



NEWSBRIEFS

EPCC graduation

El Paso Community College (EPCC) held its Spring Commencement Exercises on Friday, May 17, 2019 at the University of Texas at El Paso Don Haskins Center. A total of 1,959 associate degrees and certificates were awarded during two ceremonies. The commencement speaker was Dr. Belle Wheelan who currently serves as President of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges and the Master of Ceremonies was Dr. William Serrata, EPCC President. For the 14th year in a row, EPCC ranked first nationally in the granting of associate degrees to Hispanic students.

— Jim Heiney

Student debt

With graduation season upon us and student debt at an all-time high, the personal-finance website WalletHub has released a report on the *Cities with the Most & Least Student Debt in 2019* (accompanying videos), along with a nationally representative *Student Money Survey*. WalletHub's editors also picked the *Best Credit Cards for 2019 Graduates*, to help new college and high school grads build credit and maximize savings. El Paso was in the 31 percentile (1-best; 99-worst) of cities with an average ratio of 33-percent student debt (\$15,327) to earnings of a Bachelor Degree holder (\$46,022). Other findings:

- 45 percent of students say credit card debt worries them more than student loan debt.
- 59 percent of college students say their school is not doing enough to educate them about personal finance.
- One in three college students think they'll be worse off financially than their parents.

— Diana Polk

Summer destinations

With summer approaching, the personal-finance website WalletHub has released its report on *2019's Best Summer Travel Destinations* as well as accompanying videos to supplement its Best Travel Credit Cards and Currency Exchange studies. To help travelers plan the perfect summer getaway, WalletHub compared 100 metro areas across 40 key indicators of budget- and fun-friendliness. The data set

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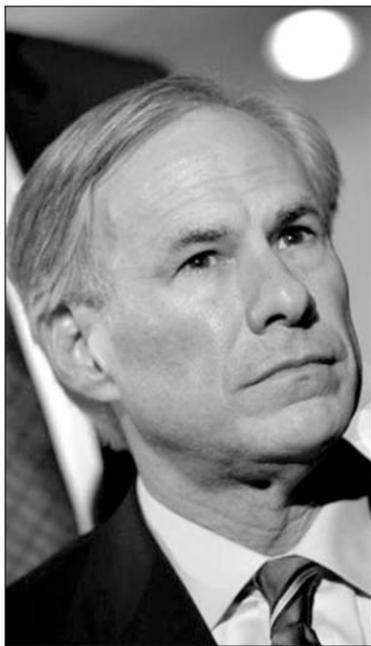
People would be delighted to attend to their own business if the government would give it back to them.

— Quips & Quotes

Lawmakers set to pass tax reform bill

By Alfredo Vasquez
Special to the Courier

TEXAS – With the state legislative session set to end on Memorial Day (May 27), Texas lawmakers are still trying to deliver on two bills that home and business owners, as well as current and retired educators, are anxiously awaiting: property tax reform and school finance reform.



— Internet

RELIEF – Governor Greg Abbott, who campaigned on reining in property taxes, stated that he and lawmakers are making a significant impact on tax reform during the current 86th legislative session, but his office left open the possibility that more work could be needed down the line.

state and \$3.3 billion on education reforms.

The House and Senate agreed that cities and counties could call for an election if property tax revenues rise more than 3.5 percent from the year before. But there are disagreements over the rollback rate for school districts along with community college and hospital districts.

Additionally, many cities, counties and other tax agencies

are against the proposed property tax reform because, they argued, the bill will cost local governments millions of dollars in revenue and limit their ability to provide adequate funding for public safety, schools, and roads.

Regarding the school finance reform, the House and Senate are on different tracks also, when it comes to teacher salary increases. The bill passed in the Senate gives the state's public-school teachers and librarians an across the board \$5,000 raise, while the House version gives school districts nearly \$1,400 for raises for all employees plus additional incentive pay.

In a recent news interview, Bonnen stated that lawmakers need to show a differential when it comes to using billions of dollars for teacher pay raises. It is unwise "to simply give every teacher the vanilla \$5,000 whether you're working harder or better or in a more difficult environment than anyone else, you get the same amount whether you started yesterday for your first day of teaching and whether you've been doing it for ten years," he stated. "Education is a profession and there is no profession where you pay everyone exactly the same amount regardless of how long they've done it, how well they've done it, and where they're willing to do it."

Lawmakers in the House and Senate also have differences in their efforts to shore up the Teacher Retirement System (TRS), which is responsible for the retirement benefits of the state's 1.6 million current and retired teachers.

The bill passed in the Senate requires the state, school districts, and current teachers to all contribute more to the system. In addition, each retired teacher would receive a state-funded supplemental payment of \$500. Under the Senate version, the state would pay an extra \$542 million.

In the bill passed by the House, each retiree would receive a \$2,400 state-funded supplemental payment, while only the state would contribute more to the TRS. The House bill would cost the state an extra \$1.3 billion. Both versions would enable the TRS to drastically shorten the timeframe to pay off its unfunded liabilities, from 87 years to 30 years.

Bonnen explained that he believed the House version makes more sense. "When the state asked the school districts locally to put in a contribution on that, we want to reduce property taxes. Well, the reality of it is we're asking that local school district to spend more local tax money to make that payment. So, in

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Patricia Villarreal

— Photo courtesy San Elizario ISD

Villarreal named to Leader Fellowship

By Jeannie Meza-Chavez
Special to the Courier

SAN ELIZARIO, TX – Patricia Villarreal has been selected by Texas OnCourse for a two-year Leader Fellowship. She is a Counselor at Ann M. Garcia-Enriquez Middle School in San Elizario ISD. Texas OnCourse focuses on improving college, career, and military readiness throughout the state.

