

NEWSBRIEFS

College towns

With application season in full swing and student living expenses reaching over \$30,000 per year in some regions, WalletHub has released its report on 2023's *Best & Worst College Towns & Cities in America*, as well as accompanying videos and expert commentary. This report, which is a follow-up to WalletHub's *College & University Rankings*, aims to determine the towns and cities that provide better living conditions even in these difficult times. To help college-bound high school seniors determine their future home for the next several years, WalletHub compared more than 400 U.S. cities – also grouped by city size – based on 32 key indicators of academic, social and economic growth potential. The data set ranges from the cost of living to the quality of higher education to the crime rate. El Paso rated 36 th in the report. El paso was rated 36th in the report. Other stats:

- Richmond, KY has the lowest cost of a two-bedroom apartment rental, \$783 per month, which is 4.2 times lower than in Santa Cruz, CA, the city with the highest at \$3,293 per month.
 - Brownsville, TX has the lowest cost-of-living index for young people, 77.92, which is 2.9 times lower than in Stanford, CA, the city with the highest at 223.41.
 - Savannah, GA has the lowest cost of higher education, \$17,414 per year, which is 4.7 times lower than in Evanston, IL, the city with the highest at \$81,283 per year.
 - Stony Brook University in New York, has the most enrolled students (per 1,000 residents), 954, which is 22.7 times more than in Cape Coral, FL, the city with the fewest at 42.
- Visit <https://wallethub.com/edu/e/best-worst-college-cities-and-towns-in-america/8974> for the full report.

– Diana Polk

Fun cities

With the average American spending over \$3,500 on entertainment each year, the personal-finance website WalletHub has released its report on 2022's *Most Fun Cities in America*, as well as accompanying videos and expert commentary. To help Americans find the cities with the

See BRIEFS, Page 5

The successful man is one that does what he has to do at the time he hates to do it the most.

– Quips & Quotes



– Photo by Alfredo Vasquez

DISCIPLINE – The youthful participants of the recent Taekwondo tournament perform warm up drills, above, before their competition. Over 100 White Tiger Taekwondo Academy students performed for a large crowd of family members and friends.

Taekwondo teaches youth confidence, self-discipline

By Alfredo Vasquez
Special to the Courier

EL PASO COUNTY – An audience of about 400 spectators recently packed an El Paso County westside gymnasium to view more than 100 youthful participants show off their skills and agility in Taekwondo, a Korean form of martial arts that involves punching, spinning jumps, and fast kicking techniques.

Participants in the martial arts event are members of the White Tiger Taekwondo Academy, which has studios in the county's eastside and westside neighborhoods. The martial arts students, who range in age from four-years-old to young adults, came together to show off a variety of skilled moves including precise form techniques and board breaking abilities. The special tournament was held last Saturday, at the Don Haskins Recreation Center.

"We held this tournament to bring all

of our Taekwondo students together so that they could have an opportunity to showcase their abilities and perform at their highest level under pressure," stated Master Dave Kim, founder of the White Tiger Academy.

Kim, who runs the academy along with his wife, Seki, explained that the main purpose of the martial arts training is to instill in the practitioner confidence, self-discipline, focus, and goal setting traits. He stated that the Taekwondo instructors emphasize physical fitness and respect for themselves and others.

Kim stated that White Tiger's core philosophy is changing lives through the martial arts. "By building a relationship with the students and teaching fun, high quality classes, our students are learning martial arts at its best... gaining confidence, exercising their bodies, and learning how to defend themselves, if ever

See TAEKWONDO, Page 2

About Taekwondo

Taekwondo (also known as Tae Kwon Do) is the art of self-defense that originated in Korea. It is recognized as one of the oldest forms of martial arts in the world, dating back over 2,000 years. The name was selected for its appropriate description of the art: Tae (foot), Kwon (hand), Do (art).

The introduction of Taekwondo in the United States began during the 1950's when a handful of pioneering master instructors travelled to America to spread the art. Throughout the next few decades Taekwondo grew in popularity, not only as a martial art, but as an international sport.

In 1973, Korea hosted the first Taekwondo World Championships. In that same year, the World Taekwondo Federation (WTF) was established as the international governing body for the sport aspects of Taekwondo. Today the WTF counts 120 separate countries as its members, representing 20 million practitioners. These numbers earn Taekwondo the distinction of being the most practiced martial art in the world.

Taekwondo first gained acceptance as an Olympic sport when it appeared as a demonstration event in the 1988 Seoul Olympic Games. Taekwondo became a full medal sport competition beginning in 2000 at the Sydney Olympics.



Landeros selected by QuestBridge

By Gustavo Reveles
Special to the Courier

CANUTILLO – Paola Landeros has met her match. The Northwest Early College High School (NWECHS) senior was selected as a national scholarship recipient through QuestBridge's

National College Match Program. The QuestBridge program connects high-achieving high school seniors from low-income backgrounds with full four-year scholarships to 48 of the nation's best colleges.

Landeros was one of 1,755 scholars

See LANDEROS, Page 4

The spies that deserve to be out in the cold

The “Twitter Files” released by Elon Musk give us a more fine-grained understanding of how and why the social media company decided to censor the Hunter Biden laptop story.

This was a woefully stupid decision. The *New York Post’s* account was suspended for two weeks for the offense of coming up with a scoop that we are still talking about and that will surely play a large role in upcoming GOP investigations into Biden family corruption.

That’s the kind of thing that newspapers should get awards for; Twitter thought it should get punished for it.

