



– Photos by Alfredo Vasquez

WIDE OPEN SPACES – Visitors to Davis Mountains State Park can hike, backpack, mountain bike or ride their horses to scenic observation sites, like the one above, that provide opportunities for viewing and photographing grand vistas in the park. The sites are located throughout the Davis Mountains.

Davis Mountains State Park provides unique experience

By **Alfredo Vasquez**
Special to the Courier

FORT DAVIS – Davis Mountains State Park is like a cool, green oasis set in the sprawling West Texas desert vastness, tucked away amidst protruding jagged mountain clusters that come into view at a distance when traveling along the Interstate-10 East Highway.

The hidden gem is about 200 miles from El Paso County and has been beckoning weary travelers to its tree-covered mountainsides and creeks for centuries. For the prehistoric native American Indian tribes – such as the Comanche, Kiowa, and Apache – and then for the American and Mexican frontier settlers, the remote place offered a refreshing respite.

Today, the historic park provides outdoor adventurers with numerous ideal campsites, miles of hiking trails, opportunities for wildlife sightings, and inspiring views of the night sky marvels.

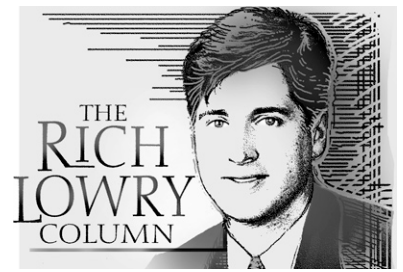
Adjacent to the state park is the best remaining example of a frontier military post in the American Southwest. Fort Davis, authorized as a national historic site in 1961 by the National Park Service, is now a vivid reminder of the



LODGE – Among the exhibits on display at Fort Davis National Historic Site is a wikiup – a semi-permanent domed dwelling used by certain Native American tribespeople who lived in the Southwestern United States.

See **FORT DAVIS**, Page 4

U.K. excludes left-wing influencers



The U.K. government banned left-wing influencers Cenk Uygur and Hasan Piker from traveling to the country because they blame everything on the Jews – and, true to form, Uygur and Piker blamed the Jews.

Uygur and Piker were to speak at a South by Southwest conference in London and participate in an event at the Oxford Union when their visas were canceled. They immediately smelled a rat, and, as usual, one emanating from Jerusalem.

“I’ve been banned for criticizing Israel,” Uygur posted on social media. “Are we free anymore? This is oppression of Western citizens by our own governments on behalf of a different country!”

Piker chimed in, “The U.K. has revoked my visa as well. All at the behest of Israel. The West

is betraying ‘liberal values’ for a genocidal fascist foreign government. Soon we will all become Israel.”

Like most everything the duo says – Piker is Uygur’s nephew and got his start on his podcast – this is poisonous nonsense, although it doesn’t make the U.K.’s decision any better.

Britain now conducts itself like a nation that has never heard of John Milton, John Stuart Mill or Bertrand Russell, its storied advocates of free speech down through the centuries.

The U.K. routinely excludes controversial figures from traveling to the country from abroad, and actively tries to suppress speech offensive to gays, Muslims, trans people, Jews or others. You can get arrested, as TV writer Graham Linehan found out,

for posting pungent opinions about biological males using female locker rooms, or for silently praying outside an abortion clinic.

If we needed a reminder of the wisdom of our Founders writing the First Amendment into the Constitution, the free-floating illiberalism of the British government trying to enforce faddish norms provides it.

The Home Office, which was responsible for revoking the Uygur and Piker visas, says that their presence in the country might not have been “conducive to the

See LOWRY, Page 7

Food for thought By Anonymous

Navigating your life’s difficult circumstances

Every human being faces everyday challengers. We all have them. No way is immune from problems, sickness and death. Hurdles to jump, mountains to climb and oceans to swim is a part of life. There is always a fire to put out or something to fix.

Life is filled with repairs that await our attention.

Maintenance is a daily grind. Property maintenance, car and our physical bodies. You can’t ignore either of the three very long without consequences. It’s a big job staying on top of all that we need to do.

Sometimes the load becomes heavy. So much to do. This is why some people eventually get tired of too much to do and try to downsize. Sometimes you can and sometimes you can’t. If you can then it’s fine if you want to. Life has a lot to do

with what we want to do. If you enjoy having a lot to do then changing your lifestyle may not be for you. If you would enjoy having less to be concerned about then it sounds like a good move to make.

If we have good health we can do more. If our health is declining then our major priority better be our health. Once our health is gone then we won’t be doing anything.

Having blood work done by your local doctor is very important. You should do it every year. If there are some concerns you may want to do it every six months or more. The numbers will tell you if your cholesterol or sugar is too high or if there are other concerns. If you receive a bad report then every day you have to manage what food you are not going to eat

and what you will try to eat. This becomes a job because it’s not easy to cut out ice cream, cheeseburgers and pizza. Usually, these three are some of the first food groups to become outlawed or at least cut way back in our routine eating.

