Westside July Fourth parade attracts long list of entries

By Alfredo Vasquez
Special to the Courier

EL PASO COUNTY – “Proud to be an American” is the theme of West El Paso’s Rotary Club upcoming 20th Annual Independence Day Parade, and a long list of parade entries are ready to take to the streets.

So far, numerous organizations, businesses, individuals, and groups have signed up to participate. Entries include the Department of Homeland Security, Flags Across America, 6 Guns & Shady Ladies, 3WP #8173, Crime Survivors of El Paso, Inc., Westside Democrats of El Paso, Assistees, Rosa’s Cantina, Exit West Realty, Western Hills Methodist Church, Camaro 5, Westside Community Church, Rotary Club of West El Paso, Mariachi Frontera, Star twirlers, West Texas Young Marines, El Paso Chihuahuas, Mount Franklin Christian Academy, Rotary Club of El Paso, WFT Raptors, El Paso County Republican Party, United Bank of El Paso del Norte, TXDPS, Oscar Ugarte, Big Media, and Judge Laura Stratham.


For nearly two decades West El Paso’s biggest parade of the year has been the Independence Day Parade sponsored by the West El Paso Rotary Club. The parade will start at 9 a.m., at the Western Hills Methodist Church (530 Thunderbird Street). It will turn left onto Thunderbird, then left at Shadow Mountain Road, right on Mesa Street, and then proceed to Coronado High School.

“With the financial support of community parade sponsors like the Rotary Club of West El Paso, City of El Paso, Lone Star Title, Western Refining, United Bank of El Paso, Cafe Central/Famous Dave’s, Pets Barn, United Blood Services, Hotel Indigo, and Village Inn/Cornier Bakery/Applebee’s this year’s parade promises to be another fun family event,” stated Rick LoBello, one of the parade organizers.

For more information, visit the parade’s website at july4parade.com, or call Carey Beamesderfer, at (915) 239-3116, or visit its Facebook page at facebook.com/ rotary.july4parade.

Mesa to intern with EP Electric

By Hector Gonzalez
Special to the Courier

SAN ELIZARIO – Juan Mesa, an upcoming senior at San Elizario High School, was one of 14 lucky high school students selected to be part of the El Paso Electric’s 2016 Summer Internship Program.

According to EP Electric, they had approximately 400,000 student applicants for this year’s internship program. The electric company went on to identify fewer than 100 students to begin the interview process with Juan being among those students.

The interview panel was quite impressed by Juan’s personality and professionalism throughout the interview. After intense deliberation, EP Electric staff decided that Juan deserved to be part of their Summer Internship Program along with 13 other students from the El Paso region.

Juan is both excited and proud to be representing San Elizario ISD in this exclusive internship program from one of El Paso’s well-known companies. He said that opportunities like these do not come often and is looking forward to giving it his best and learning as much as he can in hopes of landing a job with the electric company in the near future.
Faulty TBI screenings

It’s believed that 24,000 veterans didn’t get the traumatic brain injury screenings they should have received, all because of misunderstanding instructions. Those screenings, dating back as far as 2007, were part of the exams given in connection with disability claims.

Only four specific medical specialties are allowed to process TBI screenings – neurologist, physiatrist, neuroradiologist or neurologist – but it seems that others misread the “guidance document” that specified which medical specialties were allowed to do those screenings.

Now those 24,000 veterans will be sent a letter to inform them of the glitch. They’ll also be invited to have a proper screening within one year.

At least those incidents happened within the Department of Veterans Affairs. The other issue is supposed “experts” reviewing cases and making determinations for the VA. It only takes a little digging to unearth the wrongs that can occur when an alleged expert is brought in from the outside.

A news station in Minnesota did its own investigation and came up with 300 veterans who hadn’t been examined by qualified medical personnel.

One veteran was examined for knee, ankle and back problems and had the claim turned down ... by an OB/GYN “expert.”

In another case, a doctor cut and pasted information from Wikipedia and put it in a veteran’s file... after carefully deleting one word so the phrase matched what he wanted it to say.

Some veterans are having their claims finalized by those who give medical opinions only (reading the files), rather than doing actual physical exams. Other veterans are hiring their own independent medical examiners to review their cases.

If you’ve moved and the VA doesn’t have your current address, make a call to your closest regional VA medical center. Verify whether you’re on that list of those that didn’t get a screening.

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Seniors going back to work to rebuild their retirement nest eggs

Seniors who went back to work after retirement used to do it to keep busy, but the Great Recession has made it an economic necessity for more and more older Americans, according to Dan Weber, president of the Association of Mature American Citizens.

