

## NEWSBRIEFS

### Election dates

El Paso County Elections Department schedule for upcoming general election:

- **Monday, October 5**

Last day to register to vote.

Voter Registration Applications are available at any U.S. Post Office, the Department of Public Safety, El Paso Public Libraries, Texas Health and Human Services Commission offices and any local high school. Applications can be mailed or submitted via fax to (915) 546-2220. As of the end of August, El Paso County 's number of registered voters was 474,892.

- **Friday, October 23**

Last day to apply for a Ballot by Mail. (Received, not postmarked.)

- **Tuesday, October 13**

First day of Early Voting.

- **Friday, October 30**

Last day of Early Voting.

- **Tuesday, November 3**

Last day to receive a Ballot by Mail.

- **Tuesday, November 3**

Election Day.

Visit [epcountyvotes.com](http://epcountyvotes.com) for more information.

— Alfredo Vasquez

### She just loves the water

Shades of Gertrude Ederle, the first woman to swim the English Channel at the age of 19. She did it in 1926 and it took her 14 hours and 34 minutes to complete her 21-mile swim and got the nickname, Queen of the Waves. Sixteen-year-old Vera Rivard, who hails from Springfield, NH, was hindered by the tides when she made her channel crossing recently. But, although her route was 33 miles, Rivard beat Ederle's time, clocking in at 14 hours and 10 minutes. She already circumnavigated the island of Manhattan, a swim of 28.5 miles, and now has her mind set on swimming the 20 miles from the coast of California to the island of Santa Catalina, garnering what is known as the "Triple Crown" of long-distance swimming

— John Grimaldi

*Fact is fact and feeling is feeling; never does the second change the first.*

— Quips & Quotes

## Census counting deadline is still not decided

By Alfredo Vasquez  
Special to the Courier

NATION – As the United States began to grapple with the COVID-19 pandemic last spring, U.S. government officials, including the president, acknowledged that more time would be needed to complete the 2020 Census, and they proposed a four-month extension, which would put the delivery of the final census count report due in April of 2021.

But then in August, Census Bureau personnel announced unexpectedly that all counting efforts would end on September 30, with the final census tally report to be finalized and delivered to the president by the end of the year, December 31, 2020.

However, in an internal bureau analysis, census officials warned that if serious errors were to be discovered in the data, they may not be able to fix them within the scheduled completion date because of the time necessary to research and understand the root cause of the problem.

Subsequently, a coalition led by the National Urban League initiated a legal challenge to provide the U.S. Census Bureau with more time to tally the country's population and review results, which are used to determine the distribution of federal funding and political representation for the next decade.

The coalition's efforts convinced a federal judge in California, U.S. District Judge Lucy Koh, to order a temporary restraining order that now throws the national head count further into



— Photo courtesy U.S. Census Bureau

**COUNTING EVERYONE** – A coalition of social justice advocate organizations are pushing for an extended census schedule that re-instates the original counting deadline of October 31. Meanwhile, Census Bureau workers, like the one shown above, continue to visit households that have not responded to the 2020 Census as part of the bureau's Nonresponse Follow-up (NRFU) operation.

uncertainty.

Koh directed the bureau to pause its plans to wrap up census operations this month and scheduled a hearing for the end of this week on the challengers' request

to force counting to continue through October 31.

"I understand the urgency of the ruling

See CENSUS, Page 5

## Operation Connectivity in San Elizario ISD

By Horacio Hernandez  
Special to the Courier

SAN ELIZARIO – Operation Connectivity (OC) is a statewide initiative, which aims to provide a connection to the internet in addition to increasing the availability of devices for school districts, students, and families throughout Texas. The OC project began in the Dallas Independent School District (DISD) and is now a partnership and collaborative effort which includes Governor Greg Abbott and the Texas Education Agency (TEA) and hopes to provide internet connectivity to hundreds of thousands of students throughout the state. The San Elizario ISD (SEISD) is one of the participating districts that applied for Operation Connectivity assistance.

SEISD will be receiving matching funds through the statewide bulk purchasing program. As part of the process SEISD entered into an interlocal acquisition agreement with Region 4 to purchase devices. After careful review of existing District devices and the device specifications offered through the bulk purchase program, the SEISD submitted a request to purchase the following devices and quantities:

- Hotspots (unlimited data): 300 – Districtwide;
- Dell Laptops: 205 – Garcia-Enriquez Middle School;
- HP Chromebooks: 321 – Elementary Schools; and

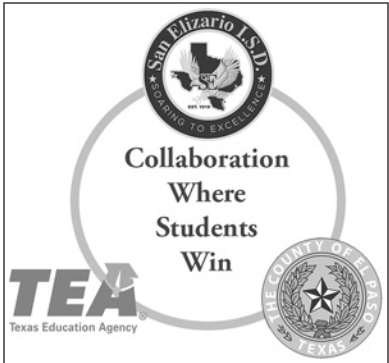
- Apple iPads: 115 – Loya Primary.

