



NEWSBRIEFS

Free detectors

The El Paso Community College (EPCC) Fire Technology Program, through a grant from State Farm, will provide education on home safety and fire prevention that leads to healthier and safer communities. Using curbside pickup, participants will receive carbon monoxide and smoke detectors, as well as information on how to appropriately respond to various emergencies which might be encountered in the home or workplace, ranging from gas leaks to fire. The event takes place at the EPCC Valle Verde Campus, 919 Hunter Dr. on Saturday, March 13, 2021 from 9:00 a.m. to noon.

— Ismael De La Rosa

Cost of smoking

With smokers having an elevated risk of severe symptoms from COVID-19 and the economic and societal costs of smoking totaling more than \$300 billion per year, the personal-finance website WalletHub has released its report on *The Real Cost of Smoking by State*, as well as accompanying videos. To encourage the estimated 34.2 million tobacco users in the U.S. to kick this dangerous habit, WalletHub calculated the potential monetary losses — including the lifetime and annual costs of a cigarette pack per day, health care expenditures, income losses and other costs — brought on by smoking and exposure to secondhand smoke. Texas was rated 23rd in the report, ranking (1-Lowest, 25-Avg.):

- Out-of-Pocket Cost per Smoker — \$111,602 (22nd);
- Financial-Opportunity Cost per Smoker — \$1,244,225 (22nd);
- Health-Care Cost per Smoker — \$133,882 (13th);
- Income Loss per Smoker — \$553,254 (29th);
- Other Costs per Smoker — \$16,663 (49th);
- Total Cost Over Lifetime per Smoker — \$2,059,626 (23rd); and
- Total Cost per Year per Smoker — \$42,909.

Visit <https://wallethub.com/edu/the-financial-cost-of-smoking-by-state/9520> for the full report.

— Diana Polk

Easy come, easy go

There are fortunes to be made online via cryptocurrencies such as Bitcoin. One Bitcoin, which is the brand name

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Patience is the greatest of all shock absorbers. About the only thing you can get in a hurry is trouble.

— Quips & Quotes

Bush institute calls for border security policy

By Alfredo Vasquez
Special to the Courier

TEXAS — New border security policy recommendations must consist of a multi-faceted approach to be successful, according to a recently released report by the Bush Institute-SMU Economic Growth Initiative on smart border security policy.

“We do not need to sacrifice our humanity in the name of security, but we must be nimble in the face of changing circumstances and work closely across the entire region to prevent real security threats while upholding our tradition as a welcoming nation,” The George W. Bush Institute-SMU Economic Growth Initiative experts Laura Collins, Matthew Rooney, and Cris Ramon wrote in the initiative’s report.

The Dallas-based institute’s most recent endeavor is the fifth in a series of studies that provide in-depth analysis and solutions on immigration topics currently being debated in the U.S. Congress.

The institute’s border paper calls on the United States to work directly with the governments of El Salvador, Honduras, Guatemala, and Mexico to agree on humanitarian, border security measures and to commit to working together to address migration flow causes.

Rooney stated that there is a big

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— Photo courtesy United Nations Refugee Agency

ONE TOUGH TREK — A recent border security report, produced by the renowned Bush institute, calls on President Biden’s administration to work directly with vetted people in the governments of El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Mexico to stem migration throughout the region. Women and children, above, from Central America walk through southern Mexico on their way to the U.S. border.

USDA technical, financial assistance available to farmers and ranchers

By Alfredo Vasquez
Special to the Courier

TEXAS — In response to the winter storms that hit Texas in February, the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is offering farmers and ranchers technical and financial assistance to repair and replace certain damaged conservation practices.

NRCS is accepting applications for its Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) for the recovery measures including animal mortality and facility; high tunnel systems; irrigation system and irrigation pipeline; livestock pipeline; obstruction removal; pumping plant; roofs and covers; waste storage facility; and water wells and facilities.

NRCS accepts conservation program applications year-round; however, applications for 2021 winter storm recovery funding must be submitted by April 2, officials pointed out. They stated that applications will be ranked and approved as soon as possible so conservation work can begin.

Farmers and ranchers negatively impacted by the recent winter storm are encouraged to contact their local NRCS office to apply for assistance. Also, producers are reminded that they must submit a separate disaster sign-up application to be considered. For more information, persons can contact their local NRCS offices (www.farmers.gov/service-center-locator).

Another program that the NRCS is currently promoting makes available \$1 million to

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Socorro ISD students offer free income tax preparations

By Christy Flores-Jones
Special to the Courier

EL PASO COUNTY — High school students in the Socorro Independent School District, through a partnership with GECU and the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program (VITA), are offering tax preparation services now through April 15 at Americas, Eastlake, Socorro, Montwood, El Dorado and Pebble Hills high schools.

The students are enrolled in various Career and Technical Education courses. Instructors along with the students have earned either a basic and/or advanced certification in order to be prepared to help community members file their taxes free of charge.

To receive services, taxpayers with an annual income of \$60,000 or less can show up to one of the sites between 4:30 p.m. and 6:45 p.m. to file their 1040 EZ, 1040A and 1040 forms. Taxpayers who are disabled, elderly or limited English speakers who make above the maximum income may still be assisted in their tax preparations.

The process has been adjusted this year to incorporate safety measures and social distancing. Clients may drop off their documents at the high school through a drive-through service. The tax preparation program teacher/supervisor will assign the cases to a student who will prepare the paperwork. The clients have the option to either sign electronically or return to the campus to sign their tax return. Throughout the process, tax preparers

See TAXES, Page 5



Golden calf cramp

of materialistic or unworthy worship.”

Worthy or not, there wasn't any question that the right-wing true believers at CPAC worshipped Donald Trump. When he made his appearance, his first since being bounced from the White House, the roar was comparable to the high-volume chaos at the Capitol building [after the rioting]. Perhaps at CPAC the din was even louder because so many in the crowd could whoop it up while refusing to wear facemasks. That is illogical for several reasons.

First of all, it is risky. Certainly by now even these defenders of “freedom” are aware of the dangers of going unmasked as COVID-19 strikes them down as a result. Secondly, they accept other limitations to their

“liberties” – seat belt laws, for instance; those laws that make texting while driving illegal, for another; or the illegality of driving while drinking.

