Readers Letters

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IT'S CLIMATE CHANGE, NOT DROUGHT

Anything I say here, any way I write this, many will consider me a crackpot. OK!

We are facing a disaster beyond any proportions mankind has ever seen. Think for yourselves. Look how our environment has deteriorated the last 50 years.

The great deserts of the Southwest are advancing north, as precipitation drops each year. Weather patterns across North America are changing.

Forest fire's are happening in France, Spain and Greece. England experiences 100 degree plus, temperatures. Even the great rivers of Europe are drying up. Most recently a massive section of a Himalayan glacier collapsed. It resulted in an immense landslide so violent it registered as a 5.2 magnitude earthquake.

Every year the environment deteriorates faster than ever before. At the present rate, we do not have another 50 years before we experience disastrous, life ending events on earth.

Vital animal life is disappearing. When did you last see a frog, a toad, a Monarch Butterfly? As the lower end of the food chain dies off, the chain will get shorter until it reaches us.

There are fewer animals to pollinate plants. Bees, bats butterfly's, ect., populations plummet.

Oceans are polluted. The great fisheries are dwindling as ocean waters warm and currents shift.

There are 8.3 billion people on earth. Do you realize the current food supply would only last about 6 months is there was a collapse in food production.

And what about all the by-products that go along with 8.3 billion people.

I do not have specific answers. I put forth to you the questions. No more turning a blind eye and ignoring the obvious.

It's ok to talk each other about this. Really! You need to start talking. Begin reading, begin awareness. Begin questioning leaders at all the levels of government.

Earth will always be here. But as I said before, we are fast approaching life ending events for mankind.

Sincerely, respectfully

Skip Bennett
"Skip the Barber"
T-or-C, NM

CAT LOVERS

There are so many gentle hearted folk here taking care of the many "stray" cats and kittens in the neighborhoods… they regularly buy significant amounts of cat food and keep an eye on the cat's wellbeing… Some even buy the fancy canned type. Here's the problem: I found this cat, in the driveway Sunday morning before 6AM. It was struggling for breath and weak… I tried to get the can off but it was stuck. I picked up the cat with a thick towel, put it in a box and called for help. The dispatcher said she would let the deputy know (animal control would not be in this early) but then there was a higher priority call….

Near 8:00 a man who lives close by was able to cut the can and free the cat. Maybe it would be a better choice (if you buy these tall cans) to just put the food on the ground, and put the can in a garbage can with a secure lid. The neighborhood cats will still love it.

s/Gwen Hamidou
gwenhamidou@yahoo.com
T-or-C, NM 87901

ABORTION IS MURDER, NOT HEALTHCARE.

This editorial is taken from a speech that I gave protesting Deb Haaland's event at Ingo's Cafe on 8/24/26.

New Mexico allows for abortion up until the time of birth. We are one of only nine states that allow for this. Anyone who supports this law is a murderer.

All five New Mexico US representatives voted No on the Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act. This law stated that when an abortion results in a live birth, the child deserves immediate medical care and protection. These five said, "No, they don't." Abomination!

During a late-term procedure, a living baby is partially delivered feet-first through the birth canal until the lower body is out or the skull is lodged in the cervix, after which the skull is crushed or punctured to complete the extraction

The Catholic Church teaches that all dead unbaptized babies go to the fires of hell.

This was infallibly taught by the Catholic Church by Pope Saint Zosimus in 418. Pope Saint Zosimus, AD 418: I quote from the Sixteenth Council of Carthage Canon 3.1.

