



NEWSBRIEFS

Bone marrow match needed

Dak Lopez, is a cute little boy who loves all things dinosaurs, turtles, and anything water-related. Unfortunately he is currently battling an aggressive form of leukemia. He is 4-years-old, yet needs a bone marrow transplant to save his life. The Lopez family is originally from El Paso, where Adam coached Varsity football at Pebble Hills, until Adam and his family decided to move from El Paso to Dallas just three years ago. Adam's cousins, Mark and Yvonne Lopez will be hosting a Bone Marrow drive locally on Saturday, June 18th from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the El Paso County Coliseum. 30-percent of patients find a matching donor in their family but Dak does not have a perfect matching donor in his family. Hispanic patients, like Dak, have a difficult time finding a donor because the pool of donors is very small, and smaller for Hispanics. Anyone in good health and between the ages of 18-55 can sign up as a potential donor. The entire process takes about 6 minutes and involves understanding what it means if you are found to be a matching donor, filling out a form and swabbing your cheeks. For information contact Yvonne Lopez at daklopez04@gmail.com or call (915) 329-4573.

— Beau Bagley

'Staycations'

With around 29-percent of Americans not planning to travel for leisure in 2022, the personal-finance website WalletHub has released its report on 2022's Best & Worst Cities for Staycations, as well as accompanying videos and expert commentary. To identify the best spots for staying local, WalletHub compared more than 180 cities across 44 key indicators of a fun-filled yet wallet-friendly staycation. Our data set ranges from parks per capita to restaurant-meal costs to the share of residents who are vaccinated. El Paso was rated 48th in the report.

- Sioux Falls, SD has the lowest cost of house-cleaning services, \$60, which is five times less expensive than in Pearl City, HI, the city with the highest at \$300.
- Orlando, FL has the most zoos and

See BRIEFS, Page 6

Bad news would be scarce if we all obeyed the Ten Commandments.
— Quips & Quotes



— Photos by Alfredo Vasquez

ON THE PLAZA – In one of the largest protests against gun violence, the “March For Our Lives” group organized demonstrations throughout the United States recently and mobilized millions of people across the nation. Flora Newberry, above, plays her trumpet as she leads the crowd in singing patriotic songs during El Paso's demonstration. “We're not trying to take away your guns. We're not violating your Second Amendment rights, but we need action now to curb gun violence in this country,” said one participant.

Protesters rally against gun violence

By Alfredo Vasquez
Special to the Courier

EL PASO COUNTY – About 200 concerned citizens gathered at San Jacinto Plaza in downtown El Paso on a recent Saturday morning to call for an end to gun violence and for lawmakers to enact stricter gun laws in light of the never-ending mass shootings in this country.

With the warm sun shining brightly, the somber gathering was there as part of the “March For Our Lives” weekend demonstrations held nationwide. The events were coordinated by a youth-led

movement that is advocating for an end to what they say is an “epidemic of gun violence.”

David Hogg and others formed the movement after the Parkland, FL school shootings in 2018. Since then, the group has mobilized gun-violence protesters around the globe in a show of force.

“After countless mass shootings and instances of gun violence in our communities, it's time to take back to the streets and march for our lives,” Hogg announced recently. “We marched in 2018 after the shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas School in Parkland, Florida, and now we're headed back to DC,” he

said. Hogg, who was a student at the M.S. Douglas school when it was attacked, urged everyone to join their cause.

“March for Our Lives” organizers estimated that more than 450 gun-safety marches were held in at least 45 states and around the world that Saturday (June 11). At the Washington D.C. demonstration, over 100,000 individuals showed up to march for gun legislation.

At El Paso's demonstration, Luis Perez Jacquez said, “I'm here to show support for any type of gun law. I'm especially interested in banning assault weapons. But I realize that it would be impossible because too many Republicans are taking money from gun lobbyists.” His brother, Frank Jacquez, of Dallas who is in town visiting family, said, “I'm here to advocate for stricter gun laws. It is far too easy to get a gun in Texas.”

Nick Miller, of Las Cruces, said that he attended the march because gun violence in America is getting out of hand. “We've got to do something to pressure Congress to act. Coming to a demonstration like this one is about the only outlet we have to pressure Republican leaders, who are not listening to the people,” Miller said. “Other countries don't have this problem. It's too easy for nuts to get weapons in America,” he added.

According to its website, the “March for Our Lives” movement proposes a multi-pronged approach to end gun violence: more proactively addressing poverty and mental health, banning assault weapons and high-capacity magazines, and holding the gun industry and lobbyists more accountable.

Flora Newberry, an El Paso area teacher, said that she attended the local demonstration because it was important that she makes her voice heard. “I teach children who are the same age as the kids in the Uvalde school shooting. I feel so badly; we have to do something,” Newberry asserted.



SHE HAS A LIST – Local participants at the “March For Our Lives” demonstration showed their support for tougher gun laws with their signs. One sign, above, points out the need to better equip schools with supplies and teachers with better working conditions.

Jumbled communication hurts Biden

The president of the United States is at it again. If the country thought that it was getting a buttoned-up, by-the-books communicator after four wildly undisciplined years of Donald Trump, it knew nothing about Joseph R. Biden’s long career as Washington’s standout long-winded, seat-of-the-pants, poorly informed, and misleading talker.

Biden blew up two presidential campaigns with his verbal idiocy, and no one thought during his decades as a senator that he was just the statesman the country needed to handle sensitive international questions with precise, cogent communications.

Winston Churchill famously mobilized the English language and sent it into battle. Joe Biden tries to muster the English language but confuses and dispirits it, until

the poor language slinks off ready to get its discharge papers and return to civilian life.

Biden’s handling of Russia and China in recent months has been marked by a basic inability to stay within the lines of U.S. policy – by seeming to give a kind of greenlight to a “minor” Russian incursion into Ukraine, by calling for Vladimir Putin to go, and by committing to defend Taiwan by force.

All these wayward statements required immediate and utterly predictable clean-up by a White House staff that must be on constant alert to explain on a moment’s notice what the president meant after he says something completely different.

Rarely have so few had to clarify so much. Biden the other day related how a trauma doctor had

supposedly told him once that a .22-caliber bullet might, say, lodge in the lung and be removable, whereas a 9 mm “blows the lung out of the body.” It should be stipulated, first of all, that all bullets are dangerous. Still, this was a ridiculous explanation of the relative dangers of the two calibers and gave the impression that Biden was moving on from seeking to ban so-called assault rifles to wanting to prohibit 9 mm pistols, too.

