



NEWSBRIEFS

Vaccine sign up

University Medical Center is currently taking appointments for COVID-19 vaccination registration for Categories 1A and 1B (healthcare workers, first responders, anyone 65 and older or others with certain underlying health conditions). Eligible individuals must have an appointment. Registration is available until all open appointments are scheduled. UMC will announce when the appointment registration slots have been filled. After that point, the site will close access. Walk-up vaccinations are not being accepted. These appointments are for the first dose of the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine and will take place at the El Paso County Coliseum by appointment only. The second-dose appointment will be scheduled when the first dose is administered. To register for the vaccine, visit the medical center's website, at www.UMCelpaso.org.

— Alfredo Vasquez

What would you do?

When James and Clarrisa Munford took possession of their new home in Columbia, South Carolina they found a collection of very valuable rare coins dating back to the 19th century hidden away inside a closet. The 46 gold Liberty \$5 coins and 18 Morgan silver dollars are said to be worth about \$25,000. Did they keep the treasure? The Mumfords say they didn't even think that to be an option. Instead, without hesitation, they contacted the home's former owner, who is a coin collector, and informed him of their find. He said he normally puts the coins he collects in a safe and had completely forgotten that, for some reason, he'd stashed these coins in the closet. Honesty is the best policy.

— John Grimaldi

Masked man

Having to wear a mask during the COVID pandemic can not only be uncomfortable, it can also hide your identity. That might appeal to some people but can be unsettling for others, giving them a feeling that they are losing their identities. So, when Jorge Roriz, an artist in Rio de Janeiro, began to feel that way he came up with a solution: a face mask on which he painted his lower face. So lifelike is his work that it attracted attention and now he's painting masks for others who want to be recognized while staying safe when in public.

— John Grimaldi

As any of us go through life we can either increase the happiness of others or diminish it.

— Quips & Quotes

Van Horn site used for lunar landing technology

By Alfredo Vasquez
Special to the Courier

WEST TEXAS – Who would have guessed that the isolated, desert town of Van Horn, Texas- with a population of just over 2,000 residents- would be on the cutting edge of space technology?

The remote West Texas town, which is about a hundred miles northeast of El Paso County, is the launching site for Blue Origin's space technology company, which was founded by Jeff Bezos in 2000.

Born in Albuquerque and raised in Houston, Bezos is also the founder of Amazon. The Princeton graduate began the company in 1994 as an online bookstore and gradually expanded into a wide variety of other e-commerce products and services.

As for Bezos' Blue Origin space company, it recently launched a New Shepard rocket for a seventh time from a distant corner of Culberson County, north of Van Horn. The practice launch was to test new lunar-landing technology for NASA that could help put astronauts back on the moon, stated a company news release. The rocket ship is named for the first American in space, Alan Shepard.

The aerospace manufacturer and sub-orbital spaceflight services company has been developing the New Shepard space vehicle for several years. During trials that began near Van Horn in 2015, the spacecraft has reached space and afterwards successfully landed back on Earth. Company officials stated that plans are to begin commercial suborbital human spaceflight in the future.

In the latest flight trial, the rocket was able to skim space with a peak altitude of 66 miles. With the flight lasting over 10 minutes, the rocket booster landed vertically back at the launch complex, and the capsule followed on a parachute that descended onto the desert terrain.

The capsule carried science experiments, including 1.2 million tomato seeds that will be distributed to schoolchildren around the U.S. and Canada, and tens of thousands of children's postcards with space-themed drawings that will be returned to the young senders.

There was also a magnetic asteroid-sampling experiment on board for Texas-based Southwest Research Institute as well as a mini rocket-fueling test, officials said.

Additionally, NASA's navigation equipment for future

See LANDING, Page 5



— Photo courtesy of Blue Origin

WHAT GOES UP MUST COME DOWN – On a recent fall morning, in the remote West Texas town of Van Horn – the seat of Culberson County – Blue Origin's New Shepard space craft, above, lands near its launch site.

Socorro ISD breaks ground for schools 50 and 51

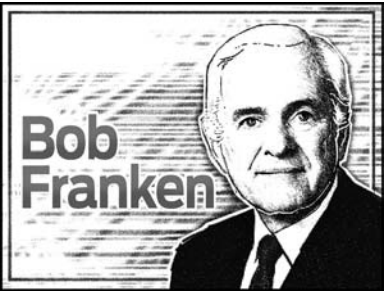


— Photo courtesy Socorro ISD

MEETING DEMANDS – The Socorro Independent School District (SISD) superintendent, board trustees, Bond Accountability Committee member, chief operations officer and Mijares-Mora Architects and Banes General Contractors representatives broke ground on Thursday, Jan. 14 for the District's new Eastlake area combination school. The new elementary and middle school will be the 50th and 51st schools in SISD. The elementary school will have a capacity for 800 students and the middle school will

have a 1,000-student capacity. They will share facilities such as the cafeteria and library. The new campus will serve the rapidly expanding eastside of SISD and alleviate Col. John O. Ensor Middle School. Mijares-Mora Architects has designed the new schools and Banes General Contractors will build the \$60 million facility. The schools will cover more than 294,400 square feet. The construction of new campus is part of SISD Bond 2017.

— Christy Flores-Jones



(Publisher’s note: This column was written prior to the impeachment vote.)

It’s a shame they didn’t name one of the early social media entities Pandora, after the mythological woman who opened the box that released all kinds of trouble on humanity, a shame that the trademark was left for a

Don Trump’s exile

music and podcast app later. The Facebooks and Twitters of this world are prime examples of a technology run amok. With the intention of providing a voice to every individual, it quickly became evident that not every individual should have that voice, that our worst instincts will inevitably spread and pollute the planet.

Look no further than Donald Trump, who turned this instrument into a cyber-demagoguery platform and stepped from it all the way to the highest office in the land. He clearly had no concept of how he

would use his near omnipotence, other than for feeding his most unhinged narcissism.

But who decides who has access? If the institutional filters for ideas, like the media, have unfairly represented the rich and mighty’s interests and infuriated everyone else, who’s to say that a shameless, ignorant demagogue can’t inspire the “regular folks” with simplistic and hateful promises using these internet soapboxes, particularly if this scaffolding is run by amoral technocrats?

