



NEWSBRIEFS

2020 'Viva! El Paso' canceled

The El Paso Community Foundation and El Paso Live regret to announce the cancellation of this summer's production of *Viva! El Paso* in the McKelligon Canyon Amphitheatre. Safety concerns and insufficient time to prepare the production due to the coronavirus pandemic led to the cancellation of the 43rd season of the annual historical musical, which was scheduled for Fridays and Saturdays, June 19 through July 24 in the outdoor theater. "We hope to focus during this unprecedented time on our community and will be working towards bringing back this spectacular show as soon as it is safe," said Bryan Crowe, General Manager of Destination El Paso.

— Eric Pearson

Film showcase

The El Paso Community Foundation Plaza Classic Film Festival is accepting submissions for Local Flavor, the region's largest showcase of locally made and connected films. There is no cost to submit a film. The film series, sponsored by the Texas Film Commission, is open to short and feature-length films of various types, including fiction, documentary, animated, experimental, virtual reality and music video. Any type of film may be submitted. No works-in-progress will be accepted. More than \$1,500 in cash will be handed out in the third annual Local Flavor Awards. The entry deadline is 11:59 p.m. Monday, June 29, 2020. Go to plazaclassic.com/localflavor to submit. Projects must have been completed January 1, 2019 or after, and must be made locally, locally set or have a connection of some kind to the El Paso-Juarez-Las Cruces area (such as a director originally from El Paso). Entries selected for the Local Flavor series will be announced in July and screened during the festival. Call 915-533-4020 or email us at local@plazaclassic.com for more information.

— Doug Pullen

A sudsy plea

The coronavirus crisis has most of the nation housebound causing hardships as many of us as we begin to run out

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Constructive criticism is when I criticize you. Destructive criticism is when you criticize me.

— Quips & Quotes



— Image from Internet / El Paso Strong

BALANCING ACT – El Paso County Judge Ricardo Samaniego, left, and El Paso City Mayor Dee Margo are working to balance reducing the spread of the coronavirus and allowing economic activities to slowly expand.

Officials make changes to county, city pandemic efforts

By Alfredo Vasquez
Special to the Courier

EL PASO COUNTY – More than a month has passed since El Paso county and city leaders implemented strict emergency restrictions in a concerted effort to contain the spread of the COVID-19 virus in the Borderland. The restrictions have been costly as hundreds of businesses were ordered to close and all residents were told to stay at home.

However, plans are to gradually start letting businesses re-open beginning this week. For example, local retail businesses have been cleared to begin opening their stores using a "curbside" pickup model with employees and customers expected to continue social distancing and hand-washing safeguards. Also, the existing emergency directive that requires El Paso area residents to wear face coverings when outside their homes (with limited exemptions) will remain until further notice.

El Paso County Judge Ricardo Samaniego and El Paso City Mayor Dee Margo announced recently that their staffs are working on plans to incrementally re-open the local economy with guidance from health care and business leaders. They also divulged that an Economic Recovery Task Force of business and community leaders from the El Paso region had been formed to help ease the re-opening of the local economy.

Additionally, Texas Governor Greg Abbott announced that businesses, such as hair salons and retail stores, may begin opening up in early May. He has said there is coordination with public health experts

and businesses to ensure there are safety measures as businesses open.

El Paso business owners who have decided to re-open their stores are required to follow strict guidelines to protect their employees and their customers. This new model also requires customers to change their shopping habits.

The retail-to-go guidelines now in place recommend that all store employees be trained on environmental cleaning and disinfection, hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette; employees be screened for any illnesses before coming into the business facility; employees should not come to work if they experience COVID-19 symptoms such as shortness of breath or with a temperature 100 degrees Fahrenheit or greater. Employees with known, close contact with anyone with a lab-confirmed case of the coronavirus should not go to work.

Other business guidelines are that employees must wash their hands once they get to work and after they serve each customer and must wear face coverings, as well as maintain proper social distancing with customers. And, store owners should monitor employees and send them home if they don't meet these health criteria.

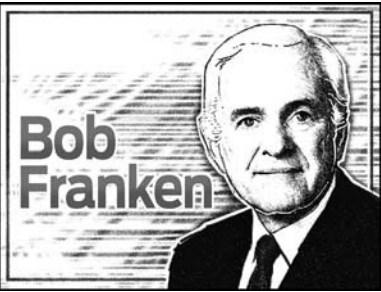
As for guidelines regarding customers, they may not enter the store premises. Instead, customers can make purchases at the stores for pickup, delivery by mail, or delivery to their doorsteps. When customers pick up purchased items, employees should deliver them to the backseat or trunk of the customer's car. Payments should be done over the

Wearing a face covering guidelines

The requirement to wear a face covering affects nearly all residents. Here are some easy to understand guidelines to protect yourself, your family members and anyone you have contact with in the community.

- Everyone over the age of two should wear a face covering over their nose and mouth while outside.
- These face coverings include face masks or homemade cloth fabric coverings. Make sure they fit snugly on the face. It's best if they have bands to hold them in place. But they can be tied around the head or looped on the ears. Bandanas, scarves and neck gaiters work, too.
- Parents should make sure their children have face coverings when outside. Children age 2 or younger should not.
- Residents who have trouble breathing, are unconscious or incapacitated are not required to wear a face covering.
- Those participating in exercising outdoors and not within 6 feet of any other individual not from the same household are not required to wear masks during exercising activities.
- All non-residents in nursing homes, state supported living centers, assisted living facilities, and long-term care facilities must wear a face covering.
- Officials advise against buying medical masks because they are needed by health care workers.
- When removing your face covering, take it off the ears and back of the head first. Don't grab the face covering where it fits over the face and nose.
- Do not talk on a cellphone with your face covering on. Continue to avoid touching your nose, mouth and eyes with your hands.
- Throw disposable face coverings in the trash. Do not litter with them.
- Don't let your guard down. Wearing a face covering does not replace the need to maintain six feet social distancing and handwashing.

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With the COVID crisis, the worst-case scenario has often proven too optimistic. But here it is, for what it’s worth: The loosening up of restrictions that President Donald Trump is now advocating, along with his GOP politician bootlickers and his jackboot demonstrators, would slightly dampen the economic pain but at the same time reignite the coronavirus disease, which would come roaring back with a vengeance.

What Trump and his lackeys are demanding would lower the defenses that have provided some effective barriers and

Dangerous reversals

push the country into an irreversible spiral. His so-called guidelines for reopening the nation were really just nothingburger suggestions that any competent governor could ignore. Some have, but others from the reddest of states are only too eager to please their lord and master.

In just a few days, he has gone from his claim of “total authority” where he would “call the shots” to a complete reversal where now, not only has he told governors “you are going to call your own shots,” but he is heckling from the sidelines.

Trump egged on his hordes with his Twitter messages to “liberate” various states. That liberation would violate his own guidelines. But then Trump has always marched to

different guidelines:

- Guideline No. 1: Create scapegoats. Blame the World Health Organization, Bill Gates, ungrateful governors, particularly Democrats, Democrats in general, media, anybody who gets in the way of his fragile ego.
- No. 2: Incite his gangs of supporters, who will find their own scapegoats and trash them in their vile ways.
- No. 3: Ignore facts but take any thoughts, no matter how incendiary or downright stupid, to Twitter.
- No. 4: Raise false hopes in drugs that don’t work. Make stuff up, like: “We have a great testing system. Right now, we have the best testing system in the world.” He actually said that, even though the United States lags far behind.

- No. 5, although it should be No. 1: Lie like a rug. Then lie about lying.

As for that testing thingy, the governors and many of our other leaders agree that any phased-in reopening should await an ability to test any and all Americans for COVID. Notwithstanding the president’s departure from reality, that is woefully not the case in this country. However, even if it was, would that be enough to cut back the danger to millions of Americans?

The answer is no. That’s because any test, even if everyone takes it, has limited value. As a prominent epidemiologist told me: “Someone could test negative and then be exposed five minutes later. Also, the sensitivity of the test is imperfect so the test could be a false negative.”

