



NEWSBRIEFS

COVID testing

Nurses at Anthony ISD and Canutillo ISD are teaming up to provide a drive thru COVID-19 collection site for testing. Members of the Anthony, TX and Canutillo communities will be able to get tested at Alderete Middle School, 801 Talbot Road, in Canutillo, TX. Hours will be 7:30 to 11:30 a.m. every Tuesday from June 23 until July 14. You will need to make an appointment by calling (915) 877-7620. To make an appointment you must have an address in the U.S. and Identification (ID). Acceptable ID: US driver's license, passport, social security number or other government ID. You will also be asked for insurance information but there will be no out of pocket cost. If you do not have insurance, you can still be tested.

– Marlene White

Flood planning

Texas is beginning its first-ever regional flood planning process, and the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) is seeking nominations by July 2 for initial members of the 15 flood planning groups. As of June 17, only two nominations had been submitted for the Upper Rio Grande flood planning region. Each flood planning group needs 12 members, one from each of 12 interest categories. Visit <http://www.twdb.texas.gov/flood/planning/index.asp> for detailed information and applications. In 2019, the Texas legislature created this new process and charged the TWDB with creating flood planning regions and forming the first planning groups. The groups' responsibilities will be to identify specific flood risk reduction goals and strategies to meet those goals for their regions. That information will be wrapped up in regional flood plans in 2023 and a state flood plan in 2024.

– Sarah Haney

Racial economies

With protests against racial inequality taking place all across the nation and the black unemployment rate consistently above the rate for white people, WalletHub has released its report on *the State Economies with the Most Racial Equality*, along with accompanying videos and audio

See BRIEFS, Page 4

What we do not know may not hurt us, but it can make us look pretty silly.

– Quips & Quotes



– Photo by Rick Shrum

BROKEN GROUND – This large parcel on Rojas Dr. is in the first phases of construction as dirt is leveled for a large concrete pad. Sources have confirmed that the site will be an Amazon distribution center. Just across from the parcel on Bill Burnett Dr. is FedEx Freight facility. There are no signs or indicators along the property yet to indicate that it is indeed going to be an Amazon property. In the background, upper right, is the interchange at I-10 and Loop 375.

El Paso County to have new Amazon distribution center

By Alfredo Vasquez
Special to the Courier

EL PASO COUNTY – Although El Paso county and city government leaders recently stated that, at the present time, they have not received any information about a proposed Amazon distribution fulfillment center for this area, a reliable source confirmed this week that such a facility will be built in far east El Paso County in the near future.

El Paso County Judge Ricardo Samaniego told reporters that the county is not currently involved in a proposed Amazon project, and El Paso Mayor Dee Margo also said that he has not been involved in any discussions about an

Amazon facility.

In addition, after local news outlets asked about the prospect of an Amazon facility, El Paso County Economic Development Director Andrea Adkins-Hutchins and Borderplex CEO Jon Barela both stated separately that their respective organizations do not comment on any existing and/or potential future project. Also, officials with Amazon and companies involved in developing the project declined to comment.

Nonetheless, recent documents filed with agencies of the state of Texas and the city and county of El Paso indicated that major construction projects were in the works on a large tract of vacant land located on the west side of Rojas Dr., between Socorro ISD's District Service

Center and Eastlake Blvd.

A major indicator that fueled talks about Amazon coming to El Paso County was the recent comment made by Stanley Jobe, founding partner of Jobe Materials, and a large concrete supplier in El Paso. Jobe told reporters that his company plans to put a temporary concrete batch plant on land, where the proposed Amazon facility is to be built, to supply concrete for the project. He stated that his company has applied for a state air quality permit to operate the plant along Rojas Dr. and Eastlake Blvd.

Jobe stated that the air permit application is for a temporary (concrete) batch plant for construction of an Amazon fulfillment center. However, Jobe declined to say who hired his company to be the concrete supplier for the project, according to news reports.

Another compelling indicator that an Amazon facility is coming to this region

See CENTER, Page 5

San Elizario ISD approves 2020-21 budget

Teachers to receive 4% increase

By Jeannie Meza-Chavez
Special to the Courier

SAN ELIZARIO – The San Elizario Independent School District (SEISD) Board of Trustees voted to approve its budget for fiscal year on Monday, June 15, 2020 at a scheduled special meeting. The budget includes the general fund, the food service fund and the debt service fund.

For revenues, the district anticipates bringing in a total of \$41,455,899 million, including local, state and federal funding. That is broken down into \$36,275,000 million for the general fund, \$3,789,324 million for the food service fund and \$1,391,575 million for the debt service fund.

The budget has an anticipated \$42,602,893 million in expenditures. \$21,124,881 is allocated for instruction, \$5,949,982 is for instructional support, \$1,604,260 is for central administration, \$11,323,089 is for district operations,

\$2,513,900 is for debt service and \$86,780 is for other functions.

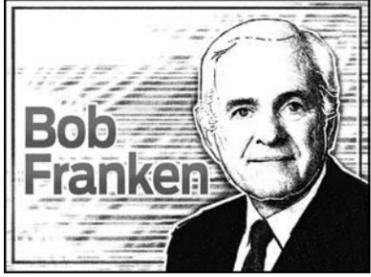
The district also plans to use \$1,459,000 million in bond savings from the 2014 voter approved bond to address 17 projects such as HVAC replacements, drainage improvements, fire alarm upgrades, classroom renovations for new computer labs and new playground equipment for Loya Primary.

Chief Financial Officer, Norberto Rivas, also broke down the general fund by category: 83% will go to payroll costs, 7% to professional and contracted services, 5% to supplies and materials, 2% for debt service and 3% for other operating expenses. Rivas said, "There is a planned amendment to reduce operating expenditures from the approved budget once the CARES Act grant is received."

The SEISD board will still need to approve its tax rate. That is anticipated to be done in August once final certified property values are available at the end of July.

