

## NEWSBRIEFS

### County funding

Congressman Henry Bonilla, a senior member of the House Appropriations Committee, said this week he has secured \$1.2 million for a new El Paso flood control system. The project will consist of detention dams, diversion dikes, conduits and channels to collect, regulate and discharge runoff into the Rio Grande river. The new system will provide flood protection for the urban areas subject to damaging floods from arroyos on the slopes of the adjacent mountains. Bonilla said an additional \$380,000 for continued work on the reuse water project has been earmarked. The funding will be used to ensure a continuous source of freshwater remains intact for the City of El Paso. Funding was also obtained for Corp of Engineers Investigations projects for Northwest El Paso and Sparks Arroyo Colonias in El Paso. Funding totaled \$756,000 and will provide the Corp of Engineers with the resources needed to investigate the needs, planning and evaluation of improvements for the basin, the river and other water resources. Members of the Appropriations Committee oversee all of the nation's funding. Bonilla was the first freshman Member of Congress in 25 years to be given a seat on the powerful Appropriations Committee. He is now chairman of the Agriculture Appropriations Subcommittee and a senior member of the Defense and Foreign Operations Subcommittees. Bonilla is regarded as one of the two most influential lawmakers in Texas. He has represented El Paso since his first election to Congress in 1992.

### Non-profit assistance

Dozens of area non-profits received more than \$142,000 in grants this week from the El Paso Community Foundation for educational, health and advocacy programs benefiting area residents. Twice a year the Foundation awards grants through a competitive process, recognizing entities for their community contributions and allocating monies that will be used to effect the most positive change. Sue Jacobson of the Child Guidance Center accepted \$4000 on behalf of the center. "This grant will help us reach area children who need that care," she said. This year's organizations received grants ranging from \$2000 to \$11,000 for programs such as children's medical services, meals for the homeless, tuition assistance, elderly hearing aids, scouting recreation, family therapy and colonia economic development. Recipients include Valley Food Pantry, Project Vida, La Clinica Guadalupeana, Child Crisis Center and the Assistance League of El Paso among others. "With this financial help, we can provide services for many of the region's 75,000 hard of hearing and deaf residents," said Benita

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*The man who first called it the "easy payment plan" was mighty careless with his adjectives.*

— Quips & Quotes

## Canutillo school board dealing with issues of truth and trust following May election

By Don Woodyard  
Courier Staff Writer

CANUTILLO — Campaign issues that had swirled heatedly in the May school board meeting resurfaced in the June 8 board session of the Canutillo ISD.

Truth was a central issue in May.

Trust was center stage in the June board meeting.

The issue in May, which sparked sharp exchanges among board members, concerned alleged illegal campaigning on campuses by supporters of then-school board candidate Frank Lerma who was subsequently elected to a position on the Canutillo ISD board of trustees. The issue was also how confidential information contained in Friday packets to board members ended up in Lerma's campaign flyers.

In May, then-board president Yvonne

Sanchez claimed board member Rafael Reyes provided the material to Lerma.

She said she was "really ticked off" when she learned of the lies and in the campaign material and also after hearing complaints from parents about the "trash" being handed out on school grounds.

Reyes spoke of "crimes" against school district, alleging the wasting of district money on trips and excess travel expenses. He also had concerns about the budget.

She said there was a "twisting of the truth" for personal advantage.

"Truth, like beauty, is in the eyes of the beholder," Reyes observed.

Superintendent Charles Hart raised the matter of trust in the June meeting when he spoke of discontinuing the aforementioned Friday packets because of information from them

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## SEISD moves to improve coaches financial status

By Don Woodyard  
Courier Staff Writer

SAN ELIZARIO — There was good news for coaches and substitute teachers in the San Elizario Independent School District.

Realizing the need to stay competitive with area school districts, the board of trustees approved larger stipends for the coaches and a higher daily pay rate for substitutes. Action came at its June 9 meeting.

Principals from the high and middle schools reviewed recent TAKS results and steps planned to strengthen weak areas found on the test.

"We have lost experienced coaches; we lost nine last year," explained athletic director Bernie del Hierro in proposing stipend increases for 2004-05 designed to keep coaches from leaving. "We have inexperienced coaches."

The size of increases varies and does not include all sports. Not all coaches or assistants receive stipends.

Included in the pay hike package is the head football coach whose stipend goes from \$9,300 to \$10,000.

"Why reward a coach who did not have a winning season?" asked Ramon Holguin, one of two new members just elected to the school board.

"The coach is giving his all; he is working hard to build a program," Del Hierro replied in defense. "He's working just as hard as a winning coach."

"(But) it's not about winning," Del Hierro added with feeling. "They leave their hearts out there (on the playing field)."

Other increases: Coaches for boys and girls varsity basketball teams get a boost of \$300 to \$5,500. Varsity volleyball coach gets a \$100 hike to \$5,000. Varsity softball coach's stipend increases \$600 to \$4,000.

In pressing for the increases, the athletic director also emphasized that the coaches will have contracts for stipends stipulating their duties. "They must be held accountable for their actions."

High school principal Irma Baquera underscored Del Hierro's remarks regarding accountability for district coaches.

She said she has been talking "very seriously" with the coaches. Without elaborating, she spoke of "things she didn't like. I will be monitoring them. "Athletics go hand in hand with the academic program."

"I am looking for improvement in the sports program," the principal said optimistically. "Hopefully we will be adding tennis to the sports program."

In the second of the two pay proposals, trustees increased salaries for substitute teachers, from those without a degree to those with bachelor degrees. The increase was \$5 to \$47 for non-degree teachers. Those with bachelor's got a \$10 jump to \$60 per day.

The new pay scale puts SEISD on parity with nearby school districts.

A regional breakdown of TAKS scores showed SEISD stacked up favorably with other districts and, in some cases, exceeded state standards for a particular grade and subject area.

The best score was a 97 in third-grade reading (English). The worst scores were in middle school math where seventh-, eighth- and ninth- grade math scores dipped to 55, 35 and 39, respectively.

Middle school principal John Tanner pointed out there were many academic gains, but did not alibi about the low math scores that were of "deep concern" to him.

"We have egg on our face," he said.

Tanner explained he had lost a certified math teacher. To help improve scores, math instruction was now in a two-period block format.

Tanner also expressed concern that not enough students are exiting the LEP (Limited English Proficiency) program. There will be emphasis next year on improving the program, he said.

