



NEWSBRIEFS

Unemployment

Spikes in COVID-19 may threaten future job growth in the U.S., but new unemployment claims last week were still 79% below the peak during the COVID-19 pandemic. To help add some context to this statistic, WalletHub just released updated rankings for the *States Whose Unemployment Claims Are Recovering the Quickest*, along with accompanying videos and audio files. To identify which states' workforces are experiencing the quickest recovery from COVID-19, WalletHub compared the 50 states and the District of Columbia across three metrics based on changes in unemployment claims. Texas was rated 35th in the report. Changes in Texas unemployment claims (1-Quickest Recovery, 25-Avg.):

- 570.02% Change in Unemployment Claims (Latest Week vs. Last Year)
 - 86,821 the week of July 13, 2020 vs. 12,958 the week of July 15, 2019
 - 26th quickest recovery in the U.S.
 - 602.04% Change in Unemployment Claims (Latest Week vs. Start of 2020)
 - 86,821 the week of July 13, 2020 vs. 12,367 the week of January 1, 2020
 - 13th slowest recovery in the U.S.
 - 1,230.62% Change in Unemployment Claims (Since Start of COVID-19 Crisis vs. Last Year)
 - 2,989,802 between the week of March 16, 2020 and the week of July 13, 2020 vs. 242,951 between the week of March 18, 2019 and the week of July 15, 2019
 - 24th quickest recovery in the U.S.
- Visit <https://wallethub.com/edu/states-unemployment-claims/72730/> for the full report.

— Diana Polk

American ingenuity

COVID has wreaked havoc across the country but, but in some cases, it has caused some of us to fall back on

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There is one thing the Democrats and Republicans have in common — our money.

— Quips & Quotes



— Photo courtesy of U.S. Postal Service

ON THE JOB — U.S. Postal Service workers, like the carrier in photo above, are out there every day delivering mail including facemasks and test kits, and hopefully one day soon they will be delivering vaccines as well. Although the U.S. Postal Service (USPS) provides a service mandated by the Constitution, it has received no federal funds since 1982 and has relied on postal product sales to keep revenue ahead of expenditures.

USPS could run out of operational funds this fall

By Alfredo Vasquez
Special to the Courier

NATION — The United States Postal Service (USPS) provides crucial services for Americans nationwide. But right now, it is in danger of going bankrupt as the postal service is being hit hard by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Businesses have drastically cut back on how much mail they are sending, and post office officials recently reported that without support from the government, the agency could soon run out of money.

“Losing the USPS — especially during a public health crisis — would be devastating to millions of Americans,” stated Luis Anchondo, an Army veteran who retired in El Paso. “I rely on it to keep in touch with loved ones, to stay up to date on the latest services, and to receive my medications without the risk or inconvenience of going to the pharmacy.”

This year, the USPS is even more crucial to this country's governing process because many householders will return their 2020 Census forms by mail. Also, vote-by-mail programs will be an important way for voters, who fear a virus infection, to safely cast their ballots in the upcoming general elections.

Nonetheless, President Donald Trump's nonaction on this critical issue shows that he remains dead set against saving the USPS, as evidenced recently when Congress tried to add a \$13 billion direct grant for the postal service to its first stimulus package in April. Trump administration officials warned legislators that the president was not going to sign the bill if money for USPS was included.

USPS is among the country's most popular institutions; it consistently

scores high approval ratings among most Americans. The USPS delivers 48 percent of the world's mail to 160 million homes. Yet in late March, as the postal service struggled to deal with the fallout of the coronavirus pandemic, President Trump threatened to veto a version of the \$2.2 trillion bipartisan CARES (Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security) Act stimulus package that contained the \$13 billion grant to help the USPS keep meeting its payroll, gassing its vehicles, and paying its suppliers. What he finally signed instead included a \$10 billion loan that would require approval by the Treasury Department.

USPS has been under attack by conservatives for years. Trump's personal hostility to the USPS, which he recently referred to as a joke, goes along with the Republicans' desire to privatize the postal service. According to government observers, they want to drastically cut services and facilities, use more non-career labor and outsourcing, and rollback employee rights and benefits.

USPS's current financial crisis is rooted in the compromise legislation that followed the postal workers' 1970 strike that produced the Postal Reorganization Act. The new legislation replaced the Post Office Department with a hybrid government agency and corporation that would provide full collective-bargaining rights to employees, become financially self-supporting, and continue to provide universal service at reasonable rates.

Conservatives, who had previously argued for the privatization of the post

office, continued those efforts after the 1971 creation of the U.S. Postal Service. But not until 2006, during the George W. Bush administration, did those efforts gain much traction. That year, Congress passed the Postal Accountability and Enhancement Act, imposing a unique burden on the postal service by requiring it to pre-fund retirees' health benefits through annual payments of roughly \$5.5 billion for 10 years.

These obligations, the rise of the internet, and the Great Recession combined put the USPS in the red, where it remains today. USPS had \$11 billion of outstanding debt at the end of the last fiscal year, according to government reports.

Also, after the 2008-09 recession, hundreds of post offices and mail-processing centers were shuttered, many others had their hours cut, some services were reduced, and the postal workforce has lost 126,000 career positions since then.

Last February, things seemed to finally begin to be addressed when the U.S. House of Representatives passed the USPS Fairness Act (by a vote of 309 to 106) and sent it to the Senate. But the bill is still sitting there, and in the interim, COVID-19 struck.

The volume of mail the USPS is delivering has already fallen by nearly one-third compared with last year, and it is now projected to lose \$22 billion over the next 18 months, according to a recent report. Despite the risks, postal workers are still doing their jobs. However, as of

CARES Act, the stimulus package passed by Congress in April, included a \$500 billion bailout for large corporations but no relief for the U.S. Postal Service.

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In ancient history—that is, before TV – there was a gentleman’s agreement that the presidential electioneering didn’t really get

All politics, all the time

underway until Labor Day. But how times have changed!

First of all, there are no gentlepersons left in politics, certainly no bipartisanship. The television news era, now known as the “good old days,” is made obsolete by antisocial media, where everyone has a worldwide megaphone and facts be damned.

Meanwhile, campaigning goes on nonstop, a blurry round of constant demagoguery. No longer does it matter the seriousness of the issue. It’s all about how it can be parlayed into political advantage.

Take President Donald Trump’s dispatching of paramilitary federal forces to deal with racial unrest in American cities. Its constitutionality is dubious, but all Trump’s followers need to know is that protestors don’t really know their place. POTUS makes his political intent clear with his justification:

“We’re looking at Chicago, too. We’re looking at New York,” he said. “All run by very liberal Democrats. All run, really, by the radical left.”

