



## NEWSBRIEFS

### Drugs halted

Agents of the U.S. Customs and Border Protection at Ft. Hancock seized 979 pounds of marijuana on Jan. 21 and apprehended a suspected drug smuggler, 19-year-old Carlos Luis Ramos of El Paso, when they made a traffic stop of a 1995 Chevy Astro van traveling Farm Road 192 from the Rio Grande River. The bundles of marijuana, wrapped in white plastic sacks wrapped in brown tape, were clearly visible in the rear cargo area of the van, which agents said was traveling low to the ground. The drugs were valued at about \$783,000. Over the weekend of Jan. 17-18, Ft. Hancock agents seized another 511 pounds of marijuana and agents at Fabens, 478 pounds. During that same weekend, agents at the checkpoint at 1-25, north of Las Cruces, discovered some \$5 million in cocaine stashed beneath the cargo area of a Jeep Liberty, driven by a Kansas resident. To date, agents in the El Paso Border Patrol Sector have made 401 drug seizures, valued at over \$67 million.

### Help with ADHD

Helping children cope with the effects of ADHA (Attention Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder) will be the subject of a seminar on Feb. 7, hosted by the El Paso Rehabilitation Center. Featured speakers in the fields of medicine, education and mental health will discuss preparation to terminate medication and/or transitioning into adulthood, working through frustration, anxiety and failure at school, and positive intervention in daily challenges. The seminar will be at 1101 East Schuster, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Registration forms are at the El Paso Rehabilitation Center, pre-registration fee is \$8, late fee after Feb. 4 is \$12. All interested persons are welcome, however, only adults should attend as childcare is not available at this time. Information: Lydia Hernandez at 544-8484.

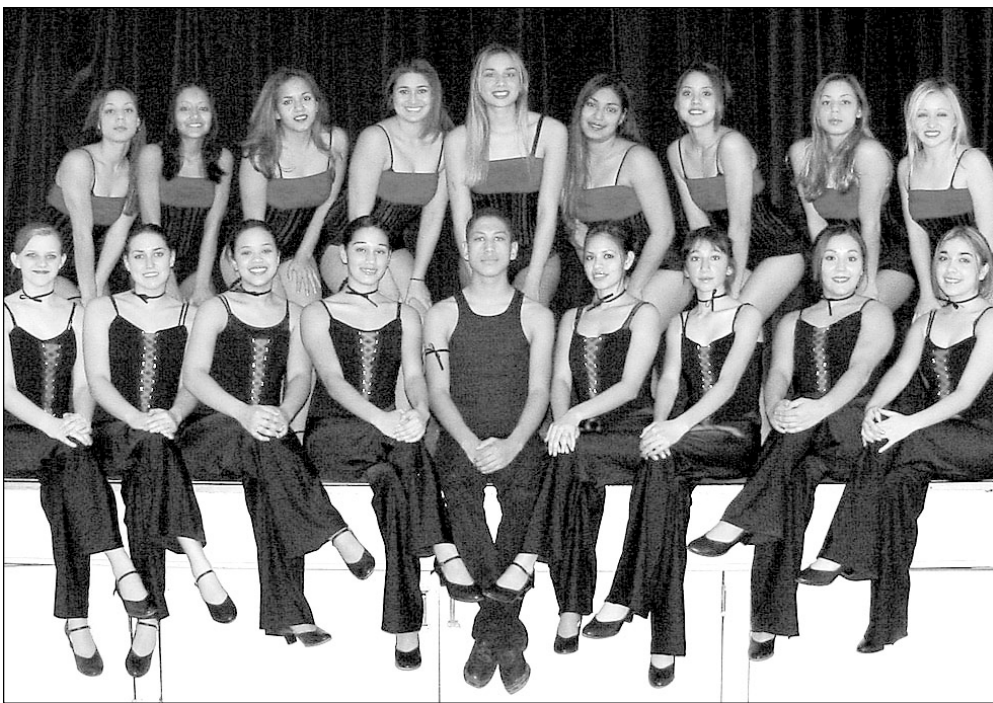
### In other news

■ A landscaping seminar to assist those eligible for the El Paso Water Utilities "Turf Rebate" program will be held on Feb. 26, 28 and March 6. Course topics include how to remove turf-grass, choosing and planting water-smart plants and the basics of landscape design. The course will be held at the Texas Cooperative Extension, 1030 North Zaragosa, Suite A. Course participants may then schedule a 30-minute, one-on-one consultation on the evening of March 11. Course fee is \$35 per one set of course materials provided. Registration deadline is Feb. 23, class size is limited to 25. Further information on scheduling is available at 859-7725.

■ A family pet photo session for Valentine's Day by photographer Jessie

See BRIEFS, Page 4

*Nobody can have too many friends, but one enemy may constitute a surplus.*  
— Quips & Quotes



**MAKING SMOOTH MOVES** — Canutillo High School performing dancers, shown sitting from left, are Kathleen Norris, Kellum Stephens, Asha Dane'el, Arianni Amaro, Andy Dozal, Lily Nuñez, Jomaira Rodriguez, Rosanne Alderete, Bernice Lucero; and back row, from left, is Dulce Torres, Christy Herrera, Kimberly Gonzalez, Ruby Palacios, Celene Arreola, Lisa Santillano, Patty Torres, Laura Torres, Marilyn Carrillo.

## Canutillo High School dancers to take the stage in major event

By Alfredo Vasquez  
Special to the Courier

UPPER VALLEY — Canutillo High School Modern Dance Class will be one of several performing dance groups from area high schools that will participate in the annual "Flashdance" production, beginning at 7 p.m., Wednesday and Thursday, Jan. 27 and 28, at the Chamizal National Memorial Theater.

"This is the biggest event in El Paso for high school modern dance students. The dancers look forward to this performance more than any other. They get to see all the creative things other schools have come up with, and we show them what we have created," said Laura Zweber,

Canutillo High School dance instructor.

CHS dance students will perform their dance interpretations to musical selections from the Broadway play "Chicago," and R&B album "Rhythm Nation." Zweber's dancers have been participating in "Flashdance" since its inception more than 18 years ago. She has been the dance instructor at CHS for the past 10 years — prior to that she taught at Austin High School.

"El Paso Parks and Recreation puts this production on so that students can get together and meet each other and have fun. It gives them a chance to perform professionally for a diverse crowd and to bond as a dance team," Zweber said.

In 1995, Zweber was named to the El Paso Parks & Recreation Dance Hall of Fame.

## Echele ganas! they say at Desert Wind

EAST EL PASO COUNTY — Balloons, music and dancing were part of the festive dedication on Jan. 16 of Socorro ISD's Desert Wind Elementary School, located at 11 Colina de Paz, northeast of I-10 at the Horizon Blvd. Exit, off Gateway Blvd. West.

The pre-K through 5th-grade campus opened this school year, and has enrolled more than 650 students during its first year. Students, parents, administrators and school board members gathered in the school cafeteria and library for the ceremony and reception welcomed by Principal David Solis.

Desert Wind students Francisco Tucker and Alejandra Calvo spoke of their pride in the school, and various student dance teams performed for the crowd. Superintendent Dr. Robert J. Duron, SISD Board of Trustees President Guillermo "Willie" Gandara and Trustees Brenda Castaneda and Ray Rodriguez joined dancing students on stage. SISD Trustee Craig Patton also attended.

Texas State Rep. Innocente "Chente" Quintanilla and his wife, El Paso Community College Trustee Gracie Quintanilla also attended the event — and danced on stage with the students.

Later, Dantex Construction Company Project Manager Tom Welch and the school's architect, Steve Franco of Carson, Franco and Associates, presented a special metal plaque commemorating the school's construction.

After the ceremony, refreshments and more entertainment were served up in the school library as Socorro High School's mariachi group performed and accompanied parent volunteer and vocalist Carla Gardea.

The school's celebrations, however, didn't end Jan. 16. The sight of 100 balloons rising over the red roof of school on Jan. 22 marked the first 100 days of classes. They also enjoyed a parade and a special guest speaker, a member of the Buffalo Soldier's Organization, to celebrate Black History Month.

## SEISD senior willingly gives hair to bolster ill youngsters

By Phillip Cortez  
Special to the Courier

SAN ELIZARIO — How many times have you rolled out of the rack in the mornings to a serious case of bed head, promising that if that cow lick doesn't go down you'll end up shaving your head so you won't have to deal with it anymore?

We should be so lucky.

That's what San Elizario High School senior Itza Beltran thought, at least. During the Christmas break, Beltran found herself alone one day, a teenager surfing the Internet. Amidst traffic congested cyberspace, Beltran found a site that would allow her to change more than her hairstyle. The senior class president clicked on www.locksoflove.com and found that by simply saving the strands of her soon-to-be snipped

locks, wigs could be made for sick children.

"I've always had my hair long," Beltran said. "I figured that if I could change my look, others could have a new look, too."

"Locks of Love" is a non-profit organization that provides hairpieces to financially disadvantaged children under age 18 suffering from long-term medical hair loss, according to the web site. The organization, located in Lake Worth, Florida, says that most of the children they help have lost their hair due to a medical condition called alopecia areata, which has no known cause or cure.

"The prostheses we provide help to restore their self-esteem and their confidence, enabling them to face the world and their peers," the web site reads.

Needless to say Beltran's hairstylist was completely surprised by her request when she sat in his chair over the holidays. It might have

had something to do with the fact that it had been about two years since she significantly cut her hair and that roughly 20 inches of dark brown hair would be cut off.

"He asked me if I was sure I wanted to go through with it," Beltran said. "But he was impressed when I told him what I wanted to do."