"We are looking very closely at the ESL (English as a Second Language) and bilingual programs," said assistant superintendent Dr. Maria Luisa Niastas.

Board member Armando Martinez was concerned about the length of time in the two programs.

"Three years is too much time. Basically we are doing something wrong."

Niastas: "Our expectations (in these programs) is more rigorous and aggressive — to use the native language to bridge into English — to use more English. That is one of our priorities."

"We are concerned about the excessive number of people in the bilingual program."

Niastas added, "You get what you expect. We have high expectations for teachers and students."

In other action, the board approved changing the job title for Robert Longoria. Instead of director of Support Services, he is assistant superintendent for support services.

## Hustling San Eli seniors set new record for finding education money

By Phillip Cortez  
Special to the Courier

SAN ELIZARIO — Cha-Ching! That's the sound of San Elizario High School seniors setting a new school scholarship mark.

When Dickey Garza and his counseling staff at San Elizario High School heard new principal Irma Baquera joke at the beginning of the 2003-2004 school year that she expected \$2 million in scholarships, Garza nearly fainted.

One school year, plenty of fresh air and several doses of medicine later, it's Garza and crew who are laughing now. They didn't exactly reach the \$2 million point, but they did set a school record in helping San Elizario seniors obtain roughly \$780,000 in pure scholarships. Add in the estimated \$450,000 in military assistance and combine this figure with the amount of financial aid students will receive in the fall as college freshmen, and it's no wonder why there are plenty of smiles at the school's counseling center.

"The efforts of the counseling department constantly pushing the students to apply was there," Garza said. "They really went above and beyond."

Garza credits the class of 2004 for being a well-balanced group of students. Whether scholarships came from a traditional four-year university or a trade school, this year's senior class was creative in finding the money to further their education.

"There was a nice variety of kids," Garza said. "That's what stands out about this class, they were balanced and not top heavy. Students in the top 10 as well as the 170th ranked kid were winning scholarships."

Garza is quick to point out that many of the faculty members did their part in getting students to apply for scholarships, saying that they were "instrumental." He also added that almost every senior who applies for financial aid would qualify. Regardless if students were planning on attending college, tech school, the military, or if they were not sure about furthering their educations at all, efforts were made to have every senior fill out a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) application.

Garza also described this year's senior class as being hungry, looking for new ways to get scholarship money.

"They were hustlers looking for that money," Garza laughed. "The counseling center was constantly abuzz with students coming in, using the computers and getting scholarship information."



San Elizario High School valedictorian Valerie Valencia speaks to the 2004 graduating class that set a record for most scholarships earned.



## One perspective

By Francis Shrum

# A very good day

The difference between a good day and a bad day isn't what happens to you during those 24 hours. It is all in how you look at it.

It has rained at camp before. No big deal. When I crawled into my tent that night, the big blue tarp draped over my single-occupancy accommodations gave me the sensation of being suspended underwater in a bubble.

The rain drumming steadily on top made a kind of white noise that quickly lulled me to sleep. That and more than a little fatigue. Old ladies like me aren't intended to try and keep pace with a herd of some 20-plus camp kids all endowed with the enthusiasm of fresh air and the energy you take for granted when you are under 16 years of age.

They had predicted rain and some flooding in the area but what do weathermen know? I hadn't traveled all the way from El Paso to College Station to let a little water interfere with a good time. After all, if you come from West Texas, a little water from heaven is like icing on the cake.

It was easy enough for me to take this attitude, of course, since my bed was dry and my belongings safe under this huge waterproof tarp.

Unfortunately, some of the kids weren't so well protected and some of them weren't from West Texas. In fact, the growing puddles soaking into their sleeping bags inside their tents were nowhere to be considered close to icing.

As the night wore on, so did the rain. By morning, there was little left dry that had even the slightest unprotected seam. Even the tents that had held reasonably well the afternoon

before had succumbed to moisture invasion.

Meanwhile, the warning signs were all in evidence that the farm where we camped was in serious danger of floodwaters. We had one choice and that was to break camp and move. Quick as possible.

Now, this morning bore all the ear-

marks of the start of a really bad day. Take a herd of kids ages six to 16 with sleep still in their eyes, damp around the edges and no dry underwear, having had no breakfast, and tell them we're going to abandon all the fun things we were otherwise going to do and instead spend the day packing and moving?

Are you crazy? So we didn't do that.

Instead the grown-ups all got together in a little huddle for protection and talked this thing over real careful. The choice was still the same — we had to move — but at least we would feed the starving masses before breaking down the kitchen and numerous tents, in the pouring rain, and loading the whole kit and

caboodle to haul, along with luggage for 32 people and assorted camp gear, to the home of some really long-suffering mentors in nearby College Station.

I took some ribbing for coming from the driest part of Texas and being the only one who brought a rain coat. Some of the natives simply stripped down to their T-shirts, shorts and bare feet and went charging around like they were at the swimming pool.

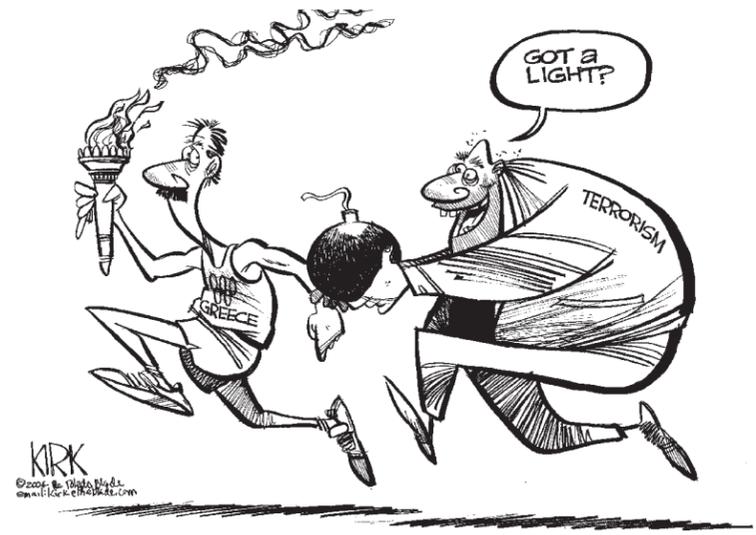
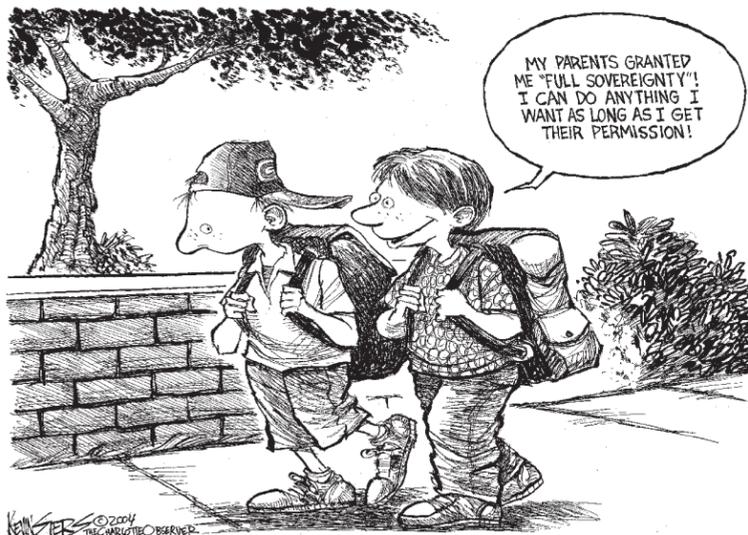
Not me. Not because I don't like to get wet but because I don't like to get cold. And I did real good until I was helping take down a tent and I realized my boots were full of water. After squish, squishing around for awhile I had to stop and wring out