The total cost for the devices was \$240,682. The 50% matching rate will allow for SEISD to only pay for \$120,341, which will be covered through ESSER funds. The other 50% was to be matched by The Texas Education Agency through the Coronavirus Relief Fund.

As part of this OC initiative, TEA also had the Coronavirus Relief Fund (CFR) Bulk-Purchase Local Match Reimbursement Program for participating school districts. With this Local Match Reimbursement Program, TEA would contribute a \$1 per \$1 match for any funds contributed to school districts by local City and County entities towards this OC initiative.

On August 10, 2020, the County of El Paso unanimously approved the commitment of matching funds to regional school districts. As a result of this commitment from the County of El Paso, San Elizario was awarded \$60,171 which means that TEA would contribute an additional \$60,171 through the Local Match Reimbursement Program thus bringing down San Elizario ISD's original 50% share of \$120,341 down to \$0.

Superintendent Dr. Meza-Chavez states, "This is the result of the collective effort by Cabinet Team Members such as Mr. Norberto Rivas, the Chief Financial Officer, and Mr. Horacio Hernandez, the Technology Director, along with the Texas Education Agency and that of the local county of El Paso – when there is this type of collaboration, students win."







# Chagrined again

during his first term.

As a matter of fact, Biden may have to change it to “Make America Adequate Again.” We haven’t heard a lot lately about American Exceptionalism, which may have been national hubris anyway. Could that be because Donald Trump has squandered any claim to fame that we had? Where do we start?

How about COVID? Trump’s motto might have been “Do Something Even if It’s Wrong.” In pursuit of re-election, he has made so many bush league moves that it’s unclear how many thousands killed by the coronavirus in this country are a direct result of the mistakes made by him and his people – if not mistakes, absolute lies told in the name of his campaign. If you want to talk

about American Exceptionalism, let’s discuss the exceptional death toll and spread of the coronavirus in the U.S.A. If Joe Biden wins, he will have a major job ahead to undo the public health damage. If Trump wins, it’s possible we are all doomed.

Moving right along our chagrin list... how about race relations, which is not among our strong suits anyway? It’s hard to believe that President Trump has made it far worse with his blatantly racist actions and demagoguery.

On the international stage, he has managed to antagonize just about every one of America’s allies, although he wins popularity contests with the ruthless autocrat set, including North Korea’s Kim Jong Un and Turkey’s Recep Tayyip Erdogan, and even has

an on-again-off-again bond with China’s President Xi Jinping. At the moment it’s off-again, because he’s demeaning China so he can exploit any vestiges of anti-Chinese racism in the United States.

Vladimir Putin is pleased as punch. Whether there was collusion or not, Trump has spent his entire presidency furthering Moscow’s interests, leading some to speculate that Putin has something on him.

Vlad obviously would like to see Donny re-elected. And why not? His agenda is American instability. That’s Trump’s agenda too.

Meanwhile, D. Trump and his sycophantic Republican Party are doing everything they can to discredit America’s election just in case Biden wins. By constantly attacking mail-in balloting, in the age of COVID, he is falsely

arguing that it’s a sure bet it will be fraudulent, undermining one of the remaining fundamental parts of the fragile U.S. identity.

And we haven’t really gotten to the good part. How about our premise that the Trump campaign’s October surprise is a coronavirus vaccine announced just before Election Day? But what if it’s something else? Something so compellingly sleazy about Joe Biden, with no time to check out its veracity?

And, of course, there is great fear that the surprise really comes in November, when after the election Trump refuses to accept defeat. Anything is possible to Make America Ashamed still again.

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## Food for thought By Elizabeth Lee Vliet, M.D.

# Surviving COVID-19: A new model to stop deaths of lives and businesses

The COVID death rate in the United States is one of the highest in the world, even with our advanced medical care delivery and resources. Many less affluent countries have death rates 20 times lower than the U.S., even with fewer hospitals, doctors, nurses and high tech equipment.

What is the common factor that accounts for the marked difference in death rates?

It is quite simply this: Other countries use **EARLY OUTPATIENT TREATMENT** with widely available antiviral medicines, begun at the first signs of symptoms, usually without waiting extra days for test results to confirm the physician’s clinical diagnosis.

