



NEWSBRIEFS

Vote Barraza

Dominique Barraza, a student at Pebble Hills High School, is one of six finalists in the 9th-12th grade category for the Take Care of Texas Video Contest by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. The contest creates awareness on environmental protection and provides tips on how to keep our air and water clean, conserve water and energy, and reduce waste. Supporting Dominique with an online vote will help her advance to the final round. The deadline to vote is 4 p.m. Jan. 24. You can vote at <http://takecareoftexas.org/teens/vote-your-favorite-video-2019>. The three videos in each age group with the most votes will advance to the final round and have the opportunity to win scholarships awarded by Waste Management of Texas Inc. To learn more about the contest, visit <http://takecareoftexas.org/>.

— Christy Flores-Jones

Bailey to perform

Grammy Award-winning cellist Zuill Bailey joins with the El Paso Symphony Orchestra – led by conductor Bohuslav Rattay – to perform on January 18 and 19 at 7:30 p.m. at the Plaza Theatre. This program features two of the great composers of the Romantic Period – Johannes Brahms and Antonin Dvořák. Bailey, widely considered one of the premiere cellists in the world, is a Grammy Award winner, distinguished soloist, recitalist, chamber musician, artistic director and teacher. Tickets may be purchased by calling the El Paso Symphony office at (915) 532-3776, online at www.epso.org or www.ticketmaster.com.

— Rosemary Flores

Sleep disorders

The American Sleep Association estimates that as many as 70 million of us suffer from a sleep disorder of one type or another. Some people snore, some talk in their sleep and still others walk in their sleep. But, we're in the digital age and so there is new disorder that has been identified – sleep texting. And, as you might expect, this 21st Century affliction runs rampant among adolescents and millennials. They fall asleep with their smart phones nearby and during the night they send messages to their friends. And, in most cases they don't remember doing it when they wake up in the morning.

— John Grimaldi

Few people make a deliberate choice between good and evil. The choice is between what we want to do and what we ought to do.

— Quips & Quotes



State Rep. Joe Pickett (D) resigned after serving 24 years as State Representative for District 79 which includes precincts in northeast and east El Paso County.

Special election called to replace Rep. Joe Pickett

By Alfredo Vasquez
Special to the Courier

EL PASO COUNTY – Democrat candidates Art Fierro, Michiel Noe, and Republican candidate Hans Sassenfeld are in the running to replace state representative Joe Pickett, who recently resigned after 24 years in that office.

Fierro, 57, currently serves as chairman of the El Paso Community College Board of Trustees. Noe, 57, is finishing his final term as an El Paso City Council representative and works as an OB-GYN. Sassenfeld is a retiree who worked for 30 years with Rockwell Industries, which has offices in northeast El Paso.

A special election will be held from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., Tuesday, January 29 to select the next state house of representative for District 79, which encompasses a northeastern portion of El Paso County. Early voting began January 14 and will continue through January 25.

The special election was called by Governor Greg Abbott after Pickett, a Democrat, announced in December that he would step down from the post he has held since 1994 to deal with health issues stemming from a 2016 cancer diagnosis. His last day in office was January 4.

His replacement will work with West Texas's six-member statehouse

See ELECTION, Page 4

Up in smoke



— Photo by Oscar Garcia

Smoke billowed from a big rig on fire in Horizon City on Sunday morning. The incident took place about 10:30 a.m. at a busy intersection. See more on Page 5.

Socorro ISD innovatives lauded as national model

District administrators head to Washington D.C.

By Christy Flores-Jones
Special to the Courier

EL PASO COUNTY – Socorro Independent School District administrators will be presenting at a congressional briefing in Washington D.C. on a unique partnership between the district's Community Education and Career and Technical Education departments that is garnering more success and opportunities for adult students and the local workforce.

The pioneering initiative is being showcased as a national model and was recently featured in a National Skills Coalition briefing titled "Better Together: How adult education/CTE collaborations benefit workers and business." (<https://bit.ly/2SKiULC>)

SISD Community Education director Anthony Fraga and Career and Technical Education director George Thomas will meet with the assistant secretary for career, technical, and adult education in the U.S. Department of Education and provide testimony for congressional representatives Feb. 6 in Washington D.C.

Fraga initiated the innovative model in 2015, when the district started offering courses for adult learners in various fields being taught by instructors from SISD's CTE program. Students enrolled in the district's adult education program can take free courses to pursue training and earn certifications in heating, ventilation,

and air conditioning (HVAC); electrician pre-apprenticeship, computer repair and maintenance; security services; and office administration.

"The certifications that we offer to our students are on the list of in-demand occupations here in this region," Fraga said. "After they finish our program, we can turn to our workforce development board and they'll provide us opportunities for our students to interview with employers."

Since the inception of the program, demand for the courses has increased steadily with the department exceeding their state target of 76 students for Integrated Education and Training (IET). In the most recent year, the department served 184 adult students in IET easily doubling that target.

Across the nation, the focus is on increasing the skills of workers to meet the needs of the workforce, which is exactly what the SISD model is achieving, Fraga said.

"Our program is focused on getting students completed with the certification program or to transition to college," he said. "We put them on a career pathway now."

State and national leaders are looking at the SISD model to show other districts and communities how to integrate existing funds and resources to benefit both students and employers, which came about from the strong interpersonal relationships and teamwork that is well established in Team SISD, Fraga said.

Thomas agrees that the partnership was a natural for Team SISD, where departments regularly work together to solve problems and develop systems to better serve the community.

"For our partnership to be used as

See SOCORRO ISD, Page 5

View from here By Jane M. Orient, M.D.

What if ACA is finally deemed completely unconstitutional?

Stocks of hospital and Medicaid-contracted managed-care companies plunged on the announcement of Judge Reed O'Connor's ruling that the Affordable Care Act (ACA) is unconstitutional. Some advisors consider this a "buying opportunity," expecting that the ruling will be reversed on appeal. This shows who the important stakeholders are.

