



## NEWSBRIEFS

### Moody

Joe Moody (D-El Paso) was appointed Speaker Pro Tempore of the Texas House of Representatives by Speaker Dade Phelan (R-Beaumont) on Thursday, Feb. 4. He was previously appointed to the same post last session by then-Speaker Dennis Bonnen (R-Lake Jackson), who has since retired. The speaker pro tempore is the number two spot in the chamber, responsible for convening and presiding over the House in the speaker's absence and assisting the speaker with the administration of the House. Before Moody, no El Pasoan had ever been named speaker pro tempore, and only one has ever served as speaker – R.E. Thomason, who presided for a single term a full century ago. "This is a big honor and an even bigger responsibility," Moody said. "It's unheard of for the same person to be appointed to this position by two different speakers. I think it speaks to the trust both Speaker Phelan and my colleagues have in me to help the House run smoothly and effectively, the same trust voters showed when they gave me the opportunity to represent El Pasoans here. I won't let any of them down."

– Ellic Sahualla

### An easy win

Why strain your brain trying to win the lottery by coming up with a set of random numbers? The South African Lottery Commission says that a very lucky winner of a recent PowerBall drawing took home a prize equal to about 370,000 U.S. dollars with a numbers pick of the not-so-random sequence 5-6-7-8-9-10. The Commission says it uses a random number generator but that sometimes it can come up with a simple sequence, though it's rare.

– John Grimaldi

### A goldfish story

The Website largest.com, which reports on "the Largest Things in the World," will need to update its goldfish page that lists a 5-pound 4-ounce goldfish caught in the U.K. in 2017 by a 10-year-old girl as the world's largest. The one found recently in Greenville, S.C. by researchers surveying the fish population in Oak Grove Lake weighed in at a whopping nine pounds.

– John Grimaldi

*Sometimes a handful of patience is worth far more than a bucket full of brains.*

– Quips & Quotes

## In-person STAAR exams slated this year

*Some legislators call  
for cancelling the tests*

By Alfredo Vasquez  
Special to the Courier

TEXAS – The Texas Education Agency (TEA) announced recently that Texas public school students will be required to show up in-person to take the STAAR assessments this spring and summer.

TEA officials stated that they will be moving forward with standardized tests, taken in grades third through twelfth, in the spring and summer months and are requiring that students take them at a "monitored" testing site.

TEA officials noted that districts can apply for waivers to accommodate socially distancing test takers. For instance, school districts can apply for waivers to

require students who are not scheduled to take the STAAR to learn remotely on a testing day. That would allow them to socially distance test takers, as medical experts recommend for indoor activities.

Also, state guidelines state that school districts could set up sites outside of their schools including performing arts centers, hotels, and recreation centers- where they can "ensure equitable access and maintain test security".

However, the Texas House Democratic Caucus in a press conference a couple of day after TEA's in-person testing announcement called



Mike Morath

attention to issues teachers, students, and families are facing during the COVID-19 pandemic and urged that the in-person STAAR tests be cancelled this year.

"We cannot ask our schools to take the burden of scheduling, in-person STAAR's for all of the students across the state of Texas," said Rep. Alma Allen, of Harris County and a member of the Democratic caucus. "That's 5 million children and thousands

of teachers and employees. We are in the middle of a life-threatening pandemic. We also cannot ask our teachers or our school personnel, students, and families to put themselves at risk for an unnecessary test. Let me emphasize, unnecessary."

Currently, Texas state leaders are requiring all districts to allow in-person learning for all students who want it, with few exceptions, and a state survey at the end of October showed that about 2.8 million of 5.5 million students enrolled in public schools were learning on campus, meaning millions were still learning remotely.

Nonetheless, TEA officials advised that though some students, teachers, and staff may be reluctant to return to in-person schooling during a pandemic, Texas high school students receiving remote instruction who do not show up to take the required standardized exams may not be able to graduate.

Although TEA guidelines do state that students in younger grades who fail required STAAR exams can move up to the next grade. And as of December, school districts will not receive state

## Socorro ISD schools gain recognition

By Christy Flores- Jones  
Special to the Courier

EL PASO COUNTY – Four middle schools in the Socorro Independent School District (SISD) have been re-designated as Texas "Schools to Watch" as part of a national recognition program conducted by The National Forum to Accelerate Middle-Grades Reform and the Texas Association of Secondary School Principals.

Spec. Rafael Hernando III, Col. John O. Ensor, Socorro Middle and William D. Slider middle schools were four of 50 schools in Texas to earn the distinction based on criteria such as academic excellence, developmental responsiveness, social equity and organizational structure and processes.

"Our hard-working instructional and leadership teams at Ensor, Hernando, Slider and Socorro middle schools are achieving incredible success and certainly treating and educating all students as if they are their own children," said SISD Superintendent José Espinoza, Ed.D. "They have maintained an unwavering focus on college and career readiness to ensure all their students succeed. I am extremely proud of their commitment to put their campuses and Team SISD in the spotlight as Texas Schools to Watch!"

The SISD schools will be recognized nationally, along with other Schools to Watch, at the National Forum's Virtual National Schools to Watch Conference in June.

The principals were proud to share their achievement via social media.

"This is a shared achievement by our entire school community! Congrats to all of our hard-working Cavaliers," said Valerie Hairston, principal of Spec. Rafael

See SISD, Page 5

See STAAR, Page 6

## 'Don't mess with Texas' scholarship contest open to high school seniors

By Alfredo Vasquez  
Special to the Courier

TEXAS – Texas high school seniors who are taking an active role in litter prevention in their school or community are encouraged to apply for the 2021 Don't mess with Texas Scholarship Contest.

The contest is open to any Texas high school senior currently attending public, private or home school and planning to attend an accredited

college or university in the Fall 2021 semester. The contest will award a total of \$9,000 in scholarships to three winners in May 2021.

"We're looking for students who are developing exciting and creative solutions to keep Texas litter-free," said Becky Ozuna, program administrator for the Don't mess with Texas program. "We aim to shine a spotlight on their innovations in the hope of inspiring other Texans to do their part to keep our state

beautiful," she added.

To enter the Don't mess with Texas Scholarship Contest, visit its website, at dontmesswithtexas.org

Applications must be received via online submission by 5 p.m. (CDT) March 31. Sponsors for the Don't mess with Texas Scholarship include Buc-ee's and iHeart Media.

Don't mess with Texas has been educating Texans about litter prevention since 1986. The program includes a grassroots partnership with

the Keep Texas Beautiful organization, annual "Trash-Off" community outreach events and the Adopt-a-Highway volunteer program.

Don't mess with Texas is a registered trademark of the Texas Department of Transportation.

The Texas Department of Transportation is responsible for maintaining 80,000 miles of road and for supporting aviation, maritime, rail, and public transportation services across the state.





# A waste of time

However, what is to be gained besides putting the crazies in their place if they really try something?

The answer is not much. It’s painful to agree with the majority of Republicans who have sold out any self-respect they might have had to the fear of Trump but they have a point. As Sen. Rand Paul – that great philosopher of Americanism (that’s sarcasm, folks) – stated, “This impeachment is nothing more than a partisan exercise designed to further divide the country.” In other words, it’s a whole lotta nothing, since all but five senators in the GOP have decided to kiss the ring of the Don.

Little will get done. Censure is laughable. It’s even debatable whether Trump would be free

to run again if that’s what he wanted to do next time around. Democrats can talk about legal accountability all they want.

It’s beyond comprehension why most Senate Republicans would continue to effectively support him. But that’s what they are doing. Implicitly, they are attacking the very reason they’re in Congress to begin with, which is to symbolize a working free government. But they have apparently given up on that. Democrats must calculate whether the emotional catharsis of a symbolic victory against Donald Trump is necessary or if they can get past this and try to undo the damage he’s done to this nation over his four-year nightmare.

