



NEWSBRIEFS

Opening schools

With reopening schools being a hotly debated topic and in-person learning essential for letting parents go to work this fall, WalletHub has released a nationally representative *School Reopening Survey*, which found that 55 percent of parents want their children to learn in person. Below are highlights of the survey, along with a WalletHub Q&A with analyst Jill Gonzalez.

- Some parents can't stay home. 32 percent of parents are not able to work remotely.
- Mixed feelings on teacher compensation. Almost 1 in 4 parents think that teachers who work remotely should either get paid less, work longer hours or give up vacation days.
- Fathers want schools to open more. 31 percent more fathers than mothers want schools to reopen for in-person learning.
- Politics impact reopening opinions. Two-thirds of conservative parents favor schools reopening, versus less than half of liberal parents. Visit <https://wallethub.com/blog/school-reopening-survey/78092/> for the complete survey results.

Q&A with Jill Gonzalez

Are parents able to supervise their kids while working from home if schools hold remote learning?

A significant share of parents, 32 percent, cannot work remotely. If schools hold remote learning this fall, this may create a difficult situation where some parents will have to choose between leaving their children unsupervised, paying extra for childcare or taking a leave from work. Leaving children home alone might not be especially difficult for high schoolers, but is not an option for young kids.

Do Americans think teachers who work remotely should be penalized?

Almost 1 in 4 Americans think teachers who work remotely should be penalized by either getting paid less, working longer hours or giving up vacation time. It's up to school districts and states, not teachers, whether schools reopen for in-person learning, so it makes sense that the vast majority of Americans don't think teachers who work remotely should be treated any differently.

Is there a difference between fathers

See BRIEFS, Page 9

It is sad when an old man leaves nothing to prove that he lived a long time, except his years.

— Quips & Quotes



— Photo courtesy of U.S. National Park Service

FUNDED – Guadalupe Mountains National Park, above, is located 110 miles east of El Paso, on U.S. Highway 62/180. The Great American Outdoors Act earmarks about \$6.4 million for Guadalupe Mountains National Park, over \$100 million for Big Bend, another \$7 million for Amistad, \$2.8 million for Fort Davis National Historic Site, and \$6.9 million for the San Antonio Missions for much needed but deferred maintenance projects.

Great American Outdoors Act

Recreation areas conserved for public use

By **Alfredo Vasquez**
Special to the Courier

NATION – With the COVID-19 pandemic making people shelter in place and stay away from crowds, now more than ever Americans are seeking to get outside and experience national parks and national wildlife refuge systems that this country has to offer. The Great American Outdoors Act (GAOA) will ensure that these national treasures can be explored for generations to come.

The GAOA legislation signed recently is not just about outdoor recreation. In signing the outdoors act, Congress and President Donald Trump are protecting and enhancing the economies of numerous gateway communities that surround these

national parks and wildlife reserves federal government officials asserted. The new outdoors act will stimulate local businesses across the country by bringing more visitors to these parks, they claimed.

In addition to improving infrastructure at national parks, the act also provides permanent funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), which supports recreational access, protection, and preservation of the nation's most valuable natural and cultural resources. Government officials pointed out that by supporting counties across the country, the LWCF grants enable state and local governments to develop and improve parks in their communities, as well as permanently conserve outdoor recreation areas for public use and enjoyment.

Will Hurd, U.S. Representative for the 23rd Congressional District of Texas, stated recently that the newly-signed federal legislation will effect eight unique, national parks and historic sites that are located in his district which encompasses most of West Texas – from San Antonio to El Paso and the Rio Grande Valley.

Texas's national parks and sites include about 800,000 acres with mountain peaks up to nearly 8,000 feet high, canyons and rivers spanning miles, as well as nearly 1,300 plant species, 75 animal species, 450 birds, 3,600 insects, 56 reptiles and the vast Chihuahuan Desert, according to Hurd.

“These numbers alone don't quantify the impact a park, like Big Bend, has on the millions of visitors who have made their way to West Texas for three quarters of a century,” Hurd stated. “To describe Big Bend as just a park doesn't do it justice. It is a natural wonder, and it must remain

See GAOA, Pages 6/7

Gurrola is Region 19 Elementary Teacher of the Year

By **Christy Flores-Jones**
Special to the Courier

EL PASO COUNTY – Pedro Gurrola was named the 2021 ESC Region 19 Elementary Teacher of the Year during a special ceremony Aug. 8 via a YouTube livestream. He is the Socorro Independent School District (SISD) 2020 Elementary Teacher of the Year and teaches at Vista Del Sol Elementary

Gurrola is a fifth-grade teacher with 23 years of teaching experience. He was honored for his unwavering commitment to the teaching craft, providing high-quality and innovative instruction, and his dedication to serve all students in the region, especially at Vista Del Sol and in Team SISD.

“I believe in what we do and what we stand for,” said Gurrola via Twitter. “I am thankful to continue to have the opportunity to represent #TeamSISD and share all the #EndlessOpportunities offered.”

SISD superintendent Jose Espinoza, Ed.D., shared the news with Team SISD via Twitter after the Region 19 announcement.

“Congrats to @PGorro_VDSES for being named @ESCRegion19 Elementary Teacher of the Year!,” Espinoza said. “Your love for teaching has made all the difference in your students' hearts to develop their own gifts and hidden talents. #TeamSISD is incredibly proud of your work.”

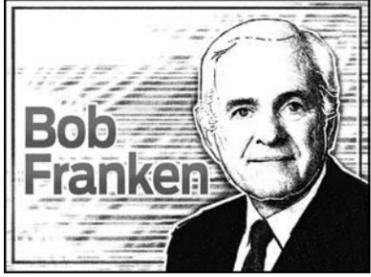


— Photo courtesy Socorro ISD
Pedro Gurrola

Prior to teaching, Gurrola worked as a graphic artist, but said he was not getting the satisfaction from work that he sought until he started his career in education. He said he teaches his students to never give up and to always believe in themselves.

His colleagues and school administrators were not surprised by the fifth-grade teachers' win. They describe him as a great role model for students.

“Congratulations Mr. Gurrola,” said Vista Del Sol principal Cynthia Velasquez via Twitter. “We are proud to have you represent Vista Del Sol, #TeamSISD and Region 19 as you move on to state! The greatness within you shines bright, especially around your students. Thank you for all you do. We are filled with joy.”



Dr. Fauci's pitch vs. Trump's pitch

attacker struck with a vengeance and after a lockdown barely flattened the curve. And you agitated for a return to "normal," ignoring, for political reasons, the fact that the deadly organism was still lurking. You have been a fount of misinformation, touting the entirely made-up benefits of hydroxychloroquine as a miracle cure for COVID.

Not that you've learned any lessons. Even when study after study concludes that "hydroxy" has no benefits, and in fact may kill people or make them crazy, you keep coming back to your fantasy of a "miracle" cure.

That idea should have been relegated to the Trumpster dumpster, but you retweeted some Breitbart gobbledygook from a doctor who claims that the medicine is still her go-to drug in combatting COVID. Never mind that she has a pretty bizarre history: She has claimed that sex with demons in dreams causes various gynecological problems, that modern medicines are made from space aliens' DNA, that witches are responsible for gay marriage and abortion.

But let's not confine our answer to just Trump's performance in

the pandemic. On just about every issue, with his every utterance and Twitter missive, he has demonstrated that he is a constantly lying, obnoxious and ignorant bigot. A leader is supposed to appeal to a country's best instincts. He has brought out our worst instincts.

In a nation whose system is built on a constitution that carefully protects against an autocracy, he frequently tries to ignore that constitution. In his latest rant against mail-in voting in this year of the pandemic, because it could promote fraud – which is utterly unproven, by the way – he has floated the idea that the election can be delayed. He ignores the fact that the Constitution inconveniently leaves it up only to Congress to determine the "time, place and manner" of the vote, and gives a hard time of Jan. 20 to transition from one presidential term to another. But he's run afoul of the rules before in pursuit of one governmental shortcut or another.

