

Texas UIL

Current Issues & Events

NOTES



2019-20

Written, compiled, & edited by Bradley Wilson, PhD



The Federal Protective Service wreath laying ceremony was held in honor of six FPS officers who lost their lives in the line of duty. Photo by Tara A. Molle / DHS | **A cow bison and four red dogs graze in Lamar Valley.** Photo by Jacob W. Frank / NPS | **Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi talks with attendees at the 2019 California Democratic Party State Convention in San Francisco.** Photo by Gage Skidmore | **President Donald J. Trump and Melania Trump receive a policy update on the initiative to stop opioid abuse and reduce drug supply and demand on June 12, 2019.** Photo by Shealah Craighead / White House

2019-2020

UIL CURRENT ISSUES & EVENTS CONTEST NOTES

WRITTEN & COMPILED BY BRADLEY WILSON, PH.D.



UIL CURRENT ISSUES & EVENTS NOTES

Academic Year: 2019-2020

Written by Bradley Wilson, Ph.D.

Hexco, Inc. is a small company that listens! If you have any questions or if there is an area that you would like fully explored, let us hear from you. We hope you enjoy this product and stay in contact with us throughout your academic journey.

Linda Tarrant, President, Hexco Inc.

HEXCO ACADEMIC

www.hexco.com

P.O. Box 199 | Hunt, Texas 78024

Phone: 800.391.2891 | Fax: 830.367.3824

Email: hexco@hexco.com

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Bald Eagle Photo by Owais Jutt | **Joe Biden at West Point** U.S. Army photo by John Pellino | **Shooters aboard the Nimitz-class aircraft carrier USS George Washington, launch an E-2C Hawkeye.** Photo by Chris Cavagnaro / US Navy | **The Kalamazoo Public Library 22nd annual Party in the Park, a celebration of the national Stand for Children Day with a special story hour to focus community attention on the importance of sharing books with young children** Photo by John Lacko/ Kalamazoo Public Library

CURRENT ISSUES & EVENTS CONTEST NOTES

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BY BRADLEY WILSON, PH.D.

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CANTON HIGH SCHOOL: Anna Coppage, Case Cumming, Clayton Stern, Bradley Wilson, Caden Wiley, Cameron Sullivan



FOUR-YEAR PARTICIPANTS AT STATE: Nicholas Bishop, Ben Waddill, Bradley Wilson, X, X; (front) Marcus Peña, Chase Wunrow

IT'S A CHALLENGE, EVERY DAY. NOW, TELL ME MORE.

Welcome to another year of UIL Current Issues & Events. The purpose of this manual is to help prepare both students and instructors for one of the League's most interesting and challenging competitions.

But first, let's look at the two photos above. They represent all that is good about UIL. The one on the left is the team and instructor from Canton High School. They made shirts — in my favorite color, orange — that reflect a phrase I put out often on the @uilciande Twitter account — "Tell me more." What a great group.

The photo on the right is the students who made it to UIL State for all four years. They stuck with it. They spent hours studying. We should all want to be more like them.

...Moving on.

Let me repeat what I've said for the last few years: I can no better predict what will happen between now and April of 2020 than you can.

Sure, I can say with some certainty that the weather will be unpredictable and people will die because of it. I can say with some certainty that someone will do something heinous in the name of God. I can say with some certainty that there will be unrest in the Middle East. And I can say with some certainty that Donald Trump will say something on Twitter that will lead the news.

I just don't know who, when, where or why. It's your job to keep up with all of that.

So then, what's the point of this manual? Well, this workbook provides an outline or overview of what students need to know. It's a primer, a guide to show participants where and how to begin. Students who can master the information in these notes will understand the

context in which events and issues exist, and they'll have gone a long way toward being a productive member of their CI&E team.

THE 30,000-FOOT VIEW

This manual does not replace reading a first-rate metropolitan newspaper or news website. I do not recommend any site that espouses a particular political ideology. It's your job to find an objective, comprehensive source of news.

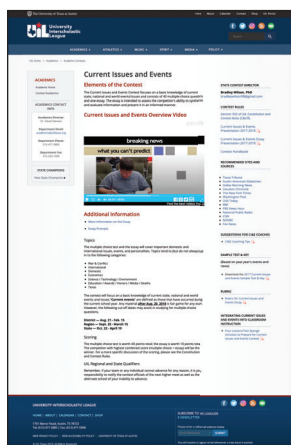
Regardless of your choices for news, you can't understand the why' and 'how' and 'so what' of what's happening in the world if you don't know the 'who' and 'what' and 'where' of happenings in the world. Students who possess this knowledge are not only more likely to win at this contest, they are more likely to participate in civic life, move up career ladders, succeed in college and generally have the esteem that comes with being regarded as an educated person.

