



NEWSBRIEFS

Stamp out violence

The U.S. Postal Service is inviting everyone in the community to join the fight against domestic violence at a ceremonial unveiling of the Stop Family Violence semipostal stamp, according to Fernando Sepulveda, postmaster of the Fabens Post Office. The event will be held Feb. 10, 11 a.m. at the Fabens Post Office, 605 West Main Fabens. A portion of the proceeds from sales of this semipostal stamp will provide assistance to domestic violence programs. Speakers invited to the unveiling include representatives from the Center Against Family Violence, State Rep. Chente Quintanilla, Socorro Sukie Ramos, County Attorney Jose Rodriguez, a representative of Congressman Reyes' Office, Sheriff Leo Samaniego, Superintendents of the Fabens and Clint ISD, along with students from both districts, and USPS representatives. The 45-cent Stop the Family violence semipostal stamp is the third semipostal in U.S. History. Funds raised from the sale of the stamp will be transferred to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services for domestic violence programs.

Citizen's forum

The Rio Grande Citizens' Forum of the U.S. International Boundary and Water Commission (USIBWC) will be held on Wednesday, Feb. 16, 6:30 p.m. at 4171 N. Mesa, The Commons, Bldg. C, with an agenda that includes discussion of the Rio Grande Project, an overview of El Paso County Water Improvement District #1, and the Rio Grande Flood Control Projects Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement. Information: 832-4175 or e-mail sallyspener@ibwc.state.gov.

In other news

■ A day of mariachi music and dancing, hosted by the Wildcat Community Crime Stoppers and the Anthony Lions Club, will be held on Sunday, Feb. 13, 2 to 10 p.m. at the American Legion, 221 Poplar, in Anthony. The event will benefit victims of the Indonesian tsunami. Food and beverages will be sold, with performances by Mariachi Amistad de El Paso, Mariachi Diferencia, Mariachi de Mi Tierra, Mariachi Los Toritos, Mariachi Alegre, Mariachi Rayos del Sol and Joe's Disco. Cost is \$5 per person, 10 years and under are free. For more information contact Police Chief Ed Miranda at 886-3838 or 726-8944.

■ It's north versus south as fourth and fifth grade boys and girls from Clint ISD's Red Sands Elementary and W.D. Surratt Elementary storm the court during the Pee Wee Basketball Tournament at W.D. Surratt Elementary, 12675 Alameda in Clint on Saturday, Feb. 12, from 8:30 a.m.

See BRIEFS, Page 2

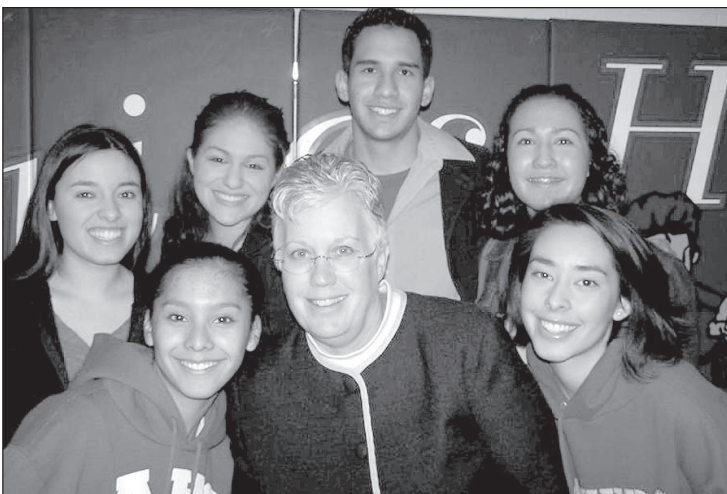
There is a mad scramble to improve just about everything in the world except people.

— Quips & Quotes

Challenge from honor students helps raise cash for tsunami aid

EAST EL PASO COUNTY — As a result of a challenge, Americas High School has collected more than \$5,300 during the past several weeks to help the American Red Cross Tsunami Disaster Fund, and other campuses are continuing fundraising efforts. The Americas money was turned over to the fund Jan. 24.

The Trailblazers' AHS National Honor Society challenged the school to raise money for the American Red Cross Tsunami Disaster Fund. "We (AHS) had a contest during third period on Friday, Jan. 21 to see which class could raise the most money," says NHS sponsor Marilyn Robles. "KLAQ-FM helped us Jan. 21, and the National Honor Society collected funds at Wal-



— Photo courtesy Socorro ISD

IN TSUNAMI'S WAKE — Americas High School students, led by the Student Council, raised more than \$5,300 for the America Red Cross Tsunami Disaster Fund. From top left, Priscilla Mendoza, Sophia Peón-Leyva, Dominic Moncada and Krissett Loya. Bottom row, from left: Vanessa De La Rosa, Principal Mary Ross, and

Mart and Carl's Jr. Jan. 22."

Sometimes a dress code — or lack of it — can be a good thing. Students and teachers at

See AID, Page 4

Anthony ISD prepares for new library

By Don Woodyard
Courier Staff Writer

ANTHONY — The board of trustees of the Anthony ISD looked to the future on two fronts at its Feb. 1 meeting.

The first was in regards to the construction of a 3,000-square-foot library at the high school.

The second was planning a joint meeting with the Anthony Town Council to look at the future of the school district and the community, particularly the ripple effect of new Army troops coming to Fort Bliss.

Architect Hector de Santiago, with the firm of Parkhill Smith & Cooper, went over plans for the library addition which will be located on the west end of the high school and mirror the front of existing structure toward the gym. A \$350,000 independent grant will cover only construction of the facility. Plans for the construction of Anthony High did not include a library when it was built several years ago. However, plans did include a provision for adding a new library in the future.

High school students presently use the library

See AISD, Page 5

Clint district provides plan for Horizon students

By Laura Cade
Special to the Courier

HORIZON — Due to the rapid population growth in the Horizon area, the Clint School Independent District infrastructure has scrambled to keep pace. With a delay in the start of construction of the new Horizon Middle School off North Kenazo, which will not be complete for the start of the 2005-2006 school year, alternative plans have been developed to accommodate the students in the Horizon area for the next school year with minimal disruption to students and staff.