Maybe those are some of the reasons, President Trump, why your approval ratings are in the toilet and Tony Fauci's are sky

high. To put it bluntly, Americans overwhelmingly trust Fauci. After your constant lying, they overwhelmingly don't trust you. On Jan. 20, you will either be

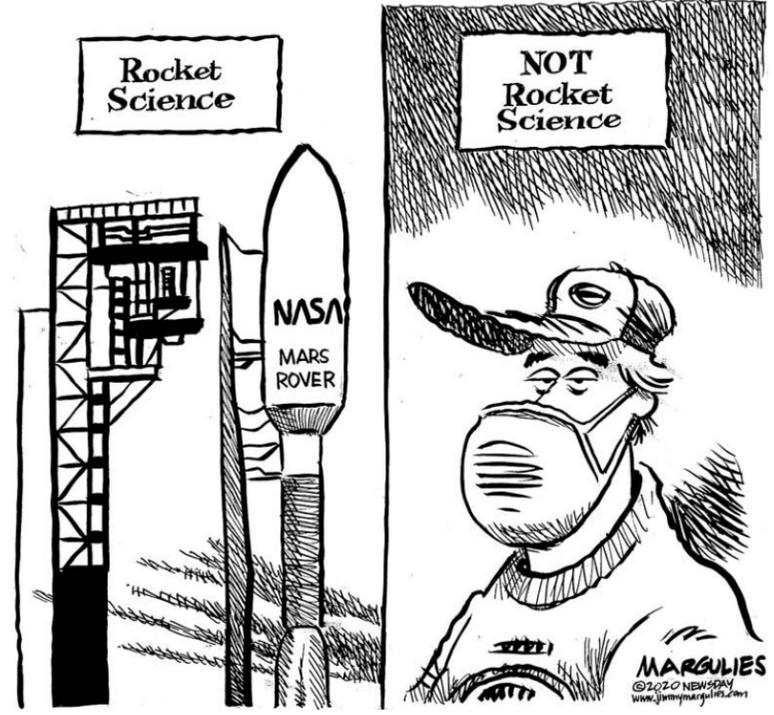
turned out of office or America will be on its way to becoming a dictatorship.

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President Donald Trump was in one of his whiny moods. He was talking about Dr. Anthony Fauci, who's been the head of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases for 36 years. "He's got this high approval rating," grumbled the president. After all, he's followed some of Fauci's recommendations. "So why don't I have a high approval rating?"

Indeed. Tony Fauci threw out the first pitch at Washington Nationals' opening day and it was wild, to put it mildly. Nevertheless, Topps, the guys that make baseball cards, made one of Fauci in action. They sold out in 24 hours – all 51,512 of them.

But now that you've asked, Mr. President, here are some of the reasons. You've ignored too many of the recommendations of Dr. Fauci and so many public health experts – made before coronavirus reached our shores, during the time the deadly



Socorro Independent School District PUBLIC NOTICE

Public Meeting to Review Federally Funded Programs

The Socorro Independent School District will conduct a meeting by teleconference to review the following 2020 – 2021 Federal Grant:

Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) Fund

The next regular meeting of the Board of Trustees has been scheduled for Tuesday, August 18, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. This meeting will be held by teleconference. The teleconference audio can be accessed at the following toll free number: 1-866-899-4679 using the access code 476-870-493 and through an audio feed located at <https://youtu.be/Q9fx-LUov10>. Any member of the public wishing to comment on an agenda item can send the comments to the following email address: board-questions@sisd.net

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Distrito Escolar Independiente de Socorro AVISO PUBLICO

La junta Pública para Revisar los Programas de Fondos Federales

El Distrito Escolar Independiente de Socorro llevará a cabo una junta por teleconferencia para revisar este programa federal:

Fondo de Alivio de Emergencia para Escuelas Primarias y Secundarias (ESSER)

La junta ha sido programada para el martes, 18 de agosto del 2020, a las 6:00 p.m. Esta reunión se llevará a cabo por teleconferencia. El audio de teleconferencia se puede acceder al siguiente número gratuito: 1-866-899-4679 utilizando el código de acceso 476-870-493 y a través de una fuente de audio ubicada en <https://youtu.be/Q9fx-LUov10>. Cualquier miembro del público que desea comentar un punto de la agenda puede enviar los comentarios a la siguiente dirección de correo electrónico: board-questions@sisd.net

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WEST TEXAS COUNTY COURIER

SERVING ANTHONY, VINTON, CANUTILLO, EAST MONTANA, HORIZON, SOCORRO, CLINE, FARENS, SAN ELIZABO AND TORNILLO

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Shame on America's teachers unions

No other group has shown as much contempt for its own work during the coronavirus crisis as teachers.

Their unions are actively fighting to keep kids out of the classroom, and also to limit remote instruction, lest it require too much time and attention from people who are supposed to be wholly devoted to educating our children.

This has been a wrenching time

in the U.S. labor market, with tens of millions thrown out of work, and also an inspiring one. Not only have doctors and health-care workers put themselves on the line, cops and firefighters have done the same. Workers we never before would have thought of as essential – grocery store employees, delivery guys, meat-packing workers – have kept absolutely necessary parts of the economy operating.

Then, there are the teachers unions.

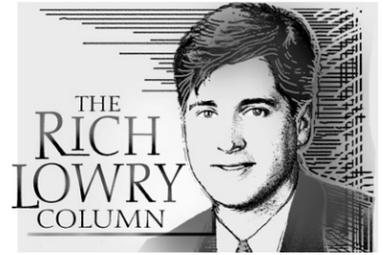
Theirs has been a diametrically opposed approach to the everyday heroes of America. Their first and last thought has been of their own interests. They have sought to limit their labor while still getting paid – at the ultimate cost of the education of kids who may never fully make up the gaps in their learning during their time out of the classroom.

Obviously, any gathering of people has its risks, and school districts should make every reasonable accommodation to the realities of the pandemic. There are many teachers who are better than their unions – or not members of a union at all – and some are truly at high risk from the virus. Yet the unions have represented institutional laziness and selfishness at a time of incredible strain for parents across the country.

The unions have a handy foil in President Donald Trump, but it shouldn't require wearing a MAGA hat to acknowledge the benefits of in-person instruction, and the experience of other advanced countries suggests it carries low risks.

The American Academy of Pediatrics released a statement in June saying that it "strongly advocates that all policy considerations for the coming school year should start with a goal of having students physically present in school."

The *New York Times* has cited research suggesting that the cancellation of classes in the spring cost students a significant portion of their learning for the year, and they might be seven months behind the curve. Online learning, especially for younger kids, is a poor substitute for being in the classroom, and many districts



didn't even offer that. As states and localities try to avoid a repeat of that debacle, many unions are throwing every obstacle in the way. In California, the unions pushed to delay students coming back to the classroom, and in Los Angeles, the union has been negotiating to limit the time teachers spend on online instruction, too.

Unions around the country have offered endless excuses why they can't even do a simulacrum of their job. Teachers might be abashed about their appearance teaching by video from home. The privacy of teachers might be violated if video instruction is recorded for use by parents and their kids at a convenient time. Teachers can't handle simultaneous classroom and video instruction.

If the teachers unions get their way, teachers' letter grade during this crisis will be a shameful "incomplete."

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

Corona on board at GEMS

By Jeannie Meza-Chavez
Special to the Courier

SAN ELIZARIO – Alexander Corona has joined the San Elizario Independent School District (SEISD) as the new assistant principal at the Ann M. Garcia-Enriquez Middle School (GEMS). During a virtual special meeting on August 3, 2020, the SEISD Board of Trustees voted to accept Corona as the new assistant principal for GEMS.

