

NEWSBRIEFS

Paper closed

The *West Texas County Courier* office is closed for the winter break. The office will open again on Monday, December 31, 2018.

— Rick Shrum

Great training

Educators from Northwest Early College High School (NWECHS) in Canutillo ISD are among the best trained in all of the United States thanks to their successful completion of the National Board Certification process. On December 1, Michelle Belli, NWECHS counselor, was notified that she earned her National Board Certification for School Counseling. There are only 11 counselors in the state of Texas to earn the certification; Belli will be the first counselor in the region to earn this certification. In addition, the following teachers earned their National Board Certification: Catherine Tabor (math), Alisia Muir (English) and Berenice Sotelo (math). In all, Canutillo ISD has 10 of the 16 certified educators in Texas. “The National Board Certification will help us further address the needs of students,” said Northwest Principal Tracy Speaker Gerstheimer. “Northwest already offers rigorous and challenging coursework. Now, we will be able to supplement what we already do with research-based instruction that is of the highest caliber.” National Board Certification is a voluntary, advanced credential that goes beyond state licensure. Participants must meet national standards for what accomplished teachers and counselors should know and be able to do. The process is rigorous and takes one to two years to complete. Participation in the process provides experienced educators with an opportunity to hone their practice, showcase their knowledge and demonstrate their dedication to students.

— Liza Rodriguez

Elder care

With the share of U.S. adults aged 65 and older expected to be 1 in 5 by the year 2030 and more than 95 percent of elder-abuse cases going unreported every year, the personal-finance website WalletHub today released its report on 2018’s *States with the Best Elder-Abuse Protections*. To determine which states fight the hardest against elder abuse, WalletHub compared the 50 states and the District of Columbia

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— Image courtesy Wikipedia

The word **gerrymander** (originally written **Gerry-mander**) was used for the first time in the *Boston Gazette* on March 26, 1812. The word was created in reaction to a redrawing of Massachusetts state senate election districts under Governor Elbridge Gerry. In 1812, Gerry signed a bill that redistricted Massachusetts to benefit his Democratic-Republican Party. Federalist newspaper editors and others at the time likened the contorted district shape on the map to the shape of a mythological monster, the salamander. The original gerrymander, and original 1812 gerrymander cartoon, above, depict the Essex South state senatorial district for the legislature of The Commonwealth of Massachusetts. **Gerrymander** is a blend of the governor’s last name and the word **salamander**.

— Wikipedia

Civic groups working to ensure fair district maps across Texas

By Alfredo Vasquez
Special to the Courier

TEXAS – The League of Women Voters of El Paso (LWV-EP) and American Civil Liberties Union of Texas (ACLU-TX) held a public forum recently to bring attention to the much-anticipated Texas Legislature’s redistricting efforts that will follow the upcoming U.S. 2020 census taking.

The forum, titled Fair Maps Texas vs. Gerrymandering (which is also the name of a coalition of nonpartisan organizations working to reform the redistricting system in Texas), brought together a variety of concerned citizens to the El Paso Community College (EPCC) Valle Verde Campus in South-Central El Paso to discuss redistricting issues

including gerrymandering.

Gerrymandering is a practice intended to establish a political advantage for a particular party or group by manipulating district boundaries. The resulting district is known as a gerrymander. The term gerrymandering has negative connotations.

Three principal tactics are used in gerrymandering: “cracking” – diluting the voting power of the opposing party’s supporters across many districts; “packing” – concentrating the opposing party’s voting power in one district to reduce their voting power in other districts; and the third tactic is homogenization of all districts.

“With the 2020 Census coming up which leads to constitutionally-required

See MAPS, Page 2

CAFÉ partners with foundation to send more students to college

By Andrew Reynoso
Special to the Courier

CANUTILLO – Canutillo alumni have worked together to provide scholarships for graduates since 2004 and now have a new partnership with the Paso del Norte Foundation to further their mission. The Canutillo Independent School District (CISD) and the alumni group established an agency-advised fund to help meet the needs of the Canutillo Alumni Foundation for Education (CAFÉ).

Earlier this year, the CISD Board of Trustees unanimously passed a memorandum of understanding regarding its desire to work together with CAFÉ.

The MOU states that the District will jointly host future alumni fundraising-related events for the mutual benefit of the District’s and CAFÉ’s missions. CISD Superintendent Dr. Pedro Galavis says that it is crucial that the District works together with alumni in the community.

“Our partnership with CAFÉ and Paso del Norte will ensure the success of the foundation in meeting its mission and ultimately benefit kids,” Galaviz said. “Next, we will be moving to expand the fund’s presence and encourage alumni, businesses, and community members everywhere to contribute to the success of our students going to college.”

This year, nine graduating seniors from Canutillo and Northwest Early College

High Schools received \$500-\$1,000 each from CAFÉ, the Classes of 1967, 1994 and the Canutillo Sun-Up Optimist Club. Since 2004, more than \$114,000 has been raised by the group and awarded to about 153 students.

CAFÉ holds an annual golf tournament to raise funds for the scholarship. The next tournament will be Friday, May 3, 2019. Next year, CAFÉ plans to promote a membership drive to encourage annual and monthly giving. Tax-deductible, one-time, annual and monthly gifts can now be made online by visiting <https://pdnfoundation.org/give-to-a-fund/canutillo-alumni-education-foundation>. Supporters will receive a free CAFÉ gift with their annual or monthly contribution.



— Photo courtesy Canutillo ISD

FINANCING THE FUTURE – Students receiving CAFÉ scholarships marked the moment in a photograph with their families, friends and the Canutillo ISD Board of Trustees after a receiving them during a board meeting.

If we bestow a gift or a favor and expect a return for it, it’s not a gift but a trade.

— Quips & Quotes

View from here

By Jane M. Orient, M.D.

The children, the caravan, and health

There are three aspects to the caravan: what is shown by the media; what is there to be seen; and what is unseen.

