



NEWSBRIEFS

Don't miss Don't Mess

Thousands of Texas across the state will participate in the nation's largest single-day cleanup — Don't Mess With Texas Trash-Off — on April 2. The event is co-sponsored by the Texas Dept. of Transportation (TxDOT) and Keep Texas Beautiful (KTB) program which is the grassroots arm of the Don't Mess With Texas campaign. Members of more than 3,500 Adopt-a-Highway groups and 100 KTB communities will join with anyone interested in a litter-free landscape to take on roadways, city streets, parks, and neighborhoods. El Paso County traditionally is a very active participant — more than 900 volunteers from 61 groups participated last year, gathering up 1,701 bags of litter. "Every year about 1 billion pieces of litter accumulate on Texas highways and taxpayers are footing the bill to clean it up," said TxDOT Division Director Doris Howdeshell. "The state spent about \$35.5 million in cleanup costs last year and contrary to what many people believe, we're not using prisoners to get it done."

Dirt is healthy

Working in the dirt or even viewing a landscape has proven to assist healing. Dr. Roger Ulrich, Texas A&M University professor of architectural landscape and urban development, studied patients recovering from gall bladder surgery, finding that those who had a good view of a wooded landscape had a shorter recovery period and needed fewer potent painkillers. The Master Gardener program is helping to provide health care workers of a whole other kind, those who give back to the community after receiving advanced classroom education and field training in horticulture through the Texas Cooperative Extension service. Some successful community service programs have included providing floral arrangements for hospitals or hospice facilities, helping establish garden retreats for surgery patients or getting them somehow involved in growing plants. For more information, log on at <http://aggiehorticulture.tamu.edu/mastergd/index.html> or call 859-7725 or (281) 855-5620.

In other news

The public attention garnered by the tragic case of Terri Schiavo in Florida has brought to light the need for every mature individual to make personal life-and-death decisions before the unexpected happens — and before family members find themselves embroiled in a process often hampered by heightened emotion and personality conflict. Executing certain legal documents may help insure that the personal wishes of a person are known even if that person cannot communicate them. Designation of a person to execute those

See BRIEFS, Page 6

When success turns a man's head, it leaves him looking in the wrong direction.

— Quips & Quotes



— Photo courtesy White Stallion Production

DOING THE LEVADE — The levade is a maneuver which requires muscle control and balance that is most difficult to perfect. The horse must maintain a haunched position at a 45-degree angle to the ground. It is among the extraordinary feats performed by these beautiful horses, once fearsome and efficient on the battlefield. The Lipizzaner Stallions dance into El Paso hearts again.

Lipizzaner Stallions dance into El Paso

EL PASO COUNTY — The Lipizzaner Stallions are on their 35th Anniversary Tour in 2005, bringing their one-of-a-kind performance to the UTEP Don Haskins Center on Thursday and Friday night, March 31-April 1.

The stallions galloped out of a 425-year-long heritage onto the stage in 1970. Since then, 23 million people throughout North and South America, Great Britain, Europe, Australia and Hawaii have seen this internationally acclaimed spectacle.

This 35th Anniversary performance highlights the historical transition of the Lipizzaner breed from its original breeding and use as a horse of war to a horse of nobility and aristocracy to a living form of equestrian art. Included

in the performance are the spectacular leaps and maneuvers, once used on the battlefield, which are now preserved as a 400-year-old equine ballet.

The current tour features 12 to 14 stallions performing selected maneuvers including the traditional Grand Quadrille, in which the Lipizzans prance, march and intricately weave their way across the floor to the music of the Masters in a spectacular ballet of four-footed white dancers.

Recalling a time when the horse was a symbol of power, grace and majesty, the Lipizzaner Stallions are a unique entertainment experience. For further information call 747-5234 or for ticket information call 544-8444.

Horizon City will see major street reconstruction beginning next month

HORIZON CITY — Beginning the middle of next month, parts of Horizon City will see the fruits of last spring's bond election approving street repairs.

"During the period of April 15 through June 30, the Town of Horizon City will be initiating the rehabilitation project that was authorized by the citizens in the bond election in May 2004," said John Dixon, Director of Public Works. "The bond was issued in the amount of \$750,000 and will accommodate the rehabilitation of approximately 11.6 miles of most of our older streets. (If) your property is located along one of the streets on this project route, it is requested that during this time frame, all those who reside along the construction route refrain from parking any vehicles on the street in front of your residence or your neighbors."

A notice has been mailed to owners of property on streets that will be affected.

Dixon said the process being used is called heat scarification and requires the use of a large piece of equipment that heats the existing pavement to a very high temperature.

He said shrubbery or trees that directly abut the street in front of or on the side of

See HORIZON, Page 3

Drought watch: Water supply the best in eight years

EL PASO COUNTY — While the Pacific Northwest and Northern Rocky Mountains are experiencing severe drought, conditions in the Southwest U.S. are much improved from the last seven years, at least this season.

Snowpack in Northern New Mexico and Southern Colorado, the major source of Upper Rio Grande basin water is well above normal, ranging from over 100 percent up to 195 percent, and averaging around 150 percent across measurement stations.

Wayne Treers at the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation's El Paso Field Office is projecting runoff of 112 percent of the long term average that inflows to Elephant Butte Reservoir, after adjusting for evaporation and upstream diversions. This would be the highest runoff in eight years and could provide a full supply for Rio Grande Project water users in 2005.

The allocation of water to users is not based on projections but is only made after water actually enters the reservoir. The current allocation available to users for the year is 26.24 percent of a full supply. Projections indicate that a full water supply allocation could be made by early July.

Water releases from Caballo Reservoir for irrigators in the El Paso County Water

See WATER, Page 6



One perspective

By Francis Shrum

Commonalty

There's nothing like shared experience to bond people. That's why support groups are so popular. You walk into a group of people a virtual stranger, only to find yourself surrounded by people who know where you're coming from even before you open your mouth.

If you spend your "sharing" time reminiscing about all the bad things that ever happened to you and what a devastating effect it had, even if one of you had an optimistic outlook to start with, everybody will eventually wind up sitting together on a big, old over-crowded pity pot.

But other sharing of commonalty is good, even if the experience that brought people together wasn't necessarily a good one of itself.

I first discovered this phenomenon

shortly after I had my first child. I was suddenly inducted into the elite society of women who have Given Birth. A subject I had virtually no interest in for the first 20 years of my life suddenly dominated all my conversation with most adult women. How long were you in labor? How much did the baby weigh? Did you like the doctor? Did you take the pain reliever behind door Number One or Door Number Two? Etc., etc...

Of course, each question was followed by a detailed description of their own experience. I made some good friends this way.

There are, of course, many experiences which will bond people for a short time, like a car accident, a camping trip, a golf game, or lunch.

The work place is big on bonding

— people who have a common dislike of the boss find each other pretty quick, but that's one of those unhealthy kinds of associations. On the other hand, if you find a fellow worker who likes big trucks, quilting, or has a problem child like yours, chances are you'll find something to talk about.

Bonding in the workplace, however, should not be confused with networking. Networking is artificial bonding, in which folks get where they want to go by hopping gracefully from the back of one co-worker to another. Good networkers are very valuable people because they have learned how to get ahead by using other people's ideas and labor and can still make the other guy feel good about it.

It's an art form.

But back to true common experience, if two people get fired or laid off at the same time they will probably be friends for life.

