



NEWSBRIEFS

Breaking ground

The El Paso County Emergency Services District #1 will break ground on their new Fire Station #2. The event will be held on June 27, 2019 at 9:00 a.m. at 12400 Paseo del Este Blvd (the intersection of Mission Ridge Dr. and Paseo del Este Blvd.) Visit us www.epcesd1.com for more information. Follow the Horizon Fire Department on Facebook for more updates. Once completed, Horizon City and the surrounding area will have two dedicated stations to serve them.

— Chief Kristian Menendez

Working dad states

With Father's Day last Sunday and over 93 percent of dads with young kids working today, the personal-finance website WalletHub has released its report on *2019's Best & Worst States for Working Dads* as well as accompanying videos. In order to help dads balance their dual role as parent and provider, WalletHub compared the 50 U.S. states and the District of Columbia across 22 key indicators of friendliness toward working dads. The data set ranges from average length of work day for males to child-care costs to share of men in good or better health. Texas was 40th in the report, ranking:

- 30th – Male Life Expectancy;
- 45th – Percent of Kids Younger than 18 with Dad Present Living in Poverty;
- 1st – Unemployment Rate for Dads with Kids Younger than 18;
- 51st – Male Uninsured Rate;
- 46th – Avg. Length of Work Day (in Hours) for Males;
- 49th – Percent of Physically Active Men;
- 8th – Child-Care Costs (Adjusted for Median Family* Income); and
- 3rd – Day-Care Quality.

* Refers to families with children aged 0 to 17 and in which the father is present.

Visit <https://wallethub.com/edu/best-and-worst-states-for-working-dads/13458/> for the full report.

— Diana Polk

Summer driving

With consumer demand for gas approaching its annual peak and people across the country preparing to drive to vacation destinations, the personal-finance website WalletHub

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— Photo by John C. Moritz

MORE SCHOOL MONEY – Governor Greg Abbott, flanked by lawmakers above, recently signed legislation to boost funding for public schools. Gov. Abbott stated that House Bill 3, which he signed into law, does more to advance education in the state of Texas than any law that he has seen in his lifetime.

STAAR scores, tools for learning online

Resources available in English, Spanish

By Alfredo Vasquez
Special to the Courier

TEXAS – After releasing the 2019 spring administration of the State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness (STAAR) test results recently, Texas Education Agency (TEA) officials boasted that high school end of course assessment data showed particularly strong gains in all subjects compared to the previous year.

STAAR assessments are administered in Mathematics and Reading for grades

3 through 8; in Writing for grades 4 and 7; in Science for grades 5 and 8, and in Social Studies for grade 8. There are five end-of-course assessments in Algebra I, Biology, English I, English II, and U.S. History.

“This year’s STAAR scores demonstrate Texas students are learning more in the core subjects designed to set them up for future success,” Education Commissioner Mike Morath stated. “More students are meeting grade-level expectations in Texas, and this is because of the incredibly talented work of our educators in classrooms around the state.”

The commissioner also noted the important role recently passed legislation, specifically House Bill (HB) 3, will have in providing Texas educators the

resources, including funding, and tools necessary to improve student outcomes. Gov. Greg Abbott signed into law one of lawmakers’ biggest achievements this legislative session- that is, an overhaul of Texas’ beleaguered school finance system.

“Governor Abbott and members of the Texas legislature have taken seriously the task of educating future generations. House Bill 3 will help increase opportunities to secure greater educational outcomes for our students and TEA remains committed to our work of identifying additional areas for improvement, growth, and progress,” Morath asserted.

The \$11.6 billion school finance measure includes about \$6.5 billion in new public education spending, plus about \$5.1 billion devoted to lowering Texans’ property tax bills. The spending will increase per-student base funding by about 20 percent. It includes money to give teachers raises, fund free full-day pre-K for eligible 4-year-olds and reduce the amount of money wealthy districts must spend to subsidize poor districts through the state’s recapture program, known as “Robin Hood”.

HB 3 also includes money for districts that want to start merit pay programs, giving bonuses of between \$3,000 and \$12,000 to their higher-rated teachers. And it provides money for high-needs and rural school districts that need help to incentivize teachers to work there.

Regarding the STAAR results, TEA announced that the information will now be available in Spanish beginning this year. TEA officials stated that this addition will provide greater access and usability for Spanish-speaking parents across the state.

STAAR test scores, as well as valuable resources to support student learning,

Socorro ISD campuses named to 2018-2019 ERP Honor Roll

By Christy Flores-Jones
Special to the Courier

EL PASO COUNTY – Eight schools in the Socorro Independent School District were named to the 2018-2019 Honor Roll for high achievement in student success by the Educational Results Partnership

(ERP). The ERP is part of a national effort to identify higher-performing schools and districts that are improving student outcomes.

The SISD schools named to the honor roll are Col. John O Ensor Middle, Dr. Sue A. Shook Elementary, Elfida P. Chavez Elementary, James P. Butler Elementary, John Drugan School, Loma Verde Elementary, Mission Early College High and Myrtle Cooper Elementary.

“It is an honor to have our schools recognized for high student performance,” said SISD Superintendent José Espinoza. “This is another notable achievement that confirms our commitment and success in ensuring all our students are prepared for college, careers, and life. I congratulate our teachers, students, support staff, and administrators at these campuses for their tireless efforts to achieve academic excellence.”

The 2018-2019 Honor Roll is developed by ERP, a nonprofit organization that applies data science to help improve student outcomes and career readiness. ERP maintains the nation’s largest database on student achievement and utilizes this data to identify higher-performing schools and districts.

Schools that receive the Honor Roll distinction have demonstrated consistent

See SISD, Page 4

See STAAR, Page 5

As a general rule, teachers teach more by what they are than by what they say.

— Quips & Quotes



— Photo courtesy San Elizario ISD

IN PRINT – Published authors from Isabel Villalva's 2nd grade class at Alarcon Elementary show off their book.

