



NEWSBRIEFS

Signing ceremony

Canutillo High School and Northwest Early College High School grads took part in a unique ceremony on May 18. 75 students signed commitments to universities and colleges across the nation. The students received over \$5.2 million in academic scholarships that was in addition to over \$5 million dollars in grants, fee waivers, extensions, military aid, and federal work studies that pushed the total over \$10 million. Canutillo ISD Superintendent, Pedro Galaviz, believes that holding the scholarship-signing event for academic scholarships is just as momentous as athletic scholarship signings. Canutillo ISD is the only district in the region to do this. “College commitment signing is when the District’s mission of college readiness comes to fruition,” Galaviz said. “This commitment to continuing education, training, or career development after high school is the first step toward a successful and prosperous future.”

— Liza Rodriguez

Let 'em eat plastic

The Association of Mature American Citizens says scientists may have found a way to deal with one of the most pervasive environmental problems of the modern age by feeding the plastic bags that clog landfills all over the world to worms. The Web site, Futurism, reported recently that an amateur beekeeper in Spain, who also happens to be a scientist, stowed the larvae of some “pesky” wax moths into a plastic bag to prevent them from eating up her beeswax, which is also their favorite meal. The caterpillars quickly ate through the bags. It turns out they have a taste not only for beeswax, but also for plastic.

— John Grimaldi

2016 Honor Roll

The Educational Results Partnership and Institute for Productivity in Education have named the Canutillo Independent School District (CISD) a 2016 Honor Roll member. CISD is one of just 11 Texas school districts and named to the list. Three CISD schools – Northwest Early College High School, Alderete Middle School and Reyes Elementary School – were also honored as Star Honor Roll

See BRIEFS, Page 8

Once upon a time movies were rated on how good they were, not on who was allowed to see them.

— Quips & Quotes

Sierra Club acts to protect honeybees

By Alfredo Vasquez
Special to the Courier

NATION – A nationwide, public awareness campaign is rekindling efforts to muster grassroots support for pressuring the new Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) officials to keep the current policies in place if they want to save the honeybees.

Leading the campaign is The Sierra Club, a conservation advocate group that monitors closely the EPA’s actions. The government watchdog reported that according to U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), America’s beekeepers lost 23 percent of their hives over the winter of 2013-14. And, another USDA study completed recently indicated that 44 percent of honeybee colonies died in the past year (2015-16).

The resurgence of public concern is sparked by the new federal administration’s stance towards relaxing certain EPA regulations that involve pesticides. One such regulation that began in January 2016 phases-out all uses of neonicotinoids by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on National Wildlife Refuges lands.

Neonicotinoids, a class of neuro-active insecticides, are chemically similar to nicotine. The honey bees’ massive die-off is linked to exposure to these nerve-agent classes of pesticides that German chemical giant Bayer provides to seed companies to coat corn and soybean seeds



ALL ABUZZ – Environmentalists nationwide say honeybees are in danger of being killed-off by pesticides. They are calling for the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to keep in place plans to curb use of these insect destroying products. The value of honeybee pollination to U.S. agriculture is more than \$15 billion annually. Honeybees are responsible for pollinating agricultural crops that make up one-third of our diet, including fruits and vegetables that are cornerstones of heart-healthy and cancer prevention diets according to Gloria DeGrandi-Hoffman. She is an adjunct professor in the Department of Entomology in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at the University of Arizona and a research leader at the Carl Hayden Bee Research Center in the Agricultural Research Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

to kill pests.

In the 1980s Shell and in the 1990s Bayer started work on the development of the neonicotinoid family of insecticides including acetamiprid, clothianidin, imidacloprid, nitenpyram, nithiazine, thiacloprid and thiamethoxam. Compared to these commonly used insecticides, neonicotinoids showed that it caused less toxicity in birds and mammals than in insects.

However, in the late 1990s neonicotinoids

came under increasing scrutiny over their environmental impact. Neonicotinoid use was linked in a range of studies to adverse ecological effects, including honeybee colony collapse disorder and loss of birds due to a reduction in insect populations. Although the findings have been controversial; nonetheless, in 2013 the European Union and a few other countries restricted the use of certain neonicotinoids,

See BEES, Page 5

Avila, Duran and Perez are top-shelf in San Elizario ISD

By Hector Gonzalez
Special to the Courier

SAN ELIZARIO – San Elizario ISD held its annual “Teacher and Employee of the Year Awards Ceremony” on Friday, May 12, at the Wyndham El Paso Airport Hotel. Six teachers and six employees were honored at the ceremony for their exemplary performance and dedication.

Alma Avila, a campus monitor from Lorenzo G. Alarcon Elementary, was named ‘Employee of the Year’ while Cesar Duran, also from Alarcon Elementary, was selected as the District Elementary Teacher of the Year and Juanita Perez from San Elizario High School as the District Secondary Teacher of the Year. Both Duran and Perez will advance to the next level in which they will represent San Elizario ISD in the Region 19 Teacher of the Year competition.

Avila has been working as a campus monitor for the past eight years. She is passionate about student success and says that seeing the smiles on every student’s face brightens her morning.

For the past 19 years, Duran has had



— Photo courtesy San Elizario ISD

BEST IN CLASS – From left, Alma Avila, Employee of the Year; Cesar Duran, Teacher of the Year (Elementary); and Juanita Perez, Teacher of the Year (Secondary) were recognized for their efforts at a ceremony on May 12.

the privilege of teaching for SEISD. He loves helping students become “the brightest stars that ever shined” because teaching children helps HIS light within to continue shining.

Perez has a total of 12 years working for SEISD, five of which have been as a

teacher for San Elizario High School. She says teaching has allowed her to develop relationships with young men and women from all walks of life.

