



NEWSBRIEFS

Working states

With economic growth varying significantly from one state to another – California recently became the fifth largest economy in the world while Alaska has an unemployment rate over 6%, for instance – the personal-finance website WalletHub has released its report on *2019's Best & Worst State Economies* as well as accompanying videos. In order to determine America's top economic performers, WalletHub compared the 50 states and the District of Columbia across 28 key indicators of economic performance and strength. The data set ranges from GDP growth to startup activity to share of jobs in high-tech industries. Texas was number 12 in the study, ranking:

- 10th – GDP Growth
- 1st – Exports per Capita
- 8th – Startup Activity
- 21st – Percent of Jobs in High-Tech Industries
- 14th – Annual Median Household Income
- 9th – Change in Nonfarm Payrolls
- 30th – Government Surplus/Deficit per Capita
- 22nd – Unemployment Rate

Visit <https://wallethub.com/edu/states-with-the-best-economies/21697/> for the full report.

– Diana Polk

Basketball cities

With the NBA Finals under way and the league allowing teams to sell ad space on uniforms as of 2017, estimated to generate \$100 million to \$150 million in yearly revenue, the personal-finance website WalletHub has released its report on *2019's Best & Worst Cities for Basketball Fans* as well as accompanying videos. To find the best cities for professional- and college-basketball fans, WalletHub compared more than 290 of the largest cities across 21 key metrics, ranging from the performance level of each city's NBA and NCAA Division 1 basketball teams to ticket prices to stadium accessibility. El Paso ranked 212 in the study. Other info:

- New Orleans has the lowest average ticket price for an NBA game, \$30.20, which is 3.2 times less expensive than in New York, the city with the highest at \$97.77.
- The Golden State Warriors have the highest performance level among

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A successful man is one who has the horsepower of an optimist and the emency brakes of a pessimist.

– Quips & Quotes

Baron to talk on man's effect on habitat

By Alfredo Vasquez
Special to the Courier

EL PASO COUNTY – In the seemingly almost futile attempt to contribute not only to better understanding of the environment but also to advocate for greater involvement of scientists in policy development concerning the wise use of biological diversity, UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) has been promoting its Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Program since 1971.

To offer a localized perspective on man's effect on the environment through the lens of the MAB viewpoint, the El Paso Archaeological Society (EPAS) has invited archaeologist Larry Baron to be guest speaker for its next meeting, which is scheduled for 2 p.m., Saturday, June 15, at the El Paso Museum of Archaeology, 4301 Transmountain Road.

Baron, author of five published books, stated that his presentation will include archaeology and cultural anthropological information based on the MAB program of cultures. He explained that MAB provides a unique platform for cooperation on research and development, capacity-building and networking to share information, knowledge and experience on three interlinked issues: biodiversity loss, climate change, and sustainable development.

EPAS's guest speaker stated that he will provide updated information on the Raramuri natives, who live throughout Mexico's Sierra Madre's Copper Canyon, and the Tarahumara, a tribe that is vanishing from Northern Mexico and who are from the ancient Mogollon culture.



– Internet

THEIR WAY OF LIFE – EPAS's guest speaker Larry Baron stated that he will provide updated information on the Raramuri natives, above, who live throughout Mexico's Sierra Madre's Copper Canyon.

Baron said that he will also present a cross-cultural comparison of the Tarahumara, the MAB program of the Embera and Wonaan Indians of the Darien Jungle in Panama, the Yanomomo cultural biosphere in Venezuela, and the Chinese MAB program.

The noted speaker said that he plans to conclude his discussion with a brief overview of the Doctrine of Discovery and its present impact on today's American Native cultures. The Doctrine of Discovery established a spiritual, political, and legal justification for colonization and seizure of land not inhabited by Christians. It has been invoked since Pope Alexander VI issued the declaration in 1493.

As for MAB's intergovernmental scientific approach, it was designed to establish a scientific basis for the improvement of relationships between people and their environments. As of 2018, nearly 700 biosphere reserves in 122 countries, including 20 trans-

boundary sites, have been included in the World Network of Biosphere Reserves.

Since its inception, MAB proponents have engaged with the international development agenda and addressed challenges linked to scientific, environmental, societal and development issues in diverse ecosystems; from mountain regions to marine, coastal and island areas; from tropical forests to drylands and urban areas.

"MAB program develops the basis within the natural and social sciences for the rational and sustainable use and conservation of the resources of the biosphere and for the improvement of the overall relationship between people and their environment," states the UNESCO website. "It predicts the consequences of today's actions on tomorrow's world and thereby increases people's ability to efficiently manage natural resources for

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San Elizario school board sworn in

By Jeannie Meza-Chavez
Special to the Courier

SAN ELIZARIO – During a special meeting held on May 22, 2019, San Elizario ISD welcomed re-elected Trustees Irene Jaquez and Sandra Licon along with newly elected Trustees Eduardo Chavez, Michelle Garcia, and Myrna Hernandez. Judge Ruben Lujan presided over the swearing in ceremony.

