

NEWSBRIEFS

Diversity award

Canutillo Independent School District’s Northwest Early College High School (NWECHS) has been recognized for Closing the Gender Gap in AP Computer Science Principles by earning the College Board AP® Computer Science Female Diversity Award for achieving high female representation in AP Computer Science Principles. Schools honored with the AP Computer Science Female Diversity Award have expanded girls’ access in AP computer science courses. More than 1,000 institutions achieved either 50% or higher female representation in one of the two AP computer science courses or a percentage of the female computer science exam takers meeting or exceeding that of the school’s female population during the 2020-21 school year. “We’re thrilled to congratulate our female AP computer science students and their teachers on this step toward gender parity in computer science education,” said NWECHS Principal, Jesica Arellano. “We’re honored that our school earned this distinction and look forward to seeing these young women and others pursue and achieve success in computer science education and careers.”

– Liza Rodriguez

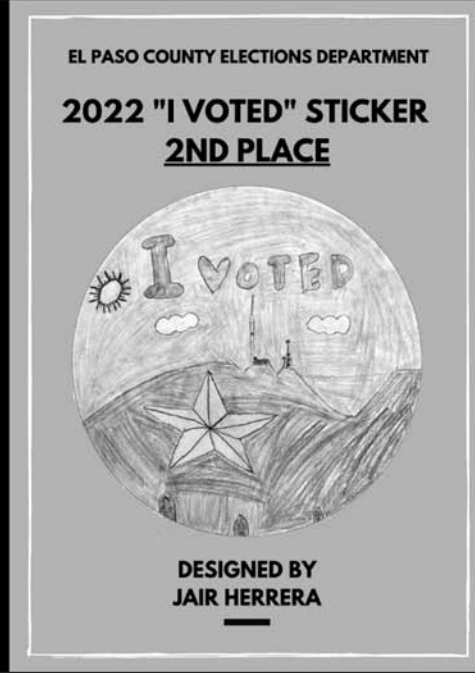
Financial excellence

The Texas Association of School Business Officials (TASBO) recently awarded the Canutillo Independent School District Financial Services Department with the Award of Excellence in Financial Management. The TASBO Award of Excellence in Financial Management was designed to honor Texas school districts, open-enrollment charter schools, and education service centers that have implemented professional standards, best practices, and innovations in financial reporting and exemplify meaningful transparency and responsible accounting practices. “As public servants, we realize the responsibility bestowed upon us to manage federal, state, and taxpayer dollars with diligence and integrity,” said Martha Piekarski, Canutillo ISD Chief Business Officer. “We are committed to making sure every dollar under the district’s purview is adequately accounted for and

See BRIEFS, Page 5

You will find that if you share your brother’s burden, both of you will walk a little straighter.

– Quips & Quotes



– Images Courtesy of El Paso County

TOP THREE – The “I Voted” sticker design by Layla M. Gonzalez, a seventh grader at Jose J. Alderete Middle School in the Canutillo School District, will be El Paso County’s official decal for the 2022 election cycle. Gonzales’ design won the recent “I Voted” sticker contest and will make its debut during the upcoming primary elections. Second place design winner was Jair Herrera, a sixth grader from Del Valle Middle School, and third place was Luna D. Robledo, a sixth grader from Hanks Middle School. Judges for the contest were Christin Apodaca, local illustrator and muralist; Chelsie Evaldi, owner of Chuco Relic, and Miriam Garcia, Public Art Program Supervisor for the City of El Paso.

Voter registration deadline is January 31

By Alfredo Vasquez
Special to the Courier

EL PASO COUNTY – A critical starting point for a contentious mid-term general election in November is fast approaching with the primary elections slated for Tuesday, March 1st. But to cast a ballot in the primaries, Texas residents must be registered to vote by Monday, January 31st. The winners of the Republican primary will face off against the winners of the Democrat primary in the November 8th general election.

Several political offices are up for grabs this upcoming election, including four El Paso-area state representative seats. And seven Democrat and six Republican candidates have filed to run for state governor. Republican candidates are Greg Abbott, Paul Belew, Danny Harrison, Kandy Kaye Horn, Don Huffines, and Allen West. The Democrat challengers are Beto O’Rourke, Inocencio “Inno” Barrientez, Michael Cooper, Joy Diaz, Jack Daniel Foster Jr., Dierdre Gilbert, and Star Locke.

All four Texas state representative seats that cover El Paso County: Districts 75, 77, 78 and 79 are up for election this year. Claudia Ordaz Perez, who currently represents district 76, will challenge incumbent Art Fierro in the Democratic primary for the District 79 seat. No candidates filed to run in the Republican primary. District 76 was merged into two districts- District 77, represented by Lina Ortega, and District 79, represented by Fierro.

Ortega and District 78 state Rep. Joe Moody have no challengers in the primary or general elections. District 75 state Rep. Mary González will face Rene Rodriguez in the Democrat primary. There

is no Republican challenger. Democrat state senator César Blanco also faces no primary or general election challengers for District 29.

Veronica Escobar will seek reelection to a third term to the Texas District 16 seat, which encompasses most of El Paso, in the U.S. House of Representatives. She will face Deliris Montanez Berrios in the March Democrat primary election. Republican Irene Armendariz Jackson, who was defeated by Escobar in her 2020 bid for U.S. Congress, is the only Republican challenger. She will go up against the winner of the March Democrat primary election.

El Paso County Judge Ricardo Samaniego faces a primary election challenger in independent candidate Guadalupe Giner, but faces no Democrat or Republican candidates. Democrat Precinct 2 County Commissioner David

Stout will face two primary challengers: Judy Gutierrez and Carlos Soto. Democrat Precinct 4 County Commissioner Carl Robinson also will face off against two primary challengers: Dorothy “Sissy” Byrd and Sergio Coronado. Four Republican candidates have filed to run for Precinct 4 county commissioner: David Adams, Adam Fatuch, Victor Navarette, and Blanca Trout.

