

Team Bliss: A team of teams

Commanding general delivers State of the Military at luncheon

Maj. Gen. Howard B. Bromberg, commanding general of Fort Bliss, addressed a crowd of more than 650 people at the annual State of the Military Address, hosted by the Greater El Paso Chamber of Commerce and FirstLight Federal Credit Union. The discussion surrounded the unprecedented expansion of Fort Bliss, including facility and housing construction, training grounds improvements, and the required "off-post" expansion that will be required to support the swell in population.

Bromberg, in addition, addressed some of the growing pains that our region is experiencing, and asked that everyone recognize the sacrifices our soldiers and their families make every day to protect our nation.

Fort Bliss is continuing to lead the way for the strenuous requirements currently being put on the U.S. Army. Fort Bliss is constantly cited as the "best practices" model for how Army installations and the surrounding cities need to meet our country's future military needs.

Not only is Fort Bliss expanding its capacity to house and train soldiers, but it is also training and deploying soldiers for overseas duties, all at the same time. Bromberg said he felt very confident in the way Fort Bliss is performing and meeting the Army and nation's needs. He also noted that Fort Bliss' success is due in no small part to the support provided by the El Paso community.



Command Sgt. Maj. Robert Rodgers; Staff Sgt. Wilson Carrero; Chamber President and CEO, Richard Dayoub; Staff Sgt. Levi Woodhouse; Board Chairman Richard Fleager; Tech. Sgt. April Brown; FirstLight Federal Credit Union President Carl Murphy; and Sr. Airman Albert Whidby pose for a group picture following the awards presentation at the 2008 State of the Military Address.

Fort Bliss is on schedule with their infrastructure development and are currently constructing a building a week. Bromberg voiced his excitement as Fort Bliss is developing into the Army's premier installation.

Bromberg also discussed the incredible opportunity developing for the Army and what they may bring for the El Paso community: Future Combat Systems. FCS is the Army's program to modernize and transform equipment and networks to provide the soldier with leading technology and capability.

The attendance at the State of the Military Address was clearly a representation of the support El Paso has for Fort Bliss. The

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State Legislators receive impressive community overview during El Paso Days

El Paso shined for the Texas state legislators who visited in early September. After a summer of preparation, the El Paso Days in El Paso Committee, chaired by Hector Gutierrez, hosted a successful event that is sure to remain a highlight of the legislators' summer.

In an effort to educate legislators from across the state about El Paso's unique attributes and exciting projects underway, TEAM El Paso invited every state legislator and a guest of their choice to experience two fun-filled days in El Paso. The El Paso Days in El Paso Committee worked tirelessly all summer long to put together a program that would showcase El Paso's greatest assets, including its people.

Dr. Diana Natalicio, president of the

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Maj. Gen. Howard Bromberg, Fort Bliss Commanding General, delivers the State of the Military Address at the Judson F. Williams Convention Center.

Address

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record-breaking attendance was a reflection of the genuine community interest. FirstLight Federal Credit Union was the premier sponsor of the event, providing the assistance needed to host military honorees and the event.

The Greater El Paso Chamber and FirstLight also awarded the servicemen and women of the year for Fort Bliss and White Sands Missile Range. FirstLight President Carl Murphy, Chamber President and CEO Richard Dayoub, Board Chairman Richard Fleager and Command Sgt. Maj. Robert Rodgers, post command sergeant major, assisted with the awards.

Honorees from Fort Bliss

- Noncommissioned Officer of the Year:

Staff Sgt. Wilson Carrero

- Soldier of the Year: Sgt. Joseph Mitchell (award accepted by Carrero)

Honorees from White Sands Missile Range

- Army NCO of the Year: Staff Sgt. Levi Woodhouse

- Army Soldier of the Year: Spc. David Ibarra

- Air Force NCO of the Year: Tech. Sgt. April J. Brown

- Air Force Airman of the Year: Sr. Airman Albert A. Whidby

- Navy Sailor of the Year: Gunners Mate 1st Class Daniel Clark (non present)

- Navy Junior Sailor of the Year: Gunners Mate 2nd Class Dustin Fuller (not present)

The Greater Chamber thanks the sponsors who contributed to the success of the State of the Military Address.

A special thanks to all of our State of the Military Address sponsors:

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El Paso

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University of Texas at El Paso, and other university leaders hosted a welcome luncheon at the Larry Durham Center overlooking the Sun Bowl. Natalicio's presentation focused on the university's current momentum, including being prominently well positioned to compete for tier-one status. After the lunch, respective department leadership and students within those fields gave tours of UTEP's new biology and engineering buildings. The legislators learned the amount of research UTEP faculty and students accomplish and how UTEP has remained a leader in those fields, serving a large Hispanic population.

The Paul L. Foster School of Medicine opened its doors to the legislators and hosted a reception at their new facility. Dr. Manny De La Rosa, founding dean, and Dr. John C. Baldwin, president, greeted the legislators and provided an overview of the medical school, including an update on the development of the curriculum for first-year students in 2009 and the status of the recruitment effort. The legislators toured the training building where simulated interaction with patients takes place, as well as a tour of the research building.

TEAM El Paso hosted a welcome reception for the legislators at the Plaza Theater with performances by the Ysleta del Sur Tigua Indian Dancers and Viva! El Paso dancers. City, county and state elected officials interacted with the legislators and welcomed them to the city. From the Sky Garden of the Plaza Theater, the legislators had a magnificent view of downtown El Paso, allowing the opportunity to discuss the downtown revitalization and public-private partnerships that are fueling development.

Even though Fort Bliss was hosting its Senior Leaders' Off-site Retreat that weekend, Fort Bliss opened its doors to the legislators and provided them with a comprehensive briefing on the transformation underway and the plans to grow to accommodate the soldiers and families coming to El Paso through the Base Realignment and Closure process. After the briefing, the legislators interacted with the soldiers overseeing Future Combat Systems and were able to learn more about the technology that is paving the way for our armed forces. The interaction with the future combat systems illustrated to the legislators the advances in war fighting. A windshield tour provided the legislators to see the growth firsthand. Following the windshield tour, the legislators joined soldiers in the mess hall for lunch



Texas state legislators and Team El Paso pose for a group picture during a visit to Fort Bliss.

and learned more about the men and women sacrificing for our freedom. A tour of the Kay Bailey Hutchison Desalination Plant followed the tour of Fort Bliss.