Trustee Chavez is a Police Sergeant with the El Paso Police Department and is a "strong believer in service to others." Trustee Garcia previously served as a volunteer for SEISD and "is proud to serve the community she loves." Trustee Hernandez is a previous SEISD employee and also "loves the San Eli community where she feels everyone is friendly and inviting."

Other order of business was the election and installation of Board Officers. Licon,



– Photo courtesy San Elizario ISD

TAKING THE OATH – From left, Irene D. Jaquez, Sandra E. Licon, Eduardo Chavez, Michelle Garcia and Myrna Hernandez are sworn in as San Elizario ISD Trustees by Judge Ruben Lujan.

a business owner, was elected President. Jaquez, an educator, was elected vice-

president, and Mr. Fernie Madrid, a retail supervisor, was elected secretary.

Food for thought By Alieta Eck, M.D.

Why 'Medicare for All' is a pipe dream

As I listened to the Town Hall where Democratic Presidential candidate Bernie Sanders proclaimed his dream of Medicare for All, I realized that he was speaking in vague generalities that were void of realism. Medical care would be "free at the point of service with no co-pays." Would there be any brakes on the over-utilization of services? He had no answer. He thus needs to understand that the demand for medical services is limitless when other people are paying the bill.

dreams experienced by smokers of opium pipes. The suggestion that "Medicare for all" would save money is surely an example of a pipe dream promoted by politicians seeking votes.

Medicare has already become a system to be gamed. A Medicare patient went to an optometrist for new glasses, knowing that glasses are not covered under Medicare. When asked for an insurance card, she said she did not have insurance for glasses, but they wanted the Medicare card anyway.

She had a rather comprehensive examination, was given a new

prescription for lenses and proceeded to choose her frames and pay for her new glasses.

Several months later she received a "Medicare Summary Notice for Part B." Medicare was billed \$817.09, approved \$552.07, and paid out \$432.82. She was told that the maximum she may be billed would be \$110.41 or 20 percent of the approved amount. She never received a bill.

Rather shocked at those numbers, she looked more closely at the charges that were approved:

- 1) Eye and medical exam for diagnosis and treatment, new patient: \$147.01;
- 2) Photography of content of eyes: \$20.41;
- 3) Examination of right eye by ophthalmoscope with retinal drawing: \$26.01;
- 4) Examination of left eye by ophthalmoscope with retinal drawing: \$26.01;
- 5) Photography of the retina: \$58.17;
- 6) Microscopic evaluation of deep cells of the eye: \$40.24;
- 7) Ultrasound of eye disease,

growth, or structure (right): \$79.79;

8) Ultrasound of eye disease, growth, or structure (left): \$79.79; and

9) Measurement of field of vision during daylight conditions: \$74.64.

The claim was approved for a total of \$552.07 and Medicare paid a total of \$432.82.

All this for a healthy, asymptomatic patient who just needs new glasses! It is clear that Medicare has become a cash cow for enterprising "providers." This does not appear to be fraud, just creative billing for services that were not asked for and probably not needed. Medicare was willing to pay, but the self-paying patient might have been content with #1 only, unless it revealed a cause for concern. And what is #6? An ophthalmoscope is a microscope for examining the deeper structures (see #3 and #4), and a slit lamp is a microscope for looking at the structures in front. All eye examinations by an eye doctor would routinely include these for both eyes every time.

Waste, fraud, and abuse are rampant in the current Medicare system and would be multiplied ten-fold if everyone were to be included. The estimated price tag for "Medicare for All" would exceed our entire federal budget.

And what if you had an eye injury that really needed an emergency expert consultation? Medicare generally underpays for such services, and there is a liability risk if the patient does not have a perfect outcome. Why wouldn't eye doctors prefer to collect generous fees to both draw and photograph normal retinas during normal office hours?

Medicare is already bankrupt and need of serious reform of its bizarre billing system. Is a proposal to expand it to all a cynical politicians' power grab, supported by cash-hungry "providers"? Or are people in a delusional haze from literally smoking that pipe?

It's time for reality-based thinking.

Dr. Alieta Eck graduated from the Rutgers College of Pharmacy and the St. Louis University School of Medicine in St. Louis MO. She studied Internal Medicine at Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital in New Brunswick, NJ and has been in private practice with her husband, Dr. John Eck, MD, in Piscataway, NJ since 1988 (affordablehealthinc.org). She has been involved in health care reform since residency and is convinced that the government is a poor provider of medical care.



Moore Texas by Roger T. Moore

1932, Big Spring: A California tourist is cited by local police for "indecent exposure" for wearing shorts.

