



NEWSBRIEFS

Chili cook-off

On May 7th, from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm, the Horizon City Texas Chili Appreciation Society International (CASI), will be hosting a Chili Cook-off at the American Legion Post 598 on 13000 Horizon Blvd. Entry fee for those who wish to register and compete is \$20.00 payable to "Pod of the Pass". Come taste the goodness of the Southwest. Entry fee for tasters is \$300 at the gate. Plenty of parking with dry camping available. Contact info: Carol Straughan at 915 852-3599 or cell 915 491-2766, email caroleptx@aol.com and Thomas Cavazos at 915 564-1332, email cavazos.thomas@yahoo.com.

Luncheon

The Southwest Character Council Monthly Luncheon will be Wednesday, May 11 from 11:45 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. at Great American Land & Cattle Company, 701 S. Mesa Hills, El Paso. The character quality for May is Discernment. The cost is \$10 per person for lunch, networking and training. RSVP to (915) 779-3551 to reserve your spot, and make sure enough meals are prepared. Cash or check only please.

– Kelly McCullough

Farmer's market

The Oz Glaze Senior Center will hold a Farmer's Market on Saturday, May 21, 2011 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Booth space is available for providers of garden produce and handmade crafts. Booth spaces (10' x 15') cost \$10.00 each. Providers of jams, jellies and local honey have signed up. There are plans to have a market on every third Saturday of May through October. For more information or to reserve a booth call 799-8194 or 852-0062. Email: wilopez47@yahoo.com.

– Fred Lopez

Pendell tapped

Gov. Rick Perry has appointed Jim Pendell of Clint as one of five members to the Texas School Safety Center Board for terms to expire Feb. 1, 2013. The board advises the Texas School Safety Center in San Marcos, which provides school safety information and resources for the prevention of youth violence, and promotes safety in the state. Pendell is a crop insurance agent at the Sherry Wegner Agency. He is president of the Clint Independent School District Board of Trustees, past president of the Far West Texas School Board



Jim Pendell

See BRIEFS, Page 5



– Photo by Alfredo Vasquez

ROCK ON – The Neon Desert Music Festival, the first of its kind in El Paso, attracted about 11,000 music lovers. Neon Desert Festival was the brainchild of festival organizers, Zach Paul, Gina Martinez and Brian Chavez. Above a crowd gathers in front of one of the performance stages to hear one of the 29 bands that perform during the 12-hour event.

Downtown festival drew out music lovers

By Alfredo Vasquez
Special to the Courier

EL PASO COUNTY – The day was hot, a just right hot for an El Paso spring day. And, as the sun slid westward the forecasted wind and gusts had not materialized; instead, a warm breeze streamed through the downtown streets cooling off El Paso's youth as they strolled-into the festival grounds in droves... lots and lots of teens and twenty-somethings walking, talking, smiling with music blaring in the background.

It was Neon Desert Music Festival's inaugural downtown showcase, and from the start all indications foreshadowed the creation of a great event. It was like this type of street festival was meant to happen in downtown El Paso – a music jam for entertainment-thirsty desert dwellers.

Throngs of girls in shorts and colorful blouses and hordes of dudes in t-shirts and jeans came together on this last Saturday in April among El Paso's historic downtown facades where otherwise it would have been another weekend with empty streets. The

promise of an array of musicians is what brought them to the festival, but old friends and new acquaintances kept them strolling, stopping for a cold drink at the beverage depot and a tasty snack from the food court.

Twenty-nine different bands blasted their sounds on one of four stages- two at San Jacinto Plaza and the other two near Cleveland Square Park – during the 12-hour celebration. Local bands, Austin groups, Mexican and South American conjuntos, California crews, and even a European bunch came to share their music.

The event seemed well-organized. The ample fairgrounds made everything inviting... the youthful crowds walked about making the four performance stages their destination sites. And a sense of calm excitement permeated throughout the spacious festival compound... no one rushed, no one shoved; everyone smiled intent on having a good time.

"I'm impressed. This is what progressive cities do. They involve the youth in coming up with great ideas like this. And, the downtown location is a perfect setting for this festival," said Dan Vaughn, of McAllen TX. "I've been to other big city music festivals, and this is comparable to any of them. The only thing

that is missing here when compared to those other places is the ridiculous scalping prices for food, drinks, and merchandise. Everything here is reasonably priced. That's a sign of good leadership," Vaughn added.

No major incidents were reported as security and emergency personnel were visibly present throughout the festival grounds. Plenty of city police officers patrolled the area and EMT personnel were prominently situated to address the needs of a mass of people that swelled to an estimated 11,000 partiers by the time the lights went out at around 11 p.m.

As for the organizers, a group of 1999 Coronado High School graduates – Gina Martinez, Zack Paul, and Brian Chavez, the year and a half of planning paid off.

"We were counting on the people of El Paso and the region to show up and support this event and they did just that," Paul said. "We hope to have the Second Annual Neon Desert in 2012."

Martinez added, "We are very thankful to all the wonderful people who helped us make the Neon Desert Musical Festival a big success. A big thank you also goes out to all the fans that attended."

