

1973
46 Years
2019

WEST TEXAS COUNTY COURIER



VOL. 46, No. 4

SERVING ANTHONY, VINTON, CANUTILLO, EAST MONTANA, HORIZON, SOCORRO, CLINT, FABENS, SAN ELIZARIO AND TORNILLO

JANUARY 24, 2019

NEWSBRIEFS

Racial progress

With Martin Luther King Jr. Day earlier this week and 58 percent of Americans saying increased diversity makes the U.S. a better place while only 9 percent say it makes the U.S. worse – the personal-finance website WalletHub has released its report on *States with the Most Racial Progress* as well as accompanying videos for 2019. To measure America's progress in harmonizing racial groups, WalletHub measured the gaps between blacks and whites across 22 key indicators of equality and integration in each of the 50 states and the District of Columbia. The data set ranges from median annual income to standardized-test scores to voter turnout. This report examines the differences between only blacks and whites in light of the high-profile police-brutality incidents that sparked the Black Lives Matter movement and the holiday honoring Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., who played a prominent role in the Civil Rights Movement to end segregation and discrimination against blacks. Texas scored second in racial progress and fifth in racial integration in this study ranking:

- 7th – Change in Median Annual Income Gap;
- 30th – Change in Labor-Force Participation Rate Gap;
- 15th – Change in Unemployment Rate Gap;
- 11th – Change in Poverty Rate Gap;
- 6th – Change in Gap in % of Adults* with at Least a High School Diploma;
- 5th – Change in Gap in Percent of Adults* with at Least a BA Degree;
- 14th – Change in Standardized-Test Scores Gap; and
- 9th – Change in Voter-Turnout Gap (2016 Presidential Election).

*People 25 years old and older.

Note: All of the comparisons refer to the gaps between whites and blacks over time from 1970 to present day, depending on when the oldest data was available for each metric.

Visit <https://wallethub.com/edu/states-with-the-most-and-least-racial-progress/18428/> for the full report.

— Diana Polk

Smart jobs

With STEM jobs projected to grow at a faster rate than other careers until at

See BRIEFS, Page 2

The most humiliating thing about technology is that it keeps filling our lives with devices smarter than we are.

— Quips & Quotes

Judge rules City of El Paso responsible for 2006 Clint landfill storm disaster

By Alfredo Vasquez
Special to the Courier

EL PASO COUNTY – After 12 years of perseverance, Clint property owners will get their day in court as a judge ruled recently in a civil lawsuit case against the City of El Paso that a trial was justified to determine the amount of damages the city will have to pay to those affected.

The 2007 lawsuit claimed that city officials failed to take action at the Clint Landfill (now known as the Greater El Paso Landfill) after storms in 2002 and 2004, thus causing a massive flood in 2006 when the landfill overflowed and flooded at least eight properties on the south side of Interstate 10 in Far East El Paso County.

The water and debris from the landfill crossed over the interstate and through drainage pipes under the highway. Most of the floodwater went through the drainage pipes and flooded the properties. The damages to the properties included flooded roads, deaths of cattle, trash and other toxic debris being left on the properties, contaminating the soil and costing thousands of dollars of damage to commercial vegetation.

After three days of testimony in a non-jury civil lawsuit trial, El Paso County Court at Law 5 Judge Carlos Villa ruled in November that the “remedial measures taken by the City were inadequate since similar problems occurred in July 2002, again in September 2004 and again in July, 2006. The only obvious and proper remedial action was to close the landfill as early as 2002.”

The ruling goes on to read, “The City’s continued operation and maintenance of the landfill after 2002, knowing its history of wash out, runoff and drainage problems, is evidence that the city acted intentionally for the clause purposes, i.e. the city knew that specific property damage was substantially certain to result from such action.”

Plaintiffs in the lawsuit are Guadalupe Ramirez III, Kerry Sturgeon, William and Jackie Boutwell; Amy and Raul Zamorano; Patricia Wynn and her late



— Photo by Rick Shrum

IT'S ALL DOWNSHILL – This photo at the fenceline to the entrance of the Greater El Paso Landfill shows the steady uphill rise to the actual landfill. There is no elevation listed for the landfill online, but it sits a bit under the elevation of the Town of Horizon City – listed at 4,022 feet. The landfill entry road connects with Darrington Rd. (not shown). Darrington Rd. continues to run southwest to Interstate 10 and becomes FM 1110, continuing southwest toward Clint and San Elizario. The elevation in Clint is listed at 3,638 feet. It's approximately 1.4 miles from the landfill entrance to North Loop Rd. and about .9 of a mile from Darrington Rd. up to the landfill. See Google Map below.

husband, George Wynn; Larry and Maria Webb; James and Yariela Raley; and Kenneth and Julie Johnson. Damages, being sought by the families, total roughly between \$1 million to \$2.5 million, according to reports.

The heart of the lawsuit focused on the 2006 floods and the city's actions leading

to it. Residents alleged in their lawsuit that the city was aware after the 2002 and 2004 floods that the landfill had flooded and caused damage to the residents' properties.

“By the end of 2005, then, the City knew that the water-retention ponds had

See LANDFILL, Page 2



GOOGLE MAPS

Cortez back playing with the band

By Denise Peña
Special to the Courier

FABENS – For the second year in a row, Fabens High School senior Isabella Cortez has earned a place on the Association of Texas Small School Bands All-State Symphonic Band. More than 10,000 high school band students from across Texas auditioned in twenty-two different regions. As the top flute chair in the region, Isabella advanced to area auditions for the chance to make All-State Band. Across the state only 280 of the 2,288 students auditioning were selected for all-state honors.

She will travel to San Antonio in February 13-16 for the Texas Music Educators Association Annual All-State Clinic/Conference, where she will rehearse and perform with the best high school band students in the state.

Isabella's band director Mr. Miguel Soto attributes her success to her determination. "She is talented of course," Mr. Soto said. "But she's also ambitious and obsessive when it comes to learning music. She will work hard practicing nonstop until she can overcome a very challenging piece."

Isabella is excited for the subsequent scholarship opportunities she will be offered after earning her place on the All-State band again this year, but is also just proud of her achievement. "Competitions helped me realize that I can put myself out there and get help with paying for college. But more than that I realize that I can push myself to accomplish something that not everyone can accomplish."

