



NEWSBRIEFS

Socorro ISD schools on ERP honor roll

Eleven schools in the Socorro Independent School District have been named to the Educational Results Partnership (ERP) 2019-2020 Honor Roll for exceptional student achievement and closing achievement gaps. The SISD schools on the honor roll are: Bill Sybert School, Dr. Sue A Shook Elementary, Horizon Heights Elementary, James P. Butler Elementary, John Drugan School, Loma Verde Elementary, Lujan-Chavez Elementary, Mission Early College High School, O'Shea Keleher Elementary, Paso Del Norte Elementary, and Sgt. Roberto Ituarte Elementary. "Congratulations to our SISD schools on the 2019-2020 ERP Honor Roll. Our teachers, administrators and instructional support staff at these campuses and ALL Team SISD schools continue their laser-sharp focus on preparing students for college, careers and beyond," said SISD Superintendent Jose Espinoza, Ed.D.

— Christy Flores-Jones

An easy win

Why strain your brain trying to win the lottery by coming up with a set of random numbers? The South African Lottery Commission says that a very lucky winner of a recent PowerBall drawing took home a prize equal to about 370,000 U.S. dollars with a numbers pick of the not-so-random sequence 5-6-7-8-9-10. The Commission says it uses a random number generator but that sometimes it can come up with a simple sequence, though it's rare.

— John Grimaldi

Incentive

More people died in South Korea than were born in 2020. And so, faced with a declining population one municipality, the town of Changwon, is providing a cash incentive for married couples to have babies. The city has announced that it will give married couples "loans" of \$100,000 each. Those who have an only child would have the interest on their loan waived. Couples who bear two children would have the principal reduced by 30%. And those who have three children would have their loans completely forgiven.

— John Grimaldi

The greatest danger to free speech is that many people that have it are too free with it.

— Quips & Quotes

El Paso Zoo reopens

By Alfredo Vasquez
Special to the Courier

EL PASO COUNTY – Borderland residents longing for a fun family outing will be able to visit The El Paso Zoo and Botanical Gardens again, beginning Wednesday, February 10.

Hours and services, however, have been scaled back, and health and safety protocols will be followed including face covering requirements and social distancing constraints, according to zoo officials. Also, hand sanitizer dispensers and informational signs have been added throughout the zoo grounds, officials said.

The zoo's new limited hours will be from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m., Wednesday through Friday and 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday and Sunday. The zoo will be closed Monday and Tuesday.

Some indoor buildings will also remain



— Photo courtesy El Paso Zoo

STANDING TALL – This giraffe and other animals are ready and waiting to welcome visitors back to the El Paso Zoo.

closed to the public, such as the African Star Train, the Hunt Family Endangered Species Carousel, and the Copper Canyon Ropes Challenge course. Additionally, the keeper chats and interactive activities

will not be offered until further notice, zoo officials said.

Indoor and outdoor seating will still be

See ZOO, Page 2

Adame wins top state prize in art contest

By Christy Flores-Jones
Special to the Courier



— Photo courtesy Socorro ISD

TINY ARTIST, BIG WIN – Amariah Adame is the elementary level state winner in the Youth Art Month flag design contest. Her art may advance to a national competition.

EL PASO COUNTY – Amariah Adame, a first-grade student at Sgt. Jose F. Carrasco Elementary was the elementary state winner in the Youth Art Month flag design contest. The Socorro Independent School District (SISD) student was the top elementary school winner across the state of Texas. She won for her flag drawing representing peace and love. The Texas Art Education Association sponsored the contest.

She was one of three winners in the prestigious statewide art contest, which awarded the top elementary, middle and high school students. Adame's work now may be displayed at the national level if she is chosen over the middle and high school winners to represent Texas. The Texas representative goes on to the National Art Education Association Youth Art Month flag design contest and is incorporated into a flag for display at the Youth Art Month Museum at the NAEA annual national convention.

The SISD Fine Arts Department and school employees surprised Adame with the news that she won and honored her with a certificate, balloons, and an art kit.

Claudia Cardenas, the art teacher at Carrasco Elementary, submitted Adame's flag design into the contest and was

See ART, Page 4

TEA releases 2020 Annual Report and SY 2019-20 Pocket Edition

By Alfredo Vasquez
Special to the Courier

TEXAS – The Texas Education Agency (TEA) announced recently the release of the 2020 Annual Report and School Year 2019-20 Pocket Edition.

TEA's annual report gives an overview of the progress and advancements taking place in Texas's more than 1,200 public school systems, according to agency officials. It also serves as a helpful resource for illustrating areas where Texas must maintain its investment in ensuring

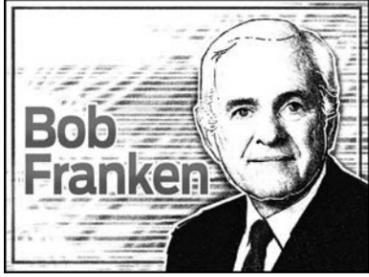
every student, regardless of circumstance, is prepared for success in college, a career, or the military, TEA officials asserted.

Officials explained that the 2020 Annual Report focuses on key areas of achievement based on TEA's strategic priorities including recruit, support, and

retain teachers and principals; build a foundation of reading and math; connect high school to career and college; and improve low performing schools.

The report also chronicles the agency's comprehensive

See REPORT, Page 5



A promising start

stops impromptu, causing his phalanx of Secret Service agents to collide because he can't resist a conversation and a selfie.

This is the man who urged American "folks" to "start afresh" after his predecessor (I've decided not to name him; we need a break) talked of "American carnage" as he described the nation in his inaugural address four years ago, turning it into a self-fulfilling prophecy. Starting afresh is easy to say, but the devil is in the details.

Now, one might think that West Palm is not your idea of Hades, with its golf courses, but the previous POTUS faces

a future of meeting with his attorneys to fend off a seemingly infinite number of legal actions that are piled up with his name as defendant. And if you don't think endlessly meeting with a bunch of lawyers ain't hell, you have never received an itemized account of billable hours.

Of course, the lawyers face their own anguish too, trying to collect the money that he invariably stiffes them on, along with everyone else with whom he does business.

Meanwhile, back in The Swamp, protected by thousands of police and armed soldiers, Joe – excuse me, Mr. President

– is guaranteed a bit of a honeymoon. He can start by just cleaning up the obvious garbage that has been left behind by you-know-who. It's a massive pile of rubbish, complete with a writer's cramp worth of executive orders that need his signature. This includes reversing policies inspired by cruel xenophobia that defined the past four years, tax breaks for the wealthy and deregulation to enrich them too. There is joining the world in fighting off calamitous climate change before the entire planet is consumed – in fact, joining the world in general – repairing alliances and rejecting tyranny.

