



NEWSBRIEFS

852 Directory

The 2006 852-prefix telephone directory is currently under production. The telephone listings that appear in this directory are purchased from a professional listing service registered with the Federal Trade Commission, and therefore may not contain some numbers with the 852 prefix which are unlisted or are registered on a Do Not Call list. If your 852 prefix number has been registered on a Do Not Call List but you would like to have your number appear in this community directory, you must provide Homesteader News, Inc. with written authorization. If we receive your written authorization by Feb. 28, 2006 your number will be included. Please send authorizations to: Homesteader News, Inc., 15344 Werling Court, Horizon City, TX 79928.

Vinton council hours

The regular council meeting hours for the Village of Vinton have been changed from 7 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. effective Feb. 7 as approved by a vote by the village council. Information: 886-5104.

Statewide disaster

Gov. Rick Perry has declared a disaster in all 254 Texas counties due to severe drought conditions, and requested that the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Farm Service Agency provide disaster relief assistance for Texas farms and ranches that have suffered economic and physical losses as a result. If Perry's statewide request is approved, qualified farm operators in all Texas counties will be eligible for low-interest emergency loans from the USDA's Farm Service Agency. Producers can borrow up to 100 percent of actual production for physical losses, or a maximum of \$500,000. The agency also offers additional programs, such as technical assistance, to eligible farmers. Dry conditions are expected to continue in the coming weeks and months. For a list of Texas counties that already have been approved for USDA assistance, or counties that currently have a pending assistance request, log on at www.governor.state.us.

In other news

■ Canutillo High School Masque & Gavel Club will host its 16th annual Most Beautiful-Most Handsome Pageant, at 6:30 p.m. on Jan. 25, in the new Canutillo High School Theater, 6675 South Desert Blvd. "We are truly excited about holding our annual pageant in the new CHS theater, this will really add an air of elegance to this popular event," said Richard Jeffery, CHS drama teacher and Masque & Gavel advisor. About 30 contestants will compete for trophies, gift certificates and a chance of landing a modeling contract with

See BRIEFS, Page 8

Business is tough these days. If a man does something wrong he gets fined; if he does something right he gets taxed.

— Quips & Quotes

Fire destroys cabinet manufacturing plant in massive blaze

By Francis D. Shrum
Courier Staff Writer

EAST EL PASO COUNTY — Fire destroyed a cabinet manufacturing plant near Horizon City on Thursday, Jan. 19, sending a plume of flame and smoke into the early morning sky that was visible for miles.

Located at 13654 Nayarit, the fire broke out a little after 7 a.m. when, fire officials said, fumes from a sealant applied to furniture apparently ignited in a heating unit, turning the large metal warehouse into "an oven" as flammable chemicals, wood materials and propane tanks fed the fire. The site continued to have flare-ups well into the afternoon.

The 15 manufacturing plant employees on site at the time all escaped without injury except one who suffered non-life-threatening injuries when he attempted to squelch the flames, officials said.

A massive county-wide response to the blaze

See FIRE, Page 5



BRIGHT MORNING — Only the morning sun outshone the leaping flames and heat during an early morning warehouse blaze near Horizon City. As many as 100 volunteers and more than 25 fire fighting units from eight area fire departments responded.

Canutillo High School's Future Business Leaders of America prepare for state conference

By Kim Guzman
Special to the Courier

UPPER VALLEY — Canutillo High School Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) will send six students to state competition after they placed among the top three finishers in their events at the Area II Leadership Conference held at Del Valle High School recently.

CHS students advancing to state finals are: Ismael Lopez, sophomore, first place in Word Processing I; Miriam Garcia, sophomore, first place in Public Speaking I; Rebekah Williams, sophomore, second in Job Interview; Alfonso Frias, sophomore, second in Business Math; Moises Lucero, sophomore, second in Website Development; and Ricardo Martinez, senior, third in Impromptu Speaking.

Nine area high schools participated in the annual area conference including Franklin, Del

Valle, Parkland, Burges, Eastwood, Ysleta, Hanks, Montwood, and Canutillo.

"These competitions are held to promote education, mutual understanding and cooperation among business, industry, labor, religious, family and educational institutions," said Carmen M. Guzman, Canutillo High School career and technology education (CATE) business teacher and FBLA advisor.

"Students learn that they need to prepare for a useful occupation and carry on that occupation in a manner that is beneficial to everyone," said Guzman. "In FBLA, students are also taught to work efficiently and be responsible; to think clearly and help make the world a better place for everyone," she added.

Students advancing to state will begin preparation for FBLA state competition, scheduled for March 9-11, in Corpus Christi. The theme for the 2006 conference is *Texas FBLA... Success Just Beyond the Horizon!*



— Photo courtesy Canutillo ISD

STATE BOUND — Canutillo HS students advancing to state include: from left, Alfonso Frias, Moises Lucero, Ricardo Martinez, Ismael Lopez, Miriam Garcia, Rebekah Williams, Carmen M. Guzman, FBLA advisor; and FBLA members Christy Cereceres, Nathaniel Deragowski, and Luis Armendariz.

Socorro will soon see major road construction, TxDOT says

By Arleen Beard
Special to the Courier

SOCORRO — Towards the end of summer 2006, major road construction work will begin in the City of Socorro. Representatives from the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) conducted a detailed presentation to City Council members during the regularly scheduled meeting on Jan. 19.


The major work — and most costly — will involve the frontage roads on both sides of Interstate 10 at Horizon Blvd. On and off ramps will be relocated and the number of lanes on the frontage roads will be increased to at least three lanes compared to the two present lanes.

Drivers will have the option of accessing the frontage roads either under the Horizon Blvd. overpass, or on the intersection of Horizon Blvd and the Gateway as it currently exists. The frontage road traveling under the Horizon Blvd. overpass will allow drivers to bypass the traffic lights at Horizon Blvd and the Gateway if their destination is slightly beyond Horizon Blvd. This design and plan is for both East and West frontage roads. A turnaround lane will also be added to both sides of the Horizon Blvd. overpass to alleviate the traffic at the intersection.

Phase 1 of this project is estimated to cost \$8 million and Phase II will cost around \$28 million. Length of time for the project to be completed was not discussed. TxDOT will be providing the funds for this project.

Other areas planned for construction will include widening of Horizon Blvd. from North Loop to Rio Vista and Old Hueco

See SOCORRO, Page 5



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR:
Letter must not be more than 250 words in length. They should be dated, must be signed and have an address and daytime phone number. Only the name and city will be printed with the letter. The Courier reserves the right not to print letters to the editor or other submitted materials it considers inappropriate.

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Horizon City, TX 79928



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One perspective

By Francis Shrum

A matter of attitude

It was a three-page letter, unsigned but addressed to me. The heading proclaimed it was an editorial that appeared in a Tampa, Florida newspaper. The title read: *Immigrants, not Americans must adapt.*

The piece bemoaned the politically correct attitude that permeates this country which calls for the exercise of extreme caution to keep from offending “some individual or their culture.”


The editorial said that it was right, fair and patriotic to state plainly that America believes in God with a capital “G,” to fly the Stars and Stripes, to speak English, and promote traditional Christian values in our homes and schools.