Thirdly, a mask would have covered up their spittle as they bellowed when Trump entered, and went bonkers when he asked, “Do you miss me yet?”

For the shrieking thousands in the room, Donald Trump [fired them up]. He attacked Joe Biden with all the pent-up venom a man could have who has had his social media accounts silenced. He charged once again that his defeat was the result of a “rigged” election. He really set the crowd off when he teased with: “Who knows? I may even decide to beat them for a third time.”

Actually, it was just as interesting who was not at the

CPAC event as who was. Mike Pence was not. Neither was Nikki Haley. Both of them figure in the if-not-Donald-then-who speculation.

As for the annual straw poll the conference runs, the Donald flexed his muscles (yes, he has muscles), gaining 55% of the vote.

Among those who did show up was Ted Cruz, who was playing his usual duplicity game. He came to praise Trump because it was too soon to bury him: “Let me tell you this right now. Donald Trump ain't goin' anywhere.” He left off the word “yet,” but that was implicit, although this particular crowd may not appreciate subtlety.

But first ahead is the off-year election in 2022, usually a good cycle for the party not in power in Congress. That would be the Republicans. Donald Trump has made it amply clear that he wants

to be a player in that game, on his way to being THE player in the presidential games in 2024. He can now play the outsider, once again, taking shots at Biden as... “anti-jobs, anti-family, anti-borders, anti-energy, anti-women and anti-science.”

And waiting in the wings in case Trump decides he doesn't want to make a go of it, or the party decides for him, is Ted Cruz, or the crowd of sharp elbowed politicians that are successful in shoving Don Trump aside into retirement. What was it his buddy Kim Jong Un described him as, a “dotard”? Then the GOP will have a succession fight worthy of North Korea to see who takes over and who gets to win the golden statue prize.

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View from here By John Grimaldi

Abortions, faith and leaders

Archbishop Joseph Naumann, chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Committee on Pro-Life Activities, has taken President Biden to task for touting his faith while at the same time promoting abortions.

In a recent interview Naumann said “The president should stop defining himself as a devout Catholic and acknowledge that his view on abortion is contrary to Catholic moral teaching.” The bishop went on to say that the president is “confusing” the more than 70 million American Catholics.

“If President Biden lies about his faith, what else is he lying about. The same goes for Nancy Pelosi, who also seeks to be seen as a ‘devout’ Catholic. She, too, lies about her faith and has been admonished

on a number of occasions by the church for aggressively promoting the notion that a woman has a so-called right to murder her unborn child,” says Rebecca Weber, CEO of the Association of Mature American Citizens (AMAC).

Weber cites the most recent “public shaming” of the House Speaker by the Archbishop of San Francisco, Salvatore Cordileone, for her aggressive focus on alleged abortion rights. As Cordileone put it: “To begin with the obvious: Nancy Pelosi does not speak for the Catholic Church... .

And on the question of the equal dignity of human life in the womb, she also speaks in direct contradiction to a fundamental human right that Catholic teaching has consistently championed for 2,000 years.”

Meanwhile, the founder of the pro-life

organization Live Action, Lila Rose, in an interview with NTD News, said “The president is using the Christian religion as a cover for his extreme policies and his promotion of abortion. And that is simply the worst kind of lie. It's the worst kind of violence, it's what needs to be exposed.”

She pointed out that President Biden is surrounding himself with zealous proponents of abortion, starting with his vice president Kamala Harris. And, Rose said, the president no longer supports the Hyde Amendment, legislation that prohibits federal funding of abortions, including the use of taxpayer funds to finance groups that offer abortions or abortion counseling.

“To see the double standard and media where Joe Biden's faith is praised and held up as an example, while at the same time, he's supporting the legalized killing and even the taxpayer-funded killing of human beings, of children. While at the same time, other Catholics like (Supreme

Court Justice) Amy Coney Barrett (who was and) is excoriated for her faith, is attacked, even, for her faith and called a ‘handmaid,’ that she's going to set us back decades or centuries because of her faithful Catholic witness.”

Weber believes that “Ms. Pelosi is doing a disservice to her pro-life constituents and to the faith she claims to observe. It's about time, too, that Mr. Biden is called out for the hypocrisy of touting his faith while seeking ways to make it easier to kill unborn babies. If he keeps it up, he's bound to earn the moniker, Sinner-in-Chief.”

The 2.3 million member Association of Mature American Citizens (AMAC) www.amac.us is a vibrant, vital senior advocacy organization. AMAC Action is a non-profit, non-partisan organization representing the membership in our nation's capital and in local Congressional Districts throughout the country.



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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.

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EL PASO COUNTY
HOUSING AUTHORITY

Public Notice

El Paso County Housing Authority will be accepting applications for Low Income Public Housing (LIPH), located in Fabens for 1, 2, 3 & 4-bedroom units

(Only 12 applications available for 1 & 2-bedroom units)

Must come in-person to apply, ONLY on:

Thursday, April 1, 2021
8:30 A.M. to 12 P.M. (noon)
1101 Yann Road
Fabens, TX 79838

(As a precaution, face coverings are required for everyone's safety.)

FOR INFORMATION ONLY, call the office at (915) 764-3559.



WTCC: 03-11-21

Briefs

From Page 1

of an anonymous computer-generated form of real money, is said to be worth about \$35,000; it's worth fluctuates just like a stock decreases and increases in value, allowing “investors” to buy and sell it in a worldwide virtual marketplace. It's been around since 2009 and investors such as Stefan Thomas of San Francisco have made millions of dollars over the years. To be precise, Thomas is worth some \$220 million in Bitcoin currency. The problem is that he can't remember his Bitcoin password and after ten tries his fortune will be forever lost in cyberspace, so he stopped trying after his eighth attempt. He says he has gone public with his dilemma in order to show the world how important it is in this day and age to keep your passwords in a safe and accessible place,

Bitcoin or no Bitcoin.

