



NEWSBRIEFS

Socorro ISD STAAR report cards online

Parents in the Socorro Independent School District can now access their child’s State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness (STAAR) report card on the Texas Assessment Data Portal. Scores are currently available on the data portal for students in Grades 8-12 who took an End of Course Exam (EOC). The Texas Assessment Data Portal allows parents to view their child’s STAAR/EOC performance and learn how to provide their child additional educational support at home. To view the STAAR report card, parents can visit the Texas Assessment Data Portal at TexasAssessment.gov. Parents will need to log in with their child’s unique student access code and date of birth. Parents can look up the access code on the same site with their child’s first name and Social Security Number (or S-Number). SISD schools will issue STAAR report cards at the beginning of the 2019-2020 school year. STAAR report cards also can be picked up at the campus during office hours after June 17, school registration times and/or open houses. For more information, contact your child’s school.

– Christina Flores-Jones

Summer fun

With summer just around the corner and families planning out their vacations, the personal-finance website WalletHub has released its report on 2019’s *Most Fun States in America* as well as accompanying videos. To determine the states offering the greatest variety and most cost-effective options for enjoyment, WalletHub compared the 50 states across 26 key metrics. The data set ranges from movie costs to accessibility of national parks to casinos per capita. Texas was rated 10th in the report, ranking:

- 1st – Restaurants per Capita;
- 1st – Movie Theaters per Capita;
- 16th – Golf Courses and Country Clubs per Capita;
- 1st – Amusement Parks per Capita;
- 10th – Performing-Arts Theaters per Capita; and
- 5th – Fitness Centers per Capita.

Visit <https://wallethub.com/edu/most-fun-states/34665/> for the full report.

– Diana Polk

The things that come to the man that waits seldom turn out to be the things he’s waited for.

– Quips & Quotes



– Photo courtesy of Paso del Norte Health Foundation

TRAIL BLAZING – Work continues on Paso del Norte Trail alongside the Franklin Canal in the lower valley, above. The trail master plan was developed by the Paso del Norte Health Foundation with input from hundreds of residents and dozens of committed and engaged community organizations and stakeholders. The hope is that the trail will become a regional attraction that connects communities, celebrates El Paso’s history and culture, highlights the Rio Grande, promotes health and active living, and catalyzes economic development.

Paso del Norte trail taking shape

By Alfredo Vasquez
Special to the Courier

EL PASO COUNTY – The Paso del Norte Health Foundation’s (PDNHF) initiative for a 60-mile countywide trail is steadily taking shape with the completion recently of the master plan to guide its development.

The Health Foundation is now working with community leaders to create a nonprofit trail corporation to guide the implementation of the master plan, which was created by Sites Southwest and Alta Planning+Design after almost two years of public meetings, on-line surveys, and work sessions with community leaders, stakeholders, and trail enthusiasts.

The project was further supported by

a technical assistance grant from the National Parks Service’s Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program. Leadership and input came, as well, from the County of El Paso, City of El Paso, El Paso Water, El Paso Water Improvement District No. 1, El Paso Metropolitan Planning Organization, Camino Real Regional Mobility Authority, Texas Department of Transportation, International Boundary and Water Commission, Housing Authority for the City of El Paso, Medical Center of the Americas Foundation, Velo El Paso, University of Texas at El Paso, El Paso Independent School District, neighborhood associations and countless other organizations and community residents.

The planned Paso del Norte Trail spans the length of El Paso county from its border with New Mexico to the agricultural areas of the Lower Valley connecting neighborhoods along the route to schools, parks, worksites and other destinations and providing greater opportunities for increased physical activity for residents and visitors alike.

“We are inspired by the enthusiasm for the trail concept and grateful to the leadership of our board of directors and all of the organizations and individuals who helped in the planning process,” stated Tracy J. Yellen, CEO of the Paso del Norte Foundation. “The Paso del Norte Trail will be an important resource for our region connecting communities, celebrating El Paso’s rich history and culture, highlighting the Rio Grande, and promoting health and active living,” he added.

The desire to create healthy and safe

Dance honored Deputy Peter Herrera

By Nora Garcia
Special to the Courier

SAN ELIZARIO – On May 24, 2019, L.G. Alarcon Elementary dedicated their third annual Father/Daughter and Mother/Son Enchanted Ball to the life of Deputy Peter Herrera. Herrera was mortally wounded on March 22 while making a traffic stop in San Elizario. He died two days later.



