-4823 for information.
- Farm Service Agency, a division of the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, is offering direct and guaranteed loan programs to farmers and ranchers who are temporarily unable to obtain private, commercial credit, or for those who have suffered setbacks due to natural disasters. For more information, e-mail at:

bill.mcanally@tx.usda.gov, or call (432) 336-5206, ext. 2.

Reyes

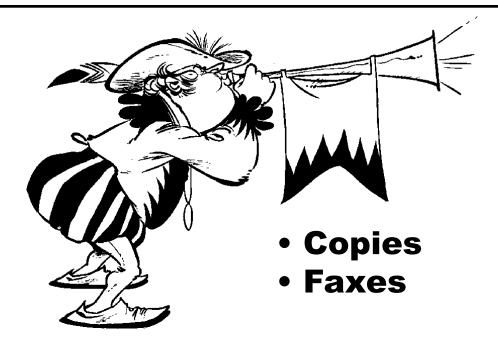
From Page 2

Development, will bring needed attention to the region. I worked with the leadership of the subcommittee to emphasize our needs, and after making a few amendments, they

Regional Border Authority Act on June 18. This moves the bill to full committee, taking it one step closer to passage.

In the border region where hundreds of colonias are still without adequate water and paved roads, unemployment levels are above the na-

unanimously passed the Southwest low, we need an authority that will fully capitalize on our efforts. The full passage of the Southwest Regional Border Authority Act would unite leaders from throughout the region, therefore uniting different perspectives, accomplishments, and difficulties. By "putting our heads together," the border region can reach tional average, and income levels are the level of prosperity we deserve.



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Animal health officials say know the ropes before using Mexican-origin roping stock

and rodeo, they're true Texas sports. But like all competitions, there are rules, particularly if you plan to use Mexican-origin steers.

"Before being used for roping or rodeos, Mexican-origin steers must have a negative cattle tuberculosis (TB) test in the U.S. by an accredited private veterinary practitioner. The test must be conducted within 12 months prior to being used for sport," explained veterinarian Dan Baca of the Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC), the state's livestock and poultry health regulatory agency. "The ani-

thereafter." TB test documents must accompany the animals to events, where TAHC animal health inspectors may check shipments for compliance with testing requirements.

Dr. Baca, the TAHC's TB epidemiologist, explained identification for the tested animal can include a Mexican blue eartag or silver USDA ear tag. Also acceptable are hide or horn brands or an ear tattoo that will provide unique identification of the animal.

"A few weeks ago, the TAHC commissioners put additional regulations 'on hold' for Mexican imported

EL PASO COUNTY — Roping mals then must be retested annually steers, due to budget and staffing geted, because, once in the U.S., theirs mals do not pose a threat of disease, shortfalls. Since then, we have fielded a number of questions, and we wanted to clarify the regulations that are in effect," he said.

> Dr. Baca said he has been asked why Mexican-origin roping steers must have a TB test in the U.S, while imported Mexican feeder steers are exempt. "Mexican-origin steers are tested prior to being transported to Texas. However, we know Mexico has a greater incidence of TB infection, and it is possible for animals to be exposed to infection prior to movement. Imported feeder steers aren't being tar-

is a fairly 'straight path' from pasture, feedlot and then to slaughter. Conversely, imported rodeo or roping steers may be used for several years for practice and events. During this time, these rodeo or roping animals may be pastured with or near Texas cattle. If the imported animals are infected with TB, they could spread infection to domestic cattle."

Dr. Baca said 54 TB-infected Mexi-Texas slaughter plants during an 18month period from 2001-2002. "Six of the 54 infected animals were Mexican steers that had been used for roping and rodeo, and we must control the risk posed by these animals," he said.

Dr. Baca pointed out that, in 2004, the TAHC commissioners will review the testing requirements for testing provides proof that these ani- ing TB-free status."

the commissioners will consider rescinding the regulation," he said. To aid the TAHC and the industry in gathering accurate statistics, he said the words "Mexican roping cattle" should be written on TB test charts by the private veterinary practitioner conducting the test.