Isabella plans to study Music Education at the University of Texas at El Paso. "Music has been an important part of my life ever since I picked up playing the flute my sixth grade year," she said. "When I play I zone everything out. I don't stress. All I think about is how can I get better? As a student, I learned to do



– Photo courtesy Fabens ISD

Isabella Cortez

this with anything else I do, math, science, anything. It's important that all students get a chance to learn this through music."

workers, WalletHub compared the 100 biggest metro areas across 20 key metrics. The data set ranges from per-capita job openings for STEM graduates to annual median wage growth for STEM workers. Texas had six cities in the top 100. They are:

- 4th – Austin;
- 33rd – Houston;
- 38th – Dallas;
- 52nd – San Antonio;
- 83rd – El Paso; and
- 92nd – McAllen.

Other stats:

- Atlanta, GA has the most per-capita overall STEM job openings for STEM graduates, 100.15, which is 53.6 times

See BRIEFS, Page 8

Landfill

From Page 1

overflowed at least twice in the preceding three years and flooded nearby properties with water, mud, trash, and toxic waste," the lawsuit states. "Indeed, the city had been informed multiple times by area landowners of the damage. Yet the City continued to operate and maintain the Clint Landfill."

They also claimed that the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality "warned the City in the aftermath of the 2004 flooding that another incident involving multiple days of rain would overwhelm the landfill and result in flooding."

The city countered in court documents that after the 2002 floods, they took "significant steps" to prevent flooding. The steps included doubling the depth of the retention pond from 15 feet to 30 feet and adding additional ponds. They added that state regulators repeatedly told the city that its runoff containment system was in compliance with the applicable regulations regarding runoff control. As for the 2004 flood, the city argued that no water or waste escaped the site.

In the 2006 storm, the city claimed that "an epic storm event occurred, exceeding all design criteria, as well as the City's reasonable expectations. The landfill flooded. The plaintiffs flooded. The surrounding area flooded. They flooded because of an act of God, not because of an intentional act of the city that the city knew would harm the plaintiffs."

"After a series of unprecedeted rainstorms in 2006, several Clint property owners filed suit against the City of El Paso, alleging that the City's continued operation and maintenance of its landfill caused contaminated floodwaters to damage their properties. Based on established Texas case law, the City has continuously denied the property owners' claims. In addition, the City maintains that it did not intentionally cause any flooding or damages to these properties," stated El Paso City Attorney Karla Nieman.

Residents asserted in their lawsuit that the 2006 storm was not significantly worse than the 2002 and 2004 storms. "Multiple witnesses testified that the 2006 storm was essentially identical to the storms in 2002 and 2004," according to closing briefs filed by the plaintiffs. "The only thing that changed between 2002 and 2006 was the City's continued piling of 1,100 tons of trash each day on a landfill approaching capacity... God may have brought the rain, but the City's landfill brought the trash," the plaintiffs' closing briefs stated.

City officials confirmed that they are planning on appealing the judge's decision. "The Judge has signed and entered an order allowing the City of El Paso to appeal the judgment," Nieman said in a statement. "The City's appeal will stay all further proceedings in this case pending resolution of the City of El Paso's appeal. The City will appeal the judgment."

The city has yet to file its appeal with the court, and a date on when the trial will take place has not been set.

Briefs

From Page 1

least 2024, the personal-finance website WalletHub followed up on its *Best Places to Find a Job* report with an in-depth analysis of 2019's *Best & Worst Metro Areas for STEM Professionals* as well as accompanying videos. To determine the best markets for STEM



WEST TEXAS COUNTY COURIER

SERVING ANTHONY, VINTON, CANUTILLO, EAST MONTANA, HORIZON, SOCORRO, CLINT, FABENS, SAN ELIZARIO AND TORNILLO

PUBLISHED:

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

COPYRIGHT:

Entire contents © 2019 Homesteader News, Inc. Individual authors retain all rights. Pictures, drawings and written material appearing in the West Texas County Courier may not be used or reproduced without written permission of Homesteader News, Inc.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR:

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.

AD DEADLINE:

Friday 4 p.m. for the next Thursday.

CLASSIFIED RATES

\$15 for 25 words, \$20 for 40 words. Ad must be in writing and pre-paid. The West Texas County Courier reserves the right not to publish advertising it considers inappropriate.

DISPLAY RATES:

Open rate — \$30 per column inch. Call for more information or to set an appointment. The West Texas County Courier reserves the right not to publish advertising it considers inappropriate.

MAIL SUBSCRIPTIONS:

Minimum 50 issues for \$45. Delivery via 1st class mail.

MAIL:

15344 Werling Ct.
Horizon City, TX 79928

Phone: 852-3235

E-mail: wtxcc@wtxcc.com
Website: wtxcc.com

Publisher

Rick Shrum

Contributors

Alfredo Vasquez

Steve Escajeda

Homesteader
Est. 1973
News, Inc.



Does Trump care that he's president?

The office of the presidency is known for wearing down the mere mortals who hold it.

At the very least, it prematurely ages its occupants. Often, it humiliates them, forcing them to rehabilitate their reputations later (George H.W. Bush and Jimmy Carter). In the worst case, it chews them up and spits them out (Lyndon Johnson and Richard Nixon).

It is a journalistic trope that this is happening to Donald Trump before our eyes. The media constantly write stories about how the president is panicked and cornered, barely able to handle his duties, as the walls perpetually "close in." But as far as any outside observer can tell, he's as ebullient and combative as ever, and has never blinked no matter how intense the pressure of any given controversy.

Far from getting crushed by the weight of the office, Trump doesn't seem to feel it at all. Never has any president been as outwardly unfazed by the majesty of the presidency, or made less accommodation to its trappings and norms.

President Trump still acts like he's Celebrity Trump fighting a vicious flame war with Rosie O'Donnell, except his targets now might be another head

of state, or his own attorney general, or losing members of his own party.

The idea that he's a representative of the nation apparently makes very little impression on him. He never stops to think that any given gibe might be unworthy of the office, or maybe that he, blessed with more power and showered with more attention than anyone on the planet, has an obligation to be elevating and restrained, even if no one else is.

One of the attractions of the presidency to him appears to be that he can continue to punch down – but do it from a higher altitude than ever before.

Even after two years, he hasn't lost his capacity to surprise. Did the president of the United States really render the last name of the incoming chairman of the House Intelligence Committee, Adam Schiff, as an expletive? Did he call that TV anchor "low IQ"? Did he call his former secretary of state dumb?