View from here By Dan Weber

Religious intolerance is un-American

Vice President Mike Pence stirred up quite an uproar over his remarks claiming prejudice against people of faith is on the rise. But, as Professor James Finck of the University of Science and Arts of Oklahoma, noted in a recent Opinion Article: "What is most interesting about religious intolerance today is that it is the last socially acceptable form of intolerance."

Remarks by progressives in Congress certainly appear to underscore the validity of Mr. Pence's warning that "it's become acceptable, and even fashionable to ridicule and discriminate" based on an individual's belief in God.

Remember when Senator Dianne Feinstein D-CA told Amy Coney Barrett during her circuit court hearings that "The dogma lives loudly within you, and that's of concern," implying that her religious beliefs might make her unsuitable to serve.

And then there was the incident last December when progressive Democrats, Senators Kamala D. Harris and Mazie Hirono, targeted judicial nominee Brian Buescher for his faith based convictions.

The growing acceptance of religious bigotry is a global issue of concern. But, it has a particularly disquieting impact in the U.S. at a time when it

is becoming trendy to promote ideologies such as socialism as a viable alternative to our constitutional federal republic.

Some conspiracy theorists might perceive the newfound love of a godless socialist system of government as designed ultimately to put the progressive left in charge of America's future. But, the fact is that the anti-religion movement got started when Americans began losing faith, something that has been happening for some time, according to Pew Research. In a report released a year ago Pew noted that the number of Americans who "have doubts about God's existence – or that they do not believe in God at all" continues to grow.

A number of other recent surveys seem to confirm that more than half of Americans don't consider religion important to them anymore. Just 43 percent of Americans viewed religion as a core component of their identity in 2018.

Meanwhile, anti-Semitism is on the rise in America. The Anti-Defamation League's Center on Extremism released new data recently, noting that 2018 was the third-highest year on record for attacks on Jews and Jewish institutions. There were 1,879 such incidents representing a

dangerously dramatic increase in such hate crimes.

Finally, in what is perhaps one of the most blatant assaults on Freedom of Religion, a bill has been introduced in the California Senate, SB 360, that seeks to directly interfere with an historic religious tenet. It would require a Catholic priest to report what a penitent reveals to him during confession. Confession is one of the most important sacraments in the Catholic faith. And, its confidential nature has been well recognized throughout history.

It might appear to be a one-off piece of legislation that would not impact the general right of Americans to practice their religions, whatever their beliefs. But the proposed law has insidious, more profound implications for all religions, according to Father Pius Pietrzyk, a professor of canon law. As he put it in an Opinion Article published in USA Today: "If this bill passes, no religion is safe. If a core principle as deeply ingrained in Catholic tradition and doctrine can be wiped away this easily by the state, no fundamental rights of religion or conscience are safe."

Dan Weber is president of the Association of Mature American Citizens.

WEST TEXAS COUNTY COURIER

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No apology needed on crime bill

Donald Trump and Bill de Blasio agree: Joe Biden should be ashamed of his support for the 1994 crime bill.

The bipartisan legislation that was long a point of pride for Bill Clinton, who signed it into law, is now in such malodor that CNN the other day identified it in a chyron as the "infamous" crime bill.

Trump says that African Americans won't vote for someone who supported the crime bill, which he calls a "dark period in American History" that Biden should apologize for. De Blasio, the no-hope presidential candidate, agrees, deeming the crime bill "a painful era in our nation's history."

Biden will have a lot of explaining to do about the bill, in the primaries and – now, it's clear – even in a potential general election.

The legislation was a mixed bag, representing the blunderbuss approach typical of sweeping bipartisan federal legislation. But the bill was, overall, a politically necessary response to a devastating decades-long crime wave.

It is our good fortune to have forgotten the visceral fear and loathing engendered by the crime wave beginning in the 1960s. Violent crime increased

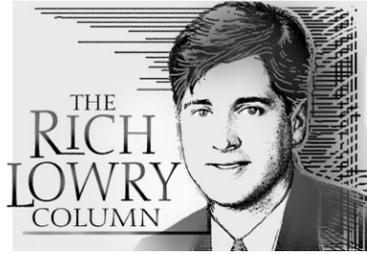
350 percent from 1960 to 1990. Criminologist Barry Latzer points out that from 1970 to 1995, almost 675,000 people were murdered in the United States, Civil War-level carnage.

Charles Lane of The Washington Post notes that 49 percent of people in 1994 said crime was the top problem in the country. This wasn't white voters alone. The crime bill had the support of nearly 60 percent of nonwhites. Thirty-nine black pastors signed a letter supporting the legislation, and 10 black mayors urged the Congressional Black Caucus to back it, which most members did.

The bill's funding of more police officers probably helped, and the emphasis on greater incarceration certainly did as well.

It's not true, as de Blasio says, that the "crime bill was one of the foundations of mass incarceration." Incarceration began to increase in the 1970s as the crime wave built, and the crime bill most directly affected the federal system, accounting for less than 10 percent of all prisoners.

