



NEWSBRIEFS

SISD recognized

The Socorro Independent School District was recognized for the second consecutive year as a district finalist in the H-E-B Excellence in Education awards ceremony on May 7 in Austin. Team SISD is the first and only school district from West Texas to be named a finalist in the awards program, which opened last year to school districts across Texas outside of H-E-B markets. "We are humbled and excited to have earned this prestigious recognition from H-E-B for the second year in a row. The hard work and commitment of everyone in our outstanding school district is reflected in this award," said SISD Superintendent Dr. José Espinoza. "It takes a team to educate a child and Team SISD continues to go above and beyond to ensure every student succeeds." In addition, the SISD Board of Trustees was recognized as a semi-finalist for the second year in a row in the school board category for the HEB Excellence in Education Awards. As a district finalist, SISD received \$5,000 that it is investing again in Operation Future Ready and WIN Academy initiatives. A panel of H-E-B Excellence in Education judges visited SISD in February. The judges toured Eastlake High School and Ernesto Serna School, had an informal meeting with the superintendent, and enjoyed lunch prepared by Eastlake culinary arts students with representatives from the school district.

— Christy Flores-Jones

Police explorers

City of Socorro Police Chief Carlos Maldonado is chartering a Youth Police Explorer program for City of Socorro teens between the ages of 14-20. For details or to become an Explorer please contact Sgt. Linda Custic or Officer J. De Avila at the Socorro Police Department: 858-6983.

— Jesus De Avila

Rock n Roll

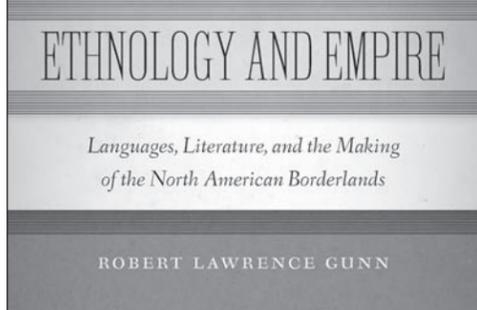
If you are old enough to remember Woodstock, you may also remember filling your house with the sounds of rock music, much to the consternation of parents and grandparents, says the Association of Mature American Citizens. Well, you are now those

See BRIEFS, Page 5

The things a lot of people want to know about are usually none of their business.

— Quips & Quotes

Gunn to speak about US-Mexico borderline



— Image courtesy of El Paso Archaeological Society

A GOOD READ – Dr. Robert L. Gunn's book, *Ethnology and Empire*, was awarded the 2016 Early American Literature Book Prize. The cover is shown above. Gunn will be the guest speaker at the El Paso Archaeological Society's next monthly meeting.

By Alfredo Vasquez
Special to the Courier

EL PASO COUNTY – With today's contentious talk about securing the United States' border with Mexico, local archaeologists will take a trip back in time to shed light on how this imaginary borderline actually came to be.

As part of its on-going lecture series, the El Paso Archaeological Society (EPAS) has invited Dr. Robert L. Gunn, associate professor of Literature at University of Texas El Paso (UTEP), to speak on the U.S. boundary survey completed back in 1850 through 1853 by then U.S. Boundary Commissioner John Russell Bartlett.

Gunn's presentation will be featured at EPAS's next monthly meeting, which is scheduled for 2 p.m., Saturday, May 20, at the El Paso Museum of Archaeology, 4301 Transmountain Road.

According to historical records, in June of 1850, Bartlett, who was a lexicographer, author, and co-founder of the American Ethnological Society, assumed command

of the U.S. Boundary Commission, an entity charged with establishing the international border between the United States and the Republic of Mexico pursuant to Article V of the Treaty of Guadalupe-Hidalgo.

Gunn's presentation, titled *Figures of Speech: Race, Indigenous Languages, and the U.S. Boundary Survey of 1850-53*, is intended to give his audience an insight as to how these boundary demarcations were arbitrarily drawn.

Gunn, an associate professor of English and an affiliate of the Center for Inter-American and Border Studies at UTEP, teaches and has conducted extensive research on North American literatures and culture prior to 1900. His studies have focused primarily on the evolving western geographies of the American empire in the 19th Century.

Gunn's book, *Ethnology and Empire*, is the winner of the 2016 Early American Literature Book Prize and his work has been supported by research fellowships awarded by the American Philosophical

See GUNN, Page 2

EPCC students are finalists in national science competition

By Ismael De La Rosa
Special to the Courier

EL PASO COUNTY – El Paso Community College's (EPCC) Renewable Energy Program has a team of students – Luis Lopez, Benito Oseguera, Roberto Alcala, and Rogelio Madero – that are finalists in the Community College Innovation Challenge (CCIC). Dr. Olga Valerio mentors the EPCC team in partnership with Negawatt Industries. The contest challenges community college students to use science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) to provide solutions to complex, real-world problems.

The EPCC students named their team the "Paso Del Norte Solar Innovators." Their project created a material for all standard solar panels that will reduce the point in time that energy production is negatively affected by high temperatures. This innovation will make a difference in the community by increasing the potential power output of the solar panels by reducing the effects of heat.

