



NEWSBRIEFS

SISD reports online

The 2016-2017 Federal Report Cards for the State of Texas, the Socorro Independent School District, and SISD schools are available on the district website, school websites and the Texas Education Agency website. The district website, <https://www.sisd.net/Page/20776>, has reports for the state, district and schools. The report cards are available on the TEA site at: <http://tea.texas.gov/FRC.aspx>. The report gives information such as STAAR performance results, student achievement and teacher quality data. Hard copies of the report may be made available upon request at SISD schools or the District Service Center. Please contact your child's school if you have any questions concerning the federal report card.

— Christy Flores-Jones

Women friendly states

With March being Women's History Month and campaigns against sexual harassment such as #MeToo and #TimesUp making national news in recent months, the personal-finance website WalletHub has released its report on *2018's Best & Worst States for Women*. To identify the most women-friendly states, WalletHub compared the 50 states and the District of Columbia across 23 key metrics. The data set ranges from median earnings for female workers to women's preventive health care to female homicide rate. Texas was ranked 42nd, coming in:

- 21st – Unemployment Rate for Women;
- 38th – Share of Women in Poverty;
- 20th – High School Graduation Rate for Women;
- 48th – Share of Women Who Voted in 2016 Presidential Election;
- 51st – Female Uninsured Rate;
- 32nd – Women's Life Expectancy at Birth;
- 21st – Quality of Women's Hospitals; and
- 43rd – Women's Preventive Health Care.

Visit <https://wallethub.com/edu/best-and-worst-states-for-women/10728/> for the full report.

— Diana Popa

Free trees

The Arbor Day Foundation is making it easy for everyone to celebrate the

See BRIEFS, Page 5

If you doubt the propriety of doing something, give yourself the benefit of the doubt and don't do it.

— Quips & Quotes

Quintana leaves Canutillo ISD school board



MOVING ON – Canutillo ISD Board President Rachel Quintana decided to step down after nine years and three months of service to the district as a board member.

By Alfredo Vasquez
Special to the Courier

CANUTILLO – Canutillo Independent School District (CISD) Board of Trustees is seeking that dedicated individual who is willing to volunteer a lot of time and effort to help guide the district in providing a quality education for all of its students.

CISD currently serves nearly 6,200 students, with more than 850 employees of which about 382 are teachers. The district is currently experiencing a modest 2 per cent student enrollment growth, but is now also seeing an increase in commercial and housing development growth within the upper valley district's boundaries.

During a recent school board meeting, CISD's seven-member board accepted Rachel Quintana's resignation. She was in her second year of a four-year term and had been named board president in November.

Board members also decided during that meeting, in a 5-0 vote (board member

Armando Rodriguez was not present), that they would open up the vacant board position to interested applicants, and then would appoint someone from the field of candidates to fill Quintana's seat until the November election.

CISD school board interim president Annette Brigham stated that preliminary plans are to have someone in place by the April 24th regular board meeting. Board members were scheduled to meet the second week in March to finalize the application process, and begin accepting filings by the middle of March, according to the acting board president.

"We're looking for a community member who understands the complexities of school operations; someone who has experience working with others, a good listener... a problem solver," Brigham said.

During the appointee's seven month stint, he or she will have input in making decisions about a number of critical issues facing the district including

See QUINTANA, Page 5

Meléndez-Carrillo is Region 19 Assistant Principal of the Year

By Andrew Reynoso
Special to the Courier

CANUTILLO – Jessica Meléndez-Carrillo, Assistant Principal at Congressman Silvestre & Carolina Reyes Elementary School was recently selected as Assistant Principal of the Year in Region 19 by the Texas Elementary Principals and Supervisors Association (TEPSA).

Carrillo is being recognized among her peers for her exceptional leadership in the day-to-day operations of Reyes Elementary, instilling pride in the school's accomplishments and reinforcing their leadership in helping children develop a lifelong love of learning. She says she is living the dream working in Canutillo with stellar educators whose goal is student success.

"I've had the honor to start my professional career in Canutillo ISD and get to know the community," Carrillo said. "I am able to attain such an honor because I have learned from the best team of teachers, administrators, custodians, cafeteria staff, aides, librarians and counselors. Every single day is a new opportunity for learning and growth."

Each year, TEPSA Region



— Photo courtesy Canutillo ISD

Jessica Meléndez-Carrillo

Assistant Principals of the Year have the opportunity to apply for the National Assistant Principal of the Year Award, a recognition program produced in partnership with the National Association of Elementary School Principals (NAESP). Carrillo will attend the Awards Reception June 13 during the TEPSA Summer Conference in Austin, Texas.

"I am always looking for ways to learn more and grow professionally in order to do a better job for our students and the community," Carrillo said. "I look forward to representing Canutillo ISD and Region 19 this summer at the TEPSA Conference."