San Eli ISD writers unite

By Georgina Diaz
Special to the Courier

SAN ELIZARIO – Every year San Elizario ISD (SEISD) partners with Studenttreasures Publishing to offer the opportunity for every student to

experience the excitement and satisfaction of becoming a published author. SEISD held a district wide publishing celebration on May 28.

At the beginning of each year, a publishing date is selected and an order is placed for the free publishing kits. Students fill the kit pages with their story. Each student contributes their own writing and illustration to create a collaborative classbook. In the upper grades, some students publish an individual book. Parents are provided with the opportunity to purchase a copy of their child's book.

For the first time ever, participants participated in an escape room. As families worked together to solve each task, it was wonderful to see parents and children working together to achieve a common goal. Many students walked away with free books and prizes after successfully completing all tasks.

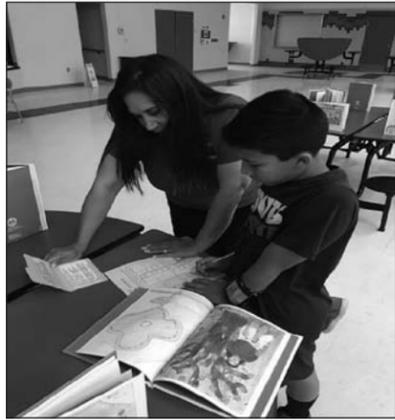


FIGURE IT OUT – A mother and her son take on the escape room challenge.

The SEISD librarians are already beginning to plan for next year's publishing initiative because writing is the framework of our communication. It gives the students an opportunity to express who they are as a person; it is portable and personal, and it makes their thinking visible.

The books are great keepsakes for the students for years to come.

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

Money can't buy you health

"Healthcare" is supposed to be the big election issue, and politicians promise to give people universal and equal "healthcare," or prevent the bad guys from taking it away.

Everyone of course wants to be healthy, and a \$3 trillion industry wants to keep the money flowing.

So, I have a confession to make as a doctor: I don't think I have ever kept anybody healthy. If someone comes to me asking for "health maintenance," I don't have a shot of "health" to give, or a prescription for "health" to be filled at your neighborhood Walgreens, CVS, or Rite-Aid.

And as a patient, I can't recall any ways in which doctors kept me healthy, although they did save my life by taking out my appendix, and they treated some illnesses and injuries. I am very grateful to them, and whatever I paid them seemed reasonable and well worth it.

To my mind, a healthy person is one who does not have to see a "healthcare provider" regularly or take medicine every day, and who can go to work, take care of family, and generally lead an active life.

We hear endless complaints about how we spend too much money treating sickness instead of preventing it. If only we had the government take all the money, plus trillions more, and "invest" it in health, we wouldn't have to spend so much, and everyone would be healthier – so they say.

This was the rationale for the National Health Service in Britain. Once the NHS took care of the backlog of untreated illnesses, much of the need for it would melt away. This did not happen. Expenditures kept rising and were never enough. The backlogs and waiting lists grew. Ambulances circle emergency departments, and patients are crammed into hallways and storage rooms.

Suppose you go for your government-funded, "value-based" health maintenance visit. Details of your once-private life will be entered into a very expensive electronic health record. (For most people, it will be their own data, but occasionally someone else's will be cut-and-pasted in, causing endless trouble.) You will be checked for diabetes or pre-diabetes, hypertension or pre-hypertension, tobacco use, cholesterol, in many cases gun ownership, body mass index, and other government-mandated items. You will get educated about the evils of tobacco (in case you have been on Mars and hadn't heard). You'll be lectured about obesity if your BMI is too high. You'll very likely get a prescription to lower your blood pressure or cholesterol, and you may get

vaccinated for something.

Your provider will likely get a bonus for checking all the right boxes and for "keeping you healthy," and will get penalized if your "numbers" don't improve or you get sick. Since I don't think others are any better than I am at creating health, there is a huge incentive to "manage the case mix" to discourage unhealthy or noncompliant patients from joining the practice.

People on drugs for blood pressure or cholesterol may feel worse rather than better, but are supposed to be less likely to have a heart attack or stroke decades later. Studies with huge numbers of patients, who may be very different from you, have shown a decrease in such events with treatment. So far, a decrease in expenditures has not been shown, in view of the cost of all the drugs and side effects.

Of course, as an internist I treat high blood pressure and diabetes, but I consider this to be disease management. Would better diet prevent these things? Possibly, but what diet? I recommended low-fat diets for years. This government-approved advice is now questioned.

So how would government-funded primary care have prevented the diseases my patients have had? Heart failure? (Statin drugs probably make it worse.) Heart attacks? (When the patient has one, it is too late to prevent it.) Stroke? (Preventive aspirin is now criticized because of the bleeding it may cause.) Osteoarthritis? (We have great joint replacements but are much better at blocking access to surgery than at curing the arthritis.) Gall bladder disease, cancer, pneumonia, blood clots, thyroid disease, cataracts, arrhythmias such as atrial fibrillation, herniated disks, asthma, endocarditis from drug abuse, on and on. If we put all the doctors to work pretending to keep people healthy, who would treat disease and injury?

Healing the sick is what medicine is about. The politicians who promise to "fix healthcare" can only destroy medicine – while bankrupting the country.

Jane M. Orient, M.D. has been in solo private practice since 1981 and has served as Executive Director of the Association of American Physicians and Surgeons (AAPS) since 1989. She is currently president of Doctors for Disaster Preparedness. 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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SERVING ANTHONY, VINTON, CANUTILLO, EAST MONTANA, HORIZON, SOCORRO, CLIVE, FARENS, SAN ELIZARIO AND TORNEILLO

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CEOs for abortion

Clarity of thought and expression about moral issues is not a core competency of CEOs.

If anyone had any doubt, look no further than the "historic" pro-abortion statement by nearly 200 CEOs that ran in a full-page ad in The New York Times. It is a festival of absurdity and euphemism, an exercise in perverse virtue-signaling to a progressive audience that believes that maintaining one of the most permissive pro-abortion regimes in the developed world is a virtue.