Corona began his service in education as the site manager for the Region XIX Head Start Program where he served 5 years. His experience also includes 15 years of service in public schools as a former middle school theater teacher and elementary school counselor. Corona holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Theater and Psychology; and a Master's degree in School

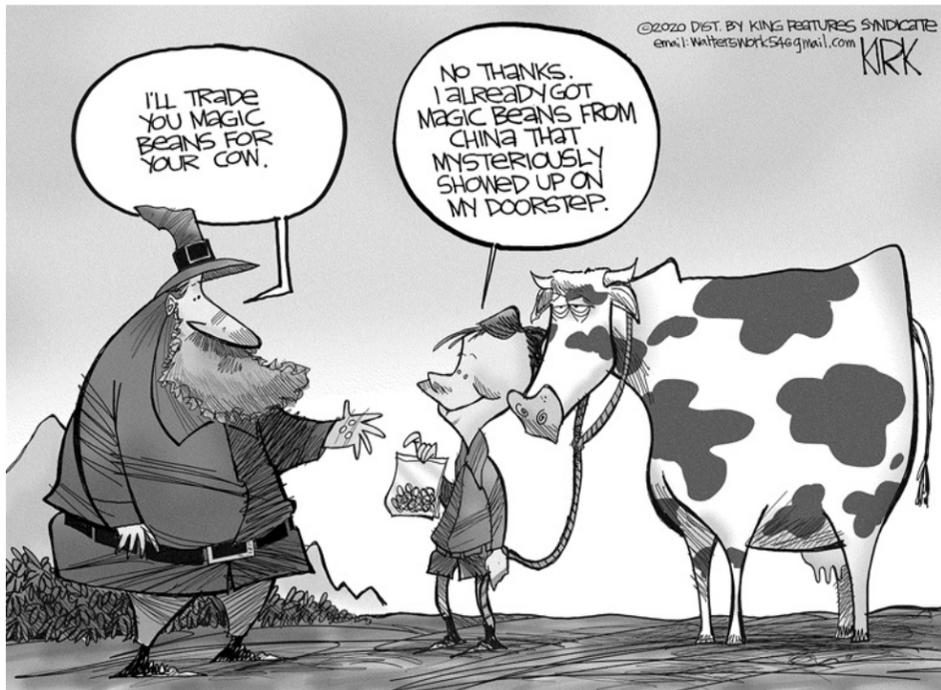
Counseling. He is presently a counselor at Pebble Hills Elementary.

GEMS Principal, Richard Salcido, said, "Mr. Corona believes his role is to "inspire and motivate" to build service excellence to the community. He feels his "why" is to make a connection and empower students." Assistant Superintendent, Dr. Rogelio Segovia, agrees, "It is evident that Mr. Corona understands that strong instructional practices along with building rapport with students will lead to student success. He will make a strong leadership partner with Mr. Salcido, our new middle school principal."



– Photo courtesy San Elizario ISD

Alexander Corona



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Strange BUT TRUE

By Lucie Winborne

• In July 1999, four ladybugs and their favorite food, aphids, were sent into space on NASA's Columbia space shuttle to research how aphids escaped the ladybugs without the aid of gravity.

• The first documented use of toilet paper comes from 6th-century A.D. China.

• There are more than 40,000 toilet-related injuries in the U.S. each year.

• The University of Liverpool Library reported that someone used a plastic-wrapped slice of "undetermined" cheese as a bookmark in one of its returned books. The library tweeted a photo of the offending item with the caption, "This is not a bookmark," prompting responses that ranged from "Well, not anymore after you removed it" to "No whey."

• When Benjamin Franklin invented his own harmonica, it became so popular in Europe that Mozart and Beethoven composed music for it.

• Research has shown that everyone has up to six doppelgangers. However, your chance of actually meeting one of your own in your lifetime is only 9%.

• Shoppers have proved willing to pay a premium for cage-free, organic or wild-caught ingredients. But can they trust their suppliers? Sure, with the use of a tracking device. ZhongAn Online, a Chinese insurance company, has outfitted more than 100,000 chickens with sensors uploading information such as how much exercise each chicken gets and what it ate. The company is also working on facial-recognition technology so consumers can one day ensure the organic chicken they saw on the farm is the one that ends up on their plate.

• In 1969, passengers on a hijacked plane thought they were on a prank-ridden camera show because "Candid Camera" host Allen Funt also was on board.

Thought for the Day: "Keep away from people who try to belittle your ambitions. Small people always do that, but the really great make you feel that you too can become great."

— Mark Twain

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Moments in time

THE HISTORY CHANNEL

• On Aug. 10, 1984, the action thriller "Red Dawn" opens in theaters as the first movie with a PG-13 rating. The Motion Picture Association of America created the PG-13 category to indicate film content with a "higher level of intensity" than PG.

• On Aug. 11, 1934, a group of federal prisoners classified as "most dangerous" arrives at Alcatraz Island, a 22-acre rocky outcrop situated 1 1/2 miles offshore in San Francisco Bay. The convicts were the first civilian prisoners to be housed in the new high-security penitentiary.

• On Aug. 12, 1990, fossil hunter Susan Hendrickson discovers three huge bones jutting out of a cliff near Faith, South Dakota, part of the largest Tyrannosaurus rex skeleton ever found. The 65 million-year-old specimen dubbed Sue, after its discoverer, is 42 feet long with a 2,000-pound skull and 58 teeth.

• On Aug. 13, 1899, Alfred Hitchcock is born in London. His innovative mastery of suspense made him one of the most popular and influential filmmakers of the 20th century. In 1925, he directed his first movie, "The Pleasure Garden," a silent film.

• On Aug. 14, 1971, St. Louis Cardinals ace Bob Gibson throws his first career no-hitter in an 11-0 victory over the Pittsburgh Pirates. In 1964 Gibson won his first World Series Most Valuable Player Award.

• On Aug. 15, 1969, the Woodstock music festival opens on Max Yasgur's 600-acre farm in upstate New York, with folk singer and guitarist Richie Havens kicking off the event. Approximately 400,000 people attended, most of whom did not pay for the \$24 tickets.

• On Aug. 16, 1948, baseball legend George Herman "Babe" Ruth dies in New York City. For two days following, his body lay in state at the main entrance to Yankee Stadium, and tens of thousands of people stood in line to pay their respects.

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Send Your Newsbrief To:
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NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING TO DISCUSS BUDGET AND PROPOSED TAX RATE

The Fabens Independent School District will hold a public meeting at 6:00 p.m., Wednesday, August 26, 2020 in the Central Office Board Room, 821 NE "G" Avenue, Fabens, Texas 79838. **The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the school district's budget that will determine the tax rate that will be adopted. Public participation in the discussion is invited.**

The tax rate that is ultimately adopted at this meeting or at a separate meeting at a later date may not exceed the proposed tax rate shown below unless the district publishes a revised notice containing the same information and comparisons set out below and holds another public meeting to discuss the revised notice.

Maintenance Tax	\$1.054700/\$100 (Proposed rate for maintenance and operations)
School Debt Service Tax	
Approved by Local Voters	\$0.280866/\$100 (Proposed rate to pay bonded indebtedness)

Comparison of Proposed Budget with Last Year's Budget

The applicable percentage increase or decrease (or difference) in the amount budgeted in the preceding fiscal year and the amount budgeted for the fiscal year that begins during the current tax year is indicated for each of the following expenditure categories:

Maintenance and Operations	6.94%	Increase
Debt Service	12.68%	Increase
Total Expenditures	8.09%	Increase

Total Appraised Value and Total Taxable Value (as calculated under Section 26.04, tax Code)

	Preceding Tax Year	Current Tax Year
Total appraised value* of all property	\$ 311,750,886	\$ 313,938,694
Total appraised value* of new property**	\$ 1,871,692	\$ 1,184,412
Total taxable value*** of all property	\$ 217,356,640	\$ 224,155,556
Total taxable value*** of new property**	\$ 1,758,343	\$ 1,081,239

* "Appraised value" is the amount shown on the appraisal roll and defined by Section 1.04(8), Tax Code.

** "New property" is defined by Section 26.012(17), Tax Code.

*** "Taxable value" is defined by Section 1.04(10), Tax Code.

Bonded Indebtedness

Total amount of outstanding and unpaid bonded indebtedness* \$25,416,000

* Outstanding principal.

Comparison of Proposed Rates with Last Year's Rates

	Maintenance & Operation	Interest & Sinking Fund*	Total	Local Revenue Per Student	State Revenue Per Student
Last Year's Rate	\$ 1.068300	\$ 0.270000*	\$ 1.338300	\$ 1,271	\$10,831
Rate to Maintain Same Level of Maintenance & Operations Revenue & Pay Debt Service	\$ 1.034670	\$ 0.331020*	\$ 1.365690	\$ 510	\$11,677
Proposed Rate	\$ 1.054700	\$ 0.280866*	\$ 1.335566	\$ 1,298	\$10,774

*The Interest & Sinking Fund tax revenue is used to pay for bonded indebtedness on construction, equipment, or both.

The bonds, and the tax rate necessary to pay those bonds, were approved by the voters of this district.

