



NEWSBRIEFS

El Paso ranks 35

With July being one of the top months for home sales and more than a third of all home buyers also being first-timers, WalletHub took an in-depth look at 2017's Best & Worst Places for First-Time Home Buyers. To determine the most favorable housing markets for first-time buyers, WalletHub's analysts took the pulse of real estate in 300 cities of varying sizes using 23 key metrics. The data set ranges from housing affordability to real-estate tax rate to property-crime rate.

Best vs. Worst:

- Fayetteville, North Carolina, has the most affordable housing (median house price divided by median annual household income), with a ratio of 1.24, which is 12.7 times cheaper than in Santa Barbara, California, the city with the least affordable, with a ratio of 15.74.
- Honolulu has the lowest real-estate tax rate, 0.29 percent, which is 12.3 times lower than in Waukegan, Illinois, the city with the highest at 3.56 percent.
- Detroit has the highest rent-to-price ratio, 24.8 percent, which is 7.3 times higher than in Sunnyvale, California, the city with the lowest at 3.4 percent.
- Laredo, Texas, has the lowest cost-of-living index, 77, which is 2.9 times lower than in Santa Clara, San Jose, and Sunnyvale, California, the cities with the highest at 223.
- Yonkers, New York, has the fewest property crimes per 1,000 residents, 9.95, which is 9.8 times fewer than in Miami Beach, Florida, the city with the most at 97.17.
- Colorado Springs, Colorado, has the lowest average energy cost per household, \$120.34, which is 3.8 times lower than in Honolulu, the city with the highest at \$455.51.

To view the full report and your city's rank, please visit: <https://wallethub.com/edu/best-and-worst-cities-for-first-time-home-buyers/5564/>

— Diana Popa

Only in New York

New York City subway riders got quite shock recently when they noticed one of their fellow straphangers was a snake, says the Association of Mature American Citizens. There it was wrapped around the pole riders grip when the ride gets bumpy. One passenger said he saw a man kiss the snake before putting it around the pole.

— John Grimaldi

One of the best way to work out is to exercise kindness.

— Quips & Quotes

Meza-Chavez named region's top superintendent, new SEISD leader

By Alfredo Vasquez
Special to the Courier

SAN ELIZARIO – San Elizario Independent School District (SEISD) Board of Trustees recently named Tornillo Independent School District (TISD) Superintendent Jeannie Meza-Chavez as its next top official.

The selection comes just a month after Meza-Chavez was selected Region 19 Superintendent of the Year for 2017. The prestigious award is an annual presentation made by the Region 19 Education Service Center, which includes most public and charter school districts in El Paso and Hudspeth counties. The center provides professional development and support to teachers and administrators throughout the West Texas region.

Last year, Socorro Independent School District Superintendent José Espinoza was named Superintendent of the Year by Region 19.

Meza-Chavez, who has been superintendent of the rural TISD district in far East El Paso County since 2014, will now represent the local region at the statewide Superintendent of the Year competition at the Texas Association of School Administrators/Texas Association of School Board's (TASB) convention in October.

Some of the accomplishments that Meza-Chavez is credited for as Tornillo's superintendent include the passage of a \$10 million bond, which is allowing their 92-year-old district to have a track and turf football field along with HVAC and roofing upgrades, as well as the completion of a \$1.2 million twelve classroom addition at Tornillo High School, according to Region 19 officials.

Meanwhile, Meza-Chavez prepares to take charge of the San Eli district starting July 25. She replaces Superintendent Sylvia Hopp, who retired in June after 17 years with the district.

SEISD board members voted unanimously in June to hire Meza-Chavez. School officials stated that her annual salary will be about \$135,000. Meza-Chavez was one of four candidates who interviewed for the position.

SEISD officials stated in a recent news report that the four applicants who were interviewed came from the Canutillo, Ysleta, Tornillo, and San Elizario school districts.

SEISD board president Irene Jaquez said that they selected Meza-Chavez because of her exemplary performance at the nearby Tornillo school district.

Tornillo has four schools and about 1,100 students, while San Elizario has more than 3,800 students at its six campuses.

Aside from her annual salary, Meza-



— Photo courtesy Tornillo ISD

Jeannie Meza-Chavez has been doing well at Tornillo ISD. Her leadership helped improve TISD and she now heads to a very sound district, according to the San Elizario ISD board president.



— Photo courtesy San Elizario ISD

Sylvia Hopp retired from San Elizario ISD in June after 17 years with the District – the last five as its superintendent.

Chavez will receive a car stipend of \$450 per month, which will be used to pay for gas and maintenance. Hopp, who served as superintendent for five years, received the same stipend, according to the SEISD officials.