Tornillo's Vranish attends, speaks at NSBA

Tornillo Independent School District (TISD) Superintendent Paul Vranish joined Trustees Rachel Avila, Bertha Brew, Joe Tittle and more than five thousand school board and state school boards association leaders, administrators and other education leaders attending the 2011 National School Board's Association's (NSBA) Annual Conference in San Francisco from April 9-11 in. NSBA's Annual conference offered school board members leadership development and opportunities for collaboration from a nationwide network of colleagues. Vranish gave a presentation TISD's nationally-recognized superintendent evaluation. "It is always a great



– Photo courtesy Tornillo ISD

feeling to share some of our innovative methods when doing these various presentations. We

have so many really cool things going on in our district and many people at these conferences are

eager to bring some of our successful endeavors to their own districts," Vranish said.

There is hope for any man who can look in a mirror and laugh at what he sees.

– Quips & Quotes

Veterans Post

By Freddy Groves

Without fail

I've written here before about the Freeport Flag Ladies. Perhaps you've visited their website – www.freeportflagladies.com – and looked at the long list of things they do for our service personnel in harm's way.

The ladies have hosted on their website thousands of photos taken when they meet with troops who have a stopover at the airport in Bangor, Maine. I don't have to tell you what it means to family members to have those last-minute photos, the final steps on U.S. soil, before the troops fly to hostile areas. The ladies make sure each one gets a special handmade lucky penny card, a smile and a hug.

They hold fundraisers; send weekly cards and care packages, with special ones going to the combat hospitals; make visits to veterans homes... the list of what these ladies do is very, VERY long. And for the most part the costs come out of their own pockets. Ask why they do it, and they'll tell you it's an act of love and gratitude for our military.

What touches my heart is that since Sept. 11, 2001, these ladies have stood on a corner in Freeport, Maine, each Tuesday morning without fail. Wind, rain, snow, blistering heat (yes, even in Maine), they've been out there with their flags, reminding us -- and honoring those who serve.

Now, with the coming 10th anniversary of 9-11, the ladies are going hold a three-day special event. To pull this off, they're hoping to get \$1 from each of 30,000 people to be able to pay for it.

For all they do, I think we can do better than one dollar each, don't you?

The Freeport Flag Ladies
9-11 10th Anniversary
17 School St.
Freeport, ME 04032

Write to Freddy Groves in care of King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475, or send e-mail to columnreply@gmail.com. (c) 2011 King Features Synd., Inc.

It's the law

By Texas AG Greg Abbott

Protecting sensitive data after an internet security breach

Over the last two months, internet security breaches at public and private institutions have compromised Texans' names, addresses and Social Security numbers. Unfortunately, online security lapses can lead to identity theft.

As law enforcement officers know, personally identifying information – including names, Social Security numbers, and driver's license numbers – in the hands of identity thieves can damage Texans' credit. An identity thief may use this sensitive information to obtain credit cards and checking accounts in their victims' names.

Texans who believe an Internet security breach may have affected them should access the Attorney General's Identity Theft Victim's Kit online at www.texasattorneygeneral.gov. The kit is designed to help victims navigate the process of protecting their credit. It includes relevant forms and agency contact information that is necessary to help restore credit and prevent further financial harm.

Texans should carefully monitor their bank statements, credit card bills and any other statements relating to recent financial transactions. They should request a copy of their credit reports and examine them carefully for signs of fraud, such as unauthorized credit accounts. Potential victims should also check to see if there have been multiple inquiries on their credit report. If a thief is attempting to open up several accounts, an inquiry will be listed on a credit report for each of those attempts. Finally, Texans should check that their Social Security number, address(es), phone number(s) and employment information are correct.

If Texans notice unusual activity on their credit statements, they should contact the fraud department of one of the three credit reporting agencies – Experian, Equifax or TransUnion – and request a fraud alert. When a person requests a fraud alert from one bureau, that company will notify the other two bureaus. The person's credit file will be flagged with a statement that says he or she may be a victim of fraud and that creditors should phone the person before extending credit. Under the Fair Credit Reporting Act (FCRA), a person can place an initial fraud alert for 90 days at a time and may cancel the fraud alert at any time.

When a person establishes a fraud alert, he or she will receive a follow-up letter from each credit bureau. Each letter explains how the person can order a free copy of his or her credit report from that credit bureau. Texans who fear their personal information has been compromised by recent Internet security breaches should take advantage of this offer and order their credit reports soon. Identity theft victims will see evidence of it on their credit reports.

ID theft victims may also consider a security freeze. Texas law authorizes individuals to place a security freeze on their credit reports if they have filed an identity theft complaint with law enforcement. A security freeze is stronger than a fraud alert because it prevents anyone from accessing a credit file until and unless the person authorizes the credit bureaus to release his or her report. (Please note that it does not affect existing accounts and includes other exceptions.) Texans should be aware that a security freeze might be inconvenient – particularly for anyone who is applying for new credit, an apartment, or employment involving a background check. For those credit checks in process, the affected individual will have to lift the freeze on their credit file. A freeze can be lifted for a certain period of time or for a specific creditor.

If credit reports indicate that a person is an ID theft victim, he or she should immediately file a police report. It is very important to complete this step because the report can be used as proof that the person is an ID theft victim.

