



NEWSBRIEFS

SISD seeks community input

At a Special Board Meeting on Wednesday, September 29, the Socorro ISD Board of Trustees selected JG Consulting to serve as the firm to lead the superintendent search process. The Socorro ISD Board is committed to a transparent process that encourages feedback from everyone in the community. As part of this process, the Board is seeking input on the qualities the community would like to see in the next superintendent. Parents, staff, students, and community members can share their input through the survey in English or Spanish through links at www.sisd.net, clicking on "View All Stories" and choosing the "SUPERINTENDENT SEARCH" story. The community also is invited to share its input at three in-person town hall meetings. The meetings will be:

- 6 p.m. Dec. 7 in the cafeteria at Socorro High School, 10150 Alameda Ave.
- 6 p.m. Dec. 8 in the theater at Montwood High School, 12000 Montwood Dr.
- 6 p.m. Dec. 9 in the boardroom at District Service Center, 12440 Rojas. Dr.

— Christy Flores-Jones

Odd, strange, weird

Congratulations go to the proud winners of A Nobel Prize – not THE Nobel Prize – the Ig Nobel Prize, awarded by the science magazine Annals of Improbable Research. It's sort of a spoof that for 31 years has presented awards for odd, strange and weird accomplishments. For example, this year's honorees include the researchers from Spain and Iran for their study of the germs found in chewing gum scraped from streets and sidewalks in different countries. They won the Ecology Prize. The winner of the Economics Prize, Dr. Pavlo Blavatsky, whose study suggests that you can measure the corruption in a country by how fat its politicians are. And then there is the Transportation Prize that went to a multi-national team who sought to determine whether it is safer to airlift a rhinoceros upside down or right side up.

— John Grimaldi

A person's faith is not judged by what he says about it, but by what he does about it.

— Quips & Quotes

Escobar bill proposes changes to asylum process at border

By Alfredo Vasquez
Special to the Courier

EL PASO COUNTY – The constant flow of people seeking asylum at the U.S.-Mexico border has perplexed government officials for quite a while. For decades, federal, state, and local politicians have been grappling with different approaches for treating asylum seekers uniformly and with dignity and respect.

Too often, however, these asylum-seeking migrants have endured serious hostile repercussions from an unwelcoming nation for simply wanting to live in a peaceful, secure environment. Nonetheless, there are government officials who realize that the immigration policies of this country are flawed, and they are promoting a comprehensive overhaul.

One such politician is Democrat Congresswoman Veronica Escobar, who thinks her approach could help address the migrant dilemma. The native El Pasoan espouses that a more humane, consistent legal process must be established to get a handle on this on-going travesty.

To that end, Escobar recently introduced

a bill in the U.S. House of Representatives, referred to as "The Re-imagining Asylum Processing Act." She stated that her bill is necessary because prior attempts at harnessing the thousands of refugees from entering America focused mainly on hardening the border, but that hasn't changed anything in terms of migration flows. "All it has done is create chaos and inhumanity at the border," Escobar asserted.

According to Escobar, her bill would create five new "humanitarian processing centers" at the border, where asylum seekers would be transferred on the day they arrive, and where they would meet with U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) asylum officers. These professionals, not border or immigration law enforcement agents, would provide screenings to determine whether a migrant could qualify for asylum or other immigration relief.

Currently, U.S. ports of entry have been closed to asylum-seeking migrants since 2016, when the Obama administration instituted a policy known as "metering" to block the arrival of Haitians at California ports. The Trump administration later expanded the practice at ports of entry



U.S. Representative Veronica Escobar, of El Paso, recently introduced in Congress a bill, titled "Re-imagining Asylum Processing Act". This legislation is intended to address one aspect of myriad reforms Escobar and immigrant advocates say are needed to the nation's immigration system.

along the Southwest border.

"If we continue down this path of treating families and children and pregnant

See BILL, Page 3

New EPCC building is state-of-the-art

By Keri Moe
Special to the Courier

EL PASO COUNTY – El Paso Community College (EPCC) has officially opened the doors to the new building at the Mission del Paso campus located in far East El Paso. One of five campuses

conveniently located throughout El Paso County to serve students, the Mission del Paso Campus is the college's fastest-growing campus.

During his remarks at the grand opening, EPCC President, Dr. William Serrata said that attending and graduating college is becoming more and more important because jobs of the future will

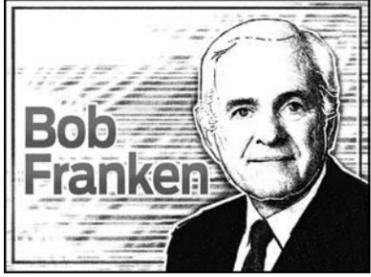
require a college degree or certificate. "EPCC is committed to ensuring high-quality experiences and opportunities for students," Serrata said. "This state-of-the-art building at the Mission del Paso Campus will provide many innovative opportunities that will help us reach

See EPCC, Page 2



— Photo courtesy El Paso Community College

STUNNING – The beautiful, new El Paso Community College building is at the Mission del Paso campus. The facility is loaded with enhanced technology, additional labs, classrooms, and spaces for students to study.



Rose Garden infrastructure

phase. What's left of the Build Back Better phase of the social infrastructure bill would add trillions of dollars more, except it's caught in the Democratic quicksand.

