

NEWSBRIEFS

San Eli HS seeks Ex

Deadline to submit nominations for San Elizario High School's Outstanding Ex are due by September 12, 2014. Nominees must be graduates of San Elizario High School, demonstrate accomplishments, and be available to participate in all homecoming activities. Nominations can be sent to cjaksch@seisd.net or mailed to San Elizario High School; P.O. Box 920; San Elizario, TX 79849. For more information, contact Christine Jaksch at 872-3970, ext. 3845.

— Cynthia P. Marentes

Ringers and sales

On September 20, 2014 there will be a Horseshoe Tournament with 1st place trophies and 2nd place plaques at Oz Glaze Senior Center. Registration begins at 9:00 a.m. and tournament will begin at 10:00 a.m. There is a \$5.00 entry fee to the tournament. Also, the Oz Glaze Senior Center Annual Garage Sale will begin at 9:00 a.m. Inside table and outside parking lot spaces are available for \$10.00. Heavenly Harvest is our main attraction at our Farmers and Craft Market beginning at 9:00 a.m. Vendors are welcome for \$10.00 space fee. Walgreens will be present for flu, pneumonia and shingle vaccinations. For information call 852-0062, 581-2994 or 799-8194.

— Judi Verslype

Chihuahuan Desert Fiesta

The public is invited to the 10th Annual Chihuahuan Desert Fiesta, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 20, at the Tom Mays section of Franklin Mountains State Park, off of Transmountain Road in northwest El Paso. Live desert animals from the El Paso Zoo, guided tours, and a full slate of local entertainment promises to make the annual fiesta a fun day for all. The outdoor venue highlights the natural wonders of the Chihuahuan desert and Franklin Mountains State Park. Local environmental education groups will be on hand to offer free demonstrations, guided tours, guest speakers, and informational booths designed to introduce participants to the wonders of the fascinating desert. The free event is sponsored by Texas Parks and Wildlife Department with the help of volunteers from the Chihuahuan Desert Education Coalition. For more information contact Rick LoBello at (915) 217-4233, send email to lobellorl@elpasotexas.gov, or visit www.chihuahuandesert.org.

— Alfredo Vasquez

Dance, Hip Hop tryouts

Artistic Stylz Dance Studio (ASDS) will be

See BRIEFS, Page 5

San Elizario HS honored for donations

By Cynthia P. Marentes
Special to the Courier

SAN ELIZARIO – If the generosity of students at San Elizario High School (SEHS) was measured in pennies it would equal exactly \$1,802.38. The campus raised that amount in donations for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society as part of its Pasta for Pennies program during the spring semester of last school year. As a result, the campus was recently honored with the 1st Place High School award for raising the most donations out of all participating high schools in the New Mexico/El Paso-Southwest Region.

Assistant Principal Christine Jaksch who helped guide the Student Council in managing the donation campaign was surprised to learn that the campus was being honored for its fundraising efforts.

"I did not know that we were the high school with the highest amount of donations. It was really the students that did all the work," Jaksch added.

Jaksch did however, take on the task of counting what seemed to be an endless amount of plastic zipper bags filled with pennies and other coins.

The campus wide donation drive is held every year early in the spring semester and led by the Student Council over a period of three to four weeks. Since SEHS signed up for the Pasta for Pennies program, the classroom with the largest amount of donations would receive a free meal at an Olive Garden restaurant. Ana Luna's third period class raised over \$600 to earn a trip to the Italian eatery.

"What was so cool about this campaign

See DONATIONS, Page 2



— Photo courtesy San Elizario ISD

WAY TO GO – Betty Wilkins, right, Campaign Manager for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society presents San Elizario High School Student Activities Manager Maria Crews an award for the school's money raising efforts. Watkins came down from Albuquerque, NM to present the award to the campus.

Getting soaked for a good cause

By Alfredo Vasquez
Special to the Courier

ANTHONY – Anthony Independent School District (AISD) Superintendent Dr. Steven Saldivar, Anthony TX Mayor Luis "Lee" Vela

and Mayor Pro-Tem Rosie Holguin joined State Representative Joe Moody in another chilling episode of the ALS Ice Bucket Challenge that has been sweeping through the El Paso region recently as part of the broader national campaign to bring public awareness to the struggles of individuals with

the debilitating disease.