Of course he did.

Much of this is ephemera, but collectively and over time it creates a lasting impression. A major factor in the drubbing that Republicans suffered in the suburbs in November was a reaction against Trump's persona,



as underlined by his own conduct and tweets. If he cares about keeping the presidency – and he surely does – he should care a little more about respecting the dignity of the office.

The great advantage of the presidency is that it is naturally set up to invest people elected to it with a certain grandeur, via the White House, saluting Marines, Air Force One, "Hail to the Chief" and ceremonial events large and small. All it requires is showing up and, very often, reading from a script. Rather than simply pocketing this benefit, Trump tends to undercut it 280 characters at a time.

If he's ever brought low, it's less likely to be from the pressures of his responsibilities than his cussed inability or unwillingness to make a minimal effort to conform to his role.

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

Flu vaccines still available

Spike in flu illnesses around the Borderland highlight the need for immunization

By Dusty Warden
Special to the Courier

EL PASO COUNTY – It is not too late to get protected against the flu, with vaccination being the best preventative measure. The influenza virus is beginning to hit Texas, noted by an upward trend in reported illnesses throughout the state and the entire U.S.

Data collected for the 2018-19 flu season by the Texas Department of State Health Services indicate 1,865 pneumonia and influenza-related deaths so far, with 96 within health region 9/10 which includes El Paso. A total of 13 pediatric deaths have been attributed to the flu, with one being right here in Texas.

There are several ways to prevent the flu, with the most effective being timely vaccination. Additional methods include avoiding contact with sick people, frequent hand washing, and disinfecting surfaces that may become contaminated.

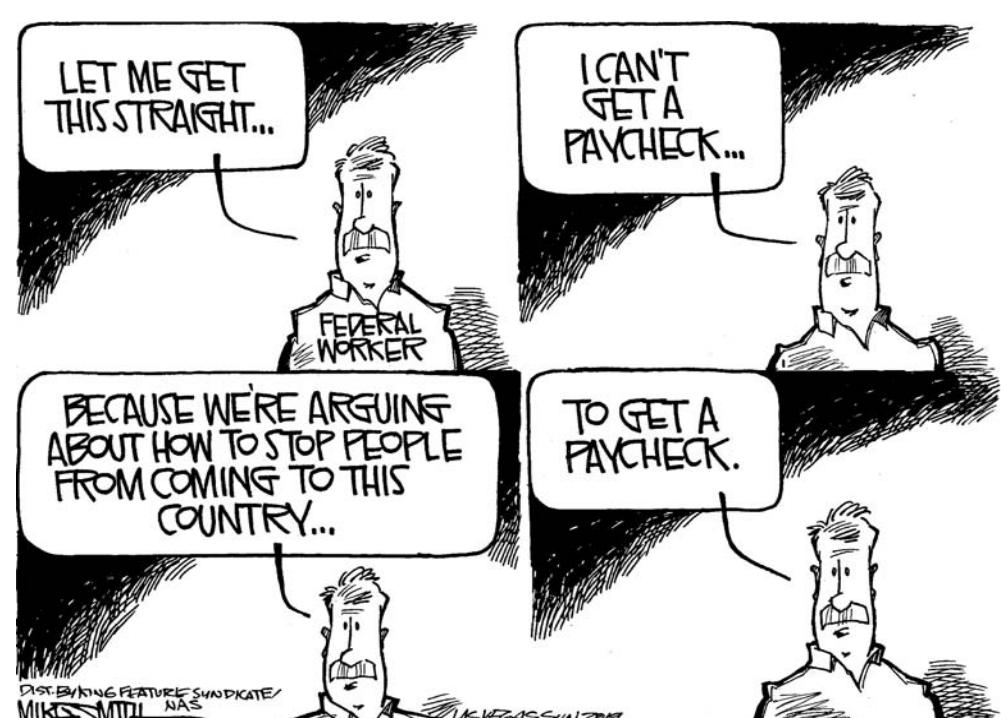
Should you believe you have the flu, stay away from others to avoid infecting them. Should you experience flu symptoms and are in a high-risk group, contact your healthcare provider. If you experience shortness of breath, dizziness, persistent vomiting, or a fever with a worsening cough, seek immediate medical attention.

Flu vaccines continue to be available at each of Immunize El Paso's clinic locations along with outreach sites scheduled through the next several weeks.

More information can be found at www.cdc.gov/flu, immunizeelpaso.org or by calling (915) 881-1100.

Central El Paso
Phone: (915) 533-3414
San Juan Clinic
6292 Trowbridge, 79905
Monday through Friday
8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Saturday
9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

East El Paso
Phone (915) 857-2474
1580 George Dieter
Ste 103, 79936
Monday through Friday
8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Saturday
9 a.m. to 12 p.m.



Classified Ads

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-feet x 10-feet 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

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

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.

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).



• On Feb. 4, 1938, Walt Disney releases "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs," the first animated feature to be produced in English and in Technicolor. Naysayers warned him that audiences, especially adults, wouldn't sit through a feature-length cartoon fantasy about dwarfs. The film was a smash hit.

• On Feb. 5, 1994, Byron de la Beckwith is convicted of the assassination of civil-rights leader Medger Evers 31 years earlier, ending the lengthiest murder case in American history. Two earlier juries refused to convict. The third sent Beckwith to jail for life.

• On Feb. 6, 1820, the first organized immigration of freed slaves to Africa from the United States departs New York on a journey to Sierra Leone, in West Africa. The expedition was partially funded by the U.S. Congress, which appropriated \$100,000.

• On Feb. 7, 1964, Pan Am Yankee Clipper flight 101 from London Heathrow lands at New York's Kennedy Airport – and "Beatlemania" arrives. The Beatles were greeted by 3,000 screaming fans who caused a near riot.

• On Feb. 8, 1924, America's first execution by lethal gas is carried out in Nevada. The executed man was Tong Lee, who was convicted of murdering a rival Chinese gang member. Lethal gas was seen as a more humane method of carrying out death sentences.

• On Feb. 9, 1900, the silver trophy known today as the Davis Cup is first put up for competition when American collegian Dwight Filley Davis challenges British tennis players to come across the Atlantic and compete against his Harvard team. In 1904, Belgium and France entered the competition.

