

NEWSBRIEFS

Not running

Last week El Paso County Attorney Jo Anne Bernal announced today that she will not be seeking re-election after her current term expires on December 31, 2024. Bernal has served as County Attorney since 2009, and on January 1, 2011, she became the first woman elected County Attorney in El Paso's history. "It has been the honor of a lifetime to serve this community. I intend to finish my term and have much left to accomplish, but I want to make this announcement today to give the community plenty of time to consider the candidates that will be vying for this important position," Bernal said. During Bernal's tenure, the County Attorney's office has increased the number of services offered to the community. A few of the big achievements during her tenure include providing legal guidance to the County for the emergency declaration during the COVID pandemic, and legal assistance to Commissioners Court to deal with the migrant crisis and with the unprecedented growth in the unincorporated areas of El Paso.

— Elhiu Dominguez

Business start states

With around 20% of new businesses failing within one year and inflation making entrepreneurship even more difficult, the personal-finance website WalletHub has released its report on *2023's Best & Worst States to Start a Business*, as well as expert commentary. To determine the most fertile grounds for planting and growing new ventures, WalletHub compared the 50 U.S. states across 27 key indicators of startup success. The data set ranges from financing accessibility to the percentage of residents who are fully vaccinated against COVID-19 to office-space affordability. Texas was rated 3rd in the report, ranking (1-Best; 25-Avg.):

- 10th – Avg. Growth in Number of Small Businesses;
- 30th – Labor Costs;
- 10th – Availability of Human Capital;

See BRIEFS, Page 2

Ours is a nation where the rich and the poor are alike – both complain about taxes.

— Quips & Quotes

Los Gatos Salvajes going to State UIL



— Photo courtesy Fabens ISD

THE BAND – Fabens High School mariachi los Gatos Salvajes will be heading to state competition after earning a Division 1 at the West Texas UIL Region Mariachi Contest held at Eastwood High School on Saturday, January 28, 2023. Mariachi director Natalie Carrasco (center) stated the group was formed six months ago and have been performing for five. She said she is very proud of the group, of how far they have come in such a short time. Los Gatos Salvajes will be competing at the 2023 UIL State Mariachi Festival, which will be held on Friday, February 24 and Saturday, February 25 at the Seguin HS Performing Arts Center in Seguin, TX.

— Sofia Maciel

Hernandez plays in O-D All-American Bowl

By Andriana Candelaria
Special to the Courier



— Photo courtesy Offense-Defense All-American Bowl

IN THE SPOTLIGHT – Raymond Hernandez, number 24, playing in the O-D All-American Bowl at the AT&T Stadium in Arlington, Texas Dec. 22.

ANTHONY, TX – Anthony High School senior Raymond Hernandez joined a group of outstanding high school football players from around the country for the Offense-Defense (O-D) All American Bowl in Arlington, Texas in late December.

According to the O-D website, 80 top high school athletes from across the country are invited to All-American Bowl Games events. The invitation is offered to student athletes who are active in college recruiting efforts and show a high sportsmanship standard.

"I feel very proud of myself. It's good to know that coming from a school so small, you're getting Anthony some recognition," Hernandez said.

Hernandez donned the Anthony Wildcats helmet on the field in the AT&T Stadium as a running back for the red O-D All American Bowl team. He and his family spent a few days in the Dallas area while Hernandez practiced for the big game with professional coaches.

"The knowledge these coaches had for the game was astounding. I had a one-on-one with former NFL players that are now coaches at the All-American Bowl," Hernandez said. "It was an incredible experience that I never had before."

Hernandez, originally from New Mexico, made the most out of the distinctive Texas high school football experience during his time in Anthony. He joined the AHS football team as a freshman and worked his way up as an athlete on the school's team.

"I've put in a lot of work. I wake up at six in the morning willing to work out and train my mind

See HERNANDEZ, Page 2

Not all conspiracy theories are equal

The same people who pride themselves on rigorously insisting on the facts – ideally, explained in the dulcet tones of an NPR anchor – are happy to embrace conspiracy theories supportive of their own worldview.

This is why the idea that Russian disinformation on social media influenced or even decided the 2016 election has gained such purchase, even though a new study finds, unsurprisingly, no evidence for it.

The overwhelming focus on the Russian influence operation in the wake of 2016 was classic conspiratorial thinking – an unusual or unwelcome event, namely Trump’s shocking victory, was attributed to the machinations of a small, shadowy group of malefactors.

This fevered notion fueled Democratic 2016 election denialism; catalyzed a federal investigation into Trump that was senseless and disruptive; created a cottage industry of supposed disinformation experts; pushed social media companies into exercising rank political censorship in the name of fact-based content moderation; led to the suppression of the Hunter Biden laptop story; and distorted the work of the FBI, which made itself an adjunct of the progressive crusade against such supposedly pervasive and incredibly consequential

disinformation. The effects of all of this are still with us today. The panic over disinformation is the backdrop to many of the “Twitter Files” releases, which will be followed up with hearings by House Republicans.

It always seemed unlikely that a challenge beyond the grasp of American politicians with endless resources and extensive knowledge of our political system – namely, swaying an election based on some random, not-very-good social media posts – would be easily within reach of clueless Russians wielding a bunch of bots.

The new report published by Nature Communications (affiliated with the famous journal Nature) is the product of a yearslong research project led by New York University’s Center for Social Media and Politics. For technical reasons, the study focuses on Twitter, although surely its findings are more generally applicable.

It found that even though the scale of the Russian efforts sounds vast (an estimated 32 million Twitter users exposed to Russia-sponsored posts – egads!), its reach and measurable effect were negligible.

The report relied on a detailed survey of a subset of Twitter users, finding 1% of people on Twitter accounted for 70% of exposure to

Russian tweets, and 10% for 98% of exposure.

In other words, this was not a widespread phenomenon. Indeed, the median exposure to Russian accounts the last month of the election was zero because overall exposure was so tiny.

As one might expect, the Russian accounts were “overshadowed – by at least an order of magnitude – by content from ordinary domestic political news media and U.S. political candidates.”

Was the Russian disinformation carefully targeted for political effect? No. It turns out that the Internet Research Agency, the outfit in charge of the bots, didn’t know how to target American swing voters (maybe they are better at this when trying to influence by-elections in Vladivostok).

