



NEWSBRIEFS

Retiring

With almost 30 percent of all nonretired adults having no retirement savings or pension, the personal-finance website WalletHub has released its report on *2018's Best & Worst States to Retire*. To help retirees find a safe, enjoyable and wallet-friendly place to call home, WalletHub compared the 50 states across 41 key metrics. The data set ranges from adjusted cost of living to weather to quality of public hospitals. Texas ranked 22nd, scoring:

- 13th – Adjusted Cost of Living;
- 12th – Annual Cost of In-Home Services;
- 29th – WalletHub ‘Taxpayer’ Ranking;
- 49th – Elderly-Friendly Labor Market;
- 48th – Percent of Population Aged 65 & Older;
- 33rd – Property-Crime Rate;
- 32nd – Life Expectancy; and
- 43rd – Health-Care Facilities per Capita.

Visit <https://wallethub.com/edu/best-and-worst-states-to-retire/18592/> for the full report.

– Diana Popa

An act of kindness

A needy, 78-year-old widow in Richardson, TX gathered her husband's clothing and donated it to a local thrift shop run by Jewish Family Services but she apparently did not check the pockets of an old pea coat. But, a worker in the resale shop did and found four envelopes containing a total of \$17,050 says the Association of Mature American Citizens. The store tracked down the woman who donated the clothing and returned the money. She declined to be identified, but the widow said the cash would go a long way toward resolving financial problems she's been having since her husband's death.

– John Grimaldi

Best roads

With U.S. traffic congestion costing the average driver \$1,400 per year and the U.S. ranked 13th in the world in road quality, the personal-finance website WalletHub today released its report on *2018's Best & Worst States to Drive in*. To determine the most driver-friendly states in the

See BRIEFS, Page 2

People that live by the Golden Rule today never have to apologize for their actions tomorrow.

– Quips & Quotes

TEA drafts corrective plan for special education

By Alfredo Vasquez
Special to the Courier

TEXAS – In an effort to address the various special education concerns identified in a recent U.S. Department of Education monitoring report, the Texas Education Agency (TEA) has developed a draft for a corrective plan; now, the agency is seeking public feedback on its future course of action.

At the center of the matter was a TEA 8.5 percent funding cap in the state budget allotment for special education programs per district. The U.S. Department of Education found the cap unfairly excluded some students for purely budgetary reasons.

The monitoring report received by TEA in January was issued following a listening tour by federal officials last year. The tour also included visits with TEA representatives, as well as some local school district teachers and administrators.

To expedite the remediation, TEA has made available an online survey to solicit feedback on its initial draft corrective action plan for special education including the proper identification of special education students and the access to appropriate services at the district level.

A proposed action that is part of the draft plan stipulates that TEA would create a suite of resources intended to be shared with the parents of children suspected of having a disability to help fully inform them of their rights to a free and appropriate public education and accompany those resources with a large outreach effort.

Another stipulation is that TEA would roll out a large-scale statewide special education professional development system, including multiple opportunities for follow-up support for all educators (general education, special education, and others). And, for students who are found to have needed services and did not receive them, the school system is responsible for providing compensatory services with TEA identifying funds to support an effective service delivery.

In addition, the plan would further strengthen TEA's staffing and resources devoted to special education, allowing for greater oversight as well as more on-site support to local school districts.

To review the entire draft plan and learn more about the agency's outreach efforts and to complete the online survey, which is open to anyone wishing to provide input on the draft plan, interested individuals may visit the TEA website, at <https://tea.texas.gov/TexasSPED>.

The online survey is one part of TEA's ongoing outreach effort to hear from special education students, families, educators, advocacy groups, district and school officials, and all others seeking to provide input on the plan.

The survey takes approximately 15 to 20 minutes to complete. To fully understand and effectively respond to the questions in the survey, participants are encouraged to first read TEA's proposed corrective action plan. TEA will be accepting an initial round of public comments on the draft plan through Thursday, February 18.

TEA drafted the initial corrective action plan regarding the support and



– Photo courtesy of Texas Education Agency

HOT SEAT – Texas Education Agency Commissioner of Education Mike Morath is taking immediate action to address tough Special Education issues identified in a recent federal monitoring report.

delivery of special education services in Texas's public schools at the direction of Governor Greg Abbott.

In a recent press release, TEA Commissioner of Education Mike Morath stressed that this initial plan is simply a first draft that requires public comment before a final plan is submitted to the federal government. He stated that TEA will engage in a significant outreach effort over the next two months to hear from special education students, families, educators, advocacy groups, district and school officials, and all others seeking to provide input on the plan.

“This corrective action plan provides the state of Texas the chance to make meaningful, lasting change in how we educate and support children with special needs,” said Commissioner Morath. “We are approaching this planning process with the seriousness that it requires and hope to solicit the kind of collective feedback, support and collaboration that our students deserve as we work to earn back the trust parents place in us for their children. My top priority has and continues to be to improve outcomes for all students in Texas,” he added.

Following the initial round of public comments and stakeholder engagement, a revised draft plan will be available on or around Thursday, March 1. Additional public comment will then be accepted through Saturday, March 31.

Under the current timeline, the final state corrective action plan would be submitted to the U.S. Department of Education on or around April 18 (pending additional conversations and feedback from federal officials), TEA officials stated.

Morales named top coach

By Hector Gonzalez
Special to the Courier

SAN ELIZARIO – San Elizario High School (SEHS) Boys Cross Country Head Coach, Cesar Morales, was selected to receive the 2016-2017 Texas Coach of the Year award by the National Federation of State High School Associations.

“I feel proud to represent our Cross Country program and the San Elizario Independent School District,” said Morales. “This is recognition is proof of our work ethic and our commitment to our student athletes.” “I share this award with my colleague and Assistant Coach, Jorge Maese, who is also a key component to the success of the Cross Country program at SEHS,” he added.

Morales' constant dedication to lead his sport (Cross Country) and often contributing in a positive way to the San Elizario community are the reasons why he was nominated by the Texas University Interscholastic



– Photo courtesy San Elizario ISD

Cesar Morales

League as the most deserving recipient for this honor.