The 2016-2017 Teacher and Employee of the Year winners were determined by two panels of external judges.

Finances

By Nathaniel Sillin

Turn monthly bills into real world lessons for your kids

When you’re a kid, a few dollars can seem like all the money in the world. It can take weeks, sometimes months, to

save up your allowance. When you finally decide to spend it, you might realize that \$10 or \$20 isn’t as much as it seems.

As a parent, you can help your children build important money management skills by providing experiences for them at a young age. Leading by example is a good way to start, and it can help instill good values and money habits. However, you’ll also want your children to get their hands dirty.

Open up your books. The value of money is a lesson you learn over time. For young children, games, such as Peter Pig’s Money Counter, or activities that help them identify coins and bills could be a good place to start. Older children may be ready to see how much things really cost. Going over bank or credit card statements, you could explain why you made each purchase and look for savings opportunities.

You can also turn a monthly bill into a teaching moment. Children might not realize how leaving the lights, heat or AC on can affect your monthly bills. You can sit down together and compare each month’s bill to the bill from the previous year. The practice of reviewing and comparing bills can help children understand that their actions have financial consequences.

They’ll also start to learn how much it costs to keep your home comfortable. That’s a valuable lesson, one I didn’t truly learn

until I had my first apartment. You could take a similar approach to the groceries or other monthly expenses.

Help your children earn an income. Knowing the numbers is only part of the picture. It’ll be difficult for children to practice managing money if they don’t have any money to manage. But how, when and why children should receive an allowance is a debate for many parents.

Whether you pay a chore-based allowance or offer payment based on extra work, you could use a personal finance app that lets children see how much they’ll earn for each task. There are a variety of apps designed for different age groups, and some let kids create virtual accounts where they can track their earnings, spending and progress towards financial goals.

You can also help children find ways to earn money from outside the family. Organizing a yard sale could be a chance for them to help you clean out the home, practice bargaining and learn valuable lessons in entrepreneurship. Even a lemonade stand or bake sale requires that they buy supplies, work to earn money and put aside some of their earnings to pay for more supplies later.

Make your kids responsible for their bills. With a steady income comes increased responsibility. Make teenagers the boss of a bill, with real consequences for late payments. The mobile phone or internet

bill could be a good place to start. Figure out an appropriate portion for them to take on and require them to pay you each month. If they’re late, they lose internet access or their phone until they can pay their balance. When they don’t have enough saved to pay the bill, offer work opportunities for them to make money.

Once they take responsibility for their first monthly bill, you can also share how you manage the household’s finances. Show them what it’s like to keep multiple bills organized each month, make payments by writing checks or setting up auto-pay. Then explain how late payments can lead to fees, affect your credit and (just like with their phone) get services shut off.

Bottom line: Understanding how much it costs to manage a home and the importance of paying your bills on time can help you avoid costly mistakes. Some people learn these lessons once they’re at college or living on their own, but you can help give your kids a leg up by taking a proactive approach to their financial education.

This article is intended to provide general information and should not be considered health, legal, tax or financial advice. It’s always a good idea to consult a tax or financial advisor for specific information on how certain laws apply to your situation and about your individual financial situation.

Veterans Post

By Freddy Groves

Whistleblowers gain protections

On April 27, 2017, a presidential executive order gave the Department of Veterans Affairs 45 days to create a special office to protect whistleblowers and increase accountability. The VA managed to pull it off in 15 days, and the Office of Accountability and Whistleblower Protection now is up and running.

While short on text, the executive order is long on potential impact. A few highlights:

- The office is to help recruit, reward and retain high-performing employees;
- It will help identify statutory barriers to disciplining or terminating any employee who has done anything to jeopardize the health and safety of a veteran, and to report those barriers so they can be fixed via legislation;
- It will act swiftly to resolve veterans’ complaints of wrongdoing; and
- Best of all: The new office will quickly investigate employees’ allegations of wrongdoing, and protect those employees from retaliation.

There. We have it in writing,

signed, sealed and delivered: Whistleblowers will be protected. No longer will they have to face going to work knowing that inappropriate care is being given to veterans, or that supplies are going out the back door, or that drunk medical personnel are duty. No longer will they have to get a fake email account to try and stay anonymous when they send information to the hotline. And no longer will the VA have to follow a protracted and convoluted set of legal guidelines, effectively being forced to keep a wayward employee who needs to be shown the door. Additionally, remarks made at President Donald Trump’s signing indicate that there will be a website that discloses wait times at all VA hospitals, that mental health services will be same-day at all VA hospitals, and that already this year, veterans have received 42 percent more Choice Program approvals to see doctors of their choosing.

Are things looking up? We can only hope.