There are major historical events that bond people. Like wars. There are veterans groups where men gather, sharing a kind of pain, spoken and otherwise, that someone who hasn't been in armed combat will never understand.

Terrorist attacks are pretty powerful bonding agents. Sept. 11 bonded the entire free world, for a little while. Stand silently next to someone at the Oklahoma City Memorial and you'll know what I mean.

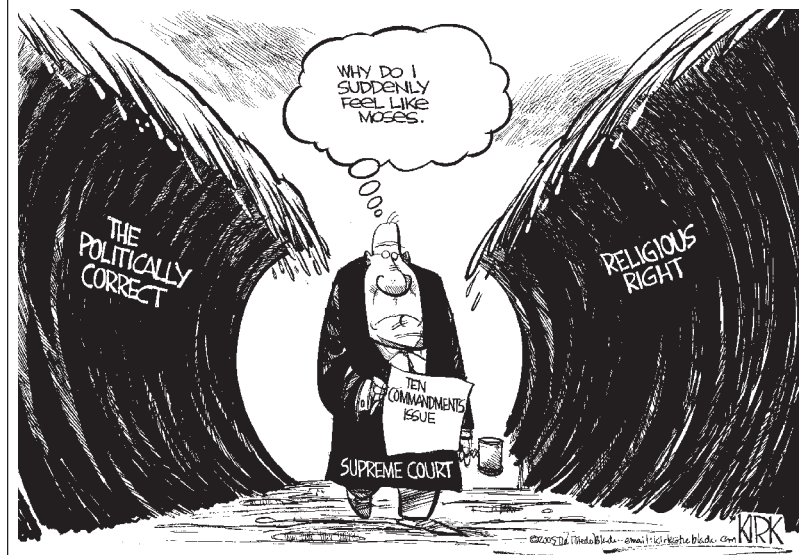
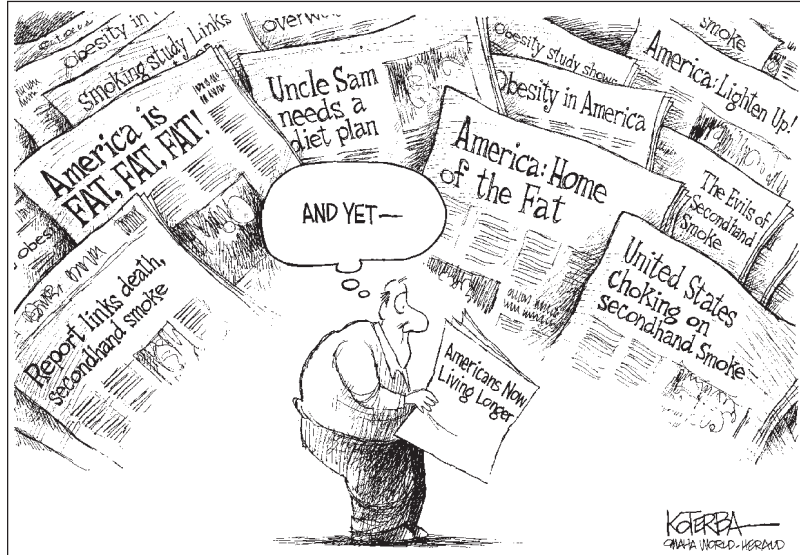
Race or family heritage give people strong common ground, but it's always stronger if the family group has come under some kind of persecution from outside sources so that they were forced to close ranks to survive — like the proverbial brother and sister who fight like cats and dogs with each other, but will turn in greater ferocity upon an outsider who threatens their sibling.

How and why adolescents group together is one of those incomprehensible mysteries that cannot even be addressed. It cannot be understood by anyone outside that age group, nor can it be explained later by anyone who has been through it because, mercifully, their brains have been released and their memories wiped.

Sometimes, even something as simple as wearing glasses or having an obvious injury will strike a chord of common experience, even with a total stranger. Temporarily on crutches, I was waiting for an elevator the other day when the door slid open to emit an elderly couple. The old fellow was using a walker. He gave me a grin as we passed and I asked how he was doing.

Better'n you, he said. Oh, yeah? I said. I bet I could beat you in a foot race. No way, he replied with a twinkle. OK, I said, how about it, you and me, outside, right now. But the elevator door was closing between us.

I saw him smiling as he strolled off. I'm still wondering if I could have taken him.



WEST TEXAS COUNTY COURIER

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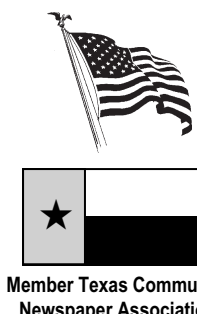
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Reyes Reports By U.S. Rep. Silvestre Reyes

New defense funding benefits El Paso, troops

A bout \$300 million in defense funding is slated for Fort Bliss and El Paso following passage of the fiscal year 2005 Emergency Supplemental Bill by the House of Representatives. The \$81.4 billion bill in large part funds the Department of Defense for the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan and also includes funding to assist in reconstruction efforts in regions of South Asia devastated by last year's tsunami.

The Emergency Supplemental includes:

- \$22 million for a new barracks at Fort Bliss for soldiers who are mobilizing and demobilizing for Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom.
- \$47 million for site preparation and utility work at Biggs Army Air-

field (roads, water, sewers, and electricity) for the 3,800 new soldiers coming to Fort Bliss, many of whom will be returning from Iraq beginning in April.

• \$134 million for the construction and procurement of temporary buildings at Biggs Army Airfield to accommodate these new soldiers.

• \$91 million for 90 Army Tactical Missile System (ATACMS) missiles, which are assembled at the Lockheed Martin plant in Horizon City. These will replace missiles used in Iraq.

I worked hard to secure these funds not only because these new facilities and equipment directly support operations in Iraq, but also help El Paso prepare for the anticipated 10,000 new soldiers and family members who will arrive at Fort Bliss this summer as part of the ongoing Army Transformation Initiative.

The arrival of these new soldiers is the result of years of hard work and we must be equally vigilant in preparing for our community's growth. Not only are we working to prepare our schools for the new students and our businesses to benefit from the millions of dollars that will be spent by federal agencies for housing, transportation and other services, we also must ensure that we have the on-base infrastructure to support these troops and their families.

This is an exciting time for El Paso. As we welcome these new soldiers and family members, we welcome new homeowners, schoolchildren, business patrons and potential community leaders. We are all working hard to prepare El Paso for these new families, and this funding through the Emergency Supplemental bill is an important step forward in that process.

ARCHIVES: www.wtccourier.com

Horizon

From Page 1

property along affected streets should be trimmed back and up to a level of 10 inches above the road surface. He said the extreme heat will not kill the plants but may cause the foliage to turn brown which will require some time to grow out.

"This process will take only a few days and may limit the traffic to and from (the) property to one lane in each direction," Dixon said. "I apologize for the inconvenience that this may cause but the end result will be a dramatic addition to the overall structure and appearance to the streets.

"Cooperation in this endeavor is greatly appreciated and the end result will be an asset to our community," he said.

