



NEWSBRIEFS

Reopening schools

With some students learning online or experiencing a hybrid of online and in-person classes due to COVID-19, the personal-finance website WalletHub has released its report on the *Safest States for Schools to Reopen*, as well as accompanying videos and audio files. To identify which states have the safest conditions for reopening schools, WalletHub compared the 50 states across 15 key metrics. Our data set includes such things as the number of child COVID-19 cases per 100,000 children, the average public-school class size, and the ratio of students to school nurses. Below, you can see highlights from the report, along with a WalletHub Q&A. Texas was rated 35th in this report, ranking (1-Safest, 25-Avg.):

- 36th – Child COVID-19 Deaths per 100,000 Children;
- 30th – COVID-19 Cases in the Last Seven Days per 100,000 Residents;
- 6th – Share of K-12 Public School Students Transported Through School Transportation;
- 33rd – Average Public-School Class Size;
- 29th – Pupil-Teacher Ratio;
- 48th – Share of Seniors Living with School-Age Children;
- 43rd – Share of Children Living in Crowded Housing;
- 11th – Overall Likelihood of COVID-19 Infections; and
- 25th – Student-to-School-Nurse Ratio.

Visit <https://wallethub.com/edu/safest-states-for-schools-to-reopen/79230/> for the full report.

Q&A with WalletHub analyst Jill Gonzalez

Why is in-person schooling so important for the economy?

In-person schooling is vital for the economy because it both provides temporary supervision for children during the day and most importantly helps students have a better chance of achieving future economic success. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the most immediate concern is that when a child has to stay home to do online schooling, one parent will need to also stay home if the child is not old enough to be left alone. This puts a particularly high burden on single parents who can't work from home, who may not be able to earn a living

See BRIEFS, Page 3

An economist can tell you what to do with your money after you've done something else with it.

— Quips & Quotes



– Photo courtesy El Paso Electric

ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY? – El Paso Electric (EPE), now owned by JP Morgan Chase, is proposing to add a massive fracked-gas generator adjacent to its Newman power plant, above, which is in Northeast El Paso County near the Chaparral, NM community.

Environmental groups oppose new fracked-gas plant

By Alfredo Vasquez
Special to the Courier

EL PASO COUNTY – Sunrise El Paso, along with other local climate action advocacy groups, hosted a press

conference recently to express their opposition to an El Paso Electric (EPE) proposal that would allow for a “Newman 6 228 MW” fracked-gas processing plant to be installed near El Paso County’s northeast neighborhoods and New Mexico’s Chaparral communities.

El Paso Electric, now owned by JP Morgan Chase, is proposing to add a new, massive fracked-gas generator near Northeast El Paso and Chaparral, NM, according to Judy Ackerman, a member

See GAS PLANT, Page 4

Student council earns statewide recognition

By Terry Hamm
Special to the Courier

CANUTILLO – Canutillo ISD’s Northwest Early College High School Student Council has been recognized by the Texas Association of Student Councils (TASC) for its Community Service Report for outstanding achievement in leadership, service, and activities that serve to improve the school and community. TASC has 1,258 member schools. Of those, Northwest Student Council is one of only 371 student councils statewide to receive this highly esteemed honor “Our students are extremely dedicated to making a positive impact on our campus and in our community,” said Heather Cawley, one of the advisors of the Northwest StuCo.

Student council members develop proven skills in team building, problem solving, project planning, and decision making. Through their co-curricular activities, student council members serve their communities while strengthening their academic and civic skills. Paola Blanco, President of Northwest StuCo, expressed her excitement in earning this recognition saying, “I am very grateful for all the hard work, dedication, and the effort students put in, to make this happen.



– Photo courtesy Canutillo ISD

COMMUNITY SERVICE – Northwest Early College High School students worked at Food Pantry Distribution on February 6, 2020. From left are Sophia Thome, Kenny Diguirson, Iliana Rubio, Luis Urquidi and Jyan Delgadillo.

Northwest Griffins will continue to create a better environment for years to come.”

TASC is a non-profit serving high school and middle level student councils in Texas. It is the largest state student council organization in the US. With

fewer than one third of TASC members submitting Community Service Reports, the monies donated, the value of the goods donated and the service hours (valued at \$7.25 an hour) comes to a total of \$11,392,762.60.



Ginsberg impact, TBD

The October surprise happened in September, but it was certainly a jarring surprise. Normally in a presidential race, it will be engineered by supporters of one candidate against the other. But unless we learn differently, the death of Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg came when her health finally collapsed after years of fighting off cancers. Shortly before she succumbed, she dictated a statement:

“My most fervent wish is that I will not be replaced until a new president is installed.”

But in the ways of Washington,

the beauty of all the Twitter tributes immediately gave way to ugly politics. A vicious fight is assured as President Donald Trump is locked in a battle with his opponent, with a chance that he will lose; and Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, also a Republican, is locked in a re-election battle with a chance that he will lose.

It's even feasible that Joe Biden and the Democrats will take over the White House and the Senate. So the GOP, in power now, is scrambling to ram a conservative justice through the “advice and consent” ritual and replace Ginsburg, a liberal legend who had become a longtime battler for women's rights. Her dissents and written opinions were so majestic that she had become a

champion of the younger set, the “Notorious RBG.”

If the Republicans are successful, the high court would be able to reverse so much of the progressive agenda that has grown into reality in recent generations, including the right to get an abortion.

So many women, even conservatives, view Trump as an obvious misogynist. However, many are even more offended by abortion. So they may see a conservative anti-abortion justice as an appropriate replacement for the pro women's rights, pro Roe v. Wade Ruth Bader Ginsburg, enhancing the chances to prohibit a procedure they view as murder.

