



NEWSBRIEFS

Retirement states

With 25% of all nonretired adults having no retirement savings, the personal-finance website WalletHub has released its report on 2023's *Best States to Retire*, as well as expert commentary. To help retirees find a safe, enjoyable and wallet-friendly place to call home, WalletHub compared the 50 states across 47 key metrics. Our analysis examines affordability, health-related factors and overall quality of life. Texas was rated 39th in the report, ranking (1-Best; 25-Avg.):

- 16th – Adjusted Cost of Living;
- 9th – Annual Cost of In-Home Services;
- 40th – WalletHub ‘Taxpayer’ Ranking;
- 47th – Elderly-Friendly Labor Market;
- 48th – Percentage of Population Aged 65 & Older;
- 37th – Property-Crime Rate;
- 27th – Life Expectancy;
- 45th – Health-Care Facilities per Capita; and
- 30th – Percentage of Residents 12+ Who Are Fully Vaccinated Against COVID-19

Visit <https://wallethub.com/edu/best-and-worst-states-to-retire/18592> for the full report.

– Diana Polk

Pied Piper wanted

Rats are overwhelming New York City in the end days of the covid pandemic. It's gotten so bad that the mayor has posted a want ad for the city's own Pied Piper – someone who can lure rats to their death with or without a magic flute. It is estimated that the rat population has grown to as many as 35 million since the start of the covid pandemic. New York's Director of Rodent Migration will need “the drive, determination and killer instinct needed to fight the real enemy – New York City's relentless rat population,” according to the city's want ad.

– John Grimaldi

Lucky man

This poor guy in Windham, NH got lucky. Kevin Butler accidentally tossed his wife's wedding rings out with the trash. No sooner did the garbage truck leave, he found his wife searching for a paper napkin

See BRIEFS, Page 6

Just think how speechless some politicians would be if they didn't say nasty things about each other.

– Quips & Quotes



– Photos courtesy National Park Service

EXPANSION – Big Bend National Park's anticipated nearly 4,000-acre land addition will be open to explorers who want a discovery experience. The soon-to-be donated land project is under the auspices of the Big Bend Conservancy nonprofit organization.

Big Bend National Park adventurers will soon have more country to explore

By Alfredo Vasquez
Special to the Courier

West Texas – The more than 800,000-acre Big Bend National Park is about to grow by nearly 4,000 acres, thanks to the efforts of the West Texas group known as the Big Bend Conservancy (BBC). This nonprofit organization, which advocates on behalf of Big Bend National Park and acts as the park's designated philanthropic partner, is expecting to close on a 3,815-acre land sale west of the park this year.

Once the sale is finalized, BBC plans to donate the land to the park. The anticipated land transfer is the first part of the group's strategy to expand the park's boundary. Loren Riemer, executive director and CEO of the Big Bend Conservancy, stated recently that compared to Big Bend's current vastness, the donated parcel may not seem like much, but the conservancy believes the area is important to conserve for its natural features and proximity to the existing national park.

The sale has been in the works for a few years, but necessary funds for the purchase of the property, totaling \$780,000, have now been raised by the conservancy, and the land is currently being surveyed before the final sale goes through sometime this year, Riemer stated in a recent local newspaper article.

The land is being sold by the Fulcher family, who wished to conserve the property for future generations. Because the national park is unable to purchase land outside of its federal boundary, the conservancy is serving as the middleman in the land transfer.

Furthermore, in order to facilitate the absorption of the land, federal legislation will have to be passed to alter the park's boundaries. To that end, park officials and the conservancy group have been working, previously with former U.S. Congressman Will Hurd, and now with the office of U.S. Congressman Tony Gonzales towards the passage of such a bill.

“I can't say enough about the Fulcher family and their commitment to ensuring that this space became indefinitely preserved, because there's so many development opportunities in the area. They very easily could have handed over the land to any number of developers,” Riemer acknowledged.

The acquisition of the Fulcher property

is the first phase in the conservancy's ultimate goal to expand the park's federal boundary by at least 6,000 total acres including Fulcher's donated property, as the parcel of land to be donated to the park is not a continuous plot.

Riemer said that the conservancy is in ongoing conversations with some of the other surrounding landowners to potentially purchase their plots as well. Land that Riemer points out is currently unoccupied. And she stated that no land will be taken through eminent domain.

“All of the precious resources included in that space, I think, create a very important addition to the park,” said Reimer. “Especially being on that western

See BIG BEND, Page 4



ARE WE THERE YET? – A sign marks one of the entrances to Big Bend National Park.

‘Yellowstone’ is not a show about race

Long after it has run its course on TV, the show *Yellowstone* will provide fodder for countless Ph.D. candidates in whiteness studies.

In certain precincts, the verdict about the smash hit that has spawned a cottage industry of spin-offs is in: The show is about whiteness, and particularly white grievance.

In a recent podcast about *Yellowstone*, Sam Sanders of *New York Magazine* said, “Kevin Costner sets up the imagery of conservative white grievance without any of the negative baggage.”

His interviewee, *New York Times* critic Tressie McMillan Cottom, added that the context is a “show in post-Trump America, the political backdrop of white grievance and white reclamation that we are undergoing, trying to claw back to a sort of mythical 40, 50 years ago, when our systems worked better for white Americans than they did for non-white Americans.”

Got that?

Another piece at *New York Magazine* a couple of years ago observed that the show advances “a desperate and threatened appeal to American identity and white masculinity.”

The debate over *Yellowstone* isn’t new; the show is in

its fifth season, and after a brief hiatus, the latest episode drops on January 8. But the debate matters. As the most popular scripted show on cable TV, it is a significant cultural phenomenon.

So, is the hostile and racially reductive critique of the show accurate?

It is certainly true that the protagonist (and anti-hero of the show), John Dutton, is white. The family patriarch and owner of the Rhode Island-sized *Yellowstone* ranch in Montana, Dutton fights off hostile forces threatening his land-empire through political subterfuge and murder – you know, the way all white people do.

That you can’t help but sympathize with Dutton, despite his loathsome methods, is a count against the show, although too much shouldn’t be made of this.

Dutton has charisma on his side – he’s played by big-time star Kevin Costner, who looks like the Marlboro Man and sounds like Clint Eastwood.

Taylor Sheridan, the show’s creator, has been at pains to deny *Yellowstone* is a conservative show.

About this, he is correct. It has no sympathy for capitalists, corporations or economic development. But it is decidedly populist – and right-leaning populist – in

its disdain for these things. By skewering assorted coastal elites while taking an unsentimental view of Native Americans, it steadfastly refuses to bend to contemporary progressive pieties.

In its appreciation for land, place, family and tradition, the show channels Wendell Berry via the ethos of the Wyatt Earp vendetta ride.

There’s nothing particularly “white” about this. Protecting and valuing what’s yours is a universal American, nay, human, quality.