Comparison of Proposed Levy with Last Year's Levy on Average Residence

	Last Year	This Year
Average Market Value of Residences	\$ 73,723	\$ 75,839
Average Taxable Value of Residences	\$ 48,723	\$ 50,839
Last Year's Rate Versus		
Proposed Rate per \$100 Value	\$ 1.338300	\$ 1.335566
Taxes Due on Average Residence	\$ 652.06	\$ 678.99
Increase (Decrease) in Taxes		\$ 26.93

Under state law, the dollar amount of school taxes imposed on the residence homestead of a person 65 years of age or older or of the surviving spouse of such a person, if the surviving spouse was 55 years of age or older when the person died, may not be increased above the amount paid in the first year after the person turned 65, regardless of changes in the tax rate or property value.

Notice of Voter-Approval Rate: The highest tax rate the district can adopt before requiring voter approval at an election is \$1.335566. This election will be automatically held if the district adopts a rate in excess of the voter-approval rate of \$1.335566.

Fund Balances

The following estimated balances will remain at the end of the current fiscal year and are not encumbered with or by a corresponding debt obligation, less estimated funds necessary for operating the district before receipt of the first state aid payment:

Maintenance and Operations Fund Balance(s)	\$ 1,337,075
Interest & Sinking Fund Balance(s)	\$ 302,000

A school district may not increase the district's maintenance and operations tax rate to create a surplus in maintenance and operations tax revenue for the purpose of paying the district's debt service.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING TO DISCUSS BUDGET AND PROPOSED TAX RATE

The Tornillo Independent School District will hold a public meeting at 5:30 p.m., Wednesday, August 26, 2020. Due to health and safety concerns related to the COVID-19 coronavirus, this meeting will be conducted by videoconference. At least a quorum of the board will be participating by videoconference or telephone call in accordance with the provisions of Sections 551.125 or 551.127 of the Texas Government Code that have not been suspended by order of the governor. **The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the school district's budget that will determine the tax rate that will be adopted. Public participation in the discussion is invited.**

The tax rate that is ultimately adopted at this meeting or at a separate meeting at a later date may not exceed the proposed tax rate shown below unless the district publishes a revised notice containing the same information and comparisons set out below and holds another public meeting to discuss the revised notice.

Maintenance Tax	\$1.002900/\$100 (Proposed rate for maintenance and operations)
School Debt Service Tax	
Approved by Local Voters	\$0.482366/\$100 (Proposed rate to pay bonded indebtedness)

Comparison of Proposed Budget with Last Year's Budget

The applicable percentage increase or decrease (or difference) in the amount budgeted in the preceding fiscal year and the amount budgeted for the fiscal year that begins during the current tax year is indicated for each of the following expenditure categories:

Maintenance and Operations	2.69%	Decrease
Debt Service	0.06%	Increase
Total Expenditures	2.42%	Decrease

Total Appraised Value and Total Taxable Value (as calculated under Section 26.04, Tax Code)

	Preceding Tax Year	Current Tax Year
Total appraised value* of all property	\$ 105,593,220	\$ 105,932,066
Total appraised value** of new property**	\$ 1,637,340	\$ 795,795
Total taxable value*** of all property	\$ 83,788,955	\$ 84,091,610
Total taxable value**** of new property**	\$ 1,436,520	\$ 792,842

* "Appraised value" is the amount shown on the appraisal roll and defined by Section 1.04(8), Tax Code.
 ** "New property" is defined by Section 26.012(17), Tax Code.
 *** "Taxable value" is defined by Section 1.04(10), Tax Code.

Bonded Indebtedness

Total amount of outstanding and unpaid bonded indebtedness* \$16,850,940

* Outstanding principal.

Comparison of Proposed Rates with Last Year's Rates

	Maintenance & Operation	Interest & Sinking Fund*	Total	Local Revenue Per Student	State Revenue Per Student
Last Year's Rate	\$ 1.016500	\$ 0.384300*	\$ 1.400800	\$ 1,197	\$10,509
Rate to Maintain Same Level of Maintenance & Operations Revenue & Pay Debt Service	\$ 0.927470	\$ 0.531010*	\$ 1.458480	\$ 34	\$11,820
Proposed Rate	\$ 1.002900	\$ 0.482366*	\$ 1.485266	\$ 1,320	\$12,420

*The Interest & Sinking Fund tax revenue is used to pay for bonded indebtedness on construction, equipment, or both.

The bonds, and the tax rate necessary to pay those bonds, were approved by the voters of this district.

Comparison of Proposed Levy with Last Year's Levy on Average Residence

	Last Year	This Year
Average Market Value of Residences	\$ 66,928	\$ 69,768
Average Taxable Value of Residences	\$ 41,928	\$ 44,768
Last Year's Rate Versus		
Proposed Rate per \$100 Value	\$ 1.400800	\$ 1.485266
Taxes Due on Average Residence	\$ 587.33	\$ 664.92
Increase (Decrease) in Taxes		\$ 77.59

Under state law, the dollar amount of school taxes imposed on the residence homestead of a person 65 years of age or older or of the surviving spouse of such a person, if the surviving spouse was 55 years of age or older when the person died, may not be increased above the amount paid in the first year after the person turned 65, regardless of changes in the tax rate or property value.

Notice of Voter-Approval Rate: The highest tax rate the district can adopt before requiring voter approval at an election is \$1.485266. This election will be automatically held if the district adopts a rate in excess of the voter-approval rate of \$1.485266.

Fund Balances

The following estimated balances will remain at the end of the current fiscal year and are not encumbered with or by a corresponding debt obligation, less estimated funds necessary for operating the district before receipt of the first state aid payment:

Maintenance and Operations Fund Balance(s)	\$ 6,929,203
Interest & Sinking Fund Balance(s)	\$ 77,800

A school district may not increase the district's maintenance and operations tax rate to create a surplus in maintenance and operations tax revenue for the purpose of paying the district's debt service.



— Photo courtesy of U.S. National Park Service

STUNNING – This aerial view looks out over the high desert mesa beneath Guadalupe Peak in the Guadalupe Mountains National Park. The mountain stands 8,750 feet tall. It takes an average of six to eight hours to make the eight and a half mile round trip to the summit that includes a 3,000 foot elevation gain. The Guadalupe Peak trail is steep, well established and rated strenuous. It is the tallest peak in Texas.



CLASSIFIED AD FORM

25 words - \$15 per week; 40 words - \$20 per week

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Deadline: Monday, 4 p.m. Please print. Send form and payment (no cash) to:
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 Horizon City, TX 79928

Contact Information:
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GAO

From Page 1

beautiful and accessible for future generations and beyond..." he acknowledged.

"From the historic San Antonio Missions, all the way to the breathtaking Guadalupe Mountains in West Texas, preserving national parks is personal, and it's not just personal to me. This month, my colleagues and I came together in a bipartisan manner to advocate for our parks and historic sites by passing the Great American Outdoors Act, a bill that will address backlogged park repairs and permanently fund the Land and Water Conservation Fund," Hurd stated.

To put this into perspective, Hurd noted that national parks in Texas faced \$167 million in backlogged maintenance projects, including road repairs, visitor facilities, leaking plumbing, and other park structures. He said that over \$100 million of this backlog was from Big Bend, with another \$7 million from Amistad, \$6.4 million from Guadalupe Mountains National Park, \$2.8 million from Fort Davis National Historic Site and \$6.9 million from the San Antonio Missions.

"While Congress has taken measures to chip away at this mountain of projects, passing the Great American Outdoors Act is a critical step towards permanently addressing these overdue backlogs while ensuring our national parks are protected

long into the future beyond this year and the next," Hurd stated.

The Great American Outdoors Act provides \$900 million in funding to the LWCF each year and invests \$1.9 billion for the next five years in deferred maintenance projects administered by the National Park Service, USDA Forest Service, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Bureau of Land Management and Bureau of Indian Education.

"This bill would also require the Government Accountability Office (GAO) to report on the financial progress of the deferred maintenance projects for each specified agency," Hurd related.

"America's national parks and public lands are an integral part of our country's history, and we have a duty to preserve their natural beauty and resources. The best way we can care for them is to ensure they are around long enough to inspire others for years to come. As a national park enthusiast and co-Chair of the National Park Caucus, I am committed to protecting and conserving these American jewels," he affirmed.

"With the bipartisan passage of the Great American Outdoors Act, we have prioritized the future of our national parks. These parks are more than just a destination, they are magnificent places that represent our culture, our history, and our future," concluded Hurd, a Republican who has decided to not seek a third term in the upcoming general election.