UIL RULES

These notes also complement information provided by the UIL, in particular the *UIL Constitution and Contest Rules* and the *UIL Current Issues & Events Manual*. Both provide specific information about rules, policies, teams, wild cards and all the other technical details students don't necessarily need to know but coaches do. That information is available for free on the UIL website, and I won't duplicate much of it in this manual.

I highly recommend that you order a set of last year's tests. It'll give you an insight into how I see the world and formulate questions.

And have fun along the way.



LOOKING FOR THE RULES? All of the official rules and particulars of the contest are available online at the UIL website:
<http://www.uilTEXAS.org/academics/current-issues-and-events>

SAMPLE QUESTIONS

After being elected unanimously on the opening day of the Texas Legislature, Dennis Bonnen (R-Angleton) replaced Joe Straus, who held a record-tying five terms in what position?

- a. lieutenant governor
- b. president pro tempore (third in line for the governorship)
- c. speaker of the house**
- d. chairman of the Ways and Means Committee

A district attorney has been probing whether Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton broke any laws by ____ in addition to securities fraud. Paxton has been fighting these charges.

- a. using fraudulent prescriptions for painkillers
- b. providing money to his wife, running for Senate District 8
- c. accepting a \$100,000 gift from a CEO whose company was being investigated**
- d. investigating in Texas-owned companies including Whole Foods and Dell Computer



stricter age restriction would apply to tobacco products such as cigarettes, as well as e-cigarette products.

"I am astounded that it's been well over five decades since the first surgeon general's report in 1964 on smoking and health since we've first known of tobacco's carcinogenic effects," said. John Carlo, chairman of the Texas Public Health Coalition and member of the Texas Medical Association's Council on Legislation, in a Dallas Observer article by Stephen Young. "It's been almost 40 years since the tobacco industry was quoted calling 'today's teenagers' 'tomorrow's potential regular customer' and yet, here we are, still having this fight. Tobacco use continues to be the No. 1 cause of preventable chronic diseases and premature death in Texas."

According to numbers from the Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids, Texas suffers an annual cost of about \$8.22 billion in lost productivity from smoking.

ABORTION

Gov. Abbott signed SB22 into law soon after the session ended. This measure will prohibit state and local governments from partnering with agencies that perform abortions, even if they contract for services not related to the procedure.

Abortion opponents worry that any money directed to abortion providers could be used to promote the organization in other important ways, like to finance advertisements or open a new clinic. They criticized Planned Parenthood's \$1-per-year rental agreement with the city for its East Austin clinic, which they've railed against as an unfair "sweetheart rent deal."

"This bill just prevents taxpayer dollars from being used to support or prop up abortion providers," said state Sen. Donna Campbell, R-New Braunfels, the bill's author.

But SB 22 has been termed by critics as the "biggest threat to Planned Parenthood this session."

In addition, the legislature sent the "born alive" act, HB16, to Abbott. This legislation requires doctors to treat any child born alive after an abortion and to, "preserve the life and health of the child...." Any physician found in violation would be, again as the legislation says, liable to the state for a civil penalty of not less than \$100,000. Gov. Abbott signed HB16 into law June 16, 2019.

The bill would impose criminal penalties on doctors who fail to treat babies born alive after failed abortion attempts, which are extremely rare cases.

While HB16 criminalized inattention to viable fetuses, SB1033 criminalized "discriminatory abortions." While it did not make it out of the Calendars Committee, it, as the legislation said, prevented physicians from knowingly performing an abortion based on race, ethnicity, sex or the probability of diagnosis or of having a disability of the woman's preborn child. The legislation also outlawed abortions during the third trimester of fetuses with "severe and reversible abnormalities."

Looking back to the last special session and the last legislative session, it is easy to see that abortion has been on the minds of the legislators even before the changes in the United States

PEOPLE TO WATCH



PHOTO BY MARJORIE KAMYS COTERA
/ THE TEXAS TRIBUNE

DENNIS BONNEN

Bonnen was sworn in as Texas Speaker of the House on Jan. 8, 2019. Elected to the post by his colleagues, Bonnen set an early tone for unity among the House Chamber by empowering members to work together. Bonnen's election marks a new era of leadership in the lower chamber for the first time in a decade.

Whereas Straus was known as a mild-mannered leader, Bonnen has developed more of a combatant's reputation in the House. He seemed to lean into that perception in his remarks. "I've never seen the use in sugarcoating things," Bonnen said. "I am direct and I am a problem solver."

SAMPLE QUESTIONS

House Bill 3 was yet another attempt at reforming pieces of the Texas educational system. Which of the following was NOT contained in the legislation?

