



NEWSBRIEFS

Finders keepers

The vacation Mr. and Mrs. Noreen Wredberg and her husband took in Arkansas paid for itself – big time. While there, the California tourists made it a point to visit Crater of Diamonds State Park. “I first saw the park featured on a TV show several years ago. When I realized we weren’t too far away, I knew we had to come,” Mrs. Wredberg told reporters after finding the biggest diamond found in the park this year. She and her husband had been strolling through the park for less than an hour when she spotted the gem sparkling in the sunlight – a 4.38 carat yellow diamond, worth about \$15,330 or more. The park has a “finders keepers” policy for visitors who find diamonds.

– John Grimaldi

Eerie ghost town

An unusual ghost town suddenly appeared in Utah when a drought caused the Rockport Reservoir in Summit County to start drying up. Photographer Devon Dewey visited the reservoir and used a drone to record a bird’s eye view of the scene. “It was really interesting to be standing at an overlook for the reservoir and to see faint traces of foundations of old homes and a road all below where the water would normally be. The whole area is pretty flat and uniform, so even though the foundations are old and mostly gone, you can still see them clearly.”

– John Grimaldi

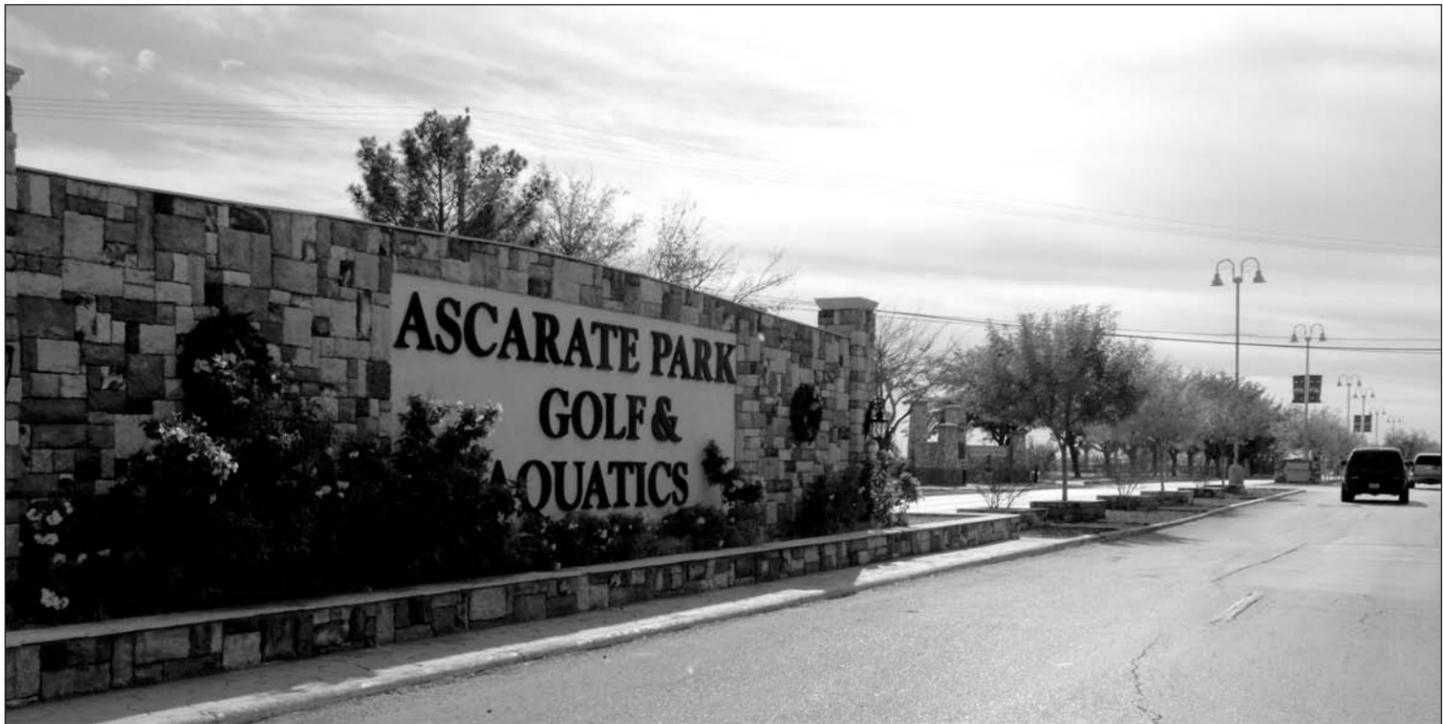
Mr. Goxx, the trader

Most of us might have a hard time understanding the ins and outs of cryptocurrency trading but an investor by the name of Mr. Goxx seems to have an instinct for this 21st century financial trend, though it’s likely he, too, doesn’t know cryptocurrencies from cheese. You see, Mr. Goxx is a hamster and his portfolio during a recent three month period showed a return of 24% on his investments, according to Markets Insider, an online financial news source. The Website notes that “Mr. Goxx’s caretaker built the ‘Goxx Box,’ a crypto-rigged office attached to its larger home that gives the hamster the ability to perform various exercises that then execute specific cryptocurrency trades. The hamster can enter its office whenever it wants to make trades.”

– John Grimaldi

Although psychologists tell us that man is afraid of the unknown, it is what we really know that scares us.

– Quips & Quotes



– Photo by Alfredo Vasquez

LIT UP – Ascarate Park will be shining again, as the *Lights on the Lake* display returns to illuminate the county park along the popular lake through January 7. Other upcoming events include Santa Paws Pet Walk, on Saturday, December 11, and a Healing Garden Labyrinth installation slated for Sunday, December 12.

Ascarate Park’s ‘Lights on the Lake’ honors first responders

By Alfredo Vasquez
Special to the Courier

EL PASO COUNTY – Ascarate Park has donned its veil of glitter once again for the Winter holidays, after last year’s disappointing, scaled down drive-thru celebration because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The return of the *Lights on the Lake* display was rekindled recently with a ceremony that included live entertainment, food trucks, and a special

visit from Santa Claus.

During the kick-off ceremony, El Paso County officials dedicated the lighting exhibit as a tribute to first responders and healthcare workers for their dedication in caring for the sick and their perseverance in the battle against the coronavirus outbreak.

The holiday lights will be turned on for nightly viewing through January 7. The park is open from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. every day, with admission to the park waived two hours before the lights show starts. However, a \$2 parking fee is charged on

Saturdays and Sundays.

The colorful lights and decorations exhibit is under the auspices of the El Paso County Parks and Recreation department. The parks and recreation crews have been providing county residents with this spectacular viewing for the past seven year.