The writer, whoever it was, said our national identity is being challenged by immigrants who move into this country — legal or not — and expect the environment of their new home to adapt to them instead of the other way around.

“We’ve gone so far the other way, bent over backwards to not offend anyone, that I am now being offended,” the editorial concluded.

Coincidentally, this letter arrived on my desk the same morning I had

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spent some time shooting pictures of a massive fire in a cabinet manufacturing warehouse.

The fire broke out early in the morning when apparently fumes from wood sealant ignited in a heating unit, spreading to highly flammable chemicals in the building. There was no saving the place, though mostly volunteer crews and about 25 fire fighting units from area fire-fighting departments, risked life and limb to do so.

The factory had been built on land without community water. The huge pumpers had to haul water from the nearest hydrant some distance away, down unpaved, bumpy roads which gave the voracious fire a considerable advantage.

Several homes were built with heart-stopping nearness to the factory. Flames and smoke shot into the morning air only a matter of feet from a yard with a child’s swingset.

As the fire raged on, the news crews showed up and started talking to onlookers, one being a woman who said she lived nearby. Then, astonishingly, she began to berate the county government for not having provided her area with community water — for “not helping,” as she put it — even as firefighters were struggling right under her nose to bring this disaster under control and save her home.

The irony of the situation was still running through my mind as I read the letter from a clearly fed-up American. Though I don’t agree with all conclusions in the letter, I have concluded one thing: I don’t think people like this letter-writer are as upset about threats to outward signs of American culture as they are about an ungrateful attitude from newcomers.

I grew up a long way from urban civilization. You got to our house by driving miles and miles of dirt road. Our water came from the sky mostly, later we had a well. Water was piped into the house from a water tank we filled ourselves. When it rained and the roads washed out, my family had already “worked the road,” usually by hand with a shovel, long before the county road grader ever made it to our isolated part of the country.

We had a house burn down and no fire truck showed up, ever.

It was a really big deal when electric power lines came to our area, and equally amazing when telephone lines arrived.

We were grateful when these amenities became available but they were nothing we expected we had any “right” to. We lived where and how we lived by choice. My parents knew how to survive under tough conditions with little resources. They counted the cost and were willing to pay it to raise a family on their own terms.

I’m deeply grateful that they did. I wouldn’t trade those years for anything.

That’s why it seems incongruous to me that some people will knowingly stake their claim in an unimproved environment and then cry and holler when the government doesn’t come right in and improve it for them. Who do they expect is going to foot the bill for the improvements? They aren’t free and they sure aren’t cheap.

While I’m not so naive as to assume that religious, racial or ethnic bias doesn’t exist in this country, I don’t think that’s the biggest issue that motivates the deepest backlash.

I think it probably has more to do with resentment of a you-owe-it-to-me attitude.

Fabens Independent School District				
Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balance				
Governmental Funds				
For the Year Ended August 31, 2005				
Data Control Codes	10 General Fund	50 Debt Service Fund	Other Funds	Total Governmental Funds
REVENUES:				
5700 Total Local and Intermediate Sources	\$ 2,103,113	\$ 105,480	\$ 3	\$ 2,208,596
5800 State Program Revenues	16,031,869	605,886	720,316	17,358,071
5900 Federal Program Revenues	1,258,581	—	3,629,411	4,887,992
5020 Total Revenues	19,393,563	711,366	4,349,730	24,454,659
EXPENDITURES:				
Current:				
0011 Instruction	10,111,468	—	3,164,421	13,275,889
0012 Instructional Resources and Media Services	274,020	—	23,135	297,155
0013 Curriculum and Instructional Staff Development	77,893	—	157,646	235,539
0021 Instructional Leadership	274,188	—	321,302	595,490
0023 School Leadership	1,007,609	—	166,369	1,173,978
0031 Guidance, Counseling and Evaluation Services	279,276	—	90,819	370,095
0032 Social Work Services	40,429	—	58,615	99,044
0033 Health Services	224,338	—	111,043	335,381
0034 Student (Pupil) Transportation	454,304	—	1,483	455,787
0035 Food Services	1,090,199	—	32,473	1,122,672
0036 Cocurricular/Extracurricular Activities	589,507	—	1,784	591,291
0041 General Administration	958,947	—	72,577	1,031,524
0051 Plant Maintenance and Operations	2,322,127	—	23,634	2,345,761
0052 Security and Monitoring Services	309,414	—	8,232	317,646
0053 Data Processing Services	25,953	—	—	25,953
0061 Community Services	37,171	—	42,964	80,135
Debt Service:				
0071 Debt Service - Principal on long-term debt	—	210,000	—	210,000
0072 Debt Service - Interest on long-term debt	—	475,475	—	475,475
Capital Outlay:				
0081 Facilities Aquisition and Construction	462,368	—	—	462,368
6030 Total Expenditures	18,539,211	685,475	4,276,497	23,501,183
1200 Net Change in Fund Balances	854,352	25,891	73,233	953,476
0100 Fund Balance — September 1 (Beginning)	6,209,791	223,564	20,767	6,454,122
3000 Fund Balance — August 31 (Ending)	\$ 7,064,143	\$ 249,455	\$ 94,000	\$ 7,407,598



Reyes Reports By U.S. Rep. Silvestre Reyes

Medicare prescription drug plan is confusing, needs fixing

Taking advantage of the new Medicare prescription drug benefit, also known as Medicare Part D, has proven to be a challenge for many senior citizens, and the problems do not necessarily end once the person has selected and enrolled in a plan. Thousands of seniors who have signed up for the new benefit, which officially began Jan. 1, have been left off the government’s list of subscribers in error. Insurance companies also have expressed concern that they have no way to determine which beneficiaries are low-income seniors who require extra assistance with their drug costs.

The new Medicare drug plan continues to be plagued by significant and widespread problems. With administrative errors and confusion regarding benefits, many seniors are finding themselves running out of life-saving medicines. Already, many low-income seniors have left their local pharmacy without the prescriptions they need due to high co-payments of \$100 or more.

In November, the Government Accountability Office reported that Medicare’s “plans are not adequate to ensure, that in all cases, dual-eligible beneficiaries can immediately obtain necessary drugs.” Recognizing the potential problems with coverage, I wrote to the Administrator of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Dr. Mark McClellan, in late November to express my concerns and urge him to fix this problem before the commencement of the program. With a large number of low income seniors in El Paso County, a gap in coverage could mean days, maybe even weeks, when my constituents and others around the nation would be unable to fill their prescriptions.

Unfortunately, the benefits have

begun and the problem has not been solved although the administration has implemented some stop-gap measures. In the last few weeks, a number of states have been forced to declare public health emergencies in order to pay for drugs that Medicare Part D was supposed to cover. Last week, President Bush informed insurers that they must provide a 30-day supply of any medication a beneficiary is taking, at least for the moment, and co-payments for low-income Part D beneficiaries must be capped at \$5.