The CEOs define abortion as "equality" ("Don't Ban Equality") and, of course, refer to it as "comprehensive reproductive care," the ubiquitous phrase that has the advantage of sounding like the opposite of what it's describing.

The CEOs contend that abortion is central to their businesses, which might be true if all of their companies had the same business model as Planned Parenthood. But Bloomberg L.P., Amalgamated Bank and H&M, to name three of the companies whose CEOs signed the ad, are hardly dependent on abortion to thrive.

The old saw was, "What's good for General Motors is good for America." Now, according to top CEOs, what's good for abortion is good for American business.

They seem to consider abortion a crucial component of GDP just like personal consumption, business investment, government spending and net exports.

They argue that "equality in the workplace" is an important business issue, and it is impossible to achieve without unrestricted access to abortion. Any restriction "threatens the health, independence and economic stability of our employees and customers."

The idea that abortion is necessary for the health of women is one of the most misleading pro-abortion clichés. Comprehensive data from Florida last year shows that only a small percentage involve a threat to the mother's life or health, and pro-life laws account for such cases – even the sweeping Alabama law has a health exception.

The contention that restrictions put "the economy at risk" is nonsensical. Are we supposed to believe that the reduction of the abortion rate in the U.S. from its high in 1980 of 29.3 abortions per 1,000 women of childbearing age to its post-Roe v. Wade low of 14.6 as of 2014 has been a calamity for corporate America?

By this standard, Utah must be a terrible place to do business since its abortion rate is so low,



and the District of Columbia an enticing place to do business since its abortion rate is so high. (To the contrary, Forbes ranks Utah as the second-best state for business in the country.)

The implication is that these CEOs prefer that their employees and customers not become mothers, or if they are mothers, not have more children. It apparently hasn't occurred to them that unborn children will grow up to buy their products or perhaps work for their firms one day.

The CEO ad is another sign that the debate over abortion has entered a new phase. It isn't enough anymore to say that abortion should be safe, legal and rare, the old Bill Clinton formulation, because that implies a moral disapproval. Now, abortion is a positive good.

Pro-life laws will have to prevail against this inflamed pro-abortion sentiment – and the swath of big business that shares it.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review. (c) 2019 by King Features Synd., Inc.

Food for thought By John Grimaldi

America's history deficit is worrisome

There are those who dismiss George Santayana's claim that "those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it." Among them was the late American author Kurt Vonnegut who is quoted as saying "we're doomed to repeat the past no matter what."

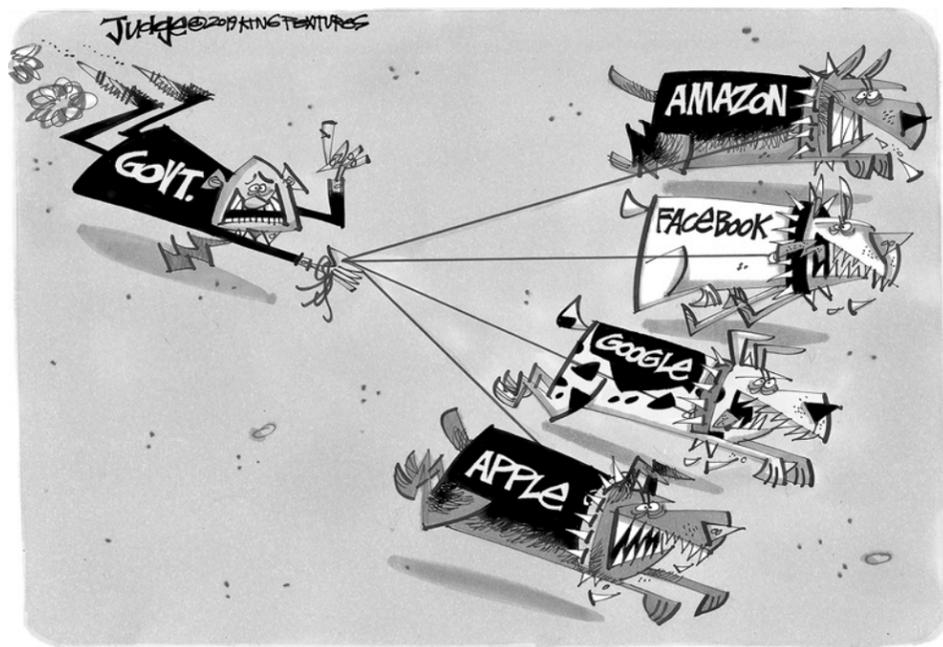
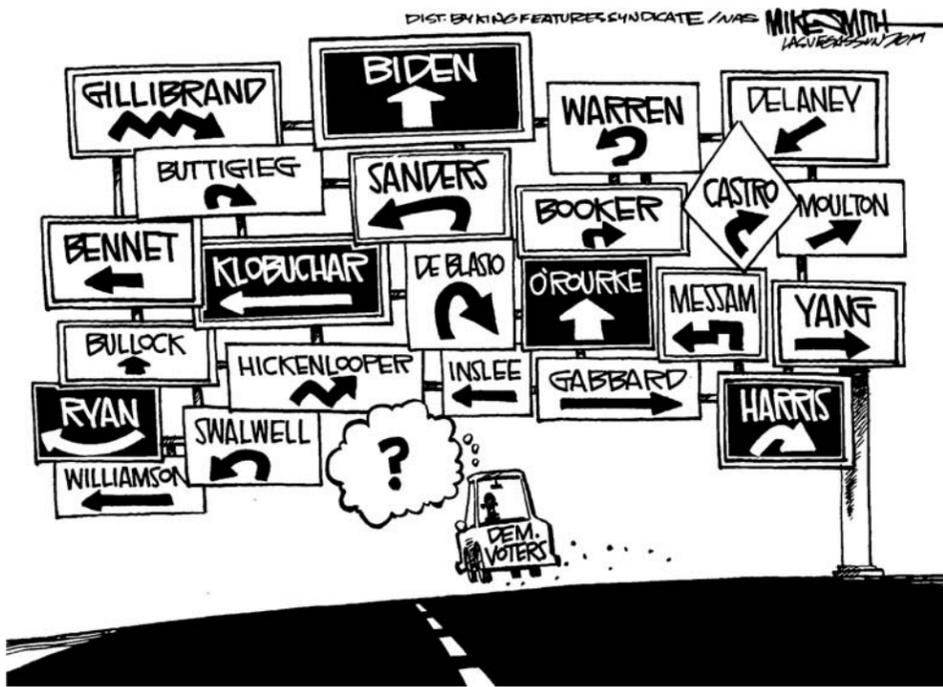
"Whatever the position on the need to know our nation's history, the fact remains that a knowledge of how the U.S. came to be and the stories of those individuals who made it happen are essential if our children are to grow up to be reliably industrious citizens. But the sad news is that too few of today's schoolchildren take an interest in the lessons of history. And now there is evidence that their big brothers and sisters are apathetic, at best, about our past," according to Dan Weber, president of the Association of Mature American Citizens (AMAC).