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2017

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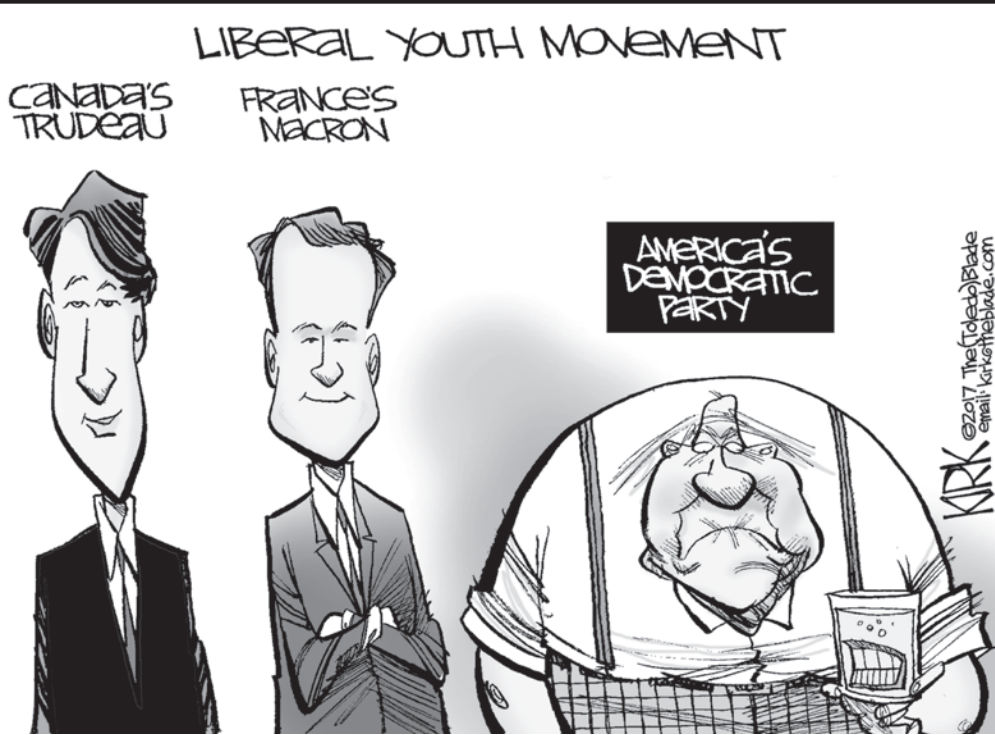
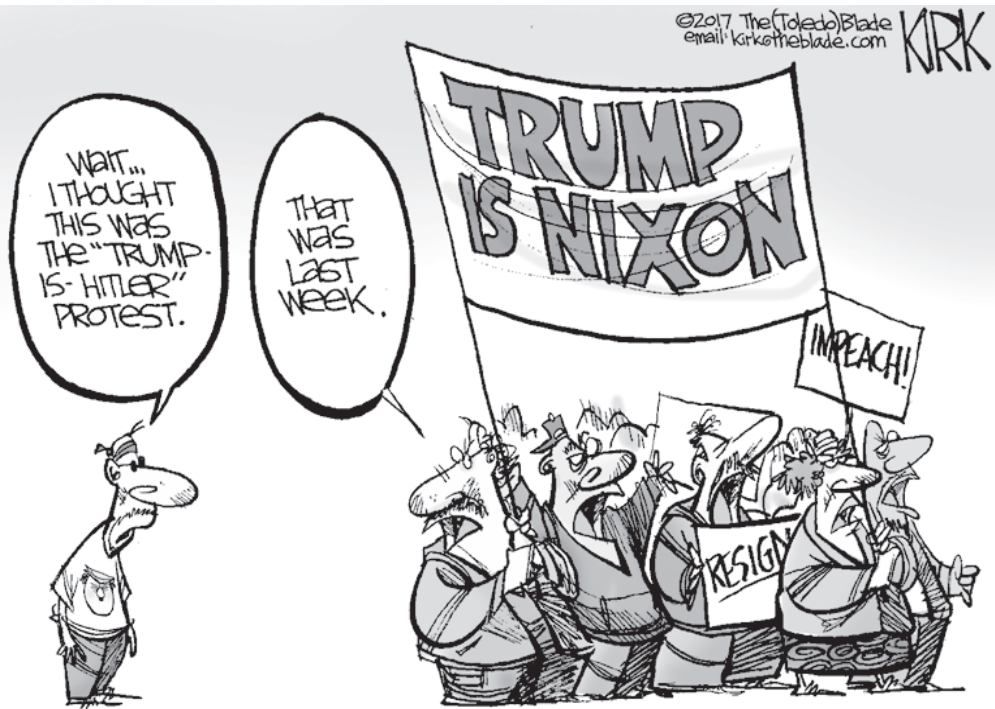




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Llanez earns national 180 Student Award for reading

By Christy Flores-Jones
Special to the Courier

EL PASO COUNTY – Spc. Rafael Hernando III Middle School student Kaitlyn Llanez has earned a prestigious 2017 180 Student Award, a national honor that recognizes 15 children who have overcome personal and academic challenges to achieve success in the classroom.

The Socorro Independent School District sixth grader conquered a terminal cancer diagnosis and a stuttering problem that severely impacted her learning and life, and has made great strides with reading and academic success.

“I am really proud of myself for getting this award,” Kaitlyn said. “I have become a better, stronger reader and feel more confident thanks to my teacher and the program. I enjoy and understand books now. It makes me feel good and happy.”

Now in its 11th year, the 180 award recognizes students, who, along with the help of their remarkable teachers, have

made significant gains in their reading and math achievement and ultimately paving the way to college and career readiness.

“I couldn’t be prouder and I can’t think of another student who deserves it more,” said Brenda Rios, Hernando’s Reading 180 teacher, who nominated Kaitlyn. “She has worked so hard for it. She inspires me to come into class every day and be the best that I can be.”

Kaitlyn isn’t the first Hernando student to receive this award. Two other students were winners in 2014 and 2016. Both were in Rios’s class. Hernando is the only El Paso area school to have earned this achievement.

“Part of this competition was picking a child who has overcome great obstacles and done exceptional things despite those obstacles,” Rios said. “If you know your students, you know that a lot of them have back stories. As with my other two students who won, Kaitlyn’s story is what this competition is about.”

After beating cancer and having 10

See 180, Page 6

View from here By John Grimaldi

Media integrity or agenda?

“The majority of journalists adhere to the rules; there’s swift justice for writers who stray. But, too many reporters have been taking liberties in recent years and getting away with it, especially some of those who cover social and political issues. Why do they do that? Because they may have a political agenda or because, quite literally, they are eager to make headlines,” says Dan Weber, president of the Association of Mature American Citizens.