Meanwhile, El Paso County election department officials announced recently that they have started mailing out voter registration certificates countywide.

Registered voters in El Paso County who have not received a new Voter Registration Certificate are advised to contact the county elections office at (915) 546-2154 or visit its website at www.epcountyvotes.com, so that their information may be

See VOTE, Page 3

2022-2023
EXAMPLE

Secretary of State's Office
Elections Division
1-800-252-VOTE (8683)
www.sos.state.tx.us

Notice# 2060000

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

VOTER REGISTRATION CERTIFICATE
(Certificado de Registro Electoral)
EL PASO COUNTY(Condado de El Paso)

VOID (VOTO)	Gender (Sexo)	Valid from (Válido desde)
1090000000	M	01/01/2022
Year of Birth (Año de Nacimiento)	Prec. No. (Num. Pcto.)	Exp. (Venc.)
1970	172-1	12/31/2023

Name and Permanent Residence Address (Nombre y dirección residencial permanente)

VOTER, JOHN
100 MAIN ST
EL PASO TX 79901

X
VOTER MUST PERSONALLY SIGN HIS/HER NAME IMMEDIATELY UPON RECEIPT, IF ABLE
(El votante debe firmar esta tarjeta personalmente al recibirla, si puede.)

U.S. REP. (Rep. Federal)	STATE SEN. (Sen. Estatal)	STATE REP. (Rep. Estatal)	COMM PCT. (Com. Pcto.)
16	29	79	1
J.P. PCT. (J.P. Pcto.)	CITY REP. (Rep. Ciudad)	SCHOOL DIST. (Distrito Escolar)	EPCCD
4	7	Y7	6

Name and Mailing Address (Nombre y dirección de correo)

VOID:1090000000

JOHN VOTER
100 MAIN ST
EL PASO TX 79901

BONA FIDE – El Paso County Elections Department officials started sending new Voter Registration Certificates to El Paso County registered voters in mid-January. These Voter Registration Certificates are blue in color and valid from January 1, 2022, through December 31, 2023.

The high-water mark of Biden-era progressivism

Joe Manchin and London Breed have nothing in common.

One is an old-school Democratic senator from West Virginia, surviving and thriving in an increasingly red state; the other is the progressive mayor of San Francisco, a city that is a byword for cutting-edge left-wing politics.

Yet both, in their own ways signaled that Biden-era progressivism has reached its high-water mark. Manchin, of course, delivered down to Joe Biden’s signature Build Back Better plan, while Breed reversed field on crime in a stunningly frank endorsement of law-and-order in a jurisdiction infamous for the opposite.

The de facto pincer movement by the wildly different Democrats from wildly different parts of the country – San Francisco is roughly 19 times as large as the biggest city in West Virginia – shows that the progressive tide that built in the Trump years is finally colliding with political reality and the real-world consequences of progressive extravagance.

This doesn’t mean that progressivism is spent obviously.

It dominates the media, academia and almost all the rest of elite culture. At the same time, Democrats still control the elected branches of government in Washington. But a growing backlash against progressive excess has found expression in two notable acts of Democratic defiance.

By now, the context of Manchin’s “no” on Build Back Better is familiar. Joe Biden campaigned as a pragmatic Democrat only to reverse field after his election and develop a heroic image of himself as the next transformational Democratic president in the line

of FDR and LBJ.

This drove the mistake of not realizing that Manchin or any other

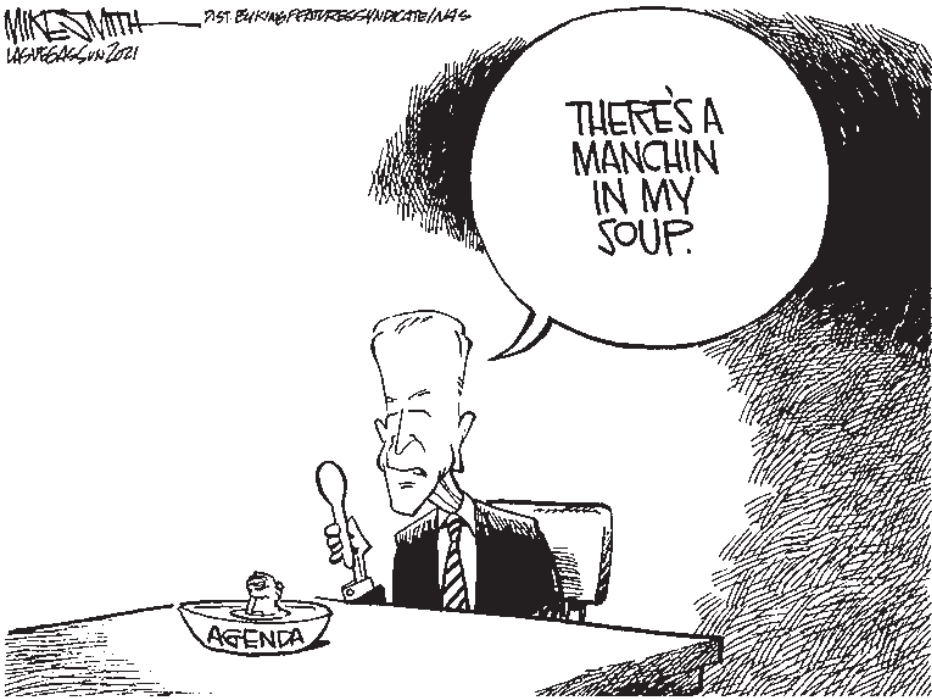
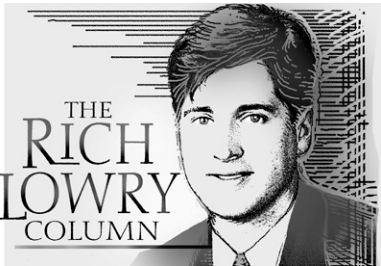
Democratic dissenter in the 50-50 Senate had the power to derail Build Back Better and accordingly scaling it back from the outset. Instead, the White House and congressional leadership acted as if Manchin could be cajoled or bullied out of his oft-repeated qualms.