The Russian accounts were disproportionately seen by strong Republicans. These weren’t people sitting on the fence, who then saw some crude anti-Hillary meme on social media and thought, “That clinches it – now I can’t vote for the Democrat



See LOWRY, Page 7

Hernandez

From Page 1

through high expectations,” Hernandez said. “It’s all in your head, because you don’t really know how much talent you have until you start doing

what you set your mind to.” Not only has Hernandez’s love for the game granted him once-in-a-lifetime memories, but the high school senior has also garnered attention from sources that could help pay for his college education. Hernandez said

Tiffin University expressed interest in Hernandez joining the Dragons to play flag football. “I started playing football for the fun of it, but this is where it got me. Anything is possible if you just work for it,” Hernandez said. Hernandez is currently focusing on qualifying for scholarships that allow him to continue playing football. He is anticipating graduating with the class of 2023 in June.

Briefs

From Page 1

- 4th – Avg. Length of Work Week (in Hours);
 - 14th – Cost of Living;
 - 13th – Industry Variety; and
 - 31st – Percentage of Residents Who Are Fully Vaccinated Against COVID-19.
- Visit <https://wallethub.com/edu/best-states-to-start-a-business/36934> for the full report.

– Diana Polk

It was a horse, of course
Donna Bevan made a double take when she pulled up into a drive-thru lane of a MacDonald’s in New South Wales, Australia recently. There sitting in the back seat of a car in the next lane was a horse. Donna wasted no time saving the encounter on video – including a brief conversation with a passenger in the car who explained that the horse was excited because he knew he was going to have his ice cream.

– John Grimaldi

The catch of the day
It’s a good guess that 12-year old Campbell Keenan is going to be telling his grandchildren and maybe even his great grandchildren this story. The Keenan family was visiting Florida recently and Campbell’s mom decided to take him

fishing. They chartered a boat and off they went. The youngster cast his line when they were about a mile offshore. He got a bite and, with the much-needed help of the charter boat’s captain, Paul Paolucci, almost an hour later Campbell landed an eleven-foot long, 700 pound great white shark. Great white sharks are protected to the point where you are not even allowed to take them out of the water if you hook one, so Paolucci pulled it close enough for him to tag it and released it back into the ocean. But Campbell has enough photos and videos of the event to last him a lifetime.

– John Grimaldi

Duh?
Criminals can be cunning, but then again, once in a while, the police come across bad guys and gals who virtually turn themselves in. For example, a pair of burglars who apparently were having a tough time carrying off their loot called 911 for help. The Associated Press reports, “while talking to deputies, the female suspect told them that she had called 911 for the purpose of having law enforcement help them move their belongings from the house they were burglarizing.” They also wanted to get a ride to the airport so they could spend the weekend in New York, according to the Polk County Sheriff’s Office.

– John Grimaldi

1973
50
Years
2023

WEST TEXAS COUNTY
COURIER

SERVING ANTHONY, VINTON, CASUTELLO, EAST MONTANA, HORIZON, SOCORRO, CLINE, FARENS, SAN ELIZABO AND TORNILLO

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




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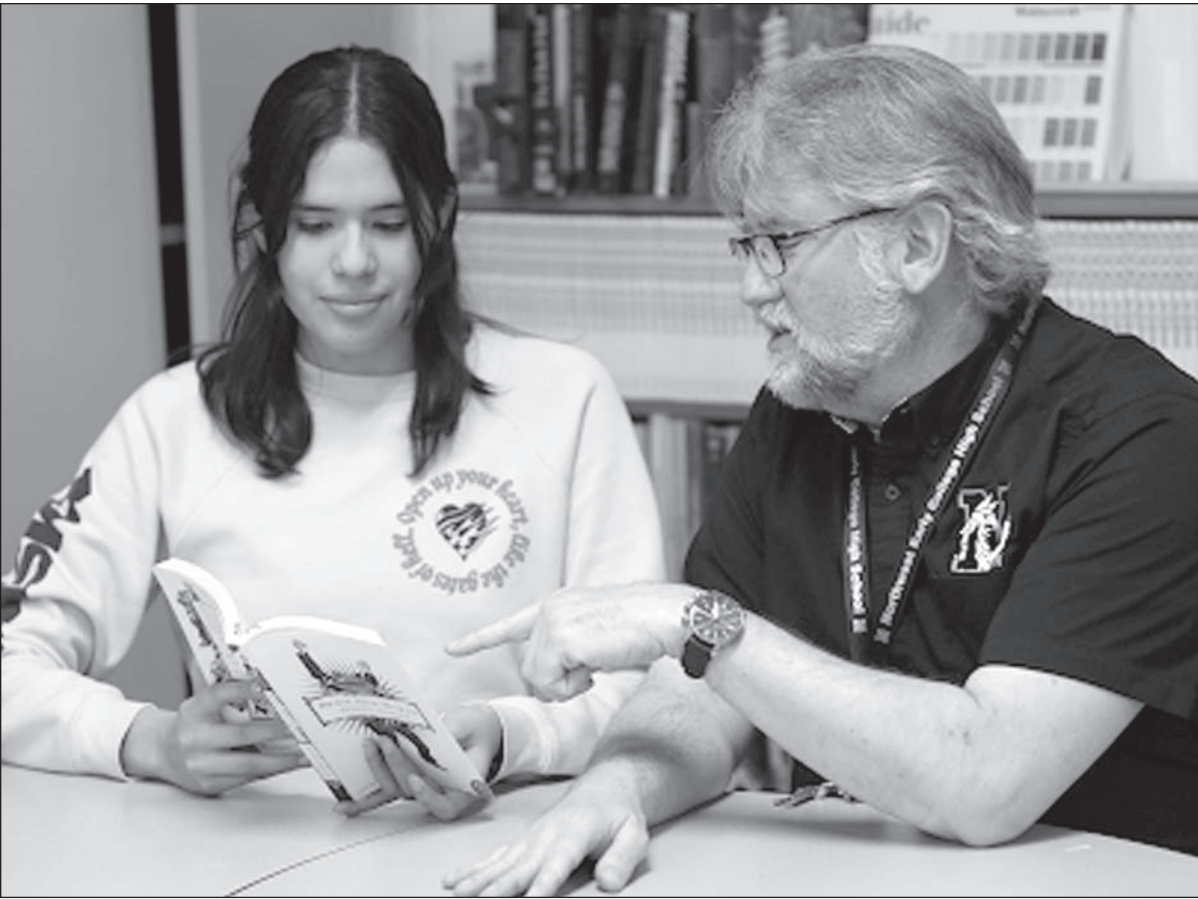
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CryptoQuip
Answer

When someone affirms that a certain letter is indeed not a consonant, is that a vowel avowel?