The gaffe joined other notable Biden miscues on guns, including his bizarre advice several years ago to shoot a



See LOWRY, Page 7

Food for thought By John Grimaldi

Choices: Aging in place or assisted living

The vast majority of seniors say that they want to spend their so-called “golden years” in their own homes. Assisted living facilities are not an option for those who want to socialize with neighbors, family and friends, are able to get around on their own and feel safe and secure in their own homes.

A poll conducted by Capital

Caring Health, a nonprofit provider of elder health, and the online health website, WebMD, found that “88% of people between the ages of 50 and 80 said it was very or somewhat important to them that they live in their homes as long as possible.” But the reality is that not all of them are prepared.

“Aging in place is trending due

in part to the fact that growing old is not as debilitating as it used to be,” says Gerry Hafer, Executive Director of the AMAC Foundation, the non-profit arm of the Association of Mature American Citizens (AMAC). “The acceptance of healthier lifestyles and the benefits of modern medicine have helped to convince many seniors to stay at home.”

There is a caveat, of course, says Hafer, and that means you need to make an assessment of what you are able to do by yourself and what you can’t do. “The most critical issue you need to deal with is your health. Do you suffer from a debilitating illness? In fact, making the decision may require a conversation with your doctor.”

Here’s a checklist courtesy of the National Institute on Aging (NIA):

- Are you able to take care of yourself by yourself;
- Do you need help with household chores;
- Are you able to prepare healthy meals on your own;
- Do you have the financial resources to age in place; and
- Are you able to remember to take your meds as required?

The NIA report also suggests that you “Be prepared for a medical emergency: If you were to suddenly become sick and unable to speak for yourself, you probably would want someone who knows you well to decide on your medical care. To make sure

this happens, think about giving someone you trust permission to discuss your health care with your doctor and make necessary decisions. Learn about health care advance directives. Talk with your doctor about whether you should get a medical alert ID bracelet or necklace.”

According to AMAC’s Hafer, once you pass muster and become a candidate for aging in place, it’s a good idea to take a tour of “your place” to make sure it’s safe. He suggests making a room by room assessment as recommended by the AgingCare website to ensure that your home environment supports your lifestyle now and in the future.

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.

Socorro Independent School District PUBLIC NOTICE

Public Meeting to Review Federally Funded Programs

The Socorro Independent School District will conduct a public information meeting to review the following 2022-2023 ESSA Federal Grants:

- Title I, Part A – Improving Basic Programs
- Title I, Part C – Migrant Education Program
- Title II, Part A – Preparing, Training and Recruiting High Quality Teachers, Principals or Other School Leaders
- Title III, Part A – English Language Acquisition
- Title IV, Part A – Student Support and Academic Enrichment

A Regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of Socorro ISD will be held June 21, 2022, beginning at 6:00 PM in the District Service Center Board Room, 12440 Rojas Drive, El Paso, Texas 79928.

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AVISO PUBLICO

Lajunta Pública para Revisar los Programas de Fondos Federales

El Distrito Escolar Independiente de Socorro llevará a cabo una junta pública para revisar los siguientes programas federales de 2022-2023:

- Título I, Parte A – Mejorando Programas Básicos
- Título I, Parte C – Programa Educativo Migrante
- Título II, Parte A – La Preparación, la Capacitación y la Contratación de Maestros, Directores de Escuelas de Alta Capacidad u Otros Dirigentes Escolares
- Título III, Parte A – Adquisición del Idioma Inglés
- Título IV, Parte A – Apoyo Estudiantil y Enriquecimiento Académico

El 21 de junio de 2022 se llevará a cabo una reunión regular de la Mesa Directiva de Socorro ISD a partir de las 6:00 p. m. en la sala de juntas del Centro de Servicios del Distrito, 12440 Rojas Drive, El Paso, Texas 79928.

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Letters must not be more than 250 words in length. They should be dated, must be signed and have an address and daytime phone number. Only the name and city will be printed with the letter. The West Texas County Courier reserves the right to edit or reject letters to the editor or other submitted material it considers inappropriate.

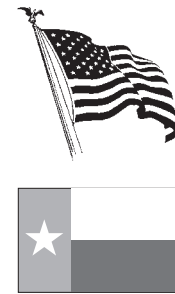
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Friday 4 p.m. for the next Thursday.

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\$15 for 25 words, \$20 for 40 words. Ad must be in writing and pre-paid. The West Texas County Courier reserves the right not to publish advertising it considers inappropriate.

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Montanez named principal at Deanna Davenport Elementary

By Christina Rodriguez
Special to the Courier

CANUTILLO – Guadalupe Montanez is a longtime educator ready to take on her latest role with vigor and passion to continue making a difference and achieving the goal of student achievement on the Deanna Davenport Elementary (DDE) School campus. She was named principal of DDE where she currently serves as assistant principal since 2018. Montanez will officially take the helm as of July 1.

“Great Leaders don’t set out to be a leader, they set out to make a difference. It’s never about the role – always about the goal.”

This is one quote that Montanez takes to heart and as the new campus leader she wants to keep making a difference.

“I look forward to this new opportunity to lead Deanna Davenport Elementary School as their principal. I truly believe that leadership is based upon trust, communication, equality and absolute transparency in every way,” Montanez said.

Montanez has over 20 years



– Photo courtesy Canutillo ISD
Guadalupe Montanez

of experience in education and has a bachelor’s degree in elementary education with a bilingual education certification from The University of Texas at El Paso and a master’s degree in education administration from Sul Ross State University. She began her teaching career with the Canutillo Independent School District in 2003 and has served the district over the years as a teacher, instructional coordinator, and assistant principal.

Food for thought By Dr. Glenn Mollette

A father and a child can make a great family

Father’s Day is coming one more time and you still have a chance at having a great family.

Fathers like most all people have good days and bad days. They have great seasons of life and some that are more difficult. Few fathers will look back over their lives and say, “Every day I was a perfect dad.” Some days were better than others.

We all feel bad about the seasons of our lives when we had to work too much. Working all the time depletes energy we would prefer to spend on our families. The problem is that like most fathers we want to keep a roof over our heads and food in the refrigerator. Making car payments, house payments, and all the basic things of life typically keep most dads and moms very busy.

Even in a home filled with love and patience the average dad lives a juggling life. He is pulled between work, kid’s ballgames, meeting the needs of his wife and housework. Add to this school meetings, homework, fishing, piano lessons, family events, all while trying to maintain and add to his career.