Texas lost its TB-free status in June 2002, after two infected herds were detected in 2001. "If we are to regaincan-origin steers were detected at and maintain-our free status, hopefully by 2004, we must keep our domestic cattle herds free of disease and reduce risk wherever possible," said Dr. Baca. "By having imported rodeo and roping steers tested in the U.S. prior to use, and requiring an annual retest, we may prevent infection from spreading to a domestic cattle herd," he said. "One infected Texas cattle herd could imported rodeo and roping steers. "If prevent the entire state from regain-



had been visited by vandals with spray cans, some actually marking out the names of other gangs and writing their own names over them.

Response time is a little slower

Graffiti

From Page 1



NOW YOU SEE IT — This alleyway in Horizon City NOW YOU DON'T — Like magic, it takes only minutes for the sand-blaster to remove all traces of graffiti from the rock walls and concrete curbs. The service is free of charge.

program has suffered the loss of two

funding. He is now the sole supervisor, meaning that instead of having work on their property and releasing three crews working in the County, the County from liability. there is only one.

He said donations to the program

supervisory positions due to cuts in

these days, however. Morales said the are always welcome and are tax-deductible.

> Persons in need of graffiti wipeout may call the initial response 24hour hotline at 533-3434 where messages are taken. The program operates from 7 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday.

SISD preps for the TAKS re-take

EAST EL PASO COUNTY — H. D. Hilley Elementary School principal Eleanor Coldwell looks over test and study materials for the Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills reading test for third grade students. The re-testing session, scheduled for June 24. was administered in English and Spanish to 94 Socorro third grade students who did not previously pass the reading tests. Texas students are required to pass the test before moving to fourth grade, unless waived by a special campus committee. Test results are expected to be available to schools July 24.



Photo courtesy SISD





HAPPY FOURTH OF JULY

from Congressman Henry Bonilla

The Fourth of July is a day of celebration. It is also a day of family reunions and loving tributes to the men and women who have created and defended our liberties.

On this July Fourth, as we stand on Main Street USA and watch the parades pass by, reflect on the hard-earned freedom we cherish. Celebrate the Fourth of July not only as a family holiday but a community holiday. This day commemorates our freedom and our bonding as a nation.

Pass the brisket, slice a watermelon and draw your hand close to your heart when you see the banner of red, white and blue. I hope you and your family truly enjoy the birthday of our nation.

Have a safe weekend and a Happy Fourth of July!



Congressman Henry Bonilla

Diablos may live in a shaky home but at least they have one

By Steve Escajeda Special to the Courier

The news in the wacky world of sports gets more bizarre every day. Just take this story.

There's been talk over the last few months about the El Paso Diablos possibly leaving the Sun City in a couple of years. Attendance has been down and the new owners have absolutely no alliance to El Paso.

Things look pretty bleak for the Diablos... but, at least for right now, they have a home.

That's more than we can say for another minor league franchise in Louisiana, the Houma Hawks, or, as they are now coming to be known, the Homeless Hawks.

Why Homeless? Here we go. Seems the Houma Hawks can't play any home games at their home field because they don't have the worker's compensation insurance required by state law.

O.K., let's go through that again, slowly. The team has had to play its recent home games in Morgan City and a town named Reserve, both about 50 miles away from Houma, Louisiana because they have no worker's compensation insurance.

See, if they play away from home all they and probably a foul taste in your mouth.

need is general liability insurance, so they make the small trek.

And why don't the Hawks have the right insurance? Well, they have about 60,000 reasons. The team needs \$60,000 to pay for the insurance but they just don't have the dough.

Things have gotten so bad that most of their remaining home games will be played at East St. John High School in Reserve and the Hawks aren't even sure what time most of their games will start because they've got to schedule them around Legion games, which have priority.

Kind of reminds you of the El Paso Buzzards doesn't it?

What makes matters even worse is that the team can't develop a fan base so they aren't bringing in any money but they keep paying the bills. There's something that just doesn't add up here.

The only good news about this story is that the players are getting paid so they can afford at least some of the essentials... they just can't afford to get hurt.