Maybe that’s why many in Congress want to leave Trump

in the dark of Mar-a-Lago and avoid giving him one more day in the sun – or week, or whatever it takes to get past an impeachment that has no practical effect because only five Republicans support it. That’s way short of the votes needed, so they should get on with the job of rescuing the country from the devastation that has left us enfeebled.

“Todo a trial knowing you’ll get 55 votes at the max seems to me to be not the right prioritization of our time right now,” said Tim Kaine. “My top priority is COVID relief and getting the Biden cabinet approved.”

It’s actually a lot more than COVID and getting the cabinet approved. It’s rejoining the effort to save the planet from the ravages of climate change. It’s getting back on the road to racial equality. It’s rebounding from a vicious immigration policy. The list goes on and on.

Besides, a more practical punishment for Donald Trump is turning him over to the legal system, where he faces the real prospect of imprisonment and financial ruin, as opposed to something symbolic.

As for the terrorists, the mutant zealots might show up. Homeland Security just issued a statement that these “violent domestic extremists” were emboldened by the attack on the Capitol and have become simply another fact of life contorted by Donald Trump’s presidency. Even more complicated is re-establishing our nation on the world stage. But it has to start at home, in an effort to escape the Donald Trump legacy as quickly as we can.

(c) 2021 Bob Franken.  
Distributed by King Features  
Syndicate, Inc.

View from here

By Jane M. Orient, M.D.

# What does the Capitol wall mean for American medicine?

The optics of a wall and armed troops around their Capitol are, and should be, shocking to Americans. But from the perspective of one who has been to the Capitol many times – but not for years – it was a foreseeable development.

Decades ago, you could go to House and Senate office buildings and walk around freely. You could even approach by taxi and not have far to walk. You could enter any office, converse with the receptionist, leave a calling card and written material, and often be allowed to speak with a staffer.

I was never a lobbyist, just a citizen, often speaking on behalf of a group of doctors about the impact of government in flyover country. Medical groups might have a meeting near Capitol Hill, then fan out to visit congressional offices. We held staff briefings, sometimes with a congressman on the panel.

One day I looked at the sickly looking shrub in a “planter” outside an important building. “That looks like

a tank barrier,” I said. The attorney I was with looked amused. “Of course it is.”

Other doctors and I tried to explain how the flood of rules made it impossible to practice good medicine. We analyzed legislation: the Health Security Act (ClintonCare), HIPAA, PPACA or ACA (ObamaCare), MACRA, etc. – bills getting ever longer and more complex, with their acronyms incorporated into everyday talk long after everyone has forgotten what they stand for or what they were supposed to do. Nobody had read the bills they voted for.

I also spoke about national security issues from a physician’s standpoint – the lack of strategic or civil defense, pandemic preparedness, and electric grid security.

Over the years, Capitol security became tighter. No books allowed. Your congressman’s office door might be locked, with a note to put your message through the mail slot, which was also locked. To go to a hearing in the Capitol, you had to have an escort.

On Jan 6, a huge number of citizens, who still imagined that they could “make their voices heard,” went confidently to Washington. In my opinion, it is not a good idea to be in a crowd, which could turn into an irrational mob – especially in these days of well-trained, well-organized, well-funded paid radical agitators. Some of the group streamed into the “People’s House,” now the sacred citadel of “Democracy,” where they profaned the Holy of Holies. A few committed violence, some property was damaged, and some congressmen felt afraid. It wasn’t like Minneapolis, Seattle, or

Portland, but it is sacred ground.

Apparently, one of the most dangerous people there was a physician and mother, Dr. Simone Gold. She was armed only with a megaphone and left peaceably. The FBI pursued her home to California, where they smashed in her front door, shackled her, and kept her in a cage overnight. Her message: a plea to stop the deaths from COVID by prescribing early treatment – a message Big Tech is trying to suppress.

The Trump supporters have gone home, so why do we need the wall and the National Guard? They would be useless against a Chinese or Russian missile. But they might work against protesters armed with the proverbial pitchforks. Such as the more than 8,000 highly trained and well-paid pipeline workers who, with a stroke of Biden’s pen, lost their salary, their union medical benefits, and their future. Someday John Kerry might look like the French aristocrats prior to the storming of the Bastille: “Let them make solar panels” – in competition with Chinese workers who may earn slave wages even if not literally enslaved.

Americans, in the shadow of the wall, are learning that we are all in this together – except for the elite who continue to draw their salaries from the bureaucracies and the legislators who vote for laws written by special interests who invest millions in campaign contributions to reap billions in benefits.

The pretense that we still have a voice in Washington has been demolished. But one thing the wall cannot stop is the truth – for all the elite’s attempts at censorship. The most powerful truths at present may be that hundreds of

See MEDICINE, Page 6

1973  
48  
Years  
2021

WEST TEXAS COUNTY  
COURIER

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

**PUBLISHED:**  
Published each Thursday (minimum 50 issues) by Homesteader News, Inc. Office open Monday through Thursday.

**COPYRIGHT:**  
Entire contents © 2021 Homesteader News, Inc. Individual authors retain all rights. Pictures, drawings and written material appearing in the West Texas County Courier may not be used or reproduced without written permission of Homesteader News, Inc.

**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR:**  
Letters must not be more than 250 words in length. They should be dated, must be signed and have an address and daytime phone number. Only the name and city will be printed with the letter. The West Texas County Courier reserves the right to edit or reject letters to the editor or other submitted material it considers inappropriate.



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

**CLASSIFIED RATES**  
\$15 for 25 words, \$20 for 40 words. Ad must be in writing and pre-paid. The West Texas County Courier reserves the right not to publish advertising it considers inappropriate.

**DISPLAY RATES:**  
Open rate — \$30 per column inch. Call for more information or to set an appointment. The West Texas County Courier reserves the right not to publish advertising it considers inappropriate.

**MAIL SUBSCRIPTIONS:**  
Minimum 50 issues for \$50. Delivery via 1st class mail.

**MAIL:**  
15344 Werling Ct.  
Horizon City, TX 79928




Phone: 852-3235

E-mail: [wtxcc@wtxcc.com](mailto:wtxcc@wtxcc.com)  
Website: [wtxcc.com](http://wtxcc.com)

**Publisher**  
Rick Shrum

**Contributors**  
Alfredo Vasquez  
Steve Escajeda



**Homesteader News, Inc.**  
Est. 1973

LEGALS

**Village of Vinton, Texas**

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

**\*\*DUETOHEALTH AND SAFETY CONCERNS RELATED TO THE COVID-19 VIRUS** all Village of Vinton Public Meetings will be conducted virtually through the zoom.us platform until further notice.

This is in accordance with the Texas Attorney General's guidance temporarily suspending certain provisions of the Texas Open Meetings Act that allows for telephone or videoconference meetings. The procedure for joining the meeting by telephone or computer using Zoom will be posted on the

Village of Vinton website ([vintontx.gov/office2.com](http://vintontx.gov/office2.com).) Scroll down the Village of Vinton homepage and select the meeting for a PDF containing instructions, links, and access numbers. Each meeting has a distinct link and access numbers.

Public hearings will be held at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, March 1, 2021 and Tuesday, March

9, 2021 during the Planning & Zoning Commission Meeting; and on Tuesday, March 16, 2021 during a Special Council Meeting at Vinton Village Hall, 436 E. Vinton Road, Vinton, Texas.

The purpose of the public hearing is to allow any interested persons to appear and testify regarding the following item:

1) A request to Re-

Zone Tracts 14 & 14A, Alejo Delgado Survey #175 El Paso County, Texas (230 & 300 Hemley Road) currently in R-1 to R-2 zoning, Vinton, Texas, 79821.

