



NEWSBRIEFS

STEM education

The Socorro Independent School District (SISD), along with Fort Bliss and El Paso Independent School District (EPISD), are partnering with an evidence-based, rigorous national STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) program to provide more STEM opportunities with training and resources for students, faculty and staff. The U.S. Department of Defense is providing a grant for the National Math and Science Initiative to launch at El Dorado High School in SISD and Andress High School in EPISD. The program establishes a two-year College Readiness Program from the Dallas-based NMSI (National Math and Science Initiative). As a nonprofit whose mission is to advance STEM education so all students, especially those furthest from opportunity, can reach their highest potential, NMSI has served more than 250 U.S. schools that have significant enrollment among military-connected students. The kick-off took place Tuesday morning.

— Christy Flores-Jones

Coats for Kids

The Knights of Columbus and Outlet Shoppes of El Paso worked together to provide over 190 warm coats and stuffed animals to Canutillo ISD students at all their elementary campuses. The Tuesday morning event also featured festive food. This was the 4th annual Coats for Kids event. “As we enter a season of warmth, holiday lights, and festive celebrations, we think it’s very important as Knights to continue giving back to the community,” said Mike Doblado, Grand Knight of the Knights of Columbus Council. “Our students are blessed by the generosity of those in our community who think about their well-being,” added Dr. Monica Reyes, Canutillo ISD Executive Director of Student Support Services.

— Liza M. Rodriguez

Toy drive

The San Elizario High School student council has organized a toy drive to benefit Loya Primary School, San Elizario ISD homeless students and students in need. If you are interested in donating to the effort please bring a new unwrapped toy between \$5 - \$10 of value to drop-off locations at

See BRIEFS, Page 5

The people of the United States don’t need more judges, but rather, more sound judgment.

— Quips & Quotes



— Photo by John Moore

DAUNTING – A U.S. Border Patrol agent prepares to take an unaccompanied 13-year-old Salvadorian minor to a processing center after he crossed the Rio Grande from Mexico into the United States.

Montana Vista refugee facility being built

By Alfredo Vasquez
Special to the Courier

EL PASO COUNTY – El Paso County will continue to be at the forefront of the plight of unaccompanied migrant minors who are mostly from Mexico and Central American countries, as County Judge Ricardo Samaniego announced recently that the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Office of Refugee Resettlement informed the County that a facility will be built in far east El Paso to shelter these children.

The county judge disclosed that the facility is expected to begin operating early next year and that plans are to have Caliburn International operate the 512-bed shelter. Caliburn is the holding company of Comprehensive Health Services, a for-profit operator of migrant youth shelters.

According to Caliburn’s website, the company is hiring a clinical counselor, supervisors for three different shifts, teachers, a housekeeper, a cook and a procurement specialist, among other positions, for a shelter called “Trail House”.

Although the cost and duration of the agreement for the new shelter has not been determined yet, what is certain is that the funds will come from a \$4.5 billion supplemental appropriation bill that the U.S. Congress passed this summer to help the HHS department pay for humanitarian assistance and border security at the southern border, according to HHS officials.

Samaniego said that he saw the renderings for the facility when company and government representatives met with local community leaders a couple of months ago. “I don’t know how the community perception is going to be as to whether we are catering to these activities, but the best thing we could do is ensure that if these facilities are going to come into our communities, that we

are right there, that we can engage,” the county judge claimed.

The local facility will be one of about 170 Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) shelters for migrant youth nationwide, the company related. Recent news sources reported that ORR shelters have held kids in their care for an average of 54 days, up from a yearly average of 45 days, but well below the more than 90-day average seen this past year.

“Our number one priority as a shelter operator for ORR is to unify children with their parents, relatives or other suitable sponsor as swiftly and safely as possible,” a Caliburn spokeswoman said in a public statement.

Border Patrol El Paso Sector Chief Gloria Chavez said that the increased availability of shelter space for migrant children comes as a relief. “The construction of this HHS facility in the Montana Vista area of El Paso will make even more space available with better-suited facilities to house children as needed in the future,” she expressed during a recent news conference.

“It is a relief to know that HHS will have a facility here in El Paso to house the unaccompanied alien children being encountered on the border each day,” Chavez stated. “We will also be much better prepared for surges like what we experienced earlier this year,” she related.

Border Patrol statistics showed that the agency apprehended more than 70,000 migrants under age 18 who crossed the

border alone in fiscal 2019, up 52% from more than 50,000 a year earlier. The El Paso Sector saw the second-highest level of apprehensions of unaccompanied youth, after the Rio Grande Valley of Texas: about 16,100 in fiscal 2019 versus about 5,400 in fiscal 2018.



— Internet

NEW HEAD – Gloria Chavez was named recently chief of the Border Patrol El Paso Sector. She said the increased availability of shelter space for migrant children at the new Montana Vista facility would offer relief.

At the peak of migrant crossings in May and June, bed space had become so tight in the country’s network of youth shelters that HHS struggled to move children out of Border Patrol custody within the border agency’s 72-hour target window.

The number of children in HHS custody has declined since the June peak, when the agency had 13,123 unaccompanied minors in its care nationwide, and Border Patrol stations were overcrowded with kids awaiting placement. That number dropped 41% by the end of August, to 7,751.

In a congressional hearing in July, HHS

officials said that the agency needs up to 20,000 beds in permanent, state-licensed shelters nationwide to ensure that migrant children aren’t left in border holding cells, sleeping on concrete floors.