Weber made his comment in the midst of what appears to be a rising tide of anti-Trump sentiment among some reporters and editors seemingly eager to report on his tenure so far in negative terms. “Ironically, there have been numerous news reports of the extraordinarily negative media coverage Mr. Trump has received during his campaign and throughout his first 100 days in office,” according to Weber.

Veteran journalist Joe Concha, media reporter for the highly regarded political website, *The Hill*, says, “there is a vitriol towards Donald Trump that we have never seen with any other president.” In a recent TV interview, Concha cited researchers who showed that 89% of the coverage of the Trump administration has been generally negative. The studies showed that 97% of the Trump reporting by the CBS Evening News and the NBC Nightly News is biased. Concha said “that tells me that there’s probably an agenda.”

Few would disagree that the Trump Administration has been perhaps the most transparent in history when it comes to dealing with the media. Yet, the media says he is a threat to the First Amendment. As Concha put it: “On one hand, the Trump Administration is totally about access, and on the other hand, there are press freedoms being threatened. How does that square exactly?”

The facts speak for themselves, says Weber. White House spokesman Sean Spicer holds more press briefings, he takes more questions from reporters and has expanded access to the White House press room by providing considerably more press passes and introducing the use of Skype for reporters unable to be at the briefings in person. Meanwhile, President Trump has done more media interviews with a more diverse group of media outlets than any president in recent memory.

News reporters are bound by a code of ethics, according to Weber. “They are supposed to stick to the facts. They should not be taking advantage of the stories they are covering to promote personal agendas. They need to take the integrity principle seriously and, if they don’t, their editors should be there to strictly enforce the code. Editorials are for the editorial pages. It’s bad enough that anyone with a computer; a basic knowledge of grammar and a vivid imagination can be a reporter these days by posting their so-called news stories on the Internet. These new age town criers have no rules; they are free to twist and turn their so-called coverage of an event or personality to suit their personal agendas. But when mainstream reporters do it, we all lose. We lose confidence in the purpose and accuracy of the stories we read in the morning paper and those we watch on the evening news. Media integrity is more important than ever in the Trump era.”

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

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING TO DISCUSS PROPOSED TAX RATE

The San Elizario Independent School District will hold a public meeting at 5:30 p.m., Wednesday, June 14, 2017 in the SEISD Administrative Office, 1050 Chicken Ranch Rd., San Elizario, Texas.

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

The school district has elected to adopt a tax rate before receiving the certified appraisal roll from the chief appraiser(s) of the appraisal district(s) and before adopting a budget. In accordance with Texas Tax Code, Section 26.05(g), the chief appraiser(s) of the appraisal district(s) in which the school district participates has (have) certified to the assessor for the school district an estimate of the taxable value of property in the school district as provided by the Texas Tax Code, Section 26.01(e). In accordance with the Texas Education Code, Section 44.004(j), following adoption of the tax rate, the school district will publish notice and hold another public meeting before the school district adopts a budget.

The tax rate that is ultimately adopted at this meeting or at a separate meeting at a later date may not exceed the proposed 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	\$1.108900/\$100 (Proposed rate for maintenance and operations)
School Debt Service Tax	
Approved by Local Voters	\$0.117400/\$100 (Proposed rate to pay bonded indebtedness)

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	\$ 281,445,685	\$ 304,663,108
Total appraised value** of new property***	\$ 13,680,540	\$ 4,481,347
Total taxable value**** of all property	\$ 216,529,695	\$ 224,349,362
Total taxable value**** of new property***	\$ 12,883,455	\$ 4,365,386

* All values identified are based on estimate(s) of taxable value received pursuant to Section 26.01(e), Tax Code.
** “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* 27,905,000

* 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	\$ 1.108900	\$ 0.137400*	\$ 1.246300	\$ 745	\$ 8,853
Rate to Maintain Same Level of Maintenance & Operations Revenue & Pay Debt Service	\$ 1.118300	\$ 0.123000*	\$ 1.241300	\$ 769	\$ 9,076
Proposed Rate	\$ 1.108900	\$ 0.117400*	\$ 1.226300	\$ 760	\$ 9,046

*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	\$ 67,097	\$ 68,037
Average Taxable Value of Residences	\$ 38,856	\$ 40,696
Last Year’s Rate Versus		
Proposed Rate per \$100 Value	\$ 1.246300	\$ 1.226300
Taxes Due on Average Residence	\$ 484.26	\$ 499.06
Increase (Decrease) in Taxes		\$ 14.79

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 1.231900. This election will be automatically held if the district adopts a rate in excess of the rollback rate of 1.231900.

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)	\$ 13,430,227
Interest & Sinking Fund Balance(s)	\$ 1,371,358

WTCC: 05-25-17

Moments in Time

The History Channel

• On June 5, 1968, Senator Robert Kennedy is shot at the Ambassador Hotel in Los Angeles after winning the California presidential primary. Kennedy was shot several times by the 22-year-old Palestinian Sirhan Sirhan. He died a day later.

• On June 6, 1933, in New Jersey, Richard Hollingshead opens the first drive-in movie theater. Hollingshead had experimented in the driveway of his home in Camden, mounting a 1928 Kodak projector on the hood of his car, pinning a screen to some trees, and placing a radio behind the screen for sound.

• On June 7, 1913, Hudson Stuck, an Alaskan missionary, leads the first successful ascent of Mt. McKinley’s south peak, the highest point on the North American continent, at 20,320 feet, overcoming difficult weather and a fire that destroyed food and supplies.

• On June 8, 632, in Saudi Arabia, Muhammad, founder of Islam, dies. In 610, in Mecca, he had a vision in which he heard God command him to become the Arab prophet of the “true religion.” Muhammad began having religious revelations, which he collected as the Quran.