• On Feb. 10, 1962, downed American spy plane pilot Francis Gary Powers is exchanged by the USSR for Soviet Col. Rudolf Abel, a senior KGB spy captured in the U.S., on the Glienicke Bridge linking East and West Berlin. The event inspired the 2015 film "Bridge of Spies."

(c) 2019 Hearst Communications,
Inc. All Rights Reserved.

Canutillo, Socorro ISDs are H-E-B finalists

H-E-B names 2019 Excellence in Education School District, Outstanding Public School Boards

By Jill Reynolds
Special to the Courier

TEXAS – H-E-B announced today that eight school districts and five early childhood facilities have been selected as finalists for the retailer's 18th annual Excellence in Education Awards program. For the sixth year in a row, H-E-B is recognizing five public school boards to highlight the importance of strong leadership at the board level.

Since the program's inception, H-E-B has awarded more than \$10 million in funding to benefit outstanding Texas public schools. This year, H-E-B will award a total of \$82,500 to the finalists and school boards,

who will go on to compete for even greater cash prizes at the statewide level. Each finalist in the district and early childhood categories, as well as the five recognized school boards, will receive \$5,000; the three finalists in the small district category will receive \$2,500.

To determine overall statewide winners, a panel of judges visits each district, early childhood facility and school board, tours campuses and talks with administration, staff, parents and community members.

Winners will be announced at the H-E-B Excellence in Education Awards ceremony on May 5 at the Fairmont Hotel in Austin. The winning large district will receive \$100,000; the

winning small district \$50,000. An early childhood facility will receive \$25,000. If selected, one or more school boards will receive up to a total of \$25,000.

Forty teacher and principal finalists will be announced in February and March during a series of surprise visits to schools and classrooms across Texas.

H-E-B launched the Excellence in Education Awards program in cooperation with the Texas Association of School Administrators in 2002 as a positive way to support public education in Texas. It has become the largest monetary program for educators in the state, spotlighting best practices and celebrating the passion and creativity of Texas educators.

2019 nominees:

LARGE SCHOOL DISTRICTS

Austin ISD – Austin

Burleson ISD – Burleson

Klein ISD – Klein

Socorro ISD – El Paso

United ISD – Laredo

SMALL SCHOOL DISTRICTS

Canutillo ISD – Canutillo

Roma ISD – Roma

Stephenville ISD – Stephenville

SCHOOL BOARD FINALISTS

Corsicana ISD – Corsicana

Del Valle ISD – Del Valle

Grapevine Colleyville ISD – Grapevine

McAllen ISD – McAllen

Socorro ISD – El Paso

Clint Independent School District

Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balance

Governmental Funds

For the Year Ended August 31, 2018

Data Control Codes	10 General Fund	50 Debt Service Fund	60 Capital Projects	Other Funds	Total Governmental Funds
REVENUES:					
5700 Total Local and Intermediate Sources	\$ 14,009,731	\$ 4,613,643	\$ 544,686	\$ 238,081	\$ 19,406,141
5800 State Program Revenues	84,626,379	9,371,907	–	1,354,513	95,352,799
5900 Federal Program Revenues	12,470,097	–	–	7,562,819	20,032,916
5020 Total Revenues	111,106,207	13,985,550	544,686	9,155,413	134,791,856
EXPENDITURES:					
Current:					
0011 Instruction	50,791,699	–	244,051	5,929,439	56,965,189
0012 Instructional Resources and Media Services	1,149,892	–	–	–	1,149,892
0013 Curriculum and Instructional Staff Development	1,712,543	–	–	1,359,726	3,072,269
0021 Instructional Leadership	1,992,232	–	–	468,096	2,460,328
0023 School Leadership	6,690,316	–	–	34,705	6,725,021
0031 Guidance, Counseling and Evaluation Services	2,576,445	–	–	1,052,525	3,628,970
0032 Social Work Services	165,709	–	–	–	165,709
0033 Health Services	1,152,221	–	7,567	–	1,159,788
0034 Student (Pupil) Transportation	7,118,863	–	–	–	7,118,863
0035 Food Services	8,607,906	–	159,414	64,637	8,831,957
0036 Extracurricular Activities	3,305,432	–	–	–	3,305,432
0041 General Administration	3,182,405	–	–	–	3,182,405
0051 Facilities Maintenance and Operations	17,755,629	–	2,640,504	–	20,396,133
0052 Security and Monitoring Services	1,999,762	–	606,011	70,994	2,676,767
0053 Data Processing Services	2,059,549	–	–	–	2,059,549
0061 Community Services	108,110	–	–	100,923	209,033
Debt Service:					
0071 Principal on Long Term Debt	196,164	5,530,855	–	–	5,727,019
0072 Interest on Long Term Debt	5,121	9,007,270	–	–	9,012,391
0073 Bond Issuance Cost and Fees	–	6,494	–	–	6,494
Capital Outlay:					
0081 Facilities Acquisition and Construction	762,741	–	19,641,282	–	20,404,023
Intergovernmental:					
0099 Other Intergovernmental Charges	307,492	–	–	–	307,492
6030 Total Expenditures	111,640,231	14,544,619	23,298,829	9,081,045	158,564,724
1100 Excess (Deficiency) of Revenues Over (Under) Expenditures	(534,024)	(559,069)	(22,754,143)	74,368	(23,772,868)
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES):					
7915 Transfers In	27,917	–	–	–	27,917
7949 Other Resources	630,491	–	–	–	630,491
8911 Transfers Out (Use)	–	–	–	(27,917)	(27,917)
7080 Total Other Financing Sources (Uses)	658,408	–	–	(27,917)	630,491
1200 Net Change in Fund Balances	124,384	(559,069)	(22,754,143)	46,451	(23,142,377)
0100 Fund Balance — September 1 (Beginning)	47,449,369	6,978,952	38,703,659	233,111	93,365,091
3000 Fund Balance — August 31 (Ending)	\$ 47,573,753	\$ 6,419,883	\$ 15,949,516	\$ 279,562	\$ 70,222,714

Send Your
Newsbrief To:
wtxcc@wtxcc.com

New season, new players, same old El Paso Rhinos

By Steve Escajeda
Special to the Courier

The inconsistency of the UTEP football and basketball programs has been a problem for a few years now.

Except for football; that's been going on for about 50 years.

Anyway, one local sports organization that has never had that problem is the El Paso Rhinos.

