

1973  
48  
Years  
2021

# WEST TEXAS COUNTY COURIER



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

MARCH 25, 2021

## NEWSBRIEFS

### Doctors

With National Doctors' Day on March 30 and physicians working to combat the COVID-19 pandemic and administer vaccines, the personal-finance website WalletHub has released its report on *2021's Best & Worst States for Doctors*, as well as accompanying videos. To identify the best states for those in the business of saving lives, WalletHub compared the 50 states and the District of Columbia across 19 key metrics. The data set ranges from the average annual wage of physicians to hospitals per capita to the quality of the public hospital system. Texas was rated 24th in the report. Stats for practicing in Texas (1-Best, 25-Avg.):

- 30th – Avg. Annual Wage of Physicians (Adjusted for Cost of Living);
- 12th – Avg. Monthly Starting Salary of Physicians (Adjusted for Cost of Living);
- 29th – Hospitals per Capita;
- 51st – Insured Population Rate;
- 48th – Projected Percent of Population Aged 65 & Older by 2030;
- 18th – Projected Physicians per Capita by 2028;
- 20th – Punitiveness of State Medical Board;
- 1st – Malpractice Award Payout Amount per Capita; and
- 11th – Annual Malpractice Liability Insurance Rate.

Visit <https://wallethub.com/edu/best-and-worst-states-for-doctors/11376> for the full report.

– Diana Polk

### The dog faked it

Russell Jones who lives in London was concerned when he noticed his dog was walking with one of its front paws raised so he took his pet to the vet for a checkup. It cost him the equivalent of \$400 but the dog doctor could find nothing wrong with the pooch's leg. It turned out that Jones, himself, had a broken ankle and that his dog was actually mimicking his limp.

– John Grimaldi

### Conscientious thief

A Beaverton, OR mom left her car running as she stepped into a local store and, sure enough, a car thief

See BRIEFS, Page 6

*Americans are endowed with certain inalienable rights, but if we're not careful somebody will come along and un-endow them.*

— Quips & Quotes



– Photos by Alfredo Vasquez

**ON THE ROAD AGAIN** – The University Medical Center of El Paso (UMC) mobile clinic has been going to El Paso County communities and nursing homes that are in the outlying areas of the El Paso city limits. The UMC mobile unit, above, was recently at Canutillo Northwest Health Center that is situated in the Lone Star building adjacent to the Canutillo Elementary School campus in the Canutillo Independent School District.

## UMC mobile clinic delivers vaccine to people in rural communities

By Alfredo Vasquez  
Special to the Courier

EL PASO COUNTY – The University Medical Center of El Paso (UMC) has been sending out its mobile clinic unit to communities in the outlying areas of El Paso's city limits for about a month now in an effort to bring the COVID-19 vaccine to anxious residents living in these rural neighborhoods and in nursing homes located throughout the region.

With a staff of about 13 medical professionals, the mobile clinic has been moving from one location to another, Monday through Friday, to administer the vaccine shots to individuals who

previously made appointments and to register individuals who have not yet gotten their place in line and are eligible.

The number of shots administered on a given day depends on the amount of vaccines on-hand and the location that is being served on that day, according to one of the UMC mobile unit workers. Up to 120 shots may be administered on some days, the worker stated.

The mobile clinic was in El Paso County's upper valley recently at the Canutillo Northwest Health Center, which is situated in the Lone Star building adjacent to the Canutillo Elementary School campus in the Canutillo Independent School District.

Beginning in the early morning hours,

mostly elderly residents waited their turn to enter the building as they steadily made their way to the first station, which placed them in a hallway lobby with chairs socially distanced. There, they were asked to fill-out a set of paperwork that elicited demographic, insurance, and medical history information from the individuals.

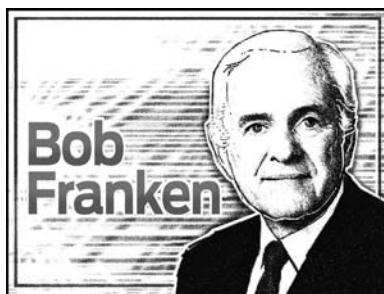
UMC staff patiently assisted anyone who needed help filling out the forms. The vaccine shots are free.

Once the paperwork was completed, after a wait of about five minutes, each individual was called into the second station, a separate room where a medical staff member administered the Pfizer-

See VACCINE, Page 4



**STEP RIGHT UP** – Upper Valley residents recently lined up outside the Canutillo Northwest Health Center to wait for their turn to receive the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine. As of March 20, over 127,000 El Paso County residents have tested positive for COVID-19, with more than 2,320 individuals dying from complications of the virus.



## Presidential cliches

called, cleverly enough, the American Rescue Plan, with almost no Republican support.

Expect a nonstop victory lap. In fact, it has already started. The legislation became law a day early when the legal scutwork went faster than expected, so President Biden signed it right away. "We want to move as fast as possible," said chief of staff Ron Klain.

Then it was on to the nationwide TV speech in prime time. Was it gloating when he promised to have enough vaccine available for every arm in America by May 1? Not IN everybody's arm, that will take a lot of time. But still, by July 4 we should be on our way, said the president, to "not only mark our independence as a nation, but we begin to mark our independence from this virus." The keyword here is "begin."