1	+	9	÷	2	5
×		-		×	
7	+	8	÷	3	5
+		+		-	
1	×	6	-	4	2
8		7		2	



– Photo courtesy Canutillo ISD

AN OCEAN AWAY – Northwest sophomore Fatima Garcia and her English teacher James O’Keeffe prepare to participate in a National History Day project in Hawaii about Unsung Heroes of World War II. They’re the only Texas student-teacher team participating. Visit NHDSilentHeroes.org for more project information.

Canutillo student, teacher selected for National History Day project in Hawaii

By Christina Rodriguez
Special to the Courier

CANUTILLO – A student and teacher duo from Northwest Early College High School are among the 16 teams from throughout the

United States selected to study the impact of World War II as part of a special National History Day project. Northwest sophomore Fatima Garcia and her English teacher James O’Keeffe are the

See PROJECT, Page 4

Fabens Independent School District Public Notice of Meeting

Fabens Independent School District will hold a public hearing to discuss the District’s 2021-2022 Annual Report. The meeting will be held at 6:30 P.M. on Wednesday, February 15, 2023 in the Fabens Independent School District’s Board Room at 821 N.E. “G” Avenue, Fabens, Texas.

The meeting will also be available virtually. Please visit Fabens ISD website www.fabensisd.net to access the meeting under Fabens ISD announcements.

The public is invited to attend in person or virtually (online or by phone). For more information, call (915) 765-2600, x2102.

Junta Pública

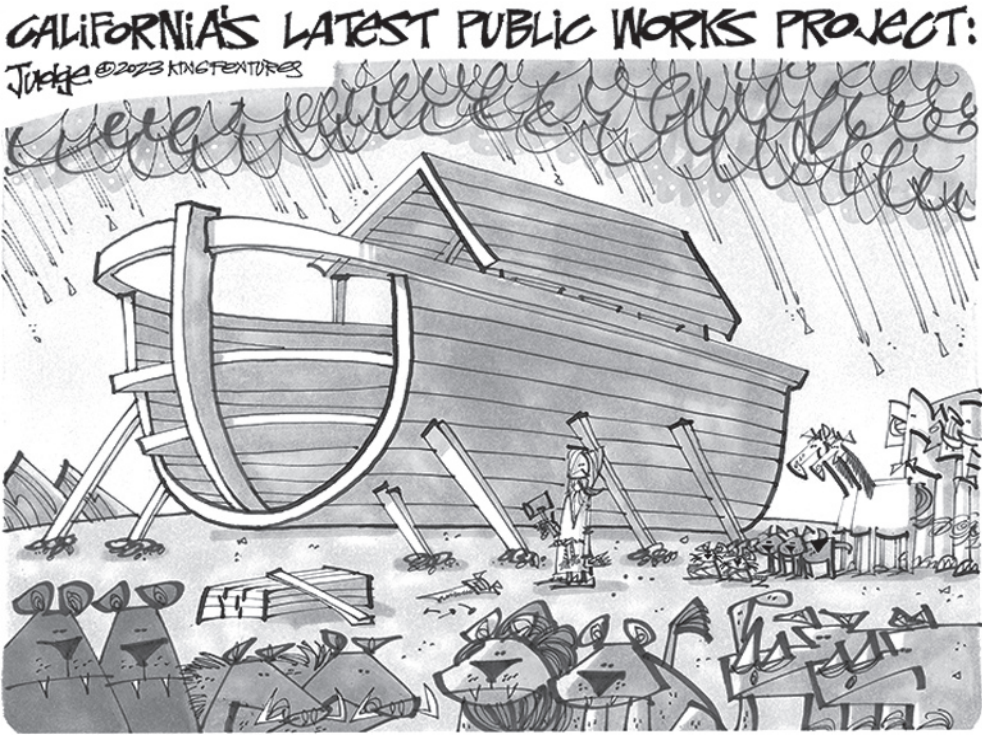
El Distrito escolar independiente de Fabens celebrará una audiencia pública para discutir el informe anual 2021-2022. La reunión se celebrará a las 6:30 p.m. el miércoles, 15 de febrero de 2023 en la sala de juntas de Fabens ISD, 821 N.E. “G” Avenue, Fabens, Texas.

La reunión también estará disponible virtualmente. Visite el sitio web de Fabens ISD www.fabensisd.net para acceder a la reunión bajo los anuncios de Fabens ISD.

Se invita al público a asistir en persona o virtualmente (en línea o por teléfono). Para obtener más información, llame al (915) 765-2600, x2102.

WTCC: 02-02-23

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Project

From Page 3

only team from Texas picked to participate in the program taking place in Hawaii.

Both will take part in the “Sacrifice for Freedom: World War II” through the Pacific Student & Teacher Institute where they will research the context of World War II in the Pacific and specifically, the life of a “Silent Hero” who died during World War II and is buried in or memorialized at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific in Honolulu, Hawaii.

Each team will select a “Silent Hero” from their region and research his or her story for six months before sharing what they learned in a series of graveside eulogies at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific in Oahu.

“We are very proud of both Fatima and Mr. O’keeffe for earning spots to take part in this competitive program where they can gain a wealth of experience working together on their project and have the opportunity to network with faculty and students from all over the nation,” said NWECHS Principal Frank Clark.


This year, 68 teams applied for the competitive summer institute which is funded by the Pearl Harbor Historic Sites, which includes the Pearl Harbor Aviation Museum, Pacific Historic Parks, Battleship Missouri Memorial, and the Pacific Fleet Submarine Museum at Pearl Harbor, travel and program expenses are provided for all participants.

The prospect of a research venture in Hawaii initially piqued O’Keeffe’s interest but he was excited to learn that the program involves areas of research that already align well with his work and interests.

“I see this as an opportunity to add to my work through the Pulitzer Center to raise awareness of underreported global issues and highlight an underreported story while teaching myself more about it and at the same time helping students learn more about research and appreciation of the unsung heroes of history and underrepresented populations,” O’Keeffe said.

Garcia is eager to embark on this endeavor to not only learn more about World War II in the Pacific but to shed light on a hero that many may not know or hear about.

