



NEWSBRIEFS

Working dads

With Father's Day last Sunday and 93.3% of married dads working last year compared to 69.2% of married moms, the personal-finance website WalletHub has released its report on 2021's *Best & Worst States for Working Dads*, as well as accompanying videos. In order to help dads balance their dual role as parent and provider, WalletHub compared the 50 U.S. states and the District of Columbia across 23 key indicators of friendliness toward working dads. The data set ranges from the average length of the workday for males to child-care costs to the share of men in good or better health. Texas was rated 38th in the report, ranking (1-Best; 25-Avg.):

- 28th – Male Life Expectancy;
- 45th – Percent of Kids Younger than 18 with Dad Present Living in Poverty;
- 1st – Unemployment Rate for Dads with Kids Younger than 18;
- 51st – Male Uninsured Rate;
- 46th – Avg. Length of Work Day (in Hours) for Males;
- 28th – Percent of Physically Active Men;
- 42nd – Child-Care Costs (Adjusted for Median Family* Income); and
- 3rd – Day-Care Quality.

*Refers to families with kids aged 0 to 17 and in which the father is present. Visit <https://wallethub.com/edu/best-and-worst-states-for-working-dads/13458> for the full report.

– Diana Polk

Tourist money woes

With states facing billions of dollars in losses due to the lack of European tourists this year, WalletHub has released its report on the *States Hurt the Most by the European Travel Ban*, along with accompanying videos. In order to determine the states hurt the most by the European travel ban, WalletHub calculated the potential monetary losses based on the number of inbound tourists to each state alongside their total spending, and compared the result to each state's gross domestic product (GDP). Texas was rated 27th in the report. Notable stats:

- Average COVID-19 incidence rate of banned European countries: 4.55 per 100,000 persons.
- Highest COVID-19 incidence rate

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Conference room: A place where everybody talks, nobody listens and everybody leaves in disagreement.

– Quips & Quotes



– Photo courtesy tuffhedemanbullriding.com

BUCKLE UP – The Tuff Hedeman Bull Riding Tour is coming to town for its 16th consecutive year. The two-hour bull riding show returns on July 17, at the El Paso County Coliseum. Above, an unidentified rider bucks out during a previous El Paso tour event.

Pro bull riding returns to El Paso County

By **Alfredo Vasquez**
Special to the Courier

EL PASO COUNTY – The annual Tuff Hedeman Bull Riding Tour, sponsored by Casa Ford, will return for the 16th consecutive year to the El Paso County Coliseum (4100 E. Paisano), Saturday July 17, with competition starting at 8 p.m.

The two-hour bull riding show, titled *Ride It Out*, will feature top ranked bulls and the bull riders who will compete for a share of over \$30,000 in prize money. The four-time World Champion and Pro Rodeo Hall of Famer Tuff Hedeman promises a topnotch roster for the one-night event.

“I have either been competing or producing bull ridings for the people of El Paso for over 28 years. It’s great to have the

opportunity to bring it back later in the year and be part of such an awesome weekend in the town I call home,” Hedeman stated in a recent press release.

The top-ranked bull riders will compete for one night only, as Hedeman, a native El Pasoan, lined up World Champions and Wrangler National Finals Rodeo athletes to compete for the coveted El Paso championship title.

Throughout the event, 24 bull riders and 40 bulls will compete in a three-round tournament-style sudden death format, with the event concluding in a final four-man round, tour organizers stated.

The evening festivities will include the traditional Western Tech Tailgate Down Party, beginning at 5 p.m., at the coliseum,

See BULL, Page 6

Scott gifts \$30 million to EPCC

By **Ismael De La Rosa**
Special to the Courier

EL PASO COUNTY – El Paso Community College (EPCC) is a grateful recipient of a staggering \$30 million donation from renowned philanthropist Mackenzie Scott. EPCC is just one institution chosen by Scott and husband Dan Jewett to receive a portion of the \$2.7 billion in charitable gifts announced last week. The contribution to EPCC is the largest the college has ever received. It is also the largest amount given by Scott and Jewett to a community college in Texas and the third largest to be given to a Texas higher education institution.

When asked about his reaction to the news, EPCC President Dr. William

Serrata said, “It was totally unexpected. We are beyond grateful for Ms. Scott’s generosity to support education as a proven pathway to opportunity. These funds will allow us to dramatically expand our services, helping more people in our community find the path to their best lives through EPCC. We are excited because a gift like this – the largest ever received by EPCC – positively impacts the lives and prosperity of our entire community.”

“We chose to make relatively large gifts to the organizations... to enable their work, and as a signal of trust and encouragement, to them and to others.” Scott, explained in a blog post on Medium when she announced the distribution of funds.

These funds will be used to empower students and transform their lives through education. “We appreciate Ms. Scott’s

confirmation of the work that we are doing. For more than fifty years, EPCC has been improving our community by increasing educational attainment,” Brian Haggerty, EPCC Board Chair said. “As the institution that has been awarding the most degrees to Hispanic students for more than a decade, we are making a difference. A gift like this shows that other people see this too, and that is really gratifying.”

Scott signaled her trust in EPCC, and other organizations funded in another way. The funds are unrestricted, and organizations can allocate them however they choose. “This is a great vote of confidence and we will be wise stewards who will make prudent and well-researched decisions on how to use this funding to best serve our students and community,” Serrata said. “Ultimately this investment will ensure that El Paso Community College continues to make an impact on our students now and into the future.”



Up, up and away

just suck it up if I call him an American oligarch who has too much money to spend.

Bezos' collection of playthings also includes Blue Origin, the aerospace company that is about to send its suborbital rocket New Shepard into outer space. The vessel is named after Mercury astronaut Alan Shepard, although it is scheduled to blast its first crew of really rich guys (presumably) – including Jeff Bezos, his brother Mark and the as-yet-unidentified winning bidder – and an employee of Blue Origin, maybe a flight attendant on July 20. That is

the anniversary of the Apollo 11 moon landing. They will be departing from Blue Origin's launch facility near Van Horn, Texas, possibly chosen because of West Texas' uncanny resemblance to the moon's surface.

The Blue Origin's promotional pitch promised a flight "past the Kármán line – the internationally recognized boundary of space. ... Your 11-minute flight on New Shepard will be the experience of a lifetime. ... With room for six astronauts, the spacious and pressurized crew capsule is environmentally controlled for

comfort, and every passenger gets their own window seat. The vehicle is fully autonomous. Every person onboard is a passenger – there are no pilots." No pilots?! Everything is controlled from the ground. In space, it's first class all the way, as you view the planet Earth, experience zero gravity and do all those kinds of things that us riffraff cannot afford.

