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WEST TEXAS COUNTY COURIER

VOL. 31, No. 23

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

JUNE 3, 2004

NEWSBRIEFS

CORRECTION

In an article about the recent elementary UIL competition held at W.D. Surratt Elementary, it was incorrectly stated that Canutillo ISD won overall. Canutillo won first place in the 4th and 5th grade division, however, Risinger Primary from Fabens won first place in the kinder-3rd grade division. We congratulate all the students who worked hard and participated in these events.

Food convention

The 50th Annual Conference of the Texas Association of School Nutrition, formerly known at the Texas School Food Service Association, will be held in El Paso, June 6-9, at the El Paso Convention Center and Abraham Chavez Theatre. The theme for this year's conference is A Texas Odyssey, and is expected to host over 1,500 food service professionals from across the state, with over 400 exhibits of food, equipment as services. The new Texas Public School Nutrition Policy will be covered in workshops as well as suggestions to serving healthy, nutritious snacks and meals, breakfast programs in the schools, and the cafeteria manager's role in a student's life, to name a few. Texas Dept. of Health Commissioner Dr. Eduardo Sanchez will be at the site on June 9, with a variety of other dignitaries and officials on hand. Call Debbie Devine, Director of Child Nutrition Services with SISD, for more information at 937-0754 or e-mail at ddevine@sisd.net.

Top cats howl

Fabens ISD held its Second Annual Top Cats Banquet on Thursday, May 20, 2004 at the Fabens Middle School Cafeteria with Dr. Natalicio, UTEP President, as the guest speaker. The ceremony, started last school year by Superintendent Poncho Garcia and Central Office, honors the top 10 students in grades 8 through 12. The honored students were given opportunity to invite a teacher who has been their mentor. This year, the Teacher of the Year winners were recognized. Also in attendance was Chente Quintanilla, State Representative. Entertainment was provided by Adrian Saenz's guitar classes from the middle school and high school. Master of Ceremonies was Jose Cervantes, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction.

In other news

Clint High School's Athletic Department and teachers are raising money for a colleague in need of a kidney transplant. Coach Durant's kidneys were damaged during chemotherapy and the medical expenses are hefty. Last week friends hosted a brisket dinner to kick-off fund-raising. An account has been set up locally with

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If at first you don't succeed, find out why before you try again.

— Quips & Quotes

Cipriano Panito Parra was part of the 'Greatest Generation'

By Sam Sanchez, Sr.
Special to the Courier

SAN ELIZARIO — The unveiling of the Purple Heart U.S. postage stamp in May of 2003 brought together many Purple Heart recipients in special ceremonies throughout the country. Now, the move to unveil a War Memorial in May of 2004 to honor the World War II (WWII) veterans has created a spurt of interest among our rapidly decreasing number of WWII veterans.

Anyone who helped win the war, either a veteran or someone on the home front, is eligible for the Registry of Remembrances. It will be kept on permanent display at the WWII Memorial in Washington D.C. to ensure that the names of these patriotic Americans are recorded in history for all time.

We have gone through several conflicts in our nation's history. The citizens of the U.S. have not always fully supported our military actions. When the focus of these conflicts turns into internal politics, the majority of the population is turned off by the politics involved and they stop supporting our efforts altogether. Our nation suffers and the morale of our troops, at home and abroad, declines. Instead of us resonating with negative criticism, we ought to help



YOUNG SOLDIER — Cipriano Panito Parra.

hold up their banners and offer our troops the support they need to carry on the fight necessary to ensure the safety of this great nation.

This past Veterans Day, several hundred people gathered at the San Elizario Veterans Memorial Plaza to pay tribute to the veterans of San Elizario. In the Veterans Room of the Museum at Los Portales, many obscure faces of military individuals stare from their photos on the wall. The majority fought either in Europe or in the Pacific. In 1945, their names were printed on the back wall of the San Elizario Presidio Chapel.

It is still difficult to pull war stories out of tight-lipped veterans whose combat experiences are best left behind and forgotten. With the passing on of these brave men, their stories and experiences go with them to the grave and are lost forever. Among the many names on the wall of the Chapel is that of Cipriano Parra. His photo, in the Veterans Room of the Museum, depicts a boyish-looking man. Cipriano lived a quiet life in the close knit farming community of San Elizario, with his wife Ramona and his five children. He worked and retired, after 30 years, from the International Boundary Commission.

When the United States entered the war

See PARRA, Page 8



OFF TO THE RACES — Jesus Gomez is presented a new Dr. Pepper 10 speed bike by Principal James Blake.

Tornillo ESL student wins bike

By Rudy Barreda
Special to the Courier

TORNILLO — Most people would assume riding a bike doesn't help someone learn a second language. However, wanting to win a bike certainly would encourage students to work hard at learning English. Just ask Jesus Gomez, the Tornillo Junior High 8th grader whose linguistic efforts helped

See BIKE, Page 4

Davenport Elementary unveils student mural

By Alfredo Vasquez
Special to the Courier

CANUTILLO — A spectacular mural painted by fifth and sixth grade students was unveiled during Davenport Elementary School's recent student awards celebration.

Spanning an entire wall in the cafeteria, it "represents Davenport Elementary School students' hopes and dreams, and it depicts our school's achievements in science, computer technology, sports, reading, and ballet folklorico," said Sylvia Gonzalez, Davenport ES principal.

The mural, titled *Education: "Key to Success"*, was commissioned as part of the District's Project Link program which is designed to provide youth with healthy alternatives to getting involved with drugs and gangs.

Students worked on the mural after school during the spring semester under the supervision of local artist Francisco (Kiki) Rodriguez and Davenport ES Counselor Lorenzo Dominguez. The entire student body was able to witness the mural's creative process from start to finish.

"I hope that the message students get out of this painting is that the future is theirs to mold, that anything is possible," said Carlos Callejo, Project Link program coordinator and the mural concept originator.



MAKINGS OF A MASTERPIECE — Davenport Elementary fifth and sixth grade students help paint an inspiring mural. Shown in photo from left are Arely Sanchez, Priscilla Contreras, Julie Perez, Ashley Vallejo, Laura Flores, Wendy Sanchez, Miguel Ramirez, Lizette Gendarilla, Reyna Siqueiros, Denisse Lara, Maria Elizalde.



