



NEWSBRIEFS

Be safe in Horizon

The Horizon City Police will be strictly enforcing seat belt violations and drunken driving violations over the next few months. The weeks between May 23 to June 5 is recognized nationwide as the "Click it or Ticket" campaign and Aug. 27 to Sept. 12 as the "You Drink and Drive You Lose" campaign. "We always look at these types of offenses as serious violations and enforce them with as much diligence as possible," said HCPD Sgt. Ron Swenson. "These nationwide multi-jurisdictional campaigns only enhance our already proactive efforts to curb the problems. These campaigns show that law enforcement is working together. If you are driving drunk or without a seat belt, if we don't catch you, someone else will." Recently the HCPD trained two additional officers as Intoxylizer Operators which added to the two they already had. Most HCPD officers are already certified at the Standardized Field Sobriety Testing program. "We encourage everyone to come to Horizon City and have a good time; several new night club establishments have made Horizon a lively night spot. We simply ask that everyone wear their seat belts and drink responsibly," Sgt. Swenson said. "If they've had too much to drink, call for a taxi or get a ride from a designated driver. If we can keep the DWI drivers off the street and don't write a single ticket for seat belt violations because everyone was wearing them and everyone had designated drivers, then we've done our job. It's not about stats, citations or tickets; it's about protecting our community and the streets and preventing a tragedy," he said.

Teacher gala

Socorro ISD will honor 33 teachers during the annual Teacher of the Year Gala, one from each campus, and two will ultimately be selected to send to regional competition. The event will be May 6, 6-9 p.m. at the Centennial NCO Club. Those selected as finalists for SISD Elementary Teacher of the Year are Vickie Brown from Helen Ball; Jody Miranda from Elfida P. Chavez; and Chris Fendley of O'Shea. For the Secondary honors, finalists are George Rodela of Americas High; Lizette Shaw of Eldorado; and Troy Herbolt of Socorro High School.

In other news

■ **CORRECTION:** Sylvia Hopp was recently named to the position of Asst. Superintendent for Planning and Instruction in the San Elizario ISD rather than Support Services as was mistakenly reported in last week's *Courier*.

■ The Wildcat Community CrimeStoppers and the Anthony Police

See BRIEFS, Page 5

It's difficult to teach children the alphabet these days. You can't convince them that V doesn't come after T.

— Quips & Quotes

Contributions by community partners noted by Socorro ISD



SERVICE CLUB SERVICE — The Horizon City Kiwanis Club, represented Kit Thomas, left, and Bethani Sellers, was honored by Socorro ISD for the club's support of education during a breakfast honoring Partners in Education last week. The Horizon City Kiwanis sponsors the Terrific Kids program which honors the everyday good work of all students.

EAST EL PASO COUNTY — Socorro Independent School District (SISD) held their annual Partners in Education (PIE) appreciation breakfast on March 29. The Superintendent's Award — the highest partnership honor — went to Del Sol Medical Center. The trophy was accepted by Linda East, Del Sol's Administrative Director of Communications and Public Affairs, and Delores Acosta, Director of Community Relations.

East was instrumental in establishing Socorro's PIE program in 1989 when she was serving as the Socorro district's Public Information Officer. She held the position from 1979 to 1997.

"Socorro ISD started their PIE program in 1989," she said. "The district saw the value of working with the businesses in the community to develop partnerships to improve the district," she said.

Del Sol (called Columbia Medical Center East at that time) hired East in 1997. One of her first tasks was to partner the hospital with SISD. "Del Sol Medical saw immediately, and continues to see, the value of partnerships and



SUPPORT NOTED — Linda East and Delores Acosta display the Del Sol Medical Center's SISD Superintendent's Award.

providing resources to SISD," said East. "We had nine partners in 1989 and now Socorro ISD has 500 and that's great."

Fabens ISD says thanks for thousands of volunteer hours

FABENS — The Fabens ISD said thanks on Thursday of last week with an appreciation luncheon for its Partners in Education and the numerous volunteers that work tirelessly to make the district a better place.

Each of the five district campuses noted their special volunteers — each logging between 300 personal hours to as many as 1,000 during the school year. David Sublasky, who had served on the Fabens school board for 22 years, said he

doesn't regret one moment of volunteer service, saying service makes a person "very rich."

Jim Pendell, of S&S Grande Food Store, was noted as the top PIE of the year, with seven others receiving special notice.



COMMUNITY SUPPORT — Fabens ISD Superintendent Poncho Garcia, left, keynote speaker and former FISD trustee David Sublasky and Board President Greg Spence thanked Jim Pendell, right, of S&S Grande Food Store for contributions made to the school district as a Partner in Education during the annual appreciation luncheon.



GOING ABOVE AND BEYOND — Fabens Middle School Principle Luis Liano, center, thanked Terri Pearce, left, and Antonia Ramirez for their numerous contributions to his campus as volunteers during the annual banquet in their honor last week.

Tornillo ISD sponsors school board debate

By Emily Baker
Special to the Courier

TORNILLO — The community of Tornillo had the opportunity to meet and listen to the candidates running for School Board at a district-sponsored debate last week at the Tornillo High School cafeteria. The debate, moderated by UTEP Professor Dr. Gary Brooks, was the second year the district has sponsored a debate for school board candidates.

A crowd of over 100 heard opening statements and responses by the candidates to questions posed by the public

and from each other. Those attending were incumbent Carol Escarciga, and candidates

Rachel Avila, and Gloria Blanco. Avila is running unopposed. Blanco, a former Tornillo School

Board member, is running against Escarciga for place #4.

Dr. Brooks and Tornillo Superintendent Paul Vranish developed the format of the debate, which provided a forum for candidates to discuss school district issues and bring their message directly to the public. Candidates answered questions submitted in writing by school employees and members of the audience. Brooks screened the randomly selected questions for appropriate content and legality. District employee Estella Pacheco provided translations for questions and candidate responses.

The election is Saturday, May 7.



ISSUES ON THE BOARD — TISD Board candidates, from left, Gloria Blanco, Rachel Avila and Carol Escarciga listen intently during the TISD School Board Debate.

— Photo courtesy Tornillo ISD



One perspective

For the good of the public

By Francis Shrum

If you are involved in politics or our electoral process, and you like it, you should stop reading right now.

If you're one of the unlucky few who are mixed up in it but understand exactly how skewed it is, you have my condolences and one tiny bit of advice: Save yourself!

There are folks who consider politics a worthy field of endeavor for a person to enter. You hear now and then about someone who has "gone into politics." In my opinion, this could be roughly translated into "gone to the dogs."

See? I told you to stop reading.

Don't get me wrong. There are tons of really honest, hard-working, qualified people out there serving in public office — often unpaid — with the most honorable of intentions. It's just too bad they have to wade through the political mire just to get it done. Our system of politics inevitably makes them consider choices they would otherwise never consider, it subjects them to pressures they should never have to face, and requires that they become a little harder, maybe a little more cynical — in the name of public good.

I've recently been reading some historical background on the formation of our nation's governmental system and have concluded that it was nothing short of divine intervention that we ever got up and running as a nation in the first place. I'm not joking.

Our founding fathers were so

heavily involved in back-biting, thwarting, foiling, frustrating, subverting, rumor-mongering, undermining, injuring and even killing one another in the name of their "principles" that it took the likes of George Washington to just keep the whole thing together in the first place — which was no small feat. Washington was able to manage it only because he was simply so awesome in character and stature that his political opposition sort of withered away in the glare of his popularity.

Things haven't improved with time. The political structure that was born alongside our system of government, the ugly twin that constantly struggles with its idealistic sibling, is unfortunately the source which keeps it from truly succeeding.

First off, just consider what the word politics means, straight out of the dictionary. By its very definition, it's a questionable craft. According to Mr. Webster, a person of a political nature is "characterized by shrewdness in managing, contriving, or dealing," and is "shrewdly tactful." A politician engages in what is "expedient" to his purpose — a word

which Mr. Webster says means "governed by self-interest." A politician, he says, has an interest in governmental office generally for selfish, or otherwise narrow, short-term goals.

Not necessarily high recommendations for someone who will handle the purse strings of public money. The fox and the hen house comes to mind.

Secondly, the whole election process is hopelessly counter-productive to getting anything done afterward. A candidate usually must say or do things that are insulting — to varying degrees — to his competitors in order to win an election. Chances are, those same competitors will be involved in the governmental process one way or another after the election. Do you think they simply forget and forgive? Don't count on it.

Our national more-or-less-two-party system is based solely on adversity. Even if both sides are in complete agreement on a particular issue there is no way they will work toward a common goal because they are afraid the opposition might come off looking good, too.

From the instant we elect "our" president, the opposition party is mandated to rip and tear at the man and his mission until he leaves office. If they manage to get a member of their own party into office, then the other side must do the same thing — even if they really like the guy and think he's doing a great job!