Perhaps Democrats will reunite with the senator on a scaled-back spending bill in the new year, but the era of FDR fantasies is definitely over. Democrats should ask themselves, if they had a mandate to remake the country, why the entire project depended on the approval of a single conservative Democrat from West Virginia?

Now, Democrats are looking down the barrel of a mid-term election wipe-out that could give the GOP a durable House majority that will put paid to any thought of BBB-style legislation for years.

If Manchin said “enough” to big-spending federal aggrandizement, London Breed said it to the soft-on-crime consensus in blue cities that has led to spiraling disorder. The Bay Area, home to the smash-and-grab robbery and other routine offenses against basic human decency, has been Exhibit A.

Concluding that even the tolerant people of perhaps the country’s most tolerant city wouldn’t put up with it much



See LOWRY, Page 7

View from here By Jane M. Orient, M.D.

Test, jab, boost, repeat

Joe Biden introduced his “new” plan¹ to save us from the dread coronavirus. He will provide 500 million “free” tests (paid for by taxpayers or with borrowed money); 1,000 National Guard troops to overstressed hospitals; and more pressure to get vaccinated and boosted.

According to the Kaiser Family Foundation, we would need 2.3 billion tests² per month to test every person over age 12 twice

per week at the recommended frequency of twice per week. What type of test, and where would we get them? Pharmacies are running out of home antigen tests. We have no data on the likelihood of false negative or false positive tests, but we do know that with any test, even very good ones, the vast majority of positive tests will be false positives if only a small percentage of the tested group is

diseased. Also, tests may remain positive long after a person has recovered and is no longer infectious.

Can the tests harm? False positives lead to isolation with destruction of livelihoods and educational opportunities. We may be having an epidemic of false positive PCR tests³. Using too high a cycle threshold, as some labs have routinely done, gives a meaningless result. And from your lab report, you cannot tell what cycle threshold was used.

It is possible that doing the test itself could be fatal. A few military members reportedly had infections with flesh-eating bacteria after getting swabbed, and some of the swabs were found to be contaminated. At least one patient got meningitis⁴ when a nasal swab was inserted too far.

Hospitals are indeed overstressed. According to a talk radio host, patients are dying in the halls and waiting room of a local hospital because of short staffing. Will 1,000 troops

help? Mayo alone just fired 700 unvaccinated workers⁵. An Ohio physician reported that the troops were causing chaos. They didn’t even know where supplies were kept, and after a 12-hour shift might be dispatched to another state before they had time to learn the local system. Under CMS waivers⁶ covering the declared emergency, minimally qualified personnel may be used. And now the most experienced and dedicated workers, the very ones most likely to exercise independent judgment and stand up for patients, are being culled.

Will more vaccines and boosters help? Biden asserts that it’s a “patriotic duty” to get jabbed, and more jabs are the only way to end the disaster. No matter how much respect you have for his mental abilities, he is likely quoting the American Medical Association⁷. The jabs do not appear to be effective against the new variants, and might even be creating them. There is talk of a fourth shot—but apparently no stopping point⁸ for adverse effects such as myocarditis in children.

The U.S. has one of the worst records in the world for controlling COVID-19. Moreover, the most reliable source of statistics, insurance actuaries, shows that deaths in the prime working age group are up 40 percent⁹, and disability claims are also up. A 10 percent increase would be the equivalent of a 200-year flood. The claims are not citing COVID-19 as a cause of death. They could be collateral damage from

See JAB, Page 3

1973
49
Years
2022

WEST TEXAS COUNTY
COURIER

SERVING ANTHONY, VINTON, CANUTILLO, EAST MONTANA, HORIZON, SOCORRO, CLINE, FARENS, SAN ELIZABIO AND TORNILLO

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1973
49
Years
2022

WEST TEXAS COUNTY
COURIER

SERVING ANTHONY, VINTON, CANUTILLO, EAST MONTANA, HORIZON, SOCORRO, CLINE, FARENS, SAN ELIZABIO AND TORNILLO

CLASSIFIED AD FORM
25 words - \$15 per week; 40 words - \$20 per week

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37	38	39	40

Deadline: Monday, 4 p.m.
Please print. Send form and payment (no cash) to:
West Texas County Courier
15344 Werling Ct.
Horizon City, TX 79928

Contact Information:
Name: _____
Phone: _____

Jab

From Page 2

government policy, including poor medical care for virtually everything, or they could be from vaccination.

States are pushing back against the mandates, which are being imposed by executive order through unaccountable administrative agencies. The U.S. Supreme Court should be considering whether the administrative state has the constitutional or statutory authority¹⁰ to impose a medical dictatorship that overrides the states' authority and citizens' basic rights. Some Justices, however, seem to be taking the end-justifies-the-means approach – and that based on egregiously erroneous information¹¹. For example, Justice Breyer asserted that there were 750 million cases (in a population of about 330 million) and Justice Sotomayor asserted that there were 100,000 hospitalized children (instead of fewer than 4,000, mostly not for COVID-19). The harms from the mandated vaccines were simply ignored.

Even if the “experts” Biden is relying upon, under the titular leadership of Anthony Fauci, were right this time, the precedent could grant unlimited power to a medical dictatorship to force disastrous policy on all Americans.

Instead of endlessly repeating failed policy, how about firing the generals¹² who are in charge of the losing war?