The **LATE STAGE** treatment model promoted by Dr. Fauci and FDA’s Dr. Hahn has been for U.S. patients to be sent home to self-quarantine until symptoms

worsened, and then go into the hospital when seriously ill with respiratory distress and heart damage. Only then do patients get offered medication, oxygen support, steroids, anti-coagulants, and others that typically don’t work as well at this critical illness stage.

But home therapy could prevent thousands of hospitalizations and deaths, according to a just-published article<sup>1</sup> from the respected American Journal of Medicine. The U.S. urgently needs to implement this early successful model. Lead author Peter McCullough, M.D., a cardiologist at Baylor, one of the most widely published physicians in America, is not just theorizing. He is actually treating COVID patients at home.

Dr. McCullough’s recommendation would clearly save lives using cheap,

safe, FDA-approved medicines<sup>2</sup> – hydroxychloroquine (HCQ) with azithromycin or doxycycline, possibly ivermectin or colchicine, inhaled budesonide or oral steroids, home oxygen concentrators, plus supplemental zinc, vitamin C and vitamin D.

The supply of HCQ has been ramped up to handle its use in early treatment of COVID, but we have millions of doses in the Strategic National Stockpile deteriorating in government warehouses – vital medicine that is not being distributed because, for political reasons, doctors are still not prescribing for COVID-19 outpatients.

Why don’t Americans have the freedom to use HCQ as in other countries? FDA’s false narrative about HCQ causing harm to outpatients has led to more deaths with unprecedented restrictions on physicians’

off-label prescribing rights imposed by state governors, medical boards and pharmacy boards. Thirty-seven states still restrict HCQ<sup>3</sup>.

There are other major forces pushing **AGAINST** home-based treatment that have resulted in our high death rate. These coordinated efforts are amplified by the main stream media megaphone perpetuating the constant drum beat of fear to keep the public afraid of returning to normal activities.

- The hospital lobby is preventing outpatient treatment to maintain hospital income. The issues raised in Avik Roy’s classic 2013 review<sup>4</sup> have been made worse during the COVID-19 pandemic because hospitals received significantly

See COVID, Page 4

1973

47

Years

2020

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# Democrats should worry about mail-in voting

There's a giant scheme afoot to disenfranchise voters in November – it's called mail-in balloting.

Mail-in voting has, like many things in our politics, taken on the aspect of tribal warfare – if President Donald Trump is vociferously against it, Democrats must be vociferously for it, and vice versa.

Absentee voting is unquestionably less secure than in-person voting, but there's no evidence of widespread fraud.

Nor is there evidence that, at least prior to this campaign, mail-in voting has favored Democrats, as the president believes.

There is inevitably going to be more mail-in voting in the fall, but in-person voting is superior. Only about one-hundredth of 1% of in-person votes are rejected, whereas rejection rates of 1% are common with mail-in votes, and some states exceeded that during their primaries this year.

This should be a five-alarm worry for Democrats. According

to polling, almost twice as many Biden supporters as Trump supporters say they'll vote by mail this year. According to NPR, studies show "that voters of color and young voters are more likely than others to have their ballots not count." In another universe, if Trump were urging Democrats to stay away from the polls and instead use a method more likely to get their votes discarded, it'd be attacked as a dastardly voter suppression scheme.

There are at least three ways that

mail-in voting could contribute to a 2020 nightmare. Trump could be winning on election night, and the outcome slowly reverse over time. Delayed by the volume of mail-in ballots, states could blow past the deadline for finalizing their results. And if the margins in battleground states are very close, rejected mail-in ballots could lead to protracted, high-stakes court fights.

More than a half-million ballots were rejected in this year's presidential primaries. Ballots are discarded for improper postmarks and signatures, and mail-in voters are also more prone to accidentally vote for more than one candidate or make other errors.

In its primaries, New York delivered up the perfect storm of ramped-up mail-in voting and inadequate preparation. In the 12th Congressional District, it took weeks to declare a winner, and the number of rejected mail ballots was roughly three times Rep. Carolyn Maloney's 3,700-vote margin of victory over challenger Suraj Patel.

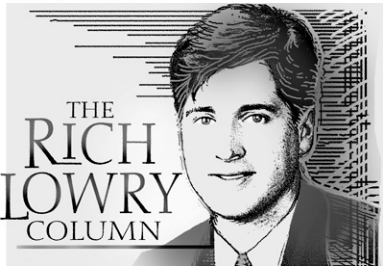
What happened in New York easily could preview the general election. NPR notes that more than 23,000 absentee ballots were rejected in Wisconsin's primary this year, exceeding Trump's

margin in the state in 2016. Nearly 40,000 were rejected in Pennsylvania, where Trump won by 44,000 votes in 2016.

