



ARTESIA DAILY PRESS

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FRIDAY

Chase pledges \$1 million in scholarships

By SUSAN J. SMITH
Daily Press Staff Writer

"This is just totally awesome," said Artesia High School counselor Leah Williams.

That reaction was echoed in the more than 300 people at Artesia High School who heard the announcement that the Chase Foundation had pledged \$1 million in scholarships to graduating seniors this year.

However, the foundation didn't stop there. It has worked out partnerships with several universities in New Mexico and West Texas to match funds.

According to Richard Price, director of the Chase Foundation, this is the largest renewable donation from a foundation in the state of New Mexico.

"It is unique in that Artesia High School students can attend a New Mexico school for four years, and with the Chase scholarship, New Mexico Lottery scholarship and matching funds from the college, they will not have to worry about paying for their education," he said.

The foundation was established in September 2006 by Mack and Marilyn Chase to give back to the community and surrounding areas, said Price. He praised the Chase family for its continued support of Artesia.

"Their motto is 'Helping good people do great things' and this scholarship program will definitely make a difference," he said.

It takes only 10 minutes to fill out the application form on-line at www.chasefoundation.com, according to Price. The qualifications are simple. A student must have a 3.0 grade point average or be in the top 40 percent of the graduating class, must have attended AHS for the previous three years or be a child of a Chase employee, be a U.S. citizen and have been accepted to an accredited college or university in the United States. The recipient must maintain a 2.5 GPA, while attending a two-year community college or a four-year university.

Students can also attend a two-year community college and transfer to a university for a four-year degree. They must also be enrolled for 12 or more semester hours. Scholarships are awarded based on need from \$500 to \$5,000 for New Mexico colleges and up to \$2,500 for out-of-state colleges and universities. The awards will vary in accordance with students' funding from additional sources.

Partnering colleges will award scholarships from \$500 to \$2,500.

While there is no guarantee of receiving a scholarship, this opportunity means that almost all graduating seniors in the top 40 percent of their class can receive a degree without the worry of how to pay student loans or having to take a job to continue their education.

"What an opportunity for our seniors to be able to go to school and focus on their academic studies and not have to worry," said AHS Assistant Principal Thad Phipps.

"When the students get to college, they will start to understand how big this is to be able to study and not have to work," he said.

He admitted to having to take out student loans for his education, and after 10 years of payments he now has six to seven months remaining to pay.

AHS senior Kirby Wheeler was excited about the scholarship.

"We had no idea how much it was going to be," he said, explaining that rumors had been flying around the school in the past week.



Cliff Rogers, a senior at Artesia High School, and his mother, Jamie Rogers, look at a brochure for Lubbock Christian College after last night's announcement from the Chase Foundation. The foundation is pledging \$1 million to graduating seniors and partnering with many universities for matching grants. Before the announcement, Jamie Rogers said she worried about taking out student loans to pay for her son's education. They said the announcement was a truly amazing opportunity.



Representatives from partner universities, standing at right, discuss education options with parents and students at Artesia High School on Thursday. These schools have partnered with the Chase Foundation, which dedicated \$1 million to the class of 2007, and the donation set aside the funds in the belief that with support and education, today's youth will be tomorrow's leaders.

"It is an opportunity of a lifetime, to have college paid for as long as we keep our grades up," he said, adding he would "take a part of Artesia with him" as he continues his education.

Brenna, his stepsister, agreed. "I was amazed. How can he (Mack Chase) be so generous?" she said.

Parents George and Laquita Wheeler lived in Roswell and Carlsbad before moving their family to Artesia. They said from the beginning that Artesia was a unique place.

"We are thrilled to be a part of this community," said George. "This is remarkable. There are a lot of people who have money, but not a lot willing to share it with an entire community," he said, admitting he is still paying off his student loans.

The Wheelers said that before the announcement they knew Artesia was special.

"The very first day of practice in basketball, two girls walked out to Brenna's car to meet her," said Laquita.

AHS senior Meghan Green said her parents had been looking at ways to fund her education.

"I know my parents would find a way for me to go, but scholarships make a difference," she said.

After the meeting, representatives from several partner schools were available to the public for information.

Associate Director for the University of New Mexico Alex Gonzalez said the college was excited to hear about the donation.

"We were excited to participate when we heard about the Chase Foundation Scholarship," he said. The school is matching \$2,500.

"It is very rare for a foundation to set money aside for one class. Normally, foundations assist students throughout the academic year," he said, stressing that most college educations are financed through student loans "because of the small amount of grant money available through the state and federal government."

"What a blessing... There are a roomful of parents tonight that will sleep very well," said Williams.

