



NEWSBRIEFS

Socorro ISD has TEA report cards

The 2020-2021 Federal Report Cards for the State of Texas, the Socorro Independent School District, and SISD schools are available on the district website, school websites, and the Texas Education Agency website. Visit <https://www.sisd.net/federalreportcards> for the state, district, and schools reports. People can also visit https://tea.texas.gov/Finance_and_Grants/Grants/Federal_Report_Card/ for the reports. The report gives information such as student achievement, graduation rate, school quality, student success, civil rights data, and teacher quality data. Hard copies of the report may be made available upon request at SISD schools or the District Service Center. Please contact your child's school or the District Service Center if you have any questions concerning federal report cards.

— Christy Flores-Jones

El Paso rated 6th best big U.S. wedding city

With many weddings planned for summer and the average wedding costing \$22,500, the personal-finance website WalletHub has released its report on 2022's *Best Places to Get Married*, as well as accompanying videos and expert commentary. To help couples find the most wedding-friendly destinations, WalletHub compared more than 180 of the biggest U.S. cities across 28 key indicators of cost-effectiveness, convenience and enjoyment. The data set ranges from average wedding cost to venues and event spaces per capita to wedding vendors. El Paso was rated 6th in the report. Other stats:

- Brownsville, TX has the lowest average wedding cost, \$13,071, which is 2.6 times lower than in Bridgeport, CT, the city with the highest at \$34,241.
 - Washington D.C. has the most event planners per capita, 91, which is 13 times more than in Baton Rouge, LA, the city with the fewest at 7.
 - San Francisco, CA has the most musicians per capita, 20, which is 76.9 times more than in Wichita, KS, the city with the fewest at 0.26.
- Visit <https://wallethub.com/edu/best->

See BRIEFS, Page 2

The secret of success and happiness lies not in doing what you like, but in liking what you do.

— Quips & Quotes



— Photo by Alfredo Vasquez

ON THE LINKS – A foursome of El Paso golfers shot a morning round of golf at Ascarate Park. There is an 18-hole (par 72) golf course and a nine-hole executive course, called the Delta 9. The El Paso County Commissioners Court's recent action to eliminate the weekend admission fee, except for special events and holidays, offers the park's amenities to more people throughout the year. The Franklin Mountains are in the background.

Master planning sessions held for Ascarate Park

Park is largest public-use recreational facility in the county

By Alfredo Vasquez
Special to the Courier

EL PASO COUNTY – Use of El Paso County parks and outdoor recreational areas has increased steadily during the pandemic and indications are that their popularity will continue to grow, according to county officials.

To bring that growth to the county's Ascarate Park, El Paso County commissioners voted during a recent meeting to end the \$2 cost to enter the park on weekends; no admission fee is charged on weekdays. A fee, however, will be charged on holidays and for major events.

Commissioners stated that the elimination of the fee is intended to help the park attract more visitors and unanimously directed staff to prepare plans to end the weekend fees by April.

The 408-acre park includes a lake and boardwalk, picnic facilities, playgrounds, concert areas, a golf course, the club restaurant, sports fields, the aquatics center, and a healing garden that commemorates the victims of the Aug. 3, 2019 mass shooting at an East Side Walmart.

Ascarate Park is the largest public-use recreational park in the county and offers space for sports, picnicking, fishing, and other recreational activities. The park currently features an 18-hole (par 72) golf course with a nine-hole executive course, called the Delta 9; a fully equipped aquatic center; playgrounds near picnic facilities, and a 48-acre

surface lake with a long boardwalk.

The lake boasts some of the best fishing in the Southwest. It is home to trout (winter), catfish (summer), largemouth bass, black bass, sun perch, blue gill, carp, shad, crappie hybrid sunfish and minnows. County regulations restrict anglers to two fishing poles each, with a limit of five fish per visit to the lake. And individuals 17 years and older are required to obtain a fishing license, which are available at most sporting goods stores. The lake is also open to boating enthusiasts who are allowed to use kayaks and boats with trolley motors.

In a recent news release, Commissioner David Stout stated that he was glad county commissioners court supported the elimination of the weekend fee. "This is El Paso's Central Park, and should be as accessible as possible to the public, especially given the light the pandemic has shined on both the importance of health and wellness and on equity," Stout stated.

"Making the park more accessible for

the vast majority of weekends will help our ongoing efforts to raise Ascarate Park's profile and draw people, which will have a multiplying effect as we move toward our master planning and concessions development efforts," Stout said.

In October, El Paso County Parks & Recreation Department officials adopted a master plan that included an assessment of existing conditions in the current parks and recreation system. Then in February, city officials held public meetings, both virtually and in-person, on the parks master plan and to discuss the possible re-naming of the park. Next will be more planning sessions that are scheduled for Saturday, March 12 and Wednesday, March 16.

Stout urged county residents to get involved in the master plan process and invited community members to join the planning sessions scheduled for March 12 and March 16. Interested individuals can visit epcountyparks.com or @epcountyparks (on Facebook) to get more information on the upcoming master planning sessions.

Ascarate Park

- The more than 400-acre Ascarate Park in central El Paso was originally part of a banco, or river loop, on the Rio Grande. The park land was deeded to the county by the federal government after an international boundary commission rectification project straightened the river in the early 1930s. The National Park Service designed the park for the county when nearly three-quarters of El Paso county residents voted in 1937 for a special tax to help fund its construction.