We need to assist our seniors, and if they choose to enroll, assure them a smooth transition into the new benefits program. Currently, the enrollment deadline is May 15, 2006, and should anyone enroll past this date, the premium cost will go up at least one percent per month for every month one waits to join. Like other insurance, seniors will have to pay

this penalty as long as the new Medicare program is providing coverage.

Due to the confusion plaguing seniors, I am cosponsoring the Medicare Informed Choice Act, which would extend the enrollment deadline until the end of 2006. My Democratic colleagues and I are pressing the Republican leadership to bring this bill to the floor. Not only am I supporting legislation in Washington, DC, but in August, I began hosting CMS Medicare Partner training for local organizations who assist senior citizens with their CMS claims. I am also holding informational sessions for seniors to better assist them with the enrollment process and any problems they have faced since the benefits program began. Our seniors deserve the truth about the available plans, and they should have enough time to make the proper decision whether to enroll and, if so, what plan they should select.



— Photo courtesySan Elizario ISD

Thanks in writing to San Elizario NJROTC

SAN ELIZARIO — In appreciation for their assistance to the Sheriff’s Department’s Junior Explorers program, El Paso County Sheriff Leo Samaniego signed certificates of recognition to Chief Manuel Jacquez and Col. Roy Gray of the San Elizario High School Naval Junior ROTC program, on Jan. 11. The NJROTC was responsible for providing the Junior Explorer cadets with equipment that allowed them to march in the 2005 Thanksgiving Day Parade.

— Contributed by Phillip Cortez

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Dolores D. Hernandez is a candidate for Justice of the Peace Pct. 6-B

EAST EL PASO COUNTY — Dolores Dominguez Hernandez has announced filing for candidacy for Justice of the Peace Pct. 6-B in the primary election on March 7, 2006.

“I feel that honesty and justice for all is a very serious issue for the residents that live in Pct. 6-B,” she said. “I have given more than 18 years of service to the community of the Lower Valley residents just by being honest and helping their dreams come true.”

Hernandez said she has provided proper contacts and services that are available in the Lower Valley area through various government agencies and entities.

She said she is a native of Socorro, having lived there more than 50 years, and “my roots are in the Lower Valley area.”

“I feel proud to be a part of this community for many years and will continue to be a part of each individual that lives in our precinct.

“Please go out and vote, you have earned that privilege,” she concluded.

Clint Independent School District Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balance Governmental Funds For the Year Ended August 31, 2005

Data Control Codes	10 General Fund	50 Debt Service Fund	60 Capital Projects	Other Funds	Total Governmental Funds
REVENUES:					
5700 Total Local and Intermediate Sources	\$ 7,776,293	\$ 1,109,310	\$ 489,081	\$ 340,261	\$ 9,714,945
5800 State Program Revenues	47,465,307	5,125,303	—	1,360,772	53,951,382
5900 Federal Program Revenues	512,878	—	—	10,465,353	10,978,231
5020 Total Revenues	55,754,478	6,234,613	489,081	12,166,386	74,644,558
EXPENDITURES:					
Current:					
0011 Instruction	29,939,738	—	—	6,111,777	36,051,515
0012 Instructional Resources and Media Services	669,899	—	—	421,522	1,091,421
0013 Curriculum and Instructional Staff Development	322,591	—	—	277,961	600,552
0021 Instructional Leadership	896,565	—	—	762,665	1,659,230
0023 School Leadership	3,768,956	—	—	60,078	3,829,034
0031 Guidance, Counseling and Evaluation Services	1,198,914	—	—	522,823	1,721,737
0032 Social Work Services	88,702	—	—	3,218	91,920
0033 Health Services	496,266	—	—	8,291	504,557
0034 Student (Pupil) Transportation	2,270,134	—	—	172,300	2,442,434
0035 Food Services	—	—	—	3,165,638	3,165,638
0036 Cocurricular/Extracurricular Activities	1,953,241	—	—	1,350	1,954,591
0041 General Administration	2,107,779	—	—	21,676	2,129,455
0051 Plant Maintenance and Operations	6,602,229	—	—	223,438	6,825,667
0052 Security and Monitoring Services	1,103,757	—	—	30,943	1,134,700
0053 Data Processing Services	1,151,011	—	—	6,186	1,157,197
0061 Community Services	85,294	—	—	74,979	160,273
Debt Service:					
0071 Debt Service - Principal on long-term debt	—	2,940,000	—	—	2,940,000
0072 Debt Service - Interest on long-term debt	—	3,657,231	—	—	3,657,231
0073 Debt Service -Bond Issuance Cost and Fees	—	7,188	—	—	7.188
Capital Outlay:					
0081 Facilities Acquisition and Construction	1,046,220	—	10,696,617	500	11,743,337
6030 Total Expenditures	53,701,296	6,604,419	10,696,617	11,865,345	82,867,677
1100 Excess (Deficiency) of Revenues Over (Under) Expenditures	2,053,182	(369,806)	(10,207,536)	301,041	(8,223,119)
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES):					
7912 Sale of Real and Personal Property	50,000	—	—	—	50,000
7915 Transfers In	33,534	269,703	—	857	304,094
8911 Other (Uses)	(239,411)	—	(31,149)	(33,534)	(304,094)
7080 Total Other Financing Sources (Uses)	(155,877)	269,703	(31,149)	(32,677)	50,000
1200 Net Change in Fund Balances	1,897,305	(100,103)	(10,238,685)	268,364	(8,173,119)
0100 Fund Balance — September 1 (Beginning)	11,029,318	336,913	18,285,521	1,352,884	31,004,636
3000 Fund Balance — August 31 (Ending)	\$ 12,926,623	\$ 236,810	\$8,046,836	\$ 1,621,248	\$ 22,831,517

School Boards Make A Difference

Anthony ISD	Canutillo ISD	Clint ISD	Fabens ISD	San Elizario ISD	Socorro ISD	Tornillo ISD
						
Sally Flores	Sergio Coronado	Jim Pendell	Greg Spence	Antonio Araujo	Guillermo Gandara	Leticia Trejo
						
Monica Castro	Margarito Arellano	Janice Armstrong	Adan Escobar	Terry Alarcon	Karen Blaine	Rachel Avila
						
Angel Cuellar	Carl Fietze	Alfred Gonzalez	Sylvia Gonzales	Vicente Delgadillo	Brenda Casteneda	Ofelia Bosquez
						
Christine Singh	Frank Lerma	James Paul	Jose Porras	Roberto Garcia	Charles Garcia	Bertha Brew
						
Susan Singh	Rafael Reyes	Robert Lara	Jose Ramirez	Ramon Holguin	Craig Patton	Carol Escarciga
						
Rick Villarreal	Armando Rodriguez	Mary Macias	Daniel Salcido	Fernie Madrid	Barbara Perez-Pena	Hector Luna
						
Bertha Silva-Holguin No Photo Available	Yvonne Sanchez	Fred Martinez	Rey Sepulveda	Armando Martinez	Raymundo Rodriguez	Joe Tittle
						
Vern Butler	Pam Padilla (Int.)	Ricardo Estrada	Eldefonso Garcia	Mike Quatrini	Robert Duron	Paul Vranish
Superintendents						

Thank You For Serving

View from here

By Pastor Gabriel A. Solis

Pastor concerned about sexually oriented business coming to Upper Valley

UPPER VALLEY — It is with deep concern and a great sense of urgency that I feel a certain issue must be publicized and addressed. Having been born in Canutillo and living and working in this Upper Valley community for the past 10 years I am deeply concerned and outraged about a business that has moved into our Canutillo School District!