— John Grimaldi

Show off

Some people have taken a devil-may-care attitude when it comes to travel during the COVID-19 pandemic; they'll take public transportation and risk infection. And then there are those who are “super paranoid.” Take, for example, Richard Muljadi and his wife, Shalvynne Chang, a very wealthy couple who reside in Jakarta, Indonesia. They recently took a Batik Airline flight to the island of Bali, purchasing every single seat — 162 business class and economy class seats — in order to eliminate the risk of exposure. Apparently they were so proud that they took such an expensive precaution, they took pictures during the flight to show that they were the only passengers on the plane and posted them on social media.

— John Grimaldi

Are the classics racist?

It was only a matter of time before Cicero got canceled.

The New York Times recently profiled Princeton classicist Daniel Padilla Peralta, who wants to destroy the study of classics as a blow for racial justice.

The critique of classics as stultifying and privileged isn't new, but in the "woke era" this attack is more potent than ever and has a better chance of demolishing a foundation of Western education.

At a time when Abraham Lincoln doesn't pass muster in the progressive precincts of America, poor benighted Homer, whose chief subject was toxic masculinity, probably doesn't stand a chance.

In its report, *The Times* writes that the critics believe that the study of classics "has been instrumental to the invention of 'whiteness' and its continued domination." Or as Padilla himself puts it, "Systemic racism is foundational to those institutions that incubate classics and classics as a field itself."

It is rare to find other instances of scholars so consumed with hatred for their own disciplines that they literally want to destroy them within. Presumably if an ultra-progressive astrophysicist concludes that his field is

desperately out of touch with social justice concerns, he simply goes and does something else for a living rather than agitating to have students stop learning about space.

One would think Padilla's own amazing personal journey would, in itself, make the case for the wonders of the classics. He came here as a child from the Dominican Republic, lived in a homeless shelter in New York City, discovered a book on Ancient Greece and Rome – and with help from a mentor, got into a prep school and went on to get degrees from Princeton, Oxford and Stanford.

For him, evidently, the classics weren't very exclusionary, and indeed there's no reason that they should be.

The rigors of Greek and Latin, the timeless questions raised by Plato and Aristotle, the literary value of some of the most compelling poems, plays and tracts ever written, the insights of early historians Herodotus and Thucydides, the oratory of Pericles and Cicero, the awe-inspiring beauty of the architecture, sculpture and pottery – all of this is available to anyone of any race, ethnicity or creed.

To look at all these marvels and

see only "whiteness" speaks to a reductive obsession with race that is destructive, self-defeating and, in the end, profoundly depressing.

The Times complains that, paraphrasing critics, "Enlightenment thinkers created a hierarchy with Greece and Rome, coded as white, on top, and everything else below."

There's quite a simple reason, though, that Greece and Rome have been subjects of study and fascination for so long – their cultural, political and legal contributions are so vast and enduring.

The Greeks gave us the example – flawed and incomplete to be sure – of democracy, and the Roman stamp is still discernible on our legal system and institutions.

Western thought and literature



have proceeded throughout their history in dialogue with the classics, constantly interacting with the arguments, themes and

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USDA

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support the adoption of innovative conservation approaches on agricultural lands in Texas.

NRCS officials announced recently that the agency is accepting proposals for state Conservation Innovation Grants (CIG), a competitive program that supports the development of new tools, approaches, practices, and technologies to further natural resource conservation on private lands, according to the grant guidelines. Application submission deadline is Friday, April 16.

"These grants offer an opportunity to promote public-private partnerships and support the agency's agenda to provide innovative technologies and approaches to environmental enhancement and protection on working agricultural lands," said Kristy Oates, a NRCS state conservationist.

All U.S.-based, non-federal entities and individuals are eligible to apply for projects carried out in Texas. Grant rules stipulate that

project proposals should demonstrate the use of innovative technologies or approaches to address a natural resource concern. This year's priorities are improvements to water quality and water quantity, soil health for carbon sequestration and reduced greenhouse gas emissions, air quality, and wildfire hazard from biomass accumulation.

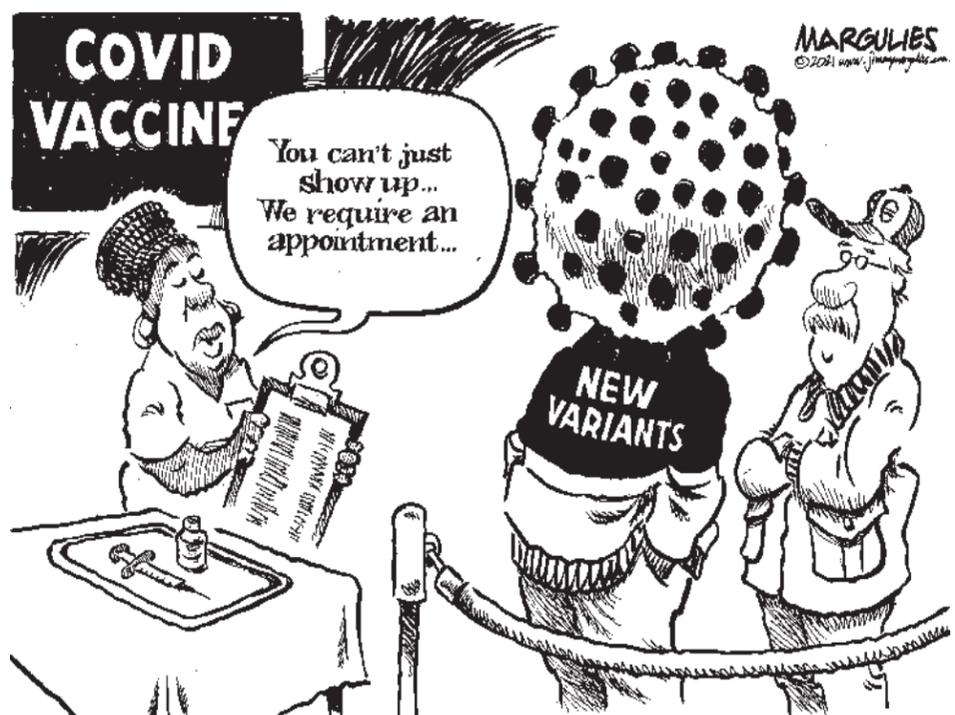
Grant officials stated that project proposals will be evaluated by a group of NRCS experts, with the assistance of the State Technical Committee, and that the selections will be based on the criteria identified in the request for proposal.

