



NEWSBRIEFS

Exercise class

Oz Glaze Senior Center (13969 Veny Webb, Horizon City) is offering free senior exercise classes on Tuesdays and Fridays from 9:30 - 10:30 am. For information, please call Margie at (915) 731-4574.

— Judi Verslype

Hard working cities

With March 6 being Employee Appreciation Day and Americans outworking many of their foreign peers by hundreds of extra hours per year, the personal-finance website WalletHub has released its report on 2020's *Hardest-Working Cities in America* as well as accompanying videos. In order to determine where Americans work the hardest, WalletHub compared the 116 largest cities across 11 key metrics. The data set ranges from employment rate to average hours worked per week to share of workers with multiple jobs. El Paso ranked 50th in this report. Other stats:

- Irving, TX has the lowest share of households where no adults work, 11.75 percent, which is 3.6 times lower than in Detroit, MI, the city with the highest at 41.87 percent.
- New York City, NY has the longest average commute time, 41.20 minutes, which is 2.9 times longer than in Cheyenne, WY, the city with the shortest at 14.40 minutes.
- Baltimore, MD contributes the most annual volunteer hours per resident, 45.22, which is 5.5 times more than in Jacksonville, FL, the city that contributes the fewest at 8.20.
- Minneapolis, MN, and St. Paul, MN, both have the lowest share of idle 16-24-year-olds, 5.90 percent, which is 3.1 times lower than in Memphis, TN and Stockton, CA, the cities with the highest at 18.00 percent.

Visit <https://wallethub.com/edu/hardest-working-cities-in-america/10424/> for the full report.

— Diana Polk

Money management

With 45 percent of U.S. adults grading their knowledge of personal finance a C or lower, the free credit score website WalletHub today has its report on 2020's *Best & Worst Cities at Money Management* as well as accompanying videos. In order to determine where Americans are best

See BRIEFS, Page 2

The American family and the U.S. government agree about one thing – neither can live within their income.
— Quips & Quotes



— Photo by Alfredo Vasquez

PAY TO DRIVE? – If tolls for the newly-opened Border West Expressway go into effect, they would be forever and increases would follow periodically to pay for additional bonds. The bond money obtained would be spent in El Paso, but for who and what purpose would be dictated by a small number of people influencing the Camino Real Regional Mobility Authority (CRRMA) board.

Pickett urges public to speak out against tolls for new Border West Expressway

By Alfredo Vasquez
Special to the Courier

EL PASO COUNTY – The recently completed Border West Expressway, which serves as a connector thoroughfare between Interstate-10 and the César Chávez portion of Loop 375, has been enthusiastically received by motorists who traverse from one part of El Paso County to the opposite side on a regular basis.

The new expressway gives drivers an alternate route from the hectic, unpredictable flow of traffic often congesting the interstate highway. As more motorists discover the expressway's convenience, the better the

situation seems to be getting on the area's other main roadways.

But, the enthusiasm for the Border West Expressway may be short-lived because the Camino Real Regional Mobility Authority (CRRMA) plans to institute tolls for its utilization. And with tolls comes a significant decrease in its use.

Currently, the expressway's toll status is designated as a deferral period because of a disagreement between the CRRMA and Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT). The two do not agree on whose policies apply to toll collection, according to Joe C. Pickett, the former El Paso state representative and former chairman of the House Transportation Committee.

"The CRRMA is to operate it, but its fees, especially late charges, would be higher than those under TxDOT operated-tolled roads," Pickett stated in a recent local newspaper column. He asserted that all El Paso County residents deserve to use this road toll free.

Pickett should know because when he was still in office, he legislatively facilitated the removal of tolls from the César Chávez portion of Loop 375, a couple of years ago. After much political pressure and citizenry outcry, CRRMA board of directors voted unanimously in the summer of 2017 to suspend tolled lanes that stretched nine

See TOLLS, Page 7



— Photo by Carlos A. Briano

Gilbert Trejo is the WateReuse Association President and Chief Technical Officer for El Paso Water.

Water recycling a priority for El Paso and nation

By Carlos A. Briano
Special to the Courier

NATION – The WateReuse Association joined the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) last Thursday in Washington, DC to unveil the National Water Reuse Action Plan, a collaborative effort that represents the first initiative of its magnitude to be coordinated across the water sector. Actions taken under this plan will bolster the sustainability, security and resilience of the nation's water resources.

Gilbert Trejo, president of the WateReuse Association (WRA) and chief technical officer at El Paso Water, offered

remarks and said that WRA has worked diligently with the EPA and partners to solicit public input and stakeholder feedback so that Action Plan initiatives were both strategic and actionable.

"The WateReuse Association is dedicated to advancing water recycling across the nation," Trejo said. "It was an honor to work with partners in the water sector on this Plan that I believe connects the dots, and offers bold and innovative solutions to our water resource challenges."