Victims should report fraudulent accounts and erroneous information in writing to the credit bureaus and the credit issuers following the instructions provided with the credit reports. More than likely, the credit bureaus will ask for a copy of the police report.

In all communications with the credit bureaus, ID theft victims should refer to the unique identification number assigned to their credit report. They should send all communications via certified mail with return receipt requested – and be sure to save all credit reports as part of their fraud documentation.

The U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) has the authority to prosecute identity theft at the federal level. Texans can report ID theft to federal authorities and receive additional assistance with identity theft-related issues through the Federal Trade Commission by calling (877) IDTHEFT (1-877-438-4338), or visit the agency's website at www.ftc.gov.

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Monday 4 p.m. for Thursday publication.

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\$10 for 25 words, \$15 for 40 words. Ad must be in writing and pre-paid. The Courier reserves the right not to print classified advertising it considers inappropriate.


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2011 UTEP FOOTBALL SEASON TICKETS ON SALE STARTING AS LOW AS \$75!

UTEP fans who renew or purchase football season tickets prior to June 1 will be entered into a special "30 Prizes in 30 Days" drawing. For each day in the month of June, a variety of prizes will be given away, including polos, t-shirts, back packs, jerseys, flags, footballs and more. The grand prize, to be awarded on June 30, is a trip for two to the Miners' game at UCF in Orlando. Award-winners will be contacted and posted on the UTEP Athletics Facebook page.

Call 747-6150 Today For Your Tickets!

2011 UTEP FOOTBALL HOME SCHEDULE

 09.03	 09.29	 10.22	 10.29	 11.12	 11.19
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San Elizario teacher’s lesson connects students to President

By Cynthia P. Marentes
Special to the Courier

SAN ELIZARIO, TX – Borrego Elementary School teacher Celia Aguilar has established a tradition with each class of students she has taught over the years that has provided them with a connection to the White House. Aguilar, a veteran educator with over 25 years of experience in the classroom, has been challenging students to write to U.S. Presidents since Ronald Reagan was in office. Usually, she receives a standard response along with a portrait of the president. However, this time around Aguilar was pleasantly surprised when she opened the package from the White House and discovered a photo of the first family, something that she had never received before.

Aguilar’s third-grade class of 20 bilingual students wrote letters to the President back in February as part of a lesson on biographies. The students had just finished reading a book on the life of Barack Obama and were also studying healthy foods when Aguilar suggested that they write to both the President and First Lady Michelle Obama who is an advocate for childhood nutrition. Her students went a step further and decided to also ask about Sasha and Malia, the President’s daughters, since they could identify with them as students similar in age.

“The lesson for the students was focused on writing and how they can connect with the outside world. They learned about the importance of writing



– Photo courtesy San Elizario ISD

COMMUNICATORS – Celia Aguilar’s third grade class wrote to President Barack Obama. The class received a reply that included a photo of the President and a family picture.

to communicate,” Aguilar said.

For some of Aguilar’s students the letter-writing project was another opportunity to strengthen their English grammar. In fact, all the students struggled to perfect their letters since they knew that somebody as important as the President would be reading them. Aguilar also demonstrated to students on a map

of the United States the distance that their letters had to travel to reach the White House from San Elizario. Then on a recent, ordinary school day Aguilar announced to the class that they had received a response to their letters from the White House and the students were ecstatic. They were even more in awe when she showed them the family portrait that

