



## NEWSBRIEFS

### Judge named

Judge Jake Brisbin Jr. has been named chairman of the National Association of Development Organizations (NADO) Homeland Security and Emergency Management Taskforce. Executive director of the Rio Grande Council of Governments in El Paso since 1999, Judge Brisbin was named by Kenneth Jones, president of NADO. "The debate over effective homeland security and emergency management practices continues to dominate the national stage. As taskforce chair, Judge Brisbin will play a key role in crafting, shaping and promoting NADO's homeland security policies and messages. NADO serves as the national voice of regional development organizations primarily serving small metropolitan and rural America.

### Trustee training

The Region 19 Education Service Center is hosting a meeting for prospective school board candidates and members on Thursday, March 2, 7-9 p.m. at 6611 Boeing. The free workshop, sponsored by Texas Association of School Boards, gives practical advice about campaigning, getting elected and serving on a board of trustees. For information call Fred Liner at 780-5088 or e-mail fliner@esc19.net.

### Cartoon training

The El Paso Public Library will present Phil Yeh, founder of Cartoonists Across America, in a series of graphic novel workshops to provide aspiring young artists with the opportunity to get hands on training in drawing and illustrating their own comics. The workshops are free and open to the public. For more information call 274-3336 or visit



www.elpasolibrary.org. Phil Yeh has been called the godfather of the American graphic novel and has created many comic books including the *Winged Tiger*, recognized as one of the best graphic novels in print, and *Dinosaurs Across America*, which was recognized by former first lady Barbara Bush at the National Book Festival in Washington D.C. Schedule includes Thursday, March 2, 9 a.m. at Clardy Fox; 4 p.m. at Armijo Branch. Friday, March 3, 9 a.m. at Richard Burges; 3:30 p.m. at Doris Van Doren. On Saturday, March 4, 9 a.m. at Ysleta Branch; 3:30 p.m. at Irving Schwartz.

### In other news

■ The Oz Glaze Senior Center is hosting a Spaghetti Dinner on Saturday, March 4,

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# Horizon citizens unite against subdivision of Emerald Springs

By Francis D. Shrum  
 Courier Staff Writer

HORIZON CITY — A united front can be a hard thing to overcome, as Bank of America

found this week in asking the Horizon City Planning and Zoning Commission to accept a proposed replat to subdivide Emerald Springs Golf Course into a high-dollar housing project.

It was a unanimous no vote from the P&Z, fully supported by a packed house at the Ho-

zizon City Town Hall. It was standing room only even outside and down the sidewalk. An unofficial estimate by Horizon town hall staff was that at least 120 people attended.

The Horizon City Council must now vote on whether to accept the P&Z's recommendation at a public hearing on March 14 at 6:30 p.m.

At issue is whether Bank of America can successfully slice up the Emerald Springs Golf Course, 137-plus acres, into about 399 single-family residential lots.

The interests of the Horizon community came head-to-head with that of Bank of America when the financial institution took possession of the golf course during bankruptcy proceedings last year. When Bank of America made known its intention to subdivide the golf course into high-dollar housing, the town took the belated step in August of 2005 to zone the course as open parks or green space.

Said one former Horizon councilman, "We never zoned it because who would have imagined that anybody would ever come in and subdivide it?"

In September of 2005, an El Paso company Roe Engineering, L.C., appeared before council on behalf of the California-based Bank of America, saying their client considered the zoning action "null and void" because, as owner, the corporation hadn't requested it. They submitted a preliminary plat to subdivide the course in December, but it was recommended for denial by the P&Z due to technical irregularities. The Horizon City council did so unanimously.

Bank of America filed suit challenging the zoning.

Their housing project has become substantially more complicated since Bank of America's initial appearance before the Horizon City P&Z, and it has mostly been in the realm of litigation.

### Major challenges

John Birkelbach, attorney representing Bank of America, asked the P&Z Monday night to approve the replat with the provision that it be contingent upon resolution of legal challenges relating to the project. The responding P&Z vote, as well as response from the audience, indicated that few believed resolution of Bank of America's legal problems would be simple or soon.

The Horizon Regional Municipal Utilities District (HRMUD), which serves both Horizon City and the surrounding area, has filed suit claiming that Bank of America cannot unilaterally end a 30-year lease that HRMUD holds on the golf course to discharge treated sewer water or effluent on the grass as irrigation. HRMUD contends that discontinuing the lease will bring undue financial burden on the water district — HRMUD sources said internal estimates are as high as \$3 million — to find alternative methods to dispose of the effluent, and that a potential public health threat could result.

Ed Hamlyn, Director of Planning for Horizon City, recommended that P&Z deny the replat, with the HRMUD issue primary among his objections. He said it has also not been proven to the satisfaction of the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) that



— Courier staff photo

**OUT THE DOOR** — The turnout — over one hundred people — for the Planning and Zoning meeting flowed out the door at Horizon's Town Hall.

## Anthony mayor looking for housing and recreation

By Don Woodyard  
 Courier Staff Writer

ANTHONY — There is action on the mesa in Anthony.

A line of flags flutters atop the mesa north of the Flying J truck stop, marking the start of construction of 255 homes and a shopping complex.

Mayor Art Franco takes times for lunch in the Flying J restaurant, appropriately under the brow of the mesa, to give an unofficial and informal State of the Town report. He focuses on housing developments and the continuing need for sports facilities for youth.

Franco, who is in his seventh term as mayor, says construction has recently begun on three homes that are in the \$120,000 price range. He expects they will be finished in the next three or four months. The remaining homes will be built in a three- to four-year period.

The mayor indicates more than 300 new homes will be constructed in Anthony over the next three years. In addition to the mesa project, they will include:

Forty-six new homes will be built on Wildcat Drive. Council recently approved the development following a green light from zoning.