– Internet

Deputy Peter and Ashley Herrera.

Both Deputy and Ashley Herrera had previously secured evening dresses, cupcakes and Law Enforcement Officers for the Alarcon students during the first Father/Daughter Dance two years ago. Both were committed to ensuring students would continue to be accompanied by a Law Enforcement Officer to the dance and to not feel left out. Together they secured over 100 dresses for the girls attending the Enchanted Ball. The dance was a huge success with over 300 people in attendance to share in the celebration of Deputy Herrera’s life. A candy and salty bar, with candy apples as well as

See DANCE, Page 2

See TRAIL, Page 4

Dance

From Page 1

three photography stations were set up for all to enjoy.

Agent Debbie Madrid, with Project 1511, spearheaded the dance in honor of Deputy Herrera and asked if Alarcon Elementary would partner with and let them to sponsor the entire dance. Principal Julissa Esquivel said, “It is a blessing to honor his memory for generations to come. May his memory always be grounded here at L.G. Alarcon Elementary.” A large number of local businesses, Project 1511 and beauty pageant winners stepped up and supported this project immediately. The school and participants were all grateful for those that supported this incredible evening and celebrated the life of Deputy Herrera. Alarcon Elementary will forever honor Deputy Herrera and continue to celebrate his life.



– Photo by Perla Magallon

ALL DECKED OUT – Every young lady attending the Father/Daughter and Mother/Son Enchanted Ball was offered a gown to wear.

Attendees included Superintendent Dr. Jeannie Meza-Chavez, San Elizario ISD Board Members, Border Sheriff Deputies, Constables, San Elizario Mayor Antonio UTEP Social Work Interns and Araujo.

View from here By Alyssa Bori

Free online tool helps patients find independent doctors

Few consumers know that one of the best ways to save a lot on health care is to see an independent doctor. That one choice can save them up to half or more on their out-of-pocket costs, and many thousands of dollars should they need hospitalization.

However, knowing which doctors are independent and which are employees of a hospital or private equity group isn’t easy. One way to know is to ask. Another way is to search with

this free online tool (www.aid-us.org/directory) that can help area residents easily find independent doctors by specialty.

“While not every independent doctor is on the list, many are,” said Marni Jameson Carey, executive director of the Association of Independent Doctors. AID is a nonprofit organization dedicated to lowering healthcare costs.

“The tool raises awareness about an important question that consumers need to ask about their doctor before they go: Are

you independent or employed? That one question puts a lot of power – and dollars – back in consumers’ hands,” Carey said.

“The nationwide trend of hospitals buying physician practices and turning independent doctors into employed physicians is a leading driver in our nation’s soaring health-care costs,” said Carey.

In 2000, more than half of America’s doctors were independent; today only one in three are, according to the consulting group Accenture.

“Patients often don’t know their doctor has been acquired until they get their bill, which can be several times higher than it was before for the same type of office visit or procedure,” said Carey. Hospitals layer in what are known as facility fees – often substantial additional charges that are of no value to the patient.

These costs add up when the employed doctor refers patients to other employed specialists, and imaging and surgery centers, all of which charge as much as two to five times more than independently owned centers.

“We all pay for this in the way of higher premiums, and taxes to fund Medicare and Medicaid,” said Carey.

To avoid these snowballing costs, consumers should make that first healthy decision – to see an independent doctor.

Food for thought By John Grimaldi

Robocall update
FTC warns of more Social Security scams

Robocall Social Security Administration scams are on the rise. The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) says SSA telephone shakedowns specifically targeting senior citizens now surpass phony IRS calls, according to the Association of Mature American Citizens (AMAC).

For the past few years fake IRS calls topped the list of complaints received by the FTC. “But the new SSA scam is trending in the same direction – with a vengeance. People filed over 76,000 reports about Social Security imposters in the past 12 months, with reported losses of \$19 million,” according to the FTC.

AMAC president Dan Weber notes that at its peak, between October 2015 and September 2016, losses from IRS scams reached \$17 million. Meanwhile, in just two months, February and March of this year, the FTC received some 36,000 complaints from individuals who received Social Security calls. And, \$6.7 million in reported losses were logged.