Clint Independent School District Public Notice

Clint Independent School District will hold a public hearing to discuss the District's 2016-2017 Texas Academic Performance Report (TAPR) as part of a School Board meeting, which is scheduled for 5:00 p.m., Thursday, February 15, 2018, at the Clint ISD Administrative Office Board Room, 14521 Horizon Blvd., Horizon City, TX, 79928.

The public is invited to attend. The TAPR report will also be available for review after the hearing at all Clint ISD campuses, the Clint Administrative Office and at www.clintweb.net.

For more information, call 926-4031.

Distrito Escolar Independiente de Clint Junta Pública

El Distrito Escolar Independiente de Clint tendrá una Reunión Pública para informar sobre el "Reporte de Rendimiento Académica de Texas" (TAPR) del año escolar 2016-2017. El reporte sera parte de la reunión de la Mesa Directiva del distrito programada para el jueves, 15 de febrero del 2018 a las 5:00 p.m. en el cuarto de sala de Clint ISD oficina administrativa, 14521 Horizon Blvd., Horizon City, TX, 79928.

Todos los interesados están invitados a asistir. El reporte TAPR estará disponible después de la reunión en todas las escuelas del distrito, en el edificio de las oficinas administrativas y en www.clintweb.net.

Para mas información, favor de llamar al 926-4031.

WTCC: 02-01-18

Briefs

From Page 1

U.S., WalletHub compared the 50 states across 23 key metrics. The data set ranges from average gas prices to share of rush-hour traffic congestion to road quality. Texas was the best overall, ranking:

- 28th – Share of Rush-Hour Traffic Congestion;
- 28th – Traffic Fatality Rate;
- 6th – Auto-Repair Shops per Capita;
- 3rd – Avg. Gas Prices;
- 21st – Auto-Maintenance Costs;
- 22nd – Road Quality; and
- 2nd – Car Dealerships per Capita.

Visit <https://wallethub.com/edu/best-worst-states-to-drive-in/43012/> for the full report.

– Diana Popa

Turning failure into success

It's called the Museum of Failure but the touring exhibition that opened in Los Angeles this holiday season is anything but a failure, says the Association of Mature American Citizens. Samuel West, a Swedish doctor who calls himself an

"innovation researcher," has put together a collection of 100 real clunkers that some of the world's most successful companies produced and recalled over the years. And, it is attracting quite a bit of interest. It includes the line of frozen dinners that Colgate tried to market in the 1980s. Also on display is Coca-Cola BlāK, the company's attempt to cash in on the high-priced coffee craze in the mid 1990s. The concoction was a blend of coffee and Diet Coke with what Dr. West described as "disgusting."

– John Grimaldi

Big in Texas

They do things big in Texas and now they have another thing to boast about – the longest car wash in the world, according to the Association of Mature American Citizens (AMAC). AMAC scanned the latest entries in the Guinness Book of World Records and noted that the famed international compendium of things unusual, and sometimes

bizarre, has officially proclaimed an 84-yard-long car wash in Katy, TX now holds that record. The car wash boasts a 255-foot-long conveyor belt.

– John Grimaldi

Many happy returns

A Santa Clara, CA woman wasted little time after ringing in the New Year and hustled off to Costco to return her "dead Christmas Tree" and wound up getting a full refund, says the Association of Mature American Citizens. Customers standing in line behind her at the Refund Counter were shocked that, as one shopper put it, "she had so little moral values or lack of conscience." Social media was abuzz with the story, prompting users to post their own stories of buyers who successfully received refunds at stores for such things as an empty wine bottle and a fish gone bad.

– John Grimaldi

ROGER TODD MOORE & MORE

THE REAL TEXAS HISTORY CALENDAR HITS THE 20-YEAR MARK!

BEGINS MARCH 2ND!



The 2018/2019 Texas calendar is the 20th edition! We started in 1998 and we've spread lots of Texas all over the world in two decades. The new calendar is still full of Texas history cartoons and important (and whimsical) facts. Enjoy your calendar and learn more about Texas.

It still begins on March 2nd, Texas Independence Day, and the retail price \$8.95 and includes tax and shipping.

8½" x 11" monthly calendar pages

8½" x 14" back sheet with personalized "exposed" tab area 8½" x 3"



More questions??

Email me at rmandm@gmail.com or call (512) 413-0392

Or write Roger Todd Moore, P.O. Box 155, Merkel, TX 79536



WEST TEXAS COUNTY COURIER

PUBLISHED: Published each Thursday (minimum 50 issues) by Homesteader News, Inc. Office open Monday through Thursday.