- an increase in base funding for each student by \$890
- funding for full-day pre-K for low-income 4-year-olds in most school districts
- an across-the-board teacher pay raise of \$5,000 with additional funds each district can allocate based on merit, up to \$1,388 per teacher**
- compression of tax rates for all districts and a reduction of the amount of money wealthier districts pay the state in recapture payments to shore up poorer districts

NOTE: The Senate plan included includes a \$5,000 teacher pay raise for classroom teachers and librarians, costing the state \$4 billion. Teacher pay was a divisive issue between the House and the Senate. See *Texas Tribune* article, "Texas Sen. Larry Taylor unveils new school finance bill, adding \$5,000 teacher pay raise."



PHOTO BY MIGUEL GUTIERREZ JR. / THE TEXAS TRIBUNE

Gov. Greg Abbott signed House Bill 3 during a triumphant ceremony at Parmer Lane Elementary School in Austin.

Rucker, Robert Costa and David Weigel, Sen. Lindsey Graham (R-South Carolina), a supporter of immigration reform who challenged Trump in the 2016 primaries, said, "There will never be a 2,200-mile wall built, period. It's become symbolic of better border security. It's a code word for better border security. If you make it about actually building a 2,200-mile wall, that's a bridge too far — but I'm mixing my metaphors."

Many Texans have come out against building a literal wall.

What the existing border fence has kept out, according to environmentalists, scientists and local officials, is wildlife. The people who have helped to acquire and to restore border habitat say if Trump turns the border fence into a continuous, 40-foot concrete wall, the situation for wildlife along the border will only get worse.

BULLYING

Effective Sept. 1, 2017, SB179, commonly known as "David's Law," expanded the definition of "bullying" under the Texas Education Code and clarified that the definition of bullying includes cyberbullying. The bill now gives the schools the discretion to punish students for off-campus bullying that is delivered to school property or to the site of a school-sponsored or school-related activity; occurs on a

publicly- or privately-owned school bus or vehicle being used to transport students; or interferes with a student's educational opportunities or substantially disrupts the orderly operation of a classroom, school or school-sponsored or school-related activity.

SB179, "David's Law," was named for Maurine Molak's 16-year-old son. Molak said her son was humiliated online in front of hundreds of classmates by students who threatened him. School officials said they couldn't do anything because the harassment didn't happen at school. The bullying only got worse, she said in a *Texas Tribune* article by Jackie Wang.

"It was as if we were in the middle of a tornado, and I couldn't move fast enough," she said.

David took his own life in January 2016.

EDUCATION

Signed into law June 11, 2019, HB3 reformed the Texas public school finance system.

"We did something that was considered to be highly improbable, and that is to be able to transform public education in the state of Texas without a court order forcing us to do so," Texas Gov. Abbott said at a press conference June 11.

Headlines across the state backed up the governor's sentiment. "Texas lawmakers over-



32.4

percentage of 18-24 year olds
that reported voting in **2018**

43.0

percentage of 18-24 year olds
that reported voting in **2016**

38

percentage of 18-24 year olds
that reported voting in **2012**

50.9

percentage of 18-24 year olds
that reported voting in **1964**

For more information, download *Young-Adult Voting: An Analysis of Presidential Elections, 1964–2012* issued in April of 2014.

SOURCE: census.gov



Am I registered to vote?
When is the election?
Can I vote early?
Where do I vote?
VOTETEXAS.GOV
by the Texas Secretary of
State's office



PHOTO BY BRADLEY WILSON
U.S. Senate candidate Beto O'Rourke speaks at a rally in Kiwanas Park in Wichita Falls Oct. 29, 2018.

In 2018, Texas had country's sixth-highest increase in turnout

Four years after Texas ranked near the bottom in voter turnout in the country, the state saw a double-digit percentage point increase in that figure for the 2018 midterms.

But that wasn't good enough to get Texas out of the bottom half of states, as it still lagged behind the national average and trailed all but 10 states this year, according to the **U.S. Elections Project**, which tracks the turnout rate of eligible voters nationwide.

Voter turnout in the 2018 Texas midterm elections increased by 18 percentage points compared with the previous midterms, the country's sixth-highest increase. Nationwide, turnout increased by 13 percentage points from 2014 to 2018.

Out of the voting-eligible population in Texas, 46.3% voted in 2018. Nationwide, turnout was 50.1%.

The biggest thing Texas could do, according to researchers Danielle Root and Liz Kennedy, is to implement automatic voter registration. By July 2019, 14 states will have automatic voter registration. Another 10 are set to vote on it by the end of the year.

But bring your ID with you

SB5, passed by the 85th Legislature, required voters who possess an acceptable form of photo identification for voting to present that identification to vote in person in all Texas elections. If voters had no such documentation, they had

to sign a sworn statement indicating the reason they were unable to obtain the documentation. It was the latest in a long battle regarding who was eligible to vote in Texas including a trip to the Supreme Court saying that previous laws discriminated against voters of color.