The bitter absurdity is that the passing of the most liberal

justice, Ruth Bader Ginsburg, has altered the election campaign. The political scenarios following her death are chaotic, all over the map. On the one hand it allows Donald Trump to present himself as a statesman instead of the caricature of the hated, hateful buffoon to which so many million Americans see. But can the Trumpster hold back on his compulsion to say or tweet something outrageous?

And what about the contest for control of the Senate? Will endangered Republican members, who are fighting close battles for re-election, including McConnell himself, be willing to play along with McConnell and Trump's strategy to force through a replacement? Democrats promise an all-out fight against that. Will that help or hurt them? And will more GOP gadflies, like Mitt Romney, help the Democrats

conjure up the four votes they need to thwart the hurry-up plan?

How will Joe Biden handle this unexpected development, and how will Kamala Harris deal with it? She's a member of the Senate Judiciary Committee, under the control of Chairman Lindsey Graham, a Republican who is fighting for his political life back in his home state of South Carolina.

The September surprise of Ruth Bader Ginsburg's death will have an enormous impact on the campaign, and it's not overstating it to say that it will affect the future of this country. Obviously it might not be in the direction Ginsburg would prefer after a lifetime of leading the fight for human rights.

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Food for thought By Palmer Schoening

The coming Biden/Harris \$4 trillion tax hike plan

“Normally you don't raise taxes in a recession, which is why we haven't” former President Obama told Chuck Todd in an August 2009 interview as the economy slugged along towards recovery. Yet President Obama's former Vice President is now promising to do just that, albeit without much attention from the media.

According to five independent economic analyses, (the Urban-Brookings Tax Policy Center (TPC), the Tax Foundation, the Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget (CRFB), the American Enterprise Institute (AEI) and the (American Enterprise Institute) the former Vice President Biden is proposing between \$3-5 trillion in new taxes to fund his party's wish list of spending proposals. The Biden tax hike plan, far more extreme than former Democratic Presidential nominee Hillary Clinton's proposal put forth in 2016, has largely fallen under the radar in a year where the virus, unrest in cities, and the media's invented scandals of the day have dominated cable news. At AMAC Action we've studied the details

of the Democrats' tax plan and evaluated the veracity of their claims to not raise taxes on most Americans. Below we lay out the major differences in the Trump vs. Biden proposals and let you decide for yourself which plan is more likely to lead to prosperity for America.

Individual Taxes

Current Law

In December of 2017 President Trump signed into law an across the board tax cut, lowering taxes for most Americans. Like most of the Trump tax cuts, these changes are set to expire in December of 2025. The top individual tax rate is currently 37%.

Joe Biden

“Nobody making under 400,000 bucks would have their taxes raised, period, bingo.” Joe Biden's claim that no one making under \$400,000 would see their taxes go up is false according to at least 5 independent economic models, but is being reported as true, or left alone altogether by the media. While it is true that his plan calls for keeping rates steady for the middle class and enacting new tax credits that may benefit many in the middle class, Biden's proposal to raise the corporate tax and taxes on businesses would make middle-class workers across the board poorer. An August 2020 Tax Foundation analysis states: “while Biden's tax plan would make the tax code more progressive, it would reduce after-tax incomes for filers across the income spectrum by reducing the incentive to work and invest in the United States.” The analysis shows that if enacted the Biden/Harris tax hikes would eliminate nearly 600,000 jobs. Even the Washington Post, whose fact-checkers are known for contorting themselves to help support Democratic claims, decided to leave Biden's claim unrated. The Biden/Harris plan calls for raising the top individual rate from 37% to 39.6%.

President Trump

President Trump has called for a new “10% middle-class tax cut” while promising to extend all of the positive changes from the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, keeping taxes low or reducing them further for most taxpayers.

Capital Gains Taxes

Current Law

President Trump's Tax plan set the long

term capital gains rate at 20% while retaining the Obama era 3.8% net investment income tax on high earners. Over 50 million Americans have some type of savings in a retirement plan or the market.

Joe Biden

Raise the top capital gains rate from 20% to 39.6% on high earners (tax capital gains as ordinary income).

President Trump

Index the current capital gains rate to inflation and further reduce the capital gains rate for all taxpayers.

The Death Tax

Current Law

President Trump's Tax Plan nearly eliminated the estate tax by raising the current exemption to protect most family-owned businesses and farms. This less-burdensome death tax is set to expire in December 2025 if Congress does not vote to extend the current law.

Joe Biden

Hike the death tax by undoing the positive changes the President made in the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act. Eliminate “step-up in basis” on inherited assets. Force capital gains taxes to be paid at death on unrealized gains from inherited assets.

President Trump

Extend the current exemption and permanently repeal the death tax. The President believes that no one should have to visit the taxman and the grim reaper on the same day.

Deductions and Credits

Current Law

President Trump doubled the standard deduction to over \$24,000 per couple simplifying taxes for nearly 30 million taxpayers, enacted a new 20% small business deduction, and enacted a more generous child tax credit of \$2000 per child and \$500 per dependent.

Joe Biden

Phase out a number of credits and deductions for individuals starting in the 28% bracket. Enact a number of new tax credits promoting green energy. Eliminate the 20% small business deduction for many privately owned businesses.

President Trump

Permanently extend the expanded standard deduction, child tax credit, and 20% small business deduction to help families and small businesses.

In comparing the proposals between President

See TAX PLAN, Page 7



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Ideological vengeance

Constitutional revolution is going mainstream.

If the Republican Senate confirms a Trump appointee to fill Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg's Supreme Court seat right before or after the election, progressives say Democrats, if they sweep in November, should retaliate by packing the Supreme Court.

None of this comes out of the blue. The left is disenchanted with our country, and especially its governing institutions, which

it believes are shot through with racism and deeply undemocratic.

