



NEWSBRIEFS

DEA sees spike in ODs

In the past [two weeks], the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) El Paso Division has learned of several instances of individuals who used illicit drugs and then experienced overdose symptoms. The DEA has received confirmation that a total of nine patients were transported to local hospitals exhibiting signs of drug overdose, in a period of 36 hours. Most of them were transported to University Medical Center. With the two overdose deaths that occurred on Monday May 23, this brings the total number of recent overdose incidents to 11. It is suspected that the illicit drugs may be mixed with a synthetic opioid. People that are experiencing similar symptoms should call 9-1-1 immediately.

— Carlos A. Briano

Harvard bound

Four Canutillo Independent School District elementary and secondary principals are bound for Harvard University this summer. Jesica Arellano, principal at Northwest Early College High School; Jonathan Flores, principal at Bill Childress Elementary School; Christopher Judge, principal at Canutillo Middle School STEAM Academy; and Jessica Melendez-Carrillo, principal at Congressman Silvestre and Carolina Reyes Elementary will take part in the Principals' Center at the Harvard Graduate School of Education. They are among 85 school leaders from across Texas selected as the 2022 educators to attend the summer programs. Attendees, including individual principals as well as campus teams, will participate in one of two weeklong workshops on leadership development, coaching, or school turnaround. Each program is designed to inspire, challenge, and empower school leaders to bring lasting impact to their campuses, communities and Texas. The Charles Butt Foundation covers all expenses for the attendees including tuition, travel, and hotel – investing on average about \$9,200 per attendee.

— Liza Rodriguez

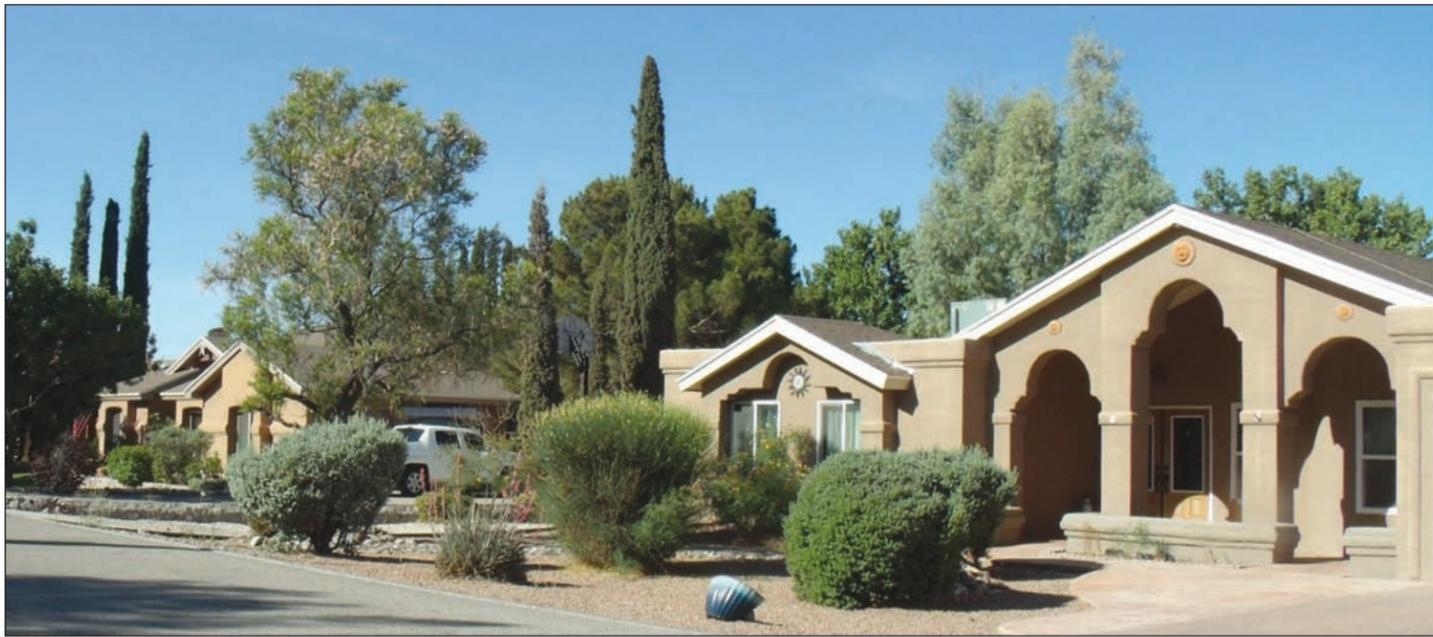
Socorro flood money

On May 11, 2022 the Texas Water

See BRIEFS, Page 4

What this country needs today is fewer experts on what this country needs.

— Quips & Quotes



— Photo by Alfredo Vasquez

GOING UP – In El Paso County, single-family residences, like the ones above, are increasing in appraisals every year which raises the rates levied by the local taxing entities including the city, county, hospital, community college, and public schools. Recent voter-approved Proposition 1 and 2 amendments to the Texas constitution aim to provide long-term tax relief for property owners.

Rising home appraisals eat up tax relief

By Alfredo Vasquez
Special to the Courier

EL PASO COUNTY – Voters approved two proposition amendments to the Texas Constitution recently. They were intended to give homeowners a property tax break. But households could still see higher tax bills because of the rapidly rising home values throughout the state.

Proposition 1, supported by 87 percent of voters statewide and by about 89 percent in El Paso County, focuses on correcting an oversight to the tax relief legislation that was adopted in 2019. The problem was that those tax relief initiatives did not apply to homeowners who are disabled or 65 and older, because their school tax was already frozen. With Proposition 1 passing, starting in 2023 the reduction in the property tax limits for school maintenance and operations will now be available to those homeowners also, according to state officials.

Statewide, over 85 percent of voters

supported Proposition 2. In El Paso County, voters passed it by more than 87 percent, according to El Paso County Elections Department reports. With the passage of Proposition 2, the homestead exemption for school district property taxes will be raised from the current \$25,000 to \$40,000 starting this year.

State senate proponents of Proposition 2 estimated that the average homeowner, that qualifies for the tax adjustment, would save at least \$175 a year in school property taxes. Also, officials affirmed that the state would reimburse school districts for funds lost because of the new amendments.

However tax reform advocates point out that while the amendments reduce the amount owed on property taxes for schools, rapidly rising home values could still result in higher tax bills. Also, the savings are not available to those who do not own the homes they live in including renters, they cited.

In El Paso County at the beginning of this year, the median sales price for a single-family home was about \$208,000, which is an increase of nearly 19 percent compared with January 2021. And on a year-over-year basis, home prices have been rising for 33 consecutive months, according to a recent realtor-generated report.

