



NEWSBRIEFS

Sticker contest

The El Paso County Elections Department invites all county middle school students to participate in the second El Paso County “I Voted” sticker design contest. The winning design will be used as the official “I Voted” sticker. The sticker will be distributed to voters at all Early Voting Locations and Election Day Vote Centers during the 2022 election season. “The El Paso County Elections Department is excited to extend this contest to El Paso County Middle School students and continue to encourage youth involvement in the electoral process,” said Lisa Wise, Elections Administrator. A first, second and third place design will be selected by a panel of judges. Judging will be based on the artistic skill, theme, and uniqueness of the design. Participants must agree to the contest official rules and submit their design by completing an “I Voted” Sticker Design Entry Form and Parental Consent Form. All submissions must be sent via e-mail at, ep elections@epcounty.com by 4:45 p.m. on October 28, 2021. More information is available on the El Paso County Elections Department website at www.epcountyvotes.com.

— Melissa Rosales

EPCC resource fair

El Paso Community College (EPCC) is having a Fall 2021 Virtual Resource Fair about the Valle Verde campus, *Navigating Resources in this Virtual World*. Students, staff and public in general are invited to attend. The sessions will be held September 21-23 starting at 10:00 a.m. Services such as the Student Support Services Program, Center for Students with Disabilities, Testing Center, Financial Aid, Bookstore, Writing Center, Student Leadership, Nursing Program, Health Occupation, VV Library, Tejano Food Pantry, Community Education Program, Service Learning Program and Tutoring, among others, will be available for the EPCC and the community during the fair. “Learning about the services and resources each department offers, will enhance students’ college experience,” said Diana Medina, EPCC Counselor and Dean Dual Credit & ECHS

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Character does not reach its best until it is controlled, harnessed and disciplined.

— Quips & Quotes

Mask mandate goes in effect countywide

By Alfredo Vasquez
Special to the Courier

EL PASO COUNTY – El Paso city and county leaders jointly stood their ground recently and successfully obtained a temporary injunction that blocks the Texas governor’s ban on mask-wearing mandates during a recent hearing before County Court at Law No. 7 Judge Ruben Morales.

The court proceedings came after City of El Paso officials filed a lawsuit against Governor Greg Abbott’s issuance of an executive order on July 29 limiting local governments’ response to COVID-19, including restricting the enforcement of mask mandates. Abbott’s executive order stated, “no person may be required by any jurisdiction to wear or to mandate the wearing of a face covering.”

In the hearing, the governor’s lawyer Benjamin Dower argued that El Paso officials had failed to show a mask mandate is more effective than simply encouraging residents to wear masks. He added that El Paso County had not seen a dramatic increase in cases since the delta variant of COVID-19 impacted the region. Dower stated that hospitalized COVID-19 patients are less than half of what they were in February.

Subsequently, Judge Morales pointedly asked Dower what increase would be needed before a mask mandate was required. Dower responded that it was

the El Paso officials’ burden to show that mask encouragement instead of a mask mandate would cause irreparable harm.

Lawyer Manuel Arambula, who represented El Paso’s interest in the hearing, argued that the governor’s executive order violated state statutes by preventing El Paso officials’ authority to order a mask mandate.

“The question here is whether the governor has the authority to suspend state statute?” Arambula asserted. “At the end of the day, the governor’s own order says it is suspending state statute. The Texas Constitution states the governor does not have the power to do so,” he countered.

After hearing both sides, Judge Morales ruled in favor of El Paso officials and granted the temporary injunction. Morales stated that El Paso officials had shown that unless the governor is temporary enjoined, the county and its residents will suffer imminent and irreparable injury by preventing the local health authority from exercising its duty to require persons in El Paso city and county to wear face coverings.

The judge added that the wearing of masks or face coverings significantly reduces the spread of the COVID-19 virus and that mask mandates have been shown to be effective in reducing the spread of COVID-19.

Consequently, all El Paso County residents older than 12 years old must now wear a face covering over their



— Internet

Dr. Hector Ocaranza testified in favor of the countywide mask mandate.

nose and mouth while in public facilities starting Saturday, September 4th and the directive will stay in effect until the case goes to trial October 7th. Individuals who refuse to abide by the mandate could face a fine of up to \$500.

El Paso City-County Health Authority Dr. Hector Ocaranza testified at the hearing

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TxDOT offers tips for driving near schools, buses

By Jeff Salzgeber
Special to the Courier

TEXAS – Despite much lower traffic levels around Texas schools due to the pandemic, there were still hundreds of crashes in school zones last year. So as millions of Texas students return to class, the Texas Department of Transportation is reminding drivers to watch out for kids walking and biking to school to keep everyone safe.

Unfortunately, crashes in school zones do happen. There were 11 people seriously injured in school zone crashes in 2020, along with 1,214 crashes involving school buses across the state.

The most common causes for these crashes in school zones are failure to control speed, driver inattention, failure to yield the right of way at a stop sign and failure to yield the right of way at a private driveway.

TxDOT is urging drivers to slow down, stay alert and follow all traffic laws to keep children safe and avoid costly fines and tickets. We all have a responsibility to keep children safe on their way to and from school.

Tips for Driving in School Zones

- Be aware that traffic patterns around schools may have changed since the last school year, and expect more vehicles on the road as many students will be returning for the first time since the start of the pandemic.
- Stay alert and put your phone away. Using a handheld electronic device while driving in an active school zone is against the law.
- Always obey school zone speed limit signs. Remember, traffic fines increase in school zones.
- Drop off and pick up your children in your school’s designated areas, not the middle of the street.
- Keep an eye on children gathered at bus stops.
- Watch for children darting across the street or between vehicles.

Tips for Drivers Sharing the Road with School Buses

- Follow at a safe distance, keeping in mind that school buses make frequent stops.
- Always remain alert for children around buses and remember that they may not always look for vehicles before crossing the street.
- Stop for flashing red lights or a stop sign on a school bus, regardless of which direction you’re headed. Continue your trip once the bus has moved, the flashing lights stop flashing or the bus driver signals it’s okay to pass.
- Violations can lead to a fine of up to \$1,250 for a first offense.

Tips for Children Walking or Biking to School

- Always use sidewalks. If there’s not a sidewalk, walk on the left side of the street facing traffic.
- Cross the street at intersections or marked crosswalks. Look left, right and left again before proceeding.
- Always obey crossing guards.
- Make eye contact with drivers before crossing the street. Never assume a driver sees you.
- Look for traffic when stepping off a bus or from behind parked vehicles.
- Always wear a helmet when riding a bicycle.
- Don’t be distracted by electronic devices that take your eyes and ears off the road.
- Follow all traffic rules, signs and signals.

“Be Safe. Drive Smart.” is a key component of #EndTheStreakTX, a broader social media and word-of-mouth effort that encourages drivers to make safer choices while behind the wheel such as wearing a seat belt, driving the speed limit, never texting and driving and never driving under the influence of alcohol or other drugs. Nov. 7, 2000 was the last deathless day on Texas roadways. #EndTheStreakTX asks all Texans to commit to driving safely to help end the streak of daily deaths.