The Rhinos hockey team doesn't just settle for winning seasons every year, their only goal is to win league championships, like they did last season.

In fact, they've won three league titles since entering the league in 2007.

Let's put it this way, last year's team put up an unbelievable 49-1-1 regular-season record.

Back in 2014, they went 41-5; in 2013 they were 44-2.

I think you get an idea of what the team does on a regular basis and where they expect to be every year.

This year, however, was supposed to be a little different.

As head coach Cory Herman put it, "when you have the kind of success that we had last year, players are going to be signed to play at different colleges and that could affect our roster for this season."

That was putting it mildly.

Of the 25 players on this year's roster, 21 of them are new.

And like we see with the UTEP squads, it takes time for a bunch of new players to learn a new system and learn how to play together.

Maybe that's why the Rhinos started the season with a 9-5 record. For most organizations, getting off to a 9-5 start is a good thing.

But when you're used to losing about five games for the entire season, that's not very good at all.

Like Herman feared, it did take the new guys time to learn how the system works and how their new teammates play.

And since that inconsistent start, the Rhinos have gone 14-2 and are back in first place in the WSHL's Mid-West Division – where they belong.

What Herman has done over the years as the Rhinos coach has been amazing.

He's never had a losing season and has amassed an eye-opening 506-93 win-loss record since the team's rookie campaign in 2006-07.

Through all the success and championships, this may indeed be Herman's best coaching job.

If the team had slipped to second or third place this season, it would have been totally understood. But as he has said on many occasions – the Rhinos never rebuild, they reload.

With 15 games to go, the team still has plenty of time to improve on the things they need to, to be a force in the playoffs.

And even better is that 12 of those final 15 are at home.

Usually, the Rhinos are a high-flying, high-scoring, offensive-minded squad that puts a ton of pressure on the opponent's goalie. Case in point, last year's team averaged nearly eight goals a game.

This year the team has had to grind out wins with aggressive defense and tough hard-nosed play.

Instead of 10-2 and 8-1 scores as in the past, this year's Rhinos have had to pull

out 4-2 and 2-1 victories.

But victories are still victories.

What Herman likes the best about this year's team is that they play playoff-style hockey.

He said that during the playoffs, as in every sport, things slow down. The games are more intense, the checking is a little harder, there's more defense.

But the Rhinos already play that kind of hockey. The team isn't as talented as it has been so it has to treat every game like a playoff encounter.

It's difficult to say how successful this year's crop of Rhinos will be once they get into the playoffs, but just the fact that they get there is already a success.

Of course if the team bows out early, they won't consider it a success. But that's part of why they've achieved so much – it's the winning attitude, the winning formula that everyone in the program buys into.

Like most successful franchises over the years, most of the Rhinos' games are won before they even step onto the field of play. They've already won the mental war.

Now the Rhinos have to do it on the ice.

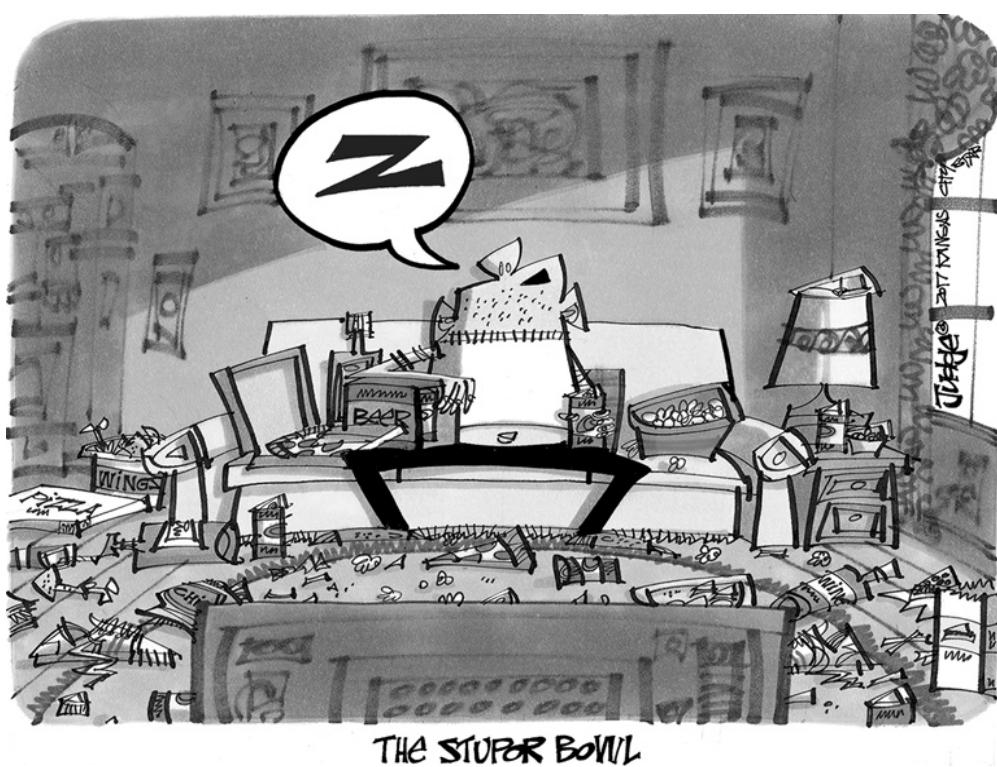
**YOUR Gift
IS A WAY
TO CONQUER
LUNG DISEASE**

Give the gift that remembers by helping others ...