A subdivision of about 26 homes off Celeste has also been approved.

Franco points out another housing indicator, one that is commercial, not residential in nature. It is a sign adjacent to the Anthony I-10 interchange proclaiming that a new motel is coming soon.

Already completed is a 36-unit apartment complex and shopping center on Omar Street.

Franco says the new housing reflects a "mod-

est increase" in population growth for the Upper Valley town, over 2005. The population currently stands at approximately 3,600.

"It is not an explosion (of population), but we are growing," he says. "We can handle the influx of housing. We will get a little bit from the expected influx of troops at Fort Bliss."

While housing is a significant concern for the mayor, he says the "biggest thing" for him is access to recreational facilities.

In an interview with the *Courier* a year ago, Franco spoke of the development of a 15-field soccer complex for adults and youth. Council had approved the project as proposed by members of the Desert Rats Soccer Club.

"We are still interested," Franco says, "but on a smaller scale." The new plan calls for the town to provide the land, but Desert Rats will oversee it. There will be 10 soccer fields and a softball diamond.

Franco says there are "real good prospects" for receiving a \$350,000 state grant with which he hopes to improve and add on to the existing Anthony Municipal Park.

This will include more basketball and volleyball areas with handicap access. There would also be new picnic areas and a walking trail.

Franco and the town are also working with the owner of the PDQ store to acquire arroyo land adjacent to the town park. He sees this as a two-fold opportunity, first to expand the current municipal park and to eliminate unsightly trash that accumulates in the arroyo.

The planned community center that the mayor mentioned in 2005 remains only on paper.

He explains that he and the Town Council

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Opportunity does not batter the door off its hinges when it knocks.

— Quips & Quotes



## One perspective

By Francis Shrum

# Horizon City grows up

I've been a little depressed about the rate at which leading members of our community have been departing.

Art Borst, Corky Corcoran, Landis Curlee, Karl Schairer, to name just a few.

Faces in the crowd, on the council, on the board, having their say.

We worried that when the older ones died off there might not be enough people in Horizon City with enough civic interest to run for the additional number of seats on the council called for when the Horizon City Charter was passed — not to mention the slate of unpaid, knowledgeable folks needed to serve on the Planning and Zoning Commission and other committees.

Methinks we worried too much. Horizon City isn't the town it used to be. When I first came here it was a small community of mostly retired people, living a peaceful, quiet life in a high-desert hideaway. Okay, so the streets were getting a little potted and there weren't street lights or police protection, no bank or grocery store, but who needed them?

Then came the change, so swift and

sudden as to take your breath away. Desert stretches and views of the horizon vanished under concrete and homes. Schools popped up like weeds and were full as soon as the doors opened.

Pretty soon, you didn't know your neighbor anymore and the faces all began to change. Because my life was changing, too, I was less involved in Horizon's inner-workings. I began to hear discouraging words like "bedroom community" and "newcomers who just want a place to park their kids and their SUVs overnight."

I'm feeling a little better this morning. Maybe a little chagrined that I haven't paid better attention to the

changes that are, in some ways, as positive as the peace and quiet that has been lost.

I know it's not perfect. It never is — and it never was. But Horizon City is apparently still a community that can hang when the going gets tough.

There are inevitably forces at work in any developing community that have one interest and one interest only — and that is the bottom line on the balance sheet. These forces play games with dollars and structures and subdivisions, devising and



— Courier staff photo-illustration

manipulating and politicking. A real-life game of Monopoly played with real people's lives.

When the lone swath of green in this desert town was unexpectedly made a pawn in this big-boy's game, the new and the old faces of Horizon City suddenly coalesced into a community that is united against a com-

mon threat. And I was impressed that it was a pretty civilized uprising, if I may say so.

Bank of America sent their reps to the town of Horizon City with big bucks and big ideas, sort of like a big, fat, smelly, boar pig rooting around in an old lady's garden, only to find out that the quiet, mild-looking neighbor has a will of iron and a willow switch to back it up.

Now, I hope I'm not offending anyone by comparing them to — um — a little old lady with a willow switch, but I was not ashamed of the civility and courtesy extended to representatives of Bank of America during this week's Planning and Zoning Commission meeting. I admired the way Chairman Kurtis Jetsel conducted a meeting that, without a firm and courteous hand, might have degenerated into something less than stellar.

I admired the courtesy shown by the Horizon Police Department in handling an unusually large crowd — a firm, undeniable presence.

Neither was I ashamed that

Horizonites cheered for comments and proposals with which they agreed, but were not disorderly in their conduct toward those with whom they disagreed. That's nice.

There were many faces in the crowd I didn't know but the room was filled with an attitude and a civic concern that I have long been familiar with. It was the Horizon City that I have always known. There were no vacancies on the panel because no one wanted to serve. The comments made were well thought out and to the point. The concerns expressed were real, fervent, and honest.

I'm not saying that Horizon City is some kind of political utopia. It isn't. I'm not saying that Horizon City doesn't have its disagreements and its posturing and its warts and its freckles.

I am saying that Horizon City is growing up and not doing too badly at it. Based on the foundation laid by your predecessors, you've got quite a bit to be proud of in the way recent challenges have been met.

Mayor Robert Morales went to the city of El Paso recently requesting that Horizon City be allowed to annex a piece of property over which El Paso has jurisdiction. The door was slammed firmly in his face. I asked him what his plans are now.

This isn't over, he said. We just keep working at it until we get something done. We won't give up. I'm like a little fly that just keeps buzzing and buzzing until something happens, he said.

Corky would be proud.

## Horizon

From Page 1

residual elements gathered in the soil from years of effluent disposal on the golf course would not result in a health hazard to lot purchasers or would not create a health hazard when dust is generated from grading the property. His concern was seconded by Horizon City Attorney Robert Duran, who also recom-

mended denial of the replat based on legal complications.