Selected applicants may receive grants up to 50 percent of the total project cost, not to exceed \$75,000. Also, applicants must provide nonfederal matching funds for at least 50 percent of the project cost, of which 50 percent may be from in-kind contributions. Projects may be single or multiyear, not to exceed three years.

Interested individuals should go to www.grants.gov to submit their applications. Visit www.tx.nrcs.usda.gov for additional information, the request for proposal and related forms.



No U.S. sanctions on Saudi Crown Prince for Khashoggi murder





– Photo by Alfredo Vasquez

WHAT NEXT – A big discussion about border security is brewing in the United States. Questions like “What would you do to make the border with Mexico more secure?” and “How are you going to recognize a more secure border when you see it?” are part of the conversation. Meanwhile, pedestrian traffic is slowly coming back to life at the port of entry off Santa Fe Street, above, in downtown El Paso.

“We do not need to sacrifice our humanity in the name of security, but we must be nimble in the face of changing circumstances and work closely across the entire region to prevent real security threats while upholding our tradition as a welcoming nation.”

– Laura Collins, Matthew Rooney, and Cris Ramon, George W. Bush Institute/SMU Economic Growth Initiative experts.

Border

From Page 1

discussion about border security going on right now, about what needs to be done to make the border secure, and how to recognize border security when achieved. He explained that this study is designed to contribute to that conversation in a constructive way and to offer participants in this debate something productive to work towards. “This country has been stuck on this issue for too many years,” he added.

In conjunction with the release of the border security report, Holly Kuzmich, executive director of the Bush Institute, Collins, and Rooney advocated for more discussions on how to facilitate a strong economy without sacrificing security, as well as how to address humanitarian issues at the southern border and still maintain law and order.

As Congress takes up the immigration debate, the conservative institute is calling for a comprehensive approach to border security in a new set of policy recommendations.

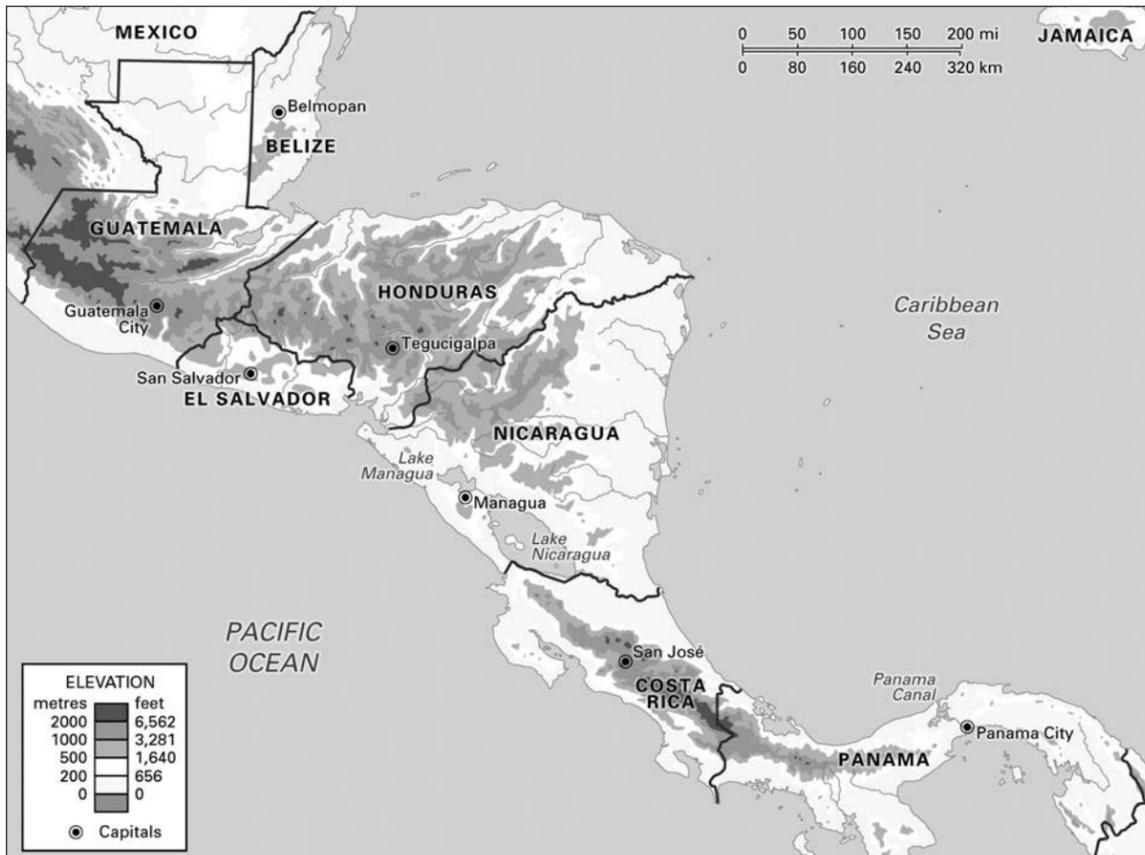
The report, titled “Smart Border Policy for the 21st Century”, departs from the Trump-era Republican focus on physical barriers in favor of regional cooperation, attention to economic needs, and use of humanitarian methods.

The border security report is aimed at shaping the conversation about immigration and border policy as the Biden administration brings the debate to the forefront, stated the Bush institute initiative experts.

“Concern about the border is directly related to one’s distance from the border,” Rooney asserted in a recent interview. “The further away you live, the more concerned you are about it. That needs to change,” he claimed.

On the issue of asylum, the report indicated that a viable process would be to combine the ability for asylum seekers to file in their home countries along with the expansion of the mechanisms for legal, economic-based migration to the United States.