- “Well, who ya gonna believe, me or your own eyes?”
– Chico Marx, 1933
“Duck Soup”
- “The party told you to reject the evidence of your eyes and ears.”
– George Orwell, 1949
“1984”
- “Just remember: What you’re seeing and what you’re reading is not what’s happening.”
– President Donald Trump, 2018, Veterans of Foreign Wars National Convention

Slow-forward three years to the present: Day by day, contribution by contribution, Trump has raised \$82 million

Trust nonsense

in the first six months of 2021, an extraordinary amount for an ex-president. That means that millions of Americans are willing to open their wallets and make the statement that they choose not to believe their eyes and ears that Jan. 6 ever happened, at least not the way they’re “seeing” and “reading” and remembering. More basically, in spite of overwhelming evidence to the contrary, stating that the Joe Biden forces somehow stole Trump’s re-election from him. They ignore all that reality. Their memories have been wiped clean. Why? Because Trump said so. And he raised \$82 million in six months to show for it. And that, by the way, is just in reportable donations. There’s no telling how much “dark money” he has shoveled into his accounts where you can’t see it. Not that you need to. Nor has their collective amnesia recalled the horror of

the extremist mob that invaded the Capitol building on Jan. 6. The “big lie” of Trump’s election victory manifested itself in a riled-up riot. But following his lead, Donald Trump’s Republican lemmings have turned those arrested for trashing the Capitol into “political prisoners.” And Ashli Bennett, the woman who was shot to death by a policeman, has become a martyr to the blind followers of the Trump cause. She had followed the mental buzz of some conspiracy theory and stormed the barricades that outnumbered law enforcement were trying to protect. So what can Trump do with his post-presidency millions? Pretty much anything he wants. He can lavish primary cash on the campaigns of candidates who have pleased him, or, more importantly, against those who have displeased him. His travel expenses can be paid as he barnstorms the country. More

importantly yet, it could be easily transferred to a presidential campaign if he actually decides to run, or if he doesn’t, to the campaign of a successor. As a result, most of the candidate wannabes in the Republican Party, which includes nearly every politician in the party, are occupying some territory between trying to ingratiate him- or herself to Trump and everyone else in his base who he absolutely has under his spell. This includes everyone from House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy to the pillow guy, Mike Lindell. Lindell is at the forefront of the “Trump will be reinstated” movement, which is pure gimmickry. That’s a polite way of saying it’s a con. The rest of the other serious hopefuls are biding their time, holding their breath to avoid antagonizing the manic-depressive Trumpster. Some are secretly hoping that he is tripped up by all the legal problems that could cause him grief. Could he use his political contributions for legal expenses?

Possibly. There are a number of lawyers out there willing to represent him – and get their share of billable hours in the process. Although, perchance Rudy Giuliani is not one of them. That’s conceivable because of the fact that Trump has a past of stiffing everyone who does business with him. Presumably that would include lawyers. Over a lifetime, Trump has been telling lies, ignoring business expenses, breaking promises, stretching the truth, demagoguing issues, whatnot. He’s able to get away with it because of the blinding light that wipes away the sight and intellectual ability of millions of his followers. There is just one description for what he gets away with: “Alternative facts.” – presidential counselor Kellyanne Conway, January 2017, “Meet the Press”

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View from here

By Jane M. Orient, M.D.

Will the U.S. win the war against COVID-19?

As U.S. forces beat a chaotic withdrawal from Afghanistan, defeated after 20 years by the primitive Taliban, who clung to their guns and their faith, America’s invincibility as the “world’s only superpower” might be disputed. Joe Biden told Americans, when speaking about his gun-control agenda, that to move against the government one would need F-15s¹ and perhaps nuclear weapons. The Taliban lack those, although they have acquired a treasure trove of advanced weapons left behind by Americans. Against Americans, the U.S. government

might not deploy F-15s, nukes, bombers, or killer drones, but it has other means of compulsion, backed up by SWAT teams with assault weapons: prisons, ruinous fines, deprivation of licenses and permits, withholding of benefits on which one has become dependent, no-fly lists, or freezing one’s financial assets. In the “war” against COVID-19, the government is showing its willingness to deploy all of these against anyone who might interfere with its strategy: lockdowns and mandatory warp-speed vaccine. In war, civil rights get suspended. There

is no freedom to express dissenting views; no freedom to work, to travel, to choose your medical treatment, or to decline treatment to which you object; no right to habeas corpus or a speedy trial; no right to compensation for taking your property. And “refuseniks” are even being denied medical care of any kind. In the war against COVID, the U.S. is counting on its magnificent pharmaceutical industry to deploy novel drugs and vaccines. Meanwhile, it is engaged in unilateral disarmament, trying to thwart the use of the primitive remedies being used in less affluent countries that

for some reason have much lower COVID death rates. By March 2020, there were reports of successful treatment with chloroquine (CQ) or hydroxychloroquine (HCQ), derivatives of one of the oldest lifesaving remedies known, quinine from cinchona bark. The Office of Trade and Manufacturing Policy was able to acquire 62 million doses of these drugs before both China and India shut off their exports to the U.S. Health and Human Services Secretary Azar directed the Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority (BARDA) to develop an Expanded Access Investigational New Drug (IND)

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1973
48
Years
2021

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Phone: 852-3235

E-mail: wtxcc@wtxcc.com
Website: wtxcc.com


Publisher
Rick Shrum

Contributors
Alfredo Vasquez
Steve Escajeda




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PUBLIC NOTICE
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS AND PARTIES:
The *West Texas County Courier* will publish two editions early. The September 23 and September 30, 2021 issues will go to press on Thurssday, September 16, 2021.
All material for this publication must be submitted to the *West Texas County Courier* no later than Monday, September 13, 2021.
The *West Texas County Courier* office will close beginning Friday, September 17, 2021. The office will open again on Friday, October 1, 2021.



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Sorry Joe, this was not a success

Talk about a catastrophic success.

The Biden administration wants credit for the Afghanistan evacuation as measured by the sheer number of people it flew out amid a security and humanitarian crisis of its own making.

This is the arsonist bragging about how many fires he has put out.

Those with memories that stretch past a couple of weeks ago will recall the halcyon days when a mass evacuation at a civilian airport exposed to suicide bombers and other attackers wasn't, according to Joe Biden, even conceivable.

Biden contributed to the collapse of the Afghan military by denying it air cover, gave away Bagram Air Base for no good reason, pulled out U.S. troops before our diplomats and civilians, drastically underestimated the gathering Taliban offensive, and then, caught unawares by the fall of Kabul, scrambled to jury-rig a desperate rescue that shouldn't have been necessary in the first place.

That the U.S flew out more than 115,000 people out of Kabul is a testament to the awesome capabilities of the United States military.

It is not in any way a vindication of President Biden's exit.

The evacuation itself has been costly. Because we outsourced security outside the airport to the Taliban, our service members were forced to operate in dangerous conditions. A nearly inevitable attack last week killed 13 of them. That's the loss of more Americans in one day than were killed in action most years in Afghanistan since 2015.