Villarreal is the only Counselor in the Region 19 area selected for this distinction for her leadership in the field of college and career advising. As a Leader Fellow, she hopes to, "pave the way for our students to reach higher education goals, but also to show what our students can do given the right tools and resources."

Through her participation in the OnCourse Leader Fellowship, Villarreal

will receive a stipend of \$10,000 and GEMS will receive a \$5,000 award. "I am so proud of her; this goes along with our efforts to have our students College/Career Ready," stated Principal April Marioni.

"I would like to acknowledge that I am only one person and education, as we know it, is a team effort," Villarreal said. "It means a great deal to know that our district is moving towards a better future for our students and the community as a whole."

Villarreal will be working alongside 24 other Leader Fellowship educators selected from 260 highly qualified applicants out of the 20 education regions in Texas.

Dr. Jeannie Meza-Chavez is the Superintendent of San Elizario ISD.

View from here By John Grimaldi

Robocall update

FTC warns of more Social Security phone scams

Robocall Social Security Administration scams are on the rise. The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) says SSA telephone shakedowns specifically targeting senior citizens now surpass phony IRS calls, according to the Association of Mature American Citizens (AMAC).

For the past few years fake IRS calls topped the list of complaints received by the FTC. "But the new SSA scam is trending in the same direction – with a vengeance. People filed over 76,000 reports about Social Security imposters in the past 12 months, with reported losses of \$19 million," according to the FTC.

AMAC president Dan Weber notes that at its peak, between October 2015 and September 2016, losses from IRS scams reached \$17 million. Meanwhile, in just two months, February and March of this year, the FTC received some 36,000 complaints from individuals who received Social Security calls. And, \$6.7 million in reported losses were logged.

Weber says "these con men are 'phishing' for Social Security numbers that can be used to commit all kinds of online crime. They can use stolen SS accounts to take out loans in your name, leaving you holding the bag. In addition, while they are at it, they often try to extort money from you. Meanwhile, the solution is quite simple – just hang up."

And if you get such a phone call don't fall for the scam even if your caller ID shows that the Social Security Administration is calling you. The SSA does not make threats. In fact, you should never give out your SS number, your bank account number or any such sensitive personal information to anyone who calls you out of the blue – especially if the voice on the other end of the line is a recording.

Dan Weber also recommends that you simply hang up on such callers and then call the SSA at (800) 772-1213 to report the incident. He says the Social Security Administration has issued a procedure notification for those who might receive scam calls, which can be accessed on the <https://www.identitytheft.gov/SSA> online.

"Robocall scams are fast becoming the methodology of choice for tech-savvy crooks. And, while we are each responsible for protecting ourselves from these criminals, the government has a responsibility, too. To that end, there is legislation in Congress that seeks to address robocall stings."

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

View from here By Ken Klein

Democratic candidates have a drug problem

Who profits from big pharma, mandated healthcare?

President Trump recently announced that he would refuse any political donations from the pharmaceutical industry for his 2020 reelection campaign citing their role in the opioid epidemic. "I don't want their money. They have got to do what is right," Trump said at an Atlanta event.

According to the National Institute on Drug Abuse, 130 people die each day from opioid overdoses. From 1999 to 2017, drug overdose deaths involving opioids jumped from 8,048 to 47,600. Opioid misuse costs Americans \$78.5 billion a year. It makes sense that Trump and other presidential candidates distance themselves from Big Pharma. Recently, Democratic presidential contenders have developed an aversion to lobbyists, but a glimpse into their past fundraising reveals a cozy relationship with the pharmaceutical industry that may be irresistible.

Data retrieved from the Center for Responsive Politics (Open Secrets), Kaiser Health News and MapLight show several Democratic candidates and their PACs with big drug problems to the tune of over \$3 million.

Five major opioid manufacturers have a history of donating heavily to members of Congress: Endo International PLC (\$629,000), Johnson & Johnson (Janssen Pharmaceuticals, \$3.7 million), Teva Pharmaceutical Industries (\$812,300) and Allergan PLC (\$1.3 million). Opioid distributors McKesson, AmerisourceBergen and Cardinal Health, also criticized for their role in marketing opioids, have historically opened their wallets as well.

"We need to open up transparency and do a lot of things that a lot of these folks who are profiting off the backs of the sick are not going to like." – Senator Cory Booker

In an *Open Secrets* article titled *Where Cory Booker Gets His 2020 Money*, Raymond Arke found "In 2016, pharmaceutical PACs gave \$57,500 to Booker. Becton, Dickinson & Co, Bristol-Myers Squibb and Sanofi PACs all contributed \$5,000 each in 2016. Before that, in 2014, a cycle he was actually running in, Booker's campaign took in \$161,000 in pharmaceutical PAC money. Pfizer contributed \$17,500, Merck & Co gave \$12,500 and several more gave \$10,000 each." The New Jersey senator has also received contributions from Teva, Allergan, Endo, Johnson & Johnson and AmerisourceBergen. Booker ranked number two in *Open Secrets*' Top 20 Senate recipients of the Pharmaceuticals/Health Products industry in 2014 with \$331,300 in contributions. His career total: \$434,774.

"What I see is the opioid industry and the drug companies that manufacture it, some of them in

particular, are just trying to sell more drugs that addict patients and addict people across this country." – Senator Kirsten Gillibrand

New York Senator Kirsten Gillibrand was recently criticized for a fundraiser on her behalf hosted by Pfizer executive Sally Susman. Gillibrand has already received \$103,763 from Pfizer. She placed number twelve on the same Open Secrets list in 2010 with \$127,350 in contributions, inching up to number nine in 2012 with \$139,950 in contributions. She has also received money from Johnson & Johnson, McKesson and AmerisourceBergen. Her career total from the Pharmaceuticals/Health Products industry: \$501,725.