The legislators attended UTEP's VIP tailgate party at Glory Road Field before the UTEP-UT game. They had the opportunity to interact with many key El Paso leaders and relax with food and spirits at their disposal. Following the tailgate, they joined the record-breaking crowd at the Sun Bowl to watch the Miners play the Longhorns.

Prior to their departure from El Paso, the legislators were guests at a breakfast hosted by the mayor's office and the airport leadership. Congressman Silvestre Reyes and Mayor John Cook met with the legislators and thanked them for taking time out of their busy schedules to join us for a few days. Those legislators that stayed longer enjoyed a golf outing that was arranged by TEAM El Paso.

The legislators voiced their enjoyment of the El Paso Days – the people, the food – and look forward to a return visit. TEAM El Paso received accolades for the development of the program for the legislators. We are proud of El Paso and the West Texas welcome the community gave to the visiting legislators. Thanks to everyone who made this a successful event!

This event would not have been possible without the tremendous leadership of the El Paso Days in El Paso Committee: Hector Gutierrez, Pete Parrazo, Deb Zuloaga, Mike Guerra, Rene Hurtado, Veronica Castro, Rebecca Diaz, Rick Armendariz, Mark Smith, Debbie Kastrin, Cathy Reynolds, Estrella Escobar, Dan Olivas, Kelly Duke, Nicole Larcenaire, Ralph Richards, Richard Fleager, Chuck Harre, Sylvia Firth, Ray

Rodriguez, Patrick Espinoza, Richard Dayoub, and the coordinating Government Relations staff, Mica Espinoza, Eddie Miranda and Cassie McKenzie.

Contributing to this effort was our state delegation. Sincere thanks to Senators Eliot Shapleigh and Carlos Uresti and Representatives Norma Chavez, Pat Haggerty, Paul Moreno, Joe Pickett and Chente Quintanilla, who contributed time and energy inviting and encouraging their colleagues to attend. They took the lead in showcasing our community and helping to educate their colleagues on issues that are important to our region.

Funding to carry out the programming for this successful event would not have been possible without the sponsors of El Paso Days in El Paso.

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BDD upcoming events

**Person-to-Person
Business-to-Business lunch**

The September luncheon was held at the Holiday Inn, Sunland Park. Guest Speakers for the event were Pat Ramirez and Gary Player, Sam's Club.

Person to Person/Business to Business is a monthly luncheon event which provides members with an opportunity to network, promote their company or organization, exchange ideas, learn about new companies entering the El Paso region and most importantly to be part of "The List," which will be distributed to new and existing purchasing and procurement individuals throughout the Greater Paso Del Norte region.

Oct. 14

Hyatt Place • 6030 Gateway East

Nov. 11

Vista Hills Country Club

2210 Trawood

\$18 members, \$36 non-members
Luncheon starts at 11:30 a.m.



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Dorman, Marcaida join Chamber staff

Allysia Dorman recently joined the Greater El Paso Chamber of commerce as administrative assistant for the Business Development Department. Dorman grew up in Yuma, Arizona and graduated from Northern Arizona University with a B.A. in sociology.



**Allysia
Dorman**

She worked in sports entertainment and live television production as production coordinator for Zuffa LLC's "The Ultimate Fighting Championship" from 2004-2006 in Las Vegas, Nevada. She spent 10 months in a ministry school in San Diego, Calif., traveling through South Korea, and Chiapas and Ensenada, Mexico.

Dorman worked for a non-profit organization, the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society in San Diego, until June before moving to El Paso with her husband and daughter.

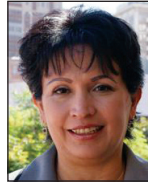
Patricia Marcaida has recently joined the Business Development Division of the Greater El Paso Chamber of Commerce as

business development coordinator. Marcaida has more than five years of business consultant experience in the El Paso area. In her new position, she will be overseeing the small business certifications and databases to help businesses in the application process and provide them the opportunity to compete for contracts with the state and federal government and prime contractors.

**Greater Chamber advocates
for procurement center rep
in El Paso**

In May, The Greater El Paso Chamber of Commerce approved a motion to advocate the need for a procurement center representative in El Paso. The closest PCR is in Albuquerque, N.M., making it difficult for businesses to access. Letters were

sent to Congressmen Silvestre Reyes, Texas Senators Kay Bailey Hutchison and John Cornyn, U.S. Small Business Administrator Steve Preston, and SBA El Paso District



**Patricia
Marcaida**



Marti Stewart, right, subcontractor administrator, and Lynn Steinle, utility manager, both with the Fort Bliss Water Services Company, make a presentation.

Fort Bliss Water Services Company

Fort Bliss Water Services Company manages the complex water systems for the men, women and their families at Fort Bliss, including the delivery of potable water and the management of the wastewater system. They are committed to serving this community for 50 years. FBWSC provides small businesses maximum opportunity to participate as suppliers of materials and services needed. Since November 2004, the total dollar amount for contracts awarded by FBWSC to small business was nearly \$8 million, averaging between \$2-3 million

per year. Aug. 26, they met with 50 potential subcontractors to guide them on the procedures of becoming a qualified vendor. Some of the services they are looking for are surveying firms, design-build firms, electricians, SCADA contractors, well contractors, plumbers, video inspections contractors, pipeline contractors and engineering, just to name a few. For more information on Fort Bliss Water Services Company, please call Bea Marquez at (915) 629-6716 or e-mail bmarquez@elpaso.org.

Director Philip Silva addressing the need for a PCR in this area due to the growth in the community.

The president and CEO of both the Hispanic Chamber and Greater Chamber were invited by the San Antonio Hispanic Chamber of Commerce to testify in San Antonio in August. Chamber CEO Richard Dayoub testified in front of Cornyn and a panel of representatives that included the U.S. Small Business Administration's Deputy Administrator, Jovita Carranza. This month El Paso will host a small SBA delegation from Washington to learn more about the needs of our business community. Community support will improve the chances of making this request a reality.

What is a PCR and what do they do for you? Procurement center representatives are the U.S. Small Business Administrations' procurement analysts and engineers who implements the Prime Contract Program. PCR's are located throughout the nation at major military and civilian federal buying activities to ensure fair and equitable opportunity to compete for federal procurement opportunities by:

- Reviewing proposed contracts and making recommendations to increase number of acquisitions set aside for small business
- Reviewing the Small Business Program of Federal contracting activities
- Recommending procurement strategies to maximize small business participation as both prime and subcontractors
- Counseling small business through outreach and training in obtaining federal contracts
- Reviewing bundled procurements and make recommendations for small business participation
- Conducting or participating in surveillance reviews

Since BRAC (Base Realignment and Closure) 2005, El Paso has experienced an unprecedented growth. Fort Bliss has seen \$4.5 billion in transformation contracts alone. With the arrival of more troops and their fam-

ilies, the amount of federal dollars will continue to grow, making El Paso a large buying "activity". A PCR would provide El Paso small business the "voice" they need have access and compete for opportunities, both as prime and subcontractors.

