



NEWSBRIEFS

Elderly protection

With over 10% of Americans over age 60 suffering from elder abuse, and seniors especially vulnerable during this period of high inflation, the personal-finance website WalletHub has released its report on 2022's *States with the Best Elder-Abuse Protections*, as well as expert commentary. To determine which states fight the hardest against elder abuse, WalletHub compared the 50 states and the District of Columbia across 16 key metrics. The data set ranges from "elder-abuse, gross-neglect and exploitation complaints" to "financial elder-abuse laws." Texas was rated 14th in the report. Elder abuse protections in Texas (1-Best; 25-Avg.):

- 11th – Elder-Abuse, Gross-Neglect and Exploitation Complaints;*
- 47th – Total Expenditures on Elder-Abuse Prevention;*
- 39th – Total Long-Term Care Ombudsman-Program Funding;*
- 49th – Number of Eldercare Organizations and Services;*
- 27th – Number of Certified Volunteer Ombudsmen;* and
- 47th – Nursing-Homes Quality.

**Per resident aged 65+*

Visit <https://wallethub.com/edu/states-with-best-elder-abuse-protection/28754> for the full report.

– Diana Polk

A quick bite

Miki Sudo and her husband, Nicholas Wehry, are known as The Hungry Couple in their hometown of Tampa, FL. They earned their moniker not because they eat a lot, but because they eat so fast – fast enough to get in the Guinness Book of World Records. Between them they recently downed 18 hot dogs for Guinness records – she scoffed down six frankfurters in one minute and he gulped 12 wieners in three minutes. Oh yeah, Miki also holds the record for eating a whole burrito in 31.47 seconds.

– John Grimaldi

Another fish story

Goldfish are one of the most popular kid pets. They are easy to take care of and can live as long as ten years. They grow to a manageable six inches in a tank. How big can they grow in a lake, for example? A British angler recently landed a monster of a goldfish in a lake in Champagne, France. It weighed in at 67 and a half pounds.

– John Grimaldi

People that say they are too old to learn new things probably always were.

– Quips & Quotes



– Photo by Alfredo Vasquez

RENOVATIONS DUE – Among the projects that the proposed certificates of obligation bonds would be used for is to fund extensive repair work and upgrades to the downtown jail. It would include a new HVAC system and replacement of the outdated intercom and surveillance systems. The county jail, which opened in 1983, has equipment that cannot be repaired because the parts are no longer in production, according to Sheriff's Department officials.

El Paso County commissioners move to approve bonds worth \$59M in certificates of obligation

By Alfredo Vasquez
Special to the Courier

EL PASO COUNTY – A series of public meetings will be held during January by El Paso County officials to inform residents about the commissioners court intent

to approve \$59 million in certificates of obligation bonds to fund a varied list of projects that county officials insist are sorely needed.

The forthcoming meetings will allow citizens time to weigh in on the proposal before commissioners convene on January 30 to officially approve the debt

issuance. An initial public notice of intent to approve the certificates of obligation was published in a local newspaper in December.

The county commissioners approved publishing the notice of intent in a

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– Photo courtesy El Paso Water

PROACTIVE – Small maintenance actions, like installing insulating covers over faucets or wrapping pipes can prevent them from freezing.

Protect your pipes and your wallet

By Martha Koester
Special to the Courier

EL PASO COUNTY – Bundle up, El Paso – the borderland is expecting very cold weather. But before the chill in the air puts a crack in your pipes, El Paso Water urges customers to follow a few simple measures to "Protect Your Pipes."

When water freezes, it expands in volume by nearly 10%, that extra pressure can result in broken water lines that lead to costly repairs and water leaks at your home or business.

"Outdoor water faucets and plumbing are vulnerable to the cold temperatures, particularly if they are not insulated," said Gilbert Trejo, Vice President of Operations and Technical Services. "Customers should be proactive in protecting their homes."

According to property repair experts,

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Elon Musk is the nation’s foremost culture warrior

Elon Musk, who has never called himself a conservative, is now the nation’s foremost culture warrior.

That he’s achieved this status without espousing anything remotely like social conservatism illustrates how important a set of hothouse progressive pieties have become to the nation’s political debate.

We’ve come a long way from the days of Pat Buchanan or Pat Robertson.

Simply by refusing to play by the rules that so many in corporate America accept without hesitation, Musk has made himself Public Enemy No. 1, a figure of fear and loathing that his critics desperately want to fail and the more humiliatingly so, the better.

Not that Musk is shy. He has taken over Donald Trump’s championship belt as the troll who most dominates the consciousness of the country’s journalistic elite. His puckish tweet the other day tweaked both the fashionable practice of declaring your pronouns and the secular saint

Dr. Anthony Fauci: “My pronouns are Prosecute/Fauci.”

This little 5-word haiku of provocation predictably created a storm of “How could he?” outrage.

The Atlantic responded with a piece arguing, as the headline put it, “Elon Musk Is a Far-Right Activist.” The only thing the article lacked was a shred of evidence that Musk is either “far-right,” or an “activist.”

Yes, Musk said before the midterms that he’d vote Republican, but that doesn’t make him far-right any more than voting for Democrats necessarily makes someone far-left. News flash: About half the country votes for Republicans.

And he’s obviously doing everything he can to garner attention for Twitter as he tries to make it a sustainable business. That’s marketing and showmanship, though, not political activism.

In releasing what he calls “The Twitter Files,” exposing the decision-making of the company’s prior

management, Musk hasn’t been working with conservatives. One of the writers, Matt Taibbi, is a progressive, while the other, Bari Weiss, is right of center, but by no means a right-winger.

What Taibbi and Weiss share, along with Musk, is an unwillingness to swallow the orthodoxies of the elite media and progressive establishment.

It is this posture that makes Musk an intolerable dissenter. Far right now means saying things that you aren’t supposed to say – not racist things or extreme things – but things that have been deemed unsayable only recently. Several years ago, no one would have thought it was terrible offense to refuse to adopt the weird obsession



See LOWRY, Page 7

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

Did the Grinch steal Christmas in your town?

The killjoys who cancelled a lot of Dr. Seuss’s delightful books didn’t get around to *How the Grinch Stole Christmas* – yet.

But comparing what I have seen this season with the magical celebrations of my childhood, I think there’s a real Grinch out there. And he is not going to be converted, will not bring the goodies back, and definitely will not carve the roast beast.

Many homes might have had to forgo roast beast. British commentator Alexander Mercouris reported that a Christmas goose was not obtainable, even in an affluent part of London. In America, if you had a turkey with all the trimmings, you paid pay much more for it than you did last year.

This situation is not expected to be temporary. The world eats too much meat, say the oracles, and needs to cut the amount from an

average 70 kg per person per year to 24. In the Netherlands, the world’s second largest exporter of food, the government is expropriating 3,000 farms¹ to meet “sustainable development” nitrogen emission goals. Livestock emits methane and nitrogen-containing waste, a.k.a. fertilizer. So, it must be sacrificed.