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

- 1 – <https://www.oregonlive.com/coronavirus/2021/12/free-covid-19-tests-pledged-in-omicron-fight-joe-biden-unveils-winter-coronavirus-plan.html>
- 2 – https://www.wfmz.com/news/biden-to-pledge-500m-free-covid-19-tests-to-counter-omicron/article_

- a3f813e0-bf4e-58f9-acf8-21acdc09fc43.html
- 3 – <https://aapsonline.org/covid-19-do-we-have-a-coronavirus-pandemic-or-a-pcr-test-pandemic/>
- 4 – <https://europepmc.org/article/PMC/PMC8013551>
- 5 – <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/mayo-clinic-fires-700-unvaccinated-employees/>
- 6 – <https://www.cms.gov/files/document/summary-covid-19-emergency-declaration-waivers.pdf>
- 7 – <https://www.lifesitenews.com/news/ama-supports-oshha-vaccine-mandate-at-scotus/>
- 8 – <https://stevekirsch.substack.com/p/there-is-no-stopping-condition>
- 9 – <https://www.wfyi.org/news/articles/insurance-death-rates-working-age-people-up-40-percent>
- 10 – <https://ddponline.org/amici-brief-DDP-EFELDF-21A240.pdf>
- 11 – <https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/opinion/liberal-supreme-court-justices-spread-covid-19-misinformation>
- 12 – <https://www.physiciansforcivildefense.org/2022/01/10/test-jab-boost-repeat/>

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.

Vote

From Page 1

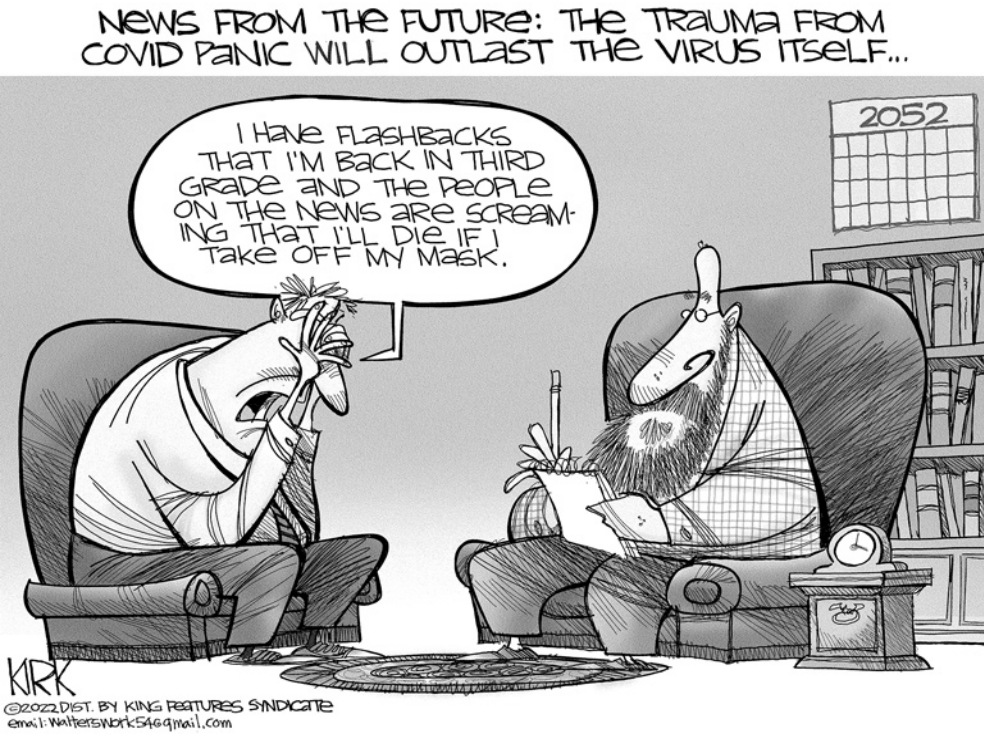
verified or updated. Another option is to download the El Paso County Elections smart app through the Apple Store or Google Play to verify voter registration information.

According to an El Paso County elections administrator, a voter registration certificate is not required to vote in person and does not serve as an acceptable form of photo identification for voting. However, if a voter is unable to reasonably obtain an acceptable form of photo identification, the voter registration certificate may be used as a supporting document at the voting place.

Other important dates preceding the March 1st primary to note include Monday, February 14, which is the first day of early voting by personal appearance. Friday, February 18, is the last day to apply for ballot by mail (received, not postmarked); and Friday, February 25, is last day of early voting by personal appearance.

Election Day, Tuesday, March 1, will be the last day for county election officials to receive ballots by mail if carrier envelope is not postmarked; or Thursday, March 3, (next business day after Election Day) if carrier envelope is appropriately postmarked (unless overseas or military voter deadlines apply).

For more information or questions regarding the status of your voter registration, please contact the El Paso County Elections Department (www.epcountyyotes.com).



Food for thought By John Grimaldi

The impact of exercise on the body and brain health of America’s seniors

People should check with their doctor before beginning any new health or exercise program

Every year at this time there is a call for seniors to establish an exercise routine. The holidays are over and so is the copious feasting that goes with the season. It’s time to lose a few pounds.

The Association of Mature American Citizens (AMAC) strongly encourages older Americans to stay in shape. But we offer this advice with an abundance of caution. Your health care providers call the shots and we recommend that seniors heed their advice when it comes to what you should or should not do for exercise, says AMAC’s CEO Rebecca Weber.

Dr. Andrew E. Budson is chief of cognitive & behavioral neurology at the Veterans Affairs Boston Healthcare System, lecturer in neurology at Harvard Medical School, and chair of the Science of Learning Innovation Group at the Harvard Medical School Academy. He says that “Changes in strength, swiftness, and stamina with age are all associated with decreasing muscle mass. Although there is not much decline in your muscles between ages 20 and 40, after age 40 there can be a decline of 1% to 2% per year in lean body mass and 1.5% to 5% per year in strength.”