Another problem is that our faulty electoral system is allowing people

who have no more business than a goose has to be running the government — to be running the government.

We put people into positions of power as if we were hiring a business manager without running a background check on skills and experience he claims to have or conducting a personal interview simply because he has managed to make every other candidate for the job look bad.

Folks are getting elected to offices of power these days by only a handful of the population motivated enough to go to the polls, many of whom know little or nothing about the candidates other than a bunch of unsubstantiated hearsay and cast their votes based on the most flimsy of reasons.

Maybe we should make it where candidates can only run for public offices for which they have verifiable training and experience. Then they must prove from their past record that they can feed themselves from something other than the public trough. Finally, they should have to demonstrate, in public, that they know how to balance a checkbook. This should narrow the field a bit — anybody left will probably be a good candidate to administer public funds.

There's not enough paper and ink to even scratch the surface of the potential for corruption and greed created by political "contributions."

The process by which we elect our so-called public servants is fatally flawed. That's why I figure the best way to ruin a good man is to elect him to public office.

Write stuff

Dear Editor:

Voters, now is the time for you to come to the aide of your Horizon City municipal government. You can provide for a positive change in your government on May 7.

Proper communication is one of the keys to adequate governing. Presently there is a failure of communication between the mayor and council. This includes communication between the municipal government and the various public entities. Proper growth and development cannot occur without cooperation between all public entities.

The city council cannot make proper decisions if they do not have adequate information on agenda items. Since private developers are an integral part of growth they too must be a part of the communication process.

Micromanagement is not a part of

good governing. The mayor and council should set policy. Department heads and chiefs should manage.

Voters, if you want these changes made, then cast your vote: Morales for mayor and Najera, Sellers and McClellan for aldermen.

Lillard Thompson
Mayor Emeritus
Horizon City

Dear Editor:

May 7, 2005 will be an important day in Horizon City. It is the day that citizens will have the last opportunity, in this election year (early voting occurred April 20 – May 3), to participate in determining who will sit on their Town Council and school boards. There are four positions up on the Town Council and two positions on each of the school boards, Socorro and Clint.

The mayor and three alderman positions are on the ballot for this election. A local businessman, Ray Morales, with experience in many areas of municipal government and education has offered to serve as your mayor. He is committed to having citizen input, council members with defined responsibilities and working relationships with other major entities which affect our community.

Bethani Sellers and Keith McClellan have been your aldermen before and were never silent when it came to representing your concerns. They know what is needed and have always been committed to the full citizenry of Horizon City. Luis Najera, a well spoken and proven leader in his profession as a Texas State Trooper, can bring insight regarding state government and law enforcement.

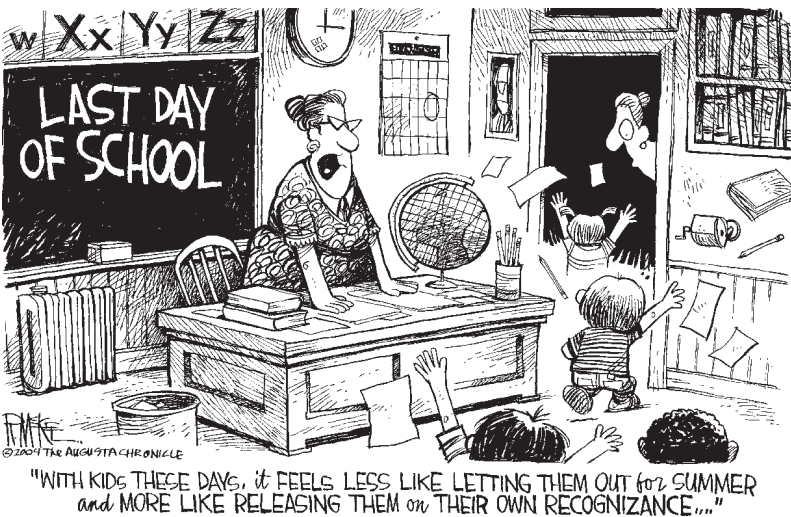
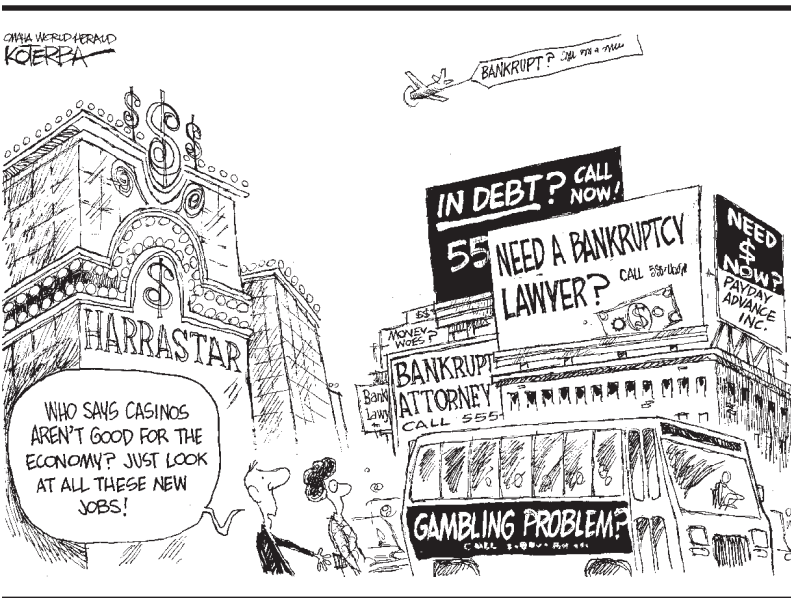
For the first time in many years, a resident from Horizon City has chosen to run for the Clint ISD school board. His name is Rafael Padilla, a former Alderman.

The voters in Horizon Manor, Desert Mesa, Eastlake and Horizon Mesa subdivisions can choose one of their own. With the completion of the new junior high school, we will have five Clint ISD campuses in Horizon City

Think of how many children's futures you can affect with your vote! In addition, your vote can keep Jim Pendell, a fair and dynamic leader with a proven record, on the board.

Our Socorro board also has two equally qualified candidates who have pledged to work for the whole district and not just the eastside of El Paso and they are Dolores Acosta and Ernie Martinez. More importantly, all of the candidates have pledged to work with our Town Council to make better use of your tax dollars through joint efforts.

Please take the time out of your busy schedules to cast your vote. I support these candidates and urge you to vote for them. The Voice for Action PAC has distributed information regarding the qualifications and positions of these candidates in order that you can make an informed choice.



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Monday 4 p.m. for Thursday publication.

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Sparks community wants help with dangerous stretch of Horizon Blvd.

EAST EL PASO COUNTY — Recent serious car accidents, one involving a fatality, has the community of Sparks calling on state and county officials to do something about what they say is a deadly stretch of Horizon Blvd. which covers both entrances to the subdivision nestled between Horizon Blvd. and Interstate 10 in East El Paso County.

On Wednesday this week, the Sparks Housing Development Corporation scheduled a meeting and invited a host of state and county officials to convene and discuss the situation.

“Almost every other week there is

a vehicle accident on the stretch of Horizon Blvd. between Sparks and Horizon City — on Bowdoin and Horizon in front of the private minimum security prison — due to speeding and heavy traffic caused by cars, school buses, and semi-trucks entering in and out of Sparks or on their way to Horizon City,” said Frank Desales, executive director.

“On this stretch there are no speed signs, stop signs, speed bumps or traffic lights. For over a year now, this issue has caused a major concern among colonia residents from Sparks and business leaders as well as Ice Castles II, the neighboring daycare center (across Horizon Blvd. from

Sparks),” he said.

On April 15, one woman was killed and two men were injured in a collision between a pickup and an ice cream truck attempting to make a U-turn on Horizon Blvd. on the stretch near the entrance/exit to Sparks on Bowdoin. It was the latest in a series of accidents in that area.

“This public safety issue has worsened as time goes by,” Desales said. “This high traffic area causes safety issues since Bowdoin is only one of two roads that enters into the Sparks community. With no turning lane onto Bowdoin and situated at the bottom of a slope, (it) makes it difficult to see oncoming motorists

coming from Horizon City or I-10 at high speeds.”

Desales said officials from Texas Dept. of Transportation, the office of State Rep. Chente Quintanilla, and the El Paso County Sheriff’s Dept. were expected to attend the 10 a.m., May 4 meeting at the Centro Socorro Ramirez at 106 Peyton Rd.

“The purpose of this meeting is to bring together the community, local governments, elected officials and state agencies to strategize on how we can make this target area a safer place,” Desales said.

“For too long has this area been the cause of fatal accidents. How many more accidents or how many more fatalities have to occur to bring attention to this community concern?”

