NEWSBRIEFS

SISD funds tests

As part of the Socorro Independent School District’s (SISD) top goal to ensure students are college and career ready, the District is paying for all eighth-graders to take the PSAT 8/9 test. At their schools. The nearly three-hour test will help the 3,600 plus eighth-graders prepare for the PSAT/NMSQT they will take as sophomores and the SAT they will take as juniors. When results are in, scores will be assessed and given to educators to see where students stand in regard to College Board College and Career Readiness benchmarks. “We will be able to track the kids’ progress toward the PSAT,” said Frank Clark, SISD’s advanced academics coordinator. “The data will give us additional insight as to which advanced coursework a student will be best suited for and will allow us to identify additional areas students need support in to better prepare them for the math TSI. It also will allow us to better prepare the students for the SAT.” This is the first time all SISD eighth graders will take the PSAT. High school students also are provided the opportunity to take the standardized tests that are administered by the College Board for free. Team SISD pays for all sophomores to take the PSAT, which they will take Oct. 24. SISD also pays for high school juniors to take the SAT, which will be given on March 6, 2019.

San Eli ISD part of new Texas program

San Elizario ISD is one of eight school districts selected to be part of the inaugural Lone Star Governance (LSG) Exemplar Cohort. The LSG Exemplar Cohort is designed for high-performing local governing teams – school board members and their superintendents – that want to continue honing their focus on improving student outcomes. “I feel very excited our district qualified,” said Irene D. Jaquez, San Elizario ISD Superintendent, Dr. Jeannie Meza-Chavez, shares the same excitement as Jaquez and is looking forward to the support and the same excitement as Jaquez and is looking forward to the support and the same excitement as Jaquez and is looking forward to the support and the same excitement as Jaquez and is looking forward to the support and the same excitement as Jaquez and is looking forward to the support and the same excitement as Jaquez and is looking forward to the support and the same excitement as Jaquez and is looking forward to the support and the same excitement as Jaquez and is looking forward to the support and the same excitement as Jaquez and is looking forward to the support and the same excitement as Jaquez and is looking forward to the support and the same excitement as Jaquez and is looking forward to the support and the same excitement as Jaquez and is looking forward to the support and the same excitement as Jaquez and is looking forward to the support and the same excitement as Jaquez and is looking forward to the support and the same excitement as Jaquez and is looking forward to the support and the same excitement as Jaquez and is looking forward to the support and

SEE BRIEFS, Page 2

COMMISSIONERS APPROVE COUNTY PARKS IMPROVEMENTS

EL PASO COUNTY – Gallegos Park in Canutillo, Coyote Park in Tornillo, and Ascarate Park in South-Central El Paso will finally get much-needed improvements as El Paso County Commissioners Court approved recently more than $648,000 in leftover funds from its 2007 certificates of obligation for the park projects. For Gallegos Park on Bosque Road, county officials allocated $135,000 to build additional flat fields and improve the irrigation system by extending a water line. The $135,000 will be in addition to $225,320 previously approved by commissioners, the director of the county’s Public Works Department Norma Palacios pointed out. These funds will allow the county to plant grass and extend a water line, and replace fields that would be used for a planned sports park facility, according to county officials, who have been working with the El Paso Border Youth Athletic Association to develop a sports park-type facility in the northern portion of Gallegos Park.

In Tornillo, the Coyote Park will receive $163,000 in improvements including a new irrigation system, new sod, a walking trail, the installation of a rock wall, and the replacement of shade structures.

According to county officials, an additional $87,000 will be needed to pay for the $250,000 Tornillo park project, so they decided to explore other funding sources, including possible savings from other projects to cover the remaining funding. The Coyote Park project will be a partnership between the county and the Tornillo Independent School District, as the county is negotiating with the school district a property maintenance agreement. As part of the proposal, the school district will apply for a grant to purchase a new playground for the park, Palacios explained. Commissioner Vince Perez, who represents the Tornillo area, said that the project is important for the community of Tornillo because it is one of the few unincorporated communities in the county that does not have access to adequate park area.

