



NEWSBRIEFS

Ethnic diversity

With immigration reform remaining one of the most prominent political issues and the Supreme Court allowing the Trump administration's public charge rule to take effect, the personal-finance website WalletHub has released its report on *2020's Most & Least Ethnically Diverse Cities* as well as accompanying videos. To identify the most ethnically diverse places in America, WalletHub compared more than 500 of the largest U.S. cities across three key metrics: ethnoracial diversity, linguistic diversity and birthplace diversity. Texas' population is 59.44 percent native born, 21.83 percent other parts of the US, 1.46 percent to Americans abroad and 17.27 foreign nationals. El Paso fell just below middle ranking 270th most diverse city in the report. Other stats:

- Oakland, CA has the highest racial and ethnic diversity, which is four times higher than in Hialeah, FL, the city with the lowest.
- Hialeah, FL has the highest concentration of Hispanics or Latinos, at 96.05 percent.
- Rutland, VT has the highest concentration of Whites, at 94.95 percent.
- Jackson, MS has the highest concentration of Blacks, at 81.80 percent.

Visit <https://wallethub.com/edu/cities-with-the-most-and-least-ethno-racial-and-linguistic-diversity/10264/> for the full report

— Diana Polk

The right thing

Howard Kirby of Shiawassee County, MI finally had the space at home to build himself a "man cave" and so he set about the task of furnishing it. Out he went to a local thrift store and found a couch and ottoman that fit the bill. But it wasn't long before he found fault with the ottoman. It was lumpy. Try as he might to soften the footrest, it remained too firm for comfort. So, he tore open the cushion and quickly found what was wrong. It was stuffed with more than \$43,000 in cash. It crossed his mind, of course, to keep his find to himself but, instead, he decided to find the rightful owner, one Kim Fauth-Newberry. Her grandfather had passed away and among his personal property was

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It is a mistake to think that government can give things to some people without first taking it away from others.

— Quips & Quotes

Primary to decide District 76 state representative

By Alfredo Vasquez
Special to the Courier

EL PASO COUNTY – The primary race between Democratic candidates Elisa Tamayo and Claudia Ordaz Perez is shaping into a highly competitive one, as the winner is assured to be the next state representative for Texas House District 76 because no Republican candidate is running for the office. The district encompasses El Paso County's East-Central, South-Central, and Lower Valley areas.

Tamayo, 27, and Ordaz Perez, 33, are competing to see who will succeed State Representative César Blanco, who announced his candidacy for the state senate slot that is being vacated by Senator José Rodríguez.

After serving Texas Senate District 29 – which includes the counties of El Paso, Hudspeth, Culberson, Jeff Davis, and Presidio – since 2010, Sen. Rodríguez confirmed recently that he would be retiring from public office this year.

With early voting in the primary election having already started, Tamayo and Ordaz Perez are showing up for debates, rallies, and town hall meetings to make known that, although both have similar stands on state political issues, their professional experiences are what sets them apart.

Tamayo, a first-time candidate who has worked in the offices of Blanco and Rodríguez, pointed out that her time working at the Legislature for El Paso's state lawmakers will allow her to hit the ground running on day one. She is also banking on endorsements from them and other members of El Paso's state legislative delegation. Tamayo asserted that she will be an

effective leader and voice for El Paso in Austin because she has learned first-hand how the state legislature works.

Ordaz Perez is running on her experience as an El Paso city council representative since 2014. She served as mayor pro tempore and city councilwoman for District 6 representing the City of El Paso's East Side and Mission Valley. She resigned in the fall to run for the Texas House of Representatives.

Ordaz Perez noted that her work on the El Paso city council included fighting against a planned medical-waste treatment facility in the Lower Valley and the creation of a parental leave pool that supplements paid leave for city workers who are new parents. She stated that she fought for this community at the city level and that she will continue that fight at the state level.

Tamayo was born in El Paso and lived her early life with her parents in Chihuahua, Mexico. The family lived in Juárez while Tamayo began attending colleges in El Paso. She

earned a G.E.D. from El Paso Community College and then enrolled at the University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP), where she was graduated in 2014 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Economics.

While a UTEP student, Tamayo served as a Bill Archer Fellow in Washington D.C., which gave her the opportunity to work in the White House during the Barack Obama administration. She also interned in former U.S. Representative Beto O'Rourke's office in El Paso.

Issues that Tamayo espouses will get her immediate attention as a state representative include investing in public education;

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Elisa Tamayo



Claudia Ordaz Perez



— Photo courtesy EPCC

EPCC expands Northwest campus

By Ismael De La Rosa
Special to the Courier

EL PASO COUNTY – El Paso Community College (EPCC) held a celebration to mark the opening of its new building at the Northwest campus. This is the third of six construction projects to finish as part of the College's Master Plan.

"Attending and graduating college is becoming more and more important, because by 2020, 65 percent of all jobs will require a degree or certificate," Dr. William Serrata, EPCC President, said. "This facility is designed to provide students innovative learning spaces

See EPCC, Page 6

BODY PARTS – Students Abigail Velez, left, and Jack Laracy Horn III like the new lab. It is outfitted with new computers and anatomical models like the ear, leg and arm shown in the photo. Velez and Horn both spoke during the grand opening ceremony.

Trumpster gangsters

It's not just that Secretary of State Mike Pompeo chewed out NPR reporter Mary Louise Kelly after she dared to ask him questions he didn't like. Nor is it so objectionable that his tirade was saturated with F-bombs. And it certainly is not because she's a woman. When it comes to reporters, Pompeo is not just a misogynist but a mistersogynist. He's an equal opportunity jerk, as evidenced by his decision to block NPR from his plane for his trip to Kyiv. No wonder President Trump likes him so much.

He's not your stereotypical diplomat, but he will have to explain in Kyiv his shouted question during his conniption fit: "Do you think Americans (blankin') care about Ukraine?"

