



WEST TEXAS COUNTY COURIER



VOL. 47, No. 46

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

NOVEMBER 12, 2020

NEWSBRIEFS

Runners advance

On Saturday, October 31, Tornillo ISD's cross country teams placed second at the District 3-4A meet. The boy's team finished the meet with a total of 35 points. The girl's team secured second place with a total of 50 points and Kylen Elias finishing first with a time of 14:04:94. Both teams qualified for the Regional meet in Lubbock.

— Rachel Aguilar

New stickers

Gas pumps across Texas must prominently display the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation (TDLR) consumer information stickers by Dec. 1, 2020. The stickers have a Texas shape and include information about the amount of state and federal taxes charged for every gallon of fuel sold, as well as a telephone number and a QR code that consumers can use to file a complaint with TDLR regarding the quality or quantity of fuel that was sold. Merchants must also remove the old Texas Department of Agriculture stickers once the TDLR stickers are installed. "Having the TDLR sticker on the pump will help consumers notify the correct agency and reduce delays if they need to report a suspected credit card skimmer or other issue," said Brian E. Francis, TDLR executive director.

— Tela Mange

Construction

The United States Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission (USIBWC) has begun work to repair the Rio Grande flood control levee in the Upper Valley of El Paso, Texas. The project extends approximately 2.8 miles along the west levee of the Rio Grande from Country Club Road to Borderland Road. USIBWC contractors are using heavy equipment to place impervious clay on the levee to improve flood protection. USIBWC requests the public to take precautions, heed safety warning signs, and watch for heavy equipment.

— Lori Kuczanski

Killer sought

On the morning of Friday, Sept. 27, 2019, Carlos Vargas was with friends at the City Slickers Bar located at

See BRIEFS, Page 5

There are two sides to almost every issue and to be a politician you must be on both.

— Quips & Quotes

Non-essential businesses shutdown in effect countywide

By Alfredo Vasquez
Special to the Courier

EL PASO COUNTY – In an attempt to slow the spread of the COVID-19 virus, that has overwhelmed hospitals throughout the region, El Paso County Judge Ricardo Samaniego mandated a temporary shutdown of all non-essential businesses for two weeks.

Samaniego's order was issued October 29, temporarily shutting down nonessential businesses, but it is unclear whether he will extend the order beyond the initial two weeks. The order called for tattoo parlors, hair salons, nail salons, gyms, massage businesses, and restaurant dine-in services to close until November 12.

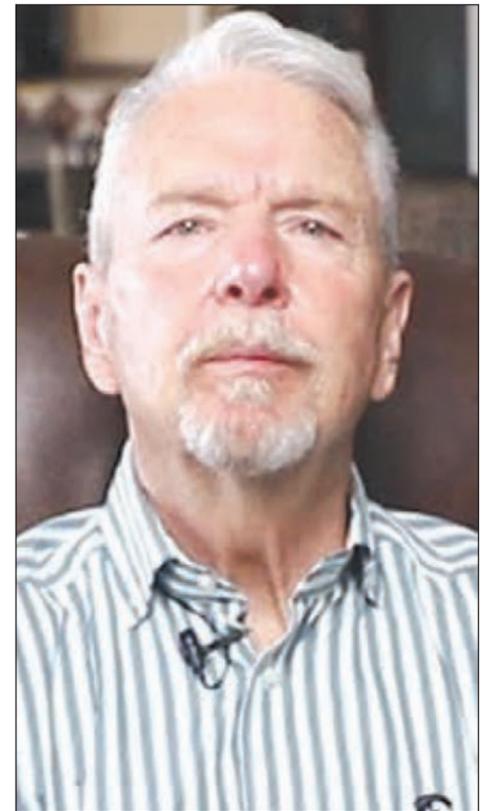
Businesses deemed essential that can remain open include grocery stores, retail-to-go services, funeral services, healthcare offices and facilities, pharmacies, government operations, schools providing meal services, and childcare centers.

As soon as the county judge issued the order, however, a group of private businesses and the state of Texas immediately challenged the order and tried to have it tossed out.

The challenge to Samaniego's mandate expeditiously came before State District Judge William Moody, and in a stunning ruling the district judge concurred with the county judge by allowing the temporary shutdown order to stay in effect.

Judge Moody said during the brief hearing that although attorneys could not cite a legal precedent for or against the shutdown, they did find a historical one in local decisions made during the global influenza epidemic of 1918-19.

"Cities like Dallas and San Antonio developed their own unique responses to the deadly flu in a manner that their elected local officials felt was necessary to protect the health and financial interests of their individual communities," Moody stated. "Those orders varied over time depending on the severity of the spread of



El Paso County Judge Ricardo Samaniego

that deadly flu," he added.

The lawsuit against the county judge's

See SHUTDOWN, Page 7

EPCC is finalist for Bellwether Award

By Jim Heiney
Special to the Courier

EL PASO COUNTY – El Paso Community College (EPCC) has been selected one of 30 finalists by The Bellwether College Consortium for the highly coveted Bellwether Awards. Bellwether finalists represent leading community colleges whose outstanding and innovative programs and practices were selected among competitive submissions as exemplary. The finalists will undergo a rigorous second and final round of review at the virtual 2021 Community College Futures Assembly in January 2021.

The "Bridges to the Baccalaureate Research Training Program at EPCC-UTEP" (Bridges) is a finalist in the Planning, Governance and Finance category that recognizes programs or activities that improve efficiency and effectiveness in the community college. Rosalia Ortega, Assistant Professor of Biology and Dr. Carlos Amaya, Dean of Architecture, Arts, Math and Science lead a superior team of educators in this program.