Democrats have gone from assuming a few years ago that they have a permanent majority to assuming that they can't possibly win under such a rigged system.

They no longer want to live under a government that checks majoritarian passions, recognizes the importance of states in our federal system and features a Supreme Court that is

supposed to render independent judgments based on the law and the Constitution. All of this, once a matter of basic civics, is now for suckers.

Before its new fashion, court-packing used to be notorious, the ill-considered move that President Franklin Roosevelt couldn't see through even at the height of his power.

For good reason. To add a bunch of new seats to the Supreme Court explicitly so a Democratic president could fill them would radically diminish the Court's standing. It would

invite Republicans to counter with their own bout of court-packing when they again return to power. The Court would become merely a partisan plaything and essentially an adjunct to the legislative branch – all that would stay the same would be the black robes.

And for what? To compensate for a duly elected Republican Senate acting on its prerogatives to block one Supreme Court nominee (Obama nominee Merrick Garland) and potentially confirm another (Trump's nominee to fill the RBG seat).

The Senate itself is now an affront because small states get equal representation with large states. Never mind that this arrangement was at the center of the deal that gave us the Constitution. Never mind that this provision is unamendable. Never mind that prior to 2014 the Democrats controlled the Senate and didn't seem overly concerned about the body's alleged lack of legitimacy.

It's not a failing of our constitutional design that Democrats have made themselves so hateful to rural voters that they despair of reliably holding the Senate going forward. As a corrective, they are threatening to eliminate the filibuster to allow them to add Washington, D.C., and Puerto Rico as states to



boost their number of senators, a maneuver that smacks of pre-Civil War era power politics.

All of this talk is an awkward fit for Joe Biden's candidacy. We are told that Biden is an inoffensive institutionalist and committed moderate, but if Republicans defy his wishes on the RBG seat, he will respond by blessing outlandish changes to our system passed by narrow majorities.

And, by the way, Biden better win. Shadi Hamid of The Atlantic wrote a piece expressing his worry "that Trump will win reelection and Democrats and others on the left will be unwilling, even unable, to accept the result." He raises the possibility of "mass unrest and political violence across American cities."

Accepting the result of an election is a pretty important norm – unless you've convinced yourself you live under a hideously undemocratic regime with no legitimacy.

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

Briefs

From Page 1

while their child remains home. In the long term, studies show that in-person schooling provides more effective learning for students, in addition to better social development and mental health, compared to online learning. Students who get instruction in the classroom therefore may have better economic futures. Of course, we should put everyone's safety first, and only open schools in a safe way.

How can schools that are conducting online learning support low-income students with fewer resources at home?

Schools that are conducting online learning have a responsibility to make sure low-income students have access to the same resources as their peers, including reliable devices and Wi-

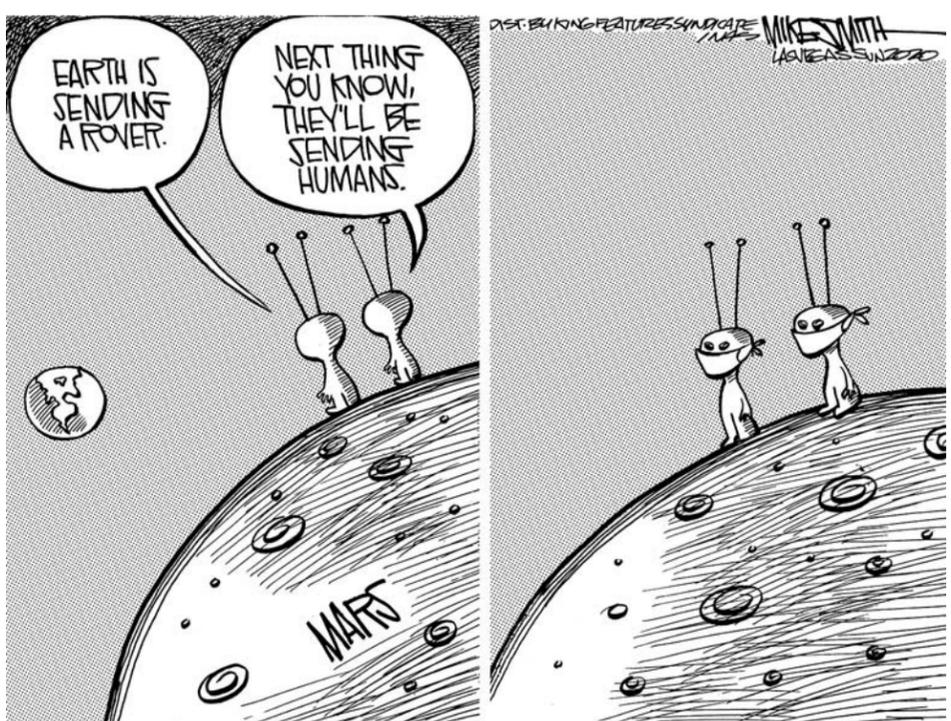
Fi. School districts should provide laptops to students who cannot afford them, as well as set up Wi-Fi hotspots that ensure all students have constant internet access. Low-income students may also need free lunches each day, and parents should contact their school or visit the USDA website to see where they can pick up those meals while schools remain closed.

– Diana Polk

How embarrassing

Northamptonshire, England Police Sgt. Scott Renwick apparently never explained how he accidentally handcuffed himself. But he did fess up to the fact that he had to call in the Northamptonshire Fire and Rescue Service to set him free. He posted a message on Twitter that read: "Well that wasn't a good start to the day. Thanks to @northantsfire for cutting me out of some broken cuffs. #NotFunny. I would have laughed too!!"