Additionally, the park’s holiday lights will shine in conjunction with the Night of Hope Memorial. “As it did last year, *A Night of Hope* will light up the night sky in Ascarate Park to help bring hope to our community and to honor healthcare workers and first responders for their continued sacrifice and dedication to the El Paso community during the ongoing coronavirus pandemic,” stated county officials in a recent news release.

County receives funds from pharmaceutical settlement

By Alfredo Vasquez
Special to the Courier

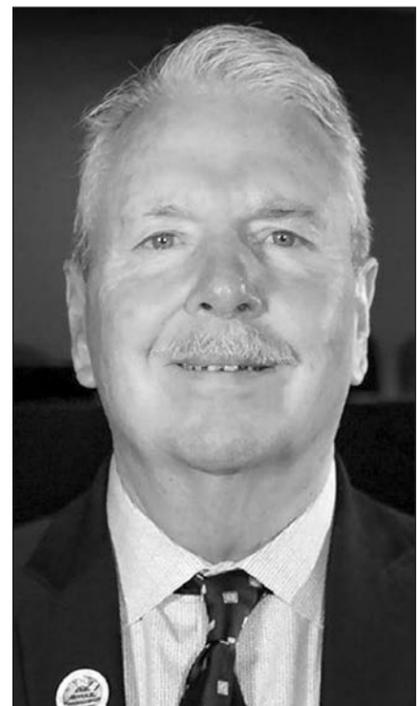
EL PASO COUNTY – El Paso County is in line to receive hundreds of thousands of dollars from the Johnson & Johnson pharmaceutical company, after the Texas Attorney General’s office agreed to a \$290 million opioid lawsuit settlement, with the funds being overseen by the Texas Opioid Council, El Paso County officials announced recently.

Texas’ multi-million-dollar agreement earmarks allotments that will be distributed throughout the state to compensate for costs tied to the opioid epidemic which was exacerbated by the pharmaceutical company’s role. The settlement is one of the largest of its kind in the state and may not be the last, according to county officials. They stated that litigation against other pharmaceutical supply chain participants continues, and future settlements are possible.

County officials asserted that residents of El Paso communities have been harmed by licit and illicit opioid use and distribution in the county as well as the state, costing taxpayers a lot of money.

As part of a settlement with the pharmaceutical company, El Paso County will receive \$682,459 in reparations to cover local costs created by the opioid epidemic. Additionally, \$4.73 million will be available to local programs and organizations in El Paso and Hudspeth counties that have experienced a negative economic impact because of the opioid epidemic over the years.

“Overdoses, treatment of addicts, jailed persons due to opioids are all paid for with taxpayer dollars,” El Paso County Judge Ricardo Samaniego stated in a recent news release. “This settlement allows us to recover some of that money to use for other necessities in our county and address the profound collateral impact caused by this epidemic,” he added.



El Paso County Judge Ricardo Samaniego recently declared pharmaceutical companies, that are a part of the supply chain for opioids, are finally being held accountable by communities across the state.



Dime time

(Publisher's note: This is the last column from Bob Franken. King Features Syndicate, Inc. has removed his column from their distribution list.)

In 1931, smack dab at the beginning of the Great Depression (although, when was any depression "great"?), it was a big hit: "Brother Can You Spare a Dime?" Today, 90 years later, what with inflation, the 10 cents of yesteryear has a purchasing power of \$1.82, so the song in 2021 would be "Brother Could You Spare a Buck 82?" It doesn't have the same pizzazz, does it?

John D. Rockefeller used to throw dimes at the crowds he encountered. Rockefeller was the

rich guy of his generation, sort of like Donald Trump, except that Rockefeller was successful in business and Trump was a failure in business but was a success in politics, rising to president once... or twice, if you believe him. As president, in 2017, Donald Trump tossed paper towels at his audience while delivering aid to hurricane-devastated Puerto Rico. He was always that sensitive.

He has been replaced in the White House by Joe Biden, but Biden faces a threat that is known as a saboteur of more than one chief executive: inflation. Rising consumer prices are death to a presidency. Voters don't want to hear about supply chains; they don't even know what a supply chain is, no matter how many times TV news broadcasts the same jammed ships stuck full of cargo containers coming from China.

They don't want to hear about the tragic pandemic that also did lasting harm to the world economy and is causing prices to rise to the highest rates in 30 years. They do want someone to blame for the cost of cars, and the gas that powers them, as they head to the grocery store and to shop for the Christmas gifts they can't afford, even online, even misdelivered.

No matter how many jobs the new infrastructure legislation creates, inflation is a politician's nightmare – that is, for the one who is in office. For the one who is running against the incumbent, it's a dream come true. Joe Biden becomes his or her scapegoat. It's no matter that he's less than a year into office and he has three years to go, the heart of the American electorate is located wherever the wallet is.

And the spiral of inflation only gets more intense. From a

government point of view, acts by Congress or congressional inaction can only make the economy more, uh, depressing. Let's suppose the chicken-playing members of the House and Senate miscalculate, or the administration does, and doesn't pass a raise to the debt ceiling. That will require the United States of America to become a deadbeat in that it is forced to default on its bills. That'll cause inflation to get worse at the same time that production lags because of market forces. Put another way, a supply chain is only as strong as its weakest link.

No matter who is at fault, the president gets the blame. The president is Joe Biden. Even if he stole the election in the grandest of grand larcenies – as Trump absurdly alleged – he's still the president and will get the blame.

So, Donald Trump can take his cheap shots as the blamer, and Biden will be the blamee. At least if it's a repeat of the 2020

campaign in 2024. Anyone who holds out hope that Trump's legal problems will overwhelm him, including the charges of direct involvement in the Jan. 6 insurrection at the Capitol, should not dream that he will face legal accountability. He won't. He can demagogue away any charge, no matter how much evidence exists. Besides, inflation as an issue trumps even treason.

Joe Biden knows, or he should know, that the economy is deadly as a campaign issue, particularly when it comes to eating a rising paycheck. And even if they recede or level off, he does not get credit for it. Joe Biden is caught up in that reality battle where the dime store is replaced by the dollar store. It's made for Donald Trump, whose claim to success is inflating or twisting reality.

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

The FDA's gut vs. your child's heart

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has set up a flimsy, or fake, barrier to reaping multi-billion-dollar profits from COVID-vaccine boosters or pediatric shots.

The Vaccines and Related Biological Products Advisory Committee (VRBPAC) voted 19-to-0 in favor of Moderna boosters for high-risk adults. "The data itself is not strong, but it is certainly going in the direction that is supportable of this vote," stated Dr. Patrick Moore of the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine. He admitted that his vote was based largely on a "gut feeling rather than truly serious data."

