



NEWSBRIEFS

Golden council

The Pebble Hills High School student council in the Socorro Independent School District has earned the 2021 National Gold Council of Excellence award from the National Student Council. The student council won the recognition for its exemplary record of leadership, service and activities that serve to improve the school and community. "It has been tremendous to see our students persevere through this year's challenges and continue striving to achieve greatness for their campus and community," said Pebble Hills High School student council adviser Emily Jo Cancellare. "It is an honor to be regarded as a National Gold Council of Excellence." The Pebble Hills student council was successful in meeting various criteria for the award, including having a written constitution, regular meetings, a democratic election process and demonstrating effective sponsorship and participation in activities, such as leadership development and service to the school and community. Councils awarded the gold level of the award have successfully demonstrated the highest levels of leadership. "Congratulations to our outstanding student council," said Pebble Hills High School principal Ignacio Estorga, Ed.D. "During this unprecedented time, our amazing student council has dedicated their time and effort to Pebble Hills High School. I am extremely proud of them."

— Christy Flores-Jones

MTAP money

El Paso Electric has awarded \$10,000 to Project Vida for the Microenterprise Technical Assistance Program (MTAP). MTAPs support economic development for El Paso's low- and moderate-income micro-business owners. The objectives are to stabilize marginal businesses, create or improve profitability, retain jobs, create new jobs, and advance microenterprises to small business status. For qualifying owners and those wishing to start up a microenterprise, MTAP offers individualized one-on-one training in business and financial literacy, operations management, use of digital and social media platforms to reach customers and markets, and loan preparation and packaging as

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It makes no sense when husbands and wives are more courteous to strangers than to each other.

— Quips & Quotes

Escobar introduces bill to allow gaming on Tigua reservation

By Alfredo Vasquez
Special to the Courier

EL PASO COUNTY – Recent polls indicate most state residents support casinos.

Democrat Veronica Escobar, the U.S. representative from El Paso, and Republican Tony Gonzales, the U.S. representative from San Antonio, have joined efforts to introduce a bill in Congress, referred to as the Ysleta Del Sur Pueblo and Alabama-Coushatta Tribes of Texas Equal and Fair Opportunity Act. They hope their bill will pass and level the playing field for electronic gaming in Texas tribal communities.

Although the bill would not expand gaming in the state, it would allow the Ysleta Del Sur Pueblo and Alabama-Coushatta tribes to offer electronic bingo on their reservations by ensuring that they are covered by the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act.

Texas has three Native American tribes that are legally recognize by the federal government. The Kickapoo Tribe is the only one currently allowed to offer Class II gaming. The Texas representatives' bill aims to correct that inequity. However, the bill does not make it legal for the two reservations to offer games like blackjack, craps, or roulette. The Alabama-Coushatta and Tigua tribes must stick with the electronic bingo gambling machines only.

The sponsors of the bill point out that the Kickapoo Tribe of Texas has been offering bingo and other games, in addition to operating the Kickapoo Lucky Eagle Casino, for more than 20 years.

"Very simply, this bipartisan bill seeks parity. It will create long-overdue opportunity for our tribes and communities, and I will do everything possible to ensure it gets to the President's desk for his signature," Escobar stated in a news release.

This bill is the latest development in a long fight for fairness in regulatory

See GAMING, Page 4



— Photo by Alfredo Vasquez

LET THE GOOD TIMES ROLL – The Ysleta Pueblo tribe, also known as the Tiguas, wants the state to give them permission to offer electronic gaming at their Speaking Rock entertainment center, above. To help the tribe's cause, two U.S. representatives from Texas recently introduced a bill to allow electronic bingo on the federally recognized tribal reservations.

Death on Texas roads rose with less traffic

Unsafe speed is one of the main causes of crashes in work zones

By Jeff Salzgeber
Special to the Courier

TEXAS – Even with less traffic during the pandemic, Texas work zone fatalities increased 9% in 2020 compared to 2019. That's why TxDOT is calling on drivers to make safety their number one priority at all times and especially when passing through active construction and

maintenance work zones on the roadway.

TxDOT's "Be Safe. Drive Smart." campaign is marking National Work Zone Awareness Week, April 26–30, with safety tips to reduce work zone fatalities. Last year, there were more than 22,000 traffic crashes in Texas work zones with 186 people killed, including four road workers.

"We know driving through work zones can be challenging," said TxDOT

Executive Director James Bass. "There can be extra congestion, slow-moving heavy equipment, temporary barriers, and vehicles that make sudden stops. We can't stress enough how important it is to give driving your full attention and slow down – for your own safety and that of the people who work alongside the road."

Drivers and their passengers account for the majority of those who have died in

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Donald Trump's future

Could it be that Donald Trump is losing his touch? "Who?" you ask, and that's exactly the point. With the Trumpster sliding from the main stage to lounge act, we may soon imagine a world where he's traveling from small town to small town in a rickety old bus, playing before a handful of seats in a shabby motel with a dwindling number of old white guys as an audience, all that's left of his massive base.

The rest will have turned their attention elsewhere, died off or be among the [people] still in prison for their crimes stemming

from the Jan. 6 siege of the United States Capitol building. Although the participants who had been released still might be spotted mumbling conspiracy theories about the Capitol invaders actually defending the building from Antifa.

Nevertheless, for the conspirators, the planners of the most violent tactics, their crimes would be considered so serious that they'd end up serving their sentences at the "Supermax" penitentiary in Colorado.

If so, it'd be the rare case where the punishment fit the crime. However, to see the danger in that scenario, we have to go back nearly 20 years, to Iraq and Camp Bucca, a U.S. operating base plopped right in the desert. It grew into Buccamax, where

the worst Iraqi POWs were held. Unfortunately, it also threw together a bunch of hard-nosed anti-Americans with substantial military experience. Their organizing abilities contributed significantly to the formation of ISIS. When they were released, they went on a sweep across the vast sands of the Middle East, capturing huge chunks of territory and oppressing the population, particularly women, with their capricious moral laws.

The point is a bunch of politically likeminded [people] in prisons would have lots of time to get organized into heavily armed (in the United States, nearly everyone can be heavily armed) militia units once released. Besides guerrilla drills, they would have little to do but go

to the occasional Donald Trump show when it passed through on that rickety old bus.