Most of us looking back can think of some endeavors or activities we wish we had let go in order to spend more time with our families. For some weird reason at the time they seemed all so important but now they feel like wasted time.

Throughout life the way we typically learn is the hard way. Education is always expensive. Our vision is 20/20 looking back. People tell us what we will regret and what we should do but we rarely believe them. When we get past the “fifty-five” mark of life we start to realize what the “old timers” told us was true. You know how it is because you probably tell your kids about what is right and wrong and what they will appreciate or

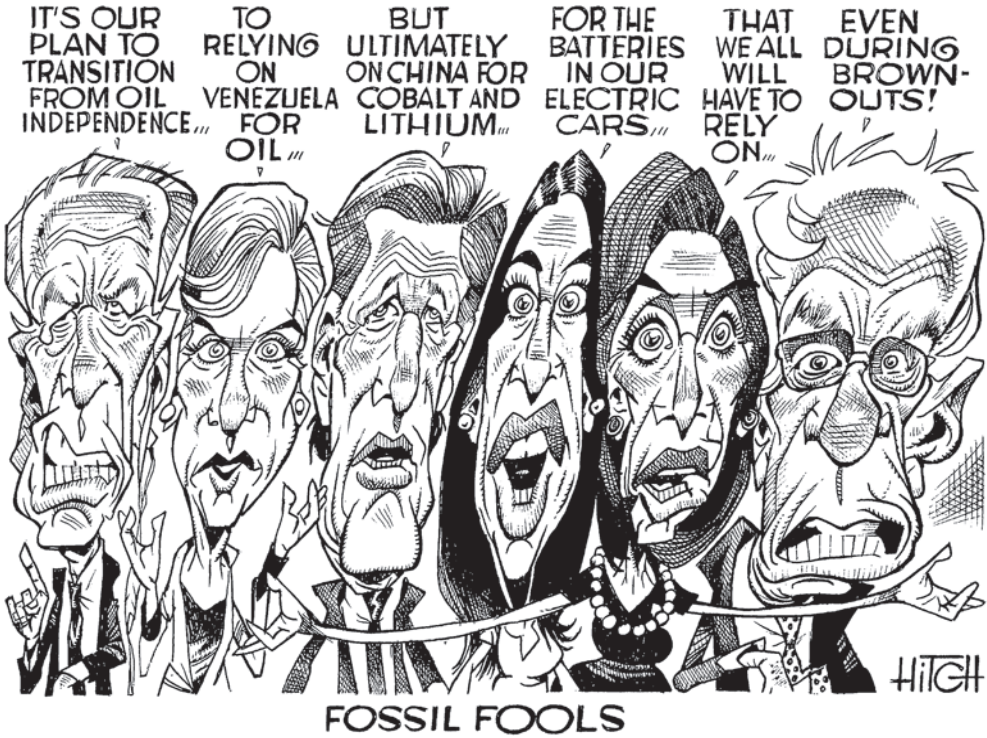
regret. In most cases they don’t pay much attention to you.

The only time for being a father that you have is this one. No future is guaranteed and yesterday is gone. You do have today. Have a loving and forgiving heart. Extend grace and a second, third or fourth chance. Try to spend time with those you love. You are probably finding out now that your grown children are too busy for you. They have lives of their own and you may not be a priority. It hurts some but they probably are being like you used to be. Don’t lose sleep over this but be available and reach out as you are able.

Finally, you have to be more than the human ATM machine. You can’t buy your children’s affection for the rest of your life. Every parent wants to help their children but the best thing you can do for them is work with them to help them care for themselves. You can either teach them to fish or spend the rest of your life fishing for them and this ends up being a hard life for you and cripples them.

Today is another opportunity to be a good father. This is also a good day for you to reciprocate love and affection to your dad. A father and a child working together can make a great family.

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.





– Photos courtesy Canutillo ISD
Dr. Debra Kerney

Kerney named Canutillo ISD associate superintendent

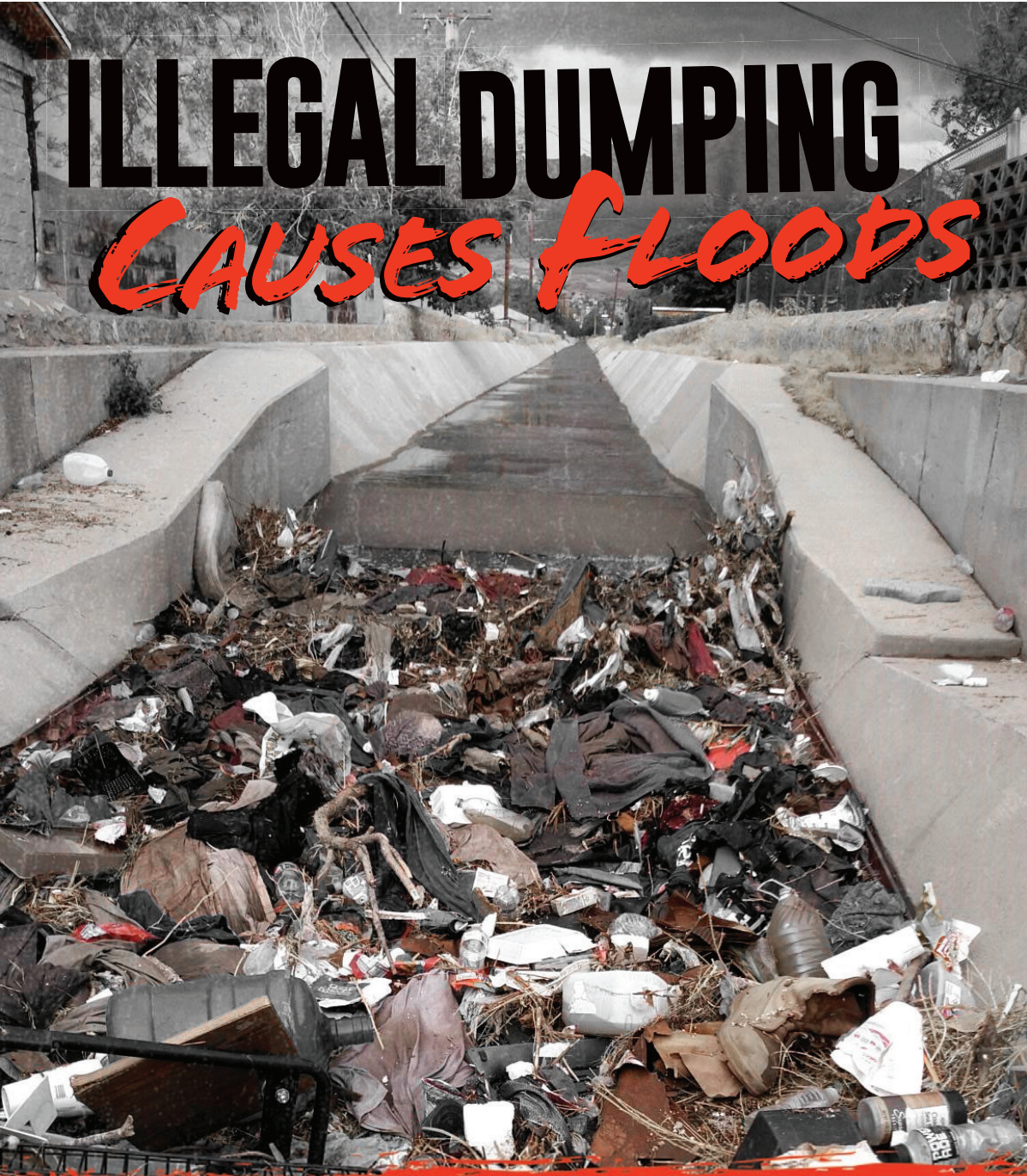
By Christina Rodriguez
Special to the Courier