“We should not wait and then respond to surges in a crisis management system,” Lynn Johnson, assistant secretary of the HHS Administration for Children and Families, told Congress. “We should be prepared because this continues to happen over administration to administration. We should always have these beds available, so we don’t have to put kids in influx shelters,” she added.

View from here

By Robert Charles

A treaty with Ukraine on mutual legal assistance in criminal matters

The forgotten treaty, dispositive law and the President

Barring a political retreat by the House Democrats in their impeachment drive, incontrovertible facts and provisions of “black letter” law suggest dark days lie ahead for our Republic – and in a year’s time, for the Democrats as well. Let’s consider a sequence of “what if” questions. Reach your own conclusions.

What if... a treaty assuring “mutual legal assistance in criminal matters” had been signed by a president of the United States [Clinton] in Kiev, Ukraine, in July 1998, submitted to the US Senate in October 1999, and ratified without dissent in October 2000 by the Senate?

What if... in a president’s 1998 letter of transmittal, he assured the US Senate that “the treaty is one of a series of modern mutual legal assistance treaties being negotiated by the United States in order to counter criminal activities more effectively,” confirming that treaty should be used “to assist in prosecution of a wide variety of crimes?”

What if... that ratified treaty contained provisions assuring both countries that, in the future, mutual cooperation against crime would include “taking the testimony or statements of persons; providing documents, records, and other items of evidence; locating or identifying persons or items; serving documents; transferring persons in custody for testimony or other purposes; executing requests for searches and seizures; assisting in proceedings related to immobilization and forfeiture of assets, restitution, and collection of fines; and rendering any other form of assistance,” noting “the scope... includes not only criminal offenses, but also proceedings related to criminal matters, which may be civil or administrative in nature?”

What if... that treaty assured that “assistance shall be provided without regard to whether the conduct involved would constitute an offense under the laws of the Requested State” – that is, not just in Ukraine but also

under US law – and “is not intended to create rights in private parties to obtain, suppress, or exclude any evidence, or to impede the execution of a request?”

What if... separately, a US law called the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act (FCPA) made clear a felony is committed under anti-bribery provisions if any corrupt payment – or the withholding of a payment – to a “foreign official” occurs “to obtain or retain business,” such as for oneself, a relative, or a relative’s company?

What if... the term “foreign official” included all traditional foreign government officials, including the prime minister, attorney general, prosecutor, and employees of any foreign “department” or “agency?”

What if... those subject to prosecution included not just corporate executives but “any individual who is a citizen, national, or resident of the United States?”

What if... the statute of limitations for the violation of the FCPA were 5 years, although some resolutions went out to 15 years after the event, but clearly allowed prosecution within 3 years?

What if... the vice president [Biden] of the United States – a citizen – traveled to Ukraine and – as duly reported by John Solomon of *The Hill* – “threatened Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko in March 2016 that the Obama administration would pull \$1 billion in US loan guarantees, sending the former Soviet republic toward insolvency, if it didn’t immediately fire Prosecutor General Viktor Shokin?”

What if... this transparently benefited the vice president’s son and his son’s business, who, at the time, were both under investigation by this same prosecutor?

What if... the vice president later bragged before the Council on Foreign Relations [CFR] about doing exactly this, in an extraordinary admission against interest? [See transcript below, video on YouTube.]

account, though they claim[ed] the pressure was applied over several months in late 2015 and early 2016, not just six hours of one dramatic day”?

And what if... consistent with the mutual obligations in that ratified 2000 US “Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters” treaty with Ukraine, a different president of the United States [Trump] asked for assistance in understanding whether facts existed to confirm the violation of the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act based on that former vice president’s admitted threats, promises, and removal of the prosecutor investigating his son and son’s business?

Every “*what if*” scenario here really happened. The answer to the question “did the vice president violate the FCPA,” however, remains unresolved. However, given the predicate facts not in dispute – namely, the former vice president’s public admission, his promise to deliver money to Ukraine if the prosecutor investigating his son’s business was fired, the sudden end to an investigation into the younger Biden’s business, the text of the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act and the ratified US–Ukraine treaty – no obvious basis exists for impeaching a president seeking information under the treaty to corroborate a potential FCPA violation.

If facts and “black letter” law support President Trump, what could the basis for a lawful impeachment be? If the basis is pure politics – an attempt to disenfranchise the American public by misapplying an extreme constitutional remedy – the American public should be upset.

Bottom line: This may be the most audacious act of political deception, the most extralegal power play – embroidered by conscious congressional lies – in the Republic’s long history. If so, barring political retreat, dark days lie ahead for the Republic – and even darker days for the Democrats in 2020.

Robert Charles is the national spokesman for the Association of Mature American Citizens. He is a former assistant secretary of state for President George W. Bush, former naval intelligence officer and litigator. He served in the Reagan and Bush 41 White Houses, as congressional committee counsel for five years.

What if... as reported by Solomon, “interviews with a half-dozen senior Ukrainian officials confirm[ed] Biden’s

CFR meeting transcript excerpt

And that is I’m desperately concerned about the backsliding on the part of Kiev in terms of corruption. They made – I mean, I’ll give you one concrete example. I was – not I, but it just happened to be that was the assignment I got. I got all the good ones. And so I got Ukraine. And I remember going over, convincing our team, our leaders to – convincing that we should be providing for loan guarantees. And I went over, I guess, the 12th, 13th time to Kiev. And I was supposed to announce that there was another billion-dollar loan guarantee. And I had gotten a commitment from Poroshenko and from Yatsenyuk that they would take action against the state prosecutor. And they didn’t.