Collins stated that Texas policymakers should be at the forefront of this issue because the state has such a huge percentage of the border. “The history of Texas is not one of opposition to our neighbors across the border; it’s one of cooperation,” she proclaimed. “The border is so much more than just migration... than the potential criminal aspects. It’s about the economy and what makes us both more secure and stable and successful.”



A LONG ROAD – The journey, by road, from Panama City, Panama, to El Paso, TX is 3,180 miles; from San José, Costa Rica, 2,728; Managua, Nicaragua 2,470; Tegucigalpa, Honduras, 2,264; San Salvador, El Salvador, 2,124; and Guatemala City, Guatemala, 2,019. Altitudes can reach over 6,000 feet.

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CryptoQuip Answer

If an L.A. baseball pro has a knack for sketching pictures, is he an artful Dodger?

Strange BUT TRUE

By Lucie Winborne

- A team of Japanese scientists and engineers created a fire alarm for the deaf that works by spraying vaporized wasabi into the air – it will even wake them up if they’re sleeping.
 - Bees can fly higher than Mount Everest.
 - In 1960, during a period of high tensions between Havana and Washington, a Cuban cow got hit by a chunk of a falling U.S. satellite. Islanders got a dig in at their American neighbors by parading another cow through the streets sporting a sign that read, “Eisenhower, you murdered one of my sisters!”
 - Before trees existed, the earth was covered with giant white mushrooms.
 - All astronauts going to the International Space Station have to learn to speak Russian, as the controls of their Soyuz spacecraft are in that language.
 - Fried chicken originated in Scotland.
 - Off-duty paramedic Matthew McKnight earned the dubious Guinness World Record for furthest distance thrown by a car when he was hit by a vehicle traveling 70 mph and was catapulted 118 feet. Amazingly, while he suffered serious injuries, he managed to recover.
 - You’re more likely to be bitten by a human than a shark.
 - Not that we think you’d actually drink this much, but 10 gallons of carrot juice will kill you. Its vitamin A content is high enough to make your brain swell, along with other nasty symptoms. By the way, you can also overdose on the vitamin by eating a pound of polar bear liver every day.
- Thought for the Day: “Actually, in my opinion you never completely find yourself because you are always growing as a person and learning throughout your life. It is a process.”
 – Robert A. Bofman

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+		x		x	
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• On March 8, 1971, Muhammad Ali and Joe Frazier meet for the "Fight of the Century" at Madison Square Garden in New York City. The bout marked Ali's return after the boxing commission revoked his license over his refusal to fight in the Vietnam War. Frazier won by a unanimous decision.

• On March 9, 1981, a nuclear accident at a Japan Atomic Power Company plant in Tsuruga, Japan, exposes 59 workers to radiation. Sixteen tons of waste spilled into Wakasa Bay, but Japan's Atomic Power Commission made no mention of the accident until more than a month later. By then, radioactive levels of seaweed in the area were found to be 10 times greater than normal.

• On March 10, 1876, the first discernible speech is transmitted over a telephone system when inventor Alexander Graham Bell summons his assistant in another room by saying, "Mr. Watson, come here; I want you."

• On March 11, 1997, Paul McCartney, a former member of Beatles, is knighted by Queen Elizabeth II for his "services to music." McCartney became Sir Paul in a centuries-old ceremony of pomp and solemnity at Buckingham Palace in central London.

• On March 12, 1933, President Franklin D. Roosevelt gives his first national radio address broadcast from the White House, in which he explained his recent decision to close the nation's banks.

• On March 13, 1781, English astronomer William Herschel discovers Uranus, the seventh planet from the sun. It was the first discovery of a new planet in modern times, and the first to be made using a telescope.

• On March 14, 1914, stock-car racer Lee Arnold Petty is born near Randleman, North Carolina. In 1959, he won the Daytona 500. Lee Petty never lost a race on account of being too kind to his competitors, even if they were family.

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San Elizario ISD earns communication awards

By Christine Cuevas
Special to the Courier

SAN ELIZARIO – The San Elizario Independent School District (SEISD) Communications Department earned several honors including a Best in Category for its work in communications during the 2021 Texas School Public Relations Association (TSPRA) Conference in Denton, Texas. The state communication recognitions from TSPRA is a first for the district. "I'm grateful and blessed to be part of something great. Being able to promote the great things happening in San Elizario ISD and having our work recognized at the state level is a plus," said Technology Director Horacio Hernandez.

In SEISD, the Communications Department is comprised of three individuals: Superintendent Dr. Jeannie Meza-Chavez, Technology Director Horacio Hernandez, and Specialist for Information Technology Systems Perla Magallon. In addition to their specific roles of responsibility, they have acquired additional duties to communicate district and campus information to students, staff, and the community. Superintendent

Dr. Meza-Chavez said, "The responsibility to communicate and highlight the history of the district drives the team's efforts. We are blessed to be able to write about, and ultimately showcase the information for others to also see and celebrate."

According to TSPRA, there were 1,406 entries for the 51 main award categories that cover various media such as newsletters, programs, posters, reports, writing, image/identity packages, photography, graphics, video, electronic presentations, mobile apps, campaigns, events and web sites.

Entries are scored by independent judges on a set criterion and are eligible to receive Gold, Silver, and Bronze Stars.

SEISD Communications competed in the category for districts with 10,000 students or less. "Constant team creativity and good work performance leads you to accomplish unimaginable goals and achievements," Magallon said. The SEISD Communications received one Best in Category for Web Site, Original Design for San Elizario ISD SOAR@theNEST. Other awards for the SEISD Communications were in

the areas of the website, published print advertisement, video feature story, video marketing, video production in a language other than English, logo, trademark, symbol, and published news or feature.

SEISD TSPRA Awards

Best in Category

- Web Site, Original Design: SOAR@theNEST

Gold Star Awards

- Web Site, Original Design: SOAR@theNEST
- Video Production in a Language Other than English: San Elizario ISD Inspires

Silver Star Awards

- Published Print Advertisement: San Elizario ISD Billboards
- Video Feature Story: San Elizario ISD Inspires
- Video Marketing: San Elizario ISD Inspires
- Logo, Trademark, Symbol: San Elizario ISD Logo

Bronze Star Awards

- Published News or Feature: Letters of hope reach Alarcon Elementary School
- Published News or Feature: San Eli ISD shifts to technology to teach students

Taxes

From Page 1

will ensure confidentiality and security of documents.

