



NEWSBRIEFS

San Eli event

San Elizario Genealogy & Historical Society is having a Christmas event on Dec. 18. We will have around 3000 luminarias around the presidio chapel, plazita and surrounding areas lit by 5:00 pm. There will be a posada with Confirmation students and a live donkey at 6 pm. This will be followed by a ballet folklorico performance and a piñata. Santa Claus will show up also. For more information you can contact me at (915) 346-3535.

– Lillian Trujillo

Mental health

The federal Health Resources & Services Administration has awarded \$500,000 over two years to Project Vida Health Center for a bi-lingual psychiatric residency program in El Paso. Project Vida Health Center’s Cynthia Garza, M.D., is Project Director and a bi-lingual Child and Adolescent Psychiatrist. Project Vida Health Center is a designated Federally Qualified Health Center. The psychiatry residency program will create linguistically and culturally prepared psychiatrists to meet the unique challenges experienced by underserved and special populations along the U.S.-Mexico border as well as other majority Hispanic communities. Recruiting residents is expected to begin in October, 2023, with the first class entering the program in 2024. For more information on the bi-lingual psychiatry residency program, contact Bill Schlesinger, CEO of Project Vida Health Center, at w.schlesinger@pvida.net.

– Joyce Davidoff

Arrested for bad handwriting

The police in Sussex, England posted pictures of a bank robber who botched a heist due to bad penmanship. They also posted the illegible note he handed to the bank tellers, none of whom could make out what he had written. The hapless robber was scared off but eventually the tellers made out the threatening words and called the police. After cleaning up his act and preparing a new note, he succeeded in getting a frightened teller to hand over the money and off he went. But when he tried a third time to hold up another bank, the teller defied him and he left empty handed and the police were able to track him down and arrest him. He is now serving a six-year prison term.

– John Grimaldi

Time wasted thinking up excuses would be better spent avoiding the need for them.

– Quips & Quotes



– Photo by Alfredo Vasquez

IN HONOR OF – El Paso County officials held a ceremony recently to highlight the renaming of the downtown courthouse. Above the entrance to the courthouse is the building’s new name: Enrique Moreno County Courthouse.

El Paso County courthouse renamed

By Alfredo Vasquez
Special to the Courier

EL PASO COUNTY – The renaming of the El Paso County Courthouse in honor of Enrique Moreno was officially celebrated during a recent ceremony

attended by family members, friends, and guests including state and federal judges, prominent lawyers, and current and former political leaders.

County commissioners voted unanimously in August to rename the courthouse for Moreno after most county and city leaders agreed that Moreno was

the only person who deserves the honor of having the iconic downtown El Paso building renamed for him.

“Enrique believed the courthouse should work for everyone,” former El Paso County District Attorney Jaime

See COURTHOUSE, Page 5

Contest invites students to write letter to favorite author

Letter writing contest open to students in 4th through 12th grades

in grades fourth through twelfth.

Literature Texas contest invites students to respond to authors of books or poetry that touched their lives. The contest, which is sponsored by the Texas Center For the Book (TCFB), is open to Texas students

Contest participants are asked to select a book, book series, essay, play, poem, short story, or speech that has made a lasting impact on their lives. They then write a

See LETTER, Page 3



– Internet

The Texas Center For the Book (TCFB) has worked to increase public interest in books, reading, literacy, and libraries since 1987. TCFB members partner with library professionals, educators, authors, publishers and booksellers to promote a love for literature books and the local library, like the one above.



Unless you’re a member of the Audubon Society, you’re about to learn more about woodpeckers than you ever thought you’d know. Or care to.

I hate those detective shows where they say, “I’m sorry for your loss.” But yeah, it’s like that. I’m REALLY sorry for your loss because, I don’t know how to break it to you, but Woody Woodpecker is dead. He’s been officially declared extinct by a biologist with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, which keeps track of such things. Amy Trahan wrote the official report on the demise of the ivory-billed woodpecker—the species that was the model for Universal Studios’

Woody Woodpecker is not laughing

character Woody, of “Heh-heh-heh-HEH-heh” fame. He (or she) is not to be confused with the pileated woodpecker, which makes more of a jackhammer sound as he scrounges for bugs (don’t we all) in a tree’s bark.

This is the genuine Woody, an ivory-billed. He hasn’t been seen, that we know of, since back in 2005 in Arkansas. He (or she) was unmistakable. He was a big bird. In fact, (choose your pronoun) was nicknamed “The Lord God Bird,” because when people saw one they’d exclaim, “Lord God! What a bird!”

But 2005 was the last time and long enough. “He no longer exists,” said Ms. Trahan. And she checked the box for “delist based on extinction.”

Since 1973, when Congress passed the Endangered Species Act, 54 plants and animals have been delisted, but millions more

are expected in the coming decade. That’s because of various human abuses, including hunting, property development, mining and the biggie, the double-C, climate change.

Oh, thank heaven, you were worrying that I was writing an ornithology column, not a political one. But here I am on familiar turf, where everyone agrees that global warming is an urgent problem, a disaster, actually, except for the miners, energy conglomerates, all the other special interests and the mealy-mouthed politicians who represent constituencies they rely on to get them re-elected instead of trying to save the entire planet.

Woody is just a canary in a coal mine – more like a woodpecker, really – a warning of pending doom. How about record-setting heat waves, hurricanes, floods and massive droughts at the same time, and glaciers falling off and slush where frozen oceans used to be?

One problem is that climate is worldwide; it’s not a national issue. If one country decides to ignore it or doles out a weak response, particularly if motivated by economic concerns, another country cannot make up for it. If a demagogue leader can’t see the political or fundraising benefit of going against powerful special interests, the cheap shot artist can easily ridicule what’s necessary to reverse climate change.

Donald Trump spewed carbon over the entire concept. Joe Biden turned around most of what Trump did, but it wasn’t nearly enough to change the relentless heating up of Earth. That is going to take genuine sacrifice or ingenuity.