• On June 9, 1856, nearly 500 Mormons leave Iowa City and head west for Salt Lake City, carrying all their goods and supplies in two-wheeled handcarts with wooden axles. Over the next four years, some 3,000 Mormon converts made the overland journey with similar handcarts.

• On June 10, 1928, Maurice Sendak, author and illustrator of “Where the Wild Things Are,” is born in New York. The book was pioneering in its realistic depiction of childhood anxieties and rebellious behavior.

• On June 11, 1955, a Mercedes-Benz race car in Le Mans, France, goes out of control at 150 mph and crashes into stands filled with spectators, killing 82 people. Several nations banned racing after the tragedy.

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Strange But True

By Samantha Weaver

• It was beloved American author of Western stories Louis L’Amour who made the following sage observation: “A wise man fights to win, but he is twice a fool who has no plan for possible defeat.”

• You might be aware of the fact that penguins mate for life, but did you know that before they mate, there’s a proposal? It’s true—a penguin will spend a significant amount of time searching for the perfect pebble to offer to its prospective mate.

• Swedish chemist, inventor and businessman Alfred Nobel is best known for inventing dynamite – and for using his fortune to institute the Nobel Prizes after he was condemned as a “merchant of death” for profiting from the sale of arms. You might be surprised to learn, though, that he also had a literary bent, writing poetry, novels and plays.

• If you’re like the average American, you spend about 17 minutes a day exercising – and 10 hours a day looking at a screen.

• On Christmas Day in 1075, while he was in the middle of celebrating mass at the Basilica di Santa Maria Maggiore, Pope Gregory VII was kidnapped by a Roman nobleman.

• Those who study such things say that the light produced by a single bolt of lightning is equivalent to that produced by 100 million flashbulbs. And the fact that flashbulbs are being used as a comparison may indicate some unrelated data about the age of the researchers.

Thought for the Day: “The tragedy in the lives of most of us is that we go through life walking down a high-walled lane with people of our own kind, the same economic situation, the same national background and education and religious outlook. And beyond those walls, all humanity lies, unknown and unseen, and untouched by our restricted and impoverished lives.”
– Florence Luscomb

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CryptoQuip Answer

When army bigwigs need to buy supplies, I imagine they would shop at the general store.

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19		16		21	



– Photo courtesy Fabens ISD

SQUEEZE IN – The Fabens High School Cheer squad, participants and reps from Veterans Nonprofit Organization gathered for a group picture at Wildcat Stadium after the 5k run/walk.

Fabens students raise money, collect food for vets

By Denise Peña
Special to the Courier

FABENS – At its annual A Run/Walk for Heart held Wednesday, May 17, the Fabens High School Cheer

squad raised over \$1,300 and collected 230 cans of food to benefit the Veterans Nonprofit Organization of El Paso.

Cheer coach Juanita Martinez has organized this event for the past four years to provide students the opportunity to feel what it means to be generous without expecting anything in return. “The goal is to bring cheer to people in ways other than yelling chants on the sidelines.”

Martinez said this year’s A Run/Walk for a Heart was their most successful so far. “Every year the community involvement has gotten better and we plan to continue with our tradition for years to come.”

Bees

From Page 1

subsequently the U.S. followed in 2016.

Now, concerned environmentalists are urging government policy makers to adhere to the current plan, titled Policy to Mitigate the Acute Risk to Bees from Pesticides Products, which outlines methods for addressing risks to bees including prohibiting the application of acutely toxic chemicals under conditions when bees are most likely to be present.

In a recent public letter, Sierra Club’s Executive Director Michael Brune stated, “I’m afraid that we’re running out of time to save the bees, especially with the White House and both chambers of Congress firmly in the hands of anti-environment extremists bent on putting the profits of big business above the concerns for our nation’s wildlife.”

Brune reported that the EPA claims the agency will review the situation in 2018. “That could be way too late for the bees, especially with the Trump administration pledging to do the bidding of big business, regardless of any environmental consequences,” he stated.

As a result, Sierra Club members are asking all citizens to join them in convincing new EPA director Scott Pruitt and his team that the current mitigation plan works, as well as the locally-based measures, such as the managed pollinator protection plans that encourage states and tribes to reduce pesticide exposure to bees.

From a June 20, 2014 White House Fact Sheet:

The Economic Challenge Posed by Declining Pollinator Populations

Pollinators contribute substantially to the economy of the United States and are vital to keeping fruits, nuts, and vegetables in our diets. Over the past few decades, there has been a significant loss of pollinators – including honeybees, native bees, birds, bats, and butterflies – from the environment. The problem is serious and poses a significant challenge that needs to be addressed to ensure the sustainability of our food production systems, avoid additional economic impacts on the agricultural sector, and protect the health of the environment.

Economic Importance of Pollinators:

- Insect pollination is integral to food security in the United States. Honeybees enable the production of at least 90 commercially grown crops in North America. Globally, 87 of the leading 115 food crops evaluated are dependent on animal pollinators, contributing 35% of global food production.
- Pollinators contribute more than \$24 billion to the United States economy, of which honeybees account for more than \$15 billion through their vital role in keeping fruits, nuts, and vegetables in our diets.
- Native wild pollinators, such as bumble bees and alfalfa leafcutter bees, also contribute substantially to the domestic economy. In 2009, the crop benefits from native insect pollination in the United States were valued at more than \$9 billion.

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AND DRIVING
MAKES
GOOD PEOPLE
LOOK BAD.

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Turning over a new Leaf

By Steve Escajeda
Special to the Courier

The NBA draft lottery was held recently and the Boston Celtics will have the first pick.