Collaborating partners included the American Water Works Association, the

See WATER, Page 6

Trashing Mike Bloomberg

In Las Vegas, Mike Bloomberg’s half-billion-dollar crashshoot was revealed as a load of, well, you know. Half a BILLION dollars! That’s what he will have spent before Super Tuesday, when he is first on any ballot. But even before then, his lavishly paid advisers had allowed him to participate in a debate where, unlike his saturation TV ads, the actors and actresses didn’t stick to the script. Instead, they stuck it to him, relentlessly.

Elizabeth Warren awakened from her hibernation to come roaring at Bloomberg just after the opening platitudes:

“I’d like to talk about who we’re running against,” she hissed, “a billionaire who calls women ‘fat broads’ and ‘horse-faced lesbians.’ And no, I’m not talking about Donald Trump. I’m talking about Mayor Bloomberg.”

It was “Stomp on Mike Night” at the Democratic debate, as most of the candidates were more than willing to trash Michael Bloomberg, who has the personal financial billions to spend hundreds of millions of dollars in a blatant attempt to buy a nomination. Even with a saturation campaign of TV ads that paint a glowing picture of Bloomberg, the luster is soiled by a past that includes severe offenses against minorities and women, who are vital if the party has any chance to unseat Trump.

But this is a Republican-turned-Democrat who is really still a Republican when it comes to his support of a plutocracy. And he is effectively a bigot, or he was when he championed a stop-and-frisk policy that targeted minorities for demeaning treatment at the hands of his NYPD. He has found it necessary to apologize every chance he gets, now that he needs people of color because they are solidly Democratic – you can’t win the nomination without them. So Bernie Sanders teed off: “Mr. Bloomberg had policies in New York City of stop-and-frisk, which went after African American and Latino people in an outrageous way. ... That is not a way you’re going to grow voter turnout.”

Bloomberg, who has not participated in a political debate since his mayoral days, was no match for the presidential candidates, who have had eight previous confrontations to sharpen their knives.

Back to Warren, who was relentless about the charges that private businessman Bloomberg had been so sexist that his organization had to settle lawsuits against him. All those who sued had to sign a nondisclosure agreement before their payoff, just like the kind Donald Trump requires.

Would he allow those who are bound by those NDAs to speak publicly? No, insisted

Bloomberg, signing them was “consensual.”

Millions of women consider “consensual” a favorite refuge for those accused of being a sexual predator. But then sensitivity has never been Bloomberg’s thing.

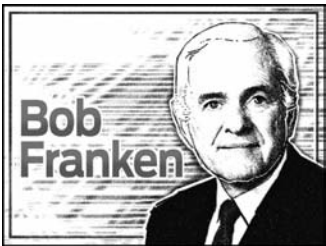
At one point in the debate, Sanders was advocating that corporations be required to include a company’s workers on their board of directors.

Bloomberg replied: “Other countries tried that. It was called communism.” Sanders calls himself a socialist, not a communist. There’s a difference.

It’s important to note that Bernie Sanders seems to be running away with the race at this early stage, which is scaring the daylights out of party leaders who believe that his nomination would be an act of election surrender to Trump.

Meanwhile, the Democratic candidates will pile on Bloomberg again and again and again. No amount of paid TV ads can protect him from that.

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- On March 2, 1925, the first nationwide highway numbering system is instituted to minimize confusion. Later, interstate highway numbering would be improved by colored signs and the odd-even demarcation that distinguishes between north-south and east-west travel.
- On March 3, 1931, President Herbert Hoover signs a congressional act making “The Star-Spangled Banner” the official national anthem of the United States. Francis Scott Key had composed the lyrics as he witnessed the overnight British bombardment of Fort McHenry during the War of 1812.
- On March 4, 1966, Beatle John Lennon’s controversial quote is printed in the London Evening Standard: “We’re more popular than Jesus.” After a reprint in the U.S., Bible belt radio DJs organized Beatles record burnings and protests, declaring Lennon’s remarks blasphemous. Even the Vatican chimed in. Lennon eventually apologized.
- On March 5, 1977, the Dial-a-President radio program, featuring President Jimmy Carter, airs for the first time. Carter answered calls from all over the country from his desk in the Oval Office. Approximately 9 million calls flooded the CBS radio studio during the two-hour broadcast.
- On March 6, 1899, the Imperial Patent Office in Berlin registers Aspirin, the brand name for acetylsalicylic acid, on behalf of the German pharmaceutical company Friedrich Bayer & Co. In its primitive form, the active ingredient, salicin, was used for centuries in folk medicine.
- On March 7, 1876, 29-year-old Alexander Graham Bell receives a patent for his revolutionary new invention – the telephone. Bell’s patent filing beat a similar claim by Elisha Gray by only two hours.
- On March 8, 1986, “Mask,” starring Eric Stoltz and Cher, opens. Cher, who had launched a serious acting career with her appearance in Robert Altman’s “Come Back to the Five and Dime, Jimmy Dean, Jimmy Dean” in 1982, received the Best Actress prize at the Cannes Film Festival for her role in “Mask.”

