

NEWSBRIEFS

Swine brucellosis free

On May 19, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) notified the Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC) that the state of Texas had been declared free of swine brucellosis. Texas was the last state to be officially declared free of this disease by the USDA. Brucellosis in swine is caused by the bacteria, *Brucella suis*. This disease usually affects the reproductive tract in swine resulting in decreased litter size which leads to economic loss for the producer. Brucellosis bacteria can also affect humans and is known as undulant fever. "Texas being declared swine brucellosis free is good news for the Texas swine industry," stated Dr. Dee Ellis, State Veterinarian. "This action relieves certain restrictions on the interstate movement of breeding swine from Texas. We will continue our surveillance efforts, however, to help maintain Texas' Swine Brucellosis Free status." For more information about swine brucellosis, visit http://tahc.state.tx.us/animal_health/swine/swine.html.

— Yvonne Ramirez

Crime Stoppers

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality/Environmental Crime Unit and the El Paso Police Department are investigating incidents in which unknown persons dumped hundreds of commercial truck tires in the desert on the northeast side of town, making this the Crime Stoppers "Crime of the Week." On Monday, November 9, 2009, about 4:30 in the afternoon, two Hispanic men in a maroon and silver Dodge Dakota pickup truck with no license plates were witnessed going northbound in the 12100 block of Dyer with a full load of commercial truck tires in the bed of the pickup. The witness used his cell phone camera to capture images of the truck driving into the desert with the tires, and returning without the tires. The investigation revealed that there were four major commercial tire dump sites located in the desert areas of 12100 to 12200 Dyer. Five hundred and nineteen (519) commercial truck tires were dumped in one of the four sites. On April 16, 2011, a volunteer cleanup of the area turned up another 77 commercial truck tires along with 54 tons of trash and debris. The Texas



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No one has ever traveled the road to success on a pass.

— Quips & Quotes

Family honors Lopez on 101st birthday



HONORING MOM — The three daughters gather around their mother, Clint resident Victoria Lopez, honoring her on the occasion of her recent birthday party when she turned 101 on May 14. Standing, from left, are Julia Hancock, Concha Rivera and Celia Alvarado.

By Don Woodyard
Special to the Courier

CLINT — Victoria "Chalia" Lopez proves the point that appearances can be deceiving.

The long-time resident of Clint turned 101 on May 14, but you can't tell by looking. She could easily pass for a woman many years younger.

With a quiet dignity she sits at her dining room table along with her three daughters who are helping their mother celebrate the occasion of the first step into the second century of her life. The daughters say their optimistic mother is looking forward to next year and another party to celebrate her 102nd birthday.

Two of the daughters have come from Glendale, Calif. They are Celia Alvarado and Julia Hancock. A third daughter, Concha Rivera, is her mother's caregiver and lives with her at home. They all translate various questions into Spanish for their mother.

When asked what the secret was to her long life, she replied simply, through Celia:

"God told her in a vision that she would live many, many years."

"She's been healthy all of her life — has hardly ever had any colds."

The daughters speak of their mother's abiding faith in God.

She reads her prayers and the Bible. "Every day," they say, "she says 'thank you, Lord, for another day of life.'"

And the mother adds, "thank you, God, for good daughters." Underscoring this is another comment, via the daughters, from Mom that "she has never had to worry about any of us — no problems."

The daughters return their mother's loving remarks with their own kind words.

"We are blessed to have our Mom; we give

See LOPEZ, Page 4

Gallardo receives Gates Millennium Scholarship



— Photo courtesy Canutillo ISD

By Kim Guzman
Special to the Courier

CANUTILLO — Canutillo High School senior Gina Gallardo has been awarded the prestigious Gates Millennium Scholarship that will cover the cost of her post-secondary education, including a Master's Degree and PhD should she choose to pursue them. The Gates Millennium Scholar (GMS) Program provides Gallardo the opportunity to pursue a degree in any undergraduate major at the accredited college or university of her choice.

Established in 1999 and funded by a \$1.6 billion grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, the GMS program honors only 1,000 students each year. The program also provides graduate school support for its recipients in the areas of computer science, education, engineering, library science, mathematics, public health or science.

According to CHS senior counselor, Michelle Escobedo, Gina's selection was based on her strong leadership, community service and academic achievements. She is one of CHS's top 10% students and has been a basketball team player for four years. Gina has

been accepted to St. Mary's University where she will pursue a degree in physical therapy. In addition to the GMS recognition, Gina also received the Presidential Scholarship from St. Mary's University.

"This is a very competitive scholarship and represents an extraordinary promise for Gina and her family," Escobedo said. "More than 23,000 students applied for this scholarship this year, which marks the largest and most competitive group of candidates in the program's history," she added.

"All of the hard work I have put in throughout high school has finally paid off, being one of the incredibly lucky GMS recipients. Personally, I feel blessed and to have been given such a breathtaking opportunity. It is such a relief off my shoulders knowing money is no issue," Gallardo said.

