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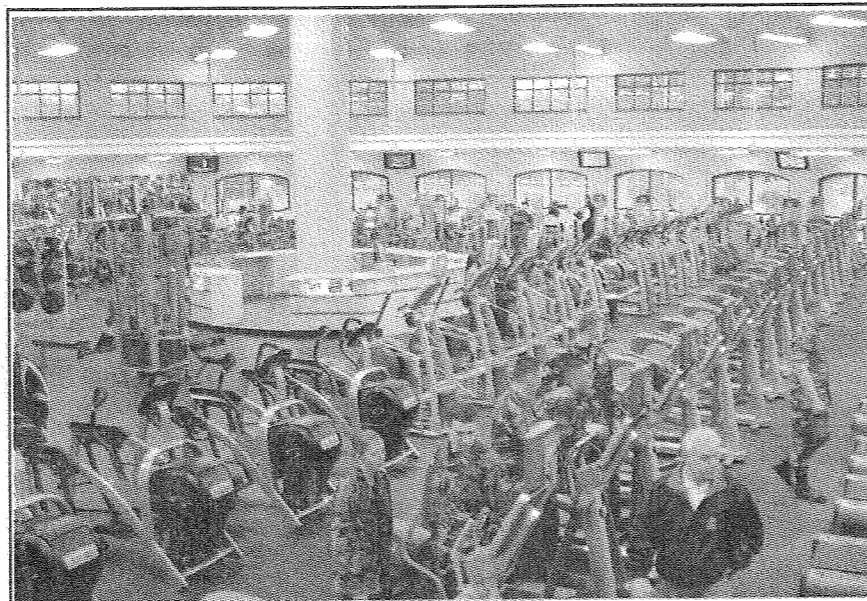
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Your Voice In Two Languages

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Con un costo de \$13.9 millones en equipo de la más alta tecnología, fue inaugurado un gimnasio en Randolph Air Force Base al servicio del personal militar y sus familias. (Foto por Roberto J. Pérez)

Abren centro de acondicionamiento físico en Randolph Air Force Base

Por Roberto Pérez Jara

Como parte de los programas de preparación para el personal de la Fuerza Aérea está el de acondicionamiento físico. Por este motivo fue inaugurado el Rambler Fitness Center en Randolph Air Force Base, con lo más adelantado en equipo de gimnasio y acondicionamiento cardiovascular.

Oficialmente este gimnasio se puso en servicio el viernes pasado. Cuenta con una superficie de 36,000 pies cuadrados y el costo fue de \$13.9 millones. para

Tal es la amplitud de este centro de acondicionamiento físico que en su interior fue instalada una pista elevada para correr.

Solamente los aparatos tienen un costo de \$2 millones que en conjunto con las instalaciones, restaurante y otros servicios, colocan a esta unidad de la Fuerza Aérea en una posición difícil de igualar.

A la ceremonia de apertura fueron invitados altos jefes de la Fuerza Aérea, entre ellos el coronel Richard Clark, comandante del 12 Flying Training Wing; general William R. Loony, general Donald

Young student saves family from house fire

By Johnny Hernández

"On December 21, at approximately 12:30 in the morning, fire struck the Ruiz family. The smoke alarm sounded and Mr. Ruiz first thought it was his alarm to wakeup, but instead it was a fire," said Conrad Gonzales, executive director of SAFE Familia, LLC at a press conference last week for eight year-old Xavier Ruiz.

The San Antonio Fire Department recently visited young Ruiz and his classmates for a show-and-tell about fire safety and the importance of installing smoke alarms in the home.

"If we hadn't paid attention to him, like sometimes so many parents do, who knows what would have happened to us," said Mrs. Ruiz, thankful for her son's insistent reminders.

After relaying the vital lesson Xavier learned at school, his mother finally purchased a smoke alarm and installed it in early December.