So the mane that used to touch the small of her back now falls layered just below her neck but not quite down to her shoulders. By making her donation, Beltran says she got more than a new look for her final semester in high school.

"I feel proud of myself because, like me, a lot of girls really love their hair," she said. "But after reading through the web site I thought it was a cool thing to do."

In order for others to donate to Locks of Love, Beltran had to follow certain guidelines. The strands of cut hair needed to be placed in a braid or a ponytail and then sealed in a plastic bag for mailing.

Locks of love accepts donations from both men and women and the length of braided or tailed hair should be at least 10 inches long. Visit locksoflove.com for more information.



**CHOP-CHOP** — Itza Beltran cut her hair to supply material for wigs being made for sick children.





One perspective

By Francis Shrum

Not bad for a guy with a pony tail

There was a time when, if I heard the name of comedian George Carlin, it was an immediate tune-out. He didn't have anything to say that I wanted to hear.

Afterall, most of what came out of his mouth was meant simply for shock value and dirty words haven't ever had that effect on me. To my thinking, foul language usually just makes whatever that person said irrelevant.

But we are all human beings, endowed from the beginning of this age with the capacity for good as well as evil. It was in that context that I recently read a piece of writing attributed to Mr. Carlin, sent to me via e-mail from a good friend I do respect highly. That's the only reason I read it.

This piece was said to be written shortly after Carlin lost his wife of many years. I found it surprisingly touching, filled with insight from a man who has seen life from the bottom as well as from the top.

It would be irresponsible for me not to pass it along.

Too bad it took him this long to say it without turning it blue.

It bore no title other than that given it by the sender which was "A Wonderful Message."

*"The paradox of our time in history is that we have taller buildings but shorter tempers, wider freeways, but narrower viewpoints.*

*"We spend more, but have less, we buy more, but enjoy less.*

*"We have bigger houses and smaller families, more conveniences, but less time. We have more degrees but less sense, more knowledge, but*

*less judgment, more experts, yet more problems, more medicine, but less wellness.*

*"We drink too much, smoke too much, spend too recklessly, laugh too little, drive too fast, get too angry, stay up too late, get up too tired, read too little, watch TV too much, and pray too seldom.*

*"We have multiplied our possessions, but reduced our values. We talk too much, love too seldom, and hate too often.*

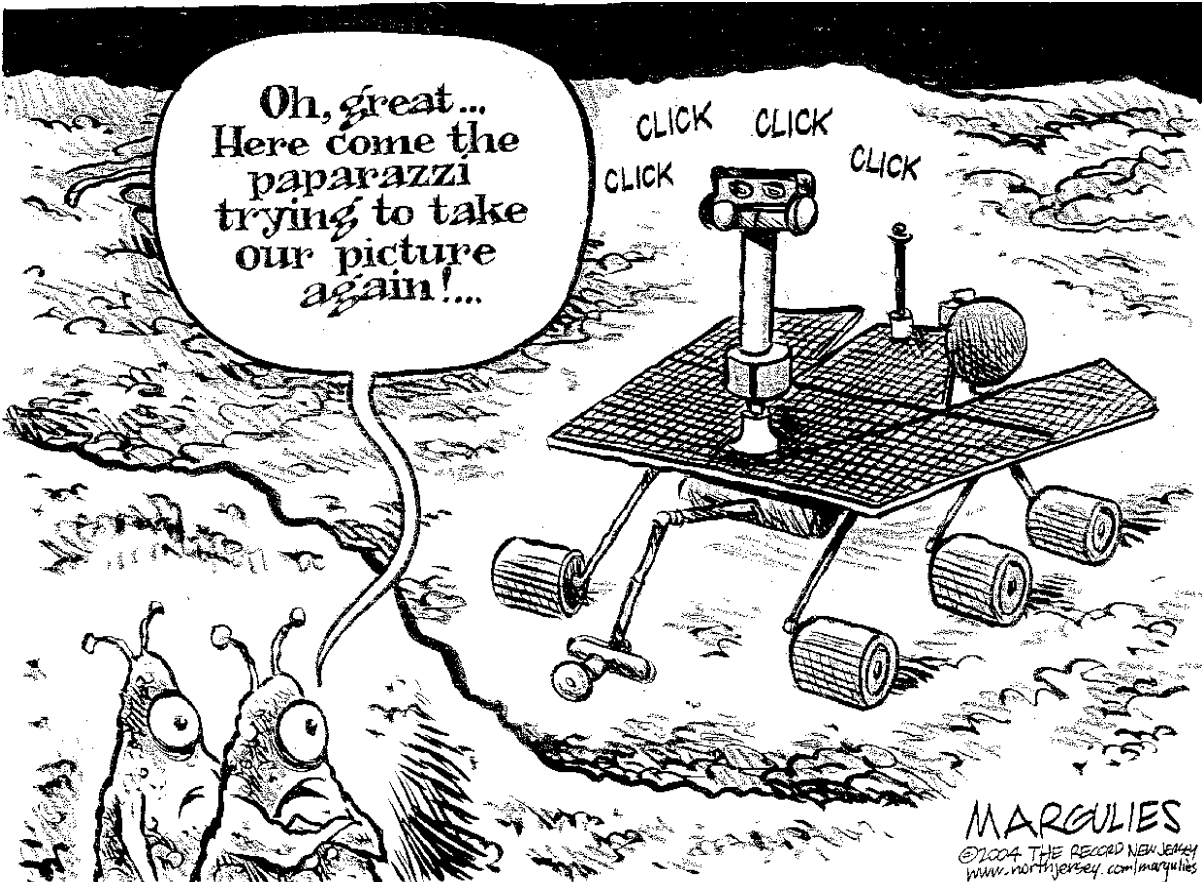
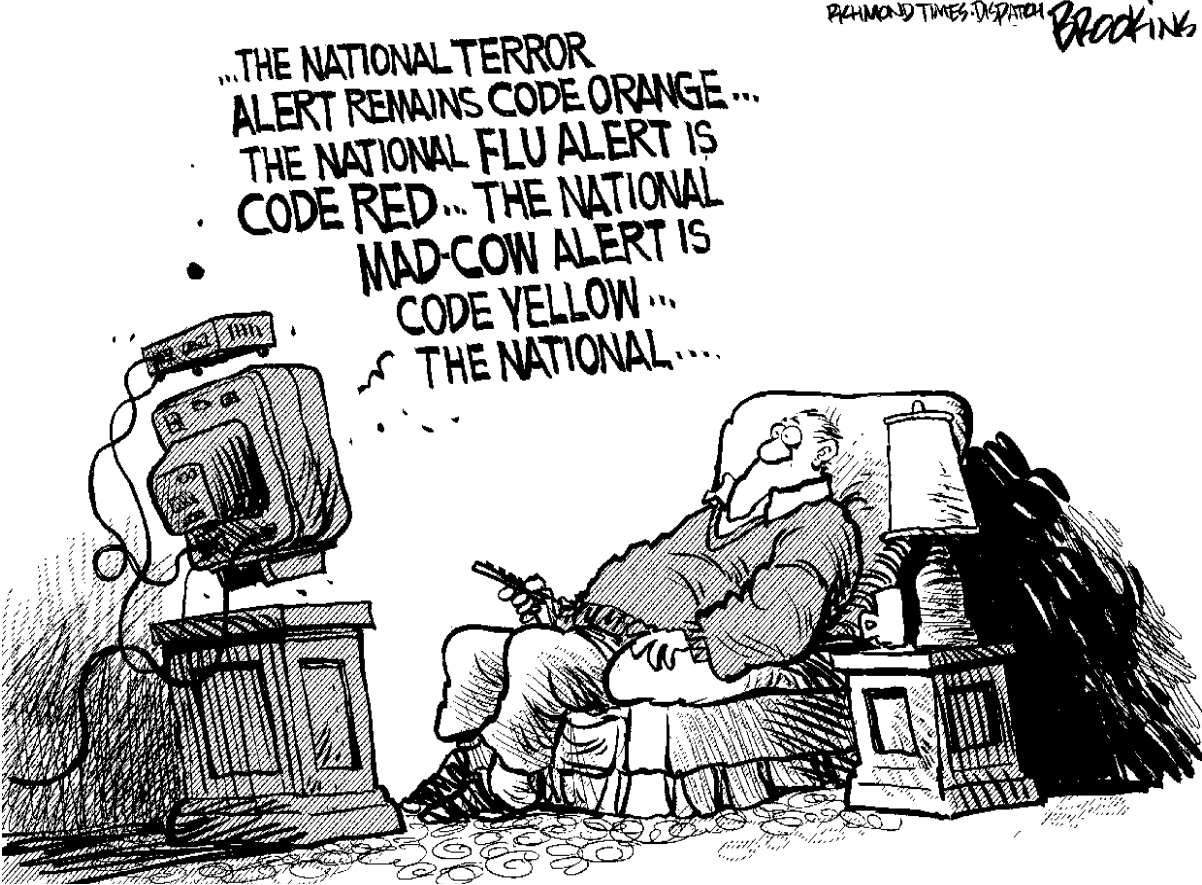
*"We've learned how to make a living, but not a life. We've added years to life not life to years. We've been all the way to the moon and back, but have trouble crossing the street to meet a new neighbor.*

*"We conquered outer space but not inner space. We've done larger things, but not better things.*

*"We've cleaned up the air, but polluted the soul. We've conquered the atom, but not our prejudice. We write more, but learn less. We plan more, but accomplish less. We've learned to rush, but not to wait. We build more computers to hold more information, to produce more copies than ever, but we communicate less and less.*

*"These are the times of fast foods and slow digestion, big men and small character, steep profits and shallow relationships. These are the days of two incomes but more divorce, fancier houses, but broken homes. These are days of quick trips, disposable diapers, throwaway morality, one night stands, overweight bodies, and pills that do everything from cheer, to quiet, to kill. It is a time when there is much in the showroom*

See PONY TAIL, Page 5



31 YEARS OF PUBLICATION

WEST TEXAS COUNTY  
COURIER

SERVING ANTHONY VINTON, CANUTILLO, EAST MONTANA, HORIZON, SOCORRO, CLINT, FAHNS, SAN ELIZABO AND TORNILLO

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

**AD DEADLINE:**  
Monday 4 p.m. for Thursday publication.

**CLASSIFIED RATES**  
\$5 for 15 words, \$10 for 35 words. Ad must be in writing and pre-paid. The Courier reserves the right not to print classified advertising it considers inappropriate.