Dr. Budson notes that aging can also raise coordination issues as we grow older, issues that are associated to the brain and nervous system. He says that reduced strength and coordination, too, is the result of a lack of physical activity.

Certified Cognitive Behavioral Therapy specialist Brock Armstrong, agrees. He says, “Exercise affects the brain in many ways. It increases heart rate, which pumps more oxygen to the brain. It aids the release of hormones which provide an excellent environment for the growth of brain cells. Exercise also promotes brain plasticity by stimulating growth of new connections

See EXERCISE, Page 6



- By Lucie Winborne
- At the height of their fashion craze in the 1580s and ‘90s, neck ruffs could include up to 6 yards of starched-stiff material with up to 600 pleats, supported by a wire, wooden frame or board.
 - In 2017, while on a plane, a woman used her sleeping husband’s thumb to unlock his phone, thereby discovering he was cheating on her. She reportedly reacted with “such a ruckus” that the flight was forced to make an unscheduled landing in India.
 - Starfish don’t have blood. They circulate nutrients by using seawater in their vascular system.

- The first baseball caps were made from straw and worn by the New York Knickerbockers in 1849.
- After the Titanic sank in 1912, ships sent to recover the dead ran out of embalming supplies. It was decided to preserve only the bodies of first-class passengers, due to the need to visually identify wealthy men in order to resolve disputes over their estates.
- Between 1848 and 1850, the Gold Rush caused the population of San Francisco to grow from 900 to 35,000 people.
- In medieval times, fruit and vegetables were cooked because they were thought to cause disease, with a book from 1500 even warning consumers to “Beware of green salads and raw fruits, for they will make your master sick.”

- Credito Emiliano, a bank in Italy, accepts Parmigiano-Reggiano cheese as collateral for small business loans, holding the cheese as insurance and aging it in climate-controlled vaults for the loan’s duration.

Thought for the Day: “Not all paths offer a vista. But every path offers a lesson.”
– Toni Sorenson

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Fabens Independent School District
Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balance
Governmental Funds
For the Year Ended August 31, 2021

Data Control Codes	10			98
	General Fund	ESEA, Title I, Part A	Other Funds	Total Governmental Funds
REVENUES				
5700 Local and Intermediate Sources	\$ 2,429,715	\$ –	\$ 655,477	\$ 3,085,192
5800 State Program Revenues	21,816,609	–	1,648,603	23,465,212
5900 Federal Program Revenues	1,782,918	1,717,701	1,168,577	4,669,196
5020 Total Revenues	26,029,242	1,717,701	3,472,657	31,219,600
EXPENDITURES				
0011 Instruction	12,316,858	1,666,990	934,399	14,918,247
0012 Instructional Resources and Media Services	254,895	–	–	254,895
0013 Curriculum and Instructional Staff Development	209,826	1,678	9,523	221,027
0021 Instructional Leadership	200,255	33,150	81,694	315,099
0023 School Leadership	1,306,571	–	2,135	1,308,706
0031 Guidance, Counseling and Evaluation Services	810,506	–	210,068	1,020,574
0032 Social Work Services	28,601	–	–	28,601
0033 Health Services	301,377	–	2,162	303,539
0034 Student Transportation	638,729	–	–	638,729
0035 Food Services	1,360,403	–	–	1,360,403
0036 Extracurricular Activities	783,361	–	–	783,361
0041 General Administration	1,064,202	–	2,500	1,066,702
0051 Facilities Maintenance and Operations	2,849,668	–	–	2,849,668
0052 Security and Monitoring Services	271,394	–	–	271,394
0053 Data Processing Services	296,649	–	–	296,649
0061 Community Services	34,274	15,883	55,243	105,400
0071 Debt Service - Principal	–	–	1,294,000	1,294,000
0072 Debt Service - Interest	–	–	938,246	938,246
0073 Debt Service - Other Debt Service Fees	–	–	2,690	2,690
0099 Other Intergovernmental Charges	35,381	–	–	35,381
6030 Total Expenditures	22,762,950	1,717,701	3,532,660	28,013,311
1100 Excess (Deficiency) of Revenues Over (Under) Expenditures	3,266,292	–	(60,003)	3,206,289
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES):				
7915 Transfers In	–	–	62,998	62,998
8911 Transfers Out	(62,998)	–	–	(62,998)
7080 Total Other Financing Sources (Uses)	(62,998)	–	62,998	–
1200 Net Change in Fund Balance	3,203,294	–	2,995	3,206,289
0100 Fund Balance – Beginning	7,531,587	–	18,314	7,549,901
3000 Fund Balance – Ending	\$ 10,734,881	\$ –	\$ 21,309	\$ 10,756,190

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	R	E	V	E	A	L			I	T	E	M	I	Z	E		C	A	G	E
	C	A	D	E	T	S			Z	O	E		S	E	N		A	D	E	S

CryptoQuip

Answer

The nicknames those guys gave themselves are OK, but they could have been handled better.

7	+	4	×	2	22
–		+		×	
4	–	1	×	9	27
×		×		+	
6	×	5	–	8	22
18		25		26	



Moments in time

THE HISTORY CHANNEL

• On Jan. 24, 1935, canned beer makes its debut. In partnership with the American Can Company, the Gottfried Krueger Brewing Company delivered 2,000 cans of beer to faithful Krueger drinkers in Richmond, Virginia. Some 91% of the drinkers approved of the canned beer.

• On Jan. 25, 1905, at the Premier Mine in Pretoria, South Africa, a 3,106-carat diamond is discovered. Weighing 1.33 pounds and christened the “Cullinan,” it was the largest diamond ever found.