And, as he sent in the federal cavalry, he didn’t even pretend it was not part of his re-election strategy: “And you know what? If Biden got in, that would be true for the country. The whole country would go to hell.”

As if it isn’t in hell already, with the devastating COVID pandemic now reigniting because of his and his administration’s gross incompetence in dealing with the coronavirus. He became the face of that blundering by his effort to grab the spotlight. Finally, with his popularity in polls plummeting, he retreated to the background,

returning to governing by Twitter.

From there he was able to stir up pressure to end the timid mitigation efforts far too early and convince enough frightened governors and local officials that it was all clear... that their constituents could return to a “normal” life of carousing, ignoring social distancing and making general fools of themselves. The result was predictable. Suddenly, the lurking deadly organism sprung its ambush, and states that hadn’t been all that affected early on were plunged head-on into lethal crisis.

In the midst of all this, the Trumpster decided it was time to resurrect his daily briefing, sticking on script this time, and pretending he had some earthly idea what he was talking about.

But it doesn’t stop there. To make sure his base needed to keep its xenophobic passions flaming, he issued an executive order requiring that the census exclude undocumented immigrants when counting people. He knows that’s

unconstitutional, but again, his supporters don’t want to be troubled by such complicated considerations. They just need to be reminded that Donald Trump is with them, at least until Election Day.

Just like he is on Confederate flags, patriotism and wearing face masks. Oh wait, some Trump campaign pollster reminded him that voters support face masks. So suddenly, Trump is for them, and suddenly Trump has abandoned his various rosy scenarios about the coronavirus just up and disappearing. Now it will disappear “eventually,” and the pandemic “will get worse before it gets better.”

A part of any presidential campaign is the October surprise – a development that pops up at the last minute. Could it be approval of a vaccine with Trump taking full credit? Count on it.

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View from here

By Marilyn M. Singleton, M.D., J.D.

Lowering the Barr

The excoriation of Attorney General Barr at the congressional hearing was as low as politicians could go on the lack of humanity and civility scale. The Barr hearing was more like a Roman circus than a search for answers to important national issues. If this is what congress calls performing their duty under the Constitution, we are in for real trouble. Finger wagging, talking over, showboating, and developing soundbites for their reelections are not a search for truth.

It appears some congresspersons had been to a training session where they were told to call Attorney General Barr “Sir” as an expression of contempt, not respect. Chairman Nadler advised him that “our members expect sincere answers today and our country deserves no less.” However, unfriendly congresspersons continually asked questions in the form of statements and as Attorney General Barr began to respond, the congresspersons instantly interrupted him by “reclaiming their time.” To his credit, Attorney General Barr calmly responded, “but this is a hearing. I thought I was the one that was supposed to be heard.” Accusing someone of a crime and then gagging him officially crosses into Stalin’s henchman’s “show me the man and I’ll show you his crime” territory.

Two moments sank to a new low. Referring to Attorney General Barr’s kind words about the recently departed John Lewis, Rep. Cedric Richmond obnoxiously declared, “you should [sic]

really should keep the name of the honorable John Lewis out of the Department of Justice’s mouth.” Descending into the realm of subhumans, Chairman Nadler refused to grant Attorney General Barr a 5 minute break after hours of grilling. Refusing someone a (likely bathroom) break is a tactic straight out of enhanced interrogation techniques for dummies.

The next day, during a congressional hearing on anti-competitive activities, the four “Big Tech” CEOs of Amazon, Apple, Facebook, and Alphabet (Google) were treated with kid gloves by all but a few congresspersons. Perhaps to protect a large source of campaign donations, denials of bias were allowed to go unchallenged despite evidence to the contrary.

Concurrently, physicians trying to save their patients’ lives are being “cancelled.” YouTube removed as “misinformation” videos of the physicians who advocated for the use of hydroxychloroquine for early treatment of COVID-19, based on their extensive personal as well as international treatment successes. Hydroxychloroquine is an FDA-approved medication with a 65-year history of safety – not morning glory seeds.

With all the garbage on Twitter, the removal of the physicians’ video based on the justification that it did not comport with World Health Organization (WHO) recommendations seems extreme. Recall that WHO also did not recommend wearing masks, the new Holy Grail of COVID-19 prevention. And

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In defense of Liz Cheney

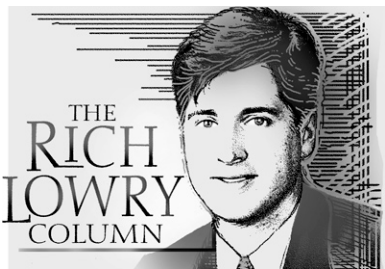
In this summer of Republican discontent, a handful of GOP House members have identified what’s ailing the party: Liz Cheney.

The two-term Wyoming congresswoman, chair of the House GOP Conference and daughter of former Vice President Dick Cheney was called out at a conference meeting for myriad alleged sins, including insufficient loyalty to President

Donald Trump. This episode is much more telling about Cheney’s internal GOP critics than Cheney. She rightly refuses to play by the dumb rule insisted on by MAGA and Never-Trump Republicans from their respective parts of the spectrum, that the only two options are to submit to the president totally or to oppose him totally, with no honorable space in between.

Cheney is a member of Republican leadership, which imposes its obligations, but she hasn’t checked her mind or conscience at the door. She has deeply held views on foreign policy and doesn’t hide them, even when they depart from those of the president. She has also been a consistent voice for taking the pandemic seriously and wearing masks, and has defended Dr. Anthony Fauci. Can anyone doubt that if Trump had taken her tack, he’d be in a stronger position today?

But some of Cheney’s colleagues are upset with her rather than the president. Her occasional dissents supposedly endanger the project of taking back the House, an absurd notion. This is a variant of the odd political accounting of the most fervent Trump supporters. By their lights, if, say, the president stumbles his way through a “Fox News Sunday” interview, that’s not the problem. No, the problem is only if someone who is right-of-center points it out.



bludgeon in internal GOP fights. According to Sen. Rand Paul, who took shots at her in the press after the GOP meeting, “She tries to sabotage everything he tries to do in foreign policy, so I don’t know whether she’s a good advocate for the president.”

But it’s not as though when Paul strongly disagrees with Trump, the senator salutes smartly and marches in lockstep.

The backdrop to the Cheney conflict is a broader fight over foreign policy. At the moment, that takes the form of a struggle to influence Trump’s policy decisions. If the president loses, it will be one of a host of ideological conflicts over the direction of a post-Trump party.