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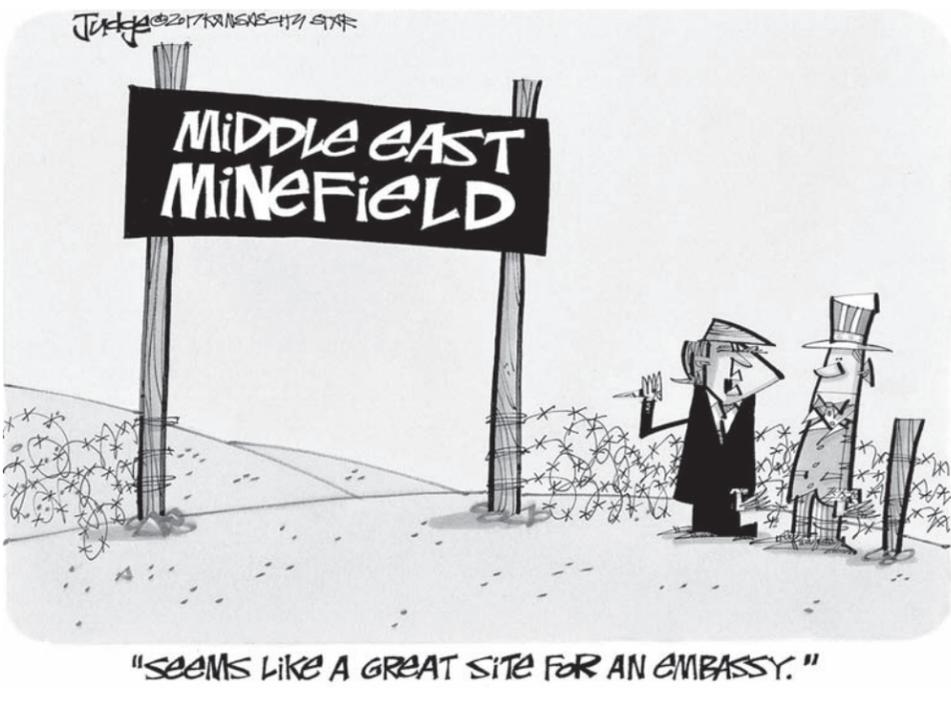
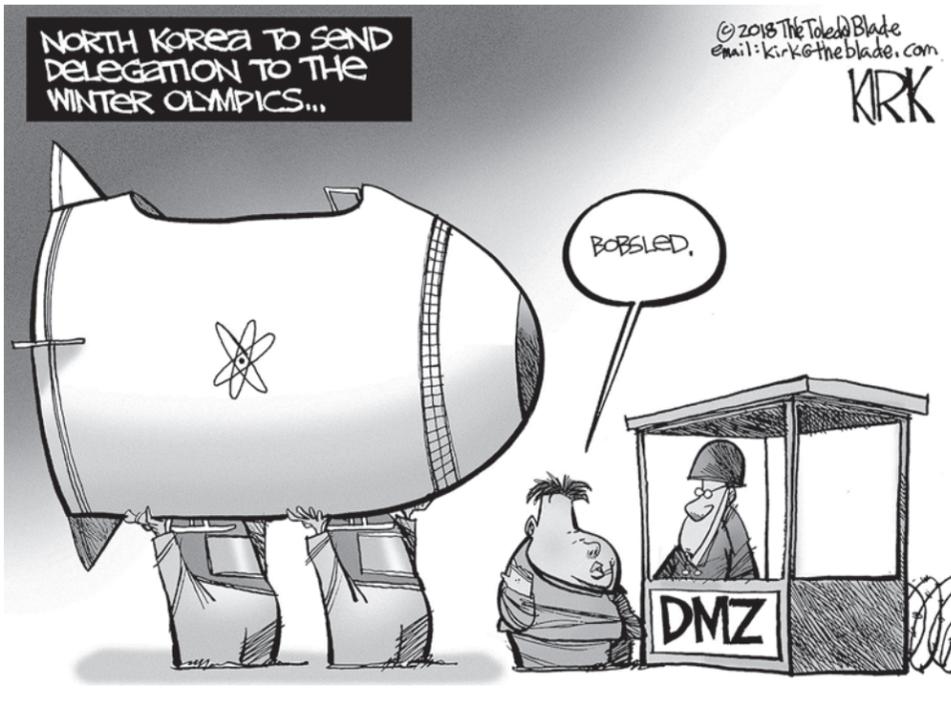
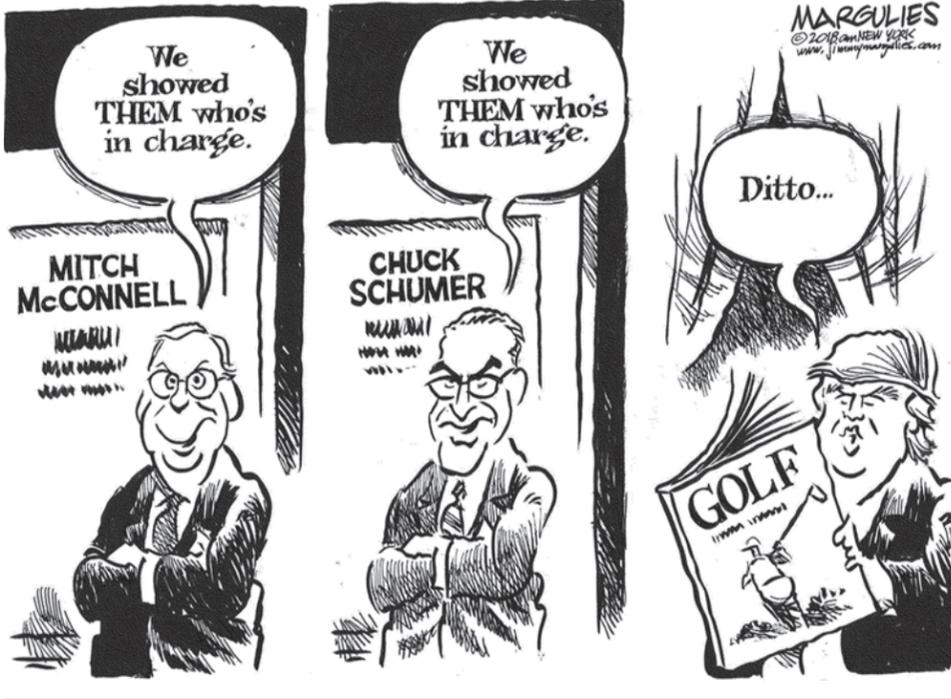


Member Texas Community Newspaper Association

Publisher Rick Shrum
Contributors Alfredo Vasquez Steve Escajeda



Homesteader News, Inc. Est. 1973



– Photo courtesy EL Paso Community College

IT ALL ADDS UP – From left, EPCC’s Fernando Flores, Associate Vice President of Budget and Financial Services; Josette Shaughnessy, Vice President of Financial and Administrative Operations; and Dr. William Serrata, President with the plaque recognizing the school’s financial reporting.

EPCC recognized for financial reporting

By Jim Heiney
Special to the Courier

EL PASO COUNTY – For the 21st year El Paso Community College (EPCC) was awarded the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) for the fiscal year ending August 31, 2016. The Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting award recognizes state and local governments that go beyond the minimum requirements of generally accepted accounting principles by preparing comprehensive annual financial reports (CAFR) that evidence transparency and full disclosure. This award is the highest form of recognition

in governmental accounting and financial reporting.

“The CAFR the provides a wealth of information to the Federal, State and local agencies, the bond rating agencies and the College’s accrediting bodies about the its vital role in the local, state and national economy,” said Josette Shaughnessy, EPCC Vice President of Financial and Administrative Operations.

The CAFR highlights not only the College’s financial results but also its achievements in every area of the District such as any new initiatives related to student success, technology and the various services provided to the El Paso community.

Visit www.epcc.edu/FinancialTransparency/ for the 2015-2016 CAFR for EPCC.