Otherwise, by midcentury – mid THIS century – our cities will be flooded with the melt from nonfrozen tundras far away, that are nowhere near as distant. And at the same time, the desert will be expanded.

Unless we take meaningful action – and by “meaningful” I mean universal solar and wind energy, along with hydrogen batteries, along with relocating where the coal is NOT and the whole gamut of traditional fuels – and all of us, not just a few of us, think outside the box, we will wallow in fire.

It will be too late to save Woody Woodpecker, or Sammy Salmon or, for that matter, Harry or Harriet Human.

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Notice of Public Meeting
To Discuss Fabens
Independent School District’s
State Financial Accountability
Rating (FIRST)

The Fabens Independent School District will hold a public hearing at 6:30 p.m., Wednesday, December 15, 2021 in the boardroom of the Fabens ISD Administration Building, 821 NE “G” Avenue, Fabens, Texas.

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

WTCC: 12/02/21

View from here

By Elizabeth Lee Vliet, M.D. and Ali Shultz, J.D.

Biden’s bounty on your life

Hospitals’ incentive payments for COVID-19

Upon admission to a once-trusted hospital, American patients with COVID-19 become virtual prisoners, subjected to a rigid treatment protocol with roots in Ezekiel Emanuel’s “Complete Lives System” for rationing medical care in those over age 50. They have a shockingly high mortality rate. How and why is this happening, and what can be done about it?

As exposed in audio recordings, hospital executives in Arizona admitted meeting several times a week to lower standards of care, with coordinated restrictions on visitation rights. Most COVID-19 patients’ families are deliberately kept in the dark about what is really being done to their loved ones.

The combination that enables this tragic and avoidable loss of hundreds of thousands of lives includes (1) The CARES Act, which provides hospitals with bonus incentive payments for all things related to COVID-19 (testing, diagnosing, admitting to hospital, use of remdesivir and ventilators, reporting COVID-19 deaths, and vaccinations) and (2) waivers of customary and long-standing patient rights by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS).

In 2020, the Texas Hospital Association submitted requests for waivers to CMS. According to Texas attorney Jerri Ward, “CMS has granted ‘waivers’ of federal law regarding patient rights. Specifically, CMS purports to allow hospitals to violate the rights of patients or their surrogates with regard to medical record access, to have patient visitation, and to be free from seclusion.” She notes that “rights do not come from the hospital or CMS and cannot be waived, as that is the antithesis of a ‘right.’ The purported waivers are meant to isolate and gain total control over the patient and to deny patient and patient’s decision-maker the ability to exercise informed consent.”

Creating a “National Pandemic Emergency” provided justification for such sweeping actions that override individual physician medical decision-making and patients’ rights. The CARES Act provides incentives for hospitals to use treatments dictated solely by the federal government under the auspices of the NIH. These “bounties” must paid back if not “earned” by making the COVID-19 diagnosis and following the COVID-19 protocol.

The hospital payments include:

A “free” required PCR test in the Emergency Room or upon admission for every patient, with government-paid fee to hospital.

Added bonus payment for each positive COVID-19 diagnosis.

Another bonus for a COVID-19 admission to the hospital.

A 20 percent “boost” bonus payment from Medicare on the entire hospital bill for use of remdesivir instead of medicines such as Ivermectin.

Another and larger bonus payment to the hospital if a COVID-19 patient is mechanically ventilated.

More money to the hospital if cause of death is listed as COVID-19, even if patient did not die directly of COVID-19.

A COVID-19 diagnosis also provides extra payments to coroners.

CMS implemented “value-based”

1973
48
Years
2021

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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.



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Notice of Public Meeting
to Discuss Clint Independent
School District’s State
Financial Accountability
Rating (FIRST)

Clint Independent School District will hold a public meeting at 7:00 PM, Thursday, December 16, 2021, in the Central Office Board Room, 14521 Horizon Blvd., El Paso, Texas 79928.

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

WTCC: 12/02/21

See INCENTIVE, Page 4

The life of Brandon

There’s a crisis afoot in the land – people are being rude to President Joe Biden.

The trend of anti-Biden protestors chanting or holding signs saying, “[expletive] Joe Biden,” or the cleaner version that has come to signify the same thing, “Let’s go Brandon,” is being portrayed as a new low in American politics.

A recent *Washington Post* report was headlined, “Biden’s Critics Hurl Increasingly Vulgar Taunts.” It stipulated presidents have always been the subject of derision and abuse, then claimed, “The current eruption of anti-Biden signs and chants, however, is on another level, far more vulgar, and widespread.”

Really? Put aside all the abuse presidents were subjected to prior to the digital age, whether John Quincy Adams (“pimp”), Andrew Jackson (“a greater tyrant than Cromwell, Cesar, or Bonaparte”), Martin van Buren (“Martin van Ruin”), Abraham Lincoln (“the original gorilla”) or Theodore Roosevelt (“that damned cowboy”). The last few years weren’t exactly a mannerly period of polite disagreement in our national life.

As Byron York of the *Washington Examiner* has noted, Donald Trump’s opponents gloried in the F-word, such that without it some of them would have been rendered practically mute. When Robert De Niro introduced Bruce Springsteen at the 2018 Tony Awards, he used the opportunity to declare: “I’m gonna say one thing. [expletive] Trump.” Cue the standing ovation.

A Los Angeles art gallery had a “[expletive] Trump” exhibit, rapper Eminem led a “[expletive] Trump” call-and-response at a concert in England, and so on.

If lobbing this particular vulgarity is now completely out of bounds, the new progressive rule is “[expletive] you” for me, but not for thee.

After gaining traction with roadside demonstrators outside Biden events and with college football fans, the “[expletive] Joe Biden” chant took an unexpected turn last month. The NASCAR driver Brandon Brown won a race at the Talladega Superspeedway and the reporter interviewing him misstated a growing “[expletive] Joe Biden” chant in the background as fans saying, “Let’s go Brandon.”

