



Star Lighter

The Star on the Franklin Mountains may be lighted in honor of an El Pasoan or an El Paso business. Tonight, the star is lighted:

► In recognition of **T & T Staff Management**, official sponsor of the Star on the Mountain. The Greater Chamber and the El Paso community thank you for keeping it shining brightly.

The cost to light the star is \$50 a night. To light the star, call the Greater El Paso Chamber of Commerce, 534-0500, one week in advance.

Our schools

EP High honored ex is Legend of the Sun Bowl

Jimmy Rogers Jr. has been named as the 2011 Outstanding Ex by the El Paso High Alumni Association.

Rogers will be recognized during Homecoming Week Oct. 17-22.

A native El Pasoan, Rogers was elected student body president and graduated with the Class of 1952 at El Paso High. He went on to Southern Methodist University and received his degree before entering the U.S. Air Force, serving three years before returning to his hometown.

Rogers has served on numerous community boards. He was named as a "Legend of the Sun Bowl" for his continued service to the Sun Bowl Association serving as chairman emeritus, director and on the executive committee, CBS liaison, and football selection committee. Rogers has received the city of El Paso's highest award, "The Conquistador Award," in 1962 and 1988.

Joe Rutland

Decorated judge is Jefferson honored ex

The honorable Judge Edward Gamboa has been named as the 2011 Outstanding Ex by Jefferson High School.

Gamboa will be recognized during homecoming activities at the alumni dance on Friday, Oct. 14, at the Alamo Ballroom.

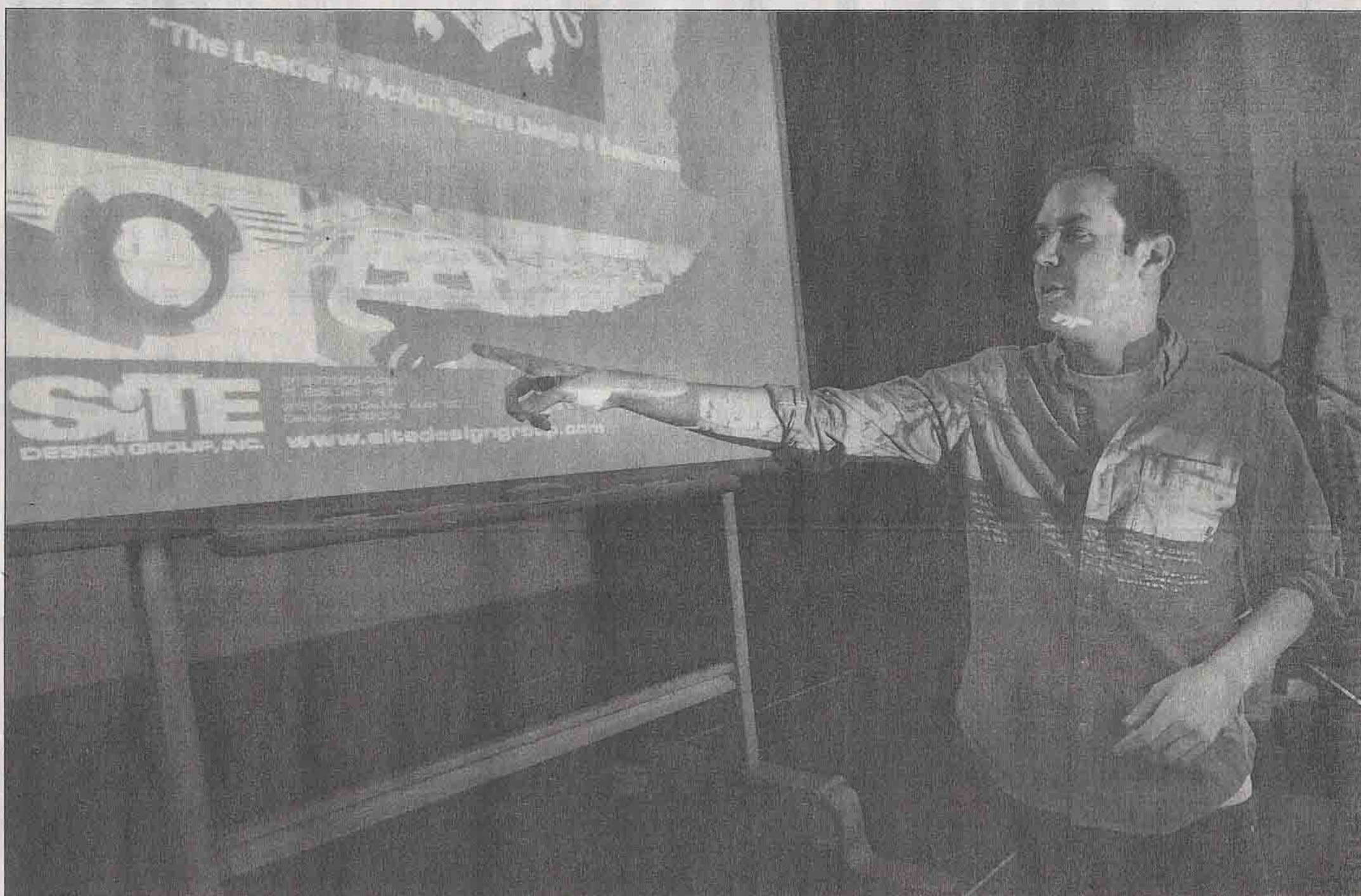
Gamboa graduated with the Class of 1968 at Jefferson High. He went on to graduate from the University of Texas at El Paso in 1972. A Vietnam War veteran, Gamboa earned his master's degree from UTEP in psychological testing guidance.