"There is great STEM talent and creativity at El Paso Community College,"



— Photo courtesy El Paso Community College

INNOVATORS – From left are Benito Oseguera, Roberto Alcala, Luis Lopez, Dr. Olga Valerio and Rogelio Madero. The team is one of 10 finalists – out of 600 teams – in the Community College Innovation Challenge.

Valerio said. She is Dean of the Advanced Technology Center and Renewable Energy Program. "These students are our future innovators in contributing to a more secure and sustainable future. Not only in technical/research skills but as well as in entrepreneurial capabilities."

"This opportunity allows us to further optimize our innovation in the production

of the energy produced by solar panels, which in turn will have a huge economic impact on the solar industry," Lopez said, "We are simply astonished with the great news announcing the team as one of the top 10 finalists out of the 600 teams, in the college innovation challenge."

The EPCC team will attend a National Science Foundation (NSF)-American

Association of Community Colleges (AACC) Innovation Bootcamp in Arlington, VA. The bootcamp is in June. The team will have an opportunity to learn how to put their proposals into action and to make real-world change. They will also share their project with Congressional members, and STEM leaders. Winners will be announced on June 14, 2017.

Finances By Nathaniel Sillin

Make sure your property's assessed value is correct

Some homeowners can't wait to see the assessed value of their home drop. In fact, they'll tell you the bigger the drop, the

better. Why? Your property taxes depend on your tax rate and your property's current market value, which is determined by a local assessor. You can't dispute the tax rate, but you may be able to show why the assessed value is too high.

An appeal that results in a lower value could save you money for years to come.

Find out when you can file an appeal. Start the process by determining when you can appeal your home's value assessment. You may be able to find the deadline on your local assessor's website, which might also have instructions on how to file an appeal.

Some areas have a several-month window each year for appeals, often following the annual mailing of assessment value notices. In addition, you might be able to dispute your property's assessment following a renovation or if you just bought the home.

Check your current assessment for errors. Every year, you should receive an official letter stating the assessed value of your home. If you think your property value is lower than the stated value, start collecting proof to demonstrate your reasoning.

One of the first things to look for is a mistake on your property's description, which may be on the letter you received or on your property card – available at the assessor's office or online.

It's not unheard of for a property card to list an extra bathroom or incorrect square

footage. Assessors aren't always able to look inside a home during an inspection, and they might not know about renovations to a home.

Make a note of errors and try to estimate the value of each. You'll be able to use these as a basis for your appeal.

Gather more evidence. To strengthen your appeal, you may want to find additional evidence.

- Make a list of comparable properties. Try to get a list of four to six similar properties in your area and their market value. You could use real estate websites that list recent or estimated sales prices, ask your neighbors or look through public databases to find official assessed values. If you find the homes' sales prices or assessed values are lower than yours, or similar but your home is in worse condition, you may have a strong argument.

- Estimate the cost of repairs. A leaky roof, cracked driveway or another issue could lower your property's value. Make a list of the faults, estimate cost for repairs and take pictures as proof.

- Make a note of changes in your neighborhood. A property's value depends on more than just the home. If nearby houses were recently foreclosed on or the schools' rankings dropped, your property could be worth less than it was before.

- Get a professional assessment. You could hire a state-certified appraiser to estimate your property's current value. However, the assessment might cost \$300 to \$500, and this

might only be a good idea if your research already looks fruitful. In some areas, you may need an official assessment to file an appeal.

Once you organize your evidence, it's time to file an appeal.

Present your findings. The appeal process varies depending on where you live. If you have a simple scenario, such as a mistake on your property card, you might be able to make your appeal over the phone. But some counties require you to submit the appeal online or by mail, or you may have to schedule an in-person review at the assessor's office.

It could take several weeks to months to hear back. If the decision doesn't come back in your favor, you could file another appeal with an independent review board.

Bottom line: After gathering evidence, you can make a showing for why your home's assessed value is too high and potentially lower your property taxes. But think twice if you're considering selling your home soon. A lower assessed value might affect how much someone is willing to pay for the home.

This article is intended to provide general information and should not be considered 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.

Veterans Post By Freddy Groves

VA fraudsters go down in flames

Here's a clue to those who would seek to claim veterans benefits for blindness: Don't drive yourself to your doctor appointments.

That's just what one veteran in Kansas did. He received monthly benefits (from 2009 to 2016) because he claimed to be blind and needed help with everyday activities, like reading pill bottles and getting to appointments.

In October, he was seen being helped out of the car by his wife before a doctor appointment, and she helped escort him inside. Afterward she helped him back to the car. So far, so good... except that a few blocks away he was seen getting out of the car, swapping seats with his wife and driving off. Subsequent investigation revealed that he drove everywhere and even had a state driver's license, which did not indicate he even needed glasses.

If convicted, the veteran and wife could get five years in prison (and a \$250,000 fine) for conspiracy, and 10 years for theft, as well as another \$250,000 fine. The total benefits

he stole came to \$63,000.

Not far away, a Missouri man, age 80, was charged with health-care fraud. He ran a medical testing center that, among other services, provided disability exams to veterans to determine their level of impairment and eligibility for benefits. When the center's doctor left in 2013, another man (age 74) was recruited to do the exams, in violation of the center's contract with the Department of Veterans Affairs.