View from here By John Grimaldi

California law would allow the state to control free speech

The Association of Mature American Citizens (AMAC) sought last week to focus attention on a pending Supreme Court case that poses a new threat to our Constitutional right of free speech.

AMAC president Dan Weber said that a news article posted on the AMAC Web site last week caught the attention of the association’s membership offering their own comments on the matter. But, he added, apparently independent media outlets remain unaware of its importance or are choosing to ignore its significance.

“The case involves a California law that requires pro-life crisis-pregnancy centers to promote abortion in their ads that offer right to life counseling and services,” Weber explained. He called it an “infamous” piece of legislation that directly and blatantly violates the right of free speech by compelling those centers to include abortion as an option in their ads.

“It’s an infamous piece of legislation that directly and blatantly violates the right of free speech.”

– Dan Weber

The National Institute of Family and Life Advocates (NIFLA) is the plaintiff in the case against the state of California. Forty-one organizations that “advocate for free speech, religious liberty, and the rights of the unborn” filed a brief with the U.S. Supreme Court in support of NIFLA’s claim. In it they explained that, “In this case, the state knows full well that it is compelling speech, and it knows full well that it is compelling speech on matters of deep moral, religious, and political dispute.”

Says Weber, “What part of the first amendment does California not understand? It states clearly that no law can be enacted ‘respecting an establishment of

Speech

From Page 3

religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech.' It seems to me that that is exactly what California did when it enacted its law forcing pro-life advocates to publicly acknowledge abortion as an alternative. What's next? Will they pass a law compelling brick-and-mortar retailers to include a message that the same products they sell are available online from Web-based vendors such as Amazon?"

Weber said that this case is

not about abortion or the pro-life movement; it is about free speech. And he pointed to a Supreme Court case that was heard in 1949 and in which Justice William O. Douglas wrote the majority opinion. Douglas explained clearly what the fuss is all about in that opinion: "The function of free speech under our system of government is to invite dispute. It may indeed best serve its high purpose when it induces a condition of unrest, creates dissatisfaction with conditions as they are, or even stirs people to anger. Speech is often provocative and challenging. It may strike at prejudices

and preconceptions that have profound unsettling effects as it pressures for the acceptance of an idea."

Weber pointed out, "It was the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco that declared the state's law is Constitutional because it 'regulates only unprotected commercial speech.'" In other words, the court is claiming that non-profit pro-life counselors should be treated as commercial entities because they engage in fund-raising. If that's what they believe then all nonprofit organizations that engage in fund raising need beware. Mark Rienzi, a

prominent professor of law, says that "standard would turn every nonprofit in the country into a commercial speaker and give the government enormous power to regulate the speech of every nonprofit – even your church around the corner."

The Association of Mature American Citizens (http://www.amac.us) is a senior advocacy organization that takes its marching orders from its members. We act and speak on their behalf, protecting their interests and offering a practical insight on how to best solve the problems they face today.

Strange But True

By Samantha Weaver

- It was Italian novelist, philosopher and university professor Umberto Eco who made the following sage observation: "Fear prophets and those prepared to die for the truth, for as a rule they make many others die with them, often before them, at times instead of them."

- The average (presumably non-bearded) man will shave at least 20,000 times over the course of his lifetime.

- Although it is a dog, the dhole, which is native to Asia, doesn't bark; to communicate with other members of its pack, it whistles. Evidently, that high-pitched sound carries better than low-pitched barking in the dense forests where it lives.

- If you're not in a romantic mood as Valentine's Day approaches, you might want to consider reviving the vinegar valentine popular in the 19th century. Rather than conveying love and affection, these insulting missives – usually sent anonymously, for obvious reasons – were dripping with sarcasm and black humor. Some were intended to discourage unwanted suitors, but others were just mean, accusing the recipient of being too aggressive (for women) or too submissive (for men) or of putting on airs, among other things. There were even occupation-specific cards targeted at doctors, salesladies, artists, etc. According to an article in Smithsonian magazine, in the mid-1800s, these vinegar valentines accounted for half of all valentine sales in the United States.

- Those who study such things say that 20 percent of American men have spent at least one night in jail.

Thought for the Day: "One of the truest tests of integrity is its blunt refusal to be compromised."

– Chinua Achebe

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Anthony Independent School District Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balance Governmental Funds For the Year Ended August 31, 2017

Data Control Codes	General Fund	Capital Projects	Other Funds	Total Governmental Funds
REVENUES:				
5700 Total Local and Intermediate Sources	\$ 1,995,131	\$ 8,924	\$ 349,000	\$ 2,353,055
5800 State Program Revenues	6,255,686	-	273,514	6,529,200
5900 Federal Program Revenues	962,063	-	722,484	1,684,547
5020 Total Revenues	9,212,880	8,924	1,344,998	10,566,802
EXPENDITURES:				
Current:				
0011 Instruction	3,905,001	-	405,125	4,310,126
0012 Instructional Resources and Media Services	146,414	-	-	146,414
0013 Curriculum and Instructional Staff Development	192,100	-	60,108	252,208
0021 Instructional Leadership	152,871	-	2,418	155,289
0023 School Leadership	476,660	-	6,310	482,970
0031 Guidance, Counseling and Evaluation Services	207,740	-	70,995	278,735
0033 Health Services	116,930	-	-	116,930
0034 Student (Pupil) Transportation	153,282	-	-	153,282
0035 Food Services	688,213	-	226,665	914,878
0036 Extracurricular Activities	760,937	-	8,249	769,186
0041 General Administration	623,535	-	2,716	626,251
0051 Facilities Maintenance and Operations	842,291	-	15,269	857,560
0052 Security and Monitoring Services	123,767	-	4,000	127,767
0053 Data Processing Services	296,351	-	-	296,351
0061 Community Services	376	-	43,789	44,165
Debt Service:				
0071 Debt Service - Principal on Long Term Debt	-	-	295,000	295,000
0072 Debt Service - Interest on Long Term Debt	-	-	176,800	176,800
Capital Outlay:				
0081 Facilities Acquisition and Construction	27,737	55,513	-	83,250
Intergovernmental:				
0099 Other Intergovernmental Charges	29,513	-	-	29,513
6030 Total Expenditures	8,743,718	55,513	1,317,444	10,116,675
1200 Net Change in Fund Balances	469,162	(46,589)	27,554	450,127
0100 Fund Balance – September 1 (Beginning)	3,309,173	986,721	201,574	4,497,468
3000 Fund Balance – August 31 (Ending)	\$ 3,778,335	\$ 940,132	\$ 229,128	\$ 4,947,595

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CryptoQuip Answer

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Moments in Time

The History Channel

• On Feb. 12, 1999, the five-week impeachment trial of Bill Clinton resulting from his affair with 21-year-old intern Monica Lewinsky comes to an end. The Senate voted to acquit on both articles of impeachment: perjury and obstruction of justice.