The focus is on the innocent children, as in the widely circulated photograph of an obese woman with two children lacking pants or shoes, purportedly fleeing tear gas sprayed by cruel law enforcement agents. They are far from home, in a very dangerous place, in violation of the laws of Mexico.

Would Child Protective Services accuse an American citizen of child abuse and neglect, and take the children into foster care?

Thousands of migrants are crammed together in Tijuana, many outdoors, and about a third of them are already sick. Without sanitation, outdoors in the rain, many more will become ill. Several cases of tuberculosis, chicken pox, and HIV have already been reported.

The unseen travelers also include measles, Chagas disease, hepatitis, and many other dangerous microbes. You can see the lice that serve as vectors of diseases such as typhus if you look closely. Workers in migrant reception centers have spent

hours combing nits out of little girls’ hair – but they could be fired for talking about it.

Then there’s that mysterious polio-like illness – AFM for acute flaccid myelitis – that has struck hundreds of American children. Some would be in “iron lungs” if we didn’t use a different kind of breathing machine today. AFM was first noted in 2014, just coincidentally in time and space with the dispersal of thousands of Central American children into U.S. schools. More prominent at that time was an outbreak of a deadly respiratory illness that sent hundreds of American children to

intensive care units. Both types of symptoms can probably be caused by enterovirus D68, which happens to be endemic in Central America. Any connection? The CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) says it doesn’t know.

Chagas disease (American trypanosomiasis) afflicts around 8 million people in Central America. An early symptom is to awaken with swelling of the eyelids on one side that persists for weeks. But most don’t know they have Chagas until, after many years, it destroys the muscles of their esophagus, colon, or heart. It is carried by the reduviid (“kissing”) bug, already present in the U.S. Packrats are hosts to these bugs. A high rate of Chagas is being found in dogs in Texas.

Many migrants have latent tuberculosis, which can become active at any time. What happens if a case of active tuberculosis is diagnosed in the U.S.? All the patient’s contacts must be identified, tested, and followed. The persons exposed while the patient was coughing on the bus will be impossible to locate. The patient requires treatment for at least a year, with careful follow-up.

How many patients with contagious diseases and their contacts can be effectively followed by U.S. public health departments? Not very many – these agencies are already underfunded and stretched thin. How many patients with

See DISEASE, Page 4

SISD approves boundary adjustments for 2019-20 school year

By Christy Flores-Jones
Special to the Courier

EL PASO COUNTY – The Socorro Independent School District Board of Trustees approved boundary adjustments, which will go into effect January 2019 for new students and at the start of the 2019-2020 school year for current students, at the Nov. 13 regular board meeting.

The boundary adjustments are being made in the El Dorado and Pebble Hills feeder patterns to maximize the use of existing facilities in those areas and to adjust for SISD’s newest elementary school, Cactus Trails Elementary School, which is set to open in the Pebble Hills

area in July 2019.

Team SISD is proactive in monitoring the growth in the district, demographics, and use of facilities in order to be poised to always provide students in all areas of the district safe and supportive learning environments.

In planning for the boundary adjustments, Team SISD’s priorities are to be good stewards of all resources and to respect families in the existing school communities, said Marivel Macias, assistant superintendent of administrative services.

“We focused on boundary adjustments that made best use of our existing campuses and adjusted for our new elementary school, while considering the needs of our

students and families,” Macias said. “Our commitment is to provide all students a high-quality education in a comfortable, safe learning environment.”

The boundary changes were carefully crafted taking into consideration many aspects, such as staffing, transition periods, student transportation, and potential facility renovations.

During October and early November, the district met with students, parents and community members at 10 community meetings to explain the proposed boundary adjustments and gain feedback from the stakeholders. SISD also met with teachers, support staff, administrators, and district directors at 27 faculty and staff meetings to discuss the boundary changes.

The 2019-2020 boundary adjustments include the following changes:

- Hurshel Antwine Elementary School will transition into a middle school for the El Dorado feeder pattern.
- Paso del Norte K-8 School will become an elementary school for the El Dorado feeder pattern.
- Sgt. Roberto Ituarte Elementary School will be the pre-k hub school in the El Dorado feeder pattern.
- The new SISD elementary school, Cactus Trails Elementary School (PK-5), will serve students that currently go to James P. Butler and Chester E. Jordan elementary schools.

To learn more about the approved boundary adjustments, visit the district website at www.sisd.net/boundaryadjustments.

Maps

From Page 1

redistricting, the issues of

gerrymandering need to be placed front and center in public discourse,” stated Judy Ackerman, a LWV board member. “A focus on this issue

has not been publicly discussed in El Paso in many years, if at all,” she stated.

The board member said that gerrymandering is the biggest threat to democracy. “In 2016, 66 percent of state legislature candidates ran unopposed. Eighty-one state house of representatives seats were uncontested. Ninety-seven percent of incumbents were re-elected. Is it any wonder that citizens ask, ‘Why should I vote?’,” Ackerman asserted.

Among the EPCC forum participants were: Rebecca Reid Ph.D., a professor with University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP); Sito Negrón, representative for Texas State Senator Jose Rodriguez of District 29 El Paso; Texas Representative Joe Moody

of District 78 El Paso; Texas Representative Lina Ortega of District 77 El Paso; and Texas Representative Mary Gonzalez of District 75, El Paso.

Facilitators for the event included Perla Galindo, Beatriz Vera, Jeanelle Carden, Jeannette Walker, Don Topp. LWV organizers were Pat White, Judy Ackerman, Crystal Robert, and ACLU partner Adri Perez. Also assisting with the forum were UTEP Professors Irasema Coranado, Francesca Wigle, and Kathy Staudt.

Fair Maps Texas vs. Gerrymandering public forums have been held by Fair Maps Texas in Houston, Dallas, Fort Worth, Austin, San Antonio and other Texas locations.