– John Grimaldi



San Eli ISD installing air purification units

By Jeannie Meza-Chavez
Special to the Courier

SAN ELIZARIO – The San Elizario Independent School District (SEISD) Board of Trustees approved the installation of a needlepoint bipolar ionization product, which is a new air purification unit, at all of its campuses and district offices. This is the latest safety measure the San Elizario ISD is taking to help mitigate the spread of COVID-19.

Other safety measures already in place include social distance markings, signage, thermal scanners, plexiglass shields for

reception areas, hand sanitizing stations, teacher desk shields, sneeze guards for elementary students, face shields for middle school and high school students and teachers. Jesus Martinez, the Director of Support Services, states “It is comforting to know that the school district is continuously looking for ways to improve mitigation efforts to combat COVID-19 and safeguard students and staff.”

“The installation of Needle Point Bi-Polar Ionization (NPBI) devices in HVAC units will improve the indoor air quality by cleaning the air inside district buildings. This patented technology is currently used in airports, schools, universities, stadiums,

and other industries to purify indoor air and help reduce pathogens, this is exciting” said Martinez. The installation will help improve the indoor air quality (IAQ) throughout campuses and district facilities by reducing airborne particles such as dust, allergens, and pollen, which will also help reduce pathogens such as viruses, mold spores, and bacteria.

The system is projected to cost the SEISD approximately \$305,165.00 and will use funds from the Series 2015 bond proceeds. The installation will start at the beginning of October at the district’s elementary schools and then proceed to the secondary campuses.

Gas plant

From Page 1

of the Franklin Mountains Wilderness Coalition. “This would damage our air quality, emit massive amounts of carbon dioxide greenhouse gasses, and lock-in El Paso’s usage of fracked gas for the next 20 to 40 years,” she stated.

Speaking at the recent press gathering were local leaders including Alessandra Anello, El Paso city council member; Veronica Carbajal, El Paso mayoral candidate; and Miguel Escoto, a Sunrise El Paso/Earthworks organizer.

Participants pointed out that

if the electric company’s proposal were approved, the operation would further pollute the air of Northeast El Paso and Chaparral, lock-in fossil fuel dominance over clean energy in El Paso for the next 40 years, and strengthen the Permian fracking industry which affects Southeast New Mexico and West Texas; and it would continue to contribute to the global climate crisis.

Organizers cited that Chaparral, which lies on the border of New Mexico and Northeast El Paso, is a majority Spanish-speaking, immigrant mixed-status community that would

“If built, Newman 6 would bring the station’s emissions to 1,335,500 tons per year – that emission rate is about 18 times higher than the EPA standard.”

be faced with another threat to their quality of life because of the pollution that would emanate from a new 228-megawatt fracked-gas generator called “Newman Unit 6”.

Currently, EPE’s Newman generating station in the northeastern part of the county is one of the largest sources of El Paso’s air pollutants and is a massive contributor to the region’s Ozone pollution being above National Air Ambient Quality Standards, opposition organizers stated. They noted that Ozone can cause asthma attacks, heart attacks, and other serious health problems.

“If the Newman 6 project is approved, the following pollutants would exceed EPA’s standards for air quality: Particulate Matter (PM), PM10, PM2.5, nitrogen oxides, volatile organic compounds, carbon monoxide, and carbon dioxide,” organizers claimed.

Sunrise El Paso members also asserted that because the El Paso region is connected to the Permian Basin shale via the El Paso pipeline, the proposed Newman 6 project would strengthen the production capacity of the Permian Basin, which at present is the largest producer of oil and gas shale in the world and the largest emitter of methane in the United States.

“Methane is a greenhouse gas 86 times more powerful than carbon dioxide (CO2). Additionally, EPA’s CO2 air quality emission standard for a generating station like Newman is 75,000 tons per year. If built, Newman 6 would bring the station’s emissions to 1,335,500 tons per year – that emission rate is about 18 times higher than the EPA standard,” organizers explained.

According to opponents of the proposal, EPE was bought out by JP Morgan Chase earlier this year, and they remarked that this Wall Street bank is the largest financier in the climate crisis, investing heavily in the oil and gas companies that are drilling in the Permian Basin.

Opponents also asserted that JP Morgan is not trustworthy, and neither are natural gas plants. “JP Morgan was forced to pay \$410 million for manipulating prices in the electricity market in California and Michigan,” they stated, “and now renewable energy is cheaper than fracked-gas. Cities, like Dallas who have built new gas plants, are struggling to maintain financial health.”

Opponents of the proposal are urging El Paso City Council members to reject the EPE request. “The City of El Paso has the legal and political autonomy to stop this plant project,” they affirmed.

For more information about the opposition effort to stop the installation of a fracked-gas generator in Northeast El Paso, contact the Sunrise El Paso group, at (915) 500-9751.

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ESSAY GENET EXES ERRS

CryptoQuip Answer

If one is unclear on how much margarine to use, I'd guess it would be butter confusion!



By Lucie Winborne

• An armadillo’s shell is so hard that it can deflect a bullet, as a Texas man discovered to his chagrin when he took aim at one. The bullet ricocheted into his jaw and he had to be airlifted to a hospital. The armadillo, on the other hand, strolled away unscathed.

• One million U.S. dogs hold first place in their owner’s last will and testament.

• The original time machine in “Back to the Future” was not a DeLorean, but an old refrigerator. According to HuffPost, “Ultimately, it was determined that it probably was not a good idea to use a refrigerator in such a manner as kids might want to reenact the scene.”

• Napoleon introduced brass buttons on soldier uniforms’ sleeves to discourage them from wiping their noses.

