



NEWSBRIEFS

Slow for cold

By the end of the morning rush-hour last Friday, the El Paso County Sheriff's Dept. had already responded to more than 24 car wrecks — accidents all attributable to winter weather and the inability of the county drivers from Eastlake and Horizon Blvd. to Montana Ave., Loop 375 to Hueco Tanks State Park to drive in such conditions. Speed and the failure to keep a safe distance from the vehicle ahead were cited as the most common problem. Sheriff's Office spokesman Rick Glancey said drivers should follow winter-weather maintenance, especially checking wipers, but his best advice for El Pasoans is: "During winter weather it's always best to avoid travel if at all possible."

Mission muscle

Cornerstones Community Partnerships and Historic Missions Restoration, Inc. are well on their way to restoring Socorro's historic mission and volunteer assistance has been growing — between 20 and 40 volunteers show up each Saturday from a variety of local groups. These include Socorro High School students and members of the El Paso Community Scholars. However, some unlikely sources have begun to assist in the effort. Southwest Key is a non-profit group which cares for unaccompanied minors whose parents are detained by the immigration service. Schaeffer House has been sending young adult males just finishing a military-style boot camps and who are transitioning into independent apartment living. Community service volunteers are also being sent from the court of Pct. 6 Judge Ruben Lujan and the West Texas District Court system. The volunteers work under the supervision of Patrick Taylor and Jean Fulton, and engage in a number of activities including making adobes. "Every pair of hands help speed this process," said Ms. Fulton. "We are so grateful for community members who are lending support to this effort. The volunteers will be here every Saturday for the next few months." Anyone wanting to help is invited from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at 328 S. Nevarez Rd. in Socorro on Feb. 21 for the next session. Call 858-4655 for more information.

In other news:

■ Canutillo High School will hold Parent-Teacher conferences from 1:30-5 p.m. and 6-8 p.m., Tuesday, March 2. Teachers will be available in their classrooms for parent conferences. For more information, call 877-7501.

■ Soloists and the Men's Ensemble from the Clint High School Choir received a Division 1 rating on Feb. 7 qualifying them for state level competition. The female

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A real friend will tell you when you have spinach stuck in your teeth.

— Quips & Quotes

Libraries updated in SEISD district

By Phillip Cortez
Special to the Courier

SAN ELIZARIO — Do you remember walking into a library for first time? Maybe you were a little kid learning to read, perhaps even struggling a tiny bit, and the rows and rows of shelves filled with book after book are overwhelming, even intimidating.

And you're not allowed to talk, either. In fact, the place is so quiet and stuffy you imagine yourself to be in a museum basement, where records are destined to collect dust while all the interesting art and exhibits, candy for the eye, are marveled at on the floors above.

Of course, this is not the library of today, especially in the San Elizario ISD. Ask any librarian in the district and they will tell you that their libraries are places of learning, creativity, inspiration and refuges of knowledge. At San Elizario High School and Alarcón Elementary, some changes are taking place to make their respective libraries even better.

At Alarcón, the library has just completed its brand new learning center addition, an entire classroom space complete with more computers and tables to provide students, as well as parents, a place to do their work, according to Cathy Hale, librarian at the school.

"The new addition is a free-flowing environment for students before school, during lunch and after school," Hale said. "It's going to give them a place to come in and read or do research in an open environment."



LIFE IN ART — Javier Ramirez, a custodian at Alarcón Elementary is busy painting a kid's figurine at the Alarcón library.

Hale said that the new center, which features a fairytale theme, will boost the library's usage and will also be a place where parents can also come in and use the space, especially those parents who are going to school. The center is designed to be a part of the library, but also part of the library's regular class schedule, Hale said.

Other changes to the current library include a new paint job to resemble clouds in the sky,

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FITNESS EDUCATION — Robert R. Rojas Elementary School's Abraham McMillan is congratulated by Principal Joyce Zarowski, left, and Assistant Principal Lorenza Diaz, right, after being named Region 19's CATCH Physical Education Teacher of the Year.

McMillan wins CATCH fitness award

EAST EL PASO COUNTY — Robert R. Rojas Elementary School coach Abraham McMillan has been honored as the Region 19 Physical Education Teacher of the Year in the Coordinated Approach to Children's Health, or CATCH program.

McMillan says his school works hard to educate students and their parents about the need to eat right and exercise.

"I bring in a variety of programs for our students and for our parents — nutrition classes, a variety of intramural sports for our kids. I think the obesity numbers at our school have gone down a lot. The kids are very eager to learn, and to get fit, and I'm trying my hardest

to get them where they belong."

Principal Joyce Zarowski says the school's focus is on wellness.

"It starts with the body, and he teaches there's a correlation, an integration between wellness, nutrition and the Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills, or TAKS. All of that relates to what we're doing with CATCH."

McMillan says he stresses nutrition and fitness. "We have nutrition classes for the parents, too. We educate them about the foods they should eat more of — and less of."

The CATCH program is managed by El Paso's Region 19 Education Service Center with funds from the Paso del Norte Health Foundation.

Horizon council calls for \$1.2 million bond election to go on ballot in May

By Arleen Beard
Special to the Courier

HORIZON CITY — Horizon City voters will be asked in May to approve the first-ever bond issue for the municipality — \$1.2 million to improve streets and to build a new city hall.

Months of research became reality during the regularly scheduled Horizon City Council meeting on Feb. 10 when Council approved the first reading on an ordinance calling a bond election on May 15, 2004.

The amount of the bond election was initially set for \$1 million dollars. Out of the \$1 million, \$750,000 was to be earmarked for roads and the remaining \$250,000 for a new city hall building.

Prior to the approval of the ordinance, however, Mayor Diane Whitty informed Council members the cost for the city hall building would be much higher than the \$250,000 originally estimated.

The proposed building is estimated to be around 13,562 square feet bringing the cost for the building to around \$750,000 or higher. The Town of Horizon City has already set aside \$100,000 towards the cost of building a new city hall and they also expect to raise an additional \$150,000 when they sell the land the current city hall sits on at 14999 Darrington Rd.

It was decided by Council it would cost the taxpayers less if they raised the amount of the bond election by \$200,000 versus having to raise taxes to pay for the difference in cost of the building.

Alderman Keenan Greseth made a motion to approve the calling of the bond election and raising the amount of money earmarked for the new building by an additional \$250,000, making the total of the bond election for \$1,200,000.

The bond election will make two separate propositions. One proposition for \$750,000 is for roads and the second proposition for \$450,000 for the new city hall.

Council agreed on the amount and approved the calling of the bond election, noting that every effort should be made to inform the citizens of the reasoning and needs behind the proposals.

Another financial issue, which Council voted down, was a proposal by Whitty to amend the Horizon City Charter to provide payments for the Horizon City Council which has historically served without monetary compensation. The proposal includes a \$3,000 per month salary for the mayor and \$50 per meeting for each councilman up to \$150 per month. The proposal would not take effect until 2005, and included the provision that future councils could not give themselves a raise before three months of the next town election.

