



NEWSBRIEFS

How embarrassing

Between 2012 and 2016 the Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration issued hundreds of thousands of license plates bearing a website address – www.starspangled200.org/ – in commemoration of the War of 1812. Some 798,000 autos still have those plates but, in the meantime, the patriotic online link changed hands and now it takes visitors to a Philippines-based Internet gambling site. It’s embarrassing and so MVA techies are scrambling to find a way to resolve the dilemma.

– John Grimaldi

He proved that beer can give you gas

Like many of us these days, inventor Ky Michaelson of Bloomington, MN is fed up with the soaring cost gasoline. So he did something about it; he swapped the gas-powered engine of his motorcycle with a 14-gallon beer keg. A heating coil heats the brew to a temperature of about 300 degrees, superheating it into steam to drive the vehicle. Michaelson claims his new power source allows the bike to reach speeds of up to 150 mph. He told Fox News that “The price of gas is getting up there. I don’t drink. I’m not a drinker, so I can’t think of anything better than to use [beer] for fuel.”

– John Grimaldi

A s-s-scary story

Amber Hall, her daughter and her son lived in their new home in Centennial, CO for just two weeks before realizing that their abode was infested with slimy snakes. Her dogs were first to alert her; they found several slippery serpents slithering in and out of a garage wall. Hall called in pest control experts who, initially, found some 30 of the scary critters. It was of little comfort that they were not poisonous. “The snake wrangler said the snakes he caught look to be about 2 to 3 years old, so he imagines they’ve been here for a long time and there’s a lot more,” as she put it in an interview with KDVR-TV.

– John Grimaldi

By the time many people learn how to play the game of life they are too old to make the team.

– Quips & Quotes

Senate Bill 1 would cut school property tax bills for millions of homeowners

School district taxes make up the largest portion of taxpayers bills

By Alfredo Vasquez
Special to the Courier

TEXAS – School districts throughout Texas are anxiously waiting for state legislators to decide on property taxes. What is the tax rate going to be for fiscal year 2023-24? School officials are planning for next school year now, and not knowing how much funds the state is going to contribute makes the annual budgeting process that much more difficult.

“School district administrators must submit their proposed property tax rate to the Texas Education Agency (TEA) for approval in August. After that, they still have to get it approved by their respective boards of trustees,” said Tony Reza, former chief financial officer for Socorro ISD.

Meanwhile, state lawmakers in the House of Representatives and Senate cannot come to an agreement on how the property tax breaks should be distributed.

Texas State Senator Paul Bettencourt, a Republican from Houston, recently presented details about Senate Bill 1 that compare the Senate and House’s proposed property tax bills. According to Bettencourt, the Senate’s plan would make cuts ranging from 39 percent to 44 percent.

Using the figures provided by Lt. Governor Dan Patrick’s office, the tax rate decreases would affect about 5.7 million Texas homeowners, as well as hold harmless future school districts’ debt monies, according to Bettencourt.

The Senate’s “Two-Step” property tax plan, authored by Bettencourt, passed unanimously out of the Texas Senate with bipartisan support on the first day of the 88th Special Session, with all 30 Senators as co-authors. The current session closed at the end of June. And the governor immediately called for a second special legislative session.

The Texas Senate’s property tax plan includes increasing the homestead exemption permanently to \$100,000, totaling \$5.3 billion and \$12.3 billion worth of “compression” for Texas homeowners.

“The Texas Two-Step, the Senate plan, gives all taxpayers a 21.8 percent tax rate reduction of the Maintenance & Operation (M&O) property tax rate ‘compression’ and a whopping \$100,000 exemption to all homeowners. This would cut 5.72 million Texas homeowners tax bill by a range of 39 percent to 44 percent,” Bettencourt explained.

“It’s an incredible reduction in their tax bill, if the bill is passed by the House, voters could approve it in November, and it will take effect immediately,” the Houston senator stated.



– Photo courtesy Texas Senate

Texas State Senator Paul Bettencourt asserts that Texas homeowners would reap more property tax savings under the Senate Tax Plan.

Under a “compression only” plan, 23.9 percent comes off Texas homestead owners school district tax bills. And the Senate plan has much stronger savings for over-65 and disabled Texas homestead owners, according to the senator.

Furthermore, the Senate plan holds school districts “harmless”, which means the state will cover the costs of school districts’ interest and sinking (I&S) debt payments in addition to their maintenance and operation (M&O) revenue loss, according to Bettencourt.

“School districts across Texas should recognize that the Senate plan allocates approximately \$642 million of this portion of the local tax relief spending, as estimated per the Texas Education Agency (TEA) to help school districts with their bond revenue obligations,” Bettencourt pointed out.

The House version does not include an expansion of the homestead exemption; nonetheless it is backed by the Texas Governor and the business community. House members insist that they wanted to

concentrate more of the savings on homeowners, who make up more than 60 percent of adult Texans. However, both sides did agree that they would be willing to spend some money on what they call property tax compression, which is essentially sending more state money to school districts in exchange for those districts lowering their tax rates.

First elected to the Senate in 2014, Bettencourt succeeded Patrick (now Lt. Governor) in representing Senate District 7, which encompasses most of West Harris County. He previously served 10 years, from 1998 to 2008, as the Harris County Tax Assessor-Collector, where he introduced “Smart Government” at the Harris County Tax Office and developed a customer service-driven organization. His team created the first major county online property tax payment system and the first county tax office website with online vehicle registration in Texas, according to the Senator’s office.

“This Texas ‘Two-Step’ [Senate Bill 1] is great for all Texas taxpayers and has eye-popping savings for Texas homesteads because the state pays for the entire homestead exemption for taxpayers and holds school districts’ harmless. Thus, there is no tax roll redistribution of the Homestead exemption cost as it is specifically paid for,” Bettencourt surmised.

Ultimately, the Texas Governor Greg Abbott has a lot to say as to what becomes law, and recently he declared that the only way a property tax bill gets to his desk is for the House and Senate to agree on a bill, and he encouraged the two chambers to work together towards a mutual solution.