The scene was like something out of the Will Ferrell comedy “Talladega Nights.” A meme was born.


The substitute version of the

insult, instantly adopted by the president’s critics, is more lighthearted than the original. Fundamentally, it’s a joke. It is a gibe at Biden, of course, but also at the misreporting of the chant at the raceway, which is taken as a symbol of the media’s ridiculous protectiveness toward Biden.

The chant is also amusingly anodyne, given its provenance.

Who can object to the cheering on Brandon, whoever he is?

Not everyone appreciates the humor, though. When a Southwest Airlines pilot allegedly spoke the offending phrase over the intercom on a flight with an Associated Press reporter on board, the outrage machine kicked into gear in a particularly blatant display of humorlessness and lack of proportion.



THE RICH LOWRY COLUMN

Harvard professor and CNN commentator Juliette Kayyem

See LOWRY, Page 7

Letter

From Page 1

personal letter to the author that reflects how they have been changed, inspired, or motivated by the work they selected.

TCFB, which is comprised of students, educators, and families, is designed to promote the joys of reading and writing, and as sponsors will award state winners a hundred dollars plus will recognize the honorees at the 2022 Texas Library Association Conference.

All entries for the 2021-2022 contest must be submitted through an online platform, by 5 p.m., Friday, December 17. Contest officials emphasized that a permission form is required for students who will be younger than 13 as of November 4, 2021.

To learn more about the contest, how to submit a letter, and to view winning selections from previous years, visit the organization’s website, at www.tsl.texas.gov/lettersaboutliterature

The site includes a Frequently Asked Questions page, student and teacher submission guidelines, letters from past winners, videos from authors, and the official contest rules. Also, the website includes an Educator Resources page that provides printable bookmarks, student handouts, participation certificates, key dates, permission forms, and a step-by-step teaching guide featuring writing prompts.

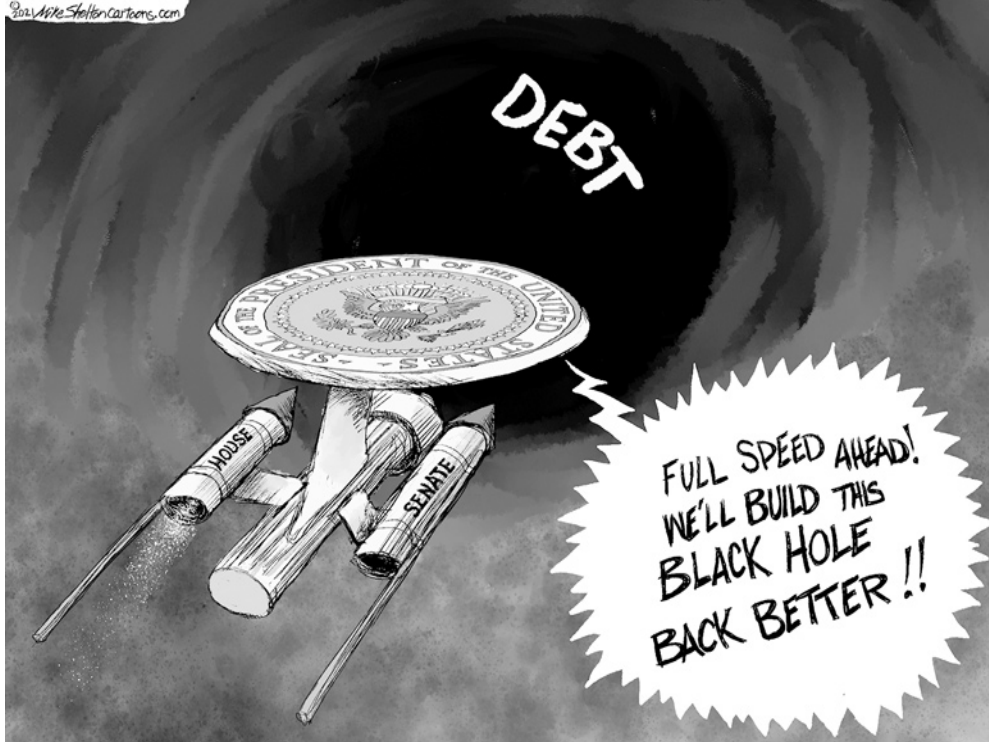
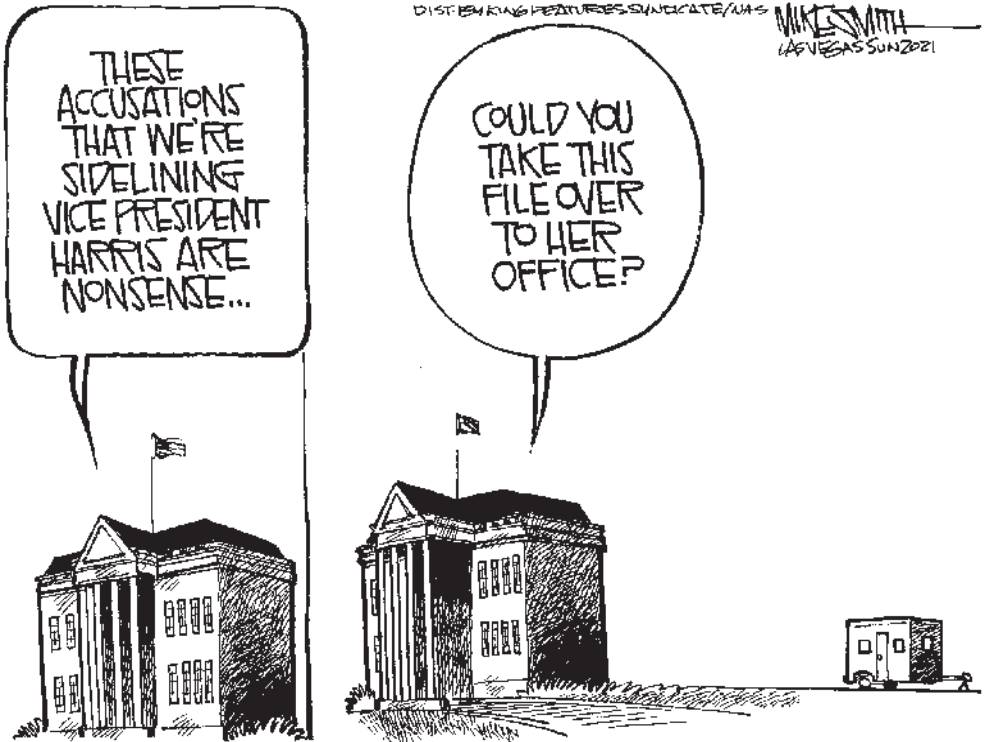
TCFB is under the direction of the Texas State Library and Archives Commission, at the Lorenzo De Zavala State Archives and Library Building, in Austin.