They have lots of work to do before they pass whatever emaciated BBB liberal package they end up with, to say nothing of the fact that they face disaster if they can't come up with some way to agree on a spending bill to keep the federal government all the way open.

Add a catastrophe (what's another word for infinite disaster?) if they somehow can't resolve passage of the debt ceiling. If they don't, and they always flirt with not doing it, then the United States will be hugely embarrassed, because it will weasel on its sovereign debt. This could be blamed on an inherent weakness in its political system; a democracy-demagoguery that's a fatal flaw. It would be a shambles.

To a certain extent, it could be back to the drawing board to mess with the Senate filibuster, for example, and by extension make a wreckage of the U.S. tradition of built-in safeguards against the "tyranny of the majority."

A frenetic month is what's ahead in December, but it's been a miserable autumn and summer with the Afghanistan debacle, the trouble dealing with the pandemic, which everyone believed was under control, and various economic problems like inflation. That contributed to tanking polls and that led partially to a miserable showing for Biden and his fellow Democrats, most notably Glenn Youngkin's and

the GOP's upset defeat of Terry McAuliffe in Virginia.

The White House chorus has not been singing "Don't Worry, Be Happy." If the Democrats can salvage the social part of the Biden pledge (and the rubber and concrete chunk was politically easier by comparison) there could be whimpers of "Happy Days are Here Again." If not, it's going to be a long hot winter. (It

used to be a long cold winter, but that was before climate change.)

Joe Biden describes himself as an optimist when it comes to the American people, meaning most of them agree with him. It's also optimistic to think that by 2025, the jackhammers will be making their atrocious noise and infrastructure work will be humming along by the midterms and the polls will recover for the

Democrats.

I hate to disagree with the president, but the American people are in a dark mood. If enough of them are caught up in humongous traffic jams because of some project associated with infrastructure construction, they'll bitterly complain about "Biden's gridlock."

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Drug collection hauls in nearly 745,000 pounds of unneeded meds

By Carlos A. Briano
Special to the Courier

NATION - The Drug Enforcement Administration, along with its law enforcement partners, has removed close to 745,000 pounds of unneeded prescriptions from medicine cabinets across the country as part of DEA's ongoing commitment to turn the tide against the U.S. opioid epidemic. With last month's 21st National Prescription Drug Take Back Day, the program has removed more than 15.2 million pounds of medication from circulation since its inception.

On Oct. 23, with close to 5,000 collection sites nationwide, DEA and its more than 4,200 state and local law enforcement partners came together to help the public rid their homes of unneeded medications - those that are old, unwanted, or no longer needed - that too often become a gateway to addiction. These efforts align directly with DEA's priority to combat the rise of overdoses plaguing the United States.

The El Paso Division collected 5,474 pounds

in their various locations in El Paso, Midland, Alpine, Las Cruces, Albuquerque and New Mexico Tribal Lands.

According to a report published by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), a majority of people who misused a prescription medication obtained the medicine from a family member or friend. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported that last year, more than 93,000 people died of drug overdoses in the United States, marking the largest number of drug-related deaths ever recorded in a year. Opioid-related deaths accounted for 75 percent of all overdose deaths in 2020.

"On DEA's National Prescription Drug Take Back Day, communities across America came together to rid medicine cabinets of unneeded medications, helping to prevent prescription drug misuse," said DEA Administrator Anne Milgram. "Take Back Day is a critical effort to curb the historic surge in U.S. overdoses. We know prevention starts at home. The simple step of clearing out medications... makes our homes safer, prevents prescription drug misuse, and, ultimately, can help save lives."

EPCC

From Page 1

our goal of educating more students, placing them on a path to completing their degrees and increasing educational attainment in our region."

This campus expansion has added a new building with 60,000 additional square feet that will provide opportunities for students to learn and interact with faculty and with one

another. "This building will allow us to expand our course offerings and develop new and more opportunities for students," Joshua Villalobos, Mission Del Paso Campus Dean, said.

This facility will provide enhanced technology and spaces for students. Besides additional lab and classrooms, a flexitorium space will promote interactive learning, accommodating everything from lectures, to performances to guest speakers and special events. Students

will have access to many tools for an extraordinary learning experience, including:

- 3D Printers to augment the learning experience in biology, geology and other classes;
- An ER Stream table will replicate surfaces processes of streams and rivers for geology student presentations;
- A GigaMacro creates high-resolution photographs of specimens for students to use

See EPCC, Page 4

1973
48
Years
2021

WEST TEXAS COUNTY COURIER

SERVING ANTHONY, VINTON, CANUTILLO, EAST MONTANA, HORIZON, SOCORRO, CLUTE, FARENS, SAN ELIZABO AND TORNILLO

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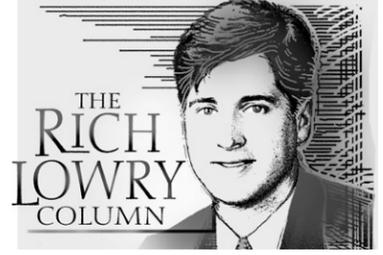
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Child care proposal's hidden consequences



President Joe Biden wants to bring the same discerning, common-sensical governing style to American child care that has his job approval rating in the low 40s.

In other words, look out below.

The child care proposal that House Democrats have written into Biden's Build Back Better "human infrastructure" bill may be the worst feature of the nearly \$2-trillion legislation, and that's saying something.

