



NEWSBRIEFS

Credit woes

With the COVID-19 pandemic causing many people to borrow more or fall behind on payments, the personal-finance website WalletHub analyzed the average credit scores of residents in all 50 states and just released its report *on 2020's States with the Highest & Lowest Credit Scores*, along with accompanying videos and audio files. The average credit score in Texas is 669, which ranks 4th lowest in the U.S.

Q&A with WalletHub analyst Jill Gonzalez

What are some of the biggest ways people's credit scores can be hurt during the pandemic?

The biggest ways people's credit scores can be hurt during the pandemic are by missing payments and racking up debt. A missed payment on a credit account can stay on a person's credit report for seven years, and can impact their credit score during that entire time. Many people have needed to borrow money during the pandemic, and an increased debt load and higher credit utilization on revolving accounts can also be detrimental to a person's credit score.

How could a second stimulus check help people's credit scores?

A second stimulus check could help people's credit scores by making people less likely to borrow or miss a payment, thus avoiding increasing their debt load or putting negative information on their credit reports. We might even see a stimulus check lead to a big paydown of existing debts. In the second quarter of 2020, after people received their stimulus checks, there was one of the highest credit-card-debt paydowns in the last few decades. Decreasing one's existing debt is a good way to raise one's credit score long-term, because it makes it easier to both manage the debt and make on-time payments.

— Diana Polk

Come fly with me

You'd have a hard time guessing what Robina Asti of Riverside, CA did for a living up until now. At "the ripe, young age" of 99, Ms. Asti is the world's oldest active pilot and was employed as a flight instructor at the NextGen Flight Academy at the Riverside Municipal Airport. The record keepers at Guinness bestowed her with the honor soon after she completed her

See BRIEFS, Page 4



— Photo by Alfredo Vasquez

HELPING HAND – Texas residents, facing financial challenges, are eligible to receive a variety of food products that will feed a family of four for about a week when they visit one of El Pasoans Fighting Hunger Food Bank's distribution centers.

Fighting hunger one week at a time

By Alfredo Vasquez
Special to the Courier

Residents who have fallen on hard times because of the COVID-19 pandemic, unemployment, and other economic issues.

Volunteers to help fill the need for food assistance that continues to be great, as the pandemic forges on and affects so many families. Children are no longer

EL PASO COUNTY – The call is out for volunteers to help with feeding Texas El Pasoans Fighting Hunger Food Bank (EPFHFB) is currently seeking

See FOOD, Page 5



— Photo courtesy DEA

PILING UP – Bags of unwanted drugs are stacked up for loading into a truck. The DEA collected almost a million pounds of unwanted or expired prescription drugs on National Prescription Drug Take Back Day.

DEA and partners collect a record amount of unwanted meds during National Prescription Drug Take Back Day

By DEA Public
Affairs Office

Drug Take Back Day brought in nearly a million pounds of unused, expired, and unwanted medications across the country, the largest amount ever collected in the program's ten years. Americans once again showed their dedication to remove

prescription pills from their homes to prevent addiction before it starts.

The DEA, along with its law enforcement partners, has now collected

NATION – The Drug Enforcement Agency's (DEA) National Prescription

See DRUGS, Page 2

Between two evils, choose neither; between two goods, choose both.

— Quips & Quotes



— Photo courtesy DEA

ON THE FRONT LINE – Acting DEA Administrator Timothy Shea, left, and ONDCP Director James Carroll receive unwanted medications at a drive-through DEA Take Back Day collection site in Burke, VA.

Drugs

From Page 1

nearly 13.7 million pounds of expired, unused, and unwanted

prescription medications since the inception of the National Prescription Drug Take Back Initiative in 2010. On Oct. 24, the public turned in 985,392 pounds – almost 493 tons – of medication to DEA and 4,153 of its community

partners at 4,587 collection sites nationwide, including 33 Bureau of Indian Affairs sites.

“This year’s event, with a record-setting 493-ton collection, is a sure sign that DEA’s Take Back Day events continue to provide a vital

public service that keeps loved ones safe—an opportunity to rid homes of potentially dangerous unused, expired, and unwanted medications,” said DEA Acting

See DRUGS, Page 3



NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

To Discuss Socorro Independent School District’s State Financial Accountability Rating

Socorro Independent School District will hold a public meeting at:

6:00 PM November 17, 2020

Due to health and safety concerns related to the Covid-19 Corona Virus, this meeting will be conducted by videoconference or telephone call.

Notice for the meeting and access including, methods for public comments are available at <https://www.sisd.net/page/700>.