Then, we failed by the most important metric. We left hundreds of Americans behind who wanted to leave, a squalid betrayal that was unfathomable before the Biden team began to try to prepare the public for it a week or so ago.

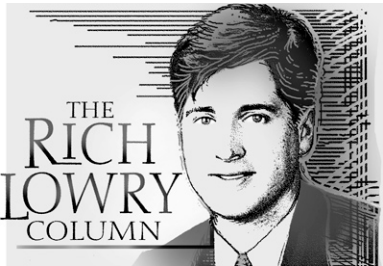
It's hard to imagine any prior American president, perhaps with the exception of Jimmy Carter, abandoning Americans behind enemy lines. Theodore Roosevelt mustered the naval might of the United States to save one American who had been kidnapped in Morocco in 1904. Barack Obama traded five Guantanamo detainees for Bowe Bergdahl in 2014.

Even Biden felt the impulse to get every last American out. He pledged to do it in his interview with George Stephanopoulos. In order to keep his promise to the

Taliban to get out by Aug. 31, though, he broke his promise to his countrymen.

We still don't know how many U.S. green-card holders, to whom we should also feel an obligation, have been left behind. And there have been reports that the Taliban was blocking our most deserving Afghan allies from getting to the airport, meaning the Afghans we got out weren't necessarily the most endangered.

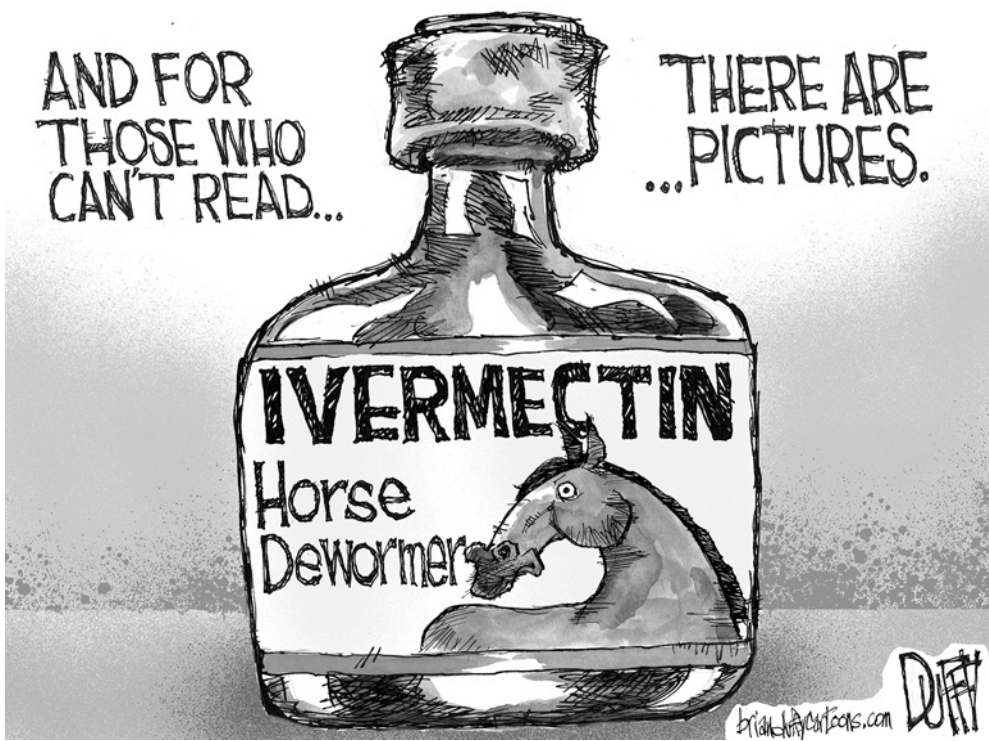
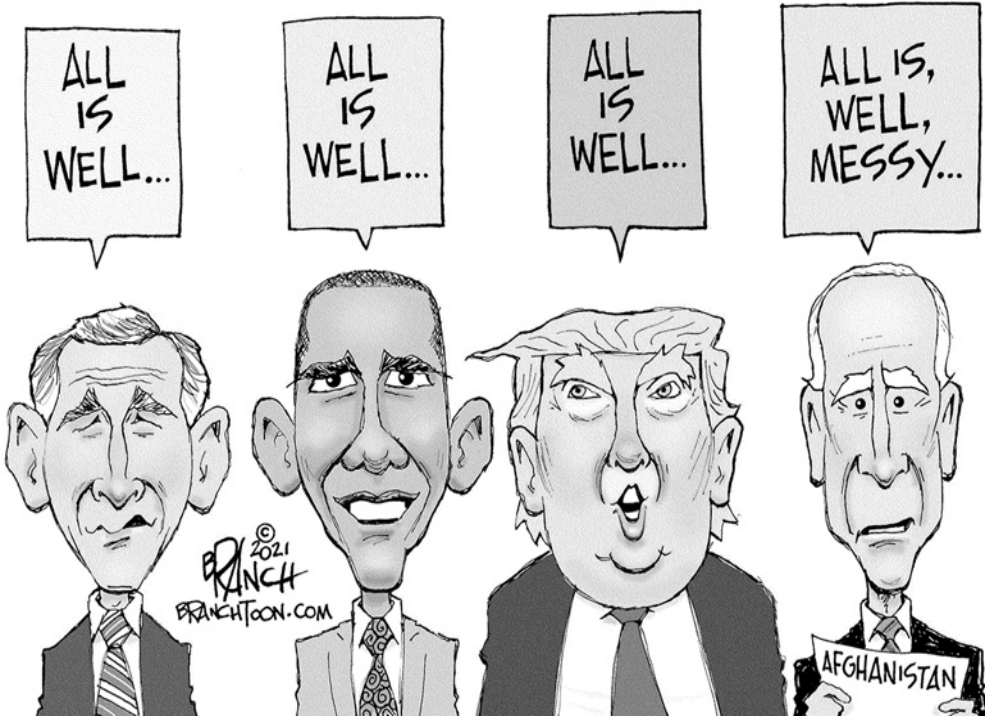
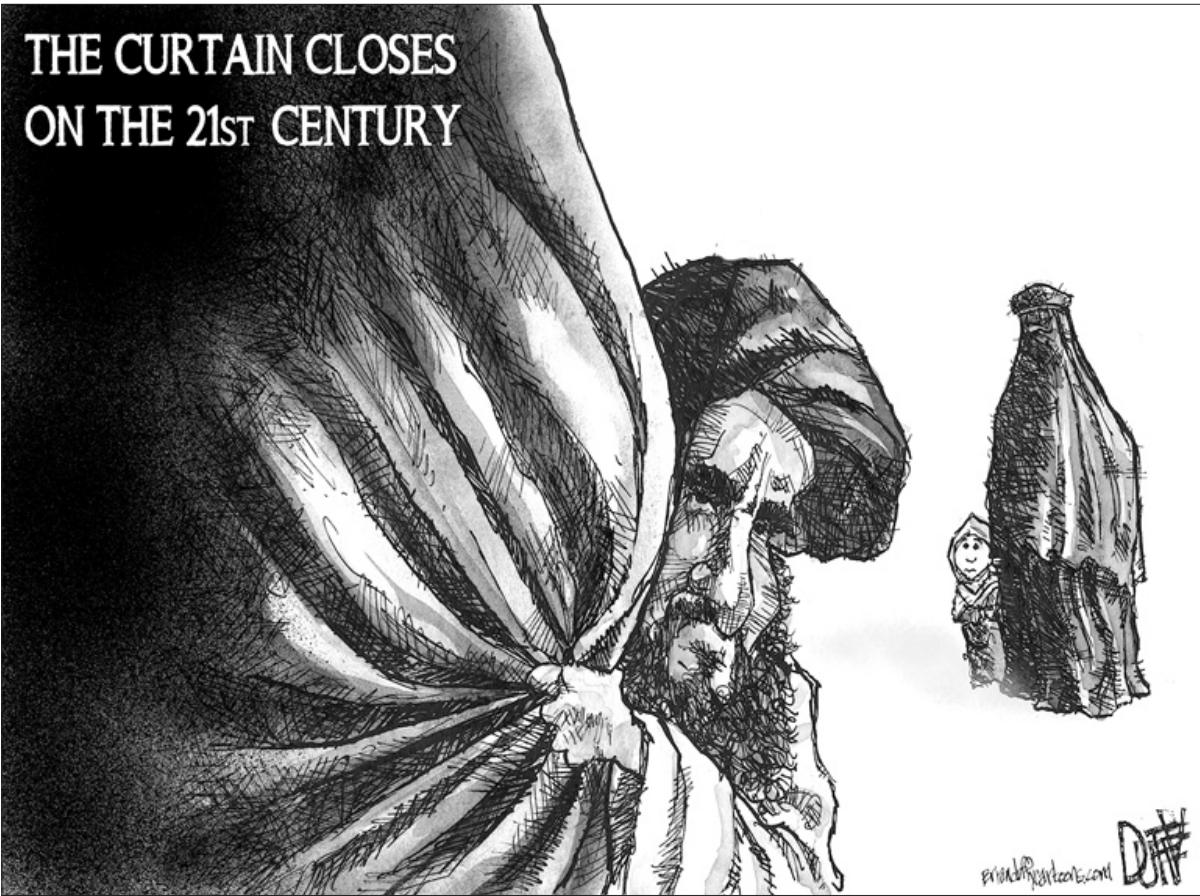
Even if the evacuation had been flawless and complete, the underlying situation speaks of an abysmal failure. After 20 years, we lost a war to a Taliban that now controls more territory than it did on September 11, 2001. The Taliban hasn't renounced al Qaeda; indeed, the Haqqani network, a key element of the Taliban that has been responsible