• The first webcam was created to check a coffeepot! In 1993, researchers in the University of Cambridge’s computer science department really didn’t like getting up from their chairs to check the coffeepot just to find it empty, so they wired a system that would stream three images per minute from the Trojan Room, where the pot was kept, to the internal computer network. By the end of that year, the stream made it onto the new World Wide Web, endowing the Trojan Room coffeepot with international, if brief, fame.

• When English Romantic poet, painter and engraver William Blake was just 4, he claimed to see God through a window. Throughout the rest of his life, Blake said he often communed with angels, incorporating these visions into his art.

• According to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, the stickers on fruit are edible. We haven’t tried them ourselves, though.

Thought for the Day: “The best teachers remain students all their lives.”
– John Stott

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Jones keeps climbing up the NFL running back ladder

By Steve Escajeda
Special to the Courier

One of the problems with becoming successful at anything at a very young age, is the ability to keep it going.

That's true in almost every aspect of life. You work especially hard because you've never been there. Then once you get there, there's a tendency to relax or just not work as hard because – well... you finally made it.

That's true on the job, in romance, with losing weight, and so many other circumstances.

It's especially true in the world of sports. A young player explodes onto the scene with some great play, and then the pressure mounts as everyone expects him

to keep it up.

But then he isn't able to keep it going.

There's even a name for this type of regression. They can it the "sophomore slump."

An athlete has a great freshman season, but struggles the following year because other teams are looking out for him now.

But then there's the occasional player who shows signs of greatness, then emerge as a star once given the chance to prove himself, then just keeps getting better and better as his career goes on.

Let's take the NFL for instance. The vast majority of players are either pretty good or just play a vital role on the team.

The superstars are the ones who work the hardest, study the most, and are never satisfied with what they've achieved so far.

Because he was chosen in the fifth round of the NFL draft, there was never a guarantee that Aaron Jones would ever be a member of the Green Bay Packers.

There were questions about the competition he played against here at UTEP, and there were questions about his smaller size.

But the Packers took a chance anyway.

Jones started just four games in his rookie season of 2017. The Packers already had a starting running back in Ty Montgomery, so Jones would have to prove himself.

Evidently, he did. Jones started eight in 2018 and then he was the man in all 16 games last year.

The former Burges Mustang gained 448 yards in year one. He then improved to 728 in year two, before exploding with

1,084 yards a year ago.

In just his third year in the league last season, Jones rushed for over 1,000 yards, caught 49 passes for another 474 yards and he tied for the NFL lead with 19 total touchdowns.

In his rookie season, El Pasoans went crazy whenever he was shown on ESPN for a couple seconds. Now it seems like Jones is featured in one way or another every week.

But after being selected as an alternate for the Pro Bowl last season, all eyes were on this new NFL star. The questions began to surface, "is Aaron Jones for real, or did he have one incredibly lucky season?"

Well, just two games into 2020, the question has already been answered.

Jones rushed for 66 yards and scored a touchdown in Green Bay's first game of the season. He also caught four passes.

In game two against Detroit, Jones rushed for 168 yards and scored two touchdowns. He also caught four more passes for 68 yards and another touchdowns.

So where does that put him after week two? Aaron Jones led the NFL in rushing with 234 yards. He was tied for the NFL lead with four touchdowns.

In other words, he didn't just sit on his great season of 2019. He's come out to prove that he is one of the best backs in the league.

And although he should have been voted to the Pro Bowl a year ago, I think there's no doubt, as long as he avoids injury that Jones will make his first Pro Bowl of his career. Probably the first Pro Bowl of a few.

I think what El Pasoans like the best about Jones, aside from his humble nature, is the fact that he hasn't forgotten the Sun City.

He flashes the 9-1-5 hand sign to the cameras after almost every touchdown. And after already scoring 36 NFL touchdowns, that's a lot of 9-1-5 signs.

Jones has accomplished what he wanted to do – become an NFL star, next on the list – superstardom.



Moments in time

THE HISTORY CHANNEL

- On Sept. 28, 1941, the Boston Red Sox's Ted Williams plays a double-header against the Philadelphia Athletics and gets six hits in eight trips to the plate, boosting his batting average to .406.

- On Sept. 29, 1988, Stacy Allison of Portland, Oregon, becomes the first American woman to reach the summit of Mount Everest, the highest point on earth. Allison climbed the Himalayan peak using the southeast ridge route.

- On Sept. 30, 1962, in Oxford, Mississippi, James Meredith, an African American, is escorted onto

the University of Mississippi campus by U.S. Marshals, setting off a riot that left two men dead. The racial violence was quelled by more than 3,000 federal soldiers.

- On Oct. 1, 1993, Polly Klaas is abducted at knifepoint and then murdered by an intruder in Petaluma, California. Her father, Marc Klaas, later lobbied to bring about California's "three strikes" law, which gave life terms to criminals with three felony convictions, even though those committing less serious crimes also could face life in prison.

- On Oct. 2, 1971, "Maggie May" becomes Rod Stewart's first No. 1 hit and tops the U.S. and U.K. pop charts. "Maggie May" was a last-minute addition to the album "Every Picture Tells a Story" and was originally released as

the B-side to "Reason to Believe."

- On Oct. 3, 1917, the U.S. Congress passes the War Revenue Act, increasing income taxes to unprecedented levels in order to raise more money for World War I. While only 5% of the U.S. population was required to pay taxes, U.S. tax revenue increased from \$809 million in 1917 to \$3.6 billion the following year.

- On Oct. 4, 1861, President Abraham Lincoln observes a balloon demonstration near Washington, D.C. Both Confederate and Union armies experimented with using balloons to gather military intelligence, but they proved to be dangerous and impractical.

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PUBLIC NOTICE
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS AND PARTIES:
The West Texas County Courier office is closed.
The office will open again on Monday, October 12, 2020.