The purpose of this meeting is to discuss Socorro Independent School District’s rating on the state’s financial accountability system.

The Socorro Independent School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability or age in its programs, activities or employment.

WTCC: 11/05/20

Fierro asks for unity in Nov. 1 letter

My Fellow El Pasoans:

As the number of people infected with the COVID-19 virus soar, hospitals face crisis with over-capacity of critical patients, business owners agonize

with difficult business decisions, and as unemployment numbers further rise, we as a community are becoming increasingly divided, if not outright hostile with each other. More and more

people have become comfortable with the risks and are determined to go back to “normal”. Sacrifices we made since March of this year have been squandered and we are back to square one. These acts of pure self-interest have caused us to regress and have again put medical professionals, first responders, and vulnerable El Pasoans in actual life-threatening danger. These facts are not in dispute.

How we behave should not be driven by selfishness or by political rhetoric. This is not a time for our citizens to debate each other. Supporting one elected official over another is not helpful as it lacks consideration that these decisions are difficult. There is no easy answer, whether in principle or in law.

I ask our community to look beyond the politics, do the right thing, and let’s take care of

ourselves. This is a time to reach out to show compassion for those facing illness or loss of life, to offer a helping hand for those frustrated and desperate, and to support struggling businesses and employers. Wear your masks, self-enforce decisions to stay home, and patronize businesses that are making their own sacrifices and adjustments to save lives.

I write these words as an El Pasoan who loves our city and who wants an economically vibrant and healthy community. On August 3 of last year, El Paso faced the most horrific tragedy it had ever seen. We demonstrated compassion, resilience and unity. Despite the confusion now, there is only one right path. Let us reclaim the spirit of unity and make El Paso Strong!

Respectfully,
Representative Art Fierro
Texas House District 79



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AMERICAN LUNG ASSOCIATION of Texas

YOUR Gift IS A WAY TO CONQUER LUNG DISEASE

Find out how you can help ...

www.texaslung.org

1-800-LUNG-USA

When you lose someone dear to you — or when a special person has a birthday, quits smoking, or has some other occasion to celebrate — memorial gifts or tribute gifts made for them to your local American Lung Association help prevent lung disease and improve the care of those who suffer from it.



- Photo courtesy DEA

FULL LOAD – This truck at a Los Angeles, CA drug collection center was filled top to bottom, front to rear with boxes full of unwanted drugs.

Drugs

From Page 2

Administrator Timothy Shea. “Every day is Take Back Day and we encourage the public to continue to address this urgent safety and public health issue by using the thousands of existing drop-off locations throughout the year.”

“We are extremely proud of our

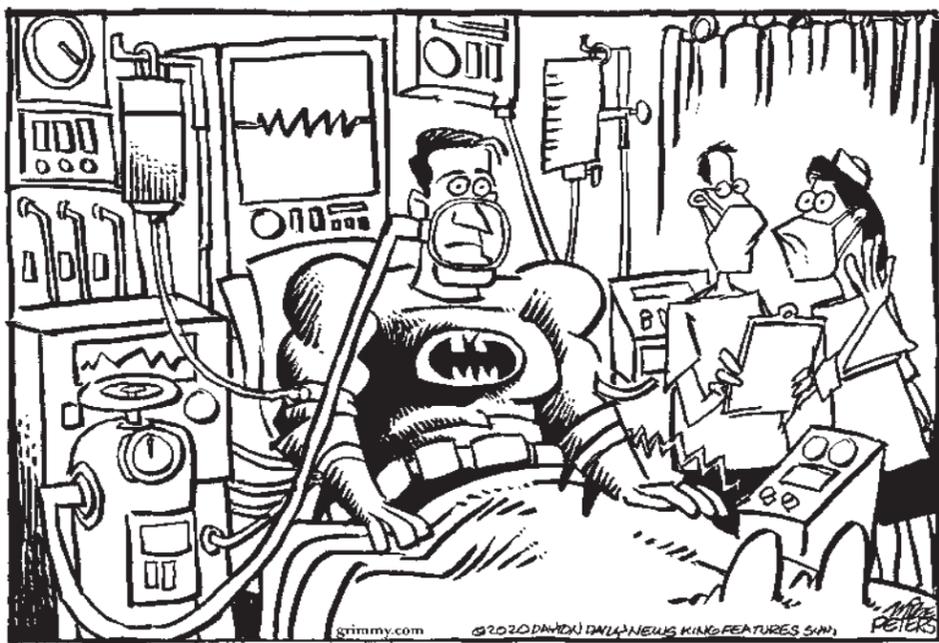
community for answering the call to bring their expired and unused medications to our various locations,” said Kyle W. Williamson, Special Agent in Charge of the Drug Enforcement Administration’s El Paso Division. “With the help of the citizens of El Paso, Midland, Alpine and all of New Mexico, nearly 6,000 pounds of medications were safely collected and were kept from being diverted, misused or abused.”

