



NEWSBRIEFS

Canutillo ISD raises pay

The Canutillo ISD Board of Trustees unanimously approved a two percent general pay increase for all CISD employees for the 2020-21 school year. The compensation plan, approved on May 26 at the regular board meeting, keeps Canutillo ISD among the highest-paying school districts in the region. Starting teacher pay would increase from \$52,500 to \$53,150 a year and all other teachers' pay will climb through pay-scale step increases. "I consider our faculty and staff our greatest assets," said Superintendent Dr. Pedro Galaviz. "We truly appreciate the work they do in educating and supporting our students." Over the past four years, the District has been in a sound financial position to continually increase compensation. "We are pleased to be able to provide these salary increases to our teachers and staff during such a challenging time," said Board President Sergio Coronado. "They have worked so hard for our children and the present situation has demanded even more of their time and effort."

— Liza Rodriguez

SISD establishes COVID-19 food fund

With concern for its neighbors and a desire to make a positive difference, the Socorro Independent School District recently established a SISDCares Fund to support El Pasoans Fighting Hunger Food Bank (EPFH Food Bank) in their efforts to feed families impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. All monetary donations to the SISD Cares Fund will go toward providing meals to El Paso families during this pandemic. The EPFH Food Bank has distributed close to 80,000 boxes of food to nearly 23,000 families in El Paso since the COVID-19 pandemic began, and there is still great need to assist those who are food insecure. "We are proud to team up with our community partners El Pasoans Fighting Hunger and Paso del Norte Community Foundation to help families during this challenging and unprecedented pandemic," said SISD Superintendent Jose Espinoza, Ed.D. "It is of utmost importance to provide support to those that need it most. We encourage those in Team

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The main difference between a wise man and a foolish man is that the foolish man does not learn from his mistakes.

— Quips & Quotes



— Photo by Alfredo Vasquez

A RIVER RUNS THROUGH IT – The Rio Grande, above, flows abundantly through El Paso County's Upper Valley farmland and communities this irrigation season.

West Texas, New Mexico landowners seek Rio Grande water use solution

By Alfredo Vasquez
Special to the Courier

EL PASO COUNTY – For over 100 years the Elephant Butte Irrigation District (EBID) has been a steward of water along the Rio Grande in southern New Mexico.

EBID operates and maintains a critical water infrastructure system for EBID members in the Rincon and Mesilla farmland area, known as the Lower Rio Grande Valley. Today, agriculture continues to be the largest economic sector in this region.

EBID, and its predecessor – an agriculture water user's association – have served farmers dating back to the 1840s. "Agriculture is a tremendous part of the local community, to say the very least, in the Lower Rio Grande Valley... Prior to the time municipalities existed in this area of the world, agriculture had already been established as a stronghold providing a source of stability for local inhabitants," stated Gary Esslinger, EBID's treasurer-manager, during his recent testimony on the Western Water Security Act of 2019 (H.R.4891) that is being considered by the U.S. House of Representatives Natural Resources Committee Subcommittee on Water, Oceans, and Wildlife.

Agriculture is not only an economic giant in this area; it's a way of life, Esslinger emphasized. These rural communities depend on the water resources to sustain their way of life. EBID delivers water to more than 90,000 acres of land and 7,900 water users, spanning 130 miles of land along the Rio Grande Valley from Caballo Dam, which is located about 100 miles

north of Las Cruces to El Paso County, according to Esslinger.

The agricultural products grown in this area benefit the entire nation providing family-grown produce including animal feed and fiber, pecans, a wide variety of vegetables, and its signature green chile crop.

In addition to serving the southern New Mexico communities, EBID also plays an integral role in the delivery of water to the downstream users, in particular El Paso County and Ciudad Juarez, through an agreement called the Rio Grande Reclamation Project (RGRP). In a normal irrigation season, EBID delivers water from mid-March to mid-October. The canals, laterals, and ditches that crisscross the valley make it possible to grow the highest quality fruits, vegetables, and nuts on lands that would otherwise be unproductive scrub.

In fact, before the reclamation project, the water user's association members were constantly battling the torrential flows of the mighty Rio Grande and the summer monsoons that would wipe out key irrigation infrastructure in the area, Esslinger related. Also, in the early days water scarcity was a problem that lower Rio Grande farmers dealt with regularly. During those times, their water source was solely a torrential river or monsoon flooding that was both unpredictable and unreliable, he recounted.

After RGRP was established in the early 1900s, the water conveyance and delivery infrastructure were no longer in jeopardy annually, as it had been up to that time, and stability was finally achieved for the region.

Once RGRP went into effect, the region enjoyed several years of stable water supply until the early 1950s when the first large drought of recent times hit the area. During that period, to keep the agriculture community alive, the Bureau of Reclamation and the local irrigation districts sought alternative sources of water. Ultimately, it was determined that a large aquifer underlies the Rincon and Mesilla Valleys, which could be pumped from underground to continue the way of life known to these local communities.

Eventually, the drought of the 1950s subsided and the agriculture community continued on through a number of years of what is considered "normal" or "wetter than normal" supply, until drought came home to roost again in the early 2000s, according to Esslinger.