That was not to say that they skipped the White House celebration with every Democrat in the world present. That may

be a slight exaggeration, but the way it laid out, after the bill was signed, it got not one, not two, but three televised news

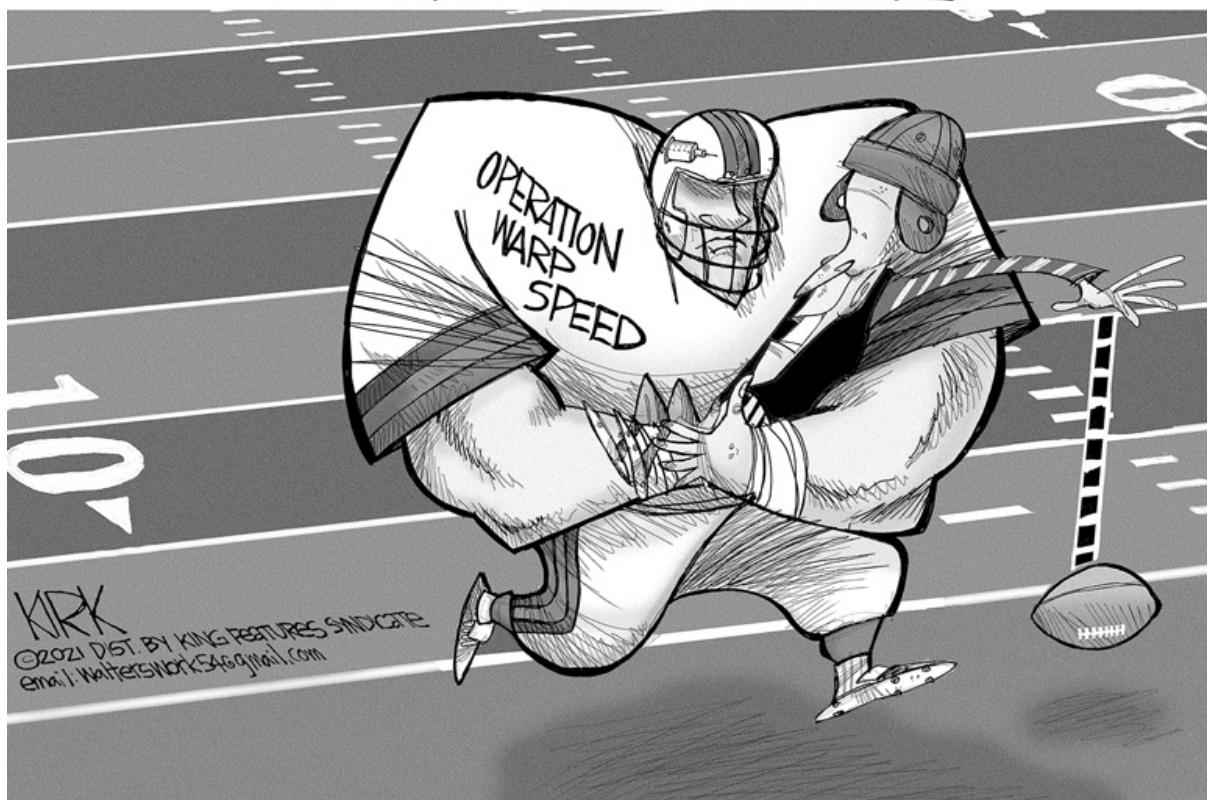
hits. That was not counting the Sunday talk shows and, the following week, a bunch of as many photogenic events across the country as President Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris can cram in before people

get tired of hearing about COVID relief.

Lost in all this is the fact that the key vaccines to all this had been developed under a remarkable

See FRANKEN, Page 7

### BIDEN SPIKES THE BALL



### Food for thought By John Grimaldi

## Hear ye all seniors: Get your hearing checked out

Too many older Americans – most of us, in fact – suffer from hearing loss. But the worst thing about this fact is that most seniors are not getting their hearing checked on any regular basis, and too many doctors are not encouraging their older patients to get their hearing checked, according to the Association of Mature American Citizens (AMAC).

Rebecca Weber, CEO of the Association of Mature American Citizens, says that as you might expect some 50% of seniors over the age of 75 have hearing loss. And, she notes, about one-third of those

older adults 65 to 70 years of age can't hear as well as they did when they were younger.

The National Institute on Deafness describes hearing loss as "a sudden or gradual decrease in how well you can hear. It is one of the most common conditions affecting older and elderly adults. Having trouble hearing can make it hard to understand and follow a doctor's advice, to respond to warnings, and to hear doorbells and alarms. It can also make it hard to enjoy talking with friends and family. All of this can be frustrating,

embarrassing, and even dangerous."

According to a study reported by Newsmax recently, "A national survey of more than 2,000 adults, aged 50 to 80, found that 80% said their primary care doctor hadn't asked about their hearing in the past two years. Nearly as many said they haven't had their hearing checked by a professional over the same time period."

Dr. Michael McKee headed up the study conducted by the University of Michigan's Institute for Healthcare Policy and Innovation. It found that "Hearing loss can occur throughout life, but the risk rises with age as our ears lose function. Many people don't realize they've lost hearing ability unless they're screened or tested."

McKee warns that "Age-related hearing loss can have wide-ranging consequences, and can be addressed with assistive technologies, yet these

data show a major gap in detection, and disparities between groups."

AMAC's Weber is recommending that seniors citizens have their hearing checked out even if they are not experiencing obvious signs of loss. "It's a good thing to find out as soon and as often as need be that your hearing is what it should be at your specific age."

The Healthy Hearing Website recommends that "Generally, people 60 and older should have a baseline hearing test and get rechecked every few years. (We say "generally" because medical organizations disagree on exactly when an older adult with no symptoms should have their first hearing test, and how often they should get rechecked.) This is to rule out age-related hearing loss."

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

# WEST TEXAS COUNTY COURIER

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# EL PASO COUNTY HOUSING AUTHORITY

## Public Notice

El Paso County Housing Authority will be accepting applications for Low Income Public Housing (LIPH), located in Fabens for 1, 2, 3 & 4-bedroom units

(Only 12 applications available for 1 & 2-bedroom units)

Must come in-person to apply, ONLY on:

Thursday, April 1, 2021  
8:30 A.M. to 12 P.M. (noon)  
1101 Yann Road  
Fabens, TX 79838

*(As a precaution, face coverings are required for everyone's safety.)*

FOR INFORMATION ONLY,  
call the office at (915) 764-3559.  
EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

WTCC: 03-25-21

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

[www.texaslung.org](http://www.texaslung.org)

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# COVID Relief Bill: Bad policy, bad faith

Joe Biden has signed what may well end up being the biggest accomplishment of his presidency, an enormous \$1.9 trillion COVID relief bill.

