



NEWSBRIEFS

Vet friendly cities

With Veterans Day approaching and the veteran unemployment rate falling to 3.9% from the average of 6.5% in 2020, the personal-finance website WalletHub has released its report on 2021's Best & Worst Places for Veterans to Live (as well as accompanying videos and audio files). The report compares the 100 largest U.S. cities across 20 key metrics, ranging from the share of military skill-related jobs to housing affordability and the availability of VA health facilities. El Paso was ranked 34th in the report and Texas had 13 cities in the list. Visit <https://wallethub.com/edu/best-and-worst-cities-for-veterans/8156> for the full report and your city's rank.

Q&A with WalletHub Analyst Jill Gonzalez

What makes a city good or bad for veterans?

How good or bad a city is for veterans depends on multiple factors, including the rates of poverty, unemployment and homelessness, as well as the city's retirement-friendliness and how good its VA facilities are. All cities should be quick to take care of veterans' needs, considering how much veterans have sacrificed to serve the country and keep it safe. However, some cities spend an appropriate amount of money on veterans affairs while others do not, either because they lack the funds to do so or because they do not put a high priority on veterans in the budget. While cities do have a responsibility to their veterans, so does the federal government. We spend an enormous amount of money on national defense and military operations, yet comparatively little on helping veterans once their service is done. It is distressing that there are tens of thousands of homeless veterans; that number should be reduced to zero.

What can we do to reduce the financial stress on military families?

The best way to reduce the financial stress on military families is by making sure that anyone in a war zone does not have to worry about their family's basic living expenses while they're fighting for our country. We should

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Appearances can be very deceiving. For instance, the dollar looks just like it did 30 years ago.

— Quips & Quotes



— Internet

A SHOT IN THE ARM – Individuals recommended for the booster shot, at least six months after their second COVID-19 vaccine dose, are persons 18 years and older who are residents of long-term care settings, have underlying medical conditions, or are at increased risk for COVID-19 exposure and transmission because of their occupational or institutional settings.

El Paso health officials promote COVID-19 vaccine booster shot

By Alfredo Vasquez
Special to the Courier

EL PASO COUNTY – Seventy-seven percent of El Paso County residents, ages twelve and older, were fully vaccinated and 89.5 percent were partially vaccinated for the COVID-19 virus by the end of October, according to public health officials.

Now, El Paso area residents are being asked to turn their attention to booster shots, as they continue their battle against this dreaded disease. And eligible individuals have Pfizer, Moderna, or Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 booster vaccine doses available to them for free.

Researchers designed the booster shot to help strengthen protection against severe symptoms of COVID-19 for fully vaccinated persons whose immunity may start to diminish and are at elevated risk of becoming ill, local health officials explained.

Individuals recommended for the booster shot, at least six months after their second COVID-19 vaccine dose, are persons 18 years and older who are residents of long-term care settings,

have underlying medical conditions, or are at increased risk for COVID-19 exposure and transmission because of their occupational or institutional settings.

Additionally, a third dose of a COVID-19 vaccine, which is not a booster, is available for moderately to severely immune-compromised individuals. This dose is given at least 28 days after receiving the second dose of either the Pfizer or Moderna vaccine. Boosters are also recommended for individuals who received the Johnson & Johnson vaccine two or more months

ago and can choose if they wish to mix vaccine brands. However, local health officials still advise individuals to consult with a doctor before getting a third dose of the vaccine.

As of the last week in October, El Paso County had 765 new COVID-19 reported, of which 125 persons were hospitalized including 38 persons in intensive care and 17 persons on ventilators. The recent cases contributed to the 2,091 active cases that local public health officials cited at the end of the month.

Local public health reports indicate that about 148,000 cases have been confirmed since the pandemic was first detected in El Paso County almost two years ago, and records show that 142,812 of the afflicted recovered from the disease. Also, health officials announced that the county's COVID-19 death toll was 2,822 persons as of the end of October.

El Paso city-county health authority Dr. Hector Ocaranza warned recently that a community-wide spread is still present although fewer in numbers. "We're hoping that we can establish a trend that we see is going to be plateauing, because I'm very concerned about the holidays coming. Thanksgiving and Christmas are usually those holidays that can lead up to a faster spread of the virus throughout a household," Ocaranza stated. He advised that getting vaccinated was the best way to protection all family members.

Individuals interested in receiving a booster shot may visit one of the following locations from:

- 8 a.m. to noon and 1 to 5 p.m., Monday through Saturday, at 301 George Perry;
- Noon to 6 p.m., Monday through Friday; and 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, at the El Paso Convention Center, 1 Civic

Third Booster Shot

Persons who should consider a third dose booster shot are those who are:

- Receiving active cancer treatment for tumors or cancers of the blood;
- Received an organ transplant within the last 2 years or are taking medicine to suppress the immune system;
- Received a stem cell transplant within the last 2 years;
- Have moderate or severe primary immunodeficiency (DiGeorge syndrome and Wiskott-Aldrich syndrome);
- Have advanced or untreated HIV infection; and
- Have active treatment with high-dose corticosteroids or other drugs that may suppress the immune response.

Local health officials advise individuals to consult with a doctor before getting a third dose of the vaccine.

Center Plaza; and

- 8 a.m. to noon and 1 to 5 p.m., Monday through Saturday, at the City of El Paso COVID-19 Clinics including 220 S. Stanton (corner of First and Stanton), 7380 Remcon Street, 9341 Alameda Avenue, and 9566 Railroad Drive.

To make an appointment, visit the local health department's website (epcovidvaccine.com) and click on the registration form, or call (915) 212-6843.

Meanwhile, COVID-19 testing is still offered throughout El Paso County. Local health officials are reminding the public to get tested if they have COVID-19 symptoms including

cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fever, chills, repeated shaking with chills, muscle pain, headache, sore

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Point of view

the results, it depends on your point of view.

Instead, I will take on the “ditto heads” of Rush Limbaugh, who are many of the same people who routinely deliver death threats aimed at anyone who dares utter a criticism at any hero of theirs over social media. Why don’t I get worked up about those guys? Well, it’s because chances are they’re small, unimaginative minds conjuring their threats on a computer somewhere. Not that I have anything against small, unimaginative minds. One rode his computer all the way to the presidency.

I speak, of course, of Donald Trump, formerly of Twitter, reduced to grinding his mindless statements on paper now that he’s been kicked off both Twitter and Facebook. But he has the

same reach. When Colin Powell died the other day, his admirers (including me) lionized him as a great man, a historical figure. Not Donald Trump: “wonderful to see Colin Powell, who made big mistakes on Iraq, and famously, so-called weapons of mass destruction, be treated in death so beautifully by the Fake News Media.”