Then, there’s the notion that the land is somehow “white” because the white man stole it from the American Indians. The show doesn’t have any problem acknowledging Native American claims. The chairman of the local tribe, Thomas Rainwater, has a vision of buying back all the land with the profits from a casino project.

Kathryn VanArendonk of *New York Magazine* maintains



See LOWRY, Page 7

View from here

By Jane M. Orient, M.D.

Damar Hamlin matters to you

Millions of people saw Buffalo Bills player Damar Hamlin collapse on the football field on January 2. He was tackled, fell down, and at first stood up. Even to aficionados of the game, this looked no different from what usually happens throughout the game. But then his heart stopped, and he collapsed. At this moment, he is reportedly in critical condition despite vigorous CPR on the field. In all likelihood, his promising career is over.

There is an outpouring of sympathy for this young man and his family, suddenly struck by a terrible tragedy. And also a flood of social media posts from both

sides of the political narrative¹: it must have been the COVID shot, or the “safe and effective” COVID shot had nothing to do with it.

People are learning from well-polished presentations about *commotio cordis*, an extremely rare event. A sudden impact to the chest throws the heart into a fatal rhythm disturbance. Classically, it occurs in young boys not wearing protective gear who get hit in the chest with a baseball or similar projectile traveling around 40 mph—not in older, well-protected football players. Still, Hamlin did get hit in the chest.

By now, people have noticed that a lot of athletes have been

collapsing on the field, and a high percentage of them die. Many are not even engaged in contact sports. Sudden death when engaged in strenuous activity that triggers a surge of adrenalin is not new. Certain congenital heart conditions, such as hypertrophic obstructive cardiomyopathy, predispose to it, and aspiring athletes should be carefully screened for this. There are also several possibilities for which screening is not ordinarily done.

Is sudden death occurring more commonly, or is it just getting more attention?

One may also ask whether it is more common in persons who have had COVID shots. This is extremely hard to answer when almost all have gotten the shot

because they are not allowed to play if they haven’t. Strenuous exertion in persons who get the shot or the placebo was not part of the clinical trials.

Myocarditis (inflammation of the heart)² has been recognized as an adverse side effect. It is said to be “rare and mild.” We do not know how many asymptomatic cases might be causing scarring in the heart that might predispose to rhythm problems—we don’t screen for it.

While people are genuinely sympathetic to Hamlin, they are also probably asking: what about me, or my husband, son, or brother? Or the NFL might be wondering what about the future of football? Or of the organizations that have mandated the shots? Are they protected from liability, as the manufacturers are? Under federal

law, the shots are supposed to be voluntary, with informed consent about possible adverse effects.

And what should we do now? Hamlin’s family deserves a diagnosis. Everybody wishes him full recovery, but if he tragically dies, he should have a forensic autopsy, looking for inflammation in the heart muscle and preserving tissue for tests such as immunohistologic staining that might become available later.

What about the other players? There should be automatic external defibrillators (AEDs) immediately available on the field. If we were serious about avoiding future tragedies in case the COVID shots just might play a role, one might consider the following:

Suspend further injections until damage from the shots can be ruled out (some countries such as Denmark do not recommend compulsory shots in young men).

Sideline players for two weeks if they do get an injection.

Perform cardiac MRIs looking for scars in all players.

Demand a study that screens³ a large population of vaccine recipients with cardiac enzymes (troponins), ultrasound, and MRI to check for inflammation.

Which, after all, is more important: the hearts of our people, or the profits of the vaccine purveyors? Instead of guessing, or siding with one narrative or the other, let’s get an answer to the question with objective study, using our most sophisticated diagnostic tools.

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

1 – <https://neutralresearcher.substack.com/p/power-of->

See MATTERS, Page 5

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Years
2023

WEST TEXAS COUNTY
COURIER

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San Elizario Independent School District Public Notice of Meeting

San Elizario Independent School District will hold a public hearing to discuss the District’s 2021-2022 Texas Academic Performance Report (TAPR). The meeting will be held at 4:30 P.M. on Wednesday, February 8, 2023 in the San Elizario ISD Central Office Board Room, 1050 Chicken Ranch Rd., San Elizario, Texas, 79849.

The public is invited to attend. For more information, call (915) 872-3900.

Junta Pública

Distrito escolar independiente de San Elizario celebrará una audiencia pública para discutir el informe de rendimiento académico 2021-2022 Texas del distrito (TAPR). La reunión se celebrará a las 4:30 p.m. el miércoles, 8 de febrero de 2023 en la sala de juntas de San Elizario ISD, 1050 Chicken Ranch Rd., San Elizario, Texas, 79849.

El público está invitado a asistir. Para obtener más información, llame al (915) 872-3900.

WTCC: 01-26-23



Noe Robles

Robles new AHS head varsity football coach

By Celeste Reyes
Special to the Courier

EL PASO COUNTY – Americas High School announced Noe Robles as the new head varsity football coach and athletic coordinator Jan. 13 in the school’s main gym. Blazer Nation welcomed the new coach with fanfare

See ROBLES, Page 4

Town of Anthony, TX Public Notice

The Town of Anthony, TX will conduct an election on May 6, 2023 for the purpose of electing the positions Mayor; and two (2) Alderman for Place One and Place Two for full two (2) year terms.

Qualified persons may apply for this position on the Town of Anthony, TX ballot through February 17, 2023 in person at Town Hall, 401 Wildcat Dr., Anthony, TX 79821, Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.; or by email to Town Clerk Valerie M. Armendariz at varmendariz@townofanthony.org; or by mail at Town of Anthony, PO Box 1269, Anthony, TX 79821.

El Pueblo de Anthony Texas llevara acabo una eleccion general el dia 6 de Mayo, 2023 con el proposito de elegir a los siguientes funcionarios. Alcalde; y Miembros del concilio por posiciones uno y dos por dos (2) años de plazo por cada posicion.

Candidatos interesados en aplicar en El Pueblo de Anthony, TX tienen asta el Febrero 17, 2023 para someter su aplicacion en persona en el Town Hall ubicado en 401 Wildcat Dr. Anthony, Tx 79821 de Lunes a Viernes de 8 a.m. a 4 p.m.; o por correo electrónico a la Secretaria Municipal en Valerie M. Armendariz at varmendariz@townofanthony.org; o mandar por correo al Town of Anthony PO Box 1269 Anthony, Tx 79821.

Valerie M. Armendariz
Town Clerk

Date Published
January 26, 2023

San Elizario Independent School District Public Notice

Deadline Extended NOTICE OF VACANCY ON THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Notice is hereby given that Trustee Place No. 1, an unexpired term, is vacant. All registered voters who are residents of the School District and who are interested in becoming a member of the Board of Trustees should pick up a packet of information in the Superintendent’s Office at 1050 Chicken Ranch Road, San Elizario, Texas 79849-0920.