• On Jan. 26, 1788, Capt. Arthur Phillip guides a fleet of 11 British ships carrying convicts to the colony of New South Wales, effectively founding Australia. The date eventually became commemorated as Australia Day.

• On Jan. 27, 1967, a fire on the launch pad during Apollo 1 program tests at Cape Canaveral, Florida, kills astronauts Virgil “Gus” Grissom, Edward H. White II and Roger B. Chaffee. An investigation implicated a faulty electrical wire inside the command module as the probable cause.

• On Jan. 28, 1985, dozens of pop stars gather to lay down tracks for “We Are the World,” under the direction of Quincy Jones. The song would go on to sell more than 7 million copies and raise more than \$60 million for African famine relief. Participants were told: “Check your egos at the door.”

• On Jan. 29, 1979, Brenda Spencer, 16, kills two men and wounds nine children as they enter an elementary school in San Diego, blasting away with a rifle from her home across the street. Despite drug abuse and anger issues, her father had given her a .22 rifle and 500 rounds of ammunition as a Christmas gift.

• On Jan. 30, 1943, the British Royal Air Force begins a bombing campaign in Berlin that coincides with the 10th anniversary of Hitler’s accession to power. Two days later, a massive surrender of German troops occurred at Stalingrad.

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Send Your Newsbrief To:

wtxcc@wtxcc.com

View from here

By Ben Armenta

Candidate wants to stop China’s purchases of Texas land

We don’t make enough of our products in America anymore. We’ve known this for decades, but it became more apparent during the early days of Covid. We had difficulty making medical masks because so many are made in China. We had difficulty with manufacturing therapeutics and medicines because so much of it is made in China.

America didn’t get in this situation overnight. The Trump years showed us that our so-called leaders had sold America down the river for decades. Our “leaders” had given China sweetheart trade deals and, through tax and regulatory policies, ran the cost of labor and production up so much that it forced jobs overseas.

We have our work cut out for us to fix these problems. But there’s another one that’s looming and is definitely one that we Texans need to be ready for this election season. China has been very busy buying real estate and land all across the country. Texas Congressman Chip Roy this past summer authored a bill that would prohibit the purchase of land by China. Congressman Roy did so after learning that a Chinese energy company bought over 130,000 acres of land near Laughlin Air Force base, just outside of Del Rio. And while his efforts are appreciated, we can do even more. This isn’t a real estate problem. This is a national security crisis.

I’m running for Texas General Land Office Commissioner. One of the jobs of the Texas Land Commissioner is to broker land deals on behalf of the state, deals that should benefit all Texans. The lack of transparency and accountability by career politicians remains a significant problem. Texans should know who is leasing our lands, and I want to know how our interests have been protected from foreign advisories over the last several years. We’ll never know unless someone is willing to roll up his sleeves and do the dirty work. If I’m elected, I will conduct a full forensic audit of all the land deals that are currently on the books at the Land office. I will disclose the findings of the audit and if any leases have ties to foreign governments, I’ll get us out of those deals. We can’t repeat the mistakes made in the past and sell our future to communist Chinese, Russia, or anyone else. We can’t allow China to buy Texas.

Briefs

From Page 1

appropriately managed.” The Canutillo ISD financial services team will be recognized during the TASBO Annual Conference on March 2.

— Liza Rodriguez

Clint Independent School District

Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balance

Governmental Funds

For the Year Ended August 31, 2021

Data Control Codes	10 General Fund	ESSER II	ESSER III	Other Funds	Total Governmental Funds
REVENUES:					
5700 Total Local and Intermediate Sources	\$ 18,416,712	\$ –	\$ 10,000	\$ 5,350,155	\$ 23,776,867
5800 State Program Revenues	94,547,664	–	–	6,888,285	101,435,949
5900 Federal Program Revenues	14,750,276	8,673,170	4,454,712	8,199,188	36,077,346
5020 Total Revenues	127,714,652	8,673,170	4,464,712	20,437,628	161,290,162
EXPENDITURES:					
Current:					
0011 Instruction	50,614,991	8,673,170	3,536,872	5,405,530	68,230,563
0012 Instructional Resources and Media Services	1,229,402	–	13,318	4,572	1,247,292
0013 Curriculum and Instructional Staff Development	2,983,599	–	106,659	1,445,560	4,535,818
0021 Instructional Leadership	2,724,840	–	43,726	312,102	3,080,668
0023 School Leadership	7,086,413	–	102,487	31,551	7,220,451
0031 Guidance, Counseling and Evaluation Services	3,231,520	–	58,115	1,146,855	4,436,490
0032 Social Work Services	209,818	–	4,098	–	213,916
0033 Health Services	1,315,611	–	172,486	–	1,488,097
0034 Student (Pupil) Transportation	3,511,124	–	80,963	336,650	3,928,737
0035 Food Services	6,917,930	–	–	40,000	6,957,930
0036 Extracurricular Activities	2,702,061	–	3,330	134,889	2,840,280
0041 General Administration	3,316,341	–	31,233	–	3,347,574
0051 Facilities Maintenance and Operations	14,843,307	–	173,653	1,264,950	16,281,910
0052 Security and Monitoring Services	1,909,623	–	55,839	354,663	2,320,125
0053 Data Processing Services	3,032,903	–	77,835	–	3,110,738
0061 Community Services	118,644	–	4,098	123,424	246,166
Debt Service:					
0071 Principal on Long Term Debt	–	–	–	6,255,300	6,255,300
0072 Interest on Long Term Debt	–	–	–	6,302,610	6,302,610
0073 Bond Issuance Cost and Fees	–	–	–	943,005	943,005
Capital Outlay:					
0081 Facilities Acquisition and Construction	3,491,750	–	–	82,245	3,573,995
Intergovernmental:					
0099 Other Intergovernmental Charges	323,039	–	–	–	323,039
6030 Total Expenditures	109,562,916	8,673,170	4,464,712	24,183,906	146,884,704
1100 Excess (Deficiency) of Revenues Over (Under) Expenditures	18,151,736	–	–	(3,746,278)	14,405,458
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES):					
7901 Refunding Bonds Issued	–	–	–	78,359,890	78,359,890
7916 Premium or Discount on Issuance of Bonds	–	–	–	18,746,538	18,746,538
8940 Payment to Bond Refunding Escrow Agent (Use)	–	–	–	(96,169,273)	(96,169,273)
7080 Total Other Financing Sources (Uses)	–	–	–	937,155	937,155
1200 Net Change in Fund Balances	18,151,736	–	–	(2,809,123)	15,342,613
0100 Fund Balance – September 1 (Beginning)	61,429,807	–	–	7,509,753	68,939,560
1300 Prior Period Adj. – Increase in Fund Balance	–	–	–	33,876	33,876
3000 Fund Balance – August 31 (Ending)	\$ 79,581,543	\$ –	\$ –	\$ 4,734,506	\$ 84,316,049