**DISPLAY RATES:**  
Open rate — \$20 per column inch. Call for more information or to set an appointment. The Courier reserves the right not to print advertising it considers inappropriate.

**MAIL SUBSCRIPTIONS:**  
52 issues for \$35. Delivery via 1st class mail.

**ADDRESS:**  
15344 Werling Court  
Horizon City, TX 79928

**COPYRIGHT:**  
Entire contents © 2004 Homesteader News, Inc. Individual authors retain all rights. Pictures, drawings and written material appearing in the West Texas County Courier may not be used or reproduced without written permission of Homesteader News, Inc.

**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR:**  
Letter must not be more than 250 words in length. They should be dated, must be signed and have an address and daytime phone number. Only the name and city will be printed with the letter. The Courier reserves the right not to print letters to the editor or other submitted materials it considers inappropriate.

**Phone: 852-3235**  
**Fax: 852-0123**  
**E-mail: wtccc@wtccourier.com**  
**Website: wtccourier.com**

**Publisher**  
Rick Shrum  
**Business Manager**  
Francis D. Shrum  
**Contributors**  
Don Woodyard  
Steve Escajeda  
Arleen Beard

**Homesteader News, Inc.**  
Est. 1973

Member Texas Community Newspaper Association

**Reyes Reports** By U.S. Rep. Silvestre Reyes

### SBA funding essential to maintaining small business growth

Here in El Paso, local small businesses pump almost \$30 million into our economy and provide thousands of jobs each year. With small businesses making such a positive impact on our community, it is important to provide them with the means to reach their potential. A majority of El Paso's nearly 1,000 small businesses — and the 23 million small businesses across the country — benefit from the U.S. Small Business Administration's (SBA) 7(a) Loan Guaranty Program.

The \$9.4 billion program, which finances 40-percent of all SBA loans, is one of the SBA's most popular programs and is a lifeline for many minority and women-owned businesses.

While many small businesses do not qualify for traditional bank loans, the 7(a) program provides an avenue for small business owners to access the basic operating and expansion capital they need to survive and grow.

By utilizing this loan program, small businesses have more access to bank financing because the SBA guarantees 50-85 percent of the loan.

The news last month that the SBA suspended the 7(a) program understandably came as a shock to the small business community. During these times of high unemployment, why shut this door to opportunity for businesses that add about 75-percent of all new jobs to our economy each year?

Congress appropriates federal funding for the SBA each year. The House passed an omnibus appropriations bill that included fiscal year 2004 funding for the SBA and numerous other federal agencies this past December. The Senate passed the bill in January, which President Bush is expected to sign any day now. Until then, these agencies operate at fiscal year 2003 levels. Due to the popularity of the 7(a) program, the SBA could not keep up with the demand for these loans and was forced to temporarily suspend the program.

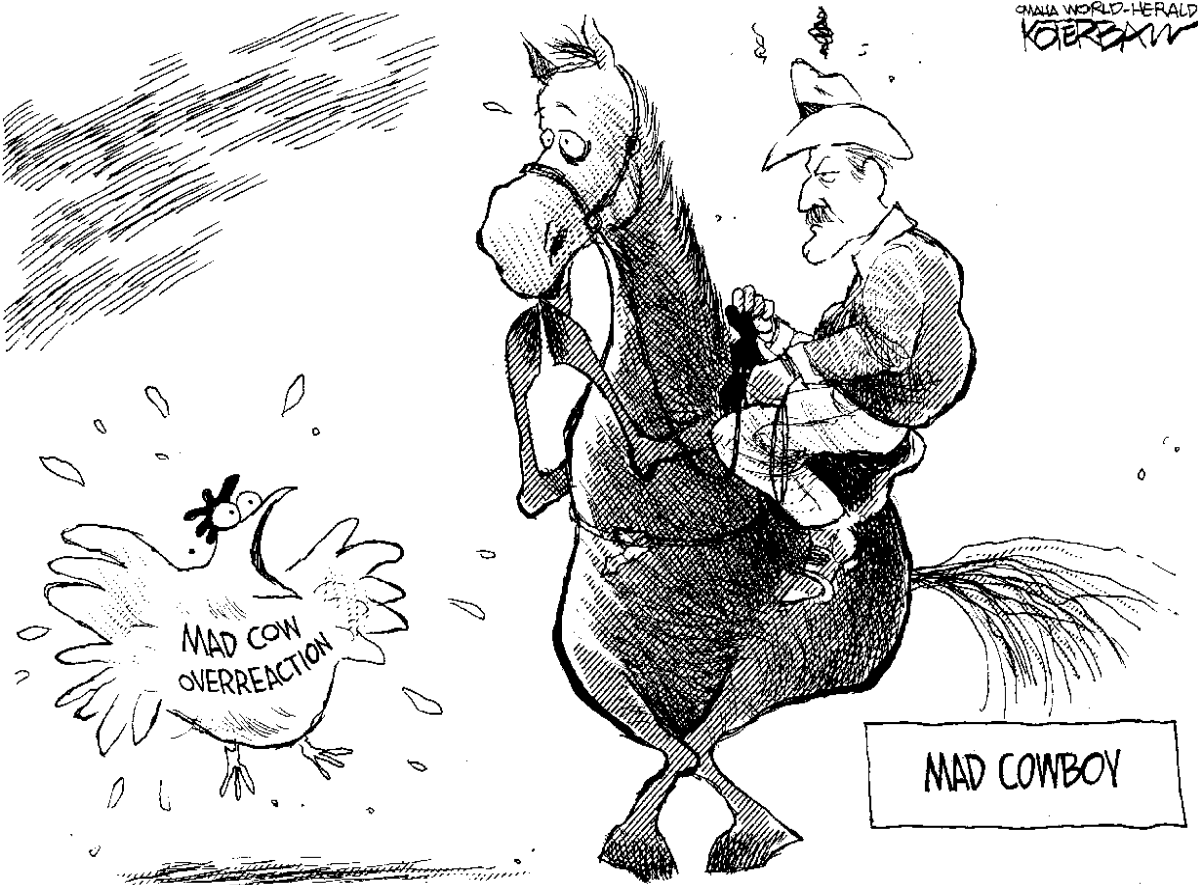
The suspension came after the SBA made efforts to further preserve the program and reach more business owners by placing a \$750,000 cap on 7(a) loan amounts.

Fortunately, the SBA re-opened the program about a week after the suspension began. SBA Administrator Hector Barreto knew the critical importance of these loans and that it was important to get the program up and running as soon as possible.

Final passage in the Senate and the President's signature of the fiscal year 2004 Omnibus Appropriations Bill will provide funding for the 7(a) program this year. As Congress begins to work on next year's budget, we will work closely with Administrator Barreto to ensure that the SBA receives sufficient funding to keep the program functioning without difficulty. Already, Congresswoman Nydia Velázquez, the Ranking

See REYES, Page 5





# Serving in Congress means serving you

As your elected representative in Congress, my highest priority is to serve the constituents of the 23rd District of Texas. Our district covers all or part of 23 counties, which account for approximately 22 percent of the total square miles of our great state. The 23rd District of Texas spans two time zones, three climates and is 55,662 square miles.

But no matter where you reside within the 23rd District, my offices are there for you. The members of my staff are trained to provide a variety of constituent services. These services range from assisting people as they navigate their way through the layers of the federal bureaucracy, to helping families and schools with tours of Washington, D.C., to providing input on pending legislation, to expediting passport approvals. And that is just the beginning!

The federal government is an enormous bureaucracy. And, too often, people who deal with the government run up against confusing, complicated and even conflicting rules and regulations. I can help you cut through the red tape. Some of the most common problems arise from Social Security and Medicare benefits; immigration issues; the armed services; veterans' services and benefits; and regulatory agencies. If you need assistance with these matters, please do not hesitate to contact me or my staff at any of my district offices.

We receive calls everyday from

constituents requesting information about bills pending in Congress, federal laws and regulations, and state issues. Some excellent resources that we use and can be accessed by the public include: [www.loc.gov/thomas](http://www.loc.gov/thomas),

a website where constituents can look up information on pending legislation and laws; and [www.congress.org](http://www.congress.org), a website that can be used to search for federal officials, other Congressional offices, the White House and federal agencies. Our Website, [www.house.gov/bonilla](http://www.house.gov/bonilla), provides information about Washington, D.C. tourist attractions, how to contact our offices, legislative updates, and instructions about how to order a U.S. flag that has been flown over the Capitol building.