Just one more chance

How many of you guys remember the name of Roy Tarpley?

If you do, you have a pretty good memory...

that spent more time doing lines off the court than running between the lines on the court.

But he is not just a former Dallas Mavericks' player, he is a former NBA player. That's because Tarpley was kicked out of the league for his substance abuse... not once but twice.

The last time Tarpley played in the NBA was

Well, guess what? The 37-year old Tarpley wants back into the NBA.

Saying that he is a changed man (boy, have I heard that one before), Tarpley has applied for reinstatement to the league.

I guess the real question is, does this man deserve a second chance? I say yes, he certainly deserves a second chance. Unfortunately, Tarpley used that one up already the second time he was banned from the league.

Tarpley has been playing in Europe over the last few years so he isn't hurting for money.

I think that having the opportunity to play in the NBA is an honor and not a right. If Tarpley is denied reinstatement all he has to do is gaze into the closest mirror to find the culprit.

Troubling disappearance

By the time you read this story we might all have already found out what happened to Stay tuned.

Tarpley is the former Dallas Mavericks player Baylor basketball player Patrick Dennehy, but as on Monday, June 30, his whereabouts are still unknown.

> The 21-year old, who began his playing career at New Mexico before transferring to Baylor, has not been heard from in over two weeks and is feared dead.

> There are some odd circumstances surrounding Dennehy's disappearance. His SUV, which was in Waco, Texas., was found in Virginia, empty, and without its license plates.

> Things are so weird that the investigation had turned to his teammates. It appears that, at least for now, some are considered suspects.

There's even talk that one teammate shot Dennehy in the head.

Seems someone had recently stolen some money from Dennehy according to his stepfather Brian Brabazon. Brabazon also said that Dennehy said he was scared.

Police officials are investigating the allegation that Dennehy had arguments with two teammates recently and that he was threatened by one.

While at New Mexico, the team doctor once said that Dennehy was being treated for a "confidential medical condition."

The FBI has joined the investigation.

No Limits track club qualifies 16 for championships

EL PASO COUNTY — The No Limits Track Club, comprised of young athletes from Horizon City and the Lower Valley, has qualified 16 track and field contestants for the Region 10 Junior Olympics Championships.

Region 10 covers Utah, Colorado, Arizona, New Mexico and El Paso. The regional meet will be in Glendale, Arizona July 10-13. Athletes who place in the top three spots in their event will qualify go to National Junior Olympics Championships in Miami, Florida July 29-Aug. 3.

Athletes in the No Limits Track Club attend and compete in these events courtesy of donations from private and corporate sponsorships.

62 _ -tzu

63 "The Godfather"



NO LIMITS — The team is all smiles after qualifying 16 members to regional competition. The No Limits coach, R.V. Harshberger, declined to identify each member because of their ages.

USDA announces grassland reserve program

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Agriculture Secretary Ann M. Veneman today announced that the first sign-up for the Grassland Reserve Program (GRP) began nationwide on June 30, 2003. The 2002 Farm Bill amended the Food Security Act of 1985 to include authorization for this program.

"Grasslands provide critical ecological benefits and play a key role in environmental quality, as well as contributing to the economies of many rural areas," said Veneman. "This voluntary program helps protect valuable grasslands from conversion to other land uses, thus helping to ensure this national resource is available to future generations."

Privately-owned grasslands and shrublands cover more than 525 million acres in the United States. The U.S. Department of Agriculture will direct financial resources and technical expertise to help landowners "protect and restore" these lands.

Applications for participation will be accepted on a continuous basis at local USDA service centers.

GRP offers producers several enrollment options: permanent easements, 30-year easements, rental agreements (10, 15, 20 or 30-year duration) and restoration agreements. For permanent easements, USDA makes a payment based on the fair market value of the property less the grazing value. For 30-year easements, USDA pays 30 percent of what would be paid for a permanent easement. For rental agreements, USDA pays 75 percent of the grazing value in annual payments for the length of the agreement.