Speaking of repairing, he is going to have to pretend he likes journalists or at least can tolerate

skeptical news coverage, as opposed to treating media as "the enemy of the people." That should be easy, considering how Biden used to hang out and schmooze with reporters every chance he got. Actually, Vice President Kamala Harris did too. We'll see how long it takes for all that glad-handing to turn into a fist.

And the new Biden administration has made some grandiose promises about defeating the coronavirus pandemic and its economic wreckage, beyond acknowledging them, as his prior job holder refused to do. A moving tribute to the 400,000 Americans who died is one thing,

See FRANKEN, Page 4

Small changes can minimize waste, conserve water

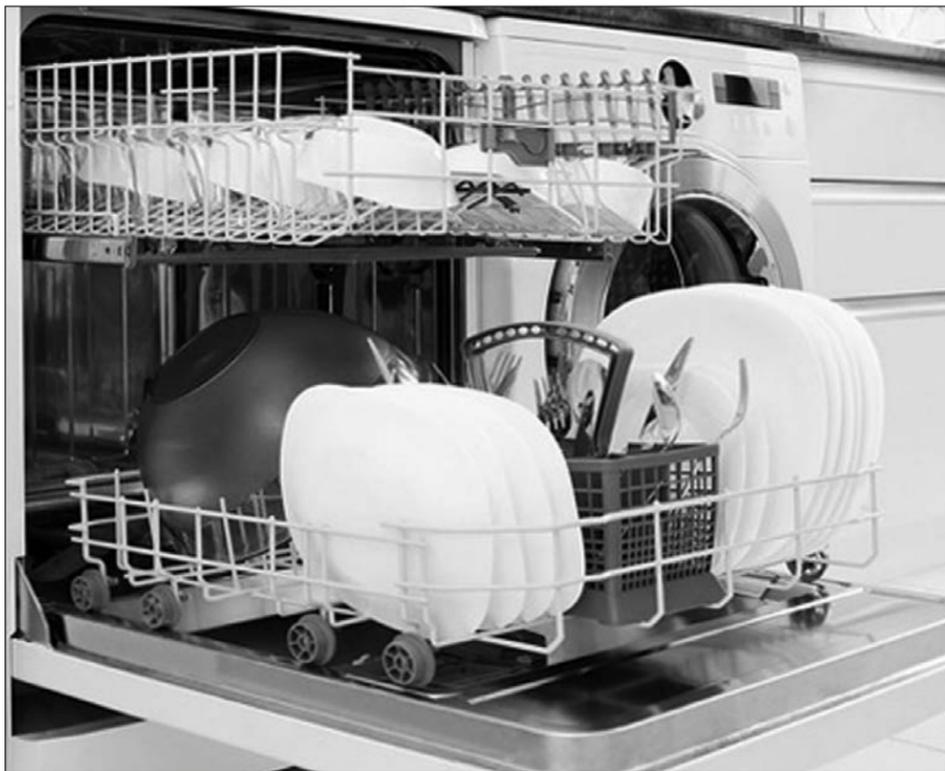
By John Balliew
Special to the Courier

EL PASO COUNTY – We all have a responsibility to be good environmental stewards.

El Paso Water has helped make water conservation a way of life in our community. For three decades, water conservation has been a priority for us, and as a result we have seen total water usage per person decline by 30 percent.

During the pandemic, many households at home for work or school saw water use rise as we used more water for drinking, cooking and washing. Similarly, residential waste volumes have risen as the City's Environmental Services Department had to pause recycling because of pandemic-related staffing shortages.

Increases in water use and waste also impact energy use since waste removal relies on transportation and water



– Photos courtesy El Paso Water

FILLER UP – Using a dishwasher when completely full can help conserve water.

production and pumping depend on cold water and using their dishwasher instead of washing dishes by hand make a difference in your water bill.

making small changes at home have the potential to make a significant impact in our community.

El Pasoans know that minor changes such as washing clothes in

cold water and using their dishwasher instead of washing dishes by hand make a difference in your water bill.

But conserving water isn't just about turning off the tap while brushing or using water-saving toilets, it also means making conscious, responsible decisions that will minimize waste as well.

At EPWater, we always say no to bottled water. Unlike bottled water, tap water faces more rigid quality and health standards. Trust your tap, and carry a reusable water bottle.

The largest component sent to landfills is food waste, according to

the Environmental Protection Agency. Wasting food is not only money down the drain, but a waste of energy, land, water and fertilizers needed to grow and distribute food. Make a shopping list with specific meals in mind, get creative in the kitchen with your leftovers or learn how to compost your food scraps at home.

- Buy foods with little or no packaging.
- Use reusable containers to store your food instead of plastic bags, aluminum foil or plastic cling wrap.
- Avoid disposable cups, plates, utensils and straws.
- Clean with reusable rags instead of paper towels.

Unfortunately, the pandemic spurred excessive waste in the form of disposable masks, gloves and sanitizer bottles. But, as people stayed at home to prevent the spread of COVID, it also opened up the opportunity for many of us to improve our sustainable living skills.

According to the EPA, the average American generates 4.9 pounds of trash daily. We can all set personal goals for reducing the household trash we generate each week.

If each household makes these minor adjustments, we can make a big difference to build a more sustainable community for our children and grandchildren. Together, we can ensure that El Paso has a more sustainable environment and reliable, high quality water for years to come.

John Balliew is President/CEO of El Paso Water.

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1973 48 Years 2021 WEST TEXAS COUNTY COURIER

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Zoo

From Page 1

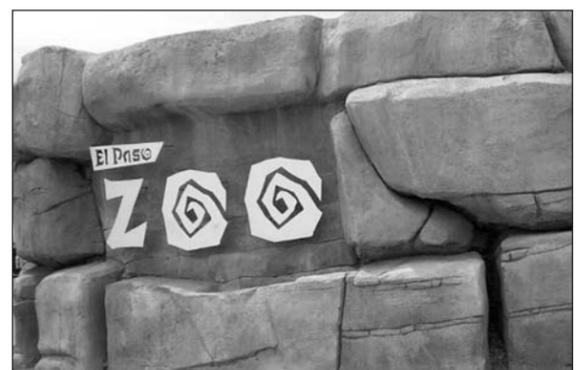
available but somewhat limited, and food and beverages will be sold. Also, visitors may bring their own food and drinks, except for glass items, alcoholic beverages, and single-use straws.