He must know that "authorization" is likely followed by "no jab, no job" mandates – or pressure to inject children.

Americans should look at the truly serious data for themselves. Even non-experts can ask: Are fewer people dying now that we have these amazing vaccines.

The statistics about deaths from or with COVID-19 are muddled by controversy and federal incentives to diagnose COVID-19. The key unbiased measure is the all-cause mortality rate.

Excess deaths – a death rate higher than the average in pre-COVID years – peaked in late 2020, reaching about 50 percent above normal in age groups older than 14. After dropping to almost to normal, they started to rise rapidly late in 2021 as the majority of the adult population was getting jabbed.

There are 24 countries and 16 states where cases reached all-time highs after vaccine rollouts. The most vaccinated place on earth – Gibraltar with virtually 100 percent vaccination – has an outbreak so severe that they are canceling Christmas.

Americans are afraid that the federal government will cancel Christmas too (along with their livelihood just after Christmas), if they don't behave and get shots for themselves and their children, now the least vaccinated group.

In the 0–14 age group, mortality is below average now. What will happen when we rush the youngsters to vaccination centers?

Nothing would be worse at Christmas than having your child die or be in the hospital with heart failure. Are such events extremely rare or "usually mild," as the FDA and public health authorities proclaim? The world's most published cardiologist, Peter A. McCullough, M.D., says myocarditis is "neither rare nor mild."

Truly serious data was presented at the VRBPAC meeting where one-third strength Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine was authorized for children age 5–11, with no negative votes.

High-tech engineer Steve Kirsch estimated that in the U.S. COVID-19 vaccines would kill 150,000 and save about 10,000 lives. Citing risk-benefit expert Dr. Toby Rogers, Kirsch estimated that the Pfizer product would kill 117 children for each life saved. One cardiologist reported seeing 100 times more myocarditis since the vaccine rollout.

If your child gets an inflamed heart for Christmas, he might recover, but won't be able to ride his new bicycle or run and play for three–six months.

Such information apparently doesn't count. "We're not going to get the data until

we start using the vaccine [widely]," said Dr. Mark Sawyer, an infectious disease specialist. "We're never going to learn about how safe this vaccine is unless we start giving it and that's just the way it goes," said Dr. Eric Rubin, editor-in-chief of the New England Journal of Medicine.

Despite the unknowns, the American Medical Association (AMA), the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), and others promote widespread jabs, even without parental consent or knowledge. Parents unaware of the jab are not likely to recognize the significance of mild chest discomfort.

Your family doctor may advise, or insist, that you and your children be "fully" jabbed. Could it be that, like the Grinch, their hearts are two sizes too small? Could it be faith in government, Big Pharma, academics, and organized medicine? Distrust of their own judgment or opinions of those outside of medicine, like Steve Kirsch, who are not subject to delicensure or cancellation? Fear of loss of their career?

This fear was apparently so intense it caused one physician to cancel himself. Dr. Thomas Jendges, age 55, head of the Chemnitz Clinic in Germany, committed suicide by jumping from the top of the clinic's building. In his lengthy farewell letter, Dr. Jendges is said to have harshly criticized the information policy of governments in dealing with the dangerousness of COVID-19 vaccines. He apparently was threatened with being fired if he did not submit, and wrote that he could no longer endure the constant lies.

Whatever their reason for hating the non-compliant Whos, the anti-Christmas, anti-liberty Grinches cannot claim to be "following the science," when they are really following orders, the money, or some expert's gut feelings.

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



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The king of hypocrisy

Nike's latest TV ad is another slick paean to individual empowerment and prevailing despite the naysayers.

Centered around Memphis Grizzlies star Ja Morant, the commercial features various people doubting that Morant can keep up his stellar play, to which someone always cheekily replies, "Says who?"

Yes, Nike believes anything is possible – so long as it doesn't involve doing anything to cross one of the world's most hideously repressive regimes.

The grotesque hypocrisy of the Nike-NBA industrial complex and its biggest star, LeBron James, has been underlined in recent weeks by Boston Celtics player Enes Kanter, who has been on a one-man crusade against the Chinese Communist Party and those too cowardly or greedy to call it out.

James – the owner of four NBA championship rings who has appeared in a jaw-dropping 10 NBA finals – has views on all sorts of public controversies and doesn't hesitate to air them so long as they are comfortably within the fashionable woke consensus.

On China, though, he's mute. So are his employers. They all portray themselves as

champions of social justice and of courage and striving, but their commitment to these causes and values stops at the water's edge – and at their bottom line.

When a couple of years ago, the Houston Rockets general manager got thrown under the bus by the NBA for tweeting in support of pro-democracy protestors in Hong Kong, King James pronounced him "not educated on the situation."

The Lakers forward affirmed a right to free speech – thanks, GOAT! – but said we have to be careful what we say. "So many people," he warned, "could have been harmed, not only financially but physically, emotionally, spiritually."

Never has so much harm been attributed to a small message of public support for plucky idealists about to be steamrolled by a totalitarian government.

During the Kyle Rittenhouse trial, by the way, James mocked Rittenhouse's tears on the stand, doubting they were real – apparently because he's an expert on what constitutes genuine signs of post-traumatic stress.

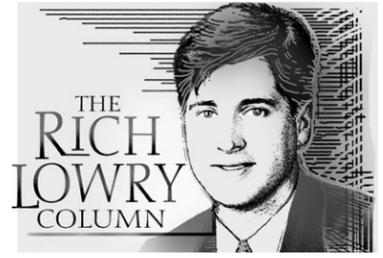
If Rittenhouse had control over whether a vast market would be open to James and the corporations he's affiliated with, the Lakers star surely would

have stayed silent.

When Kanter tweeted, "Money over Morals for the 'King,'" and wore sneakers portraying James bowing down to get crowned by Chinese dictator Xi Jinping for a Celtics-Lakers game, James brushed it off. He accused Kanter of "trying to use my name to create an opportunity for himself."

Actually, Kanter's activism, calling out his league and a massively influential corporation, is what everyone says they value – a lonely, unwelcome campaign against well-heeled interests too compromised to defy a powerful entity perpetrating rank injustices.