"It's a process that requires Texans to remain vigilant as they go to the polls, because they cannot always rely on election officials to get the details of the policy right or to navigate misleading information that might be out there," said Max Feldman, an attorney with the Brennan Center for Justice, in a Nov. 5, 2018 *Texas Tribune* article.

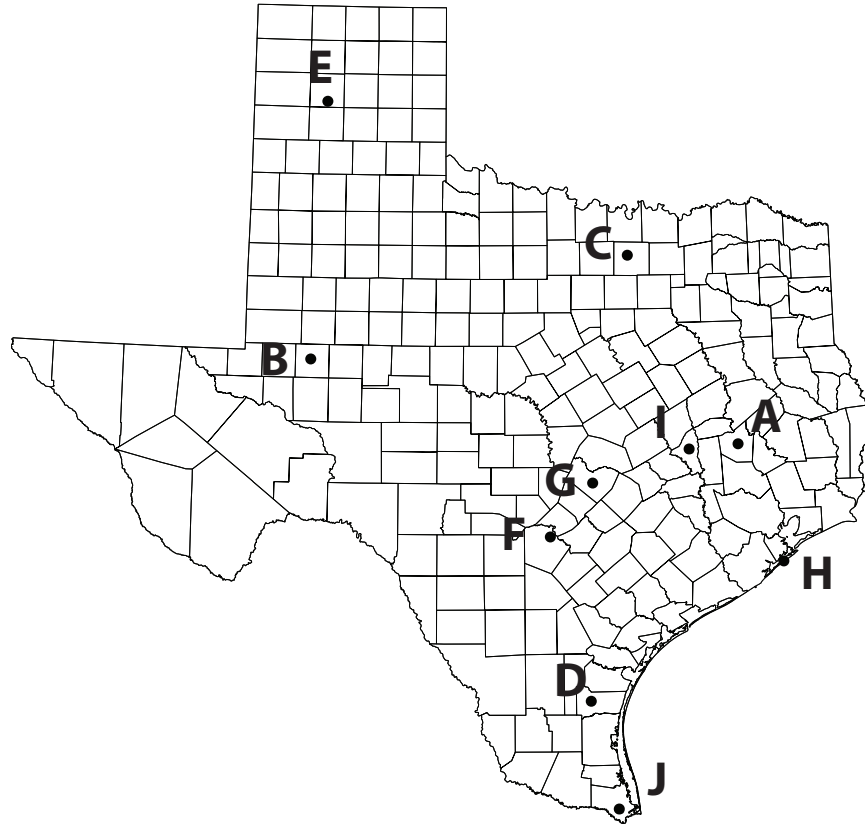
For more information on all the particulars around what is required to vote in Texas and the background on how it all came to be, the Texas Secretary of State's office has created a dedicated website, VoteTexas.gov.

A federal district court twice found that the law violated the U.S. Constitution because it was passed with a discriminatory purpose, and both the district court and a federal appeals court found that the law violated federal law with its discriminatory effect on voters of color.

In response to these damning rulings, the Texas Legislature passed a voter ID law. In court, Texas claimed — and a federal appeals court ruled — that this new alternative would remedy the initial law's legal violations.

The addition of the sworn statement alternative was a significant win for Texas voters. But it only works if people know that they can use it.

TEXAS GEOGRAPHY



DID YOU KNOW? Put the letter that corresponds to the appropriate item below.

- _____ 1. The National Helium Reserve is a strategic reserve holding more than 1 billion cubic meters of helium gas at the **Cliffside Storage Facility** about 12 miles northwest of **Amarillo**, in a natural geologic gas storage formation.
- _____ 2. King Ranch, located in **Kingsville**, is larger than the state of Rhode Island. Sprawled across 825,000 acres, the ranch was designated as a National Historic Landmark in 1961.
- _____ 3. Everyone in the town of **DISH**, received free basic television and DVRs for 10 years from DISH Network in exchange for renaming their town from Clark.
- _____ 4. The Texas State Capitol building in **Austin** is the largest state capitol in the nation.
- _____ 5. Located in **Bracken Cave**, the largest known North American bat colony has more than 20 million bats.
- _____ 6. The Great **Galveston** Hurricane of 1900 took between 6,000 and 12,000 lives with a storm surge of 8–15 feet.
- _____ 7. The last battle of the Civil War was arguably hosted by Texas. What started off as a giant mob fight on a coastal prairie east of **Brownsville**, Texas, turned out to be the last land action of the Civil War.
- _____ 8. The statue of Sam Houston, the first president and first governor of Texas, in **Huntsville**, is the world's largest free-standing statue of an American.
- _____ 9. The 9,500-year-old remains of a woman, the oldest human skeletons found in America, were uncovered on a ranch in **Midland** in 1953.
- _____ 10. The George H.W. Bush Presidential Library and Museum is the presidential library and burial site of George H.W. Bush, the 41st President of the United States, and his wife, Barbara Bush, in **College Station**.