Individuals should take a photo identification card, original social security card for everyone listed in the income tax return, W-2 wage statements for the 2020 year, 1099-SSA, 1099-R and

1099-G, work expenses, 1095 health coverage, direct deposit information, the 1098 for student loans, proof of child dependent care expenses, and property tax statements. If filing joint, both individuals must be present.

In addition, when dropping off documents, individuals must know how much money they received in each stimulus checks this past year.

SISD income tax preparation sites and schedule: (All sites closed March 15-19)

Socorro High School
10150 Alameda Dr.
Mondays though April 12
(Closed March 22)

Montwood High School
12000 Montwood Dr.
Tuesdays though April 13

Eastlake High School
13000 Emerald Pass
Tuesdays though April 13

El Dorado High School
12401 Edgemere Blvd
Wednesdays though April 14

Americas High School
12101 Pellicano Dr.
Thursdays though April 15

Pebble Hills High School
14400 Pebble Hills Blvd
Thursdays though April 15



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Car crashes are a leading killer of children ages 1 to 13. For more information visit safercar.gov/therightseat.



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Newsbrief To:
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UTEP enters the CUSA tourney heading in the right direction

By Steve Escajeda
Special to the Courier

In this most difficult of basketball seasons, the UTEP Miners' ended their year pretty much as expected, in the middle of the pack of Conference USA.

All season long, the biggest complaint about the Miners was their inconsistency. Win one, lose one, win two, lose two, never putting together any streaks of constant good play.

They did win four of their last five games, but those four wins were all at home against Florida International (2-15 in CUSA, and 9-17 overall) and Charlotte (5-11, 9-15).

So while the Miners finished a mediocre 8-8 in the conference and 12-11 overall, this week's Conference USA Tournament could still turn out well.

First of all, the Miners open the tournament, held in Frisco, TX, on Wednesday, March 10 against Florida Atlantic University (7-5, 12-9) at 7:30 p.m. (El Paso time) on ESPN+.

The two teams were supposed to meet near the end of the season in Florida, but both games were cancelled. First the games were moved back a couple days due to that February snowstorm that hit Texas. Then the UTEP program was hit with some covid issues, which ended any chances of the games being played.

The FAU Panthers come into the tournament on a four-game winning streak. But a more interesting streak for FAU is that six of their last 12 games were cancelled due to the virus.

That's why the Panthers have played four less league games than the Miners.

Anyway, the winner of the UTEP-FAU game will take on Louisiana Tech (12-4,

20-6) on Thursday at 7:30 p.m. on the Stadium Network.

So why could things still turn out well for UTEP in this tournament?

The Miners are undoubtedly playing their best basketball of the season. Even though they won four games over cupcakes late in the year, they traveled to 13th-ranked Kansas for their final regular season game and outplayed the Jayhawks from the opening whistle.

UTEP looked poised, played a suffocating style of defense, passed the ball to the open man, rebounded well, hit the open shot and didn't turn the ball over. They looked like they belonged on the same court with one of the best programs in the country.

The Miners led by 14 at halftime and by nine with eight minutes left, but then from that point forward, they resembled the same old stumbling Miners and Kansas

came away with a 67-62 win.

But one thing is true, if the Miners play that hard in the CUSA Tournament, there is no "Kansas" in the field.

There is Western Kentucky (18-6) and Alabama-Birmingham (21-6), but if UTEP puts together 40 minutes of basketball like they did the first 32 minutes of their game against Kansas, the Miners can beat anyone else in the conference.

And hopefully Bryson Williams can show up the way he did against Kansas. He was easily the best player on the floor, scoring 23 points and pulling down 13 rebounds.

It makes you wonder why Williams wasn't putting up those kinds of dominating numbers all season long.

The Miners have also received great play from big man Efe Odigie, who missed a month of the season due to a concussion. His return gives UTEP another inside scorer and rebounder.

UTEP's guard play has been on the rise this season. Guards Souley Boum, Jamal Bieniemy, Keonte Kennedy and Christian Agnew are controlling the game more.

Sure Boum and Agnew still rush things on occasion and finds themselves hopelessly out of control at times, but they are starting to reel that it a bit.

And although Tydus Verhoeven isn't a great scorer, rebounder or defender, he has improved in all three categories this season and has become a key contributor for the team.

Coming off the bench to add some instant offense is 3-point specialist Kristian Sjolund, who can drain a three-pointer from anywhere on the court.

To be honest, UTEP has looked pathetic at times this season. And at times they look like they can beat anyone.

Inconsistent. They come into the tournament on a positive note; playing better as a team.

Again, if the Miners play with the same intensity, poise and confidence they displayed against Kansas, don't be surprised if they surprise everyone.

Americans paid down credit cards in 2020

By Alina Comoreanu
Special to the Courier

While 2020 was a year to forget in most respects, Americans excelled in terms of paying off credit card debt, getting rid of a record \$82.9 billion in debt, according to the personal-finance website WalletHub's latest Credit Card Debt Study. This is a major accomplishment, considering that consumers have added an average of \$54.2 billion in credit card debt per year over the past 10 years. El Paso was ranked 97th out of 182 cities rated in the report. The household credit card debt in El Paso increased by \$33. Credit card debt in El Paso stands at \$3,121,690,631, an increase of \$7,577,038 in 2020.

Credit Card Debt Study key stats:

- Consumers repaid almost \$83 billion in credit card debt during 2020 – an all-time record.
- The average household credit card balance was \$8,089 at the end of 2020.
- Credit card debt rose by \$36.7 billion during Q4 2020 – the lowest increase in 10 years.

- Credit card charge-off rates are down 24.3% compared to Q3 2020.
- The best balance transfer credit cards currently offer 0% APRs for the first 12-20 months with no annual fee and balance transfer fees as low as 3%.

