

NEWSBRIEFS

Museum opens

Canutillo Elementary School will hold a grand opening celebration for its much-anticipated History and Science Museum, Friday, May 20. The new museum will open for student viewing during the school day, with a special showing open to the public at 6 p.m. The extraordinary museum is housed in Rooms 156, 157, and 158 in the former Canutillo Elementary School building (7000 Fifth Avenue). It features a large array of exhibits. "Our original purpose was to expose our students and the whole community to different cultures and places throughout the world by presenting several displays. After the first call for contributors, however, we received historical documents, objects related to science, and offers from different types of collectors to share their collections in our museum," said Judith Valle, CES Advanced Academics teacher and museum coordinator. CES Principal Hector Giron thanked UTEP Professor Dr. Judith Munter and NMSU Professor Jacklyn St. Aubyn, and Daniel Ramirez, a graphic artist who painted a large mural in one of the rooms. Valle said anyone who has something to contribute will be able to display it for everyone to enjoy. For more information, call Valle, at 877-7601.

Urban forest grants

To help cities, towns and community groups manage their urban forest, the Texas Forest Service is offering more than \$300,000 in funding to support local tree programs. The competitive grants range from \$1,000 to \$30,000 and must be matched dollar-for-dollar. Applications may be downloaded from the Texas Forest Service Web site and must be received by 5 p.m. on July 14, 2005, to be considered. Applicants may be local or state governments and non-profit groups. Projects eligible for funding include staffing, tree ordinance development, public tree inventories or management plans, volunteer programs and the production of public service announcements or other educational materials. Funding priority is given to projects that have a long-term impact on the community. For more information contact the Texas Forest Service office nearest you, call the Forest Resource Development Department in College Station at (979) 458-6650, or go to <http://texasforests.tamu.edu/>.

In other news

John Dixon, former Director of Public works for Horizon City, has resigned from his position as of April. He was honored for his service to the city, from 1996 through March 2005, at the regularly scheduled City Council meeting on May 10. Mayor Diane Whitty presented him with a plaque of appreciation. Dixon is

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There are a lot of nuts rattling around inside automobiles that the manufacturers didn't put there.

— Quips & Quotes



— Photo courtesy of Desert Valley 4H

TRICKS OF THE TRADE — Desert Valley 4H Coach Mike Ivey gives instruction to guest James Hood at the El Paso Skeet and Trap club during a competition to support the Desert Valley 4H Shooting Sports program's 2005 season. Results, Page 4.

Robert Rodriguez becomes the first member of Montwood 'Ring of Honor'

By Carlos A. Briano
Special to the Courier

EAST EL PASO COUNTY — When ex-Montwood Ram Robert Rodriguez was a young boy, he dreamed of one day playing professionally. And when he received a call from the Tennessee Titans of the NFL to sign a free agent contract, Rodriguez was one step closer to fulfilling that dream.

But on Thursday, May 12, the outstanding football player earned an honor he did not imagine. On that day, Rodriguez was named an inaugural member of the Montwood High School "Ring of Honor," along with Art Shaw, the school's first principal. Anyone in the community who has contributed in the success of Montwood High School is eligible for the "Ring of Honor."

"I was told I was coming for a brunch so they could put my picture in a trophy case," Rodriguez said. "I'm at a loss for words."

The surprise ceremony honoring Rodriguez was a preliminary one to accommodate his try-out schedule for the Titans. An official ceremony to inaugurate the Ring of Honor, at which Rodriguez will be represented by his father, will be held Monday, May 23 in the Student Commons area at 6 p.m.

"When something like this happens in your life, I think it's important to look at how you got to that point," Rodriguez said. "There's nothing significant about me that there isn't in any person on the street. I've been very fortunate



— Photo courtesy of Socorro ISD

OUTSTANDING IN THE RING — Ex-Montwood Ram Robert Rodriguez autographs the photo that will sit in the Montwood "Ring of Honor."

nate to get this far. I pray that I could continue to live my dream."

For Barb Aguirre, a special education teacher at Montwood who helped organize the event, Rodriguez is more than a successful football player.

"Robert has a special athletic talent. He's

See RODRIGUEZ, Page 5

Socorro Teachers of the Year learn valuable lessons in difficult situations

By Carlos A. Briano
Special to the Courier

EAST EL PASO COUNTY — On Friday May 6, the Socorro Independent School District named the 2005 Teachers of the Year. Vickie Brown of Helen Ball Elementary was named Elementary Teacher of the Year while Troy Herbort of Socorro High was named Secondary Teacher of the Year. But according to both teachers, the classroom and their colleagues have shaped who they have become as educators.

Brown has been a teacher for 18 years and has been at Helen Ball since 1999. She currently teaches third grade and was quite overwhelmed to be chosen top educator.

"I was overwhelmed with feelings," she says.

"It was wonderful to see Vicky win," says Helen Ball principal Paula Wulff. "She exemplifies what teaching is all about."

Brown says Socorro I.S.D. has become a special family, especially after the death of one of her sons.

"The district was a wonderful support system," she recalls. "I was going to resign to tend to my son in his last days. On two occasions, fellow teachers donated their leave so I could have six weeks paid leave."

Herbort, by comparison, has been for a drama teacher at Socorro High School for 15 years. He said he stumbled into teaching while in college.

"I had the opportunity to work with a group of high school students," he recalls. "I found that I really enjoyed doing that. But if you had asked me when I was in high school if I wanted to be a teacher I would have said, 'Absolutely not; no way!' (But) there's definitely a calling to be a teacher."

Herbort believes that calling comes with serious responsibility.

"These days I think it's hard for kids to find adults who can help them," he says. "And over the years I have found that there is so much that we can do to help kids."



Vickie Brown



Troy Herbort



One perspective

By Francis Shrum

Losing stuff

My mother tells a funny story about her father and immediate deposit into the trash can is far different from other family members, so I've had to slow down my haste to simplify.

his glasses.

She says that he would push them up on top of this head when he didn't need them, and then go around looking for them later while they were still perched on his head.