Eye on D.C. By U.S. Rep. Henry Bonilla

Common sense legislation: The Small Business Bill of Rights

Small business is the engine that powers our economy. Small business is the embodiment of the entrepreneurial spirit that has made our nation the greatest in history and envy of the world. Small business creates the opportunity that makes the American dream a reality.

For this reason, I am proud to have cosponsored, House Resolution 22 (HR22) the Small Business Bill of Rights. The Small Business Bill of Rights is a commonsense approach to addressing the concerns of our nation’s 25 million small businesses.

We need to make health insurance affordable for small businesses. It doesn’t make any sense that small companies should suffer or be limited in access to quality healthcare.



HR22 states plainly that those businesses should be able to pool their purchasing power for lower health insurance rates, and I say “that’s commonsense!”

And what about the disproportionate amount of paperwork small business owners are forced to complete and regulations they are forced to follow? Reports show the federal regulations can cost small businesses close to \$7,000 per employee which is 60 percent higher than that of large companies. HR22 clearly outlines the need for a reduction of excessive and unnecessary paper work and regulations. Again, I say, “that’s commonsense!”

The death tax is also still negatively affecting the vitality of the small business community by discouraging owners from investing and saving and can, at times, actually be the death of a business. We should do away with this oppressive tax as stated in HR22, because “that’s commonsense”

While it may seem obvious, this Small Business Bill of Rights in HR22 is necessary. Necessary because the success of small business is essential for the success of our nation.

Our small businesses represent the very fiber of America and are an expression of our country’s spirit. Because of this, I am committed to supporting them and nurturing their health and growth, because “it’s only commonsense!”

Reyes Reports By U.S. Rep. Silvestre Reyes

Quality care for El Paso children

Here in El Paso, we recently celebrated an important accomplishment in pediatric care. The Facility Licensing Group of the State of Texas authorized Providence Hospital to rename their children’s pavilion “The Children’s Hospital at Providence.”

This might seem like a trivial change; however, it’s a tremendous accomplishment that reflects the quality care Providence provides for children in the border region. Since opening its doors in 1952, the men and women of Providence Hospital have ushered in new technologies and built the first pediatric emergency room in El Paso. This new designation as “The Children’s Hospital at Providence” is the culmination of years of hard work by hospital staff and administrators and the community as a whole. I have longed worked on behalf of Providence and applaud them for this distinction.

The Children’s Hospital at Providence features three dedicated pediatric units, known as Oceanville, Jungleville and Kidsville, which consist of over 100 beds. Through a dedicated classroom and a working relationship with the El Paso Independent School District, children can even continue their studies while in the hospital.

Providence also houses a pediatric emergency department, specialized outpatient clinics for children with chronic illnesses through the Border Children’s Health Center, a pediatric intensive care unit, a pediatric pulmonary lab, inpatient and outpatient children’s oncology units, and a child life program that works to meet a child’s developmental and psycho-social needs during their illness.

The new Children’s Hospital at Providence is based on a “hospital within a hospital” concept. This structure provides high quality, lower cost, specialized care to children through shared hospital equipment and services such as housekeeping, administration and purchasing. Other prominent pediatric centers such as Johns Hopkins Children’s Center, Children’s Hospital at Dartmouth, Rainbow Babies, Children’s Hospital in Cleveland and Toledo Children’s Hospital also utilize this concept.

The Children’s Hospital at Providence staff also receive specialized training in the treatment of the children. Many of the nursing staff have received Pediatric Advanced Life Support certification and several

emergency department physicians are certified in pediatric emergency medicine. These health professionals are part of a team that may include pediatric subspecialists in cardiology, pulmonology, surgery, oncology and neonatology.

According to the U.S. Health and Resources Administration, if the border region were the 51st state, it would rank last in access to healthcare and first in the number of uninsured children. I’m working in Washington, DC to improve Medicaid funding and have introduced the Border Economic Recovery Act which would, among other things, provide \$8 million in federal funding for the Border Health Commission, \$250 million for hospitals and healthcare providers who provide emergency health services to undocumented immigrants, and \$25 million for the prevention and control of tuberculosis.

With partners like the Children’s Hospital at Providence, we will improve our region’s statistics and our children’s health. I congratulate the Children’s Hospital at Providence and all our local hospitals and health providers for their devotion to improving the quality of life for the most important people in our community, our children.

Town of Anthony
PUBLIC NOTICE

A PUBLIC HEARING will be held during a **Planning and Zoning Commission Meeting on Tuesday, May 10, 2005 at 7:00 p.m.** at Town Hall, 401 Wildcat Drive, Anthony, Texas. The purpose of the public hearing is to allow any interested persons to appear and comment regarding proposed rezoning of the following property:

1) A portion of Tract 72A, W.D. Marsh Survey No. 183, El Paso County, Texas, from PRE-DEVELOPMENT to RESIDENTIAL to accommodate forty-five (45) lots (minimum of 6,000 square feet each) and six (6) lots to COMMERCIAL.

Those who are unable to attend may submit their views in writing to the Town Clerk of the Town of Anthony at P.O. Box 1269, Anthony, Texas 79821.

Myriam P. Uribe
Town Clerk

WTCC: 05/05/05

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1) A portion of Clara A. Mundy Survey No. 247, El Paso County, Texas, from COMMERCIAL to RESIDENTIAL to accommodate two-hundred fifty-five (255) lots (minimum of 6,000 square feet each).

Those who are unable to attend may submit their views in writing to the Town Clerk of the Town of Anthony at P.O. Box 1269, Anthony, Texas 79821.

Myriam P. Uribe
Town Clerk

WTCC: 05/05/05

Well, of course it failed...th' name "Rolling Stone" won't work EVER!

WHATA SAGE!
ROBERT S. MOORE
2005

TRUE TEXAS FACT by Roger T. Moore April 27, 1895: Wm. Sydney Porter (O’Henry) printed the last issue of his publication, the Rolling Stone.




THANK YOU FOR VOTING!


May 7th, is a very important day for our community and your taking the time to vote proves your commitment to wanting a better quality of life for our community. We share your commitment and pledge to dedicate ourselves to serve you!

We respectfully and humbly ask for your support and vote!


Horizon City Candidates




Raymond Morales
Candidate For Mayor
Horizon City



Luis Najera
Candidate For Alderperson # 3
Horizon City



Keith J. McClellan
Candidate For Alderperson # 7
Horizon City




Bethani Sellers
Candidate For Alderperson # 5
Horizon City

School Board Candidates

CLINT ISD CANDIDATES




Rafael Padilla
Candidate For Trustee
Clint ISD



James Pendell
Candidate For Trustee
Clint ISD

SOCORRO ISD CANDIDATES



Dolores Acosta
Candidate For Trustee
Socorro ISD



Ernie Martinez
Candidate For Trustee
Socorro ISD

AMENDMENTS TO HORIZON CITY CHARTER		
Amendment No. 1	No	
Amendment No. 2	No	
Amendment No. 3	Yes	
Amendment No. 4	No	
Amendment No. 5	No	
Amendment No. 6	No	
Amendment No. 7	No	
Amendment No. 8	No	
Amendment No. 9	No	
Amendment No. 10	Yes	
Amendment No. 11	Yes	



Canutillo high freshman advances to regional golf tournament

By Alfredo Vasquez
Special to the Courier

CANUTILLO — Drew Norris, Canutillo High School freshman, said that if his birdie shots had dropped, he would have had a better chance of going to state.

The Canutillo freshman placed third among varsity players in the 1-4A District golf tournament to qualify for the Regional meet, which was played at the Quick Sand Golf Course in San Angelo last week.

Norris consistently placed among the top 10 finishers in eight tournaments during the regular season. In the district championship, Norris shot a first-round 75, which was second only to the leader Chris Figueroa, of Andress High School, who shot a 70. The championship was played at the Lone Star Golf Club in East El Paso.

Norris said, "I was able to drive the



Drew Norris

ball long and straight most of the time during the regional meet, but I three-putted too many times." Norris placed 37 among 92 players. He shot an 86 in the first round and an 82 in the second round.

CHS Golf Coach Tim Barno said that if Norris had broken 80 both days in San Angelo, he could have made the top 20. "He is only a freshman, so he still has a lot of high school golf to play," the coach said.

In the regional tourney, Norris went up against the top high school golfers from West Texas including Midland, Odessa, Amarillo, and Lubbock for a chance to qualify for the

state finals, which will be held in Austin later this month.

"I was real nervous this year, but I learned a lot. Next year I will be more relaxed," Norris said.

4H'ers kick off 2005 season with Fun Shoot

EL PASO COUNTY — Desert Valley 4H is kicking off its 2005 Shotgun Season with a Fun Shoot on May 7 at the El Paso Skeet and Trap Club on Alameda. Entries are being accepted for adult and youth teams of all experience levels. This year's special guest is USA Olympic Coach Lloyd Woodhouse. Lunch will be served by the famous Taco Man.

