

## NEWSBRIEFS

### A very pricey vintage

A bottle of France's famed Petrus 2000 Bordeaux can fetch \$6,500 per bottle or more, but a bottle that Christie's is offering in a private sale is expected to bring in a lot more – upwards of a million dollars. Why? Because of its unique flavor, according to a panel of wine experts. The wine, they claim, is extra special and worth the big bucks because it spent 14 months aging in space aboard the International Space Station. A company called Space Cargo Unlimited put the bottle up for sale. Space Cargo's CEO Nicolas Gaume says that "After spending almost 440 days in Space, or the equivalent of 300 trips to the moon, legendary Bordeaux wine Petrus comes back having been transformed in a way which is, literally, out of this world." The buyer who winds up with this rare bottle of Petrus will receive a bottle of regular, down to earth Petrus so that he or she can compare them. They'll also get a decanter, glasses and a corkscrew made from meteorite, to boot.

– John Grimaldi

### Riding out the pandemic

How's a kid to cope with the self-isolating restrictions during the COVID crisis? Ben Tolliday of Sandy Springs, GA says he likes to build stuff, so he built himself a roller coaster. Despite the fact that Ben is self-confident, when he finished turning his family's backyard into an amusement park, he had his concerns. As he put it, "I was absolutely terrified. But I guess because I built it, I knew how sturdy it was. So, I was pretty confident I'd be OK, but I was screaming my head off. It was crazy." His mom says she's looking forward to getting her yard back but she's also proud of her son and enjoyed her turn to take a ride on Ben's contraption. Ben is heading to college in the fall and says he's thinking about a career in the roller coaster business.

– John Grimaldi

### A very fast woman

It happened in Overland Park, KS. A woman was out for a Sunday drive when she was pulled over by a cop who said he'd clocked her going 149 miles per hour. No way, she said, "when I looked down at the speedometer, I was doing 128 mph."

– John Grimaldi

*The average economist thinks he knows more about money than the people that who have it.*

– Quips & Quotes

## Terrazas wins Change Maker Award

By Adriana Candelaria  
Special to the Courier

ANTHONY – A student can become the teacher, but in Priscilla Terrazas' case, the teacher has become a student.

Terrazas is the science and robotics teacher at Anthony Middle School although her career started with a background in science only. When the opportunity to sponsor a robotics class came, Terrazas took courses to learn computer science.

"My students and I were learning at the same time," Terrazas said.

Due to Terrazas' outstanding dedication to initiate robotics clubs and to lead STEM classes, We\_TeachCS has awarded her the 2020-2021 Change Maker Award. The award is given to teachers, administrators and counselors who make a difference in expanding computer science opportunities for students.

"I've seen some of the change makers in the past, and I feel like I'm not even close to their level but it's amazing. I feel like I should be awarding them for helping me," Terrazas said.

Terrazas led the robotics team at other school districts before coming to Anthony ISD. She offered to start the first robotics club at AISD and tapped into the curious

minds of students who previously had limited options.

"At the first meeting, I had more than 30 middle school students show up. I thought 'wow, that's a lot of kids, that's the size of football and volleyball teams!'," Terrazas said.

The team fundraised to purchase essential robot kits, which Terrazas says cost anywhere between \$400 and \$700.

"Ideally, we should have one robot for two kids, but because we bought a few of them, it was like five students to a robot," Terrazas said.

Despite the challenges with equipment, the team began competing one year after it formed and advanced three times to state finals. Terrazas says one of her groups was different from anything she had seen before.

"I had a whole girl group at AISD, and they advanced to state finals two years in a row. I loved that there was a huge interest from the girls. Previously, I mainly had male students in my robotics teams," Terrazas said.

As the robotics students advanced grade levels, Terrazas says she felt inclined to start a high school robotics class so the students' passions would not end in middle school.

Terrazas signed up for more classes with WeTeach\_CS, a part of The University



– Photo courtesy Anthony ISD

Priscilla Terrazas

of Texas at Austin's Texas Advanced Computing Center (TACC). Through WeTeach\_CS, Terrazas learns the skills necessary to lead the robotics team at the high school level.

Terrazas is currently working on her computer certification so she can offer computer science classes at the middle school level. Her goal is to start an engineering program at AISD as well.

## UTEP, Texas Tech partnership spurs research with grants

By Alfredo Vasquez  
Special to the Courier

EL PASO COUNTY – To expand health research projects in the region, the University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP)

and Texas Tech Health Sciences Center El Paso (TTUHSC El Paso) have joined efforts to identify and financially support local medical research endeavors that could have significant impact on the well being of borderland residents.

And officials with the partnership,

deemed the Joint Seed Grant Program, announced recently that it has selected eight promising projects to award its initial grants.

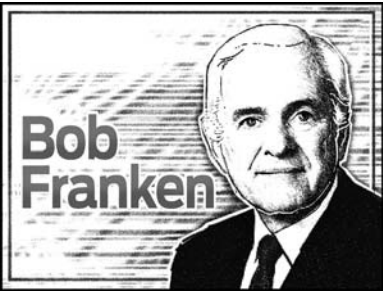
The eight research teams, each comprised of one researcher from UTEP and one from TTUHSC El Paso, will receive funding from the grant program, as each institution agreed to contribute up to \$100,000 over two years to incubate the research projects,

See PARTNERSHIP, Page 6



– Photo courtesy University of Texas at El Paso

MANY HANDS – Texas Tech Health Sciences Center El Paso President Dr. Richard Lange and University of Texas at El Paso President Heather Wilson are shown in the center of photo above with participants of the Joint Seed Grant Program.



# Can Trump still pack the house?

How could it be that even though reservations have been open since mid-June and it's nearly six months away, sales for Donald Trump's Florida and Texas appearances in mid-December have been blah. You'd think they would have been sold out by now, particularly since Trump will be paired with... wait for it... Bill O'Reilly!

The reaction has been underwhelming, even though the Trumpster promises that the four-appearance conversation tour will be "fun, fun, fun for everyone who attends." O'Reilly adds, "It will not be boring."

Tickets run between \$100 each for the cheap seats and \$300 for the not so cheap ones. There is a package available for \$8,500 – the VIP Meet and Greet combo – which includes pictures and a 45-minute reception. It's tempting.

Apparently, not tempting for enough people. A promoter at one of the four venues says that sales should have been higher. "It hasn't been [selling] like crazy." This would have been unheard of in the good old days, like a few months ago. The pace of sales and the state of mind of those scooping up all the rally tickets could have been counted on to be frenzied, particularly for a Donald Trump-Bill O'Reilly extravaganza. Is this a case of out of sight out of mind?

Perhaps the erosion has imperceptibly started, taking its baby steps. To be sure, the Donald Trump magic is still there in Republican circles. Among GOP diehards, defying Trump would seem to be displaying a death wish. Democrat Joe Biden may be president, but clearly the issue in the midterm elections will continue to be the Donald Trump presidency and post-presidency. Is Trump – and O'Reilly, for that matter – an icon whose tarnish is beginning to show? Will their speeches be overtaken by subsequent events, like the

anniversary of the insurrection at the Capitol? Will the mob invasion that trashed the Capitol last Jan. 6 influence balloting for control of Congress on Nov. 8 of next year?

And incidentally, what will President Biden's record add to the mix? Will the anti-vaxxer resistance to proven remedies stymie efforts to defeat COVID once and for all? The list of day-to-day crises that can change minds is long: political issues like Afghanistan, voter suppression, infrastructure and dealing with climate change, to say nothing of inflation and the dreaded TBA, to be announced.

Perhaps booking tickets to the Trump-O'Reilly jubilee is still on someone's to-do list, along with planning for the next confrontation at the U.S. Capitol building.

In other words, it's too early, in July, to draw conclusions about what will be going on in December. For so many of us, crippling snow will replace crippling heat. But the political climate will have changed very

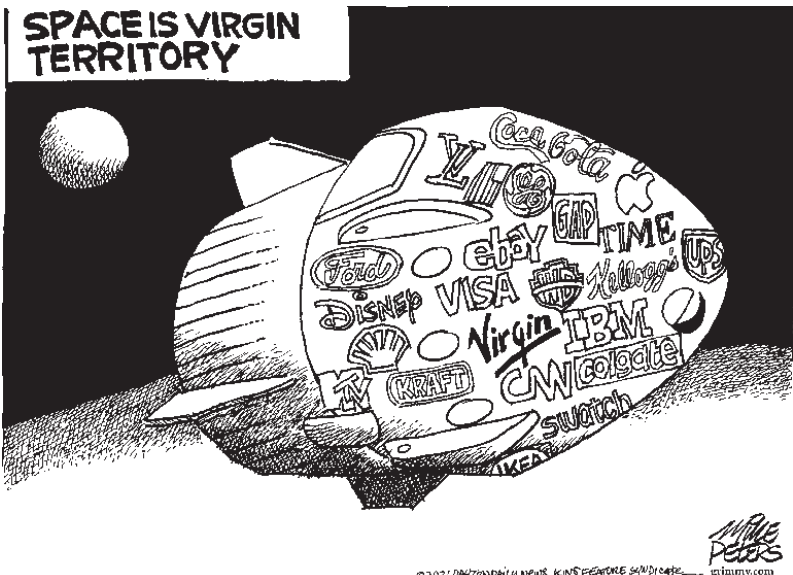
little.

