

NEWSBRIEFS

Horizon City park

The ground-breaking ceremony for the first park improvement project in Horizon City's 2018 Capital Improvement Program will be held on Saturday, March 30, 2019 at 10:00 a.m. Rancho Desierto Bello Subdivision Park is located at Brezo St. and Sabio Dr. in Horizon City. Park amenities include a play area, walking path and green space for a variety of activities for all ages. The park improvements are funded with the 2018 Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Certificates of Obligation and park land dedication fees. The project was designed by Sites Southwest and Huitt Zollars, and the contractor is Black Stallion Contractors. The total project budget is approximately \$835,000. Construction begins March 2019. Horizon City residents expect to enjoy the new neighborhood by late summer or early fall of 2019.

— Elvia Schuller

Doctors by state

With National Doctors' Day on March 30 and "physician" being the highest-paid job of 2018, the personal-finance website WalletHub has released its report on 2019's *Best & Worst States for Doctors* as well as accompanying videos. To identify the best states for those in the business of saving lives, WalletHub compared the 50 states and the District of Columbia across 18 key metrics. The data set ranges from average annual wage of physicians to hospitals per capita to quality of public hospital system. Texas finished 30th in the study, ranking:

- 31st — Avg. Annual Wage of Physicians (Adjusted for Cost of Living);
- 7th — Avg. Monthly Starting Salary of Physicians (Adjusted for Cost of Living);
- 28th — Hospitals per Capita;
- 51st — Insured Population Rate;
- 48th — Projected percent of Population Aged 65 and Older by 2030;
- 16th — Projected Physicians per Capita by 2026;
- 25th — Punitiveness of State Medical Board;
- 6th — Malpractice Award Payout Amount per Capita; and
- 13th — Annual Malpractice

See BRIEFS, Page 6

People are great manufacturers. Some make good, others make trouble, and some just make excuses.

— Quips & Quotes



— Photo courtesy of David S. Cantu

The upcoming City of San Elizario Tire Amnesty event (8 a.m. to noon, Saturday, April 13) is part of the City's scrap tire ordinance that was approved last year. Above, San Elizario High School students and RoadMasters Tire Recycling Company volunteers help with a previous tire amnesty day collection.

City of San Eli to hold Tire Amnesty Day

By Alfredo Vasquez
Special to the Courier

SAN ELIZARIO — The City of San Elizario will hold a Tire Amnesty Day, from 8 a.m. to noon, Saturday, April 13, at 1201 Herring Road. The focus of the amnesty event will be exclusively on used tires and is limited to San Elizario residents with address verification documentation.

The tire amnesty will allow residents in the San Elizario city limits to legally and safely, at no cost to them, dispose of the multitude of scrap tires that have accumulated in their backyards for years, according to David S. Cantu, the City of San Elizario Place 2 alderperson.

"The amnesty day will help rid the city of many of the used tires that have visibly accumulated on public properties throughout the greater part of the community," stated Cantu. "The goal is to beautify the community while at the same time reducing the propagation of disease vectors and making the collected material available to a Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ)

registered tire recycling facility," Cantu stated.

The City has been working with the Rio Grande Council of Governments (RGCOG), tire advisory groups, and solid waste community members for the last five years, the alderperson related. He stated that the amnesty days have been made possible through grants from RGCOG and TCEQ funding programs.

"We have many partners who help us including students from the San Elizario High School and RoadMasters Tire Recycling Company," Cantu stated. Previous City of San Elizario cleanup efforts, that have also included solid waste cleanup programs, have been held in partnership with various local stakeholders, such as the County of El Paso, El Paso County Water Improvement District #1, Lower Valley Water District, and San Elizario Independent School District. Cantu asserted that the amnesty days have been effective at reducing waste dumped in public spaces.

Past amnesty days tire collection totals have averaged about 1,000 tires each year, Cantu reported. He emphasized that

this effort directly benefits the scores of property owners who bring in tires on the amnesty day and supports the city-wide cleanup projects.

Fundamentally, "The tire amnesty event is an emergency stopgap measure that will alleviate local blight conditions while San Elizario's city council embarks on the longer-term objective of developing a local solid waste management plan and an environmentally responsible waste disposal ordinance," Cantu commented. He added that the city council had recently executed the first phase of a scrap tire program that was initiated in conjunction with the approval of the city's Scrap Tire Ordinance in 2018," he said.

Cantu surmised that the main incentive for participation in the tire collection event is that it will be free to San Elizario residents. He pointed out that a local solid waste hauler charges at least \$3.50 per tire and that, in most cases, some of these tires end up in the landfill. "This free amnesty program is essential, particularly in light of the low-income level among San Elizario residents, whose median household income averages less than \$23,000 a year," he added.

View from here By Jane M. Orient, M.D.

Sacrificing freedom to vaccination

According to the Oath of Hippocrates, physicians have the duty to advise their patients according to the best of their ability and judgment. In most cases, most physicians recommend vaccination, believing that for a particular patient, the benefit exceeds the risk. Patients or their parents, however, have the right to decline to follow their doctor’s advice.

But with vaccination, government restricts this right. Every time there is a measles outbreak somewhere there is an outcry to restrict vaccine exemptions, to protect the public – and, just coincidentally, vaccine manufacturers.

Measles is extremely contagious, and with today’s air travel, a patient incubating measles but not yet sick can arrive any time and cough virus particles all over Disneyland. Most patients recover fully, with robust lifelong immunity. But some get serious complications or die. Measles is two to four times worse than in pre-vaccination days because it affects more adults and infants. Mothers with only waning vaccine-induced immunity cannot give their babies the antibodies that once protected infants of naturally immunized mothers during their most vulnerable period.

The public health or guilt-trip rationale is this: “My baby is immunosuppressed and can’t get vaccinated. So, you must vaccinate your baby because if there’s an outbreak, your unvaccinated baby might catch measles and give it to my baby, who might die.” Of course, parents fear for their children, although the last measles death in the U.S. occurred in 2015.