With his other priorities likely to molder in the Senate, the spending will probably stand as a signature statement of Biden's approach to governance – and it should be a damning one.

The legislation is a misnomer; it is neither a COVID nor a relief bill. Only a tiny portion of the spending in the bill goes toward vaccinations and other priorities directly related to the pandemic.

Much of the rest of the spending is not well-suited, or even designed, to respond to current economic conditions, which are increasingly favorable.

Democrats are telling themselves that it's like 1933, when we were in the midst of a depression, whereas it's more like 1983, when we were coming out of a punishing recession.

Or to put it another way, the Biden bill is reacting to the wrong spring. It is no longer the cataclysmic spring of 2020, with the economy shuttered and nothing to fight the virus except social distancing and masks, but the much more hopeful spring of 2021, with the economy opening back up, COVID cases steeply

declining and vaccinations ramping up massively.

Jobless claims have decreased, and personal incomes are higher than when the pandemic started. Both the Congressional Budget Office and Goldman Sachs are projecting rapid economic growth in 2021. As states open back up, nearly 20% of the U.S. population has received at least one vaccination shot.

This isn't to say that all is well. There is an estimated \$420 billion hole in the economy, although, as even center-left critics of the bill have noted, you don't need a \$1.9 trillion bill to fill it.

The latest bout of spending is spread around willy-nilly on Democratic priorities and constituencies.

Take public education, where Democratic-allied teacher unions dominate. It's not clear why any additional spending is necessary, given that tens of billions of education funding from prior COVID relief bills are still unspent, even as many districts have already begun to reopen for in-person instruction.

Nonetheless, the bill spends roughly another \$130 billion on K-12 education, which will be spread out over years. The CBO projects more spending for elementary and secondary

education will occur in fiscal year 2026 than this fiscal year.

The \$350 billion in aid to states and localities comes despite state and local tax revenue being down only a tick through much of 2020 compared with the year before. According to widely cited Moody's economist Mark Zandi, the state and local funding gap will be roughly \$60 billion through fiscal 2022. Still, states and localities will be showered with money, after more than \$500 billion in aid to states and

localities last year.

The bill spends \$86 billion bailing out union-negotiated multi-employer pension plans.

Transportation gets tens of billions of new spending, which by its nature doesn't happen quickly, and more than \$30 billion goes to expanding Obamacare, a long-term Democratic policy goal.

It's doubtful that the checks of \$1,400 to individuals are necessary; it is more supply – i.e., businesses being closed or



THE  
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COLUMN

supply chains disrupted – than demand that is hampering the economy now.

The continued elevated unemployment payments make unemployment more lucrative than employment for many people, and will discourage a return to work at the margins.

For all that, the bill is popular. From where Biden sits, why not spend as much as possible under the rubric of "COVID relief"? To paraphrase Rahm Emanuel, a pandemic is a terrible thing to waste.

Assuming the bill doesn't cause some disastrous unintended consequence, it will allow Biden to take credit for a roaring economic recovery that is already building.

This might be shrewd politics, but it is not evidence-based or bipartisan governance. It's getting while the getting is good, and assuming that no one will notice.

## Where's The Relief?



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







## Moments in time

THE HISTORY CHANNEL

• On March 22, 1947, President Harry Truman establishes a sweeping loyalty investigation of federal employees in response to public fears of communism in the U.S. Congress had already launched investigations of communist influence in Hollywood.

• On March 23, 1839, the initials "O.K." are first published, in The Boston Morning Post. Meant as an abbreviation for "all korrekt," a popular slang misspelling of "all correct" at the time, OK steadily made its way into the everyday speech of Americans.

• On March 24, 1989, one of the worst oil spills in U.S. territory begins when the supertanker Exxon Valdez, owned and operated by the Exxon Corporation, runs aground on a reef in Prince William Sound in southern Alaska. An estimated 11 million gallons of oil eventually spilled into the water, polluting more than 700 miles of coastline.

• On March 25, 1933, the newly commissioned USS Sequoia becomes the official presidential yacht. Previously, the Department of Commerce had used the Sequoia as a decoy to catch Prohibition lawbreakers.

• On March 26, 1920, "This Side of Paradise" is published, immediately launching 23-year-old F. Scott Fitzgerald to fame and fortune. While in Europe, Fitzgerald finished his masterpiece, "The Great Gatsby" (1925).

• On March 27, 1973, actor Marlon Brando declines the Academy Award for Best Actor for his performance in "The Godfather" as a protest against Hollywood's portrayal of Native Americans in film. The first performer to turn down a Best Actor Oscar was George C. Scott, for "Patton" in 1971.

• On March 28, 1958, William Christopher Handy, the famous blues musician known as W.C., dies in New York City. Jazz standards "The Memphis Blues" and "St. Louis Blues" are his most famous compositions, but his musical legacy can be heard in works of composers as varied as George Gershwin and Keith Richards.