One perspective

By Francis Shrum

Dancing children

I've seen a thousand dancing children. They're all beautiful.

The music is as familiar to the border region as the refrain your mother used to sing is to your childhood. Sometimes the quality of the recorded music isn't so good as it scratches out over an improvised sound system in a gymnasium or conference room, the tunes having uncertain beginning or end, but there is plenty of boisterous in-between.

There are scant few elementary schools in our part of the country that don't have a folklorico dance group and most area high schools do, as well. While spiked hair, pierced tongues and ragged jeans may come and go, folklorico dancing to the lively strains of fiddle and guitar is one of the few positive aspects of youthful society that has had surprising longevity.

The younger the dancers, the cuter they are. Though I've attended so many school-related events over the years, I never tire of watching them. And neither do the hundreds of men and women who hold positions of responsibility in our community, from superintendents to state representatives to school counselors. Even among the most sage of our dignitaries, hands begin to clap and toes to tap when the lively beat begins. If you listen closely, you can sometimes hear a voice nearby softly singing the lilting Spanish verse that accompanies the instrumental.

Though the intricate dance steps eventually flow into a seamless rhythm under the feet of the more experienced dancers, they are usually laborious and measured with the little ones. Clutching the edge of their colorful skirts, lovingly prepared by teacher or mom, their fingers ner-

vously crumple the cloth, their "performance" smiles are sometimes lost in the effort of counting beats and steps. Then they catch a glimpse of a special person in the crowd — a parent, grandmother, teacher or special mentor — and the little faces light up with a smile that is neither measured nor practiced.

Of the many things I admire about

the Mexican culture, folklorico rates right up there with the food. The colorful dances and costumes literally transform young girls into radiant blossoms and young men into models of handsome chivalry. There are many positive aspects about children dancing these traditional dances — I hope that we continue to recognize and encourage it among our young people.

I appreciate that folklorico doesn't blur the lines between male and female the way many aspects of unisex youth culture does these days. And I wish there were more slender, dark-clad males among the undulating reds, blues and yellows of the girls' costumes. I don't think a boy can dance folklorico without a little positive male mystic finding its way to the surface.

Late last week we attended a screening of this year's *Viva El Paso!* The dance troupe is made up of many of El Paso's young people, both experienced and novice, who have a love of dance and theatre. The young girl on whose behalf we were invited has been in dance and gymnastic classes almost from the time she could walk. At 13 she is a little shorter but every bit as polished as some of the performers twice her age.

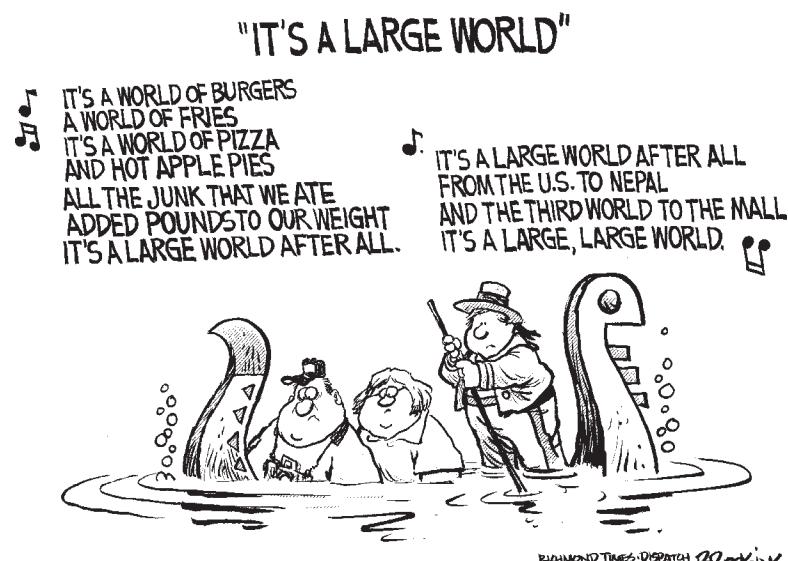
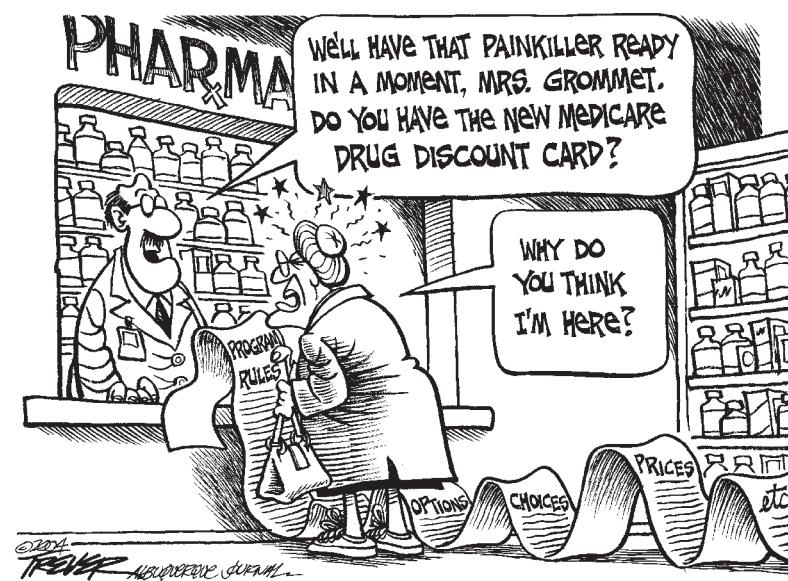
I couldn't help but let out a shout of approval following the folklorico performance — young women who imparted to their graceful costumes all the joy and grace of a butterfly in a garden, young men who personified strength and daring as their steel machetes struck sparks into the

evening sky.

I couldn't help thinking that with all that has come and gone in this border community, with all its attendant faults, recurrent social ills, and flagging progress, there is something to be desired in remembering and practicing a few of the old ways, the traditions that keep young people grounded in the positive aspects of their cultural identity.