Those who are unable to attend may submit their views in writing to the Village Administrator at 436 E. Vinton Road, Vinton, Texas 79821. Persons with disabilities that wish to attend

this meeting should contact City Hall at (915) 886-5104 to arrange for assistance. Individuals who require auxiliary aids or services for this meeting should contact City Hall at least two days before the meeting so that appropriate arrangements can be made.

**Andrea N. Carrillo**  
Village Administrator

WTCC: 02-11-21



# Congress bows to the pen and the phone

President Joe Biden has proved that, if nothing else, he has a pen and a phone.

According to *The Economist*, he signed more executive orders in his first two days than President Donald Trump signed in nearly his first two months.

And he was just getting started. Republicans have no standing to complain about Biden's spate of unilateral measures, given they were fine with Trump using exactly the same means. But that presidents of both parties govern this way doesn't make it better – it makes it worse.

Some executive actions starkly usurp congressional authority, while others are firmly within the executive's ambit. Yet the sheer amount of activity that presidents undertake on their own isn't in keeping with the spirit of our constitutional system.

The presidency has overawed a legislative branch that is only too willing to sign over power and responsibility. Congress has been an eager participant in its own neutering.

James Madison thought the legislature would be insatiable, steadily accumulating power. Instead, it is the least self-respecting branch, led by people who identify with the interests of presidents and their own parties

over and above the interests of their own institution.

This means that Congress is essentially cut out of the action on important questions of national policy.

Obama blocked the Keystone XL pipeline, Trump blessed it, and Biden blocked it again.

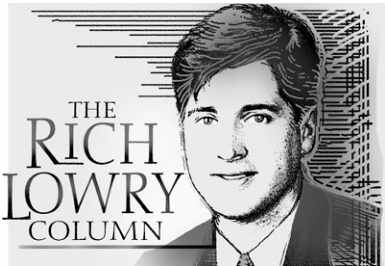
Obama took us into the Paris

climate accord, Trump took us out, and Biden is taking us back in.

Consider what Biden did on his own the other day. He directed the Interior Department to stop new oil and gas leases on federal land and to identify steps to double renewable energy production by 2030.

He created a special

presidential envoy for climate, as well as a White House Office of Domestic Climate Policy, a National Climate Task Force, a Civilian Climate Corps Initiative, an Interagency Working Group on Coal and Power Plant Communities and Economic Revitalization, a White House Environmental



Justice Interagency Council, and a White House Environmental Justice Advisory Council.

On top of this, he established a Justice Initiative to steer 40% of relevant federal investments to disadvantaged communities.

If Congress had passed a bill doing all this, it'd be considered a pretty active day. Instead, Congress stood on the sidelines... and commented.

"I'm proud that President Biden is announcing a slew of executive actions on climate," Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer tweeted.

Schumer's only complaint is that Biden isn't doing more on his own authority.

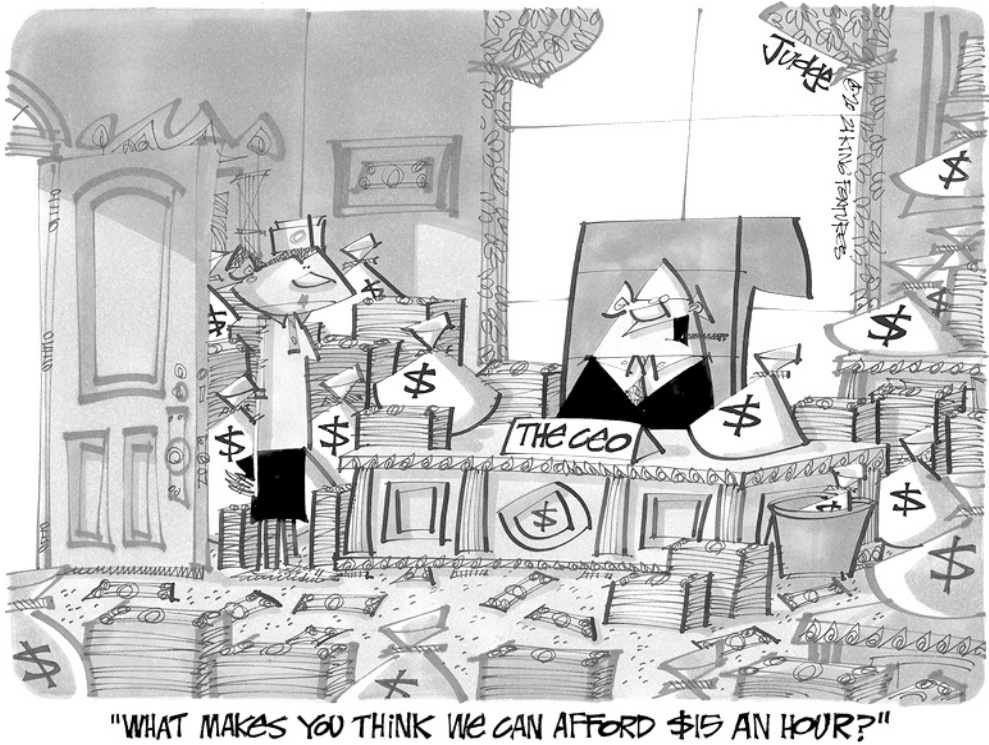
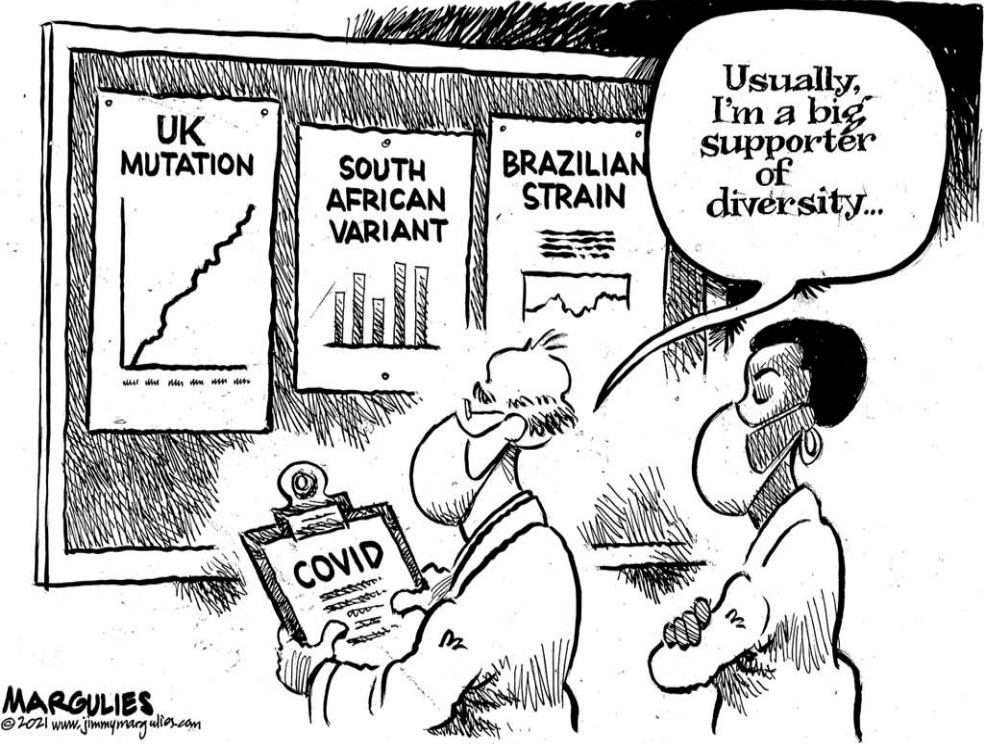
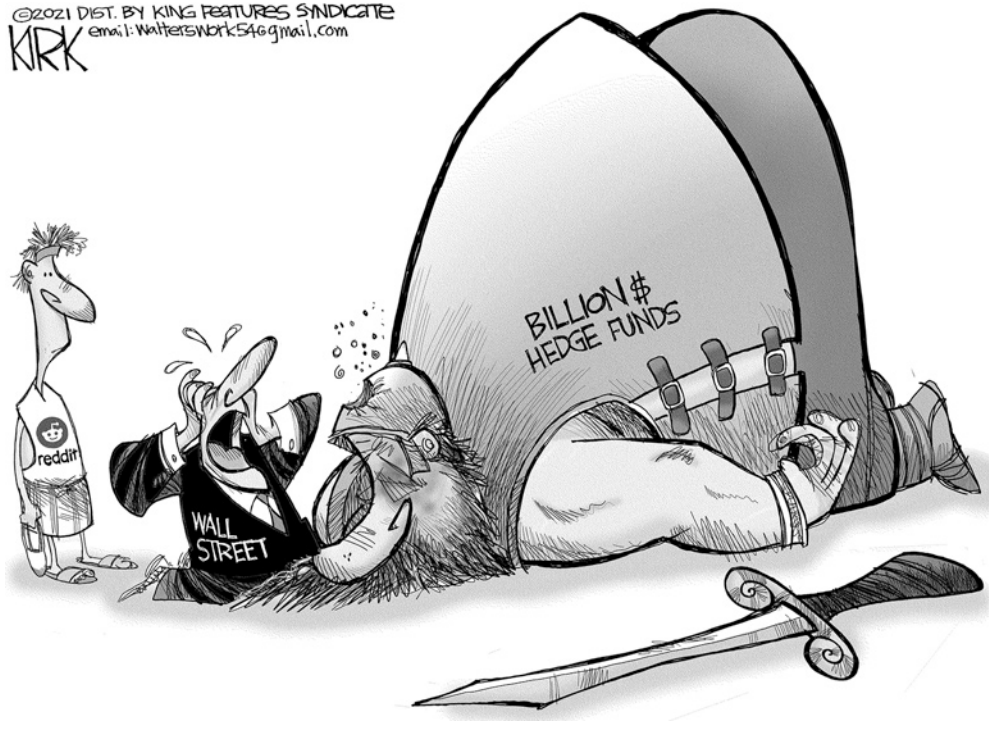
This is the same Chuck Schumer who has been a legislator since 1975 when he took a seat in the New York State Assembly, who has been in Congress since 1981 and the Senate since 1999, and who ascended to majority leader about a week ago, representing the apex of a national legislative career.