STREET NAMES IN ORDER OF REPAIR APRIL 15 - JUNE 30, 2005

- | | | |
|------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| 1) Highweed Dr. | 21) Jewel Ct. | 41) Darley Dr. |
| 2) Homestead Dr. | 22) Loring Pl. | 42) Nunda Dr. |
| 3) Homestead Dr. | 23) Holden Rd. | 43) Hartsdale Dr. |
| 4) Addy Ct. | 24) Kingston Rd. | 44) Breaux St. |
| 5) Alderwood Manor Dr. | 25) Carson Dr. | 45) Mc Mahon Dr. |
| 6) Roslyn Dr. (south) | 26) Roslyn Ln. | 46) Mc Mahon Dr. |
| 7) Linger Ln. | 27) Paisley Ln. | 47) Biglon Pl. |
| 8) Cutler Pl. | 28) Jasper Dr. | 48) Marburn Ct. |
| 9) Amalia Dr. | 29) Talent Wy. | 49) Northport Ct. |
| 10) Mercer Ln. | 30) Scobey Dr. | 50) Fairwood Ct. |
| 11) Pomeroy Pl. | 31) Colville Dr. | 51) Werling Ct. |
| 12) Bain Ct. | 32) Bremerton Dr. | 52) Woodhill Ct. |
| 13) Cross River Rd | 33) Armington Dr. | 53) Mineral Ct. |
| 14) Higley Cir. | 34) Elgin Ln. | 54) Kenazo Ave. |
| 15) Brill Cir. | 35) Golf View Ln. | 55) Kenazo Ave. |
| 16) Medill Pl. | 36) Glendive Dr. | 56) Opossum Cir. |
| 17) Roslyn Dr. (north) | 37) Buxton Dr. | 57) Catham Cir. |
| 18) Benton St. | 38) Elmo Ln. | 58) Dilly Ct. |
| 19) Bruce Pl. | 39) Isola Wy. | 59) Kane Wy. |
| 20) Penroy Ln. | 40) Clancey Ln. | 60) Loana Dr. |

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

Ten steps to owning your own home

Did you know that home ownership is at a new high in our country and interest rates are at a new lows? There is no better investment than owning your own home. I'd like to share a few thoughts with you that make the home-buying easier.

The single best piece of advice I can give families looking to buy a home is to educate yourselves on the home-buying process. With the help of homebuyer education programs and down payment assistance funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), families are learning how to navigate the home-buying process and realizing their homeownership dreams.

Here are 10 tips on how to navigate the home-buying process:

1. Obtain a credit report. You can request a free online credit report from any of the major credit-reporting agencies — Equifax, Transunion or Experian.
2. Attend a home-buying workshop conducted by HUD, real estate organizations or lenders. These will guide you through the basics of the home-buying process and outline a to-do list on how to proceed. At these workshops, you can learn about HUD down payment and closing cost assistance and grant programs, your eligibility and how to apply for these. HUD plays a large role in homeownership by making loans available for lower- and moderate-income families.
3. Contact a lender. Lenders can help pre-qualify you for loans and help you determine your buying power. Pre-qualification is an informal but necessary way to see how much you may be able to borrow. Without any obligation, this helps you arrive at an estimate of the amount you may have available to spend on a house.
4. Choose a real estate broker. Determine what you are looking for in a home. Your home should fit the way you live, with spaces and features that appeal to the whole family. Before you begin looking at homes, make a list of your priorities.
5. Do your homework. Visit several homes. Ask lots of questions. Research home prices in the area before you bid on the home of your choice. Take pictures. Make notes.
6. Be realistic about your capabilities. Aim for a home you can really afford, based on what you earn and what you owe.
7. Determine what type of loan program is best for you. Lenders now offer several affordable mortgage options which can help first-time homebuyers overcome obstacles that

made purchasing a home difficult in the past. Lenders may now be able to help borrowers who don't have a lot of money saved for the down payment and closing costs, have no or a poor credit history, have quite a bit of long-term debt or have experienced income irregularities.

8. Enlist a home inspector. He or she will bring out potential problems that could require costly repairs down the road. An inspector checks the safety of your potential new home.

9. Buy a home insurance policy. A paid homeowner's insurance policy is required at closing, so arrangements

will have to be made prior to that day. Plus, involving the insurance agent early in the home buying process can save you money.

10. Enjoy your home and invest in it. Owning a home has many benefits. When you make a mortgage payment, you are building equity. Owning a home also qualifies you for tax breaks that assist you in dealing with your new financial responsibilities like insurance, real estate taxes and upkeep.



PUBLIC NOTICE CITY OF SOCORRO, TEXAS

PROCLAMATION OF APRIL AS FAIR HOUSING MONTH

WHEREAS Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968, as amended, prohibits discrimination in housing and declares it a national policy to provide, within constitutional limits, for fair housing in the United States; and

WHEREAS The principle of Fair Housing is not only national law and national policy, but a fundamental human concept and entitlement for all Americans; and

WHEREAS The thirty-seventh (37th) anniversary of this National Fair Housing Law, during the month of April, provides an opportunity for all Americans to recognize that complete success in the goal of equal housing opportunity and can only be accomplished with the help and cooperation of all Americans.

NOW, THEREFORE, the City Council of the City of Socorro, do proclaim April as Fair Housing Month in the City of Socorro and do hereby urge all the citizens of this locality to become aware of and support the Fair Housing law.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF we have affixed our signatures and seal on this the 17th day of March 2005.

Guillermo Gandara, Jr.
Mayor

Attest:
Mark Threadgill
City Clerk

WTCC: 03/31/05



KEEP JIM PENDEDLL
for **Punch #4**
School Board Trustee

Clint Independent School District
Serving the Clint, East Montana and Horizon Communities

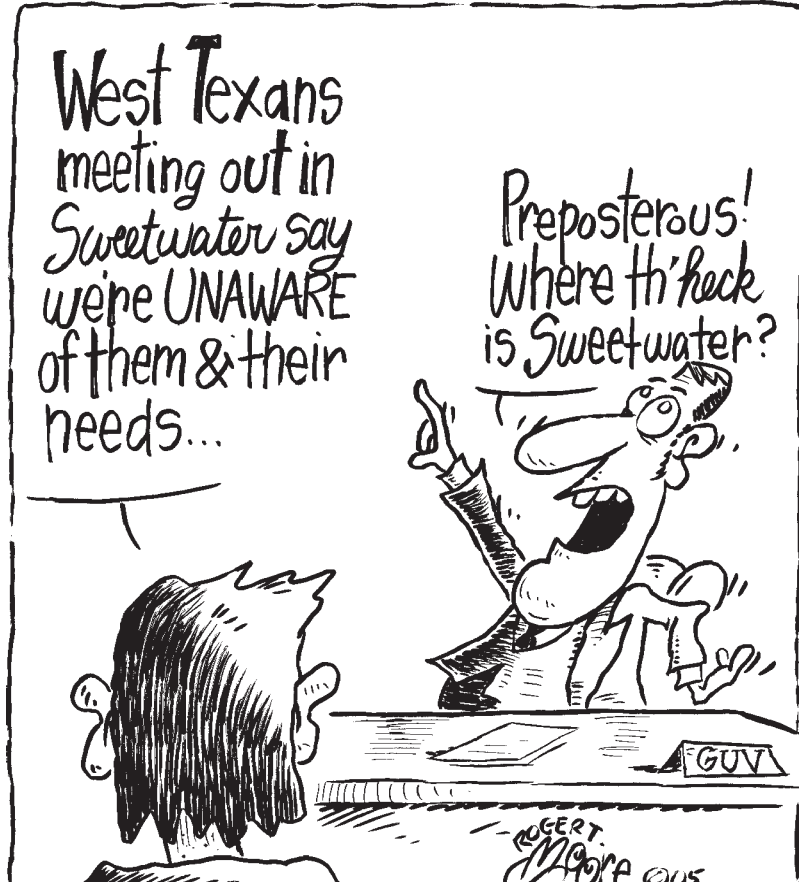
- Clint School Board Secretary: 1993 - 1998
- Clint School Board President: 1998 - Present
- Owner/Operator Fabens S & S Fabens Grande Food Store
- My children attend Clint schools