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Write stuff

Editor:

The Social Security Disability Insurance and Supplemental Security Income programs protect some of the most vulnerable members of our society. A successful disability program must evolve and support making the right decision as early in the process as possible. To help us do that, we must modernize the rules and standards we use to evaluate how we determine disability benefits.

We are moving forward with a rule change that has been in the works for a number of years and serves to update a more than 40-year-old policy that made the inability to communicate in English a factor in awarding disability benefits. The new rule is effective April 27, 2020.

We are required to consider education to determine if your medical condition prevents work. In 2015, our Inspector General recommended that we evaluate

the appropriateness of this policy. Research now shows the inability to communicate in English is no longer a good measure of a person’s education level or the ability to engage in work. The new rule also supports the Administration’s longstanding focus of recognizing that individuals with disabilities can remain in the workforce.

To make the right disability decisions, our disability rules

must reflect current medicine and the evolution of work. We need to update our rules to keep up with society’s changes.

We owe it to the American public to ensure that our disability programs continue to reflect the realities of the modern workplace.

Sincerely,
Ray Vigil
Public Affairs Specialist
Dallas Region

Briefs

From Page 1

at handling their finances, WalletHub compared more than 2,500 cities based on 10 key indicators of money-management skills. The data set ranges from median credit score to average number of late payments to mortgage debt-to-income ratio. El Paso was ranked 2,263rd in th this report out of 2,572 cities. Other stats:

- Cupertino, CA has the lowest credit-card debt-to-income ratio, 1.80 percent, which is 6.6 times lower than in Park City, UT, the city with the highest at 11.86 percent.
- Saddle Butte, MT has the lowest mortgage debt-to-income ratio, 137.61 percent, which is 7.6 times lower than in Bell Gardens, CA, the city with the highest at 1,041.35 percent.
- Westport, CT has the lowest student-loan debt-to-income

ratio, 12.63 percent, which is 8.1 times lower than in Orangeburg, SC, the city with the highest at 101.76 percent.

- Laguna Woods, CA has the lowest average percentage of credit use, 21.00 percent, which is three times lower than in Herriman, UT, the city with the highest at 64.00 percent.

Visit <https://wallethub.com/edu/best-cities-at-money-management/19256/> for the full report.

– Diana Polk

Seeing double

An attempt to break the world record for the largest number of twins to gather in one place went awry in Sri Lanka recently. They were aiming to attract about 5,000 pairs of twins to secure the Guinness record established in Taiwan where 3,961 sets showed up in 1999. But the Sri Lankan event attracted an estimated 14,000 pairs causing chaos

– John Grimaldi

1973

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Years

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Published each Thursday (minimum 50 issues) by Homesteader News, Inc. Office open Monday through Thursday.

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Bernie Sanders’ skewed worldview

Bernie Sanders may be on the verge of gaining an insurmountable lead in the Democratic nomination fight, but he’s not letting that get in the way of his socialist principles.

Asked in a “60 Minutes” interview about old statements praising Fidel Castro’s supposed achievements in health care and education, Sanders stayed true to himself.

“You know, when Fidel Castro came into office, you know what he did?” he told interviewer Anderson Cooper. “He had a massive literacy program. Is that a bad thing? Even though Fidel Castro did it?”

No, literacy programs aren’t a bad thing, but they usually don’t require seizing power in a violent revolution, jailing and killing political opponents, seizing private property, or outlawing the free press. Teaching children to read is something that happens in free societies, too. That Bernie continues to believe a literacy program is some kind of recommendation for a regime that has otherwise oppressed and immiserated its people for decades is a sign of his skewed view of what’s important and just for a polity.

Asked by Cooper about jailed Cuban dissidents, Sanders said he condemns that, but in any rational view, it’s the imprisoning of people for expressing unwelcome political views that is the foremost thing to know about the Cuban dictatorship, period, full stop.

The left has nonetheless always viewed Fidel Castro as some kind of social worker who happened to take and hold power – or “come to office,” as Sanders delicately puts it – via force.

Back in 1989, Sanders wrote, “Cuba

– the one country in the entire region that has no hunger, is educating all of its children and is providing high-quality, free health care – is hated with a passion by the Democrats as much as Republicans.”

Besides the moral obtuseness of arguments like this, the factual basis for such claims is dubious. Cuba was already doing well on measures of health care and education prior to the revolution.