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# Coronavirus money survey

Due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on people's finances, around 145 million Americans say they cannot afford another year like 2020, according to WalletHub's new *Coronavirus Money Survey*. This survey illustrates some of the ways in which COVID-19 has impacted Americans' lives and spending habits. Below are additional highlights of the report, including a Q&A with WalletHub analyst Jill Gonzalez. Some key stats include:

- Money problems are a huge source of stress. Money problems have now surpassed COVID-19 as being the top stressor in America, a 15% change since last year.
- The pandemic causes more need for credit cards. 29 Million more Americans say they will apply for a new credit card this year due to coronavirus, compared to last year.
- Women's spending has increased more. Women are 16% more likely than men to say they spend more money due to coronavirus.
- Many Americans have decided to start saving. 61% of Americans are saving more money during the coronavirus pandemic, rather than spending more.
- Touching cash is less scary. About 30% fewer people than last year believe

it is possible to contract COVID-19 from *How are consumers feeling emotionally?*

### Q&A:

*How difficult was 2020 for Americans' finances?*

Financially, 2020 was such a difficult year that roughly 145 million Americans said they cannot afford another year like it. Luckily, the U.S. is rolling out the COVID-19 vaccine, which will help conditions in the country approach normalcy more and more over the coming months. The American Rescue Plan, which comes with \$1,400 direct payments, should also help ease the burden on people's finances this year.

*How are consumers reacting to the coronavirus pandemic financially?*

One of the biggest ways that consumers have reacted to the COVID-19 pandemic is by opening more credit card accounts, as 29 million more Americans say they will apply for a card this year than last year. One positive way that consumers have reacted to the pandemic is by increasing the amount of money they save. Roughly 61% of adults say they are saving more, as opposed to buying more, due to COVID-19.

The COVID-19 pandemic is now the second biggest stressor in America, with money problems taking first place. The U.S. is rolling out the COVID-19 vaccine and people have gotten used to social distancing measures, which explains why people are worrying a bit less about the pandemic itself. The long-lasting financial consequences caused by COVID-19 are now taking a more prominent position in people's minds.

*Has the relief money provided directly to Americans been effective?*

The stimulus checks provided directly to Americans have been a big help during the COVID-19 pandemic. In fact, they led to record paydowns of credit-card debt in 2020, in addition to helping people keep up with other essential bills. The additional \$1,400 checks provided through the American Rescue Plan should have a similarly positive impact.

The complete survey results can be found at <https://wallethub.com/credit-cards#survey>.

— Diana Polk

## Classified Ads

### LEGALS

#### Village of Vinton, Texas

#### PUBLIC NOTICE

DUE TO HEALTH AND SAFETY CONCERN RELATED TO THE COVID-19 VIRUS all Village of Vinton Public Meetings will be conducted virtually through the zoom.us platform until further notices. This is in accordance with the Texas Attorney General's guidance temporarily suspending certain provisions of the Texas Open Meetings Act that allows for telephonic 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.govoffice2.com](http://vintontx.govoffice2.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.

Two public hearings will be held at 6:30p.m. on Monday, April 12, and Wednesday, April 14, 2021, during the Planning & Zoning Commission Meeting at the Vinton Village Hall, 436 E. Vinton Rd., Vinton, Texas.

hearing will be held at 6:30p.m. on Tuesday, April 20, 2021, during the City Council Meeting at the Vinton Village Hall, 436 E. Vinton Rd. Vinton, Texas.

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

1) Consider and take action on request for Special Permit to allow the installation of a double wide mobile home on 276 Holquin, Vinton, Texas, 79821 (subject property will have new street address under the pending lot replat).

Citizens unable to attend this meeting may submit their views and proposals to Andrea Nichole Carrillo, Village Administrator at the City Hall. 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 (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: 03-25-21

#### Vinton, Texas

#### PUBLIC NOTICE

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A public hearing before the Board of Adjustment will be held at 6:30 P.M. on Tuesday, April 13, 2021 during a Special City Council Meeting.

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

variance from the requirements of Sec. 9.03.03C.4. of the UDC to allow the Building Official to extend the temporary certificate of occupancy for a period of one additional year for the property located at 7810 Doniphan Rd. Vinton, Texas 79821 (Alejo Delgado Survey 175, Abstract 2792 Tract 11B & 18) contingent on specific conditions and terms of compliance.

Citizens unable to attend this meeting may submit their views in writing to Andrea Nichole Carrillo, Village Administrator at the City Hall. Persons with disabilities that wish to attend 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: 03-25-21

7218001, Street Improvement on Poplar Street Waterline Replacement from 6th St. to Magdalena St. until 4:00 PM on April 8, 2021 at 401 Wildcat Dr. Anthony, Texas 79821. The bids will be publicly opened and read aloud at (4:00 PM) on April 8, 2021 at 401 Wildcat Dr. Anthony, Texas 79821.

Bids are invited for several items and quantities of work as follows:

#### Base Bid

The project includes the installation of 1,352 LF of new 8-inch diameter pressure pipe for potable water service with waterline tie-in locations to existing 8-inch and 6-inch diameter pipe, including line spotting and line exposures of existing tie-in locations, removal of existing asphalt and base course, excavation, bedding and backfilling to grade, no base course material and no HMAC, all testing of backfill, all survey coordinates and staking, installation of all new 8-inch diameter pipe, and 6-inch diameter pipe, including all mechanically restrained fittings for both pipe sizes, all new 8-inch and 6-inch isolation gate valves, all cutting and plugging of the existing 8-inch waterline to be abandoned in place, cutting the existing 6-inch

water lines to be tied into, new ¾-inch HDPE service lines, new corporation stops and saddles with the new services stubbed out at existing water meter boxes with 2-feet additional length at each meter for tie-ins to the existing meters by the Town of Anthony Water Department and Contractor abandoning the existing service lines, all new pipe pressure testing and disinfection, trench safety per OSHA for depths below 5-feet, protection of the existing waterline and all other existing utilities, traffic control, stormwater pollution prevention, coordination with the Town of Anthony, notification to all home owners affected by the project, dust control, housekeeping, hauling off of all debris and spoil for a complete and operable project as intended by the project plans and specifications, where all work is to occur within Town of Anthony street right-of-way. The subject project provides for construction, testing, project coordination, mobilization, de-mobilization, permits, warranty service and miscellaneous appurtenance and fees.

An electronic version of the Contract Documents may be purchased at a cost of \$25.00 per Compact Disk. This payment represents non-refundable costs and is non-refundable.