With 13 million kids living in "food insecure" households in the United States, \$28 million would go a long way to guaranteeing nutritional meals for them, or scholarships. Instead, it's the entrance fee for some super wealthy man or woman to get an 11-minute experience with what

amounts to a toy.

He or she will be far above the infrastructure problems that place the USA in danger of disintegrating. The Biden administration is proposing an increase in taxes on those making \$400,000 a year in personal income and an increase in corporate taxes. That has caused an uproar, particularly in Republican circles. The way the tax laws are arranged now, the oligarchs pay next to nothing, if they pay anything at all.

But let's see if their latest trinket goes off without a hitch. It's a direct flight to and from the cusp of outer space, so TSA problems

See FRANKEN, Page 7

View from here By Jane M. Orient, M.D.

Sending your son to college? Should you kiss him good-bye?

Many young Americans and their parents believe that a college degree is the key to open doors to a successful future. So, when they get a letter from the Administration saying you must get this injection or you are barred from our campus¹, they rush to comply.

After all, vaccines are "safe and effective," and you've already had dozens of them, so what's one more? Our vigilant and world-renowned scientific and health agencies would never allow an unsafe product to be authorized, would they? The National Institutes of Health (NIH), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) would never miss a safety signal or lie to us, would they? Look at the thousands of regulations they impose on us, and the warning label on everything from plastic bags to table salt. See the signs in the liquor section warning pregnant women not to take a sip lest their baby be harmed.

Now one of the world's most respected and widely published cardiologists, Dr. Peter McCullough, calls attention to the 800 reported cases of post-COVID job myocarditis (heart inflammation), mostly in young men. "Only" a couple of them have died. Most recovered enough to be discharged from the hospital. How they did at football tryouts we don't know. Dr. McCullough

thinks many of them will develop heart failure².

The first response to reports of adverse events following a vaccine or a drug is generally that it is a coincidence or a conspiracy theory, and that association doesn't prove causation. People have heart attacks, and strokes, and blood clots every day, even young people. So, we get into a statistical discussion of whether the post-jab rate is "significantly" higher than the background rate³. It turns out that the rate of myocarditis in these formerly healthy young men is indeed higher than expected.

How many "excess" cases do we actually have, and how many are enough to halt the program?

The best mechanism available at present is the flawed Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS), which is being deluged with reports and is very far behind on data entry. Reports of events possibly related to platelet problems⁴ in persons injected between Dec 15, 2020, and Mar 12, 2021, increased from 370 to 6,290 over a couple months, and were continuing to climb in May as data entry clerks worked on the backlog.

Reporting is also incomplete. Doctors don't notice the association, or don't know about VAERS, or are discouraged from reporting. There might be 8,000 cases, or even 80,000.

Only the most severe cases come to attention at first,

as the thalidomide disaster shows. Thalidomide was marketed as "safe and effective" for everyone in 1957. In 1961, the same obstetrician who had prescribed it for morning sickness noticed babies being born without limbs. Less serious abnormalities were described later. The drug was taken off the market in 1962—five years after it was released.

The person who gives you the jab in the parking lot or vaccination center will probably never see you again, unlike that obstetrician, so it will take longer to see connections.

Why hasn't the program been halted already? Where are Nader's "unsafe at any speed" Raiders?

The country has apparently been mesmerized by fear of COVID and by faith that forcing everyone to get injected is the one and only key to release us from lockdowns.

What effect will the 3,000 Fauci emails have? Dr. Anthony Fauci has long sat at the head of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Disease (NIAID), the relevant part of the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the dictator of national pandemic policy: (1) devastating lockdowns, (2) NO early treatment with

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China leapfrogs U.S. on defense spending

Joe Biden isn't known for his austerity, except when it comes to the nation's defense.

As part of his welcome emphasis on competition with China, the president cajoled reluctant European countries at the G-7 summit into releasing a statement critical of China, on top of the announcement of an infrastructure program meant to counter China's Belt and Road Initiative.

That's all fine as far as it goes, but a glaring omission from Biden's campaign is a defense budget that reflects the growing challenge from Beijing.

Indeed, Biden justifies almost any increased domestic spending as designed to check China's ambitions, at the same time he neglects what is most needful to keep China from dominating its region and waging war on our allies or perhaps the U.S. itself.

If we can deter China from taking Taiwan with subsidies for electric cars, Biden is inarguably the Churchill of his time.

If we can counter China's defense buildup with more funding for affordable housing, Biden deserves to take his place beside Alfred Thayer Mahan or George Kennan as great strategic thinkers.

Otherwise, his approach is

lacking, and disturbingly so.

Biden's infrastructure plan, a sprawling proposal that would spend \$2.3 trillion on everything from roads and bridges to affordable housing and elder care, is about the "global competition with China," the president insists.

By Biden's way of thinking, whatever progressives have wanted to do for years is suddenly a priority in the new Cold War. The left-wing "explainer" website Vox now claims, "Improving domestic infrastructure and investing in new and emerging technologies, especially clean energy technology, is the best way the U.S. can challenge China for supremacy on the world stage." The publication quoted a Democratic congressional aide, "The best way to enact a progressive agenda is to use China [as a] threat."

There are indeed areas of advanced technology that we need to invest in, especially semi-conductors and artificial intelligence (a \$250 billion Senate bill passed last week is an imperfect step in this direction), but it's not true that we can simply windmill our way to victory over China.

Although you might miss it

listening to Biden, there are threats from China that don't involve infrastructure spending or clean energy initiatives.

China has been growing its annual defense spending by more than 6% a year.

It has now surpassed the U.S. and technically has the largest navy in the world.

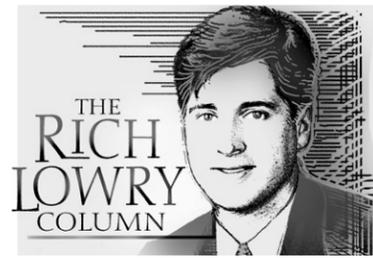
It is on pace to double its nuclear weapons over the next decade.

It has flown hundreds of sorties

near Taiwan this year, and a top U.S. admiral warns that it could invade in the next six years.

