

April 5, 2012

Lanier HS *tamalada* makes Guinness Book of World Records

It's official! Lanier HS has been awarded the world record for "The most tamales made in a 12-hour period."

This monumental milestone was announced at an April 3 news conference during which the coveted Guinness World Records certificate was unveiled and presented to the school.

The West Side campus's journey to a spot in the record books began last Dec. 6 when Lanier students joined forces with those from neighboring SAISD schools and about 1,300 enthusiastic community volunteers for a Texas-size *tamalada*.

Together they made more than 17,000 tamales.

Tipping the scales at over a ton, the tamales comprised more than 1,400 pounds of masa, 700 pounds of pork and 700 pounds of beans.

Evidence of this phenomenal feat then was submitted to Guinness Book of World Records officials for their review.

Besides earning a spot in the record books, the experience was an overall recipe for success in learning because of the real-world lessons in business, math, science, culture and teamwork the experience provided.

Business and Finance Magnet students created the endeavor's business plan, while their culinary arts program colleagues oversaw the tamale-making preparations.

Cultural horizons were expanded for Spanish-class students by hearing stories of traditional *tamaladas* from older residents who came to

help, while all students - including those from elementary and middle feeder schools - learned what goes into a tamal and how to prepare tamales for steaming.

Instrumental in seeking the record on behalf of the school was Trustee Patti Radle, whose District 5 represents the Lanier community.



District 5 Trustee Patti Radle, cheerleaders, dance team members and the Lanier HS Vok (top) show off the official Guinness certificate that was unveiled by principal Miguel Elizondo. Joining him were some of the students who helped make the record possible.

Dr. Vangie Aguilera inducted into the San Antonio Women's Hall of Fame



Hall of Fame inductee
Vangie Aguilera

The District's senior executive director for special education has been honored for selflessly giving to others.

Dr. Vangie Aguilera was inducted on March 31 into the 2012 San Antonio Women's Hall of Fame in the category of PK-12 education.

"Dr. Aguilera has made it her lifelong mission to serve the needs of children and their families through education," attorney Mary Esther Escobedo wrote in the form nominating her.

"She has touched the lives of hundreds of

students and their families and has had a lasting positive impact on numerous teachers and staff members. As an advocate for students, she is in tireless pursuit of excellence for each."

Prior to her seven-year tenure as senior executive director for special education, Aguilera was a teacher, a teacher specialist, supervisor and principal.

In her current capacity she oversees programs and services provided to more than 5,600 special needs students and children with disabilities and their families.

"As a Lanier HS graduate and veteran educator, I am well aware of the needs, opportunities and challenges facing the District, and the award recognizes an incredible journey I have not walked alone."

She attributes her success to "my extremely supportive husband and children who understand the demands of my career and to the many

teachers, administrators and support staff who collectively educate 'every child, every day.'"

Aguilera also serves as a University of Texas at San Antonio adjunct professor where her focus is on helping to prepare educators to become school leaders.

She also represents Region 20-area school districts as a Texas Council of Administrators of Special Education executive board member.

SAISD-related Hall of Fame inductees

Two other 2012 inductees have ties to the District.

They are Carri Baker Wells, SAISD Foundation chairman and Shirley Wills, a Jefferson HS Lasso Alumni Association officer.

This year's theme was "Women's Education - Women's Empowerment."

'Health Needs a Hero' receives prestigious Barbara Jordan Award

SAISD and Highlands HS have been recognized for efforts promoting physical fitness.

The documentary "Health Needs a Hero" earned the prestigious Barbara Jordan Award, given by the Texas Governor's Committee on People with Disabilities in conjunction

with local committees to recognize outstanding reports on individuals with disabilities.

Detailing the epidemic of childhood health issues, the documentary was a catalyst for



SAISD's PE3 course and the concept for the PEP Grant application, resulting in a \$1.5 million grant from the U.S. Department of Education.

District going even greener through new solar system at Mission Verde

The latest environmentally-friendly addition to the Cooper Center's rooftop and fields is profiting students and SAISD alike.