“I was really interested in being part of this project with Mr. O’Keeffe so that I could learn more about a silent hero myself but also play a role in making sure their story gets told,” Garcia said. “I am excited to get started on the research and present in Hawaii this summer.”




Moments in time

THE HISTORY CHANNEL

- On Jan. 30, 1661, Oliver Cromwell was ritually executed. That is, his corpse was. The former Lord Protector of the Commonwealth of England was posthumously convicted of high treason and his remains hanged and beheaded, two years after his actual demise.
- On Jan. 31, 2000, family practitioner Dr. Harold Shipman, who apparently never read or didn’t believe in the Hippocratic Oath, was jailed for life for murdering 15 of his patients. He was also suspected of killing more than 100 others, but did not confess to them. Shipman remains Britain’s most prolific convicted serial killer.
- On Feb. 1, 1953, winds from some of the strongest storms on record battered the east coast of Britain from Yorkshire to Kent, resulting in up to 150 fatalities, while thousands were forced to abandon their homes due to flooding. Passengers on the Princess Victoria ferry, from Scotland to Ireland, were also forced to flee the ship in the Irish Sea due to high waves.
- On Feb. 2, 1937, it was reported that the White House roof was leaking, a matter of

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Strange BUT TRUE

By Lucie Winborne

- Research has shown that girls and women who watched the TV series “The X-Files” were more likely to believe in the importance of STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) and to encourage their own daughters and granddaughters to pursue careers in those fields – something called “The Scully Effect” after the series’ female main character, Dana Scully.
- Pentheraphobia is the fear of your mother-in-law. There, folks, you now have an official name for it.
- In 2006, actor William Shatner, beloved by “Star Trek” fans as Captain James Tiberius Kirk, sold his kidney stone, complete with stent and string, to a casino for \$25,000. While Shatner retained “visitation rights,” the complete proceeds were donated to Habitat for Humanity.
- Whack, zoom, out of the way! A table tennis ball can travel off the paddle at a speed of 105.6 mph.
- All of the world’s pandas are technically owned by China. The country leases them to zoos in an act called panda diplomacy.
- Ever dreamed of being a swashbuckling buccaneer? Try attending MIT, where after completing courses in pistol shooting, fencing, archery and sailing, undergraduates can earn a bona fide Pirate Certificate. (Note: For entertainment purposes only!)
- On Dec. 19, 1881, Sir William Payne Gallwey, a retired conservative member of the British Parliament, died while out shooting on his estate, Thirkleby Park – but not from a gunshot. Instead, Gallwey suffered a fall and landed on a turnip, sustaining serious internal injuries to which he succumbed a few days later.
- Bananas get their curves by turning skyward as they grow, to absorb sunlight.
- May never begins or ends on the same day of the week as any other month in any given year.

Thought for the Day: “Nobody grows old merely by living a number of years. We grow old by deserting our ideals. Years may wrinkle the skin, but to give up enthusiasm wrinkles the soul.”
– Samuel Ullman

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Anthony Independent School District Notice of Public Hearing

Anthony Independent School District will hold a public hearing to discuss the District’s 2021-2022 Annual Accountability Report as part of the regular monthly School Board meeting, which is scheduled for 6:00 p.m., Wednesday, February 15, 2023 at the Anthony ISD Boardroom, 813 6th Street, Anthony, TX.

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

For more information, call 886-6506.

Junta Publica

Distrito Escolar Independiente de Anthony

El Distrito Escolar Independiente de Anthony llevará a cabo una audiencia pública para discutir el Informe Anual Reporte de Responsabilidad del Distrito 2021-2022 como parte de la reunión mensual de la Mesa Directiva de la Escuela, la cual está programada para las 6:00 pm el miércoles, 15 de febrero de 2023 en la sala del consejo de Anthony ISD, 813 6th Street, Anthony, TX.

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

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

WTCC: 02-02-23

Clint Independent School District Public Notice

Clint Independent School District will hold a public hearing to discuss the District’s 2021-2022 Texas Academic Performance Report (TAPR) as part of a School Board meeting, which is scheduled for 5:30 p.m., Tuesday, February 21, 2023, at the Clint ISD Administrative Office Board Room, 14521 Horizon Blvd., Horizon City, TX, 79928.

The public is invited to attend. The TAPR report will also be available for review after the hearing at all Clint ISD campuses, the Clint Administrative Office and at www.clintweb.net.

For more information, call 926-4051.

Distrito Escolar Independiente de Clint Junta Pública

El Distrito Escolar Independiente de Clint tendrá una Reunión Pública para informar sobre el “Reporte de Rendimiento Académica de Texas” (TAPR) del año escolar 2021-2022. El reporte sera parte de la reunión de la Mesa Directiva del distrito programada para el martes, 21 de febrero del 2022 a las 5:30 p.m. en el cuarto de sala de Clint ISD oficina administrativa, 14521 Horizon Blvd., Horizon City, TX, 79928.

Todos los interesados están invitados a asistir. El reporte TAPR estará disponible después de la reunión en todas las escuelas del distrito, en el edificio de las oficinas administrativas y en www.clintweb.net.

Para mas información, favor de llamar al 926-4051.

WTCC: 02-02-23

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Para mas información, favor de llamar al 926-4051.

WTCC: 02-02-23



– Photos courtesy El Paso Community College

A INTERESTING FACE – Bel Air High School art student Britney Aguilar presented her work to perspective colleges during Sun City Art Portfolio Day.

Art students meet college recruiters

By Ismael De La Rosa
Special to the Courier

EL PASO COUNTY – Almost 400 visual art students from area school districts and El Paso Community College (EPCC) had the opportunity to meet and present their art portfolios to 18 colleges and universities from across the nation on Sun City Art Portfolio Day at the EPCC Administrative Services Center.

This was the 4th annual El Paso event and was created to promote artistic talent in the region and provide high school and EPCC students with opportunities to showcase their artwork to potential colleges and universities in one place without having to

travel outside the city. Students could potentially be offered a scholarship from participating colleges and universities.

Sun City Portfolio Day is a partnership between EPCC, El Paso ISD, Socorro ISD and Ysleta ISD.



FULL HOUSE – Art students from El Paso school districts went table to table with their art portfolios and received information from representatives from 18 colleges and universities.