Also turned down was a proposed amendment to make the contract for Horizon's chief of police to run concurrent with the term of the mayor. When Whitty took office the current chief, Antonio Aguilar, had been given a contract that extended beyond the term of

See HORIZON, Page 5



One perspective

By Francis Shrum

To hug or not to hug

I was hugged this week. By several people.

Not just the goody-goody, pat-pat kind, where you lean over and express simulated affection without really touching the other person. I'm talking good, hard bear hugs, the back-pounding kind of hug that

smoothes the air right out of your lungs — the kind of hug that'll get you through almost anything.

I've heard it said that the quality of your life is equivalent to the number of hugs you give and receive in the course of a day. If this is true, I'm a pretty rich person.

There are hugging people and people who are not huggers. I respect folks who don't want to hug. They have their personal space and they are well entitled to it. And there are times when hugs just aren't appropriate or in good taste.

I wouldn't try to hug the Queen.

But there are times when a hug can say things a thousand words can't. And you don't even have to be articulate to give one. All you have to do is reach out and likely as not you'll be given the kind of therapy people spend thousands of dollars on shrinks to receive and still don't find solace.

There is a certain art to giving a hug, though. You can tell almost instantly whether your expression of

affection is going to be met with acceptance or discomfort. There's something that happens around the eyes, a twitch in the face, a reaching out or a shrinking. Being the doofus that I am, I don't always catch it in time not to squeeze the stuffing out of a little old lady who probably feels like she's been assaulted.

There are also people who want to be hugged but are afraid to respond, let alone initiate one. These huggers are hard to read and they make me a little uneasy because I don't want to make them feel left out when I make my hugging rounds.

Sometimes I'll even ask, if somebody looks like they may need a hug but may not be too comfortable with the process.

I grew up getting hugged. Aunts, uncles, friends, neighbors, cousins, grandparents, and so on. It's no joke that the first several hours of any family reunion are taken up just getting around to hug everybody. On these occasions, hugs even take precedence over food. Nowadays, I get hugs from people I grew up around who didn't used to hug me — I think it has something to do with the fact that as we get older we're just glad to see that somebody we know is still around. That's a powerful hug producer.

Hugs at home are terribly important. I used to hug my kids silly when they were little and then, as they grew up, less and less. Then I noticed this and took action to correct the mistake — the tousled-haired, grouchy teenager in rumpled t-shirt standing in the door every morning is simply a larger version of the cranky baby I used to wrestle and kiss till it screamed with laughter. So they get hugged. If they don't want hugged, don't approach the hugger.

I hate it that hugs are misconstrued, misinterpreted, or, worse yet, misused. I hate it that teachers are afraid to hug their students or that co-workers can't hug each other without being suspected of abuse or sexual harassment. What a waste.

And the leech who would misuse something as valuable as a hug for a cheap thrill ought to be strung up.

I'm not too proud to say I need a hug, nor to outright ask for one. I really enjoy hugging someone for the first time who isn't used to getting hugged, and then when they see me next time they readily submit without argument.

There is one man I deeply respect, of English descent, who I asked for a hug after we met the first time. "Ah, a hugging person," he said, and rather stiffly complied.

Years later, I saw him again. As I approached to say goodbye, I asked for a hug. This time, he smiled warmly, set down his glass and gave me a resounding squeeze.

Now that's progress.



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Reyes Reports

By U.S. Rep. Silvestre Reyes

Assistance and availability allow more El Pasoans to buy own home

Paso is encouraging news for our community. As is the case across the country, our economy has been struggling from high unemployment and low income levels. With these increased home sales, not only have more El Pasoans realized their dream of owning a home, but our economy as a whole received an added boost.

Aided by low interest rates, new-home sales increased by 12.8-percent last year, used-home sales increased by 8.7-percent last year, and home construction permits increased 20.1-percent. I applaud El Paso home builders for their hard work and thank them for their contributions to our community.

Along with increased home ownership, new homes bring with them all types of jobs, including construction, engineering, architecture, and marketing. Furniture and home appliance stores enjoy increased sales, as do real estate and financial institutions. New homes also provide an

increased tax base, therefore providing increased local revenue for critical services, such as firefighters and police.

El Paso area home builders should be proud of the jobs and stability they have provided for our community. Here in El Paso, local businesses are the lifeline of our economy. With the recent layoffs that have plagued our community, local home builders are providing needed jobs and opportunities for El Pasoans.

The biggest barrier to homeownership is often the accumulation of enough funds for a downpayment. Late last year, Congress passed and the President signed into law the American Dream Downpayment Act to provide downpayment and closing cost assistance to low-income families.

Funds will be distributed through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) HOME program. HUD's HOME program is the largest federal block grant to state and local governments designed exclusively to create affordable housing for

low-income households. HOME funds are awarded annually as formula grants to participating jurisdictions. HUD establishes Home Investment Trust Funds for each grantee, providing a line of credit that the jurisdiction may draw upon as needed. The program's flexibility allows states and local governments to use HOME funds for grants, direct loans, loan guarantees or other forms of credit enhancement, or rental assistance or security deposits.

Through the American Dream Downpayment Act, money will be available to first-time homebuyers whose annual incomes do not exceed 80-percent of their area's median income, although the threshold will be higher for select municipal employees such as police officers, firefighters, teachers and sanitation workers.

Through these combined federal and local efforts, we are improving housing opportunities for El Pasoans. El Paso home builders' efforts are critical to our community, and I look forward to what we will achieve together in the year ahead.

Con artist overseas use religion and other ploys to target Texas consumers

AUSTIN — Attorney General Greg Abbott is warning Texas consumers about scam artists based outside the U.S. who are using the anonymity of the Internet to separate them from their hard earned dollars.

“The Internet is a tremendous resource for consumers, but it is also a resource for con artists,” said Attorney General Abbott. “The speed, accessibility and low cost that make the Internet attractive to law-abiding Texans also make it appealing to scam artists who operate in other countries, and who are stealing millions of dollars in an ever-growing array of schemes.”

In particular, Attorney General Abbott warned about the increased use of phony cashier’s checks for on-line sales and a new version of the “Nigerian” scam targeting charitable organizations.

Texans who sell any item online should be wary of would-be buyers who wish to pay more than the ask-

ing price for an item using a cashier’s check, especially if the buyer is in another country, Attorney General Abbott said.

In a common scenario, consumers who sell high ticket items such as electronics or vehicles by posting them on an auction site or electronic classified service are contacted by an enthusiastic buyer, typically based in Africa or Europe. The buyer indicates that he possesses a cashier’s check made out in an amount that is in excess of the asking price of the item in question.

The scam artist offers to send the check to the seller in Texas, with the understanding that the seller will wire the difference to the buyer — which could be several thousand dollars. The seller readily agrees, and upon delivery of the cashier’s check promptly wires the money to Europe or Africa, only to find out later from their bank that it is a worthless forgery. By that point, the money they

wired is long gone with virtually no chance of recovery.

That is precisely what transpired with two Texas consumers who met with the Attorney General today.