This second person was a defrocked ex-physician who'd lost his license to practice due to an earlier fraud scheme and drug distribution charges. Someone snitched and some of the veterans had to be re-examined and their claims reviewed.

Both men likely will go to prison for a very long time, all for submitting \$39,155 in claims for fake exams.

To those planning to defraud the VA: – don't. You will be caught.

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Gunn

From Page 1

Society, the American Antiquarian Society, the John Carter Brown Library, and the University Research Institute at UTEP.

In his research, Gunn concludes that Bartlett's official mandate was multi-faceted. He stated that the boundary commissioner was not only marking the boundary, prospecting for precious metals, and surveying an optimal route for a transcontinental railroad, but also performing original linguistic research amongst little-known Indian tribes of the Southwest; thereby enabling him to offer a monumental personal contribution to the growing field of American ethnology. (Ethnology is a branch of anthropology focused on the study of cultures.)

Gunn explained that in a quasi-military expedition that would span thousands of miles across Texas, Chihuahua, Sonora, New Mexico, and California, Bartlett was able to compile and publish a two-volume account labeled the *Personal Narrative of Explorations and Incidents in Texas, New Mexico, California, Sonora and Chihuahua, 1850-1853*. This book, complete with maps and drawings, remains a valuable source for students of early exploration of the Southwest. Many early emigrants to Texas, New

Mexico, and Arizona used it as a guidebook on their trek west.

In his talk, Gunn will highlight Bartlett's controversial tenure as boundary commissioner in terms of his ambitious ethnological agenda. He stated that he will also discuss more broadly the manner in which evolving information networks of the past connected amateur researchers (such as Bartlett, Henry Schoolcraft, and Albert Gallatin) to the U.S. War Department, book publishers, and literary periodicals that focused on military activity in the Southwest, which in turn, influenced the development of both the political and scientific objects of an emergent research discipline.

EPAS's upcoming meeting is free and open to the public. EPAS, founded in 1922, is a non-profit group. Membership is open to individuals and organizations interested in anthropology, archaeology and in the preservation of prehistoric and historic cultural resources. Membership information can be found on the EPAS website, <http://epas.com>.

EPAS members take part in archaeological tours and volunteer field work organized by the non-profit Jornada Research Institute of Tularosa, New Mexico. JRI's mission is to study the archaeological, ethno-historic, historic and natural resources of the northern Chihuahuan Desert of Arizona, New Mexico, West Texas and adjacent regions.

Anthony HS student council recognized

By Christina Galvan
Special to the Courier

ANTHONY – Anthony High School’s (AHS) student council has been recognized by the Texas Association of Student Councils (TASC) as a sweepstakes council. To be considered student councils must meet criteria in the areas of: Outstanding Student Council; Drugs, Alcohol, Safety and Health (DASH); Pride and Patriotism; and Energy and Environment; and Community Service Report. Student councils in schools have the responsibility of providing a safe, nurturing environment for each pupil.

“Anthony High School’s Student Council (AHSSC) members have worked extremely hard to assure that their community/school are served, and receive continuance support and assistance,” said AHSSC Secretary Miranda Reyes.

“At Anthony High School we make sure that every single student is recognized and appreciated and not just a number,” said AHSSC President Jacqueline Vela.

Student Council members develop proven skills in team building, problem solving, project planning, and decision-making. Through their co-curricular activities, student council members serve their communities while strengthening their academic and civic skills. AHSSC Treasurer



– Photo courtesy Anthony ISD

LEADERS – Anthony High School Student Council members, from left, are Brandon Espinoza (kneeling), Franses Salas, Miranda Reyes, Michael Hodges, Diego Soto, Mareya Murillo, Emerald Hernandez, Lety Rubio, Adolfo Chacon, Indica Archibeque, Jacqueline Vela, Peter Jacquez, Shelby Singh, Daymon Ramirez, Cassandra Cortez, Samantha Gonzalez and Alberto Alaniz (kneeling).

