



NEWSBRIEFS

EPCC theater

El Paso Community College (EPCC) Theater Ensemble will offer its first play of the spring season with *The Heiress*. Performances will be held March 2, 3, 10 and 11 at 8:00 p.m. and March 4 and 12 at 2:30 p.m. The EPCC Theater Ensemble performs at the EPCC Transmountain Campus Forum Theater, 9570 Gateway North. Tickets are available at the door. The box office opens two hours before each performance. Prices are:

- General Admission, \$15;
- Non-EPCC students and military, \$10; and
- EPCC students/staff and senior citizens, \$7.

Plain Catherine Sloper, who lives a spinster's life with her unloving father and eccentric aunt, is courted by the dashing Morris Townsend, seemingly for love and not for money, in this adaptation of the Henry James novel *Washington Square*. The play was written by Ruth and Augustus Goetz and is being directed by EPCC Theater Instructor, Ted Karber, Jr. For theater information, call (915) 831-5056.

— Jim Heiney

Jewel Box Series

The long-brewing rancor between authors Lillian Hellman and Mary McCarthy bubbled over when McCarthy called Hellman a liar in 1979 on *The Dick Cavett Show*. "Every word (she) writes is a lie, including 'and' and 'the,'" McCarthy claimed. Hellman sued. The nasty literary feud is the inspiration for *Hellman v. McCarthy*, the next presentation in the El Paso Community Foundation Jewel Box Series at the Philanthropy Theatre. El Paso playwright and actress Camilla Carr directs and stars as Lillian Hellman in a reader's theater version of the Brian Richard Mori play at 2:30 p.m. Sunday, March 11 in the Philanthropy Theatre on the second floor of the Plaza Theatre Performing Arts Centre Annex. Tickets are \$16 at the Plaza Theatre box office, Ticketmaster outlets, ticketmaster.com, and 800-745-3000 (service charges apply for online and telephone purchases). Hellman (*The Little Foxes*) filed a \$2.5 million libel suit against author-critic McCarthy (*The Company*

See BRIEFS, Page 5

You can't fool all the people all the time, but politicians figure that once every few years is good enough.

— Quips & Quotes

Eugenio Licon leaves strong legacy in San Eli

By Alfredo Vasquez
Special to the Courier

SAN ELIZARIO – The community of San Elizario said goodbye to one of its most notable resident, as funeral services for Eugenio Licon were held this past weekend.

Licon, founder of Licon Dairy in El Paso County's lower valley, died February 17 in an Austin hospital after heart surgery complications. He was 83 years old.

"This town has a lot of history. But Licon Dairy and what he built and what his legacy will be is one of the milestones in the history of San Elizario," San Elizario Mayor Maya Sanchez stated. "He put San Elizario on the map with his asadero (cheese) shipped to other places," Sanchez said. "He will be remembered for his community service, which he and his wife, Maria Licon, instilled into their family, and for his humble manner," Sanchez added. Eugenio and Maria would have celebrated their sixtieth wedding anniversary this summer.

Licon bought the dairy, which began in the late 1940s, from his father-in-law in 1963 and moved it to its current location, at 11951 Glorietta Road, in San Elizario. He went on to turn the dairy into the Licon cheese factory and store. Through the years he added a petting zoo and fishing pond, which generations of El Paso-area children visited for free throughout the years.

"We knew he was special, but we didn't realize the impact he had on the community, that he touched so many lives, until thousands of people responded to Licon Dairy's Facebook post about his death," said Angel Licon, 28, one of Eugenio Licon's 10 grandchildren.

"The community is keeping us going, and we will continue his legacy," which includes opening a restaurant at the cheese factory this summer, Angel Licon stated in a recent news interview.

Angel now operates Licon Dairy along with his father, Gene Licon Jr., 50, one of Eugenio and Maria Licon's four children, and their only son.



— Photo courtesy of Licon Family

Patriarch – Eugenio Licon dies at 83. "(My grandfather) was the American dream. He came from Mexico dirt poor, and moved to San Elizario at a young age," said Angel Licon. "He started (the dairy) with about eight cows... and built it to about 200 dairy cows," he said.

Rodriguez recognized for counseling work

By Denise Peña
Special to the Courier

FABENS – Texas A&M University has selected Fabens High School counselor Veronica Rodriguez as a 2018 Very Important Counselor (VIC). The VIC program recognizes high school counselors for their outstanding service and important work in guiding students on the path to college. Jaime Samaniego, the El Paso area recruiter for Texas A&M, nominated Rodriguez.

The selection includes all-expenses paid campus visit for Rodriguez in April as well as a \$1,000 Counselor Choice scholarship to be awarded to an FHS senior planning to attend Texas A&M University in this fall.

National Honor Society President Josh Sustaita is not surprised that she was selected. "She's such a good counselor," he said. "She goes above and beyond. This award doesn't even begin to acknowledge all that she does for us."

Rodriguez, however was surprised to have received the acknowledgment. "I am humbled," she said. "I don't do what I do for recognition. I do it because our kids deserve the best, to have every opportunity possible. They work hard balancing schoolwork, extracurricular activities and sports. They really are exceptional."



Veronica Rodriguez

— Photo courtesy Fabens ISD

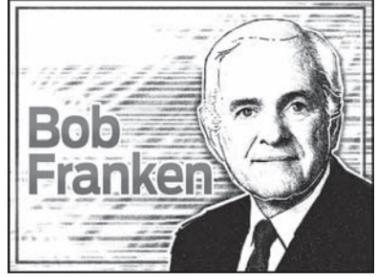
Guns and Russians

Mark the date on your calendar: March 24. It's a Saturday. It'll be a test for the up-and-coming generation. For that matter, it will be a test for the United States of America and a system of government that gets many failing grades because it has corruption baked in.

