



NEWSBRIEFS

San Eli meeting

The San Elizario ISD Board of Trustees Meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 10 at 5 p.m. in the Administration Offices at 1050 Chicken Ranch Rd. in San Elizario.

– Hector Gonzalez

Health fair

The Oz Glaze Senior Center will hold a Health Fair April 13 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. There will be vision screening, hearing screening and many companies on site to explain their services.

– Judi Verslype

Best taxpayer return

With Tax Day approaching, WalletHub has released its latest analysis of the U.S. tax landscape, an in-depth look at the 50 states with the Best & Worst Taxpayer Return on Investment in 2019 (ROI) as well as accompanying videos. WalletHub used 30 metrics to compare the quality and efficiency of state-government services across five categories – Education, Health, Safety, Economy, and Infrastructure & Pollution – taking into account the drastically different rates at which citizens are taxed in each state. Taxpayer ROI in Texas was 7th, ranking:

- 5th – Total Taxes per Capita (Population Aged 18+);
- 34th – Education;
- 31st – Health;
- 39th – Safety;
- 18th – Economy; and
- 49th – Infrastructure & Pollution.

Visit <https://wallethub.com/edu/state-taxpayer-roi-report/3283/> for the full report.

– Diana Polk

Stress levels

With April being Stress Awareness Month and millennials reporting the highest average stress levels of any generation, the personal-finance website WalletHub has released its report on 2019's *Most & Least Stressed States* as well as accompanying videos. To determine the states with the highest stress levels, WalletHub compared the 50 states across 40 key metrics. The data set ranges from average hours worked per week to personal bankruptcy rate to share of adults getting adequate sleep. Texas

See BRIEFS, Page 5

It's a mistake to believe that government can give things to some people without first taking them away from others.

– Quips & Quotes



– Photo from Internet

REALLY SHALLOW – Elephant Butte Lake (above), the largest reservoir in New Mexico, bottomed out at just three percent of capacity a year ago. That is the lowest level since the early 1970s though there has been a slight uptick in rain and snow accumulation in the mountains recently. The water marks on the land show just how much the water has dropped over the years.

Irrigation districts expect low water allotments

By Alfredo Vasquez
Special to the Courier

EL PASO COUNTY – Irrigation districts, that serve West Texas and Southern New Mexico farmers, have been told that this year's watering allotments could be as little as a few inches. The gloomy warning comes in light of Elephant Butte Lake's consistent

low levels. In mid-March, Elephant Butte Lake was about ten percent full, according to a recent report.

The Rio Grande waters flow into Elephant Butte Lake where a huge concrete dam holds back the meandering river. From there, a canal system is used to irrigate the sprawling cotton, pecan, alfalfa, chile, and other vegetable fields that thrive in Dona Ana, New Mexico and El Paso, Texas counties. When available,

the river water also provides a portion of El Paso's drinking supply.

Elephant Butte Lake – located near Truth or Consequences, New Mexico about 125 miles west of El Paso County – is governed by the Rio Grande Compact. The Rio Grande Compact is an interstate agreement signed in 1938 between the states of Colorado, New Mexico and Texas and approved by the U.S. Congress, to equitably apportion the waters of the Rio Grande Basin.

Local area farmers received the bleak forecast for the upcoming irrigation season during a recent Elephant Butte Irrigation District (EBID) board of directors meeting. Dr. Phil King, water resources specialist for EBID, noted that total usable project storage currently sits at just 118,563 acre-feet. "The bottom line is we're at 5% storage in Elephant Butte; we're looking at a late May, early June release," he said, "and are anticipating only four to eight inches in the final allotment. It is bleak."

This region's present-day irrigation system actually began in 1916, when the United States Reclamation Service (today's Bureau of Reclamation) completed Elephant Butte Dam on the Rio Grande. The dam, named for a distinctive rock formation that juts from the center of the reservoir, not only makes a dependable water supply possible, but also Elephant Butte Lake has a storage capacity of more than 2.2 million acre-feet, making it the

Socorro ISD named music education leader

By Christy Flores-Jones
Special to the Courier

EL PASO COUNTY – The Socorro Independent School District has earned its third consecutive Best Communities for Music Education Award from the National Association of Music Merchants (NAMM) Foundation. The prestigious award recognizes school districts who provide access to music education and the arts to ensure all students receive a well-rounded education.

Team SISD is the only district in the region and one of 623 honorees in the nation to be recognized as a leader in music education.

"This national recognition is a testament to the hard work and dedication of our teachers, students and staff," said Armando Martinez, SISD director of fine arts. "Being awarded

Best Communities for Music Education for three consecutive years is a reflection of the support and belief by SISD in the importance of music education and the impact it has on the development of each individual student. Team SISD truly provides endless opportunities in all facets of life."

SISD qualified for the Best Communities for Music Education Award based on funding, staffing, commitment to standards and access to music instruction. SISD students can take numerous music courses and participate in award-winning music programs including band, mariachi, guitar, piano, orchestra, fiddle, and choir. SISD also offers formal music instruction in general and IB music, music appreciation, music history and music theory.

This school year (2018-2019) all

See Music, Page 4

See WATER, Page 5

Scholarships available for survivors of domestic violence

By Elhiu Dominguez
Special to the Courier

EL PASO COUNTY – The application period is open for survivors of domestic violence to apply to receive up to \$2,000 from the 2019 Cycle for Change Scholarship Program. The program started 6 years ago with the goal of providing domestic violence survivors with financial assistance to support them in their effort to break the cycle of violence.

To be eligible for the scholarship the applicant must be a primary survivor of intimate partner domestic violence, sexual assault or stalking; reside in the El Paso County (regardless of immigration status), and submit an application before April 26, 2019.