Instead, we are to supposed to adopt entomophagy² – eating bugs. Raising insects is supposed to be much better for the Planet than raising livestock. Insects are said to require about 4 percent of the water and 10 percent of the amount of grain that a cow would require to produce the same amount of food biomass. Also, livestock require a lot of space, which will be needed for all those wind turbines and solar panels.

Among the benefits touted by the *New Yorker*³: “[Insects] are natural recyclers, capable of

eating old cardboard, manure, and by-products from food manufacturing. And insect husbandry is humane: bugs like teeming, and thrive in filthy, crowded conditions.”

If you managed to have a Christmas feast this year despite inflation, an insect-based diet could help you lose weight.

Did you enjoy a Yule log or chestnuts roasting on an open fire? In San Francisco, that could cost you a \$500 fine⁴.

The Grinch pushed the Christmas tree up the chimney. In many places, most of the decorations are gone. Long ago, there were bells and tinsel on Tucson downtown streets. We drove around to see them. Hospital halls were decked with boughs of holly or the equivalent.

Grocery stores played carols, as did Rush Limbaugh and some radio stations – and not just the ditties about Rudolph and Frosty. Getting rid of songs like *The Little Drummer Boy* did not stop the Grinch’s “noise, noise, noise, noise.” That we still have aplenty, as in lewd rap songs.

be blocked by your digital bank account even if you are willing to work extra or economize elsewhere

The Grinch was impressed by the Whos’ demonstrating that Christmas doesn’t “come from a store,” but “means a little bit more.”

There’s the real problem, though Dr. Seuss avoids naming it. Nativity scenes are under attack by secular, atheist extremists. How offensive! A baby, a loving mother, a responsible husband, livestock! Who can bear to look at it! And of course, we must not allow public expression of faith in God, the universal ultimate Lawgiver, who will eventually topple all the oppressors from their thrones. The King Herods of the world have to squelch this very idea.

Christmas is about joy, hope, love, merriment, life, and light. Resentment or envy of these blessings explains why the real Grinches stand there on Christmas Eve hating the Whos. Their Grinch feet are not ice-cold in the snow. But they don’t care if you and your baby and your grandmother are freezing in the dark and eating bugs to meet the demands they impose with pretensions of godlike authority.

For ordinary people, Grinches want it to be “always winter and never Christmas.”

But the Light has come, and the Grinches are ultimately powerless before it.

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

1 – <https://twitter.com/EvaVlaar/status/1603700544526290945?s=20&t=3odn5eknduKMWR7rcl3omA>

2 – <https://www.ddponline.org/category/ddp-newsletter/>

3 – <https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2021/09/06/magazine20110815grub>

4 – <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-11570847/San-Francisco-air-pollution-fine-lights-fire-home-outdoors.html>

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

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Canutillo ISD seeks new board member

By Gustavo Reveles
Special to the Courier

CANUTILLO – The Canutillo Independent School District Board of Trustees is now accepting applications from qualified candidates interested in filling an upcoming vacancy on the Board. Trustee Sergio Coronado will submit his resignation from the Board by Dec. 31 following his election to the El Paso County Commissioners Court.

The deadline to submit an application for consideration is Jan. 20. Applications are available online here.

To be eligible for consideration, candidates must:

- Be a registered voter;

- Be a resident of the District for the last 6 months and Texas for the last 12 months;
 - Have not been deemed partially or fully mentally incapacitated by the courts; and
 - Have not been convicted of a felony.
- Applicants will be asked to submit proof of voter registration, a valid Texas ID, a resume of qualifications and a 500 word statement of philosophy on board service and their commitment as a Trustee.
- Candidates will be interviewed by the Board in February before making an appointment. The appointee will fill the remainder of the unexpired term through November 2024 .
- For more information please contact contact Jessica Martinez at jemartinez@canutillo-isd.org or call (915) 877-7444

Tunnels bill signed into law

NATION – U.S. Senator John Cornyn (R-TX) and U.S. Congressman August Pfluger (TX-11) released the following statements after their *DHS Illicit Cross-Border Tunnel Defense Act*, which instructs U.S. Customs and Border Protection to develop and execute a plan to combat the use of tunnels by cartels and other transnational criminal organizations, was signed into law:

“Tunnels are one way cartels try to evade Border Patrol and smuggle drugs, weapons, and people across our border,” said Cornyn. “By eliminating the cartels’ use of tunnels, we can stem the flow of narcotics and human trafficking into the U.S., and I’m glad this legislation is now law.”

“Our Nation faces a multitude of threats to our security along the southern border,” said Pfluger. “This bill will help seal the more than 230 underground tunnels beneath the U.S.-Mexico border that drug cartels and human traffickers are currently using to smuggle narcotics, weapons, and cash through. Now, Customs and Border Protection (CBP) will have the tools and resources they need to develop a plan, destroy the tunnels, and prevent these dangerous products from flowing into Texas. I am proud to see my legislation signed into law and will continue the fight to secure our border.”

The DHS Illicit Cross-Border Tunnel Defense Act instructs U.S. Customs and

Border Protection to develop a plan that helps identify, breach, and remediate illicit cross-border tunnels. The legislation also requires CBP to conduct a resource assessment to determine the technology and staffing needs necessary for this strategic plan’s implementation, and report to Congress on CBP’s implementation progress after one year.