Before she joined the Tornillo district, Meza-Chavez was the director of secondary personnel and recruiting at the El Paso Independent School District. She is a graduate of Ysleta



— Photo courtesy of Hispanic Medal of Honor Society
HONORED – U.S. Army Private Marcelino Serna was a World War I hero who moved to El Paso at the end of the war. He died in 1992 at the age of 95.

Tornillo crossing officially named for WWI veteran

TORNILLO – The Tornillo Port of Entry, which is part of a six-lane international bridge that opened in February of 2016 and connects Tornillo, TX with Guadalupe, Chihuahua, Mexico is officially the Tornillo-Marcelino Serna POE. U.S. Representative Will Hurd introduced a bill in May of 2016 into the U.S. House of Representatives to rename the Tornillo POE after Serna. The bill passed the House in July, the Senate in September and was signed into law on September 29, 2016. The dedication ceremony took place this year on April 19.

U.S. Army Private Marcelino Serna is a World War I hero that moved to El Paso at the end of that war and died in 1992 at the age of 95. Serna is most famous for his heroic efforts during two battles in France in which he killed 32 enemy soldiers. On Sept. 12, 1918, he single-handedly captured 24 Germans, in Flirey, France. He was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross later that month by U.S. Army General John J. Pershing. The cross is the second highest military decoration of the U. S. Army to the Medal of Honor. He was also awarded

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High School and received a Bachelor of Arts degree in creative writing from the University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP). She went on to earn a Master of Arts degree in education from Sul Ross State University and a doctorate in curriculum and instruction from New Mexico State University.

TISD board members are now in the process of initiating their search for a new superintendent.

Finances

By Nathaniel Sillin

Save money while welcoming a new pet to your home

Whether it's a dog, cat or another furry (or scaly) friend, many people have pets who are more than just animals – they're part of the family.

Pets can be friends, they can offer nonjudgmental companionship when you're feeling down and they can put a smile on your face. To provide the best care for a pet, you'll want to be able to afford their needs, including the basics like food and healthcare. With this in mind, think carefully and review your budget before deciding to welcome an animal into your family.

Choose a pet that you can

afford. While the initial cost of adopting or buying a pet is relatively small compared to the long-term expenses, the type of pet you choose does matter.

Admittedly, you might visit the pound and fall in love with a dog or cat. What can you do? The heart wants what the heart wants. Research is a must if you want to take cost-saving measures, though. For example, larger animal breeds may be more expensive to care for, partially because they simply eat more food. And if you're taking in a dog you'll want to consider the cost of training, which could set you back several hundred dollars.

Lifespan is another consideration. Hamsters, gerbils and some types of fish may only live a couple of years. A pet turtle, on the other hand, could live several decades.

Keep your pet healthy and happy. Health care can be one of the most expensive aspects of pet ownership. As with humans, it's often best to invest in preventative care rather than

treat emergencies.

Follow your pet's recommended vaccination schedule and treatments, spay or neuter cats and dogs and visit the vet at least once a year for a checkup. Finding and dealing with health problems early on isn't only less expensive, you may be able to prevent serious problems and improve your pet's quality of life.

Some types of preventative care don't require a visit to the vet, although you can still ask for recommendations. For example, brushing your dog's teeth (with special toothpaste) can help prevent teeth and gum problems.

Consider pet insurance to cover emergencies. When a pet is part of the family, you'll do anything to help him or her. You may want to have an insurance policy to help cover emergencies that you might not be able to afford otherwise. Particularly if you have a high-risk breed, a pet that tends to escape or you live in an area with a lot of other potentially aggressive animals.

Before buying a policy, read up on how pet insurance works. There can be important differences between pet and human policies.

Save money on nutritious food. Once you bring a pet home, it's your responsibility to provide for them. You can ask your vet for food recommendations (and free samples) based on the pet's type and age. The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals has general nutrition tips for dogs and cats, including age-based diet recommendations.

Once you've found a food that you and your pet likes, you may be able to get a discount by signing up for a subscription delivery service online. Or, if you don't mind the workout, consider buying in bulk at a warehouse club.

Have a plan for when you're unavailable. Another responsibility pet owners take on is making sure their pet is looked after while they're away. The least expensive option may be to find a neighbor or friend who also has a pet and exchange free pet-sitting services.

Otherwise, you can look for a well-reviewed doggy daycare center or boarding service. You could try one of the several apps that connect you with someone who can feed, walk or play with your pet. If you're away for several days, the apps can also help you find someone who will spend the night or take your pet to their home.

Bottom line: Taking a pet into

Veterans Post

By Freddy Groves

Instead of securing vet's back pay, she stole it

Somebody's going to prison, and I'm cheering. A Missouri woman enrolled as a financial fiduciary through the Department of Veterans Affairs stole \$38,000 from a disabled veteran she was supposed to help, and she did it shortly after she was appointed to the role and discovered all that back pay in his account. Not only did she fail to maintain records and reports, she stonewalled even after being faced with VA Office of the Inspector General auditors who demanded explanations and accounting for the funds.