And yet Schumer has urged



HITCH

See LOWRY, Page 7





# Yeager: Trailblazer, patriot

By John Grimaldi  
*Special to the Courier*

Before there was a U.S. Space Force, there was a U.S. Air Force and before that there was the Army Air Corps and a genuine American hero by the name of Chuck Yeager. He passed away on December 7, Pearl Harbor Day, with not enough fanfare. Oh, there were news reports about his death at the age of 97, but not enough of a sendoff for someone who did what he did with his life. Perhaps it was because the COVID crisis was taking up so much of the media’s time; or maybe it was because it’s not in fashion these days to celebrate the accomplishments of daring, gallant, stout-hearted men like Brigadier General Yeager.

Charles Elwood Yeager had what author

Tom Wolfe called “The Right Stuff.” He enlisted in the U.S. Army in September of 1941 and distinguished himself right from the get-go.

Private Yeager was assigned to what was then called the Army Air Corps. In 1943 he received his commission as a reserve flight officer and was assigned as a fighter pilot in the Eighth Air Force stationed in England. It was the height of World War II and in the ensuing years he flew 64 missions over Europe, shooting down no less than 13 enemy aircraft. It was reported that five of those dog fights took place in one day and, in the end, he even downed a Nazi jet fighter, one of the first of its kind on either side of the hostilities.

Yeager was, himself, shot down over enemy territory and with the help of partisans along the way made a perilous four-month trek to

neutral Spain.

After the war he became a test pilot at what is now Edwards Air Force Base in California in the newly formed U.S. Air Force and performed what was arguably the single most important feat of the space age. He became the first pilot to break the sound barrier in an experimental rocket plane designated as the X-1 but which he renamed Glamorous Glennis, for his wife who passed away in 1990.

His rocket plane was attached to the bomb bay of a B-29 and lifted to an altitude of 25,000 feet and released. Yeager took the X-1 up to an altitude of 40,000 feet and accelerated to a speed of 662 miles per hour, well past the sound barrier at that height.

Jim Bridenstine, NASA Administrator, called Yeager’s death “a tremendous loss to our nation.” He remarked that “Yeager’s pioneering and innovative spirit advanced

See YEAGER, Page 6

## Anthony Independent School District Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balance Governmental Funds For the Year Ended August 31, 2020

Data Control Codes		General Fund	Other Funds	Total Governmental Funds
REVENUES:				
5700	Total Local and Intermediate Sources	\$ 2,015,931	\$ 403,682	\$ 2,419,613
5800	State Program Revenues	7,766,224	358,613	8,124,837
5900	Federal Program Revenues	865,893	1,101,624	1,967,517
5020	Total Revenues	10,648,048	1,863,919	12,511,967
EXPENDITURES:				
Current:				
0011	Instruction	5,288,985	653,886	5,942,871
0012	Instructional Resources and Media Services	166,602	3,432	170,034
0013	Curriculum and Instructional Staff Development	117,734	39,415	157,149
0021	Instructional Leadership	167,852	30,800	198,652
0023	School Leadership	576,790	33,094	609,884
0031	Guidance, Counseling and Evaluation Services	224,985	78,171	303,156
0033	Health Services	134,275	7,670	141,945
0034	Student (Pupil) Transportation	204,288	979	205,267
0035	Food Services	686,835	204,333	891,168
0036	Extracurricular Activities	436,424	6,365	442,789
0041	General Administration	719,569	850	720,419
0051	Facilities Maintenance and Operations	978,871	22,820	1,001,691
0052	Security and Monitoring Services	330,551	25,000	355,551
0053	Data Processing Services	678,829	11,230	690,059
0061	Community Services	169	39,312	39,481
Debt Service:				
0071	Principal on Long Term Debt	—	325,000	325,000
0072	Interest on Long Term Debt	—	149,675	149,675
Capital Outlay:				
0081	Facilities Acquisition and Construction	—	99,292	99,292
Intergovernmental:				
0099	Other Intergovernmental Charges	25,784	—	25,784
6030	Total Expenditures	10,738,543	1,731,324	12,469,867
1200	Net Change in Fund Balances	(90,495)	132,595	42,100
0100	Fund Balance – September 1 (Beginning)	4,081,552	279,225	4,360,777
1300	Prior Period Adjustment	—	29,182	29,182
3000	Fund Balance – August 31 (Ending)	\$ 3,991,057	\$ 441,002	\$ 4,432,059



By Lucie Winborne

• The most leaves ever found on a clover is 56.

• In 2012, General Mills sent professional basketball player Jeremy Lin a special jersey made entirely out of Fruit Roll-Ups after he tweeted about his love for the snack.

• The southern polar region of Enceladus, one of Saturn’s moons, contains cryovolcanoes, an exotic type of geyser that spews ice instead of magma.

• Aluminum is infinitely recyclable, with nearly 75% of all aluminum ever produced still in use today.

• The first footprints on the moon will remain there for a million years.

• The world’s largest recorded snowflake measured 15 inches wide and 8 inches thick.

• Similar to how human babies suck their thumbs for comfort, baby elephants suck on their trunks.

• In the Middle Ages, a man’s wealth was measured by his stockpile of pepper.