FedBid gives small businesses chance to connect to government

What is FedBid? FedBid is an online marketplace for acquisition of commodities, including products and simple services, with 87 percent going to small business. It is being utilized by dozens of federal organizations worldwide, including the departments of the Air Force, Army, Commerce, Defense, Energy, Health and Human Services, Homeland Security, Interior, Justice, Labor, Navy, State, Transportation, Treasury and Veteran Affairs.

What does this mean to you? It will increase access to more government buyers and agency opportunities, ensures "the consistent use of fair and open competition", it requires no upfront investment, subscription fees or maintenance costs, it provide electronic notification of bid status, it enables efficient electronic response to bid requests, it automates re-bids and provides real-time competitive ranking, and it will also provide training and support services.

You will find opportunities from \$3,000 to \$100,000. Register today at www.fedbid.com (CCR Registration is required). For more information on FedBid please contact Bea Marquez at bmarquez@el Paso.org.

Prosperity Project luncheon features state representative candidates

Prosperity Project's monthly luncheon forum will be candidates for District 78 State Representative Dee Margo and Joe Moody on at 11:30 a.m. Oct. 15. This free event will be hosted at The Chamber downtown, 10 Civic Center Plaza. Lunch is available for \$10. Please contact Ana Salcido by e-mail at asalcido@el Paso.org to reserve a seat.



Christine Gerlach, director of purchasing for Ysleta Independent School District, speaks at the September Purchasing Power Luncheon.

Purchasing Power Luncheon

Ysleta Independent School District Director of Purchasing Christine Gerlach addressed 40 attendees on the policies and procedures of doing business with YISD, how to navigate through their Web site for important information regarding purchasing and bond updates. If you missed this great presentation, join YISD from 8 to 11 a.m. March 10, 2009, in the ACAC Mission Room. For more information visit www.yisd.net - finance - purchasing - vendor information.

October Purchasing Power Luncheon

Oct. 23
Holiday Inn Sunland
 990 Sunland Park Drive
 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Presenter: Gilberto Porras
 Purchasing Coordinator,
 Arcelo Mittal Vinton
 (Formerly Border Steel)

To register, call Allysia at (915) 629-6711 or e-mail adorman@el Paso.org

Saddleblanket media party

Dusty and Bonnie Henson hosted Evan Smith, editor of *Texas Monthly*, at a reception at The El Paso Saddleblanket Sept. 6. The Tigua Social Dancers provided entertainment.

San Antonio chamber leadership visits El Paso

The leadership of the Greater San Antonio Chamber of Commerce visited El Paso in late August specifically to learn more about El Paso's needs and to discuss collaborative efforts with our Chamber in the upcoming 81st Legislative Session. Richard Dayoub, Richard Fleager and the Government Relations Division staff greeted the San Antonio Chamber, led by Richard Perez at the El Paso International Airport.

Following their arrival, the Greater San Antonio Chamber delegation joined the Greater El Paso Chamber leadership on various tours throughout the day. First on the tour was Fort Bliss. Wayne Julius from the Fort Bliss transformation staff and Chuck Haare, Armed Forces Division chairman took the group on a windshield tour, pointing out the nearly \$4 billion of infrastructure work underway at the installation.

A windshield tour of the University of Texas at El Paso followed. Key points of the tour included the new biological sciences building, the swimming and fitness center, the new basketball facility being built and the plans for a new nursing school facility.

A lunch roundtable discussion regarding legislative issues was held after a tour of the Paul L. Foster School of Medicine and a presentation regarding the teaching curriculum for new students and the recruitment efforts underway for the first class at the medical school, planned for 2009. Government Relations Chairman, Walter Miller and Chairman-elect, Hector Gutierrez, joined the group for the discussion, along with Bob Cook and Bob Burns from REDCo. Some of the key points of the discussion focused on revamping the Skills Development Fund this upcoming session. San Antonio would like to focus on retention components of the legislation, while El Paso



Delegations from the Greater San Antonio and the Greater El Paso chambers of commerce tour the Paul L. Foster School of Medicine.

would like to focus on the recruitment components of the policy. The group also discussed tier-one status for universities, a key issue for both UTSA and UTEP. Lastly, the group discussed the Chambers' role in immigration reform as well as the including tax credits in the margin tax legislation that was previously known as the franchise tax.

After the legislative discussion at the medical school, the group toured the Kay Bailey Hutchison Desalination Plant and the Carlos Ramirez Tech Center at the desalination plant. The San Antonio Chamber was able to learn more about what the El Paso community has done to address water issues and to make sure that the region has an adequate water supply for the future. Addressing water issues is a critical initiative currently underway in San Antonio. The desalination plant is another great illustration of El Paso's collaboration with the Department of Defense.

Those participating on the legislative trip

to El Paso from San Antonio included: Richard Perez, President; Liza Gonzalez, VP of Public Affairs; Marcel Johnson, VP of Economic Development; Greg Flores, SA Water System; Arthur Emerson, Former Chairman of the SA Board; Jim Campbell, Chairman, Legislative Affairs Committee. Those participating from the El Paso Chamber of Commerce included: Richard Dayoub, Richard Fleager, Chuck Harre, Hector Gutierrez, Walter Miller, Patrick Espinoza, Cassie McKenzie, Eddie Miranda, Mica Espinoza, Hector Delgado, Bob Cook and Bob Burns, REDCo..

Many thanks to our partners at Fort Bliss, the El Paso Water Utilities, and the Paul L. Foster School of Medicine for assisting with the arrangements of tours. The San Antonio Chamber leadership was able to learn more about El Paso's assets and we will be in a better position to work together during the upcoming legislative session because of this event.

WELCOME CENTER STATISTICS

Following figures represent number of soldiers briefed in each area of interest by Business Development Division, GEPCC, as of 09/29/08.

