



NEWSBRIEFS

Impact payments

The Treasury Department has a new web tool allowing quick registration for Economic Impact Payments at www.irs.gov/coronavirus/economic-impact-payments for eligible individuals who do not normally file a tax return. However, for some people receiving benefits from the Social Security Administration – specifically those who have dependent children under the age of 17 – it is to their advantage to go to this portal to ensure they also get the \$500 per dependent Economic Impact Payment. People who receive Social Security retirement, survivors, or disability insurance benefits and who did not file a tax return for 2018 or 2019 and who have qualifying children under age 17 should now go to this webpage and enter their information instead of waiting for their automatic \$1,200 Economic Impact Payment. By taking proactive steps to enter information on the IRS website about them and their qualifying children, they will also receive the \$500 per dependent child payment in addition to their \$1,200 individual payment. If Social Security beneficiaries in this group do not provide their information to the IRS soon, they will have to wait to receive their \$500 per qualifying child. The same guidelines apply to SSI recipients, especially those who have qualifying children under age 17. Please continue to visit the IRS at www.irs.gov/coronavirus for the latest information.

– Mark Hinkle

Too much mail

Talk about being overwhelmed with junk mail. In fact, the post office in Twinsburg, OH told local resident Dan Cain recently that he would have to pick up his mail, which included 55,000 identical student loan statements. Dan and his wife had taken out the loan for their daughter. The loan company says that somehow a glitch in its processing system caused the posting of the astounding number of duplicates. To make matters worse, the statement was incorrect and the company said they would make a correction and send Dan a new statement. Hopefully, they will have fixed their processing system, as well.

– John Grimaldi

Be big enough to admit and admire the abilities of people that are better than you are.

– Quips & Quotes

Schools to stay closed for school year



SAFETY FIRST – Texas Governor Greg Abbott has closed school campuses for the remainder of this school year.

Some businesses may reopen

By Alfredo Vasquez
Special to the Courier

STATE – Distance learning only will be the approach educators will use in the coming months, now that Texas Governor Greg Abbott has issued an executive order that all Texas schools remain closed for the remainder of the school year. However, the governor also unveiled guidelines that permit retail businesses to begin reopening their doors in the face of the novel coronavirus' spread.

The governor recently issued three executive orders and rolled back some restrictions, including permitting additional surgeries, reopening state parks and allowing retail businesses

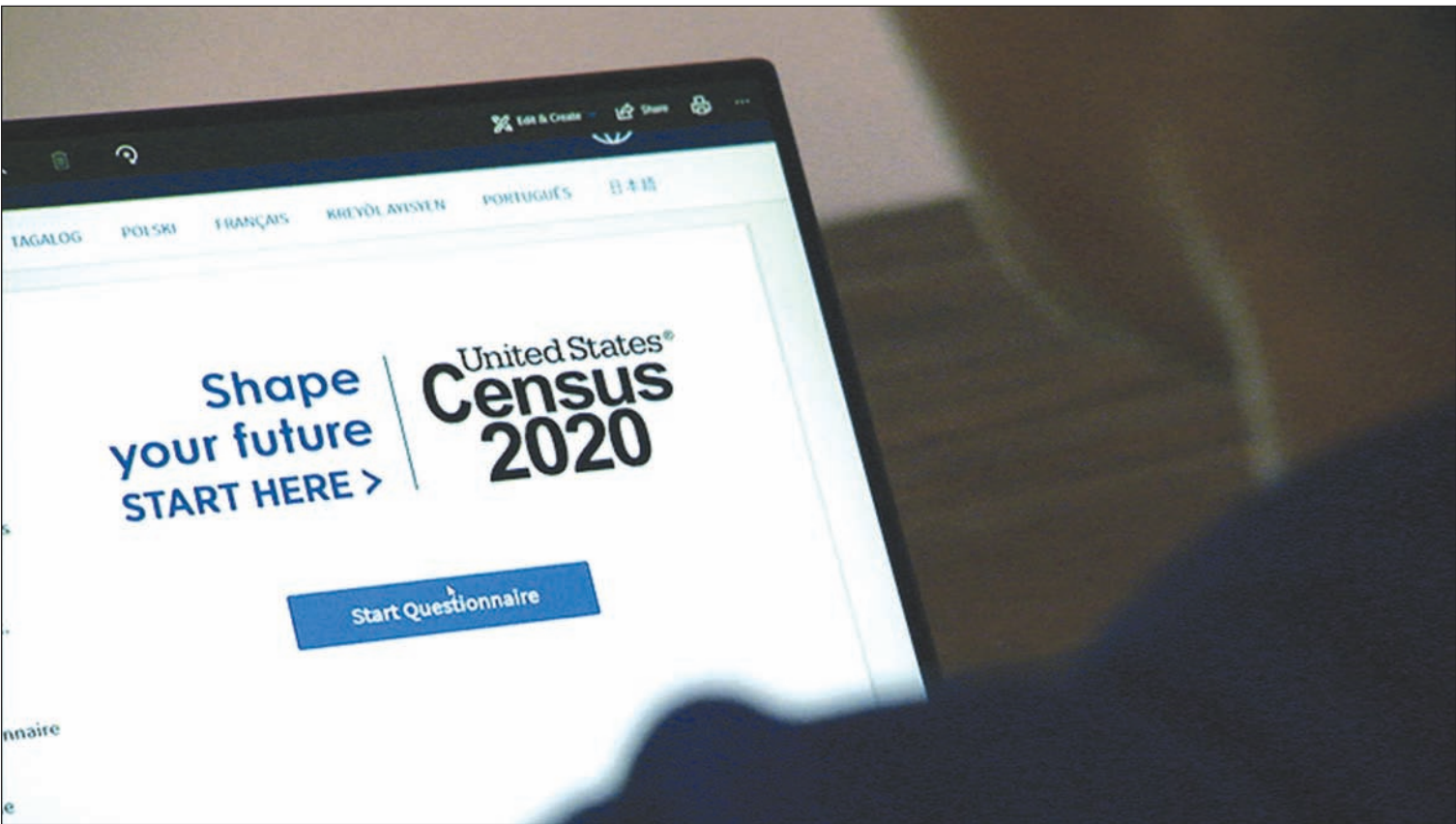
to operate on a “to-go” basis.