Only after an entire Trump

presidential term – as these profiteers lurched from one bad idea to another – have they settled on their latest strategy to police misinformation to try to control the deranged president.

They simply pulled the plug on him... silenced his voice in the final few days of his lying public presence. Twitter and Facebook chose to shut him down. In the case of unrestrained right wing Parler, Apple, Google and Amazon decreed that such mini sites would not be allowed to peddle their incitement. They’d simply be removed.

Suddenly, the president’s bully pulpit had no bullhorn. His millions of supporters could only

claim censorship. Of course it was censorship, opening another Pandora’s box. In their case, they were scrambling to come up with another high-tech way to construct a new misinformation highway.

Of course, their militants have another alternative: continued violence. In the few days remaining before Joe Biden’s inauguration, they can regroup and launch their evil, deadly attacks now that they have a martyr to rally around: Donald Trump. But they and he have momentarily lost the element of surprise, which compromises the ability to coordinate their

See FRANKEN, Page 7



View from here

By Jane M. Orient, M.D.

Medicine in turbulent times

Students of history feel that we are living in a time comparable to 1848 (the Spring of Nations¹) in Europe, 1917 in Russia, 1933 in Germany – or the times of the French Revolution, the American Revolution, or the

U.S. Civil War. Most Americans who are alive today have lived in a period of relative political stability and ideological clarity. It never occurred them that they might be facing

dilemmas like those their ancestors did in times preceding the American Revolution or Civil War – or those that immigrants from Cuba, Romania, communist China, the Soviet Union, and other totalitarian states came to America to escape. Most Americans, especially young ones, have no knowledge of history.

The people who were experiencing those times of upheaval had absolutely no clue about the future. They therefore tried to make best predictions they could and bet on various outcomes. They joined different factions based upon their place in the societal structure and upon their predictions and bets. Some guessed right, and many were wrong. Millions of people were killed, and many were forced into exile.

Most Americans are – or have been – apathetic about politics. But politics is coming for them. People in the upper middle class have felt secure – they have assets, live in a safe neighborhood, still have a paycheck or pension, and have not knowingly offended anyone. But their gated communities have been crashed.

Even the privileged elite know they are no longer safe. Imagine an interloper – of whatever faction – putting his feet on Speaker Nancy Pelosi’s desk while she had to run and hide! And someone carried off her podium. He did get arrested, unlike those who scoop up expensive cosmetics at Walgreens.

The struggling middle-class “deplorables” have been toiling away like the faithful horse Boxer in George Orwell’s *Animal Farm*, trusting in the system. They hoped that a messiah named Donald Trump would rescue them. But the essential industries are still in China, the temporary relief from taxes and regulations is about to be suddenly reversed, and the faction that deems them deplorable appears to be in total control of the federal government. A huge percentage of Americans believe that their votes don’t count.

So, what is left? This is the question asked by a man² who stormed the Capitol on January 6 – an action he never dreamed he would consider.

The current crisis is complicated by the COVID-19 panic. Some speculate that it could be a biological warfare attack. Or perhaps it might as well be. It has resulted in terror much worse than on 911.

Besides deaths attributed to the virus, there are the deaths that have resulted, or will result from the lockdowns – from denial of medical care, suicide, drug abuse, and poverty.

The measures government and its partners – big tech, news media, even most medical organizations – are imposing to “protect” us from a viral disease are the same as those used to suppress political dissent. Social media postings by Donald Trump or persons concerned about election fraud are being suppressed now – but messages from those promoting early COVID treatment have been cancelled for months. One cannot post anything on Facebook or “nextdoor” that might relate to COVID without an obligatory referral to the Ministry of Truth. The central message is: NO early at-home treatment except the very expensive intravenous monoclonal antibodies possibly available in some facilities under an Emergency Use Authorization (not the same as FDA approval, which requires a lot of evidence).

Independent medical treatment, even advice about

See TURBULENT, Page 4

1973
48
Years
2021

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AD DEADLINE:
Friday 4 p.m. for the next Thursday.

CLASSIFIED RATES
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Twitter deranged our politics

(Publisher’s note: This column was written prior to the impeachment vote.)

Donald Trump was the president of Twitter.

What radio was to Franklin Delano Roosevelt and TV was to Ronald Reagan, communicating 280 characters at a time on a social media platform that is a watchword for hyperactive inanity was to President Trump.

It is symbolically appropriate that the effective end of his power after the siege of the U.S. Capitol has coincided with the suspension of his Twitter account.

He may well get impeached a second time, but for now, the punishment that really stings is Twitter CEO Jack Dorsey deciding after sitting down with his woke colleagues that Trump must pay the ultimate price for his post-election misinformation and agitation.

This judgment is as arbitrary as Dorsey’s worst critics would expect, and it will be impossible for Twitter to enforce anything resembling a consistent line following its Trump suspension (the platform didn’t seem particularly exercised by all of the voices valorizing last summer’s riots as an “uprising”).

But there’s no doubting

Dorsey’s power. He has rendered the president of the United States practically mute.

Trump remains in the Oval Office and, in theory, commands the biggest megaphone on the planet. He could still make statements,holdpressconferences, sit down for interviews or meet with his cabinet. In his reduced and isolated state, though, none of these options are as appealing as letting his thumbs do his work for him, one outlandish tweet at a time.

Now that this avenue is foreclosed to him, he’s less of a presence, even as the political world continues to be obsessed with him (in particular, the manner of his exit from office).

It’s not exactly a slow news environment. Yet, without Trump’s tweets stirring the pot at all times of the day, the nation’s political debate feels a little less fevered.

Twitter is Exhibit A for Marshall McLuhan’s axiom that the medium is the message. There is plenty of worthy news coverage and real-time commentary on Twitter. But that’s not where the emotional center of gravity is, as one would expect of a platform built for instantaneous, unfiltered reactions.

It’s this aspect of Twitter that perfectly matched the president’s

proclivities. He found a natural home in an environment that encourages, and often rewards, snap judgements, insults, soon-to-be-forgotten pronouncements, grotesque oversimplifications and the spread of false or dubious information.