The current interactive and educational programs and activities on the El

Paso Zoo's Facebook page (at facebook.com/elpasozoo) will continue to be provided, zoo officials stated.

Admission costs (per the zoo's website) are: 2 years and younger, free; 3 to 12 years, \$7.50; 13 to 17 years, \$9; 18 to 59 years, \$12; 60 and older, \$9; and active-duty military or spouse, \$9, with valid ID.

Visit the zoo's website at elpasozoo.org for more information.



– Photo courtesy El Paso Zoo

READY TO ROAR – The El Paso Zoo has been closed to visitors since March 18 when the pandemic started. The city shut down the zoo at that time along with animal services, recreation centers, libraries, and museums to reduce group gatherings and prevent the spread of the coronavirus.

Thought police seek to strangle free speech

Long a stalwart defender of the First Amendment, the American media is now having second thoughts.

For decades, it was a commonplace sentiment among journalists that freedom of the press was one of the glories of our system. It helped to make the government accountable and to air diverse points of view – even unpopular ones – to be tested in the marketplace of ideas.

Media organizations were at the forefront of the fight to vindicate First Amendment rights, with *The New York Times* involved in two landmark Supreme Court decisions (New York Times Co. v. Sullivan and the Pentagon Papers case) and tended to rise as one against any perceived threat to their prerogatives and freedoms.

This advocacy has been sincere, although, if nothing else, journalists should be First Amendment purists out of a sense of self-interest. In a 2018 essay in *The Atlantic* representing the bygone conventional wisdom, titled “Why a Free Press Matters,” the longtime newscaster Dan Rather noted, “As a working journalist, I know I have a stake in this concept.”

One would think so.

Yet, now journalists have lurched from finding a threat to

freedom to the press in every criticism of reporters and news outlets by former President Donald Trump to themselves calling for unwelcome media organizations to be shut down.

They’ve become the thing they profess to hate – closed-minded censors who want to stifle free expression, First Amendment be damned.

Perversely, the TV program and email newsletter of the top media analyst at CNN, Brian Stelter, has been a clearinghouse for such advocacy, whether it is demands to get right-wingers removed from social media or – more astonishingly – to keep conservative cable networks off the airwaves.

Stelter’s colleague, media reporter Oliver Darcy, tweeted about his effort to get cable companies to answer why they carry pro-Trump channels like Newsmax and One America News Network. “Do they have any second thoughts about distributing these channels given their election denialism content?” he asked on Twitter. “They won’t say.”

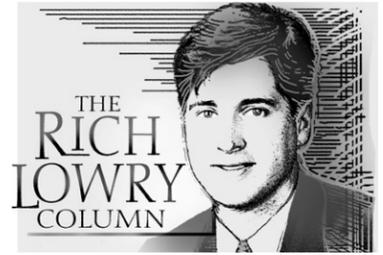
In the same vein, *Washington Post* columnist Max Boot drew a direct line between how we deal with foreign terror groups and how we should treat right-

wing media organizations. “We need,” he wrote, “to shut down the influencers who radicalize people and set them on the path toward violence and sedition.”

Boot noted, approvingly, that the U.K. doesn’t have the equivalent of Fox News because regulators won’t allow it. The

U.K. also doesn’t have a First Amendment, a small detail that might be worth considering if the point is to protect our freedoms rather than destroy them in a fit of ideological vengeance.

A writer at the progressive publication *Mother Jones* argued for an advertiser boycott instead

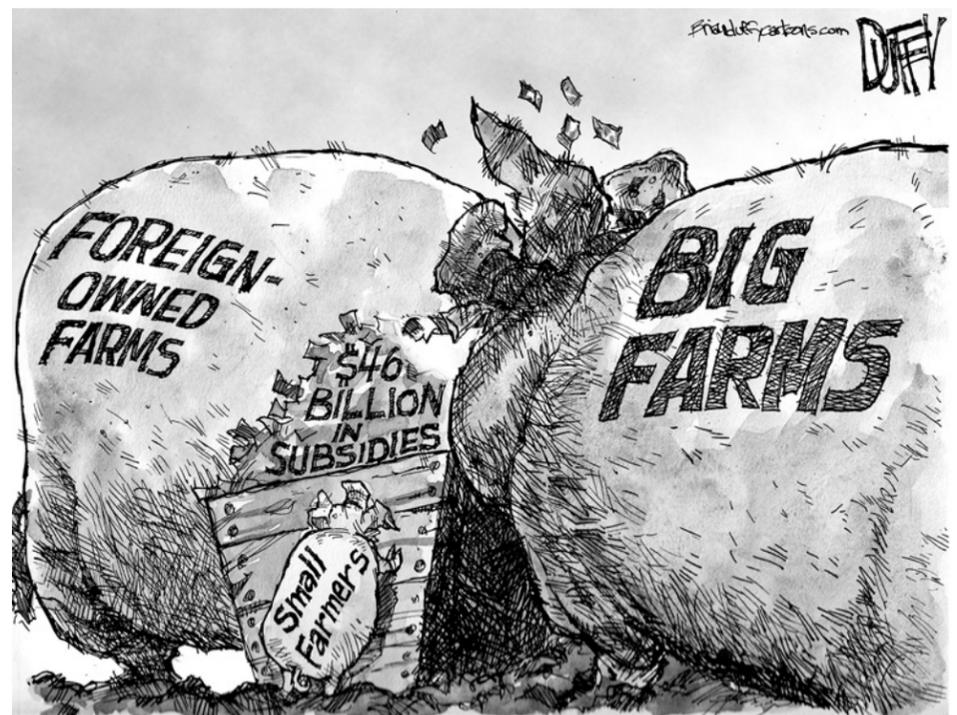


of regulatory action in a post called, charmingly, “It’s Time to

See LOWRY, Page 7



"MR. PRESIDENT, THE POLITICAL CARTOONISTS OF AMERICA ARE WAITING."



Art

From Page 1

among the first to know that she won. Cardenas was thrilled to let her know she was a state champion.