In light of all this, it makes sense, first and foremost, to try to make more options available for in-person voting.

In addition, states should allow the counting of mail-in ballots prior to Election Day to minimize any swing in the count afterward. Congress should delay the date that states have to finalize their results, currently Dec. 8. And election officials and the parties should do everything they can to educate mail-in voters to do it correctly.

What should be intolerable is any attempt to change the rules after the fact, although it's entirely conceivable that Democrats will feel compelled after Nov. 3 to argue that the mail-in voting that they've done so much to promote is desperately flawed and deeply unjust.



View from here

By John Grimaldi

## Bill would give low-income families access to medical care and save billions in government healthcare costs

"The outbreak of the deadly coronavirus pandemic has made healthcare a 'top of mind' issue for most Americans, particularly among low-income citizens. "And, it has put a new focus on the 2020 Physician Pro Bono Care Act currently under consideration in Congress," according to the Association of Mature American Citizens (AMAC).

The legislation was designed to increase both choice and access to quality healthcare for the Nation's underprivileged. It would also save billions in government outlays for Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP).

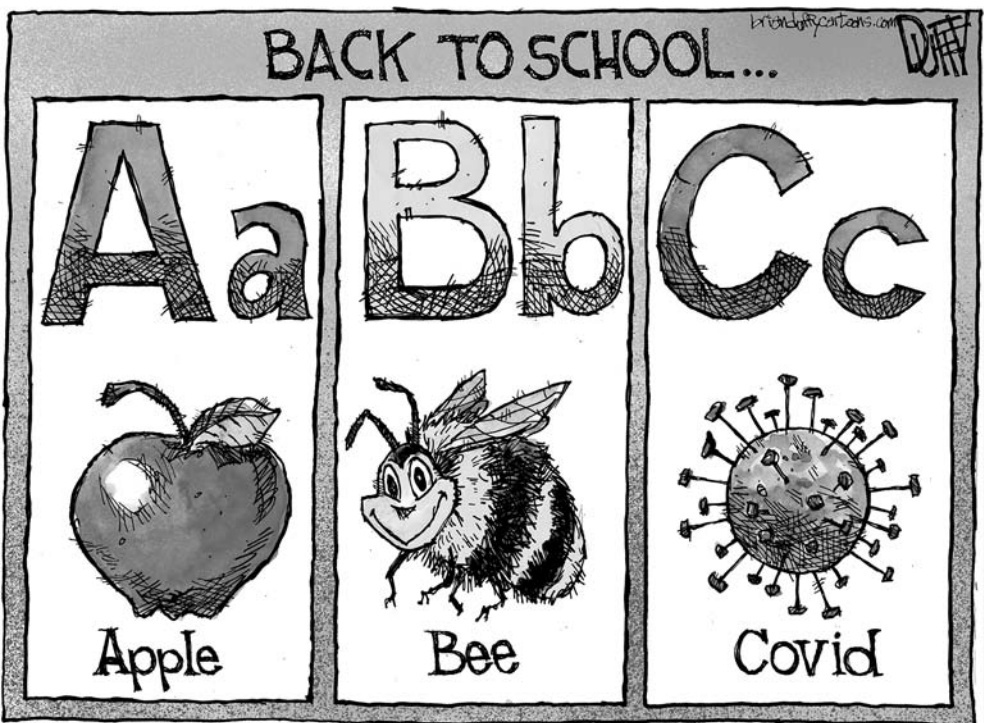
Bob Carlstrom, president of AMAC Action, the association's advocacy affiliate, says he is encouraged by the bi-partisan support the measure has attracted among lawmakers. "The measure

was introduced in the House of Representatives by Rep. Dan Webster (R-FL) and Colin Peterson (D-MN) and has garnered a growing list of co-sponsors on both sides of the aisle, perhaps because of its simplicity," he noted.

It would allow physicians, dentists, and other healthcare providers to take a straightforward charitable tax deduction for providing pro-bono healthcare to Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) patients. By moving low-income patients from emergency rooms to offices and clinics, this legislation could save billions in government healthcare costs.

As Congressman Webster put it when the bill was

See BILL, Page 4





COVID

From Page 2

higher payments for COVID patients, especially those who go on a ventilator.