For restoration agreements, USDA pays up to 90 percent of the restoration costs on grassland and shrubland that has never been cultivated and not more than 75 percent on restored grassland and shrubland (land that once was cultivated).

King Super Crossword

I LOVE NEW YORK **ACROSS** _ France 6 Literary genre 14 Unrefined 17 Chemical compound 19 Basilica area 21 Paleozoic 22 RYF are 27 Article 28 To the point 29 Lightheaded 31 High-pitched instrument 34 Delhi wrap 35 Mrs. Kramden 38 Zip, to Zola 39 Cyd of "Silk Stockings"

- 67 TV's "Ensign _' 11 One of the Bushes 69 Downfall 73 Warmed up 74 Infant 76 Caustic stuff 18 More advanced 77 Soprano Dal Monte 79 "Waking _ Devine" ('98 film) 25 New Jersey fort 80 Slugger's stat 26 Where the buoys 81 Let up 83 Coarse 85 Year, in Yucatan 86 "The Merry Widow" composer 87 Tendon 88 Composer Nino 32 Detective Vance 92 "Martha the Mouth" 94 Altar answer 95 BUFFALO 98 Barge 100 All nerves 43 HARRISON 101 Public 47 " Doll" ('64 hit) 102 Susa's locale 48 Food fish 103 Actress 49 Chaplin prop Moorehead 50 Come up again 105 Lot size 51 Go 107 Symbol 53 Bikini half 109 Fancy fiddle 54 Gratitude 111 Like molasses 56 One of the Hobbits 112 Wee one 57 Murcia Mrs. 115 Blazer part 58 Wine word 116 ROCHESTER 61 Concerning
- 31 Mid-size band 121 bind 122 Balder's dad 32 Devout 123 Willowy 33 "Mein 124 '59 Marty Robbins ("Cabaret" tune) 34 Wise guy? 125 Cariou or 35 Easy as -Deighton 36 Massari or 126 Prone Thompson 127 Stand out in the 37 Singer Janis 38 Calculate crowd 128 Use rollerblades 39 Seashore sidler 40 Devastation **DOWN** 41 Universally liked 1 Acknowledgment 42 Author LeShan phrase 44 Pencil topper 2 "Damn Yankees" 45 Fellow siren 3 RCA competitor 46 Inventor Howe 4 Unit of loudness 52 "The Time 5 Melpomene's Machine" people 55 Sign of sanctity sister 56 Run in the wash 6 Believe 7 "Treasure Island" 57 Mineral spring 58 Offspring monogram 59 Likely to last? 8 Commercials 9 Rendezvous 60 TROY 10 Synthetic fiber 64 Canada's capital 11 Pantry stock 65 Crooner Collins 12 Duel tool 66 Find the sum 13 Youth org. 68 Ben _ -Wan 14 AUBURN Kenobi 15 Parched 70 Lohengrin's love 16 Like some buildup 71 Powers' portrayer 17 Drivers' lics., e.g. 72 Cheap 75 "I _ vacation!" 20 Painter Degas 23 Peg for Palmer 78 Carry out orders 82 "Cat on $_\operatorname{\mathsf{Tin}}$

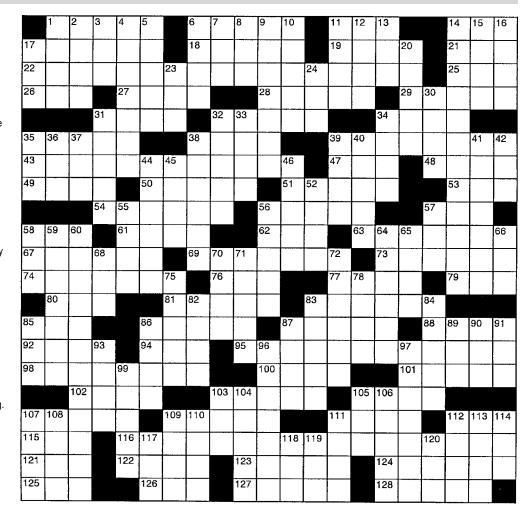
24 Buddy

30 Author Murdoch

Roof"

