

EPCC news in brief

Compiled by Debbie Rios
El Conquistador

Photography Art Show

An El Paso Art Show with live music will be open to the public absolutely free!

On January 28, an Art Show will be held at The House of Rock 'N' Roll located in the Coronado Motel on Mesa St.

There will be live music and plenty of artwork will be on sale.

For more information contact Christina E. Pietrowski at 562-1194.

Drama Competition

The National Society of Arts and Letters, El Paso Chapter will hold a drama competition on February 19, at Aardvark Theater, 5411 North Mesa.

Must be between the ages of 18-29 and must not have reached their 30th birthday by May 2005.

Winner receives \$500 and an opportunity to participate in the national competition in Hawaii next May.

Deadline is Jan. 30, 2005. To get an application call Michael Bernstein at 532-5700.

Fire Wardens Needed!

Help your Police Department in evacuating buildings and getting our students and employees to safety.

Training begins Friday, Feb. 4 at Valle Verde, Room C428. All sessions will be held from 9-10:30 am. For more information call 831-3343 or email ntharp@epcc.edu.

Black History Month Events

"Who's Who among African American High School Students" will be held Monday, Feb. 7 at 7PM, ASC (9050 Viscount). For info call Arvis Jones at 831-2831.

"Jazz Night" will be held on Monday, Feb. 14 at 7pm at TM Campus forum. For info call Cecilia Hines at 831-7048.

"Choir Night" will be held Monday, Feb. 21, 7PM at TM Campus forum. For info call Gloria Miller at 831-2379; Barbara Hicks at 831-2306.

"In the Spotlight" will be on Monday, Feb. 28 at 7PM at the TM Campus forum. For info call Jeanne Foskett at 831-2411; Arvis Jones at 831-2712; Tracy vonMaluski at 831-7044.

Alpha Phi Alpha Essay Contest - Essay must be about how a black person has changed your life or way of thinking in a positive way.

Must be sent to: Ms. Veronica Fulton, Counseling Dept., Rio Grande Campus, El Paso Comm. College, PO Box 20500, El Paso, TX 79998

Black History Month Art Exhibit

Feb. 7-9 at ASC and Feb. 9-23 at the TM foyer.

For information call Arvis Jones at 831-2712 or Jeanne Foskett at 831-2411.

20/20 Clinic Open

The 20/20 Clinic is open Wednesdays from 1-5pm and on Fridays from 8am-12 noon until about three weeks before the end of the spring semester.

The clinic offers Eyeglasses at low prices and is open to all EPCC students, employees and family members. For info call 831-4607 or visit the clinic, RG Campus, room B309

Legal disputes keep barricades in place

By Armando Segovia
El Conquistador

Between rain, miscalculations, and law suits the barricades will continue to cause bottlenecks at the VV North Loop Drive entrance.

Expectations of "definitely" reopening the entrance/exit to the VV Campus by the January 10th date given by a Texas Department of Transportation Official, soured after a law suit was brought against the State by an Irrigation Association.

According to Mike Kohan, construction supervisor for the Texas Department of Transportation, the problems that caused the entrance to remain closed had to do with faulty designs on the drainage system installed at the entrance.

In the fall, Kohan said rains had caused delays and that work begun after Thanksgiving would be complet-

ed in time for the spring semester.

Kohan explained the reasons for the delays according to him "a privately owned association sued the State for conducting operations on a right of way on the Mesa Drain," which is a canal that intersects with North Loop Drive and is near the VV entrance.

The court decision dealing with the suit has been decided and according to Pete Morales, construction inspector for TXDOT "an undisclosed settlement was reached," because of this "construction of the bridge abatement over the Mesa drain has resumed," he said

According to Morales, in order to adhere to safety guidelines, work on the VV entrance cannot begin before completion of the works at the Mesa drain.

Kohan expects to begin working on the VV entrance by the middle of February, unlike his previous commitment of finishing the project by a certain date, he stated that "the February

date is valid only if no other external factors come into play," and the only thing that he could think of would be that the contractor receives another poor design of the specially fabricated drain system.

In a related story, part of a section of College Circle which connects the Hawkins St. entrance to the North Loop Dr. access, was resurfaced last December because of the heavy traffic that was being diverted while the barricades at North Loop remained in place.

According to David Mena, construction supervisor at the Physical Plant, "This section was not designed to handle heavy vehicles," as a result "the potholes will be resurfaced by the college."