"This partnership grant has existed since 1993 and serves the students in our region by focusing on providing paid internships in biomedical research labs at UTEP, providing STEM tutors at EPCC, and providing ease of transfer from EPCC to UTEP with exposure to post-graduate opportunities," Amaya said. "Students who received support from the grant were more successful than their peers in earning both undergraduate and graduate degrees in STEM."

Bridges supports EPCC and The University of Texas at El Paso's (UTEP) longstanding collaborative efforts to effectively train research-oriented minority (primarily Mexican-American) undergraduate students who bridge from the community college into the university and complete baccalaureate degrees in biomedical fields.

The program aims to diversify the pool of well-trained biomedical researchers and scientists who possess the requisite skills necessary to significantly contribute to the biomedical research workforce through mentored research experiences, interactive training workshops, community-building activities, and professional development opportunities. Of the 174 students who participated in Bridges from 2014 to 2019, 111 (63.8%) have completed a baccalaureate degree.



Dr. Carlos Amaya

— Photo courtesy EPCC

Letters About Literature Texas seeks student entries for contest

By Alfredo Vasquez
Special to the Courier

TEXAS – Texas students, in grades 4 through 12, are invited to enter a contest by writing a letter to the author of their favorite book or poem and express how that literature influenced their life.

The Texas Center for the Book (TCB) announced recently that its 2020-21 Letters About Literature Texas contest is underway and that it will be accepting online submissions for the contest through December 17. Contest officials noted that a permission form is required for students younger than 13 years of age.

The organization has been promoting a love of literature throughout the Lone Star State since 1987, according to TCB officials. The group's mission, they stated, is to stimulate public interest in books, reading, literacy, and libraries by building partnerships with library professionals, educators, authors, publishers, and booksellers.

TCB is under the direction of the Texas State Library and Archives Commission, which is housed at the Lorenzo De Zavala State Archives and Library Building in Austin, Texas.

According to contest officials, students participating in the contest are asked to select a book, a book series, an essay, a play or poem, short story, or speech

See CONTEST, Page 4

View from here By Dr. Glenn Mollette

Fix Election Day pain

2020 will be remembered for more than we what to remember including the painful November 3, election. Our country was already suffering from the Pandemic and all its spin-off problems. Unemployment, business closings, demise of the travel industry, struggling houses of worship, massive national depression to name a few of the problems. However, great news Pfizer has come up with a vaccine that has been 90% effective in preliminary trials. At this writing this is great news with the stock market on the verge of setting an all-time high. This vaccine has the potential to bring this country out of the house and back to work, school,

church, and more.

We also need a vaccine to get us over this election. Most Americans would gladly take a shot in the butt to relieve this pain in the neck election we have just endured or, enduring?

Whoever heard of an election going on for days? Some of the states are still counting. The media has called the election for the states but some states have not verified the vote totals. This is insane.

Most of the states got it right on November 3. They counted the votes that made it to the post office on November 3. No one knows when a letter will show up when mailed on November 3. The letter could show up November

4 or November 10 or later. Regardless of how you feel about the outcome of the election states like Nevada, Michigan, Georgia, Pennsylvania, Wisconsin, North Carolina and Arizona did our country a disservice. Even if you are happy about Joe Biden being elected, surely you aren't happy about the long delay in counting the votes.

For many weeks we have been hearing about swing states that would be allowed more days in getting their mail ballots back to count. But the changes did what everyone knew would happen and that was delay the reporting of election results with the possibility of court fights later.

In North Carolina, the State

Board of Elections said ballots postmarked by Election Day would count as long as officials received them within nine days after the election. Nine days!

In Wisconsin, a federal judge similarly ruled that ballots postmarked by Election Day would count as long as officials had them in hand within six days after Nov. 3. A Michigan state judge ruled that absentee ballots postmarked by Nov. 3 would be counted if they arrived up to two weeks after Election Day.

All this is crazy. Go to the courthouse to verify your voter registration. Receive your one ballot obtained only by showing your identification. Put your ballot in the mail in plenty of time

to arrive by November 3. It only takes some planning. Better yet go early and vote and forget the mail if at all possible. Between now and the next election we have to come up with a federal election policy that requires counting the votes received by election day and not ten days or two weeks later.

Glenn Mollette is a graduate of numerous schools including Georgetown College, Southern and Lexington Seminaries in Kentucky. He is the author of 12 books including Uncommon Sense. His column is published weekly in over 600 publications in all 50 states.

Notice of Public Hearing to Discuss Tornillo Independent School District's State Financial Accountability Rating (FIRST)

Tornillo Independent School District will hold a public meeting at 5:30 PM, Wednesday, November 18, 2020, by Zoom online at:

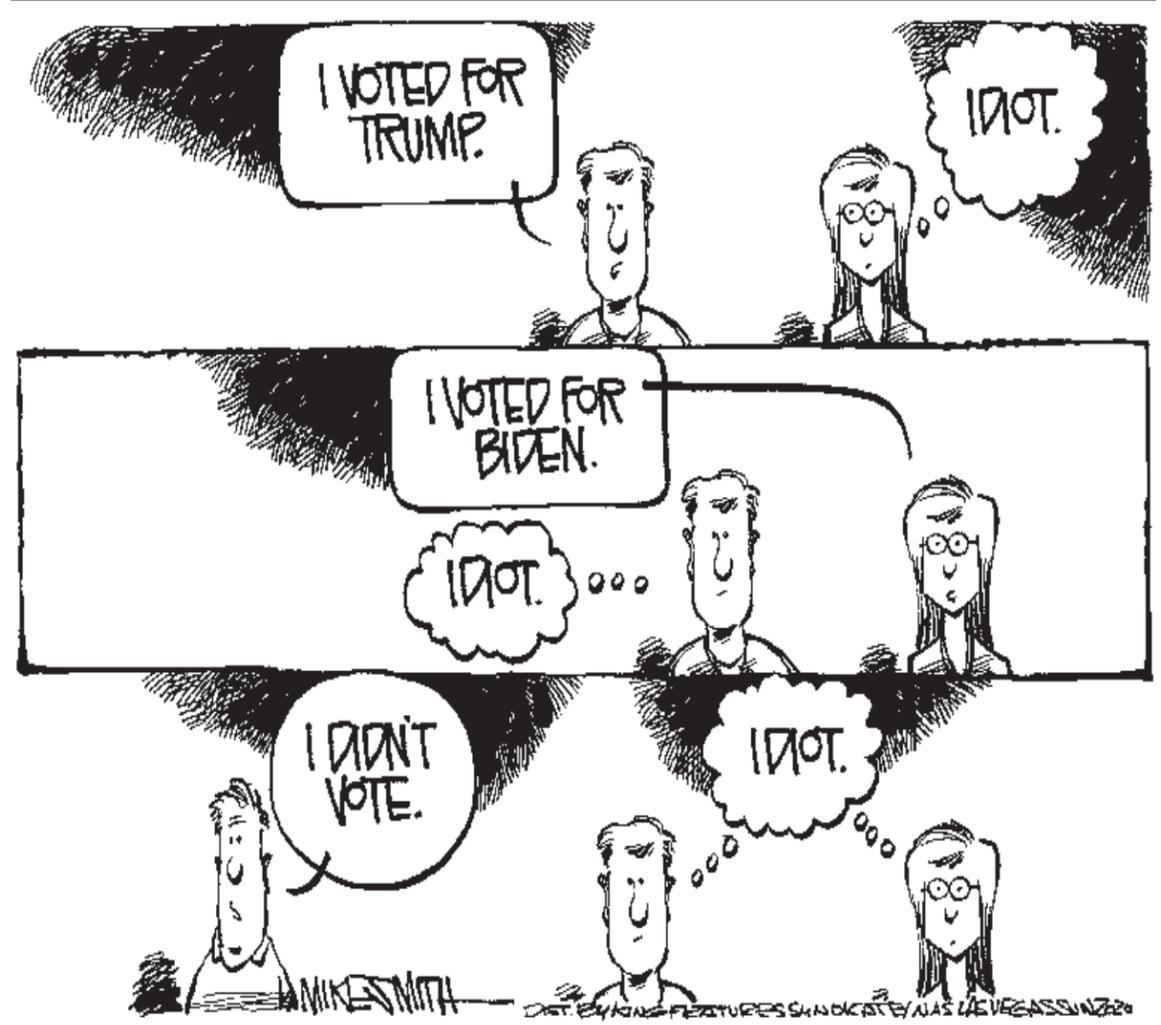
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82072490744?pwd=RGV0LzVMcmNzL2VYbUR3d2ZtMSsrUT09>

Zoom Meeting ID: 820 7249 0744

Passcode: coyote

The purpose of this hearing is to discuss Tornillo Independent School District's rating on the state's financial accountability system.

WTCC: 11/12/20



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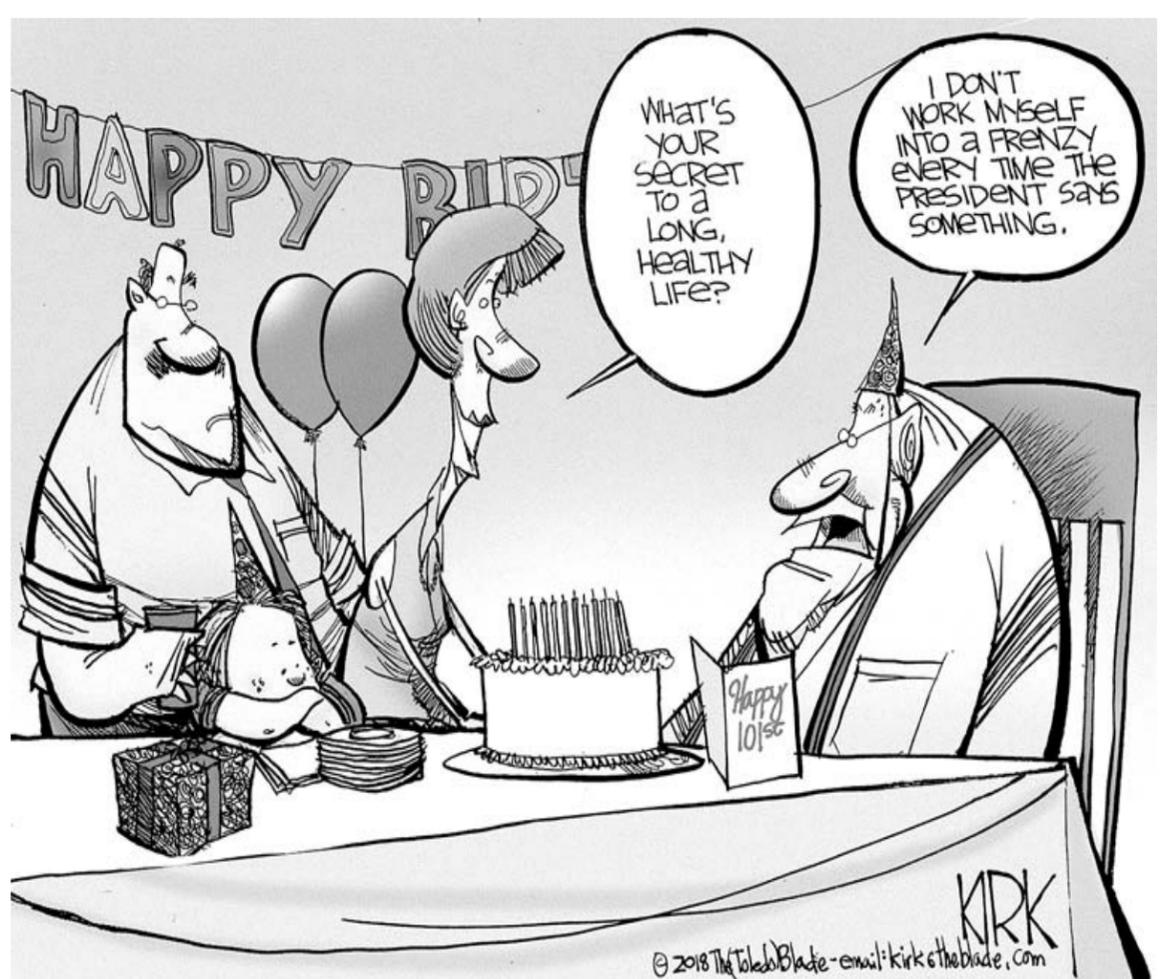
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Food for thought By John Grimaldi