After Nike got blowback in China for a relatively anodyne statement expressing concern about forced labor in Xinjiang – the epicenter of the regime's

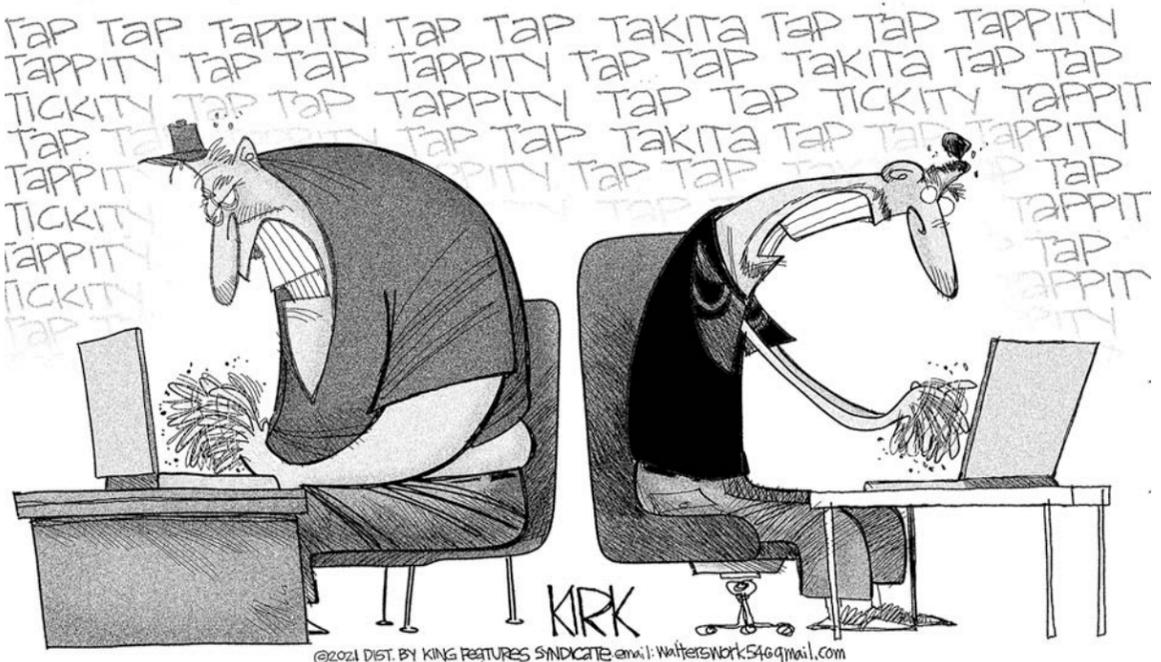


repression of the Uyghurs – the company's CEO said Nike is "a brand of China and for China."

Nike lobbied Congress to

See LOWRY, Page 7

FOLKS WHO BECAME EXPERTS ON COVID AFTER FIVE MINUTES ON THE INTERNET NOW ARGUE ABOUT THE VERDICT IN THE RITTENHOUSE CASE LIKE THEY ACTUALLY WATCHED IT.



Anthony ISD Board of Trustees approves substitute pay increase



Ana Prieto, right, substitutes at Anthony Elementary School Dec. 1.

— Photo courtesy Anthony ISD

By Adriana Candelaria
Special to the Courier

ANTHONY, TX—The Anthony Independent School District's Board of Trustees approved a salary increase for substitute teachers during the 2021-2022 school year, making Anthony ISD one of the highest-paying school districts for substitute teachers in the El Paso region.

Salaries were increased by \$40 per day for substitute teachers without a college degree. Non-certified candidates with a bachelor's degree received an additional \$35 per day pay. Certified or retired substitute teachers received a pay increase of \$50 per day.

The pay increase was approved Nov. 17 and became effective immediately. Candidates with at least 12 college credit hours are being paid \$110 per day. Degreed candidates without a teacher certification are receiving \$135 per day of substitute teaching. Certified or retired teachers are receiving a pay of \$170 per day.

The decision to increase the pay for substitute teachers was made to attract qualified candidates and to address hiring challenges during the nationwide shortage of substitute teachers.

Candidates must have at least 12 college credit hours, provide three letters of recommendation and pass a background check.

Interested applicants may apply on the district's website anthonyisd.net.

Strange BUT TRUE

By Lucie Winborne

- "Scotch" used to be a synonym for "thrifty" or "frugal." When cellophane tape was first invented, it was marketed during the Great Depression as "Scotch tape" since it could extend the life of objects and save you money.

- A grizzly bear has enough bite strength to crush a bowling ball.

- There is a psychological state called "helper's high" in which the act of giving produces endorphins in the brain that provide a mild version of a morphine high.

- Table tennis balls can travel off the paddle at a speed of 105.6 mph.

- From 1932 to 1967, there was a casino called the "Bullpen" in a stone building on the grounds of the Nevada State prison in Carson City, where inmates could play blackjack, craps, poker and bet on sports.

- Scientists estimate that the average person is more than five times as likely to die in a hypothetical human species extinction event as in a car crash.

- A man sued Warner Bros. — and won — after he was injured while fainting during a 1974 screening of "The Exorcist."

- The 700-year-old Starkenberger brewery in Tarrenz, Austria, has seven swimming pools filled with beer. The brewery, which is housed in an ancient castle, converted the old vats in the fermentation room to pools.

- A 19th-century costume designer invented the horned Viking helmet.

- In 1994, Chicago artist Dwight Kalb made a statue of singer Madonna from 180 pounds of ham.

Thought for the Day: "A well-educated mind will always have more questions than answers."

— Helen Keller

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Food for thought By Dr. Glenn Mollette

What about the other Ethan Crumbleys?

We are unfortunately informed once again of another horrific, senseless school shooting. They don't stop. When will the next one be? Who will be the next shooter and who will be the next unsuspecting victims?

Once again, American kids go to school to pursue education and American life but are murdered by a classmate while walking the hallway or sitting in a class. This has to stop. Will it ever?

According to news reports, on November 30, 2021, Ethan Crumbley, a fifteen-year-old, took the lives of four schoolmates and injured seven others at Oxford High School, a Detroit, Michigan suburb.

Crumbley has once again reminded us of the horrific outcomes of mental illness and the importance of parents, teachers, churches and communities working together to protect each other.

According to news reports, the Oxford school was alerted to Crumbley's disturbing social media posts, drawings depicting violence, and other actions that had called for his parents to come to the school for a serious talk about their child. Reports of the parents buying a semi-automatic weapon for their son's Christmas present and taking him to a shooting range for practice is revealing their denial of, as well their failure to address, their son's problems.

My dad gave me some shotgun lessons when I was growing up. I was turned loose in the hills of Appalachia to hunt for squirrels at the age of 12 with a hunting license. Parents teaching their children to shoot a weapon and hunt are as old as our nation. However, parents should never provide their children access to guns when there are obvious warnings of mental illness.