San Eli students read Suess

By Hector Gonzalez
Special to the Courier

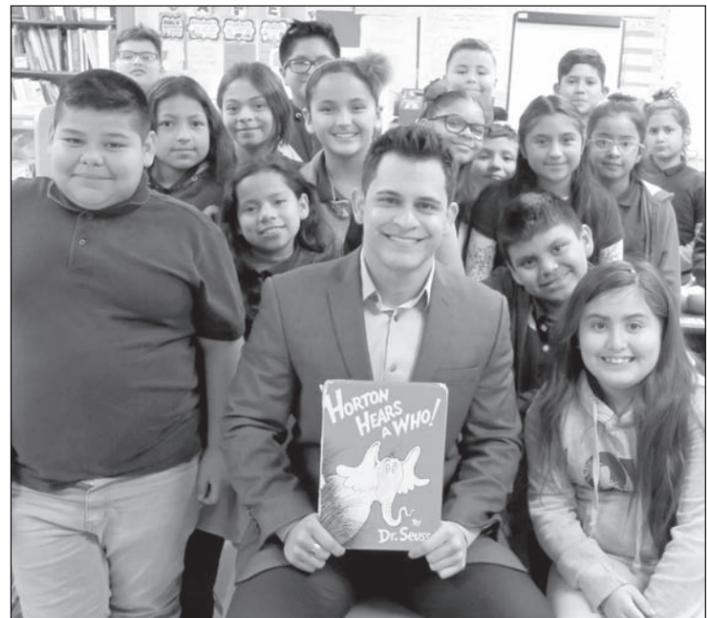
SAN ELIZARIO – It was a week full of "wacky" activities for students in the San Elizario Independent School District as they celebrated Dr. Seuss' birthday and 'Read Across America' week.

The elementary campuses brought Dr. Seuss' world to life by decorating their classrooms, hallways, and offices with his wild characters from his books. 'Read Across America' week Students, faculty, and staff got into character themselves

by wearing crazy hats, socks, mustaches, and outfits every day of the week.

The message behind 'Read Across America' is to motivate children to pick up a book and read, read, read. Research has shown that kids who spend more time reading tend to do better in school.

To help support the importance of reading, several of San Elizario ISD administrators and directors took the time out of their busy schedules to read to students. 'Read Across America' week ran from Monday, Feb. 26th through Friday, March 2nd.



— Photo courtesy San Elizario ISD

WHO'S READING WHO – Communications Officer, Hector Gonzalez, reads to 4th Grade class in celebration of Dr. Seuss' birthday.

Second-guessing the second-guessers

Allow me to play devil's advocate. It's what I do as a journalist, plus I personally enjoy taking on orthodoxy, particularly when it involves a binge of second-guessing. That's exactly what we are witnessing in the wake of the massacre at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School.

I'm about to defend the Federal Bureau of Investigation. I'm not necessarily a fan of the FBI or, for that matter, of so many police agencies that can be overzealous in pursuit of what they perceive to be law and order.

That said, I think the feds and all the other agencies that failed to intercede when presented with warnings about the alleged Stoneman Douglas assassin Nikolas Cruz are getting a bum rap. For starters, the FBI tip line

must sift through a flood of calls and emails – slightly more than a million and a half last year. But these warnings, you say, deserved special attention.

What might that special attention entail? At what point do agents put on a full-court press? At what point do they put under surveillance or take into custody someone who has been anonymously accused? When were social agencies, which had years of experience with Cruz, to decide that they may impose on his right to not be institutionalized? First of all, our politicians have made sure that we have a shortage of mental health facilities. In many ways, social workers, psychologists and educators are impotent; there is little they can do.

Let's face it, that mantra from officials – "If you see something, say something" – is not realistic. While it's probably a good thing to err on the side of caution, it is not cool to err on the side of error and cause humiliation to someone who is just minding his business until he's hassled by someone in uniform. Besides, that's just an invitation to those who have malicious motivations, such as pranksters, to cause someone embarrassment.

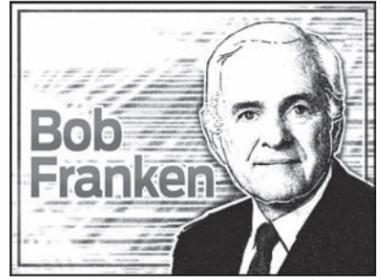
How many false alarms or "swatting" incidents do we need to realize that our national paranoia is a slippery slope? The FBI and other entities on the receiving end must factor all of that in. When they do react, there is always a danger that they'll

overreact.

The same goes for the harsh criticism leveled at the deputy sheriff who didn't charge into the building during the assault rifle fusillade. We don't know what was in his mind. Maybe we should before we second-guess. Perhaps we can focus on the decision to assign just one armed cop to such a large school.

Let's engage in a little justified second-guessing about those goofy proposals to arm teachers. All we need to know about that idea to realize that it's ridiculous is that it's supported by the National Rifle Association. 'Nuff said.

These are the same people who make the vile charge that media love school massacres because



they're good for ratings. Let me counter by arguing that it's the NRA that loves school massacres, because the outcry that follows is good for fundraising.

Here's a little first-guessing: Our lawmakers need to do something about restricting guns in a society that is saturated with them. It won't solve our deadly problem, but it's a step in the right direction. Nothing else is.

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View from here By Ryan Sitton

Violence in our culture requires vigilance

Since the recent Parkland shooting, a debate has raged in our country about the role of gun control versus Second Amendment rights. As a Texas Railroad Commissioner, our agency has no jurisdictional authority in this debate. However, as a public servant, I am often asked about solutions to issues of public concern so I feel compelled to provide these thoughts.

The fact is, when I consider the tragedy in Florida, I want to act. I want to do anything we can to stop these kinds of violent

attacks. I want to do something aggressive to make sure that no group of people – kids or otherwise – can be attacked like this for no reason. However, I can't help but feel like the debate over gun control is the wrong debate. In fact, since I feel like the gun control debate doesn't address the serious, cancerous root-cause of the mass killing problem in the United States, I'm intentionally omitting my specific personal views on gun control from this piece to offer a different approach.

Before I go further, I want to say that this issue hits home for me. My mother and father were both schoolteachers for 44 and 38 years respectively. Several years ago, my father experienced a school shooting in the hallway outside his classroom in which a student was killed. In addition, my brother is a career police officer, and has seen his friends and fellow officers shot by people that had guns, many of them illegally possessed. When I ask them about their experiences, neither my father nor my brother

believes that gun control will solve the problem. In fact, my father liked the idea of having teachers who were armed and could protect students and faculty if necessary. Their personal experiences have shaped my views on these tragedies but so have other family interactions.