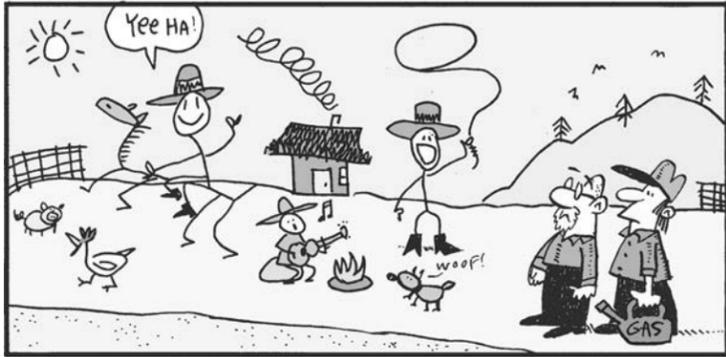
Super Crossword

- | | | | | |
|---|--|---|----------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| SONG SPAN | 56 Internet ID | Stevenson | genre | catch wind of |
| ACROSS | 57 Goggles | 118 High points | 18 One-person bands, e.g. | 77 Airport strip |
| 1 Neighbor of Niger | 58 Not breaking the rules | 119 Advance | 26 Nine-person band, e.g. | 80 Clear out of |
| 5 Comical bits | 61 Fast glance | 120 Watercourse associated with the starts of eight long answers in this puzzle | 29 Self-image | 81 Dr.'s gp. |
| 9 Work group | 63 Lizard that may be a pet | 123 Rabbit's kin | 33 Potatoes au _ | 83 Postal stack |
| 14 PLO chairman | 64 Terrible fate | 124 Part of A.D. | 34 Frazier foe | 84 Over there |
| Mahmoud | 65 Refuses, as a chance | 125 Attend | 36 Folk sayings | 85 Mag. printing |
| 19 Europe's "Eternal City" | 69 "Norma _" (Field film) | 126 Greek vowel | 40 To be, to Fifi | 86 "Naturally!" |
| 20 Blind as _ | 70 Initial amount required by a creditor | 127 Clear out of | 41 Flames' org. | 87 Scrunchies |
| 21 Common typeface | 74 Suffix of sugars | 128 Marsh plant | 44 Car ad abbr. | 88 Long letters |
| 22 _ Polo | 75 Hold sacred | 129 Elia piece | 46 SPF part | 89 TV inits. since 1975 |
| 23 App-based ride option | 78 Verse writer | 130 "The Balcony" playwright Jean | 47 Ersatz | 93 Vexed a lot |
| 24 _ fide (real) | 79 One dodging | 131 Old flames | 48 Blazing | 94 Selfish driver of a sort |
| 25 Grilled steak with thin, diagonal cuts | 82 Slovak coin | 132 Slips up | 49 Astronomer Carl | 95 TV inits. since 1975 |
| 27 Neighbor of Niger | 83 1969 Stevie Wonder hit | DOWN | 50 Hints | 97 Multipiece gifts for calligraphers |
| 28 Alternative to toffee | 86 "Geez!" | 1 Cookie bits | 51 Schnozz or boff ender | 101 Cavity-fighting org. |
| 30 County in New Mexico or Colorado | 89 _ Paulo | 2 Tasmania's capital | 52 "Where _ go wrong?" | 102 Fruit of a Chinese tree |
| 31 Aeneas' lover, in myth | 90 Crooner Redding | 3 2001 Audrey Tautou film | 54 Auth. unknown | 103 Discount department store chain |
| 32 Link two disparate things | 91 Exaggerated and theatrical | 4 Sneer at | 55 Feed in a sty | 105 Blazing |
| 35 Once _ while | 92 Reasonable advance notice | 5 Rap session | 59 Low point | 106 Clothes smoother |
| 37 Gp. backing firearms | 96 Facial locale | 6 See 76-Down | 60 Windows ad statement | 107 Less fatty |
| 38 Has the helm | 98 Prefix with gender | 7 India's Rajiv | 61 Frying vessel | 108 Church councils |
| 39 Revered one | 99 Ringlike isle | 8 Like plays | 62 Perfumer Lauder | 111 Feudal lord |
| 40 Terminated | 100 Soda shop drink | 9 Mineo of movies | 65 _ dish (lab item) | 112 Eagle's nest |
| 42 "Wild Thing" rapper Tone _ | 104 Sells virtually | 10 Outpost unit | 66 City that Lot fled from | 114 " _ hundred flowers bloom" |
| 43 \$20 dispenser | 109 Surg. locales | 11 "That _ happenin'!" | 67 Deplete | 116 Half-baked |
| 45 "Really?" | 110 Vote in favor | 12 Get dimmer | 68 Matthew of "Friends" | 117 Prayer ender |
| 48 Natty scarf | 111 England's "Nine Days' Queen" | 13 Ocala's state | 71 Tokyo-born Yoko Clark | 121 "Hee Haw" co-host |
| 52 Palmtops, e.g., for short | 113 Tel. or elec. 115 Statesman | 14 Envoy: Abbr. | 72 Pirate chant opener | 122 Used a chair |
| | | 15 Verse writer | 73 Run across | |
| | | 16 Sib acquired via marriage | 76 With 6-Down, | |
| | | 17 Late-'60s music | | |

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18			
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113					114			115		116	117								119	
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129														131						132