"Education has always been the best pathway to opportunity, and we believe that college costs should not be an obstacle along that path," said Jim Larimore the deputy director for student success at the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. "That's why scholarships like the Gates Millennium Scholars Program and others are so important because they provide students who have the will to get a postsecondary education with a way to get one."

Veterans Post By Freddy Groves

Concussions and PTSD

The first line of "Aftershock: The Ticking Time Bomb of Soldiers' Traumatic Brain Injuries" says: "At 8:20 p.m. on Sept. 21, 2010, Iraq veteran Brock Savelkoul decided it was time to die." The long article begins by describing a standoff with police while Savelkoul gripped a 9-mm pistol and an untrained police officer tried to talk him down from a suicide wish.

Savelkoul, a decorated veteran with three tours in Iraq under his belt, suffered from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder – and he'd had enough.

"Aftershock," by T. Christian Miller and Daniel Zwerdling, should be required reading for a long list of people: doctors, nurses, family of returning veterans, active military in harm's way – and veterans who have experienced difficulties adjusting to civilian life after suffering seemingly mild concussions from blasts.

The question that remains for doctors is whether a mild traumatic brain injury (concussion) can lead to PTSD. The answer likely lies in how the injury came to be: a football field concussion in a familiar setting can be different from one in a frightening

circumstance of war. As the article describes, severe traumatic brain injuries aren't as likely to lead to PTSD because the person is knocked unconscious, but as one researcher indicated, one concussion may cause lifelong problems.

The article describes the long process that veterans go through trying to get help for their invisible wounds. Savelkoul and four others with him suffered mild traumatic brain injuries from a nearby explosion, although they were not initially diagnosed with concussion, likely because they weren't checked.

Of the men, three are still in the military and serving overseas, one recovered but gets bad headaches, two have memory and concentration problems – and Savelkoul entered a downward spiral that led to his standoff with police.

To read the whole article, go online to www.alternet.org and put the title in the search box.

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

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Phone: 852-3235
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Website: wtxcc.com

Publisher
Rick Shrum
Contributors
Alfredo Vasquez
Don Woodyard
Steve Escajeda

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Public education standards in the US revamped

By Alfredo Vasquez
Special to the Courier

US President Barack Obama recently sent to Congress his blueprint for approval of a reform on the Bush-era No Child Left Behind (NCLB) education program.

Obama's bill retains such Bush law features as a requirement for annual math and reading tests, but he suggests moving away from relying on test scores to judge the academic achievement by students and to rate schools.

Obama proposes a combination of school attendance, graduation rate, and learning environment as gauges to judge schools by. The new bill is seen as replacing such absolute requirements as the one under which all students must be proficient in reading and math by 2014 and all students graduating from high schools must be prepared for either college or a career.

The proposed standards also move away from punishing schools for not meeting federal benchmarks. They instead focus on rewarding progress, especially with top performing schools.

As for the worst performing schools the Obama bill calls on states to identify their lowest performing five percent of schools and to take strong measures to upgrade them. With the current version of the education law, nearly a third of the 100,000 public schools are labeled as failing and face loss of federal funds. Critics have been blaming the current law as encouraging teachers to teach for tests by narrowing the curriculum.

According to Susan Engel, a lecturer in psychology and the director of the teaching program at Williams College in Williamstown, Massachusetts, the education reforms suggested by Obama's administration have the potential to help liberate the American public school system from a curriculum that is strangling children and teachers alike.

Should these reforms be approved, their success would depend on educators' ability to embrace a curriculum focused on essential skills like reading, writing, computation, pattern detection, conversation, and collaboration – a curriculum designed to raise children, rather than test scores, Engel wrote in her article, titled "Playing to Learn", that appeared in the New York Times recently.

In order to design a curriculum that teaches what truly matters, educators should remember a basic precept of modern developmental science: developmental precursors don't always resemble the skill to which they are leading, Engel stated.

"Simply put, what children need to do in elementary school is not to cram for high school or college but to develop ways of thinking and behaving that will lead to valuable knowledge and skills later on," Engel stated.

So what should children be able to do by age 12, or the time they leave elementary school? According to Engel, they should be able to read a chapter book, write a story and a compelling essay, know how to add, subtract, divide and multiple numbers, detect patterns in complex constructs, use evidence to support an opinion, be part of a group of people who are not their family and engage in an exchange of ideas in conversation.

"If all elementary school students mastered these abilities, they would be prepared to learn almost anything in high school and college," Engel asserted.

"What they shouldn't do is spend tedious hours learning isolated mathematical formulas or memorizing sheets of science facts that are unlikely to matter much in the long run. Scientists know that children learn best by putting experiences together in new ways. They construct knowledge; they don't swallow it," Engel related.

"Our current educational approach – and the testing that is driving it – is completely at odds with what scientists understand about how children develop during the elementary school years," she added.

View from here *By Tom Pauken*

Is college education right for everyone?