This argument assumes that the risk of vaccine to healthy children doesn’t exist – or doesn’t matter. Worries are attributed to “antivax quacks,” and the omniscient Mark Zuckerberg of Facebook is reportedly going to protect the public by suppressing information he judges to be “not credible.” Public health people prevented the screening of the 2016 movie Vaxxed: from Coverup to Catastrophe in Phoenix. The film shows children with devastating neurologic damage, and parents telling how their once normal child changed dramatically just after getting a vaccine. But these are mere anecdotes; there is “overwhelming evidence” of safety, the experts assure us.

Most children tolerate their vaccines well, but package inserts list an intimidating number of rare but serious events – that might or might not have been caused by the vaccine. Moreover, according to the Cochrane Collaboration, “The design and reporting of safety outcomes in MMR vaccine studies, both pre- and post-marketing, are largely inadequate.”

Safety studies are always limited. Terrible but rare complications might not show up in the limited number of study subjects, or might be delayed until after the study concludes. Chloramphenicol was a widely used antibiotic, until one in 50,000 patients got lethal aplastic anemia. And let us not forget thalidomide and the babies without limbs. One incentive to be cautious and avoid attempts to cover up adverse effects is the prospect of being sued. But vaccine manufacturers are immune from product liability. The only recourse for vaccine-injured patients is Vaccine Court, which has paid out \$4 billion in damages. Two out of three claims are denied.

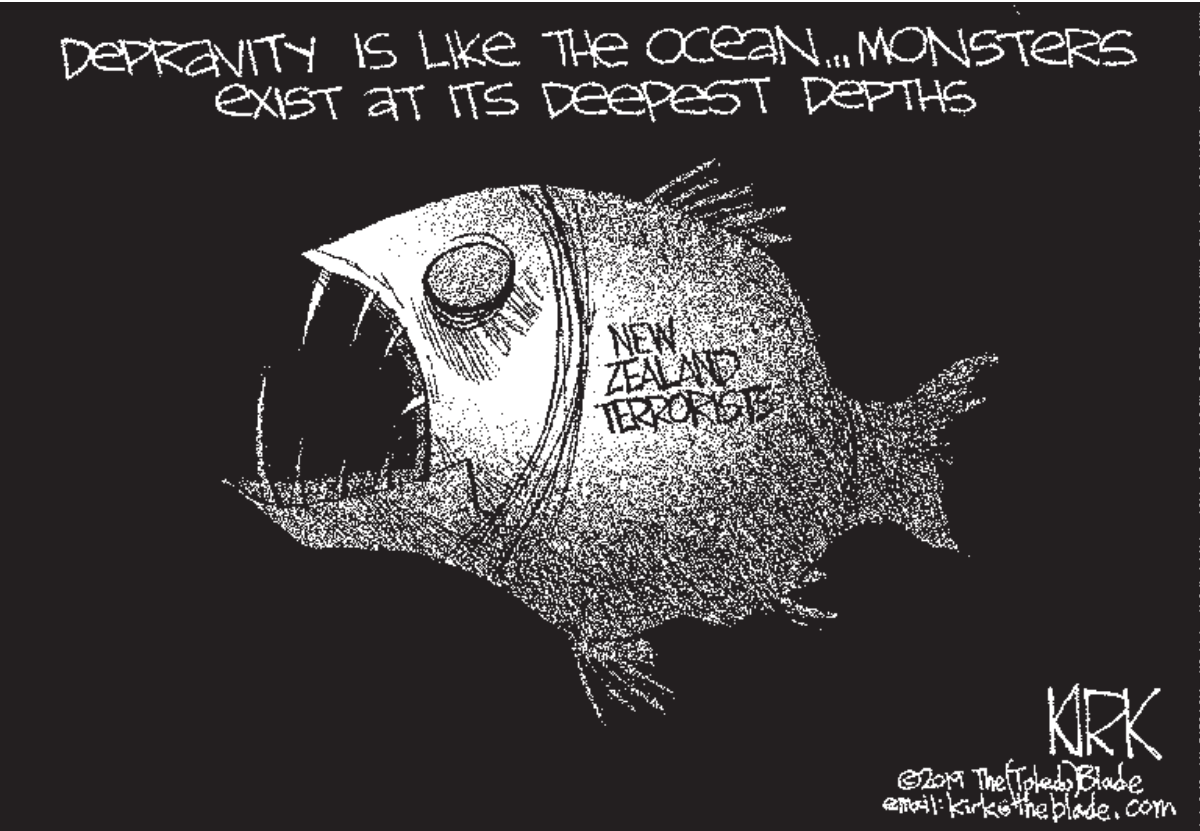
But aren’t the risks worth it? What if large numbers of parents start to refuse vaccination? Maybe there would be a huge outbreak, spreading like wildfire, causing thousands or millions of deaths? Shall we not pit the worst imaginable hypothetical scenario against an unknown number of vaccine adverse reactions? Is it not worth it to eradicate the scourge of measles?

The fact is that measles probably can’t be eradicated, not with an imperfect vaccine. In Saudi Arabia, where vaccination rates were between 95 percent and 98 percent, there were 4,648 cases of measles in 2007 compared with 373 in 2005. The best we can do is probably to aim for disease control. A freedom-based approach – for example, seeking better vaccines, excellent diagnostic and contact-tracing tools, and open communication – is more likely to lead to an optimal result than forcing the currently available vaccine on unwilling recipients.

Deciding what is best for individual patients is difficult, fraught with danger and full of uncertainties. Doctors may advise, or patients may choose a course that is harmful. But if governmental authorities, imbued with a sense of infallibility, impose their will on everyone, the consequences of a bad choice affect millions.

Trading freedom – and free speech – for supposed security ultimately leads to a loss of both. And if government can dictate what you must inject into your own children, what limits can be placed on its power?

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. She completed an internal medicine residency at Parkland Memorial Hospital and University of Arizona Affiliated Hospitals and then became an Instructor at the University of Arizona College of Medicine and a staff physician at the Tucson Veterans Administration Hospital. She has been in solo private practice since 1981 and has served as Executive Director of the Association of American Physicians and Surgeons (AAPS) since 1989. She is currently president of Doctors for Disaster Preparedness.