Weber says “these con men are ‘phishing’ for Social Security numbers that can be used to commit all kinds of online crime. They can use stolen SS accounts to take out loans in your name, leaving you holding the bag. In addition, while they are at it, they often try to extort money from you. Meanwhile, the solution is quite simple – just hang up.”

In addition, AMAC advises that if you get such a phone call don’t fall for the scam even if your caller ID shows that the Social Security Administration is calling you. The SSA does not make threats. In fact, you should never give out your SS number, your bank account number or any such sensitive personal information to anyone who calls you out of the blue – especially if the voice on the other end of the line is a recording.

Dan Weber also recommends that you simply hang up on such callers and then call the SSA at (800) 772-1213 to report the incident. He says the Social Security Administration has issued a procedure notification for those who might receive scam calls, which can be accessed on the <https://www.identitytheft.gov/SSA> online.

“Robocall scams are fast becoming the methodology of choice for tech-savvy crooks. And, while we are each responsible for protecting ourselves from these criminals, the government has a responsibility, too. To that end, there is legislation in Congress that seeks to address robocall stings.”

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Years
2019

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Website: wtxcc.com



Publisher
Rick Shrum
Contributors
Alfredo Vasquez
Steve Escajeda



Member Texas Community Newspaper Association

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The Association of Independent Doctors fast-growing national trade association It is a nonprofit 501(c)(6) with 1,000 members in 40 states coast to coast.

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.

‘The Daily Beast’s’ shabby scoop

Breaking news: Some guy posted a doctored video of Nancy Pelosi.

But fear not. The website *The Daily Beast* sprang into action. It tracked down the random, Trump-supporting man who allegedly posted the offending clip, hounded him until he talked, then published his name and other details about his life in a shocking instance of harassment masquerading as journalism.

The man whose identity was revealed by *The Daily Beast* is, by the publication’s account, an unemployed African American forklift operator who lives in New York City and runs a couple of very minor Facebook pages. He had done it anonymously, one assumes, to avoid any professional and personal fallout, which *The Daily Beast* has now exposed him to.

The video in question, doctored to make it sound like Pelosi was drunk when talking about Donald Trump at a progressive conference, dominated a news cycle a couple of weeks ago. In other words, it was a big deal for about six hours, and then disappeared like most everything else in our disposable news culture.

The video was certainly a testament to the debased quality

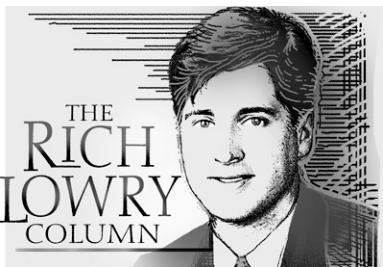
of online discourse, but it was also quickly identified as a fake, because it was pretty obviously a fake.

None of this justifies outing the man supposedly responsible for it. In a better world, anonymous political commentators could be identified without fear of social media mobs attempting to ruin their lives. As has been demonstrated time and again, this is not the world we live in.

Widely criticized for its decision to name the man – or in online parlance, “dox” him – *The Daily Beast* defended its story as a way to show “that disinformation isn’t the purview of Russia alone.” But who ever believed this?

Even if it’s relevant that someone in the Bronx rather than St. Petersburg produced the video, that didn’t require naming the man – let alone detailing his employment history, talking to his ex-girlfriend or delving into his guilty plea to a domestic violence charge and an outstanding warrant for his arrest on a probation violation. (The man denies many of the details of the story.)

All of this was completely gratuitous. The balance, which any responsible publication should have considered, between



the public benefit of naming the man (none) and the personal harm that might be done by naming him (considerable) isn’t even close.

Of course, it matters that he is a Trump supporter. Outlets like *The Daily Beast* don’t make a routine practice of hunting down trolls who are producing the vast sea of anti-Trump material online, because they don’t consider spoofing or maligning Trump to be a threat to democracy, or at all undesirable.

Incredibly enough, according to *The Daily Beast*, someone at Facebook provided details about the man’s posting history that were used to confirm the story. Users of Facebook should take note.