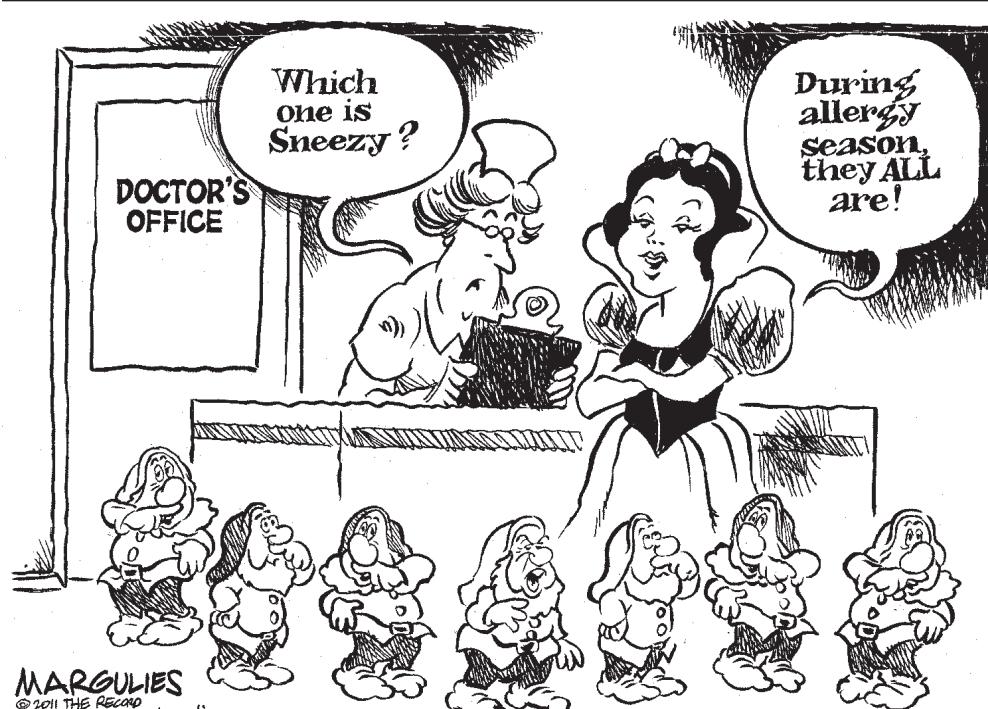
Over the last week, college seniors across the country attended commencement ceremonies where they were lauded for their educational accomplishments. Such events are a time of celebration for graduates, their families and their friends. But the good mood will come to a quick end for many students and their parents. One study says that 85 percent of seniors will move back home upon graduation as they struggle to find work that will justify the high cost – in both dollars and time – of their new degrees.

Meanwhile, a story in the May 6 edition of The Wall Street Journal reports that manufacturing businesses across the country are struggling to find employees with the math and science skills and training necessary to "operate and repair sophisticated computer-controlled factory equipment." These jobs pay well – some as high as \$80,000 – yet high school students are consistently pressured not to pursue them by an educational system that believes earning a college degree is the only path to success.

Walter Gasper, one of the students profiled in the Journal article, had an interest in working with machinery but was discouraged from pursuing vocational classes by a school counselor because he had good grades in his college-prep courses. He rejected the advice and at age 17 he became an apprentice at a plant near Pittsburgh that makes small, precision crafted metal parts for ships and machinery. Gasper was later wooed away by a larger firm who needed his talents and could offer him more money. He makes \$55,000 and he didn't have to give up four years to attend college or take on the high levels of debt that saddles many young adults and their parents.

Since 1990, the cost for college has increased by more than 285 percent, a growth rate some three times higher than inflation during the same period of time. We've long justified the high cost of college by citing statistics claiming that over the course of a lifetime, a degree holder makes a million dollars more than those with only a high school diploma. But a new study by

Tom Pauken is the Chairman of the Texas Workforce Commission and author of Bringing America Home.



Por la Gente By State Rep. Chente Quintanilla

Voter ID on table again

Hola mi gente. Every session there seems to be a particular bill de jour as the French would put it. Also, there are also bills that address problems that don't exist. This year, it would seem the prize goes to the same issue: elections.

A quick count showed that in excess of 60 bills were filed having some impact on elections and voting. Based on most of the testimony, the problem centered on voters of Hispanic heritage. Most of the testimony repeatedly referred to the south Texas elections or the massive wave of undocumented immigrants who vote en masse at election time.

There may be some justification for the concerns by the members who filed the bills. After all, the growth of the number of legal Hispanic voters has far overshadowed the growth of any other ethnic group. It is never easy to surrender supremacy. It is too bad that the biggest problem with Hispanic voters is that turnout at elections is dismal; not that the majority are voting illegally.

Perhaps the most visible bill de jour was the voter ID bill. In working elections for decades, I do not recall ever seeing election workers allowing individuals to vote without confirming their eligibility. By all the public comments, you would think there was actual evidence that election workers were conspiring with voters (let us be honest, the voters seem to be Democrats that are the center of attention) and passing unlawful voters to the ballot machine. That is just not the case.

The testimony by the Attorney General's office confirms that. After investigating over 20 million votes over several years, the final count of those indicted was less than the number of days in a month. None of the actual convictions were confirmed to be based on identity theft; which the voter ID bill was supposed to fix.