In May, after receiving unanimous

Ratified in 1876, the Texas Constitution has been amended 517 times

The Proposition 2 amendment to the state constitution, which was recently passed by Texas voters, makes millions of homeowners eligible for an extra \$15,000 exemption in their annual school taxes (from \$25,000 to \$40,000).

support by the Texas House and Senate during special sessions last fall, both tax relief measures were placed on the ballot. Senator Paul Bettencourt, a Republican from Houston, authored both of the new

See TAX, Page 2

Flores relishes new opportunities

By Liza Rodriguez
Special to the Courier

CANUTILLO – The Canutillo Independent School District's Bill Childress Elementary School Principal Jonathan Flores will have the opportunity to advance and extend his capacity as a leader through two recent distinctions.

He was selected to be part of the 2022 Charles Butt Foundation Raising School Leaders cohort that will be attending the *Leadership: An Evolving Vision Institute* at Harvard University this coming summer and was recently named president-elect of the Texas Elementary Principals and Supervisors Association (TEPSA) Region 19 Board of Directors for the 2022-23 school year.

Flores was selected as one of 20 Texas school leaders to take part in the cohort bond for the Harvard Graduate School of Education's Principals' Center for a week-long institute focused on professional development programs designed to empower and inspire school leaders. The purpose of the Charles Butt Foundation Leadership Program is to select and invest in the development of Texas school leaders who exhibit the potential to affect significant change at their campus, within their district, and across their region, and a commitment to participating in ongoing professional learning opportunities sponsored by the Charles Butt Foundation.

"I am excited because I believe in the value



— Photo courtesy Canutillo ISD

See FLORES, Page 2 Jonathan Flores

The demographic battleground

The horrific massacre in Buffalo, New York, has created a debate about the “great replacement theory,” the rancid theory adopted by white supremacists that Jewish people are conspiring to destroy the influence of white Americans by importing non-white immigrants.

The Buffalo shooter was in thrall to the theory, as have been other racist and antisemitic killers.

The theory should be denounced by all people of goodwill, and indeed, it thrives only in the most sewerish precincts of the internet.

Yet, there is an attempt to tar Republicans more broadly

with the theory and somehow attribute responsibility for the atrocity in Buffalo to them on this basis. The argument is that the likes of Elise Stefanik, a Republican congresswoman from New York, have warned that the Democrat party views immigration as a way to change the electorate in their favor, and so are mainstreaming the hateful replacement ideology.

This is a smear, and especially perverse since Republicans sounding the alarm about this Democratic view have been unquestionably correct. There hasn't been any secretive cabal at work – it's all been out in the open, discussed by progressive political operatives and think-tank analysts, and celebrated in the press.

The left-wing Center for American Progress issued a report in 2013 titled *Immigration Is Changing the Political Landscape in Key States*. It summarized its argument thusly, “Supporting real immigration reform that contains a pathway to citizenship for our nation's 11 million undocumented immigrants is the only

way to maintain electoral strength in the future.”

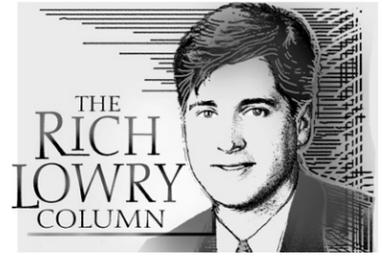
Books were written about this idea. The widely cited (and overinterpreted) 2004 book, *The*

Emerging Democratic Majority, by John Judis and Ruy Teixeira, called the Democrats “the party of transition” as “white America is supplanted by multiracial, multiethnic America.” In 2016, Steve Phillips wrote *Brown Is the New White: How the Demographic Revolution Has Created a New American Majority*. The website for his publisher says the latest edition of the book contends that “hope for a more progressive political future lies not with increased advertising to middle-of-the-road white voters, but with cultivating America's growing, diverse majority.”

Donald Trump's victory in 2016 suppressed some of this sentiment since it made it clear that white working-class voters didn't appreciate being spoken of as if they were a relic of the past; and the 2020 election and its aftermath made the assumption that Democrats will own Latino voters forevermore seem increasingly shaky.

But the left wants to create rules that define it as perfectly acceptable for Democrats to advocate high levels of immigration as a means of gaining political power, and out of bounds for Republicans to call them on it.

Washington Post writer Greg Sargent slammed New



See LOWRY, Page 7



Tax

From Page 1

constitutional amendments.

Dale Cramer, president of the Texas Taxpayers and Research Association, said that Texans should think of Proposition 1 as a way of extending additional tax relief to senior citizens and those with disabilities. Currently, property taxes for school purposes in Texas are frozen at their annual rate once someone turns 65. And last legislative session, lawmakers passed a bill that forces school tax rates down,

Craymer explained.

“If your school taxes were capped say, 10 years ago, when your value was much less, you're not getting any benefit from those rates declining because your values are far beyond where they were when the cap was set,” Craymer stated. “What Proposition 1 does is... whatever your capped amount, no matter when that occurred, as school tax rates come down, it will bring down your cap amount as well,” he noted.

Craymer said that these two constitutional amendments would not significantly impact

the budgets of Texas' public schools. “Under the school finance formulas, school districts are guaranteed a fixed dollar amount per student. The only thing that changes is how much

of that is paid with property tax and how much of that is paid with state aid,” he said.

The price tag for Proposition 1 is estimated at nearly \$220 million for 2024 and more than

\$275 million in 2026; Proposition 2 is expected to cost the state \$355 million in 2023 and rise to more than \$467 million in 2026, according to the Legislative Budget Board.

Flores

From Page 1

of constant growth and I think this is an opportunity for me to continue to grow as a leader to not only network with people from across the state of Texas but learn from the educators at Harvard and bring all that back to BCE and Canutillo to continue to grow and help our school get better,” Flores said. Flores was also named

president-elect of the TEPSA Region 19 Board of Directors for the 2022-23 school year. A TEPSA member for five years, Flores will meet locally with the board to raise awareness of public education and support students' success initiatives across the region.

“It goes back to serving and giving back to our community,” Flores said. “Serving on the board you get to work with other area principals that are also advocating for public education

as well as grow professionally and host many area events to come together and network for kids.”

TEPSA, whose hallmark is educational leaders learning with and from each other, has served Texas school leaders since 1917 and currently represents more than 5,900 school administrators who direct the activities of 3 million PreK-8 school children.

The write stuff

It's no joking matter

Editor:

In light of the tragic events of [late May] in Uvalde, TX, the County Attorney's Office wants to remind our community of the seriousness of making false threats of school violence on social media.

Under Texas Penal Code Section 42.06, false threats that place a person in fear of imminent bodily injury or cause a law enforcement agency to respond and involve a school campus, are a state jail felony.

The County Attorney's Office takes threats of violence against our schools, teachers, and children very seriously and prosecutes the cases referred to our office to the fullest extent of the law.

