



NEWSBRIEFS

Tejanos' tryouts

The El Paso Community College (EPCC) men's baseball team is holding open tryouts for the upcoming academic year. The tryouts will be held on Saturday, June 29 for graduates of the Class of 2019 and college transfers at the EPCC Baseball Field. There is no charge for the tryout. All athletes must bring their own equipment and a copy of a physical exam performed in the last twelve months. There are no exceptions. Anyone who has attended another National Junior College Athletic Association school must have a completed release and/or transfer waiver. "EPCC is an academic institution first and foremost," Felix Hinojosa, Director of Athletics, said. "Each prospective team member will be looked upon as a leader and to work together with each other to excel." Registration for infielders and outfielders will be at 8:30 a.m.; tryouts will start at 9:00 a.m. Registration for pitchers and catchers will be at 11:30 a.m.; tryouts will start at noon. Individuals may only attend one tryout. For more information call please call (915) 831-3131 or (915) 831-2275.

— Jim Heiney

Independent states

With Independence Day right around the corner, the personal-finance website WalletHub wanted to get a sense of just how free Americans are feeling. WalletHub has released its study of 2019's *Most Independent States* as well as accompanying videos, which measured how dependent Americans are on the government and other people for finances, their jobs and personal vices. You can find highlights from the report below. Texas ranked 34th in this study. Other stats:

- Montana has the lowest share of private industry workers employed by foreign-owned firms, at 1.9 percent. That's 4.3 times lower than in New Jersey, the highest at 8.1 percent.
 - Pennsylvania has the lowest share of government workers (local, state and federal), at 10.4 percent. Alaska has the country's highest share, at 25.2 percent.
 - New Hampshire has the lowest share of residents in poverty, at 8.1 percent – 2.7 times lower than in Mississippi (21.5 percent).
- Visit <http://wallethub.com/edu/most-independent-states>

See BRIEFS, Page 6

Most surgical operations in the hospital are minor. The bills are always major.

— Quips & Quotes



— Rendering courtesy Texas Department of Transportation

PLANNED – The proposed Montana Ave. expansion project includes a much-needed interchange expressway at the corner of Yarbrough Dr./Global Reach Dr. that is depicted in the rendering above. The work is expected to take about two and a half years to complete.

TXDOT plans call for Montana Avenue freeway expansion

By Alfredo Vasquez
Special to the Courier

EL PASO COUNTY – Construction work is slated to start soon in the eastern section of El Paso County's Montana Avenue as plans call for an expanded six-lane freeway with frontage roads. The multi-phased project, which will eventually run from the intersection at Yarbrough/Global Reach drives to

Zaragoza Road, is estimated that it will cost more than \$370 million.

For the first phase, Texas Department of Transportation (TXDOT) awarded at the end of last year a \$121.7 million construction contract to Jordan Foster Construction, an El Paso-based general contractor.

To help with traffic flow during phase one construction of the middle, freeway lanes and overpasses at major intersections, the existing Montana street

will be kept in use, according to TXDOT El Paso district officials.

"The need for this project was established about four years ago because of the growing amount of traffic on Montana. The stretch of Montana from Yarbrough/Global Reach to Zaragoza has an average daily traffic count of more than 40,000 vehicles, and projections show the traffic could increase to a daily average of 100,000 vehicles by 2040, TXDOT officials reported.

The rapid growth is attributed to the new housing and business development boom in the far east portion of the county

See TXDOT, Page 4

EPCC merits Seal of Excelencia

By Jim Heiney
Special to the Courier

EL PASO COUNTY – Excelencia in Education (Excelencia) has announced that El Paso Community College (EPCC) is one of nine institutions of higher education earning the 2019 Seal of Excelencia. The Seal is a prestigious, voluntary, and comprehensive certification recognizing an institution's commitment and ability to successfully serve Latino students.

"El Paso Community College has a laser-focus on student success. We are proud of our efforts to both increase the number of Latino students enrolling in college but also to increase the number of Latino students completing their degrees, many of whom are the first in their family to

graduate from college," EPCC President Dr. William Serrata said. "Receiving the Seal of Excelencia is an honor that is testament to EPCC's commitment to advancing student achievement and ultimately serving the country by helping this fastest growing population, also underrepresented in higher education, receive the degrees and certificates that they need to be successful in our community, our state, and in this nation."

The Seal is not a ranking nor an award. It is, however, part of Excelencia's systemic approach to: close the education equity gap; accelerate the number of Latino students who attain college degrees by 2030; and support America's economic and global standing by effectively preparing Latinos. To earn the Seal, institutions must demonstrate they have

made significant strides in terms of data, practice, and leadership, areas Excelencia has identified as key to supporting Latino student success.

"Through the Seal certification process, we provide a platform for colleges and universities to reflect on their current impact, practices, and policies and implement new and better ones that respond to Latino students' realities. Ultimately this serves all students," Sarita Brown, President, Excelencia in Education said.

For institutions, the Seal highlights the use of proven strategies and the need for internal alignment that supports greater Latino student success. It advocates change through collaboration, offering both technical assistance and access to data from Excelencia's analysis, network, and staff. For students, the Seal provides important new information about colleges and universities that have a track record in supporting Latino student success that will help inform future and current students' decision-making when pursuing a degree.



Food for thought

By John Grimaldi

The impact of inappropriate media America’s children

America’s children are under attack by the entertainment industry, says Dan Weber, president of the Association of Mature American Citizens (AMAC). He cites the *Journal of the American Academy of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry*, which reports that a Netflix TV series, which premiered two years ago, *13 Reasons Why*, is associated with a significant increase in suicides among adolescents.

Meanwhile, Weber expressed concern about the inappropriate impact of other teen accessible TV programming. He says that much of that content can have negative influence on the lives of kids due to explicit content, including scenes of drug use and sex and rape. He noted that Tim Winter, who heads up the Parents Television Council, recently said that what “Netflix is doing with *13 Reasons Why*, HBO, with its new high school centered show, *Euphoria*, appears to be overtly, intentionally marketing extremely graphic adult content – sex, violence, profanity and drug use – to teens and preteens.”