Bernie’s perspective on Cuba is characteristic of his worldview that has a sympathy for America’s enemies, at least if they are communist or Islamist; that assumes the worst of the United States; and that opposes nearly

all U.S. military interventions as misbegotten or malign (Sanders voted for the Afghanistan War after Sept. 11, and now regrets even that vote).

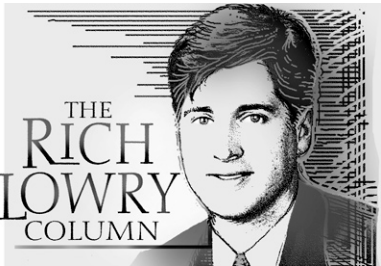
Electing Bernie Sanders would be almost indistinguishable from putting the late radical historian Howard Zinn, or the America-loathing linguist Noam Chomsky, or the tendentious left-wing filmmaker Michael Moore in charge of American foreign policy.

The country would be in the hands of an opponent of its power with no faith in its goodness. Bernie would make Barack Obama’s overly solicitous attitude toward our enemies and Donald Trump’s bizarrely warm statements about foreign dictators look like American foreign-policy orthodoxy by comparison.

There is almost no enemy of the United States that wouldn’t be heartened by a Sanders victory, and see it as an opportunity to make gains at the expense of the United States and its allies. If his decades-long track record is any indication, Sanders would be inclined to make excuses for our adversaries and look on the bright side of their repression and rapine.

He’s doing it with the Cuban dictatorship to this day.

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



EPCC ranked first for Hispanic degrees

By Jim Heiney
Special to the Courier

EL PASO COUNTY – *The Hispanic Outlook on Education* magazine has once again ranked El Paso Community College (EPCC) on its Top Community Colleges for Hispanics list. For the 15th year in a row, EPCC has earned the nation-wide distinction of being the number one granter of associate degrees by two-year schools. This ranking substantiates EPCC’s dynamic efforts to increase degree attainment in our region.

According to data presented in the Top Community Colleges for Hispanics issue of *The Hispanic Outlook on Education* magazine, EPCC awarded 3,528 associate degrees to Hispanic students. EPCC ranks number two among the Top 25 Community Colleges with the most Hispanic enrollees, with a Hispanic population of 228,819 students totaling 85 percent of the total student enrollment.

These rankings are just one of EPCC’s many national recognitions that EPCC President Dr. William Serrata is particularly proud of earning. Serrata credits



– Image courtesy El Paso Community College

15 STRAIGHT YEARS – *The Hispanic Outlook on Education* magazine has once again ranked El Paso Community College as the number one granter of associate degrees by two-year schools.

the work of faculty and staff for facilitating student success that helps students cross the stage at

graduation and earn that degree or certificate. As a first-generation community college student himself, he says it is extremely important to help all students, including Hispanic students, and others underrepresented in higher education get degrees since higher education is the only path to the middle class.

“Being ranked number one for two-year degrees awarded to Hispanic students exemplifies EPCC’s role as a national higher education leader and our reputation for student excellence,” said EPCC President Dr. William Serrata. “It reflects our commitment to open admissions with high expectations for the students we serve, and as a result, EPCC is strengthening our community, the state, and the entire nation.”

The annual ranking is based on several factors, including the percentage of Hispanic students in attendance, total student enrollment; two-year schools awarding the most associate degrees to Hispanics, and the percentage of Hispanics awarded associate degrees by two-year schools. Data for the rankings is from the NCES IPEDS Database for community colleges granting the most associate degrees in 2018.

“The capability of our students is exemplified by this ranking and we are especially proud of their dedication and success,” Steve Smith, Vice President of Workforce and Continuing Education said. “This is evidence of our commitment to affordable and high-quality education, and is also testament to the efforts of our excellent faculty, staff and administration who strive every day to provide our students with powerful educational opportunities.”

Strange BUT TRUE

By Samantha Weaver

• It was American cartoonist, humorist and journalist Kin Hubbard who made the following sage observation: “There’s no secret about success. Did you ever know a successful man who didn’t tell you about it?”

• Next time you’re in Iowa, you might want to stop by the rural town of Riverside, which touts itself as the future birthplace of Captain James T. Kirk. Yep, the *future* birthplace. It seems that “Star Trek” creator Gene Roddenberry asserted that the character of James Tiberius Kirk was born in Iowa, but he didn’t specify exactly where. In 1985, the Riverside City Council voted to declare their town the future birthplace of the character, later writing to Roddenberry and receiving his approval. In honor of its newfound claim to fame, the city began hosting an annual Trek Fest, complete with a Spockapalooza battle of the bands.

• If you enjoy cooking, you might have heard of some of the following cookbooks: “Kill It and Grill It,” “The Joy of Pickling,” “Full of Beans,” “The Stinking Cookbook” and “I Can’t Believe It’s Not Meat!” Then again, maybe not.