“There are those who say we’re coming out of the Great Recession, and there are others who predict a new recession is on the horizon. Either way, the U.S. economy is not what it used to be and neither is the prospect of an early retirement. Not long ago the financial services company, Northwestern Mutual, conducted a poll that found more than 60% of respondents admitted they would be working beyond that traditional retirement age of 65 due to necessity. Nearly 80% of them said they could not retire because of insufficient savings,” Weber said.

The AMAC chief also cited a recent Gallup survey. It found that there are more post-retirement job seekers out there than ever before, mainly because they don’t have enough money. “The historically destructive recession that started as President Obama took office and his inability to speed up the recovery have seniors scrambling for ways to salvage what’s left of their retirement. Bear in mind that while the net worth of all Americans has declined sharply during this period, seniors have been hardest hit.”

Another Gallup poll concluded recently that the biggest financial concern for Americans “is funding their retirement, with 61% worried about having enough money for that. This worry has been exacerbated by the recession’s aftermath, which has perhaps caused more seniors and baby boomers near retirement age to remain in the workforce and postpone retirement until they have replenished their nest eggs.”

Gallup also reported that confidence in the U.S. economy has suffered, Weber said, quoting a Joint Congressional Economic Committee report predicting that “the recession’s impact on retirement security will persist even as the economy continues to recover. Older workers may delay retirement, while many prime-aged workers face the daunting prospect of rebuilding lost home equity and saving for retirement despite persistently slow wage growth.”

Weber said that the recession put the country into a deep hole, so deep that we’re not out of it yet. As the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities put it: “In the first quarter of 2016, the demand for goods and services (actual GDP) was roughly $407 billion less than what the economy was capable of supplying (potential GDP). This output gap, which is manifested in excess unemployment and idle productive capacity among businesses, is the legacy of the Great Recession.”

The Association of Mature American Citizens (http://www.amac.us) is a senior advocacy organization that takes its marching orders from its members. We act and speak on their behalf, protecting their interests and offering a practical insight on how to best solve the problems they face today.

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From Page 1

instead of playing golf or relaxing in their backyards. According to the pollsters at Gallup fewer of them are retiring at age 65 or younger. Thirty-seven percent of workers who are approaching what used to be known as "retirement age" are keeping their jobs as long as they can.

— John Grimaldi

Wanted

A man is recorded by security cameras burglarizing a Central El Paso grocery store. Investigators from the El Paso Police Department are asking for the public’s assistance in identifying this burglar through Crime Stoppers. The burglary took place on Sunday, June 12, 2016 at 11:30 p.m. at the Ben’s Grocery located at 601 S. Mesa. Investigators found that the man had broken a window to the front door of the business. The suspect, then crawled inside of the business and began to grab various items. Investigators learned that the man stole cans of beer – Budweiser Clamatos – and a package of cigarettes. The man was seen by witnesses crawling out of the business through the broken door window and then ran southbound on Mesa. He is described as a Hispanic male, 5’10”, bald, in his late 20s, and weighing about 130 pounds. He was wearing a light colored t-shirt and blue jeans. Anyone with information on his identity is asked to call Crime Stoppers of El Paso at 566-8477 (TIPS), online 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.

— Javier Sambrano
Armando Burciaga, Ricardo Corona, Analiese Ludwig, Tiffany Knox, and Ashley Bowman.

CALCULATE THIS – The Canutillo HS math team members are, from left, David Ogaz, Gabriel Carrillo, Rudy Medina, and the reigning regional champion Radoy Medina, a CHS mathematics teacher, is extremely proud of the team’s accomplishments.

“... in three years. This team is also the reigning regional champion three years in a row and district champion four years in a row.

Rudy Med...
Notification of Nondiscrimination in Career and Technical Education Programs at Clint Independent School District for 2016-2017 School Year

1) Clint Independent School District offers career and technology programs in Architecture and Construction, Business Management and Administration, Human Services, Information Technology, Law, Public Safety, Corrections and Security, Science Technology, Engineering and Math, and Transportation. Admission to these programs is based on current enrollment in the Clint ISD and completion of any necessary prerequisites.

2) It is the policy of Clint ISD not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, gender, national origin, disability, age, or any other basis in its vocational programs, services, or activities as required by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended; Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972; and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended.

3) It is the policy of Clint ISD not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, gender, national origin, disability, age, or any other basis in its employment practices as required by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended; Title IX of Education amendments of 1972; the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended; and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended.

4) Clint ISD will take steps to assure that lack of English language skills will not be a barrier to admission and participation in all educational and vocational programs.

5) For information about your rights or grievance procedures, contact the Title IX Coordinator, Rene Chavez at 14521 Horizon Boulevard, El Paso, Texas, 79928, 915-926-4061 and/or Section 504 Coordinator, James Littlejohn, Chief Academic Officer, at 14521 Horizon Boulevard, El Paso, Texas, 79928, 915-926-4031.