Since	2005	2006	2007	2008	06/01/05	Since	2005	2006	2007	2008	06/01/05
Welcome Picnic	1090	1040	1217	1709	5056	University of Phoenix	669	698	870	1249	3486
Travel Fairs	1621	1567	1783	2604	7575	Western Technical College	494	528	529	804	2355
Home Purchasing Seminar	733	747	662	872	3014	Int'l Business College	457	445	427	589	1918
Living on Post (total)	1714	2137	2049	2661	8561	Computer Career Center	569	577	534	701	2381
Rent Apartment	762	671	664	1038	3135	Opening a Home Business		161	195	287	643
Buy House	507	486	376	418	1787	Daycare	620	682	613	965	2880
Rent House	476	471	327	623	1897	Employment				1178	1178
UTEP	1310	1326	1444	1942	6022	Total number of					
EPCC	1093	1085	1136	1564	4878	Soldiers briefed	3299	3144	3214	4448	14,105
BIT	450	435	415	421	1721						

Dark Sky compliance project works to target light pollution

The city of El Paso Street Department has begun replacing light fixtures in the downtown area in keeping with the city's Dark Sky Ordinance and as part of an ongoing initiative to reduce light pollution.

The project consists of replacing about 800 luminaries primarily in the downtown area. Street lights to be affected include those within the Union Plaza District: Stanton, Texas, El Paso and Kansas streets. The \$1.9 million project is being funded through the Palo Verde Award grant the city received from the El Paso Electric Company.

Street light fixtures installed under this project are designed to reflect light downward, preventing light from shining upwards obscuring the night sky. The reduction of light directed into the sky should allow our citizens to see the stars more clearly without glow caused by light pollution.

The Street Department is conducting the required work in collaboration with Beltran Electric. The project is estimated to take nine months to complete. The work will not require street lane closures.

Web site to benefit soldiers, families

The Army recently launched a Web site to provide a central source of information to refer those interested in contributing money, goods or services to soldiers, Army families and wounded warriors, should they choose. For information log on to: <http://giftstoarmy.army.mil/>.

Operation Santa Claus needs toys

It's not too early to start thinking about Christmas. Operation Santa Claus is seeking donations of bicycles, toys, dolls and this year has expanded to accepting donations of clothes, bedding and books as they have partnered with the Center Against Family Violence.

All fire stations will accept these items. Operation Santa Claus, a military initiative, has long been supported by the community to ensure El Paso's underprivileged children can receive gifts at Christmas.

Town Hall meeting to be televised

The 2008 Annual Veterans Town Hall will be shown on Cable Channel 15 Nov. 8 and 9. Check TV listings for program times.

There will be a panel discussion on present and long-term impacts from Fort Bliss expansion on veterans and military retirees, and a discussion on veteran/military retiree healthcare and benefit issues, including plans by the Department of Veteran Affairs to handle increased current and new veteran caseloads.

New MCAD director selected

Sean McGlynn will assume the position of the director for MCAD, effective Nov. 3,

McGlynn hails from the city of New York's Department of Cultural Affairs where he was the director of finance and strategic initiatives. He brings a wealth of experience with him including, the oversight of million dollar budgets which include grant managing, proj-

ect management, strategic planning, technical assistance, board governance as well as the key architect in achieving funding reform resulting in the expansion of the competitive grant making process from \$5 million to \$25 million. His experience in arts education, oversight of many key museums in New York and his strong collaborative achievements with non-profits as well as the private sector will be of great benefit to the city as the organization works to achieve the high expectations of the El Paso community.

The Greater Chamber welcomes McGlynn to the city of El Paso.

Bank branch celebrates anniversary

Bank of the West Hondo Pass branch celebrated their one year anniversary with a small event for its staff and customers.

"Our Hondo Pass location is a full-service bank, and we are pleased with the presence we've developed in the Northeast over the past year," said Larry Patton, Bank of the West's president and CEO. "In the coming year, Fort Bliss will experience unprecedented growth, and as a bank with a concentrated focus on commercial lending, we are excited about the opportunity to help area businesses grow."

UTEP KCI offers certificate program

The UTEP Kauffman Campus Initiative is offering a certificate on entrepreneurship, which will begin Oct. 11 and is designed to provide training for members of the El Paso-Las Cruces-Juarez entrepreneurial community.

After completing this course, participants will know how to:

- Apply entrepreneurship principles in innovation and invention, either individually in an independent professional office or in a corporate environment.
- Recognize and take advantage of opportunities.
- Turn opportunities into commercial ideas.
- Satisfy existing markets or create new ones.
- Handle the marketing, operational and financial aspects when commercializing ideas.
- Get funded.
- Write a business plan.

Four out of five small businesses close within 30 months of being created, and we believe that this is partly due to lack of entrepreneurship training, therefore our course is designed to prepare its participants to start a new business or effectively manage an existing one -either within an organization or independently.

This course is a unique opportunity for UTEP to contribute to the economic development of our region. We would like to invite you to register for this course or to tell friends

El Paso MHMR unveils Mobile Crisis Unit



Residents of El Paso County will now have access to mental health services through a custom designed mobile clinic that brings mental health professionals directly to the scene of a crisis.

El Paso Mental Health and Mental Retardation displayed the 28-foot Mobile Intake and Crisis Unit on October 1 at 1600 Montana.

The vehicle is equipped with an exam room and reception area and will allow mental health professionals to dispatch to locations throughout the County to establish remote mental health centers very quickly should the need arise.

"As the mental health authority, El Paso MHMR is charged with directing

mental health services for the County. This new unit allows us to provide services directly where they are needed-especially during a time of crisis or disaster in our community," says Gary Larcenaire, CEO for El Paso MHMR.

The unit is especially equipped with satellite technology to allow for mental health screenings and assessments to be conducted remotely.

"Our telemedicine capa-

bilities in this vehicle allow for a client to receive treatment from psychiatrists anywhere in the world," says Jesus Quiroga, Director of Crisis Intake Services. "This is especially important if local telecommunications systems are down or overloaded during a disaster situation. By relying on satellite technology, we are helping to ensure that our clients have access to the treatment they need."



and colleagues you feel might be interested. For information contact Alberto M. Correa at (915) 747-8464, (915) 799-1908, or albertoco@utep.edu; or Santiago Ibarreche at (915) 747-7756 or sibarr@utep.edu.

Ad Souvenirs now Image Makers

Ad Souvenirs and More is now changing its name to Image Makers to better symbolize their expanding range of capabilities. The new location is on Gateway East between Geronimo and Airway. Over the years, we have learned that the most essential elements of success are the people standing behind you. So that's how we built Ad Souvenirs – now Image Makers – to be your team and partner to create a positive image for your business with the best choice of products.