It is high-handed and prescriptive, constitutes a new front in the culture war via an expanding welfare state, will likely increase the costs for middle-class and upper-middle-class parents, and may have an unconstitutional provision to boot.

The proposal reflects the preferences of two-earner, professional couples in the Acela corridor inclined toward expensive, formal, all-day child care, and would make a large step toward enshrining them as the national norm.

There is no doubt that there is a significant demand for child care. Roughly half of married and single moms with children under 5 work full-time, and about 40% of working moms pay for child care. But it's a mistake

to believe that all parents want to be in the work force, with their kids in standardized child care programs.

According to a 2019 Gallup poll, 50% of mothers of children under age 18 would prefer to stay at home taking care of family over having a job. A survey from the populist think tank American Compass found that 53% of married mothers prefer the model of one parent working and one parent staying at home in families with children under age 5.

Those parents who have to work or choose to work use all sorts of child care options, from relatives to smaller home-based day cares, to non-profit or for-profit day care centers.

There is a pronounced class divide here. As Patrick Brown of the Ethics and Public Policy Center points out, white children of parents who don't have a college degree spend most of their hours per week with their parents; only 30% of children with college-educated parents do the same.

What the Democratic proposal would do is put an enormous thumb on the scale toward for-profit centers. It would pour hundreds of billions of dollars, not into supporting the varying choices of parents, but into

pushing the current archipelago of diverse options into a one-size-fits-all system defined by the government.

The proposal would boost the pay of child care workers significantly, seeking to make it equivalent to elementary school teachers, and add new regulations best sustained by for-profit

centers. It would thus bring the progressive model of constricted supply leading to increased cost that characterizes the housing, education and health care sectors to child care.

The left-wing policy analyst Matt Bruenig caused a stir when he warned of spiraling costs from higher pay and new regulations.

He noted that the proposal's subsidies to families are phased-in based on income. This means

See LOWRY, Page 7

Bill

From Page 1

mothers as criminals, that's not just costly, but it's ineffective and it's inhumane," the El Paso representative emphasized.

Escobar stated that her new bill is a result of "a lengthy and inclusive process" that included ideas shared by advocates, legal experts, and the House judiciary committee, as well as what she has witnessed in visits to existing border processing centers.

Escobar and immigrant advocates throughout the country have stressed that passing reforms this year, before next year's midterm elections, is crucial. "We have seen complete inaction from Congress in reforming outdated immigration laws," Escobar acknowledged. "I truly feel this is the year we have to get it done," she added.

Under the "Re-imagining Asylum Processing Act," the five humanitarian processing centers would provide asylum seekers with an opportunity to be interviewed by an USCIS asylum officer. Their task would be to determine whether the asylum-seeker has a credible fear of

persecution, and to ensure that these individuals receive legal orientation and case-management referral services, receive a medical and mental health screening, and complete a "rest period" of 72 hours before a determination interview is conducted.

Additionally, the act limits the amount of time an asylum seeker can be held in a humanitarian processing center to 15 days, pending the determination interview with the asylum officer. If an interview can't be conducted in that period, then the asylum seeker would be released with an appointment notice to appear for the interview.

Escobar stated that her bill recognizes the need for a humanitarian process that is not run by law enforcement. "That would allow border agents to focus on their duties enforcing the border rather than processing asylum seekers," she noted.

"When people don't have a legal avenue, they are going to try avenues that are more dangerous and more desperate," Escobar related. "People say, 'Well they should get in line.' That shows lack of an acknowledgement that there is no line. The legal ways have been eliminated for them. If we want to see order restored, then we must open more legal pathways," she concluded.





Moments in time
THE HISTORY CHANNEL

• On Nov. 22, 1900, the first car produced under the Mercedes name is taken for its inaugural drive in Cannstatt, Germany. The car was specially built for Emil Jellinek, a fan of fast, flashy cars, who bought 36 of them. In exchange, the car was named after his 11-year-old daughter, Mercedes.

• On Nov. 23, 1959, Robert Stroud, the famous "Birdman of Alcatraz," is released from solitary confinement for the first time since 1916. For 15 years, Stroud lived with canaries that were brought to him by visitors.

• On Nov. 24, 1960, Philadelphia Warrior's center Wilt Chamberlain snags 55 rebounds in a game against the Boston Celtics and sets an NBA record for the most rebounds in a single game. Chamberlain broke more than 70 NBA records in his 14-year career.

• On Nov. 25, 1783, nearly three months after the Treaty of Paris was signed ending the American Revolution, the remaining British soldiers withdraw from New York City, the last British military position in its former colonies.

• On Nov. 26, 1862, Oxford mathematician Charles Dodgson sends a handwritten manuscript, "Alice's Adventures Under Ground," to 10-year-old Alice Liddell. Dodgson made up the story on a picnic, and Alice insisted he write it down. He published it under his nom de plume Lewis Carroll in 1865.

• On Nov. 27, 1931, the first cloverleaf interchange to be built in the U.S., at the junction of U.S. Rt. 1 and NJ Rt. 35 in Woodbridge, New Jersey, is featured on the cover of the Engineering News-Record. A piece on the under-construction Hoover Dam was relegated to the journal's back pages.

• On Nov. 28, 1979, a New Zealander sightseeing plane traveling over Antarctica crashes, killing all 257 people on board. The pilot had descended to 1,500 feet just as the plane reached Mount Erebus, a 12,444-foot volcano.

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Food for thought By John Grimaldi

Do online pharmacies threaten the future of the neighborhood drugstore?