According to a study by the National Academy of Sciences, the drivers of mass incarceration were increases in prison commitments per arrest and in time served. Time served for

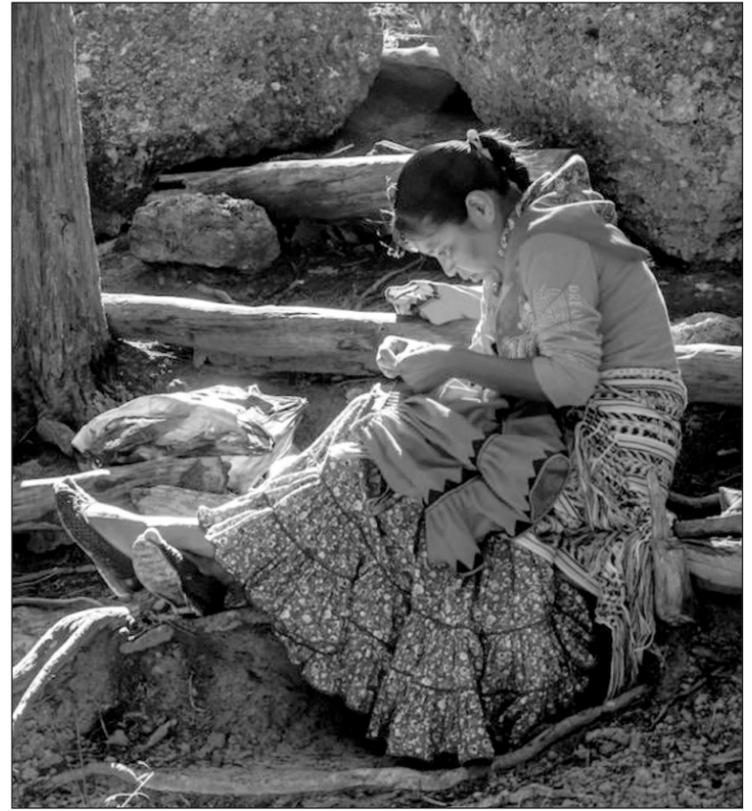


murder went from five years in 1981 to 16.9 years in 2000, and for sexual assault from 3.4 years in 1981 to 6.6 years in 2009.

It is true that the arrest rate for possession and use of drugs increased 162 percent from 1980 to 2006. We shouldn't exaggerate, though. At their height in 1990, drug offenders were about 20 percent of state prisoners and are currently less than 15%. Overall, the U.S. incarceration rate is now at its lowest in 20 years.

Almost any public policy has its trade-offs, and in the fullness of time, with crime having fallen so dramatically, it is natural that the priorities – and overkill – of the 1990s will look different. But no one should apologize for having worked to get dangerous people off the streets at a time when they were causing untold grief and rending the civic fabric of America.

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



– Internet

TALENTED TAILOR – EPAS's guest speaker Larry Baron will provide updated information on the Tarahumara, a tribe that is vanishing from Northern Mexico and who are from the ancient Mogollon culture. The Tarahumara woman, above, in a traditional flowery skirt and a colorful scarf is sewing clothes.