So it’s not really safe to emerge until a credible treatment is developed, and/or a vaccine

that is available to everyone and mandatory.

Responsible governors of both parties are being extremely careful how they remove any restrictions, forming multi-state regional groups, in some cases, to decide together. The irresponsible ones, however, are immediately lowering their guards willy-nilly. The problem is the deadly and aggressive coronavirus doesn’t recognize borders.

Back to the Trump personal guidelines... there is one important one to add: What guidelines?! He doesn’t have any stinking guidelines! He’s all whim. Actually, he’s the biggest problem, short of the coronavirus itself.

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View from here

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

Hoarding toilet paper is not the new normal

During my last visit to the grocery store, after directing me to the hermetically sealed conveyor belt, the clerk grinning proudly said, “welcome to the new normal.” No, thank you. These ad hoc restrictions on our liberties are not normal – at least

in the United States of America. In the name of public health, prisoners have been released from jail, physicians are being restricted in what drugs they can use to treat their COVID-19 patients, and cancer patients are having their treatments delayed as “elective.”

Every day 7,400 people die in the United States from many causes, including infectious diseases, but running totals are not broadcast on every medium. The unceasing barrage of news programs about the coronavirus/ COVID-19 have become a means

to whip us into submission. The mayor of Los Angeles is perversely proud that 99 percent of “non-essential” businesses are closed and threatens to sue those who have not closed. A local town has issued 129 citations at \$1,000 a pop for non-compliance.

Riverside county plans to cite residents witnessed to have their faces uncovered. Obamacare’s architect, Dr. Ezekiel Emmanuel, has suggested that the country stay on lockdown

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Changes

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phone or internet, if possible, to minimize employee-shopper contact. Employees should also disinfect any item that came into contact with the customer such

as a credit card reader or pen. The governor stated in recent interviews that shopping inside stores could be coming soon. “We are working around the clock on safe protocols for both employers and customers. This must be done in ways that prevent the spread of COVID-19,” Abbott

related. “There is no requirement that anyone open a business or return to work. We do want to provide the legal ability to do so,” he added.

El Paso’s State Representative Joe Moody said that he can understand the pressure of wanting to open some parts of the economy but cautioned that

it should be done in a smart way, in phases, and in the right order. Although, Moody suggested that when it comes to testing Texans for the virus, the state might not be in a comfortable rate yet.

“It is absolutely paramount that we have a robust and detailed conversation about what we are going to do as a community, as

a state, going forward on the economic front,” Moody asserted.

As of April 27, there were 706 reported cases of the virus with 10 deaths in El Paso County; there were 23,773 reported cases of the novel coronavirus and 623 deaths in the state, according to Texas’ Department of State Health Services.

1973

47

Years

2020

WEST TEXAS COUNTY

COURIER

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El Paso County Economic Recovery Task Force

El Paso County Task Force members, charged with providing input on how to safely re-open all El Paso-area businesses, include:

Rick Francis, Chair – Economic Recovery Task Force, WestStar

Ray Adaauto, El Paso Association of Builders

Gabriel Ayub, El Paso Hotel and Lodging Association

Jon Barela, Borderplex Alliance

John Balliew, El Paso Water Utilities

Bill Burton, Burton Mithoff Partners

Alvaro Bustillos, Vaquero Trading

Richard Castro, McDonald’s

JJ Childress, Microsoft

Julio Chiu, Seisa Medical

Roberto Coronado, Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas, El Paso Branch

Alejandra De la Vega Foster, Gobierno del Estado de Chihuahua

Leo Duran, L&J Café - Restaurant Association

Edward Escudero, Sierra Finance

Miguel Fernandez, Transtelco

Joe Gudenrath, Downtown Management District

Jessica Herrera, City of El Paso Economic Development

Josh Hunt, Hunt Companies

Andrea Hutchins, El Paso County Economic Development

David Jerome, El Paso Chamber

Renard Johnson, METI Inc

Matt Keats, Keats Southwest

William Kell, Franklin Mountain Management

Dr. Richard Lange, Texas Tech University Health

Sciences Center El Paso

Crystal Long, GECU

Don Margo, HUB International

Mando Martinez, North East Business Association/ Mimbela Contractors

Leila Melendez, Workforce Solutions Borderplex

Ricardo Mora, Technology Hub

Madhi Nair, Esperanto Developments

Jared Nieman, Abundant Living Faith Center

Elizabeth O’Hara, Texas Gas Service

Dan Olivas, El Paso Association of Realtors

Shawn Ollis, Prudential

Raymond Palacios, Bravo Auto

Eric Pearson, El Paso Community Foundation

Christian Perez Giese, CBRE

Cindy Ramos-Davidson, El Paso Hispanic Chamber of Commerce

Adrian Rodriguez, El Paso Electric

Alan Russell, TECMA

Michelle Savage, Savage Goods

Bishop Mark Seitz, Catholic Diocese of El Paso

Dr. William Serrata, El Paso Community College

VJ Smith, Marathon Petroleum Corporation

Brad Taylor, El Paso Chihuahuas

Nico Tejeda, Tenet Healthcare

Cary Westin, City of El Paso

Dr. Heather Wilson, University of Texas at El Paso

Bob Wingo, SandersWingo Advertising Inc.

Gene Wolf, Kemp Smith LLP.

Tracy Yellen, Paso del Norte Community Foundation

Marco Zaragoza, Windstar

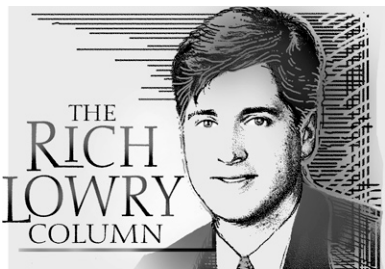
What ventilator crisis?

At a coronavirus task force briefing at the beginning of April, White House adviser Jared Kushner explained the approach that would – as events proved – get the country through its ventilator crisis. He was relentlessly pilloried, mocked and distorted in the press for it. Kushner said at one point that states shouldn't be drawing on the federal stockpile just to hold ventilators in their own reserves. This led to a flurry of media criticism alleging that Kushner wanted to horde the federal ventilator stockpile. Actually, the emphasis on data and shrewd allocation that Kushner discussed at the April 2 briefing has clearly worked. At the outset, the country was looking at a daunting, perhaps impossible challenge. A chilling briefing at the Federal Emergency Management Agency early on posited that the U.S. could be short 130,000 ventilators by April 1. The federal government had about 16,000 ventilators in its stockpile. A couple of insights drove the administration's effort to get its arms around the problem. Officials realized, as one White House adviser puts it, that there was "too much guesstimating"

going on. Many governors didn't know how many ventilators their states had and were acting on the normal impulse to have more than enough, just in case. The administration created a data team. It used hospital billings to estimate how many ventilators were in each state and how many were being utilized, so it didn't have to depend on perhaps panicky, poorly informed requests from states. Another important realization was that FEMA could do just-in-time delivery. This created a lot of flexibility. The administration could wait to see how things really played out, rather than make decisions based on projections weeks in the future. The media portrayed it as a failure every time the administration gave a state a fraction of its request, but this was a key element of the strategy. If the administration had tried to meet New York's initial estimated need for 40,000 additional ventilators, for instance, everything would have gone out the door, and for no good reason. Another insight was that most ventilators out in the country weren't being used, since virus hot spots are geographically limited. That meant there was a tremendous capacity to be

tapped. This led to the Dynamic Ventilator Reserve. States and hospitals with a safe margin of ventilators not in use could lend them to places that needed them, with a federal guarantee that a hospital lending a ventilator would get a replacement in 24 or 48 hours if it turned out that it needed it back. This removed the fear and the risk of giving up ventilators. To add to the nation's overall supply, FEMA acted quickly to get so-called notifications to purchase to ventilator

manufacturers so they could start work and hold their inventory, which ensured it wasn't lost to foreign countries. Last year, according to administration figures, the country produced 30,000 ventilators. This year, it's going to produce some 200,000, and they are already coming in. "We are going to be swimming in ventilators," a White House adviser said. By any measure, that's a success, certainly compared with where we thought we'd be less than a



month ago. If the media weren't so devoted to gotcha idiocy, more people might know about it.