But the Twitter officials caught up in the progressive bubble that caused them to censor first, ask questions later – all in the name of “safety,” of course – weren’t the most blameworthy actors in this episode.

That dishonor belongs to the former intelligence officials who put out a widely cited, deliberately misleading letter suggesting that the Hunter Biden laptop was Russian disinformation. It muddled the discussion over the laptop and gave President Joe Biden a handy tool to try to deflect the laptop story.

These former officials knew what they were doing, traded on their public service for a tawdry political purpose, and have by and large demonstrated no remorse.

Even the former head of trust and safety at Twitter – who sounds like he just came from a sit-in at a university president’s office demanding the disinvitation of a right-wing speaker from campus – has said Twitter shouldn’t have suppressed the Hunter Biden story.

Amazingly, the former officials, once entrusted with some of the most sensitive powers and roles in the U.S. government, aren’t as responsible and accountable as a social-media functionary from woke central casting. As a sheer



matter of public accountability, their disgraceful performance should be one focus of House Republican investigators beginning in January.

More than 50 former intelligence officials signed the letter, including five former CIA directors or acting directors. Biden cited the letter in a debate with Donald Trump. “There are,” he said, “50 former national intelligence folks who said that what... he’s accusing me of is a Russian plant.”

That statement was strictly true; it just didn’t hold the significance that Biden hoped the average listener would assume. When Trump derisively noted that Biden sounded like he was saying that the laptop was another Russian hoax, Biden doubled down: “That’s exactly what we’re told.”

Of course, we all know that there’s no way Biden heard about the laptop with all its tawdry and comprising information and thought, “No, that’s not my boy – must be the insidious work of an extremely adept, undetected Russian spy network trying to influence the election.”

Now that multiple other news outlets have confirmed the

See **LOWRY**, Page 7



– Photo by Alfredo Vasquez

EXECUTE – Nathan Vasquez, 5, demonstrates his Taekwondo moves for the panel of judges during the recent Taekwondo tournament held at the Don Haskins Recreation Center in El Paso County’s west side.

Taekwondo

From Page 1

performed before a panel of judges, who are Taekwondo advanced students. They gave scores to determine the first, second, and third place finishers

they may need to,” he asserted.

During the Saturday morning tournament, the participants

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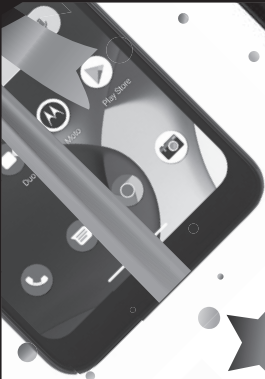


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View from here By

Liberalism vs Conservatism

Strassel is a veteran journalist and member of the *Wall Street Journal's* editorial board who writes the weekly column, Potomac Watch. The *Wall Street Journal* printed its first edition in 1889; today it has a worldwide circulation of about three million readers. It was founded by Charles Dow and Edward Jones and to this day, it is still published daily by the Dow Jones Companies and noted for its award-winning news coverage.

Recently, Kimberley Strassel joined Rebecca Weber, CEO of the Association of Mature American Citizens, on AMAC's Better For America podcast, for a discussion of the current state of American politics. As she put it, we are currently "having an up close and personal experience with liberalism, with an administration that is pushing forward ideas that are more progressive and aggressive than anything that we have probably seen since when Jimmy Carter was in office, if not before."

Strassel went on to remind us that the nation got "really sick of that experiment" when along came Ronald Reagan, "a great communicator who [united] the conservative movement and fundamentally changed the structure of politics in the country for a generation or more." She called it the "Reagan Revolution" and said that President Reagan not only united the party, but he invited others to join in. "That's what's

really at stake here. It's not just the next two years, but will conservatives capitalize on the great discontent that is washing across the country and use it to build a new movement?"

Meanwhile, the GOP now has control of the House of Representatives and has the ability to investigate and expose the damage for which the Biden administration is responsible. "That would include taking a deep dive in the FBI, looking a little bit more at what happened starting all the way back with the Russia collusion hoax. But also, we've had whistleblowers coming forward, talking to Congress about continued political bias happening at the very top of the agency. I think Americans deserve answers on Afghanistan and that horrible withdrawal that weakened the country. I think they deserve answers in terms of the CDC and various other public health organizations that very much got it wrong in a lot of ways on COVID, mostly so that we know how to make sure that we get it right if there is another pandemic."

Strassel also pointed out that as a journalist, she is supposed "to be skeptical of government... to counter government spin, government officials. But look at what happened during the Russia collusion narrative. They [reporters] were essentially taking dictation from the same government officials who had engaged in wrongdoing, some of whom had been

fired. But just telling their side, their story, not actually asking any questions. That's very problematic because the fourth estate is meant to keep the government on its toes, expose ill-doings, and work on behalf of the people by telling the truth." As we have seen in the media, this is not something that is being done by journalists or news outlets. We have in fact seen quite the opposite.

However, Strassel shared the good news: "for every [news] outlet that I think has gone down that road, there have been others that have popped up. They might not have as big a megaphone, but they are committed to continuing to tell the truth, to respect their readers, [and] to understand

that their job isn't just to give a narrative. And what I always argue is if you don't like that kind of partisan journalism, there's a very easy answer to it. It's the same thing that we do as consumers every day. Turn it off, don't buy it, don't listen to it, and send the message that that kind of journalism isn't acceptable."