• A 639-year performance by an automated organ, based on avant-garde composer John Cage’s “As Slow as Possible,” started in September 2001 and is still running at St. Buchard Church in Germany. Progressing so slowly that visitors have to wait months for a chord change, it is scheduled to conclude in 2640.

• Apollo 11 astronaut Buzz Aldrin brought a chalice, bread and wine to the moon to take communion.

Thought for the Day: “Yet I had rather be remembered as those brave beginners are, though many of them missed the triumph, than as the latecomers will be, who only beat the drums and wave the banners when the victory is won.”

– Louisa May Alcott

(c) 2021 King Features Synd., Inc.

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

			A					
			S	A	F	E		
			K		A			
R	A	W	E	S	T			
A		A	W	E				
T	O	G		C		A		
I		E	N	R	A	G	E	
O				E		E		
				T	U	D	O	R


S	M	E	R	I	C	A	S		I	M	P	E	A	C	H		V	E	R	A								
S	A	L	A	D	O	I	L		G	R	A	N	U	L	E		O	V	E	N								
T	H	E	R	O	L	L	I	N	G	S	T	E	N	O	S		W	E	V	E								
R	E	C	A	L	L		P	A	Y		T	A	S	S		R	I	M										
A	R	T				E	L	S	E		S	T	R	I	K	E	A	P	E	S								
						C	O	C	A		D	I	O	D	E		S	I	T	I	N							
						L	E	A	R	N		T	H	E	R	E	P	O	S		M	U	S	E	T	T	E	
						E	L	L	I	S		R	E	I	N		V	I	G	O	R							
						W	E	B	B	E	R		R	O	S	T	E	R	I	N	G	O	R	D	E	R		
						C	U	S	T	E	R					E	R	V	I	N		N	E	E	D	E		
						A	T	M				D	O	M	E		V	E	R	S	I	O	N		T	I	E	
						C	R	I	S	P		T	A	C	I	T					W	I	C	K	E	T		
						T	O	N	E	R	S	A	X	O	P	H	O	N	E		N	A	R	N	I	A		
						C	O	A	T	I						M	U	S	S		R	A	T	O	N			
						G	A	V	O	T	T	E				N	O	P	A	S	S	I	N	G	Z	E	N	O
						I	N	A	N	E						O	C	H	E	R		B	U	O	Y			
						F	I	N	D	I	N	G	N	O	M	E		F	I	S	T		S	T	P			
						T	S	E				N	O	U	S		I	R	K		T	I	N	E	A	R		
						I	T	S	Y			V	E	T	O	O	F	C	O	N	F	I	D	E	N	C	E	
						N	O	S	E			A	S	A	R	U	L	E		O	B	E	L	I	S	K	S	
						G	N	A	W			S	T	R	A	T	U	S		W	I	R	E	L	E	S	S	

## CryptoQuip Answer

Tw

hen some very valuable item gets shattered, I take it you’d have breaking news.

3	×	5	+	7	22
×		×		÷	
8	×	4	+	1	33
+		−		+	
4	×	2	+	9	17
28		18		16	



# Moments in time

THE HISTORY CHANNEL

- On Feb. 8, 1983, gunmen steal champion Irish racehorse Shergar in County Kildare, Ireland. The 5-year-old thoroughbred stallion was worth \$13.5 million. A \$2 million ransom demand was never paid, and Shergar was never seen again.
- On Feb. 9, 1964, America meets the Beatles on “The Ed Sullivan Show,” with an estimated 73 million Americans watching as the group made its live U.S. television debut. When they sang “She Loves You,” the audience exploded in what was perhaps the most important 2 minutes and 16 seconds of music ever broadcast on American television.
- On Feb. 10, 1846, Brigham Young leaves Nauvoo, Illinois, and begins leading 1,600 Mormons west across the frozen Mississippi to a temporary refuge at Sugar Grove, Iowa. It was their first stop in a westward migration that eventually brought 12,000 of them to the Great Salt Lake in Utah.
- On Feb. 11, 1937, after a six-week sit-down strike by General Motors autoworkers in Flint, Michigan, GM president Alfred P. Sloan signs the first union contract in the history of the American auto industry.
- On Feb. 12, 1912, Hsian-T'ung, the last emperor of China, is forced to abdicate. A provisional government was established, ending 267 years of Manchu rule in China and 2,000 years of imperial rule. The emperor was only 6 years old.
- On Feb. 13, 1920, The League of Nations, the international organization formed at the peace conference at Versailles in the wake of World War I, recognizes the perpetual neutrality of Switzerland.
- On Feb. 14, 278 A.D., Valentine, a holy priest in Rome, is executed. Ruler Claudius the Cruel was having difficulty getting soldiers to join his military because of their strong attachment to their wives, and had banned marriages. Valentine continued to perform marriages in secret and was beheaded for it.

(c) 2021 Hearst Communications, Inc. All Rights Reserved.

Send Your  
Newsbrief To:  
wtxcc@wtxcc.com

## SISD

From Page 1

Hernando III Middle School, on Twitter. “It is a great day to be a Cavalier!”

They also eagerly congratulated their school communities.

“Congratulations to all our Bulldog community, your #HeartandHustle made it happen!” said Mauro Guerrero, principal of Socorro Middle School, in a Twitter post.

As Texas Schools to Watch, the campuses have demonstrated academic growth and achievement, and that they are ensuring students have access to challenging, high-quality education. Schools are recognized for a three-year period, and at the end of the three years, they must demonstrate progress on specific goals to be re-designated, according to the Texas Schools to Watch press release.

The national Schools to Watch program

requires schools to identify strengths and focus on areas of continuous improvement.

The designation shows that the schools are excelling at various levels in meeting students’ needs to excel with rigorous and relevant education.

Lisa Estrada-Batson, principal of Col. John O. Ensor Middle Schools, was happy to announce her school’s success.

“Congratulations to our entire @Ensor\_MS Learning community who helped make us one of the top middle schools in TX! #ProudPrincipal #TeamSISD,” she said in her social media post.

William D. Slider principal Brandon Rios shared the good news on Twitter, as well.

“Slider Middle School joins

approximately 50 other campuses across Texas with this distinction and honor. #StallionsLeadTheWay,” Rios said.

The Schools to Watch selection process is based on a written application that requires schools to show how they meet the criteria developed by the National Forum to Accelerate Middle Grades Reform, according to the press release. Schools that appeared to meet the criteria were then visited by state teams, which observed classrooms, interviewed administrators, teachers, students, and parents, and looked at achievement data, suspension rates, quality of lessons, and student work.

Visit [www.middlegradesforum.org](http://www.middlegradesforum.org) to learn more about the program.

To Advertise Call 852-3235  
Archives: [www.wtxcc.com](http://www.wtxcc.com)

### Socorro Independent School District Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balance Governmental Funds For the Year Ended June 30, 2020