All applicants must submit a personal statement of no more than 1,500 words, outlining their journey as a domestic violence survivor, the intended purpose of the scholarship, and how the scholarship would promote their personal growth and/or self-esteem. The personal statement may be in the applicant’s preferred language.

El Paso County Attorney Jo Anne Bernal explained that “the scholarship monies may be used to pay for costs associated with furthering one’s education or for therapeutic services, or any activity that a survivor can articulate will help her in guaranteeing she will never be a victim of domestic violence again.”

“It is very important for the public to know that all Cycle for Change scholarships are gift scholarships and do not have to be repaid,” Bernal concluded.

The Cycle for Change program is a collaborative between the County Attorney’s Office and the shelter Villa Maria. All the funds for the scholarship program are raised in a yearly cycling event held in the month of October at Gallegos Park.

Visit www.cycle4change.org for complete details about the scholarships or to apply for one.

Food for thought By John Grimaldi

The boss is no longer the old man

The boss is not the old man anymore. Young so-called “digital leaders” are taking over as top dog in many companies these days, using their knowledge of technology to trump the wisdom of seniority, reports the Association of Mature American Citizens (AMAC).

But, says AMAC president Dan Weber, older Americans are still very active these days and most of them don’t like the idea of giving up their careers.

“Seventy is the new 50, but some seniors feel like they are 40 years old again. They are not only living longer, they’re living healthier, more active lives and so the concept of retirement has undergone a remarkable change.”

So, according to Weber, younger bosses does not mean that seniors are no longer an important part of the workforce. “It simply means that there’s a new role for older business men and women to play, as Chip Conley describes it in his book, *Wisdom At Work: The Making of the Modern Elder*.

The fifty-eight-year-old entrepreneur Conley was a very successful hotel executive. He owned a chain of 58 boutique hotels, which he sold in 2010. A few years later he took a job at Airbnb as the in-house mentor to Brian Chesky, that company’s CEO. Conley says that he quickly learned that the notion of revering seniors in the workplace no longer applies.

It used to be that traditional elders were held in reverence for their wisdom, but in this day and age they are appreciated for their relevance “because

See BOSS, Page 5



Public Notice

City of San Elizario

Tire Amnesty Day in San Elizario

The City of San Elizario is conducting a Tire Amnesty Day for Residents of the City of San Elizario.

Date: Saturday, April 13, 2019
Time: 8:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. (or until capacity)
Location: 1201 Herring Rd., San Elizario, TX 79849

- City of San Elizario Residents only – **Driver’s License or ID required.**
- No Trailers.
No tire companies please.
- Only passenger tires will be collected, 17 inches or smaller.
- No commercial vehicle tires accepted: heavy duty/bobcat tires; semi-truck; tractor trailer, or agricultural tires.

More information at info@cityofsanelizario.com or call (915) 974-7037 / 974-8766.

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U.S. Department of
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On Russia, Trump acted innocent

The release of Robert Mueller’s finding that Donald Trump didn’t collude with Russia should settle a question his critics – and, quietly, some of his allies – have asked repeatedly over the past two years: Why was he acting so guilty?

It turns out that he was acting innocent, only in a typically combative, over-the-top Trump fashion.

The left and the media were never willing to credit the idea that Trump sincerely believed that he was being treated unfairly – because he was.

When Trump said in his infamous Lester Holt interview that the Trump-Russia thing “is a made-up story,” he wasn’t confessing to obstruction of justice; he was stating a fact that the Mueller probe would establish 2,800 subpoenas and nearly 500 search warrants later.

The prudent thing for Trump to do once the Mueller probe got going would have been to cooperate without complaint and bide his time awaiting his eventual vindication. Instead, Trump fought like a caged animal (while actually cooperating with the probe).

Trump is a creature of the media and cares a lot about what is said of him. So imagine him sitting in

the White House and watching the media constantly suggest that a smoking-gun Russia-collusion revelation is just over the horizon, that the walls are closing in, that he might be guilty of one of the worst political crimes committed in the history of the republic – and all the while knowing that it wasn’t true.

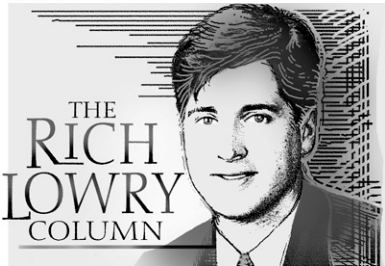
It’s very easy to be relaxed about someone else’s reputation. We saw this during the Kavanaugh controversy when progressives were

outraged that Brett Kavanaugh got emotional about being falsely accused of gang rape. Trump, apparently, was supposed to be cool and nonplussed about being accused of treason.

Of course, he wasn’t, and got caught in an endless feedback loop with the press. He’d be presumed guilty in the coverage, he’d lash out, and

then commentators would take his reaction as further evidence he was guilty. *For two long years.*

As recently as a couple of weekends ago, an epic Trump tweet-storm was taken as a sign that he was completely panicked over the impending Mueller report. It didn’t occur to anyone that he might be acting out of a sense of aggrieved (although often self-defeating) innocence. This is what got the Mueller probe rolling