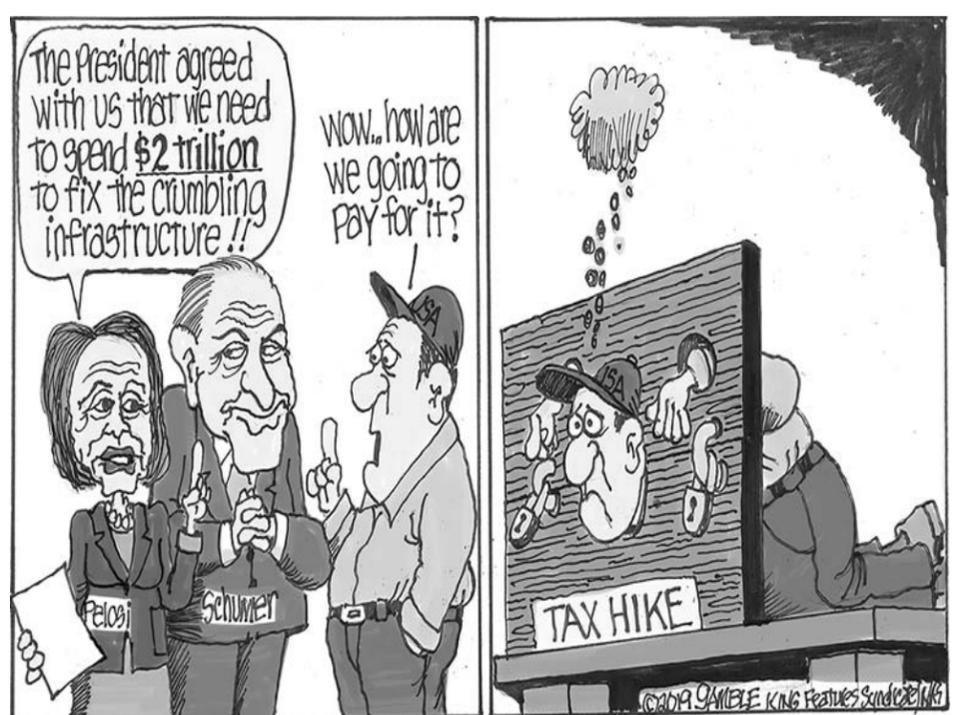
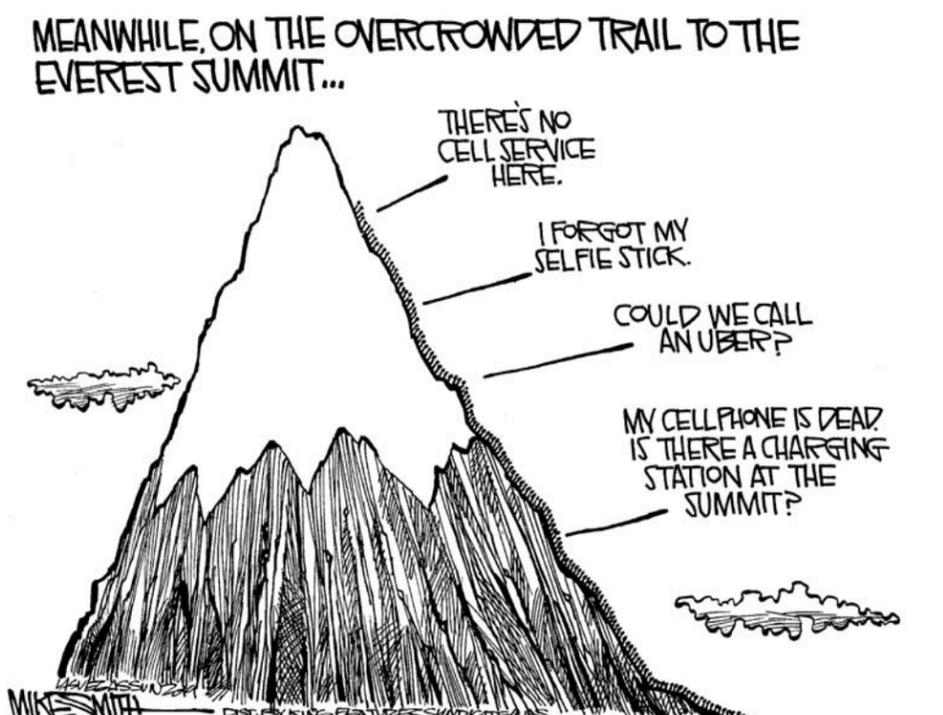
Baron

From Page 1

the well-being of both human populations and the environment."

Baron's talk is part of the lecture series hosted monthly by EPAS, which is a non-profit group founded in 1922. Membership is open to individuals and organizations interested in anthropology, archaeology and in the preservation of prehistoric and historic cultural resources. Membership information can be found on the

See BARON, Page 4



NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING TO DISCUSS BUDGET AND PROPOSED TAX RATE

The Socorro Independent School District will hold a public meeting at 6:00 PM. on Tuesday, June 18, 2019 in the District Service Center, Board Room, 12440 Rojas Dr., El Paso, Texas 79928. **The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the school district's budget that will determine the tax rate that will be adopted. Public participation in the discussion is invited.**

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

Maintenance Tax	\$0.970000/\$100 (Proposed rate for maintenance and operations)
School Debt Service Tax	
Approved by Local Voters	\$0.398954/\$100 (Proposed rate to pay bonded indebtedness)

Comparison of Proposed Budget with Last Year's Budget

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

Maintenance and Operations	5.25% Increase
Debt Service	22.34% Increase
Total Expenditures	5.61% Increase

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

	Preceding Tax Year	Current Tax Year
Total appraised value* of all property	\$ 13,087,258,406	\$ 14,170,025,443
Total appraised value* of new property**	\$ 418,615,509	\$ 448,348,067
Total taxable value*** of all property	\$ 10,424,743,489	\$ 11,294,151,696
Total taxable value*** of new property**	\$ 394,695,830	\$ 401,451,856

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

Bonded Indebtedness

Total amount of outstanding and unpaid bonded indebtedness* \$805,211,938

* Outstanding principal.