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The SPLC defines itself

The Southern Poverty Law Center has designated itself an organization hostile to women and people of color.

It fired its co-founder Morris Dees for unexplained reasons and removed his bio from its website at the same time it pledged to train its management in “racial equity, inclusion and results.”

Simultaneous with the cashiering of Dees after nearly 50 years at the SPLC, roughly two-dozen employees wrote a letter warning “allegations of mistreatment, sexual harassment, gender discrimination, and racism threaten the moral authority of this organization and our integrity along with it.”

The missive is touching in its assumption that the SPLC still has moral authority or integrity. The scandal is, nonetheless, a remarkable comeuppance for an organization that has weaponized political correctness for its own money-grubbing.

Over the decades, the SPLC basically made the philosopher Eric Hoffer’s famous line about organizational degeneracy its strategic plan: “Every great cause begins as a movement, becomes a business, and eventually degenerates into a racket.”

Originally founded as a civil-rights group in 1971 and gaining fame for its campaign to bankrupt the Ku Klux Klan, the SPLC shifted to a catchall “anti-hate” group that widened its definition of hate to encompass more and more people as the Klan faded as a threat.

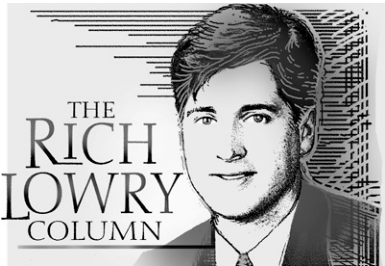
It used the complicity or credulousness of the media in repeating its designations to punish its ideological enemies and engage in prodigious fundraising. It raised \$50 million a year and built an endowment of more than \$300 million.

Imagine a left-wing outfit with the same shoddy standards as Joe McCarthy, but with a better business sense.

Usually, being named by the SPLC means having the designation routinely noted by the press whatever its merits, but occasionally there’s recourse.

True to form, the SPLC somehow deemed Maajid Nawaz and his Quilliam Foundation – devoted to pushing back against radical Islam – anti-Muslim even though Nawaz is himself a Muslim. He sued for defamation.

The SPLC steadily climbed down. First, it withdrew the “Field Guide to Anti-Muslim Extremists” that included him, then settled for \$3.375 million. “We would like,” the SPLC said, “to extend our sincerest apologies to Mr. Nawaz, Quilliam, and our



readers for the error.”

The error? This makes it sound like the SPLC misspelled his name rather than going out of its way to include him in a research report meant to put a blot on his reputation forevermore.

There’s a lot of talk of the need for more civility in our public life. Any journalist who believes this should shun the SPLC. Its business model is based on an elaborate form of name-calling. It lumps together people who have legitimate, good-faith opinions the SPLC finds uncongenial with hideous racists, using revulsion with the latter to discredit the former.

This is a poisonous form of public argument. Not to mention that many of the groups the SPLC smears have never had its employees complain about its hostile workplace culture. If the SPLC is going to engage in a period of self-reflection, it should think about what it’s become – and recoil in shame.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review. (c) 2019 by King Features Synd., Inc.

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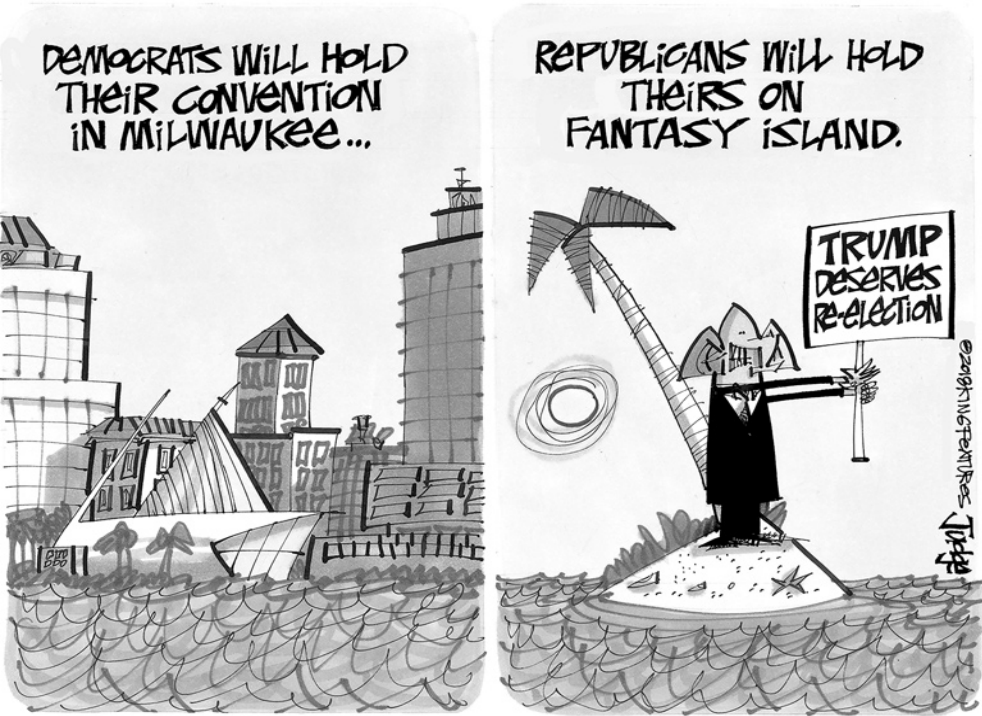
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View from here By Dan Weber

Progressives really do not understand Socialism

It's worse than millennial minds can imagine

Vice President Mike Pence says the left uses euphemisms and catchphrases to describe their progressive agendas. Pence told the recent CPAC gathering in the nation’s capital: “Bernie (Sanders) has been joined by a chorus of candidates and newly elected officials who have papered over the failed policies of socialism with bumper-sticker slogans and slick social-media campaigns.”