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Biggest game changer in Rio de Janeiro is ‘Murphy’

By Steve Escajeda
Special to the Courier

Murphy’s Law is commonly described as a condition that sets up the scenario where everything that could possibly go wrong… does.

I don’t know who Murphy was, but I’ve certainly had days in my life that have absolutely proven his law as fact.

Anyway, I guess it isn’t rare for an individual to suffer through Murphy’s Law, but I’ve never heard of it happening to an entire country.

The 2016 summer Olympic Games will get underway in less than two months and it appears that the guys in charge of it all are the same guys that were charge of our San Jacinto Plaza project.

Rio de Janeiro is hosting the games, which start in early August, and things are so bad that some nations are still deciding whether or not to attend.

It’s not just one or two things that are causing all the chaos, it’s a multitude of unfortunate events that would make Murphy cringe.

First of all, the Brazilian state of Rio is on the verge of financial collapse. Things are so bad that the state’s official Gazette newspaper is now warning of “a total collapse in public security, health, education, transport and environmental management.”

But officials have stated that the games will go on.

That’s funny – usually cities that host the Olympics go bankrupt after the games, not before.

It all started many years ago when studies showed that the pollution of the area’s waterways was approaching dangerously high levels. And of course when they saw how expensive it would be to clean things up, very little was done.

The drinking water has been affected and there’s great fear by athletes who compete in water sports to, well, go in the water.

Then there was the recent impeachment of President Dilma Rousseff, who was accused of “cooking the books” in an attempt to hide just how bad things are in her country.

And because Murphy is such a jokester, just 10 days after taking office, the county’s new planning minister, Romero Jucá, announced that he would “go on leave” following the release of a secretly taped telephone conversation revealing his attempts to push the impeachment.

Normally the first thoughts of Brazil are of the beaches, the sun and the partying. But the truth is that the games have also been plagued by the region’s surprisingly notorious crime rate. Brazil currently ranks as the murder capital of the world.

Then to prove that some big scares come in very small packages, the Zika virus outbreak has prompted many people and athletes to stay away. The mosquito-borne virus has infected over 120,000 Brazilians in 2016 alone.

But like the old adage states, the games must go on – right? Well not so fast.

To prove that Murphy wasn’t completely satisfied, as unfathomable as it may seem – the entire Russian track and field team has now been banned from the games.

The Russians have always been among the most accomplished athletes in the world. And that’s why they have been banned. They cheated.

The International Association of Athletics Federation suspended Russian athletes from international competition back in November after an investigation of President Vladimir Putin has been up in arms about the unfairness of the federation’s actions.

Maybe he should ask the people of Ukraine and Crimea about the unfairness.

With Russia out of the mix, that will certainly leave the games without one of its star nations.

Other than that things are going swimmingly – pardon the pun – in Rio.

There could be more last-second withdrawals from countries as news keeps coming out that things in Brazil are worse than what has been reported.

And I think the chances are pretty good that the leaders are wishing they had lost the bid that brought the games to their country.

After all the financial nightmare stories coming from cities that have hosted the games in the past, one would wonder why any city would bid for them in the future.

But there’s no law prohibiting any city from attempting to do a better job – except maybe Murphy’s Law.

People like to say that he wasn’t the best at any one thing… he was “just” great at everything. He could skate, but he wasn’t the best. He wasn’t the fastest. He didn’t have the hardest slap shot, but he had the most goals. He wasn’t the best fighter, but nobody dared to say that to his face. It didn’t matter because he was the complete hockey player, a champion and an MVP many times over.

Also, he was a great guy. While he didn’t earn the type of wage that today’s hockey stars earn, he was always there for the charity event. He may not have donated millions in cash, but he made others millions just by stroking his signature across a check, and he was always willing to do it. Stories abound of him doing just that.

A sporting view By Mark Vasto

Mr. Hockey

There are a lot of things to celebrate and look forward to these days in the world of sports, but sometimes you are reminded of the past. A former mayor of New York once said that “weddings are optional but funerals are mandatory,” and it’s with that spirit we briefly look past the Pittsburgh Penguins and superstar Sydney Crosby’s dominant Stanley Cup run and instead look to the past in honor of Gordie Howe.

Death, as they say, is a part of life. One week after the death of the great Ali, we are again reminded of this fact. It’s a morose subject to be sure, but some people just make huge impacts and leave legacies that appear impossible to match. One such athlete was Gordie Howe.

It strains the limits of credibility that Howe isn’t in the world right now, having passed at 88 years of age. He wasn’t the Ali of hockey – he was the Gordie Howe of hockey. He was “Mr. Hockey.”