"This is the time of year that senior parents are racking their brains, praying for scholarships and wondering how they are going to pay for their very talented children's education," she said.

"Artesia's children are very blessed to live in such a caring and giving community," said AHS counselor Judy Stewart.

"The Lord always blesses those who find a way to give back to others and that is exactly what the Chase family has done over the years."

"My hope is that as these young men and women achieve their goals and become productive members of society, they will remember the blessings they have received and that they, one day, will find a way to give back to their community by mentoring, volunteering or financially," she said.

"The 2007 graduating class will be the first class eligible to receive the Chase Scholarships for the purpose of realizing the educational goals and dreams as these seniors become our future leaders in building stronger families and communities," said Price.

Applications are being accepted until March 30, with scholarships to be awarded in April. Price advised seniors to begin the process as soon as possible.

Participating Colleges and Universities

The following is a list of participating colleges and universities in the Chase Scholarship Program. The dollar amounts are matching scholarships from the individual schools for those students receiving a Chase Scholarship. Amounts may vary on a yearly basis and are awarded at the discretion of the participating schools.

College of the Southwest	up to \$2,500
University of New Mexico	up to \$2,500
New Mexico Tech	up to \$2,200
New Mexico State University	up to \$2,000
Lubbock Christian University	up to \$2,000
New Mexico Military Institute	up to \$1,500
Eastern New Mexico University	up to \$500
South Plains College	up to \$500
NMSU - Carlsbad	up to \$500
West Texas A&M	up to \$500
ENMU - Roswell	up to \$500
New Mexico Highlands	amount available March 15
Western New Mexico	amount available March 15

Islamic group kills 14 workers

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP) — An al-Qaida-linked Sunni group said today that it kidnapped 18 government workers and soldiers in retaliation for the alleged rape of a Sunni woman by members of the Shiite-dominated police force. Hours later, the government said the bodies of 14 security officers had been found.

The Islamic State of Iraq, an al-Qaida-linked Sunni group, posted a statement on the Internet earlier Friday saying 18 men were kidnapped in retaliation for the alleged rape of a Sunni

Daily Roundup

Forecast

Tonight partly cloudy. Lows in the upper 20s. Northwest winds 15 to 20 mph. Saturday partly cloudy. High around 50. North winds 10 to 15 mph.

Weather Report

By The Associated Press

Cool weather will remain entrenched over New Mexico Saturday, when a few showers should persist across the south, the National Weather Service said.

The state should have dry, warmer weather Sunday through Wednesday.

A few high clouds skirted over southern New Mexico overnight Thursday.

Low temperatures before daybreak Friday ranged from 5 below zero and the single digits over the northern mountains to the mid-30s across the south.

High temperatures Thursday ranged from 20 degrees at Red River to 60 degrees at Carlsbad.

The New Mexico State University Ag Science Center south of Artesia reported the high Thursday was 69 degrees, while the 24-hour low reached 18. It was 20 degrees at 7 a.m. today.

One year ago today the high was 84, the low was 44.

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Kristen Galvaidon, a student in Deanna Hazlewood's class at Grand Heights Early Childhood Center glues stripes on a picture of the Cat in the Hat with the Cat in the Hat character in Dr. Seuss' books. Students enjoyed "Read Across America" activities today to celebrate the famous author's birthday.

Celebrating the Cat in the Hat

ARTESIA — Students at Grand Heights Early Education Center celebrated Dr. Seuss' birthday today with a pajama day and individual activities.

At Grand Heights, students seemed to appreciate taking time out of their day to celebrate an author of children's classics such as "The Cat in the Hat" and "Green Eggs and Ham."

Many people do not know that the beloved author's real name is Theodor Seuss Geisel and that he was born in 1904. He became known for his rhyming and gave credit to his mother, Henrietta Seuss Geisel, who used to chant rhymes remembered from her youth to soothe her children, according to the Springfield Museums.

According to the National Education Association-New Mexico, the reading revolution began 10 years ago as a one-day celebration of Dr. Seuss' birthday and has grown to a

year-round literacy campaign, reaching nearly every home, school and community.

Some of the activities included playing tic-tac-toe with green eggs and ham cuboids, building a large red and white striped hat out of paper, coloring activities and plenty of reading out of Dr. Seuss books. The celebration is also part of "Read Across America," an event that is celebrated mostly during the month of March, but is promoted year-round.

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MENU DO Saturday & Sunday CHAPZ RESTAURANT 1808 S. First

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HUGE SALE P.E.O. Rummage Sale Saturday, March 3rd 7:30-1:30 Presbyterian Church 4th & Grand (in alley) proceeds used for scholarship