

1973  
47 Years  
2020

# WEST TEXAS COUNTY COURIER



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

FEBRUARY 13, 2020

## NEWSBRIEFS

### Credit scores by city

With tax season coming up and people evaluating their spending and debts more closely, the personal-finance website WalletHub analyzed the median credit scores of residents in 2,572 cities to determine 2020's *Cities with the Highest & Lowest Credit Scores*. El Paso was tied with 20 other cities ranking at 2,047 in this report. It gives El Paso a ranking of 20 percent compared with other cities in the report and a median credit score of 662. Visit <https://wallethub.com/free-credit-score/> for the full report.

— Diana Polk

### Bee killer sought

Many honeybees were killed and several beehives were destroyed in east El Paso County. Detectives from the El Paso County Sheriff's Office are asking for the public's help in finding the person responsible through the Crime Stoppers. 17 beehives were destroyed killing hundreds of bees in the 17900 block of Island Tornillo Road in Fabens, TX on the morning of Wednesday, Jan. 29, 2020 between 6:00 a.m. and 7:20 a.m. The estimated damage is valued at approximately \$5,100 dollars. Detectives found tire marks and other evidence indicating that a vehicle was used to destroy the bee hives. Anyone with information on this case should call Crime Stoppers of El Paso immediately at 566-8477 (TIPS), or online at [www.crimestoppersofelpaso.org](http://www.crimestoppersofelpaso.org). You will remain anonymous and, if your tip leads to an arrest, you may qualify for a cash reward.

— Sgt. Javier Sambrano

### Dental health

With February being National Children's Dental Health Month and about 15 percent of children aged 2-17 having not seen a dentist in the past year, the personal-finance website WalletHub has released its report on 2020's *States with the Best & Worst Dental Health* as well as accompanying videos. In order to determine which places have the healthiest teeth and gums in the U.S., WalletHub compared the 50 states and the District of Columbia across 26 key metrics. The data set ranges from share of adolescents who visited a dentist in the past year to dental treatment costs to share of adults

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*The real measure of a man's wealth is how much he would be worth if he lost all his money.*

— Quips & Quotes

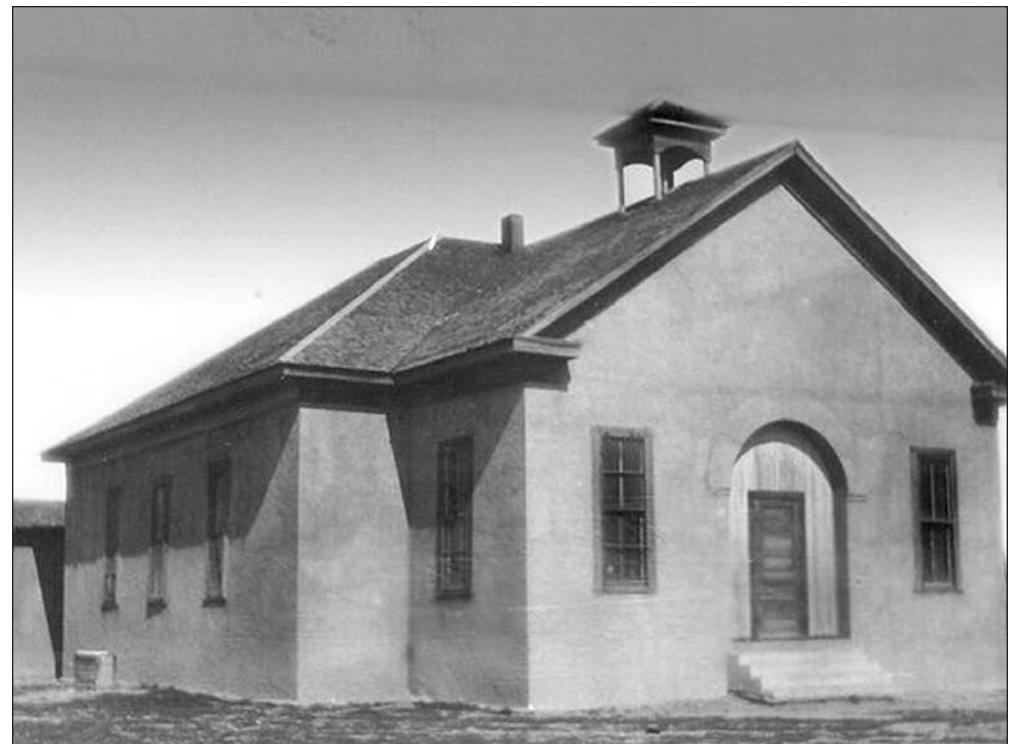
By Alfredo Vasquez  
*Special to the Courier*

MARFA — Texas has never had a state law that mandates separate schools for Hispanic students. Nonetheless, school districts perpetuated the practice of de facto segregation beginning in 1889 and continued through 1965.

One of those school districts was in Marfa, a West Texas town located 200 miles east of El Paso, where segregated education began in 1892 following the completion of a primary school for the town's Anglo students. Its Mexican-American children attended the new school facility with the Anglo kids until 1909, that was when the Marfa school district constructed a two-room adobe brick building on South Abbot Street for Hispanic students only. As the student population grew, more buildings were constructed next to the original schoolhouse; one of the additions was a band hall that was completed in 1927.

Blackwell School, which was named after its longtime principal, Jesse Blackwell, was the sole public education institution in Marfa for Mexican American children from 1909 through 1965. The school was closed in 1965 following the integration of the Marfa Independent School District that was ordered by then newly-passed federal laws. Subsequently, most buildings associated with the school were razed.

Today, Marfa's Mexican-American culture and history are directly tied to



— Photo courtesy Marfa Public Radio

**RACIAL DIVISION** — This is the earliest known photograph of the two-room adobe brick Blackwell School in Marfa, TX on South Abbot Street. It was constructed by the Marfa school district in 1909 for Mexican-American children in grades first through eighth. Although there was no state law that mandated separate schools for Hispanic students, Texas school districts perpetuated the practice of de facto segregation until 1965.

the lone standing Blackwell schoolhouse, National Parks Service (NPS) this past December.