For more information about other TCFB initiatives, visit its website, at www.tsl.texas.gov/centerforthebook or contact TCFB Coordinator Rebekah Manley at tcfb@tsl.texas.gov.

PUBLIC NOTICE TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS AND PARTIES:

The *West Texas County Courier* will not publish the last two weeks of December. The first issue of 2022 will be January 6.

The *West Texas County Courier* office will close beginning Wednesday, December 15, 2021. The office will open again on Monday, January 3, 2022.



Incentive

From Page 2

payment programs that track data such as how many workers at a healthcare facility receive a COVID-19 vaccine. Now we see why many hospitals implemented COVID-19 vaccine mandates. They are paid more.

Outside hospitals, physician MIPS quality metrics link doctors’ income to performance-based pay for treating patients with COVID-19 EUA drugs. Failure to report information to CMS can cost the physician 4% of reimbursement.

Because of obfuscation with medical coding and legal jargon, we cannot be certain of the actual amount each hospital receives

per COVID-19 patient. But Attorney Thomas Renz and CMS whistleblowers have calculated a total payment of at least \$100,000 per patient.

What does this mean for your health and safety as a patient in the hospital?

There are deaths from the government-directed COVID treatments. For remdesivir, studies show that 71–75 percent of patients suffer an adverse effect, and the drug often had to be stopped after five to ten days because of these effects, such as kidney and liver damage, and death. Remdesivir trials during the 2018 West African Ebola outbreak had to be discontinued because death rate exceeded 50%. Yet, in 2020, Anthony Fauci directed that remdesivir was to be the

See INCENTIVE, Page 6



By Lucie Winborne

• McDonald’s is the world’s largest toy distributor.

• The ice cream bean is a fruit with a taste very similar to its namesake vanilla ice cream. The tree that the bean grows on is native to the Americas and can reach nearly 100 feet tall, with bean pods up to 6 feet long.

• Anyone who moves to the Villas Las Estrellas, a settlement in Antarctica, must first have their appendix preemptively removed, because the nearest hospital is over 625 miles away.

• The limbo world record is under 6 inches.

• In 1994, West Virginia prison inmate Robert Shepard braided dental floss into a rope as thick as a telephone cord, used it to scale an 18-foot wall, and escaped.

• King Richard II once had to pawn his crown because he was such a spendthrift.

• The first Olympic race took place in 776 B.C. and was won by a chef named Corubus. Moments after receiving his first paycheck, he hired a cook and an agent.

• The band called Postal Service took its moniker from the fact that members originally used USPS to send each other music tracks, due to their conflicting schedules.

• Golf balls were made of wood until the 16th century.

• Spam mail got its nickname from the canned meat after a Monty Python skit that made fun of Spam as tasting “horrible and being ubiquitous and inescapable.”

Thought for the Day: “Rest is not idleness, and to lie sometimes on the grass under trees on a summer’s day, listening to the murmur of the water, or watching the clouds float across the sky, is by no means a waste of time.”

– John Lubbock

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San Elizario Independent School District
Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balance
Governmental Funds
For the Year Ended June 30, 2021

Data Control Codes		General Fund	Other Funds	Total Governmental Funds
REVENUES:				
5700	Total Local and Intermediate Sources	\$ 2,742,353	\$ 430,202	\$ 3,172,555
5800	State Program Revenues	32,885,569	1,228,067	34,113,636
5900	Federal Program Revenues	1,722,739	6,556,813	8,279,552
5020	Total Revenues	37,350,661	8,215,082	45,565,743
EXPENDITURES:				
Current:				
0011	Instruction	17,785,083	3,362,054	21,147,137
0012	Instructional Resources and Media Services	525,381	50,767	576,148
0013	Curriculum and Instructional Staff Development	158,849	1,302,876	1,461,725
0021	Instructional Leadership	710,960	24,167	735,127
0023	School Leadership	1,911,879	5,952	1,917,831
0031	Guidance, Counseling and Evaluation Services	1,207,170	18,843	1,226,013
0032	Social Work Services	172,740	600	173,340
0033	Health Services	437,247	149,458	586,705
0034	Student (Pupil) Transportation	1,017,592	3,489	1,021,081
0035	Food Services	1,790,341	421,869	2,212,210
0036	Extracurricular Activities	823,649	18,313	841,962
0041	General Administration	1,575,066	–	1,575,066
0051	Facilities Maintenance and Operations	3,603,268	435,517	4,038,785
0052	Security and Monitoring Services	823,222	36,835	860,057
0053	Data Processing Services	1,131,913	561	1,132,474
0061	Community Services	22,428	120,151	142,579
Debt Service:				
0071	Debt Service - Principal on Long Term Debt	800,000	580,000	1,380,000
0072	Debt Service - Interest on Long Term Debt	34,992	1,096,900	1,131,892
0073	Debt Service - Bond Issuance Cost and Fees	440	400	840
Capital Outlay:				
0081	Facilities Aquisition and Construction	100,155	37,418	137,573
Intergovernmental:				
0099	Other Intergovernmental Charges	32,129	–	32,129
6030	Total Expenditures	34,664,504	7,666,170	42,330,674
1100	Excess (Deficiency) of Revenues Over (Under) Expenditures	2,686,157	548,912	3,235,069
Other Financing Sources (Uses)				
7912	Sale of Real and Personal Property	4,322	–	4,322
7915	Transfers In	1,300,000	–	1,300,000
8911	Transfers Out (Use)	(1,500,000)	(1,300,000)	(2,800,000)
7080	Total Other Financing Sources (Uses)	(195,678)	(1,300,000)	(1,495,678)
1200	Net Change in Fund Balances	2,490,479	(751,088)	1,739,391
0100	Fund Balance – July 1 (Beginning)	10,805,201	2,643,019	13,448,220
1300	Prior Period Adjustment	–	10,845	10,845
3000	Fund Balance – June 30 (Ending)	\$ 13,295,680	\$ 1,902,776	\$ 15,198,456