• On Feb. 13, 1945, Allied firebombing raids begin against the German city of Dresden, reducing the city to rubble. The medieval city, renowned for its artistic and architectural treasures, had never been a site of war production or major industry.

• On Feb. 14, 1929, penicillin is discovered by Sir Alexander Fleming, a bacteriologist. Fleming left a plate of staphylococcus bacteria uncovered, and noticed that mold that had fallen on the culture had killed many of the bacteria.

• On Feb. 15, 1950, Walt Disney's animated feature "Cinderella," six years in the making, opens in theaters. "Cinderella" has been rereleased periodically to keep its popularity alive among new generations.

• On Feb. 16, 1848, composer and pianist Frederic Chopin plays his final Paris concert. Chopin's musical goal had been to speak to the heart and soul of man. Upon his death, at his request, Chopin's sister was able to smuggle his heart in a jar back to Poland, where it was buried in a church.

• On Feb. 17, 1966, Brian Wilson of the Beach Boys rolls tape on take one of "Good Vibrations." Six months, four studios and \$50,000 later, he completed his 3 minute, 39 second symphony, pieced together from more than 90 hours of tape recorded during hundreds of sessions.

• On Feb. 18, 1856, the American Party, also known as the "Know-Nothing Party," convenes in Philadelphia to nominate its first presidential candidate. The Know-Nothing movement began in the 1840s as a result of increasing immigration. When questioned by the press, members would reply that they knew nothing, hence the name.

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WHEN THE GAMES BEGIN.

NEVER GIVE UP UNTIL THEY BUCKLE UP.



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Tornillo Independent School District Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balance Governmental Funds For the Year Ended August 31, 2017

Data Control Codes	10 General Fund	60 Capital Projects	Other Funds	Total Governmental Funds
REVENUES:				
5700 Total Local and Intermediate Sources	\$ 957,107	\$ 59,763	\$ 232,339	\$ 1,249,209
5800 State Program Revenues	10,173,762	-	953,090	11,126,852
5900 Federal Program Revenues	895,081	-	1,160,726	2,055,807
5020 Total Revenues	12,025,950	59,763	2,346,155	14,431,868
EXPENDITURES:				
Current:				
0011 Instruction	5,377,761	-	894,915	6,272,676
0012 Instructional Resources and Media Services	112,081	-	12,835	124,916
0013 Curriculum and Instructional Staff Development	69,822	-	96,946	166,768
0021 Instructional Leadership	72,816	-	133,095	205,911
0023 School Leadership	699,895	-	9,757	709,652
0031 Guidance, Counseling and Evaluation Services	223,949	-	7,490	231,439
0033 Health Services	157,655	-	-	157,655
0034 Student (Pupil) Transportation	174,932	-	-	174,932
0035 Food Services	938,332	-	16,173	954,505
0036 Extracurricular Activities	421,077	-	-	421,077
0041 General Administration	839,093	122	1,116	840,331
0051 Facilities Maintenance and Operations	1,389,119	-	-	1,389,119
0052 Security and Monitoring Services	179,354	-	-	179,354
0053 Data Processing Services	462,511	-	-	462,511
0061 Community Services	71,278	-	62,514	133,792
Debt Service:				
0071 Principal on Long Term Debt	75,000	-	500,456	575,456
0072 Interest on Long Term Debt	9,564	-	661,588	671,152
0073 Bond Issuance Cost and Fees	-	13,750	-	13,750
Capital Outlay:				
0081 Facilities Acquisition and Construction	273,130	9,818,688	-	10,091,818
Intergovernmental:				
0099 Other Intergovernmental Charges	12,374	-	-	12,374
6030 Total Expenditures	11,559,743	9,832,560	2,396,885	23,789,188
1100 Excess (Deficiency) of Revenues Over (Under) Expenditures	466,207	(9,772,797)	(50,730)	(9,357,320)
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES):				
7911 Capital Related Debt Issued (Regular Bonds)	-	395,000	-	395,000
7915 Transfers In	481,794	272,581	-	754,375
8911 Transfers Out (Use)	(754,375)	-	-	(754,375)
7080 Total Other Financing Sources (Uses)	(272,581)	667,581	-	395,000
1200 Net Change in Fund Balances	193,626	(9,105,216)	(50,730)	(8,962,320)
0100 Fund Balance - September 1 (Beginning)	7,813,805	9,606,479	499,237	17,919,521
3000 Fund Balance - August 31 (Ending)	\$ 8,007,431	\$ 501,263	\$ 448,507	\$ 8,957,201

Send Your Newsbrief To:
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One last look at the 2017 year in sports

By Steve Escajeda
Special to the Courier

Well, 2018 is finally here and as always, most of us are thinking about resolutions and plans for the new year.

But before we start breaking our new-year promises, let's take a last look at the top ten most influential sports stories of 2017.

10. Even though most Americans have been very slow to include soccer in their sports-watching schedule, they do manage to tune in during the World Cup.

But Americans won't have the chance to root for the USA in 2018 because of the Red, White and Blue's shocking loss to Trinidad and Tobago during qualifying.

9. Kevin Durant had a lot of success with Oklahoma City, but just couldn't get past the Golden State Warriors in the playoffs.

So instead of accepting the challenge of trying to get better and knock off the Warriors, Durant decided to take the easy way out and join the enemy instead.

And whatever you think about his decision, it paid off as Durant and his new

teammates won the 2017 NBA title.

8. Though this is still a developing story, 2017 saw a significant scandal hit the world of college basketball.

These sleazy allegations involved corrupt agents and shoe companies and coaches and illegal recruiting practices and dirty money and athletic directors and college boosters and athletes on the take.

