



NEWSBRIEFS

Water workshop

Texas Interfaith Center for Public Policy will host a Water Matters workshop, from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m., Saturday, June 13, at the Chamizal National Memorial (800 S. San Marcial Street). The public is invited to attend the free event. The workshop will bring together regional and state water experts to explore how the Texas Water Development Board (TWBD) plans to manage and conserve the state's vulnerable water resources. The day before the workshop (Friday, June 12), attendees will tour the world's largest inland desalination facility – the Kay Bailey Hutchinson Desalination Plant (10751 Montana Avenue). Then, on Saturday the workshop moves to the Chamizal Memorial where keynote speakers will discuss water supply and water planning for the future. Among the guest speakers will be Johnnie Smith, Texas Parks and Wildlife Educational Director; Bill Hargrove, Director, Center for Environmental Resource Management (CERM); Nicole Ferrini, Chief Resilience Officer at City of El Paso; Sam Brannon, Texas Interfaith Center for Public Policy Outreach and Engagement Specialist, Water Captains Project Director; and Shane Walker Ph.D., P.E. Associate Professor – Civil Engineering, at UTEP. For more information visit the Texas Interfaith Center's website at <http://texasinterfaithcenter.org/Events/El-Paso-2015/RSVP>

– Alfredo Vasquez

Craft fair

Oz Glaze Senior Center is having a Craft Fair starting at 9:00 a.m. and an Enchilada Dinner starting at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, June 20, 2015. Spaces at the craft fair rent for \$10.00. Enchilada tickets are \$5.00 pre-paid and \$7.00 at the door. For information call Fred 799-8194 or Judi 581-2994.

– Judi Verslype

SISD recognized

The Socorro Independent School District has garnered a Platinum Leadership Circle Award for the second year in a row from the Texas Comptroller's Office of Public Accounts. TeamSISD earned a perfect score with 23 of 23 possible points

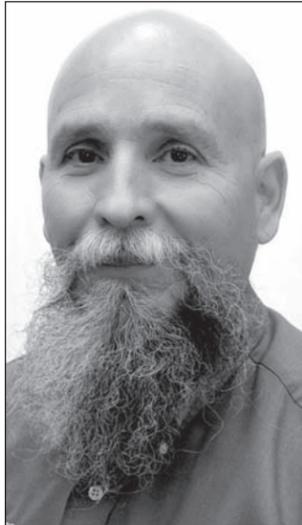
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Adriana Castruita



Obed Hernandez



Jose Maese

San Eli ISD recognizes best teachers, employee

By Cynthia P. Marentes
Special to the Courier

SAN ELIZARIO – The San Elizario Independent School District held its 2015 Star Recognition Banquet to honor twelve employees and teachers nominated by their schools for district wide honors for their exemplary performance and commitment during the year. The annual awards ceremony was held at the Moonlight Restaurant in the Horizon Golf Course and Conference Center on May 21.

The winners of the 2014-2015 San Elizario ISD Employee, Elementary Teacher, and Secondary Teacher of the Year were announced that evening as determined by two panels of external judges during interviews held in April. Jose Maese from Sambrano Elementary School was named the Employee of the Year. Meanwhile, Adriana Castruita from

Borrego Elementary School was chosen as the Elementary Teacher of the Year and Obed Hernandez from San Elizario High School was selected as the Secondary Teacher of the Year. Castruita and Hernandez will advance to the next level of competition representing San Elizario ISD during the Region 19 Teacher of the Year selection process to take place over the summer.

Maese has been the head custodian at Sambrano Elementary for the past eight years and also serves as the school's mascot Willy the Wildcat. He is known for always being the first person to arrive on campus and effectively maintaining safe and pristine facilities for the use of staff and students.

Castruita began working in San Elizario ISD in 2003 and is currently a 6th grade teacher at Borrego Elementary. She holds

See SEISD, Page 8

Medina accepted to HP AP Summer Institute

By Shane Griffith
Special to the Courier

CANUTILLO – Canutillo High School math teacher Rudy Medina has been accepted to the Hewlett-Packard AP Summer Institute. Mr. Medina, sponsor of the state-ranked CHS Calculator Applications team, will spend three days in San Diego attending the AP Statistics Summer Institute.

The grant, which funds an HP Prime Class Kit with 30 wireless-enabled calculators, will allow CHS to be one of the first schools in the U.S. to try HP's new math technology.

"These calculators have the capability to take polls, send messages and be customized with downloadable apps," Mr. Medina said. "Having technology like this in the classroom puts CHS students at the forefront of STEM education."

Mr. Medina was chosen for his long-

standing success as a math and statistics educator for the Canutillo Independent School District. Having made multiple appearances at the UIL State Academic Meet, his Calculator Applications team most recently placed second in the state of Texas.

"Though our Math Team has consistently won competitions at the local, regional and area level, the true measure of our success at CHS is what happens in the classroom," said CHS Principal Teresa Clapsaddle. "Mr. Medina is an exemplary educator and serves as a role model for all those with whom he has the opportunity to work."

Mr. Medina received his M.S. in Mathematics from Texas A&M University and has been employed with the Canutillo ISD for eight years. Calculators will arrive at the high school immediately following his training in July, which will align curriculum and instruction towards the utilization of this innovative technology.



FLY YOUR FLAG – 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.

Rotary parade theme: 'Fly your American Flag'

By Alfredo Vasquez
Special to the Courier

EL PASO COUNTY – Benavidez Patterson All Airborne Chapter will be parade marshal for the West El Paso Rotary 19th Annual Independence Day Parade, parade coordinators announced recently. And, they added that there is still time to submit a parade entry form for the Independence Day event.

"With the financial support of community parade sponsors like the City of El Paso, United Bank, United Blood Services, Pets Barn, Lone Star Title, Lucchese Boots, Western Refining, Hotel Indigo, Village Inn, Corner Bakery, Applebees, and Mattress Firm, this year's parade promises to be another fun family event," stated Rick LoBello, a parade supporter.