The budget also includes compensation for staff for the FY

See SEISD, Page 7



Donald Trump: American symbol

He might be correct: Donald Trump has influenced the lives of African Americans as much as any president, with the possible exception of... Jefferson Davis. No wonder he sides so consistently with those who want to maintain statues of Confederate leaders, including Jefferson Davis, president of the Confederate States of America during the Civil War.

To refresh your memory, the South was defeated in that one. Although many people still consider it the "Lost Cause," suggesting to this day that the Southern way of life was worth

defending, with its easygoing charm, good manners and its slavery – that was really why the Southern states seceded from the Union and set up their own government in Richmond, Virginia. Davis is honored by some Southerners as representing the genteel stereotype they like to portray, but the fact is he was a nasty person, inept as can be. To know him was to dislike him.

How fitting that protestors recently pulled down the statue of him that had stood in Richmond since 1907. There is a long-overdue movement to take these monuments to slavery down, the ones that honor the heroes of the Confederacy – Robert E. Lee on down to lesser-known figures. Let us not forget that after a deadly turn in an August 2017 white supremacist demonstration

to defend a Robert E. Lee statue to be taken down by the city of Charlottesville, Virginia, President Trump memorably said there were "very fine people on both sides," including the racists who marched to defend the Lee statue.

And it is President Trump today – even in the wake of George Floyd's death, and "we've had enough" massive upheavals that are the nation's latest fresh wound – who opposes the renaming of several military bases in the United States that currently memorialize Confederate luminaries, if there ever was such a thing. There is a movement afoot in the U.S. to deny the racists a place of honor in our stained history, and certainly to get rid of symbols of hatred like the Confederate flag. It's even happening at

NASCAR, which began when moonshiners used fast cars to protect their moonshine and outrun the "revenooers." They then started racing these cars on dirt tracks, and NASCAR grew out of that. But even NASCAR has banned the Confederate flag, embracing the Black Lives Matter movement.

As for the national anthem, perhaps it's time to consider replacing it, considering that the author, in 1814, Francis Scott Key, was a slaveowner. In the third verse of his poem, he had a warning to those slaves struggling for their freedom:

"No refuge could save the hireling and slave
From the terror of flight or the
gloom of the grave"

But what could we replace it with? How about "We Shall

Overcome"?
"We shall overcome
We shall overcome
We shall overcome, someday"
Overcome what? The answer is bigotry.

"We'll walk hand in hand
We'll walk hand in hand
We'll walk hand in hand,
someday"

Someday, but certainly not now. And certainly not with the racist in chief destroying our country. He whips his followers into an ignorant frenzy. It'll be interesting to see how many statues there are of him after he leaves the presidency, which can't come soon enough.

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Canutillo ISD to host immunization clinic for community

By Liza M. Rodriguez
Special to the Courier

CANUTILLO – Canutillo ISD will be hosting an Immunize El Paso Vaccination Clinic for the community Monday, June 29, 2020.

It is mandated by the State of Texas and the Department of Public Health, that all students have up-to-date vaccinations

in order to attend public school for the 2020-2021 school year. Organizers say that this is an important event because many doctors' offices are only seeing patients through telemedicine or have reduced hours.

"Students must be up to date with their immunizations regardless of what model of learning we use to re-open our schools, whether it is remote or face to face," said Dr. Monica

Reyes, Executive Director of Canutillo ISD Student Support Services. "Parents should take advantage of it especially in this pandemic time to prevent the spread of other diseases and viruses."

Proper social distancing will be practiced and masks will be required. Parents are asked to only bring the child or children that require vaccination to the site.

For further information or any questions visit www.canutilloisd.org or call Student Support Services Department at 877-7650 or 877-7659.

Details

- **When: Monday, June 29, 2020**
- **Where: Lone Star Building Recreation Center
7000 5th Street
Canutillo, Texas 79835
(enter through the chain link fence and proceed to back of building)**
- **Time: 2:00 to 5:00 p.m.**
- **Cost: Medicare and most insurance accepted**
- **\$10 for VFC eligible recipients**

Required Documents

- **Parent identification;**
- **Current immunization record; and**
- **Insurance card.**

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Food for thought By Dr. Jeannie Meza-Chavez

Challenges are our opportunities

As the events of 2020 continue to unfold, I find myself thinking about the tenacity of one or many individuals who can collectively change the world. We stand strong with El Paso and the San Elizario community to do our part to eradicate racial injustices and economic disparities, and will continue supporting the education of our students despite the challenges presented by the pandemic.

As the Superintendent of the San Elizario Independent School District, I have the blessed opportunity to collaborate with individual teachers and employees at every level throughout our district to contribute to changing the potential trajectory of our students' lives. In the eyes of the children we serve, we see the curiosity, commitment, and perseverance to excel. Our parents send us their beloved children with hopes for a better future. This inspires us to work harder.

Our students continue to face obstacles that threaten to keep them from realizing their potential. In particular, the lack of financial resources to

enroll in college and finish their degree on time.

The exciting news for us is that our district and community has been working to reduce or eliminate these barriers. With the consistent support of CREEED, the Council for Regional Economic Expansion and Educational Development, students in the San Elizario ISD have continued to receive scholarship opportunities. CREEED continues to invest both in regional K-12 education initiatives and in helping our students achieve their goals of going to college and becoming successful professionals.

I had the pleasure of attending a virtual awards ceremony where Senior Jocelyn Torres was the recipient of the 2020 Sylvia Hopp San Elizario College Scholarship, which CREEED sponsors. The \$2,500 scholarship will help Jocelyn pay for her studies at St. Mary's University in San Antonio. She plans to study Biology and Psychology in hopes of entering medical school



– Photo courtesy San Elizario ISD
Jocelyn Torres

WEST TEXAS COUNTY COURIER

SERVING ANTHONY, VINTON, CANUTILLO, EAST MONTANA, HORIZON, SOCORRO, CLAYE, FARENS, SAN ELIZARIO AND TORNILLO

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Social distancing hypocrisy

Chicago Mayor Lori Lightfoot had big news last week – the city is opening up its iconic Lakefront Trail after months of being closed off as part of a COVID-19 lockdown.