Any young girl or boy who gets to dress up in such royal costumes, perform for the people they care about and who care about them, and receive a rousing round of applause for doing so, cannot help but carry a little of that hopeful color with them as they grow.

Long may the children dance.



WEST TEXAS County COURIER

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

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Reyes Reports By U.S. Rep. Silvestre Reyes

World War II veterans honored

On Memorial Day a delegation of about 50

World War II veterans made the long trek from El Paso to Washington, DC. This weekend marked the official unveiling of the World War II Memorial on the National Mall. From May 27-30, America honored "The Greatest Generation" with the National World War II Reunion and the Memorial Dedication Ceremony.

I recently visited the memorial and it is a moving experience. Upon entering, viewers are awed by the vast design and surrounding open space and water. When considering the 4,000 stars that line the commemorative Freedom Wall, with each star representing 100 Americans who lost their lives in the war effort, one gains an understanding of the sacrifice and dedication that characterizes the World War II era.

This memorial, which was recently completed after ten years in the making, is a fitting tribute to those who

gave so much for our freedom. Situated between the Washington Monument and Lincoln Memorial, it covers a 7.3-acre expanse in bronze, granite, grass, and water and was specially designed to incorporate the surrounding environment. Two 43-foot arches adorn the north and south ends of the plaza, celebrating the victories won in the Atlantic and Pacific Theaters. Fifty-six granite pillars, symbolizing the 50 states, five territories and the District of Columbia, circle the centerpiece of the memorial, the Rainbow Pool, and celebrate the unprecedented unity of the nation during WWII.

The National World War II Reunion was held this weekend to allow veterans to share their wartime stories, view the equipment they used in World War II, archive their individual stories through the Veterans History Project, educate younger generations about their experiences, and, ultimately, participate in the Memorial Dedication Ceremony. This was a weekend filled with celebrations of victory, triumph and ca-

maraderie, and also solemn recollections of harrowing battles and lost friends. Above all, it is a recognition on behalf of a grateful nation of the sacrifice and courage of those who fought — and those who stayed behind. At last, we have the chance to say "thank you."

Throughout El Paso, we celebrate those who are serving in the Armed Forces. It is fitting that Memorial Day falls during our month-long Freedom Fiesta celebration honoring Fort Bliss personnel and their families. I hope many of our military families take advantage of the free and discounted opportunities available around town.

Memorial Day holds meaning for everyone. This year, as our troops continue to fight in dangerous situations overseas and the nation dedicates a national memorial to those who fought so long ago, it is especially significant. I enjoyed hosting our El Paso World War II veterans in Washington this weekend. For them and all our nation's military personnel, it is important that our country pause to honor them this year.

Clint high students receive scholarships

By Laura Cade and Karen Hayes
Special to the Courier

EAST EL PASO COUNTY — Isabel Castanon and Hugo Fajrdo, both seniors at Clint High School, are the recipients of the "Dress for Success Award." Isabel and Hugo are the first recipients of the award which was made available by Judge Frank and Evangelina Macias of Clint, Texas.

The award includes a \$100 gift certificate for the students to purchase clothing for graduation. "Many years ago I attended a leadership course that I believe was the turning point for my success in life. The one thing that I still remember about that course is the instructor emphasizing the importance of your appearance in becoming good leaders and achieving success," said Judge Macias, a former longtime Justice of the Peace for Pct. 6.

Jossue Herrera has received the Gates Millennium Scholar award for 2003-2004. He is one of 1,000 individuals from across the country to receive the award which will cover the cost of his undergraduate and graduate studies not covered by financial aid.

For Jossue, the award culminates three months of securing faculty letters, 10 essays, and a 14 page personal information packet. In addition, he secured recommendations from two of his teachers, Paul Vasquez and Karen Hayes. "There were times when I became very discouraged, wondering whether all the time spent was actually worth it," said Jossue. "I first learned I was a finalist for the Gates award the day of prom, March 27; however, I

still had to complete other forms for final consideration." According to Herrera, he can now enjoy graduation festivities without worrying about how to pay for his college education. At the present time he is still undecided but has narrowed his college choices to UTEP, Colorado State, Texas Christian University, and St. Edwards.

"My advice to juniors is there's money out there, but you have to start making inquiries early, spend the time applying, and never give up," said Jossue.

The Gates Millennium Scholars, funded by a grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, was established in 1999 to provide outstanding students with an opportunity to complete an undergraduate college education, in all discipline areas and a graduate education for those students pursuing studies in mathematics, science, engineering, education, or library science. The goal of the award is to promote academic excellence and to provide an opportunity for thousands of outstanding students with significant financial need to reach their fullest potential. The Gates Foundation established the initiative to encourage and support students to complete college and continue on to earn master's and doctoral degrees in disciplines in which their ethnic and racial groups are currently under-represented.

In addition to the Gates Millennium Scholar Award, Jossue won the El Paso Community Foundation Scholarship for \$1000; the Ford Scholarship of \$1000; the Seek Sports for Educational Excellence in Kids Scholarship of \$500; and the Freshman Leadership Program Scholarship (Sul Ross SU) of \$2500.

Canutillo ES place first and third in Texas Computer Education Association contest

By Kim Guzman
Special to the Courier

UPPER VALLEY — Canutillo Elementary School students recently placed first and third in a statewide multimedia contest sponsored by the Texas Computer Education Association (TCEA).

Placing first were fifth graders: Joshua Alvarado, Michelle Rosales, Daniel Smith, Alexandra Torres, and Mabely Melendez. The third place finishers were sixth graders: Jose Flores, Manny Romero Jr., and Mariah Reimer.

Judith Valle, Gifted and Talented teacher at CES, said that her fifth grade students studied the American Colonial Period and created a story in which they pretended to be a young person from that time period. They created a power point presentation that depicts that period's travel modes, foods eaten, jobs held, clothes worn, and religion practiced.



DEPICTING ANOTHER TIME, PLACE — Canutillo Elementary contest winners, from left, are sixth graders: Mariah Reimer, Jose Flores, and Manny Romero Jr.; fifth graders: Joshua Alvarado, Michelle Rosales, Mabely Melendez, Daniel Smith, and Alexandra Torres.