In addition to DEA’s National Prescription Drug Take Back Day, safe and secure drug disposal continues to be available at any of the 11,000 DEA authorized collectors throughout the year. For more information, visit: <https://apps2.dea/diversion.usdoj.gov/pubdispsrch/spring/main?execution=e1s1>.

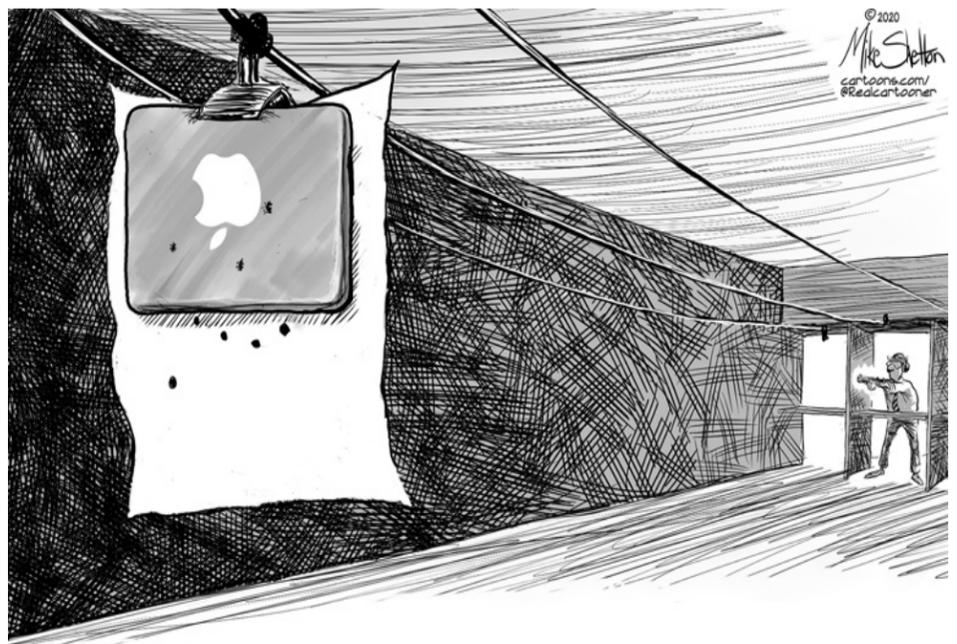
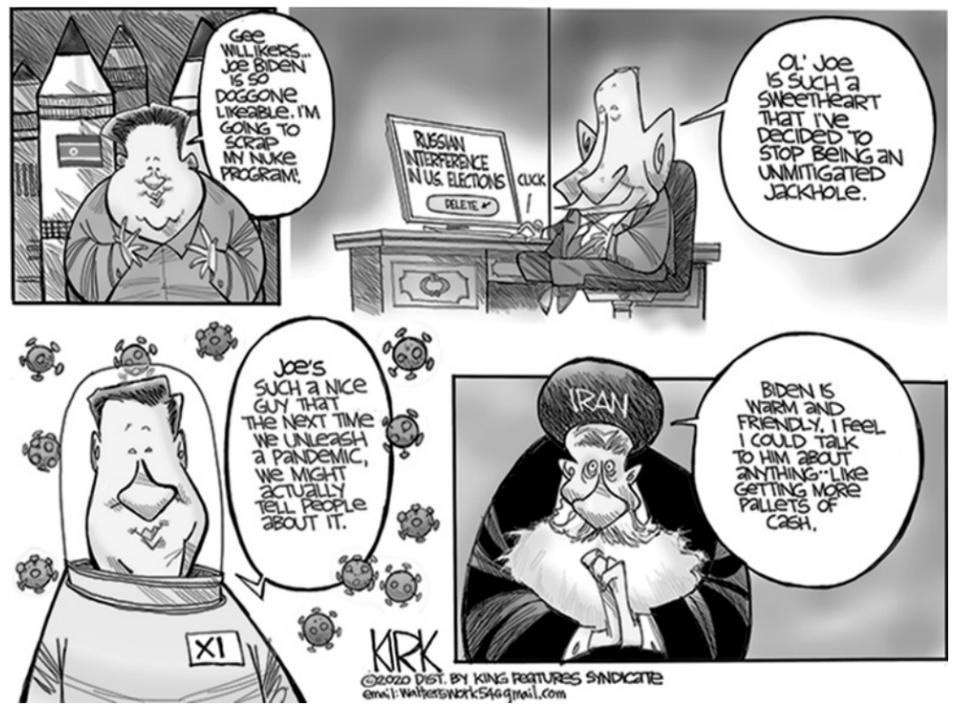
Given the ongoing COVID-19 public health emergency, DEA wants to ensure that the public is aware of other ways they