Senate Plan vs House Plan: Property Tax Savings for Homeowners			
	Average Homeowner School Tax Bill (2023)	House Plan (2024)	Senate Plan: Under 65 Homeowners (2024)
Estimated ISD Homestead Tax Bill	\$3,304.89	\$2,513.95	\$2,012.95
Total Homeowner Tax Savings		\$790.94	\$1,291.94
Percent Reduction in ISD Tax Bill		23.9%	39.1%
			Senate Plan: Over 65/Disabled Homeowners (2024)
			\$1,842.59
			\$1,462.30
			44.2%

– Data courtesy Texas State Senator Paul Bettencourt

This chart compares the State Senate’s proposed property tax savings plan with the House of Representatives’ proposed plan.

The tragedy of Russia

On the one hand, events in Russia this past weekend were stunning – the leader of a mercenary group declaring against the country’s military leadership and, for 24 hours, marching on Moscow.

On the other, they were about what you’d expect in a Russia that, across the long centuries of its existence, has never managed to achieve Western standards of self-government.

Everything we need to know about Russia was made clear by its brutish, cynical and incompetent invasion of Ukraine. But the blowback from the invasion in the form Wagner Group leader Yevgeny Prigozhin’s brief armed revolt fills out the picture.

Revolutions, attempted rebellions, assassinations and coups dot the Russian historical landscape. This isn’t unusual in old nations. What makes Russia different is that it is dealing with them to this day.

England had a no-kidding war between the king

and parliament... more than 350 years ago. Boris Yeltsin had a battle with the parliament that resulted in the parliamentary building getting shelled by tanks... in 1993.

If Prigozhin hadn’t turned back, Russian tanks might have been battling in the streets of Moscow once again.

“Getting to Denmark” is the phrase social scientists use for achieving the modern standard of government.

“For people in developing countries,” Francis Fukuyama has written, “Denmark’ is a mythical place that is known to have good political and economic institutions: It is stable, democratic, peaceful, prosperous, inclusive, and has extremely low levels of political corruption. Everyone would like to figure out how to transform Somalia, Haiti, Nigeria, Iraq or Afghanistan into ‘Denmark’.”

Russia has never gotten to Denmark, either, although if it ever succeeded in taking back the Baltics by force, at least it’d be geographically closer.

Russia’s distance from the Western standard is why a country that is a member of the U.N. security council and the G20 and considers itself a great power could have a crisis with a distinct Third World flavor. An ambitious military leader who has a personal following making a bid for power is what we expect in places like Paraguay, Ecuador and Honduras. Except none of them have nuclear warheads; Russia has 6,000 of them.

Establishing a norm of the peaceful transfer



See LOWRY, Page 7

Food for thought By Dr. Glenn Mollette

Is the Titanic worth the risk?

Life is filled with risks.

Perhaps you enjoy sky diving, climbing Mount Everest, or swimming with sharks? Each endeavor involves serious risks.

Nothing would be accomplished on this planet without people willing to venture out into the unknown. Space exploration, medical and educational advances would be stymied without an innate spirit to try new things and to boldly go where no man has gone before. That’s right Star Trek would never have existed without the imagination of Gene Roddenberry.

From Christopher Columbus to the early settlers who forged their way West across America, our world is better. Scientists, engineers, inventors and explorers, who thought

outside the box, regardless of the risk, have paved the way for countless others.

Bad things can happen to all of us even though the risk may not seem great. Automobiles, planes, and trains are in motion every day. They are standards for transportation. Yet, there are still car and plane crashes and train wrecks. Human life is lost every day even in our common modes of transportation.

The people aboard the Titanic in 1912 were riding the most magnificent ship of that era. It was believed by some to be unsinkable. Some of the wealthiest people of that day were on that maiden voyage. Yet, the Titanic was no match for human error and an iceberg. Of the 2240 passengers and crew, more than 1500 people

lost their lives in that disaster. Most of them believed they were on a safe and grand vacation. They were, but tragedy occurred.

Last week a small 22-foot submersible known as the Titan owned by OceanGate of Everett, Washington carried five passengers to their death. The cost per passenger was reportedly \$250,000 each for the trip to see the wreckage of the Titanic.

Experts inside and outside of the company had warned of potential dangers and urged the company to undergo a certification process. Twenty-eight people are reported to have made the trip see the Titanic wreckage last year. Trips have been cancelled and indefinitely postponed due to various issues. There is speculation that the vessel made of carbon fiber was fatigued from previous trips. Tiny cracks not even visible could have existed.

Of course, these people thought they would make it back. They didn’t pay a quarter

of a million dollars to die. They obviously believed they were safe. Even though there had been warnings about the construction of the tiny sub, they moved forward on their adventure.

The best any of us can do is to try to make good decisions and we will still have mishaps. You can’t control what others are doing around you and how their actions might impact you. There is always a chance of mechanical failure and human error. We live with hope that we will be able to recuperate from whatever might happen.

Often “We walk by faith and not by sight.” 2 Corinthians 5:7.

If we don’t live life with some risks, we aren’t living much of a life, if any life at all.



1973

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Years

2023

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View from here By John Grimaldi

Border security is a matter of national security, safety

Mark Lamb, Sheriff of Pinal County, Arizona, is on the front lines of the devastating war with the cartel criminals who are taking advantage of President Biden’s open Mexican border. Mark Morgan, former acting Commissioner of the U.S. Customs and Border Protection, says that what’s happening at our border is not about immigration; it’s about our nation’s

safety and national security. Lamb and Morgan recently joined Rebecca Weber, CEO of the Association of Mature American Citizens, on her *Better For America* podcast for a round table discussion of the perils we face not just at the border but across our country.

Morgan was quick to point out that “it’s the border states, the border communities who receive the brunt of our open border policies right now. But I promise you, the threats that come across our open borders do not stay in border states or border communities. It’s why we say every state is a border state.” For example, he pointed out, the open border allows cartel smugglers to overwhelm the U.S. with deadly fentanyl, which he described as a “weapon of mass destruction”

that has killed hundreds of thousands of Americans over the past two years and that comes in from the southwest border. “It doesn’t stay in El Paso. It doesn’t stay in Yuma. It doesn’t stay in Brownsville. It makes its way to

every town, city and state in this country claiming American lives. I’ll give you one more stat. In the last 27 months we’ve seen 1.5 million known

got-aways – illegal aliens that have come to our southern border and evaded apprehension. Also in the past 27 months, the border patrol apprehended 1500 gang members. Think about how many gang members are among the 1.5 million known got-aways. Think about how many murderers, rapists, pedophiles are among the got-aways. It’s why we say every state is a border state.”