There are more hurdles in life than our diets. Americans face financial challenges from paying the rent to buying groceries. Credit card rates, interest rates on homes and car make for almost unbearable challenges for millions of Americans.

There is never a simple

answer to all the stuff that we face in every day in life. The will of the human spirit is the most critical factor in dealing with life hurdles. When the spirit is down it is easy to be overwheled. If our spirit is strong, we navigate life’s problems better.

God will provide a way. He will see you through if you will look to him for guidance. Resist the devil and he will flee from you, the Bible says. He may not go too far away but remember greater is he who is within you than he that is in the world. The strength of God is greater. You may

have to make some critical life changes. Change and giving up or starting a new direction is never easy but it may be the way that God is leading you through your difficult circumstances.

Dr. Mollette is the author of a new book titled ‘Rambling Man with A Shaky Hand’. Available via Kindle, Amazon Hard Back and other book sellers. He is a syndicated columnist read in all fifty states. He can be heard each weekday morning on XM Radio 131.

1973 **53** WEST TEXAS COUNTY **COURIER** 2026

SERVING ANTHONY, VINTON, CANUTILLO, EAST MONTANA, HORIZON, SOCORRO, CLIVE, FARENS, SAN ELIZABO AND TORNEILLO

PUBLISHED: Published each Thursday (minimum 50 issues) by Homesteader News, Inc. Office open Monday through Thursday.

COPYRIGHT: Entire contents © 2026 Homesteader News, Inc. Individual authors retain all rights. Pictures, drawings and written material appearing in the West Texas County Courier may not be used or reproduced without written permission of Homesteader News, Inc.

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

AD DEADLINE: Friday 4 p.m. for the next Thursday.

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

DISPLAY RATES: Open rate — \$40 per column inch. Call for more information or to set an appointment. The West Texas County Courier reserves the right not to publish advertising it considers inappropriate.

MAIL SUBSCRIPTIONS: Minimum 50 issues for \$50. Delivery via 1st class mail.

MAIL: 15344 Werling Ct. Horizon City, TX 79928

Phone: 852-3235

E-mail: wtcc@wtcc.com

Website: wtcc.com

Publisher
Rick Shrum

Contributors
Alfredo Vasquez
Steve Escajeda

Homesteader
Est. 1973
News, Inc.

DESPITE AN OVERWHELMING PERCENTAGE OF THE PUBLIC ... WHO SUPPORT THE SAVE AMERICA ACT ... THE BILL REMAINS STALLED IN THE SENATE!

PROOF THAT THE OPPOSITE OF PROGRESS ... IS CONGRESS!

VOTER ID NOW

If you're not covered, you'll be discovered.

An estimated 1 in every 5 vehicles on our Texas roads has no automobile insurance, but that's about to change. • TexasSure Vehicle Insurance Verification matches vehicle registration information to insurance policy data to immediately tell law enforcement officers and tax assessor-collectors who's driving without insurance. • So, if you're not covered, better get insured! • To learn more, visit: www.TexasSure.com

TexasSure catches drivers without insurance.

King Crossword

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10	11
12					13				14			
15					16				17			
18				19			20					
			21			22		23				
24	25	26					27		28		29	30
31				32				33		34		
35			36		37					38		
		39		40		41						
42	43				44		45			46	47	48
49						50				51		
52					53					54		
55					56					57		

- Average Solve Time**
22 Minutes
- ACROSS**
- 1 Rain-delay cover
 - 5 Prattle
 - 8 Minn. neighbor
 - 12 Declare
 - 13 Lab eggs
 - 14 "Rule, Britannia!" composer
 - 15 "Arrivederci!"
 - 16 Dawn
 - 18 Airport area
 - 20 Upper House
 - 21 Fed. workplace monitor
 - 23 Director Burton
 - 24 9-to-5 work period
 - 28 Slightly
- DOWN**
- 1 Diplomacy
 - 2 Athletic shoe brand
 - 3 Bring up
 - 4 "Coming Soon" ads
 - 5 Sponsored infant
 - 6 "Selma" director DuVernay
 - 7 Inlets
 - 8 Aslan's land
 - 9 Have lofty aspirations
 - 10 Gray's subj.
 - 11 "Nope" actress Palmer
 - 17 Wager
 - 19 Author Bandele
 - 22 Insurance giant
 - 24 Name
 - 25 Year in Mexico
 - 26 "For _ Only" (Bond film)
 - 27 Kid's storage unit
 - 29 Somewhat (Suff.)
 - 30 Youngster
 - 33 Beagle's bane
 - 36 Govt. securities
 - 38 Figures of speech
 - 40 South, in Spanish
 - 42 Dutch cheese
 - 43 Curly cabbage
 - 44 Towering
 - 46 Baseball stats
 - 47 Force
 - 48 Elevator name
 - 50 Fawn's mama
- Answer Page 4

Take the First Step to a Heart-Healthy Life.