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.

Taekwondo

From Page 2

in the different age groups. The top three finishers received special medals.

Kim asserted that Taekwondo is not just about training in martial arts techniques and earning different colored belts or medals. "Taekwondo is more about learning a way of life that is built on self-confidence, self-discipline, and respect for the world around us," he said. "A student of Taekwondo can succeed in any other sport because it helps develop ones muscles, flexibility, and teamwork."

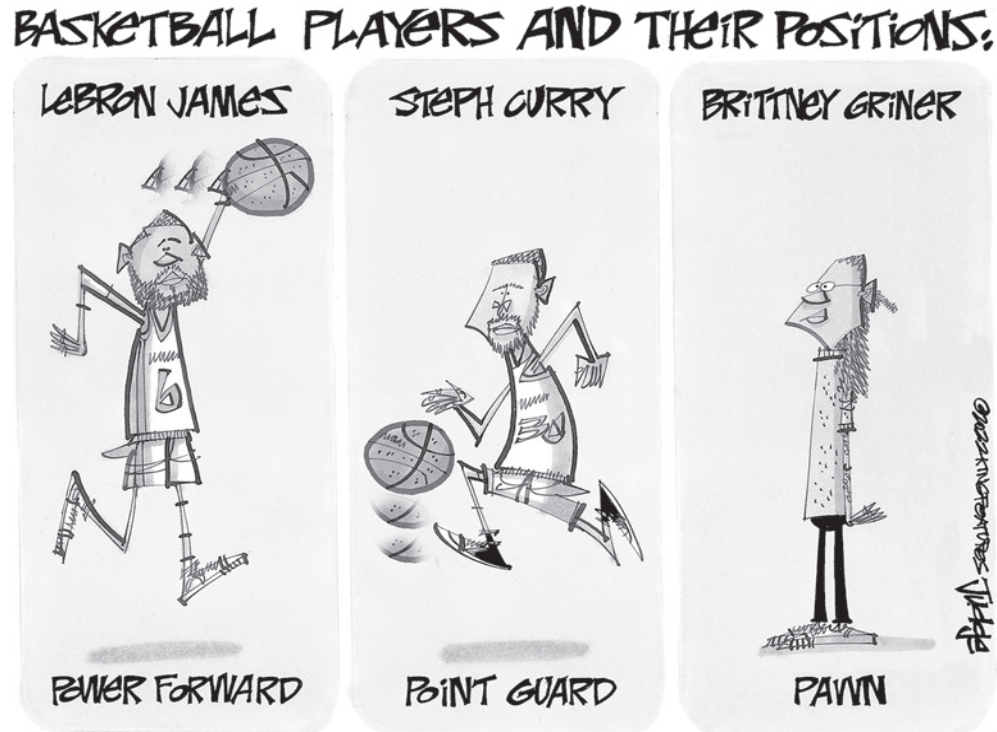
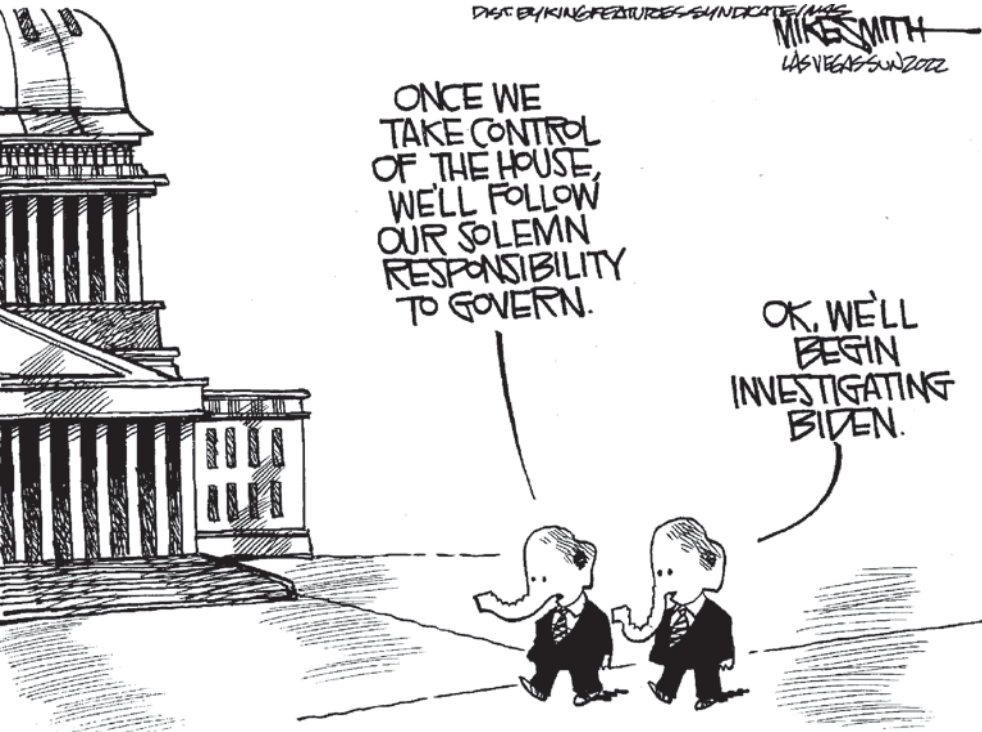
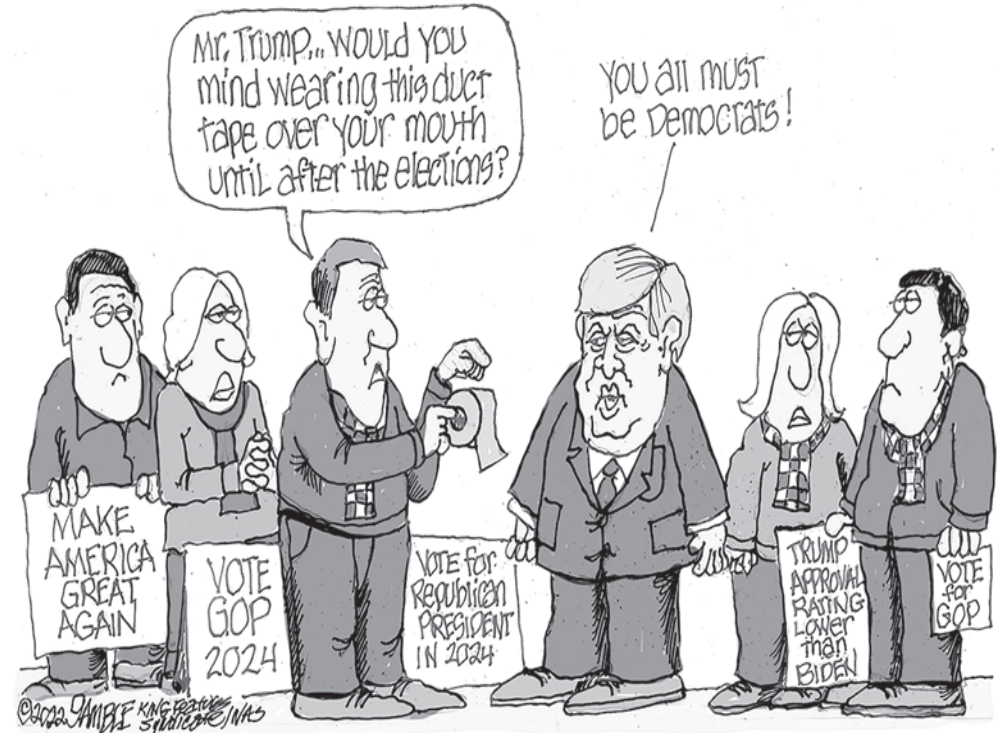
Valerie Vasquez – whose seven year old daughter, Emery, and five year old son, Nathan, have been attending the White Tiger's west side studio for the past two years – said that she has