That Lightfoot kept the trail closed even after Chicago had experienced large-scale Black Lives Matter marches – thousands during the “Drag March for Change” – is one small instance of the flagrant social distancing hypocrisy across the country in recent weeks.

If it’s OK for throngs of people to pack the streets, and shout and chant to protest the death of George Floyd, it ought to be permissible for someone to ride a bike along the lakeside while keeping to him- or herself.

Yet, Mayor Lightfoot welcomed the protestors – “We want people to come and express their passion,” she said – and still kept the trail shuttered.

Many of the same officials who were most zealous in locking down their states and cities instantly made an exception for Black Lives Matter protests. Their rigidity became laxity in a blink of an eye. Their metric for reopening wasn’t the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines or any other public health measure, but

the “wokeness” of the activity in question.

Visiting the deathbed of a loved one with COVID-19? Absolutely not. Having a proper funeral? No way. Gathering more than about 10 people at a graveside? No one should be allowed to put the public at risk in such a way.

Bringing thousands of strangers to march together for hours in spontaneous, disorderly groups? Thank you for your commitment to positive change.

Attending a church service? Well, maybe in a couple of months.

Holding a struggle session with religious trappings where people confess their racism and vow to work to defund the police? Please, let’s have more.

To believe the leaders of Blue America, SARS-CoV-2 is the first virus in human history to have a social conscience – virulent enough in the ordinary course of events to justify the most restrictive social controls; not such a big deal if it might get in the way of marches for social justice.

The likes of New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio have justified the different standards by arguing that fighting racism is important. Well, so is mourning your dead, keeping your business from being ground to dust and

worshiping your God. It’s a sign of a ludicrously blinkered worldview to believe that a protest march deserves more consideration than these other elemental human needs.

Another argument is that the protesters are willing to put their health on the line for their cause. But, until recently, it was said that anyone going outside wasn’t just endangering themselves, but

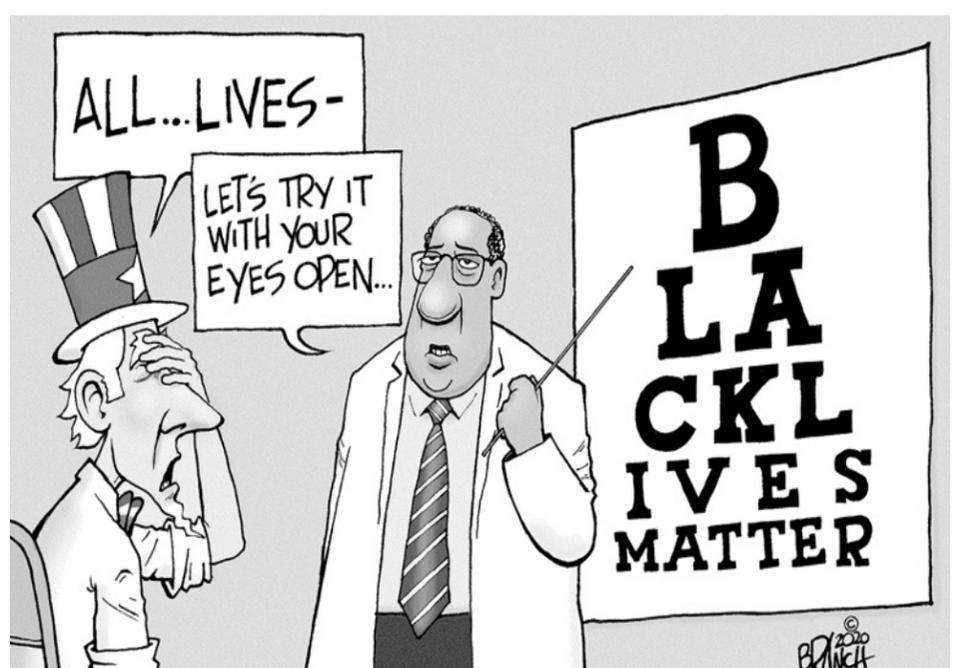
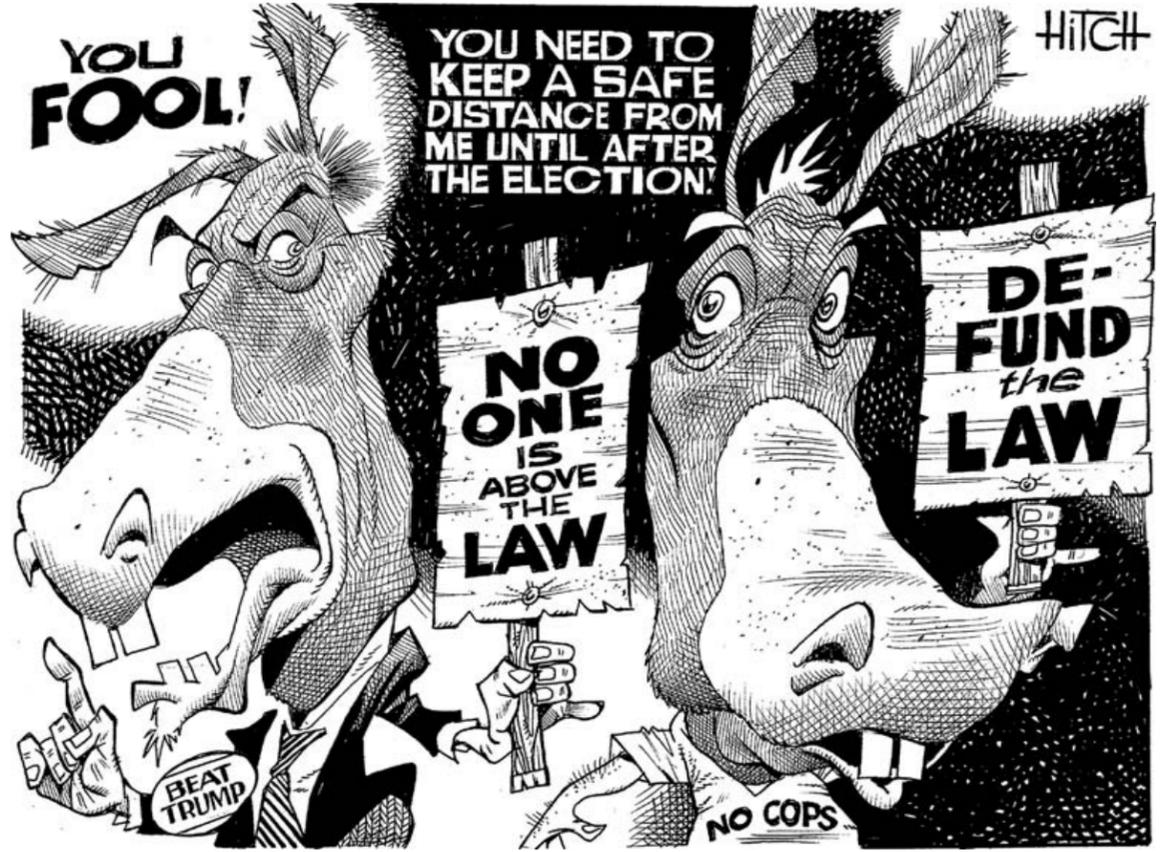
the most vulnerable people in our communities. Why wouldn’t that be true of the Black Lives Matter marches, too?