Although word is now seeping out that Trump is starting his own social media company and a “Truth Social” app to spread the poison. But for the moment he is a persona non grata in the digital world.

“Scandalous,” harrumphed more than one Powell fan. That violates the afterlife etiquette. Not that Trump hasn’t done that kind of thing before. Sen. John McCain comes to mind, and Rep.

John Dingell. But I come not to bury Donald Trump, but to praise him (I made that up). We share the same view of postmortem hypocrisy.

When Rush Limbaugh died in February, I wrote: “Limbaugh made a pot of money by preaching to morons. They proudly called themselves ‘ditto heads’ without comprehending that was a derogatory term.” The ditto heads, aka the Trump base, went bananas. “Franken has hit a new low!” First of all, they are probably confusing me with Al Franken. Secondly, I hit new lows every time I say or write something.

So, let’s repeat: It depends on your point of view. Donald Trump is motivated, in part, by revenge, second only to his desperate desire to get attention. In fact, he’s almost slavishly devoted to his combination of both. To Colin Powell, Trump

was a buffoon, “a national disgrace and an international pariah.” They were not a natural fit, to put it mildly. Powell was class; Trump is crass.

But there are millions upon millions of Americans out there who view Trump as a man of the people because he doesn’t have class, not in spite of it. These are the same people who embraced the word “deplorable” when Hillary Clinton tried to smear them with it.

So, it depends on your point of view, but Colin Powell showed that he, like so many citizens, could bridge the gap between outstanding American and regular guy or woman, who personified progress and being properly humble.

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Pity the poor reporter in any newsroom who is assigned to cover the latest Gallup Poll release on Americans’ satisfaction with the treatment on women in society. When respondents were asked “how satisfied with treatment of women in society” they were, 46% of female respondents said they were unsatisfied, and 62% of the men said they were pretty satisfied.

Now, this is not a piece on the disparate role of genders as we stumble through the complex “me too” era. My momma didn’t raise no suicidal fool. Besides, it’s clear that when it comes to

does America have to show for the war in Iraq?

We spent 20 years in Afghanistan. Over 2400 American soldiers were killed and over 20,000 were wounded. We spent at least 2.3 trillion dollars. What does America have to show for our war in that country? (United States Military casualties of war, Wikipedia.org)

Did these wars make us safer? Did they make our country greater and stronger? Is America

better and freer because of these wars? America suffered great loss from these wars. Thousands of American families are still grieving.

Families can’t live on \$15 an hour, or go to the doctor. Over forty million Americans still live in poverty.

The stimulus proposal, approximately \$1.75 trillion is about investing in America. We are long overdue for a major investment in America. We don’t all agree on the infrastructure bill’s spending list. However, can’t these “great” politicians come up with an “essential” needs list that is starkly visible to any naked eye?”

Maybe we could get busy in our nation and stay out of other countries’ business for a while. Maybe we could take a break from fighting among ourselves. A working nation will be a much happier nation. We hear all this bull talk about we’ll never get out

of debt from this infrastructure bill and we won’t. However, we’ve spent too much time trying to solve the world’s issues while ignoring our own problems. We need to work on our homeland. The roof is leaking, the walls are crumbling, the electrical work needs to be repaired. The water we are drinking is dirty. The driveway is crumbling and potholes abound. The plant down in town relocated and the local coal mine closed. Things are tough.

The house needs a lot of repair but it’s hard to repair a house and buy expensive groceries on the meager wages that are available to most Americans. Families can’t live on \$15 an hour, or go to the doctor. Over forty million Americans still live in poverty. Millions more live right above the poverty line and struggle. “According to Pew Research, a household with an income between two-thirds of and double the median household income is considered middle class. The

national median income in 2021 is \$79,900, which would mean an individual would fall squarely in the middle class with an income between \$53,266 and \$159,800.” (Motley Fool Service, fool.com) Is this you? The average household income for 2021 has been \$79,900 according to huduser.gov.

A financially strapped American living in an aging house that is desperate for repairs is symbolic of much of America. Yes, we have seen a stock market boom. Americans selling houses are doing well financially. Yes, a lot of people in America are in the medium income level which is not bad.

However, too many Americans are still financially insecure. They don’t make enough money. They can’t afford adequate housing. They still put off going to the doctor because of costs. They aren’t saving any money. More senior Americans are working

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View from here By Dr. Glenn Mollette

Infrastructure bill should be a cakewalk

America needs attention to our infrastructure. It’s pathetic that our Congress and President are having so much trouble putting something together they can agree on. We managed to spend the equivalent of a trillion dollars in today’s currency on the Vietnam war. What did we get for a trillion dollars? Over fifty-eight thousand dead American soldiers. Plus, over 1500 missing in action and thousands of wounded. Many who have never recovered.

We lost 4497 American soldiers in Iraq. We spent two trillion dollars in Iraq. We had over 32,000 other casualties. What



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The new missile gap

The Biden administration is hesitant to call our competition with China a new Cold War, even though Beijing has zero qualms about making the parallels with our decades-long struggle with the Soviet Union abundantly clear.

We are once again discussing a "Sputnik moment," a nuclear arms race, and a missile gap – all throwbacks to the 1950s-1980s – thanks to China's aggressive pursuit of military capabilities designed to deter and defeat the United States.

Whatever Beijing may say and however we may try to comfort ourselves with cushioning delusions, the Chinese have repeatedly made it plain that they intend to hold U.S. bases and our homeland at risk.

The example of Sputnik, the primitive Soviet satellite launched in 1957 that raised the prospect of the U.S. losing the space race, was on everyone's lips with a bombshell Financial Times report over the weekend.

According to the FT, the Chinese tested a nuclear-capable hypersonic missile that circled the Earth once before descending on its target, thus demonstrating "an advanced space capability that caught U.S. intelligence by surprise."

It's not clear why anyone would be shocked. It wasn't a secret that China and Russia were developing these technologies, and indeed, it wasn't a secret that China had leapt ahead of us.

(The Chinese, bringing the same transparency they've shown regarding the origins of COVID-19, say it was just a routine space launch.)

Hypersonic missiles bring a new element to the ever-evolving competition between missile offense and defense.

As former state department official Christian Brose notes in his book *The Kill Chain*, ballistic missiles travel fast but in a predictable parabolic path. Cruise missiles, on the other hand, travel relatively slowly but are maneuverable and therefore unpredictable.

Hypersonic missiles are both unpredictable and fast – six times faster than a Tomahawk missile.

That means they are uniquely suited to defeat our missile defenses. Not only can't we counter them, we can't track them adequately at the moment.