Trump's already being reduced to the infrequent appearance, where he gets lousy reviews from audiences of Republicans who are consistently disappointed. Take his recent one before party fat cats at Mar-a-Lago, where he called [out] Mitch McConnell. It was supposed to be a "unity" conference, but it was same the [stuff], different day: Trump talking about how he had the election stolen from him, how his handling of the pandemic was masterful, etc. By the next day, the timid officeholders of the GOP were using expressions like "not helpful."

They want to move on, but Donald Trump doesn't want to

be moved on from. He's already lost his starring roles on social media, and now he is losing his grip on the spotlight. And just losing his grip.

There's nothing worse than going bonkers in front of a shrinking audience. But the worst of all would be if this script didn't play out and Donald Trump recovered his showbiz traction and we end up making the same mistake twice. It would be some sort of national amnesia if we elect him again – him or one of his Republican clones.

A lot depends on Joe Biden and his people to remind everyone what we had to recover from and making Trump nothing more than a distant memory.

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Food for thought By John Grimaldi

Private Deborah Sampson: 'The Female Soldier'

There are those who would say that Private Deborah Sampson deserved the Medal of Honor, but she didn't sign up for that; she joined the Army to fight for her country and wound up making history. Private Sampson was America's first woman combat soldier. She served, disguised as a man by the name of Robert Shurtleff, under the command of General George Washington in the Continental Army during the American Revolution.

Her story was not well told, if it was told at all, until President Trump immortalized her when he signed into law the Deborah Sampson Act in early January of this year, about two weeks before

he left office. The bill was long overdue as it corrected a wrong in the way our female veterans were treated by the Veterans Administration. The legislation, introduced by Senator John Boozman (R-AR) and Senator Jon Tester (D-MT) "eliminates barriers to care and services many women veterans face and helps ensure the VA can address the needs of women veterans who are more likely to face homelessness, unemployment and lack of access to needed health care."

Private Sampson, the first woman to earn a full military pension, could have used that kind of care, herself, after she

bravely completed her service in the Continental Army's Light Infantry Company of the 4th Massachusetts Regiment. She had joined the Army by disguising herself as a man and for some two years she traded bullets with British partisans and militiamen in numerous confrontations.

In one fight, it is reported, she took a nasty blow to the head from a sword wielded by an enemy combatant – and she was shot in the thigh, to boot. Private Sampson received other wounds, including a bullet wound to her shoulder. Finally, in 1783, while on a mission in Philadelphia, she came down with a high fever and passed out. She was taken to a hospital where her doctor discovered her true gender and was honorably discharged at West Point on October 25, 1783. She married after the war,

had three children and adopted a fourth. She petitioned the Massachusetts State Legislature for back pay for her service in the army and was awarded 34 pounds (about 7,000 in today's dollars).

It is said of Deborah Sampson that, in the Revolutionary War, no citizen or soldier "furnished no other similar example of female heroism, fidelity and courage." Private Sampson died in Sharon, Massachusetts on April 29, 1827. She was 66 years old. Her headstone refers to her, simply, as "The Female Soldier."

As for the Deborah Sampson Act, the consensus is that it was long overdue. Here is Senator Boozman's list of what the new law does:

- Empowers women veterans by expanding group counseling for veterans and their family

members and call centers for women veterans;

- Improves the quality of care for infant children of women veterans by increasing the number of days of maternity care VA facilities can provide;

- Eliminates barriers to care by increasing the number of gender-specific providers in VA facilities, training clinicians and retrofitting VA facilities to enhance privacy and improve the environment of care for women veterans; and

- Improves the collection and analysis of data regarding women veterans, expands outreach by centralizing all information for women veterans in one easily accessible place on the VA website and requires the VA to report on the availability of prosthetics made for women veterans.

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Re-elect Socorro ISD Board Members! A+

In a tough year for educators and students, the Socorro ISD school board made the grade. These incumbents deserve reelection because they have stood up for competitive salaries for educators, supported full day Pre-K, helped the district maintain a superior financial rating, and have been nationally recognized for their fight against for-profit charter schools. Cindy Najera, Angelica Rodriguez, Paul Guerra, and Gary Gandara deserve re-election.

Early Voting April 19 - April 27

Election Day May 1st

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Back to the future on immigration

It's not 2007 again. But apparently no one has told George W. Bush.

To coincide with the release of a book of his paintings of immigrants, "Out of Many, One," the former Republican president wrote an op-ed in *The Washington Post* plugging the sort of immigration package that went down to defeat in both his administration and in the administration of his successor, Barack Obama.

Bush is an unusually sincere, earnest politician whose views on immigration are deeply felt and honestly come by – they are just anachronistic, or should be.

If there's any lesson that everyone should have learned from Donald Trump's takeover of the Republican Party, it's that the party's old consensus on immigration is no longer sustainable.

Yet there's still a reflex toward the lazy conventional wisdom that all that ails the country on immigration is lack of an agreement to give an amnesty to illegal immigrants already here and increase numbers of legal immigrants, in exchange for more bells and whistles at the border – what is commonly known as "comprehensive immigration reform."

Bush says not passing immigration reform is his biggest regret, and John Boehner, out with a score-settling memoir of his time as speaker of the House, says it is his second biggest regret (after not forging a big fiscal deal with President Obama).

Boehner spends a lot of time meditating on how the GOP became, in his telling, "Crazytown," a party of extremists and paranoiacs that eventually threw itself into the arms of Donald Trump.

The former speaker spreads the blame widely, but it evidently doesn't occur to him that one major factor driving a wedge between the party's establishment and its grassroots was the elected leadership's insistence on repeatedly trying to pass immigration bills that Republican voters rejected.

For his part, Bush sounds as if he's learned nothing. In his *Post* piece, he cites all the usual measures at the border included in these sort of bills – "manpower, physical barriers, advanced technology, streamlined and efficient ports of entry."