About four weeks ago, my teenage daughter (who is precious to me) wanted to download a video game on her phone. It is called "Sniper" and the game is – as it sounds – an experience in which the player guns down criminals from afar. I reviewed the game, and it isn't the worst I've seen, but it was

graphic. You can watch as the bullet penetrates the skull of the person being shot, and blood splatters out the back. Kids will say things like, "But dad, you are only killing the bad guys," as if that is an acceptable reason for children to be experiencing this sensation. That bothers me.

At 43 years old, I have played my share of video games. I played Pac-Man and Zaxxon, and later played Super Mario Brothers and Zelda, and I graduated to games like Mortal Kombat – a very violent game for its time. I try to picture the reaction I would have seen if I had asked my parents to let me buy "Sniper" for my Sega 25 years ago. It

See VIOLENCE, Page 6



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Saskia, 39, quit for good on the 7th try.

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Why John Kelly is irreplaceable

If John Kelly didn't exist, President Donald Trump would have to invent him, and he wouldn't be able to.

The chief of staff had a rocky couple of weeks with the imbroglia over ousted White House staff secretary Rob Porter, but he is as close as it gets to an indispensable man in the Trump White House.

Where else is the president going to find someone whom he likes and respects (at least on most days), who can intimidate the White House staff into a semblance of order, who has experience in wielding responsibility in even more difficult circumstances, and who shares Trump's instincts?

The last of these is the reason why, more than any other, there has been a major downdraft in Kelly's press coverage. He went from "Trump's Last Best Hope," per Time magazine last August, to a bitter disappointment. A writer at FiveThirtyEight wrote a piece the other day explaining "How the Media Bungled the John Kelly Story," referring not to any specific story about Kelly, but to the overall sense that he'd be a restraining influence on the president.

Kelly's boosters in the media had a fantasy that he would show up at the White House and

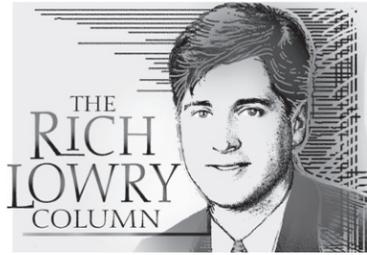
take Trump aside at some point and explain, "It is my solemn duty to advise you, Sir, to accept whatever immigration proposal that Lindsey Graham backs, and failing that, my resignation letter will be on your desk in the morning."

This didn't accord with Kelly's hawkishness as secretary of the Department of Homeland Security. What most people had missed about Kelly is that he's an Irish Catholic kid from Boston who shares Trump's Northeastern working-class conservative sensibility that is tough-minded and impatient with political correctness.

Kelly took justifiable incoming over the Porter fiasco, which was badly mishandled. But it wasn't the chief of staff's responsibility to bird-dog Porter's security clearance.

With all the negative press coverage of the Porter fiasco, stories inevitably emerged of Trump's thinking about a replacement for Kelly. If Trump were actually to dump him, it'd be his most destructive personnel move since firing FBI Director James Comey.

Trump wouldn't get someone whom he admires as much. The president respects military men and billionaires, and perhaps the former even a little more than the



latter. Kelly, the Marine general who lost a son in Afghanistan, can speak to Trump peer to peer in a way no Washington politico can.

Trump wouldn't find someone else who is so clearly in it for the right reasons. Kelly didn't want the position and repeatedly refused it when it was first offered. He has no interest in jockeying for his next big Washington job or in cashing in.

Trump wouldn't find a comparable enforcer. Kelly's military bearing and no-nonsense demeanor serve him well in the cockpit of Trump world. His extensive leadership experience in even more complicated, high-pressure situations has prepared him for an environment in which chaos and the sense of crisis constantly emanate from the top.

In short, it is Kelly or bust. Trump should consider himself fortunate to have him, and avoid the fool's errand of trying to find an improvement.

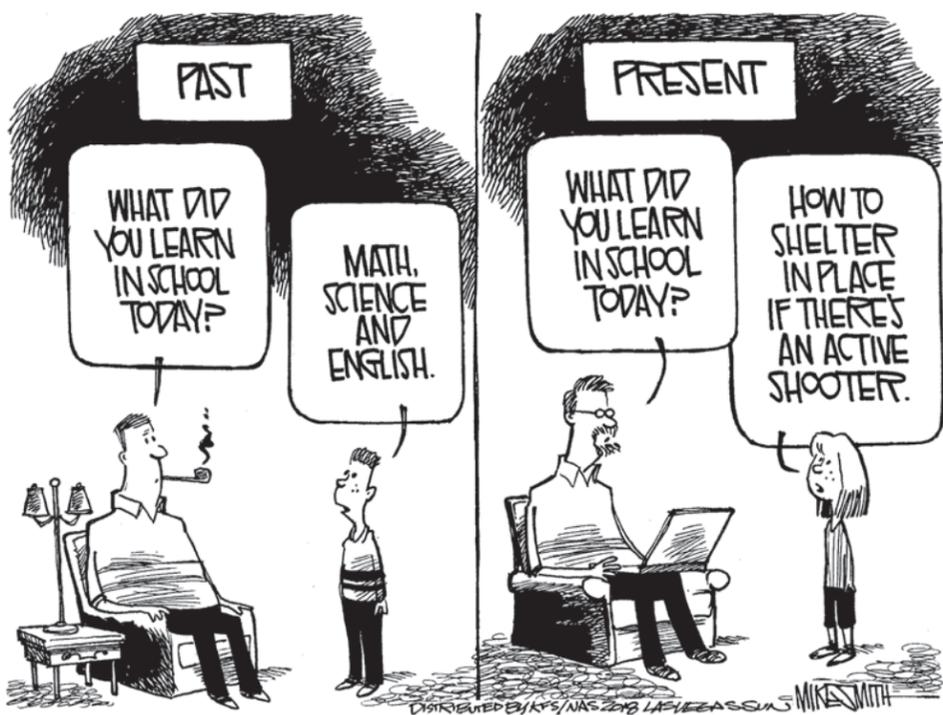
Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review. (c) 2018 by King Features Synd., Inc.