White supremacists will be accusing liberals of being communists, and vice versa. Everybody will blame Facebook, Twitter and YouTube for misinformation. Donald Trump will sue and be sued. Joe Biden will go on being terminally boring, and us pundits will debate about whether that's a good or bad thing. Coincidentally, those who prepare year-enders will

be asking that same question, although this year will probably inherently be no match for last year's ongoing worldwide pandemic.

And will we still be trying to answer the question: Are Donald Trump and Bill O'Reilly appearances really worth going to, or are they a colossal waste of time?

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## Socorro Independent School District PUBLIC NOTICE

### Public Meeting to Review Federally Funded Programs

The Socorro Independent School District will conduct a public information meeting to review the following 2021 – 2023 Federal Grant:

- Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER II) Fund

A Regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of Socorro ISD will be held August 17, 2021, beginning at 6:00 PM in the District Service Center Board Room, 12440 Rojas Drive, El Paso, Texas 79928. All persons in physical attendance may choose to wear face masks, maintain at least 3 feet of social distance from one another, and remain in compliance with any other state and local public health orders issued in connection with the Covid-19 Pandemic.

The meeting will also be made available to the public at the following live stream link: <https://youtu.be/nNFtzWmJkmo>

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## Distrito Escolar Independiente de Socorro AVISO PUBLICO

### La junta Pública para Revisar los Programas de Fondos Federales

El Distrito Escolar Independiente de Socorro llevará a cabo una junta pública para revisar este programa federal:

- Fondo de Alivio de Emergencia para Escuelas Primarias y Secundarias (ESSER II)

El 17 de agosto de 2021 se llevará a cabo una reunión regular de la Mesa Directiva de Socorro ISD a partir de las 6:00 p. m. en la sala de juntas del Centro de Servicios del Distrito, 12440 Rojas Drive, El Paso, Texas 79928. Todas las personas que asistan físicamente pueden optar por usar cubrebocas, mantener al menos 3 pies de distancia social unos de otros y cumplir con cualquier otra orden de salud pública estatal y local emitido en relación con la pandemia Covid-19.

La reunión también estará disponible para el público en el siguiente enlace de transmisión en vivo: <https://youtu.be/nNFtzWmJkmo>

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# The president who wasn't there

Teddy Roosevelt fervently believed that the president of the United States should be at the center of the political universe, constantly attracting attention to himself. But he'd never met Joe Biden.

Biden is the most powerful man in the world and yet makes almost no impression.

No one, besides political and media professionals, wonders what Biden is going to say about something or considers him a figure of fascination. In fact, he barely rates.

His recent CNN town hall was a fizzle, averaging only 1.5 million viewers. Fox News easily beat it with its regular programming, and MSNBC had more viewers as well, dumping the president of the United States into third place in the cable-ratings race.

He's underperformed in more formal settings, too. Biden drew 27 million for his first address to a joint session of Congress, whereas Donald Trump drew 48 million.

The contrast with Trump's constant, impossible-to-ignore cocktail of provocation and political melodrama, naturally makes Biden's approach even more stark.

He's the Olympic badminton competition after a WWE match;

he's elevator music after a heavy metal concert; he's the sparkler after a fireworks display.

Biden's presidency is, in this sense, practically premodern, almost harkening back to the pre-mass-media days when presidents were neither seen nor heard.

Of course, this is in part a deliberate choice by the White House, playing on the contrast with Trump and limiting Biden's exposure to avoid distractions (and gaffes). Being a notably low-voltage political figure worked for Biden in his comeback primary campaign and in the 2020 general election, so why not as president?

As a result, Biden strangely doesn't feel like the main event of the Biden years.

Assuming it arrives, the midterm backlash in 2022 won't be directly about Biden; instead, it will be driven by the Biden-adjacent issues of the border, crime, critical race theory and – if they reemerge in force – mask mandates and school closures.

Biden is the prime driver of only one of these issues, the crisis at the border that easily could have been avoided by keeping in place the policies the Trump administration had implemented to get control of the flow of migrants.

In other words, the culture

war itself is likely to be the overwhelming issue in 2022, rather than the president.

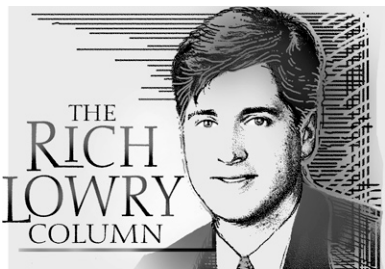
This would be a marked departure from the midterm shellackings that Bill Clinton and Barack Obama got in 1994 and 2010, which were deeply personal rejections of both men (Clinton was viewed as a draft dodger unworthy of the office and Obama as a crypto-

socialist hostile to American exceptionalism).

If no one on the right is enamored of Biden, very little energy is invested in opposing him as such.

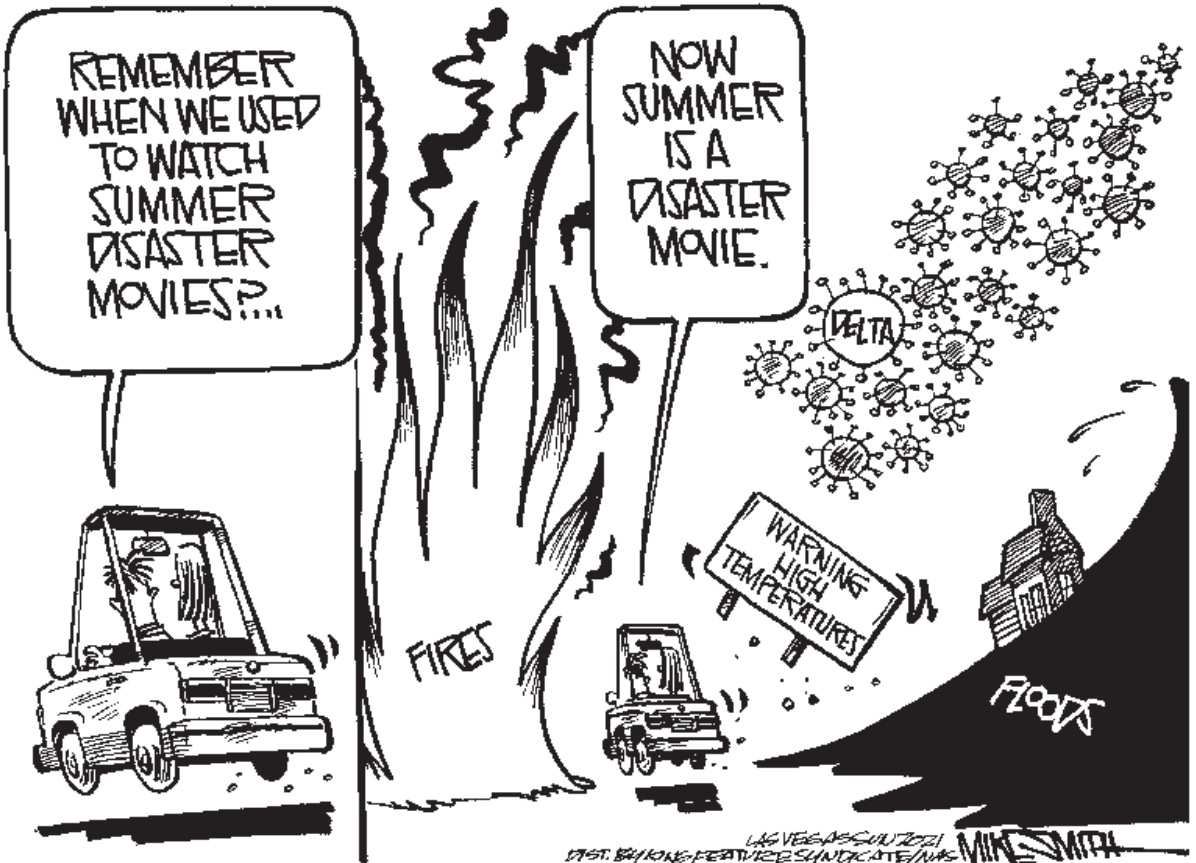
Indeed, the idea that tends to generate the most interest and passion isn't that the president is assiduously working to destroy the American way of life so much as Biden – whose verbal meanderings can be truly bizarre – isn't in charge at all.