According to the Texas Penal Code Section 42.06, a person commits a crime when:

(a) A person commits an offense if he knowingly initiates, communicates or circulates a report of a present, past, or future bombing, fire, offense, or other emergency that he knows is false or baseless and that would ordinarily:

(1) cause action by an official or volunteer

agency organized to deal with emergencies;

(2) place a person in fear of imminent serious bodily injury; or

(3) prevent or interrupt the occupation of a building, room, place of assembly, place to which the public has access, or aircraft, automobile, or other mode of conveyance.

(b) An offense under this section is a Class A misdemeanor unless the false report is of an emergency involving a public or private institution of higher education or involving a public primary or secondary school, public communications, public transportation, public water, gas, or power supply or other public service, in which event the offense is a state jail felony.

We are also urging residents to report threats of violence against students or teachers calling the school police or 9-1-1, and to save the evidence by taking a picture or video.

– Elhiu Dominguez
Public Affairs Officer
El Paso County Attorney's Office

1973
49
Years
2022

WEST TEXAS COUNTY
COURIER

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

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MAIL:
15344 Werling Ct.
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Phone: 852-3235

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

Publisher
Rick Shrum

Contributors
Alfredo Vasquez
Steve Escajeda

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Food for thought By John Grimaldi

Both cure and cost could prove problematic

Covid virus killed some 460,000 Americans last year, heart disease killed nearly 700,000 people in the U.S. in the same period. The fact is that heart attacks are the number one cause of death in America and throughout the world. So, the announcement that scientists are testing a way to prevent heart attacks with a single injection may sound like a life-saving game-changer, particularly for seniors over the age of 65 who, according to the National Institute on Aging, are much more likely than younger people to suffer a heart attack.

Verve Therapeutics describes itself as a biotechnology company created with a singular focus: to protect the world from heart disease. Over the next three years the company says it will be testing a radical gene therapy to permanently prevent the buildup of bad cholesterol with that single injection. Cardiologist, geneticist and CEO of Verve Therapeutics, Dr. Sekar Kathiresan, says "The therapy will be relevant, we think, to any adult at risk of a heart attack. We want this not only for people who have heart attacks at a young age because of a genetic disorder, but for garden variety heart attacks as well."

Kathiresan resigned positions at Harvard Medical School and the Center for Genomic Medicine at Massachusetts general hospital to create Verve Technologies. "We really think we can turn the tide against coronary disease by moving from a chronic care model to (eradication with) a one-time treatment," he told *The Guardian*. Currently, blood thinners, statins to lower cholesterol levels and high blood pressure medications are the standard treatments for individuals with a risk of heart disease. But seniors in particular can be overwhelmed by the treatments and may stop

complying with their doctors' orders. Or they may simply forget to take their meds.

Phase one of field tests of Verve's procedure showed promise, according to a Bloomberg report. Monkeys were treated and within six months their cholesterol levels were reduced by 59%. It will be months before human testing will begin and years before Verve might have sufficient proof that the process is safe and that it works in order to seek government approval of its use.

Ultimately, says Bloomberg, the company "will face plenty of hurdles in its attempt to treat the masses. It's one of the first tests of using Crispr (a gene editing tool) to edit DNA inside the human body, and patients and doctors could be wary of making a permanent change without knowing much about long-term safety, says Elizabeth McNally, director of the Center for Genetic Medicine at the Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine." McNally also pointed out that the "reluctance to take Covid-19 vaccines suggests some people may be loath to alter their DNA."

And then there is the matter of cost. Effective cholesterol medications are available for as little as nine dollars a month while "Verve's therapy will cost from \$50,000 to \$200,000 per patient," according to Bloomberg.

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.



- On May 30, 1593, playwright Christopher Marlowe, 29, is killed in a brawl. He was nearly denied his master's degree in 1587, until advisers to Queen Elizabeth intervened, referring to his services for the state. Historians later documented Marlowe's activities as a spy for the queen.

- On May 31, 1929, Ford Motor Company signs an agreement to produce cars in the Soviet Union. In return, the USSR agreed to buy 72,000 unassembled Ford cars and trucks and all spare parts required over the following nine years.

- On June 1, 1942, a Polish underground newspaper makes public the news of the gassing of tens of thousands of Jews at Chelmno, a Nazi-operated death camp, as told by a young Jew, Emanuel Ringelblum, who escaped after being forced to bury bodies at the camp.

- On June 2, 1865, Confederate Gen. Edmund Kirby Smith, commander

of Confederate forces west of the Mississippi, signs surrender terms offered by Union negotiators. The event is regarded as marking the end of the Civil War.

