



NEWSBRIEFS

Battle of the bands

Hundreds of high school musicians from El Paso and Las Cruces are scheduled to compete Oct. 8 in the Socorro school district's annual Marchfest marching band competition. The colorful display is scheduled to begin at 4:30 p.m. that date on the football field of Socorro's Student Activities Complex. Admission is \$1.50 per person. Each band is scheduled to march for 15 minutes, finishing at 9 p.m. In a guest appearance, the University of Texas at El Paso's Marching Miners Band will perform after Socorro High School's band plays at 9 p.m. The bands will compete for 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th division trophies, with 1st division being the highest award. Scheduled bands include Anthony, Jefferson, Fabens, Mountain View, Austin, Del Valle, Burges, Parkland, Riverside, Ysleta, Las Cruces Mayfield, Coronado, Montwood, Americas, Andress, Bel Air, Hanks, Las Cruces High, Socorro. For more information, call the SISD Department of Fine Arts, 937-0538.

Public input wanted

Canutillo Independent School District will hold a public meeting to discuss accomplishments and set goals for the coming year, from 6:30 to 8 p.m., Tuesday, Oct. 7, at Canutillo Middle School, 800 Talbot Road. The district goal-setting meeting is designed to provide parents and community residents the opportunity to give their input about Canutillo ISD's instructional programs and educational services. The public is invited to attend. For more information, call 877-7481.

In other news

■ The Golden Knights will drop in for a visit to Americas High School football field on Thursday, Oct. 2 at about 2:10 p.m. Three to five members of the U.S. Army's Parachute Team from Ft. Bragg, N.C. will demonstrate their precision parachute techniques that leads them to perform annually 26,500 jumps for audiences of more than 12 million. The Knights are to perform at the Amigo Airsho on Oct. 4-5.

■ Hundreds of students and parents are expected to attend the Second Annual Socorro ISD Texas Collegiate Forum, scheduled for 6:30 p.m. Oct. 7 at the Socorro High School Auditorium. Universities at the event will be UT San Antonio, Texas A&M, Texas Tech, and Baylor. A 15-minute presentation by each will be followed by a question and answer session and individual counseling.

■ The latest events at the Centennial Museum include and exhibit entitled "Places of the Camino Real de Tierra Adentro" by Adrian Caldera of Ciudad Juarez, Mexico, to run Sept. 5 to Dec. 20. The 50 color

See BRIEFS, Page 5

The economy is moving so slow these days that the Postal Service is getting jealous.

— Quips & Quotes



JUST THAT MUCH CLOSER — The Village of Vinton is thousands of dollars closer to a community water system following a \$263,000 grant award from the Office of Rural Community Affairs. Shown from left are Carlos Colimas Vargas, urban planner; Joe Alarcon, Vinton's mayor pro-tem; Sam Tessan, ORCA executive director; and Yolanda Lucero and Dolores Diaz, Vinton village council members.

Rural community funds will bring municipal water to Village of Vinton

By Don Woodyard
Courier Staff Writer

VINTON — "We will finally be getting municipal water," said Vinton Mayor Antonio Castro. "We are very happy; our work has paid off."

The payoff was a check for \$263,000 that Vinton and other small West Texas communities received from the Office of Rural Community Affairs in ceremonies Sept. 10 in Midland.

Taking part in the ceremonies were Castro, Mayor pro-tem Joe Alarcon and alderpersons

Dolores Diaz and Yolanda Lucero.

An oversize facsimile of the check hangs in the council chambers as Castro, Diaz and Lucero explain that the money will be used to pay for the first phase of "long-overdue" water improvements in the village. The first to benefit will be residents of Kiely Road where the new water lines will be laid. There will be 32 connections along a stretch of about a mile along Kiely, Diaz said.

With hopes for future funding, the council, saying this is "just a start," and looks to

See VINTON, Page 7

Salvador Nieto honored by SHS during Homecoming events

EAST EL PASO COUNTY — Socorro High School is honoring a graduate of the Class of 1982 this week as part of homecoming festivities to run through the first week of October.

U.S. Border Patrolman Salvador Nieto is this year's choice as the school's Outstanding Ex-Student. Nieto, promoted in August, is now the assistant chief patrol agent for the agency's El Paso sector.

His reaction to being named Outstanding Ex? "Humbled," he says. "There are lots of other people who deserve the honor, but I am very honored that they chose me."

Nieto says there's a bit of family tradition here. "My sister-in-law, Diana Aguirre, was an Outstanding Ex-Student 10-15 years ago. Now she's a counselor at El Dorado High School." And during Nieto's high school years, his counselor was Director of Administration Lorenzo Nieto — no relation — and his football coach was the District's other Director of Administration, Joe Bob Shook.

"I wasn't a star student, then," he says, laughing.

Nieto served in the Air Force as a forward air controller and was selected as the Tactical Air Command's Air Control Specialist of 1985.

He briefly worked for the El Paso Police Department before transferring to the Border Patrol in 1988. From there he moved up through the ranks of the Brackettville, Fabens and El Paso, Texas, stations, and found success conducting the Citizens' Academy Program.



Salvador Nieto

Nieto also worked as a volunteer firefighter in Clint, Texas and later served as a township alderman.

As part of the Socorro High School activities, the theme of "Jazz It Up" has been chosen with fashion, dance and decorating contests; pie-eating contest, parade and pep rally; as well as Spirit Day. The SHS Bulldogs will face the Eastwood Troopers on Oct. 2 at the SISD Student Activities Center. For more information on these activities call 937-2000.

SHS's sister campus of Montwood High began Homecoming with dress up days on Sept. 29 and will end with an "Out of This World" dance on Oct. 4. Other events include the fourth annual "Little Red Wagon Float" parade and a car decorating contest. The Montwood Rams will take on the Coronado Thunderbirds on Oct. 3 at the SAC. For more information on Montwood's Homecoming call 937-2400.

Group seeking to bring caregiver support center to Socorro

By Arleen Beard
Special to the Courier

SOCORRO — Velma Celis-Acosta and Mary Yanez of the El Paso Community College are hoping the Socorro City Council can support them in establishing Family Caregiver Support Program Resource Center, according to a presentation made at the regularly scheduled meeting on Thursday, Sept. 18.

According to Yanez, the overall purpose of the project is to establish a resource center in the community to provide consistent opportunities for education, respite, socialization, support groups and financial counseling for caregivers.

Other services include workshop presentations, computer services, intergenerational activities and support to unpaid family caregivers or friends of elderly family members.

This project would provide a safe place with opportunities for family caregivers, such as grandparents raising grandchildren, to gather, learn and support each other while accessing services that improve their quality of caregiving and their life in general. The center would be a safe haven for the caregivers to rest while a qualified employee would relieve the caregiver at their home.