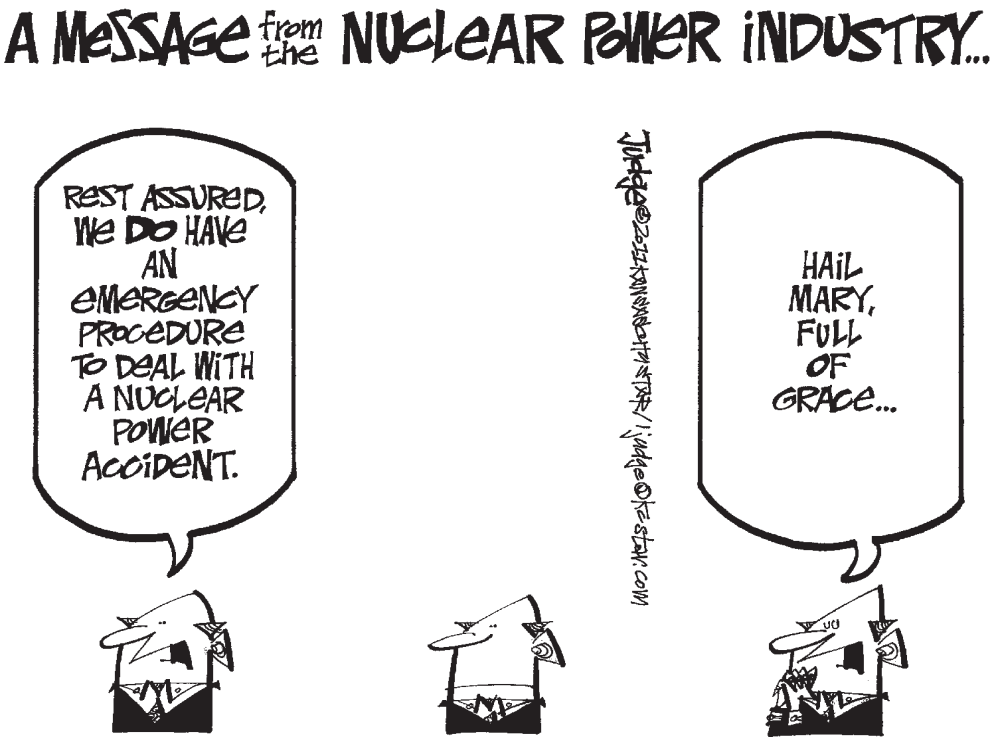
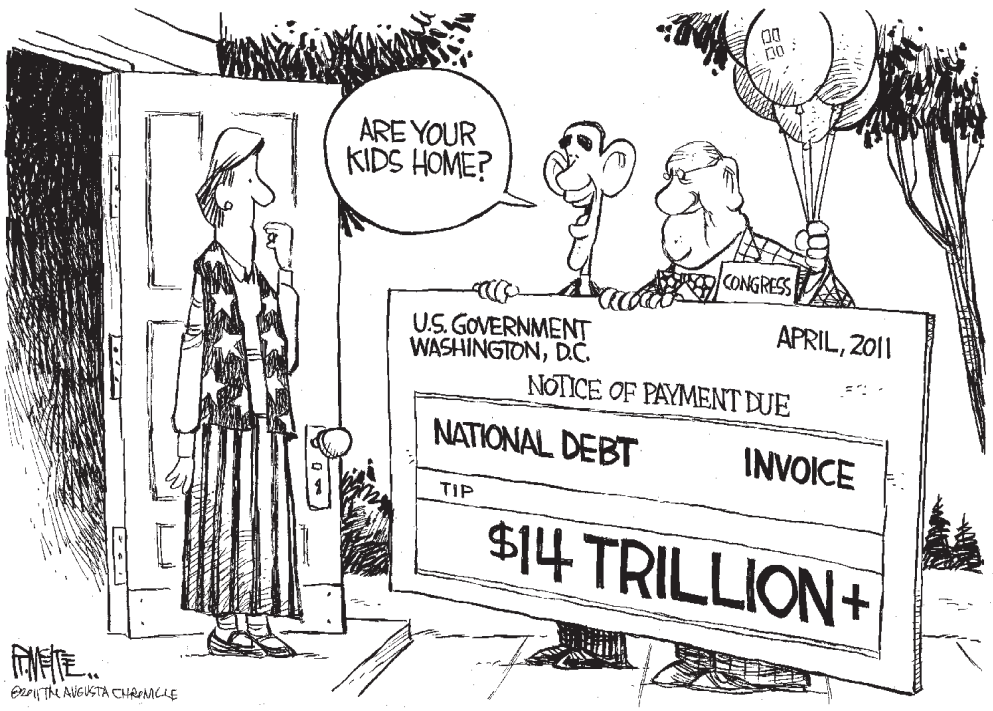
included daughters Sasha and Malia.

Aguilar had collage picture frames made for each student which included the President’s letter, the First Family portrait, and a photo of the class that she will ask them to give to their parents as a thank you gift.

“This frame is to show the families that their children made an amazing effort in writing and were able to

reach the White House through their letters,” Aguilar added.

Celia Aguilar plans on continuing the annual practice of having her class of students correspond with the President and hopes to encourage more of her colleagues to conduct similar projects since she has seen what a rewarding and enduring experience it is for students.





– Photo courtesy Canutillo ISD

Socorro Independent School District PUBLIC NOTICE Public Meeting to Review Federal Funded Programs

The Socorro Independent School District will conduct public information meetings to review the following SISD Programs funded by Federal funds:

- Title I, Part A - Improving Basic Programs
- Title I, Part C - Migrant Program
- Title I, Part D - SP 2 - Delinquent Youth
- Title II, Part A - Improving Teacher Quality
- Title III, Part A - Limited English Proficiency (LEP)
- IDEA-Part B, IDEA Pre-School

The meeting will be held:
Wednesday, May 11, 2011, 6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
in Meeting Room C at the District Service Center, 12440 Rojas Drive.

S.I.S.D does not discriminate against any individual with regard to race, color, national origin, age, religion, sex, marital or veteran status, the presence of a medical condition, disability, or any other legally protected status. 42 U.S.C 2000e-2(a); 20 U.S.C. 1681: Labor Code 21-051.

AVISO PUBLICO La junta Pública para Revisar los Programas de Fondos Federales

El Distrito Escolar Independiente de Socorro llevará a cabo una junta pública para revisar los siguientes programas federales:

- Título I, Parte A - Mejorando Programas Básicos
- Título I, Parte C - Programa Migrante
- Título I, Parte D - Jovenes Delincuentes
- Título II, Parte A - Mejorando la Calidad de Maestros
- Título III, Parte A - Servicios de educación para estudiantes de segundo idioma
- IDEA-Parte B, IDEA Pre-Escolar

La junta se llevará a cabo:
miércoles, 11 de mayo, 2011, 6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
en el Salón de Juntas C, 12440 Rojas Drive.