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San Eli Starlettes compete at Sun City Dance Classic



– Photo courtesy San Elizario ISD

HIGH STEPPIN’ – The San Elizario High School (SEHS) Golden Starlette Dance Team competed at the 10th annual Sun City Dance Classic for the very first time and came home with two trophies in the high school division. The girls went out onto the competition stage determined to make their mark. “During competition, I felt confident of not only myself but for my team as well,” said Stephanie Alvarado, senior captain of the Starlettes. “We worked really hard every day to get better and we gave it our all on the dance floor.” The Starlettes took 2nd place for their kick routine to “Don’t Stop the Party” and 3rd place in the hip hop division. The dancers will be closing out the season with their annual spring dance recital that will take place in late April. The Starlettes are coached by Jocelyn Crouse.

– Hector Gonzalez

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True Texas Facts by Roger T. Moore

March 6, 1836 - The Alamo falls.



Strange BUT TRUE

By Samantha Weaver

- It was English theologian Edwin Abbott Abbott who made the following sage observation: “Men are divided in opinion as to the facts. And even granting the facts, they explain them in different ways.”
- You may be surprised to learn that hot and cold running water has been around for thousands of years. Members of the upper class in ancient Egypt used copper tubing to pipe it into their homes.
- If you take a close look at NewHampshire’sConstitution Bill of Rights, you’ll find “the right of revolution” enshrined therein.

• GPS is a powerful tool that has changed the way we navigate the world. Of course, it’s not without its problems. Take, for instance, the case of the 23-year-old Canadian woman driving through the Ontario town of Tobermory. She was a stranger there, so – as most of us would – she was using her GPS. Evidently, she was so intent on following the directions provided to her that she wasn’t paying attention to where those directions were taking her – that is, until she ended up in Georgian Bay. She made it to shore safely, but her car didn’t.

• It seems that artist Leonardo da Vinci pioneered the paint-by-numbers style of art. He would sketch a piece, then number certain sections for his assistants to paint.

• Before the middle of the 18th century, it was not unusual for members of a play’s audience to be seated onstage, just a few feet from the performance. If viewers thought an actor’s performance was particularly bad, they might even try to bump the performer off the stage.

Thought for the Day: “It’s splendid to be a great writer, to put men into the frying pan of your imagination and make them pop like chestnuts.”
– Gustave Flaubert

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If a romantic couple from Warsaw end up getting separated, you might say they are Poles apart.

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Moments in time

THE HISTORY CHANNEL

• On March 19, 1931, in an attempt to lift the state out of the hard times of the Great Depression and stem the drop in population, the Nevada legislature votes to legalize gambling. A year later it legalized divorce.

• On March 20, 1965, President Lyndon Johnson notifies Alabama's Gov. George Wallace that he will call up the Alabama National Guard to supervise a planned civil-rights march to protest voting discrimination against Selma's black population.

• On March 21, 1980, President Jimmy Carter informs a group of American athletes that, in response to the December 1979 Soviet incursion into Afghanistan, the United States will boycott the 1980 Olympics in Moscow. It is the only time the U.S. has boycotted the Olympics.

• On March 22, 1894, the first championship ice hockey series for Lord Stanley's Cup is played in Montreal, Canada. Since 1962, only one trophy has been used, making the Stanley Cup the only trophy in major sports that is not reproduced each year.

• On March 23, 1999, bestselling author Thomas Harris delivers his 600-page manuscript for his new novel, "Hannibal," to Delacorte press, more than 10 years after he had promised the book. It was his third novel featuring serial killer and cannibal Hannibal Lecter.

• On March 24, 1958, Elvis Presley is inducted into the U.S. Army. He had registered for the draft in 1953, but received an education deferment (and missed the end of the Korean War). Later he received another deferment because he was filming the movie "King Creole."

• On March 25, 1774, the British Parliament passes the Boston Port Act, closing the port and demanding that the city's residents pay for the nearly \$1 million (in today's dollars) worth of tea dumped into Boston Harbor during the Boston Tea Party of Dec. 16, 1773.

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Briefs

From Page 1

arrival of spring by planting trees. Join the Arbor Day Foundation in March 2018 and receive 10 free white pine trees or 10 white flowering dogwood trees. "White pine trees or white flowering dogwoods will add beauty to your home throughout the year," said Matt Harris, chief executive of the Arbor Day Foundation. "Dogwoods are known for their showy spring flowers and red berries that attract songbirds during winter. White pine trees

are fast-growing landscape trees that will break heavy winds, making them an ideal addition to any yard." The free trees are part of the nonprofit Foundation's Trees for America campaign. With planting instructions included, the trees will be shipped at the right time for planting, between March 1 and May 31. The 6- to 12-inch trees are guaranteed to grow or they will be replaced free of charge. Arbor Day Foundation members also receive a subscription to Arbor Day, the Foundation's bimonthly publication, and The Tree Book, which contains information about tree planting

and care. To become a member of the Foundation and receive the free trees, send a \$10 contribution to TEN FREE WHITE PINE or 10 FREE DOGWOOD TREES, Arbor Day Foundation, 100 Arbor Avenue, Nebraska City, NE 68410, by March 31, 2018, or go online at arborday.org/march.