Eventually she pleaded guilty to one felony count of embezzlement and faces up to 10 years in prison, as well as a \$250,000 fine and required reimbursement of the money stolen. We'll know in September how the sentencing goes.

The VA's fiduciary program was set up a long time ago to help elderly veterans who were unable to handle their finances. At first, someone would be appointed. Then the VA started paying 5 percent of the

veteran's benefits as a fee. That brought out the scammers in the form of allegedly professional fiduciaries who quickly learned to rig the system and steal from the veterans they were supposed to protect.

In 2014, the VA OIG conducted an investigation and concluded that more than \$944,000 had been funneled away from veterans. In addition, in some areas of the country, complaints against fiduciaries in the program were not quickly and properly investigated.

Despite the past problems, if you suspect any form of fiduciary abuse, call the VA Fiduciary Program at 1-888-407-0144. Or call the VA at 1-800-827-1000. The Fiduciary Program will investigate and decide if misuse of funds has occurred, and if it did, the VA will try to replace the missing money. It also will get the OIG to pursue a criminal investigation.

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San Elizario Independent School District Public Notice of Non-Discrimination

It is the policy of the San Elizario Independent School District to prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender or disability in the admission or access to programs, delivery of services or employment and to provide equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups.

The San Elizario Independent School District is fully committed to meeting its responsibilities as specified by Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended; Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972; prohibiting sex discrimination, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended; and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

Inquiries concerning your rights may be referred to Title IX Coordinator: San Elizario ISD Superintendent, 1050 Chicken Ranch Rd., Administration Building, San Elizario, Texas 79849, (915) 872-3900; or Section 504 Coordinator, 1050 Chicken Ranch Rd., Special Education Office, San Elizario TX 79849, (915) 872-3900. Mail: PO Box 920, San Elizario, TX 79849.

Notificación Publica

Es la norma de conducta de el distrito escolar de San Elizario prohibir la discriminación a base de raza, color, origen nacional, sexo o deshabilidad en la admisión o el acceso a programas, entrega de servicios o empleo y proporcionar igualdad de acceso a los Boy Scouts y otros grupos juveniles designados.

El distrito escolar de San Elizario esta comprometido a cumplir con las responsabilidades especificadas por el Título VII del Acta de Derechos Civiles de 1964, como enmendado, el Título IX de la Enmienda de Educación de 1972, como enmendado, que prohíbe la discriminación sexual, del Acta de la Discriminación por Edad de 1975, la Sección 504 del Acta de Rehabilitación de 1973, como enmendado, y el Acta de Americanos con Deshabilidades.

Para información tocanta a sus derechos comuniquese con la Coordinadora de Título IX: Superintendente de San Elizario ISD, 1050 Chicken Ranch Rd., Administration Building, San Elizario, Texas 79849, (915) 872-3900; o Coordinadora de Sección 504, 1050 Chicken Ranch Rd., Special Education Office, San Elizario TX 79849, (915) 872-3900. Mail: PO Box 920, San Elizario, TX 79849.

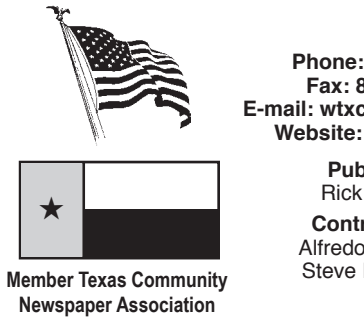
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View from here

By John Grimaldi

Growing old on the streets isn’t easy

There is a pressing need for solutions to homelessness among the elderly

According to a U.S. government study 1.5 million Americans are considered to be homeless. And, while efforts are underway, and in some cases making progress toward reducing the ravages of homelessness, more needs to be done, according to Dan Weber, president of the Association of Mature American Citizens.

And, he says, there needs to be a special focus on the population of elderly men and women with no permanent access to shelter. It’s hard enough growing old in the comfort of your own home, but imagine how much more difficult and dangerous it is to age on the streets.

“Bear in mind that the homeless are included in the 10,000 Americans who turn 65 years of age each day. So, there is a pressing need for specific solutions to homelessness among the elderly and the need grows more dire with each and every passing day. The issue is particularly poignant for AMAC since reportedly more than 50% of those living on the streets are elderly. The burden of living hand-to-mouth on the streets is particularly difficult for them since they are more susceptible to injuries and illnesses as they age. Efforts to deal with the problem are valiant but thus far have not been able to cope as is evidenced by the growing waiting lists at shelters,” says Weber.

Sara Bloomberg, a freelance journalist in San Francisco, recently reported that in 2014 wait times for access to temporary shelter for the homeless in that city averaged 26 days and that currently the wait time has more than doubled. Bloomberg noted that among those recently seeking shelter was a 97-year-old individual and three who are in their 80s.