• Big Pharma pushes for new high-cost medicines still on patent – for example, Gilead’s major push to discredit HCQ and favor remdesivir, its costly experimental drug.

• Enormous financial conflicts exist within the NIH, CDC and FDA – all of whom get payments from pharmaceutical companies and vaccine manufacturers, as well as income from patents on new vaccine adjuvants and processes. Dr. McCullough’s editorial<sup>5</sup>, “The Great Gamble of Covid-19 Vaccine Development,” explained this multibillion-dollar financial incentive to preserve vaccine windfall profits in wealthy countries.

• Big Medicine, as shown clearly by the AMA’s actions to falsely malign HCQ,

no longer advocates for physicians and patients, but works to protect its revenue from government contracts.

• Academic medical centers all have research programs dependent on NIH grants. Many academic physicians have been “muzzled” by their institutions from speaking out because of threatened loss of funding.

In contrast, the forces pushing FOR early, home-based treatment are few in number, smaller, and do not have financial clout or a media megaphone.

• One medical organization, the Association of American Physicians and Surgeons (AAPS), has stood against the juggernaut preventing access to HCQ with many efforts, including a lawsuit against FDA<sup>6</sup>.

• Frontline doctors, primarily independent physicians not employed by hospitals or contracted with insurance companies that dictate treatment protocols doctors are allowed to use.

• Grassroots citizens groups such as the

Tea Party Patriots, Open Texas, America’s Black Robe Regiment, and a few others.

• A few national political leaders willing to advocate publicly for early and widespread access to HCQ: President Trump, Trade Advisor Peter Navarro, Senator Ron Johnson, Congressmen Andy Biggs (AZ) and Louie Gohmert (TX).

So what do patients need to do NOW to advocate for early home treatment if they get sick? Here are 10 ACTION STEPS to take:

1) PRINT Dr. McCullough’s article and read about your options before you get sick.

2) COPY Dr. McCullough’s article and give to your doctors and family members.

3) ASK your doctor now: “If I get sick with COVID, will you treat me at home with medicines already available for off-label use?”

4) CHECK with your pharmacist: “Will you dispense HCQ if I get sick with COVID and my doctor prescribes it?”

5) If your doctor and pharmacist will not prescribe or dispense HCQ, start now to explore other options – next four steps.

6) READ about Telemedicine options to see what is available for early intervention and treatment at home.

7) IDENTIFY the TeleMedicine services that fit your needs and budget, and keep a list handy in case you get sick.

8) SEARCH for direct pay primary care medical practices who are more likely to tailor treatment to your individual needs. You need a trusted physician who shares your views.

9) LOCATE independent pharmacies who will dispense the medicines you need and ship to you – they may be in another state.

10) ACT to stay healthy! Adequate sleep, exercise preferably outdoors NOT wearing a mask, prayer and meditation (immune boosters!), eat healthy diet avoiding excess sugars and processed foods, take vitamins such as zinc, vitamin C, vitamin D, and

See COVID, Page 6

Bill

From Page 3

introduced: “This bill removes government bureaucracy and red-tape that obstructs the patient-doctor relationship, and it expands access to doctors for some of the more vulnerable in our society.” Representative Peterson called it an “important reform.”

By providing physicians with a charitable deduction for treating Medicaid and CHIP eligible patients in their communities, this legislation will provide low-income families and individuals greater access to healthcare. Additionally, this concept avoids the administratively burdensome and costly reimbursement processes of both Medicaid and CHIP, if a physician chooses to use it.

As for its appeal among the healthcare community, Carlstrom explained that a survey conducted by AMAC showed that members of associations representing 350,000 doctors and nurse practitioners would be willing to participate in such a plan. It means that, if each of them took on 20 eligible patients, seven million needy patients who would be covered.

“The net benefits would be that the low-income population, including many senior citizens, would have free access to quality healthcare from doctors they choose and the nation, as a whole, would save money. In fact, it is estimated that the government could save as much as \$40 billion a year, and maybe more, in Medicaid payments and costly emergency room visits, the ‘go-to’ alternative for people who can’t afford to pay medical fees,” says Carlstrom.

AMAC Action is a 501(c)(4) nonprofit advocacy organization created to assist Association of Mature American Citizens members.



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A message from the National Diabetes Education Program, sponsored by the National Institutes of Health and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.






