

NEWSBRIEFS

Marriage towns

With couples spending an average of over \$38,000 on their wedding and the industry bringing in \$78 billion in revenue in 2019, the personal-finance website WalletHub has released its report on 2020's *Best Places to Get Married* as well as accompanying videos. To help couples find the most wedding-friendly destinations, WalletHub compared more than 180 of the biggest U.S. cities across 27 key indicators of cost-effectiveness, convenience and enjoyment. The data set ranges from average wedding cost to venues and event spaces per capita to weather. El Paso was rank 3rd best marriage site in this report. Other stats:

- El Paso, TX has the lowest average wedding cost, \$12,633, which is 3.3 times lower than in Bridgeport, CT, the city with the highest at \$41,457.
- Orlando, FL has the most event planners per capita, 98, which is 16.3 times more than in Baton Rouge, LA, the city with the fewest at 6.
- Yonkers, NY has the most photographers per capita, 239, which is 47.8 times more than in Laredo, TX, the city with the fewest at 5.
- San Francisco, CA has the most musicians per capita, 19, which is 73.1 times more than in Wichita, KS, the city with the fewest at 0.26.

Visit <https://wallethub.com/edu/best-places-to-get-married/18721/> for the full report.

— Diana Polk

Shooter sought

A man shoots at a car and seriously wounds a female teen at an East El Paso intersection. Detectives from the El Paso Police Department are asking the community for help to identify the shooter through the Crime Stoppers. On the night of Sunday, Sept. 22 at 11:10 p.m., two teens and a twenty-year-old were in a white Audi driving northbound on George Dieter. The car came to a stop at the intersection of Pebble Hills due to a traffic signal. At the intersection, the driver of a truck in the turning lane began to exchange words with the teen driver. The driver of the truck pulled out a handgun and the teen driver entered the intersection to flee from the man. As the three drove away, the suspect fired the handgun multiple times at the car. One of his shots struck a 15-year old female who was sitting in the back seat. She was

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Nothing spurs a taxpayer into filing an income-tax return like the expectation of a refund.

— Quips & Quotes

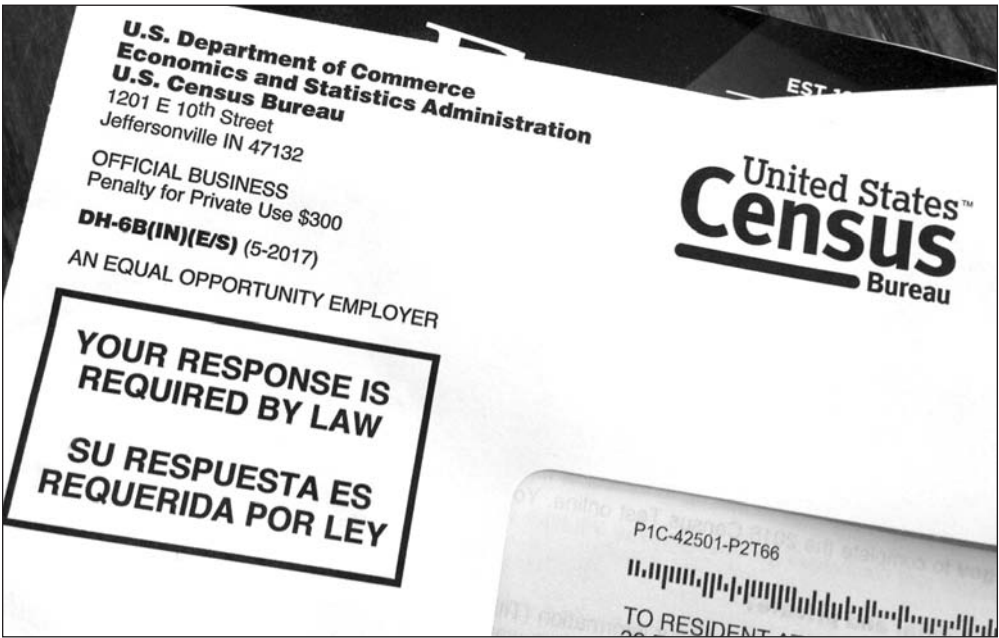
Census mailers to be delivered in March

By Alfredo Vasquez
Special to the Courier

EL PASO COUNTY – Although April 1st is referred to as “Census Day”, most El Paso County households will actually start receiving an invitation to respond to the 2020 Census beginning in mid-March.

The invitation letter will include an Identification (ID) number that is tied to the household’s physical address. Once the household residents get their letters, they are then encouraged to go online with the ID number to respond to the Census. However, the ID number is not required to respond to the Census questionnaire, according to Oscar Arriaga, Census Bureau media specialist for the El Paso and Las Cruces region. He added that individuals can also respond over the phone or wait for a paper form to arrive after a few weeks.

Census Bureau officials noted that about 95 percent of households in the local area will receive the invitation letter in the mail, while the other five percent of the households will be counted through different operations. These include those households that receive mail from a post office box, are in an area of low internet



— Image courtesy U.S. Census Bureau

CHECK YOUR BOXES – El Paso County residents can expect to start receiving the self-response invitation letters for the 2020 Census in March, with April 1st being the reference point, known as “Census Day”.

connectivity, or are considered group quarters – like dorms and nursing homes.

Census officials emphasized that El Paso County residents should fill out their Census because the count is used to base the amount of funds communities will be allotted for constructing new roads, building new schools, providing new healthcare facilities, which subsequently

attracts more businesses to those communities. The Census count also determines the number of representatives a state sends to the U.S. Congress.

Census Bureau personnel are currently working with local and state leaders to promote the Census in the local communities, as the head count endeavor is mandated by the U.S. Constitution, Arriaga pointed out.

The data collected for the census are so vital to communities that a local group of civic leaders started the Paso del Norte Complete Count Committee, which includes more than 40 representatives from various organizations and agencies. Among the members are the County of El Paso, City of El Paso, Paso del Norte Community Foundation, Region 19, Rio Grande Council of Governments, elected officials, business leaders, community-based organizations, and other stakeholders who are committed to a complete count, according to Enrique Mata, senior program officer for the Paso del Norte Health Foundation (PDNHF).

The PDNHF program officer stated that the committee was established to develop and implement a robust, collaborative campaign to work in conjunction with the national Census 2020 efforts so that the greater El Paso area can have the most complete and accurate count of residents possible.

“If the household has not self-responded to the Census after a series of mailing reminders, we will begin sending enumerators (census takers) door to door to collect the responses,” stated Arriaga.

The media specialist also advised concerned individuals to visit the bureau’s website if they have any questions about how and where to be counted, about different language support options, about safety/ privacy issues, and about avoiding scams. The U.S. Census Bureau website, which is under the auspices of the U.S. Department of Commerce, may be accessed at www.2020census.gov.

Garcia is 2020 DREAM Scholar

By Margaret N. Rodriguez
Special to the Courier

EL PASO COUNTY – Aylin Garcia, a freshman economics major at El Paso Community College (EPCC), was competitively selected as a 2020 DREAM Scholar by Achieving the Dream. Garcia competed with hundreds of students nationally, and she is the first EPCC student to receive this recognition. She was one of only eight students selected from across

the country. Not only will she be participating in the conference, she will be presenting and sharing her experience with a nationwide audience.