Sam Dodge, deputy director of the San Francisco Department of Homelessness, told her in an interview that “we do have some carve-outs within our shelter system for elderly and veterans.”

But, says Weber, a study conducted by the University of California found that in 27 years ago only 11 percent of the homeless population were older Americans, but that now more than half are age 50 or older so carve-outs are not the answer.

He praised the efforts of officials in municipalities across the country to deal with the needs of those who have no choice but to live on the streets.

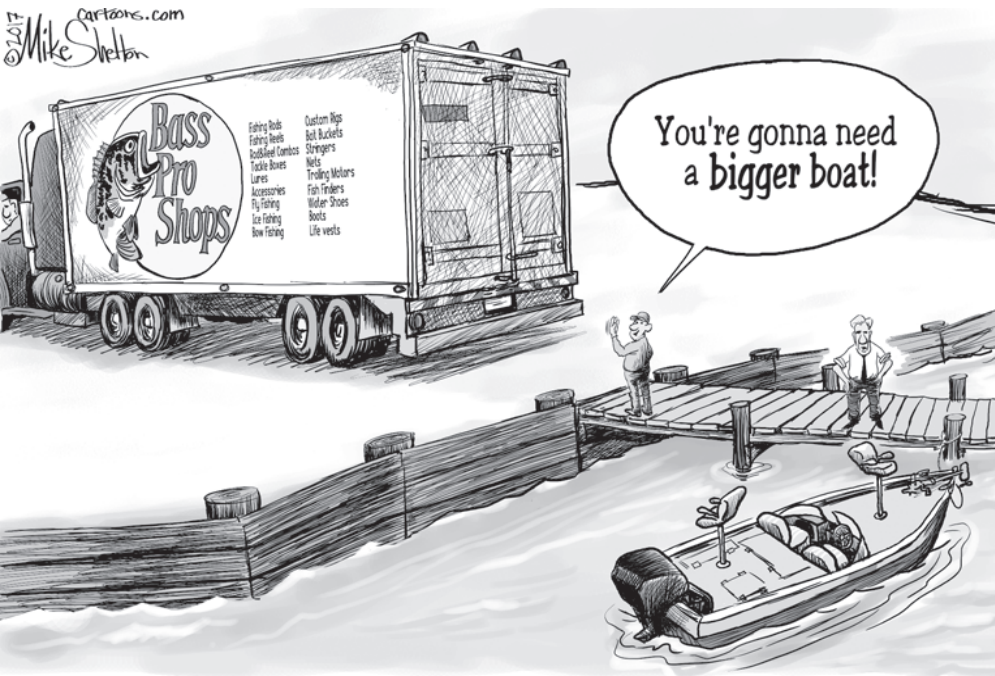
“But, as any of us with aging parents or grandparents know, the older you are, the more help you need. One study of homeless individuals whose average age was 58 showed they have more trouble with such simple tasks as getting dressed, keeping themselves clean and eating properly than 80 year olds living in a proper home environment. Bear in mind that as we age we can become more forgetful. We don’t see as well as we used to. We can become depressed more easily and we can forget to take medications. And, we become more susceptible to physical injuries,” Weber points out.

While temporary shelters fill an important immediate need, there is widespread agreement that we need to design solutions that provide for permanent solutions for those who otherwise have no choice but to live on the streets.

Says Weber, “we need facilities that offer not only a roof over their heads but supportive services, as well. Shelters are a partial solution at best. They provide bunk beds and shared toilet facilities. That’s good as far as it goes, but there is overwhelming evidence that such environments can actually increase the risk of injury and ill-health. Furthermore, many shelters require that residents must vacate those shelters during the day. And, that can lead to further dangers as they have no choice but to wander alone on the streets.”

Weber cites the work of the Hearth program in Boston. Hearth was established to find ways of preventing and ending elder homelessness. Its focus is on identifying older individuals who are currently homeless or are at serious risk of becoming homeless. It seeks to provide “permanent and affordable supportive” housing.

The AMAC chief called on city officials across the country to seek solutions that offer security, permanence and hope for seniors who can’t fend for themselves. “Hearth and programs like it should be the models for municipalities - particularly bigger cities where aging homeless populations are growing at too rapid a pace. What use is it to provide so-called temporary, not so safe havens that exacerbate the distress, depression and physical harm suffered by elderly American men and women, many of whom served valiantly in the armed services?”



The Robert Mueller fishing Expedition



The Association of Mature American Citizens (<http://www.amac.us>) is a senior advocacy organization that takes its marching orders from its members. We act and speak on their behalf, protecting their interests and offering a practical insight on how to best solve the problems they face today.

Finances

From Page 2

join your family.

This article is intended to provide general information and should not be considered health, legal, tax or financial advice. It’s always a good idea to consult a tax or financial advisor for specific information on how certain laws apply to your situation and about your individual financial situation.