Under the listing's Criterion A in the areas of Education and Ethnic Heritage, the Blackwell School was acknowledged for being the only public institution built in Marfa for the education of the Mexican American community, which it served for more than fifty years.

The designation also represents the

See SCHOOL, Page 5



— Photo courtesy EPWater

**BIG LEGOS** — EPWater's award-winning parade float called "Water Wars," modeled after Star Wars-themed Legos, will be on display during DiscoverE — Building Curiosity.

### Event to showcase engineering

By Melissa Bell  
*Special to the Courier*

EL PASO COUNTY — It's true that bridges and roads lead to some spectacular places. Amazingly, they

themselves can even become the destination. Every year, thousands flock to cross the Golden Gate Bridge and travel the famed Route 66.

Infrastructure is everywhere

See EVENT, Page 5

### EPCC celebrates Black History

By Ismael De La Rosa  
*Special to the Courier*

EL PASO COUNTY — El Paso Community College (EPCC) will celebrate Black History with its annual month of activities this February. This year's theme is African Americans and the Vote: Overcoming Obstacles to Success. Through the month, each campus library will have displays; an art show will be in the foyer of the Administrative Services Center (ASC) Building A, 9050 Viscount Blvd., beginning February 17 and two special events will tie the celebration together.

"Recognizing the accomplishments of Black Americans is an important part of Diversity and Inclusion Programs at EPCC," said Olga Chavez, Director of Diversity and Inclusion Programs. "The diversity of students, faculty

and staff and their important roles leads to a better community as a whole."

The first major event is the annual Legacy Awards Dinner. It will be held Friday, February 21 from 5:30 to 9:00 p.m. in the ASC Building A, Auditorium. Tickets to this event are \$40 and are available online at <https://bit.ly/2FSNj5D>. Tickets are not available at the door.

EPCC Black History Legacy Award winners will be Honorable Judge John Chatman, Ms. Baby Ruth Boswell, and EPCC Cross Country Half Marathon Team. Keynote Speaker will be Dr. Gary Bledsoe, President of the Texas NAACP.

Wrapping up the month will be the Black History Panel Discussion on this year's theme. The event will be held at the Transmountain Campus,

See EPCC, Page 6

# Schiff for President?

Let's discuss the fantasy that so many desperate Democrats are having. In their minds, they're asking, "Is it too late for Adam Schiff to run for president?"

Actually, since his dynamite performance as lead House of Representatives counsel advocating in the Senate for the conviction of Donald Trump and his extrication from the White House, it's not really a secret dream for some in the party who are wholly unimpressed with their mix of wannabes.

Schiff has been rattling around the Capitol as a member of the House of Representatives since 2001, so he had his D.C. creds long before he emerged for his star turn as chairman of the House Intelligence Committee and his

boffo role in the impeachment melodrama. If you wonder about all the showbiz terms, they are appropriate since his district includes Hollywood.

Here in "Hollywood East," Schiff has been Speaker Nancy Pelosi's best supporting actor and now is her leading man, as together they torture Donald Trump with their death of a thousand cuts. Except that so far, Trump thrives, revving up his base with his every hateful lie, while the current field of Democratic candidates do everything they can to rev down their base.

You have to wonder why it is that the Trumpster has wasted so much of his energy trying to heap garbage on Joe Biden in the first place. Biden is doing everything

he can to trash himself.

Nevertheless, Trump dispatched his buddy and private counsel Rudy Giuliani, who single-handedly is a gang-that-couldn't-shoot-straight, to Ukraine to get some dirt on the Biden family.

True, Ukraine knows from dirt. The country's oligarchs should be required to pay for their own mug shot photographer. They are really upset that Ukrainians elected a reformer, Volodymyr Zelenskiy, so they were willing to tell Giuliani and some pliant American right-wing reporters whatever story they wanted to peddle.

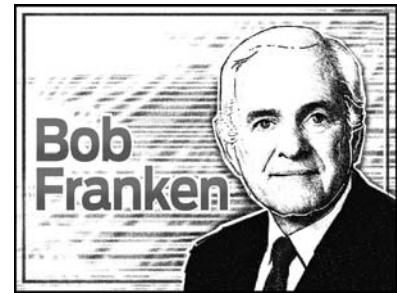
It's also true that Biden's son Hunter Biden had inappropriately come up with his own cushy deal to get lots and lots of money by attaching himself to a Ukrainian energy company. Inappropriate and cushy yes, but it didn't cross that line into illegal. It should

have, but it didn't.

What the Trump/Giuliani squad did was to solicit a foreign government to get involved in a U.S. election, which is flat-out illegal. That also violated the first law of politics: Don't get caught. Well, actually it's the second law. The first is to hold on to elected office until you've squeezed every last penny out of it.

Furthermore, when they did get caught, they refused to cooperate with congressional investigators – which may not be illegal, but it is unconstitutional. Schiff did a good job of articulating Trump's reckless authoritarian violations. But POTUS probably will be saved by the easily intimidated wimps who make up his party and hold the Senate majority.

That's why the Democrats secretly dream about the Adam Schiffs of this world; no one



else has captured their ardor. But get a grip, Democrats. It's too late, no matter how many derogatory nicknames he gets from Tweetus. So forget about Adam Schiff, Democrats. But dream on that someone already in the mix somehow rises above it enough to at least mix it up with Donald Trump and stand a chance against him.

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## Food for thought By Marilyn M. Singleton, M.D., J.D.

# Fake history and the constitutional value of a Black person

"Representatives and direct Taxes shall be apportioned among the several States which may be included within this Union, according to their respective Numbers, which shall be determined by adding to the whole Number of free Persons, including those bond to Service for a Term of Years [i.e., indentured servants], and excluding Indians not taxed, three fifths of all other Persons [i.e., slaves]." U.S. Constitution, Art. I, Sec. 2.

In the spirit of fake news, Black History Month provides a forum for news pundits to lament that the Founding Fathers thought the relative worth of black persons was three fifths of a person. They should (and likely) know better. The Three-fifths Clause is not about black or white but was a formula for counting slaves for purposes of congressional representation and taxation. Clearly slavery dehumanizes the

enslaved, but the Three-fifths Clause was a compromise that was a partial win for abolitionists.