Given the alternatives, this

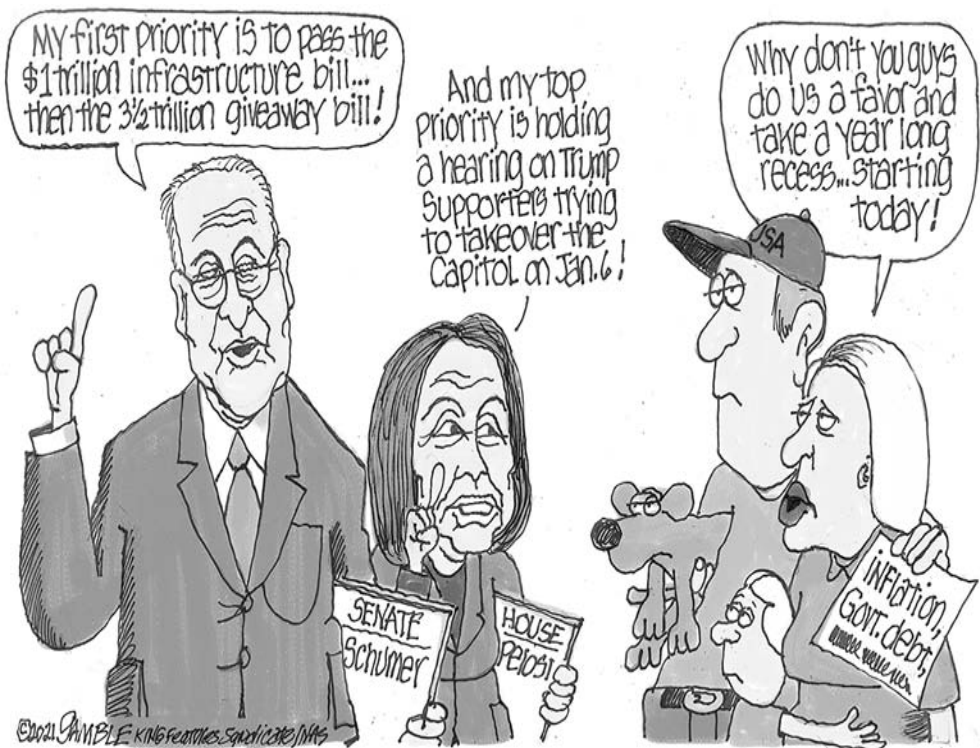
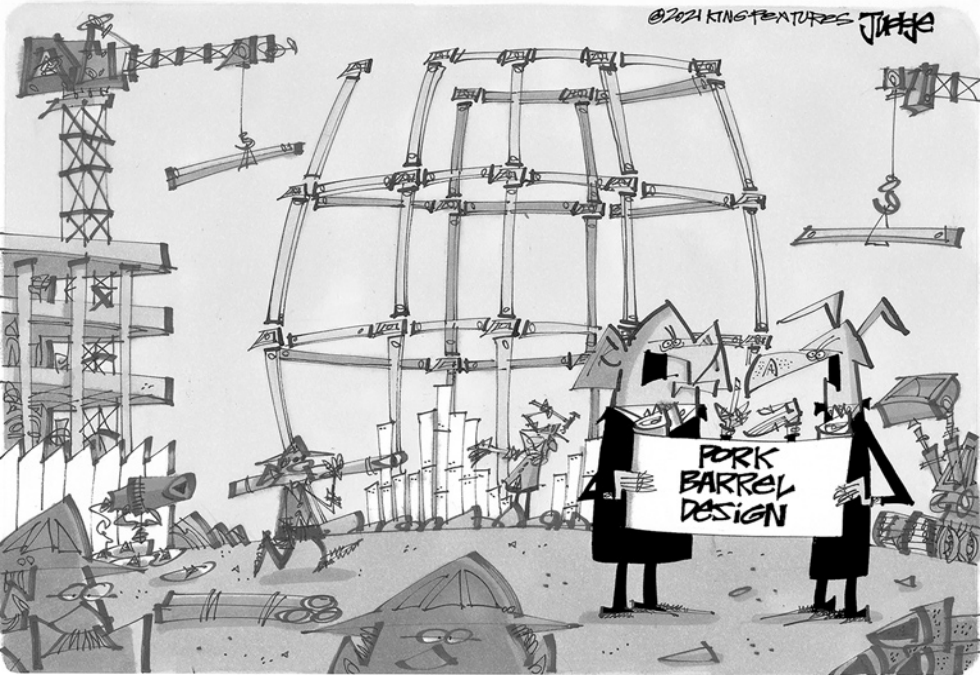


probably works in Biden's favor. He is pushing a truly radical spending agenda that would, if championed by a more in-your-face progressive president rather


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## REPUBLICANS & DEMOCRATS ARGUE ABOUT INFRASTRUCTURE...







# Moments in time

THE HISTORY CHANNEL

• On Aug. 9, 1854, Henry David Thoreau's classic "Walden; or, A Life in the Woods" is published. The book is Walden's account of his experimental time of simple living in a cabin at Walden Pond in Concord, Massachusetts, starting in 1845. The book sold just 300 copies a year when it was published.

• On Aug. 10, 1981, Pete Rose of the Philadelphia Phillies gets the 3,631st hit of his baseball career, breaking Stan Musial's record, in a game against the St. Louis Cardinals. Musial had spent his entire career with the Cardinals, and he was on hand to congratulate Rose.

• On Aug. 11, 1921, author Alex Haley is born in Ithaca, New York. His novel "Roots" (1976) was a fictionalized account of his family's history, traced through seven generations. It won a special Pulitzer Prize.

• On Aug. 12, 1964, Charlie Wilson, part of the gang who pulled off the 1963 Great Train Robbery, one of the biggest heists of its kind, escapes from the maximum-security Winson Green Prison in Birmingham, England. Wilson remained on the loose until 1968.

• On Aug. 13, 1878, Kate Bionda, a restaurant owner, dies of yellow fever in Memphis, Tennessee, after a man who had escaped a quarantined steamboat visited her restaurant. The disease spread rapidly, and the resulting epidemic emptied the city. An average of 200 people died each day through September.


• OnAug. 14, 1935, President Franklin Roosevelt signs into law the Social Security Act, which guaranteed an income for the unemployed and retirees. The Social Security system has remained relatively unchanged since 1935.

• On Aug. 15, 1914, the Panama Canal, the American-built waterway across the Isthmus of Panama, connecting the Atlantic and Pacific oceans, is inaugurated. U.S. engineers moved nearly 240 million cubic yards of earth and spent more than \$10 billion in today's dollars in constructing the 40-mile-long canal.

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## Send Your Newsbrief To:

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# Strange BUT TRUE

**By Lucie Winborne**

• In the 1880s, businessman LaMarcus Thompson was so upset over the temptations presented by saloons and brothels that he decided to clean up what he viewed as one of America's most immoral places – New York's Coney Island. To that end he built the country's first roller coaster in a bid to give folks some good, clean fun well away from sleazier pursuits.

• Those apples you buy at your local market aren't all that fresh. They're typically plucked between August and November, then covered in wax, hot-air dried, and sent to cold storage before landing in stores six to 12 months later.

• The world's largest waterfall, in the Denmark Strait between Iceland and Greenland, is underwater.

• Dunce caps used to be a sign of intelligence! Thirteenth-century philosopher John Duns Scotus believed that a pointed cap helped spread knowledge from the tip to the brain, and his followers proudly wore them as badges of honor. A few hundred years later, when his ideas became less popular, the meaning of the Duns cap was turned on its er, head, becoming a joke that led to its less flattering association.

• About a month after its dedication, the Statue of Liberty became a working lighthouse for 16 years.

• When Benjamin Franklin designed the first U.S. penny in 1787, it was emblazoned not with E Pluribus Unum, but "Mind Your Business."

• The tongue of a blue whale can weigh as much as an elephant.

Thought for the Day: "The happiness of your life depends upon the quality of your thoughts: therefore, guard accordingly, and take care that you entertain no notions unsuitable to virtue and reasonable nature."  
– Marcus Aurelius

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## NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING TO DISCUSS BUDGET AND PROPOSED TAX RATE

The Fabens Independent School District will hold a public meeting at 6:00 p.m., Wednesday, August 25, 2021 in the Central Office Board Room, 821 NE "G" Avenue, Fabens, Texas 79838. **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.