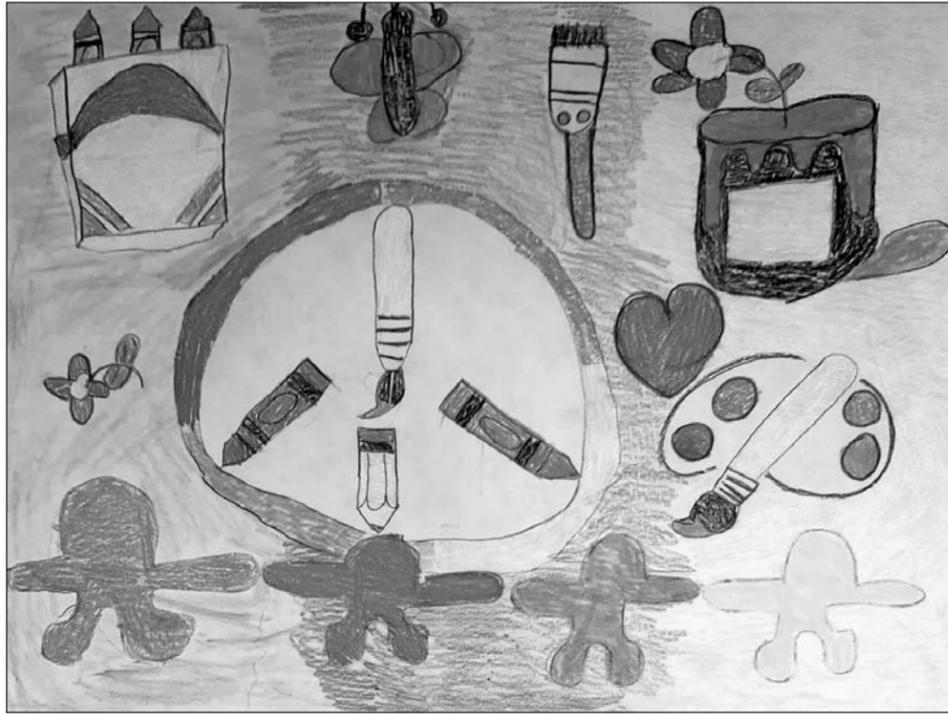
When Adame was told that she won, she said she could not believe it and was happy to know she was representing her school and the El Paso region.

“I received a lot of gifts because I won the contest,” Adame said. “It feels good. I’m happy.”

SISD employees, Carrasco staff and the school’s mascot were excited to congratulate Adame for the creativity in her artwork.

“We are so proud of (Amariah) for representing herself and the district, with her flag which represents unity and love,” said Armando Martinez, SISD Fine Arts director. “Considering the times that we are going through these days... it represents what our nation needs.”

Visit taea.org to learn more about the Texas Art Education Association and the Youth Art Month.



– Photo courtesy Socorro ISD

KINDER, GENTLER – Amariah Adame’s submission to the Youth Art Month flag design contest represented peace and love.

Strange BUT TRUE

By Lucie Winborne

- To train new operatives during the Cold War, the Soviets built fully functional replicas of American towns. Their residents consisted of retired deep-cover operatives who taught the trainees everything they needed to know about blending into American life.

- In 1963, the Bronx Zoo had an exhibit called “The Most Dangerous Animal in the World.” It was a mirror.

- The U.S. Navy has a tradition that no submarine is ever considered lost at sea. Subs that don’t return, including 52 lost during World War II, are considered “still on patrol.” Every year at Christmas, sailors manning communications hubs send holiday greetings to those listed as still on patrol.

- An outbreak of the common cold occurred at an Antarctic base after 17 weeks of complete isolation.

- After high school senior Allison Closs dressed up a cardboard cutout of Danny DeVito to go with her to prom, the actor returned the favor by bringing a cardboard cutout of Allison to the set of “It’s Always Sunny in Philadelphia.”

- A \$3 million lottery winner was sentenced to 21 years in prison after using his winnings to finance a meth trafficking ring.

- Actual town names in the U.S. include Rabbit Hash (Kentucky), Two Egg (Florida), Ding Dong (Texas) and Bacon (Delaware).

- Ever have trouble finishing your veggies? Try taking a tip from Leigh Knight, who in 2006 sold an unwanted brussels sprout left over from his Christmas dinner for £1,550 (\$2,100.72 USD) to aid cancer research.

Thought for the Day: “May your coffee kick in before reality does.”

– Unknown

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Clint Independent School District Public Notice

Clint Independent School District will hold a public hearing to discuss the District’s 2019-2020 Texas Academic Performance Report (TAPR) as part of a School Board meeting, which is scheduled for 5:30 p.m., Thursday, February 25, 2021.

DUE TO HEALTH AND SAFETY CONCERNS RELATED TO THE COVID-19 CORONAVIRUS, this will be a Virtual Meeting. The public can access this meeting by going to www.clintweb.net and clicking on the live-stream link on the main page.

The TAPR report will also be available for review after the hearing at all Clint ISD campuses, the Clint Administrative Office and at www.clintweb.net.

For more information, call 926-4051.

Distrito Escolar Independiente de Clint Junta Pública

El Distrito Escolar Independiente de Clint tendrá una Reunión Pública para informar sobre el “Reporte de Rendimiento Académica de Texas” (TAPR) del año escolar 2019-2020. El reporte sera parte de la reunión de la Mesa Directiva del distrito programada para el jueves, 25 de febrero del 2021 a las 5:30 p.m.

DEBIDO A PREOCUPACIONES DE SALUD Y SEGURIDAD RELACIONADAS CON EL CORONAVIRUS COVID-19, esta será una Reunión Virtual. El público puede acceder a esta reunión yendo a www.clintweb.net y haciendo clic en el enlace de transmisión en vivo en la página principal.

Todos los interesados están invitados a asistir. El reporte TAPR estará disponible después de la reunión en todas las escuelas del distrito, en el edificio de las oficinas administrativas y en www.clintweb.net.

Para mas información, favor de llamar al 926-4051.

WTCC: 02-04-21

Franken

From Page 2

but moving on to snuffing out COVID is an imperative.

Also imperative is making good on the inequities that have plagued the United States since before our beginning, when our colonists brought the first people of color here in chains. The promise made in the Declaration of Independence was a big lie:

“We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are

created equal...”

The time for patience is over. First we need to destroy the vicious white supremacist militias, then we need to attack the vestiges of polite racism. Or Joe Biden’s presidency with its pledge that “We can deliver racial justice” will be just another empty promise and our last chance to survive as a nation.