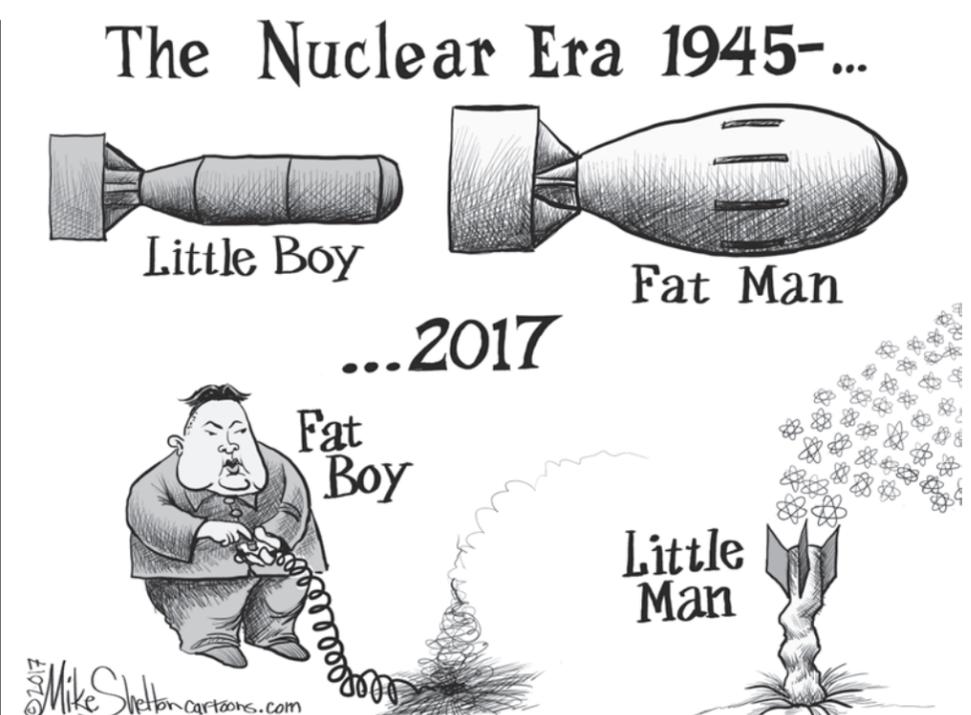
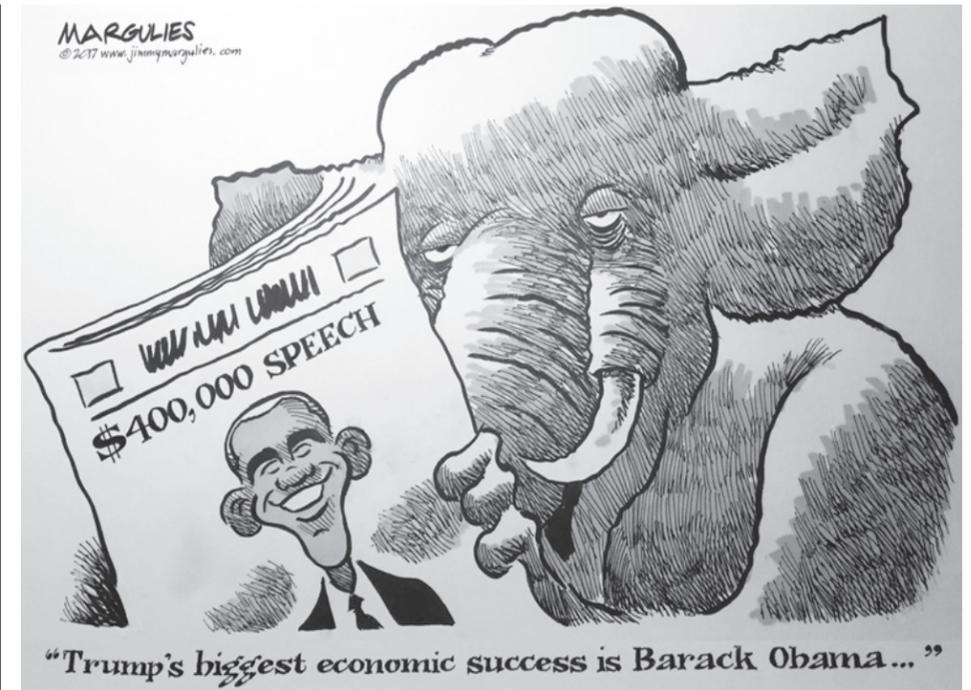
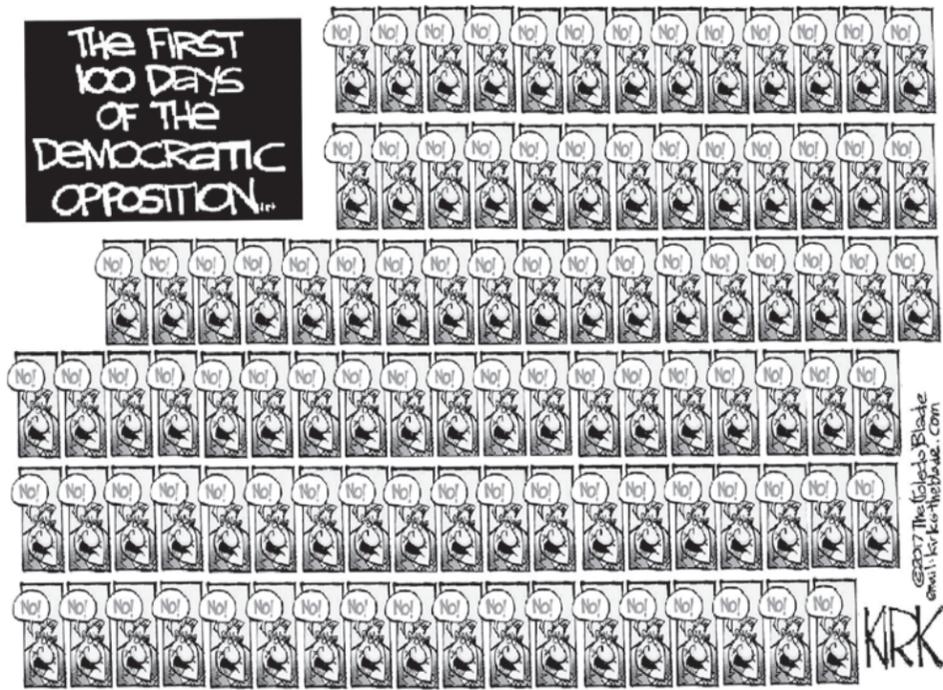
Alberto Alaniz expressed his excitement in earning this recognition saying, “This honor could not have been achieved without the diligent hard work done by the council and student body”.