Benavidez Patterson All Airborne Chapter is a fraternity of current and former military paratroopers who are a dedicated community service group that supports U.S. Airborne active duty military personnel and the El Paso community, LoBello related.

Parade committee chair Jason A. Shaffer, executive vice president of United Bank of El Paso, said that the parade will start at 9 a.m., at the Western Hills Methodist Church (530 Thunderbird Street). The parade route will turn left onto Thunderbird, left onto Shadow Mountain Road, right on Mesa Street, and then proceed to Coronado High School.

This year, the parade will have prizes for first place, \$1000; second place, \$750; third place, \$500; and fourth place, \$250. Judging criteria for the various entries will include special effects, costume originality, theme, and crowd pleasing, Shaffer stated.

For more information, call (915) 474-1456 or send email to ricklobello@gmail.com.

School is the mouse race that prepares you for the rat race.

– Quips & Quotes

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING TO DISCUSS BUDGET AND PROPOSED TAX RATE

The Socorro Independent School District will hold a public meeting at 6:00 PM. on Tuesday, June 23, 2015 in the District Service Center, Board Room, 12440 Rojas Dr., El Paso, Texas 79928. **The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the school district's budget that will determine the tax rate that will be adopted. Public participation in the discussion is invited.**

The tax rate that is ultimately adopted at this meeting or at a separate meeting at a later date may not exceed the proposed tax rate shown below unless the district publishes a revised notice containing the same information and comparisons set out below and holds another public meeting to discuss the revised notice.

Maintenance Tax	\$0.976140/\$100 (Proposed rate for maintenance and operations)
School Debt Service Tax	
Approved by Local Voters	\$0.298654/\$100 (Proposed rate to pay bonded indebtedness)

Comparison of Proposed Budget with Last Year's Budget

The applicable percentage increase or decrease (or difference) in the amount budgeted in the preceding fiscal year and the amount budgeted for the fiscal year that begins during the current tax year is indicated for each of the following expenditure categories:

Maintenance and Operations	2.77% Decrease
Debt Service	2.39% Decrease
Total Expenditures	5.16% Decrease

Total Appraised Value and Total Taxable Value (as calculated under Section 26.04, Tax Code)

	Preceding Tax Year	Current Tax Year
Total appraised value* of all property	\$ 10,683,140,576	\$ 11,073,599,312
Total appraised value* of new property**	\$ 381,417,608	\$ 341,932,319
Total taxable value*** of all property	\$ 8,167,850,595	\$ 8,350,146,521
Total taxable value*** of new property**	\$ 370,996,869	\$ 335,649,397

* "Appraised value" is the amount shown on the appraisal roll and defined by Section 1.04(8), Tax Code.
 ** "New property" is defined by Section 26.012(17), Tax Code.
 *** "Taxable value" is defined by Section 1.04(10), Tax Code.

Bonded Indebtedness

Total amount of outstanding and unpaid bonded indebtedness* \$553,636,502

* Outstanding principal.

Comparison of Proposed Rates with Last Year's Rates

	Maintenance & Operations	Interest & Sinking Fund*	Total	Local Revenue Per Student	State Revenue Per Student
Last Year's Rate	\$ 0.976140	\$ 0.298654*	\$ 1.274794	\$ 2,562	\$ 5,739
Rate to Maintain Same Level of Maintenance & Operations Revenue & Pay Debt Service	\$ 1.007400	\$ 0.347250*	\$ 1.354640	\$ 2,681	\$ 5,908
Proposed Rate	\$ 0.976140	\$ 0.298654*	\$ 1.274794	\$ 2,518	\$ 5,871

*The Interest & Sinking Fund tax revenue is used to pay for bonded indebtedness on construction, equipment, or both.

The bonds, and the tax rate necessary to pay those bonds, were approved by the voters of this district.

Comparison of Proposed Levy with Last Year's Levy on Average Residence

	Last Year	This Year
Average Market Value of Residences	\$ 126,491	\$ 127,637
Average Taxable Value of Residences	\$ 111,401	\$ 112,487
Last Year's Rate Versus		
Proposed Rate per \$100 Value	\$ 1.274794	\$ 1.274794
Taxes Due on Average Residence	\$ 1,420.13	\$ 1,433.98
Increase (Decrease) in Taxes		\$ 13.85

Under state law, the dollar amount of school taxes imposed on the residence homestead of a person 65 years of age or older or of the surviving spouse of such a person, if the surviving spouse was 55 years of age or older when the person died, may not be increased above the amount paid in the first year after the person turned 65, regardless of changes in the tax rate or property value.

Notice of Rollback Rate: The highest tax rate the district can adopt before requiring voter approval at an election is 1.306054. This election will be automatically held if the district adopts a rate in excess of the rollback rate of 1.306054.

Fund Balances

The following estimated balances will remain at the end of the current fiscal year and are not encumbered with or by a corresponding debt obligation, less estimated funds necessary for operating the district before receipt of the first state aid payment:

Maintenance and Operations Fund Balance(s)	\$ 51,410,078
Interest & Sinking Fund Balance(s)	\$ 7,171,148

Veterans Post By Freddy Groves

Some student vets due refund checks

If you were a student and had Navient (aka Sallie Mae) as your loan service provider, you might be getting a refund check in the mail.

The Department of Justice nailed Navient to the tune of \$60 million in refunds and penalties after 78,000 service members were overcharged on interest for student loans. It was the first lawsuit against student loan servicers, and it sends a powerful message.

The loans in question date back to 2005, so even if you're not recently out of school, you might be in the group getting compensation. Additionally, Navient must contact all three of the big credit bureaus to ask that negative credit histories be deleted if the extra charges caused default judgments. Even more, Navient had to create an online form for service members, and make sure that there are customer-service reps who are trained in veterans rights.

