

NEWSBRIEFS

Financial reporting

Canutillo ISD (CISD) earned a Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting (COA) by the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) for the District’s 2020 comprehensive annual financial report. The GFOA established the COA in 1945 to encourage and assist state and local governments to go beyond the minimum requirements of generally accepted accounting principles to prepare comprehensive annual financial reports that evidence the spirit of transparency and full disclosure and then to recognize individual governments that succeed in achieving that goal. “The receipt of the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting is yet another testament to our dedication to go above and beyond our obligation as a district to share transparent and accurate financial information with district stakeholders,” said CISD Chief Business Officer Martha Piekarski.

– Liza Rodriguez

Anthony ISD hiring

The Anthony Independent School District (AISD) is hiring substitute teachers and tutors with diverse levels of experience to help students with daily assignments and to recover from the COVID-19 distance learning loss. Candidates may earn up to \$40 per hour depending on their qualifications. AISD’s Board of Trustees approved Secondary School Emergency Relief Funds (ESSER III) in late August to hire ESSER tutors and substitute teachers for the 2021-2022 school year. ESSER funds are approved by Congress to help school districts recover from COVID-19 challenges such as closing the learning gaps created during a year of virtual classes. ESSER tutors will support students who did not take or failed the State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness (STAAR) test during Spring 2021. The district is also in need of daily substitute teachers. Degreed and certified candidates can earn up to \$120 per day and up to \$140 per day in a long-term rate. College students without a degree and college graduates without a teacher certification can earn between \$70 and \$100 per day

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The longer a person is in error, the surer they are of being right.  
– Quips & Quotes



– Photo courtesy of Rick LoBello

ON THE TRAIL – Franklin Mountains State Park Superintendent, Dr. Cesar Mendez, above, leads a nature hike in the Tom Mays area of the park. To participate in the Chihuahuan desert fiesta events at Franklin Mountains State Park, an entrance permit of \$5.00 per adult 13 years of age and older is required. You can purchase this the day of the event at the Tom Mays Visitor Center (2900 Tom Mays Park Access Rd.) or visit [texasstateparks.reserveamerica.com](https://texasstateparks.reserveamerica.com) to reserve your permit in advance.

17th Annual Chihuahuan Desert Fiesta slated for El Paso Zoo, Franklin Mountains State Park

By Alfredo Vasquez  
Special to the Courier

EL PASO COUNTY – The Chihuahuan Desert Fiesta annually celebrates the natural wonders that flourish in El Paso County’s mountainous desert landscape. The festive event is designed to encourage local residents and borderland visitors to explore the different parks and other protected areas in the region.

This year, which will mark the seventeenth time the Chihuahuan Desert Fiesta will be held, the celebration is slated as a two-day event where participants can view animal encounter presentations, educational booths, and entertainment at the El Paso Zoo, and the following day they can go on guided hikes along the trails of the Tom Mays portion (off Transmountain Road) of the Franklin Mountain State Park.

Day one, being an educational and discovery activity, will be held from 10:30 a.m. to 3 p.m., Saturday, September 25, at the El Paso Zoo and Botanical Gardens, 4001 E. Paisano Drive.

The Zoo, which is the fiesta’s latest education partner, will have discovery tables featuring local organizations’ conservation programs as part of its new Chihuahuan Desert exhibit.

On day two, park staff, volunteers, and local experts will conduct nature hikes at the Tom Mays Unit of Franklin Mountains State Park, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Sunday, September 26. Hike topics will include birds, geology, outdoor recreation opportunities, safety, trail etiquette, bats, natural history and more,

according to Rick LoBello, one of the fiesta’s coordinators.

The original event sponsored by the Chihuahuan Desert Education Coalition (CDEC) in partnership with Franklin Mountains State Park and the City Parks Department began in 2005 and has been growing in popularity throughout the years.

In 2020 it was hosted virtually because of the Covid 19 Pandemic, stated LoBello. “Everyone is looking forward to having the event live again and with an extra day of activities,” he said.

Activities at the zoo will be included

as part of the regular entrance fee. Fee information can be found at the zoo’s website, at <http://www.elpasozoo.org>.

To participate in the guided hikes at the state park an entrance permit of \$5.00 per adult 13 years of age and older is required. Permits may be purchased the day of event at the new Tom Mays Visitor Center. Permits may also be reserved through the park’s website, at [texasstateparks.reserveamerica.com](https://texasstateparks.reserveamerica.com).

Formore information about the upcoming fiesta visit its website at [chihuahuandesert.org](https://chihuahuandesert.org) or call (915) 212-2823.

The 17th Annual Chihuahuan Desert Fiesta activities

Saturday, September 25

Wildlife Amphitheater Presentations at the Zoo

- 10:30-10:45 a.m. – Welcome
- 11:00-11:30 a.m. – El Paso Parks and Recreation- Desert Zumba
- 12:00-12:30 p.m. – Bat Conservation International Presentation
  - 1:30-2:00 p.m. – Wild Encounters by the El Paso Zoo
  - 2:30-3:00 p.m. – Frontera Land Alliance Presentation

Chihuahuan Desert Exhibit Discovery booths at the Zoo

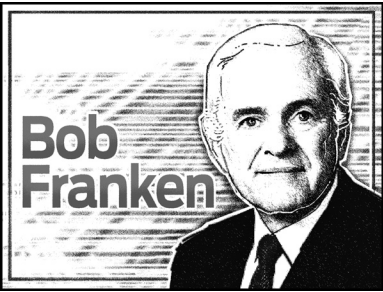
- Bat Conservation International
- Dirty Girls Compost
- Bureau of Land Management-Las Cruces District Office
- Chamizal National Memorial
- Chihuahuan Desert Education Coalition
  - Mexican wolf education by Nancy Bain
- Franklin Mountains Wilderness Coalition
- Friends of the Rio Bosque Wetlands
- United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Office of Law Enforcement
  - UTEP Center for Environmental Resource Management
- Frontera Land Alliance
- Texas Parks and Wildlife
- And more....

Sunday, September 26

Chihuahuan Desert Discovery Hikes at Tom Mays Park

- 9 a.m. – Nature Walk Trail
- 9 a.m. – West Cottonwood Spring (scenic) Trail
- 10 a.m. – Upper Sunset Trail
- 11 a.m. – Aztec Caves Trail
- 12 p.m. – Agave Loop Trail
- 1 p.m. – Nature Walk Trail
- 1:15 p.m. – Nature Walk Trail
- 2 p.m. – Prospect Mine Trail (Limited Capacity)





# Biden’s words

“Mistakes were made.” That’s a passive-aggressive phrase that politicians and others have used since time immemorial to deflect blame. Suggesting amorphous “mistakes” implies that others are at fault.

President Bill Clinton was a master at speaking wishy-washy passive-aggressive, but it was not just Clinton. As you might guess, Richard Nixon was too, and Ronald Reagan, all the way back to Ulysses S. Grant speaking about corruption that rocked his administration.

And Joe Biden is no slouch either. He combines passive-aggressive with aggressive-aggressive. First of all, his very appearance before cameras several times for speeches to the nation during the messy Afghanistan withdrawal was aggressive, if not laudable in and of itself. He declared that he

was taking “responsibility” for the mess – the mess being the decision to abandon the country.