Metastatic prostate cancer on the rise

Sharp decline in screening to blame

Eight years ago the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force was recommending against PSA testing for prostate cancer. And now a new analysis by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) shows that metastatic prostate cancer is on the rise, reports the Association of Mature American Citizens (AMAC).

The study showed that “although approximately three-fourths of US men with prostate cancer have localized stage at diagnosis, an increasing number and percentage of men have received diagnoses of distant stage prostate cancer. Survival with distant stage prostate cancer has improved, but fewer than one-third of men survive 5 years after diagnosis.” (Localized prostate cancer remains in the prostate gland while distant stage prostate cancer is metastatic; it spreads to other parts of the body.)

Meanwhile, research conducted by Urologists, Dr. Navin Shah and Dr. Vladimir Ioffe, shows that “after the United States Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF) recommended against PCa (prostate cancer) screening, there was a trend of increasing prostate cancer diagnoses with higher grades despite a decrease in overall biopsy rates. We found that in 2019, compared to 2010-

12, the number of biopsies decreased by 45% while the diagnosis of PCa increased threefold.”

According to Dr. Shah: “Prior to 2012, annual PCa screening reduced PCa mortality by 50%. Since the USPSTF recommended against PSA- and DRE-based PCa screening (Digital Rectal Examination), 50% of primary care physicians do not offer PCa screening.”

In its report, the CDC noted that “In 2018, USPSTF issued a new recommendation stating that prostate cancer screening for men aged 55–69 years should be an individualized decision based on personal preferences when weighing the benefits and harms of screening, and several professional organizations have similarly recommended shared decision-making for men deciding about prostate cancer screening. Understanding incidence and long-term survival by stage, race/ethnicity, and age could inform messaging related to the possible benefits and harms of prostate cancer screening and could guide public health planning related to treatment and survivor care. Further research is needed to examine how social determinants of health affect prostate cancer diagnosis and treatment; findings should inform interventions to decrease disparities in outcomes.”

So why did the USPSTF recommend against PSA testing in the first place?

According to a Harvard Medical School report there may have been three reasons:

- American man’s risk of developing prostate cancer at some time in his life is at least 30%, yet his risk of developing clinically important disease is about 17%, and his risk of dying from the disease is only 3%. In other words, many prostate cancers are harmless even if untreated; a man is much more likely to die with prostate cancer than from it.
- The PSA test cannot tell which cancers are likely to be indolent and which are aggressive. That means routine screening will detect many tumors that

would never cause harm, a problem called overdiagnosis.

• About three of every four men with PSAs above 4.0 ng/ml do not have cancer. That’s because benign prostatic hyperplasia (BPH), infections, inflammation, and other conditions can boost PSA levels, while many other conditions can lower PSA readings.

The Association of Mature American Citizens (<http://www.amac.us>) is a senior advocacy organization that takes its marching orders from its members. We act and speak on their behalf, protecting their interests and offering a practical insight on how to best solve the problems they face today.

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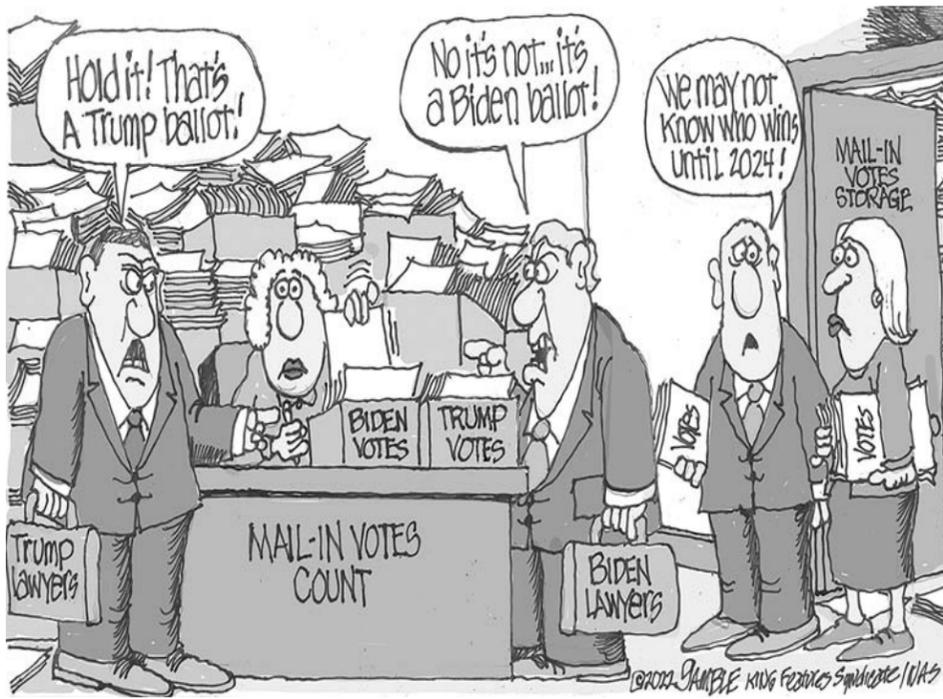


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Contest

From Page 1

how they have been changed, inspired, or motivated by the work they selected.