Over the summer, the head of North American Aerospace Defense Command – yes, that's NORAD of Cold War fame – said that the new missiles would pose "significant challenges

to my NORAD capability to provide threat warning and attack assessment."

The FT reports that the test missile missed its target by roughly two dozen miles. That's a significant miss but wouldn't necessarily be that much comfort if the missile were carrying a nuclear payload. And the targeting will presumably be improved – that's one reason to carry out the test in the first place.

An MIT professor told the FT that just because China tested the capability doesn't mean that it will deploy it. But the history of expansionistic totalitarian states forbearing from fielding advanced weapons after pouring significant time and resources into developing them is not, to say the least, very encouraging.

It'd be best if we abandon all wishful thinking and admit the obvious.

We've had a zombie arms control policy focused on deals with Russia, while China has been aggressively adding new weapons and delivery systems.

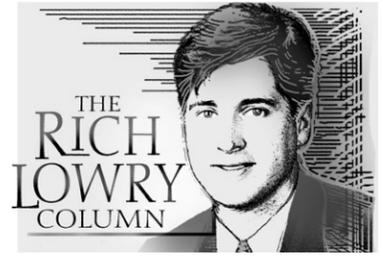
We've allowed China to rob our technology and pour it into developing threats against us.

We've been much too slow in developing the next generation of weapons, including hypersonic missiles, and are modernizing our nuclear triad at a glacial pace while China is rapidly adding

new capabilities.

The response to the new circumstances should reflect a Cold War-era urgency. The Biden administration has proposed more spending on hypersonic missiles, but the latest news should mean even more of an emphasis on their rapid deployment, so we can hold at risk Chinese assets and maintain our deterrence.

We should, with an eye to the growing Chinese missile threat, deploy missile-defense interceptors in Australia and more sensors in space, as well as work toward directed-energy weapons that would be the best



counter to hypersonic missiles. If we aren't going to call it a new Cold War, we must – or risk falling further behind – treat it as one.

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

Bill

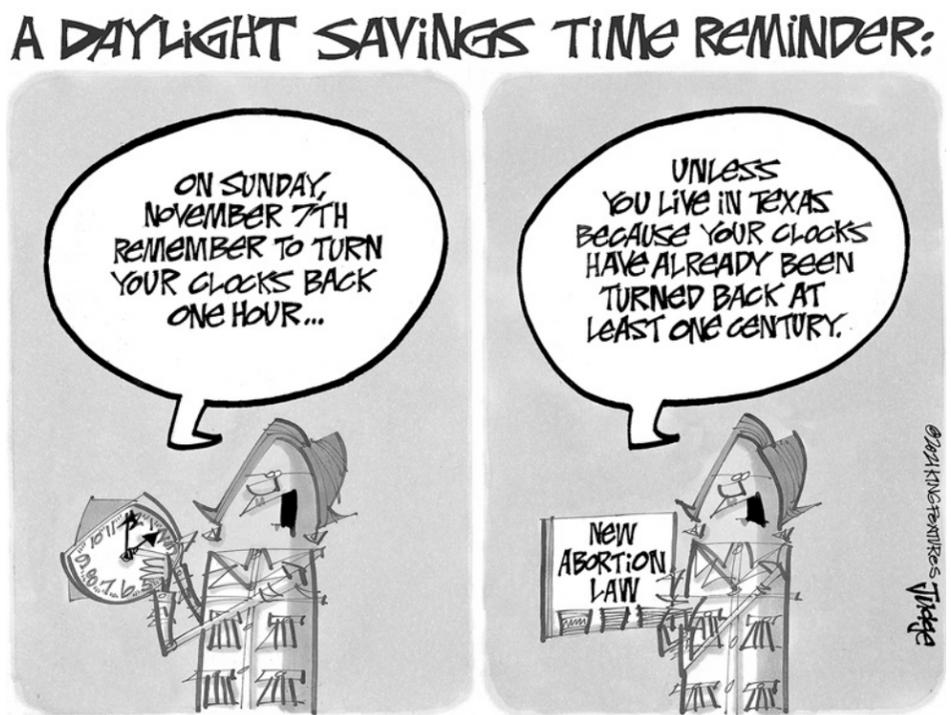
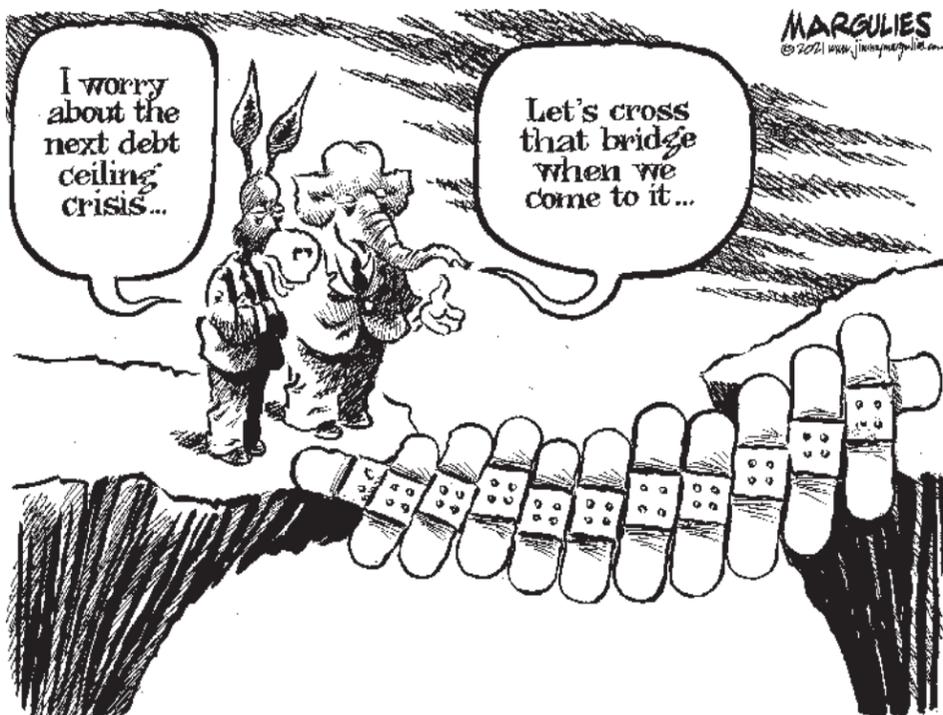
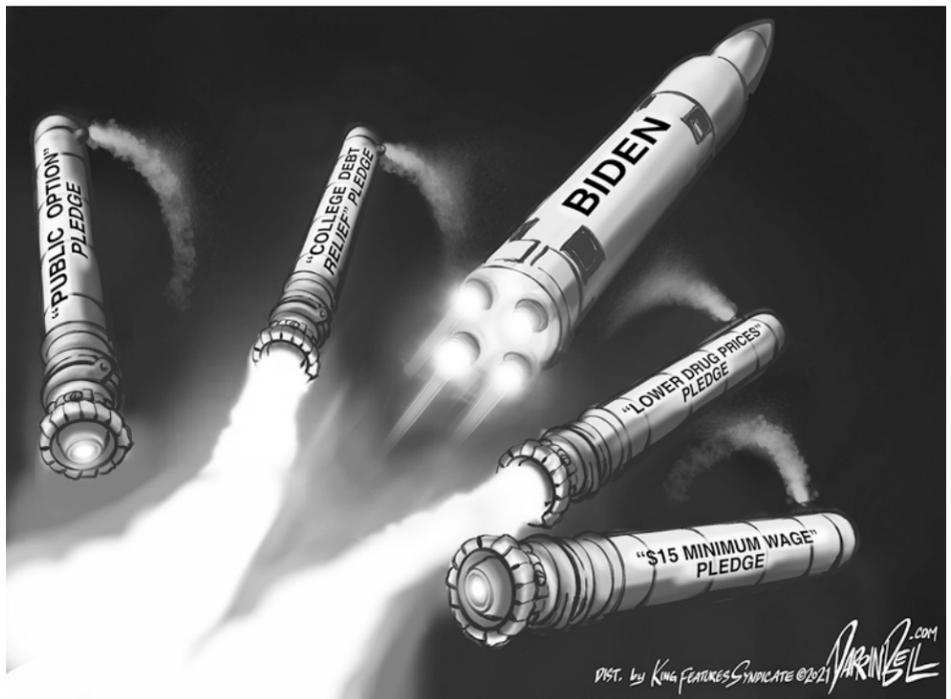
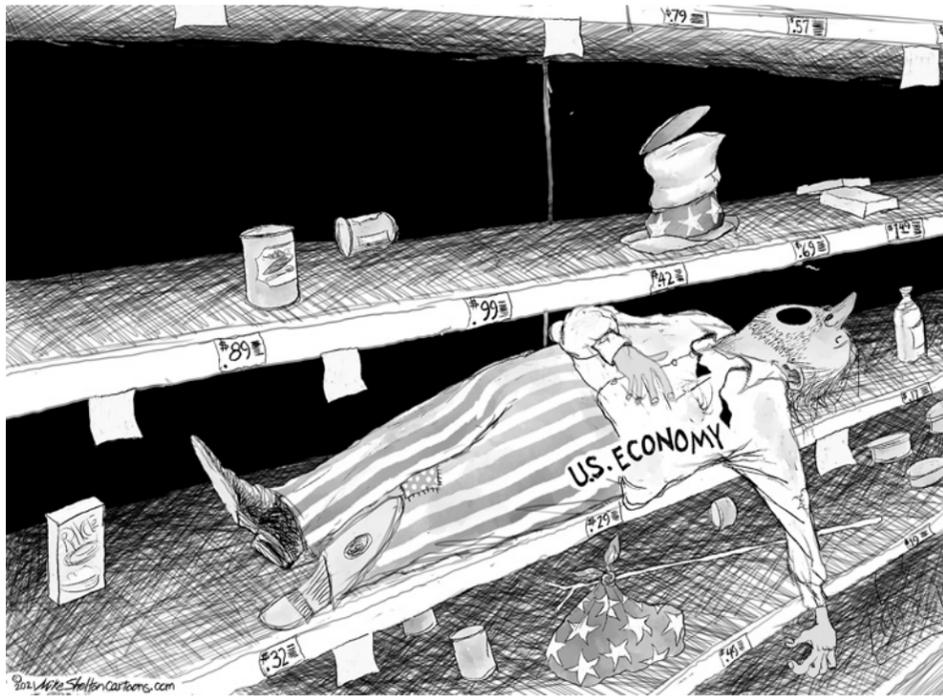
From Page 2