Past school shooters have talked about being bullied by classmates or not fitting into any of the school social groups. Rejection, being bullied, failure to make the school team or feeling outright

mistreated makes anyone feel bad, dejected and disappointed. Such feelings should be a push to any of us to look at ourselves to see how we either must adjust, change, work harder, problem solve as to what is happening or even find a different school or community in which to live. Hurting others never resolves anything and only increases our pain, darkness and sentences the rest of our lives to prison or regret of how we handled our feelings.

School can be a difficult life learning ground. What we face in the local school often is only preparing us for what we may face at the office, the factory, the workplace and the neighborhood. Throughout life we know everyone is not going to like us, accept us, applaud us or even try to get along with us. There are always people who don't like us. However, there are people who will affirm, support, and befriend us. Sometimes it just takes a while to find those communities, houses of faith, social groups, and others with whom we can emotionally connect.

The Ethan Crumbleys of the world are sad, scary and wreak destruction. They need help now. His life and many other lives are forever destroyed. Apparently, his parents were living in some sort of disconnected denial of what their son was really about to do to himself, them and many others.

Schools and work places must have all authority to protect themselves quickly. Oxford school officials were alarmed by some of his actions. They were trying to work with the parents. Looking back, he should have been escorted out of the school and barred from its grounds until a professional counselor had given written permission for his return. I know, hindsight is always 20/20.

Sadly, for those who are now dead, it's too late. Maybe the other Ethan Crumbleys can be stopped today, right now, before it's too late.

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People know Pueblo for its...



Famous Hot Salsa?

In Pueblo, the free government information is also hot. Spice up your life by dipping into the Consumer Information Center web site, www.pueblo.gsa.gov. You can download all the information right away. Sorry, salsa not available through our web site or Catalog.



CryptoQuip Answer

Apparently I'm looking at only one fish swimming in that pond. It's two sides of the same koi.

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Moments in time

THE HISTORY CHANNEL

• On Dec. 6, 1917, a devastating blast occurs when the Mont Blanc, a French munitions ship, explodes after colliding with another vessel in Halifax harbor in Nova Scotia. The Mont Blanc was packed with 2,300 tons of picric acid, 200 tons of TNT and 35 tons of high-octane gasoline.

• On Dec. 7, 1941, a swarm of 360 Japanese warplanes descends on the U.S. naval base at Pearl Harbor in Hawaii in a ferocious early morning assault. The surprise attack devastated the U.S. Pacific fleet and drew the United States into World War II.

• On Dec. 8, 1982, "Sophie's Choice," starring Meryl Streep as a Holocaust survivor, opens in theaters. The "choice" refers to a terrible decision Streep's character is forced to make about which of her two children will live or die while in a concentration camp.

• On Dec. 9, 1950, Harry Gold, who confessed to serving as a courier of top-secret information on the atomic bomb, is sentenced to 30 years in prison. Gold implicated his brother-in-law and sister, Julius and Ethel Rosenberg, who were later executed for espionage.

• On Dec. 10, 1967, soul legend Otis Redding dies in a plane crash in Wisconsin. "(Sittin' on) The Dock of the Bay" would be released in its "unfinished" form several weeks later. The whistled verse was a placeholder for additional lyrics that Redding had yet to write.

• On Dec. 11, 1872, already appearing as a well-known figure of the Wild West in popular dime novels, Buffalo Bill Cody makes his first stage appearance in a Chicago-based production of "The Scouts of the Prairie."

• On Dec. 12, 1901, Italian physicist and radio pioneer Guglielmo Marconi succeeds in sending the first radio transmission across the Atlantic Ocean, disproving detractors who said the curvature of the earth would limit transmission to 200 miles or less.

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Food for thought By John Grimaldi

The holiday season brings out the 'Elder Fraud' scammer

'Tis the season to be jolly and for seniors to beware of fraudsters who target the elderly this time of the year. What makes older folk more susceptible to becoming targets for scammers during the holiday season? The consensus is that the older we get the more charitable we become, says the Association of Mature American Citizens (AMAC).

The National Institutes of Health calls it "positivity bias." It's a condition that makes "older adults draw more positive affect from both the planning and outcome of monetary donations and hence benefit more from engaging in monetary charity than their younger counterparts."

According to the FBI, scammers target seniors "because they tend to be trusting and polite. They also usually have financial savings, own a home, and have good credit – all of which make them attractive to scammers... Additionally, seniors may be less inclined to report fraud because they don't know how, or they may be too ashamed at having been scammed."

The phone rings and the caller identifies himself or herself as representing a charitable organization that helps needy kids or disadvantaged families. He or she asks for an over the phone credit card donation. There are variations of this particular scam. For example, the caller may say that a relative is in trouble and needs money and gets an elderly "mark" to wire funds.

And then there are the con artists who prefer the person-to-person approach. They'll hand around the mall looking for gray hair and when they spot a likely victim, they will simply approach him or her, recite a well-rehearsed spiel tale of need and ask for a handout. A variant of this approach is a bit more theatrical. For example, they will dress for the occasion and represent themselves as an authorized solicitor working for the Salvation Army or a relief organization collecting funds for families displaced by a recent disaster such as a fire, flood or storm, for example.

The Internet has facilitated these types of rip-offs. With more and more seniors becoming tech-savvy and learning how to use a computer, swindlers have yet another way to separate a kind seniors from their money. Email solicitations are growing in popularity among these seasonal thieves. The holidays allow them to stalk

the World Wide Web with seemingly personal messages from organizations and companies that seem very honest. They can make email messages look very real by mimicking the actual logos of legitimate charities and retailers. This technique allows them to get your money via a phony charitable contribution or get you to make a fake holiday purchase online.

Gerry Hafer, Executive Director of the AMAC Foundation, says that AMAC has long been focused on the issue of elder fraud. The Foundation, AMAC, Inc., itself, and its advocacy subsidiary, AMAC Action, have joined forces to create an Elder Fraud Initiative to aid in development of an instructional approach to help seniors protect themselves. The initiative aims to provide a guide for online protection, a sort of how-to protocol for defending against fraud. Hafer reports, "Our website blog page already presents a variety of News & Info posts associated with elder fraud and will soon provide a comprehensive guide for online protection that our tech folks are in the process of preparing."

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

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Anthony Independent School District Notice of Public Hearing

Anthony Independent School District will hold a public hearing to discuss the District's 2019-2020 Annual Accountability Report as part of the regular monthly School Board meeting, which is scheduled for 6:00 p.m., Wednesday, December 16, 2020 at the Anthony Middle School Library, 813 6th Street, Anthony, TX.

The public is invited to attend. The report will also be available for review after the hearing at all Anthony ISD campuses, central office, and the district website.