First of all, Americans do care about Ukraine. The fact is, Trump has come all-too-close to being ex-President Trump. He already has been impeached over the incriminating way he handled the country's new leader. Granted, it was preordained in the Senate that defendant Trump would beat the rap in the Senate, but at least he had to break a sweat. And at least his lawyers had to expose themselves as duplicitous.

His fellow Republicans are terrified of him and desperately seek his approval. And they control most of the government.

So it probably meant a lot that Trump singled out Pompeo's boorishness toward the NPR reporter by stating, "I think you did a good job on her actually."

None of this abuse of my fellow wretches of media by Pompeo is surprising. Trump and his goons have made a habit of it. It's really just thuggish intimidation. What is most galling of all is the wimpy way that us wretches respond.

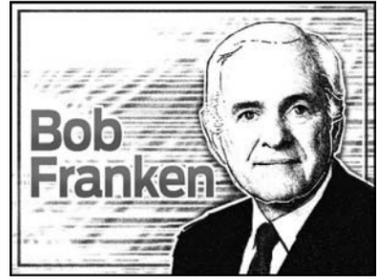
In this case, reporter groups put out statements whining that an "apparent attempt to take punitive action against a news outlet for its reporting is outrageous and contrary to American values." That is how the White House Correspondents' Association put it. The State Department Correspondents' Association complained about "punitive actions."

Oh, CNN did take the administration to court when its reporter got his press credentials pulled after a combative exchange with Trump. When the judge ruled against the POTUS people, they backed down. So the

Trumpsters retreated to a policy that says, in effect, that they will establish rules of decorum for news types, knowing full well that "decorum" and "news types" are classic oxymorons.

There is way more that reporters can do to fight back. For starters, they can simply abandon the White House. All you get is lying manipulation, so why not just work the phones and be the adversaries that journalists are supposed to be, while ignoring the invective from this president? The same is also true of the State Department, where correspondents cluster and scurry around for crumbs of information from deceptive press officers ordered to put out self-serving pablum.

As far as access to the secretary's plane, either boycott the plane and spend the money on commercial flights, or, if you must travel with him, refuse to



participate in any discussions where the person doing the briefing is not fully identified. You can always get all the information you need the old-fashioned way: leaks.

For Pompeo and the rest of the Trump administration bullies, there is only one effective response. Bully back. In other words, don't play the Washington game. It's lazy.

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View from here By Marilyn M. Singleton, M.D., J.D.

What is worse – going viral or verbal quarantine?

By As the death toll and cases of 2019- nCoV (aka novel coronavirus) infection rises, our curiosity increases as to the epidemic's when, why, where, and how. Is the new virus naturally occurring, animal to human transmission, a bioweapon? "Official stories" aside, the world wide information highway is our best available tool to look for answers. The truth will eventually be revealed. As of the first week in February, folks are being quarantined as some 4,000 cases a day are diagnosed. And the physician who warned officials early on was verbally quarantined as a rumor monger, now has died of the disease.

Censorship has consequences not only for public safety but for shrinking the marketplace of ideas. Thus, with all the issues about which to educate

ourselves, we should all be outraged at Elizabeth Warren's proposal to censor "disinformation" on social media. Now her plan to "create civil and criminal penalties for knowingly disseminating false information" is limited to influencing elections. But once acquiesced to, censorship tends to metastasize to other areas. The paternalistic powers that be, worried that the unwashed masses will not be able to discern conspiracy theories from alternate positions, will determine your opinion for you.

Social media, while ubiquitous and public, are private speech. For years, social media platforms have "moderated" content using opaque algorithms that are finally coming to light. While safeguards were designed to eliminate dangerous or abusive content, certain viewpoints are

more likely to be censored by Twitter and Facebook than others, perverting the

marketplace of ideas. Censorship has now infiltrated our routine social interactions under the guise of offensiveness. There was a time when the seven words you cannot say on television were blatant profanities. Now it's like whack a mole trying to keep up with what we are allowed to say not only online but in polite mixed company. California tried to pass a law where someone using "he" instead of "she" could face a \$1,000 fine and up to a year in jail. It's gotten to the place where animal lovers are offended if we call our dogs "pets" rather than our companions.

Most importantly, political opinions should go viral, not be quarantined. Many folks with opinions differing from those of the tribal chieftains find themselves whispering in dark corners like drug dealers. Actually, drug dealers in San Francisco have it better: they can sell drugs openly on the street without recourse. The LGBT tribe attempted to quarantine gay conservatives who did not fit the mold by cancelling scheduled #WalkAway

town hall venues citing #WalkAway as a hate group. The hate? Encouraging LGBT folks to leave the Democrat party. Undeterred, they move the town halls to the streets. Scott Presler, a conservative gay man who is cleaning up inner cities across America, concludes that "what the left fears most is other people seeing that we exist."

We have presidential candidates with disparate views from socialism to freedom from government regulations. We want Bernie Sanders to explain why public ownership of utilities, banks and major industries is something that would improve our lives in the long term and how that is consistent with our Constitution. Or Pete Buttigieg to defend abolishing the electoral college. What we don't want is the power brokers quarantining those who do not bow to their orthodoxy. Why is it that CNN excluded Rep. Tulsi Gabbard (who is known for not being influenced by special interest groups) from its town halls

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WEST TEXAS COUNTY COURIER

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

MAIL:
15344 Werling Ct.
Horizon City, TX 79928

Phone: 852-3235

E-mail: wtcc@wtcc.com

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Homesteader
Est. 1973
News, Inc.

District 76

From Page 1

ensuring access to health care; supporting small businesses; fighting for a living wage; promoting reproductive justice; encouraging heritage tourism and historic preservation; fighting anti-border rhetoric; defending LGBTQIA rights; engaging youth in civic programs; taking care of the environment; and ending gun violence.