Whichever way it goes, Cheney is going to be a formidable voice, and her willingness to speak her mind, even at time when it is discouraged, redounds to her credit.

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

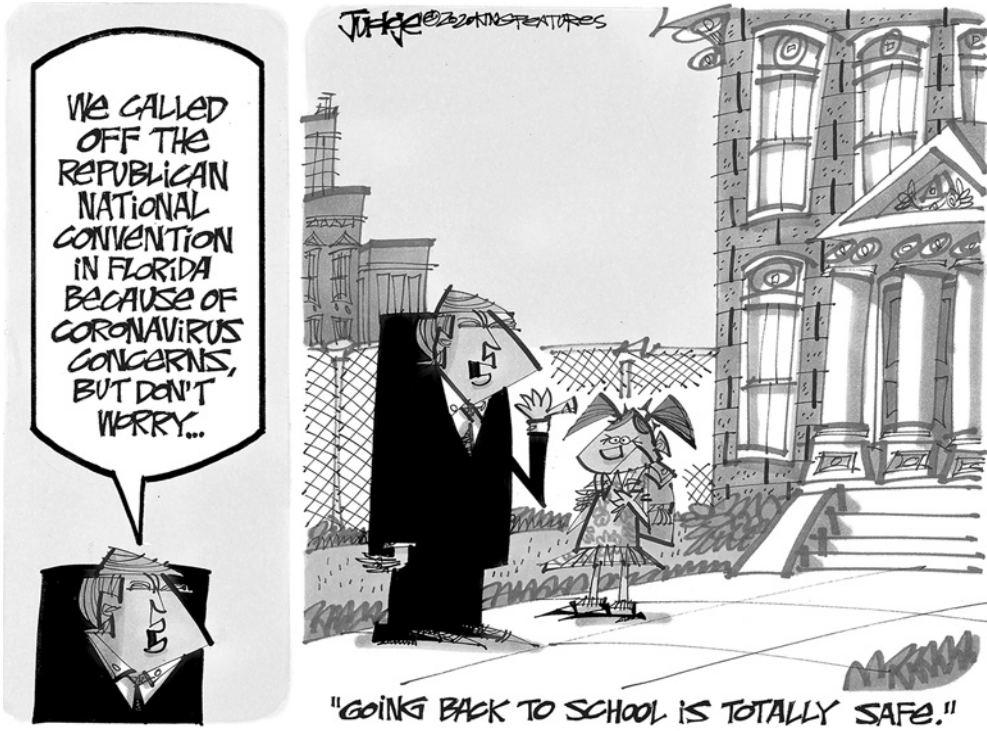
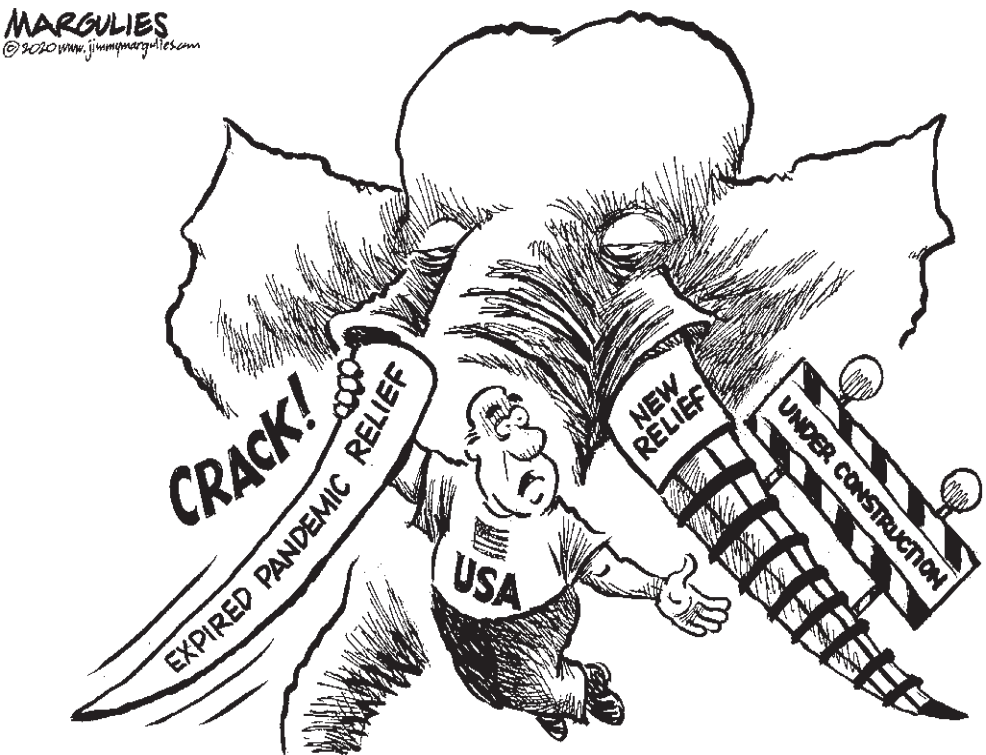
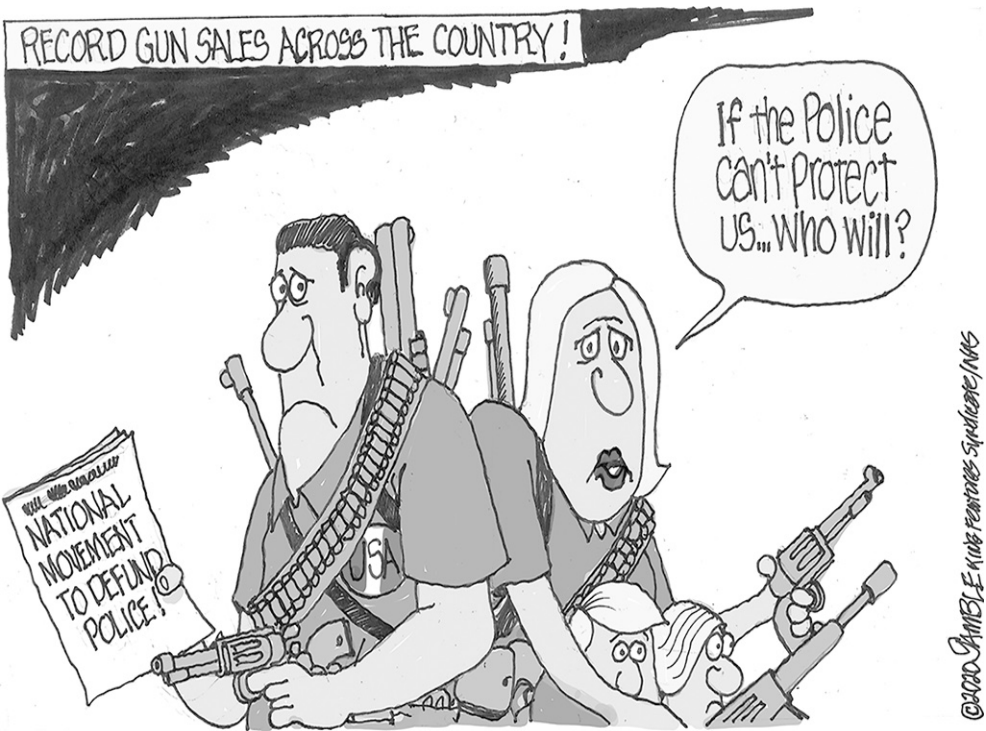
Low