Garcia has faced significant struggles in her life, yet she has developed the grit and resilience to keep working to fulfill her dreams, like so many EPCC students. Garcia lives in Ciudad Juarez, Mexico, right across the international border with El Paso, TX. Each day, she crosses the quarter-mile long bridge

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SISD Pre-K, K, 3-year-old student registration is April 4

Pre-K opportunities expand with free full day for all 4-year-olds and new 3-year-old student program

By Christy Flores-Jones
Special to the Courier

EL PASO COUNTY – The Socorro Independent School District (SISD) is expanding opportunities for young students across the region by offering for the first time a free full-day pre-kindergarten program for all 4-year-olds and a new program for 3-year-old students. SISD’s early childhood programs provide engaging, hands-on

learning to build a solid foundation for students to succeed in their academic journey. The curriculum includes social and emotional development, language development, technology, social studies, math, science and physical development. In addition, new Pre-K and kindergarten students may apply for the Dual Language Academy.

“We are eager to welcome new students to our outstanding school district, especially 3- and 4-year-olds who will benefit greatly from the endless opportunities in Team SISD,” said SISD Superintendent José

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The low Barr

President Donald Trump is right that he does “have, as president, the legal right” to meddle in Department of Justice decisions. However, when he makes public comments, or when it can be shown that he has privately discussed any federal criminal case with his Justice subordinates, it should be considered undue interference, and a judge should order that all prosecutions of affected individuals or groups be halted. Furthermore, another count of obstruction of justice should be added to the list of criminal charges he will face when he leaves the White House.

Attorney General Bill Barr was also correct when he said in his ABC interview that the POTUS’ incessant Twitbitzing “about the department, about people in the

department, our men and women here, about cases pending here, and about judges before whom we have cases, make it impossible for me to do my job and to assure the courts and the prosecutors and the department that we’re doing our work with integrity.”

For millions of Americans it might be too late to salvage the DOJ’s credibility, particularly since Barr, as its leader, has been all too willing to sacrifice its image of law enforcement independence to cater to whatever malicious whim Trump is having. Time and time again, Barr has demonstrated a willingness to act on Trump’s personal political vendettas or interfere with action against his friends, leaving the impression that he’s willing to be just

another Trumpster attorney, as opposed to maintaining an unyielding reputation of being the nation’s chief federal law enforcer.

With the debacle over Roger Stone, the Barr had gotten so low that he decided that he needed to issue a declaration of independence from the boss. Stone, who has a long history as a political adviser for Trump, had been convicted of lying to Congress, obstructing Congress and intimidating a witness. Justice Department prosecutors recommended a stern sentence to the judge of seven to nine years.

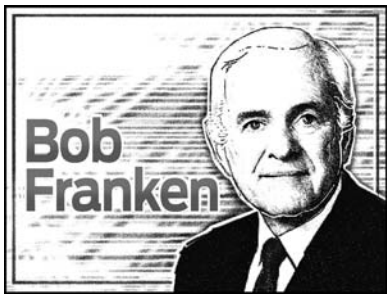
The president tweeted bloody murder. That recommended sentence to his running buddy was “horrible and very unfair.”

Presto change-o! Like a flash, Barr interceded, and the Stone sentencing recommendation was dropped like a, uh, stone.

It was replaced by some milder but unspecified punishment. The clamor over Barr’s reputation as a Trump lapdog (which is a mental image that is outright disgusting) had turned into a small roar – a big roar, actually. So loud that Barr decided he’d need to do something to repair his image, particularly when the four prosecutors all quit.

How about a TV interview? He chose ABC News and declared that he wouldn’t be “bullied or influenced by anybody,” including President Trump, and that, furthermore, Trump should stop with “the tweeting about Department of Justice criminal cases.” So there.

It was the story of the moment: a defiance of Don Trump. Except it wasn’t. Trump was described as being fine with Barr’s little protest, though he’d keep on tweeting because he had the “legal right” to do so.



Meanwhile, it’s just another Trump outrage wasted on Democrats, who are doing all they can to fritter away their advantages, taking shots at each other instead of the daily blasphemies that define Donald Trump. Bill Barr continues to be a team player, in spite of his little pretend tantrum, which Trump either chose to ignore or more probably had a hand in planning.

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View from here

By John Grimaldi

Socialism playing a big role in early days of this year’s election

Progressive Democrats seemingly bribing voters to win

The socialist movement appears to be gaining momentum in the confines of the Democratic Party. Bernie Sanders, an unabashed self-proclaimed [Democratic] Socialist, is leading the pack of Democratic hopefuls after making wins in the Iowa and New Hampshire primaries. And, while polls show that he has a tough road to hoe in the February 29th South Carolina primary, his star has been rising nationally. The pollsters at Real Clear Politics show him ahead of the slate of Democrats in the country-wide

race to see who will go against President Trump in this year’s Presidential Election.

Robert Charles, national spokesman for the Association of Mature American Citizens (AMAC), says that he believes “the socialist movement bodes well for President Trump come November.”

Charles, who has held high-ranking positions under two presidents and spent five years as a congressional counsel, says “our capitalist president has led the nation into an era of undeniable economic progress for

all Americans during his tenure. Voters are well aware of President Trump’s economic successes. A Rasmussen poll conducted for the New Year showed that ‘72% of American Adults think 2020 will be at a minimum a good year.’ His achievements are a fact that bodes well for his re-election as the Democratic Party continues to stand behind costly initiatives such as ‘Medicare for All’ that would bankrupt the nation and its citizens in an effort to bribe voters.”

Charles notes that socialist ideals appear to be attracting a growing population of young voters and voters seeking “more stuff from the government.” He cites promises such as Medicare

for All, guaranteed incomes, tuition-free college, free childcare and the New Green Deal.

“Consider the absurdity of a program put forth by one Democratic presidential contender, Andrew Yang. Before he pulled out of the race last week, he was proposing that the government give each and every American over the age of 18 a so-called Freedom Dividend of \$1,000 a month whether they need it or not. Meanwhile, as soon as Yang dropped out, Rep. Tulsi Gabbard, quickly signaled she would support the idea. Talk about buying votes.”

According to the AMAC spokesman, while the Freedom Dividend is an “irrational” notion that likely went too far for even the most progressive voters, it

is an example of the negative impact a win in November by the likes of Bernie Sanders would have on the American economy.

“Estimates put the cost of just Medicare for All at between \$20 to \$30 trillion. The combined cost of the Democrat’s freebie wish list would cost more than one and quarter trillion dollars – trillion, with a T, leaving the nation on the road to bankruptcy,” says Charles.

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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Years

2020

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

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MAIL:
15344 Werling Ct.
Horizon City, TX 79928




Phone: 852-3235

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

Publisher
Rick Shrum

Contributors
Alfredo Vasquez
Steve Escajeda



Homesteader
Est. 1973
News, Inc.

SISD

From Page 1

Espinoza, Ed.D. “They will have a great start with highly qualified and effective educators who are dedicated to ensuring our youngest students have the instruction and guidance that will lead them to a successful future.”

SISD will have a pre-kindergarten, new kindergarten, and 3-year-old student registration day for the 2020-2021 school year from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, April 4 at all 29 elementary schools across the district.