The biggest name to fall so far is former Louisville head coach Rick Pitino. But 2018 could catch up to many others.

7. The Atlanta Falcons had the Super Bowl in their nest, up 28-3 at one time.

The Patriots looked old and slow and it appeared that a dynasty was coming to an end. But the veterans Brady and Belichick did it once again and rallied for an incredible 34-31 win.

6. It gets hot in the summer, cold in the winter and UConn always wins the women's national championship, right?

Wrong!

Mississippi State upset UConn in the final four, ending the Huskies 111-game winning streak.

Making the upset even more astounding was the fact that UConn beat Miss. St.

a year earlier in the NCAA Tournament 98-38.

5. Some say it's NFL collusion and some say he just doesn't have it anymore. Whatever the reason, Colin Kaepernick was in the news quite a bit for a guy who spent zero minutes on the football field.

The former 49ers quarterback, who is now more famous for starting the "take a knee during the national anthem" movement than leading San Francisco to the Super Bowl, saw team after team pass him by whenever a quarterback opening came up.

4. The Alabama Crimson Tide is college football's version of Goliath.

They seemed invisible when they went up 14-0 early and led 24-14 in the fourth quarter of the national title game, but it was quarterback Deshaun Watson's heroics that led Clemson to a stunning 35-31 upset.

3. It wasn't the prettiest thing in the world, in fact, it was downright ugly.

But the Conor McGregor-Floyd Mayweather Jr. fiasco, I mean – fight, was indeed one of the biggest stories of the year.

One was over-the-hill and the other had no boxing skills, but together they conned a fair chunk of the world to buy the pay-per-view rip-off.

2. NFL popularity appears to be taking a nosedive.

Whether it's the kneeling, the concussions, ticket prices, officiating, rule changes, over-paid athletes or over-saturation of games, the once mighty NFL is taking a beating in the ratings.

1. By far, the best story of the year was the over-achieving Houston Astros, who put baseball back in the national spotlight.

America's favorite little guy, Jose Altuve helped lead the Astros to a thrilling playoff series win over the Yankees, and then a historic World Series victory over the favored Dodgers.

The World Series was the first ever for the Astros, the same team that lost over 100 games in 2011, 2012 and 2013.

The timing of the win was significant, coming a couple months after Hurricane Harvey devastated the Houston area.

As far as the local story of the year: Keitha Adams, Sean Kugler, Tim Floyd and Bob Stull started 2017 on the UTEP payroll, but each decided to leave for one reason or another.

Wow, talk about starting new in 2018.

A sporting view By Mark Vasto

It's not war, it's the Olympics

You can learn a lot – and argue a lot, too – watching the Olympic Games. Really, the Olympic Games are the greatest things that the world does in concert. Some would argue the World's Fair or World Cup, but taken in its entirety they cannot match the pageantry or the sheer spectacle the Games provide.

The World's Fair (next hosted by Dubai in 2020) ceased to

be relevant at about the same time the ice-cream cone was invented, and a city chosen as a World Cup venue doesn't feel the impact either economically or psychologically that an Olympic host city experiences. The only time you see the world come together, all at once, holding the flag of their country and smiling is at the Olympic Games. The only other time the human race

comes together en masse holding a flag, it's a war – and they're really there to shoot you.

And, unlike war, the cities aren't pillaged. Most cities use the Olympics as a springboard to civic improvements. They attract businesses, they build parks and entertainment districts, and they also get a bevy of sports facilities that they'd otherwise never think of building, such as a bobsled track or a cross-country track with a shooting range attached.

That track, by the way, is used for the Biathlon, a competition that strikes many people in America

as being a bit weird. Curling, we already knew was weird, but it at least reminds us of shuffleboard. For many, the Biathlon is just too foreign a concept. At least in some parts of the country or, as I learned on a radio show I hosted, college campuses.

"The Biathlon is the most ridiculous sport there is," charged the liberal, tenured professor, aptly positioned to my left. "Skiing with guns. What's next? Hand grenades and ice dancing?"

Having once dated a mountain girl, I reminded him that skiing and shooting were a perfect combination. I knew of hunters who cross-country skied while hunting grouse, for instance. There used to be a deer-hunting event in the Olympics, too. And there is little doubt that those in

the biathlon are athletes.

"These are the best hunters in the world. If we lived near the ice cap, these are the guys you want to have with you – someone who can outlast their prey and take it down with one neatly placed bullet," I observed, rather astutely. Plus, I argued, target shooting was very sporting, and hunting was a great recreational pursuit.

"Well, I'm vegetarian," said the young student on the discussion panel. "Why would we need guns if we didn't kill animals?"

Well, duh... to fight wars. Silly question.

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

USDA-Home Preservation Grant Village of Vinton, TX

Village of Vinton has received a USDA Home Preservation Grant from the United States Department of Agriculture-Rural Development. The grant is eligible Very-Low Income homeowners that have homes and need repair. **The homes must be located in the Village of Vinton.**

Grant guidelines:

- Used for home repairs and or modifications
- Home must be occupied by the homeowner
- Property taxes must be current or a pay plan in place with payments current
- Gross annual income below 50% of Area Median income

Typical Repairs

- Roof Repair or Replacement • Weatherize Home
- Walkways/Ramps • Bathroom Modifications
- Flooring Materials • Doors/Windows

For more information about this program please contact:

Anibal Olague
(915) 443-8859

Aolague@bordercdc.com • <http://www.vintontx.govoffice2.com/>



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LEGALS

PUBLIC NOTICE

El Paso County Emergency Services District #2

Notice of Location

The El Paso County Emergency Services District #2 is located at 100 S. San Elizario Rd., Ste. N (mail: PO Box 683), Clint, TX 79836. Phone (non-emergency): (915) 851-0304; EMERGENCY: 911; Fax: (915) 851-9000; Ambulance (county): (915) 779-2111.

Mariana Navarrete
District Administrator

WTCC: 02-01-18

PUBLIC NOTICE

El Paso County Emergency Services District #1

Notice of Location

The El Paso County Emergency Services District #1 (Horizon Fire Department) is located at 14151 Nunda Ave., Horizon City, TX 79928. Phone (non-emergency): (915) 852-3204; EMERGENCY: 911; Fax: (915) 852-8400; Ambulance (county): (915) 779-2111.