Medicaid managed-care contractors get a monthly payment for each enrollee, whether any care is provided or not. The majority of newly insured people are in expanded Medicaid. And the vast majority of Medicaid recipients are in managed care.

The quality of coverage may be very poor. In fact, all ACA coverage is likely to be worse than the plans many had before ACA. Forced to take added risk by the "pre-existing protections," insurers cut quality, through narrow networks, limited drug formularies, and various ploys to make themselves unattractive to people with expensive problems. Insurers who can't turn a profit – or have a loss rather than an excess if they are "nonprofit" – leave the market. Then there's less competition for the big players skilled in systems gaming.

Where in the Constitution does Congress get the authority to outlaw the plans that millions have chosen to purchase to help pay medical bills, and force them to buy a product they can't afford and don't want? It is nowhere to be found. This is why the Association of American Physicians and Surgeons (AAPS) challenged its constitutionality as soon as ACA passed.

Since the New Deal, however, the Constitution has been taken to mean whatever a judge says it does.

Various judges have handed down differing rulings on ACA. In 2012, a 5:4 U.S. Supreme Court majority held that the Commerce Clause, which allows Congress to "regulate interstate commerce," does not extend so far as to allow Congress to make people buy something.

ACA would have been declared unconstitutional except that Chief Justice Roberts found a way to save it. He declared the "shared responsibility" payment or individual mandate – the penalty for not purchasing an acceptable plan – to be a tax. Before that, proponents argued that it was not a tax. The government's taxing power is virtually unlimited. So, the mandate to purchase insurance isn't really forcing you to buy a product, which would

be unconstitutional. You have the choice of paying a tax instead.

Along came the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act (TCJA) and zeroed out the individual mandate. TCJA couldn't repeal it because this was budget reconciliation, so the act had to be restricted to financing. Texas and other states argued that the rationale for constitutionality had been removed, so ACA is unconstitutional.

The Judge also ruled that the whole of ACA is unconstitutional because the individual mandate is not severable. It's the linchpin of ACA, as everybody agreed before the law was passed. Its architects knew perfectly well that premiums would soar, and low-risk people would choose not to pay them, so they would go even higher (the insurance "death spiral") – unless people were punished for not buying. The penalty was scheduled to reach 2.5% of your income.

So, what happens now? The Judge has stayed his ruling pending appeal to avoid disruptions while a new constitutionality rationale is devised. Thus, ACA is still the "law of the land." (That's supposed to be the Constitution.)

The Court finds the Individual Mandate "is essential to" and inseverable from "the other provisions of" the ACA.

V. CONCLUSION

For the reasons stated above, the Court grants Plaintiffs partial summary judgment and declares the Individual Mandate, 26 U.S.C. § 5000A(a), **UNCONSTITUTIONAL**. Further, the Court declares the remaining provisions of the ACA, Pub. L. 111-148, are **INSEVERABLE** and therefore **INVALID**. The Court **GRANTS** Plaintiffs' claim for declaratory relief in Count I of the Amended Complaint.

SO ORDERED on this 14th day of December, 2018.

Reed O'Connor
Reed O'Connor
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

ACA defenders argue that a tax of \$0 is still a tax although it raises no revenue, and the law's unconstitutional requirement to buy ACA-compliant insurance isn't really a law because the millions of scofflaws who disobey it won't be punished, at least not until Congress passes a new penalty.

The AMA doesn't want ACA overturned, ostensibly because that might cause 20 million people to lose "healthcare" (i.e. overpriced, generally poor insurance). Never mind that ALL Americans are hurt by ACA's destruction of true insurance, by the \$1 trillion increase in spending, by the disruption of their prior care, by the restriction of medical choices, and by the chaos that comes from the loss of consistent, understandable law.

Without the individual mandate, but with ACA's federal insurance rules still in place,

Americans have a tough choice: Buy unaffordable, undesired, even objectionable coverage – or be uninsured.

All of ACA, which imposes a straitjacket on a previously diverse, state-regulated industry, needs to be declared unconstitutional – as it surely is, based on any reasonable reading of our founding law.

Jane M. Orient, M.D. obtained her undergraduate degrees in chemistry and mathematics from the University of Arizona in Tucson, and her M.D. from Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons in 1974. She is the editor of AAPS News, the Doctors for Disaster Preparedness Newsletter, and Civil Defense Perspectives, and is the managing editor of the Journal of American Physicians and Surgeons.



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Millennial socialism 101

Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez's so-called Green New Deal makes the obligatory nod to the original New Deal, but FDR's handiwork is much too modest an antecedent.

The Green New Deal calls for a top-down revolution in the operation of American society so sweeping that it would be disturbing if it weren't so wholly ridiculous. It shows all the thoughtfulness of a college sophomore pulling an all-nighter to write a term paper for his Millennial Socialism 101 class.

The Green New Deal, as explained in draft legislation to create a congressional committee to pursue it, would transition to 100 percent renewable sources of national power in 10 years. Since renewables only account for 17 percent of U.S. power now (7.5 percent from hydropower, which might not pass muster under the Green New Deal), the plan would require shuttering more than 80 percent of current sources of American power.

This isn't like a European country adopting an ambitious goal for renewables (Denmark wants to be at 50 percent by 2030); it is a country with more recoverable oil reserves than Saudi Arabia and Russia spurning a stupendous source of

national wealth to take a flyer on a lunatic experiment.

The architects of the Green New Deal apparently believe that once you have lost touch with reality with one proposal, you might as well pile on as many wild-eyed schemes as possible.

It would build a new energy-efficient grid, itself a massive proposition.

It would upgrade every – not just many, not even most, but every – residential and industrial building for energy efficiency. There are 136 million homes in the United States.

It would eliminate emissions from industry, including farming, offering instead a vision of investment “in local-scale agriculture.”

It would eliminate emissions from transportation, which sounds like mandatory electric cars and hydrogen-powered planes.