About 60 fifth grade students and their teachers from Anthony Elementary School got to witness the event held in front of their school, and eight of them were randomly

See SOAKED, Page 4



— Photo by Alfredo Vasquez

GET THEM A TOWEL – The ALS Ice Bucket Challenge at Anthony Independent School District gave Anthony Elementary School fifth grade students the opportunity to soak their leaders. Getting ready to dump the icy water on the brave participants are, from left, Jeremiah Beltran and Alia Majerczyk who get to dump the icy water on Anthony ISD Superintendent Dr. Steven Saldivar; Hector Gonzalez and Brandon Medrano get to douse Town of Anthony Mayor Lee Vela; Carlos Acosta and Catarina Mendez take care of Town of Anthony Mayor Pro-Tem Rosie Holguin; and Joseph Perez and Francisco Morales get to soak State Representative Joe Moody.

When tempers grow hot, mercy fails.

— Quips & Quotes

Veterans Post

By Freddy Groves

Helping rural vets get health care

Starting in October, the Department of Veterans Affairs will use a new classification system to pinpoint rural areas of the U.S., which will help determine where more veteran health services are needed.

The new program, the Rural-Urban Commuting Areas system (RUCA), will determine what is urban, rural and highly rural by determining whether an area is within commuting distance of a large urban center.

More than one-third (36 percent) of veterans enrolled in the VA system are considered rural. That's 3.2 million veterans who need services. In the past five years, 1.6 million veterans received rural health services.

Among the latest moves to help rural and highly rural veterans:

- Over 60 clinics were opened.
- TeleHealth: Of the 144,000 veterans getting TeleHealth care, 41,000 are still able to live at home instead of getting long-term institutional care.
- A transportation grant will help 11,000 highly rural veterans in seven states get access to medical centers.
- Mobile audio vans allow veterans to get audiology services near their homes instead of driving to faraway medical centers. Services include hearing aid evaluations, fittings and adjustments.

To determine the closest source of VA health care, go online to www.ruralhealth.va.gov/ and put your ZIP code in the box on the left. You'll get a map and a list of facilities.

Meanwhile, on another topic, the VA has announced that the number of homeless veterans has dropped dramatically since 2010, by a total of 33 percent or 24,837 veterans. This leaves 49,933 veterans still on the streets. The VA's goal is to end veteran homelessness by the end of 2015. To help this effort, first lady Michelle Obama has announced the "Mayors Challenge to End Veteran Homelessness."

Freddy Groves regrets that he cannot personally answer reader questions, but will incorporate them into his column whenever possible. Send email to columnreply2@gmail.com. (c) 2014 King Features Synd., Inc.

Finances

By Jason Alderman

Parent's health insurance may be option for those under 26

In their quest to land a job, any job, many young adults will sacrifice what used to be called "fringe benefits" to gain a foot in the door. But many entry-level jobs either offer no healthcare benefits, or the employee's cost share is prohibitive for someone barely making minimum wage. Add to the equation that most twentysomethings are in good health and rarely visit the doctor and it's easy to see why many will forego health insurance in favor of paying other bills.

But that's a dangerous choice. One serious accident or illness can rack up thousands of dollars in bills. In fact, over half of all personal bankruptcies result from unpaid medical bills. Plus, there's usually a tax penalty for going uninsured.

Fortunately, since the Affordable Care Act (ACA) rolled out, young adults now have more health insurance options than before. In addition to buying coverage through their employer (if offered), people under age 26 may also choose to enroll in their parent's plan, even if they're married or no longer a dependent, or to buy an individual plan through the health insurance marketplace.

If you're currently without coverage or want to explore better options, this is the perfect time to start researching what's available.

For most employer-sponsored benefit plans, the open enrollment period to sign up for 2015 benefits happens in the next few months. Watch for communications from your own employer and ask your parents to do likewise if their company provides dependent health coverage. ACA's 2015 open enrollment period is November 15, 2014 to February 15, 2015.

With both employer plans and ACA, if you miss open enrollment you'll have to wait until the following year to apply unless: you're applying for Medicaid; you qualify for a special enrollment period because of a family status change (e.g., marriage, divorce, birth of child); or you lose your current coverage.

Another good reason to enroll in a healthcare plan is the so-called individual mandate, an ACA regulation that says most people must maintain health insurance with minimum essential coverage for themselves and their dependents or be subject to a penalty for non-compliance.


Certain people, like those whose income falls below the federal poverty line, are exempt from the penalty. But keep in mind that even if you opt to forego insurance and pay the penalty, you'll still be responsible for all your healthcare expenses. For more information, go to www.healthcare.gov/exemptions.