can dispose of unwanted prescription drugs without having to leave their homes. Both the U.S. Food and Drug Administration and the Environmental Protection Agency have tips on how to safely dispose of drugs at home.

DEA also encourages the public to reach out to their local law enforcement to find out if they have any permanent drug disposal locations throughout their local community.



BRUCE WAYNE SAYS IT WAS A MISTAKE NOT TO WEAR HIS MASK



Sources say FBI has custody of Hunter Biden’s laptop...



– Photos by Alfredo Vasquez

SOCIALLY DISTANT – Individuals recently lined up six feet apart at an upper valley distribution center run by El Pasoans Fighting Hunger Food Bank to receive a week's worth of food.

Food

From Page 1

able to get breakfast and lunch at school, and seniors now find themselves isolated from family and friends. It has affected all in such dire ways.

EPFHFB is the Texas border region's main food distribution center; it is the hub that brings together over 132 partner agencies and programs including pantries, churches, schools, soup kitchens, and shelters. The food bank coordinates the distribution of food to where it is needed most throughout El Paso, Culberson, and Hudspeth counties.

Currently, the food bank needs volunteers at the distribution centers because the demand for food assistance is pervasive and persistent with no immediate end in sight, according to Hana Krause, supervisor of the recently open micro food pantry that is located at the corner of Doniphan Drive and Thorn Road in the county's upper valley.

Krause stated that plans are to be open for a long while. "We will be here distributing food Monday through Friday as long as people need food to survive," she said.

Krause estimated that nearly 400 individuals visit this pantry each day. She said that each person receives about 80 pounds of food including beans, rice, cereal, fruits, vegetables, and a variety of non-perishable items, "Enough to feed a family of four for a week," she surmised.

The west side pantry, which has been open for about two weeks, is housed in a former supermarket facility with 15 to 20 workers on duty daily. "We have several opportunities available for volunteers," according to an EPFHFB official, "anyone over 16 years of age and in good health can help." He added that to keep everyone safe, workers have implemented a health and hygiene protocol at all locations.

"EPFHFB volunteers share their skills and make a huge

impact. Every volunteer experience is a little different; for example, at EPFHFB, we need your help sorting and packing food, gardening, or educating the community. Each experience is critical in helping get healthy meals to families facing hunger," states the organization's website.

Some of the tasks that volunteers and paid staff employees perform include assessing and sorting boxes of food items and household products that have been donated; pre-sorting, repacking, and re-labeling packages to deliver to the partner agencies' distribute locations.

Volunteers could also be assigned to fill orders placed by partner agencies in which some heavy lifting may be required, or volunteers can assist with general administrative tasks including computer work, filing, data entry, mailings and other light office duties. Additionally, there are occasions when volunteers help staff with special events.

Currently, the need is great and continues to increase, reported EPFHFB officials. "From March 17 to date the EPFH food bank has already surpassed food distribution for 2019. Last year the food bank distributed over 32.5 million pounds of food in the Borderland. This year through May, EPFH has already distributed more than 50 million pounds of food – 15 million pounds of food distributed in May alone. On average, all the primary sites distribute food to 8,000 families a day. Even more astounding is that EPFH has distributed over 800,000 emergency food boxes in the community," they stated.

"As long as the clients keep coming, EPFHFB will be here to help... because no one should go hungry. If you are struggling to put food on your table and need assistance, come to the food bank," Krause stated.

Individuals, interested in learning more about how they can make an instant impact on hunger relief in their community, should contact the local food bank volunteer coordinator, at (915) 253-4926 or at volunteer@epfhfb.org, to request an application form.

El Pasoans Fighting Hunger Food Bank Primary pantry distribution sites

East

El Paso Fighting Hunger Food Bank
9541 Plaza Circle
Monday – Friday, 7 a.m., to 5 p.m.
Saturday, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Abundant Living Faith Center East
1000 Valley Crest Road
Saturdays, 8 – 11 a.m.

