

100° / 76°
SUNNY, HOT

El Paso

CASH
\$1000
\$500
\$250
\$100
\$50
\$25
\$10
\$5
\$1

FRIDAY, AUG. 3, 2012

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\$1

**Men's City
Championship**



**GABRIELLE
IS GOLDEN**



VANESSA M. FELDMAN / EL PASO TIMES
Academy Award winner Eva Marie Saint speaks to the audience Thursday during a film talk with Charles Horak, Plaza Classic Film Festival director, before the screening of "North By Northwest" at the Plaza Theatre. The film fest opened Thursday.

Actress Saint flirts as festival opens

By Doug Pullen
EL PASO TIMES

When Eva Marie Saint was a girl in Albany, N.Y., she would come home from the Saturday movie with her parents and would imitate the leading lady in her bedroom mirror.

"You couldn't do that now. It's too risky," she told a crowd of about 1,000 Thursday night at the Plaza Theatre.

It was opening night of the 12-day festival, now in its fifth year, and Saint was the guest of honor for a showing of Alfred Hitchcock's 1959 thriller,

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- ▶ See more photos from the first day of the festival.
- ▶ Download the full schedule for the festival.
- ▶ Today's schedule 2B
- ▶ Tiempo: 'Manos' gets its moment Inside

The spry 88-year-old regaled the crowd with stories about Hitchcock and her co-star, Cary Grant, while having a little flirty fun with her interviewer, Charles Horak, the festival's artistic director and an obvious fan of the actress.

"She's still hot," he said after their 40-minute question-and-answer.

Saint coaxed Horak into imitating Cary Grant's line, "How did a girl like you get to be a girl like you?"

When he continued the impersonation, Saint cracked, "We can't turn him off!"

When Horak asked about the multifaceted nature and sexual appeal of her "North by Northwest" character, the spy Eve Kendall, she said: "If I had thought about that, I never would have taken the part."

Saint recalled how she got the part of "sexy spy lady," catching Hitchcock's eye with her second film, Bob Hope's "That Certain Feeling," and following her mother's suggestion to show up for an interview with the director wearing a beige dress and

Please see **Festival 7A**

EPISD outery builds

Town hall: Shapleigh reaffirms district's failures

Reform: Petition asks trustees to step down

Bowie: Ex-counselor who exposed cheating praised



By Hayley Kappes
EL PASO TIMES

Reform efforts are taking shape while the community identifies ways to tackle problems in the El Paso Independent School District and hold its officials accountable.

Former state Sen. Eliot Shapleigh's second town-hall meeting on the scandal-ridden district drew just under 400 people to Union Cinema at the University of Texas at El Paso on Thursday.

Members of Kids First, a registered general purpose political action committee, urged people at the meeting to sign a petition that makes several demands, including a call for El Paso school district trustees to resign for what organizers say was their failure to perform their duties even after they were told of possible violations of students' civil rights.

Shapleigh said district trustees acted incompetently by shirking their duty to oversee the internal auditor, who in 2010 found evidence of improper altering of student grades at Bowie High School.

Internal auditor Joe Yañez finalized his findings in a May 2011 report that showed evidence of employees changing passing grades to failing for some students, then changing those grades back to passing, and an inconsistent policy for awarding credits for courses taken in Mexico.

School board President Isela Castañon-Williams has said she thought it was best for former Superintendent Lorenzo García to supervise the auditor, a position that state law and district policy require to report directly to the school board. Two other trustees have said they didn't know the auditor was supposed to report to the board.

"Trustees have a legal obligation to set up internal audits, but they didn't do it and they didn't ask for audits that were done," Shapleigh said. "It is basics of governance to take a look at what you've already got."

Shapleigh said Castañon-Williams' assertions that the school board never could have known about García's scheme are shallow since he met with her and top district administrators in January 2010 with concerns that the district was "disappearing" students.

Castañon-Williams did not return phone calls Thursday.

In 2010, Shapleigh began voicing

Please see **EPISD 7A**

Former state Sen. Eliot Shapleigh listens to Patricia Scott as she talks to a packed room Thursday in the UTEP Union Cinema during his second town-hall meeting about the ongoing scandal in the El Paso Independent School District. Scott was a counselor at Bowie High School and attempted to alert campus and district officials about a cheating scandal that has since gripped the district.

Group demands that trustees act or resign

By Adriana M. Chávez
EL PASO TIMES

A group named Kids First has launched a Reform EPISD NOW! website and petition, both demanding that El Paso Independent School District board trustees either take action to improve the district or resign.

According to the group's website, www.reformepisid.org, the group formed after former EPISD Superintendent Lorenzo García pleaded guilty in federal court to participating in a

scheme to remove certain students, including transfer students from Mexico, from their classes and keep them behind in order to raise the district's TAKS scores, which in turn would earn García monetary bonuses.

The group is registered as a general purpose political action committee with the Texas Ethics Commission.

The website states that Kids First members are demanding the resignation of board trustees and any employees who "broke the law or failed to perform duties after being informed of ir-

regularities" if the trustees and employees aren't willing to rebuild the district.

They are also calling for "restoration of all students harmed by García's scheme, public disclosure of economic interests relating to EPISD, full independent audits (and) best practices in contracting and training for all Board members."

"We are actually asking them to take action or to resign," said city Rep. Susie Byrd in an email to the El Paso Times.

Please see **Group 7A**

TODAY AT
elpasotimes.com

- ▶ Poll: Do you support a group calling for resignations at EPISD in the wake of a cheating scheme?
- ▶ See more photos from the town hall meeting.
- ▶ Read past stories on EPISD at elpasotimes.com/episid

INSIDE TODAY

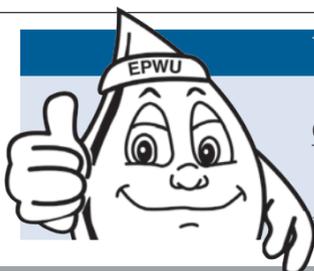
Business	8C	Lottery	2B
Calendar	2B	Movies	Tiempo
Classified	1E	Opinion	7B
Crossword	7D, 10E	Sports	1C
Deaths	4B	Television	8D

WATER OUTLOOK

Daily maximum consumption goal*	Wednesday's consumption*	Elephant Butte percentage available
145	150	3%

* Amounts in million gallons per day

SOURCE: EL PASO WATER UTILITIES, WWW.LESSISMOREEP.ORG



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