Morgan went on to point out that the numbers of illegal aliens entering the U.S. are “skyrocketing and, at the end of the day, there are two sustained political benefits that this administration gets. One, illegal aliens are counted as part of the census. So there’s a very real redistricting in the favor of the Democrats. The second one is the Democrat Party believes

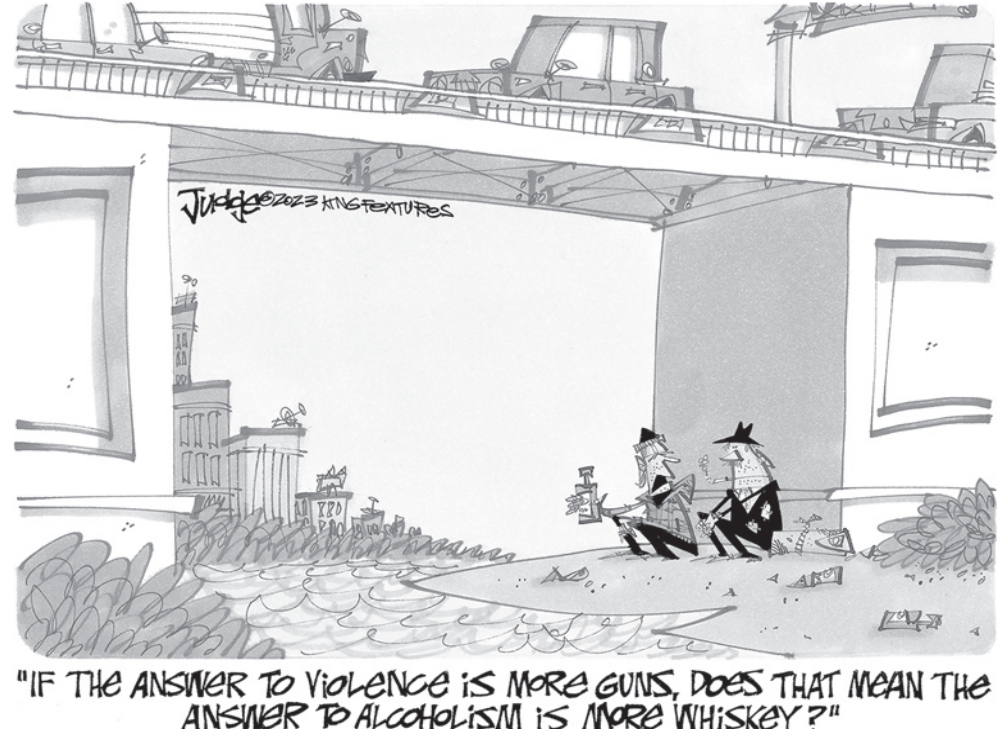
that every single illegal alien who get a pathway to citizenship is going to be a Democratic vote. So at the end of the day, it’s about politics and perpetual power, and they’re jeopardizing our nation’s safety and security because of it.”

As Sheriff Lamb put it, “a couple of years ago, when he was running, this president said he wanted to reinvent America and Mark really nailed a couple of things. Not only are we changing the entire demographic of America by opening the borders. For example, last week alone we had 2800 apprehensions from 57 different countries in Yuma County. If we had ten people in our jail under the Trump administration, they would take eight of those ten people and send them back. Now, if we have ten people in our jail who are being held on an ICE detainer, they’re not taking hardly any of them, if any. Now we’re forced to release these people into our communities, and that’s a big problem. Our ability to maintain and hold people accountable is imperative. What we’re doing is we’re opening the borders, flooding communities like mine with unknown people, with the got-aways, with terrorists, with people that have bad intentions for America. And we’re also creating a pathway for the cartels to take advantage of the good people that are trying to come to this country

by enslaving them, extorting them by putting them in the sex trade. Not to mention the drugs that are flowing into our communities; undermining the rule of law in our communities is one of the key things to changing the dynamic of this country. And that’s what this administration is doing and that’s what open borders does. It undermines the rule of law and changes the face of America.”

Morgan pointed out that the Biden administration has incentivized illegal aliens from 171 different countries to enter the U.S. in the past 27 months and that, in the same period, the CBP [the U. S. Customs and Border Protection] has encountered 6.2 million illegals seeking entry. “What that does is it pulls resources off the front line. In many areas, 80% to 90% of border patrol resources are not on our nation’s front lines, stopping drug dealers, stopping criminals, stopping potential security threats. They’re relegated back to their facilities miles from the border processing and releasing those of the illegally entered. We’ve literally handed operational control to the cartels for them to exploit, to push drugs through our borders to every town, city, and state. [We’re seeing] criminal aliens, including, murderers, rapists,

See BORDER, Page 4





Moments in time

THE HISTORY CHANNEL

- On July 3, 1971, Jim Morrison, lead singer for the rock group The Doors, died in Paris at 27 years old of what was officially listed as heart failure likely due to a heroin overdose, though no autopsy was performed as it was not required under French law.

- On July 4, 1845, American author and philosopher Henry David Thoreau began a two-year experiment in simple living at Walden Pond near Concord, MA, writing that he “went to the wood because I wished to live deliberately.” The resulting book about his experience has been called, among other things, part social experiment and part voyage of spiritual discovery.

- On July 5, 1975, Arthur Ashe became the first Black man to win a Wimbledon singles title after defeating the overwhelming favorite Jimmy Connors, who was then the No. 1 tennis player in the world. Ashe would later say that prior to the match, “I had the strangest feeling that I couldn’t lose.”

- On July 6, 2004, Democratic presidential candidate John Kerry chose Sen. John

Edwards of North Carolina to be his running mate. Edwards was considered by some to provide balance to Kerry's campaign. Others found Edwards to be essentially reliant on smooth speeches and personal charisma. Years later, in his autobiography, Kerry admitted he'd made an unfortunate choice that botched his chance at the White House.

- On July 7, 1865, Maryland tavern owner Mary Surratt became the first woman to be executed by the U.S. federal government, for her alleged complicity in the plot to assassinate Abraham Lincoln. Historians remain divided on the question of her guilt.

• On July 8, 1997, the Mayo Clinic and the U.S. government warned that the diet-drug combination popularly known as fen-phen, originally touted as a “miracle medicine” for weight loss, could cause serious heart and lung damage.

- On July 9, 2011, the northeast African country known as Republic of South Sudan seceded from Sudan, becoming the youngest country in the world. Since that time, however, it has been plagued with widespread ethnic violence and human rights violations.