This whole investigation apparently started with a service member complaint made through the Consumer

Financial Protection Bureau's Office of Servicemember Affairs. If you think you're due some cash from this, starting in mid-June 2015, you can call 855-382-6421. For other topics where your veteran rights were ignored, look at legalassistance.law.af.mil for Legal Loan Company Services Locator or see www.servicemembers.gov.

If you want to read about other problems the DOJ is tackling to help veterans, see www.justice.gov/crt/spec_topics/military. Example: A storage company auctioned off a veteran's belongings (including rare car parts) while he was overseas, clearly against the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act. Example: A company illegally repossessed vehicles belonging to over a thousand veterans. Example: Some 900 veterans had their homes illegally repossessed.

That link is a page to keep an eye on.

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Letter must not be more than 250 words in length. They should be dated, must be signed and have an address and daytime phone number. Only the name and city will be printed with the letter. The Courier reserves the right not to print letters to the editor or other submitted materials it considers inappropriate.

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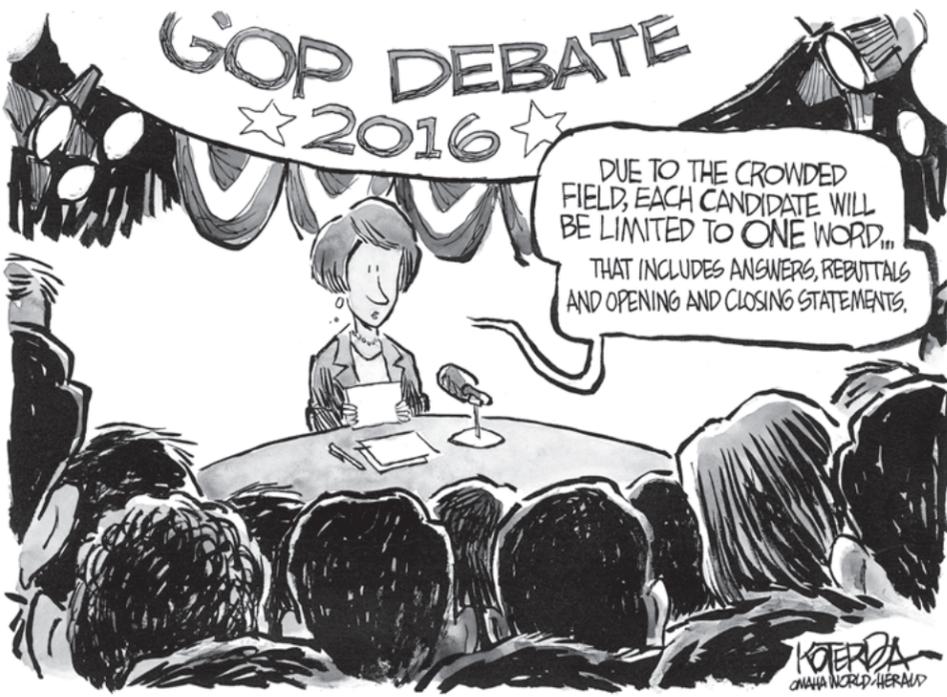
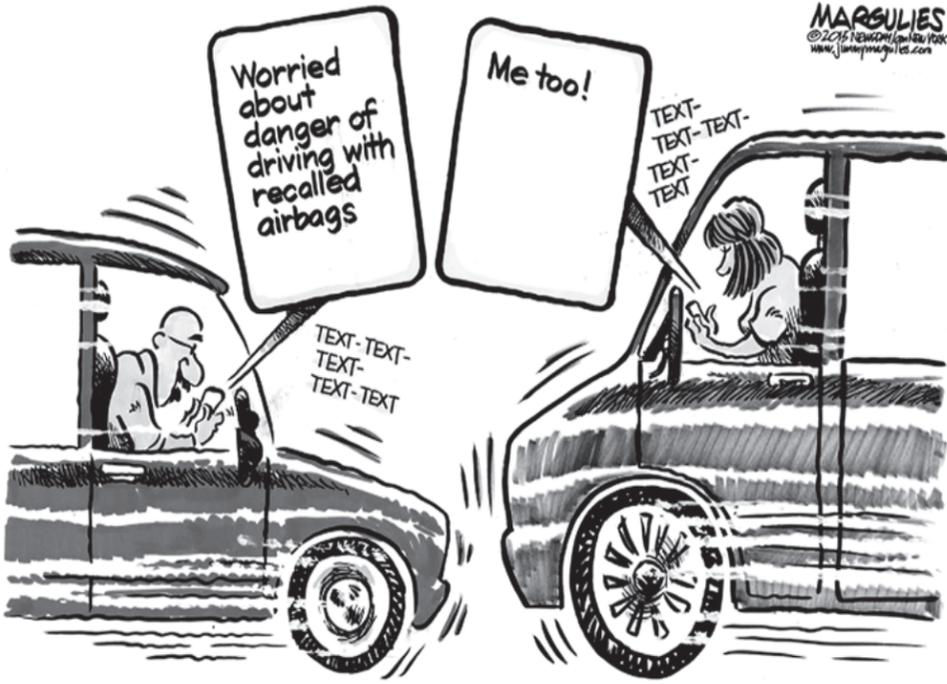
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Briefs

From Page 1

on the state's ratings criteria. "We are proud to earn this distinguished honor," said Tony Reza, SISD Chief Financial Officer. "Team SISD strives to provide our stakeholders with as much financial transparency as possible and this award vindicates the efforts we put forth in this endeavor." The Platinum designation spotlights public entities that go above and beyond providing financial transparency. The Comptroller's Office awards local governments that are opening their financial books to the public; providing clear, consistent pictures of spending; and sharing information in a user-friendly format. The Leadership Circle Award shows SISD's commitment to financial transparency and fiscal responsibility. It also reaffirms the district's dedication to all SISD stakeholders to be good stewards of taxpayers' money and maximizing resources to fully support a high-quality education for every student.