• The term “bric-a-brac,” usually used to refer to a collection of tawdry trinkets, comes from the French, where its original meaning was “at random.”

• Most parents of small children know trampolines can be dangerous, and they are. Every year, nearly 100,000 people receive emergency-room treatment for injuries sustained while using trampolines. Those injuries are hardly ever fatal, though. Pools, on the other hand, are far more deadly; more than 1,000 people in the United States die in swimming pools annually.

Thought for the Day: If living conditions don’t stop improving in this country, we’re going to run out of humble beginnings for our great men.

– Russell P. Askue

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CryptoQuip

Answer

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into two parts, so I
suppose they might
rename it Cleave Land.

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Miners need to find their quarterback above all else

By Steve Escajeda
Special to the Courier

Compared to what was expected back in November, the UTEP basketball season has pretty turned into a disaster. Not at all what we thought when the team got off to an 8-1 start. Some players haven’t played with any sense of urgency and some can’t decide if they want to stay in the program, and the team has underperformed to the point of having to rally just to finish in the top 12 to advance to the Conference USA Tournament. It almost sounds like I’m talking about the football team. And speaking of UTEP football, the Miners start spring practice this week in yet another attempt to jumpstart a program that has been stuck in neutral for decades.

Head coach Dana Dimel is entering his third season at the helm of the Miners and though his first couple of years (2-22 record) can be largely blamed on the personnel he inherited, next season will be put squarely on his shoulders. Spring practice officially started on March 3 and culminates with the annual Spring Game on April 11. The Miners are scheduled to have 14 practices before the game. UTEP has a challenging season ahead, starting with season opener against Texas Tech in the Sun Bowl on September 5. The next two games are very tough ones, at Nevada and then in Austin against the Texas Longhorns. In week four, the Miners return home for their annual tussle with rival New Mexico State. So as you can see, the upcoming season looks like an exciting one, from a

scheduling standpoint. The question is, will the Miners be up to the challenge? We’d really settle for just somewhat respectable. Where the Miners have lacked woefully is at the quarterback position. As any football fan knows (I think even non-football fans know this), quarterback is the most important position on a football team. Without a decent quarterback, you are almost guaranteed a losing season. And with only two wins in their last 36 games, it’s easy to see where the program’s problems have been. The three main contenders for the starting quarterback spot are Gavin Hardison, T.J. Goodwin and Calvin Brownholtz. Hardison is the frontrunner, having played in a few games late in the season a year ago. He showed signs of having a

strong arm but his accuracy was a little off at times. Goodwin and Brownholtz are untested, but come with a lot of promise. The three will battle it out during spring drills and the hope is that a true starter will emerge. The problem the last few years is that the quarterback position for the Miners has been a sort of out-of-control carousel, with no true leader in charge of the team. There’s a saying in football, “having two full-time quarterbacks is the same as having none.” And that’s how it’s been at UTEP for a long while. Exactly how bad has the passing game been at UTEP? Everybody who watches football on a regular basis knows that if a team throws for 300 yards, they’ve had a pretty good day through the air.

Well, in their last 66 games, UTEP has thrown for 300 yards on just three occasions.

That is so amazingly bad that I had to check my research a few times to make sure those numbers were correct.

Sadly, they are. To be honest, I don’t envy coach Dimel one bit. Let’s face it, he’s tasked with trying to build an entire team from the ground up. There isn’t a segment of this team, be it quarterbacks, linebackers, secondary or offensive line, that anyone can feel totally confident about. The only places where the Miners may have talent and depth may be at running back and wide receiver.

But again, the runners need a good offensive line and the pass catchers need someone who can get the ball to them. And we haven’t even brought up the defense. They gave up nearly 40 points a game last season.

So once again, UTEP football fans will take an early glimpse at what this team may look like in the fall in that first game against Texas Tech. We’ll hope for the best, expect the worst, and hopefully finish somewhere in between.

Water

From Page 1

Association of Metropolitan Agencies, the National Association of Clean Water Agencies, the Water Environment Federation, and the Water Research Foundation along with several federal agencies. “We shared information, broke down silos and aligned and leveraged each other’s resources,” Trejo said. “This kind of partnership will have a lasting impact and clear a path toward significantly increasing the adoption and acceptance of water reuse in the coming years.” Trejo highlighted El Paso’s history with reuse and a range of benefits from recycling water. Over three decades, EPWater has used water recycling to restore sensitive wetlands ecosystems, to cool power plants and to irrigate golf courses, city parks, school grounds, apartment landscapes, and construction and industrial sites. The results have conserved water and helped stabilize a declining aquifer. Trejo said El Paso is leaning into the

future with construction planned for an Advanced Water Purification Facility, which will purify 10 million gallons per day of reclaimed water to be pumped directly into the city’s distribution system. “In our region, water reuse is a solution for drought resilience,” Trejo said. “But in other parts of the country, water reuse provides a solution to challenges that cities face when storm runoff impacts reservoirs, when water quality is not meeting standards, or when utility discharges have the potential to impact sensitive ecosystems. Water reuse is a 360 solution.” The Action Plan includes clear commitments – 37 actions across 11 strategic themes – to further water