For more information, call 886-6506.

Junta Publica

Distrito Escolar Independiente de Anthony

El Distrito Escolar Independiente de Anthony llevará a cabo una audiencia pública para discutir el Informe Anual Reporte de Responsabilidad del Distrito 2019-2020 como parte de la reunión mensual de la Mesa Directiva de la Escuela, la cual está programada para las 6:00 pm el miércoles, 16 de diciembre de 2020 en la sala de juntas de la biblioteca de la escuela secundaria de Anthony, 813 6th Street, Anthony, TX.

Todos los individuos interesados están invitados a asistir. El reporte estará disponible después de la reunión en todas las escuelas del distrito, en el edificio de las oficinas administrativas, e internet del distrito.

Para mas información, favor de llamar al 886-6506.

WTCC: 12-10-20



The "It's Only Another Beer"
Black and Tan

8 oz. pilsner lager
8 oz. stout lager
1 frosty mug
1 icy road
1 pick-up truck
1 10-hour day
1 tired worker
A few rounds with the guys

Mix ingredients.
Add 1 totalled vehicle.

Never underestimate 'just a few.'
Buzzed driving is drunk driving.



**Send Your
Newsbrief To:**
wtxcc@wtxcc.com

UTEP's basketball season will be a rollercoaster ride

By Steve Escajeda
Special to the Courier

It may still be early in the season, but after their first seven games, the UTEP basketball team is starting to show who they are and who they will be for the rest of the year.

Let's face it, it's going to be a long season filled with tons of ups and probably even more downs, but Joe Golding's first year as UTEP's basketball coach has already given fans a glimpse of the good times to come.

It's no secret that the Miners don't currently have the kind of talent they need to compete at the highest level of Conference USA. However, there is no team in the league that will compete

harder than Golding's Miners.

In their first seven games, UTEP is 4-3 with predictable wins over softies Western New Mexico, Northern New Mexico College and Florida A&M. The Miners' only win over a "someone their own size" opponent was at Pacific.

The Miners will continue to struggle this season because of three things – rebounding, shooting and distribution.

Any success they have will be because of defense, hustle and sheer will.

The first order of business is to improve the rebounding. Fans will have to be patient with this crop of Miners because they severely lack height. And whatever height they do have, the guys are very young and inexperienced.

Tyodus Verhoeven is the only veteran big guy the Miners have, but he's more

of a complementary player who comes off the bench to provide some rebounding and defense.

The only other two big men who get any playing time are Kevin Kalu, a 6-9 freshman and Bonke Maring, a 6-10 sophomore transfer.

Kalu looks like he'll eventually be a contributor. He has a man's body at 235 pounds but like any freshman, he's raw.

Maring is definitely a project who, though he has the size, will have to improve his footwork and his offense near the basket.

Another area the Miners will struggle from is ability to make baskets. Aside from Souley Boum, UTEP has no consistent shooters.

In their game against UC Riverside, they started 0-18 from the 3-point line

and finished the game 1-for-24.

In their first seven games, the Miners are hitting just 41 percent of their shots. In their last three games, the Miners have hit 26, 35 and 41 percent.

As far distribution, the Miners have a true point guard in Jamal Bieniemy, but because he's being forced to be more of a scorer this year, he isn't setting up the offense or passing the ball the way he can.

UTEP is spending way too much time making just one pass and then chucking up a 3-pointer. This team isn't talented enough offensively to do that, they have to pass the ball and find the open shooter.

But the news isn't all bad. Like I said, there is no team that is going to outthrust and outwork the Miners.

What the Miners lack on offense, they make up with a suffocating defense that reminds you of that pesky mosquito that just won't let you sleep no matter how much you try to wave it away.

Just like those Don Haskins teams of yesteryear, the Miners will never be out of a game no matter how bad they shoot. That defense will force the other guys to struggle shooting the ball. And not just that, this Miners team prides itself in forcing turnovers.

And so far this season, out of the 350 collegiate basketball teams eligible, UTEP is 19th in the country, forcing 18.3 turnovers per game.

Remember, the Miners were just 12-12 a year ago. They have five returners from that team and a bunch of new recruits. It's going to take more time for these guys to mesh into a team.

The enthusiasm and talent of coach Golding is going to improve the type of player that is recruited to UTEP.

But fans are going to have to be patient and wait 2-3 years for the wins to come.

Until then, UTEP fans can enjoy watching a team that plays like its hair is on fire.

They'll win some, they'll lose some, but fans will never go home feeling they didn't get their money's worth.

Gonzalez wins "I Voted" Sticker Contest

By Liza Rodriguez
Special to the Courier

CANUTILLO – Canutillo ISD student Layla M. Gonzalez, a 7th grader from Jose J. Alderete Middle School was named the first-place winner of the

2022 "I Voted" Sticker Contest. She along with the runners-up were honored and recognized on Monday, Dec. 6 by the El Paso County Commissioners Court.

The El Paso County Elections Department invited local middle school students to participate in the second El Paso County "I Voted" sticker design contest. The contest was open to all middle school students in the county and the winning design will be used as the official "I Voted" sticker.

"I was surprised and happy to win," Gonzalez said. "I thought about the star and the mountains and what makes El Paso special to me."

The sticker will be distributed to voters at all Early Voting Locations and Election Day Vote Centers during the 2022 elections. The deadline to submit a design was October 28, 2021.

Judges of the contest consisted of professionals in the El Paso fine arts community that included Christin Apodaca, local Illustrator and Muralist, Chelsie Evaldi, owner of Chuco Relic and Miriam Garcia, Public Art Program Supervisor for the City of El Paso.

"The El Paso County Elections Department was excited to continue working with middle school students and encouraging their participation in the electoral process," Lisa Wise, El Paso County Elections Administrator.

Gonzalez' winning design will make its grand debut during the 2022 elections.



Layla Gonzalez with her First Place plaque.