Ordaz Perez grew up in El Paso's eastside and currently lives in the Mission Valley neighborhood. She attended O'Shea Keleher Elementary, Slider Middle School, and was graduated from Montwood High School in 2004. She received her undergraduate degree from UTEP.

As part of her public service, Ordaz Perez served under two local influential political leaders: former Congressman Silvestre Reyes and former State Senator Eliot Shapleigh. She stated that working as a staffer in both the federal and state legislatures gave her professional experience in understanding and addressing some of the most pressing public policy problems that impact this region's economic competitiveness, such as access to quality health care, K-12 public education, higher education, and the need for greater local economic development.

Among her priorities as a state representative, Ordaz Perez listed issues concerning parental leave, public education, health care, and animal welfare. She stated that she has been a vocal advocate for initiatives to make El Paso a more family friendly city, to strengthen animal welfare policies such as making El Paso a "no-kill" city, and to help reform El Paso's municipal court system.

With two young, competent, professional women seeking to continue their public service aspirations as the District 76 state representative for the next two years, El Paso's District 76 voters have a tough decision to make in this primary election.

Early voting lasts through Friday, February 28. National, state, and local primary elections are scheduled for Tuesday, March 3. Primary election winners move on to compete in the November general election.

Mike Bloomberg's offensive campaign



The rich are different from you and me – they can buy themselves instant presidential campaigns.

Former New York Mayor Mike Bloomberg has elbowed himself into the Democratic nomination race solely on the basis of his fortune.

His campaign is high-handed as only a billionaire many times over could even contemplate. He entered late, is skipping the early contests and hasn't participated in any of the debates to date (although that will change soon, thanks to the Democratic National Committee retrofitting its rules for Bloomberg).

It's a free country, and with more than \$50 billion to his name, Bloomberg can spend as much money as he likes on whatever suits his fancy. But Bloomberg 2020 is still an affront to small-d democratic sensibilities, a tribute not to his superior political skills or messaging compared with the other candidates, but to his access to an enormous personal bank account.

The level of his spending is truly astonishing – Croesus^[1] goes all-in on Super Tuesday. Bloomberg spent more than \$300 million on various forms of advertising. He's single-handedly changed the market for TV ads in many places. He spent \$10 million on

a Super Bowl spot, or about half of what Joe Biden raised in the entire fourth quarter.

This is the Bloomberg way. He spent a quarter of a billion dollars to become and stay New York mayor for three terms. He was eligible for his third term only because he got a term-limit law changed, with the support of charities that he happened to make generous donations to.

What's wrong with all this, beyond the cynicism of thinking

everything has a price tag? Maybe Bloomberg is right, that trying to go in and convince voters of your appeal at town hall events and meet-and-greets in places like Iowa and New Hampshire is for suckers.

But there is much to be said for grassroots politics. It forces candidates to take account, up close and personal, of what their voters believe and want. As president, Abraham Lincoln devoted serious time to meeting

with random people who showed up to see him, in what he called "public opinion baths."

The candidate who does countless of these early-state events must have the ability to inspire and impress, think on his feet, show endless patience and stamina. If he's not up for it, or is a pretender, he will inevitably be exposed.

In comparison to the other candidates, Bloomberg is a Wizard of Oz candidate, shielded

and inflated by his TV ads.

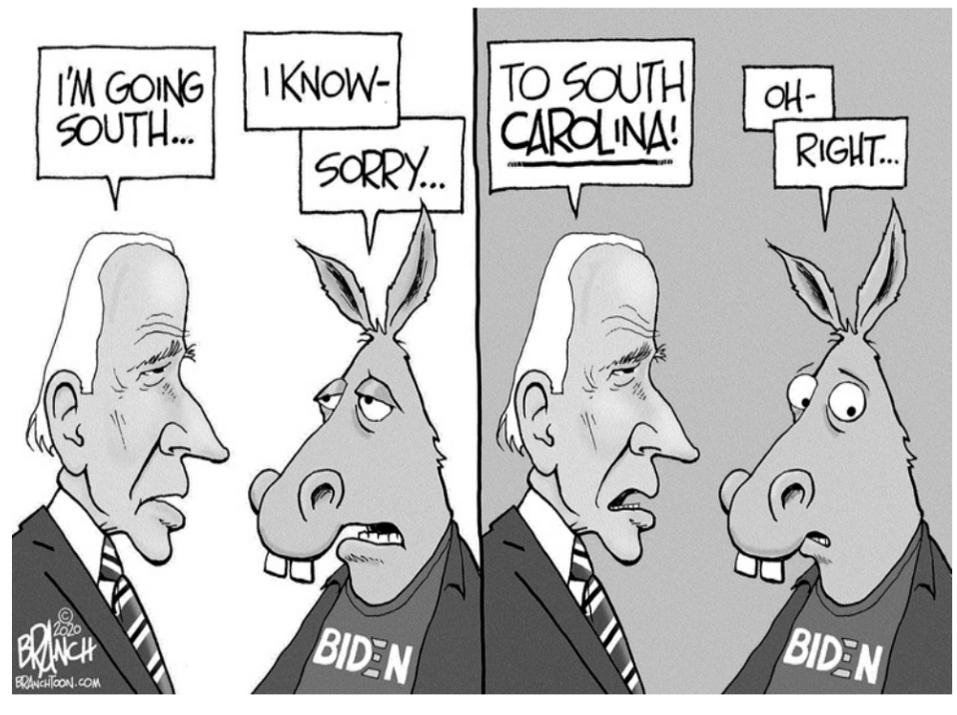
Another advantage of the traditional approach is that anyone can do it. Pete Buttigieg, the unknown mayor of a small Indiana town, finished strong in Iowa through sheer talent, tireless work and clever messaging.

All this said, perhaps Bloomberg will break all the rules and be the last man standing between Bernie Sanders and the cusp of the American presidency. Then, his spending might look to a lot of Democrats like a public service. There is also no denying that Bloomberg is a genuinely talented man.

