



NEWSBRIEFS

Shutdown impact

With the U.S. government closed for business for the 19th time—ever so briefly — since 1976 and a lot of blame going back and forth, the personal-finance website WalletHub released its report on the *States Most & Least Affected by the 2018 Government Shutdown* to add some hard data to all the rhetoric. WalletHub compared the 50 states and the District of Columbia in terms of six key metrics, ranging from each state’s share of federal jobs and contracts to the percentage of kids covered by CHIP. You can check out some of the main findings below. Texas came in as the 16th most impacted state, ranking:

- 32nd – Share of Federal Jobs;
- 13th – Federal Contract Dollars Per Capita;
- 17th – Small Business Lending Per Capita;
- 42nd – Real Estate as a Percentage of GSP;
- 47th – Access to National Parks; and
- 8th – Percent of Children under CHIP.

Visit <https://wallethub.com/edu/government-shutdown-report/1111/> for the full report.

— Diana Popa

When you gotta go

A cross-country Delta flight en route from New York to Seattle made an unscheduled stop in Billings, Montana. It wasn’t a bad weather or an equipment malfunction that forced the pilot to land; it was the stopped up toilets on the plane that caused the “emergency landing,” reports the Association of Mature American Citizens.

— John Grimaldi

Beer-barrel pokey

If Jeremy Van Ert didn’t have bad luck going for him, he wouldn’t have any luck at all, says the Association of Mature American Citizens. Van Ert apparently lost track of time when he stopped by a local convenience store in Marshfield, WI. He wound up locked up in the shop’s beer cooler when the store closed around midnight. He was set free the next morning just in time to get picked up by police who locked him up again. He was charged with not paying for all the beer and malt liquor he consumed in the cooler overnight. He also was charged with violating his parole. Turns out he had a previous arrest and one of the conditions of his parole banned him from consuming alcohol.

— John Grimaldi

No drunken sailor ever spent money as fast as a sober congressman.

— Quips & Quotes

By Alfredo Vasquez
Special to the Courier

EL PASO COUNTY – The vacant, historic Plaza Hotel, which first opened on November 30, 1930, is being brought back to life in another move to help rejuvenate Downtown El Paso.

The iconic structure will be remade into a 131-room, upscale boutique hotel. The red-brick exterior of the hotel will remain intact. Plans also call for an adjacent, 540-car parking garage.

The project, which will cost about \$78 million, will be financed by Paul Foster, a local investor, and millions of dollars in federal, state, and city tax incentives, according to William Kell, vice president of Franklin Mountain Management, a Foster company that manages various properties and business ventures.

As part of the hotel’s renovation plan, Foster’s company will receive about \$23 million in city and state hotel tax rebates, property tax abatements and other incentives, which were approved by the El Paso City Council recently.

Local architect Bill Helm, co-owner of In Situ Architecture, has been hired to be the project’s architectural consultant.

The 88-year-old, 19-story building, situated on the corner of Mills Avenue and Oregon Street and catty-cornered to the San Jacinto Plaza, was shuttered back in the early 1990s. The edifice was one of the first hotels built by Conrad Hilton, founder of the Hilton Hotel chain.

The renovation project will return the hotel building to Hilton’s vision, Helm stated during a recent press tour of the hotel. “The personality and the romance and the aura of the 1930s will be incorporated into the design of the building,” he said.

Helm explained that the concrete that was added to the second floor in the 1970s will be torn out to reveal the large vintage chandeliers still hanging from the ceiling and the steel beams that look like vigas (wood beams used in adobe construction) will be refurbished. The chandeliers and viga-like ceiling will be above an open, ground-floor bar that will be adjacent to an upscale restaurant, he added.

The 17th floor, originally a penthouse suite- where actress Elizabeth Taylor stayed for a while when she was married to Hilton’s oldest son- will be turned into a bar with an outdoor terrace, according to Kell.

A six-story parking garage will be built next to the hotel, Kell related. It will be built on empty lots Foster bought on the corner of San Antonio Avenue and South El Paso Street, and on a paved parking lot currently in operation next to the



— Photo from Internet

The long-vacant Plaza Hotel building in downtown El Paso, above, that features an unique art-deco architecture, will undergo major renovation work in an effort to restore the hotel to its former glory. The Plaza Hotel was one of the best-performing among a handful of hotels that Conrad Hilton operated during the Great Depression.

Plaza, he stated.

The construction project is scheduled to begin by February, and the hotel is expected to be open in the spring of 2019.

The Plaza Hotel will be an independent venture with no national franchise and will be operated by HHM Hospitality, a Pennsylvania company that operates 125 hotels across the country, Kell explained. Whether or not the new hotel will retain the Plaza name has yet to be decided.

Joe Gudenrath, executive director of the El Paso Downtown Management District, stated that the renovated hotel will bring more people to central El Paso for conferences and events, which will help support other downtown businesses.

San Elizario HS Cheer Team ranks 14th in Texas

MIXED CREW – The cheerleading program at San Elizario High School (SEHS) has improved tremendously and is now more competitive under the new direction of Head Coach, Ruby Rodriguez. Just recently, the team competed in the UIL Cheerleading competition in Ft. Worth, TX where over 550 teams participated. The team entered the Co-Ed Division, which means they got to compete against other squads that have four or more boys in the team. Out of 28 Co-Ed teams in the state of Texas, only 20 advanced to the finals including the SEHS cheer team. “Advancing to the finals is a big deal but when you advance as part of the top 20 teams like we did, it is truly a major accomplishment,” said Head Coach Rodriguez. “We are excited to have placed 14th in the state of Texas.” There has been an increase in boys participating in the cheerleading program at SEHS. Currently there are 20 girls and 12 boys on the team.