According to LWV officials, their organization has a long history of promoting transparent, fair, and accountable redistricting processes that reflect the fundamental value of representative democracy.

“We are driven by a single goal: to make our election maps fair for everyone. We are concerned when district boundaries slice up our neighborhoods, leaving our communities without a cohesive voice of representation,” LWV members acknowledged.

“In Texas, partisan gerrymandering has been a problem for decades. The political party that controls the state legislature at the time of the

See MAPS, Page 3

1973
45
Years
2018

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COURIER

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SCHOOL’S OUT FOR WINTER BREAK		
DISTRICT	DAYS OFF (18 - 19)	FIRST DAY BACK
Anthony ISD	December 17 - January 4	January 7, 2019
Canutillo ISD	December 20 - January 4	January 7, 2019
Clint ISD	December 20 - January 4	January 7, 2019
Fabens ISD	December 24 - January 8	January 9, 2019
San Elizario ISD	December 24 - January 8	January 9, 2019
Socorro ISD	December 24 - January 7	January 8, 2019
Tornillo ISD	December 24 - January 7	January 8, 2019
EPCC	December 17 - January 21	January 22, 2019
Information for the dates provided are from the schools' website calendars.		

Sorry, you can’t protect Mueller

Mitch McConnell just did our constitutional order an enormous favor by burying the so-called Robert Mueller protection bill, hopefully never to rise again.

There’s been much harumphing about how Republicans are in the tank for President Donald Trump by not getting on board the bipartisan bill, but it is a singularly misbegotten piece of legislation.

Plan A, i.e., passing the thing, would have been hard enough. But its supporters apparently didn’t think through a need for a Plan B or C. Trump would have vetoed the bill if it passed Congress, and if it somehow passed Congress with a veto-proof majority, the Supreme Court likely would have struck it down.

The push for the bill again shows how, to this point, Trump’s main threat to our constitutional system has been catalyzing a hysterical opposition. That opposition is willing to throw overboard legal and constitutional niceties to thwart Trump.

Hence, much of the #resistance judging regarding Trump measures. And hence the astonishing spectacle of U.S. senators, sworn to uphold the Constitution, advancing a blatantly unconstitutional bill.

The president is the chief executive, and like it or not, Trump is president. “I conceive that if any power whatsoever is in its nature executive,” James Madison declared, “it is the power of appointing, overseeing and controlling those who execute the laws.”

If the president can fire the attorney general (the ill-used Jeff Sessions attests that he can), he certainly can fire Mueller. The attorney general is a much more important position.

In compelling Senate testimony, Yale law professor Akhil Amar explained the constitutional problems with the Mueller protection bill. One is that to be constitutional, the special counsel must be an inferior officer. Otherwise, he has to be confirmed by the Senate, which Mueller wasn’t. And if he’s an inferior officer, he can be fired.

The problem with the protection bill in terms of constitutional architecture also gets at the problem with the special counsel.

Yes, there’s lots of criminal action in the Mueller probe – the Paul Manafort trial, the various plea deals – but current Justice Department guidance says that the president himself can’t be



indicted. That means that all Mueller can do regarding the president directly is produce a report that may well instigate congressional action, up to and including an impeachment probe. This preliminary investigative work should be the work of Congress alone, without the help of someone nominally working for the president he’s targeting.

Indeed, if you want investigations of the president that the president can’t stop or have influence over, you have to run them out of Congress. With the Democratic takeover of the House, such congressional probes are on their way.

Trump has huffed and puffed about Mueller, yet cooperated – in some instances, quite fulsomely – with his investigation. That could change at any time. But firing Mueller would lead to dire political consequences, and now fail to achieve its end of truly shutting him down. If cashiered,

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Maps

From Page 2

census can manipulate the newly-drawn election maps to favor their party’s candidates, typically drawing a majority of “safe” or noncompetitive seats. The elected officials in these districts can then no longer be held accountable through the power of our vote,” Ackerman stated. “The League therefore supports reform that would place limits on partisanship and increase public participation in the redistricting process,” she added.

LWV is a non-partisan organization that includes both men and women supporting issues but not candidates and parties. “We are particularly concerned about government, citizen participation, and areas of concern relating to social and health matters, education, the environment, and international affairs,” Ackerman stated.

ACLU-TX is the leading civil rights organization in the Lone Star State. “Since our formation in 1938, we have worked in the courts, the legislature, and through public education to protect civil rights and individual liberty,” according to officials.

Other organizations supporting the call for fair re-districting action are: Common Cause Texas, Common Ground for Texans, Clean Elections Texas, Texas Civil Rights Project, Texas Progressive Action Network, Texas Progressive Interest Research Group, Texans Against Gerrymandering, and VocesTejas.

For more information about the project, interested individuals may contact Ackerman, at (915) 755-7371, or send email to jpackerman53@gmail.com; or Pat White, at: (915) 591-3562, or send email to pat_white@hotmail.com.

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Disease

From Page 2

active TB can be safely treated in U.S. hospitals? Last time I checked there were only two or three negative-pressure isolation rooms in my city. And what if the disease is resistant to all antibiotics, as is occurring in many countries? In the old days, patients’ lungs were collapsed by injecting air into the chest to cause a pneumothorax. A patient I cared for at Parkland Hospital in Dallas had a caved-in chest from the removal of several ribs (a thoracoplasty) to keep his lung collapsed permanently.