Start! Walking. Start! Something.

Heart disease is the number one killer of men and women in America. But did you know that just 30 minutes a day of physical activity can improve your health and decrease your risk of heart disease? An easy way to work physical activity into your regular routine is to start walking. For every single hour of regular, vigorous exercise, you can add two hours to your life expectancy.

It's easy to Start! whether you're by yourself or with friends, family and co-workers. You'll all feel a difference and live longer, heart-healthier lives.

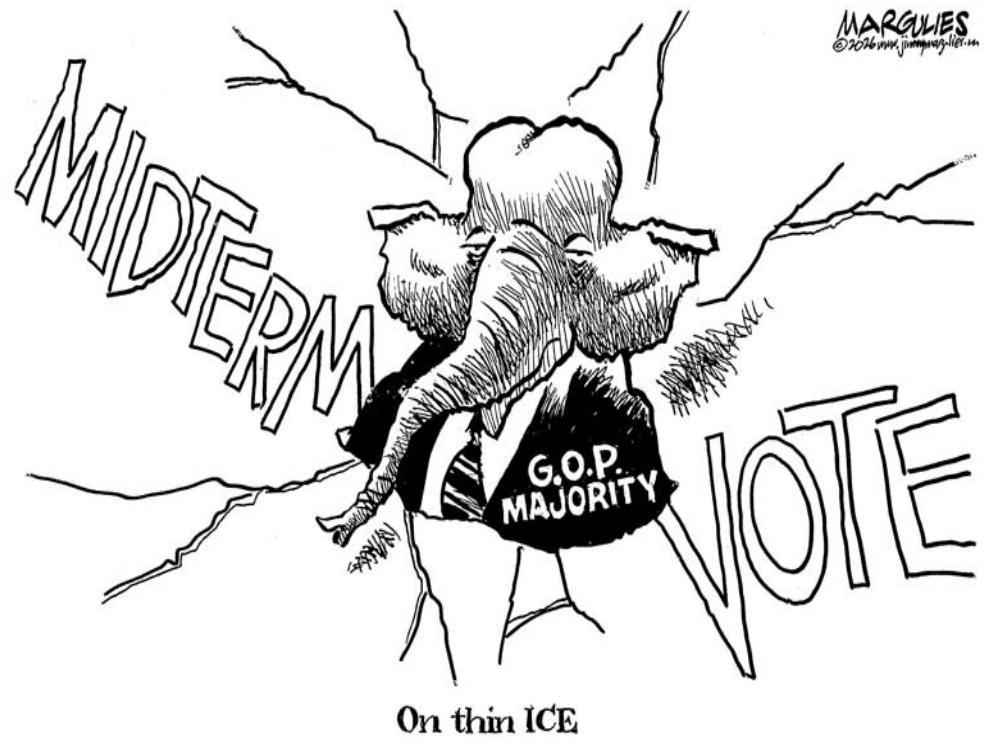
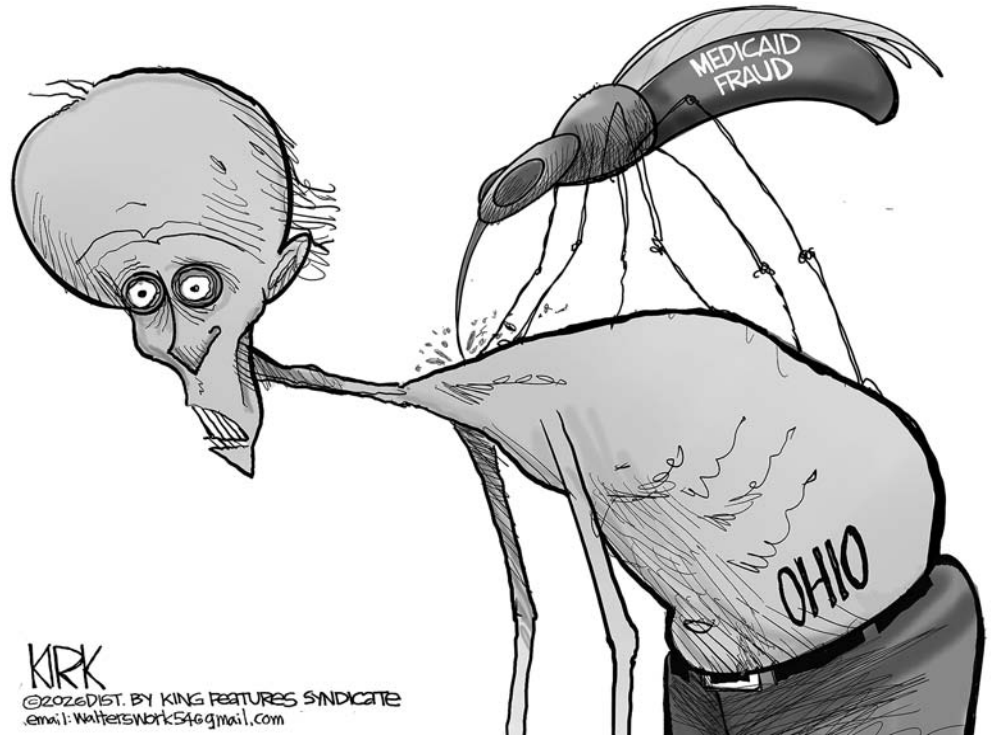
Join the movement.