Winter told Fox News that although the cable program company says *Euphoria* is a show intended for adults, “HBO is now internationally marketing this content to children.”

The American Academy of Pediatrics has long warned that kid-centric media content, whether on the big screen, on TV or in video games can be harmful to young minds. The AAP has noted that even suggestive lyrics in the songs they listen to can put the health and welfare of children and adolescents at “significant” risk.

Weber says that there is plenty of evidence that “the right kinds video games” can have a positive impact on children. He says there are many games that challenge kids brains to solve problems – electronic puzzles, games that can improve hand-eye coordination and that teach how to analyze complex situations and make quick decisions, for example.

According to a large scale study of adolescents conducted by Michigan State University, “the more kids played video games, the more creative they were in tasks such as drawing pictures and writing stories.”

However, Weber points out that many children are attracted to games with aggressively violent themes and that there are numerous studies showing these can have a negative effect on youngsters. “It’s up to parents to monitor their children’s video gaming as well as the amount of time they are spending with these devices. It is most important, however, that guardians make sure the games are age appropriate, a task that can be aided by the Entertainment Software Rating Board. The ESRB rates games by age, offering

See MEDIA, Page 4

View from here

By Ken Klein

Immigration: America’s Trojan horse?

Illegal immigration costs \$116 billion per year

To alleviate the strains of illegal immigration on border cities, President Trump has threatened to fly illegal immigrants to sanctuary cities that have thumbed their noses at enforcing federal law. Mayors have proudly showcased their cities as havens for illegals despite the hefty price tag falling on their constituents.

Despite the seeming façade of good will extended by these good-hearted mayors, it appears implausible and inconsistent that these same elected city officials have seemed to express violent opposition to the President’s offer to fly in these “poor souls.” The obvious hypocrisy seems to belie a deeper agenda.

Sanctuary cities are not about providing care and asylum to political refugees or those seeking a better way of life. They are specifically designed to bankrupt communities, states and essentially the American Dream.

Nationally, the annual cost of illegal immigration is \$116 billion according to the Federation for American Immigration Reform (FAIR), but the burden on state and local governments is crippling. State and local taxpayers are disproportionately footing the bill with the majority of spending on free programs for illegals estimated at \$88.9 billion.

As many teachers walked out of their classrooms last month citing lack of proper funding and low pay, education for illegals has been a \$44.4 billion annual burden on local and state taxpayers. One in ten students (4.93 million) in public schools is classified as Limited English Proficiency (LEP). Teaching LEP students puts additional stress on faculty and qualified staff. State and local taxpayers foot 98.9 percent of the bill.

The National School Lunch Program, which costs taxpayers \$13.6 billion annually, has caused many school districts to lose some of their federal funding. To join the lunch program, districts are required to change the way they count the number of students, often undercounting undocumented children. Much to their chagrin, this has led to cuts in federal funding that could have helped with much-needed staff increases and other programs. Free meals in schools hit local and state taxpayers with a \$1.95 billion yearly tab.

Free medical care for illegals costs \$12.1 billion on the state and local level. Under the Emergency Medical Treatment Act, illegals cannot be

turned away for medical treatment. Medicaid retroactively covers the expenses which are passed on to legal and insured patients. Healthcare programs for low income immigrants are currently available in 25 states. Medicaid in states such as California, Oregon, Washington, Illinois, New York and Massachusetts is provided regardless of immigration status. States that do provide Medicaid to illegals do not receive matching funds from the federal government, placing further strain on state and local levels.

In addition to medical care, public services for illegals cost state and local taxpayers \$18.5 billion, welfare for illegals another \$2.9 billion.

According to libertarian Kirsten Tate, “Half of noncitizens are on food stamps... Half of new noncitizens receive welfare, but the figure jumps to a stunning 70 percent among those who have been in the United States for more than 10 years.” She also notes that “noncitizen families in the United States are twice as likely to receive welfare payments than native born families.”

State and local governments also shell out an estimated \$10.8 billion in costs for justice expenditures related to illegals, which include policing, border patrol, courts and corrections.

While the cost of illegal immigration can be easily seen on the national level, the enormous burden on state and local taxpayers is felt much closer to home with property tax increases, overcrowded and underfunded schools, and increasing municipal costs. The economic infrastructure of the United States was not designed to withstand this type of influx nor was it the goal of our founders. This issue is the most recent Trojan horse threatening the American way of life, as it is in essence a primal skeleton of redistribution of wealth, which was been the proven downfall of many nations. Is it possible that this path of making an unfathomable debt out of the American Dream, tossing it into the trash bin of history, is to set up a new world order?

Ken Klein has produced twenty-one documentary films, written and published four books with two additional manuscripts waiting publication, and two films scheduled for production in 2020. He has appeared on hundreds of radio programs and TV shows across the country. “*The Deep State Prophecy* and *the Last Trump*” is his most recent book .

1973
46
years
2019

WEST TEXAS COUNTY
COURIER

SERVING ANTHONY, VINTON, CANUTILLO, EAST MONTANA, HORIZON, SOCORRO, CLINE, FARENS, SAN ELIZABIO 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



Member Texas Community Newspaper Association





Homesteader
Est. 1973
News, Inc.



40% OF FOOD IN
AMERICA IS WASTED

COOK IT, STORE IT, SHARE IT.
JUST DON'T WASTE IT.

SAVETHEFOOD.COM



Archives: www.wtxcc.com

The climate trap for Democrats

The more the climate debate changes, the more it stays the same.

Polls show that the public is worried about climate change, but that doesn't mean it is ready to bear any burden or pay any price to combat it.

If President Donald Trump claws his way to victory again in Pennsylvania and the Upper Midwest, his path will likely go through abortion and climate change, two issues on which the Democrats are most confident in their righteousness and willing to embrace radical policies that appeal to their own voters much more than anyone else.

Joe Biden, the relative moderate, is subject to these forces. He dumped his longtime support for the Hyde Amendment prohibiting federal funding of abortion and released a climate plan that, even if more modest than the "Green New Deal" (a low bar), is clearly derived from it.