S.I.S.D no discrimina a ningún individuo a causa de su raza, de su color, de su nacionalidad, de sus creencias religiosas, de su género, de su estado legal, o de veterano, ninguna condición médica o incapacidad, o ningún otro estado legal. 42 U.S.C 2000e-2(a); 20 U.S.C. 1681: Labor Code 21-051.

WTCC: 05-05-11

PULLING FOR SUCCESS – Alexandra Torres, front, joined other El Paso County migrant students in a tug-of-war at Indian Cliffs Ranch. The events were designed to give the seniors tools to progress in life after high school.

Life skills offered to migrant students

By Kim Guzman
Special to the Courier

CANUTILLO – Several Canutillo High School graduating seniors recently attended a Regional Graduation Summit for migrant students held at Cattleman’s Steakhouse at Indian Cliffs Ranch in Fabens, Texas.

CHS students who attended the event include: Juan Beck, Jorge Campos, Leticia Carrillo, Ismael Cruz, Diana Gamboa, Ivette Labra, Loida Loe, Joseph Lopez, Adelaido Moreno, Nelly Nunez, Susana Pulido, Edgar Renovato, Erika Sonora, Oscar Torres, and Alexandra Torres, who was recognized as a top

10% student.
The summit provided valuable information for the students.

Topics presented to the students included Key Concepts of Personality Types, Money Management for Young Adults, College Assistance Migrant Program, and Circle of Influence.

The students also participated in team building activities such as tug-of-war, water balloons toss, potato relay race, and egg toss.

“These kinds of events are a wonderful opportunity for young adults to become aware of the possibilities available to them beyond high school,” said Margarita Harneson, Canutillo Independent School District migrant education lead teacher.

Athletic Director steps in as Bulldogs’ interim volleyball coach

By Daniel Escobar
Special to the Courier

This off-season a 29-year veteran with more than 500 career wins and a place in the Rio Grande Valley Sports Hall of Fame – Socorro ISD Athletic Director Paula Gonzalez – is working out the girls on Socorro High School’s varsity volleyball team.

Gonzalez took over the team on an interim basis this spring to keep the girls on track while a new coach is hired. “I’ve truly enjoyed the opportunity to get back on the court and work with a wonderful group of student-athletes,” she said. “It will be hard to break away once their new coach joins the team.”

Gonzalez, who is managing

her dual role by practicing with the team before school and prior to reporting for the day as athletic director, earned her accolades as the head varsity volleyball coach at James Pace High School, in Brownsville, Texas, where she led her teams to more than 15 championship seasons. During her tenure, she was also selected as a “Coach Who Makes a Difference” by Fox News and Coach of the Year six times.

With a history of success in the classroom and with its decorated athletics programs, Socorro Principal Miguel Serrano is looking forward to the addition of a strong team player that will add to the school’s legacy.

“Athletics play an integral



Paula Gonzales

See VOLLEYBALL, Page 8

STRANGE BUT TRUE

By Samantha Weaver

• It was the multitalented Pierre Beaumarchais – born in the 18th century, he was a revolutionary in both France and America as well as a watchmaker, diplomat, musician, spy, inventor, publisher and arms dealer – who made the following sage observation: “It is not necessary to understand things in order to argue about them.”

• If you live in Florida, you probably won’t be surprised to learn that there are more than 3,000 different species of mosquitoes.

• The experts claim that roses don’t really have thorns. Botanically speaking, thorns are considered to be modified branches and are difficult to break off the stem. What roses have are known as prickles, which are just outgrowths of the stem’s outer skin – and they are, fortunately, much easier to break off.

• Statistics show that after having her first child, a woman’s driving sees a measurable improvement.

• The name of the great state of Missouri comes from a Native American word meaning “town of large canoes.”

• A man named Henry Budd, before his death in 1862, directed in his will that if his sons, William and Edward, grew moustaches they would receive nothing from his estate. In further discrimination against facial hair, one Mr. Fleming, a British upholsterer, left 5 pounds in his will to each of his mustached employees, but double that to those who were clean-shaven.

• Those who study such things say that the Atlantic Ocean is getting 1.2 inches wider every year.

• If you enjoy apricots, be sure you don’t accidentally swallow the pits – they contain substances called cyanogenetic glycosides, which, once they reach the digestive tract, are converted to cyanide.

Thought for the Day: “Half of the modern drugs could well be thrown out of the window, except that the birds might eat them.”

– Dr. Martin Henry Fischer

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Borrego students raise funds to help fight cancer

By Cynthia P. Marentes
Special to the Courier

SAN ELIZARIO – Gifted and Talented (GT) students at Borrego Elementary School recently used their problem-solving skills to help other children battling cancer and deadly diseases. The San Elizario ISD students participated in the St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital Math-A-Thon raising \$1,000 that will go towards supporting cancer research and medical treatment for children.

“We are so proud of our students for embracing Math-A-Thon and raising critical funds for St. Jude,” Adriana Castruita, Borrego GT Coordinator, said.

These elementary students devoted at least a month solving math problems, strengthening their own academic skills while also raising funds for St. Jude. They worked out solutions on an online Funbook and asked their friends and family to sponsor their participation in the Math-A-Thon.