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CryptoQuip
Answer

When taking a perfume shop’s test to become a cologne-sniffing worker smelling counts.

5	+	9	×	1	14
–		–		×	
3	×	6	–	2	16
×		×		+	
9	–	7	×	8	16
18		21		10	



Moments in time

THE HISTORY CHANNEL

- On Nov. 29, 2011, Conrad Murray, the doctor convicted of involuntary manslaughter in the 2009 death of singer Michael Jackson, is sentenced to four years in prison. The pop star died after suffering cardiac arrest while under the influence of propofol.
- On Nov. 30, 1954, the first modern instance of a meteorite striking a human being occurs in Alabama when an 8.5-pound meteorite crashes through the roof of a house and strikes a woman. She was not permanently injured.
- On Dec. 1, 1990, over 130 feet below the English Channel, workers drill an opening through a wall of rock, connecting the two ends of an underwater tunnel linking Great Britain with the European mainland. The completed "Chunnel" rail shuttle through the tunnel runs 31 miles and takes 20 minutes.
- On Dec. 2, 1777, Philadelphia housewife and nurse Lydia Darragh single-handedly saves the lives of

Gen. George Washington and his Continental Army when she overhears the British planning a surprise attack. The British were stunned to find the army waiting for them the next day.

- On Dec. 3, 1984, an explosion at a Union Carbide pesticide plant in Bhopal, India, leads to the worst industrial accident in history. At least 2,000 people died and another 200,000 were injured when toxic gas enveloped the city. Plant workers had failed to act when gauges showed a dangerous build-up of pressure in the tanks.
- On Dec. 4, 1945, the U.S. Senate approves full U.S. participation in the United Nations. A resolution designed to force the president to get congressional consent before approving U.S. troops for any U.N. peacekeeping forces was defeated.
- On Dec. 5, 1872, a British brig spots the Mary Celeste, an American vessel, sailing erratically near the Azores Islands with not a soul onboard. The last entry in the captain's log was dated 11 days earlier.

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Courthouse

From Page 1

Esparza remarked during the recent observance. "He was a lawyer who never gave up on doing what was good and what was right. He knew justice was worth the fight. He was dedicated to his clients, the law and to our community. We are better because of Enrique," he proclaimed.

Former U.S. federal Judge William Royal Furgeson Jr. described Moreno as a "legendary trial lawyer, the best of the best." According to Furgeson, Moreno was a hero in all the right ways for all the right reasons. "His story must be remembered for our own sakes. Naming this courthouse for him is the way to do just that," he added.

Moreno, a Mexican immigrant who came to El Paso at a young age, was a well-known fighter for civil rights and social justice for Hispanics and the underserved community. Friends described Moreno as humble and caring.

During the ceremony, a plaque with a ceremonial key to the courthouse was given to Moreno's family by El Paso County Commissioner Carl Robinson, who was instrumental in getting the courthouse renamed after Moreno.

Moreno died of cancer at age 63 in October of 2019. He was graduated from Austin High

School in 1974 and went on to receive Bachelor of Arts and Law degrees from Harvard University. Subsequently, Moreno returned to the borderland and practiced law for nearly four decades.


In the 1990's, Moreno was nominated by President Bill Clinton as a justice for the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in New Orleans.

However, partisan politics under a Republican-majority U.S. Senate kept Moreno from being confirmed.

Nonetheless, the renowned El Paso lawyer's legacy spans across the country, as Moreno earned several national, state, and local awards during his career including lawyer of the year recognition numerous times.

In his hometown, Moreno participated in various community service boards including Project Change, the El Paso Cancer Treatment Center, the United Way of El Paso County, and the Hispanic Leadership Institute. He also served on the El Paso Times' Editorial Board Community Advisory Committee.

"It is a privilege and personal for many of us who are here today for a man who was a great friend, a great mentor, a great human being, and a true advocate for our community," Texas State Senator César Blanco said during the renaming event. "He was a champion for those who didn't have a voice or thought they didn't have a voice. Enrique gave them that voice," he stated.



– Internet

Enrique Moreno, the late civil rights and social justice leader, inspired those who knew him to follow in his footsteps by putting community first and always striving for justice.

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This year’s UTEP football success is only the beginning

By Steve Escajeda
Special to the Courier

The 2021 regular season is in the books and I guess we can accurately describe the UTEP football team as... average.

The Miners ended the season last Friday with a 42-25 loss at Alabama-Birmingham. It was yet another game that UTEP woulda, coulda, shoulda won, but once again they made the kinds of costly mistakes that better-than-average teams don’t make.

Thanks to their 7-5 record, the Miners will have the pleasure of playing in a bowl game. Actually, it may be more appropriate to say the team is limping to a bowl game.

After starting the season on fire with a 6-1 record, the Miners stumbled to the finish line winning only one of their last five games.

Because of the recent downfall, the fans seemed to have given up on the team, with only 10,000 showing up for their season-ending win over Rice.

But before everyone labels this season a disappointment, let’s take a closer look at what happened in 2021.