If your parent's plan offers dependent coverage, they can add you until you turn 26, even if you are: married; not living with your parents; attending school; eligible for worse coverage through your own employer; or not financially dependent on your parent. If they're already covering other dependents, there may be little or no cost to add you to their plan. Plus, they can generally pay the premium using pretax dollars if it's an employer-provided plan.

Other coverage options include:

- Those under 30 can buy a catastrophic health plan designed to financially protect against worst-case scenarios like a serious accident or illness. For information, search "catastrophic" at www.healthcare.gov.
- If you can't afford your employer's insurance and your income falls below certain levels, you may qualify for a tax credit that reduces the cost of ACA plan coverage.
- In addition, many states expanded eligibility for their Medicaid programs under the ACA, meaning you could earn more and now qualify for Medicaid. To learn more about subsidies and Medicaid eligibility, search "income levels" at www.healthcare.gov.

Jason Alderman directs Visa's financial education programs.



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Donations

From Page 1

was having teachers that were willing to promote it and make it into almost like an athletic competition among their classes," Jaksch said.

That healthy competition was the reason why the fundraising program was so successful among teachers

and students. Along the way the whole campus also became more aware and involved through presentations and morning announcements delivering information on blood cancers. Student Activities Manager Maria Crews stated that SEHS would once again participate in the Pennies for Pasta campaign this school year.

"It is already on our calendar and we are hoping to top the amount of donations collected last year," Crews stated.

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Phone: 852-3235
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Publisher
Rick Shrum


Contributors
Alfredo Vasquez
Don Woodyard
Steve Escajeda



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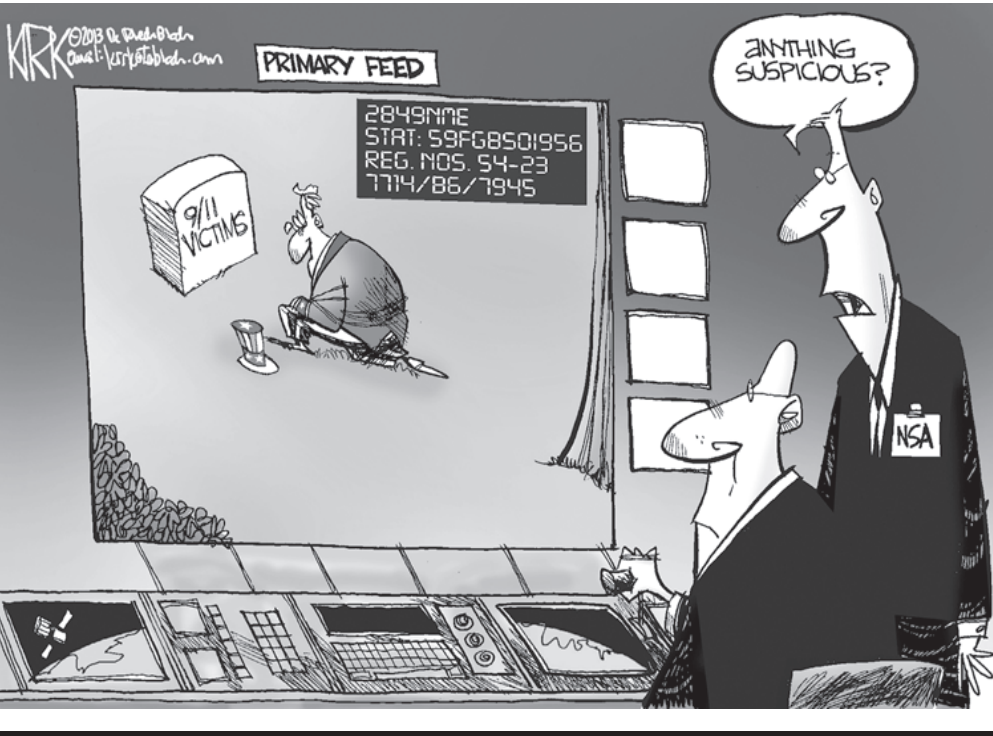


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Mideast Truce: Hamas lays down its weapons



TEA releases accountability ratings for 2014

By Alfredo Vasquez
Special to the Courier

Texas Education Agency (TEA) recently released the 2014 state accountability system ratings for more than 1,200 school districts and charters, and more than 8,500 campuses. The ratings indicate that 90 percent of school districts and charters across Texas achieved the rating of Met Standard.

Districts, campuses and charters receive one of three ratings under the second-year accountability system: Met Standard, Met Alternative Standard, or Improvement Required.

Almost all schools in each of the 15 El Paso County independent school districts and charter schools were rated as Met Standards. Only two local campuses did not meet expectations in the accountability system.