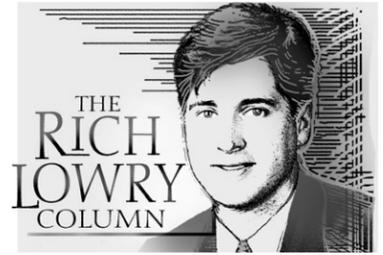
That's all fine, but it is no substitute for rigorous enforcement in the interior of the country and can't counteract the open-borders

message sent by welcoming illegal immigrants.

In that regard, Bush professes, as all supporters of comprehensive immigration reform always do, to oppose amnesty as "fundamentally unfair to those who came legally or are still waiting their turn to become citizens."

He then calls for an amnesty couched as, in one of the laziest cliches in the immigration debate, bringing illegal immigrants "out of the shadows."

This will be achieved "through fine and back taxes, English proficiency and knowledge of U.S. history and civics, and a proof of work history, payment of a



See LOWRY, Page 7

View from here By Marilyn M. Singleton, MD, JD

'Reimagining' mice and men

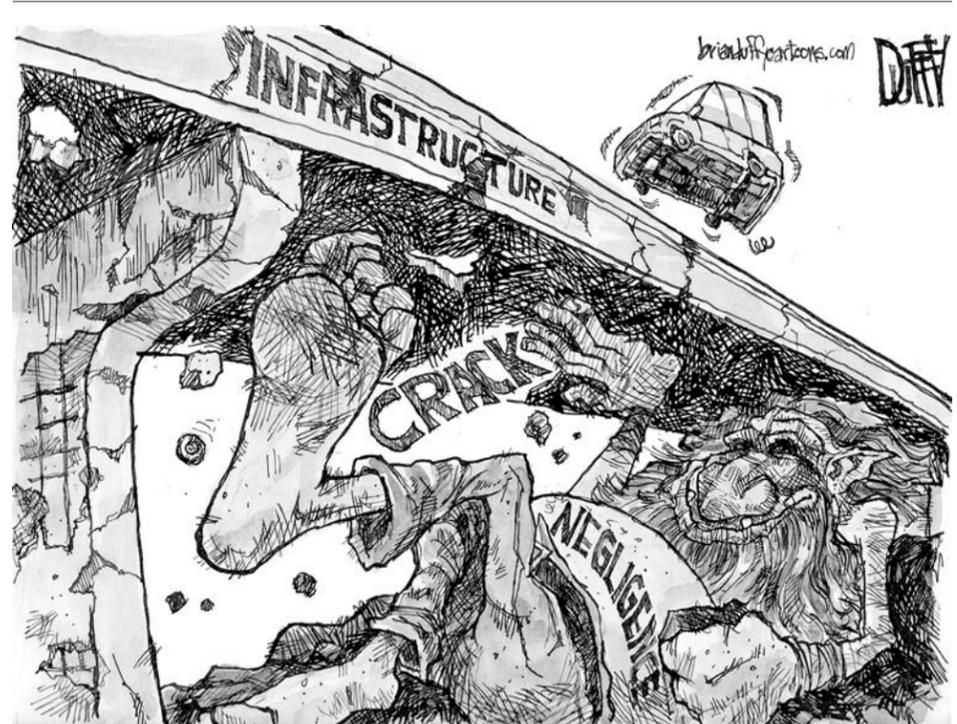
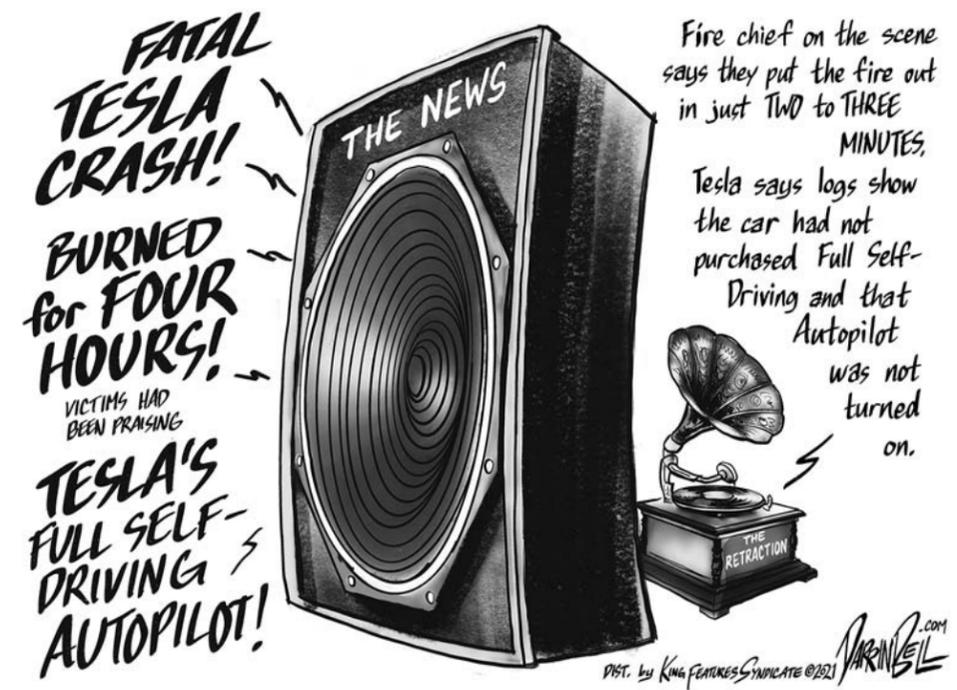
While everyone is preoccupied with mask-shaming and vaccine-cheerleading, scientists are engaged in critical research with a more lasting effect on our lives. For 100 years scientists have dreamed of creating and developing life outside of a womb. In March 2021 that dream came true. Scientists grew¹ naturally conceived mouse embryos in tiny beakers for six days—the equivalent of the full first trimester of gestation. At this point the embryos had an identifiable body shape and organs. This miracle of modern science, posted in a YouTube video², garnered a mere 9,400 views.

In 2016, scientists developed the "right cocktail of growth factors and nourishment" and were able to incubate human embryos in a dish³. The embryos attached to the dish "as if it were a uterus, sprouting a few placental cells." The researchers halted the experiment due to the 4,000-member International Society for Stem Cell Research's (ISSCR) 14-day rule. The ISSCR arrived at this limit based on the point in time at which the nervous system begins to develop.