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

Strange BUT TRUE

By Lucie Winborne

- Artist Salvador Dali had a unique way of occasionally avoiding the bill for drinks and meals – he would draw on the checks, making them priceless works of art and, therefore, uncashable.
- The governor of China's Hunan Province banned Lewis Carroll's "Alice in Wonderland" because he believed that animals should not be given the power to use the language of humans, and to put animals and humans on the same level would be "disastrous."

- When the ancient Greeks staged plays, their costumes enabled audiences to identify characters. Tragic actors wore raised platform shoes called buskins to symbolize their superiority over comic actors, who would wear plain socks.
- A researcher in Madagascar was so interested in sand flea development that she let one of the bugs live inside her foot for two months.
- Enjoy looking after kids? Consider attending Kentucky's Sullivan University, where you can major in nannying.
- George Washington died after his doctors removed 40% of his blood (80 ounces) over a 12-hour period to cure a throat infection. While critics have

- claimed for decades that he was bled to death, the exact cause of his demise is still debated among scholars.
- When the mummy of Ramses II was sent to France in the mid-1970s, it was issued a passport. Ramses' occupation? "King (deceased)"!
 - In the early stage version of "The Wizard of Oz," Dorothy's faithful companion, Toto, was replaced by a cow named Imogene.
- Thought for the Day: "Love is much like a wild rose, beautiful and calm, but willing to draw blood in its defense."
- Mark Overby

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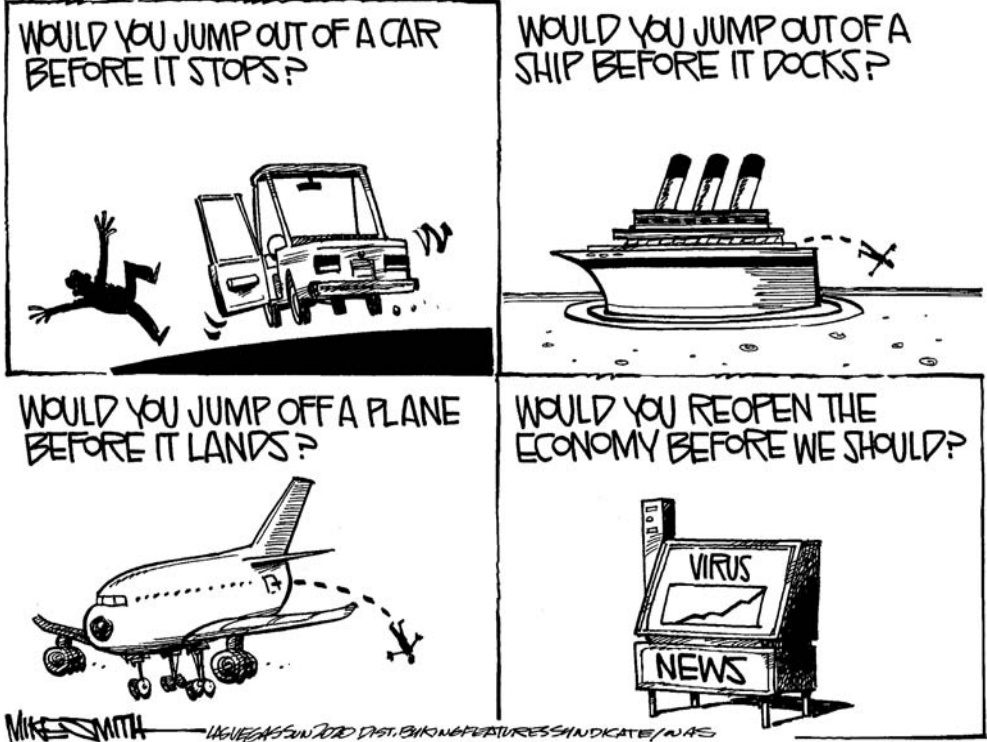
Bill of Rights

Non Essential

Article 1

Non Essential

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.



Normal

From Page 2

for one and a half years, or “until we find a vaccine or effective medications.” This is lunacy.

According to a Kaiser Family Foundation poll, 40 percent of women, 37 percent of men and nearly half of parents with a child younger than 18 years old report they have either lost their job, income, or had their hours reduced without pay. A classic 1979 study found that for every 10 percent

increase in the unemployment rate, mortality increased by 1.2 percent, cardiovascular disease by 1.7 percent, cirrhosis of the liver by 1.3 percent, suicides by 1.7 percent, arrests by 4 percent, and reported assaults by 0.8 percent. Pre-pandemic, nearly 20 people per minute were physically abused by an intimate partner in the United States. Predictably, episodes of domestic violence and child abuse have now increased. Closed businesses have become easy targets for thieves.

There is a rational course of

action without shutting down human contact and the economy. Sweden has no more deaths or symptomatic infections per capita than many other countries despite choosing to merely encourage its citizens to physically distance as much as possible.

We must allow physicians to treat their patients as they see fit with effective drugs. Multiple physicians around the world are reporting success with hydroxychloroquine: a new off-label use for this FDA-approved drug for a new virus. If this virus

is akin to Armageddon, then all reasonable ideas should be welcomed. The erection of barriers to the use of this potentially life-saving drug by many governors and state medical boards is appalling and unforgiveable. Hydroxychloroquine was approved for medical use in the United States more than 60 years ago. It has been safely used for years for malaria prophylaxis, autoimmune disease, and porphyria, a blood disease

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Classified Ads

LEGALS

NOTICE OF FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT AND NOTICE OF INTENT TO REQUEST RELEASE OF FUNDS

Date of Notice: 4/30/20

Town of Anthony
PO Box 1269
401 Wildcat Dr.
Anthony, TX 79821
(915) 886-3944

These notices shall satisfy two separate but related procedural requirements for activities to be undertaken by the Town of Anthony. The comment period and RROF procedures for this environmental review are conducted according to TDA's temporary social distancing procedures.

REQUEST FOR RELEASE OF FUNDS

On or about 5/19/20 the Town of Anthony will submit a request to the Texas Department of Agriculture - Office of Rural Affairs (TDA-ORA) for the release of Texas Community Development Block Grant funds under Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (P.L. 93-383), as amended, to undertake a project known as Street Improvements 7219009, for the purpose of Administrative and Engineering Fees and Services and proposes to reconstruct approximately

2,500 linear feet of street utilizing two-inch HMAC, base course, and all associated appurtenances along Poplar Street from South 6th Street to Magdalena Street. If funds allow, the Town proposes to install ADA ramps and sidewalks along Poplar Street from South 7th Street to Magdalena Street. The Town of Anthony has been awarded \$275,000 in grant funds and shall contribute \$51,313 in match funds.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The Town of Anthony has determined that the project will have no significant impact on the human environment. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) is not required. Additional project information is contained in the Environmental Review Record (ERR) The ERR will be made available to the public for review either electronically or by U.S. mail. Please submit your request by U.S. mail to PO Box 1269 or by email to ngonzalez@townofanthony.org.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Any individual, group, or agency may submit written comments on the ERR to the Office of the Mayor via email ngonzalez@townofanthony.org. All comments received by

5/18/20 will be considered by the Town of Anthony prior to authorizing submission of a request for release of funds. Comments should specify which Notice they are addressing.

ENVIRONMENTAL CERTIFICATION

The Town of Anthony certifies to TDA-ORA that Benjamin Romero in their capacity as Mayor consents to accept the jurisdiction of the Federal Courts if an action is brought to enforce responsibilities in relation to the environmental review process and that these responsibilities have been satisfied. TDA-ORA approval of the certification satisfies its responsibilities under NEPA and related laws and allows the Town of Anthony to use HUD program funds.