The other bills addressing election "problems" included fixing absentee

voting, assisting absentee voting, entering false information on a registration form, various behaviors by election workers or judges or being a non-citizen and voting. The most ambitious bills included criminal penalties or elevation of the violation degree (misdemeanor to felony).

The most prolific filer happened to be in the Rio Grande Valley representative who decided that the Democratic Party was not the place for his best interests. It almost seemed as if he was trying to out-conservative the long time Republicans.

The thing about his bills, some of which passed the House floor, is that evidence from state agencies confirmed that a problem did not exist. The Legislative Budget Board released a criminal impact statement on one bill, which is descriptive of most of the other bills which stated:

"... less than five individuals were arrested, and less than five were placed under misdemeanor community supervision for providing false information on an application for an early voting ballot. For this analysis, it is assumed the number of offenders convicted under this statute would not result in a significant impact..."

FIVE OFFENDERS? Is that evidence of widespread fraud?

There are a couple of ways of interpreting the proliferations of election bills filed. One is that there is evidence of problems. Since the elections were so tilted to the right, one might question whether the conservatives were legally voted into office.

The other thought is not so easy to dismiss. Some may consider the effect of these bills is intended to send a message that ultimately causes voter intimidation. Some honest voters, election workers and poll judges may be intimidated by the slew of attempted law changes. That is a dangerous outcome to an effort to solve problems that, based on evidence, do not exist.

I remain your friend and public servant, Chente por la gente.

Movies in the park returns

Dates and Titles

• June 4
The Blind Side

- June 11
Twilight
- June 18
The Little Rascals

• June 25
Monsters Vs Alien

• July 2
Karate Kid (2010)

- July 9
Despicable Me

• July 16
Iron Man 2

• July 23
The Dark Night

• July 30
Mega Mind

• August 6
Toy Story 3

• August 13
Cars

• August 20
Incredibles

• August 27
Tangled

• September 3
The Last Song

• September 10
Daddy Daycare

• September 17
Yogi Bear

• September 24
How to Train your Dragon

By Mike McConnell
Special to the Courier

The Horizon City Police Department and local businesses will be sponsoring movie night again this year at Corky Corcoran Park.

There is no admission fee to these movies, so I encourage families to come to the park at dusk on Saturday nights as a family and enjoy the movies. Our Police Explorers will provide some concessions as a fundraising effort to help with their law enforcement post.



Mike McConnell

Movie night has received sponsorships from Vista Serena Homes, Teachers Credit Union, Vista Markets, GECU, Lockheed Martin, Hawk Construction, First State Bank, Southwest Water Company, Border Pallets and Richard De Santos, and, the Horizon City Police Officers Association.

All movies will be preceded with about 15 minutes of Loony Tune cartoons. Bring your blankets or lawn chairs and enjoy the movies.

Mike McConnell, Ph.D. is the Horizon City Chief of Police.

Clint ISD honors Teachers of the Year

By Laura Cade
Special to the Courier

The Clint Independent School District honored the Teachers of the Year at a banquet on May 6, 2011 at Sunland Park Racetrack and Casino. During the Mardi Gras Themed event, the thirteen Campus Teachers of the Year were featured in a video in which they shared how they "Let the good times roll" in their profession.

"These teachers were chosen by because their colleagues saw something in them, a quality, a skill, a trait that they admired and that inspired them," said Dr. Edward Gabaldon, Superintendent, during the event.

With nearly three hundred of their family, friends and colleagues present to celebrate, the District Elementary and Secondary Teachers of the Year were announced.

Norma Denning was named the Elementary Teacher of the Year. Denning is currently a third grade teacher at Frank Macias Elementary. Denning has been teaching bilingual education in Clint ISD for the past 15 years.

"Throughout my career I have wanted to make a difference not only in children but in the world of education by doing my best as a learner and teacher," said Denning.

The Secondary Teacher of the Year for the District is Veronica Booth. Booth has been the Career Investigations teacher at East Montana Middle School since 2006.

"Celebrate celebrate student success and give thanks and praise to teachers for their hard work and dedication," said Booth when asked how she strengthens her profession.

The Rookie Teacher of the Year award was presented to Juan Sanchez from Desert Hills Elementary School. He was selected from among 13 first year teachers who were nominated for the award by the colleagues. Sanchez was also named the Education Service Center for Region 19 Intern of the Year earlier this year.



- Photos courtesy Clint ISD

TOP ROOKIE – Juan Sanchez, center, from Desert Hills Elementary School was named the best new Clint ISD teacher out of 13 first year teachers who were nominated for the award. Sanchez was also named the Education Service Center for Region 19 Intern of the Year earlier this year. Superintendent Edward Gabaldon, left, and Board President Jim Pendell presented the award to Sanchez.



Veronica Booth



Norma Denning



Miriam Minjarez

Also recognized at the banquet was the District Alternative Education Program Teacher of the Year, Miriam Minjarez. This special award acknowledges the efforts of DAEP teachers who

have the extremely difficult task of redirecting students who have lost their focus on education.