than ever before because they can no longer live on their meager pensions and Social Security is being eaten away by rapid inflation.

We need an investment at home, our home, America. Congress, please make a *reasonable list*. Our needs are so visible. We need clean water, Internet, available affordable healthcare including prescriptions, affordable clean energy, chips for our cars and phones, roads and bridges and real paying jobs for Americans who are willing to work. Why is this so hard?

In comparison to over 5 trillion dollars and thousands of American lives spent around this world, spending a few dollars at home should be a cakewalk for this Congress and President.

Glenn Mollette is a graduate of numerous schools including Georgetown College, Southern and Lexington Seminaries in Kentucky. He is the author of "Uncommon Sense" and 12 other books. His column is published weekly in over 600 publications in all 50 states. Learn more at www.glennmollette.com or www.facebook.com/glennmollette.



Spalloni selected as regional rep for statewide coalition

By Liza Rodriguez
Special to the Courier

CANUTILLO – Canutillo ISD English Language Arts Curriculum & Instruction Coordinator (ELA), Natalie Spalloni was recently selected to represent Regions 15, 18, and 19 as a regional representative on the Coalition of Reading and English Supervisors of Texas (CREST).

The purpose of CREST is to promote improvement in the teaching of all phases of the language arts at all levels of instruction; act as a clearinghouse in circulating information of value and in keeping members posted as to the latest educational movements and findings; stimulate professional development; encourage open

discussion about the teaching of language arts; bring inspirational leaders in the fields of education and communication before the group; and cooperate with other educational groups related to the teaching of language arts.

“Representing the west region of Texas for the Coalition of Reading and English Supervisors of Texas is significant because CREST collaborates with both the National Council of Teachers of English and the Texas Council of Teachers of English Language Arts. The synergy between these collective educators helps produce a combined effect greater than if we worked separately to improve our language arts practices,” Spalloni said.

“This representation benefits our Canutillo community by exposing educators to cutting-



– Photo courtesy Canutillo ISD

Natalie Spalloni

edge research and strategies which in turn are provided to students. Most importantly, good stewards are team players, embrace innovation and change, and commit to service which is something we aspire to model in Canutillo by getting involved.”

Strange BUT TRUE

By Lucie Winborne

• Bob Marley gave a songwriter credit on “No Woman, No Cry” to his friend Vincent Ford, who ran a soup kitchen in his hometown of Trenchtown, to ensure the royalty checks would keep it open.

• Stenocereus Eruca, commonly known as the Creeping Devil, is a species of cactus that lies on the ground and grows at one end while the other end slowly dies “creeping” (growing) up to 2 feet a year. It can also clone itself to survive.