A bid bond in the amount of 5 percent of the bid issued by an acceptable surety shall be submitted with each bid. A certified check or bank draft payable to the Town of Anthony, Texas or negotiable U.S. Government Bonds (as par value) may be submitted in lieu of the Bid Bond.

Attention is called to the fact that not less than, the federally determined prevailing (Davis-Bacon and Related Acts) wage rate, contained in the contract documents, must be paid on this project. In addition, the successful

including Drawings and Technical Specifications are on file at the offices of the Engineer of Record, AECOM Technical Services, 221 N. Kansas St. Suite 700, El Paso, Texas 79901 at which specifications can be obtained.

A pre-bid meeting will be held on Wednesday March 31, 2021 at 10:00 a.m., local time, at the Town of Anthony Hall, 401 Wildcat Dr, Anthony, Texas.

A L L CONTRACTORS and subcontractors with agreements valued greater than or equal to \$25,000 must have an active registration with the System for Award Management ([www.SAM.gov](http://www.SAM.gov)) AND have been cleared (not suspended or debarred) prior to any formal action authorizing the award of a contract to the contractor.

The Town of Anthony, Texas reserves the right to reject any or all bids or to waive any informalities in the bidding. Bids may be held by Town of Anthony, Texas for a period not to exceed 60 days from the date of the bid opening for the purpose of reviewing the bids and investigating the bidder's qualifications prior to the contract award.

Norma Castillo  
Town Clerk  
Town of Anthony, TX  
WTCC: 03-25-21  
04-01-21

bidder must ensure that employees and applicants for employment are not discriminated against because of race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, or national origin. Adherence to the grant recipient's Section 3 Policy is required for contracts and subcontracts in excess of \$100,000.00.

An electronic version of the Contract Documents may be purchased at a cost of \$25.00 per Compact Disk. This payment represents non-refundable costs and is non-refundable.

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A third public

Village of

1) A request for a

# March Madness is here, but not all the way back

**By Steve Escajeda**  
Special to the Courier

Little by little, signs are showing up everywhere that the world is starting its way back to normalcy.

After going through a year unlike any the modern world has never experienced, it proves to us that we're not as invincible as we thought we were. And maybe it'll teach us not to take as many things for granted.

Though things are on the comeback, it's obviously not going to be at 100 percent for a while still.

You can see this in the world of sports.

One of the very positive signs is the NCAA basketball tournament going on right now. If you'll remember, the whole thing was cancelled at the last minute a year ago.

They call it March Madness and the United States virtually shut everything down on March 13 last year.

This year's college basketball regular season had its share of postponements and cancellations, but it was able to limp through and make it to the Big Dance.

The tournament, which is currently in its second week, is a little different than usual.

It started with the same number of 68 teams, but unlike past years, it is being played in just one state, Indiana. Teams are being tested for the virus daily and special rules have been put in place because of covid. One of the rules is all a team needs to play a game is five healthy players; not even a coaching staff.

Virginia Commonwealth University was the only team in the first round of the tournament that had positive covid results

and had to forfeit its game with Oregon.

One out of 68 isn't bad at all. It could have been much worse.

After missing what has turned into a springtime ritual in this country, it feels so good (and normal) to have the Madness back. We've already had the usual upsets and blowouts and nail biters that we've grown accustomed to at this time of year.

But before we get too comfortable, the world's largest sporting event is bringing us back down to earth.

As many of you may know, it has been decided that the cancelled summer Japan Olympics of 2020 will return in 2021.

That is great news... kind of.

It was also announced last weekend that no one from outside the country would be allowed to travel to Japan to attend the games.

Naturally, the decision has to do with

the threat of the virus re-emerging in the country.

The Olympics have always been a place where the fans from all over the world converge in a show of competition, sportsmanship and peace.

Of course there's always the possibility that many countries may decide to skip the games this year because of the same fears.

Officials said the risk was too great to admit ticket holders from overseas during a pandemic. The Japanese public also has opposed fans from abroad. Several surveys have shown that up to 80 percent oppose holding the Olympics, and a similar percentage opposed fans from overseas attending.

Because of all this, it wouldn't shock me if they went ahead and cancelled the games again some time over the next four months.

I mean the object of the games isn't just to crown the world's best athletes, but it's also trying to lose as little money as possible. All the cities that host the games always lose money.

With no fans coming in from around the world, sounds like a colossal money-loser to me.

As El Paso sports fans know, the Triple-A baseball season was delayed a month due to the virus. So while the Chihuahuas are going to have a baseball season this summer, they're moving slowly to ensure safety.

A lot of the country is starting to open its public establishments, easing mask-wearing requirements and raising capacity limits, but the idea is to proceed slowly – just like sports.

It was difficult to go through last spring without March Madness.

And without teams like Kentucky and Duke even qualifying this year, the championship seems like it's up for grabs.

Who is going to win this thing? Who cares?

The simple fact the tournament is back and in full swing makes all of us feel like dancing.

## Getting a Social Security representative payee

**By Ray Vigil**  
Special to the Courier

Millions of people get monthly Social Security benefits or Supplemental Security Income payments. Some need help managing their money. When we receive information that indicates you need help, we'll assign a representative payee to manage your benefits for you. We try to select someone who knows you and wants to help you. A representative payee receives your monthly benefit payment on your behalf and

must use the money to pay for your current needs, including:

- Housing and utilities;
- Food;
- Medical and dental expenses;
- Personal care items;
- Clothing; and
- Rehabilitation expenses (if you're disabled).

If you need help managing your benefits, tell a Social Security representative that there is someone you want to be your representative payee. They should be someone you trust and see often, and who clearly understands your needs. Social service agencies, nursing homes, or other organizations are also qualified to be your representative payee. Ask them to contact us.

You can write to us within 60 days of being assigned a representative payee if you don't agree that you need one or if you want a different representative payee.