Yanez said the program would serve an estimated 350 caregivers and seniors raising minor children.

The definition of a caregiver is any unpaid family member/friend who is caring for an older adult who is 60 years of age or older and still resides in the community. It also includes grandparents and relative caregivers of children 18 years of age and younger.

The services would include an estimated 20 sessions of music, an eight-hour bilingual basic care class, five Tai-Chi classes and 20 bilingual workshops to be conducted during the life of the project.

The staff for this resource center would consist of a director, a project facilitator, one clerk, work study students and volunteers. The resource center would be of no cost to the City of Socorro, Yanez said.

If the center comes to fruition, it would be located at the Rio Vista Complex currently being remodeled. Yanez hopes to furnish the center with a comfortable and relaxing ambience.

In other business, City Council considered prohibitions under Section 545.307 of the Texas Transportation Code and Ordinance 170 prohibiting the overnight parking of commercial motor vehicles in residential subdivisions and other tentative solutions to issues surrounding the current practice of parking of commercial motor vehicles, namely tractor trailers in residential areas.

According to City Attorney Chris Borunda, Texas State law supersedes and the transportation Code and Ordinance 170 must stand. There were many concerned citizens present at the meeting opposed to Ordinance 170.



One perspective

By Francis Shrum

Classic tales, then and now

You know, some of those old children's stories were pretty harsh.

They were filled with all kinds of examples about how really terrible things happened to people who willfully misbehaved. It was enough to keep you up nights.

I used to wonder why they told

such grim tales to children until my kids started growing up and I figured it out.

Unfortunately, there are some folks out there who either don't have kids or haven't gotten the point yet. They've decided that all those gory old tales are far too politically incorrect and have undertaken to rewrite them.

You know, they way they do with

history books.

For example, one new version is Peter and *the Wolf*. This new and improved rewrite depicts Peter, after he captures the wolf, coming to his senses and in the final scenes, instead of taking the wolf to a place of restraint where he won't cause anymore trouble, releases the wolf back into the wild. It is narrated by our former president, Bill Clinton.

The other day, another new and improved classic crossed my computer screen. It was a study in comparative classic tales, then and now. It was *The Ant and the Grasshopper*.

Classic Version:

The ant works hard in the withering heat all summer long, building his house and laying up supplies for

the winter. The grasshopper thinks he's a fool and laughs and dances and plays the summer away.

Come winter, the ant is warm and well fed. The grasshopper has no food or shelter, and dies out in the cold.

Moral: Be responsible for yourself.

Modern Version:

The ant works hard in the withering heat all summer long, building his house and laying up supplies for the winter. The grasshopper thinks he's a fool and laughs and dances and plays the summer away.

Come winter, the shivering grasshopper calls a press conference and demands to know why the ant should be allowed to be warm and well fed while others are cold and starving.

CBS, NBC, ABC, and CNN show up to provide pictures of the shivering grasshopper next to a video of the ant in his comfortable home with a table filled with food. America is stunned by the sharp contrast. How can this be, in a country of such wealth, that this poor grasshopper is allowed to suffer so?

Kermit the Frog appears on Oprah with the grasshopper, and everybody cries when they sing "It's Not Easy Being Green."

Jesse Jackson stages a demonstration in front of the ant's house where the news stations film the group singing "We Shall Overcome." Jesse then has his group kneel down to pray to God for the grasshopper's sake.

Al Sharpton is waiting until Jesse's group is finished, so he can condemn the "system" for what it has done to the grasshopper.

Al Gore explains in an interview with Peter Jennings that the ant has gotten rich off the back of the grasshopper, and calls for an immediate tax hike on the ant to make him pay his "fair share."

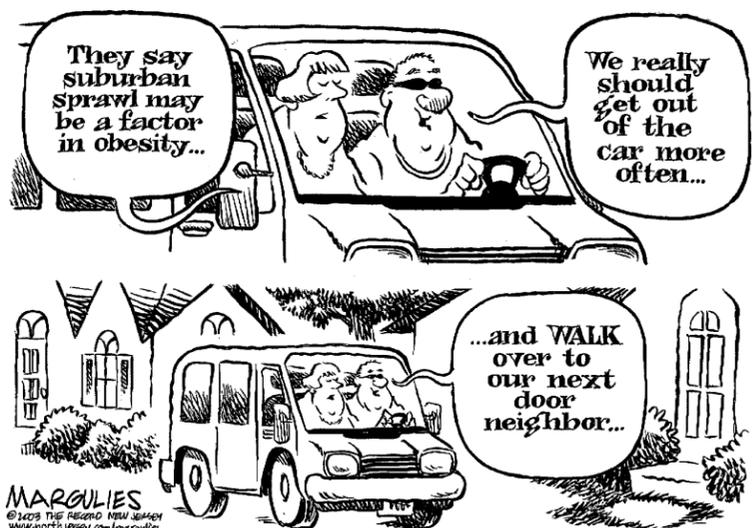
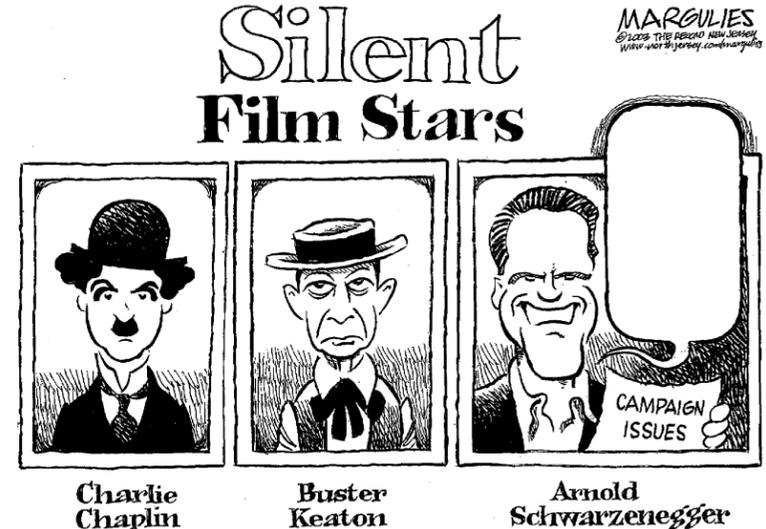
Finally, the EEOC drafts the "Economic Equity and Anti-Grasshopper Act," retroactive to the beginning of the summer. The ant is fined for failing to hire a proportionate number of green insects. The tax hike leaves the ant with nothing left to pay the fine, so his home is confiscated by the government.

Hillary Clinton gets her old law firm to represent the grasshopper in a defamation suit against the ant, and the case is tried before a panel of federal judges that Bill appointed from a list of single-parent welfare recipients. The ant loses the case.