TASC is a non-profit organization serving high school and middle level student councils in Texas. Sponsored

by the Texas Association of Secondary School Principals, its purposes are to develop leadership abilities in students, promote democracy as a way of life, and uphold high standards for local councils. With almost 1269 member schools, it is the largest state student leadership organization in the US. AHSSC is one

of only 230 student councils statewide to receive this honor.

“We are extremely proud of these young adults. These students work to help improve their community and school everyday. We’re happy to see their efforts recognized,” said AHSSC Advisor Dominique Rangel.



Moments in Time

The History Channel

- On May 22, 1859, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, the creator of master sleuth Sherlock Holmes, is born in Scotland. He studied medicine at the University of Edinburgh, where he met Dr. Joseph Bell, who helped inspire Doyle's Sherlock Holmes character years later.

- On May 23, 1934, notorious criminals Bonnie Parker and Clyde Barrow are shot to death in an ambush by Texas and Louisiana state police while driving a stolen car near Sailes, Louisiana. The Barrow Gang is believed to have killed at least nine police officers.

- On May 24, 1991, the critically acclaimed road movie "Thelma and Louise" debuts in theaters, stunning audiences with a climactic scene in which its two heroines drive off a cliff in a vintage 1966 Ford Thunderbird convertible.

- On May 25, 1977, China's communist government lifts its decade-old ban on the writings of William Shakespeare, providing further evidence that the Cultural Revolution was over.

- On May 26, 1907, John Wayne, an Oscar-winning actor who came to epitomize the American West, is born in Winterset, Iowa. His career started with a job as an assistant prop man on a movie set.

- On May 27, 1943, a B-24 carrying U.S. airman and former Olympic runner Louis "Louie" Zamperini crashes into the Pacific Ocean. Zamperini floated on a raft in shark-infested waters for more than a month before being picked up by the Japanese and spending the next two years in brutal prison camps.

- On May 28, 1987, Matthias Rust, a 19-year-old amateur pilot from West Germany, takes off from Helsinki, Finland, travels through more than 400 miles of Soviet airspace, and lands his small Cessna aircraft in Red Square by the Kremlin. The event proved to be an immense embarrassment to the Soviet government and military.

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Printz receives H-E-B award

By Christy Flores-Jones
Special to the Courier

EL PASO COUNTY – El Dorado High School art teacher Candace Printz was recognized as a top educator in Texas and a 2017 H-E-B Excellence in Education Award finalist on May 7 at a special H-E-B awards ceremony in Austin.

The Socorro Independent School District educator was one of five Texas teachers selected as a finalist in the leadership secondary award category which honors educators for their outstanding dedication and commitment to students.

"I am extremely grateful to be an H-E-B finalist," Printz said. "There are so many great teachers and amazing mentors in the state, so I'm deeply honored to have received this recognition."

Earlier this year, Printz was recognized with a cash prize of \$1,000 for herself and another \$1,000 for her school during a surprise visit by H-E-B representatives and SISD Superintendent Dr. José Espinoza.

"We are extremely proud of Ms. Printz for being selected as a finalist of this prestigious award," Dr. Espinoza said. "Her work, dedication and passion for students is admirable and truly embodies what our district is about. I commend her for her great work and thank her for being a role model to our children!"

Printz' was nominated as a finalist for a plethora of accomplishments, including her innovative It's Your World community project, which aims to collect trash and recyclables in the El Paso area and turn the waste into beautiful art; being the first-ever SISD Wall of Honor recipient in 2016; and being named an SISD campus Teacher of the Year in 2011 and 2017.

The educator plans to continue the project as well as start a non-profit organization with

her students to continue creating an environmentally conscious culture in the El Paso community.

"We've learned so much this year and I look forward to continue this project by starting a non-profit organization where students who spearheaded the project can be our board members," she said. "The objective will be to research our city's laws, make suggestions and educate the community to be more progressive when it comes to recycling."

This is the second year Printz has been recognized by H-E-B. Last year, she was one of 140 semi-finalists selected for the award out of the more than 1,400 submissions in Texas.

THE H-E-B award was created in 2002 as a way to support public education in Texas and pay tribute to educators who go the extra mile each day to serve their students, communities and inspire others to do the same, according to the H-E-B webpage.



Candace Printz

– Photo Courtesy Socorro ISD

Socorro Independent School District PUBLIC NOTICE

Public Meeting to Review Federally Funded Programs

The Socorro Independent School District will conduct a public information meeting to review the following ESSA Federal Grants:

- Title I, Part A – Improving Basic Programs
- Title I, Part C – Migrant Education Program
- Title I, Part D SP 2 – Prevention and Intervention Programs for Children and Youth
- Title II, Part A – Preparing, Training and Recruiting High Quality Teachers, Principals or Other School Leaders
- Title III, Part A – Language Instruction for English Learners
- Title IV, Part A – Student Support and Academic Enrichment
- IDEA-Part B, IDEA Pre-School

The meeting will be held:

Tuesday, May 16, 2017, 6:00 p.m. in the Board Room at the District Service Center, 12440 Rojas Drive.