noticed a difference in her children when it comes to self-confidence. "They are more active participants at school, they are more comfortable among their peers, and are more focused in their class work," she cited. She added that she likes that the Taekwondo instructors promote showing respect at all times.

Emery said that she likes participating in the Taekwondo training because it makes her feel strong. Nathan said that he likes the martial arts classes because they play different games. Both of them, however, said that the hardest part of the training was doing the push-ups and sit-ups during the workout sessions.

Daniel Call, the tournament's organizer, said the event was sponsored by local businesses.

Visit wtigertaekwondo.com for more information about the White Tiger Taekwondo Academy.



Senior moment By Matilda Charles

Social Security benefit for 2023

It’s official: Our Social Security increase for 2023 will be 8.7%. They say it’s the largest increase in 40 years.

For the average senior, that’s going to mean a \$146 monthly increase. Plus we’re getting a small “rebate” on that massive Medicare Part B increase we faced last year when the cost went to \$170.10 to pay for Aduhelm, an Alzheimer’s disease drug that was said to cost \$56,000 per year. (After facing criticism, manufacturers had to cut the cost in half, down to \$28,200.) We’ll now save \$5.20 on our Part B premium, with the average monthly deduction being \$164.90. The Part B annual deductible will drop to \$226, a \$7 savings.

What’s disturbing is that only a few months ago the financial gurus were expecting we’d receive a 10.2% increase on Social Security, based on all the high prices we’ve been seeing this year and will likely see into 2023. Instead, they’ve lowered that to the 8.7%... while prices have continued to rise.

The problem is how those annual increases are calculated. They use the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners And Clerical Workers (CPI-W), which calculates the prices of goods and services for things those urban workers care about: clothing, education, electronics and so on. That CPI-W covers 29% of the population. Instead, they should use the Consumer Price Index for the

Elderly (CPI-E), which focuses on goods and services that seniors spend money on: medical, drugs, food, housing and so on.

The next time you call your senators and representatives, be sure to ask why the Elderly index isn’t being used. After all, they’ve been thinking about it since the 1980s.

Meanwhile, don’t let the Medicare open enrollment period pass you by. Until Dec. 7 you have the option to make changes to your original Medicare Advantage plan, supplemental plan and prescription drug plan.

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Landeros

From Page 1

from across the nation recognized as a Match Scholarship recipient and was invited to attend Tufts University, a private research university in Boston, Massachusetts on a full four-year scholarship.

“We are extremely happy for Paola and her family that she was awarded this remarkable opportunity to attend a top university on a full-ride scholarship,” said NWECHS Principal Frank Clark. “It is always rewarding to see our students’ ability to earn these highly competitive awards through their hard work and dedication.”

Finalists included outstanding high school seniors across the country with an average unweighted GPA of 3.94, with 94% being in the top 10% of their graduating class. Around 94% come from a household with an annual income under \$65,000, and 88% qualify for free or reduced-price school meals. The majority of this year’s Match Scholarship Recipients – 80% – are among the first generation in their families to attend a four-year college in the United States.