for security in Kabul, is closely allied with the terror group.

Biden talks bravely of launching counterterrorism strikes from "over the horizon," but failed to

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War

From Page 2

authorization for HCQ. Instead, with the advice of Janet Woodcock, who is now acting FDA Commissioner, then-BARDA Director Rick Bright restricted access through an Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) for hospitalized patients only.

No EUA is needed for “off-label” use of an approved drug. But combined with official pronouncements about alleged danger to the heart and the lack of “sufficient” evidence of benefit, few patients received HCQ. Supporting the global and U.S. fear campaign against HCQ were the federal government’s many allies: state medical and pharmacy boards, organized medicine, Big Tech, and the mainstream media. Hundreds of thousands of patients may have died needlessly for lack of early treatment, but “the Science” was saved.

Now ivermectin, another drug that has been used safely by hundreds of millions of patients for decades, is coming under attack by the disarmament advocates. Master of sarcasm Rachel Maddow is ridiculing people² trying to save their lives by taking “horse dewormer.” That is one of many uses for this Nobel-Prize-winning drug. Poison control centers are reporting an “alarming” 550 percent increase in calls (from 23 to 150 over 8 months in Texas)³. Doctors wrote some 88,000 prescriptions for ivermectin⁴ in just one week. They are evidently persuaded by evidence of benefit⁵, even if CDC isn’t. Many patients who can’t find a doctor who will prescribe for them or a pharmacy that will dispense are resorting to veterinary products – a practice no physician would recommend.



FDA GIVES FINAL APPROVAL FOR PFIZER’S COVID VACCINE...

The Biden Administration strategy is to get novel, genetically engineered COVID-19 jabs into every arm. As the “fully vaccinated” population in the U.S. has climbed to nearly 53 percent⁶, cases continue to surge. That is blamed on the unvaccinated or perhaps the need for a “booster.”

Products available under an EUA are by law supposed to be voluntary. FDA approval would remove that theoretical barrier to increasing coercion. Now, FDA has approved Comirnaty, made by the German firm BioNTech, which is virtually unavailable. The “nearly identical” Pfizer product is still under an EUA. FDA demands after-marketing studies, especially of myocarditis, with a 5-year follow-up.

So far, more than 5,000 cases of myocarditis/pericarditis, more than 6,000 heart attacks, nearly 18,000 permanent disabilities, and nearly 14,000 deaths post jabs have been reported to the Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS)⁷. So far, no cardiac damage from HCQ has been reported.

It could be that our main approved weapon is safe and effective, the thousands of deaths and disabilities are coincidental or not as bad as the disease would have been, and the feared long-term effects are conspiracy theories. Or it could be that the intelligence from FDA, CDC, and

other authorities is as reliable as what we had in Afghanistan. Maybe F-15s and nukes are not needed to destroy America.

The links in the digital copy of this issue, at www.wtxcc.com, are clickable.

- 1 – <https://townhall.com/tipsheet/katiepavlich/2021/06/23/in-gun-control-speech-biden-reminds-gun-owners-the-government-has-nuclear-weapons-n2591481>
- 2 – https://www.yahoo.com/entertainment/rachel-maddow-rips-fox-news-060454042.html?ICID=ref_fark
- 3 – <https://www.wfaa.com/article/news/health/coronavirus/texas-sees-spike-in-poison-calls-for-horse-and-cow-dewormer-ivermectin-despite-fda-warning/287-57a97ba4-ea7a-42b7-adda-e8618b35d9fd>
- 4 – <https://washingtonnewspost.com/news/health/cdc-says-88000-ivermectin-prescriptions-issued-in-one-week-warns-against-using-drug-for-covid/>
- 5 – <https://c19ivermectin.com/>
- 6 – <https://www.pharmaceutical-technology.com/covid-19-vaccination-tracker/>
- 7 – <https://openvaers.com/covid-data>

Jane M. Orient obtained her undergraduate degrees in chemistry and mathematics from the University of Arizona in Tucson, and her M.D. from Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons in 1974. She has been in solo private practice since 1981 and has served as Executive Director of the Association of American Physicians and Surgeons (AAPS) since 1989. She is currently president of Doctors for Disaster Preparedness. More than 100 of her papers have been published in the scientific and popular literature on a variety of subjects including risk assessment, natural and technological hazards and nonhazards, and medical economics and ethics. She is the editor of AAPS News, the Doctors for Disaster Preparedness Newsletter, and Civil Defense Perspectives, and is the managing editor of the Journal of American Physicians and Surgeons.