On second thought, that's not really a very funny story.

I hate losing things.

They say that losing things is a sign of advancing age. I'm here to tell you that isn't necessarily the case. I've been losing things for years, long before the frost in my locks was put there by Mother Nature.

I've always tried to keep my life simple, you know, like me. The less complicated the better. I'm not one of these people who thrives on a multi-tasking, chaotic environment in which you arrange the refinancing of your home with a financial institution on the telephone with a pencil in one hand correcting a child's homework paper, and a spoon in the other with which you are stirring the evening meal.

There are people who can do that sort of thing. I'm not one of them. My biggest challenge is called Just Keeping Track of Important Stuff.

The initial part of that challenge is, of course, to discern what actually constitutes Important Stuff. If you are the family's keeper-tracker-of-stuff you probably open the mail, maintain a shopping list and procure supplies, and oversee the general depository called My Desk, onto which gets dumped all manner of things from rubber frogs to letters sent home from school. The question is — is it Important Stuff?

I discovered long ago that what I consider valuable enough to escape

There are the obvious things like birth certificates, immunization records, college transcripts, tax records and bank statements that are no-brainers. They are Important. It's the gray areas that give me trouble — those things that don't demand immediate attention but might come in handy or need attention later. You can get buried under it.

So I try to decide on the spot, when the envelope is first opened, what actually needs to be put in a safe place, given immediate attention, or tossed in that other place.

The second part of the challenge is to have some sort of coherent filing system to categorize and maintain all this Important Stuff until you need it again — like those basketball tickets I promise I never laid eyes on. If I'd had a file titled "Basketball Tickets," there would have been no problem, but you can't have a file for everything.

I have files but it might be a stretch to call them a coherent system. In fact, it would be a bald-faced lie. But my theory is that as long as I don't get too much stuff in there, I can rifle through the whole thing in a few days if something is missing.

Not very impressive, I know, but it works for me. Usually. But not always.

Every now and again there is some document or other — usually a warranty or receipt — that just doesn't seem to have survived my document triage.

Sometimes it isn't too serious and can be worked around. Sometimes it is just plain stupid and embarrassing. Like the lost credit cards.

Maybe it was a subconscious

See LOST, Page 4



WEST TEXAS COUNTY COURIER

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Reyes Reports By U.S. Rep. Silvestre Reyes

BRAC is big news for El Paso

This week's Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) report is the result of a solid strategy and lots of hard work by our community.

The U.S. Department of Defense released its 2005 BRAC report this past Friday, detailing military bases across the country that will be closed or expanded. The Pentagon's report included good news for Fort Bliss and marginal losses for White Sands Missile Range and Holloman Air Force Base.

Ever since being elected to Congress in 1997, the preparation of our regional military facilities — Fort Bliss, White Sands, and Holloman — for a BRAC has been one of my highest priorities. These three bases are essential to our nation's defense and the local economies of our region.

Together with our Texas and New Mexico senators, state officials, local officials, and community leaders, I have worked for the past eight years

on behalf of the military interests of not only El Paso, but Alamogordo and Las Cruces, which led to important partnerships between all three local communities. I believe the partnerships formed through this regional approach have been the key to our success.

Over the years, we have secured approximately \$250 million in military construction funds for our regional military facilities, as well as \$24 million for the soon-to-be-constructed Desalination Plant at Fort Bliss. We have worked to get senior Army and Pentagon leaders, as well as many of my colleagues in Congress, here to visit our bases and cities. I have also spent countless hours with general officers and the Pentagon leadership to ensure that there is open and engaged dialogue about our world-class military complex. And I have worked with many of our great community leaders in Team El Paso who visit Washington each year (or whenever I have needed them), helping them to bring their message to

key Pentagon leaders. As this week's announcement shows, we have convinced the Department of Defense that Fort Bliss, White Sands and Holloman comprise an extremely valuable air-ground military complex and that, although in a desert environment, we will have plenty of water far into the future. We have been blessed with outstanding base commanders who have worked closely with me and with my colleagues on Capitol Hill — both Democrat and Republican, Texans and New Mexicans — to ensure that we were in the best shape for this BRAC round.

Much of our work was done behind the scenes, laying the groundwork that resulted in the 3,800 new troops, today's BRAC gains and any future reassignments of overseas troops. I applaud our community for the strong partnerships we've formed making El Paso and Fort Bliss, White Sands and Holloman an attractive and welcoming home for our servicemembers and their families.

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Democrats blocked Republican judicial nominees...Republicans retaliated by blocking Democratic judicial nominees... Democrats then retaliated for the retaliation by blocking Republican judicial nominees...

And on it went...

Until the entire Judicial Branch of the United States government consisted of Judge Edwin P. Partukey, 96, of the 6th District Court of Appeals.



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View from here By Don Woodyard

Upper Valley communities deserve county dollars to fund park

UPPER VALLEY — Troubling thoughts finally clicked and fell into place for me one night as I drove down I-10 toward home after a meeting in Anthony.

The thoughts dealt with the issue of El Paso County Commissioners Court, in its dubious wisdom, wanting to shut down Gallegos Park in Canutillo because it was losing money. The court was turning its back on the community and the kids.

As I swung onto the southbound I-10 on-ramp at the new overpass in Anthony, it occurred to me that three other entities were not turning their back on the Upper Valley. These entities have invested many millions of dollars into improving quality of life along the interstate corridor. They have made a commitment to the communities of Anthony, Vinton and Canutillo. They are:

- Canutillo Independent School District (CISD) is building a state-of-the-art high school adjacent to the Northwest Campus of El Paso Community College (EPCC). Its cost: \$30 million.

- The Texas Department of Transportation (TXDOT) had thought of the area to rebuild and improve three overpasses over I-10 to better handle traffic. More millions. The first was in Anthony; the second at Vinton. And, most recently, TXDOT completed the interchange at Canutillo.

- EPCC has also invested millions into its Northwest campus, adjacent to the interstate. EPCC obviously felt it was important to build a campus there.