Two separate research groups have now created their versions of synthetic embryos, called "human blastoids"⁴ from embryonic stem cells and "iblastoids"⁵ using reprogrammed adult skin stem cells. A real blastocyst is a human embryo around five or six days after fertilization that is growing. Normally, a blastocyst would implant in the wall of the uterus at around 7 or 8 days and the placenta would start to form. These advances prompted the ISSCR to rewrite its own yet to be revealed new guidelines⁶ allowing synthetic embryos to develop beyond the current 14-day limit.

As Dr. Frankensteinian as this sounds, researchers explain that the stem cell-produced embryos can be used to study congenital conditions, and the effects of drugs, toxins, and viruses on early development without using human embryos and perhaps create organs for transplants. Kind of like

See MICE, Page 5





— Photo courtesy El Paso County

U.S. Representative Veronica Escobar stated that she will do everything possible to protect the Tiguas' right to promote an electronic gaming venue on their reservation.

Gaming

From Page 1

gaming between tribal and state governments. In 1987, one year before the U.S. Gaming Regulatory Act was enacted by Congress, the Alabama-Coushatta Tribes and the Ysleta Del Sur Pueblo (also known as the Tiguas) were federally recognized through the Indian Tribes of Texas Restoration Act and with that recognition came an agreement by both parties

to prohibit gambling on the reservations.

Since then, Texas legislators have sanctioned horse and dog track betting as well as created the state lottery, yet they are holding the two tribes to the 1987 agreement and are unwilling to review and amend it.

"I'm honored to support this bill as it will allow for the Tigua Pueblo and Alabama-Coushatta tribes to not only recover and rebuild from the pandemic but grow and expand their economy," Gonzales stated.

For the Texas tribes, this bill would deliver fairness and some economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. "This legislation has proven to have bipartisan support in the U.S. House of Representatives, and we look forward to again working with members of both parties to protect the nearly 2,000 Texas jobs that Congresswoman Escobar's legislation would provide," stated Nita Battise, chair of the Tribal Council for the Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas.

"I am grateful to Representatives Escobar and Gonzales for their leadership to reintroduce this critically important bill, which will provide us with true tribal sovereignty and the ability to best take care of our people, especially our elders and our children," said Ysleta Del Sur Pueblo Governor Michael Silvas. "Equally important,

this legislation will allow us to foster economic development and job growth for El Paso and West Texas. We hope the House of Representatives and Senate will soon send this bill to the President to sign," Silvas added.

Meanwhile, a multimillion-dollar advertising campaign from the Las Vegas Sands Corp. is also underway in the Lone Star state. The Nevada group is supporting the Texas Destination Resort Alliance's efforts to push for legislation that would amend the Texas Constitution and ultimately bring casino resorts to the state's largest cities.

The gambling proposals are being introduced in the current legislative session. State Senator Carol Alvarado, a Democrat from Houston, sponsored the Senate version of legislation to amend the Texas Constitution to allow gambling with Senate Joint Resolution 49; while Representative John Kuempel, a Republican from Seguin, filed a similar House version, House Joint Resolution 133.

The Las Vegas group's campaign ads, which include radio, television, and website (TXDRA.com) messaging, are now up and running. They highlight the fact that Texans already spend billions of dollars at casinos in neighboring states of Louisiana, Arkansas, Oklahoma, and New Mexico. The ads assert that Texas would benefit with high-paying construction



— Photo courtesy Ysleta Pueblo del Sur

Michael Silvas, Ysleta Pueblo del Sur governor, stated that the legislation introduced in the U.S. Congress would foster economic development and job growth for El Paso and West Texas.

and operations jobs, as well as the payment of gaming taxes for the state coffers, if casinos were allowed.

Because casino gambling is prohibited by the Texas Constitution, a resolution supported by both the House and Senate requiring a two-thirds supermajority vote would be needed to put a casino resort measure on next November's election ballot. Should a measure reach the ballot, only a majority of voters would be required for passage.

Strange BUT TRUE

By Lucie Winborne

- "The Whole Shabang" is a brand of potato chips once sold only in jails and prisons. It was so popular that in 2016, due to demand from ex-inmates, it was finally made available to the general public.

- The majority of people will tilt their head to the right when they kiss.

- Sherlock Holmes creator Sir Arthur Conan Doyle helped popularize skiing by being the first Englishman to document the sport.

- In Alabama, it's against the law to drive while impersonating a member of the clergy.

- For centuries, doctors thought that medicines made with human flesh, blood or bone could be effective in curing all kinds of ailments, from epilepsy to headaches. The practice was called "corpse medicine."

- The original name for the search engine Google was Backrub. It was renamed after the googolplex, which is the number 1 followed by 100 zeros.

- The fear of young people is known as "ephebiphobia."

- Gatling gun salesmen went to Civil War battlefields to demonstrate their products in actual combat.

- A newly sworn-in Barack Obama visited the U.K. in 2009 and presented some rather curious gifts to the prime minister and queen: 25 DVDs to David Cameron, and an iPod Classic to the then-octogenarian Elizabeth II. Cameron returned the gesture with some "wellies" and Hobgoblin ale.

- In the Solomon Islands, dolphin teeth were (and still are) used as a form of currency.

Thought for the Day: "When writing the story of your life, don't let anyone else hold the pen."

— Harley Davidson

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CryptoQuip Answer

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Moments in time
THE HISTORY CHANNEL

• On April 26, 1986, the world's worst nuclear accident occurs at the Chernobyl nuclear plant near Kiev in Ukraine. An estimated 4,000 clean-up workers died from radiation poisoning and a large area of land may not be livable for almost 150 years.

• On April 27, 4977 B.C., the universe is created, according to German mathematician and astronomer Johannes Kepler. Scientists in the 20th century developed the Big Bang theory, which showed Kepler's calculations were off by about 13.7 billion years.

• On April 28, 1789, three weeks into a journey from Tahiti to the West Indies, the HMS Bounty is seized in a mutiny led by Fletcher Christian, the master's mate. Captain William Bligh and 18 of his loyal supporters were set adrift in a small boat. They reached the East Indies in June, after a voyage of about 3,600 miles.