Representatives of the local media will participate in a Shoot Out at High Noon with El Paso Inc.'s Tom Fenton defending the weekly's honor. Proceeds will support 4Hers

going to state and national shooting events.

"There's nothing quite like shooting clay targets," 14-year-old Jessica Ivey says. "It's all about concentration and skill, but nothing beats that little thrill you get when the orange clay turns to dust."

This will be Ivey's second season with the team. Last year, she was a member of the state champion SCTP Junior Novice team and competed in the SCTP National Tournament.

For information on entries or sponsorships contact Debbie Barney at 590-1771 or Danelle Ivey at 433-5431.



— Photo courtesy Desert Valley 4H

DRAWING A BEAD — Jessica Ivey takes practice targets at the El Paso Skeet and Trap Club.

Briefs

From Page 1

Department are offering a reward for information regarding several recent commercial burglaries. Between March 14 and April 26, unknown individuals have gained unauthorized entry into local businesses by breaking windows, stealing money and small electronic equipment. To date, a total of 15 businesses have been burglarized, mostly between the hours of 1 and 6 a.m. Persons who provide information leading to an arrest may remain anonymous and will be paid a cash reward. For information, contact Anthony Police Chief Ed Miranda: cell number 915-726-8944 or office, 886-3838. The Tip Line is 915-726-2038.

■ Canutillo Elementary School's digital video documentary, *History of Canutillo*, was named first place winner in the 2005 student contest sponsored by the Texas Computer Education Association (TCEA). The documentary will be shown to the public at 6 p.m., Wednesday, May 11, in the Canutillo Elementary School Cafeteria. The 27-minute movie was produced by sixth grade students and features two parts: one on the history of the community and the other on the ghosts and legends of the area. CES teachers assisting were Andres Arriola, Sharon Walker, Susan Smith, Judith Valle, and Rick Armstrong. "CES received a Hewlett-Packard technology grant at the beginning of this school year which included \$35,000 in computer equipment," said Smith. TCEA will recognize the CES students and teachers at

its state conference next spring.

■ Del Sol Bariatric Center will hold free community seminars explaining the program, criteria and procedures for weight loss surgery for the morbidly obese. The public is invited to attend. One seminar will be on Saturday, May 14 at 10 a.m. at the Las Palmas LifeCare Center, 3333 N. Mesa. A second will be Tuesday, May 24 at 6 p.m. at the Del Sol Medical Center, 10301 Gateway West. For more information, call 915-594-5250.

■ The Eta Kappa Chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma Society, a teachers' honorary, presented a check for \$1600 to Audrey Price, Assistant Vice President at UTEP. The gift is an addition to the established Delta Kappa Gamma-Eta Kappa Chapter Scholarship. The monies were raised by the sale of chances for the quilt designed and handmade by member Janet Jenkins. The gift will enhance the scholarship fund which yearly benefits a UTEP student majoring in education. The 2004-2005 recipient is senior Teresa Garrett.

■ Border Patrol agents from Las Cruces nabbed a shipment of 50 pounds of cocaine valued at about \$1.6 million at about 4 p.m. April 30 at the I-25 checkpoint. The stash was hidden in two false compartments of a 1999 Ford Explorer. The driver was arrested, identified as 41-year-old Adolfo Villa-Martinez, a Mexican national with a border-crossing card, who was headed to Denver.

■ Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Charles N. Bocanegra, son of Yolanda and Carlos J. Bocanegra of El Paso, Texas, and his shipmates recently made a port visit to Jebel Ali, United Arab Emirates during a

routine Western Pacific deployment while assigned to the amphibious assault ship USS Bonhomme Richard, homeported in San Diego. USS Bonhomme Richard deployed as Expeditionary Strike Group Five's flagship and embarked Marines of the 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit in support of the global war on terrorism. The primary mission of Bocanegra's ship is to embark, deploy and land elements of a Marine landing force by helicopter, landing craft air cushion or amphibious assault vehicle. USS Bonhomme Richard is deploying under the Navy's new operational construct, the Fleet Response Plan. Bocanegra is a 1998 graduate of Montwood High School of El Paso, Texas and joined the Navy in January 2001.

■ The Upper Rio Grande area workforce will benefit from a \$400,428 job-training grant from the Texas Workforce Commission's (TWC) Skills Development Fund. An eight-member business consortium has partnered with El Paso Community College to create or upgrade 673 jobs for workers who will earn an average hourly wage of \$11.05 upon completion of training. The business consortium includes Victory Packaging, Axxion, Engineered Plastics Components, Flexaust, La La Imports, M&Q Plastics, Millennium Plastics Technologies and Plastic Molding Technology Inc. Employers seeking more information about the Skills Development Fund may visit the TWC Web site at www.texasworkforce.org. The El Paso Community College contact is Olaya Cazares at (915) 831-7722 or olayac@epcc.edu.



KEEP JIM PENDELL
for **School Board Trustee**

Punch #4

Clint Independent School District
Serving the Clint, East Montana and Horizon Communities

- Clint School Board Secretary: 1993 - 1998
- Clint School Board President: 1998 - Present
- Owner/Operator Fabens S & S Fabens Grande Food Store
- My children attend Clint schools

Election Day: May 7, 2005
Early Voting: April 20 - May 3, 2005 (8:00 am - 4:30 pm)

Pol. adv. paid for by Jim Pendell, 14501 North Loop Rd., Clint, TX 79836



NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

EL PASO CENTRAL APPRAISAL DISTRICT BUDGET

The El Paso Central Appraisal District will hold a public hearing on a proposed budget for the 2005-2006 fiscal year.

The public hearing will be held on Thursday, May 12, 2005 at 5:30 p.m. at the El Paso Central Appraisal District, 5801 Trowbridge, El Paso, Texas 79925.

A summary of the Appraisal District Budget follows:

- The total amount of the Proposed Budget (Salaries and Operating) is \$10,165,890.
- The total amount of increase over the current year's Budget is \$185,849.
- The number of employees compensated under the current Budget is 136.
- The number of employees compensated under the Proposed Budget will be 138.

The Appraisal District is supported solely by payments from the local taxing units served by the Appraisal District.

If approved by the El Paso Central Appraisal District Board of Directors at the public hearing, this Proposed Budget will take effect automatically on October 1, 2005, unless disapproved by the governing bodies of a majority of the county, school districts, cities, and towns served by the Appraisal District.

A copy of the Proposed Budget is available for public inspection in the office of each of these governing bodies. A copy is also available for public inspection at the Appraisal District Office.

El Paso Central Appraisal District
5801 Trowbridge
El Paso, Texas 79925

Tougher steroid standards won't matter if the testing procedures are rigged

By Steve Escajeda
Special to the Courier

Major League Baseball commissioner Bud Selig did his best Arnold Schwarzenegger imitation last week by sticking out his muscle-covered chest and declaring that he is now officially getting tough on steroids.

The baseball head announced that he wanted the player's union to agree to a 50-game suspension for a first offense, a 100-game ban for a second offense and a lifetime ban for a third positive test.

Sounds tougher — is tougher — doesn't matter.

The new proposal is quite a bit tougher than the current joke of 10 days for a first offense,

30 days for a second, 60 days for a third, one year for a fourth and a lifetime ban for a fifth.

The only problem with the new policy, even if the players' union accepts it, is that none of it matters.

The dilemma concerning the professional baseball steroid scandal is not the punishment — or lack of punishment. It's the testing.

Now that the punishment for using growth hormones is likely to increase, what are the chances that the true stars of the league will test positive?

Zero, none, nada!

When is the last time you heard of a superstar testing positive? Other than the testimony from a former Oakland A's knucklehead, what evidence do we have?

Zero! None, nada!

Oh, we've had the positive tests from insignificant lightweights like Tampa Bay's Alex Sanchez and the Colorado Rockies' Jorge Piedra, but what about the big boppers fans pay to see?

Soon after the announcement of these two unknowns, Selig said that it was just coincidental that the two guys caught doing steroids were "small fish."

Small fish! By comparison to most major leaguers, these two guys are malnourished guppies.

And regarding Selig's comments, I think it's a whole lot more than just coincidental that only guppies have tested positive. I think the league has way too much to lose if it starts sitting its superstars for 50 games at a time.

So MLB can threaten these guys with a firing squad for using steroids — it doesn't mat-

ter. MLB can even threaten to tie these guys up and force them to sit and watch hours and hours of the Ellen DeGeneres show, and as cruel as that seems, again, it doesn't matter!

As long as they're never caught, baseball wins. And I think baseball has more than enough money available to grease the palms of a willing steroids tester or two, and persuade them to look the other way.

