An adolescent is a minor that is sometimes a major problem.

— Quips & Quotes

NEWSBRIEFS

Alarcon Park closed

The San Elizario Independent School District would like to inform the community that it will be closing Alarcon Park from March 7-23, 2014. Re-seeding of the field and repairs to the park will take place during this time. The park located at 12500 Socorro Rd. across from Alarcon Elementary School will be closed to the public for safety reasons and to allow sufficient time for grass seedlings to grow. San Elizario ISD appreciates the cooperation and patience of all residents during the park closure. For questions call (915) 872-3980.

— Cynthia P. Marentes

San Eli ISD closed

All schools and administrative offices in the San Elizario Independent School District will be closed March 10-14, 2014 for Spring Break. Students will return to classes on Monday, March 17, 2014.

— Cynthia P. Marentes

Suspects sought

Several new homes in the city’s eastside have been broken into and newly installed appliances have been the target. Investigators from the El Paso Police Department’s Pebble Hills Regional Command Center are asking for the public’s help in finding those involved in these robberies through the Crime Stoppers “Crime of the Week.” Since November of 2013, there have been at least seven break-ins of newly constructed homes where appliances have been stolen. One of the latest cases took place between Saturday, Feb. 22, 2014, and Monday, Feb. 24, 2014 at the 3900 block of Hueco Valley. In particular case the suspects went to the back of the home and kicked in the door. The suspects then made their way inside of home and disconnected the stove, hood, and refrigerator. The suspects then moved the appliances to the garage of the home and loaded them onto a truck or van and fled the scene. The suspects involved are believed to be using a truck or van and may be passing themselves off as construction workers. Investigators urge residents to be extra vigilant and report any suspicious activity at newly constructed home sites. Anyone with any information on the identity of the persons involved in this theft is asked to call Crime Stoppers of El Paso immediately at 566-8477(TIPS), on-line at www.crimestoppersofelpaso.org or by text it to CRIMES (274637). You will remain anonymous, tip information, and text it to CRIMES (no space and key word “CRIME1”) (no space and include the quotation marks) plus your tip information, and text it to CRIMES (274637). You will remain anonymous, and if your tip leads to an arrest, you can qualify for a cash reward.

— Javier Sambrano

By Alfredo Vasquez
Special to the Courier

El Paso Museum of Archaeology will present a unique view into the secret lives of the Tarahumara Indians through the lens of Kitty Alice Snead, photographer, videographer, and ethnographer.

Snead will give a special presentation on the exhibit, entitled “The Living Mask Making Tradition of the Rarámuri/Tarahumara,” from 2 to 3:30 p.m., Saturday, March 22, at the museum (4301 Transmountain Road).

Snead’s various photographs, videos, masks, and other Rarámuri artifacts from the museum’s collection will be on display through August 31.

The photographer’s Saturday presentation will include video material and a power point show. Snead commented that her talk will center on her personal experiences and observations of the Tarahumara mask carvers and the use of the Chapeyoko mask in the Matachines dance. She stated that the use of the Chapeyoko mask in the Matachines dance is in rapid decline in the Sierras Tarahumara of Chihuahua, Mexico.

Snead has worked and traveled for over ten years in Mexico with ethnologist and Sierra Madre guide James “Santiago” Barnaby. Their work and passion has been to study and document the communal rituals and traditional lifestyles of the contemporary Tarahumara peoples.

“The building of roads in the region for renewed tourism, logging, and mining industries are bringing sweeping changes to the people and their lands,” Snead noted.

Snead explained that they have been able to document the historic reintroduction of the Chapeyoko mask into a historically significant Tarahumara center near Norguchi, Chihuahua in April of 2007. Snead and Barnaby have also documented the use of Chapeyoko mask in yet another area along the lower Rio Conchos Valley, where they found that the use of the mask in the European court dance has continued since the dance was first introduced into the area by the Spanish.

See TARAHUMARA, Page 4

By Christina Flores-Jones
Special to the Courier

The Socorro Independent School District (SISD) has implemented a pilot program to test a bus camera system on 10 of SISD’s school buses, which will assist the district in fulfilling its top priority of providing a safe and secure environment for all students.