Borrego Elementary School Principal Elizabeth Prangner presented the Math-A-Thon idea to Castruita and encouraged her to involve the GT students in the St. Jude education-based fundraiser that takes place at over 10,000 schools through out the country. To date the Math-A-Thon campaign has raised almost \$400 million.



– Photo courtesy San Elizario ISD

MONEY MAKERS – Borrego Elementary School students pooled their math talents to raise \$1,000 for St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital.

The Borrego Elementary School GT students were rewarded with a t-shirt for their fundraising efforts that they had a chance to wear to school.

Briefs

From Page 1

Association, and a member of the Texas Association of School Boards and Clint Junior High Band Booster Club. He is also a past member of the National Federation of Independent Business, Calcot Cotton Growers, Texas Tech University (TTU) College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources Advisory Board, and TTU Chancellor’s Council. Pendell received two bachelor’s degrees and a master’s degree in agricultural education from Texas Tech University. The appointment is subject to Senate confirmation.

Crime Stoppers

Two early morning hikers find a man’s body along an irrigation ditch with no signs of life, making this the Crime Stoppers “Crime of the Week.” On Thursday, February 17, 2011, at 7:00 a.m., Crimes Against Persons detectives were called to assist

officers from the Mission Valley in reference to a suspicious death. The deceased was found lying off an irrigation ditch road about 100 yards west of the 300 block of Nevarez by two elderly men on their usual morning walk. The body showed signs of serious trauma. The victim had no identification but was identified through fingerprints as Juan Jose Esquivel, age 33. Investigators are still trying to determine what places (bars, restaurants, etc.) the victim may have visited and what persons he may have met in the hours prior to his death. If you have any information about the identity of the suspects involved, or if you have information about where Esquivel may have been or people he met the previous night and early morning, please call Crime Stoppers immediately at 566-TIPS (566-8477) or on-line at www.crimestoppersofelpaso.org. You will remain anonymous and, if your tip leads to an arrest, you can qualify for a cash reward.

– James Klaes

archives: www.wtxcc.com

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CryptoQuip
Answer

If Austalian marsupials
drink soft drinks,
they should most likely
prefer Coca-Koala.

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*No age restrictions. Refrigerators and freezers must be in working condition and must be a minimum of 10 cubic feet in size, utilizing inside measurements. El Paso Electric contracts with JACO Environmental, an appliance recycler, to pick up and recycle refrigerators and freezers. El Paso Electric customers must own the unit(s) being recycled. Limit two units per residential address. A check will be mailed within 4-6 weeks after the appliance collection. Some restrictions apply.

Talent needed: Price needs to step up recruiting

By Steve Escajeda
Special to the Courier

It’s no secret that the UTEP Miners football program has never achieved the status that most thought Mike Price would have it at by now.

After a quick start, the program can barely stay above the middle of the pack in the less-than-average Conference USA.

For years, sports fans and pundits alike have tried to figure out the reason for the stagnation.

Some say it’s the coaching staff, some say it’s the conference, some say it’s El Paso’s far away location.

When you really sit down and try to evaluate why the Miners have struggled so much on the field the last few years – it isn’t difficult to come up with an answer.

It’s a simple lack of talent.

The NFL draft concluded last week without a single UTEP player selected.

In the 15 hours and 8 minutes it took the NFL to conduct the draft, no Miner player was deemed good enough to be included among the 254 players chosen.

And that’s not the worst of it. This marks the third straight year that no Miners were selected.

Now I don’t know about you but that tells me that UTEP coaches are just not doing a good job evaluating talent.

Here’s an interesting note. Some of the schools that did have a player drafted included Florida Atlantic, Lehigh, Hampton, Missouri State, Abilene Christian, Mount Union, Eastern Washington, Citadel, Portland State, Chattanooga, Slippery Rock, Yale, Stephen F.

Austin, Alabama A&M and Bethel.

Are you going to tell me that even those colleges are out-recruiting the Miners?

Even New Mexico State had a player drafted. If that doesn’t get under the skin of UTEP football fans, I don’t know what will.

If you remember past successful UTEP football teams, they had a number of players selected in those drafts.

Funny how the more talent you have, the better the results.

Everyone knows that coaching is essential, but if you take Phil Jackson off the Lakers’ bench and make him the new coach of this year’s Cleveland Cavaliers – they still lose over 60 games.

Why? No talent.

Price and the Miners are heading into a new era with the loss of quarterback Trevor Vittatoe, wide receiver Kris Adams and running back Donald Buckram.

Also, defensive coordinator Andre Patterson coached the Miners “D” to a rank of 91 in total defense among the 120 teams in the nation in his first season.

While that doesn’t sound very impressive, the Miners had been averaging around 115th the last few years. Patterson will have to show steady improvement again this season.

Again, Price has nearly 40 freshmen on the roster for next season and once again we’ll see how he and his staff did on the talent scale.

The clock is ticking on this program.

A lewd time at the old ballpark

Any one who has followed Major League Baseball over the last three decades remembers Roger McDowell as a free-spirited harmless

prankster with the Mets and a few other teams.