- Ascarate Park opened in December 1940. More than 200 Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) workers planted thousands of trees; built baseball fields, tennis courts, a recreation center, and golf course and removed millions of cubic yards of sand to create the 48-acre lake. The project was the CCC's largest in Texas.

- The park is named for the Ascarate family, El Paso del Norte pioneers, who owned a large ranch alongside the park. El Paso County has operated and maintained Ascarate Park since its construction.

Durham’s righteous investigation

From the perspective of several years ago, it’s the stuff of an implausible political thriller or a conspiratorial YouTube account.

One presidential campaign spies on another as part of a broad effort to get government agencies to pick up the baton and launch a high-stakes investigation of the new president that hampers his first years in office and consumes massive public attention.

Where could such a thing happen? Maybe Brazil or Equatorial Guinea? Well, we now know it happened in these United States.

The latest from Special Counsel John Durham is that a tech executive connected to the Clinton campaign mined internet contacts between Russia and the entities connected to Donald Trump in a search for material to try to, as Durham put it in a court filing last week, “establish ‘an inference’ and ‘narrative’ tying then-candidate Trump to Russia.”

Durham’s probe is a righteous effort to get to the bottom of a matter that deranged American politics for two solid years but has been derided or ignored by the mainstream press, with baleful consequences.

Russagate did more than its share to undermine the norm that losing campaigns should accept the result of free and fair elections and to erode confidence in institutions at the highest levels of our government. One way to minimize the harm is to insist on accountability. The people who were most invested

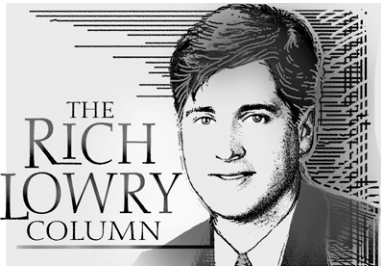
in Russigate for the longest, though, are least interested in revisiting its origins, let alone in apologizing for their own credulousness or malice.

According to Durham, a tech executive named Rodney Joffe engaged in the information operation against Trump and his campaign. He allegedly coordinated with Michael Sussmann, a lawyer for the Clinton campaign, and his highly connected law firm, Perkins Coie LLP, that did work for both the Clinton campaign and the Democratic Party.

Durham notes that Joffe also joined up with an investigative firm that Perkins Coie hired on behalf of the Clinton campaign, numerous cyber researchers, employees at various internet companies, and researchers at a U.S.-based university. He sought, he said, to please VIPs in both the Clinton campaign and Perkins Coie.

One can only guess that he succeeded. According to Durham, Joffe “exploited his access to non-public and/or proprietary internet data,” and the university researchers he tapped “were receiving and analyzing large amounts of internet data in connection with a pending federal government cybersecurity research contract.”

Joffe analyzed so-called domain name system internet traffic connected to Trump Tower and Trump’s Central



See LOWRY, Page 7



Food for thought By Dr. Glenn Mollette

We all face challenges

Everyone will face insurmountable challenges in life. The price of longevity is heartache, opposition, failures, grief and life events that come out of nowhere. Life is filled with the death of loved ones, financial ups and downs, daily health challenges and world events that impact us whether we like them or not.

Russia is going to invade Ukraine. Most of us don’t like Russia anyway but we have to sit here and watch what they are

doing to someone else while it negatively affects our energy, financial stability, our military, and our everyday lives. We don’t like it; we don’t want it but we will be impacted by the evil decisions of Russia’s leadership. Can you imagine how the people of Ukraine feel?

We despise what Covid-19 has done to all us. Mask wearing, vaccinations and the fear of gathering have tormented us. The loss of family and friends who went into Intensive Care Units and never came home haunts us. Can we begin to imagine how they felt as they struggled to breathe on respirators their last few days of life?

We have all faced news that a loved one was killed on the battlefield, or someone died suddenly of a heart attack, or received news of terminal cancer. Typically, we ask why? We ask God, “Why has this happened?” or “Why me, God?” Often there is rarely a good answer. We can analyze and say, “This could have been prevented. Or, this is how he or she should have lived their lives.” Sports fans making suggestions from their recliners while watching reruns always see how the play could have been run better.

Life is always in motion. We make decisions. We react to situations differently. We don’t always do the right thing

and emotions often overturn commonsense.

The reality is that we all face and walk through fires. Most of the time we’re hopeful that everything will work out all right. Often, things do. Unfortunately, everything doesn’t always work out all right. If we manage to survive, that’s when we have to help others who are crushed in spirit, who can’t see the light of day for the darkness in their lives.

Ukraine needs their allies or they will never be the same. It can’t be all the United States. We can’t save everyone and have proved it over and again from Afghanistan to Iraq to Vietnam.

There are always those around you who need your emotional and spiritual support. If nothing else, friendship and a word of kindness and support are always meaningful.

Most of the time, we feel as if we face our greatest challenges alone. A lonely place of desperation is a dark place to be. Don’t ever go there. Look to God. When money, friends, education, hospitals, doctors and the church can’t fix what you are facing God can see you through. He never leaves us or forsakes us. His hand is strong and nothing can pull us out of his mighty hand.

