



NEWSBRIEFS

SISD seeks teachers

Socorro ISD is seeking highly qualified instructors to teach for the 2022 school year. The virtual job fair will be from 4:30 to 6 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 27, 2022. Applicants must register at <https://forms.office.com/r/C6RyxyiA70> no later than Jan. 21, 2022, to participate. Candidates should hold a bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university, a valid Texas teaching certificate with required endorsements or training for subject and level assigned and be highly qualified in the appointed subject area(s). Teacher candidates should have at least three printed copies of their resume, the Statement of Eligibility if participating in an alternative certification program and be prepared for the opportunity to meet and interview with school principals. SISD will be providing letters of intent to qualified applicants to fill current vacancies at this job fair. For more information regarding the virtual SISD Teacher Job Fair, contact the Department of Human Resources at 937-0040 or at 937-0206.

— Christy Flores-Jones

Best state capitals

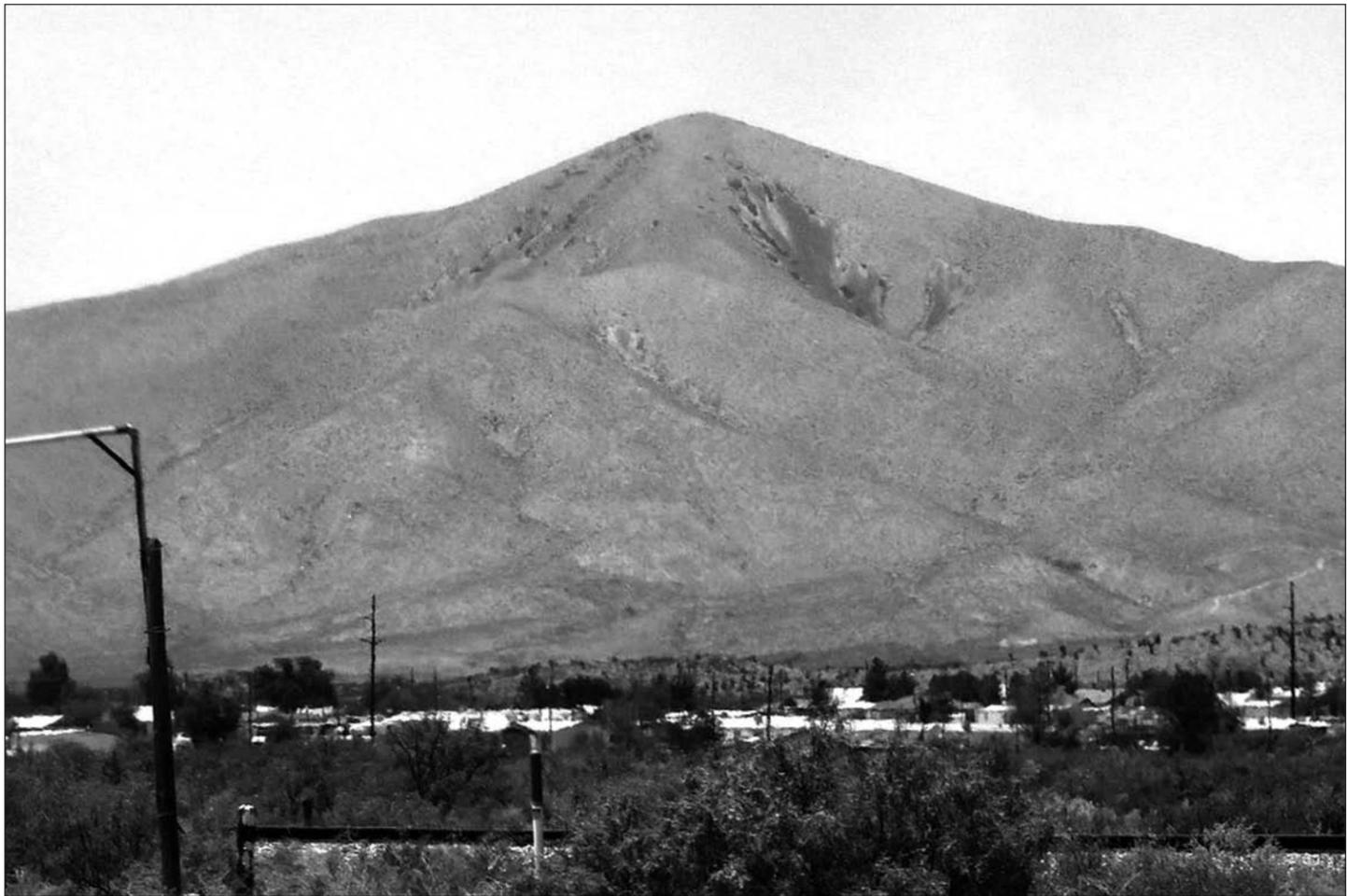
With 17 state capitals being the most populated cities in their states, the personal-finance website WalletHub has released its report on *2022's Best State Capitals for Safety & More*, as well as accompanying videos and expert commentary. To identify the most livable seats of state government, WalletHub compared all 50 state capitals across 49 key metrics, ranging from the cost of living to K-12 school-system quality to the share of residents who are fully vaccinated. Austin, TX was rated the best capital in the report. Some stats include:

- Concord, NH has the lowest violent-crime rate per 1,000 residents – 1.92, which is 9.6 times lower than in Little Rock, AR, the city with the highest at 18.50.
 - Austin, TX has the highest median household income (adjusted for cost of living), \$70,310, which is 2.2 times higher than in Hartford, CT, the city with the lowest at \$31,851.
 - Montpelier, VT has the highest share of adults age 25 and older with at least a bachelor's degree, 61.60 percent, which is five times higher than in Trenton, NJ, the city with the lowest at 12.20 percent.
- Visit <https://wallethub.com/edu/best-state-capitals/19030> for the report.

— Diana Polk

When a man won't listen to his conscience, it's usually because he doesn't want advice from a stranger.

— Quips & Quotes



— Internet

THE SEARCH IS ON – Round Top Mountain, above, is located near the town of Sierra Blanca in Hudspeth County, and could be the site of one of the few rare earth mining operations in the United States.

Rare earth mining company interested in West Texas counties

By Alfredo Vasquez
Special to the Courier

WEST TEXAS – A U.S. government push to start production of magnets to alleviate U.S. dependence from China and to meet demands from the auto and renewable energy industries is bringing a rare earth mining venture to the Southwest desert town of Sierra Blanca TX, which is located about 100 miles east

of El Paso County along Interstate-10.

Rare earth minerals are primarily mined in China and are used to make magnets which power electronics components including cell phones, computers, and rechargeable batteries used in electric vehicles, wind turbines, and military weapons.

But now, the West Texas community of about 760 residents is going to be home, at least for a while, to USA Rare Earth, a mining company in search of these critical minerals deposits.

“Rare earths provide essential components for everything from electric vehicles to wind turbines to everyday electronics. And USA Rare Earth was created to deliver these materials in a way that bolsters Texas’ clean energy industry and environment, and that fortifies our national security and West Texas economy,” stated Thayer Smith, president of USA Rare Earth, in a recent news report.