<b>Maintenance Tax</b>	\$1.029500/\$100 (Proposed rate for maintenance and operations)
<b>School Debt Service Tax</b>	
<b>Approved by Local Voters</b>	\$0.303090/\$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:

<b>Maintenance and Operations</b>	2.60%	Increase
<b>Debt Service</b>	0.23%	Decrease
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	2.00%	Increase

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

	Preceding Tax Year	Current Tax Year
Total appraised value* of all property	\$ 317,857,852	\$ 320,009,345
Total appraised value* of new property**	\$ 1,179,114	\$ 2,775,147
Total taxable value*** of all property	\$ 227,480,001	\$ 234,308,526
Total taxable value*** of new property**	\$ 1,117,985	\$ 2,552,302

\* "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\* \$24,122,000

\* 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
<b>Last Year's Rate</b>	\$ 1.054700	\$ 0.280800*	\$ 1.335500	\$ 1,351	\$10,832
<b>Rate to Maintain Same Level of Maintenance &amp; Operations Revenue &amp; Pay Debt Service</b>	\$ 1.083890	\$ 0.355680*	\$ 1.439570	\$ 1,556	\$10,692
<b>Proposed Rate</b>	\$ 1.02950	\$ 0.303090*	\$ 1.332590	\$ 1,458	\$10,865

\*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	\$ 75,839	\$ 81,575
Average Taxable Value of Residences	\$ 50,839	\$ 51,188
Last Year's Rate Versus		
Proposed Rate per \$100 Value	\$ 1.335566	\$ 1.332590
Taxes Due on Average Residence	\$ 678.99	\$ 682.13
Increase (Decrease) in Taxes		\$ 3.14

**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 \$1.332590. This election will be automatically held if the district adopts a rate in excess of the voter-approval rate of \$1.332590.

### 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)	\$ 7,905,554
Interest & Sinking Fund Balance(s)	\$ 0

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.

## NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING TO DISCUSS BUDGET AND PROPOSED TAX RATE

The Canutillo Independent School District will hold a public meeting 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, August 24, 2021 in the Board Room in the Central Office Building, 7965 Artcraft, El Paso, Texas 79932. **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	\$0.982400/\$100 (Proposed rate for maintenance and operations)
School Debt Service Tax	
Approved by Local Voters	\$0.360000/\$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	2.20% Increase
Debt Service	7.53% Increase
Total Expenditures	2.84% Increase

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

	Preceding Tax Year	Current Tax Year
Total appraised value* of all property	\$ 3,671,946,281	\$ 3,868,826,896
Total appraised value* of new property**	\$ 146,384,668	\$ 143,500,601
Total taxable value*** of all property	\$ 2,645,042,825	\$ 2,864,134,508
Total taxable value*** of new property**	\$ 127,353,939	\$ 131,812,584

\* “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\* \$82,389,627

\* Outstanding principal.

### Comparison of Proposed Rates with Last Year’s Rates

	Maintenance & Operations	Interest & Sinking Fund*	Total	Local Revenue Per Student	State Revenue Per Student
Last Year’s Rate	\$ 1.030100	\$ 0.360000*	\$ 1.390100	\$ 6,211	\$ 5,201
Rate to Maintain Same Level of Maintenance & Operations Revenue & Pay Debt Service	\$ 1.056170	\$ 0.303750*	\$ 1.359920	\$ 6,259	\$ 4,934
Proposed Rate	\$ 0.982400	\$ 0.360000*	\$ 1.342400	\$ 6,407	\$ 4,964

\*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	\$ 177,739	\$ 200,470
Average Taxable Value of Residences	\$ 152,187	\$ 166,325
Last Year’s Rate Versus		
Proposed Rate per \$100 Value	\$ 1.390100	\$ 1.342400
Taxes Due on Average Residence	\$ 2,115.56	\$ 2,232.75
Increase (Decrease) in Taxes		\$ 117.19

**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.**

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### 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)	\$ 23,901,678
Interest & Sinking Fund Balance(s)	\$ 9,444,806

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.

## Partnership

From Page 1

with plans to attract external funding.

“Biomedical research is the backbone of medicine, and funding from seed grants is incredibly important, as it allows our researchers to begin their studies on conditions prevalent in our region and life-altering medical treatments,” stated TTUHSC El Paso President Dr. Richard Lange. “Together with UTEP, we will continue creating pathways for our researchers to advance health care in the Borderland,” he added.

The projects receiving funding are those that exhibited the considerable breadth and scope of health-related research taking place at the partner institutions, program officials explained. Project team leaders and a summary of their research studies are as follows:

Dr. William Roberts, of UTEP, and Dr. Irene Alexandraki, of TTUHSC El Paso, will lead a study, titled “Preparing Health Professions Students for Culturally Sensitive Practice”. The project is a collaborative research study to identify the local cultural factors that health care educators at UTEP and TTUHSC El Paso must address to prepare students for health care practice in the El Paso area.

Dr. Hugues Ouellet, of UTEP, and Dr. Mingtao Zeng, of TTUHSC El Paso, will head a research team whose goal is to generate and test novel therapeutic neutralization antibodies targeting undefined regions (epitopes) of the Spike protein of SARS-CoV-2. The undefined regions will be identified from blood samples collected in the El Paso community, which is about 83 percent Hispanic. This is very important as this ethnic group is often underrepresented in similar studies.

Dr. Rodrigo Romero, of

UTEP, and Dr. Scott Crawford, of TTUHSC El Paso, aim to help their research group develop a haptics-enabled skin biopsy training system to teach proficient excision of skin lesions. It will merge the specialties of procedural and simulation medicine to create new surgical simulation devices.

Dr. Roger Gonzalez, of UTEP, and Dr. Shawn Diamond, of TTUHSC El Paso, will guide their team to develop a “smart” myoelectric prosthetic knee system that detects stumbles and falls in above-knee amputees. The team will build upon electromyography (EMG) and Targeted Muscle Reinnervation (TMR) to reduce falls all within a Machine Learning (ML) model.

Dr. Sudip Bajpeyi, of UTEP, and Dr. Anna Eiring, of TTUHSC El Paso, will combine their expertise in leukemia biology and mitochondrial functions to understand mechanisms of stem cell survival in acute myeloid leukemia with the goal of identifying novel targets for improved cancer therapy. Recent evidence suggests that Hispanic patients with acute myeloid leukemia from El Paso have a poor prognosis.

Dr. Binata Joddar, of UTEP, and Dr. Munmun Chattopadhyay, of TTUHSC El Paso, will have their students study Gastroparesis (GP), which affects up to 10 million individuals in the United States and is also a debilitating complication in diabetic patients. GP exhibits upper gastrointestinal (GI) symptoms including nausea and vomiting. The team proposes to design, fabricate, and test a bio-printed mesenchymal stem cells (MSC) and growth factor infused hydro gel-based gastric patch to restore overall physiological improvements of the stomach.

Dr. Taslim Al-Hilal, of UTEP, and Dr. Sireesha Reddy, of TTUHSC El Paso, will have their

See PARTNERSHIP, Page 7



## CLASSIFIED AD FORM

25 words - \$15 per week; 40 words - \$20 per week

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	31	32
33	34	35	36
37	38	39	40
Deadline: Monday, 4 p.m. Please print. Send form and payment (no cash) to: <b>West Texas County Courier</b> 15344 Werling Ct. Horizon City, TX 79928		Contact Information: Name: _____ Phone: _____	

# Anthony ISD to host COVID-19 vaccination clinic

By Adriana Candelaria  
Special to the Courier

ANTHONY – The Anthony Independent School District (AISD) will host a COVID-19 vaccination clinic Thursday, Aug. 19, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Anthony High School gymnasium (9825 Wildcat Dr.). In partnership with University Medical Center, AISD will help administer the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine.

The event is free and open to the public. Children between the ages of 12 and 17 will need a parent or legal guardian present with them or have written permission from their parent or

legal guardian.  
If a person received their first dose of the Pfizer vaccine but missed their second dose, they can show their vaccination card at the AISD clinic and get their second shot.  
The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) says COVID-19 vaccines are safe, effective and free. While COVID-19 vaccines do not fully guarantee that a person will not contract the virus, health experts say the vaccine will substantially reduce symptoms and side effects.  
AISD will host a return clinic on Thursday, Sept. 9, to administer the second dose of the Pfizer vaccine.