Gamboa graduated from the University of Houston Law School and started his legal practice in 1979. He served as assistant probate judge from 1996 to 2006 and has served as probate judge court No. 2 since 2007.

Jefferson High also is recognizing the late Robert "Chito" Samaniego, Class of 1954.

Samaniego was a helicopter pilot who lost his life in Vietnam. He was El Paso's first casualty in Vietnam.

A PLACE TO SKATE



PHOTOS BY VANESSA M. FELDMAN / EL PASO TIMES

Jackson Statzel of the Site Design Group based out of Del Mar, Calif., explains illustrations of the different types of features that can be incorporated into a skate park during a community input meeting at Barron Elementary School in Northeast El Paso.

Board enthusiasts jumping over 2 planned parks

By Aaron Bracamontes
EL PASO TIMES

The Northeast is kick-flipping over a skater's paradise.

At least that's the goal with the addition of two custom-design skate parks planning to be built soon.

Mountain View Park, 8400 Diana, has already been designed and Northeast Regional's skate park is in the design process. Currently, there is only one skate park in the Northeast at Veterans Park.

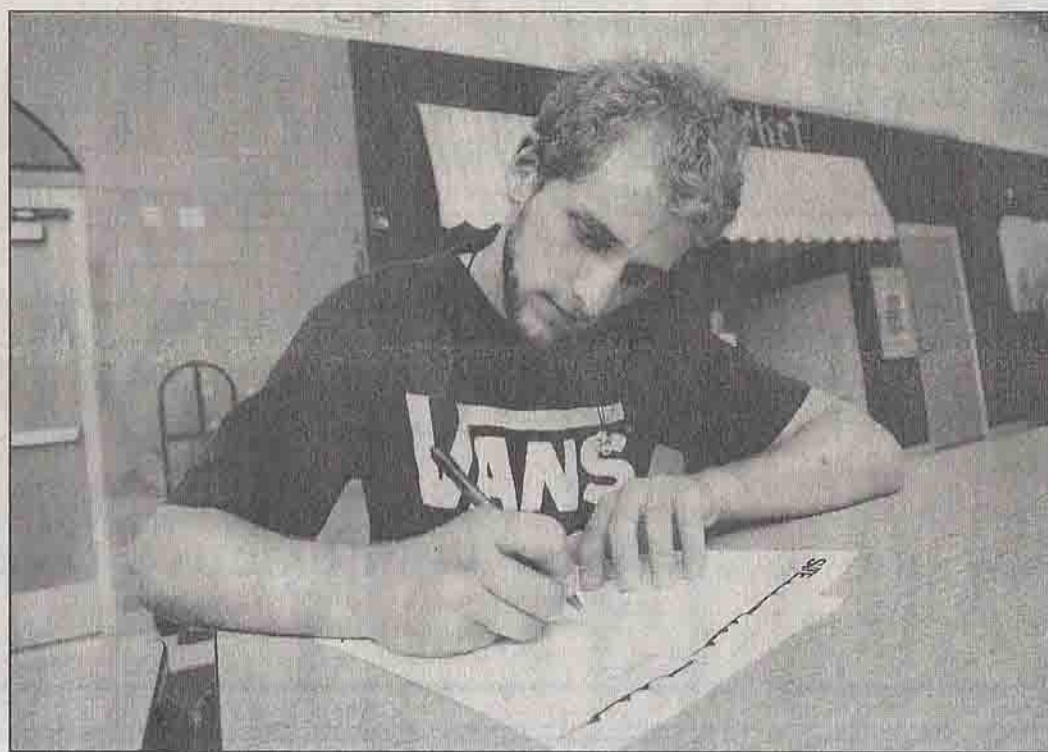
"Northeast is blowing up in a concrete way for skateboarding," said Paul Zimmerman, board member of the El Paso Skatepark Association.

The public has had input on the Mountain View Park, while more design workshops for the Northeast Regional Park are being planned.

Sam Rodriguez, an Engineering Division manager with the city of El Paso, said the workshops are usually at schools or recreation centers near the location where they will be built. The goal is to seek opinions from those who will be frequent park users.

"The intent of the workshop is to provide the residents with detail and the participants will get a chance to sketch it out," Rodriguez said. "It's more of a hands-on approach."

In the workshop, residents can fill out a "wish list" of what they would like to see at the parks. They can also choose el-



Philip Sullivan fills out a skate-park user questionnaire during a community input meeting.