my socks, much to the delight of my fellows.

The kids were incredible. Nary a bad attitude in the bunch. Like a horde of little soaked rats they ran with their arms full of luggage, shouting and leaping, out to the truck for loading by my sweet, gentle daughter who exhibited extraordinary fortitude in dealing with wet, pushy boys. She got more luggage inside that vehicle in a short time than I could have done with all day to do it. I've looked at her a little differently ever since.

That night, I had to pick my way through a living room covered wall to wall with sleeping bags and

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## WEST TEXAS COUNTY

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## Reyes Reports

By U.S. Rep. Silvestre Reyes

# American Jobs Creation Act misses the mark

Last week, the U.S. House of Representatives passed corporate tax legislation known as the "American Jobs Creation Act." Unfortunately, this bill does not live up to its name and I could not support it. Contrary to its title, the legislation would give U.S. multinational corporations more incentive to ship jobs overseas.

The bill was passed with the help of misleading provisions used to garner votes from legislators from states such as Texas. A provision in the bill would allow people in states without a state income tax, such as Texas, to deduct sales tax on their federal income taxes for two years. I strongly support allowing Texas residents to deduct state sales tax on their federal returns, and am an original cosponsor of the Sales Tax Equitability Act, which would allow Texans to do just that. In fact, the bill I have cosponsored actually goes a step further than

the so-called American Jobs Creation Act by making this deduction permanent, rather than just a temporary, two-year measure.

Unfortunately, however, the sales tax deduction provision in the American Jobs Creation Act is misleading because the Senate-passed version of the legislation does not include this language. Before sending this bill to the President, the House and Senate have to agree on one version of the legislation, making it virtually certain that this provision will be stripped in House-Senate negotiations and the final bill will not provide this assistance for taxpayers in El Paso or the rest of Texas.

A Democratic alternative to the American Jobs Creation Act, which I supported, also would have allowed Texas to take the deduction, except that our deduction would have been permanent. Unfortunately, the House did not consider that proposal.

The original intent of the bill was

to repeal tax breaks for U.S. exporting companies that have been ruled illegal by the World Trade Organization (WTO), resulting in retaliatory tariffs by the European Union that have cost American businesses close to \$4 billion. These tax breaks were to be replaced by tax incentives that would not violate WTO rules.

The bill, however, goes far beyond eliminating the offending tax provisions. The total cost of the bill is \$150 billion, and while failing to help farmers and small businesses, \$78.5 billion was reserved for tax breaks for corporations in the top income tax rate that have nothing to do with the WTO ruling.

A bill that was supposed to produce \$49.6 billion in federal revenue will result in the net reduction of \$34.4 billion, thus continuing to add to the record national debt. This is a \$150 billion solution to a \$4 billion problem, and American taxpayers will pay the consequences for years to come.

**View from here** By Byron Schlomach, Ph.D.

*Just say no to more tax heroin*

Finally the folks in Washington are doing something to help Texas.

For those who believe in limited government and personal liberty, the most horrifying development of the recent special session on school finance was talk of instituting some type of income tax. This makes all the more welcome the news that our federal representatives are a big step closer to once again making state and local sales taxes deductible on the federal income tax.

State income taxes and their close cousins, various so-called "business" taxes such as the gross receipts tax, payroll tax, and business activity tax, can be deducted from the federal income tax. Texas' biggest state tax, the sales tax, is not currently federally deductible.

The only tax a large number of Texans can deduct is the property tax. However, this is the tax that everyone agrees is too high. The problem with reducing property taxes, though, is some other tax will have to be created or raised.

Most economists agree consumption taxes — like the sales tax — least harm an economy. Taxing goods and services purchased by the final consumer avoids taxing the same thing repeatedly, it does not discourage

work, and actually encourages saving.

A big impediment for the last 18 years to shifting from property to sales taxes has been the lack of federal tax deductibility for sales taxes.

The recent passage of HR 4520 in the U.S. House brings sales tax deductibility a step closer for us; the burden now rests with the Senate to keep this long-overdue reform in the legislation to be sent to the president for his signature.

President Bush has signaled his strong support for such a move.

It was estimated by the Comptroller's office that for every dollar shifted from the property tax to the sales tax, Texans would lose 14 cents in federal income tax deduction. A \$2 billion shift from the property tax to the sales tax would have directly cost Texas taxpayers \$280 million dollars — more in economic terms.

In 2003, over \$14 billion of all state tax revenues were collected through the state sales tax. That means Texans lost almost \$2 billion in federal income tax deductions that ought to be ours since, along with only eight other states, we have no income tax. For this reason, some in the Texas legislature felt compelled to recommend some type of deductible income-type tax to replace property

taxes.

Current federal tax policy forces states to adopt an income tax. Income taxes admittedly have some great characteristics. The personal income tax, gross receipts tax, business activity tax, and payroll tax all tax broadly and can raise a lot of money at a very low rate.

But heroin has a lot of desirable characteristics, too. So many wonderful uses did heroin have when it was discovered, it was considered "heroic" and thus its name: "hero-in." Only later was its dangerous addictive quality realized.