The reason they use shorthand to describe socialism is that it would scare the pants off of those millennial Democrats and even some seasoned party apparatchiks if the truth be told. And, the truth is historic fact: socialism is the gateway drug that’ll hook you on the stronger stuff, namely Communism, if you let it.

Perhaps it is because progressive Young Turks – those millennials – are too young to appreciate the scope of the evil empire that was the USSR, the Union of the Soviet Socialist Republics. They think those countries that were captives of the Soviet Union joined up because it was an opportunity to provide better lives for their citizens. They think Poland, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Romania and all the others wanted to be part of a way of life that was uplifting, forward looking and fair to each and every citizen whether they were members of government or just your average Joe.

A little more than a year ago, Victims of Communism Memorial Foundation, an organization

created by a unanimous Act of Congress in 1993, conducted a survey that showed an alarming 44 percent of millennials say they would rather live in a socialist country than in a capitalist state. Meanwhile, a Gallup poll showed that Democrats, in general, have a positive view of socialism.

Pravda was the official mouthpiece of the Soviets. The newspaper’s sole mission was, not to inform, but to mislead gullible subscribers in the free world and the inmates of the Soviet-controlled homelands into thinking that the Central Committee had only good intentions. Since the so-called fall of Communism in Russia, Pravda has modeled itself in the fashion of traditional Western media as a true source of information.

Not long ago, Pravda published an article describing what it was like to live in a Socialist state, noting that just like our own millennials, the younger generations in cities such as Moscow and St. Petersburg have a delusional view of the Soviet system. They actually think that life was better under the likes of Lenin, Stalin, Khrushchev and Brezhnev and their NKVD and KGB thugs (think Gestapo on steroids) who kept the citizenry in check. But, the older folk, those who lived in fear during those “good old days,” know better.

“Life in the USSR was bad,” Pravda reported. “Everyone was living in poverty throughout Soviet history, not only during the period of perestroika. In

large cities, a customer in a food store could buy canned cod liver and smoked sausage, and that would be possible on a good day. Food stores in smaller towns and villages were empty. At the same time, radio and television would report record high milk yield and amazing achievements in the poultry industry. Food stores were selling liquid (diluted) sour cream out of huge dirty aluminum cans, as well as bitter herring (wrapped in newspaper), thin bluish whole chickens, brick-like bread and tasteless birch-tree juice.”

As Mr. Pence put it at the CPAC gathering, “Freedom encourages investments; socialism stifles growth. Socialism demands conformity. America was founded on liberty and independence, not government coercion.”

Pence’s message is a far cry from the notion former president, Barack Obama, offered up to youngsters at the Young Leaders of the Americas Initiative in Buenos Aires in 2016. President Obama told that gathering that there really is no difference between our way of life and that of a socialist or communist.

In Obama’s own words: “so often in the past there’s been a sharp division between left and right, between capitalist and communist or socialist. And especially in the Americas, that’s been a big debate, right? Oh, you know, you’re a capitalist Yankee dog, and oh, you know, you’re some crazy communist that’s going to take away everybody’s property. And I mean, those

are interesting intellectual arguments, but I think for your generation, you should be practical and just choose from what works. You don’t have to worry about whether it neatly fits into socialist theory or capitalist theory – you should just decide what works.”

Cuba is no “intellectual argument,” neither is

Definition of socialism

- 1: any of various economic and political theories advocating collective or governmental ownership and administration of the means of production and distribution of goods
- 2 a: a system of society or group living in which there is no private property
- b: a system or condition of society in which the means of production are owned and controlled by the state
- 3: a stage of society in Marxist theory transitional between capitalism and communism and distinguished by unequal distribution of goods and pay according to work done (www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/socialism)

Definition of communism

- 1 a: a system in which goods are owned in common and are available to all as needed
- b: a theory advocating elimination of private property
- 2 capitalized
- a: a doctrine based on revolutionary Marxian socialism and Marxism-Leninism that was the official ideology of the U.S.S.R.
- b: a totalitarian system of government in which a single authoritarian party controls state-owned means of production
- c: a final stage of society in Marxist theory in which the state has withered away and economic goods are distributed equitably
- d: communist systems collectively (<https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/communism>)

Venezuela or North Korea. Life in those countries is the reality of what is the kind of existence we can expect if we capitalist Yankee dogs allow the crazy communists among us to prevail.

The USSR was the cradle of communism and its newspaper of record finally had to admit that life in the USSR – under communism or socialism, if you prefer – “was bad.”

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



By Samantha Weaver

- It was 20th-century French airforce brigadier general and geopolitician – and bearer of the nickname “father of the French atom bomb” – Pierre Marie Gallois who made the following sage observation: “If you put tomfoolery into a computer, nothing comes out of it but tomfoolery. But this tomfoolery, having passed through a very expensive machine, is somehow ennobled and no one dares criticize it.”
- Fashion historians claim that England’s Queen Elizabeth I owned 3,000 of the elaborate dresses popular during her time.
- The Great Pyramid of Cheops in Egypt is so large that its base would cover 10 football fields.
- Without a bottle opener, a drunk homeless man in Belgrade, Serbia, was at a loss as to how to open his beer. So he hit upon the bright idea of using a hand grenade to pop the top. A live hand grenade, as it turned out. He popped his own top as well, dying in the incident. It’s not known how he got the grenade to begin with.
- Human skin is about 70 percent water, and the human brain is 80 percent water.

- At 140,000 square miles, the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument, located (unsurprisingly) in Hawaii, is larger than all the other U.S. national parks put together.
- Those who study such things say that the European starling is one of the world’s great mimics. They have the ability to imitate a surprisingly wide variety of sounds, including a dog’s bark, a cat’s meow, a cow’s moo, the songs of 50 other bird species, the drumming of a woodpecker and a ringing telephone.

Thought for the Day: “The reason why so few good books are written is that so few people who can write know anything.”
– Walter Bagehot

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CryptoQuip Answer

If you see reddish fumes emanating from something, could you call them rose-colored gases?