– Hector Gonzalez



– Photo courtesy San Elizario ISD

View from here By John Grimaldi

The hypocrisy of political correctness

A professor at NYU was because of “the content and shunned by his colleagues structure of his thinking.” That’s

right, the “thought police” were after him. They didn’t like the fact that he was using social media to expose the hypocrisy of political correctness on campus.

Because he exercised his right to free speech, Professor Michael Rectenwald claims he was the target of defamation and harassment by his colleagues. And so, Rectenwald recently filed suit in Manhattan Supreme Court. The New York Post reported that “the politically incorrect NYU professor accused of ‘incivility’ by liberal

colleagues and put on leave is now suing the college and four fellow profs for calling him everything from a drug addict to Satan.”

The suit sheds light on what is going on in college and university classrooms these days. Is it a movement by the left to create a generation of voters who could eventually have the numbers and ideological resolve to turn the United States of America into the Soviet Socialist Republic of America?

The irony here is that Rectenwald describes himself as “a communist.” Yet he says he is

an ardent advocate of free speech on campus. As he put it in an interview last year: “Every time a speaker is booed off campus or shooed off campus because they might say something that bothers someone, that just feeds the notion that the left is totalitarian, and they have a point.”

I don’t think Rectenwald is switching teams anytime soon. Left is left and right is right and never the twain shall meet, the exception being those with a left of center political preference.

Whatever his bent, the Professor seems to believe that schools are places that should be encouraging discourse and a diversity of ideas, not “mindless indoctrination.” And, he believes that if there is a sinister motive behind the PC movement, it will not succeed. I believe that, too, because our kids are smarter than that, for the most part. They were brought up in a free society and it will take more than leftist propaganda to make them give it up.

In the old Soviet Union, the communist culture was built on systematic indoctrination that brainwashed the citizenry into believing that the leftist elites and their apparatchiks who ran the “Evil Empire” had their best interests at heart. The American Revolution, on the other hand, sought to allow the people to become individuals with a collective lust for freedom and justice.

And, what fuels that lust is knowledge, the kind of knowledge only available in an institution of learning that fairly exposes its students to all sides of any argument, whether it be scientific or political.

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San Elizario Independent School District Public Notice of Meeting

San Elizario Independent School District will hold a public hearing to discuss the District’s 2016-2017 Texas Academic Performance Report (TAPR). The meeting will be held at 4:00 P.M. on Wednesday, February 14, 2018 in the San Elizario ISD Central Office Board Room, 1050 Chicken Ranch Rd., San Elizario, Texas, 79849.

The public is invited to attend. For more information, call (915) 872-3939, x3568.

Junta Pública

Distrito escolar independiente de San Elizario celebrará una audiencia pública para discutir el informe de rendimiento académico 2016-2017 Texas del distrito (TAPR). La reunión se celebrará a las 4:00 p.m. el miércoles, 14 de febrero de 2018 en la sala de juntas de San Elizario ISD, 1050 Chicken Ranch Rd., San Elizario, Texas, 79849.

El público está invitado a asistir. Para obtener más información, llame al (915) 872-3939, x3568.

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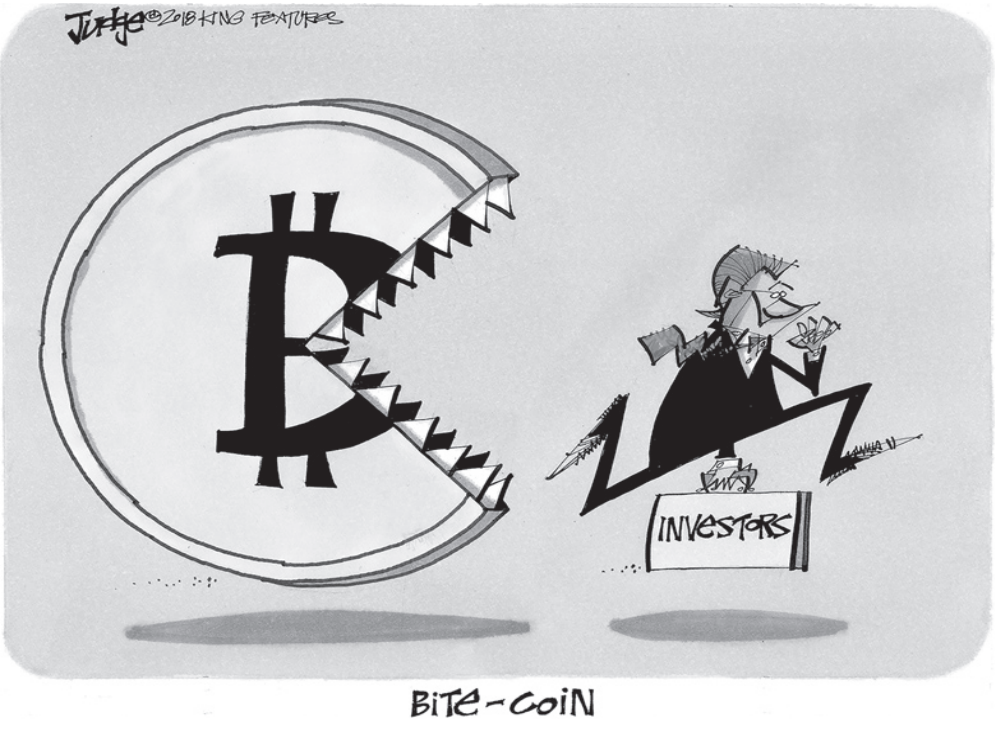
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View from here

By G. Keith Smith, M.D.

Coverage isn't care

If you are following health-related topics on social media you have likely encountered “coverage is not care,” as a theme or #hashtag. This phrase/quip should be viewed as an opportunity and lens through which the dysfunction of the crony-dominated “healthcare system” in this country can be viewed.

Not only is “coverage” not equivalent to “care,” “coverage” can and many times does create a barrier to care.