Weber cites a recent Wall Street Journal article about the dramatic decline in the numbers of visitors to Civil War battlefield sites as reported by the National Park Service. The story noted that in 1970 more than ten million sightseers made trips to the top five sites compared with just 3.1 million last year – a drop of some 70%. "A lack of interest by younger generations" was cited by the Journal for the extreme drop in attendance.

John Daniel Davidson at The Federalist says it goes beyond indifference. In an article published in the online magazine he wrote: "it's not just that young people are not taught to respect history. They are often not taught history at all. To the extent they are, they are told that American history is a parade of horrors: slavery, genocide, bigotry, greed – a story above all of injustice and oppression, perpetrated by the powerful against the weak."

In an interview last fall with the Daily Signal, Education Secretary Betsy DeVos recalled a visit to a classroom "where one of the teachers was wearing a shirt that said, 'Find Your Truth,' suggesting that, of course, truth is a very fungible and mutable thing instead of focusing on the fact that there is objective truth and part of learning is actually pursuing that truth. So roll it back, there is a very important need for students to know the foundations of our country and the

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"RELAX, WE'VE GOT THEM ON A LEASH."



"Oh overseer of the netherworld, this House Judiciary Committee seeks to speak to the ghost of H.R. Haldeman, or John Ehrlichman...or both..."

San Eli ISD holds STEM meet

By Debbie Cortez
Special to the Courier

SAN ELIZARIO – San Elizario ISD held their 4th annual STEM Tank Innovator Competition on

May 30, 2019. Students were asked to submit an “invention,” which they create using components that already exist, or an “innovation,” which they create from scratch. The projects were based on global issues.

Because creativity should not be limited, students were encouraged to think about what they perceive as needed based on their own passions. The 21st Century

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– Photos courtesy San Elizario ISD Technology Department

Top innovators in the 3rd and 4th grade category were (not in order): 1st Place – Michal Hernandez, Gabrielle Hernandez, Anissa Herrera, and Vienna Azua from Borrego Elementary; 2nd Place – Jose Montoya, Ismael, and Saul Marquez from Alarcon Elementary; and 3rd Place – Yazbeth Otero from Alarcon Elementary.



Top innovators in the 5th and 6th grade category were (not in order): 1st Place – Evelyn Woods and Sofia Alvarez from Alarcon Elementary; 2nd Place – Jessica Arzaga, Gina Acevedo, Bryanna Moreno, and Sofia Jimenez from Borrego Elementary; and 3rd Place – Andrea Gonzalez, Mariana Morales, and Elizabeth Martinez from Alarcon Elementary.

SISD

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high levels of student academic achievement, improvement in achievement levels over time, and a reduction in achievement gaps among student populations. For high schools, the Honor Roll recognition also includes measures of college readiness.

“The Honor Roll is the only school and district recognition program in Texas based solely on objective achievement data,” said Marilyn Reznick, ERP board chair. “Our goal is to guide other educators to data-informed best practices for raising student achievement.”

Through national research, the ERP has identified a common set of success factors in higher-performing Honor Roll schools and districts. These include clear, specific learning objectives aligned to college and career readiness, along with:

- Evidence-based instructional practices;
- A defined system-wide mission of college and career readiness for all students;
- An investment in human capital;
- Maintenance of data and assessment systems to monitor school and student performance; and
- Resources and guidance to support schools’ efforts in preparing all students for college and career.

“ERP is all about improving educational equity and promoting career readiness for all students, regardless of their family income, background or ZIP code,” said James Lanich, Ph.D., ERP president and CEO. “These Honor Roll schools and districts are living proof that our students can succeed when schools are committed to removing educational obstacles and accelerating student success. By focusing attention on these bright spots among our schools, we hope to change the conversation from ‘what’s wrong’ to ‘what’s working,’ and encourage others to replicate their success.”

Send Your Newsbrief To:
wtxcc@wtxcc.com

Strange BUT TRUE

By Samantha Weaver

- It was noted 20th-century American playwright Arthur Miller who made the following sage observation: “Maybe all one can do is hope to end up with the right regrets.”

- When creating its cocoon, the silkworm spins a continuous thread more than a thousand yards long, or 12,000 times the length of its own body. To accomplish a comparable feat, a 6-foot-tall man would have to spin a thread that stretched unbroken for 15 miles.

- You may be surprised to learn that the onion is actually a lily, botanically speaking.

- In 2016, Michigan State University received a delivery of inedible mayonnaise – the mayo had been frozen and thawed during transit, spoiling all 10,000 pounds of the condiment. Instead of just throwing it out, MSU decided to put the bad mayo to good use. The campus already had an anaerobic digester – a device that decomposes organic waste and converts it to methane – so they poured in all 500 2.5-gallon tubs.

- Guinness, that notoriously dark and bitter brew, contains fewer calories than skim milk or orange juice. Stout for breakfast, anyone?

- If someone were to ask you to name the sunniest spot on Earth, you might be tempted to answer “the Sahara Desert” or some other such exotic place. You would be wrong, though; that distinction belongs to a town right here in America. Out of the possible 4,456 daylight hours each year, the sun shines for an average of 4,050 in Yuma, Arizona. That means that there’s cloud cover or rain for only about 10 percent of the time there.