Free black persons existed long before the Constitution was written. The first Africans brought into captivity to colonial Virginia in 1619 became indentured servants who were freed typically after 7 years just as their white counterparts. Other slaves were freed when they converted to Christianity.

The proposed Constitution allowed one representative to Congress for each 30,000 inhabitants in a state, in contrast to the existing Continental Congress, where each state had an equal vote. The initial suggestion at the sometimes contentious 1787 Constitutional Convention was that representation be based on all free persons. But slaves were half the population in some southern states. Despite slaveholders

counting slaves as their property, they also wanted to count slaves as if they were free inhabitants (i.e., "whole persons"), thus increasing the South's representation in Congress—and essentially be rewarded for having more slaves. Cleverly, Northern abolitionists argued that if the South could count slaves, then the North should be able to count livestock for purposes of representation.

To resolve the issue, liberal Pennsylvania delegate and future Supreme Court justice James Wilson proposed the Three-fifths clause as a necessary compromise to gain the South's support for the new Constitution. The three-fifths of a vote provision applied only to slaves, not to free blacks in either the North or South. Thus, the much-maligned clause actually benefitted the abolitionists and the slaves by limiting the pro-slavery States'

representation in Congress.

The first U.S. census in 1790 showed a population of about 4 million Americans. Nineteen percent were black and about 13 percent of those black Americans were free. By 1860, as more states abolished slavery and slaves were voluntarily freed or purchased their freedom (manumission) in the South, about a half million free blacks lived in the U.S. with more in the southern states than in the North.

Electorally, slave status mattered. Free blacks could hold office in some states and could vote. As Justice Benjamin Curtis noted in his dissent in the infamous 1856 Dred Scott decision, "Several of the States have admitted persons of color to the right of suffrage, and, in this view, have recognized them as citizens, and this

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# WEST TEXAS COUNTY COURIER

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## Farmers face March 16 deadline for safety net programs

By Gary Six  
Special to the Courier

TEXAS — The clock is ticking... March 16 is the *last day* to make what is likely one of the most important business decisions you will make for your farming operation this year.

If you have not already visited your local Farm Service Agency (FSA) county office to make your election for either the Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) or the Price Loss Coverage (PLC) program and to sign your annual enrollment contract, you should call and make your appointment now.

Many of you are gearing up to head to the field for spring planting, but I cannot stress enough the importance of not letting this deadline get lost in the hectic day-to-day obligations of farm life. *If you fail to enroll for 2019 ARC or PLC, you will be ineligible to receive a payment for the 2019 crop year.*

ARC and PLC provide financial protections to farmers from substantial drops in crop prices or revenues and are vital economic safety nets for most American farms. These programs cover 20 commodities produced in the U.S.

FSA anticipates more than 1.7 million producers

will enroll in ARC or PLC - that's a lot of producers to assist in a short period of time. As of Feb. 3, FSA records in Texas show 36,433 farms out of an expected 87,593 farms have completed ARC or PLC enrollment for the 2019 crop year.

Want to maximize your time visiting with FSA? Inquire about deadlines and options for also enrolling in 2020 ARC or PLC and updating PLC payment yields. Our staff will help you make the most out of your visit or set you up with a future appointment to help check FSA programs off your lengthy "to do" list.

If you're still unsure about the choice of ARC or PLC, we offer online decision tools to help you determine the best program election for your farming operation. To access these tools, visit [www.fsa.usda.gov/arc-plc](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/arc-plc).

Call FSA today for an appointment. To locate your local FSA office, visit [farmers.gov/service-center-locator](http://farmers.gov/service-center-locator).

We know that time is money... so make the time to avoid losing the money.

Gary Six is the State Executive Director in Texas for the USDA Farm Service Agency.

Archives: [www.wtxcc.com](http://www.wtxcc.com)

# The end of 2016

And so 2016 finally draws to a close.

It's been the longest election year in American history. It ran from Feb. 1, 2016, the date of the Iowa caucuses, to the Senate vote to acquit President Donald Trump in early February 2020.

It's true that Nov. 6, 2016, was a signal event in this long election year, but it didn't really conclude anything, even though the result wasn't in doubt. Usually, contested elections are ties or near-ties. This is the first time an election has gone into overtime, with repeated attempts at what were in effect recounts, despite the winner comfortably prevailing (Donald Trump won handily in electoral votes, the measure that determines the outcome, 304-227).

Immediately Democrats concluded that they'd been robbed, and Hillary Clinton did indeed get some bad breaks during the campaign, most consequently at the hands of then-FBI director James Comey. Such is life in the arena. But no one on the left was in a mood to move on.

Rather taking stock and recalibrating as warranted, Democrats remained fixated on 2016. Rather than simply mobilizing opposition to

Trump's agenda and reelection, as any opposition always does, they mused about how to reverse the 2016 result. Rather than acknowledging the near-impossibility of removing a duly elected president, they indulged in fantasies about how to do exactly that.

Above all, they obsessed about Russia as the cause of their undoing in 2016. With enough investigation, all would be made plain, the Trump-Russia conspiracy would be unraveled, the walls would close in, and the world would be restored to its axis. The rightful winner of 2016 wouldn't take office, but the wrongful winner would be vanquished. What voters in Michigan, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin failed to do, the grinding machinery of investigation would achieve.

When the Mueller probe didn't produce the impeachment that the Democrats had expected with such fervent certainty, it seemed briefly they'd finally have to accept the outcome of 2016, however grudgingly. Then, Ukraine emerged, and impeachment was, thankfully and gloriously, back on.

Russia was a proximate cause of the impeachment over Ukraine. The Democrats charged

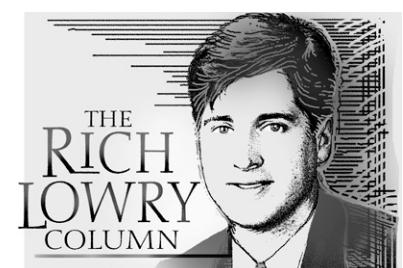
that Trump sought Ukrainian interference in our elections, just as he had sought Russian interference (for all their interest in the Mueller investigation, Democrats have never absorbed its conclusion that there is no evidence that Trump colluded with the Russians). Absent their conviction that Trump is an illegitimate president, Democrats would have been, understandably, outraged by

Ukraine and determined to investigate it, but they wouldn't have impeached over it.