When you lose someone dear to you — or when a special person has a birthday, quits smoking, or has some other occasion to celebrate — memorial gifts or tribute gifts made for them to your local American Lung Association help prevent lung disease and improve the care of those who suffer from it.

www.texaslung.org

1-800-LUNG-USA



THE STUPOR BOWL

Super Crossword

CONTINUING ED ACROSS																	
1	Shred	58 Deputy of an envoy... and old CBS variety show host	107 Cited as evidence 111 Ship sailing past sirens	16 Hedy of film	71 Hoopla	72 Actress Mitzi	73 Gold, in Italy	74	75 Daring	76	77 On deck, say	78	79 Tree with fan-shaped leaves	80 Up to, in ads	81 Young male, in hip-hop	82 Having five sharps	83 Central point
6	To another country	63 Ballpark gate	112 "Less Ordinary"	18 Italicize, e.g.	24 Electrical current unit	30 Soccer star	32 Body of work	33 "Harrumph!"	34 Rage	35 "Oh wow!"	36 Off course	37	38 Birthplace of St. Francis	39 Deserter of one's faith	40 Moray, e.g.	41 "Norma _"	42 Suffix with compliment
12	Buster Brown's dog	64 Explorer Hernando de _	113 Suffix with 66-Across	114 Liquefy	25 Move quickly	30 Chastain	32 Reagan cabinetteer	33 "Harrumph!"	34 Rage	35 "Oh wow!"	36 Off course	37	38 Birthplace of St. Francis	39 Deserter of one's faith	40 Moray, e.g.	41 "Norma _"	42 Suffix with compliment
16	Mexican article	65 Rose color	115 Rolodex no.	116 Money from investments... and	26 Previous to	30 Chastain	32 Body of work	33 "Harrumph!"	34 Rage	35 "Oh wow!"	36 Off course	37	38 Birthplace of St. Francis	39 Deserter of one's faith	40 Moray, e.g.	41 "Norma _"	42 Suffix with compliment
19	University of Maine's city	66 Klee output	116 Money from investments... and	117 "My Cup Runneth Over" singer	121 Previous to	122 Jib holder	123 "No clue"	124 Whoop it up	125 Berlin-to-Prague dir.	126 "T.N.T." rock band	127 Unboastful	128 Pastoral verse	129	130	131	132	133
20	News anchor Katie	67 Bistro bills	117 "My Cup Runneth Over" singer	121 Previous to	122 Jib holder	123 "No clue"	124 Whoop it up	125 Berlin-to-Prague dir.	126 "T.N.T." rock band	127 Unboastful	128 Pastoral verse	129	130	131	132	133	134
21	Arduous task	68 Olay product...	120	121 Previous to	122 Jib holder	123 "No clue"	124 Whoop it up	125 Berlin-to-Prague dir.	126 "T.N.T." rock band	127 Unboastful	128 Pastoral verse	129	130	131	132	133	134
22	Not be idle	69 Olay product...	120	121 Previous to	122 Jib holder	123 "No clue"	124 Whoop it up	125 Berlin-to-Prague dir.	126 "T.N.T." rock band	127 Unboastful	128 Pastoral verse	129	130	131	132	133	134
23	Discoverer of Uranus... and "The Office" co-star	70 Officer played by Phil Silvers... and	121 Previous to	122 Jib holder	123 "No clue"	124 Whoop it up	125 Berlin-to-Prague dir.	126 "T.N.T." rock band	127 Unboastful	128 Pastoral verse	129	130	131	132	133	134	135
26	Spoil	71 Sheriff Andy Taylor's tyke	122 Jib holder	123 "No clue"	124 Whoop it up	125 Berlin-to-Prague dir.	126 "T.N.T." rock band	127 Unboastful	128 Pastoral verse	129	130	131	132	133	134	135	136
27	"Orinoco Flow" singer	72 Coach Parseghian	127 Unboastful	128 Pastoral verse	129	130	131	132	133	134	135	136	137	138	139	140	141
28	Sea, to Luc	73 Sheriff Andy Taylor's tyke	130	131	132	133	134	135	136	137	138	139	140	141	142	143	144
29	Buenos _	74 Coach Parseghian	132	133	134	135	136	137	138	139	140	141	142	143	144	145	146
30	Commanded	75 polloi	134	135	136	137	138	139	140	141	142	143	144	145	146	147	148
31	PCs on planes, often	76 "T.N.T." rock band	136	137	138	139	140	141	142	143	144	145	146	147	148	149	150
33	Long-range German gun of WWI... and "Apollo 13" Oscar nominee	77 Game venue	138	139	140	141	142	143	144	145	146	147	148	149	150	151	152
37	Letter #3	78 Officer played by Phil Silvers... and	140	141	142	143	144	145	146	147	148	149	150	151	152	153	154
38	Bern's river	79 Officer played by Phil Silvers... and	142	143	144	145	146	147	148	149	150	151	152	153	154	155	156
39	To the extent that	80 Holiday drink	144	145	146	147	148	149	150	151	152	153	154	155	156	157	158
40	1975 Wimbledon winner... and "Shape of You" singer	81 Holiday drink	146	147	148	149	150	151	152	153	154	155	156	157	158	159	160
47	German article	82 Left-leaning slant... and "Lou Grant" star	148	149	150	151	152	153	154	155	156	157	158	159	160	161	162
48	U.S. architect I.M.	83 Many a repo	150	151	152	153	154	155	156	157	158	159	160	161	162	163	164
49	Pet treaters	84 2006 Sacha Baron Cohen film	152	153	154	155	156	157	158	159	160	161	162	163	164	165	166
50	Slaughter with a bat	85 Nobelist Arafat	154	155	156	157	158	159	160	161	162	163	164	165	166	167	168
52	Abnormal plant swelling	86 Celine of song	156	157	158	159	160	161	162	163	164	165	166	167	168	169	170
56	Schindler with a list	87 Poetic form	158	159	160	161	162	163	164	165	166	167	168	169	170	171	172
87	Letter #3	88 Poetic form	160	161	162	163	164	165	166	167	168	169	170	171	172	173	174
88	Bern's river	89 Poetic form	162	163	164	165	166	167	168	169	170	171					