There's no doubt that climate is a top-tier issue for Democrats. In a CNN poll, 96 percent of Democrats say it's very important that candidates support "taking aggressive action to slow the effects of climate change." It's doubtful that mom, baseball and apple pie would poll any higher.

Among the broader public,

according to a survey by climate change programs at Yale and George Mason universities, 70 percent believe that climate change is happening, and 57 percent believe that humans are causing it.

It's easy to overinterpret these numbers, though. An Associated Press/University of Chicago poll asked people how much they were actually willing to pay to fight climate change, and 57

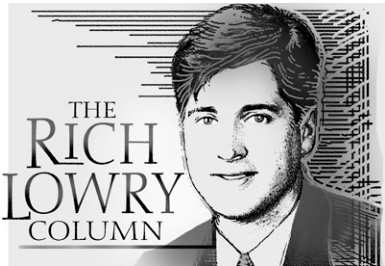
percent said at least \$1 a month, or not even the cost of a cup of coffee at Starbucks.

The political experience of other advanced democracies is a flashing red light. In Australia last month, the liberal opposition lost what was supposed to be "the climate change" election, against all expectations. Polling showed that about 60 percent of Australians thought the government should address

climate change "even if this involves significant costs." It turned out that it was one thing to tell that to pollsters and another to vote to make it happen.

In France, gas and diesel hikes as part of a government plan to reduce carbon emissions by 75 percent sparked the yellow vest movement in car-dependent suburbs and towns, and had to be ignominiously reversed.

The politics of climate change will be problematic for the duration, for several reasons. The voters most opposed to the



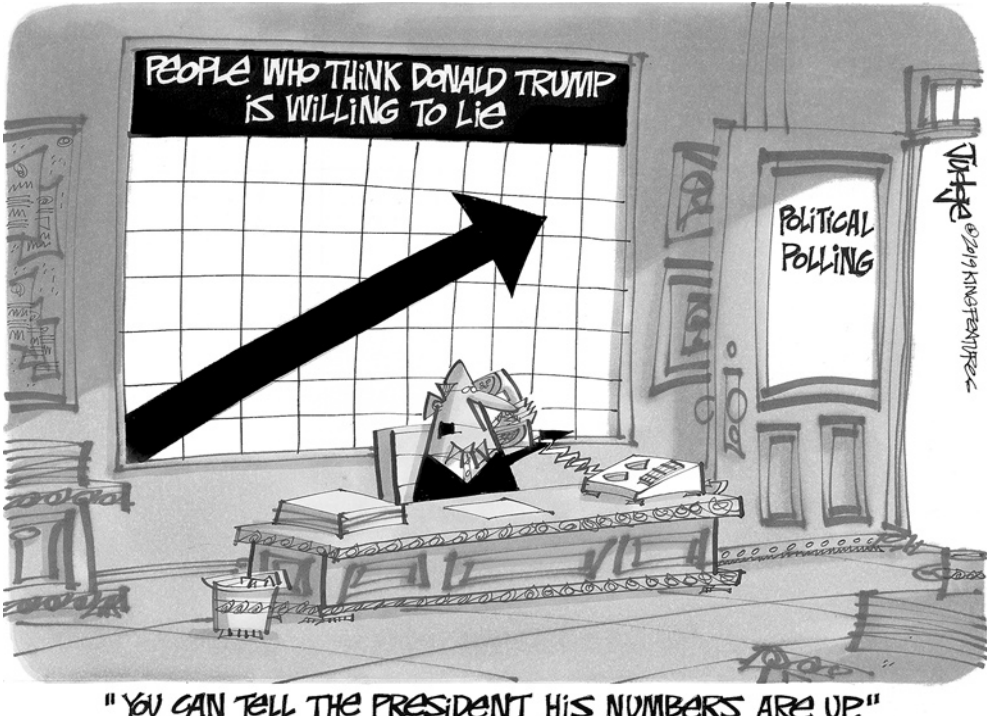
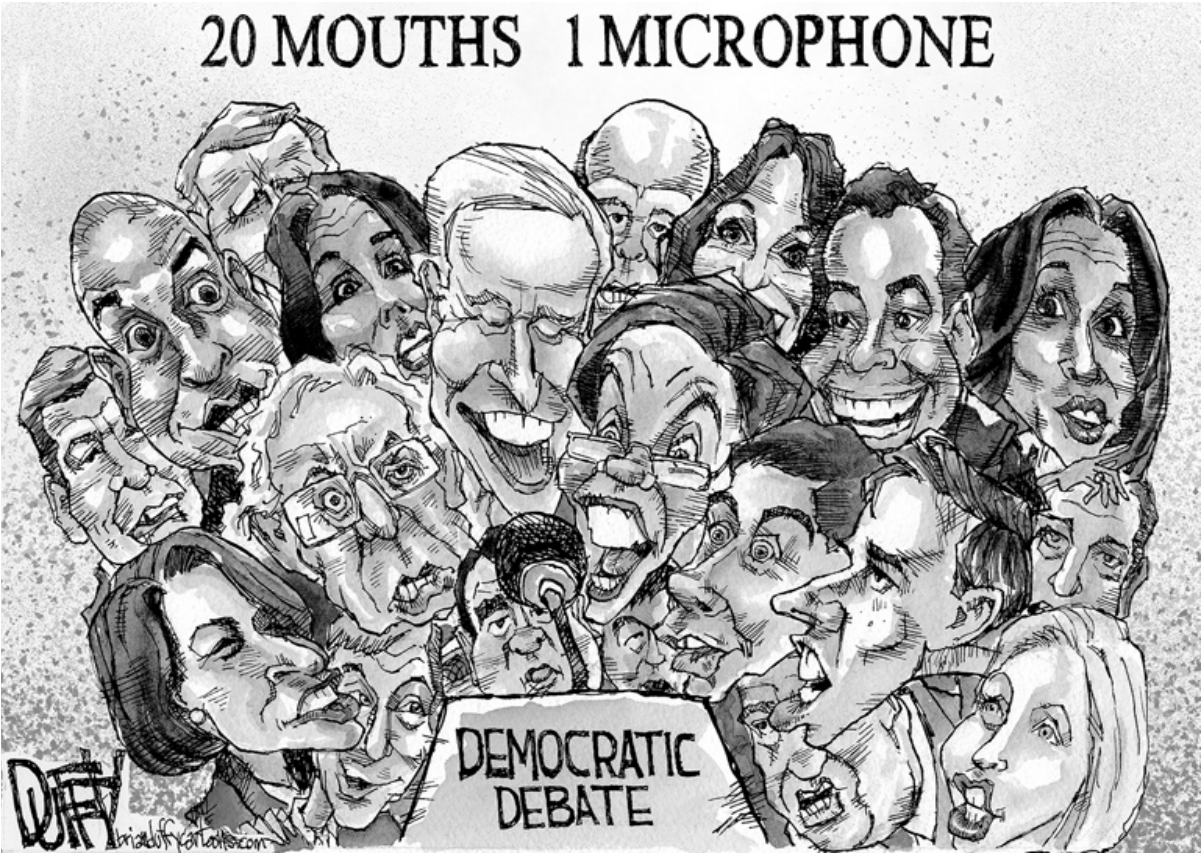
costs of climate action tend to be "deplorables" most easily dismissed by center-left parties at their own peril: voters in rural Queensland in Australia, economically distressed residents of unfashionable rural and semiurban areas of France, working-class voters in the Rust Belt in the U.S.