- Christina Flores-Jones

Summer schedule

The San Elizario Independent School District will be operating on a summer work schedule beginning the week of

June 8 through August 7, 2015. All schools and administrative offices will be closed on Fridays.

- Cynthia P. Marentes

Winner

Isaac Gonzalez, a 4th grade student at Deanna Davenport Elementary, won the regional competition of the 'Take Care of Texas' art contest hosted by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. Issac was awarded a Samsung tablet for his winning artwork. He represented the entire El Paso region.

- Shane Griffith

Turned 80

Social Security turns 80 this year and acting Commissioner Carolyn W. Colvin has announced that the agency plans a variety of celebratory events to mark the occasion. Ms. Colvin said a new Web site has been established that is dedicated to the Social Security Administration's birthday in August. The site features trivia, a schedule of events and historical data about Social Security and can be accessed at <http://www.ssa.gov/80thanniversary/>. For up-to-date news, information and legislative developments affecting Social Security, the Association of Mature American Citizens has created its own Web site that can be accessed at www.socialsecurityreport.org/.

- John Grimaldi

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING TO DISCUSS BUDGET

The San Elizario Independent School District will hold a public meeting at 5:30 p.m., Wednesday, June 24, 2015 in the SEISD Administrative Office, 1050 Chicken Ranch Rd., San Elizario, Texas.

The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the school district's budget that will be adopted. Public participation in the discussion is invited.

Comparison of Proposed Budget with Last Year's Budget

The applicable percentage increase or decrease (or difference) in the amount budgeted in the preceding fiscal year and the amount budgeted for the fiscal year that begins during the current tax year is indicated for each of the following expenditure categories:

Maintenance and Operations	1.98%	Increase
Debt Service	6.20%	Decrease
Total Expenditures	1.49%	Increase

WTCC: 06-11-15

Finances By Jason Alderman

Your midyear financial checkup

Setting a few hours aside for a midyear financial checkup in June or July can help you review how you're doing with savings, investing, spending and debt. It can give you the opportunity to spot irregularities and adjust your budget well in advance of year-end.

If you already work with a qualified financial or tax advisor, consider discussing this review process with them so they can guide you to any specific money issues you should be tracking.

Start by requesting at least one of your three credit reports. The idea is to make sure your credit balances are accurate and to check closely for any irregularities that might signal identity theft. Federal law

requires that each of the major credit agencies – Experian, Equifax and TransUnion – give you your most recent credit reports for free (<https://www.annualcreditreport.com/index.action>) once a year.

If you discover unusual charges or accounts you didn't open, alert your advisors, take any steps they recommend and otherwise follow the U.S. Federal Trade Commission's step-by-step identity theft guide (<http://www.consumer.ftc.gov/features/feature-0014-identity-theft>) to help you take action. Remember to stagger receipt of each of your credit reports throughout the year so you have the opportunity to catch potential irregularities every few months.

Next, turn to your budget

or start one if you've never made one before. The midyear review should focus on whether adjustments can be made to save or invest more or pay off more debt if more money is coming in from a raise or other resources. If spending is up by midyear, it's always important to know why and whether funds can be reallocated to better purpose.

Review your retirement and whether you're maximizing your contributions at work or in your own personal retirement accounts. Those who reach age 50 by the end of the calendar year will be able to take advantage of additional catch-up contribution allowances to beef up their balances as they approach retirement.

Midyear is also a good time

to check the adequacy of one's emergency fund (<http://www.practicalmoneyskills.com/calculators/emergency>). Emergency funds help keep you from tapping your credit or savings balances in a sudden cash emergency. The amount of money you keep in your emergency fund should fit your needs, but consider a balance of four to seven months of everyday expenses in case there's a short-term job loss or an emergency repair. Consider keeping a year-round list of potential home, car or personal expenses and decide whether your emergency fund is adequate or you might need to set up other savings accounts to address bigger needs.

Make sure your tax withholding

levels are correct. This is particularly important if your income has changed during the first six months of the year and you might be closing in on a higher or lower tax bracket. Consult your tax advisor for assistance, and the IRS features its own withholding calculator (<http://www.irs.gov/Individuals/IRS-Withholding-Calculator>) to help you decide.

Finally, make sure all your recordkeeping is up to date. Midyear is a good time to look over all your spending, saving and investment records to make sure all the numbers add up and underlying paperwork is in order. Also consider online banking, investing and bill payment as a way to save more time and money.

Bottom line: Taking a midyear break to review your finances gives you a thoughtful opportunity to spot errors, adjust your budget and save on taxes.

Jason Alderman directs Visa's financial education programs.

STRANGE BUT TRUE

By Samantha Weaver

- It was Alice Roosevelt, prominent socialite and daughter of President Theodore Roosevelt, who declared that her purpose in life was to "empty what's full, fill what's empty, and scratch where it itches."

- King James VI of Scotland was also, after the crowns of England and Scotland were united in 1603, King James I of England. He may have been doubly noble, but those who study such things say that his personal habits would not have been out of place in a commoner of the time period. He reportedly never bathed, claiming that baths were an unhealthy practice, and he would wear the same clothes for months on end.

- Three of the first five presidents of the United States – John Adams, Thomas Jefferson and James Monroe – died on July 4.

- Fans of the long-running sitcom "Scrubs" will be familiar with the main character, Dr. John "J.D." Dorian – and his best friend – Dr. Christopher Turk. You might not realize, though, that the actors who played those roles – Zach Braff and Donald Faison – also are best friends in real life.

