

MAYOR'S MAY PROGRESS REPORT

There just isn't enough space in this publication to say all the good there is to say about the Early College High School.

Last week, I enjoyed visiting the Early College High School's GIS Symposium, and I was extremely impressed by the detailed and informative presentations put on by the students. The staff at the Early College High School does an excellent job of preparing its students and the program's national ranking (16th in the nation) is well deserved.

The Early College High School students also did a wonderful job at the presentation with Mosaic, who announced a very significant donation to the program. Thank you to Mosaic for your generosity and for always being a great community partner.

The same group of students also presented at the Guadalupe Ridge Trail dedication that weekend at McKittrick Canyon. The trail itself will be another great tourism draw. This has already been a very busy time for both of our national parks, who have reported high numbers.

Guadalupe Mountains National Park Service, for example, recently reported 181,838 visitors to the park in 2016 and then a significant increase in visitations over this spring break. The park is also currently wrapping up its Youth Poster Contest. Live judging will take place Saturday, May 20th 2017, at the Carlsbad Museum & Art Center in Carlsbad, NM. Winners will be contacted by May 30, 2017. Special thanks to Superintendent Eric Brunnemann and Public Information Officer Elizabeth Jackson for their great work.

There are so many more exceptional youth activities going on right now. Our baseball, softball, track, tennis and golf teams are all finishing their seasons. It was another great Carlsbad spring sports season.

Among the many youth activities taking place during this time of year, one that always stands out is the annual Business Professionals of America banquet. Frances McCoy does an excellent job training our students to be business professionals, and the banquet is always inspirational. Congratulations to all of our BPA students, including City Hall's intern, Victoria Peña-Parr.

Another excellent event this year was hosted by Ricky Garcia, a former Cavemen who hosted two different scholarship events this year. Ricky, along with his Foundation, board and sponsors, provided numerous scholarships to deserving students and also honored a Woman of the Year. Thanks to Ricky and to the many great organizations who provide scholarships every spring.

We'd like to congratulate all our graduates in Carlsbad, including the young men and women at Carlsbad High School, those with the Early College High School, those enrolled at JMA and the students who are attending private and home schools. We wish you all the best and encourage everyone to participate in safe graduation celebrations such as Class Act.

This week, we also celebrated the grand opening of the Carlsbad Army Air Field exhibit at the Cavern City Air Terminal. This exhibit is a special expansion of the Carlsbad Museum & Art Center, and we're very proud of it. Carlsbad trained hundreds of bombardiers during World War II, and this exhibit celebrates that amazing effort. Please go check it out!

More events are coming up, including the 28th Annual Ducky Affair, set this year for June 10 at the Elks Lodge Pool. Tickets are \$5 and festivities begin at 11 a.m. Money raised goes to Operation School Bell and other local nonprofits, so help support the Duckies. And the United Way's 5K Color Dash is coming up on May 27. There will also be a health and wellness fair that same day. Please support these great community activities and many, many others.

Finally, congratulations to our new Deputy Administrator, Michael Hernandez. Mr. Hernandez has done an excellent job throughout his tenure with the city, and we know he will continue to support this wonderful community.

If you have any questions or suggestions, please call (575)-887-3798.

"TAKE PRIDE IN CARLSBAD"