Because the Green New Deal aspires to achieve all of socialism in one energy plan, it includes a federal job guarantee with a living wage and perhaps “basic income programs” and “universal health care.”

There's nothing the Green New Deal can't do. It would “mitigate deeply entrenched racial, regional, and gender-



based inequalities in income and wealth,” and, oh yeah, “virtually eliminate poverty.”

The case for the Green Energy Plan is based on the alleged climate crisis being so dire that it must overwhelm all cost-and-benefit analysis. Actually, we have already been making incremental progress in reducing emissions, thanks largely to natural gas, which the Green Energy Plan can't abide. While global emissions have been increasing since 2005, U.S. emissions have been declining.

Even if we were to kneecap ourselves with the Green Energy Plan, the world's biggest emitter wouldn't follow suit. According to research by the green group CoalSwarm, China is now developing as much new coal capacity as currently exists in the U.S.

Pressed on the plausibility of the Green New Deal by Anderson Cooper on “60 Minutes,” Ocasio-Cortez said we must pursue change we don't conceive as

See LOWRY, Page 8

Canutillo Independent School District Public Notice

Canutillo Independent School District will hold a public hearing to discuss the District's 2017-2018 Texas Academic Performance Report (TAPR) as part of a regular School Board meeting which is scheduled for 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, January 22, 2019, at the Canutillo Administrative Offices Board Room, 7965 Artcraft, El Paso, TX 79932.

The public is invited to attend. The TAPR report will also be available for review after the hearing at all Canutillo ISD campuses, the central office and at www.canutillo-isd.org.

For more information, call 915-877-7481.

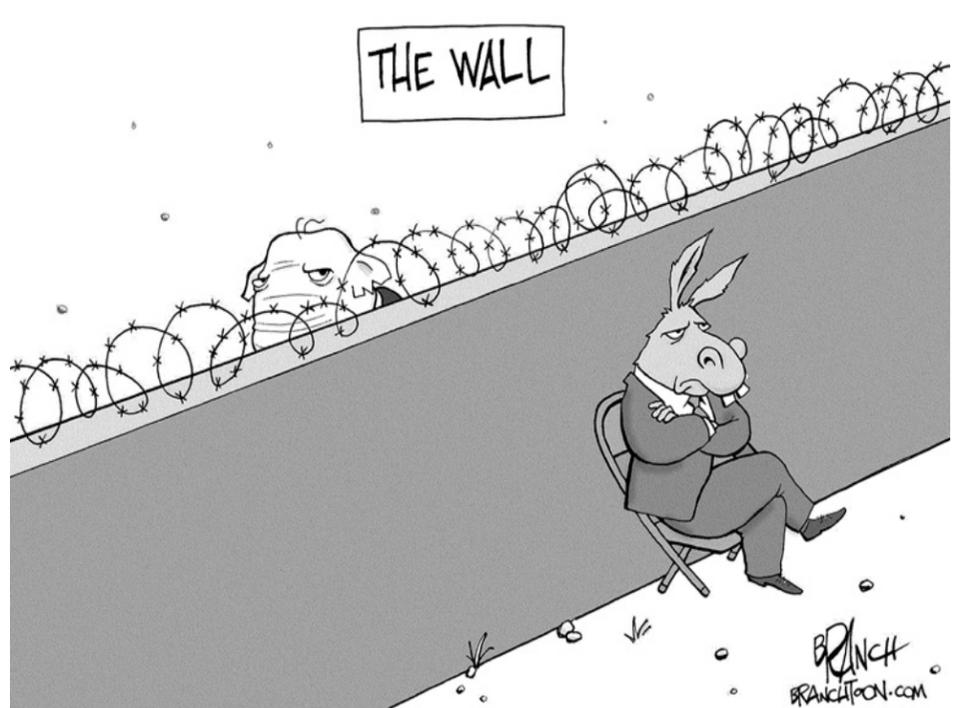
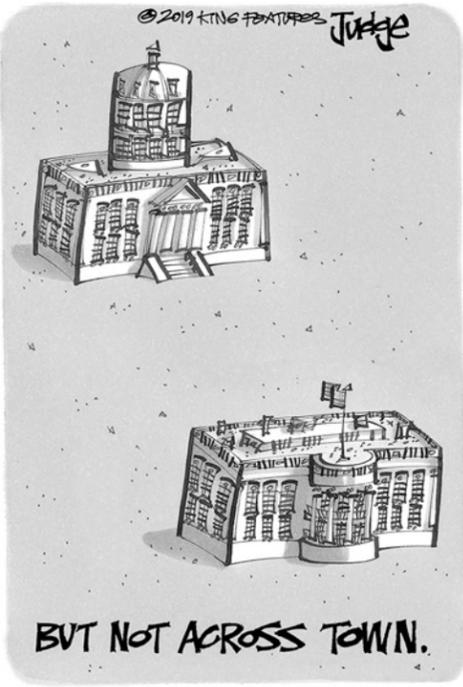
Distrito Escolar Independiente de Canutillo Junta Pública

El Distrito Escolar Independiente de Canutillo tendrá una Reunión Pública para informar sobre el “Reporte de Rendimiento Académica de Texas” (TAPR) del año escolar 2017-2018. El reporte sera parte de la reunión de la Mesa Directiva del distrito programada para el martes, 22 de enero del 2019 a las 5:30 p.m. en las Oficinas Administrativas de Canutillo en la Sala de Juntas en 7965 Artcraft, El Paso, TX 79932.

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.canutillo-isd.org.

Para mas información, favor de llamar al 877-7481.

WTCC: 01-17-19



Election

From Page 1

delegation, which includes Sen. José Rodríguez and state Reps. César Blanco, Mary González, Joe Moody and Lina Ortega, all of whom are Democrats.