• On April 29, 1974, President Richard Nixon announces that he will release transcripts of 46 taped White House conversations in response to a Watergate trial subpoena. In August, Nixon resigned to avoid an impeachment trial after proof of his guilt was found on the tapes.

• On April 30, 1997, at 12:11 pm, London's iconic Big Ben clock, the most famous clock in the world, stops ticking for 54 minutes. In 1962, snow delayed the bells, causing Britain's capital to ring in the New Year 10 minutes late.

• On May 1, 1941, "Citizen Kane" makes its debut at the RKO Palace Theater in New York City. The film about a publishing tycoon's dying words consistently ranks at the top of film critics' lists of America's greatest films.

• On May 2, 1939, New York Yankees first baseman Lou Gehrig benches himself for poor play and ends his streak of consecutive games played at 2,130. The left-handed slugger led the American League in RBIs five times.

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Mice

From Page 3

the good that would come from Dr. Fauci's unethical "gain of function" research⁷ on coronaviruses (making them more deadly and transmissible). Look where that got us.

We have truly entered the brave new world, grappling with the morality of life and death in the age of medical technology. Devaluing life is now commonplace. Abortion on demand is available on the day of birth. Freshly obtained aborted fetal tissue is being used to create "humanized mice"⁸ (on the taxpayers' dime, no less). Not surprisingly, COVID-19 is the justification. Moreover, there is evidence that upstanding organizations and suppliers are making profits from the illegal sale of human fetuses⁹.

In the United States, thousands¹⁰ of children are trafficked every year for sex or labor. This doesn't make front page news or leave a lasting imprint on our consciousness—unlike the ever present COVID-19 statistics.

On the other end of life's spectrum, government COVID-19 policies regarding nursing home residents cemented what victims already knew: our society treats elders like jetsam—the debris that is thrown overboard to lighten a ship's load. Former Obama advisor and member of Biden's COVID-19 team, Ezekiel Emanuel, is on board. His "Complete Lives System"¹¹ posits that medical care should be rationed based on one's "instrumental value" to society. Babies, those over 60 years of age, and the disabled are out of luck. "When the worst-off can benefit only slightly while the better-off people could benefit greatly, allocating to the better-off is often justifiable." One more nail in the coffin of our humanity. With doctors like this who needs the Grim Reaper.

However, the unwanted cast-offs may be more difficult to replace with better

models. Our reproductive abilities appear to be on the decline. The global fertility rate, sperm counts¹², and the quality of sperm¹³ are declining and reported miscarriages increased¹⁴ at about 1 percent per year from 1970 to 2000.

Enter the robobabies. We could eliminate the need for mothers. We could ensure that only the right kind of embryos develop. Newspeak paves the way. The United Nations' European Union and U.S. delegations¹⁵ have neutered mother and father to "parents" and declared that "various forms of family exist."

Crazy? Social Justice Warriors are "reimagining" the evolution of our society. Why not reimagine humans?

Who would have imagined a pediatrician governor¹⁶ supporting infanticide? Who would have imagined that social media in America, the bastion of free speech, would crush politically unpopular speech and diversity of thought? Who would have imagined that physicians who offered early treatment of COVID-19 would be treated like drug dealers? Who would have imagined that the media-government complex would silence the reasoned opinions of renowned epidemiologists, virologists, and clinicians who raised questions about the response to COVID-19? Who would have imagined that 1984 would cease being fiction?

COVID-19 watchdogs have showcased their faux humanity, incessantly preaching that it is our moral duty to wear a mask and submit our bodies to an experimental drug. As science is catching up to longstanding utopian political agendas, our real moral duty is to reflect on playing God with life and death.

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

1 – [https://www.nature.com/articles/s41586-021-](https://www.nature.com/articles/s41586-021-03416-3)

03416-3

2 – <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tNb2npuiF3Q>

3 – <https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-018-05586-z>

4 – <https://www.biorxiv.org/content/biorxiv/early/2021/03/09/2021.03.09.434313.full.pdf>

5 – <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41586-021-03372-y>

6 – <https://www.isscr.org/news-publicationsss/isscr-news-articles/article-listing/2021/03/17/isscr-will-release-updated-guidelines-for-stem-cell-research-and-clinical-translation-in-may>

7 – <https://www.dailysignal.com/2021/04/06/fauci-must-explain-why-oversight-bypassed-for-funding-to-wuhan-lab-congressman-says/>

8 – <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41586-021-03312-w>

9 – <https://www.judicialwatch.org/press-releases/humanized-mice-fda/>

10 – <https://worldpopulationreview.com/state-rankings/human-trafficking-statistics-by-state>

11 – <http://blog.jonolan.net/wp-content/uploads/2009/08/complete-lives.pdf>

12 – <https://academic.oup.com/humupd/article/23/6/646/4035689>

13 – <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41598-020-67707-x>

14 – <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3787708/#:~:text=After%20accounting%20for%20abortion%20availability,after%2012%20weeks%20of%20pregnancy.>

15 – <https://www.nationalreview.com/corner/virginia-governor-defends-letting-infants-die/>

Marilyn M. Singleton is a board-certified anesthesiologist. She is past President of the Association of American Physicians and Surgeons (AAPS). She graduated from Stanford and earned her MD at UCSF Medical School. While still working in the operating room, she attended UC Berkeley Law School, focusing on constitutional law and administrative law. She teaches classes in the recognition of elder abuse and constitutional law for non-lawyers.

Roads

From Page 1

work zone crashes. In 2020, 147 motorists and vehicle passengers were killed in Texas work zones, along with 35 pedestrians and bicyclists and four road workers.

The Texas Mutual Insurance Company, which helps employers prevent workplace incidents and their consequences, is partnering with TxDOT to promote safe driving.

The "Be Safe. Drive Smart." campaign outlines five key steps drivers can take to safely navigate a work zone:

- Slow down. Follow the posted speed limit and drive to conditions. Unsafe speed is one of the main causes of crashes in work zones.
- Pay attention. Avoid distractions, keep your mind on the road and put your phone away.
- Watch out for road crews. The only protective gear they wear is a vest, a hardhat and safety boots. Remember, they want to get home safe, too.
- Don't tailgate. Give yourself room to stop in a hurry if you need to. Rear-end collisions are the most common kind of work zone crashes.
- Allow extra time. Road construction can slow things down. Count on it, and plan for it.