Strange BUT TRUE

- By Lucie Winborne
- The opposite of paranoia is pronoia. A person suffering from pronoia feels that people or entities around them are plotting to do them good!
 - American flags left on the moon will eventually get bleached white by the sun.
 - Only two animals have the ability to see behind themselves without turning around: the rabbit and the parrot. Their eyes are on the sides of their head, allowing them to swivel 360 degrees.
 - Not that we ever gave any real thought to the matter, but “snow-bones” are the lines of snow or ice left at the sides of roads after the rest of the snow has melted.
 - David Babcock broke a Guinness World Record for his time in the Kansas City marathon, at 5 hours, 48 minutes and 27 seconds. But not for running – he managed to complete the race while knitting a scarf that measured just over 12 feet long. As he said later, “Knitting the whole way really did help distract me from the hard parts of the marathon.”
 - Mozart sold the most CDs in 2016, beating out Adele, Drake and Beyonce, even though those artists all had Grammy-winning hits that year.

In the 16th century, Parliament passed a law declaring the use of makeup “to deceive an Englishman into marriage” punishable as witchcraft.

A survey of 2,000 U.S. adults by the skincare brand StriVectin found 63% admitted to spending at least half their time on video calls staring at their own face, while 58% admitted to getting so distracted by their own appearance that they sometimes stopped listening.

Thought for the Day: “Of all the liars in the world, sometimes the worst are our own fears.” – Rudyard Kipling

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1973
48
Years
2021

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CryptoQuip

Answer

A local tavern has
this motto in its
advertisements: “Thirst
come, thirst served.”

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Moments in time

THE HISTORY CHANNEL

- On Sept. 6, 1915, a prototype tank nicknamed Little Willie rolls off the assembly line in England. Far from an overnight success, it weighed 14 tons, got stuck in trenches, overheated and crawled over rough terrain at only 2 mph. With improvements, tanks would eventually transform military battlefields.
- On Sept. 7, 1950, Julie Kavner, perhaps best known as the voice of Marge Simpson on “The Simpsons,” the longest-running animated show in TV history, is born in Los Angeles.
- On Sept. 8, 1974, in a controversial executive action, President Gerald Ford pardons his disgraced predecessor Richard Nixon for any crimes he may have committed or participated in while in office. Ford later explained that he wanted to end the national divisions created by the Watergate scandal.
- On Sept. 9, 1776, the Continental Congress formally declares the name of the new nation to be the “United States” of America. This replaced the term “United Colonies,” which had been in general use.
- On Sept. 10, 1940, in light of the destruction and terror inflicted on Londoners by German bombing raids, called “the Blitz,” the British War Cabinet instructs British bombers over Germany to drop their bombs “anywhere” if unable to reach their targets. One even landed in the garden of Joseph Goebbels, the Nazi Party’s minister of propaganda.
- On Sept. 11, 1930, Katherine Anne Porter’s first collection of short stories, “Flowering Judas,” is published. Porter went on to publish 25 stories and one novel, “Ship of Fools,” which took her more than two decades to complete.
- On Sept. 12, 1993, the rebuilt Lacey V. Murrow Bridge over Lake Washington opens in Seattle. The old bridge was almost 2 miles long, contained 100,000 tons of steel and floated on more than 20 hollow concrete pontoons. During repairs in 1990, the bridge broke apart and sank in a flood.

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Send Your Newsbrief To: wtxcc@wtxcc.com

View from here

By Dr. Veronica Vijil, Superintendent Fabens ISD

Supporting new teachers for the benefit of all

Navigating your first job after college is difficult in any profession. There are subtleties that aren’t taught in school everything from acclimating to the organization’s culture to effectively soliciting and receiving feedback. During their first years on the job, young professionals often rely on mentors to help them bridge that knowledge gap.

In public education, pairing new teachers with teacher-mentors isn’t as easy as other industries. With veteran teachers already spread thin managing their own classrooms, asking them to serve as informal mentors – or even formal mentors in situations without a structure to support that relationship – would not be beneficial to them or the district. Yet, the lack of a support system leads many new teachers to leave the profession altogether.

This issue is not unique to the Fabens Independent School District, but our size and rural location makes recruiting and retaining new teachers that much more difficult. As a result, we hire many teachers from alternative certification programs that do not include much (if any) instruction on pedagogy and classroom management, making those first few years of teaching critical both to their longevity in the profession and to the success of their students.

Fortunately, in 2019 Fabens ISD was awarded a grant from the Texas Education Agency (TEA) to help fund a teacher mentorship program. But the grant required all mentor teachers to be a teacher-of-record in the district. We needed a creative solution to keep our veteran teachers from burning out.

Through our partnership with CREEED and the El Paso Community Foundation (EPCF), we found one. Along with Tornillo and Canutillo ISDs, we collaborated with the New Teacher Center to establish the Miner Mentorship program at UTEP’s College of Education in 2020. Additional funding from the Prentice Farrar Brown and Alline Fort Brown Foundation allows UTEP faculty members to be embedded as coaches in our districts and provide paired teachers with the tools, structure, and support they need for an effective mentoring experience.

Despite the interruption of the COVID-19 pandemic, Fabens ISD successfully implemented the new mentorship program last school year, pairing 21 new teachers with 16 veterans. This year, 15 more new teachers will participate in the program. Our goal is to ensure that all new teachers in Fabens ISD receive this type of dedicated support

and coaching.

Our findings from the pilot year were positive. New teachers felt better able to focus on classroom instruction knowing their mentors could help them navigate the cultural and administrative aspects of the school. At the same time, our mentor teachers appreciated the chance to share their knowledge and experience. They told us that the experience helped them grow as educators.

Best of all, our new teachers reported being excited to learn,

open to mentorship, and hungry to grow their craft. The program helped these teachers build their confidence in the classroom while feeling valued and supported at the school – all of which will help us retain and grow high quality educators in our district moving forward.

I am so appreciative of UTEP, the New Teacher Center, CREEED and EPCF for helping us launch the Miner Mentorship program. Their leadership in



See TEACHERS, Page 6 Dr. Veronica Vijil

NOTICE OF MEETING TO VOTE ON TAX RATE

A tax rate of **\$0.751541 per \$100 valuation** has been proposed by the governing body of **VILLAGE OF VINTON**.

PROPOSED TAX RATE	\$0.751541 per \$100
NO-NEW-REVENUE TAX RATE	\$0.751541 per \$100
VOTER-APPROVAL TAX RATE	\$0.819615 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 VILLAGE OF VINTON 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 VILLAGE OF VINTON may adopt without holding an election to seek voter approval of the rate.

The proposed tax rate is not greater than the no-new-revenue tax rate. This means that VILLAGE OF VINTON is not proposing to increase property taxes for the 2021 tax year.