– Murphy McCollough

† AMERICAN LUNG ASSOCIATION®
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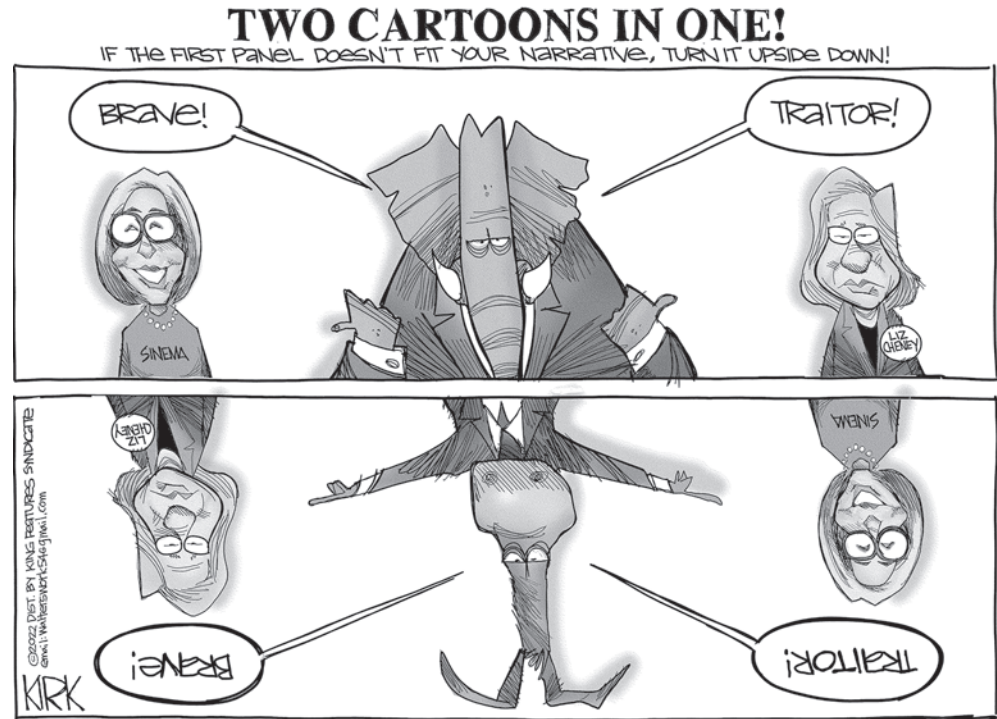
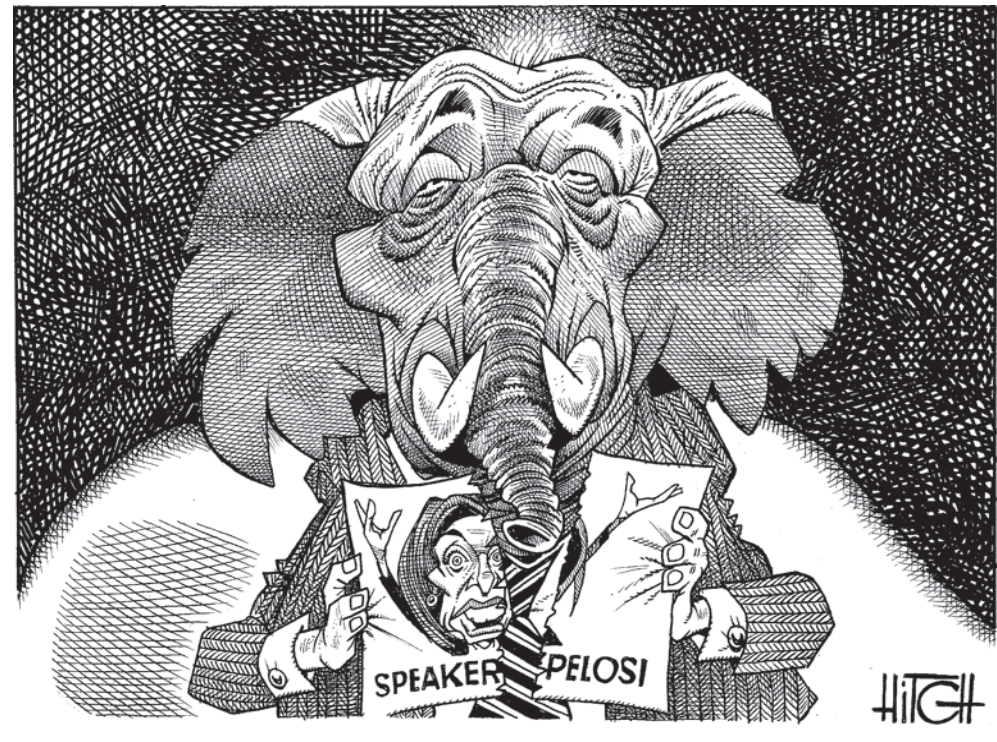
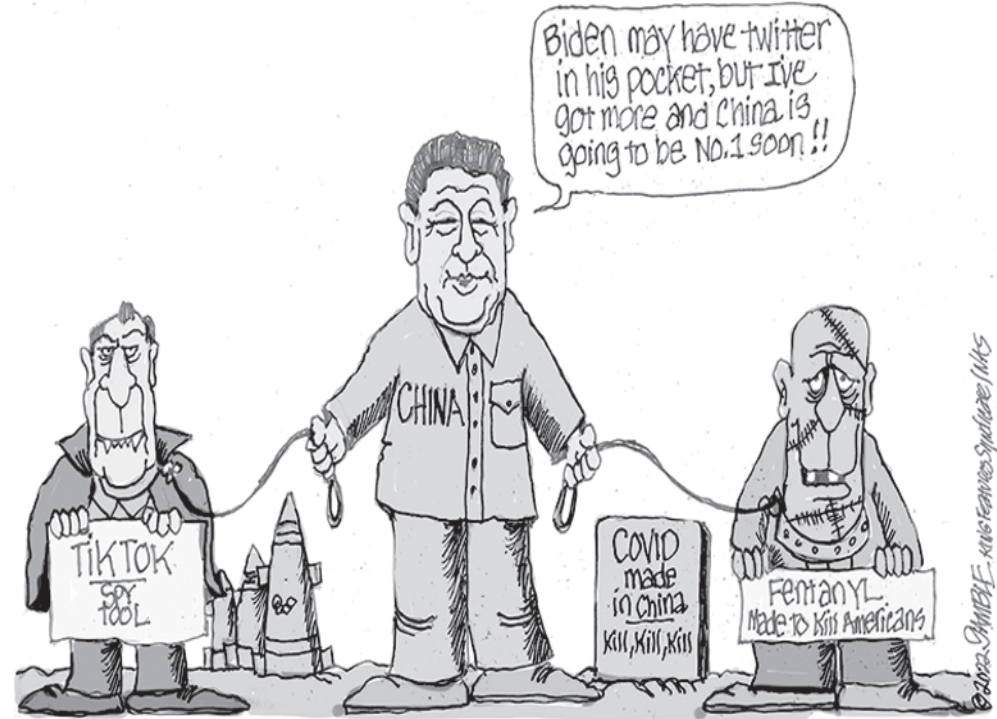
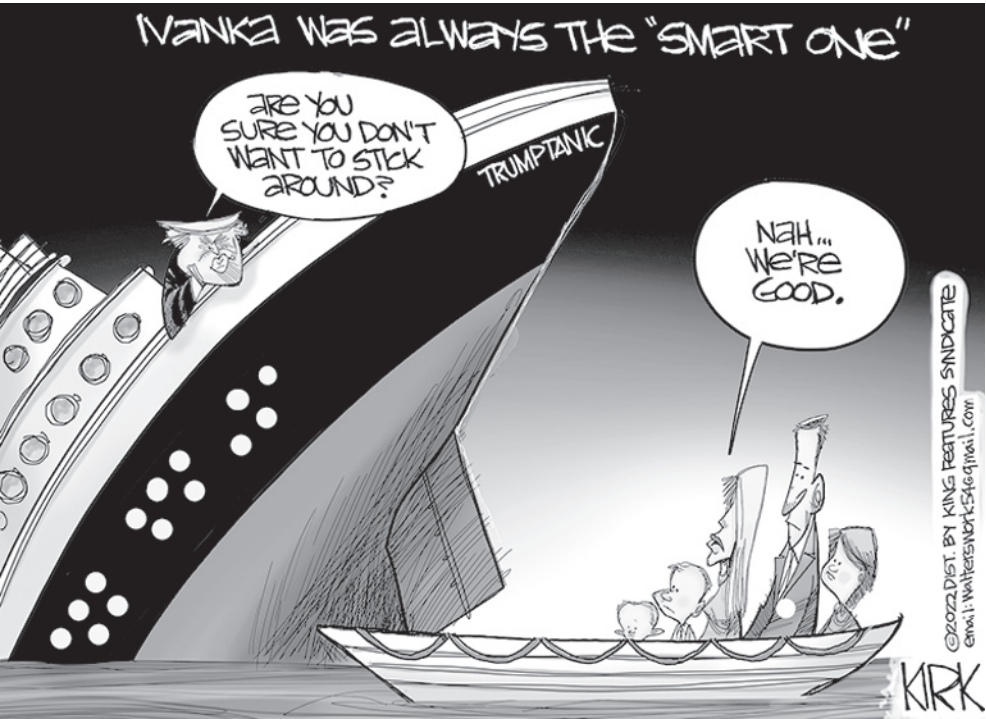
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Finding assisted living