In Houston Attorney General Abbott met with LaWanda Hall, who last year faced an ordeal when she received a \$4,000 forged check as payment for her \$500 computer, which she had advertised online. The scam artist told Ms. Hall to wire the \$3,500 difference to Nigeria. When Ms. Hall tried to cash the check, the cashing business realized it was a forgery. She was arrested and charges were eventually dropped by Houston authorities when it was determined that she was in fact a victim of a con.

The Attorney General also heard from Janet Stramrood, of Tomball. A buyer in Holland responded to her online ad to sell her 1997 Ford Mustang for \$5,500 dollars, for which she received a cashier’s check in the amount of \$12,500. She sent the

\$7,000 difference to Europe, only to discover days later through her bank that the check with which she had been paid was worthless.

Attorney General Abbott also cautioned charitable organizations, particularly faith-based entities, about a new twist in the longstanding “Ni-

gerian scam.” He indicated that Nigerian scams are now targeting clergy and other employees of religious organizations. These scam artists send fraudulent emails invoking the names of God and Christ in an effort to

See SCAMS, Page 4

Write stuff

Dear Editor:

On Feb. 10, 2004, the *El Paso Times* ran an article about the park located in the City of Socorro on Ponna Road.

The article went on to explain that Councilman Joe Ramirez was the main person involved in this venture and went on to praise his work in the city.

In one section of the article, Mr. Ramirez mentioned that he is a volunteer city councilman and receives no compensation for his work. (This is because) Mr. Ramirez is employed by the Socorro ISD and under Texas law cannot draw a salary for the city council position.

This issue brought great concern

because Mr. Ramirez, in fact, drew a salary for this position and to date refuses to reimburse the city of Socorro. This matter was brought up before council and a demand for reimbursement was made by the city attorney and to no avail.

Does Mr. Ramirez’ continued refusal to reimburse the city for funds which he knowingly accepted and was not entitled to constitute a theft? I would like the *Courier* to interview Mr. Ramirez regarding his intentions regarding this issue.

Thank you for your continued coverage of the city of Socorro and I will await a response from Mr. Ramirez.

Rudy Ortiz
Socorro

Clint district garners \$150,000 success grant

By Laura Cade
Special to the Courier

EAST EL PASO COUNTY — Clint Independent School District received notice this past week that the district has been awarded the Texas High School Completion and Success grant for \$150,000 from the Texas Education Agency.

The purpose of the THSCS grant is to establish and implement comprehensive high school completion and success initiatives. The THSCS grant program targets qualified high schools through student-focused competitive intervention that will provide direct and indirect services

to students in grades 9-12. In order to meet the THSCS program goals, Clint ISD will implement initiatives at Clint High School, Horizon High School and Mountain View High School to increase student achievement, increase the number of students who graduate in four years after entering the ninth grade, increase the number of students who graduate college-ready, and decrease the number of criminal incidents and non-criminal incidents on campus.

A committee was brought together by the district to write and submit the grant to TEA. Clint ISD teachers, Stephanie Petrie from Clint High School, Amanda Sanchez from Horizon High School, Maggie Arujo from

Mountain View High School and Clint ISD’s Director of Special Projects, Bessie Leroy met together for several days to design the program.

The THSCS grant was awarded to Clint ISD based on their design of program strategies and activities which incorporate high expectations and performance-based accountability, staff development and time to collaborate, learning partnerships with parents and the community, and sufficient access to technology. Clint ISD will use funds from the THSCS grant for intervention programs focused on positively impacting student performance through individualized graduation plans, community engagement, and mentor training.

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

Remembering a patriot

This week we marked the birthday of “The Father of our Nation,” George Washington, on President’s Day. President Washington is still hailed today as one of America’s greatest leaders. This holiday pays great tribute to a great American patriot.

George Washington was actually born on Feb. 22, 1732, to a Virginia farming family. His upbringing focused on learning the morals, manners, and body of knowledge requisite for an 8th century Virginia gentleman. He pursued two intertwined interests: military arts and western expansion. Many of his early lessons followed him through his years of service and leadership.

Washington demonstrated his tremendous leadership qualities long before becoming the first President of the United States. During our nation’s Revolutionary War, Washington proved himself to be a great general as he led our troops in the war for independence from Britain. As Commander-in-Chief of the Army, Washington defeated the British, and America soon became its own free nation.

Shortly after the war, he became the first President of the United States of America. There were several men that could have been chosen for this

esteemed position. Thomas Jefferson, Benjamin Franklin and John Adams were all involved in the political landscape of our nation. But it was George Washington who was unanimously chosen by his contemporaries to serve as our first president. This is a true measure of greatness. These men looked first to Washington, knowing his leadership skills and his potential to make our nation great.

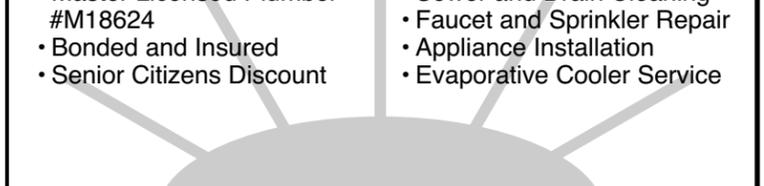
Washington served as president from 1789 to 1796. In eight short years, Washington helped to establish our nation’s Constitution and defined the president’s role in the new country. It is George Washington we have to thank for the notion of creating our nation as a democracy. He had the foresight to step down after his second term, hoping to bring America one step further from the monarchy rule of Britain. This was an instrumental move, which taught our nation the importance of elections and democracy. In a letter to James Madison, Washington wrote, “As the first of everything, in our situation will serve to establish a precedent. It is devoutly wished on my part, that these precedents be fixed on true principles.” The model and examples that George Washing-

ton established are still respected today. Put simply, he created the foundation upon which America was built.

Citizens of our new nation began celebrating George Washington’s birthday long before his death. The first public celebration of Washington’s birthday was held in 1781 during the American Revolution. Americans were eager to pay respect to the leader who encouraged a strong democracy as the foundation of their new nation. Troops marched through the streets and the day was made an official holiday. Very few men in history have received this type of honor during their lifetime.

Let’s take this time to honor the leadership that created America. Washington’s birthday is commonly celebrated today as President’s Day. This is a day designated to honor the contributions of the many great presidents who have shaped this great nation. Please use this holiday as more than a chance to shop for “President’s Day Sales” events, and teach your children about the first American patriot, the father of our country, President George Washington.



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TRUE TEXAS FACTS by Roger T. Moore, Feb. 3, 1889, Someone ambushes Bandit Queen Belle Starr with a shotgun. The killer was never identified.



Canutillo ISD board looks at term changes, parking at Damian

By Don Woodyard
Courier Staff Writer

CANUTILLO — The Canutillo ISD board of trustees met in regular session on Feb. 10, approving an election on May 15 for two positions on the board. Margarito Arellano and Gonzalo Garcia presently hold the positions.

Board member Sergio Coronado suggested lengthening the term of office from three to four years. Through town meetings, trustee Joe Villarreal wanted to get the input of the community before moving ahead with such a change. Larry Baskind, CISD's attorney, said he would research the legal aspects and ramifications of such an action and get back to the board.