Moore Texas by Roger Moore

There is a Texas law STILL on the books that mandates no one can carry pliers that COULD cut a fence.

El Paso County Water Control and Improvement District No. 4 Notice of Public Hearing on Tax Rate

The EL PASO COUNTY WCID NO. 4 will hold a public hearing on a proposed tax rate for the tax year 2020 on August 25, 2020 at El Paso County Water Control and Improvement District #4 Office at 117 E. Main St. Fabens Texas 79838 at 6:00 PM. Your individual taxes may increase at a greater or lesser rate, or even decrease, depending on the tax rate that is adopted and on the change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in taxable value of all other property. The change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in the taxable value of all other property determines the distribution of the tax burden among all property owners.

FOR the proposal: **Magda C. Flores, Juana Gutierrez, Laura Olivas and Thelma Quinonez**

AGAINST the proposal: **NONE**

PRESENT and not voting: **NONE**

ABSENT: **Israel Martinez, Jr.**

The following table compares taxes on an average residence homestead in this taxing unit last year to taxes proposed on the average residence homestead this year.

	Last Year Adopted	This Year Proposed
Total tax rate (per \$100 value)	0.203764	0.182743
Difference in rates per \$100 of value		- 0.021021
Percentage increase / decrease in rates (+/-)		- 10.32%
Average appraised value	\$ 72,579	\$ 74,667
General exemptions available (excluding senior citizen's or disabled person's exemptions)	\$ 0	\$ 0
Average residence homestead taxable value	\$ 72,579	\$ 74,667
Tax on average residence homestead	\$ 148	\$ 136
Annual increase / decrease in taxes if proposed tax rate is adopted (+/-) and percentage of increase (+/-)		- \$ 11 - 7.74%

The 86th Texas Legislature modified the manner in which the voter-approval tax rate is calculated to limit the rate of growth of property taxes in the state.

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Briefs

From Page 1

and mothers when it comes to opinions on reopening schools?

About 31 percent more fathers than mothers want schools to reopen for in-person learning this fall. The divide between fathers and mothers may be partially explained by the fact that women currently make up a smaller percentage of the workforce than men and have been losing their jobs at a greater rate than men during

the COVID-19 pandemic. More women than men may be able to at least temporarily supervise children at home.

How do conservatives and liberals differ in their opinions on in-person learning?

Two-thirds of conservative parents want to have in-person learning this fall, compared to less than half of liberal parents. This political divide lines up with what we see among elected officials. The Trump Administration is highly in favor of reopening schools, while Democrats tend

to support extending remote learning until we see further reductions in infections.

– Diana Polk

Restrictions

With many states delaying the later phases of their reopening or even bringing back restrictions they already lifted due to spikes in COVID-19, the personal-finance website WalletHub has released updated rankings for the States with the *Fewest Coronavirus Restrictions*, as well as accompanying videos and audio files. To identify which states have the fewest coronavirus restrictions, we compared the 50 states and the District of Columbia across 19 key metrics. Our data set ranges from whether the state has any penalties for non-compliance with COVID-19 legislation to if the state has required facemasks in public and health checks at restaurants. Below are highlights from the report, along with a WalletHub Q&A

with analyst Jill Gonzalez. Texas was rated 46th in the report with the 6th most coronavirus restrictions (1-Fewest, 25-Avg.):

- 18th – Requirement to Wear a Facemask in Public;
- 28th – Workplace Temperature Screening;
- 31st – Reopening of Child-Care Programs;
- 43rd – Large Gatherings Restrictions;
- 48th – Reopening of Non-Essential Businesses;
- 36th – Reopening of Restaurants and Bars; and
- 16th – Working from Home Requirements/Recommendations.

Note: Rankings are based on data available as of 12:30 p.m. ET on Monday, August 10, 2020.

Visit <https://wallethub.com/edu/states-coronavirus-restrictions/73818/> for the full report.

Q&A with Jill Gonzalez

What long-term consequences will there be if schools remain closed for part or all of the fall semester?

If schools remain closed for part or all of the fall semester, one positive impact will be that the spread of COVID-19 among children will be minimized. Unfortunately, there are many negative consequences that come with keeping schools closed. Students are likely to learn less than they would through classroom instruction, and the achievement gap between wealthy and poor students is projected to widen. Parents with young children will need to make sure the children have supervision at home, which could mean that many parents may be unable to earn a living.

Should states strictly enforce their COVID-19 restrictions? States should strictly enforce

See BRIEFS, Page 11

Classified Ads

CLASSIFIEDS FROM PAGE 8

Program Contract #1003054
from Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs.

ABC will accept proposals from licensed General Contractor/Builder for up to 50 Single Family Home Appraisals for each contract. A Bid packet can be picked up starting August 14, 2020 through August 28, 2020 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Bid packets or proposals can be picked up from and delivered to Alliance of Border Collaboratives, 5400 Suncrest Dr., Suite D-7, El Paso, TX 79912.

Submitted Bid Packets or proposals must have Homeowner Rehabilitation Assistance Program Contract #1003054 written on the lower left hand side of the envelope. A public opening of the packets will take place on September 14, 2020 11:00 a.m. at the office of the Alliance of Border Collaboratives. Phone (915) 584-2875 ext. 112.

The General Contractor/Builder must ensure that employees and applicants are not discriminated against because of their race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, sexual orientation or disability. General Contractor/Builder must be certified and licensed with El Paso County and the City of El Paso, TX. General Contractor/Builder must also know new current El Paso County Construction of Single Family Homes Codes with a minimum of 3 years of experience.

ABC has pa

conflict of interest procedure in accordance with 24CFR 92356. ABC has a Bidders Protest Rights Procedure. ABC reserves the right to reject any bids or to waive any informality in the bidding.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

Alliance of Border Collaboratives

Invitation to Bid

Alliance of Border Collaboratives (ABC) is a recipient of **Contract For Deed #1003055** from Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs.

ABC will accept proposals from licensed General Contractor/Builder for up to 50 Single Family Home Appraisals for each contract. A Bid packet can be picked up starting August 14, 2020 through August 28, 2020 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Bid packets or proposals can be picked up from and delivered to Alliance of Border Collaboratives, 5400 Suncrest Dr., Suite D-7, El Paso, TX 79912.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

Alliance of Border Collaboratives

Invitation to Bid

Alliance of Border Collaboratives (ABC) is a recipient of

Amy Young Barrier Removal Program Contract #1002957 from Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs.

ABC will accept proposals from licensed General Contractor/Builder for up to 50 Single Family Home Appraisals for each contract. A

Bid packet can be picked up starting August 14, 2020 through August 28, 2020 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Bid packets or proposals can be picked up from and delivered to Alliance of Border Collaboratives, 5400 Suncrest Dr., Suite D-7, El Paso, TX 79912.

Submitted Bid Packets or proposals must have Amy Young Barrier Removal Program Contract #1002957 written on the lower left hand side of the envelope. A public opening of the packets will take place on September 14, 2020 at 11:00 a.m. at the office of the Alliance of Border Collaboratives. Phone (915) 584-2875 ext. 112.

The General Contractor/Builder must ensure that employees and applicants are not discriminated against because of their race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, sexual orientation or disability. General Contractor/Builder must be certified and licensed with El Paso County and the City of El Paso, TX. General Contractor/Builder must also know new current El Paso County Construction of Single Family Homes Codes with a minimum of 3 years of experience.

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON TAX INCREASE

A tax rate of **\$0.100000 per \$100 valuation** has been proposed by the governing body of **El Paso County Emergency Services District #1**.

PROPOSED TAX RATE	\$0.100000 per \$100
NO-NEW-REVENUE TAX RATE	\$0.097603 per \$100
VOTER-APPROVAL TAX RATE	\$0.103212 per \$100

The no-new-revenue tax rate is the tax rate for the **2020** tax year that will raise the same amount of property tax revenue for **El Paso County ESD #1** from the same properties in both the **2019** tax year and the **2020** tax year.

The voter-approval rate is the highest tax rate that **El Paso County ESD #1** may adopt without holding an election to seek voter approval of the rate.

The proposed tax rate is greater than the no-new-revenue tax rate. This means that **El Paso County ESD #1** is proposing to increase property taxes for the **2020** tax year. A PUBLIC HEARING ON THE PROPOSED TAX RATE WILL BE HELD ON **August 18, 2020 at 6:30 PM at 14151 Nunda Ave., Horizon City, TX 79928** or virtual meeting: **gotomeeting; access code: 167449237**.