This won’t help disseminated TB, such as meningitis. The public health response to contagious diseases, especially deadly untreatable ones, is to make the diagnosis, isolate the patients, and trace the contacts. This means that for migrants we need a positive identification of the person, his country of origin, and his location. But while American citizens are increasingly under surveillance, illegals often disappear without a trace. Public health can’t deal with a horde violently storming the border. What the mainstream press doesn’t show is that 80 percent of the crowd are men, mostly of military age. The

threats they pose to the health of our citizens (and that of other migrants) include violence; sexually transmitted diseases from rape (a large percentage of the women have been molested); and illicit drugs that pour through while Border Patrol agents may be changing diapers. Rep. Ocasio-Cortez’s (D-N.Y.) 5,000 case workers won’t help, and I doubt that many would volunteer to serve. We need linguists to identify people who are lying on their asylum applications – observers from Judicial Watch identified Cuban accents. We need better laboratory facilities and public health surveillance throughout

the country. And we need law enforcement to stop illegal entry. Children who were at least warm and dry in Honduras are being used as political pawns and human shields by those determined to trespass in or harm our homeland. We need to protect children – especially our own. We need a wall.

Jane M. Orient, M.D. obtained her undergraduate degrees in chemistry and mathematics from the University of Arizona in Tucson, and her M.D. from Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons in 1974.



By Samantha Weaver

- It was New York Times columnist Maureen Dowd who made the following sage observation: “The minute you settle for less than you deserve, you get even less than you settled for.”
- A law in Memphis, Tennessee, states that it is illegal for a woman to drive a car unless a man walks in front of it to warn approaching motorists and pedestrians.
- Martha Stewart got her start in business by catering from her home.

- It takes 40 gallons of maple sap to make one gallon of the maple syrup you put on your pancakes.

- Ancient Egyptians often were buried with opium, boats and artificial limbs for use in the afterlife. And it wasn’t unusual to have a model of the deceased’s home included, as well – just in case shelter was needed.

- England’s Prince Philip was born on a kitchen table in Greece.

- The word “widget” was coined by an American humorist in the 1930s and referred to an imaginary gadget or machine. In the 1990s, however, widgets moved out of the realm of fiction when the makers of beverage cans invented a device that releases carbon dioxide to make foam after a can has been opened – and they named it a “widget.”

- In its entire lifetime – four to six weeks – a single worker bee produces a sum total of about 1.5 teaspoons of honey.

- North Carolina once outlawed cats and dogs fighting with each other.

Thought for the Day: “No matter what side of an argument you’re on, you always find some people on your side that you wish were on the other side.”
– Jascha Heifetz

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Canutillo Independent School District
Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balance
Governmental Funds
For the Year Ended June 30, 2018

Data Control Codes	10 General Fund	50 Debt Service Fund	Other Funds	Total Governmental Funds
REVENUES:				
5700 Total Local and Intermediate Sources	\$ 23,865,574	\$ 7,270,183	\$ 91,559	\$ 31,227,316
5800 State Program Revenues	33,251,472	625,361	148,239	34,025,072
5900 Federal Program Revenues	6,210,272	–	3,702,352	9,912,624
5020 Total Revenues	63,327,318	7,895,544	3,942,150	75,165,012
EXPENDITURES:				
Current:				
0011 Instruction	31,689,219	–	2,141,977	33,831,196
0012 Instructional Resources and Media Services	712,415	–	241,632	954,047
0013 Curriculum and Instructional Staff Development	474,739	–	919,438	1,394,177
0021 Instructional Leadership	902,705	–	261,854	1,164,559
0023 School Leadership	3,679,147	–	37,801	3,716,948
0031 Guidance, Counseling and Evaluation Services	1,921,683	–	76,647	1,998,330
0032 Social Work Services	158,593	–	–	158,593
0033 Health Services	821,252	–	–	821,252
0034 Student (Pupil) Transportation	1,893,399	–	–	1,893,399
0035 Food Services	4,339,717	–	48,529	4,388,246
0036 Extracurricular Activities	1,517,041	–	33,985	1,551,026
0041 General Administration	2,931,415	–	–	2,931,415
0051 Facilities Maintenance and Operations	6,032,143	–	21,108	6,053,251
0052 Security and Monitoring Services	601,348	–	–	601,348
0053 Data Processing Services	1,666,143	–	324,263	1,990,406
0061 Community Services	26,678	–	392,622	419,300
Debt Service:				
0071 Principal on Long Term Debt	280,602	2,490,054	–	2,770,656
0072 Interest on Long Term Debt	104,841	4,351,004	–	4,455,845
0073 Bond Issuance Cost and Fees	–	3,078	–	3,078
Capital Outlay:				
0081 Facilities Acquisition and Construction	36,899	–	287,974	324,873
Intergovernmental:				
0099 Other Intergovernmental Charges	379,178	–	–	379,178
6030 Total Expenditures	60,169,157	6,844,136	4,787,830	71,801,123
1200 Net Change in Fund Balances	3,158,161	1,051,408	(845,680)	3,363,889
0100 Fund Balance – July 1 (Beginning)	12,582,809	4,283,756	3,971,768	20,838,333
1300 Increase (Decrease) in Fund Balance	–	(164,341)	–	(164,341)
3000 Fund Balance – June 30 (Ending)	\$ 15,740,970	\$ 5,170,823	\$ 3,126,088	\$ 24,037,881

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CryptoQuip
Answer

War movie about a barber who repeatedly removes a GI’s beard stubble:
“Shaving Private Ryan.”

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Moments in time

THE HISTORY CHANNEL

• On Dec. 24, 1865, in Pulaski, Tennessee, a group of Confederate veterans convenes to form a secret society that they christen the “Ku Klux Klan.” The KKK rapidly grew from a secret social fraternity to a paramilitary force bent on reversing the federal government’s progressive reconstruction activities.

• On Dec. 25, 1941, “White Christmas,” written by composer and lyricist Irving Berlin, receives its world premiere on Bing Crosby’s weekly NBC radio program, “The Kraft Music Hall.” It went on to become one of the most commercially successful singles of all time.

• On Dec. 26, 1606, William Shakespeare’s play “King Lear” is performed at the court of King James I of England. Lear was one of Shakespeare’s later works.

• On Dec. 27, 1927, Agnes Nixon, the creator of the long-running television soap operas “One Life to Live” and “All My Children,” is born in Chicago. Nixon is credited with introducing social issues into soaps.