The sixth grade students created a power point presentation about Iraq, including the clothing worn, religion, Saddam Hussein, weapons of mass destruction, and the government. They created power point presentations of each of their projects.

Valle, with the assistance of Susan Smith, CES Lead Technology teacher, submitted both power point presentations to the TCEA Student

Contest for Multi media in March. "The contest is held once a year to choose the best student-generated computer projects in Texas," said Valle.

Along with receiving ribbons in May, the students will be recognized on the TCEA website. The students have also been invited to the 2005 TCEA Conference, in Austin to receive special recognition.

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

Congratulations, Class of 2004

This is such an exciting time of year. Spring is in full bloom and summer is right around the corner. This time of year always reminds me of new beginnings. This is especially true for the students getting ready to graduate from high school.

You've all been through your "ups" and your "downs" over the past few years. It wasn't easy. Homework wasn't always fun and many times it made your head hurt: struggling to solve algebra problems, writing papers for English class and working on history projects. Like many of my classmates at South San Antonio High School, schoolwork did not come naturally to me. It was discouraging to see half of the kids in my class give up the fight and quit school. However, I believed — and continue to believe — that if you

work hard and give it your all, you can do anything you want. Each of you has the power to become a doctor, a rancher, a writer, an engineer, or even a U.S. Representative.

Here in America, we have greater opportunities than any place in the world. Education provides us with endless possibilities. It opens doors we never realized existed. For example, there are many people out there who start their lives at a disadvantage. But with hard work and a dedication to their education, they can soar to new heights. I know this is true, because it happened to me.

Real life success stories begin in communities just like yours. Every day is an opportunity — an opportunity to learn and an opportunity to set new goals for yourself. You

might learn how to program a computer, build a fence, speak

a new language or put together an engine. Whatever you plan to do in the future, never stop thirsting for knowledge and reaching for the stars. Your efforts and success are what will keep our nation strong in the coming century.

So, for those students out there who are about to march across the stage and receive your diploma, I would like to congratulate you on a job well done. You're about to start a new chapter in your life. I wish you great luck as you set out to realize the American dream.

Congratulations and good luck, Class of 2004!



Stem cells: You can't live with 'em, you can't live without 'em

By Albert M. Balesh, M.D.

Why so much controversy over something as small as a stem cell? What did they ever do to anyone? Why can't we pick on someone our own size?

The 40 or so cells of a four-day embryo, when stained and slipped under a low-power microscope, are really not much to look at. That view hardly merits the hair raised and passions engendered by the little fellas.

Depending on which side of the fence you're on, that roundish sphere of hollow balls, known as an embryo's blastocyst, might represent an incipient human life to be accorded all the rights, respect, and dignity owed to any other human, if you are a right-to-life activist.

On the other hand, if you suffer from the likes of Parkinson's disease, Alzheimer's disease, Huntington's disease, stroke, spinal-cord injury, diabetes, or muscular dystrophy, or, if you know or love someone who does, then those "microscopic balls of hope" represent something entirely different, a possible miracle and perhaps the light at the end of the tunnel.

Yes, stem cells. You can't live with 'em, you can't live without 'em! They come from embryos, and may one day treat fatal illnesses. A common misconception is that stem cells come from abortion clinics. Actually, that is not the case. In vitro fertilization (IVF) centers provide them when "spare" embryos, too numerous to implant in the womb of would-be mothers, are to be otherwise discarded.

How this material is disposed of has become a moral and theological issue, now even reaching the very steps of the White House. President Bush will have to continually wrestle with the pros and cons of allowing federal funding for research on stem cells taken from human embryos.

"Pro-life," however, does not necessarily mean "no stem cell research." Fifty-seven percent of abortion opponents support embryonic stem cell research, as do 72 percent of Roman Catholics. Is a frozen embryo stored

in a refrigerator in a clinic the same as a fetus developing in a mother's womb? Many think not.

For some, banning research on embryonic stem cells would be tantamount to doing harm to real, live, postnatal human beings who might be helped by such research. The cells of a four-day-old embryo are pluripotent. They are able to differentiate into any of the 220 cell types that make up a human body, including those of the skin, brain, pancreas, liver, heart, and kidney.

Stem cells might be coaxed to turn into appropriate cell types and transplanted into patients with Alzheimer's disease or spinal-cord injury. The technology will soon be in place to make infinite quantities of literally all cellular tissue in the body. Stem cell research will, most assuredly, revolutionize the practice of medicine.

Such therapy might one day cure rheumatoid arthritis and osteoarthritis by replacing damaged cartilage. It could also supply new skin to burn victims. The NIH, the chief supporter of biomedical research in the U.S., has not awarded grants for studies using human embryonic stem cells, yet.

Some research is currently underway, but it is privately funded and not subject to checks, balances, and government oversight, which might become dangerous and problematic, to say the least.

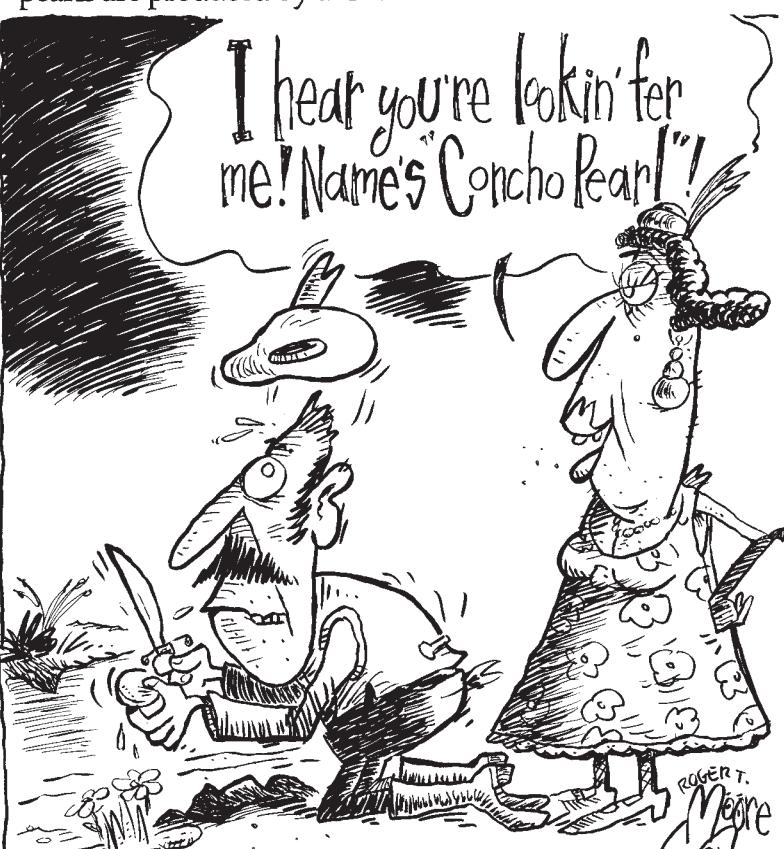
More questions than answers about the medical benefits of embryonic stem cells now exist. Stem cells may work therapeutic miracles in the future, or they may fall short of their promise. We won't know, however, if research is placed on the back-burner.