Don’t expect consistency, or even a serious attempt at it. More than 1,000 public health experts signed a letter calling the protests “vital to the national public health,” thus immolating their credibility on a pyre of motivated reasoning. It’s social distancing for people and activities they find uncongenial, and different rules for their ideological allies.



What a contemptible betrayal of the public trust.

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



Delahaye makes the most of EPCC education

By Ismael De La Rosa
Special to the Courier

ELPASOCOUNTY—Veronica B. Delahaye graduated from El Paso Community College (EPCC) with a Diagnostic Medical Sonography degree at the age of 53, with honors, in 2008. She has received additional certifications and has continued on to an impressive career. “I received an exceptional academic foundation from skilled faculty,” Delahaye said. “EPCC is the best place to start and finish at any age.”

Born and raised in Mexico City, Delahaye decided to migrate to the United States to join the rest of her family and to provide a brighter future for her 7-year-old daughter. In 2004, she enrolled at EPCC where she took the necessary courses to rank and be accepted in the

very competitive Diagnostic Medical Sonography program. As a non-traditional, second language learner, she credits her determination, her husband’s encouragement and the solid academic foundation and training she received from Ms. Nora Balderas and the rest of the EPCC faculty for her success.

After graduation, she worked for two years in the outpatient clinics of The Hospitals of Providence and Las Palmas. In 2010, she accepted a position at Womack Army Medical Center, Fort Bragg, NC. She said she is extremely honored to be able to serve our nation’s soldiers and their families.

EPCC helps diverse students make their dreams become a reality while improving educational attainment and strengthening the workforce. “EPCC has a legacy of excellence



— Photo courtesy El Paso Community College

Veronica B. Delahaye

and a real commitment to serving students,” EPCC President William Serrata said. “We will continue to serve

the region, the State of Texas and ultimately this nation by transforming lives through the power of higher education.”

Challenges

From Page 2

at Texas Tech and becoming a dermatologist.

In her scholarship application, Jocelyn wrote, “My motivation for my career in medicine will always be my community.”

She explained, “In my Mexican American community, just like the many other communities labeled as minorities, it is very popular for the people to be hard workers and out in the hot sun all day.” She hopes that as a dermatologist she will be able to treat skin diseases that can be overlooked by members of the

Hispanic community, who she noted are often reluctant to take the time off to go to the doctor.

Jocelyn made the most of her time at San Elizario High School, taking six Advanced Placement classes and eight dual-credit courses. Our district and community of San Elizario are proud of her. Just like Jocelyn, the San Elizario Senior 2020 Class is filled with graduating seniors who took their academics very seriously by selecting challenging coursework.

On behalf of the San Elizario Board of Trustees, the San Elizario Community, and the San Elizario Independent School District, we are thankful to CREEED for their continued sponsorship of the Sylvia Hopp

Scholarship that honors Sylvia’s 42-year career in education.

When Sylvia retired in 2017, I had the pleasure of being selected to serve as the superintendent of the San Elizario Independent School District. Now, as I complete my third year, I am proud to announce that the San Elizario Early College High School is in its first year of planning and hope to begin a full-fledged early college high school for the 2021-2022 school year. We continue to look forward to creating further educational opportunities for our students to accompany the state championships they continue to earn by balancing the academic and extracurricular activities. Gracias CREEED and Adelante San Elizario!

Strange BUT TRUE

By Lucie Winborne

• Who says you have to be human to serve your country? Between 2001 and 2009, a goat called William (“Billy”) Windsor was part of the 1st Battalion Infantry Unit of The Royal Welsh, with the title of lance corporal, no less. Although he was briefly demoted to fusilier following “unacceptable behavior” at Queen Elizabeth’s official birthday celebrations, he eventually saw the error of his ways and regained his more esteemed rank.

• Actor Brad Pitt chipped out pieces of his own front teeth to play the role of Tyler Durden in the movie “Fight Club.”

• And speaking of teeth... in the American Civil War, soldiers were required to have at least four opposing front teeth so they could open a gunpowder pouch. Some draftees had their front chompers removed to avoid service.