In the current drought, south-central New Mexico has been the hardest hit area. The region is experiencing drastically reduced surface water supplies, declining groundwater quality and quantity, and cumulative effects of more than a decade of drought conditions. The outlook is made even bleaker by the converging climate science indicating that the current conditions are exacerbated by what appears to be a permanent shift to a more arid climate.

Along with agriculture being a way of life, litigation and fighting over water resources has also been a way of life for over a century. Now, the Lower Rio Grande Valley is the subject of multiple United States Supreme Court opinions and is currently the subject of an ongoing Original Action before the U.S. Supreme Court. That case is known as Texas and the United States v. New Mexico.

The ongoing war between the State of Texas and the State of New Mexico began

See WATER, Page 3

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING TO DISCUSS BUDGET AND PROPOSED TAX RATE

The Socorro Independent School District will hold a virtual public meeting at 6:00 PM. on Tuesday, June 16, 2020. DUE HEALTH AND SAFETY CONCERNS RELATED TO THE COVID-19 CORONAVIRUS, THIS MEETING WILL BE CONDUCTED BY VIDEOCONFERENCE OR TELEPHONE CALL. NOTICE FOR THE MEETING AND ACCESS INFORMATION, INCLUDING METHODS FOR PUBLIC COMMENT ARE AVAILABLE AT <https://www.sisd.net/page/700>. **The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the school district’s budget that will determine the tax rate that will be adopted. Public participation in the discussion is invited.**

The tax rate that is ultimately adopted at this meeting or at a separate meeting at a later date may not exceed the proposed tax rate shown below unless the district publishes a revised notice containing the same information and comparisons set out below and holds another public meeting to discuss the revised notice.

Maintenance Tax	\$0.966400/\$100 (Proposed rate for maintenance and operations)
School Debt Service Tax	
Approved by Local Voters	\$0.398954/\$100 (Proposed rate to pay bonded indebtedness)

Comparison of Proposed Budget with Last Year’s Budget

The applicable percentage increase or decrease (or difference) in the amount budgeted in the preceding fiscal year and the amount budgeted for the fiscal year that begins during the current tax year is indicated for each of the following expenditure categories:

Maintenance and Operations	1.17% Decrease
Debt Service	0.92% Decrease
Total Expenditures	1.14% Decrease

Total Appraised Value and Total Taxable Value (as calculated under Section 26.04, Tax Code)

	Preceding Tax Year	Current Tax Year
Total appraised value* of all property	\$ 14,002,364,463	\$ 15,008,069,068
Total appraised value* of new property**	\$ 448,348,067	\$ 435,647,126
Total taxable value*** of all property	\$ 11,022,999,217	\$ 11,968,052,638
Total taxable value*** of new property**	\$ 401,451,856	\$ 405,051,294

* “Appraised value” is the amount shown on the appraisal roll and defined by Section 1.04(8), Tax Code.
** “New property” is defined by Section 26.012(17), Tax Code.
*** “Taxable value” is defined by Section 1.04(10), Tax Code.

Bonded Indebtedness

Total amount of outstanding and unpaid bonded indebtedness* \$757,747,613
* Outstanding principal.

Comparison of Proposed Rates with Last Year’s Rates

	Maintenance & Operations	Interest & Sinking Fund*	Total	Local Revenue Per Student	State Revenue Per Student
Last Year’s Rate	\$ 0.970000	\$ 0.398954*	\$ 1.368954	\$ 3,337	\$ 7,062
Rate to Maintain Same Level of Maintenance & Operations Revenue & Pay Debt Service	\$ 0.981110	\$ 0.397750*	\$ 1.338670	\$ 3,425	\$ 6,959
Proposed Rate	\$ 0.966400	\$ 0.398954*	\$ 1.365354	\$ 3,376	\$ 7,297

*The Interest & Sinking Fund tax revenue is used to pay for bonded indebtedness on construction, equipment, or both.
The bonds, and the tax rate necessary to pay those bonds, were approved by the voters of this district.

Comparison of Proposed Levy with Last Year’s Levy on Average Residence

	Last Year	This Year
Average Market Value of Residences	\$ 142,488	\$ 143,838
Average Taxable Value of Residences	\$ 116,981	\$ 118,660
Last Year’s Rate Versus		
Proposed Rate per \$100 Value	\$ 1.368954	\$ 1.365354
Taxes Due on Average Residence	\$ 1,601.42	\$ 1,620,13
Increase (Decrease) in Taxes		\$ 18.71

Under state law, the dollar amount of school taxes imposed on the residence homestead of a person 65 years of age or older or of the surviving spouse of such a person, if the surviving spouse was 55 years of age or older when the person died, may not be increased above the amount paid in the first year after the person turned 65, regardless of changes in the tax rate or property value.

Notice of Voter-Approval Rate: The highest tax rate the district can adopt before requiring voter approval at an election is \$1.365354. This election will be automatically held if the district adopts a rate in excess of the voter-approval rate of \$1.365354.

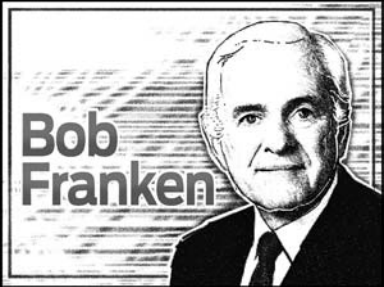
Fund Balances

The following estimated balances will remain at the end of the current fiscal year and are not encumbered with or by a corresponding debt obligation, less estimated funds necessary for operating the district before receipt of the first state aid payment:

Maintenance and Operations Fund Balance(s)	\$ 52,139,037
Interest & Sinking Fund Balance(s)	\$ 15,900,306

A school district may not increase the district’s maintenance and operations tax rate to create a surplus in maintenance and operations tax revenue for the purpose of paying the district’s debt service.