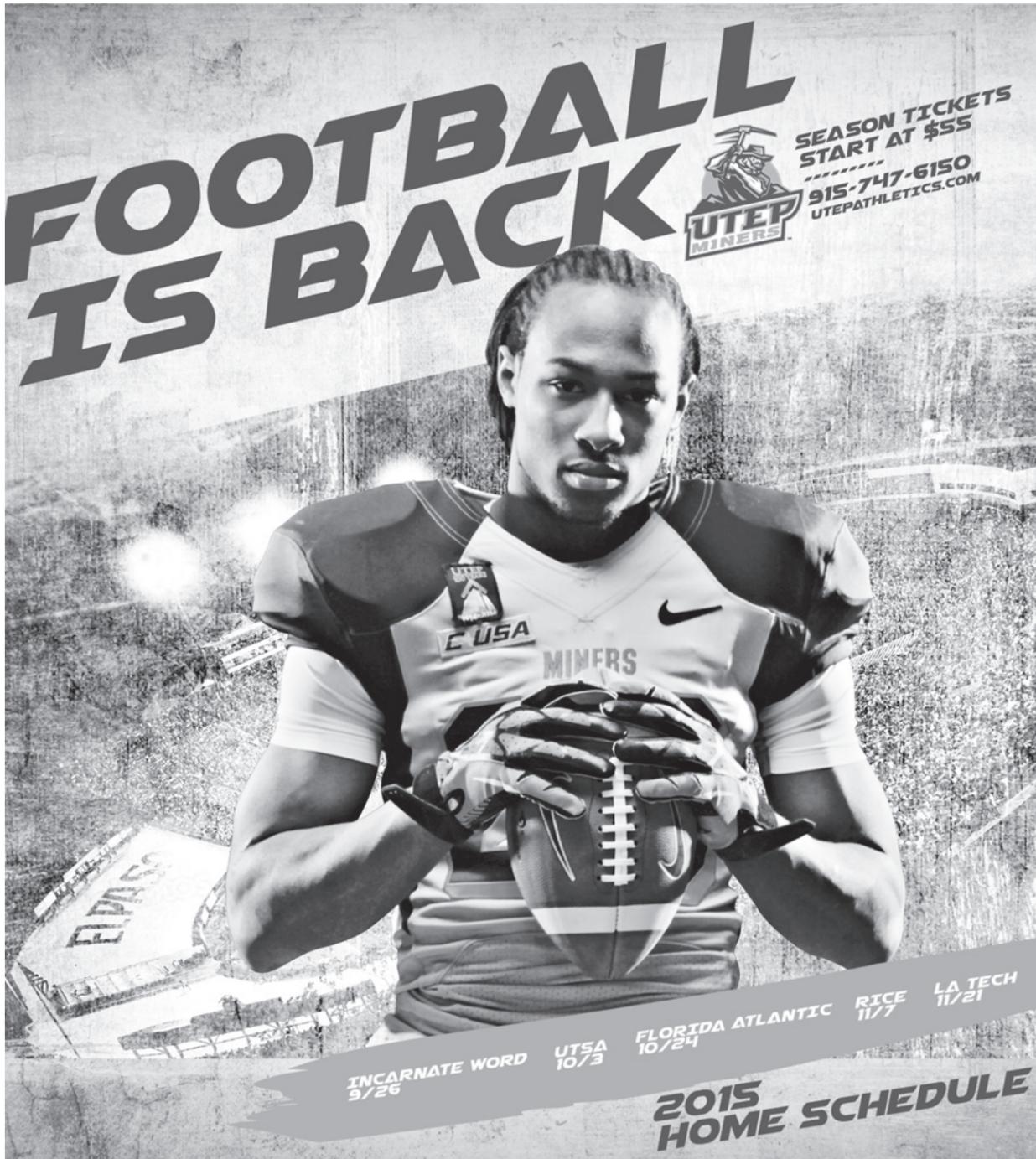
- The game of tag may seem like an innocent children's pastime, but in some countries it has a sinister undertone. In Italy, players pretend that anyone getting tagged has caught the black plague. In Madagascar, leprosy is the contagion that is being supposedly spread by the game, while in Spain, it's relatively harmless fleas.

- Taking the stairs may be good for your cardiovascular health, but there are dangers you might not know of. In an average year, approximately 27 people are killed while using an elevator, while 1,600 die while taking the stairs.

Thought for the Day: "Learning is what most adults will do for a living in the 21st century."

– Lewis Perelman

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CryptoQuip Answer

Old novelist who was famous for using weasel words throughout his writings: Ermine Melville.

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San Elizario HS valedictorian is Ivy League bound

By Cynthia P. Marentes
Special to the Courier



Vianey Rueda

SAN ELIZARIO –When Vianey Rueda, San Elizario High School Class of 2015 valedictorian, first stepped onto the Dartmouth campus in July 2014 and knew that was the college she wanted to attend, she wasted no time in quickly achieving her goal. On December 2014 Vianey learned that she was accepted to the Ivy League university in the early admissions round and in late April 2015 she was notified that she had been selected as a Gates Millennium Scholar. All that was left for Vianey to do was receive her high school diploma and on June 5 she did that just that along with 200 plus fellow seniors who walked across the graduation stage marking their final exit from San Elizario High School.

Vianey’s journey began last year when she heard about the Dartmouth Bound: Summer Program where high school students receive an opportunity to experience college life first hand by touring the campus, sitting in on classes, engaging in activities with current students and attending workshops to learn about the admissions process. That trip cemented her wish to pursue her college education at the small, private university located in Hanover, New

Hampshire and she submitted her application in November. Only a little over a month later and with the encouragement and support of her family, Vianey made the decision to accept the offer of admission from Dartmouth.