“Responsibility” seems to be a forthright word, but it is certainly less impactful than “blame.” Blame is something Biden spreads around to others, particularly the Afghan army that surrendered faster than you could say “turned tail and ran.” And it’s for the U.S. officials who overestimated the Afghan soldiers’ willingness to fight a respectable battle against the Taliban.

Biden explained his choice in a particularly “buck stops here” style, perhaps because polls supported his decision to withdraw from a war that had gone on for 20 years: “I believe this is the right decision, a wise decision, and the best decision for America.”

“I was not going to extend this forever war,” he went on, “and I was not extending a forever exit.”

As for the 13 American troops and nearly 200 Afghan civilians killed by an Islamic State subsidiary suicide bomber, he

carefully called the U.S. forces “heroes” and made it a point to at least meet with the families of those slain, in Dover, Delaware, during the “dignified transfer” ceremonies, even those who bitterly opposed his conduct of the withdrawal, which they blamed on him.

It was his effort to finesse a gruesome story that has not yet been told. It will take years to unfold and can depend on events whose outcomes we cannot predict. Will the administration be successful in evacuating the remaining American citizens and Afghan allies who want to escape? How will future diplomatic and economic decisions play into this, during the Biden presidency and beyond? How will this be an issue in a future election? How will Republicans play it? Right

now, they are all over the map.

Nebraska’s Sen. Ben Sasse, not normally a partisan, was unusually harsh about the commander in chief’s handling of the withdrawal:

“There is clearly no plan. There has been no plan. Their plan has basically been happy talk. People have died, and people are going to die because President Biden decided to rely on happy talk instead of reality.”

There is a cliché that the “fog of war” confuses and influences an

understanding of current events. How will history treat Joe Biden’s decisions about Afghanistan vis-a-vis his predecessors since 9/11? There are predictions that the Taliban will again take over, spawning a wave of attacks against the United States by newly emboldened terrorists hiding out in Afghanistan.

Perhaps domestic issues will overtake the memories of Afghanistan or, for that matter,



See FRANKEN, Page 7

## PUBLIC NOTICE TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS AND PARTIES:

**The West Texas County Courier  
office is closed.**

**The office will open again on  
Friday, October 1, 2021.**

## Food for thought By John Grimaldi

### Feeling down?

*Take stock of the optimist in you – you’ll live longer*

There’s a song that tells us to “accentuate the positive.” Philosopher Norman Vincent Peale wrote a best-selling book that encouraged us to use the “power of positive thinking” to get along in life. But now, at a time when too many of us are experiencing bouts of depression due to the pernicious coronavirus pandemic, the question is: what have I got to be optimistic about,” says Rebecca Weber, CEO of the Association of Mature American Citizens (AMAC).

“For one thing, there is a medical consensus that you’ll live a happier and longer life by remaining optimistic,” says Weber. And she backs it up not with anecdotes and glib sayings, but with real, authoritative research from the Boston University School of Medicine, which found that: “After decades of research, a new study links optimism and prolonged life. Researchers have found that individuals with greater optimism are more likely to live longer and to achieve ‘exceptional longevity,’ that is, living to age 85 or older.”

More than 70,000 people participated in that study, in which the National Center for PTSD at VA Boston Healthcare System and the Harvard

T.H. Chan School of Public Health joined BU. They started by assessing their levels of optimism as well as the status of their health and then tracked them over periods of ten to thirty years. What they found was “that the most optimistic men and women demonstrated, on average, an 11 to 15 percent longer lifespan, and had 50-70 percent greater odds of reaching 85 years old compared to the least optimistic groups.”

In a nutshell, optimists are people who have hope that everything will turn out alright and pessimists are those who have a negative view of life and that what can go wrong, will go wrong. But Dr. Laura Kubzansky at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health points out “The power of optimism is not just having a sunny disposition but applying this mindset to make positive change.” She also explains that optimism can be inherited 25 to 30 percent of the time and, for those who might feel that they are not optimizing their optimistic inner

1973  
48  
Years  
2021

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

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Homesteader  
Est. 1973  
News, Inc.

## Canutillo Independent School District Public Notice

Canutillo Independent School District will hold a public hearing to consider the results of the District’s Accelerated Instruction Program Evaluation – EHBC (Legal) as part of a regular School Board meeting which is scheduled for 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, September 28, 2021, at the Canutillo Administrative Offices Board Room, 7965 Artcraft, El Paso, TX 79932. The public is invited to attend.

For more information, call 915-877-7441.

## Distrito Escolar Independiente de Canutillo Junta Pública

El Distrito Escolar Independiente de Canutillo tendrá una Reunión Pública para informar sobre la aplicación del distrito para el plan para considerar los resultados de la Evaluación del Programa de Instrucción Acelerada del Distrito – EHBC (Legal). El reporte será parte de la reunión de la Mesa Directiva del distrito programada para el martes, 28 de septiembre del 2021 a las 5:30 p.m. en la sala de junta de las oficinas Administrativas de Canutillo ubicada en 7965 Artcraft, El Paso, TX 79932. Todos los interesados están invitados a asistir.

Para mas información, favor de llamar al 877-7441.

WTCC: 09-16-21

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# No, Afghanistan not the end of American power

It's hard to imagine more humiliating images than what we've seen in Afghanistan in recent weeks, from the hasty evacuation of the U.S. Embassy in Kabul to the chaotic scenes outside the airport.

Our surrender to a band of AK-47-bearing guerrillas after 20 years has, understandably, occasioned autumnal thoughts about American power.

Even the Soviet Union, on the cusp of full collapse, managed to get out of Afghanistan in good order and leave behind a government that endured for several years.

What does it say that we couldn't match that?

Writing in The New Yorker, Robin Wright says the pullout may serve as "a bookend for the era of U.S. global power." Allister Heath, editor of The Sunday Telegraph, argues that "the botched exit is merely the latest sign that the American era is ending." Francis Fukuyama says the images in Kabul "have evoked a major juncture in world history," although he thinks "the end of the American era had come much earlier."

There is no sugar-coating our defeat in Afghanistan and the abject position we put ourselves in during the final days. The

withdrawal is a blow to our counterterrorism capabilities, our prestige and our geopolitical position.

For all of that, though, no one in the world has the formidable advantages of the United States, which still outstrips everyone else, including China, on every material metric that matters.

Great powers don't go away easily. The British could be forgiven for thinking that it'd be all downhill after losing their American colonies in a long war joined by their traditional rivals France and Spain. Instead, British imperial power had not yet peaked.

Our exit from Saigon in 1975, to this point the touchstone for modern American defeats, was followed by Communist advances all over the map. Yet, within 20 years, we'd win the Cold War and ascend to unprecedented global power.

We are still blessed with an extraordinarily favorable geographical position, as a continental nation with friendly neighbors, access to two oceans, enormous reserves of oil and gas, and vast amounts of arable land.

We produce about a quarter of global GDP, a share that has held up over the years.