District cabinet, principals, and the site-based committee determined that the district must utilize the existing facilities and available classrooms to provide instruction for each student.

Parent and community input was sought at a Jan. 12 public hearing prior to the school board meeting and three alternatives were prepared.

At the Jan. 19 Clint ISD Superintendent Ricardo Estrada recommended that the Carroll T. Welch campus become Horizon Middle

School for the 2005-2006 school year. C.T. Welch students will attend a "school-within-a-school" by holding classes at Frank Macias Elementary next school year. Frank Macias Elementary will continue to be a pre-Kindergarten through third grade campus, while housing the C.T. Welch students.

Currently, there are 13 available classrooms at Frank Macias Elementary to accommodate the C.T. Welch students. The staff of C.T. Welch will remain together along with their administration while at Frank Macias Elementary. Desert Hills Elementary will remain a pre-Kindergarten through fifth grade campus. Horizon High School will have grades ninth through twelfth next year.

For the 2006-2007 school year, the district will examine the growth in the Horizon area and the current school boundary lines to again reconfigure the elementary campuses, a district spokesman said.

Frank Macias, Desert Hills and C.T. Welch will all be pre-Kindergarten through fifth grade campuses. Elementary enrollment is expected to be spread evenly among the three campuses for the 2006-2007 school year.

Horizon council overrides Mayor's veto, hires third COPS officer

By Arleen Beard
Special to the Courier

HORIZON CITY — A special Horizon City Council meeting was called on Tuesday, Feb. 1, to discuss Mayor Dianne Whitty's veto against hiring of a third, and final, police officer under a COPS Grant initiated in 2003.

After hearing statements from several community members and council members, Whitty's veto was over-ridden 5-2.

Last month, on Jan. 11, City Council approved the hiring of the third police officer under the COPS Grant — which would pay a significant amount of the officer's salary for three years — by a vote of 4-2. Because the agenda item did not receive five or more votes in favor, the Mayor vetoed the decision. Her justification for the veto was that the officer created unnecessary expense and the hiring was not a financially sound decision.

There were several concerned citizens present at the special City Council meeting this week — many signed up to voice their opinions. Prior to opening the floor to the speakers, Mayor Whitty read an ordinance that states that public input on a particular item can be limited to a total of 30 minutes. She said she was going to enforce the ordinance.

The first person to speak on the agenda item was Police Chief Antonio Aguilar, who explained that the justification and the need for the grant was discussed over a year ago on Oct. 14, 2003, at which time the original grant was approved. There followed considerable discussion between members of Council and Chief Aguilar for about 25 minutes, leaving only five minutes for all other concerned citizens who signed up.

Mayor Whitty then called Sgt. Ron Swenson, who was next to speak, but reminded the audience that time was running out. Sgt. Swenson explained the need for the third officer under the COPS grant and kept his time to a minimum to allow for other citizens to speak.

Raymond Morales was next to address Council, and he opposed the Mayor's veto. He said he is a resident and a business owner in Horizon City and has concerns about thefts and burglaries. He asked Council to consider the growth that is approaching the town and think about the future and the need to keep Horizon City safe.

Following Morales' address, Council member Walter Miller asked Whitty if it was possible to hear all those who wanted to speak on this agenda item. Mayor Whitty responded that would mean possibly being at the meeting until 10 p.m. Miller then said: "We're here to serve."

The matter was put to a vote and Council approved hearing more from the citizens. Three other citizens were allowed to speak, all three of which were opposed to Mayor Whitty's veto. Those who spoke on this agenda had one thing in common — they

See COPS, Page 5



One perspective

By Francis Shrum

A really bad time

People say it over and over — what a really bad time it is for this or that thing to happen. We sometimes say that bad things happen in multiples, like storm clouds on the horizon misfortune seems to breed misfortune. The superstitious among us even go so far as to subscribe a specific number to the calamities we can expect, like bad luck happens in threes or you can expect to have seven years of bad luck for breaking a mirror. Misfortune ranges from a visit from someone you don't have time for, to a cancer diagnosis or natural disaster. And depending on who it happens to, the severity of it can vary. For instance, getting a flat tire on

a deserted stretch of roadway in the middle of a hot summer day is a mere inconvenience to a burly young truck driver. To an elderly lady, it could mean a threat to survival. Sometimes, severity of misfortune is determined on how it is reacted to. Have you ever noticed that two splinters of the exact same size are suddenly of vastly different dimensions when they get stuck in the fingers of two different people? One of them will shrug it off and go on. For the other, it is a life-threateningly painful event which requires much moaning and groaning, medical attention and pampering to aid recovery and is often recorded in the annals of memory for fond recollection — remember the time I got that splinter in my finger...

For some folks, just living life is a misfortune. We are constantly in a state of discomfort. We can't clean up the kitchen after supper or make the bed in the morning without fussing about how the bed covers won't go into place easily or how badly the food got cooked to the pan. On the other hand, some people are faced with obstacles so big you'd think the intimidation factor alone would cause mental paralysis. But it doesn't. I saw a fellow in the hardware store recently who was missing both legs. He was a young man, probably in his late twenties, with a working man's shoulders, arms and hands, which made me wonder if maybe he hadn't been missing his legs long. But he didn't look defeated. He was poking fun at the kid with him, laughing and joking. And he was there with a purpose, looking for a specific product to do a specific job. We write songs about misfortune a lot. Remember the old Kenny Rogers song about how Lucille picked a fine time to leave her strug-

gling farmer husband? Four hungry children and the crops in the field? Well, that depends on who you ask. Apparently, Lucille thought it was a fine time. I've had cause to be thankful most of my life that my calamities have been small ones, the kind that don't get dropped on you like a ton of bricks, the kind that you can see coming and generally work around — or, admittedly, the kind we tend to bring on ourselves. There are people who have lost literally everything in an economic downturn they couldn't control. Some people have lost loved ones without a moment's notice in a fiery automobile crash or to swift aggressive disease. Others are living day-by-day in the grueling, uncertain recovery process with little or no assurance that the outcome will restore health and vitality to their loved ones or themselves. There are those who have seen everything swept out to sea and maybe wished that they, too, has gone with the waves. After the recent devastating

tsunami, one man said he was angry with the sea for taking his wife and children — and he was a fisherman. My mother says that the only thing that is certain is that things will change. As certain as change may be, however, it is never comfortable — in fact, it is almost always downright uncomfortable if not terribly painful, and at best is inconvenient. I wonder sometimes, with all this natural inconvenience, why there is always someone out there who feels like the pot needs a good stirring — like setting off a bomb, starting a rumor, taking a gun to school or declaring a war. Next time I see somebody headed my way who talks too much, or my stapler runs out of staples when I'm in a hurry, or I hear that dreaded thump-thump of a flat tire as I cruise down the freeway on my way to an appointment, I'm going to ask myself a question. Instead of blowing off that this is a really bad time for this to happen, I'll just ask, is there ever going to be a really good time?

