

## NEWSBRIEFS

### Dental ratings

With February being National Children's Dental Health Month and dental health having an effect on appearance, general well-being and even earnings, the personal-finance website WalletHub has released its report on 2018's *States with the Best & Worst Dental Health*. In order to determine which places have the healthiest teeth and gums in the U.S., WalletHub compared the 50 states and the District of Columbia across 25 key metrics. The data set ranges from share of adolescents who visited a dentist in the past year to dental treatment costs to share of adults with low life satisfaction due to oral condition. Texas was 42nd overall, ranking:

- 45th – Percent Of Adults Who Visited a Dentist in the Past Year;
- 32nd – Dentists per Capita;
- 37th – Percent of Adults with Poor or Fair Oral Condition;
- 31st – Percent of Adults Who Experienced Oral Pain in the Past Year; and
- 51st – Percent of Adults with Low Life Satisfaction Due to Their Oral Condition.

Visit <https://wallethub.com/edu/states-with-best-worst-dental-health/31498/> for the full report.

– Diana Popa

### Free trees

Joining the Arbor Day Foundation is an ideal way to get in the mood for spring planting. Anyone who joins the Foundation in February 2018 will receive 10 free Norway spruce trees or 10 free redbud trees to plant when the weather turns warm. The free trees are part of the nonprofit Foundation's Trees for America campaign. The trees will be shipped postpaid at the right time for planting, between March 1 and May 31, with enclosed planting instructions. The 6- to 12-inch trees are guaranteed to grow, or they will be replaced free of charge. Members also receive a subscription to the Foundation's colorful bimonthly publication, Arbor Day, and The Tree Book, which contains information about planting and care. To become a member of the Foundation and receive the free trees, send a \$10 contribution to TEN FREE NORWAY SPRUCE TREES or TEN FREE EASTERN REDBUD TREES, Arbor Day Foundation, 100 Arbor Avenue,

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*Creating all men free and equal isn't enough. Some means must be devised to keep them free and equal.*

– Quips & Quotes



– Photo courtesy of LeRoy Unglaub and the El Paso Archaeological Society

**BACK IN TIME** – Prehistoric Scotland will be the topic of discussion when LeRoy Unglaub gives his presentation at this month's El Paso Archaeological Society meeting which is scheduled for Saturday, Feb. 17. Skara Brae, above, is a Neolithic village in Europe from the 3100 to 2500 BC centuries.

## Unglaub shares prehistoric rock art of Scotland

By Alfredo Vasquez  
Special to the Courier

EL PASO COUNTY – LeRoy Unglaub, a retired electronic engineer, has spent over a quarter-of-a-century pursuing his new main interest... archaeology, specifically rock art. And, that interest has allowed him to explore in different parts of the world some of the amazing ruins of the past.

Unglaub will share his new-found passion when he gives a presentation during the El Paso Archaeological Society's (EPAS) next monthly meeting, which is slated to begin at 2 p.m., Saturday, February 17, at the El Paso Museum of Archaeology, 4301 Transmountain Road. The event is free and open to the public.

For the forthcoming EPAS gathering, Unglaub stated that he will give a presentation, entitled *Prehistoric Scotland*, which is based on a tour he took last year to numerous, famous archaeological sites in Scotland. He stated that his talk will include visual aids of the many archaeological locations in the Orkney and Shetland Islands, such as the famous sites of Skara Brae, Jarlshop, and Ness of Brodgar.

According to Unglaub, Skara Brae is the best-preserved Neolithic (New Stone Age) village in Europe complete with furnishings and material goods from 3100 BC to 2500 BC. Jarlshop is a site that was almost continuously occupied for over 4,000 years with Neolithic, Bronze

Age, Iron Age, Viking, medieval, and 17th century ruins. And, Ness of Brodgar is a recently discovered site which may become the most significant Neolithic site in Britain if not all of Europe.

Unglaub said that he became interested in ancient rock art about twenty-five years ago, and that his interest has evolved into

the study, photography, and documentation of rock art sites. Now, he frequently shares his findings on rock art and other related subjects to archaeological and rock art societies, as well as to community clubs and organizations. Unglaub is a member

See ROCK ART, Page 4

## Cortez named to State band

By Denise Peña  
Special to the Courier

FABENS – Fabens High School junior Isabella Cortez has been selected to participate in the Association of Texas Small School Bands 2018 All-State Band on Saturday, Feb. 17. She plays the flute under the direction of Miguel Soto.

All-State is the highest honor a Texas music student can receive. Over 1,700 students are selected through a process that begins with over 64,000 students from around the state competing for this honor to perform in one of 15 ensembles (bands, orchestras, and choirs).

Cortez's first chair ranking at the

See CORTEZ, Page 3



– Photo courtesy Fabens ISD

**THE RIGHT NOTE** – Fabens High School junior Isabella Cortez following her performance in Area competition that earned her a place in the All-State Band.



View from here

By Ruben P. Gonzalez

El Paso County Tax Collector’s Office strives to provide quality service

The El Paso County Tax Assessor-Collector’s Office has finished 2017 very successfully and attained excellent goals after the completion of the 85th Texas Legislative Session. We provide

local title and registration services to our citizens, automobile dealerships, financial institutions, and motoring public. New services and programs that affect our citizenry and county

are listed below.