State winners receive a monetary award, as well as recognition at the 2021 Texas Library Association (TLA) annual conference. The TLA conference, which was originally scheduled for April 20-23 in San Antonio, will now be a fully virtual event that is slated for April 22 - 24.

“We know librarians love seeing each other in person; and we know that you, like us, have been craving the warmth and energy that comes with in-person events. However, the only thing that is certain in terms of the COVID-19 pandemic is the uncertainty we

that has made a lasting impact on their lives. Then, they are encouraged to write a personal letter to the author that reflects

continue to face in our personal and professional lives,” stated a TLA board member.

To learn more about the contest and to view winning entries from previous years, visit www.tsl.texas.gov/lettersaboutliterature. The website also features an educator resources page that includes printable bookmarks, student handouts, participation certificates, key dates, permission forms, and a step-by-step teaching guide featuring writing prompts.

Additionally, the site includes a Frequently Asked Questions page, student and teacher submission guidelines, videos

from authors, and the official contest rules.

For more information on the TCB writing contest initiative, a project of the Texas State Library and Archives Commission, visit www.tsl.texas.gov/centerforthebook or contact Ms. Manley at rmanley@tsl.texas.gov or at (512) 936-2505.



Strange BUT TRUE

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, while the armadillo strolled away unscathed.

• As many as 35% of people who hire a professional cleaning service admitted to cleaning up before the help arrives.

• Two conductors have died while conducting the second act of Wagner's opera "Tristan und Isolde." They collapsed from heart attacks at exactly the same point in the music due to its technical demands!

• Had Georgie Fletcher of Australia never signed on to play the mobile game "Words With Friends," her husband, Simon, might be dead. Georgie struck up a friendship via the game's chat feature with frequent opponent Beth Legler from Missouri. One day, Georgie told Beth that Simon hadn't been feeling well. Beth relayed his symptoms to her husband Larry, a doctor, who insisted that the Fletchers go to the hospital immediately. A 99% blockage was discovered near his heart, which, left untreated, would have certainly been fatal.

• Writer Guy de Maupassant frequently lunched in a restaurant at the base of the Eiffel Tower. Why? It was the only place he could go where he didn't have to look at it.

• The process of things being stretched out and torn apart as they enter a black hole is called spaghettification.

• Our senses of taste and smell are cut by 50% and 20%, respectively, during flights, which is why airplane food has never tasted so hot. ("That's what I've been telling you!" said every airplane food chef, ever.)

Thought for the Day: "A mind that is stretched by a new experience can never go back to its old dimensions."
— Oliver Wendell Holmes

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CryptoQuip Answer

Some lions built a drinking tavern and gave it the tagline "Where everybody knows your mane."

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- On Nov. 9, 1965, Roger Allen LaPorte, a 22-year-old member of the Catholic Worker movement, immolates himself in front of the United Nations headquarters in New York. Before dying, LaPorte, who was against war, declared that he did it as a religious act.
- On Nov. 10, 1903, Mary Anderson receives patent No. 743,801 for her "window cleaning device for electric cars and other vehicles to remove snow, ice or sleet from the window." Anderson tried to sell it to a Canadian manufacturing firm, which said the device had no practical value.
- On Nov. 11, 1885, George Patton, one of the great American generals of World War II, is born in San Gabriel, California. Patton was controversial, known to make eccentric claims that he was a direct descendant of great military leaders of the past through reincarnation.
- On Nov. 12, 1864, Union Gen. William T. Sherman

orders the business district of Atlanta destroyed before he embarks on his famous March to the Sea. Nearly 40% of the city was left in ruin.

- On Nov. 13, 1953, a member of the Indiana Textbook Commission calls for the removal of references to the book "Robin Hood" from textbooks used by the state's schools. She claimed that Robin Hood was a communist because he robbed the rich and gave it to the poor.
- On Nov. 14, 1914, in Constantinople, capital of the Ottoman Empire, the religious leader Sheikh-ul-Islam declares an Islamic holy war on behalf of the Ottoman government, urging his Muslim followers to take up arms against Britain, France, Russia, Serbia and Montenegro.
- On Nov. 15, 1777, after 16 months of debate, the Continental Congress, sitting in its temporary capital of York, Pennsylvania, agrees to adopt the Articles of Confederation and Perpetual Union. Not until March 1, 1781, would the last of the 13 states, Maryland, ratify the agreement.

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Briefs

From Page 1

1610 N. Zaragoza. At 2:20 a.m., Vargas exited the bar along with several friends. A car that had been in the parking lot suddenly drove towards Vargas, nearly striking him. Vargas confronted the driver and began to argue with him. The argument quickly escalated and became physical. The driver of the vehicle pulled out a handgun and shot at Vargas multiple times. Vargas was taken to Del Sol Medical Center but died days later from his wounds. The suspect is described as a Hispanic male, with an average build, in his late 30s or early 40s, has a medium complexion, dark hair, and possibly a goatee. The suspect was driving a dark-colored, four-door car similar to an Infinity. Anyone having information on the murder of Carlos Vargas should call Crime Stoppers of El Paso immediately at (915) 566-8477 (TIPS) or online at www.crimestoppersofelpaso.org. You will remain anonymous, and if your tip leads to an arrest, you may qualify for a cash reward.