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GROWN LAS SEATTLE SLEW
LILLO SLAPS DESI SURE
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FLAY INDIA HAWN
PASCAL ANTARCTICOCEAN
ESAU ASST SEEPS ELLA
GARBAGEHEAP SAP PSALM
SPASM MERLIN MORE NYE
IRIS ENID ONS
AUDITOR SPACE MOUNTAIN
BRADYBUNCH RISE MINI
AGRA OREO ITMEANSALOT
SETH TARP FRANK IRENE
ESSO SLOE SALSAL RYDER

CryptoQuip Answer

If you happened to be there when someone’s really mad, would you be in the line of ire?

7	-	2	x	5	25
+		x		x	
6	x	4	-	3	21
x		+		+	
2	x	8	+	9	25
26		16		24	



Valentine, TX prepares for annual tradition

By Alfredo Vasquez
Special to the Courier

VALENTINE – Valentine, Texas has been offering lovers worldwide a novel way to commemorate Valentine’s Day (February 14) for more than 30 years, and this year’s observance is no exception.

The quaint West Texas town, which is about 150 miles east of El Paso County on Texas Highway 90, announced recently that its special Valentine’s Day postmark for 2021 has been selected and that its post office is prepared for the annual tradition.

A customized pictorial postmark design is selected every year as part of a contest among the town’s school students. This year, the winner is eighth-grader Arturo A. Gutierrez III, who featured a pair of deer whose horns come together in the shape of a heart. Gutierrez related to town officials that he got

the inspiration from a pair of deer he would often see while visiting his grandmother’s gravesite.

Valentine’s Day enthusiasts can have their Valentine’s Day cards sent to their sweethearts with the special Valentine, Texas postmark by mailing them to the town’s post office.

To send a card with the Valentine, TX postmark, interested individuals may address



the card to that special person, affix a first-class postage stamp (like the Love 2021 Forever Stamp) and put it into a larger envelope, also with appropriate postage. Then, address the larger, outer envelope to: Valentine’s Day Postmark, Postmaster, 311 W. California Ave., Valentine, Texas 79854-9998.

Report

From Page 1

response to the ongoing Coronavirus pandemic. Through authorization from legislative leadership and the governor’s office, the education agency, and the Texas Department of Emergency Management (TDEM) have administered the disbursement of more than \$2 billion from the federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, stated TEA officials. “This funding has provided critical support to schools, students, teachers, and families with immediate educational needs related to COVID-19,” they acknowledged.

The agency has also released its School Year (SY) 2019-20 Pocket Edition, which annually provides a detailed, easy-to-access summary of the public-school landscape in Texas with details on student population, students by program, special education services, kindergarten readiness, and a review of public education spending for fiscal year (FY) 2019, officials noted.

Interested individuals should visit the Texas Education Agency website at tea.texas.gov to view a full copy of the 2020 Annual Report and School Year 2019-20 Pocket Edition.

• On Feb. 1, 1790, the Supreme Court of the United States meets in New York City for the first time, with Chief Justice John Jay presiding. The U.S. Supreme Court was established by Article Three of the U.S. Constitution, which took effect in March 1789.

• On Feb. 2, 1980, details of ABSCAM, an FBI sting operation to uncover political corruption in the government, are released to the public. Thirty-one public officials were targeted. In the operation, FBI agents posed as representatives of a fictional Arab business, offering money in exchange for special favors.

• On Feb. 3, 1953, French oceanographer Jacques-Yves Cousteau publishes “The Silent World,” a memoir about his time exploring the oceans. In 1950, Lord Guinness, a British patron, bought him an old British minesweeper to use for his underwater explorations. Cousteau christened it Calypso.

• On Feb. 4, 1861, delegates from South Carolina, Mississippi, Florida, Alabama, Georgia and Louisiana convene to establish the Confederate States of America. Within two months, Virginia, Arkansas, North Carolina and Tennessee all had joined the Confederacy.

• On Feb. 5, 2003, U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell gives a speech to the United Nations justifying an invasion of Iraq that is full of fabrications. Powell later called it a “blot” on his record.

• On Feb. 6, 1891, three members of the Dalton Gang stage an unsuccessful train robbery in California – an inauspicious beginning to their careers as serious criminals. A year later, the gang botched another robbery, boldly attempting to hit two Kansas banks at the same time.

• On Feb. 7, 1812, the most violent of a series of earthquakes near Missouri causes a so-called fluvial tsunami in the Mississippi River, making the river run backward for several hours. The strongest of the aftershocks, an 8.8-magnitude, caused church bells to ring in Boston, over a thousand miles away.

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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, 2020

Data Control Codes	10	Elementary and Secondary School	98	
	General Fund	Emergency Relief Fund	Other Funds	Total Governmental Funds
REVENUES				
5700 Local and Intermediate Sources	\$ 2,819,477	\$ –	\$ 583,166	\$ 3,402,643
5800 State Program Revenues	20,032,525	–	1,916,891	21,949,416
5900 Federal Program Revenues	1,443,714	1,270,630	2,795,415	5,509,759
5020 Total Revenues	24,295,716	1,270,630	5,295,472	30,861,818
EXPENDITURES				
0011 Instruction	11,445,103	922,254	2,502,260	14,869,617
0012 Instructional Resources and Media Services	252,385	16,139	–	268,524
0013 Curriculum and Instructional Staff Development	184,303	11,931	21,606	217,840
0021 Instructional Leadership	166,456	9,917	74,963	251,336
0023 School Leadership	1,183,991	57,167	1,617	1,242,775
0031 Guidance, Counseling and Evaluation Services	763,157	44,604	189,991	997,752
0032 Social Work Services	32,781	–	–	32,781
0033 Health Services	277,489	22,834	1,545	301,868
0034 Student (Pupil) Transportation	447,868	232	–	448,100
0035 Food Services	1,135,895	–	237,040	1,372,935
0036 Cocurricular/Extracurricular Activities	809,644	30,576	–	840,220
0041 General Administration	1,153,928	36,101	6,812	1,196,841
0051 Plant Maintenance and Operations	2,263,605	103,670	30	2,367,305
0052 Security and Monitoring Services	251,111	–	36,087	287,198
0053 Data Processing Services	203,052	15,205	–	218,257
0061 Community Services	33,052	–	71,232	104,284
0071 Debt Service - Principal	–	–	1,237,000	1,237,000
0072 Debt Service - Interest	–	–	993,832	993,832
0073 Debt Service - Bond Issuance Costs	–	–	1,623	1,623
0099 Other Intergovernmental Charges	35,238	–	–	35,238
6030 Total Expenditures	20,639,058	1,270,630	5,375,638	27,285,326
1100 Excess (Deficiency) of Revenues Over (Under) Expenditures	3,656,658	–	(80,166)	3,576,492
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES):				
7915 Transfers In	–	–	32,631	32,631
8911 Transfers Out	(32,631)	–	–	(32,631)
7080 Total Other Financing Sources (Uses)	(32,631)	–	32,631	–
1200 Net Change in Fund Balance	3,624,027	–	(47,535)	3,576,492
0100 Fund Balance – Beginning	3,907,560	–	65,849	3,973,409
3000 Fund Balance – Ending	\$ 7,531,587	\$ –	\$ 18,314	\$ 7,549,901

The Super Bowl is here and the winner will be...