She then devoted her time during the winter break to complete the extensive Gates Millennium Scholars Program application that consisted of nine essays of 1,000 words each. Even though she had received a scholarship, Vianey knew that receiving the Gates scholarship would provide her family great relief from her college expenses. With the assistance of counselor Paula Hernandez and teachers Michael Warfield and Ana Luna,

Vianey sent her Gates submission off in late January. Although she had worked very hard on the application, Vianey still had her doubts that she would ever be selected.

“I thought I was shooting for something close to impossible because I was competing with so many other students,” Vianey recalled.

Sometime around her birthday in late April, Vianey came across three separate e-mails from the Gates Program and as she opened them, each one contained information on her receipt of the prestigious award.

“As I read each of the messages, I thought to myself ‘Did I actually get this e-mail?’ The day that I had waited for had come and I couldn’t believe it!” she said.

She remembers calling her mom, Connie Rueda, at work who screamed loudly as she heard the news from her daughter.

Vianey added that although her mother will be sad and worried that she will be very far from San Elizario, she along with the rest of the family are proud and supportive of her accomplishments. Even if she had not received the Gates Millennium scholarship, Vianey stated that her family urged her to live her dreams and create her own path. Fortunately, Vianey is a Gates Millennium Scholar and Dartmouth Bound just like she planned.

“Nobody can measure your knowledge and ability. Its all up to you,” Vianey concluded.

Vianey together with other graduates earned over \$6.2 million in scholarships, financial aid, and grants exceeding the college aid amount ever received in the history of the school.

Notice of the Availability of an Environmental Assessment

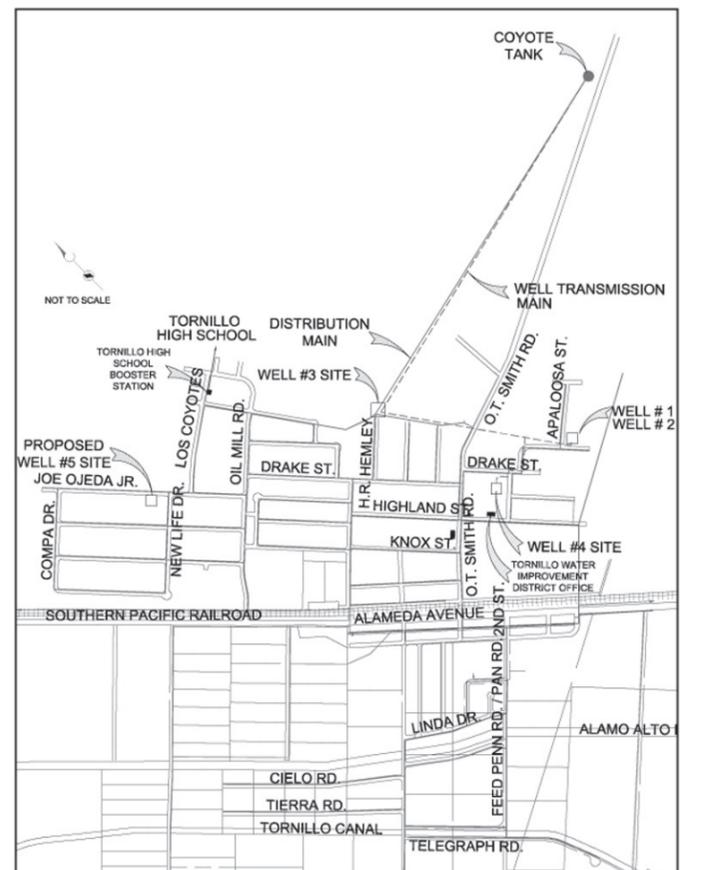
The USDA, Rural Utilities Service has received an application for financial assistance from the El Paso County Tornillo Water Improvement District. As required by the National Environmental Policy Act and agency regulations, the Rural Utilities Service has prepared an Environmental Assessment that evaluated the potential environmental effects and consequences of the proposal. This notice announces the availability of the Environmental Assessment for public review and comment.

The proposal consists of improvements to the water distribution system in the El Paso County Tornillo Water Improvement District area. The following mitigating measures will be used to minimize any environmental affects:

If cultural materials or human remains are encountered during construction, work must cease in the immediate area; work can continue in the project area where no cultural materials are present. In the discovery area, work must cease, and the contractor must notify the consultant engineer, El Paso County Tornillo Water Improvement District and both the State Historic Preservation Officer at (512) 463-6100 and the USDA Rural Development State Environmental Coordinator at (254) 742-9789. The alternatives considered to the proposal include the same as proposal with different sizing.

Copies of the Environmental Assessment are available for review at Rural Development, 2306 W. Dickinson Blvd., Fort Stockton, Texas. For further information contact USDA Rural Development at 432-336-5206 ext. 118. Any person interested in commenting on this proposal should submit comments to the address above by July 6, 2015.

A general location map of the proposal is shown below.



WTCC: 06-04-15 and 06-11-15

View from here By John Grimaldi

America’s moral decline is not inevitable, says AMAC *A ‘silent majority’ still believes in morality; we need to make noise*

A recent Gallup poll revealed that Americans are more tolerant of liberal moral values than ever before. A separate survey by Gallup, conducted in the past several weeks, showed that a great majority of us – 72% of the population – believe the country is in moral decline.

“The seemingly contradictory research indicates that while the nation’s attitudes have changed toward what was once viewed as bad behavior regarding sex, marriage and other social issues, we still have a moral compass. Explicit movies, pop culture and even some of the political rhetoric we hear almost daily may tell us to let it all hang out, as some might put it, but deep down we know that smoking marijuana is not the best way to go through life,” according to Dan Weber, president of the Association of Mature American Citizens.

In reporting its poll, Gallup concluded, “Americans’ views about the declining state of moral affairs largely reflect a belief that there is a deteriorating

collective moral character. That is, their views have less to do with greater acceptance of same-sex marriage or having babies out of wedlock and other hot-button issues, and more to do with matters of basic civility and respect for each other.”