Ah, those stem cells. You can't live with 'em, you can't live without 'em!

By banning research, one thing becomes certain: we uphold the idea of the sanctity of life, but at the price of not doing all we can to improve the lot of the living, the dying, and the suffering.

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TRUE TEXAS FACTS by Roger T. Moore, beautiful freshwater pearls are produced by a Concho River mussel.



Bike

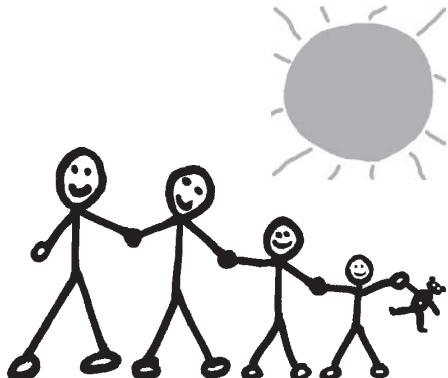
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him win a brand new 10-speed bicycle.

Tornillo Junior High ESL teachers Marlene Bullard and Marla Vranish, along with the support of Principal Jim Blake, offered their students the chance to win the bike. As students improved in their English proficiency, they earned chances to get their "name in the hat" for an end-

of-year drawing. The drawing, held May 19 in the school's library, proved to be an exciting event for all.

Jesus is a second year student in the United States, a very diligent worker and, according to his teachers, extremely deserving of the prize. Along with improving his English and maintaining his grades academically, Jesus has also participated in cross country, football, basketball and track. With his recent win, he'll likely be adding bike racing to his list of athletic endeavors.



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*Opening Day
June 12*

Briefs

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the First National Bank. Anyone wanting to donate should send contributions to Francisco Durant Fund, c/o First National Bank, P.O. Box 278, Fabens, TX, 79838. Checks should be made to the Francisco Durant Fund, Account #600100471. Durant has been with Clint ISD for nine years. He is married and has a grown son.

■ Joann Herren, payroll supervisor for Canutillo Independent School District, recently completed the requirements to earn the designation of Certified Texas School Business Specialist (CTSBS) specializing in the area of payroll. The Texas Association of School Business Officials (TASBO) certification is earned through the combination of specialized coursework, school business experience, training in the area of specialization, and active membership in TASBO. Once certification is awarded, members are required to complete 60 hours of continuing education every three years to maintain their certification.

■ Assistant Principal Doris Fernandes of H.D. Hilly Elementary School has been selected as one of 1,500 teachers to attend the United States Department of Education's Teacher-to-Teacher Summer Workshop in

Portland, Oregon June 28-30. Originally, she intended to recommend that some of the Hilly teachers apply for the workshop.

"When I got the letter, I thought, 'this is too good to be true!' A lot of the things in this workshop are things our teachers want to learn more about. But a lot of them can't leave town because they have young families, and such. So I thought this would give me a chance to do staff development during the summer for them if I went." Fernandes says reading strategies are high on her list. "I do plan to attend the reading strategies and the English as A Second Language workshops because their ESL is different from our ESL," and Fernandes says she looks forward to trading techniques with other teachers from around the U.S.

■ Fabens NJROTC was tops in a recent competition with Bel Air High School in a round of Army/Navy games including pushball, volleyball, flag football, softball, tug of war, and an obstacle course. Though they won the majority of the events under the watchful eye of judges from branches of the military to include USN, JSMC, USA, and USAF, Fabens cadets came away with a healthy respect for their Bel Air counterparts, according to Lt. Sandy Terrazas.

■ Registration for Paso Del

Norte School in the Socorro ISD will hold summer registration for 2004-05 on June 22-23, 8:30-11:30 a.m. For more information contact Principal Debra Carden at 937-6200.

■ Andres Rodriguez, sixth grader at Damian ES, won Canutillo Independent School District's Sixth Annual Spanish Spelling Bee recently. Coming in second was Jaime Maturino, sixth grader at Canutillo ES; third place went to Magali Lopez, 6th grader at Childress ES; and Elizabeth Hernández, sixth grader at Damian ES was fourth. The District Spelling Bee brought together the top four winners of the Spanish spelling bees held at each of the four CISD elementary schools. The contest was open to third through sixth graders.

■ The Teen Court program in the Socorro ISD high schools has proven to be profitable for six graduating seniors in many ways. These students had served in the teen court as a lawyer, bailiff or juror to determine consequences for their peers who had committed first-time Class "C" misdemeanors such as smoking, traffic violations, or drinking and drug violations. First-time offenders who had pled guilty before a Justice of the Peace court are sometimes referred to the Teen Court for sentencing. If the offender successfully fulfills their peer's sentence, the judge removes the charges from the defendant's legal record. Not only was their service valuable to their peers, but it has now become monetarily valuable to them, with an \$800 scholarship awarded to Danielle Abril, Sapora Bradley, Liliana del Hoyo and Mark Fierro of Americas High, and Art Villa and Gizelle Jauregi of Montwood High. The scholarships were presented by El Paso County Attorney Jose Rodriguez and Teen Court Assistant Manager, Norma Head.