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CryptoQuip Answer

I’m enormously tired of
having no career and thus
struggling financially.
I need a vocation!

Strange BUT TRUE

By Lucie Winborne

- Finnish Ph.D. students graduate in style! Along with their hard-earned diploma, they receive a sword and top hat.
- Cherophobia is the fear of being happy.
- Within a week of stealing 16 statues from an Indian Hindu temple, the thieves responsible believed their subsequent nightmares and bad luck were a direct result and brought back some of the property with a note asking for forgiveness – but still held on to two of the statues anyway.
- Baby elephants suck their trunks for comfort.
- Do you like tequila? Thank a bat. Seriously. Bats are the main pollinators of the agave plant, which is the key ingredient in tequila. No bats, no agave, no tequila!
- If Michael Phelps were a country, he’d rank No. 35 on the all-time Olympic gold medal list, ahead of 97 countries.
- On Jan. 20, 2022, a U.S. hacker managed to bring down North Korea’s entire internet. In addition, he performed this feat in great comfort, while wearing his pajama pants, watching “Aliens” and munching on spicy corn snacks.
- If you attended the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse, perhaps you participated in a Thanksgiving tradition known as Frozen Turkey Bowling. And yes, it’s essentially what it sounds like: A bunch of folks hurling oiled frozen turkeys down a grocery store aisle at a set of bowling pins. Strange? Sure, but it raises money to combat smoking, so we’re on board.
- Brunettes are more likely than anyone else to become hooked on nicotine. The high levels of the pigment melanin in their hair also make it difficult for the liver to metabolize the nicotine, keeping it in the system longer and making it easier to become addicted.

Thought for the Day: “Few people know how to take a walk. The qualifications are endurance, plain clothes, old shoes, an eye for nature, good humor, vast curiosity, good speech, good silence and nothing too much.”

– Ralph Waldo Emerson

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Moments in time

THE HISTORY CHANNEL

- On December 12, 1917, with a loan of \$90, Father Edward Flanagan founds an orphanage originally called The City of Little Men, dedicated to caring for at-risk children, with national headquarters in the village of Boys Town, Nebraska, for which it was later renamed.
- On December 13, 1978, the U.S. government honors women’s suffrage icon Susan B. Anthony by minting a dollar coin named for her, but its close similarity to the quarter ultimately doomed it for public acceptance.
- On December 14, 1997, in advance of a visit from Pope John Paul II, Cuban president Fidel Castro declares Christmas to be an official holiday for the first time since his takeover in 1959.
- On December 15, 2001, the Leaning Tower of Pisa reopens to the public after a team of experts spent 11 years repairing it, at a cost of over 30 million euros. While it was stabilized, this third attempt at eliminating its famous lean also notably failed.

- On December 16, 1773, a group of highly disgruntled Boston colonists board three ships loaded with taxed tea from Britain. While it would undoubtedly have been enjoyed by the locals, following the refusal of officials to return it, the men hurled the tea into Boston Harbor as a form of protest against “taxation without representation.”
- On December 17, 1969, the U.S. Air Force closes its “Project Blue Book,” started in 1952 to determine whether UFOs were a threat to national security and to analyze UFO-related data. The closure came after concluding there was no actual evidence of extraterrestrial spaceships behind the 12,618 UFO sightings it had collected.
- On December 18, 1912, amateur archaeologist Charles Dawson discovered human remains in the Piltdown gravel pit in Sussex, England. Dubbed the “Piltdown Man,” he was thought to represent the missing evolutionary link between apes and mankind until it was confirmed at a 1953 international congress of paleontologists that the specimen was a fraud, consisting of skull parts both human and orangutan.

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Briefs

From Page 1

greatest number and variety of cheap, fun activities, WalletHub compared more than 180 U.S. cities across 65 key metrics, ranging from fitness clubs per capita to movie costs to average open hours of breweries. El Paso was rated 62nd in the report. Other Stats:

- Orlando, FL has the most restaurants (per square root of population), 7.2927, which is 17.8 times more than in Pearl City, HI, the city with the fewest at 0.4094.
- San Francisco, CA has the highest share of the population with walkable park access, 99.76 percent, which is 3.1 times higher than in Indianapolis, IN, the city with the lowest at 32.50 percent.
- Las Vegas, NV has the most playgrounds (per square root of population), 1.1285, which is 22.8 times more than in Hialeah, FL, the city with the fewest at 0.0496.
- San Francisco, CA has the most dance clubs (per square root of population), 0.1422, which is 79 times more than in Henderson, NV, the city with the fewest at 0.0018.
- Brownsville, TX has the lowest average beer price (per

six-pack), \$7.49, which is 1.6 times lower than in New York, NY, the city with the highest at \$12.33.

- Port St. Lucie, FL has the lowest movie cost, \$6.43, which is 2.7 times lower than in Los Angeles and Long Beach, CA, the cities with the highest at \$17.40. Visit <https://wallethub.com/edu/most-fun-cities-in-the-us/23455> for the full report.

– Diana Polk

Mink on the run

It’s suspected that it was the Animal Liberation Front [ALF] that broke into a mink farm in Van Wert County, OH recently and “freed” as many as 40,000 of the little critters – enough to make as many as 500 mink coats. If the ALF thought they were saving the lives of the little mammals, they were mistaken; many of them remained on the farm, but most of them got away and were killed when caught. The local sheriff’s department warned that “minks are carnivorous mammals that stick to a diet consisting of fresh kills. They regularly hunt prey bigger than themselves. As a result, they can be a bothersome pest for homeowners, livestock owners, and property managers.”