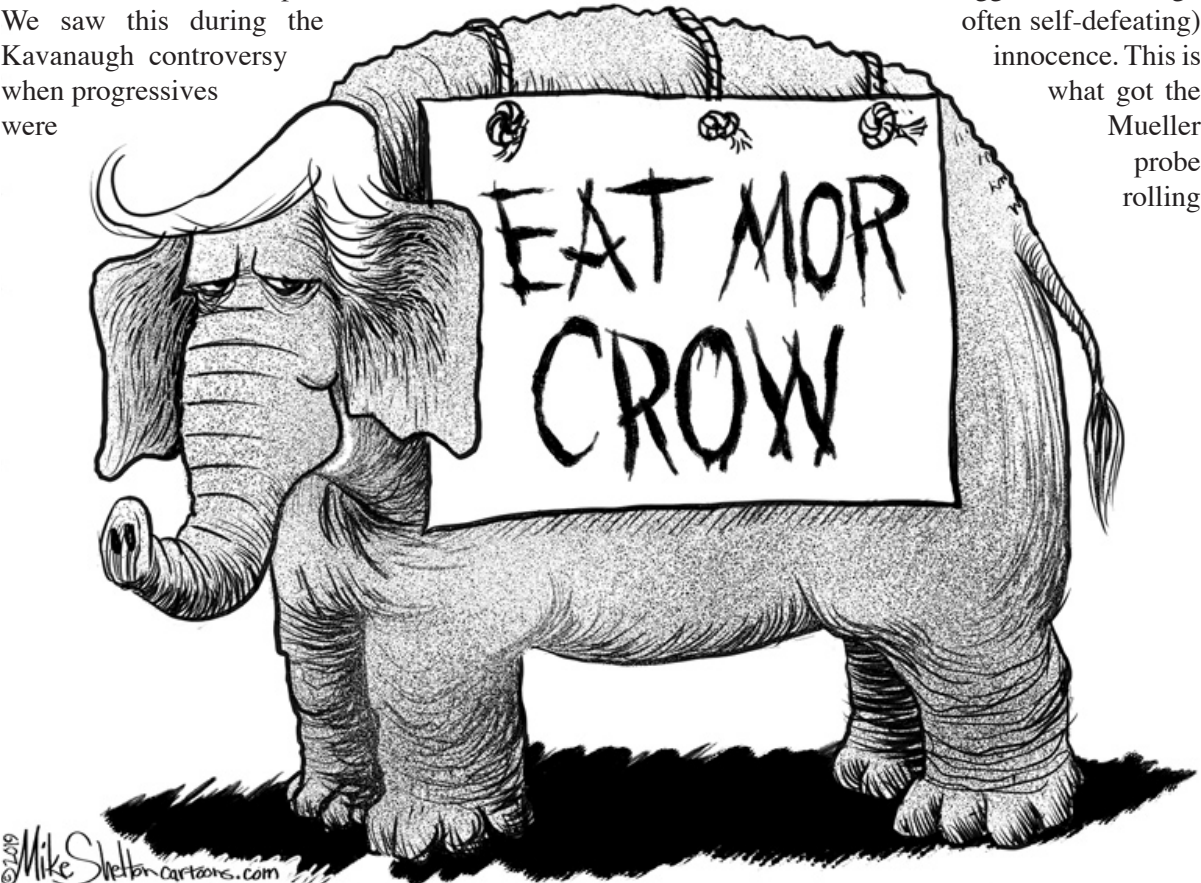


in the first place. Trump fired James Comey because the FBI director refused to state publicly what he told Trump privately – that the president himself wasn’t under investigation. The fallback position of Democrats now is that they can get Trump for obstruction for all his impure thoughts about a probe that reached its conclusion unimpeded, and that found no underlying Russian collusion to cover up.