# Moments in time

THE HISTORY CHANNEL

- On Sept. 21, 1942, the B-29 Superfortress makes its debut flight in Seattle. The long-range heavy bomber contained a pilot console in the rear, in the event the front pilot was knocked out of commission.
- On Sept. 22, 1953, the first four-level (or “stack”) interchange in the world opens in Los Angeles at the intersection of the Harbor, Hollywood, Pasadena and Santa Ana freeways, 32 lanes of traffic weaving in eight directions at once.
- On Sept. 23, 1908, a game between the New York Giants and Chicago Cubs ends in 1-1 tie after a controversial call at second base. The officials ruled that Giants first baseman Fred Merkle was out because he failed to touch second base, a call that has been disputed ever since.
- On Sept. 24, 1789, the Judiciary Act of 1789 is passed by Congress and signed by President George Washington, establishing the Supreme Court of the United States as a tribunal made up of six justices who were to serve until death or retirement. The number of justices was changed in 1869 to nine.
- On Sept. 25, 1894, President Grover Cleveland issues a presidential proclamation pardoning Mormons who had previously engaged in unlawful polygamous marriages. His proclamation ensured that their property and civil rights were restored.
- On Sept. 26, 1960, for the first time in U.S. history, a debate between presidential candidates is shown on television. The presidential hopefuls, John F. Kennedy and Richard M. Nixon, met in a Chicago studio.
- On Sept. 27, 1989, Hollywood socialite Zsa Zsa Gabor, on trial for slapping a police officer during a traffic stop, storms out of the courtroom. Gabor had been pulled over for expired tags, expired license, open alcohol container then attempting to leave the scene. She slapped the officer when he caught up with her.

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Send Your Newsbrief To: [wtxcc@wtxcc.com](mailto:wtxcc@wtxcc.com)




# Strange BUT TRUE

By Lucie Winborne


- It’s illegal to kill Bigfoot in British Columbia. That is, if you ever actually run across him.
- In March 2019, the Roosevelt Hotel in New Orleans celebrated its 125th anniversary by offering a free seven-night stay in the presidential suite, along with complimentary private dinners and spa treatments worth \$15,000. But this wasn’t your everyday giveaway – the prize was only available to the person who returned the “most outrageous” item ever stolen from the hotel!
- The earliest toothpaste was made in ancient Egypt from crushed pepper, rock salt and dried flowers. No, it wasn’t particularly effective.
- Speaking of toothpaste, that blob on your toothbrush is called a nurdle.
- Enjoy the smell of fresh-cut grass after mowing your lawn? Researchers have determined the scent is a chemical compound given off by plants in distress. They emit a similar odor when attacked by caterpillars or other predatory insects.
- In 1979, Elvita Adams, jobless and facing eviction, attempted suicide by jumping off the 86th floor of the Empire State Building but survived with just a fractured pelvis when she was blown back to the 85th floor by a strong gust of wind.
- When the first Spanish explorers arrived at the Yucatan peninsula, they naturally asked what the area was called. The response, “Yucatan,” was a Yucatec Maya word meaning “I don’t understand what you’re saying.”
- Queen lead singer Freddy Mercury had a degree in graphic design and came up with the logo for his band himself. It consisted of the zodiac symbols for the four band members. Mercury also liked to call his cats while he was on tour – “to chat.”
- The average male becomes bored with a shopping trip in about 26 minutes. His female companion typically lasts two hours.
- No U.S. president has ever died in the month of May.

Thought for the Day: “The way I see it, if you want the rainbow, you gotta put up with the rain.”  
– Dolly Parton

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# United States™ Census Bureau



– Image courtesy U.S. Census Bureau

**WHO GETS MONEY –** The U.S. Constitution mandates a census of the population every 10 years. The goal of the 2020 Census is to count everyone who lived in the United States on April 1, 2020 (Census Day). Census statistics are used to determine the number of seats each state holds in the U.S. House of Representatives and determines how billions of dollars in federal funds will be allocated by state, local and federal lawmakers annually for the next 10 years.

## Census

From Page 1

and the gravity of the situation here,” Koh emphasized during a recent court conference, adding that she will do her “utmost to get a ruling out as soon as possible” after the hearing.

A similar federal lawsuit based in Maryland has also gained momentum as plaintiffs’ attorneys with the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund and Asian Americans Advancing Justice prepare for a hearing on their request to extend the census schedule.

Additionally, some lawmakers on Capitol Hill are working to try to adjust the census schedule, and a bipartisan group of senators introduced legislation with deadline extensions that they hope can be passed by the end of this month.

Meanwhile, census workers have been visiting households that have not responded to the 2020 Census as part of its Nonresponse Follow-up (NRFU) operation. To ensure a complete and accurate count, census takers are visiting households and entering the information on their Census Bureau-issued computer tablets to guarantee that the information is expeditiously secured.