We are responsible for an

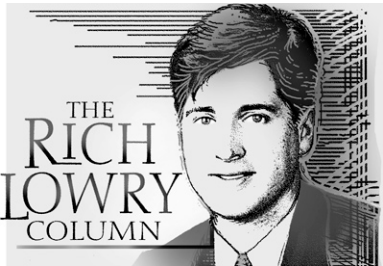
astonishing 40% of all military spending in the world. It was ridiculous that Biden made a bragging point of the evacuation, but it's true that no one else would have been capable of such an operation.

We dominate the list of top universities in the world.

There is no country people would rather come to. A Taliban

spokesperson interviewed on Iranian TV, when challenged why so many people want to flee Afghanistan, rightly pointed out that if American planes were taking people out of Iran, there'd be a rush for the exits there, too.

In his book, "Unrivaled," Michael Beckley of Tufts University and the American Enterprise Institute rebuts the



notion that China is overtaking us.

American workers are more productive than workers anywhere

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### Briefs

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depending on their experience. AISD is also hiring academic tutors that can assist during school hours and after school. Academic tutors can earn between \$12 and \$28 per hour according to their college credits or certifications. Interested applicants can visit [anthonyisd.net](http://anthonyisd.net) and click on the employment tab to view the opportunities offered at AISD.

– Adriana Candelaria

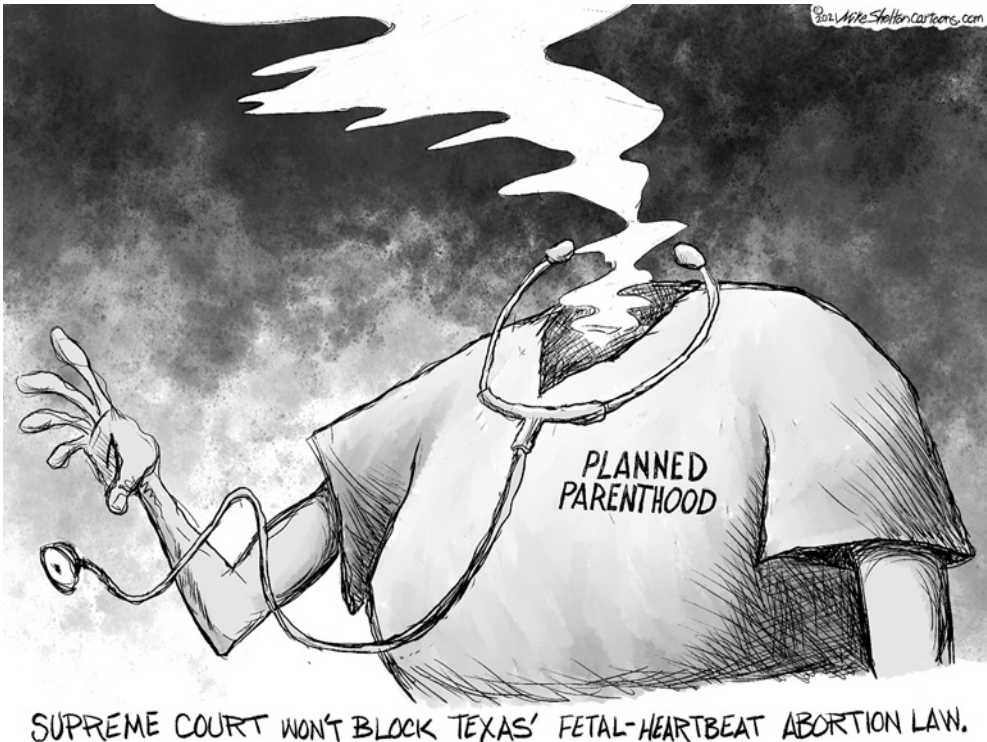
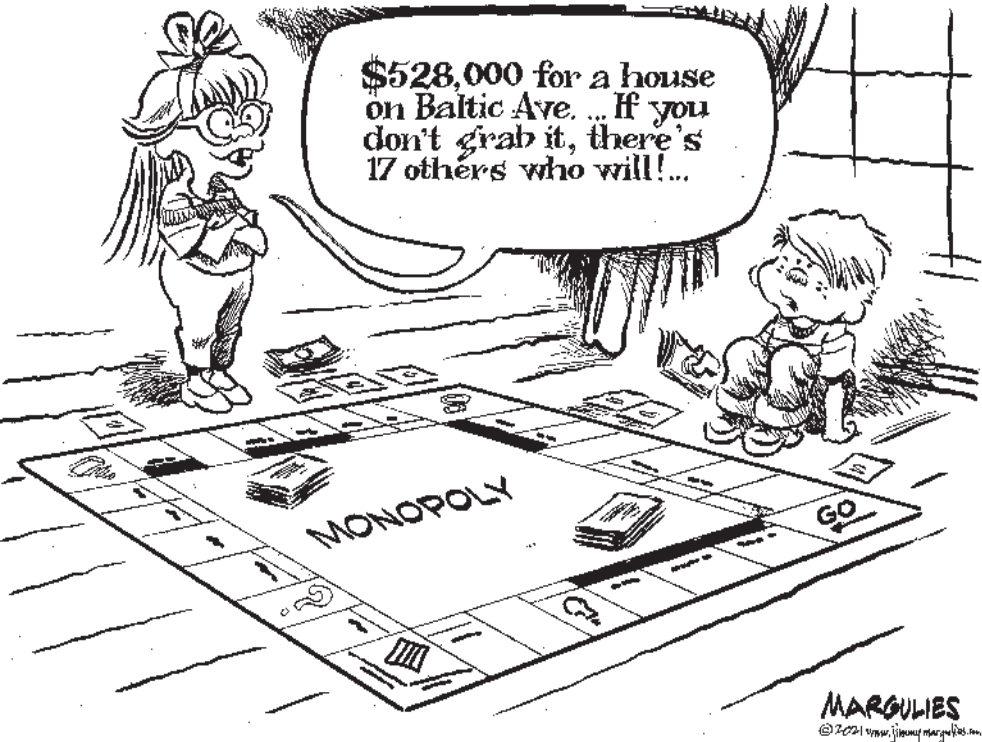
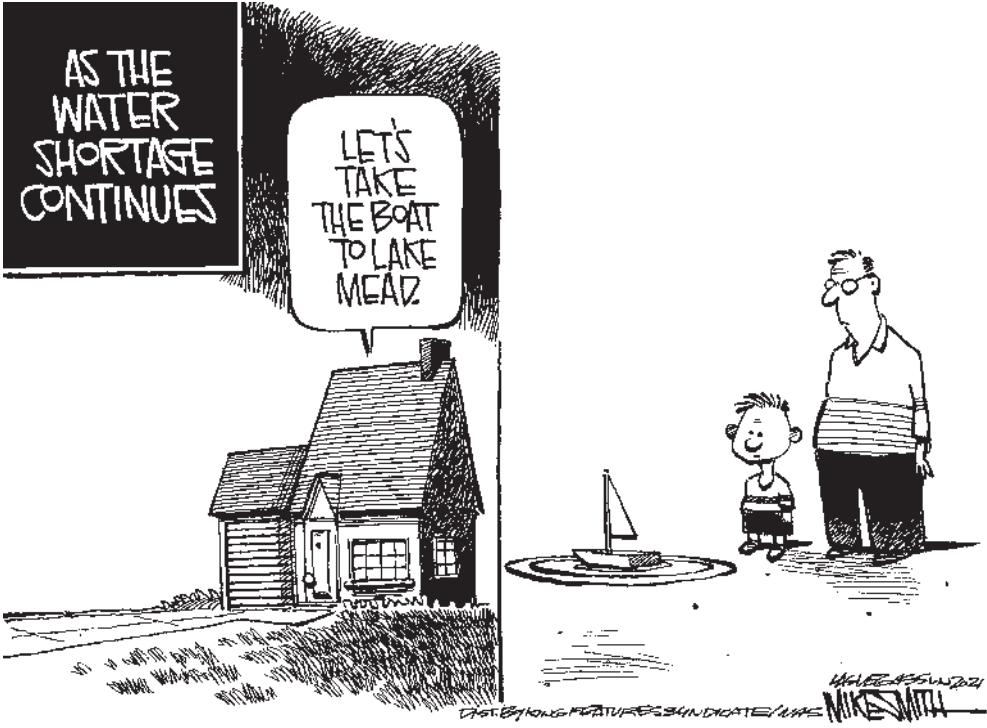
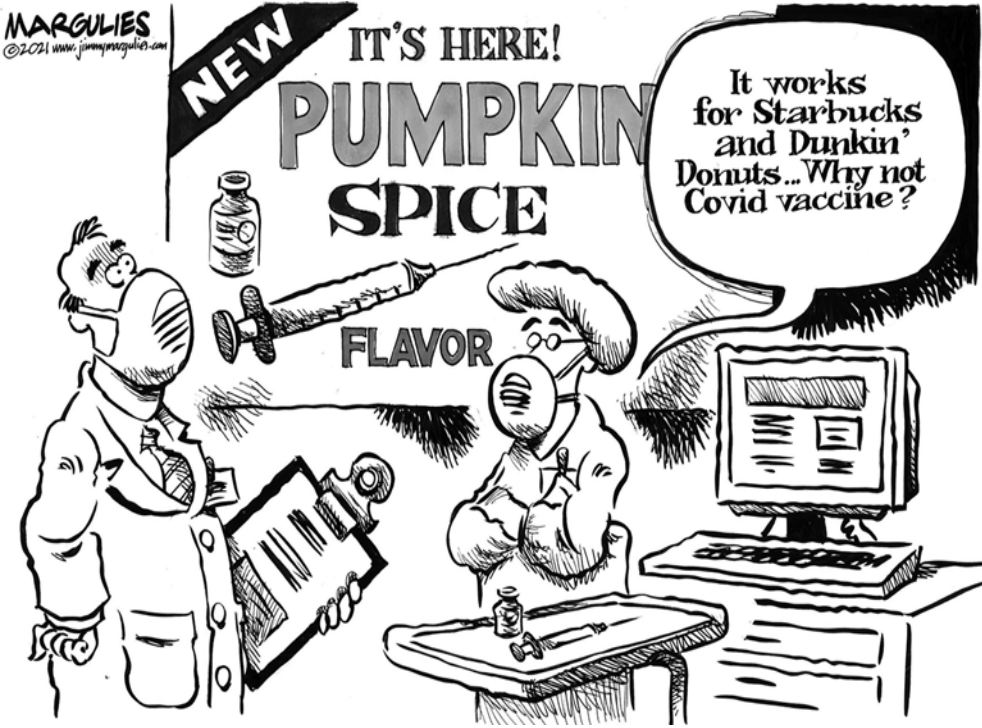
### Socorro ISD pay