Thought for the Day: “Whatever a man prays for, he prays for a miracle. Every prayer reduces itself to this: Great God, grant that twice two be not four.”
– Ivan Turgenev

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CryptoQuip Answer

When actress Miles wanted to sing to her horse, how did she accomplish that?
Sarah neighed.

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Moments in time
THE HISTORY CHANNEL

• On June 17, 1994, "O.J." Simpson, a former football player suspected of a double murder, flees along I-405 in Los Angeles in a white Ford Bronco with police in pursuit. News helicopters followed from above, and millions watched on television. Simpson was arrested at home an hour later.

• On June 18, 1966, Gen. William Westmoreland, senior U.S. military commander in Vietnam, requests an additional 111,588 troops for the war in 1967, bringing the total to 542,588.

• On June 19, 1972, the U.S. Supreme Court rules against Curt Flood in Flood v. Kuhn, denying him free agency as a baseball player. He was trying to break the reserve clause that tied players to one team. Three years later an arbitrator ruled in favor of free agency, but it was too late for Flood, who never played baseball again.

• On June 20, 1947, Benjamin "Bugsy" Siegel, who brought organized crime to the West Coast, is killed in a hail of gunfire at his home in Beverly Hills, California. Siegel got his start in Brooklyn, where he terrorized peddlers and collected protection money in the 1930s.

• On June 21, 1788, New Hampshire becomes the ninth and last necessary state to ratify the Constitution of the United States, thereby making the document the law of the land. Delaware, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Georgia, and Connecticut were the first to sign.

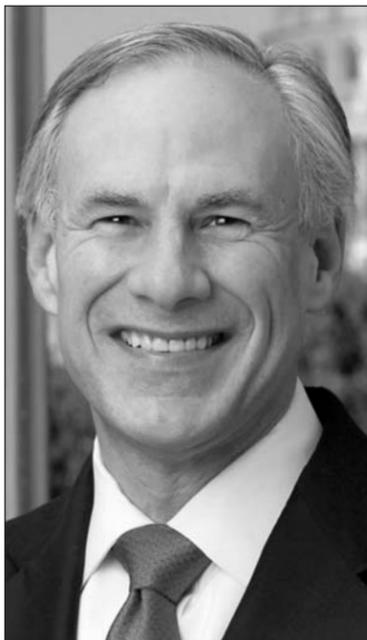
• On June 22, 1937, in Chicago's Comiskey Park, Joe Louis wins the world heavyweight boxing title when he knocks out Jim Braddock in the eighth-round. Louis was the first black heavyweight champ since Jack Johnson, who lost the title in 1915.

• On June 23, 1959, after nine years in prison, Klaus Fuchs, the German-born Los Alamos scientist whose espionage helped the USSR build its first atomic and hydrogen bombs, is released from a British prison.

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Texas Education Commissioner Mike Morath



Texas Governor Greg Abbott

STAAR

From Page 1

are currently available online at texasassessment.com. TEA officials emphasized that parents are encouraged to visit the site to obtain information regarding students' individual results and to utilize the developmental tools offered to support parents.

Information provided on the website includes the student-specific test taken for this current assessment, question-by-question performance data, a step-by-step guide to understanding STAAR scores, sample STAAR test questions, tutorials, and practice tests.

"Parents are a child's first teacher. The information available on the assessment website gives parents valuable resources that can help foster a love of learning in their child," Morath commented. "We hope parents take time over the summer to explore these tools designed to encourage continued learning and preparation for the coming school year," he added.

Interested individuals can view the STAAR information via texasassessment.com through an access code provided by either local school districts or by using the "Find My Code" feature on the home page. Additionally, all STAAR state-level reports may be accessed on TEA's website at <https://tea.texas.gov>.



True Texas by Roger T. Moore

June 16, 1838: John Quincy Adams began a 3 week filibuster in the House of Representatives against the annexation of Texas.



The Forum Theatre

at EPCC Transmountain Presents

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Golden State's losses open up things for the rest of the league

By Steve Escajeda
Special to the Courier

Golden State's losses open up things for the rest of the league

Before the NBA season began, it was a near certainty that the Golden State Warriors would win their fourth championship in five years.

And why not, they start five all-stars. It doesn't seem fair to the rest of the league that Stephen Curry, Klay Thompson, Kevin Durant, Draymond Green and DeMarcus Cousins share the same uniform.

And how about this, three years ago the Warriors put together the greatest regular season in the history of the league (73-9), before even adding Durant and Cousins.

So the only question coming into the season was: with LeBron James off to the Lakers, which team would represent the eastern conference, against the Warriors?

As the season wore on, the popular picks were the Milwaukee Bucks and the Philadelphia 76ers and the Boston Celtics. The Toronto Raptors were also in the mix, but because of their annual

late-season chokes, weren't really taken seriously.

Well, as most of you already know, the Toronto Raptors stunned the Golden State Warriors last week to earn their first title in franchise history.

But some fans and pundits, especially those in California, would like an asterisk to be put next to Toronto's name in the record books.

Okay, I exaggerate, they haven't officially asked for that but many do believe that the Raptors only won because of the bevy of injuries suffered by the Warriors.

First there was the injury to Durant, who missed 10 straight playoffs games at one point. We all know that he came back when the Warriors were down three games to one, only to suffer an ever-greater Achilles injury that will cost him all of next season.

Then there was the injury to Thompson, who missed game three of the finals, and there was the injury to reserve big man Kevin Looney, who also missed game three.

And finally, with just over two minutes left in the third quarter of the final game in the series, Thompson, just like Durant,

suffers an even more severe injury and never returns.

Now in case any of you feel like shedding a tear for the Warriors, it was back in 2015 that Golden State won the title against a Cavaliers team that was missing all-stars Kevin Love and Kyrie Irving to injury. LeBron tried but couldn't do it all himself.