Traffic fines double in work zones when workers are present and can cost up to \$2,000. Failure to heed the Move Over/Slow Down law can also result in a \$2,000 fine. State law requires drivers to move over a lane or reduce their speed to 20 mph below the posted speed limit when approaching a TxDOT vehicle, emergency vehicle, law enforcement, tow truck or utility vehicle stopped with flashing lights activated on the roadside.

"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.

TEXTING AND DRIVING MAKES GOOD PEOPLE LOOK BAD.

STOPTEXTSTOPWRECKS.ORG



Send Your Newsbrief To:
wtxcc@wtxcc.com

The early part of this week's NFL draft could get crazy

By Steve Escajeda
Special to the Courier

It's only April and I'm sure many of you are already getting anxious for the 2021 National Football League season.

Well, I'm sorry to remind you that players don't return to camp for another four months. But I can also remind you that this week will go a long way in determining what many of those teams will look like.

The NFL Draft is going on this week and many fans will be glued to their sets watching their teams draft players they've never ever heard of.

But at least on Thursday, when the first round of picks are made, fans will recognize some of the bigger names.

This year appears to be the year of the quarterback... especially among the players picked in the very early part of the first round.

Though many experts predict five quarterbacks will be taken in the top ten picks, the real draft fun will get underway with the third pick.

The first two slots, owned by the Jacksonville Jaguars and the New York Jets, are said to be locks. The Jags will go with Clemson quarterback Trevor Lawrence. The Jets are expected to take BYU QB Zach Wilson.

The third pick belongs to the San Francisco 49ers, and no one knows what they're going to do.

It's believed that the 49ers, that already have a quarterback in Jimmy Garoppolo, will pick a new QB. But who will they

choose?

They can go with Alabama's Mac Jones, North Dakota State's Trey Lance, or Ohio State's Justin Fields.

This is where all the dominoes will start to tumble. Whatever San Francisco does will determine what the teams behind them do.

What if the 49ers are happy with Garoppolo and decide not to take a quarterback?

And don't forget, if they do go with a QB, the 49ers will still have Garoppolo. Now they have to decide whether they'll keep him or just trade him to another team.

After the 49ers, the Atlanta Falcons, who pick fourth, already have a quarterback in Matt Ryan, so they will probably go with a receiver or explosive tight end Kyle Pitts, out of Florida.

The fifth pick goes to the Cincinnati Bengals. They already have a quarterback in last year's top choice Joe Burrow. Before he was injured was on a pace to be sacked 75 times. So it would be surprising if the Bengals didn't go with a big strong offensive lineman.

The sixth pick in the draft goes to the Miami Dolphins. The Fins already have their starting quarterback in Tua Tagovailoa, but they believe he needs some offensive help. That's why most experts feel they'll go with a wide receiver. Will it be LSU's Ja'Marr Chase, or one of the two Alabama pass catchers, Jaylen Waddle or DeVonta Smith?

Pick number seven will go the Detroit Lions, who have all kinds of needs. That's why many of the draft prognosticators have predicted that the Lions will trade this pick to some team that is willing to give them a whole bunch of draft picks in exchange. If another team does trade for the Lions' seventh pick, it'll be because they are going for a quarterback.

The Carolina Panthers pick eighth. They just traded for Sam Darold. I don't know if he'll be enough for them to win, but they sure need to protect him so I'm guessing the Panthers will go for an offensive lineman.

The ninth pick goes to the Denver Broncos and they need a quarterback. This is where the fifth available QB will probably be taken.

Another team that could sure use a bunch of draft picks is the Dallas Cowboys. They choose tenth. The Cowboys have need on the offensive line, they need a pass rusher and they need all kinds of help in the defensive backfield. The odds are that Dallas will take a cornerback – either Alabama's Patrick Surtain or South Carolina's Jaycee Horn.

Like every draft, the most important picks are taken in the later rounds. Championship teams are made up of successful fourth through eighth round picks. But the first ten picks are the glamour selections. It's the NFL's version of Oscar night on the red carpet.

Briefs

From Page 1

appropriate. For more information on MTAP and micro-business economic development, contact Project Vida Co-Director Bill Schlesinger at w.schlesinger@pvida.net.

– Joyce Davidoff

It's never too late to make amends

Sixty years of guilt finally got the better of him and so an unidentified grandfather confessed that he stole handcuffs belonging to one of Los Angeles' finest three decades ago. The LAPD says it received a package recently containing the cuffs, a \$100 donation and a letter of apology from a 74-year-old man who admitted that he witnessed an altercation at a local diner 60 years ago. The police were called, one of the officers dropped his handcuffs and the man picked them up but didn't return them. He kept them, for whatever reason, and

when his grandsons asked him where he got the cuffs, he decided it was time to return them. As he told it in his letter: "They were aghast and asked me why I stole the handcuffs from a policeman. I, of course, had no good explanation and I told them it was the wrong thing to do and I wasn't proud of it." And so, he decided to "make amends."

– John Grimaldi

States COVID safety

With around 23% of the population fully vaccinated against COVID-19 as of April 14, and vaccination being an essential component for full reopening of the economy, WalletHub has released its report on the *Safest States During COVID-19*, along with accompanying videos and audio files. In order to find out the safest states during the COVID-19 pandemic, WalletHub compared the 50 states and the District of Columbia across five key metrics. Our data set includes the rates of COVID-19 transmission, positive testing, hospitalizations and death, as well as the share of the eligible

population getting vaccinated. Texas was rated 26th overall in the report, ranking (1-Best; 25-Avg.):

- 37th – Vaccination Rate;
- 33rd – Positive Testing Rate;
- 29th – Hospitalization Rate;
- 26th – Death Rate; and
- 17th – Transmission Rate.

(Rankings are based on data available as of 12:30 p.m. ET on Wednesday, April 14, 2021.)

"Warmer weather should have a positive impact on safety during the COVID-19 pandemic, as restaurants and events will offer socially-distanced outside seating, which is safer than gathering inside. Businesses and events can expand their capacity limits without compromising safety as a result," said Jill Gonzalez, WalletHub analyst. "We should expect warmer weather, combined with accelerated vaccine distribution, to quicken the pace of reopening." Visit <https://wallethub.com/edu/safest-states-during-covid/86567> for the full report.