OBJECTIONS TO RELEASE OF FUNDS

TDA-ORA will accept objections to its release of funds and the Town of Anthony's certification for a period of fifteen days following the anticipated submission date or its actual receipt of the request (whichever is later) only if they are on one of the following bases: (a) the certification was not executed by the Certifying Officer of the Town of Anthony approved by TDA-ORA (b) the Town of Anthony has omitted a step or

failed to make a decision or finding required by HUD regulations at 24 CFR Part 58; (c) the grant recipient or other participants in the development process have committed funds, incurred costs, or undertaken activities not authorized by 24 CFR Part 58 before approval of a release of funds by TDA-ORA; or (d) another Federal agency acting pursuant to 40 CFR Part 1504 has submitted a written finding that the project is unsatisfactory from the standpoint of environmental quality. Objections must be prepared and submitted via email in accordance with the required procedures (24 CFR Part 58, Sec. 58.76) and shall be addressed to The Texas Department of Agriculture - Office of Rural Affairs at CDBG_EnvReview@TexasAgriculture.gov. Potential objectors should contact TDA-ORA to verify the actual last day of the objection period.

— Benjamin Romero, Mayor

AVISO DE CONSTATACIÓN DE IMPACTO SIGNIFICATIVO Y AVISO DE INTENCIÓN DE SOLICITUD DELIBERACIÓN DE FONDOS

Fecha de notificación: 4/30/20

Town of Anthony
PO Box 1269
401 Wildcat Dr.
Anthony, TX 79821
(915) 886-3944

Estos avisos deberán satisfacer dos requisitos de procedimiento distintos pero relacionados con las actividades que deberá llevar a cabo la Ciudad de Anthony

SOLICITUD DE LIBERACION DE FONDOS

En o cerca del 5/19/20, la Ciudad de Anthony presentará una solicitud al Departamento de Agricultura de Texas - Oficina de Asuntos Rurales (TDA-ORA) para la liberación de fondos de Texas Community Development Block Grant bajo el Título I de la Ley de Vivienda y Ley de Desarrollo Comunitario de 1974 (PL 93-383), según enmendada, para llevar a cabo el proyecto conocido como Mejoras en la calle 7219009, con el propósito de honorarios y servicios administrativos y de ingeniería, y proponer reconstruir aproximadamente 2,500 pies lineales de calle utilizando HMAC de dos pulgadas, campo base y todos los accesorios asociados a lo largo de Poplar Street desde South 6th Street hasta Magdalena Street. Si los fondos lo permiten, la Ciudad propone instalar rampas y aceras ADA a lo largo de Poplar Street desde South 7th Street hasta Magdalena Street. La Ciudad de Anthony recibió fondos de subvención por el monto de \$275,000 y contribuirá con el

monto de \$51,313.

CONCLUSIÓN DE IMPACTO SIGNIFICATIVO

La Ciudad de Anthony ha determinado que el proyecto no tendrá un impacto significativo en el ambiente. Por lo tanto, no es necesaria una Declaración de Impacto Ambiental bajo la Ley de Política Ambiental Nacional de 1969 (NEPA, por sus siglas en inglés). Un Expediente de Revisión Ambiental (ERR, por sus siglas en inglés) que contiene información adicional del proyecto está disponible en la la Ciudad de Anthony, de Anthony, 401 Wildcat Drive, Anthony, TX 79821 y puede ser revisado o reproducido de lunes a viernes de 8:00 am a 5:00pm. El Registro de Revisión Ambiental se pondrá a disposición del público para su revisión, ya sea electrónicamente o por correo de los Estados Unidos. Envíe su solicitud por correo de los Estados Unidos a PO Box 1269 o por correo electrónico a ngonzalez@townofanthony.org.

COMENTARIOS DEL PÚBLICO

Cualquier individuo, grupo o agencia puede enviar comentarios escritos sobre el ERR a la Oficina del Mayor vía correo electrónico ngonzalez@townofanthony.org. Todos los comentarios recibidos hasta 5/18/20 serán

considerados por la Ciudad de Anthony antes de autorizar la presentación de una solicitud de liberación de fondos. Los comentarios deben hacer referencia a la notificación correspondiente.

CERTIFICACIÓN AMBIENTAL

La Ciudad de Anthony certifica a la TDA-ORA que Benjamin Romero en su capacidad como Mayor da su consentimiento a aceptar la jurisdicción de las cortes federales si una acción legal fuera iniciada para hacer cumplir responsabilidades relacionadas al proceso de revisión ambiental y que estas responsabilidades se satisfagan. La aprobación de la certificación por parte de TDA-ORA satisface sus responsabilidades bajo NEPA, y las leyes y autoridades relacionadas, y permite que la Ciudad de Anthony utilice los fondos del Programa HUD.

OBJECIONES A LA LIBERACIÓN DE FONDOS

TDA-ORA aceptará objeciones a su liberación de fondos y la certificación por parte de la Ciudad de Anthony por un periodo de quince días a partir de la fecha anticipada de recibo o la fecha en que en efecto se reciba la solicitud de liberación de fondos (lo que ocurra más tarde) solamente si estas se basan en una de las siguientes posibles razones: (a) la certificación no fue firmada

por el Oficial Certificador de la Ciudad de Anthony aprobado por TDA-ORA (b) la Ciudad de Anthony omitió un paso o no tomó una decisión o determinación que es requisito de la reglamentación de HUD en 24 CFR Parte 58; (c) el beneficiario de la subvención u otros participantes en el proceso de desarrollo comprometieron fondos, incurrieron en gastos o llevaron a cabo actividades no autorizadas por 24 CFR Parte 58 antes de que TDA-ORA; o (d) otra agencia federal actuando de acuerdo con 40 CFR Parte 1504 sometió una determinación de que el proyecto no es satisfactorio desde el punto de vista de calidad ambiental. Las objeciones deben prepararse y someterse de acuerdo con los requisitos procesales (24 CFR Parte 58, Sección 58.76) y dirigirse a Departamento de Agricultura de Texas - Oficina de Asuntos Rurales CDBG_EnvReview@TexasAgriculture.gov. Objetores potenciales deben contactar a TDA-ORA para verificar la fecha en que en efecto finaliza el periodo para objeciones.

— Benjamin Romero, Mayor

WTCC: 04-30-20

LEGALS/
CLASSIFIEDS
CONTINUED
ON PAGE 5



Moments in time

THE HISTORY CHANNEL

- On April 27, 2009, the American auto giant General Motors announced plans to discontinue its 80-year-old Pontiac brand. Initially known for making sedans, Pontiac gained acclaim in the 1960s for its fast, sporty “muscle cars,” including the GTO, Firebird and Trans Am.
- On April 28, 1967, boxing champion Muhammad Ali refuses to be inducted into the U.S. Army, citing religious reasons, and is stripped of his heavyweight title. Ali was convicted of draft evasion, but never served any of his five-year prison sentence.
- On April 29, 1992, a jury in the Los Angeles suburb of Simi Valley acquits four police officers that had been charged with using excessive force in arresting black motorist Rodney King. The verdict prompted the L.A. riots. The arson and looting finally ended three days later.
- On April 30, 1948, the Land Rover, a British-made all-terrain vehicle, debuts at an auto show in Amsterdam. The first Land Rover was made from an old American-made Willys-Overland Jeep and had a boxy, utilitarian design, four-wheel drive and a canvas roof.
- On May 1, 1931, President Herbert Hoover officially dedicates New York City's Empire State Building. The building went up in just over a year, under budget and well ahead of schedule.
- On May 2, 1972, after nearly five decades as director of the FBI, J. Edgar Hoover dies. By 1969 the media, the public and Congress had grown suspicious that the FBI might be abusing its authority. Congress passed laws requiring Senate confirmation of future FBI directors and limiting their tenure to 10 years.
- On May 3, 1469, the Italian philosopher and writer Niccolo Machiavelli is born. Machiavelli became one of the fathers of modern political theory. The term “Machiavellian” is used to describe an action undertaken for gain without regard for right or wrong.

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CryptoQuip Answer

If someone is in favor of red root vegetables, I reckon he might get called a beetnik.

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LIVING SHOULDN'T REQUIRE A MEMBERSHIP.

Why should a service like air medical require a membership?
During an emergency, is this the first thing on your mind? What if the membership service is not the closest? What if they don't have the necessities that our flying ICU can provide? What if these differences could save your life?