Of course the draft is where teams start building for the future by stockpiling raw talent that will eventually blossom into vital pieces of a winning puzzle.

And the higher the pick, the better the player, right?

Well not always. All professional leagues can roll out a list of first-round busts that are legendary.

Some of the most notable are Sam Bowie and David Clyde and JaMarcus Russell and Tony Mandarich and Brian Bosworth and Greg Oden and Jeff George and Billy Bene and Darco Milicic, just to name a very few.

Maybe the most notable is Ryan Leaf. Leaf was the Washington State quarterback that was the second player picked in the 1998 draft by the San Diego Chargers.

Oh, by the way, Indianapolis picked first that year and chose Peyton Manning over

him. That choice looks like a no-brainer now, but at the time they were running neck-and-neck.

Well, Leaf’s story has been well chronicled. He was a lousy leader, a lousy player and by his own admission – a lousy human being.

At one time, his actions and drug problems made him the most hated athlete in sports.

Eventually, Leaf’s drug use escalated to the point where he was arrested on three separate occasions for breaking into someone’s home to steal prescription drugs. He was charged with several felonies and eventually spent over three years in prison.

It got to the point that the word “Leaf” turned into a cautionary tale.

But to his credit, Ryan Leaf has turned his life around and spends his days now helping young athletes, trying to keep them from following the same path.

Leaf, who has been sober for four years now, admits the stupidity of his actions and makes no excuses.

He has established a foundation that raises money for people who can’t afford addiction or mental health treatment.

Leaf’s willingness to be honest about his mistakes is why he was able to conquer them.

He was a bust in football, but life isn’t just about football.

Overlooked?

The NBA announced last week that it has narrowed its 2016-17 MVP award to three players, Russell Westbrook, James Harden and Kawhi Leonard.

Oklahoma City’s Westbrook was only the second player in NBA history to average a triple-double, including leading the league in scoring at 31.6 a game.

Houston’s Harden led an exciting run-and-gun Rockets team by being something he had never been before – unselfish. Harden led the league in assists and was second in scoring.

San Antonio’s Leonard is arguably the best two-way player in the league. He averaged 25.5 points a game and was just as tenacious on defense.

All three candidates are worthy of the MVP award. All led their teams to the playoffs and all three do more for their teams than just score points.

And though they each do their thing in different ways, they all share one very obvious distinction – none one of them is anywhere close to being the best player

on the planet.

LeBron James is currently doing things in the playoffs that only compare to guys named Jordan and Bird and Magic and Jabbar.

Let’s face it, with his size and strength and speed and shooting touch and defensive ability and passing and rebounding and basketball IQ, it’s not even close.

It’s a very unique situation. Anyone that knows anything about basketball knows that LeBron can do almost anything he wants on the court against any player they put up against him.

And yet, they keep giving the MVP to other players.

How is that possible? Years from now will people be questioning his greatness by saying, “he only won four MVP awards, KareemAbdul-Jabbar won six and Michael Jordan and Bill Russell had five.”

The truth is, James can easily win the MVP every season. He just does everything so spectacularly every single night that it is taken for granted.

He shares his best attribute will Bird and Magic and Jordan, in that he makes his teammates better and he wills his team to victories.

And don’t be shocked if he does it again in a couple weeks.

A sporting view By Mark Vasto

The baddest man on the planet

“That’s my successor.”

And with those three words from Mike Tyson – and three knockdowns in his title fight – Anthony Joshua became the new face of boxing. Do we finally have the next great heavyweight champion of the world in our midst?

While the disrespect to the Klitschkos – guys like Michael Moorer, Riddick Bowe, Lenox Lewis and Evander Holyfield – is apparent, it’s easy enough to understand what Tyson is saying here. There are boxers who wear belts, and then there are men

whom people just universally identify as the champ. In fact, until around 1960, that’s how champions were crowned... popular choice. One guy was considered the baddest man on the planet, another guy came up and beat him, won a few more times until some guy beat him. It worked out well and formed a lineage that any fight fan can rattle off in a moment’s notice: Tyson, Holmes, Ali, Liston, Patterson, Marciano, Louis, Dempsey, Johnson... sprinkle in a few other names here and there, but you get the point. Nobody

ever says that Michael Spinks or Frank Bruno was the champ.

What makes a heavyweight champion? A champ has to be equal parts skill and spectacle. He has to dazzle you when you’re watching him in the ring, but also make half the world want to climb in the ring to try and knock him out of it while making the other half cower in abject fear at the thought. They should be regal... a champ doesn’t have to be flashy, but he should be able to represent on the red carpet, draw crowds and know how to handle them. Be an ambassador to the sport.

And, yeah, be the baddest man on the planet. Joshua has a lot going for him in that department. He’s British-Nigerian and took up boxing when he was 18, amassing a 40-3 win record and garnering all of the appropriate attention that a 6-foot-6 super-heavyweight bodybuilding sprinter would. He’s an Olympic gold medal winner. Now he’s the champ, sporting a 19-0 record with 19 knockouts and a multi-fight deal with Showtime. It’s Joshua’s time to reign.

In interviews, Tyson has been more matter-of-fact than effusive.

“Whenever there’s a new heavyweight champion and he’s explosive like [Joshua] and wins the title like that it changes the whole game,” Tyson told ESPN.

He seemed almost grateful to finally dismiss talk of the rumored Mayweather-MacGregor fight, a potential contest he called “garbage.”

“All the little guys who were making a lot of money are not going to make their money any more,” Tyson said. “It’s all going to be about Joshua and the heavyweights now. That one fight [with Klitschko] changed boxing.”

Joshua appears ready to take it all in stride – because he’s willing to fight everyone, and that’s what champions do.