CANUTILLO – The Canutillo Independent School District Board of Trustees has announced Dr. Debra Kerney as the next Associate Superintendent of Canutillo ISD. Kerney will assume the position beginning July 1.

“I am excited to welcome Dr. Kerney as our new associate superintendent,” said Superintendent of Schools Dr. Pedro Galaviz. “Her proven record as an exceptional leader together with her pride and passion for this district, community, and student success make her a quintessential part of our leadership team and in this new role, she will further boost our programs and opportunities for students.”

Currently serving Canutillo ISD Associate Superintendent Marina Rocha,

See KERNEY, Page 6



When trash is illegally dumped in canals, stormwater channels, ponds and other waterways, it can flood homes and result in expensive repairs or worse.

CALL 311 to report it and visit **DONTTRASHER.COM** to learn more!



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By Lucie Winborne

- Idaho is the only U.S. state to explicitly declare that cannibalism is illegal.
 - In 2001, the FBI warned Russell Crowe that al-Qaeda were planning to kidnap him as part of a “cultural destabilization plot.” For nearly two years, the agency guarded the actor in public, but refused to provide him with any details about the threat.
 - In Germany, folks who urinate in the streets are called “wildpinklers,” meaning “free pee-ers.”
 - Gorillas sing happy songs while they eat – louder when enjoying a favorite food.
 - There are more than 12,000 species of ants.
 - Talk about election fraud! In 2013, police in the Maldives arrested a coconut for loitering near a polling station during the presidential election. The fruit’s offense? Locals feared it might have been imbued with a magic spell to influence the election, as there was a Surah (chapter from the Quran) written on it. The coconut was released upon being found to be fake.
 - In 2014, over 2.8 million American dogs were on an antidepressant drug similar to Prozac.
 - Now here’s a good reason to call your plumber: A leaky faucet dripping once every second can waste up to 3,000 gallons of water in a year – enough for 180 showers!
- Thought for the Day:
“Yesterday’s home runs don’t win today’s games.”
– Babe Ruth

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CryptoQuip Answer

Need to set priorities?
Consult a piano technician.
They’re skilled at addressing key issues.

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Moments
in time
THE HISTORY CHANNEL

- On June 13, 1381, a large mob of English peasants marches into London and begins burning and looting the city. The revolt began with the bubonic plague in the late 1340s, which killed nearly a third of the population of England and led to higher wages due to scarcity of labor. Parliament, however, passed laws to hold down wages.
- On June 14, 1951, the U.S. Census Bureau dedicates UNIVAC, the first commercially produced general-purpose electronic digital computer in the U.S. UNIVAC used thousands of vacuum tubes for computation.
- On June 15, 1904, more than 1,000 people taking a pleasure trip on New York City’s East River are drowned or burned to death when fire sweeps through the riverboat-style steamer General Slocum.
- On June 16, 1961, Rudolf Nureyev, the young star of the Soviet Union’s Kirov Opera Ballet Company, defects during a stopover in Paris. While preparing to board the return flight, Nureyev threw himself into the arms of airport security people, screaming, “Protect me!” He was given political asylum.
- On June 17, 1885, the dismantled Statue of Liberty, a gift from France, arrives in New York Harbor after being shipped across the Atlantic Ocean in 350 individual pieces packed in more than 200 cases. The copper and iron statue was reassembled and dedicated the following year.
- On June 18, 1983, Dr. Sally K. Ride becomes the first American woman in space when the shuttle Challenger is launched on its second mission. Ride, as a mission specialist, was the first woman to operate the shuttle’s mechanical arm used to remove ice from its exterior.
- On June 19, 1856, the first national convention of the Republican Party comes to its conclusion. After the Civil War, the Republican-dominated Congress forced a radical Reconstruction policy on the South, which saw the passage of the 13th, 14th and 15th Amendments to the Constitution.

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wtxcc@wtxcc.com

SEISD teachers receive grants

By Jeannie Meza-Chavez
Special to the Courier

SANELIZARIO – Five teachers in the San Elizario Independent School District (SEISD) received the Classroom Fund, a project with the El Paso Community Foundation. The Classroom Fund was established in 2011 to help teachers with classroom supplies. Schoolteachers from El Paso and Las Cruces can apply for the grant. With the generous support of The El Paso Community Foundation, the Classroom Fund helps educators with the necessary supplies to help support students.

“Thank you so much to the El Paso Community Foundation for allowing our teachers to apply for funds which will help our teachers to purchase more innovative learning materials. This material will greatly benefit our students by enhancing and engaging student learning,” said Alarcon Elementary School Principal Leticia de Santos.

According to the 2021 Classroom Fund Grantee list, the following five SEISD educators were awarded \$1,000 each worth of supplies to utilize with students. The Ann M. Garcia-Enriquez Middle School individuals who received the grant are Harry Collins and Marisol Galarza. Additional San Elizario High School recipients are Elizabeth Luna-Lopez and Rachel Norman Aguirre. Finally, the grantee of the Classroom Fund from the Lorenzo Alarcon Elementary is Rebecca Olan Gomez.