In last year's conference finals, the Houston Rockets had the Warriors down three games to two. Then star point guard Chris Paul suffered an injury that kept him out of the last two games, both ended in Houston losses.

The point is, every team suffers devastating injuries. But we always notice the injuries that cost the better teams.

As Golden State coach Steve Kerr said during the finals, we've been on the right side of injuries and on the wrong side; it all evens out in the end.

And he's right. Golden State has benefited from adversity and suffered through it. Which makes them the same as any other team in sports history.

In other words, no need for an asterisk.

Now that the Warriors have had time to digest the losses, they have more pending worries – their future.

Kevin Durant is a free agent. Will they re-sign him or will he bolt for another team? Either way, he's still missing all of next season.

And how about Klay Thompson, he's also a free agent and will miss a major chunk of the 2019-20 season.

The belief right now is that Durant will leave and Thompson will stay. But of course all that is speculation at the moment.

But it's apparent that the Warriors will look a little different next year. But will they still be good?

Let's put it this way, before Durant got there they were the best team in the league. If Thompson returns, they will basically be the same team.

Anthony Davis is now a Los Angeles Laker, and with rumors of guys like Kawhi Leonard, Kemba Walker, Jimmy Butler and Kyrie Irving changing teams, who knows how the league's power base will shift.

The one thing we learned this year is that every team is vulnerable to one thing – injuries.

They happen. That's why the best teams in any sport are very good... and very lucky.

SEISD

From Page 4

Skill of collaboration is an essential skill set so students were encouraged to work in teams of 2 to 4. This hands-on, collaborative learning makes academic vocabulary come to life, as well as real world issues.

Third through 6th grade students from Alarcon, Borrego, and Sambrano Elementary competed for the top innovator award by presenting their prototypes with an elevator pitch. This experience helped students to further develop and refine their presentation skills in addition to building confidence in a supportive, fun environment.

History

From Page 3

ideas around which our country was formed. And to then have the ability to discuss and debate those ideas freely on their K-12 campuses and on their higher ed campuses."

Weber underscored the fact that The Declaration of Independence is real and so is the U.S. Constitution and the Bill of Rights. "They attest to the unselfish or non-biased elements of the birth of our nation. So too are America's heroic individuals real, historic heroes such as our Founding Fathers and Abraham

Lincoln. And, it cannot be denied that our unique form of government, our democratic republic, has proven to be as fair as any government that ever existed."

So, Weber says, it is sad to learn that just 26% of Americans can name the three branches of government – the executive, legislative and judicial branches. A survey conducted by the Annenberg Public Policy Center also found that 30% of the participants couldn't even identify one of the branches of government.

Kathleen Hall Jamieson, director of the Center for American Progress, commented on the Annenberg poll. Her reaction

was that "those unfamiliar with our three branches of government can't understand the importance of checks and balances and an independent judiciary. Lack of basic civics knowledge is worrisome and an argument for an increased focus on civics education in the schools."

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

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Super Crossword

REAL AMERICANS

ACROSS

- 1 Deal with mercifully
- 9 Smooth-tongued
- 13 Inlaid tile designs
- 20 Shady protagonist, perhaps
- 21 Inner Hebrides island
- 22 Female graduates
- 23 Famed pool hustler
- 25 Reverberate
- 26 Recap no.
- 27 Neither go-with
- 28 Mined rocks
- 30 Actress Ekberg
- 31 Founder of Tuskegee University
- 36 "Don't put it off!"
- 40 "Yes" vote
- 41 Sports guard
- 42 "Sideways" actress
- 47 Many
- 53 Just right
- 54 Window above a door
- 55 Interstellar dust clouds
- 56 Amaz of TV
- 57 Interim workers
- 58 Mystery novelist who created Anna Pigeon
- 60 Tree of Iowa
- 62 Some iPods
- 63 Authority
- 64 Home: Abbr.

- 67 "LOVE" stamp artist
- 73 They work on mags
- 74 Alevite targets
- 76 Dueling tools
- 77 Cleo's biter
- 79 NFL MVP of 1989 and 1990
- 81 Pleasantly warm outside
- 85 Norwegian city
- 89 Many pink-eyed animals
- 90 Ban on trade
- 92 Kilt design
- 93 Publisher of Elle Decor
- 94 Painter called "The Mother of American Modernism"
- 96 Theta lead-in
- 98 Big foot spec
- 99 Map blowups
- 100 "Cat on a Hot Tin Roof" playwright
- 109 "Full of beans," e.g.
- 110 "Frozen" queen
- 111 Acid rock's "acid"
- 112 Writer Dinesen
- 116 Place-to-place worker
- 118 Bailiff's directive that's apt to this puzzle's theme?
- 123 Opponents
- 124 Reverberate
- 125 Diagnostic list for a

- techie
 - 126 Brand of frozen desserts
 - 127 Phony
 - 128 Decade's span
- DOWN**
- 1 Alluring legs, informally
 - 2 Attending to the task
 - 3 Big volcano in Sicily
 - 4 Isn't incorrect?
 - 5 That girl
 - 6 "Assuredly"
 - 7 Maine city
 - 8 Uncool
 - 9 Alternative to a JPEG
 - 10 Mauna _
 - 11 Tagging along behind
 - 12 Port in Iraq
 - 13 Actress Mason
 - 14 Seville cheer
 - 15 Singer Boyle
 - 16 In a group of
 - 17 Arctic native
 - 18 Poem division
 - 19 Car variety
 - 24 GPS display
 - 29 "NFL Live" channel
 - 31 Be really hot
 - 32 BYOB part
 - 33 "_ Hope" (old soap)
 - 34 "Bill & _ Excellent Adventure"

- 35 Ran in place
- 36 Full of zeal
- 37 Funny _ (2003 Kentucky Derby winner)
- 38 Very, to Fifi
- 39 Mystery writer Marsh
- 43 Ending for Manhattan
- 44 Branch
- 45 _-law (acquired relative)
- 46 Revise
- 48 First family until 2017
- 49 Big brass
- 50 Really work
- 51 Rowed
- 52 Plants with fronds
- 55 Viking org.
- 57 Certain bout result, briefly
- 59 7, to Caesar
- 61 Fire felonies
- 62 Prefix with fire
- 64 Hindu royal
- 65 French place of learning
- 66 Cat food brand
- 68 Reno actions
- 69 Air quality gp.
- 70 Zellweger of "Case 39"
- 71 "I love you," to Juan
- 72 "No" vote
- 75 Arabian chief
- 78 Flag holders