On the other hand, we have the Commissioners Court who, by contrast, want to live on the cheap. They take away from, rather than add to, the quality of life in the area. It has already closed the Canutillo dump because it was losing money.

Area residents are really getting “dumped” on.

And now the County wants to close Gallegos Park because it, too, is not making money. Commissioner Dan Haggerty, on two oc-

casions, pleaded with CISD to take over operation of the park. He admits the county, with all of its resources, can't do a good job of operating its parks. With a curious logic, however, Haggerty feels the school district, with limited resources, could somehow take over the task. The board of trustees wisely declined, saying its main business is educating children, not running a park.

I had never thought of a dump or a park as a revenue-maker for a government entity.

The amount of money, perhaps a few hundred thousand dollars, they are “saving” by closing a dump and a park is chump change compared what others have already poured into the Upper Valley.

This all hints at taxation without representation of services. The taxpayers of Canutillo are paying the same in taxes. I haven't heard of a proportional refund of taxes to area property owners because county services have diminished.

The chances of that are slim and none. And, as it has been said, Slim has left town.

This is comparable to a waiter or waitress in a restaurant insisting on a tip without providing appropriate service to the customer.

Commissioners Court, the citizens of Canutillo and the rest of the Upper Valley deserve better than they are getting from you.

It appears to be a matter of give and take. The people are giving their taxes, and the county is taking away services.

Commissioners might do well to learn a lesson and benefit from history. If they don't learn from it, the county might well relive it.

The lesson is what happened when the city, years ago, started making noises about annexing Canutillo. The people didn't like it and rose up to do battle with the city.

And they won.

Don't look now, commissioners. Those same people are really riled up again.

My money is on Canutillo.

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



Congratulations, Class of 2005

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Congratulations and good luck, Class of 2005!

Write stuff

Dear Editor:

I have been involved in the UIL Banquet at Tornillo Elementary

School for eight years. Many people help by donating their talents and by helping in a variety of ways. This year, I would like to extend a special thanks to Tony Cera for his help.

Not only is he the best caterer but he also has a big heart. Que Dios te de mas!

Virginia DeLaO-Peña
Tornillo



TRUE TEXAS FACT by Roger T. Moore May 10, 1995: Texas Cowman, Ab Blocker, sketches the XIT brand design in the dirt with his boot heel.

Area shooters pull for 4H at local competition

By Danelle Ivey
Special to the Courier

EL PASO COUNTY — Area shooters turned out at the El Paso Skeet and Trap club recently in a competition to support the Desert Valley 4H Shooting Sports program's 2005 season. U.S. Olympic Coach Lloyd Woodhouse was on hand giving tips to shooters on one of the few Olympic events that embraces athletes of all ages on the same team.

In the Long Yardage, 1st place went to "Team TTTB" with a score of 215 by Tom Peterson, Merle Gross, Kevin Saucedo, Jim Martin and Tom Gebhardt. The Medium Yardage 1st place trophy went home with "The Outlaw's" Richie Tafts, Brian Ivey, Jr., Carlos Garcia, Ronnie Chandler and Jackie Baker who scored 208. The Short Yardage was won with a score of 214 posted by "The Weigh Masters": Hank



— Photo courtesy of Desert Valley 4H

LET 'ER RIP — Luis Cortinas calls for a bird.

Sherman, John Braddock, Tom Pittcavage, Tom Bolents, Paul Gulbas. Youth first place went to "Team Outpost" with a score of 203 turned in by Carlos Garcia, Anthony Garcia, Kyle Ivey, Zachary Lettunich and Brian Ivey, Jr.

Kevin Reid took home the award for high overall Gentleman's score and U.S. Team member Caitlin Barney landed the high overall Lady's. On the Youth side, Jessica Ivey claimed high Lady's score and Mark Miller the high Gentleman's score.

Lost

From Page 2

effort to cut back on credit spending, but that excuse doesn't make up for the stomach-dropping realization that two newly-activated pieces of plastic with the power to create multiple thousands of dollars of debt for the family business are no longer in a safe place. In fact, I have no more idea than the man in the moon where they are — having been right there on the kitchen table one minute and vanished into thin air the next. I didn't even get to file them.

Anyone who has ever engaged in a family search for Lost Important

Stuff knows this is among one of the most disheartening, depressing, and disjointed of human activities. There's that little jingle about "Go back, go back, go back to where you were," that is supposed to help you find something you misplaced, but if you sing it too many times people tend to throw things at you.

It's so humiliating to have to notify a financial institution that you lost the credit cards they sent you before you actually even used them. I wanted to blame Mr. Potato Head, Buzz Lightyear, or the alien from the Black Hole — anybody but me.

These weren't the first things I had lost, nor will they be the last, but of all the things I ever lost, I miss my mind the most.

Briefs

From Page 1

now managing 11 small area water districts for ECO Resources, Inc., under the parent company Southwest Water Utilities. Due to his resignation, Horizon City sought a replacement — the new Director of Public Works is Edwin Quinones. In other business during the May 10 meeting, Council approved a bid for radio/communications equipment as approved by the El Paso County 911 District in the amount of \$9,312.05.

■ On May 10, 2005, Carlos A. Briano joined the Socorro Communications team as the Communications Specialist/Public Relations. Briano was formerly the editor of a weekly publication printed by the El Paso Times.



Carlos A. Briano

Briano will assist the Director of Communications Services, Minerva Baumann. "As a former member of the media, I'm excited to now be able to help shine a light on the positive accomplishments of Socorro I.S.D.," he said. "There are some great stories out there about wonderful students, teachers, parents and administrators of the district. We need to help point them out."

■ The Risinger Primary School, in Fabens ISD, hosted a UIL Literary competition on April 29, with contestants from Canutillo Elementary, Fabens Primary, O'Donnell Elementary and Tornillo Elementary. Risinger won first in the primary division for kinder to 3rd grades; and O'Donnell Elementary won for intermediate grades 4th-5th.