By Steve Escajeda
Special to the Courier

Well, it's finally here. In a year that many of us thought it might not come at all, the Super Bowl is upon us.

This Sunday the Kansas City Chiefs and the Tampa Bay Buccaneers will meet in America's greatest sporting event.

And for the first time in league history, a team will play the big game on its home field as the Bucs will play in their own Raymond James Stadium.

Normally, that would give the home team a big advantage, but because of covid restrictions, only about 22,000 fans will be allowed in the nearly 66,000-capacity arena.

And because the Super Bowl is a national event, not all those fans buying

the expensive tickets will be Tampa Bay fans.

But nevertheless, the big news is that the game is here. Despite all the problems with the virus, somehow the NFL was able to get through its regular season and the playoffs with very few hitches.

And what a matchup!

This game will pit the best quarterback in NFL history against a young man who many believe may eventually be the greatest quarterback in NFL history.

Tom Brady did an amazing job in his first season with the Bucs. He took a 7-9 team from a year ago and has led them all the way to the title game. Let's face it, if anyone doubted (and I am one of them) that Brady is the best of all time what he's done this season should erase all questions.

In fact, Brady affected two teams, his arrival in Tampa made them a winner, and

his departure from New England made them a loser.

On the other side of the field will be the defending Super Bowl-winning quarterback, Patrick Mahomes.

At 25, Mahomes has already been an NFL MVP, a Super Bowl winner, a Super Bowl MVP and is only one of two quarterbacks (Peyton Manning) to have thrown for 50 touchdowns and 5,000 yards in a single season.

How much older is Brady than Mahomes? Brady, 43, who will be playing in his 10th Super Bowl, was a freshman at Michigan when Mahomes was literally in diapers.

Here's another, Brady won his first Super Bowl when Mahomes was just six years old.

Of course there are many other players who are going to help decide the outcome

of the game. Kansas City has a wide variety of offensive weapons like receivers Tyreek Hill and Travis Kelce and Sammy Watkins and Mecole Hardman.

The running game for the Chiefs isn't especially strong, but it's adequate.

The Bucs have some fire power too with receivers Mike Evans, Antonio Brown, Rob Gronkowski, Chris Godwin and Scott Miller.

The running game advantage definitely goes to the Bucs with Ronald Jones and Leonard Fournette.

When you break these teams down, the biggest difference may be in the defenses. Tampa Bay gave Aaron Rodgers and the Packers all kinds of problems with constant pressure.

The Chiefs have improved on defense, but aren't nearly as disruptive as the Bucs.

So to me, it all comes down to the old vs. the new; Brady vs. Mahomes.

The quarterback who has the better day will eventually lead his team to victory.

Don't forget, the Bucs defeated the Packers to get here, despite the fact that Brady threw three interceptions.

Can Brady give up the ball to Mahomes and hope that the young phenom won't be able to take advantage? I don't think so.

On the other hand, can the Chiefs, who are battered with injuries along the offensive line, give Mahomes enough time to throw the football? The Packers couldn't do it for their quarterback.

In the end, it figures to be a great matchup. Think what it would have been like to see an Ali vs. Tyson, Jordan vs. LeBron, Ruth vs. Aaron.

Unfortunately, we weren't able to see those great old vs. new match-ups. But we will be able to witness this one.

And most of the time, when old and young collide, young usually comes out on top.

This year will be no different. Young will prevail.

Patrick Mahomes and the Chiefs will win their second straight Super Bowl by the score of 28-21.

Do not take that to the bank!

Safety tips for driving near big rigs

By Jeff Salzgeber
Special to the Courier

AUSTIN – TxDOT is reminding all drivers to take extra precautions when driving around trucks.

Thousands of large trucks and tractor-trailers travel busy Texas highways every day. Weighing 20 times more than an average car, "big rigs" require more time to accelerate and decelerate and have large blind spots that other motorists need to be aware of to help avoid a potentially deadly crash.

An 80,000-pound, loaded tractor-trailer going 65 mph can take as much as the length of a football field to come to a complete stop, which is why motorists should avoid driving too closely or swerving in front of a large truck.

Tractor-trailers and large trucks also have more and larger blind spots than passenger vehicles do. It's important to try to stay out of these blind spots around the front, back and sides of trucks. A good rule of thumb for motorists to remember is that if they can't see the truck driver in the truck's side mirror, that truck driver can't see them or their vehicle either.

To help keep everyone safe on the road, TxDOT asks

motorists to give trucks plenty of room and observe the following safety tips when driving around large trucks:

- Pass trucks safely by waiting until you can see both truck headlights in your rearview mirror before moving back into your lane. Pass a truck only when it's legal and safe.

- Stay away from a truck's "No Zones," blind spot areas in which crashes are more likely to occur. No Zones include the blind spots along each side, the space up to 20 feet in front of the cab, and the area up to 200 feet behind the trailer.

- Maintain a safe following distance. Be sure you can see the driver in the truck's side mirror.

- Never cross behind a truck that is backing up.

- Don't squeeze between a truck and the curb. Trucks make wide right turns, and the driver may not see you.

"Be Safe. Drive Smart." is a key component of #EndTheStreakTX, a broader social media and word-of-mouth effort that encourages drivers to make safer choices while behind the wheel such as wearing a seat belt, driving the speed limit, never texting and driving and never driving under the influence of alcohol or other drugs. Nov. 7, 2000 was the last deathless day on Texas roadways. #EndTheStreakTX asks all Texans to commit to driving safely to help end the streak of daily deaths on Texas roadways.

Nov. 7, 2000 was the last deathless day on Texas roadways.