Beginning Friday, April 24, retail businesses that are not deemed “essential” by the state may allow for pickup or home delivery, similar to how restaurants have been operating, according to the new guidelines. Abbott stressed that customers may not be allowed to enter retail stores, and that employees should not be coerced into returning to work.

Furthermore, businesses must abide by guidance issued by the Texas Department of State Health Services, which requires payments be done over the phone or online and that employees be screened and have their temperature taken before entering the premises, as well as wear face masks.

As for the school closure

See SCHOOLS, Page 7



IT COUNTS – El Paso County residents can help shape this region's future by completing the Census questionnaire online, by phone, or by mail. The 2020 Census asks a few simple questions about a householder and everyone who is or will be living with that householder on April 1, 2020. The Census is used in part to determine federal funding for states, counties and cities.

Commissioners urge residents to respond to census

April proclaimed as Census Month

By Alfredo Vasquez
Special to the Courier

EL PASO COUNTY – As the 2020 Census is underway and households across the country are responding every day, El Paso County Commissioners' Court wanted to do its part by proclaiming

recently that the month of April be known as Census Month. The court stated that the proclamation was to encourage everyone to respond to the Census either online, by phone, or by mail.

Commissioners concurred that as this region grows, getting the count right will help ensure that area families and businesses receive the services they need and provide an accurate, proportional state representation in the United States House of Representatives.

Meanwhile, U.S. Census Bureau officials just announced that field operations would not begin until June. Officials cited that the bureau was adapting or delaying some of their operations to protect the health and safety of staff members, the public, and to make sure they get the same population counted another way.

Bureau officials stated that in light of the COVID-19 outbreak, the U.S.

See CENSUS, Page 6



Breaking news – as they say to open every newscast – Breaking news: America is breaking. Its public health establishment certainly is. We have the most confirmed COVID cases per capita of any country, because at the very top of government, leadership has been replaced by hucksterism.

But let’s not just focus on President Donald Trump, which we do far too much. Let’s also talk about how his screw-up top appointees’astounding ineptitude has taken a public health crisis that might have been managed and turned it into a full-blown

American disaster

national tragedy.

Breaking news! The federal government has started a program to examine the blood of those who have survived the coronavirusforantibodies.Smart, until we learn that one of the testing programs will be run by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, better known as the bonehead CDC. If this was television, we’d accompany that information onscreen with Edvard Munch’s “The Scream,” backed up by appropriate shrieking sound effects. That’s because the CDC’s actions thus far, designing and distributing the test for coronavirus, have made the once vaunted agency a worldwide laughingstock, except that it’s no laughing matter.

The actions – or, should I say, the inactions – of those in

charge of the logistics necessary to supply medical centers with the basic tools they require have left hospitals in desperate need of basics like enough beds and ventilators, and their brave physicians, nurses, all their practitioners and support staff in mortal danger because of a lack of PPEs. We’ve sadly all learned that PPE stands for “personal protection equipment.” Unfortunately, the manufacture and distribution of PPEs is a chaotic mess. More breaking news: The president has given that portfolio to his always unqualified son-in-law Jared Kushner.

It’s just a matter of time before he’ll take over the distribution of the trillions of dollars in federal aid that was supposed to provide a floor to soften the country’s

economic collapse. It’s even too mundane for the breaking news hoo-ha to learn that the distribution of those funds to Americans facing hard times with their livelihoods pulled out from under them is stuck in an incompetence logjam. Between the patchwork of states who run theiroverwhelmedunemployment programs to the loans designed to encourage small businesses to hire back workers and stay afloat, it’s becoming another rat flock.

Speaking of the state hodgepodge, it’s up to each governor to order remedial defensive action. And most of them have acted decisively to shut down society and try to keep the organism from spreading. But some gubernatorial nincompoops are doing too little too late, like Florida’s Republican Ron DeSantis, or they’re even doing even less. Some are pandering to politically powerful churches

and have excluded them from the social distancing rules that are the only hope against the microscopic invader.

When this is over, IF it is over, our dishonor roll will have to include the private profiteers, the sleazes who have raised prices out of sight on vital supplies, scam artists selling bogus products and those corporations that have dragged their feet on retrofitting to manufacture lifesaving medical supplies.

America’s federal government is supposed to govern, and in far too many cases has failed miserably.

Breaking news then: Our country is not only shuttered but shattered. Whether it can fix itself is an open question.

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Walmart employees must wear face covering

Store encourages customers to wear a mask as well

By Alfredo Vasquez
Special to the Courier

EL PASO COUNTY – Walmart, which dominates the grocery store business in El Paso County, announced recently that all associates will be required to wear masks or some sort of face covering at work during the coronavirus pandemic. The policy includes stores, clubs, distribution and fulfillment centers, as well as corporate offices.

Store officials are also

encouraging customers and members to wear face coverings when they shop. “We have evolved our policy on face coverings from optional to mandatory as public health guidance has shifted. The CDC now recommends wearing face coverings in public settings, including grocery stores, to help curb the spread of the virus,” cited Walmart’s public statement.

“Although most state and local governments do not mandate the use of face coverings in public settings, the CDC has reported that recent studies show a significant portion of individuals with the virus lack symptoms and can transmit the virus. With this knowledge, we believe it is simply in everyone’s best interest to use masks or face coverings to curb the spread of this disease,”

store officials stated.

Walmart said that employees can be provided one or they can provide their own face-covering, as long as it meets certain guidelines. Employees will also be required to pass a health screen and temperature check. In addition, the company stated that it was extending its emergency leave policy through the end of May to ensure employees have support when they need to miss work.

This new policy follows store officials’ recent announcement that they were limiting the amount of people allowed inside a Walmart store. Stores will now allow no more than five customers for each 1,000 square feet at a given time, roughly 20 percent of a store’s capacity. Walmart also announced a pickup

hour for people most at-risk for COVID-19, first responders, and customers with disabilities.

“We hope this step will promote safety and consistency across all of our facilities and be of comfort to our customers and members,” store officials remarked. “However, it’s important to remember that face coveringsare simply an additional health precaution. They do not guarantee against the spread of this virus, and they do not replace the most important steps you can take to keep yourself and others safe: 6-20-100. Whether at work, or elsewhere, practice six feet of social distancing whenever possible. Regularly wash your hands with soap for 20 seconds. And if you have a temperature of 100 degrees or higher, stay home,” Walmart officials stated.