• Babe Ruth paid a fan \$20 to return the baseball he hit for his 700th career home run.

• When he retired in 1990 after molding 1.4 billion crayons, Crayola’s most senior crayon molder, Emerson Moser, revealed he was actually blue-green color blind.

• In 2017, social robot Sophia was given citizenship by Saudi Arabia – the first robot to be given legal personhood anywhere in the world.

• The Western lowland gorilla’s scientific name is Gorilla gorilla gorilla.

• Speaking of names, SpongeBob was originally created as SpongeBoy, but Nickelodeon discovered that the moniker was already copyrighted by a mop.

• A study revealed that people scored higher in a mental agility test while wearing a lab coat they believed was a doctor’s coat. The effect was not there when they believed the same white coat was a painter’s coat.

• Using &#%@\$ instead of swear words is called a Grawlix.

• In Singapore, you can’t walk naked in your own house. Well, you could, but you’d be facing a possible fine of \$1,136, so we don’t recommend it.

Thought for the Day: “Good books, like good friends, are few and chosen; the more select, the more enjoyable.”
– Louisa May Alcott

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Moments in time

THE HISTORY CHANNEL

• On Nov. 1, 1959, Montreal Canadian Jacques Plante becomes the first NHL goaltender to wear a full facemask. Despite the coach’s objection, Plante put his foot down as he’d “already had four broken noses, a broken jaw, two broken cheekbones and almost 200 stitches” in his head.

• On Nov. 2, 1947, the Hughes Flying Boat – the largest aircraft ever built – is piloted by designer Howard Hughes on its first and only flight. The massive wooden aircraft had a wingspan longer than a football field and was designed to carry more than 700 men to battle.

• On Nov. 3, 1976, “Carrie,” a horror film starring Sissy Spacek and based on Stephen King’s 1974 best-selling first novel, opens in theaters. It tells the story of a high-school outcast who uses her telekinetic powers to exact a violent revenge on prom night.

• On Nov. 4, 1922, British archaeologists discover the tomb of King Tutankhamen in the Valley of the Kings in Egypt. The tomb contained a stone sarcophagus with three nested coffins. Inside the final solid gold coffin was the mummy of the boy-king Tutankhamen, preserved for more than 3,000 years.

• On Nov. 5, 1605, King James I of England learns of a plot to blow up the Parliament building. Guy Fawkes had been found lurking in a cellar with 20 barrels of gunpowder. Fawkes revealed that he was part of a conspiracy to annihilate England’s Protestant government and replace it with Catholic leadership.

• On Nov. 6, 1854, John Philip Sousa, “The March King,” is born in Washington, D.C. Sousa composed 136 marches, including “The Washington Post” (1889) and “Stars and Stripes Forever” (1896).

• On Nov. 7, 1774, Richard Bache succeeds his father-in-law, Benjamin Franklin, as postmaster general. Benjamin Franklin was fired for opening and sending to a publisher Massachusetts Royal Governor Thomas Hutchinson’s correspondence.

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CryptoQuip Answer

When you cut a hero sandwich into several pieces, I would probably call that a sub division.

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– Photo courtesy El Paso Community College

FAST COMPETITION – The EPCC Tejanas team include, from left, Coach Darrell Turnipseed, Coach Sergio Talavera, Kayhla Talavera, Faith Nyathi, Karyme Garcia, Jayleen Guerrero, Eileen McLain, Mercy Kimaiyo and Coach Miguel Bonilla.

EPCC Tejanas are District V cross country champs

By **Jim Heiney**
Special to the Courier

EL PASO COUNTY – El Paso Community College (EPCC) women won the National Junior College Athletic

Association District V Regional Championships in Hobbs, NM on October 30. The men’s team finished 2nd behind New Mexico Junior College. The Tejanas were led by Faith Nyathi who finished 1st winning the individual championship

with a time of 18:20 in the 5K-race. She finished more than 1 minute and 28 seconds ahead of the field. Faith twice this season has been named the National Athlete of the Week. Teammate Jayleen Guerrero finished in 2nd place.

The Tejanos were led by Adams Biwott who finished 1st winning the individual championship with a time of 24:52 in the 8K-race. This season, Adams was the first men’s runner to be named National Athlete of the Week. Teammate Kelvin Chiku

finished in 3rd place. Next up for EPCC is the NJCAA Division 1 National Championships in Richmond, Virginia on November 13. The Half Marathon National Championships will follow in Richmond on November 16.



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*Primary Care Research, conducted on behalf of Conviva by Burke, Inc. 2020/2021

The future for UTEP and C-USA looks bleak, for now

By Steve Escajeda
Special to the Courier

The saying, "good things come to those who wait," has been around for a long time and for the most part, is absolutely true.

However, for the UTEP athletics department, it may prove to be a nightmare.

Back in the 1998, almost the entire list of Western Athletic Conference teams left the league to form the new Mountain West Conference. The only problem was that these teams conspired to leave the league and didn't bother to tell, or include UTEP.

The league members who chose to leave didn't feel that UTEP had very much to offer the new conference.

So the Miners were forced to go out and look for any conference that would take

them. As it turned out, Conference USA took a chance.

Back in the late nineties, UTEP's athletic administration was criticized for waiting. It was criticized for waiting for things to happen instead of being proactive and making decisions that would help their situation.

At first, it was thought that C-USA was inferior to the Mountain West Conference and UTEP would have no problem piling up basketball championships and some football bowl games. But as the years have gone by, the Miners have struggled to put together winning records in almost every sport.

So UTEP settled for C-USA and has been comfortable there for the last 23 years.

And just when UTEP has put together it's best football season in over a decade, and the men's and women's basketball teams appear to be on the upswing, the

nightmare is here once again.

Almost exactly as it happened 23 years ago, teams are now leaving conference USA to join other leagues. And just as it was 23 years ago, none of them have asked UTEP to join them.

I'm not sure why all these other teams form alliances and never feel that adding UTEP is a viable option.

Conference USA was a 14-team league, then six members (Charlotte, FAU, North Texas, Rice, UAB, UTSA) got together to leave for the American Athletic Conference and then three more teams (Marshall, Old Dominion, Southern Miss) left for the Sun Belt Conference.

If my math is correct, that just leaves five teams in C-USA, five schools that nobody else wants.

And UTEP, once again, is waiting to see what happens.

There is a real chance that the moves aren't over. There's no guarantee that

Western Kentucky, Middle Tennessee and Florida International will hang around.

Let's be honest, what the heck is El Paso doing in the same conference with teams from Kentucky, Tennessee and Florida?