Similarly, income taxes are addictive and dangerous.

Ohio was once like Texas. Three decades ago it had a thriving economy with the nation's third lowest tax burden. Then, Ohio's politicians imposed an income tax, with the federal tax code giving them cover. That cover may have shielded the politicians, but it left the economy very cold.

Today, Ohio has the third highest tax burden. It leads the nation in the number of individuals in their prime earning years leaving for work in other states.

It has only been since 1986 that the state and local sales tax has not been deductible. That mistake has long needed correcting.

It is time the federal government stopped encouraging states to dig their own economic graves. It's up

to the U.S. Senate to help states put away their shovels.

*Byron Schlomach is the chief economist for the Texas Public Policy Foundation, a non-partisan research institution based in Austin, Texas. The Foundation's research is available at www.TexasPolicy.com.*

**Good**

From Page 2

sleeping girls. There was even a girl sleeping in the hallway. It reminded me of a mine field — you don't want to step on one or it might go off. As I eased into the pallet on the floor in the bedroom I shared with two other ladies, I couldn't help thinking that with all the potential for disaster this day had held, it had instead been one of the best days I could remember.

Back in El Paso, I was talking to a friend about our adventures in the rain in the part of Texas where it actually does that.

Wish you'd brought some of it back with you, my friend said. Well, I did, I said. Unfortunately I had to haul it home in the back of my vehicle inside a bunch of wadded up tents.

**Write stuff**

Dear Editor:

In reference to the recently imposed building moratorium: Horizon City needs more high-paying jobs, not more crowded housing. This will increase our tax base and lower taxes of our residents.

Building more houses without more jobs causes long commutes, more smog and more crime. Service industries (stores, restaurants) provide some jobs but result in money leaving town. Workers in local industry will spend money in Horizon.

The following areas are impacted with more housing: traffic, police, schools and school buses, availability of water, citizens training, environment, taxes and noise.

A 10-year plan needs to be implemented, listing anticipated income, expenses and quality of life. We need to reduce taxes and develop a skilled work force or else industry will not relocate here. Our taxes, from all entities including school and water district, need to be reduced.

As it is, Horizon is a bedroom community without any major source of taxes with most residents leaving here to go to work elsewhere.

**Mark Connolly**  
Horizon City

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

*Don't forget the Alamo*

Did you know that Texas is the second-most popular travel destination in the United States? With summer upon us, Texans are busy mapping out their vacations. The good news is that an exciting vacation doesn't have to include travel agents and complex flight arrangements. Texans can find some of the country's greatest destinations right here in the 23rd Congressional District.

Take a stroll down the River Walk in San Antonio, explore out west or set up camp at one of the many recreational spots in the southwestern region of our state. The opportunities are endless!

I am fortunate to represent some of the most popular tourist sites in the world. I encourage residents of the 23rd District to explore or revisit some of these famed spots. I have created a list of hot spots and summer events that are sure to provide an exciting and meaningful vacation.

• **Big Bend National Park**

You can enjoy sightseeing by personal car, backpacking, jeep touring, camping, fishing, float trips, hiking and wildlife viewing just to name a few of the many activities. Commercial float trips on the Rio Grande are available through outfitters just outside the park. Big Bend National Park is open year round, 24 hours a day, seven days per week. For more information visit [www.nps.gov/bibe/home](http://www.nps.gov/bibe/home) or call the park at 432-477-2251.

• **Alpine/ Marfa: Labor Day Weekend; Big Bend Balloon Bash and the Marfa Lights Festival**

There are few more amazing sights than the contrast of colorful hot air balloons in the morning West Texas sky above the Alpine Valley against

the Davis Mountains—except perhaps for the mysterious and unexplained Marfa Lights, seen by motorists almost every night of the year. If your looking for wide open spaces and a touch of mystery this Labor Day weekend... go West! For more information visit the Marfa Chamber of Commerce online or call them at 800-650-9696.

• **San Antonio/ The Alamo & The Riverwalk**

I am proud that more than 2.5 million people visit San Antonio each year to see the 4.2 acre complex known worldwide as "The Alamo." The Alamo is open every day of the year except Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. Visitation hours are 9:00 AM to 5:30 PM Monday through Saturday, and 10:00 AM to 5:30 PM on Sunday. The jewel of San Antonio is the Riverwalk. After the Alamo, it's the most visited attraction in the State! The Riverwalk offers a variety of attractions and activities including riverboat rides, live music, art galleries, great shopping, and world class restaurants. For more information on the above attractions visit [www.sachamber.org](http://www.sachamber.org) or call 210-229-2100(10) 229-2100.

• **Del Rio/ Lake Amistad, National Recreation Area**

Situated on the U.S.-Mexico Border and near the city of Del Rio, Lake Amistad is known primarily for excellent water recreation including: boating, fishing, swimming, scuba diving and water-skiing. Areas surrounding the lake provide opportunities for picnicking, camping and hunting. Ciudad Acuna is just a short drive from the lake where visitors can cross the border for an afternoon of

shopping and authentic Mexican cuisine. For more information on the lake and the recreation area visit [www.nps.gov/amis](http://www.nps.gov/amis) or call (830)775-7491.

• **Garner State Park**

Profound canyons, crystal-clear streams, towering mesas, and chiseled limestone cliffs are among the many sites that you will discover within this intriguing terrain. Garner State Park is found in the northern part of Uvalde County. Located thirty miles north of Uvalde and seven miles north of ConCan, Garner State Park has ten acres of awe inspiring river front. The park offers camping, hiking, picnicking, canoeing, fishing, swimming in the Frio River, miniature golf, paddle boat rentals, juke box dancing at the concessions building, and bike riding. "Friends of Garner State Park" has introduced a new program called "Cowboy Sunset Serenade." This program gives an overview of the history of the American Cowboy through songs and cowboy poetry. These performances are held from Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day weekend. For more information visit [www.tpwd.state.tx.us/park/garner](http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/park/garner) or call 830/232-6132.

There are hundreds of ways to make Texas your vacation destination this summer. Take joy in the natural beauty and wonder of our state and invite a friend "down" to share in the fun. For more ideas about where to go with your family in the 23rd Congressional District of Texas, visit our state's <http://www.TravelTex.com> web site.



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**TRUE TEXAS FACTS** by Roger Moore, June 24, 1932, Grace Hendricks roped a Jackrabbit in 5 sec. flat at the first "rabbit ropin" ever held at the Odessa Rodeo.