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Blaming China, WHO isn't scapegoating

President Donald Trump slammed the World Health Organization (WHO) at a recent news briefing and was immediately accused of scapegoating.

There's no doubt that Trump is inclined to shift blame when possible (and even when it isn't). He'll never take ownership of the testing debacle at the outset of our coronavirus response or admit it was wrong initially to minimize the virus.

Yet none of this detracts from the force of his critiques of China (although he blows hot and cold on that) and the WHO, which are at the center of this international catastrophe and must be held to account.

Without China's deceit and WHO's solicitude for Beijing, the outbreak might have been more limited, and the world at the

very least would have had more time to react. China committed unforgivable sins of commission, affirmatively lying about the outbreak and punishing doctors and disappearing journalists who told the truth, whereas the WHO committed sins of omission – it lacked independence and courage at a moment of great consequence.

In effect, China and the WHO worked together to expose the rest of the world to the virus, at the same time they downplayed its dangers.

China acted as you'd expect. Countries that run gulags aren't typically noted for their good governance and transparency. The WHO is supposed to be different. According to its constitution, "The health of all peoples is fundamental to the attainment of peace and security

and is dependent on the fullest co-operation of individuals and States."

But it's hard to see how the WHO would have acted any differently if its constitution contained a proviso stipulating that it should validate Chinese propaganda as much as possible, especially in the midst of a world-threatening outbreak of a novel virus.

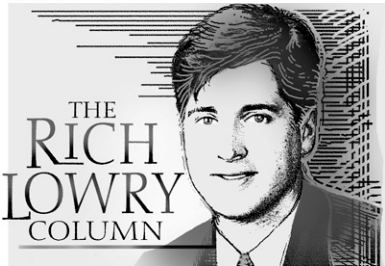
On Jan. 14, WHO tweeted that "preliminary investigations" by Chinese authorities had found no evidence of human-to-human transmission. Several days later, it reported "limited" human-to-human transmission, although it downplayed the finding as typical of respiratory illnesses.

Then, the WHO declined to call the outbreak in China a public health emergency of international

concern on Jan. 22, at the same time there were confirmed cases in Taiwan, Australia, Japan, Thailand and South Korea. After the WHO finally declared the emergency, it proceeded to drag its feet on declaring a pandemic, waiting until March 12.

One of the worst things China did was seal off Hubei province from the rest of the country while flights continued around the world. Was the WHO concerned about that? No, it was fully on board. As a headline in Reuters put it in early February, "WHO chief says widespread travel bans not needed to beat China virus."

Incredibly enough, in late January, WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus was praising Chinese officials for "the transparency they have demonstrated." Despite the



emerging consensus that China has lied about its number of cases and deaths, WHO hasn't yet said a discouraging word about China's actions. It's been resolute, though, in excluding Taiwan from its workings, just as Beijing dictates.

Trump takes more than his share of potshots, but that doesn't mean he's always off the mark. China and the WHO are genuine malefactors who deserve all the obloquy the president, and anyone else, can heap on them.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review. (c) 2020 by King Features Synd., Inc.

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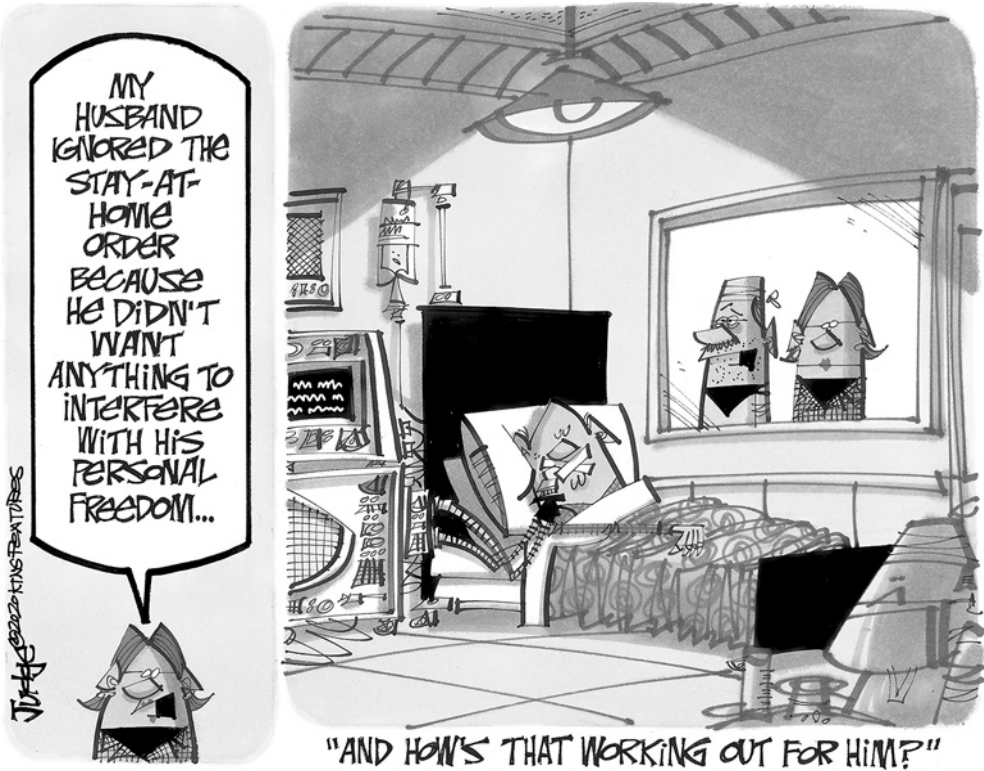
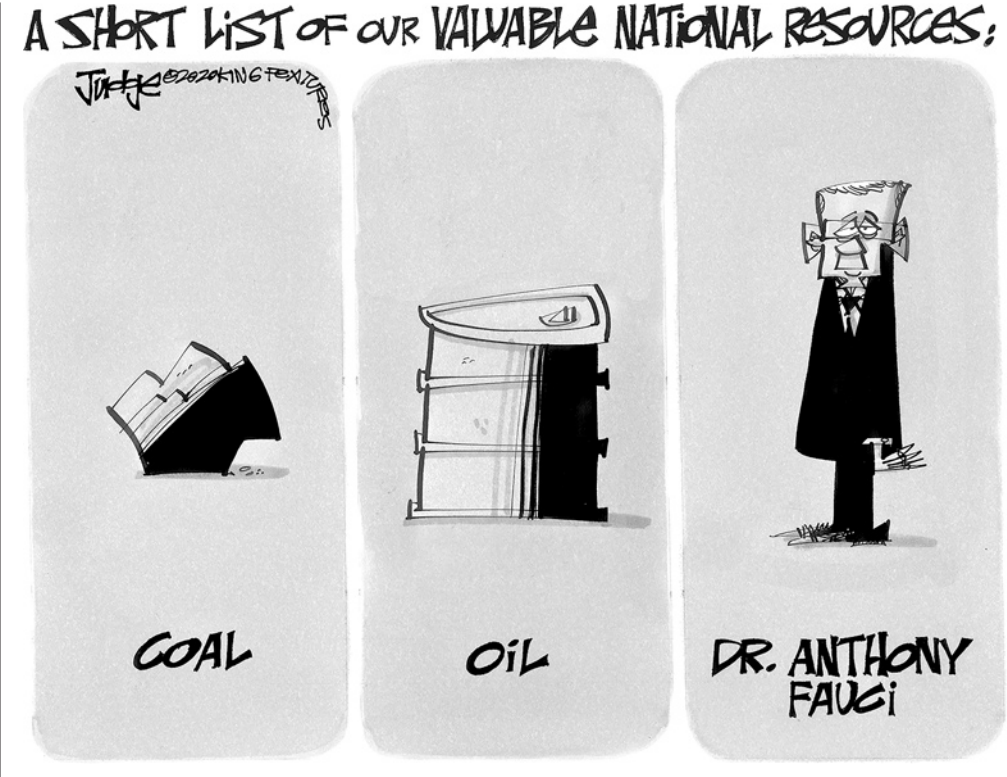
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CryptoQuip
Answer