Taking his own snake oil?



Admit it: You don’t know whether to believe him or not. Is President Donald Trump lying about taking hydroxychloroquine? He usually does make things up, but one thing is absolutely true about the Trumpster: He always manages somehow to focus all of the attention on himself.

And we in newsbiz fall for it every single time. The moment he slipped into a news briefing that he was popping “hydroxy” pills, reporters went scurrying to find the first commenters they could, particularly those who would be so shocked that they could barely contain their outrage/fright/distress. It didn’t matter whether it was a medical expert or opposition politician, as long as the reactor went nuclear.

Trump was once again controlling the agenda. Nevermind that, if true – a big “if” – it was a crackpot idea to take this anti-malaria-lupus-rheumatoid arthritis drug, but not, as several studies have demonstrated, anti-coronavirus.

For starters, notwithstanding the president’s endorsement early on, its off-label misuse is dangerous. Side effects can include a disruption of heart activity, leading to death. And another one: It can make you bonkers. Quoting the Mayo Clinic description listing possible

side effects, it can cause:

- Feeling that others are watching you or controlling your behavior.
- Feeling that others can hear your thoughts.
- Feeling, seeing or hearing things that are not there.

That would explain Trump and all his conspiracy theories, except that he was spouting off those long before he started his hydroxychloroquine and zinc regimen. Why zinc? It bolsters your immune system.

Forgetting whether the president of the United States should be taking such a dangerous drug, his doing so and publicly announcing it creates an instant shortage. Those who have a medical need are out of luck, as the gullible Trump followers... uh... follow his example and start demanding prescriptions themselves.

Their guy has decided to end his journey into the pharmacological unknown, but he’s certainly not finished risking the lives of millions of Americans. His self-serving support for the premature reopening of the country contradicts the advice of most medical experts, who say it’s too soon and that thousands will die as a result.

Trump is also itching to get back on the election trail by holding rallies. Besides the focus on himself as he tosses fact-deprived red meat to his roaring masses, it would be a dangerous adventure with thousand crammed into each venue, sweating, coughing, spitting, hating, sharing conspiracy theories ... whatever they do at his rallies. And not

See FRANKEN, Page 7



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15344 Werling Ct.
Horizon City, TX 79928



Phone: 852-3235
E-mail: wtccc@wtccc.com
Website: wtccc.com

Publisher
Rick Shrur
Contributors
Alfredo Vasquez
Steve Escajeda



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Yes, there’s good news on COVID-19

It’s not March anymore. The coronavirus has taken a heartbreaking toll on Americans, but the course of the virus is not the same as it was a few months ago. We are on the other side of the curve. There are encouraging signs all over the country, and no early indications of a reopening debacle.

The question now is whether the media and political system can absorb good news on the virus, which is often ignored or buried under misleading storylines.

The press has a natural affinity for catastrophes, which make compelling viewing and good copy. The pandemic is indeed a once-in-a-generation story. So, the media is naturally loath to shift gears and acknowledge that the coronavirus has begun to loosen its grip.

Meanwhile, progressives and many journalists have developed a near-theological commitment to the lockdowns, such that any information that undermines them is considered unwelcome, even threatening. This accounts for the widespread sense that no one should say things have gotten better... *or people are going to die.*

Usually, when it is thought the public can’t handle the truth, it is a truth about some threat that

could spark panic. In this case, the truth is information that might make people think it’s safe to go outside again.

Almost all of the discussion about reopening is framed by worries that we will reopen too soon, not that we might reopen too late. That is literally unthinkable, even as we have entered a new phase.

As data analyst Nate Silver pointed out last week, the seven-day rolling average for deaths is 1,362, down from 1,761 the week prior and a peak of 2,070 on April 21. That’s still much too high, but the trend is favorable.

Testing capacity, such a concern for so long, has really begun to expand after hitting a plateau for weeks. Testing nationally on some days has been in the high 300,000s or over 400,000. The issue in some states now is not capacity, but actually finding enough people to test.

Scott Gottlieb of the American Enterprise Institute notes that the positivity rate, or percentage of people testing positive, has continued to fall throughout May.


The press has often, out of sloppiness or willfulness, tried to create negative news around the reopenings. CNN recently tweeted, “Texas is seeing

the highest number of new coronavirus cases and deaths just two weeks after it officially re-opened.” As Sean Trende of RealClearPolitics pointed out, the seven-day rolling average of new cases had indeed been trending up, but the seven-day rolling average of the number of tests had gone up, too -- which would naturally turn up more cases. The key indicator is the positivity rate, and it was down

in Texas.

Headlines noted that Florida recorded 500 new cases in one day. It generated fewer headlines, and perhaps none, when Gov. Ron DeSantis explained that the state had received a dump of 75,000 test results, yielding the 500 new cases, for a minuscule positivity rate of 0.64%.