According to mapping projects by the U.S. Geological Survey, parts of El Paso, Hudspeth, Culberson, Jeff Davis, Presidio and Brewster counties contain significant levels of rare earth deposits. Of the 17 rare earth minerals, 16 have been found in the mountains near the town of Sierra Blanca, as well as other high-value tech minerals such as battery-grade lithium, gallium, zirconium, hafnium, and beryllium, among other valuable minerals.

Rare-earth elements (REEs) are metallic elements that exist in abundance in the Earth’s crust. And at a mountain site near Sierra Blanca, known as Round Top, REEs have been found in higher concentrations, which makes it more economically viable to extract the minerals and why the site was chosen for development of a rare earth mineral mine, USA Rare Earth officials explained.

However, the rare earth mining process is known to produce radioactive and toxic waste byproducts, which raises health and environmental concerns that a project of this scale could mean for the region.

Proponents of the mine said that it will bring increased employment to the area, and royalties collected from the General Land Office (GLO), which is leasing land and mineral rights to USA Rare Earth, would go to the state’s public education system.

Texas Comptroller’s office also reported that the Round Top project is expected to be a boon for the local and state economy

AVID program helps AISD students prepare for college

By Adriana Candelaria
Special to the Courier

ANTHONY, TX – Since 2019, the Anthony Independent School District has helped students prepare for college and their future careers with the Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) program.

AVID is a nationwide curriculum that offers a variety of classroom activities to help students learn organization, academic and communication skills.

Nationwide, many students have a desire

to attend college and are capable of graduating with a higher education. However, sometimes students who are the first in their families to attend college do not have the tools to easily transition into college. This is where AVID steps in and helps students learn how to take effective notes to study and to advocate for themselves.

The AISD program is led by AVID and STEM teacher, Rosalinda Gaucin, who was an AVID student herself.

“We want our students

See AVID, Page 4

See RARE, Page 5

Chuck Schumer's Jan. 6 cynicism

On Jan. 6, 2021, rioters seeking to disrupt the counting of electoral votes breached the U.S. Capitol and rampaged for hours before order was restored.

This was a disgraceful spectacle that shouldn't be repeated, and Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer knows just what is needed to respond to the moment – passing every progressive voting-related priority that can possibly be jammed through the Senate on an extremely narrow, partisan vote.

The defense of our democracy, Schumer maintains, demands nothing less.

The latest pitch for the Democratic voting agenda is more cynical and detached from reality than ever. We are to believe that the only way to counteract the furies unleashed on Jan. 6 is by imposing same-day voter registration and no-excuse mail voting on the states, ending partisan gerrymandering, and requiring the counting of ballots that arrive up to seven days after Election Day, among other provisions completely irrelevant to events that day or afterward.

If you're thinking that Democrats supported all of this

on Jan. 5 of last year and still supported it on Jan. 7, you're correct.

Their agenda has as much to do with Jan. 6 as an annual appropriations bill or the naming of a post office.

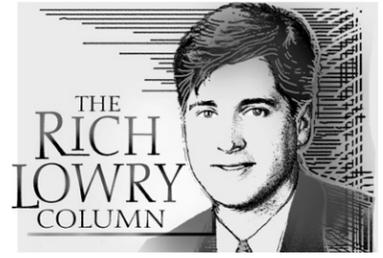
The Democratic drive to nationalize our elections has always been a sweepingly radical step in search of an alleged crisis to address. When a version was first introduced a few years ago, it was sold as addressing "the vile voter suppression practices" of the GOP, in the words of The New York Times. The big lie of the time was that the Georgia gubernatorial campaign of Stacey Abrams in 2018 was undone by such practices. Now, the justification is the Capitol riot and subsequent GOP state-level voting changes that have been portrayed, falsely, as the return of Jim Crow.

In reality, voting has never been easier and voters have never had so many options for how to participate in elections, whether early in-person voting, traditional same-day voting, or mail-in voting. There are partisan disputes about how to strike a balance between convenience and security, but there is no reason that

these differences can't be debated at the state level, with the balance struck differently depending on the policy preferences of elected officials in each state.

Limits on drop boxes or measures to tighten up the identification requirements around mail-in ballots aren't suppressing the vote.

The true weakness of the system that was highlighted last year on Jan. 6 is the poorly drafted Electoral Count Act. It should be revised to make it explicit that the vice president can't decide which electoral votes to count and that states can't discard the popular vote if the outcome isn't to their liking. Even though changes along these lines might get bi-partisan support, Schumer is pushing to eliminate the filibuster to pass the progressive wish list of electoral non-sequiturs (although a few provisions, like prohibiting the intimidation of election officials,



See LOWRY, Page 7

View from here By Marilyn M. Singleton, M.D., J.D.

Covid 2022: A new year, new fears

By now, Dr. Fauci's Covid "fearspeak" has become background noise. Yes, the new "Omicron" variant is making its way around the world. Fortunately, reports from South Africa¹ as well as other studies² indicate that Omicron's illness is milder than Delta. Even Fauci-friendly public health physicians have cautioned that there is "absolutely no reason to panic."³

In 2022, we should panic because opioid overdoses⁴ took the lives of 100,000 fellow Americans from April 2020 to April 2021 – an increase of 28 percent from the same period the year before. The statistic is appalling but not surprising given the Covid lockdowns coupled with millions of doses

of fentanyl and other illicit drugs flooding across a porous border.

We should panic because one in ten Americans has diabetes⁵ and one in three Americans has prediabetes. Moreover, 89 percent of the diabetics are overweight (Body Mass Index over 25). Just over 73 percent⁶ of the U.S. population are overweight and 42.5 percent⁷ are obese (BMI over 30). Worse yet, obesity among adults⁸, age 18 to 25 years increased from 6.2 percent to 32.7 percent over the last 40 years. Instead of Dr. Fauci telling us we have to relinquish our individual choices⁹ when it comes to the increasingly ineffective¹⁰ current Covid vaccines, he should emphasize the effect of obesity on Covid outcomes¹¹.

According to the CDC, about 78 percent of people who have been hospitalized needed a ventilator or died from Covid-19 have been overweight or obese.

We should fear the loss scientific medical practice, when to avoid being stressed out, patients are demanding informed consent to be weighed¹² in the doctor's office. Yet curiously, informed consent is not required for experimental mRNA vaccines.

We should fear the blatant abuse of power by our public servants in the name of public health. We should be afraid when our top health bureaucrat, the Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary declared¹³ "it is absolutely the government's business" to know people's vaccination status." We should panic when elected representatives jump on the medical privacy-banned bandwagon. The House of Representatives handily approved the Immunization

Infrastructure Modernization Act of 2021¹⁴ which would establish yet another government database. This one is an "immunization information system," that can share every vaccine dose with not only with other governmental but private entities.

We should be afraid when the FDA sends threatening letters¹⁵ to pharmacists, trying to limit the use of a safe drug shown to be 60 percent effective¹⁶ in improving outcomes of Covid. Why? It has side effects such as skin rash, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, stomach pain, facial or limb swelling, neurologic adverse events (dizziness, seizures, confusion), sudden drop in blood pressure, severe skin rash potentially requiring hospitalization and liver injury. We've seen no such letters regarding molnupiravir, the new kid on the block for Covid treatment that can cause¹⁷ diarrhea, dizziness, headache, hives, itching, skin rash, nausea, redness of skin, vomiting, bone and cartilage damage in children¹⁸, birth defects, cancer¹⁹ and is only

30 percent effective²⁰.