Glenn Mollette is a graduate of numerous schools including Georgetown College, Southern and Lexington Seminaries in Kentucky. He is the author of “Uncommon Sense” and 12 other books. His column is published weekly in over 600 publications in all 50 states. Learn more at www.glennmollette.com or www.facebook.com/glennmollette.

1973
49
Years
2022

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Briefs

From Page 1

places-to-get-married/18721 for the full report.

What experts say

What factors should couples consider when setting a budget for their wedding?

“In my premarital counseling practice, I tell couples to determine what they can afford for their wedding without sacrificing their future. In other words, do not mortgage your future to splurge on your wedding. No research indicates an expensive wedding leads to a happy long-term marriage. In fact, the opposite seems to be true. Know what you can afford, set priorities, and keep to your budget.”

– Bill Walkup, Assistant Professor; Southwest Baptist University

“Couples need to have realistic and honest conversations about the type of wedding they want and can afford. As appropriate, they also

need to talk with parents or others who will also be involved with planning and paying for the wedding. Many potential costs are surrounding the event. Major ones can include the dress for the bride as well as apparel for the groom and the attendants, the reception location and food, the photographer, flowers, wedding rings, and the honeymoon. Additionally, there may be travel and lodging for some of the guests. It is important to have a full picture and plan for the day and a detailed timeline for when each of these expenses will be incurred. Always consider who will be paying for these expenses and carefully consider and discuss the expectations from the source.”

– Paula Tripp, Ph.D, Teaching Professor and Sissy R. Osteen, Ph.D, CFP®, Associate Professor; Oklahoma State University

How should a couple decide where to get married?

“This is a discussion point where emotions

See BRIEFS, Page 4

Food for thought By John Grimaldi

‘Senior moments’ are normal

Dementia is a medical issue for your doctor

Dementia is not an inevitable part of growing old. On the other hand memory issues are, indeed, a part of the aging process.

A new study published in the journal, *Trends in Cognitive Science*, reveals that perhaps forgetfulness is a result of an overabundance of information we have stored in our brains, according to the authors of the review, Tarek Amer at Columbia and Harvard Universities and Jordana Wynn at Harvard. Their assessment asserts that: “Healthy aging is accompanied by declines in control of attention. These reductions in the control of attention result in older adults processing too much information, creating cluttered memory representations. Cluttered representations can impair memory by interfering with the retrieval of target information but can also provide an advantage on tasks that benefit from extensive knowledge.”

In other words, the older you are the more information you have stored in your brain – so much information that it can interfere with your ability to remember. However, as someone once explained, it is normal to forget where you left your glasses, it is not normal to forget that you wear glasses. The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) says that forgetting things that can disrupt your life is not part of growing old.

The CDC says the risk factors for dementia include smoking, high blood pressure, not getting enough exercise, being overweight, trouble sleeping, isolation and blood sugar levels and cites the British medical journal, *The Lancet*, which suggests that dealing with these risk factors can “prevent or delay” 40% of dementia cases.

There is a distinct difference between being absent-minded every so often and serious cognitive problems, according to the National Institutes of Health (NIH). The NIH notes, “It’s normal to forget things once in a while as we age, but serious memory problems make it hard to do everyday things like driving, using the phone, and finding your way home.”

One can only report on the differences between “senior moments,” normal occasions of forgetfulness, and the potential of dementia. So, if you are having too many forgetful moments, you should consult your health care provider.

The Association of Mature American Citizens (<http://www.amac.us>) is a senior advocacy organization that takes its marching orders from its members. We act and speak on their behalf, protecting their interests and offering a practical insight on how to best solve the problems they face today.

Ten tips for a fire-safe home

The Hartford

Home fires can be a catastrophic event for any household. A lifetime of memories can be lost before your eyes in an instant. Or worse: 74% of all fire-related deaths occur in the home. Older Americans (age 65+) face even higher risk. Despite only making up 15% of the population, they account for 35% of all fire-related deaths. But the good news is that a little advance planning can greatly reduce your fire risk. Here are some easy safety tips to have a fire-safe home.

1. Make an escape plan and practice it

Schools and office buildings hold regular fire drills for a key reason: They work. Why wouldn’t you put in at least as much effort where you and your family sleep? Plot out both main and backup escape routes that take into account the physical abilities of every family member. Then get everyone in your household to practice to make sure the routes work as planned. Play a loud alarm sound on your phone to prepare everyone for the type of trigger they would hear in a real emergency.

2. Create fire-safe spaces

Most fires, whether caused by cooking, heating equipment, smoking or other sources, are a result of a flame or spark coming in contact with nearby flammable materials. At each area of your home where there is potential for fire danger – stove, fireplace, furnace, space heaters – take the time to clear a three-foot radius of any materials that could catch fire, especially paper, wood or fabric.

3. Don’t skip out on prep time


Many of us are in a hurry, especially when cooking, but with many house fires starting in the kitchen, rushing to get a meal on the table can prove to be a real fire danger. Take the time to concentrate on the task at hand and avoid distractions. Consider your recipe and prepare all ingredients and supplies before you start cooking. Make sure your phone is already nearby, so there’s no reason for you to leave the room while cooking. If you do have to step away, be sure to turn off the stove first. Don’t cook while overtired or when under the influence of alcohol or medications that can slow reflexes or make you drowsy.