March 24 is the day that student organizers have announced a rally in Washington – "March for

our Lives." Anything short of an enormous turnout will reinforce the craven politicians' belief that they can wait out the outrage that accompanies each regularly occurring mass gun slaughter, such as the latest one in Florida, by uttering a few "thoughts and prayers" statements. That way, they avoid the wrath of the National Rifle Association and its accomplices, who combine intimidation with campaign contributions to those who cover before them.

full advantage of our inherent superficiality. A certain president uses Twitter to great effect. Others prefer Facebook, like the Russian government. The latest indictment from Robert Mueller's special counsel operation nails Vladimir Putin's henchmen by detailing the highly organized ways they distorted the 2016 election.



that what he said on Twitter was astonishingly self-centered, even for Donald Trump. You decide:

"Very sad that the FBI missed all of the many signals sent out by the Florida school shooter. This is not acceptable. They are spending too much time trying to prove Russian collusion with the Trump campaign."

But wait, there's more: In still another tweet he contended "They are laughing their asses off in Moscow." Perhaps they are. However, this rally, which is another attempt to take American democracy back from all the foreign and domestic malefactors, can succeed only if it produces a gargantuan turnout in late March. If it is not huge, the Russians will have more reason to laugh.

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Veterans Post By Freddy Groves

VA Chief Shulkin's excellent adventure

I really hate when this happens: Someone you trust to do the right things turns out to possibly not be trustworthy after all. This is what has happened with Department of Veterans Affairs Secretary David Shulkin.

The facts look bad. Shulkin was invited to London for a two-day meeting of officials from various countries to talk about veterans' issues. Before going, he asked staff to put together a side trip to Denmark to speak with the Danes about Danish healthcare.

Shulkin's wife traveled with him. Approval for paying her way was declined when it was determined that it wasn't in the government's best interest. Up stepped his chief of staff, who, after altering emails, claimed that Shulkin was to receive an award at the ambassador's place in Copenhagen. Therefore, by the rules, the wife's travel would be paid. Except there was no award.

A VA employee, working with the wife on her wish list of things to see and do, played

travel agent, on VA time. While in London, Shulkin and his wife attended Wimbledon using tickets given to them by an alleged friend of his wife. During the subsequent investigation interview, that "friend" could not remember Shulkin's wife's name.

During the nine days they were away, only three-and-a-half days were spent in official meetings. Among a long list of unofficial activities, they visited palaces, took tours, zipped over to Sweden for dinner, went to Buckingham Palace, took a Thames River cruise and much more, apparently dragging security staff along the whole way.

Changes in travel plans added \$15,699 to airfare costs, but there was insufficient documentation to verify all of the other expenses, which totaled \$122,000.

Color me disappointed to have to suspect that Shulkin is no different from the rest of them.

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Only crowds that are even bigger than those that attended President Donald Trump's inauguration can begin to cure America's sickness: our irrational attachment to weapons of mass destruction. Even such an outpouring might not be enough. This is a nation with up to 300 million privately owned weapons, many in the hands of millions of people who feel they must jealously guard them with their lives – or more accurately, the lives of the victims of the latest massacre.

It also will be a test for a country where most of us have the attention span of a gnat. Our thinking, or lack thereof, is shaped these days by social media, where it's easy to take

Trump, as always, did some distorting of his own. For instance, he insisted that these indictments did not accuse his forces of collusion. That is sort of true, but premature. He chose to ignore the probability that more indictments will be coming that hit closer to home, maybe even his home, the White House.

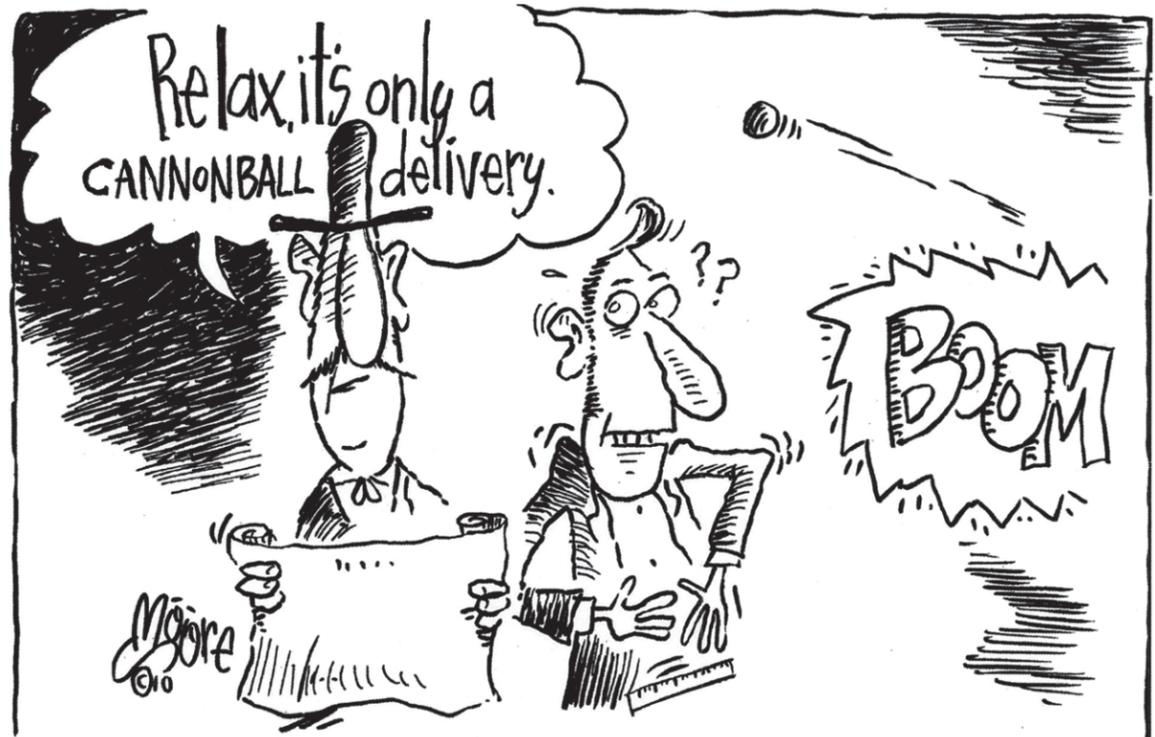
Trump also refuses to address the gun issue even in the wake of the horror over the Parkland, Florida, high school bloodbath. His people now grudgingly allow that he'd support improved background checks, but he's stayed away from the subject for the most part, emphasizing instead the usual platitudes about mental health.