With this change, you'll get the same on-time delivery and dedication to service you have come to rely on from Ad Souvenirs, but you will also get an even faster turn around service due to our expanded capabilities for meeting your embroidery, uniform, screen printing and promotional product needs.

City rep proposes state legislation

District 3 East/Central Representative Emma Acosta is proposing the following legislation to be considered for placement on the 81st State Legislative Agenda.

- State of Texas to allocate funding for the revitalization of the Medical Center of Americas within a five-mile radius. The Medical Center of Americas sits on District 3, which is the area she represents. She wants to ensure that the MCA area will flourish with revitalization.

- State of Texas to allocate at least an additional \$8 million dollars in funding for mental health services in El Paso.

She wants to ensure that funding is

secured to serve mental health patients. If funding is not provided, then MHMR will establish a waiting list and have to shut doors so those that are served will not receive treatment and the city and county will see an increase in the judicial and healthcare costs.

- State of Texas to allocate funding for mobility initiatives in El Paso. She wants to ensure that these mobility initiatives are addressed and taken care of before the growth is out of hand

Representative Acosta congratulates Texas Governor Rich Perry and Deirdre Delisi, chair of the Texas Transportation Commission, for forming a committee that will compile information that will formulate the future transportation needs of Texas.

In the next 20 years the city of El Paso's transportation needs will be at a critical state. With our current demographics and proximity to Mexico and New Mexico, our mobility issues must include:

- Improving the international bridges' connectivity to our Interstate Highway System

- The building of a new, larger, international bridge that is able to move people and vehicles onto our roads and highways smoothly and effectively.

- The El Paso region needs a bus rapid transit system that is able to meet the needs of the local community that includes El Paso, New Mexico and the border city of Ciudad Juarez, Chihuahua, Mexico: A transit system that is able to travel into Ciudad Juarez from El Paso and back and is able to move passengers from the bridge to various parts of the El Paso community and into New Mexico.

USA Cares seeks Iraq, Afghanistan veterans for housing grants

Steven R. Silver, West Texas regional manager for USA Cares, announced today that the organization has immediate and sig-

nificant funding for deployed, deploying and/or returning military personnel from the Iraq-Afghanistan Conflict who are facing challenges in the areas of saving their homes from foreclosure, and assisting with basic needs during times of serious financial crisis.

USA Cares is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization that helps military families bear the burdens of service with financial and advocacy support. Its mission: to assist wounded warriors and their families, to prevent home foreclosures and evictions and to help with basic needs during financial crisis.

Financial support for this program locally and in West Texas, comes from the TRAUD Fund of the Permian Basin Area Foundation in Midland, Texas.

In major military markets such as El Paso, the foreclosure rate may be four times higher than the national average. Before losing their homes, families face financial hardship trying to save them. In 2007, 516 requests came in from Texas. USA Cares has received nearly 500 requests for help to date in 2008.

"Today's military families are facing a perfect storm: multiple deployments, rising gas and food prices, the sub-prime mortgage mess, and a struggling economy. Coupled with visible and invisible wounds of war, many families can't win this battle without our assistance," Roger Stradley, founder of USA Cares, said. Members of any branch of the military serving post 9/11 and their families can apply for help.

USA Cares has worked with military families since it was founded in 2003. Since then, the organization has responded to over 11,000 requests with more than \$5 million in direct assistance grants.

Applications are available by calling USA Cares at (800) 773-0837 or online at www.usacares.org.

Schatzman

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COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL

Recognition

Laster Group news

Jose Bencomo and **Michael Matthews** have been promoted to senior producer and producer respectively at TLG Studios, The Laster Group's in-house broadcast production studio.

Bencomo studied moving image art at the College of Santa Fe and theatre at Prairie View A&M University. He joined The Laster Group in 2000 as a writer/producer/director. He has produced his own award-winning independent films, plus award-winning television and radio spots.

Matthews joined the agency in 2005 as an intern and worked his way into a full-time position as an associate producer upon graduation from UTEP with a Bachelor of Arts degree in communication in 2007. He was recently named The Laster Group's Employee of the Year.

Lupe Zamora has joined The Laster Group as a print production manager. A native El Pasoan, she has five years of experience in print production in



Jose Bencomo



Michael Matthews



Lupe Zamora

the advertising field. She is responsible for estimating all print jobs with outside vendors and preparing final materials for printers. Zamora attended El Paso Community College.

Varay Systems news

Enrique Bernal III has been promoted to the position of network services director at Varay Systems

Bernal joined Varay Systems in 2007 as network services manager. Previously, Bernal served as vice president of information technology for FirstLight Federal Credit Union. He is a graduate of the University of Texas at El Paso with a Bachelor of Science degree in electrical engineering. The Texas Board of Professional Engineers has certified Bernal as an engineer-in-training.

"Enrique Bernal has proven himself to be a leader within our organization," said



Enrique Bernal III



Ernesto Fernandez



Sandi Smith

Holland. "He is meticulous and dedicated. He has a professional attitude and the expertise needed to handle the various requirements of our clientele."

Ernesto Fernandez has been promoted to application services director at Varay Systems.

Fernandez has been part of the firm since 2004. His previous position within the organization was application development manager. Fernandez is a graduate of the University of Texas at El Paso with a degree in computer information systems. He has a wide range of experience in technology services.

Comfort Keepers news

The owner of Comfort Keepers of El Paso recently purchased the Las Cruces franchise of Comfort Keepers. **Sandi Smith**, a certified senior adviser, said the acquisition also includes Alamogordo and Cloudcroft. Smith purchased El Paso Comfort Keepers in 2006. Comfort Keepers specializes in

helping individuals remain independent in See **RECOGNITION**, Page 10

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JDW Insurance news

John M. Rindt, executive vice president, JDW Surety, has received the New Business Production Leader Award for August. The award is presented by JDW each month in recognition of new business generated by an individual.



John M. Rindt



Ben Fyffe

Rindt is a graduate of the University of Wisconsin with a degree in business administration. He is involved in various professional and community organizations, including Associated General Contractors. In 2002, he was elected a Board Member of the National Association of Surety Bond Producers. Rindt has been a part of JDW Insurance since 1985 and has almost 25 years of experience in the insurance field.