It might shock you to learn that the “cash” price for many medications at your local pharmacy is less than the co-pay if you are using your “coverage” to buy these same medications. In other words, you are better off claiming to be uninsured when you buy certain pharmaceuticals! Why is this? Your “coverage” represents an additional, contracted layer – a toll booth – through which the exchange between you and the pharmacist must take place. This toll to pharmacy benefit companies/wholesalers is removed from the purchase if you represent yourself as uninsured. The presence of this middleman/distributor can and does increase the price of pharmaceuticals dramatically, representing as much as 50% of the purchase price for a large number of medications.

Fans of “Medicare for all” should know that while violating a private “insurance” contract can be a hassle for their physician, violating the terms of a contract with Medicare is a crime.

The same goes for the care at many physician offices. Any physician who is contracted with insurance companies labors under their fee schedules, any departure from which risks expulsion from the “network.” Physicians who waive all or part of deductibles for patients or treat cash-strapped patients free of charge run the risk of running afoul of these same “network” contracts and may also face legal action. What gives?

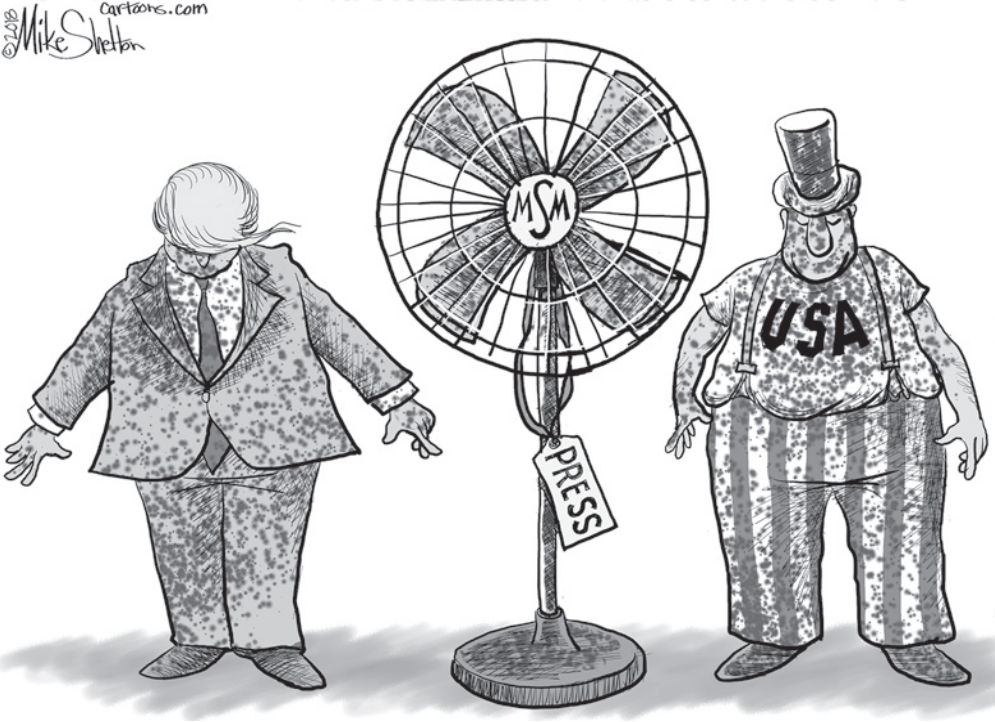
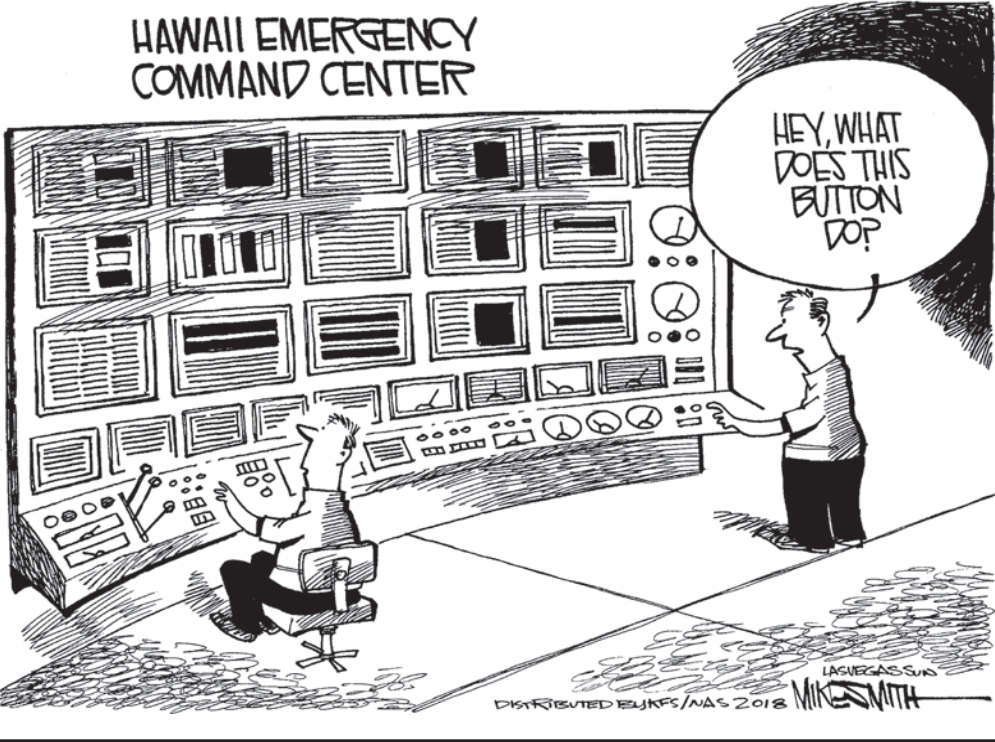
Waiving deductibles or co-pays for those short on funds lowers the barrier upon which the insurance carriers rely to protect their own corporate wallets. After all, a patient who cannot muster their deductible represents little or no financial risk to those providing the “coverage,” and the higher the deductible—or barrier to care, the greater the likelihood the “insurance” companies will pay nothing at all. The courts have been no friend to those well-intentioned physicians and facilities that have waived deductibles/co-pays in an attempt to help their patients. Once again, if you have “coverage” and are low on funds, you should always ask the “cash” price for a service before revealing that you actually have “coverage.”