heart.org/start

start! American Heart Association
Learn and Live

©2010, American Heart Association 1/100S3493

To Advertise Call 852-3235
Archives: www.wtxcc.com





— Photo by Alfredo Vasquez

HISTORY AND LANDSCAPES PRESERVED – Fort Davis was designated a National Historic Site in 1961. From 1854 until 1891, troops stationed at Fort Davis protected immigrants, freighters, mail coaches, and travelers on the San Antonio-El Paso Road, who were on their way to the gold fields of California.

Fort Davis

From Page 1

significant role played by the military in the settlement and development of

the western frontier.

Additionally, the state park offers comfortable accommodations at its historic 39-room Indian lodge within its premises, which has a restaurant, swimming pool (for lodge guests only) and meeting rooms.

Nearby is a bird watch blind that sits in an enclosed viewing station, as well as a shielded

outside patio and watering and feeding stations.

For hikers and mountain bikers, the 4.5-mile Skyline Drive Trail that meanders up and down mountain ridges and valleys is enticing. Another popular trek is the 1.75-mile CCC trail which leads to the Fort Davis National Historic Site.

State Park visitors are also able to bring their horses for the day or for an

See FT. DAVIS, Page 5

AMERICAN LUNG ASSOCIATION
of Texas

YOUR Gift IS A WAY TO CONQUER LUNG DISEASE

Find out how you can help ...

www.texaslung.org

When you lose someone dear to you — or when a special person has a birthday, quits smoking, or has some other occasion to celebrate — memorial gifts or tribute gifts made for them to your local American Lung Association help prevent lung disease and improve the care of those who suffer from it.

1-800-LUNG-USA

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

T	A	R	P	G	A	B	N	D	A	K	
A	V	E	R	O	V	A	A	R	N	E	
C	I	A	O	D	A	Y	B	R	E	A	K
T	A	R	M	A	C	S	E	N	A	T	E
				O	S	H	A	T	I	M	
D	A	Y	S	H	I	F	T	A	B	I	T
U	N	O	A	L	L	O	F	I	S	O	
B	O	U	T	D	A	Y	L	I	G	H	T
				R	N	S	C	C	E	D	
E	K	E	O	U	T	H	A	I	R	D	O
D	A	Y	T	R	A	D	E	O	B	I	T
A	L	E	E	L	O	S	M	I	N	I	
M	E	S	S	L	E	T	S	S	T	S	

8	+	3	-	7	=	4
-		+		-		
6	+	4	÷	5	=	2
÷		-		+		
1	+	2	×	9	=	27
=		=		=		
2		5		11		

										G
F	L	O	W	E	R					
	A		A		O					
	I	N	G	O	T					
F	R	O								
		O		D	O	W	R	Y		
		D				R				
		L				A	W	E	D	
F	I	E	R	Y						

W	I	T	A	V	I	B	I	G	G	U	S	A	R	O	N	G						
E	N	D	E	M	I	C	O	N	L	I	N	E	T	I	E	B	A	R				
T	H	E	S	E	V	E	N	W	H	A	R	F	S	A	R	M	A	D	A			
V	E	N	E	R	A	T	E		O	U	T	I	N	G	T	H	O	M	A	S		
A	L	T			T	S	P		T	O	O		O	V	A	L	S					
C	L	I	N	C	H	T	H	E	E	E	L		O	G	R	E						
		A	L	A	W		A	S	L	E	E	P		E	N	R	A	P	T			
J	I	T	S	M	A	G	I	C		L	A	T	E	S	T		L	E	E			
R	A	T	E	D	G		H	S	T		F	R	E	E	Z	E	R	I	D	E		
E	K	E		A	M	A	L	I	E		U	R	L		R	E	G	I	S			
E	M	O	T	I	O	N	A	L	L		R	E	I	G	N	I	N	G				
C	H	A	R	S		S	G	T		S	M	I	D	G	E		E	R	A			
A	E	R	I	E	Q	U	E	E	N		A	A		N	A	C	R	E	S			
P	E	T			U	L	T	R	O	N		T	A	X	B	A	S	E	S			
O	D	E	S	S	A		O	S	T	E	R	S		Y	E	L	L					
		H	I	D	E		R	U	E	B	A	R	R	Y	M	O	R	E				
A	R	C	E	D		T	G	I		B	A	L				R	A	W				
B	A	L	L	E	T		A	N	S	W	E	R			M	A	C	A	R	E	N	A
A	Z	A	L	E	A		A	L	I	C	E	M	A	V	E	R	I	C	K	S		
F	O	R	A	Y	S		W	I	N	C	E	D			I	S	O	M	A	L	T	
T	R	A	C	E	S		S	P	E	E	D	S		A	T	O		R	E	E		