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- On March 25, 1958, boxer Sugar Ray Robinson defeats Carmen Basilio to regain the middleweight championship, the fifth and final title of his career. Robinson is considered by many to be the greatest prizefighter in history.
 - On March 26, 1969, a group called Women Strike for Peace demonstrates in Washington, D.C., in the first large antiwar protest since President Richard Nixon's inauguration in January. Criticism of Nixon's handling of the Vietnam War mounted steadily during his term in office.
 - On March 27, 1990, the U.S. government begins broadcasting TV programs into communist Cuba. TV Marti was conceived in the 1940s to beam news and propaganda throughout the world, particularly to communist nations.
 - On March 28, 1915, the first American is killed eight months into the conflict that would become known as World War I. Leon Thrasher, a 31-year-old mining engineer and native of Massachusetts, drowned when a German submarine torpedoed the cargo-passenger ship Falaba off the coast of England.
 - On March 29, 1971, Lt. William Calley is found guilty of premeditated murder at My Lai by a U.S. Army court-martial. Calley, a platoon leader, had led his men in a massacre of 200 Vietnamese civilians, including women and children, in Quang Ngai Province in March 1968.
 - On March 30, 1855, in territorial Kansas' first election, some 5,000 "Border Ruffians" invade the territory from western Missouri and force the election of a pro-slavery legislature. Although the votes cast exceeded the number of eligible voters, Kansas Gov. Andrew Reeder reluctantly approved the election to prevent further bloodshed.
 - On March 31, 1931, Knute Rockne, the legendary Notre Dame football coach, is killed in a plane crash near Bazaar, Kansas, at age 43. His players included All-American George "Gipper" Gip, the inspiration for Rockne's now-famous motivational line "Win one for the Gipper."
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Food for thought

By Glenn Mollette

Just don't answer the telephone

In January a Denver couple received a scam phone call from a man who told them he had kidnapped their daughter. The man was very convincing that their daughter was in his possession. In the background they heard a woman's voice begging for help. The call was convincing enough that they tried to wire money to the man. Fortunately the money didn't go through. Police soon showed up after the wife left a note with the bank teller explaining what was happening. The police determined it was a scam.

A 90-year-old friend received a call a couple of years back. The caller explained that he was with the Internal Revenue Service. He alleged my friend was \$40,000 behind in his federal taxes and that payment had to be made immediately. My friend didn't owe anybody and had always been a model citizen. The worry and fear for this 90 year old man were more than he could handle. He committed suicide a few days after the call.

Several years ago I received a call after my son had boarded a submarine. I would not be able to communicate with him for several months. The caller in a very convincing voice stated my son owed \$350 and if not paid immediately he would file charges against him that would be very negative toward his military career. I explained he would not be available for awhile. The caller insisted that someone needed to intervene to

prevent the black mark against my son. You guessed it. I fell for it and paid the demanded money. Of course within a couple of hours and some research I knew I had been scammed. Somehow, somewhere there is someone keeping an eye on soldier's families that they can catch at a vulnerable moment and scam them.

When you are scammed you feel like an idiot when it's over. It's embarrassing. However, these telephone artists are professionals. This is all they do every day. In places like Nigeria where many of these calls originate from people go to work from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. every day like you go to your daily job. Only, their daily job is to come up with real life convincing lies to scam you out of your hard earned money.

Some of us have only lost a few hundred dollars but others have lost thousands and in the case of my friend, he ended his life over a very believable telephone call.

I remember our first telephone. I was about nine years old. Telephone calls were cool. I talked to friends on the telephone for hours. When the telephone rang we knew it was family or friends calling and answering it was enjoyable and important.

Today, a ringing telephone is a nuisance. Some days I receive five to ten calls from local numbers who end up being people selling health insurance, credit cards, student loan payoffs, car warranties, scams pertaining to taxes owed and numerous others. Thus, I no longer answer the phone if I don't recognize the number. Leave a message and I promise I'll call you back. If the person calling you is real and legitimate they won't mind leaving you a message and a real number to return the call.

Glenn Mollette is a Nationally/ internationally read author of columns, inspirational devotionals and books.



Moore Texas by Roger T. Moore
Mar. 29, 1901: The Texas Legislature approves a meager appropriations bill for the valiant Texas Rangers.

Classified Ads

LEGALS

Public Notice

Village of Vinton, Texas

Request to Rezone

A public hearing will be held at **6:30 pm on Tuesday, April 16, 2019**, during the Vinton City Council meeting at Vinton Village Hall, 436 E. Vinton Road, Vinton, Texas.

Purpose of the public hearing is to allow any interested persons to appear and testify regarding the following item(s):

- A request to Re-Zone Lots 2 and 3, CRS Industrial Park, Village of Vinton, El Paso, County Texas (also known as 550 Vinton Rd.) from TC to M1.

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: 03-28-19

JOBS

POSITION OPEN

Socorro Independent School District
Heating, Ventilation and Cooling (HVAC) Teacher at

El Dorado High School

Minimum Qualifications:

- Certified Vocational Trades & Industry/Trades & Industrial Education in HVAC; or
 - Degreed - Associate's or Bachelor's Degree with a current Industry Certification preferred with 3 years within the last 8 years of full-time wage-earning experience in HVAC; or
 - W/O Degree - Must have 5 years within the last 8 years of full-time wage-earning experience in HVAC, Current Industry License/Certificate.
- All candidates must be accepted to or have completed an approved educator preparation program.
- Position requires candidates to provide students the opportunity

to participate in SkillsUSA and be willing to teach evening classes, three times a week to Adult Education classes (additional pay will be provided according to District guidelines).

• The following documents are required to be attached to the online Application: Current resume (must be submitted/ uploaded within one (1) year) and a Statement of Qualifications (SOQ).

• Visit: https://my.sisd.net/public_apps/jobs/postings/?type=Certified for full job posting/ instructions.

For questions about this posting, please contact: Amanda Acosta, abecht@sisd.net or call (915) 937-1608.