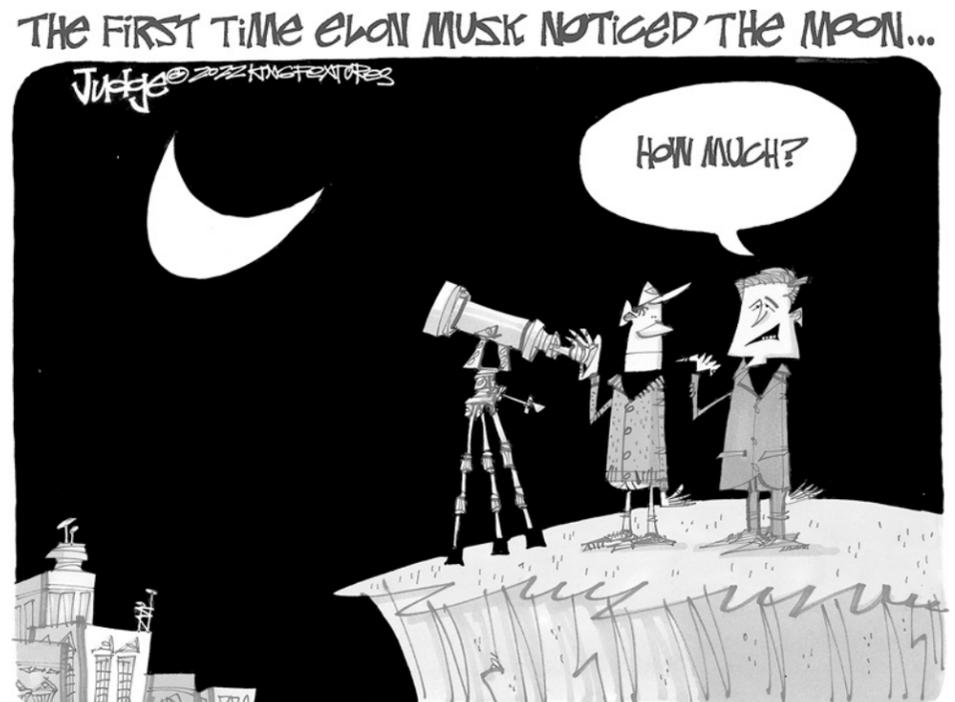
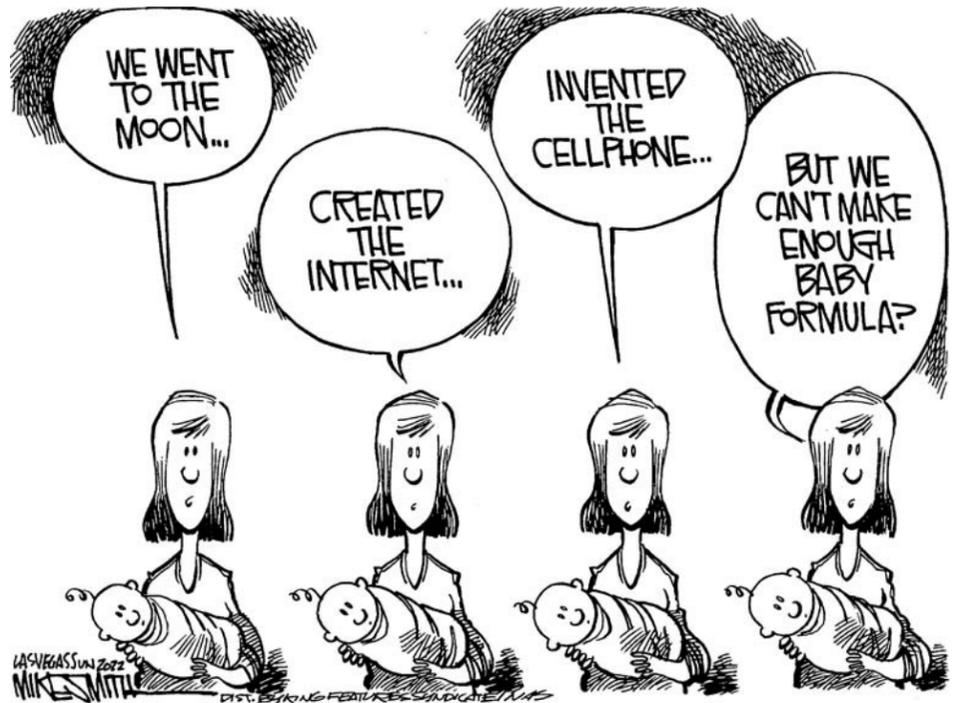
- On June 3, 1956, in Santa Cruz, California, city authorities announced a total ban on rock and roll at public gatherings, calling the music "detrimental to both the health and morals of our youth and community." Similar bans were enacted in Asbury Park, New Jersey, and in San Antonio, Texas, where the city council was fearful of "undesirable elements."

- On June 4, 1896, Henry Ford unveils the "Quadricycle." The 500-pound vehicle had two driving speeds, no reverse, no brakes, rudimentary steering ability and a doorbell button as a horn. It could reach about 20 mph.

- On June 5, 1933, the United States goes off the gold standard, in which currency is backed by gold. All gold coins, gold bullion and gold certificates were to be turned over to the Federal Reserve for the set price of \$20.67 per ounce.

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CLINT ISD WILL SERVE UP GOOD NUTRITION FOR LOCAL CHILDREN THIS SUMMER

CLINT ISD SERVIRÁ UNA BUENA NUTRICIÓN PARA NIÑOS LOCALES ESTE VERANO

Bringing healthy summer meals to the Clint, Horizon, and Montana Vista areas ensures kids have a healthy summer break and return to school ready to learn.

Llevar comidas de verano saludables a las áreas de Clint, Horizon y Montana Vista asegura que los niños tengan unas vacaciones de verano saludables y regresen a la escuela listos para aprender.

This summer, the Clint Independent School District will connect children 18 and younger and enrolled students with disabilities up to 21 years old with healthy, no-cost summer meals. The Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) is a U.S. Department of Agriculture nutrition program administered in the Lone Star State by the Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA). For the children who rely on school meals during the academic year, these meals offer a source of good nutrition when school is out during the summer months.

Este verano, el Distrito Escolar Independiente de Clint conectará a los niños de 18 años o menos y a los estudiantes matriculados con discapacidades hasta los 21 años con comidas de verano saludables y sin costo. El Programa de Servicio de Alimentos de Verano (SFSP) es un programa de nutrición del Departamento de Agricultura de los EE. UU. Administrado en el estado de Lone Star por el Departamento de Agricultura de Texas (TDA). Para los niños que dependen de las comidas escolares durante el año académico, estas comidas ofrecen una fuente de buena nutrición cuando no hay clases durante los meses de verano.

“The Clint, Horizon, and Montana Vista area children need good nutrition year-round, so they can learn, grow and succeed in life,” said Carlos Villalobos, CNP Director. “With nearly 2 million food-insecure children living in Texas, these healthy meals are vital to nourishing young Texans during the summer vacation.”

“Los niños del área de Clint, Horizon y Montana Vista necesitan una buena nutrición durante todo el año, para que puedan aprender, crecer y tener éxito en la vida”, dijo Carlos Villalobos, Director de CNP. “Con casi 2 millones de niños con inseguridad alimentaria viviendo en Texas, estas comidas saludables son vitales para nutrir a los jóvenes tejanos durante las vacaciones de verano.”

CLINT AREA

ÁREA DE CLINT

Clint High School 13890 Alameda Ave., Clint, TX 79836

June 6 to July 15, 2022 – Monday through Friday
Breakfast: 8:00 a.m. - 8:45 a.m.
Lunch: 11:00 .a.m - 1:00 p.m.

Junio 6 a Julio 15, 2022 – Lunes a Viernes
Almuerzo: 8:00 a.m. - 8:45 a.m.
Comida: 11:00 .a.m - 1:00 p.m.

Clint Early College Academy 13100 Alameda Ave., Clint, TX 79836

June 3 to June 30, 2022 – Monday through Friday
Breakfast: 8:00 a.m. - 8:45 a.m.
Lunch: 11:00 .a.m - 1:00 p.m.

Junio 3 a Junio 30, 2022 – Lunes a Viernes
Almuerzo: 8:00 a.m. - 8:45 a.m.
Comida: 11:00 .a.m - 1:00 p.m.

Clint Junior High School 12625 Alameda Ave., Clint, TX 79836

June 6 to June 24, 2022 – Monday through Friday
Breakfast: 8:00 a.m. - 8:45 a.m.
Lunch: 11:00 .a.m - 1:00 p.m.

Junio 6 a Junio 24, 2022 – Lunes a Viernes
Almuerzo: 8:00 a.m. - 8:45 a.m.
Comida: 11:00 .a.m - 1:00 p.m.