Force Multiplier Solutions is providing the 60- to 90-day pilot program with no charge to SISD. The company will monitor the camera systems and provide data to the district on the frequency of violations during the pilot. No citations will be issued during the trial.

“As a school district, we need to do everything in our power to ensure our students are safe at school, but also on the way to and from school,” said SISD Superintendent José Espinoza. “It is about ensuring the overall safety of every student throughout their entire school day.”

The cameras will be installed on the 10 school buses, which serve different areas of the district. The camera systems will contain the following:

• Live viewing (see, hear, and communicate

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See CAMERAS, Page 5
Veterans Post

By Freddy Groves

Stand downs: Help for homeless vets

At one point this winter, 49 states had snow on the ground. That made it extra tough on homeless veterans trying to keep warm. The Department of Veterans Affairs has been working hard to meet its goal of eliminating veteran homelessness by fiscal year 2015 and getting veterans into permanent and stable housing, but the need is still great. Stand Downs for homeless veterans have already started all over the country.

If you’ve never organized or participated in a Stand Down, let this be the year you step forward. There are many ways to help. Stand Downs gather a variety of types of services. There are three- and four-day events with shelter, resource fairs lasting one or two days, health fairs and job fairs. Services offered can range from referrals for employment, substance-abuse treatment and health care to food, shelter, legal help, dental services and clothing. Veterans also can get benefits and Social Security help and counseling.

To participate individually, go online to the National Coalition for Homeless Veterans (nchv.org) and look under Service Providers.

To host a Stand Down with your veteran services group, go to the same website and read the Guide and Overview. Be sure your event is listed there as well as on the VA site at www.va.gov/homeless.

Depending on the statistics you read, the number of homeless veterans is either going up or down — or the veterans are moving to other locations, altering the count. In any event, there are still too many veterans on the street. You can help by participating in a Stand Down.

If you’re a veteran seeking services from a Stand Down event, call 202-461-1857 to find out when one will be held in your area.

Freddy Groves regrets that he cannot personally answer reader questions, but will incorporate them into his column whenever possible. Send email to colunnumpy2@gmail.com. (c) 2014 King Feature Synds., Inc.

When you lose someone dear to you — or when a special person goes through the day, then smoking, or has some other occasion to celebrate — memorial gifts or tribute gifts made for them to local American Lung Association help prevent lung disease and improve the care of those who suffer from it.

1-800-LUNG-USA

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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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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR: Letter must not be more than 250 words in length. They should be dated, must be signed and have an address and daytime phone number. Only the name and city will be printed with the letter. The Courier reserves the right not to print letters to the editor or outline any material it considers inappropriate.

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1-800-LUNG-USA

By Alfredo Vasquez

Special to the Courier

Vernon G. Lujan, director of New Mexico’s Pocho Cultural Center and Museum at the Pueblo of Pojoaque, will present a fascinating look at the Camino Real de Tierra Adentro’s (The Royal Road to the Interior) as he traces the route’s evolution through six centuries of use—from the 15th to 21st centuries.

The special presentation will be held from 2 to 3:30 p.m., Saturday, March 15, at the El Paso Museum of Archaeology (4301 Transmountain Road). The event, which is free and open to the public, is in conjunction with the week-long Camino Real de Tierra Adentro (Royal Road) Festival. In El Paso. In his talk, Lujan will describe how the Pueblo of Pojoaque has served as a place where travelers throughout the centuries have stopped to drink water and trade ideas and material goods with the Pueblos de la Plata. The conference is sponsored by the Pueblo of Pojoaque.

According to Lujan, the Pueblo of Pojoaque recently completed a project with the National Park Service’s National Trails Intermountain Region to establish wayside exhibits and a website presence to recognize the cultural interactions and influences brought forth with the Camino Real de Tierra Adentro as it passed nearby the Pueblo of Pojoaque.

“There was a report that the Camino Real was actually used up until the 15th century as a major artery, the Royal Road has metamorphosed into more modern forms of the road, and the Pueblo of Pojoaque was one of the stops for travelers.” Lujan said.