From Page 2

are we to believe the same crowd who excoriated President Trump as racist for blocking travel from China at the end of January while they were encouraging people to frolic in crowded Chinatown in late February? Let’s look at a couple of examples of accepted medical tenets that were initially dismissed. Dr. Ignaz Semmelweis, a Hungarian physician, famously was ridiculed for advocating handwashing after performing autopsies before touching living patients. In less than 6 months after handwashing was instituted, post-partum (childbirth) fever mortality rates dropped 90 percent, from 18.3 percent to less than 2 percent. Despite the evidence, he was vilified and eventually was admitted against his will to an insane asylum where he died 2 weeks after being severely beaten. Now, failure to wash hands is unthinkable.

More recently, in the mid-1980s Dr. Barry Marshall was convinced that stomach ulcers were caused by bacteria, rather than the stress, acid, and spicy foods theory. Resistance was fierce: “Everyone was against me. But I knew I was right.” Finally, he drank a Petri dish with some thousand million bacteria, including cultured Helicobacter pylori and shortly developed documented stomach ulcers. Dr. Marshall received the 2005 Nobel Prize for this discovery. Given that other prior coronaviruses, MERS (2012) and SARS (2003) still pop up, it is likely that the SARS-CoV-2 virus that causes COVID-19 will be with us for the foreseeable future. Accordingly, physicians want safe, affordable (less than \$30 per full treatment), readily available COVID-19 treatments for their patients. Hydroxychloroquine – not a big Pharma moneymaker – is effective for many patients and physicians with experience simply want

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– Image courtesy San Elizario ISD

SINGING OUT – A highlight of this year’s San Elizario ISD’s employee convocation was when music teacher Tawnya Montaño led a virtual chorus for the attendees. Students sang *Don’t Give Up on Me* by Andy Grammer. Montaño teaches at Sambrano Elementary School. In the top row, from left, are Emilie Sotelo, Kate Luna and Montaño. Bottom of the screen, from left, are Carlos Garcia, Iliana Vigil and Iliana Silva.

San Eli ISD holds first virtual convocation

By Jeannie Meza-Chavez
Special to the Courier

SAN ELIZARIO – On Thursday, July 30, 2020, the San Elizario Independent School District (SEISD) experienced another virtual first by holding the district’s yearly employee convocation online. The annual event brought together all employees throughout the SEISD to kick off the start of the 2020-2021 school year. The employee convocation was sponsored with the support of the Teachers Federal Credit Union (TFCU) and Chief Executive Officer Max Villaronga.

This year’s event was hosted by SEISD Assistant Superintendent Dr. Rogelio Segovia. Employees were treated to a special keynote address from Dr. José Medina, where his speech focused on the district’s central theme of providing the best customer service. Medina stated, “Soy San Elizario ISD. I am aquí to serve.” Emphasizing on the importance of valuing the language of students and congratulating SEISD for starting a new dual language program for pre-kinder and kinder students.

Human Resources Director Blanca Cruz recognized employees for their years of service. Each employee will be receiving their service recognition medal to wear in

celebration of all they do to continue to help SEISD. The district is focused on service and support toward one another – engaging in kindness because that is what individuals need the most now.

The event was planned by the convocation committee. They are Coordinator of Instructional Programs Susana Frescas, Blanca Cruz, Director of Technology Horacio Hernandez, Rogelio Segovia, and Superintendent Jeannie Meza-Chavez. The committee meets in early spring to begin generating ideas for the convocation. Hernandez said, “This year’s convocation is another event we help coordinate online when we are unable to hold it on premise.”

Strange BUT TRUE

- By Lucie Winborne
- Sir Cecil Chubb, a wealthy and highly respected barrister, really raised the bar for birthday gifts when he purchased Stonehenge (yes, you read that right) for his wife after World War I. But was she suitably impressed? Apparently not – what she actually wanted that year was curtains!
 - Caffeine doesn’t just help you stay awake. It also serves the function of a pesticide in the coffee plant.
 - Due to the humid and moist conditions that a sloth lives in, moss and other similar plants will sometimes grow in its hair. Sloths also have very poor eyesight. Those two factors can sometimes culminate in a sloth grabbing its own arm, thinking it’s a branch, and falling to its death.
 - During the Elizabethan era, coal tar was used as mascara, eyebrow pencil and eyeliner... despite the fact it’s flammable, has a bad smell and caused blindness.

- Until 1925, the NCAA required college football players to study during halftime.
- A reporter, commenting to Gene Roddenberry on the casting of Patrick Stewart in “Star Trek: The Next Generation,” said, “Surely by the 24th century, they would have found a cure for male pattern baldness.” Replied Roddenberry: “No, by the 24th century, no one will care.”
- High-frequency sounds enhance the sweetness in food, while low frequencies bring out the bitterness.
- Only one McDonald’s in the world has turquoise arches. Government officials in Sedona, Arizona, thought the yellow would look bad with the natural red rock of the city.

Thought for the Day: “If opportunity doesn’t knock, build a door.”
– Milton Berle

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Town of Horizon City

In an effort to provide a safe, healthy and clean environment the Horizon City Code Enforcement Department asks that all residents please follow property maintenance requirements. Visit www.horizoncity.org for complete Ordinance requirements about the following topics and more:

- **Yards and Trees** – keep yards, including parkways and gutters, clear of weeds and debris; trees shall be trimmed to maintain proper clearance;
- **Stagnant Water** – items such as tires shall not be stored on properties in order to prevent mosquito growth; up to 5 tires may be brought to City Hall;
- **Outdoor Storage** – do not store indoor furniture/appliances outside;
- **Illegal Dumping** – violators will be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law;
- **Vehicle Parking** – only allowed on approved parking surfaces; do not park on yards;
- **Garage Sales** – maximum of 4 per year with a permit; and
- **Signs** – illegally placed signs will be removed; contact City Hall for further clarification.