In an open letter to his constituents, Pickett stated in part, “With a heavy heart, I am stepping down as a member of the Texas House of Representatives effective January 4th, 2019. Just before last session, I learned I had cancer. I moved quickly and sought treatment that was somewhat successful, but not 100%. I went ahead and struggled through the 85th Legislative Session after contemplating retirement back during the early days of that session. With some down time after last session and the healing power of purpose, I pressed on and ran for re-election. In the last few weeks, I have learned of additional issues I must address. Some issues relate to the first surgery and some are unfortunately new ones... . To the people of El Paso who had confidence in me and supported



IN THE MIX – Candidates running in the State House of Representatives District 79 special election include, from left, Art Fierro, Michiel Noe and Hans Sassenfeld.

me for 12 regular sessions and 13 special sessions, Thank you with all of my heart.”

The winner of the special election will serve Pickett’s two remaining years, which includes the upcoming legislative session that is slated to start in January and run through May.

In a recent interview, Fierro stated that the biggest challenges facing El Paso and the state are immigration, school finance, and property tax policies.

Noe stated that the biggest challenges are adequate funding for public schools, jobs growth, and transportation issues. Sassenfeld stated that the major challenges are lowering property taxes and increasing business developments.

Registered voters in District 79 can go to the polls for early voting at six different sites including El Paso County Courthouse (500 E. San Antonio Ave.), El Paso County

Eastside Annex (2350 George Dieter Dr.), El Paso County Sheriff’s Department (3850 Justice Dr.), Esperanza Acosta Moreno Library (12480 Pebble Hills Blvd.), Marty Robbins Recreation Center (11600 Vista Del Sol Dr.), and YWCA-East (10712 Sam Snead Dr.).

To view a list of polling places for Election Day, visit El Paso County Elections Department website. at epcounty.gov/elections.

Strange BUT TRUE

By Samantha Weaver

- It was Vladimir Ilyich Lenin, communist revolutionary and the first leader of the Soviet Union, who made the following sage observation: “One fool can ask more questions in a minute than 12 wise men can answer in an hour.”

- When the TV sitcom “The Addams Family” was being cast in the early 1960s, actor John Astin came in to audition for the role of Lurch, the cadaverous butler. He was immediately rejected for the part. As he was leaving the room, though, the producer spotted him, pulled him aside, and immediately offered him the role of Gomez – the lead. All he had to do was grow a mustache.

- What do the words “obscene,” “tranquil,” “mediate,” “catastrophe,” “dire,” “critical,” “vast” and “apostrophe” have in common? All of them appeared in print for the first time in the works of William Shakespeare.

- As the Black Plague was sweeping Europe during the Middle Ages, some people, for reasons surpassing understanding, believed that plague victims could cure themselves by smelling human waste.

- The United States isn’t the only country that has an accolade to recognize excellence in the film industry. Here the awards are known as the Oscars, but other nations have their own names for the awards: In Canada they’re known as Genies, in France they’re Cesars, in Russia they’re called Nikas, in Mexico they’re Golden Ariels, in Spain they’re known as Goyas, and in the United Kingdom they’re called Orange British Academy Film Awards.

Thought for the Day: “The game of life is the game of boomerangs. Our thoughts, deeds and words return to us sooner or later with astounding accuracy.”

– Florence Scovel Shin

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LEGALS

Public Notice

Town of Anthony, TX

The Town of Anthony will hold a public hearing before the Town Council at 6:30 pm on Monday, February 4, 2019, 401 Wildcat Dr, Anthony, TX 79821 regarding the approval and issuance of a Special Permit to Mr. Daniel Alderete to build two (2) duplexes in an “R” zone.

The first proposed construction site will be at 608 Margarita Street, legally described as Block 16, Lot 6 on the Gould Addition Map.

The second proposed construction site will be at 707 Isabel Street, legally described as Block 20, Lot 2, also on the Gould Addition Map.

Notice has been mailed to the property owner and residents within 200 feet of each property. Notice has also been published in the Town’s official newspaper (West Texas County Courier) and posted at the Town Hall. Citizens are encouraged to

attend to discuss the project and its impact on the community. Written comments may also be submitted to the Office of the Mayor at PO Box 1269, Anthony, TX 79821.

Persons with disabilities or others requiring auxiliary aids or services to participate in this hearing should make arrangements with the Town at (915) 886-3944 at least two days before the hearing.

Carole Baksa
Town Clerk

WTCC: 01-17-19

Public Notice

Town of Anthony, TX

Request for Proposals

Sealed proposals addressed to Town of Anthony will be received at City Hall, 401 Wildcat Drive, Anthony, Texas 79821 until **February 12, 2019 at 2:00 p.m., MST** for Town of Anthony Well No. 2 Replacement Project, described below.

The project entails the drilling and construction of a municipal 900 feet deep high capacity potable water well in the Town of

Anthony, Texas in El Paso County. Included in the construction work is installation of 900 feet deep test hole, 900 feet deep drilled bore hole, 530 feet of 18-inch steel casing, 360 feet of 18-inch stainless steel screen, 18-foot x 10-foot stainless steel casing sump, 18-inch dielectric coupling, gravel pack, cementing, bentonite seal, well development and step-drawdown test, water quality testing and sampling, concrete seal block for well head, build-up of well site pad by 2 feet, video-logging, well disinfection, 80 horsepower vertical turbine line shaft pump, 200 feet of 8-inch column pipe, pump testing and disinfection, upgrade of existing electrical service, 8-inch discharge piping, valves, and associated appurtenances, soft-start for pump and associated control panel, electrical and instrumentation, testing and start-up, and site security fencing.

Immediately following the closing time for receipt of bids, proposals will be publicly opened and read aloud at City Hall. Any bid received after closing time

will be returned unopened. Bids will be tabulated and presented to Town of Anthony for action at a later date.

A pre-bid conference will be held on **January 29, 2019** at City Hall, 401 Wildcat Drive, Anthony, Texas 79821 at **10:00 a.m., MST** followed by a site visit. Attendance by prospective Bidders is not mandatory.

Information for bidders, proposal forms, specifications and plans are on file at the office of Parkhill, Smith & Cooper, Inc., Consulting Engineers, 501 W. San Antonio, El Paso Texas 79901 (Phone 915-533-6811).