• On Dec. 28, 1975, ice hockey fans watch the Central Red Army team from the Soviet Union defeat the New York Rangers 7-3 at New York’s Madison Square Garden. It marked the start of the first midseason exhibition games between Soviet and National Hockey League teams, held from 1975 to 1991.

• On Dec. 29, 1170, Archbishop Thomas Becket is brutally murdered in Canterbury Cathedral by four knights of King Henry II of England, apparently on orders of the king. The Christian world was shocked, and in 1173 Becket was canonized a Catholic saint.

• On Dec. 30, 1853, the U.S. minister to Mexico and the president of Mexico sign the Gadsden Purchase in Mexico City. The treaty established the final boundaries of the southern United States. For \$10 million, the U.S. acquired 30,000 square miles of land in what is now New Mexico and Arizona.

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Briefs

From Page 1

across 14 key metrics. The data set ranges from share of elder-abuse, gross-neglect and exploitation complaints to presence of financial elder-abuse laws. Texas rated 15th overall in this study, raking:

- 15th – Elder-Abuse, Gross-Neglect & Exploitation Complaints*;
- 45th – Total Expenditures on Elder-Abuse Prevention*;
- 38th – Total Long-Term Care Ombudsman-Program Funding*;
- 49th – Number of Eldercare Organizations & Services*;
- 21st – Number of Certified Volunteer Ombudsmen*;
- 49th – Nursing-Homes Quality*.

*Per resident aged 65+ Visit <https://wallethub.com/edu/states-with-best-elder-abuse-protection/28754/> for the full report.

– Diana Polk

Financial fitness

With shopping during the holiday season sure to increase America’s already staggering credit card debt and resolution season not far off, the personal-finance website WalletHub today released its report on 2018’s *Best & Worst Cities for WalletFitness*. WalletFitness is about turning the country’s biggest stressor – money, according to a study by Northwest Mutual – into one of your biggest strengths.

Reaching top WalletFitness means you’re in a stable financial position, able to comfortably meet existing obligations as well as plan for the future. With that in mind, WalletHub compared more than 180 U.S. cities across 32 key metrics – ranging from unemployment, poverty and foreclosure rates to income volatility and savings habits – to see where people are in the best and worst financial shape. You can find a handful of highlights below. El Paso ranked 175th in this study. Others stats:

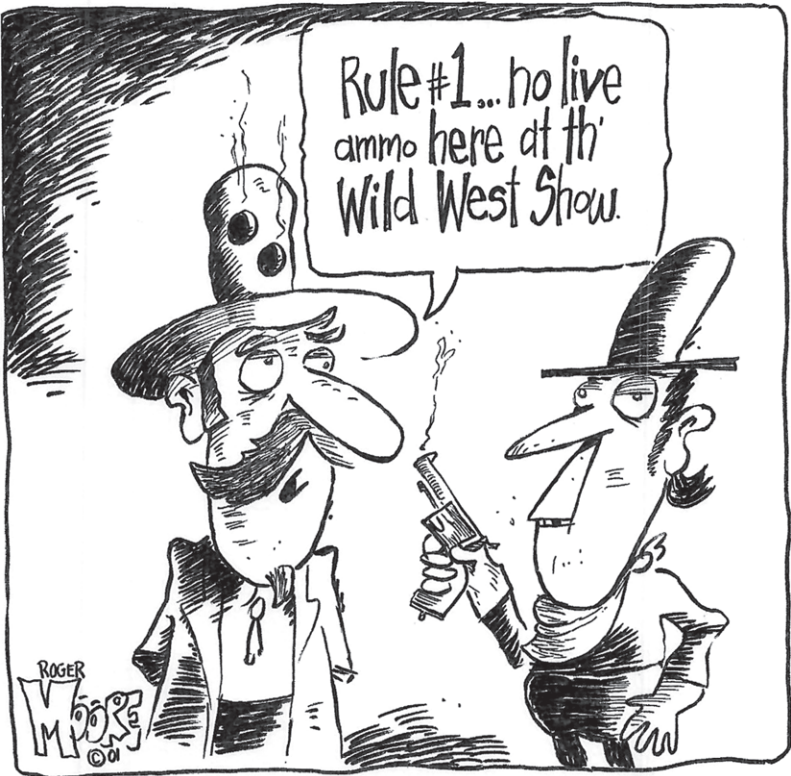
- Gilbert, AZ has the highest median household income (adjusted for cost of living), \$90,085, which is 3.5 times higher than in Hialeah, FL, the city with the lowest at \$25,474.
- Detroit, MI has the lowest median credit card debt per person, \$1,690, which is 2.5 times lower than in Juneau, AK, the city with the highest at \$4,166.
- Pearl City, HI has the lowest share of uninsured residents, 3.3 percent, which is 10.1 times lower than in Brownsville, TX, the city with the highest at 33.4 percent.
- Fargo, ND has the lowest foreclosure rate, 0.0077 percent, which is 18.2 times lower than in Baltimore, MD, the city with the highest at 0.1401 percent.

Visit <https://wallethub.com/edu/best-cities-for-walletfitness/2862> for the full report.

– Diana Polk

TRUE TEXAS FACTS *by Roger Moore*

December 12, 1872: “Texas Jack” Omohundro goes to Chicago to star in Buffalo Bill’s Wild West Show.



PUBLIC NOTICE TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS AND PARTIES:

The West Texas County Courier office is closed.

The office will open again on Monday, December 31, 2018.