When asked why he insisted on getting his parents to buy a smoke alarm, young Xavier simply said, "The firefighters at school said it would protect our family." *See Saves family...Page 7-A*



Xavier Ruiz, 8, received an award of recognition from SAFE Familia for his heroic efforts. Learning a lesson at school about fire safety saved the Ruiz family from devastation. (Photo by Johnny Hernández)

Officials say House decision disastrous for military medical industry in S.A.

By Kiko Martínez

according to city and county officials who were disappointed to find out the U.S. House of Representatives recently

Antonio," said Richard Pérez, San Antonio City Councilman for District 4, who, like many local officials, are worried the

Luke the Labrador... (Continued from page 1-A)

much of his time lounging in the hotel lobby, though he comes alive when meeting new tenants, especially if they offer him a tasty jerky treat. He also serves as a constant reminder that visitors aren't entering an ordinary hotel when coming to the Fairmount.

"The property itself is more of a home and Luke brings that to this property and to this beautiful structure that we have," said Robert D. Tips, Luke's master and owner of the Fairmount Hotel.

While hotel staff will easily tell you Luke's one of the most pampered pets on the planet, that doesn't keep him from his responsibilities within this downtown Shangri-la.

As director of pet relations, when a customer checks their pet into the hotel, amenities are immediately sent to the room courtesy of Luke, including dog and jerky treats, as well as a thank-you note with his paw print on it upon their departure. He also earns his keep by checking on the guests rooms on a regular basis as well as delivering the hotel newsletter to every room carried inside a sling around his neck.

For \$100, he'll even accommodate traveling tenants experiencing pet-withdrawal by spending the night in their room. The money is then matched by the hotel and divided between the Humane Society of San Antonio and the Spay-Neuter-Inject-Protect of San Antonio (SNIPSA).

A courteous staff member, Luke hasn't had one reason to bark since moving into the Fairmount, save one occasion while doing a Riverwalk photo shoot.

"He barked at the trash in the river like he was saying, 'Why are you littering our river,'" said Kristen Howsley, Fairmount Hotel President and managing director.

On closer inspection, one can certainly tell that Luke has been through a lot over his estimated seven years of life. Mr. Tips sister-

Hemisfair Park to riding with guests back to the airport to playing with children and greeting adults, dogs and even cats with equal chivalry, this lab is always looking for new ways to please. And thanks to the power of people's comments, Luke has become the biggest marketing icon the hotel has ever housed. Just by word of mouth alone, Luke's growing reputation has already resulted in his own page on the hotel website, which receives 20 to 30 e-mails a week in addition to letters from travelers who constantly praise his laid-back, friendly disposition and the example he sets as an animal advocate.

"I'm jealous of the guy," Tips said.

With his own lineup of merchandise, to include fuzzy dogs, travel pet kits, t-shirts, mugs and more bragging, "I slept with Luke at the Fairmount," his owner is convinced he is ready to now vie

for Fiesta royalty. Running for the Fiesta title of Rey Fido, Luke's reputation leaves many to believe him as a natural pick, especially since his owner is a former Rey Feo title holder himself. People can submit a \$1 vote for Luke Tips by logging onto the Humane Society official Web site www.humanesocietyspca.org and clicking on the Rey Fido link.