The business that wants to open its doors soon is the Zebra

Topless Show Bar located at 7700 South Desert on the west side of Interstate 10 about one mile before the Vinton/Westway exit.

I have been the Senior Pastor of Compañerismo Familiar Cristiano

Inc (Christian Family Church) in Canutillo for the past eight years. I really love our community and the “family ambiance” that our area is known for.

Having mentioned that, I want to draw the community’s attention to the following: Studies have proven that these types of businesses — sexually oriented businesses — have a very negative impact on the quality of life in a community.

Crimes such as domestic violence, spouse abuse, rape, child sexual abuse increase and this is just the tip of the iceberg. Add to this the “secondary effect” which is divorce, parental irresponsibility, family eco-

nomie issues and so on. I personally believe that even our students could suffer in their academic studies if their parents start having “marital issues” because a spouse visited a place like this.

I also should mention that the owner of this Zebra Show Bar is also the owner of Prince Machiavelli on the west side in El Paso. The Prince Machiavelli club has a long history of being the site of crimes committed there — rapes, shootings, abuse, and even the involvement of minors in a sexually oriented business.

I must ask, do we really want this business in our community? As a pastor in this community I must say that there is also a very real, “negative spiritual effect” brought on by businesses of this type that harms the community. I have informed other pastors in our area and they are also deeply concerned and opposed to this business.

My intention is to inform all the community and in the process unite with concerned residents to hopefully take some action to protect the well-being of our community.

If anyone wants to help with this effort please feel free to contact me at prgabrielisolis@sbcglobal.net.

Socorro

From Page 1

Tanks Road from I-10 to North Loop. Expenses for this portion of the road construction will be shared by the City of Socorro, Texas and TxDOT.

In other business, the proposed rezoning of a tract of property at 11700 Coker Rd. from single family residential use to general commercial was again on the agenda. This issue, at last month’s meeting, brought great opposition from community members living in the area of the proposed rezoning.

Several community members were once again present to voice their opposition on this rezoning. Guillermo Gandara, father of Socorro Mayor Willie Gandara, Jr. and City Representative Gary Gandara, is owner of the property and at the last meeting he said, in front of television cameras, he was withdrawing his application for the rezoning. It was confirmed that Gandara has withdrawn his application to rezone the land, though he was not present at this meeting.

Fire

From Page 1

kept the flames from spreading to nearby homes. There were more than 25 fire-fighting units manned by about 100 firefighters from Horizon, Clint, Socorro, San Elizario, Montana Vista and Fabens in the East County, El Paso, and the West Valley Fire Department in the Upper Valley.

Because the plant had been built in an area not serviced by community water and without paved roads, pumpers had to haul the water from other area water sources miles away, hampering the effort. Officials said the building was a total loss, estimated at about \$1 million.

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Public Hearing Fabens Independent School District

2006 — 2007 School Year Calendar

The Fabens Independent School District intends to apply for a waiver of the prohibition concerning the date of the first day of instruction for students for the 2006 — 2007 school year. Fabens ISD intends to begin instruction for students for the 2006 — 2007 school year earlier than the state mandated date of August 21, 2006.

A public hearing to discuss the first day of instruction for students for the 2006 — 2007 school year will be held as follows:

- Date: February 8, 2006
- Time: 6:00 p.m.
- Site: Fabens Independent School District
Central Administration Building
821 NE “G” Avenue
Fabens, Texas 79838

For further information, please call the Central Office at 764-2025.

Junta Publica Distrito Escolar Independiente de Fabens

Calendario Escolar de 2006 — 2007

El distrito de Fabens está propocionando de applicar para un permiso del estado para poder cambiar la fecha del comienzo del año escolar de 2006 — 2007. El distrito tiene intención de comenzar el primer día de instruction el antes del mandato del estado que principiá el 21 de agosto 2006.

Una junta para la comunidad para discutir este propósito para el año escolar de 2006 — 2007 se llevará a cabo el 8 de febrero 2006 a las 6:00 p.m. en las oficinas administrativas del distrito escolar de Fabens en 821 NE “G” Avenue, Fabens, TX 79838.

Para mas información pueden llamar al Oficina de Central al numero 764-2025.

WTCC: 01-26-06, 02-02-06

NOTICE TO TAXPAYERS

Cora Viescas, RPA/CTA Executive Director/Chief Appraiser, El Paso Central Appraisal District, is currently accepting application(s) for the following:

RENDITIONS

1. Personal Property (mandatory as of 2004 — failure to file a business rendition will result in a 10% penalty).
2. Real Estate

DEADLINE FOR FILING OF RENDITIONS, PROPERTY INFORMATION REPORTS, AND REPORTS OF DECREASED VALUE IS MONDAY, APRIL 17, 2006.

A filing extension will be allowed for business renditions upon receipt of a written request received by the filing deadline, Monday, April 17, 2006.

EXEMPTIONS*

1. Residential Homestead Exemption
2. Over-65 Exemption**
3. Over 55 Surviving Spouse of a person who received the Over-65 Exemption
4. Medical Disability Exemption**
5. Veteran’s Disability Exemption
6. Widow of Disabled Veteran Exemption


*If you received a Homestead and/or an Over-65 Exemption, or an Over-55 Surviving Spouse of a person who received the Over-65 Exemption, a Disability Exemption, or a Disabled Veteran’s Exemption in 2003, it is not necessary for you to file again this year.


**The Over-65 School Homestead Exemption or Medical Disability Exemption can be transported to another home within Texas on a percentage basis. (Please contact the Appraisal District for forms and explanation.)

SPECIAL USE EVALUATIONS

Agricultural Valuation - Applications are being accepted for Ad Valorem Tax purposes as provided under Article III, Section 1-d and 1-d-1 of the Texas State Constitution. Properties qualifying under these Amendments are valued on the basis of Agricultural Productivity rather than their market value. The tax that would be levied on market value is deferred. Information on agricultural use valuation is available in the State Comptroller’s Publication, *Taxpayers’ Rights, Remedies & Responsibilities*. Copies are available at the Appraisal District Office.

DEADLINE FOR FILING EXEMPTIONS AND APPLYING FOR SPECIAL USE VALUATIONS IS MONDAY, MAY 1, 2006, FOR ALL TAXING JURISDICTIONS. ALL OF THE ABOVE APPLICATIONS MUST BE FILED EITHER IN PERSON OR BY MAIL AT THE EL PASO CENTRAL APPRAISAL DISTRICT, 5801 TROWBRIDGE, EL PASO, TEXAS 79925. TO OBTAIN APPLICATION(S) CALL (915) 780-2131, WRITE TO THE ABOVE ADDRESS, OR VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT WWW.ELPASOCAD.ORG.