We should panic knowing that pharmaceutical companies spent \$266,846,347²¹ lobbying Congress, and the American Medical Association's top corporate donors²² are pharmaceutical companies.

We should panic about the federal government establishing guidelines (future regulations?) for news and social media on suppression of health "misinformation²³." We should worry that Meta, the company formerly known as Facebook engages in Soviet-style silencing²⁴ certain political viewpoints.

We should fear social engineering and panic about the media becoming the new form of re-education camps. It's hard to miss the oohing and aahing over the first transgender person²⁵ to make it to the Jeopardy! Tournament of Champions. Did they fawn over the first male, the first black person, the first white person, the first Asian person?

See FEARS, Page 3



PUBLISHED:
Published each Thursday (minimum 50 issues) by Homesteader News, Inc. Office open Monday through Thursday.

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Letters must not be more than 250 words in length. They should be dated, must be signed and have an address and daytime phone number. Only the name and city will be printed with the letter. The West Texas County Courier reserves the right to edit or reject letters to the editor or other submitted material it considers inappropriate.

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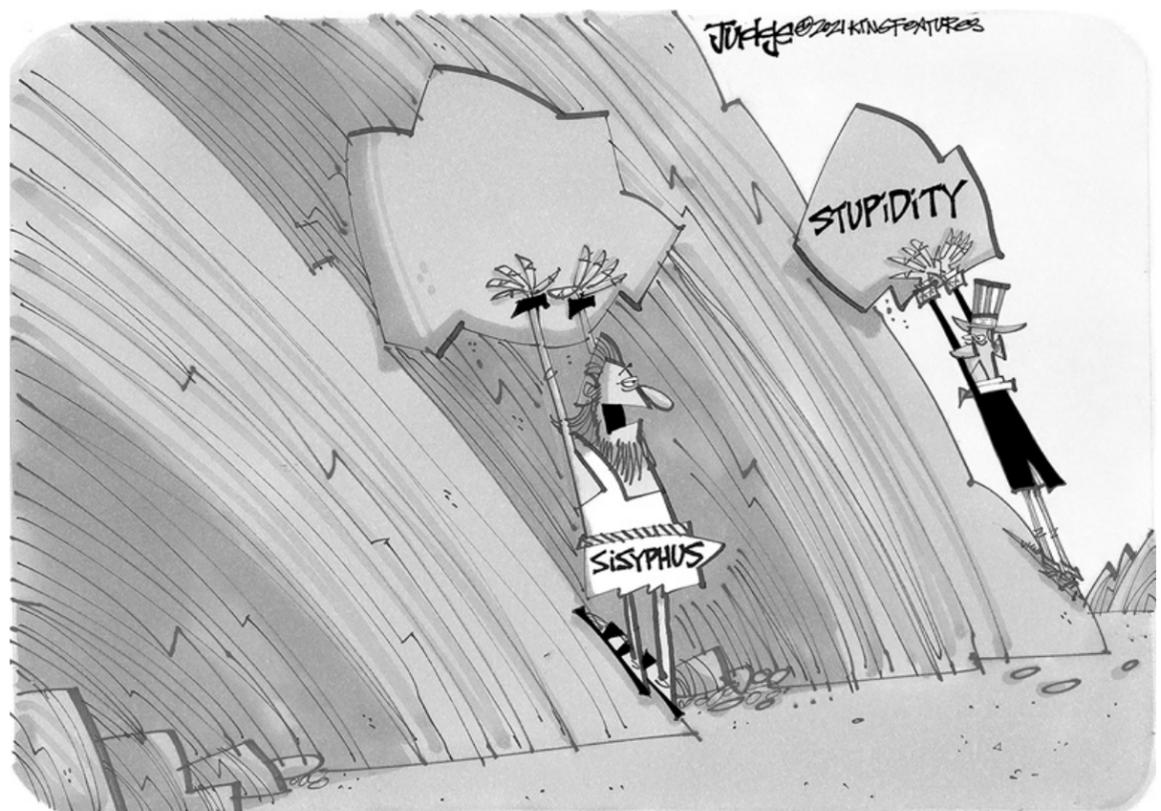
E-mail: wtcc@wtcc.com
Website: wtcc.com

Publisher
Rick Shrum

Contributors
Alfredo Vasquez
Steve Escajeda



Homesteader
Est. 1973
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"MINE'S JUST A ROCK."

Fears

From Page 2

forward and enlighten us as to why a transgender person answering questions on a game show is headline news. Viewed in the most favorable light, perhaps the media were providing welcomed distraction from Dr. Fauci and his smug and smarmy self.

We should fear misguided attempts to stop racism with racism. In the name of social justice, colleges²⁸, businesses²⁹, medical schools³⁰, and K-12 schools³¹ have fallen into the trap of promoting Marxist race warfare where students and employees can learn that minorities are permanent victims of the irredeemably racist white people.

We should fear becoming accustomed to a new socially acceptable apartheid: segregation by race³², vaccination status³³, and mask-wearing³⁴.

Most of all, we should fear how readily our fellow Americans acquiesced to unreasonable³⁵, unscientific³⁶ demands at the altar of Covid-19.

When it comes to Covid in 2022, opt for prudence, not panic. Eat well, get enough vitamin D, exercise, wash your hands, engage with your friends, cough or sneeze in your elbow, and stay home if you are feeling unwell. If you do get sick, seek medical care immediately.

