

## on gpkmedia.com • B6 Sierra County Sentinel • May 15, 2025

# Opinion

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## **LISTENING IS NOT AGREEMENT**

We used to know how to talk with people we disagreed with. Somewhere along the way, listening started to feel suspicious like a quiet form of surrender.

But listening isn't agreement. It's not weakness. It's not giving in

Real listening says: I trust myself enough to hear you out. It's an act of presence, not permission. It doesn't change who we are - but it might change what we understand

These days, conversation can feel like walking a tightrope. I don't talk politics with my family anymore - not because I've given up, but because the moment feels lost before it begins. Their voices echo the news, and I never quite feel heard - just waited out.

I've seen how quickly conviction turns to volume. A raised voice, framed as "passion," can become a wall instead of a bridge. When someone speaks more to overpower than to understand, it doesn't deepen the dialogue – it ends it.

Part of the problem is fear. We fear being misunderstood, challenged, or changed. Online spaces reward outrage, not openness. And in polarized times, even listening can feel like betrayal.

But research tells us something powerful: when people feel attacked, they cling tighter to their beliefs. When they feel heard, they soften. Being heard is so close to being loved that for the average person, they are almost indistinguishable.

So what if we tried something different?

What if we paused before reacting? Asked one sincere question before offering our opinion? Practice staying curious, even when it's hard?

Real conversations are slow, imperfect, and deeply human. People don't change because they're corrected. They change because they're heard.

We may not always agree – but maybe we can remember how to stay in the room together.

s/Aster Lumen stellarscribe.info@gmail.com T-or-C, NM

## **A THANKS TO OUR POLICE OFFICERS WHO RISK THEIR LIVES FOR US**

All of us of Mary's Little Remnant would like to thank all the police officers for the heroic work they do for us citizens every day.

tist.us website. The menu can be accessed in the Conspiracies menu. In those videos, I defend police officers against the criminals and the corrupt major media and judicial system.

For your only hope of salvation, please visit the www.John-TheBapitst.us website.

s/ Richard Joseph Michael Ibranyi IbranyiRichard@Gmail.com T-or-C, NM



### By Jim Shiley SENTINEL ©Copyright 2025 Sierra County Sentinel

## THANK YOU TIGER TOWN

As many of you know I recently had a very frightening dance with death and spent three weeks in critical care at Memorial Medical Center in Las Cruces. You may have noticed my absence from these pages. There were several people who stepped up to fill the space and to provide coverage of our Tigers while I was gone. They are my heroes.

From being frighteningly close to death on March 31 when I went into hospital until now, it's been a struggle and still has big challenges. But I am slowly getting back to what I do. I will be writing and photographing slowly at first but building back. My goal is to be up to speed in time to cover Graduation as I have nine other times now. There will be some longer-term challenges to be met, and I will still need help with some things.

Here however, I mostly wanted to give my deepest heartfelt thanks to all those in Tiger Town, all of you who have almost overwhelmed me with your support, assistance, prayers and so many messages of compassion. It has been truly humbling. It brightens my heart to be a part of such an incredible community. From friend and boss Frances, who insisted I go to the emergency room, and in doing so saved my life, there are many to thank. Just a few will be named here. Yarrow and Samantha both stayed in regular contact while I was hospitalized and since have provided me with groceries and some amazing homemade meals. Coach Chavez lent me the walker that I am now only occasionally needing to use.



Krystie Wear

survey. And the same survey showed that a third of households couldn't cover one month's worth of bills if they lost a job or other source of income.

What's behind this savings gap? Several factors are involved, including the high cost of housing. But while you can't control these external forces, you may be able to increase your savings by taking these steps:

Create a budget — and stick with it. Following a budget is not everyone's idea of fun, but it can be of great use in managing your spending, which, in turn, can help you save more. You can find many free budgeting apps that allow you to track your spending and place it into categories. Once you know where your money is going, you may find it easier to cut back in certain areas, such as possibly eliminating streaming services you don't use much.