4. Get alarmed

The early warning given by smoke alarms is critical. Almost 60% of all house fire fatalities occur in homes without functioning smoke detectors. Make sure you

See FIRE, Page 5





Moments in time

THE HISTORY CHANNEL

• On Feb. 21, 1952, men’s figure skater Dick Button wins his second Olympic gold medal. Button captured his first gold prize at the 1948 Olympics, becoming the first American to ever take home the men’s title. Button retired from amateur skating in 1952 and went on to perform with the Ice Capades as well as graduate from Harvard Law School.

• On Feb. 22, 1946, George Kennan, the temporary American ambassador in Moscow, sends an 8,000-word telegram to the Department of State detailing his views on the Soviet Union, and U.S. policy toward the communist state. Kennan’s analysis provided one of the most influential underpinnings for America’s Cold War policy of containment.

• On Feb. 23, 1885, a 19-year-old man named John Lee is sent to the gallows in Exeter, England, for the murder of a rich, older woman. However, the gallows equipment malfunctioned three times and Lee was not dropped. He was then sent back to prison.

• On Feb. 24, 1969, after a North Vietnamese mortar shell rocks their Douglas AC-47 gunship, Airman First Class John L. Levitow throws himself on an activated flare and tosses it out of the aircraft just before it ignites. For saving his fellow crewmembers and the gunship, Airman Levitow was later awarded the Medal of Honor.

• On Feb. 25, 1890, Vlacheslav Skryabin, foreign minister for the Soviet Union who took the revolutionary name Molotov, is born in Russia. Molotov advocated the use of throwing bottles filled with flammable liquid and stuffed with a lit rag, and the famous “Molotov cocktail” was born.

• On Feb. 26, 1903, Alexander Winton, driving his Winton Bullet, sets the first speed record ever achieved at Daytona Beach, Florida. Built in 1902 the “Bullet Number 1” drove a measured mile at over 65 mph.

• On Feb. 27, 1860, President Abraham Lincoln poses for the first of several portraits by noted Civil War-era photographer Mathew Brady. A relatively new art form, the photograph (or daguerreotype) showed a beardless Lincoln just moments before he delivered an address at Cooper Union.

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Fire

From Page 3


have smoke alarms installed on each level of your home and in rooms where people sleep. Replace the batteries twice a year when you have to reset your clocks for Daylight Saving (set a calendar reminder if you need to).

5. Have the right firefighting tools

Having a fire extinguisher on hand is a great idea, but it helps to have the right kind for the type of fire you’ll likely face:

- Class A is great for ordinary combustibles like wood, paper and plastic.
- Class B is for liquids like gasoline, oils or solvents.
- Class C works for electrical fires.
- Class D is best for combustible and reactive metals.

At home you’ll likely face one of the first three



– The Hartford

OVERLOADED – If your home was built before 1974, you should have a licensed electrician inspect your wiring to protect against electrical fires.

See FIRE, Page 6

Socorro Independent School District						
Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balance						
Governmental Funds						
For the Year Ended June 30, 2021						
Data Control Codes		General Fund	Debt Service Fund	Capital Projects 2018-2021	Other Funds	Total Governmental Funds
REVENUES:						
5700	Total Local and Intermediate Sources	\$ 109,589,238	\$ 45,831,802	\$ 383,016	\$ 373,090	\$ 156,177,146
5800	State Program Revenues	319,127,203	16,232,775	–	3,899,865	339,259,843
5900	Federal Program Revenues	6,030,016	–	–	66,573,005	72,603,021
5020	Total Revenues	434,746,457	62,064,577	383,016	70,845,960	568,040,010
EXPENDITURES:						
Current:						
0011	Instruction	273,222,729	–	331,485	36,440,937	309,995,151
0012	Instructional Resources and Media Services	5,475,365	–	–	311,914	5,787,279
0013	Curriculum and Instructional Staff Development	2,713,262	–	–	3,412,012	6,125,274
0021	Instructional Leadership	5,084,015	–	–	1,515,467	6,599,482
0023	School Leadership	28,013,718	–	23,113	345,802	28,382,633
0031	Guidance, Counseling and Evaluation Services	12,585,557	–	–	4,134,764	16,720,321
0032	Social Work Services	928,166	–	–	820,515	1,748,681
0033	Health Services	5,664,456	–	16,444	2,401,662	8,082,562
0034	Student (Pupil) Transportation	14,291,370	–	–	1,412,531	15,703,901
0035	Food Services	207,876	–	1,456,863	21,275,036	22,939,775
0036	Extracurricular Activities	9,530,769	–	–	350,217	9,880,986
0041	General Administration	10,336,593	–	–	274,713	10,611,306
0051	Facilities Maintenance and Operations	40,120,063	–	–	624,961	40,745,024
0052	Security and Monitoring Services	8,882,100	–	–	405,093	9,287,193
0053	Data Processing Services	6,493,160	–	532,964	62,260	7,088,384
0061	Community Services	814,898	–	–	1,404,740	2,219,638
Debt Service:						
0071	Principal on Long-Term Debt	2,883,011	26,504,105	–	–	29,387,116
0072	Interest on Long-Term Debt	256,139	35,313,362	–	–	35,569,501
0073	Bond Issuance Cost and Fees	–	734,357	–	–	734,357
Capital Outlay:						
0081	Facilities Acquisition and Construction	12,227,935	–	154,114,029	27,383	166,369,347
Intergovernmental:						
0099	Other Intergovernmental Charges	1,894,286	–	–	–	1,894,286
6030	Total Expenditures	441,625,468	62,551,824	156,474,898	75,220,007	735,872,197
1100	Excess (Deficiency) of Revenues Over (Under) Expenditures	(6,879,011)	(487,247)	(156,091,882)	(4,374,047)	(167,832,187)
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES):						
7901	Refunding Bonds Issued	–	61,239,993	–	–	61,239,993
7912	Sale of Real and Personal Property	164,383	–	–	–	164,383
7913	Capital Leases	4,798,554	–	–	–	4,798,554
7915	Transfers In	–	–	–	39,310	39,310
7916	Premium or Discount on Issuance of Bonds	–	11,193,967	–	–	11,193,967
8911	Transfers Out (Use)	(4,539,310)	–	–	–	(4,539,310)
8940	Payment to Bond Refunding Escrow Agent (Use)	–	(71,721,296)	–	–	(71,721,296)
7080	Total Other Financing Sources (Uses)	423,627	712,664	–	39,310	1,175,601
1200	Net Change in Fund Balances	(6,455,384)	225,417	(156,091,882)	(4,334,737)	(166,656,586)
0100	Fund Balance – July 1 (Beginning)	116,106,607	65,091,181	349,735,923	6,802,486	537,736,197
1300	Prior Period Adjustment	–	–	–	172,554	172,554
3000	Fund Balance – June 30 (Ending)	\$ 109,651,223	\$ 65,316,598	\$ 193,644,041	\$ 2,640,303	\$ 371,252,165