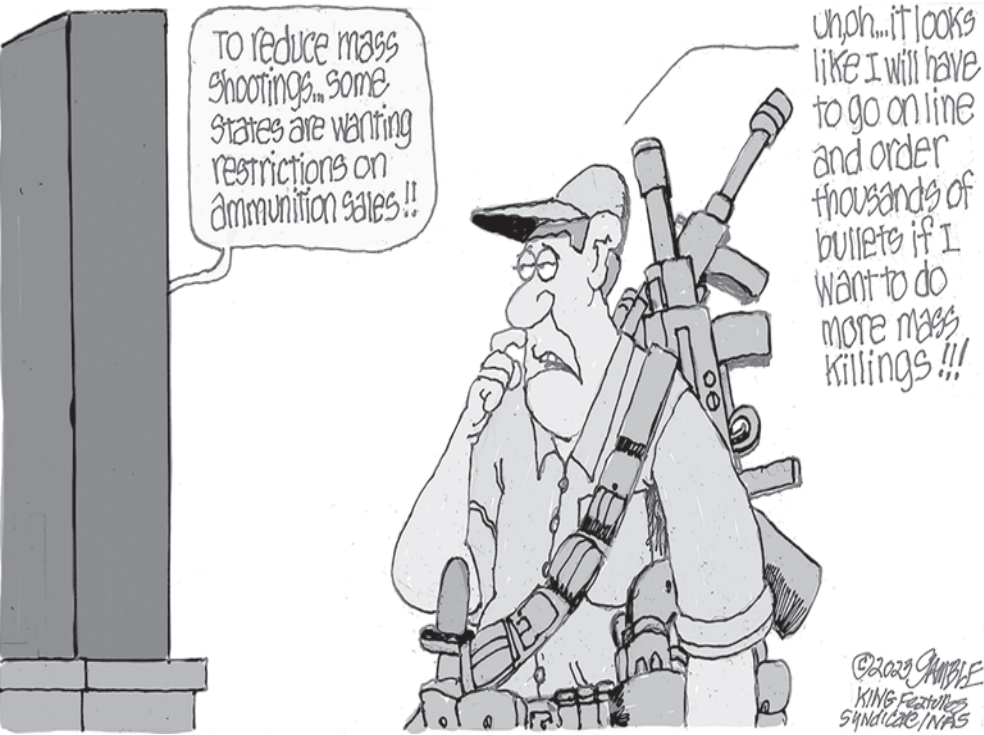
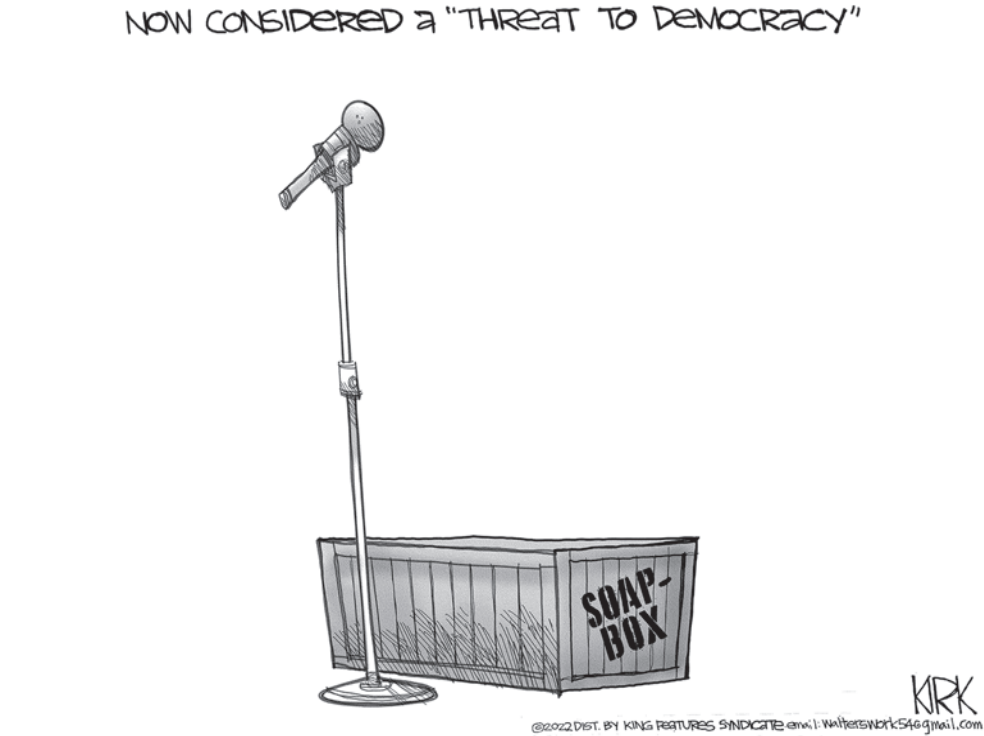
The packet must be submitted to the Superintendent’s office by: **Friday, February 3, 2023 at 5:00 p.m.** The School District reserves the right to waive any formalities or extend the deadline for this information.

The Board of Trustees will consider all applicants and reserves the right to conduct interviews of some or all of the applicants before making a decision. The person appointed by the Board to the vacant position shall serve to fill the unexpired term until the election held in May 2025.

For additional information please contact the Superintendent’s office at (915) 872-3900 Ext. 3515.

WTCC: 01-26-23

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Big Bend

From Page 1

boundary, where you see ever increasing development on that Terlingua Study Butte side.”

The upcoming purchase and eventual land transfer will be BBC’s first major acquisition project since its inception in 1996. Riemer said that both foundation and individual donors came together to make

the purchase happen.

“Working in partnership with the park to ensure we’re conserving this ecologically critical parcel of land for generations to come, protecting them from future development or degradation, I think really speaks to our mission as an organization,” Riemer asserted.

The property, which sits at the confluence of Rough Run and Terlingua Creek, was used briefly for ranching many, many years

ago, and contains one minimally maintained county road, but for the most part is inaccessible, according to park officials.

Park officials noted that in addition to containing significant areas that separate waters flowing to different streams or creeks and land located near the river, the donated property and the other sought after acreage are also home to valuable paleontological resources and historic sites including ruins, farmlands,

cemeteries, a schoolhouse and more.

Riemer said that a potential cottonwood restoration project might be a good fit for the site. Birds including gray hawks and yellow-billed cuckoos currently reside on the property, as does an endangered minnow. “For us it’s a very ecologically critical piece of land,” Reimer stated.

Park Superintendent Bob Krumenaker said in the eyes of the park, the additional land will

help further protect important watersheds connected to the park, as well as the significant fossil features found in the area.

“It protects four miles of Terlingua Creek, which is a critical watershed that then flows into the park and into the Rio Grande. Protecting that ecosystem for four more miles is really, really important,” Krumenaker said. “There’s some really significant geologic formations that are known to contain paleontological resources – in other words, fossils – and the park boundary currently runs right through that geologic formation,” he explained.

Krumenaker said that the park is not currently planning to develop any public trails or infrastructure to the area, and he does not anticipate the location receiving significant visitation. However, he added that once the land becomes a part of the national park, visitors will be welcome to explore the area.