The proposed tax rate is not greater than the voter-approval tax rate. As a result, **El Paso County ESD #1** is not required to hold an election at which voters may accept or reject the proposed tax rate. However, you may express your support for or opposition to the proposed tax rate by contacting the members of the **Board of Commissioners of El Paso County ESD #1** at their offices or by attending the public hearing mentioned above.

YOUR TAXES OWED UNDER ANY OF THE TAX RATES MENTIONED ABOVE CAN BE CALCULATED AS FOLLOWS:

Property tax amount = (tax rate) x (taxable value of your property) /100

FOR the proposal: **Bill Mayberry, Jose Berumen, Amanda Anaya and Deanne Rankins**
AGAINST the proposal: **None**
PRESENT and not voting: **None**
ABSENT: **None**

The 86th Legislature modified the manner in which the voter-approval tax rate is calculated to limit the rate of growth of property taxes in the state.

The following table compares the taxes imposed on the average residence homestead by **El Paso County ESD #1** last year to the taxes proposed to be imposed on the average residence homestead by **El Paso County ESD #1** this year.

	2019	2020	Change
Total tax rate (per \$100 of value)	2019 adopted tax rate \$0.010000	2020 proposed tax rate \$0.010000	No change of 0.010000 per \$100, or 0%.
Average homestead taxable value	2019 average taxable value of residence homestead \$137,901	2020 average taxable value of residence homestead \$142,390	Increase of 3.25%.
Tax on average homestead	2019 amount of taxes on average taxable value of residence homestead \$137.90	2020 amount of taxes on average taxable value of residence homestead \$142.39	Increase of \$4.49, or 3.25%
Total tax levy on all properties	2019 levy \$3,019,795.30	2020 proposed levy \$3,317,247,281 x 0.010000/100	Increase of \$297,451.98, or 9.85%.

For assistance with tax calculations, please contact the tax assessor for **El Paso County ESD #1** at **915-771-2300** or **ctaxassessor@epcounty.com**, or visit **epcounty.com** for more information.

UTEP's football schedule: Your guess is as good as mine

By Steve Escajeda
Special to the Courier

Every try to put a jigsaw puzzle together with a few pieces missing? Ever try going a full day without checking your Facebook account? Ever try to dribble a football?

I'm sure we can agree that these are all fairly impossible tasks.

Another near impossibility is President Trump being able to complete a sentence without praising himself in some way.

Or like Joe Biden just simply being able to complete a sentence.

There are many things that appear doable on the surface, but for some reason they just can't come together.

Take UTEP's football schedule or instance. The Miners were scheduled to

play 12 games this season; six games at home and six games on the road.

That schedule included a big home game against Texas Tech and road games at Texas and at Nevada.

But because of coronavirus and the fact that every college football conference in America is making it up as it goes, UTEP's schedule is totally in question with under a month to go before the so-called season kicks off.

The first domino to fall was the season-opener against the Red Raiders. This was going to be a September 5 home game against a major opponent in Texas Tech, which would also show off the newly renovated Sun Bowl.

That is, of course, if any fans were allowed to attend the game. Whether or not anyone can go to the games, and if so how many, still hasn't been decided.

That game was scrapped because Texas Tech's conference, the Big 12, will only allow its teams to play one game outside of their league and it has to be a home game. So there would be no traveling to El Paso.

Then on September 12, the Miners were to travel to Nevada, but the Mountain West Conference pushed back their starting date to September 26. So, no games at all for the Wolfpack.

At least for now it looks like UTEP's September 19 game in Austin against the Longhorns is still on. But reports are that Texas may want to change that game to September 12.

With the \$1.4 million the Miners are going to get by traveling to Austin, I don't think they'll mind any date change at all.

What hasn't changed is the fourth game

of the season, a September 26 encounter with the rival New Mexico State Aggies in the Sun Bowl.

But the Miners are looking for opponents to fill the two spots they lost. Could the Miners and Aggies play a home-and-home series this year to make up some games? That is something that is not impossible.

The way things look right now, UTEP has a September 5 open date, a possible game on the 12th if the Longhorns move it there, no game scheduled for the 19th, and the home opener against NMSU on the 26th.

After that, things fall into place because Conference USA decided not to change a thing.

If the final eight weeks aren't interrupted by any covid-related circumstances, the Miners will travel to Louisiana Tech on October 10, host Southern Miss on the 17th, travel to Charlotte on the 24th, play North Texas in the Sun Bowl on the 31st, host Florida International on November 7, head to UT San Antonio on the 14th, host Alabama-Birmingham on the 21st, and close out the regular season on the 28th at Rice.

Let's be honest, the way things are now I think it's optimistic to think that UTEP will be able to get through the entire regular season with anymore postponements or cancellations.

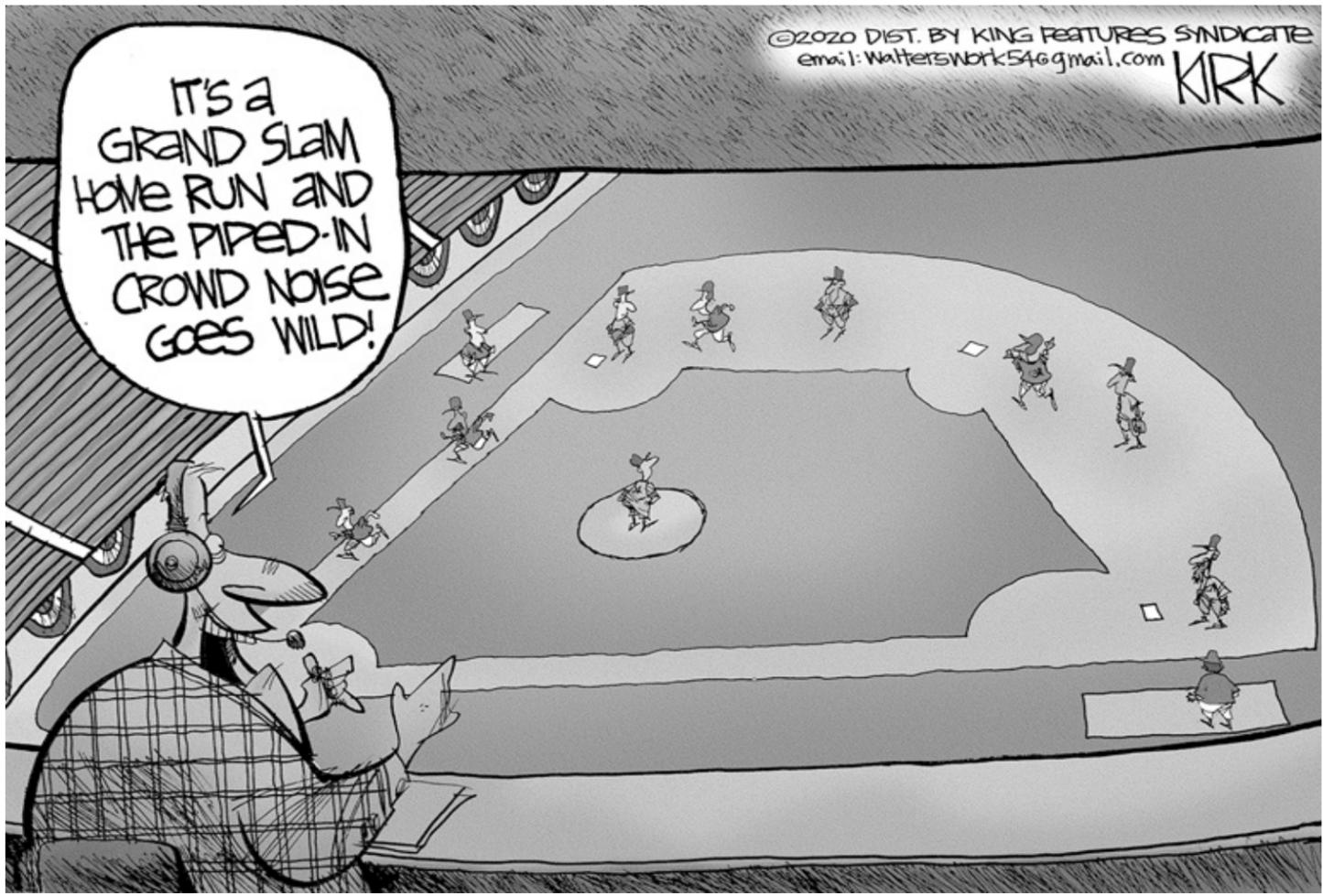
Professional baseball and basketball are limping through their chaotic seasons with players testing positive and no fans.