In one tweet, Trump tried to conflate the tragedy and his ongoing disdain for the Russia investigation. Critics charged

COMINGS and GOINGS

Beginning this week and over the next few weeks readers will notice some changes in the content and layout of the West Texas County Courier. "A Sporting View" by Mark Vasto is being retired. "Finances" was put on hiatus by VISA and new columns have not been available for quite some time. The comic strip, The Cashier, below will be added. The two opinion columns, debuting this week, by Bob Franken and Rich Lowery offering different points of view will run regularly. We will be redesigning some of the pages in the paper to accommodate the new material. Thanks for picking up the Courier.

THE CASHIER By Ricardo Galvão



Moore Texas by Roger Moore
The 1st courthouse for Taylor County (in Buffalo Gap) has cannonballs in the foundation!

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 Letter must not be more than 250 words in length. They should be dated, must be signed and have an address and daytime phone number. Only the name and city will be printed with the letter. The West Texas County Courier reserves the right to edit or reject letters to the editor or other submitted material it considers inappropriate.

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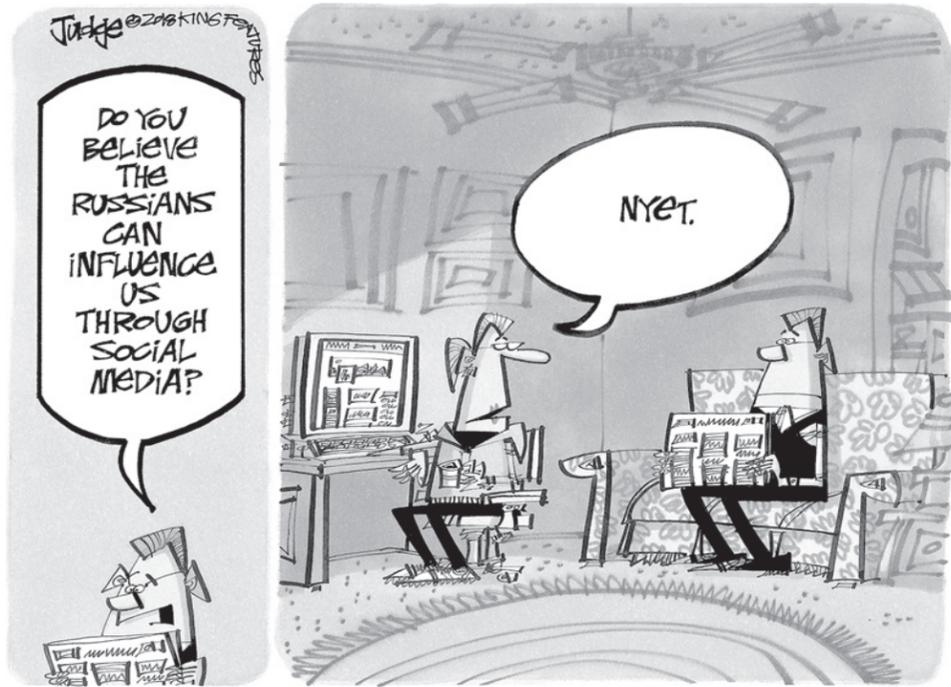
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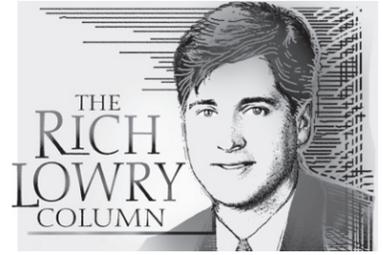


The Russian bot hysteria

If only Joe McCarthy had lived to see this moment, when it is suddenly in vogue to attribute large-scale events in American politics to the hand of Russia and to inveigh against domestic subversion.

Robert Mueller released an indictment of 13 Russians for crimes related to their social-media campaign to meddle in our internal affairs in the run-up to and aftermath of the 2016 election.

Mueller obviously isn't a McCarthyite, and can't be held responsible for the hysteria – and hopeful expectations of an impeachment-level event – that has built up around his work. His indictment is, as far as anyone can tell, rigorously factual. That's probably the point of it – to create a record of an episode that we should want to know as much about as possible and prevent from ever happening again.



The Russia campaign was a shockingly cynical violation of our sovereignty. President Donald Trump would do himself and the country a favor by frankly denouncing it. But the scale of the operation shouldn't be exaggerated. In the context of a hugely expensive, obsessively covered, impossibly dramatic presidential election, the Russian contribution on social media was piddling and often laughable.

The Russians wanted to boost Trump, but as a Facebook executive noted, most of their spending on Facebook ads came after the election. The larger goal was to sow discord, yet we had already primed ourselves for plenty of that.

Does anyone believe, absent Russian trolls on Twitter and Facebook, that we were headed to a placid election season involving an incendiary, mediagenic former reality TV star bent on blowing up the political establishment and a longtime pol who had stoked the enmity of Republicans for 30 years and was under FBI investigation?