The special evening for the District was sponsored by C & M Trophy and Plaque, Tax Solutions

and Accounting, and Kubinski and Associates, P. C. Both Denning and Booth will now move on to represent Clint ISD in the Region Teacher of the Year competition to be held this summer.

Lopez

From Page 1

thanks every day for her life. She is a good mother.

"We are all very proud of her; she is a beautiful mother – good looking."

"I don't feel old; I feel young," she says.

The daughters paint an active picture of their mother who apparently has not fallen victim to

advancing years. She is not content to sit at home quietly and let life pass her by.

"She likes to go outside – to dress up – to go to the beauty shop – to go to restaurants – to be around elderly friends and reminisce about things. She likes to tell stories."

And, her daughters add, "people like to be around her."

Victoria Lopez was born May 14, 1910 in Fort Hancock, TX. She didn't go to school, but taught herself to read and write.

She met her future husband, Francisco, at a dance. He worked for the railroad. He died at the age of 97.

Celia says she and her sister Julia will be heading home next week.

Celia says they have been going out a lot and "having a good time."

She reflects on the special occasion of her mother's birthday and what it really means to them all.

"We are very fortunate to have her with us still. It is a blessing."

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6	÷	3	+	1	3
8		1		7	

STRANGE BUT TRUE

By Samantha Weaver

• It was 20th-century Belgian writer and philosopher Raoul Vaneigem who made the following sage observation: "There are more truths in 24 hours of a man's life than in all the philosophies."

• The next time you're annoyed by a bad case of the hiccups, consider poor Charles Osborne. In 1922, when he was 28 years old, Mr. Osborne got the hiccups. For the next 68 years, he continued to hiccup, finally stopping in 1990, one year before his death at the age of 97.

• Those who study such things claim that an average bank robber in the United States nets about \$4,000 for every heist. No info at hand on how the researches acquired their data.

• If you're planning a trip to the United Kingdom in the near future, you might want to be sure Windsor Castle, located in the county of Berkshire, is on your itinerary. Built in the 11th century, it is both the longest-occupied palace in Europe and, with more than 500 people living and working there, the world's largest inhabited castle. As a bonus, through April of 2012 you'll be able to view a special exhibit on royal cakes. Yes, cakes. Amazingly, included in the exhibit are two pieces of cake from the wedding of Queen Victoria to Prince Albert, which took place on February 10, 1840.

• Stephen Spielberg, who has earned two Academy Awards for Best Director, and three of whose films have set box-office records, was rejected – twice – when he applied to the film program of the University of Southern California.

Thought for the Day: "Every man possesses three characters: that which he exhibits, that which he really has, and that which he believes he has."

– Jean-Baptiste Alphonse Karr

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Bidwell qualifies for HOSA Nationals

By Christine Gleason
Special to the Courier

FABENS – Senior Elijah Bidwell qualified for the National HOSA competition in the event Kaiser Permanente after placing high in the State competition in April.

The National HOSA conference will be held in June. It will be a first time experience for Bidwell as well as HOSA advisor Dr. O. J. Jimenez.

"I feel excited and proud that one of my HOSA members finally made it to Nationals," Jimenez said.

Composed only of a written exam,



Elijah Bidwell

Kaiser Permanente tests competitors on current health news, changes to general healthcare and the latest health research.

"When it comes to politics and current events, I am very involved," Bidwell said. "To prepare for competition, all I can really change or be more vigorous in is medical health journals; I plan to read more research."

Qualifying for Nationals wasn't easy. After four years in HOSA and multiple rounds in competition, Bidwell made a first in Fabens HOSA history.

"Making it to the national competition consisted of multiple qualifying rounds," Bidwell said. "These rounds took place at the district, area, and state levels."

Not only did Bidwell have to compete at these multiple rounds, but he had to place high enough to qualify for each of the following rounds.

"At District and Area I placed first," Bidwell said, "state was not ranked but I placed high."

Jimenez feels she has succeeded through her students' achievements.

"Each year, I set goals for myself, for my students and especially for HOSA," she said. "With Eli advancing to Nationals, all of my goals have been reached."

With this year to learn from a new experience, Jimenez also feels positive in getting other students to qualify for Nationals.

"This will give me insight on how to help other future HOSA members live this awesome event," Jimenez said. "I will encourage future HOSA

members to strive high and reach for the stars. If they set their minds and hearts, succeeding in HOSA will be a possibility."

Bidwell also carries a positive insight on his success.

"The true value of the experience

is knowing that I have inspired underclassmen and capable seniors to always push the limit with their goals," Bidwell said. "Call it cliché, but Fabens students are capable of nearly anything if the opportunity is seized."



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

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11.19

Fabens High School receives prestigious award from TEA

By Christine Gleason
Special to the Courier

FABENS – Fabens High School has received the Title I Distinguished Performance Award from the Texas Education Agency for the 2010-2011 school year. FHS is the only traditional high school in Region 19 and one of only 24 high schools in the state to receive this award.