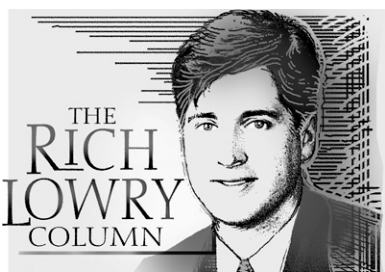
Trump wasn’t careful about what he said anywhere, but he reserved his most lurid and poisonous communications for Twitter. It was the place easiest for him to, for instance, absurdly accuse Morning Joe host Joe Scarborough of murder or insult the looks of his alleged paramour Stormy Daniels.

It was a symptom of his erratic, easily distracted, and thoughtless governing style that he used Twitter as a tool of his administration. He warned foreign

leaders, fired officials and made pronouncements on legislation on Twitter, often leaving allies and his own government baffled by what was supposed the line between “just a tweet” and an official order by the president of the United States.

Twitter was an especially ready forum for airing conspiracy theories. Asked prior to the election about his giving credence to the lunatic idea that Navy SEAL Team 6 had been assassinated, Trump shrugged and said it was only a retweet. In the wake of his election defeat, his Twitter feed became a nonstop source of bad information dredged up from the worst corners of the internet.

If Trump was the foremost offender, Twitter hasn’t done us any favors in this period of our national life. It has fed moral panics and enabled cancellation



It has exposed journalists who once made a pretense of objectivity as rank partisans. It has enticed once serious people into crowd-pleasing clownishness. It has made politicians dumber and cruder. It has distorted political reality for people across the spectrum.

It, in short, has helped derange our politics, with the former Tweeter-in-Chief leading the way.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review. (c) 2021 by King Features Synd., Inc.

Write stuff

Editor:

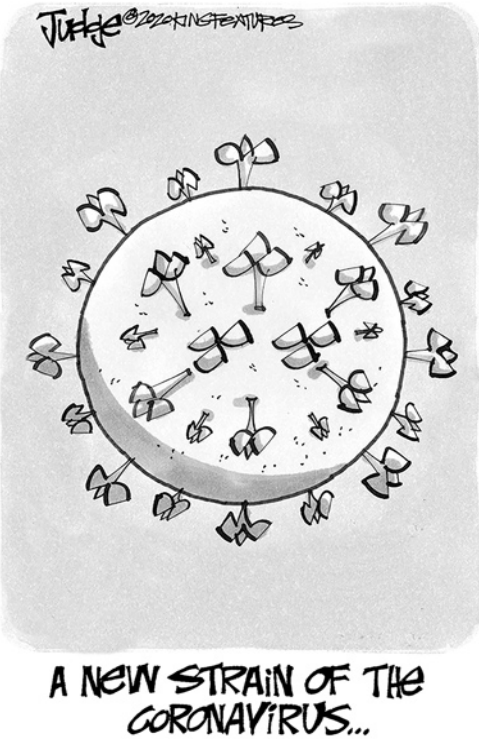
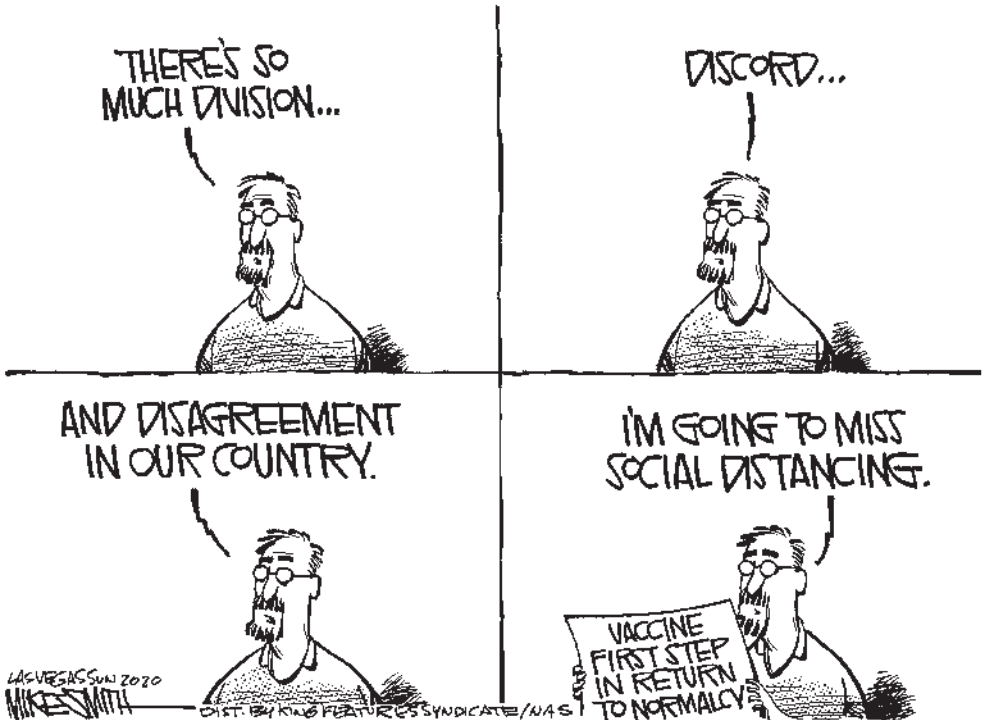
As you know, scams are an ongoing problem and the COVID-19 pandemic has given rise to many new variations. We are forwarding the following for your information:

- The Inspector General of Social Security, Gail S. Ennis, is warning the public about fraudulent letters threatening suspension of Social Security benefits due to COVID-19-related office closures. We will not suspend or discontinue benefits because our offices are closed to walk-in visitors.
- The U.S. Department of Health and Human

Services (HHS) Office of Inspector General is alerting the public about fraud schemes related to COVID-19. For example, scammers are offering COVID-19 tests to Medicare beneficiaries in exchange for personal details, including Medicare information. However, the services are unapproved and illegitimate. Learn about this and other COVID-19 fraud from HHS!