Pay yourself first. Like everyone, you have a lot of bills to pay each month. But why not pay yourself first? Even if you can't put away a lot of money, any amount will help. And you can make it easier on yourself by having some funds moved automatically each month from your checking or savings account into a liquid, low-risk account - one you don't use for your everyday expenses. Over

## - FINANCIAL FOCUS -

How Can You Boost Your Savings?

It might not be on your caltime, as your income goes up, you can increase the endar, but America Saves amounts in these automatic transfers. Week is observed from April 7–11. Are you saving enough? already use a credit card that provides you with If not, how can you save cash back on purchases. But did you know you can more? also download cash-back apps? Like cash-back

If you don't think you're saving enough, you're not alone. Just 22% of Americans are completely satisfied with the amount of money they've saved, according to a recent Yahoo Finance/Marist Poll

> easier said than done, but the more you can reduce your debts, the more money you'll be able to save. You can choose to tackle the debt with the highest interest rate or get rid of the smallest debts first, but whichever method you choose, try

for buying certain items.

to be as diligent as you can. You also might be able to consolidate your debts — but be careful, because not all debt consolidation offers will work in your favor.

Take advantage of "cash-back" offers. You may

credit cards, these apps give you a percentage of

your spending back, helping you save money on

many of your regular purchases, such as groceries

and gas. You can even find apps that offer promo-

tions that let you earn more at specific times or

Cut down — or consolidate — your debts. It's

Get some help. Your employer may provide an employee assistance program that offers, among other benefits, credit counseling and other types of financial guidance. You may want to contact a financial professional who can take a holistic look at your situation and offer recommendations on saving, investing and goal setting.

It's always important to save money — but it's not always easy. However, by exploring every avenue available to you, you may be able to improve your saving skills to the point where they can make a real difference in your life.

[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

Likely that will be returned in a couple weeks.

There were many visitors to my room at the hospital. My memory of some of that time is a little hazy, but I want you to know, every visit, every text, every prayer and positive energy sent my way helped more than you could imagine. People brought me cards and balloons, and I now have three new stuffed animal friends. It touched my heart. It humbles me.

There are a couple more visitors I want to mention. Most who know me will not be surprised to see that they are kids I have covered during their time as Tigers, though they have recently graduated and in Las Cruces going to university. Abigail and Mikayla visited my hospital room several times, bringing food and smiles. I could talk with them or simply lay silent. I did not need to hide my wildly fluctuating emotions. Abie even read to me.

Then there is Kalista. How can I begin to express my thanks. Kalista, sometimes with Miguel, visited me every day. Every single day of my three-week stay. She helped my daughters who flew in to be with me, she helped with texting and making sure people were updated and so much more.

Most of all, I am eternally thankful for the entire amazing Tiger Town community. The outpouring of support is truly overwhelming and humbling and fills me with pride for our community and that I might be a part of that community.

But I am back, slowly and steadily more, I am back. My promise is to continue covering, writing about and photographing the amazing kids of Sierra County, our truest treasure. To document their teams and activity groups and individual achievements to the best of my ability.

All that and more, this Tiger says Thank YOU, Tiger Town. 'Nuff said? Darn straight.

## THE SENTINEL

Your Hometown Newspaper Serving Sierra County Since 1967



Some of you have expressed in recent weeks that my column has gotten boring, with nothing but good news. A few have asked why I haven't "gotten onto anyone lately.

I will tell you that I would always rather talk about good news and be positive than have to shed light on someone not doing as they are supposed to. Holding people accountable isn't fun! It is part of the job, and while I'd love it if good news sold as much as bad news, it doesn't.

So this week, quick quote, "the good news is that the bad news can be turned into good news when you change your attitude." Robert H. Schuller

I encourage you to find the good in everything this coming week. Look at the positive, smile in the face of diversity, show others kindness and love. FL

With More News Every Week!

I nank you for keeping law and order and for keeping us safe.