We also offer an option, called Advance Designation, which allows you to choose a representative payee in advance. In the event you can no longer make your own financial decisions, you and your family will have peace of mind knowing you already chose someone you trust to manage your benefits.

You can submit your advance designation request when you apply for benefits or after you are already receiving benefits. You may do so through your personal *my Social Security* account at [www.ssa.gov/myaccount](http://www.ssa.gov/myaccount), by telephone, or in person.

Visit <http://www.ssa.gov/payee> for more information.

## Briefs

From Page 1

drove off with her vehicle. Unbeknownst to him, there was a four-year-old child in the back seat. But apparently he was a conscientious thief, so he turned around, drove back to the scene of the crime, found the kid's mother, returned her child and proceeded to give her a tongue lashing for being so careless before stealing her automobile for a second time. The police found the car some 18 miles away in Portland but not the culprit.

– John Grimaldi

## Super Crossword

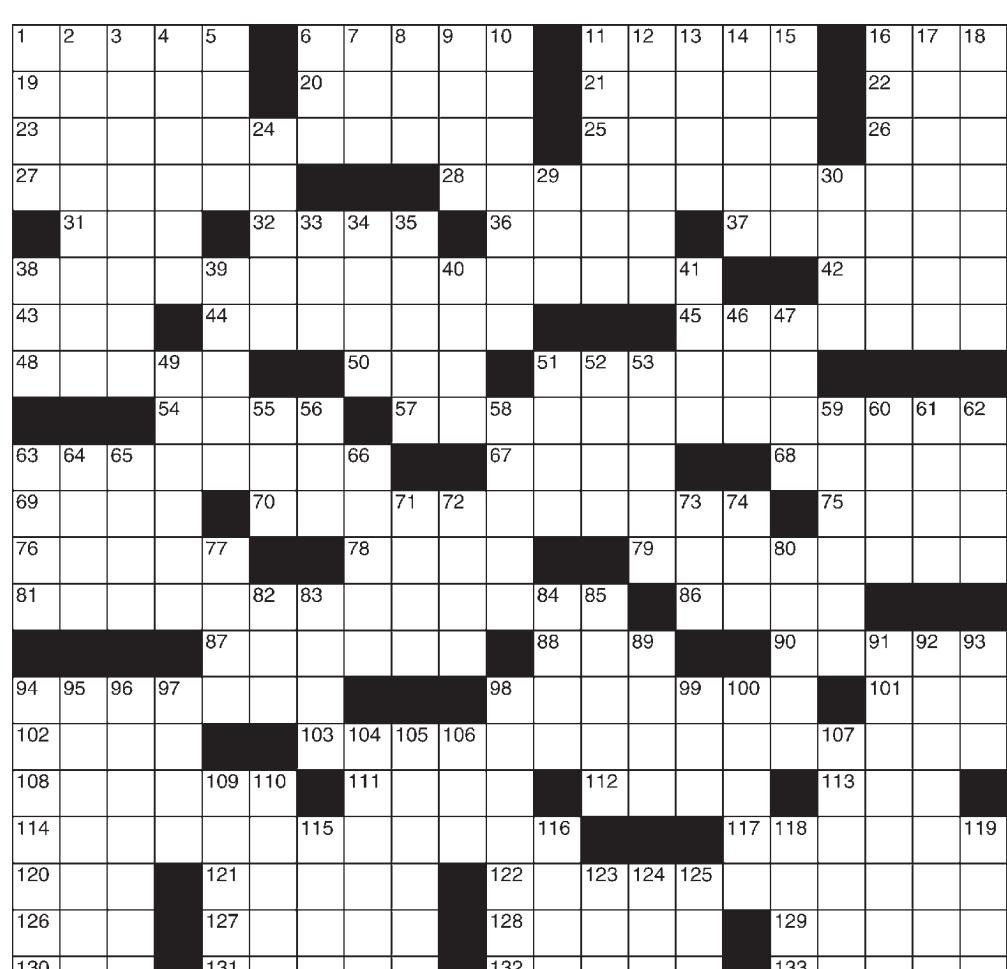
### STICKY SITUATIONS

#### ACROSS

- 1 Plates, e.g.
- 6 "Star Wars" villain
- the Hutt
- 11 Longtime fashion mag
- 16 "Got it!"
- 19 Muslim god
- 20 Has left the office, say
- 21 Bilbao locale
- 22 "Whether \_ nobler..."
- 23 Sudden-death extra in a golf tournament
- 25 Supermodel Klum
- 26 Hi-fi platters
- 27 Cook gently
- 28 Behave obsequiously
- 31 Secretive U.S. org.
- 32 Redding of song
- 36 Opp. of horizontal
- 37 Film preview
- 38 Sort who's at hand whenever needed
- 42 Part of a hunting outfit
- 43 Lucy of "Kung Fu Panda"
- 44 French painter Rosa
- 45 Narcissists
- 48 Bone: Prefix
- 50 Insult, informally
- 51 YWCA part
- 54 Yule, briefly
- 57 Small Vlasic