SOURCES: "17 TEXAS FACTS THAT WILL BLOW YOU AWAY" BY SARAH KARNEY AND "21 INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT TEXAS."

ANSWER KEY: 1. E; 2. D; 3. C; 4. G; 5. F; 6. H; 7. J; 8. A; 9. B; 10. I

THE UNITED STATES



DONALD TRUMP JR.'s private business trip to India — during which he gave a foreign policy speech alongside Prime Minister Narendra Modi, raising conflict of interest concerns — netted \$15 million in real estate sales for a Trump Towers project in one day. "You could say it's been a good week," Trump Jr. told CNN.

Democratic members of the House Intelligence Committee said their interview with Trump Jr. was unhelpful to their ongoing investigation of Russian meddling in the 2016 U.S. election.

Rep. Jackie Speier told CNN her takeaway was that Trump Jr. "has a very serious case of amnesia" and said he was "pretty non-responsive" during the meeting.

The interview covered several topics including Trump Jr.'s contacts with WikiLeaks and an infamous June 2016 meeting at Trump Tower that landed the president's eldest son in hot water during the summer.

"I did not collude with any foreign government and do not know of anyone who did," the president's son also said in the interview with the committee's staff on Sept. 7, 2017. He said he was skeptical about the value of such a meeting and "as it later turned out, my skepticism was justified."



PHOTO BY ANDREA HANKS / WHITE HOUSE

First lady Melania Trump reads to children during her visit at The Nest Children's Home on Oct. 5, 2018, in Limuru, Kenya.

THE TRUMP FAMILY

President Trump has married three times, to Ivana Zelníková, Marla Maples and Melania Knauss.

Melania Trump (born Melanija Knavs) is now the first lady. She was born in Novo Mesto and grew up in Sevnica in the Yugoslav republic of Slovenia. She worked as a fashion model for agencies in Milan and Paris and moved to New York City in 1996. In 2001, she became a permanent resident of the U.S. She married Donald Trump in 2005, obtained U.S. citizenship in 2006 and is the first naturalized U.S. citizen to become first lady.

Trump has five children of which four are adult children from two previous marriages.

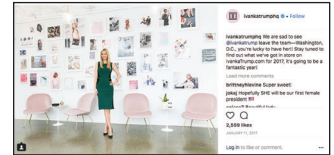
Donald Jr. has faced criticism following the 2017 revelation of a meeting with a Russian lawyer, with the promise of receiving damaging information about the campaign of Hillary Clinton in the 2016 presidential election. He works with his brother, Eric, as a trustee and executive director of a trust that controls the Trump Organization.

Ivanka is her father's senior adviser and is also the first Jewish member of a first family, having converted before marrying her husband, **Jared Kushner**. Ivanka Trump and her brand have been under fire numerous times for inappropriate advertising, including promoting the branded items she's worn for media coverage and interviews.

Eric Trump is a businessman, philanthropist and former reality television personality. From 2007 to 2016, he led the Eric Trump Foundation, a charity that raised money for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

Tiffany Trump, in 2016, received a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Pennsylvania, where she double-majored in sociology and urban studies and was a sister of Kappa Alpha Theta sorority. Her father also attended the University of Pennsylvania. She is attending Georgetown Law School in Washington, D.C.

Trump has one son with Melania Trump, **Barron**, born on March 20, 2006. Barron is the first pre-teen son to live in the White House since John F. Kennedy Jr. arrived as an infant in 1961.



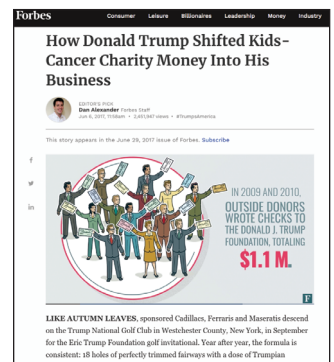
Ivanka Trump and her fashion company have been under fire numerous times for promoting the branded items she's worn for media coverage and interviews. The brand has since been shut down.



At the 2017 G20 Summit in Hamburg, world leaders were outraged when Ivanka Trump took her father's place at a meeting on African migration and health.