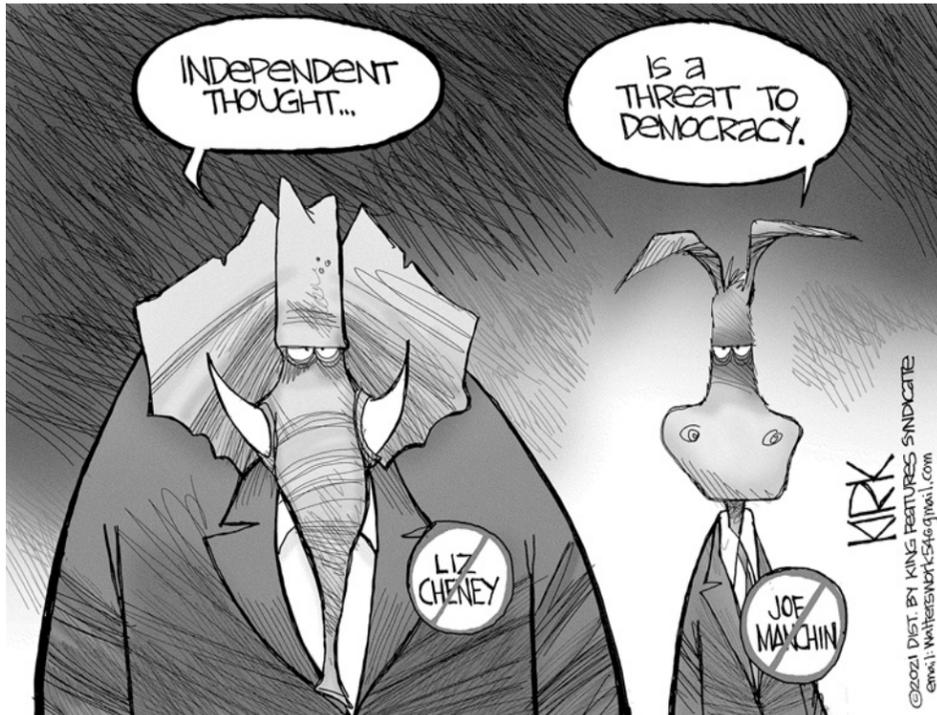
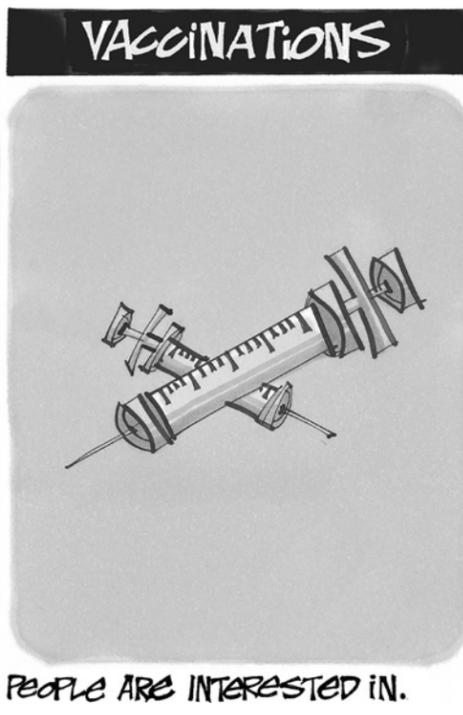
Given all that, one might expect the openhanded Biden to invest substantially in a stronger, more advanced U.S. military, but his profligacy doesn't extend so far. He increased defense budget spending by about 2%, which won't even keep up with inflation.

This doesn't come close to what we realistically need.



Chairman of the Joint Chiefs Mark Milley said at a U.S. Naval Institute event late last year, "We're going to have to have a much larger fleet than we have today, if we're serious about great power competition and

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Food for thought By John Grimaldi

Forgetful?

It's most likely the rigors of growing old

It's not just old-timers who have those "senior moments." Studies show that we gradually begin to find it harder to focus when we are in our twenties and it gets more difficult as we age – it's a slow process but it's also part of the aging process.

"A specific brain network, the locus coeruleus, that controls our ability to focus while under stress appears to weaken as we age, interfering with our ability to focus," is how Science Daily explains it. Studies have shown that when we get older it's normal for us to get distracted, making it hard for us to pay attention.

According to Professor Mara Mather, a co-author of one of those studies, "Trying hard to complete a task increases emotional arousal, so when younger adults try hard, this should increase their ability to ignore distracting information."

While young adults are not as easily distracted as are senior citizens, there is scientific evidence that the ability to ignore distractions peaks when we are about twenty years old and slowly deteriorates with each passing year.

"So, if you forget that you wear glasses, have your forgetfulness checked out. But if you simply forgot where you left your glasses, it is most likely the rigors of getting old," says Rebecca Weber, CEO of the Association of Mature American Citizens (AMAC).

The Harvard Medical School published a report on the topic noting, "Most people start to notice changes as they enter their 50s and 60s. Although these changes can cause consternation, most age-related memory and thinking problems don't stem from an underlying brain disease such as Alzheimer's disease. Instead, what appears to be a memory problem may simply reflect a slower processing speed and poor encoding and retrieval of new memories as a result of diminished attention. However, even though your brain may be slower to learn and recall new information, your ability to make sense of what you know and to form reasonable arguments and judgments remains intact."

In other words, says AMAC's Weber, while you may forget

where you left your glasses, the knowledge and wisdom you've accrued in your lifetime remains. "Remember, it might take a bit longer to recall the details of an event or the answer to a routine question it doesn't mean that you've lost it. You're simply the victim of the aging process."

As the folks at the Harvard Medical School put it: "The result is that as you age, it takes longer to absorb, process, and remember new information. The natural loss of receptors and neurons that occurs with aging may also make it harder to concentrate. Therefore, you not only learn information more

slowly, but you also may have more trouble recalling it because you didn't fully learn it in the first place. With slower processing, facts held in working memory may dissipate before you have had a chance to solve a problem.

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

Vaccine

From Page 2

repurposed drugs deemed safe and effective by hundreds or thousands of physicians worldwide, and (3) exclusive reliance on vaccination.

Dr. Fauci calls the furor over his emails "an attack on science⁵." It is rather an attack on our faith in experts who lied about funding genetic engineering research on viruses in China. Should we trust their remedy of genetically engineered products that cause our bodies to make the most dangerous part of the virus – the spike protein⁶?

You might be able to get a college degree with a damaged heart, but the door may be slammed permanently on athletics, military service, or any physically demanding occupation.