Another issue is the whether or not Bank of America actually has legal right to rezone a portion of the property in the replat because, Hamlyn said, private land covenants in Horizon Golf Homesites designate Lot 13, Block 1, as open space. Bank of America wants to subdivide that area into five residential lots with a ponding area, which Hamlyn said is inconsistent with these covenants.

Hamlyn noted that there remain several technical issues in the replat that require resolution but he said these were issues that could be overcome. However, the unresolved, overshadowing legal and health issues were significant enough to recommend denial, he said.

### Hometown element

The underlying challenge to Bank of America's project is the dedication of numerous Horizon's residents to the preservation of the golf course. They say they are willing to put their money where their mouth is. If litigation is the answer, so be it. The battle cry has become a somewhat obscure legal term: Negative reciprocal easement.

A group of Horizon City residents and property owners have formed a corporation known as Friends of Emerald Springs — FOES to the Bank of America project. And money is indeed on the table.

Bank of America has named an asking price of \$2.1 million to sell the golf course — Birkelbach said that if the city wants a public golf course operated by a private owner, then it should purchase the golf course. Feisty and outspoken Councilman Jackie Rutledge replied that perhaps Bank of America should just donate the course to the city.

A source within FOES said research of similar properties in the U.S. — allowing for differences in location and property value — showed a more realistic value closer to \$1 million and a good faith offer to Bank of America has been made by the group.

Shares in FOES are offered to the public — \$1 a share with a minimum purchase of 1,000 shares — and there have been many takers. Over \$600,000 has been raised and half of

that is currently in escrow, one member stated. The risk is high, they acknowledge, but the result worth it. "If it takes every dollar I have, I'll spend it on lawyers and courts to keep Emerald Springs a golf course," another member, a longtime Horizon resident, said privately.

Watching now to see the result of Bank of America's litigation with HRMUD and the city, Horizon residents with property values and aesthetics attached to the nearness of a large green space are waiting in the wings to see how many of their dollars they may have to spend on legal costs.

Ralph Girvin, a golf course area resident, spoke at the P&Z meeting with a large, clear plastic jug full of one dollar bills in his hand. He said there were 150 of the bills, representing 150 people who have agreed to file lawsuits should Bank of America be allowed to proceed.

He said these Horizon residents are basing their objections on "negative reciprocal easement," a term on the

lips of more than one member of FOES.

"Bank of America knew (Emerald Springs) was a golf course when they took possession of it," he said, adding that they also knew that property in the surrounding area had been, and was continuing to be, sold based on the presence of the course, and they knew the place of importance that the course holds in the identity of the Horizon community.

Another golf course area resident, Gary Johnson, said he had driven through new, high-dollar subdivisions on his way to the meeting. "It is not a coincidence that most of the names of the streets in the new subdivisions begin with 'Emerald,'" he said.

Girvin said denial of the replat on these grounds was appropriate because the interests of the Horizon public is a legitimate governmental issue. "Bank of America is simply a corporate entity with no more rights

See HORIZON, Page 8

## WEST TEXAS COUNTY COURIER

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**ADDRESS:**  
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Phone: 852-3235  
Fax: 852-0123  
E-mail: wtcc@wtccourier.com  
Website: wtccourier.com

**Publisher**  
Rick Shrum  
**Business Manager**  
Francis D. Shrum  
**Contributors**  
Don Woodyard  
Steve Escajeda  
Arleen Beard • Jan Engels

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# USA's Winter Olympic athletes lost out on medals, respect

By Steve Escajeda  
Special to the Courier

It hardly seems worth it but in spite of some very fine performances by a few American athletes at this year's Winter Olympics, I'm going to remember this frigid go-round as the games of USA goofs.

I mean, the writing was all over the wall when a clearly injured Michelle Kwan was added to the American figure skating team, leaving a perfectly healthy Sarah Hughes home after she actually earned a spot on the team.

As it usually does, the politically-correct decision to add American sweetheart Kwan to the team backfired. She had to withdraw because of her injury. Gee, I'll bet nobody saw that coming.

Then there was the catfight between two of America's most annoying title contenders, Shani Davis and Chad Hendrick. These two reminded me of whiny, selfish little boys who, if they had been playing with a ball, would have taken it home a long time ago.

I'll bet if the "USA" on their jerseys fell off, neither one would notice.

What makes this ridiculous feud even worse is that nobody is focusing on the fact that Davis

is the first black athlete to win an individual gold medal in any Winter Olympics.

That's pretty impressive stuff, but all that is lost in the Shani-Chad controversy. Too bad. I haven't seen this kind of stupidity since Tonya Harding had Nancy Kerrigan's knees whacked. Then there's the blowhard of the Olympics, Mr. Bode Miller.

There's no doubt that Bode is quite the legend — in his own mind.

All the talk surrounding Bode Miller competing into the Olympics — most of it coming from his own mouth — was how he was going to dominate the Men's Downhill competition.

In the end, Bode won nothing — and lost a lot of respect.

Miller had five chances to win a medal and finished out of the money every time. He didn't even complete three races because of disqualification.

But did any of the five losses bother Bad Boy Bode? Of course not. In fact, he claims he rocked these Olympic games.

After it was all said and done, Bode was quoted as saying, "I just did it my way, I'm not a martyr, and I'm not a do-gooder. I just want to go out and rock. And man, I rocked here."

Would somebody please help this misguided moron by informing him that sometimes the

smartest thing is to keep the old mouth shut. That way, no one will know how smart he isn't.

I'll also remember the outstanding showing by Lindsey Jacobellis.

You know Lindsey. She's the girl in that credit card commercial who is just too scared to race against her competitors until her coach asks her to imagine her check card has just been stolen.

Turns out it wasn't her check card that got stolen — it was her common sense.