"Since 1998, the pharmaceutical industry has spent more than \$3 billion on lobbying, and they have spent hundreds of millions of dollars on campaign contributions to buy politicians. In 2016, they hired 1,380 lobbyists – nearly 14 for each member of the Senate – to get Congress to do their bidding." – Senator Bernie Sanders

For the 2015-2016 cycle, Senator Bernie Sanders placed ninth on the list with \$315,570, sixth on the Top 20 Senate recipients of Pharmaceutical Manufacturing with \$152,493 and third on the Presidential Candidate recipients list.

"Big pharmaceutical companies have unleashed an opioid crisis from the California coast to the mountains of West Virginia. Once and for all, we must call drug addiction what it is: a national public health emergency." – Senator Kamala Harris

Senator Kamala Harris has not only received money from Big Pharma, she has also apparently already broken her recent pledge to refuse money from lobbyists. "The Harris campaign received the most registered lobbyist donations of any Democratic presidential campaign that has said it would not take the cash," according to The Intercept. The Senator from California has taken in \$131,092 from the Pharmaceuticals/Health Products industry including McKesson.

"The vast majority of those who are addicted today began with a legal prescription...Those executives understood the addictive properties of what they sold and did not share that with the public, and not a single one of them has done a single day in jail." – Rep. Beto O'Rourke

Former Texas congressman Beto O'Rourke ranked number nine in *Open Secrets*' Top 20 House recipients of Pharmaceuticals/Health Products industry in 2018 with \$232,246 in donations. O'Rourke also made the Top 20 House

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Father's Day 5K

By Estela Reyes López
Special to the Courier

EL PASO COUNTY – The 26th Annual La Fe Father's Day 5K Run and Walk is set for Saturday, June 15 at 7:30 a.m. The gathering point is the La Fe Culture and Technology Center, 721 S. Ochoa, at the rear of the building.

Event registration is \$20 until 8 p.m. on June 13th. Late registration is \$25 on June 14th and June 15th, the event day.

Individual discounts of \$5 are available for teams of 10 or more and for active-duty military personnel (please present ID at pick-up). Participants can register online at www.raceadventuresunlimited.com until 8 p.m. on June 13.

Walk-in registration is available at the La Fe CTC from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday. Checks should be made payable to "Centro De Salud Familiar La Fe" and must be postmarked by June 11, 2019.

Event runners and walkers will follow a set 3.1-mile racecourse throughout the historic Segundo Barrio neighborhood. The event is open to runners and walkers of all ages. The first 200 registered

participants will receive a free commemorative T-shirt.

All proceeds from this event benefit La Fe's culture, education, arts, and community-empowerment programming.

La Fe Chief Executive Officer Salvador Balcorta MSSW said the race got its start 26 years ago thanks to a group of La Fe employees and community activists who wanted to honor their fathers, single mothers, and male role models.

Participants should arrive early at the La Fe Culture and Technology Center for late registration and for orientation. For more information call the La Fe Culture and Technology Center at (915) 545-7190.



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There really are no Trump mysteries

The surprise about the big New York Times story on Donald Trump's tax returns is that there are no real surprises.

Trump's taxes have been an obsession of the left since he, in violation of a long-standing norm, reneged on his promise to release his returns during the 2016 campaign.

Democrats counted as one of the advantages of taking the House that they could demand Trump's returns. The dispute resulting from the administration's refusal to turn them over is now probably headed to the Supreme Court.

All the while, the expectation, or at least the suspicion, was that the returns contained some awful secret, perhaps evidence that he is a tool of the Russians.

And here, The New York Times has obtained Trump's tax information spanning a decade from the mid-1980s to mid-1990s, and the revelation is that he wasn't doing as well as he said in public and lost a boatload of money in a period that nearly destroyed him. In other words, exactly what anyone paying any attention would have expected.

Yes, the amount of the reported loss, \$1.17 billion, is remarkable (although inflated for tax purposes) and some of the details

memorable, but can anyone say that they are surprised?

Trump himself, the Washington Examiner notes, talked about his precarious financial state in this period on the first episode of "The Apprentice." In fact, he may have exaggerated, saying that he had been "billions of dollars" in debt.

As for Trump's use of tax loopholes, he said in a debate with Hillary Clinton that if he

didn't owe any tax liability that made him "smart."

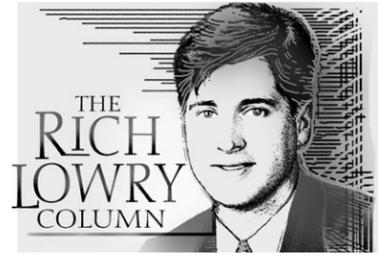
There really are no Trump mysteries. His flaws aren't hidden away. He often attests to them himself, or demonstrates them publicly. For someone who cares so much about his image, and so assiduously crafts it, he's a relative open book.

No blockbuster report has more than a passing effect because each dispatch is, ultimately,

another dot in a pointillist portrait of the president that was largely completed long ago.

This is also why the hope that we are one investigation, tax return or subpoena away from the revelation that will finally bring Trump down – or even make a difference – is almost certainly forlorn.

Obviously, it was news that he had paid off a porn star during the presidential campaign, and



highly embarrassing. This is why Trump denied it for so long. But he'd already told us about his womanizing in his own words, often on "The Howard Stern Show."