Super Crossword

- ACROSS**
- 1 Little rascal
 - 6 Mosque officiants
 - 11 Go for a dip
 - 15 Spill the secret
 - 19 Shinbone
 - 20 Local theaters, in slang
 - 21 Had on
 - 22 Go very fast
 - 23 City in which quadrennial games take place
 - 25 Gumbo vegetable
 - 26 R&B singer James
 - 27 Japanese soup paste
 - 28 Fit_ queen
 - 29 Sea cargo weight unit
 - 31 Statistic associated with plane riders
 - 35 Threatens to topple
 - 36 Brouhaha
 - 37 Ken is one
 - 38 Viking 1 landing site
 - 39 Fleecy boot brand
 - 42 Guesses at LGA
 - 45 Instructive example
 - 47 "Siddhartha" author Hermann
 - 52 Gotten larger
 - 54 UNLV part
 - 56 1977 Triple Crown horse
 - 58 "_ & Stitch"
 - 59 Stinging hits
 - 61 TV's Arnaz
 - 62 Not iffy
 - 63 Whitewater transport
 - 67 Vassals
 - 69 Tongue-lash
 - 70 See 117-Across
 - 71 Goldie of "Laugh-In"
 - 72 Unit of pressure
 - 75 It surrounds the South Orkney Islands
 - 80 Twin of Jacob
 - 81 Secy., e.g.
 - 83 Oozes
 - 84 Jazzy Fitzgerald
 - 85 Pile of trash
 - 89 Enervate
 - 90 Sacred song
 - 91 Muscle twitch
 - 92 Arthurian wizard
 - 94 "Encore!"
 - 96 "Science Guy" of TV
 - 97 Pupil setting
 - 99 Arthurian wife
 - 101 Add_(annexes)
 - 103 Reviewer of tax returns
 - 107 Disney World roller coaster
 - 113 Moniker for a 1970s sitcom family
 - 115 Go up
 - 116 With 118-Across, bite-size Nabisco cookie
 - 117 With 70-Across, Taj Mahal locale
 - 118 See 116-Across
 - 119 Statement about the end of each of nine answers in this puzzle
 - 122 Meyers of "Late Night"
 - 123 Ball field coverer
 - 124 Candid
 - 125 Cara of "Fame" fame
 - 126 Canadian fuel brand
 - 127 Gin flavorer
 - 128 Burrito topper
 - 129 Winona of "Beetlejuice"
 - DOWN**
 - 1 Walk heavily
 - 2 Paramecium hairs
 - 3 Huge gulf
 - 4 Cocktail at brunch
 - 5 Dad, in dialect
 - 6 Disguised, in brief
 - 7 Gold-medal skier
 - Phil
 - 8 On a plane or train
 - 9 Month, in Spain
 - 10 Retired jet since '03
 - 11 Cutlass, e.g.
 - 12 Roused
 - 13 Thorns in one's side
 - 14 Scant
 - 15 Favre of football
 - 16 Starbucks offering
 - 17 Many a Tony winner
 - 18 Hits on the noggin
 - 24 Alternatively
 - 29 Artificial
 - 30 Two-gender pronoun
 - 32 Utopian site
 - 33 Email giggle
 - 34 Bullring calls
 - 38 Sacred song
 - 39 Wrinkled citrus fruit
 - 40 Smile widely
 - 41 Club game
 - 43 Assuage
 - 44 Bygone Swedish car
 - 46 Smileys' opposites
 - 48 Inherent natures
 - 49 Slimy garden pest
 - 50 Dried up, old-style
 - 51 Rams' partners
 - 53 Some babes in the woods
 - 55 Sharp, broken-off piece
 - 57 Purple blooms
 - 59 Colonel Klink's camp
 - 60 Mail status
 - 64 _ carte
 - 65 Nutrition stat
 - 66 Ventilates
 - 68 "Sands of _ Jima"
 - 71 Big African beast, briefly
 - 72 Tinkertoy bits
 - 73 PDQ cousin
 - 74 Gilbert of "The Talk"
 - 75 Fire remains
 - 76 Join (with)
 - 77 Zest
 - 78 Join (with)
 - 79 Identify
 - 82 Between urban and country
 - 86 Friendly relationship
 - 87 Letter before beth
 - 88 _ colada
 - 90 "21 Grams" actor Sean
 - 93 Cage, to his pals
 - 95 City WNW of Paris
 - 98 R2-D2 and others
 - 100 Skin-related
 - 102 "Our Lady" of churches
 - 103 Humiliate
 - 104 Beseches
 - 105 Pub missiles
 - 106 Boise setting
 - 107 Brand of mouthwash
 - 108 Outward expressions
 - 109 Port of Japan
 - 110 Felt sickly
 - 111 Words after two or hole
 - 112 Stuff in gunpowder
 - 114 Successor of Claudius I
 - 119 Provisos
 - 120 Refrain bit
 - 121 Title for Ringo Starr as of 2018

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						
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85				86				87	88		89			90					
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103	104	105	106				107					108	109				110	111	112
113							114				115					116			
117						118				119	120			121					
122						123				124				125					
126						127				128				129					

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 3

Crush Fox News.”

A boycott wouldn't violate the First Amendment like a direct crackdown on Fox and others. Still, it would be private action undertaken in the service of a profoundly illiberal goal, running

counter to the country's culture of free speech.

All of this would be bad enough if it weren't people who write and comment on TV for a living advocating it. But journalists have been moving in this direction for a while now, as Armin Rosen catalogues in a disturbing report for *Tablet* magazine.

The author, Steve Coll, who is no less than the dean of the Graduate School of Journalism at Columbia University, said last December, “Those of us in journalism have to come to terms with the fact that free speech, a principle that we hold sacred, is being weaponized against the principles of journalism.” The former managing editor of *Time* magazine, Richard

Office test alone can't diagnose COPD



DEAR DR. ROACH: I am a healthy 70-year-old woman. The only prescription medication I take is for dry eyes. I recently visited my new primary physician for the first time, and she had me do a breathing test, where I exhaled into a tube to measure airflow. I was told to breathe deeply and exhale completely into the tube three times in succession. It took less than a minute to complete. It is apparently a routine test she orders for new patients. She then told me I have COPD, on the basis of that test alone. She asked if I had ever smoked or been exposed to secondhand smoke. That was her only question – coughing or shortness of breath was never mentioned. I have never smoked, but my father was a smoker when I was growing up. I actually do have a slightly productive cough most mornings. I probably walk about 10 miles a week, and I do notice some shortness of breath on long uphill sections, though I can walk briskly in level areas for miles with no problem. She said it is not advanced enough to require an inhaler at this time. I am bothered by this very easy “diagnosis” on the basis of one simple test. I wonder if I should ask to be referred to a pulmonologist for a more thorough evaluation. – O.P.