■ The Horizon Bible Church will host a garage/estate sale on

Argument ends in death of Tornillo man

EAST EL PASO COUNTY — A verbal altercation in Tornillo on Sunday, May 15, escalated until a Tornillo man was dead, shot to death, according to the El Paso County Sheriff's Office Criminal Investigation Division.

The incident reportedly began as a verbal argument between two groups of individuals, escalating to a physical confrontation in which one person was shot in the stomach.

The name of the deceased is Gabriel Garcia, 28, of Tornillo. He was pronounced dead at R.E. Thomason Hospital around 4 a.m. Sunday May 15.

Sheriff's Office Public Information Officer Rick Glancey said the first group of individuals consisted of four men ranging in age from 22 to 47 years old.

The second group consisted of

Garcia and one other person, a male in his mid 20's. No specific information regarding the weapon was being released at this time, Glancey said.

"An autopsy was conducted. The final results have not been sent to our agency," said Sergeant Jim Belknap, El Paso County Sheriff's Office.

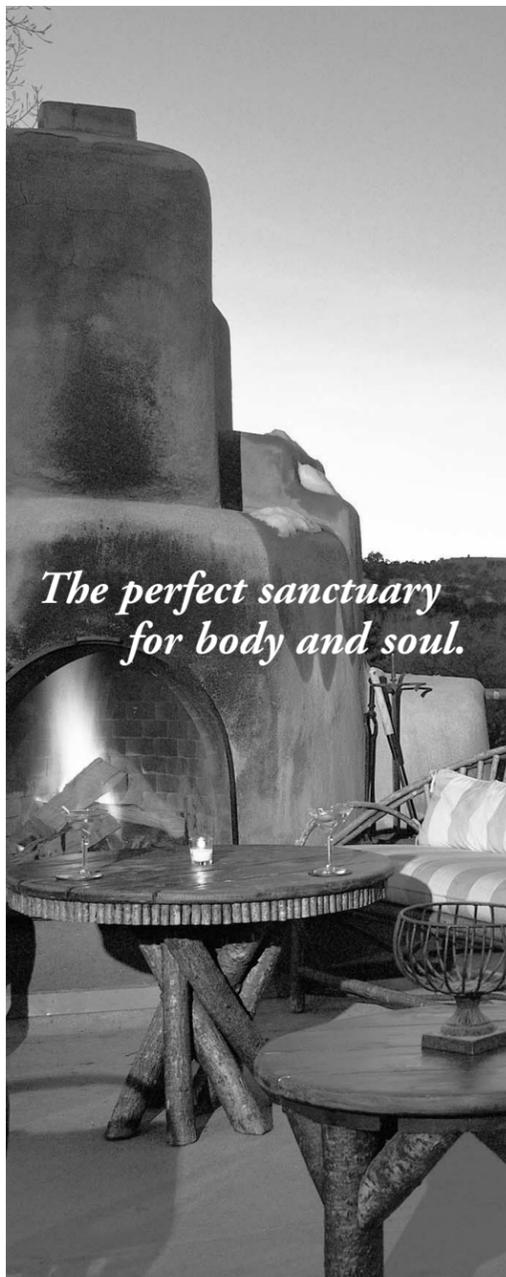
"The focus of the investigation this morning (Monday, May 16) is centered around an individual we have identified as a person of interest," said Glancey. "No other information is being released at this time."

Other sources identified Garcia as a graduate of Tornillo High School, who leaves behind a wife, a daughter, 11, and a son, five. A memorial fund has been established at Wells Fargo, account number 8683017209.

School in 2004; Lane is a 2004 graduate of Gadsden High School of Anthony.

■ The House of Representatives has passed legislation authorizing the El Paso Water Utilities Public Service Board to seek federal funding for projects to treat brackish groundwater in El Paso. "One of the most challenging issues facing El Paso is providing an adequate water supply to our rapidly growing population," said Congressman Silvestre Reyes, the author of the bill. "Especially since Fort Bliss might double in size due to the recent BRAC (Base Realignment and Closure) decision, it is critical that El Paso have a reliable and clean water source. El Paso has already taken important steps to address water scarcity, such as the construction of a desalination plant on Fort Bliss that will treat the brackish water of the Hueco Bolson so it can be utilized by the people of El Paso as well as Fort Bliss. The project, which is a partnership of the El Paso Water Utilities and the Department of Defense, is set to begin construction in August. Today's bill allows the El Paso Water Utilities to seek federal funds to expand this project or construct a similar project elsewhere," said Reyes. This legislation authorizes the El Paso Water Utilities Public Service Board to seek federal funds for the project over the next ten years.

■ Author Dr. Florence Weinberg will visit the Lower Valley Library, 7915 San Jose Rd., on Wednesday, May 25 at 5:30 PM to discuss her latest work, *The Storks of La Caridad*. The program is free and open to the public. Dr. Weinberg was born in the high desert country of Alamogordo, New Mexico. She is the author of four scholarly books, many articles and book reviews from doing research in the U.S. and abroad. After retirement, she has produced eight novels, ranging from fantasy to historical romance and mystery. For more information call the Lower Valley Library at (915) 591-3391.



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Tornillo students attend ESTIMA conference

By Emily Baker
Special to the Courier

TORNILLO — ESTIMA (Empowering Students and Teachers Into Mathematical Action) is an organized program where students and teachers come together and involve themselves in the world of mathematics. A dozen students from Tornillo Junior High and Tornillo High School went to San Marcos University in San Marcos, Texas to participate in an overview of this innovative program.

The students, accompanied by Principal James H. Blake, and teachers Elizabeth Flores and Marilou Adra, attended the introductory conference in March.

ESTIMA gives students a unique look into the world of mathematics and

math-related careers. During the conference, the students learned that math can be fun and exciting. At the same time, their teachers learned how to present material taught in their math courses in unique, creative ways.

ESTIMA, which is funded by

Honda Works, also collaborates with several colleges to help students qualify for financial aid and receive credit for two college classes. Participants attend a summer workshop where they learn math lessons and share in the development of new and creative ideas in the area of mathematics.