"It is a great acknowledgement. I was very surprised when the superintendent brought this award to me" said Fabens High School Principal Robert Sepulveda. "I started looking at the list of all of the schools that have been recognized and there were only a few traditional high schools on the list. Most of them are magnet schools."

In order to be considered a Distinguished Performance high school, schools must qualify in several categories including falling under Title I requirements, meeting the Adequate Yearly Progress

standards in 2009 and 2010, and maintaining an exemplary or recognized status on TAKS during 2008 and 2009. What sets Distinguished Performance schools apart from Distinguished Progress schools is that Performance schools must receive an exemplary rating on the TAKS test in 2010. Fabens is one of only two high schools in the region to be named exemplary in 2010. "To meet the criteria is tough and that says a lot about our staff and our kids" said Sepulveda.

"To achieve and maintain such high standards is an accomplishment that serves as a model for other schools in the state to emulate" Ann Smisko, Ph.D., the Associate Commissioner of Education for School Improvement and Support at the Texas Education Agency said in a letter to Poncho Garcia, Superintendent of Fabens Independent School District.

Fabens High School will be recognized for this accomplishment later this year at Region 19 Education Service Center.

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1	7	8	6	4	5	9	3	2
6	4	9	1	3	2	7	8	5



A college degree is ample payment for college athletes

By Steve Escajeda
Special to the Courier

I don't know if you've noticed but there's been a lot of talk recently about paying college athletes.

In case you didn't know, college athletes are not allowed to receive money or any other tangible items that any other college student couldn't receive.

The one thing most college athletes do receive that most of the other college students don't is a four-year "free ride" scholarship.

Well there's been talk in some of the major conferences to at least discuss paying athletes a little something over what they receive to go to college.

Most of the conference commissioners said last week that they are willing to bring up the matter but at this point, they have way more questions than they have answers.

And there are a lot of questions about what would eventually happen if the NCAA ever decided to go down this dangerous road.

The very first question is how much the athletes would get paid. Would they get a set

amount every month? Would it be a percentage of ticket sales? Would it come from boosters and backers of the program?

The last I heard, states around the country are cutting back drastically in the amount of money they give colleges because of the struggling economy.

As far as ticket sales, if I'm not mistaken the University of Alabama draws significantly more than New Mexico State does for football. Do the players at one school receive more money than those at another school?

How about the star quarterback at one school, does he receive the same amount as the third-string offensive lineman?

What about non-revenue producing sports like softball or swimming or lacrosse or bowling or fencing or rifle or water polo or field hockey or rowing or cross country – do those athletes get paid the same? Do they get paid at all?

What about Title IX, do all female athletes who produce almost no money (with very few exceptions) for the university, get paid the same amount the men's football and basketball players get?

The answers aren't very easy. What is easy

is for people to say, "college athletes should get paid." But it's more complicated the more you delve into the possible repercussions.

And everyone should have learned one universal truth by now, especially from watching professional sports. Once you start paying anyone anything for providing a service it won't be very long before they begin to feel their worth is actually more than what they've been getting – and they will soon demand more.

And once you start that, it will snowball into a money-grubbing monster. Agents are already drooling at the prospect.

As you can probably tell, I'm totally against the idea of paying athletes anything over the scholarship they already get.

After all, we are talking about these students receiving the equivalent of about \$200,000 by the time they graduate. Would they rather get paid \$2,000 bucks a month and have to pay for school out of their pocket?

What the "pay-the-athletes" crowd seems to forget is that these students already have it better than most students who have to pay their way through college or end up with a huge loan they have to pay back after college.

One thing I will say is that colleges should not sell school jerseys with the star's number on them. If a college is making money off the jersey likeness of a star player, then I believe the player should receive a percentage of the profits.

To combat that, I would make it illegal for teams to do that. Just sell a generic jersey to the fans.

Here's another solution. If you want to pay the players a little something for their time at the school, calculate a payment formula that will be put in a trust fund and will only be made payable to the student once he graduates from college.

The money put aside for players from those revenue-producing sports that do not graduate, can go to the non-revenue producing athletes who graduate at a much higher rate anyway.

The NCAA is already an irreparable mess. Going down the path of paying players will only cause its eventual implosion.

Athletes in college should either end up going pro in their sport or receive a free degree toward a lifelong career. It's up to them to take advantage of the opportunity.

A sporting view By Mark Vasto

Speaking of sports

It was halftime on Monday Night Football and the questions from Howard Cosell were pointed, as should be expected from a guy with such a sharp – some would say forked – tongue. On the other side of the screen was none other than Muhammad Ali, who had just defeated George Foreman in one of the greatest fights in human history.

Cosell goaded Ali, asking direct questions and casting doubt on the genuineness of Ali's "rope-a-dope" strategy in the fight. Ali, though he did fend off some questions, quickly came clean and told his side of the

story.

Fast-forward to the mid-1980s. A "Bull Durham" mentality pervades. Stick to the cliches, to the tried and well-trod-out lines every athlete can mutter without stretching a synapse in their million-dollar skulls. "I'm happy for my team," he says, adding "blah blah blah blah."