Briefs

From Page 1

to 1 p.m. Parents, students and the community are invited to attend and support the teams during the tournament.

■ Fourth-grade students of Loma Verde Elementary School are finding a way to help homeless El Paso children and families. Christine Moore's class has collected more than 150 hats, jackets and blankets in addition to bags of toys and books to be donated to El Paso's Center Against Family Violence. Moore says the class read the book *Fly Away Home* by Eve Bunting — about a homeless boy and his father living in an airport — and decided to collect the clothing and blankets. Representatives of the cen-

ter were scheduled to join the fourth graders at 7:45 a.m. Feb. 7 at the school. "All the classes are joining together to help people in need," says student Jorge Andrade. "People need to help others even if it isn't Christmastime or Thanksgiving."

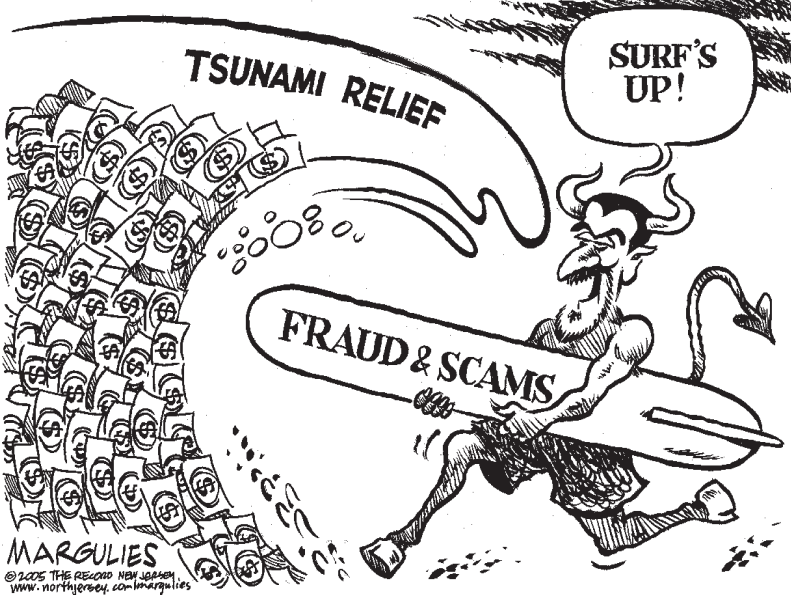
■ Montwood High School's "Awesome Blossom" flower sale, scheduled for Feb. 11, 13 and 14 has been canceled due to injury suffered by the class instructor, Sandy Crout. The flower sale is traditionally held prior to Valentine's Day at the high school campus, 12000 Montwood Drive.

■ The El Paso Border Chorders are offering a little something extra this year for those looking to send a special message. As their annual fundraising event, the group will serenade anyone of your choice with a love song, and present them with a

box of chocolates between Feb. 13-15, even if they are at work. To order a singing Valentine for \$40 call 751-9617.

■ February is Black History Month, and students of Montwood High School's theater, band and choir classes will host a special performance of "His Dream Through Music," a multimedia show involving historic film, serious acting and music — from jazz and swing to soul — performed by the students and inspired by the life of Dr. Martin Luther King. "I researched 50 important events in this country and came up with a script," director Kate Keyser says. "And there's a lot of music that I matched with those historical events, both on film and with drama on stage," she says. A 6 p.m. public show is planned for Feb. 25 — admission is \$5/adults and \$3/students — in the Montwood High School Theater, 12000 Montwood Drive.

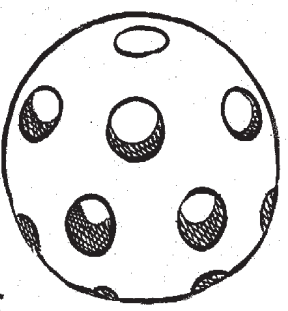
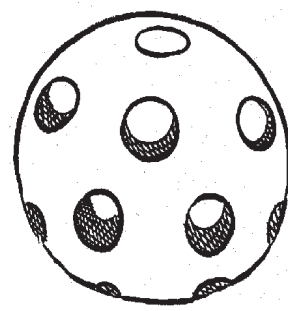
■ Las Palmas and Del Sol Regional Healthcare System is sponsoring the 5th Annual Las Palmas & Del Sol 1/2 Marathon & 5K. The event also includes both a one mile non-competitive walk and 5K non-competitive walk. The 1/2 Marathon is a scenic 13.1 mile race over Scenic Drive; starting from Las Palmas LifeCare Center, 3333 N. Mesa and ending at Del Sol Medical Center, 10301 Gateway West. The 5K (3.1 mile competitive run) and the fun walks both begin and end at Del Sol Medical Center. This event is a fund raiser for the United Way of El Paso County. T-shirts and finisher ribbons will be given to all participants; several trophies and prizes will be awarded. Refreshments will be served after the race. Pre-registration cost: \$25 for the 1/2 Marathon; \$15 for the 5K or 1 mile walk. Race day costs: \$30 and \$20, respectively — \$5 discounts for students, military, and employees of YISD, SISD, City of El Paso and County of El Paso (ID required). Online Registration: www.active.com, or call 915-587-6931.