## View from here By Jean Fulton

### *Nuestra Señora de la Limpia Concepción de los Piros de Socorro del Sur nears completion*

SOCORRO — Pat Taylor and I would like to take this opportunity to thank the community, La Purísima, and Historic Missions Restoration, Inc. for your help and patience as our crew enters the final phase of preserving the historic Socorro Mission. Special thanks to Hon. State Sen. Eliot Shapleigh for his initiative in creating the Mission Valley Steering Committee, a collaborative that has promoted and supported the project from the beginning. For the past three years, our biggest task has been to replace the cement to stop the moisture entrapment that threatened the stability of the structure. With the help of several different crews and community volunteers, we have made some 20,000 adobes on-site to replace the deteriorated adobe walls. With the exception of the front fa-

cade, all of the cement stucco and concrete collar at the base of the walls have been removed and replaced using mud and lime plasters. The vigas and corbels were repaired in place or spliced as needed. The interior cement stucco has been removed and replaced with yeso. Bricks replicating the historic coping and new canales have been installed at the roof parapet. The hot mop roof is nearly finished. Ramon Barajas donated his time to lay the cantera stone floor. Enrique Trevizos repaired the transept doors and windows at his own expense. Soon, we will be able to uncover the altar, open the clerestory, and move the interior furnishings and artwork back in. After several critical engineering considerations are resolved regarding the bell tower and front facade, we will remove the existing cement stucco, stabilize the adobe, and apply lime plaster and lime wash.

Original estimates placed the total cost of the project at more than \$2 million, and projected a five-year fundraising and construction schedule beginning in the year 1999. More than 20 private foundations, businesses, and state agencies have con-

tributed to this project. Over \$1.4 million has been raised to date through grants and fundraising, and more than \$100,000 in tools, materials, and professional services has been donated. Thanks to Albert Palacios, Socorro High School students, and the Valentine's "Have a Heart Save Our Mission" Benefit Committee, we raised \$10,000 locally to purchase the floor stones.

Even though we are under budget, we are also, unfortunately, very close to running out of money. We were forced to lay off all but two of our crew last December. We are currently appealing to six different funding sources, including a federal Save America's Treasures grant. We are confident that funding will be provided soon. Once the necessary \$152,000 is raised, we will hire a 7-person crew locally. We believe we can finish the building within six months of hiring the full-time crew.

In the meantime, Leandro Fernandez, Raul Hernandez, and volunteers including Javier "J.I." Garcia, Jose Gutierrez, and Jared Jason Mendoza are putting the finishing touches on the exterior walls, doors, windows, and grade work. Lupe Hernandez logged in dozens of volunteer hours this past winter, as have many other individuals too numerous to mention by name. Recently, active members of the United Native

American Nations, including Amada and Cruz Camargo, and Socorro 'Suky' Ramos, helped Pat mud plaster the baptistry. The community service volunteers sent to us through the West Texas District Felony Courts, and Judge Ruben Lujan's court in Clint have done a tremendous job. We look forward to working again with the residents of the Schaeffer Halfway House and the Lee-Moore Home in Clint.

We are extremely grateful for the countless hours that Tury Morales and La Purísima Restoration Committee have donated on behalf of the project, and for the hundreds of volunteers, area high school students, donors, and moral supporters we have met over the past three years. You know who you are. We thank each and every one of you. We urge anyone interested in helping us to come by the project office at 328 S. Nevarez Road during regular work hours, 7:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m., Monday - Friday, or to call us at 915-858-4655 for more information. We will be announcing upcoming Saturday Volunteer Days beginning late next month. We are on the Web at <http://www.cstones.org>.

*Jean Fulton is the Assistant Project Coordinator with Cornerstones Community Partnerships overseeing the preservation of the mission.*

## A Trade Deal

...with Central American countries that keep U.S. disaster aid from reaching hurricane victims...

**Is a bad deal for America.**

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## Canutillo Independent School District PUBLIC NOTICE

A PUBLIC MEETING will be held at 2:00 p.m. on Monday, June 28, 2004 at the Canutillo ISD Administration Bldg., 7965 Artcraft Road, Canutillo, Texas. The purpose of the public meeting is to allow any interested representative of a non-profit private school or non-profit home school operating in the Canutillo Independent School District to appear and receive information regarding Schedule Five of Federal Grant Applications for their school. Representatives will need to provide their school's tax-exempt identification number to the District to confirm eligibility.

The Grant Applications are available through the "No Child Left Behind Act" and include the following:

- Title I, Part A — Improving Basic Programs;
- Title I, Part C — Education of Migratory Children;
- Title II, Part A — Teacher and Principal Training and Recruiting;
- Title II, Part D — Enhancing Education Through Technology;
- Title III Part A — English Language Acquisition, Language Enhancement and Academic Achievement;
- Title IV, Part A — Safe and Drug Free Schools and Communities;
- Title V, Part A — Innovative Programs.

Those that are unable to attend the public meeting may submit their questions in writing to the Canutillo Independent School District or contact Monica Reyes (915) 877-7455. Accommodations for handicapped persons will be available; handicapped persons in need of special assistance for attending the meeting are encouraged to contact Monica Reyes, forty-eight (48) hours prior to this meeting.

WTCC: 06/24/04

## 2004 FOOTBALL SEASON TICKETS

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## El Paso Farmer's Market opens in historic Socorro

SOCORRO — The El Paso's Harvest market officially opened on the historic Mission Trail at the corner

of Zaragoza and Socorro Road last weekend, and will continue to do so each Saturday, 8 a.m. to noon, through Oct. 30.

With the intent of bringing fresh farm produce closer to city dwellers,

the market is open to farmers, bakers and even arts and crafts vendors.

A greater variety of fruits and vegetables are expected in the next week as it becomes available.

Sponsored by Texas Cooperative

Extension Service and the Tigua Indians, the initial market had onions, cabbage, broccoli, squash and pecans for sale, organizers said. Fresh-baked bread sold out in the first hour, and some booths had hand-made soap, natural beauty products, loofas and even

shrimp D&T Shrimp Farms in Pecos. Local media Robert Bettes was master of ceremonies on Saturday, with entertainment provided by on-site mariachi and reggae bands, and children invited to a watermelon-eating and a tomato-tossing contest.

### Briefs

From Page 1

Neumann of the El Paso Center for the Deaf, who received \$6000 for her organization. "We very much appreciate the Foundation's support." For more information log-on to [www.epcf.org](http://www.epcf.org).