Is 2023 the year when you have to consider moving into assisted living? Or perhaps helping an elderly relative make the move? In either case, your first steps should be gathering as much information as possible.

What type of care is needed? Daily help with everything from bathing to eating to remembering to take medications? Or is a more specialized, secure location needed for memory care? Or something in between?

What facilities are in your area? It will be important that friends and family can visit easily, as well as having access to the same medical care after the move. Going out for lunch locally can go a long way toward keeping relationships intact.

Once you've selected a few facilities to explore, start digging for information. Call the state and ask about the licenses, accreditation and safety track records. Call your local fire and police departments about potential safety issues.

Do you know anyone who works in one of the facilities you're considering, or who knows someone who lives there? Their input could be crucial when it comes to learning about any rules the facility might have, or any staff shortages that could lead to problems with client care or any ongoing complaints about the food.

Then ask for a tour at every facility on your list. Stay as long as you can and ask a lot of questions. Get a copy of the potential contract to give your attorney to review (ideally one specializing in elder law).

Money: You'll need to know what everything costs, and by everything, that means all the fees that might not be included in the overall amount. Are clients charged for field trips or special entertainment, for example? How about laundry costs?

As part of your information-gathering, go online and search for “how to select an assisted living facility” or something similar. Look for checklists of questions to ask. You’ll need all the information you can find.

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Neglecting the National Guard

Outgoing Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi was quite generous in pushing through a mega-billion dollar Defense Authorization bill for 2023 in her waning days. It contains big sums of cash to teach foreign allied armed forces how to be gender inclusive and gives Ukraine some \$800 million for border security. Retired Brigadier General J. Roy Robinson, the president and chief executive officer of the National Guard Association of the United States, says what's not in there is proper funding for the needs of the men and women of the National Guard.

In an interview with Rebecca Weber, CEO of the Association of Mature American Citizens, on AMAC's Better For America podcast, General Robinson pointed out that the needs of our men and women of the state-based National Guard were all but ignored.

As he put it, “members of the National Guard [are] serving in uniform across the United States [and] still reporting to the governors of their states, who still are doing their duty in a state status, responding to different types of missions. And they may or may not have their health and dental insurance coverage in place. So, are there other things that I would prefer to see Congress include and utilize some of those dollars for? ... Based on what the Guard brings to the fight, especially today, [not providing health care coverage] is kind of a disservice.”

Weber noted that thousands of members of our armed forces have been discharged because they refused the covid vaccine. “I don’t think it makes sense,” Robinson responded, “in this particular day and time to prevent anyone from serving their nation because of their lack of a covid vaccine.” The general went on to say that he thinks it would be wise to lift the vaccine requirement, adding that many of those who have been discharged may re-up and continue serving their nation.

The issue of soldiers being discharged for refusing the covid vaccine evolved into a discussion of health care for the men and women in the National Guard. General Robinson said it is a top-of-the-list issue for the National Guard Association. He said that the average citizen is likely

unaware that although they wear the uniform and they are on call for dangerous assignments, they lack “the full benefit of medical and dental coverage through their federal service... It makes no sense to me. In fact, it seems so foreign that I have a hard time sometimes with helping people to understand it. But it’s real. It’s a fact that we continue to have about 60,000 members of the National Guard who do not have health insurance on a daily basis. We’ve got to fix it. I think with all the things that have been asked of the guard over the last 386 years and specifically the last 21 years, this has got to be resolved. There’s no excuse.”

He pointed out that there are currently bills in both the House and Senate that would provide coverage. The legislation “basically says that all those members of the National Guard and Reserve who are not currently enrolled in TRICARE (the Department of Defense’s premier health care program) will be enrolled and they’ll be enrolled with no fees, no premiums, no deductibles, no co-pays. And they’ll be covered health insurance wise and dental insurance wise, seven days a week, 24 hours a day, regardless of their status.”

General Robinson concluded his interview on an optimistic note. "Like I said, there are not a lot of things that survive 386 years. And the benefit that the nation gets, the benefit of having a very low-cost National Guard, that can come in when they are needed and contribute to the safety and security of this nation is a big deal. I think that when this country was first organized and founded, the guard was kind of the backbone of the nation... I believe that the guard is going to be the backbone of what the future will be. It's an organization that any nation in the world would give anything to have in their country as a part of their security, and as a part of the backbone of the nation itself. So, yeah, there are tough things going on. These are different times. But you know what? The National Guard and the nation have survived much more difficult times. And I think the National Guard is the one with the staying power. I put my money on the one that's been here 386 years."

CryptoQuip Answer

If a doctor tests your physical fitness level, I reckon he is looking at the vigor picture.

Strange BUT TRUE

By Lucie Winborne

- When Ivan the Terrible's young son Dmitry died, a bell was rung to mark the occasion. The bell was later lashed, tried for treason, found guilty and exiled to Siberia. Why? Local legend had it that the bell rang of its own accord, which was considered an evil omen.
- Each team must provide the referee with 24 footballs for each NFL game.
- A neuroscientist suffered a series of strokes that left him with an irresistible urge to rhyme and rap. He made the most of this unusual side effect by going on to pursue freestyle rap and improvisation as a hobby.
- Almost every New York City alley scene in the movies is shot at the same location.
- Nigel Richards won a French Scrabble World Championship without actually knowing how to speak the language. He just memorized words from a French dictionary.
- There is an asteroid named after Kurt Vonnegut.
- The world's oldest known rose bush, which grows up the side of Hildesheim Cathedral in Germany, was planted more than 1,000 years ago and even survived a World War II bombing.
- In some cities, road crews use pickle or beet juice to combat winter's icy streets.
- Got a mouse problem at your house? Your grocery store might provide a quick and easy answer in the form of bananas. Male mice are scared of their scent – especially virgin male mice.
- American radiobroadcaster Art Bell stayed on air for a world-record-setting 116 hours and 15 minutes as part of a fundraiser to bring 130 Vietnamese orphans to the U.S. for adoption.