From The Pictures Below, Identify The Following:

Wiffle ball

Baseball's new steroid policy



MARGULIES
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www.northjersey.com/margulies

WEST TEXAS COUNTY COURIER

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ADDRESS:
14200 Ashford
Horizon City, TX 79928

Phone: 852-3235
Fax: 852-0123
E-mail: wtxcc@wtccourier.com
Website: wtccourier.com

Publisher
Rick Shrum

Business Manager
Francis D. Shrum

Contributors
Don Woodyard
Steve Escajeda
Arleen Beard

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American Heart month – get in on the action

Heart attack, stroke and other cardiovascular diseases remain the number one killer in the United States. On an average day in Texas, 150 Texans die due to cardiovascular diseases and stroke. Heart disease has affected my family and, chances are, it may affect many of yours, too.

Every year since 1963, February has been designated American Heart Month. This month is the time to learn more about cardiovascular disease detection, prevention and treatment. The American Heart Association has designated this year’s educational message as “Get in on the Action!” by urging Americans to make physical activity a part of their daily lives.


There are a few simple things we

can all do to reduce the risk of heart disease. Exercising regularly is an important step. We all enjoy some form of exercise. So, whether it’s horseback riding, jogging, walking or bike riding, help keep your heart healthy and “just do it!” Other easy approaches to control heart disease include eating a diet low in fat and high in fiber, and controlling stress.

One of the myths surrounding heart attack and stroke is that it is a

“male disease.” Wrong. Heart attack and stroke do not discriminate. In fact, heart attack, stroke and other cardiovascular diseases remain the number one killer of American females.

Research and education are key to battling and preventing heart disease. Today, the chances of saving a life and reducing disability from heart disease and stroke are better than ever because of research done in our lifetime. Important discoveries such as



Eye on D.C.

By U.S. Rep. Henry Bonilla



Reyes Reports

By U.S. Rep. Silvestre Reyes

Congressman offers democratic take on state of the union speech

Last week, President Bush delivered his State of the Union address and spoke of potential changes to Social Security, the future of Iraq, education, homeland security and foreign policy. As the year progresses, Congress and the American public must carefully consider each of the President’s proposals to ensure they are in the best interests of the well-being of our citizens and our country.

I have grave concerns about the President’s proposal to privatize Social Security. There is no immediate Social Security crisis or cause for panic. No Social Security shortfall is predicted for 40 or 50 years. Privatizing Social Security would break the promise we have made to future generations for a guaranteed benefit in their retirement. The President’s proposal would take over \$2 trillion

from Social Security in the next ten years alone, jeopardizing the benefits of current retirees and cutting benefits for future retirees by more than 40 percent — even for those who choose not to set up a private account. We cannot build a better future for our children and grandchildren by dismantling the safety net our parents and grandparents worked so hard to build.

Instead, we need to consider other, less drastic measures that will help ensure the long-term viability of Social Security without endangering retirement security for millions of Americans.

I agree with the President that the elections in Iraq were an important step in building a self-reliant Iraq, but am concerned for the thousands of young men and women are still serving in this unstable and dangerous region. When we undertook operations in Iraq, many things were underestimated, including the number

of troops needed and the strength of the resistance movement. We cannot afford to repeat those mistakes as we plan for the future — the lives of our soldiers hang in the balance.

Our responsibility to our soldiers does not end when they leave the military. The soldiers of today are the veterans of tomorrow and we must be committed to providing them and their families with the health care and benefits they have earned and deserve. As always, I will work for full funding for the Veterans Administration and veterans programs.

The President’s State of the Union address virtually ignored the needs of the border region. In a speech emphasizing homeland security, the President overlooked the frontlines of our nation’s defense. If he is serious about protecting our country, he needs to recognize the law enforcement, infrastructure and technology needs of the border region.



Por la Gente

By State Rep. Chente Quintanilla

Zero tolerance for predators

If there’s one thing that truly irks me, it’s those who prey on elderly people — those who can least protect themselves, and who more often don’t understand it when someone is robbing them blind. That’s because they are such easy marks for not only criminals, but all too often, for even their own family members.

Therefore, I believe Texas must declare zero tolerant against individuals who prey on elderly and defraud them. That is why I have filed legislation that will amend the Texas Penal Code 32, and include stiffer criminal penalties if a fraud offense was committed against an elderly individual as defined by Section 22.04. The legislation filed will affect the following sections:

House Bill 713: will amend Subchapter B, Forgery 32.21, Subsection 2 (c) — to forge a writing with intent to defraud or harm another. This offense is increased to a state jail felony, and pushes 2(d)-(e) to the next higher category of offense if it is shown it was committed against an elderly individual as defined by Section 22.04;

House Bill 714: will amend Subchapter B, Criminal Simulation 32.22 — to alter an object with the intent to sell or pass, as genuine or as different from what it is. An offense under Subsection (b) is increased to a state jail felony if it is against an elderly person;

House Bill 715: will amend Subchapter C Credit Card or Debit Card Abuse 32.31 — to steal a credit card with the intent of using it. Once again, if it can be proved that this crime was committed against an elderly person, the offense is increased to the next higher category of offense, a third degree felony which is punishable up to 10 years in prison;

House Bill 716: will amend Subchapter C False Statement to Obtain Property or Credit 32.32 — to intentionally or knowingly make a materially false or misleading written statement to obtain property or credit for themselves or another. Once again, this crime is increased to a state jail felony and section c 4-6 to the next higher category;

Subchapter D Issuance of Bad Check 32.41 — Except as otherwise provided by this subsection, an offense under this section is a Class C

misdemeanor. If the check or similar sight order that was issued or passed was for a child support payment the obligation for which is established under a court order or if the offense was against an elderly individual as defined by Section 22.04, the offense is increased to Class B misdemeanor;

House Bill 717: will amend Subchapter D Fraudulent Possession 32.51 — to steal a person’s identity, information or telecommunication device. The offense is increased to the next highest category (3rd and 2nd degree felony) if it can be shown that the offense is against an elderly person.

As you can see by the changes listed above will make preying on the innocent — particularly the elderly — a much more serious crime, allowing for issuance of grand jury subpoenas for records and for the extradition of out-of-state offenders, such as telemarketers, both of which are not allowable under a misdemeanor offense.

Therefore, making various crimes that affect the elderly an automatic felony offense is a good workable tool for law enforcement.