A PUBLIC MEETING TO VOTE ON THE PROPOSED TAX RATE WILL BE HELD ON September 20, 2021 AT 6:30 PM AT City Hall located at 436 East Vinton Rd., Vinton, TX 79821 and at zoom.us platform at the following URL: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2520023141?pwd=WVRDZDIFR3ZHR3FJVlJuL3ZLWtB6dz09>. The Village provides two-way communication for members of the public to communicate with Council during the public hearing by calling the following number: 1 346 248 7799 and then dial in the Meeting ID 252 002 3141 and Passcode: 12345 followed by the pound sign (#). The meeting will open at 6:00 PM on September 20, 2021 so that people may start joining. The meeting will start at 6:30 PM.

The proposed tax rate is also not greater than the voter-approval tax rate. As a result, VILLAGE OF VINTON is not required to hold an election at which voters may accept or reject the proposed tax rate. However, you may express your support for or opposition to the proposed tax rate by contacting the members of the CITY COUNCIL of VILLAGE OF VINTON at their offices or by attending the public hearing mentioned above.

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:	Victor Carrejo, Place 1	Alfredo Lopez, Place 2
	Lourdes “Lulu” Cloud, Place 4	Santos Lucero, Place 5
AGAINST the proposal:	None	
PRESENT and not voting:	Mayor Manuel “Manny” Leos	
ABSENT:	Sonia Galindo, Place 3	

The 86th 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.

The following table compares the taxes imposed on the average residence homestead by VILLAGE OF VINTON last year to the taxes proposed to be imposed on the average residence homestead by VILLAGE OF VINTON this year.

	2020	2021	Change
Total tax rate (per \$100 of value)	\$0.732031	\$0.751541	<i>Increase of \$0.019510, or 2.67%</i>
Average homestead taxable value	\$83,353	\$93,053	<i>Increase of \$9,700, or 11.64%</i>
Tax on average homestead	\$610.17	\$699.33	<i>Increase of \$89.16, or 14.61%</i>
Total tax levy on all properties	\$899,706	\$900,164	<i>Increase of \$458, or 0.05%</i>

For assistance with tax calculations, please contact the tax assessor for **VILLAGE OF VINTON** at **915-212-0106** or citytaxoffice@elpasotexas.gov, or visit vintontx.govoffice2.com for more information.

Predictions for the NFL playoffs and Super Bowl

By Steve Escajeda
Special to the Courier

With the NFL getting started this weekend, every journalist with a computer keyboard is taking time to show off their so-called expertise and predict how the season will go.

So, being a so-called journalist for 25 years – it’s my turn.

Of course, everything gets underway this Thursday night when the defending champions Tampa Bay Bucs host the Dallas Cowboys.

On one side of the field, everyone knows what to expect from Tampa quarterback Tom Brady. On the other side, there are big questions concerning the health of Dallas quarterback Dak Prescott.

But whether Dak is healthy, or Brady picks up where he left off last year, both

teams are looking forward to starting the season off on the right track toward what they hope will end in a trip to the playoffs.

Let’s take a look at what teams are going to advance to the playoffs, which two teams are going to the Super Bowl and who will win it.

And speaking of Dak and the Cowboys, let’s start with the NFC East.

There’s no doubt that the two top teams in the division are the Cowboys and the Washington Football Team. The Cowboys rate because of their offense and the “Team” because of their defense.

But in the end, if they can avoid all the injuries they sustained a year ago, Dallas is clearly the class of this weak division.

In the NFC North, the Minnesota Vikings and the Chicago Bears could cause a few problems, but the Green Bay Packers will take this division again,

whether Aaron Rodgers is happy to be a part of it or not.

The NFC South has belonged to the New Orleans Saints in recent years, but that is about to change. I don’t know if Tom Brady and his Bucs are going to win the Super Bowl again this year, but they are certainly going to win the division.

The NFC West may be the toughest in the league. All four teams, the Rams, 49ers, Seahawks and Cardinals could win it.

Though the favorites are the Los Angeles and Seattle, the surprise winner of the division will be San Francisco.

Don’t forget that the 49ers made it all the way to the Super Bowl two years ago, but suffered more injuries than any other team in the league last year.

Those players are back and don’t be surprised if they pick up where they left off in 2019.

It still sounds weird to mention any

other team than the Patriots to be the class of the AFC East,

but it isn’t New England. Like last season, it’s the Buffalo Bills.

The Bills will win the division with the Patriots and the Miami Dolphins fighting it out for second.

In the AFC North, the Pittsburgh Steelers, Baltimore Ravens and Cleveland Browns are all capable of coming out on top.

But for the first time in forever, the Browns are going to win it, with the Steelers and Ravens close behind.

The AFC North is a two-team race. The Tennessee Titans and Indianapolis Colts are the class of this division, but the Colts have Carson Wentz at quarterback, and you can never depend on Wentz to get through a whole season healthy.

So, The Titans will advance from the North.

Mandate

From Page 1

defending the countywide mask mandate. “It is my duty to protect my community from communicable disease and other threats to public health,” Ocaranza said. “In that regard, it is also my duty to apply the laws to public health in our community as well.”

Dr. Ocaranza stated, “Our community’s mask mandate is just one simple way to safeguard the health of our community and our loved

ones. As we have repeatedly advised, we as a community can overcome this pandemic, but we must be united in our effort to protect each other. We, as a unified region, can also reduce the number of cases and deaths if we wear a mask in public, practice social distancing and good hygiene, and, more importantly, if all eligible individuals get fully vaccinated.”

Ocaranza continued, “The COVID-19 pandemic continues to impact our region and our loved ones. Every week, we continue to see new COVID-19

cases, hospitalizations, and even more heartbreaking, we continue to see COVID-19 deaths.”

According to local health officials, 73.4 percent of the community’s population 12 years and older are fully vaccinated and more than 86 percent are partially vaccinated as of the first week in September.

Dower said after the recent hearing that the state plans on appealing the ruling arguing

that Judge Morales did not have jurisdiction to issue a ruling on the mandate.

Abbott and state officials have already won a civil lawsuit regarding his executive order on preventing local governments from issuing mask mandates. The Texas Supreme Court ruled Aug. 26 in favor of Abbott regarding a similar mask mandate issued by local government officials in San Antonio and Bexar County.

Teachers

From Page 5

supporting our teachers will contribute to the success of our district.

In the long run, it’s all our students, families, and community members who will benefit from this mentorship program. Instead of our students remembering one or two really good teachers from their time at Fabens ISD, my goal is to ensure every teacher they have – from Kindergarten through 12th grade – are strong and effective educators that prepare their students for college, career, and life.

Instruction. “Meet EPCC faculty and staff that will help you support your academic and career

Briefs

From Page 1

goals.” For more information you may contact Diana Medina at dcampos5@epcc.edu or visit <http://go.epcc.edu/VVResourceFair>.