Canutillo Independent School District Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balance Governmental Funds For the Year Ended June 30, 2022

Data Control Codes	General Fund	CRRSA ESSER II	ARP ESSER III	Debt Service Fund	Other Funds	Total Governmental Funds
REVENUES:						
5700 Total Local and Intermediate Sources	\$ 27,926,308	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 10,140,079	\$ 602,806	\$ 38,669,193
5800 State Program Revenues	33,148,999	-	-	198,280	484,483	33,831,762
5900 Federal Program Revenues	11,261,550	1,978,100	3,386,220	-	3,383,930	20,009,800
5020 Total Revenues	72,336,857	1,978,100	3,386,220	10,338,359	4,471,219	92,510,755
EXPENDITURES:						
Current:						
0011 Instruction	36,058,369	1,085,053	2,114,050	-	2,111,533	41,369,005
0012 Instructional Resources and Media Services	771,093	30,422	-	-	178,050	979,565
0013 Curriculum and Instructional Staff Development	927,473	47,057	431,582	-	855,987	2,262,099
0021 Instructional Leadership	1,128,347	29,632	1,793	-	126,632	1,286,404
0023 School Leadership	4,000,551	115,622	14,993	-	96,653	4,227,819
0031 Guidance, Counseling, and Evaluation Services	2,247,868	54,550	38,316	-	117,259	2,457,993
0032 Social Work Services	217,248	4,055	158,997	-	8,356	388,656
0033 Health Services	962,837	28,397	97,436	-	205,115	1,293,785
0034 Student (Pupil) Transportation	1,652,928	91,310	21,918	-	-	1,766,156
0035 Food Services	5,534,445	140,147	-	-	-	5,674,592
0036 Extracurricular Activities	1,723,543	7,860	-	-	244,942	1,976,345
0041 General Administration	3,579,579	60,832	24,396	-	1,083	3,665,890
0051 Facilities Maintenance and Operations	7,419,211	193,896	57,599	-	59,761	7,730,467
0052 Security and Monitoring Services	1,052,717	24,338	539	-	40	1,077,634
0053 Data Processing Services	2,200,070	44,646	393,247	-	70,924	2,708,887
0061 Community Services	22,539	20,283	31,354	-	386,968	461,144
Debt Service:						
0071 Principal on Long-Term Liabilities	1,155,014	-	-	5,995,000	-	7,150,014
0072 Interest on Long-Term Liabilities	559,160	-	-	2,561,531	-	3,120,691
0073 Bond Issuance Cost and Fees	-	-	-	86,214	-	86,214
Capital Outlay:						
0081 Facilities Acquisition and Construction	1,149,325	-	-	-	-	1,149,325
Intergovernmental:						
0099 Other Intergovernmental Charges	479,431	-	-	-	-	479,431
6030 Total Expenditures	72,841,748	1,978,100	3,386,220	8,642,745	4,463,303	91,312,116
1100 Excess (Deficiency) of Revenues Over (Under) Expenditures	(504,891)	-	-	1,695,614	7,916	1,198,639
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES):						
7912 Sale of Real and Personal Property	4,400	-	-	-	-	4,400
8949 Other (Uses) - Cash Defeasance of Debt	-	-	-	(2,473,588)	-	(2,473,588)
7080 Total Other Financing Sources (Uses)	4,400	-	-	(2,473,588)	-	(2,469,188)
1200 Net Change in Fund Balances	(500,491)	-	-	(777,974)	7,916	(1,270,549)
0100 Fund Balance - July 1 (Beginning)	25,620,160	-	-	11,172,597	576,127	37,368,884
3000 Fund Balance - June 30 (Ending)	\$ 25,119,669	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 10,394,623	\$ 584,043	\$ 36,098,335

Old familiar places: Cowboys will watch the Super Bowl

By Steve Escajeda
Special to the Courier

The Super Bowl is set for 2023 and the one thing it has in common with the last 26 Super Bowls is that the Dallas Cowboys will not be in it.

It’s been a couple weeks since the Cowboys put together that dreadful offensive performance against the San Francisco 49ers in a 19-12 opening-round playoff loss.

If anyone had told me that Dallas was going to hold the 49ers, who had been averaging 35 points a game in their last seven games, to just 19 points, I would have thought the Cowboys had this one in the bag.

But once again, like many other years since 1995, Dallas had a team that was capable of making it to the big game, but will end up doing what I’ll be doing – enjoying it from the couch.

To put things in perspective, how

long has it been since the Cowboys were in the Super Bowl, that’s the year that my daughter was born – and she now has a six-year-old daughter of her own.

It’s hard to comprehend, the Cowboys have one of the best offenses in the NFL, they have one of the best defenses in the NFL, and they have one of the best special teams in the NFL.

So what’s the problem?

Why can’t they ever win the big game?

Some may say it’s simply because they don’t have Troy Aikman, Emmitt Smith, Michael Irvin, Jay Novacek, Charles Haley, Moose Johnston, Deion Sanders, Nate Newton, Larry Allen, Bill Bates, Larry Brown and especially, Jimmy Johnson anymore.

Of course the most important members the Cowboys had were Aikman and Johnson.

In the NFL, without a very good quarterback and an elite head coach,

there’s very little chance of even making it to the postseason, let alone winning anything.

For Dallas, the two are Dak Prescott and Mike McCarthy.

And who are most fans, reporters and NFL experts blaming for the awful performance – Dak Prescott and Mike McCarthy.

So the question is, what do the Cowboys do now? Or more exactly, what does Jerry Jones do now?

Let’s be honest, Prescott has been very reliable in his years with Dallas. He’s been consistently ranked among the top NFL quarterbacks every season, except this one.

I mean he did miss five game with that thumb injury. But how do you miss five games and still manage to lead the league in interceptions?

To be honest Dak was up and down all season. But you can’t be down during the playoffs.

Another honest assessment is that McCarthy is pretty awful when it

comes to late-game decisions. It’s as if he panics in the clutch. He calls timeouts when he shouldn’t and fails to call them when he should. How many times have the Cowboys just looked confused at the end of close games.

That is the coach’s fault.

So what does Dallas do?

Well, there has been some activity, the Cowboys have fired six assistant coaches, offensive line coach Joe Philbin, running backs coach Skip Peete, senior defensive assistant George Edwards, assistant head coach Rob Davis, quality control/analytics coach Kyle Valero and assistant defensive line coach Leon Lett.

The best news coming out of Dallas is that defensive coordinator Dan Quinn will be back next season.