Bearing real costs for the sake of the climate will always be a sucker's game for any one country so long as there isn't a global mandate for emission reductions.

Finally, whatever the costs, no one is going to feel any climate benefits anytime soon, or likely ever. The supposed upside of plausible policies adopted by the U.S. would be minuscule changes in the global temperature decades from now.

All this should counsel caution rather than apocalyptic rhetoric and policies, although Trump has every reason to hope it doesn't.

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



TXDOT

From Page 1

as well as to the new William Beaumont Army Medical Center that is nearing completion and a proposed new El Paso Community College campus that is expected to be located near the hospital, which are both near Montana Avenue and Joe Battle Boulevard.

In the project’s first phase, on- and off-ramps will begin shortly after the Yarbrough/Global Reach intersection, and the six-lane freeway will begin just before Lee Treviño Drive. The middle of Montana will have large empty spaces before the freeway actually begins. Those open areas, which eventually will be landscaped, will be part of transitioning Montana from a regular street to the new freeway, explained Eddie Valtier, director of transportation planning and development for TxDOT’s El Paso district.

Additionally, the improvements will make Montana more pedestrian and bicyclist friendly because they will have three lanes on each side of the freeway. They will include paths for pedestrians and bicyclists to share, as well as stops for the Sun Metro Brio Rapid Transit System, which will be added to Montana in the future, Valtier stated in a recent report.

The second phase, estimated to cost \$248.5 million, will go



– Rendering courtesy Texas Department of Transportation

BIG JOB – Planned Montana Ave. (U.S. 62/180) improvements will widen to three controlled-access main lanes in each direction, three frontage road lanes in each direction from Global Reach Dr. to Loop 375, and two frontage road lanes in each direction from SL 375 to FM 659 (N. Zaragoza Rd.). In a future phase, four direct connector ramps will be constructed at the U.S. 62/180 (Montana Ave.) and SL 375. The project will also include the construction of a shared-use path, bike lane, sidewalks, and landscaping.

from Tierra Este to Zaragoza Road. However, no timeline for that phase has been determined because funding will have to be secured first, TXDOT officials indicated.

The second phase will include adding flyover connector bridges at Global Reach Drive and Loop 375 to connect those thoroughfares directly to the Montana freeway. The interchange at Loop 375 and Montana will become a mini-version of the Spaghetti Bowl on Interstate 10 in Central El Paso. Global Reach eventually will be turned into an expressway with the flyover bridge connections allowing vehicles to go directly

from Global Reach to Montana without stoplights.

Phase one won’t require much land acquisition, TXDOT officials stated, because Fort Bliss and the Texas General Land Office are providing land along the northern portion of Montana Avenue. Also, a piece of land near Joe Battle Boulevard will be bought from River Oaks Properties, a large El Paso shopping center developer, project planners pointed out. For the second phase, though, more properties will need to be bought which is why that phase will cost more than the first phase. When the second phase gets funded, then the property acquisitions

will be done, they stated.

Plans are also in place to connect commuters coming from Spur 601 toward Montana Avenue directly onto the new expressway. They call for the widening of Purple Heart Memorial highway from Montana Avenue to Spur 601 and additional lanes will be added on the Purple Heart highway and tie-in an access road along Loop 375 where the new hospital is located.

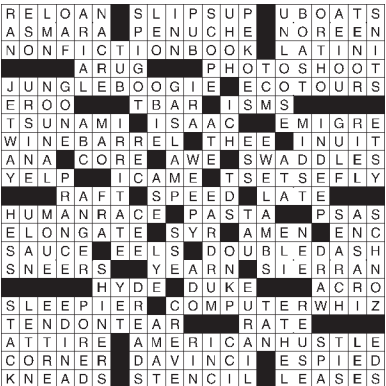
The Montana Avenue project is slated to start this year and is expected to take more than two years to complete. As for Montana Avenue west of Global Reach/Yarbrough drives and into the heart of the city, the thoroughfare will stay basically as it is now, TXDOT officials stated.



True Texas by Roger T. Moore

June 30, 1820: Decreed by the US to move to a reservation, some defiant Alabama Indians come to Texas bringing us our first peach seeds.

To Advertise Call 852-3235



CryptoQuip Answer

When you want to go underwater in scuba gear, do you initially have to obtain a diver’s license?

2	–	1	×	8	8
×		+		÷	
6	–	3	×	4	12
–		+		+	
5	×	2	–	7	3
7		6		9	

Strange BUT TRUE

By Samantha Weaver

• It was Academy Award-nominated actress and comedian Lily Tomlin who made the following observation: “Ninety-eight percent of the adults in this country are decent, hard-working, honest Americans. It’s the other lousy 2 percent that get all the publicity. But then – we elected them.”