Ron Larson
Administrator

WTCC: 02-01-18

IF YOU THINK PICKING UP DOG POOP IS UNPLEASANT, TRY DRINKING IT.



Pet waste washes into storm drains, polluting our rivers, lakes and drinking water sources. Get the scoop.

The Town of Horizon City Storm Water Management Team would like to remind our residents how very important it is to keep our storm drains and ponding areas trash free.

Town of Horizon City Storm Water Management Program
14999 Darrington Road • Horizon City, Texas 79928
(915) 852-1046 • Fax (915) 852-1005 • www.horizoncity.org

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: I have a question concerning estradiol. My gynecologist has me taking 1 milligram of estradiol daily. My internist recommends that I not take it. Which recommendation should I follow? I have never had hot flashes, so that is not a problem. My internist says that I need to gradually stop taking the estradiol. He says that this medicine has more problems than benefits. It is hard to choose what to do. What do you recommend? – H.L.

increases the risk of blood clots. The largest areas of confusion are in breast cancer and heart disease. For conjugated estrogens with medroxyprogesterone, which has the best information, for 1,000 women in 10 years there were seven more heart attacks, eight more strokes, eight more blood clots in the lungs and eight more invasive breast cancers, but six fewer colon cancers and five fewer hip fractures.

Back in the 1990s, we often recommended that women take estrogen in order to prevent problems, in addition to treating hot flashes. Two important studies came out showing that estrogen appeared to cause problems as well as prevent them. The definitive answer as to whether estrogen causes more problems than it prevents still isn't known, and it probably depends on many factors. The term "estrogen" as I am using it refers to a group of related compounds.

Recent data suggest that women who start estrogen immediately at menopause have a lower risk of heart disease than those who start five or 10 years after menopause (in fact, they may have an overall lower risk, compared with women who don't take estrogen). Women who took estrogen alone did not have an increased risk of breast cancer.

Estradiol is sometimes referred to as "bioidentical," since it is the same hormone that a woman's body makes, as opposed to conjugated equine estrogen (Premarin), which was most commonly used in the 1990s and earlier. The type of estrogen may make a difference in terms of risk. Also, estrogen is seldom given without a progesterone compound in women who have not had their uterus removed, and the type of progesterone appears to make a major difference in risk.

Because of the known harms of estrogen, at this time neither I nor any expert body recommends taking estrogen just to prevent problems. Until new studies become available, since you have no hot flashes, I agree with your internist.

Briefly, the evidence suggests that estrogen reduces the risk of colon cancer and of osteoporosis and fractures. However, it

DEAR DR. ROACH: I wanted to tell you of the unbelievable relief I've gotten from the small, very painful cracks that used to develop at the ends of my fingers next to the nails, usually in the winter. Since I started taking 1,000 mg of fish oil once a day, I have had only one crack. – R.L.S.

I couldn't find any studies on this, but anecdotal reports say fish oil may be helpful and is unlikely to harm. It's reasonable to give

See HEALTH, Page 8

Super Crossword

PUNNING UP AND DOWN ACROSS

- 1 Jan. and Feb.
- 4 Project detail, for short
- 8 Coll. dorm monitors
- 11 Salt Lake City athletes
- 15 Speedy WWW hookup
- 18 Nibble away
- 19 Funny Bombeck
- 20 Trio after N
- 21 12-point-wide type
- 22 Lemur kin
- 23 Start of the first riddle
- 26 Ship routes
- 28 Henry of Time and Life
- 29 The Teletubby that's yellow
- 31 Certain citrus grove yield
- 32 Middle of the first riddle
- 37 Lingerie garment
- 39 Snobbery
- 40 Un-PC suffix
- 41 Retort to "Not so!"
- 42 Wrestling pad
- 43 Party game cry
- 44 Peaty place
- 47 Slave over _ stove
- 49 End of the first riddle
- 58 U.S. snoop gp.
- 59 Creameries

- 60 State as fact
- 61 First riddle's answer
- 65 Zagreb site
- 66 "My Man" singer
- 67 Pre-58-Across org.
- 68 Immodesty
- 70 Old fed. led by Nasser
- 71 Hydrogen atom's lack
- 75 Start of the second riddle
- 77 Funny Bombeck
- 78 Trio after N
- 79 12-point-wide type
- 80 Lemur kin
- 81 Start of the first riddle
- 82 Ship routes
- 83 Henry of Time and Life
- 84 The Teletubby that's yellow
- 85 Certain citrus grove yield
- 86 Middle of the first riddle
- 87 Lingerie garment
- 88 Snobbery
- 89 Un-PC suffix
- 90 Retort to "Not so!"
- 91 Wrestling pad
- 92 Party game cry
- 93 Peaty place
- 94 Slave over _ stove
- 95 End of the first riddle
- 96 U.S. snoop gp.
- 97 Creameries

- 123 Go _ rant
 - 124 Black-and-white treat
 - 125 _ culpa
 - 126 Cut out
 - 127 Aug. follower
 - 128 April follower
 - 129 Simple
 - 130 Purported psychic gift
- DOWN**
- 1 Cry feebly
 - 2 Island of Hawaii
 - 3 Detached, musically
 - 4 Jiffy
 - 5 Ace
 - 6 Aussie bird
 - 7 Hardened skin area
 - 8 Fit for a king
 - 9 Straight as _
 - 10 Nerdy sort
 - 11 Big name in pkg. shipping
 - 12 Get stewed
 - 13 PC-sent greeting
 - 14 Deli meat
 - 15 "Blasted!"
 - 16 Big name in swimsuits
 - 17 Not to such a degree
 - 24 Tetley option
 - 25 "True _!" ("Yes siree!")
 - 27 Santa _ (hot winds)
 - 30 All the world, per