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Water conservation encouraged

It's summertime in the Chihuahuan Desert, and El Paso is in the grips of a heatwave with temperatures frequently soaring past 100. Before you step outside to water your landscaping, El Paso Water encourages you to make every drop count.

Visit www.epwater.org/conservation to see the many incentives for customers to conserve water resources, which also can translate to savings on your water bill.

- The popular Cash for Your Commode Rebate Program is back and is offered on new toilets labeled with the WaterSense logo that use only 1.28 gallons of water per flush. The rebate amount totals \$50 for up to two toilets per household (\$100 maximum). Rebates will be offered on a first-come, first-served basis until funds are exhausted. Please check the webpage for guidelines

- While supplies last, pick up your free standard-size aerators for kitchen and bathroom sink fixtures, as well as showerheads at the TecH2O Center, 10751 Montana Ave. The center is open from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday through Friday and from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. on Saturdays through July.

- Fix leaks around your home, and the savings will multiply. Consider that 10 drips per minute equals more than 1,000 gallons per year of water loss. Visit our webpage on finding leaks for more tips and information.

• Join one of our many free Gardening Resources Outreach Workshops and Seminars (GROWS) workshops, which can help you reduce your water footprint in the garden. The Tech2O team is partnering with El Paso Master Gardeners to offer them through September. Click for workshop days and times.

- Businesses may apply for EPWater’s WaterWise Rebate Program. Rebates are applied toward the cost of new water-saving equipment and processes that conserve water. Customers must meet criteria and demonstrate water savings potential. [Click to fill out an application.](#)

– John Balliew, P.E.
President/CEO, EPWater

Border

From Page 3

pedophiles, gang members, and potential national security threats [cross the border] every single day, all day long under our open border policies.”

because of this administration's open border policies."

Both Sheriff Lamb, who is running for the U.S. Senate in Arizona, and Morgan said they are calling for the impeachment of Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security Alejandro Mayorkas. As Morgan put it, “this is the first secretary in our lifetime that has come into office and viewed the law as a mere advisory opinion. This is a man who has abdicated his oath, as Sheriff Lamb has said. He has actually enforced and demanded the men and women in his charge to not enforce the law. This is a secretary that has said that being in the country illegally is not enough to remove you. That’s in contravention of the law. This is a secretary that has lied to the American people and he’s lied to Congress under oath.”

Morgan went on to cite the Secure Fence Act of 2006, which directs the Secretary of Homeland Security to prevent unlawful border entry. He maintains that the under the law, “the secretary is required to prevent the entry of all illegal aliens, contraband terrorists or weapons of terrorism. And this secretary said that he has operational control of the southwest border. And it’s an abject lie. We have had, as I said, 1.5 million known got-aways under his leadership. That stat alone shows he’s an abject liar. He’s an abject failure, and he continues to circumvent the law. And it’s why he should be impeached.”

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

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A crossword puzzle grid with black squares and white squares containing letters. The words are: PURL, GET, RISE, LADIES, URBAN, NAPER, TAPER, SISTER, and BIG.

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A	S	S	O	R	T				L	O	S	E	I	T		T	E	A	S

CryptoQuip Answer

Part of an alarm clock
producing the sounds of
folks shooting the breeze:
The schmooze button.

Strange BUT TRUE

By Lucie Winborne

• When Core Design animator Toby Gard wanted to make an interactive movie starring a male character looking for treasure in Egyptian pyramids, the character was deemed too similar to Indiana Jones, so the character was switched to a South American woman named Laura Cruz. Then Core wanted a more U.K.-friendly name, so employees went to the phone book for a new surname. We now know her as Lara Croft.

- In Mexico, the first slice of your birthday cake must be given to the person you love most.

- Florida mom Geraldine Gimblet spent her entire life savings on medical treatment for her daughter's breast cancer... then won \$2 million in the lottery just days after making the final payment.

- Japanese warriors wore their hair in a small ponytail after shaving the front of their heads, but not to make a fashion statement. Instead, it helped to keep their helmets secure.

- To protect the giraffe's brain from sudden changes in blood pressure when it drinks, the animal's jugular veins have elastic walls and large one-way valves that allow the veins to significantly expand, preventing blood from flowing back to the brain when the giraffe's head is lowered.

- It is illegal to gamble in a library in the U.K.

- The Battle of the Oranges is an annual festival held in Ivrea, Italy, in which participants pelt each other with the citrus fruit to commemorate the town's liberation from a cruel medieval ruler.

- The medical term for ice cream headache is sphenopalatine ganglioneuralgia. Now you know why we call it an ice cream headache or brain freeze.

- It took the writers of the Oxford English Dictionary five years just to reach the word “ant.” This was partly due to the level of detail necessary to trace word origins as well as their evolution.

Thought for the Day: "Too many people overvalue what they are not and undervalue what they are."

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Write stuff

Calling all Veterans, Active Duty, National Guard, Reservists, and families

Come out and support your American Legion Post 598. We have pool night on Wednesday night at 7 p.m. Cornhole is played in the Party Hall on Thursday night at 7 p.m. For poker players there's Texas Hold'em on Friday night at 7 p.m. The bar opens afternoons at 5 p.m. and there is gaming every night. Food and drinks are available each night with the best prices in El Paso. You're invited to join OUR group "Official POST 598 Business" on GroupMe app. https://groupme.com/join_group/67788914/JIOgs8eL for constant updates. We also have a "Riders GroupME" and a 598 Gossip groupme. Please take a few minutes and visit our updated site, AlHorizoncitytx598.org, for more information. We have a RV Group, a Riders group, an Auxiliary Group, a Sons of the American Legion group.

- The Legionnaires meet the 2nd and 3rd Wednesday of each month at 6 p.m.
- The Auxiliary meet the 3rd Thursday of each month at 7 p.m.
- The American Legion Riders meet the 1st Friday of each month.

We participate in a variety of community activities. We support local high school ROTC programs, Boys State and Girls State, Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts, Veteran Homeless Shelter, Veteran Nursing Home, Veteran Healthcare Operations, Veteran disability actions and more. We're also trying to open a Veteran RV storage area. An Oktoberfest and Craft Fair are planned for October 7, 2023. We hope to have at least 20 vendors, a gift certificate (worth \$800) raffle tickets \$20 each or three for \$50; a silent auction, German beer, a beer garden, German food; cornhole competition; BB gun challenge; and a jumping balloon. Our Post is located at 141 Elsworth in Horizon City. Can't wait to see you!