SISD will offer free, full day Pre-K for all four-year-old students in the 2020-2021 school year, regardless of their eligibility. A child must be 4 years old by September 1, 2020 to qualify.

New kindergarten registration will be held on April 4. This is

only for students not currently enrolled in SISD Pre-K. A child must be 5 years old by September 1, 2020 to qualify.

SISD will begin a free district-wide half-day 3-Year-Old Program in 2020-2021 for 3-year-olds who qualify based on economic, language, homeless or (active) military requirements as established by the state. A child must be 3 years old by September 1, 2020 to qualify. The 3-year-old student program will be housed at O’Shea Keleher Elementary and Escontrias Early Childhood Center.

New Pre-K/kindergarten students (not currently enrolled in SISD Pre-K) will have the opportunity to apply for SISD’S Dual Language Academy. The academy will be available for students in pre-kindergarten and kindergarten for the 2020-2021 school year at Dr. Sue Shook and Myrtle Cooper elementary schools.

Registration will be conducted on an appointment basis and will

begin with an online form. Parents or legal guardians are asked to submit basic information via a secure online form on the SISD website, which will be available beginning March 4, 2020 on www.sisd.net. They can schedule their registration time online. Appointments are on a first come, first served basis. Parents can complete the registration at their scheduled appointment time or on a walk-in basis on April 4. Those that did not secure an appointment will be able to register on a first come, first served walk-in basis on April 4.

The following documents will be required during registration: student birth certificate, immunization record, social security card (optional), a current utility bill, and an identification for the parent or legal guardian registering the child.

For more information on registration, visit: <https://www.sisd.net/Page/790>.

William Barr is his own man

Can the republic survive Attorney General William Barr? That's the question that has seized the media and center left, which have worked themselves into a full-blown panic over an attorney general who is, inarguably, a serious legal figure and one of the adults in the room late in President Donald Trump's first term.

Some 2,000 former Justice department employees have signed a letter calling on Barr to resign. An anti-Barr piece in The Atlantic opined that "it is not too strong to say that Bill Barr is un-American," and warned that his America is "a banana republic where all are subject to the whims of a dictatorial president and his henchmen."

This is impressive heavy-breathing over an AG whose alleged offense doesn't hold a candle to the greatest hits of his predecessors:

Woodrow Wilson's attorney general A. Mitchell Palmer carried out raids to arrest suspected leftists in the wake of World War I.

Bobby Kennedy, serving as his brother's attorney general, authorized the wiretapping of Martin Luther King Jr.

William Barr changed the sentencing recommendation of Roger Stone from its original, excessive call for a sentence of seven to nine years.

It's not clear why the country would collapse into dictatorship if Stone is sentenced to fewer than seven years in prison, especially given that the judge has complete discretion to impose whatever sentence she sees fit.

The suspicion is that Barr was doing Trump's bidding, but the attorney general maintains – and he hasn't been contradicted – that he was surprised by the initial, maximalist sentencing recommendation and he intended to amend it prior to Trump's fulminations.

If Barr were truly Trump's henchman, he would have squashed the Stone case rather than merely recommending a little less jail time at the end. Indeed, Barr said in an ABC News interview that he considered the Stone case a "righteous" prosecution.

Barr allowed the Mueller probe to reach its conclusion unmolested. The extent of his alleged interference was, prior to the release of the report, summarizing its findings in a way that wasn't harsh or detailed enough for Trump's critics.

Finally, he declined to


prosecute former Department of Justice official and frequent Trump target Andrew McCabe for lying to investigators. If Barr is really Trump's Roy Cohn, nailing McCabe would have been Job One.

No, all the evidence suggests that Bill Barr is doing his best to render fair justice in the treacherous environment created by a president of the United States who routinely comments on pending criminal cases and investigations and by the Justice department's own politically

fraught, overly zealous intervention in the 2016 election and its aftermath.

It's no wonder that Barr has a poorly disguised contempt for his critics, many of whom are so inflamed by their opposition to Trump that they've lost any sense of standards. In a peppery speech to a Federalist Society conference last year that is now one of the counts against him, Barr rightly warned that "it is the left that is engaged in a systematic shredding of norms and the undermining of the rule of law."

At the end of the day, they really don't want Trump to have



THE RICH LOWRY COLUMN

an attorney general, but that's not going to happen. If they force Barr out – or more likely, Trump's continued tweeting pushes him over the edge – they'll miss him when he's gone.