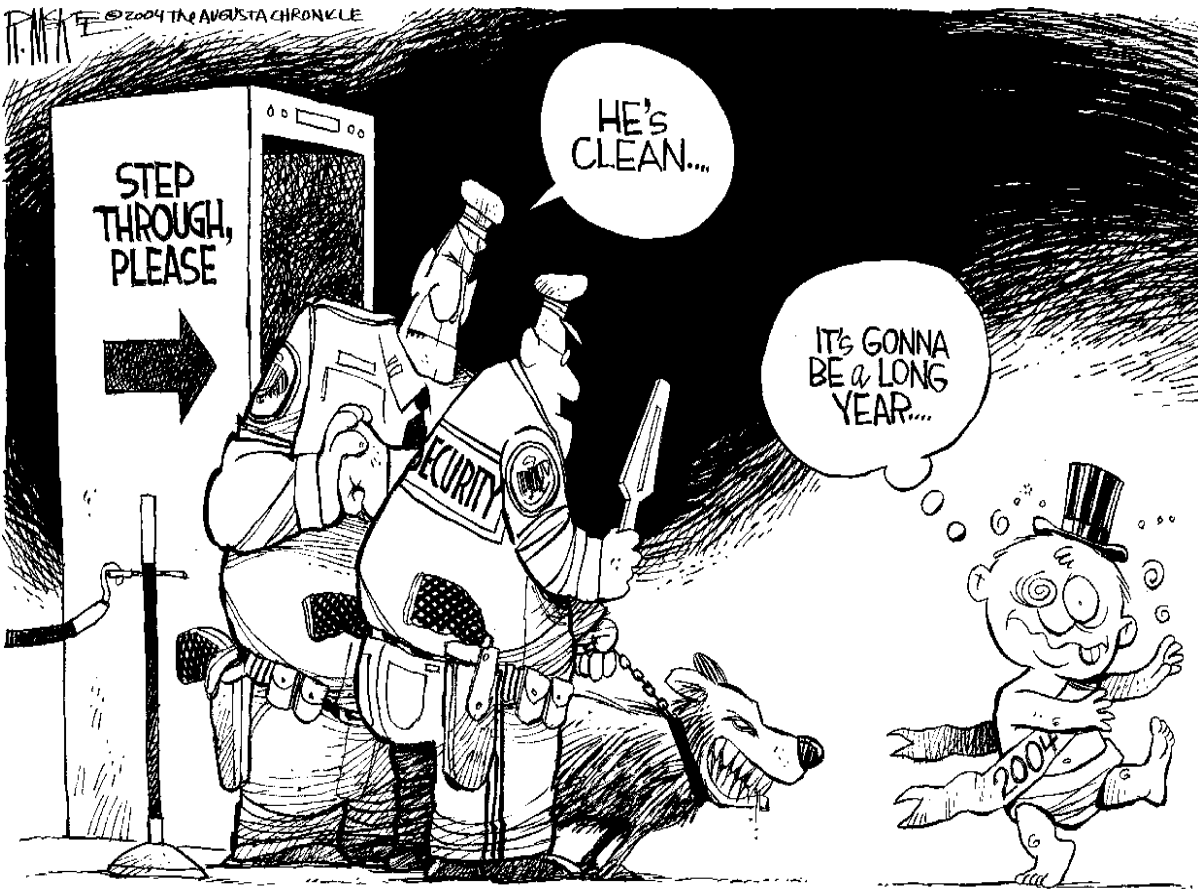
And, of course, if you ever have a question, an opinion, or a point of view about a current issue or a specific piece of legislation, I want to hear from you. Call my office or send a letter or email.

While my office cannot fix every problem related to the federal government, or fulfill every constituent request, we will always try our best to help. And we can always explore the options and serve as a source of reliable information. I believe I have no higher priority than providing good constituent service to the people of Texas' 23rd District. If you or someone in your family ever thinks my office can help, I hope you will not hesitate to contact us.



Eye on D.C.

By U.S. Rep. Henry Bonilla



**TRUE TEXAS FACTS** by Roger Moore, 1881, the Abilene Reporter News becomes the 1st daily newspaper to refuse to run whiskey ads.



## Por la Gente

By State Rep. Chente Quintanilla

### Trip to Rogelio Sanchez facility reveals need for further education

On a recent trip to the Rogelio Sanchez State Jail Facility — during which I spoke to inmates who were receiving their General Equivalency Diplomas (GED), I was astounded at the intelligence that some of these men exhibited. For one reason or another, these guys fell through the proverbial cracks, and landed in jail. This is a true tragedy.

I was taken aback to realize that one reason so many Mexican Americans turn to crime is that they lack a solid education. Without an education, their options for making a living are severely limited. Thus, they turn to a life of crime, which includes larceny, drug dealing, and other nefarious activities.

As a life-long educator, I am the first one to say that obtaining a good education is of the utmost importance. I wouldn't be where I am today — as a Texas State Representative — if I hadn't pursued that edu-

cational trek. Before becoming a state representative I was an Associate Superintendent for the Socorro Independent School District.

Therefore, I realized that the most important thing a young man or woman can do is to become educated. I was reminded of this, as I gazed at the young men who had obtained their GED — a first step in a long process, but a vitally important one. I told these young men that anything is possible, as long as they work hard to attain their goals, and as long as they keep those goals in mind.

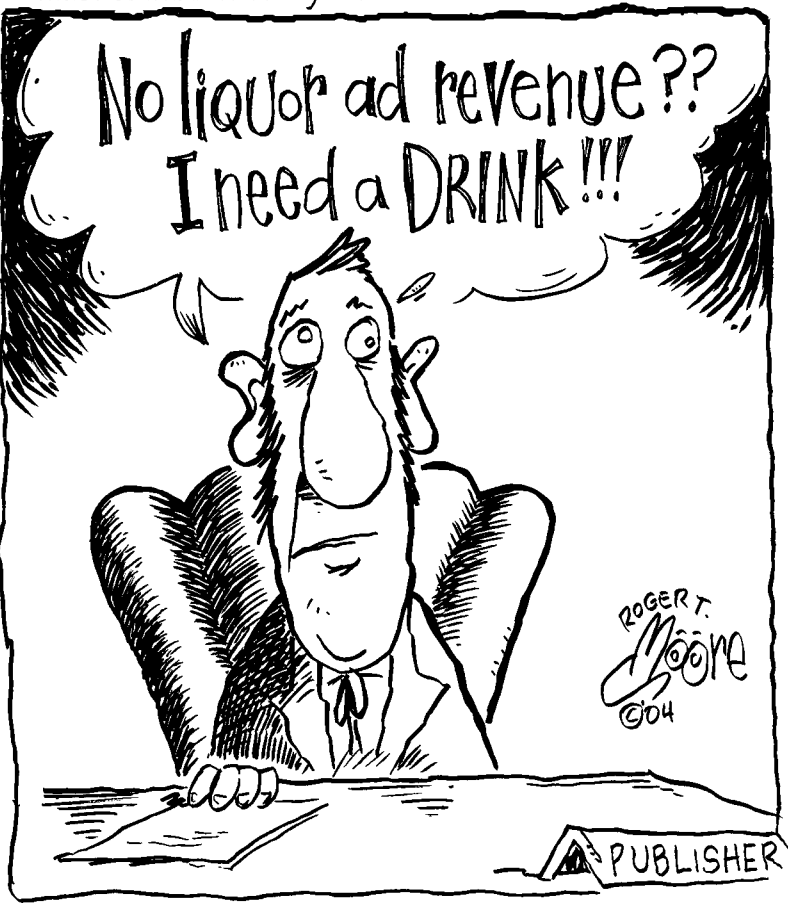
Being a member of this GED graduating class is a great thing for these young people. But, it shouldn't have to stop there. For those young men who are still jailed at that facility, it doesn't mean that they can't pursue their dreams even if they're limited in their movements. The Facility offers them the opportunity to further their education.

I am very proud of the great accomplishment that these men have

garnered. The fact that they were able to concentrate and focus on obtaining their GED is a true measure of their abilities. The ability they showed in completing their studies shows that they are not beyond hope. They struggled, they worked hard, and they did it.

This accomplishment wasn't easy. But, they did it. My message is that it shouldn't stop there. Other members of our society who have had the misfortune of running afoul of the law should realize that getting an education is the only way they're ever going to make their way out of the mire which entraps them. And, yes, today is a new day for those men who accomplished their dream.

These men strive for that higher purpose which awaits them. I hope and trust that they make higher education their main goal in life. Here's hoping that these young people learn from their mistakes, and that they keep growing and moving forward. The last message



that I conveyed to them was that you can loose your freedom, your personal property, your loved ones but no one can take away the education and knowledge you have gained in your lifetime.

For these men, an important first

step has been completed. But, it's really up to them to decide how far they want to go. Life is a challenge, but these men have proved that they're up to that challenge. Good luck, and God bless you, from your friend, Chente for la gente



# City of Socorro PUBLIC NOTICE

A PUBLIC HEARING will be held at 6:30 p.m. during the City Council Meeting of Thursday, February 5, 2004at City Hall, 124 S. Horizon Blvd., Socorro, Texas. Purpose of the public hearing is to allow any interested person to appear and testify at the hearing regarding the following proposed ordinance(s):

- 1) Ordinance No. 232, Amendment No. 1, an ordinance amending the Budget for the Fiscal Year of October 1, 2002 to September 30, 2003 for the City of Socorro, Texas.

Those that are unable to attend the public hearing may submit their views to the City of Socorro. Accommodations for handicapped persons will be available; handicapped persons in need of special assistance for attending the hearings are encouraged to contact the City Secretary (915) 858-2915, forty-eight (48) hours prior to this meeting. Ordinances are too extensive to print. Copies of ordinances are posted in City Hall and are available upon request.