So they said they had – they were walking out to a press conference. I said, nah, I’m not going to – or, we’re not going to give you the billion dollars. They said, you have no authority. You’re not the president. The president said – I said, call him. (Laughter.)

I said, I’m telling you, you’re not getting the billion dollars. I said, you’re not getting the billion. I’m going to be leaving here in, I think it was about six hours. I looked at them and said, I’m leaving in six hours. If the prosecutor is not fired, you’re not getting the money. Well, son of a [expletive]. (Laughter.) He got fired. And they put in place someone who was solid at the time.

Well, there’s still – so they made some genuine substantial changes institutionally and with people. But one of the three institutions, there’s now some backsliding.

– Former U.S. V.P. Joe Biden on January 23, 2018 during a meeting of the Council on Foreign Relations



• On Nov. 18, 1978, Peoples Temple founder Jim Jones leads 909 of his followers in a mass murder-suicide at their commune in a remote part of the South American nation of Guyana. While many of Jones’ followers willingly ingested a poison-laced punch, others were forced to do so at gunpoint.

• On Nov. 19, 1969, Brazilian soccer great Pele scores his 1,000th professional goal. It was a major milestone in a career that included three World Cup championships.

• On Nov. 20, 1923, the U.S. Patent Office grants a patent to Garrett Morgan for his three-position traffic signal. By having a third (yellow warning) position besides just “Stop” and “Go,” it regulated crossing vehicles more safely.

• On Nov. 21, 1986, National Security Council staff member Oliver North and his secretary, Fawn Hall, begin shredding documents that would have exposed their part in a range of illegal activities. When North was fired, Hall continued to sneak documents to him by stuffing them in her skirt and boots.

• On Nov. 22, 1718, Edward Teach, also known as Blackbeard, is killed off North Carolina’s Outer Banks during a battle with a British navy force. In 1717, Teach took over a captured French merchantman from a retired pirate, increased its armament to 40 guns and renamed it the Queen Anne’s Revenge.

• On Nov. 23, 1936, the first issue of the magazine Life is published. When the original Life folded during the Great Depression, publisher Henry Luce bought the name and relaunched the magazine as a picture-based periodical.

• On Nov. 24, 1947, the House of Representatives votes 346 to 17 to hold 10 Hollywood writers, directors and producers in contempt for refusing to cooperate at hearings dealing with communism in the movie industry. It marked the start of a “blacklist” of names of Hollywood personalities suspected of having communist ties.

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

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MAIL:
15344 Werling Ct.
Horizon City, TX 79928

Phone: 852-3235

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

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Homesteader
Est. 1973
News, Inc.

Democrats shouldn't blame Latin

If the impeachment effort isn't taking the nation by storm, the Democrats have an answer – blame it on Latin. The use of a Latin term, quid pro quo, is now thought to be a damper on the impeachment cause because it sounds complex and technical.

Latin is one of the great legacies of the Roman Empire, influencing languages across Europe and giving us scientific, medical and legal terms that heretofore had been thought perfectly fitting. That was before Democrats felt they needed a more emotive phrase to characterize President Donald Trump's conduct in the Ukraine controversy, and especially one that denotes a more grave offense.

Democratic Rep. Jim Himes, from Connecticut, made the case on "Meet the Press": "When you're trying to persuade the American people of something that is really pretty simple, which is that the president acted criminally and extorted, in the way a mob boss would extort somebody, a vulnerable foreign country, it's probably best not to use Latin words to explain it."

There's a lot to unpack here. The first problem is that Ukraine is not nearly as simple, or as dramatic, as Democrats first hoped. It doesn't have something memorable and inherently attention-grabbing

at its heart, like the Watergate break-in or the Clinton-Lewinsky affair. It involved a pressure campaign on the Ukrainians that – once examined closely – was complicated, ambiguous and highly contested within the administration. No matter what word is applied to it – even the plainest, non-Latinate English word – this isn't going to change.

Another problem is that it wasn't criminal. Impeachment doesn't require a crime, but

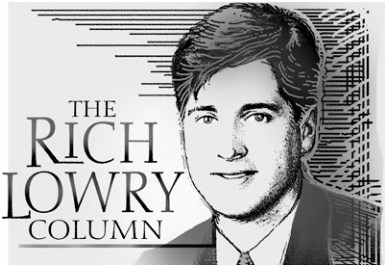
it helps. The best card that Republicans had against Bill Clinton in their impeachment push in the 1990s was that he had flagrantly violated the law by perjuring himself repeatedly. Democrats wish they had Trump on similar violations. In their absence, they are attempting to create the impression of rank criminality, via metaphor.

This is why they want to shift to the terms "extortion" or "bribery" – and throw in

references to mob bosses.

It can't be that squeezing a foreign power is a criminal act, though, or every American president would be guilty of crimes in the course of the horse-trading of routine statecraft.