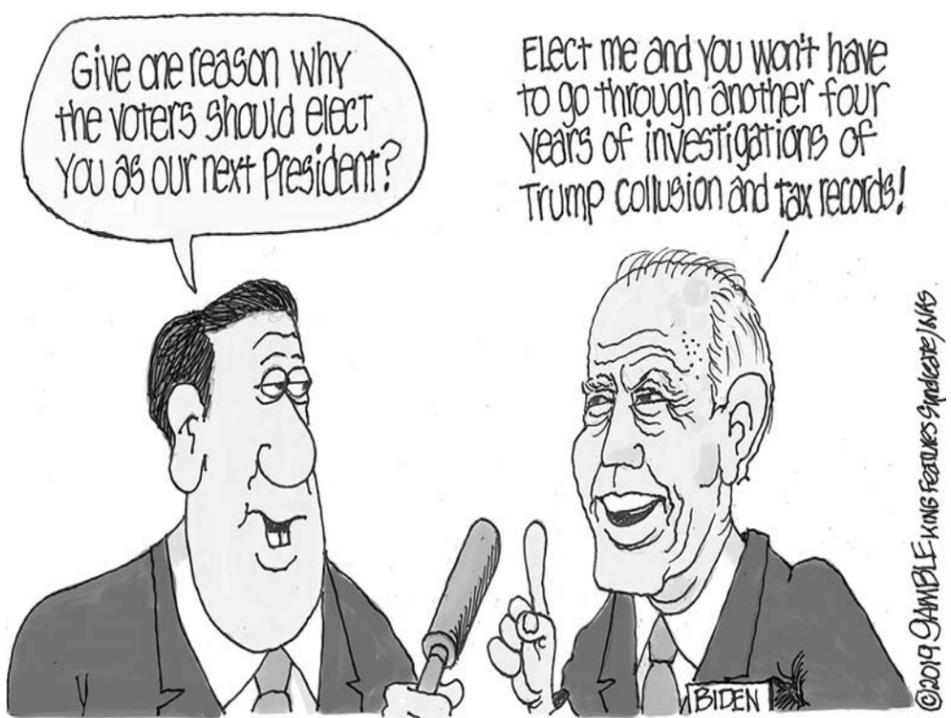
Likewise, the most blameworthy conduct regarding Russia's election interference in 2016 was out in the open – the Trump campaign was happy to derive any possible advantage from the WikiLeaks disclosures, and Trump tried to deny the obvious Russian involvement.

We didn't need a 400-page special counsel report to break this news.

None of this is to defend or excuse Trump's business practices, or his conduct in office. It is merely to say that he's an extravagantly known quantity, and will likely win or lose in 2020 based on what we already know rather than the fruits of further investigation and fact-finding.

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

AND NOW A WORD FROM A MAN WHO LOST \$ 1.17 BILLION...



Notification of Nondiscrimination in Career and Technical Education Programs at Clint Independent School District for 2019-2020 School Year

- 1) Clint Independent School District offers career and technical education programs in Architecture and Construction, Arts A/V, Business Management and Administration, Human Services, Information Technology, Law, Public Safety, Corrections and Security, Science Technology, Engineering and Math, and Transportation. Admission to these programs is based on current enrollment in the Clint ISD and completion of any necessary prerequisites.
- 2) It is the policy of Clint ISD not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, gender, national origin, disability, age, or any other basis in its vocational programs, services, or activities as required by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended; Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972; and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended.
- 3) It is the policy of Clint ISD not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, gender, national origin, disability, age, or any other basis in its employment practices as required by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended; Title IX of Education amendments of 1972; the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended; and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended.
- 4) Clint ISD will take steps to assure that lack of English language skills will not be a barrier to admission and participation in all educational and vocational programs.
- 5) For information about your rights or grievance procedures, contact the Title IX Coordinator, Rene Chavez at 14521 Horizon Boulevard, El Paso, Texas, 79928, 915-926-4061 and/or Section 504 Coordinator, Mike Mackeben, Director of Instruction, at 14521 Horizon Boulevard, El Paso, Texas, 79928, 915-926-4031.

Notificación de no Discriminar en los Programas Educativos de Carrera y Técnica Clint ISD por el año escolar del 2019-2020

- 1) El distrito escolar independiente de Clint ofrece programas de educación técnica y carreras en las áreas de arquitectura y construcción, artes, tecnología de audio y visual, administración de empresas, servicios comunitarios, informática, leyes, seguridad pública y seguridad preventiva, así como en ciencias de la tecnología, ingeniería, matemáticas y logística en el área de transportación. El ingreso a estos programas será basado en el número de estudiantes matriculados en el distrito escolar de Clint y se deberá cumplir con los requisitos necesarios de ingreso a estos programas.
- 2) El Distrito Escolar de Clint no discrimina por razones de raza, religión, color, origen nacional, sexo, género, edad o discapacidad al proveer servicios de educación, actividades, y programas, incluyendo programas vocacionales, de acuerdo con el Título VI del Acta de Derechos Civiles de 1964, y enmienda; Título IX de las Enmiendas Educativas de 1972; Sección 504 del Acta de Rehabilitación de 1973, enmienda.
- 3) El Distrito Escolar de Clint no discrimina por razones de raza, religión, color, origen nacional, sexo, género, edad, discapacidad, o cualquier otra base en sus practicas de empleo, de acuerdo con el Título VI del Acta de Derechos Civiles de 1964, y enmienda; Título IX de las Enmiendas Educativas de 1972; la Acta de discriminacion por edad de 1975, enmienda; y la Sección 504 del Acta de Rehabilitación de 1973, enmienda.
- 4) El Distrito Escolar Independiente de Clint tomara pasos para asegurar que la falta de ingles no sea un obstaculo para la admision y partipacion en todos los programas vocacionales, y educativos.
- 5) Para mas informacion de sus derechos y procedimiento de agravios, puede ponerse en contacto con el coordinador de Titulo IX, Rene Chavez, en 14521 Horizon Boulevard, El Paso, Texas, 79928, 915-926-4061 y/o el Coordinador de la Sección 504, Mike Mackeben, Director de Instrucción, en 14521 Horizon Boulevard, El Paso, Texas, 79928, 915-926-4031.