The program serving chronically ill students at local hospitals fell short in the index for closing performance gaps after not meeting the postsecondary readiness standard, and Tornillo Elementary, in the Tornillo Independent School District, received an improvement required rating in the student progress index.

“Texans should be pleased to see the vast majority of districts, charters, and campuses are meeting the standards set in the second year of the state accountability system,” said Commissioner of Education Michael Williams. “While the 2014 numbers are strong, the work continues in districts across our state to meet and exceed increasing state standards and the expectations of their local communities.”

The 2014 ratings are based on a system that uses various indicators to provide greater detail on the performance of a district or charter and individual campuses throughout the state.

The performance index framework includes four areas: Student Achievement, a snapshot of performance across all subjects; Student Progress, a year-to-year student progress by subject and student group; Closing Performance Gaps, a gauge of advanced academic achievement of economically disadvantaged students and the lowest performing racial/ethnic student groups; and Postsecondary Readiness, an emphasis on the importance of a high school diploma that provides students with the foundation necessary for success in college, the workforce, job training programs, or the military.

In this second year of the accountability system, all four performance indexes include additional measures of academic performance. In addition, Index 4 (Postsecondary Readiness) includes a new measure of postsecondary success based on the percent of graduates who achieve college readiness standards in both English language arts and mathematics.

A district or campus must meet the target

on all indexes for which it has performance results. For 2014 only, high schools/K-12 campuses and alternative education campuses and charter districts are not being evaluated on Index 2 (Student Progress) due to the transition to a single reading and writing assessment for English I and English II. In 2013, reading and writing were tested separately.

Distinction designations are awarded to campuses based on achievement in several performance indicators relative to a group of 40 campuses of similar type, size, and student demographics.

Distinction designations can be earned by campuses in nine areas: Academic Achievement in Reading/English Language Arts; Academic Achievement in Mathematics; Academic Achievement in Science; Academic Achievement in Social Studies; Top 25 Percent: Student Progress; Top 25 Percent: Closing Performance Gaps; and Postsecondary Readiness.

Statewide, more than 4,400 campuses that achieved the Met Standard rating also earned some type of distinction designation. Four hundred campuses earned a distinction designation in all of the distinction categories that were evaluated for the campus.

Locally, four El Paso middle schools earned distinctions in each of seven possible special designations, and six high school campuses earned distinction in each of six possible designations.

The El Paso area middle schools that earned distinction in all categories were: Wiggs Middle School, El Paso ISD; Eastwood Middle School, Ysleta ISD; Alderete Middle School, Canutillo ISD; and Hernando Middle School, Socorro ISD.

Local high schools receiving distinction designations in all categories were: Mission Early College High School, Socorro ISD; Del Valle High School, Ysleta ISD; Silva Health Magnet, El Paso ISD; El Paso High School, El Paso ISD; Coronado High School, El Paso ISD; and Da Vinci School for Science & the Arts, Burnham Wood Charter School District.

“Earning a distinction is not easy,” said Commissioner Williams. “Any school earning one or more distinctions should be recognized in its community for the outstanding work taking place on that campus.”

The statewide 2014 ratings – with the additional measures for academic performance – remained fairly stable compared to 2013. In 2014, 90.1 percent of districts received an initial rating of Met Standard/Met Alternative Standard (compared to 92.5 percent in 2013) and nine percent received an initial rating of Improvement Required (compared to 6.5 percent in 2013).

In 2014, 84.9 percent of campuses received an initial rating of Met Standard/Met Alternative Standard (compared to 84.2

See TEA, Page 4

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By Jim Heiney
Special to the Courier

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“EPCC is honored to be named a finalist for the 2015 Aspen Prize,” Dr. William Serrata, EPCC President said. “This is a tribute to the long history of commitment to student success at El Paso Community College. From

EPCC was selected through a rigorous process conducted by Aspen's Finalist Selection Committee which is comprised of former community college presidents along with leaders in educational research and policy who reviewed extensive data on performance and improvements in learning, graduation, workforce outcomes, and equitable outcomes for all students, especially those in traditionally underserved groups and low-income backgrounds. As a finalist, EPCC will now enter the final stages of a competition which recognizes one winner and up to four finalists-with-distinction with a \$1 million prize fund that will be awarded in March 2015 in Washington D.C.

From Page 1

ALS was first identified in 1869 by French neurologist Jean-Martin Charcot, but it wasn't until 1939 that Lou Gehrig brought national and international attention to the disease. Ending the career of one of the most beloved baseball players of all time, the disease is still most closely associated with his name.

