

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:

- On the nine-year anniversary of the passing of Hector S. Hernandez. We love and miss you. With love, your wife and family.
- In loving memory of Jordan Clay Summerford on his birthday. From friends of Kent and Martha Summerford.
- 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.

WHEEL WISDOM

Hone your skateboarding skills at Carolina Park



Vicente Rodriguez, 7, left, is led through a basic skateboarding routine by instructor Lewis Dinsdale, 18.

In brief

County judge candidate will speak at meeting

EL PASO — The Yucca Park Neighborhood Association will host its regular community meeting at 6 p.m. Wednesday at the Judge Edward Márquez Branch Library, 610 N. Yarbrough.

County judge candidate Veronica Escobar will be the guest speaker.

The association will host its meetings every third Wednesday of every month at the same time and place.

Information: President Ralph Cloud, 529-5335.

Times staff report

Area toolsheds

Keep El Paso Beautiful has push brooms, shovels, gloves, trash bags and other tools that can be borrowed free with a valid identification at the following Lower Valley El Paso fire station addresses:

- 6300 Delta.
- 7901 San Jose.
- 9418 North Loop.

For more information, call Keep El Paso Beautiful at 546-6742.

To report problems

- **Animal Services:** 842-1000.
- **Code Enforcement:** (trash, cars): 774-4500.
- **Development Services Code Enforcement office** (housing structure violations): 541-4800.
- **The fire marshal's** office if a home may pose a fire hazard: 771-1090.
- **Environmental hazards:** city's Environmental Services Department: 621-6700.
- **Graffiti Hotline:** 621-6789.
- **Police non-emergency:** 832-4400.

By Aileen B. Flores

El Paso Times

EL PASO — El Pasoans have a new opportunity to learn how to skateboard.

A skateboard class for children and adults is now available from 9 to 11 a.m. Saturdays at the Carolina Skate Park, 563 N. Carolina, in the Lower Valley for \$20 a month.

Cody Rios, a city recreation specialist, said the new class allows students to improve their motor and social skills.

Children and adults get to meet new people while they learn how to balance and manage their board.

Rios said. In addition, the activity keeps children away from the streets, he said. "Kids stay in the park. They have fun, are safe, and stay out of trouble," Rios said.

The class first started Jan. 16 with 10 students. Rios wants more people to participate.

"It's a great learning experience," he said.

The class is the only one in its type under the city's Parks and Recreation Department, Rios said. It was added to the Carolina Recreation Center curriculum in response to the public's request, he said.

Skateboard instructor Lewis Dinsdale, 18, travels from Northeast to the Lower Valley to teach children and adults something he likes to do, he said.

Dinsdale said he was 11 years old when he learned to skateboard. Since then, he has participated in several competitions, he said.

Dinsdale said he sees his teaching experience as an opportunity to help the community.

"It feels good to help other children stay active," he said.

Dinsdale said his current students are children seven to 13 years old but he would also like to see adults learning the sport.

The 23,000-square-foot skate park was built by the city of El Paso in 2003 at a cost of about \$625,000.

"People come from everywhere, it's the largest concrete skate park in El Paso," said Greg Walter, the center's director.

The skate park includes three main skating areas and a street course, and is the location of many of the city's skateboarding competitions.

The skate park is open to the public from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. every day. Walter said the skateboarding class is in addition to the services and classes the recreation center provides to the community.

Other classes include ballet, guitar, boxing, hip-hop dance, piano,



Rudy Gutierrez / El Paso Times

Skateboard instructor Lewis Dinsdale, 18, left, watches the footwork of Karen Bustillos, 10, during a skateboard lesson Saturday at the Carolina Center skate park at 563 N. Carolina. Dinsdale teaches skateboarding each Saturday from 9-11 a.m. for a monthly fee of \$20.

aerobics and karate, he said.

Walter said the concrete skate park at 7400 High Ridge, on the West Side, opened to the public in July 2009.

Aileen B. Flores may be reached at aflores@elpasotimes.com; 546-6362.

Classes

- **Who:** Ages 6 and older.
- **Instructor:** Lewis Dinsdale.
- **When:** 9-11 a.m. Saturdays.
- **Information:** 594-7521.
- **Where:** 563 N. Carolina.