– Ismael De La Rosa

Super Crossword

CON-TRIBUTING EDITOR ACROSS

1 Puck surface

4 Transparent

9 Nick of “Weeds”

14 Urged (on)

19 Source of bean curd

20 Figure skater

21 Sonja

22 Luau “hello”

23 Thousand: Prefix

24 Soft leather sewn over fabric tears?

26 Poker entry fee

27 Elevate

28 USMC rank

29 Tabby that’s a national government’s mascot?

31 Peace Nobel

32 Wiesel

33 Sounded like a cow

34 Antarctic penguin

35 Enticingly beautiful mugs?

40 Braininess

43 How distant stars shine

44 White-rayed flower

47 Trevor of “The Daily Show”

48 Port on the Gulf of Mexico

52 Poet Doolittle who did all of her writing in her boudoir?

55 Caspian Sea feeder

60 Put decorations on your phone, then dial someone’s number?

66 Ticked by

71 Warrant

72 Wearing a fancy crown

74 Verdi opera

75 Maker of Galaxy phones

77 Crustacean that’s most active just before sunup?

79 “Exile” New Age artist

81 Falco with four Emmys

82 Notion, in Nantes

83 Black hole sucking in everything around it?

90 People lamenting

93 \$\$\$ spitter-outers

94 Like clipped sheep

95 Consumers

97 Tooted

100 Smug know-it-alls shoplift?

106 Having its petroleum imported, as a nation

109 Cosmic path

110 “My treat!”

111 Subtract the cost of an adhesive roll?

115 Bruin Bobby

116 Red-eyed

118 Songbirds

119 Actress Donovan

120 “Clueless”

121 Shopping containers holding more sinful items?

122 Salk of the Salk vaccine

123 Modify

124 Cliff nest

125 Luau gift

126 Viewpoint

127 Insolent

128 Norwegian money

129 Reno-to-L.A. dir.

130 By _ of (owing to)

131 God, to Henri

132 Baldwin of “Still Alice”

133 Apt., e.g.

134 Brunch quaff

135 “My man!”

136 Roman 401

137 Quirky habit

138 Brake part

139 Male title of respect

140 Smidgen

141 “_ Na Na”

142 Bawl

143 Days of old

144 Lipstick units

145 Action venue

146 Female title of respect

147 Ancient Roman lower class

148 Via automobile

149 Director Forman

150 Moor shrub

151 It blasts

152 Take _ (swim or bathe)

153 Given a hint

154 Singer Loggins

155 “Rules _ rules”

156 Worker filling a cargo hold, say

157 Spearhead

158 Great risk

159 Begin to fail

160 Bugs bugger Fudd

161 Ninnies

162 Imbiber’s hwy. offense

163 P.E. places

164 Most recent

165 “Makes sense now”

166 Chitchat

167 Map no.

168 Editing

169 Adoption of a cause

170 With 4-Down, cooking reality series

171 Uno tripled

172 Prefix with spore

173 Dadaist Jean

174 Prefix with thermal

175 Toni Braxton’s “_ My Heart”

176 Swizzle stick

177 Totally cover

178 Speck

179 Yank who wore #13

180 Wine stopper

181 Genuflects

182 Overplays it

183 Actress O’Shea

184 “_ the best of times...”

185 Boxer Ali

186 _ vu

187 University in North Carolina

188 Agts.’ cuts

189 Just makes, with “out”

190 Narcissistic

191 “Makes sense now”

192 Suffix with cook or mock

193 “My man!”

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 41 42

43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60 61 62 63 64 65 66 67 68 69 70

71 72 73 74 75 76 77 78 79 80 81 82 83 84 85 86 87 88 89 90 91 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 100 101 102 103 104 105

106 107 108 109 110 111 112 113 114 115 116 117 118 119 120 121 122 123 124 125 126 127 128 129

Answer Page 4

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

secure a base in a neighboring country. We will have to operate from hours away in the Persian Gulf, even as our intelligence capabilities in Afghanistan are drastically diminished. Urineptitudeanddishonorable

conduct have shocked our allies, who need to place their trust in our competence and reliability. Biden’s supporters have resorted to the defense that almost all of this was inevitable. Yet, for years, the Afghan army fought and bled after we had stepped back into a support role, suggesting an unsatisfactory stalemate was achievable at

a relatively low cost. Biden rejected that option. Instead, he chose defeat and disgrace. All of the exertions to rescue people from the wreckage over the last two weeks can’t change that.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review. (c) 2021 by King Features Synd., Inc.

Non-stop acid reflux?

Look at surgical options

DEAR DR. ROACH: I am a 78-year-old female who has suffered from acid reflux for many years and has been taking Prilosec (omeprazole) for at least 15 years. I have heard that it is not meant for longtime use. If I don't take it, I have such heartburn I can't sleep and am in misery all day and night. I recently attended a seminar on the new LINX surgery and hope to have it done. Do you have any information on the success of or problems after this surgery? – J.B.



The LINX device is a magnetic ring, placed by laparoscopic surgery, that helps increase the strength of the lower esophageal sphincter, the valve-like muscular structure at the junction of the esophagus and the stomach. This reduces reflux (backward movement) of stomach acid up into the esophagus. The procedure was very effective at reducing both heartburn symptoms (89% before procedure to 12% after) and the need for daily medicines like omeprazole (100% before to 15% after).

The device has not been in use for a very long time, so long-term safety data is unavailable. Some people had to have the devices removed because they eroded into the esophagus, but only 0.3% of devices were removed at four years.

There are other types of surgeries used to treat reflux, most of which are effective at reducing both symptoms and the need for medication. There are now options for treatment being done endoscopically (with an instrument placed through the mouth), without the need even for laparoscopic surgery (with the instrument being placed by small incisions through the skin).

My personal practice is to discuss medication treatments as well as surgical treatments for people with moderate to severe acid reflux. Surgery in younger people may have more benefit by preventing a lifetime of daily medication. People who do not get relief with medication are those who most clearly benefit from these kinds of procedures.

DEAR DR. ROACH: I am a 90-year-old man. My wife's life was saved in 1952 with Red Cross blood. Since then, I have donated more than 31 gallons of blood. My blood is CMV-negative. They want me to donate more. I had a CT scan after a fall, and a 1-cm ground-glass nodule was found in my lung. They are going to do another scan in six months to see if it is growing. The Red Cross said if I had cancer I should refrain from donating. What should I do? – J.J.B.

Based on the information you are giving me, it's about 90% likely that this will not be cancer. A repeat scan to see if it is growing is a good idea.

Even in the unlikely event this is cancer, the likelihood of passing cancer cells along in a blood transfusion is very, very small. However, blood banks like the Red Cross are exceedingly careful to maintain a safe blood supply, and waiting six months to donate is safest.

Let me add my thanks to your selfless giving of a precious, life-saving resource – your blood – which is especially valuable to people with immune system disease given the lack of the common pathogen cytomegalovirus, which can cause serious disease in people after cancer chemotherapy.

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) 2021 North America Synd., Inc. All Rights Reserved.