Robles

From Page 3

as the school band played, the cheerleaders performed, and student-athletes filled the bleachers holding up banners excited to welcome the school’s new leader in athletics.

“When you talk about Americas athletics there are a lot of great things already happening because of the student-athletes and the coaches they have here,” Robles said. “So, I intend to keep building on that tradition of excellence.”

Robles, who has been coaching for 20 years, returns to Americas after being a defensive coordinator at Eastlake High School for the last three years.

Throughout his career, he has served in numerous roles including middle school coach, freshman coach, junior varsity coach, and varsity coach.

Prior to Eastlake, Robles worked as the freshman football coach for the Americas Blazer football team.

Robles thanked both Eastlake and Americas athletics for their support, as well as Americas administration, staff and students.

“You are an extension of my family,” Robles said. “Thank you for all your support, without you all I wouldn’t be in the position I am in today.”

Clint Independent School District Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balance Governmental Funds For the Year Ended August 31, 2022					
Data Control Codes		10 General Fund	ESF ESSER III ARP Act	Other Funds	Total Governmental Funds
REVENUES:					
5700	Total Local and Intermediate Sources	\$ 18,559,572	\$ -	\$ 7,058,041	\$ 25,617,613
5800	State Program Revenues	93,286,655	-	8,765,883	102,052,538
5900	Federal Program Revenues	15,073,502	10,017,882	17,761,096	42,852,480
5020	Total Revenues	126,919,729	10,017,882	33,585,020	170,522,631
EXPENDITURES:					
Current:					
0011	Instruction	55,186,596	6,324,351	14,438,094	75,949,041
0012	Instructional Resources and Media Services	1,162,477	29,206	3,691	1,195,374
0013	Curriculum and Instructional Staff Development	2,323,888	1,009,147	2,194,752	5,527,787
0021	Instructional Leadership	2,601,526	409,019	632,704	3,643,249
0023	School Leadership	7,082,701	316,322	18,235	7,417,258
0031	Guidance, Counseling, and Evaluation Services	3,472,422	450,070	1,069,365	4,991,857
0032	Social Work Services	211,856	10,245	-	222,101
0033	Health Services	1,408,825	157,149	155,563	1,721,537
0034	Student (Pupil) Transportation	3,892,153	273,193	-	4,165,346
0035	Food Services	8,657,736	125,501	126,966	8,910,203
0036	Extracurricular Activities	3,865,374	9,028	-	3,874,402
0041	General Administration	3,847,326	112,258	1,847	3,961,431
0051	Facilities Maintenance and Operations	16,200,288	568,709	678,416	17,447,413
0052	Security and Monitoring Services	1,903,020	135,291	185,214	2,223,525
0053	Data Processing Services	3,328,376	51,278	-	3,379,654
0061	Community Services	101,133	37,115	176,909	315,157
Debt Service:					
0071	Principal on Long-Term Liabilities	140,243	-	6,696,953	6,837,196
0072	Interest on Long-Term Liabilities	12,563	-	5,886,027	5,898,590
0073	Bond Issuance Cost and Fees	-	-	6,397	6,397
Capital Outlay:					
0081	Facilities Acquisition and Construction	6,042,774	-	352,583	6,395,357
Intergovernmental:					
0099	Other Intergovernmental Charges	385,312	-	-	385,312
6030	Total Expenditures	121,826,589	10,017,882	32,623,716	164,468,187
1100	Excess (Deficiency) of Revenues Over (Under) Expenditures	5,093,140	-	961,304	6,054,444
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES):					
7915	Transfers In	9,605	-	-	9,605
8911	Transfers Out (Use)	-	-	(9,605)	(9,605)
7080	Total Other Financing Sources (Uses)	9,605	-	(9,605)	-
1200	Net Change in Fund Balances	5,102,745	-	951,699	6,054,444
0100	Fund Balance - September 1 (Beginning)	79,581,543	-	4,734,506	84,316,049
3000	Fund Balance - August 31 (Ending)	\$ 84,684,288	\$ -	\$ 5,686,205	\$ 90,370,493

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CryptoQuip
Answer

Don't you think the dry-erase whiteboard was a really marvelous invention?
It's re-markable.

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×		×		+	
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Strange BUT TRUE

By Lucie Winborne

- Michael Buffer has made over \$400 million from his trademark catchphrase, “Let’s get ready to rumble!”
- Martin Van Buren was the first U.S. president to be born an American.
- After the terrorist attacks that destroyed New York City’s Twin Towers, thousands of radio stations across the country received memos from media companies with a list of songs they considered “lyrically questionable” for a grieving nation. The list included The Beatles’ “Lucy in the Sky with Diamonds” and (perhaps unsurprisingly) “Jump,” by Van Halen.
- Bacteria can live longer than four weeks in carpets, as well as other types of flooring, and can instantly transfer those germs to any food that touches them. In other words, forget that famous “five-second rule,” folks!
- Fingers prune in water to give you a better grip.
- In 2017, 70 students drank so much alcohol at a fraternity house party in Maryland that the air inside the house registered .01 on a breathalyzer.
- Woodpeckers are the only animals to make sounds with something other than a part of their bodies. They will drum on a variety of objects to mark their territory, attract mates, locate food, or maybe just exercise or play.
- There’s a town named Hospital, in County Limerick, Ireland, that has no hospital.
- Not that most of us will ever get a chance to consume polar bear liver, but in case someone does offer it, you’re best off refusing. The meal might, and quite unpleasantly so, cost you your life. It contains too much vitamin A for humans to handle.
- During a 1976 strike by Los Angeles medical doctors, the death rate decreased by 18%.
- Monopoly, originally called The Landlord’s Game, was invented by Lizzie Magie to share her views on the dangers of capitalism.

Thought for the Day: “A bad attitude is like a flat tire; if you don’t change it, you won’t go anywhere.”
— Joyce Meyer

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Matters

From Page 2

irregularity?sd=pf
2 – <https://neutralresearcher.substack.com/p/covid-19-postvaccination-myocarditis>
3 – <https://neutralresearcher.substack.com/p/covid-19-postvaccination-myocarditis-688>

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 on a variety of subjects including risk assessment, natural and technological hazards, and ethics. She is the managing editor of the Journal of American Physicians and Surgeons.