Harry Collins is a physical education teacher at Ann M. Garcia-Enriquez (GEMS). He said, “The pandemic changed many students’ lives, especially in their physical and mental health, which go hand in hand. The School Fund Grant will allow our middle school P.E. class to provide alternative opportunities to exercise along with the traditional exercise methods we currently use to help build and strengthen their social, emotional, and physical health. Hopefully, this will also extend to the community and home, encouraging them to show others ways to get healthy.”

From its beginnings, the Classroom Fund continues to support the educational needs of students. Teachers, counselors, school nurses, and coaches all have an opportunity to apply for a \$1,000 grant. To be considered, grant applicants must apply online and include a list of supplies they request.

GEMS Counselor Marisol Galarza thanks the El Paso Community Foundation. “I am deeply grateful for the grant and thrilled to utilize these items as they will enhance our SEISD Eagles’ social-emotional learning,” she said

According to the Classroom Fund website <http://theclassroomfund.org/>, all applications undergo a review by the Classroom Fund committee. Upon selection, grantees must provide a digital photo, video, or a thank you letter to the Foundation. The Foundation takes care of ordering the materials requested, and arrangements are made for the grantees to pick up the items.



– Photos courtesy SEISD
Rachel Norman Aguirre



Harry Collins



Marisol Galarza



Elizabeth Luna-Lopez



Rebecca Olan-Gomez

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING TO DISCUSS BUDGET AND PROPOSED TAX RATE

The Canutillo Independent School District will hold a public meeting 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, June 28, 2022 in the Central Office Board Room, 7965 Artcraft, El Paso, Texas 79932. **The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the school district’s budget that will determine the tax rate that will be adopted. Public participation in the discussion is invited.**

The tax rate that is ultimately adopted at this meeting or at a separate meeting at a later date may not exceed the proposed tax rate shown below unless the district publishes a revised notice containing the same information and comparisons set out below and holds another public meeting to discuss the revised notice. Visit [Texas.gov/PropertyTaxes](https://www.texas.gov/PropertyTaxes) to find a link to your local property tax database on which you can easily access information regarding your property taxes, including information about proposed tax rates and scheduled public hearings of each entity that taxes your property.

Maintenance Tax	\$0.982400/\$100 (Proposed rate for maintenance and operations)
School Debt Service Tax	
Approved by Local Voters	\$0.360000/\$100 (Proposed rate to pay bonded indebtedness)

Comparison of Proposed Budget with Last Year’s Budget

The applicable percentage increase or decrease (or difference) in the amount budgeted in the preceding fiscal year and the amount budgeted for the fiscal year that begins during the current tax year is indicated for each of the following expenditure categories:

Maintenance and Operations	8.24%	Decrease
Debt Service	14.70%	Increase
Total Expenditures	6.47%	Increase

Total Appraised Value and Total Taxable Value (as calculated under Section 26.04, Tax Code)

	Preceding Tax Year	Current Tax Year
Total appraised value* of all property	\$ 3,868,826,896	\$ 4,714,423,056
Total appraised value* of new property**	\$ 143,500,601	\$ 140,299,755
Total taxable value*** of all property	\$ 2,864,134,508	\$ 3,339,559,729
Total taxable value*** of new property**	\$ 131,812,584	\$ 130,578,216

* “Appraised value” is the amount shown on the appraisal roll and defined by Section 1.04(8), Tax Code.

** “New property” is defined by Section 26.012(17), Tax Code.

*** “Taxable value” is defined by Section 1.04(10), Tax Code.

Bonded Indebtedness

Total amount of outstanding and unpaid bonded indebtedness* \$79,979,627

* Outstanding principal.

Comparison of Proposed Rates with Last Year’s Rates

	Maintenance & Operations	Interest & Sinking Fund*	Total	Local Revenue Per Student	State Revenue Per Student
Last Year’s Rate	\$ 0.982400	\$ 0.360000*	\$ 1.342400	\$ 6,758	\$ 4,911
Rate to Maintain Same Level of Maintenance & Operations Revenue & Pay Debt Service	\$ 0.936380	\$ 0.214910*	\$ 1.151290	\$ 6,456	\$ 4,591
Proposed Rate	\$ 0.982400	\$ 0.360000*	\$ 1.342400	\$ 7,323	\$ 4,747

*The Interest & Sinking Fund tax revenue is used to pay for bonded indebtedness on construction, equipment, or both.

The bonds, and the tax rate necessary to pay those bonds, were approved by the voters of this district.

Comparison of Proposed Levy with Last Year’s Levy on Average Residence

	Last Year	This Year
Average Market Value of Residences	\$ 205,776	\$ 258,988
Average Taxable Value of Residences	\$ 171,204	\$ 190,074
Last Year’s Rate Versus		
Proposed Rate per \$100 Value	\$ 1.342400	\$ 1.342400
Taxes Due on Average Residence	\$ 2,298.25	\$ 2,551.56
Increase (Decrease) in Taxes		\$ 253.31

Under state law, the dollar amount of school taxes imposed on the residence homestead of a person 65 years of age or older or of the surviving spouse of such a person, if the surviving spouse was 55 years of age or older when the person died, may not be increased above the amount paid in the first year after the person turned 65, regardless of changes in the tax rate or property value.

Notice of Voter-Approval Rate: The highest tax rate the district can adopt before requiring voter approval at an election is \$1.342400. This election will be automatically held if the district adopts a rate in excess of the voter-approval rate of \$1.342400.

Fund Balances

The following estimated balances will remain at the end of the current fiscal year and are not encumbered with or by a corresponding debt obligation, less estimated funds necessary for operating the district before receipt of the first state aid payment:

Maintenance and Operations Fund Balance(s)	\$ 22,121,211
Interest & Sinking Fund Balance(s)	\$ 12,024,851

A school district may not increase the district’s maintenance and operations tax rate to create a surplus in maintenance and operations tax revenue for the purpose of paying the district’s debt service.

UTEP is hoping ‘915’ will bring in more of the 915

By Steve Escajeda
Special to the Courier

I don’t know about you but I love it every time Aaron Jones scores a touchdown for the Green Bay Packers and then looks into the camera and flashes the 9-1-5 sign to America with his fingers.

The rest of the country may not know what that means but all of us here in El Paso get it. And imagine how proud of the Sun City Jones must be to share it with a national audience every chance he gets.