Send Your Newsbrief To: wtxcc@wtxcc.com

Tornillo Independent School District Public Notice

Special Needs Programs at Tornillo ISD for 2017-2018 School Year

Tornillo Independent School District provides access to identification of children with suspected disabilities who reside within the district beginning on the third birthday through the child's twenty-first birthday. The student may be eligible for services, at no cost, under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

Services are available to all eligible children identified with a disability who may be experiencing difficulties in one or more of the following areas: Physical Disability, Deaf or Hard of Hearing, Visual Impairment, Deaf-Blind, Intellectual Disability, Emotional Disability, Learning Disability, Speech and/or Language Impairment, Autism, Other Health Impairment.

In compliance with the Family educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 and Public Law 94-142, parents and adult students have the right to inspect educational records. District policy FL provide for record access, confidentiality, and complaint procedures.

If you would like more information or know of a disabled child who is not receiving educational services, and who is residing within the Tornillo Independent School District please contact: Norma Castillo, Special Education Coordinator, Tornillo ISD, at (915) 765-3000.

Noticia Pública

Aviso de Programas de Necesidades Especiales en Tornillo ISD para el Año 2017-2018

El distrito escolar independiente de Tornillo provee acceso a la identificación de niños con incapacidades que viven dentro del distrito comenzando con el tercer cumpleaños hasta los 21 años de edad. El estudiante puede ser legible para servicios, sin costo alguno bajo el Acto de Individuales con Incapacidades (IDEA).

Estos servicios son disponibles para todos los niños identificados con una incapacidad y que estén experimentando dificultades en una o mas de las siguientes areas: Incapacidad fisica, sordo o duro de oido, impedimento visual, incapacidad intelectual o emocional, incapacidad para aprender, impedimento de habla o lenguaje, autismo o cualquier otro impedimento de salud.

Conforme al Acto de Confidencia y de Derechos Educativos de la Familia de 1974 y Ley Publica 94-142, padres y alumnos adultos tienen el derecho de ver los archivos educativos. La Póliza del Distrito FL y FL-E provee acceso a archivos, confidencialidad, y proceso de reclamación.

Si usted desea más información o sabe de un niño/niña incapacitado que vive en el distrito escolar de Tornillo que no esta recibiendo servicios educativos. Favor de comunicarse con: Norma Castillo, Cordinador de Educacion Especial, Tornillo ISD, (915) 765-3000.

Tornillo Independent School District Public Notice of Nondiscrimination

It is the policy of the Tornillo Independent School District to prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender or any person who has a disability in the admission or access to programs, delivery of services or employment.

The Tornillo Independent School District is fully committed to meeting its responsibilities as specified by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended; Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972; prohibiting sex discrimination, the Age Discrimination Act 1975, as amended; Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act 1973 as amended; and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

Inquiries concerning your rights may be referred to Dr. Jeannie Meza-Chavez, Superintendent, P.O. Box 170, Tornillo, TX 79853. Phone: (915) 765-3000. Fax: (915) 765-3099.

Notificación Pública

No Discriminar en Tornillo ISD

Es la norma de conducta del distrito escolar de Tornillo de prohibir la discriminación a base de raza, color, origen de nacionalidad, sexo o cualquier persona que tenga una incapacidad en la admisión o el acceso a programas, entrega de servicios o empleo.

El distrito escolar de Tornillo esta comprometido a cumplir con las responsabilidades específicas por el Título VI del Acta de Derechos Civiles de 1964, como enmienda, el Título IX de la Enmienda de Educación de 1972, que prohíbe la discriminación sexual, la Acta de la Discriminación por edad de 1975 como enmienda, la Sección 504 del Acta de Rehabilitación de 1973, como enmienda, y el Acto de Americanos con Incapacidades.

Para mas información acerca de sus derechos favor de comunicarse con Dr. Jeannie Meza-Chavez, Superintendente, PO Box 170, Tornillo TX 79853. Teléfono: (915) 765-3000. Fax: (915) 765-3099.

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CryptoQuip Answer

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By Samantha Weaver

5) Para mas información de sus derechos y procedimiento de agravios, puede ponerse en contacto con el coordinador de Titulo IX, Dr. Jeannie Meza-Chavez, Superintendente, PO Box 170, 19200 Cobb Ave., Tornillo Texas 79853 o llame al (915) 765-3000.