Copies of the plans, specifications and contract documents may be secured at the office of Parkhill, Smith & Cooper, Inc., Consulting Engineers, 501 W. San Antonio, El Paso, Texas 79901 (Phone 915-533-6811) as follows:

1. Download documents (.pdf file extension format) from PSC’s Info Exchange web site after registering as a plan holder with issuing PSC office. **There is no**

cost or deposit required for this option.

2. One set of paper copies for a non-refundable deposit of \$50.00.
3. A digital copy (.pdf file extension format) upon a non-refundable deposit of \$20.00 per each CD.

Deposit shall be Company check or cashiers’ check made payable to Parkhill, Smith & Cooper, Inc. No partial sets will be issued.

Funding Agency Requirements:

- This contract is contingent upon release of funds from the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB).
- Any contract or contracts awarded under this Invitation for Bid (IFB) or Request for Qualifications (RFQ) are expected to be funded in part by financial assistance from the TWDB.

Neither the State of Texas nor any of its departments, agencies, or employees are or will be a party to this IFB, RFQ, or any resulting contract.

• This contract is subject to the Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA) “fair share policy”, which includes

• Equal Opportunity in Employment – All

EPA-approved “fair share goals” for Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) and Women Business Enterprise (WBE) firms in the Construction, Supplies, Equipment, and Services procurement categories. EPA’s policy requires that applicants and prime contractors make a good faith effort to award a fair share of contracts, subcontracts, and procurements to Minority Business Enterprise and Women-Owned Business Enterprise firms. Although EPA’s policy does not mandate that the fair share goals be achieved, it does require applicants and prime contractors to demonstrate use of the six affirmative steps.

The current fair share goals for the State of Texas, by **CATEGORY***, are as follows:

- *CONSTRUCTION MBE: 12.94%; WBE: 8.72%
- *SUPPLIES MBE: 9.68%; WBE: 9.34%
- *EQUIPMENT MBE: 7.12%; WBE: 5.39%
- *SERVICES MBE: 10.84%; WBE: 5.72%

• All laborers and mechanics working

on the work site will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, or handicap. The contractor shall carry out applicable requirements of 40 CFR Part 33 in the award and administration of contracts awarded under TWDB financial assistance agreements. Failure by the contractor to carry out these requirements is a material breach, which may result in the termination of the awarded financial assistance.

- The Town of Anthony reserves the Right to reject any and all bids.
- This project is subject to the American Iron and Steel (AIS) requirements of P.L. 113-76 Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2014. All iron and steel products for construction, alteration, maintenance, or repairs used for this project must be produced in the United States. Contractor will be required to provide Manufacturer Certification that iron and steel materials are manufactured in the United States.
- All laborers and mechanics working

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- All laborers and mechanics working

Carole Baksa
Town Clerk

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Moments in time
THE HISTORY CHANNEL

• On Jan. 28, 1986, the space shuttle Challenger lifts off from Cape Canaveral, Florida, with seven crewmembers aboard. Seventy-three seconds later, the shuttle broke up in a forking plume of smoke and fire. There were no survivors.

• On Jan. 29, 1936, the Baseball Hall of Fame elects its first members in Cooperstown, New York: Ty Cobb, Babe Ruth, Honus Wagner, Christy Matthewson and Walter Johnson.

• On Jan. 30, 1994, American speed skater Dan Jansen sets a new world record of 35.76 at the World Sprint Championships in Calgary, Alberta, Canada. Jansen would win Olympic gold three weeks later in final race of his career, the 1,000-meter event in Lillehammer, Norway.

• On Jan. 31, 1950, President Harry Truman announces his decision to support development of the hydrogen bomb. On Nov. 1, 1952, the United States successfully detonated "Mike," the world's first hydrogen bomb, on the Elugelab Atoll in the Pacific Marshall Islands.

• On Feb. 1, 1887, Harvey Wilcox officially registers "Hollywood" with the Los Angeles County recorder's office. Wilcox and his wife bought 160 acres of land in the foothills west of Los Angeles. They envisioned it as the perfect site for a utopian-like community for devout Christians, where they could live a highly moral life free of vices such as alcohol.

• On Feb. 2, 1970, antiwar protestors file suit against the Dow Chemical Company in a Washington, D.C., court in an attempt to prove that it is still making napalm, a jelly-like gasoline used in bombs during the Vietnam War. Dow had lost its government contract to produce napalm in June 1969.

• On Feb. 3, 1966, the Soviet Union makes the first controlled landing on the moon, when its unmanned spacecraft Lunik 9 touches down on the Ocean of Storms. After a soft landing, it began transmitting images back to Earth.

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– Photo by Oscar Garcia

One big rig mess

A semi-truck hauling a load of Minute Maid orange juice and other Coca-Cola products caught fire Sunday morning on eastbound Horizon Blvd. at Darrington Rd. right in front of the Walmart shopping complex. The fire spread to the trailer completely destroying both it and the rig. Above, the fire was put down in about 20 minutes by the Horizon Fire Department (HFD) using nine firefighters and four trucks. There

were no injuries to any of the responders or the public. The entire load was deemed unsalvageable and a dumpster (below) was brought in to dispose of the products. The accident shut down the two right lanes and the right turn lane funneling all eastbound traffic through the left turn lane for over seven hours while the scene was cleaned up. The Horizon Police Department and the Department of Public Safety were on hand providing traffic control and safety. HFD returned to the site from 7:30 to around 8:00 p.m. to clean up oil on the road.

– Rick Shrum



– Photo by Rick Shrum

Socorro ISD

From Page 1

an example of a national model is a very proud moment for me," Thomas said. "Mr. Fraga and the adult education office has done a wonderful job in recruiting and placing the adults in programs that they have a true interest in."

As part of SISD's commitment to highly prepare students for college and career success, the CTE program invests significantly in teacher training, equipment and software. The collaboration allows the adult education program to use the CTE resources, such as teachers, labs, and equipment, to provide the certification training at a lower cost with a higher student success outcome.