NO FEE IS REQUIRED FOR FILING ANY OF THE ABOVE RENDITIONS, EXEMPTIONS OR SPECIAL USE VALUATIONS

That’s my story and I’m... going to think about it

By Steve Escajeda
Special to the Courier

It takes a big person to stand for something he believes in. A person who makes a stand, even if it means walking away from what he loves, is a person who has certainly gained my respect. But then there is the kind of guy who makes a stand, a very public stand, and then folds up like

a cheap suitcase at the first sign of adversity. One example of that kind of guy is Los Angeles Lakers coach Phil Jackson. Remember when Jackson declared to the world that he was sick of Kobe Bryant and the Lakers so he made a stand and quit. What a man. Then Jackson did the very unmanly thing and returned to the very team he said he couldn’t stand — for millions of dollars.

I think I joined millions of other people that instantly lost respect for Jackson. Well, last week, a couple of guys did their best Phil Jackson impersonation — they made stands and then turned into great powerful mounds of jello. First there was the Boston Red Sox general manager Theo Epstein. Epstein surprised the sports world a month ago when he announced he was leaving the Red Sox. His leaving shocked many, but the idea of a man walking away from a three-year, \$4.5-million deal solely for his convictions made the rest of us feel better about our lives. Most people would do anything — and I mean anything — for \$4.5-million. Epstein’s walking away proved that there are still some people around who value things other than money.

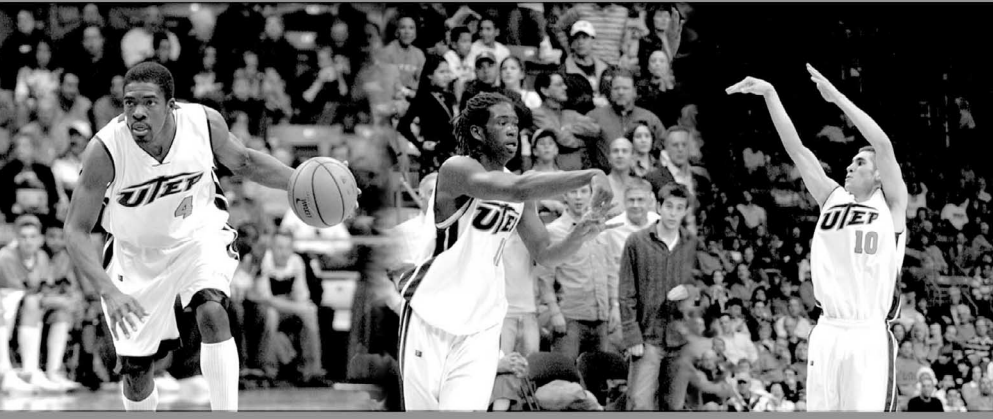
So I thought. Epstein tore out a page from the Phil Jackson how-to-sell-yourself-out handbook, and promptly returned to the Red Sox last week. How can he do that? How can a man make such a bold public move and then tuck his tail between his legs and do the opposite? It must take a special kind of man to make that kind of flip flop — like Alex Rodriguez. Can anybody tell me what A-Rod is thinking? First he announces to everyone that he is going to play for the Dominican Republic instead of the United States in the newly established World Baseball Classic. Then he changes his mind and announces he will play for the United States after all. Now, though, Rodriguez says he’s not sure if he’s going to play in the classic at all. C’mon, A-Rod, be a man, make a decision! What is this say one thing and do another stuff? It’s bad enough that he wanted to play for the Dominican Republic instead of the country that has given him the opportunity to gain everything he has, but to also do more waffling than the head chef at Howard Johnson’s is just embarrassing.

Say what you mean and mean what you say, guys. **Motown Bus** Everybody knows that Hollywood extends reality as much as it has to, to ensure a better storyline and thus, bring in more bucks at the box office. But even Hollywood would be hard-pressed to come up with a script to equal the real-life scenario of the Pittsburgh Steelers’ Jerome “The Bus” Bettis. Bettis and the Steelers suffered a heart-wrenching defeat in the playoffs last year after putting up an NFL-best 15-1 regular-season record.

After that game, “The Bus” had to make a decision — retire or play one more season. Knowing that this year’s Super Bowl would be played in Detroit, his hometown, Bettis decided to come back and give it one more try. His choice looked like a good one until the playoff game against the Indianapolis Colts, when Bettis fumbled the ball at the goal line late in the game giving the Colts one last chance to win it. It looked forever like one of those Bill Buckner moments. Can you imagine what it would have been like for Bettis, and his legacy, if the Colts had taken his fumble and gone on to score the winning touchdown? Fortunately for the Steelers, they held on to win the game after the Patriots missed a last-second field goal attempt. Pittsburgh, the league’s sixth-seeded playoff team, went on to beat Denver in the AFC title game and Bettis got his wish. One of the most admired and respected players in the NFL is going home for the Super Bowl. In a season where the media darlings, the Colts and the Patriots, were knocked out of the playoffs, the story of Jerome “The Bus” Bettis is keeping fans interested in the big game. As far as I’m concerned, this game can only end one way — sorry, Seahawks.

UTEP BASKETBALL

January 28th - 7:05 PM
vs. SMU



BELIEVE

HopeLine
Verizon Wireless

Verizon Hopeline
Bring any used cellphones to the game
to help stop domestic violence.
Tickets
747-5234

TIME WARNER
CABLE

verizon wireless

KFOX
News At Nine
See The Difference

BE THERE

Classified Ads

LEGAL

PUBLIC NOTICE

Haciendas Adobe Development, LP is requesting the following variance from the County of El Paso Subdivision Regulations for the proposed subdivision, RANCHITOS SAN ELIZARIO:

Reduce ROW width to 50-feet on the following street: Janelle Lynne Circle

RANCHITOS SAN ELIZARIO encompasses 29.015 acres of land and has a legal description of Tract 11, Block 12, San Elizario Grant, El Paso County, Texas. The El Paso County Commissioners Court will consider the re-

quest for this variance on Monday, February 13, 2006, at 10:00 AM, at the County Court-house, 500 E. San Antonio Street, Room 303, El Paso, Texas 79901.

Anyone interested in providing comment on the proposed variance, either in support or opposition, may do so during the public comment period of the Commissioners Court meeting or by providing written comment to the attention of Subdivision Coordinator, El Paso Road & Bridge Department, 500 E. San Antonio Street, El Paso, TX 79901. In order to be considered by Commissioners Court, The County must receive any written comments at least 7 calendar

days prior to the Commissioners Court meeting.

WTCC-01/26/06

PUBLIC NOTICE

Haciendas Adobe Development, LP is requesting the following variance from the County of El Paso Subdivision Regulations for the proposed subdivision, MISION DEL VALLE DE SAN ELIZARIO:

Reduce ROW width to 50-feet on the following street: Eunice Bell Dr.

MISION DEL VALLE DE SAN ELIZARIO encompasses 44.109 acres of land and has a legal description of Tract 1, 1A, and a portion of Tract 1B, Block 36, San Elizario Grant, El Paso County, Texas. The El Paso County Commissioners Court will consider the request for this variance on Monday, February 13, 2006, at 10:00 AM, at the County Court-house, 500 E. San Antonio Street, Room 303, El Paso, Texas 79901.