CryptoQuip Answer

If the eighteenth Greek letter had to be worn as a mark of shame, it would be a sigma stigma.

Strange BUT TRUE

By Lucie Winborne

- In 1960, the average life expectancy of a person with Down syndrome was 10 years. By 2007, the average had risen to 47 years.
- The world's oldest emergency phone number is the U.K's 999 number, introduced on June 30, 1937.
- Snakes evolved from a four-legged reptilian ancestor, probably a small, burrowing, land-bound lizard, approximately 100 million years ago. Some, such as pythons and boas, still have traces of back legs.
- Jupiter contracts by about 2 centimeters per year as it radiates internal heat into space.
- The Zimbabwean dollar bank note holds the record for the greatest number of zeros shown (100,000,000,000,000).
- During the Middle Ages, people tried a number of ways to cure the black plague, including avoiding bad thoughts, eating and drinking in moderation, and not abusing the poor.

- The five-second rule is, sadly, a myth, since bacteria can live after four weeks on carpet.
- In 1946, two partners in a leading pest control company were tried by a British military court, convicted and hanged on genocide charges, the argument being that they must have realized the amount of Zyklon B they provided to concentration camps far exceeded that needed for delousing.

- The Greek dramatist Menander once wrote that, "No chaste woman ought to make her hair yellow." Guess he preferred brunettes.
- If the U.S. Army were a city, it would be the 10th largest in the country, having more people than popular cities such as San Francisco; Jacksonville, Florida; and Austin, Texas.

- Warm Dr Pepper was once a popular Christmas drink and even thought to aid colds and other ailments.

- The Statue of Liberty is made of more than 300 layers of copper.

Thought for the Day: "There are three constants in life... change, choice and principles."
— Stephen Covey

1973 **53** WEST TEXAS COUNTY **COURIER** 2026

CLASSIFIED AD FORM
25 words - \$15 per week; 40 words - \$20 per week

1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28
29	30	31	32
33	34	35	36
37	38	39	40

Deadline: Monday, 4 p.m. Please print. Send form and payment (no cash) to:
West Texas County Courier
15344 Werling Ct.
Horizon City, TX 79928

Contact Information:
Name: _____
Phone: _____

To Advertise Call 852-3235

Fort Davis National Park Service Historic Site

Named for Secretary of War Jefferson Davis, Fort Davis National Park (which abuts the Davis Mountains State Park) was designated a Historic Site in 1961. The West Texas fort was first garrisoned by Lieutenant Colonel Washington Seawell and six companies of the Eighth U.S. Infantry. The post was located in a box canyon near Limpia Creek on the eastern side of the Davis Mountains, where wood, water, and grass were plentiful. From 1854 to 1861, troops of the Eighth Infantry spent much of their time in the field pursuing Comanche, Kiowa, and Apache warriors.

By the end of 1869, a number of officers' quarters, two enlisted men's barracks, a guardhouse, temporary hospital, and storehouses had been erected. Construction continued through the 1880s. By then, Fort Davis had become a major installation with more than 100 structures, and quarters for more than 400 soldiers.

The last major military campaign involving troops from Fort Davis occurred in 1880. In a series of engagements, units from Fort Davis and other posts, under the command of Colonel Benjamin Grierson, forced the Apache and their leader Victorio into Mexico. By 1891, Fort Davis was ordered abandoned, having "outlived its usefulness".

—Fort Davis National Park Service website

Fort Davis

From Page 4

overnight stay at Limpia Canyon Primitive Area. From there, an 11-mile trail takes riders from 4,900 feet high at Limpia Creek to an over 5,700 feet high scenic overlook. To camp, riders can choose from one of six equestrian or six primitive campsites in this area.

The majestic Davis Mountains State Park offers a unique and remote destination for all sorts of adventures, and it's only about a two-and-a-half-hour drive from El Paso. For more information about the Fort Davis State Park visit its website, at tpwd.texas.gov/state-parks/davis-mountains. Volunteers are also welcome to apply.