If you're told to go find and interview a seven-foot guy, I'd say it's a tall order!

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EPCC jumps in to aid health workers

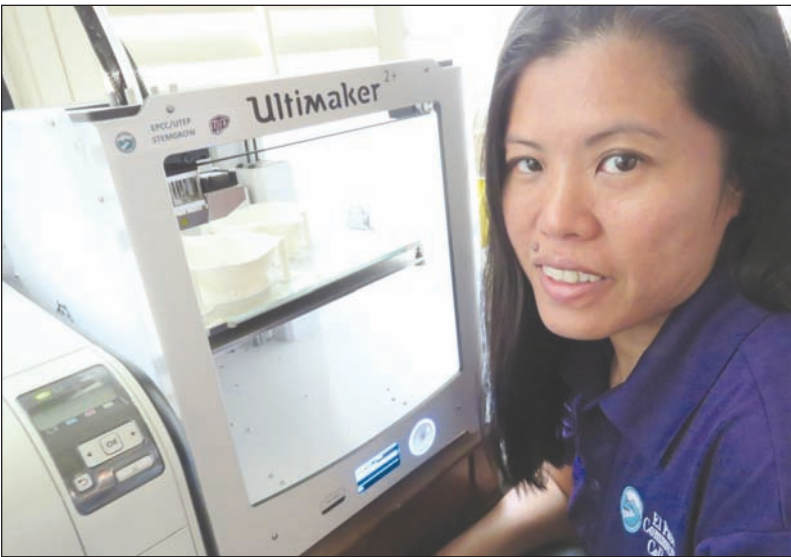
By Jim Heiney
Special to the Courier

EL PASO COUNTY – El Paso Community College (EPCC) students, faculty and staff have stepped up to assist the community during the COVID-19 Pandemic. Annually during April’s National Community College Month, EPCC highlights its high standards in educating the area’s workforce. This April, EPCC’s place in the community is even more important.

EPCC Math Instructor Fan Chen, with other community members, is making medical masks using a 3D printer supplied by EPCC. The

group, El Paso Aid, has orders from New York City already received hundreds of local orders, as well as,

See MASKS, Page 5



– Photos courtesy El Paso Community College

HIGH TECH – Fan Chen, above, a math instructor at El Paso Community College is printing medical masks using a 3-D printer.



COLORFUL – Above are some of the masks being produced for medical workers.

Strange BUT TRUE

By Lucie Winborne

- A World War I homing pigeon saved 194 men by delivering a message despite losing a leg and an eye, and having been shot through the chest.
- Before settling on the Seven Dwarfs we know today, Walt Disney also considered the names Chesty, Tubby, Burpy, Deafy, Hickey, Wheezy and Awful.
- A study showed that customers in a bookstore were 3.48 times more likely to peruse romantic books if the store smelled of chocolate, and 5.93 times more likely to buy them!
- Gaius Julius Caesar arrived in the world on July 13, 100 B.C., but contrary to popular belief, it’s unlikely that the future Roman emperor was born by caesarean section. Although the procedure existed at the time, it was usually fatal to the mother and therefore only performed when a pregnant woman was dead or dying, in an effort to save the child. Caesar’s mother, Aurelia, lived until 54 B.C.

- nearly half a century after her son’s birth.
 - While the technique of flattening fabrics with hot pieces of metal was introduced in ancient China, the first actual ironing board (then called an ironing table) was not invented until 1858, in New York.
 - The Christmas song “Silver Bells” was originally called “Tinkle Bells” until co-composer Jay Livingston’s wife informed him that “tinkle” had another meaning.
 - Future president Herbert Hoover was Stanford’s football team manager – a decision the school might have questioned when, at the first Stanford-Cal game in 1892, he forgot to bring the ball.
 - Martial arts legend Bruce Lee was a cha-cha dance champion, winning a competition in Hong Kong in 1958.
 - The lifespan of a taste bud is just 10 days.
- Thought for the Day: “Just living is not enough. One must have sunshine, freedom, and a little flower.”
– Hans Christian Anderson
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*2018 data. Average out-of-pocket costs vary slightly by state. Get the facts at airmethodsNMR.com