MCAD specialist recognized with *Adalante con Ganas*

August 29, Senator Elliot Shapleigh honored **Ben Fyffe**, arts and education program specialist with the city of El Paso's Museums and Cultural Affairs Department, with the *Adalante Con Ganas* award. Every month Shapleigh awards one or more persons who have made an extraordinary commitment to service, family and community.

This award recognizes Fyffe's efforts in establishing artist residencies in three Ysleta School District schools with a limited amount of resources to incorporate arts into their curriculums. For six weeks students spent time with dancers, musicians, visual and spoken word artists who reinforced ESL education into their presentations.

"Working to increase accessibility to the arts in El Paso for all citizens is incredibly rewarding. I am both honored and humbled to be recognized for helping to bring the arts into classrooms," said Fyffe.

"Ben is a force in the community enriching children, teens and family in the world of art education and culture. We at Museums and Cultural Affairs applaud our colleague and embrace Ben with the well deserved acknowledgements," said Ivonne Jimenez, interim manger for MCAD.

Fyffe works to interface the programs and needs of artists, arts organ-

izations, and schools. He oversees the Community Arts Program, bringing artists into classrooms and neighborhood space. Fyffe has also worked to establish an in-school artist residency program, allowing select campuses to benefit from sessions with teaching artists in all disciplines.

Previously, Fyffe was youth docent program coordinator at the Austin Museum of Art and most recently Assistant Head of Education at the El Paso Museum of Art, where he directed a bilingual touring program that served 25,000 students annually; produced exhibition-related curriculum distributed biannually to 16,000 educators throughout Texas' Region 19; and managed outreach to at-risk schools along the U.S.-Mexico Border.

Fyffe holds a B.A. in art history from the University of Texas at Austin is currently pursuing a Master of Public Administration from the University of Texas at El Paso. In 2007, he was a Wallace Foundation Fellow served at the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston.

Fyffe is also a member of the National Association of Latino Arts & Culture, the National Art Education Association and the national policy organization Americans for the Arts, where he serves on the Emerging Leaders Council.

Tiguas receive development grant

The Ysleta del Sur Pueblo have been awarded \$1.13 million grant from the U.S. Economic Development Administration to support the renovation of an Ysleta Del Sur Pueblo tribally owned property for use as the Tigua Business Center.

The grant, which includes \$375,000 in financial assistance from the Global Climate change Mitigation Incentive Fund, will create a business center that will support Tigua-owned enterprises. The center will house a business incubator that will support TDSP owned enterprises and other teaching tools that can assist tribal enterprises, as well as tribal members in developing and operating successful businesses.

Tribal officers have identified economic development as a key component to economic growth on the reservation. The tribe suffered a major economic setback when gaming was prohibited six years ago, which forced the tribal-owned Speaking Rock Casino to discontinue gambling.

Foundation awards new grants under the Begin at Birth Initiative

The Paso del Norte Health Foundation awarded eight new grants totaling more than \$870,000 under the Begin at Birth Initiative. Begin at Birth is an initiative designed to effect long-term improvements in the health status of children birth through three-years of age within the Paso del Norte region by providing high quality parent education and promoting professionalism for parent educators.

AVANCE: \$110,000 to expand its nine-month Parent-Child Education Program to serve a total of 525 children birth to 3 years of age in 450 families. Service will be provided at 12 El Paso school sites and two sites in New Mexico.

Ben Archer Health Center: \$70,902 to improve parents' ability to raise healthy children and reduce the risk of child abuse by providing the Nurturing Parenting/Crianza con Cariño curriculum in Hatch, N.M.

Child Crisis Center: \$70,698 to continue its AMOR de Niños program, which offers comprehensive parenting classes and in-home visitation services in El Paso.

Child Crisis Center: \$325,123 to serve as the organizing agency for the foundation's Begin at Birth activities, including media coordination, oversight, calendar distribution in El Paso and Ciudad Juárez, logistical support for grantee sharing meetings and technical assistance, provision of quality assurance and coordination activities, and logistical support for community outreach and dialogue for planned initiative evolution.

Center Against Family Violence: \$42,507 to conduct their model parent education program The Middle Way. Parents enroll in a 15-week program combining structured learning and support group participation.

Gente A Favor de Gente: \$69,190 to conduct a second year of their Help Your Child Grow Up Healthy program. Three hundred families with children birth to 3 years of age will be targeted in extremely impoverished neighborhoods of Aztecas and Oriente XXI in Ciudad Juárez.

Organizacion Popular Independiente: \$67,980 to improve child rearing skills in parents, as well as the quality of parent education interventions in the impoverished neighborhoods on the mountain slopes of western Ciudad Juárez.

Texas Tech Health Sciences Center – El Paso: \$116,052 to continue its joint venture with Thomason Hospital to improve breastfeeding success in their service population, through the implementation of the Baby Friendly Hospital Initiative, a WHO and UNICEF model program.

For more information on these grants or the Begin at Birth Initiative, call Eric Hutson at (915) 544-7636, ext. 1920, or e-mail ehutson@pdnhf.org.

Upcoming events

March of Dimes schedules annual Signature Chefs Auction for Nov. 6

The fourth annual Signature Chefs Auction will be held Nov. 6 at the Camino Real Hotel beginning at 6:30 p.m. The annual Signature Chefs Auction raises funds for the March of Dimes Foundation. The mission of the March of Dimes is to improve the health of babies by preventing birth defects and infant mortality. The March of Dimes carries out this mission through programs of research, community services, education and advocacy.

For this unique event, the most popular chefs from El Paso and the surrounding area will gather to present their signature dishes, along with a menu of gourmet auction packets guaranteed to please all food lovers.

For more information, contact Sandra Gonzalez, executive director of the El Paso Division of the March of Dimes, at (915) 590-9499.

March of Dimes Prematurity Awareness Symposium set for Nov. 12

The March of Dimes invites you to participate El Paso Prematurity Awareness Symposium to be held Nov. 12 at the Wyndham Hotel, Airport. Registration begins at 8 a.m followed by a full breakfast. Symposium hours: 9 a.m. to noon.

The mission of the March of Dimes is to improve the health of babies by preventing birth defects, premature birth and infant mortality. March of Dimes researchers, volun-

teers, educators, outreach workers and advocates work together to give all babies a fighting chance against the threats to their health: prematurity, birth defects and low birth weight.

For additional information regarding the Prematurity Awareness Symposium and March of Dimes, please contact Liliana Oaxaca, program services coordinator, to discuss our proposal in greater detail. Call 590-9499 or e-mail loaxaca@marchofdimes.com.