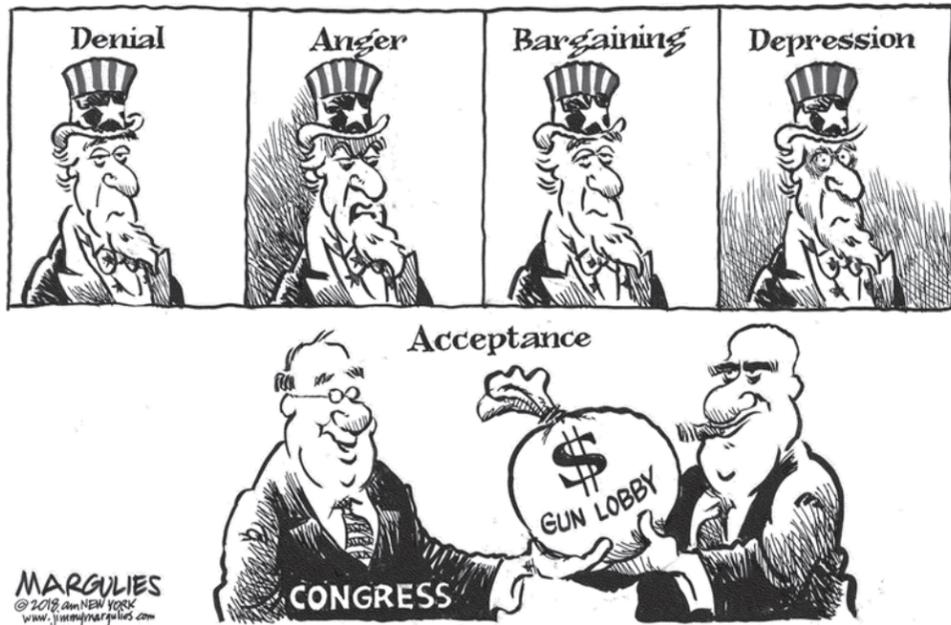
If you read the Mueller indictment, you might think the Russians were everywhere, not only advertising on Facebook (“Trump is our only hope for a better future”; “Ohio Wants Hillary 4 Prison”), but organizing rallies around the country. But it's not clear these rallies even came off.

The Russians didn't do anything to us that we weren't doing to ourselves, although we were doing it on a much larger, more potent scale. The Russians are just aping the arguments we are already having with one other, and the sewerish level of much of the discussion on social media.

The *New York Times* ran a report the other day on Russian bots, in the immediate aftermath of the Parkland school shooting, posting on Twitter about gun control.

See HYSTERIA, Page 4

THE FIVE STAGES OF GRIEF



Food for thought By Dr. Sam Ho

Prescribed an opioid?

Questions to ask your doctor

If your doctor or dentist prescribes a pain reliever, take charge of your health and find out exactly what you are getting. UnitedHealth Group medical experts recommend you ask your doctor these questions about any opioid prescription. Common opioid brand names include Vicodin and Percocet.

Why do I need this medicine?

Ask your doctor for reasons why it is right for you.

Are there other options that will address my pain?

Opioids are not the only option for treating pain. Other options are available. An over-the-counter pain reliever (such as Tylenol®, Aleve® or Advil®) may be enough, or, physical therapy or chiropractic care could give the same results.

How long do I take this?

Extended opioid use can increase the risk of dependence and addiction. Talk with your doctor about a how long you should take the medicine and whether it should be refilled.

Does this medicine line up with current medical guidelines?

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has published specific guidelines, directing doctors to prescribe the lowest dose for the shortest length of time possible.

What are my risks for addiction?

Some people may be more prone to addiction than others. A report published by the CDC suggests that the risk of chronic opioid use rises with each additional day after the third day, with a steep rise after the fifth day.

How does this medicine mix with other medicines I'm taking?

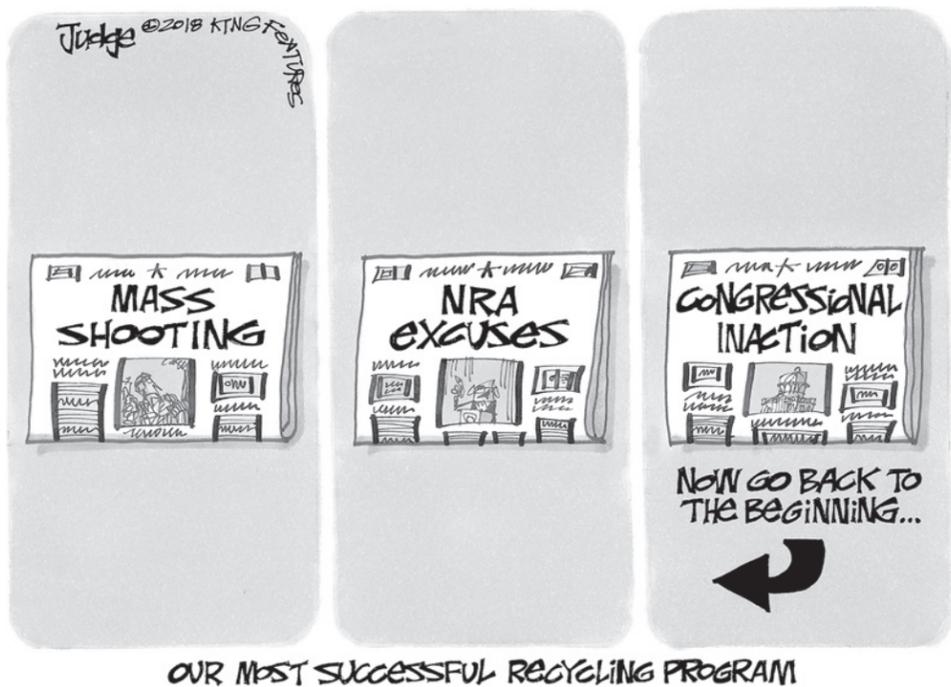
Opioids can be deadly when mixed with other drugs, especially those taken for treatment of anxiety, sleeping disorders and seizures. It's a bad idea to mix alcohol with an opioid pain reliever or muscle relaxants.

What are the expected side effects?