In this sense, the Senate trial is

the last act in the 2016 election. It establishes, once and for all, that he won't leave office prior to the end of his first term. It makes it clear that another election, not some other mechanism, will be necessary to remove him. It represents the final failure of the investigatory apparatus around Trump's alleged Russia collusion to deliver Democrats from the consequences of their 2016 defeat.

Trump, obviously, isn't blameless in any of this. But he is not a Russian agent. He won the presidency in a free and



fair election, and despite his attempted removal, will have a chance to do so again. On to 2020.

*Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review. (c) 2020 by King Features Synd., Inc.*

## Socorro ISD is finalist for grant

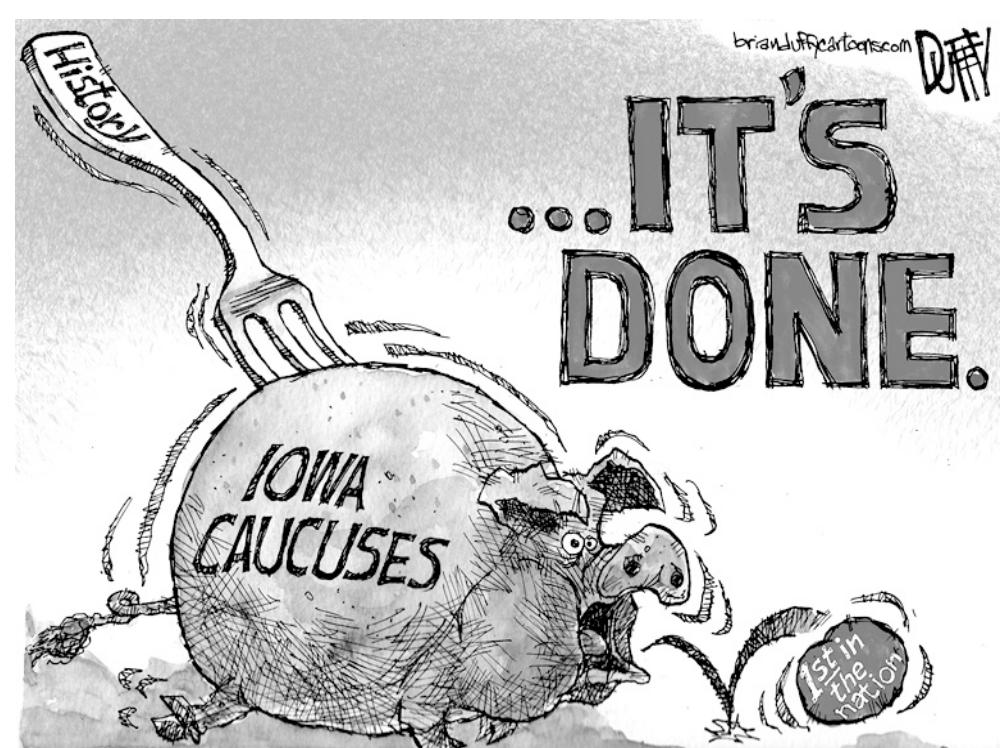
By Christy Flores-Jones  
*Special to the Courier*

of only 30 school district finalists selected by the Raise Your Hand Texas Foundation for the second cohort of the Raising Blended Learners demonstration initiative. SISD is the only district finalist from El Paso and was selected based on its successful blended learning strategies. Blended learning integrates traditional classroom teaching with online technology and digital learning so that students can excel with personalized instruction and more ownership of their learning. "We are honored to be recognized as a finalist in this program that would potentially lead to even more Operation Future Ready and Operation College Bound opportunities for our students," said SISD Superintendent José Espinoza, Ed.D. "Giving our students the latest technology,

resources, and relevant instruction to succeed in our global, fast-paced society is among our top priorities."

The finalist districts are being considered for a total of \$6 million in grant funding plus additional in-kind technical assistance to implement a personalized learning program, according to the Raise Your Hand Texas Foundation. The foundation will select up to 20 winning districts in April to each receive up to \$300,000 in grant funding and technical assistance.

"I am proud of the excellent work our teachers, principals and instructional support staff already has accomplished with blended learning and technology in Team SISD," Espinoza said. "We have seen great gains with our digital teaching and learning, and we will continue our tireless work to ensure our students have the best, rigorous instruction to prepare them for their technology-driven educational and career paths."







## Moments in time

THE HISTORY CHANNEL

- On Feb. 10, 1957, Laura Ingalls Wilder, author of the best-selling "Little House" series of children's novels, dies at age 90 in Missouri. In 1932, Wilder, then in her 60s, published her first novel, "Little House in the Big Woods."
- On Feb. 11, 1990, in a major upset, Buster Douglas defeats Mike Tyson, the undisputed world heavyweight champion, in 10 rounds at a boxing match in Tokyo. The loss was the beginning of a long, downward spiral for Tyson, which included jail time and license revocation in Nevada.
- On Feb. 12, 1972, the release of American POWs begins in Hanoi as part of the Paris peace settlement. The first 20 of 591 U.S. POWs arrived to a hero's welcome at Travis AFB in California.
- On Feb. 13, 1915, the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers (ASCAP) is founded to "assure that music creators are fairly compensated for the public performance of their works, and that their rights are properly protected."
- On Feb. 14, 1989, Iran's Ayatollah Khomeini calls on Muslims to kill Salman Rushdie, author of "The Satanic Verses," and his publishers. Booksellers the world over refused to sell the novel for fear of retribution. Many who did sell it were bombed.
- On Feb. 15, 1961, the entire 18-member U.S. figure skating team is killed in a plane crash in Belgium. The team was on its way to the 1961 World Figure Skating Championships in Prague. U.S. women's figure skating champion Laurence Owen, 16, was featured on the Feb. 13, 1961, cover of Sports Illustrated.
- On Feb. 16, 1878, supported by Western mining interests and farmers, the Bland-Allison Act, which provided for a return to the minting of silver coins, becomes law. It required the U.S. Treasury to resume purchasing silver and minting silver dollars as legal tender.