Horizon City Holy Spirit Church
14600 Horizon Boulevard
Monday – Friday, 8 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Central

Kelly Center for Hunger Relief
915 N. Florence Street
Tuesday – Friday, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Saturday, 9 a.m. – 12 p.m.

El Paso County Coliseum
4100 E. Paisano Drive
Tuesday – Saturday, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

West

Village of Vinton Distribution
436 Vinton Road
Fridays, 8 - 11a.m.

Anthony Municipal Park
100 Richard White Avenue.
Thursdays, 8 - 11a.m.

St Mark UMC
5005 Love Road
Tuesdays, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.



LOADING UP – The free food pantries are operating throughout the border region and are made possible through the generous efforts of community organizations and businesses.

It's hard to believe

We're near the midway point of the NFL season

By Steve Escajeda
Special to the Courier

Halloween has just passed us by and we all changed our clocks for the last time this year.

The infamous year of 2020 now has just two months to go. It's moving pretty quickly now.

In fact, it's gone so quickly that we're actually almost at the halfway point of the National Football League season.

And by the time we get to this point, we can already start to see which teams are likely to make the playoffs, and which players are probably going to win some trophies as best of the best.

As we take a look at the season so far, we see that there are really about nine teams who are legitimate Super Bowl

contenders.

In the NFC, we're looking at the Green Bay Packers, Tampa Bay Buccaneers, New Orleans Saints and Seattle Seahawks.

In the AFC, it's the Buffalo Bills, Pittsburgh Steelers, Baltimore Ravens, Tennessee Titans and Kansas City Chiefs.

There are other teams with winning records, but the Chicago Bears, Los Angeles Rams, Cleveland Browns, Indianapolis Colts and Arizona Cardinals are expected to come down to Earth at some point.

One of the Super Bowl teams from a year ago has struggled big time. The San Francisco 49ers have suffered a ton of injuries this season and it appears as if they will have to wait until next year to contend again.

At the end of every season the NFL

picks their players of the year on offense and defense.

As far as offense, there are always quite a few players to consider, and this year is no different.

As always, it starts with the quarterback, and this year players like Russell Wilson, Patrick Mahomes and Aaron Rodgers are at the top of list, followed closely by Lamar Jackson, Ben Roethlisberger, Ryan Tannehill and even Tom Brady.

The only other offensive player that may have a chance at Player of the Year is Titans' running back Derrick Henry and his 110 yards per game.

As far as the comeback player of the year, is there any doubt that the hands-down winner will be quarterback Ben Roethlisberger of the Steelers?

Roethlisberger played in just two games before getting hurt in 2019, and

the Steelers finished with a disappointing 8-8 record.

With their quarterback at the helm this year, the Steelers are back to being one of the best teams in the league.

On defense, it's gotten to the point that sacks in football are like home runs in baseball - they are one of the plays fans love to see.

So far, Cleveland's Myles Garrett (9) and the Los Angeles Rams' Aaron Donald (8) are leading the way in sacks and they seem to be the only defensive players who have a chance for the top honor.

In the NFC, the Packers, Saints and Seahawks could very well make it to the big game, but the team that is starting to make a lot of noise is Tampa Bay.

The Tom Brady experiment took a little time to get going, but it looks like Tom and his receivers are starting to figure it out. Tampa's defense is looking strong as well.

By the way, no team has ever enjoyed the home-field advantage in the Super Bowl - and this year's big game will be played in Tampa Bay.

In the AFC, things are a little tougher. Though the Bills are contenders, there are really four teams that stand out above the rest.

The defending champion Chiefs are looking really strong on offense with Mahomes at quarterback and all those other speedy weapons he has to play with. And the Chiefs defense is looking better than it did a year ago.

The Steelers and Titans and Ravens are all tough-minded defensively and can move the ball on offense. Baltimore quarterback Lamar Jackson isn't having quite the season he had a year ago, so watch to see if he starts breaking out.

Of course things can change significantly with a key injury here or a simple positive covid test there.

And let's face it - the best news is that we still have half a season to go.

'Ask Rusty' is a layman's guide to the intricacies of Social Security

By John Grimaldi
Special to the Courier

The AMAC Foundation has published "a comprehensive, easy-to-understand" layman's guide to help America's population of senior citizens understand the ins and outs of Social Security. The book is called "Ask Rusty: What's so hard about Social Security." Russell "Rusty" Gloor, whose weekly column on the topic is published by several hundred news outlets across the country, is the primary author.