## Covid

From Page 4

scientific ethics and perhaps, secret agendas. We have become numb to the experiments using fresh aborted fetal tissue to create “humanized mice” that sprout various human organs. This slow walk to the edge of medical ethics has allowed science to go in grotesquely anti-human directions. Jointly with Chinese government funding, United States researchers created viable embryos that are a mix of human and monkey cells (a “chimera”). With funding from the Chan Zuckerberg [Mr. Facebook] Initiative, researchers tinkered with male rats so they could deliver live babies via Cæsarian section.  
Sadly, physicians have become willing participants in the government’s borderline coercion by not informing themselves about early treatments for Covid or the side effects of the experimental vaccine. Federal and state governments are bribing, cajoling, and subjecting us to door-to-door pressure to take an injection of a product that could be killing us in numbers not seen before. Serious reactions include miscarriages, Bell’s palsy, Guillain-Barre Syndrome, blood clotting disorders (including brain clots), and anaphylaxis. Bizarrely, the White House is challenging colleges to vaccinate its entire campus, despite sometimes fatal heart inflammation after vaccinations in young adults (who have infinitesimal risk of significant Covid illness).  
It appears we are guinea pigs in a grand experiment. The elderly were the casualties of Phase I. As the post-vaccine bodies pile up, the Nuremberg Code’s principle is being ignored: The experiment must be stopped if continuation would result in injury and death.  
It’s not too late. Physicians must remember their Oath of Hippocrates and speak up and act for the benefit of their patients even in the face of conflicting government dictates.

Marilyn M. Singleton is a board-certified anesthesiologist. She is past President of the Association of American Physicians and Surgeons (AAPS). 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.

## Partnership

From Page 6

team find new biomarkers with high specificity and sensitivity to detect ovarian cancer in the early stages of the disease. The goal of this proposal is to evaluate a prion-like protein doppel as an early-stage, ovarian cancer-specific serum biomarker.  
Dr. Doug Watts, of UTEP, and Dr. Wendy Walker, of TTUHSC El Paso, will lead a research project to investigate the hypothesis that severe and fatal COVID-19 human cases can be reproduced in a model of SARS-CoV-2 infection. The

model will be used to determine the mechanism of the innate immune pathways that leads to severe and fatal disease outcome and will provide information needed to select and evaluate therapeutic antiviral compounds to ameliorate the disease.  
UTEP President Heather Wilson stated that each selected project has the potential to be transformative for public health in the region. “They demonstrate not only the caliber of the research conducted at UTEP and TTUHSC El Paso, but also the commitment of our institutions to partner for the greater benefit of the El Paso-Juárez community,” she asserted.



## NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON TAX INCREASE

A tax rate of **\$0.100000 per \$100 valuation** has been proposed by the governing body of **El Paso County Emergency Services District #1**.

PROPOSED TAX RATE	<b>\$0.100000</b> per \$100
NO-NEW-REVENUE TAX RATE	<b>\$0.092584</b> per \$100
VOTER-APPROVAL TAX RATE	<b>\$0.095900</b> per \$100
DE MINIMIS RATE	<b>\$0.103342</b> per \$100

The no-new-revenue tax rate is the tax rate for the 2021 tax year that will raise the same amount of property tax revenue for El Paso County ESD #1 from the same properties in both the 2020 tax year and the 2021 tax year.  
The voter-approval rate is the highest tax rate that El Paso County ESD #1 may adopt without holding an election to seek voter approval of the rate, unless the de minimis rate for El Paso County ESD #1 exceeds the voter-approval rate for El Paso County ESD #1.

The de minimis rate is the rate equal to the sum of the no-new-revenue maintenance and operations rate for El Paso County ESD #1, the rate that will raise \$500,000, and the current debt rate for El Paso County ESD #1 .

The proposed tax rate is greater than the no-new-revenue tax rate. This means that El Paso County ESD #1 is proposing to increase property taxes for the 2021 tax year.

A PUBLIC HEARING ON THE PROPOSED TAX RATE WILL BE HELD ON August 19, 2021 at 6:30 PM at 14151 Nunda Ave., Horizon City, TX 79928 or virtual meeting: gotomeeting; access code: 427-045-725.

The proposed tax rate is greater than the voter-approval tax rate but not greater than the de minimis rate. However, the proposed tax rate exceeds the rate that allows voters to petition for an election under Section 26.075, Tax Code. If El Paso County ESD #1 adopts the proposed tax rate, the qualified voters of the El Paso County ESD #1 may petition the El Paso County ESD #1 to require an election to be held to determine whether to reduce the proposed tax rate. If a majority of the voters reject the proposed tax rate, the tax rate of the El Paso County ESD #1 will be the voter-approval tax rate of the El Paso County ESD #1 .

YOUR TAXES OWED UNDER ANY OF THE TAX RATES MENTIONED ABOVE CAN BE CALCULATED AS FOLLOWS:

Property tax amount = ( tax rate ) x ( taxable value of your property ) /100

FOR the proposal:	<b>Jose Berumen, Deanne Rankins, Jeff Booth and Amanda Anaya</b>
AGAINST the proposal:	<b>None</b>
PRESENT and not voting:	<b>None</b>
ABSENT:	<b>Bill Mayberry</b>

The following table compares the taxes imposed on the average residence homestead by **El Paso County ESD #1** last year to the taxes proposed to the be imposed on the average residence homestead by **El Paso County ESD #1** this year.

	2020	2021	Change
<b>Total tax rate (per \$100 of value)</b>	2020 adopted tax rate \$0.100000	2021 proposed tax rate \$0.100000	No change of 0.100000 per \$100, or 0%.
<b>Average homestead taxable value</b>	2020 average taxable value of residence homestead \$143,657	2021 average taxable value of residence homestead \$159,884	Increase of 11.30%.
<b>Tax on average homestead</b>	2020 amount of taxes on average taxable value of residence homestead \$143.65	2021 amount of taxes on average taxable value of residence homestead \$159.88	Increase of \$16.23, or 11.30%
<b>Total tax levy on all properties</b>	2020 levy \$3,322,771	2021 proposed levy \$3,885,061,427 x 0.100000/100	Increase of \$562,290 or 16.92%.

For assistance with tax calculations, please contact the tax assessor for **El Paso County ESD #1** at **915-771-2300** or **ctaxassessor@epcounty.com**, or visit **epcounty.com** for more information.

# Schenk named Elementary Curriculum Coordinator

By Liza M. Rodriguez  
Special to the Courier

CANUTILLO – Canutillo Independent School District welcomes a new member to the Curriculum and Instruction Department. Laura Schenk was recently appointed as the Elementary Curriculum Coordinator.

In this inaugural position, Schenk will provide district-wide leadership and management of elementary curriculum and the instructional programs for all student populations including at-risk, dyslexic and students with or without disabilities eligible for services. She will ensure that educational services are designed equitably amongst all student populations using scientifically based research on instructional strategies, techniques and procedures. “I am humbled and excited to serve our learning community in the new role as the Elementary Curriculum Coordinator,” Schenk said. Schenk holds a Master’s

of Education in Curriculum and Instruction with a concentration in technology from The University of Texas at El Paso with certifications in elementary early childhood and elementary self-contained grades PK - 6. She has over 24 years of experience delivering instruction for primary and secondary grade levels as well as extensive experience in the dual language, gifted and talented education and facilitating teacher training programs.

Throughout her career, Schenk has been named 2009 Region 19 Texas Association for the Gifted and Talented Teacher of the Year, 2007 Bilingual Education Emphasizing and Mastering Standards Teacher of the Year and 2007 Deanna Davenport Elementary Teacher of the Year.

Additionally, the long-standing educator has presented at the National Association for Texas Association for the



– Photo courtesy Canutillo ISD

See SCHENK, Page 9 Laura Schenk

## Canutillo Independent School District Public Notice of Special Education Services

Canutillo Independent School district provides the following educational program/services to identified disabled children who reside within the District beginning on the third birthday through age twenty-one.

Instructional Programs including: 1) Early Childhood (beginning on the third birthday through age five), Resources (grades K-12) and Self-Contained (grades K-12); 2) Diagnostic Services; 3) Transportation Services; 4) Speech Therapy; 5) Counseling Services; 6) Adaptive Equipment Services; 7) Physical Therapy; 8) Occupational Therapy; 9) School Health Services; and 10) Homebound Services.

Services are provided to identified children with visual or auditory impairments who reside within the District from birth through age twenty-one.

In compliance with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 and Public Law 105-17, parents and adult students have the right to inspect educational records. District policy FL provides for record access, confidentiality, and complaint procedures.

If you would like more information or know of a disabled child who is not receiving educational services, please contact: Carey Chambers, Special Education Director, 7965 Artcraft Road, El Paso, Texas 79932, (915) 877-7449, or cchambers@canutillo-isd.org.

## El Distrito Escolar de Canutillo Aviso Público de Servicios de Educación Especial

El Distrito Escolar Independiente de Canutillo provee los siguientes programas/servicios educacionales a niños que son identificados como desabilitados que viven dentro del distrito comenzando con el tercer cumpleaños hasta los 21 años.