The story ends as we see the grasshopper finishing up the last bits of the ant's food while his house, the ant's former house, crumbles around him because he won't take care of it. The ant has disappeared in the snow.

Epilogue: The grasshopper is found dead in a drug-related incident and the house, now abandoned, is taken over by a gang of spiders who terrorize the once peaceful neighborhood.

Moral: This is a sure way to produce a society of grasshoppers and spiders.



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Reyes Reports

By U.S. Rep. Silvestre Reyes

Help is out there for small businesses

El Paso relies on its small business community. Without Pike Place Market, the Stanton Street Technology Group and all the other small businesses that call El Paso home, we would not have the vibrant community that we do.

America's 23 million small businesses across the country play the same role in their communities. Nationally, they create three out of every four new jobs, make up half of our Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and represent 99-percent of all employers.

Congress recognizes the contributions small business make to the nation's economy and monitors economic conditions facing the small business sector through the Small Business Index (SBI).

The SBI is composed of 19 economic indicators and includes both broad economic factors and measures of costs associated with operating small businesses. The SBI reflects current economic conditions and provides insights into the economic environment for the small business sector.

The House Small Business Committee recently released the 2003 second quarter (April - June) SBI with somewhat unsettling results. After reaching a five-year high in 2000, the SBI is down 33 percent, which represents a five-year low.

This decrease in numbers reflects more unemployed individuals, rising business costs, and a decline in commercial lending.

Here in El Paso, small businesses are feeling the effects reported in the SBI. We aren't taking the news sitting down, though. Our local chambers of commerce and non-profit organizations are hard at work. On the federal level, the Small Business Administration (SBA) is also working to help entrepreneurs in El Paso and throughout the country.

The SBA offers assistance to El Paso's small businesses through the 8(a) Business Development Program and the HUBZone Empowerment Contracting Program. The 8(a) program helps small disadvantaged busi-

nesses compete in the American economy and access the federal procurement market.

The HUBZone program allows eligible firms within El Paso's HUBZone to benefit from limited competition for reserved contracting funds and receive preferential consideration for several types of contracts. SBA established the HUB Development Center of Excellence to help local businesses take advantage of these opportunities.

Our local chambers of commerce provide assistance as well. The El Paso Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, for example, is sponsoring the fifth annual BIZ TECH convention. BIZ TECH 2003 will provide small businesses with the opportunity to learn about information technology - a crucial part of any successful operation in the modern world.

This event, held at the Judson F. Williams Convention Center on Oct. 8, will feature between 75 to 100 of the Southwest's information technology industry leaders. Stanton Street

See REYES, Page 5

Staying abreast of breast cancer

By Albert M. Balesh, M.D.

What you don't know can actually kill you! Those of us who find the idea of being palpated, patted, poked, or prodded abhorrent, or uncomfortable at best, had better reconsider.

In the United States alone, there are 39,600 women who will die from breast cancer this year, and an additional 203,500 women will be diagnosed with it. As many as 50 percent of the women in the U.S. will have benign breast lesions, with breast cancer itself being the most common malignancy in women in our country.

While two thirds of the tumors in reproductive age women are benign, the majority of lesions in post menopausal women are malignant. Routine monthly self-examination and yearly physician evaluation are recommended for all women over age 20. Self-examination should be performed approximately five days after menses, when the breast is least engorged and tender.

One in every nine American women will develop breast cancer during her lifetime and will have a 3.5 percent chance of dying from it. The risk of contracting it increases with age. Yet, while the incidence of diagnosis is increasing, the death rate is decreasing, most likely due

to earlier detection and improved therapies.

Although "girls just wanna have fun," they must be made aware of the fact that abstinence from alcohol and a low-fat diet are integral to the prevention of breast cancer. Women who live in warmer climates have a lower risk (1.5 times) for breast cancer than those living in cold, northern regions.

Significant risk factors for breast cancer include increasing age, a family history of gynecologic malignancies, a first-degree relative with breast cancer, exposure to ionizing radiation before age 30, and significant alcohol use.

Some physicians suggest that estrogen replacement given with progesterone may actually decrease a woman's risk of breast cancer, just as it does the risk of endometrial cancer. Others categorically disagree with that opinion.

Breast cancer patients present clinically with masses, skin change, nipple discharge, or symptoms of metastatic disease. Palpable masses are most often detected by the patient on self-examination and are usually nontender, irregular, firm, and immobile. Fifty percent of tumors occur in the upper outer quadrant of the breast. Mammography is the best tool to

detect early lesions, reducing mortality by 30-50 percent. The American Cancer Society currently recommends a baseline screening mammogram at age 35-39, a mammogram every 1-2 years between the ages 40-50, and a mammogram annually after age 50. Patients who present with weight loss, anorexia, fatigue, shortness of breath, cough, and pain should set off "buzzers" and "flashing lights."

Wide local excision, lumpectomy, and segmental mastectomy are breast-conserving treatments. Candidates are eligible for them if the tumor is four centimeters or smaller, with no fixation of the tumor to the underlying muscle or to the chest wall, no involvement of overlying skin, and no multicentric lesions or fixed lymph nodes. Depending on tumor stage, the five-year disease-free survival rate in patients with breast cancer varies. The current overall five-year survival rate has now increased to 94 percent.

As a physician, my "staying abreast" and your "staying abreast" of the issue is tantamount to "staying alive."

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Young woman killed in one-vehicle crash on Clint Cut-Off

EAST EL PASO COUNTY — Laura E. Torres, a resident of Las Colonias in East El Paso County, was killed in a one-vehicle accident on Monday, Sept. 29, on the Clint cut-off, intersection of Darrington and Diamond Springs.

She would have been 18 years old on Oct. 21, 2003.

The lone occupant of a 1998 Green Ford Mustang, she was pronounced dead at the scene, reportedly suffering massive body trauma, at approximately 10:33 p.m.

Preliminary reports indicate speed is a contributing factor, according to a spokesman for the El Paso County Sheriff's office.

Officers said Torres' vehicle ran off the road traveling west on Darrington at a high rate of speed. The vehicle crashed through two chain link fences, and came to rest wrapped around an electric utility pole.

The initial call came in as an accident at Darrington and Horizon Blvd. Authorities found the accident scene three miles from that location about 13 minutes from the time of the original call.

The vehicle wrapped around the pole on the driver side and the utility pole was snapped in two. The eight-thousand volt electrical wires created a hazard for rescue crews and El Paso Electric responded immediately shutting off power from the live wires so

rescue crews could assess the scene.

Power was interrupted in the area for about one-half mile as a result of the accident. It was still out at 4 a.m. Sept. 30.

The speed limit is 40 mph on that stretch of Darrington. It appears the driver of the vehicle was traveling in excess of 70 mph, officers said. The vehicle crossed through the front yard of the Temple Bethel Church on Darrington knocking down a chain link fence. Out of control, it then crashed through another chain link fence on the church property, and exited along Diamond Springs road before striking the utility pole.