To Advertise Call 852-3235

Archives: www.wtxcc.com

Classified Ads

LEGALS

Town of Anthony, TX

Public Notice

Request For Proposals and Qualifications

The Town of Anthony plans to apply for the 2017-2018 TxCDBG Community Development Fund and the 2019-2020 TxCDBG Community Development Fund. Accordingly, the Town is seeking to contract with a qualified Engineering firm for each or both programs to prepare all preliminary and final design plans and specifications, and to conduct all necessary interim and final inspections. These services are being solicited to assist the Town in its application preparation and project implementation of the TxCDBG contracts, if awarded, to support eligible activities in the Town of Anthony. Please submit 4 copies of your proposal of services and a statement of qualifications for the proposed services for one or both of the programs to the address below:

Attn: Martin Lerma
PO Box 1269
or 401 Wildcat Dr.
Anthony, TX 79821

Proposals shall be received by the Town no later than 2:00pm on Wednesday, December 26th, 2018 to be considered. The Town reserves the right to negotiate with any and all individuals or firms that submit proposals, as per the Texas Professional Services Procurement Act and the Uniform Grant and Contract Management Standards. Section 3 Residents and Business Concerns, Minority Business Enterprises, Small Business Enterprises and

Women Business Enterprises are encouraged to submit proposals.

The Town of Anthony is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer

Carole Baksa
Town Clerk

WTCC: 12-13-18

TOWN OF ANTHONY, TX

PUBLIC NOTICE

TEXAS COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM

The Town of Anthony will hold a public hearing at 6:30 p.m. on December 27, 2018, at Anthony City Hall, 401 Wildcat Drive, Anthony, TX 79821, regarding the Texas Department of Agriculture's CDBG Program. Citizens are encouraged to attend to discuss the citizen participation plan, local housing and community development needs, available funding, eligible activities, past use of funds, and development of CDBG applications. Written comments may also be submitted to the Office of the Mayor at P.O. Box 1269, Anthony, Texas 79821.

Persons with disabilities or others requiring auxiliary aids or services to participate in this hearing should make arrangements with the Town at (915) 886-3944 at least two days before the hearing.

Este aviso se puede encontrar en ingles y en español en las oficinas municipales de la Ciudad.

BLOCK GRANT DE TEXAS

El Pueblo de Anthony tendrá una audiencia pública el día 27 de diciembre 2018, a las 6:30 p.m. en la sala municipal, 401 Wildcat Drive, Anthony, TX 79821, para obtener comentarios del público para su beca de desarrollo comunitario de Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) del Departamento de Agricultura de Texas.

Invitamos al público para discutir el plan de participación de ciudadanos, las necesidades para desarrollo de viviendas y comunidades locales, la financiación disponible, actividades elegibles, el uso pasado de fondos económicos, y el desarrollo de solicitudes de CDBG. Miembros del público también pueden someter comentarios escritos a la Oficina del Mayor a P.O. Box 1269, Anthony, Texas 79821.

Personas con discapacidades y otras personas que requieren ayuda o servicios auxiliares para participar en esta audiencia pueden hacer arreglos con el Pueblo al (915) 886-3944 por lo menos dos días antes de la audiencia. Residentes que necesitan un intérprete deben comunicarse con el Pueblo por lo menos 24 horas antes de la audiencia pública.

Martin Lerma
Mayor

WTCC: 12-13-18

Public Notice

Village of Vinton, Texas

Proposed Official Zoning Map

A public hearing will be held at 6:30 pm on Tuesday, January 15, 2019, during the Vinton City Council meeting at Vinton Village Hall, 436 E. Vinton Road, Vinton, Texas.

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

Proposed adoption of an updated Official Zoning Map for the Village of Vinton to comply with the requirements of the Unified Development Code (UDC) adopted on January 11, 2018 (Ordinance No. 2017-12-5-2) and the recommendations of the Comprehensive Plan adopted on February 21, 2017 (Ordinance No. 2017-2-21-4). A copy of the proposed updated zoning map along with the Village of

Vinton Engineer's explanation for the zoning map revisions is posted at the Village of Vinton town hall.

Those who are unable to attend may submit their views in writing to the Village Administrator at 436 E. Vinton Road, Vinton, Texas 79821. Persons with disabilities that wish to attend this meeting should contact City Hall at (915) 886-5104 to arrange for assistance. Individuals who require auxiliary aids or services for this meeting should contact City Hall at least two days before the meeting so that appropriate arrangements can be made.

Andrea N. Carrillo
Village Administrator

WTCC: 12-13-18

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wtxcc@wtxcc.com

By Steve Escajeda
Special to the Courier

By Hector Gonzalez
Special to the Courier

A man wearing a dark Nike hoodie with 'NIKE' and 'CROSS NATIONALS' printed on it, dark pants, and sneakers stands in front of a large graphic. The graphic features large, stylized letters 'N' and 'X' and the text 'NIKE CROSS NATIONALS' in a bold, sans-serif font. The background is dark with light-colored diagonal stripes.