Yet this style of campaigning shouldn't be the norm. If Bloomberg succeeds, he will enrich many TV stations, consultants, pollsters and campaign workers, but impoverish our politics.

[1] A King of Lydia, well known as being extremely wealthy.

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



AMAC files amicus brief for price transparency litigation

By John Grimaldi
Special to the Courier

NATION – Giving voice to the majority of Americans who want price transparency in healthcare, the Association of Mature American Citizens (AMAC) has joined other patient advocacy groups to jointly submit an Amicus Brief to support the Department of Justice’s motion for summary judgment in American Hospital Association (AHA), et. al., v. Azar.

At the heart of the case is a disagreement over whether the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) overstepped its authority when it issued a regulation last November that would compel hospitals and other health providers to disclose their cash and negotiated contract prices to patients in a clear, easy-to-access format. The AHA and a

cohort of hospitals sued to block the requirement, which was set to go into effect January 2021.

PatientRightsAdvocate.org (PRA) led the coalition of transparency supporters in filing the brief, which was prepared and filed by counsel Jeffrey Harris, a partner with Consovoy McCarthy PLLC, in Arlington, Virginia.

In addition to AMAC, PRA is joined on the brief by Independent Women’s Law Center, (IWLC), and the Texas Public Policy Foundation (TPPF).

Amici argue that many American workers have high-deductible plans, which make negotiated prices part of their “out of pocket” costs and rebut AHA claims that forcing disclosure violates the parties’ First Amendment rights. As amici notes, hospitals and insurance companies routinely disclose prices in their explanation of benefits statements. Their rates

are not secret, just revealed after it’s too late for patients to choose more cost-effective care.

According to a Harvard-Harris poll, a bipartisan 88 percent of Americans support government mandates for hospitals and insurance companies to show their prices.

“America’s seniors are among the most vulnerable,” said AMAC Action Senior Vice President Andrew Mangione. “Although those over age 65 make up only 15 percent of the population they account for more than a third of health care spending. Opaque prices can be especially devastating to them. We hope to extend these transparency rules beyond hospitals to include prescription drug prices as well.”

The AHA and a consortium of other hospital groups filed suit against HHS in December 2019 to stop the Trump Administration’s price transparency rule requiring hospitals to disclose their negotiated rates and cash prices.

The hospital lobby maintains that HHS exceeded its statutory authority under the Administrative Procedure Act and violated the First Amendment by mandating speech in a manner that fails to directly advance a

substantial government interest.

However, no court has ever invoked the First Amendment to invalidate government efforts to provide truthful, accurate information to consumers about marketplace transactions. Furthermore, as the Amicus Brief argues, the Supreme Court has emphasized that “[s]o long as we preserve a predominantly free enterprise economy, the allocation of our resources in large measure will be made through numerous private economic decisions.”

If the Court sides with the amici and grants HHS’s motion for summary judgment, the case will be dismissed, and the rule will stand. The Court is expected to hand down a decision in the coming weeks.

Visit <https://www.patientrightsadvocate.org/s/Patient-Rights-Advocate-Amicus-Brief.pdf> for the full brief.

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

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EPCC earns high mark for work with military

By Jim Heiney
Special to the Courier

EL PASO COUNTY – El Paso Community College (EPCC) was recognized with a 2020-2021 Military Friendly School Gold designation by VIQTOY. Now in its 10th year, the list has come to set the standard for higher education institutions to provide the best opportunities for veterans and their spouses.

“EPCC is committed to providing targeted support to veterans, military members and their families including clearing roadblocks to registration, developing clear pathways for degree or program completion, enhancing career exploration and improving networks for course acceptance and transfer,” Dr. William Serrata, EPCC President, said.

To achieve Gold status, EPCC’s score was within 10% of the 10th ranked school. El Paso Community College proudly serves over 3,000



service members, veterans and their families. EPCC’s mission is to serve students in the most effective and efficient way possible so they may achieve their educational goals.

The VIQTOY Military Friendly Schools list is created each year based on extensive research using public data sources for more than 8,800 schools nationwide and responses to the proprietary, data-driven survey from participating institutions. Visit www.militaryfriendly.com for complete information and www.militaryfriendly.com/el-paso-community-college for the full report on EPCC.

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P O L A R I T Y R A Y S A L L S E T

CryptoQuip Answer

If a dog really likes lounging around the wharf, would you call it a dockshund?



By Samantha Weaver

- It was famed cultural anthropologist Margaret Mead who made the following sage observation: “One of the oldest human needs is having someone to wonder where you are when you don’t come home at night.”
- It’s been estimated that a million pigeons live in New York City.
- When pop star Christina Aguilera is on tour, she insists on having a police escort. She hates to be stuck in traffic.
- Next time you’re heading to Illinois, you can stop off in Metropolis and visit the self-declared birthplace of Superman. In honor of their hometown superhero, the citizens erected a 15-foot bronze statue of him on Main Street.
- It was Abraham Lincoln who signed into law the legislation that created the Secret Service. That very night, he was assassinated.

- Those who study such things say that on the 13th of every month, triskaidekaphobia causes a loss of \$83 million to American business due to absenteeism from work and other disruptions.
- The very first CD of a musical recording was made in 1982. The album was “The Visitors” by Swedish pop superstars ABBA.
- In the United States, more babies are born on Oct. 5 than on any other day of the year. If you do the math, you’ll find that New Year’s Eve is 9 months and 5 days before that.
- Wildlife documentarians have captured footage of elephant mothers spanking their calves; sometimes she uses her trunk, and sometimes she goes so far as to pull up a shrub and use it as a switch.

Thought for the Day: “Show me a hero, and I will write you a tragedy.”
– F. Scott Fitzgerald

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Moments in time

THE HISTORY CHANNEL

• On Feb. 17, 1947, with the words, "Hello! This is New York calling," the U.S. Voice of America begins transmitting its radio broadcasts into the Soviet Union. The VOA began in 1942 as a radio program designed to explain America's policies during World War II and to bolster the morale of its allies.