**Moments
in time**
THE HISTORY CHANNEL

- On April 20, 1980, the Castro regime announces that all Cubans wishing to emigrate to the U.S. are free to board boats at the port of Mariel west of Havana, launching the Mariel Boatlift. The first of 125,000 Cuban refugees from Mariel reached Florida the next day in about 1,700 boats, overwhelming the U.S. Coast Guard.
- On April 21, 1918, in the skies over France, Manfred von Richthofen, the notorious German flying ace known as “The Red Baron,” is killed by Allied fire. Richthofen was the top ace on both sides of the Western front, downing 80 enemy aircraft.
- On April 22, 1970, Earth Day, an event to increase public awareness of the world’s environmental problems, is first celebrated in the U.S. Millions of Americans, including students from thousands of universities, participated in rallies, marches and educational programs.
- On April 23, 1564, the great English dramatist and poet William Shakespeare is born in Stratford-upon-Avon, the son of a leather trader and the town bailiff. At age 18 he married Anne Hathaway, who was eight years his senior.
- On April 24, 1945, President Harry Truman learns the full details of the Manhattan Project, in which scientists are attempting to create the first atomic bomb. The project was so secret that the former vice president only learned of it after President Franklin Roosevelt’s death.
- On April 25, 1990, the crew of the U.S. space shuttle Discovery places the Hubble Space Telescope, a space-based observatory about the size of a bus, into a low orbit around Earth. The solar-powered telescope remains in operation to this day.
- On April 26, 1954, the Salk polio vaccine field trials, involving 1.8 million children, begin in McLean, Virginia. A year later, researchers announced the vaccine was safe and effective, and it quickly became a standard part of childhood immunizations in America.

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Non-profit EMS deploys screeners

By Dusty Warden
Special to the Courier

EL PASO COUNTY – Over a typical month, medics with ProAction Emergency Services Institute are staged at over 100 special events providing first aid and emergency medical services to the spectators and talent of concerts, sporting events, festivals, and other mass gatherings. When El Paso was struck by the realities of COVID-19 all special events for the foreseeable future were canceled. Not to be sidelined by the virus medics found a new purpose – screening employees and visitors of critical infrastructure and essential businesses.

Working with community leaders, ProAction has come together to ensure that the people keeping our lights on, our water running, and banks open, are safe and healthy. The group aims to aid the El Paso business community in making employee health their top priority.

ProAction has had to dive deep into their rosters to fulfill the community need, spurring hiring sessions to bring onboard additional EMTs and Medical Assistants required to conduct screenings. Their leaders acknowledge that the need for screenings will soon pass, and are looking forward to resuming their typical duties at El Paso events when the crisis passes.

Dusty Warden is Director of Operations for ProAction Emergency Services Institute.



– Photo courtesy Dusty Warden

AT THE READY – EMT screeners from ProAction Emergency Services Institute are available to conduct employee screenings. Their phone number is (915) 532-2771.



– Photos courtesy El Paso Community College

A STITCH IN... – Cloth face masks are being produced by 15 members of the El Paso Community College Philosophy Club. Above is Michelle Maldonado with several of her masks, and Rosa Nahnsen, right, with one of the masks she produced.

Masks

From Page 4

and other U. S. locations.

Another group at EPCC answering the call is the student Philosophy Club. After being recognized by the Mayor of El Paso for their community work in November, the club continues their work by raising over \$1,000 to purchase masks for frontline workers and those

who are homeless.

Now the Philosophy Club has gone to the sewing machine. Under the guidance of the local medical community, the 15-member group is making their own masks to give to those in need. “We decided to practice what we preach and use practical philosophy to help others,” Daniel Avitia, EPCC Philosophy President said. “This is a cultivating experience motivating the need for social solidarity.”



Save a Life.
#SlowDown #MoveOver



**Send Your
Newsbrief To:**
wtxcc@wtxcc.com

What if sports returned and nobody cared

By Steve Escajeda
Special to the Courier

The nation got some good news last week when it was announced that slowly but surely, the country is about to get the go-ahead to get back to normal.

That’s a welcome bit of news for guys like me who haven’t had a haircut in a long while and desperately need a reason to shave.

I think it’s great news for all of us who are tired of being cooped up in our homes.

Don’t get me wrong, we all love our families, but the human animal wasn’t built to stay in one place for hours, let alone days at a time.

The best this about this announcement is that it appears this cruel virus’ infection rate is declining by the day.

For some people, the wait has been to go back to work, for others it may be going to a restaurant, for some it

could be just getting back to the gym, and still for many others it could be getting back to watching sports on TV.

All the major sports commissioners are busy coming up with ways to safely roll out their products again.

Baseball season was supposed to start last week. Basketball and hockey playoffs should be going on right now.

The NFL is still four months away, but there’s no guarantee it will start on time, though you know they’re going to do everything in their power to do so.

Of course, by the time football season starts in the fall, the possible second round of this virus could make an appearance.

The new reality will hit the NBA players in the middle of May when, because of cancelled games, 25 percent of their pay will be withheld.

And why not? The rest of the country’s citizens have had to go without some or all of its pay during this

outbreak. Why not pro athletes?

The point is that this pandemic has punched the world in the gut. Suddenly thoughts of how to pay bills or rent or medicine or even food has taken center stage in many people’s lives.

So our priorities have changed, even when it comes to sports. I guess the more we live without something, the less we miss it.

I’ll admit I was struggling with boredom in the beginning. No matter what, there was always some game to watch on TV every single night.

There was always something to tune into to get your mind off the stresses of life – at least for a couple hours.

But believe it or not, I’m accepting the new temporary-reality more with each passing day. I think we all are.

I think It took us a little time to adapt to a world with no sports. I think it’s going to take us a little time to adapt to its return.

Suddenly, the only scoreboard we’re watching is the daily updates of how many humans have been infected, or have died of the virus.

If that doesn’t make us take a step back, I don’t know what will.

Sports will return. And just like 9-11, everything will get back to normal and 10 years from now young kids will be asking questions about what it was like to live with the coronavirus.

And like the human animal always does, we will quickly forget these last couple of months and repeat the behavior that got us here.

Unfortunately, we live – but we don’t always learn.

Census

From Page 1

Census Bureau is adjusting 2020 Census operations in order to protect the health and safety of the American public and Census Bureau employees; implement guidance from federal, state, and local authorities regarding COVID-19; and ensure a complete and accurate count of all communities.