*Ray Horn
First Vice-Commander
American Legion Post 598
hornre1@gmail.com*

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Public Notice of Nondiscrimination

It is the policy of the Tornillo Independent School District to prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender or any person who has a disability in the admission or access to programs, delivery of services or employment.

The Tornillo Independent School District is fully committed to meeting its responsibilities as specified by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended; Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972; prohibiting sex discrimination, the Age Discrimination Act 1975, as amended; Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act 1973 as amended; and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

Inquiries concerning your rights may be referred to Lizeth Carroll, Human Resources Director, P.O. Box 170, Tornillo, TX 79853. Phone: (915) 765-3000. Fax: (915) 765-3099.

Notificación Pública
No Discriminar en Tornillo ISD

Es la regla del distrito escolar de Tornillo prohibir discriminación basada en raza, color, origen de nacionalidad, sexo o cualquier persona con discapacidad en la admisión o acceso a programas, entrega de servicios o empleo.

El distrito escolar de Tornillo esta comprometido a cumplir con las responsabilidades especificadas en el Título VI del Acta de Derechos Civiles de 1964, como enmienda, el Titulo IX de la Enmienda de Educación de 1972, que prohíbe la discriminación sexual, la Acta de la Discriminación por edad de 1975 como enmienda, la Sección 504 del Acta de Rehabilitación de 1973, como enmienda, y el Acto de Americanos con discapacidades.

Para mas información acerca de sus derechos favor de comunicarse con Lizeth Carroll, Directora de Recursos Humanos, PO Box 170, Tornillo TX 79853. Teléfono: (915) 765-3000. Fax: (915) 765-3099.

Tornillo Independent School District
Public Notice

Notification of Nondiscrimination in Career and Technical Education Programs at Tornillo ISD for 2022-2023 School Year

- 1) Tornillo Independent School District offers Career and Technical Education programs in Business Marketing & Finance, Education & Training, Health Science, Information Technology, Law & Public Service, Manufacturing, STEM and Transportation, Distribution & Logistics. Admission to these programs is based on current enrollment in the Tornillo ISD and completion of any necessary prerequisites.
- 2) It is the policy of Tornillo ISD not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, or handicap in its vocational programs, services, or activities as required by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act for 1964, as amended; Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972; and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended.
- 3) It is the policy of Tornillo ISD not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, handicap, or age in its employment practices as required by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended; Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972; the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended; and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended.
- 4) Tornillo ISD will take steps to assure that lack of English language skills will not be a barrier to admission and participation in all educational and vocational programs.
- 5) For information about your rights or grievance procedures, contact the Title IX/Section 504 Coordinator, Lizeth Carroll, Human Resources Manager, at P.O. Box 170, 19200 Cobb Avenue, Tornillo Texas, 79853, carrolll@tisd.us, or call (915) 765-3000.

Noticia Pública

Notificación Publica de No Discriminación en Programas de Educacion Tecnica y Vocacional en Tornillo ISD por el año escolar 2022-2023

- 1) El Distrito Escolar Independiente de Tornillo ofrece programas de Educación Técnica y Profesional en Mercadotecnia y Finanzas de Negocios, Educación y Capacitación, Ciencias de la Salud, Tecnología de la Información, Derecho y Servicio Público, Manufactura, STEM y Transporte, Distribución y Logística. La admisión a estos programas se basa en la inscripción actual en Tornillo ISD y la finalización de los requisitos previos necesarios.
- 2) Es política de Tornillo ISD no discriminar por motivos de raza, color, origen nacional, sexo o discapacidad en sus programas, servicios o actividades vocacionales como lo requiere el Título VI de la Ley de Derechos Civiles de 1964, como enmendado; Título IX de las Enmiendas a la Educación de 1972; y la Sección 504 de la Ley de Rehabilitación de 1973, según enmendada.
- 3) Es política de Tornillo ISD no discriminar por motivos de raza, color, nacionalidad, sexo, discapacidad o edad en sus prácticas laborales, según lo requiere el Título VI de la Ley de Derechos Civiles de 1964, según enmendada; Título IX de las Enmiendas a la Educación de 1972; la Ley de Discriminación por Edad de 1975, según enmendada; y la Sección 504 de la Ley de Rehabilitación de 1973, según enmendada.
- 4) El Distrito Escolar Independiente de Tornillo tomará las medidas necesarias para asegurar que la falta de habilidad en el uso del inglés no sea un obstáculo para la admisión y participación en todos los programas educativos y vocacionales.
- 5) Para mas información de sus derechos y procedimiento de quejas, comuníquese con la Coordinadora del Titulo IX y del Programa 504, Lizeth Carroll, Directora de Recursos Humanos, P.O. Box 170, 19200 Cobb Av. Tornillo, TX 79853. carrolll@tisd.us, o llame al (915)765-3000.

UTEP football and basketball already preparing for 2023

By Steve Escajeda
Special to the Courier

We may have just said hello to July, but we’re already getting a glimpse at the upcoming UTEP sports year,. It looks pretty promising.

The temperatures may still be sitting at or near 100 right now but visions of the fall and winter seasons can be seen around campus, if you know where to look.

At the UTEP football practice field in the early morning or late afternoon, you can hear the unmistakable sounds of whistles, grunting, and the yelling of coaches.

Yup, the UTEP football team has begun drills though they’re dressed only in t-shirts and shorts. I guess this is more the team going through conditioning drills but for the players who are in town, and by the looks of things most of them are, it’s a time to get out on that field with teammates and get ready for a completely new Conference USA experience.

As has been reported extensively, Conference USA lost six teams from last season and will see four new ones make their debuts.

In 2023, New Mexico State, Jacksonville State, Sam Houston State and Liberty will join holdovers, UTEP, Florida International, Louisiana Tech, Middle Tennessee State and Western

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

Kentucky, in this new-look league.

Things will be very different this season. What also might be a bit different is the fact that UTEP football has as much talent as any team in the league and should at least make some noise in the conference.

But while the football players were huffing and puffing in the El Paso sun, the UTEP basketball team was doing the same.

While the basketball players were in an air-conditioned Stevens Center practice gym, they were huffing and puffing as much as the big guys.