I try to watch it but I'm having trouble taking it seriously.

UTEP's football schedule will probably change again from now to September 5. Teams all over the country are scrambling to fill out their shattered schedules.

As a reporter who has sat in the UTEP press box covering games for 25 years, I don't have a clue what to expect this season.

Maybe the old saying can be modified to, "it's not whether you win or lose, it's 'if' you can play the game."



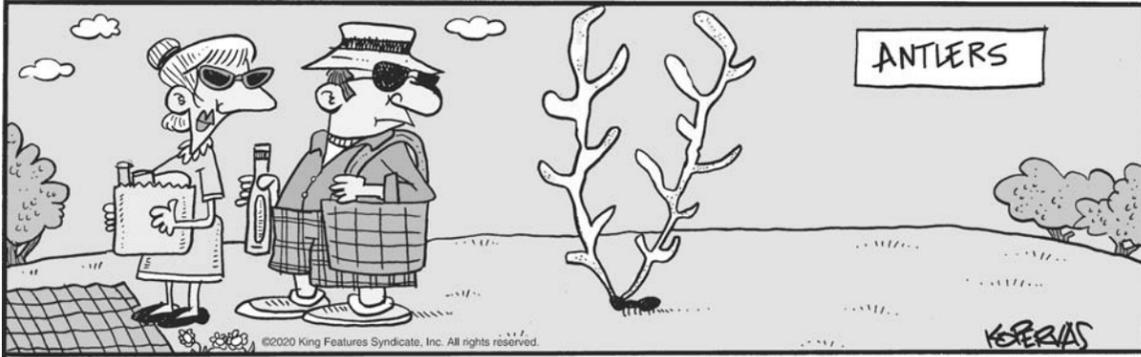
Super Crossword

- REFORMULATED CEREAL ACROSS
- 1 Had mercy on
- 7 Good-sized combos
- 13 Dilettante
- 20 Fictional detective
- Lupin
- 21 Tiger cat
- 22 Model oneself after
- 23 Cereal invented by actor William?
- 25 Reference showing an urban area
- 26 Downed food
- 27 Lathering up
- 28 Electrojet bit
- 29 Hoppy drink
- 30 Vocalist Della
- 33 Utter a fib
- 34 Airheaded
- 36 "Mack the Knife" singer Bobby
- 38 Cereal that's more than enough?
- 41 Cereal that turns kids intoimps?
- 43 Cassini of fashion
- 44 Baby hooter
- 46 "Nope"
- 47 Judo room
- 50 Attended, as an event
- 53 Nut's partner
- 55 Large burden
- 59 Very skilled
- 61 Vintage auto
- 62 Cereal endorsed by first-year athletes?
- 65 Even chance
- 67 Willy with a chocolate factory
- 69 Turkish commander
- 70 Sushi fish
- 71 "_ gratia artis"
- 72 Cereal flavored with really hot peppers?
- 76 95-Across' rank: Abbr.
- 77 Young male, in many rap songs
- 78 "_tac-toe"
- 79 Big name in fables
- 80 Look upon
- 82 Cereal that makes people want to create graphs and tables?
- 86 "_-di-dahl!"
- 88 Challenger
- 89 Actor Morales
- 90 Maui, e.g.
- 91 Guy who "was here"
- 94 "My Fair _"
- 95 Foe of Grant
- 97 Cow catcher
- 99 "Hud" co-star Patricia
- 101 Cereal that helps to heal broken legs?
- 105 Cereal that looks like it's been polished?
- 111 "Tin Cup" co-star Rene
- 112 "The Chosen" novelist Chaim _
- 114 Neither here _ there
- 115 Buying binge
- 116 Parseghian of football
- 117 "_ y plata" (Montana motto)
- 118 Sprinkler of plants
- 121 Rescue crew VIP
- 122 Lava emitter
- 125 Cereal with hidden crib sheets?
- 128 Stoats with white coats
- 129 Public tribute
- 130 Actor Danny
- 131 Ilie of tennis
- 132 Stopped slumbering
- 133 Give the OK
- DOWN
- 1 Vast desert
- 2 For now
- 3 Slumbering
- 4 Chili's color
- 5 Propyl ender
- 6 Lions' lairs
- 7 Finnish, e.g.
- 8 Rocker Ric
- 9 Old soda brand
- 10 Big African antelope
- 11 Kid who challenges gender stereotypes
- 12 Rds.
- 13 Hunting lures
- 14 Despot Idi
- 15 Except
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- 17 Hedy of old Hollywood
- 18 Latin "and others"
- 19 Be contrite
- 24 Clu of "McQ"
- 28 "Any problem with that?"
- 31 Some sailboats
- 32 Sushi fish
- 35 1990s exercise fad
- 36 Cell stuff
- 37 Hate
- 39 Shul attendee
- 40 Sousing sort
- 42 Positive number, e.g.
- 45 Office furniture
- 47 Like potential sweethearts
- 48 Aromatic
- 49 Actress Alba
- 51 Latest info
- 52 Sound a horn
- 54 Actor Hemsworth
- 56 River from Lake Erie
- 57 Saw to a seat
- 58 Remove moisture in by whirling
- 60 Having many bunches of feathers
- 63 Klutzes
- 64 Examined in order to rob
- 66 Less cheap
- 68 Uncluttered
- 73 Singer Phil
- 74 Lie languidly
- 75 On _ with
- 81 Big name in polling
- 83 Brick ovens
- 84 So very
- 85 Not be inert
- 87 Award winner, e.g.
- 92 Winter Games gp.
- 93 Positive vote
- 96 Prefix with resort
- 98 Demonstrate
- 100 Sit-ups sculpt them
- 101 "Scream" director Wes
- 102 _ borealis
- 103 Holy songs
- 104 Got to one's feet
- 106 Anxious
- 107 Ribbed, as fabric
- 108 Liberally
- 109 Doe or cow
- 110 Brief brawls
- 113 Merited fate
- 117 Individuals
- 119 Deck wood
- 120 Nutritional amts.
- 123 Op. _
- 124 Tennis' Ivanovic
- 125 Old TV's "_ Na Na"
- 126 Spy gp.
- 127 "You there!"

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Comix

OUT ON A LIMB By Gary Kopervas



AMBER WAVES By Dave T. Phipps



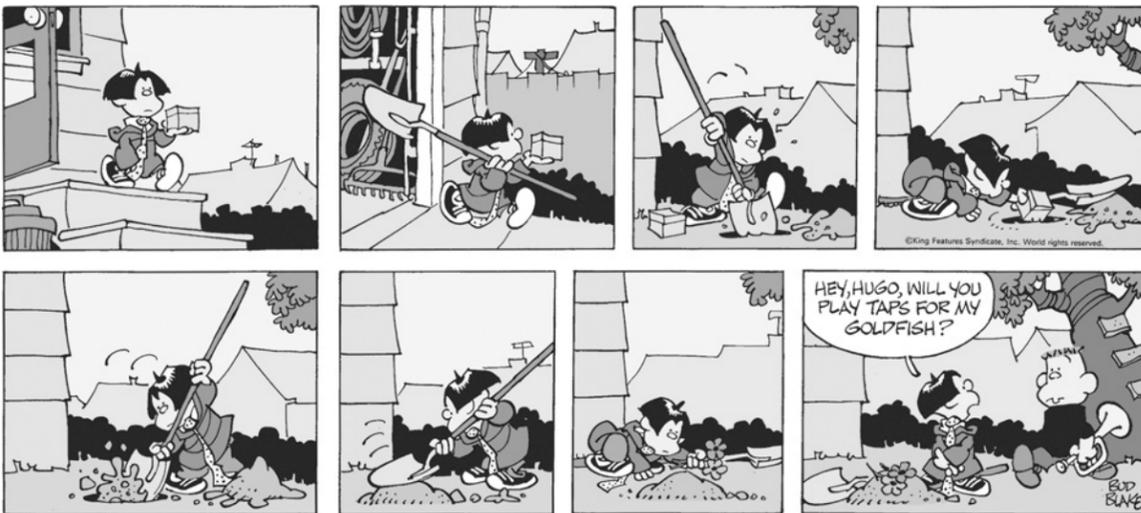
THE SPATS By Jeff Pickering



R.F.D. By Mike Marland



TIGER By Bud Blake



Blood in the urine won't just go away

DEAR DR. ROACH: I'm a 92-year-old man in better-than-average health. I have had two episodes of blood in my urine in the past two months. I know this isn't normal. At my age, I'd just like to make believe it didn't happen. What's my future like? – Anon.