Referring to school district budgets, superintendent Charles Hart

said things are going to be tight — "tighter than they were last year," but "we will make it." Hart attended a conference of Texas school administrators and reported on a possible special legislative session in April to deal with school financing.

Funding also came up in a report by Dr. Pam Padilla, assistant superintendent for student performance. In response to a question from a board member, she expressed concern about finding funds for summer programs/activities for students.

She said the district is focusing on preparing students for upcoming TAKS (Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills) testing in March. "We are looking for strengths and weaknesses in the students."

"We are looking for those who need help and those who need to be challenged," she added.

There was lengthy discussion

about limited parking and traffic congestion and the risk to students at Damian Elementary when parents come to pick them up in the afternoon. Principal Max Padilla assured board members, concerned about student safety, there was not a traffic problem. Presently, he pointed out, it takes about eight to nine minutes for students and parents to clear the area after afternoon dismissal.

However, he said there could be a problem in the future with the planned 10-classroom addition to the school.

One suggestion for a temporary solution was to tear down a fence adjacent to the school to provide additional parking on unpaved, grassy area.

Representatives from Dimensions Architects and Banes Construction gave updates on the new high school.

The pouring of concrete for foundations has begun.

There was discussion on developing a detailed master plan for construction and roadways around the new high school site. It would be a

plan that would facilitate entities and agencies working in concert. This would include El Paso Community College, the Public Service Board, the city and county as well as the Texas Department of Transportation.

Scams

From Page 3

appeal to the religious convictions of those who receive them.

In Austin, Attorney General Abbott heard from a priest with the Austin Catholic Archdiocese, who has been targeted by such emails for several months. The priest explained that several of his fellow clergymen and other church employees have also been receiving the bogus solicitations.

Typically Nigerian scam artists send emails presenting themselves as a high ranking official from that country, such as a finance or petroleum minister. They say they are in possession of vast sums of cash, which they must urgently transfer to the U.S. Unable to open a bank

account in this country, they ask the recipient of the solicitation to allow temporary use of their personal account to "park" the funds, for which they will be rewarded with a sizable percentage of the millions of dollars that will be transferred. In reality this is a ploy to obtain the consumer's personal bank account information and to empty it. Under some scenarios the victim is asked to wire money to Africa first, to cover "processing" fees or other necessary expenses before millions of dollars can be deposited into their account. After the money is sent, sometimes thousands of dollars, the scam artists are never heard from again.

For additional information on Internet based scams and how to report them, consumers can access the Attorney General's homepage at www.oag.state.tx.us.

Visit Big 8 Food Stores: Big8.com

Anthony Independent School District Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balance Governmental Funds For the Year Ended August 31, 2003

Data Control Codes	10 General Fund	Other Funds	Total Governmental Funds
REVENUES:			
5700 Total Local and Intermediate Sources	\$ 1,522,606	\$ 255,051	\$ 1,777,657
5800 State Program Revenues	3,551,763	387,001	3,938,764
5900 Federal Program Revenues	339,619	953,191	1,292,810
5020 Total Revenues	5,413,988	1,595,243	7,009,231
EXPENDITURES:			
Current:			
0011 Instruction	2,881,972	563,277	3,445,249
0012 Instructional Resources and Media Services	156,528	—	156,528
0013 Curriculum and Instructional Staff Development	42,873	11,284	54,157
0021 Instructional Leadership	63,978	—	63,978
0023 School Leadership	316,564	2,553	319,117
0031 Guidance, Counseling and Evaluation Services	146,404	—	146,404
0032 Social Work Services	5,300	—	5,300
0033 Health Services	94,675	—	94,675
0034 Student (Pupil) Transportation	211,072	—	211,072
0035 Food Services	301,368	19,377	320,745
0036 Cocurricular/Extracurricular Activities	303,195	—	303,195
0041 General Administration	419,617	31,574	451,191
0051 Plant Maintenance and Operations	669,261	1,704	670,965
0052 Security and Monitoring Services	37,120	—	37,120
0053 Data Processing Services	199,596	—	199,596
0061 Community Services	54,000	67,110	121,110
Debt Service:			
0071 Debt Service - Principal on long-term debt	84,333	35,000	119,333
0072 Debt Service - Interest on long-term debt	65,884	426,196	492,080
Capital Outlay:			
0081 Facilities Acquisition and Construction	—	510,088	510,088
6030 Total Expenditures	6,053,740	1,668,163	7,721,903
1100 Excess (Deficiency) of Revenues Over (Under) Expenditures	(639,752)	(72,920)	(712,672)
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES):			
7913 Proceeds from Capital Leases	112,514	—	112,514
7915 Transfers In	97,528	1,363,163	1,461,384
8911 Transfers Out (Use)	(1,461,384)	—	(1,461,384)
7080 Total Other Financing Sources (Uses)	(1,251,342)	1,363,856	112,514
1200 Net Change in Fund Balances	(1,891,094)	(1,290,936)	(600,158)
0100 Fund Balance — September 1 (Beginning)	2,742,552	(1,258,689)	1,483,863
3000 Fund Balance — August 31 (Ending)	\$ 851,458	\$ 32,247	\$ 883,705

Library

From Page 1

a remodeled reading center with a garden theme, new seating areas and at least five extra computers.

"We're doing this to meet our goals," Hale said. "But if the community has a need, we'll do our best to fulfill it."

The San Elizario High School library is fulfilling some goals of its own, according to librarian Gloria Fogerson. Only in her first year in San Elizario, Fogerson and her staff are implementing changes that she said started with Becky Martinez, who retired at the end of last school year.

"She began weeding out unusable and out-of-date materials," Fogerson said.

This year, the library boasts new display tables, courtesy of the fine students in the Building Trades program, and six new computers from Career and Technology.

"I saw tables like that in a movie," Fogerson laughs. "So they designed them and made them even nicer than I what I saw in the movie!"

The Building Trades program is also instrumental with building a freestanding storage space in the back corner of the library, which will give Fogerson space to implement her Professional section.

Fogerson is making it a point to incorporate students into the positive changes taking place in the library. Reading surveys are available for students so they can have a say on what will be on bookshelves in the future. Even a new library club has been started at SEHS, with students meeting bi-monthly to discuss books they are reading.

While Fogerson says she is always looking to increase the library's usage, one student, Diana Sanchez, has not only noticed the changes taking place, she has noticed the student involvement that helps implement these changes.

"I have never seen so many kids want to help before," she said proudly.

Clint ISD teacher enters leadership program in German language education

By Laura Cade
Special to the Courier

CLINT — Annette Loomis, a teacher at Clint High School, has been selected to participate in a leadership program in the field of German language education. The American Association of Teachers of German (AATG) in cooperation with the Goethe-Institut established a program, TrainDaF (DaF stands for German as a foreign language), which aims to build future leaders in the field of the teaching of German. This program, now in its fourth year, is generously funded through the German government.

As part of the program, Loomis will attend an orientation meeting in Washington D.C. in April. In summer 2004, she will take part in seminars in Germany. Loomis will also attend the AATG Annual Meeting in Chicago, Illinois in November. Funds from the German government will support these activities.