Do you have “coverage” and have no trouble meeting your deductible? Do you therefore think you can safely access the care that you need? Think again. “Insurance” companies employ hidden techniques that deny various types of care to those who have “coverage.” Intentionally paying physicians below an acceptable rate for certain treatments and procedures serves as a powerful rationing tool, leaving certain treatments in short supply. Moreover, if a treatment is theoretically “covered” but is denied in your case, say because the insurer deems it “unnecessary” or “inappropriate,” the physician cannot accept payment from you because of the “hold harmless” clause in his provider contract. Thus, he must either provide the care at his own expense, or agree with the insurer that you shouldn’t get it.

Perhaps the only gift of Obamacare was that the deductibles were very high and very few physicians or facilities actually signed contracts with these plans. This created a vigorous cash market, where patients who are “covered” but without benefit, could negotiate cash prices with physicians and facilities for the care they needed. At the Surgery Center of Oklahoma we continue to see a large number of patients who are attracted to the pricing on our website (www.surgerycenterok.com) that is a fraction of their Obamacare or other “coverage” deductible.

Fans of “universal coverage” should keep in mind the countless “covered” Canadians who buy their care in the U.S. or overseas due to long access lines. Canadian provinces balance their budgets by stringing patients out on long time lines, extracting a painful and merciless “time tax” from their citizenry. Fans of “Medicare for all” should know that while violating a private “insurance” contract can be a hassle for their physician, violating the terms of a contract with Medicare is a crime. Unless a physician has opted out of Medicare he is not at liberty to waive deductibles or co-pays or charge less than the amount Medicare allows. In short, Medicare has criminalized charity, as demonstrated in a recent case of a Medicare beneficiary with a broken ankle who is stuck in a wheelchair because she can’t come up with her \$2,000 deductible.

Leave it to government to force the purchase of this “coverage.” All who have been victimized by this cronyism have earned a seat on the #metoo bandwagon.



Dr. G. Keith Smith is a board certified anesthesiologist in private practice since 1990. In 1997, he co-founded The Surgery Center of Oklahoma, an outpatient surgery center in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, owned by over 90 of the top physicians and surgeons in central Oklahoma. Dr. Smith serves as the medical director, CEO and managing partner while maintaining an active anesthesia practice. In 2009, Dr. Smith launched a website displaying all-inclusive pricing for various surgical procedures, a move that has gained him and the facility, national and even international attention. Many Canadians and uninsured Americans have been treated at his facility, taking advantage of the low and transparent pricing available. His most recent effort is the launch of the Free Market Medical Association that provides a platform where those seeking to obtain high quality and affordable health care can find free market-minded providers, both physicians and facilities.



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A message from the National Diabetes Education Program, sponsored by the National Institutes of Health and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Strange
But True

By Samantha Weaver

- It was noted educator and civil-rights activist W.E.B. DuBois who made the following sage observation: “The theory of democratic government is not that the will of the people is always right, but rather that normal human beings of average intelligence will, if given a chance, learn the right and best course by bitter experience.”
- Those who make the finest wigs from human hair typically avoid buying hair from Americans. Evidently, hair grown in the United States is more likely to have damage caused by hairspray, hairdryers, dyes and pollutants.
- You might be surprised to learn that the tiny nation of the Netherlands, located barely 1,000 miles from the Arctic Circle, is the world leader in yield for tomato production, producing 144,352 tons of tomatoes per square mile under cultivation.
- In 1900, a prairie dog colony was found in Texas. That’s not surprising – prairie dogs are fairly common out West – but this colony was unique. Researchers say it was the largest colony ever discovered, providing a home to 400 million prairie dogs and stretching over 25,000 square miles.
- If you’re planning a summer trip to Maine, be sure to visit Peaks Island; the town is home to what is quite possibly the world’s only museum devoted to umbrella covers.

• Thanks to continental drift, the Atlantic Ocean is getting about a centimeter bigger every year, and the Pacific Ocean is shrinking by the same amount.

Thought for the Day: “Pride, like laudanum and other poisonous medicines, is beneficial in small, though injurious in large, quantities. No man who is not pleased with himself, even in a personal sense, can please others.”
– Frederick Saunders

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easy to successfully hail
taxis, I'd say my brother
has the gift of cab.

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Moments in Time

The History Channel

- On Feb. 5, 1988, in Miami, Panama military strongman Gen. Manuel Noriega is indicted for drug smuggling and assisting Colombia's Medellin drug cartel in trafficking cocaine to America. Noriega was found guilty at his 1991 trial and sentenced to 40 years in prison. He later was imprisoned in France and Panama, where he died in 2017.
- On Feb. 6, 1952, King George VI of Great Britain and Northern Ireland dies. Princess Elizabeth, the oldest of his two daughters, was crowned Queen Elizabeth II on June 2, 1953, at age 27. Today, Elizabeth has reigned for almost 65 years.
- On Feb. 7, 1914, the silent film "Kid Auto Races at Venice" premieres featuring the actor Charlie Chaplin in his first screen appearance as the "Little Tramp."
- On Feb. 8, 1978, a classic "Nor'easter" storm that brought a severe blizzard to New England finally subsides. The blizzard, the worst to hit New England since 1888, was blamed for 56 deaths and dumped 55 inches of snow in some areas.
- On Feb. 9, 1942, the Normandie, the first major liner to cross the Atlantic in less than four days, burns and sinks in New York Harbor during its conversion to an Allied troop transport. A welder set fire to life preservers, and by early the next morning the ship lay smoking and capsized in the harbor.
- On Feb. 10, 1996, world chess champion Garry Kasparov loses the first game of a six-game match against Deep Blue, an IBM computer. Man ultimately defeated machine, however, as Kasparov bested Deep Blue in the match with three wins and two ties and took home the \$400,000 prize.
- On Feb. 11, 1858, in France, Marie-Bernarde Soubirous, a 14-year-old peasant girl, first claims to have seen the Virgin Mary. The 18 apparitions occurred in a grotto of a rock promontory near Lourdes.