Mark Vasto is a veteran sportswriter who lives in New Jersey. (c) 2017 King Features Synd., Inc.

180

From Page 3

surgeries, Kaitlyn returned to school, but continued to struggle. She stuttered when asked to read, avoided the library and saw book fairs as a waste of time.

“I didn’t like to read because the only way I could read was going word for word,” she said. “I could not read in a complete sentence. I didn’t understand what the book or story was about. I would get upset. I was so far behind. I would attend book fairs and I would look at all the cool books, but I didn’t see the point in wasting my money on something I couldn’t understand.”

It was this school year that Kaitlyn was assigned to the Reading 180 class. She vowed to be a better student. The course turned her world around. Her strong sense of determination to succeed allowed Kaitlyn to build a strong reading foundation. She now loves reading.

“This class and the program have

made such a difference,” said her mother, Diana Llanez. “It has taught her to find the meaning of words and put thoughts together so she is actually enjoying reading. She reads a lot. We go to the library all the time. She reads to other kids, too. I know that she also is a mentor to another student that also has medical issues.”

Kaitlyn has improved her reading level significantly. With Reading 180, Lexile points are used to measure a student’s reading ability. Kailyn has gained 324 Lexile points since school began. It is a remarkable improvement considering that on average a student her age and grade gains about 70 points.

“It is amazing,” Rios said. “But she has been working so very hard.”

Read more about the 2017 180 Student Awards and profiles of the winners at the sites below.

- www.hmhco.com/media-center/press-releases/2017/may/180-student-awards-2017
- www.educatorcommunity.hmhco.com/student-awards



Kaitlyn Llanez – Photo courtesy Socorro ISD

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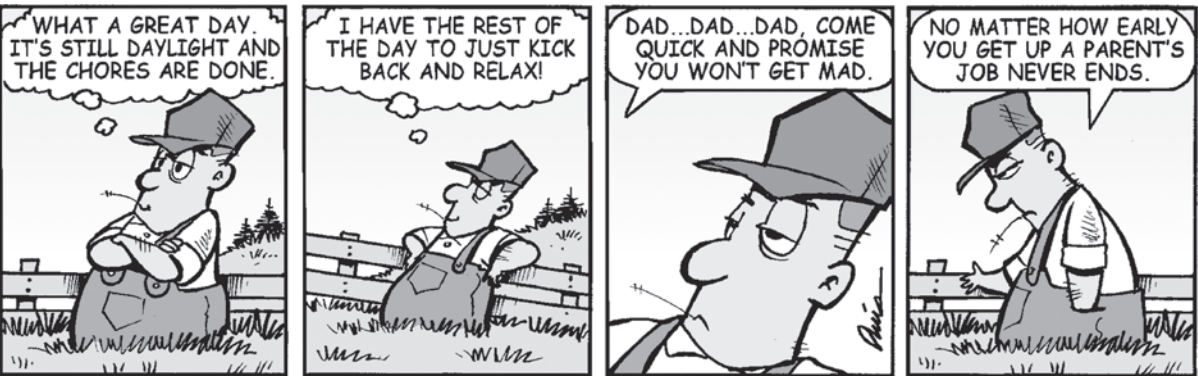
OUT ON A LIMB

By Gary Kopervas



AMBER WAVES

By Dave T. Phipps



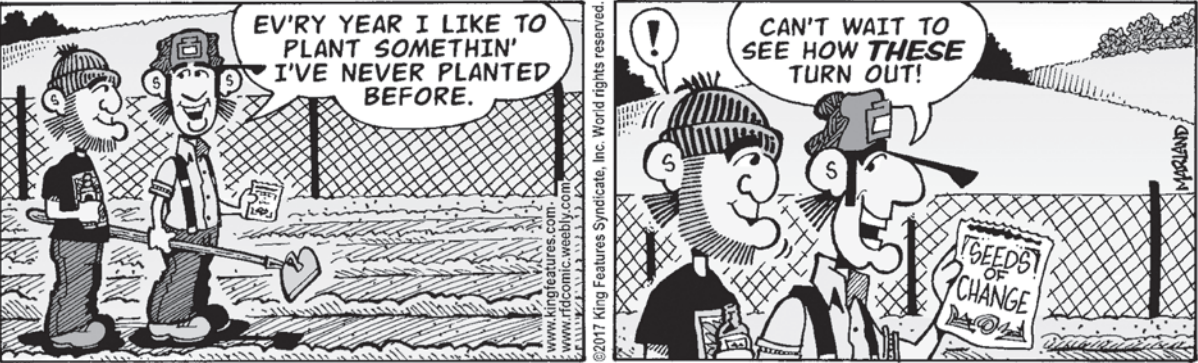
THE SPATS

By Jeff Pickering



R.F.D.

By Mike Marland



Your good health

By Keith Roach, M.D.

DEARDR.ROACH: My husband, who is 73 and otherwise in good health, had a colonoscopy in the summer of 2012 and was told that because no polyps or any problems were found, he did not need another test for 10 years. This October, he was diagnosed with stage 4 colon cancer, which has spread to the abdomen and omentum. He also had seven polyps removed during his latest examination. My question is, How likely is it that such a virulent cancer could grow in such a short time? I would be resigned to the diagnosis if I didn't feel that something was missed in the initial exam. Also, I had a colonoscopy done by the same doctor this summer and also was told that I need not come back for 10 years. Should I be concerned? – H.B.

I am very sorry to hear about your husband. What happened is very unusual. All guidelines agree that in a person with a normal colonoscopy, a repeat in 10 years is recommended. A repeat in five years would have been recommended if a low-risk polyp had been found, earlier with high-risk or multiple polyps. I haven't personally seen a case like your husband's, where an advanced cancer presents less than 10 years after a normal colonoscopy. This should happen in fewer than 1 in 1,000 people.