83 '39 Wimbledon winner 84 Transmission setting 85 Pound sound 86 A roaring success? 87 Mean Marquis 89 Cockney's abode 90 Pitch 91 Cockpit fig. 93 Raison d' 96 Woodstock performer 97 Connecticut city 99 It's played with a plectrum 103 Exist 104 Crystal of country 105 Pie _ mode 106 Prepares pears 107 Sheep's shaker 108 Sarah _ Jewett 109 Cut a cuticle 110 Nomad pad 111 Cartoonist Silverstein 112 "L'_, c'est moi" 113 - majesty 114 To and _ 117 Periodontists' org. 118 Catchall abbr. 119 Guevara 120 No. cruncher

Answer Page 7



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





Journey

It came over me at a Major League baseball game in Kansas City between the Kansas City Royals and the San Francisco Giants. It was Flag Day, Saturday, June 14. It was a beautiful evening; it was a moving experience.

proclaimed "We Stand United." Painted on the ground behind home plate were the familiar ribbons of red, white and blue and yellow. Military personnel handed out small American flags to those entering the stadium. A military honor guard presented the colors, and a soldier from nearby Fort Riley, Kansas, sang the National Anthem.

It came over me in Clay Center, Kansas, a small town that bills itself as "Main Street USA." It lives up to its billing. An American flag flies from atop the old county courthouse on the square downtown. Flags fly A sign beyond the centerfield wall from virtually every building around

the square. And a statue adjacent to state in Missouri. the courthouse honors those who fought in the Civil War.

The past and the present come to-

It came over me in Dodge City, southwest of Clay Center, where yellow ribbons on a tree are a reminder of those who still serve our country. heritage, but it also connects with the

It came over me as I saw a farmer who had painted an American flag on the side of his barn along with "GOD BLESS AMERICA," an eloquent witness to motorists along the inter-

Who moved my cheese?

By Don Flood

called police to report a break-in and that ... speakers had been

That was it. Nothing was stolen. Someone broke in, moved two speakers and left.

Yes, the Feng Shui Burglar had struck again!

Feng shui, in case you are among the trendy-challenged, is the Chinese art of positioning objects such as furniture and stereo speakers — so that the patterns properly regulate yin and yang and the flow of chi in your house.

Or something like that.

And if by any chance you know what it means, please do not e-mail

I already have so much spam I need a backhoe to clear it out.

partment types can be rather overprotective of the computers under the new woman of the house their care and are likely to become slapped me when I kissed her concerned when they see you pull a backhoe up to your computer and start unloading. For that reason it's best to schedule your heavy equipment work over the weekend. Dynamite has also been recommended as an effective means of dealing with excess spam, but, cations. For example, while again, not while the IT guys are watching.)

But I wonder, would I have noticed if my speakers had been

Every day at my house, it seems, my wife will ask the \$64,000 Question: "Well, do you like it?"

Like what? I think to myself, going into Full Observation Mode.

Something in the house, I know, is different.

It could be anything. It could be something very minor — like a new salt shaker perhaps, or maybe an addition to the house — but I'm supposed to notice, right away.

To her, of course, the change is Real-life news item: A man always Extremely Obvious, something a person with the observational skills of a baked trout would notice.

> Usually, I'll point out the one thing that hasn't changed. "Oh, are those new curtains?"

"No, we've had them for 15 years. "Oh."

I'm pretty sure my wife figures she could move out and a whole new family, with all new furniture, could move in, and I wouldn't notice for three days.

Which I find very unlikely, unless of course you had three straight nights of Must See TV, which — you have to admit could be distracting to almost any-

But even then I'm confident that (Bonus Workplace Tip: IT de- I would notice the very first day — two days tops — especially if goodnight.

But enough of this domestic

You, dear reader, are dying to know: How do I know I'm the victim of a Feng Shui Burglar?

- You notice furniture in odd losearching, without success, for the milk carton, you suddenly discover your bed and your refrigerator have been switched.
- You assume you're watching a particularly dull reality show when it occurs to you your TV has been moved and that you have been watching the wall.
- The yin and yang and the flow of chi in your house "just don't feel right."