The City of Socorro promotes Fair Housing/Affirmative Action and is an Equal Opportunity Employer and does not discriminate against race, color, creed, or national origin.

YOLANDA RODELA  
Interem City Secretary

ORDINANCE NO. 232 AMENDMENT NO. 1	Amount:	From:	To:
AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE BUDGET FOR THE FISCAL YEAR OF OCTOBER 1, 2002 TO SEPTEMBER 30, 2003 FOR THE CITY OF SOCORRO, TEXAS	\$729.62	Salaries	Equipment rent/lease
	\$9,201.56	Salaries	Vehicle repair & maintenance
	\$2,933.54	Salaries	Vehicle fuel
	\$35,525.02	Salaries	Property & equipment
WHEREAS, an ordinance was enacted on the 15th day of August 2002, which adopted a budget for the fiscal year of October 1, 2002 to September 30, 2003 for the City of Socorro, Texas	COURT		
	\$341.14	Salaries	Building & property maintenance
	\$200.00	Salaries	Telephone
	\$133.50	Salaries	Equipment repair & maintenance
WHEREAS, it is now necessary to amend said budget for the items not previously considered	\$2,106.93	Salaries	Travel/mileage/per diem
BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SOCORRO, THAT:	ADMINISTRATION		
	\$6,107.45	Salaries	Office expense
	\$600.34	Salaries	Postage
	\$2,669.15	Salaries	Building & property maintenance
SECTION I The following funds to be transferred as follows:	\$32,421.76	Salaries	Legal fees
	\$3,824.98	Salaries	Central appraisal fees
	\$3,837.30	Salaries	Dues & subscriptions
	\$15,958.29	Salaries	Liability insurance
PLANNING DEPARTMENT	\$5,516.73	Salaries	Service contracts
	\$360.50	Salaries	Equipment rent/lease
	\$16,200.00	Salaries	Settlements
\$731.04 Salaries Office expense	SPECIAL PROJECTS		
	\$413.82	Health insurance	FICA expense
	\$1,219.65	Health insurance	Office expense
	\$219.41	Seminars/training	Telephone
\$472.94 Salaries Postage	RIO VISTA COMMUNITY CENTER		
	\$1,099.47	Property & equipment	Office expense
	\$762.57	Property & equipment	Building & property maintenance
			Telephone
\$1,021.37 Salaries Building & property maintenance	\$2,961.03	Property & equipment	Telephone
	\$24.51	Property & equipment	Support activities
	\$454.08	Property & equipment	Vehicle repair & maintenance
\$4,066.01 Salaries Telephone	FROM ADMINISTRATION TO SPECIAL PROJECTS		
	\$5,410.80	Salaries	Salaries
\$369.12 Salaries Advertising	Section II		
	The budget amendment shall be on file with the City Secretary for public inspection, and upon request, a true and correct (copy) of same will be delivered in hand, at the City Secretary's office upon the request of any taxpayer and citizen of the City of Socorro, Texas.		
	Section III		
	This ordinance was enacted with all requisites and formalities incident the enactment of ordinance, and such is evidence by the below signatures.		
\$211.95 Salaries Dues & subscriptions	SIGNED AND ENACTED THIS _____ DAY OF _____, 2003		
	Irma S. Sanchez Mayor		
	ATTEST: Yolanda Rodela Interim City Clerk	APPROVED: Chris Borunda City Attorney	
		WTCC: 01/29/04	
\$200.00 Salaries Liability insurance			
\$228.03 Salaries Travel & mileage			
\$686.51 Salaries Vehicle repair & maintenance			
\$1,251.50 Salaries Equipment repair & maintenance			
\$1,579.15 Salaries Vehicle fuel			
PUBLIC WORKS			
\$92.55 Salaries Deferred compensation			
\$365.47 Salaries Tools and supplies			
\$2,763.02 Salaries Uniforms			
\$34.78 Salaries Building modification/ADA			
\$674.24 Salaries Building & property maintenance			
\$15,661.60 Salaries Street maintenance			
\$17,861.68 Salaries Utilities			
\$281.49 Salaries Telephone			
\$57.37 Salaries Dues/subscriptions			
\$241.50 Salaries Support activities			
\$566.92 Salaries Radio communications & maintenance			
\$8,749.29 Salaries Vehicle repair & maintenance			
\$7,055.71 Salaries Vehicle fuel			
\$5,259.00 Health insurance Engineering retainer			
HEALTH			
\$2,015.00 Salaries Dues/subscriptions			
\$950.00 Salaries Support activities			
POLICE			
\$7.50 Salaries Deferred compensation			
\$1,667.32 Salaries Office expense			
\$741.87 Salaries Uniforms			
\$2.90 Salaries Building & property maintenance			
\$3,800.92 Salaries Telephone			
\$117.00 Salaries Service contract			

## Estela Alderete Reyes, former Canutillo resident, dies in Arizona

CHANDLER, AZ — Mrs. Estela Alderete Reyes, 80, a longtime former resident of Canutillo, and mother of Congressman Silvestre Reyes, passed away Wednesday in Chandler, Arizona.

Born on Jan. 12, 1924, Mrs. Reyes was the fifth of 14 children born to Canutillo pioneers Bernardo Alderete and Maria Gallegos Alderete. The Alderete family was not only one of the oldest families in the Mesilla Valley but one of the oldest in New Mexico, preceding the pilgrims' arrival at Plymouth Rock.

She died at the home of her daughter Dolores and son-in-law Ruben Enriquez Sr. in Chandler.

She graduated from El Paso High School in 1943 and later married Rafael Reyes, son of Silvestre Reyes and Tomasa Ornelas Reyes. Their first of 10 children was born the following year. "She devoted her life to her family and was married for 25 years to Father until his untimely passing in 1968," recalls her son, Rafael II. "Her greatest joy in life was her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Her memory was legendary, and she never forgot a birthday or a special occasion.

"Mother had a strong devotion to the deity of our Holy Mother and the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Saint Jude was a pillar of support for her. Her faith sustained her through the loss of her husband and our father, our brother Eduardo and her later health concerns.

"Mother was a great lady, kind, considerate, gentle and loving. She lived her life with a great deal of dignity and was humble about her blessings.



Estela Reyes, center, with her son Congressman Silvestre Reyes and his wife Carolina.

ings. Will Rogers never met a man he did not like, and Mother never met anyone who did not like her. A Roman Catholic, she was always respectful and tolerant of others."

Viewing and rosary will be held 6-8 p.m. Sunday at Falconer Funeral Home, 251 W. Juniper, Gilbert, Arizona, to be followed on Monday by a funeral mass at 10 a.m. at Christ the King Church Catholic Church and burial at Queen of Heaven Cemetery in Mesa, Arizona.

She is survived by her sons, Silvestre, Rafael II, Francisco, Jesus and Tomas; daughters Dolores Enriquez, Isabel Carrasco, Mary Gray and Carmen Cortez; brothers, Angel Alderete and Carlos Alderete; sisters, Albina Alderete, Esperanz Morales, Pilar Saenz and Emma Orrantia; 24 grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren. A son, Eduardo, preceded her in death.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Diabetes and Kidney Research Foundations or a favorite charity.

## Briefs

### From Page 1

Miller will be hosted Saturday, Feb. 14, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. by Valley Feed/PETsBARN, far west side location, 5500 N. Desert, I-10 and Redd Road. Any well-behaved pet can be brought in, leashes or carriers requested for dogs and cats. A portion of the proceeds will go to benefit the El Paso animal rescue efforts. Appointments are required — call Amy Crown at 833-1178.

■ Canutillo High School's Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) chapter has four students advancing to state competition after participating in the FBLA Area II Leadership conference contests held recently at Del Valle High School. CHS students advancing to state for placing first in their events are freshmen Christy Cereceres and Nancy Esparza; and juniors Ricardo Huerta and Zenia Nuñez. Students from 13 high schools competed in 41 different events for the opportunity to represent Area II in the FBLA state finals that are scheduled for March 4-6, in Houston. High schools participating in the Area II conference were Franklin, Del Valle, Socorro, Andress, Burges, Eastwood, Jefferson, Montwood, Americas, Bel Air, Hanks, Riverside, and Canutillo. "These competitions help students develop self-confidence and enhance their computer and business skills, and they give them an opportunity to meet FBLA students from other schools," stated Carmen Guzman, CHS business teacher. Guzman and Yvonne Lugo, CHS business teacher, are the FBLA co-sponsors for Canutillo High School.

■ The Horizon Regional Municipal Utilities District (formerly the El Paso County Water Authority) is seeking applications to fill a vacancy on the board of directors created by the recent acceptance by the board of the resignation of Skip Lutzweiler. For application information contact the HRMUD at 852-3917.

■ The Texas Department of Agriculture reminds cotton growers in Zone 10 that Feb. 1 is the deadline for cotton stalk destruction to comply with producer-established dates to control bollweevils. This deadline applies to El Paso County and the portion of Hudspeth County bounded by I-10 on the north, the El Paso County line on the west, the Rio Grande on the south and a line from old Ft. Quitman north along Hwy 34 to I-10 on the east. Zone 10 is a shred and plow zone with additional requirement that the ground be plowed to a minimum depth of six inches. For more information, contact the TDA West Texas office at 806-799-8555.

■ The 55-acres that make up the grounds of El Paso's National Park, Chamizal National Memorial, take on new definition in an exhibition entitled *Mystical Land — Powerful Forces* which opens with a reception on Thursday, Feb. 5, 5:30-7:30 p.m. in the Los Paisanos Gallery of the Chamizal National Memorial. The public is invited. Three major works by El Paso artist Bill Herring in his exhibit of 32 new pieces depict the Chamizal. Poet Antonio Youngblood Evans has written five poems for the exhibit, two about the Chamizal. Both will be present for the reception. The exhibit runs through Feb. 22. For additional information, call 532-7273.