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## School

From Page 1

period of racial segregation in Marfa and is the sole existing property directly associated with the Mexican-American education experience in the town (the remaining buildings having been torn down after the school closed in 1965), according to the NPS application report.

Despite mandated segregation for African American students, there was never any national or state mandate to separate Hispanic students from their Anglo counterparts. Instead, the proliferation of segregation between those communities was de facto, mostly put into place by local school districts, and was not legally undone when the Supreme Court desegregated Anglo and African American students.

Bonnie Wilson, a historian at the Texas Historical Commission who worked on the Blackwell national register application, stated that the precedent setting recognition of this property is unique because it tells the story of Texas Hispanic children's education, which is not a topic that is often covered. She commented that the Blackwell School story covers multiple underrepresented subjects: ethnicity, nationality, primary school education, and Marfa's location. It covers an uncommon combination of subjects compared to other designated historic places, she added.

Some of Marfa's old-timers, especially those who were educated at Blackwell, have mixed feelings about keeping these hurtful memories alive. They recall that they received a good education with sympathetic teachers. But now, with the town going through a remarkable renaissance, they feel that the school's legacy in Marfa is being ignored and forgotten. They lament that even their grandkids don't know about Blackwell's troubled history.

Gretel Enck, president of the Blackwell School Alliance and has nearly 20 years of experience working with the National Parks Service, asserted that burying Marfa's ignoble past is not good for the town's overall healing.

Enck, who previously worked at the Manzanar National Historic Site - the location of America's Japanese internment camps during World War II, noted that she saw the power of that place's preservation after the people were encouraged to tell their stories and reclaim their voices around the violation of the Constitution that happened with their internment.

Enck indicated that the Blackwell School experience is a different story, but that at the same time, it was coming from the same place: "devaluing people who are different from the people in power". Enck stated that she



- Photo courtesy shootbigbend.com

**MARKED** – The state historic marker in front of the former Blackwell School helps preserve the history of the school that was built to separate Mexican-American children from the Anglo-American children through the mid-twentieth century.

witnessed firsthand the power of storytelling when individuals were given the opportunity to claim their personal experiences.

The Blackwell application to the National Register, compiled over multiple years beginning in 2007, included narratives from former students and teachers, which it relied on heavily, since the school district had burned the Blackwell records long ago, according to Enck.

Besides oral histories, the application detailed a historic structure report of the remaining Blackwell School building. The Alliance researchers discovered documents that revealed that the founder of Marfa, John M. Dean, sold the Blackwell land to the county in 1909, and construction began immediately after. The researchers purported that the physical building was crucial to its placement on the register because, though segregated Hispanic schools were prolific across the Texas-Mexico border, few remained standing, much less in their near-original condition.

Wilson indicated that Blackwell is likely the only segregated Hispanic school on the register in Texas and that Blackwell's endurance is key to preserving the history of Texas' segregated Hispanic border schools.

"Blackwell presents the real history of Marfa, the Hispanic history of Texas, which might not be as well-known as the contemporary art history that's going on in Marfa right now," Wilson explained. "This nomination illuminates this history, about a popular, well-known town, that a lot of people don't know unless you grew up there and lived there."

When Wilson mentioned location as a unique factor in the Blackwell application, she was speaking about the booming tourism

and art scene that this remote town in West Texas somehow came to possess. Wilson stated that the outsider's perspective of Marfa today differs from what Blackwell is presenting.

The designation itself "tells the rest of the nation, 'this place is important,'" the historian stated. "It has critical importance and meaning to people who grew up and live there, who made friends, whose family lived there. It's more than just a school. It's an integral part of the Hispanic community's culture and their past. It's not just a segregated story. It's about that community, their families and friends, and all the opportunities the school gave them."

The Blackwell School building, which is now identified by a Texas Historic Landmark sign, has been converted into museum that tells the story of the old schoolhouse. Old desks and books line the open rooms, along with photos and articles about the scholarly and extracurricular activities of the students. The museum highlights the special moments in the lives of the people that passed through the school despite the segregation and equality that lurked outside its walls. Photographs show smiling children decorating pumpkins, playing basketball, and proudly posing in marching band uniforms.

Blackwell's addition to the National Register of Historic Places opens the school up for tax credits to complete renovations and improvements. It also broadens grant opportunities, which the Alliance could use to implement more exhibits in the space, and toward their goal of hiring an executive director.

For more information on the museum and for ways to support the Blackwell School Alliance, visit //www.theblackwellschool.org/.

## Event

From Page 1

you look – even underground – and chances are that technology either helped build it or helps test and maintain it.

To inspire the next generation of engineers, El Paso Water is hosting a free, family friendly event called DiscoverE – Building Curiosity. The future designers of our world will get a first-hand look at how El Paso engineers are using robotics to improve and grow the city – from the ground up. The event will be held on Saturday, Feb.

22 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Tech2O Center, 10751 Montana Ave.

Engineering firms from across El Paso will be showcasing the latest in robotics and technology, thanks to a partnership with EPWater's Tech2O Learning Center and the American Council of Engineering Companies. Families will get a hands-on experience while manipulating robotics, operating cranes and learning about the region's watershed and water and wastewater systems.

"We're thrilled to be able to showcase engineering as an exciting career path for El Paso's

youth," said April Lopez, water conservation specialist for El Paso Water. "We want to ensure that El Paso and EPWater have a bright future, and that means inspiring students to problem solve and develop engineering interests that can positively impact and contribute to our city's infrastructure."

Robotics teams competing in the Lego League Challenge at the University of Texas at El Paso will also be on hand. They will share how they perform tasks and show off their engineering creations. The Lego League Competition is designed as a challenge for

youth to develop problem-solving concepts to shape a better future using modern-day tools like robotics.

"Visitors can come for the robotics and also stay for popcorn and a free screening of the Lego Movie showing at 12:30pm," said Lopez. "We will also have EPWater's award-winning parade float called Water Wars parked in front. It's modeled after Star Wars-themed Legos and quite impressive to see in person."