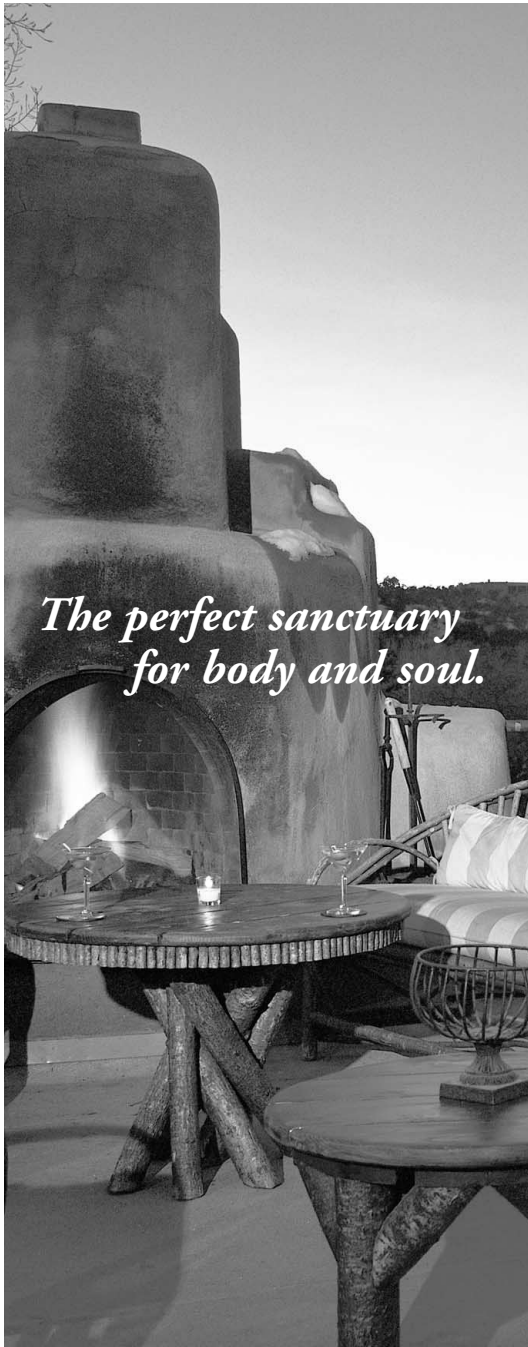
Election Day: May 7, 2005

Early Voting: April 20 - May 3, 2005 (8:00 am - 4:30 pm)

Pol. adv. paid for by Jim Pendell, 14501 North Loop Rd., Clint, TX 79836

TRUE TEXAS FACTS by Roger T. Moore, April 2, 1921: Threats of secession follow Gov. Neff's veto of a bill creating West Texas Agricultural and Mechanical College.





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Anthony Independent School District Notice of Public Hearing

AEIS Report

Anthony Independent School District will hold a public hearing to discuss the District's 2004 Academic Excellence Indicator System (AEIS) report as part of the regular monthly School Board meeting, which is scheduled for 6:30 p.m., Tuesday, April 5, at the AISD Board Room, 610 Sixth Street, Anthony, Texas.

The public is invited to attend. The AEIS report will also be available for review after the hearing at all Anthony ISD campuses and central office.

For more information, call 886-6500.

Junta Publica Distrito Escolar Independiente de Anthony El reporte "Sistema de Índices de Excelencia Académica"

El Distrito Escolar Independiente de Anthony tendrá una Reunión Pública para informar el reporte "Sistema de Índices de Excelencia Académica" (AEIS) del año escolar 2004. El reporte será parte de la reunión mensual de la Mesa Directiva del distrito programada para el Martes 5 de abril a las 6:30 p.m. en el salón de conferencias del Distrito de Anthony en calle sexta #610, Anthony, Texas.

Todos los individuos interesados están invitados a asistir. El reporte AEIS estará disponible después de la reunión en todas las escuelas del distrito y en el edificio de las oficinas administrativas.

Para mayor información, favor de llamar al 886-6500.

WTCC: 03-31-05

New coach, new era for tennis in San Elizario ISD

By Phillip Cortez
Special to the Courier

SANELIZARIO — This sport can be intense, when an object traveling at speeds faster than the freeway speed limit allows people to drive is coming straight towards you, and your only mode of defense is a racket. The choice must be made in a flash — hit or be hit.

We're talking about tennis. Yes, tennis. It's one of the most physically demanding, mind challenging sports in the world. It takes brains, brawn, finesse, and stamina to win on the court. And, according to San Elizario Middle and High School tennis coach

See TENNIS, Page 5



— Photo courtesy Canutillo ISD

SUPPORT SERVICES NOTED — Canutillo High School Student Athletic Trainers shown from left, front row are Violette Duran, Angela Garcia, Jazmine Duran; and back row, Daisy Hernandez, Veronica Flores, and Debbie Cantu.

Canutillo ISD honors trainers

By Kim Guzman
Special to the Courier

CANUTILLO — Canutillo Independent School District honored its student athletic trainers during March in observance of National Athletic Training Month. The Canutillo High School students along with their supervisors Connie Sanchez, CHS lead athletic trainer, and Tim Weick, CMS athletic trainer, were recognized for their efforts and presented with special certificates.

Canutillo High student athletic trainers are sophomores: Debbie Cantu, Veronica Flores, Angela Garcia, Jazmine Duran, and Daisy Hernandez; and freshman, Violette Duran. They help provide many basic services such as taping and icing of injuries that ensure players are prepared for competition.

Cantu and Flores are returning trainers from last year, and both commented, "Even though we have some knowledge from last year, it is an ongoing learning experience, working with the new athletes that join sports each year."

Student athletic trainers are a vital part of the overall athletic program at CHS. The trainers support 24 different boys and girls' sports teams throughout the year including football, volleyball, cross country, basketball, soccer, baseball, softball, golf, and track.

"The student athletic trainers aren't just water girls, they help coaches keep players ready for competition," said Sanchez, who has been the CHS athletic trainer for 10 years.

Public Notice City of Socorro, Texas

The City of Socorro has been awarded a First-Time Homebuyer Program grant through the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs. This Program provides \$10,000 for down payment and closing costs toward the purchase of a home. If you are looking for a new home and are interested in the program, please give us a call at (915) 872-9245. Application can be made at the City of Socorro, 860 N. Rio Vista Road, Socorro, Texas 79927, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday. Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs grantees must comply with all federal laws, executive orders, and regulations pertaining to fair housing and equal opportunity. The City of Socorro promotes Fair Housing/Affirmative Action and is an Equal Opportunity Employer and does not discriminate against race, color, creed, or national origin.