Although reporters might believe that rank abuse of America’s high elected officials is something new, it’s as old as the republic. And it’s often been anonymous. By all means,

See LOWRY, Page 4

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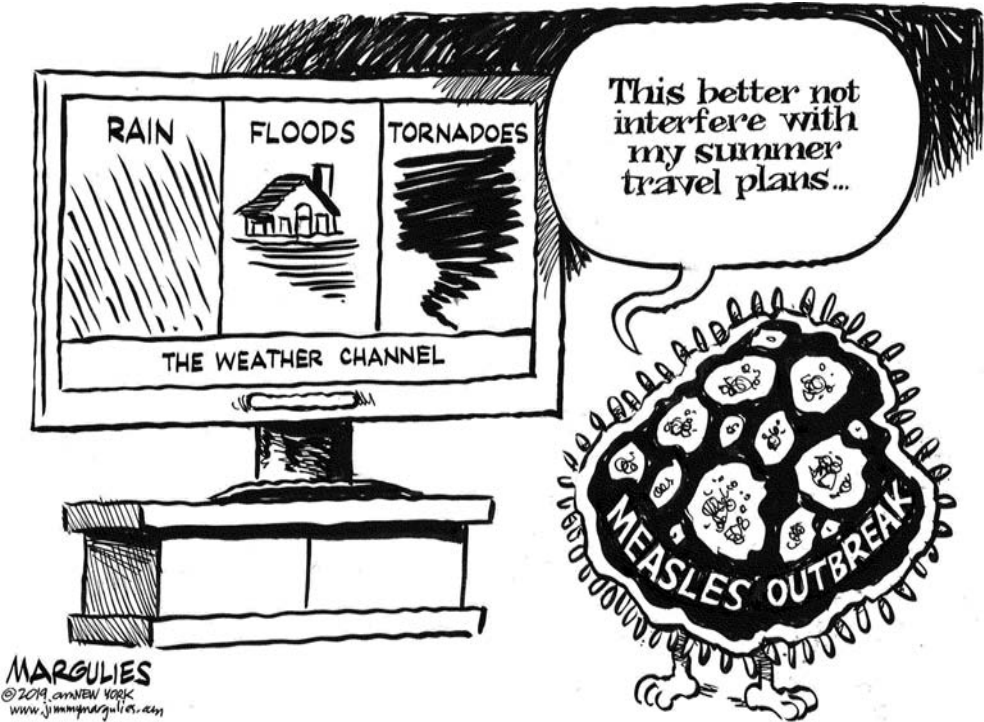
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Moments in time

THE HISTORY CHANNEL

- On June 10, 1752, Benjamin Franklin flies a kite during a thunderstorm and collects a charge in a Leyden jar when the kite is struck by lightning, demonstrating the electrical nature of lightning.
- On June 11, 1963, President John F. Kennedy issues presidential proclamation 3542, forcing Alabama Gov. George Wallace to comply with federal court orders allowing two black students to register at the University of Alabama.
- On June 12, 1987, in his famous Cold War speech in West Berlin, President Ronald Reagan challenges Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev to “tear down this wall.” The Berlin Wall was a symbol of the repressive Communist era in a divided Germany. Germany was officially reunited on Oct. 3, 1990.
- On June 13, 323 B.C., Alexander the Great, the young Macedonian military genius who forged an empire stretching from the eastern Mediterranean to India, dies in Babylon, in present-day Iraq, at the age of 33. Alexander had received a classical education from famed philosopher Aristotle.
- On June 14, 1922, President Warren G. Harding, while dedicating a memorial site for the composer of “The Star Spangled Banner,” Francis Scott Key, becomes the first president to have his voice transmitted by radio.
- On June 15, 1215, following a revolt by the English nobility against his rule, King John puts his royal seal on the Magna Carta, or “Great Charter.” It guaranteed the king would respect feudal rights and privileges, uphold the freedom of the church and maintain the nation’s laws.
- On June 16, 1999, Kathleen Ann Soliah, a former member of the Symbionese Liberation Army, is arrested near her home in Minnesota after evading authorities for more than 20 years. The SLA, a small, radical American paramilitary group, made a name for itself in the 1970s with a series of murders, robberies and other violent acts.

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Serrata selected as mentor

By Jim Heiney
Special to the Courier



Dr. William Serrata

EL PASO COUNTY – The Penn Center for Minority Serving Institutions (CMSI) in the Graduate School of Education at the University of Pennsylvania has selected Dr. William Serrata as a Presidential Mentor for mid-career aspiring leaders at the second Minority Servicing Institutions (MSI) Aspiring Leaders Forum. As El Paso Community College (EPCC) President, Serrata’s expertise in serving minority students will be highlight at a national forum.