• What’s in a name? Depends on where you’re from. When the Coca-Cola Company was ready to import to China, it needed a moniker that fit with the majority of that country’s spoken languages. The original choice, “Kekoukela,” sounded phonetically similar, but in certain dialects translates to “bite the wax tadpole” or “female horse stuffed with wax.” Further research yielded a far more satisfactory solution, “Kekoukele,” meaning “tasty fun.”

• Romantic poet Percy Bysshe Shelley was one of literature’s first prominent vegans.

• Native Southerners might well be surprised to learn that the word “y’all” dates to 1631! It was first used by the English scholar William Lisle in the sentence, “The captive men of strength I gave to you, the weaker sold; and this y’all know is true.”

Thought for the Day: “Although the world is full of suffering, it is also full of the overcoming of it.”

— Helen Keller

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WEST TEXAS COUNTY COURIER

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Briefs

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files. In order to determine which states have the most racial equality in terms of employment and wealth, WalletHub compared the 50 states and the District of Columbia across eight key metrics. Our data compares the difference between white and black Americans in areas such as annual income, unemployment rate and homeownership rate. Texas was rated at number

five for racial equality in this report, ranking (1-Most Equality; 25-Avg.):

- 8th – Median Annual Income;
- 6th – Labor-Force Participation Rate;
- 8th – Unemployment Rate;
- 8th – Homeownership Rate;
- 3rd – Poverty Rate;
- 1st – Homeless Rate; and
- 1st – Share of Unsheltered Homeless.

Visit <https://wallethub.com/edu/state-economies-with-most-racial-equality/75810/> for the full report.

— Diana Polk

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CryptoQuip Answer

Should people be permitted to give grizzlies guns?
I believe in the right to arm bears.

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Moments in time
THE HISTORY CHANNEL

• On June 22, 1944, President Franklin Roosevelt signs the G.I. Bill, giving returning World War II veterans a range of benefits, including money for college tuition, living expenses and books.

• On June 23, 1972, Title IX of the education amendments of 1972 is enacted into law. Title IX prohibits federally funded educational institutions from discriminating against students or employees based on sex in all areas, including athletics.

• On June 24, 1993, Yale professor David Gelernter is seriously injured when an envelope explodes in his hands. That bombing, along with 14 others since 1978 that killed three people and injured 23 others, was eventually linked to Theodore Kaczynski, the Unabomber.

• On June 25, 2009, Michael Jackson, one of the most successful entertainers in history, dies at age 50 at his home in California. Jackson suffered cardiac arrest caused by a fatal combination of prescription drugs given to him by his personal doctor.

• On June 26, 1959, the St. Lawrence Seaway is officially opened, creating a navigational channel from the Atlantic Ocean to Duluth, Minnesota. The system of canals, locks and dredged waterways extends for nearly 2,500 miles.

• On June 27, 1939, one of the most famous scenes in movie history is filmed – Rhett Butler and Scarlett O’Hara parting in “Gone with the Wind.” Director Victor Fleming also shot the scene using the alternate line, “Frankly, my dear, I just don’t care,” in case the film censors objected to the word “damn.” The censors approved the movie but fined producer David O. Selznick \$5,000 for including the curse.

• On June 28, 1969, a police raid of the Stonewall Inn, a popular gay club in New York’s Greenwich Village, turns violent as patrons and local sympathizers begin rioting against the police and throwing bottles. It’s now remembered as one of history’s first major protests for LGBT rights.

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– Photo courtesy of Kevin Lisota/GeekWire

COMING SOON – Plans appear to be in place for Amazon to put one of its giant distribution centers – known as customer fulfillment centers – in El Paso County. Above is an Amazon Fulfillment Center in Washington state.

Center

From Page 1

was when a national construction company official, whose name or the company name could not be published because of Amazon restraints, acknowledged recently that the company had submitted a bid to be the general contractor for the proposed construction of an Amazon fulfillment center on land located along Rojas Dr. and near Eastlake Blvd. in far East El Paso County. The proposed project cost is listed as \$191.7 million.

Finally, a person familiar with the proposed Amazon dealings but asked not to be identified, said that an Amazon facility, in fact, was coming to this region.

Amazon was founded by Jeff Bezos, who is the Seattle company’s chief executive officer. Amazon operates about 175 fulfillment centers of varying sizes throughout the world, including 110 in North America, with about 500,000 full-time employees, according to company information. It has been adding new centers in recent years in the Western United States.

The number of employees at the centers varies. But many of the centers employ well over 1,000 people. Wages start at \$15 per hour, plus health benefits and a 401(k)-retirement savings plan, according to Amazon information.

“If a huge business like Amazon is willing to not only bring a center to this area but also build in order to accommodate that move, it must have seen the possibilities for an employable pool of talent and the infrastructure needed to handle the kind of output an Amazon facility would have in the area,” commented Tricia Martinez, a local radio morning show host.

In the same Eastlake Blvd, Rojas Dr. vicinity, another major construction project is under development. A recent report indicated that an architect’s project registration was filed in May with the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation. The filing showed that Hillwood, a large Dallas real estate development company headed by billionaire Ross Perot Jr., is owner of a proposed 2.6 million-square-foot retail center in El Paso County. The subdivision plat application

names Hillwood as the developer, according to reports.

The retail center site location address is listed as 12101 Emerald Pass Dr., which is a proposed street different from the existing Emerald Pass Avenue in East El Paso County. Additionally, a subdivision plat, named Project William Unit One, was recently filed with the El Paso Planning and Inspections Department. The plat shows that the planned El Paso site would be on about 115 acres of vacant land near the southeast corner of

Rojas Dr. and Eastlake Blvd., according to recent reports. The land is between Rojas and Interstate 10 and includes the proposed Emerald Pass Dr.

Land for these proposed development projects is outside the El Paso city limits but within the city’s extraterritorial jurisdiction (ETJ), that is a 5-mile radius around the city limits; so, the city planning department will be reviewing all plats for the subdivision applications within its ETJ as the work progresses.