Air Methods doesn't have memberships. And we have you covered in Texas. We concentrate on working with your insurance company to manage your out-of-pocket costs. When you consider how often you use air medical, the savings become very apparent. We think it's a better model for everyone, especially you.

Stop paying for an air medical membership you really don't need and start living.

Details at **AirMethodsNMR.com**

**Average out-of-pocket
cost for Texas patients
using Air Methods:**


\$197*
(includes co-pays and deductibles)



*2018 data. Average out-of-pocket costs vary slightly by state. Get the facts at airmethodsNMR.com

Classified Ads CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

**TEXAS
COMMISSION ON
ENVIRONMENTAL
QUALITY**



**NOTICE OF
RECEIPT OF
APPLICATION
AND
INTENT TO
OBTAIN WATER
QUALITY PERMIT
RENEWAL**

**PERMIT NO.
WQ0015414001**

APPLICATION. Town of Anthony, P.O. Box 1269, Anthony, Texas 79821, has applied to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) to renew Texas Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (TPDES) Permit No. WQ0015414001 (EPA I.D. No. TX0136662) to authorize the discharge of treated wastewater at a volume not to exceed a daily average flow of 565,000 gallons per day. The domestic wastewater

treatment facility is located at Approximately 2,000 feet West of State Highway 20 and 4,000 feet South of Farm-to-Market Road 1905 in El Paso County, Texas. The discharge route is from the plant site to the La Tuna Agricultural Drain; thence to East Agricultural Drain; thence to Rio Grande Above International Dam. TCEQ received this application on March 2, 2020. The link below to an electronic map of the site or facility's general location is provided as a public courtesy and not part of the application or notice.

<https://tceq.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=db5bac44afbc468bbddd360f8168250f&marker=-106.610833%2C31.99&level=12>

For the exact location, refer to the application. The permit application is available for viewing and downloading by accessing the

Town's website using the internet link below.

<https://townofanthony.org/documents/tceq-domestic-wastewater-permit-application/>

ADDITIONAL NOTICE. TCEQ's Executive Director has determined the application is administratively complete and will conduct a technical review of the application. After technical review is complete, the Executive Director may prepare a draft permit and will issue a preliminary decision on the application. **Notice of the Application and Preliminary Decision will be published and mailed to those who are on the county-wide mailing list and to those who are on the mailing list for this application. That notice will contain the deadline for submitting public comments.**

PUBLIC COMMENT

MEETING. You may submit public comments or request a public meeting on this application. The purpose of a public meeting is to provide the opportunity to submit comments or to ask questions about the application. TCEQ will hold a public meeting if the Executive Director determines that there is a significant degree of public interest in the application or if requested by a local legislator. A public meeting is not a contested case hearing.

OPPORTUNITY FOR A CONTESTED CASE HEARING. After the deadline for submitting public comments, the Executive Director will consider all timely comments and prepare a response to all relevant and material, or significant public comments. **Unless the application is directly referred for a contested case hearing, the response to comments, and**

the Executive Director's decision on the application, will be mailed to everyone who submitted public comments and to those persons who are on the mailing list for this application. If comments are received, the mailing will also provide instructions for requesting reconsideration of the Executive Director's decision and for requesting a contested case hearing. A contested case hearing is a legal proceeding similar to a civil trial in state district court.

TO REQUEST A CONTESTED CASE HEARING, YOU MUST INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING ITEMS IN YOUR REQUEST: Your name, address, phone number; applicant's name and proposed permit number; the location and distance of your property/activities relative to the proposed facility; a specific

description of how you would be adversely affected by the facility in a way not common to the general public; a list of all disputed issues of fact that you submit during the comment period and, the statement "[I/we] request a contested case hearing." If the request for contested case hearing is filed on behalf of a group or association, the request must designate the group's representative for receiving future correspondence; identify by name and physical address an individual member of the group who would be adversely affected by the proposed facility or activity; provide the information discussed above regarding the affected member's location and distance from the facility or activity; explain how and why the member would be affected; and explain how the interests

the group seeks to protect are relevant to the group's purpose.

Following the close of all applicable comment and request periods, the Executive Director will forward the application and any requests for reconsideration or for a contested case hearing to the TCEQ Commissioners for their consideration at a scheduled Commission meeting.

The Commission may only grant a request for a contested case hearing on issues the requestor submitted in their timely comments that were not subsequently withdrawn. If a hearing is granted, the subject of a hearing will be limited to disputed issues of fact or mixed questions of fact and law relating to relevant and material water quality concerns submitted during the comment period.

TCEQ may act on

an application to renew a permit for discharge of wastewater without providing an opportunity for a contested case hearing if certain criteria are met.

MAILING LIST. If you submit public comments, a request for a contested case hearing or a reconsideration of the Executive Director's decision, you will be added to the mailing list for this specific application to receive future public notices mailed by the Office of the Chief Clerk. In addition, you may request to be placed on: (1) the permanent mailing list for a specific applicant name and permit number; and/or (2) the mailing list for a specific county. If you wish to be placed on the permanent and/or the county mailing list, clearly specify which list(s) and send your request to TCEQ Office of the Chief Clerk at the address below.

INFORMATION AVAILABLE

ONLINE. For details about the status of the application, visit the Commissioners' Integrated Database at www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/cid. Search the database using the permit number for this application, which is provided at the top of this notice.

AGENCY CONTACTS AND INFORMATION. All public comments and requests must be submitted either electronically at <https://www14.tceq.texas.gov/epic/eComment/>, or in writing to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, Office of the Chief Clerk, MC-105, P.O. Box 13087, Austin, Texas 78711-3087. Please be aware that any contact information you provide, including your name, phone number, email address and physical address will become part of the agency's public record. For more information about this permit application or

the permitting process, please call the TCEQ Public Education Program, Toll Free, at 1-800-687-4040 or visit their website at www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/pep. Si desea información en Español, puede llamar al 1-800-687-4040.

Further information may also be obtained from Town of Anthony at the address stated above or by calling Mayor Benjamin Romero at (915) 886-3944.

Issuance Date: April 2, 2020

WTCC: 04-30-20

HELP WANTED

Immediate opening for deg'd and exp'd candidates for Financial Analyst (Job Code: 1043) in El Paso, TX; Send resume via 1st Class U.S. mail and include above job code and salary req'ts to: Lear Corporation; E-Systems HR, Bldg. 100; 21557 Telegraph Road; Southfield, MI 48033.

WTCC: 04-30-20

The NFL draft was the first step on the journey back

By Steve Escajeda
Special to the Courier

After spending the last month-and-a-half stuck in our homes with only reruns of sporting events to choose from, we finally received a little taste of normalcy last week.

And though it felt a little normal, it was delivered in a very different manner.

I'm talking about the NFL draft, which was conducted over a 3-day period last weekend.

It was the first live sporting event any of us have enjoyed in what seems like years.

Because of the dreaded Covid-19 virus, the draft was held in coach's living rooms, basements, and in the case of the Cowboys – on Jerry Jones' yacht.

Video cameras were set up in players' living rooms to show their reactions from home.

It was unusual, but it was the best draft show ever. I'm not sure if it was because we got a chance to take a look inside the homes of players and coaches, or because we were just happy to get any live sports coverage we could.

Either way, last week's draft telecast broke all previous ratings records on ESPN.

As expected, LSU quarterback Joe Burrow was selected first overall by the Cincinnati Bengals.

I know Burrow is going to a very bad team, but look what he did with the LSU Tigers; led them through an undefeated national championship season.

They say it all starts with the quarterback. Now that the Bengals have their franchise quarterback, all they have to do is fix every other position.

Also on queue was the second pick, which went to the Washington Redskins. They took defensive end extraordinaire Chase Young out of Ohio State.

They say he's a J.J. Watt-Michael Strahan-Reggie White-Lawrence Taylor kind of pass rusher. If he's half as good as they are, Washington's got themselves a great player.

There were a couple of surprising picks that may anger a couple of veteran quarterbacks.