Surratt Elementary School 12675 Alameda Ave., Clint, TX 79836

June 6 to June 17, 2022 – Monday through Friday
Breakfast: 8:00 a.m. - 8:45 a.m.
Lunch: 11:00 .a.m - 1:00 p.m.

Junio 6 a Junio 17, 2022 – Lunes a Viernes
Almuerzo: 8:00 a.m. - 8:45 a.m.
Comida: 11:00 .a.m - 1:00 p.m.

HORIZON AREA

ÁREA DE HORIZON

Horizon High School 14651 Horizon Blvd., El Paso TX 79928

June 6 to July 15, 2022 – Monday through Friday
Breakfast: 8:00 a.m. - 8:45 a.m.
Lunch: 11:00 .a.m - 1:00 p.m.

Junio 6 a Julio 15, 2022 – Lunes a Viernes
Almuerzo: 8:00 a.m. - 8:45 a.m.
Comida: 11:00 .a.m - 1:00 p.m.

Horizon Middle School 400 North Kenazo Drive, El Paso, TX 79928

June 6 to June 24, 2022 – Monday through Friday
Breakfast: 8:00 a.m. - 8:45 a.m.
Lunch: 11:00 .a.m - 1:00 p.m.

Junio 6 a Junio 24, 2022 – Lunes a Viernes
Almuerzo: 8:00 a.m. - 8:45 a.m.
Comida: 11:00 .a.m - 1:00 p.m.

Ricardo Estrada Middle School 851 South Darrington Rd., El Paso, TX 79928

June 6 to June 24, 2022 – Monday through Friday
Breakfast: 8:00 a.m. - 8:45 a.m.
Lunch: 11:00 .a.m - 1:00 p.m.

Junio 6 a Junio 24, 2022 – Lunes a Viernes
Almuerzo: 8:00 a.m. - 8:45 a.m.
Comida: 11:00 .a.m - 1:00 p.m.

Desert Hills Elementary School 300 N. Kenazo Drive, El Paso, TX 79928

June 6 to June 17, 2022 – Monday through Friday
Breakfast: 8:00 a.m. - 8:45 a.m.
Lunch: 11:00 .a.m - 1:00 p.m.

Junio 6 a Junio 17, 2022 – Lunes a Viernes
Almuerzo: 8:00 a.m. - 8:45 a.m.
Comida: 11:00 .a.m - 1:00 p.m.

Frank Macias Elementary 14400 Golden Eagle Dr., El Paso, TX 79928

Campus will be closed for meals. Visit a nearby school for meal pick-up.

Esta escuela estará cerrada para las comidas. Visite una escuela cercana para recoger la comida.

Carroll T. Welch Elementary School 14510 McMahan Ave., El Paso, TX 79928

June 6 to June 17, 2022 – Monday through Friday
Breakfast: 8:00 a.m. - 8:45 a.m.
Lunch: 11:00 .a.m - 1:00 p.m.

Junio 6 a Junio 17, 2022 – Lunes a Viernes
Almuerzo: 8:00 a.m. - 8:45 a.m.
Comida: 11:00 .a.m - 1:00 p.m.

MONTANA VISTA AREA

ÁREA DE MONTANA

Mountain View High School 14964 Greg Dr., El Paso, TX 79938

June 6 to July 15, 2022 – Monday through Friday
Breakfast: 8:00 a.m. - 8:45 a.m.
Lunch: 11:00 .a.m - 1:00 p.m.

Junio 6 a Julio 15, 2022 – Lunes a Viernes
Almuerzo: 8:00 a.m. - 8:45 a.m.
Comida: 11:00 .a.m - 1:00 p.m.

East Montana Middle School 3490 Ascension Rd., El Paso, TX 799384250

Campus will be closed for meals. Visit a nearby school for meal pick-up.

Esta escuela estará cerrada para las comidas. Visite una escuela cercana para recoger la comida.

Red Sands Elementary School 4250 O'Shea Rd., El Paso, TX 79938

Campus will be closed for meals. Visit a nearby school for meal pick-up.

Esta escuela estará cerrada para las comidas. Visite una escuela cercana para recoger la comida.

Montana Vista Elementary School 3550 Mark Jason Dr., El Paso, TX 79938

June 6 to June 17, 2022 – Monday through Friday
Breakfast: 8:00 a.m. - 8:45 a.m.
Lunch: 11:00 .a.m - 1:00 p.m.

Junio 6 a Junio 17, 2022 – Lunes a Viernes
Almuerzo: 8:00 a.m. - 8:45 a.m.
Comida: 11:00 .a.m - 1:00 p.m.

Note: Meals will be available at surrounding Clint campuses. All Clint ISD campuses and offices will be closed July 4-8, 2022.

Nota: Las comidas estarán disponibles en las escuelas cercanas. Todos las escuelas y oficinas de Clint ISD estarán cerrados del 4 al 8 de Julio de 2022.

For more information about Clint ISD summer meals, please call (915) 926-4980.

Para obtener más información sobre las comidas de verano de Clint ISD, llame al (915) 926-4980.

Clint Independent School District is one of the nonprofit organizations partnering with TDA to serve meals across Texas. Families are encouraged to use these three tools to find a meal site anywhere in the state:

- Call 2-1-1 to speak to a live operator
- Visit www.SummerFood.org for an interactive site locator map
- Text FOODTX or COMIDA to 877-877

Clint ISD” es una de las organizaciones sin fines de lucro que se asocia con TDA para servir comidas en todo Texas. Se anima a las familias a utilizar estas tres herramientas para encontrar un sitio para comer en cualquier parte del estado:

- Llame al 2-1-1 para hablar con un operador en vivo
- Visite www.SummerFood.org para obtener un mapa de localización de sitios interactivo
- Envíe un mensaje de texto con FOODTX o COMIDA al 877-877

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

USDA es un proveedor y empleador que ofrece igualdad de oportunidades.

The Big Apple is finally getting its sports act together

By Steve Escajeda
Special to the Courier

There's no doubt that the most talked about, loved, hated, and most important city in the United States is New York City

In fact, the Big Apple is one of the most talked about, loved, hated, and most important cities in the entire world.

Whether it's finance, or innovation, or politics, or fashion, or media, or entertainment, or any other aspect of life, New York is always setting the trend.

And you can even include sports as one of those categories. But the sports world hasn't exactly been successful in NYC lately.

We all made fun of both New York NFL teams last season with neither the Giants or the Jets getting to the playoffs.

They were both bad. The only question is which one was worse?

Both the Giants and the Jets, who share the same stadium, finished in last place in their respective divisions and each finished with identical 4-13 records.

Both teams have made themselves a little better during the offseason, but chances are that they will at least be battling for last place again this season.

And then there were the two teams predicted to be among the best in the eastern conference of the NBA, the New York Knicks and the Brooklyn Nets.