Coach Joe Golding is getting his first look at his 2023 combination of newcomers and veterans, who should improve on last season’s disappointing 14-18 record.

Back are Tae Hardy, Jon Dos Anjos, Calvin Solomon, Kevin Kalu, Otis Frazier and Derick Hamilton. They will be joined by new guys, Zid Powell, Baylor Hebb, Corey Camper Jr., David Terrell and Trey Hornton.

Brining back six players from last season is a blessing for the program,

which had gotten used to watching players leave El Paso via the transfer portal by the droves.

Just like with the football team, Golding’s basketball squad, which was one of the worst shooting teams in the country last season, looks to benefit by their returning players and those departing conference teams.

The new-look league said goodbye to Final Four participant Florida Atlantic, along with some other top teams, which gives the Miners a real chance to make their first NCAA Tournament appearance since 2010.

But before any of that, the Miners have to get into condition and hearing the sounds of sneakers doing their squeaking on the floor reminds one that the Don Haskins Center will be rockin’ before we know it.

I know we’re just into July and still over a month-and-a-half away from the football season opener on August 26 at CUSA newcomer Jacksonville State.

I also know we’re nowhere near football weather right now but it’s also not that far away from UTEP’s home

opener at the Sun Bowl on September 2 against Incarnate Word.

Though UTEP’s basketball schedule hasn’t been released yet, they usually get things going during the first week of November.

And the way coach Golding has them running around in practice, I’m not sure they’ll be a better shooting team, but I certainly know they’ll be in outstanding shape.

These long hot 100- to 110-degree summer days can appear as if there is no end in sight, but they will come to an end. And when they do we’ve got the start of another UTEP sports season. And though we root for every student athlete and every team, it’s still football and men’s basketball that bring in the most interest and thus – the bigger bucks.

Seeing both the football and basketball teams working out now, at the same time, takes your senses back to autumn and winter days and nights of the past.

And for a little while, just a while – makes it appear as if it’s a little bit cooler outside.

Senior moment By Matilda Charles

New cell phones are inevitable

Like it or not, sometimes we just have to buy a new cell phone. When the old one won’t hold a charge anymore or it won’t take the newest security updates, we have to cave in and begin a hunt for a new one.

Sometimes it’s easy. You take the old phone to the same store where you bought it and tell them you want an upgraded version of that phone. You look it over, press all the buttons, like it, and there you go... a new phone.

Most of the time, however, it’s not that easy. Technology moves along so quickly, and so do the capabilities of new phones. If it’s been more than three years since your last phone purchase, talk to friends and family. Play with their phones and see how they feel in your hand. Look up cell phones on the internet and compare the features – all before you even head to a phone store.

Your choice of phones depends in part on what you want

it to do. If you want to keeps things simple, check out RAZ phones and the Jitterbug lineup. The RAZ phones, for example, only do regular voice and video calls.

For fancier options, do you want to cruise the internet, send email, watch videos, make calls, take photos, send text messages or play games? Most of the phones out there now do all of this.

Decide in advance how you want to handle the purchase of the phone. Do you want it to be part of a monthly plan or pay for it completely? Do you want to be on a monthly plan at all, which may involve signing a contract?

Additionally, ask at the store whether they’ll give you anything for trading in your old phone and whether they’ll transfer your information to a new phone.

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Super Crossword

1	2	3	4	5	6		7	8	9	10	11	12		13	14	15	16	17	18	19
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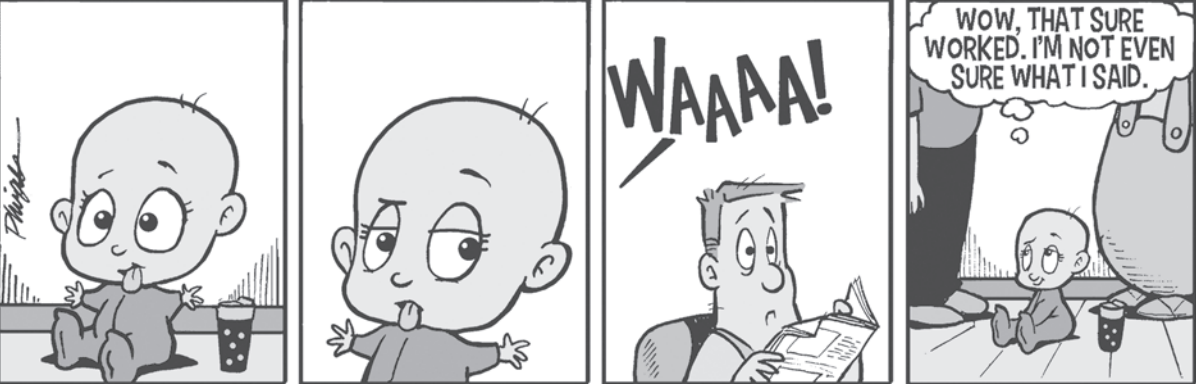
MAY THE FOURTH BE WITH YOU ACROSS	54 Start of many rapper names	108 Runner Sebastian	19 Low cards	79 Exercise in a pool
1 Dryer's partner	55 Realities that are tough to face	109 Really eager	25 Banjoist Clark	80 Long time
7 Neither-here-nor-there states	58 "E-e-ew!"	111 With 114-Across, source of the phrase formed by the ends of eight answers in this puzzle	27 Genetic helix	81 Leicester lav
13 Not straying off topic	59 Vodka brand, informally	114 See 111-Across	33 More cheeky	82 WWII prez
20 Get in the way of	61 Reply to "You are not!"	118 Is identical to	34 Stuff in sand	84 Recoil from
21 "You may relax, soldier"	62 Fulfill, as standards	119 Famed French mime	36 "Humbug!"	85 Multivolume Brit. lexicon
22 One looking something over	65 Wiseacre	120 Interfere	37 Avian creature	89 Dawber of "Mork & Mindy"
23 "The Delta Force" actor Chuck	69 River to the Rhine	121 Nuanced	38 Boise's home	90 Amazon Kindle, e.g.
24 Question after a chat interruption	70 Hint at impossible!"	122 Places in categories	40 1960s Jaguar model	91 Dodgers
26 Latched on firmly	74 Reagan adviser	123 Flip one's lid	41 Team booster	92 Recuperation by lying down
28 Space balls	Edwin	124 Plant with prickly leaves	42 Actress Longoria	93 Asian monkey
29 San Luis __, California	76 Flooring units		43 Sea, to Gigi	97 Natural gift
30 Mount, as a jewel	77 "... bug _ feature?"	DOWN	45 " _ longa..."	99 Rival of Sony
31 "Diane" star Turner	78 Identity before turning over a new leaf	1 Hot bar food	46 Vexes	99 In _ (not just sleeping)
32 "Carrie" star	83 City in Oklahoma	2 Roman love	47 Flee to wed	100 Big couches
Spacek	84 Trig function	3 Fat avoider Jack	48 Sediments	101 Many future kings
35 Mutineers	86 Away from the wind, nautically	4 Sage, e.g.	49 Writer T.S.	102 Long time
37 2012 Robert Pattinson film based on a Maupassant novel	87 Non-iron club	5 Items of food	51 Showed rage	103 Tubular pasta
41 Lax in duty	88 Revealing interference with the contents, as a package	6 Closes tightly again	52 UFO fliers	105 Edicts
44 British remake of "That '70s Show"	92 Key related to D major	7 Suburb of D.C. in Maryland	56 " _ Andronicus" (Shakespeare play)	106 Esther of "Good Times"
50 Say for sure	94 Saharan	8 "Am _ late?"	57 Locomotive supporter	107 Photographer Adams
51 Trepidation	95 Oct.-Dec. link	9 Cries weakly	59 Singer Bob	110 Creative work
53 Fathered, as a horse	96 Creek, e.g.	10 In a ribald way	60 Yank	112 Cl doubled
	99 Garbage collectors	11 _Kosh B'gosh	62 Actress West	113 Big brass instrument
	102 Very easy thing	12 Notice	63 "I'm here to help"	115 Sarge, e.g.
	104 "Back in Black" band	13 Phone button abbr.	64 Bit of artifice	116 Sports org. with skaters
		14 Novel kind	65 Join, as a table	117 Scooby-__
		15 Not absent	66 Peak in W. Turkey	
		16 " _ Gang"	67 Happy as _	
		17 River to the Rhone	68 Fish eggs	
		18 Stairway post	69 Run out on	
			72 Tube lover's punishment	
			73 57-Down vehicles	
			74 De-feathers	
			75 Prior to, poetically	
			78 Team booster	