The forum, slated for November 1-3, will include a range of sessions such as fiscal management, strategic fundraising, presidential fit and crisis communication. After that, aspiring leaders and their presidential mentors – high-level leaders from MSIs and the business and nonprofit sectors – will participate in one-on-one mentoring relationships over two years managed by CMSI.

“Ultimately, this program seeks to equip individuals, often

on the periphery of discussions on leadership, with the skills, knowledge and network to lead institutions that serve students that are the most in need,” CMSI director Dr. Marybeth Gasman said. “Because this program aims to alter what leadership looks like across the landscape of higher education, the forum acts as a hub for innovation and each aspiring leader and mentor were hand-selected for their eagerness to become trailblazers.”

Three Canutillo ISD schools named to Star Honor Roll

By Liza M. Rodriguez
Special to the Courier

CANUTILLO – Three schools in the Canutillo Independent School District have made the honor roll.

Jose Damian Elementary, Canutillo Middle School, and Northwest Early College High School have been named to the 2018 - 2019 Educational Results Partnership Star Honor Roll for their high achievement in student success.

The program, sponsored by the Campaign for Business and Education Excellence (CBEE), is part of a national effort to identify higher-performing schools and districts that are improving student outcomes. It recognizes schools and districts that have demonstrated consistent high levels of student academic achievement, improvement in achievement levels over time, and a reduction in achievement gaps among student populations. For high schools, the Honor Roll recognition also includes measures of college readiness.

These campuses are already on

the national map for high quality teaching and learning. Northwest Early College High School, who has been selected to the Star Honor Roll four consecutive years, was named a 2018 Blue Ribbon School by the U.S. Department of Education – the highest honor given to a school by the federal government.

Canutillo Middle School, who made the Star Honor Roll for the first time, was designated as a T-STEM academy by TEA, making the District one of only a few in the state of Texas to have a 6th - 12th grade T-STEM track.


Jose Damian Elementary, also on the STAR Honor Roll for the first time, is in its second year of being a STEM focused school and prides itself on its focus on intervention, acceleration, and closing the achievement gap.

“We continue our strong reputation and work hard every day to become a premier school district,” said Dr. Pedro Galaviz, Canutillo ISD Superintendent of Schools. “Our principals create the conditions for teachers and students to thrive, leading to recognitions like this.”

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UTEP quarterback suspended, arrested for DWI and three other charges

By Steve Escajeda
Special to the Courier

Bad news coming out of the UTEP basketball program during the summer has become so prevalent that it’s almost

expected. Players getting in trouble, transferring out of the program or deciding not to come at all, have become the norm. But not so much with football. Either football players don’t get in trouble or we just care a lot more about basketball in

this city. Well, UTEP football fans received the old basketball treatment Saturday evening, when it was reported that starting quarterback Kai Locksley had been arrested.

The senior was charged with driving while intoxicated, marijuana possession, terroristic threats and unlawfully carrying a weapon. Understandably, it’s very early in the process, but UTEP head football coach Dana Dimel did put out a statement, “We are aware of the charges against Kai Locksley. While the severity of these charges is concerning, it would not be appropriate to determine a course of action until we have all the facts. In the meantime, he has been suspended from the UTEP football team.”

This is quite a punch to the gut of the upcoming UTEP football season, but it’s more of an upsetting and surprising turn of events in the life of Locksley. He always seemed upbeat and seemed way too smart to get involved in this kind of behavior; especially DWI and carrying a weapon. And what is that terrorist threat charge all about?

All the answers will eventually come out and we’ll have a better understanding of what went on last Saturday.

But right now Locksley has bigger things to worry about that football. But he also has to realize that he let his entire team down. **Two are always better than one: Maybe that explains the Twins**

Believe it or not, we are quickly approaching the midway mark of the Major League Baseball season. Every team has played about 70 games so far. Of course a full season consists of 162 games. So you would expect the six division races to still be pretty close, and some are. But three of the six are being dominated. And two of the three teams doing the dominating played in the World Series a

couple years ago, the Houston Astros and the Los Angeles Dodgers. Last year, the Astros lost to the Boston Red Sox in the playoffs and the Dodgers made it to the World Series, losing to those same Red Sox.