Under the adjusted 2020 Census operational plan, field activities – which were originally scheduled for April and May – would now resume after June 1st when area census offices return to full staff capacity, according to Oscar Arriaga, media specialist for U.S. Census Bureau Denver Region.

“In-person activities – including enumeration, office work, and processing activities – will

incorporate the most current guidance from authorities to ensure the health and safety of staff and the public,” stated Arriaga.

Currently, the data collection process consists of responses received online, by phone, and mailed-in. Bureau reports indicated that 48.1 percent (71,200,000) of the nation’s households have responded to the Census either online or by phone, as of April 13.

Recent numbers showed that approximately 44.2 percent of Texas households had responded; in El Paso County the response rate was also 44.2 percent, with the City of El Paso’s rate being 46.1 percent.

In New Mexico, as of April 13, the response rate was 37.7 percent; in Dona Ana County the rate was 39.8 percent; and in Las Cruces City the response rate was 46.3 percent.

Census officials suggested that residents continue to respond online or by phone as these methods will be utilized through August. For households that have not responded, officials noted that they should have received a paper questionnaire in the mail. “Residents can fill out the hard-copy questionnaire and simply mail it back,” Arriaga explained. “It has never been easier to respond on your own, all without having to meet a census taker,” he added.

Individuals interested in keeping up with the census count, including how many people in the nation and all communities are responding to the 2020 Census, can visit the bureau’s website. Each day the U.S. Census road mapper will update to show where the nation is in its self-response rates. Visit <https://2020census.gov/en/response-rate> to view these updates.

Archives: www.wtxcc.com

Super Crossword

THE THIN, THE FLAT, AND THE ROUND

ACROSS

1 Reddish-brown pigment

7 Nitpicky know-it-all

13 Fleet leader

20 Instead (of)

21 Win over

22 Bishop’s district

23 User’s storage component

25 Gives approval

26 Rock’s Brian

27 “My true love _ see” (“Oh! Susanna” lyric)

28 Without, to Jean-Luc

30 Shrubby expanses

31 Disorder

33 NBAer _ Gasol

34 Occasion to say “King me”

36 Pasty luau food

38 Baseball card stat

40 _ flight (go by jet)

41 Zing

42 Ship-deck diversion

48 Sauce giant

50 Brew source

51 Hotsy-_

52 Crown

54 Diver’s gear

59 “The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo” heroine

Salander

61 Prefix with dose or ton

62 Less lenient

64 “Entertaining Mr. Sloane” dramatist Joe

65 Participant in the sport Ultimate

68 Yellow transport

69 Draw _ on (take careful aim at)

71 _ Brothers (“It’s Your Thing” group)

72 Hanoi’s home, briefly

73 It enables a motorist to stop

76 Bog bird

78 Naive

79 Brazilian soccer star

80 Tending to wear away

82 “Hmm, let _...”

83 Former NBA star

Ming

84 Spiro who served with Nixon

86 False tale

87 K-P hookup

91 45’s place

94 “Mickey” singer

Basil

98 Gives help

100 In the style of

101 “Try _ might...”

102 It includes the sacrum

106 Nellie of social reform

108 Film-rating org.

112 Paris’ mother

113 Author Jaffe

114 He defeated Romney

116 Put-_ (deceptions)

117 Like space debris

119 Commonality of seven answers in this puzzle

122 Turn loose

123 Gathering, as bees

124 Lie sheltered

125 Fair-_ (blond)

126 Dictation-taking pros

127 Mad Hatter’s party pieces

DOWN

1 Words to an attack dog

2 _ ear and out the other

3 “St. _ Fire”

4 Small swig

5 Nine, in Nice

6 Aviation aid

7 Agitates

8 Within: Prefix

9 Women’s patriotic gp.

10 Mennonite subgroup

11 Bursting stars

12 GI’s ditch

13 “The Piano” pianist

14 Kitchen cloth

15 Hurdler Edwin

16 Frigid stretch

17 With 65-Down, video store charge

18 Allergic affliction

19 Decrease

24 Special span

29 Hershey candy bar

32 Tanning lotion stat

34 Spy org.

35 Cleanup org.

37 Quite a lot

39 Tarzan’s son

42 French battle site of ‘44

43 Clairol’s area

44 Newly rich people

45 Ordinal suffix

46 GPS options: Abbr.

47 Wound from a mutt

49 With 65-Down, charge to log on

53 Bel _ cheese

55 Witches

56 In a careless manner

57 Animated film featuring Seinfeld’s voice

58 JFK landing: Abbr.

60 Fumble

61 Around June or July

62 Sault _ Marie

63 Your, once

65 See 17- or 49-Down

66 Grating

67 Elegant tree

69 Smallish batteries

70 Bibliophile’s love: Abbr.

73 It takes vids

74 Film holder

75 Wild plum

76 Wolf cries

77 _-do-well

80 Goal

81 Lender’s expectation

84 Co. that owns Moviefone

85 Potpourris

88 Discomfort

89 Cage of film, informally

90 Smell

92 Fire

93 Goal

94 Simple top

95 First act

96 Kidman of Hollywood

97 Accustoms

99 Sluggish tree-dwellers

103 PLO head

Mahmoud

104 Missed, as a bull’s-eye

105 Writer Binchy

107 Loo, briefly

109 Mile markers

110 Body part below a shin

111 Useful thing

114 “This is bad!”

115 “Zip-_Doo-Dah”

118 Knight of TV

120 Yang go-with

121 “That _ lie!”