S.I.S.D does not discriminate against any individual with regard to race, color, national origin, age, religion, sex, marital or veteran status, the presence of a medical condition, disability, or any other legally protected status. 42 U.S.C 2000e-2(a); 20 U.S.C. 1681: Labor Code 21-051.

AVISO PUBLICO

Lajunta Pública para Revisar los Programas de Fondos Federales

El Distrito Escolar Independiente de Socorro llevará a cabo una junta pública para revisar los siguientes programas federales:

- Título I, Parte A – Mejorando Programas Básicos
- Título I, Parte C – Programa Educativo Migrante
- Título I, Parte D SP 2 – Programas de Prevención e Intervención Para Niños y Jóvenes
- Título II, Parte A – La Preparación, la Capacitación y la Contratación de Maestros, Directores de Escuelas de Alta Capacidad u Otros Dirigentes Escolares
- Título III, Parte A – La Instrucción del Idioma Para Aprendices de Ingles
- Título IV, Parte A – Apoyo Estudiantil y Enriquecimiento Académico
- IDEA-Parte B, IDEA Pre-Escolar

La junta se llevará a cabo:

martes, 16 de mayo del 2017, 6:00 p.m. en la Sala de Juntas del Distrito Centro de Servicio, 12440 Rojas Drive.

S.I.S.D no discrimina a ningún individuo a causa de su raza, de su color, de su nacionalidad, de sus creencias religiosas, de su género, de su estado legal, o de veterano, ninguna condición médica o incapacidad, o ningún otro estado legal. 42 U.S.C 2000e-2(a); 20 U.S.C. 1681: Labor Code 21-051.

WTCC: 05-11-17

Briefs

From Page 1

parents and grandparents and if you want to listen to music that rocks you, you can just go ahead and listen with no trepidations. In fact, reports the New York Times, concerts featuring old time rock musicians aimed at old guys are big business. For example, says the Times, "the six-day music extravaganza Desert Trip, featuring the Who and fellow rock veterans like the Rolling Stones, Bob Dylan, Paul McCartney and Neil Young, took in \$160 million last year."

– John Grimaldi

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FOX booth picks may, or may not, score big

By Steve Escajeda
Special to the Courier

For most jobs in these United States, a person usually trains for his or her specific field of expertise.

They may attend years of school to become proficient in whatever line of work they choose. They may have known somebody who got them in the company, and then became knowledgeable through years of experience.

Whatever means anyone uses to get their job, if they are to be considered good at their craft, it's because they've spent plenty of time studying the ins and outs of it.

But that isn't always the case.

Take the specialized skill of announcing football games. It used to be that guys who spent years at some fancy journalism school were the first in line for top NFL jobs.

You know, guys who actually spent years perfecting their vocal cords and learning every possible angle of the game.

Nowadays, all you need to do is take 10 years of blows to the head and be somewhat

popular, or somewhat controversial.

More and more guys are hanging it up on the field and then immediately setting up camp in the announcers' booth at CBS, FOX, NBC, ESPN or the NFL Network.

Don't get me wrong, I've seen many college guys at the bottom of my TV screen make their player-presentation announcement, "Bradley So-and-so, Communications, at THE Ohio State University."

But how many of those guys stick around the college scene long enough to actually become communications experts?

Some of the best players in history have become NFL analysts or announcers. And many of them shouldn't have.

Those in the "oh, you shouldn't have" category include Jerry Rice, Emmett Smith, Warren Sapp, Shannon Sharpe and Phil Simms.

All were great players in the league, some are the considered the best ever at their position, but great play on the football gridiron does not always a great announcer make.

There are always exceptions to the rule and a Troy Aikman, Pat Summerall, Cris Collinsworth or Michael Strahan pop up.

But like I said, those are exceptions.

So after years of cramming former athletes in front of the studio cameras, the NFL networks are doing it again.

And the odds are about 50-50 on the latest two transfers.

Former Dallas Cowboys quarterback Tony Romo decided that two back surgeries were enough and traded in his football helmet for a microphone and will join CBS next season.

I haven't heard anyone say this is a horrible idea.

If you've heard Romo speak at all over the years, it's easy to see that he's a natural. He's always looked very comfortable in front of the camera and I don't know of any quarterback who has had to face tougher questions than Romo over a career.

It appears as though CBS has hit a home run (I know, wrong sport) with selecting Romo.

On the other side of the scale is FOX. The FOX network is the unchallenged king when it comes to broadcasting football games and choosing the talent to broadcast it with.

But they may have shot an air ball

(still wrong sport) with their most recent selection.

If you think Romo was ridiculed over his great career, Chicago's Jay Cutler was a very close second.

Cutler has been known as a quarterback with a gun for an arm, and a lousy excuse for a leader.

Cutler always showed potential to be a superstar but his pouting on the sidelines and his outward display of what can only be described as "giving up" at times rubbed all fans of the sport the wrong way.