But I’d say his image took quite a turn for the worst last week.

The former major leaguer is now the pitching coach for the Atlanta Braves and though he’s paid to instruct his staff, he should probably pay someone to teach him some manners.

At a game in San Francisco last week, one of the fans there with his wife and twin 9-year-old daughters said McDowell got into a verbal confrontation with some fans and asked, “Are you a homo couple or a threesome.”

McDowell then went on to make some crude sexual gestures with his hips and a baseball bat.

The offended fan, Justin Quinn, reminded

McDowell there were kids in the stands.

McDowell then allegedly said kids didn’t belong in the ballpark and went into the stands with the bat and asked Quinn how much his teeth were worth?

For his stupidity, McDowell was suspended for two weeks and fined an undisclosed amount of money.

Of course, McDowell has apologized and said it will never happen again.

Here’s a scoop – anyone who acts the way McDowell did has that kind of hatred and anger embedded deeply inside his persona. An apology accomplishes nothing.

Maybe a year’s suspension without pay will give him enough time to consider what he did – especially in front of innocent children.



A sporting view By Mark Vasto

Let ’em in

Zev Chafets files a gem of a story with “Cooperstown Confidential: Heroes, Rogues, and the Inside Story of the Baseball Hall of Fame” (Bloomsbury, \$15). Part memoir, part legend, part scholarly work and, in some cases, arguably libelous, Chafets goes where no other baseball writer would dare to go in peeking behind the curtain of baseball’s kingmakers.

Lord knows I’ve used this blessed space on more than one occasion to assail the Baseball Writers Association of America, the baseball commissioner’s office and the moneyball-changers inside the temple of Cooperstown. For far too long and far too often, this

triumvirate has treated baseball with the same sort of hypocrisy the major world religions are now accused of on a near daily basis.

Yes, baseball is religion in America, as well it should be. Like all of those “pastime” clichés that end up becoming so remarkably accurate, and so much of what lends so many to either connect with it at an early age as if it were some celestially chosen calling or fall in love with it in a born again-like fervor at a later point in time, it’s what makes baseball worth revering.

I believe it is a baseball writer’s job to spread the word of the mystical deeds of the diamond with their stories, and every columnist should take the preacher’s stand with a little bit of fire and brimstone. But to play

the role of St. Peter standing at the pearly gates, to make like they’re some arbiter of morality? No... not so much. We don’t even hold priests and preachers to such lofty standards anymore.

But clergy also canned Latin at Catholic Mass years ago and recently allowed Matisyahu to rap a few verses of late. Maybe that’s why Chafets, himself an Israeli expat who readily admits he won’t be let into the good graces of the Hall or those currently lording over the game anytime soon, feels free to burn a bush or two.

Dubious politics, former players, the commissioner’s office and the Hall’s ownership philosophies form an almost almost DaVinci Code-like shroud over the story. And while most of the scandalous and scurrilous stories are nothing new to beat reporters or beaten down fans (Babe Ruth may have been of

mixed-race, for instance), he spells out the math involved: the Hall translates into real money. Just ask Padre Dave Winfield or Expo Gary Carter about the commissioner’s decision to deny an inducted player the right to choose what cap they were enshrined in.

“Shoeless” Joe Jackson died penniless, but not before the book relays the poignant scene of him, long since disgraced, working from

behind the clerk’s counter at a liquor store and being recognized by Hall of Famer Ty Cobb.

“I didn’t think you guys wanted to talk to me,” he said.

Joe... we’re still talking about you now.

Mark Vasto is a veteran sportswriter and publisher of The Kansas City Luminary. (c) 2011 King Features Synd., Inc.

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Your good healthBy Paul G. Donahue, M.D.

DEAR DR. DONOHUE: A recent blood check showed that my potassium was high. I was told to stop eating bananas and drinking orange juice. I also was told to return to the doctor's office the next week. I did. They took another blood sample. They told me nothing more. What happens when potassium is high? – F.H.

Potassium has many important jobs. It keeps the body's electrical charges balanced. It's involved in transmitting nerve signals. It's needed to keep the heart beating and muscles contracting. It takes part in keeping the body neither too acid nor too alkaline.

High blood potassium raises blood sugar, weakens muscles, causes nausea and vomiting, and triggers erratic and dangerous heartbeats. When the level is very high, potassium paralysis and death occur. Your potassium must not have been all that high. You had no symptoms.

The causes of a high blood level include kidney illnesses, nonworking adrenal glands, a lack of insulin, sudden death of body cells, overuse of potassium supplements and medicines like beta blockers.

The blood level of potassium can be read erroneously as high when the patient, during blood collection, keeps clenching and unclenching arm muscles. It rises when blood cells break apart in their journey from a patient's arm to the laboratory. It could be your reading was high because of either of these situations.

It's hard to come up with an explanation that indicts an illness with raising potassium on one occasion and not keeping it raised for a short while.

The electrolytes – sodium, potassium, bicarbonate and chloride – are not well understood by most people. Yet they are responsible for many body ailments. Readers can read about these minerals in the booklet describing their function. Write

to Dr. Donohue – No. 202W, Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475. Enclose a check or money order (no cash) for \$4.75 U.S./\$6 Canada with the recipient's printed name and address. Please allow four weeks for delivery.