Answer Page 3

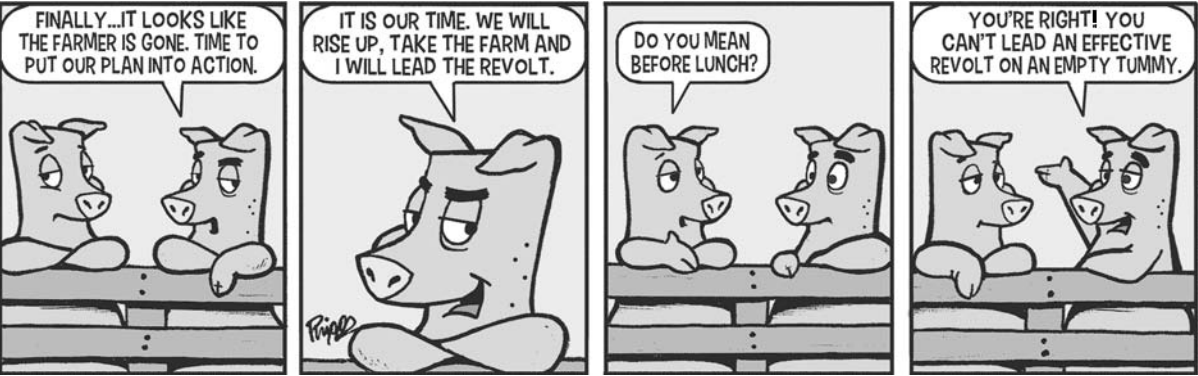
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| 23 | | | | | | 24 | | | | | | | | 25 | | | | | | |
| 26 | | | | 27 | | | | | 28 | | | 29 | | 30 | | | | | | |
| 31 | | | 32 | | 33 | | | | 34 | | | | | 35 | | | | | | |
| | | | 36 | 37 | | | 38 | 39 | | | 40 | | | | | 41 | | | | |
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| 50 | | | | 51 | | | | | 52 | | 53 | | | | | 54 | 55 | 56 | 57 | 58 |
| 59 | | | 60 | | | | | | 61 | | | | | 62 | 63 | | | | | |
| 64 | | | | | | | 65 | 66 | | | | 67 | | | | | | | | |
| | 68 | | | | 69 | 70 | | | | | 71 | | | | | 72 | | | | |
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| 78 | | | | | | | 79 | | | | | | | 80 | 81 | | | | | |
| 82 | | | | | | | 83 | | | | | 84 | 85 | | | | | | 86 | |
| | | | | 87 | 88 | 89 | 90 | | 91 | | 92 | | | | | | 93 | | | |
| 94 | 95 | 96 | 97 | | 98 | | | | 99 | | 100 | | | | 101 | | | | | |
| 102 | | | | 103 | | | | | 104 | 105 | | | 106 | 107 | | | 108 | 109 | 110 | 111 |
| 112 | | | | | | | 113 | | | | | 114 | | | | 115 | | 116 | | |
| 117 | | | | | | 118 | | 119 | | | 120 | | | | | | 121 | | | |
| 122 | | | | | | | | 123 | | | | | | | 124 | | | | | |
| 125 | | | | | | | | 126 | | | | | | | 127 | | | | | |

Comix

OUT ON A LIMB By Gary Kopervas



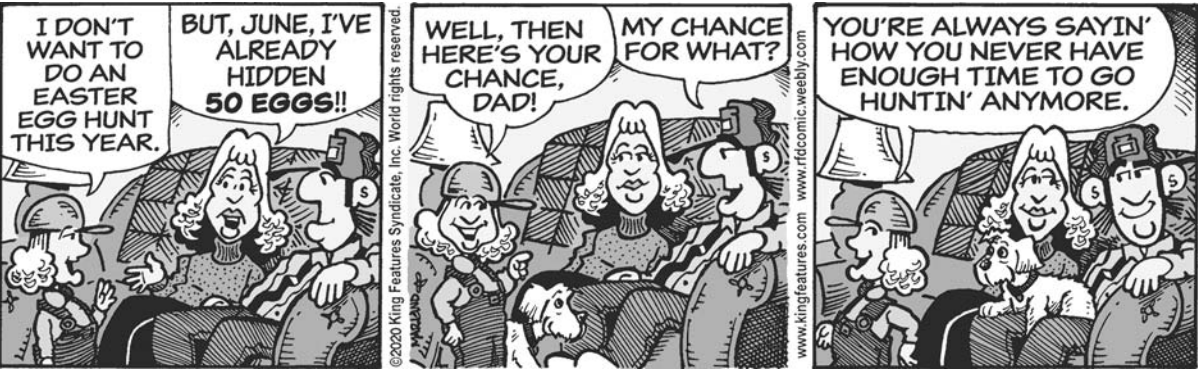
AMBER WAVES By Dave T. Phipps



THE SPATS By Jeff Pickering



R.F.D. By Mike Marland



TIGER By Bud Blake



Schools

From Page 1

mandate, Abbott said that it will apply to all public, private and higher education institutions. In a statement shortly after Abbott’s announcement, the Texas Education Agency (TEA) said while a difficult decision, it’s “the only one that makes sense for Texas at this time.”

Additionally, the Texas State

Teachers Association expressed support for the decision, and in a public statement called on the state to continue to fully fund schools, require that hourly employees are still paid and ensure equity in learning for students who may be English language learners or have special education needs.

“We’re now beginning to see glimmers that the worst of COVID-19 may soon be behind us,” Abbott stated recently from

the Texas Capitol. “We have demonstrated that we can corral the coronavirus.”

Abbott also established a committee, called the Strike Force to Open Texas, which is tasked with developing guidelines on when and how more businesses may re-open. It will be led by James Huffines, a banker who has served on the University of Texas System Board of Regents, and lobbyist Mike Toomey, who will serve as its chief operating officer.

What are the benefits of medical ID tags?

DEAR DR. ROACH: My question is about medical bracelets and necklaces. I’ve never seen any recommendations as to what conditions would warrant wearing one nor what the inscription should say. When are they either necessary or beneficial? – D.A.M.



Medical ID tags can be useful. They serve to alert medical personnel of potentially important medical conditions when someone is not capable of providing that information, whether due to temporary incapacity (such as being unconscious in a motor vehicle accident) or permanent disability (such as intellectual disability). In my opinion, the most appropriate use of these tags is when there is a potentially life-threatening medical condition that would not be obvious to emergency medical personnel.

Some examples of these would include anaphylactic reaction to medications or latex; the presence of an illness that can cause temporary disability (epilepsy, diabetes, Addison’s disease); and medical conditions that might affect use of some common treatments, such as bleeding disorders, organ transplant status and medical implants (such as implantable defibrillators). Personal and contact information is a natural set of complementary information to have on a medical tag.