The event is open to the public – all are welcome. For more information, visit www.tech2o.org or call (915) 621-2000.

**Send Your Newsbrief To:**  
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# UTEP basketball's dream season has evolved into a nightmare

**By Steve Escajeda**  
Special to the Courier

Nobody saw this coming.

When the UTEP Miners opened the season 8-1, which included victories over New Mexico State, New Mexico and UC Irvine, it was assumed that the team would march right through Conference USA.

It was thought that this year's crop of Miners would win at least 20 games and be a real threat to win the conference tournament and advance to the Big Dance in March.

It was thought that coach Rodney Terry was a shoo-in for conference coach of the year, after struggling through an ugly 8-21 season a year ago.

What nobody saw was that since getting out to that quick 8-1 start, the Miners would go on to lose 11 of their next 16 games and actually be in a struggle just to be eligible for the CUSA tournament.

So the obvious question is, what happened? How is it possible for a team to take such an abrupt nosedive?

Where to start? The first and most obvious problem with the Miners is that they came into the season without a true point guard.

Every team needs a good point guard; the quarterback on the court to get the team in the right position.

Coach Terry has tried hard to turn Nigel Hawkins and Jordan Lathon into point guards, but as fans have witnessed, you can't tinker with a players' position in the middle of the season.

Not only have these two been unable to make the transition from shooting guard to the point, playing out of position has hurt any confidence they had at their regular positions.

In other words, both Hawkins and Lathon have gone from double-digit scorers a year ago, to almost complete non-factors this season.

At the forward spot, newcomers 6-11 Eric Vila and 6-9 Tydus Verhoeven were supposed to give the team additional rebounding and decent scoring.

While both have been in and out of the starting lineup, like with nearly every aspect of this team, inconsistency has been the problem.

Verhoeven is tough but can't shoot and always seems to be out of control. Because of his sheer height, Vila grabs a few rebounds, but he isn't aggressive and may have the softest hands in the league; and he can't shoot consistently.

In other words, both are almost complete non-factors.

At the big guy spot, the Miners have two post players they figured they could rely on this season.

One has performed as advertised. One has been a huge disappointment.

Bryson Williams has been even better than what was expected. He's been hovering around the 20-point mark all season and has topped 30 points in a game three times.

He's also been averaging a healthy seven rebounds a game.

The other big guy led the league in rebounding (10.1) as a freshman last year. But that was last year.

Efe Odigie has averaged about seven points and just four rebounds this year.

And you have to throw in that incident a couple weeks ago when Odigie missed the team bus to the airport.

To be honest, there have been too many incidents surrounding the program.

There were coaches who were let go prior to the season for being involved in scandals. There were players who left the program before the season even

started. There were players who left the program after the season started, and then changed their minds. And there was a player who didn't make last week's road trip because of disciplinary reasons.

Then there's the head coach, who took over the team last season after a successful stint at Fresno State, where he led the team to four 20-win seasons in his seven years there.

It doesn't take a genius to see the frustration in Terry's demeanor during games or hear it during postgame press conferences – especially over the last month.

But much of the blame has to go to Terry, who put this team together without an all-important point guard and recruited a bunch of players who can't shoot.

The Miners have a number of problems to deal with and who knows what new ones will present themselves after the season is over.

After another horrendous football season, El Pasoans were at least looking forward to basketball.

But nobody saw this coming.

## People know Pueblo for its...



### Famous Hot Salsa?

In Pueblo, the free government information is also hot. Spice up your life by dipping into the Consumer Information Center web site, [www.pueblo.gsa.gov](http://www.pueblo.gsa.gov). You can download all the information right away. Sorry, salsa not available through our web site or Catalog.

U.S. General Services Administration

## EPCC

From Page 1

Foyer, Wednesday, February 26 from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Panelists include Mr. Anthony C. Robinson (Retired Command Sergeant Major), Ms. Crystal S. Roman (Writer, Producer, Director at The Black Latina Movement), Ms. Abeni Janae Merriweather (UTEP Student, Teen Advocate, Musician), and Mr. Curtis Smith (Retired Army Veteran, Bronze Star Combat Award Recipient).

For information on all Black History Month activities, contact the EPCC Diversity and Inclusion Programs office at (915) 831-7898.

EPCC is a seven-time winner of the Higher Education Excellence in Diversity (HEED) Award. This national honor for postsecondary institutions that demonstrate an outstanding commitment to diversity and inclusion.



## Super Crossword

### RISING TO THE DEBATE ACROSS

- 1 While away the hours
- 9 Amorphous, sunken-into seats
- 17 Book divs.
- 20 Adopts, as a belief
- 21 Do a new layout of
- 22 Marina del \_\_\_, California
- 23 Start of a riddle
- 25 Musician Yoko
- 26 Fixes a seam, say
- 27 Drink served with scones
- 28 Suffix with final or solo
- 29 Heroic poetry
- 30 Riddle, part 2
- 37 7-Eleven drink
- 41 Isn't on target
- 42 Contract inker, e.g.
- 43 "Stones for \_\_\_" (1988 film)
- 44 San \_\_\_, California
- 46 Most fake
- 48 Riddle, part 3
- 51 With 57-Across, descent before pulling a rip cord
- 52 Chilean cheer
- 53 Praise publicly
- 54 Margarita glass liner
- 57 See 51-Across

60 1990s Philippine president

62 Ad entreaty

64 ET of TV

67 Riddle, part 4

71 "Rock and Roll, Hoochie \_\_"

72 Gel alternative

74 Bow rub-on

75 \_\_\_ Cassius has a lean and hungry look":

Julius Caesar

77 - Sunday

78 Let out

79 Xenon, e.g.

81 Fesses (up)

85 Riddle, part 5

92 Deliver news

about

94 Capacious

95 One of Jupiter's

moons

96 Rare Italian violins

99 End of the riddle

104 Tip jar bills

105 Mimicker

106 \_\_\_ There Was You"

107 ghanouj

111 Poetry Out Loud

org.