• On Feb. 18, 1885, Mark Twain publishes his famous – and famously controversial – novel "The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn." Twain first introduced Huck Finn as the best friend of Tom Sawyer, hero of his novel "The Adventures of Tom Sawyer" (1876).

• On Feb. 19, 1878, the technology that made possible the modern music business comes into existence in a New Jersey laboratory as Thomas Edison creates the first device to both record sound and play it back: the phonograph.

• On Feb. 20, 1998, American Tara Lipinski wins the gold medal in women's figure skating at the Olympic Winter Games in Nagano, Japan, becoming the sport's youngest gold medalist at age 15.

• On Feb. 21, 1970, national security adviser Henry Kissinger begins secret peace talks with North Vietnamese representative Le Duc Tho at a villa outside Paris. The North Vietnamese were demanding an unconditional U.S. withdrawal on a fixed date.

• On Feb. 22, 1732, George Washington is born in Westmoreland County, Virginia. As leader of the Continental Army in the American Revolution, his success was due in part to his shrewd use of the "ungentlemanly," but effective, tactic of guerrilla warfare against British armies used to close-formation battle-line warfare.

• On Feb. 23, 1958, Formula One champion Juan Manuel Fangio of Argentina is kidnapped in Cuba by a group of Fidel Castro's rebels. Fangio was taken from his Havana hotel the day before the Cuba Grand Prix and was released unharmed after the race ended.

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Briefs

From Page 1

the couch and ottoman. Ms. Fauth-Newberry wanted to get rid of it and had actually thought about burning it. Instead she donated it to the thrift store. Kirby told reporters: "I always thought what would I do if that ever happened and now I know, and it makes me feel good."

– John Grimaldi

Auto financing

With Presidents' Day approaching and consumers having taken out another \$18 billion in auto loan debt in the third quarter of 2019 alone, the personal-finance website WalletHub has released the first-quarter installment of its *Auto Financing Report* along with its in-depth analysis of *2020's Cities that Overspend on Cars*. Texas had 21 cities

ranked in the 99th percentile of cities with the most debt in car loans in the report. El Paso was ranked in the 93rd percentile in the report with a median auto-loan debt of \$18,234. Other auto financing facts:

- Interest rates for new cars are at one of their lowest points in three years, with the average new-car loan today charging 14 percent less interest than the average used-car loan.
- Compared with buyers who have excellent credit, those with fair credit will spend about four times more, or about \$6,031, in interest over the life of a five-year, \$20,000 loan when financing a vehicle.
- The best options for financing a new car include car manufacturers (rates at 28 percent below average) and credit unions (rates at 16 percent below average). Secondary options include regional banks (rates at 12 percent above average) and

national banks (rates at 13 percent above average).

• Car manufacturers continue to lack transparency when it comes to leasing offers, with the average automaker receiving a WalletHub Transparency Score of 4.4 out of 10.

Visit <https://wallethub.com/car-payment-calculator/> for the full report.

Prospective car buyers can check their credit scores for free on WalletHub and take advantage of a *Car Payment Calculator* to determine an auto-loan payment and timeline they can afford.

– Diana Polk

Museum mania

There's a museum dedicated to unknown animals in Portland, ME – go figure. Then there is the National Mustard Museum in Middleton, WI and the Museum of the Weird in Austin, TX. But if you want to visit the Museum of

Hangovers you'll have to go abroad to Zagreb, Croatia. It is the brainstorm of a college student there and is dedicated to chronicling strange and, sometimes, disturbing tales of the "morning after." Founder Rino Dubokovic says his aim is to make people aware of what can happen when they overindulge by sharing stories of odd, and sometimes, scary hangover experiences.

– John Grimaldi

Healthy cities

With health care costs rising and U.S. life expectancy declining for three consecutive years, the personal-finance website WalletHub has released its report on *2020's Healthiest & Unhealthiest Cities in America* as well as accompanying videos. To identify the places where health is a priority, WalletHub

See BRIEFS, Page 6



Fabens Independent School District
P O Box 697
Fabens, Texas 79838
Phone: (915) 765-2600 * Fax: (915) 764-3115

IMPORTANT ACCREDITATION INFORMATION

Dear Fabens ISD Parents, Students, Stakeholders and Community,

Subject: Assignment of Accreditation Status to the Fabens ISD

The purpose of this letter is to inform you that the 2019-2020 accreditation status of the Fabens ISD is **Accredited-Warned**. Under state law, the accreditation statuses that may be assigned to districts include Accredited, Accredited-Warned, Accredited-Probation, and Not Accredited-Revoked. A status of **Accredited-Warned** means that a district exhibits deficiencies in performance that, if not addressed, will lead to probation or revocation of the district's accreditation status.

The Fabens ISD has been assigned an **Accredited-Warned** status due to the ratings assigned to the district in the state's Financial Accountability Rating System. Specifically, the Fabens ISD was assigned a failing grade in the Financial Accountability Rating and scored an F – Substandard Achievement for 2018 and 2019. The district is taking the following steps to address the areas of identified deficiency.

Fabens ISD takes the change in status seriously and is taking measures to analyze and assess district operations for year 2020 and moving forward. The district is prioritizing and evaluating the needs of its students and campuses. In addition, the district is performing a financial and staffing analysis before making decisions and moving forward with added expenditures. The primary goal of the district is to increase its fund balance in order to strengthen the solvency and viability of district operations. Under law, if the current accreditation concerns for the district are not addressed, the district may be assigned an accreditation status of **Accredited-Probation** or **Not Accredited-Revoked**. A Not Accredited-Revoked status means that the TEA no longer recognizes the district as a Texas public school. Districts with an accreditation status below Accredited also may be subject to additional accreditation sanctions as referenced in statute and rule.