For now, I remain your friend and public servant, Chente for la Gente.

life-extending drugs, bypass surgery and pacemakers, have improved the lives of many heart patients. But the fight against heart disease is far from over.

Hopefully, with more heart disease research and better education, fewer Texans will fall victim to the disease this year. As with any other health problem, please consult a physician immediately if you, or someone you know, shows any sign of a heart problem. For now, as we remember American Heart Awareness Month this February, get in on the action and increase your physical activity!

For more information or questions concerning prevention or treatment of heart disease, please call the Texas chapter of the American Heart Association (AHA) at (512) 433-7220 or the San Antonio division of AHA at (210) 614-4121.

For more information on this or other issues, please check-out my website at www.house.gov/bonilla/.

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Town of Horizon City Public Notice

The Town of Horizon City will conduct an election on Saturday, May 7, 2005 for the purpose of filling positions for mayor and council members whose two (2) year terms are expiring. The following places are up for election:

Mayor, Alderman Place 3, Alderman Place 5, and Alderman Place 7.

Qualified persons interested may apply for a place on the Town of Horizon City General Election ballot beginning February 7, 2005 through March 7, 2005 at 14999 Darrington Road, Horizon City, Texas, Monday — Friday, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

TRUE TEXAS FACTS by Roger T. Moore, Feb.13,1897: The Texas State Historical Association is founded.



NOTICE TO PUBLIC OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT ON THE ENVIRONMENT AND NOTICE OF INTENT TO REQUEST RELEASE OF FUNDS

El Paso Empowerment Zone Corporation
201 E. Main Street, Suite 603
El Paso, Texas 79901

West Texas County Courier
February 10, 2005

TO: All Interested Agencies, Groups and Persons:

Seventeen (17) days after this publication, the EPEZ of El Paso, Texas, intends to request the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to release Federal funds under Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (P.L. 93-383) for Project No. RH-04-TX-I-0291, Tornillo Housing Project, for the construction of 12 homes in San Elizario, Texas.

Environmental Assessment Activities

The work entails the reconstruction of dwellings that meet or exceed the (HUD approved) County of El Paso Colonia Housing Standards. The maximum grant amount is \$20,000. The projects will be limited to families owning or purchasing a lot with an outstanding balance of \$15,000 or less. The El Paso Empowerment Zone plans to use federal funding to provide affordable housing to families in the colonia of San Elizario, Texas. Federal funding will be used to pay for building standard housing. All of the work is on private property and environmental issues caused by the construction will be addressed. Among the expected concerns are temporary dust and noise due to construction; handling of potentially hazardous materials; and the disposal of debris.

Finding of No Significant Impact

It has been determined that such a request of release of funds will not constitute an action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment and accordingly the County of El Paso has decided not to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (P.L. 91-190). The reason for such a decision not to prepare such a Statement is based upon the fact that all environmental concerns could either be minimized or mitigated.

An Environmental Review Record for the proposed project has been made by the County of El Paso which documents the environmental review of the project and more fully sets forth the reasons why such a statement is not required. The Environmental Review Record is on file at the Office of Community Development, El Paso County Courthouse, 500 E. San Antonio, Suite #313, El Paso, Texas 79901, and is available for public examination and copying upon request between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday thru Friday.

Public Comments on Findings

All interested agencies, groups and persons, disagreeing with this decision are invited to submit written comments for consideration by the El Paso Empowerment Zone to the address as set forth above. Such written comments must be received at the address specified within sixteen (16) days after this publication. All such comments so received will be considered and the County will not request the release of funds or take administrative action on the project prior to the date specified in the proceeding sentence.

Release of Funds

The EPEZ will undertake the activities described above with HUD Rural Housing Economic Development Program funds under Title I from its Program Year 2004 under grant numbered RH-04-TX -I-0291, San Elizario Housing Project. The County of El Paso is certifying to HUD that Ms. Dolores Briones, in her official capacity as County Judge, consents to accept the jurisdiction of the Federal Courts if an action is brought to enforce responsibilities in relation to environmental reviews, decision-making and action; and that these responsibilities have been satisfied. The legal effect of the certification is that upon its approval, the County of El Paso may use the Block Grant funds and it will have satisfied its responsibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969. HUD will accept an objection to its approval only on one or more of the bases and the procedures described in 24 CFR Part 58.75. Objections are to be addressed to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, 1205 Texas Avenue, Room 511, Lubbock, Texas 79401.

Objections to the release of funds on bases other than those stated above will not be considered by the HUD. No objections received later than thirty-three (33) days after this publication will be considered by HUD.

Phyllis Rawley
Executive Director

Tech Prep All-Star

Annalisa Arras, a 2004 Clint High School graduate, is considered a Tech-Prep success story and has been chosen as one of the six Tech Prep All-Stars in the state. Tech-



Prep is a college preparatory program for technical careers. Courses taken in high school may earn them college credit through articulated courses, dual credit, or College Board Advanced Placement. High School participants are prepared for success beyond high school by getting a head start in a two year degree program and a by establishing a foundation for a bachelors degree. Participants are also able to apply the technical skills they have learned during high school and while attending college. Because of the skills Annalisa learned in her Business Computer Information Systems class at Clint High School she was able to get a job with Bos Dairy in Fabens, Texas. Annalisa is currently featured on the Tech Prep website and she will also be featured along with four other Tech-Prep All Stars in a booklet which will be presented to the state legislature. The Clint Independent School District Tech Prep program is directed by Jan Palmer, Career and Technology Coordinator.

Aid

From Page 1

Socorro's Jane A. Hambric School spent \$1 each last week to not wear their school uniform — and then donated more than \$1,000 to efforts to help victims of the South-east Asian tsunami. The school serves students in pre-kindergarten through the eighth grade. The school's Student Council organized the project.

In fact, the El Dorado High School feeder pattern, including the high school, Paso del Norte, Sun Ridge, and Hambric campuses raised approximately \$3,500 for the Save the Children organization's tsunami relief efforts.

Col. John O. Ensor Middle School eighth graders are promoting a similar campaign regarding the school dress code. They hope to raise at least \$750 by selling "jeans" coupons to fellow students through the first week of March. The coupons allow the buyer to wear jeans for one school day. The funds will go to the families of two University of Texas at El Paso students who lost family in the tsunami disaster.