Lynx Exhibits showcases science, Rosetta Stone with new displays

Grossology: The (Impolite) Science of the Human Body opened Sept. 27 and will be on display until Jan. 4 at Lynx Exhibits, 300 W. San Antonio.

Based on the best selling book *Grossology*, this exhibition uses sophisticated animatronics and imaginative exhibits to tell you the good, bad and downright ugly about runny noses, body order and much more.

The Rosetta Stone exhibit opened Sept. 12 and will run through January.

A single stone linking ancient Egyptian language with modern-day Greek is the centerpiece of a new display at Lynx Exhibits. **Written in Stone** brings together a rare, authorized reproduction of the Rosetta Stone and authentic artifacts that together create a fascinating timeline of the world's oldest civilizations. The original has been on display in the British Museum since 1802, and few replicas have been authorized.

The stone – discovered in 1799 by Napoleon's army – was the key to deciphering Egyptian hieroglyphs. The inscription on the stone is a decree passed by a council of priests and written in three scripts, Egyptian hieroglyphs, Demotic and ancient Greek.

Soon after the end of the fourth century, when hieroglyphs had gone out of use, the knowledge of how to read and write them also disappeared. After discovery of the Rosetta Stone, scholars were able to use the Greek inscription to decipher them.

The museum is open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday, Wednesday and Saturday;

Save the date!

109th Chamber Gala Thursday, October 30

The Greater El Paso Chamber of Commerce will host its 109th Annual Gala at 6:30 p.m. Oct. 30 at the Plaza Theatre.

This year, the event will honor former chamber President Jim R. Phillips. Our entertainment for the evening will be famed actor and comedian Kevin Pollak, beginning at 8:30 p.m. All net proceeds will benefit the Jim R. Phillips Star Scholarship Fund. For sponsorship or ticket information, please call Patrick or Claudia at (915) 534-0500.



Kevin Pollak



Jim R. Phillips

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Simon Youth Foundation offers Sunland Park Mall Academy

For most students, back-to-school time typically involves a trip to the mall for new clothes, shoes, and other accessories. For some local students, the mall is much more than a shopping destination: It's where they go to school.

Sunland Park Mall has been the setting for an alternative high school since August 2000. The school, called Sunland Park Mall Academy is part of a network of 21 Education Resource Centers nationwide that have been established by national non-profit Simon Youth Foundation.

SYF, now celebrating its 10th anniversary, develops schools in partnership with public school districts, Simon Property Group and the communities the schools serve. The ERCs provide an option for students at risk of not graduating due to teen pregnancy, different learning styles or social interaction problems, to name a few reasons.

Locally, Sunland Park Mall Academy has maintained a graduation rate of 99 percent, which is higher than the average state graduation rate, since it opened in 2000. In total, more than 256 students have earned their high school diplomas through the local ERC. And many graduates go on to a trade school or two- or four-year college, often with a college scholarship awarded to them by the SYF.

"Simon Youth Foundation is proud of its school in El Paso and the partnerships it has formed within the community," said SYF Executive Vice President Dr. Richard Markoff. "A high school education is essential and it's a truly special endeavor to provide ERC students with a second chance."

In 10 years, 5,000 students have earned their diplomas at an ERC and the national graduation rate is 89 percent. Additionally, SYF created a scholarship program in 2000

for ERC graduates and high school seniors across the country that has awarded \$5.9 million.

The success of the ERC program was recently recognized when SYF received a prestigious award from the Education Commission of the States (www.ecs.org) for its sustained commitment to, and significant investment in, improving public education in the United States. Members of the ECS include the governor and state superintendent of education from every state, education officials and community leaders who work to improve public education by facilitating the exchange of information, ideas and experiences.

To learn more about Simon Youth Foundation and its programs, log on to www.syf.org or stop by the guest services booth at Sunland Park Mall.

Grand openings



September 11

Image Makers

6430 Gateway East, Ste C.

Amigos attending: Jill Schmitz, Letty West, Greg Bush, Gloria Ropella, Patti Olivas and Mike Wesoloski



September 19

Split Peas Soup Café

7500 N. Mesa

Las Palmas Market Place

Amigos attending: Mary Perkins and Gloria Ropella



September 24

Cure Me Now Clinic

6955 N. Mesa Ste. 201

Amigos attending: Jill Schmitz, Stephen Schmitz and Gloria Ropella



September 26

Lynx Exhibits

300 W. San Antonio



Business After HOURS

September event

Sponsored by FirstLight Federal Credit Union

FirstLight Federal Credit Union hosted the September Business After Hours event in partnership with The Greater El Paso Chamber of Commerce. A special thanks to our hosts and their staff for a fantastic event! Don't miss your opportunity to participate in the premier networking event of the month, and let's not forget the great food, fun and entertainment.

September vendors

- | | |
|-------------------------------|----------------------|
| 9900 Montana Offices | Ready One Industries |
| Contract Opportunities Center | SCORE |
| El Paso Times | Segur Resource |
| Garage Floor Coating.com | Management, LLC |
| Lynx Exhibits | Waddell & Reed |
| Pre-Paid Legal | Workforce Solutions |
| Rainbow International | Z Chamber Table |
| Rapid Refill | |



Business After HOURS

November event

GECU

1225 Airway Blvd.

Thursday, Nov. 3

5:30-7:30 p.m.

Free to attend.

Please join us at the premiere business networking event of the month. To purchase a vendor table for this month's Business After Hours, call Kris Diaz at 629-6711, fax 598-0928 or e-mail at kdiaz@elpaso.org. A 24-hour cancellation is required for refund.

Members: \$40 • Non-Member: \$80

A 24-hour cancellation is required for refund.