Programas de instrucción: infancia temprana (comenzando con el tercer cumpleaños hasta la edad de cinco años), cuarto de recurso (K-12) y clases contenidad (K-12); 2) servicios diagnósticos; 3) servicios de transportación; 4) terepia de habla; 5) servicios de consejo; 6) servicios de equipaje adaptivo; 7) terapia fisica; 8) terapia ocupacional; 9) servicios de salud escolar; y 10) servicios de clases en el hogar.

Se provee servicios a niños identificados con discapasidades visuales y audivas que viven dentro del distrito desde nacimiento hasta la edad de 21 años.

Conforme al Acto de Derechos y Confidencia Educacionales de Familia de 1974 y Ley Pública 105-17, padres y alumnos adultos tienen el derechos de ver los archivos educativos. Poliza FL explican los derechos, la confidencialidad, y el proceso para quejarse.

Si usted desea mas información o sabe de un niño/niña desabilitado que vive en el distrito escolar de Canutillo que no esta recibiendo servicios educacionales, favor de comunicarse con: Carey Chambers, Directora de Educación Especial, 7965 Artcraft Road, El Paso, Texas 79932, teléfono: (915) 877-7449, o correo electrónico: cchambers@canutillo-isd.org.

WTCC: 08-12-21

## El Paso County Water Control and Improvement District No. 4 Notice of Public Hearing on Tax Rate

The EL PASO COUNTY WCID NO. 4 will hold a public hearing on a proposed tax rate for the tax year 2021 on August 24, 2021 at El Paso County Water Control and Improvement District #4 Office at 117 E. Main St. Fabens Texas 79838 at 6:00 PM. Your individual taxes may increase at a greater or lesser rate, or even decrease, depending on the tax rate that is adopted and on the change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in taxable value of all other property The change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in the taxable value of all other property determines the distribution of the tax burden among all property owners.

**FOR** the proposal: **Magda C. Flores, Israel Martinez, Jr. and Jorge Carrasco**

**AGAINST** the proposal: **NONE**

**PRESENT** and not voting: **NONE**

**ABSENT:** **Juana Gutierrez and Thelma Quinonez**

The following table compares taxes on an average residence homestead in this taxing unit last year to taxes proposed on the average residence homestead this year.

	Last Year	This Year
	Adopted	Proposed
Total tax rate (per \$100 value)	0.182743	0.177129
Difference in rates per \$100 of value	– 0.005614	
Percentage increase / decrease in rates (+/–)	– 3.07%	
Average appraised value	\$ 74,977	\$ 78,371
General exemptions available (excluding senior citizen's or disabled person's exemptions)	\$ 0	\$ 0
Average residence homestead taxable value	\$ 74,977	\$ 78,371
Tax on average residence homestead	\$ 137.02	\$ 138.82
Annual increase / decrease in taxes if proposed tax rate is adopted (+/–)	+ \$ 1.80	
and percentage of increase (+/–)	+ 1.31%	

**The 86th Texas Legislature modified the manner in which the voter-approval tax rate is calculated to limit the rate of growth of property taxes in the state.**

# Rodriguez joins Canutillo ISD communications

By Liza M. Rodriguez  
Special to the Courier

CANUTILLO – The Canutillo Independent School District has named Christina Rodriguez the new Communications Specialist joining the district’s Public Information Office.

In this position, Rodriguez will help organize and manage the internal and external communication efforts at the district and develop content for various publications and mediums to highlight district initiatives, students, staff and teachers.

“I am excited to be a part of the CISD family. It is a privilege to join a premiere district doing what I love to better serve students,” Rodriguez said. “In this role, I look forward to contributing to the success and upward trajectory of CISD and the Canutillo community.”

Rodriguez graduated cum laude from The University of Texas at El Paso in 2009



– Photo courtesy Canutillo ISD

**Christina Rodriguez**

with a bachelor’s degree in corporate and organizational communication. She has public relations and marketing experience in both the public and private sector and most recently served as a communications manager at UTEP’s Office of University Communications where she developed and implemented communication goals and strategies to support and promote the university, faculty and students.

## Schenk

From Page 8

Education, Texas Association of Bilingual Education, Texas Computer Education Association and Bilingual Education Emphasizing and Mastering Standards.

### Public Notice

### CanutilloIndependentSchoolDistrict

### 504 Child Find

Pursuant to Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the District has a duty to identify, refer, evaluate and if eligible, provide a free, appropriate public education to disabled students. For additional information about the rights of parents of eligible children, or for answers to any questions you might have about identification, evaluation and placement into Section 504, please contact the District’s Section 504 Coordinator, Carey Chambers, 7965 Artcraft Road, El Paso, Texas 79932, (915) 877-7449, or [cchambers@canutillo-isd.org](mailto:cchambers@canutillo-isd.org).

### Aviso de Identificación de Estudiantes Incapacitados Bajo la Sección 504

Bajo la Sección del Decreto de Rehabilitación de 1973, el Distrito Escolar esta obligado a identificar, referir, evaluar, y propocionar servicios educativos apropiados y gratuitos a los estudiantes incapacitados que califican bajo esta ley. Si usted desea mas información sobre los derechos de padres de niños incapacitados, o si tiene preguntas sobre la identificación, evaluación, y colocación de niños en el programa de Sección 504, favor de ponerse en contacto con la Coordinadora de 504 del Distrito Escolar Independiente de Canutillo, Carey Chambers, al 7965 Artcraft Road, El Paso, Texas 79932, (915) 877-7449, o [cchambers@canutillo-isd.org](mailto:cchambers@canutillo-isd.org).

WTCC: 08-12-21

## NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING TO DISCUSS BUDGET AND PROPOSED TAX RATE

The Tornillo Independent School District will hold a public meeting at 5:30 p.m., Thursday, August 26, 2021 in the W.E. Neill Service Center, 19210 Cobb Avenue, Tornillo, Texas 79853. **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.

<b>Maintenance Tax</b>	\$0.931500/\$100 (Proposed rate for maintenance and operations)
<b>School Debt Service Tax</b>	
<b>Approved by Local Voters</b>	\$0.494869/\$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:

<b>Maintenance and Operations</b>	2.80%	Decrease
<b>Debt Service</b>	1.57%	Decrease
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	2.68%	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	\$ 108,347,775	\$ 115,574,880
Total appraised value** of new property**	\$ 878,134	\$ 1,491,371
Total taxable value*** of all property	\$ 84,823,477	\$ 93,472,111
Total taxable value**** of new property**	\$ 875,181	\$ 1,364,985

\* “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\* \$16,051,687

\* 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
<b>Last Year’s Rate</b>	\$ 1.002900	\$ 0.482366*	\$ 1.485266	\$ 1,320	\$12,240
<b>Rate to Maintain Same Level of Maintenance &amp; Operations Revenue &amp; Pay Debt Service</b>	\$ 0.929760	\$ 0.521080*	\$ 1.450840	\$ 1,623	\$12,951
<b>Proposed Rate</b>	\$ 0.931500	\$ 0.494869*	\$ 1.426369	\$ 1,484	\$13,399

\*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	\$ 69,768	\$ 70,438
Average Taxable Value of Residences	\$ 44,768	\$ 45,438
Last Year’s Rate Versus		
Proposed Rate per \$100 Value	\$ 1.485266	\$ 1.426369
Taxes Due on Average Residence	\$ 664.92	\$ 648.11
Increase (Decrease) in Taxes		\$ (16.81)

**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 \$1.426369. This election will be automatically held if the district adopts a rate in excess of the voter-approval rate of \$1.426369.

### 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)	\$ 6,789,501
Interest & Sinking Fund Balance(s)	\$ 17,800

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.

# Choosing the NBA’s best ‘big three’ combo

By Steve Escajeda  
Special to the Courier

It’s only been a couple weeks since the Milwaukee Bucks defeated the Phoenix Suns for the 2021 NBA title, and the entire attention of the league has changed its focus on how differently some teams will look next year.

It used to be that if an NBA team had one superstar, he could lead them to a title.

Then about 30 years ago, franchises learned that putting two stars together on the same team was twice as good.

Over the last decade, NBA teams have discovered that a “big three” is the way to go.

With every franchise trying to find that perfect combination of three superstars, it might be fun to try to find out which team has the best “big three.”

After carefully researching every NBA team, here is a list of the top eight teams

with the best basketball threesomes.

8. The New York Knicks are hoping that their trio of John Randle, Derrick Rose and Kemba Walker might do the trick. Adding Walker is an improvement, but not enough to sit at the big table. Rose and Walker basically play the same position and they are 32 and 31 years old respectively.