For more information regarding the assignment of accreditation statuses to school districts, you may access the TEA website at <http://www.tea.texas.gov/accredstatus/>. This website will provide you with background information as well as links to the Texas Education Code and current commissioner's rules related to accreditation.

If you have additional questions regarding the assignment of an **Accredited-Warned** status to the Fabens ISD, or if you would like additional information about the district's ongoing improvement efforts, please contact Dr. Veronica Vijil at 915-765-2600, vvijil@fabensisd.net.

Sincerely,

Dr. Veronica Vijil

Superintendent

Send Your Newsbrief To:
wtxcc@wtxcc.com

What's all this talk about the GOAT going to Big D?

By Steve Escajeda
Special to the Courier

It's an unusual time of the year for sports.

NFL and college football is over, Major League Baseball is still another month from starting its season, the NBA and NHL are in the rather boring middle part of their seasons.

But don't get me wrong, there are still plenty of things to talk about.

Media types are constantly considering the fate of the Houston Astros and their cheating scandal. There's talk about Zion Williamson and whether he'll eventually be considered the best player of all time. Heck, there's even been talk about whether the coronavirus will impact the upcoming Olympics in Japan.

As always, no matter how slow the sports calendar looks, there are always sports topics to kick back and forth.

There is one topic of conversation, however, that makes me laugh to no end.

The talking heads are actually floating the notion that the most famous free agent in football, Tom Brady – touted

as the "Greatest Of All Time," may sign on to be the quarterback of the Dallas Cowboys.

I don't want to say that idea is stupid... but... well... yes, that idea is monumentally stupid.

While it's true that Brady is a free agent, and it's true that he has said he's willing to consider offers from other teams, the idea that he would leave the Patriots while Belichick is still the coach makes no sense whatsoever.

By the time next season rolls around, Brady will be 43 years old. And for the first time in his career, we saw a slight dip in his accuracy, arm strength and ability to get his team in the end zone.

One of the most overused expressions in sports is about Father Time being undefeated.

And though it's used a lot, it's absolutely true. We saw Peyton Manning's numbers plummet during his last season because of age.

We've seen countless superstars pack it in because they just couldn't keep up with the younger guys anymore.

We saw a glimpse of that last season when Brady threw for just 24 touchdowns.

That was the lowest number of touchdown passes Brady's had in a full season since 2006.

Remember, this is the guy who, back in his prime, threw for 50 touchdowns in a season.

So I think it's an accurate assessment that Father Time is running close behind Brady, and getting a little closer with each passing day.

But that hasn't stopped so-called experts from speculating that the Dallas Cowboys are seriously considering picking up Brady and letting go of Dak Prescott.

Really? They are saying that Jerry Jones would take Brady in a second, to bring more attention to the Cowboys.

Again, really? The Cowboys are already averaging over 90,000 fans a game and are the most profitable sports team on the planet.

Oh, and in case you didn't know, Dak is coming off a season in which he was second in the NFL in passing yards, fourth in touchdown passes in fourth in quarterback rating.

Brady was seventh in yards, 13th in touchdown passes and 17th in quarterback rating.

So why in the world would Jones even contemplate a move like that?

Though Jerry has made some rather curious decisions over the years, this one makes as much sense as forcing coach Jimmy Johnson to leave the team. Oh wait... he did do that.

Okay, I guess anything is possible.

But Prescott just had the best year of his young career.

And since the team is under new management in the way of head coach Mike McCarthy. McCarthy has a history in the development of quarterbacks like Brett Favre and Aaron Rodgers. It's believed Dak will get even better under his tutelage.

I know it's the slow time of year for us sports guys. And I know the weirder the topic, the more fans will tune in.

But let's get one thing straight, Brady isn't going anywhere and neither is Dak Prescott.

One is too old to learn new tricks, and the other is still a pup just getting started.

I guess Trump is right when he says fake news is all over the place.

C'mon you commentators – let's make sports reporting great again!

Briefs

From Page 5

compared more than 170 of the largest U.S. cities across 43 key metrics. The data set ranges from cost of medical visit to fruit and vegetable consumption to fitness clubs per capita. El Paso was ranked in the bottom half at 129th in this report. Other stats:

- Overland Park, KS has the lowest share of physically unhealthy adults, 7.60 percent, which is 2.5 times lower than in Detroit, MI, the city with the highest at 19.20 percent.
- Laredo, TX has the lowest cost per

doctor's visit, \$58.33, which is 3.3 times less expensive than in Boston, MA, the city with the highest at \$191.62.

- Portland, ME has the lowest share of adults eating fruit less than once daily, 28.20 percent, which is 1.8 times lower than in Gulfport, MS, the city with the highest at 51.80 percent.
- Amarillo, TX has the lowest average monthly cost for a fitness-club membership, \$10.17, which is 8.1 times less expensive than in San Francisco, CA, the city with the highest at \$82.83.

Visit <https://wallethub.com/edu/healthiest-cities/31072/> for the full report.

– Diana Polk

She couldn't lose

Eve Dubois gasped when she got the answer wrong during an episode of *Family Feud Canada*. Nevertheless, she went home with a \$10,000 prize. Her gaff occurred when the host of the show asked her "to name Popeye's favorite food." Instead of answering that Popeye, the Sailor Man, preferred "spinach," she eagerly blurted out, "chicken." It caught the attention of the fast food chain, Popeye's Louisiana Kitchen, which awarded her with a gift certificate worth ten thousand dollars in food.

– John Grimaldi

EPCC

From Page 1

in a more campus-like environment."

To further enhance the student experience and provide a more campus-like environment, the Northwest Class-Lab project focuses on the development of a clear point of entry for visitors and students, something the campus has lacked since its initial development.

The new project will provide additional classrooms and three biology labs. It will also include a Flexitorium: a large, multi-purpose event and auditorium space. The Flexitorium will offer flexible seating arrangements and audio-visual equipment conducive to innovative teaching and special events.