– Diana Polk

Super Crossword

- | | | | | |
|---|---|---|----------------------------------|---|
| E-EQUIVALENT | 54 Lures | purchases | 14 Endangered | tempo for |
| FIGURES | 58 Paris-to-Berlin dir. | 106 1998 Angelina | 15 A little off | 75 Pen filler |
| ACROSS | 59 Aviating guys | Jolie film | 16 Declare | 77 Product rep |
| 1 Napoleon exile locale | 60 "You Send Me" crooner's preferred cruise destinations? | 108 Gmail alternative | 17 Makeup of a frozen Arctic cap | 79 Mention |
| 5 Lobby gp. | 63 Mr. or Dr. | 110 "Gladiator" Oscar winner's kin? | 18 Early utopia | 80 Haloed Fr. woman |
| 8 _Bill (Old West hero) | 65 Seraglios | 114 "House" co-star's estimate? | 24 Before, to Kipling | 81 Cards dealt |
| 13 Soda shop drink | 66 _ Ben Adhem" | 118 Get more profound | 25 Warsaw native | 82 Tulip's kin |
| 19 Diving bird | 67 A&E part | 119 Mil. VIP | 30 Involved with | 83 Foot with fur |
| 20 Glass of public radio | 68 Greedy gullet | 120 Queued | 32 Water spigot | 84 "2001" studio |
| 21 Large crowd | 71 TV awards | 121 Doctor's plan for the author of "Common Sense"? | 33 Sea plea | 85 Not a copy |
| 22 Muzzle-loading tool | 72 "Uncle Tom's Cabin" writer not at home? | 124 Secondary divinity, in Greek myth | 38 Salt Lake City team | 86 Sent a new invoice to |
| 23 "You Light Up My Life" singer's good friend? | 74 Pie serving | 125 Break in, say | 39 "Taps" hour | 88 Photo _ |
| 26 Orange-and-black bird | 76 Coloring stuff | 126 Pooch checker | 41 Devilish | 92 Baseball's Matty |
| 27 Many times o'er | 77 Litigious one | 127 Teeny bit | 43 Forest home | 93 Top-row PC key |
| 28 Real ladies' men | 78 Gillette's _ Il razor | 128 Firstborn | 45 List units | 95 Actor Elliott |
| 29 Close examination of the "Room at the Top" novelist? | 79 Truthful | 129 Unpopular plants | 46 Luau favors | 99 Demands |
| 31 Some of a "Waltons" actor's furniture? | 80 Longtime | 130 Quaint ending for 100-Down | 47 Mushroom ends? | 100 Verse creator |
| 34 Blast creator | 81 Gillette's _ of Government" philosopher making a choice? | 131 Black stone | 49 Made a new outline of | 101 Zig or zag |
| 35 Camera variety, for short | 84 Not eternal | DOWN | 50 Miner's haul | 103 Cooing bird |
| 36 Mets' old ballpark | 87 Me, to Mimi | 1 Bodily joints | 51 Pined | 104 Oodles |
| 37 Ballgame cry | 89 Tranquil | 2 Spa sponge | 52 Frothy | 105 Sentence structure |
| 40 Sugar suffix | 90 Long time | 3 Infant sock | 53 Singer Mel | 107 Stop on _ |
| 42 Help | 91 Red fruit for an "L.A. Law" actress? | 4 Shaker Lee | 55 Diamond official at home | 109 Cartoon skunk |
| 44 Heap | 94 Joins closely | 5 Loop of lace | 56 Fife player's drum | 111 Duel swords |
| 48 What the penner of "Tristram Shandy" spoke toward? | 96 Smith and Jones film, for short | 6 Smell | 57 Blizzard stuff | 112 Notable acts |
| | 97 WWW access inits. | 7 Obtained | 62 Because of | 113 Bug in "A Bug's Life" |
| | 98 PC b-board admins | 8 Sci-fi zapper | 64 Suffix with absurd | 114 With 67-Down, up and no longer sleepy |
| | 102 Google Play | 9 Long time | 67 See 114-Down | 115 Baseballer |
| | | 10 Infant bed | 68 The press, TV, etc. | Slaughter |
| | | 11 Smell | 69 Serving perfectly | 116 Not crazy |
| | | 12 French legislature | 70 Pie serving | 117 Location |
| | | 13 Drivers' places | 72 Total | 122 Toon Flanders |
| | | | 73 Brow curves | 123 "O Sole _" |
| | | | 74 Established the | |

Answer Page 4

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	
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124							125					126			127			
128							129					130					131	

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

clean background check."

Such requirements are always promised in comprehensive immigration bills and are always toothless, serving only as a way to deny that the amnesty for illegal immigrants is indeed an amnesty.

Bush says, as well, that both parties should be willing to get behind "increased legal immigration," a characteristic feature of these bills. In another tired talking point, Bush insists that a higher level of immigration is necessary to bringing more skilled immigrants – never considering that we could also reduce the number of low-skilled

immigrants.

But supporters of the old consensus aren't especially keen on understanding the arguments of opponents. Boehner refers to the "far-right crazies" who never forgave John McCain for pushing immigration reform, and blames "demagogues" and sheer "stubbornness" for blocking a comprehensive bill in 2014.

TB test recommended only for those at risk

DEAR DR. ROACH: I am a nursing student in my 30s and originally from the Philippines. As part of my testing, I had a skin test for tuberculosis, which was positive. I had a friend in the hospital recently with tuberculosis. My doctor has recommended that I get treated for latent tuberculosis. What does this mean? – A.C.S.



Most people who are exposed to tuberculosis will not develop the disease. Some people will develop "latent" infection. This means there is active tuberculosis bacteria in their body, but their system is keeping it from becoming a full-blown infection. People in this situation are at risk of the latent tuberculosis escaping the immune system and developing into tuberculosis. Treatment of the latent tuberculosis is intended to reduce the risk of this happening.