Moments in Time THE HISTORY CHANNEL

- On June 8, 793, in the first recorded Viking attack in Europe, Norse invaders launched a raid of looting and murder on England's Lindisfarne monastery, with contemporary accounts describing "dreadful forewarnings" that included "fiery dragons flying in the sky."

- On June 9, 1893, the interior of Ford's Theatre, where Abraham Lincoln was assassinated in 1865, collapsed, killing 22 people. An investigation revealed that a pier had given way during excavation in the basement for an electric-light plant.

- On June 10, 1881, "War and Peace" author LEO Tolstoy, conflicted by his wealthy landlord responsibilities and a desire to give up his property and wander the land as an ascetic, disguised himself as a peasant and began a pilgrimage to a monastery. He had started giving away his possessions and announced that the public owned his works, but his wife, understandably concerned for their children's financial stability, gained control of the copyrights for all his work published prior to 1880.

- On June 11, 1919, 3-year-old racehorse Sir Barton won the Belmont Stakes, Preakness

Stakes and Kentucky Derby in a single season, making him the first horse to earn what would become known as the American Triple Crown – a particularly impressive feat since he had never achieved a career win until that year's Kentucky Derby.

- On June 12, 1974, Little League Baseball Inc. announced its intention to "defer to the changing social climate" by permitting girls to play ball. The decision came after the organization lost a series of lawsuits in New Jersey and was faced with increasing legal challenges in other states as well.

- On June 13, 1962, Stanley Kubrick's film adaptation of Vladimir Nabokov's famously controversial novel "Lolita" premiered in New York. Even its advertising posters posed a query that was no doubt on a lot of people's minds: "How did they ever make a movie of 'Lolita'?" The answer was "with extensive changes" – to Kubrick's admitted chagrin.

- On June 14, 2017, James Hodgkinson walked onto a baseball field at Eugene Simpson Park in Alexandria, Virginia, and opened fire on politicians, wounding House GOP Whip Steve Scalise of Louisiana and four others, after asking a passing congressman whether Republicans or Democrats were practicing.

©2026 King Features Synd., Inc.



— Photo by Alfredo Vasquez

PLEASANT ACCOMMODATIONS – Davis Mountains State Park's Indian Lodge was built on a mountainside within the park. This treasured West Texas retreat was built by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) in the 1930s and features southwestern-style white adobe walls. The rustic hotel was recently remodeled and is now open for reservations.

Socorro Independent School District PUBLIC NOTICE

Public Meeting to Review Federally Funded Programs

The Socorro Independent School District will conduct a public information meeting to review the following 2026-2027 ESSA Federal Grants:

- Title I, Part A – Improving Basic Programs
- Title I, Part C – Migrant Education Program
- Title I, Part D, Subpart 2 – Prevention and Intervention Programs for Children and Youth Who Are Neglected, Delinquent, or At-Risk
- Title II, Part A – Preparing, Training and Recruiting High Quality Teachers, Principals or Other School Leaders
- Title III, Part A – English Language Acquisition
- Title IV, Part A – Student Support and Academic Enrichment

A Regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of Socorro ISD will be held June 17, 2026, beginning at 6:00 PM in the District Service Center Board Room, 12440 Rojas Drive, El Paso, Texas 79928.

S.I.S.D does not discriminate against any individual with regard to race, color, national origin, age, religion, sex, marital or veteran status, the presence of a medical condition, disability, or any other legally protected status. 42 U.S.C 2000e-2(a); 20 U.S.C. 1681: Labor Code 21-051.

AVISO PUBLICO

Lajunta Pública para Revisar los Programas de Fondos Federales

El Distrito Escolar Independiente de Socorro llevará a cabo una junta pública para revisar los siguientes programas federales de 2026-2027:

- Título I, Parte A – Mejorando Programas Básicos
- Título I, Parte C – Programa Educativo Migrante
- Título I, Parte D, Subparte 2 – Programas de Prevención e Intervención para Niños y Jóvenes Abandonados, Delincuentes o en Riesgo
- Título II, Parte A – La Preparación, la Capacitación y la Contratación de Maestros, Directores de Escuelas de Alta Capacidad u Otros Dirigentes Escolares
- Título III, Parte A – Adquisición del Idioma Inglés
- Título IV, Parte A – Apoyo Estudiantil y Enriquecimiento Académico

El 17 de junio de 2026 se llevará a cabo una reunión regular de la Mesa Directiva de Socorro ISD a partir de las 6:00 p. m. en la sala de juntas del Centro de Servicios del Distrito, 12440 Rojas Drive, El Paso, Texas 79928.

S.I.S.D no discrimina a ningún individuo a causa de su raza, de su color, de su nacionalidad, de sus creencias religiosas, de su género, de su estado legal, o de veterano, ninguna condición médica o incapacidad, o ningún otro estado legal. 42 U.S.C 2000e-2(a); 20 U.S.C. 1681: Labor Code 21-051.