There’s a kid in all of us – sometimes it’s a brat

By Steve Escajeda
Special to the Courier

The other day I attended one of my nephew’s flag football games at a local park that was flooded with kids of all ages running around, having all kinds of fun. Kids were laughing and shouting and behaving... well... like kids should. As I stood there watching the 10-12-years-olds play the game, I couldn’t help but try to remember what it was like to be that young again. I closed my eyes and tried to recapture the feeling of what it was like not to have a care in the world – when I was excused for my infantile behavior because I just didn’t know any better. But it was all for not. The harder I tried, the more difficult it was for me, a full-grown adult, to fully imagine what it would be like not be expected to act maturely or without a sense of responsibility. Then it happened. Right across from me two small kids had a ridiculous argument about a toy. They were both

pulling at it and started calling each other names. They began shouting at each other and soon they were both crying and making a scene that quickly escalated to full tantrum-mode. And then it hit me – you can be a kid again. It was possible to regress to that time when your intellect was one-tenth of what it is now. It was possible to return to a time when you weren’t expected to follow all the rules of society because, frankly, you weren’t mature enough yet. How do I know this? I know because I watched some of the Floyd Mayweather-Conor McGregor press conferences last week. Before I go any further I’d like to apologize to the kids at the park, they actually weren’t anywhere as bad as the two boxers that are going to steal a boatload of cash next month. The two held a series of press conferences last week taking turns insulting the other about things from their physical stature to their courage to their finances and even their wardrobe.

Of course what they actually said was difficult to pick up because of all the bleeping sounds. It’s funny, these two guys couldn’t go a single sentence without uttering a single ^%#&% or an emphatic &*\$#@. These guys were rude, childish, moronic and disgraceful. The one word I wouldn’t use to describe these guys is stupid. The real dummies are the millions of so-called fight fans who are going to dish out \$100 to watch a circus act. The promoters of this fight know this is a dog of a contest so the idea is to hype it up so much that they get rich... uh... I mean richer. So, the two fighters act like morons, insult each other to the point of using a treasure-trove of vulgarities to attract the lowest common-denominator – professional wrestling fans who still have their doubts that the sport is fake. All the people who enjoy watching a Kardashian lose it by having a bad-hair day, or who enjoy watching the trials and tribulations of Housewives of Wherever, will pay whatever it takes to watch this

spectacle – and then complain about it afterward. Let’s face it, Mayweather came out of retirement because he owes the IRS about \$30 million. McGregor took this fight because he’d like to owe the IRS that much. I’m not sure what all this hype says about our society. It’s troubling to watch a couple grown men throw gay and racial slurs at each other and have fans seeing it as entertainment. At one point Mayweather said he was going to beat McGregor like a [bleep], very bad choice of words from a guy who has a history of beating up women. You have to hand it to these guys though. Nowadays it’s more about style than substance. They’ve caught on to the fact that everyone loves to watch a train wreck. They’ve also taught us a thing or two about being a kid again. If you kick and scream and shout enough, even if you’re doing it for no apparent reason – somebody will eventually give you some attention.

A sporting view By Mark Vasto

Still worth the watch

This time it didn’t matter – and nobody cared. The Major League Baseball All-Star Game has long been considered the best all-star game of all professional sports in America. While the NBA has carved out a nice little niche with the slam dunk competition, baseball’s midsummer classic, with its fan voting, home run derby and representation of players from every team, has managed to remain relevant during a day and age where it takes a straitjacket to get somebody’s attention.

They’ve played the game 88 times, and each league, the American and the National, has won 43 times and split two ties. The All-Star Game used to carry considerable weight back in the days before interleague play, which began in 1997. Up until then, you never got to see your favorite players square off, save for spring training or the World Series. While interleague play became a necessity out of common sense – the fans in St. Louis wanted to see the Yankees play at Busch Stadium more than once a generation – people were

sure the All-Star Game would lose its luster. Perhaps it was that fear that led to making the game “count” after the disastrous 2002 game, which was called a tie after 11 innings due to lack of pitchers. The powers that be championed a decision that had the winning league get home-field advantage in the World Series. It was a decision that was almost universally panned. For one thing, managers didn’t necessarily play to win the game anymore. They were more interested in getting the most participation from their bench. So baseball, nimble as ever, decided to revert back to making the game a simple exhibition again (after 13 years). And what did this year’s

classic teach us? That baseball is almost impossible to not play seriously. Every player seemed to be giving his all... the pitchers were bringing the heat (the average speed of a fastball in the game was 97 mph), fielders were diving after balls in the outfield and batters were hacking away at first pitches. In classic fashion, the game was won in extra innings when Robinson Cano hit a laser into the bullpen leading off the 10th. The night previous, Aaron Judge, the guy that everyone is pinning their hopes on being the next great player, hit 47 home runs in the derby... in the game, he went 0-3, striking out once, just like 23 others did that night.

Sports Illustrated did the math. In the AL’s 2-1 win, 79 players came to bat and 31 of them either struck out, walked or hit a home run, meaning 39 percent of the time, the ball wasn’t even put in play. That’s the way today’s game is played... every pitcher seems to throw 100 mph, every home run is of Ruthian proportions. In the end, just like this year’s All-Star Game, it didn’t matter: baseball is still something worth watching.

