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SD of L Boosters sponsor free soccer clinic by soccer pros

The McCaskey Soccer Booster Club is sponsoring free professional training by nationally acclaimed OneOnOne Soccer for interested School District of Lancaster (SD of L) students from 12 to 18.

Rigorous skill training will take place during the week of August 10-14 from 9-11:00 a.m. at McCaskey East High School.

Students interested in attending need to fill out an application and submit it by mail to

OneOnOne Soccer by June 26. It is anticipated that up to 100 boys and girls will be accepted into the program.

Another sign of the revitalization of the SD of L athletic program under Athletic Director Jon Mitchell was the recent record turn out of 375 students for free physical exams to qualify for teams.

General information about OneOnOne Soccer is available at OneOnOneSoccer.com.

COMMENTARY: Where the rubber hits the road

With the official opening of the Lancaster County Convention Center this week, the general tone in Lancaster seems to be one of cautious optimism. After all, it has taken a long time to finish this project, and now, whether one likes it or not, the Center is here to stay.

The strongest critics of the project—*NewsLanc* included—have always based their position on a sincere concern for the well-being of Lancaster City and County; and now that the ribbon is cut, these voices can only hope for results better than predicted.

Indeed, the feasibility of the Convention Center project has been challenged on a variety of grounds—from funding sources, to market

viability, to its impact upon Downtown traffic patterns. Will the Center offer sufficient loading space for major events? Will traffic problems result from the tight portico space at Penn Square? And, most importantly, will the publicly-financed Center draw enough income to keep up with its own financial obligations?

Many of these questions, accrued over the span of several years, may be answered in the next several months. Other answers may take longer to come into focus.

NewsLanc wishes success for the newly opened Center, hoping that previous concerns are successfully worked out in the due course of time.

La Costeña: Lancaster's Peruvian nook

Some might assume that all of the cultural hot-spots of Downtown Lancaster exist within a few blocks of Penn Square—surely the culture ends by the time you hit Mulberry St, right? Wrong. Cozily tucked into an historic, 315 W King St, stone row home, **La Costeña Restaurant** prepares some of the most diverse and palate-expanding dishes that the city has to offer.

Before visitors place their order, the table is fixed with little bowls of canchita, salted puffs of corn that can best be described as “inverted popcorn.” (You won't understand until you try it.) This free appetizer provides a good preface for the quality of **La Costeña's** menu: It touches on American culinary expectations, but always pushes flavors into delightfully uncharted territory.

The selection of entrées deals significantly with seafood, or “*mariscos*.” One of these dishes is “*Parihuela*,” a wide bowl of tilapia, scallops, shrimp, mussels, and lobster claws in a spicy broth of onions and Peruvian seasonings. The menu also provides a strong selection of chicken and steak items, most notable for the heavy and freshly spiced sauces used in their preparation.

What **La Costeña** offers is a rich and affectionately crafted cultural experience. One cannot enter this establishment without gathering the sense that a very unique heritage is being guarded behind these stony Lancaster walls. The Peruvian experience is well worth walking the extra blocks—and it sure beats buying a plane ticket.

Voices from SD of L express concern over school re-staffing

At the June 16 SD of L Board Meeting, several members of the community addressed the Board regarding the District's plan to transfer management of Buehrle Alternative School to a Philadelphia-based firm.

Although no lay-offs will occur as a result of this shift, many Buehrle teachers are likely to be reassigned to positions outside of the School.

One student from Buehrle expressed concern for his favorite teachers: “*Ms. Brown and Mr. Rodriguez were the best teachers I've ever had. Back [when I was] at Wheatland, I didn't really feel comfortable. [But Brown and Rodriguez] make the work interesting...I'd consider them like my big brother and my big sister.*”

Kelly Ballentine, a Magisterial District Judge from Lancaster City, explained how she fears the change could effect Buehrle students: “*One of the problems that our children suffer from is this fear that people are going to continue to walk away from them....*”

Superintendent Pedro Rivera asserted that the administration did not take this decision lightly: “*But, at the end of the day, it's a decision that is in the best interest of all kids ...*” Rivera clarified that the District has “*not taken any position to displace staff at that school. Should they wish to apply to continue serving the children, and are certified to do so, they can.*”

The final decision to transfer the management of Buehrle will be held to a School Board vote on June 30.

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