A 48-kilowatt solar photovoltaic system at the site's Mission Verde Center is providing income for the District. And starting next school year, educational opportunities in environmental studies also will be offered.

"Students will get to visit and learn how various installed systems work to save energy, improve efficiency and help the environment," said Kamal ElHabr, associate superintendent of facilities services.

"It may encourage some students to pursue careers in the field."

Power generated from the PV system will reduce energy bills with SAISD and the city of San Antonio - which financed it in part through \$433,000 in stimulus funding - sharing the revenue.

Mission Verde opened in 2010 at the former Cooper MS campus. The multipurpose education center offers training and research for renewable and energy efficient technologies and water management and conservation.

Related career-training classes also are being held there through San Antonio College.

Longtime SAISD employee promoted to associate superintendent

Larry A. Garza, who has been the District's interim associate superintendent of financial services for two months, has been named permanently to the position.

In this capacity he also oversees the departments of food & child nutrition and transportation.

The 26-year SAISD employee previously

served the financial services department in various levels including senior executive director/assistant superintendent, executive director, director and assistant director.

Prior to SAISD, he worked for 13 years in state tax administration and enforcement for the State Comptroller's Office as well as working for the Texas Coordinating Board for

Higher Education as the director of grants.

Garza received his bachelor's and master's degrees in business from Texas A&I University.



Larry A. Garza

Motorists advised of new school zone times

Starting this week, the city of San Antonio's Department of Public Works extends by one hour the afternoon time periods on some of the school zone signs within SAISD.

For school zones without flashing beacons,



the signs are being changed from "2-4 p.m." to "2 -5 p.m." The new expanded school zone time period

will better reflect the ending of the school day for the District's middle and high schools.

SAISD school zones impacted by this change are adjacent to the following campuses:

High schools

- Burbank
- Edison
- Fox Tech
- Highlands
- Sam Houston
- Jefferson
- Lanier

Middle schools

- Connell
- Cooper
- Davis
- Harris
- Irving
- Lowell
- Page
- Poe
- Rhodes
- Tafolla
- Twain
- Wheatley
- Whittier

Higher ed options for employees

SAISD staff members interested in furthering their educations are invited to explore the possibilities by attending the:

Career Pathways & Advanced Degrees Information Fair

April 19 (Thurs) - 4:30 to 6:30 p.m.

Alamo Convocation Center

110 Tuleta St.

Representatives from colleges and universities will be available to provide information on degree programs and class scheduling such as online, weekend, evening and traditional. For details call 554-8508.

Think Safety!

We've got your back on preventing workplace injuries

Did you know the No. 2 cause of injury in SAISD is from lifting or handling materials?

This often leads to back trouble, which can completely alter your life through chronic pain and the possibility you may no longer be able to work.

And if that's not bad enough, worker's comp only covers 70 percent of wages. Add on the constant increase in the cost of daily living and this would make it almost impossible to live a comfortable life style.

To help you avoid this scenario, Think Safety examines some of the common causes of back injuries and presents precautions employees can take.

Improving your odds against back injuries

Maintaining good posture and utilizing the following proper lifting techniques can go a

long way toward keeping your back safe and ache free.

- Stand close to your load with your feet shoulder-width apart
- Squat down, bending at the knees
- Get a firm grip on the object
- Slowly lift the object, rising straight (never twisting), and using your legs for leverage
- Once lift is complete keep the object as close to your body as possible
- Use equipment when available

Seasonal and situational hazards

Back and other injuries are most likely to occur when we're in such a rush to just finish the job we don't take time to stop and think of the proper techniques before moving and/or lifting heavy objects.

For school district employees this

often happens while:

- Transporting testing materials
- Moving tables, desks and chairs
- Delivering meals from the cafeteria to classrooms
- Preparing for the end of the school year and the start of a new one
- Setting up for graduation ceremonies
- Taking inventory

We can help

SAISD's new Occupational Health and Safety Team members, part of the Employee Benefits and Risk Management and Safety Department, provide a variety of training for District employees including online, one-on-one and classroom instruction.

For training information call 554-8540.