So it’s no surprise that those two teams are off to great starts and are expected to win their divisions easily. Also having good seasons are the New York Yankees, the Chicago Cubs, the Milwaukee Brewers, the Tampa Bay Rays and the Atlanta Braves. But all those teams were expected to do well. The total surprise is that third team that is dominating their division – and dominating their opponents. The Minnesota Twins had a losing season last year and finished dead last in their division in 2016.

But this year’s Twins are fighting the Astros and the Dodgers for the best record in baseball. Nobody saw this coming. Why are the Twins enjoying so much success this season? It’s very simple, they are the best hitting team in the majors – by far.

The Twins are batting .272 as a team, which leads the entire league. They also lead the league in runs scored, home runs, runs batted in, total bases and slugging percentage. And they are second in total hits.

What the Twins are doing is getting on base and putting a lot pressure on defenses. How? By averaging nearly six runs a game. Their pitching is above average, but nothing special. Minnesota is allowing about 4.2 runs a game. To put that in perspective, Tampa Bay is allowing a full run less, at 3.2.

The big question is, can a team keeping hitting the way they have for another 90 games? The odds are against them but it’s sure going to be fun seeing them try. This team with a bunch of no-names on their roster has been the shock of the season so far. They are fun, they are fearless, and we’ll soon see whether they are for real.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING TO DISCUSS BUDGET

The Canutillo Independent School District will hold a public meeting at 5:00 p.m., Tuesday, June 25, 2019 in the Board Room, in the Central Administration Building, 7965 Artcraft, El Paso, TX 79932.

The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the school district’s budget that will be adopted. Public participation in the discussion is invited.

Comparison of Proposed Budget with Last Year’s Budget

The applicable percentage increase or decrease (or difference) in the amount budgeted in the preceding fiscal year and the amount budgeted for the fiscal year that begins during the current tax year is indicated for each of the following expenditure categories:

Maintenance and Operations	2.35%	Increase
Debt Service	0.86%	Increase
Total Expenditures	2.18%	Increase

WTCC: 06-13-19

Super Crossword

BYLINES

ACROSS

1 Persian monarch

5 Navigator Vasco _

11 Mark Twain, e.g., religionwise

16 Locale for hydrotherapy

19 Architect Saarinen

20 Relative key of C major

21 Egg-shaped

22 Rat-a-_-

23 [Ordeal] [Blaze]

25 Supply with a new staff

26 City in Brazil, for short

27 Particle made of quarks

28 [Stolen] [Tempest]

31 Observing

35 Many a CPR giver

36 Several eras

37 [Ashen] [Analogy]

44 Nasty sort

47 Actor Thicke

48 Award for "Moonlight"

49 Follows by radar, as a target

51 Supporting musician

54 [Triumph] [Preset]

58 Very rarely

59 Poor review

61 Mined stuff

62 Andean country

63 Ending for propyl

64 Of a junction point

66 Exact lookalikes

69 Russia's _-TASS

70 [Obligated] [Covenant]

73 "Que _?"

76 AM/FM receivers

77 Monte _

78 Clerk on "The Simpsons"

81 Extremist

83 London loc.

84 Beast of burden

85 Native of Islam's spiritual center

87 [Discover] [Performing]

91 Extremist

92 Prince Andrew's younger daughter

93 Old Aegean Sea region

96 Brooklet

97 Proofer's "let it stand"

98 [Captured] [Revelation]

104 Educ. org.

106 Beatified Mlle.

107 Finch variety

108 [Govern] [Edict]

114 Nasty sort

118 Hollywood's Thurman

119 Brand of kitchen appliances

120 [Oliver] [Mae]

