

Valentine's Day salsa

The Civic and Cultural Organization of Puerto Ricans in El Paso cordially invites the El Paso and nearby communities to its annual Saint Valentine Day salsa dance to be held Feb. 18 at the Northgate Optimum Hall, 4201 Skyline Lane, corner of Neptune Road, immediately to the west of the Highway 54 Hondo Pass exit. The salsa band "La Güira" will entertain. Traditional Puerto Rican light dishes will be available. Doors open at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$15 in advance and \$18 at the door. For additional information, call 877-2884, 755-1056 or (505) 589-2389.

Aida auditions

Auditions for *Aida* will be held Feb. 6 at 7 p.m. at UTEP 207 Union West Wing. All those auditioning must have a song prepared to sing with a piano accompaniment. You provide the sheet music and pianist will be provided. *Aida* boasts exciting roles for men and women from late teens on up, and features roles for African-American singers and actors as

part of the multi-ethnic cast. No roles have been pre-cast. Rehearsals for *Aida* begin March 20 and continue Monday through Friday at 7 p.m. There will be a weekend rehearsal April 15. *Aida* is scheduled for 18 performances; April 21 through 23 and April 26 through 30. The May performances will be held May 3 through 7 and May 10 through 14. If needed, additional performances will be held May 17 through 21. All actors cast will receive \$100 for expenses at the end of the production. For information, call 747-6060.

Outdoor Adventures

February MWR Outdoor Adventures has the following trips planned: Ski Apache Ski Trip: Feb. 3. Cost is \$55 and includes lift tickets. Dripping Springs and the Ware Eagle Air Museum: Feb. 18. Cost is \$10 and includes admission to Dripping Springs and La Cueva Hikes and to the Ware Eagle Air Museum. All trips include snacks, beverages and transportation. To sign up, call 568-2784.

Pet photo contest

The International Pet Owners Club is offering more than \$10,000 in cash and prizes in the 2006 Spring Cutest Pet Contest. Pet owners from the El Paso County area are welcome to win their share of the prizes. The deadline for the contest is Feb. 28, is open to everyone and entry is free. To enter, send one photograph (full color or b/w) size 8" x 10" or smaller. All photo entries must include the photographer's name and address on the back. Photographs should be sent to: 2006 Spring Photo Contest c/o The International Pet Owners Club, P.O. Box 1748, Pittsburg, KS 66762. Entries must be postmarked by Feb. 28, 2006. You may also submit your photo directly online at www.cutsetpetcontest.com.

Health professions

The Air Force Medical Service is hiring nurses, dentists and physicians. Current military dentists, nurses and physicians within one year of completing their military service obligation who

would like to apply for the Air Force may call or e-mail for details. The representative for the Fort Bliss/El Paso area is Tech. Sgt. Bill Malcolm at 505-888-1975 or e-mail: william.malcolm@rs.af.mil.

Painted glass

For those who need a farewell, welcome or a thank you gift, stop by Old Fort Bliss for a painted glass of the Old Fort Bliss. This is a perfect gift for any occasion. The Old Fort Bliss is a Fort Bliss icon, seen at the El Paso Airport and various areas around the El Paso community. The painted glass measures approximately 11x13" featuring the facade of Old Fort Bliss' Sutler Store with the famous fish weather vane plus the patriot star on the colorful Franklin Mountains against the Sun City sky. Sponsored by the Fort Bliss Historical Association, the painted glass sells for \$45. A portion of the money benefits the Children's Bicultural Living History Program. For more information or for purchase, call Lauri-Anne Disinger at 568-3137.



Don't give up on impaired pet

DEAR PAW'S CORNER: I just finished reading your article about the border collie, "Tess," who is losing her eyesight due to cataracts. As the "mother" of two wonderful dogs, I was terribly upset when the husband said he thought he should have the dog put down. Your pets are part of the family, and I don't believe that if Tess were a child, rather than a dog, he would be so quick to dismiss her.

I, too, am dealing with blindness in my English springer spaniel, "Suzy," who is only 8 years old. She has progressive retinal atrophy, a condition that cannot be corrected. Suzy will be blind for the rest of her life.

We have totally accepted her condition, and we can see how sad she has become from it, but we try not to treat her any differently. We do cater to her needs a little more, and we also keep her on her leash when she is outside. She is our little baby girl, and if there was a way to correct this problem, I would go to the ends of the earth for her.

We have to remember that it was our decision to take in the animal, and therefore we should take care of it because it cannot care for itself. Suzy and "Jeff," our chocolate Lab, are very much a part of our family. — Devoted Mom in Dearborn, Mich.

DEAR "MOM": Thanks so much for sharing your experiences. I hope that owners who are dealing with illness or impairment in their pets will continue to reach out and help each other. We all love our pets and want to do the best we can for them.

Reader offers remedy for lingering pet odors

DEAR PAW'S CORNER: I read the question about getting the smell of cat urine out of a mattress. I recently had this problem, too. My grandmother told me about a product called AtmosKlear. It comes in a spray bottle, so I sprayed a fine mist into the air. Later, I poured the rest of the bottle on the urine-stained mattress. I had my doubts, but it took the smell out of the room and out of the mattress, too.

The true test was when my cat curled up and snoozed on the very spot where she had urinated, which she would not have done if she could detect a lingering odor. This product seems to only be available in a limited number of places. I found it at Target, but you can also buy it on Amazon or at the direct Web site: www.atmosklear.net. Good luck! — Gayle M., via e-mail

DEAR GAYLE: Many thanks! Pet odors are tough to get rid of, so enzymatic cleaning products are worth a try. Readers, if you're directly applying the liquid to a mattress or carpet, be sure to blot it well and completely dry the area before using it again (a mattress should be stood on its side to dry fully).

Send your tips, questions and comments to Paws Corner, c/o King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475, or e-mail them to pawscorner@hotmail.com.

(c) 2006 King Features Synd., Inc.

FIRST RIDE Great Auto Loans!

Whether it's your first car or your next car, FirstLight Federal Credit Union wants to be your first choice for financing. Not a member? Not a problem! Anyone in El Paso or Doña Ana counties can join, and anyone can take advantage of the most competitive rates available!

Life is full of firsts – so come to FirstLight Federal Credit Union.

El Paso Branches (915) 562-1172

- 1555 Lee Trevino
- 9993 Kenworthy
- 1741 Marshall Rd.
- WBAMC, 1st Floor

FIRSTLIGHT
FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

Where You've Earned Something More

www.firstlightfcu.org
562-1172

Proud Sponsor of the El Paso Sun Bowl Parade