By Steve Escajeda
Special to the Courier

Answer Page 4

Comix

OUT ON A LIMB By Gary Kopervas



AMBER WAVES By Dave T. Phipps



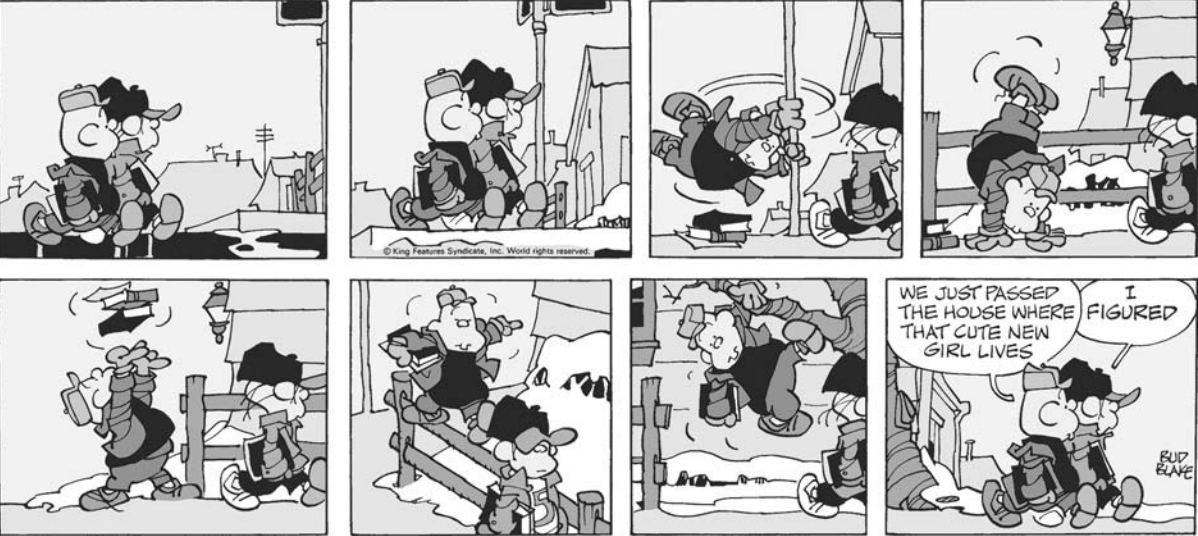
THE SPATS By Jeff Pickering



R.F.D. By Mike Marland



TIGER By Bud Blake



Lowry

From Page 2

longer, Breed had her Howard Beale moment. In a speech clearly meant to set down a political and rhetorical marker, she called for an end to “the reign of criminals who are destroying our city.” The Breed turnabout, from police-defunder a year ago to would-be Rudy Giuliani now, marks an end to the period after George Floyd’s death when anti-police sentiment was ascendant. There are other signs that the progressive momentum

is beginning to give way. A rightward shift among Latinos shows the limits of paint-by-the-numbers identity politics. That the left’s response to the grassroots movement against critical race theory in schools has been to deny there is any critical race theory in schools speaks to a telling defensiveness. Of course, the political and cultural war will continue apace. Still, December 2021 looks like an inflection point

Bipolar disease takes four different forms

DEAR DR. ROACH: Is it possible for a person to reach the age of 70 and just now be diagnosed with bipolar disorder? Are there degrees of impairment, like with autism – some worse than others? – C.S.



The hallmark of bipolar disease is mania. “Mania” has a specific meaning in psychiatry: It’s a very elevated mood, associated with high amounts of energy and an inability to think clearly, especially to see the consequences of one’s actions. Some common features of people in a manic episode include an inflated sense of self-worth, distractibility and racing ideas. People can be very talkative and feel little need to sleep. Dangerously, people in a manic phase can spend large amounts of money and have many sexual indiscretions.

All diseases have a spectrum of severity, and some are quite wide. With bipolar disease in particular, however, there are four distinct forms of the disease. Bipolar I is the classic form, once called “manic depressive illness,” where people have episodes of mania, alternating with periods of normal behavior or depression. People with Bipolar II have depressive episodes and some “hypomanic” episodes: periods of high energy (and sometimes profound productivity), usually without the negative aspects of the “full” manic episode. Cyclothymia is a rapid cycling between hypomania and mild depression. There is a fourth type, “unspecified,” where people have abnormal mood elevations but don’t meet criteria for the other types.

Bipolar disease usually has its onset in early adulthood, but sometimes in teens or even childhood. However, I have rarely seen bipolar disease diagnosed in someone as old as 70. It isn’t always clear whether the disease is just manifesting that late, or whether it has been around for many years, but compensated for by the person. Some people don’t interact with a lot of family or friends, and manic or hypomanic episodes might be missed. It’s possible the 70-year-old in question has a quite mild form.