Our Enforcement Division, has done a marvelous job in collecting revenue under the Dealer Vehicle Inventory Tax Program. They have collected motor vehicle sales taxes from unscrupulous “tax evaders” on “rebuilt salvage” transactions, El Paso residents displaying out of state plates past 30 days, improved enforcement of “curbstoning” (unlicensed vehicles sales), performed legal VIN inspections on selected vehicles to protect our consumers and innocent buyers, and recovered fifteen stolen vehicles with a book value exceeding \$280 thousand. This year alone, the Enforcement Section has brought in close to \$222 thousand in revenue to support the El Paso County General Fund.

On January 1, 2017, the TxDMV approved a new processing and handling (P&H) fee of \$4.75 for a transaction processed by our office to include our private contracted offices. From the \$4.75 fee, the county receives \$2.30 per transaction when processed in/or mailed to our office and the remainder goes to Texas. El Paso County receives only \$1.30 when transactions are processed by authorized deputies. This fee structure causes a \$1.00 per transaction hardship to the county. Ultimately, our

county would be in the red in revenue collections under this formula. Nonetheless, our office implemented a “concessionary fee” alternative to be paid by any authorized deputy acting on behalf of the County Tax Collector. This approach has replenished the potential lost funding in compensation and has allowed our office to maintain our revenues in the black for our County General Fund. We are the first county in Texas using this innovative idea to avoid a revenue shortfall for our County. As of December 31, 2017, we have collected over \$180 thousand under this method for an eight-month period.

New laws and amendments such as allowing our office to issue a no charge replacement plate/sticker when lost in the mail, procedures on repairing/ rebuilding a “rebuilt salvage” vehicle for titling, new law on enforcing “indigent” SCOFFLAW collections, requiring “VIN Inspections” for certain title transactions such as “VIN errors”, “assigned numbers”, “no record” and “Bonded” title transactions, and eliminating the need for a seller of a motor vehicle to sign the seller’s affidavit for sales tax purposes. We have made a strong commitment to enhancing the quality of our services and information that includes efficient customer service. Our Training Coordinator has implemented training programs that support our Automobile Dealer Industry (New & Used), Private Contracted offices, and our strongest asset, our county

employees.

Our office is proactive in providing Sexual Harassment Training to our managers and staff. Meetings have been held to educate, prevent, and enforce County Policy when dealing with Sexual Harassment in the Workplace to protect our employees, management, and ultimately the County of El Paso.

We have facilitated Motor Vehicle Sales Tax Training performed by the State Comptroller that has clarified policy and brought new knowledge to our staff and contracted offices to benefit our County.

Our office Property Tax Collections in January 2017 exceeded collections from January 2016 in both dollars and transaction count. Customers found it more convenient and less challenging to pay their property taxes at our six office locations. We appreciate our citizens when they choose to visit our offices.

With new software, we have automated our check handling procedures for mail-in registrations that allows our staff to process mail registrations and deposit check payments straight to the bank on the same day eliminating further verifications by our accounting department.

The citizens of El Paso County can be assured that in 2018, our office will be involved with many new projects promoted by Texas. El Paso County is ranked seventh in the state in vehicle population and we

See TAX OFFICE, Page 3

Veterans Post

By Freddy Groves

Discharge upgrades have gotten easier

Veterans who want to upgrade their military discharge now have help. The Department of Veterans Affairs, working with the Department of Defense, has created a new online tool.

There are any number of reasons why a veteran might end up with a less-than-honorable discharge. Events that occurred due to traumatic brain injury, assault or harassment due to sexual orientation, and mental-health conditions such post-traumatic stress disorder are on the list.

For those veterans who wonder if it’s worth the bother trying to upgrade, the answer is yes. You’ll be eligible for the benefits you earned.

Go online to [www.vets.gov/discharge-upgrade-instructions](http://www.vets.gov/discharge-upgrade-instructions) to the How to Apply for a Discharge Upgrade page. Based on your answers to questions, this tool will walk you through whom you need to contact, provide the forms and give tips on appealing your discharge. To begin, click on Get Started and

answer all the questions. There are a number of choices under why you want to upgrade your discharge. Undiagnosed PTSD and Traumatic Brain Injury are likely to be the most common reasons.

At the end of the questions you’ll get an initial reply. If it says you need to fill out a DoD Form 149, just scroll down to download it.

If you did apply and were approved, you’ll be issued a DD215. But you’ll want a new DD214 to reflect the changes. Check the instructions for how to get one. If you never did get a DD214, apply at the Get Started link.

Even if you don’t get an upgrade, you might be able to have your record changed via a Character of Discharge review process to “honorable for VA purposes.” But be aware, it can take nearly a year. Meanwhile, you still can ask for help for service-related conditions.