The Socorro Independent School District is increasing its substitute teacher and substitute nurse salary to entice more qualified applicants to join the Socorro ISD family and fill in for much-needed positions across the district. The increased pay for substitutes will be funded

through federal and district funds to attract more applicants and experienced individuals to assist the district as it experiences a substitute teacher and substitute nurse shortage due to the ongoing challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic. "The Socorro ISD family continues its steadfast, collaborative work to provide all students with the best education possible," said Interim Superintendent Marta Carmona, M.Ed. "This includes having highly qualified subs available to step in and support our students, staff and schools. We hope this incentive will bring many new candidates to fill in these important substitute roles." In addition to the higher pay for substitutes, applicants now will need to have completed only 30 hours of higher education as opposed to the former requirement of 60 hours. Qualified individuals may apply now at [www.sisd.net/jobs](http://www.sisd.net/jobs) and must turn in three letters of recommendation.

– Christy Flores-Jones

Archives: [www.wtxcc.com](http://www.wtxcc.com)





# Socorro ISD earns prestigious art award

**By Christy Flores-Jones**  
*Special to the Courier*

EL PASO COUNTY – The Socorro Independent School District (SISD) Fine Arts department has been named a recipient of the annual 2021 District of Distinction award selected by the Texas Arts Education Association.

The prestigious award was given to only 40 school districts across the state out of 1,100 that were eligible to apply. This places SISD in the top four percent in art education among school districts in the state.

“I commend our extraordinary fine arts

teachers and staff members for leading with their hearts to give all students an enriching and fulfilling experience in the arts,” said SISD Interim Superintendent Marta Carmona, M.Ed. “This is evidently a direct result of everyone’s continued dedication to engage students with the arts.”

SISD received the honor for providing a well-rounded education that advocates and integrates visual arts curriculum to inspire creativity and build social emotional learning that connects community and beyond.

“We could not be any prouder of our visual arts teachers who, despite all the challenges the pandemic presented last year,

persevered and ensured all our scholars had the opportunity to showcase their artistic abilities,” said Armando Martinez, SISD director of fine arts.

SISD is the first district in El Paso County to be recognized as a TAEA District of Distinction recipient. The district will be honored at the annual TAEA conference in November.

TAEA is the leading advocate for the visual arts in the state. The organization has previously honored outstanding TAEA members for work in their classrooms and districts. This is the third year that TAEA is honoring districts that meet rigorous criteria as evidenced from data.

“Socorro ISD has set a high standard for visual arts advocacy, integrated visual arts curriculum, encouraged creativity, community participation and student growth,” said Stacia Gower, Chair of the Administration and Supervision Division of TAEA. “The past school year, educators faced a great many challenges associated with constantly changing guidelines and instruction procedures as well as participation in contests and visual art events. It is a true testament to our visual art educators’ skill, dedication, and flexibility that the quality of their programs continued strong and comprehensive.”

# CORRECTED 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 27, 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 6:25 PM on September 27, 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:

$$\text{Property tax amount} = (\text{tax rate}) \times (\text{taxable value of your property}) / 100$$

**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
<b>Total tax rate (per \$100 of value)</b>	\$0.732031	\$0.751541	<i>Increase of \$0.019510, or 2.67%</i>
<b>Average homestead taxable value</b>	\$83,353	\$93,053	<i>Increase of \$9,700, or 11.64%</i>
<b>Tax on average homestead</b>	\$610.17	\$699.33	<i>Increase of \$89.16, or 14.61%</i>
<b>Total tax levy on all properties</b>	\$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.



**By Lucie Winborne**

- Autism is more common than childhood cancer, diabetes and AIDS combined.