7. Everyone forgets that the Golden State Warriors won NBA title with Stephen Curry, Draymond Green and Klay Thompson. Well, though they’ve struggled the last couple of years, they are still hoping to get a healthy Klay Thompson back next season. And if he is 100 percent healthy, why can’t they be the same dangerous team they once were?

6. The Philadelphia 76ers were considered a real threat to win it all this year until one of their big three, Ben Simmons, suffered a mental meltdown in the playoffs. Simmons played so poorly that he just stopped taking shots. Along with Joel Embiid and Tobias Harris,

Philly should still be in the running for the best record in the league. But it will all depend on how Simmons returns, if he returns at all.

5. The Utah Jazz had the best record in the NBA this season but injuries during the playoffs did them in. Their big three of Donovan Mitchell, Bojan Bogdanovic and Rudy Gobert are consistent, but a bit overlooked because of the Jazz’s overall team play. What killed them in the playoffs was the loss of their fourth best player, point guard Mike Conley. With a healthy roster, look for Utah to contend again in 2022.

4. I guess you could say the Milwaukee Bucks kind of have a big three in Giannis Antetokounmpo, Khris Middleton and Jrue Holiday, but the NBA champs get help from so many role players on their roster. They actually go about seven deep with players who contribute consistently in one way or another. But there’s no doubt their big three were instrumental in getting them over the top.

3. Although they came up just short in the NBA Finals, the Phoenix Suns are another team that gets help from so many other players. But the Suns big three of Chris Paul, Devin Booker and Deandre

Ayton are a great combination of young talent and veteran leadership. With Paul already signed to return to the Suns next season, look for Phoenix to threaten for the title again.

2. The Los Angeles Lakers have turned into the New York Yankees of the NBA. After acquiring LeBron James and Anthony Davis with big wads of cash, they’ve now gone out and brought in triple-double machine Russell Westbrook. By big wads of cash I mean \$32 million for Anthony, \$39 million for James and \$41 million for Westbrook. The big question is the Lakers’ bench. Can they afford one? They added former stars in Carmelo Anthony, Marc Gasol, Trevor Ariza and Dwight Howard, who are all over 35.

1. The most talented big three in the league belongs to the New Jersey Nets. Kevin Durant, James Harden and Kyrie Irving are three megastars in their prime. There would be a fourth but dunk-master Blake Griffin is a little past his prime, but still contributes nicely. The Nets lost in the playoffs to the Bucks because of an injury to Harden. If they can stay healthy in 2022, the Nets will be favored to win it all.

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## Super Crossword

**A TEN FROM A HEN ACROSS**

1 Cookout rod

5 Long wedge-shaped inlet

8 Dermal drawing

14 Alfalfa's girl in "Our Gang"

19 Lacking a permanent shelter

21 Sponge up

22 Hawke of the screen

23 Get closer

24 Gated water channel

25 Blue-footed bird

26 Start of a riddle

29 Sippy cup part

30 " \_ yellow ribbon round..."

31 "Little" actress Issa

32 Web page visitor's directory

36 With 53-Across, walks across

39 World power until '91

41 New title for a bride

43 Italian cardinal

44 Riddle, part 2

48 " \_ a son gout" ("Each to one's own taste")

51 Big-billed bird

52 Actress Novak

53 See 36-Across

54 Violin master Hilary

55 Big-billed bird

58 Increase

61 Belief set

62 Just slightly

64 Insects in forest trails

65 E. African country

67 Riddle, part 3

74 River in Switzerland

75 Real heels

76 More like heaven's gates?

77 In the company of

81 19th-century German industrialist

83 Roman 2,505

84 Sphere

85 Root used to make poi

86 Darjeeling, e.g.

87 Singer Ocasek of the Cars

89 Like the firstborn child

91 End of the riddle

97 Soprano Auger or actress Sorkin

98 Soccer's Hamm

99 West African land

100 Big name in baseball cards

104 Put on anew, as a play

106 "Lili" studio

108 Done, in France

110 Liquid in la Seine

111 Riddle's answer

116 Major port in Japan

119 Terrarium creature

120 Like firefighters and cyclists

121 Swanky watch

122 Like single-guy bands

123 Extensive essay

124 Megaphone noise

125 Mole zappers

126 Former JFK jet

127 Behaves

**DOWN**

1 Some afghans

2 #1 Billboard song, often

3 Hamper

4 Arctic diver

5 Say "Ouch!," say

6 Pelvic-base bone

7 Least ruddy

8 Piece of work

9 More skilled

10 Big wave

11 Hard-working people

12 Whale variety

13 Is compliant

14 Formal arguer

15 Redresses

16 17th Greek letter

17 R&D site

18 A single one

20 Mauna \_

27 Exchanges for bills

28 "Attack, Rover!"

33 "Tara Road" novelist Binky

34 Curved

35 \_-Canada (oil giant)

37 Many a meal on a blanket

38 Beatles' bud

40 Fleecy male

42 Noted Fifth Ave. store

45 Puzzlement

46 Started a play-for-pay career

47 Drunk, slangily

48 Cartoonist

49 Addams, for short

49 Padlock part

50 "Alas"

56 Frat party dispenser

57 Place to stay the night

59 Off-road trucks, briefly

60 British verb suffix

61 Singer of the hit "Believe"

63 Neither hor. nor vert.

64 Take \_ (doze)

66 Go on a trip

68 Hosp. part

69 Tach abbr.

70 "My pleasure!"

71 Suffix with multimillion

72 Roger of "Cheers"

73 "Darn it all!"

77 In a conflict

78 Skiing gold medalist Phil

79 Tough tests

80 Student at a lecture, often

82 Chicago mayor Emanuel

83 Golden Arches java chain

86 Faint trace

88 Suffix of elements

90 Drunk, slangily

92 Cleaver

93 Musical tone qualities

94 "I dunno!"

95 Detrains, e.g.

96 Dawdles

101 Relating to digestion

102 Least ruddy

103 High-end leathers

105 Rave about

107 Cheek tooth

109 Speck in the sea

112 Sushi staple

113 Some male dolls

114 Doc bloc

115 Prefix with tarsal

116 Sphere

117 Fa-la link

118 \_ mode

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Comix

OUT ON A LIMB By Gary Kopervas



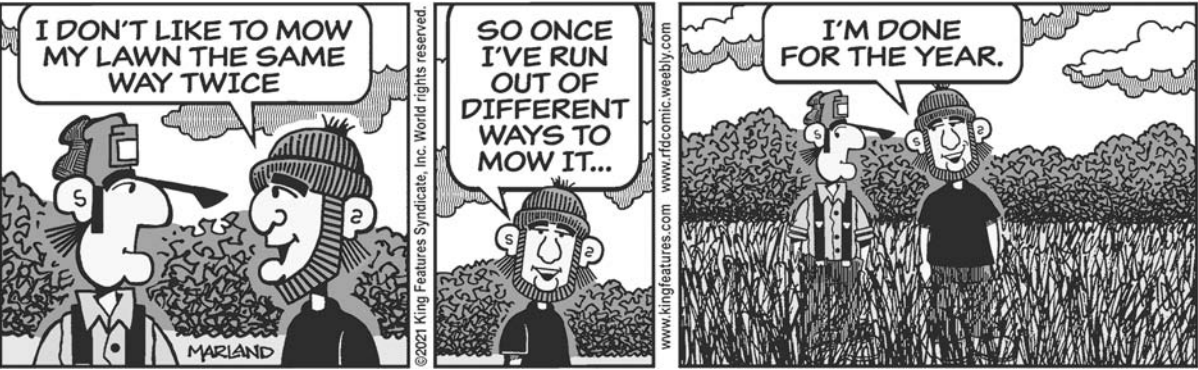
AMBER WAVES By Dave T. Phipps



THE SPATS By Jeff Pickering



R.F.D. By Mike Marland



TIGER By Bud Blake



Lowry

From Page 3

than someone who feels like a caretaker, surely be met with much fiercer resistance. But there are risks to Biden, too. If his spending agenda founders, it's not clear what comes next. Even if the White House decides

to try to "unleash" Biden, he is not well-suited to rallying the country or driving an agenda. His low-intensity presidency may, as his advisers hope, help create a sense of a return to normality in Washington, but it easily could be consistent with a disturbing sense of drift. Usually, the dynamic of the presidency is if you don't seem to be in control

of events, they are in control of you. The test for Biden will be if, eventually, he has to be the dominant public figure in his own presidency. Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review. (c) 2021 by King Features Synd., Inc.