Notice of Violation

Individuals or property owners must comply with a Notice of Violation.

If the property is not brought into compliance, the City may request a court order that would give the City authorization to access the property and correct the violation; all associated costs will be billed to the property owner.

Call 915-852-1046 with any questions and/or to report violations.

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• On Aug. 3, 1958, the U.S. nuclear submarine Nautilus accomplishes the first undersea voyage to the geographic North Pole. The world's first nuclear submarine traveled nearly 1,000 miles under the Arctic ice cap to reach the pole.

• On Aug. 4, 1944, acting on a tip from a Dutch informer, the Nazi Gestapo captures 15-year-old Jewish diarist Anne Frank and her family in a sealed-off area of an Amsterdam warehouse. The Franks had taken shelter there in 1942 out of fear of deportation to a Nazi concentration camp.

• On Aug. 5, 1962, movie actress Marilyn Monroe is found dead in her home in Los Angeles of an apparent suicide. Empty bottles of pills, prescribed to treat her depression, were littered around her bedroom.

• On Aug. 6, 1928, Andy Warhol, one of the most influential artists of the latter part of the 20th century, is born in Pittsburgh. Warhol, a pioneer of the pop art movement, painted comic strips, canned soup and soft drinks because an early art teacher told him to paint things he liked.

• On Aug. 7, 1782, Gen. George Washington, the commander in chief of the Continental Army, creates the "Badge for Military Merit," a decoration consisting of a purple, heart-shaped piece of silk. The Purple Heart is awarded to members of the U.S. armed forces who have been killed or wounded in action against an enemy.

• On Aug. 8, 1988, the Chicago Cubs host the first night game in the history of Wrigley Field when they play the Philadelphia Phillies. The game was called due to rain in the bottom of the fourth inning.

• On Aug. 9, 1974, Gerald Ford is sworn in as the 38th president of the United States after the resignation of Richard Nixon. In a television address, Ford declared, "My fellow Americans, our long national nightmare is over."

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Briefs

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good, old American ingenuity to get by. Take Johnny Perri, proprietor of J&M Jewelers in Washington Township, MI. Like many merchants who remain shut down due to safety provisions enforced by local governments, Perri's store remains closed indefinitely. Left with an inventory of goods and no customers, he came up with a way to cut his losses by turning his stock into buried treasure. He and his wife, Amy, planted all that gold, silver and diamonds in batches, each worth about \$4,000, in secret locations all over Michigan and put them all up for grabs. He then started selling tickets for Johnny's Adventure Quest to wannabe treasure hunters at \$49 a clip. Those who find the stashes get to keep the loot or sell it back to Johnny.

– John Grimaldi

Low

From Page 3

to educate others about another weapon in the fight against an ugly virus.

The vitriol and disregard for fact-finding on the part of congresspersons and the dissembling on the part of the social media giants leaves one wondering: Do the people who savaged Attorney General Barr and gave big tech a pass want people to live in fear of living life? Do they want people to be unemployed and dependent of the government for survival? Do they want children to stay home from school and regress from normal childhood development? Do they want the country's economic boom to remain in the rear view mirror? Would they allow people to needlessly die in order to gain political power?

Marilyn M. Singleton is a board-certified anesthesiologist. She graduated from Stanford and earned her MD at UCSF Medical School. While still working in the operating room, she attended UC Berkeley Law School, focusing on constitutional law and administrative law. She teaches classes in the recognition of elder abuse and constitutional law for non-lawyers.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING TO DISCUSS BUDGET AND PROPOSED TAX RATE

The Anthony Independent School District will hold a public meeting at 5:45 p.m., Wednesday, August 19, 2020 in the Anthony Middle School Library, 813 Sixth Street, Anthony, Texas 79821. **The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the school district's budget that will determine the tax rate that will be adopted. Public participation in the discussion is invited.**

The tax rate that is ultimately adopted at this meeting or at a separate meeting at a later date may not exceed the proposed tax rate shown below unless the district publishes a revised notice containing the same information and comparisons set out below and holds another public meeting to discuss the revised notice.

Maintenance Tax	\$0.966400/\$100 (Proposed rate for maintenance and operations)
School Debt Service Tax	
Approved by Local Voters	\$0.199080/\$100 (Proposed rate to pay bonded indebtedness)

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	3.1%	Decrease
Debt Service	0.7%	Decrease
Total Expenditures	3.0%	Decrease

Total Appraised Value and Total Taxable Value (as calculated under Section 26.04, tax Code)

	Preceeding Tax Year	Current Tax Year
Total appraised value* of all property	\$ 276,179,314	\$ 269,994,175
Total appraised value* of new property**	\$ 404,320	\$ 129,860
Total taxable value*** of all property	\$ 201,841,544	\$ 194,791,341
Total taxable value*** of new property**	\$ 394,266	\$ 129,860

* "Appraised value" is the amount shown on the appraisal roll and defined by Section 1.04(8), Tax Code.
** "New property" is defined by Section 26.012(17), Tax Code.
*** "Taxable value" is defined by Section 1.04(10), Tax Code.

Bonded Indebtedness

Total amount of outstanding and unpaid bonded indebtedness* \$ 4,020,000

* Outstanding principal.

Comparison of Proposed Rates with Last Year's Rates

	Maintenance & Operation	Interest & Sinking Fund*	Total	Local Revenue Per Student	State Revenue Per Student
Last Year's Rate	\$ 0.970000	\$ 0.199080*	\$ 1.169080	\$ 2,963	\$ 9,587
Rate to Maintain Same Level of Maintenance & Operations Revenue & Pay Debt Service	\$ 1.107810	\$ 0.207200*	\$ 1.315000	\$ 2,424	\$10,069
Proposed Rate	\$ 0.966400	\$ 0.199080*	\$ 1.165480	\$ 2,926	\$ 9,624

*The Interest & Sinking Fund tax revenue is used to pay for bonded indebtedness on construction, equipment, or both.

The bonds, and the tax rate necessary to pay those bonds, were approved by the voters of this district.

Comparison of Proposed Levy with Last Year's Levy on Average Residence

	Last Year	This Year
Average Market Value of Residences	\$110,683	\$110,992
Average Taxable Value of Residences	\$ 85,683	\$ 85,992
Last Year's Rate Versus		
Proposed Rate per \$100 Value	\$ 1.169080	\$ 1.165480
Taxes Due on Average Residence	\$ 1,001.70	\$ 1,002.22
Increase (Decrease) in Taxes		\$ 0.52

Under state law, the dollar amount of school taxes imposed on the residence homestead of a person 65 years of age or older or of the surviving spouse of such a person, if the surviving spouse was 55 years of age or older when the person died, may not be increased above the amount paid in the first year after the person turned 65, regardless of changes in the tax rate or property value.