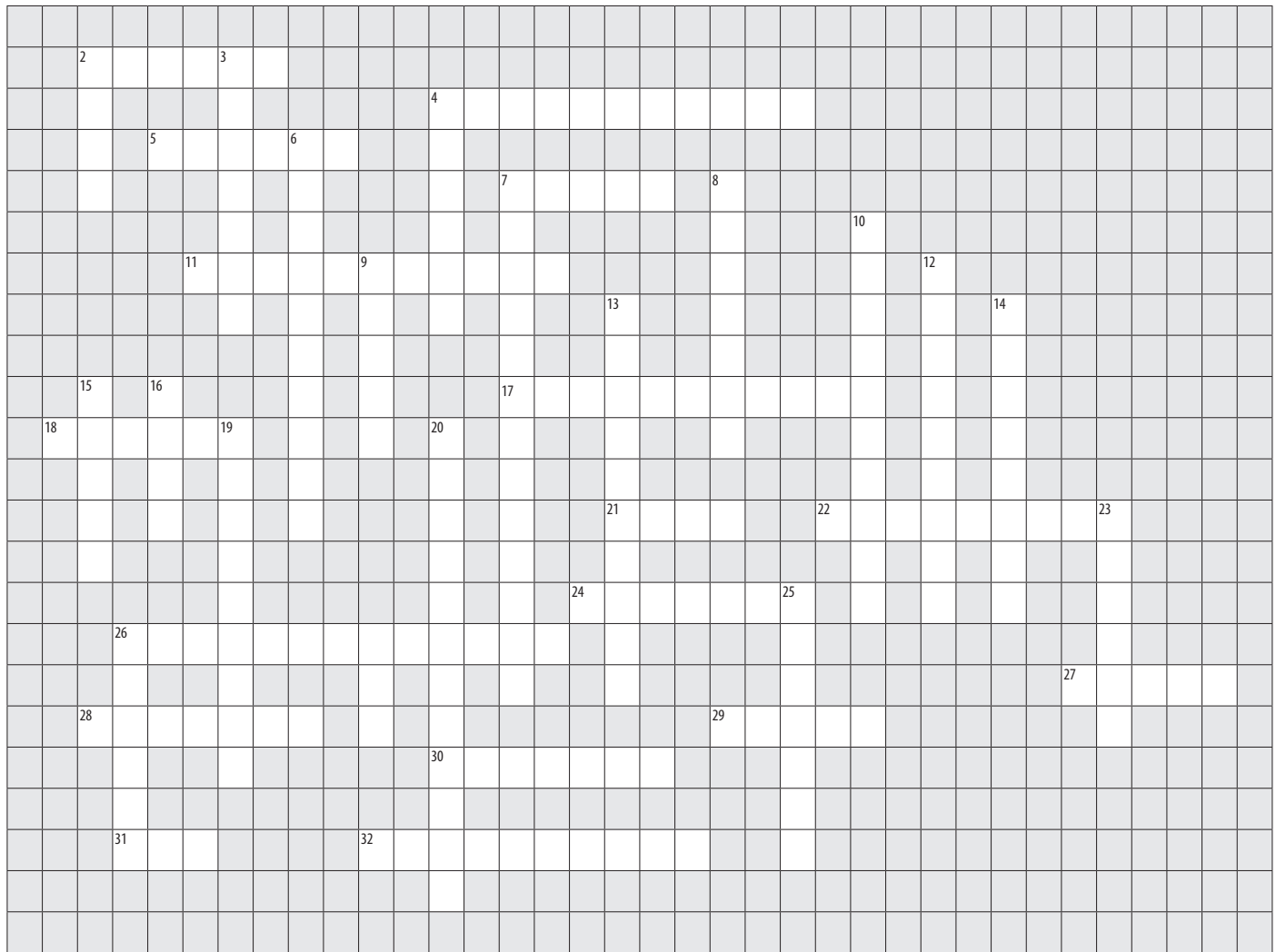


Tiffany Trump has only posted about 600 times on Instagram but has nearly 1 million followers.



In June 2017, Forbes reported that the Eric Trump Foundation shifted a portion of its money to the Trump Organization ostensibly to cover the expenses of various fundraising events, though charity experts say there was no reasonable cost justification. Eric Trump denies any wrongdoing and pledges to cooperate with investigators.