— Photo courtesy of Tornillo ISD

MATH MODEL — ESTIMA participants from left, front row: Carlos Morado, Priscilla Orozco, Quinnie Fortaleza, Christina Cortez, Linda Amaro; mid row: Ismael Cereceres, Lilian Martinez, Esmeralda Alvarez, Maria Rodriguez; back row: Efrain Alvidrez, Jose L. Pena, Yvette Ortega

Horizon voters return mixed bag of results on proposed Charter amendments

HORIZON CITY — A total of 11 proposed amendments to the Horizon City Charter were on the May 7 ballot, addressing everything from an annual capital improvements program to whether the mayor and council should receive monetary compensation for their service. Horizon voters returned a mix of yes and no votes.

Results were as follows:

- Amendment 1: Voters rejected this proposal, 462 to 238. This amendment proposed a yearly salary for the mayor and a per-meeting stipend for council members.
- Amendment 2: Voters rejected this proposal, 444 to 260. This amendment proposed altering the contracted term of the Chief of Police from a standard two-year term to one which runs concurrently with that of the elected mayor.
- Amendment 3: Voters approved this amendment, 539 to 157. This amendment requires the city to develop a service plan for property that is being proposed for annexation.

• Amendment 4: Voters rejected this proposal, 395 to 303. This amendment would have allowed the city council to approve an agenda item with fewer than four yes votes.

• Amendment 5: Voters approved this amendment, 500 to 212. This amendment increases the residency requirements for a person to run for elected office from six months to one year.

• Amendment 6: Voters rejected this proposal, 464 to 178. This amendment would have deleted the requirement in the Charter for the city to publish ordinances in a newspaper after they have been adopted.

• Amendment 7: Voters rejected this proposal, 468 to 173. This amendment would have deleted the requirement in the Charter that the Mayor provide the council with a three-year projection of anticipated capital expenditures three months or more prior to adoption of the annual budget.

• Amendment 8: Voters rejected

this proposal, 489 to 138. This amendment would have deleted the requirement in the Charter that a general summary of the projected capital expenditures program prepared by the mayor be published.

• Amendment 9: Voters approved this amendment, 376 to 300. This amendment requires that an elected city official must automatically resign from office if that official files as a candidate for office of another taxing entity.

• Amendment 10: Voters approved this amendment, 541 to 139. This amendment specifies more clearly what the City must do, and what selection criteria must be followed, when filling unexpected vacancies in the city government.

• Amendment 11: Voters approved this amendment, 553 to 135. This amendment adds to and clarifies the Charter requirements regarding eligibility for office, and sharpens the need for regular attendance at meetings by office holders.

Rodriguez

From Page 1

blessed with that," she said. "But even more so, he's blessed with a big heart. He treats my special education students with such kindness. I think he's being honored for that as well."

Those who know Rodriguez know his parents played an integral part in forming the young boy into the good-hearted young man he is today.

"I've always taught him that being in the spotlight means not getting in trouble and school comes first," said his mother, Yvonne Rodriguez. "People are looking at him and looking up to him. Good behavior and good grades are important."

The importance of family was also a priority for the Rodriguez family.

"His brother Ricky was involved in the band at Montwood. His

younger brother Ruben was involved in the Montwood basketball team," said Robert's father John Rodriguez. "So every so often, he'd come over from UTEP to watch them. He constantly kept in contact with the students and teachers. Montwood is our community; it's our school."

Rodriguez also attributed much of his success to his former head coach, the late Tommy Moss. Rodriguez said Moss once benched him for missing a practice. Rodriguez said he had to beg to be reinstated into the team.

"I remember him telling me," Rodriguez recalls. "Robert, you need to understand one thing. You're a great player and I like you a lot. I'm letting you back on the team because you're a good person. But you have to apologize to the team because you need to remember that no man is more important than the team." That is something that goes with me to this day. I hope to one day return

when we induct Tommy Moss into the Montwood Ring of Honor."

Former coach and current Montwood assistant principal Charlie Brown pointed out Rodriguez other accomplishments, like being named to the All-District Academic Team.

"Robert was one of those young men who had a passion for everything he did, in class or in football," he said. "And I think that's what makes him so special."

Rodriguez said getting his History degree is an accomplishment he is most proud of. He hopes to one day teach in the classroom.

"I feel blessed and honored to be put in the Montwood 'Ring of Honor,'" he said. "But I feel it's an accomplishment that goes to them as well. I'm here as a success on the football field, but there's so many other people that are successful in life because of the people at Montwood High School."

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CALL 852-3235
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Canutillo ISD Public Notice Summer Meal Program

Canutillo Independent School District announces the sponsorship of the Summer Food Service Program.

Free breakfast and lunch are available to eligible participants from one year to 18 years of age. Participants with a handicap may be 21 years of age. Adults may purchase a meal.

Breakfast is served from 7 a.m. to 8 a.m. and lunch is served from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Six school campuses' schedules are:

- Canutillo High School, 7311 Bosque Rd., June 3 - June 30;
- Canutillo Middle School, 801 Talbot, June 3 - June 30;
- Canutillo Elementary School, 651 Canutillo Ave., June 3 - June 30 (may be extended through July 30);
- Davenport Elementary School, 8401 Remington Rd., June 3 - June 30 (may be extended through July 30);
- Bill Childress Elementary School, 7700 Cap Carter Rd., June 3 - June 30;
- Jose Damian Elementary School, 6300 Strahan Rd., June 3 - June 30 (may be extended through July 15).

CISD Food Service Program does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, disability, sex, age, national origin, religion or political beliefs. Anyone who believes that they have been discriminated against should write immediately to: Director, Civil Rights Division, MCE-106, Texas Dept. of Human Services, P.O. Box 149030, Austin, Texas 78714-9030 or the Secretary of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250. **NOTE:** Discrimination complaints based on religion or political beliefs must be referred **ONLY** to the Director, Civil Rights Division, Texas Dept. of Human Services.