It's pretty simple, either C-USA will add a few teams and rebuild the league, or UTEP will have to leave and join and lower conference like the WAC. Joining the WAC is definitely a step backward, but it's better than being homeless.

In an effort to save the league, conference USA has been talking to a few teams to see if they would like to join.

We in El Paso know one of those teams very well. The New Mexico State Aggies have expressed interest in joining the conference. That helps UTEP the most by giving them a traveling team partner for league games.

The two other teams involved are lesser known by UTEP fans. Liberty and UConn have also been contacted. Liberty would join the conference for every sport while UConn would only play football in C-USA.

That would give the league eight teams, but it's doubtful that the changes would end there.

Many of the other conferences have 12, 14, and even 16 teams.

The saddest thing of all is that it appears as if UTEP is sitting around hoping a friend will want to play with them.

None of us knows what kind of negotiations are going on behind the scenes. Perhaps there are plenty, perhaps are none.

But there's no doubt that the respect for UTEP athletics is lacking around the country, and somehow, someday, they've got to get that back.

The best way, of course, is by winning. UTEP football is doing its part, UTEP basketball has got to start putting up wins like they've done for most of the last 60 years.

Until then, UTEP, like that poor kid on the playground, will continue to go unnoticed when it comes time to choose teams to play.

Briefs

From Page 1

also improve financial education for members of the military community. Military families can undergo a tremendous amount of financial stress, especially when one parent is on the front lines and cannot be involved with managing the family's finances. Plus, service members who are in active conflicts put their lives at risk, which risks even more of a financial burden on their family in the event that they die or end up with a disability. The least we can do for our military families is to take care of their basic needs.

Does the military do enough to teach financial literacy?

The military unfortunately does not do enough to promote financial literacy among service members. Not only do 76% of Americans agree that the

military is lacking when it comes to financial literacy education, according to WalletHub's 2021 Military Money Survey, but nearly 2 in 3 people think it's a national security issue. Financially literate people who serve in the military can worry less about money problems and focus more on their duties, and are also less susceptible to coercion by foreign powers. But it's important to remember that the military is not alone in its financial literacy deficiency. Most employers and big organizations in the U.S. fail to provide adequate information as well. Even schools don't give students enough financial education.

How are veterans impacted by COVID-19?

The COVID-19 pandemic led to a big spike in veteran unemployment, but has now recovered to 3.9%, not too far above the nearly historic low of 3.2% seen in 2019. The pandemic is certain

to increase homelessness among veterans, adding to the more than 37,000 veterans who were already homeless before it even started. There are millions of veterans who are over age 65, too, and the vast majority of COVID-19 deaths in the U.S. have been among people in that age group.

- Diana Polk

Who knew?

The painting had been hanging on a wall in a villa in the province of Rome, Italy for many years and when it suddenly fell to the floor it was damaged. So, the owners sent it off to be repaired and cleaned. And that's when they found out that it was no ordinary work of art; it was the long-lost masterpiece, The Adoration of the Magi, painted by Rembrandt in 1632 or 1633. The owners apparently have no immediate intention of selling their newfound treasure, but they do plan to offer it to galleries and museums.

- John Grimaldi

Super Crossword

- | | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|--|----------------------------------|
| PITIFUL PANTRY PROBLEM ACROSS | cake | 118 Give support | 34 "Titanic" actor Billy | 81 Drive out |
| 1 Spot's threat | 61 " _ Sexy" (1992 #1 hit song) | 119 Sizable | 35 Petro-Canada rival | 82 Whine like a baby |
| 4 Bacteria-growing gel | 62 Clapton of rock | 120 Sulky state | 37 Time _ half | 83 Yodeling comeback |
| 8 Crevices | 63 Bernstein's "Candide," for one | 121 Malt product | 38 Square type | 84 Banned orchard spray |
| 13 Having the most wisdom | 67 Early Oscar winner | 122 Some online greetings | 39 Meg of "I.Q." | 86 Currency of Laos |
| 19 Glasgow refusal | 68 Riddle, part 4 | 123 Possessed | 40 Three feet | 90 Dined at someone else's place |
| 20 "Space Ghost" cartoonist Alex | 72 Fought (for) | 124 GI's "lullaby" | 41 "Poppycock!" | 92 Embellished |
| 21 Actress Kemper of "The Office" | 73 Look for a therapist, say | 125 Longest river of Scotland | 43 "Should that be true..." | 93 Haughty sort |
| 22 Swollen and distended | 75 Poi base | DOWN | 46 Brown, Penn and Harvard | 94 Band's lineup of gig songs |
| 23 Central North Carolina city | 76 River mouth deposit | 1 Chew on persistently | 47 "The Silence of the Lambs" director | 95 Fills up |
| 25 747, say | 77 Go via boat | 2 In an overly hasty way | 48 Shaw of swing | 97 "Gas Food Lodging" director |
| 26 Often-used expressions | 78 Riddle, part 5 | 3 Hold a new trial for | 50 "Valiant attempt!" | Allison |
| 27 Start of a riddle | 82 " _ culpa!" | 4 Up a tree | 51 Aspiration | 98 Tennis player |
| 30 "Three Times _" (1978 hit song) | 85 How a winding path proceeds | 5 Silly mistake | 52 Just-prior periods | Shriver |
| 31 Hay unit | 87 Part of RBI or ERA | 6 Razor option | 55 Egg middles | 99 Appear |
| 32 Be in great anguish | 88 Dir. from Ariz. to Ky. | 7 Certain parallelogram | 56 Work fill-in | 101 Lasso |
| 36 Trainee, e.g. | 89 Dazzling success | 8 Drive back | 57 Goya's gold | 102 Colorful ring of anatomy |
| 37 Riddle, part 2 | 91 Despot Amin | 9 "Maybe" | 58 Cedar cousin | 103 Writer Sheldon |
| 42 Diplomat's skill | 92 Gives a hand | 10 Shortcoming | 60 "Fat chance!" | 106 Lies against |
| 44 Former NBAer | 96 End of the riddle | 11 Ex-Yankee | 63 _ about (close to) | 108 Port of Norway |
| Ming | 100 "Woe is me!" | Martinez | 64 Mark in "pinata" | 109 Turn to liquid |
| 45 Gets wrinkles out of | 104 "The Mummies" Dance" singer | 12 Appear | 65 "Grand" Rockies peak | 110 Trumpet, e.g. |
| 46 See 71-Down | 105 No longer relevant | 13 Miserly | 66 Wise saying | 111 Forearm part |
| 49 1930s-'40s prez | 106 Classic arcade name | 14 Sound engineer's console | 68 Herr's "no" | 112 Radar image |
| 50 Church vestibule | 107 Riddle's answer | 15 Smiling one | 69 Pot for arroz con pollo | 113 Color tone |
| 53 Classical intro? | 113 All-terrain military vehicle | 16 Swelled head | 70 "Poppycock!" | 114 Scanned market ID |
| 54 Riddle, part 3 | 116 Clipped, as a sheep | 17 Resident of a gaming "City" | 71 With 46-Across, brand of frozen fries | 115 Deg. for many an exec |
| 59 It may take the | 117 Many a magic trick | 18 NFL scores | 74 Is in first place | |
| | | 24 "It's the _ an era" | 76 " _ be shy" | |
| | | 28 Rowboat pair | 78 Bona _ (real) | |
| | | 29 Satisfied sigh | 79 Lena of "Havana" | |
| | | 33 Victor's gloat | 80 Grand _ (auto race) | |