Your daughter is at risk also. The heart problems are less frequent in women, but women are not exempt. And where else do those lipid nanoparticles enclosing the instructions for spike protein go? Those college administrators don't know, and if Dr. Fauci knows, he's not telling.

Would putting hold on your college education be worth it? Is it even worth it to win the lottery if you lose your heart?

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

- 1 – <https://aapsonline.org/open-letter-from-physicians-to-universities-reverse-covid-vaccine-mandates/>
- 2 – <https://twitter.com/heidegger79/status/1403822387808849922?s=20>
- 3 – <https://abcnews.go.com/Politics/cdc-panel-discuss-myocarditis-reports-young-people-covid/story?id=78222009>
- 4 – <https://jpands.org/vol26no2/merritt.pdf>
- 5 – <https://clashdaily.com/2021/06/dr-fauci-claims-his-critics-arent-just-attacking-him-but-science-itself-video/>
- 6 – <https://www.lifesitenews.com/news/vaccine-researcher-admits-big-mistake-says-spike-protein-is-dangerous-toxin>

Jane M. Orient obtained her M.D. from Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons in 1974. She has been in solo private practice since 1981 and has served as Executive Director of the Association of American Physicians and Surgeons (AAPS) since 1989. She is currently president of Doctors for Disaster Preparedness. More than 100 of her papers have been published in scientific and popular literature on a variety of subjects including risk assessment, natural and technological hazards and nonhazards, and medical economics and ethics. She is the editor of AAPS News, the Doctors for Disaster Preparedness Newsletter, and Civil Defense Perspectives, and is the managing editor of the Journal of American Physicians and Surgeons.

Strange BUT TRUE

By Lucie Winborne

- New Yorkers went through a bizarre phase of wearing chameleons as living ornaments in 1894. They were fastened to cushions, scarves and women's bodices with tiny chains and collars as little "jeweled playthings," but thankfully the trend was shut down by the SPCA, which banned their sale – though not until over 10,000 of the creatures were already running loose in the city.

- The microwave was invented after a researcher walked by a radar tube and a chocolate bar melted in his pocket.

- Any photo you've ever seen of the Milky Way from space is either of another galaxy or an artist's rendition, since we're inside the galaxy and can't take an aerial view.

- Kangaroos hop because their leg structure doesn't permit them to walk independently.

- A 6-year-old Chinese boy named Ming Ming fell from an eight-story window, only to catch his ears in a metal grate, thereby saving his life.

- In 2019, the Wendy's fast-food chain released a tabletop board game titled "Feast of Legends." It's played in a similar fashion to Dungeons and Dragons, with Wendy as the Queen and main character.

- Bananas are a natural source of radioactive isotopes. Just a few can often trigger radiation sensors used at U.S. ports to detect smuggled nuclear material.

- The Sistine Chapel contains a small side room nicknamed the "Room of Tears." This is where the new Pope is taken after winning the election, to relieve the emotion of that process.

Thought for the Day: "If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, you are a leader." – John Quincy Adams

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CryptoQuip Answer

Elvis really liked his steak soft. You've heard his famous tune "Love Meat Tender."

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Moments in time

THE HISTORY CHANNEL

• On June 21, 1956, playwright Arthur Miller defies the House Committee on Un-American Activities and refuses to name suspected communists. Miller's defiance of McCarthyism won him a conviction for contempt of court, which was later reversed by the Supreme Court.

• On June 22, 1775, Congress issues \$2 million in bills of credit. Known as "Continental," the bills lacked the required rendering of the British king. Instead, some notes featured likenesses of Revolutionary soldiers and the inscription "The United Colonies."

• On June 23, 1927, the Sioux County Pioneer newspaper of North Dakota reports that President Calvin Coolidge will be "adopted" into a Sioux tribe at Fort Yates. At the Sioux ceremony, photographers captured Coolidge, in suit and tie, as he was given a grand ceremonial feathered headdress.

• On June 24, 1975, an Eastern Airlines jet crashes near John F. Kennedy International Airport in New York City, killing 115 people. The Boeing 727 was brought down by wind shear during severe thunderstorms. Only seven passengers and two flight attendants survived the fiery crash.

• On June 25, 1915, the German press publishes a statement addressing the German use of poison gas. The Germans had fired more than 150 tons of lethal chlorine gas against two French colonial divisions in April, claiming the French had first used gas in August 1914.

• On June 26, 1892, Nobel Prize-winning author Pearl S. Buck is born. Her novel "The Good Earth" (1930), describing peasant life in China, became an international bestseller and was translated into 30 languages. Buck wrote 80 novels and books.

• On June 27, 1985, after 59 years, the iconic Route 66 passes into history when officials decertify the road and vote to remove all its highway signs. Measuring 2,200 miles, the "Mother Road" stretched from Chicago to Santa Monica, California, passing through eight states.

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Painted violins on display during July 1 reception

By Rosemary Flores
Special to the Courier

EL PASO COUNTY – The El Paso Symphony Orchestra (EPSO) is excited to celebrate its 90th Anniversary Season. The celebration kicks-off with the Emerald Affair on Friday, September 10 at Grace Gardens where over 30 beautifully painted violins by El Paso and surrounding area artists, including EPSO's music director Bohuslav Rattay, will be auctioned. The evening will trace EPSO's 90-year history and include dinner and entertainment.

The violins will debut at a reception honoring the artists on Thursday, July 1, 2021 from 5:00 to 7:30 p.m. at the International Museum of Art, 1211 Montana Ave. The reception is free and open to the public. (Invitation attached) The International Museum of Art will host the violin exhibit from June 18 to July 4.

With pandemic conditions greatly improved, EPSO is fortunate to make beautiful music again on the historic Plaza Theatre stage. Throughout the 2021-2022 season, audience members will be inspired by music from celebrated composers performed by EPSO's dynamic conductor Bohuslav Rattay, along with the finest gifted musicians in this region. In addition, the 90th anniversary will bring our arts community together through varied collaborations with El Paso Opera, El Paso Pro-Musica, and the University of Texas at El Paso Music Department and Choral Union.

The concert season opens

September 24-25, 2021 with masterpieces by Gershwin and Ravel. It will feature America's pianist and Gershwin master, Kevin Cole.

The October 22 & 23 concerts will showcase the world premiere piece of a 23-minute cantata by Jorge Martin that pays tribute to the victims and survivors of the August 3, 2019 attack in El Paso. The piece is commissioned by Communities for Peace; a historic partnership of El Paso Opera, El Paso Pro-Musica, EPSO and the University of Texas at El Paso Music Department.