Your future will shortly include, I hope, a visit to your regular doctor. Blood in the urine often is due to a urine infection or a kidney stone, but in older men, there is always a concern about a tumor, whether of the kidney, bladder or prostate. Pretending it didn't happen is not a good solution, and your doctors will certainly take your age into account when looking at diagnostic possibilities and treatments. Most cases will turn out to be not much to worry about, so the sooner you get in, the sooner you can find out what's going on and see what steps may be necessary.

DEAR DR. ROACH: Recently, my acupuncturist suggested that I try hyaluronic acid capsules for the arthritis in my hands, feet, back, neck and hips. I had heard of hyaluronic acid years ago and checked it out. Since it promotes cell growth, I assume it can't differentiate from good cells or cancer cells, so I avoided trying it. Is this really safe to take? – C.F.

Hyaluronic acid is indicated for use via injection, especially into the knee for arthritis symptoms, but is also used for other purposes, such as a filler in cosmetic surgery. For knee injection, it appears safe and moderately effective. It isn't thought to work by promoting cell growth but rather by replacing synovial fluid, a fluid that acts as a kind of shock absorber, protecting the cartilage, bone and nerves of the knee.

There have been studies evaluating oral hyaluronic acid, and one from Japan in 2012 showed a very modest improvement compared with a placebo. I wouldn't recommend oral hyaluronic acid based on the studies done so far.

There are many reports in basic cancer research on the ability of cancer cells to grow in conditions of high hyaluronic acid; however, this does NOT mean that taking oral hyaluronic acid promotes growth of cancer cells. As far as I can tell, there is no evidence that links oral hyaluronic acid to increased cancer risk.

DEAR DR. ROACH: I suffered from constipation for years, and after consulting with a gastrointestinal specialist, I was prescribed MiraLAX. I take it every morning and have added fiber to my diet. The program has been successful. How wise is it to continue MiraLAX indefinitely? Should I worry about side effects? It has been quite pleasant to be free of constipation worries. – Anon.

MiraLAX is a non-absorbable chemical called polyethylene glycol. It passes through your system, bringing water with it, which makes stool less hard and easier to pass. It is very safe for short-term use. If used excessively, it can pull sodium and potassium out of a person's system.

If you are taking in enough fiber, it should be possible to decrease the MiraLAX without worrying about constipation again, but it's OK to use MiraLAX as needed.

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.

Briefs

From Page 9

their COVID-19 restrictions because otherwise there is no incentive for people to follow the rules. If there are no consequences for disobeying a state's mask mandate, for example, people will be more likely to try to enter crowded areas without masks, which in turn will contribute to the spread of the virus. Fines are a good deterrent to make sure

Americans follow COVID-19 restrictions, and enforcement will also minimize the need for citizens to play the police.

Should states that see spikes in COVID-19 deaths just pause their reopening or reinstitute lockdowns?

States with spikes in COVID-19 deaths should pause their reopening as well as make sure extra preventative measures are in place, like mandatory mask wearing and temperature checks at workplaces and busy transit hubs. It may be necessary

to reinstitute lockdowns in some places at a micro level, in small communities that are experiencing especially high death and hospitalization rates.

What should states be most mindful of when reopening?

States should be most mindful of limiting close contact between residents even as businesses reopen, which means that state legislatures should transition from guidelines on social distancing to laws, such as requiring mask wearing in public

places and limiting the number of people per square footage. States can show extra care to vulnerable populations by making sure they are accommodated with free deliveries of essential goods and exclusive hours at all businesses. Most importantly, state governments need to closely monitor the number of coronavirus cases, prepare for a second wave, and adjust further reopening plans if needed to avoid too much of a strain on hospitals.

– Diana Polk



Moore Texas by Roger Moore

1942 State Fair of Texas: The Corn Dog is invented by concessionaires Carl and Neil Fletcher.

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: T equals L

LYFX LHBTW GHSQ SQFI
NBUG AFTT F XQAYIHTHNJAFTTU
AYFTTQINQW OQEGHI?

F IJIAHSOBXQE.

Answer Page 4

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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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Telehealth use soars



by Freddy Groves

Use of the Department of Veterans Affairs telehealth video for appointments went up 1,000% between February and May. The VA attributes this massive increase to veterans guarding against getting or passing along the COVID-19 virus.

If you were one of the veterans who made use of the telehealth video for appointments instead of going in-person, good for you. And thank you.

For those who don't know, telehealth is a program that allows veterans to have a video appointment with VA care teams (both physical and mental health) right on a device from home.

Telehealth (known as VA Video Connect) is probably one of the best ideas that the VA has had. The program is so strong that it can handle over 25,000 appointments per day and is hitting other big

milestones as well. Two million prescriptions have been refilled online in one month. Downloads at the VA's app store went up 259% in one month.

Additionally, over 26,000 tablets have been distributed to veterans who need a device to access their care, with the major wireless carriers providing access with no data charges to veterans who need telehealth.

If you're using telehealth and are incurring data charges, call your carrier and tell them you're a veteran who needs the service to access your medical team. You might be able to get those data charges dropped. If you need to know more about that, go online to mobile.va.gov/app/va-video-connect. The VA is working on restructuring the program so no veteran has data charges.

If you haven't used telehealth, go to that same link and scroll down. Read about which devices can be used – Apple iPads and iPhones, Windows, macOS and Android devices all will work.

Read the guide at the link and learn how to how to set

up your device, connect for appointments and much more. For tech help, you can call 866-651-3180 Monday through Saturday, 7 a.m. through 11 p.m. EST.

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• Roll scarves around cardboard tubes to store flat. You'll skip the wrinkles and be able to find the scarf you want without much fuss.

• On a home improvement kick? You're not alone. Here's a wallpapering tip from way back: If your wallpaper is applied with adhesive, add a few drops of food coloring to the paste. It will give it a slight tint that will not be visible when dried. Now you can be sure that the adhesive makes it all the way to the edge of the paper for best results!

• "Ironing intricate sleeves or other difficult shapes can be made easier with the use of an oven mitt. Slip the mitt over your hand, put your hand on one side of a fabric to create a flat area to iron. Use care and go slowly, and you'll get a good press." – E.R. in Missouri

• Bright strips of tape can be a great safety addition to the edges of stairs. Even better is bright, textured, reflective tape for low-light areas, like basements or porch steps. The bright color makes the edges visible in daylight; the reflection does the same at night. A bit of texture makes sure they're not slippery.

• "Here's a great sewing tip from my grandma: When you are attaching buttons, hooks, snaps, etc., tape them to the fabric with transparent tape. You can sew right through it, and it will help keep the item from slipping around while you get it secured." – A.J. in Pennsylvania

• "Now that my baby is entering her messy eating phase, I cut up several burp cloths to make wipe up cloths for the high chair. They are soft enough for a full face wipe and sturdy enough to sop up baby food and go right in the washer." – P.W. in Texas

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

	÷		×		21
×		+		+	
	÷		+		15
-		×		+	
	-		×		12
19		10			17

1 1 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

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AFO

♥ SETHLO

HYLTO

♥ RYDA

♥ FOREAL

♥ PTA

DYRO

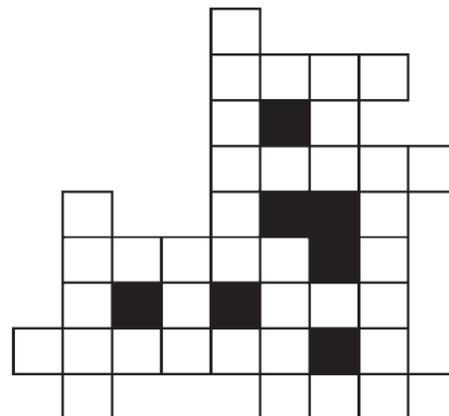
♥ SALTE

TRU

PUTYSH

DOFOL

♥ DLTO



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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