According to Jerry Jones, head coach Mike McCarthy’s job is safe.

What’s especially difficult for me to understand is when you have a guy out there like former New Orleans Saints coach Sean Payton looking for a job, and you don’t jump on him.

What Payton did all those years with Drew Brees was outstanding. I just wonder what Payton could do for Prescott?

So later this year when the NFL starts its 2023 regular season in September, how are the Cowboys going to be any different with Prescott and McCarthy at the helm?

The answer is: They are not.

They will have a winning record and they will fail in the playoffs. Prescott and McCarthy have turned into the second coming of Tony Romo and Jason Garrett.

Since Prescott is still under contract, I know the Cowboys are forced to keep him, but they should hire Sean Payton to coach him.

A new general manager would help too. Sorry Jerry.

Senior moment

By Matilda Charles

Having a pet is good for us

The studies are clear: Owning a pet is good for us.

For those of us who stay home much of the time, having a pet can be a boon to our physical and mental health. Play with a cat, you get laughter and stress relief. Walk a dog, you get exercise. (And don’t forget the social aspect when you meet up with other dog owners along the way.) Blood sugar levels even out and blood pressure goes down, per the studies.

On the other hand, those studies were written before the pandemic. Now we find that too many pet owners are having to relinquish their pets... and those who would consider pet adoption are hesitant.

No matter how much we’d like to own a pet, there can be concerns that we need to consider before we adopt, and the big one is pet food.

In many areas, there have been difficulties keeping our pets fed. Ask neighbors who have pets if they’ve

had trouble getting pet food over the past two years. Sometimes the manufacturers haven’t kept up due to supply chain problems.

But there are options that might ease your worry. Learn about ordering pet food online and having it delivered to your door. It’s also possible that your local food bank keeps a supply of pet food on hand. Meals on Wheels often delivers pet food. The animal shelter itself is sure to have a pet food bank. I searched for “free pet food pantries” near me and found dozens – even a library and a church!

Take a look at Pets for the Elderly (petsfortheelderly.org), especially the stories about seniors who’ve adopted pets. They work with 54 shelters in 32 states to help pet adopters over age 60.

If you still aren’t sure, consider becoming a foster parent to one or more pets. You’ll be able to try it out and see how the situation feels.

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Super Crossword

ON A MISSION ACROSS

1 Doorway part

5 Mix for a deli sandwich

13 Snooty sort

20 River in Europe and Asia

21 Long, bitter speech

22 Popular hot sauce brand

23 Calf-length skirt

24 Navigable sea

route in southern Chile

26 Hayloft sites

28 Home to Boise: Abbr.

29 Extra game periods, for short

30 Distrustful

31 Designer for Jackie Kennedy

35 1958 Leslie Caron film

38 Head dog

39 _ tai (drink)

42 Really must

47 Tag again

51 One mapping terrain

53 In excess of

54 "Woe _!"

57 Prefix with sense

58 _ Melodies (old cartoon series)

59 Stand-up comedy TV series

64 Ending for form

65 Wince

66 Pakistani's language

67 Like circles

71 Daniel Boone or Johnny Appleseed

76 Lustrous gem

79 Pushpin's kin

80 Jewel box for music

84 Color

85 Kia Sedona competitor

90 Mystery's Christie

94 Org. offering tows

95 Actor Morales

96 Sundae toppings

97 Florence institute

near the Uffizi Gallery

100 New York Giants' div.

103 Gussied up

104 MGM's lion

105 Tree yielding chocolate

107 "QED" center

109 Eric the Red, for one

115 Alvin of choreography

119 Klutz

122 Pumped stuff

123 Flood stopper

124 All through the dark hours

130 Show sleepiness

131 Most promising

132 "Been there myself, man"

133 Really liking

134 Combination

punches

135 Sends along

136 Org. associated with the nine missions featured in this puzzle

DOWN

1 Very big

2 Common typeface

3 "The Treasure of the Sierra _"

4 Flashy jewelry, informally

5 Mag staffers

6 "Skedaddle!"

7 Tastelessly showy

8 Sports venues

9 Suffix with sect

10 Illuminated

11 "Peek- _!"

12 Skillful and clever

13 JFK datum

14 Fall behind

15 Religious convert's cry

16 Anecdote

17 Atoll part

18 Wound result

19 Actor Danza

25 Soup additive, for short

27 Strikebreaker

32 Bar drink

33 Skedaddle

34 "_ little teapot..."

36 Shiba _ (Japanese dog breed)

37 Virus, e.g.

40 A.D. part

41 False god

43 German "the"

44 Sundae topping

45 Sheer linen fabric

46 Greek mountain nymph

47 Use deep massage on

48 Blackhearted

49 Strauss of jeans

50 Sports venues

51 _ double life

52 TV show since fall '75

55 Feng _

56 Old Ford make, in brief

60 Pinnacle

61 Those people

62 Kicks on football fields

63 Suffix with ball or bass

68 Spanish for "dry"

69 Lamarr of "Boom Town"

70 Esoteric

72 Camcorder button abbr.

73 Primitive kind of diet

74 Freezes

75 Creole veggie

76 Winner, informally

77 Foretell

78 Razz

81 Water, to Juanita

82 Mounts, as a gemstone

83 Formerly, formerly

86 "2001" computer

87 Train support

88 Harvard rival

89 Singer Gill

91 Golf peg

92 Melon variety

93 Golden _ (senior)

98 Cavity fillers' org.

99 Mega years

101 Most preferred: Abbr.

102 Corkscrew

105 Baby bed

106 Analyzes in a lab

108 "TiK _" (#1 Kesha hit)