NCAA football playoff committee fumbles at the goal line

By Steve Escajeda
Special to the Courier

Did you ever expect to get a certain gift for Christmas or your birthday and then be totally disappointed because you didn’t get what you thought?

I think we’ve all been there. And while it’s not the end of the world, it still bothers you when you think of what you might have had.

That reminds me of the NCAA and what we were expecting as far as college football playoff games.

After years and years of having the national champion decided by the votes of a bunch of guys in a locked room, an actual on-the-field playoff system was started in 2014.

It was agreed upon that a bunch of guys in a locked room would vote for who they thought were the top four teams in the country, and put them in a playoff to compete for the national title.

And for the last eight years, four teams have battled it out for the national championship. But if the four-team playoff is popular with the fans, imagine how awesome it would be if more teams were added to the mix.

The length of the four-team playoff contract is for 12 years. That means that the current format runs through the 2025 season.

But there was an opportunity for a tweak of the agreement this year, and all the talk was that the number of teams invited to the playoff was going to be increased from four to 12.

It was reported all over the media that this was pretty much a done deal.

Fans all over the country had grown tired of the same teams like Alabama and Ohio State and Clemson and Oklahoma seemingly always making the tournament, so the idea of adding more teams was a no-brainer.

Well, evidently, there weren’t a whole lot of brains in that locked room after all.

In a disappointing move, the NCAA committee that we all thought was going to expand the playoff to 12 teams, decided at the last second to do nothing and keep the number of teams at four until the agreement ends after the 2025 season.

Talk about a letdown. Adding more teams meant more fan interest, it meant letting the middle-of-the-pack teams

have a chance to compete, it meant more games and less of a chance of a team who thought it deserved to play, to be left out of the playoff.

There are five major football conferences and the thought was that the five league champs would get an automatic bid into the playoffs, the way it is done in basketball during March Madness.

Then seven other teams would get at-large bids to fill out the bracket.

This way the Cincinnati’s and Boise State’s and Central Florida’s of the country would have a better chance of getting chosen.

But for the next four years we’re going to get more of the same, Alabama, Ohio State, Clemson and maybe throw in Oklahoma or Notre Dame.

The least they could have done right now was increase the playoff to eight teams. They still could have given the five conference champions a bid and then allow three at-large teams. That would have worked beautifully.

But when you get a bunch of conference presidents in a room together, they will all agree on only one thing – what is best for their individual conference.

The NCAA basketball tournament is nearly perfect – all the conference champions go to the tournament. The rest of the teams are chosen by a committee.

Football could have done the same thing. I just thought it should have been increased by eight or 16 teams. The only thing I don’t like about 12 is that some teams would get a bye into the second round. I think, just like in basketball, there should be no byes for the top teams.

Let’s face it, the NCAA isn’t exactly known for its stellar decision-making. So why is anyone surprised that they would drop the ball once again?

They had a chance to make their product better. Eighty percent of the college bowl games are a joke that nobody watches.

This would have brought NCAA football to another level. Instead, we’ll just keep getting more of the same.

Fire

From Page 5

large pot lid you can put on top to cut off the oxygen and starve the fire. Never use water for a grease fire as it’s likely to spread the flames.

6. Keep them handy

Even the best fire extinguisher will do no good if you can’t grab it quickly in a crisis. Keep a few small fire extinguishers in out-of-the-way but easy-to-reach spots near common fire sources around the house in places like:

- Under the kitchen sink near the stove;
- In the basement near the furnace;
- Just inside a cupboard or closet near the fireplace or a space heater; and
- In the garage or workshop.