— Danny Cohn

reporters recently that while people pay dearly for their seaside residences, "I do not have any bills and have a good life." Matolias admits that it can get pretty hot inside the sand castle at night and that he sometimes resorts to spending the night at a friend's house or out of doors on the beach.

— John Grimaldi

On the beach

The beach house that 44-year-old Marcio Matolias built for himself in Rio de Janeiro 22 years ago is, in fact, a super-sized sand castle, reports the Association of Mature American Citizens. He told

Best state capitals

Only 17 state capitals are also the largest cities in their respective states, but they don't necessarily offer the best quality of life. To take a closer

See BRIEFS, Page 8

Quintana

From Page 1

overseeing a \$60 million budget, implementing safe school programs, promoting academic initiatives – like STEM (Science Technology Engineering Math) and STEAM (Science Technology Engineering Arts Math) – and adjusting school boundaries to address student population growth patterns, according to Brigham.

The vacancy comes after Quintana, who was first elected in 2008, decided to step down with nine years and three months of faithful service to the district as a distinguished board member. She is a graduate of Canutillo High School. She also worked for the district as an administrative assistant for over two decades before becoming a board member.

In her resignation letter, that was read aloud during the meeting by trustee Laure Searls, Quintana stated that the recent death of her mother (Yolanda Lucero) helped her realize that life is short and that she did not want to be surrounded by the board's negativity any longer.

Quintana wrote, "It's evident that things are not going to change anytime soon, and are going from bad to worse. I also believe that there is a right way to do things and a wrong way to do things, and that no matter what other people say, I avoid being influenced by anyone." Nonetheless, "I will continue to pray that you will continue to advocate in the best interests of the students and staff," she stated.

Despite her pointed remarks to the board, Quintana later acknowledged that she feels that she is leaving the district in good hands because of the outstanding work that the teachers, staffs, and administrators are doing at all of the campuses.

For more information about the school board position vacancy, interested individuals may contact the superintendent's office, at (915) 877-7444.

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Real Possibilities

Dimel begins hands on work to rebuild Miners

By Steve Escajeda
Special to the Courier

When you've hit rock bottom the popular saying in that there's no way to go but up.

For the UTEP football program, 2017 will always be known as the year (out of dozens of horrendous years) they fielded the worst college team in the country.

How bad was this team? Let's look at the fine print.

Out of 129 teams, the Miners ranked 129th in total offense and 107th in total defense.

Still not convinced? They were ranked 120th in passing and 126th in rushing.

Ouch, now that's an offense that was truly offensive.

The truth is that the Miners ranked 100 or worse in too many categories to mention here.

And that's what new head coach Dana Dimel has to deal with this week as he leads his first spring practice with the orange and blue.

UTEP began spring drills this week,

which will run thru the next three weeks. Dimel's first look at the team will culminate with the Spring Game on April 13 at 7 p.m. at the Sun Bowl.

And by the way, yes, that's Friday the 13th.

Anyway, the Dimel-era begins this week. He'll have to find a way to sprinkle in some newcomers with returning players and come up with a winning recipe.

That's not going to be easy with a team full of players who literally walked off the field with their heads down after every game last year.

Going 0-12 can easily get inside a young man's head. Doubt and a loss of self-confidence can make its way into the psyche.

But Dimel, who is used to turning sports frowns upside down, is determined to do what he's always done – turn losing programs into winning ones – or at least more competitive ones.

Last week, Dimel told reporters his first goal was to turn the Miners' offense around. Under former coach Sean Kugler, UTEP's offense depended heavily on the running game.

Not too bad when you have an Aaron Jones in the backfield – very bad if you don't.

Over the last 5-6 years UTEP's offense can be best described as a small scoop of vanilla ice cream and nothing more.

Dimel wants to establish a passing game around a quarterback who can throw the ball downfield and run out of the pocket if need be. A guy that can hurt you with his legs as well as his arm.

And that's why fans are excited about newcomer Kai Locksley. Aside from having a great sounding name, the junior-to-be was the national Junior College Offensive Player of the Year in 2017.

He threw 20 touchdowns passes and ran for 20 more at Iowa Western Community College. He led the team to an 11-1 record and a victory in the Graphic Edge Bowl.

And as any football fan knows, a team with a competent quarterback is far more successful than the alternative.

Of course Locksley's overwhelming success in junior college doesn't mean instant stardom at the FBS level, but it sure doesn't hurt.

What may be the most surprising news

coming out of this week's start of spring practice is how people still care. After going 0-12 you would think that fans would have checked out.

But fans are engaged. Maybe it's the success Dimel's had at the highest level of college football (at Kansas State) against the likes of Oklahoma and Texas and TCU and Oklahoma State and Texas A&M and West Virginia and all the others.

Dimel and his impressive staff are used to doing things a certain way. The way winning programs do things. A way that will accept nothing less than winning.

Let's face it, the Miners have never had that. They used to have it in basketball, but even that has slipped away.

El Pasoans are excited about the possibilities. It looks as if Dimel himself is excited about the possibilities. I'm sure that every player in a UTEP uniform is excited about the possibilities.

But possibilities are just that – a hope and a dream and a vision.

The reality starts this week at spring drills. And the reality is that the Miners have nowhere to go but up.

The question is – how far up?

Violence

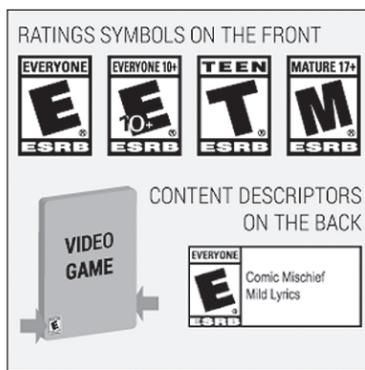
From Page 2

would NOT have been mild. I also didn't have access then to a smart phone where I could have surreptitiously viewed violent content without my parents knowing – all of the time.