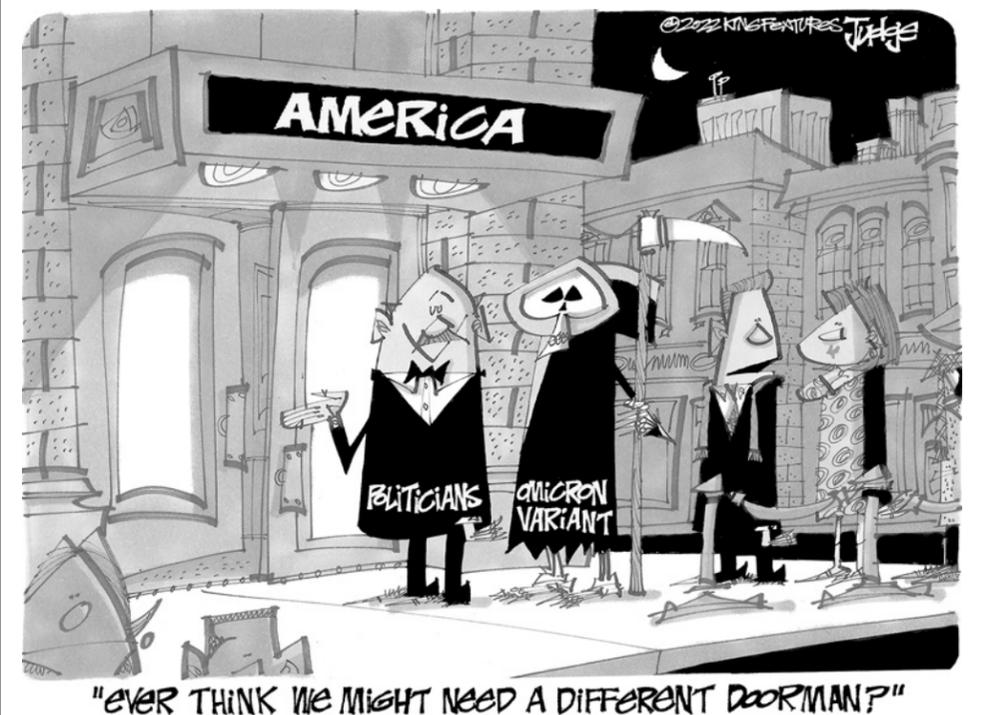
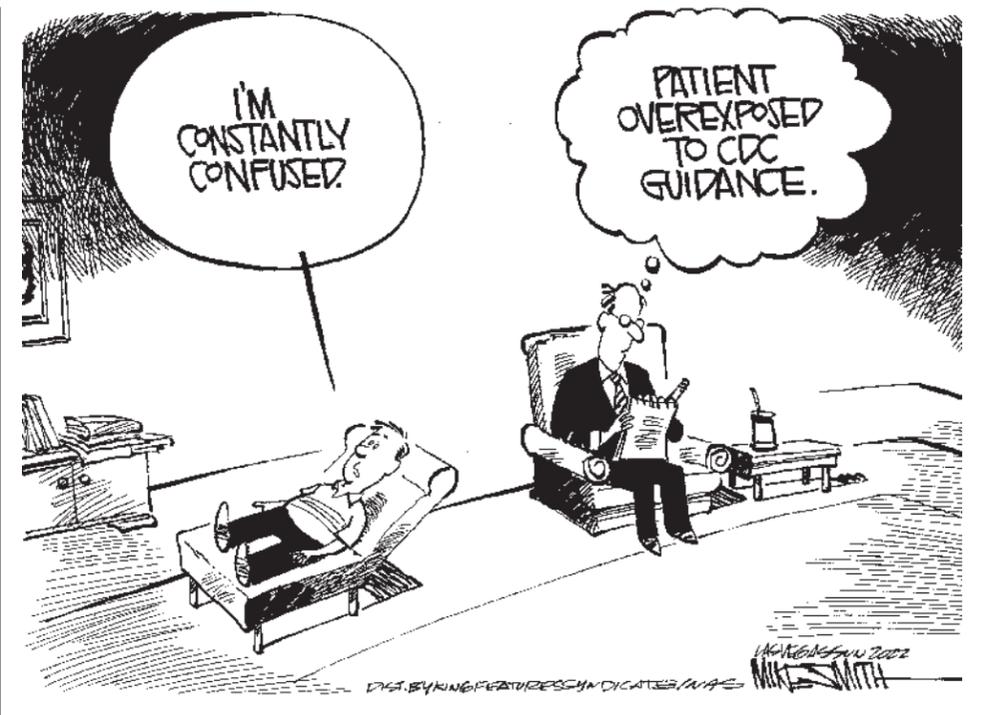
Live your life. After all, there are 14 more letters after omicron in the Greek alphabet.

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

- 1 – <https://www.baltimoresun.com/coronavirus/ct-aud-nw-omicron-vaccine-south-africa-data-20211214-7ilw4yumond2tgcqon5osdxba-story.html>
- 2 – <https://www.medscape.com/viewarticle/965448>
- 3 – <https://www.newsmax.com/newsfront/newsmax-tv-omicron-covid-19-holidays/2021/12/23/id/1049819/>
- 4 – https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/pressroom/nchs_press_releases/2021/20211117.htm
- 5 – <https://www.cdc.gov/diabetes/library/features/diabetes-stat-report.html>
- 6 – <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/fastats/obesity-overweight.htm>
- 7 – <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/fastats/obesity-overweight.htm>
- 8 – <https://www.healio.com/news/primary-care/20211123/obesity-rate-among-emerging-adults-significantly-increased-from-1976-to-2018>
- 9 – https://twitter.com/TPostMillennial/status/1468635333961175040?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw%7Ctwc%5Etweetembed%7Ctwterm%5E1468635333961175040%7Ctwgr%5E%7Ctwcon%5Es1_&f_url=https%3A%2F%2Fnationalfile.com%2Ffauci-slams-people-make-choice-free-will-calls-biden-clearly-supersede-individual-choices%2F
- 10 – <https://www.medrxiv.org/content/10.1101/2021.12.20.21267966v3.full.pdf>
- 11 – <https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/70/wr/mm7010e4.htm>
- 12 – <https://www.cnn.com/2021/12/22/health/dont-weigh-me-cards-wellness/index.html>
- 13 – <https://thehill.com/homenews/administration/562026-hhs-secretary-it-is-absolutely-the-governments-business-to-know>

- business-to-know
- 14 – <https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/house-bill/550/text>
- 15 – https://med.ohio.gov/Portals/0/Resources/COVID-19/Ivermectin%20Letter%20to%20SMB%20Final.pdf?ve r=iCVJuKvBTXz6Sna42reLOQ%3d%3d&utm_source=BenchmarkEmail&utm_campaign=COVID_Update_12-23-21&utm_medium=email
- 16 – <https://ivmmeta.com/>
- 17 – <https://www.mayoclinic.org/drugs-supplements/molnupiravir-oral-route/side-effects/drg-20524779>
- 18 – <https://www.goodrx.com/molnupiravir/what-is-%20of-%20molnupiravir,%20the-%20drug-%20may-%20not-%20just-%20lead-%20to-%20the-%20growth-%20of-%20cancerous-%20tumours-%20but-%20also,%20potentially,%20to-%20birth-%20defects,%20either-%20through-%20sperm-%20precursor-%20cells-%20or-%20in-%20pregnant-%20women.%20https://www.forbes.com/sites/williamhaseltine/2021/11/02/harming-those-who-receive-it-the-dangers-of-molnupiravir-part-2/?sh=48f101c31490>
- 19 – <https://www.forbes.com/sites/williamhaseltine/2021/11/02/harming-those-who-receive-it-the-dangers-of-molnupiravir-part-2/?sh=776e7c581490>
- 20 – <https://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMoa2116044>
- 21 – <https://www.opensecrets.org/federal-lobbying/industries/summary?id=H04>
- 22 – <https://amafoundation.org/donors/corporate-donors/>
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- 24 – <https://thefederalist.com/2021/07/15/facebook-censorship-board-member-free-speech-is-not-a-human-right/>
- 25 – <https://www.cnn.com/2021/12/02/entertainment/amy-schneider-jeopardy-cec/index.html>
- 26 – https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Jeopardy!_contestants
- 27 – https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Jeopardy!_contestants
- 28 – <https://diversity.ucsd.edu/initiatives/21-day-anti-racism-challenge/index.html>
- 29 – <https://www.foxbusiness.com/politics/bank-of-america-lowes-sponsored-crt-training>
- 30 – <https://wexnermedical.osu.edu/-/media/files/wexnermedical/about-us/diversity/finalantiracism21daychallenge.pdf>
- 31 – <https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/news/arizona-education-baby-toddler-racism-three-months>
- 32 – <https://www.nationalreview.com/news/colorado-elementary-school-promotes-families-of-color-playground-night/>
- 33 – <https://www.msn.com/en-us/foodanddrink/foodnews/la-bars-and-restaurants-begin-turning-away-unvaccinated-customers/ar-AAMPbaw>
- 34 – <https://www.usnews.com/news/best-states/articles/these-are-the-states-with-mask-mandates>
- 35 – <https://www.aier.org/article/lockdowns-do-not-control-the-coronavirus-the-evidence/>
- 36 – <https://www.businessinsider.com/cloth-masks-are-not-good-enough-protection-against-omicron-expert-2021-12?op=1>

Marilyn M. Singleton is a board-certified anesthesiologist. She is past President of the Association of American Physicians and Surgeons (AAPS). She graduated from Stanford and earned her MD at UCSF Medical School. While still working in the operating room, she attended UC Berkeley Law School, focusing on constitutional law and administrative law. She teaches classes in the recognition of elder abuse and constitutional law for non-lawyers.: marilysingletonmdjd.com; Twitter: @MSingletonMDJD.54January



AVID

From Page 1

to think they can go to college and be successful,” Gaucin said.