Paraplegic battles UTIs

DEAR DR. ROACH: I am a paraplegic due to a spinal cord injury back in 1979. I battle one UTI after another, and I am becoming immune to most antibiotics. Why the constant infections? My urologist just ordered a CT scan, but seems uninterested in me as a patient. I am sick of being sick. I straight catheterize four times a day usually. It's getting very hard for them to match the antibiotic to the culture. At times the infections are so bad I get "foggy headed." These times I am in misery. The last time I went to the ER hoping it wasn't sepsis. They gave me antibiotics. I can't keep running to the ER. My copays are too much. Maybe I need a doctor who specializes in working with people who have a spinal cord injury. – Anon.



Regular drainage of the bladder with a "straight catheter" is the most effective way to reduce the risk of urine infections in a person with a spinal cord injury, but it is not perfect. People may still get bacteria in the bladder. Although it may be worthwhile to review your catheterization technique with an expert, it's possible to get infections even with perfect technique. You haven't become immune to antibiotics, but the frequent use of powerful antibiotics will make you colonized with resistant bacteria, so that if you do get an infection, it's likely to be with a difficult-to-treat organism. The CT scan is a good idea to see whether there is an anatomic reason for recurrent (or persistent) infections. I am disappointed to hear your urologist does not seem to be doing his or her best for you. Recurrent infections are dangerous. Becoming foggy headed is a sign of serious systemic infection, and sepsis (a dysfunctional body response to infection) is life-threatening. Some people take antibiotics to prevent infection. Often, these are rotated to reduce resistance. A urologist experienced in spinal cord injury, perhaps in consultation with an infectious disease doctor, would be ideal.

DEAR DR. ROACH: When is the best time of day to take things like fish oil, vitamin D3 and calcium supplements? – M.W.R. There is moderately strong evidence that fish, or fish oils, may reduce the risk of cardiovascular disease. One or two servings a week of oily fish provides about as much benefit as more. For people who don't want to eat fish but want the benefit, a fish oil supplement daily (of about 1 gram) provides some of the benefit. I recommend taking it with meals to minimize the side effect of "fish burp" and to maximize absorption. Vitamin D, given to people at risk for deficiency or with proven deficiency, also should be given with meals to improve absorption. Vitamin D is also needed for some people with inability to absorb vitamins properly. I recommend once-daily dosing with the largest meal of the day. I seldom prescribe calcium supplements anymore. Recent data suggest that vitamin D and calcium together actually increased stroke risk. While vitamin D is important for bone health and is very difficult to get through food, calcium should be consumed as food, not as supplements. In addition to dairy products, many seeds, legumes, almonds and sardines are excellent calcium sources.

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](mailto:ToYourGoodHealth@med.cornell.edu). (c) 2021 North America Synd., Inc. All Rights Reserved.

† AMERICAN LUNG ASSOCIATION  
of Texas

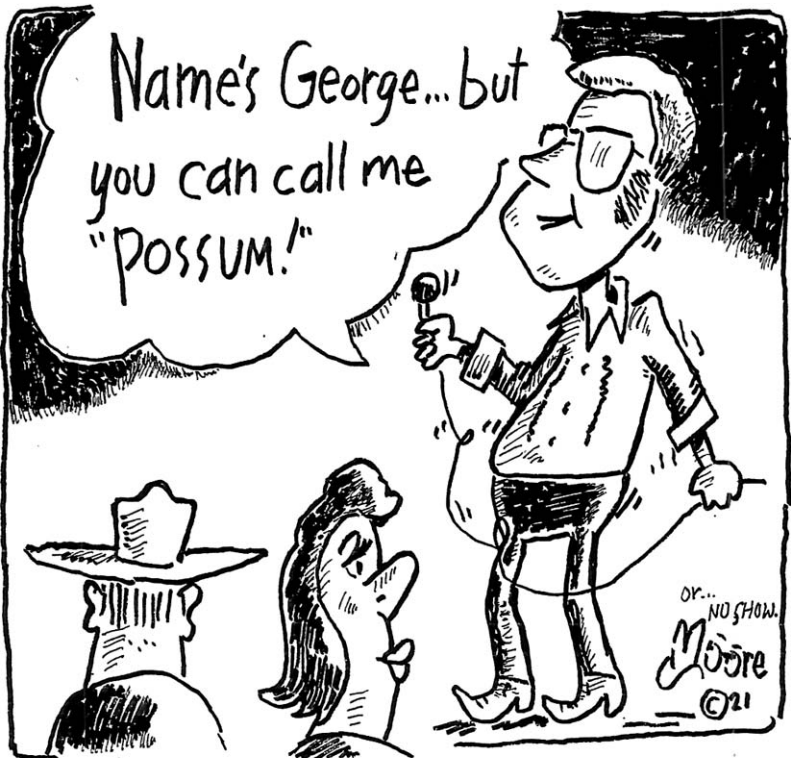
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**Moore Texas** by Roger MOORE  
George Jones was born in Saratoga in 1931. He had several nicknames.

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 S

OM GDJUBPWA XWDAOMY D  
VIUPP-NIZPPOMY PUDX UXZID  
DVFUI, NBPFOM CUGGJDM CDN  
D FUUFPOZ IUWZ.

Answer Page 4

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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 5

♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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The VA’s fourth mission



by Freddy Groves

The Department of Veteran’s Affairs has been busy. It was recently announced that it has completed 150 Fourth Mission assignments across the country.

Fourth Mission’s goal is to improve preparedness for response to war and national emergencies by developing plans and taking actions to support service to veterans as well as national efforts. In other words, when a need is there, so is help. (The first three VA Missions are health care, benefits and national cemeteries.)

If you ever doubted that the COVID pandemic has been a true emergency, you only need to look at the very long list of Fourth Mission humanitarian efforts to back up the nation’s health care system.

Here are a few examples of what the VA’s Fourth Mission has accomplished in all 50

states plus territories:

- Provided 935,000 pieces of Personal Protective Equipment.
- Admitted 488 non-veteran citizens to VA medical centers for treatment.
- Deployed over 5,000 medical personnel to 1,215 state VA homes, 980 community nursing homes and 94 non-VA hospitals. In Arizona alone, they provided staffing for six civilian hospitals. In Florida, they worked with over 8,000 long-term-care patients at 82 facilities. In Virginia, it was 852 long-term-care facilities.

There were untold thousands of COVID tests given and results processed. When the vaccines came out, VA personnel were there across the country to administer them.

The efforts weren’t limited to hands-on medical staff. Truck drivers were sent to multiple states to deliver supplies and vaccines. Pharmacists were sent to numerous locations, including federal prisons. VA personnel fed 250 veteran families every month in Georgia, along with 150 homebound VA patients. They held town hall and

state meetings with civilian authorities to coordinate how to contain the spread of COVID.

I’mimpressedbythismassive effort. To the thousands of VA personnel who volunteered to go, thank you.

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by Jo Ann Derson

• Keep a pretty basket by your front door for anything you need to take along when you leave. This can be store returns, backpacks, exercise gear for the gym, your sunglasses, whatever. When you leave the house, check the basket!

• “Necklaces can be stored together without tangling if you thread each one through a straw. You can cut the straw to a shorter length for choker-length necklaces or bracelets. No knots!” – I.A. in Arizona

• If you have a little bit of touchup paint left in your gallon can, transfer it to a mason jar. Write the exact color and brand on the lid, and it will be much easier to store.

• “Our basement was dark and a little claustrophobic. My husband painted it a lovely sunny yellow and that helped, but it needed something else. I took a photo of the spectacular view at our son’s house in Montana, and had the photo blown up. We mounted it on the wall with some dummy curtains! It’s perfect, and it reminds me of him.” – R.W. in New York

• Need to chill a bottle of wine quickly? Wet a kitchen towel, then wrap it around the wine. Twist the ends to secure, and put the whole thing in the freezer for 30 minutes.

• Great ways to remove stuck labels: nail polish remover (NOT for use on plastics), WD-40 oil, soaking in hot water, rubbing alcohol.

Send your tips to Now Here’s a Tip, c/o King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475 or e-mail JoAnn at heresatip@yahoo.com.

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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

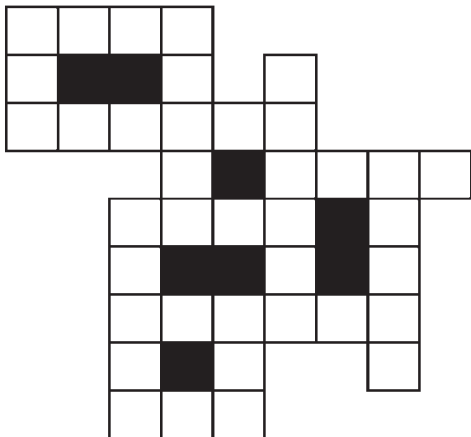
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Answer Page 4

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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