They say that you have to crawl before you can walk, and that you have to walk before you can run. Let’s not forget that just five years ago, UTEP couldn’t even crawl.

In 2017, the Miners were considered the worst team in the United States after going 0-12. They were so bad that year that they lost one game by a point, all of their 11 other losses were by 14 points or more.

In 2018 and 2019, they began to crawl, kind of. In both seasons, they were 1-11. They were still considered the worst program in America, but at least they won a game.

Last year, because of all the COVID complications, the Miners only played eight games, but they walked their way through a 3-5 season. Yes, they may have walked like a new-born giraffe, but at

least they were upright.

Have you ever watched that person next you at the gym treadmill, walking like they were about to miss the bus? They’re not quite running yet, but they are walking fast. That was the UTEP football season in 2021.

Whenever they tried to run with the big boys on their schedule, they’d eventually trip and fall. But they did prove that they could keep pace with teams they’re own size.

And they couldn’t even do that just a few years ago.

So what does all this mean. Well, I’m no math scientist, but I can detect a trend. And unlike my personal financial portfolio, UTEP football is definitely trending upward.

In other words, I think the Miners are on the verge of going from walking to running in 2022.

Incentive

From Page 4

drug hospitals use to treat COVID-19, even when the COVID clinical trials of remdesivir showed similar adverse effects.

In ventilated patients, the death toll is staggering. A National Library of Medicine January 2021 report of 69 studies involving more than 57,000 patients concluded that fatality rates were 45 percent in COVID-19 patients receiving invasive mechanical ventilation, increasing to 84 percent in older patients. Renz announced at a Truth for Health Foundation Press Conference that CMS data showed that in Texas hospitals, 84.9% percent of all patients died after more than 96 hours on a ventilator.

Then there are deaths from restrictions on effective treatments for hospitalized patients. Renz and a team of data analysts have estimated that more than 800,000 deaths in America’s hospitals, in COVID-19 and other patients, have been caused by approaches restricting fluids, nutrition, antibiotics, effective antivirals, anti-inflammatories, and therapeutic doses of anti-coagulants.

We now see government-dictated medical care at its worst in our history since the federal government mandated these ineffective and dangerous treatments for COVID-19, and then created financial incentives for hospitals and doctors to use only those “approved” (and paid for) approaches.

Why do I say that? The biggest reason is that we’ve seen a gradual improvement at UTEP with the same group of players. Many key players have grown up in the program and their experience is beginning to turn it into a winner.

And that isn’t changing next year. Of the 119 players on UTEP’s roster, they’re only losing 10 seniors.

That means players like starting quarterback Gavin Hardison, running backs Deion Hankins, Ronald Awatt and Willie Eldridge, wide receivers Jacob Cowing and Tyrin Smith, sack leaders Praise Amaewhule and Jadrian Taylor, leading tacklers Breon Hayward, Tyrice Knight, Dennis Barnes and Tyson Wilson and even field goal kicker Gavin Baechle, are all scheduled to return for the Miners next season.

So don’t be surprised if the Miners

are picked to finish third or fourth at next year’s preseason Conference USA meetings. UTEP is almost always picked to finish last, just like they were at the beginning of this season.

But winning won’t be automatic next season, the Miners still have to improve on a few things – and they’re all on offense.

The UTEP line has to improve and open up holes for a running game that was almost nonexistent at times. Hardison will have to be transformed from a guy with a strong arm into a quarterback with accuracy.

And most important of all, UTEP’s play calling has got to get more imaginative. They play it way too safe. What good are all these weapons if you’re afraid to use them?

If UTEP can do that, the league title could go through El Paso.

Our formerly trusted medical community of hospitals and hospital-employed medical staff have effectively become “bounty hunters” for your life. Patients need to now take unprecedented steps to avoid going into the hospital for COVID-19.

Patients need to take active steps to plan before getting sick to use early home-based treatment of COVID-19 that can help you save your life.

Dr. Vliet is the President and CEO of Truth for Health Foundation, a 501(c)(3) public charity, and the creator of the Foundation’s innovative six initiatives that advocate for early outpatient COVID treatment, assist families of hospitalized patients denied effective treatment, defend medical freedom, and provide international educational and training programs focused on effective strategies for COVID and on the interconnections of health, faith and lifestyle approaches for restoring resilience and quality of life. Since February 2020, she has been part of the team of frontline physicians treating COVID early at home to reduce hospitalizations and death. Vliet is a 2014 Ellis Island Medal of Honor recipient for her national and international educational efforts in health, wellness, and endocrine aging in men and women. She is also the 2007 recipient of the Voice of Women from the Arizona Foundation for Women, and a past director of the Association of American Physicians and Surgeons and a member of its Editorial Writing Team since 2009.

Super Crossword

SHAPELY BREAKFAST ACROSS

1 John, James or Judas

8 GI show sponsor

11 13-digit publishing ID

15 Just barely

19 Taking place in cyberspace

20 Give a very bad review of

21 Piddling

22 Papa's mate

23 For a very long time

25 Experts

26 Body part over the eyes

27 Bakery units

28 Brand of fat replacer

30 Arouse the interest of

32 Auntie _ (pretzel bakery chain)

33 Good-fortune symbols

35 Here, in Cannes

37 Beards on barley

38 State, in Cannes

39 Cruel ruler in "Alice in Wonderland"

46 High-ranking clergyman

49 Terrifying dino

50 With no muss or fuss

51 Nintendo consoles

53 CNN anchor

Burnett

54 Dots on sea maps

56 Torah temple

57 Car ding

58 "... a vacation!"