Anyone interested in providing comment on the proposed variance, either in support or opposition, may do so during the public comment period of the Commissioners Court meeting or by providing written comment to the attention of Subdivision Coordinator, El Paso Road & Bridge Department, 500 E. San Antonio Street, El Paso, TX 79901. In order to be considered by Commissioners Court, The County must receive any written comments at least 7 calendar

days prior to the Commissioners Court meeting.

WTCC-01/26/06

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:

TUESDAY, JAN. 31, 2006

2:30 P.M.

WEB BASED BENCHMARK AND ASSESSMENT SYSTEM CSP NO. 199-0131-6055

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 ISD website: www.sisd.net. WTCC-01/26/06

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that Roberto R. Olivas and Mary Lou Olivas dba Motor and Electric Supply has become organized as Motor and Electric Supply Company, LLC, effective Jan. 1, 2006. The Limited Liability Company shall assume all the obligations and liabilities of the sole proprietorship. WTCC-1/26/06

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY

Unique/profitable business venture. Network marketing opportunity for Arbonne. Meetings weekly on Thursdays. Call 241-0127. 2/2

HELP

WANTED

Help Wanted - Cashier. Must be at least 18. Good math and people skills. English/Spanish fluency required. Applications and interviews Saturday 8:00 - 10:00 a.m. at Ryan Supply, Inc. 117 North Fabens Street, Fabens, TX. 2/2

REAL ESTATE

NEED A HOME? Good or bad credit, money available. Call Ruth, 821-2872, C. Starr Realty. 2/16

BUILDING FOR SALE - 12521 Darrington in Horizon. 5,000 sq. ft. plus 1,000 sq. ft. loft. 1.3 acres fenced. Call 731-0326. 2/2

Lots for sale in San Elizario. Call 851-9008. 2/9

RENTALS

TWO BEDROOM

HOUSE for rent, 13010 Richfield St. in Clint, Texas. References required. Call Frank Macias, 851-2007 or 588-0968. Available Feb. 1, 2006. TFN

HOUSE FOR RENT, 3 bedroom, 2 bath, 2-car garage, 1/2-acre fenced. Across from Surratt Elementary. 851-1546. 2/16

SELF-HELP

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

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

HORIZON CITY PLUMBING 852-1079

•Electric roofer service for sewers and drains
•Appliance installation
•Many other plumbing services
Licensed, bonded and insured for your protection.

control Lawn fertilization, tree spraying Complete termite treatment. Prices start at \$32.48
Call 598-3334
Licensed and Insured
2/2

“Windshield Ding — Gimme a Ring” JIFFY GLASS REPAIR

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By appt. at your home or office:
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Harshberger
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BERT’S AUTOMOTIVE REPAIR

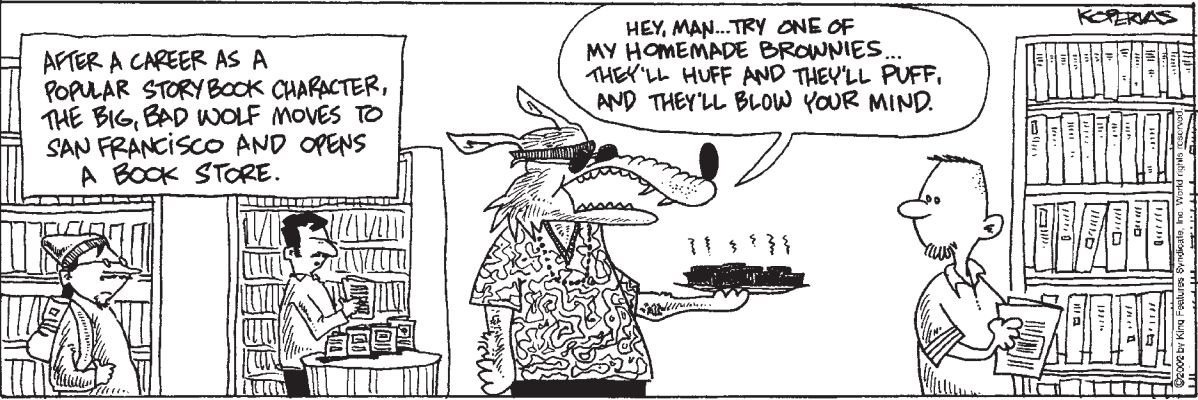
Domestic and Foreign
852-3523
1558 Oxbow, Horizon City

CLAIM	PENROD	BLOB	ASS
HULCE	IGUANA	AIDA	SPA
ARIEL	GOTHER	ATTENTION	
PET	LESS	BOA	QUAKE
MOTT	HEAVEN	SUMNER	
RUNAWAY	PARROT	STEM	
ERAT	ARLEN	CITYELF	
EGRET	CURES	PLANS	VEE
LEA	EARLY	POINT	GINA
SEMI	SPASM	DECOR	
TINY	BRITISH	PARENT	
BERRA	ODETS	LIFT	
ALOE	PEROT	PEACE	VOW
RIO	DARYL	ARIAS	REEVE
SAPLING	OMITS	MRED	
INTO	TWO	PHYSICIANS	
SALVOS	MONKEY	WAIL	
ANAIS	DAS	TENT	AFT
FINDAR	IOHSP	POUSE	RARER
ETC	UTAH	ARAFAT	UNITE
RAE	RENO	MOTORS	STEAK