– Not to scale / Base image courtesy Google Maps



– Photo by Rick Shrum

MORE RETAIL – This development – Eastlake Marketplace – located at the intersection of Eastlake Blvd. and Gateway Blvd West promises 250,000 square feet of retail space is coming soon. The location, along with the Amazon location are shown on the map above.

Even with no sports, some stadiums are still making news

By Steve Escajeda
Special to the Courier

It's rather obvious that athletic competition needs to be conducted in a stadium, field, arena, park, rink, or any other structure build to house it.

Often times, we focus on the sport, or the players, or the coaches, and forget about the actual venues the fans are sitting in.

This past week in El Paso, three separate sports buildings made news. Two were extremely positive, one was still wrapped in controversy, but all three are hoping to provide good things for the city's future.

Southwest University Park

The home of the El Paso Chihuahuas baseball and Locomotive soccer professional franchises hasn't witnessed a single fastball, homerun, corner kick or goal this summer.

But last week the park did witness the

future. Not only that, it contributed to it. Southwest University Park hosted the graduation ceremonies for the Clint Independent School District.

Seniors from Clint, Mountain View and Horizon High Schools, as well as the Clint ISD Early College Academy, walked the infield and received their diplomas in a ceremony many thought would never take place because of the Covid-19 shutdown.

In a 5-night span, the four schools used the safer outdoor venue to conclude their high school careers. After a bleak and unusual ending to their senior campaigns, the park in downtown El Paso provided them with hope that things will get back to normal in the very near future.

The Sun Bowl

The biggest question on college football fans' minds right now is whether there will be any football at all this season.

After going an embarrassing 2-34 the last three seasons, the UTEP Miners are

still the only game in town. And the only thing worse than watching losing football, is watching no football.

The Miners are scheduled to open the 2020 season on Sept. 5 against Texas Tech in the Sun Bowl. Even if the season does start on time, no one is really sure how many fans will be allowed to attend the game in person.

The only thing that appears to be on schedule is the facelift the old stadium is getting.

Like anything that's been around for 57 years, the Sun Bowl was beginning to show its age.

But the addition of luxury boxes, club seating and a sky lounge, will totally change the look of the stadium. There will also be improvements to the press box and stadium restrooms; new elevators and walkways will be installed and it will all be climate-controlled.

UTEP officials say the construction is on-schedule and everything should be

completed by that first game – if there is one.

After covering UTEP games for about 25 years, the improvements, especially the air conditioning, is what I'm looking forward to the most.

Multipurpose Performing Arts and Entertainment Center

The multipurpose center, more often referred to as the El Paso Downtown Arena, was in the news again last week.

The on-again, off-again, on-again, off-again and now on-again arena project has been yo-yoing around since 2012.

Back then, over 70 percent of El Pasoans voted for the arena in hopes of luring huge concerts, conventions, trade shows, sporting events and other countless types of entertainment.

Located in downtown next to Southwest University Park and the El Paso Convention Center, the area would be a kind of one-stop shop for entertainment of any kind.

But then came the numerous lawsuits trying to keep the arena from being built in the Duranguito area of downtown.

Well, last week the Texas Supreme Court decided not to listen to the case that would challenge the arena being built, therefore, it let a lower court's ruling stand. That court stated that the arena could be built downtown and it could host sporting events.

There is still one more court decision that has to be made, which would allow demolition of the area to begin. It's rather apparent the court system will be on the side of the city and construction will finally be allowed to begin.

However, after all this time, it's rather obvious that \$180 million won't buy you the same proposed 15,000-seat arena it would have bought you eight years ago.



An estimated 1 in every 5 vehicles on our Texas roads has no automobile insurance, but that's about to change. • TexasSure Vehicle Insurance Verification matches vehicle registration information to insurance policy data to immediately tell law enforcement officers and tax assessor-collectors who's driving without insurance. • So, if you're not covered, better get insured! • To learn more, visit: www.TexasSure.com

TexasSure catches drivers without insurance.