Comix

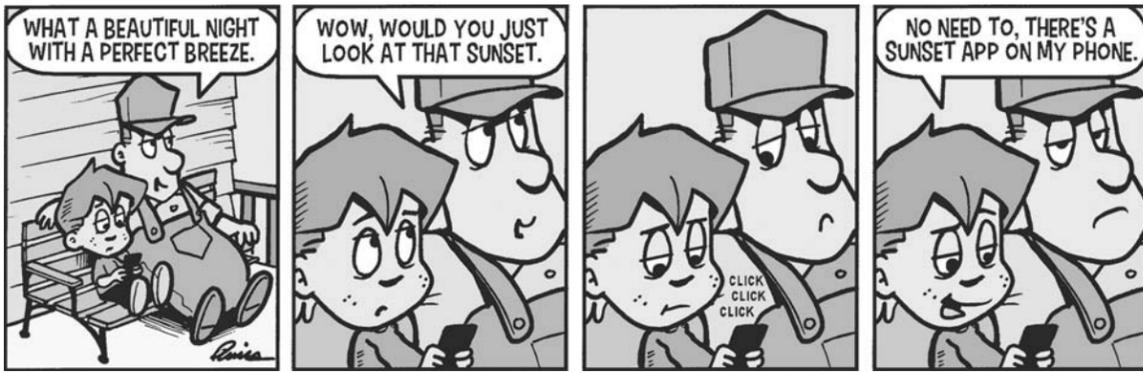
OUT ON A LIMB By Gary Kopervas



SOMEWHERE OUTSIDE TUCSON, DONNIE AND ED COME ACROSS A WESTERN DOODLE RANCH

KOPERVAS

AMBER WAVES By Dave T. Phipps



THE SPATS By Jeff Pickering



R.F.D. By Mike Marland



TIGER By Bud Blake



Tax plan

From Page 2

Trump and Joe Biden there is a consistent theme: Joe Biden is likely to hike your taxes while President Trump will keep them low or reduce them even further. As the Presidential campaigns head into the final stretch, look for Biden to continue to claim his plan won't affect anyone but the wealthy. Armed with the facts

you can now fact check Biden/Harris for yourself.

President Trump understands, and several independent economic studies confirm, that you simply cannot raise taxes on businesses, as Joe Biden hopes to do, without affecting workers and the economy as a whole. Even President Obama publicly rejected the idea of raising taxes during a recession but Biden/Harris will have no choice if they are to fund a transformational

Democratic agenda on climate, education, health care, and social justice.

Our AMAC Action team will continue to cut through the rhetoric, keeping you informed on the reality of what Democrats are proposing. Please continue to stay engaged through the home stretch of this election season as we work to keep you informed and stand ready to protect your

Insomnia one of many prednisone side effects

DEAR DR. ROACH: I was prescribed prednisone 5 mg twice daily, but I had insomnia, itching and hot flashes from it. I stopped after four days but am still suffering from sleeplessness. Has the prednisone had a permanent effect on my body? – J.W.S.L.



Prednisone, a powerful anti-inflammatory and immune system-inhibiting steroid, has many side effects on the body, especially insomnia. Hot flashes and itching are uncommon side effects.

Insomnia is more common when prednisone is taken twice daily. Anytime a person gets insomnia, it can create a situation where they become worried about sleeping, which can lead to a persistent problem, even though the effect of the prednisone is gone.

I recommend some routine steps for treating insomnia, such as avoiding bright lights, including any electronic screen, for two hours or so before bed; regular exercise, if the condition for which you took prednisone allows it; and a warm bath before bed. A mild sleep aid, such as melatonin 1 mg or less, may help reset your system, but daily use is not necessary.

DEAR DR. ROACH: My wife had a heart attack. They did what they could for her, but she had a 100% blocked artery. They did clean it out, but a week later she had a fatal heart attack. Five or six months earlier, she called me quite often by a former friend's name. I am wondering if blood was not getting to her brain or if she was starting to get dementia? – G.M.

I am very sorry about your wife.

People who have blockages in the heart often have blockages in other blood vessels, such as those in the leg, but also those going to the brain. Poor blood flow to the brain may cause changes to memory and other specific problems.

A stroke is very much like a heart attack. Most strokes are caused by poor blood flow to a specific area of the brain, and if it is severe enough, long enough, brain tissue will die, causing loss of function. People who have had multiple strokes are more frequently affected by dementia, called vascular dementia or multi-infarct dementia.

I don't know if this was the case for your wife, but it is certainly plausible. People who notice loved ones having memory lapses should get an evaluation sooner rather than later, as sometimes there are therapies that work better when started earlier.

DEAR DR. ROACH: Does BPH increase the possibility of prostate cancer? – A.L.

Benign prostatic hypertrophy is a common condition in men. About half of men in their 50s have an enlarged prostate, and the proportion gets even higher as men age. The major symptoms of enlarged prostate are difficulty with urine flow, a sensation of decreased emptying, difficulty initiating urination, and increased frequency of urinating, including at night. As symptoms worsen, incontinence can occur and even kidney damage may result due to the high pressure in the bladder.