UNITED STATES



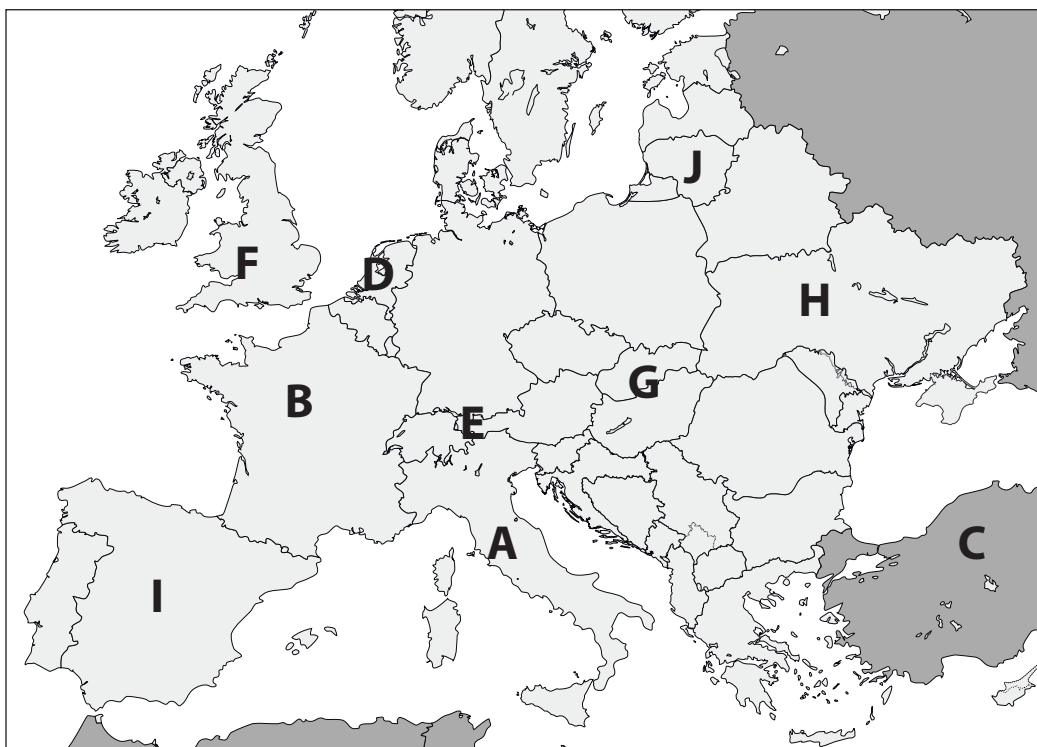
ACROSS

- 2 DeVos says schoolchildren need more
- 4 Democratic candidate for president from El Paso
- 5 prescription pain relievers, heroin and fentanyl; abuse is a serious national crisis
- 7 first country listed as emerging threat; country rising in global power
- 11 where 68% of Americans get news
- 17 essential "don't ask, don't tell" for this population now in the military
- 18 speaker of the house
- 21 country posturing using nuclear capabilities as bargaining power
- 22 latest justice appointed to U.S. Supreme Court
- 24 taxes imposed governments on goods imported from other countries
- 26 a specific threat; example: use of DNA modification to create super soldier
- 27 secretary of energy
- 28 fourth category of national security threat; adversaries, technologies, events and ____
- 29 former vice president, now candidate for president
- 30 first lady
- 31 Gross Domestic Product
- 32 ____ in the market is the highest since at least 2001

DOWN

- 2 junior senator from Texas
- 3 Democratic candidate for president who lost in 2016
- 4 former mayor of Newark
- 6 account for 13.6% of U.S. population; arrival was the most important problem facing the country
- 7 not addressed in 2019 State of the Union
- 8 former director of FBI
- 9 Secretary of ____ Alex Acosta
- 10 slogan developed by students from Stoneman Douglas High School
- 12 Republicans have failed to repeal or replace this
- 13 from Muller Report; none of this
- 14 abortion case
- 15 founder of Amazon; owner of *The Washington Post*
- 16 Tim Apple's real last name
- 19 1.8%; a rise in prices
- 20 around 3.6% reflecting rate of people without jobs
- 23 first African American attorney general
- 25 longest serving independent in U.S. congressional history
- 26 makers of 787 Max

EUROPEAN GEOGRAPHY



LABEL THE FOLLOWING COUNTRIES: Austria, Belarus, Belgium, Belgium, Croatia, Denmark, France, Germany, Iceland, Italy, Kosovo, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Spain, Switzerland, Turkey, United Kingdom

EUROPE IN THE NEWS. Put the letter that corresponds to the appropriate item below.