Horizon

From Page 1

the mayor. Whitty's relationship with the Horizon City Police Department has not been smooth. She has often cited budget concerns with the department and resisted pay increases for police officers.

Two other proposed amendments will go before the voters. One asks if Horizon City must provide a plan for the extension of city services to residents of areas that petition to the city to be annexed. The other involves procedural action by the council as to votes and veto action.

In other business, Police Chief Antonio Aguilar addressed Council during open forum to inform them of the excellent job being done by the Horizon City Police Department.

In presenting the annual report, Aguilar said the department has received 1,995 more calls this year than ever before. The total number of calls received for 2003 came to 11,361. Chief Aguilar said he is proud of the fact Horizon City has had no violent crimes with the exception of one rape and one robbery. There have been no murders in the city since 1995. Auto thefts have risen to 12 in 2003 compared to three in the past. In 2003, police reports stood at 1,139 which is 173 more than the previous year. Aguilar asked for the Council's continued support for the Horizon City Police Department.

City Council also agreed to continue to participate in the Career and Technology Education program with the Clint Independent School District.

Briefs

From Page 1

soloists included: April Patino, Savannah Bernal, and Vanessa Flores. The male soloists included: Isaac Grijalva, Jon Ray Martinez, Geoffrey White, and Christopher Jolley. The Men's Ensemble included: Jon Ray Martinez, Isaac Grijalva, Geoffrey White, Aldo Marquez, Ron Merrell Christopher Jolley. Directed by Mr. Frank Morgan, the members are preparing for a challenging competition to be held in Austin, Texas.

■ Socorro ISD's young readers will celebrate reading and the 100th birthday of Dr. Theodore Seuss Geisel — Dr. Seuss — Feb. 28 at Sierra Vista Elementary School. Registration begins at 1:30 p.m. and the program planned for 2 p.m. Students from throughout the District's elementary schools will be recognized as outstanding readers. The event is sponsored by the Socorro Education Association. For more information, call Norma Ayala, 937-2220.

■ For the nearly 13-percent of El Pasoans who suffer from diabetes, an Emmy Award-winning

educational video focusing on the causes, treatment and prevention of the disease is available. "Diabetes: A Guide for Hispanic Americans" focuses on the Hispanic community, is available in both English and Spanish and features Congressman Silvestre Reyes. "Compared to the six percent of Americans nationwide who suffer from diabetes, the 13-percent incidence rate in El Paso is extremely high," said Reyes. "My mother's battle with diabetes influenced my participation in this video. I dedicate this video to my mother's memory," said Reyes. The American Association of Clinical Endocrinologists (AACE) created the half-hour long video through an educational grant provided by Novo Nordisk. The video won an Emmy for "Outstanding Achievement for Informational Programming for a Single Issue Public Affairs Program."

■ PETS ALIVE El Paso, a Texas non-profit corporation that raises funds for pet over-population spay/neuter efforts, has received a \$25,000 grant from PETSMART Charities to support the operating costs of the Pet Care-A-Van, the bilingual mobile spay/neuter clinic of the El Paso City/County Health and Environmental District's Animal

Regulation and Disease Control. The Pet Care-A-Van made its debut in the far east El Paso neighborhood of Montana Vista on Valentine's Day. Over the three-day Presidents Day weekend, more than 40 animals were spayed/neutered, with Dr. Bill Pearce conducting surgeries. An initial team of volunteers will help with program administration and surgery scheduling.

■ The Texas Cooperative Extension are offering free information to farmers of large to very small acreage about the prospect of planting alternative crops to increase profitability. Dr. Jaime Iglesias, TCE agriculture agent in El Paso, said with research and planning, a variety of crops such as onions, cabbage, cauliflower, chili peppers, cantaloupe, garlic, spinach and sweet corn, can lend themselves to small and part-time farming operations with relatively low initial investment. Agro-forestry operations growing trees such as the Afghan Pine can utilize low-production soils with high salt content and require little water. After a three-year production cycle, potential revenue is \$5,000 per acre. Call 859-7725 for more information.

■ The Senior Wheels USA Program makes available electric-

powered wheelchairs to senior citizens over 65 years of age and the permanently disabled at no cost to the recipient if they qualify. No deposit is required. Additionally, persons who have a power wheelchair that is no longer needed may donate through this program. Call toll-free 1-800-246-6010.

■ The National Kidney Foundation is offering a good way to clean up your yard and get a tax-write-off all in the same envelope. The Kidney Cars Program will remove unwanted vehicles from your property — running or not — and utilize the donation to make a difference in the lives of people living with kidney disease. Call 1-800-488-CARS (2277) and request a packet, complete with self-addressed envelope, to return signed title and odometer statement. The Foundation will then pickup the vehicle free of charge, auction it off, and utilize 100 percent of the proceeds to support the work of the National Kidney Foundation of West Texas. Donors receive documentation for tax purposes — donors are encouraged to check with their tax advisors previous to making donation. More information is available at the above number or at www.kidney.org.

Fabens Independent School District Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balance Governmental Funds For the Year Ended August 31, 2003

Data Control Codes	General Fund	Debt Service Fund	Other Funds	Total Governmental Funds
REVENUES:				
Total Local and Intermediate Sources	\$ 1,786,992	\$ 99,484	\$ 10,394	\$ 1,896,870
State Program Revenues	15,061,065	615,287	933,492	16,609,844
Federal Program Revenues	1,163,925	—	3,674,776	4,838,701
Total Revenues	18,011,982	714,771	4,618,662	23,345,415
EXPENDITURES:				
Current:				
Instruction	9,951,440	—	2,816,321	12,767,761
Instructional Resources and Media Services	282,721	—	28,238	310,959
Curriculum and Instructional Staff Development	85,947	—	79,102	165,049
Instructional Leadership	343,141	—	469,325	812,466
School Leadership	874,821	—	109,219	984,040
Guidance, Counseling and Evaluation Services	356,431	—	75,770	432,201
Social Work Services	31,238	—	18,615	49,853
Health Services	255,566	—	7,651	263,217
Student (Pupil) Transportation	290,853	—	9,602	300,455
Food Services	1,206,738	—	49,916	1,256,654
Cocurricular/Extracurricular Activities	578,649	—	1,014	579,663
General Administration	991,087	—	29,575	1,020,662
Plant Maintenance and Operations	2,218,167	—	44,217	2,262,384
Security and Monitoring Services	316,505	—	11,415	327,920
Data Processing Services	40,940	—	—	40,940
Community Services	13,565	—	30,056	43,621
Debt Service:				
Debt Service - Principal on long-term debt	—	190,000	—	190,000
Debt Service - Interest on long-term debt	—	502,775	—	502,775
Debt Service - Bond Issuance Cost and Fees	—	609	—	609
Capital Outlay:				
Facilities Aquisition and Construction	466,741	—	811,778	1,278,519
Total Expenditures	18,304,550	693,384	4,591,814	23,589,748
Net Change in Fund Balances	(292,568)	21,387	26,848	(244,333)
Fund Balance — September 1 (Beginning)	4,597,402	191,231	20,898	4,809,531
Fund Balance — August 31 (Ending)	\$ 4,304,834	\$ 212,618	\$ 47,746	\$ 4,565,198



Miners still in the hunt for WAC championship

By Steve Escajeda
Special to the Courier

Well, at least we got to bask in the rarefied air of first place for a while.