Treatment for bipolar disorder can dramatically improve the quality of life of the person and of the family and friends affected by the illness.

DEAR DR. ROACH: I have been diagnosed with vaginal atrophy. My primary doctor prescribed estrogen, which doesn’t seem to be helping after a year. I have also seen a woman’s doctor, who prescribed an antifungal, but this does not seem to be helping the symptoms. Do you have any suggestions as to what I should do? – Anon.

As a general rule, when appropriate therapy is not effective, it’s time to reconsider whether the initial diagnosis was correct. In this case, I would be concerned that the diagnosis of vaginal atrophy might be wrong, or might not be the only issue. I have received letters from women who were treated for atrophic vaginitis for years before the diagnosis of lichen sclerosis was made. Appropriate therapy for that diagnosis relieved the symptoms. When you go back to the woman’s doctor, I would ask about that diagnosis. A biopsy may be necessary to make that diagnosis. There are other less common causes as well.

Vaginal atrophy, when treated with estrogen, usually has noticeable improvement within a week or two. Fungal infection is possible (but should be apparent on exam), but it also gets better quickly. A year is too long to wait.

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) 2022 North America Synd., Inc. All Rights Reserved.

Next year, when, as Breed put it in her speech, “the [expletive]” finally got a reality check.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review. (c) 2022 by King Features Synd., Inc.



Moore Texas by Roger Moore
February 1, 1882: A groundbreaking ceremony was held for our present State Capitol Building.

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: U equals K

VID LMBULJSDE VIZED
TAXE TJHD VIDSEDPHDE JFD
ZU, WAV VIDX BZAPG IJHD
WDDL IJLGPDG WDVVDF.

Answer Page 4
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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

Answer Page 4 ♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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OIG is VA’s crime dog



by Freddy Groves

Despite COVID and all the restrictions from it, the Department of Veterans Affairs Office of Inspector General has been busy. Here are a few of the scams they’ve uncovered and pursued:

Two men in New Jersey pleaded guilty to paying and soliciting kickbacks and bribery. They roped in telemedicine doctors who faked orders for items such as braces and prescriptions. The thieves then billed Medicare, the Department of Veterans Affairs, TRICARE and other programs while hiding behind fake company owners. The tab to the government when they were caught was approximately \$50 million.

In Chicago, two VA prosthetics clerks took cash from vendors after sending business to them for medical equipment. Bribery, wire fraud, conspiracy – this case

had it all. The thieves used government purchase cards to place those orders and rented the equipment instead of buying it as the VA doctors had ordered. One of those companies was paid almost \$1.4 million.

In Florida, two men were nabbed for much the same thing – soliciting and paying for bribes, then getting kickbacks for ordering medical equipment such as braces that weren’t actually medically necessary. Again, this involved telemedicine. And again, this involved compounded medication prescriptions. The hit to TRICARE, ChampVA and Medicare came to \$25 million.

But a final case at a rooming house tugs at the heartstrings. The thief grabbed Social Security and VA benefits that belonged to the mentally ill, disabled, veterans and elderly for their care and housing. There were 35 counts to the indictment, which included wire fraud, document tampering, making false statements, mail fraud and first-degree theft. The thief managed to get herself

named as Representative Payee and spent the money on herself instead of on her tenants. As always, a big thumbs-up to the OIG.

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• Generally, for every degree you lower your thermostat during heating season, you reduce your energy costs by 3%.

• Just in time for soup season (and my new year’s resolutions), here’s a great fat swap: Drain and rinse 2 cups of white beans and puree with a cup of no-sodium vegetable broth. You can use this as a thickener in place of heavy cream for soups and stews. – JoAnn

• To keep snow off your windshield, use a flannel-backed tablecloth stretched to cover both windshield and wipers. Put it flannel-side to the glass. Then you’ll be able to lift it (and the snow) off your windshield to drive.

• Wondering what winter fruits and vegetables are in season? Here’s a sampling: apples, dates and pears, as well as citrus, like grapefruit, oranges and tangerines. For vegetables, consider endive, bok choy, Brussels sprouts, kale, leeks, mushrooms, parsnips, radicchio, rutabagas, sweet potatoes, turnips, yams and winter squash.

• “Want to keep your pants from creasing on the hanger? Grab an empty paper-towel tube and slit it down the side. When you slip it over the bottom of the hanger, it creates a wide curve for the pants to lie across, and no more crease!” – M.U. in Colorado

• Remember that as temperatures drop and layers of clothing increase, children in a car seat need special consideration. Remove heavy coats before strapping in a small child or baby. Winter wear can compress during an accident, and it interferes with the straps.

Send your tips to Now Here’s a Tip, 628 Virginia Drive, Orlando, FL 32803. (c) 2022 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

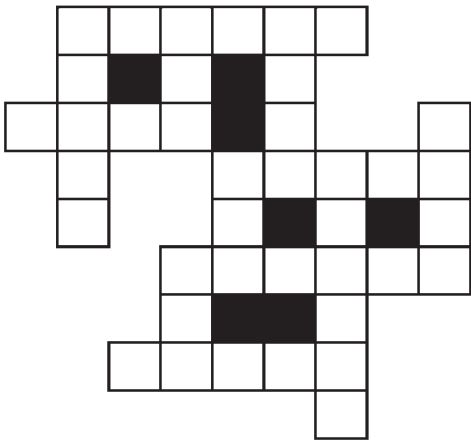
	+		×		22
-		+		×	
	-		×		27
×		×		+	
	×		-		22
18		25		26	

1 2 4 4 5 6 7 8 9

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ITE
JIRYUN
TYJTE
♥ORUT
ERRTUT
UYO
♥ARET
RENYA
RJA
YOROAR
RYNIO
NUTI



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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