About 25-30 yards ahead of her nearest competitor, the snowboarder did the old "hare vs. the turtle" thing and decided to showboat a little on her way to winning the gold medal.

Except, after putting a little extra mustard on her hot dog-move toward the end, she lost her balance and fell. By the time she got up she was passed and Jacobellis had to settle for the silver.

I bet turtles across the globe were doing the wave after watching that one.

And finally, the one thing I probably won't remember is the USA hockey team, who never really showed up for these Olympics anyway.

I don't know what was worse, winning only one game in these Olympics, or the fact that the one win was over that dominant world power, Kazakhstan.

The Americans won only one game in six

tries. Not exactly one of those Mike Eruzione-Jim Craig-Herb Brooks-do-you-believe-in-miracles kind of exhibitions.

And we won't ever revisit Bryant Gumball's unfortunate racist comments on the snow white games.

Though most around the country left these games with an unsavory taste in their mouths, one might think there was nothing positive to report on.

Well, there was one thing.

In just about the only moment of these games that actually epitomized what the Olympics are supposed to be about, American Joey Cheek performed a selfless act.

Cheek received \$25,000 in bonus money for winning the gold medal in the 500-meter speed skating event and then won another \$15,000 for taking the silver in the 1000-meters.

Then Cheek did a magical thing — he donated all the money to a charity called "Right to Play," and challenged corporations to do the same.

Cheek said the organization helps children in war-torn countries to develop and grow through sports. The organization believes kids who learn to play together when they are young will someday live together in peace.

Thanks for getting it, Joey Cheek. Now that's an Olympic-sized performance.

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## Socorro ISD's first K-9 officer retires

By Carlos A. Briano  
Special to the Courier



— Photo courtesy Socorro ISD

**LET'S GO HOME — Officer Luis Sanchez, Wiley's last handler, is adopting him into his home.**

EAST EL PASO COUNTY — With a chorus of woofs and a few tears from the audience, one officer retired from the SISD Police Force. Officer Wiley had the distinction of being Socorro ISD's first K-9 officer. After nine decorated years of service, in which he touched the hearts of thousands of children, Wiley gave up his badge on Feb. 13. School principals, district administrators and law enforcement officials filled the SISD Board Room for the special retirement ceremony.

"Officer Wiley has certainly dedicated his career to providing safety to our students, and for that we are forever grateful," says SISD

Superintendent Dr. Robert J. Durón. "He's been an outstanding officer and he's done his work with a smile on his face and a great attitude. I would say that Officer Wiley has represented all of Socorro ISD's core values."

Wiley served over four years with SISD police and over three years with the City of Socorro Police Department. "Officer Wiley turned a lot of heads," he says. "And he put away a lot of bad people."

SISD Police Chief Michael Czerwinsky adds that Wiley and the K-9 officers play an integral role, both as narcotic intervention and prevention and actual enforcement.

"Officer Wiley and his handlers made presentations to the schools and the community during Career Days, Red Ribbon Week and Drug Awareness campaigns," he says. "Officer

Wiley sent a powerful message that we don't tolerate drugs. We don't want drugs in our environment and around our children."

Keeping with the tradition in the law enforcement community regarding the K-9 world, Wiley will be adopted by Officer Luis Sanchez, his last handler. Sanchez says he is now making Wiley an "inside" dog.

"I had the pleasure of working with him for almost four years now," he says. "He is an outstanding animal. He's getting a little old and he's gotten a little slow. But he has a heart twice as big as his body."

Wiley's replacement is Officer Kiki, a two-year old Labrador who joined SISD Police before Thanksgiving and began working in January.

### Briefs

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4-7 p.m. at 13969 Veny Webb in Horizon City. Cost is \$4.50 adults, \$3 children and take-out is available. For information: 852-0062.

■ The student council at Montwood High School hosted its annual weatherization project last weekend, upgrading about 19 homes at the Armijo Center at 700 E. Seventh St. in El Paso. Students from other area high school student councils, including Socorro High School, participated by installing weather stripping, caulking and door sweeps to make the homes more energy efficient.

■ A total of 165 students from Canutillo Independent School District's four elementary schools participated recently in the individual campus Spanish Spelling Bee contests. Five winners earned first through fifth places at each campus and will go on to com-

pete April 8 at Deanna Davenport Elementary school for District honors. Karina Ulloa, first place winner at DDE, also won her campus English Spelling Bee contest," noted Teddy Martinez, District Spanish spelling bee coordinator and Bilingual Education lead teacher. Campus Spanish spelling bee facilitators were: Lorena Salas, Childress; Judith Valle, Canutillo; Elida Villarreal, Davenport; and Julia Melendez, Damian.

■ The Eastside Youth Connection will host its Second Annual Young Entrepreneurs Fair on Saturday, April 22 at Desert View Middle School. Youth ages 5-19 are encouraged to participate. The fair is designed to showcase the creative and entrepreneurial spirit of youth. Grants are offered in amounts of \$25-\$50 to any youth with original ideas and in need of start up cash. Grant applications are available by calling 494-4380, or via email at esyc@elp.rr.com.

■ The 11 middle schools in Socorro ISD will be competing for the top prize in a one-act play com-

petition on March 3-4 at Americas High School. Show times are 3-9 p.m. March 3, and 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. on March 4.

■ An innovative partnership between Girl Scouts of the USA and The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) developed the program *Girl Scouts in Public Housing*, and has received \$25,000 for its third year of funding. The program began as an effort to provide girls in local public housing communities with opportunities to benefit from program options available through Girl Scouts. Girl Scouts of the Rio Grande was one of 20 Girl Scout councils selected to receive this federal funding via Girl Scouts of the USA. For 200 girls, Girl Scouts of the Rio Grande pushed aside barriers such as lack of transportation, low income and language and took Girl Scouting to their communities. Twelve of 47 El Paso public housing sites currently have Girl Scout troops with girls and their mothers experiencing art, technology, sports, trips and more.