The UTEP Miners were in first place in the WAC for a whole two days before they got spanked at Nevada last Saturday. And though the visit was just a brief one, the Miners know what it's like to be ahead of the pack, and that will come in handy over the next three weeks.

The Miners did what they had to do last week. They split a difficult road trip by beating Fresno St. 58-55 two days before their loss. And even though they were thoroughly trounced by the Wolf Pack 92-63, UTEP is still very much in the running for the conference title.

The Miners find themselves at 9-4 in the WAC standings. Nevada and Hawaii are in a virtual tie for first. Nevada is 10-4, Hawaii is 9-3 and Rice sits in fourth at 8-4.

It looks like a four-team race with three weeks left in the WAC season.

And a quick peek at the WAC schedule seems to favor the Miners.

Nevada has four games left. Two at home (Hawaii, San Jose St.), and two on the road (Rice, Fresno St.). The combined WAC records of the four opponents is 25-24. The good thing for the Miners is that Nevada, Rice and Hawaii will still meet each other and knock each other off.

Hawaii has six games left and four of them are on the road. Hawaii still has Tulsa and Rice at home. But they have to travel to Boise St., UTEP, Nevada and SMU. The combined WAC record of these teams in 45-34. The going will be very tough for the Rainbows.

Rice has six games left. Three at home (Nevada, Fresno St., Louisiana Tech), and three on the road (San Jose St., SMU, Boise St.). Their six opponents are a combined 37-40.

The Miners have five games left. Two at home (San Jose St. and Hawaii), and three on the road (Louisiana Tech, SMU, Boise St.). The combined WAC record of UTEP's opponents is just 27-36.

Four of the Miners' last five opponents are right at .500 or worse. The good news is that the only top team is Hawaii, which UTEP gets at home. The only bad thing is that UTEP plays its last three games on the road.

If the Miners can sweep their two homes games this weekend they will have an overall record of 20-5 and a WAC mark of 11-4. Nevada and Hawaii hit the road for two games each this week and the Miners could find themselves right back at the top of the WAC

mountain.

They'll have to get better play out of Jason Williams, who before last week, was the Miners' most consistent player.

Oh, and by the way, I think the WAC coach of the year is in the bank. Billy Gillispie is the obvious choice but we should set our sights a little higher. How about Gillispie for national coach of the year?

After Gillispie claims it, we can start working on Mike Price.

A-Rod to NY

I just knew it. All this talk about Alex Rodriguez going to the Boston Red Sox just didn't seem right. You could never see A-Rod in that Red Sox uniform.

But I always thought he belonged in Yankee pinstripes playing at third base along side Derek Jeter... and now it's happened.

Just when everyone thought the Red Sox were outdoing the Yankees this off-season the Bronx Bombers deliver a bombshell of their own.

The Yankees worked out a trade over the weekend that sent the American League MVP Alex Rodriguez to New York for Alfonso Soriano and a player to be named later.

Yes, earlier the Sox got Curt Schilling and the Yankees lost Roger Clemens and Andy Pettitte. But look who George Steinbrenner and the gang have picked up: pitchers Kevin Brown, Tom Gordon and Javier Vasquez and hitters Tony Clark, Gary Sheffield and now Alex Rodriguez.

How about this for a potential Yankees batting lineup, Derek Jeter (.324, 87 R), Bernie Williams (.263, 64 RBI), Alex Rodriguez (.298, 47 HR, 118 RBI), Jason Giambi (41 HR, 107 RBI), Gary Sheffield (.330, 39 HR, 132 RBI), Hideki Matsui (.287, 106 RBI) and Jorge Posada (30 HR, 101 RBI).

Kind of scary. Either the Yankees will win their division by July, or this is the second coming of the Texas Rangers... all hit and no pitch.

But either way, this could be like one of those Yankees teams of the early 60s that put on a hitting exhibition almost every night.

With a payroll now of over \$190-million, they'd better.

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King Super Crossword

- SWAN SONGS**
- ACROSS**
- 1 Like the Kalahari
 - 5 Jungle birds
 - 11 Mythical monster
 - 14 RN's specialty
 - 17 Actress Rowlands
 - 18 Lawrence's locale
 - 19 Chanteuse Edith
 - 21 Queens stadium
 - 22 Grace Kelly's final film
 - 24 Money drawer
 - 25 Semester
 - 26 Fred's sister
 - 27 Ultimate
 - 28 Capri, for one
 - 29 Cabell or Slaughter
 - 30 Native Peruvian
 - 33 Blood component
 - 36 Off course
 - 38 Jean Harlow's final film
 - 42 Tabula _
 - 43 Button part
 - 44 Assist
 - 45 Director Craven
 - 46 Chasm
 - 48 TV's "Boy _ World"
 - 51 Rubbish
 - 54 Less demanding
 - 57 Take a taxi
 - 60 Short swim
 - 61 _ Aviv
 - 63 School grp.
 - 64 Yearbook features
 - 66 Yearbook features
 - 68 Yearbook features
 - 69 Yearbook features
 - 70 Actor Tognazzi
 - 72 Redolence
 - 73 Adams or McClurg
 - 74 Vocalized
 - 75 Vivien Leigh's final film
 - 78 Mild oath
 - 79 Press
 - 80 Amos or Spelling
 - 81 Nourished
 - 82 Actor McGavin
 - 84 12 doz.
 - 85 Texas city
 - 87 Mack or Knight
 - 89 Wahine's neckwear
 - 90 Sneeze and wheeze
 - 91 " _ o'clock scholar"
 - 92 Soccer shot
 - 95 With 116 Down, "Touched by an Angel" star
 - 99 Singer Helen
 - 101 Israeli diplomat
 - 103 Mink's coat
 - 105 Waterston or Wanamaker
 - 106 Let out the lava
 - 109 Eye part
 - 111 Peter Lorre's final film
 - 114 Ambush man
 - 115 Cpl. Walter O'Reilly
 - 117 Director Nicolas
 - 118 Ballyhoo
 - 119 "Green _" ('90 film) author
 - 121 Swell place?
 - 123 Wise guys
 - 127 Piccadilly figure
 - 128 Eager
 - 129 John Wayne's final film
 - 132 Navel store?
 - 133 Verne captain
 - 134 Spring holiday
 - 135 Loathe
 - 136 Paw part
 - 137 Fall behind
 - 138 Answer for an admiral
 - 139 From the top
 - DOWN**
 - 1 Turkish title
 - 2 Tim of "Simon & Simon"
 - 3 "Picnic" playwright
 - 4 Showy flower
 - 5 _ jacket
 - 6 Geometry term
 - 7 First base man?
 - 8 Helps a hood
 - 9 Shrivel up
 - 10 Utter
 - 11 Best
 - 12 Journalist Jacob
 - 13 "La Divina"
 - 14 Gary Cooper's final film
 - 15 Artist Neiman
 - 16 Machine parts
 - 20 Meat on the bones
 - 21 "Tristram Shandy" author
 - 23 Dispatched
 - 31 Bull's beloved
 - 32 '58 Pulitzer winner
 - 34 Fury
 - 35 Seize
 - 37 Subdues Simba
 - 38 HS exam
 - 39 Word on a pump
 - 40 Nutritional abbr.
 - 41 PDQ, politely
 - 47 Tolkien character
 - 49 Renaissance painter
 - 50 Velocity
 - 52 Play ground?
 - 53 Spell
 - 55 " _ Cupid" ('58 hit)
 - 56 Othello's ensign
 - 58 " _ you so!"
 - 59 _ fin
 - 62 Rice's vampire
 - 65 Like a cobra
 - 67 Dreiser's "Sister _"
 - 68 Henry Fonda's final film
 - 69 Musical Dinah
 - 71 Wrong
 - 73 Mysterious
 - 74 It makes candy dandy
 - 76 Worth or Papas
 - 77 Greek cheese
 - 83 Chianti color
 - 85 Store
 - 86 "Pal Joey" author
 - 88 Adroit
 - 93 Geraint's lady
 - 94 German valley
 - 96 D-Day craft
 - 97 _ Cruces, NM
 - 98 Golfer Alcott
 - 100 Least humid
 - 102 '58 Everly Brothers hit
 - 104 Antique auto
 - 107 Pie nut
 - 108 Do Europe
 - 110 Strut
 - 112 Cuban currency
 - 113 Erle's colleague
 - 114 Neighbor of Jordan
 - 116 See 95 Across
 - 118 Employees
 - 120 "Green Mansions" girl
 - 122 Actress Nielsen
 - 124 _ -Carlo Menotti
 - 125 Punta del _
 - 126 Prepare prunes
 - 129 Darjeeling export
 - 130 "Yo!"
 - 131 Metallurgist's concern