– Photo courtesy Canutillo ISD

Super Crossword

ON THE BUTTON

- ACROSS**
1 Whiteboard wipers
8 Ballpark figure
16 Ballpark figure
20 "Working Girl" actress Griffith
21 Device guiding a train off its track to avoid a collision
22 Wed. follower
23 Functional again after an outage
25 Gas: Prefix
26 "Do Ya" rock gp.
27 Salty Greek cheese
28 Figure skater Midori
29 "The Pleasure Company" (Fred Astaire film)
30 Musical key with two sharps: Abbr.
32 Brief hesitation to let words hang in the air
38 Napoleon exile site
42 Milan locale
43 Designer McCartney
44 Symbol used twice after "http:"
48 Guys who read gas or water gauges
50 Open space
51 Dwayne who played Dobbie Gillis
53 Apt to snoop
54 Really mean

- 57 Rat- (knock noise)
58 Certain choir voice
62 Summer hrs.
63 Phenomenon in hypnosis
120 Molson, e.g.
121 Government bureaus
122 Deny
123 Little whirlpool
124 Put limits on
125 Possibilities
70 Whac- (carnival game)
71 Emily Dickinson poem with the line "Meek my Vive le roi"
78 Greek letters before xis
79 Henchman of Captain Hook
80 Eerie sign
81 Get 40 winks
82 "New Jack City" actor
83 Actor Gavin
86 Birds of a given region
88 Eyelash cosmetics
92 Periodical datum indicating years
95 Dog collar jinglers
96 Duelist Burr
97 Radiation units
98 Guernsey's archipelago
102 Intl. oil group
106 Queen, in Madrid
107 Counterparts of egos
108 Skating leap
112 Pep rally cry

- 113 Writer Sarah Jewett
114 Device on which you might see the first words of seven answers in this puzzle
120 Molson, e.g.
121 Government bureaus
122 Deny
123 Little whirlpool
124 Put limits on
125 Possibilities
DOWN
1 Plant firmly
2 Ruler's land
3 Tinfoil maker
4 Cinch (Hefty brand)
5 Sufficient, in dialect
6 In season
7 Bench, e.g.
8 Actor Byrnes
9 Sun. homily
10 Mr. Capote, to his friends
11 Bond creator Fleming
12 Make smaller
13 Samuel of justice
14 Certain choir voice
15 Unit of work
16 Newspaper employee
17 A ship's steerer has control of it
18 Ear or heart part
19 Isolda's love

- 24 Get 40 winks
29 Repeatedly
31 Sabbath observers, collectively
33 Feel crummy
34 Actress Hagen
35 Kimono tie
36 K thru 12
37 Lordly home
39 Cato's lang.
40 Singer Mars
41 End in (finish even)
44 Groups of devotees
45 Arboreal marsupial
46 Paraphrase
47 Zaire's Mobutu Seko
48 Business school subj.
49 'Zine online
52 Resulting in something
55 "Here, have a sample"
56 "In face!"
58 \$ dispenser
59 Little big cat
60 Part of TNT
61 Bad rating, perhaps
63 Furry friend
64 Mel's Diner waitress
65 D.C. VIPs
66 _ Diego
68 "Fancy that!"
72 Laryngitic
73 Urban rec facility

- 74 Toon frames
75 Sports group
76 "When will _ learn?!"
77 Think aloud
82 "You are not!" rebuttal
83 Carta lead-in
84 Roundish
85 Nick Jr. girl
87 "Fee, fi, fo, _!"
88 Bacterium, e.g.
89 Stuck
90 Soiled
91 Certain food factory
93 Actor Chaney
94 German conjunction
96 Green-light
99 Loyal subject
100 Just kills time
101 _mo
103 Utah city
104 Use as a surface for a meal
105 Munches on
109 Reverse
110 Journey
111 Gusto
114 Pothole-filling stuff
115 Outdated RCA product
116 Sundial's "3"
117 Brief moment
118 Suffix with hobby
119 _ tai

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	
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113																		119	
120																			
123																			

Comix

OUT ON A LIMB By Gary Kopervas



AMBER WAVES By Dave T. Phipps



THE SPATS By Jeff Pickering



R.F.D. By Mike Marland



TIGER By Bud Blake



Lowry

From Page 3

weaken an anti-forced-labor bill, lest a measure aimed at crimping a vast human-rights abuse discomfit the corporate giant too greatly.

"Says who?" the new Nike ad asks. Clearly, the Chinese regime.

"You can't stop us," intoned a viral ad last year. Well, actually

you can, provided you are an authoritarian bully with an enormous consumer base.

"Just do it" went the most iconic Nike ad. No, second thought, better to "Just don't" if it might anger a government that disappeared a star athlete for the offense of accusing an official of sexual assault and is preparing to invade a neighboring country.

If China were to take Taiwan, would the NBA, Nike or LeBron James do anything more than

offer vague expressions of concern and piffle about how the situation is complicated?

We certainly know what Enes Kanter would say. Which is why he rightly deserves a Nike ad celebrating his go-it-alone truth-telling, and why, of course, he'll never get one.

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

The problem with playing pharmacist

DEAR DR. ROACH: My wife has been diagnosed with atrial fibrillation. Doctors tried an electrical cardioversion, but it came back after a few days. She is taking metoprolol and Eliquis. We have read about the supplements red clover, turmeric, omega-3 and hawthorn. Should she discontinue the pharmaceuticals and take supplements instead? – J.C.



Please don't do that, and let me explain why.

Atrial fibrillation is an abnormal heart rhythm. The goal of treating it is first to relieve symptoms, such as fast heart rate and dizziness, and second, to reduce the risk of stroke. Blood clots can form inside the heart when the atria are fibrillating (a chaotic, non-coordinated muscle movement). Those clots can break off and go into the blood vessels of the brain, causing cell death and loss of function in that part of the brain. That's a stroke.

Your wife is taking metoprolol to slow the heart rate. Atrial fibrillation causes the ventricles to go too fast, causing a sensation of fast heart rate and palpitations. Metoprolol, a beta blocker, protects the heart from damage from a too-fast heart rate, in addition to relieving symptoms. Apixaban (Eliquis) is a powerful anticoagulant, reducing the risk of clot formation.

Red clover is usually used in herbal medicine for its estrogen-like activities. Unfortunately, estrogens INCREASE clot risk, so this herbal medicine absolutely should not be used by someone at risk for clots. Sweet clover hay is the source of warfarin (Coumadin), another often-used anticoagulant in people with atrial fibrillation: This may be the source of confusion. However, warfarin needs to be dosed precisely, with frequent blood-level checks.

Turmeric is an antioxidant that does have some mild anticoagulant properties. However, it is not remotely powerful enough to do the job of protecting your wife adequately from stroke.

Omega-3 fish oils were once thought to reduce risk of atrial fibrillation; unfortunately, a 2013 study showed no benefit.

Hawthorn has two potential benefits: To a slight extent, it acts as a beta blocker (like metoprolol) as well as an anticoagulant. However, no trials have proven its effectiveness. It may interfere with both her medicines. The metoprolol and Eliquis have much more safety data.