AISD is implementing AVID strategies in grades K-12.

At the elementary school level, students are encouraged to think about their college and career plans. They also learn how to take structured notes, communicate effectively and answer high-level questions.

Students at the AVID secondary level receive additional academic, social and emotional support to help them succeed in rigorous courses.

“If the students are struggling academically, they just need to say ‘I’m struggling on this’, and we will help them as a class. Eventually the students become so close that nothing can break them apart,” Gaucin said.

For Gabriela Lerma, Anthony Middle School 8th grader, AVID has changed her outlook on college.

“Before Avid, I didn’t really see myself as on the pathway to college. Besides sports, I didn’t really think about anything else,” Lerma said.

“It helped me open my eyes to the many career choices that have my interest, and it’s



— Photo courtesy Anthony ISD

ATTITUDE CHECK – Rosalina Gaucin, Anthony ISD AVID and STEM teacher, leads her class by asking students why they like attending school each day.

helped me think I can do this,” Lerma said.

The AVID experience goes beyond the classroom. Students recently toured the University of Texas at El Paso’s campus and got acquainted with college life.

“I really liked the college lifestyle. It was nice to see students going to work, going to classes and working towards what they want to become,” said Destiny Torres Rodriguez, 8th grade Anthony Middle School student.

AVID is offered at all three AISD campuses and has seen growth since it was established in the district. Despite the COVID-19 pandemic creating a challenging school year in 2020, Gaucin says more students elected AVID courses after a year of remote learning in the 2020-2021 school year.

Gaucin estimates that approximately 250 to 300 students have been helped by AVID at Anthony ISD since the program started.

Classified Ads

LEGALS

Village of Vinton, Texas

PUBLIC NOTICE

A public hearing will be held at 6:30

p.m. on Monday, February 7th, 2022, during the Planning & Zoning Commission Meeting at the Vinton Village Hall, 436 E. Vinton Rd., Vinton, Texas.

A second public hearing will be held at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, February 9th, 2022, during the Planning & Zoning Commission Meeting at the Vinton Village Hall,

436 E. Vinton Rd. Vinton, Texas. A third public hearing will be held at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, February 15th, 2022, during the City Council Meeting at the

Vinton Village Hall, 436 E. Vinton Rd. Vinton, Texas.

The purpose of the public hearings are to allow any interested persons to appear and testify regarding the following proposed item:

Consider and take action on request for a Special Use Permit to allow the development of a shelter care facility for unaccompanied migrant children on a portion of 90.8 acres of Laura E. Mundy survey 233, Tracts 6A, 6K, 6L save and except a portion of tracts 6A and 6K containing 6.0017 acres, Vinton, TX, 79821. Said tracts are located in Zoning District C-1. (Other planned future uses by the applicant for the remainder of the 90.8 acre tract include an assisted living facility for adults and the development of the frontage on I-10 into a retail complex, both of which are permitted uses in Zone C-1.)

Citizens unable to attend this meeting may submit their views and proposals to

Vinton Village Hall, 436 E. Vinton Rd. Vinton, Texas.

Persons with disabilities that wish to attend this meeting should contact City Hall at (915)886-5104 to arrange for assistance. Individuals who require auxiliary aids or services for this meeting should contact City Hall at least two days before the meeting so that appropriate arrangements can be made.

Andrea N. Carrillo
Village Administrator

WTCC: 01-20-22

Village of Vinton, Texas

PUBLIC NOTICE

A public hearing will be held at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, February 7th, 2022, during the Planning & Zoning Commission Meeting at the Vinton Village Hall, 436 E. Vinton Rd., Vinton, Texas.

A second public hearing will be held at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, February 15th, 2022, during the City Council Meeting at the

Vinton Village Hall, 436 E. Vinton Rd. Vinton, Texas.

The purpose of the public hearings are to allow any interested persons to appear and testify regarding the following proposed item:

Consider and take action to re-plate Industrial Park Lots Number 1, 2, and 3, Block 1, Village of Vinton, El Paso County, Texas.

A public hearing will be held at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, February 7th, 2022, during the Planning & Zoning Commission Meeting at the Vinton Village Hall, 436 E. Vinton Rd., Vinton, Texas.

A second public hearing will be held at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, February 9th, 2022, during the Planning & Zoning Commission Meeting at the Vinton Village Hall, 436 E. Vinton Rd. Vinton, Texas.

A third public hearing will be held at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, February 15th, 2022, during City Council Meeting at the Vinton Village

Hall, 436 E. Vinton Rd. Vinton, Texas.

The purpose of the public hearings are to allow any interested persons to appear and testify regarding the following proposed item:

A request to Re-Zone a portion of CRS Industrial Park Lot Number 3, Block 1, Village of Vinton, El Paso County, Texas, currently in TC to M-1 zoning (after re-platting)

Citizens unable to attend this meeting may submit their views and proposals to Andrea Nichole Carrillo, Village Administrator at the City Hall. Persons with disabilities that wish to attend this meeting should contact City Hall at (915)886-5104 to arrange for assistance. Individuals who require auxiliary aids or services for this meeting should contact City Hall at least two days before the meeting so that appropriate arrangements can be made.

Andrea N. Carrillo
Village Administrator

WTCC: 01-20-22



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A	T	E	A	S	E	Y	O	M	P	A	E	A	N	S	I	P	
B	O	D	B	A	R	T	F	O	U	R	T	H	E	S	T	A	T
D	O	U	L	A	N	C	I	S	A	W	A	K	E	N			
M	A	C	H	O	B	E	F	O	R	E	T	A	X	E	C	A	R
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S	O	D	D	Y	S	E	R	O	R	G	K	R	A	M	E	R	

CryptoQuip Answer

All the ready-to-drink products in this supermarket come in bottles only. It's so un-canny.

Strange BUT TRUE

By Lucie Winborne

- If all the stars in the Milky Way were grains of salt, they'd fill an Olympic-size swimming pool.
- The Louvre museum in Paris was originally built as a fortress to repel Vikings.
- In 1887, a group of men added Susanna Madora Salter of Argonia, Kansas, to a mayoral ballot as a prank intended to embarrass and curtail the influence of the Women's Christian Temperance Union, of which she was an officer. Instead, she won over 60% of the vote and became America's first female mayor.
- Olympic medalist Mark Spitz was famed for his large mustache in an era when swimmers shaved their bodies to become more hydrodynamic. He once joked to the Russian team's coach that his mustache helped him swim faster by deflecting water from his mouth and making him more bullet-shaped. The following year, a mustache was sported by every member of the male Russian team.
- Despite their humps, camels have straight spines.
- The first use of the word "Superbowl," credited to a Chinese writer named Lom Ba Di, dates to the third century.
- In 2008, Chile minted 1.5 million 50-peso coins with a spelling error, only noticing a year later they'd spelled "CHIIE" instead of "CHILE."
- Honeybee venom has been found to destroy some types of cancer cells.
- Juan Ponce de Leon brought cattle when he landed at Charlotte Harbor in 1521, his second trip to La Florida. When he came under attack, four of his heifers and a bull fled into the scrub, thus introducing cows to America.