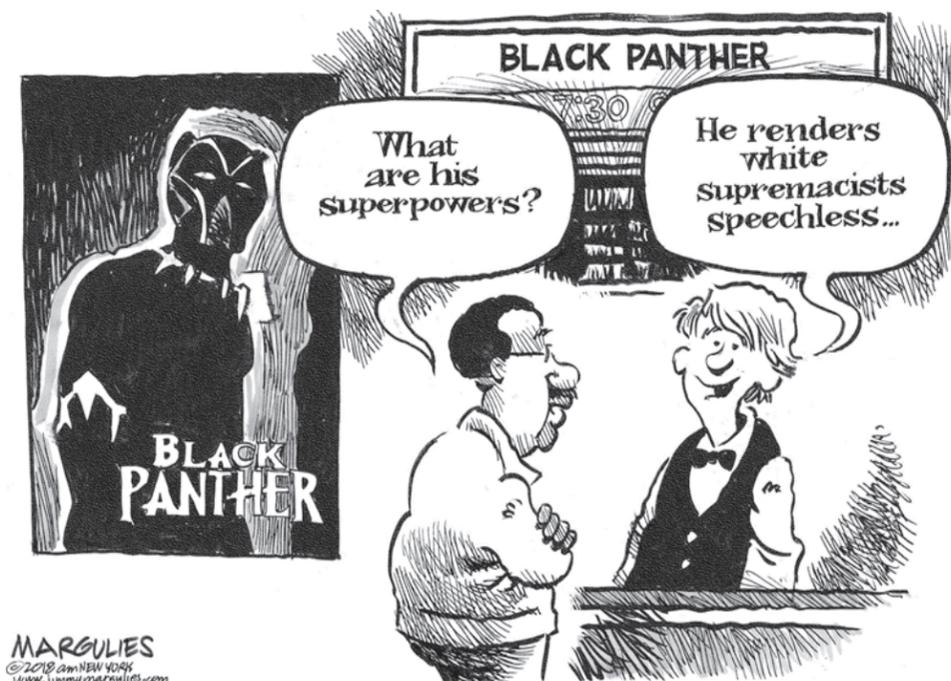
These vary. They might include feeling sick to your stomach, sleepiness, extreme excitement, itching and more. Talk with your doctor.

For additional information and resources visit <https://newsroom.uhc.com/opioids.html>.

Dr. Sam Ho is the chief medical officer for UnitedHealthcare.



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by the Board of Directors of the El Paso County Tornillo Water Improvement District. Qualified applicants may apply for the vacant board positions to serve the remaining terms, thereafter, will be subject to the same elective procedures as all directors. For information or to apply call (915) 764-2966. Return application to 19225 Highland St., mailing address P. O. Box 136, Tornillo, TX 79853. Apply by 3-8-18.

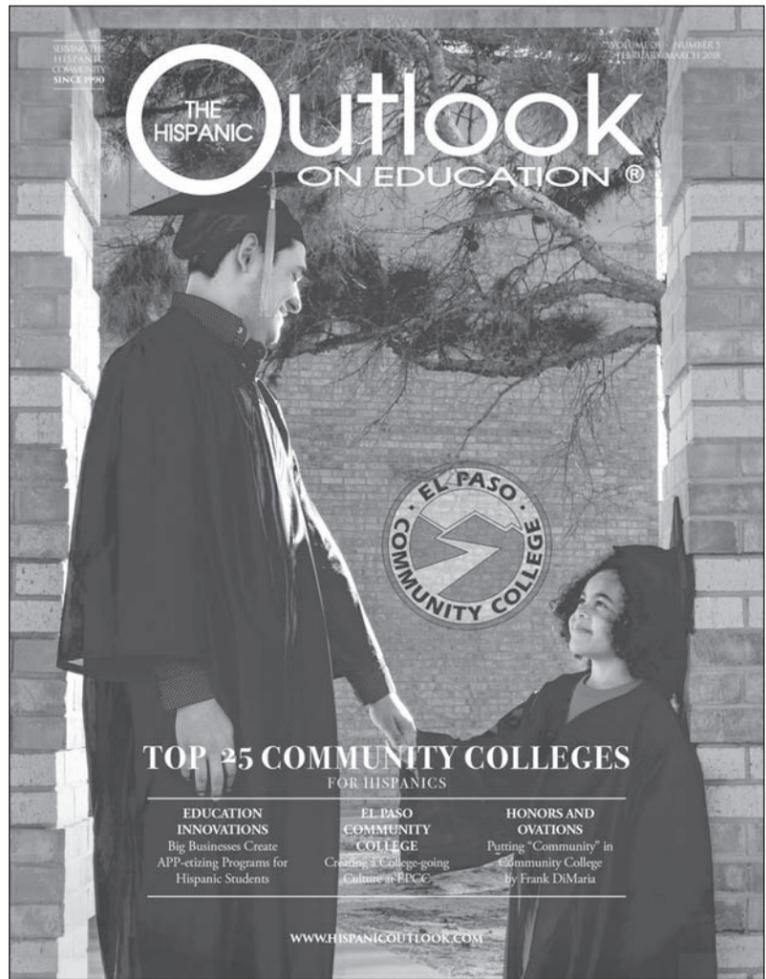
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— Image courtesy El Paso Community College

NUMBER ONE – El Paso Community College (EPCC) is featured on the cover of the current issue of The Hispanic Outlook on Education magazine for their graduation rates.

EPCC is top in the nation for awarding associate's degrees to Hispanic students

By **Jim Heiney**
Special to the Courier

EL PASO COUNTY – El Paso Community College (EPCC) was ranked number one in the nation for granting associate degrees to Hispanic students by two-year schools in the current issue of *The Hispanic Outlook on Education* magazine. The publication annually surveys two- and four-year institutions in their serving of Hispanic students. This is the 11th year in a row that EPCC has been recognized with this honor.

“EPCC is focused on engaging students, growing community partnerships and fostering a culture of excellence with measurable outcomes,” said EPCC President, Dr. William Serrata.

For over 25 years, The Hispanic Outlook on Education magazine has been a top information news source and the sole Hispanic educational magazine for the higher education community.

Hysteria
From Page 3

It's hard to believe that this is going to rip apart the American body politic when many perfectly respectable, red-blooded Americans themselves advocate for gun control, and often in the immediate aftermath of shootings.