WTCC: 06-11-26

Archives: www.wtxcc.com

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

public good” – whatever that means.

Certainly, it would be very bad for Britain if the country were to adopt wholesale the malignant views of Uygur and Piker, but that wasn't going to come about as a result of, say, one of them having a 40-minute speaking slot at a South by Southwest satellite event.

Traditionally, in free societies, people are allowed to say dumb and hateful things. Either they discredit themselves by doing so, or perhaps they eventually win people over to their views. Regardless, free and robust debate has been considered a good in and of itself, something a country run by a raucous, free-wheeling Parliament should readily understand.

Are the Jews behind the exclusion of Uygur and Piker? Yet, there were Jewish groups who didn't want them to come, but excluding them was a decision entirely in keeping with the government's practice of trying to suppress views that it deems extreme. Just a couple of weeks ago, right-wing figures critical of Islam and supportive of Israel saw their visas revoked.

The British government isn't a tool of the Zionists. It is a left-of-center Labour government. The Home Secretary is a Muslim of Pakistani origin who has attended anti-Israel protests. The government has said it would jail Bibi Netanyahu if he travels to Britain, sanctioned Israeli officials, restricted arms sales to the Jewish state, and recognized a Palestinian state.

If the revocation of the visas is an Israeli op, it's a profoundly counterproductive one. In authoritarian societies, people can truly be suppressed – if China wants to get rid of a nettlesome figure, it simply disappears him or her. In an open society, in contrast, there are many channels for expression, and official hostility tends to make the targeted voices more famous and interesting, whether it's James Joyce or the Sex Pistols.

Surely, Cenk Uygur and Hasan Piker are better known in the U.K. now than they were a few days ago, and that's not, as they say in Britain, conducive to the public good.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review. ©2026 by King Features Synd., Inc.

Nerve block is one of a few options for knee pain

DEAR DR. ROACH: I have bad knee arthritis. My doctor is suggesting a genicular nerve block. Is this a good idea? Will it fix the problem? – P.O.V.



Chronic knee pain from osteoarthritis is a common problem in middle-aged and older adults. Before a person receives treatment, the diagnosis should be confirmed by an X-ray. First-line treatments are exercise and anti-inflammatory drugs, like naproxen (orally) or diclofenac (topically).

When first-line treatments are ineffective, there are other options. Knee injections with steroids have long been used, but recent studies cast doubt on their effectiveness and raise concern for damage to the knee cartilage. Hyaluronic acid and plasma-rich platelet injections have been shown in recent trials to only be slightly better than saline injections, and they are much more expensive. Duloxetine, an antidepressant that has pain-relieving properties, is effective for some people but not for everyone.

Before considering knee-replacement surgery, a nerve block or ablation of the nerves that carry pain information (there are three genicular nerves) can be attempted when an expert is available. There is significant pain relief from this procedure, although the benefit is greatest within a few weeks and generally lessens after three to four months. About half of the people who got the procedure report being “much improved” or “very much improved” afterward. It's generally safe with a low risk of side effects, and it can be repeated.

DEAR DR. ROACH: I am 81 years old and have been diagnosed by my ophthalmologist with age-related macular degeneration (the dry type). I was advised to start taking the AREDS2 eye vitamin and mineral supplement. Shortly afterward, I came across a magazine advertisement for AREDS2, which included a disclaimer from the Food and Drug Administration (in fine print, ironically) stating that the product is “not intended to diagnose, treat, cure or prevent any disease.” I'm confused. If the over-the-counter mineral supplement doesn't do any of this, then of what value is it, and why take it? The disclaimer was easy to overlook and nearly impossible to read. – E.D.

You are very wise to look at the disclaimer, and I appreciate your asking me. The FDA requires this disclaimer on all supplements, even ones with strong evidence that supports them. I often refer readers to this disclaimer when I'm trying to give them a realistic expectation of the benefit that a person can get from a supplement.

In this particular case, however, there is strong evidence that the AREDS and AREDS2 formulations of over-the-counter supplemental vitamins and minerals do slow the progression of dry-type AMD. I agree with your ophthalmologist that it's worthwhile for you to take this formulation. I recommend the AREDS2 formulation for current or former smokers, as the beta-carotene in the original AREDS formulation was associated with an increase in lung cancer risk.

I do want to emphasize that you should only take these supplements when your eye professional recommends them. They aren't of proven benefit in people who don't have AMD, nor in people with very early AMD.

There are mixed data about prostate cancer risk with vitamin E, which is in both the AREDS and AREDS2 formulations. The AREDS trials didn't show any increased risk of prostate cancer with these formulations, but a 2011 trial did show a small increase in prostate cancer with the same dose of vitamin E that was used in the AREDS trials. Other studies have shown both small protection and no change in risk.