Weber said he believes that the implications of what the polls show are both numerous and complex. He asserts that the nation – particularly the heartland – is still strongly conservative in its moral views but that social liberals have been especially effective in promoting their agenda.

“Meanwhile, the relative prosperity we enjoy in the United States has made some of us more accepting of new concepts of behavior. At least that’s what the Obama administration seemed to think when its Department of Health and Human Services review board ruled that Medicare can pay for sex change operations.”

Such elective surgeries have been excluded from coverage for

some 30 years, but last week the review board made an about face and declared the exclusion to be unjustified.

“But, more important, the conservatives among us have become a ‘silent majority,’ too reticent to speak our minds in a collective voice loud enough to make ourselves heard for fear we will be labeled as ‘old fogies’. Instead of lamenting the feeling that the country is going to hell in a hand basket, we need to present a united front and stand up for our principles by getting involved in ways that make a difference. Write thoughtful letters to your representatives, whether they are conservative or liberal, and tell them we must resist moral decline. Show your support for political candidates who support your views. Most important, get out and vote.”

America’s moral decline is not an inevitability, Weber concluded. “It’s a matter of awakening from our complacency and taking appropriate measures.”

Trying to win at any cost – even pay to ‘fan up’ codes

By Steve Escajeda
Special to the Courier

Although Americans don't bring it up as much as they used to, they are extremely fortunate to live the greatest place in the world.

With all the strife going on around the world, the United States continues to be the "Land of Opportunity," where people from all over the planet aspire to live – or at least experience.

There are, of course, many reasons for this. One is religious freedom. People have the right to believe and worship anything as long as it doesn't infringe on the rights of others.

Here, there's no fear of losing your head, literally, if your belief differs from somebody else's.

Another reason is freedom of speech. Here, you can vigorously disagree with the nation's leader without fear of spending the rest of your life in prison – or worse.

In the United States you can start your own business, you can move freely from one state to another, you are guaranteed an

education and can advance as far as you are willing to work. You can freely marry into another race, religion or culture, and you have the right to choose your local and national leaders at the voting booth.

Many of these rights and freedoms that we often take for granted are unavailable in many countries around the world. Not only are they not offered, but often times they are squelched with deadly force.

With all these freedoms at our disposal you can imagine how confused I was when I heard the news out of Tampa Bay.

Another cool thing about the United States is that Americans love competition and there is no shortage of sporting events to enjoy each and every day.

And those stadiums, fields and arenas are filled with rabid fans wearing their team jerseys and caps.

Things are no different in Tampa Bay, where the Lightning are playing in the National Hockey League Stanley Cup finals against the Chicago Blackhawks.

To be honest, things are no different for Tampa fans wearing Tampa Bay Lightning garb. But in certain parts of the Tampa Bay arena, Chicago jerseys are not

allowed.

Wait a second. I didn't just wake up in some third-world, communist dictatorship this morning, did I?

Believe it or not, although a fan may pay over \$600 to sit in a certain club section, they will not be allowed to sit there with a Blackhawk's jersey on.

What's next? Separate drinking fountains for home and visiting fans? Will we sell visiting fans only three-fifth's of a Coke?

Obviously I'm a huge sports fan, and I love it when the home crowd is so loud it's almost deafening. But that doesn't mean that we shouldn't allow any NMSU Aggie jersey-wearing fans at UTEP home games.

And vice versa.

Imagine if you're a Dallas Cowboys fan and you make the trip to Phoenix to watch them play the Cardinals. However you have to leave all of your Cowboys' apparel at home because you're not allowed to wear it at a football game.

That's like taking a sip at a wine-tasting affair and being asked to tuck in that pinky. It just isn't done.

I'd like to see what happens when a visiting fan eventually challenges this ridiculous idea in court.

Let me get this straight, the Ku Klux Klan has the right to walk down Main Street of any town in America, but hockey fans aren't allowed to wear their team's jersey to certain sections of a visitor's arena.

The Lightning put this plan into effect at home in game 1 of the Stanley Cup playoffs. It worked beautifully. They lost 2-1.

Ideas like this boggle minds everywhere. The Washington Bullets changed their name to the Wizards because of gang violence. How well is that working?

It's disappointing to know that there are still minds out there small enough to believe that exclusion is the way to prosperity.

If there are a lot of visiting fans in a home team's stadium that's the fault of the home fans for not buying up the tickets.

America is still the land of the free and the home of the brave and any fan should be free to wear any jersey they want to at any stadium – if they're brave enough.

A sporting view By Mark Vasto

Here's to the losers

There used to be a baseball player and manager named Leo Durocher. He was a tough guy – small in size, but large and skilled in matters involving the fist – and he had the mouth to match. They called him "The Lip," because that's what he was always giving people he interacted with.

He was a member of the Yankees' World Series-winning "Murderer's Row" and the Cardinals' "Gashouse Gang," and he managed "Dem Bums" out of Brooklyn and the Giants out of the Polo Grounds. He's one of the winningest managers in baseball history, and there's a plaque with his name on it in Cooperstown.

Chances are you never heard of the guy... but you've heard his catchphrase: "Nice guys finish last."

It has been said that Durocher made that remark in a passive, casual way and not the sneering, cutting way the phrase has often been presented over the years. Talking to one of his ballplayers, he pointed at the Giants taking batting practice, being courteous and nice to people, and he made the observation that they were in last place. "Nice guys. Finish last."

Over the years, like anyone with a catchphrase, he attempted to build off it... how he would trip his own mother if she was

rounding third in a tie ball game in order to win. Sixty ears later, Leo's phrase remains for those who believe in winning at all costs.