124 Maxwell Smart, e.g.

125 More timid

126 _ uno

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128 Ending for seer

129 Some bridge sides

130 Judge the value of

131 Royals manager Ned

DOWN

1 Meyers of NBC

2 Zeus' wife

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4 Got raspy, as a voice

5 Actor Coleman

6 Poehler of "Sisters"

7 PC image file

8 Folk singer

9 Comic Sahl

10 Region

11 Musical scale start

12 Evite listings

13 Metrical foot

14 Stick around

15 On edge

16 Skill at which one excels

17 Couple

18 Quark site

24 Singer Lisa

29 Prefix with plunk

30 Lost money in the stock market, say

32 Holy image

33 Rejections

34 SUV maker

37 Out of date

38 Otherworldly

39 Big spoon

40 Lowly chess piece

41 MSNBC host

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42 Out of date

43 San Francisco's _ Valley

45 City near central Missouri

46 Sign up for

50 Ozone-depleting compound, in brief

52 Prefix with unsaturated

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56 Wild horses

57 Meddling types

59 Containing cushioning

60 Many a white animal

65 Genetic info holder

66 IV dosage amts.

67 Be off base

68 Hollywood's Hayek

70 Hair clip

71 Jellystone Park bear

72 Film director Joel or Ethan

73 Whimpers

74 Alaskan native

75 Many Broadway productions

78 Second part of

75-Down

79 Beach toys

80 Popeye, to Pipeye

82 Wilson of Heart

84 Tons (of)

86 Haul off

88 Ballpoint brand

89 Pro vote

90 Young louse

91 Man-goat combo

94 SoHo locale

95 "When _ good time?"

99 Early online forum

100 Some hot rods

101 That girl

102 One-man-army types

103 Victim

105 Degrade

108 Bit of trickery

109 Ref relatives

110 Jewish youth gp.

111 Squares on calendars

112 City in central Sicily

113 Suffix with gas or right

115 First-century emperor

116 Nile goddess

117 French political division

121 Hotel units: Abbr.

122 Casual shirt

123 Divs. of 111-Down

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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



Flesh-eating bacteria is a rare condition

DEAR DR. ROACH: What do you know about flesh-eating bacteria? After going to a hospital to get a mole checked, I developed an itchy rash that won't go away. I am worried. – H.W.

Let me reassure you that this isn't flesh-eating bacteria. Itchy rash around a mole can be due to eczema, or it might be a fungal infection or one of several other benign skin conditions. A dermatologist can help figure out which. But, since you asked ...

The term "flesh-eating bacteria" is misleading since it's a disease, not a particular bacteria species. The term refers to a condition called "necrotizing fasciitis" ("necrotizing" means that the infection kills cells, and "fasciitis" references the connective tissue in the body that the infection proceeds along).

However terrifying, it is fortunately a rare condition. There are only about 1-3 cases per 100,000 people. It may occur in people who are otherwise healthy and who happen to get an injury that penetrates the skin. But it is more common in people who have a diminished immune system due to chronic illness (diabetes, kidney or liver disease, cancer, heavy alcohol use).

In most cases, in people with chronic disease, it is a combination of bacteria that cause the infection. In previously healthy people, the bacteria most associated are group A streptococcus. This bacteria strain has enzymes that damage the body and has the ability to evade the immune system. It can grow very rapidly, and early treatment is paramount to stopping the infection before permanent damage is done. In some cases, amputation is necessary; in others, no treatment is effective. The disease has a high mortality rate. The particular bacteria in a person with this diagnosis are very dangerous, and there are cases of person-to-person transmission of the bacteria, leading to additional cases, so caregivers and family need personal protective equipment.

Effective treatment starts with recognition of the diagnosis. That can be hard; initial signs, such as redness, swelling and fever, can be nonspecific. Skin lesions, like blisters or bruising, can be misleading. However, a very high fever and more pain than expected are big clues to the diagnosis. Treatment is primarily surgical. Antibiotics alone are ineffective.

DEAR DR. ROACH: A recent column on sinusitis argued against

See HEALTH, Page 8



EVEN WHEN IT'S JUST AROUND THE CORNER.

NEVER GIVE UP UNTIL THEY BUCKLE UP.



VISIT [SAFERCAR.GOV/KIDSBUCKLEUP](https://www.safercar.gov/kidsbuckleup)



Health

From Page 7

routine antibiotics. Your advice, while sound, does not apply to all of us. I am an MDS patient with compromised immunity. When I get sick, it takes three times as long to recover. I feel the rules may apply to “normal” people, but not all of us. What would you recommend for someone like me? – B.F.

My answers certainly do not apply to all situations, and immunocompromised individuals are an excellent example. In the case of sinus infections, it depends on the person’s exact type of immune problem. Immunocompromised individuals certainly are more likely to be prescribed antibiotics, and are more likely to be subject to diagnostic testing when things

don’t go as expected. Some kinds of immune system disease predispose people to unusual infections, which require specific treatments.

Taking care of anyone requires judgment and experience, and physicians who have known their patients a long time are in a better position to judge who needs antibiotic treatment for sinus infection and who does well with supportive treatment. In the case of someone with immune system disease, that is even more important.