Thought for the Day: "What matters most is how well you walk through the fire."
— Charles Bukowski

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Moments in time

THE HISTORY CHANNEL

• On Jan. 17, 1953, a prototype Chevrolet Corvette sports car makes its debut at General Motors' Motorama auto show at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel in New York City. The Corvette was named for a fast type of naval warship.

• On Jan. 18, 1996, Major League Baseball owners unanimously approve interleague play for the 1997 season. The owners' vote, which called for each team to play 15 or 16 interleague games, broke a 126-year tradition of teams playing only within their league during the regular season.

• On Jan. 19, 1977, President Gerald Ford pardons Tokyo Rose, a Japanese-American woman named Iva Toguri, who broadcast Axis propaganda over the radio to Allied troops during World War II.

• On Jan. 20, 1980, President Jimmy Carter proposes to the United States Olympic Committee that the 1980 Summer Olympics be moved from Moscow if the Soviet Union failed to withdraw its troops from Afghanistan. The USOC later voted to boycott the Moscow games.

• On Jan. 21, 1789, "The Power of Sympathy or the Triumph of Nature Founded in Truth" is printed in Boston, the first novel by an American writer to be published in America. Early editions did not carry the author's name, but a later printing credited Sarah Wentworth Apthorp Morton.

• On Jan. 22, 1779, famed Tory outlaw Claudius Smith meets his end on the gallows in Goshen, New York. Nicknamed the "Cowboy of the Ramapos" for his use of guerrilla tactics against Patriot civilians, legend has it that Smith's skull was filled with mortar and included in the edifice of the Goshen Court House.

• On Jan. 23, 1855, John Moses Browning, sometimes referred to as the "father of modern firearms," is born in Ogden, Utah. Many of the guns whose names evoke the history of the American West – Winchester, Colt, Remington and Savage – were based on Browning's designs.

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– Image courtesy of U.S. Geological Survey's Earth Mapping Resource Initiative

The map above, which was developed by the United States Geological Survey project, indicates the parts of El Paso, Hudspeth, Culberson, Presidio, Brewster, and Jeff Davis counties and other parts of the U.S. that contain high concentrations of rare earth deposits (darker areas).

Rare

From Page 1

with estimates of nearly 200 full-time jobs in Texas and an additional \$26 million each year for public education.

Nonetheless, Sierra Blanca rancher Bill Addington, a cofounder of Sierra Blanca Legal Defense Fund Inc., opposed the Round Top project. He said that he was not aware of any outreach efforts from USA Rare Earth to the community. In the 1990s, Addington helped stop a radioactive waste dump site from being built in the area.

According to reports, the preliminary designs of the mine consist of an open pit mine, multiple heap leaching pits, and a plant on site. Addington stated that he was concerned with the proximity of the town of Sierra Blanca to the mine, and that the proposed project is something for all West Texas residents to be concerned about, not just Sierra Blanca folks.

Addington stated in a recent news report that this mining operation has the potential to contaminate a wide area through the wind, and it sets a precedent for more of this stuff to come into the West Texas region.

After completing baseline environmental studies and the first phase of its stormwater management plan, USA Rare Earth officials announced that it could begin mining as early as 2023. The mining company owns an 80 percent equity interest in the Round Top Mountain deposit with Texas Mineral Resources Corporation (TMRC) owning the remaining 20 percent.

The project is expected to yield more than 300,000 tons of rare earth oxides and meet 17 percent of projected U.S. demand for rare earth minerals with \$140 million in annual sales, according to USA Rare Earth officials.

"USA Rare Earth is jumpstarting the rare earths industry and providing a vital supply of materials for a range of fast-growing Texas manufacturers, including employers in the electric vehicle, defense and electronic sectors. Their project will add to our state's

business-friendly climate, which includes low taxes, low regulation, and low-cost electricity by ensuring that vital materials can reach Texas manufacturers more efficiently and reliably," stated Glen Hegar, Texas Comptroller for Public Accounts, in a recent news release.

GLO has leased a total of 950 acres to TMRC in two 19-year mining lease agreements. Within those 950 acres, the operation owns all rights to surface and subsurface resources. TMRC also purchased surface rights on an additional 55,000 acres of land around the mining lease from the GLO for other facilities including leach pits and an on-site plant. And TMRC has acquired an additional 1,300 acres of land from private landowners in the area.

"TMRC is in the process of developing a plan to acquire more private landowners' surface rights that may be required for the development of the project, and believes it is a reasonable expectation that it will be able to acquire such surface rights prior to the completion of a feasibility study," company officials stated.

In exchange for leasing the land, the GLO will receive a 6.25 percent royalty on the market value of all minerals. The exact percentage is subject to change. Those royalties make up the \$26 million a year toward Texas public education, USA Rare Earth officials asserted.

The final design of the mine and accompanying facilities has yet to be publicized, but a preliminary map shows the site for the proposed open pit mine will be on the very tip of Round Top Mountain, and plans are to excavate into the mountain from the top down and leveling it.

USA Rare Earth officials stat that the mining operations will be powered by an onsite solar plant, and more than 80 percent of the site's revenue will be from materials used in clean, green applications to align with green initiatives.

"We believe the Round Top project will jumpstart the domestic rare earths industry and support a range of fast-growing Texas

manufacturers. We also believe it will strengthen and catalyze Texas' base in clean energy and electric vehicles. We plan to power our operations with minimal greenhouse gas emissions and to extract minerals in a safe, environmentally sensitive way using a contained closed-loop process with minimal infrastructure requirements," the USA Rare Earth president noted in a public statement.

For the site to be fully operational, permits from the Texas Center for Environmental Quality (TCEQ) must be obtained, and a preliminary economic assessment indicated that twelve permits are needed including air, water, waste and operations, hazardous materials disposal, explosives, water rights, and petroleum storage permits, as well as a radioactive substance license.

In addition to air quality concerns, Addington expressed his wanting to know more about the potential effects on surface and groundwater, and whether mining company officials have discussed the impacts of the proposed rare earth mine with the regional water planning group.

Wen Song, assistant professor in the petroleum and geosystem engineering department at The University of Texas at Austin, said that while the U.S. may have stricter environmental laws than some other countries, because these operations are so new, ensuring the REE mines are not doing more harm than good will be a challenge.

"A big part of the reason why the U.S. hasn't had rare earth recovery and processing is because it's a very environmentally stressful process," Song stated in a recent news report. "That's why over the last 20 to 30 years it's really been dominated by China. One really important challenge is how do we do this in a way that's environmentally benign?"

Song said that from an engineering perspective it will be interesting to see how the rare earth minerals will be extracted from the rock they are embedded in. Understanding the specific type of rocks, the ways rare earths are bound to them, and what the right chemistry is for removing them are key questions going forward.