In a better world, Trump would be less defensive about the Russian investigation, and his opposition would be less obsessively invested in it (at least until such time that it produces a genuine bombshell). We should seek to shut down Russian influence as much as possible, without losing perspective. We aren't divided because of Russia; we're divided because we have genuine, deeply held differences. The fault, to the extent there is one, isn't with the bots, but with ourselves.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review. (c) 2018 by King Features Synd., Inc.

Fabens Independent School District PUBLIC NOTICE

The Fabens Independent School District Special Education Department will be destroying confidential student information on special education students who have graduated, moved or were dismissed in 2010. Parents of these students may come to the Special Education Department located at 603 NE Camp Street. in Fabens on Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. to claim their child's file. The remaining files will be destroyed as per state directives 30 days from the date of this notice. If you have an questions, please call (915) 765-2690.

AVISO

El Departamento de Educación Especial del Distrito Escolar de Fabens va a destruir los archivos confidenciales de estudiantes que estaban en el programa de educación especial que han graduado, se han movido, o fueron despedidos en el año escolar de 2010. Los padres de estos estudiantes pueden venir a la oficina del Departamento de Educacion Especial del Distrito Escolar de Fabens en 603 NE Camp Street, de lunes a viernes de 8:00-4:30 de la tarde a recoger los archivos de sus hijos. Los archivos que no sean recogidos van a ser destruidos como manda el estado en 30 días después de este aviso. Si tienen preguntas, llamen al teléfono (915) 765-2690.

WTCC: 03-01-18

Strange But True
By **Samantha Weaver**

- It was Danish scholar and critic Georg Brandes who made the following sage observation: “Poor is the power of the lead that becomes bullets compared to the power of the hot metal that becomes types.”
- You doubtless know who Thomas Edison was – the American inventor of such things as the light bulb, the phonograph and the motion-picture camera. You never learned that he was blind, though, did you? Of course you didn't – he wasn't blind. However, even though he could see, historians say that when he was reading, he preferred Braille to printed text.
- Have you ever heard of a lipogram? It's a work of writing that deliberately leaves out one or more letters of the alphabet. For instance, in 1939 a man named Ernest Vincent Wright published a 50,000-word novel titled “Gadsby,” in which the letter e was not used once – the longest lipogram in English.

- Those who study such things say that the trunk of an African elephant has more than 60,000 muscles.
 - You might be surprised to learn that the White House had a telephone installed before indoor plumbing was.
 - I have some bad news for lovers of the snooze button: Experts say that you're better off not using it. Researchers have found that the last few minutes of sleep are more beneficial if they're uninterrupted, so it's better to go ahead and set your alarm for 10 minutes later to begin with.
 - A study of prison inmates' medical files revealed this interesting tidbit: The higher the levels of testosterone in a male inmate, the younger that inmate was when he was first arrested.
- Thought for the Day: “I learned compassion from being discriminated against. Everything bad that's ever happened to me has taught me compassion.”
– Ellen DeGeneres
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Moments in Time

The History Channel

• On March 12, 1903, the New York Highlanders join baseball's American League, changing its name to the New York Yankees in 1913.

• On March 13, 1965, Eric Clapton leaves the Yardbirds. The English guitarist, singer and songwriter was enough of a purist to quit when the band drifted from the blues toward experimental pop with its 1965 hit "For Your Love."

• On March 14, 1950, the FBI institutes the "Ten Most Wanted Fugitives" list in an effort to publicize particularly dangerous fugitives. Only eight women have appeared on the Most Wanted list.

• On March 15, 1970, Boston Bruin Bobby Orr becomes the first defenseman in NHL history to score 100 points in a season. Orr was a young phenomenon, signed by the Boston Bruins to a "C" form at the age of 12. His contract included \$900 worth of stucco for his family's home and a secondhand car.

• On March 16, 1802, the United States Military Academy – the first military school in the United States, also known as West Point – is founded by Congress. West Point was the site of a Revolutionary-era fort that Patriot General Benedict Arnold agreed to surrender to the British in exchange for 6,000 pounds. However, the plot was uncovered and Arnold fled to the British for protection.

• On March 17, 1762, in New York City, the first parade honoring the Catholic feast day of St. Patrick, patron saint of Ireland, is held by Irish soldiers serving in the British army.

• On March 18, 1942, the War Relocation Authority is created to "Take all people of Japanese descent into custody," as well as some Germans and Italians, and put them in internment camps. One Japanese American, Gordon Hirabayashi, fought internment all the way to the Supreme Court, which ruled against him.

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Briefs

From Page 1

She Keeps), Cavett, his production company, and PBS. The suit ended with Hellman's death in 1984. McCarthy died in 1989. The Associated Press praised Mori's play as a "lively theatrical imagining of how the two women, especially Hellman, might have behaved behind the scenes."

– Doug Pullen

The 'selfieccino'

If you've ever visited a Starbucks coffee shop, you are probably familiar with cappuccinos and a frappuccinos, but you

likely have never heard of a "selfieccino." It's a foamy coffee concoction with your picture floating on top. And, it's the creation of a London beanery. The customer simply uploads a head shot into what the store calls its "Cino" machine, which scans the photo and reproduces it using flavorless food coloring atop his or her drink. At \$7.50 a pop, you not only get to have your coffee, but you'll be able to snap a photo of your "selfieccino" and post it on the Internet.

– John Grimaldi

Working cities

With March 2 being Employee Appreciation Day and Americans

outworking many of their foreign peers by hundreds of extra hours per year, the personal-finance website WalletHub has released its report on 2018's *Hardest-Working Cities in America*. In order to determine where Americans work the hardest, WalletHub compared the 116 largest cities across nine key metrics. The data set ranges from employment rate to average hours worked per week to share of workers with multiple jobs. El Paso ranked 67th.