"If any man says that in the kingdom of heaven or elsewhere there is a certain middle place, where children who die unbaptized live in bliss (beate vivant), whereas without baptism they cannot enter into the kingdom of heaven, that is, into eternal life, let him be anathema. For when the Lord says: 'Unless a man be born again of water and the Holy Spirit, he shall not enter into the kingdom of God', what Catholic will doubt that he will be a partner of the devil who has not deserved to be a coheir of Christ? For he who lacks the right part will without doubt run to the left. (Mt. 25:41)"

St. Augustine also teaches this:

St. Augustine, AD 415 Letter 166, 21, 25: "That infants are born under the guilt of this offense [original sin] is believed by the whole Church. Let no one hold any opinion contrary to the manifest belief of the Apostle. That they are damned if the so depart the body without baptism into the Catholic Church is the testimony of the Holy Scripture and of Holy Church."

Recently on a July 20, 2026 X post Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham openly bragged about New Mexico's role as an abortion destination, boasting in a new social media post that more than 11,500 babies were slaughtered and sent to hell in the state in 2024

"At a time when reproductive health care access continues to disappear across the country, New Mexico is still holding the door open. We've worked to protect patients, support providers and preserve access to care. Those efforts helped make New Mexico a trusted destination for care, with more than 11,500 patients receiving abortion services in 2024, including thousands who traveled from states where access was severely restricted. Protecting healthcare access means ensuring people can get the care they need, when they need it, and continuing to invest in the providers and facilities that serve communities across our state."

Here's what our Lord has to say about this. From Isaias 5:20

"Woe to you that call evil good, and good evil: that put darkness for light, and light for darkness: that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter." (Isa. 5:20)

And Proverbs 2:13-14.

"Who leave the right way, and walk by dark ways: Who are glad when they have done evil, and rejoice in most wicked things:" (Prv. 2:13-14)

And lastly Philippians 3:19.

"Whose end is destruction; whose God is their belly; and whose glory is in their shame; who mind earthly things." (Phili. 3:19)

Let's talk about the abortion pill mifepristone. More than half of U.S. abortions are done via the abortion pill. They are four times more dangerous than surgical abortions. Studies reveal that as many as 20% of all medication abortions result in complications. Medication abortion ends the life of a human being by starving the growing embryo or fetus of nourishment and then expelling its body from its mother's womb. At this stage of human life, facial features and fingernails are forming, the heartbeat can be heard on an ultrasound, and brain activity can be detected. Women that have done this procedure have reportedly said, "Clots the size of lemons were coming out of me."

Again, abortion is murder, not health care.

For your ONLY hope of salvation please visit www.JohnTheBaptist.us

s/William Norris,
WilliamGeorgeNorris@gmail.com
(Over 250 words paid)

– Financial Focus –

Debunking Five Common Social Security Myths

Krystie Wear

Social Security is often one of the most important income sources in retirement. Yet widespread myths about how it works can lead to confusion, unnecessary worry and poor planning decisions. Here's the truth behind five of the most common misconceptions.

Myth 1: Social Security is going broke. You've probably heard this one, but the full picture is more nuanced. According to the 2026 Social Security Board of Trustees Report, if Congress does nothing, the program would need to reduce benefits starting in 2032, paying roughly 78 cents for every dollar owed.

But that's just one scenario. Congress could raise the combined payroll tax from 12.4% to 16.65%, which the trustees estimate would secure full benefits through 2100. Other options include eliminating the earnings cap subject to payroll tax or adjusting retirement ages. Lawmakers have tools to address this.

Myth 2: Social Security will cover all your retirement needs. Think of Social Security as a financial foundation, not the full building. According to the Social Security Administration, benefits replace only about 40% of pre-retirement income for a median earner. That means you'll likely need to account for most of your retirement income yourself. Building a strong personal savings strategy now can help close that gap.

Myth 3: You lose benefits permanently if you keep working. Not true. Social Security does have an "earnings test" that can temporarily reduce benefits for people who claim early and keep working. If your earnings exceed a set annual cap – which changes each year – Social Security will withhold a portion of your benefits. But once you reach full retirement age, the Social Security Administration adjusts your monthly check higher to repay those withheld amounts over time.