There are still a few of us who remember having a bite to eat at a drugstore soda fountain owned and operated by a local pharmacist. A few of them are still around, the rest were acquired or put out of business by chain pharmacies such as Walgreens and CVS or by mega-stores such as Walmart. And now even they, despite their size, are being threatened by Internet-based virtual pharmacies.

A sort of a death knell for brick-and-mortar pharmacies sounded loud and clear when Amazon announced the establishment of the Amazon Pharmacy last year. According to the online technology

news site, *TechCrunch*, "After launching its own line of over-the-counter drugs in 2019, this is arguably Amazon's broadest push into the healthcare business to-date, one that could open very large, new revenue opportunities for the company, especially as the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic pushes consumers both toward more remote care and using online channels for all their shopping needs."

A study by GoodRx, best known for providing free drug coupons for discounts on medications, found that while brick-and-mortar pharmacies play an important role in

healthcare, a major segment of the U.S. population already has less than adequate access to a drugstore.

The analysis found that: "Pharmacies and pharmacists play a critical role in dispensing prescription and over-the-counter medications, providing immunizations, and counseling patients on side effects, interactions, and medication regimens. These essential services ensure patient safety and help patients take their medications as prescribed, ultimately improving the overall health of the community. But, unfortunately, though there are more than 60,000 pharmacies across the U.S., they are dispersed unevenly. In over 40% of U.S. counties, a majority of people do not have adequate access to a pharmacy. In total, we estimate that over 41 million Americans

live in pharmacy deserts." The online retail giant, Amazon, is just one of more than 400 Web based pharmacies that have popped up over the past several years. To be sure, they are not going to cause the total extinction of actual drug stores; but you can bet that die-hard independent neighborhood pharmacies will still be around in one form or another, albeit fewer in numbers.

Take the Owl Drug store in the town of Coleman, TX, population about 4,300. It opened its doors nearly a century ago and its soda fountain is still in operation, still serving their locally famous Owl Burger – complete with grilled onions, bacon and their own "secret sauce." It looks and feels like an old fashion drug store, but it also operates its own online pharmacy service.

**Canutillo Independent School District
Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balance
Governmental Funds
For the Year Ended June 30, 2021**

| Data Control Codes | 10 General Fund | Debt Service Fund | Other Funds | Total Governmental Funds |
|--|-----------------|-------------------|-------------|--------------------------|
| REVENUES: | | | | |
| 5700 Total Local and Intermediate Sources | \$ 27,120,539 | \$ 9,426,115 | \$ 250,325 | \$ 36,796,979 |
| 5800 State Program Revenues | 33,887,463 | 169,452 | 575,214 | 34,632,129 |
| 5900 Federal Program Revenues | 7,640,934 | - | 4,969,402 | 12,610,336 |
| 5020 Total Revenues | 68,648,936 | 9,595,567 | 5,794,941 | 84,039,444 |
| EXPENDITURES: | | | | |
| Current: | | | | |
| 0011 Instruction | 40,423,078 | - | 3,277,294 | 43,700,372 |
| 0012 Instructional Resources and Media Services | 777,630 | - | 141,503 | 919,133 |
| 0013 Curriculum and Instructional Staff Development | 819,300 | - | 867,053 | 1,686,353 |
| 0021 Instructional Leadership | 627,574 | - | 649,916 | 1,277,490 |
| 0023 School Leadership | 3,935,422 | - | 156,674 | 4,092,096 |
| 0031 Guidance, Counseling and Evaluation Services | 2,275,718 | - | 119,960 | 2,395,678 |
| 0032 Social Work Services | 190,847 | - | 3,216 | 194,063 |
| 0033 Health Services | 1,167,545 | - | 2,785 | 1,170,330 |
| 0034 Student (Pupil) Transportation | 1,961,342 | - | - | 1,961,342 |
| 0035 Food Services | 4,903,269 | - | 2,750 | 4,906,019 |
| 0036 Extracurricular Activities | 1,336,326 | - | 25,852 | 1,362,178 |
| 0041 General Administration | 3,119,696 | - | 236,597 | 3,356,293 |
| 0051 Facilities Maintenance and Operations | 8,256,107 | - | 37,534 | 8,293,641 |
| 0052 Security and Monitoring Services | 1,038,277 | - | - | 1,038,277 |
| 0053 Data Processing Services | 3,175,744 | - | 164,482 | 3,340,226 |
| 0061 Community Services | 29,943 | - | 320,558 | 350,501 |
| Debt Service: | | | | |
| 0071 Principal on Long Term Debt | 328,478 | 3,445,000 | - | 3,773,478 |
| 0072 Interest on Long Term Debt | 82,059 | 2,529,146 | - | 2,611,205 |
| 0073 Bond Issuance Cost and Fees | 203,124 | 310,402 | - | 513,526 |
| Capital Outlay: | | | | |
| 0081 Facilities Acquisition and Construction | 1,476,273 | - | 110,665 | 1,586,938 |
| Intergovernmental: | | | | |
| 0099 Other Intergovernmental Charges | 401,812 | - | - | 401,812 |
| 6030 Total Expenditures | 76,529,564 | 6,284,548 | 6,116,839 | 88,930,951 |
| 1100 Excess (Deficiency) of Revenues Over (Under) Expenditures | (7,880,628) | 3,311,019 | (321,898) | (4,891,507) |
| OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES): | | | | |
| 7911 Refunding Debt Issued | 9,775,000 | 20,454,627 | - | 30,229,627 |
| 7912 Sale of Real and Personal Property | 1,200,000 | - | - | 1,200,000 |
| 7916 Premium or Discount on Issuance of Bonds | 428,124 | 3,030,437 | - | 3,458,561 |
| 8949 Other (Uses) Placed in Escrow for Refunded Bonds | - | (23,616,412) | - | (23,616,412) |
| 7080 Total Other Financing Sources (Uses) | 11,403,124 | (131,348) | - | 11,271,776 |
| 1200 Net Change in Fund Balances | 3,522,496 | 3,179,671 | (321,898) | 6,380,269 |
| 0100 Fund Balance – July 1 (Beginning) | 22,097,664 | 7,992,926 | 898,025 | 30,988,615 |
| 3000 Fund Balance – June 30 (Ending) | \$ 25,620,160 | \$ 11,172,597 | \$ 576,127 | \$ 37,368,884 |