• You might be surprised to learn that it requires a whopping 30 tons of ore from a gold mine to produce a single gold ring.

• You are almost certainly aware of the fact that the Impressionist painter Claude Monet is famous for his paintings of water lilies. However, you may not be aware of the fact that he painted more than 300 pictures of water lilies. The same water lilies, in fact – and they can be seen today in a pond behind his house.

• Those who study such things say that people during the Stone Age used shells and even shark teeth to shave.

• If you think about it, you’ll realize that an old-fashioned hourglass has more moving parts than the most expensive luxury watch on the market today.

• Researchers conducting a study at the University of California have found that men are more likely than women to use shortcuts.

• During the 19th century, first lady Lucy Hayes, wife of Rutherford B. Hayes, the 19th president of the United States, was widely known as “Lemonade Lucy.” It seems she was an ardent supporter of temperance and therefore didn’t allow alcohol to be served in the White House during her husband’s four years in office.

• For reasons that are still not clear, in the 15th century in Florence, Italy, women were banned from wearing buttons.

Thought for the Day: “You wouldn’t worry so much about what others think of you if you realized how seldom they do.”
– Eleanor Roosevelt

(c) 2019 King Features Synd., Inc.

**Send Your
Newsbrief To:
wtxcc@wtxcc.com**



- On June 24, 1997, Air Force officials release a 231-page report dismissing long-standing claims of an alien spacecraft crash 50 years earlier in Roswell, New Mexico. The UFO rumors began in 1947 when a rancher found shiny material scattered on his land. The Air Force said it was a downed weather balloon.
- On June 25, 1950, in one of the greatest soccer upsets of all time, an American team composed largely of amateurs defeats its more polished English opponents, 1-0, at the World Cup in Brazil. Assembled just days before the match, the U.S. team included a dishwasher, two mailmen, a teacher and a mill worker.
- On June 26, 1917, during World War I, the first 14,000 U.S. infantry troops land in France. By the war's end on Nov. 11, 1918, more than 2 million American soldiers had served on the battlefields of Western Europe, and more than 50,000 lost their lives.
- On June 27, 1988, heavyweight champion Mike Tyson knocks out challenger Michael Spinks with a left hook in the first round. The match lasted just 91 seconds.
- On June 28, 1972, President Richard Nixon announces that no more draftees will be sent to Vietnam unless they volunteer for such duty. He also announced that a force of 10,000 troops would be withdrawn by Sept. 1, which would leave a total of 39,000 in Vietnam.
- On June 29, 1964, two dozen New Zealand Army engineers arrive in Saigon as a token of that country's support for the American effort in South Vietnam.
- On June 30, 1859, Emile Blondin becomes the first daredevil to walk across Niagara Falls on a tightrope. The feat was witnessed by some 5,000 spectators. Blondin wore pink tights and a yellow tunic, and carried a balancing pole.

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

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

View from here

By Marilyn M. Singleton, M.D., J.D.

Free medical care: A deal with the devil?

Listening to the campaign promises spewed out by the bevy of folks running for president brings the old but enduring story of Faust to mind. Despite being successful, Faust wanted more knowledge and possessions. To that end, he made a deal with Mephistopheles (aka the devil) who promised to give him everything he wanted in exchange for his soul.

Who isn't tempted by a bargain or better yet, something for nothing? Free income, free college, and free medical care. What do we have to lose? Self-respect, the opportunity to succeed at a career suited to one's talents, your privacy and control over your own body.

Intended to ameliorate poverty, universal basic income can be counterproductive. Some promise income for merely having a pulse and others envision the government equivalent of a mama bird regurgitating food into the open mouths of her chicks. Neither option gives a sense of pride and accomplishment or the foundation for character development.

The high cost of college is the justification for free tuition. One key reason for the continually escalating tuition is readily available student loans: no matter the cost, the student can continue to borrow. Endless direct-from-the-government money would likely cause further increases. Further, one-third of college students dropout. The majority of these students were poorly prepared for, and not fully committed or suited to college. It is a bad idea to remove an incentive for perseverance, allow uncommitted students to waste their time on the government dime, or worse be stigmatized as a failure. Finally, as Senator Amy Klobuchar bravely pointed out, the taxpayers cannot afford it.

With regard to medical care, all "medically necessary" health services, including dental, vision, hearing, mental health, long-term care, home and community-based services, physical therapy, prescription drugs with no premiums, deductibles or co-pays from cradle to grave sound pretty good. Sold! Frankly, given the direction so-called reproductive health is going, you may never make it to the cradle. And with the current laser-focus on hospice for all, you may get to your grave a little faster.

Will free medical care halt one of the biggest drivers of poor health and medical costs? According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), 40 percent of people in the United States are obese. And 47 percent of our \$3.5 trillion per year of healthcare spending goes to treat the effects of obesity, with another 8.7 percent attributable to cigarette smoking. People have known for years that eating too much makes you fat and smoking contributes to heart and lung disease. Free care would worsen the problem because patients will expect more pills and procedures to cure their lifestyle-created illnesses rather than taking care of themselves.

Not only is the promise of free stuff an attempt to buy votes, but the politicians themselves have sold their souls to special interests. And we never know whether they are working for the metaphorical devil or for you, the voters.

According to the Center for Responsive Politics, in 2018, both sides of the Congressional aisle received a total of \$134,590,142 in contributions from the health sector (health professionals, device and pharmaceutical manufacturers, hospitals and nursing homes). The health sector was the top spender of lobbying money – some \$562,968,799 spread among 2,810 hired guns. Pharmaceuticals/Health Products

topped the list with \$281,872,969.

On the bright side, when given the full picture, people are not that easily bought. A recent Kaiser Family Foundation study found that 70 percent of those polled approved of Medicare for All when told the plan would eliminate insurance premiums (which are sky-high thanks to ObamaCare). But up to 70 percent opposed Medicare for All when told it would lead to treatment delays, tax increases, or loss of their option for private insurance.