– Photo by Carlos A. Briano

Dave Ross is the Assistant Administrator for the Office of Water, EPA.

while supporting the economy—today and for future generations.” For more on water reuse, and to read the National Water Reuse Action Plan visit: <https://www.epa.gov/waterreuse>.

reuse and help assure the sustainability, security and resilience of the nation’s water resources. “While acknowledging significant accomplishments the agency and its partners have made in providing Americans with access to safe water, we also see emerging challenges that require collaborative and creative solutions,” said EPA Assistant Administrator for Water Dave Ross. “Together, we are leading efforts to address these challenges to protect public health and the environment and the environment

Super Crossword

DOING PR WORK ACROSS										58	Commercial in which all of one's fury is unleashed?	113	Sofa	musical	types																																																																																																																																																																																																																																
1	Maize	62	Fido's sound	65	Faced	66	Phileas Fogg creator Jules	68	Like a slob's bed	69	Blowtorch the exterior of your launch vehicle?	74	Wind section	75	Quaint oath	76	Just a _ (somewhat)	77	Hissing snake	78	Ice-skating food	DOWN																																																																																																																																																																																																																									
5	1980s TV's "Kate & _"	10	Bank acct. underwriter	14	Resort isle near Naples	19	Cock-_ (mixed dog breed)	20	Pencil end	21	Prehistoric beast, briefly	22	ALF or ET	23	Pool hall champion?	26	Flower calyx part	27	Off _ (sporadically)	28	Small flycatcher	29	Christmas songs	31	Omega preceder	32	Passover crackers	34	Place where pizza dough is flattened?	37	"We _ not amused"	38	Ripken of the diamond	40	Angriness	41	Actress De Carlo	42	Get the shoe mender on the phone?	47	Marine eel	49	Poetic foot	50	Pertaining to the sun	51	Still wrapped	52	In spite of the fact that, for short	55	King Arthur's home	101	Park oneself	102	Dwelling: Abbr.	103	Tirades about the trials of being a mother?	109	Not switched off	111	Ace	112	Art style	115	Spanish for "queen"	116	Wax theatrical	118	Actor Moranis playing a garbage sweeper?	121	12-inch stick	122	Small toiletry case	123	Pay the penalty	124	First-aid plant	125	Fencing blades	126	Part of NYPD: Abbr.	127	Tightly wound	128	Give away temporarily	4	Squid dish	2	Expanse	3	Sports squad that rarely has home games	5	Vivarin rival	5	Fourth mo.	6	Belt holder	7	Longtime con	8	Split evenly	9	Lucy's TV pal	10	32nd pres.	11	Actress Wiest	12	Disguised, for short	13	Alternatives to Pepsis	14	Tapioca-yielding tree	15	Hoppy drink	16	1972-77 Broadway	17	Explanation	18	Queued up	24	Tennyson's " _ Arden"	25	More elusive	30	Astron. distance	33	Little pouch	35	Like the vbs. "eat" and "lie"	36	Tiny dog	39	Get bested by	43	TV network north of the USA	44	Ty-D-_ (bathroom brand)	45	Slo-_ (fuse type)	46	Riga native	47	Brawl	48	Athena's bird	51	Sam once in the Senate	52	Trees yielding wood for ships	53	Mythical hell	54	Dramatist Clifford	56	Collect	57	Conductor Zubin _	58	Cake icer	59	Countryish	60	Cell terminal	61	Yukon maker	62	Cut short	63	Harp on gloatingly	64	Anterior	67	Cut short	70	Suffix with neat or peace	71	" _ tell ya!"	72	Problems for vain	73	Tide targets	79	Shin's place	81	Noted coach	82	Bygone AT&T rival	83	Slump	86	Home of Monte Carlo	88	Vehicle ownership certificate	89	Get drunk	90	Trapped	91	34th prez	92	Corporate marriages	93	Avonlea girl	94	Hide _ hair	95	It's nothing	96	Comical Cheri	97	Current unit	98	Pre-race stretch, say	99	"King Ralph" actor Peter	100	Ocular cleansing receptacle	104	One way to mark debits	105	Uninspired	106	Like skim milk	107	Mozart's "Cos fan _"	108	"Danke _"	110	Prenatal	114	Egg layers	117	Golf gadget	119	Model-making set	120	"Annabel _"

Answer Page 4

Answer Page 4

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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



Tolls

From Page 1

miles along the Border Highway between U.S. Highway 54 and Zaragoza Road. Lanes that were being used by less than six percent of daily commuters.