Comix

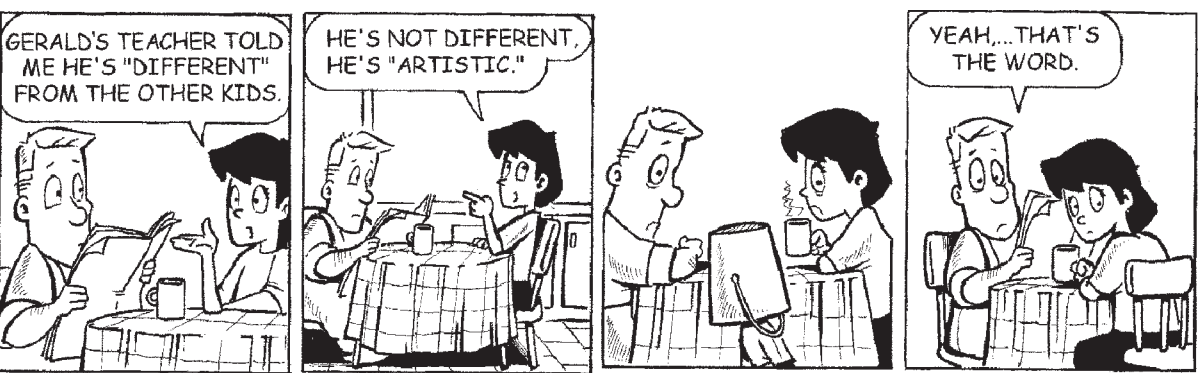
OUT ON A LIMB

By Gary Kopervas



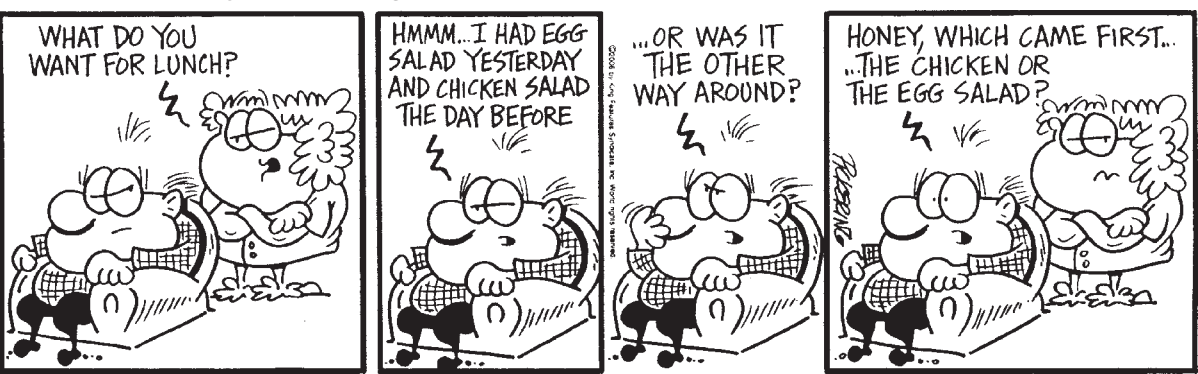
AMBER WAVES

By Dave T. Phipps



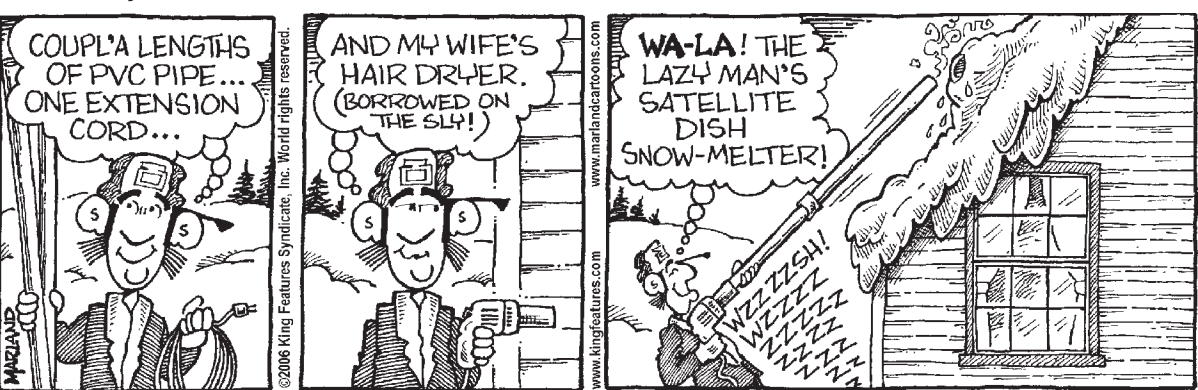
THE SPATS

By Jeff Pickering



R.F.D.

By Mike Marland



Cruise, unfortunately, cruises to top

By Don Flood

This week’s sign the Apocalypse is near: Tom Cruise was voted biggest movie star of all time.

Of all time?
How about Clark Gable, Jimmy Stewart, Humphrey Bogart, John Wayne and Cary Grant?

Who, you ask?
OK, how about Paul Newman? Who?

OK, how about the kid who plays Harry Potter?

But, really, how can we stop from being inflicted with such ridiculous poll results?

One answer, which I realize won’t sit well with everyone in our democratic society, is: DON’T ASK STUPID PEOPLE.

How do you know they’re stupid? Easy. In this case, anyone who says “Tom Cruise.”

And then they’re excluded from the poll. It’s really not so tough.

But unfortunately for Cruise, he was not the top celebrity story of the year, despite his rabid gerbil-inspired jumping antics on Oprah.

For that we look to the top five best-selling cover stories for *In Touch* magazine 2005.

Here they are. See if you can detect a pattern:

1. Jennifer Aniston and Brad Pitt.
 2. Angelina Jolie, Brad Pitt and Jennifer Aniston.
 3. Jen, Angelina and Brad.
 4. Jen, Angelina and Brad.
 5. Jen, Angelina and Brad *and* Tom Cruise and Katie Holmes.
- (Yea, Tom — you cracked the Top 5!)

Yes, it’s official, the Jen-Brad-Angelina triangle is the Most Important Story of the Century.

I wonder, if you mentioned Katrina to *In Touch* readers, would they say, “Katrina who? Is she the mystery girl going out with Brad Pitt?”

(Bonus news bulletin to *In Touch* readers: Katrina was the

name of a hurricane that hit the U.S. last year. She was not believed to be involved with Brad Pitt.)

Brad/Jen/Angelina wasn’t the only big celebrity love triangle in the news.

Two years ago, Barbie and Ken called it quits, after 40 years of seemingly perpetual plastic romance.

Despite the presence of Blaine, a loser surfer dude who supposedly captured Barbie’s heart, or whatever she has inside of her anatomically improbable chest, this story never caught on (except with thoughtful social observers such as myself).

Which may be why Barbie now wants Ken back.

It’s not often that I give advice, especially to inanimate objects (though they may be more likely to heed my advice than humans), but this is for you, Ken: *grow a backbone*.

Don’t take her back, not unless she gets down on her knees — which I’m not sure she even has — and begs.

Someone else in need of my helpful advice is Madonna, who showed up at a major music awards show — they’re on every night of the week — wearing a sexy top, bikini bottom get-up that was, in effect, a superhero costume.

Not that she didn’t look fetching, but, sadly, There Comes a Time ...

Sorry, Madonna or Wonder Legs Girl or whatever you’re trying to be, but you can’t keep dressing like a superhero when you’re 47. I know. I’m 48. I swore off superhero costumes during the Johnson Administration.

Not that I wouldn’t don one if my country needed me — such as taking a poll to prove that Tom Cruise was *not* the biggest star of all time.

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King Super Crossword

DAFFYNITIONS																			
ACROSS																			
1 Assert										58 Objective									
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16 Palm Sunday										63 Martha Stewart's concern									
beast										64 MINIMUM									
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20 Herbivorous lizard										71 Playwright Clifford									
21 Verdi heroine										72 Hold up									
22 Mineral spring										73 Soap additive									
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30 He'll give you a squeeze										82 Hall or Hannah									
31 Tremble										83 "Manon" melodies									
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Hoople										"Deathtrap"									
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37 Civil War era										89 Leaves out									
senator										90 Eloquent equine									
38 POLYGON										91 Up on									
42 Prepare cherries										92 PARADOX									
43 Part of Q.E.D.										96 Fusillades									
44 Senator Specter										99 With 69 Down,									
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Briefs

From Page 1

a local agency. Judges for the event will include beauty queens from the El Paso-Las Cruces area, members of Laura’s Production, Master Sergeant Mario Hernandez of Fort Bliss, as well as other partners in education representatives. The special pageant is open to the public. Admission fee at the door is \$3. For more information, call 877-7861.