From Page 3

To view the 2014 state accountability ratings for districts, charters and campuses (plus distinction designations earned at the campus and district level), visit the TEA website at <http://ritter.tea.state.tx.us/perfreport/account/2014/index.html>.



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A message from the National Diabetes Education Program, sponsored by the National Institutes of Health and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

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CryptoQuip Answer

I suppose you could rightly say that any serious soccer player is a goal-oriented person.

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Briefs

From Page 1

holding Dance & Hip Hop tryouts. Tryouts will be held at ASDS located at 9401 Carnegie Ave. #2K and L on September 13 and 14. Registration starts at 11:00 a.m. and introduction starts at noon with warm up following immediately. Dance tryouts will be in room K and Hip Hop tryouts will be in room L. Dance attire is required. These teams are for ages 7-16 years of age, some dance experience is preferred. There is a \$10 tryout fee. A 4x6 picture should be attached to your application. If you do not bring a picture, an image will cost \$5 at ASDS. These teams will only compete locally. If this is what you're looking for and want to have some fun, come tryout. For more information on how you can dance with ASDS Dance Team & Hip Hop Team visit www.artisticstylz.com or call (915) 203-7510 or (915) 355-4235.

– Dorothy Heredia

SISD ratings

The Socorro Independent School District has received a Superior Achievement rating for the fiscal year 2013 as part of the state's financial accountability rating system known as the Financial Integrity Rating System of Texas (FIRST). This is the third year in a row that SISD has received a perfect score of 70 points. The 2013-2014 ratings are based on annual financial reports provided to the Texas Education Agency by districts and charters from the 2012-2013 school year. "SISD continues to demonstrate the highest financial responsibility and efficiency in order to best serve our students and community," said Superintendent Dr. José Espinoza. "We are proud to be highly rated again by the state for our fiscally sound management of district funds and resources and commitment to financial accountability." The FIRST rating was created by the 77th Texas Legislature in 2001 and is designed to encourage public schools to better manage their financial resources in order to provide the maximum allocation possible for direct instructional purposes.

– Christina Flores-Jones

Grandparent event

The Senior Adult Program of El Paso Community College will hold its annual "Grandparents Day Celebration" from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 13 at Bassett Place. Over 20 exhibits, service providers and vendors will be on hand to show the latest products available for senior citizens. Entertainment will be provided by "Coro Epoca Dorada," "El Paso Sun Desert Dancers," "Zumba Dancers," "Grupo Candela," "Flash Mob Dance," "Border Walk Line Dancers," "Rondalla Sentimiento Romántico," "Mariachi Valle Verde," "Los Increíbles Band," "Sacramento Seniors Folklórico" and ranchera music singer, Alma García. "By 2021, there will be 12 million retired grandparents fully engaged in life, in schools, sharing their life experiences and knowledge with their grandchildren and great grandchildren. Our community benefits from their volunteer contributions and having active, healthy and mentally-sharp grandparents," says Mary Yáñez, Senior Adult Program director. "Help us celebrate our grandparents." The event is free and open to the public.

– Javier Sánchez

Socorro ISD father-son

The Socorro Independent School District will host its fifth annual districtwide father-son conference from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sept. 27 at Montwood High School, 12000 Montwood Dr. All SISD sixth- through 12th-grade boys are invited to attend with their father or a father figure. The event is free and breakfast

and lunch will be provided. Organizers ask that those participating bring canned goods, which will be donated to the less fortunate during the Thanksgiving season. The conference goal is to help fathers and sons bond and explore topics such as career choices, college opportunities, and Internet safety, as well as participate together in self-esteem and self-confidence workshops. Participants will have a variety of sessions to select from during the conference. For more information, contact Sergio Jaurrieta at 937-1616 or sjaurr@sisd.net

– Christina Flores-Jones

Information needed

A child is alleged to have been sexually assaulted at a Socorro Texas Elementary School. Investigators from the Socorro Texas Police Department are asking for the public's assistance in finding the suspect involved through Crime Stoppers. This incident has been previously publicized and as of this time Investigators continue looking for any information that could lead to the identification of a suspect or further investigative efforts. The incident is alleged to have taken place on the late morning or early afternoon of Wednesday, February 5th, 2014, at H.D. Hilley Elementary School located at 693 Rio Vista. Investigators were informed that the alleged sexual assault took place in one of the restrooms of the school. Investigators are urging anyone that may have information on the incident to immediately come forward. Anyone with any information on this case at a Socorro Texas Elementary School is asked this to call Crime Stoppers of El Paso immediately at 566-8477(TIPS), on-line at www.crimestoppersofelpaso.org or you can send a text message by entering the key word "CRIME1" (no space and include the quotation marks) plus your tip information, and text it to CRIMES (274637).