Aviso Publico Ciudad de Socorro

La Ciudad de Socorro a recibido una beca para el Programa de Primeros Compradores de Casa por medio del Departamento de Viviendas y Asuntos Comunitarios (TDHCA). Este Programa asiste con \$10,000 para enganche y costos de cierre para la compra de una casa. Si usted anda en busca de una casa nueva y le interesa el Programa, por favor comuníquese a el numero (915) 872-9245. Aplicaciones seran aceptados en la Ciudad de Socorro, 860 N. Rio Vista Road, Socorro, Texas 79927, de 8 a.m. a 4 p.m., de lunes a viernes. Los recipientes de la beca del Departamento de Viviendas y Asuntos Comunitarios (TDHCA) deben cumplir con todos los requisitos (*federal laws, executive orders, and regulations pertaining to fair housing and equal opportunity*). La Ciudad de Socorro apoya *Fair Housing/Affirmative Action and is an Equal Opportunity Employer and does not discriminate against race, color, creed, or national origin.*

WTCC: 03/31/05

Tennis

From Page 4

Pete Vasquez, he has the athletes that meet the criteria.

"I have athletes, plain and simple," Vasquez said. "These kids can be playing any sport they want."

Vasquez is right. Gone are the days when the physically challenged and the major sports castaways would be relegated to pick up a racket for the sake of earning a credit. According to Vasquez, these kids are here for one thing — they want to win. Badly.

And that's exactly what they are doing. His first year in San Elizario, Vasquez' job is to build a solid tennis program in San Elizario. In order to do that, Vasquez has had to start from the ground up at the middle school level. He knew the potential his middle school players had after watching them play over the summer. But it wasn't until a fall Socorro tournament where he saw just how good his team really was. Since then, the middle school teams have won every tournament they've played. Wins against Montwood Middle and Slider came in mid-February along with a big 24-2 victory against Van Horn one week later. The boys and girls teams have taken first and second places in both the Fabens Invitational and the Socorro ISD Invitational.

All of this success is going to bode well for the program's future. According to Vasquez, he thinks that the high school team is going to be a presence in district 2-4A. Right now the small high school team is led by Jerry Calleros, singles, and doubles duo Jorge Reyes and Mario Moreno.

"We should be a top three team in district next fall," he said. "But that depends on how hard the kids work over the summer."



— Photo courtesy San Elizario ISD

COURT MASTERS — Coach Pete Vasquez and the San Elizario Middle School tennis team are holding court as the top team in the area thanks to some athletic play, hard work, and a love of the game.



COMING SOON — El Paso Public Library broke ground this week on a new Eastside Regional Library (artist's rendering above) on Wednesday, March 30 at 12600 Pebble Hills, near the intersection of Pebble Hills and Joe Battle, a state-of-the-art 20,000 square foot facility which will include special areas for teens and children, an outside reading deck with views of Tierra del Este Park and a modern 25-station computer lab. The futuristic design lends itself to the needs of today's El Paso families, according to EPPL spokesman Jack Galindo. "It will be a neighborhood gathering place for far east El Paso families for years to come," he said. For more information call 543-5468 or visit <http://www.elpasolibrary.org>.

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Public Notice

City of Socorro, Texas

If your home is in need of repairs and/or may need to be rebuilt, you may be eligible to receive assistance through a OWNER OCCUPIED ASSISTANCE loan program made available by the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs (TDHCA). The City of Socorro will be submitting an application to Texas Department of housing and Community Affairs (TDHCA) for a grant regarding this program. If you are interested, the City of Socorro will be accepting applications starting march 1, 2005 to May, 2005 between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. Monday through Friday at the City of Socorro, 860 N. Rio Vista Road, Socorro, Texas 79927. If you have an questions please call the Special Projects Department at (915) 872-9245. Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs (TDHCA) grantees must comply with all federal laws, executive orders, and regulations pertaining to fair housing and equal opportunity. The City of Socorro promotes Fair Housing/Affirmative Action and is an Equal Opportunity Employer and does not discriminate against race, color, creed, or national origin.

Aviso Publico

Ciudad de Socorro

Si su vivienda esta en necesidad de reparacion y/o es necesario re-construir quisas sera eligible para recibir asistencia atravez de OWNER OCCUPIED ASSISTANCE loan program desponible por el Departamento de Viviendas y Asuntos Comunitarios (TDHCA). La Ciudad de Socorro va a sobmeter una aplicacion a el Departamento de Viviendas y Asuntos Comunitarios (TDHCA) para una beca al respecto de este programa. Si uste esta interesado la Ciudad de Socorro estara aceptando aplicaciones comensado el dia de Marzo 1, 2005 a Mayo 2005 entre 9 a.m. asta 4 p.m. de lunes a viernes en la Ciudad de Socorro, 860 N. Rio Vista Road, Socorro, Texas 79927. Si tiene alguna pregunta comuniquese con el departamento de Special Projects al (915) 872-9245. Recipientes de la beca del Departamento de Viviendas y Asuntos Comunitarios (TDHCA) deben cumplir con *federal laws, executive orders, and regulations pertaining to fair housing and equal opportunity. The City of Socorro promotes Fair Housing/Affirmative Action and is an Equal Opportunity Employer and does not discriminate against race, color, creed, or national origin.*

WTCC: 03/31/05

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BE AT THE SUN BOWL TO GET YOUR FIRST LOOK AT THE 2005 MINERS

Bonds says media 'got him' and has 'broken him'

By Steve Escajeda
Special to the Courier

It took me a few days, but I'm relieved to say that I've finally regained my composure. I mean, how can you blame me? I've been walking around the city in a deep depression, not even able to smile.

And how can I? It's all my fault. Well, not all my fault, but I'm certainly one of those sharing the blame.

It's been difficult but I finally got a good night's sleep last night. How could I sleep like a baby when I knew Barry couldn't?

I can't help but feel that I've contributed in making Barry Bonds tired. Last week, the San Francisco Giants' slugger told reporters that he and his family were tired, tired of everything.

He said that the media had finally broken him. He said the media had gotten him and now they should focus their attention on someone else — the media, the media, the media.

Although he wouldn't be specific, Bonds said the media has been after him for years and it finally got him. When asked exactly what he was talking about, Bonds repeated his theme for the day, "I'm just tired."

Bonds seems to blame the media for all his troubles.

Let me see if I've got this straight. According to Bonds, the media is to blame for his association with the BALCO steroid scandal.

The media is to blame for his nine-year affair with a woman who has testified under oath that he told her he began taking steroids in 2000.

The media is to blame for Bonds giving her \$80,000 for a down payment on a house with money from autographed memorabilia he *did not* report to the IRS.

If Bonds wants to blame anyone for his problems, he can start with the guy he sees every morning in his bathroom mirror.

Bonds went so far, in his hurried press conference, as to ask the ESPN cameraman to make sure to get his son in the shot for one purpose and one purpose only, as Barry put it, "I want to show the pain you've (the media) caused my family."

The only problem is that Bonds didn't know that the camera was already rolling and he was caught on camera attempting to use his son as a prop.

I must admit that I know exactly how Bonds feels. I'm tired, too. I'm tired of the whole Barry Bonds' "I'm a poor victim" act. I think the whole nation is tired of it.

Bonds has apparently threatened to sit out

all or maybe half the upcoming season. C'mon Barry, for once be a man of your word. Sit out the season — and we'll see if anyone truly cares.

Besides, Bonds has bigger problems to worry about. The BALCO and congressional investigations are just getting started and Barry's got a target on that enormous growth-hormone-enhanced head of his.

Not so straight arrows

Someone once said to err is human. But if he had heard of two particular Penn State football players he would have said sometimes to err is just plain stupid.