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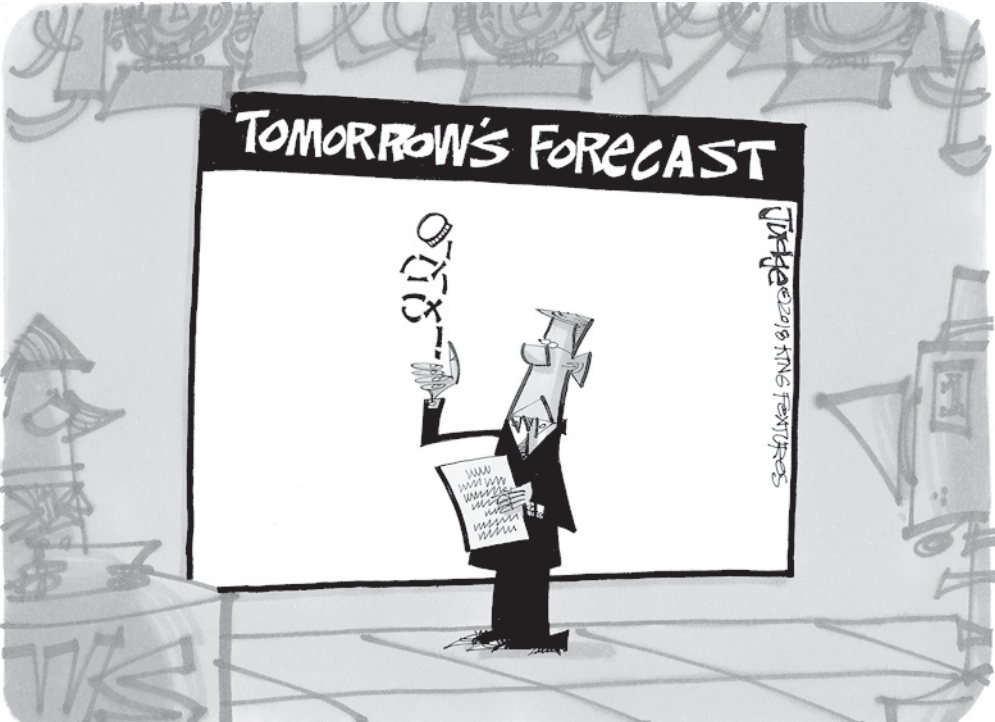
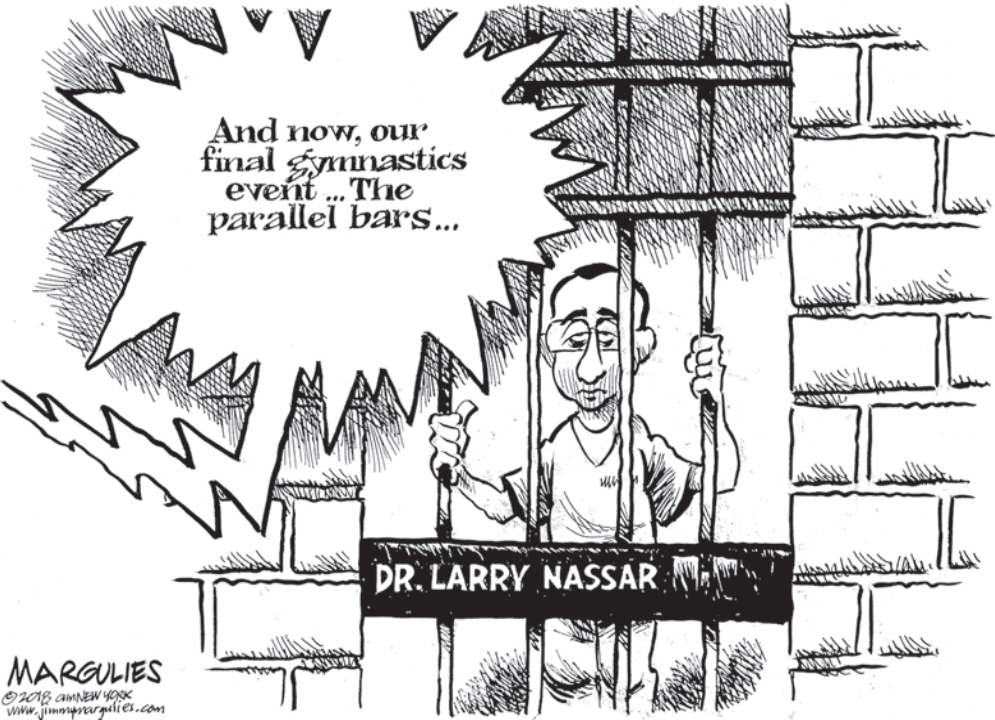












Cortez

From Page 1

region competition and 3rd chair in the Area competition held at Levelland High School on January 13 is what secured her place in the All-State band. All-State students will participate in three days of rehearsals directed by nationally recognized conductors during the annual state TMEA Clinic/Convention. Their performances before thousands of attendees bring this

Tax Office

From Page 2

contribute highly in overall Registration and Motor Vehicle Sales Tax revenues each year for our County and State budgets. We have an excellent working relationship with TxDMV who rely on our feedback when it pertains to County funds accountability, VIN Inspections, Web-Dealer programs, Rebuilt Salvage Enforcement, Fraudulent Title Transactions, and supporting our contracted private offices. One of our major goals is to bring in revenue from El Paso residents who should be paying motor vehicle fees legitimately and not circumventing them. There is a high volume of vehicle registration violators operating on our city and

extraordinary event to a close. While Cortez has a natural talent for music, Band Director Miguel Soto acknowledges it's her dedication that has made her FHS's first female student and first flute player to be selected for the All-State Band. "Isabella always wanted to play the flute since beginner band when she was in 6th grade. She has been always consistent and has been very proficient in her studies which have made her a superior student," Soto said. "We are all very proud of her achievement."

county roadways. Our desire is that our 2017 fee collections will support all citizens with their annual property tax statements since our collections to the general fund help determine if property taxes go up or stay the same each year. Our goal continues to be delivering quality customer service using advanced technology. Working in the best interest for the citizens of El Paso County, we will continue to promote public confidence and demonstrate the leadership and management skills worthy of a public office.

*Ruben P. Gonzalez, El Paso County Tax Assessor-Collector and has over 41 years of experience in administering Texas Title and Registration statutes. He can be reached at [rugonzalez@epcounty.com](mailto:rugonzalez@epcounty.com).*

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Rock Art

From Page 1

of the American and Utah Rock Art Research Associations and of several archaeological societies.