Lujan has considerable experience in museum work and archaeology, including employment with the Museum of New Mexico from 1981-89 and with Historical Research Associates in Missoula, Montana, as an archaeologist and ethnographer from October 1993-97.

Since 2004, Lujan has served as the Director of the Pocho Cultural Center and Museum at the Pueblo of Pojoaque. He joined the Museum in 2007 to 2013 as the pueblo’s Tribal Historic Preservation Officer.

Lujan’s presentation is made possible in part by a grant from Humanities Texas, the state affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities. For more information, contact Marilyn Guida, education director for El Paso’s museum of archaeology, at 915-755-4332, or send email to guidamm@elpassotexas.gov.
CANUTILLO – The Canutillo Independent School District has fixed all issues related to out-of-country student transfers and is now in full compliance of state requirements for accountability and graduation rules, auditors with the Texas Education Agency said.

On Friday, Feb. 28, the District received official notification that the last outstanding items on a 57-point Corrective Action Plan (CAP) drafted in response to potential irregularities in credit record keeping and accountability were satisfactorily completed. The CAP was written by CISD and approved by the TEA after a state audit of student records and policies.

The notification signals the end of state intervention in Canutillo over out-of-country transcript issues the District self-identified and reported to the TEA in 2012.

“The end of the CAP process is a sign that we are moving in the direction in proving our students with the type of services they deserve and are entitled to receive,” said CISD Superintendent Dr. Pedro Galaviz. “The CAP helped us identify opportunities in our processes that have now been addressed and will better serve our students.”

Last fall TEA cleared the district on all but a couple of corrective action issues in the CAP. Those issues dealt directly with the personal graduation plan process high schools must develop for each student.

Canutillo has since strengthened its procedures for administrative and parental review of personal graduation plans to guarantee increased awareness of deficiencies in graduation requirements.

The District also created new policies and regulations that brought heightened accountability for District employees in student credit recording and the reclassification of students based on transcript reviews and credit recovery.

“We are elated that we can continue to move forward as a District now that the TEA has cleared us,” said CISD Board President Rachel Quintana. “Canutillo has the best interest of students in mind, and these changes we’ve implemented will help make sure that is the case at every level.”

Canutillo ISD will continue to collaborate with stakeholders in the community to further strengthen its procedures in regard to student services, including transcript reviews and personal graduation plans.

Rodriguez named to statewide office

Mauricio Rodriguez, M.F.A, Associate Professor and District-wide Coordinator of the Chicana/o Studies program at El Paso Community College (EPCC) has been elected by the Texas Association of Chicanos in Higher Education (TACHE) membership as President-Elect.

Rodriguez currently serves on the State Board of TACHE as the Far West Regional Representative. During his term as Regional Representative, he was instrumental in the founding of the first student chapter in the history of TACHE.

Rodriguez was named the 2013 Distinguished Community College Faculty Award recipient by TACHE and presented with an award during the 38th Annual Conference in Austin. Rodriguez states, “It will be my honor to serve TACHE as President-Elect. I hope to further our mission of promoting the inclusion, advancement and recognition of Chicanas and Chicanos within the academe and communities. Our dreams, work, and struggle will serve as my motivation as I look to TACHE as the catalyst for our collective success.”

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Supposing a cherub is outside on a scorching not day, could he be a ninety-degree angel?

Jason Alderman directs Visa’s financial education programs.

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ROUGH TERRAIN – Kitty Alice Snead, with burros, hiked through the Sierra Madre in Chihuahua, Mexico. Snead’s exhibit at the El Paso Museum of Archaeology, The Living Mask Making Tradition of the Rarámuri/Tarahumara, is a product of over ten years with the Rarámuri in the Sierra Madre. The exhibit will be on display through August 31.

Tarahumara

From Page 1

Spanish Conquistadores, she added. Snead received a grant from The Southwest Center of the University of Arizona in 2008 for a photo essay and ongoing research among the Tarahumara related to chapeaon mask production and use in the Sierra de Tarahumara region of Mexico. The free exhibit and Snead’s lecture are made possible in part by a grant from Humanities Texas, the state affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities. Additional support is provided by the City of El Paso Museum of Archaeology.

