



Butterworth: Improving mental health services

In El Paso, members of the El Paso Behavioral Health Consortium in conjunction with the Paso del Norte Health Foundation are working to transform the current behavioral health-care system into an ideal, accessible, person-centered system of care.

Organizations, agencies, and providers are coming together to eliminate the negative bias associated with mental illness and building lasting collaboration for comprehensive mental health services.

Did you know that as many Texans today struggle in their own lives and the lives of their friends and families with mental illness as cancer?

Here in El Paso, this means that over 150,000 residents and their families are dealing with challenges like anxiety, depression, or other mental, behavioral or emotional illness.

I am proud of the collaborative work of the El Paso Behavioral Health Consortium in identifying community-based best practice solutions to address the most pressing effects of this great need in our region.

ADVERTISING

At the state level, Texas House Speaker Joe Straus recently announced the formation of the Select House Committee on Mental Health which has great potential to help in our endeavor.

This Select Committee will undertake a comprehensive examination of Texas' behavioral health systems for children and adults prior to the 2017 legislative session.

Our own state Rep. Joe Moody will serve as vice-chair of the select committee. He brings to the dialogue expertise related to veterans and criminal justice, two topics that are inextricably connected to mental health concerns.

The select committee has been charged with reviewing the state's overlapping and fragmented behavioral health systems, including those for substance use disorder treatment; recommending ways to improve outcomes through early identification of mental illness; and increasing collaboration.

Members also will identify what our state should be measuring to ensure accountability to taxpayers for the investments they make.

Finally, the committee will take a close look at underserved and rural areas and special populations like veterans and the homeless.

At the national level, Congressman Beto O'Rourke is working on the mental health needs of veterans.

El Paso has an acute need for effective and accessible services for veterans and their families. Congressman O'Rourke and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs are in the process of addressing this need via a multifaceted VA/community partnership.

Children are of particular concern in the El Paso region.

Over half of mental illnesses begin by age 14. A recent study showed that about 44,000 local children and adolescents need care for mental health or substance use disorder issues. About 13,000 of them are in poverty, and only about two in five end up receiving formal behavioral health care.

There is one enormous obstacle keeping us from being able to help children, veterans and others who need mental health services: Texas' chronic shortage of mental health professionals.

Until we address this crisis, those seeking mental health care will not be able to access the services they need, when they need them.

I hope you will join me in following closely the work of the Select Committee on Mental Health. The Texas Legislature has wisely invested additional funding and other resources in the behavioral health system over the past few legislative sessions.

Now is the time to review and reflect on those investments and chart the course ahead to ensure that Texans have access to the mental health care they need and deserve.

Sharon Butterworth of El Paso is a mental health advocate and member of the Texas Health and Human Services Council.

Sharon Butterworth, Guest columnist 9:06 p.m. MT Jan. 23, 2016

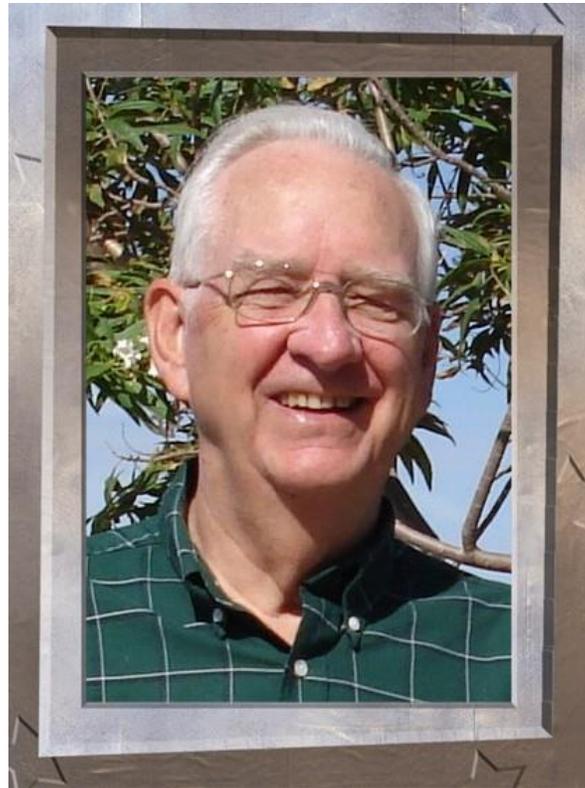


[Who Killed Barry Crane?](http://elpasobridge.com/wp-content/uploads/2012/04/Who-Killed-Barry-Crane.pdf)

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Congratulations to Polly, Pat Hotaling, Ashok, and Pat Lama for the [GOLD POINT](#) win in Tucson



Gary Sawyer is now a Platinum Life Master (10,000 masterpoints). Gary has earned many of those points playing on teams with Gerald Georges and Bob Esch here in El Paso. Congratulations, Gary!! (We forgot to mention he hit that goal coming in second in a four-table game in Ruidoso :-).)