Can you see MLB actually enforcing a policy that would cost tons of revenue? Can you imagine the major TV networks having to air games that fans didn't care about because they lacked two or three steroid-suspended superstars?

I can just hear it now:
"Hello, baseball fans, and welcome to Yankee

See TOUGHER, Page 8

Classified Ads

LEGAL

PUBLIC NOTICE

As per Article V, Sec. 5.05(a), all owners and lienholders have ten (10) days from this date to reclaim their vehicles at South West Wrecker, 1401 Darrington Rd., 855-1900, 851-2091-fax, or it will be sold at public auction for charges: VIN - IG82H828XSZ314510, 1995 Saturn station wagon hatchback, green, Colorado license 897 KDT WTCC-04/28/05

Texas Commission on Environmental Quality



NOTICE OF RECEIPT OF APPLICATION AND INTENT TO OBTAIN A WATER QUALITY PERMIT RENEWAL

PERMIT NO. WQ0011561002

APPLICATION. Canutillo Independent School District, P.O. Box 100, Canutillo, Texas, 79835, has applied to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) to renew Texas Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (TPDES) Permit No. WQ0011561002 (EPA I.D. No. TX0118842) to au-

thorize the disposal of treated wastewater at a volume not to exceed a daily average flow of 45,000 gallons per day. The domestic wastewater treatment facility is located on the east side of Bosque Road, approximately 4,100 feet north of the intersection of Farm-to-Market Road 259 and Bosque Road and approximately 2 miles northwest of the intersection of State Highway Spur Road 375 and Interstate Highway 10 in El Paso County, Texas. The discharge route is from the plant site to the Rio Grande above International Dam. This application was submitted to the TCEQ on March 7, 2005. The permit application is available for viewing and copying at Canutillo Independent School District, 7710 Capp Road, Canutillo, Texas.

The TCEQ executive director has determined the application is administratively complete and will conduct a technical review of the application. After completion of the technical review, the TCEQ will issue a Notice of Application and Preliminary Decision.

PUBLIC COMMENT / PUBLIC MEETING. You may submit public comments or request a public meeting about this application. The purpose of a public meeting

is to provide the opportunity to submit written or oral comment or to ask questions about the application. Generally, the TCEQ will hold a public meeting if the executive director determines that there is a significant degree of public interest in the application or if requested by a local legislator. A public meeting is not a contested case hearing.

Written public comments and requests for a public meeting should be submitted to the Office of the Chief Clerk, MC 105, TCEQ, P.O. Box 13087, Austin, TX 78711-3087.

ADDITIONAL NOTICE. After technical review of the application is complete, the executive director may prepare a draft permit and will issue a preliminary decision on the application. **Notice of the Application Preliminary Decision will be published and mailed to those who are on the mailing list for this application. That notice will contain the final deadline for submitting public comments.**

OPPORTUNITY FOR A CONTESTED CASE HEARING. After the deadline for public comments, the executive director will consider the comments and prepare a response to all relevant and material, or significant public comments. **The response to comments, along with the executive director's decision on the application, will be mailed to everyone who submitted public comments or who requested to be on a mailing list for this**

application. If comments are received, the mailing will also provide instructions for requesting reconsideration of the executive director's decision and for requesting a contested case hearing. A contested case hearing is a legal proceeding similar to a civil trial in a state district court.

A contested case hearing will only be granted based on disputed issues of fact that are relevant and material to the Commission's decision on the application. Further, the Commission will only grant a hearing on issues that were raised during the public comment period and not withdrawn. **The TCEQ may act on an application to renew a permit for discharge of wastewater without providing an opportunity for a contested case hearing if certain criteria are met.**

MAILING LIST. In addition to submitting public comments, you may ask to be placed on a mailing list to receive future public notices mailed by the Office of the Chief Clerk. You may request to be added to: (1) the mailing list for this specific application; (2) the permanent mailing list for a specific applicant name and permit number; and/or (3) the permanent mailing list for a specific county. Clearly specify which mailing list(s) to which you wish to be added and send your request to the TCEQ Office of the Chief Clerk at the address above. Unless you otherwise specify, you will be included only on the mailing list for this specific application.

INFORMATION. If you need more information about this permit application or the permitting process, please call the TCEQ Office of Public Assistance, Toll Free, at 1-800-687-4040. General information about the TCEQ can be found at our web site at www.tceq.state.tx.us.

Further information may also be obtained from Canutillo Independent School District at the address stated above or by calling Mr. Yusuf E. Farran, P.E., R.S., at (915) 877-7712.

Issued: APRIL 18, 2005

WTCC: 05/05/05

Texas Commission on Environmental Quality



NOTICE OF RECEIPT OF APPLICATION AND INTENT TO OBTAIN A WATER QUALITY PERMIT RENEWAL

PERMIT NO. WQ0011561003

APPLICATION. Canutillo Independent School District, P.O. Box 100, Canutillo, Texas, 79835, has applied to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) to renew wastewater disposal Permit No. WQ0011561003, to authorize the disposal of treated wastewater at a volume not to exceed a daily average flow of 9,000 gallons per day via soil absorption trenches with a minimum area of 11,700 square feet. The domestic wastewater treatment facility and disposal site are located between

Hemley Road and Chicken farm Road, and Doniphan Drive and Kiely Road, approximately 0.5 mile southeast of the City of Vinton and 2.0 miles north of the City of Canutillo in El Paso County, Texas. This application was submitted to the TCEQ on March 7, 2005. The permit application is available for viewing and copying at Canutillo Independent School District, 7710 Capp Road, Canutillo, Texas.

The TCEQ executive director has determined the application is administratively complete and will conduct a technical review of the application. After completion of the technical review, the TCEQ will issue a Notice of Application and Preliminary Decision.

PUBLIC COMMENT / PUBLIC MEETING. You may submit public comments or request a public meeting about this application. The purpose of a public meeting is to provide the opportunity to submit written or oral comment or to ask questions about the application. Generally, the TCEQ will hold a public meeting if the executive director determines that there is a significant degree of public interest in the application or if requested by a local legislator. A public meeting is not a contested case hearing.

Written public comments and requests for a public meeting should be submitted to the Office of the Chief Clerk, MC 105, TCEQ, P.O. Box 13087, Austin, TX 78711-3087.

ADDITIONAL NOTICE. After

technical review of the application is complete, the executive director may prepare a draft permit and will issue a preliminary decision on the application. **Notice of the Application Preliminary Decision will be published and mailed to those who are on the mailing list for this application. That notice will contain the final deadline for submitting public comments.**

OPPORTUNITY FOR A CONTESTED CASE HEARING. After the deadline for public comments, the executive director will consider the comments and prepare a response to all relevant and material, or significant public comments. **The response to comments, along with the executive director's decision on the application, will be mailed to everyone who submitted public comments or who requested to be on a mailing list for this application. If comments are received, the mailing will also provide instructions for requesting reconsideration of the executive director's decision and for requesting a contested case hearing.** A contested case hearing is a legal proceeding similar to a civil trial in a state district court.

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Issued: APRIL 18, 2005

WTCC: 05/05/05

REQUEST FOR BIDS FOR DISPOSAL

1999 DODGE 1500 PICKUP 109,442 MILES, HAS BAD TRANSMISSION "AS IS CONDITION". CAN BE SEEN AT HOMESTEAD M.U.D, 3668 DESERT MEADOWS. SEALED BIDS WILL BE ACCEPTED UNTIL MAY 16, 2005 AT 4:00 P.M. A W A R D E D BIDDER WILL PROVIDE CASHIER'S CHECK OR MONEY ORDER FOR TOTAL AMOUNT.

P A R A DESPOSEIMIENTO

1999 TROCA DODGE 1500, 109,442 MILLAS, TRANSMISION MALA, "EN LA CONDICION EN QUE SE ENCUENTRA". LA P U E D E OBSERVAREN LA OFICINA DE HOMESTEAD M.U.D., EN EL 3668 DESERT MEADOWS. PROPUESTAS SELLADS SERAN ACEPTADAS HASTA EL DIA 16 DE MAYO 2005 A LAS 4:00 P.M., EL COMPRARDOR ESCOJIDO DEBERA TRIAR UN CASHIER'S CHECK OR UN MONEY ORDER POR LA CANTIDAD TOTAL.

INFORMATION. If you need more information about this permit application or the permitting process, please call the TCEQ Office of Public Assistance, Toll Free, at 1-800-687-4040. General information about the TCEQ can be found at our web site at www.tceq.state.tx.us.

Further information may also be obtained from Canutillo Independent School District at the address stated above or by calling Mr. Yusuf E. Farran, P.E., R.S., at (915) 877-7712.