Meanwhile, students at Captain Walter E. Clarke Middle School donated \$923.15 to UNICEF, the United Nations Children's Fund. The school's National Honor Society led the drive.

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Clint Independent School District Notice of Public Hearing

Clint Independent School District will hold a public hearing for the discussion of the 2004 district Annual Report on Wednesday, February 16, 2005, at the Clint Independent School District Administration building board room, located at 14521 Horizon Blvd., at 5:30 p.m. during the regularly scheduled School Board meeting. All interested individuals are welcomed to attend. The report will be available to the public after the hearing at all Clint District School Campuses, the Clint Public Library and the Clint Post Office.

Audencia pública

El distrito escolar de Clint tendra una junta para discutir el Reporte Annual del Distrito de 2004 el miercoles, 16 de febrero del 2005 en las oficinas administrativas localizadas 14521 Horizon Blvd. a las 5:30 p.m. Todos individuos interesados estan invitados a asistir. El Reporte se puede obtener en estos lugares; todas las escuelas publicas del distrito, la biblioteca publica de Clint, y el Correo de Clint.

WTCC: 02/10/05

AISD

From Page 1

in the former junior/senior high school building that is now Anthony Middle.

Superintendent Vern Butler explained Monday that AISD is looking at other funding sources to cover the cost of furniture, books and shelving that are not covered in the grant. He said the goal is to have a minimum of 9,000 books available for students. Grant money is available for a computer lab that will be a part of the new library.

De Santiago expected the bids for the library to go out by Feb. 18. Construction is expected to take four months. Butler hopes the library will be ready for use by the start of the 2005-06 school year. In addition to use by students, the new library also will be available for use by the community.

The board approved the architectural plans for the new library as presented.

Against the background of new troops coming to Fort Bliss, Butler spoke to trustees about the possible economic and academic impact that an influx of military personnel might have on the Anthony area. With Anthony Gap road and Transmountain Road, he sees the possibility of military personnel settling in the Anthony area.

To plan for such contingencies and to plan for the future, he suggested meeting with Mayor Art Franco and the Town Council. The first joint strategic planning meeting of the Town Council and the trustees was subsequently scheduled for 9 a.m. Saturday at the Anthony Town Hall.

County auditors win financial reporting award for 15th consecutive year

EL PASO COUNTY — El Paso County Auditors must be doing something right. The Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada recognized the County recently with a Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting.

Attainment of this annual certificate represents the highest form of recognition in government accounting and financial reporting by a government agency and its management, Stephen J. Gauthier, the association's technical services director, wrote in a letter to the County. Being honored with this award for 15 consecutive years is an outstanding accomplishment.

A Certificate of Financial Reporting Achievement also has been awarded to the individual or department responsible for preparing the award-winning report, Gauthier said, pointing out that in this case, the winner was Edward Anthony Dion, the County's Auditor.

"El Paso County's report was judged by an impartial panel and found to meet the program's highest standards," Gauthier said. "Such a report includes not only a demonstrable spirit of full disclosure to clearly communicate its financial story but also a motivating factor to convince others to read the report."

Dion, however, stressed that such

a recognition would not have been possible without the diligent team efforts of his staff.

"I commend my staff and their energetic and enthusiastic efforts, which have distinguished El Paso County from other governmental agencies at the local, state and national level," Dion said. He also expressed his appreciation to the Council of Judges and Commissioners Court for their vital leadership in continuing a progressive trend for the County of El Paso.

The Government Finance Officers Association is a non-profit professional organization serving approximately 15,000 government finance professionals with offices in Chicago and Washington, D.C.

— *Contributed by Guadalupe Silva*



COPS

From Page 1

were concerned for the safety of the residents of Horizon City and the police officers.

Miller then addressed Mayor Whitty and said he took offense when Mayor Whitty mentioned in a newspaper article that Council is not being financially responsible. "The grant money is the city's money and we fully expect the city's growth to sustain the officer after the grant is over," he added.

Council member Byron Taylor said he was opposed to hiring the third officer because the city would probably need to raise taxes to cover the officer's salary after the grant was over.

Council member Keenan Greseth stated that growth impacts the community and Horizon City would only be responsible for 25 percent of the salary for the first year, 50 percent the next and 75 percent for the third year.

He said he wants to spend his taxes in his town, versus spending it at the state level or federal level, and he is in favor of hiring the third officer.

After considerable discussion, City Council voted to override Mayor Whitty's veto and hire the third police officer by a vote of 5-2. The two who voted against the override were Council members Taylor and Jay Blobner.

In a later interview, Council member Robert Reyes said he feels taxes will not be affected by hiring this police officer. He said was upset by the fact that taxes were brought into play in the discussion at all.

"Horizon City is incurring a lot of growth and we need to have a strong police department that will sustain the growth of the city," he said. "I have been in law enforcement for some time and I feel that this police department is doing a fine job considering it is understaffed. As an elected official, I feel it is my responsibility to support the town and its needs. There is a lot to benefit from this police officer."

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Public Hearing

Anthony Independent School District

2005 — 2006 School Year Calendar

The Anthony Independent School District intends to apply for a first day of instruction waiver for the 2005 — 2006 school year. Anthony I.S.D. intends to begin instruction for students on Monday, August 15, 2005, which will be earlier than the state mandated date of August 22, 2005.

A public hearing to discuss the first day of instruction for students for the 2005 — 2006 school year will be held as follows:

- Date: February 17, 2005
- Time: 6:30 p.m.
- Site: Anthony Elementary School Cafeteria
610 Sixth Street
Anthony, Texas 79821

For more information, please call Central Office at 886-6500.

Junta Publica

Distrito Escolar Independiente de Anthony

Calendario Escolar de 2005 — 2006

El Distrito Escolar Independiente de Anthony está considerando aplicar para un permiso estatal para poder cambiar la fecha del comienzo del año escolar 2005 — 2006. El distrito intenta comenzar el primer día de instrucción el lunes, 15 de agosto del 2005, que seria mas temprano que el 22 de agosto del 2005, fecha requerida por el estado.