First, the Green Bay Packers moved up a few spots in the first round to pick up Jordan Love, from Utah State.

Only problem is the Packers already have a quarterback named Aaron Rodgers. The obvious question is whether Rodgers feels the Packers are getting ready to move on from him in the next year or so.

The second interesting QB pick came from the Philadelphia Eagles, when they took Oklahoma's Jalen Hurts in the second round.

Obviously, the Eagles' starter is Carson Wentz and he is just entering the prime of his career.

It seems to me that the plan is to use Hurts primarily as a runner, or an emergency backup. That won't make Hurts very happy. He believes he can start somewhere in this league.

As for the local fans, everyone must have been thrilled when the Cowboys picked up Oklahoma wide receiver CeeDee Lamb in the first round.

Lamb, who was probably the most exciting receiver in college football, wasn't expected to still be around by the time Dallas picked 17th. But there he was and the 'Boys grabbed him.

They followed that with a cornerback, Trevon Diggs from Alabama, defensive tackle Neville Gallimore from Oklahoma, cornerback Reggie Robinson II from Tulsa, center Tyler Biadasz from Wisconsin and another pick the experts loved in Bradlee Anae, a defensive end out of Utah.

The Cowboys final pick was quarterback Ben DiNucci, out of James Madison. I wasn't sure about this pick. I was hoping they'd go defense again.

So it appears the Cowboys had a great draft that should pay off for the next decade.

Of course local draft watchers weren't just keeping their eyes on the Cowboys – they were anxious to see where a certain El Paso product would end up.

Unfortunately, former Del Valle High School quarterback Steven Montez went through the 3-day affair without hearing his name called.

So since Montez wasn't drafted, he'll have to go the free agent route and see if a team will take a chance on him.

It's a longshot, but I think he did enough at Colorado to at least make the practice squad for some NFL team.

This year's draft was certainly unusual and unorthodox, but hey – it was football and it was live.

Most of all it was hope – and we can a lot of that right now.

Briefs

From Page 1

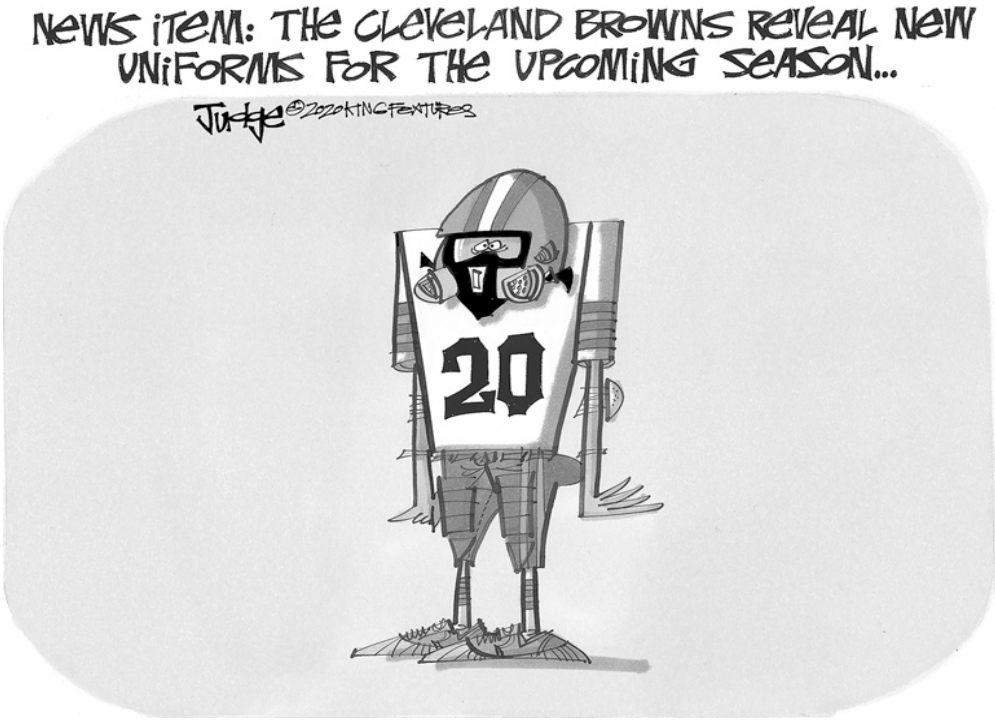
of necessities such as toilet paper. But Olive Veronesi wasn't seeking toilet tissue when she went to a front window of her home and held up a sign for all to see that read: "I need more beer." The 93-year-old Seminole, PA nonagenarian was seeking the aid of her neighbors to help her replenish her dwindling stash of the beverage. A photo of her displaying her sign went viral on social media and more than 2.5 million people who viewed it. So, it looks like she'll be well supplied as she shelters in place for the duration.

– John Grimaldi

Wine a little, laugh a lot

Most people have hot and cold running water in their kitchens but in the Italian hamlet of Settecani recently villagers woke one morning recently and it was red wine that came out of their taps, not only in their kitchens but in their bathrooms, as well. It seems that a high-pressure leak in the storage tower of a local winery allowed the vino to seep into the town's water pipes. Many of the residents managed to bottle the beverage before the leak was fixed. After all it was Lambrusco Grasparossa, a very tasty sparkling red wine, and it would have been a shame to let it dribble down the drain.