Households can also continue to self-respond online at [2020census.gov](https://2020census.gov) or by phone, at 844-330-2020 for English, or 844-468-2020 for Spanish. Self-responding online, by phone, or by mail reduces the likelihood a census taker will visit a person’s home.

Because of the on-going pandemic, the Census Bureau and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) are working together to protect the health and safety of the public and census employees.

Census officials stated that participation in 2020 Census in-person interviews should present a low risk of transmission of COVID-19. They said that

Census takers are trained to rigorously and universally follow the CDC recommendations to mitigate the risk of transmission including wearing face masks, maintaining social distance of 6 feet or more, practicing hand hygiene, and not entering homes instead conducting interviews outside as much as possible.

According to bureau officials, the Census takers are hired from the local communities as all census takers speak English with many of them being bilingual. Officials stated that if a census taker does not speak the householder’s language, the householder may request a return visit from a census taker who does.

Census takers also have materials on hand to help identify the household’s language. If no one is home when the census taker visits, the census taker

will leave a notice of their visit with information about how to respond online, by phone, or by mail.

People are encouraged to cooperate with census takers and ensure that everyone who was living in their household as of April 1, 2020, is counted. Census takers can be easily identified by a valid government ID badge with their photograph, a U.S. Department of Commerce watermark, and an expiration date on the badge. To confirm a census taker’s identity, the public may contact the Denver/Dallas Regional Census Center, at 972-510-1800 to speak with a Census Bureau representative.

For more information about the court’s pending decision on the Census Bureau’s counting deadline, visit the bureau’s website, at [2020census.gov](https://2020census.gov).

## Notice of Public Meeting To Discuss San Elizario Independent School District’s State Financial Accountability Rating (FIRST)

DUE TO HEALTH AND SAFETY CONCERNS RELATED TO THE COVID-19 CORONAVIRUS, the San Elizario Independent School District will hold a virtual public hearing at 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, October 14, 2020.

**Event address for attendees:**

<https://seisd.webex.com/seisd/onstage/g.php?MTID=e8ca5d3578556fd4b76234a9f09dfb789>

Event number: 146 750 4518  
Event password: jRABMdNd422

**Audio conference:**

United States Toll +1-408-418-9388  
Access code: 146 750 4518

The purpose of this hearing is to discuss San Elizario Independent School District’s rating on the state’s financial accountability system. This meeting will be held in conjunction with the scheduled Board of Trustees’ Meeting.

WTCC: 09-24-20



**By Steve Escajeda**  
*Special to the Courier*

From the wearing of masks, to staying six feet away, to seeing empty grocery shelves, to the closing of businesses, to the shortage of coins, to rioting in the streets, to constantly having your temperature taken, to wanting to get rid of the police, to working from home.

From Page 4

The Bottom Line: “If you get COVID-19, you don’t want to be admitted to hospital. The death rate for patients sick enough to be admitted is quite high. And you will probably be a prisoner with no visits from family, clergy, or the doctor of your choice. Patients need a trusted physician who shares their views,” said Dr. Jane Orient, Executive Director of AAPS.

- 1 – <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0002934320306732>
- 2 – <https://www.medrxiv.org/content/10.1101/2020.07.16.20155531v2>
- 3 – <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1cmqSaRhZlgZn365vLdczqLYisLkXqKkqZamo6JT124/edit>
- 4 – <https://www.nationalreview.com/magazine/2013/08/05/arm-and-leg/>
- 5 – <https://thehill.com/opinion/healthcare/512191-the-great-gamble-of-covid-19-vaccine-development>
- 6 – <https://aapsonline.org/fda-is-hoarding-life-saving-drugs-while-americans-die/>

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1E9ZxE OJ6nH6C4qE8KEF8byt1LYqkGorOol2ZQwAKml0/edit>

And so far this year, they have not.

Then last Saturday, they went into the fourth quarter tied 10-10 with little Abilene Christian, before squeaking out

The Miners may be 2-1, but they're miles away from being a winning football team.



**Answer Page 7**

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				
29	30							31		32	33	34	35				36			
37			38	39	40			41								42				
43							44	45						46	47	48			49	50
				51								52						53		54
55	56	57						58		59	60	61		62				63	64	
65					66	67							68				69			
70				71						72							73			
74							75	76							77	78			79	
80							81				82							83		
84							85				86				87		88	89		
	90			91	92							93	94	95					96	97
												98								









**Moore Texas** by Roger Moore  
**Sept. 20, 1967: Powerful storm Beulah roars into the Rio Grande Valley and blows away several weathermen.**

## CryptoQuip

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

Clue: P equals R

MAB EDE SAFE ZHTTO QMPAYXM  
QMLQ HLPXT TLPQMGYLUT?  
D ZYOOAZT MT BLZ ZMLUTF,  
SYQ FAQ ZQDPSTE!