■ Twelve of the HOSA (Health Occupations Students of America) Chapter of Fabens High School made a recent trip to Houston to visit the Johnson Space Center, the UTMB campus in Galveston and other area attractions. In touring the NASA facilities at the Johnson Center, the students literally walked in the footsteps of every president since President Johnson, viewed the original Mission Control Center in the legendary Building 32, and experienced the blast-off of a rocket in the life-like surroundings of the Space Center's IMAX Theatre.

■ The electrician licensing program, created by House Bill 1487, which was passed last spring by the 78th Texas Legislature, took effect June 1 replacing the former system, under which electricians were licensed at the municipal or regional level. Local licenses were valid only in the jurisdiction in which they were issued, and the qualifications for a local license varied widely across the state. In rural areas there might have been no licensing at all. The new state license will replace the local licenses and will be valid anywhere in the state. Unless exempted by law, all

electricians who wish to work statewide will be required to be licensed by September 1, 2004.

■ Bill Cosby, legendary comedian, will perform at the Abraham Chavez Theatre on Sunday, Aug. 29 at 4 p.m. and at 7 p.m. Call Ticketmasters at 544-8444 or go on line at www.ticketmaster.com for ticket information.

■ A new live call-in cable show featuring Paul Strelzin and Suzanne Michaels began this week and will continue Monday nights in El Paso. Viewers can tune in, call in, and buy gift certificates at up to 50 percent off dining, entertainment, movies, concerts and other treats around El Paso. Each program offers entertainment values from 20 to 30 different providers in the community. Called "The Texas Guide for El Paso," the program runs 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. The show's creator is Adam Haston, a local resident, whose family has long been involved in radio and television projects. "The great thing about this show is it offers so much to El Paso. We've never had a way to purchase up to half-price on dining and entertainment before. New York City has TKTS, where you can buy half-price tickets the day of a show. Las Vegas has a similar outlet. Now El Paso will have 'The Texas Guide,' and you won't even have to leave your house to participate," Haston said.

■ The West Texas Youth Veterinary Science Workshop, scheduled for July 11-15 at the Sutton County 4-H Center in Sonora, Texas, is seeking 30 young people from across the state who are serious about a career in veterinary medicine. Course topics will include Beef Quality Assurance program, toxicology, parasitology, anesthesiology, anatomy, nutrition, first aid, beef feedlot health, large and small animal practice, dairy cattle health and horse medicine. Activities include classroom, lab and field work. Adult leaders are also needed to serve as cabin directors and counselors. Practicing veterinarians, university professors and researchers, and personnel from the Texas Extension and The Texas Animal Health Commission will conduct the classes. Applications must be received by June 18 and notification of acceptance will be sent by June 25. For more information and registration call the Extension agent in Sutton County, Pascual Hernandez, at (325) 387-3101 or e-mail at phernandez@tamu.edu.

■ Preliminary scores on the Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills test in the Socorro ISD show the district is improving. Of those campuses with comparison data from last year, 64 percent increased in every subject. Another 20 percent of the remaining schools made gains in all but one subject. "I am excited about the fact that scores have improved in every subject area tested," said Supt. Dr. Robert Duron. "It's evident we're on the right course however there are areas we need to work on."

Teachers of the Year named in Tornillo ISD

By Rudy Barreda
Special to the Courier

TORNILLO — The entire staff of Tornillo ISD enjoyed a morning of camaraderie and celebration during the district's annual breakfast ceremony, held last Thursday at Emerald Springs Golf and Convention Center. During the breakfast, the Teacher of the Year for each campus was recognized:

Beatrice O. Flores, Tornillo Elementary; Yariela G. Raley, Tornillo Intermediate; Donna Bretado, Tornillo Junior High; and Alejandro Macias, Tornillo High School were noted. Mrs. Flores and Ms. Bretado will represent the district in the Region 19 competition.

Beatrice Flores, a second grade bilingual teacher, will be retiring after a 25-year career, the last 13 at Tornillo Elementary. "Actually, I never intended to become a teacher, in spite of having several members of my family in the education field,"

she said. Nevertheless, circumstances dictated otherwise. Her first year of teaching allowed her to realize her true calling. "I loved the children and felt that I could give them so much," said Mrs. Flores. She will be greatly missed, as evidenced by the hugs and warm wishes she received at the conclusion of the ceremony.

Like Mrs. Flores, Donna Bretado had no early aspirations to become a teacher. "Since I was in middle school, I had always wanted to be a lawyer." Things changed, however, after her father retired from the army. He moved the family to El Paso, and began his teaching career. Donna would visit her father's classes and see the impact he had on his students. "By the end of my senior year, I had decided to become an elementary teacher," she said. This decision eventually led Ms. Bretado to Tornillo in the fall of 2000, as an 8th grade English teacher. To better meet the needs of her students, Donna soon earned her ESL endorsement. Over the past three

years, she has successfully implemented ESL strategies into her language arts lessons. Exemplifying the pursuits of lifelong learner, Ms. Bretado recently completed her Master's Degree as an Instructional Specialist from UTEP.

Ms. Raley, who teaches 6th grade bilingual, felt she was destined to become a teacher. She came to Tornillo Intermediate with a variety of teaching experiences, including working with adults at the West Texas Community Supervision and Corrections, coaching girls' track at Socorro ISD, and teaching ESL at the Adult Probation Department.

Macias, who started his teaching career this year as a 9th grade English teacher, was also influenced by a family member to become a teacher. His grandfather originally piqued Macias' interest in teaching. Later, when his coach from Cathedral High School died, Macias was amazed at the number of people who attended the funeral, illustrating the lifelong impact teachers have on stu-



BEST IN THE BOOKS — Tornillo Teachers of the Year, from left, Bea Flores, Yariela Raley, Alex Macias, and Donna Bretado.

dents' lives. He dedicated his award to former colleague, Gabriela Otero, who was killed in a recent car accident.

"I dedicate this award to her, and I hope to one day become as good

a teacher as she," he said.

Superintendent Paul Vranish congratulated each of the winners, and wished our Region 19 representatives the best of luck.