The Knicks were expected to go deep into the playoffs and many thought the

Nets, who started the year with Kevin Durant, James Harden and Kyrie Irving, would win the whole thing.

Well, the Knicks were an utter disappointment and would finish with a losing record and miss the playoffs entirely, while the Nets had to go through the play-in tournament just to make the playoffs, seeded seventh, and were swept in the first round by the Boston Celtics..

The Knicks look like they'll have to regroup altogether, while the Nets traded Harden to the Philadelphia 76ers for the disgruntled Ben Simmons. Good luck with that Brooklyn.

But not all is lost for the New York City sports fan.

It's too early to tell whether this will last the entire summer, but at least for

the first month-and-a-half of the Major League Baseball season, both the New York Yankees and the New York Mets are in first place in their divisions.

The Yankees have gotten off to a red hot 33-14 start while the Mets are not far behind at 31-17.

The Yankees are doing what they always do, they're winning games. In fact, the Yanks haven't had a losing season since 1992. That means if they finish with a winning record this season (and it certainly looks like they will) that will make it an incredible 30 straight winning years.

The big surprise is the New York Mets, who have suffered through losing seasons in 10 of the last 13 years.

Another big surprise is the way both teams are winning.

Usually, the Yankee bats that are leading the way and they are getting a big season from Aaron Judge, who leads the team in hits and home runs and runs scored and runs batted in and batting average. But it's the Yankees pitching that is leading the way with a team earned run average of just 2.92, placing them second in all of baseball.

It's the Mets who usually rely on their pitching. This season though, it's the offense that has led to the Mets success.

New York is second in all of baseball with a team batting average of .263. The Mets are also first in total hits and second in runs scored.

Amazingly, the Mets pitching staff is ranks only 13th in the majors.

So after disastrous seasons in football and basketball, New York fans look like they're in for an exciting summer.

Of course anything can happen between now and September, but at least fans in the Big Apple have some hope.

The Yankees and the Mets are Just like the Dallas Cowboys or the Los Angeles Lakers – whether you love or hate them – it's always for interesting when you have those teams in the playoffs.

I mean, a lot of people go to the movies and root for the villain, right?

Strange BUT TRUE

By Lucie Winborne

• Most of us know that pregnancy has its challenges, but one you might not be aware of is that expectant moms attract roughly twice as many mosquito bites. It's believed this is because they exhale more carbon dioxide and have higher body temperatures than those who aren't pregnant.

• A Chinese father hired virtual assassins to kill his son's World of Warcraft character, hoping that would stop the young man from playing after he'd quit his day job.

• American death row prisoners are given a physical to ensure they're fit enough to die.

• The French duo Daft Punk took their name from a negative review they received from "Melody Maker" magazine regarding a trio of which they'd previously been members.

• A particularly pessimistic fan of

football's Cleveland Browns requested in his obituary that six members of the team serve as pallbearers at his funeral so "the Browns could let him down one last time."

• In the early 1970s, the first Nike shoe was inspired by... a waffle. After watching his wife make waffles, the company's co-founder, Bill Bowerman, poured urethane into a waffle iron to see what would happen. The Waffle Trainer debuted soon after.

• In 2007, Iran claimed 14 squirrels found near the nation's borders were actually spies.

• In Sweden, the body warmth of more than 200,000 commuters passing through Stockholm's Central Station is harvested to provide heat for an office building across the road.

• A Kansas man requested that an Iowa court grant his motion for trial by combat. His opponents? His ex-wife and her attorney, whom he desired to meet "on the field of battle" in order to "rend their souls from their corporeal bodies."

• During the 1984 Olympic Summer

Games in Los Angeles, McDonald's announced a promotion offering free food and drink every time an American athlete made it to the medals podium. After the former Soviet Union boycotted the games, it turned out to be quite a costly promotion.

• Before mercury, brandy was used to fill thermometers.

• Author William Faulkner refused a dinner invitation from JFK's White House. "Why, that's a hundred miles away," he said. "That's a long way to go just to eat."

• The longest song title ever is Hoagy Carmichael's 1943 "I'm a Cranky Old Yank in a Clanky Old Tank on the Streets of Yokohama with my Honolulu Mama Doin' Those Beat-o, Beat-o Flat-On-My-Seat-o, Hirohito Blues."

Thought for the Day: "The difference between a smart man and a wise man is that a smart man knows what to say; a wise man knows whether or not to say it."

— Frank M. Garafola

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Super Crossword

HOLLYWOOD GROUP ACROSS

- 1 Shrine images
- 6 Kept from falling, as pants
- 13 Abashed
- 20 Showed on TV again
- 21 Not varying at all
- 22 In a weepy way
- 23 Start of a riddle
- 25 Language spoken in Dhaka
- 26 Is in a chair
- 27 College, to a Brit
- 28 Long to undo
- 30 Augur's sign
- 31 Riddle, part 2
- 39 Home for mil. jets
- 40 Roman love god
- 41 Singer James or Jones
- 42 Bad guys
- 46 Explosive compounds
- 48 Hercule creator
- Christie
- 53 From time immemorial
- 54 Riddle, part 3
- 56 Talk big
- 57 Mr. Capote, to friends
- 58 Partner of neither
- 59 Liquid asset
- 60 Riddle, part 4
- 66 Reciprocal

DOWN

- 1 Eye opener?
- 2 Shocking EMT treatment
- 3 Give a speech
- 4 Expire
- 5 Lead-in to Cone or Cat
- 6 Rubs elbows
- 7 Flying
- 8 Mattel doll
- 9 Expire
- 10 "The Simpsons" shout
- 11 Old stage star
- Hagen
- 12 Martinez of baseball
- 13 Ideally
- 14 Realize
- 15 Sci-fi's Solo
- 16 Singer jargon
- 17 Where the Marlin's play
- 18 Burstyn or Barkin of film
- 19 Running out of steam
- 24 Blew with short blasts
- 29 World Heritage Site gp.
- 32 Manicurist's target
- 33 Brave in the face of adversity