Can you imagine? If you were a “war baby” born in 1946, the best player in hockey was playing right in front of you. He played from the Truman administration straight through to Reagan (and that’s not counting his Minnie Minoso moment in the ’90s when he played a shift for the Detroit Vipers).

Perhaps Howe’s greatest ability was his talent for letting the game come to him. He was so efficient in his movement command, he kept moving longer than any other player in NHL history. Through sheer muscle memory, Howe had an uncanny knack at being in position for the great play. Also, he was ambidextrous and could beat you sily from the left and the right.

For more information about the upcoming picnic, contact EPAS media specialist, Fernando Arias, at (915) 449-9075, or send email to nando79935@yahoo.com.

See SPORTS, Page 8

People know Pueblo for its…

Famous Hot Salsa?

In Pueblo, the free government information is also hot. Spice up your life by dipping into the Consumer Information Center website, www.pueblo.gsa.gov. You can download all the information right away. Sorry, salsa isn’t available through our website or Catalog.

U.S. General Services Administration

Pueblo, Colorado

Picnic

From Page 1

July 7, 2011Page 6
DEAR DR. ROACH: I would like to comment on your column regarding blood-pressure differences between the arms. A difference of greater than 10 mmHg between the two arms in systolic pressure is considered abnormal. We see patients not uncommonly in consultation for this reason alone, although as many as one in a month. Almost always, the reason for the difference is blockage of the subclavian artery. The wrist pulse on the side with lower blood pressure may be normal, diminished or absent in those patients.

From 30 years of observation, I have noticed that patients with BP differences between the arms are nearly always female smokers (or former smokers), and the left subclavian is much more likely to be affected (have a lower blood pressure) than the right. Why this sex difference is unknown, and why the left side should predominate that side is quite low – perhaps 1 in 10 have any symptoms. It is important, of course, for such patients to be aware of the difference between the arms only to remember which arm (the higher arm systolic number) has the correct measurement (most often, but not always, the right).

The very best machines are accurate at measuring blood pressure; however, a trained clinician remains the standard for blood pressure measurement. Fortunately, good, but not necessarily outstanding, hearing, is required for accurate blood pressure measurement. Proper placement and inflation of the cuff, the correct slow deflation rate and, importantly, measuring both arms are as important as good hearing. I was taught to take an average of three measurements.

Excessive hearing helps the clinician pick up on subtle heart murmurs and other noises, normal and abnormal, that the heart makes. If you decide to become a physician, consider cardiology. We physicians should take great care to protect our ears; sadly, I thank Dr. Svoboda for his expertise and will add difference in arm blood pressures to my already very long list of reasons to quit smoking immediately.

DEAR DR. ROACH: I’ve heard many medical providers say that they believe they get more accurate blood pressure readings from the old-fashioned manual method, rather than the automatic cuff machines. I wonder how true this can be, though, since the former is subject to human hearing ability. My excellent hearing lets me pick up on beats far beyond what someone who has average hearing can detect, so it stands to reason that there would be a difference in the reading. – C.B.

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MOORE TEXAS
by Roger Todd Moore

In the 1930s cattle rustlers started butchering cattle and transporting the steaks all over the country.

Social Security Q&A By Ray Vigil

Q: What is a Social Security Statement, and how can I get a copy?

A: Your online Social Security Statement gives you secure and convenient access to your earnings records. It also shows estimates for retirement, disability, and survivors benefits you and your family may be eligible for. You can get your personal statement online by using your own my Social Security account. If you don’t yet have an account, you can easily create one. To set up or use your account to get your online statement, go to www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount. We also mail statements to workers attaining ages 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50, 55, 60 and older, three months prior to their birthday, if they don’t receive Social Security benefits and don’t have a my Social Security account. If you don’t want to wait for your Statement, you can access it online, whatever time of year you need it.

Q: My wife didn’t work enough to earn 40 credits to qualify for Social Security retirement benefits. Can she qualify on my record?

A: Even if your wife has never worked under Social Security, she may be able to get benefits if she is at least 62 years of age and you are receiving or eligible for retirement or disability benefits. If your wife qualifies on her own record, we will pay that amount first. If the benefit on your record is higher, she will get an additional amount on your record so that the combination of benefits equals that higher amount. The same is true for any spouse, regardless of their sex. To learn more about spouse benefits go to www.socialsecurity.gov/planners/retire/yourspouse.html.

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 79955.

CryptoQuip

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: B equals O

LQSCQL ZTBFM MDQ UBBNCQL
BPQOSN TO Z JSQZU
AZJCPBWSWCZ ACMO: "MDQ
MSQZML BP LZW PSWACLAB."