Two want to become authors thanks to Reading Rainbow

By Phillip Cortez
Special to the Courier

SAN ELIZARIO — Oh, the imagination of children! Teachers and parents witness the ideas that come out of children's heads every day. For two Borrego Elementary students in the San Elizario Independent School District, these wild imaginations were put to paper for the 10th Annual Reading Rainbow Young Writers and Illustrators Contest.

The result was a boost in confidence and what might turn out to be the spark to a career in writing for both Derick Chacon and Jonathan Martinez, second graders, 8-year-olds, and now, authors.

Chacon's "AJ the Book Writer" took first place in the second grade level of competition, which was open to all El Paso students in grades K-3. As a result, his entry has been shipped to Nebraska, where it will be judged in an effort to determine whether the book is named one of 12 national winners.



Jonathan Martinez and Derick Chacon.

"AJ is about a friend of mine who moved to California," Chacon said. In the book, AJ is not popular and gets picked on. So he has dreams that he becomes a monster or a superhero that keep kids from picking on him, according to Chacon.

"He realizes that all he needs to do is be himself," Chacon said. In the end, AJ grows up and writes about the monsters and heroes he dreamed of as a child and becomes famous for it. Needless to say, nobody teases AJ anymore.

Martinez's entry, "Lucky the Mischievous Dog," is about a dog that gets lost in the forest and makes a

friend, another lost dog, named Puppy. Together, the two use their wit and friendship to outsmart the wolves of the forest until they find their way home. The entry earned a second place award.

The story was written partly because the author does not have a dog of his own.

"I want a dog," said Martinez, who would like it to resemble a wolf.

Cynthia Muzio is a second grade teacher at Borrego and along with her fellow teachers, encouraged students to participate in the contest.

"It's a great honor to have two of our students from San Elizario participate with other students in the city and do well," she said.

Both Martinez and Chacon have taken a lot out of the experience. Chacon says he looks at other books and the pictures inside them. Then he tries to make his own story out of the pictures he sees. Both say they want to become authors when they grow up.

Little do they realize that they already are.

Orthopaedic surgeons advise cyclers to ride safely this summer

By Claudette Yasell
Special to the Courier

As the weather gets warmer, more cyclists will hit the road for recreation, transportation and exercise. In 2002, according to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, more than 635,000 bicycle injuries in children from 5 to 14 years old were treated in hospitals, doctor's offices, clinics, ambulatory surgery centers and emergency rooms.

"Most bicycling accidents occur close to home, and are the result of falls," explained Stuart L. Weinstein, MD, pediatric orthopaedic surgeon and first vice president of the American

Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons.

In order to promote a safer season, orthopaedic surgeons urge cyclists to take extra caution to prevent injury. While wearing helmets remains the most proven method of reducing brain injuries in bicycle accidents, these accidents can also result in serious musculoskeletal injuries, broken bones, sprains and strains to the rider. There are a number of factors that contribute to bicycle accidents, which include inattention to obstacles in the bicycle path, excessive speed, maneuvering to avoid vehicles or pedestrians and not wearing the proper safety equipment.

The AAOS offers these bicycle safety tips:

- Always wear a helmet that fits snugly and does not obstruct your vision.

- Make certain the bicycle is the right size for the rider, is properly adjusted and well maintained.

- Wear bright fluorescent colors and avoid biking at night. If you do, make sure you have a working headlight visible for 500 feet and rear reflectors.

- Stay alert and watch for obstacles in your pathway.

- Ride with traffic and be aware of traffic around you. Obey traffic laws. Don't ride double or attempt stunts.

- Avoid loose clothing and wear appropriate footwear.

- Dress for the weather.

The Appraisal District is supported solely by payments from the local taxing units served by the Appraisal District.

If approved by the El Paso Central Appraisal District Board of Directors at the public hearing, this Proposed Budget will take effect automatically on October 1, 2004, unless disapproved by the governing bodies of a majority of the county, school districts, cities, and towns served by the Appraisal District.

A copy of the Proposed Budget is available for public inspection in the office of each of these governing bodies. A copy is also available for public inspection at the Appraisal District Office.

El Paso Central Appraisal District
5801 Trowbridge
El Paso, Texas 79925



NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

EL PASO CENTRAL APPRAISAL DISTRICT BUDGET

The El Paso Central Appraisal District will hold a public hearing on a proposed budget for the 2004-2005 fiscal year.

The public hearing will be held on Thursday, June 10, 2004 at 5:30 p.m. at the El Paso Central Appraisal District, 5801 Trowbridge, El Paso, Texas 79925.

A summary of the Appraisal District Budget follows:

The total amount of the Proposed Budget (Salaries and Operating) is \$9,980,041.

The total amount of increase over the current year's Budget is \$417,023.

The number of employees compensated under the current Budget is 136.

The number of employees compensated under the Proposed Budget will be 136.

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Parra

From Page 1

after Japan attacked Pearl Harbor, Cipriano and his brothers were working as farm laborers in San Elizario. Being small in stature, he was nicknamed "Panito." He and his brothers paid a visit to the Army Recruiting Office in downtown El Paso early in 1942. His brothers went on to basic training and a disappointed Panito was sent home for being under weight. He tried four more times to enlist in the military without success.

Finally, in June of 1942, after consuming over two pounds of bananas, he met the weight requirement of 115 pounds and a happy Panito reported for basic training with the U.S. Army.

In November of 1942, Panito, a gunner with Company "C" 601 Tank Destroyer Battalion - First Armored Division, found himself in action in the invasion of North Africa. The Allied Forces raced forward through Algiers toward the Tunisian Border engaging heavy German opposition and encountering terrible terrain conditions due to rain and snow. North Africa had been a testing ground for American troops and although they

did not do well at first, at Hill 609 in Tunisia the 601 Tank Destroyer Battalion performed with valor. Panito received his first Bronze Star at Tunisia.

The 601 Tank Battalion assigned to the II Corps under General George Patton was reassigned to support the 1st Armored Division going up the Bloody Boot, as Italy came to be known. From Naples to Foggia and on to Cassino, Anzio and Rome, the 1st Armored Division, which included the 601 Tank Battalion and also Darby's Rangers as part of the Fifth Army, engaged the Germans in some of the most ferocious fighting experienced by the American troops.