The county is also working on a new 2.5-mile hiking and biking trail on O.T. Smith Road for Tornillo. The $2.4 million trail would run from Alameda to Interstate 10. This project is expected to begin in September 2019 and be completed in about a year. The O.T. Smith trail project will be paid for with a federal grant, and as part of the grant, the county will pay for the design portion of the project. Consequently, commissioners voted unanimously to authorize the county judge to sign a $419,000 agreement with the Camino Real Regional Mobility Authority for the design of the trail on O.T. Smith Road. Commissioner Perez, who has been in office since 2012, said that for several years, both projects – the improvements at Coyote Park and the trail on O.T. Smith – have been priorities for his office. At Ascarate Park, the appropriated funds will pay for two futsal courts (hard-floor courts for a version of soccer with fewer players), four flat fields with grass
The mission of the El Paso County Courthouse is to ensure that all court proceedings are conducted in a fair, efficient, and accessible manner, providing a neutral and impartial forum for the resolution of disputes. The courthouse is a symbol of justice and serves as a physical and spiritual center for the community. The building's architecture reflects the history and culture of the area, with its stone façades and intricate details.
By Steve Escudero
Special to the Courier

I know all the El Paso fans are still in the middle of another disappointing UTEP football season but don’t worry — this time — hope is on the way. And that hope comes in the form of the UTEP basketball season.

Don’t look now but the Rodney Terry era is finally in full swing for the Miners. Though the 0-6 football Miners are still in the middle of their season, we are all safe to finally turn our focus to the basketball side of the school.

Don’t believe me? Just look at the level of excitement for the Miners on their Monday night game against UTSA. The basketball Miners have been suffering through a season unlike any other for much of the year.

The team is 4-5 this season and this was the year of high expectations. But now head coach Rodney Terry is bringing in his own style of play and it seems to be working.

The Miners beat the Roadrunners 71-54 on Monday night. Terry’s first win over UTSA since taking over the Miners. It was a confident win and one that gives fans hope for the rest of the season.

The Miners have reeled off four wins in their last five games and the team is starting to gel under Terry’s guidance.

It all comes down to talent. Three different coaches, Kugler, Mike Price and Floyd were the coaches that weren’t able to turn this team around. But with Terry in charge, it seems like a new era is dawning for the Miners.

The real test for Dimel will come in the next two years when his Miners will be expected to have a winning record. But Terry has brought in new players that have the Miners on the right track.

The real test for Dimel will come in the next two years when his Miners will be expected to have a winning record. But Terry has brought in new players that have the Miners on the right track.

The real test for Dimel will come in the next two years when his Miners will be expected to have a winning record. But Terry has brought in new players that have the Miners on the right track.

The real test for Dimel will come in the next two years when his Miners will be expected to have a winning record. But Terry has brought in new players that have the Miners on the right track.

The real test for Dimel will come in the next two years when his Miners will be expected to have a winning record. But Terry has brought in new players that have the Miners on the right track.
Notice of General Election – Lower Valley Water District

Aviso de Elección General – Distrito de Agua del Lower Valley

To the registered voters of the Lower Valley Water District:

The Board of Directors of the Lower Valley Water District hereby gives notice that the polling places listed below will be in use for the election of the Board of Directors on November 6, 2018, for the purpose of electing one (1) Director Position for the 1232 Socorro Valley Water District Board of Directors.

The MaiTras Directiva del Lower Valley Water District, Directoría de MaiTras, hereby gives notice that in accordance with applicable laws, that the electronic ballot box was administered from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. on November 6, 2018, for the purpose of conducting a General Election.

On Election Day, voters must vote in their precinct as designated by the County Elections Office.

LOCATION OF POLLING PLACES FOR ELECTION DAY VOTING:

El Día de Elección, los votantes deberán votar en su precinto donde están asignados.

SUJETO A CAMBIO

LOCATION OF POLLING PLACES FOR EARLY VOTING:

Por votación, el día de la elección, los votantes pueden votar en cualquier lugar en donde la Dirección Adjunta de precintos designe.

Sujeto a cambio

For early voting, a voter may vote at any polling location, as listed in Exhibit A attached.

Para Votación Adjunta, los votantes pueden votar en cualquier lugar de las ubicaciones designadas en el Exposición A adjunto.

Sujeto a cambio

For early voting by personal appearance, the ballot box will be located at the following locations:

Para votar personalmente, el caso móvil se ubicará en los lugares que se indican a continuación.