According to a 2015 American Psychological Association review, research demonstrates a consistent relationship between violent video game use and increases in aggressive behavior, as well as a lack of empathy and sensitivity to aggression. In its 2016 policy statement, the American Academy of Pediatrics similarly states "there is broad scientific consensus that virtual

violence increases aggressive thoughts, feelings, and behaviors, but there has been little public action to help mitigate children's exposure to it." The research is clear that there is a relationship between violent stimuli and aggressive behaviors.

I know that mental health in this country is a multifaceted complex problem. Drug and alcohol abuse, depression and loneliness, when untreated, can all trigger abhorrent acts. But our culture has become entirely too comfortable with violence. We are not only desensitized to it, it is celebrated. From television to movies to video games, it has become more and more prevalent, graphic and acceptable. I am not advocating for more stringent



KNOW THE CODE – If you are not sure about the game your kids want you should check the Entertainment Software Rating Board rating. Visit www.esrb.org for more information on the rating system.

content regulation. But I am advocating for more vigilance. Not just for our own kids, but for those in our community. We should be aware of what our kids

are seeing on their phones, AND THEIR FRIEND'S PHONES. If we see another child getting way too into violence, instead of thinking that it is none of our business, we need to overcome that uncomfortable feeling, and express concern to that child's parents. "Did you know that your son is playing this game or watching this show?" is a fine question that more of us, myself included, need to ask.

None of us want this nonsensical violence to continue. All of us want to prevent another mass killing. I don't claim to have perfect solutions when it comes to the gun debate, but I don't think curbing gun access will work. At a time like this, we need to be asking ourselves more

than just, "How did the Parkland shooter get the gun?" and instead ask, "How did he get to the point that he thought this was what he wanted to do?" This is not a partisan problem. It is a cultural one. And it will take more than a new set of laws to change that. It will require changed behavior, accountability, and probably more than a few family fights about "just because your friend watches that show or plays that game doesn't mean that's acceptable in this household." It will take all of us.

Ryan Sitton was elected to the Railroad Commission in 2014 and is the first engineer to serve on the Commission in 50 years.