7. Butt out

Cooking now causes more home fires than smoking, but fires started by smoking materials are still responsible for more deaths than any other cause. This is often due to someone falling asleep while smoking or being under the influence of drugs or alcohol. If you or anyone in your household does smoke, make it a rule to always smoke outside. And be sure any cigarette butts are thoroughly out by soaking them in a glass of water before they go in the garbage.

8. Keep fuel far from home

categories, so a combination ABC extinguisher will work well. For grease fires on the stove, your best tool is a

large pot lid you can put on top to cut off the oxygen and starve the fire. Never use water for a grease fire as it’s likely to spread the flames.

6. Keep them handy

Even the best fire extinguisher will do no good if you can’t grab it quickly in a crisis. Keep a few small fire extinguishers in out-of-the-way but easy-to-reach spots near common fire sources around the house in places like:

- Under the kitchen sink near the stove;
- In the basement near the furnace;
- Just inside a cupboard or closet near the fireplace or a space heater; and
- In the garage or workshop.

7. Butt out

Cooking now causes more home fires than smoking, but fires started by smoking materials are still responsible for more deaths than any other cause. This is often due to someone falling asleep while smoking or being under the influence of drugs or alcohol. If you or anyone in your household does smoke, make it a rule to always smoke outside. And be sure any cigarette butts are thoroughly out by soaking them in a glass of water before they go in the garbage.

8. Keep fuel far from home

Always store any heating fuel, such as propane, kerosene or gasoline, outside of the house in a secure container. Before bringing gas-powered garden equipment, such as lawn mowers or leaf blowers, inside the house for the winter, be sure to drain out and properly dispose of any remaining fuel.

9. Go down to the wires

If your home was built before 1974, you should have a licensed electrician inspect your wiring to protect against electrical fires. This is especially true if you have common warning signs of electrical issues such as:

- Dimming or flickering lights;
- Switches or outlets that are warm to the touch or discolored; and
- Circuits or fuses that repeatedly trip or blow.

Many electrical fires are caused by improper use by the homeowner, so check to make sure you don’t overload outlets or extension cords. Also replace any fraying cables to devices or lighting, especially if they touch flammable materials.

10. Upgrade your bulbs

LED bulbs are not only more energy efficient and long-lasting, they also burn much cooler than incandescent or halogen bulbs. This greatly reduces the fire risk from lighting coming in contact with flammable materials such as lamp shades or curtains. Upgrading holiday decorations to LED bulbs is also a good idea to ensure a fire-safe home.

By taking these important steps, you can help protect your home and those you care most about from the dangers of fire.

Super Crossword

EATING WITH A SPOONERISM ACROSS

- 1 Uncertainty
6 Home to the Taj Mahal
10 Sporty Mazda
15 Pats gently
19 Mistake
20 Co. bigwigs
21 Tunesmith Harold
22 Opera solo
23 Denim pants that rise up to the navel?
25 Illusions a postman performs with his letters?
27 Astrologer Sydney
28 Small dent
29 Discusses at length, with “over”
30 Bet taker who’s great with scissors?
35 Weed-nixing tools
37 _ B’rith
38 “_ afraid of that”
39 Baffle a lecherous fellow?
44 Actor Crystal playing a high-ranking policeman?
48 Ship spars
49 Margarine, quaintly
50 Pants lines
51 Ump relative
52 Ridicule
53 Busy crawler
54 Phone bug
55 Violent guys on a Greek island?

- 60 “Can _ witness?”
62 Abbr. on a bank door
63 Eagle’s nest
64 Make anew
65 Add cornstarch to spiced tea?
69 Sitarist Shankar
73 Appeals
75 Debt memos
76 Involving warships
77 Bloated dancer?
82 Genetic helix
84 Sugar suffix
85 Florida Air Force Base
86 Realty unit
87 Uses logic
89 Kingly Norse name
90 Seismic event
93 Romantic song sung with an audience watching?
96 What might result in an octuple bogey?
98 Arizona tribe
99 Oscar _ Renta
100 Currency unit of 11-Down
101 Solution to rinse partially closed eyes?
105 Akron native
109 Sale caveat
111 Olive-green songbird
112 Supermarket vehicles within easy reach?
114 Comic Foxx being shamelessly bold?

- 119 Longish skirt
120 Kellogg’s waffles
121 City in central Poland
122 Beast of Borden
123 Plumlike fruit
124 Tending to ooze
125 Comply with
126 Ford fiasco
- DOWN
- 1 Cotillion star
2 Mine metal
3 Net address
4 Cowboys’ neck cords
5 “Go ahead, I’m listening”
6 Sour-tasting
7 Transmission lubricants
8 “Hellboy” star Perlman
9 Beast of burden
10 First lady
Eisenhower
11 Persia, now
12 Dismounts from a horse
13 _ Aviv
14 Patriotic songs
15 Lectern spot
16 Shoe part
17 BMX vehicle
18 Give lip to
24 Pantry item
26 Scraping file
28 Belittle, informally
30 Ottawa-based TV network