Some newer tags include electronic information, but this is in its infancy. These include the use of near-field technology to let emergency personnel read the information (if they also have the technology); phone numbers the emergency personnel can call to get more information; and QR codes to allow emergency personnel with a smartphone to go to a webpage with more detailed information. Most smartphones also have the ability to store information that can be read in an emergency, even by someone without the person’s phone password. I recommend taking advantage of this feature.

Many of the ID tags I see have information that is not likely to be helpful. Listing chronic conditions like high blood pressure or high cholesterol is not necessary. Finally, one of the biggest benefits of a medical ID tag is a little peace of mind.

DEAR DR. ROACH: Regarding a recent column: If a body does not need help in maintaining pH balance, why does the consumption of different foods cause changes in urine pH? – K.F.

The body has two main organs with which to regulate pH, the acid/base status of the body based on food intake, exercise, medications and other causes that would perturb the body’s pH, which is very tightly regulated and slightly alkaline at about 7.4. The more important and faster-acting is the lung. By increasing the respiratory rate, we excrete more carbon dioxide, which is in equilibrium with carbonic acid. Breathing more deeply and quickly can move the blood pH toward the alkaline side. This usually happens without our being aware of it. The kidneys are the other important organ for long-term regulation of pH. The kidneys can regulate reabsorption of carbonic acid in the tubule, increasing or reducing acid secretion. So, urine that is more acidic than normal may mean the body is ridding itself of excess dietary acid and thus making blood pH more alkaline. Ammonia is another way the kidney can regulate pH balance. Blood pH does not vary more than a minute amount from its expected level except in cases of critical illness, disturbances in kidney function or diseases that affect control of breathing.

Dr. Roach regrets that he is unable to answer individual questions, but will incorporate them in the column whenever possible. Readers may email questions to ToYourGoodHealth@med.cornell.edu. (c) 2020 North America Synd., Inc. All Rights Reserved.

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Moore Texas by Roger Moore
April 20, 1872: An Indian battle at Howard’s Well causes the cancellation of hunting permits for the natives.

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 R

KV DSJ’HF MSBN MS
ES VKTN ZTN KTMFHQKFR Z
YFQFT-VSSM EJD, K’N YZD
KM’Y Z MZBB SHNFH!

Answer Page 3
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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

Answer Page 3

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DOD is shortchanging vets



by Freddy Groves

The Inspector General for the Department of Defense has discovered that millions of dollars intended for service-disabled veteran-owned small businesses didn’t go to eligible veterans. Instead the money went to businesses that didn’t qualify.

The goal is for every department to set aside at least 3% of its contracts for service-disabled veterans who own businesses. Each of those small businesses must be at least 51% owned by a service-disabled veteran who is hands-on with the business, directing daily operations and in control of management. Each business is allowed to subcontract a certain percentage of its work.

The DOD failed. Out of 27 contracts valued at \$827.8 million, it gave the money to 16 businesses that didn’t meet the requirements. The DOD expected those contractors to “self-certify” and swear they

qualified. Additionally, the DOD did not check compliance at the subcontracting level, handing out \$164.7 million to three contractors who didn’t qualify.

The DOD Inspector General report, of course, had recommendations... coordinate this, implement that, etc. The acting director of the Office of Small Business Programs didn’t comment on the recommendations, said his office was not responsible and pointed to a different department. The DOD fired back, quoting the actual instruction manual, chapter and verse, that stated that the OSBP should oversee all small-business activities.

That left the whole mess as unresolved. No recommendations were resolved; no recommendations were closed.

This is not a new problem. In 2012 the DOD Inspector General put out a report about the many millions of dollars handed out to veterans who did not qualify. The Department of Veterans Affairs keeps a registry for just this reason: so departments can verify a veteran’s status. It’s just a

matter of looking them up.

The OSBP handed out small-business contracts valued at \$10.3 billion in 2018. How much of that went to people who didn’t qualify?

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by Jo Ann Derson

• Earth Day Tip: When choosing personal care products, apply the same eco standards as you do with food. Check the ingredients list to find safe products. Go for products that are free of dyes and perfumes. When possible, choose products that use the least packaging.

• Have a bright flashlight handy in the laundry room. It’s much easier to identify stains with the right lighting. Sending a still-stained garment to the dryer can set the stain, making it much harder or impossible to remove.

• Three easy steps to sear your meat: Preheat the skillet, wait 30 seconds before you add oil and pat your meat dry before placing in the skillet.

• “I use a paperclip covered by tissue to clean the cracks on my keyboard.” – I.P. in South Carolina

• If you leave a load of laundry too long in the washer, you can re-run it and add a cup of white vinegar to the load to kill the musty smell of potential mildew.

• “I make my own little good-behavior coupons for my three children. I print them on different colors of paper for each child. They can cash in coupons for activities or rewards, and if they go in together to get something, I will give them bonus coupons for working together. I think this has made goal-setting a priority for them, and it has helped them learn the lesson of shared goals – an important one for a large family.” – R.V.F. in Arizona

Send your tips to Now Here’s a Tip, 628 Virginia Drive, Orlando, FL 32803. (c) 2020 King Features Synd., Inc.

GO FIGURE! by Linda Thistle

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

DIFFICULTY: ★★

★ Moderate ★★ Difficult
★★★ GO FIGURE!
Answer Page 3

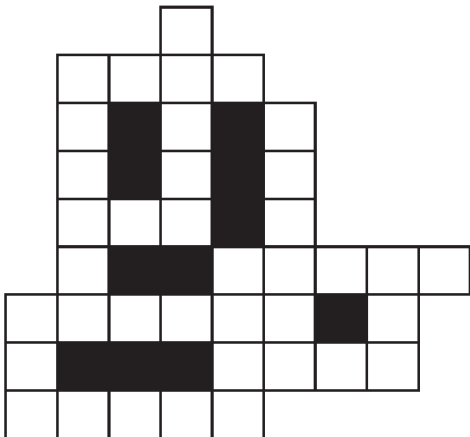
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| | + | | ÷ | | 6 |
| 5 | | 9 | | 4 | |

1 2 3 4 5 7 7 8 9

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NVA
BATLIE
ELDIN
♥LSTI
BLEVRA
♥DDA
♥NELA
♥VELSO
♥IBD
♥TODVEE
♥TIDBE
♥ENVI



Answer Page 3

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

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