– John Grimaldi

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2022 was another great year for sports

By Steve Escajeda
Special to the Courier

More and more, Americans are becoming defined by their political beliefs. They are either left wing or right wing, conservative or liberal, pro-this or anti-that.

And there is less middle ground with each passing day.

Thank goodness that for those of us who are tired of the madness, we have the

world of sports to escape to.

In sports, regardless of how you feel about the team, a winner and a loser is determined on the field of play and the outcome is accepted because we all saw it happen.

Every season brings a multitude of sports experiences and memories that will live with us for years to come.

So with 2022 coming down to the wire, it might be a nice escape to take a look at the past year’s most iconic sports moments.

Back in February, the first professional championship team of 2022 was crowned when the Los Angeles Rams outlasted the Cincinnati Bengals 23-20 in the Super Bowl.

And though that was a great moment, the real NFL memory happened a couple weeks earlier during the Divisional Round of the playoffs.

In one weekend, the Cincinnati Bengals, the San Francisco 49ers, the Rams and the Kansas City Chiefs all won their playoff games on walk-off scores, with a combined margin of victory of just 15 points.

The Bengals’ Even McPherson kicked a 52-yard field goal as time ran out to upset the Tennessee Titans 19-16. The 49ers’ Robbie Gould kicked a 45-yard field at the buzzer to beat the Green Bay Packers 13-10. Rams kicker Matt Gay booted a 30-yard field goal as time expired to beat the Tampa Bay Bucs 30-27 and in what was easily the best game of the year, the Chiefs’ Patrick Mahomes hit Travis Kelce with an 8-yard touchdown pass in overtime to beat the Buffalo Bills 42-36.

The NFL also said goodbye to two-time Super Bowl champion quarterback Ben Roethlisberger, who retired after 18 years with the Pittsburgh Steelers.

We finally had someone new winning the college football title as the Georgia Bulldogs trounced Alabama 33-18 in the National Championship game.

We had the Winter Olympics and the World Cup in 2022. Unfortunately, the two will be remembered for their controversial

venues (China and Qatar), which have been questioned for their human rights abuses.

Speaking of controversy, 2022 was the year that saw Lia Thomas became the first known transgender Division I swimming champion, sparking debate from campuses to Congress over how Title IX applies to transgender athletes regarding equality and fairness.

In the NCAA basketball world, Duke’s Mike Krzyzewski, or Coach K, called it a career. It’s going to take some time to get used to not seeing him on the Duke bench.

After a so-so first half of the season, the Boston Celtics were the hottest NBA team in the second half and they went on the reach the NBA Finals. But in the end, it was Klay Thompson, Draymond Green, superstar Stephen Curry and the rest of the Golden State Warriors that won another title, their fourth in eight years.

One of the biggest stories of the year just got resolved a week ago when the WNBA’s Brittany Griner was released from a Russian prison and brought back to America after serving 10 months for possessing cannabis.

Two of the greatest tennis players of all time retired in 2022. Serena Williams and Roger Federer hung up their rackets after amazing careers and accomplishments that will live on forever.

The Houston Astros won the second World Series title, taking the Philadelphia Phillies in six games, but it was the heroics of Aaron Judge and Albert Pujols down the stretch that gained the interest of baseball fans. Judge set the American League single-season record with 62 home runs, and Pujols reached number 700 just before ending his baseball career.

Of course there were a ton of other stories and moments we didn’t have space to cover here, but let’s be glad we can still escape from the absurdities of political leaders all over the world.

Win or lose, sports puts things into perspective and reminds us to be passionate but not to take things so seriously.

But seriously, Happy Holidays!