Thought for the Day: "If they don't give you a seat at the table, bring a folding chair."
– Shirley Chisholm

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Moments in time

THE HISTORY CHANNEL

- On Dec. 26, 1917, President Woodrow Wilson announces the nationalization of a majority of the country's railroads under the Federal Possession and Control Act due to World War I. Two days later, the United States Railroad Administration seized control.
 - On Dec. 27, 1944, during World War II, President Franklin Roosevelt gives orders to seize properties belonging to the Montgomery Ward company because it refused to comply with a labor collective bargaining agreement. Roosevelt said strikes in wartime cannot be condoned.
 - On Dec. 28, 1973, Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn's "literary investigation" of the police-state system in the Soviet Union, "The Gulag Archipelago, 1918-1956," is published in Paris. On Feb. 12, 1974, Solzhenitsyn was arrested, stripped of his citizenship and deported.
 - On Dec. 29, 1956, the New York Times leaks news that the United States is preparing a major policy statement on the Middle East. The Eisenhower Doctrine would proclaim that the U.S. would use force in the Middle East to contain Soviet aggression.
 - On Dec. 30, 1803, Francis Lewis, signer of the Declaration of Independence, dies in New York City at age 90. Lewis' patriotism came at a high cost: The British army destroyed his Long Island estate and took his wife prisoner in 1776.
 - On Dec. 31, 1968, the Soviet Union's TU-144 supersonic airliner makes its first flight, months ahead of the Anglo-French Concorde. In 1965, the French had arrested Sergei Pavlov, head of the Paris office of the Soviet airliner Aeroflot, for illegally obtaining classified information about France's supersonic project.
 - On Jan. 1, 1863, farmer Daniel Freeman submits the first claim under the new Homestead Act for a property in Nebraska. By the 1890s, many homesteaders found that farming 160 acres of such dry land was nearly impossible, and at least half the original claims were abandoned.
 - On Jan. 2, 1941, The Andrews Sisters recorded
- On Jan. 3, 1938, Franklin Delano Roosevelt, who contracted polio at age 39, founded the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis, later renamed the March of Dimes Foundation. The moniker came courtesy of comedian Eddie Cantor, who said in a donations appeal: "Nearly everyone can send in a dime, or several dimes. However, it takes only 10 dimes to make a dollar, and if a million people send only one dime, the total will be \$100,000."
 - On Jan. 4, 2012, Saudi Arabia's King Abdullah decreed that men could no longer sell female underwear in lingerie shops. The country previously allowed only men to work as shop keepers, but after female customers complained that they made the women uncomfortable, a new law allowed women to take their place.
 - On Jan. 5, 1914, Henry Ford introduced a revolutionary pay deal of \$5 per day wages for all of his employees. When asked about it, he told reporters that he wanted his workers to earn enough to be able to afford to buy a Ford motor car.
 - On Jan. 6, 1973, the 1939 Mercedes-Benz 770k sedan that Hitler was said to have used in a parade march was sold to Earl Clark at an auction for \$153,000. Clark planned to exhibit the vehicle at his Dutch Wonderland Amusement Park in Lancaster, Pennsylvania.
 - On Jan. 7, 1981, truck driver Peter Sutcliffe admitted to being the "Yorkshire Ripper," who killed 13 women in northern England over five years. Sutcliffe was caught on Jan. 2 after being stopped by the police with Olivia Reivers, a prostitute, and was arrested for having fitted his car with fake license plates.
 - On Jan. 8, 2014, Mexican officials found two gray whale calves in a lagoon. The case was even more unusual because they were conjoined. Though found alive, the whales died soon after, and samples were taken for scientists to study their rarity.
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Bonds

From Page 1

three-to-one vote margin with County Judge Ricardo Samaniego, Commissioners David Stout and Carlos Leon voting in favor of the measure, while Commissioner Iliana Holguin voted against it. Commissioner Carl Robinson was not present. He will be replaced in January by newly elected Commissioner Sergio Coronado.

Certificates of obligation are a government funding mechanism that does not require voter approval. Commissioners explained that the monies would be used to fund a myriad of infrastructure needs at county parks and facilities.

The December commissioners court meeting included a presentation by El Paso County Planning Department Director Jose Landeros in which he identified 30 essential infrastructure and public safety projects that the certificates of obligation funds could finance.

Landeros pointed out that the funds could be used to address essential infrastructure projects related to technology, transportation, county facilities upgrades, and regional parks renovations.

In terms of transportation and technology, the presentation called for acquiring land in Fabens to help reconstruct Fabens Airport and Ascencion Road, as well as for airport service upgrades and software permits.

The county facilities proposal consists of a variety of projects including renovations at the Manny Martinez Annex including HVAC replacement for the Human Resources Department, repurposing the fifth floor of the county courthouse, and expansion of the employees' clinic in the county courthouse.

Plans also indicated a need for establishing a fully equipped pet wellness clinic and for renovation of the Council of Judge's conference room, as well as for property acquisition for the Sheriff's Department eastside complex.

Public safety concerns that would be addressed with the certificates of obligation funds are construction projects at the El Paso Medical Examiner's Office; extensive repair work and upgrades to the downtown jail including a new HVAC system; and replacing an outdated intercom and surveillance systems, along with roof repair work, sewer line replacements, and security systems enhancements at the Juvenile Justice Center.

El Paso Sheriff's Office Commander Jose Chairez reported during the meeting that there are not many band-aids left to prop up the deteriorating jail, which opened in 1983. He added that much of the department's old equipment can no longer be repaired because the parts are no longer in production. "A lot of that equipment... there's just not much we can do with it anymore," he said.

El Paso County Public Works Director Norma Palacios also emphasized the need to complete repairs to the downtown jail. She stated that the proposed public safety projects were "very important" and, if not done now, would only cost more down the road. "We can't continue to work this way," Palacios said, "I think it's essential at this point to make the investment and solve the problem."

The report from the Juvenile Justice Center was largely the

same, with officials reporting deficiencies in their video surveillance recordings, a busted intercom system, a leaky roof, and an inadequate sewer system, meanwhile daily detention rates continue to climb.

Following the grim reports, county leaders asserted that approving the certificates of obligation bonds now would not cause an increase in county taxes. Nonetheless, some county residents urged the commissioners not to approve the bond package because non-emergency certificates of obligation bond measures should require voter approval.

During the December meeting, a handful of residents signed up to speak out against issuing new debt without voter approval through certificates of obligation. Among the speakers opposing the measure was Karla Sierra, director of the Libre Initiative, the nonprofit group backed by the Koch Brothers' conservative organization that recently fought off the county's previous attempt to issue over \$300 million in certificates of obligation bonds for the University Medical Center (UMC).

Sierra said that during her group's signature campaign she learned that El Pasoans are interested in being more involved in the political process and that incurring additional debt without voter approval would only distance people further from the process. "Just because our elected officials are able to utilize certificates of obligation doesn't mean they're morally or ethically correct to do so," she stated.