There are several reasons why it can happen. The most important is that even a properly done colonoscopy misses polyps. Very small polyps (less than 5 mm) can be missed 26 percent of the time, but large polyps (greater than 10 mm) are missed only 2 percent of the

time. Although the colonoscopy is the best screening test we have for colon cancer, it isn't perfect. It's also possible that he just had a very fast-growing cancer. While I understand your concern about getting yourself an earlier repeat colonoscopy, your risk is very small, and if you trust the doctor who did the colonoscopy, you should get your repeat in 10 years.

READERS: Some 140,000 people are diagnosed with colon cancer in the U.S each year. The booklet on colon cancer provides useful information on its causes, symptoms and treatments. To order a copy, write: Dr. Roach – No. 505W, 628 Virginia Drive, Orlando, FL 32803. 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. ROACH: My mother, 88 years old, recently switched her medicine for hypertension from timed release, which she has been taking for 10 years, to one that is not timed release, because the timed release was too expensive. I'm worried. Has she compromised her health by doing this? Her cardiologist gave her the go-ahead. – J.R.

In my opinion, timed-release versions for high blood pressure are preferable to non-timed-release because the level of the medication in the blood can go up and down to a greater degree with the regular-release formulation. However, it does depend on the medication, and her cardiologist

See HEALTH, Page 8

Super Crossword

- PLANETS OUT OF ALIGNMENT ACROSS

1 Get in a trap

8 Diner dishes

15 Long tales

20 One finding something

21 Mishmash

22 Match venue

23 Additional examination [3rd from the sun]

25 McLain of old baseball

26 Sioux tribe members

27 Scene

28 Tranquil

30 _ Island (old immigration point)

32 Poker style

33 Eve's music

36 Sends in, as payment

38 Run things

39 Result of a minor infraction in hockey [8th from the sun]

42 Specks in la Seine

43 Not be well

44 "Sand" actor Estevez

45 Fencing weapons

46 Hall-of-Fame Jets running back [4th from the sun]

49 Launch platforms

51 Italian for "seven"

52 Complacent

54 Projecting crane arm

57 Major fuss

61 Lie in court [5th from the sun]

67 "I'm keeping my eye _!"

68 Work site supervisors

69 Book review?

70 One enlisting GIs [1st from the sun]

73 Milk sugar

75 Where one lives: Abbr.

76 Sty feed

77 Gabrielle of modeling and volleyball

79 Part of AFB

81 Moon rock source [7th from the sun]

88 _ gin fizz (cocktail)

91 Ancient Indian emperor called "the Great"

94 Colo. clock setting

95 Whitish gem

96 Unexpected nice thing [6th from the sun]

99 Fight arbiters

100 Comic Berle

101 JFK takeoff guess

102 Wine-related prefix

103 Don't dissent

104 "Peter Pan" penner

106 Gen. Robert _

107 Pair

108 "Zip your lip!"

109 "Inherited or acquired" dichotomy [2nd from the sun]

116 Tolerate

117 Like sandals

118 Not shown, as on TV

119 Died down

120 Nonvital body organs

121 People being quizzed

DOWN

1 Hobgoblin

2 _TURN (street sign)

3 "Page Down" user, e.g.

4 Most dapper

5 Eldest Musketeer

6 Some deer

7 Goof up

8 _gatherum

9 Carnivore's intake

10 Couture magazine

11 Place

12 Naval acad. grad

13 _ Fridays

14 Meeting of Cong.

15 Made blue

16 Tourists' aids

17 Non-Jewish

18 Funicello of film

19 Declare

24 Home of Elaine, in Arthurian lore

29 Prior to, poetically

30 Actor Dane

31 Lollapalooza

32 Reach by water, in a way

33 Lay waste to

34 Ocean off Ga. and Fla.

35 U.S. architect I.M. _

37 OS part: Abbr.

39 Stunned with a gun

40 Abbr. for those with only one given name

41 Infield fly ball

47 "A Mighty Fortress _ God" (hymn)

48 Gain back

50 Gain maturity

52 _ Nevada

53 52-Down, e.g.: Abbr.

54 A martial art

55 Fleur-de-lis

56 Gig fraction

57 Wild hog

58 About

59 Y facilities

60 Tyke amuser

62 "Either he goes _ go!"

63 Confronted

64 Mrs., in Nice

65 Sprinter, e.g.

66 Extend (out)

68 To and _

71 Ar-tee linkup

72 Not dirty

73 To a smaller degree

74 Not obtuse

78 Badgers' kin

79 River or lake outing

80 Various

81 Ear-piercing

82 Odessa loc.

83 Emperor exiled to Elba

84 "No deal!"

85 Gap

86 Cozy eatery

87 Additional

88 LP stat

89 "Arabian Nights" hero

90 Skin pigment

92 Beatified Fr. woman

93 Pres. initials

97 Singer DiFranco

98 Keanu of film

103 Subtle glows

105 Seth's eldest

106 Deco artist

107 Sand hill

108 Raven's cry

110 Smartphone download

111 No. in the white pages

112 A. in French

113 Enthusiast

114 R&B singer Des_

115 Mag workers

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Hey, maybe they'd PAY
us to play!!

PAY BaseBall players?
Never happen!!

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– *Javier Sambrano*

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Dr. Roach regrets that he is unable to answer individual letters, but will incorporate them in the column whenever possible. Readers may email questions to ToYourGoodHealth@med.cornell.edu. To view and order health pamphlets, visit www.rbmamall.com, or write to Good Health, 628 Virginia Drive, Orlando, FL 32803. (c) 2017 North America Synd., Inc. All Rights Reserved.