- A bizarre dream in which cannibals surrounded him and prepared to cook him as they waved spears helped inspire Elias Howe's invention of the sewing machine. When he awoke, he remembered that the spears had holes in their shafts and moved up and down.

- “Bhang lassi” is an Indian milkshake whose main ingredient is marijuana.

• According to British law, any unclaimed swan swimming in the open waters of England and Wales belongs to the queen. The law originated in medieval times when swans were a delicacy for the wealthy.

- “Gingerphobia” is a fear of redheads.

- The Russians arrived 12 days late to the 1908 Olympics because they were using the wrong (i.e., Julian) calendar.

• In 1995 a woman in Sweden lost her wedding ring while cooking for Christmas. Understandably distraught, she looked everywhere for it and even pulled up her kitchen floor, but didn't see it again until 16 years later, when, while gardening, she discovered it encircling a carrot that had sprouted in the middle of it.

- Because he got a 25% profit share of merchandise, Elvis Presley manager Colonel Tom Parker was always in search of new ways to get fans to lay down some cash. One of the most notable was marketing to Presley's haters with badges that read "I Hate Elvis" and "Elvis is a Jerk."

Thought for the Day: "The mark of the immature man is that he wants to die nobly for a cause, while the mark of the mature man is that he wants to live humbly for one."  
— J.D. Salinger


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# CryptoQuip Answer

I really have no idea what to do with this very hard mineral. It's a corundum conundrum.

5	×	6	−	8	22
+		×		+	
7	×	3	+	1	22
×		+		×	
2	+	9	×	3	33
24		27		27	





# Moments in time

THE HISTORY CHANNEL

- On Sept. 13, 1990, the drama series “Law & Order” premieres on NBC. It will go on to become one of the longest-running prime-time dramas in TV history and spawn several popular spinoffs.
- On Sept. 14, 1944, the U.S. 1st Marine Division lands on the tiny island of Peleliu in the Pacific as part of a larger operation to provide support for an invasion of the Philippines. The Marines suffered heavy losses, with 4,000 men killed in the first week alone.
- On Sept. 15, 1978, boxer Muhammad Ali defeats Leon Spinks at the Louisiana Superdome in New Orleans to win the world heavyweight boxing title for the third time in his career. Ali left the sport permanently in 1981.
- On Sept. 16, 1932, in his cell near Bombay, Mohandas Gandhi begins a hunger strike in protest of the British government’s decision to separate India’s electoral system by caste. Gandhi worked all his life to spread his own brand of passive resistance.
- On Sept. 17, 1796, President George Washington prepares a final draft of his farewell address. Two days later, his words appeared in Claypoole’s American Daily Advertiser, officially notifying the American public that he would voluntarily step down as the nation’s first president. Rarely in the history of Western civilization has a national leader voluntarily relinquished his title.
- On Sept. 18, 1987, cesium-137 is removed from an abandoned cancer-therapy machine in Brazil. Junk yard workers, fascinated by the glowing blue stone inside and unaware of its dangers, gave pieces to friends, relatives and neighbors. Hundreds of people were eventually poisoned by radiation, and 40 contaminated homes had to be demolished.
- On Sept. 19, 1893, New Zealand becomes the world’s first country to grant national voting rights to women. The United States granted women the right to vote in 1920, and Great Britain followed in 1928.

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# Cole opens EPSO’s 90th season

*Gershwin’s ‘Rhapsody in Blue’ featured*

**By Rosemary Flores**  
*Special to the Courier*

EL PASO COUNTY – The El Paso Symphony Orchestra (EPSO) is excited to celebrate its 90th Anniversary Season and make beautiful music once again on the historic Plaza Theatre stage. Throughout the 2021-2022 season, audience members will be inspired by music from celebrated composers performed by EPSO’s dynamic conductor Bohuslav Rattay, along with the finest gifted musicians in this region. In addition, the 90th anniversary will bring our arts community together through varied collaborations with El Paso Opera, El Paso Pro-Musica, and the University of Texas at El Paso Music Department and

## Feeling

From Page 2

selves, she offers advice.

- Look for opportunities. When difficult events happen, turn your focus toward a more positive alternative. For example, if you are stuck waiting for an appointment, use this unexpected free time to call a friend or read a book. If an injury or sickness has derailed your usual workouts, focus on what you can do, like gentle stretching or using resistance bands. “These substitute activities can make you feel more positive and remind you that difficult circumstances will not necessarily continue, and you can overcome barriers to get there.”
- Focus on your strengths. Here is an exercise from the Greater Good Science Center at the University of California, Berkeley. Reflect on your personal strengths, like creativity, perseverance, kindness, curiosity. Choose one and plan how to use it today. For example, for perseverance, make a list of tasks you have found challenging recently, then try to tackle each one. If you choose curiosity, attempt an activity you’ve never tried before. Repeat this process every day for a week. You may use the same personal strength across multiple days or try using a different one each day. Another way to assess your character strengths is to take the free Values in Action (VIA) Survey at [www.viacharacter.org/survey/account/register](http://www.viacharacter.org/survey/account/register).
- Practice gratitude. Optimists



– Photo courtesy EPSO

**AMERICA’S PIANIST** – Kevin Cole has performed with over 100 orchestras worldwide including sold-out performances with the Los Angeles Philharmonic at the Hollywood Bowl, BBC Concert Orchestra at Royal Albert Hall, National Symphony at the Kennedy Center, Hong Kong Philharmonic, San Francisco Symphony and Chicago Symphony. He is an award-winning musical director, arranger, composer, vocalist, archivist and producer. Cole was the featured soloist for the PBS special Gershwin at One Symphony Place with the Nashville Symphony.

Choral Union.

The concert season will open September 24-25, 2021, 7:30pm in the Plaza Theatre with masterpieces by Gershwin and Ravel. Sponsored by the Marlene and J.O. Stewart, Jr. Foundation, the opening concerts will feature

America’s pianist and Gershwin master, Kevin Cole performing Gershwin’s *Rhapsody in Blue* and Gershwin’s *Second Rhapsody for Piano and Orchestra*. The second half of the program will highlight the El Paso Symphony performing Ravel’s *Daphnis and*

*Chloé Suite no. 2* and *Bolero*. Concert ticket prices are \$46, \$41, \$35, \$22 and \$16 plus fees. Student tickets for \$9 and \$12 plus fees are available. Tickets may be purchase at [epso.org](http://epso.org), [ticketmaster.com](http://ticketmaster.com) or by calling the EPSO office at (915) 532-3776.

often are thankful for what they have and share it with others. Keep a gratitude journal where you list the many gifts and blessings for which you are thankful, like your current health, a kind gesture you received, a great meal you enjoyed.

- Create a mental image of your best possible self. Where do you see yourself in five or 10

years? This exercise helps you address three essential questions: What are you doing now? What is important to you? What do you care about and why?