- 80 Re, fa and la
- 81 Deli staple
- 82 Actress Dombasle
- 83 NYC airport code
- 84 Pasture call
- 86 Not in peril
- 87 Raise up
- 88 Extolling poems
- 91 Matzo _ (Jewish fried dish)
- 92 Writing tools
- 94 Scottish Celt
- 95 One of the Kardashians
- 97 African fly
- 100 Durations
- 101 Patsy's sidekick on "Absolutely Fabulous"
- 102 Neighbor of Mali
- 103 Shearer of old films
- 104 Inbox filler
- 105 Curvy letters
- 106 Stare at
- 107 "The best _ to come!"
- 108 Venerate
- 112 Regarding
- 113 Spanish for "room"
- 114 Winged god
- 115 Beer holders
- 117 Born
- 119 "That's it!"
- 120 Singer Jones
- 121 Sizable vase
- 122 Actor/singer Rogers

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19				
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123										124							125					
126																	128					

Comix

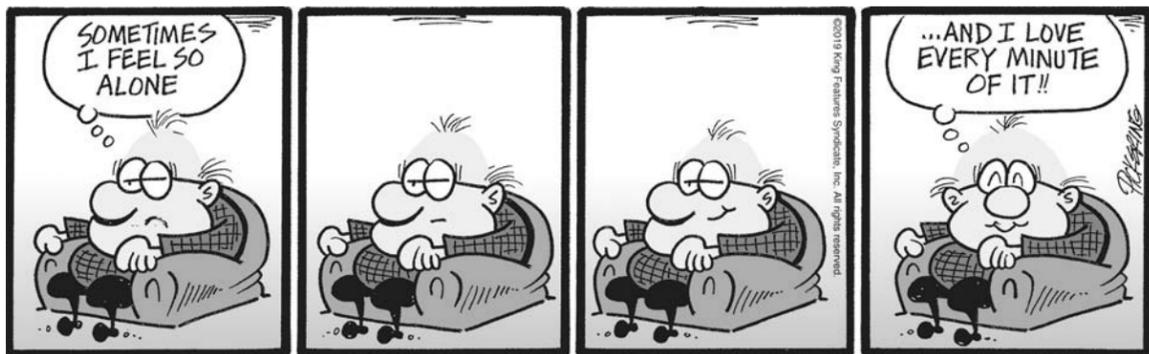
OUT ON A LIMB By Gary Kopervas



AMBER WAVES By Dave T. Phipps



THE SPATS By Jeff Pickering



R.F.D. By Mike Marland



Meningioma is tumor of brain's lining

DEAR DR. ROACH: In January 2014, I was diagnosed with a benign neoplasm of my cerebral meninges (meningioma). I am a healthy 64-year-old Caucasian woman. I do not take any medications. The finding was incidental. I have no symptoms from the meningioma. I sometimes feel as if my mental capacity has declined somewhat (such as memory), but I attribute this to the normal aging process. I have been getting an MRI every year since the diagnosis. The last test showed that the tumor was 2.9 cm by 1.6 cm by 2.7 cm. The mass measured 2.3 cm by 1.3 cm by 2.1 cm when I had the first MRI in 2014. It seems to be slowly growing. What are your thoughts on this? Do you advise surgery at this time? – C.C.



A meningioma is a type of brain tumor that arises from the meninges, the lining of the brain. Most of these are benign, although they do range from benign to cancerous. Even the cancerous tumors very rarely spread.

The main problem with this type of tumor is that they grow, and there is not a lot of room inside the skull to spare. An enlarging tumor can compress the brain, and that can lead to symptoms. Depending on the exact location of the tumor, it can cause weakness, loss of vision or loss of hearing or smell. Another common symptom is a seizure. Changes in mental function are less common, but I am very cautious about ascribing symptoms to aging.

Although the change in size seems small, the tumor has approximately doubled in size since 2014. That is a clear indication for treatment. It will likely keep growing and cause symptoms. Surgery is a treatment option, as is radiation, but only an expert can make the assessment of what is best in your situation. If the tumor is in a favorable location, most authorities would recommend surgical removal of the tumor.

DEAR DR. ROACH: My 59-year-old son has cirrhosis, probably from a blood transfusion he had as a teenager. His gastroenterologist tells him he is two years away from going on the transplant list for a new liver. Do you know if someone with compatible blood could donate a piece of his or her liver? Would that provide him with enough healthy liver? Also, he

See HEALTH, Page 8

Briefs

From Page 1

has released three key reports to help people maximize both savings and fun:

- 2019's Best & Worst States for Summer Road Trips;
 - 2019's Best Gas Rewards Credit Cards; and
 - 2019 Gas & Travel Survey.
- WalletHub's road trip report found that Texas ranks 5th nationally for summer driving, rating:
- 14th – Number of Attractions;
 - 7th – Lowest Price of Three-Star Hotel Room;
 - 9th – Average Gas Prices;
 - 8th – Nightlife Options per Capita;
 - 14th – Vehicle Miles Traveled per Capita;
 - 30th – Car Thefts per Capita;
 - 12th – Access to Scenic

Byways;

- 8th – Lowest Price of Camping; and
 - 7th – Driving Laws Rating.
- Survey Key Findings & Best Gas Rewards Cards:
- 84 million people think each individual should have to take a test to get a credit card, just like a driver's license.
 - 11 times more people want gas rewards from a credit card than rewards for Uber/Lyft rides.
 - 51 percent of drivers choose where to get gas based on price, followed by convenience (36 percent) and the brand (11 percent).
 - 63 percent of people want rewards on gas more than any other type of travel purchase.