- |  |   |                                      |   |
|--|---|--------------------------------------|---|
| offering                                 | 57-, 70-, 81-, 103- or 114-Across is a synonym of | 18 Alleges                           | 72 J.D. Salinger title girl             |
| 63 Domestic                              | 67 Explorer Ericson                               | 24 Ice-cream alternative, for short  | 73 "_ be my pleasure"                   |
| 68 Glossy surface                        | 68 Glossy surface                                 | 29 "Scream" director                 | 74 Baby of a boomer                     |
| 69 "As above," in a footnote             | 69 "As above," in a                               | 30 Sitarist Shankar                  | 77 In _(as first found)                 |
| 70 Morning joe, maybe                    | 70 Morning joe, maybe                             | 33 Weight unit                       | 80 Big name in beer brewing             |
| 75 Tear to bits                          | 129 "... and vice _"                              | 34 With a sharp picture, briefly     | 82 "Alley _!"                           |
| 76 Gambols                               | 130 Hip-hop "Dr."                                 | 35 Shrek creator                     | 83 Conde _                              |
| 78 Inventory                             | 131 Hide, as loot                                 | William                              | 84 Mall lure                            |
| 79 Board, as a ship dynasts              | 132 Old Russian                                   | 38 "Gigli" co-star, familiarly       | 85 Spill clumsily                       |
| 81 One who's distraught with feelings    | 133 German city                                   | 39 Certain nuclear weapon, for short | 89 Guitar's kin                         |
| 86 1/16 ounce                            |   | 40 "Be silent!"                      | 91 Con artists                          |
| 87 Perfectly                             | 1 Does a fist bump, colloquially                  | 41 Adolescent                        | 92 Abridge                              |
| 88 " _ aboard!"                          | 2 Chicago's home                                  | 46 Country's econ. measure           | 93 Took cover                           |
| 90 Baker's unit                          | 3 Close loudly                                    | 47 Suffix of medical conditions      | 94 Patchy horse                         |
| 94 Pec-building exercises                | 4 The Caribbean's Islands                         | 49 Free (from)                       | 95 Vague                                |
| 98 Tilling tools, to Brits               | 5 Slipper, e.g.                                   | 51 Plump bird                        | 96 Plague                               |
| 101 King, in Caen                        | 6 Peanut butter                                   | 52 " _ From Muskogee" (1969 hit)     | 97 Fit as a fiddle                      |
| 102 Old Peruvian brand                   | 7 Volcano stuff                                   | 53 Annoys                            | 98 Sound of falling hail                |
| 103 Connections making people feel close | 8 Startling cry                                   | 55 Circle part                       | 99 F-J link                             |
| 108 Big name in hygiene products         | 9 Light source in a socket                        | 56 Ionian, e.g.                      | 100 One of two in "crocodile"           |
| 111 "QED" part                           | 10 Had dinner at a friend's house, e.g.           | 58 Upper crust                       | 104 Wading birds                        |
| 112 Beneficiary                          | 11 Note equivalent to 66-Down                     | 59 Purity of a color                 | 105 R&B singer _ Badu                   |
| 113 Certain PC readout                   | 12 Not necessarily against                        | 60 Razor-sharp                       | 106 Mahal                               |
| 114 Purplish fruit spread                | 13 Speak  | 61 Advanced                          | 107 Accuses                             |
| 117 Male ducks                           | 14 In the _ of (during)                           | 62 Lead-in to skeleton               | 109 PLO head                            |
| 120 Lingus Rivulet                       | 15 In readiness                                   | 63 Give a job to                     | 110 Mahmoud                             |
| 122 What the last word of 23-, 28-, 38-, | 16 Map-filled references                          | 64 Former Laker Lamar                | 111 Brimless cap                        |
|  | 17 Most with it                                   | 65 Office letter                     | 115 "The Godfather" score composer Nino |
|  |   | 66 Note equivalent to 11-Down        | 116 Some med. scans                     |
|  |   | 67 Do a tax task                     | 117 All-night bash                      |
|  |   | 68 Note equivalent to 11-Down        | 118 Comic Laurel                        |
|  |   | 69 TSA requests                      | 123 Eon subunit                         |
|  |   | 70 Do a tax task                     | 124 Bonn article                        |
|  |   |                                      | 125 TSA requests                        |

Answer Page 4



## 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



### Franken

From Page 2

"Operation Warp Speed," which was approved and pushed by the administration of President Donald Trump. Warp Speed was a Donald Trump production.

Still, Republicans are busy changing the subject, talking about anything but the highly popular pandemic package.

But a politician's work is never

done, and soon it will be on to the next issue, where the two sides will work on a mammoth infrastructure package. Or the one side, if bipartisanship turns out to be impossible there too. Whichever, the Biden people have been around the track a few times, so they know to take advantage of momentum. And they also know how to stick it to their opponents, [claiming that they were] responsible for the half-million-plus COVID deaths

in the United States. Still, we in media latch on to the political cliches, like a hundred days and 50 days and, one more, a president's "honeymoon." That one may be valid, considering how the honeymoon with Joe Biden's predecessor, Donald Trump, lasted about one day.

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# Half of seniors have H. pylori infection

**DEAR DR. ROACH:** Could you give some additional information about *H. pylori* infection? I was diagnosed with it recently, via biopsies taken during an endoscopic procedure. I was given instructions on antibiotics to be taken, which I followed through on. When talking to my doctor's physician assistant, I asked what could have caused the infection, to try to prevent it from recurring. I was given a very cursory response, including that it could have come from eating at "Mom and Pop" restaurants. From research I did after that, it seems that it can be present for a long period of time without being noticed, and many times the cause is unsure. After I finished the antibiotics, I was told to have a follow-up test to make sure they were effective. I was given a choice of a stool test or a breathing test; I chose the breathing test. I was surprised at how easy it was. Are those tests also used to initially detect an infection, without a biopsy? — A.J.Y.



*Helicobacter pylori* is an important cause of chronic gastritis (stomach inflammation), the most important cause of stomach ulcers, and is an important factor in stomach cancer and intestinal lymphoma. Between 50% and 66% of the population of the world is affected. The older a person is, the more likely he or she is to have infection: In the U.S., it's about 10% in those between 18 and 30 years old, but 50% in those over 60. This likely represents an improvement in hygiene, as most infections are acquired in childhood and persist throughout life.

It is thought that most infection occurs person-to-person, possibly through water or from poor handwashing before food preparation. *H. pylori* is much more common in developing nations. In the U.S., infection is more common in people of lower socioeconomic status.