What makes the Ukraine matter different, and blameworthy, is that he wanted an investigation that touched on Joe and Hunter Biden. This was improper because it involved a mingling of presidential



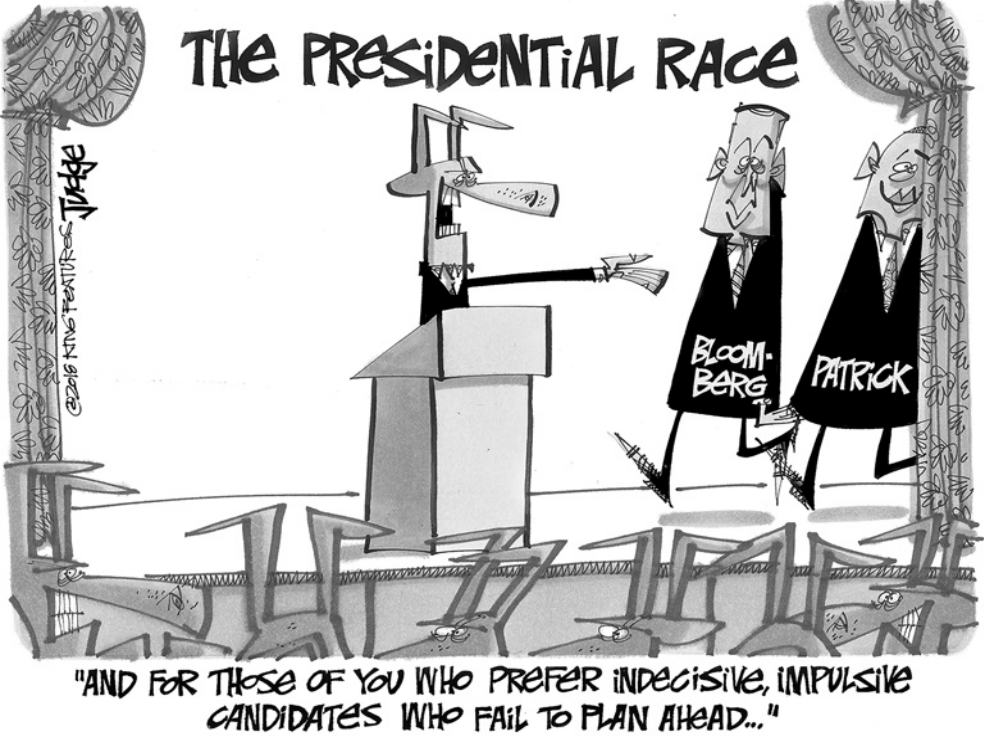
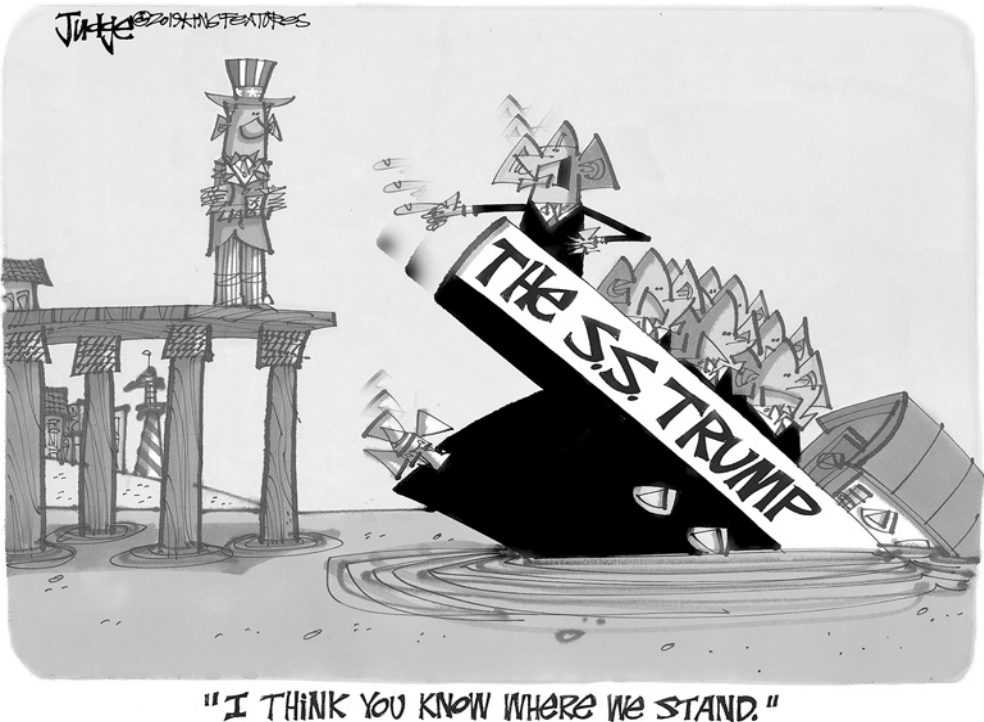
powers and U.S. resources with a goal that was, largely, personal and political in nature.

Once we are talking about an improper use of lawful powers, then things are less lurid and more complicated than a mafia-land crime. And once you factor in that the Ukrainians ultimately got their funding without investigating anyone or announcing an investigation into anyone, the picture is even less clear.

Impeachment and removal of a president requires a national consensus to get the two-thirds vote to convict in the Senate. This is why the Democrats need more than wrong and troubling and worthy of congressional investigation, a standard they've amply met; they need shocking to the conscience, which they aren't going to meet on anything like the current universe of facts.