– John Grimaldi



Super Crossword

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| MIXED BLESSING | | | | | | | | | | 63 Novelist Graham | | | | | | | | | | co-star | | | | | | | | | | Roger | | | | | | | | | | 76 So-so link | | | | | | | | | |
| ACROSS | | | | | | | | | | 66 Camphor or | | | | | | | | | | 116 Ancient Greek | | | | | | | | | | 30 Happy times | | | | | | | | | | 77 Slip _ (mess up) | | | | | | | | | |
| 1 Emmy, e.g. | | | | | | | | | | fructose | | | | | | | | | | colony | | | | | | | | | | 31 _la-la | | | | | | | | | | 80 Made a racket | | | | | | | | | |
| 6 Explorer _ Polo | | | | | | | | | | 69 Need-for-speed | | | | | | | | | | 119 _ Stanley Gardner | | | | | | | | | | 33 Sitcom psychiatrist | | | | | | | | | | 81 Hulk of a wrestler? | | | | | | | | | |
| 11 Milne's bear | | | | | | | | | | adage adapted from | | | | | | | | | | 120 Not trued up | | | | | | | | | | Frasier, to his patients | | | | | | | | | | 82 Furiousness | | | | | | | | | |
| 15 Hospital VIPs | | | | | | | | | | the Bible | | | | | | | | | | 121 Kids' caretaker | | | | | | | | | | 37 "2 Broke Girls" | | | | | | | | | | 83 Slugging stat | | | | | | | | | |
| 19 Spanish man | | | | | | | | | | 72 Road salt | | | | | | | | | | 122 Changed the color | | | | | | | | | | airer | | | | | | | | | | 84 Essen "a" | | | | | | | | | |
| 20 It's made of milk, | | | | | | | | | | 73 "It's about time!" | | | | | | | | | | of | | | | | | | | | | 38 Steed breed | | | | | | | | | | 85 Enhaloed Fr. lady | | | | | | | | | |
| flour and butter | | | | | | | | | | 74 Separates after a | | | | | | | | | | 123 Favorable votes | | | | | | | | | | 39 Sizable | | | | | | | | | | 86 Deteriorating | | | | | | | | | |
| 22 Sharing the secret | | | | | | | | | | multiplayer tackle | | | | | | | | | | 124 Actor Mike | | | | | | | | | | 40 Comb insect | | | | | | | | | | 87 Paddled tool | | | | | | | | | |
| of | | | | | | | | | | 75 Edifice extension | | | | | | | | | | 125 Meal blessing | | | | | | | | | | 41 Key near F1 | | | | | | | | | | 91 Girl told not to cry | | | | | | | | | |
| 23 "The Matrix" star | | | | | | | | | | 76 Debate side | | | | | | | | | | that's "mixed" and | | | | | | | | | | 42 Sea, to Gigi | | | | | | | | | | in song | | | | | | | | | |
| Reeves | | | | | | | | | | 77 _ Khan (Islamic | | | | | | | | | | hidden in seven | | | | | | | | | | 45 Flustered | | | | | | | | | | 92 "Uh-huh" | | | | | | | | | |
| 24 Unit equal to 0.338 | | | | | | | | | | imam) | | | | | | | | | | answers in this puzzle | | | | | | | | | | 46 Tic-toe link | | | | | | | | | | 93 "I'm _ loss for | | | | | | | | | |
| fluid ounce | | | | | | | | | | 78 Wide shoe spec | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 48 Chilling, as | | | | | | | | | | words" | | | | | | | | | |
| 25 Knock off | | | | | | | | | | 79 Building up to the | | | | | | | | | | DOWN | | | | | | | | | | champagne | | | | | | | | | | 94 Ran quickly | | | | | | | | | |
| 26 Stage muggers | | | | | | | | | | loudest point | | | | | | | | | | 1 Inquire | | | | | | | | | | 49 Playwright Clifford | | | | | | | | | | 95 Carotid, e.g. | | | | | | | | | |
| 28 Beating the former | | | | | | | | | | 88 Parliament's | | | | | | | | | | 2 Itsy-bitsy | | | | | | | | | | 50 City in North | | | | | | | | | | 96 A pep talk may | | | | | | | | | |
| best | | | | | | | | | | House of _ | | | | | | | | | | 3 Disneyland's city | | | | | | | | | | Dakota | | | | | | | | | | boost it | | | | | | | | | |
| 30 4x4, briefly | | | | | | | | | | 89 "With a Little _ | | | | | | | | | | 4 Barrett of gossip | | | | | | | | | | 51 Star, in Nice | | | | | | | | | | 97 Outspoken | | | | | | | | | |
| 32 Lousy | | | | | | | | | | Luck" | | | | | | | | | | 5 Snare sound | | | | | | | | | | 52 Having no service | | | | | | | | | | 98 Receiving a | | | | | | | | | |
| 34 Ian Fleming's alma | | | | | | | | | | 90 Piece-of-cake | | | | | | | | | | 6 DC doubled | | | | | | | | | | charge | | | | | | | | | | pension: Abbr. | | | | | | | | | |
| mater | | | | | | | | | | class | | | | | | | | | | 7 Warlike deity | | | | | | | | | | 53 _ fly (African pest) | | | | | | | | | | 100 Golf's Palmer, to | | | | | | | | | |
| 35 Jaded | | | | | | | | | | 94 Fold, spindle or | | | | | | | | | | 8 Thinker Descartes | | | | | | | | | | 54 Congregate | | | | | | | | | | pals | | | | | | | | | |
| 36 Online comparison | | | | | | | | | | mutilate | | | | | | | | | | 9 Carrie Chapman _ | | | | | | | | | | 55 Gobble down | | | | | | | | | | 101 High-IQ crew | | | | | | | | | |
| shopping site | | | | | | | | | | 97 Bottle near a salad | | | | | | | | | | 10 Drop | | | | | | | | | | 56 _ Artois | | | | | | | | | | 102 The _ & the Papas | | | | | | | | | |
| 42 More nasty | | | | | | | | | | bowl | | | | | | | | | | 11 Latex, e.g. | | | | | | | | | | 61 "... _ will!" (threat | | | | | | | | | | 106 Like venison | | | | | | | | | |
| 43 Dance in Rio | | | | | | | | | | 99 Smell | | | | | | | | | | 12 Money spent | | | | | | | | | | ender) | | | | | | | | | | 107 Quick haircut | | | | | | | | | |
| 44 Has a bawl | | | | | | | | | | 100 Cannonballs and | | | | | | | | | | 13 Sailor's site | | | | | | | | | | 62 - Geo Wild | | | | | | | | | | 108 Punker Pop | | | | | | | | | |
| 45 Prenatal chambers | | | | | | | | | | such | | | | | | | | | | 14 German man | | | | | | | | | | 63 Must, slangily | | | | | | | | | | 109 Alençon's | | | | | | | | | |
| 47 Locker, e.g. | | | | | | | | | | 103 Pro-learning union: | | | | | | | | | | 15 Deny | | | | | | | | | | 64 Holy artifact | | | | | | | | | | department | | | | | | | | | |
| 54 U.S. enlistees | | | | | | | | | | Abbr. | | | | | | | | | | 16 Borrowed | | | | | | | | | | 65 José's "that" | | | | | | | | | | 110 At no time, in verse | | | | | | | | | |
| 57 Arrest, as a perp | | | | | | | | | | 104 Healthful getaway | | | | | | | | | | 17 Not smooth | | | | | | | | | | 66 " _ & Kel" (teen | | | | | | | | | | 112 Mimic a tiger | | | | | | | | | |
| 58 Tiddlywink or | | | | | | | | | | 105 Backlash | | | | | | | | | | 18 _ of Berlin (snack | | | | | | | | | | show) | | | | | | | | | | 115 Saints' stats | | | | | | | | | |
| Frisbee | | | | | | | | | | 111 Banks of modeling | | | | | | | | | | brand) | | | | | | | | | | 67 Psychic skill | | | | | | | | | | 117 Yellow pages abbr. | | | | | | | | | |
| 59 How- _ (DIYers' | | | | | | | | | | 113 Catch with one's | | | | | | | | | | 21 More crafty | | | | | | | | | | 68 Prefix with light | | | | | | | | | | 118 Favorable vote | | | | | | | | | |
| books) | | | | | | | | | | ears | | | | | | | | | | 27 Get less taut | | | | | | | | | | 70 Turf groups | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 60 Jurist Scalia | | | | | | | | | | 114 "Viva Las Vegas" | | | | | | | | | | 29 Late film critic | | | | | | | | | | 71 Real aficionado | | | | | | | | | | Answer Page 4 | | | | | | | | | |

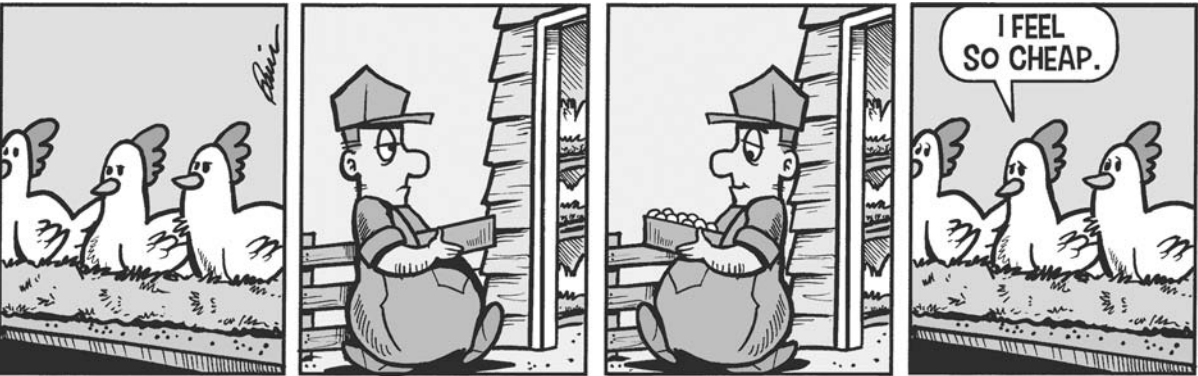
Answer Page 4

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



Normal

From Page 4

affecting hemoglobin (that carries oxygen to our tissues). Hydroxychloroquine is on the World Health Organization’s List of Essential Medicines, the “most effective and safe” to meet the most important needs of a health system. Widespread use of this inexpensive drug could obviate the need for ICU beds and ventilators.

In addition to early treatment, we must have a rational policy for getting people

back to work. All states are not affected equally. Let’s test every working person for antibodies to the SARS-CoV-2 virus that causes COVID-19. We may find that many have had an asymptomatic infection. These immune individuals will not pass the disease to others. At-risk individuals can choose to stay at home.