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1	Conceptual framework	7	Nickname of jazz pianist Earl Hines	12	Cat feature	16	Mailbox item: Abbr.	19	Cajoles	20	Backcountry	21	Actor Alan	22	Before	23	Saving a Hilton from being demolished?	26	Rove (about)	27	Eisenhower, informally	28	Dawn deity	29	Country that's the setting of a story told by Jesus?	31	Confusion when a golfer can't find the club for the green?	36	2000-15 CBS show	37	Two racing Unsers	38	Strike _ (do some modeling)	39	Admission of defeat	41	"The way things now stand..."	44	Road named for a head of state?	50	Intent	53	Golf average	54	Mental sharpness	55	Santa _ winds	56	One who's bad at playing practical	jokes?																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																									
62	Richard of "The Jackal"	63	Former AT&T rival	64	Creepy	65	Tax audit org.	66	Hunchback creator Victor	67	Belgian river	68	Favorite crucifix style?	74	"I see!," facetiously	77	Match units	78	Cruise of "Top Gun"	79	Actress Bette	83	No, in Fife	84	DVR choice	85	Evangelizing in remote areas?	89	Fast internet svc.	90	Final words from a bully	92	Tirana's nation: Abbr.	93	Picnic pest	94	Subatomic matter that may or may not exist?	101	"Penn & Teller: _" (TV series)	102	Maui "hello"	103	Hunter constellation	107	Three in "minimum"	108	Big tea vessel	110	Aviator who was really courageous?	114	Little squeeze from a fuddy-duddy?	118	Grain variety	119	NASA's Eagle, e.g. riot	121	Forehead border you had before you started going bald?	126	_ kwon do	127	Coal source	128	Door reply to "Who's there?"	129	Most current	130	Antiquated	131	Fax, e.g.	132	"The battle _!"	133	Provides, as with power	24	Mythical bird	25	Bitterly cold	30	Jungle den	32	Recipe qty.	33	Always	34	Assistance	35	Bullring holler	40	Sky light	41	40-Down studier's sci.	42	Eyelid malady	43	One of a flight of steps	45	MPG monitor	46	USA's Uncle	47	A Gershwin	48	Be an omen of	49	Feudal vassal	50	Big galoot	51	Outrage	52	Impair	57	Frank Sacks' " _ the Unicorn"	58	Plunk lead-in	59	Helpful hints	60	Get it wrong	61	" _ Be My Girl" (top 5 tune for the O'Jays)	66	Source of CBD oil	67	"Right on!"	69	Ancient Egyptian god	70	Dwarfs' count	71	Vodka brand, familiarly	72	In support of	73	Govt. health agcy.	74	" _ you act now..." (infomercial segue)	75	Is unrivaled	76	Hardly ever employed	80	By way of	81	Hostel	82	Mil. officer	84	Bean curd	85	Touch	86	Traitor	87	Yale alum	88	"The Good Doctor" aier	91	Virgin Mary's mother: Abbr.	95	Actress Lanchester	96	Many #1 songs	97	Calder Cup rink org.	98	Writer Santha Rama _	99	Email giggle	100	Verdi's " _ tu"	104	Instead (of)	105	Danish port	106	Big Apple MLB squad	108	Coll. in Philly	109	Made grain-sized	111	Skater Sasha	112	Python in "The Jungle Book"	113	Scrabble 4-pointer	114	Hernando de _	115	Engine stats	116	A Great Lake	117	Roman 402	122	Sydney's state: Abbr.	123	Non- _ food	124	Sprinted	125	"Inc." relative																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																
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Super Crossword

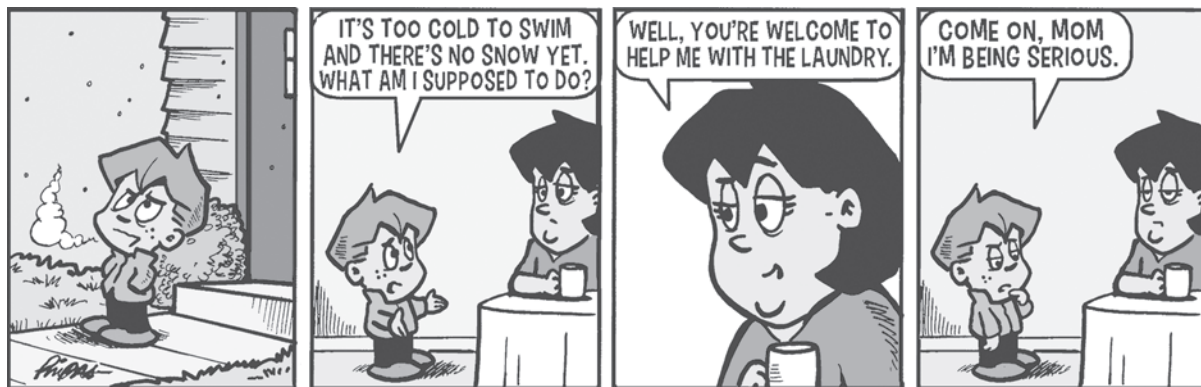
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Comix

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

legitimacy of the laptop, the letter-writers haven't repented about themselves spreading clever disinformation meant to influence the election. They've fallen back on a Jesuitical defense of their handiwork.

And, indeed, the letter-writers played

a game. They didn't actually say that the Hunter Biden laptop story was disinformation, at the same time they created that impression. This has given them plausible – or more accurately, implausible – deniability.

Cornered about the letter on Fox News, former CIA officer David Priess said that the laptop story, just as the letter asserted, had “all the classic earmarks” of Russian disinformation. That didn’t mean

it was disinformation, just that it had the earmarks.

That's not how the letter was promoted at the time, though. Nick Shapiro, a prime mover behind the missive and a former top aide under CIA director John Brennan, told *Politico*, "The real power here however is the number of former, working-level IC officers who want the American people to know that once again the Russians are interfering."

Supplement with potential still needs to be studied

DEAR DR. ROACH: I have a friend with multiple health problems, mostly digestive and throat issues, who has recently discovered the supplement astaxanthin through his treatment with a nutritionist. He is extremely optimistic that this supplement is his ticket to better health. He said it was developed by a biochemical engineer. As a doctor, would you recommend this for your patients? He says it is a powerful antioxidant and reduces inflammation. He also believes it will destroy any cancer cells. – N.H.



Astaxanthin is a naturally occurring pigment related to vitamin A that was first isolated from a lobster in 1938. It indeed has both anti-inflammatory and antioxidant properties. It has been used as a coloring agent in salmon, and is also naturally found in salmon. Most astaxanthin sold commercially is synthesized from petroleum products.

As a supplement, astaxanthin has been best studied to treat and prevent skin damage from aging. Multiple small studies have shown that it can improve skin appearance and function when used orally or topically. There is also some evidence it can reduce DNA damage from ultraviolet light.

The ability to reduce the type of damage that may ultimately lead to skin cancer is a far cry from the ability to “destroy any cancer cell.” There is no secret or hidden cure to cancer.