There's more, but you'll have to excuse me while I check my speakers.

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From Page 1

Iraqi Freedom. Let us not forget those who fought at Bunker Hill and Bull Run as well as those who fought around Baghdad.

gether in middle America.

Dodge City preserves its Western

It came over me as I traveled the plains of Kansas as the wheat harvest was ready to began and giant grain elevators stood as silent sentinels awaiting the bounty of the prairie.

The journey was one of renewal for me, a journey I will never forget.

I have met America, and it is good.

REMEMBERING ALL AGES — This cemetery in Southern Ohio is among the hundreds filled with patriotic reminders of those gone before, with fresh flags marking the final resting places of soldiers as far back as the Civil War.



Classified Ads

LEGALS

PUBLIC NOTICE As per Article V, Sec. 5.05(a), all and lienholders have ten (10) days from this date to reclaim their vehicles at Southwest Wrecker, 1401 Darrington Rd., 855-1900, 851-2091-fax, or it will

be sold at public

auction for charges:

1B7GL23Y6N557737, white Dodge Dakota, license Chihuahua ZUE - 9871 WTCC-07/03/03

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con el alcohol? Hay

Informacion: 838-

solucion.

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For Sanity's Sake By Taprina Milburn

"Why don't you help, Mom?"

I've just dropped \$13 on a birth- with the man, but my conscience, day gift for my son's friend. Later I thanks to my kids, has been contacted. scrounged through my purse for four mocha latte.

earned it.

At a red light I notice someone standing on the corner. It's a disheveled man with a sign, "Will work for food." I try not to make eye contact.

"Mom, can't you give him some money?" I hear from the back seat. "Why don't you do something to help?"

I may not have made eye contact

Fact is, I've seen several men on the more dollars to buy myself a non-fat corners with "Will Work" signs, and I'm not too sure this isn't some kind This has been a tough week; I've of scam, I tell the kids. I mention a news program I watched recently about how some of these men use the money to buy drugs and liquor.

> And as the words roll off my tongue I realize I've just talked out of both sides of my mouth.

> Let's face it, we can preach a pretty good sermon to our kids. "It's our responsibility to help the poor, the

homeless," we tell them. What my kids heard me say today, though, was: "Let's first interview the man and ask what he intends to do with my latte money."

My kids think I'm insensitive. I think they may be right.

"Mom he doesn't have any money to buy something to eat," they tell me. Did I go back and give the man

No. I spent my money on an overpriced coffee that scalded my tongue. Am I writing this out of tremen-

Well... what do you think?

Not guilt because I didn't hand that particular man my money. But the kind of guilt you have when you know that to our children, actions

speak louder than our words.

They notice that I'm bent on inserting clauses into the contract many of us have that reads: To whom much is given much is expected in return. My addenda would read... a) only if person truly uses money on necessities; and b) only if person shows initiative in helping himself/herself.

Am I going to hand out money to every person holding "Will Work" signs. Probably not. But I might look for ways to practice what I preach to my kids. Will some of the people standing on street corners buy liquor and drugs with your money? Absolutely. Is it my place to guess, judge and counsel? Absolutely not.

I had a thought later that day about how God must see me sometimes. I

wonder if when he provides me with resources if he ever first pauses and says: Hmmm, maybe not. She may waste this on a \$4 cup of coffee.

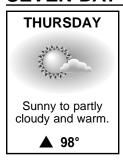
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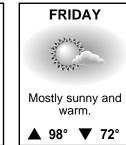
"It's the most effective diet patch on the market ... it goes over your mouth."

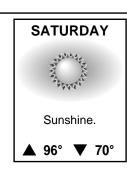
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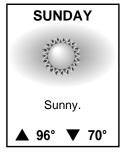
SEVEN-DAY FORECAST FOR EL PASO



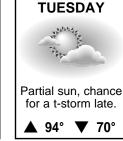


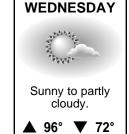












UV INDEX Statistics for noon.