Send Your Newsbrief To:
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The NFL is spying on its players to make sure they comply

By Steve Escajeda
Special to the Courier

There are many different opinions on how the world has responded to the COVID-19 virus. Some areas feel they responded too slowly, some areas feel their response was a complete overreaction, and yet some areas are still trying to figure it out.

Some countries have been hit especially hard, while others have barely been affected.

In the United States, opinions are all over the place.

Some Americas feel that too many people died because the government didn't do enough, others feel the current economy has been crippled because we did too much.

Sometimes it's hard to know exactly what to do in a crisis. It can be difficult to find a response that is both safe and just.

And then there are times when we lose our heads and go completely nuts.

That takes us to the newly announced NFL COVID-19 protocols.

There are some changes that the NFL has installed specifically for the Thanksgiving holiday.

There is nothing wrong with being careful, but some of these new rules are downright invasive and insulting; especially when dealing with adults in a "free" country.

First of all, there will be mandatory testing for all players and staff the Monday and Wednesday after the holiday and mandatory mask wearing for all players and staff while inside club facilities from Nov. 25 through Dec. 1.

All that sounds fairly reasonable, but I don't know how COVID is less harmful before Nov. 25 and after Dec. 1?

Besides, I thought the CDC and Dr. Fauci told all of us that as long as we were vaccinated we didn't need to wear masks anymore. So why are all players and staff (vaccinated or not) mandated to wear masks for the week?

Anyway, and this is the part that I feel is the most ridiculous, the new protocols also establish new requirements for surveillance cameras in team facilities for the purpose of enforcing COVID-19 protocols.

The memo says the league has been "periodically reviewing footage from surveillance cameras in club facilities to ensure protocol compliance. Discipline has been issued against individual players and clubs as warranted."

And here's what all NFL teams have to do. They will be required to have video cameras installed in their weight rooms and cafeterias, including weight rooms that are outdoors or in practice bubbles.

It states that all teams must keep the video from those cameras for 30 days in case the league requests to view it for the purpose of finding out whether people are following mask requirements at team

facilities.

Wow, talk about an invasion of privacy! Imagine if you had cameras at your work that were monitoring you every second of the day to make sure you were wearing your mask?

I thought we were outraged about the NSA listening in on our cell phone conversations. I thought we were outraged by all those tech companies spying on our every keyboard punch and sharing it, or selling it, to everybody else?

Where is the indignant outrage from the players and coaches being spied on throughout their work environment?

Any of you who have read *1984* (and I recommend it if you haven't), knows about the government spying on its citizens 24/7 to make sure they are following the policies they've put in place. They even reward people and relatives for turning in people who aren't obeying every rule, or