Still, because there's a potential for risk, the AREDS supplements should only be taken when prescribed by your regular doctor or eye doctor.

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. ©2026 North America Synd., Inc. All Rights Reserved.



Moore Texas by Roger Moore

June 5, 1836: 100 Cincinatti area volunteers sign up to help Texas fight for independence.

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: V equals T

MN VSP PMFSVPPCVS FZPPW
 UPVVPZ SRI VE GP TEZC RX
 R QRZW EN XSRQP, MV TEBUI
 GP R XMFQR XVMFQR.

Answer Page 4

©2026 King Features Synd., Inc.

Weekly SUDOKU

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

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging
 ♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

Answer Page 4

©2026 King Features Synd., Inc.

When the perps get what they deserve



by Freddy Groves

It's rare that we're able to look under the hood of the court cases when thieves that steal from the VA are caught and sentenced. But here we have a case, thanks to online documents, that allows us to do just that.

The crime: A man put together a scheme that involved billing the VA and Medicare through eight different companies for medical items the patients didn't need. They used overseas call centers to prey on disabled veterans and the elderly, paid kickbacks, laundered money, falsified documents and bilked the government (and taxpayers) out of a cool \$197 million. He was caught, arrested, went to trial and could have received the max sentence of 35 years in prison.

The 29-page sentencing document (the defense attorney's last stab at eliciting a short sentence from the

judge) is an interesting piece of legalese and heartstring pulling.

Twenty-nine pages of why his client should not be given the max 35 years – many pages of complicated math to calculate prison sentences ("calculated offense levels"), sentence lengths assigned to certain behaviors by other courts and the labeling of eight levels of criminal activity as "a single course of conduct."

The perp was at the head of a group that bilked the government out of \$197 million. That's not a single course of conduct.

I was also not swayed by the many pages describing the perp's small town upbringing, the perp rushing to his mother's side when she needed surgery, having two children and a widowed mother, raising his niece when her family couldn't...

No, I'm not impressed. All those things could be said of millions of people.

Most of us manage to go our whole lives without soliciting, defrauding, conspiring, forging, bribing, etc. And most of us manage

to go our whole lives without attempting to swindle the government out of \$197 million.

I was heartened that, for once, the courts did not apply a hand-slap punishment, which seems so prevalent nowadays. The perp received a sentence of 16 years 4 months, forfeiting \$17 million and paying back \$111 million.

©2026 King Features Synd., Inc.



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

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

• Using ice-cold sour cream instead of ice-cold water in your pie crust recipe will give you a flakier crust.

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

• Mix a quarter cup of salt in with 2 tablespoons of bath wash for a sudsy, refreshing, skin-soothing salt scrub.

• "I have three girls and one bathroom, so there's no way anyone gets "ready" in front of the bathroom mirror at my house. Instead, all the girls have a hanging shoe rack on the back of their door for makeup and hair supplies, and a mirror on the wall." – P.W. in Oregon

Send your tips to Now Here's a Tip, 628 Virginia Drive, Orlando, FL 32803. ©2026 King Features Synd., Inc.

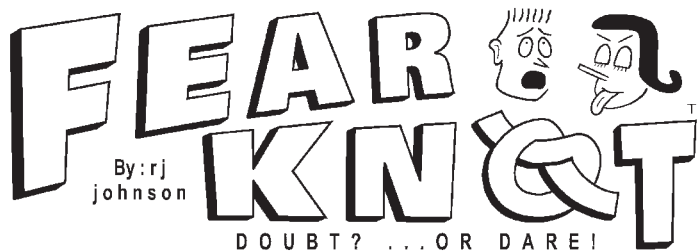
GO FIGURE!

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.

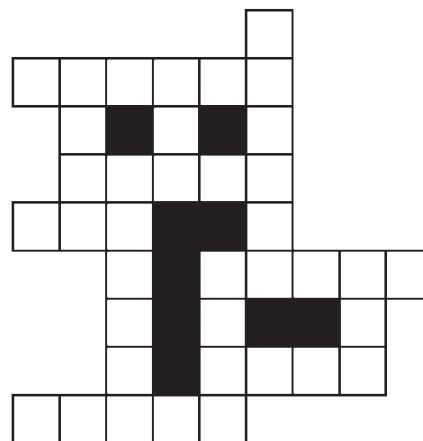
	+		-		=	4		
-		+		-				
	+		÷		=	2		
÷		-		+				
	+		×		=	27		
=		=		=				
2		5		11				
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

Answer Page 4

©2026 King Features Syndicate, Inc.



- AWG
- LODENO
- IYFRE
- ♥ARLI
- OTGTRO
- DRI
- ♥RYDA
- TOIGN
- ♥ORF
- ♥WROFEL
- ♥WRYDO
- ♥DEAW



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.

©2026 King Features Syndicate. All rights reserved.