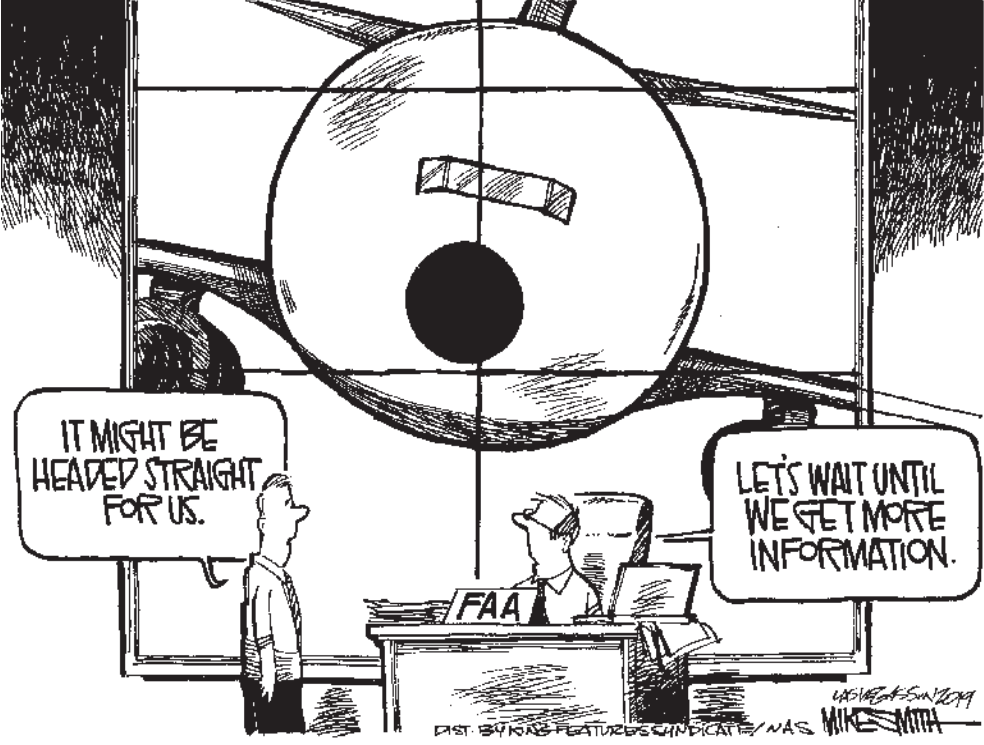
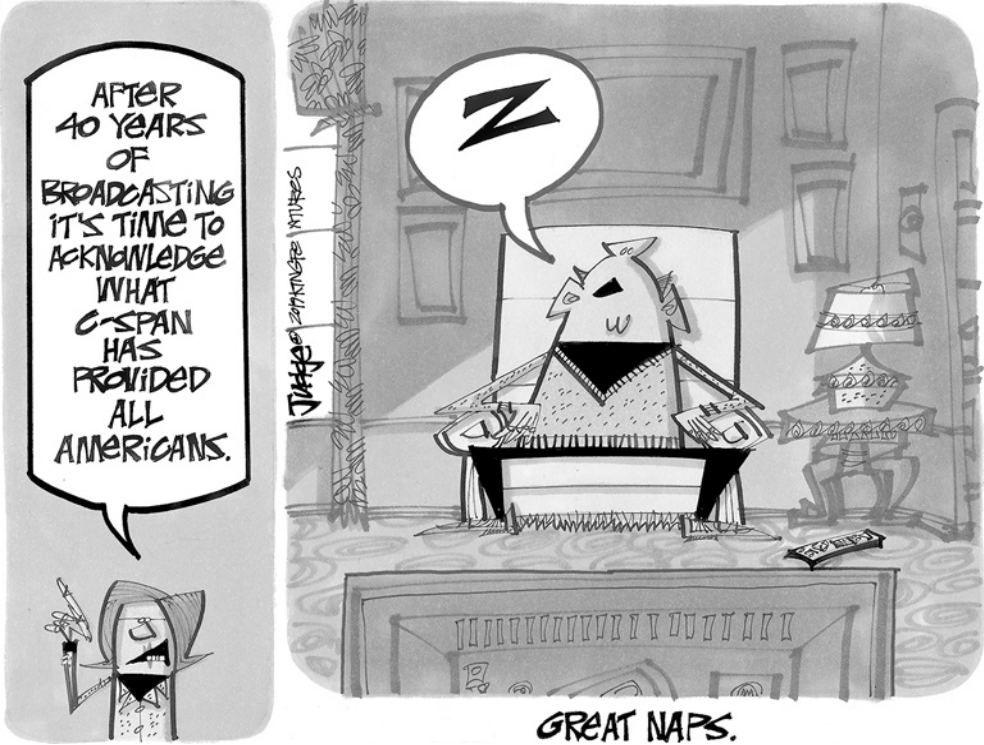
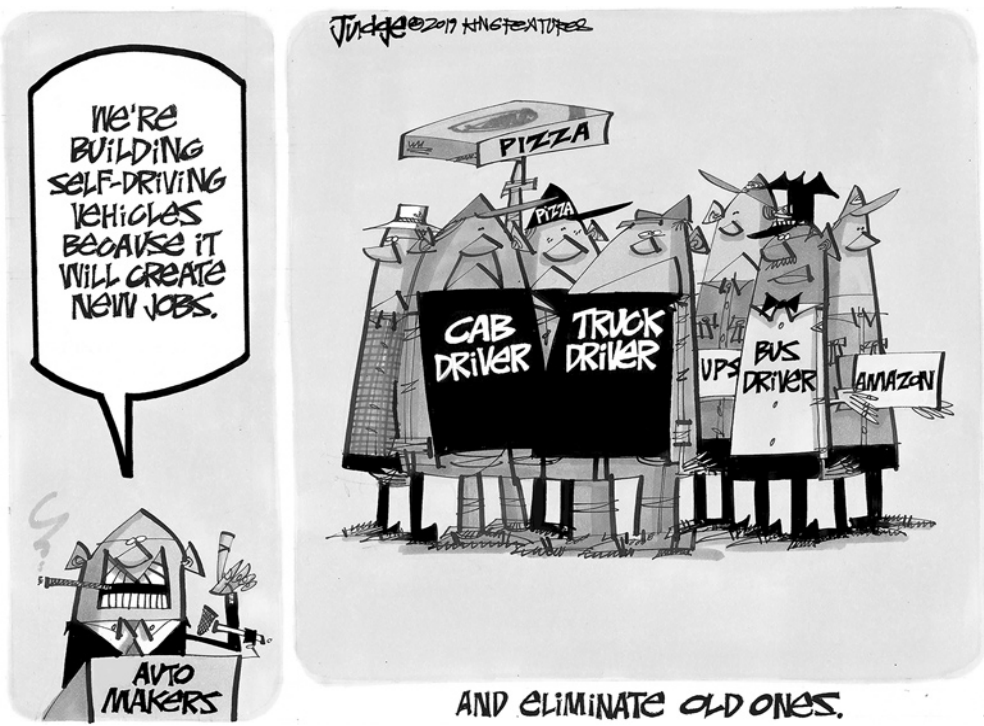
This was Watergate without the break-in and the Lewinsky affair without, well, the Lewinsky affair.

A news industry that *should* have a healthy skepticism could never apply any skepticism to its own narrative and assumptions. And so, on the question of Russia collusion that put a cloud over the White House and dominated the past two years of our public life, Donald Trump was a more reliable narrator than the media that so self-righteously scorns him.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review. (c) 2019 by King Features Synd., Inc.



NEVADA BILL WOULD ALLOW SOME 14-YEAR-OLDS TO DRIVE



San Eli ISD Board visits all campuses, gives LSSEC presentation

By Hector Gonzalez
Special to the Courier

SAN ELIZARIO – It has been six months since the Texas Education Agency (TEA) selected the San Elizario Independent School District (SEISD) as one of eight Texas school districts to be part of the inaugural Lone Star Governance (LSG) Exemplar Cohort. Since then, the district’s Board of Trustees, Superintendent, and faculty and staff have been hard at work in an effort to take the school district to the next level.