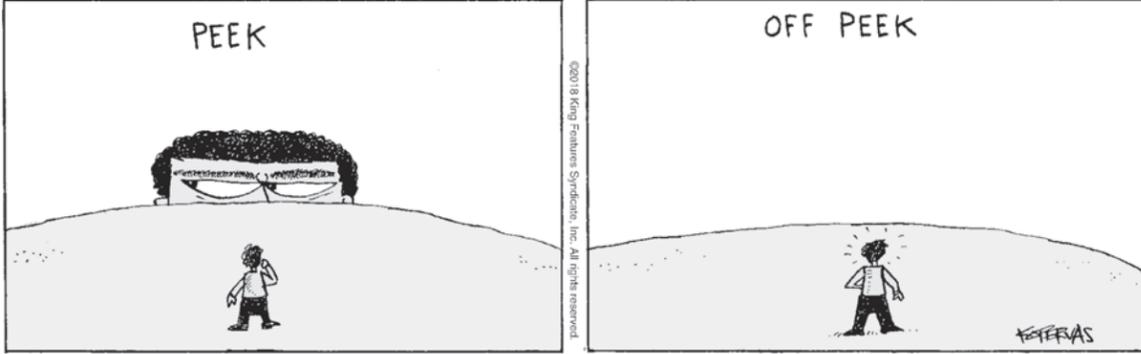
Super Crossword

- OH GEE! ACROSS**
- 1 Pres. Lincoln
 - 4 Bar mitzvah officiant
 - 9 Placed a burden on
 - 14 Broke, as a horse
 - 19 Fake signatures
 - 21 Billy Joel's "Extremes"
 - 22 Rock's Cooper
 - 23 "The Golden Girls" co-star being a rascal?
 - 25 Bit of gossip
 - 26 Conical-bore woodwinds
 - 27 Winslet and Middleton
 - 28 Source of great wealth
 - 30 Make juice of
 - 33 Mean beasts wearing disguises?
 - 35 Burg
 - 38 Life story, for short
 - 40 Suffix with cloth or cash
 - 41 With 45-Down, place for paternity testing
 - 42 "Sad to say..."
 - 43 Record of the years
 - 47 Serpentine fish
 - 49 Unearthly
 - 53 Stared creepily at a group of wolves?
 - 56 Long deli sandwiches
 - 58 Pretend to be
 - 59 Mythical man-horse
 - 60 Red chapter heading, e.g.
 - 62 Ancient French region
 - 64 In re
 - 67 Minerva, to the Greeks
 - 69 Comes out on top
 - 70 "Make no edits to those script lines!"
 - 76 Sleek, informally
 - 77 How some freelancers work
 - 78 Bellyache
 - 79 Iditarod Trail animal
 - 81 Very spirited
 - 84 Swiftly
 - 89 Brand of fruit drinks
 - 90 Notion, to Luc
 - 92 Heavy work shoe filled with currants?
 - 95 Comedian
 - 96 Smirnoff
 - 97 Apr. clock setting
 - 99 Countdown expression
 - 100 Manila money
 - 101 Lively spirit
 - 103 Smidge
 - 105 Phys ed class
 - 106 Epochs
 - 107 Airport area that's only an illusion?
 - 114 Stair unit
 - 116 Mexican
 - 117 Oasis beast
 - 119 Capital of the Beaver State
 - 123 Poe's bird
 - 124 Evil poet Nash?
 - 128 Belgian port
 - 129 Wise up
 - 130 Aggressively defiant
 - 131 _ Domingo
 - 132 Unable to relax
 - 133 Composer Erik
 - 134 "Proby not"
- DOWN**
- 1 "Hair" style
 - 2 _ tube (TV)
 - 3 Therefore
 - 4 Actress
 - 5 Witherspoon
 - 5 Equip for war
 - 6 Razor brand
 - 7 Radio host Glenn
 - 8 Koran's faith
 - 9 Tablecloth material
 - 10 Tennis great Andre
 - 11 Shout on "The Simpsons"
 - 12 Curio display stands
 - 13 Giving type
 - 14 Late state
 - 15 Female grads
 - 16 Copy closely
 - 17 Low-cost, in product names
 - 18 Freedom from govt. control
 - 20 Brown-and-white
 - 21 Get from _ B
 - 29 '60s drug
 - 31 Blind as _
 - 32 Ho Chi _
 - 34 Golf peg
 - 35 New Mexico ski spot
 - 36 Bond girl
 - 37 Kurylenko
 - 37 Drawer Disney
 - 39 Burdensome
 - 44 Storekeeper on "The Simpsons"
 - 45 See 41-Across
 - 46 Try to harm with claws
 - 48 Angola's capital
 - 50 Cosine, e.g.
 - 51 Cake topper
 - 52 JFK guesses
 - 54 "Blast!"
 - 55 Kin's partner
 - 57 Linda of "The Exorcist"
 - 61 "_-ching!"
 - 63 Hole tool
 - 65 Stomached
 - 66 Used a tool to grab, as an ice block
 - 68 Engraved work of art
 - 70 Screenwriter
 - Ephron
 - 71 Big name in vacuums
 - 72 "Yes" signal
 - 73 EMS skill
 - 74 Tune in to
 - 75 On _ with (similar to)
 - 76 Pasty
 - 80 Enters headfirst, as a pool
 - 82 Cup edge
 - 83 "So far _ know..."
 - 85 Any of six pontiffs
 - 86 Wine ripener, e.g.
 - 87 House, south of the border
 - 88 Son of Seth
 - 91 Female hormone
 - 93 Van _ Calif.
 - 94 Cellar, in apt. ads
 - 96 Luxurious
 - 98 Piper's cap
 - 102 School gp.
 - 104 Kitchen choppers
 - 107 Arctic floaters
 - 108 Large city in Nebraska
 - 109 Established fact
 - 110 _ Gay (warplane)
 - 111 Tot watcher
 - 112 Latin "I love"
 - 113 Some jabs
 - 115 Suffix similar to -like
 - 118 Pre-euro Italian money
 - 120 Security claim
 - 121 Italian peak
 - 122 Tall tale
 - 125 "Gimme _!" (rude demand)
 - 126 Granola bit
 - 127 Here, in Lyon

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18		
19			20						21				22						
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107	108	109					110			111	112	113		114		115			
116									117				118		119		120	121	122
123							124		125				126	127					
128								129					130						
131													133					134	

Comix

OUT ON A LIMB By Gary Kopervas



THE CASHIER By Ricardo Galvão



AMBER WAVES By Dave T. Phipps



THE SPATS By Jeff Pickering



R.F.D. By Mike Marland



Fact or artifact?

DEAR DR. ROACH: I recently had a nuclear stress test as a requirement for a kidney transplant. The results of my test indicated that I had sustained moderate damage to my heart as the result of a heart attack. No further testing could be done because of the possible effect of dye on my kidneys. Six months later in a follow-up nuclear test, my results were normal and I was told that the problem was an artifact. Would you explain what an artifact is? – M.J.N.

An artifact, in this context, is anything that can keep the test from being interpreted correctly. People often think of medical tests as definitive – the stress test shows that either you have blockages in the arteries in your heart or you don't – but it usually is not so clear. Even a perfectly normal stress test is possible in people with blockages, but the bigger the blockage, the more likely we can see them.



In women, breasts can obscure the images from the radioactive dye used in a nuclear stress test, making it seem as though the inferior portion of the heart isn't getting enough blood, which is one of the most common artifacts leading to a false-positive diagnosis (when the test says there is an abnormality but there isn't). It may be that on the follow-up test, the technician did a better job of placing the camera.

Unfortunately, it also is possible that the second test was a false-negative test. In that case, the first stress test was correct that you had heart damage, and the second stress test failed to identify blockages in the heart. This happens sometimes when there are multiple blockages diffusely in all the blood vessels, since the main thing the physician interpreting the test is looking for is more radiation (meaning more blood flow) in one part of the heart compared with another.

Stress tests normally are quite accurate at detecting health and disease. When there are conflicting results, as in your case, sometimes the answer is clear from other data (including common sense). Other times a more definitive test is needed, such as a cardiac catheterization (angiogram). Since these have risks, it's imperative that the patient discuss with an experienced clinician whether the test is worth those risks.

The booklet on heart attacks, America's No. 1 killer, explains what happens, how they are treated and how they are avoided. Readers can order a copy by writing: Dr. Roach – No. 102W, 628 Virginia Drive, Orlando, FL 32803. Enclose a check or money order (no cash) for \$4.75 U.S./\$6 Canada with the recipient's printed name and address. Please allow four weeks for delivery.

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. To view and order health pamphlets, visit www.rbmamall.com. (c) 2018 North America Synd., Inc. All Rights Reserved.

SPOT A STROKE

F.A.S.T.