ements from plaza-style parks, similar to a real-life street, or transition-style parks, similar to wavy ground with ramps.

"Most parks are like a combination," said Jackson Statzel, a representative from the Site Design Group, which will build the parks. "It doesn't have to be one or the other."

The first workshop is usually just to generate an outline of ideas. After that, follow-up workshops get into more detail.

"We will do a matrix of what is important to them," Statzel said. "It helps out a lot but if there isn't much input, we put a balance of both."

After several workshops, plans for Mountain View are now in the process of being put into effect.

Mountain View "was heavy on transition elements but pretty close to an even split," Statzel said.

With the public being involved in the design process, the city hopes it will gen-

erate more excitement for the parks' grand openings.

"They begin with a blank canvas and then they get to put their ideas in it," Rodriguez said. "I think they enjoy it more."

And the more excitement there is in using the park, the more likely the area will be kept up.

Statzel admitted that loitering and vandalism are part of the hesitation from neighbors when it comes to bringing in a skate park.

"If it is a good park, it is self-policed by the kids," Statzel said. "In a skate park that is really popular, there is no room to loiter because everyone is skating."

Zimmerman said both parks were made possible by city Reps. Susie Byrd and Carl Robinson, who made it a goal to find funding.

While skate parks that have been built on old basketball or tennis courts are a pleasant addition, Zimmerman said there is something a little more special to what the Site Design Group is building.

"They're really good at it. They've been doing it for a long time," Zimmerman said. "We like to think of skate parks as athletic facilities rather than playgrounds."

At 25,000 square feet, the Northeast Regional Park will be the largest in El Paso.

"It really is an open canvas," Zimmerman said. "It's almost fully customized for the community."