It’s not as though we haven’t had a cataract of unassailably legitimate bad news over the past few months. We’ve been experiencing a wrenching public health crisis and a steep recession



THE RICH LOWRY COLUMN

on top of it. There shouldn’t be a need to obscure favorable trends. We can handle the truth.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review. (c) 2020 by King Features Synd., Inc.

Water

From Page 1

as the result of many longstanding legal battles in the region. The U.S. government has joined the litigation as an intervener on the side of the State of Texas due to its interests in the RGRP, a move by the U.S. that has led to what some legal scholars have called a landmark decision by the Supreme Court.

The present Supreme Court case was initially filed in 2013, and litigation remains active to this day, with a trial date set for mid-2021. The case focuses primarily on the impact of groundwater pumping on the surface water supply within the Rio Grande project.

The State of Texas and the U.S. have claimed that the State of New Mexico has failed to protect the surface water supply of the RGRP from depletion by groundwater pumping in the Lower Rio Grande.

New Mexico farmers have acknowledged that pumping groundwater negatively impacts the

Esslinger stated that the Western Water Security Act of 2019 would help create opportunities for water managers and stimulate investments in water infrastructure as well as advance the focus on conservation and the needs of environmental enhancement.

“EBID, like others who have worked on this legislation, know that long-term solutions take time to develop and this legislation initiates action now through tailored funds designed to advance innovative groundwater and surface water projects during a time of needed response to an emerging long-lasting drought in the West,” Esslinger said. “Additionally, this legislation uniquely positions EBID to receive funding for projects that may contribute to solutions necessary to resolve the ongoing Supreme Court litigation once and for all, he surmised.

As an example, EBID members point out a policy they agreed on in 2015 that is intended to provide a transparent mechanism for groundwater users to purchase groundwater offsets from willing (voluntary) sellers within EBID. This program is called DROP (Depletion Reduction Offset Program).

Esslinger explained that under the DROP policy, groundwater users will be able to offset groundwater depletions by entering into voluntary fallowing agreements with EBID members who have combined surface and groundwater rights. The participating EBID members will agree to fallow and forego all surface water and groundwater use on specified parcels. The surface water portion that is not applied to the fallowed parcels will be used on other EBID members’ lands that remain in production, thus reducing the groundwater needs for those lands, and the groundwater portion will not be transferred or used except as offsets under DROP. Esslinger asserted that the effect of DROP would be to decrease overall groundwater depletions.

EBID has taken the initiative because it is keenly aware that its water users are both surface water and groundwater users, meaning they are caught in the crossfire in the Supreme Court litigation between Texas and New Mexico. Because of that situation, EBID has also agreed to administer DROP, including maintaining records of fallowing agreements and land management plans, ensuring that land is being fallowed per the fallowing agreements, and ensuring that EBID surface water is not applied to parcels that are enrolled in DROP. But, lack of funding remains the main roadblock in getting DROP up and running.

Another suggestion that EBID members are supporting to decrease reliability on the regional groundwater supplies is desalination of brackish groundwater that is unconnected to the surface supplies and fresh groundwater aquifer. Preliminary studies of the feasibility of inland desalination of brackish groundwater in the Santa Teresa area of south-central New Mexico on the border with Mexico are under way with funding from the Bureau of Reclamation’s Desalination and Water Purification Research (DWPR) program.

The desalination proposal is aimed at developing



The New Normal...



From Page 3

As the development progresses, it is clear that funding is needed for major infrastructure, including a brackish water well field, desalination plant, concentrate disposal facilities, and renewable energy generation capacity. The lead entity in the project is New Mexico State University and the New Mexico Water Resources Research Institute. Participating agencies include the Border Industrial Association (BIA, a consortium of businesspersons in the area) Camino Real Regional Utility Authority (the primary water provider), the U.S., the Mexican sections of the



– Photo by Alfredo Vasquez

IN COURT – Current litigation by Texas and the United States against New Mexico in the U.S. Supreme Court may limit the options for water management in the Lower Rio Grande Valley, which is determined by the amount of water in the Elephant Butte Dam, above.

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who possessed the
biggest pectoral muscles
be a chestmaster?

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Moments in time

THE HISTORY CHANNEL

- On June 1, 1926, Norma Jeane Mortenson – who would become known as the actress and sex symbol Marilyn Monroe – is born in Los Angeles. During World War II, a photographer “discovered” the photogenic Norma Jeane working in a California munitions factory.
- On June 2, 1935, baseball great Babe Ruth ends his Major League career after 22 seasons, 10 World Series and 714 home runs. The following year, Ruth was one of the first five players inducted into the sport’s hall of fame.
- On June 3, 1800, President John Adams becomes the first acting president to take up residence in Washington, D.C. Unfortunately the White House was not yet finished, so Adams moved into temporary digs at Tunnicliffe’s City Hotel near the also half-finished Capitol building.
- On June 4, 1986, Jonathan Pollard pleads guilty to espionage for selling top-secret U.S. military intelligence information to Israel. The former Navy intelligence analyst sold enough classified documents to fill a medium-sized room. He was sentenced to life in prison.
- On June 5, 1949, bestselling thriller writer Ken Follett is born in Wales. After college he wrote a novel just for the \$400 advance, which he needed to fix his car. The book flopped, and after 10 more novels he finally broke through with “The Eye of the Needle” in 1979.
- On June 6, 1833, in Maryland, President Andrew Jackson boards a Baltimore & Ohio Railroad steam train for a pleasure trip to Baltimore, becoming the first president to take a ride on an “Iron Horse.” The B&O Railroad began operation in 1828 with horse-drawn cars.
- On June 7, 1962, the banking institution Credit Suisse opens the first drive-through bank in Switzerland in downtown Zurich. After mounting problems with Zurich’s downtown traffic led to fewer and fewer customers, the drive-thru was closed in 1983.