Issued: APRIL 18, 2005

WTCC: 05/05/05

HOMESTEAD M.U.D

REDUCED PRICE

REQUEST FOR BIDS

FOR DISPOSAL

1999 DODGE 1500 PICKUP 109,442 MILES, HAS BAD TRANSMISSION "AS IS CONDITION". CAN BE SEEN AT HOMESTEAD M.U.D, 3668 DESERT MEADOWS. SEALED BIDS WILL BE ACCEPTED UNTIL MAY 16, 2005 AT 4:00 P.M. A W A R D E D BIDDER WILL PROVIDE CASHIER'S CHECK OR MONEY ORDER FOR TOTAL AMOUNT.

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BARGAINS

1993 Dodge Ram Charger with Canyon tow package. Good condition, original owner - 103K. \$4150 or OBO. 852-4945.

1985 Grand Prix, power locks, sun roof, Pioneer system, wire wheels, alarm. \$1800 negotiable. 764-2133 in Tornillo.

REDUCED PRICE

- show-bred bunny, velvety black, about one year old, with roomy rabbit house, water feeder and 30 pounds of food. \$30. Call 637-1982.

REAL ESTATE

- VALLEY FARM LAND
 - FREEWAY LAND
 - COMMERCIAL LAND
 - RESIDENTIAL LOTS
- Large Valley Home With Pecan Trees 11423 Alameda APODACA LAND CO. 859-5472

SELF-HELP

Persons who have a problem with alcohol are offered a free source of help locally. Alcoholics Anonymous - call 562-4081 for information.

Tiene problemas con el alcohol? Hay una solucion. Informacion: 838-6264.

SERVICES

"Windshield Ding — Gimme a Ring" JIFFY GLASS REPAIR Windshield Repair Specialists By appt. at your home or office: R.V. Dick Harshberger 915-852-9082

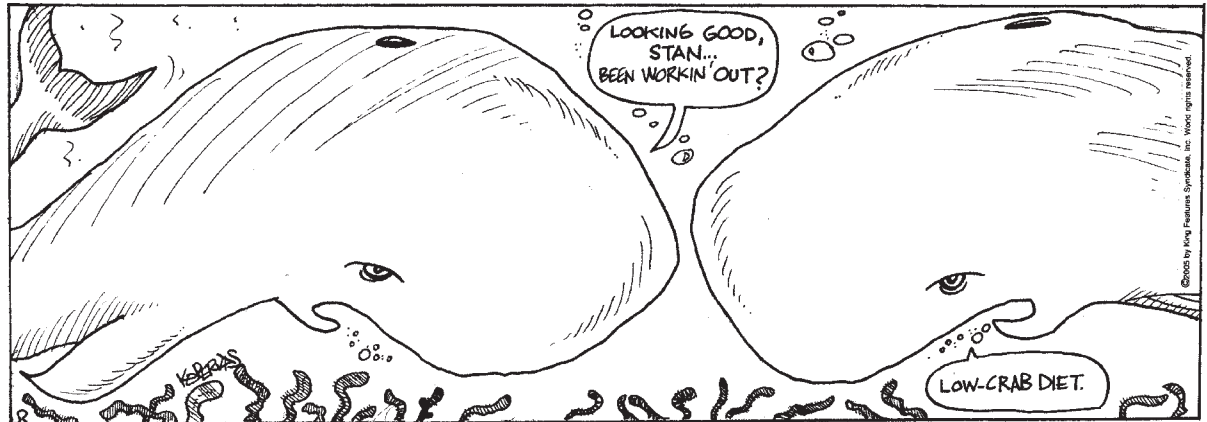
BERT'S AUTOMOTIVE REPAIR Domestic and Foreign **852-3523** 1558 Oxbow, Horizon City

HORIZON CITY PLUMBING 852-1079 •Electric roofer service for sewers and drains •Appliance installation •Many other plumbing services Licensed, bonded and insured for your protection.

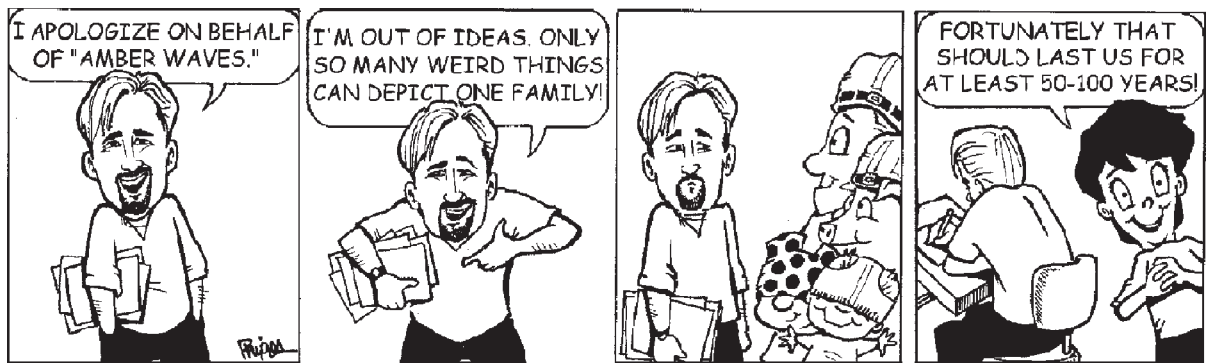


Comix

OUT ON A LIMB By Gary Kopervas



AMBER WAVES By Dave T. Phipps



THE SPATS By Jeff Pickering



R.F.D. By Mike Marland



Doesn't your dog deserve better?

By Don Flood

In an advertisement for a much-hyped TV movie, a character exclaims that signs indicate, “The End Days Are Here!”

I'm inclined to agree, especially after seeing a story about how people are now buying bottled water for dogs.

I don't want to disparage the palates of my canine readers — or the owners who buy the water — but my experience indicates that dogs are not, shall we say, gourmets.

(Mea culpa alert: I know you're not supposed to refer to dog "owners," as they — I'm talking about the dogs now — are persons in their own doghood right, and with much sharper teeth.)

Not that dogs wouldn't enjoy bottled water; it's just that the dogs I've known seem just as happy drinking from that popular punch bowl known as the bathroom toilet.

My impression, actually, is that they preferred the toilet bowl. Dog dishes require large dogs to bend over awkwardly; drinking from the toilet allows the dog to display a certain dignity and refinement.

But maybe a blind taste test commercial could change my mind:
VOICE OVER: Instead of their usual toilet water, we're serving these dogs Bow Wow brand bottled water. Let's see if they notice a difference.

ANNOUNCER: So how do you like it?

FIRST DOG: Taste great! Reminds me of my toilet water at home, but it's somehow fresher. No funny aftertaste either.

ANNOUNCER: That's because it's Bow Wow brand bottled water!

FIRST DOG: Wow! No more toilet water for me!

ANNOUNCER (next interview):
What do you think?

SECOND DOG: This is the best toilet water I've ever tasted.

ANNOUNCER (revealing water bottle): That's because it's not toilet water. It's Bow Wow brand!

Also on the canine news front, the U.S. is experiencing an alarming increase in the number of stars carrying little dogs.

For young stars like Paris Hilton, Britney Spears, Jennifer Bellybutton and others, it seems these dogs have become their favorite fashion accessory.

Of course, they're not really dogs. They're more like "dogettes," so tiny they could be mistaken for a large hot dog and slapped on a bun. ("Sorry about your dog, Ma'am, I thought it was a kielbasa. Mighty tasty though. What kind of dog did you say that was?")

They look vaguely French, especially when they wear those little berets and smoke fancy French cigarettes.

I'm sure these dogs drink only bottled water — and perhaps a little champagne.

I've been drinking more bottled water myself, having, quite by accident, adopted a modified version of that famous "French woman's diet," where they drink lots of water and eat very little.

In my version, I drink lots of water and eat about the same, being careful, however, to get enough french fries.

I haven't lost any weight, but occasionally I lapse into French, so it appears to be working. (The most annoying part is when I dream in French and can't understand what anyone is saying. Is that French girl trying to flirt or is she making fun of me?)

But I don't require bottled water. Tap is fine. I do draw the line, however, at toilet water.