Socorro ISD is EOE

WTCC: 03-28-19
04-03-19



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Deadline: Monday, 4 p.m.
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Nothing has changed for UTEP basketball off-season

By Steve Escajeda
Special to the Courier

We have a lot of little sayings we toss around every day, like “a picture is worth a thousand words,” or “beggars can’t be choosers,” or “every cloud has a silver lining.”

Another popular saying is “no news is good news.”

Of course the saying means that without any negative information, you can assume that all is well.

I don’t know how true that saying is, but I’ve learned over the years that it’s certainly true for the UTEP basketball program.

They wish that for just one off-season, there would be no news coming out of the department, but that never seems to be the case.

It has become the norm that once the UTEP basketball season ends, nothing but bad news begins. And in recent years it has involved key players and recruits leaving the program.

And even though the Miners just suffered through a disappointing 8-21 season, there was still a feeling of optimism surrounding the team.

With many talented recruits on the way, UTEP coaches, fans and staff knew that the times were about to change – for the better.

And then the dreaded “news” started rolling in.

First there was the news that two players were leaving the program.

Sophomore guards Evan Gilyard and Kobe Magee read the writing on the wall and decided to transfer from the program instead of spending much of their time on the bench next season.

To be honest, not very many people around the program were surprised that they decided to leave, even though Gilyard was the team’s leading scorer at 13.6 per game.

But that was just the beginning.

Then it was announced last week that two UTEP assistant coaches were leaving the team.

First, assistant Lamont Smith resigned after being implicated in the nation-wide college entrance bribery scandal. One of the schools involved was the University of San Diego, and Smith came to UTEP last year after serving as San Diego’s head coach.

Another curious fact is why Smith left USD in the first place; he left amid domestic violence allegations.

Then, it was learned that a week earlier, UTEP decided to fire assistant coach Brian Burton.

Burton put out a tweet stating he was

told by head coach Rodney Terry that he would not be retained for next season.

As of yet, the university has not put out a reason for Burton’s firing, but I would think one will be coming shortly.

So along with the stigma of having a coach in their program associated with the national bribery scandal, UTEP loses two assistants, which means the team has to bring in two new coaches who will have to learn the system and all the players.

With about nine new players joining the team next season, a little coaching continuity would have helped a lot.

That is, of course, if all those new players still come to UTEP.

Some more bad news hit the team last week when it was announced that one of those new players, Brendan Wenzel, a 6-5 shooting guard out of San Antonio, will not be coming to UTEP after all.

So now the fear around campus is, who will join Wenzel? Will other players follow by announcing they too, will leave the program after these coaching changes?

The new Rodney Terry-era of UTEP basketball, along with the new athletic director Jim Senter-era, and the new UTEP president Heather Wilson-era, it was believed that things would be different.

But as it was during the Tim Floyd-era, the off-season has become a nightmarish time for UTEP basketball.

And the news always seems to be negative.

It appears that four players from this past season, guards Jordan Lathan and Nigel Hawkins, along with big men Efe Odigie and Kaosi Ezeagu, will be returning. All four were freshmen last season.

If no other players change their minds, the Miners should be fine next year. But as we’ve seen over the last decade – that’s a pretty big “if.”

The Miners are hoping that there is no other news coming out of the program for the rest of the summer except for the two new assistants they must hire.

For UTEP, “no news would be awesome news!”

Briefs

From Page 1

Liability Insurance Rate.

Other stats:

- Mississippi has the highest average annual wage for surgeons (adjusted for cost of living), \$316,828, which is 2.7 times higher than in the District of Columbia, the lowest at \$117,763.
- Oklahoma has the lowest number of physicians per 1,000 residents, 0.99, which is 6.3 times lower than in the District of Columbia, the highest at 6.20.
- Florida has the highest projected share of the population aged 65 and older by 2030, 27.08 percent, which is two times higher than in Utah, the lowest at 13.21 percent.
- Nebraska has the lowest annual malpractice liability insurance rate, \$4,977, which is 8.2 times lower than in New York, the highest at \$40,826.

Visit [https://wallethub.com/edu/best-](https://wallethub.com/edu/best-and-worst-states-for-doctors/11376/)

[and-worst-states-for-doctors/11376/](https://wallethub.com/edu/best-and-worst-states-for-doctors/11376/) for the full report.

– Diana Polk

Federal dependency

With the tax deadline drawing near, the personal-finance website WalletHub followed up on its *2019 Tax Rates by State* report with an in-depth analysis of *2019’s Most & Least Federally Dependent States* as well as accompanying videos to determine how much those with the lowest tax rates lean on Uncle Sam compared with those paying the highest. In order to identify which states most and least depend on federal support, WalletHub compared the 50 states across three key metrics: return on taxes paid to the federal government; federal funding as a share of state revenue; and share of federal jobs. Texas came in at 29, ranking:

- 37th – Return on Taxes Paid to the Federal Government;
- 25th – Federal Funding as a Share of

State Revenue; and

- 31st – Share of Federal Jobs.

Other stats:

- With an average dependency rank of 20.55, Red States are altogether more reliant on federal funding than Blue States, which rank 33.25 on average. (The lower the rank, the more dependent the state.)
- There is a 57.7 percent correlation between a state’s federal dependency and its per-capita GDP. That means the least wealthy states tend to receive the most federal support.
- Illinois is the fifth least (ranked 46) federally dependent state, which helps explain the fact that it has the highest tax rates in the nation. On the flip side, Alaska is the seventh (ranked 7) most federally dependent state and has the lowest tax rates.

Visit <https://wallethub.com/edu/states-most-least-dependent-on-the-federal-government/2700/> for the full report.

– Diana Polk

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Super Crossword

ANIMAL

ADAPTIONS

ACROSS

1 Cut, as film

5 " _ l lie?"

10 Grows dim

15 Opera parts

19 Major- _ (butler)

20 Region of old Greece

21 Fictional belle Scarlett

22 Tales of old

23 One stealing a serpent?

25 Houses, to Hernando

26 Came to rest

27 Aid in antiquing

28 Escort a wild canine?

31 Slender, like stags tend to be?

35 Suit jacket

36 35mm camera inits.