Comix

OUT ON A LIMB By Gary Kopervas



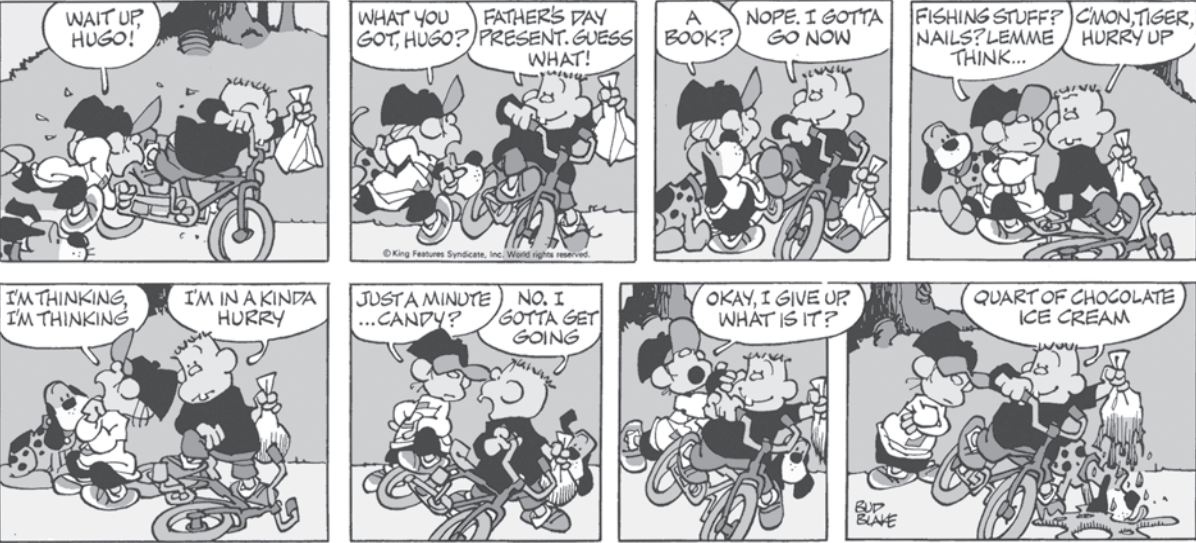
AMBER WAVES By Dave T. Phipps



THE SPATS By Jeff Pickering



TIGER By Bud Blake



Lowry

From Page 2

of power is one of the most valuable achievements of the modern West. Otherwise, history tells us, rival contenders for power will kill one another and cut paths of destruction through their societies. The most extreme example is the Western Roman Empire that dissipated enormous resources on constant internal battles for power, setting the predicate for its fall. Opacity, conspiracy, double-dealing, and lies are endemic to human nature, and all politics. But the West manages to circumscribe them somewhat through accountable government, the rule of law, and norms around transparency. In Russia, it's different. It may be a very long time before we know everything that was going on with Prigozhin's revolt, if ever. In a speech last year, Vladimir Putin railed against the West's "undivided dominance over world affairs" and blamed it for holding down what it regards as "second-class civilizations."

The sense of bristling defensiveness in that statement is understandable. A couple millennia after Athens and a couple hundred years after the modern democratic revolution, Russia still has a de facto tsar. Whereas we read about poisonings in history books telling the story of medieval Europe, they still happen in Russia. If he's going to maintain his sense of dominance, Putin isn't ultimately going to defeat Prigozhin in an election or simply fire or reprimand him; he's going to have to kill him. The West may be naive, feckless, foolhardy or self-destructive, but its model of stable, accountable, democratic government is a great advance in human welfare. Without it, you get a Vladimir Putin reportedly fleeing his capital in fear and a Yevgeny Prigozhin likely to experience an unfortunate fall out of a window sometime soon. Russia has only ever been able "to get to Russia," and it shows.

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

Health issues are blamed on weight

DEAR DR. ROACH: I've been experiencing pain in my chest, dizziness and shortness of breath on exertion. The chest pain lasts for a few hours. At one point, it was so bad that I couldn't walk a hundred feet, had to use a cane and severely limit my physical activity. I've been to the doctor about this before. They take an EKG, which comes back normal, so they chalk it up to anxiety, then tell me I'm fat. (I am not unaware that I'm fat, but even when I was doing intense martial arts twice a week, I couldn't lose the weight. And my physical therapist told me not to do yoga.)