Home for the Holidays will be the theme of the December 3 & 4 concerts. EPSO will perform John Williams' Home Alone Suite and Handel's "Hallelujah Chorus" from the Messiah, with audience participation, among many other holiday favorites.

EPSO will ring the new year with its annual collaboration with El Paso Pro-Musica on January 21 and 22, 2022. EPSO will be joined by Grammy award-winning cellist Zuill Bailey and violinist Chee-Yun Kim performing Brahms Double Concerto for Violin and Cello.

On February 18 and 19, EPSO will collaborate with the UTEP Choral Union to present Beethoven's Symphony No. 9 "Ode to Joy."

The season will conclude on April 22 and 23 with Rachmaninoff's Concerto for Piano No. 3, performed by pianist Natasha Paremski. It will culminate with Respighi's Pines of Rome, highlighting our orchestra.

For further information, contact EPSO at (915) 532-3376 or email rosemary@epso.org.



– Photos by Carlos D. Luevano

Painted violins will be on display through July 4 and auctioned off on September 10 to benefit the El Paso Symphony Orchestra (EPSO). EPSO Music Director Bohuslav Rattay painted the violin above.



Socorro ISD seeks name for new combo school

By Christy Flores-Jones
Special to the Courier

EL PASO COUNTY – The Socorro Independent School District (SISD) is looking for input in naming the district's newest elementary and middle schools, scheduled to open in 2022. The new combination school will be built as part of Bond 2017 and will serve students in the expanding Eastlake High School feeder area.

Nominations for school names are being accepted by SISD through July 6. Submissions may be emailed to bgonza515@sisd.net or delivered by 4 p.m., July 6, to the Public Relations Department in the District Service Center at 12440 Rojas Dr. The district office will be closed for the summer holiday June 28 through July 5.

A task force consisting of area parents, students and community members, and district staff will review all nominations. The group will recommend two names, one for the elementary school and one for the middle school, school mascots and colors to Interim Superintendent Marta C. Carmona, M.Ed. and the SISD Board of Trustees for

consideration. The final decision in naming the schools rests with the Board of Trustees.

"Collecting input and ideas from the wonderful people in the Socorro ISD family is invaluable and embodies the collaborative spirit of our school district," Carmona said. "I look forward to receiving name recommendations from community members and beginning this important process to usher in two more schools to serve students and families in Team SISD."

Board Policy CW (LOCAL) outlines the district process for naming facilities:

- The administration shall ensure that interested persons are informed of and afforded an opportunity to submit proposed names. Each rationale for a proposed nomination shall be submitted in writing, not to exceed two pages in length and shall include specific reasons why the school/facility should be so named. If an individual's name is submitted, a nomination shall include brief biographical data and an account of the individual's significant contributions.

- District schools may be named for local residential areas, geographic locations, or similarly site-specific identifiers such as roads, streets, subdivisions, or communities.

- District high schools shall not be named after or in honor of any individual. An elementary, middle, or prekindergarten-grade 8 school may be named after an individual. The individual may be living or deceased; however, greater consideration shall be given to names of the deceased.

An individual, living or deceased, may be considered upon the following criteria:

- The individual should have attained prominence locally, statewide, or nationally, based upon contributions to the public in recognized fields such as education, science, medicine, law, art, government, business, justice, civil rights, human rights, or military achievement.

- The individual shall be a person of such integrity, stature, and demonstrated ability that the naming of a school after such an individual will reflect honor on the District and create a sense of pride among the staff, students, and community.

- A school shall not be named after any sitting Board member or any individual who is related to a current Board member or member of the task force within the third degree (consanguinity), or by marriage within the second degree (affinity)

The rights and wrongs of college football's playoff expansion

By Steve Escajeda
Special to the Courier

Any parent will tell you that their kids grow up way too fast. One day they're trying out things for the first time and soon after, they've doubled and tripled in size.

And all you can hope for is that they've figured it out and grow up the right way.

That's pretty much what has happened to the NCAA football playoff system.

It used to be that the national champion was determined by a bunch of guys sitting in a smoke-filled room, voting on who they felt was the best team in the land.

But after years and years of clamoring for a college football playoff, the NCAA finally instituted a system in 2014, where the champion was settled on the field.

The only problem was that the playoff consisted of only four teams.

When the system was started, I figured they would come up with a 16-team playoff; maybe as small as eight, but with over 100 teams competing every year, four teams just didn't make a whole lot of sense.

Well, the NCAA has finally seen the error of its ways and is about to expand the number of teams who can compete.

So I figured they were going to do one of two things, raise the number of teams to eight, or maybe even 16. Those are two numbers that divide equally and eventually lead to a two-team national championship game.

But this is the NCAA. And the "C"

in NCAA has never stood for "common sense."

The talk is that the college football playoff will be increased to a head-scratching 12 teams.

Don't get me wrong. I think increasing the amount of teams who can compete for a title is a great thing. But just for once I would like the NCAA to do something correct the first time and not have to "tweak it" after the fact, like they do with almost every decision they ever make.

Twelve teams means that the top-ranked teams will have a bye into the second round, while the other teams have to fight it out in an extra game.

Why is that? You don't see the top teams get any kind of a bye during March Madness.

Every team, including the Duke's, UCLA's, Gonzaga's, Kentucky's, North Carolina's, Michigan State's and Baylor's

of the world, play as many games as the worst team in the tournament.

Anyway, the best news is that with the added teams, schools like Coastal Carolina, Boise State, BYU, Cincinnati and Central Florida will have a chance to compete with the big boys.

No one is saying that Coastal Carolina is going to beat Alabama in the national championship game, but wouldn't it be great to see if Cinderella can knock off a traditional powerhouse in the first round?

We sure love when that happens during the NCAA basketball tournament. And it happens every year.

So how will all this work? The plan is to give the automatic bids to the six highest-ranked conference champions and the at-large slots would be filled by the six highest-ranked other teams as determined by the College Football Playoff selection committee.

The top four ranked teams would have a first-round bye.

The first-round games featuring teams ranked 5-12 would be played on the home field of the higher-ranked team, with the quarterfinals and semifinals slotted for bowl sites, and the national championship still played at a neutral site.

How about this fact, if this new format had been in place a year ago, Cincinnati and Coastal Carolina would have been in the playoff.

But heck, if you're going to expand to 12 teams, why not go ahead and make it 16 and get rid of these first-round byes.

And weren't we all getting a little tired of watching Alabama and Clemson and Ohio State every single year?