King Super Crossword

THE MINIMOM

ACROSS

1 Word with dance	68 Curtain fabric
or hero	69 Agricultural
5 _ Pet	inventor
9 Play thing?	72 Part 3 of remark
13 Rushes	75 Tucker or Roberts
17 Destroy	76 Land measure
18 "You _?" (Lurch's line)	77 Crops up
19 Merchant	78 Montezuma, for one
21 "_ partridge in..."	80 Peat's place
22 Dermatological	82 Forster's "_ With a problem
23 Foot part	View"
24 Event of 622	85 "To be sure!"
25 Fancy	86 Shorten a skirt
26 Start of a remark by Roseanne	89 Part 4 of remark
30 "Sheila" singer	94 Carry to class
31 Echidna's tidbit	97 Intuit
32 Account entry	98 Green land
34 Arthurian knight	99 Kruger or Gluck
38 Dunce	100 Klumsy
40 Scandinavian	102 Prune a paragraph
capital	104 Present for pop
44 Susan Lucci role	105 Writer Rushdie
45 Beige	107 Pigeonhole
46 Burlly Burl	108 Glowing
47 Black and white	110 Private reply?
delight	111 End of remark
49 Neighbor of Okla.	122 Meter reader?
50 Part 2 of remark	123 Journalist Fallaci
56 Way to satori	124 Where to speak Farsi
57 Team scream	125 Emilia's husband
58 Light metal group?	126 " _ take arms against a sea..."
59 Spouse of Isis	127 "The Compleat

Angler" author
128 Arrogant
129 It may be bitter
130 Govt. agents
131 _ -do-well
132 Actress Joyce
133 Toboggan

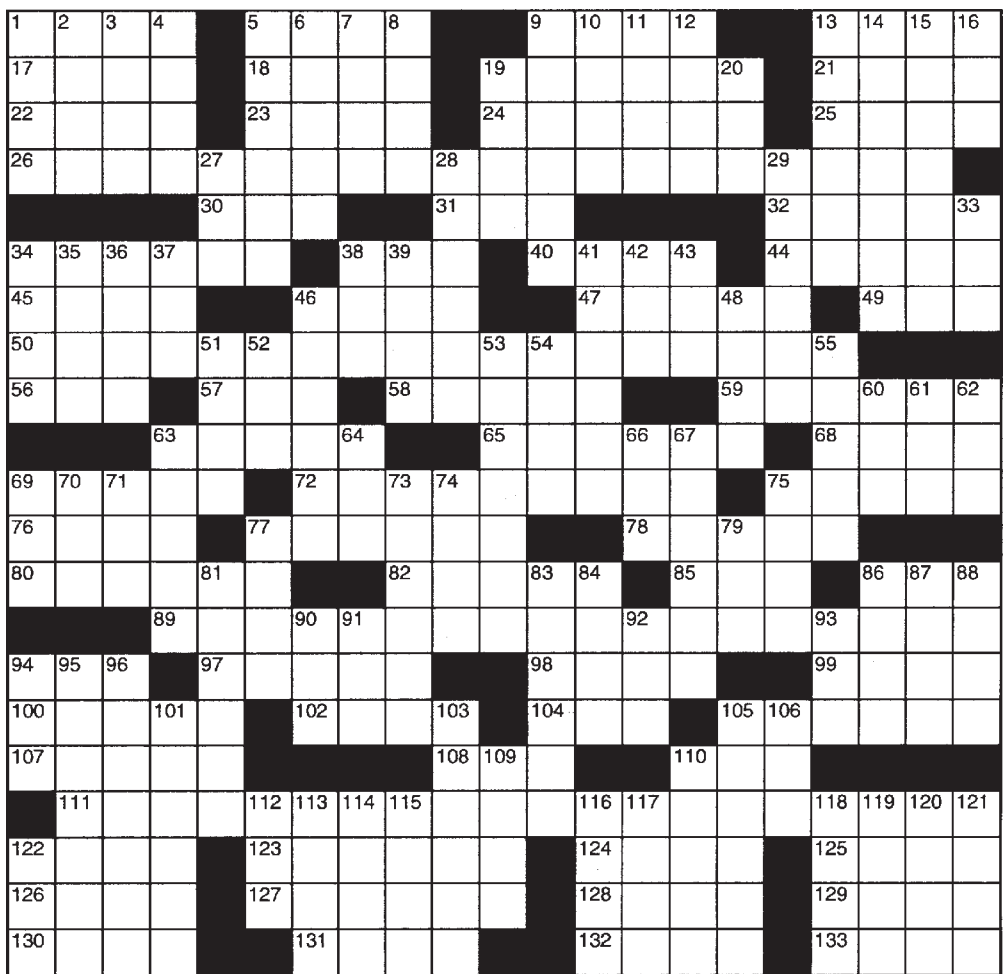
DOWN

- 1 College club
- 2 "That hurts!"
- 3 Queue
- 4 Had no doubts
- 5 Kindergarten item
- 6 Writer Bret
- 7 Foot part
- 8 Eastern leader
- 9 Rapidly, to Rossini
- 10 Frenzy
- 11 Garfield's pal
- 12 Gilpin of "Frasier"
- 13 Nautical rope
- 14 Check
- 15 Impressive building
- 16 TV's "My Sister _"
- 19 Dilute
- 20 Sneaky sort
- 27 Meyers of "Kate & Allie"
- 28 Ornamental dangler
- 29 Principles
- 33 Duty
- 34 Saxophonist Stan
- 35 Need a rubdown
- 36 Small bird
- 37 Great bird?

38 Actress Gardner
39 Doris Day refrain
41 Cavort in the pool
42 _Cruces, NM
43 Can. province
46 '87 Warren Beatty
film
48 Last name in
fashion
51 "Dies _"
52 Rowan or Rather
53 Truman Cabinet
member
54 Movie mogul
Marcus
55 Whitman's
bloomer
60 Fled
61 Frigid
62 Monsarrat's "The
Cruel _"
63 Night vision?
64 Inventor Whitney
66 Actress Leoni
67 Pepsin or lipase
69 Barrier
70 Word form for
"environment"
71 Goof
73 Sanford of "The
Jeffersons"
74 Ralston or Miles
75 Hardy woman
77 Tennis legend
79 Golfer's gadget
81 Nervous _
83 "Swan Lake"
heroine

84 1,102, to
Calpurnia
86 Ian of "The
Borrowers"
87 Role for 27 Down
88 Nasty
90 Sturm _ Drang
91 Compass pt.
92 Mine find
93 Lyricist David
94 Coal container
95 Doughboy's duds
96 Conceal
101 Light quantum
103 Poet Wylie
105 Burnt -
106 Branch
109 Terrible name?
110 Periwinkle, for one
112 "Would you look at
that!"
113 Algerian port
114 Vex
115 Winslet of
"Hamlet"
116 Jackknife, e.g.
117 - surgery
118 Puppy protests
119 Monopoly
destination
120 Stare salaciously
121 Daring
122 Ample abdomen

Answer Page 6



View from here

By Dawn Post

Citizen says last two years in Horizon City quite a ride

HORIZON CITY — Another two years, and oh, what a ride we’ve had with the current Horizon City administration! I have been surprised, offended and genuinely astounded at decisions that the mayor, Diane Whitty, and the current council have made.

I am so confused by Whitty’s decision to veto the council’s decision to hire a police officer under the COPS grant. This appeared to me to be a great way to get another much needed officer for our rapidly growing community, with very minimal amounts of our taxes paying for this. Yet, her reasoning was that we may not be able to afford to pay this officer four years down the road when the grant runs out and no longer pays. So, I’m left to wonder why there is no thought given to budgeting tax dollars accordingly for what we can foresee as a neccessary need, not just a whimsical desire.

And speaking of whimsical desires... the idea to pay the mayor \$36,000 per year, and also paying council members when there is concern about not having monies to pay our police officers is just hideous. I can’t understand any justification to pay an elected mayor nearly twice the amount that we pay a newly-hired police officer, yet when a grant is given to us, it is nearly lost because “we haven’t got or may not have the money.” We should thank our lucky stars that there are a few good people on council that stood by their original decision, and overruled Whitty’s veto. Our police chief, Tony Aguilar, worked diligently to get this grant for our community, and to have it messed with in this manner must certainly have been a stinging slap in the face for him. I know it was for me.

Another troubling thought I have is the disrespect shown to the tax payers of this community when they attend council meetings. I have urged people for many years to become involved and sign up to speak at the meetings when there is something on the agenda that they would like to respond to. After attending only a meeting or two, it’s no wonder that folks don’t want to come. The eye-rolling and shaking of the head and the entire holier-than-thou attitude is such an outward display of how unprofessionally our town is run.

Once again, I’m going to urge the citizens of our wonderful community to get out on May 7 and vote for a change on our council. We need a change, and we need it badly! The unprofessional conduct and prejudice of the current council needs a face lift with some professional, educated, concerned people that have some prior experience and knowledge about how things could and should be run. Some new thoughts and one’s own ideas would be refreshing!

Please, on May 7, vote for Ray Morales for mayor (professionalism); Bethani Sellers for alderwoman Place 5 (experience); and Keith McClellan for alderman Place 7 (experience).

View from here

By Diane Whitty

Factual misstatements should not sway public opinion

Several misstatements were made in the recently published letters by Representative Rutledge and your article regarding issues raised by mayoral candidate Raymond Morales. The facts of the situation, as can be verified in the public records, are as follows:

The COPS grant that enabled the hiring of three additional police officers was not awarded to the Town of Horizon City until three months after the current administration took office. Approval was given in October 2003 for the hiring of the first additional officer under this grant, and approval was given in June 2004 for the hiring of a second officer.