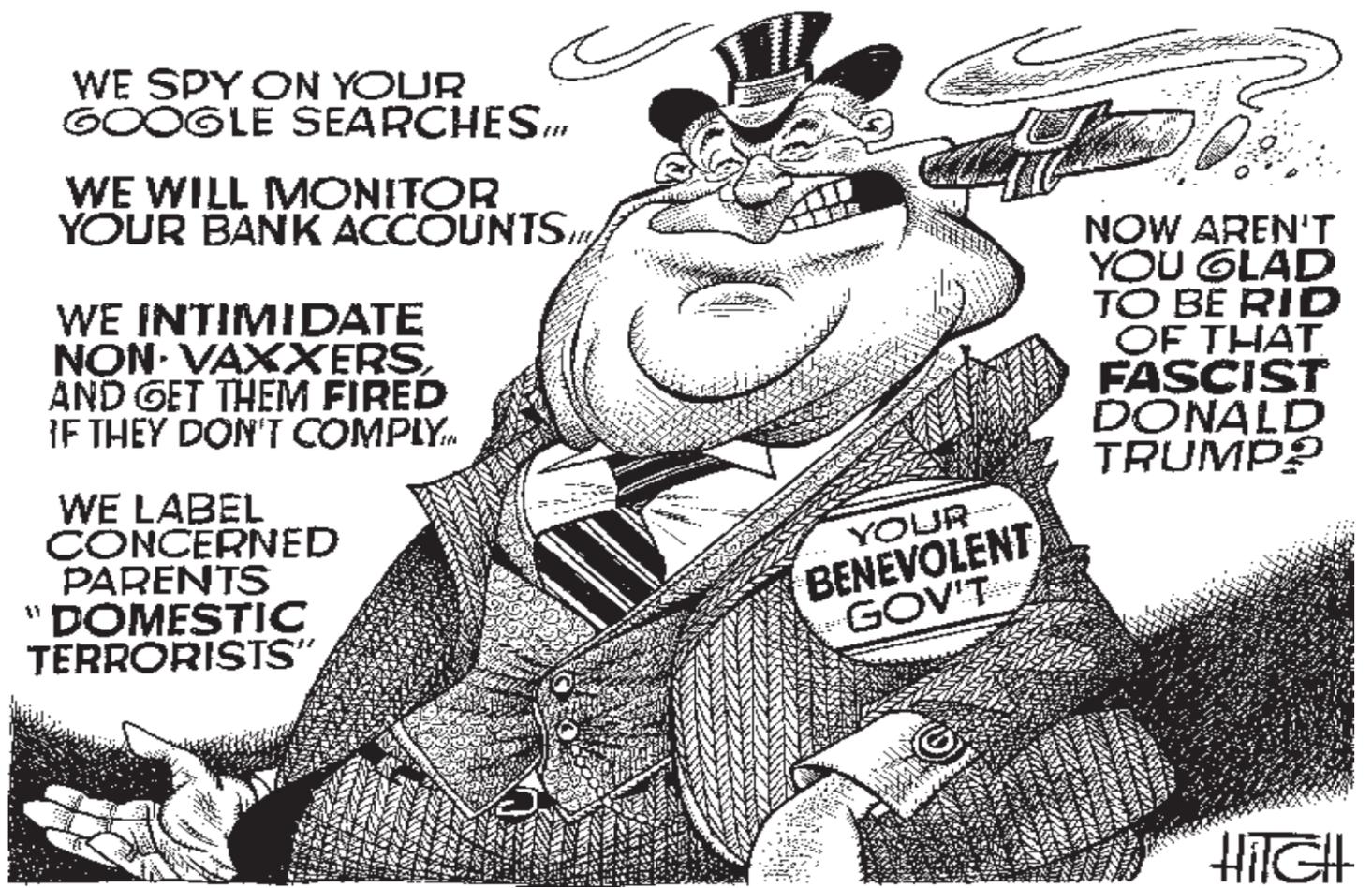
even just thinking about not following a rule.

Sound familiar? In all parts of our society today, too many people are spending time looking at their neighbors suspiciously, or are ready to turn that cell phone camera on you if they don't agree with what you are doing or what you stand for.

I have no problem whatsoever with organizations being careful, but this goes way too far.

Throughout time, whenever a people gives up its rights and privacies for what the government says is for their own good, or for the good of the state – be very afraid. Because they never stop there. More and more rights are taken away.

Think about it. If the NFL can get millionaire athletes and coaches to comply with this invasion of privacy – what do you think is next for the rest of us?



Super Crossword

CELEBRITY DOINGS

- ACROSS**
- 1 Costco rival
 - 9 Machine arranging sheets
 - 17 "That's icky!"
 - 20 Short, amusing tale
 - 21 Made a rustling sound
 - 22 Debate side
 - 23 "Beverly Hills 90210" actress
 - 24 Most reserved competing in a bee?
 - 25 Capitol Hill VIP
 - 26 Suffix with propyl
 - 27 Fish eggs
 - 28 Beatle bride of 1969
 - 29 "_Pea
 - 30 "V for Vendetta" star doing wickerwork?
 - 38 Later time of life
 - 41 Kind of PC screen
 - 42 Most reserved clipping rams?
 - 50 Actress _ Dawn Chong
 - 51 Yarn coils
 - 52 Ontario border lake
 - 53 The "E" of QED
 - 55 Manhattan sch.
 - 56 Bridal gown material
 - 58 Hindu sage
 - 63 "Charlotte's Web" star using fireplace

- bellows?
- 68 Tarzan, e.g.
- 70 Was inactive
- 71 Minnesota port
- 72 "A Brief History of Time" author peddling goods?
- 79 Transparent kitchen wrap
- 80 Actor Haim or Feldman
- 81 Fair-hiring inits.
- 82 Batting avg., e.g.
- 85 Rocket org.
- 86 See 109-Across
- 89 Lead-in to mo or pitch
- 90 "Paracelsus" poet making toast?
- 96 Dazed state
- 98 Atty.'s gp.
- 99 Epic poem by Virgil
- 100 "Tom Jones" novelist catching pop flies?
- 107 Nothing but
- 108 Week unit
- 109 With 86-Across, "You bet!"
- 110 Discontinuity
- 113 Actress Gasteyer
- 114 "Family Huddle" co-author rowing?
- 122 Kindled
- 123 Legendary lost island
- 124 Employees' clip-ons
- 125 Milwaukee-to-

- Miami dir.
- 126 Soda jerk's workplace
- 127 Locale of Iraq and Israel
- DOWN**
- 1 Fill fully
 - 2 In a while
 - 3 Nothing but
 - 4 _-fi film
 - 5 Successors of LPs
 - 6 Cut (off)
 - 7 In _ surgery
 - 8 Less than
 - 9 15-season CBS show
 - 10 Have
 - 11 Sawmill sight
 - 12 In need of a refill of
 - 13 See 49-Down
 - 14 Pound
 - 15 20-volume ref. work
 - 16 Tpk., e.g.
 - 17 High hairdo
 - 18 Welcomes
 - 19 Sincere
 - 24 Director Ang
 - 29 _ terrier
 - 30 Laugh sound
 - 31 Trendy Aussie boots
 - 32 Techie type
 - 33 "Oh, woe!"
 - 34 Pre-TiVo device
 - 35 Cruel Amin
 - 36 Court legend
 - Arthur