Credit Card Debt Survey key findings:

- Few plan a post-pandemic shopping spree. More than 1 in 10 people plan to go on a spending spree when the COVID-19 pandemic is over.
 - COVID is an obstacle to debt. Almost 35% of Americans say that COVID-19 made it harder to get into serious credit card debt.
 - Men feel less debt stress. Women are 37% more likely than men to feel stressed about credit card debt.
 - Most agree, healthcare is debt-worthy. 60% of Americans say that healthcare expenses are worth going into credit card debt.
 - Fighting back against high rates. 66% of people will try to lower the interest rate on their credit card debt in 2021.
- Visit wallethub.com/edu/cc/credit-card-debt-study/24000 for the full report.

Archives: www.wtxcc.com

Super Crossword

BACKUP FUNCTION

- ACROSS**
- "When _ your age..."
 - Having two systems
 - One of the "Little Women"
 - Angry crowd
 - "99 Red Balloons" band
 - Really foolish
 - First digits dialed, often
 - * President of Nicaragua
 - Added yeast to, as bread
 - San _, Buenos Aires
 - Oklahoma tribe
 - * Rock yielding element #28
 - Riddle-me-__
 - 1/36 yard
 - Jai _
 - Head, to Fiji
 - * Historical French area
 - Way of being torn, thrilled or loved
 - Put aside for future use
 - Handed out
 - Prefix with soul
 - With 18-Down, 1859 George Eliot novel
 - Cal. neighbor
 - * Crank-turned

- instrument
- Prioritizes, as patients
- Hosp. area
- TV antennas
- Bond film actress
- Place for a welcome mat
- CPR giver
- Mil. officer
- * An off-Broadway theater is named for her
- Linden of TV
- Ice-T's music
- Plane fliers
- Viewpoint
- Apple tablet download
- A fifth of fifty
- Nuclear reactor part
- * Popular citrus fruit
- "I solved it!"
- Nile vipers
- China's Lao-__
- Fully enjoy
- 1966-2013 bookstore chain
- Funny feline photo meme
- * Musical group playing industrial drums
- Egg cell
- Genesis twin
- Diana of "Dance Hall"

- Ball or bass ender
 - * Mafia boss
 - Newsman Koppel
 - 2017 biopic about an Olympic figure skater
 - Per-night cost to stay at a 105-Down
 - "Mr. Mom" plot premise (and what the answers to the starred clues have)
 - Like not-yet-sampled food
 - Two-function
 - Fodder tower
 - Day, in Spain
 - Squirmy fish
 - Lee who advised Reagan and Bush
 - Couturier Cassini
- DOWN**
- Gandhi of India
 - Ferret's kin
 - Lennox and Potts
 - Uttered
 - "Nonsense!"
 - Kin of "equi-"
 - Old space station
 - Hip about
 - Related to food intake
 - African land
 - Meadowland
 - Island east of Java
 - Build
 - Stovetop whistler
 - Can't say no
 - Part of MSG

- Polish river
- See 48-Across
- Big name
- "Fanny" author Jong
- San Fran NFLer
- Tribal groups
- Gordie of hockey
- Verdi's title slave
- Makeup brand
- Pasta dish
- Head of corn
- Collects, as a harvest
- River duck
- Many heirs
- Sprang
- 24-hr. "bankers"
- Tow
- Business of Delta
- Chemistry lab tube
- Ominous last words
- Cup edge
- Female bud
- Rhea's kin
- Fizzy drink
- Fraction: Abbr.
- _ gin fizz
- Vicious vortex
- Lifesaving locs.
- "Lady for a Day" director Frank
- It flows in la Seine
- Rent-_(security guard)
- Classic Ford models
- Ending for lime
- Blueprints

- Part of IHOP: Abbr.
- Part of UTEP
- Claim the truth of
- Actress Edie
- Colorado NHLers, to fans
- Eminent
- Coll. seniors' tests
- Challenging
- "Never on Sunday" rule
- Person who is prospering
- Opposite of east, in Madrid
- Key next to a period
- Disinclined
- Dine away from home
- Throat part
- "Casino _" (Bond film)
- Not digital
- Roadside lodging
- "Darn it!"
- Rice-A-__
- Greek vowel
- Crimson and cherry
- Boxer Oscar _ Hoya
- Roughly
- Std. for a nutritionist
- Deep groove
- Suffix with Siam

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							
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29			30		31	32		33		34		35						
36			37				38				39	40			41	42	43	
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55				56	57		58	59				60						
61						62				63	64	65		66				
67				68		69							70		71	72	73	
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79	80					81				82			83					
84							85	86	87		88	89			90			
91						92					93			94	95			
96			97	98			99			100						101	102	103
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117										118			119	120				
121										122							123	
124						125				126								127

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

characters of those long-ago forebears. This isn't true of other ancient societies.

Of course, the Greeks and Romans were blinkered, exclusionary, repressive and violent, but who wasn't? Where in the ancient world did slavery not exist? What society afforded women equal status with men?

Where did any ruler respect the dignity of all people?

A key difference between the Greeks and Romans and the rest was that their writers critiqued and lampooned their own societies. This willingness to engage in self-criticism became one of the hallmarks, and strengths, of Western culture.

The critics give the Greeks and the Romans the same treatment as the American project, ignoring what was exceptional about them

for a monomaniacal focus on their failings, even if the failings were commonplace everywhere else.

They want to impoverish American college students and ultimately the Western mind in an act of ideological destruction. This is galling enough; it's even worse that they call it progress.

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

Childhood vaccinations still mostly effective

DEAR DR. ROACH: I am in my mid-50s and in good health (I don't take any medications). I rarely get sick with colds or flu. I have been vaccinated with all the common vaccinations for our childhood. With all the immigrants coming into our country, I am wondering if any have been given childhood vaccinations in their countries. I fear that chickenpox, measles, etc., could re-enter this country. If so, do our childhood vaccinations still protect us from these diseases? Should seniors be re-vaccinated or is that harmful at our age? – C.S.



Legal immigrants into the U.S. are required to have all vaccinations as recommended by the Advisory Committee for Immunization Practices.

Undocumented immigrants are more difficult to study, but what data there is suggests that vaccination rates are roughly the same in the countries of origin of many undocumented immigrants as in the United States. In fact, several Central American countries have higher vaccination rates than the U.S. currently.