### In other news

■ Don't leave your child alone in your vehicle! It is a crime and a deadly danger to the child. The El Paso Sheriff's Department is warning El Paso area residents that as the temperature rises, so does the deadly implications of leaving a child unattended in a motor vehicle. Texas Penal Code 22.10 says a person commits this offense if he/she leaves a child unattended in a vehicle for longer than five minutes if the child is younger than seven years and is not attended by anyone 14 years of age or older. While it may seem like common sense, there have been 13 incidents of this very thing between Jan. 1 and May 25 of 2004.

■ Seventh and eighth graders from Clint, Tornillo, Fabens and San Elizario were recently invited to participate in the National Campaign to Stop the Violence by Judge Patricia Macias from the 388th District Court. She challenged the students to examine the causes of violence, its effects, and methods of dealing with it — then submit their written findings. From the four districts, 16 finalists were chosen from the 600-plus entries that were submitted. Clint Junior High's Timothy B. Allen wrote the top chosen essay from the 7th grade entries and Cindy Vasquez of Fabens Middle School wrote the top 8th grade entry. The two top winners and the other 14 finalists, three of whom were from CJHS, were honored with a reception in the Crystal Ballroom in El Paso, along with their counselors, parents, teachers and principals. CJHS Counselor Helen Rojas accompanied Timothy and an entourage from Clint to a reception at the state capitol in Austin, including his grandparents, Tim and Clara Allen, Mrs. Edna Reyes, Principal Gloria Martinez, and Judge Patricia Macias. The winners will also travel to Washington, D.C. next month for a similar reception, expenses paid by "Do the Write Thing" sponsors.

■ A workshop intended to provide counselors and social workers with a frame of reference from which they can measure the professional and ethical standard of their day-to-day activities will be held on June 25, sponsored by the El Paso Rehabilitation Center, from 8 a.m. to noon at 1101 East Schuster Ave. For registration and fees contact Lydia Hernandez or Aurora Arriola at 544-8484.

## A Trade Deal

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- Cherries \$2<sup>25</sup>/lb.

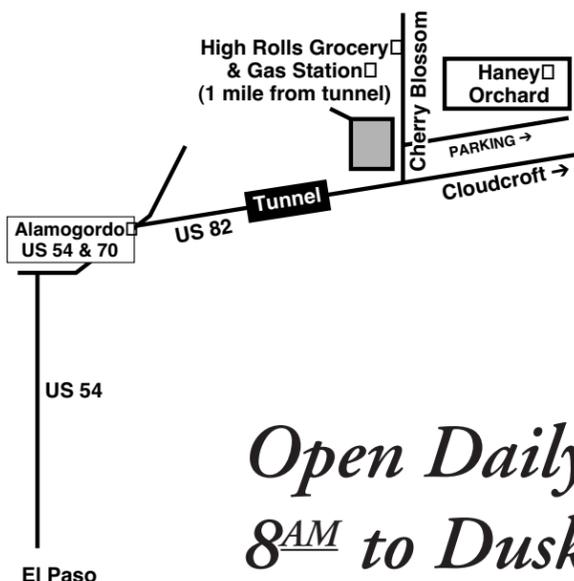
- Cider

- Jam

- Pitters



## ...come and take us home with you.



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8<sup>AM</sup> to Dusk

## Village of Vinton PUBLIC NOTICE

A PUBLIC HEARING will be held at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, July 15, 2004 during the Planning Commission meeting at Vinton Village Hall, 436 Vinton Rd., Vinton, Texas. Purpose of the public hearing is to allow any interested persons to appear and testify regarding the following proposed items:

1. A public proposal by the Village Council to amend the Village Zoning Ordinance regulations (Ord. No. 088-94) in the following specified particulars:

**Article IV, Prohibited Uses**, Subsection B. **Uses Prohibited**, paragraph 4 is proposed to be amended as follow:

"4. Feed lots, poultry farms or facilities for killing or slaughtering and dressing of animals, *except for as allowed by special permit in zoning district R-1.*"

**Article IV, R-1 Residential District**, Subsection D. **Uses Permitted by Special Permit** is proposed to amend by adding a paragraph 4. to read as follows:

"4. *The keeping of agricultural livestock and the butchering and dressing of those animals as part of an educational program at a public school; The showing of agricultural livestock and agricultural products to the public as part of a public school program or competition.*"

Those who are unable to attend may submit their views in writing to the Village Clerk of the Village of Vinton.

CAMILLE CASTILLO  
Village Clerk

WTCC: 06/24/04

## Canutillo Independent School District PUBLIC NOTICE

Canutillo Independent School District invites parents of students residing within the District boundaries and attending a private nonprofit school outside of the District to contact Letty González, at (915) 877-7440, and arrange a meeting with a District representative. The purpose of the meeting is to offer eligible students equitable Title I, Part A services. These services, available through the "No Child Left Behind Act", support students experiencing difficulties mastering the state academic achievement standards. Accommodations for handicapped persons will be available.

## Distrito Escolar Independiente de Canutillo NOTICIA PUBLICA

El Distrito Escolar Independiente de Canutillo invita a los padres de familia que viven dentro de los límites del distrito escolar y que tienen hijos que asisten a escuelas fuera del distrito a que contacten a Letty González al (915) 877-7440 para programar una reunión con un representante del distrito escolar. El objetivo de esta reunión es el ofrecer, a los estudiantes que califiquen, servicios equitables bajo el Título I, Parte A. Los servicios son ofrecidos dentro del "Acta de Ningun Estudiante se Atrazará" y la cual apoya a aquellos estudiantes que afrontan dificultades para alcanzar las metas académicas requeridas por el estado. Si se requiere, se harán arreglos para las personas con discapacidades.