**FOOTNOTE:** The archives of science contain numerous studies on the topic of “exceptional longevity” and they have one thing in common, namely that those of us who live the longest have

**maintained optimistic outlooks as they aged. As one such piece of research concluded, “The habits and surroundings of centenarians vary from country to country, but the one specific thing that they have in common is their positivity. When difficult situations arise, whether it’s the death of a loved one or illness, they’re resilient, they adapt, and they stay optimistic. This optimism is evident in centenarian studies around the world.”**

## Public Notice

### Village of Vinton, Texas

A PUBLIC HEARING will be held at 6:30 p.m., September 27, 2021 at City Hall located at 436 E. Vinton Rd., Vinton, TX 79821 and streamed through the zoom.us platform at the following URL:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2520023141?pwd=WVRDZDIFR3ZHR3FJVIJUL3ZLWTB6dz09>.

The purpose of the public Hearing is to allow any interested person to appear and testify regarding the adoption of the Fiscal Year 2021-2022 Budget.

Members of the public are invited to attend and participate in the Village Council's September 27, 2021 Special Council Meeting where the public can testify regarding the adoption of the Fiscal Year 2021-2022 Budget.

## THIS BUDGET WILL RAISE MORE TOTAL PROPERTY TAXES THAN LAST YEAR’S BUDGET BY \$458 OR 0.05%, AND OF THAT AMOUNT, \$544 IS TAX REVENUE TO BE RAISED FROM NEW PROPERTY ADDED TO THE TAX ROLL THIS YEAR.

Those unable to attend are invited to submit their views in writing to the Village of Vinton, Attn: Mayor Manuel Leos, 436 E. Vinton Road. City Hall is accessible for handicapped persons in need of special assistance to attend the hearing are encouraged to contact the City Secretary at (915) 886-5104, forty-eight (48) hours prior to this meeting. A copy of the proposed budget is available for review on the Village of Vinton website and at the Village Hall located at 436 E. Vinton Road, Vinton, Texas 79821.

*Andrea N. Carrillo*  
*Village Administrator*

WTCC: 09-16-21



# Dak returns bigger and better than ever

By Steve Escajeda  
*Special to the Courier*

They may not have won the game, but the Dallas Cowboys came away with their opening-day loss to Tampa Bay feeling much better about themselves. As any player or coach will tell you, the National Football League season is a marathon and not a sprint. The Cowboys lost their first game and have an 0-1 record right now. A year ago at this time, the Tampa Bay Buccaneers started 0-1 too and all they did was go

on to crush Patrick Mahomes and the Kansas City Chiefs in the Super Bowl. Going into the game, the oddsmakers had the Bucs as an 8.5-point favorite and many experts thought they’d win by more than that. I mean when you’ve won the Super Bowl and you have all your starters returning and one of them is named Tom Brady... yeah... the Bucs were favored big time. But the Dallas Cowboys not only gave the Bucs a tough game, they actually led 29-28 late in the contest, until a field goal with two seconds left gave the defending

champs a 31-29 victory. Normally, NFL teams don’t feel good after a loss. And I’m not saying the Cowboys were thrilled at losing to the Bucs, but their confidence about the rest of the season has got to be through the roof. And that optimism can be summed up in two words – Dak Prescott. Coming into the game, nobody really knew what to expect. And how could they? Prescott was coming off almost 11 months of inactivity after suffering a nasty ankle injury that had his foot pointing in an unnatural direction in week five of last season.

After all those months of rehab, he gingerly returned to the team, got stronger, and then hurt his throwing shoulder during training camp. Because of that shoulder, Prescott didn’t play a single preseason game. Which means he didn’t throw, he didn’t run, he didn’t take a hit, and he didn’t get a chance to establish any real-game chemistry with his receivers. So now he was going into the

regular season opener against the defending champion Bucs, with probably the most ferocious pass rushers in the game. Oh, and on top of that, Dallas’ top offensive lineman, Zack Martin, gets Covid and misses the game. Absolutely everything pointed toward a disastrous night for Dallas and especially for Dak. But all the doubt, fear and uncertainty of Cowboys’ fans were put to rest early and often as Prescott looked as good as he ever has in leading Dallas to the near upset. The Cowboys’ quarterback threw with power, threw with touch and even ran the ball on a couple of occasions. In fact, all the questions concerning his arm strength were put to rest after he threw a whopping 58 passes, completing 42. Prescott threw for 403 yards and three touchdowns in the game. And the only interception he had was a ball that hit wide receiver CeeDee Lamb right in the hands but bounced off him and into the arms of a Tampa defender. But in the end, Prescott hit Lamb and Amari Cooper for over

100 yards each, showing that the offense is going to be one of the best in the league. Dallas fans can also be excited about the defense, which played much better than it did a year ago. The schedule is very favorable for Dallas and this could be a very special season with as many as 11 or 12 wins and a trip to the playoffs. Okay, okay, I know it’s only the second week of the season, but for the Cowboys to play so well in a game in which all the experts said would be a disaster, can only make every Dallas fan giddy. As everyone saw last year, the Cowboys can only go as far as Dak Prescott will take them. And if week one is any indication, Prescott is ready to take the Cowboys to the NFC East title and beyond. Dallas fans near and far have got to be excited about what 2021 can bring. And they’re hoping more than ever that this will be the year that they all can finally yell, “How ’bout them Cowboys!”

## Lower Valley Water District Public Notice

The LOWER VALLEY WATER DISTRICT is proposing to amend its rate order to include the following new charge: Residential Water Minimum Rate, Commercial Water Minimum Rate, Solid Waste Rate, Wastewater Minimum Rate, Residential Customer Volumetric Rate, Commercial Customer Volumetric Rate (see Minimum Rate Schedule and Volumetric Rate Schedule).

The LOWER VALLEY WATER DISTRICT will hold a public hearing on the proposed monthly Residential Water Minimum Rate, Commercial Water Minimum Rate, Solid Waste Rate, Wastewater Minimum Rate, Residential Customer Volumetric Rate on Thursday, September 23, 2021, at 6:00 p.m. at 1557 FM 1110, Clint, Texas 79836.

The governing body of the LOWER VALLEY WATER DISTRICT proposes to use revenue attributable to the monthly Residential Water Minimum Rate, Commercial Water Minimum Rate, Solid Waste Rate, Wastewater Minimum Rate, Residential Customer Volumetric Rate, Commercial Customer Volumetric Rate to balance the budget.

### MINIMUM RATE SCHEDULE

Meter Size	Commercial Water Minimum Monthly Rate	Residential Water Minimum Monthly Rate
¾” .....	\$30.65.....	\$15.00
1” .....	\$48.75.....	\$28.75
1 ½” .....	\$69.00.....	\$37.00
2” .....	\$89.00	
3” .....	\$105.50	
4” .....	\$122.00	
6” .....	\$149.50	
8” .....	\$181.00	

Solid Waste Monthly Rate .....	\$18.35
Wastewater Minimum Monthly Rate .....	\$28.75

### VOLUMETRIC RATE SCHEDULE

#### Commercial and Residential Customers

Tier 1 (4.01 to 10 CCFs) .....	\$2.76
Tier 2 (10.01 to 50 CCFs) .....	\$3.47
Tier 3 (Over 50 CCFs).....	\$4.32

The Rates set by the Lower Valley Water District will be used to create a Rate Stabilization Fund at minimal amount of \$150,000.00 for each Fiscal Year to manage rates fluctuations on an annual basis.