Mark Vasto is a veteran sportswriter who lives in New Jersey. (c) 2017 King Features Synd., Inc.

Classified Ads

LEGALS

PUBLIC NOTICE

VILLAGE OF VINTON, TEXAS

INVITATION TO BID

The Village of Vinton, Texas has received funding through the United States Department of Agriculture Housing Preservation Grant and will be receiving bids for the rehabilitation of (3) residential units in the Village of Vinton, Texas. Bid Packets will be available at the city's Administration Building as of July 21, 2017 from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Monday through Friday (excluding holidays), until

4:00 p.m. (local time) on August 15, 2017, at the Village of Vinton Administration Building located at 436 E. Vinton Rd. Vinton, Texas 79821.

Interested Bidders must attend a pre-bid conference on August 2nd at 2:00 p.m. at Village of Vinton Administrative Building.

All bid submittals must be sealed in an envelope and should be plainly marked in the lower left corner; "IFB FOR USDA HPG" ATTN: HPG HOUSING PROGRAM" and Clearly mark Bid Project Address, Company Name, and return address on the envelope.

Bidder may submit bid for anyone or all of the units to be assisted under project.

All bids will be publicly opened and read aloud on Tuesday August 15, 2017 at the Village of Vinton Administration Building located at 436 E. Vinton Rd. Vinton, Texas 79821 at 4:30 p.m. (local time).

The Village of Vinton, Texas reserves the right to reject any or all Bids or to waive any informality in the bidding. The Village of Vinton complies with all federal, state and local procurement regulations.

The Village of Vinton, Texas is

an Affirmative Action and Equal Opportunity Employer. Small, Minority and Female Owned firms are encouraged to submit Bids for this project.

WTCC: 07-20-17 07-27-17

CARS

For Sale. Black 2000 Jeep Wrangler-Sport; 6 cylinder, 4.0 L engine; A/C, CD player. Must see and drive to appreciate. Call (915) 881-7824.

For Sale. Classic 1961 Ford F100 truck; V-8 engine, runs great; standard, clean body with side-steps, newly

upholstered. Call (915) 881-7824.

FURNITURE

Waterbed frames. King w/6 drawer base, \$750; and queen platform, \$500 w/ or w/o 9" memory foam mattresses (medium-firm) Email rick15344@gmail.com

FOR RENT

2-bdrm home for rent. Clint area, fenced yard with refrigerated AC. Very nice, very clean. Call (915) 383-1152.

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Crossing

From Page 1

the highest military honor from the French government and other medals from Italy and Great Britain, as well as having received two purple hearts.

“The veteran community has been championing this issue for many years, and it is an honor to deliver on their wishes after two years of working in Washington to make this happen,” said Hurd. “Today (April 19, 2017) we honored

a man who immigrated to the United States and risked his life repeatedly to protect the safety of his fellow soldiers. The Marcelino Serna Port of Entry will not only honor this extraordinary man’s service to our nation, it will serve as a reminder of the countless Hispanic-American immigrants who have fought valiantly to keep our nation safe. It brings me great joy to celebrate with his daughter Gloria and the rest of the Tornillo community.”

– Alfredo Vasquez and Rachel Holland

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Comix

OUT ON A LIMB

By Gary Kopervas



AMBER WAVES

By Dave T. Phipps



THE SPATS

By Jeff Pickering



R.F.D.

By Mike Marland



Super Crossword

- BROADWAY OPENINGS ACROSS

1 China's Mao _-tung

4 Thumb locale

8 Cries of unveiling

13 Spanish fleet

19 Post-bender headache

21 Poetry Muse

22 One-sided views

23 Old stage actress Duse

24 "Things go by so fast!"

26 "As far as I'm aware..."

28 Brunched, e.g.

29 Kwik-E-Mart clerk

30 Writer Seton

31 Iris locale

32 Pres. advisory gp.

34 New _ (Yanni, e.g.)

35 Become king after being a prince, say

43 Quirk of behavior

46 _ Schwarz (toy retailer)

47 Kuwaiti royal

48 A third of IX

49 Totally up the creek

55 Semi section

58 Witty writer Bombeck

59 Hornswoggle

60 Actress Swenson

61 Hill's partner

62 Nose partition

65 Piece for two

67 Paid no heed

70 "We've been raking in the profit"

75 Advance markdown

77 Requirement

78 Church decrees

81 Painter of melting watches

82 Camera varieties, for short

86 Vientiane's country

88 "My Country" author Abba

89 Hole-poking tool

90 Phrase just before an act is introduced

95 Pouchlike body part

96 Incantation opener

97 River of Bern

98 Veer off course

99 What Thomas became, in kid-lit

107 Alone

108 See 102-Down

109 Love-letter "hugs"

110 Former toy company

114 Alley-_ (court play)

115 Juicer

117 Overdoing the effort

123 Writer of the Tony-winning musical featured in this puzzle

126 Flavored with a certain spice

127 Introduced acts, e.g.

128 Lenya of "Cabaret"

129 IRS part

130 Tallies again

131 Arctic people

132 Central part of a church

133 Star site

DOWN

1 Greek letter

2 Perm place

3 Foe

4 Toot

5 Bristol's river

6 Pianist Peter

7 Party to a financial transaction

8 Giggled

9 Yank with a #13 jersey

10 Hip-hop bud

11 "Listen up!"