WTCC: 06/24/04



# Comix

## OUT ON A LIMB By Gary Kopervas



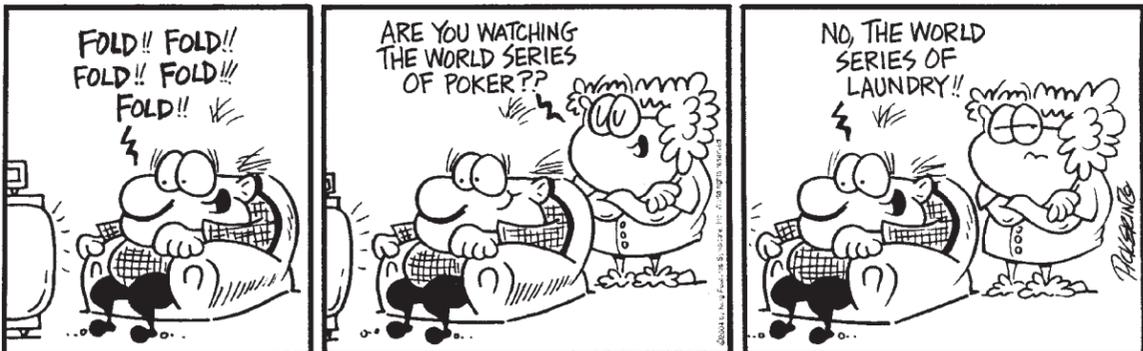
## AMBER WAVES By Dave T. Phipps



## THE SPATS By Jeff Pickering



## R.F.D. By Mike Marland



# It's time to support our pop stars

By Don Flood

Chinese cultural ministers recently announced a decision that could rock U.S.-China relations.

According to a recent announcement by the Chinese government, Britney Spears is free to perform in China, but she is not to appear in revealing costumes!

That's right, concert organizers were told they must "guarantee she doesn't show too much skin on stage."

Are they kidding? Showing too much skin is what she does for a living.

And what, exactly, are the poor concert-goers supposed to do? Listen to her sing?

Or, more accurately, watch her lip-synch, since as an American pop singer — who are required to gyrate on stage like crazed chickens on crack — she can't be expected to actually sing in concert.

Telling Britney to perform without skimpy outfits is like telling the Los Angeles Lakers they can play but not bring a basketball.

It's like telling Picasso he can put on an exhibit but not bring any paintings.

And think of the young, disillusioned Chinese pop fans, paying good money in hopes of seeing a real American-style "wardrobe malfunction."

Fat chance that's going to happen if Britney comes out dressed like a nun.

What will they think of our so-called American values?

This isn't just a question of national pride. America needs Britney to perform in China to help our balance of trade, which leans slightly in favor of China — to the tune of, say, about 158 zillion cajillion dollars.

(In everyday terms, that comes out to about \$3 billion for each person in the U.S. Fortunately,

we've got enough credit cards to manage this debt sensibly.)

China produces massive quantities of consumer goods — shoes, clothes, electronic products, etc. — and exports them to the United States.

The U.S. economy, in turn, produces massive quantities of trashy pop stars. In fact, we suffer from something economists call a "trash glut" and desperately need to develop new markets.

China, with more than 1 billion people and a severe trashy pop star shortage, is seen as one of America's best places to do business.

But that won't happen unless America's top trade negotiators make sure that Chinese markets are open to American goods, or in this case "bads" (especially Christina Aguilera).

Fortunately, the U.S. holds a trump card in these negotiations.

While there are other trashy pop star-producing nations, the U.S. has the highest proven reserves in the world. In fact, we are the Saudi Arabia of trashy pop stars.

We produce more than the rest of the world combined, and our entertainment industry is capable of pumping out as many as needed to meet world demand, with no need to worry about shortages at home.

So are we going to stand by passively while one of our leading cultural ambassadors is disrespected?

I say, no. Call your congressperson today and demand that Britney be allowed to perform in the skimpiest costume she can find.

And the Chinese need to be told in no uncertain terms, if they give us a problem with Britney, we're sending over Janet Jackson.

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# Classified Ads

### LEGAL

#### NOTICE TO CUSTOMER

Texas Gas Service Company, a division of ONEOK, Inc. ("Company"), hereby gives notice of its intent to implement a new schedule of rates for approximately 178,170 residential, 11,302 commercial, 68 industrial, 772 public authority, 17 municipal water pumping and 42 standard transportation customers within the incorporated areas of El Paso, Anthony, Clint, Horizon City, Socorro and Vinton, Texas, in accordance with the Company's Statement of Intent filed with the City of El

Paso, Town of Anthony, Town of Clint, Town of Horizon City, City of Socorro and Village of Vinton, Texas, on May 14, 2004. The proposed effective date is for meters read on and after July 27, 2004.

It is anticipated that the effect of the change in rates will be to increase the revenues of the Company within the El Paso Service Area by approximately \$684,705 or 0.69 percent. The proposed change does not constitute a "major" change as that term is defined by Section 104.101 of the Texas Utilities Code.

The proposed tariffs include increases in gas

sales and transportation rates for all residential, commercial, industrial, public authority, and municipal water pumping customers. The Company has also proposed changes in the cost of gas tariff, changes to the transportation tariffs to include balancing provisions and filed initial tariffs for an Economic Development Rate and Interim Cost Recovery and Rate Adjustment Clause in the incorporated areas of the El Paso Service Area. The effect of the change in rates, when allowed, will be to increase the revenues of the Company by approximately 0.69 percent. Based on the proposed rate

design, the average monthly residential bill of 45 Ccf will increase by approximately \$0.21, or 0.7 percent, the average monthly commercial bill of 279 Ccf will increase approximately \$1.00, or 0.6 percent, the average monthly public authority bill of 975 Ccf will increase approximately \$3.32 or 0.6 percent, the average monthly industrial bill of 2,926 Ccf will increase approximately \$9.60, or 0.6 percent, the average monthly municipal water pumping bill of 11,698 Ccf will increase approximately \$33.87 or 0.5 percent, and the average standard transportation bill of 34,406 Ccf will increase ap-

proximately \$96.01 or 3.1%.

A complete copy of the Statement of Intent is available for inspection in the municipalities' offices and in the Company's business office located at 4600 Pollard St., El Paso, Texas 79930.

#### TEXAS GAS SERVICE COMPANY

#### BARGAINS

Drum set, great quality, condition. Call 852-2610 for details.

#### CHILD SERVICES

A free playgroup for

children ages birth to five years meets every Tuesday in Horizon City at St. Brendan's Episcopal Church for an hour of playtime beginning at 10 a.m. At 14999 Darrington Rd., information at 433-7727 or 637-1982.

#### HELP WANTED

Small non-profit organization seeking part-time bookkeeper. Please call 851-8334. 6/24

Attention Students! SUMMER WORK \$11 base-appt. Flexible Schedules Cust. sales/srve, conditions

exist, all ages 18+ 915-779-2129 www.workforstudents.com 5/29-6/24

#### 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 solución. Informacion: 838-6264.

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## Social Security Q&A By Ray Vigil

**Q:** A friend told me I am required to carry my Social Security card with me at all times. Is this true?

**A:** No. In fact, we advise people to do just the opposite. Unless you are applying for a job or for some government benefits (times when you may need to show your actual Social Security card), there is generally no reason to carry it around with you. You can help prevent identity theft if you keep your Social Security card in a safe place at home.