The test your doctor performed is called office spirometry, and it is useful for monitoring known pulmonary diseases, especially COPD and asthma. However, by itself, it is inadequate to make the diagnosis of COPD, which I am not sure you have.

The diagnosis of COPD is made in people with persistent respiratory symptoms, usually shortness of breath or coughing. Spirometry will usually show obstruction to airflow. Formal pulmonary function testing, which is an extensive process taking an hour or so with a skilled and experienced technician, is ideal for determining severity.

The problem with getting a breathing test in someone who has no significant symptoms is that you can find someone whose test results are at or just below the lower limit of normal, and the diagnosis is unclear. The prognosis for people with mild airway obstruction but with no symptoms of COPD is much better than for people with COPD and who continue to smoke. For this reason, using spirometry as a screening test for everyone is not recommended.

Without knowing the exact results of your spirometry, I suspect you do not have COPD, given your absence of smoking and your extremely mild symptoms. A comprehensive exam by a pulmonologist would be definitive and may help you be less anxious about the results you have now.

DEAR DR. ROACH: I saw your recent column on enlarged prostate, and I have the same problem. I have no history of cancer, but I do have a high PSA and symptoms of frequent urination. Because of other medications, I cannot take ibuprofen, so I am curious if Tylenol has the same anti-inflammatory effect. I do occasionally use Tylenol for headaches and arthritis pain. – J.B.

The exact mechanism of how Tylenol reduces pain remains a mystery. However, it is not an anti-inflammatory drug like ibuprofen, so would not be expected to have the benefit in prostate symptoms that some men get from taking an ibuprofen at bedtime.

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) 2021 North America Synd., Inc. All Rights Reserved.

Stengel, has written: “All speech is not equal. And where truth cannot drive out lies, we must add new guardrails.”

And so its erstwhile champions are ready to retreat from strict adherence to the First Amendment to a new rule of “free speech for me, but not for thee.”

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review. (c) 2021 by King Features Synd., Inc.



Moore Texas by Roger MOORE
When the fruit of the Prickly Pear ripened, warring Texas Indian tribes suspended fighting to gorge together.

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: **G** equals **Y**

MC GBL UKDDHIHS YB
AH YUHTH VUHI EBQHBH' E
THKFFG QKS, VBLFS GBL AH
MI YUH FMIH BC MTH?

Answer Page 4

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

	7				4	9	2	
		8		6				5
3			1					6
	4	6	9					8
9				5		4		
	2				6			1
5			8		7	6		
	1			4				3
		4			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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Has the VA called about Solid Start?



by Freddy Groves

Have you been separated from the service for less than a year? Did you receive your phone calls from the Department of Veterans Affairs? They will try to contact you at the 90, 180 and 365-day point. The reason: Solid Start.

Solid Start is a program to ensure that newly separated veterans know what their benefits are. Some that you might have questions about are housing assistance, health care, home loans, pension and employment. (Be sure you've updated contact info on eBenefits so they know how to find you.)

Solid Start is more than just benefits info. Many of us have a tough time when we make the switch to civilian life. With so many changes, some of us don't do well with all the upheaval to our lives. But

you're not alone. We've all made that trek.

If the stress is too much, the VA can help there, too. Even if you haven't signed up yet for VA health care, if you're struggling, walk into any VA medical center, day or night, or a Vet Center clinic during open hours. Just walk in.

Meanwhile, be sure you're signed up for VA health care. Start by calling (1-877-222-8387) Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. ET. To learn more about Solid Start, go online to www.benefits.va.gov/transition/solid-start.asp and scroll around. Don't miss the Find Resources button. You'll see links to medical centers, PTSD programs, benefits, substance disorder programs, all of it.

If you get a call from 1-800-827-0611, that's the Solid Start folks. That's also their hotline should you need help. Call them if you haven't heard anything in the first 90 days.

Just a heads up: When these VA reps call you, they won't be asking for any financial info.

If someone does, they're fakes and thieves, so hang up.

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• N.B. of Texas, writes: "I never could find the time to exercise. When I got home, I had to rush to get supper, etc., and afterward all I wanted to do was plop down and watch television. Then I got an exercise mat and a stationary bicycle. When I couldn't work out very long, I worked out during commercials. I've lost 3 pounds so far!" Great idea for all those with fitness on their New Year's Resolution lists, Nancy!

• Two wonderful tips came in from G.K. of Minnesota: "To protect floors from being damaged by chairs being pushed around, glue rounds of carpeting beneath the chair legs. They are easily removed for replacing as they wear down. Also, when making bread or rolls, warm the flour in the oven or microwave so as not to chill the butter. The dough will rise faster."

• B.W. of Colorado swears by brake cleaner to get rid of bad spots on carpets. "Regular automotive brake cleaner on the spot and a clean rag will remove almost all stains," he says.

• "In cold winter months, keep your robe (and slippers or whatever else) under the covers with you when you sleep. Pull it next to or over you a few minutes before you get up. It'll be toasty and will help make the transition into the cold a little less harsh." – B.M. in New York

• If your animals try to get out when you go into or out of the house, keep some toys or treats in your pocket or near the door to throw across the room, giving you a few seconds to slip in or out.

• As tax time draws closer, try taping a large manila envelope to the fridge, leaving the top open. Immediately place all tax-related forms and receipts in the envelope as they come in. This way, when you are ready to start your taxes, all items will be together and easy to find.

Send your tips to Now Here's a Tip, 628 Virginia Drive, Orlando, FL 32803. (c) 2021 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

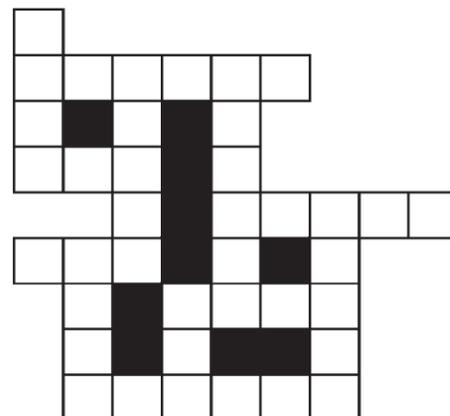
	-		x		25
+		x		x	
	x		-		21
x		+		+	
	x		+		25
26		16		24	

2 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

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- EYK
- PERYET
- ♥PYLAT
- ♥ASML
- KRASEM
- ♥TRA
- OMKA
- ♥RYSEA
- ♥KAS
- YUMLET
- YAKKA
- ERTS



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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