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.

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: P equals W

C SLDP HWCE ALFEEAGCLR
UJODP PWD PDKSE GFSCLR
LJDL ECRLE. WJ OCSJE HD
SJJX F RODP XKDUCOJ.

Answer Page 4
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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

		2			9		4	
1				3				7
	4		8			3		
6				9		4		
	8		6		2			1
		9			8		6	
		5			7		9	
	1		3					2
7				5		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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Don’t always blame the guys at the top



by Freddy Groves

If you’re still digging out At a Department of Veterans Affairs medical facility, a psychologist by the name of “Z” managed to find a way to increase income by overstating productivity by 43 percent.

This was done via double coding. Say the appointment with a patient should be classified as 123. The psychologist would code it as 123 and additionally as 456... meaning Z would appear to have done more work. Z averaged 15 hours of actual work in a 40-hour workweek yet managed to accrue payments for 243 hours of overtime.

Appointments were done on Z’s personal planner, not the computer where they could be noticed. They were entered

in the computer only after the appointments.

Z was caught and claimed that the double coding was per the instruction received in initial VA training, yet Z didn’t attend seven of the eight training sessions on coding. Further, it was in none of the training materials and the other psychologists were not given that instruction.

The punishment? Make Z go to coding class. No administrative steps were taken, no firing, no apparent reimbursement of the overpayments.

The chief of psychology was dragged into it for failing to supervise the coding and the hours Z actually worked. The chief of health information management was pulled into the mess for failing to oversee coding reviews, which would have caught the errors, claiming she didn’t know of the requirement.

It gets better. The chief of medical administration and the assistant chief didn’t know

those review duties existed.

It gets even better. The medical center’s director wasn’t aware that coding reviews weren’t being done.

How many layers is that? The medical center director is effectively supposed to do the job of all those underlings?

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• “I found a great way to reuse old, stretched-out athletic socks. Gather some together and stuff them into one sock, then put it in your car. On mornings when your windows are fogged by dew, just pull one out and wipe your windows clear. The socks will absorb the moisture, just like they do sweat. Then either toss or wash to use again.”
– J.C. in Florida

• Corn on the grill is delicious. To prevent the ear from being dried out by charring, wrap each ear in aluminum foil. If you want to get fancy, try adding any of the following for variety: a slather of butter and sprinkled taco seasoning (or ranch seasoning); cojita cheese and cumin; a slathering of mayonnaise and sprinkled red pepper, chipotle seasoning and lime juice.

• Nothing beats a crisp pickle crunch at a barbecue. Dill pickles are predominantly vinegary and salty, while bread and butter pickles are sweet. Dill pickles clock in at five calories an ounce, but sweets will net up to 40!

• “I love air-popped popcorn, but I couldn’t get my salt to stick! Adding butter seems counterproductive, so I used a couple blasts of non-stick cooking spray. No additional calories, and it was just enough to give the salt something to grab onto.”
– T. in Maine

• “I use a lingerie bag (the zip-up kind for delicates in the clothes washer) to put small items in the top rack of the dishwasher. It works like a charm for baby bottle pieces, small toys, canning lids and other small parts that are tough enough for the heat but might fall through the rack.”
– R.W. in Louisiana

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
×		+		–	
	×		–		10
–		×		×	
	–		×		10
23		21		15	

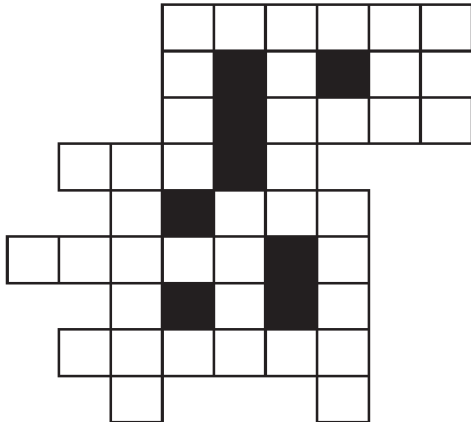
1 2 4 5 6 7 8 9 9

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Answer Page 4



KIL
♥ ARMSNO
♥ EMRIS
♥ ESLI
SPLATO
♥ ATM
♥ KISR
♥ RELPA
♥ EAP
♥ TUMPIE
AMKRA
♥ LASM



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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