Myth 4: An ex-spouse's benefits come out of your own. If you were married for at least 10 years and are currently unmarried, your former spouse may be eligible to collect on your earnings record, or you may be able to collect on theirs. Divorced spouse benefits can be up to 50% of the other person's full retirement benefit. But those payments don't affect yours. Your monthly benefit is not reduced by anything paid to an ex-spouse or even a current spouse.

Myth 5: Social Security benefits are no longer taxed. Recent legislation caused some confusion here. The One Big Beautiful Bill Act did not eliminate taxes on Social Security benefits. If your combined income exceeds certain thresholds, you'll still owe taxes on a portion of your benefits.

The law also created a temporary deduction (available through 2028) for people 65 and older. Eligible taxpayers can deduct $6,000 per qualifying filer if their modified adjusted gross income is $75,000 or less for singles or $150,000 for couples. The deduction phases out at $175,000 for singles and $250,000 for joint filers.

The more you understand Social Security, the more control you have over your retirement outcome. Grounding your decisions in facts rather than assumptions can make a meaningful difference in your long-term financial security.

[This article was written by Edward Jones and provided by Krystie Wear, your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor, 405 North Date St. T-or-C, NM, 575-894-9054.]. Edward Jones, Member SIPC

Dear Boss

Each Monday we have a team meeting. We talk about what's ahead for that week, the month, what we did right the past week, what could've been better and sometimes (lots of times) we laugh.

This week we spent a great deal of time trying to come up with ways to overcome the seemingly unsurmountable negativity that is brewing in our community. You and I have talked about it before. It is a plague!

It seems as though we can no longer agree to disagree. Many feel they must use whatever platform the digital world provides to completely bash and attempt to destroy someone they don't like, or like the way they are doing something, and with such malice and hatefulness. It seems as though there is hate and buried in each word they type, with no thought that this person could be a neighbor, is someone's mother, friend, son, etc.

Shortly after our meeting I saw a sign that I hope will serve as a reminder to all of us. "They said: 'why is it important bo be kind?' I said: 'Because we walk past hundreds of people every day and none of them wear signs saying "I'm grieving," or "I'm exhausted," or "I'm barely holding it together." But hurt people are everywhere. Kindness might be the only softness they receive today."

Fast forward just a few hours to the City's water shutdown and there were keyboard warriors actually spewing hate on the City's hardworking PIO, as well as the administrators of one of Sierra County's gem's, the Sierra County Square (Facebook Page).

It is because of hateful, needless comments, and a total lack of disrespect that she had to turn off comments on the informational posts. Then these same hateful individuals slam others because about 1,000 people have been blocked from a page for their lack of self-restraint and respect for others.

I will add that the informational posts were all shared to the Sentinel's page (where no individual block exist). We are the original information source for Sierra County and do our best to encourage respectful engagement.

In short friends, it goes back to the golden rule. Treat others as you want to be treated. Be kind to one another and quit with the negativity and hatefulness. FL

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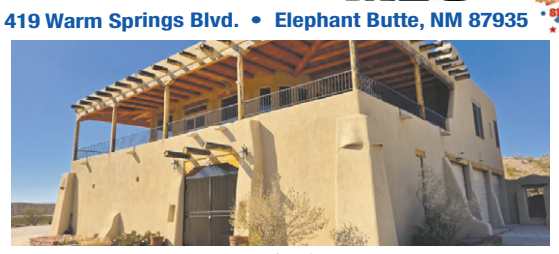

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Dylan Cunnington ..... Graphic Design Mgr./Web
Kimmy Neeley .....Office Manager
Jim Shiley ..... School/Sports Reporter
Steve Mull ..... Reporter
Anayeli Portillo-Zamora ..... Freelance Reporter
Marsha Wright ..... Billing
Tim Kuzdrowski.....Social Media Assistant

217 East Third, Truth or Consequences, NM 87901 • (575) 894-3088
website: gpkmedia.com • email: sentinelofficemgr@gmail.com
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