DR. ROACH WRITES:

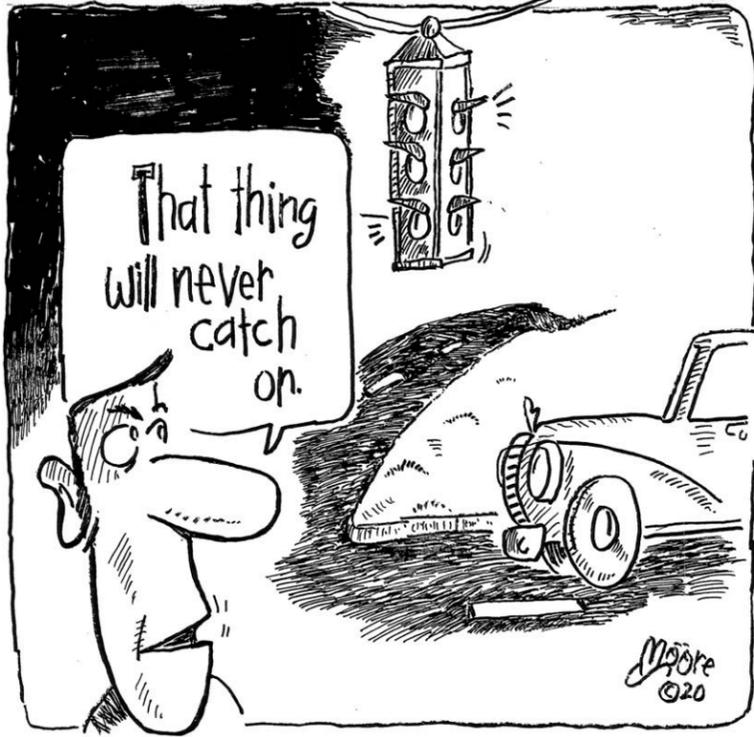
In a recent column, a reader noted she had a history of irritable bowel syndrome and described intermittent sharp rectal pain. My answer discussed control of her IBS. When I saw the column printed in the newspaper, weeks after I wrote it, I realized instantly that the diagnosis was probably proctalgia fugax, which is a spasm of the muscles of the anus. It is thought to be related to nerve compression.

I learned from my predecessor of this column, Dr. Paul Donohue, that sitting on a baseball or tennis ball can sometimes stop the pain instantly, and that creams and sometimes oral or inhaled medications can be effective in harder-to-treat cases.

I also want to point out that I fell victim to something called an anchoring heuristic error. I read about my reader's irritable bowel and became "anchored" to that diagnosis. Admitting an error and trying to understand why it happened are critical to reducing the likelihood of making the same error again. Anyone can make a mistake; it's important to learn from them.

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
The first automatic traffic lights in the U.S. were installed in Dallas in 1923.

CryptoQuip

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

Clue: R equals K

LDDLHIEQPV M'J PNNRMES LQ
NEPV NEI AMZX ZGMJJMES
ME QXLQ DNEK. MQ'Z QGN
ZMKIZ NA QXI ZLJI RNM.

Answer Page 4

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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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VA expands assistance to homeless veterans



by Freddy Groves

With prices soaring all around us, imagine how bad it must be in places that already had high costs when it came to rental housing. In an effort to help homeless veterans, the Department of Veterans Affairs has updated its grant program to raise assistance caps in housing and subsidies.

Specifically, in certain areas, the Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) rent grant will increase from 35% to 50% of reasonable rent, without a need for recertification for two years. That has to be a huge aid to eligible veterans with families who are seeking stability.

Additionally, the length of time a veteran and the family can stay in emergency housing has increased 15 days to a maximum of 60 days. This will be especially helpful in places

with few rental vacancies.

The SSVF program is a series of grants to private non-profit organizations that provide support services to very-low-income veterans and their families. The role of these non-profits is to get them into permanent housing that includes a lease, either annual or month to month, or even home ownership. They determine eligibility for assistance in part by considering whether the veteran is at risk of becoming homeless without the grant, doesn't have a fixed place to sleep at night and will likely continue in that condition without the grant, or is at risk of becoming homeless within 90 days.

If you're a homeless vet with a family or are in danger of becoming homeless, hook up with Supportive Services for Veterans Families as soon as possible. There are several eligibility conditions, and you might qualify for Rapid Rehousing. Call them 24/7 at 1-877-424-3838. You also can call the nearest VA medical

center and ask for the Homeless Coordinator.

The VA is behind this change so much that it finalized the rule without even waiting for the typical public comment period after publication in the Federal Register.

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• "Need a new look for a favorite sweater? Change out your buttons. It's such a small thing, but makes a big change in look!" – E.L. in Massachusetts

• Instead of using costly brass polish, try a little lemon juice and salt. Another brass polish you probably have right now is ketchup. Apply a thin layer and buff off with a soft rag.

• Experts say to always crack your egg on a flat surface, rather than using the edge of a counter or bowl. More egg-tastic advice is to crack eggs into a small bowl instead of directly into ingredients. If you have a sneaky "bad egg" in your dozen, it's better to find out before you ruin your baking.

• "I love to search for recipes online, and I have learned to pay attention to the comments section. You'll find a lot of explanation and frequently a tweak that many people have found successful. Comments have saved me from oversalting a dish, as well as making necessary adjustments in temperature and cooking time. I have found complicated techniques broken down in ways that were helpful. It pays to check out the comments!" – W.G. in Missouri

• Attention salad eaters: Got a thick dressing that's high in fat? Rinse lettuce before dressing your salad. Wet or moist lettuce traps less dressing. If your dressing is light, give salad greens an extra spin. Drier lettuce holds on to dressing, making lightly dressed salad more flavorful.

• Another great use for baking soda: Add a cup or two to your toilet bowl. Swish and let sit for 1-2 hours. Flush for odor control and shine.

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

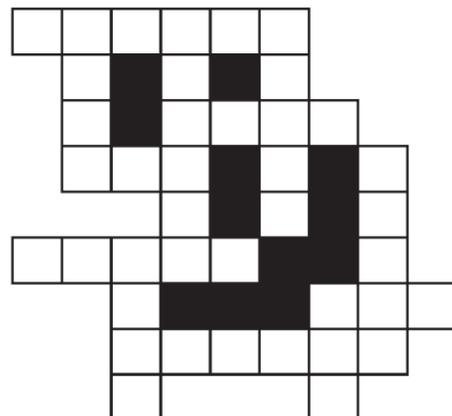
	-		x		9
÷		-		-	
	x		-		6
+		x		x	
	x		-		5
9		4		6	

1 2 3 4 6 7 7 8 9

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- SPO
- SLUCNO
- ♥DIGLE
- PLMI
- OPTGIS
- ♥IPN
- ♥HICN
- LERPI
- ♥USP
- DUPLEG
- DUMTI
- SUPL



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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