110 Stares at creepily

111 Enter, as to a database

112 An ex-Trump

113 Lizardlike amphibians

114 Port of Italy

115 "Hair" hairdo

116 Pumped stuff

117 Suffer defeat

118 Discharge

120 Leave _ (reward the server)

121 World Cup gp.

125 GI tour gp.

126 Intersectors of aves.

127 French "the"

128 Vie for the affection of

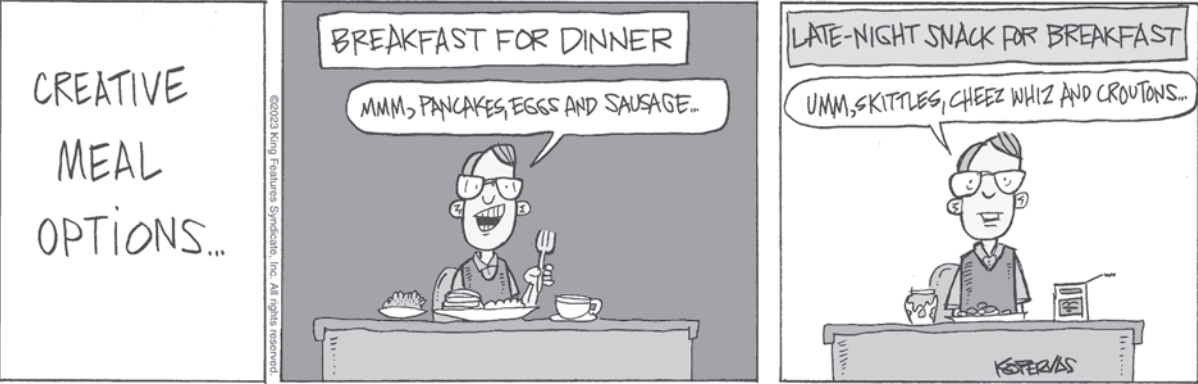
129 "Sister Act" figure

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12		13	14	15	16	17	18	19	
20						21								22							
23					24							25									
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31						32	33			34			35	36	37						
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97							98			99					100	101	102				
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131									132									133			
134									135									136			

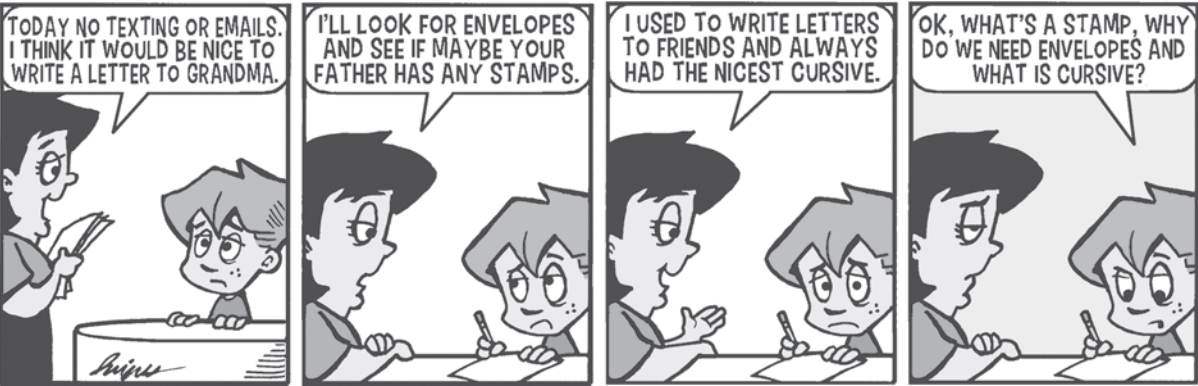
Answer Page 2

Comix

OUT ON A LIMB By Gary Kopervas



AMBER WAVES By Dave T. Phipps



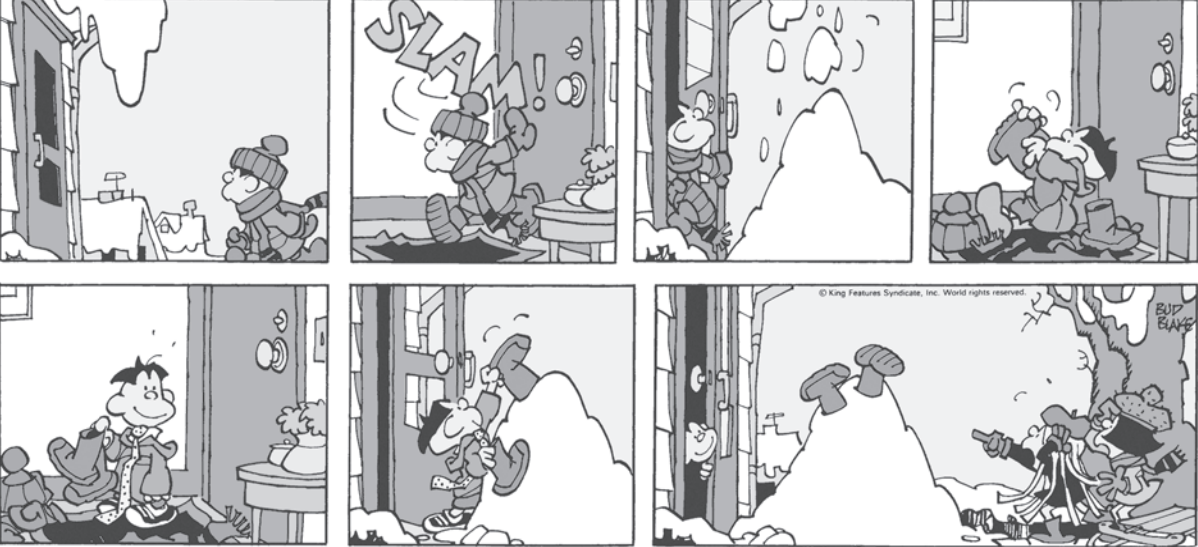
THE SPATS By Jeff Pickering



R.F.D. By Mike Marland



TIGER By Bud Blake



Lowry

From Page 2

I’ve disdained literally for decades.”

The study found, naturally, “The relationship between the number of posts from Russian foreign influence accounts that users are exposed to and voting for Donald Trump is near zero.” Nor did Russian

posts influence attitudes toward the issues or drive increased polarization.

It turns out that random drivel produced by foreigners and thrown into the enormous, all-consuming maw of American social media doesn’t have much effect.

If the report’s findings were more politically convenient, they would be spread far and wide by traditional media

outlets urging everyone to accept its conclusions as “science.”

In the end, it turns out, the biggest success of the Russian operation was driving a segment of American political opinion completely mad.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review. (c) 2023 by King Features Synd., Inc.

Family history of cancer prompts examination

DEAR DR. ROACH: My mother and both of her sisters had breast cancer in their 30s, with my mother eventually passing after her third bout at age 43. They all grew up in the same house that I grew up in. I’m now a 34-year-old father of three small children. I don’t want to die early because I need to be around for them, but the generalized advice I’m seeing is that I don’t need a cancer screening until my 40s. Am I overly sensitive, or am I missing something that I should potentially screen for? – M.M.