Seeing them advance to the semifinals probably won't change, but at least there will be some new faces in the running.

The NCAA is finally doing something right. Well, not totally right, and it won't be long before they tweak this system and go to 16 teams.

But at least, for an organization that has taking so many wrong turns over the decades, it's a step in the right direction.



Photo courtesy of tuffhedemanbullriding.com

Richard "Tuff" Hedeman

Bull

From Page 1

and an after-party celebration is scheduled at Whiskey Dicks, a local tavern in east El Paso.

Tickets for the *Ride It Out* tour are now on sale and range from \$25 to \$90. To purchase tickets online, go to <https://www.ticketmaster.com>, tuffhedemanbullriding.com or the Coliseum Box Office.

Briefs

From Page 1

among allowed countries: 119 per 100,000 persons (Seychelles)

Visit <https://wallethub.com/edu/states-impact-european-travel-ban/93384> for the full report.

— Diana Polk

Best living

With nearly 15 million people having moved last year, many of them influenced by COVID-19, the personal-finance website WalletHub has released its report on 2021's *Best States to Live in*, as well as accompanying videos. To help Americans settle down in the best and most affordable place possible, WalletHub compared the 50 states across 52 key indicators of livability. They range from housing costs and income growth to education rate and quality of hospitals. Texas was rated 33rd in the report, ranking (1-Best; 25-Avg.):

- 23rd – Housing Costs;
- 45th – Homeownership Rate;
- 37th – Percent of Population in Poverty;
- 19th – Income Growth;
- 50th – Percent of Insured Population;
- 43rd – Percent of Adults in Fair or Poor Health;
- 47th – Average Weekly Work Hours; and
- 1st – Restaurants per Capita.

Visit <https://wallethub.com/edu/best-states-to-live-in/62617> for the full report

— Diana Polk

Super Crossword

INITIAL RATING

ACROSS

- 1 Ukraine's capital
- 5 Tehrani, e.g.
- 10 Iowa city
- 14 Hay bundler
- 19 Black-and-white bite
- 20 First Hebrew month
- 21 Fine rain
- 22 "You can't beat me!"
- 23 Chess or charades
- 25 Hibachi, often
- 27 Grind, as grinders
- 28 Dorm VIPs
- 30 Otherwise
- 31 Six, in Roma
- 32 Tell the judge you did it
- 36 Financial aid option
- 38 Ordinance
- 39 Verizon Fios, e.g.
- 40 Reply to "You're a stinker!"
- 42 Love note hugs
- 43 Wet expanse
- 45 Bygone flight inits.
- 46 Stack messily
- 49 It, in Italy
- 53 Air rifle
- 56 Waters off Qatar
- 59 Word div.
- 60 Refined find
- 61 Long-nosed swimmer
- 62 Year, to Livy
- 63 Taint
- 64 Research into a political foe's weaknesses, in slang
- 66 Silky casing
- 68 2015 Bryan Cranston film
- 70 She's a symbol for a cause
- 74 Window material
- 76 1974 hit subtitled "Touch the Wind"
- 77 Signaled "yes"
- 79 Cambodian currency
- 80 Slugging stat
- 81 Stats, e.g.
- 83 Hi- (some stereotypes)
- 84 Roget's entry: Abbr.
- 85 Aunt's sis, maybe
- 89 Dry white wine of Italy
- 92 Small, loose stones for a walkway
- 94 Bit of a climb stinker!"
- 95 Adversities
- 96 Chop down
- 97 Singer Baker
- 98 U.K. mil. fliers
- 101 Yet to come
- 103 Dudes
- 105 Novelist Deighton
- 106 Acted omnipotent
- 111 Jail official
- 114 Stable grain
- 115 Big brawl
- 116 Suffix with planet
- 117 The planets, e.g.
- 118 Societal welfare
- 121 Film rating that's apt for this puzzle's theme
- 126 Babble on
- 127 Designer Saarinen
- 128 Prayer place
- 129 Jazz singer Fitzgerald
- 130 NFL gains
- 131 Romanov royal
- 132 Snaring loop
- 133 Result of a falling-out

DOWN

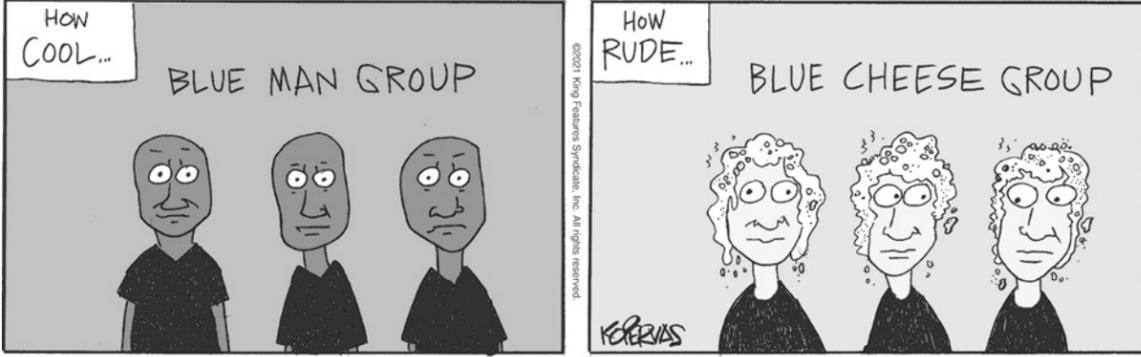
- 1 Keystone _
- 2 Novelist Levin
- 3 Always, to a bard
- 4 Long Russian river
- 5 Wearing tattered duds
- 6 Throws together
- 7 Japanese beer
- 8 '60s conflict site
- 9 Resistance to change
- 10 Gig gear
- 11 Actress Farrow
- 12 Cosmetician
- 13 Quiet
- 14 Narcissist's quality
- 15 Pt. of ETA
- 16 Verdi's "Miller"
- 17 Page of films
- 18 Sparked anew
- 24 2009 Colin Farrell film
- 26 Capital in Scandinavia
- 29 Novelist Rand
- 32 Sinks heavily
- 33 "Cagney & _"
- 34 Actor Tom of "The Seven Year Itch"
- 35 Croquet site
- 36 Landing site
- 37 Film director Nicolas
- 41 Things to show a trainee
- 44 Divvies up
- 45 Certain day of the wk.
- 47 Yoga pose
- 48 Golf marker
- 50 _ cum laude
- 51 Thick cuts
- 52 '60s hairdos
- 54 Highest ladder part
- 55 Limey's drink
- 56 Lobbying gp.
- 57 Ponying up, in poker
- 58 26-Down's country, to its natives
- 61 Aquarium favorite
- 65 _ four (small cake)
- 66 _Magnon
- 67 Antique
- 69 Funnywoman Tracey
- 70 Criminals, to cops
- 71 Go around
- 72 Tuna net
- 73 How tuna may be packed
- 75 " little harder"
- 78 The Divine, in Genoa
- 82 Three days after
- 45-Down: Abbr.
- 84 Darn, e.g.
- 86 Teresa of _
- 87 39.37 inches
- 88 _ flowing with milk and honey
- 90 "Grand Ole" venue
- 91 Happy
- 92 Mani- _
- 93 Forest figure
- 96 Under-soil layer of clay
- 99 Eagle nests
- 100 Bank door abbr.
- 102 Lead-in to Pen
- 103 Starbucks selections
- 104 Total
- 106 Red flower
- 107 Dern of films
- 108 Being tried in court
- 109 Fetch
- 110 Siouan tribespeople
- 112 _ voce
- 113 Total
- 116 Bad smell
- 119 U.K. "Inc."
- 120 Man-mouse link
- 122 Mop & _
- 123 Yalie
- 124 Fairy
- 125 Rebel Turner