The successful partnership has contributed to a cost savings of some 70 percent compared to contract vendors, allows for more than three times participation in the adult ed programs, and has yielded a certification rate for the adult learners of nearly 100 percent.

"We support our teachers with the instructional strategies that assist them in creating positive outcomes for our students," Thomas said.

"It is this training that provides the skills to ensure that our students are highly successful. Our teachers also have a mindset to teach all students to success and that sets them apart from most instructional service providers. They are the most equipped to support our adult English as a Second Language learners."

Currently, some 1,100 students are enrolled in all programs offered in the Community Education department, which includes the IET program and ESL and GED programs.

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CryptoQuip Answer

When a city's navy is battling in its own harbor, people could claim it has the home port advantage.

1	+	9	×	2	20
×	-		×		
8	÷	4	×	9	18
+	×		-		
7	-	3	×	5	20
15		15		13	

Send Your Newsbrief To:
wtxcc@wtxcc.com

It's been a long time since the NBA title was up for grabs

By Steve Escajeda
Special to the Courier

Over the years the National Basketball Association has been ruled by a few dynasties and the occasional rivalry.

For a long time, the Boston Celtics could always be counted on to be at the top of the league.

Then the Los Angeles Lakers dominated things for a while. Following them have been teams like the Detroit "Bad Boys" Pistons, the Michael Jordan-led Chicago Bulls and the San Antonio Spurs.

Lately, of course it's been either a LeBron James-led team like the Miami Heat and Cleveland Cavs, or the most recent king of the hill – the Golden State Warriors.

But this season there's a word that is being thrown around that hasn't been uttered in the NBA in a long time – "parity."

The Warriors have dominated the last few years. The experts have spent the last few seasons trying to pick the team the Warriors will eventually beat

in the finals.

The fact that Golden State was going to be there was a given.

And this year was no exception. All the NBA prognosticators chose the Warriors to win another title, especially with LeBron leaving the Cavaliers to play with the Lakers.

In winning three of the last four NBA titles, the Warriors have amassed an incredible 265-63 regular-season record.

And last year, Golden State went 16-1 in the playoffs, making it look as easy as any team ever has.

But that was last season. Though the players and coaches are still the same, the results have been quite different.

Oh, don't get me wrong; the Warriors are still one of the best teams in the league and could very well win another title. But the swagger, the aura, and the confidence seem to be wavering a bit.

The Warriors have averaged about 15 losses for the entire season the last four years. But have already lost 14 games at the midway point of this season.

Has the rest of the league caught up with Golden State? Are the Warriors just

plain bored? Is there something going on internally with the team that we don't know about?

Who knows?

But what we do know is that due to the Warriors struggles, there is more parity in the league.

In the Western Conference, the top seven teams are all within 4.5 games of each other. In a league so top-heavy as the NBA, the fact that there are so many teams in contention is unheard of.

In the East, the top five teams are within five games of each other.

Usually, everyone knows that the NBA playoffs are chocked full of teams that have no chance of winning anything.

The two teams who will eventually make it to the finals are obvious to even the casual fan.

But this year it seems like there are many teams who have a legitimate chance to go all the way.

In the West, the Warriors, the Denver Nuggets, the Oklahoma City Thunder, Portland Trailblazers, Spurs, L.A. Clippers and Houston Rockets, all seem like viable contenders.

Would it shock anyone if the Toronto Raptors or the Philadelphia 76ers or the Milwaukee Bucks or the Indiana Pacers or the Boston Celtics won the East?

I don't remember the last time the NBA was so wide open. Of course the Warriors could be toying with everyone, just going through the motions in the regular season and then turning it on in the playoffs.

But that doesn't appear to be the case. There have been some internal problems with Kevin Durant and Draymond Green. Of course Green seems to have problems with everyone all the time.

But when negative things reach the locker room, it can get pretty toxic in a hurry.

Heck, Green was even suspended a game by the Warriors after getting into a verbal confrontation with Durant after a game in November.

The playoffs are nearly three months away and a lot can happen by then, but it could be that for the first time in a long time, fans will actually be interested in the early rounds of the NBA postseason.

That's because parity in any sport is a good thing.