Perhaps those polled read that private insurance is allowed in all but two countries with universal coverage, and patients in all countries have some out-of-pocket expenses. Perhaps they realized that when the citizen money tree has been picked clean, promised services must be reduced. Perhaps they realized that free stuff can be used as a cudgel to keep the recipients in line and trap them in a system with no escape. Perhaps they were of a certain age where they were warned that the tasty-looking Halloween candy might be laced with razor blades. Or more likely, those infamous words, "If you like your doctor, you can keep your doctor" were flashing before their eyes or echoing in their ears.

Free stuff is an age-old snare, a temptation that can steal one's critical thinking abilities. Despite the old saw that there is a sucker born every minute, there are always those who will not be fooled. Which will you be?

Marilyn M. Singleton is a board-certified anesthesiologist. She is President of the Association of American Physicians and Surgeons (AAPS). She graduated from Stanford and earned her MD at UCSF Medical School. She attended UC Berkeley Law School, focusing on constitutional law and administrative law. She interned at the National Health Law Project and practiced insurance and health law. She teaches classes in the recognition of elder abuse and constitutional law for non-lawyers.

Socorro ISD opens doors to all students in El Paso

Board of Trustees approves enrollment for out-of-district transfer students

By Christy Flores-Jones
Special to the Courier

EL PASO COUNTY – In order to provide more students with opportunities for success, the Socorro Independent School District (SISD) is now accepting out-of-district transfer students in its schools. The new open enrollment policy was approved by the SISD Board of Trustees at a special board meeting on June 4 and will took effect immediately so that students may begin enrolling for the 2019-2020 school year. The new enrollment policy will allow SISD to maximize existing facilities and give more students access to the well-rounded, comprehensive education that is delivered in all 49 SISD schools.

SISD is opening its schools to all students in the El Paso region to offer them the high-quality education they need to be prepared for college, careers, and

life. Students who live outside of SISD boundaries now may enroll at SISD elementary, PK-8, middle, and high schools where space is available.

Parents and students from across El Paso County are invited to find out why SISD could be the right choice for them. Students can take advantage of free college classes at every high school, free Pre-K for all four-year-olds, advanced academic academies, outstanding Career and Technical Education, championship athletics, award-winning fine arts, innovative WIN Academy, state-of-the-art technology, and world-class facilities.

The enrollment policy allows for out-of-district transfer students to enroll in SISD schools where space is available. For more information, please visit www.sisd.net. Online application form at https://my.sisd.net/public_apps/TransferForms/#!/submission/mainPage.



CLASSIFIED AD FORM

25 words - \$15 per week; 40 words - \$20 per week

1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28
29	30	31	32
33	34	35	36
37	38	39	40
Deadline: Monday, 4 p.m. Please print. Send form and payment (no cash) to:		Contact Information:	
West Texas County Courier 15344 Werling Ct. Horizon City, TX 79928		Name: _____ Phone: _____	

The NFL rules sports, but what about the NFL’s new rule?

By Steve Escajeda
Special to the Courier

I know we’re right smack dab in the middle of summer, but before you know it, NFL training camps will be opening in a month.

This is a time of optimism for every team. Every franchise is undefeated right now and the outlook is shiny for everyone.

There are many questions coming into the season.

Could the even-older Tom Brady lead the New England Patriots to yet another Super Bowl? Will the Pittsburgh Steelers still contend without wide receiver Antonio Brown and running back Le’Veon Bell? Will the Dallas Cowboys finally reach their full potential? Can Kansas City Chiefs quarterback Patrick Mahomes repeat what he did last year?

There are a ton more questions to be answered, but there is one that has more to do with the guys in the stripes than the guys in the helmets.

And many people around the league are skeptical about its implementation.

This coming year will be the first that will allow pass interference plays to be challenged by instant replay.

Just like all other challengeable plays, coaches will be able to throw the little red flag and take a second look at a call, or a non-call, of pass interference.

And as always, if the coach wins he has the call reversed. If he loses it will cost his team a timeout.

Of course these changes came on the heels of that horrible non-call of pass interference against the New Orleans Saints in the playoffs last season that cost them a place in the Super Bowl.

But the truth is that while some people around the league love the new rule, some believe it will slow down the game and cause more problems than it solves.

Some coaches have expressed concerns that it will cause too many stoppages in action. But coaches will still have just two challenges to start every game. If a coach runs out of challenges and there is

a questionable pass interference play, he can’t challenge it.

The one instance where stoppages in play could be a problem is in the last two minutes of the half or the game, or throughout overtime.

At those times, only the guys in the booth can stop the game and challenge a pass play. And if there are four of five questionable plays late in the game, or four or five during an overtime period, we’ll be spending more time waiting watching zebras than enjoying football.

Of course the only way to know how this will work out is to give it a try. The NFL has said this new rule will be reviewed at the end of the season and then decisions will be made whether to keep it, or tweak it a bit.

That brought up the question about Hail Mary’s at the end of the half or game. You know, when all the receivers run down the field and park themselves in the end zone, while the quarterback throws the ball as high and far as he can, hoping for a miracle catch.

Though pass interference is never called

on that play, there is a lot of pushing and shoving that goes on while the ball is in the air.

Are the booth guys going to take a closer look at that play? Some pundits are afraid they might. And that could cause a whole lot of problems and complaints.

You have to applaud the NFL for trying to correct a problem. And that play against the Saints in the playoffs last season left all football fans with a sour taste in their mouths, except for L.A. Rams fans.

But is opening this can of worms a change for the better? It’s almost certainty that they’ll have trouble in the beginning but it’ll work itself out as the season rolls along.

I’m definitely in favor of at least giving it a try. And because they kept the same “two challenges” rule in effect, it shouldn’t slow things down.

But you just know, it took the league years to figure out what “a catch” was, and it’ll take them the same amount of time to figure out what constitutes “pass interference.”

Briefs

From Page 1

independent-states/36426/ for the full report.

—Diana Polk

Moving?