Comparison of Proposed Rates with Last Year's Rates

	Maintenance & Operations	Interest & Sinking Fund*	Total	Local Revenue Per Student	State Revenue Per Student
Last Year's Rate	\$ 0.981640	\$ 0.398954*	\$ 1.380594	\$ 3,196	\$ 6,428
Rate to Maintain Same Level of Maintenance & Operations Revenue & Pay Debt Service	\$ 0.952470	\$ 0.395640*	\$ 1.348110	\$ 3,193	\$ 6,347
Proposed Rate	\$ 0.970000	\$ 0.398954*	\$ 1.368954	\$ 3,265	\$ 6,776

*The Interest & Sinking Fund tax revenue is used to pay for bonded indebtedness on construction, equipment, or both.

The bonds, and the tax rate necessary to pay those bonds, were approved by the voters of this district.

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

	Last Year	This Year
Average Market Value of Residences	\$ 137,777	\$ 142,927
Average Taxable Value of Residences	\$ 112,339	\$ 117,367
Last Year's Rate Versus Proposed Rate per \$100 Value	\$ 1.380594	\$ 1.368954
Taxes Due on Average Residence	\$ 1,550.94	\$ 1,606.70
Increase (Decrease) in Taxes		\$ 55.76

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

Notice of Rollback Rate: The highest tax rate the district can adopt before requiring voter approval at an election is 1.368954. This election will be automatically held if the district adopts a rate in excess of the rollback rate of 1.368954.

Fund Balances

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

Maintenance and Operations Fund Balance(s)	\$ 47,553,590
Interest & Sinking Fund Balance(s)	\$ 13,325,521

UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Program

MAB focuses on sites internationally recognized within the World Network of Biosphere Reserves to:

- Identify and assess the changes in the biosphere resulting from human and natural activities and the effects of these changes on humans and the environment, in particular in the context of climate change;
- Study and compare the dynamic interrelationships between natural/near-natural ecosystems and socio-economic processes, in particular in the context of accelerated loss of biological and cultural diversity with unexpected consequences that impact the ability of ecosystems to continue to provide services critical for human well-being;
- Ensure basic human welfare and a live-able environment in the context of rapid urbanization and energy consumption as drivers of environmental change; and
- Promote the exchange and transfer of knowledge on environmental problems and solutions, and to foster environmental education for sustainable development.

Baron

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EPAS website <http://epas.com/membership.htm>.

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

For more information about the upcoming event contact EPAS media consultant Fernando Arias, at (915) 449-9075, or send email to nando79935@gmail.com.



CryptoQuip Answer

Dad made an effort not
to cause forest fires.
He claimed it's not nice
to fuel Mother Nature.



By Samantha Weaver

- "It is far better to grasp the Universe as it really is than to persist in delusion, however satisfying and reassuring."
— Carl Sagan
- You might be surprised to learn that some fish can hibernate. During the long, dark winters, the Antarctic cod will burrow under the seabed and stay there for days at a time, cutting its metabolism by two-thirds.
- Despite the fact that famed magician Harry Houdini exposed a number of mediums and psychics as frauds, Sherlock Holmes novelist Sir Arthur Conan Doyle persisted in believing that Houdini himself was a medium.
- In Germany, Rice Krispies don't say "Snap, Crackle, Pop"; they say "Knisper, Knasper, Knusper."
- Squid are well known for their uncanny ability to camouflage themselves by changing their color to match their background. What's really odd, though, is the fact that the creatures are color-blind.

• The word "conspire" means, literally, "to breathe together," meaning to be in harmony.

• Even though he was arrested and put on trial numerous times, famed 19th-century outlaw Frank James was never convicted of anything and never went to prison. He died in 1915, at the age of 72, of natural causes.

• Those who study such things say that not all your fingernails grow at the same rate. It seems the nail on your middle finger is a bit of an overachiever – it grows faster than the nails on your other fingers.

Thought for the Day: "Give all power to the many, and they will oppress the few. Give all power to the few, and they will oppress the many. Both therefore ought to have power, that each may defend itself against the other."
— Alexander Hamilton

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Moments in time

THE HISTORY CHANNEL

• On June 3, 1937, the duke of Windsor – formerly King Edward VIII – marries Wallis Warfield Simpson, the American divorcee for whom he abdicated the British throne in 1936.

• On June 4, 1919, the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, guaranteeing women the right to vote, is passed by Congress and sent to the states for ratification. On Aug. 18, 1920, Tennessee became the 36th state to ratify the amendment, giving it the two-thirds majority necessary to make it the law of the land.

• On June 5, 1942, President Franklin D. Roosevelt issues a stern statement warning Japan to stop using poison gas in its war on China. Japan continued its use of these weapons until the end of the war, managing to keep its activities secret.

• On June 6, 1971, "The Ed Sullivan Show" airs for the last time, 23 years after its 1948 premiere. Gladys Knight and the Pips were the musical guests.