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There really are evil monsters in sports

By Steve Escajeda
Special to the Courier

There’s no doubt that for the most part, we’re lucky to live on this big blue rock and fortunate to follow whatever adventurous path life leads us through.

It may not be the most exciting of adventures, but sharing it with loved ones and trusted colleagues makes it worth the trip.

But once in a while, we run into individuals that for whatever reason, want to make the trip as uncomfortable for others as possible.

And by “uncomfortable,” I mean, “horrific.”

Whether it’s a guy firing a rifle from a high rise in Las Vegas, or a power-hungry dictator who has his eyes set on exterminating an entire race of people, or a couple of parents from hell who keep their kids chained off from the world... literally.

As hard as it is to comprehend, there’s a long list of people who live, or lived, their lives with no regard for anything else but their own gratification.

And though sports are mostly about winning and losing games, the sheer ugliness of the world creeps in once in a while.

There was the 1972 Olympics when Palestinian terrorists kidnapped and then murdered members of the Israeli wrestling team.

And there was former Penn State assistant football coach Jerry Sandusky, who sexually abused young boys for years.

Though most of the scandals that hit the sports world have to do with recruiting or money or drugs or violence, it’s rare when the crime can be described as “unspeakable.”

The former doctor who pleaded guilty for child pornography and sexually abusing young female gymnasts had to sit in court and face all of his accusers last week.

One by one, nearly 100 young women walked up to the microphone to let this menace of society know how he hurt them and what they thought of him.

Larry Nassar was a team doctor for U.S. Gymnastics for a couple decades and was part of four Olympic Games, Atlanta,

Sydney, Beijing, and London.

While Americans were cheering these young girls to gold medals, something unthinkable was going on behind the scenes.

All-in-all, over 140 females under his so-called care, are expected to come forward and explain what this monster did to their young bodies and minds.

One of the gymnasts said he began abusing her when she was 8-years-old.

Nassar also spent several years as the team physician at Michigan State. And yes – he was the team doctor for the school’s gymnastics program.

Just like in the Sandusky case, though the abuses lasted for years and years, nobody saw or suspected anything – or at least not enough to ask questions.

What the girls (most of them young women now) want to know is why didn’t anyone at U.S. Gymnastics or Michigan State do anything?

How can a monster keep sexually abusing so many young women without anyone knowing?

Why was he always left alone with all these young girls for so long?

Like so many of them said during their

time in court, how do you question a doctor when you’re just 12 or 13 years old?

One thing is for sure – the United State Olympic Committee and Michigan State officials are going to spend a lot more time in courtrooms trying to explain how this was allowed to happen.

Humans like Nassar and Sandusky are the ultimate bullies.

Because they have no strength or power themselves they prey on the much smaller and weaker – because they can.

It’s likely that Nassar will spend the rest of his life in prison but that doesn’t seem like enough of a punishment.

His damage has already been done and will never be undone.

The only good that can come from this is it is never allowed to happen again.

But it will. And it is right now – somewhere, we just don’t know about it yet.

Why does it happen? The 99.5 percent of us who don’t engage in that kind of behavior will never be able to comprehend why.

It would be nice if sports could just be confined to winning and losing games like it was when we were kids.

But the real world is full of monsters, and not just the ones in the movies or TV.

A sporting view By Mark Vasto

Whoa Nelly!

For four decades, his was the voice of college sports on ABC. An ethereal, almost otherworldly voice with a booming cadence and folksy charm were the signature style of the Georgia-born Keith Max Jackson.

Though most famous for his college calls, Jackson began in the 1950s on broadcast radio before becoming an ABC mainstay on Wide World of Sports. He lent his talents to Major League Baseball, auto racing, PGA Tour golf, the NBA, Olympic Games and even the USFL

championship game broadcasts. Like my ol’ pardner Bill Grigsby, voice of the AFL Chiefs, Jackson got his start on TV broadcasting AFL games before becoming one of the inaugural Monday Night Football play-by-play announcers and then branching out to... well, everything under the sun.

He retired in 2006, and for those millennials who never had the opportunity to hear him, his voice was seemingly everywhere – kind of like Howard Cosell but with considerably more charm. Evel

Knievel was jumping over stuff in Canada? Jackson was there. Eric Heiden runs the table at the Olympics? Jackson was in action. Bucky Dent hits a home run in a tiebreaker with Boston? Jackson again. Sugar Ray Leonard as an amateur? It was Jackson who put him on our radar.

He’s the one who called the Rose Bowl the “granddaddy of them all,” a moniker that will stick with the game for all time. Michigan played in the “Big House,” and if anything went well in any game, it would garner a “whooooo Nelly.” In all, he did the play-by-play for an astonishing 16 Sugar Bowls and 15 Rose Bowls. As he would say, “hold the phone!”

After 50-plus years in the

booth, it became clear to critics and Jackson himself that he was losing a step. His calls were considered corny or lacking in detail by a new generation, and feeling his age, he retired. (He had tried to retire many times before, but he kept getting lured out of retirement by new TV sports execs... when you have a classic, you don’t want to part with it.) In general, he is considered the greatest voice college football ever had. Whenever you heard Jackson’s voice – in any sport – you knew it was something of a big deal.