- The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) is alerting people about various COVID-19-related

See SCAMS, Page 6



Food for thoughtBy John Grimaldi

‘Buck Rogers’ in the 21st century

Ray guns are becoming a reality

“No kidding, our troops are getting genuine ray guns to use against an enemy attack. They are not the kind that Buck Rogers had back in the day; they are sophisticated defensive laser weapons,” reports the Association of Mature American Citizens (AMAC).

Lt. Gen. Paul Ostrowski recently revealed that by 2022 the Army will add a 50-kilowatt mobile laser weapon to its active duty arsenal. Ostrowski is the principal military deputy to the assistant secretary of the Army for acquisition, logistics and technology. He says the lasers will be mounted on Stryker vehicles that combine the battlefield power of a tank and the speed and mobility of a Humvee. They’ll be capable of shooting down armed rockets and drones.

The Navy, too, is deploying laser weapons and “expects to have eight warships, in total, equipped with the Optical Dazzling Interdictor, or ODIN, a laser directed energy weapon system, within the next three years,” according to *The War Zone*. In fact, the online publication also reported that “One Arleigh Burke class destroyer, the USS Dewey, is already equipped with ODIN.”

The major benefit of laser weaponry is that it requires no ammunition, says Dean Weingarten, a 30-year veteran of the Army Research, Development, Testing, and Evaluation unit. As he explained it in an Ammoland report: “Lasers don’t need to haul a lot of large cartridges around to be effective. Instead, you need power. Lasers take a lot of electrical power. If you can generate the power, you have a viable weapon. Much like tanks or aircraft, lasers need fuel. Run out of fuel, they do not work. Fuel is easier to transport and more versatile than artillery ammunition. It takes a much smaller weight of fuel for a laser shot than a round of artillery ammunition.”

In the same article, Weingarten noted that our military had already made strides in the development of what was known in 2010 as the Airborne Laser system but funding was withdrawn by then President 2011. The system would have had the “ability to shoot down incoming ICBMs from tens or hundreds of miles away, at the edge of

space.” Two years later North Korea’s Kim Jong-un was threatening to fire missiles on our bases in the Pacific.

President Trump restored funding for laser defense development in order “to ensure that we can detect and destroy any missile launched against the United States, anywhere, anytime, anyplace.”

It is notable that the mainstream media tends to downplay America’s military might these days resulting in a lack of knowledge about our country’s defensive capabilities, according to AMAC CEO Rebecca Weber. “A recent online Google search for stories about the strides our armed services are making in developing defensive laser weapons resulted in many reports published in military and specialty publications. With the exception of Fox News, few – if any other –mainstream news organizations have ignored this critical defensive development.”

The 2.3 million member Association of Mature American Citizens (AMAC) www.amac.us is a vibrant, vital senior advocacy organization that takes its marching orders from its members. AMAC Action is a non-profit, non-partisan organization representing the membership in our nation’s capital and in local Congressional Districts throughout the country.

Turbulent

From Page 2

vitamins, is discouraged or even banned. Once in hospital, patients are at the mercy of the corporate protocol – with no nosy visitors

to check for oversedation, incorrect or missed medications, failure to check for urine output, or overflowing trash cans. Normal social interactions or non-favored enterprises that generate income are severely restricted, ostensibly to inhibit

coronavirus. There is no evidence for effectiveness for this purpose – but they do inhibit the spread of the dissent virus and cripple potential dissenters economically. Plans to force people to take minimally tested vaccines, at least if they don’t want to be under house arrest, are being considered, despite the acknowledged facts that they are not a magic bullet, might not prevent transmission, and might not work against mutant strains. Lack of early treatments³ for which there is substantial and growing evidence⁴ may cause more than 100,000 needless deaths. The destruction of liberty and the institution of socialism has caused 100 million deaths in history. Desperate actions by people with nothing left to lose wreak havoc. Those who are for protecting human lives are against censorship, central planning, and unfettered, nonaccountable government – and for freedom and individual rights.

com/news/exclusive-man-who-stormed-capitol-tells-his-story-to-lifesitenews?utm_source=LifeSiteNews.com&utm_campaign=58599fbee0-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_BLAST_EXCLUSIVELEOKELLY&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_12387f0e3e-58599fbee0-401422713

3 – <https://c19protocols.com/>

4 – <https://c19study.com/>

Jane M. Orient obtained her undergraduate degrees in chemistry and mathematics from the University of Arizona in Tucson, and her M.D. from Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons in 1974. She has been in solo private practice since 1981 and has served as Executive Director of the Association of American Physicians and Surgeons (AAPS) since 1989. She is currently president of Doctors for Disaster Preparedness. More than 100 of her papers have been published in the scientific and popular literature on a variety of subjects including risk assessment, natural and technological hazards and nonhazards, and medical economics and ethics. She is the editor of AAPS News, the Doctors for Disaster Preparedness Newsletter, and Civil Defense Perspectives, and is the managing editor of the Journal of American Physicians and Surgeons.

The links in the digital copy of this issue, at www.wtxcc.com, are clickable.

1 – <https://schoolhistory.co.uk/notes/the-revolutions-of-1848/>

2 – <https://www.lifesitenews.com>

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Strange
BUT TRUE

By Lucie Winborne

- Many people in South Korea opt to compress the remains of the dead person into gem-like beads in different colors, which are then displayed at home.
- Greenland sharks don't reach puberty until they are 150 years old.
- The first hoop skirt was worn by Queen Juana of Portugal, in a bid to hide the fact she was pregnant.
- In 2015, Canadian astronaut Chris Hadfield released the first ever album recorded entirely in space, titled "Space Sessions: Songs from a Tin Can."
- The oldest known customer service complaint was written on a clay cuneiform tablet in Mesopotamia 4,000 years ago. In it, a customer named Nanni complains that he was sold inferior copper ingots.
- Russia only classified beer as an alcoholic drink in 2011.
- In 1984, New Zealand Prime Minister Robert Muldoon got drunk and decided to spontaneously call a general election, which he lost.
- Before battles, some Roman gladiators read product endorsements. The makers of the film "Gladiator" planned to show this but nixed the idea for fear that audiences wouldn't believe it.
- A person with geomelophagia has the urge to eat raw potatoes.
- In the late 1800s in Corinne, Utah, you could buy legal divorce papers from a vending machine for \$2.50.
- Late in his life, Guglielmo Marconi believed no sound ever dies completely. He dreamed of building a device strong enough to pick up the actual words of Jesus at the "Sermon on the Mount."