During the break a contractor was hired and the section was resurfaced, however the asphalt that was laid just a short month ago already began to show signs of deterioration.



Photo by Armando Segovia

Heavy traffic diverted onto EPCC grounds by nearby construction has caused damage to college streets.

Shapleigh holds anti-Asarco speech at EPCC

By Armando Segovia
El Conquistador

Speaking before a crowded cafeteria annex at the VV Campus, Sen. Eliot Shapleigh made his case against the operation permit re-issuance to ASARCO by the State of Texas.

Notably absent from the meeting were representatives from ASARCO "before we begin, are there any representatives from ASARCO," asked Shapleigh.

Shapleigh's Get The Lead Out

presentation followed with the grim scenario of what could await El Paso "if a 19th Century polluter," is allowed to obtain an operation permit.

"Imagine a city, with a magnet university, a down town with over 4000 high tech jobs, and a medical school, being polluted with sulfuric acid and lead over 7000 tons of it," he described.

Shapleigh presented studies, figures and statistics relating to recorded cases of both pollution and of medical studies conducted in the immediate vicinity

around the "smelter town."

During the question and answer session, Shapleigh answered concerns from the audience ranging from monetary compensation to clean up solutions that should be in the city council agenda "the council's should get rid of the special interest lawyers," he said, and get the kind of lawyers that "don't have an agenda," he added.

At the presentation there were no representatives from city council to answer to Shapleigh's statements.

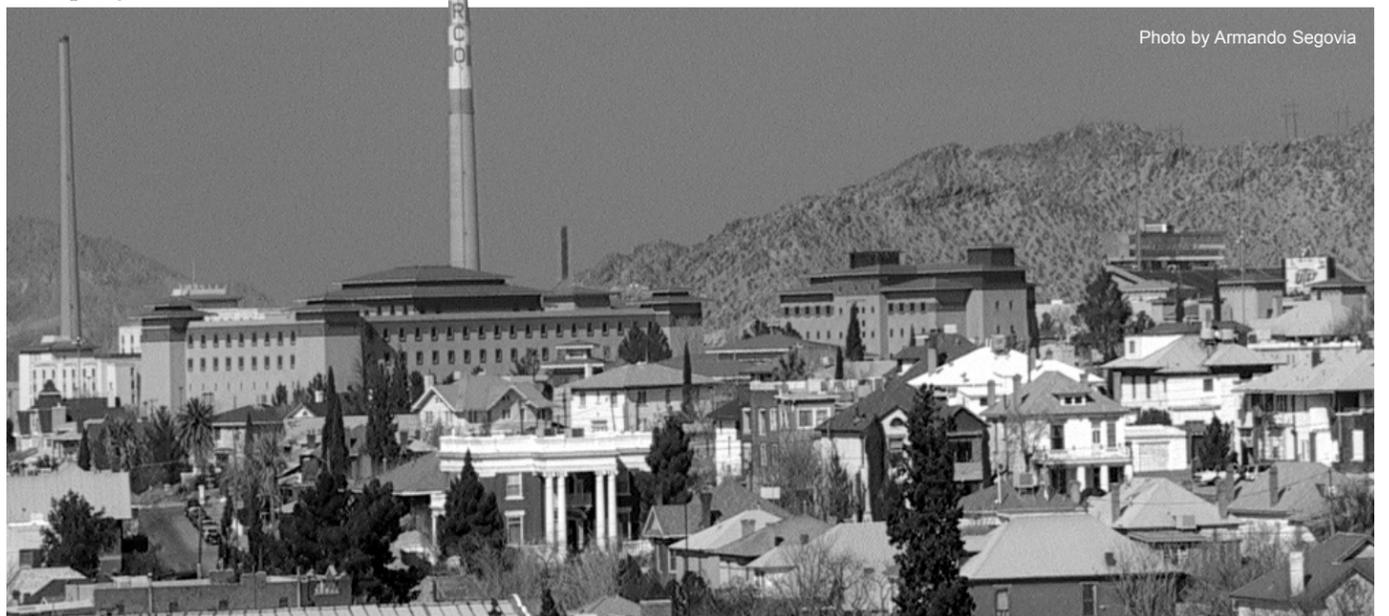


Photo by Armando Segovia

Asarco's smoke stack, which could be operational soon, looms over the University of Texas at El Paso.