In this world of unpredictable college-aged student athletes, there's little a pea-brained athlete can do to really surprise anybody anymore. At least that's what I thought.

At a recent campus party, two Penn State football players — yes, Joe Paterno-coached Penn State football players — apparently weren't having enough fun. So they put their collective thought-resistant brains together and decided it was time to break out the ol' bow and arrow.

Scott Paxson and Tyler Reed, both linemen, happened to have a hunter's bow and graphite arrows. They promptly began to shoot them at the walls of their dormitory.

I'm only guessing, but I'll bet a few adult beverages were served at the party.

Anyway, no one was hurt, but at least one arrow was said to have made its way through the wall into an adjoining apartment.

The players were charged with criminal mischief. Criminal mischief! It almost sounds like they were caught mooning somebody.

I guess the saying is correct that it's all fun and games until someone loses an eye. As long as that doesn't happen, it's just zany criminal mischief.

Enough already

Did you hear the latest about former boxing great Julio Cesar Chavez? Word is he doesn't want to be a former boxer anymore. He's going to fight again at the age of 42!

Chavez will fight Ivan Robinson at the Staples Center on May 28 in what he is calling his Adios to Los Angeles.

I've got a better name: Hello to Another Paycheck.

Robinson, 34, is no spring chicken himself. Let's just say this is far from watching two fighters in their prime.

Hey, I've got a few more titles for this fight. Let's call it The Maalox Matchup, or the Depends Duel, or the Geritol Joust, or how about the Encounter of the Elderly.

Water

From Page 1

Improvement District #1 began March 9. Deliveries for Elephant Butte Irrigation District farmers in New Mexico started March 22. The El Paso Water Utilities (PSB) began taking water to be processed for urban use March 16. With a full river water supply this year the City could provide about half of its needs from the Rio Grande saving ground water resources for drought and future needs.

On March 21 the combined water in storage

in Elephant Butte and Caballo Reservoirs was 16.1 percent of capacity or 354,476 acre feet out of a total capacity of over 2.2 million acre feet. Reservoir storage is projected to go above 400,000 acre feet from about May 1 to mid-July and then begin declining again. This is important because under the three-state Rio Grande Compact agreement, when storage is above 400,000 acre feet the newer upper basin reservoirs can resume storing water up-stream. This affects both the amount and timing of runoff.

Assuming a full water supply is delivered to users and "normal" summer demand and rains, reservoir storage is projected to be 384,480 acre feet in late September of 2005 or 17.9 percent

capacity. This would be a significant increase from the 2004 low of 94,615 acre feet which was just 4.3 percent of reservoir capacity. This would also be a much better way to begin the next hundred years of the Rio Grande Reclamation Project.

"Drought Watch on the Rio Grande" is provided by the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station, Texas A&M University, El Paso Agricultural Research and Extension Center in collaboration with the United States Bureau of Reclamation El Paso Field Office and USDA-CSREES Rio Grande Basin Initiative. Updates of Drought Watch are issued as conditions change.

Briefs

From Page 1

wishes is important, as well as communicating those wishes to them verbally. "Simple planning and communication may help ease the burden of family members if they are ever faced with decisions about your fate," said Andrew B. Crocker, Texas Cooperative Extension gerontology specialist. Forms and explanations are available for download from www.txpec.org/whatsnew/texas.asp in both English and Spanish.

Classified Ads

LEGAL

SOCORRO INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

Invitation to Bid/Respond:

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

THURSDAY, APRIL 7, 2005

AIR CONDITIONER ACCESSORIES
CSP NO. 199-0407-0593
ACCEPTED UNTIL 2 P.M.

PAPER SUPPLIES

CSP NO. 199-0407-0599
ACCEPTED UNTIL 2:30 P.M.

MINI BLINDS
CSP NO. 199-0407-0506RB
ACCEPTED UNTIL 3 P.M.

LANDSCAPING MATERIALS
CSP NO. 199-0407-0514RB
ACCEPTED UNTIL 3:30 P.M.

WELLNESS AND FITNESS PROGRAM CONSULTANT
RFP NO. 199-0407-0604
ACCEPTED UNTIL 4 P.M.

Proposals will be received at Business Services

Dept., 12300 Eastlake Drive, El Paso, Texas 79928 until the specified times. Detailed specifications are available from the above office between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. Mondays through Fridays and on the Socorro Independent School District's website: www.sisd.net. WTCC-03/31/05

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

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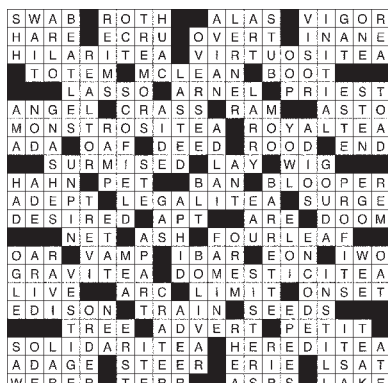
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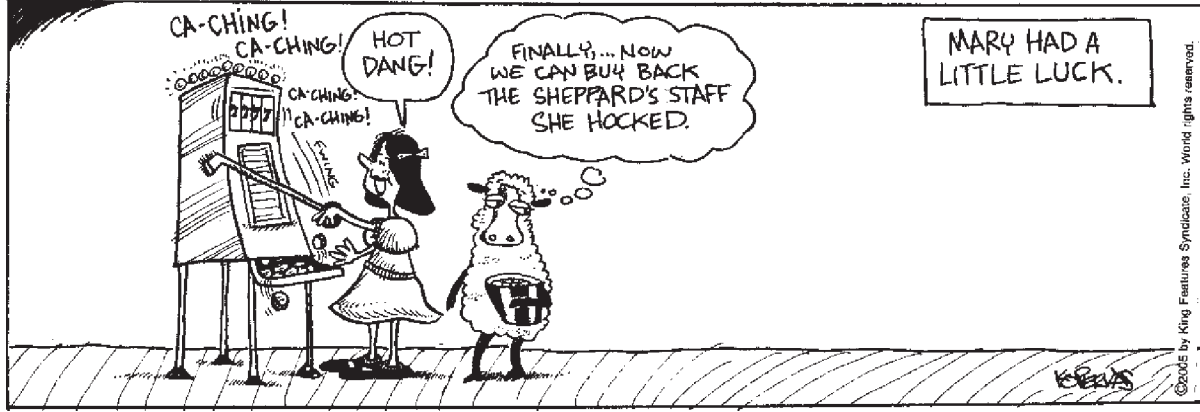
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Comix

OUT ON A LIMB By Gary Kopervas



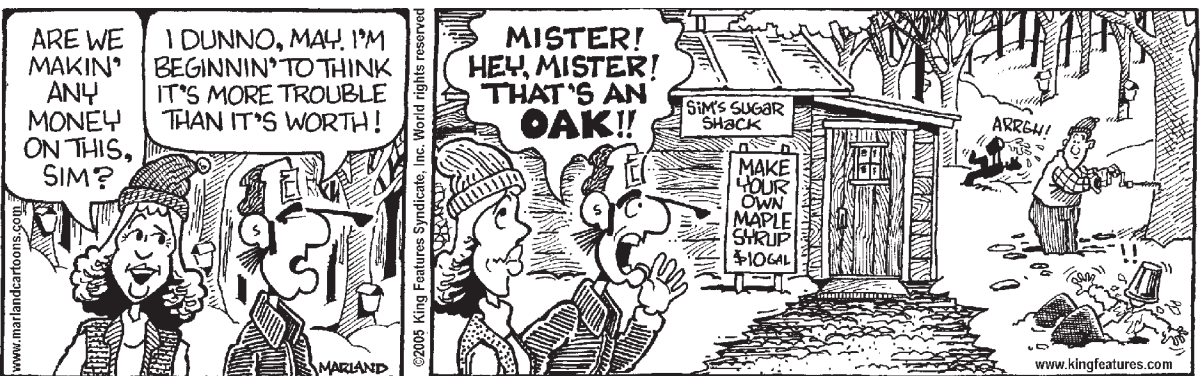
AMBER WAVES By Dave T. Phipps



THE SPATS By Jeff Pickering



R.F.D. By Mike Marland



Cruise to lose

By Don Flood

You know that cruise-ship ad that shows all the wild and crazy couples having boatloads of fun?