San Elizario ISD’s Board of Trustees have made it a point to visit all of the district’s six campuses to give teachers a special presentation on improving student outcomes and to answer any questions they might have about LSG.

“We want to begin the two-way communication between board members and faculty,” said Sandra Licon, Board Vice President. “We want our teachers to know that we are here for them and that we need to work together in order to reach our goals as a district.”

April Marioni, Principal at

GEMS, said her teachers were very receptive and the Board’s presentation helped set the tone as to what direction the school district is headed.

“The presentation at our campus went very well,” Marioni said. “It says a lot when our board members come down to our school and speak to our teachers directly, in this case about LSG. It shows they are a very supportive Board whose main goal is student outcomes.”

Adriana Castruita, a 7th grade Social Studies teacher at GEMS, said the Board’s presentation on student outcomes was informative.

“The presentation provided teachers with a clear guidance about the district’s goals,” she said. “I also think it was nice to



PIONEERS – Armando Martinez, Board Trustee; Becky Romero, Board Trustee; Sandra Licon, Board Vice President visited all six San Eli campuses. Above, Licon answered a question about being part of the inaugural Lone Star Governance (LSG) Exemplar Cohort program.

see our board members visit our campus and ask for our input. That shows our voice matters and they are with us every step of the way.”

The LSG Exemplar Cohort is

designed for high-performing local governing teams – school board members and their superintendents – that want to continue honing their focus on improving student outcomes.

Classified Ads

JOBS

POSITION OPEN

Socorro Independent School District

Heating, Ventilation and Cooling (HVAC) Teacher at El Dorado High School

Minimum Qualifications:

1) Certified Vocational Trades & Industry/Trades & Industrial Education in HVAC; or

2) Degreed - Associate's or Bachelor's Degree with a current Industry Certification preferred with 3 years within the last 8 years of full-time wage-earning experience in HVAC; or

3) W/O Degree - Must have 5 years within the last 8 years of full-time wage-earning experience in HVAC, Current Industry License/Certificate.

• All candidates must be accepted to or have completed an approved educator

preparation program.

• Position requires candidates to provide students the opportunity to participate in SkillsUSA and be willing to teach evening classes, three times a week to Adult Education classes (additional pay will be provided according to District guidelines).

• The following documents are required to be attached to the online Application: Current resume (must be submitted/ uploaded within one (1) year) and a Statement of Qualifications (SOQ).

• Visit: https://my.sisd.net/public_apps/jobs/postings/?type=Certified for full job posting/ instructions.

For questions about this posting, please contact: Amanda Acosta, abeht@sisd.net or call (915) 937-1608.

Socorro ISD is EOE

WTCC: 03-28-19 04-04-19

Music

From Page 1

elementary students are taking a music course, 51 percent of middle school students are taking a music class, and 30 percent of high school students are enrolled in a musical program. In addition, 66 percent of SISD’s 46,900+ students have experienced music education at their schools.

“It is a great honor to receive the NAMM Best Communities in Music Education recognition once again,” said Janet Lynch, SISD instrumental music specialist. “We are so fortunate to have highly qualified teachers and award-winning music programs in SISD. These teachers and students go above and beyond to achieve greatness!”

Studies show that even a few years of musical training early in life improve how the brain processes sound, and benefits of early exposure to music education last well into adulthood, years after the training has ceased, according to the NAMM press release. For more information about the NAMM Foundation, visit www.nammfoundation.org.

Strange BUT TRUE

By Samantha Weaver

- It was 20th-century American writer, publisher, artist and philosopher Elbert Hubbard who made the following sage observation: “Genius may have its limitations, but stupidity is not thus handicapped.”
- According to historical reports, in 1877 snakes fell from the sky in Memphis, Tennessee.
- When the bubonic plague, more commonly known as the Black Death, was at its peak in Europe in the 14th century, a wide variety of remedies was prescribed, including smoking tobacco, bringing spiders into the household, inhaling the stench from a latrine, sitting between two large fires, drinking red wine in which new steel had been cooled, and bathing in goat urine.
- Successful inventor and businessman Thomas Alva Edison received only three months of formal education, at a public school in Michigan.

• The first photograph of a United States citizen was taken in 1839. The subject was Samuel F.B. Morse, a painter who also happened to be the inventor of a single-wire telegraph system and developer of the Morse Code.

• You probably are aware of the fact that slugger Babe Ruth held the record for the most home runs; you might not know, though, that he also held the record for the most strike-outs.

• Those who speak English call it a French kiss, but those who speak French call it an English kiss.

• It was once the custom among the Danakil tribe of Ethiopia to mark a man's grave with one stone for each man he had killed during his lifetime.

Thought for the Day: “If a woman has to choose between catching a fly ball and saving an infant's life, she will choose to save the infant's life without even considering if there are men on base.”

– Dave Barry

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CryptoQuip Answer

When frolicking with a well-fed web-footed bird, I suppose you're playing with a full duck.

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• On April 1, 1877, prospector Edward Schieffelin begins his search for silver in southern Arizona. Later that year, Schieffelin discovered one of the richest silver veins in the West. He named it the Tombstone Lode.

• On April 2, 1972, silent film actor and filmmaker Charlie Chaplin prepares for his first voyage to the United States since 1952, when he was denied a re-entry visa amid questions about his leftist politics. Chaplin returned to accept an honorary Academy Award.