Comix

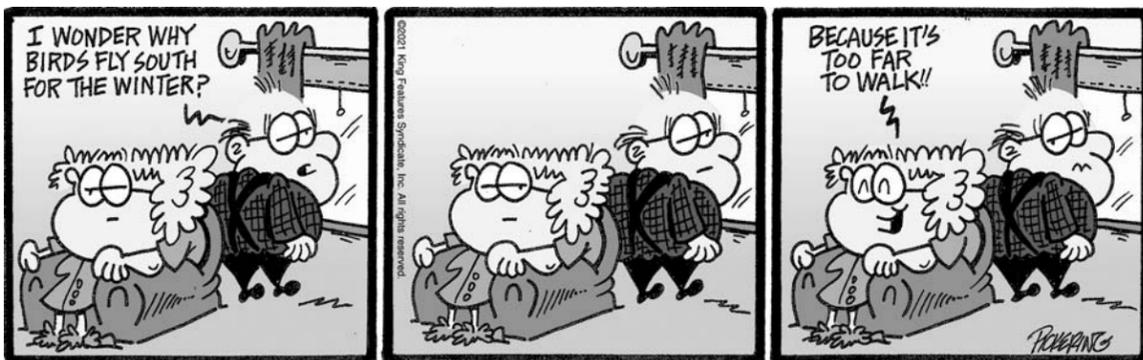
OUT ON A LIMB By Gary Kopervas



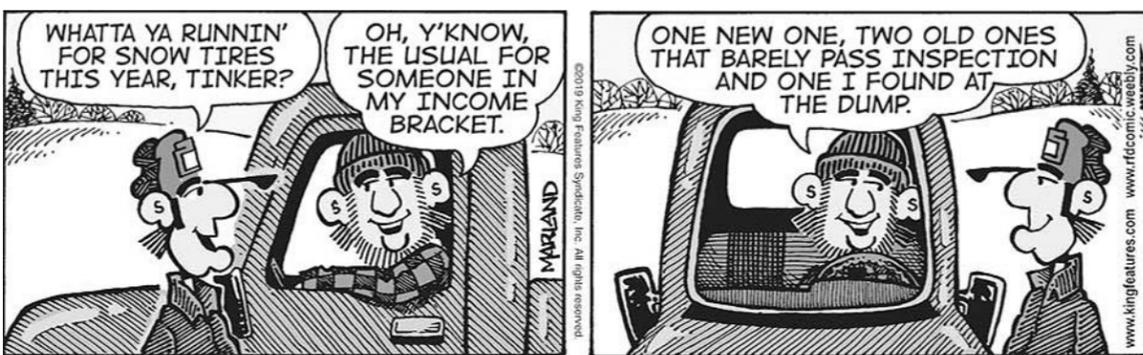
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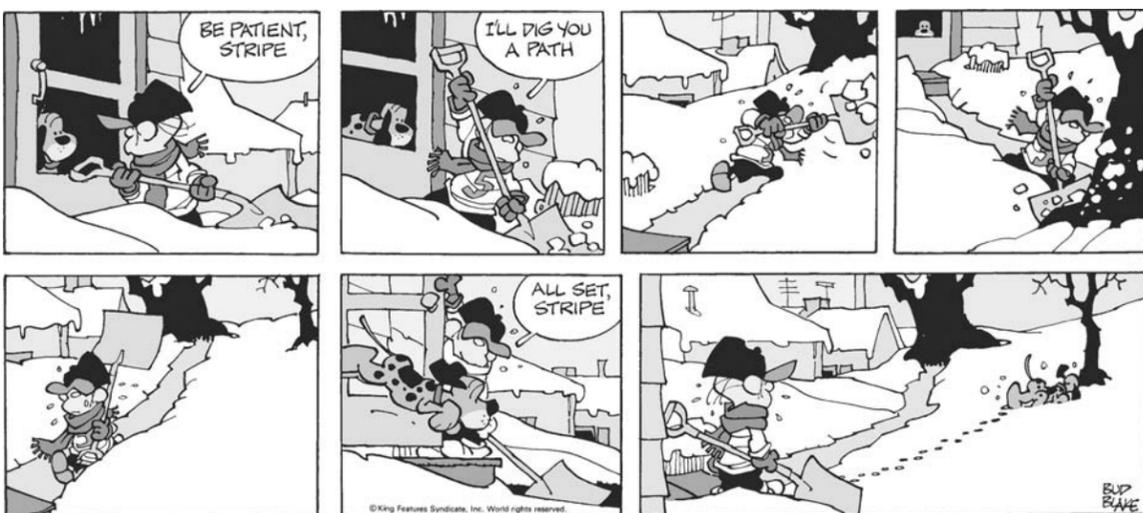
THE SPATS By Jeff Pickering



R.F.D. By Mike Marland



TIGER By Bud Blake



Lowry

From Page 2

have been added to the Democratic package to address the 2020 post-election fight).

To wrap this push in the bloody shirt of Jan. 6 is opportunistic and irresponsible and can only serve to convince even more Republicans that the outrage over that day is in the service of a nakedly partisan agenda.

Schumer has an uphill climb to convince relatively

moderate Democrats Joe Manchin and Kyrsten Sinema to go along with kneecapping the filibuster. If the New York senator were to succeed, he would have blown a hole in the traditional practices of the Senate and set the precedent for Republicans – should they achieve unified control of Washington in 2024 – to impose all their own favored electoral policies on the states.

This yin and yang wouldn't do anything to restore faith in democracy, rather the opposite. But Chuck Schumer is on a mission to achieve, and to use, the power to

Less mercury in the flu shot than in can of tuna

DEAR DR. ROACH: How much mercury is safe? – A.C.

The chemical element mercury exists in three forms: elemental mercury, which is the kind in thermometers; inorganic mercury, especially mercuric chloride; and organic mercury, including methyl and ethyl mercury. All of these have toxicities, but the types of toxicities are different for each, and the safe level depends on which type it is.



Elemental mercury is dangerous primarily when it is inhaled, which occurs mainly in occupational settings. Accidental swallowing of the small amount of mercury in a thermometer has very low toxicity, but I still don't recommend it. Inorganic mercury is seldom a problem, as it is almost never used these days in the U.S. and Canada. Most products containing this form of mercury have been banned.

Methyl mercury is the major concern for consumers, as this is found in fish. It accumulates in the environment, and tends to be worst in larger fish, which eat the smaller fish and over their lifetime accumulate the methyl mercury, which was formerly used as a fungicide. The Environmental Protection Agency warns an average-size person not to exceed 70 mcg per day of methyl mercury: Below this dose, toxicity is unlikely. This translates to two to three servings of fish per week, but no more than one serving of highest-risk fish for methyl mercury per week. High-risk sources include most tuna, halibut and snapper.

Ethyl mercury is significantly less toxic than methyl mercury, as it is removed from the body more quickly. There is no EPA recommendation for ethyl mercury levels. Ethyl mercury has been used as a preservative in vaccines, but it has been removed from all childhood and most adult vaccines. It is still used in some flu vaccines – the ones in multidose vials: Single-use vials do not need a preservative. The amount of ethyl mercury in a flu shot is less than the more dangerous methyl mercury found in a can of tuna.

DEAR DR. ROACH: I have been experiencing spells of dizziness (not spinning), along with tiredness and feeling out of breath. I take tamoxifen to prevent breast cancer. When I started, my red blood cell count was normal at 3.95, but now it is low at 3.61. Could tamoxifen be causing the dizziness? – J.Z.