Officers are still investigating the accident.

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



Celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month

Every year an entire month is dedicated to remembering the sacrifices and saluting the achievements Hispanic Americans have made for our country. Hispanic Heritage Month is Sept. 15 - Oct. 15. It is a time for us to reflect on the sense of pride we share as Hispanics in our contributions, culture and accomplishments throughout history.

Hispanic Heritage Month, which Congress passed into law in 1988, provides a backdrop to recognize the many achievements Hispanics have made to our nation. In a country whose history is intertwined with Spain, Mexico and Latin America, and where diversity is what makes our nation great, Hispanics are an important group whose story tells of struggle, perseverance and triumph.

Many Americans, regardless of their ethnicity, have relatives who came to this country with little more than the clothes on their back. Like their fellow immigrants, Hispanics' pride and ambition has been woven into the fabric of America, from the days when cowboys drove herds

across the vast Southwest frontier, to today's world in which bilingual business leaders participate in the global marketplace.

Hispanics have figured prominently in every aspect of our country's history, including business, science, the armed forces, medicine, the performing arts, government, sports and entertainment. The Hispanic business community is the fastest growing sector of the small-business economy. There are nearly one million Hispanic veterans in the United States. There is no greater example of the love Hispanics have for America than the 38 Congressional Medals of Honor that have been awarded to Hispanic Americans. These achievements and sacrifices are an integral part of the rich mosaic that makes up America.

Today, Hispanics are the fastest growing population group in America, totaling almost 30 million across the nation. By the year 2010, Hispanics will be the largest and youngest minority group in the United States. We should be optimis-

tic about the tremendous potential the future holds for us.

Hispanics historically have placed emphasis on the value and importance of solid education. It is part of our culture. In order to remain competitive, Hispanic parents realize that education is the key to success. That's why many parents make tremendous sacrifices to provide their children with the best education possible. We must continue to strive to teach our children so they will be prepared to lead our great nation in the next century.

As Americans, in order to move forward on the right path, we should look back and take stock of our rich and varied past. By knowing where we have come from, we will be better prepared for our common destiny. That is why I am proud to celebrate the influential role Hispanics have played and will continue to play in the growth of the United States of America. Adelante!

Write stuff

Dear Editor:

I have a few questions for the City Council of Socorro:

- Has a study ever been done to see where street lights are needed for safety rather than each councilman getting to pick the location?
- Why can't our police officers get certified?
- Why are there so many lawsuits against the police department and how much tax money is spent on settlements, court costs and lawyer's fees?
- Are phone calls being used to

discuss city business and make decisions before council meetings?

- Are large purchases being made by several small purchases to avoid going out for bid? In my opinion, the city should ask for an outside audit and investigation to protect the taxpayers.
- Was the Socorro police department ever created by ordinance? If so, what is its date and number?
- Why can't city council work together for the benefit and good of Socorro?

Don Davisson
Socorro

Notice of Public Meeting to Discuss Anthony Independent School District's State Financial Accountability Rating

Anthony ISD will hold a public hearing at 6:00 PM, Tuesday, October 21, 2003, in the Board Room located in the Anthony Middle School, 610 Sixth Street, Anthony Texas.

The purpose of this hearing is to discuss Anthony Independent School District's rating on the state's financial accountability system.

WTCC: 10/02/03 & 10/09/03

Public Notice TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS AND PARTIES:

The *West Texas County Courier* will publish two editions early. The October 16 and 23, 2003 issues will go to press on Tuesday, October 7, 2003.

All material for these publications must be submitted to the *West Texas County Courier* no later than Friday, October 3, 2003.

The *West Texas County Courier* office will close beginning Friday, October 3, 2003. The office will open again on Monday, October 27, 2003.

TRUE TEXAS FACTS by Roger Moore Oct. 3, 1981, Gov. Bill Clements declared the armadillo the official mascot of Texas.



San Elizario ISD fights mosquito threats with spraying program

By Phillip Cortez
Special to the Courier

SAN ELIZARIO — With the rising threat of West Nile virus and encephalitis, the San Elizario Independent School District is taking steps to control the number of mosquitoes on and near district property, according to Robert Longoria, Director of Support Services for the District.

Freddy Vargas, a district Support Services employee, has been licensed by the State of Texas to spray nearby fields and areas close to San Elizario campuses. The San Elizario ISD mosquito control effort will coincide with efforts already made by El Paso County City-County Health District vector control teams.

Longoria said that the required materials to spray have been sent to the district as well as the necessary chemicals.

In order to obtain his license, Vargas was required to attend several training sessions as well as pass a state certification test. Longoria said that spraying would commence throughout the district.

In the mean time, the community is urged to take precautions of their own to control the mosquito population, including getting rid of standing water, emptying, removing or covering any receptacle/container that will hold standing water, changing water in pet dishes, wading pools and bird baths, and covering trash containers so they will not collect water. People are encouraged to protect themselves while outside, especially during the evening hours, by wearing long sleeves and pants.

For more information and tips to controlling mosquitoes, contact Vector Control at 594-1568 and the City-County Health and Environmental District, 771-5702.

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Notice of Public Meeting To Discuss Canutillo Independent School District's State Financial Accountability Rating

The Canutillo Independent School District will hold a public meeting at 6 p.m., Tuesday, Oct. 14, 2003 in the boardroom of the Canutillo ISD Administration Facility, 7965 Artcraft Road, El Paso, Texas.

The purpose of this meeting is to discuss Canutillo Independent School District's rating on the state's financial accountability system.

Aviso de Junta Pública Para Dialogar Sobre el Estado Financiero del Distrito Independiente Escolar de Canutillo

El Distrito Independiente Escolar de Canutillo tendrá junta el día martes 14 de octubre del 2003 a las 6 p.m. en la sala de juntas del Edificio Administrativo del Distrito Independiente Escolar de Canutillo, localizado en 7965 Artcraft Road, El Paso, Texas.

El propósito de la junta es para hablar sobre el sistema del estado financiero del Distrito Independiente Escolar de Canutillo y la clasificación del mismo bajo el Sistema Estatal de Responsabilidad Financiera.

WTCC: 10/02/03

RGCOC notes the exemplary service of public servants during annual meeting

EL PASO COUNTY — The Rio Grande Council of Governments, a voluntary association of local governments in West Texas and southern New Mexico, held its annual membership meeting in El Paso on Friday, Sept. 19, 2003.

During the meeting, representatives of member governments were elected to serve terms on the Board of Directors.

Charles Scruggs, member of the El Paso County Commissioners' Court, was elected President and Chairman of the Board of Directors. Jerry Agan, Presidio County Judge, was elected first Vice-President, and D. Kent Evans, member of the Dona Ana County Board of County Commissioners, was elected second Vice-President.