Other stats:

• New York, NY has the longest hours worked per week, 40.3, which is 2.8 times longer than in Cheyenne, WY, the city with the shortest at 14.6.

• Anchorage, AK has the

longest average commute time, 41.0 minutes, which is 1.2 times longer than in Burlington, VT, the city with the shortest at 33.5 minutes.

• Salt Lake City, UT contributes the most annual volunteer hours per resident, 65.91, which is 3.7 times more than in Providence, RI, the city that contributes the fewest at 17.76.

• Omaha, NE has the lowest share of idle youth 16-24-years-old, 7.1 percent, which is 2.6 times lower than in Bakersfield, CA, the city with the highest at 18.7 percent.

Visit <https://wallethub.com/>

See BRIEFS, Page 8

ROGER TODD MOORE & MORE

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

— ★ —

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FBI probe may disrupt The Big Dance

By Steve Escajeda
Special to the Courier

If you follow collegiate sports you've probably noticed a pattern developing over the last few decades.

With all the colleges around the country isn't it odd that the same few schools always rule both football and basketball.

I've always wondered why. Is it better coaching, better facilities, better finances, better environment, better recruiting, or just better luck?

I think the answer has become rather obvious.

All these bigger schools are just a whole lot better at breaking the law. And some of them get caught and do it again – and then get caught and do it again.

All these people involved would make great politicians.

The FBI's probe into the college basketball scandal took a giant leap forward last week when specific players and coaches and schools were singled out.

There was actual evidence revealed, like wiretaps and emails and texts of coaches and players and players' family

members and sports agents arranging illegal payments for promises of attending certain schools – the bigger, better colleges of course.

After all, they have the money to shell out for this sort of sleazy thing.

All the schools we see at the top of the rankings every year, North Carolina, Duke, Kentucky, Alabama, Michigan State, Maryland, LSU, Texas, North Carolina State, Kansas, Washington, USC, Louisville, Clemson, South Carolina, Wichita State, Utah, Xavier, Notre Dame, Creighton, Virginia, Iowa State, Vanderbilt and Seton Hall have all been implicated in one way or another in this nationwide scandal.

I only named 24 teams that are involved and 10 of those teams are currently ranked in the AP top 15.

Just saying.

Here's another thing. Notice that this is an FBI investigation and not an NCAA investigation. Funny, the cynic in me wonders if the NCAA is raking in so much money from the success of college basketball that it doesn't want to rock the boat – or cook the golden goose.

In case you're not up to date on this scandal – let's review.

This is a case where sports agents and financial advisers and Adidas representatives all conspired to pay players and their family members and coaches to either attend certain schools or wear their apparel.

Sports agents Andy Miller and Christian Dawkins paid thousands to players to influence what college they attended. Of course they would represent those players when they eventually signed NBA contracts.

Oh, and don't forget that many colleges have apparel deals with certain companies – that's where Adidas comes in.

So, players took money from agents and coaches to attend certain colleges. Coaches took bribe money from businesses to steer players toward using the businesses' products. Adidas reps paid players and their family members to steer them to Adidas-sponsored colleges.

Terms like corruption and fraud and bribery and influence are littered throughout the indictments issues so far.

Of course this couldn't come at a worse time for the NCAA. Whatever you like to call it – the NCAA Basketball Tournament, The Big Dance, March Madness – is just three weeks away.

How will this dark cloud affect the tournament?

Will any action against players or coaches or schools take place before the tourney begins?

It was just announced that Arizona head coach Sean Miller can be heard on wiretaps having conversations with the two former sports agents, Miller and Dawkins, arranging a \$100,000 payment to Deandre Ayton to sign with the Wildcats.

The 7-1 Ayton is averaging nearly 20 points and 11 rebounds a game in what is considered to be his only season at Arizona before turning pro.

When you think of the programs being discussed you think of the coaches involved. Coaches like Rick Pitino (who has already been fired), Mike Krzyzewski (Duke), Bill Self (Kansas), Roy Williams (North Carolina), John Calipari (Kentucky) and Tom Izzo (Michigan State).

The NCAA has to share in some of the blame here after doing all it can to make as much money as it can by propping up the super conferences.

Only five conferences make all the big money. And as I said earlier, who would want to disrupt that flow of income?

Something big is about to happen in collegiate sports. Either schools are going to pay dearly or it'll be "if you can't beat them – pay them" from this day forward.

A sporting view By Mark Vasto

Thanks for the memories

For some, it's the longest walk they will ever make, the trek from the parking lot to the field.

Some will think "they grow up so fast" as their kid – new cleats, clean uniform – jumps out of the car and runs toward the sound of other kids laughing and yelling. You've dropped your kid off at school before, but that was different... you figured it was for the best. After all, what did you know about teaching reading and

writing and arithmetic? There are some things you can't do for your kid.

But sports? Surely you can. After all, you were pretty good in the day, right? Well, except for the first few years when you were afraid of the ball, but you came around. You've been prepping your kid for years, too. The first clothes you bought your kid had the logos of your favorite team. Your favorite picture of your

baby was the one where they were propped up on the couch holding the red rubber football.

You think about respect. Granted, you don't like the guy who is going to be coaching your kid. You've seen the way he yells at his own kid... a seven year old who has no clue how to play goalie and likely never will at the rate he's going. But you rationalize the situation. The coach is making a sacrifice for the kids. After all, you couldn't do it this year.

To your right you see the concession stand, where Mrs. Smith is awkwardly turning hot dogs on a grill. You know Mrs. Smith. She's a Wall Street banker and has a taste for fine French foods. You went to dinner with her and her husband and a few other couples a few months

back. She wore a mink. Now she's wearing a booster T-shirt and getting yelled at for extra mustard, and she couldn't be happier. She won't do it again, but she's glad to play a part.

My kid is concerned that we won't find the field. Relax, I said, you just look for the group that has the same color shirt as you. Besides, we're early... there's still time for a little extra advice.

"Be aggressive," I tell my son. "OK, Dag," he replies. Then he pauses. Something is wrong.