Miss an issue?  
www.wtccourier.com



# El Paso Academy is an example of Texas’ answer to voucher education

EL PASO COUNTY — Striving to provide the time, talent, resources and room to individualize every child’s high school experience, El Paso Academy, a local, privately run, non-profit, tuition free public charter high school is paying \$1000 each to its qualified students for college.

A state-sponsored, early high school graduation incentive program promising \$1000 in college tuition proved so popular that combined with subsequent budget shortfalls, the state ran out of funds and the program was discontinued.

EPA, rather than discourage its college-bound students, now contributes the same funds to its students to help them realize the dream of a college education. Students who graduate in 36 months or less receive the funds for an in-state institution of higher learning, which includes a Texas university, community college or business school.

“So many kids do fall through the cracks, we feared this might lead to even more of them foregoing attempts to attend college,” said Katherine Reid, superintendent and founder of the Academy, which is a two-campus, non-sectarian, fully accredited school adhering to the Texas Education Agency’s requirements for graduation.

In addition, the 525-student school provides dual-credit programs complete with instructors, college level books and assigned student mentors to further help qualified students get a head-start on courses when entering community college.

“This attracts not only our core students, but advanced, honor students who take advantage of our gifted and talented program and are committed to college,” said Reid. “With this curriculum, we can accommodate their drive to continue their education.”

All Academy programs are self-paced, with students receiving 60 hours of contact time with instructors in six-week runs. Two credits or more are achieved within six weeks, but advanced students and those working toward early graduation can meet it in as little as two or three weeks. Classes structured within

three tracks—morning, mid-day and afternoon—help students who work maintain a flexible schedule.

“Children learn, discover and create at their own pace,” said Reid, a remedial reading specialist who previously operated Quick Study Learning Centers and spent decades teaching in public schools. “We work with every student to help them determine their own level of comfort and advancement while introducing them to a myriad of educational opportunities.”

Amidst very small teacher/student ratios, every Academy instructor holds at least a bachelors’ degree, while many have masters or PhDs. Students derive from public high school referrals, parent inquiries and interested students themselves. All students must pass an assessment test, sign a code of conduct with their parents, and wear uniforms.

From “back-to-basics” programs to “expeditionary learning,” the Academy’s curriculum allows students to work at their own pace, develop strong academic skills, learn individually or in small groups, have access to state-of-the-art technology and computer science and use educational software to enhance their learning.

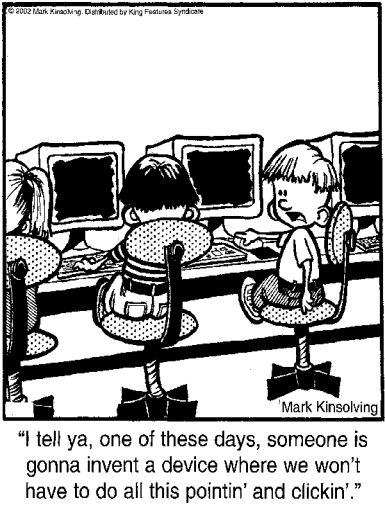
“El Paso Academy flexes its muscles everyday to give students the best education, counseling and social work,” said Reid. “They’re never more than a few feet away from a teacher, counselor, social worker, therapist or staff worker who cares about them with genuine, loving, supportive, personal attention.”

Charter schools like the Academy have become Texas’ answer to voucher programs, which the state doesn’t utilize. They were created in the early 1990s and date in Texas to 1995. El Paso Academy opened its doors in 2000 as a strong alternative for students who have difficulty finding their way in traditional learning environments.

Funded by the Texas Education Agency like all public schools, they receive about 60% of the per student fees received by traditional high schools, an average per-pupil rate of

\$4507 vs. \$7000. Since charters don’t receive facility funding or property tax money, they must rely on grants and community donations to operate. El Paso County’s nine school districts are all operated on funds derived from individual district property taxes.

For more information about El Paso Academy, its \$1000 scholarship program or dual credit community college courses, call Kathrine Reid at (915) 590-8589.



## Pony tail

From Page 2

window and nothing in the stock-room. A time when technology can bring this letter to you, and a time when you can choose either to share this insight, or to just hit delete.

“Remember, spend some time with your loved ones, because they are not going to be around forever. Remember, say a kind word to someone who looks up to you in awe, because that little person soon will grow up and leave your side. Remember, to give a warm hug to the one next to you, be-

cause that is the only treasure you can give with your heart and it doesn’t cost a cent.

“Remember, to say, ‘I love you’ to your life’s partner and your loved ones, but most of all mean it. A kiss and an embrace will mend hurt when it comes from deep inside of you. Remember to hold hands and cherish the moment for someday that person will not be there again.

“Give time to love, give time to speak, and give time to share the precious thoughts in your mind.”

You just never know what’s going on in somebody’s head. Not bad for a guy with a pony tail.

## Reyes

From Page 2

Member on the House Small Business Committee, is organizing a hearing to review the shutdown of the popular program.

Over the past three years, the 7(a) program has provided financing to more than 40,000 new small businesses and 99,000 existing small businesses. SBA officials, banks and lenders alike praise the program as one of the most efficient and effective programs available to small businesses. Here in El Paso, our chambers of commerce and local lending institutions exist to help you understand and utilize these government loans.

Small businesses build community and jobs, and in the year ahead, I will work to ensure that 7(a) funding is available for these businesses to continue their important contributions to our economy and quality of life.

Carlisle Navidomskis  
M.Ed., LPC, RPT  
Family Counselor

## Horizon Family Counseling

By appointment only • Se habla español  
Medicaid and insurance accepted

14200 Ashford  
Horizon City, Texas 79928

(915) 433-7727  
cnlpc@earthlink.net

## NOTICE TO TAXPAYERS

Cora Viescas, Executive Director/Chief Appraiser, El Paso Central Appraisal District, is currently accepting application(s) for the following:

### RENDITIONS

- 1. Personal Property (mandatory beginning 2004 — failure to file a business rendition will result in a 10% penalty).
- 2. Real Estate

**DEADLINE FOR FILING OF RENDITIONS, PROPERTY INFORMATION REPORTS, AND REPORTS OF DECREASED VALUE IS THURSDAY, APRIL 15, 2004. A filing extension will be allowed for business renditions upon receipt of a written request received by the April 15, 2004 filing deadline.**

### EXEMPTIONS\*

- 1. Residential Homestead Exemption
- 2. Over-65 Exemption\*\*
- 3. Over 55 Surviving Spouse of a person who received the Over-65 Exemption
- 4. Medical Disability Exemption
- 5. Veteran’s Disability Exemption
- 6. Widow of Disabled Veteran Exemption

\*If you received a Homestead and/or an Over-65 Exemption, or an Over-55 Surviving Spouse of a person who received the Over-65 Exemption, a Disability Exemption, or a Disabled Veteran’s Exemption in 2003, it is not necessary for you to file again this year.

\*\*The Over-65 School Homestead Exemption can be transported to another home within Texas on a percentage basis. (Please contact the Appraisal District for forms and explanation.)

### SPECIAL USE EVALUATIONS

Agricultural Valuation - Applications are being accepted for Ad Valorem Tax purposes as provided under Article III, Section 1-d and 1-d-1 of the Texas State Constitution. Properties qualifying under these Amendments are valued on the basis of Agricultural Productivity rather than their market value. The tax that would be levied on market value is deferred. Information on agricultural use valuation is available in the State Comptroller’s Publication, *Taxpayers’ Rights, Remedies & Responsibilities*. Copies are available at the Appraisal District Office.

**DEADLINE FOR FILING FOR EXEMPTIONS AND APPLYING FOR SPECIAL USE VALUATIONS IS APRIL 30, 2004, FOR ALL TAXING JURISDICTIONS. ALL OF THE ABOVE APPLICATIONS MUST BE FILED EITHER IN PERSON OR BY MAIL AT THE EL PASO CENTRAL APPRAISAL DISTRICT, 5801 TROWBRIDGE, EL PASO, TEXAS 79925. FOR APPLICATIONS OR FURTHER INFORMATION, CONTACT THE APPRAISAL DISTRICT AT (915) 780-2131.**

**NO FEE IS REQUIRED FOR FILING ANY OF THE ABOVE RENDITIONS, EXEMPTIONS OR SPECIAL USE VALUATIONS**



# Price, Ebell bring hope to UTEP

By Steve Escajeda  
Special to the Courier

It's surely no secret that, over the years, UTEP has been forced to recruit football players that the major programs around the nation didn't consider worthy.

The Miners were always left the scraps the big-name schools left behind.

And to say that the Miners have done a pretty lousy job with their choices over the years

would be the understatement of the last three decades.

But it appears those days may, and I emphasize the word "may," be over.

And it's all because of new coach and savior Mike Price.

Because of, and only because of Price, the UTEP football team made national news last week. And unlike the norm, the news was good.

Seems even one of the most sought after running backs in the nation knows about Mike

Price. Tyler Ebell was considered the top high running back in the nation three years ago coming out of high school when he signed with UCLA.

In two seasons at UCLA, Ebell gained 1,495 yards, scored 12 touchdowns and averaged 4.3 yards per carry.

But after those two years, Ebell, because of a coaching change, decided that he didn't like things there and wanted a change of scenery. Ebell considered the Florida Gators and the San Diego State Aztecs but chose UTEP.