Learn more about Districtwide expansion at <http://buildthefuture.epcc.edu>.

To Advertise Call 852-3235 • Archives: www.wtxcc.com

Super Crossword

- SIX FROM THE FAB FOUR ACROSS**
- Approach intrusively
 - Lamenter's sound
 - Process of going bad
 - Attach with heat, as a patch
 - Heart sections
 - When shows are broadcast
 - Butler or maid
 - Fish also called a largemouth
 - Mop
 - At that point
 - CNN anchor Burnett
 - China's Mao _tung
 - 1960s reform movement in China
 - "Sid the Science Kid" network
 - Tracker maker, once
 - Convert to the Koran's religion
 - Chevy model
 - Suffix with towel
 - Korean, Thai or Chinese
 - Precipitating heavily
 - Big Apple sch.
 - Off-white
- DOWN**
- Bails out, e.g.
 - Brag loudly
 - Unconscious state
 - Final non-A.D. year
 - "Mayday!"
 - Blast source
 - _ Picchu (Peruvian site of Incan ruins)
 - Alternative
 - Game venue
 - Zip
 - Mouth liquid
 - Billy Joel hit
 - Planet Mork came from
 - Suffix with social
 - Ad-_
 - Rare violin
 - Undercoat for painting on wood
 - West German city
 - People who mimic
 - "What's _ ya?"
 - Brother or aunt: Abbr.
 - Tangelo trademark
 - Tilts one's body toward
 - Unusual
 - 1983 Streisand film
 - Holy rings
 - Property of a magnet
 - Solar output
 - Fully ready
 - Bank claim
 - Fleur-de_
 - Israeli arm
 - Poke fun at
 - Conduit
 - Coll. hotshot
 - Motivate
 - Island near Venezuela
 - College Web site suffix
 - Set_ (sharp fights)
 - Old United rival
 - Oklahoma oil city
 - Mosaic work
 - Certain skin bulge
 - "You _ see this!"
 - _ Martin (cognac)
 - British queen
 - "Beware the _ of March!"
 - Coke Zero alternative
 - Witch's blemish
 - Secy., e.g.
 - Moreover
 - Vapor
 - Land in water, in Italy
 - Use, as a tool
 - Sweat of one's _
 - "Kill _ killed!"
 - Hold in check
 - Small state ruled by a sovereign
 - Eve's man
 - Actor Max von _
 - Rocker Barrett
 - CBS drama
 - Turn rancid
 - Pet parasites
 - With a sharp picture, for short
 - Hymn start
 - Epithet for Alexander
 - Be a rattink
 - Alexis I, e.g.
 - Jackie's hubby #2
 - Offense
 - Almost
 - Six-pt. plays
 - Cry like _
 - Amplly skilled
 - Rundown
 - Bards' Muse
 - Singer Hall
 - Oven maker
 - Spiteful
 - Passes idly, as time
 - Dryly funny
 - Slaughter of baseball
 - James with a Pulitzer
 - Discreet call
 - MPG monitor
 - Chaplin's title
 - _fi flick
 - Always, poetically
 - Oldies group _ Na Na
 - "Tonka" star Mineo

Answer Page 4

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

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



Viral

From Page 2

despite her having higher poll numbers than participants Andrew Yang and Deval Patrick? Why did the Democratic National Committee change the debate rules for Michael Bloomberg but not for Julian Castro or Cory Booker?

When it comes to medical care, physicians want to be free to discuss all sides any issue with patients. If a physician believes mutilating young

children at the altar of transgenderism is wrong, she should be free to say so. If a physician wants to discuss the pros and cons of vaccination with his patients, his license should not be at risk.

If some physicians believe that single payer health care is wrong for the country's medical care, we want a discussion—not to be labelled a heartless, cruel ignoramus. If we do not want medical decisions to be made by bureaucrats, do not want rationing, and do not want decreased medical innovation, we want the chance to present the facts. While

rank partisanship keeps legislation that promotes personalized medical care from being brought to the House floor, Walmart and CVS are opening clinics staffed by nurse practitioners. We cannot let patients' only options be big corporations or big government.

As Frederick Douglass said, "power concedes nothing without a demand... The limits of tyrants are proscribed by the endurance of those whom they suppress." We cannot cede our personal power to the government. Surely the government has its Constitutional duties, but just like with

containing the 2019-nCoV virus, we still must wash our own hands and cough into our own elbows.

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.

Can chocolate worsen irregular heartbeat?

DEAR DR. ROACH: I am 82 years old and still very active. I have had an irregular heartbeat for four years, and sometimes I feel lightheaded, dizzy or tired. I worry about it getting worse. Would you please give a detailed explanation about irregular heartbeat, including how or why it happens? What should I do to prevent it from getting worse? Is it life threatening? Will it become atrial fibrillation? Also, I am a chocolate lover and eat dark chocolate every day. But I was told that cocoa will make my irregular heartbeat worse and I should stop eating dark chocolate. Is that true? – Q.Y.



Everyone has irregular heartbeats from time to time. Early beats can come from electrically active areas anywhere in the heart, and an electrocardiogram can tell whether they are from the atria (the top chambers) or the ventricles (the bottom chambers) of the heart.

An average person may have 500 or so of these a day – some people have many more. Most are seldom aware of them. Having patients with this concern over and over during my career, I can reassure you that most cases turn out to be nothing to worry about.

However, the fact that you are having symptoms, especially the lightheadedness and fatigue, is a warning sign, and I recommend you get an evaluation. Start with your regular medical provider, after which you may be referred to a cardiologist. The EKG in his or her office is a first step, but you may need a longer evaluation, such as wearing a 24-hour EKG (a Holter monitor) or newer technologies that allow longer readings.