Answer Page 7

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## Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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 7

♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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# VA boosts COVID aid



by Freddy Groves

The Department of Veterans Affairs has taken two important steps to help veterans during the COVID pandemic: financial and housing for the homeless.

**Debt Relief:** The VA is extending financial debt relief through the end of the year. That’s going to be a big help to many of us who are struggling. If you are making payments, repayment is going to be more flexible. One step is that the VA is suspending the collection action or extending payment terms on existing debts.

If you have benefit debts, call the VA Debt Management Center at 1-800-827-0648 and ask for help.

If you have health care debts, call the Health Resource Center at 1-866-400-1238. To learn more, go online to [www.pay.gov](http://www.pay.gov) and click on the Coronavirus (COVID-19) alert.

**Emergency Housing:** The VA is kicking in an additional

\$400 million of COVID relief funding to expand its response to veterans who are either already homeless or about to become homeless. The Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act (CARES Act) gave \$17.2 billion to the VA, which initially allotted \$700 million to homelessness.

The additional \$400 million will go a long way to preventing veteran homelessness and providing emergency housing as part of the Supportive Services for Veteran Families Program. The idea, of course, is to provide housing that will allow physical safety and social distancing.

In addition, the VA is providing \$88 million for the Grant and Per Diem Program and \$10 for the Health Care for Homeless Veterans Program. The GPD Program utilizes eligible civilian organization to provide transitional housing for those who are already homeless or who are in danger of it.

If you and your family need permanent housing, go online to [www.va.gov/homeless/hud-vash.asp](http://www.va.gov/homeless/hud-vash.asp). This HUD/VA

collaboration provides rental assistance vouchers if you’re eligible for VA health care. Included can be case managers for health care, mental health and substance-use counseling. This is one of VA’s largest programs for homelessness.

The VA isn’t perfect, but it’s trying. Use its services because you earned them.

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• “Whenever a stew or soup recipe calls for whole herbs to be used and then taken out later, I put them in a tea infuser. I could never seem to get them all before, and inevitably someone would be served a whole bay leaf or such. This makes it foolproof.” – J.R. in Georgia

• You can use an old toothbrush or nail brush to get grime out of the hinge area of the toilet seat.

• If you have a plant cutting you are trying to root in water, here’s a tip to keep the end from resting on the bottom of your container: Use a twist tie wrapped around the stem on one side and hooked over the edge of the container on the other.

• “Whenever I get new e-mail addresses, I always add them to my online address book. I also write them in my old-fashioned paper address book. Sounds like a no-brainer, but you’d be surprised by how many people rely on their e-mail address book to remember all those addresses. It just takes one time for a computer virus to erase everything – not to mention if something happens to your hard drive. Just a reminder!” – B.R. in Pennsylvania

• Using ice-cold sour cream instead of ice-cold water in your pie crust recipe will give you a flakier crust.

• Here’s a tip to gauge your exercise level: If you can’t get out a sentence, then you are in a high intensity phase. If you can’t talk at all during your entire workout, you are going too hard.

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 7

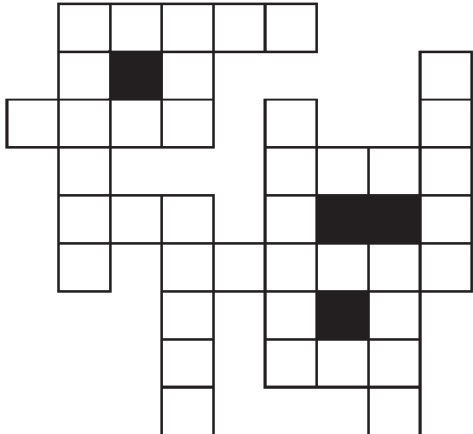
	×		-		20
-		×		÷	
	+		×		12
×		-		+	
	×		-		12
15		14		15	

1 3 4 5 6 6 7 8 9

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♥ ABN  
GRNIC  
GRUSA  
♥ ENWA  
TUDPEA  
♥ GSA  
GIPN  
BUTCI  
♥ BGO  
♥ RADNEW  
♥ SWEDO  
♥ USBT



Answer Page 7

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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