- the Bard
- 33 Actress Metcalf
- 34 One-dimensional
- 35 Body part above eyes
- 36 One of the Musketeers
- 37 X6 and Z4 carmaker
- 38 Pep rally cry
- 44 Doldrums
- 45 Any of the Joads, e.g.
- 46 Female kid
- 48 Old despot of Russia
- 50 Cry in Berlin
- 51 Tallies
- 52 Bite playfully
- 53 General _'s chicken
- 54 "There _ tide..."
- 55 Abate
- 56 Event with evidence
- 57 Gawk
- 61 Pilot and Fit carmaker
- 62 " _ a nap!"
- 63 Pianist Glenn
- 64 History unit
- 65 Fishcake fish
- 68 Actor Murphy
- 69 Main point
- 72 Oil byproduct
- 73 Bread or booze
- 74 _ buco
- 75 With 94-Across, donkey noise
- 76 Sun, moon and

- star
- 77 Cablegram
- 78 Jewish Passover
- 79 Surround with a saintly ring
- 80 Caveman Alley
- 82 Functional
- 83 Turtle covers
- 86 Makes natty
- 87 " _ Rock" (1966 hit)
- 88 "Heavens!"
- 89 Liquid filling la mer
- 90 A couple
- 95 For some time
- 96 Prison, informally
- 97 Began to cry, with "up"
- 98 Prefix with Chinese
- 99 Chews noisily
- 101 Ski race
- 102 "Some Like It Hot" actress
- 105 Cyber-submit to the IRS
- 106 Massey of "Rosalie"
- 107 "Never ever!"
- 108 Common site for a 7-Down
- 109 Set (down)
- 113 Tilling tools
- 114 Flip one's lid
- 116 First-aid ace
- 118 History unit
- 119 _ Moines
- 120 Male kid

1	2	3		4	5	6	7		8	9	10		11	12	13	14		15	16	17			
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115										116						118	119	120					
121										123					124							125	
126										128					129								130

TRUE TEXAS FACTS by Roger Moore In 1972 Don Halsell of Keene bit the corner off an imported brick in the Texas Senate Chambers to show its poor quality.



Veterans Post By Freddy Groves

Same-day urgent care at all VA facilities?

The Department of Veterans Affairs has just announced that all 1,000 of its facilities are available for same-day care for primary or mental-health needs.

That sounds great. But there are caveats. Same-day care doesn't necessarily mean you'll go in that day. There is a protocol to determine just how urgent your case actually is. You might get a real visit, or you might get advice from a nurse, a telehealth or video visit, an appointment to see a specialist or a prescription filled that day, or you might get an email. Same-day care also applies only to days and times a facility is open.

To learn more about the process of getting urgent care, go to www.accesstocare.va.gov. Check the Frequently Asked Questions while you're there. You'll see a list of locations with the hours and days each facility is open (some are Monday-Friday only, with regular business hours), as well

as the services they provide.

Also, in the FAQ, note the way non-urgent wait times are calculated. If you want an appointment and they can't fit you in for six days, your wait is six days. OK, that's fair. If, on the other hand, you are a returning patient whose physician has requested you return at a certain time, the wait time is calculated as days between the requested date and the date they can actually get you in. They give this example: Your doctor wants you back in 30 days, but they can't fit you in until 45 days, then your wait time is 15 days.

If you really want immediate care and can't get it, the FAQ lists more options, including mobile medical units, mobile vet units, vet centers, walk-in clinics and emergency rooms. Check your area now so you'll know your options in advance should you ever need urgent care.

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Here's a Tip

By JoAnn Derson

- What's in season? Get more bang for your produce buck in February by looking for good deals on: Brussels sprouts, grapefruit and other citrus, pears, kale, sweet potatoes, winter squash, bok choy, apples and radicchio. Branch out with persimmons, leeks, red currants, cherimoya, pomelo and dates.

- Want a great way to clean your ceiling fans without dropping dust bunnies everywhere? Simply use a pillowcase. Encase the entire blade and wipe from the center out. All the dirt is inside the case, and when you are done, go outdoors to turn it inside out and shake, then pop it in the washer. Best tip ever!

- Got cold hands? This "hot sock" is the greatest for a quick warmup. Add a cup of uncooked white rice to a sock. Knot closed. Pop in the microwave for 45 seconds to 1 1/2 minutes, and then simply hold it. Make a larger one for sore back or neck, or to tuck into the bottom of the bed to keep feet toasty as you drift off to sleep.

- "I recently moved away to college and, for the first time in my life, have become reliant on public transportation. I would say that the two most important items right now are a bus pass (so I don't have to try to find exact change) and hand sanitizer. When I got here, I was pretty much sick for a month!"

- O.J. in New York

- If you keep a toilet brush in your bathroom, try this handy hint: Add a few drops of a fragrant multipurpose cleaner to your brush holder, like Pine Sol or Mistolin.

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

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.

	÷		+		10
×		+		-	
	-		×		10
-		×		×	
	+		÷		2
15		15		7	

1 2 3 5 5 6 7 8 9

DIFFICULTY: ★

★ Moderate ★★ Difficult
★★★ GO FIGURE!

Answer Page 4

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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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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: W equals O

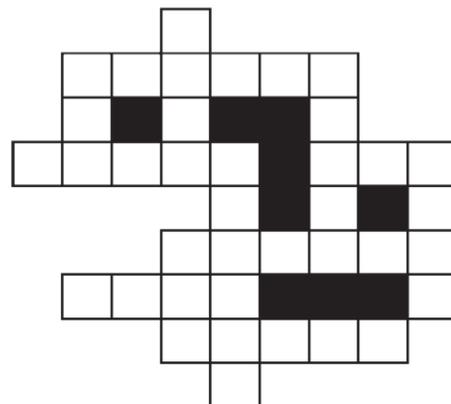
GDRVOQD UED WKI GVDJA XVQ
BDAF QNRJ WC ENQ ROADHU
XVFQ, ED IDRNI DI UW UOAH
WBDA V HDX KWVC.

Answer Page 4

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- BWO
- ♥ LEGDRI
- ♥ DENTO
- ♥ DWEA
- ♥ NIDAME
- ♥ ODG
- ORBA
- ♥ RASMW
- ♥ AET
- ARNBOG
- ♥ RADBE
- DOGO



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.

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Health

From Page 7

it a try. I would recommend a supplement that contains both EPA and DHA. The Costco brand was found to be of high quality.

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, or write to Good Health, 628 Virginia Drive, Orlando, FL 32803. (c) 2018 North America Synd., Inc. All Rights Reserved.