At the end of his career he told reporters that he didn’t want to be on the road any more, and jokingly feared he’d “die in a stadium parking lot.” He refused

to write his memoirs, which would have been epic, choosing to tack close to his home in Sherman Oaks, California, where he lived out his days on the golf course with his beloved wife, Turi Ann. His parting words after a Fiesta Bowl broadcast aptly sum up his farewell.

“And so it is done. I say goodbye to all of you. God bless and goodnight.”

Goodbye, Keith. You can bet your sweet bippy that as long as there are reruns, you won’t soon be forgotten.

Mark Vasto is a veteran sportswriter who lives in New Jersey. (c) 2018 King Features Synd., Inc.



Comix

OUT ON A LIMB

By Gary Kopervas



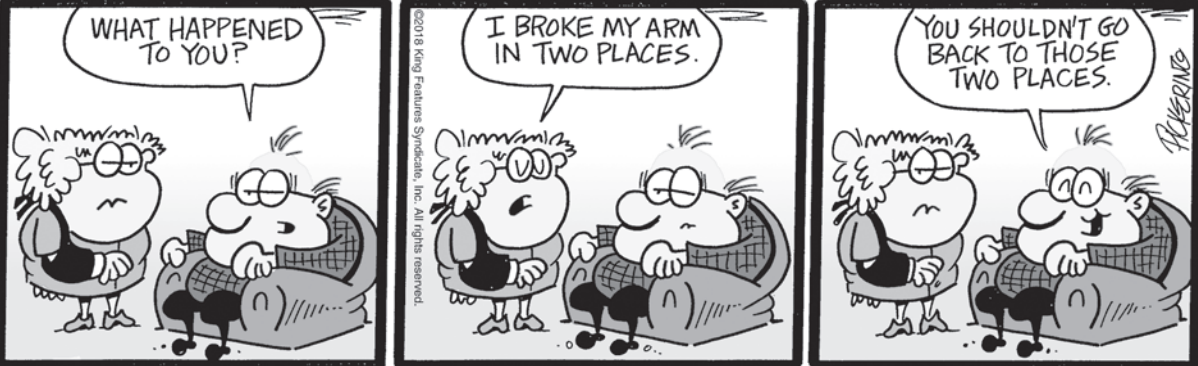
AMBER WAVES

By Dave T. Phipps



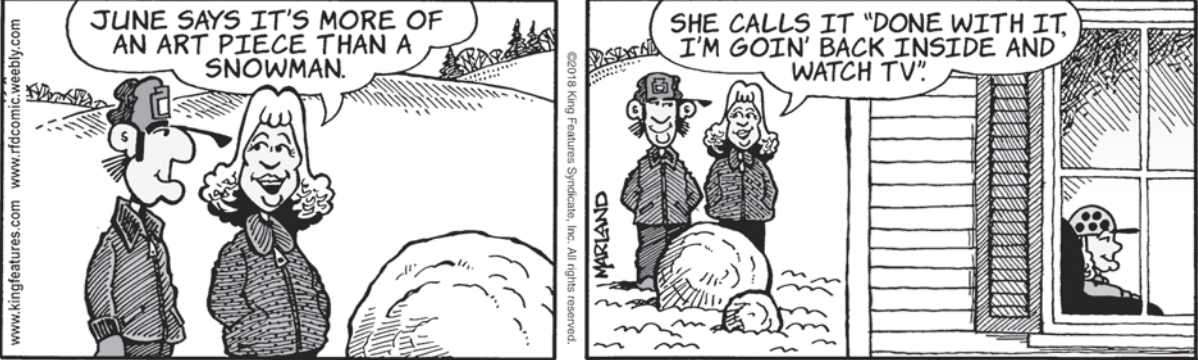
THE SPATS

By Jeff Pickering



R.F.D.

By Mike Marland



Your good health

By Keith Roach, M.D.

DEAR DR. ROACH: Could you please discuss the use of Prevagen for Alzheimer's disease? My chiropractor wants me to take it because my mother had Alzheimer's. She says her father is doing well and not progressing. What do jellyfish have to cause this result? I have not seen any research from medical facilities that back this up. – L.C.

I could not find any peer-reviewed literature that supports the use of Prevagen for Alzheimer's disease or other neurological disease. The manufacturer has unpublished data on its website that suggests there may be a benefit in memory. There is also a study in rats that suggests the active protein, apoaeguorin, may protect nerve cells against loss of glucose and oxygen. This protein was originally identified from luminescent jellyfish but is made synthetically in Prevagen. The rat research result is surprising, since proteins are normally broken down in the GI tract, and would not be expected to have activity in the brain.

There are reports made to the Food and Drug Administration of serious adverse events from this product. A supplement is not required to show its benefit; in fact, the product information for Prevagen clearly states that it is "not intended to diagnose, treat, cure, or prevent any disease." I don't recommend using this product until there is clear, peer-reviewed evidence that it is better than placebo. In my mind, taking any treatment—drug or supplement—to prevent a condition requires the highest level of certainty.

a 50-year-old female. How accurate are the results of fecal blood tests? In May, then July, I saw what looked like blood in my stool. My GP ordered the fecal blood test, three smears over three days. Results negative. Then in November I saw it again. My doctor said since the fecal test showed no blood, there is no blood. My sister had colon cancer at age 45. I have had pre-cancerous polyps removed every three years for the past 10 years. Can I trust the fecal blood test results? – S.C.

The fecal occult blood test uses an enzyme that causes a color change in the presence of heme, a component of hemoglobin, the major protein in blood. Although the fecal blood results are pretty accurate, they can be erroneous in two ways: a false positive and a false negative.

A false positive means the stool test is positive when there is no blood. This can happen from eating raw vegetables (many types, especially turnips and radishes) and meat. A false negative can happen in the presence of large amounts of vitamin C, but more importantly, many lesions of the colon, including colon cancer, bleed only intermittently.