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Comix

OUT ON A LIMB By Gary Kopervas



AMBER WAVES By Dave T. Phipps



THE SPATS By Jeff Pickering



R.F.D. By Mike Marland



Older grads look forward to college

By Don Flood

Are you ready for the empty nest syndrome — you know, when your parents finally take their first step toward independence and go off to college?

It's starting to happen. Communities for older graduates are starting to pop up near universities.

There are, I think, two reasons for this, the first one being grown-up children are refusing to leave home, even when confronted by professional pest exterminators.

(You can also buy Grown-Kids-B-Gone at the hardware store, but it won't work against a serious infestation.)

Parents finally give up and figure they'll out-regress their children by going back to school.

The second reason: Now it's the baby boomers who are thinking about retirement!

Many baby boomers remember — at least vaguely — their college years as being one long tailgate party. Why should retirement be any different?

This attitude goes hand in hand with the ever-expanding definition of adolescence.

Adolescence used to be defined as the ages between 12 and 20. Lately, however, the upper range has been creeping upward — to age 30, 35, and even beyond.

If this trend continues, it's entirely possible that my son and I might go through adolescence together — though I'm hoping he'll mature and stop acting like an adolescent.

(We don't need any more adolescents in the household than necessary, and besides, I got there first.)

At this rate, people in the market for an "active adult" community will still be in their late adolescence:

Administrator: As you can see, we have nice well-kept rooms, a helpful staff and...

Prospective resident: Do you have toga parties?

Administrator: No, I'm sorry, we haven't felt the need for toga parties here at Restful Acres.

Prospect: Well, you need 'em if you expect me to live here. How about Happy Hours?

Administrator: Well, we like to think that all our hours here are "happy hours."

Prospect: Not sure we're talking about the same thing here. Any live music?

Administrator: Yes, of course, during the holidays we have school children singing Christmas carols.

Prospect: Now I know we're not talking about the same thing. I mean live music. Rock 'n' roll. What about the cops?

Administrator: Oh, you won't have to worry about security here. If there were ever a problem, the police can respond very quickly.

Prospect: That's what I'm afraid of. Can we have some kind of warning — like "Cheese it, the cops!" — if they're on their way?

Administrator: Cheese it?

Prospect: Yeah, you know, if it gets a little late and the party starts getting a little rowdy...

Administrator: Perhaps Restful Acres isn't the place for you. You might want to try the Talking 'Bout My Generation Rock 'n' Roll Retirement Home down the street.

Of course, it would be a mistake to think that all people considering a move back to their college town are interested in tailgating as a way of life.

CNN.com quoted one man who is building a house near the University of Georgia, home of the Georgia Bulldogs: "Not everybody's wearing red and black and barking."

But you'll probably fit in better with the other older Bulldogs if you do.

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Classified Ads

LEGAL

SOCORRO INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT Invitation to Bid/Respond:

Sealed bids/proposals/CSP to furnish the District with the following products and/or services will be accepted at the following times:

SPECIAL SYSTEMS SUPPLIES CSP NO. 199-0303-0456 WEDNESDAY, MARCH 03, 2004, AT 2:00 P.M.

Proposals will be received at Business Services Dept., 12300 Eastlake Drive, El

Paso, Texas 79928 until the specified times. Detailed specifications are available from the above office between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. Mondays through Fridays. WTCC-02/19/04

PUBLIC NOTICE

As per Article V, Sec. 5.05(a), all owners and lienholders have ten (10) days from this date to reclaim their vehicles at Southwest Wrecker, 1401 Darrington Rd., 855-1900, 851-2091-fax, or it will be sold at public auction for charges: VIN - IJW532F7WF503127, 1998 Fruehauf

trailer, white, no license plates WTCC-02/19/04

HELP WANTED

WATER DISTRICT now accepting applications for P/T bookkeeper. Previous experience and computer skills required. Mail resumes to: PO Box 125, Fort Hancock, TX 79839.

WANT TO BUY

BUYING VIDEOS AND DVDs — Disney, action, comedy, etc. Good prices. Call Paul at 833-9611 or 539-2378

RENTAL

HOUSE FOR RENT - Two bedroom, off Alameda in Clint, nicely remodeled in quiet area. Call 598-1961 or 383-1152. 02/19

SELF-HELP

Persons who have a problem with alcohol are offered a free source of help locally. Alcoholics Anonymous - call 562-4081 for information.

Tiene problemas con el alcohol? Hay una solucion. Informacion: 838-6264.

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Nation's veterans remembered by Canutillo High School

By Kim Guzman

UPPER VALLEY — Canutillo High School students recently participated in the National Salute to Hospitalized Veterans. The El Paso Veterans Health Care System has conducted this very special event during February for the past several years.

Florence Schetgen, CHS Language Arts teacher, said participation in this event allows students to experience compassion and thoughtfulness through artwork and writing skills.