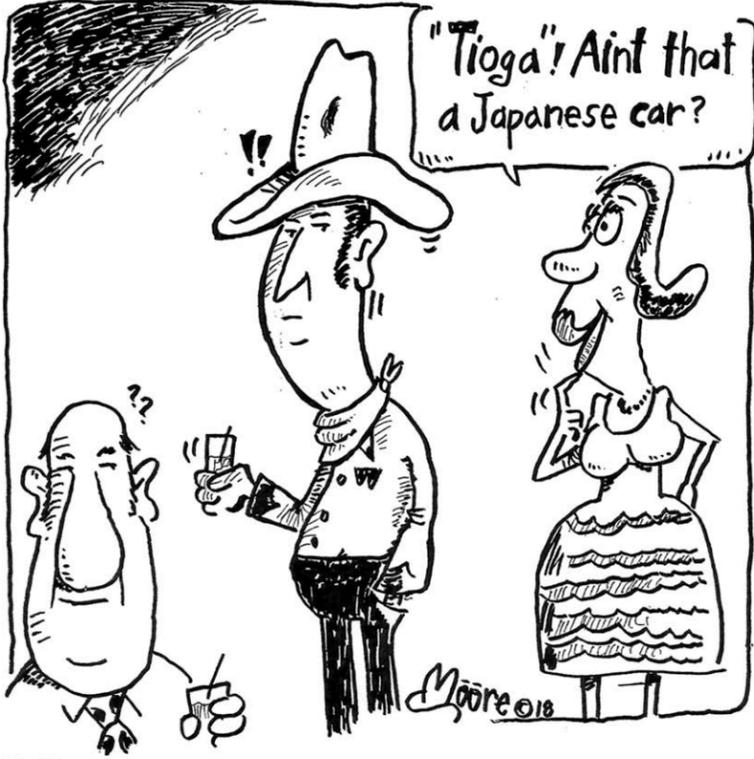
The first word in "BPH" is "benign": It is not a cancerous condition. It does not protect against developing cancer, but there does not appear to be an increased risk either, according to the most recent studies.

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.

pocketbook, your small business, and the economy.

created to assist Association of Mature American Citizens (AMAC) members with grassroots participation on Capitol Hill and at the local level through its advocacy programs.

AMAC Action is a 501(c)(4) nonprofit advocacy organization



Moore Texas by Roger MOORE
Gene Autry is born in Tioga Texas on Sept 29, 1907!

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: Y equals D

TS JIQ TH AIUPQNW JI
DJV CAUD CNWLNWTIQ ZJ
AHQ, T'Y LAQHH TZ VJAPY
EQ EAZZQW UJISAHTJI!

Answer Page 4

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ◆

◆ Moderate ◆◆ Challenging

Answer Page 4

◆◆◆ HOO BOY!

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Medical decisions made by neighbor?



by Freddy Groves

How would you like it if you were admitted to a hospital, unable to express your wishes and ask questions, and a neighbor strolled in and started making medical decisions for you?

The Department of Veterans Affairs Office of Inspector General was asked to investigate after this happened to a veteran who was hospitalized for three weeks.

The OIG determined that the neighbor had no legal authority to make medical decisions for that patient. Medical staff didn't try to even check the identity of the neighbor, much less his legal standing. They went through the veteran's stuff, but didn't look into his VA benefits records.

A mental health staffer decided the veteran could not make decisions and had delirium caused by medical origins, yet a social worker

helped him sign forms.

Emergency room staff said the veteran had indicated he had family, but no one followed up... except to contact the neighbor to come get the service dog.

Based on his agitation (my opinion: caused by pain from a urinary tract infection), they put the veteran on antipsychotic drugs and flung around a possible diagnosis of schizophrenia. The American Geriatric Society has said that the elderly shouldn't be given antipsychotics because they cause agitation and delusions.

Even worse, the OIG discovered, the medical records "did not contain sufficient documentation of physicians' clinical assessments to support diagnoses and treatment decisions."

After three weeks, the neighbor "authorized withholding life-sustaining treatments" and the veteran was shipped off to hospice to die. The OIG concluded doctors did that "without fully pursuing other diagnoses and treatment options." The veteran died five days later — then they finally located the family.

To read the whole file about this nightmare, go to www.va.gov/oig/pubs/VAOIG-19-08666-212.pdf

Right now, while you're thinking about it, put a piece of paper in your wallet marked Emergency Information. Write down the names and phone numbers of people who are to be contacted: family, attorney, minister. Don't leave this to chance.

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• "In my shop, I have stored small bits of hardware in baby-food jars. They were all on a shelf together, and when I needed one, I would have to move bottles around until I found the right one. I took a piece of 1-by-4 and cut it into 2-foot sections. Then I glued the bottoms of the bottles in a row to the wood. Now, they still sit on the shelf, but all I have to do is slide the 1-by-4s out and find the right jar. I can still see in the sides, and it makes them so much easier to deal with." — J.N in Missouri

• "My child has so many toys that they were starting to take over his room and our house. We got three big plastic storage tubs and distributed the toys among them. Now the rule is that only one tub can be open at a time, so if he wants to play with other toys, he must pick up all the toys from the tub he is playing with first. It has made such a difference since the house gets picked up at least once a day." — C.I. in Tennessee

• Here's a boating safety tip: Make sure you check the weather before you head out for a day on the water. And everyone needs a life vest, large or small!

• "Lots of people are selling things online now to make a few bucks, and that's cool. I know I have things I've picked up that I don't use. Why not make a little money? Here's a tip though: Do a little research on price for your item. You want to avoid listing it for too much (no interest) or too little (yes, it gets snapped up quickly, but you could have gotten more for it). A little homework goes a long way." — C.A. in Florida

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.

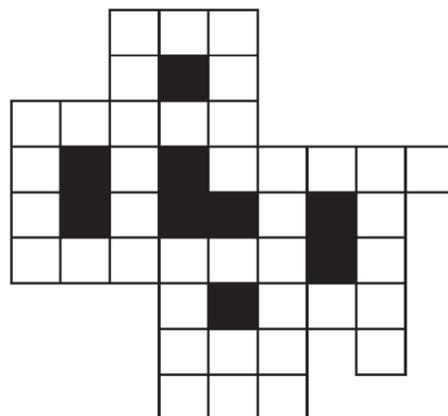
	-		x					10
÷		+		+				
	x		+					13
+		÷		÷				
	÷		+					4
13		3						12

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

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- DIA
- DRICON
- ♥DREAT
- IKML
- MIHERO
- TZI
- RONC
- TUKZL
- IMH
- TOCEAL
- MALCE
- OEDZ



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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