Jake Brisbin, Jr., Executive Director of the Rio Grande Council of Governments, also presented several awards to individuals and organizations for their outstanding efforts towards furthering regional, intergovernmental cooperation and exemplifying the ideals of public service.

John Conoly, Culberson County Judge, received the Doyle Ziler Distinguished Public Service Award. Judge Conoly has served the people of Culberson County for 28 years as their County Judge, as well as on the Rio Grande Council of Governments' Board of Directors. Throughout his long and distinguished career, Judge Conoly has served with integrity and unwavering commitment and his leadership and experience have been the backbone of the Council's Board of Directors, said Okey Lucas, Mayor of Van Horn. "You can always call on Judge Conoly for assistance and guidance. He's a top-notch, Class

A guy who has dedicated his life to bettering the lives of the citizens of Culberson County," he said.

B. J. Gallego of Alpine received the Volunteer of the Year award for his lifetime of service to the people of the Big Bend region. During his 21 year career with the Texas Department of Human Services, B. J. Gallego provided services to children, the elderly, and disabled, going above and beyond his job duties to constantly better the lives of his neighbors, and pushing others to do the same, according to Brewster County Judge Val Beard, who characterized B. J. Gallego as "untiring in his efforts to improve the lives of everyday Far West Texans". Gallego volunteered for service in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam conflict. He has been a coordinator of the West Texas Food Bank program, active in Our Lady of Peace Catholic Church's social support programs, a member of the Brewster County Historical Commission, the Alpine City Parks Board, and community parade organizer. His dedication to the people of the Big Bend region truly exemplifies the ideal of public service.

The City of El Paso's Community and Human Development Department, Social Services Program, received the Agency of the Year Award. Robert Salinas, Social Services Director, accepted the award on behalf of the Department. The Social Services Program has collaborated with the Rio Grande Council of Governments' Area Agency on Aging on numerous programs and initiatives to share resources and address the future of long term care, according to Adan Dominguez, Director of the Area Agency on Aging.

Law enforcement taking steps to shut down internet predators

By Greg Abbott
Attorney General of Texas

The Internet has given child predators the anonymity to act on their perversions. That is why it is imperative for us to be vigilant in tracking down and locking up these predators. Today, law enforcement agencies across Texas and the nation are working together to bring justice to those who prey on our children.

The Texas Attorney General's Office formed the Internet Bureau to track online predators and train law enforcement officers. Our investigators are online every day looking for evidence of cybercrimes against children.

In the last three months, the Internet Bureau has intensified its efforts, arresting nearly a dozen suspected child predators. In a four-day period alone, investigators arrested four men. Three of the men traveled to Hays County expecting to meet 13-year-old girls. Another traveled to Kendall County to meet what he thought would be a 13-year-old boy.

Three men have been charged with attempted aggravated sexual assault of a child. Another has been charged with criminal solicitation of a minor. Both charges are felonies. The "children" the men stalked turned out to be Internet Bureau undercover investigators. The men allegedly initiated sex talk with the children in Internet chat rooms and allegedly planned to meet them to engage in sexual activity.

The true intentions of child predators are clear, and our Internet Bureau officers have no qualms whatsoever about taking these people off the street and putting them behind bars when they cross the line. I will not tolerate the victimization of children. While we are pleased that our efforts have been successful at taking predators out of chat rooms and putting them into jail cells, it is important to remember that you as parents are still the most effective tool at protecting your children.

The fact is, when you strike up a conversation by e-mail, you have no idea who you are dealing with. Preda-

tors use this fact to take advantage of trusting, curious young people. We turn the tables and use it against the predators. But too often the predator's target really is a child.

You can protect your child by taking some simple precautions. You should be aware that in chat rooms, someone may very well pick up on your child's youth, gender, and vulnerability. You might be shocked to find out how quickly a dangerous contact can occur.

Our investigators posing as children have no problem attracting predators. Surf the Internet with your children. This will allow you to assess the types of Web sites and chat rooms your children visit. You may wish to place your computer in a family room or the kitchen, which will make it easier for you to monitor your children's Internet activity.

Establish ground rules for Internet surfing. Set the hours when your children can access the Internet, for how

See PREDATORS, Page 6

New law makes it harder to exclude children from immunizations

AUSTIN — The Texas Department of Health and the Texas Education Agency are providing school districts with guidance for implementing a new law intended to make it more difficult for parents to exclude their children from vaccinations required for school enrollment.

The provision, part of HB2292, allows exemption for "reasons of conscience" from one or more vaccinations required to attend public or private child-care facilities, elementary and secondary schools, and colleges.

Under the new law, parents wanting to exercise the conscientious objection exemption must request a special affidavit in writing from the Texas Department of Health, complete it, have it notarized and supply it to the school.

The law was effective Sept. 1; however, most schools began classes in August. The old law did not allow the conscientious objection but did allow exemptions for religious or

medical reasons.

The law also requires that the affidavit form be non-reproducible. TDH was to have the special form available in September.

Requests for the affidavit must be mailed, hand-delivered or sent by commercial carrier to: Texas Department of Health, Bureau of Immunizations and Pharmacy Support, 1100 W. 49th St., Austin, TX 78756. Phone, fax and e-mail requests for the affidavit cannot be honored.

Each request must contain the name of the parent or guardian, the name and birth date of each child, a complete mailing address and the number of copies (up to five) requested for each child.

The law prohibits TDH from maintaining personal information about requests once the affidavits have been sent.

State vaccination requirements apply to public and private schools. Though public child-care facilities,

schools and colleges must accept the completed conscientious objection affidavit, private ones do not have to accept it but may.

The completed affidavit is required for exemptions to vaccination requirements for reasons of conscience, including for religious reasons. Parents of students for whom a religious exemption is already on file with the school or other facility do not need to request the affidavit. But the affidavit is required for new claims for exemption based on religious beliefs.

Medical exemptions require a statement from a physician. The new form will not be used for medical exemptions.

TDH officials strongly recommend vaccinations as an effective method of preventing illness and death in children.

More information is available from TDH online at www.ImmunizeTexas.com or by calling 1-800-252-9152.

Miss an issue?
www.wtccourier.com

Chamizal Festival brings extraordinary cultural event to El Paso County

EL PASO COUNTY — Mexican, Spanish, Indian and Irish music go well with jazz and the songwriters' craft at the 30th Chamizal Festival, which opens with a kickoff performance in the theatre on Friday, Oct. 10 at 7:30 p.m. with performances by Lulu's Fate and the Mexican Roots Trio.

The festival, which runs Oct. 11-12 features over 70 performers and

artisans and is held 1 p.m. to 7 p.m. daily.