Super Crossword

BEFORE THE BRITISH INVASION	student's grade	127 Nephew, e.g.	21 Maned beast	80 Walk across a
ACROSS	booster	128 Non-piercing bit of	24 "Fingers crossed!"	creek
1 "Glinda of Oz"	62 See 61-Across	jewelry	29 Beguile	82 Rte. parts
author	64 Siberian dog	129 Nephew of Abel	31 Yucky stuff	84 Nile biter
5 _ de deux	67 Catering hall	130 Appraises	32 Slam into	85 Second-rate
8 Finking sort	receptacle	131 Big insurance	33 Large meal	87 Very, to Verdi
11 Award for	69 Feeling sick	company, for short	34 Skye of the screen	90 Screws up
excellence	70 Infomercial host	132 Bro's counterpart	35 Is leaked	91 Rare blood type,
19 "Give that _ cigar!"	Popeil	133 Look at leeringly	36 Villa d'_	for short
20 Milky and	71 Riddle, part 4	DOWN	42 Covered with	92 Lima-based flag
iridescent	75 The Great Lakes'	1 Audi rival	frosting	carrier of 1973-99
22 Orchestral	_ Locks	2 "Yeah, that's the	44 Thin and graceful	93 Tesla rival
introduction	76 Start for cycle	spot!"	45 "A Mighty Fortress	98 Rejecting
23 Start of a riddle	77 Big NYSE event	3 Mythical beast	_ God"	99 Custard ingredient
25 Fishel of "Boy	78 Name of Amazon	4 _ Picchu (Inca	47 They're uncertain	100 Greek dawn
Meets World"	Echo's personal	site)	48 Female, e.g.,	goddess
26 Dice, e.g.	assistant	5 Woolen ball on a	49 Craftsperson	101 Swamp birds
27 "Yoo- _!"	79 Buzzing (with)	hat	50 Military	103 Foot or shoe part
28 Zodiac sign before	81 _ nova	6 Kwik-E-Mart	commander	105 Sharpening belts
Virgo	83 Feedbox fill	proprietor	51 "Giant" skiing	107 SAG- (labor
30 Relaxed	86 Gel in a lab	7 Younger Obama	events	union)
31 Riddle, part 2	88 Extra details	girl	53 Still sleeping	108 Angler's aids
37 Boating tool	89 Riddle, part 5	8 Glancing rebound	54 Arthur Conan _	109 Spoken tests
38 Suffix with butyl	94 Has an itch	9 Actress Ortiz	55 Sells from a cart,	110 Star bursts
39 Jewish round	95 Towed-away car,	10 Part of ATM	say	111 Pokes fun at
dance	maybe	11 Beckett's "Waiting	56 Covered with	112 Of financial
40 Slalom curve	96 Wren dens?	for _"	brushwood	matters: Abbr.
41 Old Dodge models	97 Actress Pfeiffer	12 Some gametes	57 Smelted stuff	113 Gets better
43 Foreigner	101 Hosp. zones	13 Football's Dawson	58 University in	114 " _ ed Euridice"
46 Glove worn at first	102 Bar brew, in Berlin	14 Moisture-removing	Granville, Ohio	(Gluck opera)
base	104 " _ already said..."	additives	63 Basketball's _	120 Fleur-de- _ (royal
48 Logging tools	106 Vain sort's problem	15 Geyser stuff	Thomas	emblem)
52 Riddle, part 3	107 End of the riddle	16 City on the	65 Stockpile	121 Eden dweller
56 Facet	115 Upoar	Arkansas	66 _ Kan (old brand	123 Laugh syllable
59 Preminger of	116 " _ a go"	17 "Stormy Weather"	of dog food)	124 12, to Nero
cinema	117 Tart's cousin	composer Harold	68 Raises	125 Loudness: Abbr.
60 Thereabouts	118 Golf's McIlroy	18 Like some	72 Most needy	126 WNW's reverse
61 With 62-Across,	119 Journeyed	marshes	73 Tests	
	122 Riddle's answer		74 Bedevil	

Answer Page 4

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10		11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	
19					20			21					22								
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37				38					39						40						
41				42			43	44	45				46	47				48	49	50	51
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56	57	58			59						60					61					
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107	108	109	110					111					112	113				114			
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119						120	121			122	123				124					125	126
127										128								129			
130										131					132				133		

Comix

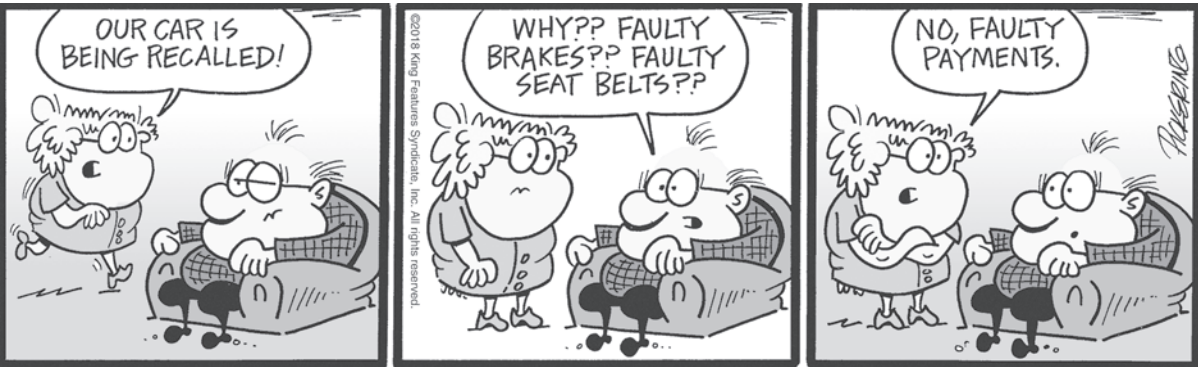
OUT ON A LIMB By Gary Kopervas



AMBER WAVES By Dave T. Phipps



THE SPATS By Jeff Pickering



R.F.D. By Mike Marland



Strange ‘pimples’ are rare disease

DEAR DR. ROACH: After having several strange-looking “pimples” on my thighs and one on my face, I was told it is lymphomatoid papulosis. One or two people in a million are diagnosed with this. I know that it is not contagious, but what is it? What causes it, how is it treated, and what can I do to avoid these? They take weeks to heal. – R.R.



Lymphomatoid papulosis is a rare disease. It is in the category of cutaneous lymphoproliferative disorders. It is a chronic disease, and lasts years or even decades. The underlying cause is not known exactly, but it is related in many ways to other lymphoproliferative diseases, such as mycosis fungoides and Hodgkin’s lymphoma. The cells of the skin lesions you notice have similar genetic rearrangements as lymphoma cells. Fortunately, LyP has an excellent prognosis, although people with LyP are at increased risk for developing one of these serious conditions.

The papules of LyP can appear on the extremities or the hands and face, and less commonly on other places on the body. They may start off as small red papules, get larger and then crust over. Often, several exist at different stages.