For more information, call Adele Balesh, at (915) 877-7451.
WTCC: 05/19/05

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Closet cousin could sink Viking

By Steve Escajeda
Special to the Courier

Is it just me or does it seem like everybody, no matter how high they are on the socio-economic scale, has that one weird cousin they would keep locked up in a closet if they could?

You know what I'm talking about. That one cousin that, no matter how hard he tries, embarrasses you with his pea-brained actions.

Well, even the best athletes in the world suffer from this unfortunate phenomenon.

This is where poor Onterrio Smith comes in. The Minnesota Vikings running back was detained last month at Minneapolis-St. Paul Airport when police found drug paraphernalia in his possession that turned out to be a kit used for the sole purpose of cheating drug tests.

Smith was honest with airport police and admitted that he was indeed carrying, among other things, dried urine and a bottle of pills labeled "Cleansing Formula."

To make the situation even more bizarre, Smith was also caught with a device called, are you ready for this, "The Original Whizzinator."

The Whizzinator (I guess you can use your imagination as to how the device got its name) turns out to be a contraption used to produce a clean urine test.

But before you pounce on Smith for attempting to circumvent any future NFL drug tests, you have to hear the whole story — you know, the "cousin" story.

Smith told police not to worry, he was just taking all the materials to his cousin.

Oh, those wacky cousins! Most of them would just be happy with a beer.

It's a good thing this stuff belonged to Smith's cousin, because if it belonged to Smith, he might be in a little trouble.

See, Onterrio Smith was kicked off the University of Tennessee football team for his drug use and has already failed two NFL drug tests and a third strike would cost him a year-long suspension.

So Smith is lucky this stuff was really for his cousin.

But I've got a wacky question. What kind of work does his cousin do that he needs this stuff?

Maybe he's a secret double agent working in Europe. Maybe he's a mob informant infiltrating the goodfellas who are planning to whack somebody. Maybe he's working on a super secret alien aircraft at Area 51.

An even more disturbing fact is how the Whizzinator works. The device is actually a — well, it's a — let's just say that it mixes water with the dried urine and pumps it through a fake — uh — through a manufactured manliness.

I think Smith's cousin is going to have to come forward because, according to the NFL drug testing policy, any attempt to substitute a false urine specimen qualifies as a positive test.

I really feel sorry for Smith. Here he is, just being a good relative, supplying his cousin with some badly needed drug-masking paraphernalia and now he may be in trouble for it.

Life is so unfair. I wish more professional athletes were like Onterrio Smith.

Oh yeah, I almost forgot — most are.

Killer Bee wounded

There have been many nicknames for sports teams, or segments of sports teams, since the beginning of competition.

The Bears were the "Monsters of the Midway." The Steelers had the "Steel Curtain." Cincinnati was known as the "Big Red Machine" and the Cowboys' defense was once known as "Doomsday."

Another cool nickname was established over a decade ago in Houston.

The Houston Astros have enjoyed a very successful run over the last 15 years and they have a very specific group of guys to thank for it — the "Killer Bees."

I guess they really are the killer B's. Players like Derek Bell, Lance Berkman, Carlos Beltran and Craig Biggio have helped make up the Astros' popular offensive group over the years.

But the unquestioned killer bee of all the killer bees has been first baseman Jeff Bagwell.

The unassuming Bagwell has put up monster offensive numbers for the Astros since 1991.

An almost guaranteed Hall of Famer, Bagwell came into this season with a lifetime batting average of .297.

He's scored 1,506 runs, he has 2,289 hits, 446 home runs, 484 doubles, 1,510 RBI and 202 stolen bases.

Bagwell has been the heart and soul of the Houston Astros, and now his career may be at an end.

His shoulder has been slowly deteriorating for the last three years and it's gotten to where he can't stand the pain any more.

Bagwell will have a major shoulder operation in June and will be out of action until the final month of the season, if he ever comes back



— Photo courtesy of Canutillo ISD

TAKING ON REGIONAL — Canutillo High School Regional track qualifiers, from left, are Ana Alvarado, Christina Herrera, Ben Hernandez, Emmanuel Gonzalez, and Cruz Tovar.

Canutillo High athletes compete in regional track meet

By Alfredo Vasquez
Special to the Courier

CANUTILLO — "When you get to the regional track meet, the real competition is all mental — it takes a lot of heart and guts," said Christina Herrera, Canutillo High School senior, who participated for the second consecutive year in the 4A Regional Track meet recently.

CHS sent five athletes to compete in the 4A regional contest in San Angelo. Seniors included Herrera who competed in the 3200 and 1600 meter races and Cruz Tovar, in the 100 meter dash. Juniors were Ana Alvarado, in discus and shot put; Ben Hernandez, in shot put; and Emmanuel Gonzalez, in the high jump event. These athletes qualified for the regional meet after finishing among the top three competitors in their events during the

District 4A championship, which was held in April.

Herrera, who compiled an impressive seven first and two second places record during the regular season and two first place medals in the district finals, was disappointed because she did not advance to the state meet, but took comfort in that she did her best. The top three winners in each event advanced to the state championship, which is scheduled later this month in Austin.

In the regional meet, Herrera finished sixth in the 3200m and 16th in the 1600m runs; Hernandez placed seventh in the shot put with a 50'3-1/2" throw; Tovar came in tenth with an 11:15 seconds time; Gonzalez landed in eleventh place with a 5'10" jump; and Alvarado threw the discus 109' for 7th place and the shot put 33'2" for 14th place.

CHS boys track coach is Ruben Galaviz and girls track coach is Robert Herrera.

at all.

No wife beating, no steroids, no drugs, no tax evasion, no assault and battery and no pay-me-more-or-I-won't-play demands.

Bagwell is a living example that good guys don't always finish last. Let's just hope his shoulder recovers so he can finish what he started — on his own terms.

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:

FRIDAY, MAY 27, 2005

SEWAGE AND GREASE TRAP SERVICES DISTRICTWIDE CSP NO. 199-0527-0592 ACCEPTED UNTIL 2:00 P.M.