Pickett advised that the newly-planned toll fees could be eliminated again, but again it would take immediate push from the public. He pointed out that CRRMA, which manages the expressway project, is a quasi-governmental body created by the

El Paso City Council and that all board members, except the chairperson, are appointed by the council.

“If the City Council were to pass a resolution asking the CRRMA board to negotiate a withdrawal proposal to take before the Texas Transportation Commission, I believe they would find a very receptive audience,” Pickett suggested. “There is no need for tolls. This is the only planned toll road in the state of Texas that does not have to pledge the toll revenue to pay back borrowed dollars,” he stated.

“The reason I believe they would be

highly responsive is due to issues behind the scenes that I and people within the Texas Department of Transportation are aware of,” Pickett stated. “The questionable financing of the initial project that could be subject to federal fines would be lessened, for one; the idea of very little new revenues generated to the state for its ownership share of the project is another,” he noted.

Pickett stated that if the CRRMA is allowed to begin collecting tolls, it would be next to impossible to stop at a point in the future because, once there is a revenue

stream, regardless of how small, the plan would be to then go to the bond market and borrow funds, and that would mean into perpetuity.

The current chairman, J. Bruce Bugg, of the Texas Transportation Commission, has a reputation for supporting regions that are not in favor of tolls, according to Pickett. “The timing is right. Call, write or email El Paso city representatives and the mayor, and let’s get the ball rolling and stop... another bad toll project in our hometown,” the former state representative exclaimed.

90-pound chemo patient should stop fasting

DEAR DR. ROACH: My daughter-in-law has stage 1 breast cancer and has just started her chemotherapy. I am concerned about her decision to fast for two days before and one day after each treatment. She weighs only 90 pounds, and fasting while you are trying to fight cancer does not sound like a good idea. What is your opinion of fasting during chemotherapy? – K.B.



In theory, fasting may make cancer cells more susceptible to chemotherapy, and there have been studies in mice suggesting this approach might have value. However, during chemotherapy, the whole body needs good-quality nutrition, and I could not recommend fasting for someone who weighs so little, nor could I recommend two full days of fasting before chemotherapy. Until there is clear evidence that intermittent fasting is of benefit, I don’t recommend it. Your daughter-in-law, in particular, is not a good candidate, being so very thin (assuming she is of near-normal height).

DEAR DR. ROACH: A couple of years ago, a letter writer asked if you knew anything about the effect of Advil on men with enlarged prostates. It seemed that ibuprofen decreased his trips to the bathroom. I have found the same thing myself. Taking two Advil allows me to wait five to six hours before having to urinate. Has there been more research on why this happens? – S.Z.

There is some more information. Men with symptoms of enlarged prostate often have increased urinary frequency, combined with incomplete emptying. This makes sense; if you can’t empty your entire bladder, you will have to empty it more frequently. So it seems the ibuprofen is letting you empty the bladder more completely. There are two major reasons for incomplete emptying, and different theories for why ibuprofen might work on each.

Benign (not cancerous) enlargement of the prostate is one reason. In this case, it is hypothesized that ibuprofen stops the growth of cells in the prostate, but the exact mechanism isn’t clear. Reducing the size of the prostate can allow better, more complete urine flow.

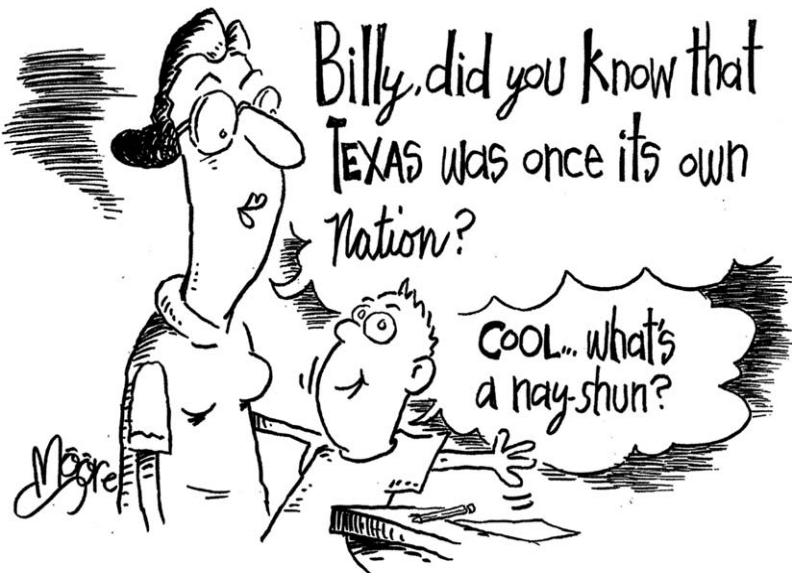
The other common cause of the prostate symptoms is inflammation of the prostate. In this case, ibuprofen’s anti-inflammatory effect reducing symptoms is easier to understand. The fact that it works so quickly for you suggests that the anti-inflammatory effect is more important in your case.