Over time, this condition took over the sports world... it's almost as mysterious as the colony-collapse disorder afflicting our honeybee population. Nobody is quite sure why athletes have stopped pollinating the local press with story fodder

(maybe cellphones and Twitter have something to do with it, but nobody can say for sure).

The backlash is now on the writers, however. In a recent article by media analyst Jim Romanesco, he advances the phrase "push-button media," implying that beat reporters are failing to ask the hard questions. He quotes former Sacramento Bee sports editor Bill Bradley in order to bolster his argument. At issue is, in their view, the increased propensity of sportswriters to ask a player to "talk about" what happened in their most recent game.

"That's not a question; that's a statement you're hoping someone comments on," Bradley said. "I would love to hear a coach respond with, 'What is your question? Ask me a question and I'll be happy to

answer."

Nonsense. Of course there's journalistic value in hearing the athlete's unfettered and unprovoked take on his or her actions.

Ironically, it's an interview Cosell conducted during another MNF halftime that underscores that point. In the presence of another heavyweight personality – in this case, former Beatle John Lennon – Cosell let somebody else "tell it like it is."

Cosell was the person to break the news of Lennon's assassination six years later, an incredible display of professional journalism that saw him fact check and gut check simultaneously, knowing that the news he was about to report would literally stultify anyone in earshot of the broadcast – millions of people.

Still, during his first interview with Beatle John, he found time to push the Bradley button.

"What's been your view of this American professional football scene?" Cosell asks.

"It's an amazing event and sight," Lennon replied. "It makes rock concerts look like tea parties."

There isn't a writer on Earth who could get Lennon to say that with a bunch of direct questions today, let alone in the days before cable TV, where everyone is a star. Sometimes what is best said comes from those you ask to just "talk about" stuff as best they can.

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

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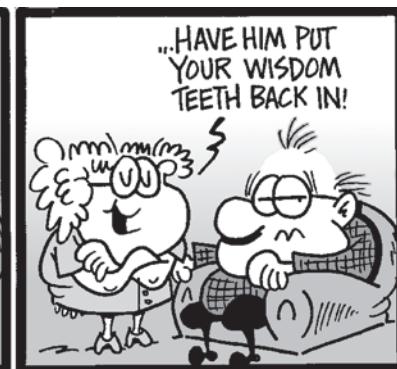
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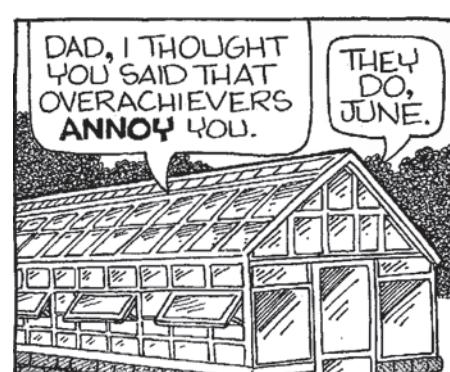
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Your good health By Paul G. Donahue, M.D.

DEAR DR. DONOHUE: For several years I have had spasms in my left leg at night while asleep. Now I get them in my right leg. They are intense and painful. My calcium is normal. I have taken magnesium and leg-cramp pills without results. I have put soap in the bed, used mustard and tried many other home remedies without any luck. I would be indebted for any other suggestions you might offer. —S.G.

syndrome and nighttime cramps offers a more lengthy treatment of this annoying problem. Readers can obtain a copy by writing: Dr. Donohue — No. 306W, Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475. Enclose a check or money order (no cash) for \$4.75 U.S./\$6 Canada with the recipient's printed name and address. Please allow four weeks for delivery.

DEAR DR. DONOHUE: When I had my last tetanus vaccine, the shot also included pertussis. Doesn't that make it more complicated? Why not one shot at a time to avoid allergic reactions? —I.M.

The tetanus shot is given every 10 years. Included in the tetanus shot is diphtheria vaccine. The material is called Td.

Nighttime leg muscle cramps are another one of the joys of aging. Why? I don't know. A cramp is a sustained, painful muscle contraction. In a very small number of people, low blood calcium or magnesium, an underactive thyroid gland and dysfunctions of the kidney or liver might be the cause. For most, a cause cannot be found.

Quinine was a favorite remedy. Now quinine has a limited use — only for malaria. It has potentially dangerous side effects that make it unwarranted for muscle cramps. Some find that tonic water stops their cramps. That's fine that they do; the amount of quinine in tonic water is quite small. There is evidence that the heart and blood pressure drug diltiazem can be useful. Vitamin B complex — a mixture of the B vitamins, including B-6 — also has some support for its use.

Stretching the leg muscles three times a day and again before going to bed might prevent cramps. One exercise is standing on the lowest step of a stair with heels projecting off the edge of that stair. Raise high on your toes and then slowly lower yourself until the heels are well below the level of the stair. Hold that position for 10 seconds and repeat the exercise 10 times.

Some have found that a warm bath taken before heading to bed stops their cramps.