WTCC: 09-16-21

## Super Crossword

GAME TIME			102 Game whose players try to get rid of all their cards	DOWN			18 OK grades	57 Bay Area city	100 Nintendo system
ACROSS			105 Taoism's Lao_	1 High trains	19 Citrus drinks	58 Light cigars	101 Autumn mo.		
1 Ford dud	106 "The land of cotton"	2 Medico	3 Office gizmo	24 Suffix with profit	29 Sacred cow	60 Faith faction	103 Fast car, e.g.		
6 Like a poetic lament	107 Acorn tree	3 _ you in?"	4 _ Unidos de	31 Be a pugilist	32 Portal	63 Sick	104 "Yippee!"		
13 Reggae land	108 Lean_ (simple huts)	33 _ you in?"	America	34 "T.N.T." band	36 Chuckle	64 Brit. monarch beginning in '52	105 Meditative martial art		
20 Mucho	109 Game entailing sinking vessels	40 User of a certain weeding tool	5 Espresso quaffs	35 Center	37 Black tea	66 "Caught ya!"	106 One-named singer of the 1994 hit "You Gotta Be"		
21 Sailing event	111 Actor Scott	41 Perp nabber	6 Blunder	36 Chuckle	40 User of a certain weeding tool	68 _dieu (kneeler)	109 Baseball great Lou		
22 Warded off	114 Lead-in to propyl	42 Most spacious	7 Lower limb	37 Black tea	43 With 52-Down, retort to "No you're not!"	69 Inquires	110 Nero's lang.		
23 Game in which groups of items are named	115 _ Lanka	44 Mined matter	8 Vain person	40 User of a certain weeding tool	46 Stipend, say	71 "Bolero" star	111 Conks		
25 Game utilizing five dice	116 _ Spumante	47 Prefix with thermal	9 Country star Brooks	41 Perp nabber	50 "No _!" ("Sure!")	74 Pottery need	112 _ unto itself		
26 Liver spread	117 Game with an unmatched penalty card	51 Owns	10 Inflammation suffix	42 Most spacious	51 Owns	77 Strange	113 Sit in neutral		
27 Part of TGIF	120 Game using rebounding automaton, as originally named	52 See 43-Down	11 Polished off	43 With 52-Down, retort to "No you're not!"	52 See 43-Down	78 _ Beso"	114 _ of March		
28 "That's show _!"	126 Painter's mixing board	54 Arctic coats	12 North African city citadel	44 Mined matter	54 Arctic coats	81 Tripoli is its capital	115 Mark permanently		
30 Singer Elliot	127 Geronimo's people	55 Frisbee, e.g.	13 Rap star married to Beyonce	46 Stipend, say	55 Frisbee, e.g.	83 Is inclined	118 Safari truck, in brief		
31 Game of bluffing and trivia	128 Slur over	56 Mark permanently	14 Film director DuVernay	47 Prefix with thermal	56 Mark permanently	84 Imitates	119 Suffix with Wisconsin		
35 Enraged	129 Veers		15 "Doesn't excite me"	50 "No _!" ("Sure!")		85 Day-_ colors	121 NYSE event		
36 Tax doc. pro	130 Toy terriers, for short		16 Elaborately decorated auto	51 Owns		86 Mac rivals	122 Bray starter		
38 Filled cookies			17 Chichen _ (Mayan ruins)	52 See 43-Down		87 Ad _	123 Letter #19		
39 Autumn mo.				54 Arctic coats		88 NHL's Bobby	124 Lyrical poem		
40 Game involving				55 Frisbee, e.g.		89 French "king"	125 Letter #20		
				56 Mark permanently		91 Sail holder			
						92 Help do bad			
						93 Mil. figures			
						98 Small guns			
						99 Demonstrate			
									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

else. China’s labor productivity has improved, Beckley writes, “but remains half that of Turkey, lower than Mexico’s, and roughly on par with Brazil’s.”

We have demographic challenges, but other big powers, especially China, will be aging faster. Over the course of the century, Beckley notes, China

will lose half of its workforce, or 470 million people.

Our alliance system is an enormous force-multiplier, a network that, according to Beckley, “encompasses 25% of the Earth’s population and accounts for 75% of world GDP and defense spending.” China’s formal ally, in contrast, is North Korea.

None of this is to deny that the contemporary United States is racked by self-doubt, poisonous

politics and institutional failure.

It is only to say that if we are determined to squander our global position, it will take much more time and folly to do it. A further downward slide, like the disastrous withdrawal from Kabul itself, will be a choice, not an inevitability.

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

Reader seeks alternative to Rx antidepressant

DEAR DR. ROACH: I suffer from depression. It comes and goes, but I’ve been feeling sad, worried and angry, as well as irritable, for the past four months or so. I force myself to function. My family doctor prescribed a 37.5 mg dose of Effexor once a day to start and after one week, twice a day. I looked up the side effects and what I read scared me. Instead, I’ve been taking 1,000 mg of St. John’s wort daily for almost three weeks, and I have noticed no discernible effect. I told my doctor I would take the Effexor after three weeks if the St. John’s wort hasn’t helped. Should I take his advice? Are there better alternatives? I am middle age and take zero prescription drugs. – S.M.



St. John’s wort, *Hypericum perforatum*, is a yellow flower that has been medicinally used for centuries. Initial studies suggested benefit in people with mild to moderate depression, and several substances in the flower have been shown to have pharmacologic effects on serotonin receptors, among other effects. However, other trials have shown it to be no better than placebo.

It does have important drug interactions, fortunately not an issue for you (as long as you let the St. John’s wort wear off before starting Effexor), but for some people the potential interactions are dangerous. Side effects are not common, but include gastrointestinal upset, dizziness and confusion, fatigue, dry mouth and sexual side effects. It can make people more sensitive to sunlight, and may decrease fertility.

The studies that did show a benefit lasted four to 12 weeks. It is possible you might not have had benefit from it yet, and waiting a little longer – say another week – wouldn’t be unreasonable to really give the St. John’s wort a chance. However, I seldom recommend this herb due to lack of consistent benefit in trials, the potential for drug interactions and a concern about poor regulation of supplements in terms of amount and purity of the ingredients. For people who want to avoid prescription medicine, I have often recommended S-adenosyl methionine (SAME). The evidence is better and the side effects and drug interactions fewer.

Effexor may be a good choice for you. Prescription antidepressants have been shown to be better than placebo, but they certainly do not work for everybody. If Effexor isn’t a good choice, there are several others. However, I would strongly recommend you consider nonpharmacologic treatment for depression whether or not you decide to take additional medication treatment.

DEAR DR. ROACH: Whenever I take 325 mg of aspirin for pain, I sleep very well. I dream of things that happened 60 years ago as though they just happened. I see people I knew then, and I am with them like it was yesterday. – S.C.

Odd dreams can be a side effect of aspirin. It sounds like yours have been pleasant, but if they aren’t, you should avoid taking aspirin in the afternoon if possible, as most of the aspirin (and the active component, salicylate) will be gone after six or so hours.

The effect on platelets, which is how aspirin prevents heart attacks, is unique because aspirin blocks an enzyme in platelets irreversibly. That’s why aspirin can increase bleeding risk for days after taking it.