Moments in time

THE HISTORY CHANNEL

- On Jan. 23, 1922, a second injection of insulin brought Leonard Thompson, a 14-year-old diabetic, out of his coma at the Toronto General Hospital. An initial dose caused a severe allergic reaction, but after biochemist James Collip worked nearly two weeks to improve and purify the extract, he was rewarded with success and Thompson survived.
- On Jan. 24, 1935, the Gottfried Krueger Brewing Company of Richmond, Virginia, sold the first canned beer, Krueger Cream Ale, to the public. When approached by the American Can Company, Krueger executives were unenthused, but American Can’s offer to install the necessary equipment for free helped seal the deal, to a nearly 100% customer approval rating.
- On Jan. 25, 1533, England’s King Henry VIII secretly married Anne Boleyn. The bride was pregnant with the future Queen Elizabeth I, and the ceremony took place shortly before dawn with just a handful of witnesses present. Its stealthy nature was, of course, due to a lack of papal permission.
- On Jan. 26, 2006, Western Union announced the end of its paper telegram service. The very first telegram had been sent by Samuel Morse, inventor of the Morse Code, to his partner, Alfred Vail, in May 1844. It read simply, “What hath God wrought?”
- On Jan. 27, 1993, French wrestler Andre the Giant (Andre Rene Roussimoff), who stood nearly seven and a half feet and weighed over 500 pounds, died of a heart attack after his father’s funeral. Afflicted with acromegaly, Roussimoff had declined

- potentially life-prolonging medical treatment for fear it might hamper his career.
- On Jan. 28, 1978, TV viewers were treated to their first sight of the mysterious Mr. Roarke and his sidekick, Tattoo, on a tropical beach with the debut episode of “Fantasy Island.” While there were hints that Roarke was immortal or at least centuries old, the real entertainment was in watching guests learn unexpected life lessons or, on occasion, carry out last wishes as they lived their enormously expensive dreams.
- On Jan. 29, 1886, Carl Benz applied for a patent for his “vehicle powered by a gas engine.” His first model, known as the “Benz Patent Motorwagen,” was financed by his wife and business partner Bertha’s dowry, had three wheels, and ran on an internal combustion engine similar to modern automobiles.

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Fabens Independent School District Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balance Governmental Funds For the Year Ended August 31, 2022

Data Control Codes	10				98 Total
	General Fund	ESSER II Fund	ESSER III Fund	Other Funds	Governmental Funds
REVENUES					
5700 Local and Intermediate Sources	\$ 3,157,160	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 817,279	\$ 3,974,439
5800 State Program Revenues	20,894,992	-	-	1,542,976	22,437,968
5900 Federal Program Revenues	2,804,032	1,153,432	4,534,155	3,042,777	11,534,396
5020 Total Revenues	26,856,184	1,153,432	4,534,155	5,403,032	37,946,803
EXPENDITURES					
0011 Instruction	12,356,631	130,435	1,392,529	2,468,823	16,348,418
0012 Instructional Resources & Media Services	185,732	-	1,077,989	14,452	1,278,173
0013 Curriculum & Instructional Staff Development	156,507	13,067	2,513	15,897	187,984
0021 Instructional Leadership	472,293	11,148	213,740	242,050	939,231
0023 School Leadership	1,303,597	-	20,278	44,725	1,368,600
0031 Guidance, Counseling & Evaluation Services	830,304	-	39,663	273,062	1,143,029
0032 Social Work Services	2,364	-	89,491	-	91,855
0033 Health Services	334,034	-	47,457	47,568	429,059
0034 Student Transportation	702,921	-	11,664	-	714,585
0035 Food Services	1,483,213	-	28,149	-	1,511,362
0036 Extracurricular Activities	805,254	-	2,029	-	807,283
0041 General Administration	1,188,641	-	12,673	11,745	1,213,059
0051 Facilities Maintenance and Operations	3,311,077	877,260	33,466	-	4,221,803
0052 Security and Monitoring Services	278,576	121,114	1,499,264	-	1,898,954
0053 Data Processing Services	327,390	-	61,001	-	388,391
0061 Community Services	27,064	408	2,249	77,769	107,490
0071 Debt Service - Principal	42,581	-	-	1,336,000	1,378,581
0072 Debt Service - Interest	7,455	-	-	894,522	901,977
0073 Debt Service - Other	-	-	-	2,890	2,890
0081 Facilities Acquisition and Construction	299,767	-	-	-	299,767
0099 Other Intergovernmental Charges	41,571	-	-	-	41,571
6030 Total Expenditures	24,156,972	1,153,432	4,534,155	5,429,503	35,274,062
1100 Excess (Deficiency) of Revenues Over (Under) Expenditures	2,699,212	-	-	(26,471)	2,672,741
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)					
7915 Transfers In	-	-	-	71,431	71,431
8911 Transfers Out	(71,431)	-	-	-	(71,431)
7080 Total Other Financing Sources (Uses)	(71,431)	-	-	71,431	-
1200 Net Change in Fund Balance	2,627,781	-	-	44,960	2,672,741
0100 Fund Balance - Beginning	10,734,881	-	-	21,309	10,756,190
3000 Fund Balance - Ending	\$ 13,362,662	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 66,269	\$ 13,428,931

Don’t be surprised if the NBA playoffs look different this year

By Steve Escajeda
Special to the Courier

Right in the middle of the NFL playoffs may be a strange time to focus on the NBA, but there’s a strange thing going on in the league.

In case you haven’t noticed, the NBA has already passed the midway point of its regular season and teams are jockeying for playoff positions.

On the east side of the league, the usual suspects are at the top of the standings. The Boston Celtics, Philadelphia 76ers, New Jersey Nets and the Milwaukee Bucks are setting the pace just like everyone expected.

But in the west, it’s a completely different story.

The teams that were expected to dominate things there are the Golden State Warriors, Los Angeles Clippers, Phoenix Suns, Utah Jazz and the Los Angeles Lakers.

But as of last Sunday when I wrote this, none of those teams even had a winning record.

At every hour, England’s Buckingham

Palace experiences what they call the “Changing of the Guard.”

Very simply, this is when one set of guards is replaced by another.

Well there’s been a changing of the guard in the NBA’s Western Conference.

The teams currently at the top of the conference are the Denver Nuggets, Memphis Grizzlies, New Orleans Pelicans, Sacramento Kings and the Dallas Mavericks.

I know, it doesn’t sound quite right.

Oh, on occasion, Denver and Dallas have good seasons, but c’mon, Memphis, New Orleans and Sacramento?

But when you consider the outstanding young talent these teams have, it really shouldn’t be that surprising.

Let’s start with the Nuggets, who only have the player that has won the last two MVP awards.

Nikola Jokic’s 25 points, 11 rebounds and 10 assists a game has him right at the top of the race for a third straight best-guy-in-the-league award, but it’s the return of the often-injured Jamal Murray and his 19 points a game that really makes Denver the favorite in the west.

One of the most exciting teams to watch

in the league are the Memphis Grizzlies, who have the most exciting player in point guard Ja Morant.

Morant is averaging 27 points and eight assists per game. But it’s not the 27 points that grab you, it’s the way he gets those 27 points.

By NBA standards he isn’t very big at 6-foot-3, 170 pounds. But that doesn’t stop him from flying over guys around the basket finishing with spectacular dunks every game.

It’s what he does; everyone knows its coming but nobody can stop it.

Memphis has a very deep bench and six guys scoring in double figures. Don’t be shocked if you see them in the NBA Finals.