Mail check to:

**Greater El Paso Chamber of Commerce,
10 Civic Center Plaza, 79901
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Number of tables: _____

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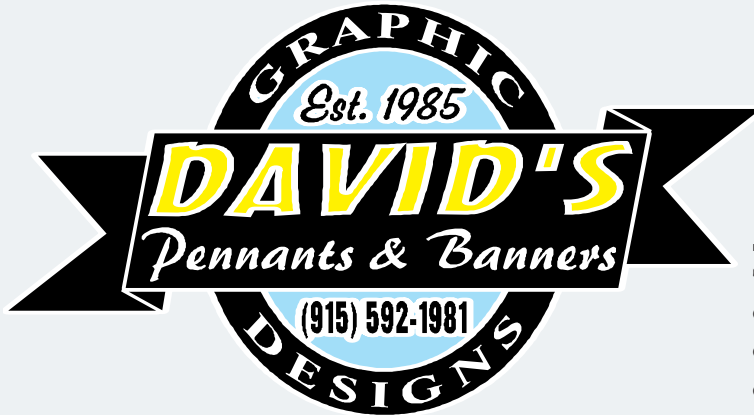
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AIRPORT
PRINTING

Chamber Meetings/Events Calendar

ADMINISTRATION		915-534-0526/Yvonne					
Executive Committee	2nd Tuesday	4:00-5:00	14	11	9	Schwartz	
Finance Committee	Thursday before Governing Board	7:30-9:00	16	13	11	Schwartz	
Foundation Board of Directors	As Needed						
Governing Board of Directors	3rd Tuesday	4:00-5:00	21	18	16	Lockhart Hall	
Combined Governing/Advisory Board	3rd Tuesday of every odd month	4:00-5:00		18		Lockhart Hall	
LEADERSHIP EL PASO		915-534-0526/Yvonne					
Leadership El Paso	2nd Friday	All day	10	14	4	TBA	
Leadership Curriculum Committee	1st Tuesday	11:30 AM	7	4	2	Schwartz	
Junior Leadership El Paso	2nd Wednesday	7:30-3:00				Lockhart Room	
Junior Leadership El Paso Board of Directors	1st Monday	5:30-7:00				Vowell Room	
EDUCATION & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT		915-534-0543/Yolie					
Education and Workforce Development Exec	2nd Tuesday	1:30-2:30	14	11	9	Vowell Room	
Business Advisory Council	1st Wednesday	11:30-1:00	1	5	3	Lockhart Room	
Education Committee	2nd Tuesday	11:30-1:00	14	11	9	Lockhart Room	
State of the Higher Education	Thursday	11:30-1:00					
State of the School District Address	Wednesday	11:30-1:00					
Bond Oversight Taskforce	Quarterly (Education Committee)	11:30-1:00	14			Lockhart Room	
GOVERNMENT RELATIONS		915-534-0530/Ana					
Government Relations Division Exec	2nd Tuesday	7:30-8:30	14	11	9	Lockhart Room	
Healthcare Council	Last Tuesday	7:30-8:30	28	25	30	Lockhart Room	
Healthcare Council Executive Committee	Second to the Last Tuesday	7:30-8:30	21	18	23	Vowell Room	
Case Managers TaskForce	2nd Thursday - every two months	11:00-12:00	-	13	-	Ponder Room	
Healthcare Heroes/Project Access Task Force	2nd Thursday	12:00-1:00	9	13	11	Ponder Room	
Military Medical Task Force	3rd Thursday - every two months	4:00-5:00	16		18	Schwartz/Ponder	
Mental Health Initiatives	16 Quarterly	8:00-10:00	16			Lockhart Hall	
MH - Military Relations	4th Wednesday	8:00-10:00	22	26	24	Lockhart Room	
MH - Civilian Mental Health	1st Wednesday	8:00-10:00	1	5	3	Lockhart Room	
MH - Media/Stigma	1st Wednesday	8:00-10:00	1	5	3	Lockhart Room	
MH - Disaster Preparedness	Last Friday	8:00-10:00	31	28	26	Lockhart Room	
MH - Jail Diversion	2nd Wednesday	8:00-10:00	8	12	10	Schwartz/Ponder	
Healthcare Professional Shortage Task Force	Last Friday	11:30-1:30	31	28	26	Lockhart Room	
Grants Committee	TBD						
Transportation Committee	3rd Wednesday	4:00-5:00	15	19	17	Lockhart Room	
International Affairs							
Infrastructure and Development	Last Wednesday	4:00-5:00	29	26	31	Lockhart Room	
Prosperity Project Advisory Committee	1st Tuesday		7	4	2	Ponder Room	
Lunch w/ Council & Commissioners	3rd Wednesday	11:30-1:00	15	19	17	Lockhart Room	
State of the City	Wednesday, June 4, 2008	11:00-1:00				Convention Center	
State of the County	TBD	11:00-1:00					
State of the Military	Friday, September 26, 2008	11:00-1:00				Conventions Center	
Bond Oversight Advisory Committee (City Bond)	As Needed						
Building and Zoning Advisory Committee	As Needed						
ARMED FORCES		915-534-0530/Ana					
Armed Forces Committee	1st Thursday	7:30-9:00	2	6	4	Lockhart Hall	
BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT		915-629-6716/Bea					
Procurement Committee	1st Wednesday	11:30-1:00	1	5	3		
Business Development Division Advisory Board	1st Friday	7:30-8:30	3	7	5	Lockhart Room	
Score Council Meeting	3rd Tuesday	9:00-10:00	21	18	16	Schwartz Room	
Person to Person / Business to Business	2nd Tuesday	11:30-1:00	7	4	9	Locations Vary	
Eggs & Issues	3rd Wednesday	7:30-9:30	15	19	17		
Fort Bliss Initiatives	3rd Thursday	9:00-10:00	16	20	18		
Networking Committee	3rd Thursday	2:00-3:00	16	20	18	Ponder Room	
Business After Hours	3rd Thursday	5:30-7:30	16	20	18	Locations Vary	
Camino Real Angels	3rd Thursday	7:30-9:30	27	20	18		
Purchasing Power Lunch	4th Thursday	11:30-1:00	23			Locations Vary	
BDD Officers Meeting	Last Thursday	8:30-9:30	30			Lomaland	
Disney	April	7:30-3:30					
MED Week Luncheon	October	11:30-1:00					
SBA Awards	May	11:30-1:00					
MARKETING & MEMBERSHIP		915-534-0578/Claudia					
Amigos	1st Tuesday	11:30-1:00	7	4		El Paso Club	
Development Council	Thursday before Board of Directors	8:30-9:30	16	13		Schwartz Room	
Membership Phone Bank		9:00-4:00				Schwartz/Ponder	
Chamber Gala	Plaza Theater		30				
Marketing Committee		4:00-5:00	28	25	22	Schwartz Room	
Holidays (CHAMBER CLOSED)							
Martin Luther King Day- 1/21	Independence Day- 7/4	Christmas Holiday- 12/24-12/25					
President's Day- 2/18	Labor Day- 9/1	New Years Holiday- 12/31-1/1					
Good Friday- 3/21	Columbus Day- 10/13						
Memorial Day- 5/26	Thanksgiving Holiday- 11/27-11/28						

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