This is the political reality – in English, Latin or any other language.

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




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The *West Texas County Courier* will not publish the last two weeks of December. The first issue of 2020 will be January 5.

The *West Texas County Courier* office will close beginning Wednesday, December 11, 2019. The office will open again on Monday, January 2, 2020.




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CryptoQuip Answer

I believe a quirky trait that’s unique to a camcorder wielder should become known as a “videosyncrasy.”

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Strange BUT TRUE

By Samantha Weaver

- It was writer and cartoonist James Thurber who made the following sage observation: “Humor is emotional chaos remembered in tranquility.”
- A single pound of sequoia seeds contains roughly 90,000 individual seeds.
- The Romans were a bit wordy, it seems, when it came to naming certain foods. Would you recognize “oryza sativa” if you saw it? It’s Latin for “rice.” How about “solanum tuberosum”? That’s what they called a potato.
- You might be surprised to learn that sloths can hold their breath longer than dolphins – much longer. Dolphins come up to the surface for air about every 10 minutes, while sloths can go 40 minutes without taking a breath.
- Evidently it’s not just humans who associate a deeper voice with maturity (and desirability) in males. It seems that male owls try to appear more macho and attract females by lowering the tone of their hoots.
- Did you know that in a random group of 23 people, there’s a 50% likelihood that two will share a birthday? It seems counterintuitive – there are, after all, 365 days in a year – but the number-crunchers assert that it’s true. In a group of 57 people, it’s almost certain that two of them will have the same birthday – the chances are more than 99%. Once you get up to 124 people, the chances are only 1 in 100 trillion that there *won’t* be a duplicated birthday.
- The largest structure ever built by living creatures isn’t man-made – it’s Australia’s Great Barrier Reef.

Thought for the Day: “There’s only one way to have a happy marriage – and as soon as I learn what it is, I’ll get married again.”
– Clint Eastwood

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TxDOT urges drivers to ‘end the streak’ of daily deaths

TEXAS – November 7, 2000 was the last deathless day on roadways in Texas. That means for 19 years straight, at least one person has died every single day. That’s why TxDOT and Texas Transportation Commission officials are launching the #EndTheStreakTX campaign this

month, asking all Texans to join the effort to end this deadly 19-year streak.

An average of 10 people die every day in crashes in the state, which has prompted TxDOT and the Texas Transportation Commission to issue a public challenge.

They urge all Texans to tell 10 people about #EndTheStreakTX, and then have each of those 10 tell another 10, causing a wave of commitment and a surge of support for ending the fatal trend.

“I want to challenge everyone here to tell 10 people right now about #EndtheStreakTX,” Texas Transportation Commissioner Laura Ryan said. “Take out your phones and let them know that you need their help to #EndtheStreakTX. Text them this message or share it on social media and tag at least 10 people. Challenge them to share the message with 10 of their friends, and so on. Let’s not have a 20th anniversary next Nov. 7th”

TxDOT is asking people to share personal stories of loved ones lost in car crashes on their social media pages using photo and video testimonials with the hashtag, #EndTheStreakTX. The agency will also post statistics for the public to repost on social media outlets to help share this important message.

“We all have the power to end the streak of daily deaths on Texas roadways,” Ryan said. “And while we are committed to invest in the best engineering practices to make our roads safe, we also need drivers and passengers to act more responsibly and help us end the streak of daily deaths on our roads to reach our goal of zero deaths by 2050.”

TxDOT will dedicate an additional \$600 million for more safety improvements along Texas roadways over the next two

years. The effort includes widening some roads and adding rumble strips that alert drivers if they are veering out of their lane or off the road. We will also add reinforced shoulders and select turn lanes, and deploy new technology that will increase safety on the entire system of roads.

In May, the Texas Transportation Commission approved a goal aiming to end all fatalities on Texas roads by 2050, with an interim goal to reduce them by half by 2035. Texans can play a major role in ending fatal crashes with a few simple driving habits: wear seatbelts, drive the speed limit, put away the phone and other distractions, and never drive under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

“It’s heartbreaking to know that every day for the past 19 years someone has lost a spouse, child, friend or neighbor on our state’s roadways,” said TxDOT Executive Director James Bass. “Ending this daily death streak is a shared responsibility. While we are committed to continue making improvements to our highway system, we all must work toward ending preventable crashes caused by drivers including distracted driving, speeding and drunk driving. Let’s make it a priority to be safe, focused and responsible behind the wheel. Let’s end the streak.”

Since Nov. 7, 2000, fatalities resulting from vehicle crashes on Texas roadways have numbered almost 67,000. The leading causes of fatalities continue to be failure to stay in one lane, alcohol and speed. To decrease the chances of roadway crashes and fatalities, TxDOT reminds drivers to:

- Buckle seatbelts – all passengers need to be buckled;
- Pay attention – put phones away and avoid distractions;
- Never drink and drive or do drugs and drive – get a sober ride home; and
- Drive the speed limit – obey speed limits and drive slower when weather conditions warrant.

– TxDOT Media Relations

Briefs

From Page 1

either the San Elizario High School main office or the San Elizario Administrative Offices. Donations will be collected from November 18 through December 16, 2019.