He chose UTEP! That puts UTEP on the credibility map.

Ebell's decision to come to El Paso, in a way, tells other recruits that it's okay to come to El

goodbye to the past... hopefully for good.

## Pats or Panthers?

This Sunday is one of the most special days of the year — Super Bowl Sunday.

And though this year's game lacks superstar status (no Marshall Faulk, no Peyton Manning, no Randy Moss, no Priest Holmes, no Brett Favre), it's still an intriguing matchup.

The New England Patriots, super bowl champs of just two years ago take on the Carolina Panthers, the new guys on the championship-game block.

The Patriots began the season as one of the favorites to get here while absolutely no one was talking about the Carolina Panthers.

New England is the favorite and they have an emerging superstar in quarterback Tom Brady. Carolina's quarterback is Jake Delhomme, a guy most fans had never heard of.

Both teams have very good defenses but there is one glaring difference that I think will make all the difference in this one... the running game.

Carolina's Stephen Davis (1,444) and DeShaun Foster (429) combined for 1,873 yards on the ground and averaged 4.1 yards per carry while New England's Antowain Smith (642) and Kevin Faulk (638) combined for just 1,280 yards and a weak 3.5 yard per carry average.

But in the playoffs, Carolina's duo of Davis and Foster have been even more impressive gaining 419 yards (140 per game) while the Patriots' Smith and Faulk have managed just 199 yards in two games (99.5 avg.).

So I say Carolina will eke out an overtime 27-24 win in one of the best Super Bowl games ever. Oh, and the commercials should be pretty good, too.

UTEP™

THURSDAY, JAN. 29TH

VS SMU

"THE DON"

\* @ 7:05 PM

SATURDAY, JAN. 31ST

VS LA. TECH

SPONSORED BY:

POWER 102 KPRR FM

TIME WARNER CABLE

TICKETS: 747-5234

WE'RE BACK!!

Let's see what Ebell, who rushed for 994 yards as a freshman, did at UCLA in 2002 against those big-time PAC-10 opponents.

In one six-game span he rushed for 203 yards and a touchdown at Oregon State, 119 against Oregon, 102 and a touchdown at California, 160 and a touchdown against Stanford, 102 and three touchdowns at Washington and 124 and two touchdowns at Arizona.

Three of those six teams (Oregon State, Oregon and Washington) went on to bowl games that season.

So let's put it this way, I think it's safe to say that Ebell can compete against WAC competition.

ESPN, CNN/Sports Illustrated, The Sporting News, everybody had the news of Ebell's transfer to UTEP. It made news and that's what Mike Price promised when he took over the program.

Don't be surprised to see other big name athletes sign to play football with the Miners in the next few years.

The status quo has failed miserably for 30 years at UTEP. Say hello to a new era of UTEP football. And let's say

## Start a football team

Well, now you can — and at a rock bottom price.

If you're looking for some football equipment you might want to make a call to East Tennessee State University, which is sitting on a bunch of football shoes, shoulder pads, jerseys, game pants, practice shorts, practice shirts, face masks, tackling dummies, sleds and coaches' communication systems since the school dropped football last year.

Starting Feb. 5, the university will begin auctioning off the equipment and the proceeds will go to fund other school sports.

School officials say they have received plenty of inquiries about the football stuff so you better act fast.

I'm sure the Dallas Cowboys are wondering if they have any quarterbacks for sale.

## King Super Crossword

### TRICKY BUSINESS ACROSS

- 1 Dollops
- 5 Russian ruler
- 9 '87 Peace Prize winner
- 14 Incur, as bills
- 19 "Thanks \_!"
- 20 Dingy digs
- 21 Jargon
- 22 Crop up
- 23 Clothing store?
- 25 Gary Cooper in "High Noon"?
- 27 Asian nation
- 28 Jab
- 30 Genetic info
- 31 Poetic preposition
- 32 Stoltz or Severeid
- 34 Actress Perlman
- 38 Brazier bits
- 41 Seats picked up in the Senate?
- 45 Bank (on)
- 46 Tai \_ (martial art)
- 47 Recruit-to-be
- 48 Baseball's Sammy
- 50 Coaxed
- 54 Plane place
- 57 Bedroom furniture
- 59 Elbow \_
- 60 Available
- 61 Photo finish
- 62 Bright
- 64 Part of MST
- 65 Mediocre
- 67 Mason's need
- 68 Any
- 69 Deplores
- 70 Scandinavian computer?
- 73 Puts another worm on the hook?
- 75 Composer Janacek
- 76 Chip off Woody's block
- 78 Archaeological site
- 81 Class ring?
- 82 Galley feature
- 83 Absolutely adored
- 84 " \_ Gay"
- 86 Socialite Perle
- 90 Anti-knock stuff
- 92 Glisten
- 94 Chaos
- 95 Puppeteer Lewis
- 96 Israeli dance
- 97 Counterfeit
- 99 States, for short
- 100 Mighty mite
- 103 Marina statistics?
- 107 Corelli composition
- 109 Macpherson of "Sirens"
- 110 Word form for "minute"
- 111 Salon request
- 112 La-la lead-in
- 114 Castle material
- 117 Contaminate
- 121 NBA handicappers?
- 127 "One really thick steak, please"?
- 129 Simpson of fashion
- 130 Paul of "American

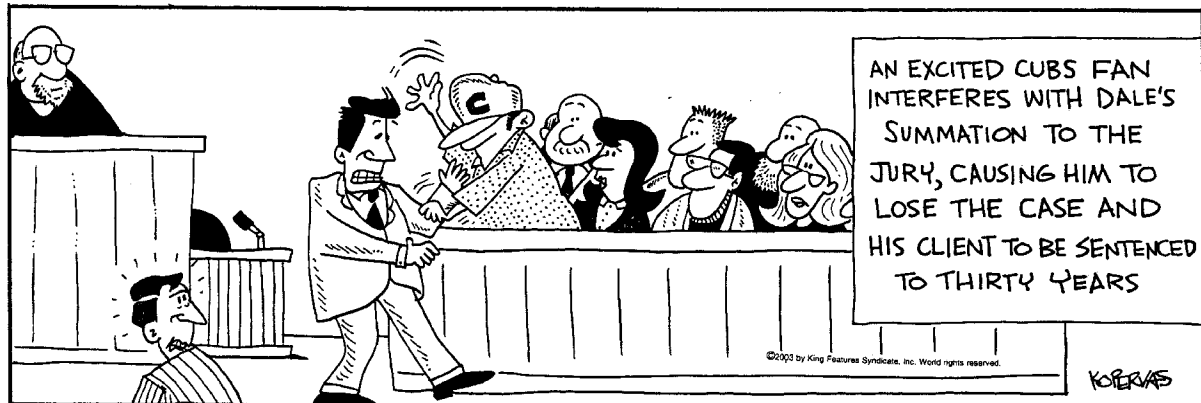
### DOWN

- 131 Currier's partner
- 132 Siegmeyer or Wiesel
- 133 Greek sandwiches
- 134 Atlanta campus
- 135 AMEX rival
- 136 Take-out order?
- 2 Stare stupidly
- 2 Dairy-case purchase
- 3 Piglet's papa
- 4 Meryl of "Marvin's Room"
- 5 Even if, informally
- 6 Trace
- 7 As well
- 8 Stink
- 9 " \_ of You" ('84 hit)
- 10 \_ Branco, Brazil
- 11 Caravansary
- 12 Like fine wine
- 13 Tulsa type
- 14 Brit. fliers
- 15 Psychic Geller
- 16 More congenial
- 17 PC enthusiasts
- 18 Parisian papa
- 24 Mata \_
- 26 Singer Georgie
- 29 Significant years
- 33 "Take \_ leave it!"
- 35 Sounded like a serpent
- 36 Seth's son
- 37 Evaluate

- 39 Divulge, with "out"
- 40 Bronte heroine
- 41 Detective Charlie
- 42 Nonstandard con-traction
- 43 A swan was her swain
- 44 Country star Brooks
- 46 Comic Margaret
- 49 Strong suit
- 51 Entire range
- 52 Senator Kefauver
- 53 Cozy rooms
- 55 Pants
- 56 Each
- 58 Monty's milieu
- 59 Loon's relative
- 61 Demi or Dudley
- 63 It multiplies by dividing
- 66 Declare
- 69 Bendix role
- 70 TV host Robin
- 71 Major artery
- 72 Swanky
- 74 Soprano Gluck
- 75 See 83 Down
- 77 Block
- 78 Go off track
- 79 Print-shop supply
- 80 Emulates O'Meara
- 83 With 75 Down, "Gigi" author
- 85 Turn pages
- 87 Andrew of "Melrose Place"
- 88 "Guarding \_" ('94 film)

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8		9	10	11	12	13		14	15	16	17	18
19					20					21						22				
23					24					25					26					
27							28			29			30					31		
				32		33				34	35	36	37		38		39	40		
		41	42					43	44						45					
46							47				48			49		50		51	52	53
54				55	56			57		58					59					
60								61					62		63				64	
					65	66			67				68				69			
		70	71					72					73			74				
75						76			77		78	79	80		81					
82					83						84			85		86		87	88	89
90				91				92		93						94				
95								96					97		98				99	
					100		101	102		103			104				105	106		
		107	108							109						110				
111						112		113			114	115	116			117		118	119	120
121					122	123				124	125	126			127		128			
129										130					131				132	
133										134					135					136

## OUT ON A LIMB By Gary Kopervas



I HAVE CONSTRUCTED THE ULTIMATE FORT!

IT IS INVINCIBLE!