12 " _ lied!"

13 Help do bad

14 Plentiful

15 Bad start?

16 Cheese in an Italian deli

17 Intensify

18 Make certain

20 Some Spanish paintings

25 Spiked staff

27 Harsh cleanser

33 "I dunno" gesture

34 Financier Onassis

36 ET ship

37 Avis rental

38 Unemotional

39 Vietnamese New Year

40 Actor Katz

41 Dusk-dawn linkup

42 Move quickly

43 Rail supports

44 Pertaining to

45 Singer Glen

50 Fad dance of the 1960s

51 Bro

52 Sonata, e.g.

53 Honoraria

54 Actor Scott

55 Payload area

56 Bitter brew

57 Part of B&B

61 One of Santa's reindeer

63 Old Glory's nation

64 Wire measure

66 "Sn" element

68 Sierra maker

69 Actress Peeples

71 Lark's home

72 _-confident

73 Boyfriend

74 Hound's clue

75 High-tech "appt. book"

76 Uncooked

79 Zippo

80 Winter drifter

83 _ apso

84 Pat of the

Christian right

85 Ride a wave

87 Antler sporter

90 _-Mart (retail chain)

91 Unemotional

92 Greek letter

93 "Bali _"

94 Suffix with southeast

95 Willy

99 Worker on a housetop

100 Huge, in French

101 Camel kin

102 With 108-Across, of acceptable quality

103 Department in northern France

104 Near-eternity

105 Noodle

106 Erstwhile anesthetic

111 Spun tales

112 Floorboard sound

113 Curiously

115 Lineup 121-Down: Abbr.

116 REO part

118 Post-Q string

119 Himalayan legend

120 Funny Fey

121 Showing via the idiot box

122 Arch with a double curve

124 Composer Rorem

125 Manning of football

Answer Page 4
- Your good health

By Keith Roach, M.D.
- DEAR DR. ROACH: An MRI shows that I have spinal stenosis. I have not improved with chiropractic care, electrical stimulation, medication (including hydrocodone, tramadol and a pain patch), physical therapy or three spinal injections. After the third injection did not help, I told the surgeon I would need back surgery, but he said I am too old. I am 76. Am I too old? – H.S.
- Spinal stenosis is a back condition in which the spinal cord or nerve roots are compressed due to bony abnormalities. The pressure on the nerves can cause pain, loss of reflexes and numbness. Spinal stenosis is most common in the lower back, but it can happen in the neck and mid-back as well. It is seen more often in people over 60 and is the most prevalent reason for back surgery in people over 65.
- The MRI usually shows the compression on the spinal cord or nerve roots; however, the decision for treatment is made based on the symptoms, not necessarily how the back looks by MRI. You have had the recommended nonsurgical treatments, including several medications, physical therapy and injections. Consideration of surgical treatment is reasonable.
- When considering any therapy, the physician must consider the potential benefits and risks. The benefit of surgery is that it is more likely to relieve pain and improve function. There is a small risk of a serious bad outcome (death, worsening of pain or weakness). In general, the older a person is, the more risky the procedure. However, there is no absolute age cutoff of who can and can't get the
- surgery. The overall health of the person is more important than age. Younger people may be a bit more likely to see better improvements in walking after surgery.
- Back surgery shouldn't be undertaken lightly at any age. Get a surgical opinion – and probably a second opinion – before making a decision. Only the surgeon, with access to your MRI results and having completed a careful history and exam, can make an informed recommendation about your personal situation.
- The booklet on back problems gives an outline of the causes of and treatments for the more-common back maladies. Readers can order a copy by writing: Dr. Roach – No. 303W, 628 Virginia Drive, Orlando, FL 32803.. Enclose a check or money order for \$4.75 U.S./\$6 Canada with the recipient's printed name and address. Please allow four weeks for delivery.
- DEAR DR. ROACH: Has the use of white powder, monatomic gold nutritional supplement been verified by the medical profession? Are the claims of mental clarity, long life span, disease cures, etc., accurate? – D.S.C.
- I thought I knew supplements pretty well, but hadn't heard of monatomic gold. Monatomic gold is supposed to be an "orbitally rearranged monoatomic element." In fact, these don't exist chemically, and anyone selling a product like this and claiming health benefits is deliberately scamming you or is confused. Metallic gold is inert and has no effect in the body,
- See HEALTH, Page 8