• On April 3, 1996, at his cabin in Montana, Theodore John Kaczynski is arrested by FBI agents and accused of being the Unabomber, the elusive terrorist blamed for 16 mail bombs that killed three people and injured 23. “Unabomber” was an acronym for university, airline and bomber.

• On April 4, 1968, Martin Luther King Jr. is shot to death at a hotel in Memphis, Tennessee. A single shot fired from a nearby motel by James Earl Ray struck King in the neck. The death of America’s leading civil-rights advocate sparked a wave of rioting around the country.

• On April 5, 2000, Lee Petty, an early star of NASCAR, dies at the age of 86 in North Carolina. Lee Petty won more than 50 stock-car races during his career, including three NASCAR championships and the first Daytona 500, held in 1959.

• On April 6, 1896, the Olympic Games, a long-lost tradition of ancient Greece, are reborn in Athens. King Georgios I of Greece and a crowd of 60,000 spectators welcomed athletes from 13 nations.

• On April 7, 1776, Navy Capt. John Barry, commander of the American warship Lexington, makes the first American naval capture of a British vessel when he takes command of the warship HMS Edward off the coast of Virginia. The capture turned Barry into a national hero.

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– Photo by Alfredo Vasquez

WAITING FOR WATER – Irrigation canals, like this one in Mesilla Valley, are clean but dry as farmers along the Rio Grande hold out hope that the El Niño weather system will develop and save them from what could otherwise be another dry start to the next growing season.

Water

From Page 1

largest irrigation reservoir in the world at the time of construction.

Because of the current low level, King stated that he does not expect the irrigation districts to get much water in the initial allotments as the planting season begins. Although, he pointed out that more accurate

totals would be available after the winter snow packs in the project headwaters develop over the next few months and provide the runoff so desperately needed by agricultural producers in the region.

“Basically, we will be living on inflow and allotting it as it arrives. He emphasized that it is crucial that farmers have this information now to help them plan their early season groundwater use,” King advised.

According to the National Weather

Service, an El Nino watch is in effect with an 80 percent chance of this weather pattern developing which could enhance rain chances. However, King added that he is not optimistic about the development of a wetter than average pattern for West Texas and Southern New Mexico.

“We have endured 16 years of drought, and it looks as if this upcoming year will continue to bring further challenges with low water supplies,” King speculated.

Briefs

From Page 1

was 22nd in this study, ranking:
(1 – Most Stressed, 25 – Avg.)

- 4th – Avg. Hours Worked per Week;
- 34th – Share of Adults Getting Adequate Sleep;
- 8th – % of Adults in Fair/Poor Health;
- 45th – Job Security;
- 6th – Median Credit Score;
- 32nd – Housing Affordability;
- 14th – % of Population Living Below Poverty Line;
- 26th – Divorce Rate;

- 13th – Crime Rate per Capita; and
 - 12th – Psychologists per Capita.
- Visit <https://wallethub.com/edu/most-stressed-states/32218/> for the full report.

– Diana Polk

Surviving in style

The ultimate bomb shelter is for sale – an \$18 million, five-bedroom, six-bathroom underground bunker complete with a guesthouse, a pool and a spa. It’s located in Las Vegas, NV and it features a lighting array that mimics a sunrise in the morning, balmy daytime illumination and a sunset to put you to sleep. The property listing boasts that the

“concrete and steel doomsday bunker was designed to survive cataclysmic events in comfort.”

– John Grimaldi

A truly Great Dane

A Great Dane named Cleo put the maternity team at the Kingman Animal Hospital in Arizona to the test recently. It took 11 staffers to perform a C-Section on the expectant mom that produced an incredible litter of 19 pups, all of which are “doing great” the hospital reported. That is eleven more pups than the typical Great Dane litter of 8 puppies.

– John Grimaldi

Boss

From Page 2

they’re as much of an intern as they are a mentor.”

Conley says, “I started to realize that there are some things they [younger executives] could teach me, like digital intelligence, and there are things that I could teach them, which is emotional intelligence, leadership skills, strategic thinking, etc. That is the opportunity. How do we create an intergenerational collaboration like we’ve never seen before because we have five generations in the workplace at the same time, for the first time?”

Conley’s book was published last September and by November he used the concepts he described in it to create a new venture he calls the Modern Elder Academy. It’s a one of a kind resort in the seaside town of El

Pescadero located on Mexico’s Baja Peninsula.

Forbes magazine explains that Conley got the idea for the academy as he was writing his book. “Right as I got the contract to write the book, it became clear to me that the number of people who were feeling anxious and bewildered in midlife was much broader than I had expected. I started asking myself: Where do people go if they are silently suffering through transitions?”

As he described it to the author of the Forbes article, Richard Eisenberg, somewhere between 45 and 65 years of age, people begin to realize they are growing old and many of them can feel lost.

“The average longevity in the United States in the year 1900 was 47. In 2000, it was 77. So, we added 30 years of life in one century. But that created something that really didn’t exist

before, which is midlife. That’s why in 1965 the term midlife crisis emerged. At that time, midlife was perceived as 45 to 65 or 40 to 60. Today, I think it’s 35 to 75 because people are going to work longer and people start feeling irrelevant earlier,” explains Conley, noting that it is one of the reasons the Modern Elder Academy was created.

But, AMAC’s Weber points out, there’s no dispute that many older Americans need to continue working past the traditional retirement age of 65 to make ends meet. But more and more of them want to stay on the job because it provides them with a sense of contentment; working

makes them feel that they have purpose.

The Academy may not be for everyone. For one thing, “tuition” for a one-week course is as much as \$5,000 and for a two week Immersion Program, you’ll pay up to \$10,000.

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.