† AMERICAN LUNG ASSOCIATION
of Texas

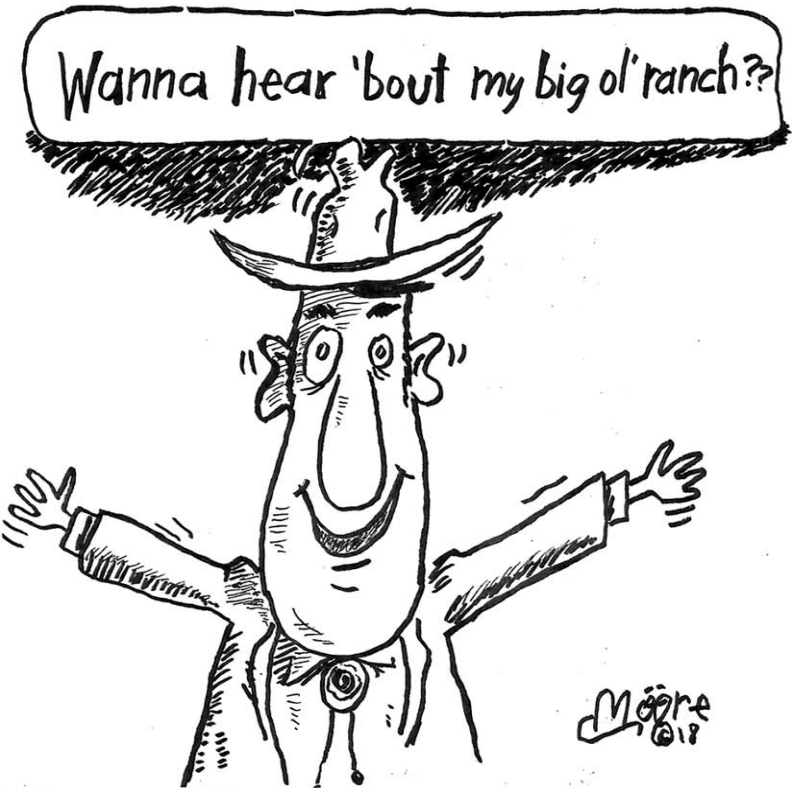
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1-800-LUNG-USA



Moore Texas by Roger MOORE
“Putting on the dog” is a Texas way of saying somebody brags on himself too much.

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: M equals H

H YCDHY AHSZEL MHT
AMJT VCAAC JL JAT
HOSZEAJTZVZLAT: “AMJETA
DCVZ, AMJETA TZESZO.”

Answer Page 4

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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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Exposure presumptives for particulate matter



by Freddy Groves

The Department of Veterans Affairs has created a list of three presumptive conditions related to particulate matter exposure. Specifically, it will now cover asthma, rhinitis and sinusitis, but only if you served in a covered area and had one of those conditions within 10 years of leaving the military.

Locations and dates of service are specific: Afghanistan, Djibouti, Syria and Uzbekistan during the Persian Gulf War, from Sept. 19, 2001 to the present; or the Southwest Asia theater of operations, from Aug. 2, 1990 to the present. It covers Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, the neutral zone between Iraq and Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, Oman, the Gulf of Aden, the Gulf of Oman, the Persian Gulf, the Arabian Sea, Red

Sea and the airspace above these locations.

With particulate matter exposure, they’re talking about the open burn pits, in which there might have been petroleum, munitions, plastics, metal, chemicals, medical and human waste and more. In some cases, however, the exposure was sand, sand and more sand, or smoke from oil-well fires, aircraft exhaust, dust, fuel... the list goes on. Your exposure, of course, depends on the amount of time you spent there, wind direction and the types of waste.

Check the Burn Pits page (www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/burnpits) and the Exposures page: (www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures).

It’s said that if you already have a claim in for one of those illnesses, you don’t have to do a thing. You’ll hear back about a decision. I vote for not waiting. Don’t take a chance that somebody will misplace your claim, especially if you have a claim for other

conditions as well. Make a call. Or use VA Form 21-526EZ for first claims.

If you ever signed up on the Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry (AHOBPR), check to see that you’re still on the list. Print out a copy and use that to submit with your claim.

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by Jo Ann Derson

• Rubbing alcohol can be used to remove ballpoint-pen ink from most upholstery.

• “Polish wall tiles in the bathroom using car wax. They will repel water really well. Just be sure that you cover the floor before you apply any wax. You do not want to polish your tub, as that is a safety hazard for sure!” – M.W. in Missouri

• If you have wood floors, you might already know about felt furniture pads – the little self-stick felt circles you put on furniture legs to reduce scratches on your floors. You might not know that these same pads can reduce scuff marks that appliances make on countertops. It also makes it easier to scoot around a heavy mixer or other appliances.

• “Check your mower to see if you’re cutting your lawn to the optimum height. Generally, cutting grass to 2 1/2 inches will allow it to retain more moisture, requiring less watering, and help shade out weeds, too.” – O.F. in Alabama

• Here’s a workout tip: Rotate among a few pairs of running shoes to get the best life out of them. Rotating gives them a chance to dry out between wearings, and runners who practice this routine have a 39% lower chance of injury, according to a Luxembourg research firm.

• “If you’re looking to save money, don’t ignore the dollar store. You can find a lot of personal-care and home-care items there for, well, a dollar. I save quite a bit of money this way.” – R.L. in Texas

Send your tips to Now Here’s a Tip, 628 Virginia Drive, Orlando, FL 32803. (c) 2021 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

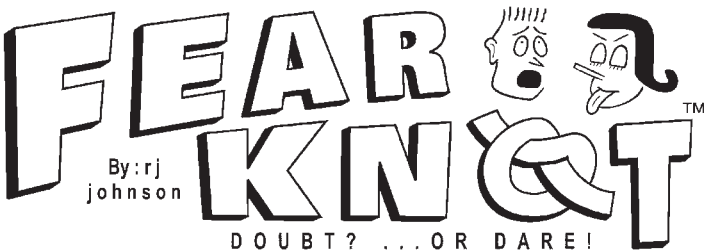
★★★ GO FIGURE!

Answer Page 4

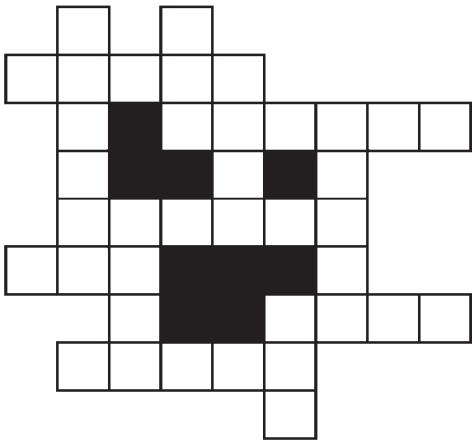
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×		×		-	
	+		+		12
11		20		10	

1 3 4 5 6 7 8 8 9

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EWM
ORNWAR
ONARY
♥AMED
♥HEWSTA
ESN
♥REEW
♥DEWON
♥NTE
RYEESH
ARNIT
VEYN



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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