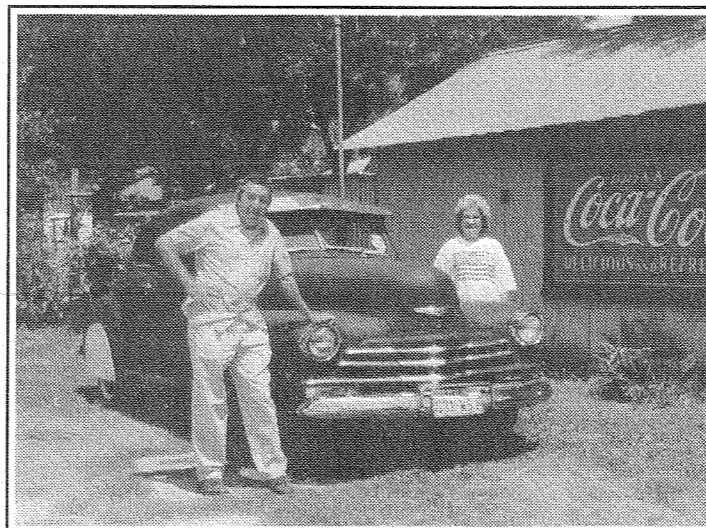
The hotel is also auctioning off a Vespa LX 50 to benefit Luke's efforts for Rey Fido, the proceeds to benefit both the Humane Society and SNIPSA. Thus far, the Fairmount has been able to raise about \$600 between SNIPSA and Humane Society total.

"Not only have we thought outside the box, we created a new one," Tips said.

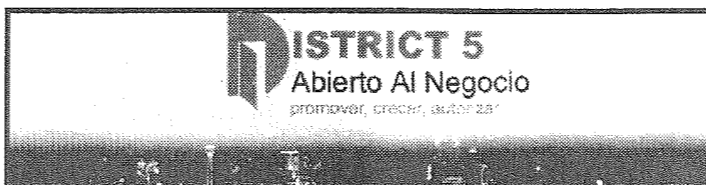
And did we mention the guests love him.

"We kenneled our dogs so it was nice to have Luke here to take their place, said Jim Hines, who was traveling with wife Joyce from Oklahoma to visit family.

Lowrider Magazine spotlights local car lover



Frank and Gloria Lozano pose with their '48 Chevy. This picture can be found in the March 2007 edition of *Lowrider Magazine* on page 153. (Courtesy photo)



Saves family... (Continued from page 1-A)

protect our house."

Less than a couple weeks later, an electrical fire sparked the flames that caused and estimated \$10,000 of damage to the Ruiz home on the 200 block of Marquette. Even though it didn't entirely protect their house, Xavier's heroic efforts put the whole family out of harm's way.

Gonzales, along with Alfred Casillas, director of marketing for SAFE Familia, LLC (both retired San Antonio firefighters), presented Xavier with an award that recognized the eight year-old as a fire hero.

SAFE Familia, LLC, in conjunction with Dents and Dings, a local automotive body repair shop, also donated \$350 to the Ruiz family in efforts to help them get back on their feet.

During the 1960s, many people had never heard of smoke alarms, according to the United States Fire Administration (USAF). By the 1980s, laws

were passed requiring all new and existing residences to have smoke alarms installed. About a decade prior to that, the cost for installing alarms in a three-bedroom home was around \$1,000. Since then, the cost has dropped drastically to about \$50 per home.

According to USAF, "This cost structure, combined with effective public education, including key private and public partnerships, has caused a huge percentage of America's consumers to demand smoke alarm protection."

Statistics show that more than 60 percent of fire deaths occur in homes that are not equipped with working smoke alarms, however, the chances of surviving a fire increase by 50 percent if a working alarm is installed.

Buying and installing a smoke alarm is the first step. Knowing how to properly maintain it so that it lasts and works to its full capacity is the next step.

Since there are many different

types of smoke alarms, it is important to know what kind you are buying.

There are two basic types - ionization alarms, which detect fast burning fires readily, and photoelectric alarms, which detect slow smoldering fires.

Smoke alarms can be purchased at any hardware or home supply store. What many people are not aware of is that they can also contact their local fire department for low-cost alarms and information on installation and maintenance.

In fact, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) offers a "Smoke Alarm Quiz" to check the status of your detector. They also provide frequently asked questions at www.usfa.fema.gov.


Reinforcing the important and vital lesson his son learned in school, Mr. Ruiz reiterated, "Be sure to go out and buy a smoke alarm, because the smoke isn't going to wake you up."

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PERKS



Ladies Able To Initiate New Attitudes