– Javier Sambrano

Overexposed

A man is alleged to have exposed himself to a female victim at an East El Paso Park. A photograph was taken of the suspect, and detectives from the Pebble Hills Regional Command Center are asking for public's help in identifying the man involved. The incident took place at the 7800 block of Edgemere in the Edgemere Median Park on Friday, Aug. 29, 2014, at 9:20 a.m. The suspect in this case approached a woman that was walking in the park and began trying to engage in a conversation with the woman. The woman had asked the suspect to leave her alone. Despite the numerous requests by the victim for the suspect to leave her alone, the suspect grabbed the victim towards himself and exposed himself to the woman. The woman managed to pull away from the suspect and take a picture. The woman then called for police assistance. The suspect is described as a Hispanic male, 20 to 23 years of age, medium build and between 160 to 170 lbs. No injuries were reported in this incident. Anyone with any information on the identity of this suspect is asked to call Crime Stoppers of El Paso immediately at 566-8477 (TIPS), on-line at www.crimestoppersofelpaso.org or you can send a text message by entering the 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.



Know him?

– Javier Sambrano

Coaches rank San Elizario HS cross-country among best in state

By Cynthia P. Marentes
Special to the Courier

SAN ELIZARIO – High school cross-country season has just started but the promising team from San Elizario High School is already making a mark in their sport including receiving an important nod by a statewide association. The boys varsity team was recently ranked No. 5 in Class 4A by the Cross Country Coaches Association of Texas in their 2014 pre-season poll. No cross-country team from San Elizario High School has ever received such an extensive distinction.

Although head coach Cesar Morales thought the team was doing well in the region he did not expect for them to be ranked at the state level at least not until after this year. Despite the honor of being recognized as one of the best from across the state, most of the Eagle runners have yet to grasp the significance of achieving that level of achievement and that sits just fine with Morales.

"I tell our students that when they are on the starting line they are all the same and they are going to compete and run hard just like everybody else," Morales stated.

This is the fourth year that Morales has led the team, second year for assistant coach Jorge Maese, and both hope that their student runners will believe that they are capable of reaching state level competition together. The entire program to include both boys and girls from middle to high school has been steadily growing and becoming more competitive as a whole. The Eagles roster now includes almost 30 runners who vary from 9th through 12th grade. The diversity of the team coupled with the up and coming status of the sport within the community present several opportunities for growth according to both coaches.

"We have to unite these students, get them accustomed to each other and get them to believe that they can be successful and not just in running," added Maese.

Key to reaching that goal will be senior Michael Johnson who has been charged with taking a leadership role within the team. Michael has placed in the top three in the last two meets and if the team's first two appearances in competition are any indication, both boys and girls have a solid opportunity to make a run for state. The Eagles will next compete on September 13 at Veteran's Park in the Loretto/Cathedral Invitational.

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UTEP, El Paso score big with 2016 Army game

By Steve Escajeda
Special to the Courier

There are no-brainers and then there are no-brainers.

And one of the biggest no-brainers I’ve heard in a long time was the announcement that Army will be traveling to El Paso to take on the Miners in 2016.

Wow, even people who seldom use their brains think this is a good idea.

UTEP will take on the famed Army Cadets football team in the Sun Bowl in 2016 and the Miners will make the trek to West Point, NY in 2017.

Like Notre Dame, Texas, Alabama, Michigan and many of the other larger programs across the country, Army has a huge contingent of fans that follow their every move.

And I’m pretty sure they’ll probably shut down Fort Bliss so that every soldier can help cram the Sun Bowl for that one.

Just like booking Texas, Oklahoma and Texas Tech, the Miners home game with Army just adds to the program’s viability and stature on a national stage.

Can you imagine what the week leading

into that game will be like in this city and at Fort Bliss?

Not only are games like this important to the fans from an entertainment aspect, but they also do wonders for recruiting.

It doesn’t hurt that Army is an opponent that UTEP actually matches up well with.

So unlike Texas and Oklahoma, chances are that it will be a great game as well.

Let’s hope that the UTEP athletic department can schedule some more no-brainers in the future.

Was Kevin loved?

It’s no secret that the biggest off-season move in the National Basketball Association was the LeBron James return to Cleveland.