Atrial fibrillation is a concern, because most people will need treatment to reduce stroke risk or to return the rhythm to normal. Nevertheless, there are many other kinds of irregular heart rhythms, and you need a diagnosis first. If no cause is found, there are medications to reduce the irregularity, but they are seldom used. My experience is that when a person knows they are not dangerous, they can be lived with more easily.

Chocolate does contain theobromide, a substance that can make the heart a little more irritable, but it takes a lot of chocolate to have a significant effect. It's related to caffeine in coffee. Interestingly, a recent study found that chocolate lovers are less likely to develop atrial fibrillation, so the situation is more complex than just one chemical.

DEAR DR. ROACH: I read that drinking warm lemon water with honey has many health benefits, partially because lemons are an alkaline food. Is this correct? – B.W.

I think I saw the same article. Lemon water may have some health benefits, but it is not an alkaline food, and drinking it has almost no impact on the acidity of your blood or urine, because the body's buffer systems (the chemical processes used to keep the pH carefully regulated) are so effective. Lemons have a pH of about 2, so they are highly acidic. Ascorbic acid (vitamin C) makes the urine more acidic.

There is no consistent evidence that the foods we eat have a health benefit due solely to their effect on body pH. Many of the foods recommended for their supposed alkaline effects are indeed healthy, but for other, complex reasons apart from pH.

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. (c) 2020 North America Synd., Inc. All Rights Reserved.



Moore Texas by Roger Moore
Marshall has a FIRE ANT FESTIVAL.

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: Z equals L

CR P FKY NVPZZM ZCJVQ

ZKGEYCEY PNKGEF HBV

SBPNR, SKGZF MKG

APZZ CH P FKAJQBGEF?

Answer Page 4

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

		9			4		1	2
	6	3	5					8
2				9	8	3		
		1	7					6
4	2			6		9		
	8				9		4	
3			4			1		
6	1				7		3	
		5		2		6		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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Suicide in a VA hospital



by Freddy Groves

You'd think that hospitals run by the Department of Veterans Affairs would be safe havens when it comes to preventing suicide.

Not so, apparently.

A veteran was a patient at a midwestern VA hospital, having spent the previous three days attempting to go cold-turkey off prescribed medications. He wound up each day at VA and non-VA medical facilities being loaded with IV fluids and sent home. On Day 4, at the VA ER, the veteran was admitted for observation.

When he arrived at ER, the patient asked for help with withdrawal symptoms and told hospital staff about thoughts of suicide and that there was a gun at home.

Now, to this layman's way of thinking, those are some significant clues that the veteran was in possible danger

of suicide.

Since there was no room in the mental health unit, the veteran was put in a medical unit, where he told two more medical staff about suicidal thoughts. Another staff member heard the veteran on the phone giving away possessions but didn't pass on the information.

On Day 8 the patient couldn't be found on the unit and was paged. When there was no answer, staff began to search. Forty-five minutes later the veteran was found dead from suicide.

At the request of a congressman, the Office of the Inspector General for the VA was called in to investigate. Its findings aren't pretty.

The ER didn't report the veteran's talk of suicide to the Suicide Prevention Coordinator. Three other staff members, who had been trained in suicide prevention, did not tell anyone when the veteran talked about suicide. Two of them made notes but there was no indication that medical staff saw them because the work shift had changed.

In other words, the system failed this veteran.

I'm aghast... the veteran spoke to staff in a hospital about suicide and wanting to die. And they let it happen.

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- "It's tax season and that means paper season. If you don't happen to have a rubber finger cover to help you leaf through papers quickly, you can always wrap a rubber band around your fingertip to offer a bit of resistance. It's better than licking your finger!" – R. in Indiana

- If you enjoy puzzles and board games but like to keep them in their original cardboard boxes, be sure to reinforce corners with strong clear tape BEFORE they start to crack and fall apart. Use hook and loop tape to secure bags inside the box cover so that game pieces will stay with the game. There's nothing worse than pulling out a game to find that some pieces have slipped out.

- "This might not be revolutionary, but if you put a tennis ball into a long sock and knot the sock, your dog will really like it. If they play with it outside, you can even put it right into the wash." – K.R. in Alabama

- Remove the neck end of a soda bottle to create a disposable funnel. Use a 2-liter bottle for a large funnel and individual drink size for smaller ones. Rinse and recycle both parts when you are finished.

- Baking soda can be used as a mild abrasive to clean, but it also can help clean your teeth! Keep a small container in your bathroom and sprinkle a little bit of baking soda on your toothbrush weekly to give your pearly whites a polish between professional cleanings.

- Tuck a couple fabric softener sheets in your luggage. You can use them to combat static cling or freshen the air by placing one over the air conditioner vent. It will keep your suitcase fresh-smelling between uses, too.

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.

	+		÷		5
+		-		×	
	÷		+		5
-		×		-	
	÷		+		9
5		4		7	

DIFFICULTY: ★

★ Moderate ★★ Difficult

★★★ GO FIGURE!

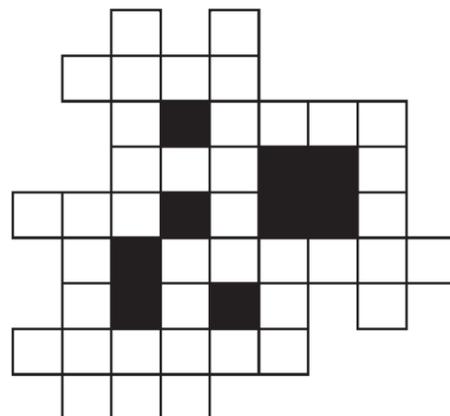
Answer Page 4

2 3 4 5 6 7 7 8 9

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- RYD
- DUSINA
- ♥ WYDRO
- RLSU
- YERGAL
- ♥ OTD
- ♥ ELPA
- ♥ DESIL
- ♥ EUS
- ♥ ARPDET
- DEPUN
- DOGL



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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