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Strange BUT TRUE

By Lucie Winborne

- It was 17th-century English philosopher Thomas Hobbes who made the following sage observation: “Curiosity is the lust of the mind.”
- A swarm of 20,000 bees followed a car for two days because their queen was inside the vehicle. The insects were removed by a beekeeper after the car was parked, but were back the next day, as the queen was still inside.
- Peter Ostrum, who portrayed Charlie Bucket in the original “Charlie and the Chocolate Factory,” declined the offer of a three-picture deal and bought a horse with his movie earnings. His resulting love for animals led him to pursue a career not as an actor, but a veterinarian.
- During World War II, Coca-Cola wanted soldiers to have a taste of home and opened bottling plants near Europe. However, the soda was synonymous with the States, making it problematic for non-Americans to be seen drinking it, especially in the Soviet Union where it was viewed as a symbol of American imperialism. Soviet Gen. Marshal Georgy Zhukov, a fan that didn’t want to be seen consuming it himself, appealed to the company to make a clear version. A chemist at the Austrian bottling plant obliged by removing the drink’s coloring, after which “White Coke” was bottled in clear glass with a white cap and red star.
- “Jeopardy” fan Cindy Stowell dreamed nearly her entire life of being a contestant on the show. In 2016 she successfully auditioned and became a six-time champion even while battling Stage 4 cancer during filming. Sadly, she didn’t live to see her episodes air, but her \$103,000 in winnings was donated to cancer organizations.
- “Alice in Wonderland” author Lewis Carroll wasn’t the best at personal finance. Sure, he paid his debts on time, but would also often overdraft upwards of 7,500 pounds sterling – in spite of being a mathematics scholar at Oxford!
- The Vatican Bank is the world’s only bank that allows ATM users to perform transactions in Latin.

Thought for the Day: “Failure is a bruise, not a tattoo.”
– Jon Sinclair

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING TO DISCUSS BUDGET AND PROPOSED TAX RATE

DUE TO HEALTHAND SAFETY CONCERNS RELATED TO THE COVID-19 CORONA-VIRUS, the San Elizario Independent School District will hold a virtual public meeting at 5:30 PM. on Monday, June 15, 2020. **The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the school district’s budget that will determine the tax rate that will be adopted. Public participation in the discussion is invited.**

Event address for attendees: <https://seisd.webex.com/seisd/onstage/g.php?MTID=e43b428c98f984502c4a9b50765895b74>
Event number: 960 112 861 Event password: p59jCpYK7tIM

Audio conference: United States Toll +1-408-418-9388 Access code: 960 112 861

The tax rate that is ultimately adopted at this meeting or at a separate meeting at a later date may not exceed the proposed tax rate shown below unless the district publishes a revised notice containing the same information and comparisons set out below and holds another public meeting to discuss the revised notice.

Maintenance Tax	\$1.008000/\$100 (Proposed rate for maintenance and operations)
School Debt Service Tax	
Approved by Local Voters	\$0.138100/\$100 (Proposed rate to pay bonded indebtedness)

Comparison of Proposed Budget with Last Year’s Budget

The applicable percentage increase or decrease (or difference) in the amount budgeted in the preceding fiscal year and the amount budgeted for the fiscal year that begins during the current tax year is indicated for each of the following expenditure categories:

Maintenance and Operations	3.73% Decrease
Debt Service	0.27% Decrease
Total Expenditures	3.52% Decrease

Total Appraised Value and Total Taxable Value (as calculated under Section 26.04, Tax Code)

	Preceding Tax Year	Current Tax Year
Total appraised value* of all property	\$ 351,559,309	\$ 363,108,264
Total appraised value* of new property**	\$ 5,446,020	\$ 6,863,438
Total taxable value*** of all property	\$ 247,572,573	\$ 263,984,974
Total taxable value*** of new property**	\$ 5,035,407	\$ 6,813,236

* “Appraised value” is the amount shown on the appraisal roll and defined by Section 1.04(8), Tax Code.
** “New property” is defined by Section 26.012(17), Tax Code.
*** “Taxable value” is defined by Section 1.04(10), Tax Code.

Bonded Indebtedness

Total amount of outstanding and unpaid bonded indebtedness* \$26,335,000
* Outstanding principal.

Comparison of Proposed Rates with Last Year’s Rates

	Maintenance & Operations	Interest & Sinking Fund*	Total	Local Revenue Per Student	State Revenue Per Student
Last Year’s Rate	\$ 1.028700	\$ 0.117400*	\$ 1.146100	\$ 854	\$10,415
Rate to Maintain Same Level of Maintenance & Operations Revenue & Pay Debt Service	\$ 1.121000	\$ 0.269500*	\$ 1.390500	\$ 1,121	\$10,269
Proposed Rate	\$ 1.008000	\$ 0.138100*	\$ 1.146100	\$ 961	\$10,843

*The Interest & Sinking Fund tax revenue is used to pay for bonded indebtedness on construction, equipment, or both.
The bonds, and the tax rate necessary to pay those bonds, were approved by the voters of this district.