With your mother and two aunts having breast cancer at such a young age, I would be concerned about an inheritable cancer gene such as BRCA1 and BRCA2. This gene may not have been identifiable at the time they had their cancers, as the first test became available in 1996. It is worth a discussion with a genetic counselor to consider testing for you.

Men with the BRCA1/2 genetic mutations are at risk to develop breast cancer themselves and are recommended to do monthly breast self-examinations starting at age 35, with a clinician exam yearly. A PSA test is also recommended for men who are positive for BRCA2 (and maybe for men with BRCA1), as men with these mutations are more at risk for prostate cancer at a younger age than average-risk men.

Although BRCA increases the risk of colon cancer, all men should get colorectal cancer screenings at age 45, regardless of BRCA status. Those with a strong family history of colon cancer should speak with an expert about the right time to begin screening.

I honor you for considering your family and expect you are doing as much as you can with your lifestyle to keep yourself healthy. A diet including plenty of fresh fruits and vegetables, with little to no processed meat, has been shown to reduce cancer risk as well as heart disease risk, which is still the major cause of death in industrial societies.

The most likely causes of death in men your age include motor vehicle accidents and suicide. These are not completely preventable, but driving safely, not texting while driving, never driving while intoxicated and seeking help with symptoms of depression go a long way at reducing your immediate risk so that you can continue to be there for your children.

DEAR DR. ROACH: I first tested positive for COVID eight days ago. Should I start Paxlovid now? – P.M.

This medicine has made a huge reduction in the number of people who get so sick from COVID that they need to be hospitalized, but only when used properly. This means it has to be used at the right time – ideally within 24 hours of getting sick and certainly within five days. It’s not likely to be of any help to you eight days after symptom onset.

The medicine is of most value to people who are at high risk of severe COVID. This includes people who are unvaccinated, people over 65 and people with high-risk conditions such as advanced HIV, organ transplantation or other severe problems with the immune system (including cancer chemotherapy and similar powerful drugs used for autoimmune diseases). Healthy, younger, vaccinated people with initial mild to moderate symptoms are at low risk for severe COVID (as of the time of this writing, with the omicron strains currently circulating) and do not benefit much from Paxlovid.

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) 2023 North America Synd., Inc. All Rights Reserved.



Moore Texas by Roger Moore
February 6, 1879: The first Czech newspaper debuted... aptly named *THE TEXAN*.

CryptoQuip

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

Clue: M equals F

VLNR ZYKNYRN UMMJXKZ BLUB
U ENXBUJR INBBNX JZ JRHNNH
RYB U EYRZYRURB, JZ BLUB U
DYVNI UDYVUI?

Answer Page 2

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging

Answer Page 2

♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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Helping veterans in 2023



by Freddy Groves

Recently retired or unemployed, at loose ends and wondering what your next steps should be? If you're looking for ways to help other veterans in your area, this year could be your most meaningful.

• Is anyone building homes for veterans in your area? Are any organizations ready to break ground and start building in the spring? Do you have construction, plumbing or electrical skills? Even if you don't, there are jobs you can do to move the project along: reading blueprints and ordering materials, supervising deliveries, providing overnight security, painting walls and trim and much more.

As a place to start, ask if the Habitat for Humanity

near you is building a home for a veteran. You might end up as a Habitat employee in charge of volunteer resources or running a Habitat ReStore full of building materials.

• Raise a service dog puppy. These little guys need to spend the first year of their lives in a loving environment to get them ready for their all-important service dog training. You'll get the pup ready by teaching him initial basic commands, keeping him healthy and getting him socialized out in public. At every step of the way you'll be giving the puppy what he'll need to help a veteran with PTSD, a physical disability or mental trauma.

Look around online for organizations in your area that are raising and training service dogs for veterans.

• Volunteer on an Honor Flight. Keep an eye on the schedule in your area for the Honor Flights, those all-expenses-paid trips that take hundreds of veterans to Washington, D.C. They

need volunteers for every trip to escort mostly elderly veterans to see all of their monuments and spend the day together. The 2023 schedule of trips will be up on the website in February (www.honorflight.org). Look for the map on the list of hubs around the country.

Is 2023 going to be your year to help yourself by stepping up to help other veterans?

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• Bring egg whites to room temperature before whipping. You will get better volume, and they will be more stable.

• Ever make a delicious dinner that involves some stinky ingredients? This happens when I make broccoli cauliflower casserole, or pork and sauerkraut. No worries; you don't have to smell that smell all day. Just simmer a pan of vinegar on the stove while making foods that are odorous. The vinegar smell goes away quickly, taking with it any other odors. All that's left is the smell of yummy. – M.N. in South Carolina

• Wash bath towels in cold water. It preserves color and still cleans them well. Add a clean, dry bath towel to smaller dryer loads to speed up drying time.

• Turn down the maximum temperature on your family's water heater. You will do two things: One is to avoid accidental scalding, which is especially important if you have young children or seniors in your house. The other is to lower your electric bill, because the water heater will not have to work as hard to keep that big tank of water so hot. – T.D. in New Mexico

• Keep a few bandanas handy in cold weather. They can be used as a mouth/face cover to keep your nose from freezing. They are easy to store in a pocket, and easy to put on and remove.

Send your tips to Now Here's a Tip, 628 Virginia Drive, Orlando, FL 32803. (c) 2023 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 2

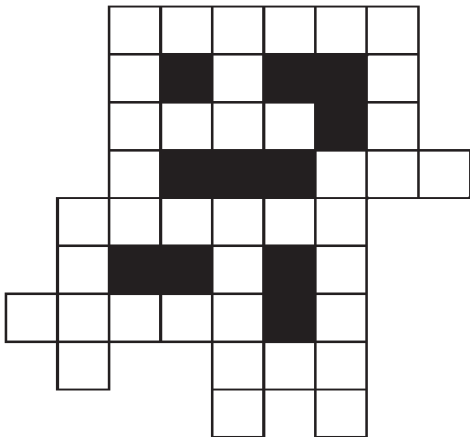
	+		÷		5
×		–		×	
	+		÷		5
+		+		–	
	×		–		2
8		7		2	

1 1 2 3 4 6 7 8 9

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LEL
♥ TROPUS
♥ ERTIM
APCM
EARLOC
ASE
♥ EL SO
♥ LARPE
♥ PTO
SIMCAT
REMLO
♥ ALER



Answer Page 2

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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