I know a pelican doesn’t exactly strike fear in the hearts of anyone, that is, unless it’s from New Orleans.

The Pelicans, who had a losing record last year, have soared to the middle of the playoff chase thanks to players like Zion Williamson (26 points a game), C.J. McCollum (21) and Brandon Ingram (20).

The only problem is that Williamson and Ingram have missed a ton of games

with injuries. How good will this team be when they are at full strength?

The Dallas Mavericks have returned to NBA prominence thanks to the favorite to win this year’s MVP award, Luka Doncic.

Doncic is averaging just under 34 points a game, along with nine rebounds and none assists per outing.

The Mavericks don’t have any other stars on the team, but everyone plays their role nicely, which will make Dallas a real pain in the playoffs.

Last but not least is probably the most surprising team on this list, the Sacramento Kings.

The Kings were just 30-52 a year ago, which was their 16th straight losing season. No team in NBA history has lost as many games as the Kings.

But this year, Sacramento is third in the standings, thanks to players like Domantas Sabonis, De’Aaron Fox, Kevin Huerter, Harrison Barnes and Malik Monk.

I know, not exactly household names, but Fox is scoring 24 points and Sabonis leads the league in rebounding at 12 per game.

Don’t get me wrong, I know there’s still time for Golden State and Phoenix to get their acts together, but it’ll be exciting to see a little new blood in this year’s NBA playoffs.

Senior moment

By Matilda Charles

A heads up at the grocery store

The time has come to study the labels of foods you buy, even if you’ve used those same products for a long time. Not only are manufacturers changing the size of the containers, they’re changing the ingredients. At this point we need to take a very close look at what we’re actually eating.

Changes to the ingredients in products we’ve always trusted might well be blamed on supply chain problems. If a manufacturer can’t easily get one ingredient, they might substitute something else.

But it means that what you assumed you were getting might no longer be true.

If, for example, you have to keep an eye on your sodium levels, you might discover that the amount of salt in a particular food has increased. You might have to adjust how much you eat or look for a different product.

We can no longer grab a dozen eggs and assume all will

be well. If you’re baking, too-small eggs won’t work in your baked goods recipes. You need to open the carton and look at them. If you’re watching your cholesterol, you need to squint and read the fine print on the nutrition panel.

However, a warning: At the beginning of the pandemic, the Food and Drug Administration issued a temporary respite to food manufacturers. To help them keep producing food, the FDA said manufacturers didn’t have to put certain new information on labels when “minor formulation changes” were made to food. The policy, started in January 2020, was intended to remain in effect only for the duration of the Covid pandemic and has been renewed every 90 days. It was to expire January 2023. Since they have to give 60 days notice to end the designation, it’s not likely that it will end until April, if that.

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Briefs

From Page 1

containing the rings. She’d wrapped them in the napkin to dry after cleaning them. Against all odds, Kevin made his way to the dump and told the general services director what had happened. Despite the fact that they would have to search through about 20 tons of trash, Kevin managed to spot his trash bag. They opened it and, luckily, came across the napkin containing his wife’s rings.

– John Grimaldi

Super Crossword

HARD-TO-SEE FEE ACROSS

1 Suddenly blazing star

5 Put stress on

11 Volcano in Sicily

15 Meadow songbird

19 Supreme Norse deity

20 Net-tending player

21 Donahue of TV

22 Genesis garden

23 Very ornate designs of the 1700s

25 Be mindful of

26 Bill with Lincoln

27 Sports site

28 Apr. and Dec.

29 Longtime metal alloy manufacturer

31 M.Sgt., e.g.

33 Friz Freleng's real first name

36 Mean-spirited sort

37 Fill-up sites with star logos

42 Crows

43 Oscar winner

Brody

44 Like a straight line, in brief

45 Work to get

46 Mimicking an angry dog

48 1993 event at Mount Carmel Center

55 Comic actor

Danny

56 Spill the info, with "up"

58 Region

59 Raines of old Hollywood

60 Active person

62 Spring forth

65 Thingamajig

67 "Please help!"

70 Venue of the 2002 Humanitarian Bowl

73 Log chopper

74 Brief summary

76 Sprung forth

77 Trail

79 Prefix with dynamic

80 Henna applier

81 Read hastily

83 Gibbons, e.g.

87 Something Plus

White toothpaste

claims to remove

92 Water, humorously

94 Sports side

95 Potting stuff

97 TV journalist

Chung

98 Mimicked Daffy

Duck

101 A cut from the short loin

105 Playwright Fugard

106 Vocalists

107 Simile middle

108 University in northern California

110 McKellen of "X-Men"

112 Mosul native

117 Aquarium

118 One of 18 on a

golf course

119 They're in eight answers in this puzzle

122 Slushy drink

123 Superior to

124 Works the rudder

125 Dimple site

126 Play roster

127 Joins in matrimony

128 Cherished "Mother"

129 Held on to

DOWN

1 With 11-Down, "Sleepless in Seattle" director

2 Aroma

3 Destructive habit

4 After a while

5 In days past

6 Carl Sagan book

7 Roman censor

8 Blissful

9 Nothing at all

10 One of 18 on a golf course

11 See 1-Down

12 One's wifey

13 Nephew's sister

14 Gucci of fashion

15 Unlike righties

16 Farewells

17 Go back to the way it was

18 Belfry sounds

24 Call off

29 Foo faraw

30 Jeer at

32 Christmas trees,

usually

34 Single-pot meal

35 Verdi heroine

37 Job to do

38 Pulitzer winner

Ferber

39 Diagnostic pic

40 Ran on TV

41 Clothes, colloquially

42 Ewe's call

45 LGA guess

47 Emperor before Galba

49 A la _ (menu words)

50 Hammond instruments

51 Potential plant

52 "Three Sisters" sister

53 Tighten up a muscle

54 Destiny

57 Under wraps

61 Kyoto sash

63 Actress Kelly or Shearer

64 Suffix with prophet

65 Andean llamas

66 Quantity: Abbr.

67 Little quarrel

68 Classic cookie

69 Kosovo native

71 "No" votes

72 Apple device

75 Opening in a parka, say

78 Lacks

80 DeLuise of "Hot

Stuff"

82 Large city in Colombia

84 Window unit

85 Kazan of film

86 Search for

88 Green with Grammys

89 Ill-bred man

90 "Oh, woe _!"

91 Jordanian queen dowager

93 Tile artwork

96 Like some trading

98 Milk-related

99 Cornell University city

100 Gives off light

101 Used a rotary telephone

102 Puts in

103 Big T-shirt size: Abbr.

104 Some chair craftspeople

106 Hot pot spot

109 Movie or play

111 "Zip_-_Doo-Dah"

113 Pebble, e.g.

114 Tennis' Arthur

115 Ear swab

116 " _ that special!"

119 1940s pres.