Comix

OUT ON A LIMB By Gary Kopervas



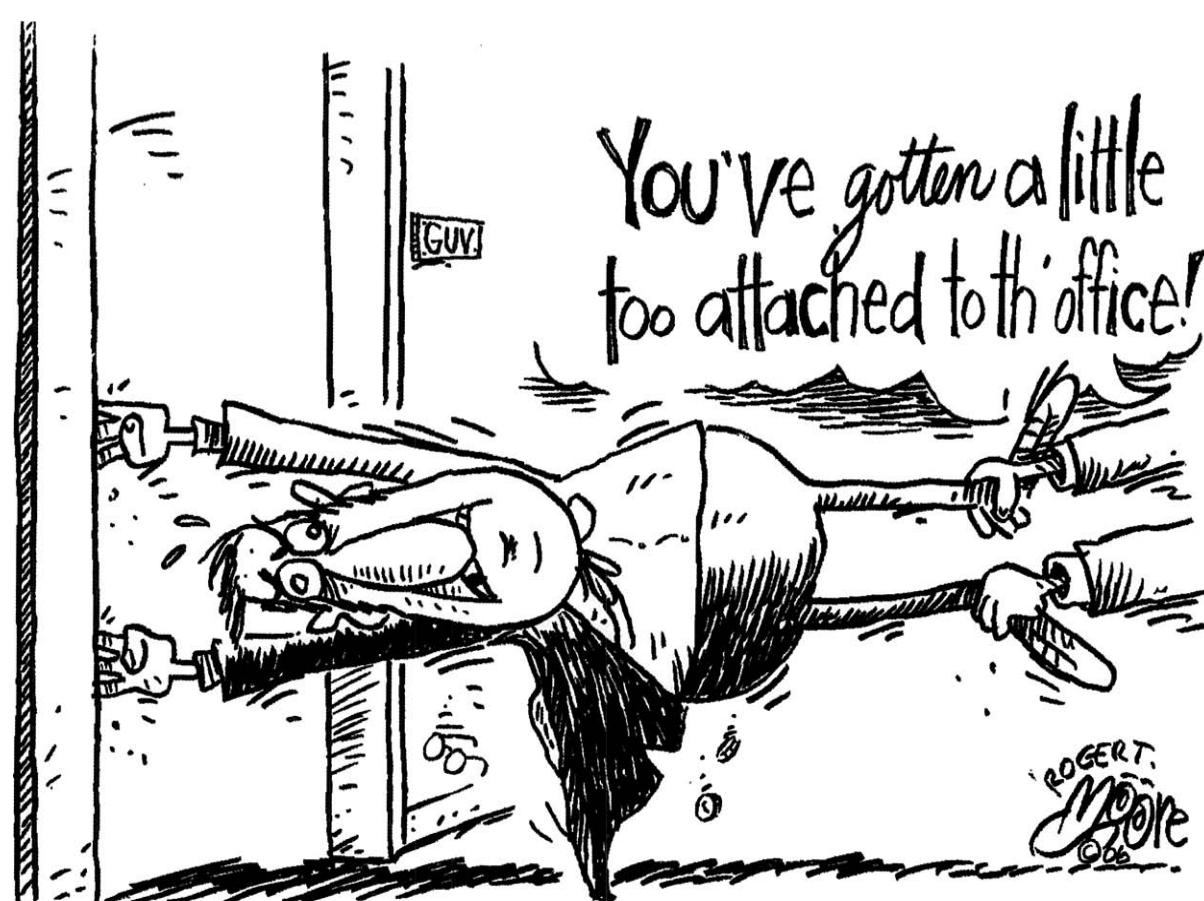
AMBER WAVES By Dave T. Phipps



THE SPATS By Jeff Pickering



R.F.D. By Mike Marland



Moore Texas by Roger T. Moore

Jan. 14, 1874: Defeated reconstructionist Governor Edmund Davis refuses to vacate his office.

Could abdominal migraine cause cyclic vomiting?

DEAR DR. ROACH: My son started having gastrointestinal problems in high school. Approximately three years ago, they became so intense that he couldn't work. Last May, he finally had surgery for gastric reflux. This helped with the persistent vomiting, but he is still experiencing intractable nausea. After a year of tests and trials of every anti-nausea medication known, he finally was told that he has cyclic vomiting syndrome. He also was told, basically, "We don't know how to treat it." He currently is on a trial of a tricyclic antidepressant, but wasn't given much hope that it would help. Could you suggest any possible treatment? He is only 28, and I can't imagine him living with this and not being able to work or participate in life forever after. – M.S.



WITH
**Dr. Keith
Roach**

Cyclic vomiting syndrome is best described in children, but is certainly described in adults. It is called "cyclic" because there are periods of multiple vomiting episodes (lasting from one day to a week) interspersed with periods of completely normal health. Children have 12 cycles per year on average, while adults have four. CVS has been associated with migraine headaches, and treatment for migraines is sometimes successful in treating CVS, so it's possible CVS represents a variant of abdominal migraine.

CVS is a difficult diagnosis to make, as it can be easily confused with other causes of recurrent vomiting. Both children and adults often go a long time with incorrect diagnoses, sometimes getting surgeries, like your son did.

Treatment should be administered by a clinician experienced in this condition, and unfortunately, that doesn't seem to be the case with your son. In one series, 3 in 17 adults with CVS had a complete response to tricyclic antidepressants, but 13 had at least some response. So I would hold out more than just a little hope for some benefit. Other medications that have been tried include sumatriptan (normally used for migraine), ketorolac (a powerful anti-inflammatory medicine) and prochlorperazine (usually used for nausea, and I'm sure your son would have tried it).

I would strongly suggest you contact the Cyclic Vomiting Syndrome Association to get more information and suggestions for an expert in your area, at www.cvsassociation.org.

See HEALTH, Page 8

San Elizario Independent School District Public Notice of Meeting

San Elizario Independent School District will hold a public hearing to discuss the District's 2017-2018 Texas Academic Performance Report (TAPR). The meeting will be held at 4:00 P.M. on Wednesday, February 13, 2019 in the San Elizario ISD Central Office Board Room, 1050 Chicken Ranch Rd., San Elizario, Texas, 79849.

The public is invited to attend. For more information, call (915) 872-3900.

Junta Pública

Distrito escolar independiente de San Elizario celebrará una audiencia pública para discutir el informe de rendimiento académico 2017-2018 Texas del distrito (TAPR). La reunión se celebrará a las 4:00 p.m. el miércoles, 13 de febrero de 2019 en la sala de juntas de San Elizario ISD, 1050 Chicken Ranch Rd., San Elizario, Texas, 79849.

El público está invitado a asistir. Para obtener más información, llame al (915) 872-3900.

WTCC: 01/24/19

Health

From Page 7

skim milk or oat bran cause gas? – J.R.

DEAR DR. ROACH: I have noticed that the medical profession uses a number of standard words in different ways. For example, "negative" is usually good, and "positive" often is bad news. – N.M.G.

Both certainly can cause gas. Skim milk contains the milk sugar lactose, to which many people are intolerant. In mild cases, it causes some gas; severe cases can cause diarrhea. Oat bran is a good fiber source, and all good sources of fiber can cause gas, especially if taken in amounts that are greater than the person is used to.

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.