• On June 7, 2002, Michael Skakel is convicted in the 1975 murder of his former neighbor, 15-year-old Martha Moxley, with a golf club. Skakel, a nephew of Ethel Kennedy, the wife of the late U.S. Senator Robert Kennedy, was sentenced to 20 years to life in prison. In 2018, the Connecticut Supreme Court vacated the conviction and ordered a new trial.

• On June 8, 1966, the rival National Football League (NFL) and American Football League (AFL) announce that they will merge. The first Super Bowl between the two leagues took place at the end of the 1966 season.

• On June 9, 1772, colonists, angered by the British Parliament's passing of the Townshend Acts restricting colonial trade, board and set ablaze the HMS Gaspee, an armed British customs schooner that had run aground. British officials found no one willing to identify those involved, and the inquiry closed without result.

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Briefs

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NBA teams, 80.49 percent, which is 2.9 times better than that of the Phoenix Suns, the team with the lowest at 27.64 percent.

• Miami, Florida, has the highest fan engagement for NBA teams, 45.21, which is 33.2 times higher than in New York, the city with the lowest at 1.36. Visit <https://wallethub.com/edu/best-worst-cities-for-basketball-fans/11034/> for the full report.

– Diana Polk

This little piggy

Picasso is quite the talented porcine. Fortunately, she was rescued from a South African slaughterhouse when she was just a piglet and handed over to the folks at an animal sanctuary. It was there that her talent for painting was discovered. Her art sells for thousands of dollars reports Reuters. The news agency notes that the money she earns is earmarked for animal welfare causes.

– John Grimaldi

Big, but not biggest

Harper Buckley who was born on March 15, 2019 in Elmira, NY weighing 15 pounds, 15 ounces at birth may hold the record for heaviest neonate ever born in New York State, according to her doctors. But the folks who chronicle world records at Guinness would consider her a lightweight. The world record holder was a boy who weighed in at a whopping 22 pounds when he was born at home in Saville, OH to 7 ft 11 in tall Anna Bates and her husband, Martin, who was just 7 ft 9 in tall.

– John Grimaldi

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING TO DISCUSS BUDGET AND PROPOSED TAX RATE

The San Elizario Independent School District will hold a public meeting at 10:00 A.M. on Wednesday, June 19, 2019 in the SEISD Administrative Office, 1050 Chicken Ranch Rd., San Elizario, Texas. **The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the school district's budget that will determine the tax rate that will be adopted. Public participation in the discussion is invited.**

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

Maintenance Tax	\$1.108900/\$100 (Proposed rate for maintenance and operations)
School Debt Service Tax	
Approved by Local Voters	\$0.117400/\$100 (Proposed rate to pay bonded indebtedness)

Comparison of Proposed Budget with Last Year's Budget

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

Maintenance and Operations	2.02% Decrease
Debt Service	5.84% Decrease
Total Expenditures	2.26% Decrease

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

	Preceding Tax Year	Current Tax Year
Total appraised value* of all property	\$ 338,605,691	\$ 354,853,654
Total appraised value* of new property**	\$ 5,636,811	\$ 5,492,839
Total taxable value*** of all property	\$ 238,347,782	\$ 251,794,406
Total taxable value*** of new property**	\$ 5,337,402	\$ 5,241,080

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

Bonded Indebtedness

Total amount of outstanding and unpaid bonded indebtedness* \$26,890,000

* Outstanding principal.

Comparison of Proposed Rates with Last Year's Rates

	Maintenance & Operations	Interest & Sinking Fund*	Total	Local Revenue Per Student	State Revenue Per Student
Last Year's Rate	\$ 1.108900	\$ 0.117400*	\$ 1.226300	\$ 839	\$ 9,574
Rate to Maintain Same Level of Maintenance & Operations Revenue & Pay Debt Service	\$ 1.175260	\$ 0.259720*	\$ 1.434980	\$ 1,100	\$ 9,701
Proposed Rate	\$ 1.108900	\$ 0.117400*	\$ 1.226300	\$ 876	\$ 9,590

*The Interest & Sinking Fund tax revenue is used to pay for bonded indebtedness on construction, equipment, or both.

The bonds, and the tax rate necessary to pay those bonds, were approved by the voters of this district.

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

	Last Year	This Year
Average Market Value of Residences	\$ 77,799	\$ 79,842
Average Taxable Value of Residences	\$ 44,288	\$ 47,615
Last Year's Rate Versus		
Proposed Rate per \$100 Value	\$ 1.226300	\$ 1.226300
Taxes Due on Average Residence	\$ 543.10	\$ 583.90
Increase (Decrease) in Taxes		\$ 40.80

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

Notice of Rollback Rate: The highest tax rate the district can adopt before requiring voter approval at an election is 1.230200. This election will be automatically held if the district adopts a rate in excess of the rollback rate of 1.230200.