- 37 That gal
- 38 Shrek, e.g.
- 39 Name in jets
- 40 "The Sound of Music" refrain starter
- 44 Shipped out
- 45 "Hey there"
- 46 Ample, in dialect
- 47 _ pot (nasal cavity rinser)
- 48 Big smile
- 49 With 13-Down, do some karaoke, e.g.
- 54 Florida city
- 56 Serpentine
- 57 Debate side
- 58 Ugly remark
- 59 Cardiff locale
- 60 Not-to-be-missed thing
- 61 Gathered
- 62 "Sorta"
- 64 Madeline of "First Family"
- 65 Single bill
- 66 "... even _ speak"
- 67 Rx safety org.
- 68 Burro
- 69 Sch. org.
- 73 Va. neighbor
- 74 Emcee
- 75 Sheik, e.g.
- 76 Frau's "no"
- 77 Former Spice Girl
- Haliwell
- 78 Frayed
- 83 Jai follower
- 84 Sondheim's
- Sweeney
- 85 Brand of spongy

- toys
- 86 Goose's kin
- 87 The same, in French
- 88 Brand of luxury Swiss watches
- 90 Be behind schedule
- 91 Grand Ole _
- 92 Male tyke
- 93 "Cool!," '90s-style
- 94 Honshu sash
- 95 ICU staffers
- 96 Sandbanks
- 97 Nadal's sport
- 101 Rustic verse
- 102 Bother badly
- 103 City northwest of Grenoble
- 104 OB-_ (med. specialist)
- 105 West African nation
- 106 Tangential remark
- 110 Ardently fond
- 111 Son of Hera
- 112 Furtive "Hey there!"
- 114 Dawber of "Mork & Mindy"
- 115 Platonic "H"
- 116 Utmost
- 117 "O Sole _"
- 118 Deadly cobra
- 119 Rockets' org.
- 120 Long-snouted fish
- 121 Poem variety

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| 113 | | | | | 114 | 115 | | | | 116 | 117 | 118 | | | | 119 | 120 | 121 | | |
| 122 | | | | | 123 | | | | | | | | | | 124 | | | | | |
| 125 | | | | | 126 | | | | | | | | | | 127 | | | | | |

Comix

OUT ON A LIMB By Gary Kopervas

TOUGH DAY
AROUND THE ARK
FOR NOAH...



AMBER WAVES By Dave T. Phipps



THE SPATS By Jeff Pickering



R.F.D. By Mike Marland



TIGER By Bud Blake



Lowry

From Page 3

that, depending on the proposal's final design, unsubsidized families could be exposed to increased costs without getting additional government help. He cited the hypothetical of a dual-earning family that feels the squeeze of increased costs, so one spouse quits to lessen the household's income and qualify

for subsidies.

"Normally people who quit jobs to take care of their kids do so in order to save the money they'd have to spend on child care," he wrote. "Under this plan, they have to quit their job in order to afford child care!"

On top of this, the House proposal prohibits government funds to upgrade child care facilities from being spent on facilities "used primarily for sectarian instruction or religious

worship." This is a clear shot across the bow of church-based child care, one unlikely to pass muster with the Supreme Court.

Biden's presidency so far has been a long exercise in ideologically driven governance removed from reality. The child care proposal is no different.

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

You are never too old for HPV infection

DEAR DR. ROACH: I read your recent column stating that the HPV vaccine is recommended up to age 45. Are people older than 45 years no longer susceptible to HPV? Asking for a 52-year-old friend (who thinks he's Wolverine). – C.F.



The comic character Wolverine has a mutant healing ability (that's how he was able to survive having his bones replaced with adamantium), so he has nothing to worry about. However, non-mutants do have to worry about HPV, which can come from any kind of skin-to-skin contact with a person who has HPV.

Having the virus often means having warts, but sometimes people can have contagious HPV without having any visible lesion. It's been estimated that 90% of people with HPV don't know they have it.

People of any age are susceptible to HPV. Most people have been exposed by age 45, which is why the recommendations are the way they are now, but vaccination might make sense in some situations. The clearest example is someone who has had very few sexual partners and is about to become more sexually active (for example, a person recently divorced or widowed).

Although the vaccine is not indicated by the Food and Drug Administration in this situation and the person is likely going to have to pay out of pocket, it might still be worth it to get the vaccine to reduce the risk of acquiring a new sexually transmitted HPV infection. I received several letters from people who acquired new genital warts in just this situation who were upset that their doctor did not offer the vaccine.

If people have already been exposed to HPV, the vaccine will not harm them. In fact, there is some anecdotal evidence that the vaccine might help people with difficult-to-treat warts by boosting the immune system specifically for HPV.

DEAR DR. ROACH: I'm a 79-year-old male in relatively good health. During the past year, I have lost underarm hair. What could be the cause? And is there a connection with the inability to get aroused? – A.F.

I would be concerned about low testosterone.

Androgens, particularly testosterone, are responsible for growth and maintenance of body hair. Loss of body hair, especially pubic and axillary hair, is not common with low testosterone levels unless the testosterone was very low for a long period of time, usually over a year. Other symptoms of low testosterone include loss of muscle mass, lower energy levels, decreased libido and depression. Not all men will get all symptoms, but having more than one symptom is suggestive of low testosterone, especially in men who have difficulty getting an erection.