DEAR DR. DONOHUE: Swallowing became a real problem for me. Food would get stuck on its way to my stomach. I tried all sorts of over-the-counter medicines, but nothing worked. I saw a gastroenterologist, who put a scope down my swallowing tube. He discovered that there was a constricting ring of tissue at the bottom of it. How did I get it? He opened it with a balloon. Can it come back? – C.W.

You're talking about a Schatzki (SHOT-ski) ring. It is as you say – a fold of tissue encircling the lowermost part of the esophagus, and it does cause food to hang up there.

How did you get it? Some theorize that reflux of stomach acid into the esophagus explains why it developed. Acid reflux is a fancy way of saying heartburn. However, people can have reflux and a Schatzki ring but not have any heartburn symptoms. Meat and large pieces of bread are the foods most likely to get stuck.

Stretching the ring with a balloon or other device usually fixes the problem. However, it can come back, and it often does. Because recurrence is common, many doctors put their patients on medicines that suppress stomach acid production.

Dr. Donohue regrets that he is unable to answer individual letters, but he will incorporate them in his column whenever possible. Readers may write him or request an order form of available health newsletters at P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475. (c) 2011 North America Synd., Inc. All Rights Reserved.

Super Crossword

IN CHARGE

ACROSS

1 Weaken

4 O'Connor's "The _ Hurrah"

8 Composer Bartok

12 "Ad _ per aspera" (Kansas' motto)

17 Meadow mamas

19 Pro foe

20 Sleep like _

21 Wide belts

22 Comic-book hero

25 "Oh, How I _ Get Up..."

26 Error's partner

27 Procure

28 - Paulo, Brazil

30 Tons of time

31 Box up

34 Masters

Tournament site

38 Urban problem

39 Animated TV series

42 Hwy.

43 Bud

46 Taj town

47 Tallahassee sch.

48 Rita _ Brown

49 Tankard filler

50 Step parts

52 Even if, informally

54 Durango district

57 Maestro Lorin

59 Rent

61 "The Hustler"

setting

63 Crowded

65 "Just _ thought!"

66 Petite pest

67 Genetic info

68 Actress Anna

70 Tammany Hall

name

73 Left open

74 Item in a lock

75 Premiere

77 Baby butter

78 Fracas

81 Advance

83 "This _ Moment" ('60 hit)

85 Hut

88 Van of "Shane"

89 Cycle starter

91 Barely there

93 Baseball stat

94 Pinnacle

95 _ roll

97 Bailiwick

98 TV's "My Sister _"

99 "Gotcha!"

100 '80 Stevie Wonder hit

106 Worry

107 Result

108 Singer Stratas

111 Knock

112 Russian river

113 Superlative suffix

116 Sans emotion

118 Lets up

121 "F Troop" role

127 Kidman of "To

Die For"

128 Columnist

Bombeck

129 Notion

130 Silvers or Spector

131 Hardened

132 " _ of the Cat" ('77 hit)

133 Side

134 _ Aviv

DOWN

1 Splinter group

2 Cognizant

3 Charlemagne's dad

4 Composer Francis

5 Sothern or

Sheridan

6 Forest father

7 Use a stopwatch

8 Musical measure

9 Lilly of

pharmaceuticals

10 Rapper Tone _

11 '92 Wimbledon winner

12 Battery letters

13 Fast way to the UK

14 O'Neill drama

15 Shot another photo

16 For _ (cheaply)

18 "Unsolved Mysteries" host

21 Shallow area

23 Jai _

24 Coup d' _

29 Part of NATO

32 Sluggish sorts

33 _ Benedict

35 Like some TV channels

36 "Beau _" ('39 film)

37 "No dice!"

38 Bandit Belle

40 City on 112 Across

41 Polo's place

43 Shriver of tennis

44 Dothan's st.

45 '64 Shangri-Las hit

48 Boy or boar

50 Cartoon canine

51 Lip lash?

53 Mayberry moppet

54 Marsh

55 New Rochelle college

56 General Bradley

58 - Buddhism

60 Alaskan city

62 "Against All _" ('84 film)

64 Recedes

66 Curative

68 Frosh's superior

69 Grocer's measure

71 Eject

72 Assumed manes?

73 - standstill

75 Wet blanket

76 Velvet finish

79 Graceland, for one

80 Yesterday's your

82 Rub it in

83 Sal of "Exodus"

84 Irene of "Fame" fame

86 La-la lead-in

87 Tasty tuber

90 Coll. cadets

92 Tree house?

96 Jacket part

99 Lawrence's locale

100 "Archie" character

101 Great bird?

102 Dash of "Clueless"

103 Fast-food favorite

104 Cleveland's lake

105 Summarize

106 French bread?

109 Vision

110 TV's "Kate & _"

114 "M*A*S*H" Emmy winner

115 "The _ Is High" ('80 hit)

117 Say "Hey!"

119 Low digit

120 Knight time

122 Hapsburg dom.

123 " _ Believer" ('66 hit)

124 Corn portion

125 Grazing ground

126 Rin Tin Tin's mother

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Answer Page 5