Ibuprofen does have possible side effects, but two ibuprofen once a day is unlikely to cause significant problems.

DEAR DR. ROACH: My teen likes vegetables and eats right. He also drinks a lot of water, works out and doesn’t like soda. He and my sister have chronic constipation. They both now take a magnesium supplement and feel great. Is that OK? – T.M.S.

Magnesium is a common and safe treatment for constipation. A healthy diet, exercise and drinking plenty of water are good ideas for anyone with constipation, but some people do need additional help. I have previously mentioned prunes (or prune juice) as an option, but magnesium, if taken at a dose to ensure regular but not excessive bowel movements, is a fine treatment.

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



Moore Texas by Roger T. Moore
March has been designated **TEXAS HISTORY MONTH** by the state legislature. Enjoy and educate.

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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: W equals D

VOG SCQMVEP IJT WRBRWGW
VIC AJEVT, TC R RMVC
TQAACTG VOGP XRNOV
EGMJXG RV SKGJBG KJMW.

Answer Page 4
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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

3					1		2	
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Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

Answer Page 4
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Learn how to navigate the medical care maze



by Freddy Groves

It's easy to get lost in the shuffle of medical care. When something is wrong, you need to know what it is, and quickly. That didn't happen with a veteran in New York.

For that veteran there was a delay in finding out about abnormal test results. Policies say that if the results require intervention or action, the patient needs to hear from the ordering provider in seven days. If that provider isn't available, each medical facility must have a surrogate, someone charged with handling the test results. In other words, the results just don't get lost somewhere and forgotten.

For the veteran above, there was a 36-day delay. The person who ran the tests quickly passed along the results to the surrogate provider... who sat on them for 28 days. After handing

them off to the next in line in the hierarchy (the chief of staff), the veteran was finally notified eight additional days later.

In another case there was a problem with ambulance transport. A provider told paramedics to transport a veteran to a certain civilian hospital because the closest civilian hospital didn't have the proper equipment. The doctor personally called the hospital and verified that information. The paramedics, however, decided to take the patient to the closest civilian hospital. They later had to pick up the veteran and take him to the correct hospital.

This leaves it to you, the patient, to ask questions. Specifically you want to know: When will the medical test results be ready? Who will have those results? Get the name and phone number. If you're transported by ambulance and can communicate, ask where you're being taken.

The more medical people you query along the way, the

better your chances of being listened to and finding the one with the information you need. Be persistent.

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• "For uniform cookies, roll and freeze your dough for 10-15 minutes. Most doughs will harden enough to slice into perfectly even slices, and the freezing doesn't really affect cooking time too much. (Watch your first batch, though.)" – R.L. in Missouri

• If you are reattaching a button to shorts or pants, try using dental floss, the unwaxed kind. It's much stronger and can hold the button better than regular thread. Use a marker to darken it if the color is an issue.

• "Here's a use for large plastic jugs: Cut off the bottom and use as a megaphone at sports games. Assemble the younger siblings off field and let each have his or her own megaphone. They can be decorated with stickers. Have the kids make up a cheer." – T.T. in Texas

• Dampen a paper towel with vinegar and put it into your kid's lunchbox after you wipe it out. Zip up and leave overnight. It absorbs smells.

• "Use a hair dryer on the warm setting to dry out boots that have gotten wet inside. Check often to make sure it's not getting too hot inside. Remove insoles if possible." – D.E. in Nebraska

• Need an easy substitute for buttermilk? Squeeze lemon juice into milk, and let it sit for 10-15 minutes before using.

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

GO FIGURE! by Linda Thistle

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

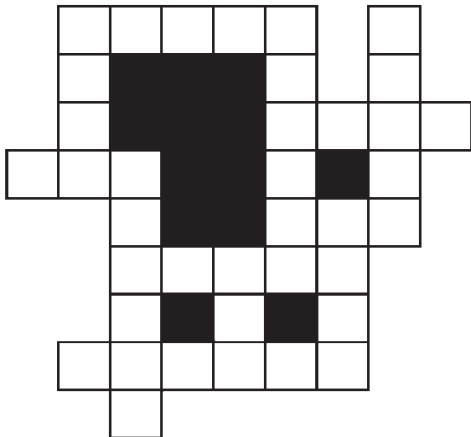
DIFFICULTY: ★★
★ Moderate ★★ Difficult
★★★ GO FIGURE!
Answer Page 4

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YMG
HIMLUS
NILVE
♥LAAG
BLAGMI
♥NSI
VYEL
BASMY
♥ABG
TRWHAM
TGMHI
♥HTCI



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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