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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122										123						124				125

Comix

OUT ON A LIMB By Gary Kopervas



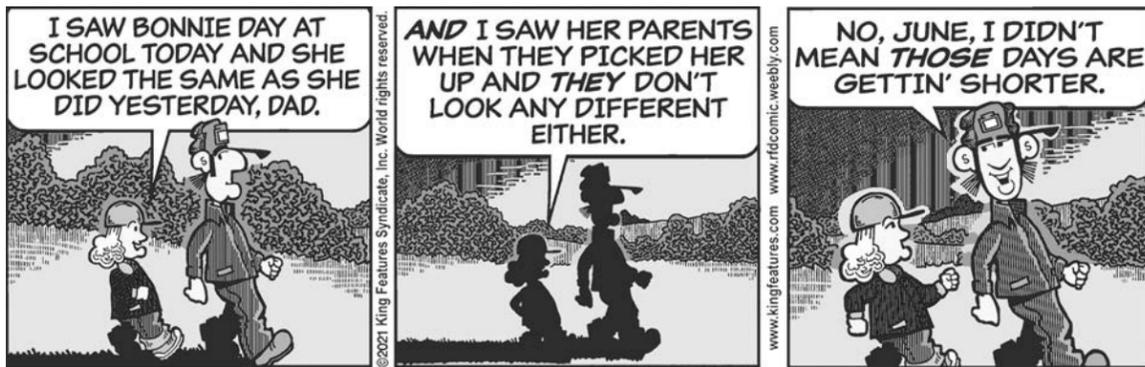
AMBER WAVES By Dave T. Phipps



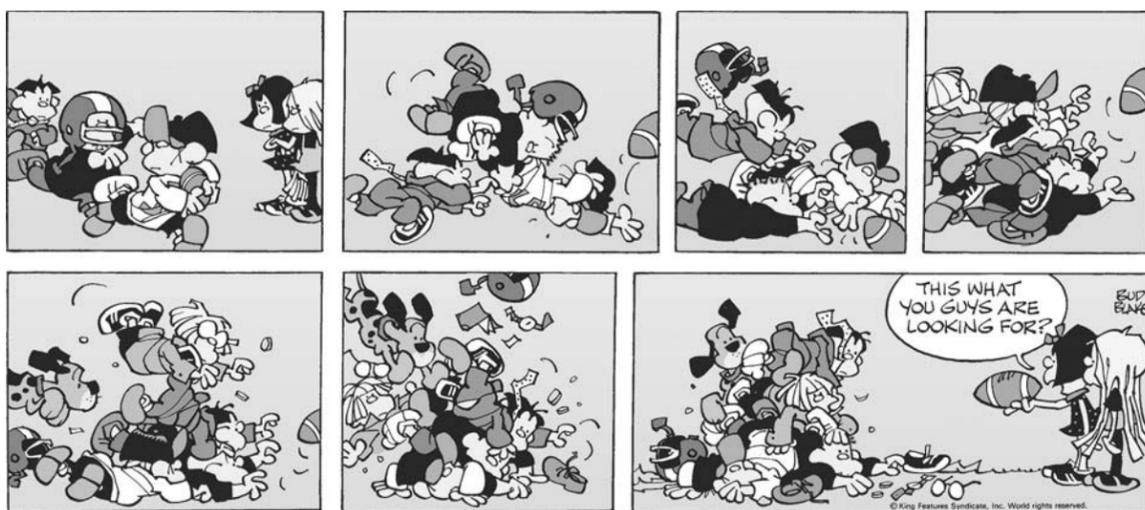
THE SPATS By Jeff Pickering



R.F.D. By Mike Marland



TIGER By Bud Blake



Booster

From Page 1

throat, and loss of taste or smell. Testing at public health clinics is free and no appointments required. COVID-19 testing is available from:

- 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday through Sunday, at County SportsPark, 1780 N. Zaragoza Rd;
- Noon to 6 p.m., Monday

through Friday, and 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday, at the Judson F. Williams Convention Center, 1 Civic Center Plaza;

- 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday through Friday, and 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday, at Marty Robbins Recreation Center, 11620 Vista Del Sol Drive; and
- Noon to 6 p.m., Monday through Friday, and 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., Saturday, at the Don Haskins Recreation Center, 7400 High Ridge Drive.

Persons, who have not yet received their initial COVID-19 vaccine, can schedule an appointment for the vaccine by visiting the local health department's website, epcovidvaccine.com, or just show up at any vaccination site. COVID-19 vaccinations for individuals 12 years old and older are available from noon to 6 p.m., Monday through Friday, and 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., Saturday, at the Judson F. Williams

Extreme flatulence is noxious, embarrassing

DEAR DR. ROACH: In 2008, I had a partial sigmoid colectomy. Since then, I have had no recurrence of diverticulitis. The surgeon recommended that I not use laxatives, but rather take fiber gummies to keep things moving easily in addition to drinking lots of fluids. I am doing that, but my flatulence could power all the homes in a small city. It is difficult to control outbursts, which are noxious and embarrassing in the extreme. Is there any other way to avoid hard stools, straining and other unhealthy gastrointestinal situations? – J.S.



I am sorry for your embarrassment, but I agree with the surgeon that getting fiber and plenty of water is the safest and best way to prevent problems. However, maybe it isn't just the fiber, but your diet that is at least partially responsible for the increased gas. You could try reducing your intake of foods in the cabbage family, onions, beans, corn and other gas-producers. Avoid carbonated beverages and any beverage containing artificial sweeteners such as sorbitol or xylitol. In some people, changing the bacteria that live in your gut (your microbiome) through probiotic supplements and a change of diet can reduce the amount of gas produced. There are other types of fiber supplements besides fiber gummies that might be better tolerated, or you can get fiber from food.