Gloor is an accredited Social Security Advisor with a knack for explaining the complicated provisions of the Social Security Administration in a simple and easy to understand manner, according to Gerry Hafer, Executive Director of the AMAC Foundation, the nonprofit arm of the Association of Mature American Citizens. The foundation is focused on the

needs of senior citizens. "The broad-based popularity of Rusty's column in which he answers questions about Social Security prompted us to encourage him to pen a comprehensive manual for those already receiving benefits and those who are nearing the age of enrollment," says Hafer.

The Foundation operates a call-in and email service that answers hundreds of questions monthly about Social Security issues from AMAC members and the public at large.

"Seniors are the fastest growing segment of the population and the complexity of the rules, and the resulting difficulty people have interpreting those rules relative to their individual situations, are what drive folks to contact us. Often, there are rules that countermand rules, qualifications that make some of the rules misleading. It's the reason we publish our Ask Rusty column each week and why we published this book," Gloor explains.

Gloor added that "the AMAC Foundation is committed to supporting America's seniors, and helping them navigate Social Security's myriad rules, and applying those rules to their personal circumstances, is a big part of what we do. We've helped thousands of seniors develop a better claiming strategy and made them aware of Social Security options they didn't even know they had, and that is especially gratifying to each of our Advisors. Sharing our collective knowledge in this book fits perfectly into The Foundation's overall mission."

To order a print copy of the book, email a request to info@amacfoundation.org. Price of the printed version is \$19.95 (plus tax), with free shipping. An email request will result in a return invoice to the requestor, and the book will be shipped immediately upon receipt of payment.

An eBook copy of "What's So Hard About Social Security?" can be ordered on either Amazon or Apple eBooks for \$9.95.

Super Crossword

- REVOLUTIONS ACROSS
1 Mad crowd
4 Ritchie Valens hit of 1959
11 Artificial waterway
16 Jacuzzi joint
19 LAX screeners
20 Mining stuff
21 "Ad _ per aspera"
22 Formal duds for a dude
23 Some Sufi ascetics
26 Server's goal
27 Actress Garr
28 Was ahead
29 Julio's gold
30 "Much obliged"
32 Air-cooling vanes
36 Means of telling time
38 _ good clip
39 Writer Capote, to pals
41 Steed feed
42 Firestone products
50 Lots and lots
54 Gotten up
55 Technique: Abbr.
56 Feel ill
57 Gloomy
59 _ mater
60 Wolf down
62 They succeeded audiotapes
65 "Yipes!"
67 Big lug
68 Ward (off)
69 Alley hisser
70 Ax-wielding lumberjack
72 Dust devils' cousins
75 Old overlords
77 Lupino of "Jennifer"
78 "Arrow" network
80 Quarterback Dawson
81 Big printer brand
83 Carnival classics
86 Coll. email ender
87 Faint trace
90 Tax
91 "Kidnapped" author's initials.
92 Choose
94 Paradiasiacal
96 Talk back to
97 Planets, e.g.
100 Fill-in worker
103 Tyke
104 Pampering, for short
105 Record player parts
110 Kids hold their horses on them
116 Tile design
117 German city
118 It fills la Seine
119 Et _ (and others)
120 "Devious Maids" actress Ortiz
121 What 10 of this puzzle's answers do
127 Beer barrel
128 See 116-Down
129 What's often decorated for Christmas
130 "_ your call"
131 Sooner than, in odes
132 One-of_ (unique)
133 Bleepers of bad words
134 Tofu source
DOWN
1 Letters of the weekday
2 Actor Milo
3 Scottish tyke
4 Wee, like Abner
5 Meyers of the screen
6 _ Jovi
7 Point of view
8 In a self-effacing way
9 Engendered
10 Ireland's _ Lingus
11 Nile capital
12 Professional org.
13 _ degree
14 Soul queen
15 Beat against, as waves
16 Get up
17 NHL game souvenirs
18 Lines of symmetry
24 Celery piece
25 Loudness knob abbr.
31 Actor Aziz _
33 Like filmsy
excuses
34 Expiated
35 Little dollop
36 Shorten
37 Wallops in the ring
40 Create a new digital image of
42 Small battery type
43 E-address
44 Sci-fi travel facilitators
45 Inedible kind of orange
46 Suffix with
116-Across
47 Answer to "Are you?"
48 Teases mercilessly
49 Give a thrill
51 Conductor Arturo
52 Film award
53 Jays' places
57 "Girl Code" channel
58 Dramatist Clifford
61 In _ (agitated)
63 Bar none
64 Examined before robbing
66 "_ a jealous mistress"
67 "1984" novelist George
70 LP players of old
71 Plant swelling
73 Earthy hue, to Brits
74 Explorer Hernando
76 Seeded
79 1940s pres.