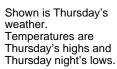
The higher the UV Index, the greater the need for eye and skin protection. ThursdayVery High

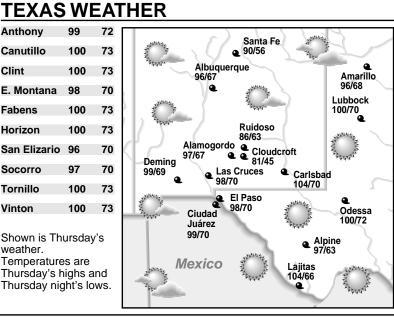
Tildioddy		
Friday	10	Very High
Saturday	10	Very High
Sunday	10	Very High
Monday		
Tuesday	10	Very High
Wednesday	10	Very High
7		

REAL FEEL TEMP™

The exclusive AccuWeather composite of the effects of temperature, wind, humidity, sunshine, precipitation, and elevation on the human body. Thursday 101° Saturday Wednesday93°

Antnony	99	72
Canutillo	100	73
Clint	100	73
E. Montana	98	70
Fabens	100	73
Horizon	100	73
San Elizario	96	70
Socorro	97	70
Tornillo	100	73
Vinton	100	73





TRAVELERS CITIES

	Thur.	Fri.	Sat.	Sun.	Mon.	
City	Hi/Lo/W	Hi/Lo/W	Hi/Lo/W	Hi/Lo/W	Hi/Lo/W	
Albuquerque	96/67/s	94/65/s	96/67/s	92/67/pc	91/59/pc	
Atlanta	88/72/t	88/72/pc	88/72/pc	90/72/pc	92/72/pc	
Atlantic City	82/69/t	84/71/s	86/71/s	87/67/pc	84/65/s	
Austin/San Antonio	96/73/pc	100/73/pc	94/74/pc	94/73/r	93/69/c	
Baltimore	84/70/t	90/70/s	92/72/s	92/72/pc	88/65/pc	
Boston	84/68/pc	84/68/pc	86/66/pc	84/66/pc	80/64/pc	
Chicago	90/68/pc	88/70/pc	86/64/pc	83/65/pc	82/57/pc	
Dallas/Ft. Worth	96/78/pc	98/76/s	96/78/pc	94/76/c	94/72/c	
Denver	90/58/s	86/56/s	88/58/s	86/60/s	86/56/s	
Flagstaff	84/48/s	84/48/s	84/50/s	81/48/s	82/49/s	
Houston	94/76/pc	94/76/pc	94/76/pc	94/76/pc	94/76/pc	
Kansas City	92/72/pc	92/73/pc	96/70/pc	89/69/pc	88/66/c	
Las Vegas	106/82/s	106/82/s	106/80/s	105/79/s	103/75/s	
Miami	89/78/pc	91/80/pc	91/79/pc	91/80/pc	92/76/pc	
Minneapolis	86/66/pc	82/62/sh	84/64/s	78/62/r	79/60/pc	
New Orleans	88/78/t	91/78/pc	92/77/pc	93/77/pc	92/75/pc	
New York City	82/72/c	88/73/pc	90/73/pc	91/71/pc	85/71/pc	
Philadelphia	86/72/c	90/74/pc	92/74/pc	92/74/pc	86/71/pc	
Phoenix	108/84/s	108/84/s	108/83/s	106/82/pc	107/81/s	
Portland	80/54/s	80/56/s	80/58/pc	81/57/s	78/51/s	
San Francisco	72/54/pc	72/54/pc	74/54/pc	70/52/pc	70/53/s	
Seattle	74/54/pc	74/54/pc	72/54/pc	73/54/s	73/50/pc	
Tucson	102/74/s	102/76/s	102/76/pc	100/74/pc	100/74/pc	
Washington, DC	84/72/t	92/74/s	94/74/s	94/74/pc	88/69/pc	

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 at least 12 hours of sunshine Thursday and Friday with highs close to normal. No significant rainfall is expected either day with relative humidity levels falling to 20 percent or less each afternoon. Sunshine and mainly dry weather will continue through

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