59 Volkswagen sedan model

61 Aspire to high goals

64 Seek the love of

66 100%

67 Thumbs-up vote

68 Their passengers stand in baskets

76 Skewered meat dishes

81 Old family name in violinmaking

82 "Dies _" (Latin hymn)

83 Castro of Cuba

85 Monte _

86 Nada

87 Round hammer part

88 Conical shelters

90 Bog grass

91 Enchants

93 Pursue impossible dreams

96 One-named singer who was a muse for Andy Warhol

97 Subpar grades

98 Historic start?

99 Get ringers and leaners

105 Topic to debate

110 In a disturbed way

111 Gem often on a string

112 Goddess of wisdom

113 Think (over)

114 Offers

116 Cereal associated with seven key words in this puzzle

118 Tablet

119 Composer Charles

120 LAX info

121 Icy treat

122 Stick around

123 Big top, e.g.

124 _ Moines River

125 Old Greek harp players

DOWN

1 Home of St. Teresa

2 Attach, as a boutonniere

3 Financial adviser

Suze

4 Fend (off)

5 Listens to a broadcast

6 Deposits

7 "Slippery" tree

8 Samoan island where Robert Louis Stevenson died

9 More lucid

10 Getting a regular paycheck

11 Small demon

12 Tiny letter flourishes

13 Bucking ride

14 People cuddling up

15 Having mixed feelings

16 Place to set one's sights

17 Illicit affair

18 1920s U.S. veep

Charles

24 Hugs, in a letter

29 Salamander

31 Memorizing process

33 Military flutes

34 Part of Q&A

36 Swindle

39 Swab brand

40 Celestial bear

41 Sinuous swimmers

42 Previous spouses

43 Gag reaction

44 Needle case

45 Men-only

46 Succinct

47 Arena part

48 Finales

52 Acct. accrual

55 Horror film sequel of 2005

57 Del Rio of old Hollywood

58 Sci-fi writer Asimov

60 Blue Jays, on a scoreboard

62 Andy Capp's missus

63 "Eww, mice!"

65 Some theater awards

68 Mental fog

69 Boding sign

70 Fast Italian

whirling dance

71 How a nation with nukes is armed

72 Consist of

73 Cavalry weapons

74 Neck back

75 Bringer of a legal action

77 Catty remark

78 Nabisco bite

79 Erupted

80 Grassy turfs

84 Vaults

87 Put a ban on

88 Like grads' caps

89 Titled man

92 Folkie Phil

94 Dickens' Uriah

95 Nor's partner

97 "All for Love" playwright John

99 Oil rig parts

100 Native Alaskan

101 Drab hue

102 Terre _

103 Killer whales

104 Wapiti

106 Ventriloquist Lewis

107 Kosovo inhabitants

108 Not fulfilled, as a goal

109 The Far and the Near?

112 Suffering a flu symptom

115 Old JFK jet

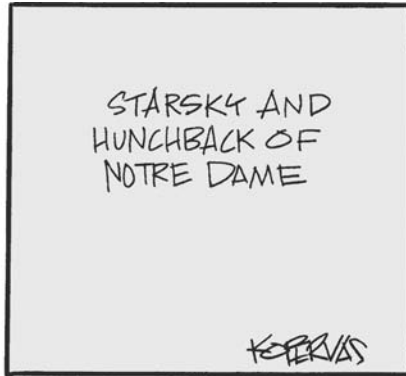
117 Big initials in fashion

Answer Page 4

1	2	3	4	5	6	7		8	9	10		11	12	13	14		15	16	17	18	
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81							82					83			84		85				
86							87					88				89		90			
91					92				93	94							95				
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110																112					
113																					
118																					
122																					

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

posted a missive supposedly from another pilot calling for the Southwest pilot and the crew all to be fired on grounds that he must have been too mentally unbalanced to operate the plane.

Asha Rangappa, another CNN commentator and a Yale law professor, compared the pilot's statement with saying, "Long live

ISIS,” as if expressing an anti-Biden sentiment in a jokey way is the same as pledging loyalty to a terror group that would love its acolytes to crash airliners.

Of course, pilots shouldn't make political announcements on their flights, and it'd be better if no one resorted to public obscenities when referring to Biden, Trump, or any other officeholder. But it's one of the privileges of living in a democratic age that people can insult the head of state without

fear of jail or other punishment.

Anyone who thinks deriding a U.S. president, especially an unpopular one, is breaking new, dangerous ground knows nothing of our history or what it's like to live in a clamorous continental nation. Partisan insults, vulgar and not, come with the territory.

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

COPD lung function can't be restored

DEAR DR. ROACH: I read your recent column on pulmonary fibrosis. I especially appreciate knowing that there are medications known to slow the progression of lung disease, reduce exacerbations and reduce mortality. With a 20-year-old diagnosis of COPD and having been prescribed medications to reduce exacerbations, you might imagine my interest in your article. I'm wondering how pulmonary fibrosis differs from COPD and if the two medications that you mention (pirfenidone and nintedanib) might be helpful in slowing the progression of lung disease in patients such as myself. Have any studies been completed using these medications on patients with COPD? – S.A.



Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease – its two main forms are emphysema and chronic bronchitis – usually, but not invariably, is a result of long-term exposure to lung toxins, especially smoke. In the most common case of COPD, due to cigarette smoking (at least, that's the most common in North America and Europe: cooking fires are still a common cause in less developed countries), stopping the exposure will dramatically slow down further damage. Unfortunately, there are no established treatments that can restore lung function in people with moderate to advanced COPD.

Pulmonary fibrosis is, by contrast, a rare disease; about 30,000 people in the U.S. are diagnosed each year (compare that with the 9 million people in the U.S. diagnosed with chronic bronchitis last year).

The exact mechanism of action of pirfenidone and nintedanib is not known, but they are not thought to be effective in COPD. Surprisingly, I did not find a published trial looking at whether these drugs might be effective. The need for new therapies to treat COPD is so great that I would have thought some researcher might have tried it, despite the long odds.

DEAR DR. ROACH: At 75, I had my first-ever kidney stone in December. The urologist told me to stop drinking so much milk. But he never asked if my diet had changed. I had been eating almonds by the handful every day. I felt certain this was the cause of the stone. I drink skim milk, which is practically tasteless. I started adding a slight bit of almond milk to the skim to give it a more pleasant taste. Should I not be doing this? – P.T.