- _____ 1. **Liechtenstein**, Europe's fourth-smallest country, is marking its 300th anniversary by creating a 46.6-mile set of hiking trails.
- _____ 2. What started as a protest over gas taxes has turned into a more general attack on the government of **France** by Yellow Vest protesters.
- _____ 3. Five years after a missile shot down an airliner over **Ukraine**, killing all 298 people on board, international prosecutors indicted three men with ties to Russian military and intelligence agencies.
- _____ 4. Pedro Sánchez, the prime minister, completed a remarkable comeback by leading Socialists to victory in national elections in **Spain**.
- _____ 5. Amanda Knox, an American who was exonerated in a 2007 murder, returned to **Italy** where her legal drama unfolded to speak about wrongful convictions.
- _____ 6. For the fifth consecutive year, **Turkey** hosted the largest number of refugees worldwide.
- _____ 7. Zuzana Caputova, a 45-year-old lawyer and political neophyte who has never held state office, became the first woman sworn in as president of **Slovakia**.
- _____ 8. European authorities are investigating whether the government of the **Netherlands** illegally allowed Nike to avoid paying taxes on profits from sales in the region.
- _____ 9. Archie Harrison Mountbatten-Windsor was introduced to the world a mere two days after he was born in London, **England**.
- _____ 10. **Latvia** became the latest country whiplashed by rising populism, showing support for pro-Russia and anti-establishment parties in the fall election.

ANSWER KEY: 1. E; 2. B; 3. H; 4. I; 5. A; 6. C; 7. G; 8. D; 9. F; 10. J

29. As part of his search for a new secretary of defense, U.S. President Donald Trump heard from retired four-star Army Gen. Stanley McChrystal. However, Trump said McChrystal was "Known for big, dumb mouth." Why did McChrystal say he would not work for Trump?
- "When Trump is in charge, all that counts is ability, excellence and effort."
 - "I don't think he tells the truth."
 - "Trump will never turn his back on those who serve and protect us at home and abroad."
 - "Trump is not some great man of virtue, but this much I'll say for him: I think he loves America. However, I think he wants to line his own pockets."
30. The National Teacher of the Year in 2016, Jahana Hayes, a Democrat, also became the first African American woman to represent what state in Congress?
- New York
 - Connecticut
 - Massachusetts
 - Georgia
31. Deb Halland from New Mexico and Sharice Davids from Kansas were elected to Congress. What "first" did they represent?
- They were the first women to bring their infant children onto the House Floor during a symbolic vote on childcare.
 - They were the first female military officers elected to Congress.
 - They were the first females elected from "red" states to national office.
 - They were the first Native American women elected to Congress.
31. After decades of authoritarian rule, in what country, now led by reformist Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed, can citizens now speak their minds?
- Mexico
 - Cuba
 - Guinea
 - Ethiopia
32. Pope Francis named two 20th century figures as saints. Who?
- Jorge Mario Bergoglio and Joseph Aloisius Ratzinger
 - Pope Paul VI and Archbishop Oscar Romero
 - Simon Peter and Siccone Secchi
 - Daniel DiNardo and Theodore McCarrick
33. U.S. President Trump announced in October 2018 that he would pull the country out of the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty. What did this treaty do?
- prevented Russia from putting missiles in Cuba
 - prevented any country other than Russia and the U.S. from developing intercontinental ballistic missiles
 - limited the number of missiles China and Russia could have
 - limited the number of missiles in each country, Russia and the U.S.
34. When Christine Blasey Ford testified before Congress about Brett Kavanaugh, what legal standard was applied?
- beyond a reasonable doubt ($\geq 95\%$)
 - clear and convincing evidence ($\geq 75\%$)
 - preponderance of evidence ($> 50\%$)
 - convince the public

HOW TO STUDY

1. Each day, write a flash card on a significant event from that day.
2. Review all the cards regularly.
3. Share the cards with your teammates and quiz each other at least twice a month.

A few electronic versions of flash cards:

- <http://www.flashcardmachine.com/>
- <http://www.studystack.com>
- <http://www.scholastic.com/parents/resources/game/tools/flash-card-maker>
- <http://www.kitzkikz.com/flashcards/>

NO ENDORSEMENT FOR LINKS ABOVE IS IMPLIED OR STATED.

The links are offered as suggestions only and there are other companies that provide similar services.

Flash cards for illustration purposes are below.

It's #EarthDay. We've reached the "gold standard" for certainty, a statistical measure typically used in particle physics. According to a February study, there's a 99.9999% chance that humans are the cause of what?

Prime Minister Theresa May asked the European Union on Friday to delay Britain's departure from the bloc for a second time — until June 30. Tell me more.

Denver Public Schools and almost 20 other local school districts are closed today as authorities search for a woman whom they described as armed and "infatuated," days before the 20th anniversary of what attack?

ANSWERS

Climate change. "There's a 99.9999% chance that humans are the cause of global warming, a new study reported Monday," an article by Doyle Rice in *USA Today* Feb. 26, 2019 said. "This means we've reached the 'gold standard' for certainty, a statistical measure typically used in particle physics."

Brexit. Now the deadline has been extended until Oct. 31, 2019.

Columbine. Local, state and federal officials are searching for Sol Pais, 18. She made "credible" — but unspecific — threats after traveling from Miami to Denver, and is considered dangerous, said Dean Phillips, the special agent in charge of the local FBI office, according to an article on CNN.