It’s pretty powerful and a great way to promote El Paso to the rest of the country. I’m sure many people outside of El Paso have asked him what the 9-1-5 means, and he gets to explain it every time.

Well, it looks like UTEP has recognized what that symbol means to all of us who love our community and they are about to do their own version of the 9-1-5 flash.

UTEP Athletics Director Jim Senter recently announced that the Miners are going to dedicate their 2022-23 athletic season to “915” on the area code’s 75th year of existence.

And his main goal is to fill the Sun Bowl for the Miners first home game of the season against North Texas on August 27, which believe it or not, is just a little over two months away.

To help fans fill the stadium, which hasn’t seen a sellout since the 2008 season when over 53,000 showed up for the Texas Longhorns, UTEP is making some tickets available for... you guess it, \$9.15.

For years, Senter has said he needed to get local businesses involved with the program. And he and his staff have found a unique way of doing it, which will result in creating new UTEP football fans.

Fans can get a hold of the inexpensive tickets by going to any Jack in the Box restaurant or GECU in town, and swipe the QR code printed on posters hung up at the establishments. UTEP has announced that there will be more businesses joining in soon.

It’s not that El Pasoans are cheap. But when the cost of everything else is skyrocketing fans have to pick and choose where they’re going to spend their money – especially families.

Making some tickets cheaper than movie tickets will definitely help bring in fans.

The whole idea is bringing people in. If the Miners do well, many of those will not only come back, they’ll tell their friends all about the fun experience they had.

UTEP has gone all in on the idea. Even the UTEP helmets are going to have the “915” as their primary logo for the first game.

Another famous El Pasoan who isn’t shy about flashing the “915” is award-winning recording artist Khalid, who is also helping UTEP’s cause by purchasing tickets through his foundation and providing t-shirts to band students from around the Sun City so they can attend the game and sit with the UTEP marching band.

I don’t know about you but this sounds like a gigantic party in the making.

And this will not end with football, every other UTEP sport will have some sort of “915” game this season and will feature the area code’s logo on their uniform.

With 14 starters returning from a winning 2021 campaign, the UTEP football Miners are expected to battle for a Conference USA title this season. Not bad for a team that was, just a few years ago, named the country’s worst college football team for two years in a row.

The Miners will have a tough schedule, especially having to go on the road in week two at Oklahoma.

But their first three home games should be close to sellouts with the season-opener against North Texas (Aug. 27), the big rivalry game with New Mexico State (Sept. 10), and the battle with national power Boise State (Sept. 23).

I don’t know if this whole “915” thing will generate any wins, but that’s not the goal, the goal is to generate interest.

The more “915” interest, the larger the attendance. The larger the attendance is, the better the home field advantage. The better the home field advantage is, probably brings more wins. More wins helps bring in better recruits. Better recruits will generate more “915” interest, which leads to larger... .

Kerney

From Page 4

who will be retiring at the end of this school year, proudly passes the baton to Kerney who brings a wealth of experience in education and leadership capabilities to the high-ranking position achieved from a 27-year career in public education.

Kerney discovered her love of teaching while serving as a Sunday school teacher and began her career in education at Socorro Independent School District. She joined Canutillo ISD in 2007 where she has held several leadership roles including opening two schools, first as the instructional coordinator at Gonzalo and Sofia Garcia Elementary School in 2007 and as the founding principal of Congressman Silvestre and Carolina Reyes Elementary School in 2015. She currently serves as the executive director

of Curriculum and Instruction.

“I have served the district with all my heart for the past 15 years and am very excited to have this opportunity to serve in a new way,” Kerney said.

Kerney earned her bachelor’s degree in social psychology, a master’s in educational leadership, and a doctorate in teaching, learning, and culture from The University of Texas at El Paso.

“What makes me proud to work in this district is that I see that Dr. Galaviz and the district’s leaders have the same heart as I do to serve kids and this community,” Kerney said. “They will do whatever it takes to help students be successful. It is this passion that we utilize when talking about programs and ideas and how we can always do better to make the teaching and learning experience the best it can be for every student. Being part of a team that is already so strong is an honor for me.”

Briefs

From Page 1

aquariums (per square root of population), 0.0131, which is 43.7 times more than in New York, NY, the city with the fewest at 0.0003.

- New York, NY has the most parks (per square root of population), 1.4934, which is 21.8 times more than in North Las Vegas, NV, the city with the fewest at 0.0684.

Visit <https://wallethub.com/edu/best-cities-for-staycations/4341> for the full report.

– Diana Polk

Beware the worms

Jumping worms have invaded California much to the chagrin of gardeners. The California Department of Food and Agriculture says they are “True to their name, they jump and thrash immediately when handled, behaving more like a threatened snake than a worm, sometimes even breaking and shedding their tail when caught.” According to the experts at Cornell University, “Asian jumping worms are a relatively new invasive species (they can deplete soil of nutrients and damage plant roots)... but they are rapidly spreading across the United States. They can be found in the Southeast, along the Eastern Seaboard, and in the mid-Atlantic, Midwest, and some Northwestern states.”

– John Grimaldi

Archives: www.wtxcc.com

Super Crossword

PRIZEWORTHY ACROSS

1 Classic Pabst beer brand

7 Place for hay or a choir

11 Facial mask offerers

15 Barter

19 Retort to “Am so!”

20 “La Traviata” solo, say

21 Many a smartphone message

22 By way of, for short

23 He played V in “V for Vendetta” [sci-fi writing]

25 Domain

26 German “a”

27 The, in Tours

28 Tarnish

29 Galahad’s title

30 Tina of pop

32 Mogadishu resident

33 “Rags to Riches” singer [Broadway]

35 Capital of Italy, in Italy

38 Golfers’ positions

40 Built on

41 Jungian inner self

43 Stallion, e.g.

44 Yellow shade

46 “Little Birds” actress [Canadian music]

49 Longtime member of the Four Tops [off-Broadway]

54 Fred dancing in films

55 Tile locale

57 Fly of Africa

58 Rice dish

61 Walton who wrote “The Compleat Angler”

63 Leaves port

64 Rub roughly

68 Ventriloquist with the dummy Charlie

McCarthy [mystery writing]

71 Horse pace

72 “Incredible!”