Testing is recommended only for people who are likely to be treated. You have two reasons to be tested: First, as a health care worker – congratulations on becoming a nurse, we need you! – you are at risk of acquiring tuberculosis infection and should be screened. Second, people born in the Philippines are at risk for having acquired tuberculosis, often in childhood.

People in their 30s are generally at very low risk of serious side effects from the medications used to treat latent tuberculosis infection. Isoniazid (INH) and rifampin are the medicines commonly used. Since the risk of developing disease later in life is much higher than the risk of a serious side effect, treatment is recommended in your case.

DEAR DR. ROACH: I'm an 85-year-old woman with no major health problems. I lead an active life and exercise daily. About four years ago, I began being bothered by cold feet at night. At first, I could just wear socks to bed. Now I must put my feet in an electric heated pouch in my bed, which doesn't stay in place. When I travel, I take the heated insoles skiers use to keep their feet warm. Without some device, I'm kept awake by a feeling of icy soles. I am not diabetic. I've described the problem to a neurologist, a rheumatologist and my primary caregiver. No one has explained what causes the icy feet or if there's any cure. Is there one? – J.S.

There are quite a few possible causes for your cold feet, and your doctors need to first identify why they are cold. To do this, they should start by checking the blood flow to the feet. At age 85, the likelihood of blockages to the arteries in your feet are pretty high. A simple test can make the diagnosis. Since blockages in the feet predict blockages in the heart too, it's important to know. Treatment can improve symptoms as well as reduce risk of a heart attack.

Severe anemia and low thyroid levels can cause very cold feet. Nerve damage is common in diabetes and unusual without it, but a neurologist should have found physical findings for neurologic causes.

Raynaud's syndrome, which usually happens in the hands, occasionally affects the feet preferentially to the hands. Medicines, especially beta blockers, can cause cold feet.

Sometimes there isn't a known cause, and physicians are left advising on treatments to relieve symptoms. I wouldn't give up before a circulation test, however.

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.

So far this year, Republican constantly remind the party's senators have only talked of a narrower immigration bill focused on an amnesty for so-called Dreamers. Surely, though, the instinct toward comprehensive immigration hasn't gone away. It's up to Republican voters to

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



Moore Texas by Roger Moore
The film industry's biggest award is named after Oscar Pierce, a Texas farmer.

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: R equals S

JP Y FYO ISZBM ISFT
VS Y ISRVZFT AYUVQ
MUTRRTM YR Y DOJPT,
XT'M BSSD UTYBBQ RXYUA.

Answer Page 4

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

4			5					9
		1			2	4		
	6			3	7			8
	9	3	6			1		
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		4			3		1	
1				8		5		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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All vets now eligible for COVID vaccine



by Freddy Groves

With the SAVE Act (Strengthening and Amplifying Vaccination Efforts), the Department of Veterans Affairs is opening the doors to vaccinating all veterans, spouses and caregivers. This is a major step forward from the previous rules of only vaccinating certain groups of veterans and employees. The numbers of those now eligible has gone from 9 million to 33 million.

First on the list are veterans who use VA health care, veterans who never enrolled but use care and medical services in the first 12 months after separation and the caregivers for those veterans.

Under the new rules, the following will then be eligible to receive the vaccine:

- Veterans who can't enroll in VA health care;
- Veterans who are eligible for hospital care, medical

services and nursing homes abroad in the Foreign Medical Program;

- Beneficiaries who are eligible for care due to a specific disability or death of a veteran;
- Caregivers of veterans participating in the VA's Medical Foster Home Program, Bowel and Bladder Program, Home-Based Primary Care Program or Veteran Directed Care Program; and
- Spouses of veterans.

If you can't make it to the VA and can't find federal or state vaccination sites in your town, keep an eye out for VA-organized pop-up vaccine clinics. I recently went to an all-veterans pop-up clinic held in my town, one of eight rural locations that were opened in my state. It was impressive. The event had been widely announced on the news, on Facebook, in the newspapers. Somebody did a good job of spreading the word.

To sign up for the vaccine, whether you currently get care through VA or not, go here: www.va.gov/health-care/covid-19-vaccine. Scroll down to read how you'll be

contacted when your group is eligible. You don't want to miss the phone call, email or text message. And keep an eye on your local facility's web page for updates.

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• My family's spring-cleaning checklist is in full effect. Some people dread seasonal chores, but I relish the sense of accomplishment that comes from a job well done. With the right planning, and some helpful tips, spring cleaning can be a breeze. Here are some of the best we have to share. – JoAnn

• "Stainless steel appliances are very popular, and in the kitchen, they get plenty of chances to get fingerprinted up. My appliance guy recommended using a light-mist, wax-based aerosol dusting spray once or twice a week to keep my stainless steel appliance fronts looking their best." – R.C. in North Carolina

• In the closet, we all want to pare away unused items, but sometimes it seems like you wear clothes that you don't. Turn all the clothes hangers the opposite way (facing out instead of in). When you use an item and it is returned to the closet, replace the hanger normally. In a few months, if an item has not been worn, it will be apparent. If it's not likely to be worn, it should go.

• Spring is a wonderful time to clean the walls inside your house. It clears away hidden dust and really freshens a room. Clean painted walls by dusting them first with a dry mop, then washing with a rag dampened in water. If you need a little extra oomph – say, in the kitchen or bath – add a couple drops of mild dish soap.

• New drapes or even new pillow covers in a fabulous pattern can really jazz up a room. Consider switching smaller furniture accents between common rooms or a fresh furniture arrangement to change it up.

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

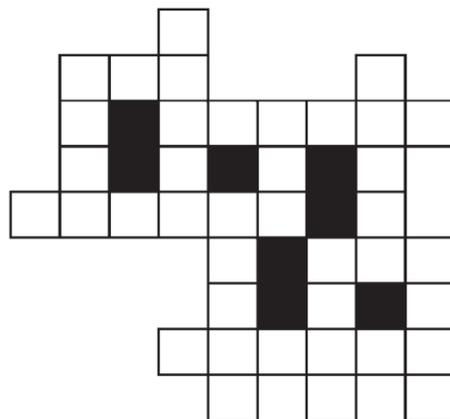
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- ECISIN
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- ELGIA
- EBD
- GAGTRA
- CPSY
- ♥ESDI



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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