- 31 Disconnect, as a door
32 Sullied
33 Barn hooter
34 Eloise creator
Thompson
36 Ump’s cry
39 Ump’s cry
40 Musical period since the 1950s
41 Balm additive
42 Deborah of “Quo Vadis”
43 Huge spans
45 Greek cheese
46 Lamb’s call
47 Bratty kid
48 Encountered
51 Proof of purchase
52 _fi
53 Make public
55 Public health agcy.
56 “Drop Dead Fred” star Mayall
57 Infants’ cries
58 “Isn’t _ little old for her?”
59 Jackie’s “O”
61 Best-of list countable on one hand
62 Closed hand
65 Actor Danson
66 Possesses
67 _ Valley, San Francisco
68 Mongrel dog
70 “Anne of Green Gables” town
71 Feudal tenants
72 Dot in la mer

- 74 Actor Cariou
76 Skylab org.
77 Lowly worker
78 Aptly named hybrid fruit
79 Custard tart
80 Deer cousins
81 “Annabel Lee” poet
82 Wildlife lair
83 Arrest
87 Enter hostilely again
88 Europe, Asia and Africa
90 Pear relatives
91 Hagen of the stage
92 Like fugitives
93 _wester (storm type)
94 _Pen
95 Lah-di-_
97 Talk to God
98 Command ctrs.
101 Actress Spacek
102 Fluster
103 Previous to
104 Zellweger of Hollywood
105 Resistance units
106 Salute
107 _Chinese
108 Pooch in “Garfield”
110 Knock off
113 Get mellow
114 Slo-_ fuse
115 Knock off
116 Ar-tee linkup
117 Fizzle out
118 Costa _ Sol

Answer Page 4

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13	14		15	16	17	18
19						20					21						22			
23					24						25				26					
				27						28					29					
30	31	32						33	34					35	36					
37							38					39					40	41	42	43
44				45	46	47					48						49			
	50									51					52					
53				54				55	56				57	58	59					
60				61				62					63							
64						65	66					67	68				69	70	71	72
				73	74					75					76					
77	78	79						80	81					82	83			84		
85								86					87				88			
89						90	91	92				93	94							95
96					97						98					99				
					100					101					102	103	104			
105	106	107	108					109	110					111						
112						113						114	115					116	117	118
119						120						121					122			
123						124						125					126			

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

Park West apartment building. Shockingly, the data effort continued after Trump was inaugurated. Joffe took advantage of his company’s “sensitive arrangement” to provide services to the executive office of the president “for the purpose of gathering derogatory information about Donald Trump.”

Meanwhile, Sussmann used the deceptive work product from all of this sleuthing to try to convince the FBI and apparently the CIA that Trump was colluding with Russia. (Durham has indicted Sussmann for lying to the FBI to try to hide his connection to the Clinton campaign.) Durham pointedly refers to what Sussmann was hawking as “purported data.” This operation was of a piece with the spurious Steele dossier that helped launch

the FBI probe of the Trump campaign that morphed into the Mueller investigation. Or, to use Durham’s terms, purported data drove purported investigations and ungodly amounts of purported journalism, all building toward purported collusion that eventually, under the weight of facts and logic, came to absolutely nothing. If anyone involved in this investigative and journalistic fiasco is embarrassed by it, they

‘Brittle’ diabetes is hard to control

DEAR DR. ROACH: I am 74 years old and have been a brittle Type 1 diabetic for 50 years. I have no history of heart disease. My doctor of 40 years recently retired and had me control my hemoglobin A1C to a range of 5.9-6.2. My new doctor, who is in her mid-30s, wants me to elevate my hemoglobin A1C to 8.0. Is this the new way of controlling blood sugar? I am confused! Can you please explain the difference in opinion? – E.S.



“Brittle” diabetes is when it is hard to control too-high and too-low blood sugars. The A1C is a blood test that looks at average blood sugar over the past few months. A normal A1C is between 4% and 5.6%. People with normal A1C levels are at very low risk of complications from diabetes, especially of the kidneys (leading to dialysis), eyes (which ultimately leads to blindness) and nerves (diabetic neuropathy is painful and predisposes to injury). On the other hand, low A1C levels put people at higher risk for low blood sugar (hypoglycemia), which can be very dangerous. People with Type 2 diabetes and blockages in blood vessels (or at very high risk) were shown to have higher risk of heart attack. For this reason, recent guidelines for older adults with Type 2 diabetes have had more relaxed goals, in the range of 7 to 8, although these do need to be individualized. For Type 1 diabetes, most guidelines still recommend an A1C goal of less than 7%. However, for a person with Type 1 diabetes who also has other medical problems that are likely to impact mortality, and for those at high risk for severe hypoglycemia, a more relaxed goal is not unreasonable. Hypoglycemia is too-low blood sugar, with risk of confusion. This is a big problem in people with brittle diabetes. A lower A1C is associated with a lower risk of damage to small blood vessels, which is what is responsible for nerve damage, eye disease and most diabetic kidney disease. If you have been able to keep your A1C in the range of 5.9 to 6.2, which is not an easy feat, and have not had any serious episodes of low blood sugar recently, I would wonder why your new doctor feels your blood sugar needs to be substantially higher than it is. Finding the right balance between good control and freedom from hypoglycemia isn’t always easy, but these are the risks and benefits your doctors have been considering.

DEAR DR. ROACH: My husband required frequent antibiotics, which resulted in C. diff infections with diarrhea. I found that adding some dry powdered fiber in his drinks helped to prevent the diarrhea, or to treat it if caught early enough. I hope this will help someone else. – M.M.