– Javier Sambrano

Unemployment

Despite the fact that the U.S. is experiencing an uptick in COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations, new unemployment claims decreased week-over-week on October 26, and were 89% below the peak during the COVID-19 pandemic. To help add some context to these statistics, WalletHub has released updated rankings for the *States Whose Weekly Unemployment*

Claims Are Recovering the Quickest, along with accompanying videos and audio files. To identify which states' workforces are experiencing the quickest recovery from COVID-19, WalletHub compared the 50 states and the District of Columbia across three metrics based on changes in unemployment claims. Below, you can see highlights from the report, along with a WalletHub Q&A. To see the states most recovered since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, click here. Texas was rated 29th in Changes of Weekly Unemployment Claims (1 - Quickest Recovery, 25 - Avg.) ranking:

- 161.16% Change in Unemployment Claims (Latest Week vs Last Year)
 - 36,200 the week of October 26, 2020 vs 13,861 the week of October 28, 2019.
 - 21st quickest recovery in the U.S.
- 192.71% Change in Unemployment Claims (Latest Week vs Start of 2020)
 - 36,200 the week of October 26, 2020 vs 12,367 the week of January 1, 2020.
 - 13th slowest recovery in the U.S.
- 861.60% Change in Unemployment Claims (Since Start of COVID-19 Crisis vs Last Year)
 - 3,761,118 between the week of March 16, 2020 and the week of October 26, 2020 vs 436,528 between the week of March 18, 2019 and the week of October 28, 2019
 - 21st quickest recovery in the U.S.

Visit <https://wallethub.com/edu/states-unemployment-claims/72730/> for the full report.

– Diana Polk

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MLB has a lot of explaining to do in Turner case

By Steve Escajeda
Special to the Courier

There's no doubt that Covid-19 has affected all aspects of American sports. Teams that are scheduled to play during any weekend have to wait and see whether they'll actually be able to take the field.

Not being able to play the games is costing players, coaches, teams, leagues and owners a ton of money. Professional athletes are wondering how much money the virus will cost them in lost pay due to fans not being able to attend the games. And now there's another way athletes and coaches can lose money. The league's

they play for are beginning to fine them for CV-19-related infractions.

NFL coaches from the Oakland Raiders, Pittsburgh Steelers and Tennessee Titans have been hit with substantial fines recently for not always wearing their mask on the sidelines.

The Raiders were fined \$500,000 and were stripped of a sixth-round draft choice. Both the Steelers and Titans were fined a total of \$350,000 each.

Some fans may say that those numbers seem awfully large for taking a mask off for seconds at a time when you're surrounded by other guys who have all tested negative for the virus.

But the NFL is remaining tough when it comes to CV-19 safety regulations.

I have a question though – considering all these fines are being handed out left and right – why is the most serious CV-19 offense a player can commit being ignored?

And that brings us to Major League Baseball.

The Los Angeles Dodgers won the World Series recently and as we all know, that's certainly a time to celebrate.

One of L.A.'s best players is third baseman Justin Turner, who received some interesting news during the final game of the series.

In the seventh inning of game six, the Dodgers organization was notified that Turner's recent CV-19 test had come back positive.

Upon hearing the grim news, the league had Turner removed from the game for the safety of all those around him.

It turns out that Turner had also taken a test the day before that came out "inconclusive."

I have two questions that immediately come to mind. First off, why is a player getting a test result in the seventh inning of a game? And secondly, why is a player who hasn't tested negative yet, allowed to sit in the dugout with other players?

Because, obviously, he could be positive – like he actually was!

Upon hearing of the positive test, Turner spent the last three innings of the game in isolation, somewhere in the stadium away from teammates. And that makes sense.

What doesn't make sense is that after the Dodgers won the game, Turner decided to go against safety protocol and went back on the field to celebrate with his teammates and be a part of a team photo. At times he actually took off his mask.

Stadium security put out a statement afterward, saying they confronted Turner on the field, but he refused to comply with their orders.

So considering what the NFL did, you could just imagine how much commissioner Rob Manfred was going to fine Turner and the Dodgers.

But in an amazing turn of events, Major League Baseball announced that they have concluded their investigation of Los Angeles Dodgers and Turner and ruled he will not be disciplined at all.

Unbelievably, Manfred said Turner's Dodgers teammates "actively encouraged him" to join the team.

Wow, good thing his teammates didn't encourage him to jump off a bridge.

Unless Turner has the mentality of a 4-year-old, I can't possibly understand how a full-grown man wouldn't know his actions were incredibly selfish and would put other people in danger.

Turner apologized and refused to, "make excuses for my conduct." He said he was excited and added, "Winning the World Series was my lifelong dream and the culmination of everything I worked for in my career."

Well, as long as he had a good excuse to infect others with a deadly virus.

So what is Manfred and MLB going to do the next time a player shows up after testing positive, or decides not to wear a mask?

It's not like they can fine him or anything. They've already established that it's okay as long as your teammates are calling you out and you apologize afterward.