74 Delight in

75 Bus stop

77 She’s asked to “peel me a grape” in film

79 Call to a pig

81 1982 Dustin Hoffman film

86 “Shameless” actress [television]

88 “The Picture of Dorian Gray” novelist [film]

91 Panache

92 La _ Tar Pits

93 “The Piano” actor Sam

94 Remits in advance

98 Kids’ racers on tracks

101 Lyric verses

102 American labor leader [French film]

105 Verbalized

107 Go_ (no slouch)

108 Cager’s hoop

109 Went flat

110 Be in arrears

113 Blind as _

114 Uncork, e.g.

116 What any of the eight people featured in this puzzle should be?

118 Dust particle

119 Blu-ray Disc producer

120 Work benefit

121 Puts into law

122 Squeezed (out)

123 Circus barker

124 Actress Harper

125 Least refined

DOWN

1 Witty Mort

2 Like facts

3 Rules, for short

4 1969 Beatle bride

Yoko

5 “_ I love thee?”

6 Cooks, as asparagus

7 Kitschy 1960s light

8 First

9 High-quality

10 Gift label

11 Tarnish

12 “Firework” singer Katy

13 Tree toppler

14 Governor’s fiscal concern

15 “Tristram Shandy” author Laurence

16 Complained childishly

17 Actor Will of “30 Rock”

18 _ Rico

24 Amo, amas, _

29 Distress call

31 Strip down

32 Island group near Fiji

33 Summer shirt

34 Tiny toddler

35 Indian royal

36 Big burden

37 Breath freshener

39 Treble _

42 “Take _ from me”

44 On the train, e.g.

45 Illusion on a hot road

47 Sandusky’s lake

48 Merges

49 Seep out

50 In good order

51 Move a bit

52 Capital of Norway

53 Sticky home?

56 Cuba _ (rum cocktail)

59 Tennis champ Andre

60 Courteous act, to a Brit

62 _ secret (didn’t blab)

64 Judge’s wear

65 “Pardon me”

66 Done the backstroke, e.g.

67 Prefix with 104-Down

69 House unit

70 Jordanian queen dowager

73 Major combat

76 Word before hall

or crier

78 Jesuit college in Worcester

80 Part of NYSE

82 Attach with laces, say

83 Lost traction on the ice

84 Waste time

85 Bioelectric fishes

87 Tiara go-with

89 Five-armed echinoderms

90 Lots to leave autos in, to Brits

92 “Lowdown” singer Scaggs

94 World of Warcraft, e.g.

95 Nike rival

96 Grand home

97 Touched comfortably

98 Jewel

99 Blabbed

100 Meat sticker

103 Boxing venue

104 Plastic for a waterbed

106 Suburb of Minneapolis

109 _Pea

110 In time past

111 Makes moist

112 Word before while

115 “The Raven” poet

116 Inclined

117 Rustic denial

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				

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

shotgun in the air as a means of self-defense and his erroneous insistence that there was a prohibition on the ownership of cannons during the Revolutionary War.

Biden clearly believes that he is some sort of expert on gun policy when he has managed to demonstrate over and over again that he has no idea what he is talking about.

His anecdotes and personal stories are invariably studded with exaggerations

or outright fictions. As *The Washington Post* wrote of a story Biden told about Afghanistan on the campaign trail in 2019, “It appears as though the former vice president has jumbled elements of at least three actual events into one story of bravery, compassion and regret that never happened.”

An NBC News report about Biden’s White House relates that – showing colossal but typical lack of self-awareness – Biden resents his staff following him around with a broom and dustpan: “He makes a clear and succinct statement

– only to have aides rush to explain that he actually meant something else.” This, according to Biden, “smothers the authenticity that fueled his rise.”

Uh, no. The sentiment that motivated voters to switch to Biden in 2020 wasn’t, “We’re going to vote for this blustery guy who says anything that comes into his head because that will be such a refreshing change.” Rather, it was, “This guy in his basement seems relatively restrained compared to the blustery guy who says anything that comes into his head.”

Biden is less flagrant than Trump –

he’s not firing top officials on Twitter or making pronouncements based on the last thing he saw on TV. But he’s also less entertaining. Biden imagines himself the adult in the room at the same time that he routinely makes potentially consequential verbal missteps.

This is, indeed, the authentic Biden. But it’s not inspiring, praiseworthy – or reassuring.

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

Blood thinners preclude some OTC pain meds

DEAR DR. ROACH: I am on blood thinners, so I am unable to take ibuprofen or naproxen for pain. Do you know of anything I can take to help with pain? – K.B.



The body has two ways of clotting blood: the blood clotting factors and platelets, which are special blood clotting cells.

Warfarin (Coumadin), like newer agents such as dabigatran (Pradaxa) or rivaroxaban (Xarelto), work as anticoagulants, blocking proteins that help clot the blood. They don’t actually “thin” the blood; that would mean a change in viscosity. Clotting factors are needed for a mature, effective blood clot.

Aspirin and NSAID drugs, like ibuprofen or naproxen (Aleve and others), affect platelets, the specialized blood cells that start clotting the blood when necessary. If both the platelet system and the factor system are decreased due to medication (or underlying clotting disorder), then the risk for abnormal bleeding goes up.

This does not mean people can never take aspirin or NSAIDs if they are on a medication to reduce clotting risk, but it does mean that a careful evaluation must be done, based on a person’s unique circumstances, to determine the safety of doing so. In other words, your doctor should be able to tell you how often, if ever, you can take these over-the-counter pain relievers.

If you can’t take any, then acetaminophen (Tylenol) is usually the safest bet. However, too much acetaminophen can increase the effect of warfarin (measured by your INR level).

DEAR DR. ROACH: I must admit that I sit on the throne (toilet) for too long for my morning (or evening) constitutional, maybe 15 minutes or so. But I am busy with my crossword puzzles – it’s about the only time I can carve out for my little obsession. The problem is, my legs almost always fall deeply asleep. This happens frequently. I’m wondering if I should cease this practice. Could I be doing damage to my nervous system? The tingling goes away after I walk around a bit, and there are no lasting effects. – V.K.C.