DEAR DR. ROACH: Can

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 T

QCD BARSHW RAJCS BAVBSKVCVF
UARS JSKW HMVFSKANU UNXSK-
XADSVD YKSPU:

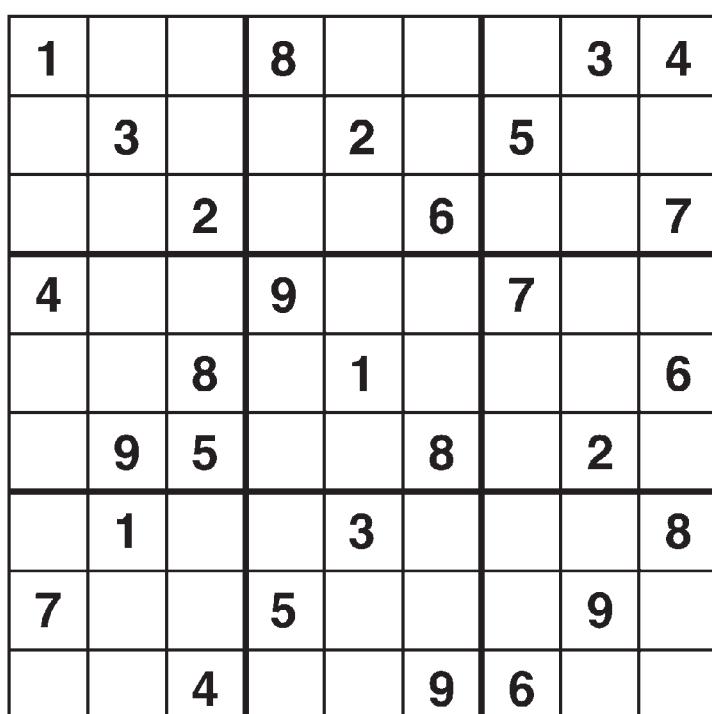
"DQS YMH VSPU YSSKU."

Answer Page 4

©2019 King Features Synd., Inc.

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle



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!

© 2019 King Features Synd., Inc.

VA suspends changes to caregiver program**VETERANS POST**

by Freddy Groves

The Department of Veterans Affairs recently asked for public comment about proposed changes to the Family Caregiver program, and many of you must have replied because it has now issued a press release.

Officials declared a moratorium on its practice of discharging or decreasing caregivers, citing the "inconsistent application of eligibility requirements by VA medical centers." Meanwhile, the VA will continue processing applications for caregivers based on current eligibility criteria.

Since 2011, the caregiver program has assisted more than 38,000 family members, mostly wives and mothers, who receive a monthly stipend ranging from \$600 to \$2,600, depending on what assistance the veteran needs and where they live.

Are you eligible for caregiver services? You might qualify if you have a serious injury (for example, loss of limbs, psychological trauma, mental

disorder, traumatic brain injury) suffered in the line of duty and you need personal care for one or more activities of daily living. Currently the eligibility date is injury on or after Sept. 11, 2001.

The proposed changes to the caregiver program would take place over two years. The clock starts when the VA proves to Congress that it has implemented the required information technology system upgrades. Changes also include expanding the caregiver program to include veterans from World War II, Korea and the Vietnam era.

A new addition to the program will include veterans who need regular or extensive instruction or supervision to be able to function in daily life. Another proposal would expand services for financial planning and legal services for injured veterans and their caregivers.

Go online to www.caregiver.va.gov and click around to find more information and to download an application. You also can learn about qualifying as a caregiver. Each veteran can have one primary and two secondary caregivers as backup.

(c) 2019 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.

DIFFICULTY: ★

★ Moderate ★★ Difficult
★★★ GO FIGURE!

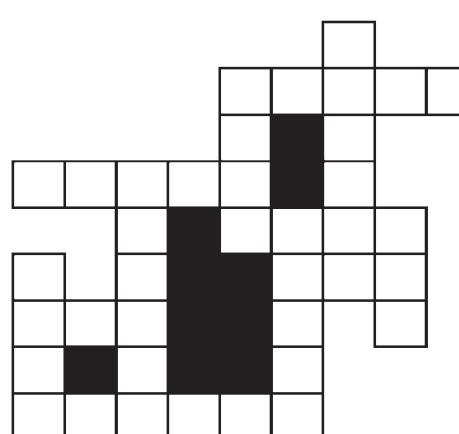
	+		×		34
+		×		+	
	×		+		39
×		-		×	
	+		×		24
15		33		33	
1	2	3	5	6	7
2	3	4	6	7	8
3	4	5	7	8	9

©2019 King Features Syndicate, Inc.

Answer Page 4



OHE
ELAMIC
♥RHCLU
♥OCLO
ANELUS
♥ILE
♥CMHU
♥RAMLO
ILO
ELICUS
♥EIDOL
LMLO



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.



by
Jo Ann
Derson

- Keep a cutting board in place with a lightly damp kitchen towel underneath. It won't slide. Cutting a juicy fruit? Even better. The towel catches drips off the side.

- Soften butter in a jiffy without a microwave. Cut into pats and let sit for 10-15 minutes. The smaller the pat, the quicker it softens.

- "Store your kids' favorite breakfast cereal in a large jar with a measuring scoop. This will help children be more independent and stop them from pouring too much in a bowl – and spilling cereal all over the floor."

– R.Y. in Virginia

- Quick pickled vegetables can make a perfect little side dish or even garnish that makes you look like a fancy cook. Just add a bit of salt and sugar to white vinegar, then add some thinly sliced veggies – carrots, cucumber, cabbage, beans or squash. Let sit for 20 minutes or more, then drain and serve.

- "What I'm loving right now: marinated fresh cheese! Slice or chunk fresh mozzarella or goat cheese, and throw it in a bowl with some olive oil, Italian seasoning, red pepper flakes, fresh herbs or what have you. The longer it sits, the yummier it gets. It doesn't last long around here!"

– V.R. in Florida

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

Briefs

From Page 2

higher than in Deltona, FL, the metro area with the fewest at 1.87.

- San Jose, CA has the highest share of all workers in STEM occupations, 20.50 percent, which is 14.6 times higher than in McAllen, TX, the metro area with the lowest at 1.40 percent.

- Houston, TX has the highest annual median wage for STEM workers (adjusted by cost of living), \$98,750, which is 2.3 times higher than in Honolulu, HI, the metro area with the lowest at \$42,512. Visit <https://wallethub.com/edu/best-metro-areas-for-stem-professionals/9200/> for the full report.

– Diana Polk