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Super Crossword

- THE LATEST FASHION ACROSS**
- 1 Stuff pumped into a 747
 - 8 Bracing devices
 - 14 Teeny bit
 - 20 "Stephen," to the French
 - 21 Rip into
 - 22 Untrue rumor
 - 23 Start of a riddle
 - 25 "Ironic" singer Morissette
 - 26 Enzyme name ender
 - 27 Solo for a
 - 41-Across
 - 28 Not feeling well at all
 - 30 Set aflame
 - 31 Riddle, part 2
 - 39 Shar_
 - 40 No, to Burns
 - 41 Certain opera singer
 - 42 Actress Joanne
 - 43 Bit of slander
 - 44 Neighbor of a Croat
 - 46 The, to Josef
 - 48 Apt rhyme of "grab"
 - 50 _-O-Fish (McDonald's sandwich)
 - 52 Riddle, part 3
 - 59 Very pungent
 - 61 Certain opera singer
 - 62 Adders, e.g.
 - 63 Most blaring
 - 66 Sculling tools
 - 68 As blind as _
 - 69 Elegant tree
 - 72 Pharmacy amount
 - 73 Riddle, part 4
 - 76 Blackthorn
 - 77 Fire residue
 - 78 Lady Grey
 - 79 Sauce brand since 1937
 - 80 Stays away from
 - 82 Total or Life
 - 84 Neighbor of a Swede
 - 86 Goes fast
 - 87 Riddle, part 5
 - 93 NATO part
 - 94 Mineo of "Tonka"
 - 95 Knighted one, e.g.
 - 96 Pleasant
 - 99 The Beatles' "_ Loser"
 - 100 "Citizen X" actor Stephen
 - 103 Equine noise
 - 107 Do a lawn chore
 - 109 Relo vehicle
 - 110 End of the riddle
 - 115 Dir. from Del. to Vt.
 - 116 Busy mo. for a CPA
 - 117 Big particle physics lab in Switz.
 - 118 "Hail, Nero!"
 - 119 Big name in sneakers
 - 121 Riddle's answer
 - 128 Lenient
 - 129 Beethoven's Third, familiarly
 - 130 Mark Antony's wife
 - 131 Local lingo
 - 132 Wet slightly
 - 133 Wee baby
- DOWN**
- 1 Seder celebrant
 - 2 Ordinal number
 - 3 Carrere of "True Lies"
 - 4 Beyond embryonic
 - 5 Oneness
 - 6 Baja California resort port
 - 7 Permit to
 - 8 Biblical angel
 - 9 Chicana, e.g.
 - 10 Many flying creatures
 - 11 Got together
 - 12 Compadre
 - 13 "Shrek!" author William
 - 14 Like time, speed and temperature
 - 15 Bad, to Luc
 - 16 Including everything
 - 17 Author Steel
 - 18 More sandlike
 - 19 MS markers
 - 24 "Yuk" relative
 - 29 PC screen variety
 - 31 Special _ (mil. group)
 - 32 Toll, for one
 - 33 Atomizer for spraying paint
 - 34 Turned right on a horse
 - 35 Has no life
 - 36 _ Ark (biblical boat)
 - 37 With 57-Down, supporter for a caterer's dishes
 - 38 Pets' docs
 - 45 Groom's partner
 - 47 Microwave brand
 - 49 Unoriginal
 - 51 Indefinite things
 - 53 Keats verse
 - 54 Gobs
 - 55 Railing locale
 - 56 Hurricane relative
 - 57 See 37-Down
 - 58 Green-lights
 - 59 Alan of "White Mile"
 - 60 Doves' calls
 - 64 Horrify
 - 65 Reasonably muscular
 - 67 Lactose, e.g.
 - 69 Unrequired course
 - 70 Rob of the Brat Pack
 - 71 Disorder
 - 74 Gets close
 - 75 Mom or dad's sister
 - 76 "Da Doo Ron Ron" singer Cassidy
 - 78 _ Tull (rock band)
 - 81 _-Magnon man
 - 82 Persian, e.g.
 - 83 Country singer
 - Rimes
 - 85 Suffix with lion
 - 87 Army group
 - 88 Ball of perfume in a closet
 - 89 Exhausting
 - 90 Urged in defense
 - 91 Intentions
 - 92 Close friendship between guys
 - 97 "Wheels"
 - 98 Nav. officer
 - 101 Expunges
 - 102 African viper
 - 104 Implant that helps in returning a lost pet
 - 105 Athens' land
 - 106 Husband of Lily Munster
 - 108 Greet with a hand motion
 - 111 Resulted in
 - 112 Followed a curved path
 - 113 Hit skit show since '75
 - 114 "_ & Kel" (1990s teen show)
 - 119 _ Khan
 - 120 Height fig.
 - 122 Hunters' gp.
 - 123 _ de plume
 - 124 Cyclotron bit
 - 125 Actress Longoria
 - 126 Apt humor
 - 127 Letter encl. to facilitate a reply

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128									129						130					
131									132						133					

Comix

OUT ON A LIMB By Gary Kopervas



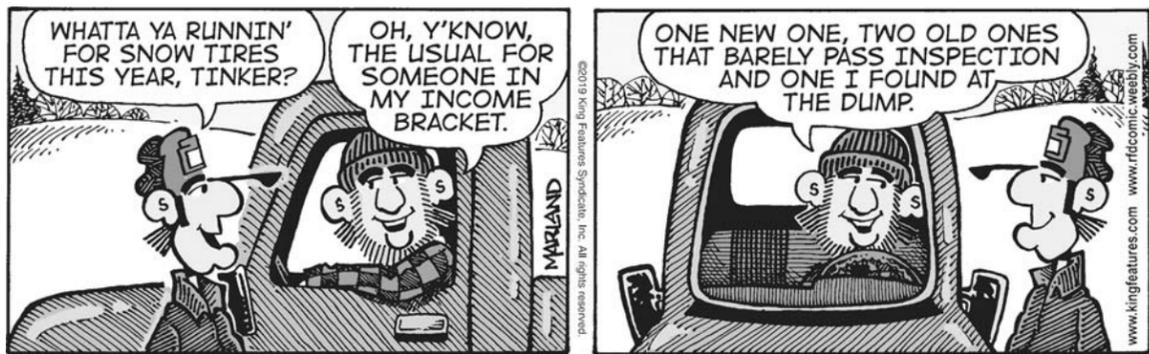
AMBER WAVES By Dave T. Phipps



THE SPATS By Jeff Pickering



R.F.D. By Mike Marland



Moore Texas by Roger T. Moore

Jan. 18, 1892: Birthdate of rodeo star, Wild West Show performer and World Champion Trick Roper Chester Byers. The World's authority on fancy ropin' died in Ft. Worth in 1945.

Is there such a thing as a weather allergy?

DEAR DR. ROACH: Is it possible to be allergic to the cold weather and temperature changes? My son is 23 years old, and when he goes out in the cold, he breaks out in hives. What can he do? – K.R.



This sounds exactly like cold urticaria, which isn't an allergy, but is similar in some ways. Doctors may test this by placing an ice cube (in a plastic bag with water) on the skin (usually the forearm) for five minutes, then watch the skin as it rewarms. If a hive develops (with raised skin and redness), that confirms the diagnosis. Cold urticaria can be associated with some infections (Lyme disease, hepatitis and HIV, among others) and with celiac disease.

People with cold urticaria need to worry about systemic reactions. Avoiding cold (especially swimming in cold water) is critical, but even cold beverages can cause a serious systemic reaction, including swelling of the mouth and throat. Even anaphylaxis, a life-threatening collapse of the circulatory system, can develop. Many people with severe cold urticaria carry an epinephrine auto-injector in case of emergency.