Thought for the Day: "There are years that ask questions, and years that answer."
– Zora Neale Hurston

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CryptoQuip
Answer

When a cartoonist gives a character way too many details, one might call it overdrawn.



Moments in time

THE HISTORY CHANNEL

- On Jan. 18, 1990, Washington, D.C., Mayor Marion Barry is arrested and charged with drug possession and use of crack cocaine. Barry was caught on camera at a downtown hotel smoking crack with Rahsheeda Moore, who had agreed to set up Barry in exchange for a reduced sentence on a drug conviction.
- On Jan. 19, 1809, poet, author and literary critic Edgar Allan Poe is born in Boston. In 1836 Poe married his 13-year-old cousin, Virginia Clemm, and completed his first full-length work of fiction, "Arthur Gordon Pym."
- On Jan. 20, 1961, 87-year-old Robert Frost recited his poem "The Gift Outright" at the inauguration of President John F. Kennedy. Although Frost had written a new poem for the occasion, faint ink in his typewriter made the words difficult to read, so he recited "The Gift Outright" from memory.
- On Jan. 21, 1950, former State Department official Alger Hiss is convicted of perjury in testimony about his alleged involvement in a Soviet spy ring before and during World War II.
- On Jan. 22, 1984, during Super Bowl XVIII, audiences first see a commercial now widely agreed to be one of the most powerful and effective of all time. Apple's "1984" spot featured a young woman throwing a sledgehammer through a screen on which a Big Brother-like figure preached about "the unification of thought."
- On Jan. 23, 1941, Charles Lindbergh, a national hero since his nonstop solo flight across the Atlantic, testifies before Congress and suggests that the U.S. negotiate a neutrality pact with Hitler. He publicly denounced "the British, the Jewish and the Roosevelt Administration."
- On Jan. 24, 1972, after 28 years of hiding in the jungles of Guam, farmers discover Shoichi Yokoi, a Japanese sergeant who was unaware that World War II had ended. Yokoi went into hiding in 1944 rather than surrender.

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Food for thought

By Dr. Glenn Mollette

Don't live your life based on Biden or Trump

When did life begin for President Donald Trump or President Joe Biden? Did Trump's life begin when his father loaned him millions to start investing? Did it begin when he married Melania? Or, did life begin when he was elected President? Maybe his life is beginning now that his Presidency is over?

What about Biden? Did Biden's life begin each morning when he boarded Amtrak headed for Washington? Maybe his life began when he was elected a Senator or even the Vice President? Maybe his life is just beginning now?

Trump will have options after the White House. He is a businessman. He will figure it out. Maybe NBC will seek him to do The Celebrity Apprentice once again? Yes, NBC hates him but they love money. The Celebrity Apprentice made NBC and Trump hundreds of millions of dollars.

Someone will publish Trump's memoirs. I predict he'll make

about 50 to 75 million dollars off his book royalties. He has over 70 million loyal followers. If 10 million people buy a book with a six to nine dollar profit for the publisher then you can start multiplying the cash. Book publishers are all about money and sales. They know the market potential. Trump will stay busy on the speaking circuit. In about a year look for him in a city near you drawing a crowd.

Biden's life is only changing in that he finally gets to sleep in the White House. He will be in the same place where so many politicians and families have slept before. Biden is familiar with the nation's Capitol. He has practically spent his entire life there in politics. It's what he has awakened to almost every morning of his life. Though he will sit in the Oval Office now.

Life is changing for these two men in different ways but what about your life? When did your life begin? Did it begin at your

conception? Your birth? When you turned 16 years old or 21? Maybe it began when you retired? When will your life end? The beginning of your life starts when you start living your life. The end of your life concludes when you give up and stop living your life.

Our lives are brief, here today and gone tomorrow. Don't base your life on who is The President. The quantity and quality of our lives typically hinge on our decisions and the transitions we adjust to. Life is filled with transitions, just look at Biden and Trump.

Change disrupts us and the climate of fear and skepticism is dominating our nation.

For you and I we must live our lives right now. Every day we wake up is a new beginning

and a new life. The old life was yesterday and we can't relive, change or erase it. However, we can learn from yesterday and education is very valuable.

When someone else's life begins is all conjecture on our part. When your life begins is your daily decision. Live your life. Maybe at this moment, your life is just really beginning.

Glenn Mollette is a graduate of numerous schools including Georgetown College, Southern and Lexington Seminaries in Kentucky. He is the author of "Uncommon Sense" and 12 other books. His column is published weekly in over 600 publications in all 50 states. Learn more at www.glennmollette.com or www.facebook.com/glennmollette.

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Landing

From Page 1

moon landings was located on the booster. The sensors and computer, which were tested during the booster's descent and touchdown, will hitch another suborbital ride with Blue Origin in future trials.

Van Horn's Blue Origin launchings are part of NASA's Artemis program, which aims to put the first woman and next man on the moon by 2024, according to NASA officials.

"Using New Shepard to simulate landing on the Moon is an exciting precursor to what the Artemis program will bring to America," Blue Origin's chief executive Bob Smith stated in a news release.

The recent launch, which had been delayed for nearly a year because of the pandemic, was the thirteenth New Shepard flight for Blue Origin. This trip did not have any crew or passengers, a company spokesperson told local reporters.

Blue Origin officials said that they need a couple more flights before launching people-tourists, scientists, and professional astronauts- on short hops. The capsule has six seats and six windows, the biggest to fly in space.

To bring attention to the unique

accomplishment, Blue Origin hosted a webcast celebrating the event, which racked up more than 200,000 views on YouTube, according to company officials.

Blue Origin's webcast featured scientific discussions, an interview with a top NASA official and a virtual tour of the Blue Origin cabin. There was also the "box of rocks experiment," a project testing a device to take magnetic samples from asteroids.