www.wtxcc.com

Super Crossword

- | | | | | |
|----------------------------------|---|---------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| FALL NICKNAME | 66 Truckload | 123 Salsa brand | 35 Monopoly card statistic | 83 On _ (of equal value) |
| ACROSS | 67 Riddle, part 4 | | 36 Spear | 84 Nero's 53 |
| 1 "Alto Rhapsody" composer | 70 Kid's "It" game | DOWN | 41 Nonetheless | 85 Faithful wife of Geraint |
| 7 Amount of medication | 71 Four-time Indy 500 winner | 1 German car | 42 Detach, as a book page | 86 Suffix with bachelor |
| 11 Very close pals, briefly | 73 Supreme Court justice Sotomayor | 2 Yell of cheer | 43 Clown prop | 87 Booming jets of old |
| 15 Lay away | 74 Get-out-of-jail fee | 3 California's Santa - | 45 Flat _ board | 88 Nero's wife |
| 19 Handbook | 75 Metal-bearing rock | 4 Castaway's shelter | 48 Radiates | 89 Crassness |
| 20 Among other things, in Latin | 76 Tarnish | 5 Irked with | 49 Hawaii "hi" | 94 Winged ones in heaven |
| 22 A, in Austria | 77 _ vu | 6 Sluggish mammal | 50 Tolerate | 95 Absorb |
| 23 Start of a riddle | 78 Mortar and _ | 7 One trying to lose weight | 51 50-50 gamble | 96 Part on a drama series, say |
| 25 With the stroke of _ | 80 Riddle, part 5 | 8 Yoko of music | 52 Cheat | 97 Dreadlocks wearer, often |
| 26 Busily engaged | 88 Mo. no. 10 | 9 Big inits. in fuel additives | 56 Use one's | 98 Basked |
| 27 Actress O'Grady | 90 I-10, e.g. | 10 Elver, e.g. | 106-Across | 101 "I love you," in Spain |
| 28 Actor Baio | 91 _ mater (brain cover) | 11 Lauren of "Key Largo" | 57 Impulse | 102 Sushi sauce |
| 29 Riddle, part 2 | 92 Smears with holy oil | 12 Natural talents | 58 Guesses at JFK | 103 Vanzetti's partner in anarchy |
| 37 Brain part | 93 Engender | 13 Daughter, in Dijon | 59 Judo hall | 104 D-day time specification |
| 38 Vends again | 95 In dire _ | 14 Paradise of "On the Road" | 60 Too large to be strained, maybe | 109 Forest lair |
| 39 New York port on Lake Ontario | 99 Songstress Eartha | 15 Manatee or dugong | 62 Former UN leader Kofi | 110 Ingested |
| 40 Some weather lines | 100 End of the riddle | 16 Praise with a cap motion | 63 Doughboys' conflict: Abbr. | 111 Mingle |
| 44 Untold millennia | 105 Wise words | 17 "Just the last item is left" | 64 Bleach | 112 Rd.'s cousin |
| 45 Gallery works | 106 Mr. Spock's pointy pair | 18 Tried to get | 65 Shout at | 113 Authorize to |
| 46 Frat.'s counterpart | 107 Flood figure | 19 Kingly | 68 Magic hex | 114 Lofty work |
| 47 Riddle, part 3 | 108 Feeling, informally | 21 Kingly | 69 Actress Smith of Tyler Perry films | 115 Floor cover |
| 53 Epitomize | 109 Riddle's answer | 24 Snapshot, for short | 72 Bullfight holler | 116 Relaxing site |
| 54 Volcano outflow | 117 "- do in a pinch" | 28 Blues singer - Monica Parker | 77 Passing grade, barely | |
| 55 Waikiki whereabouts | 118 Desirous of equaling someone else | 29 Stepped off | 78 Greek philosopher | |
| 58 Coll. e-mail ending | 119 Advanced to the starting point, as a tape | 30 Little snack | 79 Slezak or Eleniak | |
| 61 Coyote kin | 120 Floor votes | 31 Wind instrument | 81 Shaw playing a clarinet | |
| 62 Stopped sleeping | 121 "Fat chance" | 32 Prove false | 82 Powerful car engine | |
| 64 Actress Dana | 122 Deleted, with "out" | 33 Indigent | | |
| | | 34 General - chicken | | |

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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



SEISD

From Page 1

2020-21, which begins July 1st.

The SEISD Board of Trustees approved a 4% pay increase for teachers in the 2020-21 school year with a total of a half a million in total increases for teachers. Trustee Madrid stated, "We want for our teachers to be compensated for all of

the hard work that they do and continue to do especially during these times." All Trustees agreed with this sentiment. Human Resources Director Blanca Cruz said, "I am excited about the steps being taken to ensure our salaries are competitive. This will definitely help our recruiting and retention efforts."

The Board of Trustees asked the Administration to bring the starting teacher pay to a competitive status with

neighboring school districts. Starting teacher pay will be \$52,000.

"We want to be among the top five districts in the region." Trustee Fernie Madrid said. "We need to be ahead and not always trying to catch up." In addition, the pay raise provides 3% for non-exempt and 2% for Administrative Professionals; with \$50 monthly increase in employer health contributions. All increases will be off the midpoint.

Does a CPAP machine need special cleaning?

DEAR DR. ROACH: I was diagnosed with severe sleep apnea in the early 1990s and have been using a CPAP machine ever since.

I've just recently begun seeing advertisements on television for a product that cleans the inside of your CPAP machine. It is common knowledge that we must clean the facial mask, hoses and other external parts of the machine on a regular basis, as well as changing the filters, but I have no recollection of ever having been informed of any of my sleep specialist doctors



that the inside of the CPAP machine requires regular cleaning. I also do not recall ever seeing any instructions regarding this in any CPAP manual. I notice that this new CPAP cleaning machine costs approximately \$250-\$300, and I have already read a few reviews posted by people who have had lots of problems with it functioning properly. Is it really necessary to clean the inside of your CPAP machine? I've never been informed of this in all the years I've had sleep apnea, and I have gone through several machines. - C.P.

A CPAP machine is a pressurized device used mostly for people with obstructive sleep apnea. I also have seen these advertisements, but a review of the literature suggests that there's a very low risk of infection or allergic reaction due to a dirty machine, mask or hose. Although the cleaning devices do work, I could find no evidence that they are necessary or offer any benefit beyond regular cleaning with soap and water. This should be done regularly. Filters should be changed every two to four weeks.

DEAR DR. ROACH: If you have had hepatitis B, are you able to donate anything (e.g., blood or organs)? I was never diagnosed with the disease, but I tested positive for the antibodies during a blood donation over 30 years ago. Someone recently told me that I can still donate plasma. Is this true? I signed up on my driver's license to be an organ donor. Should I uncheck that box? I don't want to endanger anybody unknowingly. - J.S.

Antibodies to hepatitis B may be developed during natural infection or through vaccination. A doctor can tell which kind from a blood test, by determining whether the hepatitis B core antibody is positive. People who have had natural infection (a positive core antibody) may not donate blood or plasma. People who have been vaccinated (the surface antibody is positive, but the core antibody is negative) may safely donate blood and plasma.