StrokeAssociation.org



Briefs

From Page 5

look at this issue, the personal-finance website WalletHub has released its report on 2018's Best State Capitals to Live In. To identify the most livable seats of state government, WalletHub compared all 50 state capitals across 51 key metrics, ranging from cost of living to K-12 school-system quality to number of attractions. Austin, TX was ranked the best state capital to live in.

Other stats:
 • Juneau, AK, has the highest median household income (adjusted for cost of living), \$67,310, which is 2.6 times higher than in Hartford, CT, the city with the lowest at

\$26,264.

• Bismarck, ND, has the lowest unemployment rate, 1.7 percent, which is 4.6 times lower than in Hartford, CT, the city with the highest at 7.8 percent.

• Madison, WI has the highest share of adults 25 years and older with at least a bachelor's degree, 56.3 percent, which is 4.7 times higher than in Trenton, NJ, the city with the lowest at 11.9 percent.

• Montpelier, VT has the lowest violent-crime rate per 1,000 residents, 1.99, which is 7.8 times lower than in Charleston, WV, the city with the highest at 15.52.

Visit <https://wallethub.com/edu/best-state-capitals/19030/> to view the full report.

— Diana Popa

Plan now for a getaway



by Freddy Groves

Some of us are still shoveling snow, but soon it will be time for spring or summer vacation. The time to think about it is now, before all the slots are gone.

If you were injured in combat, Vacations for Warriors can hook you up with a whole vacation package. It uses donated money, hotel points, timeshares and more. Go online to www.vacationsforwarriors.org and scroll down for the eligibility qualifications and selection process. You'll need to fill out the application, but if you're chosen, you can have a great vacation. If in doubt, check the Gallery.

If you're a wounded warrior and can get yourself and your family to Orlando, Florida, the Wounded Warrior Family Support group will provide you six nights (free) at Bahama Bay Resort. You'll get passes to Sea World, LegoLand and more. Website photos show a pretty posh place, with pool, fitness, spa, salon, maid service, kids' game room and much more.

There's a three- to four-month advance notice requirement, so don't delay. Go online to www.vvws.org.

Veterans Holidays offers fancy condos for only \$50 a night on a weekly basis (\$349). Pick from 100 countries, and stay Space-A. To be eligible, sign up for a free membership at www.veteransholidays.com. Click on the menu and look through the options. For more perks, consider the premium membership, which gets you short-stay options, last-minute options and more. That upgraded membership will set you back \$119 a year, however.

Check Military Cruise Deals (www.militarycruisedeals.com), owned by a military family, for vacation deals. They claim to beat prices offered by the big online travel sites.

For calming PTSD retreats, see Veterans Freedom Retreat (www.veteransfreedomretreat.org). For retreats for women, caregivers, kids, PTSD and more in Massachusetts, see Project New Hope, www.projectnewhopema.org.

Again, don't delay if you want to make plans.

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• "When making cookies that are dropped by the spoonful, dip your spoon in milk first, then scoop. The dough drops perfectly, and the milk does not affect the finished cookie at all."
 — F.D. in Pennsylvania

• "If you're having trouble opening a jar, try slipping on a pair of latex dishwashing gloves for extra traction. Also try banging a little around the edge of the metal lid to disturb the vacuum seal. This has worked for me many times. Just be careful not to bang it so hard that you break the glass jar!"
 — A.L. in Texas

• "Place a section of newspaper in the bottom of your fridge to catch spills and to absorb odors. Line your vegetable crisper drawer with a paper towel, especially if you keep your potatoes in the refrigerator. Finally, do not store your milk on the door, because items there are subject to increased temperature fluctuation, every time you open the door to decide what to snack on!"
 — M.R. in North Carolina

• "If you want to ripen avocados fast, put them in a brown bag and add a slice of lemon."
 — Pat in New York

• No need to purchase pricey seed-starting kits, use a toilet paper roll instead! Just cut the roll in half, set upright in a tray, fill with dirt and seeds, water, and away you go. When you start a tray inside, you should be ready for planting after the danger of frost is over.

Send your tips to Now Here's a Tip, 628 Virginia Drive, Orlando, FL 32803. (c) 2018 King Features Synd., Inc.

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 T

MH O FUDOWQMP PUBYVN HFUD
 JOFAOJ NWR BY LNQQMWL
 ANYOFOQNR, XUB DMLKQ AOX
 QKNX OFN YUVNA OYOFQ.

Answer Page 4

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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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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!

	+		÷					14
×			÷			+		
	÷			+				9
-			+			×		
	+			+				17
23			11				16	

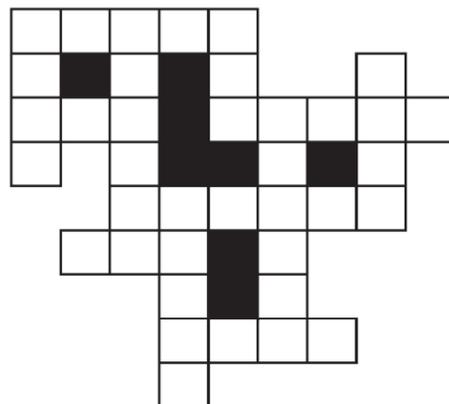
1 2 3 5 6 7 7 8 9

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Answer Page 4



- ALS
- DRYHEM
- CLIVA
- ♥EVLA
- MARACE
- PPE
- ESDL
- VEYHA
- ♥EAY
- PYROVA
- ♥PACSL
- CYPO



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.

NEW! 30 Fear Knot puzzles \$3.50 • Six Volumes • Order at rbmamall.com

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People know Pueblo for its...



Famous Hot Salsa?

In Pueblo, the free government information is also hot. Spice up your life by dipping into the Consumer Information Center web site, www.pueblo.gsa.gov. You can download all the information right away. Sorry, salsa not available through our web site or Catalog.