Comparison of Proposed Levy with Last Year’s Levy on Average Residence

	Last Year	This Year
Average Market Value of Residences	\$ 79,349	\$ 79,761
Average Taxable Value of Residences	\$ 47,094	\$ 49,870
Last Year’s Rate Versus		
Proposed Rate per \$100 Value	\$ 1.146100	\$ 1.146100
Taxes Due on Average Residence	\$ 539.74	\$ 571.56
Increase (Decrease) in Taxes		\$ 31.82

Under state law, the dollar amount of school taxes imposed on the residence homestead of a person 65 years of age or older or of the surviving spouse of such a person, if the surviving spouse was 55 years of age or older when the person died, may not be increased above the amount paid in the first year after the person turned 65, regardless of changes in the tax rate or property value.

Notice of Voter-Approval Rate: The highest tax rate the district can adopt before requiring voter approval at an election is \$1.146100. This election will be automatically held if the district adopts a rate in excess of the voter-approval rate of \$1.146100.

Fund Balances

The following estimated balances will remain at the end of the current fiscal year and are not encumbered with or by a corresponding debt obligation, less estimated funds necessary for operating the district before receipt of the first state aid payment:

Maintenance and Operations Fund Balance(s)	\$ 10,701,638
Interest & Sinking Fund Balance(s)	\$ 479,978

A school district may not increase the district’s maintenance and operations tax rate to create a surplus in maintenance and operations tax revenue for the purpose of paying the district’s debt service.

In this time of violence and virus, maybe sports is the cure

By Steve Escajeda
Special to the Courier

After months of being bombarded with news concerning the Covid-19 pandemic, another news event finally replaced it as the nation’s top story.

Unfortunately, this new story had to do with a murder charge, racism, political incompetence, protests, riots and some scenes never before witnessed in the United States.

The protests and riots around the country over the past week have reminded us that though the USA has come a long way since the days of segregation, there is still much work to be done.

We’ve all seen the video of the Minneapolis police officer putting his knee on the neck of a handcuffed George

Floyd for over eight minutes.

Floyd died after being taken to the hospital soon afterward.

Though an early autopsy showed no signs of Floyd dying of strangulation, there’s still no rhyme or reason why an officer would need to keep his knee on a person’s neck unless he wanted to inflict some serious damage.

And people all over the nation were understandably outraged and staged protests to show their frustration and anger.

But George Floyd’s name was soon forgotten when the protests evolved into violent riots with young people attacking the police, burning down property and looting and destroying businesses.

During these troubling times, when you start listing the real important things in life, athletic competition is way down the list.

But sometimes, like now, sports can be

a way to remind us how similar we are, instead of society always reminding us of our differences.

It’s unfortunate that there aren’t any sporting events going on right now, because in a not-so-small way, sports tend to bring people together like no other event.

Have you ever looked at the crowd of any sports arena, park or stadium – the seats are filled with people of all races, religions and colors.

In fact, the only color that seems to make any difference to anyone at a game is the color of the jersey you’re wearing.

The beauty of team sports is that they represent a city or state. Players from different backgrounds, social status, political beliefs and races are thrust together for a common goal.

These players put all their prior difference aside and learn to respect and

eventually trust each other as they start their yearly quest to become successful.

Many of these teammates never had the opportunity to see the other person’s perspective, simply because they hadn’t spent time with a person of another skin color.

It’s funny how the more time you spend with a person different from yourself, the more you come to understand them – and them, you.

But for way too many in this country, and around the world for that matter, people tend to fear what they don’t know. How else are you going to get to know different people if you’re not exposed to them?

The riots that occurred last week were utterly repulsive. Burning down private businesses that are owned by hard-working people who had absolutely nothing to do with what happened to George Floyd, is a sad disgrace.

And the news media’s attempt to fan the flames is another sad commentary. We can’t forget that this incident was started by the actions of one horrible cop. Not the whole United States police community.

Much of the media makes it sound as if all police officers in every city are racist and are out systematically looking for people of color to harass, arrest or even kill.

The absolute truth is that police officers are mothers and fathers and brothers and sisters and sons and daughters. They have families and many are active in the community. The vast majority does their job properly every single day – but those good cops are never shown on TV.

Over the years, there have been tragic life events that remind us that winning or losing in sports isn’t really that important.

But sometimes, sports can bring us together during a tragic life event.

A black man and a white man, who might look suspiciously at each other on the street, will high-five each other without a moment’s hesitation at a sporting event.

Wouldn’t it be wonderful if we felt like that about each other all the time?

Briefs

From Page 1

SISD who can join in our efforts to ensure no child or family goes without the nutritious food they need to stay healthy.”