**Q:** I will turn age 62 early next year and plan to retire. I will not make more than \$11,640, so I think I should be due all of my Social Security benefits. However, I also will get about \$12,000 in severance pay from my employer when I retire. Will this severance pay affect my Social Security benefits?

**A:** No. The severance payment will not count toward the 2005 earnings limit for Social Security. (That limit will probably be slightly higher than

the 2004 limit of \$11,640.) Because you earned that severance payment in prior years, we cannot count it as earnings in 2005 nor can we use it to reduce your Social Security retirement benefits.

**Q:** I plan to work part time for about three years before I retire. Because you use my last three years to figure my Social Security benefits, will those lower, part-time earnings reduce my eventual retirement benefit?

**A:** We actually base all Social Security retirement computations on the highest 35 years of earnings (adjusted

for inflation) — not just the last three or five years. So the fact that you will have three years of reduced earnings near the end of your working life will have a negligible effect on your Social Security benefits. You can use our online calculators at [www.socialsecurity.gov](http://www.socialsecurity.gov) to get a better idea of how your part-time earnings will affect your Social Security.

**Q:** I am receiving Social Security disability benefit payments and will soon turn 65. Will reaching retirement age affect my disability check?

**A:** You should not notice any change

in your benefit payments when you reach your “full retirement age” which, in your case, is probably several months older than 65. Social Security will switch you from disability to retirement benefits on the agency’s own records — but the payment amount stays the same.

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

# WEATHER

AccuWeather.com

## SEVEN-DAY FORECAST FOR EL PASO

THURSDAY	THUR. NIGHT	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
Partly sunny; maybe an afternoon t-storm.	Clear.	Sun and some clouds.	Partly sunny, t-storm possible in the p.m.	Sun and some clouds.	A mix of clouds and sunshine.	Sun and some clouds.	Mostly sunny.
▲ 90°	▼ 66°	▲ 94° ▼ 66°	▲ 94° ▼ 66°	▲ 96° ▼ 68°	▲ 96° ▼ 68°	▲ 96° ▼ 68°	▲ 96° ▼ 66°

### 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	10	Very High
Monday	9	Very High
Tuesday	10	Very High
Wednesday	10	Very High

### REAL FEEL TEMP™

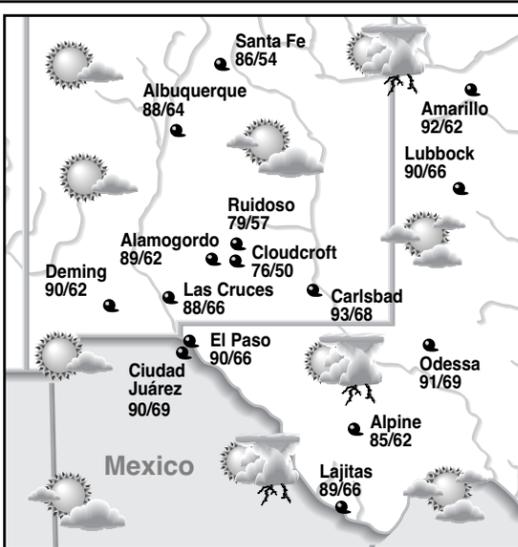
The exclusive AccuWeather composite of the effects of temperature, wind, humidity, sunshine, precipitation, and elevation on the human body.

Thursday	90°
Friday	85°
Saturday	85°
Sunday	87°
Monday	92°
Tuesday	95°
Wednesday	96°

### TEXAS WEATHER

Anthony	90	69
Canutillo	90	69
Clint	90	69
E. Montana	90	67
Fabens	90	69
Horizon	91	70
San Elizario	88	67
Socorro	89	67
Tornillo	90	69
Vinton	90	69

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	88/64/t	88/64/s	89/64/t	89/64/s	91/65/s
Atlanta	84/67/t	86/69/t	86/69/t	84/67/t	82/65/t
Atlantic City	78/63/t	84/65/pc	76/60/r	82/60/s	81/58/pc
Austin/San Antonio	85/70/t	91/72/t	90/70/t	91/71/t	92/70/r
Baltimore	82/64/t	88/68/t	82/62/sh	82/62/s	80/60/pc
Boston	78/60/pc	78/60/t	70/58/r	76/58/pc	78/58/pc
Chicago	76/56/t	70/52/pc	72/54/pc	74/58/pc	80/57/pc
Dallas/Ft. Worth	89/70/t	90/72/t	89/72/t	92/71/t	92/69/pc
Denver	82/54/t	74/50/t	74/54/t	83/56/t	84/60/pc
Flagstaff	76/43/t	80/45/s	80/45/s	81/45/s	78/46/s
Houston	87/74/t	89/74/t	91/74/t	91/74/t	92/74/t
Kansas City	84/62/t	75/57/t	78/61/pc	83/64/c	86/64/sh
Las Vegas	101/77/s	101/77/s	101/75/s	99/75/s	99/75/s
Miami	90/78/t	90/78/t	90/78/t	89/78/t	89/76/t
Minneapolis	67/51/sh	69/53/pc	74/56/pc	73/57/c	80/60/c
New Orleans	89/75/t	88/75/t	88/75/t	89/75/t	88/71/t
New York City	80/68/pc	82/66/t	77/64/r	82/65/s	79/63/pc
Philadelphia	82/66/t	88/68/t	80/64/r	82/64/s	80/62/pc
Phoenix	102/79/s	106/81/s	106/81/s	104/81/s	104/79/s
Portland	82/56/pc	80/56/pc	76/54/sh	74/55/pc	75/52/pc
San Francisco	68/52/pc	64/52/pc	64/52/pc	70/54/s	70/52/s
Seattle	76/56/pc	74/56/pc	70/53/sh	70/53/r	70/51/c
Tucson	96/68/t	98/70/s	100/70/s	100/72/s	98/70/s
Washington, DC	84/68/t	88/70/t	84/66/sh	84/66/s	80/63/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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\*Product price—Actual retail prices are set by dealer and may vary. Taxes, freight, setup and handling charges may be additional and may vary. Models subject to limited availability. C11137-01-55080-2