"Dag?"

"Yes, son?"

"What does 'aggressive' mean?"

I explained to him that it meant putting the ball in the back of the net whenever he had a clear shot, but I am interrupted by another parent. Her kid is in blue... not

the red my kid is clad in.

"Excuse me... but I think we're playing you today. Do you know where the field is?"

"You'll find it," my kid says. "Just look for the colors."

He looks at the other kid and offers more advice.

"Hey... be aggressive."

In a world where there are too many rules, it's always fun to remember this about sports... don't ever overthink it and always enjoy yourself. The uniforms will get dirty and the cuts and scrapes will come, but the memories will last a lifetime.

This is sportswriter Mark Vasto's final column. No replacement is planned at this time.

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Briefs

From Page 5

edu/hardest-working-cities-in-america/10424/ to view the full report.

– Diana Popa

Motorcycle thief

A man stole a motorcycle from the parking lot of a Mission Valley Middle School. Investigators from the El Paso Police Department are asking for the public's help in identifying this thief through the Crime Stoppers. On the morning of Thursday, Feb. 21, 2018 the victim arrived to his work at Rio Bravo Middle School and parked his 2007 Harley-Davidson Road King. At approximately 6:30 a.m. the suspect walked into the

parking lot and was carrying a bag on his shoulders. Moments later the suspect is seen driving off on the motorcycle. The suspect in this case is described as Hispanic male, with Native American characteristics. Witnesses have seen the suspect in the neighborhood before. Investigators believe the suspect is also familiar with motorcycles. Anyone with any information on the identity of this motorcycle thief is asked to call Crime Stoppers of El Paso immediately at 566-8477 (TIPS), or on-line at www.crimestoppersofelpaso.org or you can send a text message by entering the key word "CRIME1" (no space and include the quotation marks) plus your tip information, and text it to CRIMES (274637).

– Javier Sambrano

Social Security Q&A By Ray Vigil

New Medicare cards

Beginning in April 2018, our colleagues at the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) will begin mailing new Medicare cards to all people with Medicare. Mailing of the new Medicare Card will be accomplished in different phases. Medicare beneficiaries in Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Texas will not receive their new Medicare card until after June 2018.

Instead of a Social Security Number, the new card will have a Medicare Number that's unique to each person with Medicare. The new card will help protect identities and keep personal information more secure. Medicare coverage and benefits will stay the same.

Medicare will automatically mail new cards at no cost to the address on file here at Social Security. So making sure the address of anyone you're helping is up-to-date is important. An address can be updated easily by signing in to or creating a *my Social Security* account.

As consumers begin to receive cards, we ask that you share these three important tips with them:

- 1. Destroy your old Medicare card right away.**
- 2. Use your new card. Doctors, other health care providers, and plans approved by Medicare know that Medicare is replacing the old cards. They are ready to accept your new card when you need care.**
- 3. Beware of people contacting you about your new Medicare card and asking you for your Medicare Number, personal information, or to pay a fee for your new card. Treat your Medicare Number like you treat your Social Security or credit card numbers. Remember, Medicare will never contact you uninvited to ask for your personal information.**

Please share this information through your networks. For more information about the new Medicare card, visit go.medicare.gov/newcard. You can also visit Medicare.gov for tips to prevent Medicare fraud.

Here's a Tip

By JoAnn Derson

• "The dishwasher in my new apartment smells bad. What should I do?"

– P.K.

Check the bottom of the dishwasher for stuck food pieces and remove them if present, then add two cups of white vinegar to unit and run. When that cycle's done, quick-scrub any gunky spots on the inside with baking soda, and then add a cup to the bottom; re-run dishwasher once more.

• Is your place a mess? Here's a no-fail cure to get it gussied up: Invite friends over, and ask them to bring their significant other or people you mostly know. You'll be motivated to clean up rather than have them see your place a mess.

• If you hate bending over to scrub the tub, use a broom as a scrub brush. (Just make sure it's clean, or you'll end up with MORE dirt!) And while we're on the subject of brooms, clean yours regularly with soap and water, and trim off stray or fraying bristles to ensure a clean sweep.

• Too-tight flats? Put on a thick pair of socks and grab your hair dryer. Run the hot air over the tight spots while wearing the socks and shoes. Keep them on until they're cool and remove the socks. Problem solved!

• "An open bowl of rolled oats can absorb strong odors from other foods in your fridge. My roommate always puts a small bowl in there when she brings home funky leftovers. It works for us."

– R.E. in Massachusetts

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.

	-		x		14
x		x		+	
	+		+		23
-		+		÷	
	x		-		21
19		14		4	

DIFFICULTY: ★★

★ Moderate ★★ Difficult
★★★ GO FIGURE!

1 3 4 5 5 6 7 8 9

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Answer Page 4

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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: N equals S

QYVXO Q HSCD PXHQJ PKX VS

NSLX ECEVEQH NCQDN, VWX

VQEHSO EN OXQPJ VS DS YKHH

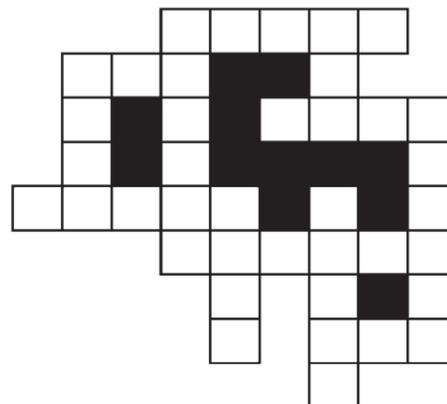
NXQL QWXQP.

Answer Page 4

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- ♥ RPA
- DEWTIN
- HUTMR
- ♥ REWA
- HEDCAT
- ♥ AWD
- ♥ EHSM
- ♥ DAREC
- ♥ ESU
- ♥ SIRPHE
- ♥ REMPO
- ♥ ERDE



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

would recommend you continue the exercises your physical therapists gave you.

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.