Data Control Codes	General Fund	Debt Service Fund	Capital Projects 2018-2020	Other Funds	Total Governmental Funds
REVENUES:					
5700 Total Local and Intermediate Sources	\$ 106,505,814	\$ 43,551,166	\$ 5,674,101	\$ 2,425,019	\$ 158,156,100
5800 State Program Revenues	310,163,273	19,020,963	–	6,949,915	336,134,151
5900 Federal Program Revenues	5,648,694	–	–	49,566,554	55,215,248
5020 Total Revenues	422,317,781	62,572,129	5,674,101	58,941,488	549,505,499
EXPENDITURES:					
Current:					
0011 Instruction	251,973,838	–	595,643	20,949,575	273,519,056
0012 Instructional Resources and Media Services	6,033,653	–	47,866	276,295	6,357,814
0013 Curriculum and Instructional Staff Development	2,489,779	–	–	3,166,809	5,656,588
0021 Instructional Leadership	5,186,218	–	–	1,359,212	6,545,430
0023 School Leadership	27,806,592	–	82,738	10,903	27,900,233
0031 Guidance, Counseling and Evaluation Services	11,628,498	–	19,422	3,376,344	15,024,264
0032 Social Work Services	996,017	–	–	687,500	1,683,517
0033 Health Services	5,573,834	–	22,706	201,047	5,797,587
0034 Student (Pupil) Transportation	15,313,911	–	–	–	15,313,911
0035 Food Services	–	–	–	28,285,777	28,285,777
0036 Extracurricular Activities	10,311,677	–	–	132,280	10,443,957
0041 General Administration	9,775,110	–	–	188,404	9,963,514
0051 Facilities Maintenance and Operations	42,960,578	–	–	146,274	43,106,852
0052 Security and Monitoring Services	9,553,595	–	–	5,874	9,559,469
0053 Data Processing Services	7,260,442	–	–	–	7,260,442
0061 Community Services	792,397	–	–	1,332,624	2,125,021
Debt Service:					
0071 Principal on Long Term Debt	2,308,234	20,899,966	–	–	23,208,200
0072 Interest on Long Term Debt	215,062	35,252,618	–	–	35,467,680
0073 Bond Issuance Cost and Fees	–	1,267,028	–	–	2,073,878
Capital Outlay:					
0081 Facilities Acquisition and Construction	116,005	–	68,896,528	(140,630)	68,871,903
Intergovernmental:					
0099 Other Intergovernmental Charges	1,812,229	–	–	–	1,812,229
6030 Total Expenditures	412,107,669	57,419,612	70,471,753	59,978,288	599,977,322
1100 Excess (Deficiency) of Revenues Over (Under) Expenditures	10,210,112	5,152,517	(64,797,652)	(1,036,800)	(50,471,823)
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES):					
7901 Refunding Bonds Issued	–	118,119,142	–	–	118,119,142
7911 Capital Related Debt Issued	–	–	85,540,000	–	85,540,000
7912 Sale of Real and Personal Property	–	–	1,664,367	–	1,664,367
7913 Capital Leases	3,202,425	–	–	–	3,202,425
7915 Transfers In	–	–	–	6,633,172	6,633,172
7916 Premium or Discount on Issuance of Bonds	–	23,076,376	13,766,850	–	36,843,226
8911 Transfers Out (Use)	(15,633,172)	–	–	–	(15,633,172)
8940 Payment to Bond Refunding Escrow Agent (Use)	–	(137,325,797)	–	–	(137,325,797)
7080 Total Other Financing Sources (Uses)	(12,430,747)	3,869,721	100,971,217	6,633,172	99,043,363
1200 Net Change in Fund Balances	(2,220,635)	9,022,238	36,173,565	5,596,372	48,571,540
0100 Fund Balance – July 1 (Beginning)	118,327,242	56,068,943	313,562,358	1,206,114	489,164,657
3000 Fund Balance – June 30 (Ending)	\$116,106,607	\$ 65,091,181	\$ 349,735,923	\$ 6,802,486	\$ 537,736,197



# Let the NFL quarterback merry-go-round begin

By Steve Escajeda  
*Special to the Courier*

Now that the Super Bowl has been played and the National Football League season is officially over, it may not be too early to see how differently the league will look next season.

And I’m not talking about the NFL hopefully returning to normal with covid-19 behind us; although that would be fantastic.

I’m talking about how differently many teams will look with new quarterbacks leading them.

It took everyone a while to get used to seeing Tom Brady in Tampa’s uniform, but we eventually got used to it.

We are going to have to get used to some other guys in new uniforms in 2021,

and here’s a few.

We don’t know where he’s going, but he’s on his way. The word is that the Philadelphia Eagles are very close to trading **Carson Wentz**. The big question is where will they trade him and what will they get in return?

The Eagles will also have to decide whether they saw enough positives to give backup **Jalen Hurts** the starting job.

Two teams that will look completely different are the Detroit Lions and the Los Angeles Rams. Well, at least they’ll look different at the quarterback position when former Ram **Jared Goff** starts for Detroit and former Lion **Matthew Stafford** starts for L.A.

Did the Lions take the Rams in this deal? Let’s see, Stafford is a little better than Goff, but he is 32 years old while Goff is 26. The Lions also received L.A.’s

third-round pick in 2021, and first-round picks in 2022 and 2023.

Though he hasn’t made it official yet, all the signs are pointing toward Saints quarterback **Drew Brees** retiring. And if he does, it appears that **Jameis Winston** will take over as the starter with **Taysom Hill** continuing his role as the occasional running quarterback.

The Houston Texans have made it a habit of making the playoffs in recent years mainly because of their quarterback **Deshaun Watson**. But Watson has become disillusioned with the Texans and has demanded a trade. So don’t be surprised if we have another blockbuster trade very soon. But where would Watson go? A couple placed could be Indianapolis or New England.

The Colts saw their one-year guy **Philip Rivers** retire after the season. The Colts are

a very good team and the right quarterback could get them to the next level.

The Patriots received a very disappointing season from **Cam Newton**. It’s fairly obvious that Newton isn’t even close to the quarterback he used to be. You have to believe that owner Robert Craft and coach Bill Belichick will do everything in their power to get Watson.

He isn’t a new face but something has to get done. It’s a near certainty that Jerry Jones and the Cowboys will sign **Dak Prescott** to a long-term contract, but the fact that they’ve taken so long is troubling. It’s time for the Cowboys to get back to basics and securing Prescott will certainly start the process.

The Jacksonville Jaguars will have a new look next year after taking Clemson star quarterback **Trevor Lawrence** with the first pick in this year’s draft.

The Jaguars scored only 19 points a game last season while winning only one game. Who knows how many games Jacksonville will win in 2021, but with Lawrence at the helm, you know those numbers will improve.

When the New York Jets drafted **Sam Darnold** a few years ago, they figured they had their franchise quarterback for years to come. Apparently they were wrong.

The Jets will pick second in the draft and quarterbacks like Ohio State’s Justin Fields, BYU’s Zach Wilson and Alabama’s Mac Jones are available. The Jets have a big decision to make.

There wasn’t a better story in the NFL last season than the return of quarterback **Alex Smith**. After suffering that horrendous leg injury that, because of infection, almost cost him his life.

It was uplifting to see Smith on the field, but he simply isn’t what he used to be and the “Football Team” may try to change things.

There could be a few other changes between now and this July when NFL training camps open.

Let’s hope the biggest change is no more covid.

## STAAR

From Page 1

ratings this year based on how their students perform on the exams.

The state has also allowed districts to extend the testing window for those taking the exams. “Additional testing days are optional and at the discretion of the district. However, districts should consider the potential impact

of not having the assessment data to better understand how well students have mastered knowledge and skills in various grades and subjects,” the guidance manual states.

Because annual standardized tests are required by federal law, some states like New York and Michigan, have already asked the Biden administration for a waiver this year. But Texas Education Commissioner Mike Morath stated at a recent State Board of Education meeting

that he would not seek a similar waiver.

Morath said that the data from the tests are important to gather because the information will show the extent of the educational gaps Texas students have experienced during the devastating pandemic. He cited a state study of optional exams from last spring and this fall that indicated that students may have lost more than three months of learning over the summer.

Other House Democrats supporting Rep. Allen during the press conference (which was digitally streamed) to push for cancelling the STAAR exams were: Rep. Mary González and Rep. Art Fierro, of El Paso County; Rep. John Bucy, of Williamson County; Rep. Vikki Goodwin, of Travis County; Rep. Ana Hernandez, of Harris County; and Rep. Oscar Longoria, of Cameron and Hidalgo counties.

## Yeager

From Page 4

America’s abilities in the sky and set our nation’s dreams soaring into the jet age and the space age.”

Victoria Yeager, his second wife whom he married in 2003, described her husband as “America’s greatest Pilot” who left “a legacy of strength, adventure, and patriotism.”