DUST MOP SERVICES CSP NO. 199-0527-0611 ACCEPTED UNTIL 2:30 P.M.

JANITORIAL SUPPLIES CSP NO. 199-0527-0626

ACCEPTED UNTIL 3:00 P.M.

SPECIAL SYSTEMS SUPPLIES CSP NO. 199-0527-0611 ACCEPTED UNTIL 3:30 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-05/19/05

SOCORRO INDEPENDENT

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

THURSDAY, MAY 26, 2005

MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS CSP NO. 199-0526-0616 ACCEPTED UNTIL 2:30 P.M.

BILINGUAL INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS CSP NO. 199-0526-0609 ACCEPTED UNTIL 3:00 P.M.

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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, MAY 26, 2005

MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS CSP NO. 199-0526-0616 ACCEPTED UNTIL 2:30 P.M.

BILINGUAL INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS CSP NO. 199-0526-0609 ACCEPTED UNTIL 3:00 P.M.

Proposals will be received at Business Services Dept., 12300 Eastlake Drive, El Paso, Texas 79928 until the specified times. Detailed specifications are available from the above office between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. Mondays through Fridays and on the Socorro Independent School District's website: www.sisd.net. WTCC-05/19/05

PUBLIC NOTICE

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

VIN JT4RN81A4M5129320, 1991 Toyota pickup, 2-door, grey, Chihuahua license DH99001 WTCC-05/19/05

tract of Sale) ¡Quiza ya no debe, o deba menos o se le debe dinero a Usted! (Consulta Gratis, Llame 778-7878 Abel Pichardo) 6/2

BARGAINS

DODGE RAM CHARGER - '93 Canyon Sport, tow pkg. Good condition. One owner. \$3895 OBO. 852-4945. 5/19

REDUCED PRICE - show-bred bunny, velvety black, about one year old, with roomy rabbit house, water feeder and 30 pounds of food. \$30. Call 637-1982.

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couple. Truck parking. 852-4282. 5/26

SELF-HELP

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

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

— Gimme a Ring" **JIFFY GLASS REPAIR** Windshield Repair Specialists By appt. at your home or office: R.V. Dick Harshberger **915-852-9082**

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Two from Clint earn prestigious Gold Girl Scout Award

EL PASO COUNTY — Prestigious awards were presented to a select group of Girl Scouts by the Rio Grande Council at a special event held at the Scottish Rite Temple on May 7, 2005.

Two Clint girls were presented the Gold Award — the equivalent of the Eagle Award in Boy Scouting — an award that is often a valuable asset in obtaining scholarships for college.

Through the use of artwork Tressa Cook and Cherity Peirce hope to en-

courage Clint High School students to choose a path to success rather than failure. These two dedicated students coordinated the painting of a mural on a school wall that features the school motto of "Success is a Journey, Not a Destination" as their Gold Award project.

Good grades and extracurricular activities are depicted as success, while smoking, drugs, alcohol, and gangs are featured as the journey to destruction.

A 13-year Girl Scout, Tressa said

time management and improved leadership skills were valuable lessons learned in the project. Already a busy person, she found that coordinating people helping with the mural was a special challenge, especially on Saturday mornings when other activities competed for their time. She has also earned the Silver Award, the highest honor a Cadette Girl Scout can achieve. She is expected to graduate as Valedictorian of her Clint High School class, and has served as co-editor of the Lion's

Lair Yearbook as well as vice-president of National Honor Society this year. She has won numerous awards in school, district, regional and state science fairs.

An injury pulled her from the line-ups on her basketball and volleyball, so she became head volleyball manager and a statistician for the girl's basketball team. Tressa was also nominated for the YWCA Reach Award and plans to attend Baylor University this fall, with the goal of becoming a forensic pathologist.

Cherity Pierce said the significant time and coordination have had an impact on people. Daily she notices

people stopping to look at and think about the mural.

She joined Girl Scouts early because her mother was a leader for an older sister's troop — she has been active in scouting for 14 years and has earned her Cadette Silver Award. In addition to excelling academically at Clint High School, she has been involved with a number of extracurricular activities including National Honor Society, Environmental Club, yearbook, journalism, cheerleading, band and golf. She plans to attend UTEP on a music scholarship, where she will major in engineering or journalism.

County to remodel two buildings for records and law enforcement

EL PASO COUNTY — El Paso County Commissioners Court approved awarding two design-bid projects to C.F. Associates Inc. an El Paso architectural firm for the remodeling of the Viramontes Building and the El Paso County Archives Building.

All five members of the Court made the decision during a special session Tuesday, after reviewing the qualification presentations of five

local architectural firms. The presentations were divided into two phases. The first was for the Viramontes Building, located in far East El Paso, which will be renovated to house the Sheriff's Department and provide warehousing space for the Elections Department.

In the second phase, CFA Inc. was again selected to renovate the County's Archives Building. The old Momsen Dunnegan Ryan building on

Overland Street is now where the Sheriff has his offices and where the County keeps its old records. The County purchased the building 14 years ago.

"The renovation of the two buildings will help us make progress toward filling the space needs of our employees, so they can continue to serve El Paso's families in a timely and effective manner," County Judge Dolores Briones said. "CFA was cho-

sen because they were the best qualified firm overall."

Once renovations are complete, the Sheriff will move to the Viramontes complex and some county departments, whose functions are not related to the courts, will be moving into the Archives Building.

Robert Rivera, the County's Road and Bridge director, estimates that once the Court has approved the designs and bids, and the contracts have

been signed, construction will begin immediately. If there are no holdups, he said, all renovations would be done by the end of the year.

"In the Viramontes, 14,000 square feet will be converted into office and warehouse space for the Sheriff's Department and for Elections equipment," Rivera said. "Improvements to the Archives Building, on the other hand, will be minor."

— Contributed by Guadalupe Silva

Social Security Q&A By Ray Vigil

Q: When my grandfather died, my grandmother received a \$255 death benefit. But when she died, Social Security told me that I couldn't get this lump-sum death payment. Why not?