Now FOX has gone out and hired Cutler to join their announcing team.

That makes as much sense as hiring Charles Barkley on the Golf Channel.

When a quarterback has to come in and show his team the way late in the game, is Cutler supposed to criticize him on his lack of leadership? Would Cutler even know what that takes?

And have you ever heard Cutler speak? Not exactly Mr. Excitement.

I'm not sure what FOX was thinking with this hire, but this could be an incomplete pass, a 15-yard penalty and a fumble (the right sport this time) in their own end zone.

Lady Wildcats come home champions

By Denise Peña
Special to the Courier

FABENS – Fabens Varsity Softball made history May 6 in Alpine, TX when they defeated Seminole and became the high school's first Softball Area Champions.

Expectations were high since the previous Saturday – Fabens, with a record of 9-0 – won its second match against Midland Greenwood (14-11-1) taking the title of Bi-District Area Champions. Fabens had not had a softball team make it Area

playoffs since the 2007-2008 season.

Coach Adrian Telas attributes the success to the girls' ability to play as a team. "The last three games were really a team effort," he said. "Everyone, from the 3 freshman to the 2 seniors who provided leadership came together for the win."

Talent has also played an important role this season resulting in pitcher Anndi Cortez to recently commit to Frank Phillips College on a full ride scholarship.

"I'm ecstatic for the team and the community," Coach Telas said. "This team is shining some light to our town. I'm thrilled."



– Photo courtesy Fabens ISD

HOISTING THE HARDWARE – The Fabens Lady Wildcats gathered at the mound at Lady Lobos Softball Field in Alpine to celebrate after claiming the title of 2016-2017 Bi-District Area Champions.

A sporting view By Mark Vasto

The greatest moments in baseball history

Seventy years ago, Jackie Robinson broke baseball's color barrier. This week, we remember that juncture and some of the other greatest moments in baseball history – moments that transcend the game and teach us more about life in general than we thought possible at the time.

Earning It: Going into the 1941 season-ending doubleheader, Ted Williams was statistically hitting .400, and his manager offered to sit him out so he could accomplish the feat. Williams, a hero flying ace in World War II, refused to back into the accomplishment – either he was a .400 hitter or he wasn't. He went 4-5 and 2-3 in the series, and finished the season at .406.

Under Pressure: When Roger Maris came to the N.Y. Yankees via Kansas City in 1960, he was derided as a surly hick and an outsider by the hostile New York press. When Maris and Mickey Mantle began to make a run at Ruth's record 60 home runs that summer, the press focused on him with the intensity of a magnifying glass concentrating light from a thousand burning suns. Losing both his hair and his mind, Maris finally broke Ruth's record in the last game of the season.

Tearing Down the Wall: Branch Ricky and Jackie Robinson broke baseball's color barrier in 1947, and baseball's commissioner Ford Frick spelled it out for anyone (including the St. Louis Cardinals, who threatened to strike) who didn't get it: "This

is the United States of America, and one citizen has as much right to play as another."

Justice in the Face of Prejudice: Despite death threats and the thick air of the South's remaining prejudice heavy in the night in 1974 at Atlanta-Fulton County Stadium, "Hammerin'" Hank Aaron persevered and surpassed Babe Ruth's home run record with his 715th career homer. Today, Barry Bonds, another black ballplayer, wears the home-run crown with 762 after surpassing Aaron's mark of 755. But after the example Aaron set, it just doesn't seem the same.

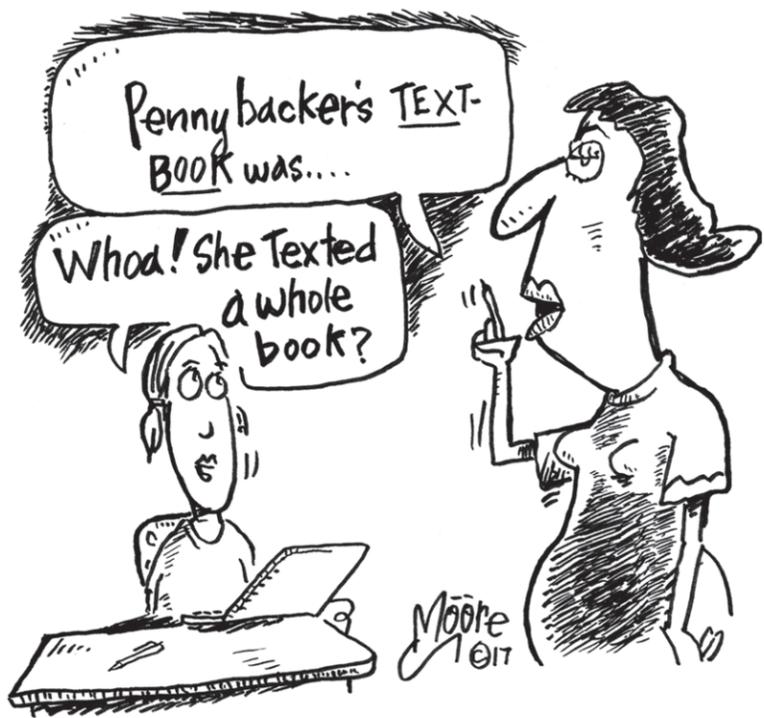
The Luckiest Man Alive: On May 2, 1939, Lou Gehrig voluntarily removed himself from a game after playing in a record 2,130 games in a row. Within two months' time, Gehrig learned he was dying of a debilitating muscle disease that now bears his name. On July 4 of that same year, Gehrig said goodbye to baseball and his fans by acknowledging the incredible fortune he had in just being able to play baseball for a living. Recordings of the event show a weakened Gehrig uttering his famous lines of gratitude with the echoing sound of feedback, which served to underscore his every word: "Today... I consider myself ... the luckiest man... on the face of the Earth."