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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126						127							128						129	
130								131					132							133

Comix

OUT ON A LIMB By Gary Kopervas



AMBER WAVES By Dave T. Phipps



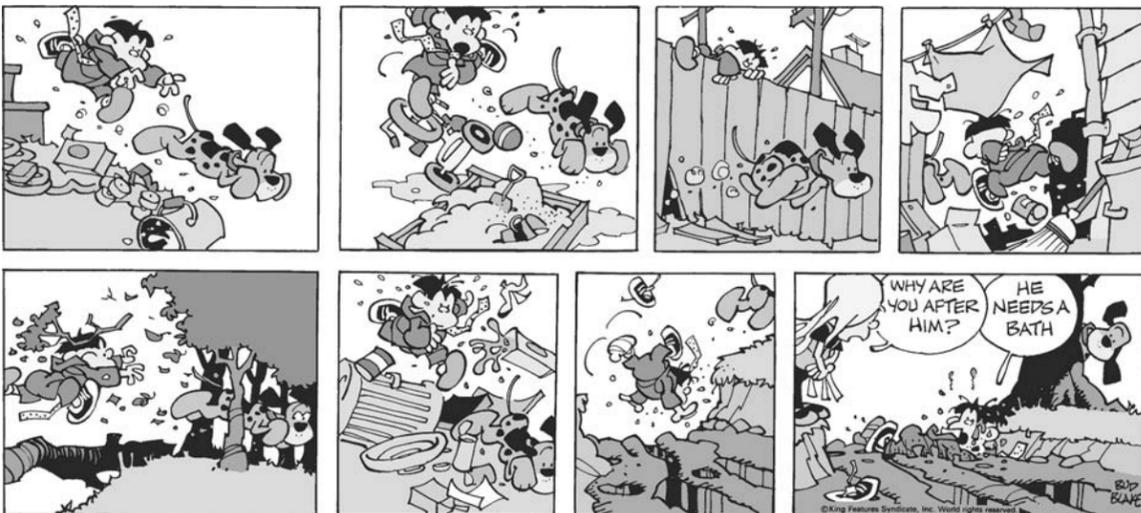
THE SPATS By Jeff Pickering



R.F.D. By Mike Marland



TIGER By Bud Blake



Franken

From Page 2

won't cause a missed connection. I am presuming that passengers will have no issues with facemasks, not even a space helmet. We can't have one destroying the view, now can we?

Even though Bezos is stepping down as Amazon CEO as of July 5, maybe this will be some sort of delivery experiment. Who knows, when humans inhabit the moon, Mars or what have you, they're

going to need some way to move their packages out there for someone to steal from your porch.

Before Mr. or Ms. Plutocrat is identified, there will be a delay, presumably for the company and passenger to negotiate what happens if something goes wrong and to learn escape procedures. And, of course, the responsibilities and the liabilities. What if the company loses your luggage?

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Lowry

From Page 3

detering great power war." He called for a 3-5% increase in the budget every year but didn't think that was plausible because of fiscal constraints (little did he know, the \$6 trillion blowout to come in every other area of the budget).

We should be spending more on defense, and spending differently. With an eye to deterring conflict with China, we need to recalibrate in a serious way

to focus on advanced technologies and weapons systems for the Navy and Air Force, and in space. Hypersonics, directed energy, and control of the electromagnetic spectrum should be particular priorities.

Biden has no excuse for not pursuing this. It's not as though he can say we can't afford it.

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

Patient history more than just medical facts

DEAR DR. ROACH: I am 77 years old. When I go to a new doctor, there is always that past history form to fill out. I know to include current medications, including OTC and allergies, but how far back should I go? Should I include the tonsillectomy when I was in grade school (I don't recall how old I was)? Or the surgery to remove a benign tumor from my right femur in 1955? The miscarriage in 1961? Or that the last of my five children was born over 40 years ago? I would include the surgery because my right leg is about 3/4 inch shorter than my left. After all these years, it causes a backache after standing too long. – S.B.



In general, doctors want all the information you can give. However, past medical history tends to become less important as people get older. I agree with you that the surgery on your femur is important: Even now, a leg-length discrepancy may still benefit from being addressed. A small (half the discrepancy or less) adjustment to the shoe of your shorter right leg may help reduce your backache.

If I were your new doctor, it would be important to me to know you had a 40-year-old son (and about the rest of your children), but that would be more to know who you are as a person. I also ask my patients to identify someone in their family who can help make decisions if you are unable to. That should be done formally, through a health care proxy designation, which is complementary to the advance directive that all adults should have.

It's a privilege for me as a primary care doctor to get to know my patients and follow them over years, sometimes many years.

DEAR DR. ROACH: I've read about a new drug for depression that is supposed to work quickly. Is it safe? – N.F.