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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Name: _____
Phone: _____

Super Crossword

- CITY SCRAMBLE**
- ACROSS**
- Wash with vigor
 - Not there
 - Melancholy
 - Aspirin, e.g.
 - "Petunia" star Birch
 - Many a Giotto work
 - "Woo-!"
 - Wee amount
 - Suit fitter in a California city?
 - Holding the attention of
 - Seat winners
 - "Breezy" co-star Kay
 - Boys and men from an Oregon city?
 - Michigan city whose residents are a bit more eccentric?
 - Jacuzzi sigh
 - Swirly letters
 - Popular cookie
 - Hamm on a soccer field
 - Actor Hill of "Moneyball"
 - Denounce
 - Plundered an Ohio city?
 - Big lug
 - Judd of song
 - L-P middle
 - "Renegade" star Lamas
 - Hay bundle
 - Setting of "Anne of Green Gables"
 - Yang partner
 - Mouse-spotting cry
 - Painting exhibitor on wheels in a Maryland city?
 - Sphere
 - Sphere
 - Debt memo
 - Green shade
 - Pennsylvania city with a big population of forefathers?
 - Sussex loc.
 - Pale _
 - One making a change
 - Palo _
 - Piano relative
 - 24-hr. cash convenience
 - Runoff conduit
 - Part of LAPD
 - Includes an Arizona city in the tally?
 - Noah's Ark groupings
 - Military foe
 - Cleanup org.
 - Not distant
 - Electric car maker
 - Sprite
 - Speak badly of an Illinois city?
 - Off-Broadway awards whose winners hail from an Idaho city?
 - Film director Reiner
 - Thurman of
 - "Jennifer 8"
 - Illumination
 - Warehouse vehicle produced in a Texas city?
 - First-aid gel
 - _di-dah
 - Negative battery poles
 - City close to Minneapolis
 - Antarctic explorer Richard
 - Perch
 - Compounds in explosives
 - Perch
 - eclectic digest
 - Comics' acts
 - Corrida cry
 - Three-sharp musical key
 - "We _ please!"
 - Actor Knight
 - "No man _ island"
 - Phone no.
 - Lodger
 - Impromptu
 - Goose of Hawaii
 - Timber-dressing tool
 - Boxing blow
 - Counterpart of "sir"
 - De _ (afresh)
 - Slanting
 - R&B's Braxton
 - "SOS" group
 - Jack of early talk TV
 - Model Macpherson
 - Melancholy
 - Like argon
 - Smoky peak in Sicily
 - Rodents in research
 - Lionel Richie hit of 1983
 - Actor McShane
 - Body trunk
 - Collielike pooch
 - Top-grade
 - Firm belief
 - Do some excavating
 - Make turbid
 - With 105-Down,
 - Tigers, e.g.
 - Make glad
 - Biscotto nut
 - Creek critter
 - Work detail
 - Latin "Behold!"
 - Gas in signs
 - Pasting stuff
 - Snared
 - Surgical probe
 - Without _ (worry-free)
 - College military gp.
 - On edge
 - Modern, in Mannheim
 - Island locale
 - Consent (to)
 - See 17-Down
 - Atelier
 - Units of light
 - Noah's Ark landing site
 - Thwarts
 - Lion of C.S. Lewis' "Narnia" tales
 - Metal waste
 - Em preceder
 - Blurt out the secret
 - Grease-filled
 - Monster film lab helper
 - _ B'rith
 - Songwriter DiFranco
 - "Baloney!"
 - Above, in odes
 - Bustle

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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



Shutdown

From Page 1

order was brought by a group of local restaurants whose owners argued they were following all necessary health guidelines as they remained open and that another closure could decimate their businesses.

Also, Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton intervened in the lawsuit, arguing the order was unconstitutional and went beyond the restrictions in Gov. Greg

Abbott's own executive orders, which outlines what limits can be placed on private businesses. Attorneys for the state of Texas said after Moody's decision that they would file an appeal.

Meanwhile, El Paso county medical officials have been reporting daily increases of at least 1,000 cases of the disease for the past week, which is adding to a growing tally that has strained the county's health system.

Because of the rise in COVID-19 related patients, the City of El Paso's downtown convention center has been converted

into a makeshift hospital to accommodate more individuals, and local hospitals have started to airlift non-COVID-19 patients to other cities to free up bed space in their facilities. Additionally, the U.S. Department of Defense has deployed three U.S. Air Force Medical Specialty Teams to assist local officials.

When issuing the closures, Samaniego stated that the county had never seen this level of high infection rates of COVID-19 cases throughout the county. "Our hospitals are at capacity, our medical professionals are overwhelmed, and if we

don't respond, we will see unprecedented levels of death," Samaniego said.

"I am hopeful that the Governor will work with us and recognize that this is a short-term remedy that is needed to contain the uncontrolled spread of COVID-19 in our community," the county judge added.

Lab finds tiny amount of blood in her urine

DEAR DR. ROACH: My question is about microscopic hematuria. I see a rheumatologist for sarcoidosis. Last year I had various lab tests, including a urinalysis. That test and several since then have shown microscopic hematuria. The rheumatologist sent me to a urologist, who did scans and a scope of the bladder up through the right kidney. There's a slight stricture of the right ureter. My biopsies were negative. Tests and scans continue to be OK except for the microscopic hematuria. I am a 60-year-old woman. Is the hematuria a cause for concern? – K.E.



"Hematuria" means "blood in the urine." "Gross" hematuria means there is so much blood that it changes the urine color, while "microscopic" hematuria is recognizable only in the laboratory. Blood in the urine can come from anywhere in the urinary system, and there is a long list of possibilities. Although the cause is sometimes never found, your physician should consider urinary tract infection, kidney or bladder stones, and, in the right age group, cancer of the kidney and bladder. CT scans and cystoscopy are commonly performed tests, and the negative result in your case is reassuring.

You have one more reason to have hematuria than others, and that is the sarcoidosis. Sarcoidosis is a condition that can affect any tissue in the body with abnormal clumps of cells called granulomata. (Just one is called a granuloma.) While the lungs are the most common site for sarcoidosis, it can affect the kidney, causing hematuria.