– Jeannie Meza-Chavez

Students thriving

New 2018-2019 data on the Socorro Independent School District’s (SISD) Class of 2019 graduating students participated in the district’s AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) program are thriving. AVID is a nationally recognized program that helps students navigate the college application process and build the academic and soft skills needed to succeed in college and the workforce of the future. Students with AVID training are beating the national averages for success with FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid), college application completion and college acceptance. Last year, 98 percent of Socorro Independent School District seniors participating in AVID completed a FAFSA application, compared to the national rate of 61 percent. Likewise, 93 percent of AVID students applied to a four-year college, and 92 percent were accepted. Nationally, 81 percent of high school students aspire to earn a bachelor’s degree yet less than 50 percent enroll at a four-year university. “I commend our AVID students and teachers for their excellent achievement in preparing for and pursuing university and college opportunities,” said SISD Superintendent José Espinoza, Ed.D. “Operation College Bound, our laser-sharp focus on increasing college awareness and activities at all grade levels, is ensuring our students are on a solid path to success after high school.”

– Christy Flores-Jones


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Just when you think you’ve seen it all...

By Steve Escajeda
Special to the Courier

They say that if you stick around long enough, you’ll never stop seeing something you’ve never seen before.

The same can be said in the world of sports.

Every now and again, you hear a sports announcer saying something like, “I’ve never seen that before in all my decades of covering this game.”

And it happened again last Thursday night in Cleveland.

I was watching a little of the Pittsburgh

Steelers-Cleveland Browns game, but changed the channel with about four minutes to go when the Browns took a 21-7 lead, virtually ending the game.

About a half hour later I received a text from my sister, asking me if I’d seen the fight.

Of course I relied, “what fight?”

When she told me there was a fight at the end of the game, my first reaction was that I’d seen hundreds of football fights in my years of watching the game.

They are mostly boring; with all that armor on no harm is ever done and they are broken up rather quickly.

I couldn’t imagine what was so different

about this fight that she would go out of her way to text me.

So, in these times of instant access, I went to the internet to see what she was talking about.

It didn’t take very long for me to think to myself, “wow, I’ve never seen anything like this before.”

When Cleveland’s Myles Garrett violently ripped the helmet off Pittsburgh quarterback Mason Rudolph, I thought his head might come off with it. But when he tomahawked it on his unprotected head, I literarily cringed.

I couldn’t believe my eyes, or maybe I just didn’t want to believe them.



OUCH – The average weight of a helmet in the NFL is six pounds. The force of an average one pound hammer striking a nail is approximately 100 pound-forces. The force of a swung five and one-half pound sledge hammer is approximately 2,500 Newtons or 562 pound-forces at impact.

means as far as how many games (and pay) he’ll miss, but there’s no doubt that the league wanted to send a message to every other player.

Other than the unbelievable act, some knuckleheads in the media have actually blamed the quarterback for the incident, some have blamed the Browns’ coach Freddie Kitchens, some have even inserted race into the argument.

If you didn’t know, Garrett is black and Rudolph is white, as if that had anything to do with anything!

If you look at the play, it’s pretty simple, Rudolph throws the pass, Garrett tackles him late, which should have drawn a roughing the passer penalty. The quarterback was dragged to the ground and Garrett wouldn’t let go.

Rudolph gets frustrated with Garrett and tries to get him off, grabbing Garrett’s helmet in the process, almost taking it off. Garrett’s takes offense to this, rips off Rudolph’s helmet and the rest will be history.

Amazingly, these two teams will get together again in a couple weeks in Pittsburgh. Gee, I wonder how the Browns will be greeted by the Steelers’ fans?

At least one thing is for sure, Myles Garrett won’t be there to hear the boos.

TRUE TEXAS FACTS by Roger Moore

Nov. 12, 1839, President Lamar recommends the Alabama-Coushatta Indians be guaranteed permanent occupancy of their reservation lands.



Super Crossword

WHAT SINGERS DO ACROSS

- 1 "All seats sold" abbr.
- 4 Wound coverer
- 8 Course outlines
- 15 Jessica of "The Veil"
- 19 Really revealing
- 21 At some future time
- 22 Appear as though
- 23 "Take Me Home Tonight" singer picks from the menu?
- 25 Drawn-out drama
- 26 Tiny parasite
- 27 Pucksters' org.
- 28 Parasite egg
- 29 Big stirs
- 30 "Hot Stuff" singer takes a pleasure trip?
- 38 God of love
- 39 Cultural credo
- 40 1967 Dionne Warwick hit
- 41 Small vise
- 45 A Great Lake
- 46 Sahara viper
- 48 Vogue thing
- 49 "Walk on the Wild Side" singer plays a droning instrument?
- 52 Get a laugh out of
- 54 War unit
- 55 Wet blanket
- 56 Fast-running birds
- 57 Trapped like _
- 61 Choir garb

- 63 "I Walk the Line" singer trims a photo?
- 68 Follower of Benedict?
- 69 Galoot
- 71 Art stand
- 72 Aunt, to Juan
- 73 IRS hiree
- 74 "It's Too Late" singer grumbles?
- 78 Hog lover
- 80 Canadian oil company
- 81 Group of two
- 82 Slushy drink brand
- 84 "_ vidi, vici"
- 85 Choir song
- 87 "Let's Stay Together" singer checks IDs at the door?
- 91 Day, to Juan
- 94 Entirely
- 95 Writer Nin
- 96 Queen, e.g.
- 97 Go inside
- 99 Nonviolent protest
- 100 Novelist Oz
- 102 "Them There Eyes" singer has fun at a bash?
- 109 Just slightly
- 110 Brooklyn loc.
- 111 Assoc.
- 112 La _ Tar Pits
- 114 Rake prong
- 115 "Song Sung Blue" singer telephones someone?