Notice of Voter-Approval Rate: The highest tax rate the district can adopt before requiring voter approval at an election is \$0.966400. This election will be automatically held if the district adopts a rate in excess of the voter-approval rate of \$0.966400.

Fund Balances

The following estimated balances will remain at the end of the current fiscal year and are not encumbered with or by a corresponding debt obligation, less estimated funds necessary for operating the district before receipt of the first state aid payment:

Maintenance and Operations Fund Balance(s)	\$ 3,198,909
Interest & Sinking Fund Balance(s)	\$ 213,511

A school district may not increase the district's maintenance and operations tax rate to create a surplus in maintenance and operations tax revenue for the purpose of paying the district's debt service.

Send Your Newsbrief To: wtxcc@wtxcc.com

With sports opening, MLB could be an indicator of things to come

By Steve Escajeda
Special to the Courier

Fans across America were thrilled when professional sports made their way back into living room TV sets a couple weeks ago.

Unfortunately, because fans aren’t allowed to attend any games, the only way to catch them is on your favorite sports-watching device.

And although the idea of watching games without any fan interaction will take some getting used to, it’s still better than no games at all.

Also to that point, here’s a message to ESPN and all the big networks carrying the games, “not having fans in okay, we can handle it.”

The networks are stumbling all over themselves to make sure we have fake

noise and fake fans to enjoy. Let me tell you one thing, unless a guy catches a foul ball in his beer cup while holding a baby, I don’t care about the fans.

But trying to distract us with pumped-in music and digitally-manufactured fans isn’t the biggest problem the league is facing.

It’s the thing that caused us to start everything late in the first place – Covid-19.

The first casualty of the disease has been the Florida Marlins.

Just three games into the season, the Marlins were forced to shut things down when four players received positive results for the virus. That number grew to four and so on, and so on.

As of last Saturday, 20 Marlins players had tested positive.

While other teams keep playing every night, Florida hasn’t played since those

first three games.

They played the Philadelphia Phillies in that opening series, but so far only one Phillies coach and one clubhouse attendant have tested positive.

So this mess is not only costing the Marlins to postpone all these games, all of their opponents are losing games as well.

If you’re wondering how only one team can be affected so harshly compared to all the others, the answer is actually pretty simple.

Major League Baseball’s investigation into the Miami Marlins’ COVID-19 outbreak found that the team didn’t follow health and safety protocols during a preseason road trip to Atlanta.

The report states that Marlins players left their hotel to go out at night while in Atlanta on July 21 and 22. They also spent time in the hotel bar. It’s not clear

where the players went when outside the hotel.

The best news concerning the Marlins is that not a single player has shown any serious symptoms.

But the bad news may just be beginning. It appears as if the virus is making its way into locker rooms across the league.

Last weekend the St. Louis Cardinals had to cancel their series with the Milwaukee Brewers after it was learned that two players had tested positive for the virus.

The next day, things got worse when it was discovered that more Cardinals players had tested positive.

All-in-all there were 29 positive tests across MLB over the past week – 21 of the 29 positive tests came from the Marlins.

It just makes sense that some players were going to test positive. But the chance that this could get out of hand is a definite possibility.

Some fans are just happy to get to watch sports again, no matter what. Others have questioned this watered-down version that at times appears forced and hurried. And yet, some wonder that if the real deal can’t be produced with fans in the stands, then why bother?

I believe it’s easy to predict that MLB’s problems with the virus will get worse before it gets better. But then again, what did they expect, that there wouldn’t be a single coronavirus case?

Baseball Commissioner Rob Manfred has reportedly threatened to shut down the season if teams don’t do a better job of following health and safety protocols.

The NBA and the NHL just started up again this past week. The NFL and college football are both getting ready for their new seasons in just over a month.

The big question is how are they going to keep the virus from getting into locker rooms all over the country?

I don’t even think Dr. Fauci can figure out how players can practice social distancing during a football game.



Super Crossword

INITIALLY ADORED ACROSS

1 Classic arcade name

6 Subdivision of a religion

10 Low-pitched

14 Southern speech trait

19 Bits of viral web content

20 Spencer of TV news

21 Trade show

22 "Tiny Bubbles" crooner

23 Chris Evert beat her at the 1978 U.S. Open

25 "Poetry Man" singer

27 Fruit related to a 37-Down

28 Paper opinion piece

29 Michigan's Grosse

30 "The Jerk" diector Reiner

31 Genie holder

33 "It's enough to survive on"

35 "How I wish!"

37 "Wall of Sound" record producer

41 Saturate

43 High throw

44 Word sung after "que"

45 Not messy

47 See 57-Across

48 High mount

51 Web handle

53 "The Lady Eve" director

57 With 47-Across, allots

58 "That stinks!"

59 Miners' finds

60 How oboes sound

61 Casino pair

63 Actor Mark _Baker

66 Enter on a vehicle

68 Pack in

71 David Letterman's music director

74 "Halt!"

75 Deodorant target

77 Pueblo pot

78 Bros. e.g.

80 Jason's vengeful wife

81 E-garbage

83 Garbage

85 Irish coins

89 He played Captain Picard

93 Louisiana cooking style

94 _Blo (fuse type)

95 Frat letter

96 H.S. math

97 "It's a possibility for me"

99 _Lingus

100 Mambo music's Tito

102 "Take Time to

Know Her" singer

105 Beachward

108 Exist naturally (in)

110 Put in danger

111 Baseball card no.

112 Smoothed, as wood

114 Ltr. heads-up

116 Spill secrets

120 "Turn! Turn! Turn!" songwriter

122 1964 Beatles hit... or what an adoring fan of any of eight celebrities in this puzzle might say?

124 Occasion

125 Margarine

126 Completed

127 Literary twist

128 Bird homes

129 Scottish loch

130 Picnic pests

131 De Mille the dancer

DOWN

1 Gig hookups

2 Pond duck

3 Arsenal stuff

4 Vend anew

5 Bull tail?

6 Casual shoe

7 Roof's edge

8 Attribute

9 Pothole fill

10 Rail station

11 Artwork displayer

12 Name-lending

person

13 Versifier

14 Ike's inits.

15 Gun, slangily

16 2001 Peace Nobelst Kofi

17 Fingerprint ridge

18 Humble

24 Frolicked

26 Lebanon's capital

29 1994 Peace Nobelst Shimon

32 Whence St. Francis

34 Out of sight

36 Coming time

37 It may become a prune

38 Wash (down)

39 "Yeah, sure!"