Another opponent of the proposed certificates of obligation proposal who spoke during the recent meeting was local historic preservationist Max Grossman, a vocal opponent of the city's arena plan and the issuance of more non-voter approved debt. He claimed that the local governments already had around \$800 million in certificates of obligation debt and added that non-emergency items should always be presented to voters when issuing long-term debt.

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JANUARY 17!



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The Sun Bowl returns in style after two shaky years

By Steve Escajeda
Special to the Courier

A couple years ago there were no games at all. Last year they had to scramble to find a substitute football team after one of the original selections backed out at the last minute.

But that was 2020 and 2021.

Although we’re all celebrating the brand new year of 2023, it was last year that changed everything.

In 2022, let’s just say the slow return to normalcy was appreciated by everybody – especially those on the local Sun Bowl committee.

The Covid virus caused both the 2020 Sun Bowl WestStar Don Haskins basketball tournament and the Tony the Tiger Sun Bowl game to be cancelled.

In 2021, with the threat of Covid still looming, the University of Miami decided not to come to El Paso at the last minute, forcing the Sun Bowl to look for a substitute team.

Fortunately, Central Michigan’s bowl game in Tucson was cancelled and they

stepped in to save the day. In fact, Central Michigan upset Washington State 24-21 in the annual game.

All Sun Bowl Executive Director Bernie Olivas asked for this year was a little normalcy – well, he got that and a lot more.

Not only did both events go off without a hitch, both produced fantastic finishes that left the fans holding their breath.

This year’s WestStar basketball tournament was a little different because it included New Mexico State. Don’t forget that the Miners and Aggies already play each other twice every year so there was a possibility that these rivals could have met for a third time.

But that didn’t happen. The Aggies lost to Kent State in their opening round game and the Miners defeated North Carolina A&T.

I know most El Pasoans don’t know much about Kent St., but they have a very good basketball program. To prove it, they were ranked 30th in the nation going into the tournament.

It was a great championship game and over 5,000 fans watched this matchup go

all the way down to the wire.

Sadly for the locals, trailing by a point with just a few seconds left, UTEP’s Shamar Givance drove the lane for a potential winning layup, but it was blocked by one of the Kent St. big guys and the Miners suffered a 47-46 heartbreaker.

In a back-and-forth game that saw 17 lead changes, the Sun Bowl committee could not have been happier with the exciting championship game. Well, maybe only if the Miners had won.

A week later it was time for the Tony the Tiger Sun Bowl.

We fans sit and wait for the game to be aired by CBS, but the Sun Bowl Committee worries about things like any Covid flare-ups, the multitude of flight cancellations all over the country, and how the El Paso weather is going to be on the day of the game.

As it turned out, nothing got in the way of UCLA and Pitt arriving in El Paso on time and getting ready for the 89th version of the big game.

One worry surrounding the game was the matchup. Pitt had won four games in a row, but their starting quarterback

transferred after the season and their star running back declared for the NFL draft so neither was going to play in the game.

In fact, Pitt had eight starters who weren’t going to participate in the game for one reason or another.

UCLA was ranked 18th in the nation and their star quarterback, Dorian Thompson-Robinson, did play.

It was beginning to look like we might have a boring wipeout in the Sun Bowl.

And after UCLA took a 28-14 lead in the third quarter, it was beginning to look like that would be the case.

But Pitt rallied for a winning field goal with four seconds left in the game to give the Panthers an amazing 37-35 upset victory. It was easily one of the best Sun Bowl games ever.

The fans were happy, CBS was happy, and most importantly, the hard-working people at the Sun Bowl Association were happy.

And maybe, if things are totally back to normal for the Sun Bowl, things could be back to normal for the rest of us.

Here’s to 2023 – and better things to come.

Pipes

From Page 1

a broken half-inch water pipe could spill as much as 50 gallons per minute depending on the size of the break. Depending on the extent of the damage, fixing a burst water pipe can cost anywhere from \$400 to more than \$2,000. Thankfully, most winter emergencies can be prevented with a little preparation.

Here are some quick tips to avoid damages to your property:

- Insulate exposed pipes and faucets outside and around your home, including those in unheated areas like garages or crawl-spaces, and disconnect garden hoses from outdoor faucets.

- In severe cold only, let cold water drip from faucets served by exposed pipes. Running a drip of water through the pipes helps prevent freezing.
- If you are taking a vacation or will be away for several days, maintain temperatures inside the home and open sink cabinet doors so warm air can reach pipes to prevent freezing, or turn off your water at the meter, and/or ask someone to monitor your home in your absence.
- If your pipes do freeze:
 - Locate your water meter and shut off the water immediately to avoid further damage and water waste. Don’t attempt to thaw pipes without turning off the main shut-off valve.
 - Thaw pipes with warm air.

Melt the frozen water in the pipe by warming the air around it. Be sure not to leave space heaters unattended and avoid the use of kerosene heaters or open flames.

- Be careful turning the water back on. Once pipes are thawed, slowly turn the water back on and check pipes and joints for any cracks or leaks that might have been caused by freezing.

Remember, property owners are responsible for water pipes that start at the meter and run throughout their property. If you experience a broken pipe on your property, you may qualify for the leak adjustment program – available to customers once every two years. Customers can get a partial credit on their bill if they show proof of repairs for a leak.



Super Crossword

PUTTING IN OVERTIME ACROSS

1 Many musical melanges

8 Modular homes

15 Two-time Washington senator

20 Airplane flier

21 Cannes area

22 Relaxes

23 Wife of Henry VIII who was always mimicking people?

25 One of five womb-mates

26 Cookout pest

27 Photo _ (PR events)

28 Ripen

30 Suffix with govern

33 Computer game family

35 Guy who directs films in a very mechanical manner?

38 Bashful

39 Intensely cold

40 "Falstaff" and "Fidelio"

42 Madrid cheer

43 King Arthur's chauffeur?

46 Pro song selectors

47 Giant bird of lore

50 Rock concert gear

51 Dog command

52 Python's kin

53 Je ne sais _

54 War general

George

57Apportion something erroneously?

62 Glam rocker Brian

63 XI less IV

65 Actress Esther

66 Young girl

67 What Archie Bunker said when a discriminatory comment got him in trouble?

73 Up until now

75 Stood up

76 Auditing gp.

77 Year, in Rio de Janeiro

80 Walk around with a voting slip?

85 Einstein's language

87 War deity

88 Reel go-with

89 Singer India_

91 Omar of "Juice"

92 Mao _tung

93 Coll. dorm monitors

94 High rubber footwear item worn while catching crustaceans?

99 Jan. preceder

100 Food scarcity

101 High no. for a valedictorian

102 Suffix with pay

103 Wine with a childproof lock on its bottle?

107 Get really wet

108 Knight's title

109 Primitive

calculators

110 Valuable strike

112 Parlay, say

114 One staring

115 Actress Brigitte who lives in Stratford?

123 Didn't dine out

124 Subscription extension

125 High-fat fruit

126 Hatchlings' hangouts

127 In the optimal case

128 Made a duplicate of, in a way

DOWN

1 Buddy

2 Gardner or DuVernay of the screen

3 Dog command

4 "Funny!"