Chamizal National Memorial, El Paso's National Park, is located at 800 S. San Marcial between Bowie High School and the Bridge of the Americas. Admission is free.

"By bringing together outstanding representatives from a wide variety of culturally influenced art forms we create an atmosphere of creative en-

ergy and cultural exchange," Isabel Montes, Memorial Superintendent.

Unlike some festivals, which are structured around a single major performer, the Chamizal Festival is intimate by design.

"All of our performers and artisans are the best in their given discipline and all are deeply involved in the festival," Montes said.

Many of the performers also offer workshops: Spanish Colonial and Indian dancing, fiddle and picking styles, song writing, harmonica and mandolin. These are held in the Los Paisanos Gallery and are open both to the performers and to the public.

There will be four performing stages — one indoors in the theatre, one in front of the Visitor Center, one in the amphitheatre area and one to the side of the building by the parking area — so the festival will be held rain or shine.

Performers for the 30th Chamizal Festival include Lulu's Fate, The Mexican Roots Trio, Flamenco Duende, Bob Einweck, Steve Spurgin, Stephen Bennett, Tish Hinojosa, CEIBA, Curt Warren Jazz trio, Grupo Sangre de Cristo, Musica Maestro and the Rondalla de la

Preparatoria el Chamizal.

Also performing are: Sid Hausman, Fiddling Friends, the Pat Dutton Band, Bernie Romero and Friends, Bayou Seco, Sile Boylan and Cactus Cris Bueth. Ben Ohrlin, Johnnie Whelan, Consuelo Luz, Jack Gladstone, The Jemez Dancers, Alex Apostolides, Joe Hayes, Monica Gomez, Applejack and dancers of India are also featured.

Artisans and representatives from three National Park units are also participating with demonstrations in pot and soap making. The Hector Gallegos family of Mata Ortiz, Mexico will be demonstrating their widely acclaimed potting techniques. Other artisans include: Angela Campos and her family with piñatas; Consuelo Flores making paper flowers and Huicholes Casimiro and Maria de la Cruz doing beadwork.

Luis Olay will show how colored straw can be used in creating his traditional straw art, while local artists John McKensie and Claude Montes will demonstrate painting and sculpture technique. Tularosa mother and daughter Vivian Duran-Prelo and Cynthia Riedlinger will demonstrate the traditional arts of retablo creation

and tin work. Pedro Rios-Martinez, our poster artist in 2002, will demonstrate his wood cut techniques, while Tomasita Rodriguez will share her bultos — mini santos — carving skills. Jim Witherington will again demonstrate flint knapping techniques.

The poster artist for 2003 is Las Cruces artist Rosemary McLoughlin.

Masters of Ceremonies for the festival include: Emily Guerra, Gregg Carthy, Rene Cantu, Alex and Patty Apostolides.

Prior to the festival beginning on Tuesday, October 7, many of the artists and performers will join Chamizal National Memorial interpretative staff in visiting seven regional schools. Approximately 6,000 students will have the opportunity to learn from these talented artists.

Financial support for the festival has been provided by the County of El Paso, Time Warner Cable and the National Park Service Intermountain Region International Conservations Programs Office. The City of El Paso Department of Arts and Culture and the Texas Commission on the Arts have also provided grant funding.

For additional information, call 532-7273.

Reyes

From Page 2

Technology Group, Road Runner, Microsoft, and others will be on hand to discuss, explain and sell their products to small businesses with information technology needs.

BIZ TECH 2003 has helped numerous small businesses throughout

its five-year history and this year proves to be just as successful. This is the first year Microsoft is participating in the convention and is sure to add even more information and products to those we've seen from companies in the past.

Small businesses contribute so much to our local economy and way of life. By raising the SBI index, our small businesses will raise El Paso's quality of life as well.

Briefs

From Page 1

photographs capture the people and places living along the historic Camino Real, and is presented by the National Park Service's U.S.-Mexico Affairs Office in Las Cruces, New Mexico. The Centennial Museum hours are: Tuesday - Saturday, 10 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Admission is free. Classes ongoing include: Hands On Science Outreach - HOSO Science Classes for Children K-6, Oct. 4 - Nov. 22. Registration is \$40.00 per child. Information: 747-8994.

■ Sometimes, books are so good you can taste them. By sampling the flavors suggested by popular children's books such as Eric Carle's "Pancakes, Pancakes!" and Dr. Seuss' "Horton Hatches the Egg" or Jerry Palotta's "Hershey's Milk Chocolate Fractions Book," children learn to enjoy reading — that's the theory behind the school's "Edible Books" program, says Campestre Elementary Principal Helen Tornatta. On Oct. 1, Campestre's 655 pre-kindergarten through 5th grade students were treated to a reading/eating session during which Tornatta and her staff read the books aloud and helped serve students a taste of the foods mentioned in the books as prepared by the school cafeteria. "This is the second year we've done it here," says Tornatta adding that the program has had success at other campuses.

■ A youth retreat, hosted by CARE (Communities Against Reckless Endangerment) was held last week at the Rio Vista Community Center to gain input from area youth to develop public service messages against alcohol and drug abuse, specifically targeting cross-border and under age binge drinking. More information on this program and other events is available from Mary Ellen Hernandez, 775-2555 or Marge Bartolleti, 479-1215.

■ More than 100 adult Socorro

students are scheduled to receive their General Educational Development certificates during Oct. 9 ceremonies at the District's Aquatics Center. It's one of the largest such class to date, and famed El Paso folklorico dance teacher Rosa Guerrero will be the guest speaker for the program. Program Director Vicki Smith-Belford says Oct. 9 is National Community Education Day. "People are celebrating that nationwide. That's why we picked it. And the GED test is undergoing changes, so there is a large number of people who are trying to complete testing before the first of the year. It's becoming commonplace that you have to have a GED or a high school diploma to gain employment." The GED program, operated by the District's Community Services department, prepares students to receive their G.E.D. certificates, which are equivalent to a high school diploma. For more information, call 937-1700.

■ In conjunction with the National Park Service and the Chamizal National Memorial, The Centennial Museum will host a series of Brown Bag Lectures. This speaker series was created in response to Dr. Rob Schmidt's photographic exhibit, "The Faces and Places of the Chihuahuan Desert," recently exhibited at both the Chamizal Memorial and the Centennial Museum. The presentations focus attention on the importance of our desert environment to our everyday existence. All presentations begin at 12:00 in the Discovery Room of the Centennial Museum, free of charge and open to the public. The public is invited to bring their lunch and listen up.

- Oct. 7, "Mennonites in Chihuahua" presented by Dr. Dennis Bixler-Marquez, UTEP.
- Oct. 14, "Saluyamaca Dunes" presented by Dr. Rob Schmidt, UTEP.
- Oct. 21, "Janos to Cuatro Cienegas" presented by Nature Conservancy.
- Oct. 28, "Trails of the Chihuahuan Desert" presented by Rene Harris.