Your doctor should check your testosterone. Ideally, the sample should be drawn while fasting between 8 and 10 a.m. when levels are normally highest, and should take into account the age of the person being tested.

Testosterone replacement is appropriate for men with symptoms of low testosterone and clear evidence by laboratory of a repeatedly low level. Testosterone replacement is safe for most men, but is generally not given to men with a history of prostate or breast cancer. Testosterone should be given with caution to men with obstructive sleep apnea and men with symptomatic prostate enlargement.

The data so far suggest that testosterone replacement in deficient men does not increase risk of prostate cancer.

Dr. Roach regrets that he is unable to answer individual questions, but will incorporate them in the column whenever possible. Readers may email questions to ToYourGoodHealth@med.cornell.edu. (c) 2021 North America Synd., Inc. All Rights Reserved.

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Moore Texas by Roger MOORE
Nov. 23, 1969: The first in-space news conference was held between astronauts and journalists at NASA.

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: M equals W

MDTZ SYHKX NYH STKK
ZDO MYYX YG UYAO XVRVRP
GHLRVZHL0 FOVRP OTZOR FN
ZOLAVZOU? ZTFKO GYYX.

Answer Page 4

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|--|---|
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| 7 | | | | | | 6 | | 4 |
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| 6 | | | | 5 | | 3 | | |
| | | 4 | | 7 | | | | 1 |
| | 8 | | 3 | 4 | | | | 2 |

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ◆◆

◆ Moderate ◆◆ Challenging

Answer Page 4

◆◆◆ HOO BOY!

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Here's how to find where vet is buried



by Freddy Groves

The Veterans Legacy Memorial website has been expanded by 500,000 names at 93 veterans cemeteries across the country. This is in addition to the 4 million names already there at 155 cemeteries.

The VLM is a digital platform and repository for information on veterans buried in those cemeteries. Friends and family can add biographies, photos, documents and other information to the listing for each veteran as a way of paying tribute. So far, 22,000 friends and families have added information to their veteran's profile page.

For those of us who live far from the cemeteries where our veterans are buried, being able to add to a legacy page helps. For me, my family is only partially covered at

this point. My grandfather at Fort Sam is in the database. Another relative at Riverside is in the database. Three others aren't, including my parents at Arlington National. They are, however, in ANC's website, although there is no way to add photos (except for the photo of the marker that is already there) or stories or biographies.

Perhaps Arlington will be among those added in the half-million new names. Eventually the project intends to cover veterans buried in state and local cemeteries, as well as private cemeteries.

To look for your veteran, go to www.vlm.cem.va.gov and put in the name – first name last name, no comma. Click on the FAQ for more information.

To find a veteran at Arlington National, go to www.arlingtoncemetery.mil.

If your veteran is listed in the Veterans Legacy Memorial, contribute to the profile. Pictures are a great addition, as is bio information and personal

stories.

As a side note, Wreaths Across America will be on Saturday, Dec. 18, 2021. See their website (www.wreathsacrossamerica.org) for ways you can help with wreath-laying at the 2,500 locations.

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- Three ways to use an empty tissue box: 1) Store plastic grocery bags inside; 2) line with a small plastic trash bag and use in your car as a travel trash can; 3) cut out the bottom and use it to disguise an extra toilet tissue roll in your guest bath!

- Love oranges? Save the peels to add to your potpourri mix. Remove as much of the pith as possible and cut into strips. Air dry in bright light for about a week. Or you can set the strips on parchment and dry in a partially closed oven set to 175 F for about 45 minutes. Check often.

- "To separate yolks from egg whites, simply crack eggs into a shallow bowl and 'suck' the yolk out using an empty plastic water bottle. Squeeze the bottle slightly, then position the mouth of the bottle at the yolk and let go. It will magically slide up into the bottle, leaving the whites behind!" – T.T. in New York

- "When the last serving of jam has been used, I will happily add some oil and vinegar to the jar, along with a few choice spices, then shake. It's an instant vinaigrette, with a fruity tang." – C.L. in Tennessee

- Keep your jeans or other denim items from fading by soaking them in a solution of cold water and salt (2 tablespoons to a gallon) for about an hour before washing.

- "To clean a can opener, get it wet and run a folded paper towel through it while turning the handle. Works best if done after each use." – H.P. in Washington

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

GO FIGURE!

by Linda Thistle

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

DIFFICULTY: ★

★ Moderate ★★ Difficult

★★★ GO FIGURE!

Answer Page 4

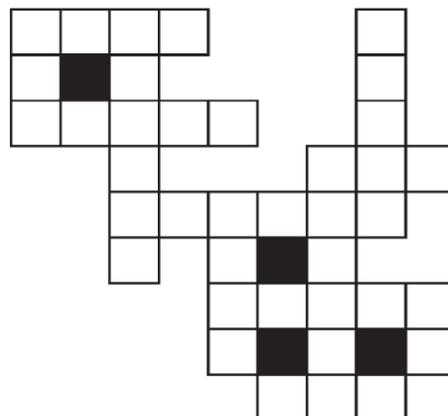
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- OOZ
- WHKA
- SLAAT
- ♥ATR
- ZECDRA
- TWAZL
- ♥OTIR



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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