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

Penley elected to statewide office



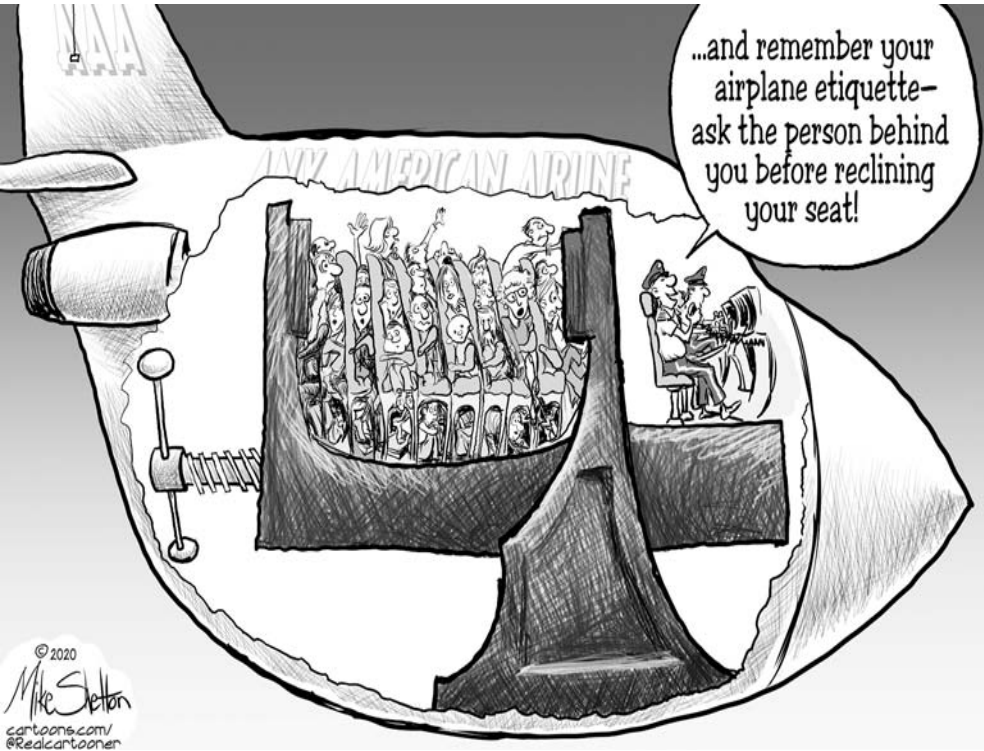
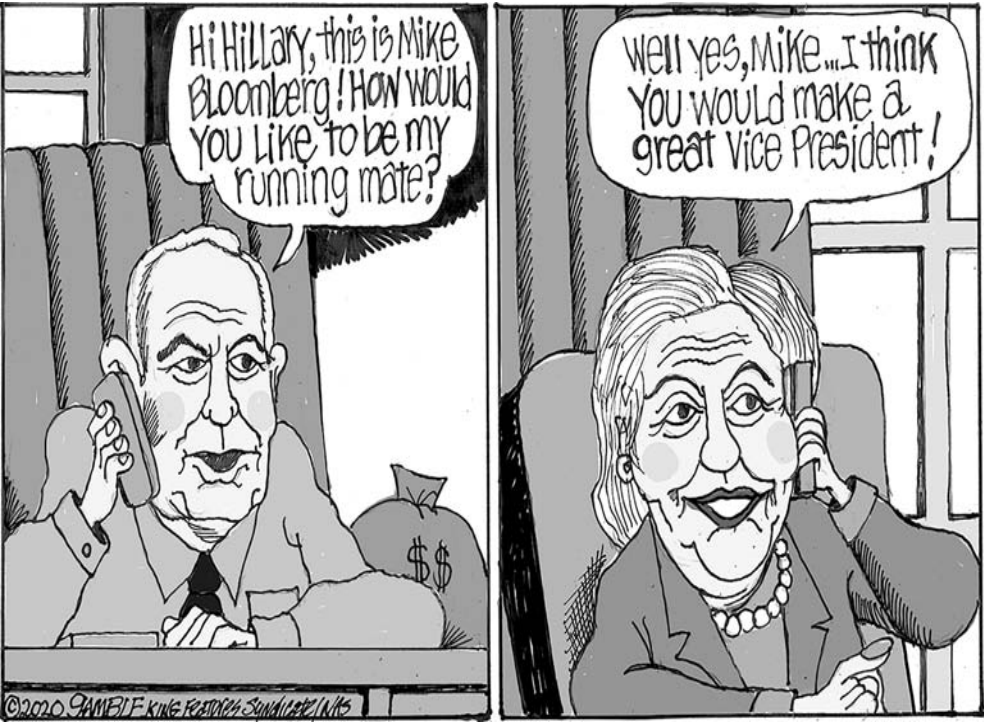
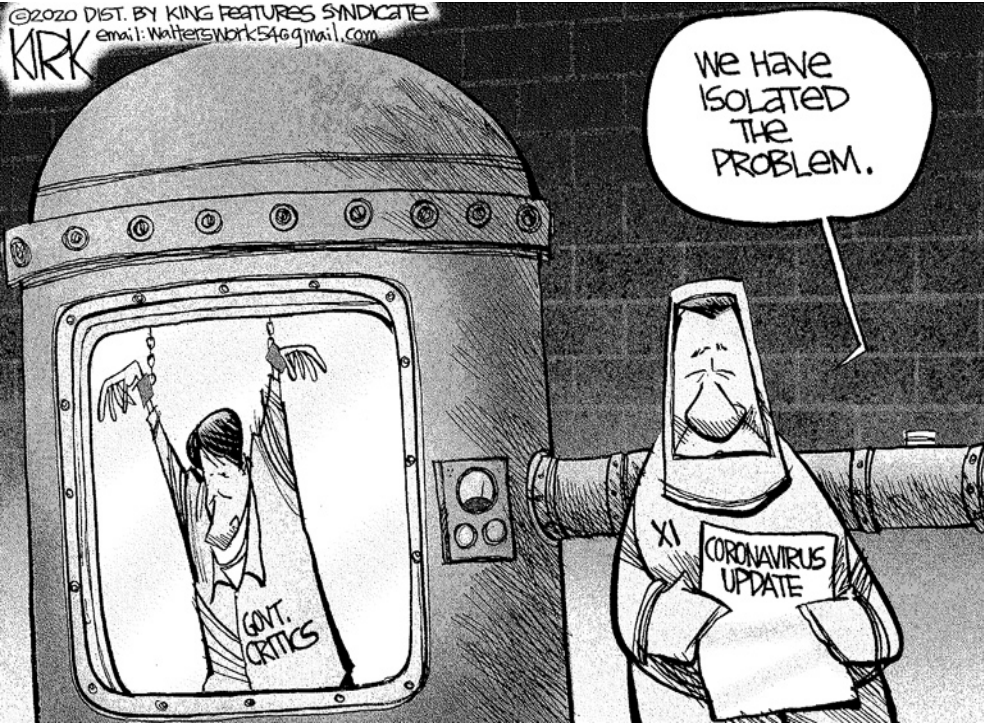
– Photo courtesy EPCC
Dr. Julie Penley

By Jim Heiney
Special to the Courier

EL PASO COUNTY – Julie Penley, Ph.D., El Paso Community College's (EPCC) Vice President of Research, Accreditation and Planning has been elected to the Texas Women in Higher Education (TWHE) Board of Directors. Penley will serve on the board until 2021 and will work to transform higher education leadership in Texas and beyond.

Penley came to EPCC in 2002 and has since served in various roles including being the Dean of Instructional Programs and Campus Dean of the Mission del Paso Campus. She has also served on numerous local, state, and national boards and committees dedicated to higher education, and is beginning her second term on the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board's Undergraduate Education Advisory Committee. She holds a master's degree and doctoral degree in Experimental Psychology from the University of Texas at El Paso, as well as a master's in Higher Education Administration from New

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Briefs

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critically injured. The shooter is described as a Hispanic male, average height, with short hair and a full beard. He was wearing a gray baseball cap and a yellow t-shirt. The suspect’s vehicle was a newer model truck or S.U.V. that appears to be “lifted”. The suspect fled westbound

on Pebble Hills. Anyone with information on this case should call Crime Stoppers of El Paso immediately at 566-8477 (TIPS), or online at 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

State capitals

Some state capitals rank amongst the richest metro

areas in the U.S., but not all of them offer the best quality of life. To take a closer look at this issue, the personal-finance website WalletHub has released its report on 2020’s *Best State Capitals to Live In* as well as accompanying videos. To identify the most livable seats of state government, WalletHub compared all 50 state capitals across 49 key metrics, ranging from cost of living to K–12 school-

system quality to number of attractions. The report rated Austin, TX as the best state capital to live in. Other stats:

- Austin, TX has the highest median household income (adjusted for cost of living), \$67,938, which is 2.3 times higher than in Hartford, CT, the city with the lowest at \$28,977.
- Montpelier, VT has the

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Strange BUT TRUE

By Samantha Weaver

- It was American humorist Evan Esar who came up the following definition: “Statistics: The only science that enables different experts using the same figures to draw different conclusions.”
- The Emperor Charlemagne, who conquered much of Western and Central Europe during the first century, had an unusual relationship with his daughters. He refused to allow them to get married, but he evidently had no objections to their forming, shall we say, less formal relationships. He doted on his illegitimate grandchildren and even gave money and gifts to their fathers.
- If you look at a list of the names of the 50 states, you’ll find every letter of the alphabet except Q.
- For reasons unknown, a law in New Jersey forbids the sale of cabbage on Sunday.
- You’ve probably never heard of Countess Rosa Branicka, but she accomplished an amazing feat. In the mid-19th century, at the age of 63, the wealthy Polish noblewoman became ill. The diagnosis given by experts in Germany was breast cancer, and immediate surgery was recommended. For reasons unknown, the countess declined the treatment, then set about purchasing her own surgical instruments. Once all the tools were assembled, Branicka checked into a hotel in Paris and removed the tumor herself. Reports indicate that she healed well and quickly, and lived to the ripe old age of 82.
- The only chemical element that is not a solid at a temperature of absolute zero is helium; it remains a liquid.