Tiguas get \$87,000 in federal funds for literacy program

WASHINGTON — The Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) selected the Ysleta del Sur Pueblo of Texas to receive a \$87,083 grant to establish the Tigua Literacy Program.

The Ysleta del Sur Pueblo Education/Library Center's Tigua Literacy Program will serve as a resource for middle and high school students for preparation for standardized testing, increase the collection of juvenile fiction holdings, increase computer literacy among tribal members, and establish a tribal archive.

"This grant will be a big boost to the Tigua tribe," said

Congressman Silvestre Reyes. "Libraries provide so much for communities. In this case, Tigua students will now have better access to resources that will help them excel in school and enjoy reading. Tiguas of all ages will benefit from increased computer skills and will now have the opportunity to archive their important history. I applaud IMLS for providing this grant," said Reyes.

IMLS is an independent federal agency that offers grants to support the core services of Native American libraries. This grant is provided through the Enhancement Grant category of their Native American Library Services.



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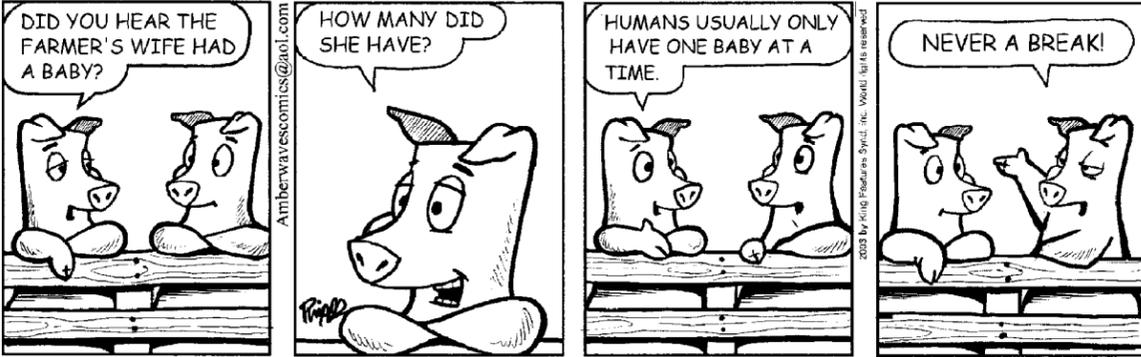
For Ticket Information Call 747-5234

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



New bills not peachy keen

By Don Flood

Let's assume — just for a minute — that President Andrew Jackson came back from the dead and the first thing on his to-do list was karaoke night.

(It could happen.)
What song would he sing?
"It's Not Easy Being Green?"
Fat chance!

Old Hickory — most famous for leading the U.S.S. Monitor up San Juan Hill in the Battle of Bunker Hill — would now be stuck singing "It's Not Easy Being Peach," a really lame song that hasn't even been written yet.

And it's all because the clowns at the Treasury Department, who apparently have been sniffing even more ink than the newspaper folks, are coming out with a peach-colored — that's right, peach-colored — \$20 bill.

I'm sorry, there's just something wrong with a world where greenbacks aren't green.

It'd be like reading that Jennifer Lopez was happily married for more than 48 hours.

By the way, you read it here first: the J.Lo-Affleck marriage is officially on the rocks!

OK, I'll admit, the reason you were able to read it here first is because I wrote it before they were actually married, but why wait?

In today's get-it-done-yesterday world, we don't have time to wait for events to actually happen before we begin reading about them.

The reason behind the break-up: Bad Boy Ben, who pretended to be going out to strip clubs every night, was caught red-handed by J.Lo playing chess with Matt Damon!

But back to Andrew Jackson, who's also known for defeating the British in the Battle of Super Bowl

1812, which was held that year in New Orleans.

If he were to come back now, he'd be red-faced about his formerly green face on the \$20 bill that now shows him with a peach face.

The question is, what are we going to do about it?

By which I mean, what am I going to do about it, because when it's fourth and one in the bottom of the ninth inning, I'm afraid there's just no one else willing to step into the ring and throw down the gauntlet — mainly because no one knows what a gauntlet is.

But imagine this ugly scenario, because it could happen to you. Or your children.

You're out somewhere, minding your own business, when suddenly someone marches up to you and tries to force these hideous \$20 "peachbacks" on you.

You could scream out, "Get away from me with your stinkin' money!"

Unfortunately, of course, that would be rude and could cause bad feelings.

After all, it's not this person's fault the government began printing Monopoly money.

Instead, accept the silly bills gracefully, however much it pains you, and then: Send them to me.

Yes, you read that correctly. Send all your peach bills to me — however you acquire them — and I will dispose of them as quickly as possible.

At present, I am not sure of the volume of twenties I will be able to handle, but if it becomes too much of a burden I will let you know.

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Classified Ads

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Vinton

From Page 1

provide more water hookups throughout the community. This will also include a wastewater system. Council says it's working on a memorandum of understanding with El Paso Water Utilities (EPWU) to administer the village's water system.

"We will be getting out of the water business," Castro says.

The engineering and architectural firm of Parkhill, Smith and Cooper is developing the facility plan for use of the \$263,000 grant that is made up of state and federal money. The plan encompasses pumping, storage and transmission main improvements.

Working with Parkhill Smith and Cooper on the plan development are EPWU and the Texas Water Development Board. Vinton has two years to spend the money.

Water system improvements aren't the only projects underway by the village council. They are:

- The village council is looking for donations from companies for the construction of a lighted informational sign outside council offices on Vinton Road. Total cost of the six-by-10-foot marquee-style sign is estimated at \$7,933.
- Road improvements have been made. The railroad grade crossing on Vinton Road has been removed. Road repairs, using chip sealing, have also been made.
- A community health fair/picnic will be held at the park on Saturday, Oct. 18, sponsored by the village, La Fe Clinic and Las Palmas Medical Center.
- More than \$2,000 was allocated by council to fence in the baseball field at the park. Laser-leveling of the outfield is a future project.

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For Sanity's Sake By Taprina Milburn

Yoga

Lately I've been trying to practice relaxation, or chilling out, as my kids like to say. I have a lot of nervous energy. It's a fact; my grandma used to tell me so. Says I got it from my mother.

So I'm trying to tame my inner warrior, my inner fussybudget, that voice that tells me I can't sit down until I get one more thing done or wakes me in the middle of the night with a list of things I didn't know I needed to worry about. As in: "Hey,

you, get up and wring your hands about something!" Naturally, I do as it says.

It's exhausting. And makes me feel a little... what's the word... *edgy*.