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Briefs

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ranges from cost of the cheapest flight to number of attractions to average price of a two-person meal. El Paso ranked 18 in this study. Other facts:

- The average flight to a popular summer destination costs \$294.07, lasts 3 hours and 46 minutes and has 0.4 connections.
- The Las Vegas metro area is the most attractive destination on the West Coast and the Washington, D.C. metro area is the most attractive destination on the East Coast.
- Florida and Texas are home to the most top summer destinations in the U.S., each with at least two metro areas in the top 15. Oppositely, Connecticut has one of the largest numbers of most unpopular summer destinations.
- The Kansas metro area has the lowest nightly rate for a three-star hotel room, \$35, which is five times less expensive than in San Diego, the metro area with the highest at \$175.

Visit <https://wallethub.com/>

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JOB FAIR

San Eli Supermercado
13800 Socorro Road
May 29, 2019 • 10:00 am – 1:00 pm
On site interviews and hiring!

Classified Ads

LEGALS

Lower Valley Housing Corporation
Public Notice

Lower Valley Housing Corporation (LVHC) is a non-profit community development Texas corporation that is applying to USDA/Rural Development for a section 523C Technical Assistance Grant for self-help housing to build 24 new mutual self-help single family houses in El Paso County, Texas. This grant will provide Technical Assistance

funds for the administrative costs of the program over a two-year period as well as providing another 24 eligible and USDA/Rural Development approved applicants with permanent loans for their home. Anyone wishing to comment or make an application may do so by contacting:

Lower Valley Housing Corporation
900 N. Fabens St., Suite 3
(P.O. Box #638)
Fabens, TX 79838
(915) 764-3413

WTCC: 05-23-19



By Samantha Weaver

- It was beloved American comedian and film star Groucho Marx who made the following sage observation: "There's one way to find out if a man is honest – ask him. If he says 'Yes,' you know he is a crook."
- You might be surprised to learn that, in addition to his holiday duties, Saint Nicholas is the patron saint of children, coopers, sailors, fishermen, merchants, broadcasters, the falsely accused, repentant thieves, brewers, pharmacists, archers, pawnbrokers, Aberdeen, Galway, Russia, Greece, Hellenic Navy, Liverpool, the Italian town of Bari, the city of Siggiewi in Malta, Moscow, Amsterdam and the Lorraine region of France.
- The next time you've enjoyed a happy hour out with friends, you might want to consider the virtually unknown adjective "gambrinous," which means "to be content and happy due to a stomach full of beer."
- A pregnant goldfish is known as a "twit."
- Sometimes looking at local ordinances can make you wonder what inspired lawmakers to pass such laws. For instance, in Florida it's illegal to wear nothing but liquid latex while in a public place.
- If you make a serious study of Hungarian gypsies, you probably already know that you're a "tzigonologist."
- Ever wonder how the statuette taken home by winners of the Academy Awards got its nickname? Evidently, in 1931 a secretary at the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences saw the statuette for the first time and exclaimed, "Why, he reminds me of my Uncle Oscar!" The comment struck the fancy of a reporter who was present, and he put it in a story about the awards, and the name stuck.

"It is easier to fight for one's principles than to live up to them."

– Felix Adler

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CryptoQuip Answer

Whenever a fellow loans you his party noisemaker, please make sure you return the favor.

5	x	7	-	9	26
-		-		÷	
1	+	2	+	3	6
x		x		+	
4	÷	2	+	8	10
16		10		11	



Moments in time
THE HISTORY CHANNEL

• On May 20, 1873, San Francisco businessman Levi Strauss and Reno, Nevada, tailor Jacob Davis are granted a patent for work pants reinforced with metal rivets, then known as “waist overalls.” It marked the birth of one of the world’s most famous garments: blue jeans.

• On May 21, 1932, aviator Amelia Earhart flies solo across the North Atlantic, five years after aviator Charles Lindberg made the first solo flight. Earhart traveled over 2,000 miles from Newfoundland to Ireland in under 15 hours.

• On May 22, 1972, President Richard Nixon arrives in Moscow for a summit with Soviet leaders. Although it was Nixon’s first visit to the USSR as president, he had visited Moscow once before – as U.S. vice president in 1959.

• On May 23, 1911, the New York Public Library, the largest marble structure ever built in the United States, is dedicated in New York City. It took 14 years to complete. The next day some 40,000 people passed through its doors. The collection already consisted of more than a million books.

• On May 24, 1964, a referee’s call in a soccer match between Peru and Argentina sparks a riot. More than 300 fans were killed and another 500 injured in the violent melee at National Stadium in Lima, Peru.

• On May 25, 1927, Robert Ludlum, the author of 21 best-selling thrillers, including the Jason Bourne spy novels, is born in New York City. Ludlum sold more than 300 million books before his death in 2001.

• On May 26, 1959, Harvey Haddix of the Pittsburgh Pirates pitches 12 perfect innings against the Milwaukee Braves, only to lose the game on a two-run double in the 13th inning. It was the first time in major-league history that a pitcher threw more than nine perfect innings.