**CELIA** ★ For Justice of the Peace  
Precinct 6, Place 2

# VILLASEÑOR



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Graduated with Honors from  
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Family Law Bar Association, member  
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Dando Fuerza Program, volunteer  
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# Anthony

From Page 1

had hoped to work out an arrangement with the state to divert funds from a water and sewer grant into the development and restoration of the home of the first mayor of Anthony into a community and cultural center.

Franco says it did not work out and that it was probably "a blessing in disguise" because, with new housing developments, the grant money would be better needed as originally intended, the upgrading of the town's water and sewer system.

"We still want to do it," he affirms, "but it is on the back burner for now."

## Notice to the Public of No Significant Impact on the Environment and Notice of Intent to Request Release of Funds In Connection with the HOME Investment Partnerships Program

Town of Anthony  
P.O. Box 1269  
Anthony, Texas 79821  
(915) 886-3944

West Texas County Courier  
March 2, 2006

**TO: All Interested Agencies, Groups and Persons:**

On or about sixteen (16) days after this publication, the Town of Anthony intends to request that the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs (TDHCA) release federal funds under Title II of the National Affordable Housing Act of 1990, for TCDP FY 2004 Project No. 724029.

**HOME Program Contract Number: 1000298**

Program/Project Description: Owner-Occupied Housing Assistance Project consisting of rehabilitation and reconstruction of housing at the following locations in the Town of Anthony, Texas: (1) 601 Elm; (2) 808 Tamarisk; (3) 501 Jaime; (4) 706 Isabel; (5) 614 Washington; (6) 409 Poplar; (7) 402 Franklin; (8) 912 Poplar; (9) 807 Poplar; (10) 933 Franklin; 900 Houston; 524 Isabel.

Total HOME Contract Award: \$500,000

**Finding of No Significant Impact**

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

The town has made an Environmental Review Record for the proposed project, 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 Anthony Town Hall and is available for public examination and copying, upon request, between the hours of 9:00 A.M. and 4:30 P.M., Monday through Friday.

**Public Comments on Findings**

All interested agencies, groups, and individuals disagreeing with this decision are invited to submit written comments for consideration by the town at the address set forth above. Such written comments must be received at the address specified within fifteen (15) days after this publication. All such comments so received will be considered by the Town of Anthony. The town will not request the release of funds or take further administrative action on the project prior to the end of the comment period specified. Comments should specify which notice they are addressing.

**Release of Funds**

The Town of Anthony will undertake the project referenced above with funds from the HOME Investment Partnerships Program of the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs under Title II of the Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act of 1990. The town is certifying to Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs that the Town of Anthony and the Honorable Art Franco, in his official capacity as Mayor, consents to accept the jurisdiction of the federal courts if an action is brought to enforce responsibilities in relation to environmental review, decision-making, and action; and that these responsibilities have been satisfied for this project. The legal effect of the certification is that, upon its approval, the city will have satisfied its responsibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 and 24 CFR Part 58, and may use HOME Program funds.

The Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs will accept an objection to its approval of the release of funds and acceptance of the certification only if the objection is based on one of the following:

- (a) That the certification as not, in fact, executed by the chief executive officer or other certifying officer of the Contract Administrator approved by the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs; or
- (b) That the responsible entity's Environmental Review Record for the project indicates omission of a required decision, finding, or step applicable to the project in the required environmental review procedures (24 CFR Part 58); or
- (c) That the grant recipient has committed funds or incurred costs not authorized by 24 CFR Part 58 before approval of a release of funds by the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs; or
- (d) That another federal agency, acting pursuant to 40 CFR Part 1504, has submitted a written finding that the project is unsatisfactory from the standpoint of environmental quality. Objections must be prepared and submitted in accordance with the required procedures (24 CFR Part 58) and shall be addressed to the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs. Potential objectors should contact the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs to verify the actual last day of the objection period.

The Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs will not consider objections to the release of funds on bases other than those stated above. Objections will be received for a period of fifteen (15) days following the anticipated submission date or the actual receipt of the request, whichever is later. Any objection must be made in writing to the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs, P. O. Box 13941, Capitol Station, Austin TX 78711-3941.

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

*Art Franco, Mayor  
Town of Anthony*

## Classified Ads

**RENTALS**  
TWO BEDROOM HOUSE for rent, 13010 Richfield St. in Clint, Texas. References required. Call Frank Macias, 851-2007 or 588-0968. Available Feb. 1, 2006. TFN

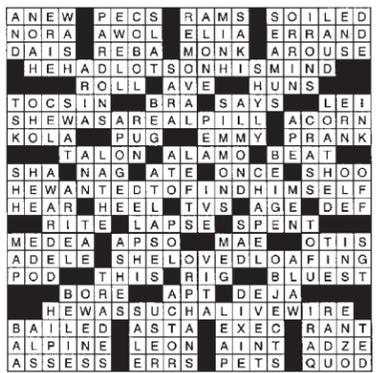
**"Windshield Ding — Gimme a Ring" JIFFY GLASS REPAIR**  
Windshield Repair Specialists  
By appt. at your home or office:  
R.V. Dick  
Harshberger  
**915-852-9082**

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

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

**SERVICES**  
**5-Star Driving School**  
Driver's Ed  
**(915) 598-1898**  
Classes Begin March 13th April 3rd  
3/9

**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.



## People know Pueblo for its...

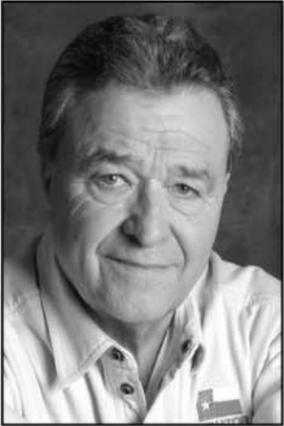


### Famous Hot Salsa?

In Pueblo, the free government information is also hot. Spice up your life by dipping into the Consumer Information Center web site, [www.pueblo.gsa.gov](http://www.pueblo.gsa.gov). You can download all the information right away. Sorry, salsa not available through our web site or Catalog.