Bob and Peggy Craig are featured on the District 17 website ([click here](#))

<http://www.d17acbl.org/index.php?page=bob-and-penny-craig>





Introduction by Barbara Harrid: I would like to make this mysterious, but when I describe the attributes of the recipient of the 2016 Sally Loyd Sportsmanship Award, I'm sure the announcement will come as no surprise:

This person epitomizes the finest characteristics of a good sportsman -- contributes to the enjoyment of all players; willingly plays with anyone, often sacrificing his own partnership arrangements; gives much time, attention, and devotion to this Unit (not only the game, but the building and supply needs.) And even though he is not Events Chair, he, with an able assist from his wife, Benita (or, the other way around) often executes the events.

He makes guacamole that is incomparable and "disappearing" brownies. He makes the boards for all the games. He opens/closes/arrives early/stays late... Sadly, he is often un or underappreciated.. Nonetheless, he is kind, considerate and well-deserving. He is - - - Jack Neumann!



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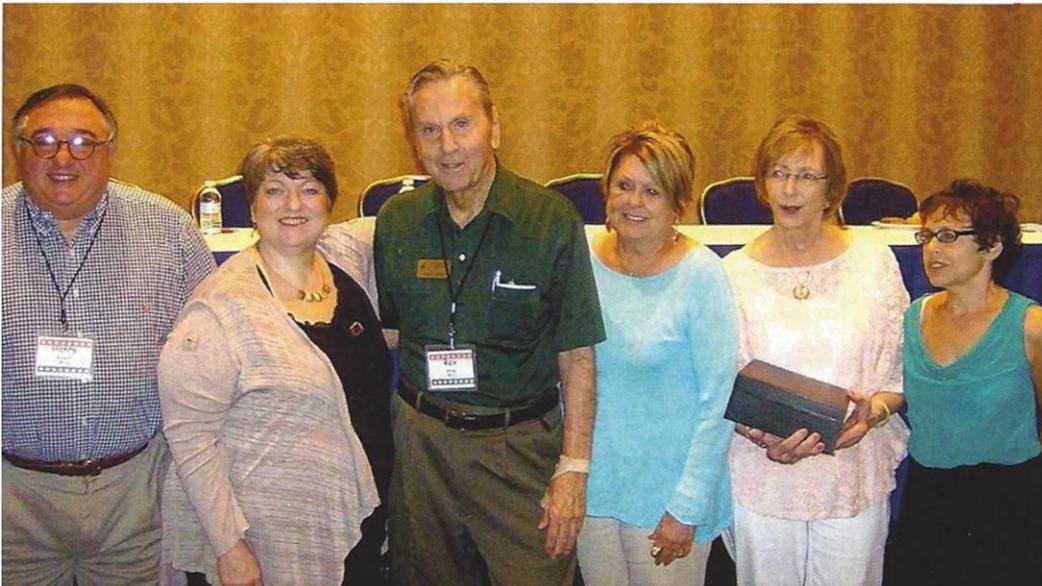
For information
(Social bridge)

Click on the magazine header below to view article about Rex Glimp



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ABTA Teacher of the Year nominees: As reported in Saturday's Daily Bulletin, Leslie Shafer was named the 2016 ABTA Teacher of the Year. ABTA President Joyce Penn (left) poses with the Teacher of the Year nominees who were present at the awards ceremony on Thursday evening: Rex Glimp of El Paso TX; Leslie Shafer of Gaithersburg MD; Glenna Shannahan of Madison WI; and Henry Meguid of Raleigh NC. (Daily Bulletin, Sunday, July 24, 2016)

Washington Nationals Daily Bulletin, Saturday, July 23, 2016 [link](#)

Joyce Penn's [email](#) to Nancy Stockton concerning Rex

[Link](#) to Rex's teaching video