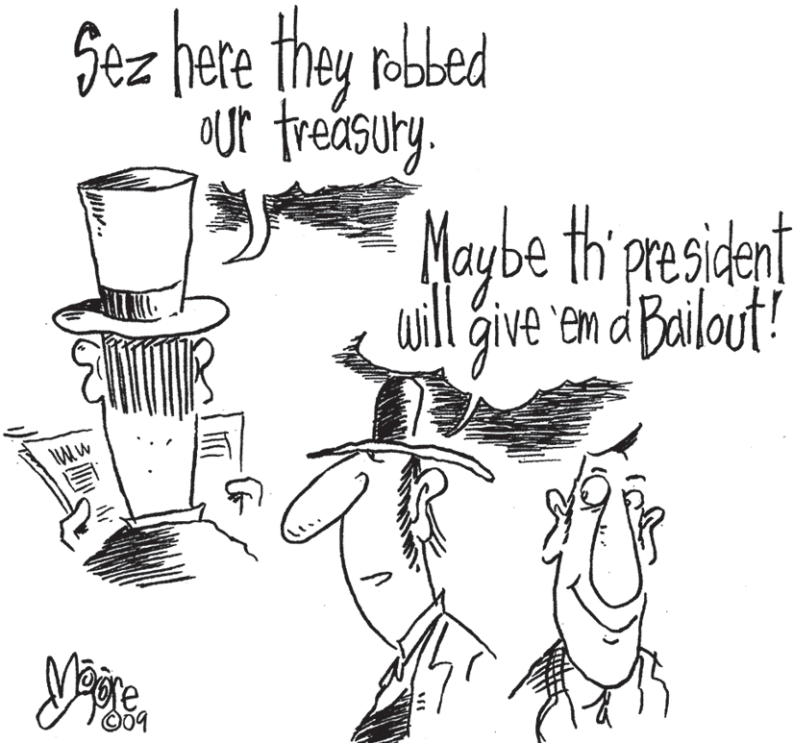
I’d recommend finding a different place to do your puzzles.

I don’t recommend anyone sit on the toilet too long. Pressure in the colon from prolonged sitting (I don’t say you are necessarily straining, but I suspect that like most people you have increased pressure in the colon from sitting on the toilet) increases the risk of colon problems, both common (diverticulosis, outpouchings in the colon wall) and rare (volvulus, a twisting of the colon that is a surgical urgency). When you have the urge to go, you should take yourself to the bathroom and do so. If you are straining, it’s time to add more fruits, vegetables and fiber to your diet.

The numbness in your legs is not uncommon. The position of a toilet seat may put extra pressure on the nerves of the leg, especially the sciatic nerves. This pressure is what is causing the numbness. The fact that there are no long-term symptoms suggests no lasting damage, but I would argue this is your body telling you not to stay in that position.

Find a comfortable chair in which to do your crosswords, and ignore the world for a little while.

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.



Moore Texas by Roger MOORE
June 11, 1865: The Texas State Treasury is robbed of \$17,000.

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: R equals S

MFFY HB RFH ILWBLWHWFR?
KBMRTQH S IWSMB HFKOMWKWSM.
HOFV'LF RNWQQFY SH SYLFRRWMP
NFV WRRTRF.

Answer Page 4

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging

Answer Page 4

♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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A jumble of wait times for VA medical care



by Freddy Groves

A recent audit by the Department of Veterans Affairs Office of the Inspector General outlined what so many of us already knew – that it’s difficult to understand the wait times for appointments and medical care at the VA. It seemed to some of us that the rules changed day by day, that our appointments were at the whim of whatever program was being followed at the time and that there was no transparency about how those dates were calculated. Turns out that we were right all along.

In a perfect world, wait times at the VA always begin with an accurate starting point. If, for example, a veteran wants to seek civilian care because the wait is too long at the VA, he doesn’t qualify for that outside care until he’s waited a certain amount of time. Precisely

when that period of time begins is at the heart of the problem.

Since 2014, the OIG discovered, the VA has used various methods of calculating wait time and figuring out when the criteria is met to seek civilian care. The rules for those calculations were in writing back to 2014. But without following those rules consistently, wait times varied and wandered all over the place. It didn’t help that the website gave misleading information about how dates were to be calculated, with differences between wait times for new patients and what was written in the scheduling directive.

Enter the OIG, with its excellent investigators who always leave no stone unturned. While the recent audit doesn’t assign blame (which the OIG won’t hesitate to do when it’s called for), the VA knew about these problems. The OIG has officially asked the VA to respond and let them know what steps they’re going to take to fix this.

To read the details, go

to www.va.gov/oig/pubs/VAOIG-21-02761-125.pdf. Don’t miss the timeline on the cardiology patient whose provider wanted him seen pronto. There was a 66 day wait.

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• Here’s a grill tip just in time for summer: When you need to cook something that needs covering (say, chicken) alongside something that does not (like hot dogs), simply invert an aluminum roaster/cake pan over the needs-covering item. You can purchase smaller size pans that can be reused. – JoAnn

• “I have a tip about taking medicine. Regardless of the size of the pill, I always feel as if it is stuck in my throat. I have started to have a chunk of banana after taking a pill. I don’t get that stuck feeling anymore.” – T.B. in New Hampshire

• “The sticky residue from price tags can be really annoying. I use WD-40 to get it off. Works every time for me!” – J.K. in Alabama

• “Painting stairs? This tip will save your life! Paint every other step to start with. When they are dry, go back and paint the others. This way, you can use the staircase anytime during your project. This is particularly important if the stairs are the only way to get to bed after a long day of painting!” – I.L. in Nevada

• Mix a quarter cup of salt in with two tablespoons of bath wash for a sudsy, refreshing, skin-soothing salt scrub.

• To travel with pleated skirts, use this packing trick: Turn the skirt inside out, and straighten all the pleats. Then tape the bottom so that all the pleats are held together. Next, feed the skirt into a leg of pantyhose with the foot cut off. You’ll end up with a nice tube, which you can tuck into the side of your luggage.

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

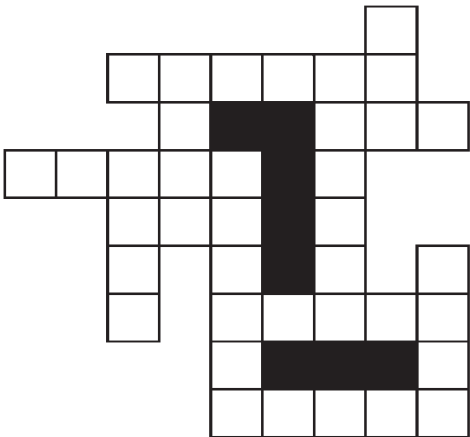
	–		×		9
÷		–		÷	
	×		+		15
+		×		+	
	+		×		11
10		20		2	

1 2 3 5 6 7 8 9 9

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♥EAP
SPOGLE
♥TASPR
ETER
STEAPE
♥ELA
♥DRIA
♥DERGE
♥PLA
GATNIE
NOLEA
PLOA



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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