El propósito de esta junta publica para la comunidad, sera discutir el primer día de instrucción para el ano escolar 2005 — 2006, que se llevara a cabo el 17 de febrero del 2005 a las 6:30 p.m. en la cafeteria de la escuela Primaria de Anthony ubicada en 610 Sixth Street.

Para mas información favor de llamar a la Oficina Central al numero 886-6500.

WTCC: 02-10-05



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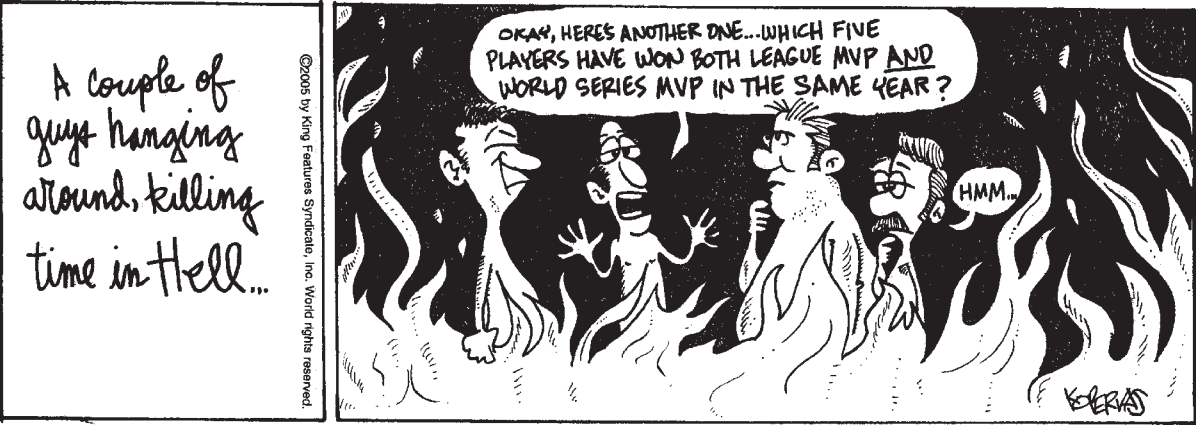
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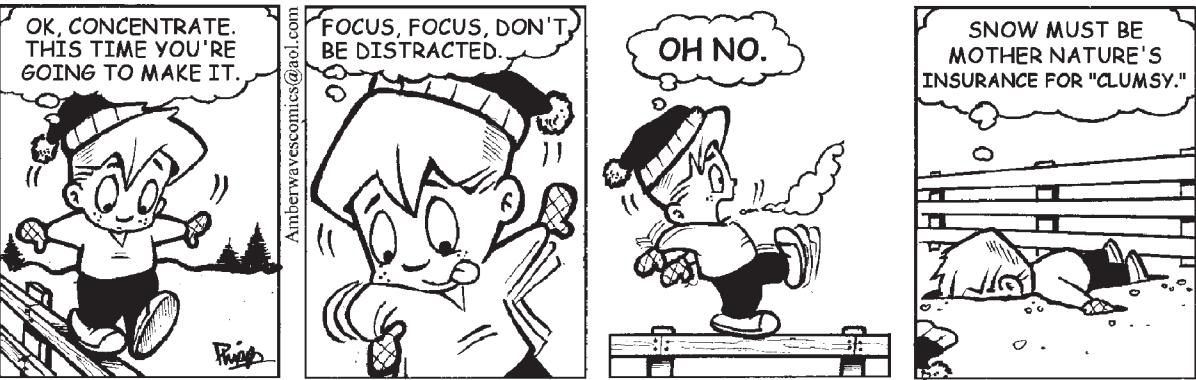
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Comix

OUT ON A LIMB By Gary Kopervas



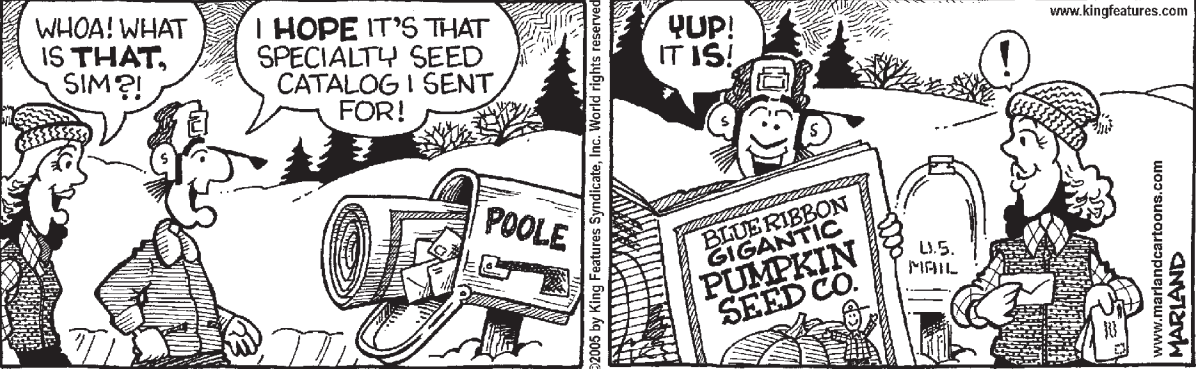
AMBER WAVES By Dave T. Phipps



THE SPATS By Jeff Pickering



R.F.D. By Mike Marland



Classified Ads

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1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12
13	14	15	(STOP HERE FOR \$5 AD.)
16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31
32	33	34	35

Back Issues: www.wtccourier.com

Social Security Q&A

By Ray Vigil

Q: My sister's 34-year-old husband died suddenly of a heart attack. She was pregnant with their child when he died. Will she and her child be eligible for any Social Security benefits, and if they are, when should she apply?

A: Both your sister and her child would probably be eligible for survivors benefits based on her husband's work record. Social Security survivors benefits are paid to a widow or widower at any age if he or she is taking care of the deceased's child, who is under age 16 and receiving Social Security benefits. She should contact Social Security as soon as possible after the child is born.

Q: If I need to do business with Social Security, can I call ahead and make an appointment?