120 Suffix with Israel

121 Hush-hush govt. gp.

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				
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105								106								107					
108																					
117																					
122																					
126																					

Comix

OUT ON A LIMB

By Gary Kopervas



AMBER WAVES

By Dave T. Phipps



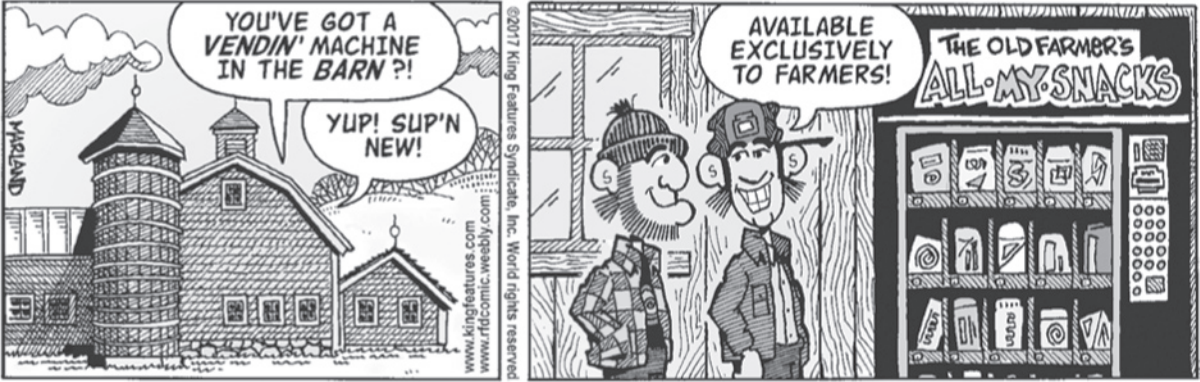
THE SPATS

By Jeff Pickering



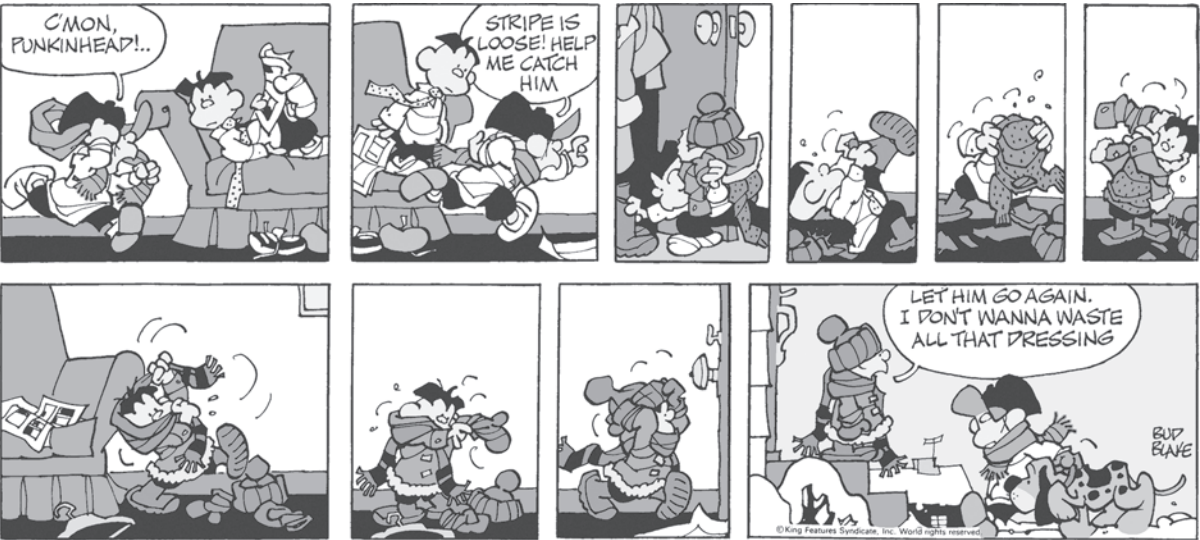
R.F.D.

By Mike Marland



TIGER

By Bud Blake



Lowry

From Page 2

that Rainwater is “an otherness to Dutton’s whiteness.”

Yet, Rainwater is less of an “other” than someone who wants the same thing as Dutton – namely, the land – and who schemes and maneuvers to try to get it.

The true hero of *Yellowstone* is traditional masculinity as reflected in the ideal of the

American cowboy. Of course, there’s an exaggerated emphasis on fisticuffs and violence. But in a show where most people are unhappy, the grace notes tend to come via the bunkhouse, where the ranch hands socialize among themselves, and in honeyed moments of appreciation for the outdoors and for horses.

In a culture that relentlessly boosts college degrees and other credentials, *Yellowstone* at its best is an oasis of a different way

of looking at accomplishment and value.

This aspect of *Yellowstone* must account for a large part of its appeal. The progressive critics who see the show through the prism of “white grievance” are only proving that they, not Taylor Sheridan, are the ones obsessed with race.

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

Immunological therapy is reasonable for lymphoma

DEAR DR. ROACH: I am an 86-year-old woman who was recently diagnosed with stage 3A follicular lymphoma. It was discovered on a CAT scan when I went to the ER for diverticulitis. I have no symptoms. The doctor did a biopsy to confirm, and I had a PET scan as well. I feel good otherwise. I am only on blood pressure and cholesterol medications. My oncologist is recommending low-dose chemotherapy. I am conflicted. At my age, what should I do? – L.H.



There are many types of lymphomas (which are a type of cancer of blood cells), but lymphomas are predominantly in the lymph nodes. Follicular lymphoma is an “indolent” type of lymphoma, meaning it is very slow-growing, but unfortunately often incurable. People with no symptoms from follicular lymphoma and who are stage 1, 2 or 3A tend to have a long time before they have progression of the disease to the point of having symptoms. Depending on other characteristics, that time ranges from three to seven years. Choosing to hold off on treatment is definitely a reasonable option for a person in your situation.

However, your oncologist knows much more about your disease than I do, such as the extent of tumor in the abdomen, the molecular markers of the tumor, and additional blood results. When an oncologist suggests treatment, I would listen carefully.

One treatment that your oncologist might be considering is immunological therapy such as rituximab. Unlike traditional chemotherapy, rituximab alone is pretty nontoxic and can delay the progression of the disease. A large study suggested improvement in the quality of life with rituximab. Usually, rituximab is given once a week for four doses, but some oncologists repeat the four doses every two months.

If I had a patient in your situation, I would say holding off on treatment would be reasonable given your age and lack of symptoms, but a trial of the rituximab (if that is what the oncologist is contemplating) would also be a reasonable choice. If you had serious side effects to the treatment, I would recommend against further doses.

DEAR DR. ROACH: I recently read your column on astaxanthin. The article contained a statement that flabbergasted me. Can you explain the details behind it? You state, “Most astaxanthin sold commercially is synthesized from petroleum products.” What gives? – K.O.K.

Any drug, supplement or chemical you buy is either extracted and purified from a natural source or synthesized in chemical reactions (or some combination of the two).