IS THERE NO ONE WHO THINKS THEY CAN DEFEAT ME?

AM I JUST TALKING TO MYSELF OR AM I REALLY THAT FIERCE?

Amberwavscomics@aol.com

**DID YOU REALIZE THIS COUNTRY WAS ON "ORANGE ALERT" ???**

**AND THERE'S ONLY ONE THING WORSE THAN THAT!!**

**...APPLE ALERT!!**

©2004 by Meg Features Syndicate, Inc. World rights reserved.

WOW! YOU'VE GOT GREAT SKI AREAS UP HERE, JUNE!!

WE SURE DO, JEN! WHICH ONE DO YA WANNA GO TO FIRST?

THE HILL BEHIND THE HOUSE? OR THE HILL IN FRONT OF THE BARN? OR THE ONE OUT BY THE POND? OR...

www.king features.com  
www.mariandcartoons.com

MARIAND

(c) 2004 King Features Synd., Inc.

G	O	B	S	T	S	A	R	A	R	I	A	S	R	U	N	U	P				
A	L	O	T	H	O	L	E	L	I	N	G	O	A	R	I	S	E				
W	E	A	R	H	O	U	S	E	L	O	N	E	O	F	F	I	C	E	R		
K	O	R	E	A	P	O	K	E	D	N	A	E	R								
		E	R	I	C		R	H	E	A		E	M	B	E	R	S				
C	A	P	I	T	O	L	G	A	I	N	S		R	E	L	I					
C	H	I		O	N	E	A		S	O	S	A		U	R	G	E	D			
H	A	N	G	A	R		D	R	E	S	S	E	R		G	R	E	A	S		
O	N	T	A	P		M	A	T	T	E		S	M	A	R	T	M	T	N		
			S	O	S	O	H	O	D		S	O	M	E		R	U	E	S		
		L	A	P	T	O	P					R	E	B	A	I	T	S			
L	E	O	S		A	R	L	O		D	I	G		B	E	L	L				
O	A	R		A	T	E	U	P		E	N	O	L	A		M	E	S	T	A	
O	C	T	A	N	E		S	P	A	R	K	L	E		M	A	Y	H	E	M	
S	H	A	R	I		H	O	R	A		F	A	K	E		U	S	A			
		A	T	O	M		S	A	I	L	S	F	I	G	U	R	E	S			
S	O	N	A	T	A		E	L	L	E		N	A	N	O						
S	E	T		T	R	A			S	A	N	D		T	A	I	N	T			
N	E	T	P	R	O	P	H	E	T	S		M	A	L	E		O	R	D	E	R
A	D	E	L	E		L	E	M	A	T		I	V	E	S		E	L	I	E	
G	Y	R	O	S		E	M	O	R	Y		N	Y	S	E		D	E	L		

**Horizon Contract Post Office • 14200 Ashford, Ste. C • Open 9 AM to 3PM, Monday - Friday**



Social Security Q&A

By Ray Vigil

*Q: I think I might qualify for Supplemental Security Income (SSI) payments, except for one problem. A couple of years ago my father died and left me a Lincoln Continental. I was told I cannot own a so-called "luxury car" and get SSI. Is this true?*

A: You normally can own one car and still get SSI. The law allows us to automatically exclude the value of a car worth less than \$4,500. If the car

is worth more, we might be able to exclude its value if you can show you use it to get medical treatment or for other vital transportation needs. Talk to your local Social Security representatives about this..

*Q: Can a widow get her own Social Security retirement benefit in addition to widow's benefits?*

A: Yes, but the rules about the relationship between retirement benefits

and widow(er)'s benefits, and when we pay those benefits, can be complicated. You should call 1-800-772-1213 or visit your local Social Security office for more information about your particular situation.

*Q: I am in prison and will soon be released. I was told I will automatically qualify for Supplemental Security Income (SSI) once I get out. Is this true?*

A: No. The Supplemental Security Income program makes monthly payments to low income people who are

65 or older, blind or disabled. If you are over 65, or have a disability that will prevent you from working, and if you have little or no income and few assets, you can file for SSI once you are released from prison. But no one "automatically" gets SSI payments.

*Q: If government pensions are used to offset Social Security checks, why doesn't a military pension, which is one form of a government pension, offset a Social Security check?*

A: Offsets apply only to pensions

from work not covered by Social Security. Many government employees, including members of the military, pay into Social Security. Their government pensions are designed to supplement Social Security, not replace it

For more information visit your local Security office, see [www.ssa.gov](http://www.ssa.gov) or call us at 1-800-772-1213. If you have any questions that you would like to have answered, please mail them to the Social Security Office, 1111 Gateway West, Attn: Ray Vigil, El Paso, Texas 79935.

WEATHER

AccuWeather.com

SEVEN-DAY FORECAST FOR EL PASO

THURSDAY	THUR. NIGHT	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
Plenty of sunshine.	Mainly clear.	A good deal of sunshine.	Mostly sunny and windy.	Abundant sunshine.	Brilliant sunshine.	A good deal of sunshine.	Sunshine with a few clouds.
▲ 60°	▼ 36°	▲ 64° ▼ 38°	▲ 62° ▼ 36°	▲ 64° ▼ 34°	▲ 66° ▼ 32°	▲ 58° ▼ 30°	▲ 58° ▼ 32°

UV INDEX

Statistics for noon.

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

Thursday	5	Moderate
Friday	5	Moderate
Saturday	5	Moderate
Sunday	5	Moderate
Monday	5	Moderate
Tuesday	5	Moderate
Wednesday	5	Moderate

TEXAS WEATHER

Anthony	60	36
Canutillo	59	36
Clint	59	37
E. Montana	58	36
Fabens	58	37
Horizon	59	37
San Elizario	58	34
Socorro	57	35
Tornillo	58	37
Vinton	59	36

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

TRAVELERS CITIES

City	Thur. Hi/Low/W	Fri. Hi/Low/W	Sat. Hi/Low/W	Sun. Hi/Low/W	Mon. Hi/Low/W
Albuquerque	51/29/s	55/32/pc	53/25/pc	49/25/pc	51/23/s
Atlanta	52/34/pc	52/38/pc	46/27/s	46/36/c	51/30/pc
Atlantic City	40/26/s	39/24/c	29/22/pc	29/25/pc	43/18/c
Austin/San Antonio	62/40/c	67/41/s	67/42/s	61/36/s	57/33/c
Baltimore	40/25/pc	43/25/c	32/20/pc	30/18/pc	44/19/pc
Boston	34/24/pc	34/20/pc	28/18/sn	26/16/pc	37/20/c
Chicago	28/12/sf	20/6/pc	18/10/c	24/14/c	22/10/pc
Dallas/Ft. Worth	58/40/pc	63/41/s	63/39/pc	55/35/s	51/31/c
Denver	54/26/pc	54/20/pc	38/15/pc	38/17/pc	46/12/c
Flagstaff	44/20/s	46/22/pc	44/16/pc	46/14/s	45/18/s
Houston	64/46/c	66/46/s	68/48/pc	62/38/c	56/36/c
Kansas City	37/29/c	44/28/c	39/20/c	29/15/s	30/14/c
Las Vegas	61/41/pc	63/41/pc	58/37/pc	60/37/s	60/37/pc
Miami	73/61/s	77/64/c	78/63/c	79/62/pc	77/59/pc
Minneapolis	7/-10/c	-1/-11/c	4/-3/c	7/-5/c	14/-1/c
New Orleans	63/51/c	66/45/s	68/49/pc	63/42/c	58/38/s
New York City	35/30/pc	36/28/c	30/23/pc	27/27/pc	38/22/c
Philadelphia	38/26/pc	38/22/c	30/18/pc	30/18/pc	39/20/c
Phoenix	66/45/s	70/47/pc	72/45/s	70/43/s	70/45/s
Portland	54/44/r	48/38/sh	48/38/c	50/37/pc	49/37/c
San Francisco	58/46/pc	56/44/c	56/46/pc	56/47/c	58/43/pc
Seattle	48/42/r	46/38/sh	44/38/c	48/37/pc	48/37/c
Tucson	63/39/s	70/41/s	68/41/s	68/39/s	68/41/s
Washington, DC	41/26/pc	46/26/c	34/24/pc	32/24/pc	46/23/pc

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

AGRICULTURE

A ridge of high pressure will begin to strengthen across the region on Thursday. This will keep dry weather over the area over the next several days with full days of sunshine. Skies will remain sunny with dry conditions into next week.

All forecasts and maps provided by AccuWeather, Inc. ©2004

Powerful and Portable

\$39<sup>96</sup>  
6 Gallon, 3.0 Peak HP Wet/Dry Vac #215727

\$29<sup>96</sup>  
2.5 Gallon, 2.0 Peak HP Wet/Dry Vac #215726

Powerful enough for all of your tough workshop, garage, and basement messes—wet or dry

Portable enough for all of your household appliances, furnitures, and floors—wet or dry

Convenient for kitchen spills and clogged drains

If It Doesn't Say Shop•Vac, Keep Shopping!®

Available Only At

the Original wet/dry vac

Improving Home Improvement®

Come and see the complete line of the #1-selling brand of wet/dry vacs, filters and accessories.

[www.shopvac.com](http://www.shopvac.com)  
Shop-Vac® is a registered trademark of Shop-Vac Corporation.

[www.lowes.com](http://www.lowes.com)  
Lowe's® and the gable design are registered trademarks of LF, LLC. ©2003 Lowe's® Home Centers, Inc. For the Lowe's nearest you call 1-800-44-LOWES. Prices may vary if there are market variations.