15x15 crossword grid with numbers 1-134 indicating starting points for clues.

Comix

OUT ON A LIMB By Gary Kopervas



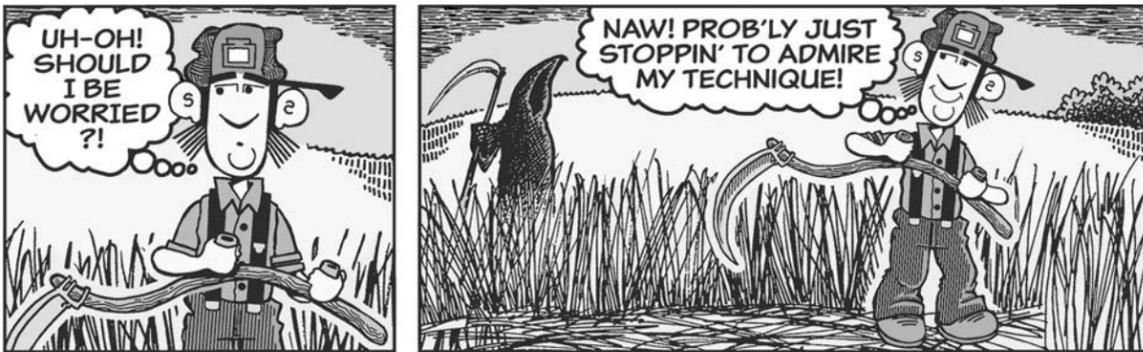
AMBER WAVES By Dave T. Phipps



THE SPATS By Jeff Pickering



R.F.D. By Mike Marland



TIGER By Bud Blake



Chest CT can't replace screening mammogram

DEAR DR. DONOHUE: I am due to have a mammogram in July, but around the same time I am supposed to have a chest CT as a follow-up to my chondrosarcoma cancer. I have a CT every other year, and an X-ray on the opposite years of both my affected arm and my lungs. Does a chest CT have the potential of showing a similar finding as a mammogram? I would just as soon not have to expose myself to so much radiation all in one month. I'm 66. There is a history of postmenopausal breast cancer in my family, in my mother's mother. – T.M.H.



A mammogram is an X-ray that is designed specifically to look for abnormalities in breast tissue. Mammograms have been extensively studied and proven to reduce mortality in women between the ages of 50-74 (outside these ages, there remains extreme controversy).

CT scans are X-rays taken from many angles and then reconstructed in a computer to provide a look at many slices of the part of the body being looked at. A CT scanner can be set to emphasize bones or soft tissue, and work is ongoing now with CT scans designed specifically for breast abnormalities. The CT scan you get as follow-up to your chondrosarcoma (a rare cancer of cartilage) is designed to look in lung tissue for abnormalities, and has not been evaluated as a means of screening for breast cancer, although I do know that some may be found anecdotally.

The CT scans you get as a part of your cancer follow-up are not an adequate substitute for ongoing mammography, which is particularly important in your case due to a family history. I do understand the concern about radiation, but a mammogram has very little radiation – approximately the same you would get from naturally occurring radiation sources in seven weeks of walking around.

DEAR DR. ROACH: I read a news report that vasectomy increases risk of prostate cancer. Should men avoid this procedure due to concern for prostate cancer? – T.S.V.

Several studies have looked at this possibility, and the results are conflicting. A 2014 study of about 50,000 U.S. men showed an increase of about 15% in the risk of fatal prostate cancer, but a 2016 study of 360,000 U.S. men showed no increase in risk. In June 2019, a study of over 2 million Danish men showed a 15% increase in overall prostate cancer risk. To put the risk in perspective, about 500 men would need to have a vasectomy for one additional man to get prostate cancer, in the Danish study. It is not clear that the vasectomy caused the prostate cancer.

It's possible there's something about men who choose vasectomy that puts them at higher risk to begin with. However, the authors were unable to find a known risk factor to support that possibility.

Even if vasectomy does lead to an increased risk of prostate cancer, it still has similar or lower overall risk than other forms of birth control, and is a good choice for a man who is absolutely sure he does not want to father any more children, as a vasectomy should be considered permanent. Attempting reversal is possible, but there is no guarantee of success.

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.

Click It or Ticket.



Even in the back seat.

Buckle up every rider for every trip.