In my opinion, someone with a history like yours, including precancerous polyps and a family history of colon cancer, should have a colonoscopy as the screening test rather than stool cards.

READERS: The booklet on colon cancer provides useful

DEAR DR. ROACH: I am See HEALTH, Page 8

Super Crossword

LETTER ADDENDA

ACROSS

- 1 Faux _ (social slip)
- 4 Tangos, e.g.
- 10 Singer Anka
- 14 May greeting card salutation
- 19 "C" _ la vie ("That's life")
- 20 Tristan's love
- 21 Up to the job
- 22 Bayer brand
- 23 Anorak, for Alaska?
- 25 Set no spending limits?
- 27 Injury-sorting process
- 28 Tell a story
- 30 Drum set?
- 31 Brit Jones played by Renee Zellweger?
- 35 "Barbarella" star Jane
- 37 Suffix similar to -ette
- 38 Baseball's Tony La _
- 39 Frat letters
- 41 Tenth mo.
- 43 Actress Tomei
- 46 Decide to order ravioli?
- 50 Old comics girl
- 53 Soap format
- 54 Baseball's Pee Wee
- 55 Place for actor Baldwin's lawn?

- 57 Party food provider
- 59 Gonzalez in 2000 headlines
- 60 Lovers' god
- 62 "No" vote
- 63 That miss
- 66 Agents, in brief
- 67 Tyke sitting on a fireplace floor?
- 72 Tibia locale
- 73 Fresno-to-L.A. dir.
- 74 Iniquity
- 75 "... for _ know"
- 76 Empathetic comment
- 77 Suffer humiliation
- 81 Furnish supplies to Oregon's capital?
- 84 Box in a den
- 87 _ borealis
- 89 Friendly teasing
- 90 Jet kept in reserve?
- 92 Hobbled along
- 93 _Cat
- 94 Go higher
- 95 Set _ (decide when to wed)
- 97 Egg: Prefix
- 100 Pickling liquid
- 102 Yeast used to treat illness?
- 107 Dad's sister
- 108 _ Bessette-Kennedy
- 111 Dress
- 112 Activity held between work hours?
- 114 Apt word spelled

- out by the letters added to 10 answers in this puzzle
- 118 "Uncle Miltie"
- 119 Taken with
- 120 Faraway
- 121 _ Jones Average
- 122 Williams of "Happy Days"
- 123 Gotten a glimpse of
- 124 Grog drinker
- 125 Lennon lover

DOWN

- 1 Druggist's crushing tool
- 2 Houston team
- 3 Blemishes
- 4 UCSD part
- 5 Fluttery tree
- 6 3 R's gp.
- 7 Inferior dog
- 8 Moose kin
- 9 Arises
- 10 GI's chaplain
- 11 Call off, as a launch
- 12 Forearm part
- 13 Riga native
- 14 Socrates' T
- 15 Bygone
- 16 Huge vitamin intake, e.g.
- 17 Hams it up
- 18 New York team
- 24 Tiny bit
- 26 Suit
- 29 Best competitive

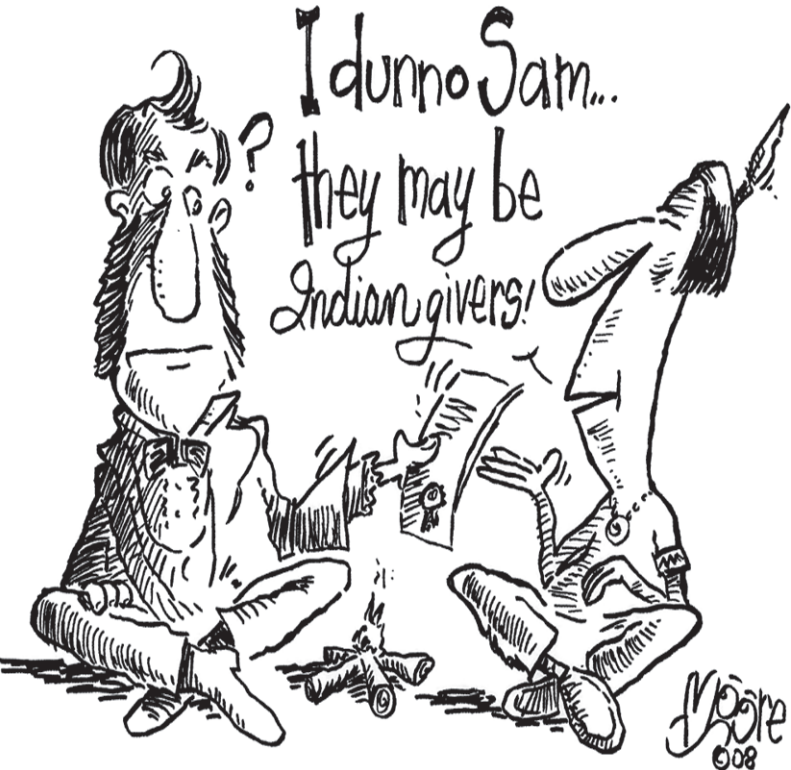
- effort, informally
- 32 Big name in water filters
- 33 Stole cattle
- 34 "The Lady _ Tramp"
- 36 Kind of hawk
- 39 Bog fuel
- 40 With 56-Down, pre-talkies time
- 42 _ Bo
- 43 _ a wet hen
- 44 One-named R&B singer
- 45 Arena arbiter
- 47 Oval part
- 48 Korean car
- 49 _ Lingus
- 50 Leering types
- 51 Chronicles
- 52 Baloney
- 53 Bluebonnet
- 56 See 40-Down
- 58 Cheering cry
- 61 _ Na Na
- 63 Slate source
- 64 Employing person
- 65 Hostile party
- 67 Assembly aid
- 68 Using uppercase
- 69 Lanchester of old films
- 70 Flying stat
- 71 Abbott & Costello musical
- 72 Parboil
- 74 Titan's planet
- 76 Atoll unit
- 77 Comics cry