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Finances

From Page 2

similar programs.

In addition, many restaurants, department stores, movie theaters, museums, theme parks, banks, credit card issuers, utilities (including gas and electric, water, garbage, telephone and cable) and other businesses offer special discounts or promotions for seniors. Always ask before your purchase is run up.

Bottom line: Abundant resources are available to help seniors save money on purchases large and small. You just have to do a little research – and ask whether senior discounts are available. Remember, 10 percent here and 20 percent there can really add up.

Jason Alderman directs Visa’s financial education programs.

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Both men and women’s Miner teams have shot at title

By Steve Escajeda
Special to the Courier

Over the years, the month of March has become more and more synonymous for the madness that is the college basketball postseason.

And for the lucky people who call themselves fans of college basketball, that time is here.

Of course that includes many fans of the UTEP Miners’ men’s and women’s teams, who will be hosting their respective Conference USA Tournaments at the Don Haskins Center and Memorial Gym next week.

Though the Miners have limped their way to the end of the conference season, they are still a formidable foe for any league challenger. Especially playing at home.

What UTEP has accomplished this season will go down in the memory banks of many fans as one of the gutsiest in school history.

By all reasoning, this team should be much at all in the talent category. But it almost never saw the light of day because one man, a southpaw pitcher nicknamed “Rube” from rural Pennsylvania, decided to take the opportunity to wrestle alligators for fun.

Today, it is a multi-billion dollar industry in Florida spring since the 1800s. Rube decided it would be a good left-hander in all of baseball. Determined to keep his house intake regulated, Mack would pay him only $10 at a time. He also did this to keep the opportunity to wrestle alligators while there... just for fun.

Then they lost three more players to a gambling scandal just before conference play. This left them with only two point guards. Instead of players, they decided to take the opportunity to wrestle alligators for fun.

The Miners should enjoy the home court advantage but with three home conference losses it may not be that much of an advantage at all.

What a tournament like this requires the most from every team is depth. Something the Miners have absolutely none of.

The tournament is totally up for grabs with the likes of Tulsa, Middle Tennessee State, Southern Mississippi and Louisiana Tech all separating themselves from the rest of the conference – but not from each other.

UTEPS has five players they can rely on game after game. John Bohannon, C.J. Cooper, Cedrick Lang, Vince Hunter and Julian Washburn.

After that, the team can only hope that Matt Williams, Hooper Vint, Jake Flaggert, Tevin Caldwell and Aaron Jones can give the other guys a breather without inflicting too much damage.

It’ll be extremely tough for the Miners to win their tournament, but not impossible. The other teams may be more talented than the Miners but no team will out-work Floyd’s team, that’s for sure.

The road to the conference tournament championship game should be much easier for the UTEP women, who have put together a dominating season.

The return of star player Kayla Thornton (out the last few games with a concussion) is great news for the Miners.

As good as a season as she was having, Thornton got some much-needed recovery time and should be ready to put her stamp on the tourney.

Coach Keitha Adams continues to do a masterful job of putting together championship-caliber teams for a program with an extremely weak basketball history.

The Miner women have what the men desperately lack – depth.

UTEPS can go 10 deep and not lose very much at all in the talent category.

That is something that will carry them a long way in the league tournament and possibly the NCAA Tournament after that.

With players like Jenzel Nash, Kristine Vitola, Kelli Wellingham, Christauna Parker, Sparkle Taylor, Cameasha Turner and Stacie Telles, the Miner women should be a shoe-in to battle for the league title on the tournament’s final day.

To doubt that UTEP has a rich basketball history but this season has been especially significant with both teams at the very top of the league standings.

And though each has acquired its football success in different ways, the bottom line is that El Pasans have been guaranteed a night of fun and high-caliber basketball every time one of its teams takes the court.

And for their loyalty, the UTEP fans will be congratulated with the opportunity to host the season-ending tournament. The chance to watch all the talent the league can offer is quite an opportunity for local basketball fans.

The only thing that could be better is if the local teams both made it to the conference championship games.