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Property taxes

From Page 1

my opinion, we should go ahead and do what we did in the House, and cover that for our teachers, and our retired teachers, and our school districts because the truth of it is it’s all coming from the same pot of money – the back pocket of Texas taxpayers.”

The House Speaker said that there’s no excuse for the Texas Legislature to not finish its business in regular session. “Everything is set up in conference on HB 3 (school finance reform), in conference on SB 2 (property tax reform), and those are going well and they’re productive. The reality of it is there is no good reason for us not to get our work done in the regular session,” he stated.

Meanwhile, tax experts are predicting that if the reform bill is passed it may shrink taxes a little bit, but maybe not at all. “No, taxes are not going to go down,”

said Dale Craymer, president of Texas Taxpayers and Research Association. Property owners are “not going to get a bill and see that it’s half of what it was last year.”

Although the Legislature plans to infuse at least \$2.7 billion in state revenue to supplant local property taxes, it’s not enough to outpace the rapid increase of tax bills driven by increasing values, Craymer stated. “A homeowner may get \$400 of tax relief, but that’s against a property tax bill that may be rising \$600,” he added.

For Texas cities, the 3.5% revenue growth cap in Senate Bill 2 will have an immediate impact, because currently cities and counties can increase property tax revenue up to 8% without an election.

But Senate Bill 2 also allows local governments to exceed the cap if they call for an election, which is an option many cities are likely to take, which could wipe out any savings state lawmakers hoped to achieve.

Briefs

From Page 4

edu/best-summer-travel-destinations/3792/ for the full report.

– Diana Polk

Perceptive kids

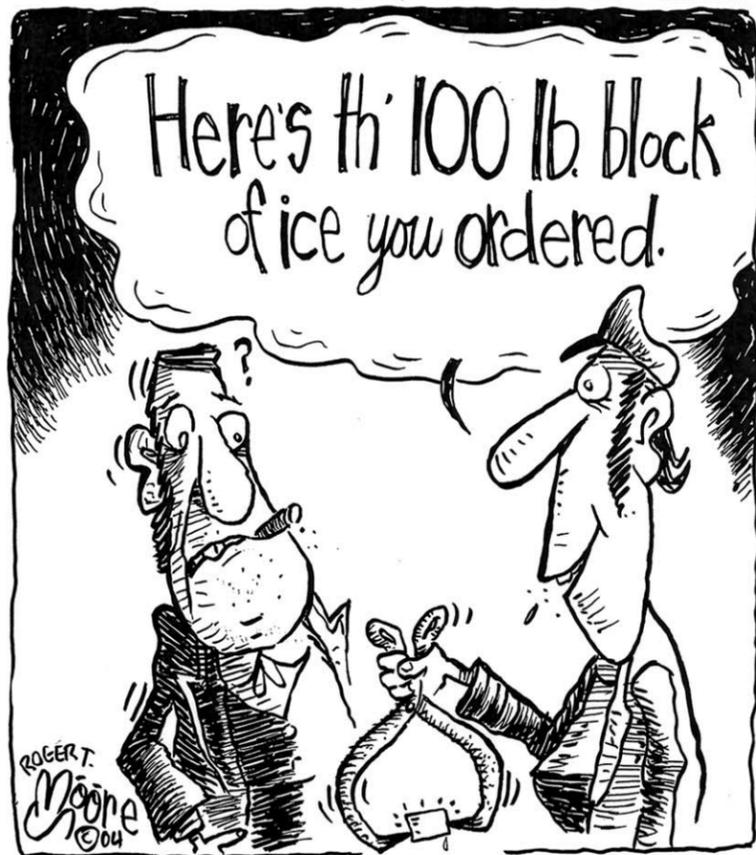
These little kids had a big idea. Medford, MA fourth graders Isa and Eric had an idea that made it safer for them and their classmates as they make their ways to and from school. Eric’s brother had had a near miss with a car that interrupted him in a crosswalk

on his way to school. So, Eric brainstormed a solution with his schoolmate, Isa. The ten-year-olds came up with the idea of painting a 3-D crosswalk at a particularly dangerous crossing. Drivers instinctively slow down, lest they run into what they perceive to be a raised barrier straddling the roadway. “When you’re walking across you can tell it’s painted, but what we hope is, when you’re driving down, you’ll see it as 3D, three dimensional. So it looks real,” Isa told a local CBS news reporter.

– John Grimaldi

TRUE TEXAS FACTS by Roger T. Moore

May 13, 1839, a brig that was originally loaded with 150 tons of ice from northeast rivers arrived in Galveston Harbor.



To Advertise Call 852-3235

Public Notice
Clint Independent School District
504 Child Find

Pursuant to Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the District has a duty to identify, refer, evaluate and if eligible, provide a free, appropriate public education to disabled students. For additional information about the rights of parents of eligible children, or for answers to any questions you might have about identification, evaluation and placement into Section 504, please contact the Clint District’s Section 504 Coordinator, Mike Mackeben, Director of Instruction, at 926-4031, or mail at 14521 Horizon Blvd., Horizon City, Texas 79928.

Aviso de Identificación de
Estudiantes Incapacitados
bajo la Sección 504

Bajo la Sección del Decreto de Rehabilitación de 1973, el Distrito Escolar esta obligado a identificar, referir, evaluar, y propocionar servicios educativos apropiados y gratuitos a los estudiantes incapacitados que califican bajo esta ley. Si usted desea mas información sobre los derechos de padres de niños incapacitados, o si tiene preguntas sobre la identificación, evaluación, y colocación de niños en el programa de Sección 504, favor de ponerse en contacto con la Coordinadora de 504 del Distrito Escolar Independiente de Clint, Mike Mackeben, Director de Instrucción, al numero 926-4031, o por correo a la siguiente dirección: 14521 Horizon Blvd., Horizon City, Texas 79928.