112 Riddle's answer

119 Wind up

120 Tendency to stick together

121 "Casino Royale" Bond girl player

122 Rds.

123 Outburst of wild emotion

124 Tokyo "ta-ta"

125 \_\_\_ Cassius has a lean and hungry look": Arthur

126 Julius Caesar

127 - Sunday

128 Court champ

129 Shoot forth

130 Male heirs

131 "Tsk!"

132 "Semi-" suffix

133 Get together

134 Road twists

135 Male sib

136 Always, to bards

137 Astern

138 Feature of a perfect ball game

139 Audacious

140 Just slightly

141 Watched kids for cash

142 End of the riddle

143 Trial run

144 Mimicker

145 "There Was You"

146 Poetry Out Loud

147 org.

148 Riddle's answer

149 Wind up

150 Tendency to stick together

32 Ensnared

33 Cookie giant

34 Lead singer

35 Beginning on

36 Have supper

37 Son of Willy Loman

38 Skyscraper beam

39 Many an app

40 Anguish

41 Arthur

42 Had supper

43 Sainted pope

44 FDR follower

45 Hit the links

46 Boxing punch

47 London lav

48 Male eighth

49 Tummy "six-pack"

50 Tummy "six-pack"

51 Dol. divisions

52 Seminal punk band

53 Actor Marvin

54 Quotes

55 Farm building

56 Pal, in Calais

57 Lard holders

58 Seminal punk band

59 Actor Marvin

60 Interstate stop

61 London lav

62 10th

63 In a tizzy

64 Distinguished

65 Feared fly

66 Luxury watch company

67 10th

68 10th

69 10th

70 10th

71 10th

72 10th

73 10th

74 10th

75 10th

76 10th

77 10th

78 10th

79 10th

80 10th

81 10th

82 10th

83 10th

84 10th

## 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



### TIGER By Bud Blake



### Black

From Page 2

has been done in the slave as well as the Free States." Black votes were not trivial: black votes helped to ratify the new Constitution and in Baltimore, Maryland in the 1700s, more blacks than whites voted in elections.

Today's "woke" social justice warriors rail that the racist Founding Fathers should have abolished slavery altogether right then and there. Our Founders would

have preferred to do so. Great Britain was making boatloads of money from the slave trade and prevented the abolition of slavery in the colonies. In 1774, at the First Continental Congress, delegates Thomas Jefferson and Benjamin Franklin called to end the importation of slaves by December 1, 1776. This provision was put in the Articles of Association of the Continental Congress. At the January 9, 1776 Second Continental Congress, a resolution to end of the importation of slaves to America was passed. Of course, the 13th through 15th Amendments freed

the slaves, gave them full citizenship, and males the right to vote.

Witnessing our current vitriolic political divides over less weighty issues, it is hard to imagine the determination and negotiating skills our Founders' needed to bring differing philosophies together to form a new country with new values based on liberty for all.

Rectifying our social ills begins with telling the whole truth. Truth #1: The Three-fifths clause was not about the relative worth of a black person. Truth #2: Black people owned slaves (as workers,

not family). Truth #3: All white men are not bad—now or 400 years ago.

Marilyn M. Singleton is a board-certified anesthesiologist. While still working in the operating room, 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.

## No screening tests for bile duct cancer

**DEAR DR. ROACH:** A family friend has just been diagnosed with bile duct cancer. She is a breast cancer survivor and is 75 years old. The tumor is said to be the size of a quarter, and it was discovered after she complained of heartburn symptoms. Are there screening tests that could have detected the condition before the heartburn symptoms? Are there things that she could have done to avoid the cancer? My family members are frightened and want to avoid her condition. —Anon.



Cholangiocarcinoma, cancer of the bile ducts, is a rare cancer that is, unfortunately, associated with a high mortality rate. There are no symptoms in most people until it is advanced. Since the cancer is in the bile ducts, the most common symptoms are caused by obstruction of the bile ducts: jaundice (yellow in skin/eyes), generalized itching, dark urine and light-colored stools. Abdominal pain, fever and weight loss are other symptoms.

Cholangiocarcinoma is not a disease that's amenable for screening; it is rare in North America (it is more common in East Asia, where there are screening programs). Further, the available screening tests, such as blood tests and imaging studies, are not very sensitive, meaning the tests will miss cases. And they are not very specific — a positive result on the screening test does not necessarily mean cancer. For these reasons, screening is not currently recommended for people at average risk, although it may be considered in people at high risk, such as people with primary sclerosing cholangitis, a chronic liver disease that puts people at high risk for cholangiocarcinoma.

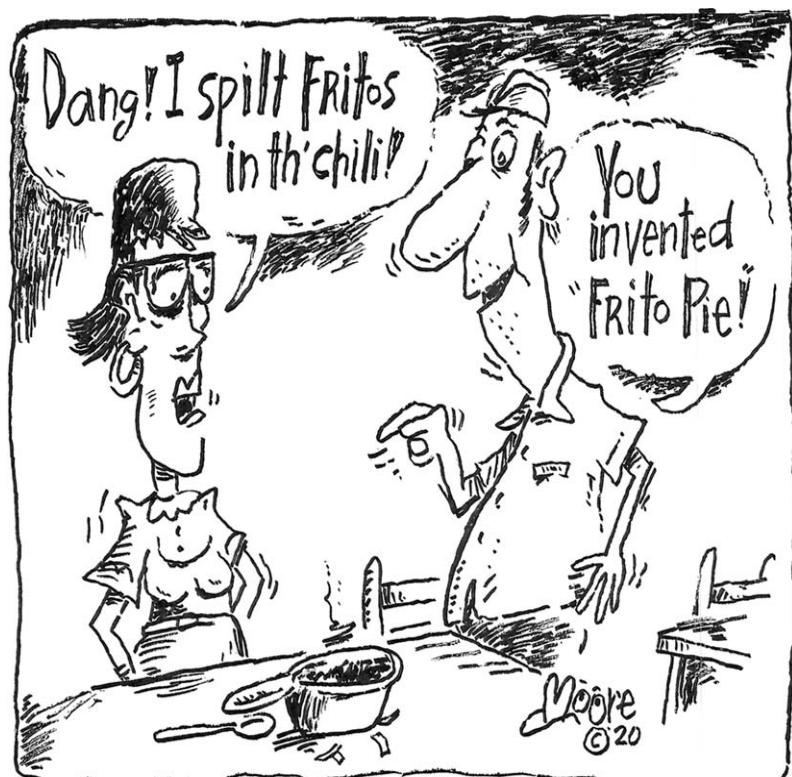
Other risk factors for cholangiocarcinoma are mostly beyond a person's control: other liver diseases, parasites and genetic conditions. There is some evidence that obesity and diabetes increase the risk of this cancer; however, it does no good for you or your friend to look backward. Never blame the victim.