Ending the lockdown is not about Wall Street or disregard for people’s lives; it about saving lives. Advanced stages of non-COVID diseases, suicides, domestic violence, increase in substance abuse and mental health disorders, permanent

poverty, and dissolution of the middle class are unacceptable. Our society must not be fractured into those who live in gated communities and those who live in the streets, trailer parks, and decaying homes that they can no longer afford to keep up.

We all want to do our part to attenuate the number of serious COVID infections in our communities. But we cannot hand our lives over to the government, particularly when the virus has become an opportunity for Congress to pass pork-filled legislation, for showboating governors to out-quarantine each other, and

for politically connected tech companies to share cell phone tracking data with the government. I would hate to think some have a financial incentive for promoting a yet-to-be tested and approved vaccine in lieu of an effective, inexpensive and readily available treatment.

People are saying America will never be the same. Hopefully, this will not mean the statists have succeeded in using COVID as an excuse to enact laws that will permanently curtail our liberties and freedom to practice medicine in the best interest of our patients.

Vitamin D works slowly

DEAR DR. ROACH: Is there any reason to start taking vitamin D at age 90? I’m in good health except for osteopenia and high blood pressure. How long does it take to have an effect? – P.S.

In your case, there are potentially two good reasons to start taking vitamin D – if your blood levels are low.

One is that with osteopenia (a condition of low bone mass, a precursor to osteoporosis, which increases risk for bone fractures), replacing low vitamin D can improve bone strength and reverse bone loss. This can keep people from needing other medications for osteoporosis, which are much more likely than vitamin D to have side effects.

Older people with vitamin D deficiency also often have some muscle weakness. If you can’t get out of a chair without using your hands and you have a low vitamin D level, replacing vitamin D may help with the weakness. Of course, there are many causes for weakness in a person and there is no guarantee of effectiveness, but vitamin D is very safe in moderate doses, like 1,000 to 2,000 IU daily. Vitamin D also may reduce fall risk, probably by improving strength, especially in combination with exercise.

Vitamin D works slowly – weeks to months for muscle effects, and months to years for bone effects.

DEAR DR. ROACH: I was seeing my primary care physician every six months for about five years. We had mutual respect, and I enjoyed seeing him. Then, I got diagnosed with breast cancer and had to see other doctors for a long time. Meanwhile, the spinal stenosis my primary care physician had diagnosed was becoming untenable and ruining my quality of life. Even though I am still seeing cancer doctors, I called my primary care physician to make an appointment to discuss the spinal stenosis situation with him. After a long wait, I finally got someone in my primary care physician’s office and, after another long wait, was informed that he could not see me for six months – there was not one opening until then. I was flabbergasted and asked to be put on a cancellation list. “We don’t keep those,” the lady responded. I reluctantly took the appointment and decided to wait it out. Meanwhile, I saw one of my cancer doctors today, and after explaining this situation to him, he replied: “Doctors don’t do that. He obviously doesn’t want you as a patient anymore. I would find another primary care physician.” What is your response to this? I am 71 years old, and other than spinal stenosis and breast cancer (which was caught early and treated with surgery and radiation a year ago), I enjoy reasonably good health. – J.E.Y.

I hope there is another side to this story, since I am horrified that a physician would make a longstanding patient with cancer and spinal stenosis wait six months for an appointment. That is not appropriate medical care.

While I fully understand the point of view of your cancer doctor – and would be tempted to find another doctor – it sounds like saving the relationship you had with your PCP might be worth another try. I think speaking directly with your primary care doctor might clear up any misunderstanding..

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
John J. Audubon comes to Texas to study and paint birds on April 26, 1837.

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 E

ZI KBNQBLQ ZK ZL IERBM
BI MQS MBBX RQAQXEGPQK,
Z MQYDBL VQ NZAVX AQX
YEPPQS E GQQXLZD.

Answer Page 4
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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2 | | | 5 | | | 6 | 3 | |
| | | 1 | | 4 | | | | 8 |
| | 5 | 9 | | | 6 | | 1 | |
| | | 7 | 3 | | | 2 | | |
| 9 | | | | | 8 | | 7 | |
| | 2 | | | 7 | | | | 4 |
| | | 8 | 4 | | | 7 | | |
| | 3 | | | | 1 | | 9 | 2 |
| 1 | | | | 6 | | | | 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
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

Answer Page 4

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New VA patient advocate system



by Freddy Groves

The Department of Veterans Affairs has trained 8,300 employees to serve as patient advocates. The Patient Advocate Tracking System Replacement (PATs-R) program is now up and running in all facilities around the country. It replaces the old Patient Representative System that had patient reps with limited powers. What this new more hands-on system offers veterans is more immediate care and sometimes immediate answers.

In the past, either you or someone on your medical team would speak to your advocate, who would research the problem, sending emails to the various departments involved. Eventually an answer would come back.

Now, after a lot of research into what is really needed, you'll talk to one of the 8,300

medical staff who have been trained to get a faster resolution to your problem. Even better, this advocate can often solve your problem right then and there, without even asking anyone else.

And it's not just your individual issue that gets noticed. The PATs-R program will track and spot problems that are reported by others at any medical facility. If there's a trend at your facility or any other in the country, it will get attention across all the departments in all facilities. If you want to give a big thumbs-up to someone on the medical staff or about an experience you've had, that will be noticed as well.

The PATs-R program is one of the VA secretary's priorities. The others are implementing the MISSION Act; hooking the VA up to civilian health care providers and pharmacies, as well as making timely payments to those; improving hiring, IT, procurement and financial transactions; and suicide prevention.

To keep your finger on the pulse of what's going on at VA,

watch its blog: www.blogs.va.gov/VAnage. Put any topic of interest in the search box and there's sure to be a blog about it.

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• Spice racks can pull double duty on the walls by your vanity. They are the perfect size for toiletries and makeup items. They also work very nicely for nail polish bottles.

• "To get the best reading on meat using a meat thermometer, try sticking it in from the side. It can go in further, and to me it feels like I get a better reading than poking it in all over a steak." – M.E. in Florida

• Things you can freeze in small portions using an ice cube tray: tomato paste, coffee, coconut milk, broth or stock, wine, herbed butter or herbed olive oil.

• "If you have trouble holding your cat still to clip his claws, sneak up on him while he's asleep. You might only get a couple done before he catches on and wriggles away, but you'll get there." – P.L. in Oklahoma City (This great tip works for babies, too! – JoAnn)

• If you fill a flowerpot with clean sand, you can use it to store your garden hand tools. It looks cute, and they are accessible, too!

• "To get the dog to stop eating his food so fast, my daughter puts dry food in a silverware sorter – the plastic insert that holds cutlery in a drawer. Their dogs have to work at it, and it has helped them slow down so they don't get sick. She can just toss it in the dishwasher to clean, too!" – U.E. in Ohio

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: ★★★

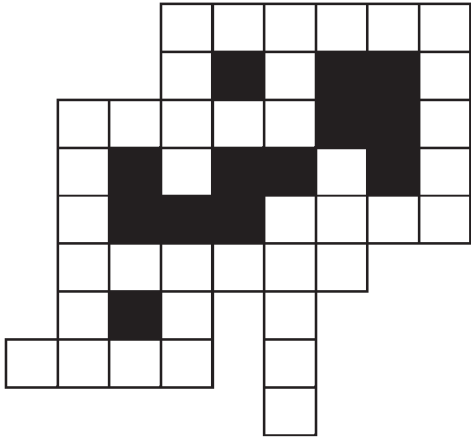
★ Moderate ★★ Difficult
★★★ GO FIGURE!
Answer Page 4

| | | | | | | | | |
|----|---|----|---|---|----|---|---|---|
| | + | | × | | 20 | | | |
| × | | − | | × | | | | |
| | − | | × | | 8 | | | |
| + | | × | | + | | | | |
| | + | | + | | 13 | | | |
| 15 | | 15 | | 9 | | | | |
| 1 | 1 | 2 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |

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AWT
TOYARN
HAWTE
♥AYSE
NACHUP
HWY
OHWC
RYLTU
♥CRA
HESWEC
♥ORSPE
HTTA



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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