

LOCAL

UISD investigates school burglary

By **Judith Rayo**
LAREDO MORNING TIMES

UISD police are investigating the theft of \$20,000 in school property. The burglary occurred at about 1:30 a.m. March 13 at United South High School. Surveillance footage shows three individuals wearing hoodies and entering the campus. United Independent School District Police Chief Clemente Camarillo said the suspects also caused about \$10,000 worth of damage. "They broke windows and doors," he said. "They went on a rampage."

Camarillo said UISD police are analyzing fingerprints found at the scene. "Hopefully we will make an arrest soon," he said. Officials were able to recover some calculators and a fire extinguisher that were left behind.



The suspects are shown in an image captured from a surveillance video.

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IBC prepares employers for health care reform

By **Julia Wallace**
LAREDO MORNING TIMES

IBC's insurance agency held a seminar on Tuesday morning to guide employers through anticipated changes to health care under President Trump. Joshua Sutin, attorney with Dykema Cox Smith in San Antonio, led the discussion via video conference call with several IBC locations across the state.

"Everything you learned in 2009 and 2010 is still on the books," he said. A few points of action he laid out for this period of limbo involve research, especially regarding health savings accounts. Obamacare set limits individuals or employers could put in an HSA: a \$3,400 limit for individuals and a \$6,750 limit for families. Under the Republicans' plan, these limits would be doubled. Employees would also be eligible to be reimbursed on a non-taxable basis for over-the-counter medication through an HSA or flexible savings account.

provisions. "I would make cybersecurity absolutely critical to your organization," Sutin said. "Please go back to your HR department and confirm that you have top of the line HIPAA compliance." Initially under Obamacare, employees could not have health reimbursement arrangements — where employees would choose their health care provider and plan, and their employer would reimburse them for the insurance up to a chosen amount.

Budget Office. One number making a lot of front page news is that 24 million people will go uninsured in 10 years under the Republicans' bill. However, the CBO also said this round of health care reform would decrease the federal deficit by \$337 billion in the same time period. Also, 14 million fewer people will be enrolled in Medicaid in 10 years, and premiums will rise by 15 to 20 percent in the first few years under the Republicans' health care bill. Seven million fewer people will be covered by their employers, the CBO concluded.

A prolific speaker on topics such as the Affordable Care Act and employee benefits, Sutin spoke about what to expect if the Republicans' health care bill passes through Congress, and what to do in the meantime, while Obamacare remains law. One thing Sutin is sure of is that some kind of health care reform will take place under Trump. Even if the bill currently being proposed by House Speaker Paul Ryan doesn't pass through Congress, Sutin said Trump would very likely sign an executive order on this topic. Meanwhile, Sutin said to comply with the law as is until the government says otherwise.

Sutin emphasized these potential changes as an example of something employers should start thinking about now. "This is an area I would start to study this quarter should these changes go forward," Sutin said. Another area of study he recommended is cybersecurity. The Health Insurance Portability & Accountability Act will still be in place if Ryan's health care bill passes. This act safeguards medical information through security

Now, however, under the Cures Act, small businesses with 50 full time employees or less can use QSHERAs, or qualified small employee health reimbursement arrangements. The Republicans' bill will continue this new act, which according to Sutin, is tax-friendly for employees. "This is a brand new change, and I believe it's something you should study. Ask your vendors to help educate you on how this could impact your situation," Sutin said. Sutin also offered some numbers produced recently by the Congressional



Stroke Support Group meets at the UT Health Regional Campus in Laredo to seek a facility for their organization.

Stroke Support Group meets at UT campus in Laredo

SPECIAL TO THE TIMES

Deedee and Bill Hrcirc have dedicated their time and energy to develop a Stroke Support Group in Laredo. Bill's personal experience, having suffered a stroke in 2006, was the catalyst for seeking an available resource for stroke victims in Laredo. Speech therapy was the key in Bill's recovery. Bill and Deedee made several trips to Austin, Texas, to meet with Austin Speech Labs. In 2013, the Hrcircs started meeting monthly with stroke survivors, and established the Laredo Stroke Support Group. The group developed a partnership with Austin Speech Labs to provide

speech therapy for Laredoans. They contacted the administration at the UT Health San Antonio Regional Campus in Laredo seeking a facility that could provide clinic space and technology resources to facilitate the speech therapy sessions. UT Health's campus in Laredo has provided in-kind support to the Laredo Stroke Support Group since 2014. Stroke survivors have received speech therapy sessions on a weekly basis at the campus since then. There are plans to expand the services for other life skills classes in the future. For more information visit www.laredo.uthscsa.edu or call 956-523-7400.

The Laredo Rotary Club
Presents
Tonie Gamboa
New Member
The Laredo Rotary Club meets every Wednesday at the Ramada Inn at noon.



Laredo Mayor Pete Saenz poses for a photo during World Down Syndrome Day on Tuesday.

Officials proclaim World Down Syndrome Day

SPECIAL TO THE TIMES

Laredo Mayor Pete Saenz and Webb County Judge Tano Tijerina read the official proclamation on Tuesday for World Down Syndrome Day, observed annually on March 21st since 2012 and in the City of Laredo and Webb County since 2016. On this day, people with Down syndrome and those who live and work with them throughout the world organize and participate in activities and events to raise public awareness and create a single global voice for advocating for the rights, inclusion and well being of people with Down syndrome. Understanding the issues those with Down syndrome face in everyday life, and recognizing



Webb County Judge Tano Tijerina poses for a photo with Jose Luis "Pepe" Rodriguez.

the steps people can take to help them realize their full potential can make a real difference in enriching their lives.

Join us for a free public forum
Colorectal Cancer:
Prevention, Early Detection and Treatment – Know Your Risks.

GUEST SPEAKERS:
Eduardo Miranda, MD
Hematologist/Oncologist
Reynaldo Godines, MD
Gastroenterologist
Manuel Jovel, MD
Radiation Oncologist
Sunny Wong, MD
Gastroenterologist

Thursday, March 23, 2017
6:00 p.m.

Providence Health Center
230 Calle del Norte Dr.
Laredo, TX 78041

Attendance is free, but registration is required.

Register at
www.doctorshosplaredo.com/seminar

In addition, persons 50 years of age and over who want to be screened may be eligible to take a FREE test kit home. This kit is limited to the first 50 participants who meet the criteria. More details will be provided during the presentation. For more information, call **523-2658**.

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