# It's Time To Decide A Strong Leader Who Makes A Difference?

## Or, A Rookie With No Influence?



This is no time to elect a rookie to the Texas Senate.

Over the next year, the Senate will make big decisions on how much money is spent on public education and health care.

With Frank Madla as our Senator, we'll have a

**strong, Democratic voice in these decisions, someone who will make a real difference. Senator Madla is an established force in the Senate who stands up for what he believes in – and wins.**

We cannot afford to replace our strong, effective Senator with a rookie who has no influence and no power.

As a member of the powerful Finance Committee, Frank Madla will play a key role in writing the state budget and determining how much money is spent on education and health care.

Senator Madla will wield even more influence because he is Chairman of the Intergovernmental Relations Committee, which oversees all city and county issues. Plus, he is a member of two other important committees, State Affairs and Natural Resources.

**With Senator Madla working for us, we can count on more money for:**

- Increasing funding for our public schools to ensure that every child gets an excellent education
- Raising teacher salaries
- Restoring money and services to the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP)
- Expanding access to health care for all of our families

**That's why an overwhelming number of major Democratic leaders are backing Frank Madla. And that's why you should too.**

Re-Elect  
FRANK  
**Madla**  
FOR STATE SENATOR

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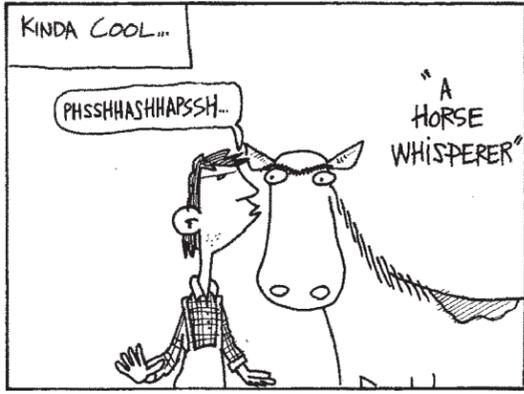
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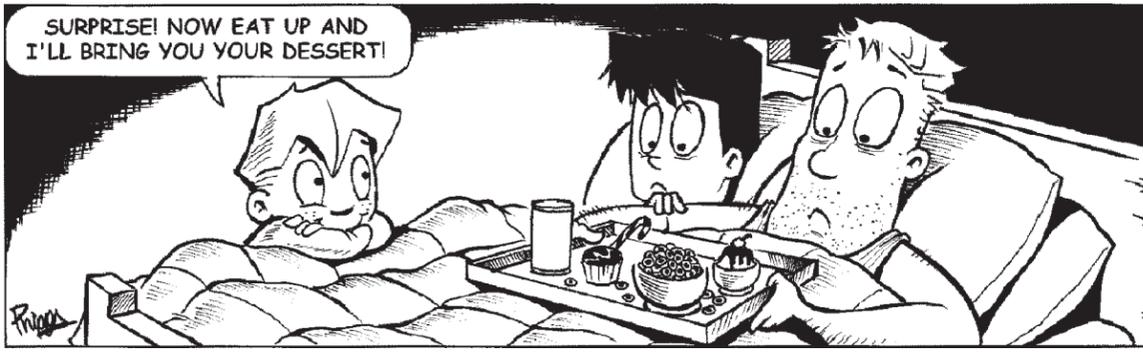
Pd. for by Friends of Frank Madla

# 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



# Are you talking to me?

By Don Flood

I'm about to say something I thought I'd never reveal in public: I only use my phone to talk to people.

I don't download music on my phone (not even a ring tone!). Nor do I watch movies, TV shows or sports.

(Bonus prediction: Have you seen those ads where guys walk down the street glued to their cell phones watching sports? I foresee a huge increase in these pedestrians being run over. It will be for the better.)

But they keep adding more features to phones, and the latest one is really dangerous. It's called the "Jerk-O-Meter."

Researchers at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology are developing software that will measure, on a scale of 1 to 100, how well the person is paying attention.

WIFE: Are you listening to me?

HUSBAND: Of course, dear.

WIFE: That's not what the Jerk-O-Meter says!

This needs to be stopped now. In fact, if this represents the kind of idiotic research going on up there, it would be better if they just shut down MIT altogether today after lunch.

Anmol Madan, the lead researcher, says the Jerk-O-Meter is a tool for improving relationships.

How much you want to bet this guy's not in a relationship? No, he's spending all his time perfecting the Jerk-O-Meter. We don't need a meter to prove this guy's a jerk.

(Bonus private note meant only for my wife: I always pay attention, but I'm writing this to help out other guys, who may not be as attentive as myself. We'll have no need for a Jerk-O-Meter.)

Here's another issue with

phones.

Twice now, I've walked by strangers who I thought were addressing me. I started to say "Excuse me?" but it turned out they were merely talking on their hands-free phone.

(Bonus advice to people who speak on hands-free telephones in public: You look weird.)

I find this disconcerting and think these people should be required to carry a sign that says "I am talking on my phone or to myself" or perhaps more to the point, "I am a nutball. Stay away."

Nothing about this problem, unfortunately, was mentioned in President Bush's lengthy State of the Union address.

However, I must correct an error I made several weeks ago, when I mistakenly claimed that dairy farmers would soon be using cell phones as automatic milking machines.

This is apparently incorrect.