"Somewhere between the jet-skiing, the mountain biking, cycling through Rome and the rock wall," says the perky voiceover, "it hits you — an acute case of gastrointestinal agony, followed by raging aches and fever that leave you praying for a quick and merciful death."

OK, in the interest of truth, which as a professional journalist I am morally bound to uphold on Tuesdays, occasional Thursday afternoons and on the second Monday after a full moon, that may not be exactly what the voiceover says.

It might actually be more like, "This Is Way More Than a Cruise!"

Unfortunately for the cruise lines, there have been more than a few of what the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention calls viral "outbreaks."

But for some reason, the cruise lines don't like the word "outbreak," probably because it conjures up images of people spending their vacation in the bathroom barfing up the midnight buffet. (Or "barf-et," as it is sometimes called by regulars.)

According to the results of some focus groups that I just made up, vacationers rated "Praying to the Porcelain Goddess" rather low on their list of favorite shipboard activities, finishing just above "Being serenaded by Kathie Lee Gifford singing 'If They Could See Me Now.'"

But words other than "outbreak" have their own problems:

PESTILENCE — A word that fared poorly with fictional focus groups. Pestilence, to some, suggested divine wrath and retribution, not among the top reasons given for going on a cruise.

SCOURGE — Another low-rated word. Many respondents pointed out that "scourge" and "fun" didn't seem to go together.

THE BLACK DEATH — The cruise industry objected to this term, feeling it would tend to have a negative impact on their marketing efforts. (In fairness to the industry, Black Death doesn't seem wholly accurate. While people may briefly feel they are suffering from the bubonic plague, cruise lines actually reported very few cases of having to toss the boil-and-pus-covered carcasses of vacationers overboard.)

So the industry is exploring another direction:

SPONTANEOUS WEIGHT LOSS: Instead of using "outbreak" in press releases, the CDC could announce something like, "Nearly 150 passengers on the cruise ship Dia Rhea experienced spontaneous weight loss, the result being an average drop of 5.3 pounds."

Proponents say the phrase is accurate, positive and lends itself to successful marketing campaigns:

"Tired of diets that just don't work? Book a trip on The Lose Cruise, where 98 percent of our passengers reported a spontaneous weight loss of seven pounds overnight!"

"Even more amazing, many said they didn't eat and yet experienced NO hunger pangs the rest of the cruise!"

"As one satisfied customer put it, 'I couldn't even look at food.'"

And according to a Wall Street Journal article, 2005 could be another successful year for cruise-line weight loss.

At its current pace, the industry will break last year's record of 37 outbreaks — sorry, I mean cases of spontaneous weight loss.

(c) 2005 King Features Synd., Inc.

King Super Crossword

- TEA PARTY ACROSS**
- 1 Clean the decks
 - 5 "Portnoy's Complaint" author
 - 9 "Woe is me!"
 - 13 Strength
 - 18 Krishna
 - 19 Neutral tone
 - 20 Manifest
 - 21 Pointless
 - 22 What the Three Stooges drank
 - 24 What Yo-Yo Ma drank
 - 26 pole
 - 27 "American Pie" singer
 - 29 Overshoe
 - 30 Range rope
 - 32 Synthetic fiber
 - 34 Brahman or lama
 - 38 Broadway backer
 - 41 Vulgar
 - 43 He may woo ewe
 - 45 Concerning
 - 46 What Sasquatch drank
 - 49 What Queen Victoria drank
 - 52 Oklahoma city
 - 53 Bull in a china shop
 - 54 Exploit
 - 55 Crucifix
 - 56 "Howards" (92 film)
 - 57 Had a hunch
 - 60 Nonclerical
 - 62 Assumed mane?
 - 64 German chemist
 - Otto
 - 66 Hound or hamster
 - 67 Forbid
 - 68 Outtake
 - 72 On the ball
 - 74 What F. Lee Bailey drank
 - 78 Billow
 - 79 Longed for
 - 81 Address abbr.
 - 82 Exist
 - 84 Tragic fate
 - 85 What's between Serena and Martina
 - 86 Bat wood
 - 87 clover
 - 90 Paddle
 - 93 Siren
 - 95 Steel support
 - 97 Myriads of moons
 - 98 Jima
 - 101 What Isaac Newton drank
 - 103 What Martha Stewart drank
 - 106 Reside
 - 107 Eyebrow shape
 - 109 The sky, at times?
 - 110 Beginning
 - 111 Bright inventor?
 - 114 Make Fido fetch
 - 116 Starts a lawn
 - 118 Banyan or baobab
 - 120 Refer (to)
 - 122 point
 - 125 What Lech Walesa drank
 - 129 What Gregor Mendel drank
 - 132 Saying
 - 133 Take the reins
 - 134 Pennsylvania port
 - 135 Atty.-to-be's ordeal
 - 136 Steven of "Wings"
 - 137 Guam, for one: abbr.
 - 138 Horned vipers
 - 139 Actress Veronica
- DOWN**
- 1 "Quiet!"
 - 2 Stick around
 - 3 Singer Guthrie
 - 4 '60s phenomenon
 - 5 French city
 - 6 "Fall back" mo.
 - 7 Aftershocks
 - 8 Former Cong. group
 - 9 For the birds
 - 10 Loewe's lyricist
 - 11 deco
 - 12 Pencil piece
 - 13 Sun screen
 - 14 First
 - 15 Gangster's gun
 - 16 TV's "Step Beyond"
 - 17 Singer Chris
 - 20 Supervise
 - 23 Property professional
 - 25 "Alley"
 - 28 Endured
 - 31 Paul of "A Man for All Seasons"
 - 33 Storch or King
 - 35 Punta del
 - 36 Actress Anna
 - 37 Warty one
 - 38 Flock o' docs
 - 39 Wordless greeting
 - 40 Grinds
 - 42 -de-camp
 - 44 Herd word
 - 47 Interstate exit
 - 48 Dwight's competitor
 - 50 Cry of distress
 - 51 "Later, Luis!"
 - 58 Remove a brooch
 - 59 Sault Marie, MI
 - 61 Pangolin's morsel
 - 63 Dutch export
 - 64 Possessed
 - 65 Citrus cooler
 - 67 Deli choice
 - 68 Kind of clasp
 - 69 Makes money
 - 70 trip
 - 71 Sleep stage
 - 73 Roman fountain
 - 75 Helium or hydrogen
 - 76 Plant pest
 - 77 Claire, WI
 - 80 "L' c'est moi"
 - 83 Wells creatures
 - 86 In pieces
 - 87 Feast's alternative
 - 88 City near Provo
 - 89 Produced a cryptogram
 - 90 Eye amorously
 - 91 Parched
 - 92 Sitarist Shankar
 - 94 "Cry River" ('55 song)
 - 96 "El Libertador"
 - 99 Elfin
 - 100 bran
 - 102 Trace
 - 104 Meg, Jo, Beth, and Amy
 - 105 Teach
 - 108 Kilauea, for one
 - 112 Court cry
 - 113 Teachers' org.
 - 115 "Doe, a female . . ."
 - 117 Rapiers
 - 119 Formerly, formerly
 - 121 Perlman of "Cheers"
 - 123 "Heartache" ('78 hit)
 - 124 Shipbuilding wood
 - 125 Shorten a slat
 - 126 Horatian creation
 - 127 Research site
 - 128 Ideologue's suffix
 - 130 Tear
 - 131 Demolished dessert

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Social Security Q&A By Ray Vigil

Q: I plan to visit some relatives in Canada for a few months. Can I continue getting my monthly Supplemental Security Income (SSI) check?