■ The El Paso City-County

Health and Environmental District is seeking volunteers in the community for the Montana Vista, Horizon, and Clint areas to help local authorities in the event of an emergency or public health disaster. Representatives from the Community Health Preparedness program will began training volunteers for the Montana Vista Community on Wednesday, January 25, 2006. Training will be held in the Mountain View High School Library. Volunteers must be at least 18 years of age and participate in all required training sessions. For more information, future training dates, or to complete a volun-

teer application, call 751-8600.

■ Students of Socorro ISD Fine Arts programs have been chosen to represent the district in the All-State concerts to be held at the Texas Music Educators Association Convention in San Antonio in February. The students were chosen out of over 600 students who competed for the limited slots. From Montwood High School, Julian Hernandez and Michelle Ramos were named to the All-State band. Their band director is Ron Pingor. Also from Montwood High School, Sergio Gonzalez, Ashley

Tapia and Beatriz Delgado were named to the All-State choir. Their director is Joe Estala. Joining them will be Americas High School freshman Tom Piney, the first freshmen in the district to qualify for All-State choir honors. His choir director is Christine Jubera.

■ The Montwood High School and Socorro High School precision air rifle teams have qualified for the Navy Air Rifle national competition to be held Feb. 23-25 in Colorado Springs. The Socorro High team placed 4th in the nation in the qualification round. Socorro

team captain Edgar Sosa, was ranked #1 in the nation in individual scoring. “Edgar became the best NJROTC precision marksman in the nation by scoring a 292 out of a possible 300,” says Socorro Naval Instructor Lt. Com. Gerald G. Mangrum. “That’s a lot of bull’s eyes.” Danny Ruiz, from Socorro High, also qualified for nationals with his individual score. The Socorro team also includes Jose Cardenas and Jesse Beltran. The Montwood High team includes Adrian Carlos, Alan Garcia, Isaac Nelson and Robert Vasquez.

7-DAY FORECAST FOR EL PASO, TX

AccuWeather.com®

Thursday	Thu. night	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
Mostly sunny	Partly cloudy	Partly sunny	Mostly sunny	Sunshine	Sunny	Sunny	Sunshine
62°	35°	65° 36°	63° 34°	63° 34°	65° 41°	67° 43°	68° 43°
RealFeel 68°	RealFeel 29°	RealFeel 62° 30°	RealFeel 60° 26°	RealFeel 60° 26°	RealFeel 72° 46°	RealFeel 72° 45°	RealFeel 68° 41°

The patented RealFeel Temperature® is AccuWeather's exclusive index of the effects of temperature, wind, humidity, sunshine, precipitation, and elevation on the human body.

WEATHER TRENDS THIS WEEK



IN THE SKY

Sun	Rise	Set	Moon	Rise	Set	New	First
Thu.	7:02 a.m.	5:34 p.m.	Thu.	4:32 a.m.	2:19 p.m.		
Fri.	7:02 a.m.	5:35 p.m.	Fri.	5:37 a.m.	3:27 p.m.	1/29	2/4
Sat.	7:01 a.m.	5:36 p.m.	Sat.	6:34 a.m.	4:42 p.m.		
Sun.	7:01 a.m.	5:37 p.m.	Sun.	7:23 a.m.	5:58 p.m.	Full	Last
Mon.	7:00 a.m.	5:38 p.m.	Mon.	8:04 a.m.	7:13 p.m.		
Tues.	7:00 a.m.	5:39 p.m.	Tues.	8:40 a.m.	8:24 p.m.	2/12	2/21
Wed.	6:59 a.m.	5:40 p.m.	Wed.	9:12 a.m.	9:33 p.m.		

Forecasts and graphics provided by AccuWeather, Inc. ©2006

REGIONAL CITIES

	Thursday			Friday			Saturday			Sunday		
City	HI	LO	W	HI	LO	W	HI	LO	W	HI	LO	W
Abilene, TX	60	46	sh	65	44	sh	65	39	pc	68	38	s
Albuquerque, NM	51	28	pc	52	29	pc	48	24	pc	55	28	s
Amarillo, TX	58	30	sh	60	32	s	60	28	pc	61	28	s
Austin, TX	66	50	c	65	53	r	67	45	r	67	42	s
Brownsville, TX	73	63	pc	78	63	sh	79	61	sh	74	59	c
Dodge City, KS	52	27	r	55	27	s	53	27	pc	52	24	s
Jackson, MS	57	39	s	64	46	pc	67	52	r	65	43	r
Laredo, TX	70	56	pc	74	58	sh	77	57	t	75	54	pc
Little Rock, AR	56	39	pc	58	42	sh	59	39	r	56	39	sh
Lubbock, TX	59	35	pc	62	36	pc	58	30	s	56	25	s
Memphis, TN	53	40	s	59	42	c	54	46	r	58	42	sh
Midland, TX	58	39	sh	65	41	pc	66	34	s	66	34	s
Pueblo, CO	57	22	pc	50	18	pc	42	14	c	50	18	s
Roswell, NM	58	28	s	64	31	s	64	25	s	66	28	s
St. Louis, MO	52	36	s	50	39	pc	56	38	sh	56	36	r
San Antonio, TX	66	51	c	68	53	r	70	49	t	69	45	s
Texarkana, AR	60	46	pc	58	49	t	62	48	sh	58	42	pc
Waco, TX	68	50	c	61	51	r	66	44	r	64	43	s
Wichita, KS	56	34	sh	55	32	pc	54	32	r	53	31	pc

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

U.S. CITIES

	Thursday			Friday			Saturday			Sunday		
City	HI	LO	W	HI	LO	W	HI	LO	W	HI	LO	W
Atlanta	54	38	s	60	42	s	60	45	sh	60	44	r
Boston	29	19	pc	35	26	s	43	32	pc	44	31	pc
Chicago	44	26	s	44	30	sh	42	32	sh	40	26	r
Denver	50	26	pc	48	18	pc	35	15	c	50	26	pc
Detroit	38	24	pc	42	30	pc	42	29	c	46	30	r
Houston	68	52	pc	70	58	sh	70	52	t	66	45	pc
Indianapolis	42	29	pc	46	35	pc	49	36	sh	48	35	c
Kansas City	51	38	sh	52	35	pc	50	32	r	49	33	pc
Los Angeles	64	48	pc	66	48	pc	68	48	pc	68	50	s
Miami	71	62	s	74	63	pc	77	64	pc	77	65	pc
Minneapolis	41	22	pc	35	18	sn	34	18	pc	36	20	pc
New Orleans	62	48	s	70	54	pc	72	57	t	72	53	r
New York City	37	26	pc	44	34	s	48	36	pc	46	34	pc
Omaha	50	32	sh	45	27	pc	43	25	r	42	26	pc
Phoenix	67	43	pc	67	45	pc	67	45	s	71	46	s
San Francisco	56	44	pc	58	44	c	55	46	sh	57	49	pc
Seattle	44	36	r	46	40	sh	48	42	r	50	44	r
Washington	40	28	s	50	36	s	54	38	pc	50	37	r

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