- 78 Ordinance
- 79 "... cup _ cone?"
- 80 Took the gold
- 82 Llama cousin
- 83 Laotian currency unit
- 84 Conan's network
- 85 Eighth U.S. president
- 86 Disdainful people
- 88 Good to go
- 91 Portion
- 92 Fond du _
- 96 Iraqi currency units
- 97 City in Spain
- 98 Lillian _ (gift retailer)
- 99 Ring combo
- 101 Author _ Calvino
- 102 Three-card street scam
- 103 John of rock
- 104 Milk: Prefix
- 105 Bygone anesthetic
- 106 \$\$\$ dispenser
- 107 "Chiquitita" quartet
- 109 Alamo rival
- 110 Russo of film
- 113 Boy toy?
- 115 Brewed quaff
- 116 Oversharing initialism
- 117 Co. owned by Verizon

Answer Page 4

1	2	3		4	5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13		14	15	16	17	18
19				20							21					22				
23			24								25				26					
27									28	29							30			
31						32	33	34							35	36				
37						38							39	40				41		42
			43	44	45					46	47	48					49			
50	51	52							53						54					
55								56			57				58					
59								60		61				62				63	64	65
66						67	68				69	70	71				72			
73				74						75						76				
				77				78	79	80		81			82	83				
84	85	86					87				88			89						
90							91					92								
93				94						95	96							97	98	99
	100		101						102	103						104	105	106		
107						108	109	110							111					
112						113						114	115	116	117					
118							119					120							121	
122							123					124							125	

Moore Texas by Roger T. Moore
Jan.24,1845:The Texas Senate ratifies a peace treaty (brokered by Sam Houston) with 11 Indian tribes.



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!

	x		-		23
-		+		÷	
	+		x		3
x		x		+	
	x		+		21
12		21		16	

1 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 9

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Answer Page 4

Weekly SUDOKU
by Linda Thistle

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

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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Veterans Post By Freddy Groves

Who pays for care at non-VA hospitals?

If you have a medical emergency, the first thing on your mind is getting fast care. If that means going to a non-Department of Veterans Affairs hospital, so be it. It’s afterward, when the bills come due, that problems arise, especially if no one thought to call the VA to get permission for care at a non-VA facility.

A lawsuit by a veteran has resulted in a big change in the rules. The veteran suffered a heart attack and strokes. He obviously needed quick treatment somewhere, and he got it. He was in no shape to think about calling the VA. He was hospitalized for a long time. Afterward, the hospital wanted a pile of cash from the veteran after his other insurance left a lot unpaid.

Until now, the VA was let off the hook for any non-VA medical facility costs if the veteran had ANY third-

party insurance, including an auto insurance policy that provided even a tiny amount of coverage for medical care after a wreck. That loophole left the veteran liable for the whole unpaid balance at the non-VA hospital.

With the new rule, if a veteran has an emergency and has third-party insurance that pays part of the bill, the VA has to pony up a certain amount, based on whether the emergency had to do with service-connected versus non-service-connected conditions. That amount also will be determined by the type of insurance, including Medicare. The veteran won’t be let off the hook completely when it comes to deductibles, co-pays, etc.

If you’re being hounded for payment by a non-VA hospital, tell them about the new regulation and that the VA likely will have to be second payer. They’ll know what that means. If you have questions, there is a dedicated hotline: 1-877-466-7124.

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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: **A** equals **S**

WFSMFSB FQ ZGQDZKZET

ZIAT QN AVHHZAAWVEET RIFE

QIGFA, F’M AIT KT CDNQRZD

RIA QRZ BFWQ NW HIC.

Answer Page 4

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FEAR KNOT
By: rj johnson
DOUBT? ...OR DARE!

WSE
BUTREN
♥HOBRT
♥EMSA
WASYUB
♥ABT
MOWB
♥SELRO
♥OMT
MELTHE
NEWTI
♥RYAT

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.

NEW! 30 Fear Knot puzzles \$3.50 • Six Volumes • Order at rbmamall.com

Here’s a Tip
By JoAnn Derson

- Keep makeup brushes in tip-top shape: Wash with a good brush cleaner weekly, and store upright in a jar (bristles up). Don’t toss them in a box, bag or drawer with your makeup! They may pick up unwanted pigments and the facial bacteria can compromise makeup!
- If your dryer is taking a long time to run its cycle and the clothes STILL aren’t dry, check your lint trap. Follow the hose all the way to the end, and be sure to check the grate that is in place where the hose exits an exterior wall. Lint can build up here, making it hard for heat and steam to escape. It’s also a fire hazard.
- “In our house, we use nail polish to distinguish whose plastic leftover containers are whose. My roommate and I both bought the same set (a good deal!), and we painted a little X on the bottom and on the top of the lids in contrasting colors. So I only use the red dot ones, and she uses the dark blue.”
– M.T. in Florida
- “I wanted to use my staple gun to attach a cord along a board for a craft project. I taped a craft stick to the bottom so that the staple would not go in all the way, leaving an allowance for the cord. I just used extra-long staples. It worked great and turned out very secure, and I didn’t have to worry about a staple slicing up an electrical cord!”
– F.D. in Texas

Send your tips to Now Here’s a Tip, 628 Virginia Drive, Orlando, FL 32803. (c) 2018 King Features Synd., Inc.

Health
From Page 7

information on its causes, symptoms and treatments. To order a copy, write: Dr. Roach – No. 505W, 628 Virginia Drive, Orlando, FL 32803. Enclose a check or money order (no cash) for \$4.75 U.S./\$6 Canada with the recipient’s printed name and address. Please allow four weeks for delivery.

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. To view and order health pamphlets, visit www.rbmamall.com. (c) 2018 North America Synd., Inc. All Rights Reserved.