A: Your SSI benefit payments usually stop if you leave the United States for 30 days or more. Since you are going to be away for more than a month, your payments will be affected. It is important to tell Social Security the date you plan to leave and the date you plan to come back. Then we can let you know if your

SSI will be affected and for which months.

Q: I recently had an accident at home. I was blinded in my right eye and have lost much of the vision in my left eye. My vision problems have affected my ability to work and left me severely depressed. Can I get disability benefits through Social Security?

A: If you meet Social Security's definition of legal blindness then you

may qualify to receive disability benefits. You are considered legally blind if your vision cannot be corrected to 20/200 in your better eye, or if your visual field is 20 degrees or less, even with a corrective lens. If you do not meet this definition of blindness, you still may qualify for disability benefits if your vision problems alone or combined with other health problems make you unable to work.

Q: My insurance agent told me that I should consider buying disability insurance. But I remember hearing that I already have some disability insurance protection through Social

Security. Would a private policy offset any of the Social Security disability benefit I would be eligible for?

A: No. Neither your eligibility for, nor the amount of your Social Security disability payments, is affected by any private insurance you may buy. But worker's compensation and some public disability payments may affect your Social Security benefit.

For more information visit your local Security office, see www.ssa.gov or call us at 1-800-772-1213. If you have any questions that you would

like to have answered, please mail them to the Social Security Office, 1111 Gateway West, Attn: Ray Vigil, El Paso, Texas 79935.



WEATHER

AccuWeather.com

SEVEN-DAY FORECAST FOR EL PASO

THURSDAY	THUR. NIGHT	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
Mostly sunny and breezy.	Clear to partly cloudy and breezy.	Sunny.	Plenty of sunshine.	Partly sunny.	Plenty of sunshine.	Sunshine.	Mostly sunny.
▲ 62°	▼ 35°	▲ 70° ▼ 40°	▲ 77° ▼ 46°	▲ 77° ▼ 48°	▲ 77° ▼ 50°	▲ 79° ▼ 51°	▲ 80° ▼ 49°

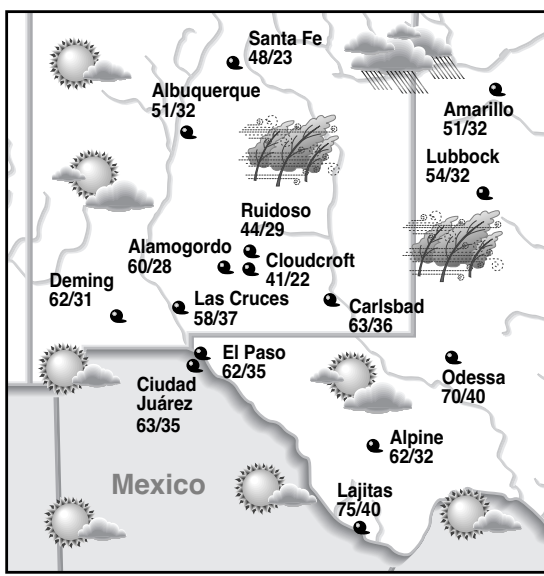
UV INDEX Statistics for noon.

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

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

TEXAS WEATHER

Anthony	61	37
Canutillo	62	36
Clint	61	36
E. Montana	62	35
Fabens	61	36
Horizon	63	36
San Elizario	59	33
Socorro	61	34
Tornillo	61	36
Vinton	61	37



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

REAL FEEL TEMP®

The exclusive AccuWeather composite index of effective temperature based on eight weather factors.

Thursday	58°
Friday	64°
Saturday	70°
Sunday	70°
Monday	74°
Tuesday	78°
Wednesday	77°

TRAVELERS CITIES

City	Thur. Hi/Lo/W	Fri. Hi/Lo/W	Sat. Hi/Lo/W	Sun. Hi/Lo/W	Mon. Hi/Lo/W
Albuquerque	51/32/pc	64/38/s	72/38/s	72/41/s	68/42/s
Atlanta	72/56/t	66/42/t	62/45/pc	68/48/pc	72/50/pc
Atlantic City	53/45/sh	59/42/t	55/35/r	55/39/pc	60/41/s
Austin/San Antonio	76/43/pc	68/44/s	75/48/s	77/55/s	75/54/sh
Baltimore	65/46/sh	62/46/t	56/38/r	56/40/pc	64/44/s
Boston	48/38/pc	50/42/sh	50/38/r	49/39/sh	55/41/s
Chicago	54/34/c	48/32/c	52/36/pc	56/42/s	57/40/c
Dallas/Ft. Worth	72/42/pc	62/44/pc	73/52/s	77/56/pc	80/55/pc
Denver	39/26/pc	61/34/s	68/36/s	69/37/pc	64/34/c
Flagstaff	47/21/s	60/21/s	64/26/s	55/27/pc	54/30/pc
Houston	82/56/t	70/46/s	76/56/s	80/62/pc	80/60/t
Kansas City	60/33/c	56/37/pc	66/47/s	71/49/pc	71/47/c
Las Vegas	70/47/s	77/51/s	80/53/s	78/53/pc	73/53/pc
Miami	84/72/pc	84/69/pc	77/57/t	79/63/s	81/62/s
Minneapolis	44/30/r	48/33/pc	52/36/pc	54/36/pc	54/38/sh
New Orleans	80/59/t	70/43/pc	70/53/s	75/57/s	76/56/s
New York City	52/48/pc	59/46/t	56/38/r	53/42/pc	58/45/s
Philadelphia	62/46/sh	58/46/t	56/38/r	54/40/pc	63/45/s
Phoenix	76/53/s	85/57/s	87/58/s	85/57/pc	80/57/s
Portland	63/48/pc	58/42/r	56/42/c	56/40/r	58/39/r
San Francisco	68/50/s	66/50/s	64/49/pc	62/50/c	62/45/c
Seattle	58/48/sh	54/40/r	52/44/c	52/40/r	54/37/r
Tucson	71/45/s	81/48/s	85/52/s	81/47/pc	81/51/s
Washington, DC	65/48/sh	65/48/t	58/40/r	57/44/pc	68/47/s

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

AGRICULTURE

Gusty winds will blow across the region at times Thursday and this will cause areas of blowing dust and sand. Drying conditions will be excellent. Abundant sunshine will continue across the region through Saturday. No significant precipitation is expected to impact the area.

All forecasts and maps provided by AccuWeather, Inc. ©2005

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