DOWN

- 1 Cherry part
- 2 Fixed up
- 3 "You're never too _ learn"
- 4 Beatified Fr. woman
- 5 Engine part
- 6 Ballet great Alicia
- 7 Lew Wallace novel
- 8 Like a sneak
- 9 NBAer Ming
- 10 P.O. piece
- 11 Was a guide
- 12 Sporting spots
- 13 Of element #5
- 14 Popular photo-sharing app, for short
- 15 Lay into
- 16 Make the first play
- 17 Petalless showy flower
- 18 Racked up
- 20 Bank claim
- 21 Tall tree
- 24 Designate
- 32 Excited, informally
- 33 "You crack _!"
- 34 To be, in French
- 35 Fraternity letters

- 36 Wernher _ Braun
- 37 Bugle tune
- 41 Jodie's role in "The Silence of the Lambs"
- 42 Sun or moon circlers
- 43 Moves heavily
- 44 "Ellen" actor Gross
- 45 Upscale
- 46 Something not to be missed
- 47 Fish-on-rice food
- 50 Mr. Hyde's other half
- 51 Kung _ chicken
- 52 Drs.' gp.
- 53 Corn serving
- 56 Custard-filled treats
- 58 Musical period that began in the 1950s
- 59 Tacks on
- 60 Like Russia, once
- 62 "Dino" star Mineo
- 64 Persist, as an injury
- 65 Gp. advising the president
- 66 "_ out!" (ballpark cry)
- 67 Fleet vehicle
- 70 Piano part
- 75 Alley- _ (court play)
- 76 "What "je suis" means
- 77 Abbr. after old dates
- 79 Author Turgenev

- 83 Forest moon where Ewoks live
- 86 Hindu dress
- 87 Prefix with 99-Down
- 88 Installed, as carpet
- 89 Gershon of "Cocktail"
- 90 Sac in anatomy
- 91 Wars of words
- 92 First
- 93 Georgia State locale
- 95 Feel awful
- 98 Like firstborn children
- 99 Extroverted
- 100 Wear for grill masters
- 101 Cro-_
- 103 1930s-'50s bandleader Skinnay _
- 104 "Laughing" carnivore
- 105 Lead-in to Kippur or tov
- 106 Stork cousin
- 107 Dadaist Max
- 108 Smooth shift
- 113 Out of port
- 116 Caesar's 52
- 117 1950s prez
- 118 Little charged bit
- 119 Rearward
- 120 Cellular stuff
- 121 Fabric flaw

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				
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49							50	51					52				53			
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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													111					112		113
114							115			116	117	118	119				120	121		
122							123								124					
125							126								127				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



Here’s best reason to remove gallbladder

DEAR DR. ROACH: My husband’s doctor is telling him to have his gallbladder removed because sometimes he has pain in his right side. They did all kind of tests, but he has pain when he drives long hours or when he eats salads, not fried or fatty foods. Can you tell me more about the surgery, and what it might be like for him after the surgery? – A.M.



Almost every time a gallbladder needs to be removed, it is because of gallstones. Gallstones are common. Six percent of men and 9% of women have them, but most of the time, people have no symptoms. It isn’t always clear whether the symptoms people have are due to the gallstones that are found on imaging studies, such as CT or ultrasound, but there are some clues to help decide whether a gallbladder that contains stones needs to be removed.

The classic symptoms are pain in the right upper abdomen, especially after eating a fatty meal, such as fried food (some people eat salads with lots of fatty dressing). Sometimes gallbladder pain is not food-associated. Symptoms at nighttime are not uncommon. Nausea, bloating, lower chest pain, belching and burning pain all are well-described with gallbladder disease, and the proof comes when surgery relieves the symptoms.

Sometimes, the imaging test can give clues. Thickening of the gallbladder wall or pain with pressure on the gallbladder (Murphy’s sign) are suggestive of acute gallbladder inflammation.

Unfortunately, doctors aren’t always right. Occasionally a person’s gallbladder is removed, and it doesn’t help the symptoms at all. Then, a new search needs to be done to discover the true cause of the symptoms.

Most people do very well after gallbladder surgery. The liver itself takes over the job of storing bile, in the ducts of the liver, and bile is released into the intestines appropriately after eating. However, it takes time for the system to get adjusted to not having a gallbladder, and only 60% of people are completely back to normal after three months. A few people have persistent symptoms for years. Thus, it’s wise to be as sure as possible that

See HEALTH, Page 8

CHOOSE YOUR RIDE.

Drink. Drive. Go to Jail.

Health

From Page 7

symptoms are due to gallbladder disease before undergoing surgery.

DEAR DR. ROACH: I have been unable to complete a yawn for a couple of years. You know, that final “aaah” feeling. My doctor just smiled and offered no explanation; I’m sure she had never heard of this before. I am a 70-year-old woman who is retired. Any ideas, suggestions or recommendations to end this unsatisfied feeling? – M.G.