A: A lump-sum death benefit of \$255 may be paid when a person dies who has worked long enough to be insured under the Social Security program. The lump-sum death benefit can be paid upon the death of the insured person even if he or she were not re-

ceiving retirement or disability benefits at the time of death. This payment can only be made to a spouse who was living with the worker at the time of death or to a spouse or a child who, in the month of death, is eligible for a Social Security benefit based on the worker's record. If no spouse or child meets the requirements, the benefit can not be paid.

Q: I am 29 years old and have applied to receive Supplemental Secu-

riety Income (SSI) disability benefits. I was surprised when the Social Security representative told me that my payment will be reduced because I live with my parents. Why is this?

A: SSI is a needs-based program. Your SSI payments may be reduced if you are receiving food, shelter or monetary assistance. If you move, or if your situation changes, contact Social Security.

Q: My oldest aunt has told me that I have been named executor of her estate. Among the questions I have is this: when a Social Security benefi-

ciary dies, does the funeral home notify Social Security or is notification up to the family?

A: Many funeral directors voluntarily provide death information directly to Social Security. But family members of a deceased individual still have the legal responsibility to notify Social Security

Q: My sister-in-law just had a baby who was born six weeks prematurely and only weighs about 4 pounds. I was told that premature infants can get Supplemental Security Income. Is this true?

A: Certain low-birth-weight infants can receive SSI disability benefits, whether they are premature or not. The Social Security website at www.socialsecurity.gov includes a chart which shows the weight and gestational age at which children would qualify for benefits.

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 very warm.	Mainly clear.	Partly sunny, breezy and quite warm.	Partly sunny and very warm.	Warm with a good deal of sunshine.	Sunshine and some clouds.	Mostly sunny.	A good deal of sunshine.
▲ 96°	▼ 68°	▲ 98° ▼ 68°	▲ 98° ▼ 68°	▲ 96° ▼ 66°	▲ 94° ▼ 64°	▲ 92° ▼ 66°	▲ 92° ▼ 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	8	High
Tuesday	10	Very High
Wednesday	10	Very High

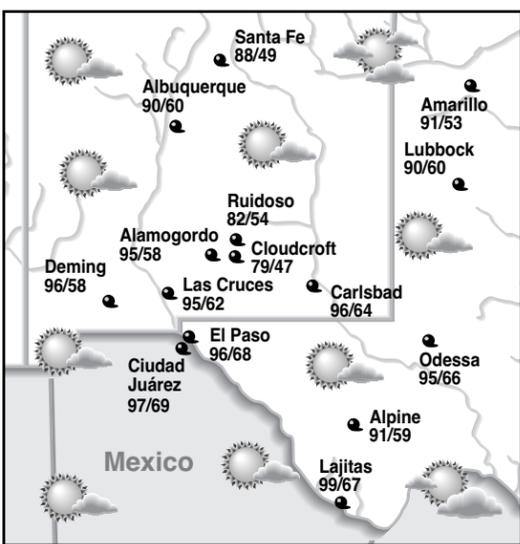
REAL FEEL TEMP®

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

Thursday	96°
Friday	89°
Saturday	88°
Sunday	86°
Monday	87°
Tuesday	92°
Wednesday	91°

TEXAS WEATHER

Anthony	96	65
Canutillo	96	66
Clint	96	66
E. Montana	96	67
Fabens	96	66
Horizon	96	68
San Elizario	97	66
Socorro	98	67
Tornillo	96	66
Vinton	96	65



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	90/60/s	88/60/s	88/59/pc	86/58/s	86/60/s
Atlanta	82/64/t	80/60/t	74/58/t	78/60/pc	82/60/pc
Atlantic City	65/48/pc	66/45/pc	70/49/pc	73/53/pc	75/54/pc
Austin/San Antonio	90/64/pc	86/62/pc	85/62/pc	84/64/s	90/65/c
Baltimore	68/52/c	70/50/pc	74/52/pc	78/54/pc	77/55/c
Boston	62/48/pc	62/48/pc	64/52/pc	70/54/pc	69/57/pc
Chicago	68/50/sh	68/50/pc	72/52/pc	74/58/sh	73/50/pc
Dallas/Ft. Worth	91/64/t	80/62/pc	81/63/pc	81/65/s	84/66/c
Denver	84/48/s	80/50/s	82/49/pc	75/48/pc	76/52/pc
Flagstaff	85/41/s	82/43/s	82/43/s	82/45/s	80/45/s
Houston	90/68/pc	88/68/t	88/68/t	90/68/t	88/68/pc
Kansas City	82/55/pc	76/57/pc	80/60/s	76/58/c	76/58/pc
Las Vegas	98/76/s	100/76/s	98/72/s	102/75/s	102/75/s
Miami	86/76/t	86/76/t	84/74/t	84/72/t	86/72/pc
Minneapolis	68/52/sh	74/54/s	78/58/pc	72/54/c	69/48/c
New Orleans	89/68/pc	84/65/t	83/67/t	82/67/t	84/65/t
New York City	68/52/pc	66/54/pc	70/54/pc	74/60/pc	76/60/s
Philadelphia	70/52/pc	70/52/pc	74/54/pc	76/56/s	79/59/s
Phoenix	106/79/s	104/79/s	104/79/s	104/78/s	102/76/s
Portland	66/50/sh	66/48/sh	70/50/s	75/50/s	73/56/s
San Francisco	67/54/c	70/53/pc	73/55/s	72/55/s	70/60/s
Seattle	62/48/sh	62/46/sh	65/48/s	70/50/s	68/56/s
Tucson	100/68/s	102/70/s	101/70/s	102/70/s	104/72/s
Washington, DC	68/56/r	70/52/pc	74/56/pc	78/60/pc	78/60/c

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

AGRICULTURE

Some summerlike weather will be found across the region over the next several days. With sunshine, high temperatures will soar well into the 90s. Winds on Thursday will be west-southwest at 10-20 mph. Relative humidity values will be below 20 percent in the afternoon. No rain is expected through early next week.

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