After leading the Miami Heat to four straight finals appearances (two wins, two losses), James decided to return to where he grew up and hopefully lead the Cavaliers to similar success.

It’s a win-win for both Cleveland and LeBron. The Cavs instantly become a championship threat and James can enjoy the peace and serenity we all experience when we return to familiar surroundings.

But if there was supposed to be a win-lose scenario in this transaction, it involved the Minnesota Timberwolves.

As part of the mega-singing – which joined James and budding superstar point guard Kyrie Irving – the Cavs also signed all-star double-double machine Kevin Love.

Now even though Love is a perennial all-star and an every night 26-point, 12-rebound contributor, his Minnesota team had been a perennial loser.

If they were bad with him – you can probably imagine what the Minnesota fans think of their team’s outlook without him.

They’re going to jump ship and avoid this depleted team like the plague, right?

Wrong!

Ever since the trade that sent their superstar to join LeBron, the Minnesota fans have actually been flocking to the counter to snatch their season ticket packages.

Could it be that they haven’t heard that Love was traded?

Well, what the T-Wolves got in return for Love was the top pick in the draft, Andrew Wiggins; last year’s top pick in the draft, Anthony Bennett; and Thaddeus Young, who averaged 18 points and six rebounds for the

Philadelphia 76ers last season.

That’s two very young potential stars and a proven 26-year-old, seven-year veteran.

With the guard tandem of Ricky Rubio, Kevin Martin and J.J. Barea, the Minnesota fans see something the rest of the country has not – a winner.

In fact, the team set a record last week for season ticket packages sold in a week.

Over 300 season packages were sold, breaking the previous weekly mark set in 2011 when it was announced that Rubio would be joining the team.

It’s been 10 years since Minnesota has made the playoffs and it’s doubtful they’ll come close this coming season but the fans aren’t banking on a quick fix.

They see the potential for success in years to come.

It’ll be a lot of fun to see how far James, Love and Irving can take the Cavaliers this season.

But it will also be fun to see if the Timberwolves’ young guns can live up to the confidence the Minnesota fans are showing in them.

They better, because the only Love they have now is coming from the fans.

A sporting view By Mark Vasto

Even better than the real thing

I was surprised to learn that kids these days like to watch other people play video games, and not just over the shoulder, hanging around the house, but on TV. And it’s a big deal now... more people watched a recent tournament than the audience of the last “Sopranos” and “Breaking Bad” episodes combined.

I haven’t seen one of the video-game broadcasts, but I know that the stunning realism of today’s games probably does lend itself to

good television.

And it truly has to be a generational thing, because there is no way any of the games I grew up playing would work as a broadcast... or would they? (cue flashback music.)

“Hi everybody this is Pat Summerall and John Madden broadcasting live from the screened-in porch where young Ronny Miller takes on Jimmy Connelly in the LED handheld football game championships of the world. John,

how do you see the game?”

“Yeah, Pat... actually, I can’t see the game because Ronny has his shoulders hunched over, and he’s leaning down in the couch. And Jimmy keeps asking to see, but he won’t let him!”

“You can hear by the rapid clicking, Miller is probably making great gains.”

“That’s right, Pat. You know, LED football is the most realistic football game there is because it mimics the game perfectly. The offense consists of a single, flashing red dash on the left side of the screen, and he goes against a defense that features five red dashes... a three red dash front

line and two single dashes in the back as safeties. They’re gonna be on the right side of the screen, but not for long.”

“And the defense, as always, is controlled by the computer, right?”

“That’s right, Pat. The computer will run either an easy defense or a hard defense, depending on which switch you hit on the console.”

“It looks like Miller will let us see a play... he hits the red button, and one by one the red defensive dashes begin to move forward. He clicks down, bringing his dash to the bottom of the screen...”

“Again, the realism: There’s a football field painted on the screen!”

“That’s right, John. Miller waits there for a few clicks and... yes, it looks like the top red dash moved down, creating an opening. Miller clicks up once, twice... top of the screen... and off he goes, hitting the right click button as fast as he can,

eluding red dashes!”

“He’s gonna go right off the screen!”

“That’s right, John! But he will reappear on the left side of the screen almost simultaneously!”

“And that’s where he’s gotta be careful, because all of the red defensive dashes are down there now.”

“Miller goes off screen and...”



“BOOM! He ran into a dash! And that’s the end of his possession. He’s gonna have to hand the game over to Connelly, who has been itching to get in the game.”

“Wait... there’s a problem. Miller doesn’t want to play anymore and, yes... he shut the game off and flipped it to the side.”