To Advertise Call 852-3235
Archives: www.wtxcc.com

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



Food for thought By Glenn Mollette

Presidential advertising: Who will turn it down?

Almost any newspaper, television station and social media venue will sell advertising - to anybody. How many media outlets in this nation have the resources to investigate every or any would be advertising purchaser? What if the advertiser wants to spend one million dollars through your local television station? What if they want to spend it through a global media outlet like Facebook or Twitter? This is precisely what happened during the past Presidential election. People connected to Russia bought advertising to the tune of 1.2 million dollars per month on social media sites.

We’ve read and heard that fake advertising agencies conspired to buy the advertising and were even promised 15 percent of Twitter’s total available ads at one point. Another story cited that “people” connected to Russia

purchased 350 different ads. Special Counsel Robert Mueller unveiled the details early last year of an alleged widespread and coordinated campaign by Russians to influence the U.S. Presidential election in favor of Donald Trump. We also learned last year that ads were purchased against Hillary Clinton and also in favor of Bernie Sanders.

Recently we have learned that President Trump has been cleared of collusion with the Russians pertaining to his previous Presidential campaign.

But back to the advertising. Media outlets across the planet employ people, and often on commission, to sell advertising. If someone calls a small town paper and wants to buy \$50,000 worth of advertising, who is going to turn it down? We can move this up to small network television stations or even

national networks such as NBC, CBS or ABC or CNN or Fox... etc. The stations survive, thrive or die based on advertising revenue. Any political action committee in America can send someone with a brief case and a check to meet with the “sales Manager” of whatever entity and walk out with bought advertising.

Throughout our country candidates are receiving lots of money from political action committees from other states. In 2012 Preston Bates and John Ramsey of Texas, via their Super Pac pumped \$900,000 into Thomas Massie’s Northern Kentucky Congressional campaign running mostly negative ads about his opponents. No media outlet turned any of that money down and Massie won.

This is America and we have freedom of speech and freedom to

use all kinds of weird ads for and against political candidates. Most of us are tired of the political ads. How many of us believe half of what we see and hear in political ads aired on TV or viewed on the Internet? We doubt most of what we read, hear and see especially when the ads are condemning a political opponent. Yet, even in a non-Presidential season last fall the dollars spent were staggering. Broadcast television advertising was 3.5 billion and over 1.7 billion was spent on digital advertising - primarily Facebook and Google. Over \$600 million was spent on newspapers and magazine advertising while \$689 million was spent on radio political advertising according to a Forbes report.

How many new cars, houses and condos are paid for by oodles and oodles of political campaign money? How many media

owners become millionaires again and again every political campaign? Mark Zuckerberg did not become worth 62 billion dollars by telling his advertising executives to spend hours or days trying to figure out exactly all the where and whys of all the money that has streamed right into his pocket. Oh, of course now Facebook is tightening things up we hear.

Another Presidential election is coming and this time we could have Cuba, China or even North Korea buying political ads. The ads could be bought under the guise of “The John Doe-Sally Smith” Advertising Agency representing the “Crazy Zombie Political Action Committee” of Mud Creek, California. When the advertising budget for a million dollars or more is placed on the table, who is going to turn it down?

‘Burning’ tattoo forces halt to MRI

DEAR DR. ROACH: Can you please explain how an MRI machine affects the pigment in a tattoo? My friend’s MRI procedure was stopped because she was experiencing a burning sensation at her lower eyelids, which had previously been tattooed with black ink. Does this happen only with black ink? Which colors are safer? – J.H.



Reactions between the ink in tattoos and MRI scanners are well-documented in the literature. Some inks – mostly black, red and brown – are made with iron or titanium oxides. Only 1.5 percent of people with tattoos have reported bad experiences in MRI machines.

Iron and titanium oxides conduct electricity, and the strong magnetic field in an MRI scanner can cause a current to travel between different tattoos or different portions of a tattoo – especially those with loops in the pattern. The electric current causes heat, and even can cause minor burns. Cold packs or ice placed on the area during MRI can minimize damage, but some MRI facilities will not perform an MRI on tattooed individuals, especially if the tattoo covers a large area.

If a magnet draws up the skin with a tattoo, then that area is at risk.

DEAR DR. ROACH: I recently was diagnosed with transient global amnesia. I had never heard of this. My primary care doctor sent me for further testing, which included an MRI and MRA with contrast, and a CT scan. All were normal. Can you elaborate on this condition? – M.T.M.

Transient global amnesia is a cause of retrograde amnesia (“retrograde” meaning you don’t remember things from the past, usually the past day to a month, but sometimes longer; “anterograde” means memory loss forward from the time of the event). Its cause is unknown, but it occurs more frequently in men and women over 50. Your doctor ordered the appropriate tests to make sure it wasn’t a transient ischemic attack or stroke. Epilepsy sometimes can look similar to TGA, so sometimes an EEG is obtained.

As scary as it sounds, TGA usually doesn’t happen again and doesn’t predict a higher risk of developing memory troubles,

See HEALTH, Page 8

Health

From Page 7

stroke or epilepsy in the future.

DEAR DR. ROACH: My wife has COPD. She is not coping very well. Her doctors are treating her with the standard medications. She has heard about an experimental treatment where they take her stem cells and make them into something that is inhaled. Have you heard about this treatment? Is it safe? Each treatment is \$7,000. – J.W.

Stem cells are cells that can develop into many kinds of mature cells. In theory, they can grow and replace cells that have been damaged or destroyed due to a disease process. Stem cells hold great promise for many diseases,

but there isn't enough information for me to make a recommendation for stem cells in COPD, for either safety or effectiveness.