If it makes a difference, I'm also a Type 2 diabetic and have fibromyalgia as well as PTSD. This is not the only issue that doctors have refused to treat because they decide to blame it all on my weight. My diabetes went unchecked for a while because my doctor only told me to lose weight, instead of ordering blood tests when I complained about the symptoms. When these symptoms happen, my friends tell me to go to the doctor, but they don't do anything to change the situation. Why should I pay over \$1,000 and waste a few hours for an urgent care visit and an EKG only to get told that I'm fat and anxious, when I can cover my chest with stickers, play on my phone and tell myself I'm fat at home for free? Who's right, me or my friends? – S.T.

I am very sorry to hear how poorly you are being treated. I have heard from many people that doctors do not take symptoms seriously in people who are overweight or obese. (There is strong evidence that this is true, and that women and people of color are also treated worse systemically. People with any mental health issue, such as anxiety or PTSD, are often disbelieved.)

While I understand that you are frustrated, your symptoms are very concerning. Particularly if you are over 50, they are highly suggestive of heart disease – especially in a person with diabetes, which increases risk of heart disease. Given your poor experience, how much you are paying and your PTSD, I can absolutely understand why you are reluctant to go. However, you deserve to get good care, and I believe you will be able to find a doctor who can treat you well and not automatically write off any complaint due to your weight and anxiety. I'd recommend you be completely honest about your concerns.

When I have a patient with multiple ER or acute care visits for possible heart disease, I often recommend a more definitive test than an EKG and blood testing, which is the usual acute care evaluation when looking for damage to the heart muscle. This may be a coronary CT angiogram, which is highly sensitive and specific. (The weight limit for this test depends on the scanner, but is typically 450 pounds.)

If you have blockages in your heart causing your recurrent symptoms, it needs to be treated to prevent a heart attack. If blockages aren't the cause, the EKGs usually aren't helpful, and you'll need a different type of evaluation to find out where these symptoms are coming from.

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.

† AMERICAN LUNG ASSOCIATION
of Texas

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Moore Texas by Roger Moore
July 4, 1883: The first rodeo ever was held in Pecos... one event, Tag Team Bronc Riding, never caught on.

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: H equals S

UWMB RL WI WVWMG FVRFP
UMRSOFTIQ BZY HROISH RL
LRVPH HZRRBTIQ BZY EMYKY:
BZY HFZGRRKY EOBRI.

Answer Page 4

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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 6

♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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No more masks at the VA



by Freddy Groves

You can ditch the mask now if you visit a Department of Veterans Affairs medical facility. Because, they say, the public health emergency is over.

While it appears that you can walk into a VA medical facility without a mask, there are still high-risk places within the facilities where masks are required: chemo units, emergency and urgent care departments, open bay ICU units, transplant areas, dialysis and spinal cord injury/community living centers. And, of course, if you have Covid or any other respiratory infection, or even suspect you do, mask up.

Additionally, if you, the patient (or a caregiver or family member) request that medical personnel wear a mask, they're required to do so. Stand up for yourself. If you want a medical provider to put on a mask, say so.

Yes, Covid is fading, but it's not gone. A couple of stats: Across the U.S., only 17% of people have had the newest booster, and only 69% got the original vax. Approximately 4,000 people are in the hospital every day because of Covid. Several states have 2,000 to 5,000 new cases each week. In my state, Covid hospital admissions rose 250% in one recent week in two different counties, yet the state is listed as low level for Covid.

One important fact, and something that might be our undoing long-term when it comes to the Covid battle, is that it's no longer required for insurance to cover the cost of the at-home tests. Veterans, however, can still get two free tests when at a VA medical appointment, if you ask and they're still in stock. (Check the expiration date if you get those.) It's better to have a couple on hand at home than to pay over \$20 each at a civilian pharmacy.

Do yourself (and those around you) a big favor and keep washing your

hands a full minute with antibacterial hand soap, not the 20 seconds that is generally recommended. Don't become a statistic at this late date. There have been 870,000 veterans treated for Covid. Don't let your guard down just yet.

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• To soothe minor burns in the kitchen, use the cut side of a raw potato pressed into the burn area for a minute or two.

• "Personal appliances can get very dirty and can harbor many species of bacteria. One of the worst, in my opinion, is the cellphone. Make sure you clean it regularly by wiping front and back surfaces with a soft cloth dampened with alcohol. We touch our phones with our hands and press them into our faces. It's just smart to keep it clean." – W.D. in Indiana

• Grilling season is in full swing. A great way to clean the grill surface is by using a wad of aluminum foil. It can be pressed into the grate to get all the gunk off, before or after grilling.

• "I love my windowbox planters, but I would get dirt splashed on my windows or the sill when it rained. My friend advised me to put a shallow layer of small gravel over the dirt. It looks nice and there is no splatter after watering or rain." – R.L. in Washington

• To remove sticky residue from photo frames, try hairspray. Spray on, let sit for just a minute, then wipe off.

• "Keep extra liner bags in the bottom of the garbage can. They are handy, so you will be more likely to reline the can as soon as you take the garbage out." – K.P. in Massachusetts

• "When you have small children, always hang a hand towel over the door of the bathroom so they can't lock themselves in and get scalded with hot water." – J.R. in Virginia

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

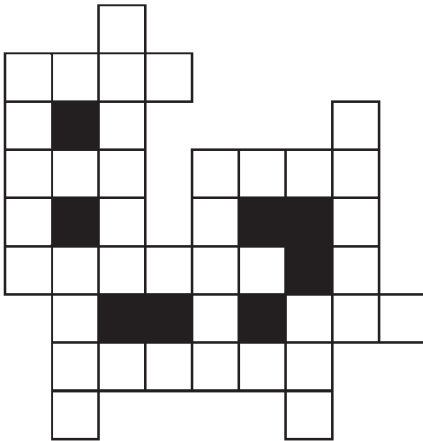
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×		+		−	
	−		×		18
÷		×		×	
	×		+		11
14		10		10	

1 2 3 4 5 6 6 7 8

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TGE
♥ SLEDIA
♥ LYSIT
TGS
TUDPEN
♥ YEB
♥ UTAN
BEGER
♥ IGB
PYRANE
♥ EGBLA
♥ ULBR



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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