## Medicine

From Page 2

thousands may die needlessly of COVID for lack of early treatment, and still more will die without access to reliable, affordable energy.

*Jane M. Orient obtained 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. 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.*

## Super Crossword

**O - E VEY!**  
**ACROSS**  
1 Much of the Western Hemisphere, with "the"  
9 Accuse of misconduct in office  
16 Aloe \_  
20 Base for some dressings  
21 Tiny sand bit  
22 Kiln, for one  
23 Group of shorthand pros throwing dice?  
25 " \_ all been there"  
26 Remember  
27 Fork out  
28 Russian news agency  
30 Lip  
31 Monet works  
32 Besides that  
34 Take a hammer to one's Mexican coin?  
38 \_-Cola  
40 Part of LED  
41 '60s protest  
42 Study every method of seizing defaulters' property?  
47 Small knapsack  
49 \_ Island (immigrants' gateway, once)  
50 Pull back (in)  
51 Liveliness  
52 Andrew Lloyd \_  
54 Command to list a

team's players?  
61 "Last Stand" general  
63 Watergate senator Sam  
64 In want  
65 \$\$\$ source  
66 Particular style of rounded roof?  
71 Rail support  
72 Crackly  
75 Implied wordlessly  
76 Sticky \_ (tough spot)  
79 Jazz instrument that tightens your face when you play it?  
84 C.S. Lewis' land  
86 Tropical kin of a raccoon  
87 Rumple (up)  
89 Betray by selling out  
90 French circle dance  
93 Greek philosopher who never overtook other travelers?  
97 Vacuous  
98 Earthy shade  
99 Sea marker  
100 Locating a city in Alaska?  
103 Slugger?  
105 Fuel additive  
brand  
108 Lao-\_  
109 Entre \_  
110 Rankle

111 Inaptitude for music  
114 Teeny-tiny  
116 Rejection a president issues with no doubt whatsoever?  
121 Schnozzola  
122 Generally  
123 Tall, tapering pillars  
124 Eat away (at)  
125 Sheetlike gray cloud  
126 Requiring no cables  
**DOWN**  
1 "Ad \_ per aspera"  
2 HBO host Bill  
3 Pick by ballot  
4 \_ avis  
5 Shrine figure  
6 Amass  
7 Feel malaise  
8 Missteps  
9 Rapper \_ Azalea  
10 Wife's title  
11 Butter slice  
12 Suffix with benz-  
13 Mommy or Daddy's sis  
14 Loose coat  
15 Novelist Hermann  
16 Promise  
17 Actor Sloane  
18 Drop in again  
19 Flowerlike sea polyp  
24 Scot's denial

29 Vidal of hair care  
33 Bert who played a lion  
34 Drink a bit of  
35 Besides that  
36 Ave. crossers  
37 Trudeau of Canada  
38 Baby beds  
39 Beginning  
40 Lairs  
42 Ayres of "Holiday"  
43 Prefix with acoustics  
44 74-Down in egg whites  
45 Poetic "always"  
46 \_ de Janeiro  
47 Small, silver fish  
48 Sheepskin boot brand  
51 X minus two  
53 Like blood  
55 Choppers  
56 Go wrong  
57 Campers, for short  
58 Warming in hostilities  
59 Particular issue  
60 Bagel variety  
62 Go in circles  
65 Perform  
67 Long skirt  
68 "Green" prefix  
69 CEO or prez  
70 Diary author Anaïs  
73 Part of ESL  
74 Product of amino acids

77 Freightage  
78 Word before Kat or Glue  
80 Coll. entry exam  
81 Baseball's Vizquel  
82 Preceders of xis  
83 Preceder of tee  
85 Year, in 46-Down  
88 Brothers, e.g.  
90 Donating  
91 Jennifer of "Friends"  
92 Redgrave of "Atonement"  
93 Cpl., for one  
94 Resistance unit  
95 \_-wee Herman  
96 More wacky  
98 GM security system  
101 Cosmic bursts  
102 Party invitee  
103 To and \_  
104 "No kidding!"  
105 Smarts  
106 Carpet nails  
107 Paper printer  
110 Cold treats  
112 Inactive  
113 Musician Tennant  
115 Hedge shrub  
117 "... boy \_ girl?"  
118 Umpire's cry  
119 Winter worry  
120 DOJ division

Answer Page 4

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8		9	10	11	12	13	14	15		16	17	18	19
20									21								22			
23									24								25			
26									27				28			29		30		
31						32	33			34	35	36					37			
				38	39				40							41				
42	43	44						45	46					47	48					
49							50						51							
52						53		54			55	56	57					58	59	60
	61						62			63						64				
65					66		67	68	69						70			71		
72				73	74		75							76		77	78			
79							80					81	82	83		84				85
				86								87			88		89			
90	91	92						93	94	95					96					
97							98						99							
100						101	102						103	104				105	106	107
108					109							110				111	112	113		
114				115		116			117	118	119				120					
121						122								123						
124						125								126						



Comix

OUT ON A LIMB By Gary Kopervas



AMBER WAVES By Dave T. Phipps



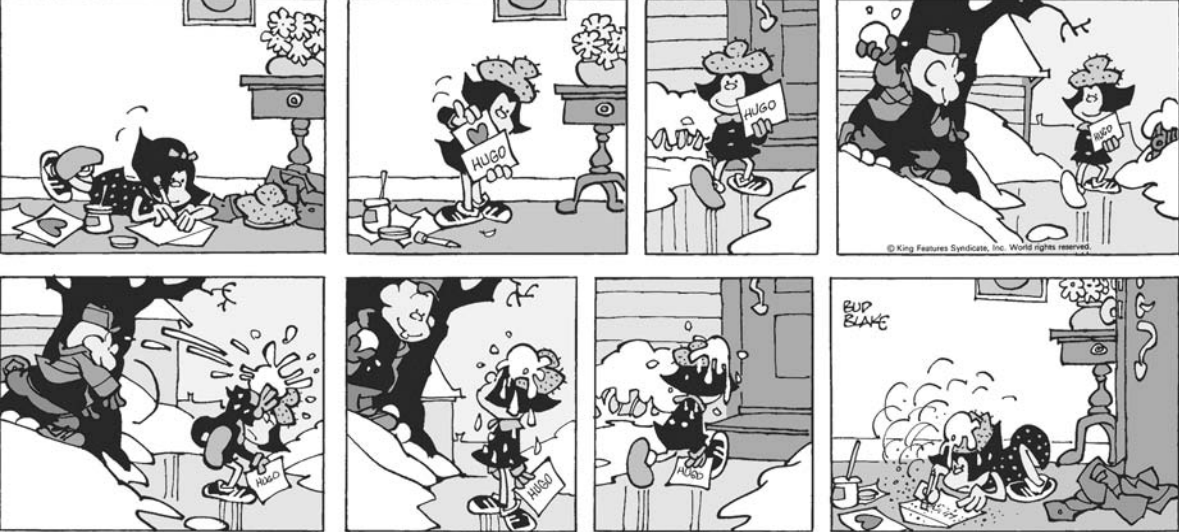
THE SPATS By Jeff Pickering



R.F.D. By Mike Marland



TIGER By Bud Blake



Lowry

From Page 3

Biden to declare a national climate emergency because it would allow him to do things “without legislation.”

This would be like Chief Justice John Roberts giving Biden advice on how to pack

the Supreme Court – except it’s unimaginable that a Supreme Court justice would be so openly disdainful of the legitimacy and prerogatives of his or her own institution.

This is a particular congressional disease. As Yuval Levin of the American Enterprise Institute wrote in an essay for *Commentary* magazine,

Congress has been delegating its authority to the executive branch for some time. What’s new is that partisanship has created a loyalty for members of Congress that transcends their attachment to Congress itself, while more and more members consider their office merely a platform to get attention.