Thought for the Day: “One glance at a book and you hear the voice of another person, perhaps someone dead for 1,000 years. To read is to voyage through time.”

– Carl Sagan

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Ya know what there Pardner...

This calendar BEGINS MARCH 2ND

TEXAS INDEPENDENCE DAY


The real Texas New Year!

MARCH 2020

Billy, did you know that TEXAS was once its own Nation?

COOL... what's a nay-shun?

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY		
	1836: The TEXAS DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE was adopted at Washington-on-the- Brazos. 2	1837: The U.S. recognized the Republic of Texas as an independent nation exactly one year and one day after the Texas Declaration of Independence was adopted. 3	4	1861: Texas once again declared itself a nation for a few days before joining the Confederate States of America. 5	1836: The Alamo falls to Santa Anna's army. 6	7		
8	9	10	11	12	13	14		
15	1903: Judge Roy Bean, known for his eccentric brand of frontier justice, passed away. 16	1836: David Burnet and Lorenzo de Zavala are sworn in as Texas' first Chief Executives. 17	<p>The 2020/2021 Texas calendar is the 22nd edition! We started in 1998 and we've spread lots of Texas all over the world in two decades. The new calendar is still full of Texas history cartoons and important (and whimsical) facts. Enjoy your calendar and learn more about Texas.</p> <p>It still begins on March 2nd, Texas Independence Day, and the retail price \$8.95 and includes tax and shipping.</p> <p>☞ 8½" x 11" monthly calendar pages</p> <p>☞ 8½" x 14" back sheet with personalized "exposed" tab area 8½" x 3"</p>			1845: New Braunfels was founded by a wagon train of German immigrants. 21		
22	23	24				27	28	
29	30	31						
						March has been designated TEXAS HISTORY MONTH by the state legislature. Enjoy & Educate!!		
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY		



TO ORDER: WWW.TEXASCALENDARS.COM OR P.O. Box 155 - MERKEL, TX 79536 ★ 512.413.0392

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CryptoQuip Answer

During college, do gung-ho podiatrists aspire to get to the foot of the class?

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Moments in time

THE HISTORY CHANNEL

- On Feb 24, 1868, the U.S. House of Representatives votes 11 articles of impeachment against President Andrew Johnson, nine of which cite Johnson's removal of Secretary of War Edwin M. Stanton, a violation of the Tenure of Office Act. He was the first president to be impeached in U.S. history.
- On Feb. 25, 1873, Enrico Caruso, the greatest tenor who ever lived, is born. Caruso recorded scores of arias of three and four minutes in length – the longest duration that could fit on a 78 rpm record.
- On Feb. 26, 1564, poet and playwright Christopher Marlowe is baptized in Canterbury, England, two months before the birth of his fellow playwright William Shakespeare. Historians believe Marlowe served as a spy for Queen Elizabeth while at Cambridge. He was nearly denied his master's degree in 1587, until the queen's advisers intervened.
- On Feb. 27, 1827, a group of masked and costumed students dance through the streets of New Orleans, marking the beginning of the city's famous Mardi Gras celebrations. Early French settlers brought the tradition of Mardi Gras to the U.S. Gulf Coast at the end of the 17th century.
- On Feb. 28, 1983, the celebrated sitcom "M*A*S*H" bows out after 11 seasons, airing a special two-and-a-half hour episode watched by 77% of the viewing audience. It was the largest percentage at the time ever to watch a single TV show.
- On Feb. 29, 1940, "Gone with the Wind" is honored with eight Oscars, including one for Hattie McDaniel for her portrayal of "Mammy," a housemaid and former slave. She was the first African American actor ever to win an Oscar.
- On March 1, 1961, President John Kennedy issues Executive Order No. 10924 to establish the Peace Corps, which would send trained American men and women to foreign nations to assist in development efforts.

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Send Your Newsbrief To: wtxcc@wtxcc.com

Garcia

From Page 1

between the two countries to attend EPCC's Rio Grande campus. Although the two cities' cultures, residents, and economies are closely connected, Garcia said she still felt a bit of a culture shock when she first started commuting daily to attend EPCC and is, "still adapting to the American education system and looking forward to opportunities to grow as a human being and as a student."

Garcia's family encouraged her studies. However her parents struggled with their own personal issues including addiction. This led to a turbulent home life for Garcia and her siblings. But she always felt anchored and supported by her grandmother throughout her rollercoaster of a childhood. She taught Garcia that responsibilities and obligations must be placed on the top of our priorities.

Garcia found belonging and purpose at school, where she excelled academically and participated in a variety of extracurricular activities, like robotics and basketball. Garcia attended Preparatoria Central and the Instituto Tesla, both in Ciudad Juarez. She received rigorous academic training at Preparatoria, instilling a deep intellectual curiosity and love of learning. At Tesla, she learned more about how to be a good human being and developed strong interpersonal and relationship-building skills. Garcia also gained confidence



– Photo courtesy EPCC

LIVING HER DREAM – Aylin Garcia says the DREAM scholarship will her pursue her dreams.

in her identity and came out to her family, which led to further estrangement with her father. She realized then that she had no control over the reactions of others.

Garcia reconnected strongly with her mother her senior year of high school, but, sadly, her mother became ill with cancer and died a month after Garcia's graduation. Garcia never lost her focus on excelling in school, but internally she felt shattered and lost. "Life just lost its sense, its purpose," according to Garcia during her dark days after her mother's death. She reflected on the many life lessons her mother had taught her, and she determined that she would have to give her own life a purpose.

After taking a semester to recover from this devastating loss, Garcia started at EPCC. She had to adapt to a different culture attending college in the United States, but she knows she is making the best decision to attend college, to forge a life of her own making. In doing so, Garcia is also honoring her mother, whose only source of genuine happiness was Garcia's success in school, and her grandmother, who sacrificed to give her grandchildren a better life.

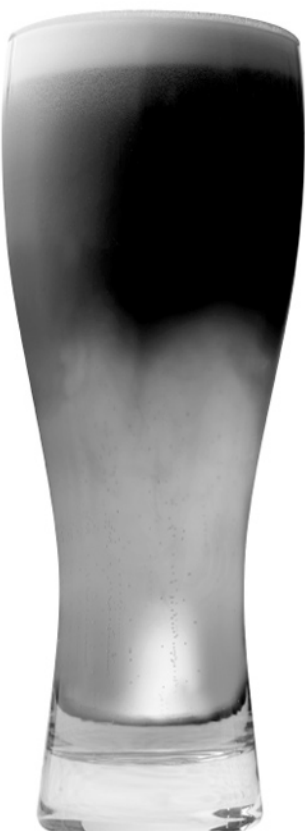
At EPCC, Garcia manages her time wisely to balance her academics with her job. She spends up to two hours daily on the bridge to attend classes because she cannot yet afford an apartment in El Paso. She persists and knows that all will be worth it and to always fight for her dreams, as her mother constantly told her. After EPCC, Garcia plans to transfer to New Mexico State University to continue her studies. She is excited to attend the 2020 DREAM Conference, where she will have a unique opportunity to learn about the higher education system and to build professional skills and networks with the other DREAM Scholars. Garcia firmly believes that, "I get to lead the life I want to lead," in her personal and academic life. Through her hard work to grow from painful personal experiences to attend college and pursue her dreams, she is a living testament of this statement.