Dr. Roach regrets that he is unable to answer individual questions, but will incorporate them in the column whenever possible. Readers may email questions to [ToYourGoodHealth@med.cornell.edu](mailto:ToYourGoodHealth@med.cornell.edu). (c) 2021 North America Synd., Inc. All Rights Reserved.

Franken

From Page 2

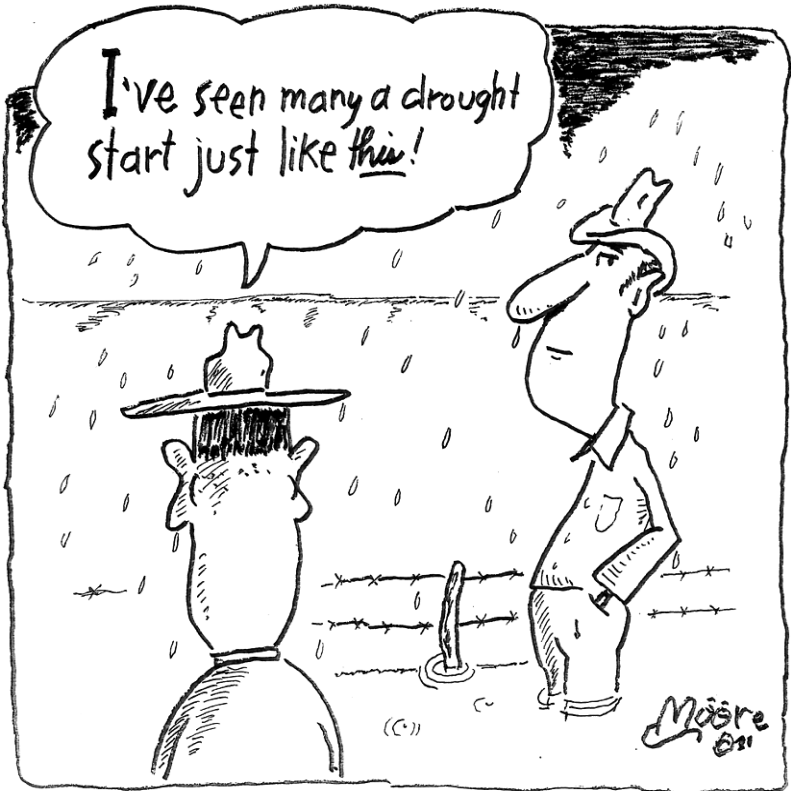
international issues, too. How will Joe Biden’s rhetorical and political skills influence whatever happens? We must write about something.

Will natural disasters and their relationship to climate change be exploitable? And the pandemic. For the moment, the Afghanistan

story has run its course. At the moment. What will take its place? Will anything need to take its place? Now it’s up to the pundits to chew on it for a while, then the historians. For starters, they can assess Joe Biden’s use of rhetoric.

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**Moore Texas** by Roger MOORE  
Thrall Texas got 38.2 inches of rain in a period of 24 hours in September of 1921!

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 R

H WSUDDJ YURS ZT HCSU  
NYUP PT CT NHPY PYHF  
RSWJ YUWC EHZSWUD. HP'F  
U KTWMZCME KTZMZCWME.

Answer Page 4

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging

Answer Page 4

♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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All hands on deck



by Freddy Groves

The older veterans were arrayed along the back parking lot, watching the construction of two tiny homes for Veterans Village. My mission, which I accepted, was to sidle up to one of them, the very elderly Frank, and see how I thought he was doing.

I reported back to Sarge: “Well, for starters, I couldn’t tell you the last time he washed his clothes or took a shower. Looks sad.”

Sarge nodded and stabbed numbers into his phone. I overheard his end of the conversation with his granddaughter.

“Baby girl, this is Granddad. You up for a spy mission?” He gave her the particulars, and when she called back 15 minutes later he put her on speaker phone.

“His wife has been in rehab for over a week, chest congestion, not COVID,

getting better. Your guy Frank hasn’t answered his phone this whole time. She’s frantic and nobody at rehab will help.”

“Can you jump in?” he asked.

Sarge’s lovely granddaughter volunteered at the senior center and knew everybody. Even more valuable, she knew how to wheedle info out of people. Within 24 hours she called back with the sitrep: She’d paid a visit to Frank, and it was all now under control. Frank had been told he couldn’t visit his wife due to COVID restrictions. His wife had their only phone charger cord. The water heater had quit, and the repair guy was on vacation. And on and on. Poor Frank.

Sarge’s granddaughter took him home for dinner (her mom knew to never be surprised), made a grocery run, put Frank on the phone to his wife in rehab, gave him a spare phone charger and called another plumber.

Today she had a snarling conversation with the director of the rehab place, after which Frank’s wife was wheeled out to the sunlit inner courtyard,

where she was allowed a socially distant half-hour with Frank. He was heard laughing.

Sarge’s granddaughter is 17 years old.

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• If you keep a couple of crackers in your sugar jar, they'll keep the sugar from caking.

• Cucumber is a speedy diuretic. Try snacking on slices for a cool treat. Or deseed slices and slip a few in your glass of cold water.

• “When we go to the doctor with our youngest, we bring a few crayons. She'll lie down on the exam table paper, and we draw her outline. Then she can fill in her face and other details. This usually calms her while she is waiting. The doctor even has used the outline to talk about her body to her.” – E.S. in Georgia

• “In older houses, you might have a problem with cracking drywall when trying to hang pictures. You can solve this by placing a bit of clear tape over the spot where you’re going to drive a nail. It goes right in. If you’re nailing into wood, drag your nail through some soap (bar soap is fine) before striking. It does the same thing, keeping the wood from splitting.” – P.K. in New Jersey

• To prevent garbage cans from filling with water during rainstorms, drill several holes in the bottom, near the sides. This also will help bags to come out of the can easier.

• Boost your metabolism by drinking green tea... hot or cold. Try it over ice with honey and a sprig of mint.

• “My mother swears by wrapping her feet in a vinegar-soaked rag once a week to soften calluses. She does this before her bath, and uses a pumice stone to rid her heels of hardened spots on the skin. It seems to work for her, so I thought I would pass it on!” – C.D. in Colorado

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

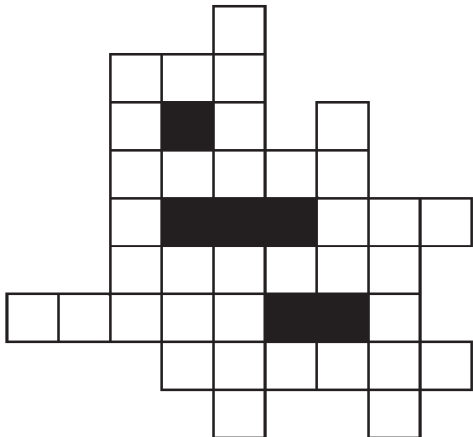
	x		-		22
+		x		+	
	x		+		22
x		+		x	
	+		x		33
24		27		27	

1 2 3 3 5 6 7 8 9

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IND  
YEW RAT  
♥REWID  
♥NALE  
TYEPUD  
♥NWA  
NOUD  
♥YOLLA  
♥RWA  
BERLET  
ORPEN  
♥EWLA



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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