“Just like the real game of football!”

Mark Vasto is a veteran sportswriter who lives in Kansas City. (c) 2014 King Features Synd., Inc.

2014 UTEP FOOTBALL







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MOORE TEXAS
by Roger Todd Moore
Famous Texan Ernest Tubb sold over a million copies of “Walking the floor over you” in 1965...



GO FIGURE! by Linda Thistle

The idea of Go Figure is to arrive at the figures given at the bottom and right-hand columns of the diagram by following the arithmetic signs in the order they are given (that is, from left to right and top to bottom). Use only the numbers below the diagram to complete its blank squares and use each of the nine numbers only once.

DIFFICULTY: ★★
★ Moderate ★★ Difficult
★★★ GO FIGURE!

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Weekly SUDOKU
by Linda Thistle

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Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ★
★ Moderate ★★ Challenging
★★★ HOO BOY!

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Social Security Q&A By Ray Vigil

Social Security can help disabled children

Cancer is a terrible disease that, although sometimes beatable, can strike a blow to anyone unfortunate enough to face it. It is especially difficult to see children struck by cancer.

September is Childhood Cancer Awareness Month, designated to bring attention to the types of cancer that largely affect children. About 13,000 children under age 21 receive cancer diagnoses every year. About a quarter of them will not survive. Those who do will likely suffer with the disease for some time.

While Social Security cannot help with the cure, we can offer financial support to children with cancer—or any other severe disability.

If your child has cancer or another disabling condition, and if your family has low income and few resources, you may be able to get Supplemental Security Income, or SSI, for your child. If you are receiving retirement or disability benefits, your child may be eligible for Social Security disability insurance when he or she turns age 18 as a “Disabled Adult Child.” To receive SSI or disability insurance benefits, your child’s condition must be expected to last for at least 12 continuous months or result in death.

For both Social Security and SSI, you will need to file an application for disability benefits. A good place to start is by visiting www.socialsecurity.gov/disability and selecting the “Disability Starter Kit” under “Apply for Benefits.” There, you’ll find a “Child Disability Starter Kit” that includes a factsheet to answer your questions, a link to the “Child Disability Report” for you to complete, a checklist for your in-office interview with a Social Security representative, and a “Medical and School Worksheet.” A printable version of the “Child Starter Kit” is available.

Although going through the disability decision process and obtaining disability benefits may not help your child get well, the financial support can alleviate some of the stress. And the time to get started is now.

To learn more, view, print, or listen to an audio version of our publication, *Benefits For Children With Disabilities* by visiting www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs.

STRANGE BUT TRUE

By Samantha Weaver

- It was 19th-century Cuban poet and revolutionary Jose Marti who made the following sage observation: “Barricades of ideas are worth more than barricades of stones.”
- When you think of dangerous occupations, the jobs that immediately come to mind are probably firefighter and police officer. You might be surprised to learn, then, that in New York City, the fatality rate for garbage collectors is twice as high as it is for members of the NYPD.
- A pregnant goldfish is known as a twit.
- The U.S. Open, which takes place at the end of summer every year, is one of the oldest tennis championships in the world, beginning in 1881 with a men’s singles competition. The modern competition, of course, now includes men’s and women’s singles, men’s and women’s doubles and mixed doubles. That’s a lot of tennis – and a lot of balls. During the two weeks of the championship, approximately 70,000 tennis balls are used.

• In 2012, at a hospital in Ireland, twin girls set a Guinness World Record when they were born 87 days apart – and they confounded medical experts’ gloomy prognosis by both surviving.

• If you make a serious study of Hungarian gypsies, you probably already know that you’re a tziganolologist.

• The flag of Ireland and the flag of Cote d’Ivoire are nearly identical, with vertical stripes of green, white and orange. There are only two minor differences: 1) The Irish flag has the green stripe on the left and the orange stripe on the right, while Cote d’Ivoire has the two colors reversed; and 2) the Irish flag is slightly longer.

Thought for the Day: “The object of war is not to die for your country but to make the other [poor slob] die for his.”
– Gen. George Patton

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This is a simple substitution cipher in which each letter used stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Solution is accomplished by trial and error.

Clue: E equals Y

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By: rj johnson
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Unscramble these twelve letter strings to form each into an ordinary word (ex. HAGNEC becomes CHANGE). Prepare to use only ONE word from any marked (♥) letter string as each unscrambles into more than one word (ex. ♥RATHE becomes HATER or EARTH or HEART). Fit each string’s word either across or down to knot all twelve strings together.

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