Penley

From Page 3

Mexico State University.

The TWHE is part of the American Council on Education Women's network representing Texas. TWHE is a Texas non-profit corporation dedicated to developing, advancing and supporting women employed at colleges and universities across the state. TWHE is committed to providing its members with the skills needed to reach leadership positions and to enhancing the leadership skills of those already in such roles.





The "It's Only Another Beer"

Black and Tan
8 oz. pilsner lager
8 oz. stout lager
1 frosty mug
1 icy road
1 pick-up truck
1 10-hour day
1 tired worker
A few rounds with the guys

Mix ingredients.
Add 1 totalled vehicle.

Never underestimate 'just a few.'
Buzzed driving is drunk driving.



Fabens Independent School District PUBLIC NOTICE

The Fabens Independent School District Special Education Department will be destroying confidential student information on special education students who have graduated, moved or were dismissed in 2012. Parents of these students may come to the Special Education Department located at 603 NE Camp Street. in Fabens on Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. to claim their child's file. The remaining files will be destroyed as per state directives 30 days from the date of this notice. If you have an questions, please call (915) 765-2690.

AVISO

El Departamento de Educación Especial del Distrito Escolar de Fabens va a destruir los archivos confidenciales de estudiantes que estaban en el programa de educación especial que han graduado, se han movido, o fueron despedidos en el año escolar de 2012. Los padres de estos estudiantes pueden venir a la oficina del Departamento de Educacion Especial del Distrito Escolar de Fabens en 603 NE Camp Street, de lunes a viernes de 8:00-4:30 de la tarde a recoger los archivos de sus hijos. Los archivos que no sean recogidos van a ser destruidos como manda el estado en 30 días después de este aviso. Si tienen preguntas, llamen al teléfono (915) 765-2690.

WTCC: 02-27-20

If it ain’t broke, the NFL shouldn’t try to fix it

By Steve Escajeda
Special to the Courier

Anybody in business will tell you that to stay in business, you have to keep evolving.

No matter how successful a business is, there is always room for occasional tweaks.

Well, of course that depends on the type of tweaks.

By far, the most popular sport in these United States is the hard-hitting game of football.

Football is popular at the pee-wee, high school and college level.

But it’s the National Football League that is the most watched and followed of them all.

So if the NFL is that popular, it must be doing things the right way.

And though we’ve all grown up hearing the old adage, “if it ain’t broke, don’t fix it,” the NFL apparently feels it’s time to fix some things.

Only problem is – none of these things are broken.

The NFL is proposing a change in its playoff format. You know, that awesome playoff format that has everyone glued to their TV sets for at the end of every season.

The NFC and AFC each have 16 teams in their conferences. Six of those teams make the playoffs. That’s not a bad ratio, six out of 16.

As it is currently structured, the two best teams get opening-round byes and the other four teams play on Wild Card weekend.

But the NFL wants to change things and allow a seventh team in the playoffs.

That would mean that nearly half of the

teams in a conference would make the playoffs and that’s way too many.

Why do you think the NBA playoffs are unwatchable in the early rounds?

Over half of the NBA teams make the playoffs. That means too many bad, even losing teams – that have no business being in the postseason – advance only to be predictably overwhelmed right away.

Boorrrinnnggg!

Allowing more teams in the NFL playoffs means a greater possibility of some getting in that have no business being there.

The playoffs are supposed to be a reward for only the best teams. As fans, we want to see the best go at it for one game – winner take all.

If you put together a good team against a mediocre one in a matchup that no one would be excited about during the regular season, why would anyone want to watch

that during the playoffs?

Under the new proposal, only the best team in the conference would get an opening-round bye. The other six would play on Wild Card weekend.

That means that instead of two playoff games on Saturday and Sunday, we’d have three games on Saturday and Sunday.

Is that too much? Is that watering down the playoffs? Will that diminish interest?

The NFL is betting it won’t. And speaking of betting, the NFL has entered into the sports gambling business. They stand to make billions of dollars with more playoffs games on the schedule.

What’s more, the NFL is also proposing to go to a 17-game regular-season schedule in a couple years.

Let’s see, I don’t claim to be a mathematical wizard, but if I remember my third grade teacher, Mrs. Bell – 17 is an odd number.

And in any schedule, you need an even number to ensure the home and away games are distributed equally.

So the NFL is proposing a schedule that will be uneven. Some teams will actually play an extra home game and some unfortunate teams will play an extra road game.

I wonder how well that will be received when a team misses the playoffs by a single game because they had more games away from home than the team that made the playoffs.

The only good idea in all of this is that fact that the league is proposing one less preseason game – which are also games nobody cares about.

I’m not saying the NFL is perfect the way it is – nothing is. But they’re pretty close.

But as always, greed from the owners and the players and the agents and the TV executives will push this through regardless of what the fans want.

If they cared about the fans – the games would be more affordable to the average family.

The NFL has it all wrong, “let’s keep fixing it, until it breaks.”

Get your Social Security Benefit Statement

By Ray Vigil
Special to the Courier

NATION – Tax season is here and we have made replacing your annual Benefit Statement even easier. The Benefit Statement, also known as the SSA-1099 or the SSA-1042S, is a tax form we mail each year in January to people who receive Social Security benefits. It shows the total amount of benefits you received from us in the previous year so you know how much Social Security income to report to the IRS on your tax return.

If you live in the United States and you need a replacement form SSA-1099 or SSA-1042S, simply go online and get an instant, printable replacement form using your personal my Social Security account at www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount. A replacement SSA-1099 or SSA-1042S is available for the previous tax year after February 1.

If you already have a *my Social Security* account, you can log in to your account to view and print your SSA-1099 or SSA-1042S. If you don’t have access to a printer, you can save the document to your computer or email it to yourself. If

you don’t have a *my Social Security* account, creating one is very easy to do and usually takes less than 10 minutes.

If you’re a non-citizen who lives outside of the United States and you received or repaid Social Security benefits last year, we will send you form SSA-1042S in the mail. The forms SSA-1099 and SSA-1042S are not available for people who receive Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits.

With a personal my Social Security account, you can do much of your business with us online. If you receive benefits or have Medicare, your personal *my Social Security* account is also the best way to:

- Request a replacement Social Security number card (in most states and the District of Columbia);
- Get your benefit verification letter;
- Check your benefit and payment information;
- Change your address and phone number;
- Change your direct deposit information;
- Request a replacement Medicare card; and
- Report your wages if you work and receive Social Security disability insurance or SSI benefits.

Visit www.socialsecurity.gov to find more about Social Security online services.

Archives: www.wtxcc.com

Super Crossword

GROUNDING FOR LIFE ACROSS

1 Tostada relative

5 Canonized nun of Assisi

12 Blind as _

16 Run- (rap trio)

19 At the crest

20 Clung

21 "Ticklish" doll

22 Prefix with

53-Across

23 Result of an error in DNA replication

25 " _ Enuff" (1986 top 10 hit)

26 Pantry pest

27 Put back to 000, perhaps

28 "You Needed Me" singer

31 Hit song whose title means "kiss me a lot"

37 Klutzy guy

38 Dogma

39 Burden

40 Commas indicate them

42 Vientiane native

46 "I'm cold!"