I appreciate you writing. Clostridium difficile is a cause of antibiotic-associated diarrhea, which can occur with almost any antibiotic. As such, the best prevention is not taking antibiotics. Unfortunately, though, sometimes antibiotics are absolutely necessary. There are some data that fiber supplements, as you have kindly suggested, can help prevent C. diff. Although many have used probiotics for the same purpose, the data does not support their effectiveness. Because lack of acid is a risk for development of C. diff, it’s wise to temporarily hold off antacid therapy, such as omeprazole.

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.

haven’t shown it. If any of them thinks it’s bad practice to spy on a campaign and a newly elected president to use the resulting information to try to gull U.S. government agencies, they haven’t said so. If any of them are thinking “never again,” they won’t admit it. Until they do, maybe they should temper their preachiness about threats to our system and norms.

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



Moore Texas by Roger MOORE
March 2 is Texas Independence Day! Drink a toast, have a party, eat some Chili, or AT LEAST throw your hat in the air and thank God you're in Texas!

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: C equals B

QP GFWGU PTBB QX CGQVS
YGHdqFM EGHXGB CM CTSX
CTVVM, YG WQSYE CG
YHDQVS H CHB YHUG BHM.

Answer Page 4

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

A veteran comes in from the cold



by Freddy Groves

The dormitory veterans had made their way down to the railroad tracks in the woods, battling buffeting winds and sleet. There, it was rumored, they'd find a young homeless veteran living in a tent.

The rumor was true. The veteran was given a choice: accept a basket of food and dry socks or come back to town and warm up until the snow stopped.

He accepted the offer of warmth and came back to the coffee shop to wait out the storm. Sarge watched as he was escorted in, parked at the counter and given hot coffee and sandwiches.

"Son," he said to the new arrival, "Did I see you limping?"

"Yes, sir, probably."

"Let's pull off those boots and take a look."

Turned out the veteran had a case of first-stage frostbite

across all of his toes. Sarge hooked a thumb toward the kitchen, where he warmed up a pan of water and had the veteran soak his feet.

Meanwhile they talked, the veteran and Sarge. He'd never gone home, the veteran said, after getting out. Was certain he wouldn't be welcome, being the first in a large family of "damn pacifists" to serve in the military. His parents' home was mere miles away, and sometimes he crept up to watch them through the window, he said, but no, he'd never even called them the whole time he was away.

An hour and several sandwiches later, the toes looked better and Sarge handed the young veteran a cellphone.

"I want you to call your mother," he said.

"I did the unforgivable," the veteran replied, shaking his head.

"Call. Tell your mother you have frostbite on your toes. She'll know exactly what to do."

The next morning, once the roads were plowed, Sarge drove the young veteran home,

watching from a distance as 30 exuberant people came rushing out, scooped up their wayward boy in a hero's welcome, and carried him inside.

Sarge smiled.

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- If you store nail polish in the fridge, it will dry more quickly and last longer.
- "In cold winter months, keep your robe (and slippers or whatever else) under the covers with you when you sleep. Pull it next to or over you a few minutes before you get up. It'll be toasty and will help make the transition into the cold a little less harsh." – G.G. in New York
- As tax time draws ever closer, try taping a large manila envelope to the fridge, leaving the top open. Immediately place all tax-related forms and receipts in the envelope as they come in. This way, when you are ready to start your taxes, all items will be together and easy to find.
- "To help moisten really dry feet, slather on lotion, wrap feet in plastic wrap, then slip on some socks overnight – or for as long as you can stand it." – B.H. in Michigan

• "My no-iron tip: I toss the wrinkly garment into the dryer for about five to 10 minutes with a damp washcloth, and it steams most wrinkles out. It won't look starched and pressed, but it's good enough for casual wear or running-late mornings. I haven't ironed in years." – E.W. in Florida

• Don't forget to clean your washing machine every so often by running it on the highest-temperature cycle empty after adding a gallon of vinegar. This will clean out the hoses and get rid of stuck-on detergents.

• To remove soot from your carpet, sprinkle it with salt, let sit and then vacuum. Repeat as many times as necessary to remove all traces.

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.

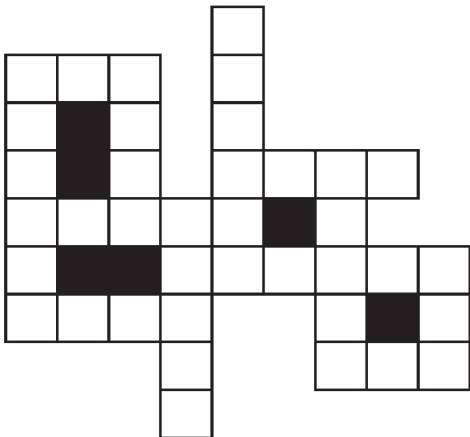
DIFFICULTY: ★
★ Moderate ★★ Difficult
★★★ GO FIGURE!
Answer Page 4

	-		x		10			
+		x		+				
	-		x		7			
÷		-		÷				
	x		-		4			
6		3		2				
1	2	3	5	5	6	7	8	9

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- ♥ NBI
- LUNICE
- ZAMOT
- VOAN
- ♥ SNITEL
- ♥ BOR
- ♥ EDRO
- ♥ ABZER
- ♥ ITN
- ♥ BRIMET
- TOZYL
- ♥ MBLA



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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