Unglaub’s upcoming presentation is part of EPAS’s continuing effort to highlight interesting, informative research

projects and reports on a monthly basis for not only members but also for the public in general.

EPA, founded in 1922, is a non-profit organization. Membership is open to individuals and groups interested in anthropology, archaeology and in the preservation of prehistoric and historic cultural resources. Membership information can be

found on the EPAS website, <http://epas.com/membership.htm>.

EPAS members are currently engaged in archaeological tours and field work organized through the non-profit Jornada Research Institute (JRI) of Tularosa, New Mexico. According to its website (<http://jornadaresearchinstitute.com/>), JRI’s mission is to study the archaeological, ethno-historic,

historic and natural resources of the northern Chihuahuan Desert of Arizona, New Mexico, West Texas and adjacent regions.

For more information about Unglaub’s presentation or about the archaeological society, contact the group’s media consultant, Fernando Arias, at (915) 449-9075, or send email to [nando79935@yahoo.com](mailto:nando79935@yahoo.com).

Strange But True

By Samantha Weaver

• It was 19th-century French novelist and poet Victor Hugo who made the following sage observation: “Men hate those to whom they have to lie.”

• If you’re planning to visit the Hawaiian island of Kauai, you might want to trek up to Mount Waialeale. If you do, though, be sure to take an umbrella, as that mountain holds the distinction of receiving more rainfall than any other place on Earth, with an average of about 40 feet – yes, feet – of rain annually.

• According to the National Chicken Council’s annual Chicken Wing Report – yes, there is such a report, and it is strategically timed for release just before the Super Bowl – 1.35 billion wings were consumed during Super Bowl weekend this year. That’s an all-time high; the number crunchers have determined that if all those wings were laid end-to-end, the resulting line of poultry would stretch 394 million feet. That would be long enough to circle the Earth three times – or to cross a road 13 million times.

• When archaeologists discovered the tomb of King Tut, one of the objects they found inside was a bronze razor – and it was still sharp enough to use.

• Did you ever wonder how the lollipop got its name? A man named George Smith first put the hard treat on the end of a stick, but candy-making wasn’t his only interest. It seems that Smith also had a keen interest in horseracing, and he named the candy after a popular racehorse of the time, Lolly Pop.

• Those who study such things say that all mammals, from rodents to elephants, urinate for approximately 21 seconds. This is now known as the “Law of Urination.”

Thought for the Day: “The universe is like a safe to which there is a combination. But the combination is locked up in the safe.”

– Peter De Vries

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CryptoQuip  
Answer

When sovereign rulers have their morning meals, do you suppose they would choose the imperial cereal?

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2	+	1	×	7	21
×		+		+	
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Moments  
in Time  
The History Channel

- On Feb. 19, 1942, right after Pearl Harbor, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signs Executive Order 9066, authorizing the removal of any or all people “as deemed necessary or desirable.” By June, more than 110,000 Japanese Americans on the West Coast were relocated to remote internment camps.
  - On Feb. 20, 1902, famed Western photographer Ansel Adams is born in San Francisco. Adams founded “Group f/64,” which was dedicated to promoting deep-focus photography and the use of “straight” images free from darkroom trickery.
  - On Feb. 21, 1828, the first printing press designed to use the newly invented Cherokee alphabet arrives at New Echota, Georgia. Within months, the first Indian language newspaper in history, The Cherokee Phoenix, was published.
  - On Feb. 22, 1980, the underdog U.S. hockey team, made up of college students, defeats the four-time defending gold-medal winning Soviet team at the Olympic Winter Games in New York. The Soviet squad fell to the American team 4-3 before a frenzied crowd of 10,000 spectators.
  - On Feb. 23, 1954, a group of children in Pennsylvania receive the first injections of the new polio vaccine developed by Dr. Jonas Salk. Although highly successful, a single faulty batch of the vaccine caused a sudden outbreak of 200 cases.
  - On Feb. 24, 1917, British authorities give the U.S. a copy of an official coded message from Germany that Mexico should be asked to enter a war against the U.S. as a German ally. In return, Germany promised to restore to Mexico the lost territories of Texas, New Mexico and Arizona.
  - On Feb. 25, 1890, Vlacheslav Mikhaylovich Skryabin, who took the revolutionary name Molotov, is born in Russia. He invented the famous “Molotov cocktail,” a flammable liquid-filled glass bottle stuffed with a lighted rag and thrown at the enemy.
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Briefs

From Page 1

Nebraska City, NE 68410, by February 28, 2018, or visit [arborday.org/february](http://arborday.org/february).  
– Danny Cohn

Video stores

The video rental business is not what it used to be. Not since the Internet and video streaming came to town. The Association of Mature American Citizens reports that one of the last Blockbuster store located in Edinburg, TX is in the process of liquidating its stock. Another Blockbuster in Eagle River, AK will soon close its doors. It is quite a comedown for Blockbuster. In the early 1990s the chain was 9,000 stores strong and now less than 10 remain. Most of the

handful of active video stores in the nation are in locations with poor Wi-Fi access or in big cities specializing in hard-to-find movies and documentaries and video games.  
– John Grimaldi

What’d you say?