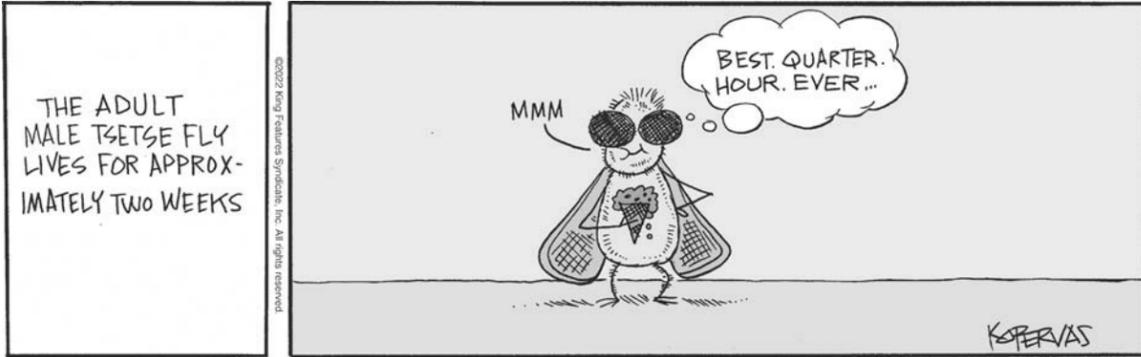
- 34 Give off
- 35 "The lady _ protest..."
- 36 Canadian tribe
- 37 _TASS (news agency)
- 38 Very wise
- 42 Seizes
- 43 Site of the Taj Mahal
- 44 Scorch
- 45 Frat shindig
- 47 Rajah's wife
- 49 Mountain climbers, e.g.
- 50 Alexis or Peter, e.g.
- 51 Big name in oil and gas
- 52 Court great Arthur
- 54 Novelist Sarah _ Jewett
- 55 Basic musical chords
- 57 Bullfighter
- 61 D.C. baseballer
- 62 Ike's inits.
- 63 USSR's Cold War foe
- 64 Alluringly shy
- 65 "Moo" maker
- 67 76ers' org.
- 68 Rocket scientist
- Wernher _ Braun
- 71 Neutral color
- 72 Bryn _
- Pennsylvania
- 73 Feel fluish, perhaps

- 74 Not cluttered
- 75 Bagel center
- 76 "_ Fideles"
- 77 Father, to a tot
- 78 Knievel of motorcycle stunts
- 79 Cravings
- 82 Hurry it up
- 86 Tech detail
- 87 Wife of Zeus
- 88 _ Scott case
- 89 Civil wrong
- 90 "Quiet!"
- 91 Dumy dwellings
- 92 _ Sea (Asian lake)
- 95 Thirsts for
- 97 Rearranges
- 100 Basil and bay leaf
- 101 Heads-up
- 102 YouTube clip
- 103 All gone, as food
- 104 Add-on
- 105 Purple color
- 106 Decorative flower holders
- 107 Cybermissive
- 108 Scorch
- 113 1040 IDs: Abbr.
- 115 Fruity quaff
- 116 According to
- 118 Fence (in)
- 119 Psychic "gift"
- 120 Added charge
- 121 Bruin great Bobby
- 122 Alleged psychic
- Geller

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126									127							128		

Comix

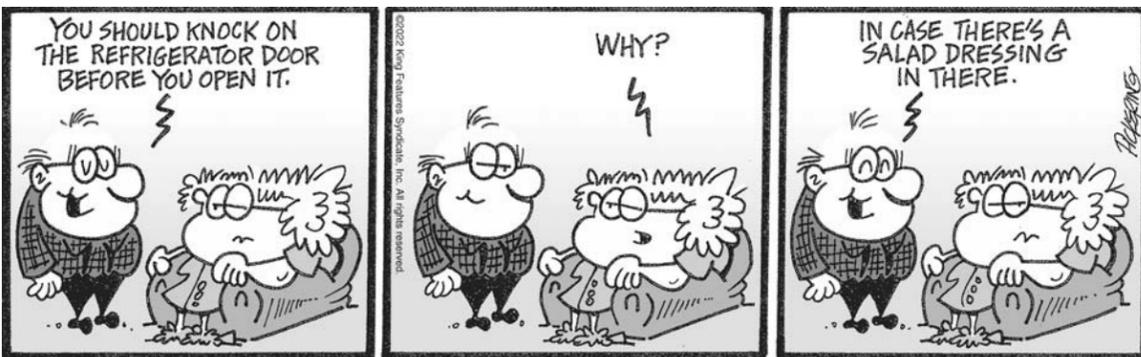
OUT ON A LIMB By Gary Kopervas



AMBER WAVES By Dave T. Phipps



THE SPATS By Jeff Pickering



R.F.D. By Mike Marland



TIGER By Bud Blake



Lowry

From Page 2

York Rep. Elise Stefanik for allegedly flirting with the great replacement theory in Facebook advertisements last year. They warned that Democrats want a sweeping amnesty for undocumented immigrants in order "to overthrow our current electorate and create a permanent liberal majority in

Washington."

Never mind that Stefanik could have drawn her warning directly from various left-wing writers and advocacy organizations. Or that Sargent himself wrote after Barack Obama's victory in 2012 that the election had been "all about demographics" and that the outcome showed the electorate wasn't "reverting to the older, whiter, more male version Republicans had hoped for."

What makes Sargent's basic view different than Stefanik's, other than the fact that he welcomes how immigration trends have changed our politics and she doesn't?

Immigration has been hotly contested throughout our history, and is an inherently highly emotive issue, involving the composition of our polity and core questions of national identity. It can only inflame the issue further to explicitly

Cologuard test is worth risk of a false positive

DEAR DR. ROACH: I am a 77-year-old man in good health. At my recent annual physical exam, my physician ordered a Cologuard kit to be sent to me to screen for colorectal disease. I have never had symptoms of disease or problems with any part of my gastrointestinal tract. I had two colonoscopies at different times several years ago, with negative results. When I got the kit, I read that the Cologuard test could result in false positives, with an increased risk of false positives for persons over age 75. A positive test result requires a follow-up colonoscopy, which is also riskier for elderly patients. Since I am in good health with no symptoms of any disease, I decided I did not want to risk a false positive result from the test, which would require a follow-up colonoscopy. Did I make the right decision? – E.G.



Cologuard is a brand of test that looks at DNA in stool for evidence of cancer. Certain DNA mutations are highly suggestive of cancer. In addition, Cologuard does an immunochemical test looking for blood. Because it combines these two techniques, Cologuard is more sensitive than only a test looking for blood. Compared with colonoscopy, Cologuard is about 92% sensitive in finding cancers, meaning it will miss about 8%. With improved sensitivity comes a lack of specificity, which means you could have a false positive result. The Cologuard can say that you have an abnormality when a colonoscopy would indicate normal. For 45% of people with a positive Cologuard test, no abnormalities will be found upon colonoscopy. You are right that false positives are more prevalent in older individuals.

There are two reasons that I think the Cologuard is still a reasonable choice, although it isn't as good as colonoscopy. The first is that I continue to recommend a screening test for healthy 77-year-old men, and although colonoscopy is my first choice, a normal Cologuard test prevents a need for colonoscopy, and a false positive would lead to the same colonoscopy you would have gotten anyway (although there probably is more anxiety after a false positive test). The second is that a person with an abnormal Cologuard and a normal colonoscopy may be at risk for an abnormality that wasn't found on colonoscopy. A study looking at people in this category found a 25% risk of abnormality on follow-up colonoscopy, if the Cologuard was abnormal again one to two years later.