Analysis of outbreaks of vaccine-preventable diseases have suggested that most of these outbreaks have come from visitors (Americans or foreign visitors) from countries with high levels of ongoing transmission who spread the disease to others during their infectious period. Because there are some communities where there are enough unvaccinated people due to medical reasons, personal choice or ineffective vaccination to allow spread of the disease, there continues to be ongoing infection in the U.S. This is especially true of measles.

People born before 1957 are generally considered to be immune to measles, and the vast majority have had chickenpox. People born between 1963 and 1967 (that might be you) are at risk for having had ineffective measles vaccination, and those at risk should check their immunization status and may need revaccination, especially those in an area near an outbreak.

DEAR DR. ROACH: I read your recent column on vaginal estrogen. Based on plants such as soy, bioidentical hormones are a safe solution for older people that provide sexual rejuvenation. You should spread the word! – P.F.

I appreciate your passion, but there are several problems with your statement.

First, the bioidentical female hormone in humans is estradiol, which is available only by a prescription. It remains my choice for women who need hormone replacement, such as women with severe symptoms of menopause (replacement is given by mouth or patch), or for women with atrophic vaginitis (given vaginally, by cream, tablets or ring). It is certainly the most natural option.

Second, phytoestrogens (the soy-based hormones, such as isoflavones and lignans) have chemical structures similar to estradiol, but absolutely are not bioidentical. They have both estrogen and anti-estrogen properties. They may slightly reduce breast cancer risk, probably have no effect on endometrial cancer risk and probably do not increase clotting risk. However, for women with a history of breast cancer, many oncologists recommend against soy protein due to its estrogen activity. Some hematologists warn against these in people with history of abnormal blood clots.

The effect of phytoestrogens on sexual function has been studied, and a 2018 review showed that soy "had no promising effect" on sexual function. Of course, some women will have better effects than others..

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.

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Moore Texas by Roger MOORE
 March 6, 1861: Sam Cody is born in Birdville. In 1908 he accomplishes England's 1st heavier than air flight.

CryptoQuip

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

Clue: X equals A

EB XG W.X. CXRFCXWW
 AZL NXR X TGXJT BLZ
 RTFIJNEGD AEJIQZFR, ER
 NF XG XZIBQW OLODFZ?

Answer Page 4

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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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'Federal partners' get vaccine from VA



by Freddy Groves

Who are the Department of Veterans Affairs federal partners? Inquiring minds want to know.

A recent VA press release boasted about surpassing the VA's milestone of administering 1 million doses of the COVID vaccine. That's a great number, but that 1 million-plus isn't all veterans.

Some 626,000 veterans got the first and (and sometimes) second dose. Over 400,000 went to VA employees. But 1,200 doses went to "federal partners."

Nowhere, in much research across the Internet, could I find just who those partners were.

The VA has done a good job of setting up a website showing just how many people at each of the many sites across the country have received the vaccine. But once again,

those "federal partners" weren't identified.

They also aren't identified in the 88-page Memorandum of Agreement between the VA and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, where it's stated that the VA will vaccinate those "federal partners." It did say that those who receive the vaccine will be entered into the VA's electronic medical record, and that they could be given by VA staff who go to the partner sites. The VA will let the CDC know how many doses they need out of the VA's vaccine allocation.

So, who are they, these federal partners?

I did come across a few clues about "partners" in my search, although not the ones getting the vaccine: Federal Partners in Bullying Prevention, Bureau of the Fiscal Service (which seems to keep a list of taxpayers who owe child support), Veteran Employment Services Office, the Food and Drug Administration Federal Partners' Collaborative, the Bureau of Indian Education

and the Faith-based and Community Initiatives.

In other words, it's across the board, and all manner of government departments can have sub-groups that may be considered partners.

Granted, 1,200 doses isn't huge given the scope of the program, but these are doses that didn't go to veterans.

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• Fruit math: A tomato or an apple plus green bananas in a paper bag equals ripe bananas.

• Empty tissue boxes have so many uses. Try lining one with a plastic grocery bag and keeping it in your car for stray trash. Or you can use it to corral all of those plastic grocery bags until you need them – just stuff them in one at a time. Lastly, and probably my favorite: Cut out doors and windows to use as houses for kids' toys. Imagination makes the possibilities endless. – JoAnn

• "Jazz up your pancakes by adding pureed frozen blueberries or strawberries. It turns the mix either blue or red, and it's fun for the kiddos." – V.R. in Florida

• "We are always prompted to choose strong passwords, but a random collection of letters, numbers and special symbols can be hard to remember. I make a strong password by using a coded phrase, like "My three boys are No. 1," which might be "MY3boysR#1." Just thought I'd share my trick, but not my password!" – R.W. in Iowa

• Keep a bottle of club soda handy for spot stains on carpets or upholstery. It's good for more than just drinks.

• To create a self-watering area for potted plants while you are on vacation, set plants in the bathtub or in a kiddie pool and use a length of cotton rope to wick water from the bathtub to the plant's roots. You can either stick it up the holes in the bottom of the pot or dig it down a few inches into the soil. This should get you by for a week or so.

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		+		16
x		÷		-	
	-		x		20
+		x		x	
	-		x		24
17		15		18	

1 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 9

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ASE

NAHMYL

♥ TEHDA

♥ RYTO

TUTSSA

YOT

♥ RHEA

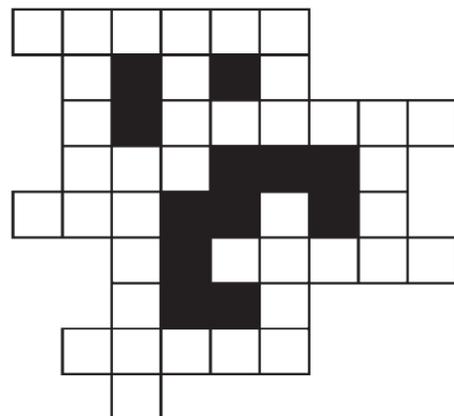
♥ PLSA

HYS

LOYLAR

♥ OSTRO

♥ IELM



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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