40 Mafia title

42 Most domineering

46 Not written in any key

48 Liaison

49 Occasioned

50 CIA mind-game initiative

52 It's similar to a wapiiti

54 Wheel action

55 Spongy ball brand

56 New printing

58 Grizzly rug, maybe

62 Tax pro

64 Chemical "twin"

65 Capitals' gp.

67 Soft & _

68 Globos

69 Ryan of film

70 Supplement

72 Refs' kin

73 Actor Jamie

76 City in central India

79 Green gems

82 People present

84 Of the ear

86 Pothole site

87 Cassini of couture

88 Parched

90 Havarti, e.g.

91 Really tired

92 Antiquing substance

93 Slots site

98 Aromatic shrubs of Europe

100 Strong

101 Feel a prickly sensation

103 Rationale

104 Anita of "La Dolce Vita"

105 Quaking tree

106 Actor Carell

107 Abhors

109 Hoagies

113 Years on end

115 Color variety

117 Actress Sue

118 Top-tier

119 Pays for

121 Rd. crossers

122 Hi-tech "appt. book"

123 By way of

Answer Page 4

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13		14	15	16	17	18
19						20					21					22				
23						24					25					26				
27						28					29							30		
											</									

Comix

OUT ON A LIMB

By Gary Kopervas



AMBER WAVES

By Dave T. Phipps



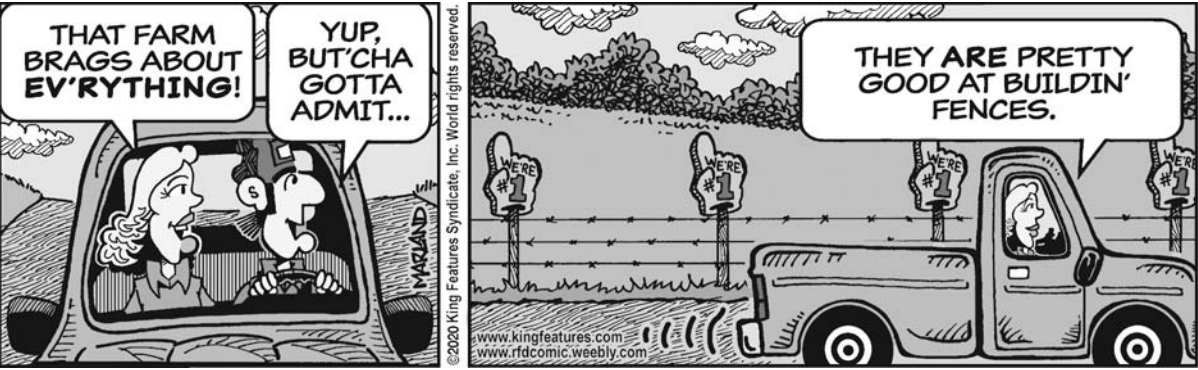
THE SPATS

By Jeff Pickering



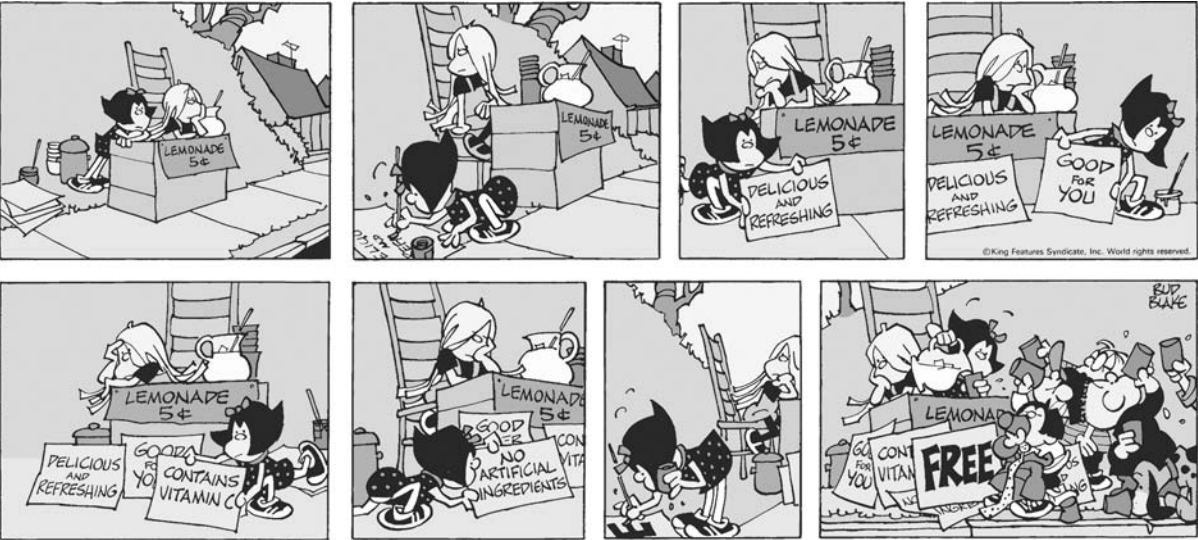
R.F.D.

By Mike Marland



TIGER

By Bud Blake



USPS

From Page 1

the end of June, 1,219 postal workers had tested positive for the coronavirus and 54 have died, the report stated.

Furthermore, the postal service can't simply file for bankruptcy; the USPS is not a private corporation like FedEx, UPS, or Walmart – which even together could not handle all of the U.S. mail needs, experts asserted.

Now, with the USPS now projecting that it will run out of operational funds by September,

the Trump administration could cripple the nation's mail by blocking aid, forcing the USPS to prioritize which vendors to pay and which services to curtail.

USPS officials estimate that the agency needs \$89 billion in assistance including \$25 billion in grants to operate effectively. If the current federal government refuses to help, then who else will distribute stimulus checks, census forms, online purchases, letters, parcels, books, magazines, in fact, anything that takes postage? And, how else will Americans be able to vote by mail – as they now do in six states and may soon need to do in all 50?

Vegetarian may have fructose intolerance

DEAR DR. ROACH: What can you tell me about fructose intolerance and/or malabsorption? Is there a genetic predisposition to this? Can it develop later in life? What are the symptoms, and how is it diagnosed? What type of doctor can best make a diagnosis? I've read conflicting reports online regarding the breath analysis test. Can it be treated, or must one eliminate foods containing fructose completely from one's diet? My father was diagnosed with some sort of fructose problem years ago. I have no other information about his condition as he has since passed away. I have developed some intestinal issues over the past year and have noticed I frequently experience stomach cramps after eating grapes and green apples, specifically. I am a vegetarian, and my diet consists of lots of fruits and vegetables. I'm wondering if I may have an issue with fructose. I hope not! What are your thoughts? – D.K.