47 Reactions to baby pictures

50 Tree cultivated to feed silkworms

52 "Pshaw!"

53 Stylishness

55 Instant, in some product names

56 Guinea- (African country)

57 Month no. 10

58 Giant statues

61 T.Sgts., e.g.

63 Edible fungus cultivated in felled logs

67 Spanish muralist

Joan

71 Acorns, e.g.

72 Notion, to Gigi

73 _ and bred

74 Beelzebub

75 Bygone U.S. gas name

76 Output of R.E.M. or Nirvana

79 R&B great Marvin

80 Hematite, for one

81 Hex- ending

82 Crop further

86 "Hang on _"

89 Spyro _ (jazz band)

90 Former JFK carrier

91 What a "discovery center" may be

95 Ukr., Est. or Lith., once

96 "Kew!"

97 Chicago's business district

98 Wrote

100 "Qué _?" (Spanish greeting)

101 Wallach of "Article 99"

102 Get mellow

104 "Beverly Hills Cop" star

108 "Runaway" short-story writer

112 Really love

113 Perlman of "Hellboy"

114 Fancy affair

115 Statement about the bird hidden in nine answers in this puzzle

122 Detroit-to-Toronto dir.

123 Pindar works

124 Fitness pioneer

Jack

125 Roof edge

126 Equine beast

127 Cager Curry

128 Triumph

129 Swab in a makeup kit

DOWN

1 Gift stick-on

2 Swallowed

3 Scam

4 "Carmen" and "Elektra"

5 " _ me?" ("Whadja say?")

6 Tribal figure

7 Talk to flirtatiously, to a Brit

8 " _ sleeping dogs lie"

9 D-backs, on scoreboards

10 Vintage car

11 Novelist Ferber

12 Big name in life insurance

13 Police officers' sickout

14 Letters on a radio switch

15 Vegan staple

16 Quaint formal letter opener

17 1961-68 defense secretary Robert

18 Competitor of Chanel

24 Org. dues-payer

29 Edged (out)

30 Ceremonial routines

31 "Cabaret" director

32 Embellishes

33 Pledges

34 Raven's cry

35 "How's that?"

36 Egyptian god of the dead

41 Summer, in Brittany

43 "Tuesdays With Morrie" author Mitch

44 Kobe sashes

45 Big Apple sch.

47 Nos. on bank statements

48 "Slow down!"

49 In a smooth, lustrous way

51 Studying secondarily, with "in"

54 Mixed college squad

59 Pal of Hook

60 Litigious sort

62 Truck processions

64 Bridal vow

65 Relative of an I-beam

66 _-Rooter

67 Egyptian _ (cat breed)

68 "Don't fall for that!"

69 Stuff swept away in a downpour

70 Every 24 hours

74 Lipstick slip

76 Big name in transmission repair

77 Christians' _ Creed

78 Bungles

79 Pop singer Vannelli

82 Trio after Q

83 Tiers

84 Telephone connections

85 Antique item

87 "Terrific!"

88 Dialect suffix

92 Shoulder frill

93 German linking word

94 Dr.'s study

99 Senator Feinstein

100 What trig often is for calc

103 Grind, as teeth

105 Sites of bliss

106 Game plays

107 Ending for press

108 Locality

109 Big heads

110 Constructed

111 Lubricates

116 T., in Greece

117 Hybrid bus. entity

118 Fond du _

119 Portly

120 Roman 56

121 "Uh-huh"

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18

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

Answer Page 4

Comix

OUT ON A LIMB

By Gary Kopervas



AMBER WAVES

By Dave T. Phipps



THE SPATS

By Jeff Pickering



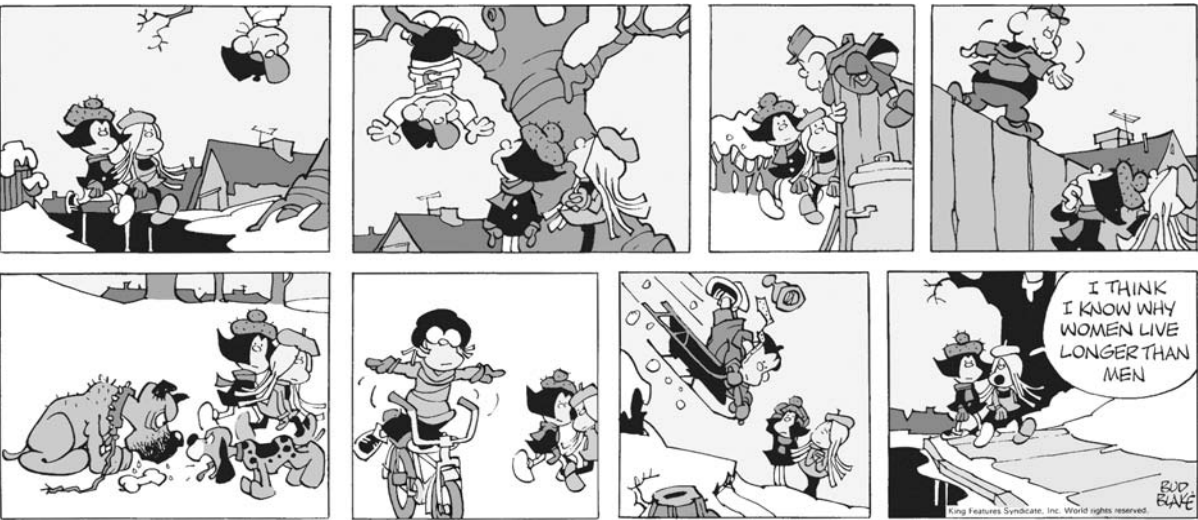
R.F.D.

By Mike Marland



TIGER

By Bud Blake



Briefs

From Page 4

lowest unemployment rate, 1.60 percent, which is 4.2 times lower than in Harrisburg, PA, the city with the highest at 6.70 percent.

- Montpelier, VT has the highest share of adults 25 years and older with at least a bachelor's degree, 61.60 percent, which is 5.3 times higher than in Trenton, NJ, the city with the lowest

at 11.70 percent.

- Montpelier, VT has the lowest violent-crime rate per 1,000 residents, 0.94, which is 15.4 times lower than in Little Rock, AR, the city with the highest at 14.46. Visit <https://wallethub.com/edu/best-state-capitals/19030/> for the full report.

– Diana Polk

A fishy tale

Groupers are sluggish-looking fat fish that kind of hang around the

waters off the coast of Florida. How fat are they? The one caught off the southwest coast of Florida recently by angler Jason Boyll weighed in at 350 pounds. And, according to the Florida Fish and Wildlife Research Institute, Jason's fish was about 50 years old, making it the institute's oldest sample.

– John Grimaldi

Great buzzer-beater

It may have taken some luck, but

high school cager, Katara Key, used her well-honed skill to sink a 65-foot winning basket from across the court for Reading High against rival William Penn High School in Pennsylvania. It happened just as the buzzer sounded the end of the game. As she put it in a post-game interview with KPVI-TV: "I just saw the spiral and I was like yeah, that's going in. I practice that shot all the time with my coach."