Blue Origin officials asserted that the achievement of repeated launches demonstrate the reusability of these rockets. The positive outcome provides an important detail to attain "a future where millions of people are living and working in space," they proclaimed.

The webcast began with a promotional video... "The human need to explore is deep within all of us. Our ancestors crossed mountain ranges and sailed open oceans to map new lands," announces the film's narrator. As music plays in the background, Bezos is seen inspecting a previous successful lift-off.

"When our descendants look to the stars, perhaps from a rocky moon or colonies floating in open space, they'll remember this time," the narrator purports, "When they reflect on where it started, they'll remember this place."



Blue Origin owner Jeff Bezos, above, is best known as the founder/ CEO and president of the multi-national technology company, Amazon. Bezos, worth billions of dollars, is one of the world's richest people.



I want to be a bench. Recycle me.

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UTEP fans are getting more and more impatient

By Steve Escajeda
Special to the Courier

There are cities around the country that are known for the love of their sports teams.

Those are cities like New York and Philadelphia and Boston and Chicago, just to name a few.

And though every city in American has an affection for its home sports teams, these particular cities are unusually supportive.

In fact, their fans can accurately be described as rabid. They are extremely loud when they are winning and even louder when they are losing. In other words, if the team is losing, these fans make it widely known that they aren’t satisfied and demand players be traded or let go, coaches or general managers

be fired and even threaten to stop buying season tickets.

And then, there are cities that are less aggressive in their support – like El Paso.

El Paso sports fans like a winner as much as anyone else, but we’ve got this mentality that we should just be thankful we have a team to root for.

Whether it’s the Chihuahuas or the Locomotive or even the Rhinos, fans will turn out in droves to back the team. It’s what El Pasoans do.

To say that El Pasoans are laid back when it comes to sports, is an understatement.

But there are signs that things are about to change.

The UTEP football and basketball games are aired locally on ESPN 600. And soon after the game, they host Miner Talk, where fans can call in and express

their opinions on the game and on the sports program in general.

Let’s just say that the usually polite and passive UTEP fans calling in after last Friday’s embarrassing 63-33 loss to North Texas, were loud and downright angry.

New Yorkers would have been proud to hear the El Paso fans, one after another, calling for the heads of basketball coach Rodney Terry, football coach Dana Dimel and athletic director Jim Senter.

Almost as one, they proclaimed their disappointment with the constant losing from both the football and basketball programs.

Callers were saying that enough is enough. They were saying that UTEP should drop to a lesser league. They said there were no more excuses for the losing and that it was time for some changes. There were a few that said they were

giving up their season tickets; they said why keeping attending something they were no longer enjoying?

That’s not a bad question.

Let’s face it, football has become such a failure at UTEP over the last 50 years that we’ve practically just come to accept it.

But basketball at UTEP has a long winning tradition, and from what I hear, the fans are not going to just settle in and accept it.

And this season is off to the same kind of failure it’s been in recent years.

The proof. The whole idea is to get better as the season goes along; to gradually improve as the team practices and spends more time together.

But the UTEP basketball team is doing the opposite.

Just when you thought the season was going to be a positive one after that upset win at Arizona State and a two-game winning streak that put them at 2-1 in the conference, they’ve lost three straight to fall to 6-6 overall.

Their last win was in impressive fashion over Rice, scoring 101 points. The next game they scored 33 points less (68). The next game after that they scored 35 points less (33).

Needless to say, El Paso fans are a pretty tolerant group. But they are quickly losing their patience.

Senter hired Dimel for football. Dimel is 5-39 at UTEP. Senter hired Terry for basketball. Terry is 42-62 at UTEP.

So I guess that also makes Senter 0-2 at UTEP.

While other fans want to win no matter what, El Paso fans would settle for a winning basketball team and just a competitive football squad. But they’re not even getting that.

UTEP needs a new attitude.

It seems as if the Miners are going for the experienced coaching staffs. I think it might be best to go after young, up and coming coaches anxious to make a name for themselves.

Maybe they can put UTEP’s name back on the map as well.

People know
Pueblo for its...



Famous Hot Salsa?

In Pueblo, the free government information is also hot. Spice up your life by dipping into the Consumer Information Center web site, www.pueblo.gsa.gov. You can download all the information right away. Sorry, salsa not available through our web site or Catalog.

U.S. General Services Administration

Scams

From Page 3

all COVID-19-related fraud and scams at ftc.gov/coronavirus/resources², and report the scams you see at ftc.gov/complaint³.

- No government agency will contact you offering COVID-19-related grants or economic impact payments in exchange for personal financial information, an advance fee, or gift cards. Please do not respond. These are scams. Visit Treasury’s website⁴ if you suspect economic impact payment fraud.

Remember, we are here to assist you. Please reach us at www.socialsecurity.gov⁵, call us at 1-800-772-1213, or you can call your local office; office telephone numbers are available online⁶.

fraud and scams. From contact tracing scams to treatment claims, government imposter scams, and fraud related to economic impact payments, learn about

The links in the digital copy of this issue, at www.wtxcc.com, are clickable.

- https://oig.hhs.gov/coronavirus/fraud-alert-covid19.asp?utm_source=web&utm_medium=web&utm_campaign=covid19-fraud-alert
- <https://www.ftc.gov/coronavirus/resources>
- <https://reportfraud.ftc.gov/#/>
- <https://home.treasury.gov/policy-issues/cares>
- <https://www.ssa.gov/>
- <https://secure.ssa.gov/ICON/main.jsp>