If you are going to look into it further, I would recommend doing so only as part of a clinical trial. You can find out about clinical trials at www.clinicaltrials.gov. I was able to find some trials on the site that are recruiting subjects. I also would recommend www.closerlookatstemcells.org/ to anyone considering stem cell treatment.

Dr. Roach regrets that he is unable to answer individual letters, but will incorporate them in the column whenever possible. Readers may email questions to ToYourGoodHealth@med.cornell.edu. (c) 2019 North America Synd., Inc. All Rights Reserved.

CryptoQuip

This is a simple substitution cipher in which each letter used stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Solution is accomplished by trial and error.

Clue: J equals R

UYGS EJPFRQCRSD URKY T
UGFF-EGH UGI-EPPKGH IRJH,
R BVNNPBG MPV'JG NFTMRSD
URKY T EVFF HVQC.

Answer Page 4

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

	1				9			5
		6	5			7		
4				2				3
		1	6					9
2	7			8		1		
8					2			7
		3		5				6
	4				1	8		
7			4					2

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging

Answer Page 4

♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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Purple Heart vets will get new benefits



by Freddy Groves

Purple Heart recipients will start receiving one additional benefit in April – priority processing for initial disability claims.

Department of Veteran Affairs Secretary Robert Wilkie announced at a Senate subcommittee meeting that beginning next month, Purple Heart recipients will get priority processing when it comes to getting their disability benefits on claims received on or after April 1.

This is in addition to existing medical benefits: No co-pays for medical care and priority treatment at VA hospitals, meaning that the veteran will go into at least Group 3 when it comes to medical care.

Outside the medical arena, Purple Heart recipients don't need to serve a certain length of time to get full education

benefits. They'll be able to shop on base and use the recreation areas starting next year. In some states, their children will be eligible for free tuition at in-state colleges. When it comes to work, Purple Heart recipients are given a 10-point preference in hiring for government jobs.

Under certain circumstances a Purple Heart veteran can receive extra money (over the standard disability benefits). Call to inquire at 1-800-321-1080.

These benefits have been earned, and there's no big dispute about that. If you're wounded in combat, you get a medal. But when it comes to going to the head of the line for initial claims... that's where opinions are running hot. It's possible to get a Purple Heart medal for a relatively minor combat wound that healed long ago, while some with much more serious non-combat injuries are still awaiting claims.

Some things to think about: If a serious injury happens in a non-combat area, does it deserve a Purple Heart? If a

combat injury happens but it's mild enough that the service member can be patched up and go back into combat, does it deserve a Purple Heart?

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• If you're forgetful, experts say to "speak up" when completing a task. Not sure you turned off the oven? When you take the pan out, say, "I'm shutting off the oven!" You're more likely to remember if you've given yourself a verbal reminder.

• Lock your device! Just as you wouldn't leave your door unlocked, so too should you not leave your phone unlocked, particularly if you have applications on your smartphone which can be easily accessed. Lock it up, and be smart.

• "Cut the bitterness in a cup of coffee by adding a pinch of salt. Enhance the flavor of sweets with a pinch of salt. Salt is my secret weapon!" – F.L. in Alabama

• Cut cotton pads in half to double your supply. They are typically big enough for two uses, and you can always use two halves if you need a whole.

• "Use correction fluid to mask a scratch in a white cabinet. If the cabinet has a gloss on it, you can try painting over the correction fluid (after it has dried, of course) with clear nail polish. It won't cover a big gash or anything, but it's good for little nicks." – J.B. in New Mexico

• "When you need to change your password monthly, like for work, you might benefit from this motivational tip: Choose a phrase to focus on for the month. For example: "Listening does more than talking" can be translated to "listening>TALK1ng" for a strong, but motivational password that you'll have to think about each time you log in." – T.B. in Florida

Send your tips to Now Here's a Tip, 628 Virginia Drive, Orlando, FL 32803. (c) 2019 King Features Synd., Inc.

GO FIGURE! by Linda Thistle

The idea of Go Figure is to arrive at the figures given at the bottom and right-hand columns of the diagram by following the arithmetic signs in the order they are given (that is, from left to right and top to bottom). Use only the numbers below the diagram to complete its blank squares and use each of the nine numbers only once.

DIFFICULTY: ★

★ Moderate ★★ Difficult
★★★ GO FIGURE!

	+		×		9
×		+		×	
	×		-		29
+		×		-	
	×		-		29
24		25		20	

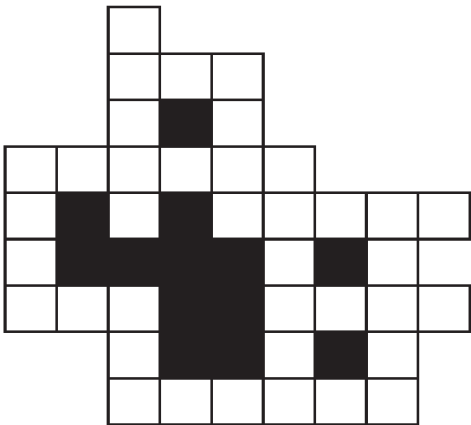
1 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 9

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Answer Page 4



CBU
ARDPEN
♥MAPSL
CBMO
PLEEDO
PGA
MBPU
♥ESGRA
♥IGB
MORCEH
FUSCR
♥EPGA



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Unscramble these twelve letter strings to form each into an ordinary word (ex. HAGNEC becomes CHANGE). Prepare to use only ONE word from any marked (♥) letter string as each unscrambles into more than one word (ex. ♥RATHE becomes HATER or EARTH or HEART). Fit each string's word either across or down to knot all twelve strings together.

Answer Page 4