Donations also will support the challenge grant established by Hunt Family Foundation, Paul L. Foster Family Foundation and MountainStar Sports Group Foundation who have agreed to match all donations made to El Pasoans Fighting Hunger up to \$1 million. Visit <https://pdfoundation.org/give-to-a-fund/sisd-cares> to donate to the SISD Cares Fund

– Christy Flores-Jones

Agricultural food aid

Agricultural producers can now apply for USDA’s Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP), which provides direct payments to offset impacts from the coronavirus pandemic. The application and a payment calculator are now available online, and USDA’s Farm Service Agency (FSA) staff members are available via phone, fax and online tools to help producers complete applications. The agency set up a call center in order to simplify how they serve new customers across the nation. Producers can download the CFAP application and other eligibility forms from farmers.gov/cfap. Also, on that webpage, producers can find a payment calculator to help identify sales and inventory records needed to apply and calculate potential payments.

– Jaime Bustamante

COVID-19 healthcare

COVID-19 has exposed weaknesses in the country’s healthcare system, from supplies to staffing to bed counts, but issues have been far from uniform across the U.S. To find out which states were most prepared going into the pandemic, the personal-finance website WalletHub today released its report on the States with the Best Health Infrastructure for Coronavirus, as well as accompanying videos. To identify which states have the best health infrastructure, WalletHub compared the 50 states across 14 key metrics. Our data set ranges from the state’s Public Health Emergency Preparedness funding per capita to the share of the population that is uninsured and the number of hospital beds per capita. Below, you can see highlights from the report, along with a WalletHub Q&A. Texas was rated 25th in this report ranking (1-Best, 25-Avg.):

- 47th – Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) Funding Per Capita
- 16th – Public Hospital System Quality
- 40th – Public Healthcare Spending per Capita
- 13th – Number of Hospital Beds per Capita
- 50th – Share of Uninsured Population
- 27th – Epidemiology Workforce per Capita

Visit <https://wallethub.com/edu/states-with-best-health-infrastructure-for-coronavirus/74483/> for the full report

– Diana Polk

Super Crossword

APPELLATION TRUNCATION ACROSS

1 Duelist's weapon

5 _ Club (retail chain)

9 Weds on the sly

15 Swine food

19 Carter of "Gimme a Break!"

20 "Statt"

21 Film director

George A. _

22 Bluish hue

23 Cruel Curry in a London borough?

26 Kitty chip

27 The real _

28 Skirt's edge

29 Give Mason the ax?

31 Make do with Paul?

34 "_ a Letter to My Love" (1981 film)

35 Road goop

36 Song syllable

37 Acne care brand

38 Physics prize of note

42 Show penitence

44 College founded by Hagen?

51 Heredity determiner

52 Attired

53 Flummoxed

54 Mrs., in Bonn

55 Question for Knotts when he's holding a package?

60 Bygone space station

61 Extreme joy

64 Arcing tennis shot

65 Second letter addendum: Abbr.

66 Singer with the 2011 album "21"

68 Goes by car

69 Came in first

71 Sculpting aid

72 Not too tasty

73 "_ a Rock" (1966 hit)

76 "Ni-i-i-ice!"

78 Semis, say

79 Go bad

80 Return Shearer's phone call?

84 Operatic solo

86 Running shoe brand

87 Traffic sound

88 Billion : giga- :: trillion : _

92 Anthony championing personal liberties?

96 _noires (bugbears)

97 January, in Spain

98 Coll. dorm supervisors

99 _haw (donkey's sound)

101 Moose kin

102 With 111-Down, connect two dots, maybe

106 Battling it out with Murdoch?

DOWN

1 Sheffield loc.

2 Pervade

3 It's negatively charged

4 Vote in

5 Twain's Tom

6 "_ live and breathe!"

7 Very virile

8 Nearly globe-shaped

9 Palindromic "before"

10 Lounges idly

11 All: Prefix

12 Lab's _ dish

13 Great Lakes tribesmen

14 Northern French river

15 Commence

16 Monocle, e.g.

17 Pledge

18 Answer from the accused

24 "Warrior" co-star Nick

25 2,065, in old Rome

30 Year, in old Rome

31 Fawn's father

32 Defective

33 Uvea's organ

39 Cat breed

40 Virtual marketer

41 Victors' wreaths

43 Sir Isaac -

45 Slangy negative

46 Shaft of light

47 Call a halt to

48 "The jig -"

49 Turner and Kennedy

50 Ming of basketball

52 Elliot of the Mamas & the Papas

56 Feature of "gum" but not "gem"

57 Pledge

58 Download for a Kindle

59 Bible book before Habakkuk

61 Give a hug to

62 Fill with a crayon

63 Not dynamic, as a verb

67 Expand

70 "_ so much"

71 Lug

73 "Who's there?" answer

74 Make _ deal out of

75 Speed-of-sound ratio

77 Scorching

78 "The - Coochi Coo" (1961 hit)

81 Musicality

82 Winter hrs. in Wichita

83 "... _ iron bars a cage"

85 When shows are broadcast

89 Forever

90 Had faith in

91 Inquires

93 Bereft

94 _ Lanka

95 Myopic "Mr."

96 "I _ You" (hit for Elvis)

100 Concludes

103 Hard _ follow

104 "I thought _ a deal!"