Nobody knows for sure why we yawn. It can be related to low oxygen, fatigue or boredom, but there is a “yawn center” of the brain (in the hypothalamus) and even

fetuses have been shown to yawn. I have read two possible explanations why some people have incomplete or unsatisfying yawns: The first is that in some people, anxiety is the impetus to yawn, and that type of yawn just isn’t satisfying. The second is that stretching of the muscles of the face and jaw are necessary for the yawn to be complete. For some people, repeated stretching (from a “forced” yawn) and breathing in very deeply can lead to a satisfying yawn.

Dr. Roach regrets that he is unable to answer individual letters, but will incorporate them in the column whenever possible. Readers may email questions to ToYourGoodHealth@med.cornell.edu. (c) 2019 North America Synd., Inc. All Rights Reserved.

CryptoQuip

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

Clue: D equals Q

F YVRFVTV S DGFA LH ZASFZ
ZUSZ’W GQFDGV ZX S OSIOXAMVA
PFVRMVA WUXGRM YVOXIV LQXPQ
SW S “TFMVXWHQOASWH.”

Answer Page 4

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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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VA boosts adaptive sports programs



by Freddy Groves

Some of us have been waiting for this: The Department of Veterans Affairs has awarded another \$14.8 million in grants that will go to veterans adaptive sports programs. These grants will go to 120 organizations that create and manage sports programs for disabled veterans and members of the Armed Forces. That’s nearly double the funding from just a few years ago.

The groups that receive these grants (at the local, regional and national levels) are in all 50 states, plus D.C. and Puerto Rico, and will serve 11,000 participants.

To see what’s going on, go online to www.va.gov/adaptivesports. Look for the National Veterans Wheelchair Games for those with stroke, amputations, spinal injuries and more. For veterans age 55 and older, look for the Golden Age Games. If you like the

snow and cold, check out the Winter Sports Clinic. Like golf? Take a look at the National Disabled Veterans T.E.E. (Train, Exposure, Experience) program.

If you hope to train for the Paralympics, go to www.teamusa.org. Your options are many: wheelchair tennis, archery, rowing, wheelchair rugby, track and field, equestrian, snowboarding, biathlon, cross-country skiing and many, many more.

To find sports in your area, put Sports Club Finder in the search box at the va.gov site.

To see all of the organizations that received grants, go to www.blogs.va.gov/nvspse/grant-program/ and click on the recipients list.

Don’t miss the @Sports4Vets page on Twitter. You’ll find lots of personal stories and videos by and about veterans. Surfing, cycling, rowing... they’re doing it all.

And for veterans who need new ways to deal with stress and anxiety, \$1.5 million is going to equine therapy, that is, working with horses and learning how it can open new doors to coping. (Did

you know that biochemical changes occur in the brain while working with horses?) Watch the video at www.blogs.va.gov/VAntage/63128.

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• Here’s another item to add to your environmentally friendly choices list: If you’re not going to eat takeout food in the car, just say no to plastic utensils. They are usually packaged in a plastic bag with a napkin, so there’s even more you could be saving in waste.

• Make your own whipped butter for dinner rolls. Simply let butter come to room temperature, then whip in your electric mixer until it’s nice and fluffy. Chill, or drop by teaspoonful onto a cold cookie sheet lined with parchment paper. Freeze, and then you can arrange them on a plate for a nice presentation. They thaw quickly.

• Add to a pot of water a cinnamon stick, a handful of cloves, two slices of citrus (orange, lemon or both) and some cardamom pods if you have them. Put on a slow simmer, and your house will smell so good!

• Here’s a great cooking tip when you want to sear meat: Make sure you pat it dry using either paper towels or a kitchen cloth specifically for that purpose. Any moisture on the meat will cause it to steam cook.

• Want a quick snack that tastes great? Try spicing your own peanuts with this recipe from the National Peanut Board: In a skillet, heat 1 teaspoon of peanut oil over medium heat. Stir in 1 cup of peanuts and toast for about 1 minute. Next, stir in your choice of spices and cook for 1-2 minutes or until spices smell fragrant. Remove peanuts from the pan to drain well on paper towels. Serve warm or at room temperature. How about curry and ginger, or cilantro with chili powder and cumin?

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!

		–		×			25
÷			×		×		
	+			+			16
×			+			–	
	×			–			25
28			26			23	

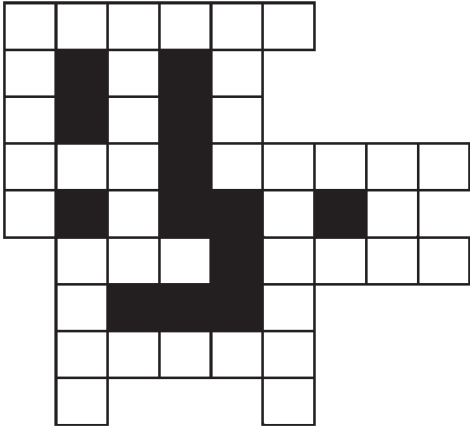
1 2 4 5 6 7 7 8 9

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Answer Page 4



LIA
HOFSIA
FENIK
LFKO
NELFAX
♥NEO
NOAX
UXSEN
XFI
TANKFA
LANDO
KONI



Answer Page 4

Unscramble these twelve letter strings to form each into an ordinary word (ex. HAGNEC becomes CHANGE). Prepare to use only ONE word from any marked (♥) letter string as each unscrambles into more than one word (ex. ♥RATHE becomes HATER or EARTH or HEART). Fit each string’s word either across or down to knot all twelve strings together.

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