The owner of New York City saloon recently announced a free speech policy change for patrons. The Continental bar will no longer tolerate the word, “literally.” Owner Trigger Smith says he banned the term out of respect for the English language. Apparently too many millennials use it in their conversations and that annoys him. So, customers using the word will be given five minutes to finish their drinks and then will have to leave. And, if you start a sentence with it, you will be

asked to leave immediately, drink or no drink. Will Trigger enforce his rule? He told reporters that he means it in a tongue-in-cheek way. “We are not ‘Literally’ throwing people out. Yet!”  
– John Grimaldi

Immigrants

With immigration reform remaining one of the biggest policy issues in 2018, the personal-finance website WalletHub has released its report on 2018’s *Economic Impact of Immigration by State*. In order to determine which states benefit most from immigration, WalletHub compared the 50 states and the District of Columbia across 19 key metrics, ranging from median household income of foreign-born population to jobs generated by immigrant-owned

businesses as a share of total jobs. Texas is impacted 13th overall, ranking:  
• 16th – Percent of Jobs Generated by Immigrant-Owned Businesses Out of Total Jobs;  
• 9th – Percent of Foreign-Born STEM Workers Out of Total STEM Workers;  
• 22nd – Percent of Fortune 500 Companies Founded by Immigrants or Their Children;  
• 24th – Percent of Jobs Created by Presence of International Students Out of Total Jobs; and  
• 28th – Economic Contribution of International Students per Capita.  
Visit <https://wallethub.com/edu/economic-impact-of-immigration-by-state/32248/> for the full report.  
– Diana Popa

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# Miners fighting for their basketball lives

By Steve Escajeda  
Special to the Courier

If you sports fans out there are feeling a little empty or light-headed right now I know exactly how you feel.

As Bill Clinton would put it, “I feel your pain.”

With the Super Bowl said and done, the football season is officially over.

Yes, I know the sport has suffered through a ton of bad press. Television ratings and actual attendance at games has dipped, and there’s no doubt that because of certain rule changes the game is not what it used to be.

But we Americans still love our football – and now it’s gone for six months.

So now we change our attention to basketball. Both the NBA and college hoops are right in the middle of their seasons with every game getting more crucial from this point forward.

The closest NBA teams to El Paso are in Phoenix, San Antonio and Denver.

So naturally, that leaves the UTEP Miners.

And as usual, the Miners are in a close fight in the conference standings. What is unusual is that instead of fighting for the league crown, this year’s team is fighting to stay out of last place.

The Conference USA Basketball Tournament tips off in a month and the top 12 teams in the 14-team league get to go.

If my math is correct that means that two teams won’t qualify. And amazingly, the Miners are in a real fight to avoid being one of those two teams.

After suffering through an embarrassing (even for UTEP standards) 0-12 football season, fans expected basketball to be much better.

It’s nowhere near as bad as football was, but it isn’t much better either.

The Miners have lost players to injury, to defection and to an undisclosed leave of absence. Not to mention they even lost a head coach.

UTEP’s 2017-18 athletic woes have been well documented and the hope is that new athletic director Jim Senter will find all the answers.

But until then, what do the Miners do

with half a conference season still left to go?

Even though the odds are that UTEP will have some new players and a new head coach next season, the team is going to have to dig down deep and find a reason to keep fighting.

I know the goal at the beginning of the season wasn’t to avoid being locked out of the conference tournament, but I can’t think of a bigger goal now.

It looks like UTEP will be battling Rice and Charlotte for the final playoff spot.

The good news is that the Miners still have games left with Rice and Charlotte. The bad news is that they’re both on the road.

The silver lining in this bleak season has been the emergence of the young guys on the team.

Freshmen Even Gilyard, Trey Wade, Kobe McGee and sophomore Isiah Osborne are starting to shed their “new guy” skin and are taking it upon themselves to lead the team.

Throw in the advances of 6-9, 250-pound freshman Tirus Smith (who is injured right now) and the Miners have a

lot to look forward to.

But if the immediate future is to be saved, the reins on these young guys have to be loosened considerably.

Let’s put it this way, at this point what does the team have to lose?

Because the older guys like Omega Harris and Paul Thomas and Matt Willms and Trey Touchet and Jake Flaggert and Keith Frazier have been so inconsistent, the young guys might as well take their place at the table now.

And as far as interim head coach Phil Johnson, you’ve got to feel for the guy who ended up in a position he couldn’t have dreamed he’d be in at the start of the season.

Talk about your classic “no-win” situation.

I don’t know what UTEP is paying Jim Senter but I already know it’s not enough. If he is able to move the right UTEP chess pieces into place and turn this program around it’ll be miraculous.

This UTEP sports year of discontent is almost over – but there is still some work to do, if the basketball team is still willing to go to work.

## A sporting view By Mark Vasto

### Time’s up

A few weeks ago at Torrey Pines, Tiger Woods may have accomplished his greatest feat as a golfer: missing a birdie putt.

Woods probably would have made the shot if some [idiot] hadn’t taken the moment of his backswing to yell out, “GET IN THE HOLE!” The backlash among those in attendance toward the offender was swift. They were able to track the guy down and shame him on social media, and one hopes, got him kicked out and banned from the venue for life.

Now if this had happened to a lesser golfer – say, someone at the back end of the draw or someone like John Daly (who people probably just assume likes that sort of thing) – we’d still have to put up with hearing that at golf tournaments. But one hopes that Torrey Pines became that stupid, obnoxious, brainless, unsportsmanlike shout’s Waterloo. Let it end there.

Like the fall of the Berlin Wall, and more recently the #MeToo movement, significant social change has a way of creeping up on us until all of a sudden, it reaches a crescendo that is too strong to be stopped. In sports, we remember the day that Jackie Robinson first took to the field in Brooklyn as such a moment. Shortly after, the color barrier broke all across the country. Years later, kids reading a sports almanac could only furrow their brows and ask if such a day really existed... a time when a black guy couldn’t play big-league sports. And we remember the day Billie Jean King said she wasn’t going to play without equal pay – that she wasn’t going to be penalized for being a woman.