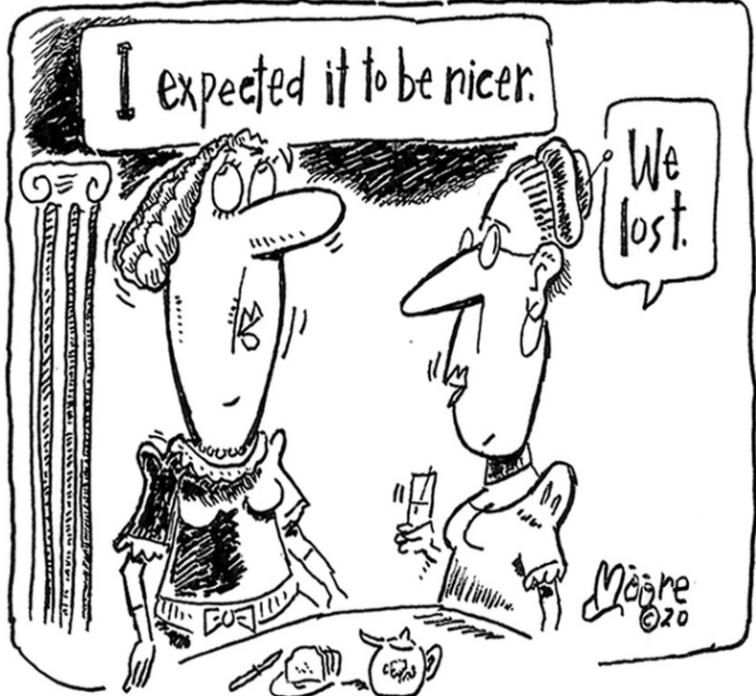
As far as transplants go, before considering using a person's organs for transplant, the transplant team checks for the presence of active virus with sophisticated DNA testing. The likelihood of your endangering someone is low.

There is such an organ shortage that organs often are accepted from people with a history of viral hepatitis. For example, the medical team taking care of a person who is likely to die imminently without a heart transplant may accept the heart of a person with a history of hepatitis B infection. The person receiving the transplant likely would need antiviral treatment after surgery.

Don't uncheck the box. Your organs may help extend the life and sight of many people.

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.

Send Your Newsbrief To: wtxcc@wtxcc.com



Moore Texas by Roger MOORE
June 3, 1908: Near Austin... the Woman's Home for Confederate Widows opens.

CryptoQuip

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

Clue: Z equals P

VFSMUE ZRSZUR NR ZRAGOIIRE
IS WOQR WAOLLUORV WMCV?
O NRUORQR OC IFR
AOWFI IS DAG NRDAV.

Answer Page 4

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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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An app just for COVID



by Freddy Groves

Ah, here we go. I recently wrote here about a few Department of Veterans Affairs apps that might be helpful in reducing stress. Now we hear from the VA that it's created a specific mobile app to reduce stress caused by the coronavirus.

This one, COVID Coach, focuses on four areas: manage stress, learn, mood check and find resources.

Each category has subgroups. Manage Stress, for examples, has challenges, tools and a favorites area. Under Challenges, there are categories such as creating space for myself, handling anger and irritability, and sleep struggles.

Mood Check covers setting a goal, and tracking well-being, anxiety mood and PTSD symptoms.

Under Learn, there's staying safe, staying healthy, staying

balanced and more.

Finding Resources has some valuable options – crisis support, substance use support, meeting your needs, for parents and caregivers – with direct links right inside the app.

Staying Strong has a photo of a flower growing out of what looks like cracked, dry dirt. No, I'm not a gardener, but I get it. It's where we are right now with this whole lockdown coronavirus thing. We need to come out the other side of this safe, sane and healthy. This app can help. It was created by the VA's mental health people and requires iOS 11.0 or later for Apple products or 4.4 for Android.

There's nothing in the app that requires a password or credit card info, so there's no data mining.

You can get this free app from the Apple app store and Google play. Click on the icons at mobile.va.gov/app/covid-coach and it will take you to those two sources. If you have questions, contact them at MobileMentalHealth@va.gov.

And yes, anyone, not just

veterans, can make use of the app. Get the app, fill out the self-reporting questionnaires (legit ones from the VA and DoD) and check in with the app every day.

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- If you love a good BOGO deal, you're not alone. Oftentimes, for items like condiments or staples, this means you need a place to put it until it's time to use. For items that are safe to store at room temperature, find a place that it out of direct light, and is cool and dark. But avoid lower cabinets that are close to the stove or dishwasher, as these can get quite warm.

- Tackle the nitty gritty around knobs and crevices of your kitchen appliances with a toothbrush! Just dampen it, add a bit of baking soda for a gritty scrub that won't scratch, and then dip it in dish soap to cut through grease and grime.
- "Want your readers to last longer? Keep them in a fabric pouch when not in use. You can attach a keychain ring to a fabric pouch and hang that from a lanyard worn around your neck if you want to keep them on you. Reading glasses bump into many things and can get scratched easily, so protect them." – F.J. in Florida

- Maybe you're not putting miles on your vehicle like you used to, but don't neglect your car! Take some time to get your car's interior looking great so she'll be ready when you get back on the road. Give the upholstery a good cleaning. Bust out the detail brushes on your vacuum or shop vac, and give leather and plastic surfaces a wipe down with a protectant.

- Never scrub a cast iron skillet. It needs the patina in order to heat food evenly. Clean with a stiff brush and regular dish soap. Rinse clean, and dry immediately, preferably by placing it on a warm to hot burner for a few minutes. When dry, rub with a light coating of oil.

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

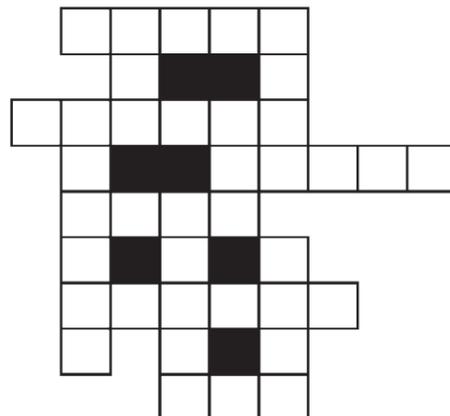
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- MRI
- DROAFE
- PEELX
- ♥ANLE
- LUMPEA
- XUL
- ♥EDMI
- ♥RIFEN
- ERD
- ♥REDANE
- ♥LUREC
- ELXF



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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