105 Humble

106 Phonies

107 Fast one

108 One way to mark losses

109 Clown name

110 Love deity

111 See 102-Across

112 Sinus docs

117 Cookie-pushing org.

118 Hexa- halved

119 Hex- ending

Answer Page 4

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8		9	10	11	12	13	14		15	16	17	18
19					20					21							22			
23				24					25								26			
	27						28				29					30				
31						32				33			34							
35				36			37								38		39	40	41	
42			43			44	45				46	47	48	49	50					
51					52					53						54				
				55	56				57	58						59		60		
61	62	63						64				65				66	67			
68								69		70				71						
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79					80	81				82				83						
84			85		86							87					88	89	90	91
92				93						94	95					96				
97										98				99	100			101		
														107				108		
109	110	111							112			113			114					
115						116					117				118					119
120						121							122					123		
124						125							126					127		



Moore Texas by Roger T. Moore
June 4,1827: Some members of Stephen Austin's colony receive land titles to build future homes in Texas.

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

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: Q equals B

EBAPN MOC QBNLQADPNCG
EOB ZBJJCJJCN MOC
QDHHGJM ZCYMBGTP FAJYPCJ
QC T YOCJMF TJMCG?

Answer Page 4
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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

	5				1		8	
		9		2		3		
3	8		4					9
		4		7			3	
	2		1		6			4
1				8		5	2	
	6				3		4	
		7	2					1
8				6		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
◆◆◆ HOO BOY!

Answer Page 4
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Vets keep distance outside coffee shop



by Freddy Groves

I ventured into town today to check on the rumor: the town was dead, the streets empty, not a soul in sight.

It was mostly true. Very few cars were parked along the main drag, and those were in front of restaurants open for sidewalk takeout service only.

I did spot a knot of people in front of the coffee shop, which was my true destination. A half dozen of the early-morning regulars (all elderly veterans) were fanned out on the sidewalk, leaning on canes or sitting in folding chairs. I parked the car and approached the walkup service window. As I did, one of the vets whipped out a folding wooden tape measure and aimed it at me as he opened it to the full

length.

“Six feet,” he said. “Eight, if you count my arm.”

I nodded and steered a wide circuit around him.

At the service window the clerk shoved a small credit card reader through the window. “No cash,” she said. I fumbled my one credit card into the machine, and she slid my coffee out the window, slamming it firmly afterward.

I hung around at the edge of the group, pretending to study the menu in the coffee shop window. Eventually they started talking again, and as usual, I listened.

What I heard, in the middle of this dead town, gave me hope: One veteran was looking forward to his grandson taking him out on the water. Another looked forward to the birth of another great-grandchild. A third one was calculating the possible success of hijacking the grocery store delivery truck and making off with the toilet paper. I even heard

some laughter.
It was then that I knew we’d be OK.

A constant reminder: Wash your hands with antibacterial soap, and scrub for a full minute. Use a brush under your nails – better yet, keep your nails trimmed very short..

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• If you have a stubborn stain on the driveway or garage floor, try oven cleaner. Spray the spot and cover it (to keep pets out) and then let it sit for several hours. Give it a good scrub and rinse with the hose. It might just do the trick!

• “I have a tip for you. When pouring water in your coffee pot, use a 4-inch funnel by placing it in the tank. Helps from spilling water. Pour slowly!” – P.T. in Illinois

• “Here’s a recipe tip from my brother’s man cave: Take a can of beer and mix it with a cup of barbecue sauce. Add a couple drops of hot sauce if you’re feeling spicy. Use the mix to marinate chicken thighs for several hours before slapping them on the grill. He says the beer helps the chicken absorb the flavor, and he must be right, because it’s so yummy.” – E.D. in Arkansas

• Clean hairbrushes and combs by soaking them in a baking soda/water solution. Put them bristles down in a large cup and add the solution. Don’t do this to wood handle brushes.

• “Here’s a convenient way to measure oil and not have to wash an inconveniently shaped measuring cup: Label a glass jar with marks for common kitchen measurements: 1/4, 1/3, 1/2, 2/3, 3/4 and 1 cup. So easy.” – J.K. in Vermont

• Here’s a great storage solution: screw a metal magazine holder to the inside of a cabinet door. Do this in the bathroom to store a hair dryer or other hair tools. In the kitchen, it makes a wonderful holder for smaller pot lids or foil, wax paper, parchment, etc.

Send your tips to Now Here’s a Tip, 628 Virginia Drive, Orlando, FL 32803. (c) 2020 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!
Answer Page 4

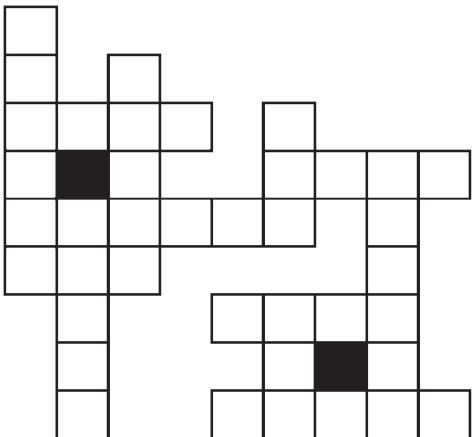
	+		×		30
+		-		×	
	×		-		28
×		×		+	
	×		+		22
16		32		27	

1 2 3 5 6 7 7 8 9

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DDO
ECOJAL
♥COPTI
DOUJ
♥EPTSOD
♥NUR
♥USPO
NEDRU
♥ITP
PEEDON
PULJE
CDTU



Answer Page 4

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.

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