Sports mirrors society, but often it is a step ahead when it comes to

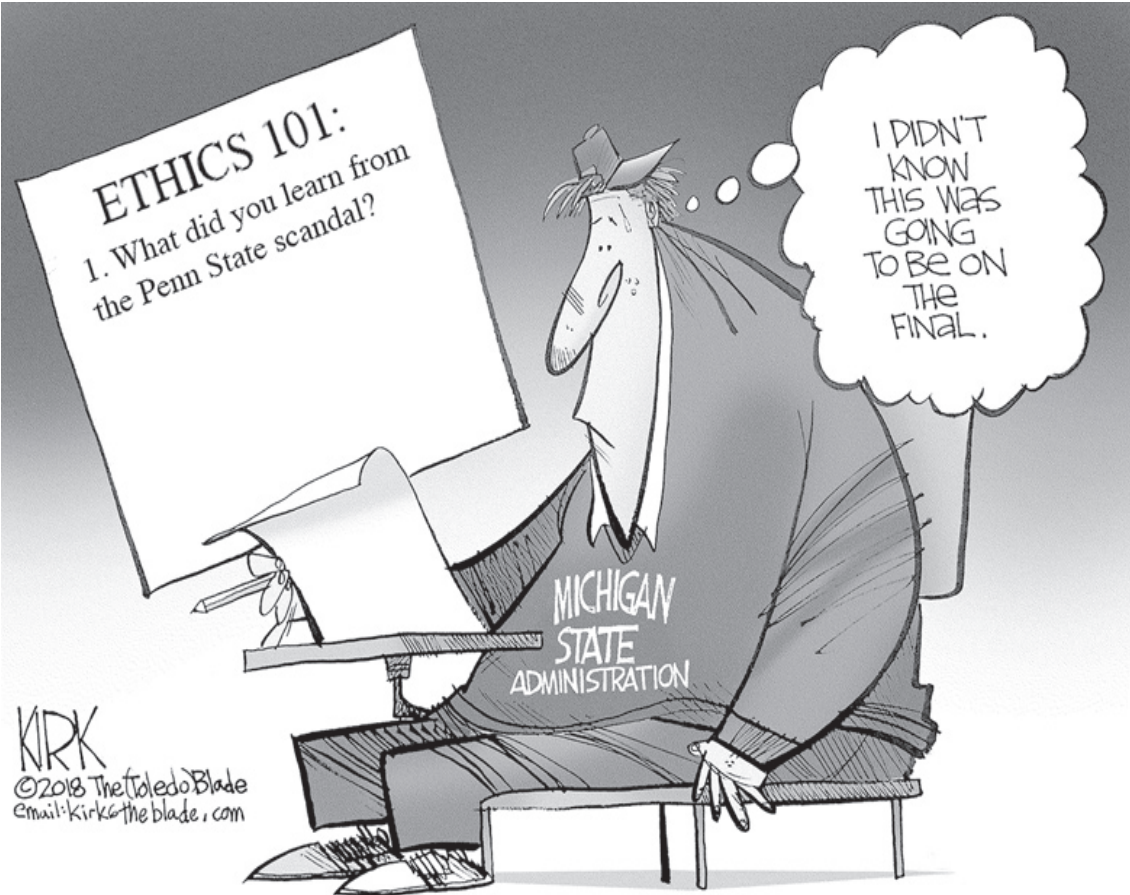
morals and judgment. Every time sports is faced with some ridiculous set of discriminatory rules or off-base judgments, a core group of leaders pay attention to what sports is supposed to be – competition among your peers utilizing a universal and equal set of rules – and make changes. It doesn’t always happen as quickly as we’d like or deserve, but in general, it happens.

Last month it happened in Cleveland. Since 1932, the Cleveland Indians have employed a stereotype as their “logo” (even though it also was clearly marketed or implied to be serving as a “mascot” for decades). Never mind that “Indians” in North America were never “Indians” to begin with, the fact that too many sports fans couldn’t see the ridiculous use of “Chief Wahoo” as a logo for a team that had just moved into “Progressive Field” is a real scalp-scratcher.

And now we turn the tide toward Washington, D.C.’s professional football franchise and its abysmally tone-deaf and dictionary-defined racist slur “Redskin” moniker. Dan Snyder, owner of the Redskins, has vowed NEVER to change the team’s name. But Snyder is on the wrong side of history, and like his team of late, he will lose.

The Washington football team will change its name with or without him – preferably without. Anyone who thinks otherwise is not only on the wrong side of history, but needs to seriously consider crawling back into the hole they came from. Time’s up, Snyder... let’s see how long it takes for you to get the message everyone else seems to have gotten but you.

Mark Vasto is a veteran sportswriter who lives in New Jersey. (c) 2018 King Features Synd., Inc.





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



Your good health

By Keith Roach, M.D.

DEAR DR. ROACH: A year ago, I broke out with pimples on my back, arms and thighs. They itched so badly I thought I would go mad. A dermatologist took a biopsy and told me it was an autoimmune disease called bullous pemphigoid. I was started on prednisone and doxycycline. When it cleared up, I would stop the medication, but it came back. The doctor said she thinks I'll have to take medication for the rest of my life. I don't like taking this medication, as it blurs my eyesight and I lose energy. I also have osteoporosis. I do take some vitamins. – G.B.