37 Wimple wearers

38 King Kong and others

39 Caucus state

42 "Capeesh?"

44 Golf prop

45 Glass rims

46 Grizzly who's a country music star?

48 Battery part

49 Vital artery

50 Norse deity

51 Of the eyes

54 Verdi opera

56 Vim

58 Terminate

62 Choice between an impish practical joke and an aquarium fish?

66 Boomer's son, say

68 Sequoia, e.g.

69 Gobbling fowl

70 Show open disdain for

72 Neighbor of Kenya

75 Butyl ender

76 Feline sign

78 Young sheep from an ancient Palestinian region?

80 Varnish stuff

83 Antelope of Africa

85 Went lower

86 French novelist Jules

87 Octa- plus two

89 Belie

92 \$5 bills, informally

94 Pinniped pedestrian?

98 Certain Fed

99 K-12 org.

102 Mrs. monster

103 Make at work

104 Singer Andy

105 Outward appearance

106 _ hunch

107 Tiny, to tots

109 Steed native to the Garden State?

112 The absolute best burrowing rodent?

116 "I smell _!" ("This is fishy!")

117 Thus

118 Gymnast

119 Gratitude expressed by a chatty bird?

124 Retail (for)

125 Wicked things

126 Innately know

127 _ Tzu (dog)

128 Sequoia, e.g.

129 Chief belief

130 Trample

131 Totally fill

DOWN

1 Mag staffers

2 Phil who had a talk show

3 Conceive of

4 Coin substitutes

5 Jokester

6 "Nice one!"

7 Octa- minus seven

8 Feudal superiors

9 "Platoon" actor Willem

10 Points where rays meet

11 At the drop of _

12 Windshield-attached recorder

13 Muse of hymns

14 Glided down the runway

15 "There oughta be _!"

16 Huge statues

17 Singer doing a vocal quaver

18 Emancipate

24 Time period of interest

29 More twisted, as humor

30 Running shoe brand

31 Blasting material

32 Go by sea

33 Materialize

34 _ Moines, Iowa

40 Granola bar bit

41 End a shoot

43 _ Reader (magazine)

45 "Willard" actress Sondra

46 Moored ship used as lodging

47 Get by

48 Opt for

49 Yemen port

51 Ferret cousin

52 Pare down

53 Car's four

55 "Let's do this thing!"

57 Praise highly

59 Seven-Emmy Ed

60 Neighbor of Ethiopia

61 Get by

63 Popeye's Olive

64 Stephen of "Still Crazy"

65 Amount that can be carried

67 Hairpiece, slangily

71 Help in a bad deed

73 Accepted fact

74 Toby brews

77 The same, to

Henri

79 Served in blazing brandy

81 Notion, to Henri

82 Reporter, colloquially

84 _ Major

88 Musical clicker

90 Always, in sonnets

91 Bluegrass instrument

93 Wee toddler

94 Most quickly

95 Cold-shoulder giver

96 Make dirty by trailing through mud

97 Entered, as data

98 Mil. enlistees

99 Nasty fish

100 Diagnostic package

101 Hex- follower

104 Less cheery, to a Brit

105 Boggy tract

108 Barrel slat

110 "Nightmare" film setting: Abbr.

111 "So there!"

113 Part in a play

114 Really peeve

115 Gigantic

120 Rome-to-Vienna dir.

121 Slow _ snail

122 Politico Cruz

123 That vessel

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Answer Page 4

Comix

OUT ON A LIMB By Gary Kopervas



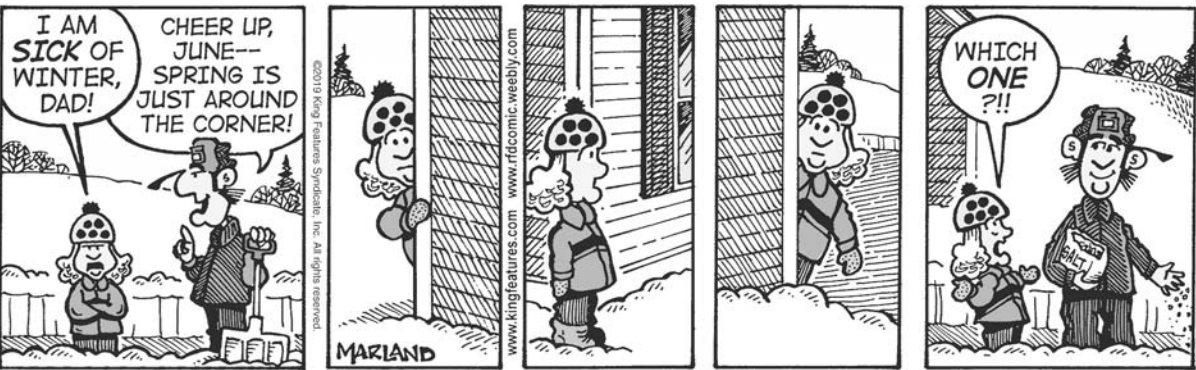
AMBER WAVES By Dave T. Phipps



THE SPATS By Jeff Pickering



R.F.D. By Mike Marland



Persistent cough can be tricky to treat

DEAR DR. ROACH: I went through many tests for a cough that lasted for 30 years. No treatments worked. The only sign my doctor could find was that my throat had scars from coughing that long. My allergy specialist had tried for years with all kinds of prescriptions, to no avail. I am now living a normal life since a doctor prescribed tramadol (50 mg) twice a day. What a relief. My wife, grown children, friends and clients are happy. – L.G.



I found only a single case report of tramadol being used for chronic cough, and it was effective in that patient. The authors advised further study on its use. Tramadol is a pain medication distantly related to codeine. Its abuse potential is low, but there have been overdoses and deaths due to this drug, so I don't recommend its indiscriminate use. However, I have seen personally and received many letters from people with intractable coughing for years, so much so that I wanted to call attention to this as a possible treatment worth discussing with one's doctor for people with longstanding cough that has resisted diagnosis or treatment. I previously mentioned taking gabapentin for laryngeal neuropathy, a condition that is often unrecognized and that may present with a prolonged cough. I received many letters telling me it was effective. Tramadol at the low dose (for an adult) you mention usually is safe.