Ray Vigil
Public Affairs Specialist
Social Security Administration

Super Crossword

21 AND SINGLE ACROSS	amendment, say	109 Machine for a brain test	Paris	72 Like one of a battery's terminals
1 Alcatraz Island locale, for short	61 Savings acct. addition	115 Palme _ (film award)	25 Unified	74 Pal of Piglet
6 Info-filled	62 Days before holidays	116 Coiled	26 "Sorry, already have plans"	77 That girl's
11 Subjective paper pieces	63 Rises	117 Sprightly	32 Cantina snacks	78 "How did _ this happen?"
16 Yeshiva student, e.g.	64 Heaps	118 China's Zhou	33 Bordered on	79 Close by
19 Land, in Italy	65 Ornamental hairnets	119 Mil. officer	34 Roman 901	80 Fixin' to
20 Fast Amtrak service	67 Jogged	120 Taunts in fun	35 Above, in verse	85 Longtime Honda model
21 Salsa singer Cruz	69 _ Pointe, Michigan	121 Swift	36 Country crooner	86 Rock or jazz
22 Pal, in Nice	71 Gazpacho, e.g., in Spanish	122 Nation south of Sicily	Randy	87 Thanksgiving staple
23 Concerning the effects of drugs on the mind	72 Talisman		39 Fire output	88 Suffix with host or lion
27 Maestro _-Pekka Salonen	73 Cookie for 100+ years	DOWN	40 Mother of Don Juan	89 Mickey's dog
28 12:00, half of the time	75 He's a doll	1 Fla. Gulf city	41 Magical glow	90 Obstruct
29 South, in Spanish	76 Ear, nose and throat doctor	2 Admits guilt, with "up"	45 Clip out, as a coupon	91 Kevin of "Aliens in the Attic"
30 Flinch in fear	84 _ Carlo	3 Kobe of hoops	46 Imply in its definition	92 Maytag products
31 Squid feature	85 Street _ (popular acceptance)	4 Curved path	47 In addition to	93 Rocker Ted
34 "Chill out!"	86 Video file format, in brief	5 "Boo-_" ("All right!")	48 Gorged on	94 Big pianos
37 Amply skilled	89 Wrestling win	6 Port southeast of Roma	49 Fluffy floor-cleaning tool	95 High-pH substance
38 Belief in a national power structure	90 Quality among identical things	7 Canyon comebacks	50 Walking aid	96 Skipped out (on)
42 Acting signal	100 TV's Griffin	8 Stop nursing	51 They can't be taught new tricks, in a saying	97 Ultimate purpose
43 Blarney Stone's land	101 Oaths	9 35mm camera type	52 Raincoat material	98 Be short with
44 "Sometimes you feel like _"	102 Swiss city on Lake Geneva	10 Thanksgiving staple	53 Most baggy	99 Old compact Kia model
45 Get moving	103 Shelling out	11 Like mystical practices	54 Pact among nations	104 Abbr. on a food carton
48 Org. for tooth drillers	106 Moo goo _ pan	12 City in Illinois	56 ER hookups	105 Escalate
50 Lid	107 Short comic sketch	13 Added wing	57 Bit of land in l'oceano	107 Clipper, e.g.
52 Bullfight yell	108 Fist bump, colloquially	14 Fashionable	58 Mink relative	110 "Sure," in Soissons
55 Official endorsement via an		15 Stuffing herb	59 In smart garb	111 Pointy part of Mr. Spock
		16 "I, Claudius" star	60 Eastern spiritual path	112 Links gp.
		Derek	66 Crew tool	113 Ruby or onyx
		17 PC-to-PC letters	68 Precept	114 Stuff in some viral genes
		18 Actor Dafoe	69 Salon goop	
		24 Aunt's spouse, in	70 Suitemates, say	

Answer Page 4

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115				116						117							118			
119				120						121							122			

Comix

OUT ON A LIMBBy Gary Kopervas



AMBER WAVESBy Dave T. Phipps



THE SPATSBy Jeff Pickering



R.F.D.By Mike Marland



TIGERBy Bud Blake



Franken

From Page 2

treason. But there is nothing magical about inauguration day, particularly since it's less likely that security forces will be as woefully unprepared as they were for the Capitol siege.

No. They can choose to wait and surreptitiously arrange an operation another day. And it's likely these domestic terrorists

will, with Trump as a grievance icon.

Meanwhile, in spite of the argument that this lunatic commander in chief, with his constitutional potential to annihilate everything, needs to be removed immediately, an attempt to shut him down before Biden takes over is probably not workable. Instead, neutralize him somehow, and wait until he's a private citizen, unprotected from prosecution. If he pardons

himself, fight it out in the courts.

The sad fact is that whichever legal strategy is chosen for recourse, it will keep him at the top of the news, which is what he craves. Perhaps some bargain with him is possible, where he agrees to make no chief executive decisions for the few days remaining, literally White House arrest. He would also have to accept that he'll never run for office again and be muzzled. If he violates the artfully drawn

Raynaud’s patient: Can Viagra help cold fingers

DEAR DR. ROACH: I have scleroderma with Raynaud’s phenomenon, and friends and family members have told me that I might get help from Viagra. Frankly, I hadn’t read or heard that from either my rheumatologists or dermatologists. I already tried a short course of nifedipine over a decade ago (it just gave me a headache), so I just stick with mechanical means to keep my hands warm in winter and, maybe surprisingly to some, in summer. Believe me, air-conditioned grocery stores are torture from April to October. – M.A.P.



Raynaud’s phenomenon is an excessive response of the blood vessels in the skin to changes in temperature, and sometimes to emotional stress. While most people will get cold hands and feet when it is cold, a person with Raynaud’s can get a drastic response, even to air conditioning or freezer sections of grocery stores. The skin will turn white and then blue, then quite red on being rewarmed. Not everybody goes through all three colors, however.

Raynaud’s can exist by itself, but is often seen in the presence of autoimmune conditions, such as the systemic sclerosis (scleroderma) you have. Treatment for Raynaud’s is generally the same with or without other conditions. Everybody with Raynaud’s should quit smoking and avoid medications that can trigger an attack (over-the-counter cold and flu remedies are the most common).

The mainstay of treatment is avoiding the temperature changes wherever possible, but as you point out clearly, it’s almost impossible to do so completely. Putting your hand in a refrigerator or holding a cold drink can trigger an attack. Many people with Raynaud’s learn to keep gloves with them all the time and dress their entire body warmly. An attack can sometimes be aborted by rubbing hands in warm water or getting them into a warm place.

When medication treatment is necessary, a calcium channel blocker like nifedipine is often the first choice. Headache and dizziness can limit effectiveness of this treatment. Studies have shown these medications can cut the attacks by about 50%.