Bullous pemphigoid is an autoimmune disease that causes blisters, mostly in older adults. The blisters are large and tense (as opposed to pemphigus, an even more dangerous autoimmune disease, in which the blisters are soft). Bullous pemphigoid tends to come and go over months or even years. Diagnosis is confirmed by biopsy.

The usual treatment for bullous pemphigoid is a corticosteroid, either topical or systemic. Since it was over such an extended area of your body, your dermatologist decided on systemic, at a moderate dose of 20 mg. Prednisone has many long-term side effects, including making your osteoporosis much worse. Further, I am concerned that the blurry vision could indicate the onset of diabetes or a cataract, as both are strongly associated with chronic steroid use. Your regular doctor should be testing you for diabetes and treating the osteoporosis, and should make sure that you see the eye doctor. Certain medications, such as the doxycycline she started you on, can reduce your need for steroids. Other medications

used for autoimmune disease can further reduce the need for steroids, but azathioprine, methotrexate, mycophenolate and others have serious side effects of their own. Nicotinamide, also called vitamin B-3, can make the doxycycline more effective.

Although bullous pemphigoid sometimes does go away, I agree with your doctor that you are likely to need some medication long term; however, she may be able to reduce the dosages.

DEAR DR. ROACH: My adult daughter contracted ringworm or some other fungus from her beautiful Border Collie. She has been using over-the-counter meds on the two of them for over 10 months! The dog is doing better than my daughter. Any solutions to get rid of this once and for all? – E.B.

Ten months is too long to treat something empirically. It's time to find out what this fungus might be, and that means a visit to a dermatologist, who can do a culture of the infection to find out what it is. There are some unusual fungi that can be passed from animals (dogs, cats, pigs, horses, cattle) to humans and cause skin infection. Rarely is systemic treatment necessary.

Dr. Roach regrets that he is unable to answer individual letters, but will incorporate them in the column whenever possible. Readers may email questions to [ToYourGoodHealth@med.cornell.edu](mailto:ToYourGoodHealth@med.cornell.edu). To view and order health pamphlets, visit [www.rbmamall.com](http://www.rbmamall.com), or write to Good Health, 628 Virginia Drive, Orlando, FL 32803. (c) 2018 North America Synd., Inc. All Rights Reserved.

Super Crossword

WE INTERRUPT THIS PROGRAM ACROSS

1 Of the liver

8 "Hello" singer of 2015

13 The Cowboys, on scoreboards

16 "That feels ni-i-ice!"

19 Variety of coffee

20 Of the kidneys

21 Book like Titus or Jude

23 \* Futile endeavor

25 Restricting factor

26 "What \_ state of affairs"

27 Go away

28 \* Non-earthlings

30 Cowboys or Raiders

32 Money matters

34 \* Freight vessels

40 \* Saw beyond

45 Sirens, say

46 Rearrange

48 Safe, asea

49 Arm parts

50 Imam's God

52 Twisted fiber used in textiles

56 Tony-winning Schreiber

57 Bitter beer

58 \* Feral horses of the West

61 Bending body part

62 Diner cousin

64 Samovars, e.g.

65 Unwelcome grade

66 Sci-fi captain

Jean- \_ Picard

68 Their names are divided in the answers to the starred clues

70 Muscles to crunch

72 Absorb

75 Ring arbiter

77 Hood's blade

79 Not sickly

83 \* People trying to get mates

86 Suffix with 121-Down

87 Distinctive periods

88 Heating device

89 Pinata topper?

91 Slips on sleet

92 Seed casing

93 Crumpet

95 \* "Remington \_"

96 \* It often adjoins a big bedroom

101 \* Folk hero of Vermont

104 \_ riche

106 British prep school

107 \* Result of income inequality

111 Prefix with surgeon

114 Genesis twin

118 Dreadful

119 \* Their members love drawing blanks

123 Zero

124 Bar garnish

125 French explorer who named Louisiana

126 "Goodness!"

127 St. crossers

128 Niamey site

129 Scoundrel

DOWN

1 "Very funny"

2 Lustful god

3 Daddy

4 Tucked in

5 Up to, in brief

6 Drink cooler

7 Algiers area

8 Western gas brand

9 Unheeding

10 "Tuff \_" (1986 hit)

11 Vegas intro?

12 Powell of film

13 Break the connection of

14 For each

15 Described

16 " \_ girl!"

17 Baldwin of Hollywood

18 "Take it"

22 Knight's title

24 Huge hauler

29 Vietnamese neighbor

30 Little kids

31 Double curve

33 Spot in la mer

34 Waterproof sealant

35 Dog-tired

36 Zellweger or

O'Connor

37 Fishtank bed

38 Comrade

39 Picnic side

41 \_ visit (call)

42 "... from \_ down under" (1981 hit song lyric)

43 Coat fabric

44 Not relaxed

47 Until then

50 "Carte" start

51 Body part cut by van Gogh

52 Compacted, informally

53 Big water filter brand

54 Seabees' mil. branch

55 Fed. crash prober

57 Agree to

59 Zodiac lion

60 Yogi Bear voicer

Butler

63 "Climb \_ Mountain"

67 Stellar bear

69 Espy

71 Israeli coin

72 "Beat it!"