5 Ladle, for one

6 Colonnaded

entrance

7 _ Lanka

8 Get set, for short

9 Splits

10 Actress Mendes

11 Pine relative

12 _ Lingus

13 Fizzy stomach settlers

14 Occupied, as a booth

15 Films with a "II" appended

16 "House" actor

Hugh

17 Chinese, e.g.

18 AI _ (pasta order)

19 Aromatic compound

24 Rejections

29 "Iliad" figure

30 Bust out of

31 Tribal healer

32 Enjoying the benefits of an effective medication

34 Folklore tale

35 Give gas to

36 Valuable strike

37 Gin mill

40 Hershiser of the diamond

41 Tylenol unit

44 Part of i.e.

45 Drug bust gp.

46 Scale starter

47 Liquid carpet cleaners

48 _ and aahs

49 Dot on a map

52 Nut go-with

53 Conk out

55 Female organ

56 Diarist Anais

58 Balcony window

59 Dress smartly, with "out"

60 "Alice" spinoff

61 Tickle

64 Popular potatoes

68 Acoustic pair

69 TV horse of the 60s

70 Age-revealing stat

71 Troop gp.

72 Pt. of NOW

73 Sing jazzily

74 Boat movers

78 Port of Italia

79 GM assistance system

81 Actor Morgan and singer Chapman

82 Been abed

83 "It's either you _"

84 Bit of advice

86 Yank's foe

90 Name in frozen waffles

93 See 119-Down

94 _ Remo

95 Med. plan

96 Household dye brand

97 In heaven, say

98 Go toward

99 Subterfuge

100 Did some angling

103 "Cosmos" author Carl

104 Drop off

105 Unsettles

106 _ dish

107 _pitch

110 Using speech

111 In a lazy way

113 Tortilla snack

116 Ethyl ending

117 TV's Arthur

118 Piercing tool

119 With 93-Down, many mid-April mailings

120 Preventive shot, for short

121 Lofty verse

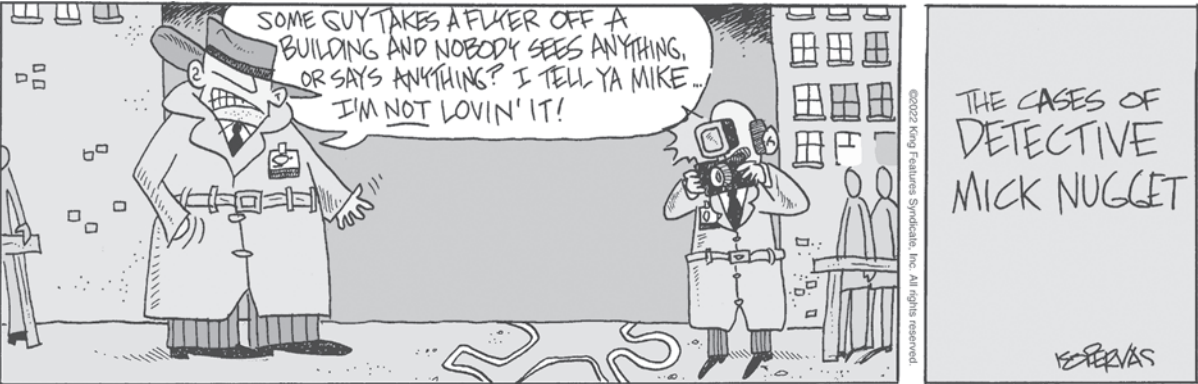
122 Drop off

Answer Page 4

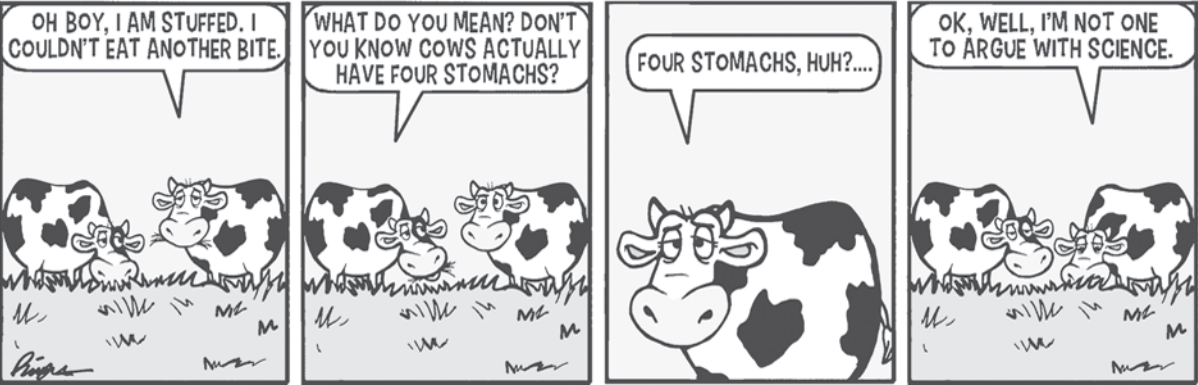
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80							81					82	83	84		85		86			
87							88					89			90			91			
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103	104	105					106							107					108		
109												110	111			112		113			
114								115		116	117	118			119				120	121	122
123								124							125						
126								127							128						

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

with pronouns gaining traction at some liberal-arts colleges; now, it's practically a hate crime. Musk is also a traitor to his class. The tech elite was supposed to be libertarian but in a left-aligned way, maintaining a belief in the profit motive but otherwise moving along in the slipstream of progressive culture.

Musk has refused to do it and is highlighting what is ultimately a clash of values. It's independent-thinking v. the herd mentality; free speech over and above an ideology of "safety"; a tough-minded focus on work and the bottom line in opposition to the priorities of an entitled woke workforce. This is all playing out in the battle for the soul of Twitter, assuming it has one. The platform had become a progressive playpen. Woke writers and

activists expected it to be run according to their worldview and by rules favorable to their interests – for good reason. Not anymore. The fearless, shoot-from-the-hip Musk is, like Trump before him, a barbarian at the gate and a heretic. His takeover of Twitter is like the Vikings sacking the famous English monastery of Wearmouth-Jarrow in the 8th century. Questioning Fauci is like the Albigenians challenging monotheism in the

Ten-year fracture risk determines need for osteoporosis meds

DEAR DR. ROACH: I'm 77 and have been diagnosed with osteoporosis. I'm taking Fosamax and following all the steps recommended for strengthening bones. But I have two questions: First, is it possible to avoid a fracture without taking medication? Second, is it necessary to avoid coffee completely? I am confused about both questions, having read a lot of conflicting information online. I recently finished reading a book that strongly condemned osteoporosis medication, and I have also read that coffee is OK, even good, for bones; though, other sources say it leeches calcium from bones. I would appreciate some clarity on these issues. – J.M.