DEAR DR. ROACH: I am 35 years old. I have experienced fluttering in my chest for most of my adult life. It's been a once in a while kind of thing, but for the past month, I keep getting it every day. I have had a lot of EKGs, but my doctor seems to think everything is normal. Please help me, because it's messing up my work and other aspects of my life. – S.Q.

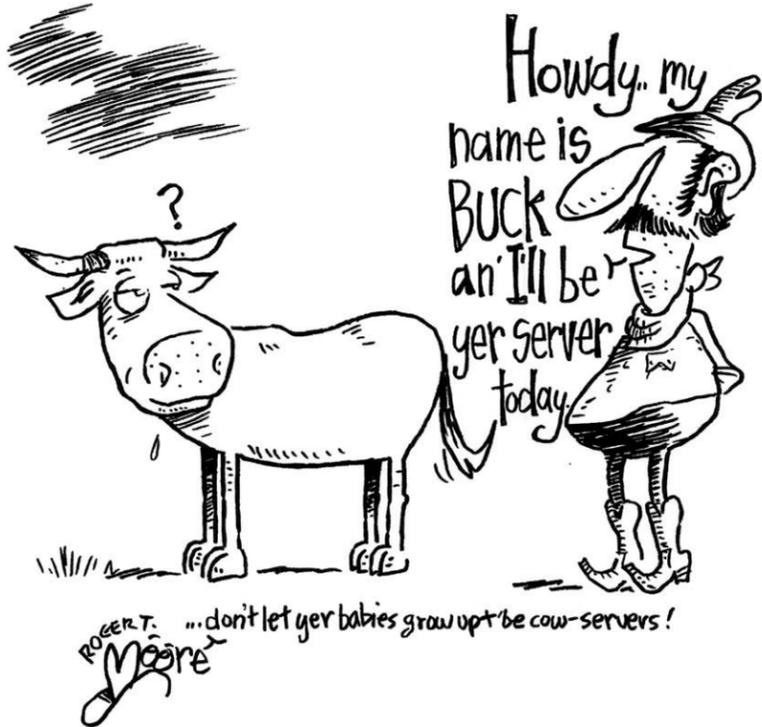
Most of the time, fluttering in the chest is not something you need to worry about. Most people will have occasional episodes of this, and a few people have a greater number but are found to be normal after extensive evaluation. A cardiologist might recommend a 24- to 48-hour heart monitor. If you have symptoms every day, this would be likely to catch your heart rhythm during an event. Devices that record for longer amounts of time are also available, and there are consumer devices that allow you to record an EKG yourself.

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.

weaponize demographic theory, but don't support high levels of immigration for partisan reasons and expect the other side not to notice.

Yes, by all means, further shun and marginalize replacement

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



Moore Texas by Roger MOORE
 The pompous British owners of Texas' Rocking Chair Ranche called their cowboys "Cow Servants."

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: V equals F

HV ESRWSLI OSJJXRE M
 ZRYOMHQ EFMXX, OMQBI VYTHO
 JHR, NR ZSTXL WR TJEROHQB
 ONR MJJXR OMYO.

Answer Page 4

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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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Second chances for incarcerated veterans



by Freddy Groves

We recently had Second Chance Month, courtesy of a presidential proclamation. Its goal was to "provide meaningful redemption and rehabilitation for formerly imprisoned persons." It requires, per the proclamation, a holistic approach that eliminates long sentences, and provides job and education training during incarceration plus opportunities to enter the workforce after release.

What that means for veterans is that the Department of Veterans Affairs is taking action to help vets rejoin society after they've been in prison. In a mutual help program, the Bureau of Prisons, the Social Security Administration and VA benefits will work to ensure that the VA is notified within 30 days of release.

Help for imprisoned veterans

includes:

- Expanding outreach into prisons to let veterans know about the services they can use and hook up with while still in prison.

- A web-based program that prison staff can use to identify veterans who will need VA services when they get out. The prison staff will need the veteran's name, Social Security number, date of birth and so on to access the site: Veterans Reentry Search Service.

- Finding "justice-involved" veterans (through outreach by specialists) and encouraging them to access VA services. Those can include pre-release assessments and links to care for social, mental, medical and employment services.

To learn more about the health care services available to veterans released from prison, check the VA website at www.va.gov/homeless/reentry.asp. Scroll down to watch videos about supporting and assisting incarcerated veterans, second chances for incarcerated veterans and

suicide prevention. Further down the page are email links for the specialists in each state.

Once they're released from prison, veterans are at risk for homelessness, death from drug overdoses and suicide. Per a U.S. Sentencing Commission study, 67% of incarcerated veterans had mental health problems, and 55% had served in a combat zone. Of those, 41% reported post-traumatic stress and 67% had used illegal substances... yet 62% had separated from the service with an honorable discharge.

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- "Planning a new roof? Choose a light color for cooling benefits. Also check with your home-insurance company to see what discounts it might offer for different styles or options, like upgraded hurricane clips or fire-retardant materials." – R.E.W. in Tennessee

- Cut a cord of firewood in the spring, and cure it yourself. Store it away from the house and properly care for the wood by stacking it where it will have access to the sun and wind to dry it. Let it season for six months or longer, and you'll have firewood ready when the temperatures drop again.

- "If you're melting chocolate in your microwave, do yourself a favor: Line the bowl with wax paper or parchment paper. The chocolate is still easy to stir, but when you take it out, you can scrape all the chocolate off the paper so that none is wasted!" – A.A. in Florida

- "Place a bit of clear tape over the spot where you are going to drive in a nail to prevent the nail from cracking drywall. It will go right in. Also, if you're nailing into wood, drag your nail through some soap (bar soap is fine) before striking it. This does the same thing – it will keep the wood from splitting. You can even keep a travel-size bar of soap in your nail apron for just this purpose." – P.K. 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

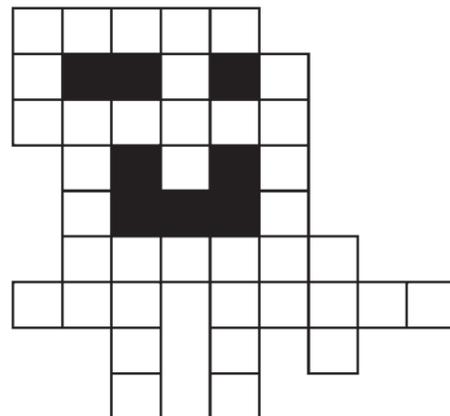
	-		x		27
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1 3 4 5 6 7 8 8 9

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- OTO
- PAYHAT
- ♥ NIPOT
- ALDN
- TAZOLE
- DHA
- ♥ EONT
- DENOA
- ♥ EAP
- PHOTNY
- ZAPAL
- ♥ ENDE



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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