DEAR DR. ROACH: For 58 years, I've been walking around with a visible tracheostomy scar on my throat, leading the curious to ask: "Yuck. What happened there?" My answers have changed over the years, but were usually something like: "I was 4. A doctor had to cut my throat open so I could breathe." But now, I don't wait for the question. Lately, my scar has helped me do some show-and-tell about what causes this near-fatal closing of the windpipe and why doctors don't see kids dying from Haemophilus influenzae anymore. Could you elaborate? – M.A.P.

Haemophilus influenzae (often called H. flu or Hib), despite its name, is not the cause of influenza (the "flu" is caused by a virus). H. flu is a species of bacteria that can cause meningitis, pneumonia and the condition you had, epiglottitis – an inflammation of the epiglottis, the structure that closes your trachea when you swallow. Before the vaccine for Hib became available, epiglottitis was a feared and not uncommon problem. Back then, doctors were exhaustively taught how to rapidly recognize the life-threatening H. flu epiglottitis so that children could be treated quickly, which sometimes meant an emergency tracheostomy (a direct hole through the throat into the windpipe to allow breathing). That is the procedure that caused the scar on your neck. Despite treatment, 3% to 6% of cases of invasive H. flu were fatal. Your scar may be yucky, but you are lucky to have survived. During the time I was in medical school, routine vaccination for H. flu became widespread, and the disease essentially went away. History records a 99% drop in this infection. I've only ever seen one case. Essentially the only people at risk for this disease now are those who are deliberately unvaccinated.

Your story is important: Many people feel that the diseases we vaccinate against are "no big deal," but thousands of kids per year died of conditions we thankfully almost never see today. Without continued vaccination, those days will come back.

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.

Convention Center, 1 Civic Center Plaza, in downtown El Paso. For more information, call (915) 212-6843. COVID-19 vaccinations are also available from 8 a.m. to noon and 1 to 5 p.m., Monday through Saturday, at the following health clinic locations: 220 S. Stanton St., 9341 Alameda Ave., 7380 Remcon Circle, and 9566 Railroad Drive.





Moore Texas by Roger Moore
 October 30, 1836: John R. Jones is appointed Texas' 1st Postmaster. Mail delivery was dangerous and unreliable.

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: **A** equals **S**

HCIM BNO KOG P CIJN
 APMTHUKC UMG N AIWIJPD
 FUIKIA, U HNOTD FJNRPRDB
 KPDD GCPG AOR TUWUAUNM.

Answer Page 4

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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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Punishment doesn't fit the crime



by Freddy Groves

One year ago, a federal grand jury indicted a Virginia woman for a whole raft of scams and fraud against veterans. Most disheartening is the fact that she was a former veteran.

There was a long laundry list (nine counts) of things she did. She had veterans apply for HISA grants (Home Improvements and Structural Alterations), which are for doing work on their homes and making improvements. Not only did she not complete the work, she pocketed the money.

Then she managed to have the income and retirement benefits of a veteran diverted into her own account. She took out loans in the elderly veteran's name, with the money going into her pocket, and used the veteran's credit and debit cards.

But she didn't stop there. In another scheme, she linked

veterans with landlords, but kept the money they paid for security deposits and rent.

The legal names for these are wire fraud and aggravated identity theft and involved 27 victims.

While a Department of Justice press release stated that "elder abuse and financial fraud targeted at seniors is a key priority," nowhere in the sentencing does it call out the specific punishment for that. They carefully listed the types of elder abuse (physical abuse, financial fraud, scams and exploitation, caregiver neglect and abandonment, psychological abuse and sexual abuse), but don't seem to have made it specifically part of this case.

At the time of the indictment, this miserable excuse for a human faced a possible 20 years in prison, plus two years after pleading guilty to one count of wire fraud and one count of aggravated identity theft. In the recent sentencing, she got a mere 9.5 years.

Why is that? Why do the powers-that-be think it's OK to give much shorter prison

sentences to these people? Where is the deterrent in talking about the "serious nature of these fraud schemes" when you don't follow it up with serious jail time?

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- Update window treatments to compensate for dropping temperatures. Trade your sheers for sturdy, draft-blocking panels.

- To easily get keys on a keychain, use a staple remover to create an opening to slip the keys on. It is very effective and will keep you from getting frustrated.

- When hammering a nail, try this save-your-finger trick: Use a clothespin to hold the nail steady, and then use your hammer to drive it in. Hammering into the wall? Push the nail through a strip of cardboard, and then hold the cardboard over the right spot. No more banged-up fingers or thumbs!

- "At a party, someone spilled a cup of red wine on one of my throw pillows. I love the pillow, since it is just the right size and really soft, but I could not get the stain out. So I covered it with a new fabric. I ended up doing all the assorted pillows in the same fabric, and it made a big change in the room. I wish I had done it sooner." – I.F. in Pennsylvania

- Bringing some plants indoors? Use styrofoam packing peanuts in the bottom of pots when planting. They aren't as heavy as rocks, but they do just as good a job. It makes the pots easier to move around should you need to.

- "For easy-cleanup pancakes, use a turkey baster to 'squirt' the batter in the griddle or skillet. No drips, and it usually results in a pretty good circle, too!" – A.J. in Florida

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

GO FIGURE! by Linda Thistle

The idea of Go Figure is to arrive at the figures given at the bottom and right-hand columns of the diagram by following the arithmetic signs in the order they are given (that is, from left to right and top to bottom). Use only the numbers below the diagram to complete its blank squares and use each of the nine numbers only once.

DIFFICULTY: ★★

★ Moderate ★★ Difficult

★★★ GO FIGURE!

Answer Page 4

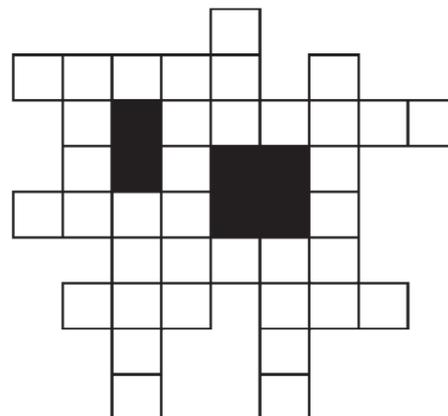
	+		x					16
x		-		x				
	-		x					18
+		x		-				
	-		x					6
13		15		15				

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 7 9

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- DRO
- MAKBER
- OKLAC
- ♥ERSU
- KIDONE
- SAS
- OKCS
- ♥SITRO
- KYS
- ♥RIMESO
- MERUL
- ♥DROE



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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