I offer my profound apologies and promise that I will pretend to make a better effort in the future, depending on how I feel that day.

The problem, as you might guess, stemmed from my usually crack 10-finger research team, which is responsible for conducting my inquiries on Google.

Generally, my fingers work independently of my brain, which tends to get confused. However, as a result of this mistake, I have ordered my brain to take a more "hands-on" approach to research. (Unfortunately, it said no.)

Still, a phone that could also serve as a milking machine is a useful, if limited, application.

If only those guys from MIT could work on that instead of the Jerk-O-Meter.

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# King Super Crossword

### CAREER CHOICES

- ACROSS**
- 1 From the top
  - 5 Pride of the pumped-up
  - 9 St. Louis team
  - 13 Dirty
  - 19 118 Across'
  - 20 Way off base?
  - 21 Director Kazan
  - 22 Agenda item
  - 23 Emcee's site
  - 24 Melodious
  - McEntire
  - 25 Monastery dweller
  - 26 Kindle
  - 27 He became a Realtor because ...
  - 31 Form a cylinder
  - 32 Broad st.
  - 33 Savage sorts
  - 34 Alarm
  - 38 It may be strapless
  - 39 Emulates Simon
  - 41 Hibiscus garland
  - 44 She became a pharmacist because ...
  - 48 \_ squash
  - 50 Tropical tree
  - 51 Wrinkly dog
  - 52 Diva Destinn
  - 53 Halloween happening
  - 54 Raptor feature
  - 57 Texas landmark
  - 59 Out of gas

- 60 \_ Na Na
- 63 Scold and scold
- 64 Bolted the beans
- 65 Formerly
- 67 Dispel
- 70 He became an explorer because ...
- 75 Get wind of
- 76 Cad
- 77 Watching machines?
- 78 Season firewood
- 79 Rock's \_ Leppard
- 80 Formal ceremony
- 82 Backslide
- 84 Exhausted
- 86 Euripidean
- 87 He became a tragedy
- 88 Lhasa \_
- 89 Clarke or West
- 90 Model Carre
- 94 Simpson of fashion
- 95 She became a baker because ...
- 100 Horde of humpbacks
- 101 Not that
- 102 Oil apparatus
- 103 Least lighthearted
- 104 Wet blanket
- 106 Address abbr.
- 107 \_ vu
- 109 He became an electrician because ...
- 116 \_ out (aided)
- 118 Hammett hound
- 119 Small business-

- DOWN**
- 1 Clause connector
  - 2 Wordy Webster
  - 3 Part of HOMES
  - 4 Cleanse
  - 5 Excuses
  - 6 Tom of "Baretta"
  - 7 Computer language
  - 8 Thin strip
  - 9 Dislodgment
  - 10 Isolated
  - 11 Ho Chi \_
  - 12 Literary pen name
  - 13 Poet Heaney
  - 14 Senator Hatch
  - 15 Jeremy of "Waterland"
  - 16 Praise
  - 17 USNA grad
  - 18 HST's successor
  - 28 Schipa solo
  - 29 Writer Paretsky
  - 30 With diffidence
  - 34 "For shame!"

- 35 Palindromic cry
- 36 "Fantasia" frame
- 37 Nab a gnat
- 38 Plead
- 39 Exercise expert
- Richard
- 40 Cashew kin
- 41 Couldn't stand
- 42 Directional suffix
- 43 Calligraphy supply
- 45 Highest point
- 46 Pantyhose
- problem
- 47 Soup veggie
- 48 Gibbon or gorilla
- 49 Vulgar
- 55 Comic Sothern
- 56 Woodworking tool
- 57 From \_ Z
- 58 Boxing blows
- 59 Neutral tone
- 60 "Quiet!"
- 61 TV's "\_ Haw"
- 62 Bestowed
- 64 Reference
- volumes
- 66 "- of Love" ('64 smash)
- 68 Grand \_ Opry
- 69 Mistaken
- 71 Historian Durant
- 72 Oracle site
- 73 "\_ had it!"
- 74 Rock's \_ at Work
- 81 \_ kwon do
- 83 Neighbor of Ger.
- 84 Dejected
- 85 Soybean product

- 86 Traveler's aid
- 87 Maestro de Waart
- 88 Grate stuff
- 89 Ryan or Foster
- 91 Knot it!
- 92 \_ and outs
- 93 NCO
- 96 Dondi and Annie
- 97 "Ars longa, - brevis"
- 98 Protests
- 99 "There oughta be \_!"
- 101 Exchanges
- 104 Contradict
- 105 61 Down host
- 106 Play boy?
- 107 D.D. Emmett tune
- 108 Happening
- 109 They're sometimes hugged?
- 110 Auction
- 111 \_ -friendly
- 112 Act like an antelope
- 113 Basra's locale
- 114 Pianist Lupu
- 115 Signor Ferrari
- 116 Herd word
- 117 Oerter and Unser
- 121 TV's "Father \_"

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18		
19				20				21				22							
23				24				25				26							
	27			28				29				30							
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116	117							118				119					120		121
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126								127				128					129		

# Horizon

From Page 2

than those of individual community members. If I wanted to build a prison in the middle of town, would it be approved? Probably not. Because it wouldn't be in the best interest of the public. We are a peaceful community but we are willing to fight to do what is right."

A city employee said later that letters have been received by the city from golf teams at numerous school districts in the county who practice at Emerald Springs. "It's so impor-

tant to so many of them," she said.

## Uncertain future

Even if Bank of America took FOE's good faith offer and walked away tomorrow, the group understands that owning and operating the Horizon golf course is anything but a sure bet.

Said one member, "We would have to get out there and work it. We'd have to go door-to-door and work up some enthusiasm in the community."

Community support — or lack thereof — of the golf course has always been an issue and the establishment has struggled financially

through several owners over the past 20 years.