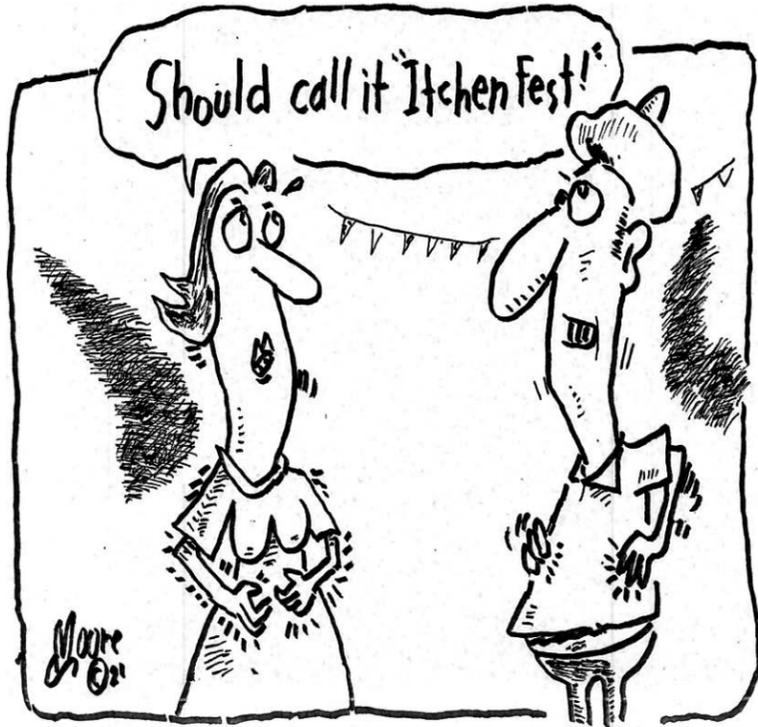
Ketamine, like many biological molecules, has two forms that are mirror images of each other. Esketamine, the more active of the two, has recently been approved by the Food and Drug Administration for treatment of depression, and is the first new class of approved depression medication in years.

It is striking how quickly it works. With the intravenous drug, test subjects found their mood improving within hours, as opposed to the weeks it takes most current drugs to work. With the nasal spray form, the kind just approved by the FDA, benefit began within two hours and persisted throughout eight weeks of follow-up. It is not yet clear how long the effect will last and whether (or more likely, how often) additional doses will be necessary in long-term use. It is approved to be given only in a doctor's office, and only for people who have been resistant to other medications.

There are significant potential harms. Blood pressure goes up after the dose, and people can have sedation and disorganized thinking after treatment. For now, the drug is given only through a restricted distribution system.

I am cautiously optimistic. Depression is a serious disease with treatments that are not as effective as we would like. Any new type of treatment is a source of hope; however, I have seen potential "miracle drugs" turn out to be only moderately useful.

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.



Moore Texas by Roger MOORE
Meridian hosts a festival called CHIGGERFEST each June. I'm itching to go this year.

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: C equals L

FCBHW TFICCO CHXFP
JHW WZFIX WAMZ. OAS'BF
JFITP JHW MIEASW ZSVF
"CABF EFIZ ZFVPFT."

Answer Page 4

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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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Career retraining



by Freddy Groves

If you've lost your job due to the pandemic, to the extent that you know you need a different career, the Department of Veterans Affairs might be able to help.

The Veteran Rapid Retraining Assistance Program is in place and accepting applications for education and training from veterans who are out of work.

There are a number of qualifications for eligibility: Over age 22 but not older than 66, out of work because of COVID, not eligible for GI Bill or VR&E benefits (or you transferred your GI Bill benefits to family members), not disabled, not in a federal or state jobs program, and not getting unemployment (including CARES ACT benefits).

The education and training offered covers VET TEC (Veteran Employment Through Technology Education

Courses) at the associates degree level, non-college degree, or certificate level. These courses are accelerated and are in fields such as health care, education, media, engineering and high-tech. The VA, working with the Department of Labor, came up with a list of 208 potential careers that can spring from those high-demand occupations, ranging from electrical and mechanical engineers to web developers and graphic designers to commercial drivers, carpenters and machinists. Plus cost estimators, special-ed teachers and clergy.

If you're eligible, you can get up to 12 months of tuition and a monthly housing allowance. There is a specific list of schools that have been accepted into the program, although that list is very long.

The caveat: If you're considering this, don't delay. There's a time limit (December 2022), a money limit in funding and a participant limit of 17,250 veterans. Once one of those is reached, no further applications will be accepted.

Call the VA at 888-442-4551

with questions. Or go online to va.gov and put Veteran Rapid Retraining Assistance Program (VRRAP) in the search box for the whole list of potential careers and the schools..

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• Add a cinnamon stick or softener sheet to your vacuum bag when you change it. As you clean, you will distribute the good smell throughout your home.

• To ripen a green tomato, wrap it in a sheet of newspaper or place it in a paper bag. It can then be left on the counter for several days to ripen.

• "Need to remove fruit or food coloring stains on your hands or your countertop? White vinegar will clean it off. It's good for so many things." – R.N. in Washington

• "Instead of baking soda, I use three or four charcoal briquettes in a bowl to control odor and moisture in my refrigerator. I place the briquettes in a shallow dish, then cover the top of the bowl with a small piece of cheesecloth and secure it with a fat rubber band. The best thing is that I can still use these briquettes on the grill. In the summer, they get changed very regularly." – M.L. in Virginia

• Great ways to remove stuck labels: nail polish remover (NOT for use on plastics), WD-40 oil, soaking in hot water, rubbing alcohol.

• Have a stained coffee pot, but don't want to use a harsh chemical cleanser to scrub that stain off? For gritty cleaning power, try using a tablespoon of milk and a tablespoon of salt. The salt gives you scrubbing power, and the milk's acids help gently dissolve the stains.

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

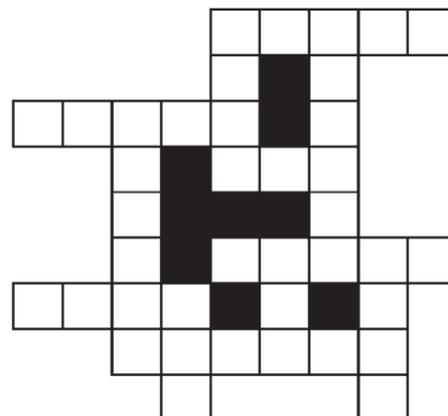
	-		x		21
x		+		-	
	x		+		19
-		x		x	
	+		+		23
23		24		24	

1 2 3 4 6 7 8 8 9

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- MRU
- SPOLEG
- ♥ TAGER
- ♥ LCMA
- GINLET
- ♥ TAE
- ♥ NAUT
- ♥ NALGE
- ♥ UMG
- MEWNAL
- ♥ RATEC
- EGLE



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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