Not everyone with *H. pylori* has symptoms or needs treatment. People with ulcers or gastritis are generally treated with several antibiotics for 10-14 days along with antacid medicine. The diagnosis can be made by biopsy, as yours was, or by the stool or breath test.

The breath test is at least 95% specific (if the test is positive, it's very likely to be a true positive) but 90% sensitive, meaning one person in 10 with the bacteria will have a false negative test. The stool test is close to 95% sensitive and specific. Blood testing is more likely to have false positive and false negative results. In addition to making the diagnosis, the stool or breath test is recommended to confirm eradication of the infection.

For more reading, I'd recommend you start at <https://medlineplus.gov/helicobacterpyloriinfections.html>.

**DEAR DR. ROACH:** Is chlamydia easy to cure with antibiotics? — Anon.

Although there are several different species of the bacterium Chlamydia, including an important one that causes pneumonia, I assume you mean chlamydia trachomatis, the kind that causes genital disease in both men and women.

Yes, it can be easily cured. The cure rate with either of the first-line antibiotics, doxycycline or azithromycin, is 96% to 100%. The hard part is making the diagnosis, since the infection can be clinically silent, but can still be passed on. Unfortunately, unless all partners are treated simultaneously, it's possible to be reinfected.

Gonorrhea is often present at the same time as chlamydia, and it's important that testing for that infection also be done.

*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.*

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**Moore Texas** by Roger MOORE  
At 11, Herman Lehman was captured by Apaches. He later joined the Comanches and was adopted by Quanah Parker. He was known as the German Comanche.

## 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: L equals O

VS Y GVBAR GWQW  
BQYKWMVCN KWQZ SYEB, OL  
ZLD EDFFL EW ERW HVNRB  
JW LC Y ELCVA JQLLH?

Answer Page 4

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## Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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

### DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ◆◆

◆ Moderate    ◆◆ Challenging

◆◆◆ HOO BOY!

Answer Page 4

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## Internet access for veterans

### VETERANS POST

by Freddy Groves

Fifteen percent of veterans do not have an internet connection, limiting their access to Department of Veterans Affairs video telehealth services. But no longer. The VA's new Digital Divide Consult has geared up to help over 12,000 eligible veterans so far.

If you're a veteran living in a rural area, have limited broadband service, don't have a device with video, have a serious medical condition or are in temporary housing, you can get help with internet access and devices.

But there's more:

- If you're part of a HUD-VA program, you can receive a smartphone to reach telehealth.

- If you use TracFone SafeLink, T-Mobile (was Sprint) or Verizon, you can hook up with VA VideoConnect health care without incurring data charges on your bill. Go

to mobile.va.gov/app/va-video-connect for details. The VA will even do a test call before your visit to check your connection.

- If you're in a rural area or don't have broadband at home, the VA has coordinated with various groups and businesses to create locations for you to use for talking privately to your health care providers. The American Legion, VFW and certain Walmarts are part of the Accessing Telehealth through Local Area Stations (ATLAS) program. Go to connectedcare.va.gov/partners/atlas for locations near you.

The Microsoft Airband Initiative is charged with creating broadband (high speed) in rural areas. Look at microsoft.com/corporate-responsibility/airband. (While you're there, check into the Microsoft Software & Systems Academy, 18 weeks of training for high-paying jobs.)

- Additionally, you could be eligible for the FCC's Lifeline program, which subsidizes broadband and phone service for low-income veterans and veterans who get the following: Medicaid, SNAP, SSI, pension and survivors benefits, and

more. Check lifelinesupport.org or call 800-234-9473.

Get started by contacting a VA social worker, who will have all the details and can determine your eligibility..

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by  
Jo Ann  
Derson

- If your pooch doesn't like to poop in the snow, here's a great trick to secure a patch of grass (even if frozen). Lay a square of plywood down on the ground, with a rope secured as a handle. After a snow, pull up the wood to reveal the ground underneath.

- Use mismatched socks to protect glass items when transporting them from place to place, or even in storage.

- Refillable spray bottles work best for cleaners. Refills can be economical, they put less waste in the system, and here's one more reason: less propellants used, which can be a serious irritant to lungs. Purchase an attractive bottle, and then look up some recipes for eco-friendly cleaners. You might be surprised how well they work and how great they smell!

- "Add some nuts to your morning cereal or smoothie for a nutritious boost. It's not just for oatmeal or granola. I like to crush a handful of walnuts and sprinkle them across my waffles." – J.E. in Maine

- Get rid of the smell of burned popcorn in your microwave by setting a bowl of coffee grounds in it overnight. Somehow, when you remove it in the morning, it smells of neither popcorn nor coffee!

- Before removing a splinter, ice the area. There's less fussing and a wooden splinter might absorb some liquid, causing it to swell enough to pop out a bit more.

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!

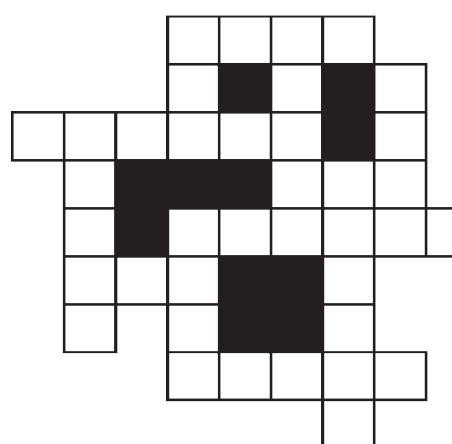
Answer Page 4

	÷		+		8
+		+		+	
	-		×		7
÷		÷		÷	
2	÷		+		6
1	3	3	4	5	7
3	4	5	6	7	8
6	7	8	9		9

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OCT  
EDUNIC  
PORGE  
LOAT  
HOLPEN  
♥ OAG  
ECGA  
TECNA  
♥ PTI  
ORTGOT  
♥ NARLE  
♥ PREO



Answer Page 4

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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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