I have also read dire warnings about osteoporosis drugs, particularly the bisphosphonate class that includes alendronate (Fosamax), but the truth is more complex than it first appears. The most important thing to realize is that every person has their own individual risk of developing an osteoporotic-type fracture. For young, healthy people with strong bones, the risk is very small, but as we age, the risk of fracture increases. Many medical conditions, as well as diet, exercise and some medications, affect the risk of fracture. Whether we are men or women, and even what our ethnicity is, affects fracture risk. The bone mineral density measured by a DEXA scan provides much information, but an accurate fracture risk prediction needs to take a person's whole history into account. Only people at high risk for fracture should be taking a medication like Fosamax.

A standard guideline is that people should be recommended medication therapy if their 10-year risk of a hip fracture is greater than 3%, or their 10-year risk of any kind of major osteoporotic fracture is 20% or higher. If a person's risk is less than these numbers, they may be unnecessarily subjecting themselves to the risk of medication. The FRAX score is a standardized, country-specific way of estimating risk (www.sheffield.ac.uk/FRAX/tool.aspx). If a group of people has a risk of fracture of 20% in the next 10 years, then 80% of them will not have a fracture if they don't take medication. Like treatment for high blood pressure or high cholesterol, medication treatment only helps a small proportion of those who receive it. We don't have the ability to predict with certainty who will have a bad outcome from these conditions, so we recommend treating people when they reach a certain degree of risk.

Treating only higher-risk patients leads to the drug helping a higher proportion of the group, but some people who were not offered medication will develop the bad outcome we're trying to avoid. A person who gets a hip fracture that could have been prevented with medication treatment is a tragedy. In my opinion, a person should know the risks of treatment and the risk of withholding treatment before making a decision. The calcium question is also controversial, but while it is true that caffeine causes the body to lose calcium, if you take in enough calcium through diet, coffee does not seem to increase your risk of a fracture.

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) 2023 North America Synd., Inc. All Rights Reserved.

13th century. Mocking pronouns is like questioning divine-right kingship in the age of absolute monarchies. This is why the fight over Twitter, which is itself not that important – "Twitter is not real life," as the cliché has it – is so heated and bitter. It's ultimately over whether progressive ideology will maintain its default status in elite precincts of America, and whether a high-profile dissenter can survive and thrive.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review. (c) 2023 by King Features Synd., Inc.



Moore Texas by Roger Moore
January 3, 1959: Alaska is admitted to the United States. Texas is no longer the biggest state.

CryptoQuip

This is a simple substitution cipher in which each letter used stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Solution is accomplished by trial and error.

Clue: **W** equals **L**

KH E FYXC YJ COBCB AYTJ
UPABKXEW HKCROBB WOZOW,
K JOXQYR PO KB WYYQKRS
EC CPO ZKSYJ UKXCTJO.

Answer Page 4

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging

Answer Page 4

♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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Dirty water flows downhill



by Freddy Groves

It’s not enough that I spent part of my childhood on a base that ended up as a Superfund site. This week I discovered that my current town, where I’ve lived for many years, has water contaminated by chemicals from the nearby now-defunct base.

The base, a mere few miles from my home, was declared a Superfund site in the 1980s due to the firefighting foams that contained two different perfluorinated alkylated substances (PFAS), specifically perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS), both deadly “forever chemicals.” Three years later responsibilities were established for who would deal with the mess, and the base was eventually closed due to BRAC (base realignment and closure).

The base was repeatedly cleaned and tested over the

years, with acres paved over to contain the worst of the contaminated ground that they couldn’t dig up. Changes were made in how the water was treated as time went on, but chemicals were still found in the water. In some areas, a landfill cap was put in place; in others, there was removal of more soil; and in some areas there was cleanup and ongoing monitoring. Eventually those in authority considered the whole matter done and dusted.

Now we learn that the original PFAS chemicals at the base may be contaminating the aquifer – where we get our drinking water. Hidden away under their dirt cap, those chemicals appear to have migrated downhill. Tests done last year show that the level of chemicals was double what the state recommends, and one well was taken offline. New monitors were installed. Now, however, a recent test showed extremely high readings, higher than ever, with suspicion that closing that first well was driving the chemicals to the remaining wells where we get our drinking water.

The lesson here is this: If you live near a base that was deemed a Superfund site, and if remediation was done and the site declared to be clean, that does not mean problems won’t come back in the future.

Water does, after all, flow downhill.

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• Set up a phone call between kids and grandparents a week or so before visiting. They can talk about what the kids might like to do. It gives the grandparents time to prepare, and it gives kids a chance to build excitement before the trip. – G.R. in Ohio

• Clean and disinfect a wood cutting board with salt and lemon juice. Sprinkle the board with a healthy dose of plain salt (kosher or coarse salt works best), and scrub it with a cut half of a lemon. Rinse and clean with soap and water.

• Hairspray spritzed on the end of a thread will stiffen it long enough to get it through a needle head. You also can thread your needle in front of a surface that’s an opposing color (i.e. a white piece of paper while threading a needle with black thread).

• When shopping for seamless bras, bring a T-shirt that is relatively tight-fitting to wear over the bras. You will know right away if there are seam lines or if the cup is too small. These sometimes get overlooked when a bra is worn under a looser shirt. – E.D. in Ontario, Canada

• Another use for baking soda: It’s a perfect exfoliator. It’s good for the whole body and is pH neutral, so it won’t overdry skin. To use it, just make a paste and rub onto skin. Rinse and enjoy the softness.

• Cold and flu got you down? Once you clear those symptoms, try gargling with saltwater. It reduces inflammation in your throat and washes away irritants and bacteria.

Send your tips to Now Here’s a Tip, 628 Virginia Drive, Orlando, FL 32803. (c) 2023 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

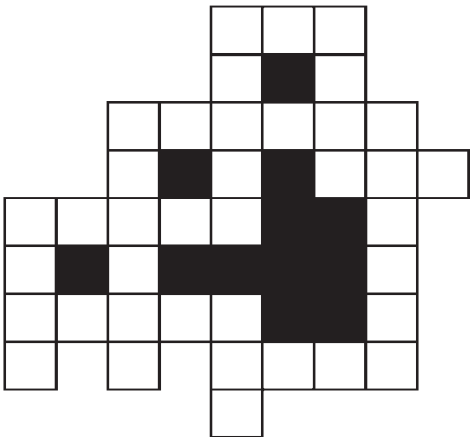
	+		×		17
÷		÷		+	
	×		+		14
×		×		×	
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14		18		12	

1 2 3 4 4 6 7 8 9

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GLO
IGSECT
DAVIL
♥RYWA
DOLYOG
♥ADW
VEAG
♥NORSA
GEA
EVOCYN
♥RWNGO
♥ELVI



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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