She should concentrate on getting treated. I don't have enough information to comment on her prognosis, but the fact that it was diagnosed early — apparently before obstruction of the bile ducts — and with a tumor only the size of a quarter, are favorable. Treatment may include surgery and chemotherapy (before or after surgery).

**DEAR DR. ROACH:** I have a friend who is a longtime user of diet soda pop. A year ago, she was diagnosed with colon cancer and spots on her liver. She is taking chemo again now. She continues to consume diet soda, which concerns me because I have heard of possible adverse effects of artificial sweeteners. How would you advise her? I hesitate to say anything, since she might be getting more unsolicited advice than she wants already. —M.K.

I think that artificial sweeteners are unlikely to have had any role in causing her cancer in the first place, nor in her treatment or risk of recurrence. It's more important for her to stay hydrated during chemotherapy, and she should have what is easiest for her — and if that's diet soda, that's fine. Even if water is the best choice, I completely agree with your thoughtfulness: Now is not the time to give unsolicited health advice.

*Dr. Roach regrets that he is unable to answer individual questions, but will incorporate them in the column whenever possible. Readers may email questions to [ToYourGoodHealth@med.cornell.edu](mailto:ToYourGoodHealth@med.cornell.edu). (c) 2020 North America Synd., Inc. All Rights Reserved.*



**Moore Texas** by Roger Moore  
Texas was the birthplace of the FRITO PIE.

## 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: K equals P

VD YNM CELQVOU IEBQVOF

LHYKKFR DNOBHVYOVOU,

V VIEUVOF CFR QVMF

E LKVO RYBHYM.

Answer Page 4

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## Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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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## AccessVA: One portal to rule them all

### VETERANS POST

by Freddy Groves

Tired of remembering all the usernames and passwords you need to do things online? The Department of Veterans Affairs has created a one-door portal to access all the VA-related places you need to be with only one set of sign-on information to remember.

AccessVA is a new single-entry portal to VA websites and online applications. The list of locations is long and growing. At this point it includes veteran patient statements, life insurance online policy access, My HealtheVet, veterans ID card, community care referrals and authorization, and much more. If you already have government-approved sign on with DS logon, ID.me, VA Logon, My HealtheVet and more, those will work with AccessVA.

If you want to sign up in multiple places, you only have to do it once. Some of

the locations might require additional registration to get started, but that will be made clear at the beginning. If you're already enrolled in Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS), you'll be good to go. There might be a security requirement and a need for a higher level of credential if, for example, you're a doctor who needs to access patient records.

To learn more, go online to [access.va.gov/accessva](http://access.va.gov/accessva). Click on About AccessVA. You'll find information on updating your information (phone numbers and links), the level of credential you'll need, the different levels of security and a FAQ.

Does this process sound complicated? It really isn't. One of the biggest benefits of AccessVA is the need for just one set of credentials, your username and password. Having multiple sets means you're more likely to write them down, which makes it more likely that scammers and thieves can access your information. With two small pieces of information

to remember, your info is safer.

Start with the FAQ and if you need assistance, call the eBenefits helpdesk at 800-983-0937.

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• Before removing a splinter, ice the area. There will be less fussing, and a wooden splinter might absorb some liquid, causing it to swell enough to pop out a bit more.

• "I used the mileage counter in my car to come up with several 2-mile routes for walking. Now I can vary my routine and be assured that I've walked 2 miles, which is my goal. I just drive from my house until I hit a mile on the trip odometer, and then I walk to that spot and back." – I.L. in Nevada

• Use a tea infuser ball for aromatherapy. Apply several drops of essential oils to a cotton ball and place it inside the infuser basket. Then simply hang it to distribute the scent. You can hang it from a light bulb or even in front of the air handler for your air conditioning or heating intake.

• "If you're looking to give yourself a bit of traction on icy sidewalks, be careful what you use. While kitty litter is a much-recommended solution, when it melts, you're left with a slippery pile of clay. Salt can de-ice a sidewalk, but it definitely will kill plants, so be precise, and don't use too much of either. I carry a baggie of sand in my bag and keep a small bucket for the steps. It's not perfect, but it works." – T. in Pennsylvania

• "The knob came off my pot lid because it cracked. I grabbed a wine cork and threaded it on the screw. It stays in place and is never hot when I need to remove the top. Plus it looks cute." – E.T. in Alabama

Send your tips to Now Here's a Tip, 628 Virginia Drive, Orlando, FL 32803. (c) 2020 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!

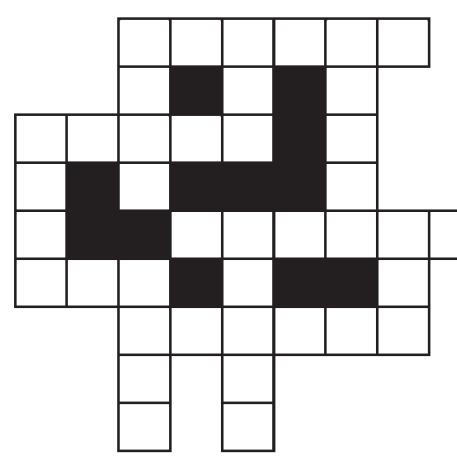
Answer Page 4

	X		-		15
÷		X		÷	
	X		+		13
+		-		+	
	-		X		14
10	11	10			
2	3	3	4	5	6
3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	9

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DMU  
DONURT  
♥ TRINE  
PWSI  
♥ ELM PUD  
♥ AWD  
♥ ATMR  
MEETO  
♥ PTO  
YESWIN  
NOWDU  
♥ ULDA



Answer Page 4

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