Diagnosis may not be easy, as it takes an experienced dermatopathologist (pathologist with special training in skin diseases) and enough tissue to look at the genetics of the cells. Treatment is not necessary for every person with LyP. But for those who do require it, one might be ultraviolet-light treatment. More severe cases may require methotrexate, but this needs to be managed by an expert.

Experts have recommended six-month visits to evaluate for early signs of enlarging lymph nodes, which might indicate the development of a lymphoproliferative disorder.

DEAR DR. ROACH: I would like your opinion, as a noninterested party, on laser therapy. I see many ads touting its advantages and success in treating bone-on-bone knee osteoarthritis. My orthopedic doctor recommended knee replacements on both my knees. I had arthroscopic surgery on the left knee four years ago and was recommended total knee replacement on the right knee about three years ago. How long can I put off surgery, and what is the outlook if I don’t have it done? I am an 80-year-old female in good health, except for the osteoarthritis. I use naproxen when needed. If it works, I think

See HEALTH, Page 8

CHOOSE YOUR RIDE.

Drink. Drive. Go to Jail.

Health

From Page 7

laser therapy would be less pain and downtime. – Anonymous

Low-level laser therapy has been studied in people with osteoarthritis, and some of the studies have shown reductions in pain and stiffness. The laser is thought to have an effect on circulation. However, the laser generally has been effective in people with mild to moderate disease, and bone-on-bone is severe. I think laser may help some people, but some of the benefit probably is due to placebo effect. As far as putting off your knee replacements, I have been

through this many times with my own patients. Some get it done right away; others avoid surgery until they can’t take it any longer, with worsening pain, stiffness and inability to exercise. Most people have told me that they wish they had done the surgery sooner. By the way, I am interested in helping people, but have no conflicts of interest.

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. (c) 2018 North America Synd., Inc. All Rights Reserved.

Archives: www.wtxcc.com

CryptoQuip

This is a simple substitution cipher in which each letter used stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Solution is accomplished by trial and error.

Clue: S equals W

SLF EGAHK LNGBM L NLFNKF
SOG FKDKLMKZQP FKEGAKU L
WH’U NKLFZ UMBNNQK:
“UOLAHRW DFHALMK FPLR.”

Answer Page 4

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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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File your disability claims before leaving the service



by Freddy Groves

If you’re scheduled to leave active duty soon and know your separation date, start keeping a calendar of important dates, especially if you’re going to have a disability claim. Veterans who have between 90 and 180 days left in active-duty service can file for the Benefits Delivery at Discharge program. The Department of Veterans Affairs has made big improvements to the system, and many who make disability claims in the BDD program can receive a decision within 30 days of getting out. In the first year, 53 percent of veterans had a claims decision within 30 days. As they’ve smoothed out the details, that percentage has gone up. Claims can now be reviewed at any regional office, and they’ve improved the software for records transfers and added claims training for those who will do the work.

Still, it’s important to get any claims filed in the 90-180 day window before you leave. That will ensure your disability medical exams go into your service treatment record, and if the condition worsens later, you’ll have a starting date right there in your medical file. There are limits, however, to using the BDD program. You can’t use it if you’re terminally ill, are in a VA medical facility, will need case management or if you can’t get to a VA exam within the 45 days after you file. For the whole list of restrictions, go to www.va.gov/disability and put BDD in the search box. You’ll also find details about the pre-discharge claim. If you have fewer than the 90 days until separation, you can still put in a disability claim through the Decision Ready Claim or a fully developed claim. If you’re injured, sick or wounded and can’t do your job, they will refer you to the Integrated Disability Evaluation System.

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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!

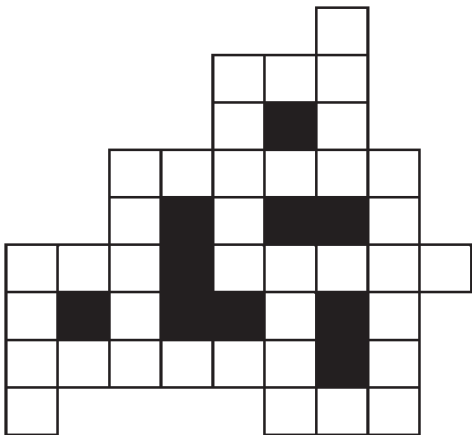
	÷		+		7
-		-		+	
	-		+		11
×		×		-	
	×		-		6
6		5		3	

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Answer Page 4



OLP
POLUCE
♥TERUB
♥MABL
♥LABERM
BRI
♥APLE
ATLEE
EBE
MOBENT
♥PARCE
♥ELRE



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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.



- Hairspray spritzed on the end of a thread will stiffen it long enough to get it through a needle head. You also can thread your needle in front of a surface that’s an opposing color (i.e. a white piece of paper while threading a needle with black thread).
- Here’s an interesting tip for getting Christmas tree resin or sap off your hands: Treat your hands liberally with hand sanitizer. If that doesn’t work, try cooking oil.

- Want a fun way to clean road ice off the bottom of your car? If you catch a warm day, run a sprinkler under the car for a few minutes.

- “Three small words: Nutella hot chocolate! It’s the best, and we love it at our house. Just stir a teaspoon of Nutella into your hot chocolate and get ready for heaven.”
– T.F. in Missouri

- Freshen your pillows in the dryer for 10-15 minutes. Change your pillowcase at least once a week, and try a silk or silk-style pillowcase; they are easier on your hair and skin.
- “With four girls sharing one bathroom, we were stuck for space, and the vanity was always covered with bottles and jars of this and that! My dad installed a low shelf and gave each of us a bin for our things, and it helps to keep things organized. Now we can keep the vanity cleared off.”
– Y.A. in Mississippi

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

Lowry

From Page 3

Mueller would presumably show up in January as the first witness before Rep. Jerry Nadler’s Judiciary Committee and spill all he knows. That’s probably all the protection Mueller needs, and certainly all the protection he can legitimately be afforded.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review. (c) 2018 by King Features Synd., Inc.

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