With peak moving season in swing and Americans considering where to settle down, the personal-finance website WalletHub has released its report on *2019’s Best States to Live In* as well as accompanying videos. To help Americans settle down in the best and most affordable place possible, WalletHub compared the 50 states across 51 key indicators of livability. They range from housing costs and income growth to education rate and quality of hospitals. Texas was 36th in the study, ranking:

- 19th – Housing Costs;
- 44th – Homeownership Rate;
- 37th – Percent of Population in Poverty;
- 10th – Income Growth;
- 50th – Percent of Insured Population;
- 43rd – Percent of Adults in Fair or Poor Health;
- 47th – Avg. Weekly Work Hours; and
- 1st – Restaurants per Capita.

Visit <https://wallethub.com/edu/best-states-to-live-in/62617> for the full report.

— Diana Polk

Reading is Fundamental

An education-minded barber in Kutztown, PA, Jonathan Escuet, is putting his money where his heart is. He pays kids \$3 to read a book out loud while getting their haircuts. His aim is to give them confidence

in themselves and it appears to be working.

— John Grimaldi

No tip, great service

Karen Vinacour stopped in at the New York City’s 90-year-old Patsy’s Pizzeria for lunch recently with her daughter and when they finished she paid the bill but deliberately did not leave a tip. That could have put Ms. Vinacour in a bind because she left an envelope on her table containing a \$424,000 certified check. A less gallant waiter might just have tossed the check, but Armando Markaj proved himself to be a noble server, indeed. He gave it to the restaurant’s owner and, ultimately, the check was returned to its rightful owner. Ms. Vinacour told reporters: “I’m so grateful that the insult that we gave him did not prevent him from doing

the right thing.” She offered the waiter a reward for his kindness, but he refused

— John Grimaldi

Who’s the pigeon?

The slang term, pigeon, is defined as a person who is easily swindled. But, in this case some may see it as the pigeon having the upper hand. A bidder in China purchased a Belgian racing pigeon for \$1.4 million at an online auction site. Armando, the pigeon, was described on the PIPA auction Web site as “the best long distance pigeon of all time in Belgium, and perhaps even worldwide.” But, only time will tell if the bird is worth the price. Until now, the highest price ever paid for a racing pigeon was \$450,000, nearly one million dollars less than Armando’s price tag.

— John Grimaldi

Super Crossword

THINK FAST				meet				speech				83 "Master of None"			
ACROSS				DOWN								star Aziz _			
1	Advance again, as money	66	"Veni," translated	130	Dan Brown's "The _ Code"	32	Extinct	84	Nose, in slang						
7	Goofs	68	Biting African pest	131	Glimpsed	33	Stage award	86	Florence-to-Rome dir.						
14	German subs	69	Balsa floater	132	Manipulates, as dough	34	Quaint light source	88	Wallach of "Sam's Son"						
20	Eritrea's capital	72	Move in a way suggested by this puzzle's 10 longest answers	133	Lettering aid	35	Radio host Flatow	89	Once surnamed						
21	Fudgelike candy	74	Past due	134	Rents	39	Kant's "I"	93	Caustic stuff						
22	"Bachelor Father" actress Corcoran	75	Earthlings					41	"Black-ish" network	95	Like spud-peeling Glis				
23	Memoir or expose, e.g.	79	With 91-Across, spaghetti topper	1	Sprinted	45	Had a meal	96	Pick a card						
25	Beginning language course with conjugations	81	Many free TV ads, for short	2	That, to Juan	47	Center	98	Stars, e.g.						
26	Cut _ (dance)	85	Stretch out	3	Alphabet consonant sequence	48	Very involved	100	Bother						
27	Model's gig	86	Isr. neighbor	4	Big galoot	49	Deep ravine	103	Thus far						
29	1974 hit for Kool & the Gang	87	"You said it!"	5	Popular typeface	50	Cambodian currency unit	104	Really fears						
36	Trips to wildlife areas, say	90	Env. add-in	6	Mother-of-pearl	51	Website with handmade crafts	106	Continental train pass name						
37	Ending with switch	91	See 79-Across	7	Key feature	53	_ center	108	Pile						
38	Ski lift variety	92	Sea wrigglers	8	Zodiac feline	55	Letter before tee	109	Reveal						
39	Theories	94	Informal pause-marking punctuation	9	Tavern	56	Baby female sheep	110	_ nous						
40	Huge sea wave	97	Vile smiles	10	Tavern					111	Minneapolis suburb				
44	Asimov of sci-fi	99	Hanker (for)	11	Listerine rival	61	Crying	112	Ruminated (over)						
46	Expatriate	101	Of a western U.S. mountain range	12	"This is bad!"	63	_ standstill	113	_ Coeur, Missouri						
52	Cask aging in a cellar	102	Jekyll's counterpart	13	Some black teas	65	Frolic about	114	Light brown						
54	You, old-style	105	British noble	14	Let free	67	Suffix of enzymes	115	TV landlady Mertz						
57	Certain Alaska native	107	Height: Prefix	15	Brag	68	Colts' stats	116	Find another function for						
58	Ortiz of "Ugly Betty"	108	More tired	16	Giant in lawn care	70	Infuriate	118	"I _ your service"						
59	Center	113	Techie	17	Alphabet vowel sequence	71	Monk's title	122	_ Tin Tin						
60	Dumbfound	117	Injury of a bodily band	18	Choir part	73	Membrane of hearing	123	U.S. "Ltd."						
62	Wraps tightly in cloth	119	Cost per unit	19	Foul moods	75	Giant in oil	124	A fifth of MV						
64	Pained bark	120	Garb	24	Cask	76	_ Bator	125	Health resort						
		121	2013 black-comedy crime film	28	Cable chan. for old films	77	Pouting look	126	"_ a pity"						
		122	Where streets	29	Airplane-boarding bridge	78	Letter before dee	127	Spike of film						
				30	Bearlike	80	Letter before epsilon	128	Pub. staffers						
				31	Of a certain part of	82	Hunt								