I am not certain why the urologist told you to stop drinking cow's milk. We used to believe that the calcium in milk increased risk for kidney stones, especially calcium oxalate stones, which are the most common type; however, dietary calcium paradoxically decreases risk of kidney stones, whereas calcium supplements increase risk of stones. What makes the biggest difference in diet is the oxalate content.

Almonds, as well as almond milk, are very high in oxalate; cow's milk is not. I don't know what you mean by a "slight bit" of almond milk, but I would try to avoid taking too much (more than a few teaspoons a day), and find another way to flavor the milk if you really don't like it. I know a few people who add a drop of vanilla. Coconut milk – which I don't recommend consuming in large quantities due to the saturated fat content – does not have oxalate.

Essentially, everybody with kidney stones should drink plenty of water, and nearly everyone should be very careful not to have too much sodium.

Dr. Roach regrets that he is unable to answer individual questions, but will incorporate them in the column whenever possible. Readers may email questions to ToYourGoodHealth@med.cornell.edu. (c) 2021 North America Synd., Inc. All Rights Reserved.

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Moore Texas by Roger Moore
Dec. 4, 1892: A New York newspaper reports a rain making failure by the Dept. of Agriculture... high explosives were discharged near Midland and San Antonio to no avail.

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: C equals L

VSBR IGOFRX G JBYMTUB
ZSPJ'Z IBZI IP WBEPUB G
EPCPXR B-ZRFMMFRX VPYOBY,
ZUBCCFRX EPTRIZ.

Answer Page 4

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging

Answer Page 4

♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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VA ends debt relief



by Freddy Groves

The Department of Veterans Affairs called a cease-fire on collection of overpayments between April 2020 and September 2021 due to the COVID pandemic. Now that debt collection has started up again. The VA will not, however, actually make deductions from our benefits until January 2022. In addition, if you had unpaid medical co-payments before April 2020, they'll start collecting those again.

That must mean the COVID pandemic is over, right? We're all doing well, grocery prices haven't soared, gas prices are still low, rents haven't increased, we all have jobs or at least enough income if a spouse didn't lose a job ... right?

If the VA says you owe money, you'll receive a debt collection letter. In it will be options for debt relief. You might be offered extended

repayment plans, compromises, waivers or temporary suspensions in payment. If you get a letter, address the situation immediately. Don't delay. There is a time limit to be considered for debt relief.

For benefit debts, call 1-800-827-0648 or go online to ask. va.gov. After signing in, you can track your message all the way from submission to resolution and see all your past messages and responses. You can choose to get a reply back by email, phone or through the U.S. mail. If you have pharmacy co-payment or medical-care debt, call 1-866-400-1238.

Another page to view is www.va.gov/manage-va-debt/, where you can check the status of your debt. Look at www.va.gov/resources/va-covid-19-debt-relief-options-for-veterans-and-dependents/ for more debt-related information and questions.

Before you make any agreements about repayment, read and understand the fine print. A compromise means you'll pay less than the full amount, but it's due all at once within 30 days. A waiver

means they'll forgive a portion of the debt.

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• Inexpensive gift idea: On the front of an empty photo album or scrapbook, print out and arrange color photos of your recipient in a collage. Glue the photos to the front of the album and cover with a decoupage glaze, like Mod Podge. Let dry and glaze again. You've just made a one-of-a-kind gift!

• If you are a re-gifter, always document from whom and in what year you received a gift. Then re-gift it to someone who will have little to no contact with that person. For example, if Aunt Emily from out of town sends you a lovely soap basket that you would never use, you could re-gift it for your office party.

• After-Christmas sales are a great time to buy not only gift wrap (look for solid colors that you can use all year long), holiday cards and decoration, but also next season's winter wear. Things like scarves and gloves can be great bargains. And even coats can go on sale. Take advantage – especially if you have kids – and buy up.

• "Recycle in the new year by using wrapping supplies to help store your holiday decorations. The cardboard tube from gift wrap can be cut into smaller pieces, which you can wrap strands of tree or house lights around. Boxes can be put to use to hold ornaments or other decorations, and ribbon and bows that are still in good condition can be tucked away for re-use next year." – E.F. in Oregon

• "Resolutions are a great idea, and, like a lot of people, last year I resolved to exercise more often. I keep a stationary bike in my living room, and I use it while I watch my favorite programs on television. It has helped me lose 8 pounds, and I feel much better. This year, I am going to resolve to volunteer to help others." – I.N. in Nebraska

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

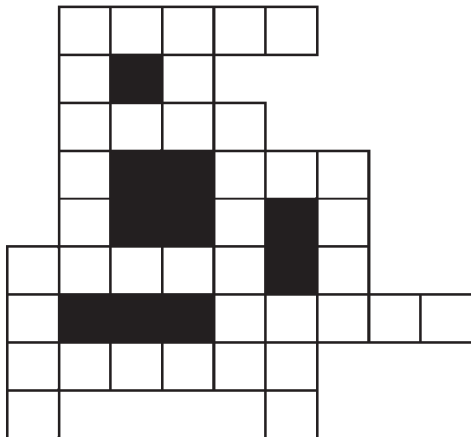
	+		×		14
-		-		×	
	×		-		16
×		×		+	
	-		×		16
18		21		10	

1 2 3 5 6 7 8 9 9

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TUO
AROCON
GREEV
GUHN
MECESH
GHA
EVIC
UHMRE
♥RNU
VORENG
♥DROSC
♥ETRA



Answer Page 4

Unscramble these twelve letter strings to form each into an ordinary word (ex. HAGNEC becomes CHANGE). Prepare to use only ONE word from any marked (♥) letter string as each unscrambles into more than one word (ex. ♥RATHE becomes HATER or EARTH or HEART). Fit each string's word either across or down to knot all twelve strings together.

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