The Food and Drug Administration categorizes astaxanthin as “generally regarded as safe.” As I have often said, since supplements are not tightly regulated in the United States, you must rely on the manufacturer providing you with what they say they are, and there have been many, many instances where that has not been the case (in general, not about astaxanthin in particular).

Being conservative, I would say this supplement has potential, but I can't recommend it until it has been better studied.

DEAR DR. ROACH: My hair is falling out. What can be done about it? I take biotin and saw palmetto, but it hasn't stopped the hair loss. The older a lady gets, the more her hair falls out! – L.

I have learned not to underestimate the psychological effects of hair loss in women. Female pattern hair loss is a common problem affecting older women. The diagnosis can be made for certain by your regular doctor or a dermatologist after an exam. The most common pattern is thinning of the hair, often initially in the midline and worse on the top of the scalp (vertex). There are other causes of hair loss, so it is important to get a correct diagnosis in order to choose the right treatment.

I have not seen much success with over-the-counter supplements. Topical minoxidil (Rogaine) is the most common treatment, but I have started to try very low-dose oral minoxidil in some of my women patients. Spironolactone (a blood pressure medicine that also blocks testosterone receptors) and finasteride (used in men both for enlarged prostate and for male pattern hair loss) are also used by experts for women. It takes months to see if these are working.

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.

No weasel words there. And the press coverage leaned heavily on the suspicions of the intelligence officials, not their lawyerly caveats.

Even more than the former management of Twitter, the letter-writers have shown they never should be trusted again.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.
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Moore Texas by Roger MOORE
Coffee carried on Texas cattle drives sometimes had a peppermint stick in the package, leading to fistfights.

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: F equals T

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WJNZIS IY TJMOOM JIV FWAU
UFMASSCZIS RZIJITZJCCE.
Z IOOV J NYTJFZYI!

Answer Page 4

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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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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The PACT Act and you



by Freddy Groves

The Sergeant First Class Heath Robinson Honoring our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics – the PACT Act – adds a number of important modifications to veteran health care.

Among other benefits, PACT requires the Department of Veterans Affairs to do a toxic exposure screening on each veteran who’s enrolled in VA health care. That’s a good start. Additionally, it extends eligibility for veterans who were exposed, adds more exposure locations for radiation and Agent Orange, and adds over 20 more presumptive conditions for AO and other toxin exposure, as well as exposure to burn pits.

That word “presumptive” is key. It means you don’t have to fight tooth and nail to prove that an illness came from being stationed at a particular location. It’s “presumed” that

your illness came from being there and that the surrounding conditions were the cause.

If you’ve been getting VA care for several years, the name can be confusing because “PACT” used to mean something else: Patient Aligned Care Teams. In that incarnation of PACT, personalized primary care was the objective. It started in 2010 with the creation of teams made up of nurses, providers, social workers, pharmacists, nutritionists and many others. They would employ e-health visits, phone calls, monitoring at home, group visits, the whole medical gamut, to give individualized care to veterans. Surveys done then indicated that the program was modestly successful, at least when it came to reducing the number of urgent care visits (33%) and hospital admissions (12%).

Let’s just hope that the current incarnation of PACT is at least that successful.

To read about the current PACT, go to va.gov/resources/the-pact-act-and-your-va-benefits. You can read about eligibility of various eras, screenings, filing claims, info

for survivors and more.

For specific help with how you can file a claim, call them at 800-698-2411. Or go to va.gov and file Claim Form 21-526ez online.

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• Use silicone caulk to make non-skid beads on the bottom of your pet dishes. They will stay in one place instead of getting scooted all around the kitchen.

• Need a quick iron job but don’t have the time to iron? Spray a clean kitchen towel with a mixture of water and a little fabric softener until damp. Pop it in the dryer with the item that’s wrinkled. It shouldn’t take more than 10 minutes to get all the wrinkles out and smell great to boot!

• While we’re on ironing tips, here’s a great one from T.C. in Alabama: “If you have mineral deposits on your iron, use a toothbrush and toothpaste (mild abrasive) to polish them off your iron’s face. Rinse with water, and next time, use distilled water for steaming.”

• “When driving a nail into a plaster wall, first put down a piece of tape at the spot where you will insert the nail. Tap the nail in right through the tape, then pull it away to discard. It often will keep the surrounding plaster from crumbling at the site of the nail.” – W.L. in Oregon

• When your cabinet door magnet locks are too strong, try putting a piece of tape over the magnet. It decreases the strength of the magnet.

• If you paint your radiators, make sure that the paint you use is intended to be heat-resistant. To get the best finish, paint while the radiator is warm.

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

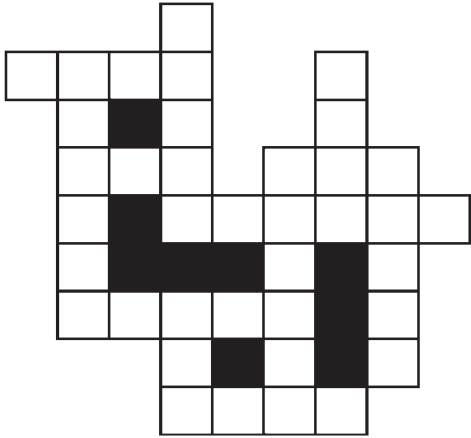
	-		x		5
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1 2 3 4 5 7 8 8 9

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DIA
LAPOOL
UMPEL
♥IREM
TISVEN
♥PSA
♥ILDA
TODVI
MVI
♥PISTER
♥LARTI
♥ENPO



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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