Sildenafil (Viagra) has been used in people with Raynaud’s, and is about as effective as calcium channel blockers. However, for people with scleroderma, ulcers and Raynaud’s, sildenafil has been shown in small trials to be very effective.

DEAR DR. ROACH: My wife has many allergies and asthma, as well as frequent migraines, about two or three a month. A family friend has been using Aimovig for the past six months with no migraine symptoms. What can you tell me about this relatively new drug? We’re concerned that the side effects may interfere with her asthma, or any other negative drug interactions. – M.S.

Erenumab (Aimovig) has been recently approved for migraine. In the initial study, it reduced the number of migraine days from 8.3 to 4.6 per month. As an injection, it may cause pain and swelling at the injection site, and has also caused some people constipation and muscle cramps. There are very few drug interactions, and I found no indication that it should make asthma worse.

Your family friend has had a much better result than most of the people in the study, and there is no guarantee your wife will do as well. I am awaiting further long-term studies before recommending this class of migraine treatments.

It is given once per month, and costs about \$600 at [goodrx.com](https://www.goodrx.com).

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) 2021 North America Synd., Inc. All Rights Reserved.

deal, the legal system can lower the boom.

That way Biden and his successors can clean up the rubble and repair the country – in spite of the social media.

It amounts to an exile in Mar-a-Lago, with visits from Rudy Giuliani so they can talk about the good old days of destroying the country. Maybe there could be occasional calls from his comrade Vladimir Putin.

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Moore Texas by Roger Moore
Texas got \$10 million from the sale of parts of Wyoming, New Mexico and Colorado to the US... the “Compromise of 1850.”

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: K equals O

YIAE G PGBSKKEVWS
CVLAW G PIGBGPSAB YGF
SKK ZGEF JASGVNW, KEA
ZVCIS PGNN VS KLABJBGYE.

Answer Page 4
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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

9				8		6		
	1		2					4
		7			4		5	
		8	7				9	
4				3	1			7
	6			9		4		
2					5		6	
		9	4			1		
	3			7				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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The COVID vaccine is coming for vets



by Freddy Groves

The COVID vaccine is currently being distributed to 37 VA locations around the country. The logistics to move 300 million doses to where they need to be (Operation Warp Speed) are overwhelming, but the Department of Veterans Affairs has plans in hand for us.

The first thing to remember is that you likely won't be first in line to get the vaccine. Until you get the two shots (spaced weeks apart), your job is to stay healthy. Just because you get the first shot doesn't mean you're in the clear. And depending how things are going in your area, you'll likely need to keep wearing a mask and doing social distancing, even after you've had both doses.

The order of vaccination is

still being organized, but it will likely start with medical staff and residents of long-term care facilities, and those with high-risk medical conditions.

Once they move down the list, the vaccines will be available to all veterans who get VA health care. The fine print says they'll contact you when it's available, but it can't hurt to check with your health team to make sure they have your info. If you're not signed up for VA health care, you can apply online with VA form 10-10EZ.

Other tidbits:

- If they come out with multiple vaccines, no, you won't be able to pick which one you get, at least not initially when there are shortages.
- If you haven't had a flu shot but plan to get one, do it now. You likely will not be able to take the COVID vaccine too soon after getting a flu shot. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is still deciding about this.
- For more info on the vaccines and VA, go to www.va.gov/health-care/covid-19-vaccine.

va.gov/health-care/covid-19-vaccine. Scroll down for lots of information and resources.

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- Purchase New Year's celebration items that are on sale in January if you have a graduating senior in 2021. You can get all kinds of items for a fraction of the price, and you will be ready with all the 2021 things you need!
- J.P. in New Jersey advises that instead of using candles during a power outage – it can be dangerous! – try a battery-operated lantern instead. You can even use solar garden lights in a vase. You'd be surprised how much they can light a room.

• “To trick yourself into saving money, round up purchases when you enter them into your checkbook register.” – S.W. in Arkansas

• “If you're storing clothes in a storage tote, put a sheet of fabric softener in as well. It can help repel bugs and keep the fabrics smelling fresh.” – M.W. in Iowa

• “Spray nonwashable plush toys with dry shampoo to clean and freshen them. Rub vigorously with a terry cloth to remove any extra residue and fluff up!” – P.H. in Pennsylvania

• Wrap a bit of tape sticky side out around a straightened-out paper clip. You can GENTLY put it in the headphone jack to get out lint that is otherwise inaccessible. Also, keep a lint-free cloth that comes with glasses handy to clean the screen of your smartphone.

• B.B. in Massachusetts writes: “I have a rubber disc (used for taking covers off jars) that I keep in my shower. When showering, I put the disc over the drain so the water can accumulate, then I soak my feet at the same time.”

Send your tips to Now Here's a Tip, 628 Virginia Drive, Orlando, FL 32803. (c) 2020 King Features Synd., Inc.

GO FIGURE! by Linda Thistle

The idea of Go Figure is to arrive at the figures given at the bottom and right-hand columns of the diagram by following the arithmetic signs in the order they are given (that is, from left to right and top to bottom). Use only the numbers below the diagram to complete its blank squares and use each of the nine numbers only once.

DIFFICULTY: ★★

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

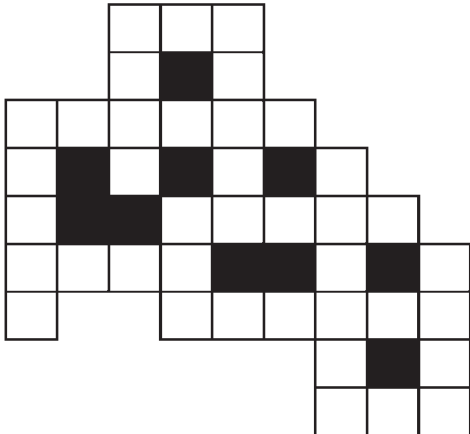
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PGY
SAGYER
PATOD
LFPI
ACLIFA
ENP
♥RANE
♥DOSEN
♥RFA
PIGSYN
TIGNA
♥YEPR



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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