Knee-deep mud made progress more difficult and digging fox holes almost impossible. Panito found time to write a letter home and told his family that he had met fellow San Elizario, Tony Grijalva. By the time Panito received an answer to his letter, Grijalva had been killed in action.

The war with Germany ended in May of 1945. Unannounced and unheralded, the German armies had been destroyed by the Allied armies. Hitler poisoned his new bride, Eva Braun, and put a bullet in his head with a pistol.

Panito Parra was discharged from the Army Oct. 18, 1945. When he

stepped off the train at the Union Depot in El Paso, pinned to his uniform were several campaign ribbons, unit citations and other decorations, including five Bronze Stars awarded for valor under combat.

Panito, like many WWII veterans, didn't talk much about his combat experiences. One thing is clear, two pounds of bananas bought off a horse-drawn wagon on an El Paso street and a patriotic San Elizario man who never abandoned his determination to join the military, helped bring down the tyranny of Adolph Hitler's Third Reich and its notion of a master race.

WEATHER

AccuWeather.com

SEVEN-DAY FORECAST FOR EL PASO

THURSDAY	THUR. NIGHT	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
Quite warm with several hours of sunshine. ▲ 95°	Breezy in the evening; otherwise, partly cloudy. ▼ 70°	Warm with sunshine and patchy clouds. ▲ 94° ▼ 69°	A good deal of sunshine. ▲ 96° ▼ 69°	Very warm with times of sun and clouds. ▲ 97° ▼ 70°	Warm with clouds and sun. ▲ 95° ▼ 68°	Sunshine and some clouds. ▲ 92° ▼ 65°	A mix of clouds and sunshine. ▲ 93° ▼ 67°

UV INDEX Statistics for noon.

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

Thursday	10	Very High
Friday	10	Very High
Saturday	10	Very High
Sunday	9	Very High
Monday	9	Very High
Tuesday	9	Very High
Wednesday	8	High

REAL FEEL TEMP™

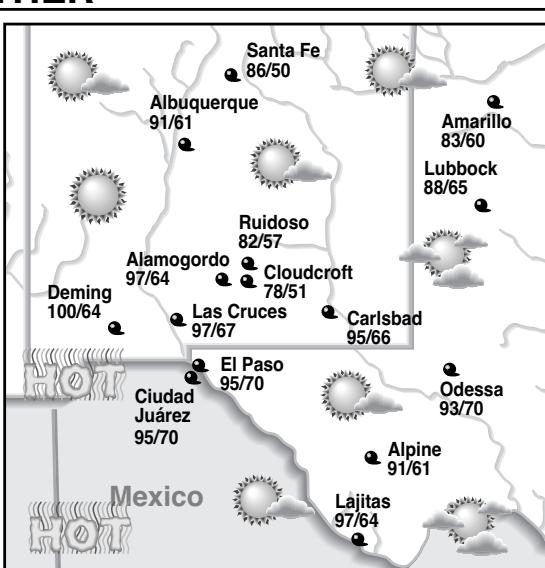
The exclusive AccuWeather composite of the effects of temperature, wind, humidity, sunshine, precipitation, and elevation on the human body.

Thursday	99°
Friday	88°
Saturday	88°
Sunday	88°
Monday	89°
Tuesday	89°
Wednesday	92°

TEXAS WEATHER

Anthony	96	70
Canutillo	96	70
Clint	95	69
E. Montana	95	70
Fabens	95	69
Horizon	96	71
San Elizario	92	68
Socorro	94	69
Tornillo	95	69
Vinton	96	70

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

**AGRICULTURE**

Dry weather will prevail across the region for the next few days as a ridge of high pressure remains in control of the area's weather. Afternoon high temperatures will average above normal, topping out in the middle 90s each day.

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

TRAVELERS CITIES

City	Thur. Hi/Lo/W	Fri. Hi/Lo/W	Sat. Hi/Lo/W	Sun. Hi/Lo/W	Mon. Hi/Lo/W
Albuquerque	91/61/s	90/61/s	91/61/s	91/63/pc	90/58/s
Atlanta	86/62/pc	84/62/pc	82/62/pc	82/64/t	82/66/pc
Atlantic City	76/56/sh	73/54/s	76/55/s	76/58/t	78/58/sh
Austin/San Antonio	90/68/r	90/69/pc	90/70/s	92/70/c	91/68/c
Baltimore	76/54/pc	78/56/s	78/60/s	80/62/t	81/61/sh
Boston	64/52/sh	72/56/s	74/58/s	70/60/sh	76/60/c
Chicago	70/50/s	74/54/pc	76/58/t	76/58/t	77/60/sh
Dallas/Ft. Worth	83/66/r	85/67/t	86/68/pc	88/71/c	90/69/c
Denver	80/52/r	84/54/pc	79/54/t	81/53/pc	81/54/s
Flagstaff	85/45/s	85/45/s	85/45/s	81/44/s	78/42/s
Houston	92/72/r	90/72/r	90/72/t	90/72/pc	90/72/pc
Kansas City	77/57/pc	79/60/t	80/61/t	83/64/pc	83/64/t
Las Vegas	103/78/s	104/78/s	104/76/s	102/74/s	100/71/s
Miami	89/76/r	88/76/r	86/75/r	87/76/r	87/74/t
Minneapolis	73/55/pc	78/58/sh	74/59/t	76/59/pc	79/61/c
New Orleans	88/71/t	86/71/t	88/71/pc	87/72/pc	88/71/pc
New York City	70/56/sh	74/58/s	76/60/s	76/63/t	78/63/sh
Philadelphia	76/56/sh	76/58/s	78/60/s	78/64/t	80/63/r
Phoenix	108/80/s	110/80/s	110/82/s	105/79/s	104/72/s
Portland	80/56/s	80/54/s	72/54/sh	68/51/pc	71/49/sh
San Francisco	70/52/pc	70/54/pc	70/54/pc	70/53/s	73/54/s
Seattle	76/52/s	74/54/pc	66/50/sh	63/48/sh	65/46/sh
Tucson	104/73/s	106/73/s	104/75/s	102/73/s	100/70/s
Washington, DC	78/58/pc	78/60/s	78/64/s	82/66/t	81/64/sh

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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