Fructose intolerance is common, but it is seldom diagnosed. One cause, hereditary fructose intolerance, is a genetic disorder that can cause serious symptoms in infants and children, but it is usually mild in adults. The symptoms of fructose intolerance are very similar to another sugar intolerance – lactose, the sugar in milk. Many people cannot tolerate lactose and if they eat too much of it will have cramping and diarrhea. Unlike lactose intolerance, which has a simple diagnostic breath test, there is no commonly available test for fructose intolerance.

Fructose is a simple sugar, called a monosaccharide, and is found in many fruits, especially apples, pears, cherries and dates. Fructose is also found in honey and is part of the disaccharide sucrose (table sugar), where it is combined with glucose. What is fascinating yet poorly understood is that when fructose is consumed with glucose, it is absorbed better by people with fructose intolerance. Therefore, the goal in someone with inability to absorb fructose is to reduce or avoid fructose by itself. That means reducing foods and beverages sweetened with high-fructose corn syrup, which is present in many products; eating high-fructose fruits only with meals; and reducing honey intake.

Sorbitol, a sugar alcohol used as a sweetener in “diet” or “sugarless” foods, tends to worsen fructose intolerance and should be avoided.

A vegetarian diet is very healthy for most people, and you shouldn't have to give up your fruits. Just following some simple rules should reduce or eliminate your symptoms.

DEAR DR. ROACH: Does BPH increase the possibility of prostate cancer? – A.L.

Benign prostatic hypertrophy is a common condition in men. About half of men in their 50s have an enlarged prostate, and the proportion gets even higher as men age. The major symptoms of enlarged prostate are difficulty with urine flow, a sensation of decreased emptying, difficulty initiating urination, and increased frequency of urinating, including at night. As symptoms worsen, incontinence can occur and even kidney damage may result due to the high pressure in the bladder.

The first word in “BPH” is “benign”: It is not a cancerous condition. It does not protect against developing cancer, but there does not appear to be an increased risk for cancer among men with symptoms of BPH, according to the most recent studies.

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
The Texas Rangers are generally credited with naming Sweetwater.

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: B equals L

WSW NHY VLHE ZSQVON ZHYXO
MOCSHWSQKBBN THJ GOCN
BSTFJFOKWOW KLW EHYBW FKGO

WSXLON XMOBBX?

Answer Page 4

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

1					2	9		
		8		1			3	
	9		4					7
5					9		6	
	2			5		8		
		1	8					4
	3				7	6		
7			6				5	
		4		2				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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What's in a name?



by Freddy Groves

My birth certificate says I was born at Bolling Air Force Base in Washington, D.C. In recent years that name was changed to Joint Base something-Bolling due to the base realignment. Now, given the current climate, I have to wonder: Will they change the name of the base to something else altogether?

I looked up the man for whom the original base was named, wondering if he was objectionable in any way that would make certain groups of people unhappy enough that they'd demand a name change. History shows that Raynal Cawthorne Bolling was a World War I hero, killed in combat. Wikipedia helpfully provides a bio as well as a photo.

Bolling was an attorney by trade, but when a cadre of wealthy men became part of the Preparedness Movement,

aiming for a strong military, he joined them, rented airplanes and learned to fly. He was ready when the government called him to active duty in 1917. He organized the first reserve air unit, which became the 26th Aero Squadron, and was slated to be the chief of air service for the U.S. II Corps.

Col. Bolling was killed in 1918 as he drove toward the German line on pre-battle reconnaissance. He went down firing his weapon, killing Germans as he died, saving the life of the wounded private with him.

If you were born on a military base, or have children who were, it's time to learn the history of the name of the base that's on the birth certificate, before it's gone forever. Born at Fort Bragg? Fort Hood? Fort Benning? Don't delay in your research.

Even if you think your base was named after someone not likely to cause offense, don't wait. How about Fort Sam? Fort Belvoir?

I've hunted and I can't find anything objectionable about Col. Bolling nor his

background. When patriotism called, he answered. Still, you never know.

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by Jo Ann Derson

• If you go to a yard sale and an item catches your eye, don't be afraid to haggle. If the owner can't agree to your price, give him your name and phone number. If it doesn't sell, he might be ready to accept a lower price.

• "You can sprinkle a bit of baking soda on your porcelain sinks for a non-harsh scrub. It serves a double purpose, because it will also freshen and absorb odors, then get washed right down the drain!" – M.M. in Texas

• Wash and save yogurt cups for kids to use for painting. You can set several in a jelly roll pan to keep them together and upright.

• "I have a beautiful glass window in my front door. Unfortunately, once a day, the sun comes streaming through it and seems to magnify. I have a couple of hooks that are backed by suction cups. I can hang a garden flag from the hooks to cover the window. Sometimes I even use it at night for privacy. It still looks pretty from the other side if I don't take it down, and it didn't involve any holes in my door!" – W.D. in Kentucky

• Make-up bags make the perfect place to stash extra cords and accessories for your computer or other devices. Put them in a basket and all your tech will stay orderly.

• Car Wash Tips: Use a soap that's made for vehicles, because it's less likely to strip the protective coating off your paint. Don't wash in full sun if possible. If you must, then work in small sections to keep soap from drying on the car. Rinse off your sponge regularly – the dirt and grime can scratch the surface. Use a microfiber cloth to dry.

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 4

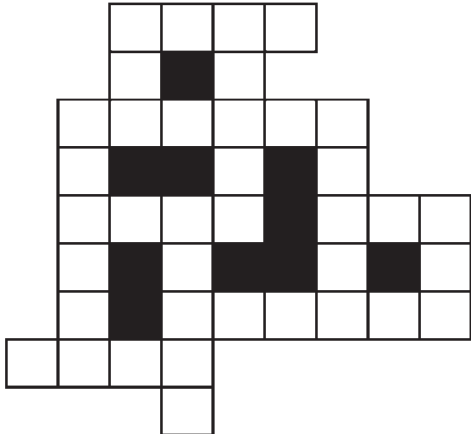
	+		×			10
+		÷		×		
	-		×			5
×		+		+		
	×		-			13
22		9		8		

1 2 3 4 5 6 6 7 8

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GBU
BUENAR
AGTON
LELT
GOBNLE
♥AGT
♥RGBA
NAGOL
♥UNB
TOTMUS
♥MEBAL
♥ERGA



Answer Page 4

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

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