– Diana Polk

Refreshing reward

Two guys got up early one morning recently to

clean up after Platte River floodwaters near Schuyler, NB receded recently. And, as fate would have it, they were well rewarded at the end of a hard day's work. Gayland Stouffer and Kyle Simpson, parched from their labors, spotted what turned out to be a refrigerator as they made their way across a field as they headed home. The fridge turned out to be chock full of ice-cold beer. Photos they posted on Facebook went viral and the owner of the fridge, Brian Healy, saw the post and recognized it as his. Healy told the Omaha World-Herald that the giveaway was that it was packed with the proper ratio of Bud Light beer and Busch Light beer. Simpson promised to return the fridge to Healy, "minus a couple of beers."

– John Grimaldi



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1	2	3	4
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9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16
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37	38	39	40

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Health

From Page 7

heard that you live only about five years with a new liver. Is that true? – B.M.

Cirrhosis after a blood transfusion makes me suspect that your son's liver disease is due to hepatitis C. If that's the case, his gastroenterologist has had or will have a discussion with him about new treatments for hepatitis C that will hopefully keep him from needing a transplant.

However, if he does need a transplant, it can be done from a family member or even from a nonrelated person. There are risks to the donor, but major complications happen in only 1 to 3 percent of cases.

The transplanted lobe of the liver does rapidly regenerate. The results for the recipient are comparable to that of deceased organ donors. Only the transplant surgeons can recommend whether a living donor is possible.

For adults in your son's age group, the likelihood of surviving five years after liver transplantation is about 70 percent.

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.

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CryptoQuip

This is a simple substitution cipher in which each letter used stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Solution is accomplished by trial and error.

Clue: J equals T

HSCD YNJE CMM LOICM HYDJCW
 JV MODA JV SCE SVEMC, SVH
 WOW MSC YNNVLZIOMS JSYJ?
 MYEYS DCOASCW.

Answer Page 4

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

9				1		5		
		4			3			6
	3		6			2	8	
1					5			7
	2	3		9				1
	5		4			9		
		2	7					5
	6				2	3		4
3				4				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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Agent Orange benefits for Blue Water Navy?



by Freddy Groves

The Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act of 2019, known as H.R. 299, seeks to give Agent Orange (dioxin) benefits to blue water veterans. The bill has passed the House (410-0) and went to the Senate in the mid-May.

Here, in part, is what it offers:

- Presumptions of service connection for veterans who served offshore of the Republic of Vietnam, from Jan. 9, 1962, and ending May 7, 1975. If you were there during that time, you are presumed to have been exposed.
- Presumption of herbicide exposure for certain veterans who served in Korea from Sept. 1, 1967, to Aug. 31, 1971, which is a change of dates.
- Benefits for children of certain Thailand service

veterans born with spina bifida for veterans who served from Jan. 9, 1962, to May 7, 1975.

Remember that the 1991 Agent Orange Act covered anyone who'd been in the war theater. In 2002, however, blue water veterans were cut out with the rationale that their boots never touched the ground. Never mind that the ground sometimes came to them in the form of personnel and material that had been covered in dioxin. It was in the air, the water used to wash down planes and decks, and drinking and shower water because it was sucked up into the distillers. Remember, too, that the Institute of Medicine's 2012 update on Agent Orange said there was no reason to keep blue water veterans from getting benefits.

Educate yourself see if you think H.R. 299 goes far enough in covering blue water veterans. Go online to the Blue Water Navy Association (www.bwnvva.org). Look up Procopio v. Wilkie, which held that veterans who served

within 12 miles of shore were entitled to presumption of exposure. Look up H.R. 299 and keep track of it.

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• "When you have a delicate lampshade, or one that has a textured fabric, it can be hard to get the dust off. One method that I've used is a lint roller. This works well for flat but textured, when a dusting rag would make it stick worse. If you have pleats, sometimes the best way is to remove it and take it outside, then use canned, compressed air to blow the dust off."
 – Y.L. in Arizona

• To de-fat a broth, simply put it in the freezer. As the broth cools, the separated fat condenses at the top. You can peel it right off or scoop it away with a spoon.

• Coffeepot got a layer of grime? For a little extra scrub power, use a tablespoon of baking soda mixed with a few drops of dish soap. It's a minor abrasive, and it deodorizes, too. Rinse clean and repeat if necessary.

• "Here's a great summer activity: Save toilet paper rolls and paper towel cores, plus any small boxes. Add small hook and loop squares on the corners and sides. Then, kids can use them as free-form building blocks. It's fun to see what kinds of things they create. Save larger boxes to create a backyard castle using duct tape or packing tape to join boxes."
 – V.E. in Pennsylvania

• "I dropped an earring down the disposal in the kitchen. It was hard to see and even harder to get at. I was at the point of despair. My lovely husband tied a string around a magnet and was able to pull it out."
 – W.E. in South Carolina

• Skinning chicken pieces is easier if you use a paper towel to grab onto the skin.

Send your tips to Now Here's a Tip, 628 Virginia Drive, Orlando, FL 32803. (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!

	÷		+			13
+		×		÷		
	÷		+			9
÷		+		+		
	×		+			14
8		8		5		

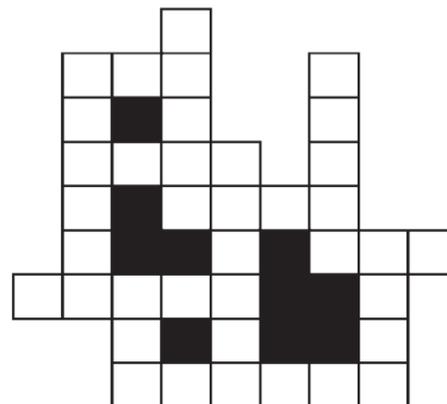
1 2 3 4 5 6 6 7 9

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Answer Page 4



- ORT
- TREBFE
- ♥ERMAS
- MOLA
- ♥GANLIM
- BFO
- MITO
- RABEM
- OMM
- ♥REMTIS
- TINFU
- ♥IREM



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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.

Answer Page 4