WTCC: 05-23-19

Clint Independent School District
Public Notification
of Nondiscrimination

It is the policy of Clint ISD not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, gender, national origin, disability, age, or any other basis prohibited by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended; Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972; and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended.

For information about your rights or grievance procedures, contact the district’s Title IX Coordinator Rene Chavez at 14521 Horizon Boulevard, El Paso, Texas, 79928, 915-926-4000 and/or Section 504 Coordinator, Mike Mackeben, Director of Instruction, at 14521 Horizon Boulevard, El Paso, Texas, 79928, 915-926-4031.

Notificación Pública de
Prácticas No-Discriminatorias

El Distrito Escolar de Clint no discrimina por razones de raza, religión, color, origen nacional, sexo, género, edad, discapacidad, o cualquier otra base de acuerdo con el Título VI del Acta de Derechos Civiles de 1964, y enmienda; Título IX de las Enmiendas Educativas de 1972; y la Sección 504 del Acta de Rehabilitación de 1973, enmienda.

Para información sobre sus derechos o procedimientos para quejas, comuníquese con el Coordinador del Título IX, Rene Chavez, en 14521 Horizon Boulevard, El Paso, Texas, 79928, 915-926-4000 y/o el Coordinador de la Sección 504, Mike Mackeben, Director de Instrucción, en 14521 Horizon Boulevard, El Paso, Texas, 79928, 915-926-4031.

WTCC: 05-23-19

Send Your
Newsbrief To:

wtxcc@wtxcc.com

Comix

OUT ON A LIMB By Gary Kopervas



AMBER WAVES By Dave T. Phipps



THE SPATS By Jeff Pickering



R.F.D. By Mike Marland



Drug problem

From Page 2

recipients of Pharmaceutical Manufacturing, coming in at number 19 with \$85,313 in donations. He has also accepted money from McKesson.

Among other Democratic candidates whose chances for the nomination may be small, cash flow from the Pharmaceuticals/Health Products industry is anything but. Representative Eric Swalwell has received \$294,053, Senator Michael Bennet \$592,745, Senator Amy Klobuchar \$403,566, and Senator Elizabeth Warren \$115,828.

While Former Vice President Joe Biden accumulated less than his current competition during his term as Senator, \$122,525, team Obama raked in more than \$2.5 million from the Pharmaceuticals/Health Products industry in 2008. President Trump, on the other hand, received a mere \$386,862 in 2016. Democratic nominee Hillary Clinton amassed \$2.66 million.

The swelling pool of candidates for the Democratic nomination may hinder individual candidates' fundraising abilities. Matching Trump's pledge may be too bitter of a pill to swallow.

Ken Klein was a player for the San Francisco Forty-Niners and the Houston Oilers in the 1960s. An injury ended his football career. He has produced twenty-one documentary films, written and published four books with two additional manuscripts waiting publication, and two films scheduled for production in 2020. Klein has appeared on hundreds of radio programs and TV shows across the country. His most recent book, "The Deep State Prophecy and the Last Trump" was released in February.

Gomez

From Page 6

in the history of El Paso County. He competed in the Nike race in Portland, OR on December 1, 2018 by placing fifth at the Nike Regionals in Houston, TX. Over 380 athletes from Louisiana, Arkansas, Oklahoma, Mississippi, and Texas participated at the meet.

Gomez is a serious student athlete. He takes AP and Pre-AP courses and is 81st out of 271 students with a current GPA of 89.16.

When asked what keeps him motivated on and off the track Edwin said, "What keeps me motivated to keep moving forward is my family, coaches and especially my grandmother who passed away the first cross country competition this school year. Before she passed away I promised her I would do my best in everything even though it might take some time to achieve. Moreover, one of the goals I have is to be able to run at Oregon University even though it might be a long shot I will always try my best."

Gomez has two more years to go at SEHS. Morales thinks Gomez is a force to watch out for and will bring more medals back San Elizario.

Ms. Christine Jaksch is the Director of Athletics for San Elizario ISD.

Forget bottled water, tap water is better

DEAR DR. ROACH: Bottled and purified water sales have increased over the years. I often see advertisements showing filters attached to faucets that "take out all impurities." My parents had a water softener, and my father, professionally involved in weight-bearing physical activity, experienced demineralization of his skeleton and a broken hip. It has been suggested that the water softener took minerals, including calcium, out of the water that my parents used to cook and drink. I drink tap water, but is a large percentage of the U.S. population headed for demineralization and malnutrition because they drink only "purified water"? - C.D.



Most water softeners work by exchanging sodium for the "hard" minerals, especially magnesium and calcium, present in most tap water, to greater or lesser extent. If the water in your area is naturally very hard, then a significant amount of sodium may be added, and calcium and magnesium removed.

However, this is very rarely a problem, and almost certainly had nothing to do with why your father had a hip fracture. We get our minerals mostly from food, not from water. The major risk factors for osteoporosis in men are smoking, alcohol, low testosterone levels and low vitamin D, although there are many other causes.

I don't recommend bottled water or water purifiers because in most of the United States and Canada, the water quality is excellent. Bottled water is 1,000 times more expensive than tap water where I live. I have been to places where the tap water doesn't taste so good, in which case I would recommend a filter over bottled water.