Answer Page 4

Answer Page 4

1	2	3	4	5	6		7	8	9	10	11	12	13		14	15	16	17	18	19	
20							21								22						
23							24								25						
				26							27			28							
29	30	31	32					33	34	35			36								
37								38				39									
40				41	42	43		44			45				46	47	48	49	50	51	
52							53				54		55	56		57					
58				59					60	61			62		63						
64			65			66		67				68									
			69	70	71			72			73			74							
75	76	77					78			79			80				81	82	83	84	
85									86				87		88	89		90			
91							92		93			94	95				96				
97						98			99		100				101						
				102	103	104				105				106			107				
108	109	110	111	112					113						114	115	116				
117									118					119							
120								121			122	123	124					125	126	127	128
129								130								131					
132								133								134					

Health

From Page 7

disease. Dental enamel can be lost in an acid environment, so it's a reasonable thought. However, it is normally severe acid reflux accompanied by frequent acid taste in the mouth that leads to tooth damage. There certainly are cases of asymptomatic GERD, but I think tooth damage is unlikely without further symptoms.

Repeated vomiting, especially in people with a history of an eating disorder, is a much more common cause of enamel loss than GERD, and that may be a possibility.

I would not recommend a

medication trial because there are no reliable symptoms. (I agree with you that poor sleep in a new mom is not always due to reflux.) If GERD is really a concern, a diagnostic test, such as a 24-hour pH monitor or an endoscopy, would be my preference before considering a long-term course of treatment.

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.

Archives: www.wtxcc.com

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: H equals O

FMVK BHJ FZKS SH PH
JKWVTFZSVT NK YQJOZ PVZT,
WH BHJ NKNSNZCCB MZUV SH
HOSZNK Z WNUVT'Y CNQVKYV?

Answer Page 4
©2019 King Features Synd., Inc.

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

© 2019 King Features Synd., Inc.

Does this remind you of Agent Orange?



by Freddy Groves

In the 1960s, the Navy, along with a civilian manufacturer, developed a flammable liquid-fuel firefighting foam called Aqueous film-forming foam (AFFF) that the Navy began using in 1967. In the 1970s, the manufacturer had concerns about the chemical being found in humans at toxic levels.

In the 1980s, the Air Force began research into toxicity in rats. In the 1990s, the Army Corps of Engineers said the foam was hazardous, and a Navy study determined that AFFF was toxic. In 2011, the Department of Defense finally issued a human health and environmental risk alert. In 2018, the DOD sent a note to Congress about using an alternative foam. This year, the EPA released an action plan. The Navy will begin using a new AFFF formulate

in 2020.

The gears of government grind slowly...

If they knew in the 1970s that the chemical was toxic, what took so long? Pease Air Force Base is an example. Pease closed in 1991 and the water was first tested in 2014. Workers who had been at the base were dying at an accelerated rate, a cancer cluster. Community-wide testing in 2015 showed that everyone had elevated levels of PFAS. The result: The chemicals in the foam, called per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), got into the groundwater and wells. People were drinking it.

Once introduced, those chemicals stay put. They're called Forever Chemicals because they never go away. Studies indicate that they can cause cancer a decade later, increase cholesterol, interfere with pregnancy and more.

If you served at any military installation since the 1960s, look online for "SSEHRI PFAS Contamination Site Tracker" and find a chart

showing the locations of PFOA and PFAS sites. It currently has 210 sites listed. Search online for the Environmental Working Group PFAS map called PFAS Contamination in the U.S. To keep up with news on PFAS, bookmark <https://pfasproject.com>.

(c) 2019 King Features Synd., Inc.



• "Every time I cook bacon in a frying pan it's always a greasy mess. My roommate totally blew my mind when she put hers in the oven. Try it out at 400 F and be astonished. No mess!"
— P.A. in Florida

• If your clothes or towels have a musty odor, it might be time to give your washing machine a freshener. The inside of your washer is often wet or damp, which can lead to mildew buildup in the machine as well as the hoses. Front-loading machines may have mildew buildup on the gasket. There are products you can buy for just this purpose, but if you want to try a DIY washing machine mix, simply add some baking soda to the machine and use it for a little scrub action. Then add 2 cups of white vinegar and run on a hot cycle with no clothes.

• Ever think that jeans and pants take up way too much space folded in drawers? Y.R. from Washington says that to save space, she hangs her pants and jeans on S hooks in her closet.

• Want to make fun and interesting pancakes shapes for special occasions or to spice up everyday breakfast? Use metal cookie cutters to easily achieve super-fun shapes. Simply spray pan and inside of the cookie cutter with a nonstick cooking spray and slowly add batter to the inside. Use tongs to flip when stable.

• "My chargers and cables always end up tangled and messy looking. My problem was completely solved when I took a few binder clips and threaded the cords though the metal 'wings,' which help them stay put. Now I keep a cord by my bedside table and my desk so it's convenient to charge wherever I am sitting."
— F.C. in North Carolina

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!

		-		x			8
x			+		÷		
	-			x			12
-			+		+		
	x			-			3
7			6		9		

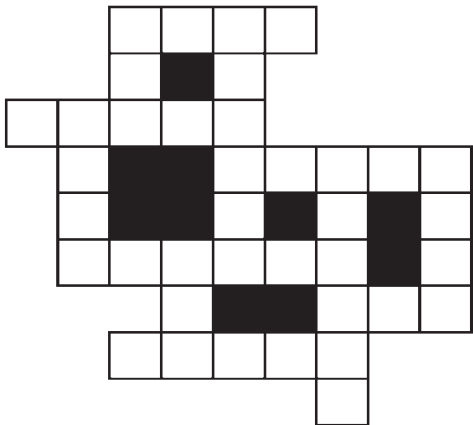
1 2 2 3 4 5 6 7 8

©2019 King Features Syndicate, Inc.

Answer Page 4



EFE
MENTRA
♥ISTEM
CEIR
♥TUMIEN
♥UTN
AFMR
♥RELUC
MUR
FRONCE
ENFOT
♥ENMA



©2019 King Features Syndicate, Inc. All rights reserved.

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