DEAR DR. ROACH: I have a very dear relative who had radiation seed therapy for prostate cancer in 2003 after a biopsy revealed a Gleason score of 7 (3/4). Afterward, his PSA was only 0.1 to 0.3 the first three years, and it rose only .3 more each year until 2015, when it was 2.7 recently. He is 83. He has been told he must have hormone treatment: shots, pills or both, by his VA provider, who is not a urologist and who says he should see one. He has no symptoms, he says, and he leads a very active lifestyle, with daily walking of 3 miles or more, bowling twice a week and extensive gardening and yard work. Could the rising PSA be due to normal exercise activity, including production from surviving prostate cells? – R.A.

Rising PSA after cancer treatment typically is due to cancer

See HEALTH, Page 8



Health

From Page 7

returning, not an increase in normal prostate. However, that does not mean that your friend “must” have treatment. Goals for cancer treatment in an 83-year-old man may be very different from those of a 20-year-old man. In his case, since it took about 10 years to increase by 10 times, it may be a very long time before the probable cancer would be large enough to bother him, and it requires skill and experience to determine whether treatment, which can make quality of life worse, is worthwhile. Many urologists would recommend

deferring treatment until and unless he develops symptoms. I certainly would recommend that he go to see a urologist as his VA provider has recommended. He may be able to learn whether it really is the cancer returning and discuss his options. Shots and pills are options, but so is keeping a careful eye on it and not rushing to treat.

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) 2019 North America Synd., Inc. All Rights Reserved.

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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: H equals Y

BQ HMP ALL JLCCBAD QPZLA

LZRKRUBKS QJMZ AMZLUDBKS,

WMPFC HMP WRFF UDLZ

JMAL-WMFMJLC SRALA?

Answer Page 4

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

6				2		7		
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	5				7			9
		1	8					3
8		4			5		7	
	2			4		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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Fixing veteran suicide with a task force



by Freddy Groves

President Donald Trump has signed an executive order to create a task force to address veteran suicide. He’s bringing out the big guns: the secretaries for a dozen government agencies will be on it.

The task force has been given one year to do the following: develop strategies to lower the rate of veteran suicides, design and propose to Congress a program of local grants, and develop a research strategy to improve coordination and monitoring.

The Department of Veterans Affairs was allegedly already serious about preventing veteran suicide. Its 2018 report, second paragraph, says, “Suicide prevention is VA’s highest clinical priority” and that it’s “focused on preventing veteran suicides through intensive efforts.”

Here’s one example of its intensive efforts: The

November 2018 Government Accountability Office report on the VA’s suicide prevention outreach says that the 2018 suicide prevention media-outreach budget was \$6.2 million. It was for radio and print ads, public-service announcements, ads on billboards and buses, digital search ads, social media content and more. Targets were veterans, their families, their friends and the general public – all groups who need the information. Yet the VA spent only \$57,000 of that money and guesstimated they would spend a total of \$1.5 million, leaving \$4.7 million untouched. And they mostly ignored Suicide Prevention Month two years in a row.

So why didn’t they spend the money? Because there was a vacancy in the suicide prevention office. A single vacancy. The GAO report says there was no one to “make decisions.” Contrary to federal control standards, the VA didn’t bother to assign responsibilities to make sure the work continued.

I know President Trump

has a special place in his heart for veterans, but I just don’t see a group of department secretaries managing to solve the VA’s problems. They run too deep.

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• “I like to make cubed potatoes for breakfast. To keep it simple to cook in the morning, I boil a big batch on Sunday to use throughout the week. I keep them nice and white by adding a quarter cup of vinegar to the cooking water. You can’t taste it at all, and there’s no browning, even by Friday.”

– J.D. in Florida

• When painting, use a wet travel-size bar of soap to coat the windows (glass only), smearing the soapy residue all over the glass. Let it dry. When you paint, any splatters will land on the soap, which can be easily wiped away when the paint is dry.

• “If you get a new contact via your cellphone, make sure you write it down in a good old-fashioned paper address book. These days, we never dial someone, so we never learn their phone number. If something happened to your phone, you might lose the telephone numbers of people you want to stay in touch with, especially non-digitally inclined friends and relatives who might be older.”

– E.U. in Indiana

• Sink odor can be real problem, especially if you use a strainer in your sink. Sometimes, we forget to remove it and clean the drain underneath. Make it a point to clean and freshen your kitchen drains weekly by using this quick tip: Microwave several cups of water to boiling. Pour half down your drain, then dump in about 1/2 cup of baking soda. Follow up with a cup of full-strength vinegar (it should bubble and sputter). Wait three minutes, and then add the rest of the hot water. All clean!

Send your tips to Now Here’s a Tip, 628 Virginia Drive, Orlando, FL 32803. (c) 2019 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!

	÷		+		13
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1 2 3 5 5 6 7 8 9

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Answer Page 4



HNT

♥ SARHEW

SLEHW

♥ RADW

♥ DELDEM

♥ EWN

♥ ARDE

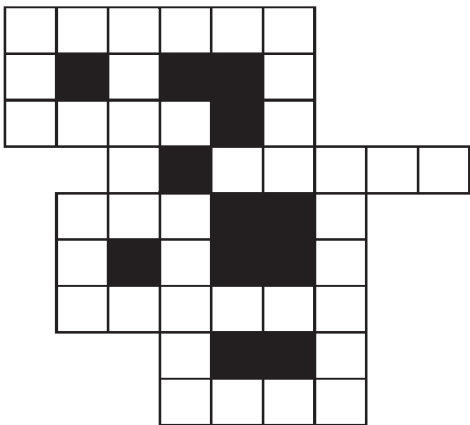
♥ NESRA

♥ DWE

♥ DATHLE

TAMDI

MOEH



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

Answer Page 4