The booklet on restless leg

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

Super Crossword

TIME WARP ACROSS														
1	Puccini heroine	60	"Rebel Without a Cause" actor	111	Buy off	30	Tasty tuber	82	Cover girl	10		11	12	13
6	Keen	61	Rocker Halliwell	112	Writer Paretsky	31	Wine word	Campbell	19		20			21
10	Actress	62	"Man bites dog," e.g.	113	End of remark	32	Deere things	83	Poet Thomas					
Lanchester		63	Myrdal or Nelson	121	Mix with water	33	Fess up	85	Seductive					
14	Be in charge	64	Fall behind	122	Inexperienced	34	Poet Khayyam	86	Without value					
18	Fully developed	67	Encore	123	European capital	35	Windmill part	87	Detect					
19	Farm measure	exclamation	124	Talk really big	36	butter	92	Triangle part						
20	Sag	68	Flock female	125	Away from the wind	41	Actress Dunaway	94	Tennis term					
21	Inspect too closely?	69	Norm	126	Richard of	42	Fondness	95	Ignominy					
22	Automaton	71	Move, with "about"	"Intersection"	127	Rocker Van Halen	44	Printemps follower	96	Starch source				
23	Start of a remark by Doug Larson	72	Spanish title	128	Birth-related	45	Comic Elliott	97	It's down in the mouth					
25	Sue of "Lolita"	74	"... some curds and _"	Down	46	Machine parts	98	_ Blue?" (29 song)	34	35	36	37		
26	Squander	75	Tennis pro	49	"Slammin' Sam"	50	Bouquet	101	It's tossed with sauce	41		42		
28	Clinton's hometown	Nastase	77	Ralph of "The Waltons"	52	Crone	102	Menotti title character	45		46	47	48	49
29	Woodland deities	78	Stiller's partner	53	Simple life form	54	Garr of "Mr. Mom"	103	Novelist Alison	55	56	57		
31	Sporting dog	80	"Appalachian Spring" composer	55	Glasses	56	Loser to Truman	105	Place for pots	61	62	63		
34	Manifest	84	Part 3 of remark	57	Reach	57	Big bird	107	Striped sprinter	68		71		
36	Heredity letters	88	Siamese	6	Fowl feature	62	Jawaharlal's jacket	109	Path	72		75	76	
37	kwon do	89	Coup d'_	7	Feel sore	63	Bellyache	110	Move a bit	78	79	80	81	82
38	Antiquity, archaically	90	Good times	8	Wrath	64	Terrier tether	111	Unadorned	85		86	87	
39	Born	91	Chucky, for one	9	Permit	65	A Pointer sister	114	Dundee denial	90		91	92	
40	"Serpico" author	93	Yellowish brown	10	Act like Etna	66	Like Notre Dame	115	Hoopsters' org.	93	94	95	96	
41	"The Donkey Serenade" composer	95	WWII site	11	Stud site	69	Early Brits	116	Newark's st.	95	96	97	98	99
43	"P September" ('61 film)	97	Room for research	12	Impresario Hurok	70	Baseball family name	118	Put away a pastry	97	98	99	100	
45	Fire	100	Ginnie _	13	Italy's _ Mountains	72	"M*A*S*H" Emmy winner	119	Police hdqrs.	104	105	106	107	
46	James of "Misery"	101	Friend	14	Celeste or Ian	73	Actor Stephen	120	Sniggler's quarry	109		111		
47	facto	104	EMT's skill	15	Tut's turf	74	Power unit	110		112	113	114	115	116
51	Part 2 of remark	105	Commandment word	16	Maui greeting	76	Urban transport	115		116	117	118	119	120
58	Kind of clam	106	Remarkable	17	Obtuse	78	Carpenter's corner	116		121	122	123	124	
59	Dhamar's locale	108	Talisman	20	"Light My Fire" rockers	79	List ender	122		125	126	127	128	
		110	Galaxy glitterer	24	Big bird	81	Postfix	127						

DOWN														
1	Pitch	1	Fill in	3	Simple life form	5	Crone	82	Cover girl	10		11	12	13
2	Deep Space	2	Circus performer	4	Glasses	6	Garr of "Mr. Mom"	19	Campbell	11		12	13	14
3	role	3	Reach	5	Reacher	7	Path	20		21				
4	Nine"	4	Fowl feature	6	Feel sore	8	Unadorned							
5	Reach	5	Wrath	7	Permit	9	Move a bit							
6	Wrath	6	9	Act like Etna	10	Act	10							
7	Wrath	7	10	Stud site	11	Like	11							
8	Wrath	8	11	Impresario Hurok	12	Notre Dame	12							
9	Wrath	9	12	Italy's _ Mountains	13	Early Brits	13							
10	Permit	10	13	Mountains	14	Baseball family name	14							
11	Act	11	14		15	Pointer sister	15							
12	Like	12	15		16	Wrath	16							
13	Notre Dame	13	16		17	Permit	17							
14	Early Brits	14	17		18	Act like Etna	18							
15	Baseball family name	15	18		19	Stud site	19							
16	Pointer sister	16	19		20	Impresario Hurok	20							
17	Wrath	17	20		21	Italy's _ Mountains	21							