Tamoxifen has both estrogen-like and anti-estrogen effects, and has been shown to reduce risk of breast cancer in high-risk women. However, it has many potential side effects, including hot flashes, blood clots, endometrial disease and coronary artery disease risk.

Two less-common side effects are dizziness and anemia. Dizziness can mean vertigo (often described as spinning), but also lightheadedness, which is what I think you mean.

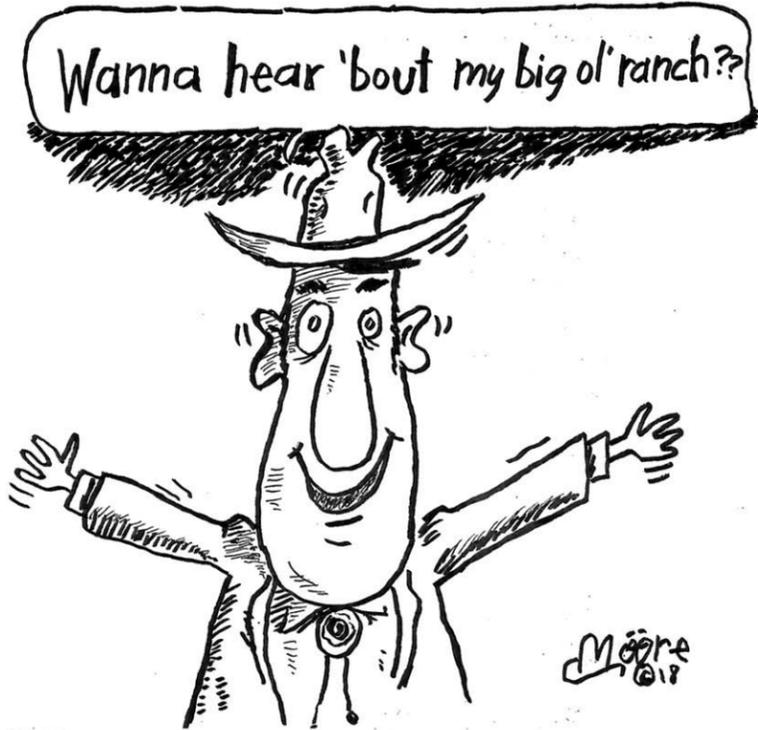
I suspect your case is due to the tamoxifen relaxing your blood vessels (called vasodilation), which leads to flushing and low blood pressure. However, about 5% of women taking tamoxifen will have anemia. (A low red blood cell count is a sign of anemia, although it is more common to follow hemoglobin level or hematocrit percentage.) The combination of vasodilation and anemia could certainly cause dizziness.

If continuing the tamoxifen is important to you in preventing breast cancer, you could try increasing your salt and water intake. Discuss this with your doctor ahead of time to be sure your blood pressure can handle that.

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) 2022 North America Synd., Inc. All Rights Reserved.

rewrite the country's electoral rules – justifications and consequences be damned.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review. (c) 2022 by King Features Synd., Inc.



Moore Texas by Roger MOORE
 "Puttin' on the dog" is a Texas way of saying somebody brags on himself too much.

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: **K** equals **R**

QAA LFW KWQJT-LV-JKPME
 XKVJYHLD PM LFPD DYXWKRQKEWL
 HVRW PM NVLLAWD VMAT.
 PL'D DV YM-HQMMT.

Answer Page 4

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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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Buddy Check 22



by Freddy Groves

Buddy Check 22 is an American Legion program that reaches out to possibly at-risk veterans. The "22" in the name is most significant: it is the average number of veteran suicides per day. On the 22nd of each month, veterans in Buddy Check will call (or text or email or drop by) another veteran to let them know they're not alone. Whether it's PTSD, suicidal thoughts, difficulty coping or anything else, BC22 veterans will be there to help.

Do you have a Buddy Check program in your area? Do you participate in either the national or a local group? Some local groups go beyond the phone calls and host monthly meetings and events. By providing a venue for making social connections and getting suicide prevention information, veterans come to know they're not alone. To

look for groups in your area, search for: "Buddy Check 22" veterans and your state.

To go to the source, the American Legion, check: www.legion.org/buddycheck. If you especially want to start a BC22 in your area, this is the place to begin.

Not affiliated with the American Legion is a nightly Zoom Buddy Check. Get there through the WarriorNOW Nightly Buddy Check at warriornow.org/buddy-check. WarriorNOW is a nonprofit committed to veteran mental health and suicide prevention.

If you or someone you know is struggling, call Veteran's Crisis Line 1-800-273-8255 and press 1.

Recently the U.S. Senate unanimously passed a bipartisan bill to designate one week per year as "Buddy Check Week." During that week, veteran mentors will learn how to do buddy checks and to access the support their buddies need. The bill would require the Department of Veterans Affairs to pitch in with education and materials for mentors to help their buddies.

The House of Representatives, however, went home for the year without addressing the Buddy Check bill. They referred it to a subcommittee, where it now sits.

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- To save a pot of burning soup, remove from the burner and DO NOT stir. Pour the unburned contents into a new pot, while trying not to disturb the burned-on bottom of the pot.

- Experts say that those who keep track of their nutrition and exercise are more likely to keep it up. This can be as simple as a pencil and notebook paired with a calorie guidebook, or one of the many great apps for your smartphone. In any case, set yourself up for success this year. You deserve it!

- Running a washing machine that isn't full not only wastes energy and water, it also wastes money because you're paying to run more washes. Always fill the machine – but remember not to overload it! This applies to your dishwasher, too.

- Want bananas to last a little longer? Do not separate your bunch, and wrap the tip in foil.

- Save the peel on oranges and grapefruits. You can toss them on a fire for a nice smell.

- Want to include more produce in your diet? Sources say prep is the step that makes it work. Clean, chop, slice and otherwise prepare all your produce choices for the week on the day you shop. When it's ready and waiting, you're less likely to skip it in favor of something more convenient (and likely less nutritious).

- "A pinch of salt tossed in the coffee grounds will cut the bitterness in lower-quality coffee. This is especially useful if you get a good deal on a can of coffee that's not your normal brand." – P.L. in New Jersey

Send your tips to Now Here's a Tip, 628 Virginia Drive, Orlando, FL 32803. (c) 2022 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

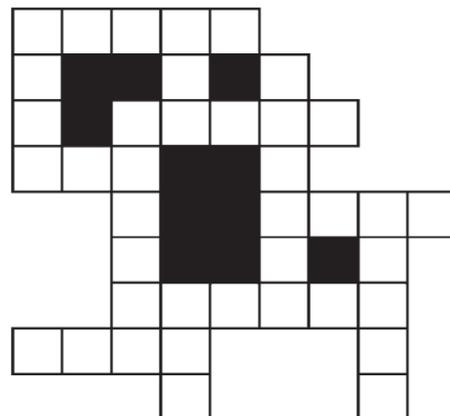
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	+		-			7
÷		+		×		
	×		÷			4
4		9		3		

1 2 3 3 4 5 6 8 9

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- OF E
- DRA FEO
- KROST
- OOLS
- ♥ FOSFET
- ♥ ELE
- ECFL
- FELYA
- ♥ TAF
- ♥ SORFEC
- ♥ TELCA
- ♥ EIFL



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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