Fund Balances

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

Maintenance and Operations Fund Balance(s)	\$ 10,551,435
Interest & Sinking Fund Balance(s)	\$ 138,504

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Health

From Page 7

fingers and toes. There is a long list of causes of Raynaud phenomenon. Often, no cause is ever found (in which case it is called primary Raynaud, which just means we don't know what's causing it).

The most common known causes are the autoimmune rheumatic diseases, especially scleroderma, lupus and Sjogren's syndrome. Hypothyroidism is an unusual cause, and some drugs can cause it as well. The current thinking is that primary RP is caused by abnormalities in the alpha receptors in blood vessels (alpha receptors respond to adrenaline and similar

molecules).

Keeping the whole body – and especially the hands – warm is the first step. Sudden temperature changes can trigger the effect. Warming the hands in warm water at the onset of an attack can stop it. Anxiety makes it worse, so a positive attitude can really affect this condition. Medications, such as amlodipine, may be necessary for prevention in more severe cases.

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

The VA, Medicare and opiod abuse



by Freddy Groves

Half of veterans who are enrolled in Department of Veterans Affairs health care also are signed up with Medicare Part D. What that means is they can get their prescriptions from either the VA or Medicare through a civilian doctor... or too often from both. Until now there has been no way to tell if a veteran was collecting opioids from both sources.

A recent study looked at 200 patients who died and 800 others, categorizing them as VA only, Medicare only or both. Of these, 60 patients who died and 117 control patients had received opioid prescriptions from both sources. They had a much higher chance of dying from

drug overdose than those who received drugs from only the VA or Medicare.

Granted, these stats are from 2012 and 2013, but it does indicate a very likely pattern – patients who are able to get painkillers from two sources just might use both.

Now the VA and Medicare have hooked up with a program to monitor drug prescriptions, including opioids. The VA will be able to keep an eye on drugs prescribed by health-care sources outside the VA and will know if anyone has been prescribed double the amount.

What the press release doesn't say is just how the VA plans to monitor the drug prescriptions. Will it have access to a patient's file at a civilian doctor? Will it have access to the Medicare computer? Or the pharmacy? Between the doctor, the pharmacy and Medicare, at what point will the VA know

what's being prescribed?

And if a drug is doubly prescribed for a veteran, what is the VA going to do about it?

The biggest question of all: Will this require new computer software at the VA? If so, it could take some time.

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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: O equals D

ORO AROM RB MZZQFD BQD
DQ WRXJM ZQFMJD ZLFMJ.
UM WGR LAMO LD'J BQD BLWM
DQ ZXMG AQDUMF BRDXFM.

Answer Page 4

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

◆◆◆ 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!

	÷		+		10
×		+		+	
	×		-		9
-		×		-	
	×		-		16
8		20		13	

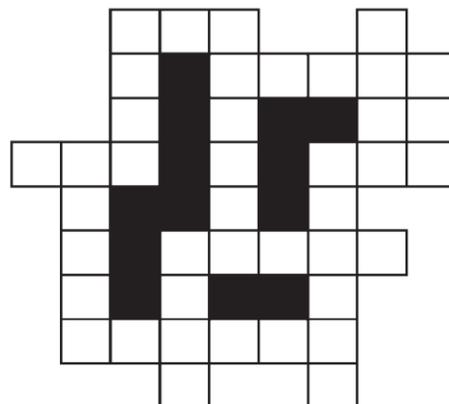
1 2 3 4 4 5 6 8 9

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Answer Page 4



- TYS
- ♥ SUSITE
- ♥ BRUSE
- ♥ TWSE
- ♥ YIBNAR
- TBI
- ESTU
- ♥ SITNE
- BEW
- DEWSYA
- WYLBA
- ♥ BYSU



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

Answer Page 5



• "If you paint your kitchen cabinets, be sure that you label each door and drawer exactly where it goes. It can be really hard to figure it out, and the holes might not line up perfectly. Also, save hardware in baggies to keep it all together."
– R.U. in Montana

• "To clean the outsides of our windows, we mixed vinegar and hot water and added a couple drops of dish soap. Then I used a microfiber cloth to scrub the window and its surrounding casing. We rinsed them with the hose and used the squeegee I keep in my car to get the water drops off. They look great!"
– Y.D. in Arkansas

• Wash your reusable shopping bags from time to time, either in the washing machine on the delicate cycle or hand wash in the sink. Hang to dry.

• How much money should you have in an emergency cash fund? Experts say that at a minimum, you should have three months' worth of necessary expenses (home payment, utilities, food and gas, minimum debt payments, etc.) in an accessible form. This means you can't count the value of assets or stocks you own, nor any retirement funds. This sounds hard because it is, but it could make the difference between success or failure in an emergency.

• "I purchase a big pack of bottled water at my discount club. I keep it in the trunk, and it seems there are always opportunities for a bottle. I keep a few in a lunch tote, which actually keeps them cool in the hot car, even without an ice pack."
– C.L. in Maryland

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