So I went on a search for a yoga video that promises inner tranquility, that promotes a sense of well-being with deep stretches and deep, relaxing breathing. Now this was no easy task, because there are about a hundred yoga videos, mostly by well-known exercise gurus who also promote knee pounding, bun lifting cardiovascular routines. I didn't know I'd have so many choices, which to-

tally stressed me out.

But then I found a video with a picture of a woman on the box, and she's smiling, looks relaxed and is quite limber; so I plunked down \$15.

First, however, you must buy the goodies that will help you be a superb yoga person. All serious yoga people will tell you so. So I examined mats and again the selection can overwhelm a person like me — beginner mats, deluxe mats and some that look a lot like the mat I used to take naps on in kindergarten. There also are yoga clothes — made of organic materials such as hemp. It's important to be fashionable, but environmentally conscious, as you twist yourself into a pretzel.

I selected a mat and decided my old gym clothes would have to do.

Finally, I was ready to learn how to relax.

I watched as the instructor demonstrated the bridge pose, where you lie on your back, roll your shoulders under you and bring your torso toward the ceiling. It hurt. My bridge was a lot like the one in London — it kept falling down. And the next day I woke up with a crick in my neck.

Then I tried something called a downward dog pose. You bend forward and place your hands on the floor, stretching them out in front of you as much as possible, all the while trying to keep your balance and not scream because your hamstring

muscles feel as if they're being ripped in half. If you are trying to picture this pose, think of the wooden yard ornaments of the plump, old lady bending over in her garden. It's not a pretty sight.

My initial attempts at yoga were quite awkward. But the instructor assures me my body will get used to bending in ways that are just not natural. Good. I was beginning to worry about that. She smiles and talks in a calm voice as she stretches her right leg to the ceiling and says, "Remember to pay attention to your breathing."

I guess that means I must stop holding my breath.

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WEATHER

AccuWeather.com

SEVEN-DAY FORECAST FOR EL PASO

THURSDAY	THUR. NIGHT	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
Sunny to partly cloudy.	Clear.	Partly sunny.	Sunshine and some clouds.	Times of clouds and sun.	Clouds and sunshine.	Clouds and sun, shower or t-storm possible.	Clouds and sun, shower or t-storm possible.
▲ 86°	▼ 56°	▲ 86° ▼ 58°	▲ 84° ▼ 60°	▲ 82° ▼ 58°	▲ 78° ▼ 58°	▲ 80° ▼ 56°	▲ 80° ▼ 52°

UV INDEX Statistics for noon.

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

Thursday	8	High
Friday	8	High
Saturday	8	High
Sunday	7	High
Monday	7	High
Tuesday	5	Moderate
Wednesday	5	Moderate

REAL FEEL TEMP™

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

Thursday	82°
Friday	76°
Saturday	75°
Sunday	74°
Monday	76°
Tuesday	75°
Wednesday	76°

AGRICULTURE

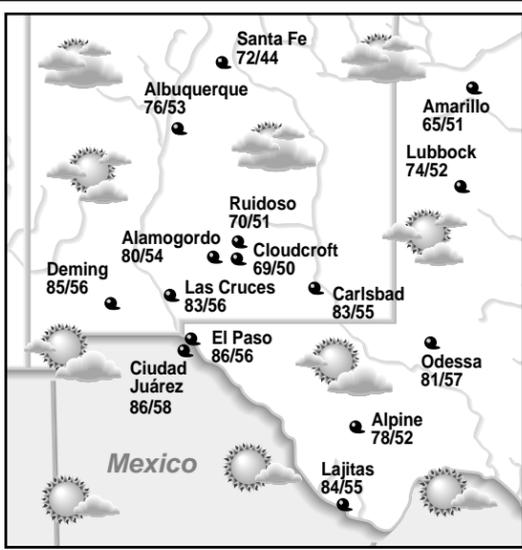
Another warm day is expected Thursday with a good deal of sunshine. The warming trend will come to an end as the weekend approaches. A cooler air mass will move into the area and send temperatures back to seasonal averages. Dry weather will be the rule until the middle of next week.

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

TEXAS WEATHER

Anthony	86	57
Canutillo	87	58
Clint	86	58
E. Montana	86	56
Fabens	86	58
Horizon	87	58
San Elizario	83	55
Socorro	85	55
Tornillo	86	58
Vinton	87	58

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



TRAVELERS CITIES

City	Thur. Hi/Lo/W	Fri. Hi/Lo/W	Sat. Hi/Lo/W	Sun. Hi/Lo/W	Mon. Hi/Lo/W
Albuquerque	76/53/pc	76/52/pc	77/51/s	74/50/s	74/46/s
Atlanta	67/45/s	70/50/s	74/58/s	76/58/s	74/55/pc
Atlantic City	61/44/s	62/50/s	72/54/pc	69/50/c	71/51/pc
Austin/San Antonio	79/55/pc	83/60/s	88/65/s	88/65/pc	87/64/pc
Baltimore	60/36/pc	62/46/s	70/50/pc	70/52/c	73/50/c
Boston	63/46/pc	60/48/s	68/50/pc	63/50/c	67/57/c
Chicago	54/42/s	62/46/c	58/38/pc	56/38/pc	63/41/c
Dallas/Ft. Worth	77/56/pc	80/63/pc	87/66/s	87/66/pc	83/55/pc
Denver	70/44/c	68/44/pc	70/44/pc	72/44/c	65/34/c
Flagstaff	70/40/pc	69/38/pc	69/36/s	65/34/pc	68/32/pc
Houston	80/56/pc	81/61/s	86/68/pc	88/66/pc	85/63/pc
Kansas City	64/49/s	71/49/s	65/42/pc	61/41/s	68/43/c
Las Vegas	86/66/pc	86/64/s	86/64/s	83/60/pc	83/60/pc
Miami	87/74/pc	85/74/c	87/75/pc	86/75/pc	87/74/pc
Minneapolis	54/42/pc	56/39/pc	49/34/pc	52/34/s	56/34/pc
New Orleans	76/58/s	77/65/s	83/67/s	85/66/s	83/64/s
New York City	62/50/pc	61/54/s	65/55/pc	67/55/c	71/60/c
Philadelphia	61/42/pc	61/48/s	69/52/pc	69/52/c	71/56/c
Phoenix	96/75/pc	94/70/s	94/70/s	92/68/s	91/65/s
Portland	78/50/s	76/52/pc	76/52/pc	72/50/c	68/44/c
San Francisco	70/56/s	70/56/s	70/58/s	70/56/pc	70/50/pc
Seattle	70/50/s	68/50/s	68/50/pc	68/50/pc	63/44/c
Tucson	95/66/pc	92/66/pc	92/64/s	90/62/s	90/62/s
Washington, DC	62/44/pc	62/50/s	70/54/pc	70/56/c	73/55/c

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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