State law now requires both adults and children to be buckled up in the front or back seat. A child less than 8 years old, unless taller than 4 feet 9 inches, must ride in a child safety seat. Most children between 4 and 8 years old will need a booster seat to be safe and comply with the law. Fines range from \$25 to \$250, plus court costs. TexasClickItorTicket.com





Moore Texas by Roger Moore
In 1879 Oran Milo Roberts spent 35 cents on his campaign for Governor.

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: B equals L

UM CA OCVUAR KORUJOA
UT JCEO OTNOXUCBBQ MFK
CEFBOTXOAVT, U'E XCBB UV
C NKF-VOOA EUOV.

Answer Page 4

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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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Coffee shop vets are one man short



by Freddy Groves

I didn't know if they'd be there, what with the weather snapping cold like it has, but there they were, the elderly veteran crew, arrayed in a wide half circle on the sidewalk outside the coffee shop.

Or at least most of them were. I did a head count after I placed my coffee order at the pickup window. One appeared to be missing, and it seemed that I'd arrived in the middle of a conversation.

"They kept him overnight, worried about his chest. Coughing, but no fever."

"Can't be the virus if there's no fever."

"It could be the virus with no symptoms whatsoever." The retired sergeant, in charge of physical spacing, tapped his 6-foot measuring stick on the pavement. "You

need to keep up."

They batted it back and forth, taking bets about which of them might have had it without knowing, citing questionable statistics and claims. A cellphone rang, and the sergeant's hand went up, calling for silence.

He listened and hung up, sliding the phone back in his fatigue jacket pocket. "It's not the virus," he said. "Common cold. But the grandkid tested positive, so now the whole house is in lockdown. Our good buddy has to go elsewhere."

"Bet he's not happy about that."

"His other daughter is coming from upstate. Plans to take him with her tomorrow."

"He'll be even less happy about that. Poor guy. He's a news junkie. She lives in a cabin on a lake, no cable. Just basic channels."

By the time I finished my coffee, hovering at the edge of the group, the general consensus was that their pal, to be trapped for a few weeks in a lakeside cabin in the woods

with no cable television, was actually the lucky one. As long as he remembered his fishing pole.

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• "I find it helpful to set calendar reminders on my phone for working out and meal prepping. I have to treat it like a job so that I'll do it. Thought that might help other people who struggle." — S.O. in Wyoming

• "Those hide-a-key rocks can be a little obvious — at least they are to me. I have a spare key hidden outside too, but I sealed mine in a plastic baggie and buried it in a spot known only to our family members. Also, it's not right by the door." — I.E. in Mississippi

• Home office motivation: Preplan your outfits for daily success. When it's all too easy to roll out of bed and log on without a thought, it might help your productivity to prepare for the workday as you would have in the time of commutes and conferences. The right wardrobe choices can help you set the tone for the day.

• "When closing up our cabin for the season, we brought a box of mothballs and scattered them around the porch perimeter. This keeps the small animals like mice and skunks from setting up shop there while no one is around." — S.F. in Pennsylvania

• Now's a great time to start weatherstripping! Check and recaulk windows. Caulk along baseboards to deter drafts. Add insulation to electrical outlets and under sinks around plumbing. Seal it up to stay toasty this winter.

• "When temperatures fall where I live, outside exercise becomes preferred. We all know to drink lots of fluids in the blazing heat of summer, but it's important to plan your hydration when extreme sweating isn't the norm. You still need to replace fluids for optimal performance." — T.D. 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.

DIFFICULTY: ★★

★ Moderate ★★ Difficult

★★★ GO FIGURE!

Answer Page 4

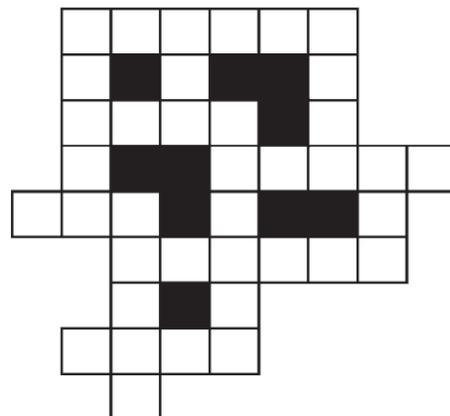
	+		×		10
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1 2 3 3 4 6 7 8 9

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- E H M
- IRNSOP
- HENIC
- ♥ NWEH
- MESIAN
- HET
- NAGR
- ♥ TASEW
- ♥ EWN
- ♥ RHIWET
- ♥ TRHIG
- EPSE



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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