A: Yes, we encourage people to call ahead for an appointment. Sometimes, depending on the reason for

the call, the Social Security representative may be able to take care of the business on the phone and save you a trip. In most cases in which a person needs general information or if someone needs to report changes, we do not schedule appointments. Do know that our online services have been expanded, you can now file for benefits, both retirement and disability, report change of address, request direct deposit, replace your Medicare Card or letter of benefit verification online.

Q: My landlord needs proof of what I receive from Social Security. What

can I use as proof?

A: Every year we will send you a Form SSA-1099 showing the amount of benefits you received in the past year. You can use this as proof. You can also request a benefits verification statement which verifies the amount you receive on a monthly basis. If you did not receive Form SSA-1099, you can request one from our website, www.ssa.gov, or call your local Social Security office.

Q: I receive my benefits by direct deposit. Do I still need to let Social Security know when I move?




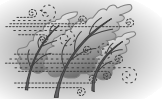




A: Yes, be sure to change your address with Social Security even if your payments go directly to your bank. Social Security needs your address in case we need to send you important information throughout the year.

For more information visit your local Security office, see www.ssa.gov or call us at 1-800-772-1213. If you have any questions that you would like to have answered, please mail them to the Social Security Office, 1111 Gateway West, Attn: Ray Vigil, El Paso, Texas 79935.

WEATHER

AccuWeather.com

SEVEN-DAY FORECAST FOR EL PASO

THURSDAY	THUR. NIGHT	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
							
Breezy with rain.	Rain.	Cool with rain, becoming breezy in the afternoon.	Chance for a couple of showers; very windy.	Clouds giving way to some sun.	Mostly sunny.	Sun and clouds.	Times of clouds and sun.
▲ 50°	▼ 38°	▲ 54° ▼ 38°	▲ 60° ▼ 39°	▲ 66° ▼ 39°	▲ 66° ▼ 40°	▲ 64° ▼ 39°	▲ 61° ▼ 35°

UV INDEX

Statistics for noon.

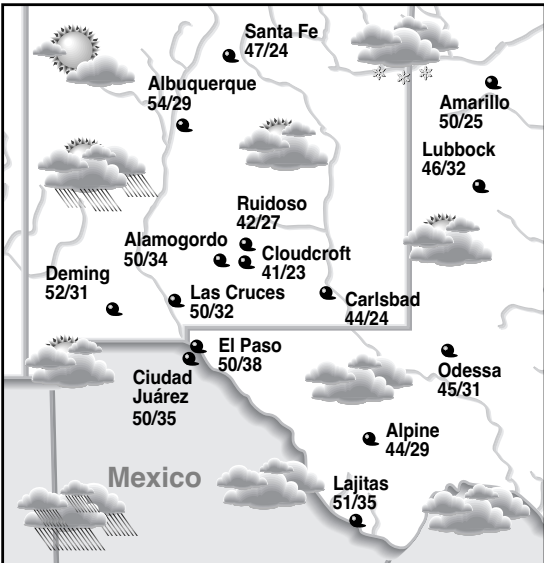
The higher the UV Index, the greater the need for eye and skin protection.

Thursday	2	Minimal
Friday	2	Minimal
Saturday	4	Low
Sunday	5	Moderate
Monday	6	Moderate
Tuesday	5	Moderate
Wednesday	4	Low

TEXAS WEATHER

Anthony	53	32
Canutillo	51	32
Clint	47	31
E. Montana	51	36
Fabens	47	31
Horizon	52	32
San Elizario	50	31
Socorro	49	34
Tornillo	48	31
Vinton	52	32

Shown is Thursday's weather. Temperatures are Thursday's highs and Thursday night's lows.



TRAVELERS CITIES

City	Thur. Hi/Low/W	Fri. Hi/Low/W	Sat. Hi/Low/W	Sun. Hi/Low/W	Mon. Hi/Low/W
Albuquerque	54/29/sh	46/31/r	53/29/sh	54/33/c	56/30/c
Atlanta	50/28/s	52/32/s	54/38/s	50/40/r	60/39/pc
Atlantic City	39/25/r	43/25/pc	45/29/s	47/31/pc	45/30/r
Austin/San Antonio	55/32/r	47/40/r	57/44/r	68/41/pc	70/44/s
Baltimore	40/26/sf	43/26/pc	47/28/s	47/30/pc	47/32/r
Boston	32/25/sn	33/25/sf	39/27/pc	41/29/s	42/30/sh
Chicago	30/18/pc	38/22/pc	40/28/s	42/32/r	36/21/c
Dallas/Ft. Worth	54/30/pc	46/41/c	54/41/r	60/41/pc	64/40/s
Denver	54/22/s	48/25/c	49/28/sh	53/26/pc	49/15/c
Flagstaff	48/26/pc	44/28/c	44/24/sn	47/23/c	48/22/c
Houston	55/38/c	52/44/c	56/48/r	62/48/r	68/50/s
Kansas City	36/18/pc	46/29/pc	42/29/sn	52/33/c	48/23/c
Las Vegas	62/44/pc	58/44/r	64/44/r	63/45/pc	66/44/c
Miami	77/55/sh	70/52/s	72/58/pc	77/64/pc	79/62/sh
Minneapolis	26/14/pc	34/24/pc	36/22/c	36/20/c	33/10/c
New Orleans	56/39/pc	56/47/s	60/51/pc	68/51/r	67/50/s
New York City	38/28/sn	37/25/pc	41/28/s	45/35/s	44/36/r
Philadelphia	38/28/r	38/26/pc	45/30/s	47/32/pc	45/34/r
Phoenix	72/48/sh	64/49/r	66/48/r	68/50/pc	70/49/pc
Portland	53/36/pc	55/40/pc	50/38/r	48/36/r	50/32/pc
San Francisco	62/46/pc	60/48/pc	58/48/c	59/48/c	59/46/sh
Seattle	50/36/pc	53/40/pc	48/38/r	46/36/r	47/30/c
Tucson	65/45/r	63/44/r	65/41/r	65/44/pc	69/46/pc
Washington, DC	43/27/sf	43/25/pc	49/28/s	50/34/pc	48/36/r

Weather (W): s-sunny, pc-partly cloudy, c-cloudy, sh-showers, t-thunderstorms, r-rain, sf-snow flurries, sn-snow, i-ice.

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