Antihistamines, such as loratadine (Claritin) and cetirizine (Zyrtec), are the best pharmacologic treatment. Experts in cold urticaria include allergists and dermatologists.

DEAR DR. ROACH: I saw a new physician for the first time two years ago. As he had no EKG machine, he sent me over to the local hospital for an EKG (just for his records, I wasn't having problems). I had the EKG. The tech said that I was in atrial fib and needed to be admitted, as blood clots could form. I disagreed and went home. The doctor called me and persuaded me to go back to the hospital, which I did. I was preparing to be admitted when a cardiologist came in and said: "She doesn't need admitting; she is not in atrial fib, it's just PVCs." I found out later that the EKG machine spit out the interpretation; no cardiologist had read it. I did complain, of course, and received an apology letter from the hospital. They also stated that they would change this procedure. Do hospitals actually rely on machines to do cardiology interpretations? And then go along with

See HEALTH, Page 8

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Health

From Page 7

the machine's interpretation without a cardiologist looking at the EKG? Please tell me it isn't so. - M.K.

It isn't so, or at least it shouldn't be. There are several errors here. The first is that the EKG machine made the wrong interpretation. The machines are pretty good most of the time, but there are times when it is very difficult to tell and the machine is wrong. The second error was that the technician told you rather than getting the results confirmed by a human being who could correctly interpret them. I give the technician credit for trying to act in the patient's interest, but you should be sure

of your facts before telling the patient.

It's the third error - that of the doctor who called you - that upsets me the most, since the doctor was also wrong before calling you. I would be especially angry if the doctor had relied on the machine or the technician and hadn't checked the EKG personally.

It is good you wrote to complain: Hospitals rely on feedback to change the system.

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. (c) 2019 North America Synd., Inc. All Rights Reserved.

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: D equals P

BNFV S PCGI'W VSMI CW
OSGGKCVA CV CGW TBV NSXOTX,
DFTDKF PTLKQ PKSCU CG NSW
GNF NTUF DTXG SQMSVGSFAF.

Answer Page 5

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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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Rating VA hospitals



by Freddy Groves

When you need a hospital, where do you go? If you have a choice of locations near you, including a Department of Veterans Affairs hospital, how do you choose?

A Dartmouth Atlas Project study just concluded that VA hospitals generally outperform civilian hospitals in most of the country. They looked at Hospital Compare data, the online feature of Medicare.gov, and studied the data from 121 markets that included at least one VA facility.

I hate to use the word "skewed," but when you try to look at the information, and cut and dissect it, the words can start to lose meaning. For example, in describing the findings, the language in the VA press release is strained: "VA hospitals provided the best care in most referral regions and rarely provided inadequate care. VHA hospitals provided the best care in most referral regions and

rarely provided the worst care." What, in practical terms, does that even mean when it comes to picking out a hospital?

VA hospitals were found to be best or above average for heart failure, pneumonia or heart attacks. At least half the time in local markets, VA was the best in areas such as death rates after surgery, broken hips from falls after surgery and blood infections after surgery. They looked at pneumonia, COPD, heart failure and acute myocardial infarction, as well as 11 patient safety issues.

But the authors of the study parted company with the VA in their conclusion about using civilian community care. They say the practice needs to be re-examined; the VA says it doesn't.

One thing to consider when looking at the results of this study: The co-writing group, Dartmouth Atlas Project, only studies information it gets from Medicare.gov Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), which means patients age 65 and up.

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GO FIGURE! by Linda Thistle

The idea of Go Figure is to arrive at the figures given at the bottom and right-hand columns of the diagram by following the arithmetic signs in the order they are given (that is, from left to right and top to bottom). Use only the numbers below the diagram to complete its blank squares and use each of the nine numbers only once.

DIFFICULTY: ★★

★ Moderate ★★ Difficult
★★★ GO FIGURE!

	+		×		20
×		-		×	
	÷		×		18
+		×		-	
	-		×		20
15		15		13	

1 2 3 4 5 7 8 9 9

Answer Page 5

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- TVA
- GORAND
- ELBVE
- ♥NSGU
- LENTSE
- OBX
- ♥EVDI
- ♥TEVSO
- ♥EOD
- GENXIV
- ♥GUDBE
- ♥DABE

Answer Page 5

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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• Create a spa-like soap dish by adding a handful of pebbles to a deep saucer. Place your bar soap on top of it so that the water (and associated goop) runs off.

• "Add a solar-powered, motion-activated light to your patio, porch, garden, front door, etc., or anywhere you do not want animals to hang out at night. This has kept neighborhood cats from messing around in my garden during the summer, and because it's solar powered, I moved it to near my back door for the winter months." - I.C in Nebraska

• "To ensure your dishwasher or clothes washer is doing the best possible job of cleaning, turn on a nearby hot water faucet. Run the water until it turns warm, then start the washer. It will start with hot water and do a better job of cleaning." - D.C. in Minnesota

• Here's a tip for hamster owners out there: "If your dwarf hamster makes too much noise when running in its wheel (especially metal wheels), just lube it with a little olive oil. Just a drop or two will make the wheel turn so smoothly and silently, without posing any harm to the little ones in case they lick it." - C., via email

• How to hang a gallery wall: Arrange your frames on the ground on top of a large piece of gift wrap (the back, blank side) or other blank paper. When you get the arrangement you want, outline each frame on the paper with a thick marker. Also note where the nail must go in order to hang each frame. Then simply tape the paper to the wall and drive in the nails at the noted spots. Rip the paper off the wall (gift wrap tears easily) and hang the frames on the nails left behind.

Send your tips to Now Here's a Tip, 628 Virginia Drive, Orlando, FL 32803. (c) 2019 King Features Synd., Inc.

Lowry

From Page 3

possible. The Green New Deal certainly meets that standard. It's the perfect program for a movement that has no idea of how to make means meet ends, and doesn't even care to try.

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