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

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Moore Texas by Roger Moore

May 7, 1861: Anna Pennybacker is born. She would write the textbook used for decades... "The New History Of Texas".



Estrada wins at State meet

By Denise Peña
Special to the Courier

FABENS – Fabens High School senior Rodrigo Estrada made history on April 29 at the Texas Citizen Bee by becoming the first El Paso area student to place first and win the state title. Rodrigo faced off against students from across Texas in this multipart contest organized by the State Bar of Texas consisting of a 65-question multiple choice test, four-round oral component, and panel-style civic conversation. Students were expected to have a wide-ranging knowledge of the US Constitution, historical documents, key figures, landmark court cases, and current events. This rigorous contest was held at the Texas State Capitol and the Texas Law Center where attorneys and political science professors served as judges and test proctors.



TROPHIES – Rodrigo Estrada displays his awards from the Texas Citizen Bee held at the Texas Law Center in Austin, TX.

Rodrigo surpassed the competition with a near perfect score, earning him a \$1,500 scholarship from the State Bar of Texas. In addition, Rodrigo also made contest history by both placing first in the Texas Citizen Bee and winning the Civic Conversation Award. "This achievement is not only a testament to my academic prowess, but to the opportunities available to everyone at Fabens," said Rodrigo. He aspires to become an attorney and will be attending the University of Chicago this summer on a full-ride QuestBridge Scholarship.

Here's a Tip

By JoAnn Derson

- DIY glass cleaner recipe: Mix equal parts water, white vinegar and vodka in a spray bottle. This works as a deodorizing spray as well as a glass cleaner.

- "When I clean the bathroom, I always clean my mirror last, and then I use the paper towel with Windex on it to give the light switches and doorknobs a quick swipe before I toss it. Also, I sometimes run it across the towel bars and the toilet paper holder to remove dust."

– C.E. in Georgia

- Fill a small spray bottle with rubbing alcohol. Lightly spray earbuds and brush crevices with a soft, clean toothbrush. Do this regularly to protect your ears and your buds.

- "Kids love bubbles, but what parent loves constantly fishing out the bubble wand from a bottle of bubbles? A simple hair clip will do the trick. Just clip it around the wand so that it cannot go all the way back in the bottle. When you're ready to put the bubbles away, it's easily removed."

– M.E. in Florida

- Need to clean the microwave? Here's another recipe: Add several teaspoons of fresh lemon juice to a bowl of water (at least 3 cups), and place in microwave. Heat to boiling (five minutes), and leave in microwave for two additional minutes. Remove bowl, and wipe sides with a clean cloth.

- Experts say that if you need to ripen an avocado, wrap it uncut in aluminum foil, and place it in the oven at 200 degrees Fahrenheit for up to 10 minutes. Remove, cool and slice.

Send your tips to Now Here's a Tip, 628 Virginia Drive, Orlando, FL 32803. (c) 2017 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.

	x		+		23
+		÷		x	
	-		x		15
x		x		-	
	+		+		18
27		18			29

DIFFICULTY: ★★

★ Moderate ★★ Difficult
★★★ GO FIGURE!

2 3 4 5 6 7 7 8 9

Answer Page 4

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

	8				4	3		
		7	8					2
4		9		5				8
9			6					7
	5				2	1		
		6		1				3
	3				7			5
		2	3			4		9
6				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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Send Your News Item To: wtxcc@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: E equals B

PLMWD FSAV FL FGKAW K'O
DALEEKDG ESTYJDS K SAXLI
PYATI DYMYV QNSSAD, E JF K'O
XJDF YNJQJMY QJI.

Answer Page 4

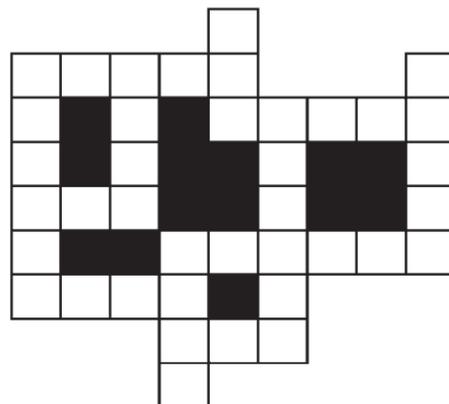
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FEAR KNOT

By: rj johnson

DOUBT? ...OR DARE!

- URE
- NOCDLE
- TACID
- ♥EPCA
- NORBIN
- NPE
- ♥TEAB
- ♥BROAC
- DAC
- CUBRHE
- ♥ANDEC
- ♥ERBA



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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