At that point, win or lose, the college, the players, the coaches, the fans and the city would all end up winners.

Maybe they already are.

A sporting view

By Mark Vasto

A Rube in the rough

Pitchers and catchers have been reporting early for training in the Florida spring since the 1800s. Today, it is a multi-billion dollar industry for the Sunshine State, but it almost never saw the light of day because one man, a southpaw pitcher nicknamed “Rube” from rural Pennsylvania, decided to take the opportunity to wrestle alligators while there... just for fun.

Contrary to popular belief, the Dodgers’ Branch Rickey did not invent spring training at Vero Beach during the 1950s. They just made the most noise about their facilities, then considered state of the art because they were fashioned out of an old military base. It was the three-piece-suit clad Connie Mack – best remembered as the stubborn, iron-willed manager of the Philadelphia Athletics – who in 1888 took his team, the Washington Nationals, down to Jacksonville, Fla., for a two-week workout. In short, it didn’t work out. The hapless Nats finished nearly 40 games out of first place, and the expensive proposition of traveling to Florida was laughed off by the rest of the league.

Connie Mack was not a quitter. Baseball historians among you may know that Mr. McGillicuddy holds the record for most losses in a career (3,948). Nobody ever mentions that he also is the winningest manager (3,948). Nobody ever mentions that he also is the winningest manager (3,948) of all time.

Though the Miners men have limped their way to the end of the conference season, they are still a formidable foe for any league challenger. Especially playing at home.

Of course that includes many fans of the UTEP Miners’ men’s and women’s teams, who will be hosting their respective Conference USA Tournaments at the Don Haskins Center and Memorial Gym next week.

Mack returned to Florida 15 years later, this time with a pitcher named Rube Waddell in tow. “Rube,” for the uninitiated, means “unhittable.” Rube, for 20 innings against Cy Young and led the league in strikeouts for the tourney.

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Mark Vasto is a veteran sportswriter who lives in Kansas City. (c) 2014 King Features Synd., Inc.
DEAR DR. DONOHUE: I have a Pap smear every year. I don’t have a cervix. My cancer doctor (I had breast cancer) said a Pap smear isn’t necessary for women without a cervix. I still have my ovaries and tubes and the rest of the plumbing. Do I need a yearly Pap smear? – K.R.

If a woman has had her uterus and cervix removed, she does not need to have Pap smears unless the uterus and cervix were removed because of cancer. Such a woman shouldn’t cut off all examinations with her doctor. She could have other pelvic problems that require periodic examinations. However, the Pap smear part of the examination can be stopped.

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) 2014 North America Synd., Inc. All Rights Reserved.
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A: To change your citizenship status shown in Social Security records:
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• Provide documents proving your:
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  • Age; and
  • Identity.
• Next, take (or mail) your completed application and documents to your local Social Security office.

All documents must be either originals or copies certified by the issuing agency. We cannot accept photocopies or notarized copies of documents. For more information, visit www.socialsecurity.gov/ssnumber.

Q: I have never worked but my spouse has. What will my benefits be?
A: You can be entitled to as much as one-half of your spouse’s benefit amount when you reach full retirement age. If you want to get Social Security retirement benefits before you reach full retirement age, the amount of your benefit is reduced. The amount of reduction depends on when you will reach full retirement age. For example, if your full retirement age is 66, you can get 35 percent of your spouse’s unreduced benefit at age 62 (a permanent reduction); if your full retirement age is 67, you can get 32.5 percent of your spouse’s unreduced benefit at age 62 (a permanent reduction). The amount of your benefit increases if your entitlement begins at a later age, up to the maximum of 50 percent at full retirement age. However, if you are taking care of a child who is under age 16 or who gets Social Security dependency benefits on your spouse’s record, you get the full spouse’s benefits, regardless of your age. Learn more about retirement benefits at www.socialsecurity.gov/retirement.

For more information on any of the questions listed above, visit our website at www.socialsecurity.gov or call us at 1-800-772-1213. If you have any questions that you would like to have answered, please mail them to the Social Security Office, 1111 Gateway West, Attn: Ray Vigil, El Paso, Texas 79935.