Longtime Horizon-area businessman and real estate broker Richard Zelt addressed this concern at Monday's meeting. He said the community wants the course to remain open but doesn't always support it. "How many of you are members (of Emerald Springs)? How many of you go there to eat?" he asked. "The community must go there and spend money," he said.

Another golf course area resident, however, said he felt that lack of promotion and effort on the part of course management had contributed to lack of community support.

"Bank of America has not been actively involved in the operation (of Emerald Springs)," said Pete Zuniga. He said it had been poorly managed and purposely allowed to fail by Bank of America because the financial institution "had other plans for the property."

Whatever Bank of America's plans were, the future of their project is equally uncertain. Lillard Thompson, a former Horizon City mayor, now an HRMUD director, said pursuit of the development by Bank of America would continue to produce negative publicity for the corporation since it will negatively affect Horizon property values, and remove all-too-rare

recreational opportunities for the schools and the public in the East County.

Rutledge said he planned to close his account with Bank of America just as soon as he could write the check, because he said the corporation was a "bandit" holding the Horizon City community "hostage" through their handling of the Emerald Springs golf course.

"It's apparent their interest is in profit, not people," he said.

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## 7-DAY FORECAST FOR EL PASO, TX

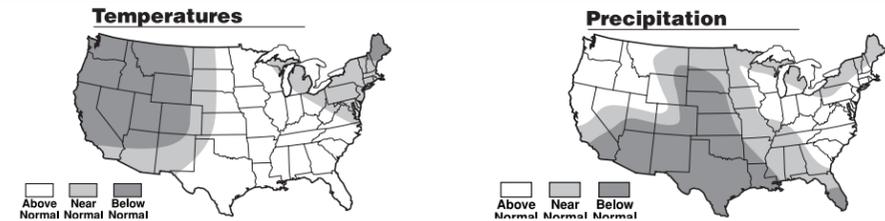
AccuWeather.com®

Thursday	Thu. night	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
Times of clouds and sun	Partly cloudy	Partly sunny	Mostly sunny	Sunshine	Mostly sunny	Sunshine	Partly sunny
78°	49°	73° / 46°	70° / 41°	69° / 39°	70° / 42°	71° / 43°	69° / 39°
RealFeel 79°	RealFeel 43°	RealFeel 69° / 40°	RealFeel 66° / 36°	RealFeel 66° / 33°	RealFeel 66° / 38°	RealFeel 72° / 38°	RealFeel 66° / 36°

The patented RealFeel Temperature® is AccuWeather's exclusive index of the effects of temperature, wind, humidity, sunshine, precipitation, and elevation on the human body.

## WEATHER TRENDS THIS WEEK

## IN THE SKY



Sun	Rise	Set	Moon	Rise	Set	First	Full
Thu.	6:32 a.m.	6:04 p.m.	Thu.	8:11 a.m.	9:29 p.m.		
Fri.	6:31 a.m.	6:05 p.m.	Fri.	8:44 a.m.	10:37 p.m.	3/6	3/14
Sat.	6:30 a.m.	6:06 p.m.	Sat.	9:20 a.m.	11:45 p.m.	Last	New
Sun.	6:28 a.m.	6:06 p.m.	Sun.	10:00 a.m.	none		
Mon.	6:27 a.m.	6:07 p.m.	Mon.	10:46 a.m.	12:50 a.m.	3/22	3/29
Tues.	6:26 a.m.	6:08 p.m.	Tues.	11:37 a.m.	1:52 a.m.		
Wed.	6:25 a.m.	6:09 p.m.	Wed.	12:32 p.m.	2:47 a.m.		

Forecasts and graphics provided by AccuWeather, Inc. ©2006

## REGIONAL CITIES

## U.S. CITIES

City	Thursday			Friday			Saturday			Sunday		
	HI	LO	W	HI	LO	W	HI	LO	W	HI	LO	W
Abilene, TX	72	52	pc	71	52	c	73	49	t	68	39	s
Albuquerque, NM	67	37	pc	66	34	pc	60	31	pc	61	32	pc
Amarillo, TX	60	36	pc	62	38	r	70	32	pc	61	30	s
Austin, TX	76	56	pc	75	57	pc	78	57	t	72	47	pc
Brownsville, TX	85	66	s	84	66	pc	83	66	pc	84	68	pc
Dodge City, KS	56	35	pc	57	34	t	65	29	c	48	27	pc
Jackson, MS	71	52	t	66	51	pc	72	52	t	72	46	t
Laredo, TX	92	66	pc	86	67	pc	88	67	pc	84	60	s
Little Rock, AR	66	42	c	61	46	t	65	51	t	62	42	t
Lubbock, TX	68	42	pc	60	42	r	70	36	pc	67	31	s
Memphis, TN	66	44	c	64	48	pc	59	49	t	60	44	t
Midland, TX	71	49	pc	75	47	pc	74	43	pc	71	38	s
Pueblo, CO	56	27	pc	62	25	pc	62	23	pc	61	19	s
Roswell, NM	69	42	pc	71	42	pc	74	33	s	68	33	s
St. Louis, MO	59	35	pc	55	32	pc	53	32	t	40	30	c
San Antonio, TX	82	59	pc	75	61	pc	76	60	pc	76	51	pc
Texarkana, AR	70	48	c	63	51	r	72	53	t	69	41	t
Waco, TX	74	56	pc	72	56	c	75	55	t	72	44	pc
Wichita, KS	64	38	pc	56	39	pc	61	39	c	47	31	c

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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**\$169.99** BME-SRP

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Makes cleanup work much easier. Primer bulb and throttle lock ensure fast starts. Two-stage air filter is easy to remove and replace. Optional vac attachment & gutter kit available.

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Wheel Kit offer available through June 18.  
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