They risk their lives for us, such as the recent attack in T-or-C on 5/6/2025 at the Chevron Station, in which a thug shot a police officer. Thank God the police officer survived, and thank God they killed the criminal.

Yes, anyone who tries to kill a police officer should be killed. That is not only justice, but mercy for deterring others from even thinking of killing a police officer. It also preserves law and order because respect and fear of police officers is what preserves law and order.

But a no thanks to the judicial system when it coddles criminals and ignores or even vilifies victims. It encourages lawlessness and disorder and endangers the lives of police officers and law abiding citizens. One cannot count the number of crimes that would have been prevented if the judicial system did its job the right way. It has blood on its hands.

See my videos on my 'Black Criminals, Racists, and Radicals' menu on my www.JohnTheBap-





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#### **806 SIERRA VISTA**

This home is ideally situated on the edge of town. offering easy access to both nature and convenience. Hiking trails, gun range and the city golf course are just a short hike away. This is a great location access to the outdoors. The home is cozy yet functional, with stunning views of the local mountains and amazing sunsets. The layout of the home is open and inviting, with a comfortable living space that flows into a well-equipped kitchen—perfect for both cooking and entertaining. The outdoor space is sim-le but ideal for enjoying the fresh air. Whether ple but ideal for enjoying the fresh air. Whether you're grilling on the back porch or just relaxing with a cup of coffee, the views will always be right there to enjoy. Plus, the location puts you close to everything—shopping, dining, and other amenities are just a quick drive away, making it easy to enjoy both the outdoor lifestyle and the conveniences of modern living. Priced at \$435,120.



**CHARMING HOME!** 

Check out this charming 2 or 3-bedroom home, perfect for entertaining, located on a spacious lot with stunning views of Elephant Butte Lake! Enjoy privacy with a full perimeter fence. This lake retreat features 2 bathrooms, durable ceramic tile flooring, and modern GEO refrigerated air conditioning with gas central forced heating. Remodeled in 2022, the home boasts updated plumbing, electrical, HVAC, windows, and doors. The inviting family room includes a bay window and an electric fireplace, offering picturesque views of the backyard and lake. The master bedroom is complemented by a large sitting area and an en-suite bathroom, with French doors leading to a relaxing backyard patio. A front office with separate outdoor access adds functionality, perfect for working from home or welcoming guests. Additional features include a 10' x 20' shed/workshop with two lofts, a chicken coop with a secure fenced area, and a metal duck pond. RV enthusiasts will appreciate the 30- and 50-amp hookups. With ample space for recreation and storage, this property is a must-see! Schedule a visit today and envision your lakeside lifestyle! Call Earl 505.350.1155 X cegreer MLS#20252590



**RURAL HOME!** 

Looking for a spacious rural property with facilities for livestock or equestrian activities-HERE IT IS. Two 3 bdrm 2 bath homes on 20 acres! Includes 30X40 steel garage with two 10' doors; 20X25 hay barn; 1000 sq ft barn with corrals; 22X26 barn; 144X275 roping arena with chute; 11x14 work shed and 10X11 storage shed; in addition there are 2 manufactured homes 624' and 840' used as storage and workshops. Both homes boast a spacious open floor plan with breakfast nook off kitchen; main home is complete with formal dining room, family room and formal living room, there is also a "man cave/she shed" or 4th bdrm all in old west motif and metal roof; second home is contemporary styling with views of the roping arena off front deck; This hacienda offers excellent access to nearby amenities like hospital, school, shopping, Elephant Butte lake, hot mineral spas and Gila National Forest. It is close to Interstate 25 and located near Mud Mountain, offering a scenic and convenient rural living experience-an impressive rural estate! Take a look! Call Earl 505.350.1155 "X" cegreer. MLS#20246847

## 217 East Third, Truth or Consequences, NM 87901 (575) 894-3088 • Fax (575) 894-3998

#### website: gpkmedia.com • email: sentinelofficemgr@gmail.com

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