“Congress is weak and

No cure, just treatment for rare skin disorder

DEAR DR. ROACH: My girlfriend has necrobiosis lipoidica. She suffers from this on her shins, as did her mother. She is not diabetic. We cannot find good information on how to rid her of this. The information we find is not about cures, but treatments that mask the symptom, such as steroids. We cannot even find a doctor that specifically treats this condition. Can you help? – M.B.



Periodically I get letters referencing a condition like this one that I know absolutely nothing about. Fortunately, I have the time to do a lot of reading, and I talked to several people with the condition. Here is what I found.

Necrobiosis lipoidica is a rare skin disorder, usually but not always associated with diabetes. It occurs mostly in young adults (the average is 25 years old when associated with diabetes, 46 years if not), and is more common in women. It may also be associated with thyroid disorders and celiac disease. The cause is unknown.

The diagnosis is made by skin biopsy. The appearance is usually of a large, variably colored and elevated patch of skin, most commonly on the shins, as your girlfriend’s is, but it can spread to other parts of the body, especially skin that has been scraped or damaged. Because necrobiosis lipoidica can occasionally transform to skin cancer, it needs careful surveillance.

There is no cure for necrobiosis lipoidica. However, there are treatments that can reduce the inflammation. Steroids, either topical or injected, are the usual first choice. Topical steroids are more effective if they are given as ointment and covered with an air- and water-tight dressing. If topical steroids are not as effective, there are many other therapies that have been tried, including: the medication tacrolimus, which decreases the immune response; ultraviolet light A; antimalarial drugs (also used for autoimmune diseases); and others. The disease normally progresses slowly, then stabilizes, but it can spontaneously resolve in some people.

Necrobiosis lipoidica may also ulcerate, at which point a wound care specialist may be of tremendous value.

It may not be easy to find an expert dermatologist for this condition. I would start with a support group, as you can get expertise from others who have been living with this condition. I found one large group on Facebook. I read some tips on makeup and temporary tattoos for cosmetic improvement.

I found two clinical trials recruiting subjects, one in Boston and one in Pennsylvania. You can find clinical trial information at [clinicaltrials.gov](https://clinicaltrials.gov). More good information is available at <https://tinyurl.com/NLskin>.

DEAR DR. ROACH: My granddaughter, age 21, suddenly developed a nut allergy while away at college, when she had grown up eating every type of nut there is. She had such a reaction that she had to be taken to the emergency room, tested and was given an EpiPen, which she will have to carry with her everywhere. Is this a common occurrence? Is it possible that she can grow out of this in the future? – V.P.

Although food allergies most often start in adulthood, they may develop at any time of life. Peanuts and tree nuts are among the most common food allergies that develop in adults. Outgrowing a peanut allergy is uncommon, but when it does happen, it usually happens at a young age. I would not expect her to grow out of it.

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](mailto:ToYourGoodHealth@med.cornell.edu). (c) 2021 North America Synd., Inc. All Rights Reserved.

dysfunctional because that suits by the pen and phone.

its members,” Levin writes. “It could renew itself only if its members wanted such renewal.”

All indications are that, no, it is perfectly content to be supplanted

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





**Moore Texas** by Roger MOORE  
Feb. 12, 1888: James Smathers is born near Valley Springs. In 1912 he patents the electric typewriter.

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: S equals T

ZMJK QVIJ UJBC

UFREFWRJ HSJI AJSQ

QMFSSJBJO, H SFPJ HS

CVE'O MFUJ WBJFPHKA KJZQ.

Answer Page 4

©2021 King Features Synd., Inc.

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

© 2021 King Features Synd., Inc.

Get the VA welcome kit



by Freddy Groves

It doesn't matter if you've been out for years or are just now separating from the service, the Department of Veterans Affairs has a gift for you: the VA Welcome Kit. It's something every veteran needs to have on hand for current information you need now or things that can come up over the years.

It's all about your VA benefits and the services it offers for the veteran, families, survivors and caregivers. Each kit has over a dozen quick-start guides for a wide array of topics, including health services for women, accessing urgent care, mental health services, getting caregiver benefits, home loans, explanation of disability ratings, applying for burial in a VA cemetery and getting educational benefits. They give step-by-step instructions, as well as

listing the documents you'll need, links to specific web pages (put your cursor on one and click), telephone numbers and departments within the VA system.

Getting one of the kits is easy: Just download it (www.va.gov/welcome-kit) as a .pdf file either in black and white or color. If you only want one specific guide, scroll down the page and pick your topic. Further down are links to other topics such as housing assistance, careers, life insurance, pension and more.

I give this kit an A grade. The VA put a lot of thought into it, and it's well done. Take a look. So far there have been over 1 million downloads. Suggestion: Print it out (42 pages) and put it in a folder so it's handy.

As a final note: Are you still doing the full minute hand washing? Never mind the 20 second wash, go for the full minute. Keep your nails short and scrubbed. Wash often. It doesn't matter that the vaccine is now being given. Don't slack off. For a long time we'll still need to do the distancing

and mask wearing... and hand washing.

(c) 2021 King Features Synd., Inc.



• "If you have a bunch of picture frames that don't match or ones that are nicked or have small cosmetic damages, just paint them. Choose a matching color for all, and you have a collection." – T.L. in Florida

• Kitchen tip: You can slice mushrooms in an egg slicer.

• If your sneakers are smelly, try this: Stick a sheet of fabric softener in each one. Let them set overnight, and most of them time, the smell will be gone by morning. Of course, you should rotate your tennies to help them "breathe," since wearing your shoes day after day can foster bacteria growth – meaning your sneaks will be really stinky.

• "To get sheets and towels to dry faster, try adding a tennis ball to the dryer. It bounces around inside while the cycle is going, and breaks up large items that tend to crumple into a ball." – C.L. in Illinois

• When you get near the end of a roll of paper towels, save it to put in your car. Pull together a kit to keep in the car with the following items: a small bottle of glass cleaner, a squeeze bottle of water, some wet wipes and the short roll of paper towels. You will always be ready for a quick on-the-road cleanup.

• The kitchen and the bathroom are the worst places in the house to store medicines and vitamins. Humidity and heat can damage the properties of the compounds.

• This is a wonderful tip received via e-mail: If you have a panic button for your car alarm, keep your keys by the bedside. If you experience a problem during the night, trip the panic alarm. Let your trusted neighbors know about your intention, and they will be able to assist you.

Send your tips to Now Here's a Tip, 628 Virginia Drive, Orlando, FL 32803. (c) 2021 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

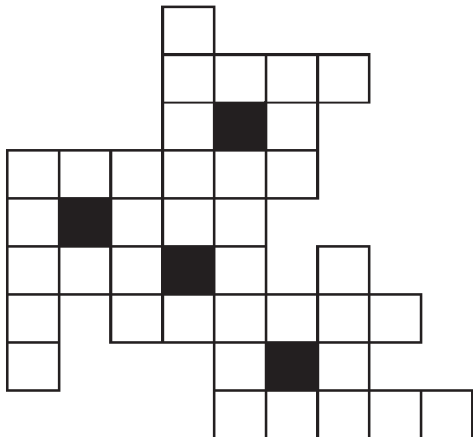
	×		+		22
×		×		÷	
	×		+		33
+		-		+	
	×		+		17
28		18		16	

1 2 3 4 4 5 7 8 9

©2021 King Features Syndicate, Inc.



- AEW
- ♥ARGEEN
- DROUT
- FEAS
- ♥ASTWER
- ♥OGT
- ADGE
- ♥KAWSE
- ♥TAF
- ♥ECSTER
- AROTI
- GWEA



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.

©2021 King Features Syndicate. All rights reserved.