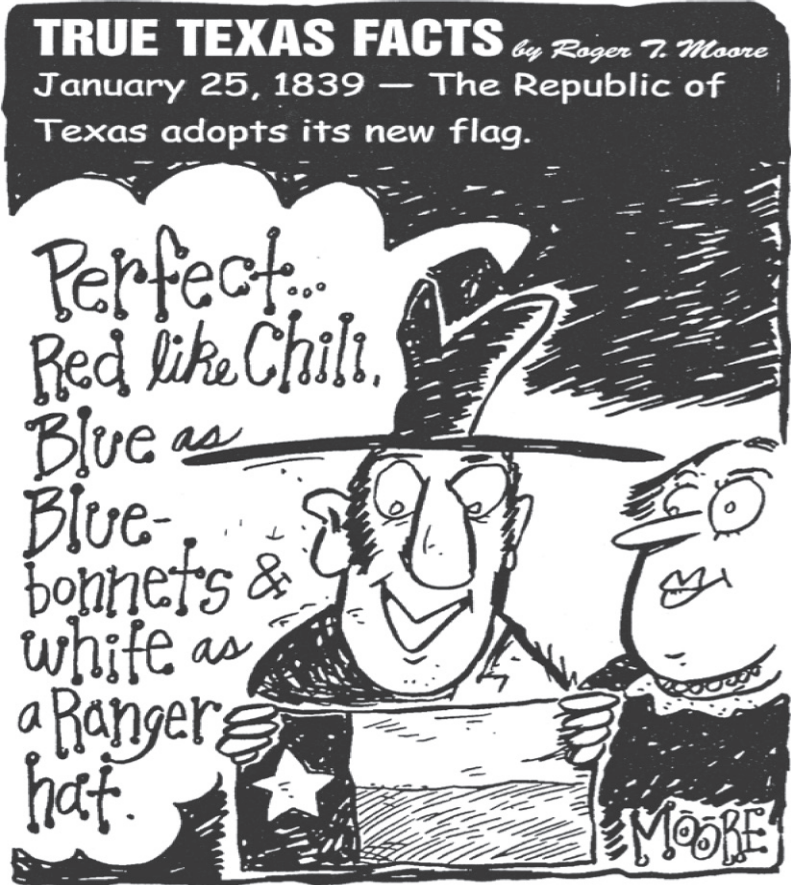
For example, if you buy curcumin from the health food store, the supplement might start off as the roots of the shrub *Curcuma longa* in the ginger family. These are then boiled in water and baking soda and also powdered, making turmeric. Curcumin is purified from turmeric through the use of a solvent like acetone and becomes crystalized to make pure curcumin.

However, curcumin from the health food store might also be synthesized directly from vanillin, which, in turn, is derived from wood pulp or from crude oil. No matter whether the curcumin starts – as turmeric roots from India, as wood pulp, or as oil – the chemical you take is exactly the same, and your body doesn’t know where it’s coming from.

Keep in mind that the manufacturer chooses the least expensive way of getting you what you want.

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.

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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: X equals R

CAL'S VAZ SKPLF SKB CXV-BXMEB
RKPSBOAMXC RME M XBMDDV
NMXJBDAZE PLJBLSPAL?
PS'E XB-NMXFMODB.

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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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VA needs more employees for the PACT Act



by Freddy Groves

PACT is officially up and running as of the first of the year. PACT, aka Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics Act, extends health care and benefits to veterans who were exposed to toxins around the globe and who subsequently became ill with an expanded number of presumptives. The key feature of PACT is that veterans no longer have to fight to prove where their illness came from. It's "presumed" the illness was the result of the toxins in the environment where they served.

Meanwhile, the Department of Veterans Affairs has been on a massive hiring blitz to fill positions in support of the new PACT Act. These positions will be all across the U.S. and Puerto Rico at all 56 regional offices. Not only do they need

people to process the 175,000 claims that have been submitted since August (when the PACT Act was signed into law), but they need the people who give the actual support care.

If you, a spouse, a caregiver, a survivor or family member are interested in signing on for a position, check usajobs.gov and search for "veterans service representative" or "rating veterans service representative."

The first step as part of the big push at the VA is to process the claims for veterans who are terminally ill, something the VA actually started weeks before the official Jan. 1 date. Additionally they will prioritize claims by homeless veterans, those over 85 years of age, those with cancer, those experiencing financial hardship and those who are recipients of a Purple Heart or Medal of Honor.

If you need to learn how to file a claim, go to VA.gov/PACT or call them at 800-MyVA411 (800-698-2411). A caregiver, survivor or family

member can also make the call for the veteran.

To learn more about PACT, go to VA.gov/PACT and read "The PACT Act and your VA benefits."

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• If your straw broom isn't working as well as it did when new, try giving it a spruce-up. Beat any dust out of the ends, then trim off any bent straws. Trim a section from a leg of stretched out pantyhose or tights and wrap it around the bristles, about two inches up from the bottom. This keeps the bristles nice and tight, and it will collect dirt better.

• When you replace old brushes – hairbrushes or toothbrushes – wrap a length of masking tape around the handle. That way you can use them for cleaning purposes, and they will never be mistakenly used for the wrong purpose.

• "When cooking rice, add a little bit of lemon juice to the water. It does not really flavor it, but it will keep it nice and white, plus it seems to be a bit fluffier when I do this." – R.E. in Mississippi

• "When my child was mostly finished potty training, I put her baby potty in the car with some wet wipes and plastic baggies. She had emergencies when we were driving, and it wasn't always convenient to find a bathroom. But it was easy to pull into a parking lot and let her take care of business." – E.E. in Maine

• Store extra plastic grocery bags in empty tissue boxes. They are easy to store this way, and you can keep them under the sink or in the car for easy access.

• "Keep your garage floor nice by lining the area where you park with carpet remnants. Road salt and other nasty business that your tires pick up will not corrode the floor. You can shake out the rugs outside." – C.Y. in New York

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

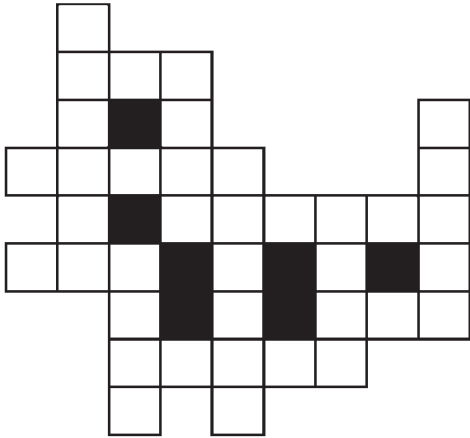
	+		×		27
+		+		×	
	×		-		22
×		×		+	
	-		×		24
25		30		26	

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 8

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ERV
WODELY
♥AVSER
♥OHTS
HORKSE
WYE
♥EVSA
♥RYTSO
♥KAS
TREMYL
♥SATEW
KWRO



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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