Sujeto a cambio

1. Rio Vale Ranch Women’s Club 501 N. Campbell St., Socorro, TX 79927
2. Precinct/Precinto 172 12082 Sparks Dr., El Paseo, TX 79937
3. Precinct/Precinto 173 W.E. Neill Community Center 19210 Cold Street Torrero, TX 79927
4. Precinct/Precinto 180 Community Center 1700 Celina De Paz Dr., Horionton City, TX 79937
5. Precinct/Precinto 181 John R. Rojas Elementary School 12000 parfait Dr., Socorro, TX 79937
6. Precinct/Precinto 182 Socorro High School 2035 5th Ave., Socorro, TX 79927
7. Precinct/Precinto 183 Estacado Elementary School 12102 Cherrywood Dr., Socorro, TX 79937
8. Precinct/Precinto 184 Estacado Elementary School 1205 20th St., Socorro, TX 79937
9. Precinct/Precinto 185 Canutillo High School 7900 107th St., Canutillo, TX 79835
10. Precinct/Precinto 186 Canutillo High School Intermediate School 14910 N. Molina Ave. Horizon City, TX 79932
11. Precinct/Precinto 187 Canutillo High School East 11399 Socorro Rd. Socorro, TX 79927
12. Precinct/Precinto 189 La Fe High School 14390 La Fe Drive, Socorro, TX 79927
13. Precinct/Precinto 190 Client Services Center 1411 N. Moon Rd. Socorro, TX 79927
14. Precinct/Precinto 191 Client Services Center 12100 Cold St., Socorro, TX 79937
15. Precinct/Precinto 192 Rio Vale Ranch Women’s Club 12082 Sparks Dr., El Paseo, TX 79937
16. Precinct/Precinto 193 Rio Vale Ranch Women’s Club 12082 Sparks Dr., El Paseo, TX 79937

Notice of General Election – Lower Valley Water District

Aviso de Elección General – Distrito de Agua del Lower Valley

For early voting by mail, applications for ballot will be made available on a request form, which (1) must be completed and returned to the County Elections Office by 5:00 p.m. on November 2, 2018.

Sujetos a cualquier cambio(s)

The County of El Paso delivers ballots by mail to eligible voters by first class mail. Please ensure your return address is legible.

Officer David Ortiz

The El Paso County Elections Office will forward the application to the El Paso County Courthouse for processing.

The County of El Paso, by its current date, will process early voting applications for the November 2018 General Election.

For any necessary change(s).

The El Paso County Elections Office will send you an application to request a mail ballot.

The mailing address for the County of El Paso is:

Las casillas moviles del Board of Directors.

Notice of General Election – Lower Valley Water District

Aviso de Elección General – Distrito de Agua del Lower Valley

The polling places may be subject to change(s) for the November 6, 2018, General Election.

Sujetos a cualquier cambio(s)

Any person with a history of injection drug use, who received blood transfusions or organ transplants before 1992, or who received clotting factors before 1987 should be tested, as should anyone with a known blood or sexual exposure to someone with hepatitis C. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention also recommends testing all adults born in the United States between 1945 and 1965, anyone who is HIV-infected, who received hemodialysis or was incarcerated.

The treatment you have taken (Harvoni) is a combination of two drugs, and it is an excellent cure rate. The cure rate is 99 percent in people who had never been treated before and who did not have cirrhosis. Even people like you, with cirrhosis, had a cure rate of 98 percent with 12 weeks of therapy in the trial that got the medication approved.

The treatment is not without problems, and carrying a drug as a cure for liver disease. Once it has developed, it is not reversible; however, a successful cure of the hepatitis C virus greatly reduces the risk of cirrhosis and, indirectly, reducing the liver transplant and the rates of death, liver cancer and other liver-related complications.

These medications are so new that I can’t estimate how much lower your risk of further damage to your liver is post-treatment; however, the idea is that if your likely success is likely, it will substantially improve your expected length and quality of life.

But since you still have cirrhosis, you will need to take some important precautions. These include the administration of antiviral medications, avoiding raw shellfish and making sure you

See HEALTH, Page 8
VETERANS POST

by Freddy Groves

A potentially life-threatening practice had been going on at one of the Department of Veteran Affairs medical facilities, until the Office of the Inspector General caught the care provider who had been falsifying blood-pressure readings to cut down on the workload.

This is a big deal. High blood pressure can lead to all kinds of ugly outcomes such as stroke, kidney disease, heart failure and heart attack.

Specifically, the OIG responded to a report that the primary-care provider was entering fake blood-pressure readings into the patients’ records, indicating normal readings. When the OIG investigated, the care provider had put 128/78 into the record for 83 percent of the patients. The OIG reached out to 10 patients with that reading and was told that their blood pressure hadn’t been taken at all.

At that point the OIG looked at 5,000 of that provider’s patient records. Of those, 1,370 had conditions that required blood pressure to be tracked and controlled, and 1,364 of those had the same reading (128/78) entered into their record. In that group, 84 patients were ill with hypertension, which could have led to death. Additionally, lab work wasn’t always done when prescription changes were ordered. The patients were scheduled for follow-up in nine months and no one monitored how serious their conditions were.

Why on earth would a care provider falsify information like this? The OIG reported that the normal 128/78 reading was entered to turn off the clinical reminder – an automatic note to the physician about whether lab work, referrals or medication changes were needed – which served to reduce workload because a normal blood pressure would not require any other intervention or documentation. Worse, the care provider may have received a performance bonus based on all the “improved” patient blood-pressure readings.

(c)2018 King Features Synd., Inc.