Students from Schetgen's Junior English class and Speech classes, as well as Sophomore pre-AP English students taught by Rebecca Tillotson, and the CHS cheerleaders sponsored by Terry Arroyo designed and created valentine cards and letters to honor hospitalized veterans in El Paso. The valentines were presented to the veterans at the El Paso Veterans Health Care System Facility, 5001 N. Piedras.

Monti Walthall, Voluntary Service Officer for the El Paso VA Health Care System, said that veterans love to receive the valentines knowing that their service to our nation to obtain and maintain freedom has not been forgotten.

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

Social Security Q&A By Ray Vigil

Q: If I start receiving my Social Security at age 62, will I still get cost-of-living adjustments every year? A friend said that if I started getting Social Security benefits before my full retirement age, my payments would always be frozen at that amount.

A: All Social Security beneficiaries get an automatic cost-of-living adjustment every year. Your benefits are never "frozen." What your friend may have meant is that if you take reduced retirement benefits, that re-

duction generally stays with you for the rest of your life. In other words, your benefit will go up each year with the cost-of-living adjustment, but your benefit rate will always be less than it could have been had you waited until full retirement age to collect your benefits.

Q: I heard someone say that a wife can get somewhere between about one-third and one-half of her husband's Social Security retirement benefit. How do I know which rate

applies to me?

A: It depends on your age at the time you become eligible and whether you are eligible for benefits on your own earnings. You may be eligible for 50 percent of your spouse's full Social Security benefit when you reach your "full retirement age." If you collect benefits before then, they are reduced by roughly a half percentage point for each month of eligibility, down to about a one-third rate payable at age 62. Keep in mind also that if you're eligible for both your own retirement benefits and for benefits as a spouse, we always pay your own benefit first.

If your benefit as a spouse is higher than your retirement benefit, you'll get a combination of benefits equaling the higher spouse benefit. For more information about spouse's benefits, contact Social Security at 1-800-772-1213 or visit your local Social Security office.

Q: I get a Social Security check and a Supplemental Security Income check. I'm planning to move back to Italy. Can I have my benefit payments sent there?

A: Supplemental Security Income payments are only paid to people liv-

ing in the United States, so your SSI payments will stop if you move to Italy. However, your Social Security checks may continue to be paid even if you leave the country. It depends on the type of Social Security benefit you receive and on your citizenship.

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

WEATHER

AccuWeather.com

SEVEN-DAY FORECAST FOR EL PASO

THURSDAY	THUR. NIGHT	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
Breezy in the a.m.; partly sunny and warm.	Mostly clear with winds gusting to 40 mph.	Partly sunny; breezy and cool.	Partly sunny.	Mostly sunny.	Times of sun and clouds.	Considerable cloudiness.	Plenty of sunshine.
▲ 72°	▼ 44°	▲ 64° ▼ 38°	▲ 66° ▼ 38°	▲ 68° ▼ 40°	▲ 62° ▼ 36°	▲ 62° ▼ 38°	▲ 64° ▼ 36°

UV INDEX Statistics for noon.

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

Thursday	6	Moderate
Friday	6	Moderate
Saturday	6	Moderate
Sunday	6	Moderate
Monday	5	Moderate
Tuesday	5	Moderate
Wednesday	6	Moderate

REAL FEEL TEMP™

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

Thursday	67°
Friday	56°
Saturday	57°
Sunday	57°
Monday	64°
Tuesday	64°
Wednesday	65°

AGRICULTURE

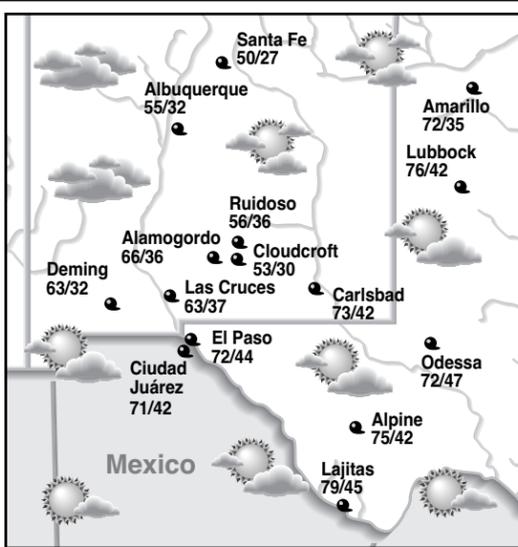
The next few days will have sunny skies due to high pressure over the region. A weak upper-level disturbance moving through Friday will bring slightly cooler weather on Friday. Temperatures will begin to moderate through the weekend. Another weak upper-level disturbance will bring cooler weather for the start of the week.

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TEXAS WEATHER

Anthony	68	41
Canutillo	69	42
Clint	70	43
E. Montana	72	44
Fabens	71	43
Horizon	72	44
San Elizario	65	41
Socorro	71	43
Tornillo	71	43
Vinton	69	42

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	55/32/c	59/34/pc	57/34/pc	56/33/pc	54/29/pc
Atlanta	64/42/s	64/46/pc	62/44/c	62/42/s	60/38/s
Atlantic City	46/30/pc	48/36/pc	48/36/c	43/32/pc	46/22/pc
Austin/San Antonio	71/51/s	74/43/pc	64/40/s	63/42/c	63/41/pc
Baltimore	52/30/pc	50/34/pc	48/34/c	42/26/pc	49/24/pc
Boston	40/28/pc	40/28/s	36/30/c	38/24/pc	41/21/pc
Chicago	44/30/pc	44/32/c	38/26/c	40/26/pc	42/25/pc
Dallas/Ft. Worth	70/52/s	67/43/pc	60/38/s	58/39/c	59/38/pc
Denver	51/28/c	48/24/c	50/26/c	52/28/c	50/23/c
Flagstaff	38/22/sf	46/22/pc	42/24/c	42/24/c	41/14/c
Houston	72/54/s	72/50/pc	66/44/s	68/50/s	68/52/pc
Kansas City	58/38/pc	47/28/c	46/30/pc	50/30/pc	48/28/c
Las Vegas	66/46/c	58/42/c	60/44/c	60/42/pc	60/41/c
Miami	72/55/pc	75/62/s	79/63/s	79/65/pc	79/59/s
Minneapolis	36/22/pc	34/19/pc	37/18/pc	35/19/c	41/22/pc
New Orleans	67/50/s	72/54/pc	72/51/pc	67/52/s	66/48/pc
New York City	44/31/pc	44/31/pc	44/34/c	43/34/pc	43/26/pc
Philadelphia	46/30/pc	48/36/pc	46/34/c	42/26/pc	46/25/pc
Phoenix	64/46/pc	68/48/pc	72/50/pc	66/48/c	65/41/c
Portland	50/38/pc	52/38/pc	52/38/pc	51/38/c	53/38/c
San Francisco	58/46/pc	56/46/c	56/46/pc	58/46/c	59/43/c
Seattle	50/39/pc	52/39/pc	50/37/pc	50/38/c	50/40/c
Tucson	62/38/c	67/43/pc	67/45/pc	65/43/c	62/39/pc
Washington, DC	52/34/pc	50/38/pc	48/36/c	42/28/pc	50/28/pc

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



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