DEAR DR. ROACH: Could you please discuss the use of Propecia for female hair loss? I am a female in my late 50s, and I have suffered from hair loss for many years. After numerous blood tests, a biopsy and exams, my dermatologist determined that I have androgenic alopecia. I have been on Aldactone, and have used minoxidil for quite a while, with minimal results, if any. For the past eight months, I have been taking Propecia, 2.5 mg daily. My hair doesn't seem any better or worse, but I worry

See HEALTH, Page 8

Moolah

From Page 6

for the college, good for them. Because the vast majority of athletes will never put on a uniform again.

After all, this is America where capitalism rules.

Some would argue that players are receiving scholarships to go to college and that should be enough.

The truth, especially for the star players, is that both the athletes and the colleges play this game where they pretend it's all about the education - but believe me, it's not.

It's about the money.

To Advertise Call 852-3235

Health

From Page 7

about its side effects. Can you please give me your opinion on the use of Propecia by women? Do the benefits outweigh the risks? – R.M.

Male pattern hair loss will occur in up to 80 percent of men and 40 percent of women, with age being the primary risk factor. Hair loss can affect self-image and self-esteem significantly, probably even more in women than in men. Diagnosis usually is made by appearance, but a biopsy is sometimes necessary to rule out less-common causes. Finasteride (Propecia) is a blocker of dihydrotestosterone, and although it frequently is used in men, is not approved for use

in women. It should not be used by women who could become pregnant. Women (and men) should not donate blood while taking finasteride. However, it is sometimes used “off-label,” and one study showed that although it did not cause regeneration of hair, it did slow further loss. Side effects of weight gain, loss of libido, depression and fatigue are listed as possible. I have no personal experience of women using this medication.

Dr. Roach regrets that he is unable to answer individual letters, but will incorporate them in the column whenever possible. Readers may email questions to ToYourGoodHealth@med.cornell.edu. (c) 2018 North America Synd., Inc. All Rights Reserved.

Women veterans get expanded call center



by Freddy Groves

The Department of Veterans Affairs has added another way for women veterans to get information about benefits and health care. Besides calling or chatting, those with questions can now text the Women Veterans Call Center. Since opening in 2013, the center has received 83,000 calls.

For the half million women veterans using VA health care, the call center can provide information on available resources and eligibility, and if a veteran is in crisis (homeless or at risk for suicide), she can get help there as well.

For women-centric information on health care and the services available at the VA, go online to www.womenshealth.va.gov. In the top right corner of the page is a Chat with the Call Center

button. Or scroll down the right column and look at What's New information on reimbursement of certain adoption expenses if a service-related disability has resulted in infertility, women veteran athletes, breast cancer and more. On the left side of the screen, the Health Topics A to Z cover hundreds of medical conditions.

The number of women who are sexually assaulted in the military has either risen or the number who report it has increased. One in five who go to VA health facilities report that they were sexually assaulted in the military. The VA treats Military Sexual Trauma for free, and some veterans can receive treatment even if they don't qualify for other VA care. There is an MST Coordinator in every health care facility. To access help, call the nearest medical center and ask for that coordinator. For contact information, veterans can also call or text the center.

To reach the center, call or send a text to 855-829-6636.

Put the call center number in your cellphone in case you need it.

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• “I have an awesome cutting board that fits right over my sink. My husband made it for me out of a piece of butcher block. The best thing about it is that it has a slight grade to the back, so if I'm cutting something like watermelon that leaks liquid, it runs off to the back and into the sink. It's great!”
– C.A. in Texas

• “Is your showerhead spraying in all directions? There may be a buildup of mineral deposits blocking some of the holes. Here's a good way to get that cleaned out, and it's no scrub, mostly. Fill a plastic baggie halfway with a vinegar and water solution. Lift it up and put the showerhead into the vinegar. Then secure the bag over the pipe tightly using tape or a hair elastic. Let it sit while you're at work or running errands. Then remove and run the shower normally.”
– R.E. in Oklahoma

• Do you use the clutter basket trick? As you clean your home, or just when tidying, carry a basket from room to room. Items that belong in another room go in the basket to be delivered to the right room along the way.

• “This tip to remove antiperspirant stains has worked for me. Take two aspirin and crush them; mix with a half cup of hot water. Pour directly on the stain, and allow it to sit for a couple of hours.”
– S.D. in Georgia

• Recipe substitutions: If you need 1 cup self-rising flour, use 1 cup all-purpose flour plus 1 1/2 teaspoons baking powder and 1/2 teaspoon salt.

• Use dry flour or cornstarch on a microfiber cloth for stubborn grease on stainless steel. It absorbs and buffs.

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: P equals U

CAQUQZQI V LQKKDC KDVUF
RDP AHF OVINR UDFHFQYVSQI,
OKQVFQ YVSQ FPIQ RDP
IQNPIU NAQ LVZDI.

Answer Page 4

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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!

	×		-		26
-			-		÷
	+		+		6
×		×		+	
	÷		+		10
16		10		11	

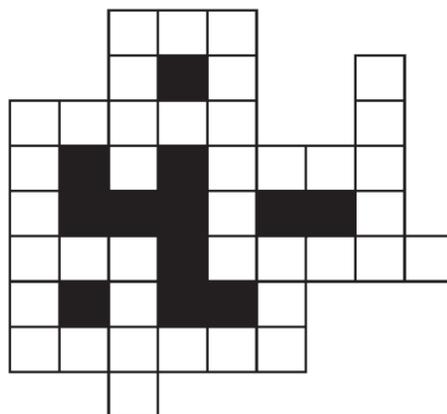
1 2 2 3 4 5 7 8 9

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Answer Page 4



- OB B
- ♥ KRREAM
- ♥ ADENK
- ♥ ASNP
- ♥ KRENAD
- KUA
- PBMU
- ♥ ORDEP
- ♥ ODN
- ♥ ABSIRD
- GEAMN
- NKRE



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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