– John Grimaldi

Sneezing can provoke this unusual vertigo

DEAR DR. ROACH: After many years of various treatments, including allergy shots, food studies and an ear tube, I was recently diagnosed with “semicircular canal dehiscence.” Can you explain what this is and the treatment (besides surgery) to relieve the symptoms of inner ear pressure, dizziness and pressure and pulsation in the head? Are there any medications? – J.D.W.



Semicircular canal dehiscence syndrome is an unusual cause of vertigo. Vertigo is sometimes referred to as dizziness, but “dizziness” may refer to both unsteadiness (a feeling that you are going to pass out, which medically is referred to as “presyncope”) or true vertigo (a sensation of movement when the person is actually still). The vertigo in semicircular canal dehiscence syndrome is different from most other causes of vertigo because it can be provoked by loud noises, coughing or sneezing. It is caused by abnormally thin bone in the semicircular canals, part of the organ of balance in the inner ear. The diagnosis is confirmed by a CT scan of the temporal bone.

The only treatment I have read that consistently is effective is surgery. An ear tube is sometimes tried in people who have symptoms with pressure changes. Medications used in some cases of vertigo, such as meclizine (Antivert), usually will make SCDS symptoms worse in the long term. Anti-nausea medications like ondansetron (Zofran) may help if nausea is severe, but have their own side effects. Vestibular rehabilitation by a specially trained physical or occupational therapist may have some benefit if surgery isn't contemplated.

DEAR DR. ROACH: My father is 72 years old. This year he was diagnosed with an enlarged prostate. For now, the doctor has inserted a catheter. My question is: What process or what treatment is best at his age? We are in the Philippines. – M.M.C.

Enlargement of the prostate gland is a common problem for men in their 70s and older. Sometimes it gets so bad that a man cannot urinate at all or the pressure in the bladder is at risk of damaging the kidney. In those cases, a catheter often is used as a temporizing measure. Unfortunately, a catheter causes inflammation, so it may actually worsen the prostate problem temporarily while still protecting the kidneys. Because of this, the catheter usually needs to be kept in only for about one to two weeks.

During this time, medication usually is started to try to reduce prostate size. For most men, a benign (not cancerous) enlarged prostate can be treated with medication – an alpha blocker, like tamsulosin, sometimes with a second medicine, like finasteride. If that doesn't work, there are several surgical options.

His doctor needs to be sure that the enlarged prostate isn't cancer. A physical exam and blood tests may answer that question; other times, a biopsy is needed.

There is no best treatment for everyone. It depends on how large his prostate is, any other medical problems he may have and the expertise of the doctor treating him.

In the United States, the options include a traditional surgery, called a transurethral resection of the prostate (TURP); laser-based treatments; other heat-based treatments (microwave, water vapor ablation and radiowave); and even more newer treatments that are less well-studied. In general, medical therapy is worth a try for most men before considering surgery.

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
Feb 28,1948: 23 women meet in San Angelo to form the Girls Rodeo Assoc.

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: Q equals F

VPYHEW RBCCXWX, VB
WPEW-NB KBVHIGYHUGU IUKHYX
GB WXG GB GNX QBBG
BQ GNX RCIUU?

Answer Page 4
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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

	4		8				7	
6			4	3		5		
		2			1			3
8			7			2	3	
		9			6	8		
	7			9				6
2			5				1	
	3	4			7	9		
	1			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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OIG is VA’s watchdog



by Freddy Groves

Since 2012, the Office of Inspector General for the Department of Veterans Affairs has saved us \$1.4 billion. They do this by showing up unannounced to do inspections, audits, reviews, assessments or investigations. They scrutinize paperwork, conduct interviews and get to the bottom of what’s going on.

The recent inspection of a facility estimated that the VA was about to spend \$261 million over the next five years on sleep apnea devices that veterans weren’t using. Veterans were given the devices and only half were being used, with no staff follow-up. The OIG recommendation was to loan the devices to veterans instead and keep track of the usage. This move is expected to save \$39 million per year for the sleep apnea devices and \$12 million per year for the supplies.

The VA has been spending \$450 million, split between four vendors, on contracts for medical and surgical supplies on the East coast. Because supplies of this nature must be delivered on time every time, the OIG dug around to see if anybody in the VA was keeping an eye on what was being delivered. In addition, the supplier was to report monthly about the order fulfillment levels. So what did the OIG discover: that nobody in VA was watching and the vendors were using funny math to report their deliveries. Correct orders only were received 40% of the time. This calculated to \$16.8 million in incorrect payments made to vendors in one year.

The OIG also looked at undelivered orders in a different investigation. Specifically, had prices changed between ordering and the delivery? Were the items still needed? Should the orders be canceled? Could the money be spent elsewhere? If budgeted money isn’t spent in a fiscal year, it gets erased and vanishes. OIG discovered that \$132 million could have

been spent elsewhere had anyone been paying attention to undelivered orders. I still say, whatever the OIG’s budget is, double it. We’ll still come out ahead.

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- A squirt of shaving cream can help release latex paint specks on your hands from using a roller brush. Just rub over hands and rinse.
- Baked apples (or stuffed peppers) will stay perfectly upright if you set them into the wells of a muffin tin.
- Make your own bath oil by mixing a couple of drops of your favorite perfume with a bit of baby oil. Just rub on post-bath or add to your bathwater.

• “Recently I cooked a big batch of broccoli in the afternoon. The house had that cabbage smell. I don’t like air fresheners because the strong smell gives me a headache. My neighbor told me to boil a couple of cups of vinegar and let it simmer for 10 minutes. At first, the vinegar smell replaced the cabbage smell, but then it totally disappeared and all the smells were gone too.” – E.Y. in Pennsylvania

• “Use your vegetable peeler to make strips of butter if it’s cold and you need to spread it on bread. The strips’ large amount of surface area help the butter to soften quickly, making it easy to spread.” – M.M. in Texas

• “Get king-size pillowcases from a thrift store to cover a diaper changing pad. They are the right size and cheap!” – D.L. in Florida

• Start seeds in the cups of an egg carton, the kind that are made from paper. You can get them going on a windowsill inside. When it’s time to plant in the ground, score the bottom of each cup and plant it – paper and all – in the dirt.

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

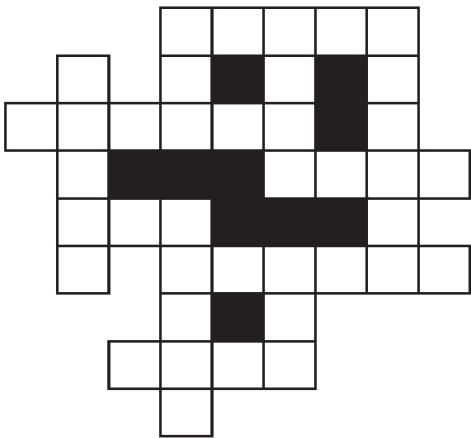
	-		x		15
÷		x		x	
	+		+		11
+		-		+	
	+		-		10
15		13		14	

1 2 3 3 4 5 6 7 8

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WJA
TOCJEB
LENBO
OWDR
♥CUSTRI
OYC
ELBW
BOJTA
♥WNO
YARSWE
RCWEO
TUYPD



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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