Sarcoidosis also can cause kidney damage, resulting in a high creatinine, so that should be tested. Severe kidney disease from sarcoidosis may be treated with prednisone, but you should see an expert (nephrologist) to consider this diagnosis.

The majority of people with small amounts of blood in the urine with no documented reason for it, including the cystoscopy and scans you had, will not have serious disease. However, it is probably still prudent to keep an eye on the kidneys and bladder periodically.

DEAR DR. ROACH: I was just told that I have brittle veins. I have exhausted every place I can think of to find out more about this condition. What is it? What causes it? What should I do? – T.M.G.

There isn't a condition called "brittle veins": Whoever told you that was trying to explain a symptom you have. They may have meant that your capillaries (the smallest type of blood vessel) break easily. That's a cause of easy bruising. They may have meant that you have stiff blood vessels, from calcium or cholesterol. That's a cause of high blood pressure. They may have been trying to draw blood or put in an IV and found that your vein "blew," meaning the needle went through the vein entirely and you had bleeding under the skin.

There are also some rare blood disorders causing blood vessels to become fragile, and sometimes inflamed. These can be quite serious, but I doubt you have one of these. You would have been referred to a specialist.

While I understand why medical professionals will use nonspecific terms like these, they can lead to confusion.

Dr. Roach regrets that he is unable to answer individual questions, but will incorporate them in the column whenever possible. Readers may email questions to ToYourGoodHealth@med.cornell.edu. (c) 2020 North America Synd., Inc. All Rights Reserved.

Send Your Newsbrief To: wtxcc@wtxcc.com



Moore Texas by Roger MOORE
In the 1870's we had a 400 lb. governor named Richard Bennett Hubbard.

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: X equals E

ZNDX OWNMZ YIWOF S RKMWTWMA
FSLXKM SMR ASLX WF FBX
FSAOWMX "VBXKX XLXKQYNRQ
TMNVZ QNIK DSMX."

Answer Page 4

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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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Data breach impacts 46,000 veterans



by Freddy Groves

A data breach occurred at the Department of Veterans Affairs when thieves attempted to divert medical payment funds at the Financial Services Center away from community health care providers that take care of veterans outside the VA. The minute the techies noticed the breach, they took it offline, of course, and locked it pending a security review.

If that was the whole story, it would eventually be worked out when those providers got replacement payments from the VA. However, while the thieves were roaming around in the computers they also got the personal information of some 46,000 veterans, including Social Security numbers.

As breaches go, this is one of the smaller ones the government

has experienced. Remember a few years ago when millions of veterans were compromised? Still, it's unnerving to know your info is out there.

Those affected by the breach, or a next of kin, will have been notified by now (the thieves also went after the personal info of deceased veterans). The VA is offering credit-monitoring services at no cost. Alerts went out by mail to those veterans affected, with instructions on how to protect personal info. (If you did not get an alert mail, you were not in the group that was breached.) If you received an alert letter and you have questions or concerns, contact the FSC Customer Help Desk by email at VAFSCVeteransSupport@va.gov.

Unfortunately, in this hotly political climate, false rumors are the order of the day. One political party sent a snarly message to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs claiming that in addition to the 46,000

veterans, another 17,000 providers were affected as well. Not so. Turns out that there were 17,000 total providers who used the computer program, but only 13 were impacted and of those, only six had funds grabbed.

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• "Use a permanent marker to put your initials on your charging cord. They all look the same, especially if they are white. This way you will know if someone – say, your sister – takes your cord!" – V.V. in Georgia

• "I use Milk of Magnesia on a cotton ball applied to my toes to ward off itchy feet from athlete's foot or whatever causes itching. I just apply it when I get out of the shower, and it dries before I put socks on. It really works!" – E.L. in Kentucky

• "An online grocery order mistake landed me with way too many bananas. In addition to banana muffins and breads, I sliced and froze a few bananas to use in smoothies, and mixed mashed bananas together with some other fruit pieces to make a sorbet of sorts." – Y.D. in Arizona

• When painting, most people know to place a roller in a plastic bag to keep it moist between paint sessions. An added layer of protection is to then stick the roller (in the bag) inside a Pringles chip can. It's the right size, and it can keep it safe until the next day.

• "When my curly curly hair gets the frizz, I use a sheet of fabric softener to take the static electricity out of it. This works so well that in the winter, I keep several in my purse." – P.M. in Michigan

• Childproofing in a pinch: Slip a thick sock over a doorknob, and secure with a rubber band. Little kids will have to work much harder to grip and turn the doorknob, and it can help keep kids from opening doors.

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 | | 7 |
| x | | x | | - | |
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| 3 | | 9 | | 8 | |

1 2 3 4 5 6 6 7 9

DIFFICULTY: ★★★

★ Moderate ★★ Difficult

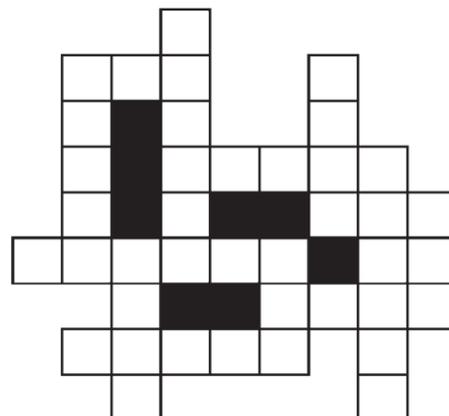
★★★ GO FIGURE!

Answer Page 4

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- LYF
- MATPIO
- YABEM
- ♥ OLWF
- HEDTWA
- ♥ PMA
- ♥ HSMA
- ♥ PYLAM
- ♥ OWH
- FLEBHA
- TIOID
- ♥ DEWL



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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