A guy named Connie Mack made a living out of baseball, too. Unlike Durocher, he had a pretty unremarkable career as a player. He was a nice guy who famously wore suits in the dugout as manager. He didn't have a catchphrase, he had a "Code of Conduct" that he passed out to his players. It read as such:

1. I will always play the game to the best of my ability.
2. I will always play to win, but if I lose, I will not look for an excuse to detract from my opponent's victory.
3. I will never take an unfair advantage in order to win.
4. I will always abide by the rules of the game – on the diamond and in my daily life.

5. I will always conduct myself as a true sportsman – on and off the playing field.

6. I will always strive for the good of the entire team rather than for my own glory.

7. I will never gloat in victory or pity myself in defeat.

8. I will always do my utmost to keep myself clean – physically, mentally and morally.

9. I will always judge a teammate or an opponent as an individual, and never on the basis of race or religion.

I give Connie Mack credit for stopping at nine. Also, give credit to Connie for having the guts to say those things during a time when the game was a sloppy,

tobacco-spitting, drunken circus rife with segregation. Maybe Durocher was onto something though... after all, Connie Mack lost more games than any other manager, finished last more than any other manager.

Ah, but Mack also won the most games. He managed 53 years, won nine pennants and five World Series. He's in the same Hall as the other guy. Alas, he has no catchphrase... you decide who was wise.

Mark Vasto is a veteran sportswriter who lives in Kansas City. (c) 2015 King Features Synd., Inc.



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MOORE TEXAS

by Roger Todd Moore

Texas' first licensed woman dentist was Mary Lou Shelman in 1894... helping fill a cavity in the profession... sorry...



Fair focuses on growing Hispanic-owned businesses

Si Se Puede! conference offers Spanish-speaking community tools to start a successful business

By Alfredo Vasquez
Special to the Courier

EL PASO COUNTY – Small business owners and business assistance organizations are invited to a special small business fair that is designed to provide information on expanding their enterprises. The event will be presented in Spanish and is free to the public.

¡Si Se Puede! – the Spanish-language small business conference – will be held from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Saturday, July 11, at the Anthony Municipal Building (820 Highway 478) in Anthony, New Mexico.

Participants will have the opportunity to meet with top business leaders in the Spanish-language community, learn how to maximize their company's visibility, and gain exposure in front of the fastest-growing segment of the region's business

community, according to Raul Gonzalez, Regional Services coordinator for the Rio Grande Council of Governments' (RGCG) West Texas Economic Development District.

"The conference is a premier occasion for up-and-coming Spanish-language entrepreneurs to take their business to the next level, because attendees will network with industry leaders and attend workshops and seminars to equip them with the tools needed to increase their revenue stream in this economy," Gonzalez stated.

"The mission of this conference is to facilitate a professional setting that allows Spanish-language business owners (and potential business owners) to expand their networks and develop business opportunities," Gonzalez explained.

"Far too often, language and cultural barriers prevent entrepreneurs from taking the next step in starting or expanding

their business. This conference aims to let the community know that they are not alone in their quest to further their small business and that there are organizations that are here to help," the RGCG official added.

The conference is organized in collaboration with the Mexican Consulate-El Paso and local government agencies including the City of Anthony NM, SBDC New Mexico, the Arrowhead Center, NM Senators Tom Udall and Martin Heinrich's office, and the Rio Grande Council of Governments.

For more information and to reserve a free table or exhibit space, contact Gonzalez at 915-533-0998 ext. 137 or send email to raulg@riocog.org.

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.

	x		÷		6
+		÷		+	
	+		-		11
÷		+		-	
	-		x		7
2		5		2	

DIFFICULTY: ★★★

★ Moderate ★★ Difficult
★★★ GO FIGURE!

2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 9

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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

Answer Page 4

★★★ HOO BOY!

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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: V equals W

BYU LBXIYSAR ZCB ZVA TVFBGA

TBQ GASLK ZIVAIY ZBQUA

RCQBGKCBGR CSA ZQSRSLKA:

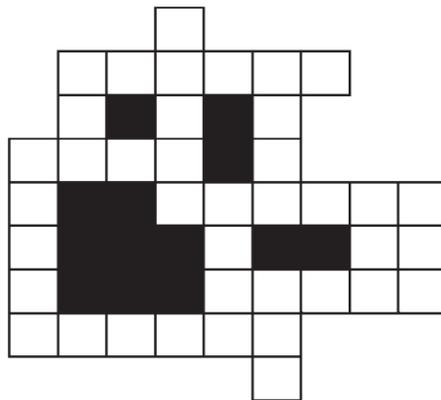
IQFSLI FIYXSYI.

Answer Page 4

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- XEH
- STEEMO
- MURSE
- ♥TUSO
- GHEAMO
- GEO
- MEAX
- ♥GUTHO
- ♥NGU
- ♥TUMEIN
- ♥OTHUS
- GOSN



Answer Page 4

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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SEISD

From Page 1

a master's degree in reading from the University of Texas at El Paso and is presently pursuing a certificate in educational administration. Castruita assists students with reading difficulties and test anxiety through a literacy intervention program that she created involving visiting with parents and students at their home after school or on weekends. She is also the sponsor of the art club on campus where she guides students in constructing dollhouses from recycled materials that are then donated to children in the community.

Obed Hernandez started his teaching career at San Elizario High School in 2009 where he teaches social studies and Advanced Placement courses for 9th and 12th grade students. A lifelong soccer player himself, Hernandez is currently the girls soccer program head coach and lead the team this year to district and bi-district championships. He often volunteers along with his soccer team players for various community service projects in San Elizario including neighborhood cleanups and toy drives.

Past San Elizario ISD award recipients Idania Rodarte, 2013-2014 Employee of the Year, and Cesar Morales, 2013-2014 Secondary Teacher of the Year served as guest speakers during the banquet. Presenting the winners their trophies at the celebration were newly elected San Elizario ISD school board president Irene D. Jaquez, Superintendent Sylvia Hopp, and Associate Superintendent Ruben Cervantes.

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