Please realize that the COPS grant provides funding for additional officers only for a limited period of time, after which the city must contractually agree to continue employing the added police force out of local funding. As Mayor, on January 17, 2005 I vetoed the hiring of the third officer as I felt the financial burden of a third additional officer would be beyond our city’s financial capabilities without a tax increase.

The Town of Horizon City does have a long-term street maintenance plan. Our Director of Public Works prepared this plan in 2003 and we are implementing this plan.

The moratorium ordinance was enacted to correct deficiencies in our Subdivision Ordinance — deficiencies that would have cost our taxpayers millions of dollars if not addressed. We amended our Subdivision Ordinance promptly, after which we immediately lifted the moratorium. Interestingly, Representative Rutledge was among the Council members that voted for imposing this moratorium. A consortium of local developers filed a lawsuit challenging the moratorium ordinance, and two developers are continuing to pursue it.

The only court decision to date on this litigation was rendered on Monday, April 25, and the court ruled in favor of the city.

Among other allegations brought forth during this campaign is that I am “anti-business.” This is untrue. I did hang-up on one businessman, but only because that particular individual was berating me in an overly aggressive and decidedly unprofessional manner. In fact, a particular issue over which that individual was concerned had to do with a lift station being at capacity and preventing additional sewer hook-ups in a new shopping center. This was not a problem caused by the city. The city did, however, work to develop a temporary remedy and thereby facilitate new business openings – and we did so despite the rude and bullying behavior of the businessman that had contacted me.

The statement regarding Wal-Mart was odd, in that I have never been contacted by anyone from Wal-Mart nor by anyone else seeking a site for this store chain.

Political campaigns are always given to exaggeration, and that is to be expected. Factual misstatements, however, should not be used to sway public opinion.

Tougher

From Page 6

Stadium for the big encounter between hated rivals the New York Yankees and the Boston Red Sox.

“The Red Sox are currently a game in front of the Yankees for the division lead so this game is a crucial one for the Bronx Bombers.

“Our pitching matchup today was supposed to be between the ‘Big Unit’ Randy Johnson and Boston ace Curt Schilling, but as you may remember, Johnson tested positive for steroids

10 days ago and Schilling is into the third week of his suspension.

“The Yankees are also still without Gary Sheffield and Alex Rodriguez, who both tested positive on the same day a month ago.

“Boston is still without Manny Ramirez, who has 12 days remaining in his suspension. David Ortiz, of course, tested positive 16 days ago so he won’t play — and the latest blow to the Red Sox occurred yesterday as Johnny Damon turned in a positive test and will start his 50-day ban today.”

Now I ask you, who in his right mind would watch this game? Nobody!

That’s why I guarantee you steroid testing will never work, because it will never happen.

Too much money is at stake. There is too much money out there to lose.

Why even now, don’t be surprised if MLB is funneling money to chemists here in the U.S. and immediately south of us to come up with even better ways to mask any positive steroid results.

Think I’m exaggerating? Why do you think it took the league so many years to finally act on the steroids issue? And don’t forget that Selig is only acting now because congress threatened to do it for him.









Want to see MLB catch any big fish? Don’t count on it. There’s better odds that Selig himself will test positive for steroids before any of his money-making baseball whales do.

Publisher’s Note: While the court did rule “in favor of” Horizon City’s motion on April 25, it should be clarified that the ruling did not find the suit moot, dismiss the suit nor decide any merits of the suit filed against the city. The ruling directed the developers to ammend the language in their suit because the city lifted the moratorium after the lawsuit was filed. Harold Davis, attorney representing Horizon-area development interests, said the ruling changes the suit from a declaratory judgment suit to a damage claim suit, and the case will proceed with these changes.

WEATHER

AccuWeather.com

SEVEN-DAY FORECAST FOR EL PASO

THURSDAY	THUR. NIGHT	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
							
Partly sunny; just the chance of a thunderstorm.	Partly to mostly cloudy.	Partly sunny; becoming breezy.	Sunshine and some clouds; breezy.	Plenty of sunshine.	Partial sunshine.	Mostly sunny.	Mostly sunny.
▲ 84°	▼ 58°	▲ 82° ▼ 60°	▲ 84° ▼ 59°	▲ 86° ▼ 58°	▲ 88° ▼ 55°	▲ 84° ▼ 54°	▲ 84° ▼ 52°

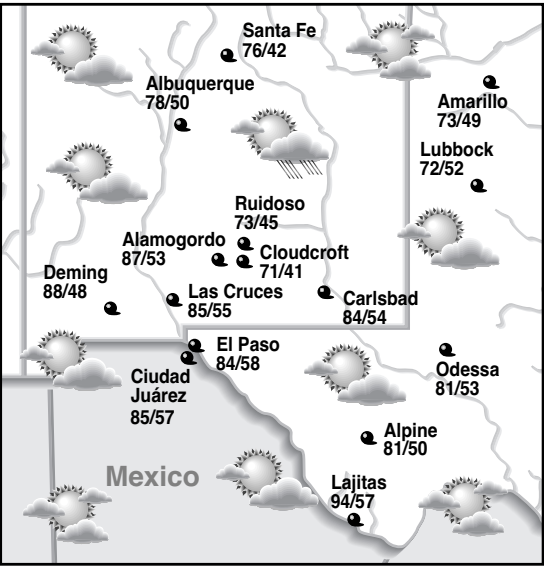
UV INDEX	Statistics for noon.
The higher the UV Index, the greater the need for eye and skin protection.	
Thursday	10Very High
Friday	9Very High
Saturday	10Very High
Sunday	10Very High
Monday	10Very High
Tuesday	10Very High
Wednesday	10Very High

REAL FEEL TEMP®	
The exclusive AccuWeather composite index of effective temperature based on eight weather factors.	
Thursday	86°
Friday	80°
Saturday	82°
Sunday	84°
Monday	86°
Tuesday	84°
Wednesday	84°

TEXAS WEATHER

Anthony	86	58
Canutillo	86	58
Clint	84	57
E. Montana	84	58
Fabens	84	57
Horizon	86	59
San Elizario	87	57
Socorro	86	58
Tornillo	84	57
Vinton	86	58

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



TRAVELERS CITIES

	Thur.	Fri.	Sat.	Sun.	Mon.
City	Hi/Lo/W	Hi/Lo/W	Hi/Lo/W	Hi/Lo/W	Hi/Lo/W
Albuquerque	78/50/pc	80/50/pc	74/48/pc	73/50/s	80/47/s
Atlanta	66/54/r	70/53/r	74/56/pc	80/60/s	80/61/s
Atlantic City	61/45/pc	61/46/pc	64/51/pc	69/53/pc	70/53/pc
Austin/San Antonio	82/57/pc	82/60/pc	84/64/pc	84/64/t	87/65/c
Baltimore	67/44/pc	67/46/pc	69/50/pc	73/54/pc	75/55/c
Boston	63/44/s	66/46/pc	66/48/s	68/53/pc	66/49/sh
Chicago	68/48/pc	72/50/pc	74/52/sh	76/54/pc	70/53/r
Dallas/Ft. Worth	72/55/pc	77/59/pc	80/61/pc	80/61/t	82/64/c
Denver	74/44/pc	72/45/t	68/40/t	67/40/sh	67/41/sh
Flagstaff	64/36/pc	57/34/t	57/32/sh	61/30/c	61/25/c
Houston	78/58/pc	80/62/s	84/64/pc	84/66/pc	86/68/t
Kansas City	72/53/pc	74/56/pc	77/55/pc	74/54/t	75/57/pc
Las Vegas	82/60/t	76/56/t	78/58/pc	78/58/t	76/58/r
Miami	86/74/t	86/72/t	84/69/sh	86/72/s	86/72/s
Minneapolis	70/50/t	72/52/sh	74/54/sh	73/53/t	66/48/r
New Orleans	76/61/pc	79/64/s	83/67/pc	84/67/s	84/66/s
New York City	63/50/s	64/50/pc	65/52/s	71/56/pc	72/56/c
Philadelphia	66/46/pc	66/48/pc	70/50/s	73/52/pc	73/58/c
Phoenix	94/65/pc	88/62/pc	86/62/pc	88/65/s	89/57/pc
Portland	66/48/sh	68/48/pc	66/52/pc	62/48/r	65/55/r
San Francisco	61/50/sh	62/51/pc	63/52/pc	61/51/sh	63/46/sh
Seattle	64/48/pc	66/50/pc	64/52/pc	60/48/r	63/54/c
Tucson	88/62/pc	88/64/pc	86/54/pc	86/56/s	86/49/s
Washington, DC	66/48/pc	68/50/pc	72/54/pc	74/58/pc	75/60/c

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