73 Butler's Scarlett

74 Toenail treatments, for short

76 Waitress at Mel's Diner

78 State of fury

80 Disney mermaid name

81 Gravy spoon

82 German steel city

84 River deposit

85 Trig function

90 Tennis call

91 Kenton of jazz

93 Squelches

94 Dance move, when tripled

95 \_ Balls (snack brand)

97 Infatuate

98 Tennis' \_ Garros Stadium

99 Elk sounds

100 Gardner of old movies

102 Spice's kin

103 Coral rings

105 Strip of gear, nautically

107 Did vocals

108 English horn relative

109 Cell: Suffix

110 "This \_ recording"

112 Gutter site

113 On-demand taxi service

114 Vivacity

115 Mope

116 Adept

117 PC sort?

120 Roman 151

121 Have dinner

122 "Cyber" CBS series

1	2	3	4	5	6	7		8	9	10	11	12		13	14	15		16	17	18
19								20						21			22			
23							24							25						
26							27					28	29							
					30	31				32	33									
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88										89		90				91				
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96					97	98	99	100				101		102	103					
					104						105			106						
107	108	109	110							111	112	113					114	115	116	117
118								119	120							121	122			
123								124							125					
126								128							129					



**Moore Texas** by Roger T. Moore  
Feb. 3, 1836: A volunteer militia from Alabama called the "Red Rovers" (because of their bright red pants) joined the Texas fight for Independence.



**GO FIGURE!** by Linda Thistle

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

	x		+		25
+		÷		+	
	+		x		21
x		+		+	
	x		÷		10
25		14		18	

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 7 8

**DIFFICULTY:** ★★ ★★  
★ Moderate ★★ Difficult  
★★★ GO FIGURE!

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Answer Page 4

**Weekly SUDOKU**

by Linda Thistle

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

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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**Social Security Q&A** By Ray Vigil

**Black History Month**

In February, we honor African Americans by celebrating Black History Month. Created in 1926, this event coincides with Abraham Lincoln’s and Frederick Douglass’s birthdays. African American communities have celebrated these birthdays together for over 90 years.

Honoring our shared history is one way we can remember that we believe in freedom and democracy for all. Another shared belief is that we all deserve a comfortable retirement, free of economic hardship.

Social Security has the tools to help you plan for your retirement and to apply for benefits online. We also pay disability benefits to individuals with medical conditions that prevent them from working for more than 12 months or that result in death. If the disabled individual has dependent family members, they may also be eligible to receive payments.

We pay disability through two programs: the Social Security Disability Insurance program, for people who have worked and paid Social Security taxes long enough to be eligible, and the Supplemental Security Income program, which pays benefits based on financial need.

Widows, widowers, and their dependent children may be eligible for Social Security survivors benefits. Social Security helps by providing income for the families of workers who die. In fact, 98 of every 100 children could get benefits if a working parent dies. And Social Security pays more benefits to children than any other federal program.

You can learn more about retirement, survivors, and disability benefits, at [www.socialsecurity.gov/benefits](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/benefits). Social Security is with you throughout life’s journey, helping secure today and tomorrow for you and your family. Visit us today at [www.socialsecurity.gov/people/africanamericans](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/people/africanamericans).

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**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: T equals R

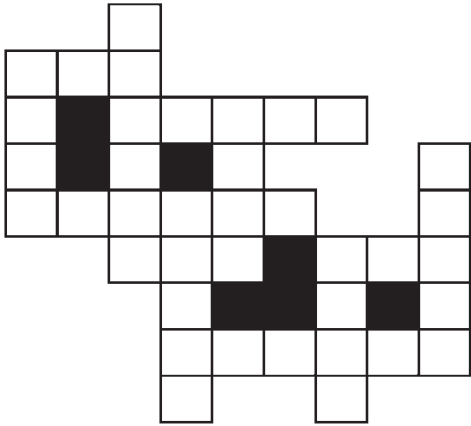
UZOI EJKOTOQLI TFAOTE ZVKO  
NZOQT BJTIQIL BOVAE, HJ PJF  
EFXXJEO NZOP UJFAH WZJJEO  
NZO QBXOTQVA WOTOVA?

Answer Page 4

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USM  
HAMNET  
MAHNU  
ARBA  
SMOSBE  
♥ REA  
♥ HASM  
♥ ABZER  
♥ BSU  
APHISM  
MURSE  
HOCE



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.

NEW! 30 Fear Knot puzzles \$3.50 • Six Volumes • Order at [rbmamall.com](http://rbmamall.com)

**Here’s a Tip**  
By JoAnn Derson

• What’s on sale in February? Get great deals on electronics – including computers – and mattresses, carpet/tile/laminates and other flooring, used cars, catalog closeouts and exercise equipment. Also, look for gift add-ons with perfume purchases and after-holiday deals on candy and red items (think ahead for Fourth of July and Christmas tableware!)

• “We recently got a cute pot rack, but when we put up our stainless steel pots, it became clear that we weren’t doing a great job of cleaning them – eww! My neighbor and best friend came to the rescue with a product called Barkeepers Friend. It’s a scouring powder, but it doesn’t scratch. Anyway, all the yellow stains on the bottom of our pots came off. And it de-grossed a cast-iron skillet too (we re-seasoned it). Our pot rack now looks great.”

– M.D. in Louisiana

• Fine particles of dust and grease mix in the air in the kitchen, and when they settle on things, it can get sticky! If you have a buildup of this sticky dust on appliances, try this trick: Make a paste from baking soda or cream of tartar and water. Apply with a damp sponge for a little gentle abrasive. Follow with a clean damp cloth. This works especially well on the top of the fridge.

• Don’t forget to wash your kid’s backpack from time to time. The places it goes and the things it sees make me shudder, especially in this cold and flu season.

Send your tips to Now Here’s a Tip, 628 Virginia Drive, Orlando, FL 32803. (c) 2018 King Features Synd., Inc.

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**Famous Hot Salsa?**

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