



NEWSBRIEFS

Hard working cities

With March 3 being Employee Appreciation Day and Americans working an average of 1,791 hours per year, much more than people in many other industrialized countries, the personal-finance website WalletHub has released its report on 2023's *Hardest-Working Cities in America*, as well as expert commentary. In order to determine where Americans work the hardest, WalletHub compared the 116 largest cities across 11 key metrics. The data set ranges from employment rate to average hours worked per week to share of workers with multiple jobs. El Paso was rated 57th in the report. Other stats:

- Irving, TX has the lowest share of households where no adults work, 11.04 percent, which is 3.7 times lower than in Detroit, MI, the city with the highest at 40.57 percent.
 - Baltimore, MD contributes the most annual volunteer hours per resident, 45.10, which is 5.7 times more than in Jacksonville, FL, the city that contributes the fewest at 7.89.
 - San Jose, CA has the lowest share of idle youth 16-24-years-old, 7.00 percent, which is 2.8 times lower than in Albuquerque, NM, the city with the highest at 19.70 percent.
- To view and your city's rank, please visit <https://wallethub.com/edu/hardest-working-cities-in-america/10424> for the full report.

— Diana Polk

You're never too old

"Oh, no! I believe retirement is the enemy of longevity. Even in my younger years, I never once contemplated retirement. When you love what you do and are still capable of doing it, why would you want to retire?" So says Dr. Howard Tucker of Cleveland, OH who was first declared the world's oldest practicing physician at the age of 98. He's still going strong at the age of 100, according to the Guinness Book of World Records, which recently reaffirmed his title. His wife, Dr. Sue, who is 89 years old, is still a practicing psychoanalyst.

— John Grimaldi

Do not expect to enjoy life if you keep your milk of human kindness all bottled up.

— Quips & Quotes

Borderland communities share \$25 million boost in funding

By Alfredo Vasquez
Special to the Courier

EL PASO COUNTY – The Village of Vinton is among the many El Paso County beneficiaries of the United States Congress' recently enacted Consolidated Appropriations Act (CAA), which allocates funding for community projects nationwide.

Essentially, CAA is a \$1.7 trillion spending bill that funds the federal government for the 2023 fiscal year. It not only includes funding for a range of domestic and foreign policy priorities, but also for provisions related to health care, electoral reform, and social media regulations.

During a recent press conference that was held by U.S. Congresswoman Veronica Escobar to announce the funding recipients, Rachel Quintana, the new mayor for the Village of Vinton, was on-hand to acknowledge the \$4 million funding package presented to the upper valley community.

Vinton's four million dollar allotment is part of the more than \$25 million in federal funding that is earmarked for various borderland agencies, according to Escobar. Taken together, the projects will impact some of the borderland's most needy and at-risk individuals and communities, Escobar stated.

The El Paso congresswoman said during the news conference that all members of Congress have their own criteria... "Our criteria really have been, let's work with organizations and entities with a proven track record so that folks who have really worked on improving the community can get a boost of support," she asserted.

For Vinton residents, the funding award means one step closer to the implementation of adequate water and sewer infrastructure that will address public safety and health concerns including fire flow and environmental health, according to Vinton officials. They stated in a recent news release that the funds will be used for the expansion of a looped water and sewer system with a wholesale supply of treated potable water and treatment of wastewater for the local business sector.

The new system would be provided through a purchase agreement with the El Paso Water Utilities, village officials pointed out. The proposed project includes approximately 21,600 linear feet of 8-to-12-inch waterline, one master meter, 44 fire hydrants, and approximately 65 first time service connections, according to the news release. On the wastewater side, the system would include 13,980 linear feet of 8-inch sewer line and the decommissioning of 59 on-site



— Photo courtesy Office of Veronica Escobar

SECURING MONEY – U.S. Representative Veronica Escobar (D) from El Paso held a news conference recently to celebrate the federal funding that she helped secure for a host of Borderland projects.

sewage facilities.

Vinton's northern neighbor, the Town of Anthony, is in line to receive \$1.925 million for the construction

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San Elizario ISD will go to four-day week in July

By Horacio Hernandez
Special to the Courier

SAN ELIZARIO – The San Elizario Independent School District (SEISD) hopes to provide every student with a qualified teacher by transitioning into a four-day school week. A vote to finalize the 2023-2024 school calendar took place at the regular meeting of the SEISD Board of Trustees on January 18, 2023. In a four-to-one vote, the SEISD Board Members voted to approve a 4-day week schedule, making the SEISD the first school district in the El Paso area to have such a progressive approach to help every child have a certified teacher in every classroom.

Superintendent Dr. Jeannie Meza-Chavez considers hiring and retaining the best teachers as the most significant factor in implementing

the four-day week. She said, "Every student deserves to be taught by a qualified teacher, and the four-day week will continue to set SEISD apart by recruiting and retaining district employees and prospective individuals who find this schedule appealing."

SEISD is one of twelve districts in the Region 19 area and one of nine in El Paso County. SEISD is approximately thirty minutes from El Paso and has six campuses serving about 3,147 students. As per HB 2610, all districts in Texas must meet the minimum 75,600 minutes requirement. The district will be above the minimum as the academic calendar presented has approximately 76,515 minutes of instruction for students.

Today, approximately forty-one other school districts in Texas are

See SEISD, Page 4



— Photo courtesy Village of Vinton

PROJECT FUNDED – Village of Vinton Mayor Rachel Quintana who took office in November, recently joined Congresswoman Veronica Escobar to officially announce that Vinton was selected as a FY 2023 Community Project Recipient. The award comes with \$4 million in federal funding for the town's water and sewer phase III project.

Memphis is not about racism

There’s nothing white supremacy can’t do. It is supposedly so pervasive and powerful that it can cause Black men to sign up to serve as police officers in a majority Black city and severely beat a Black arrestee.

It is to the contemporary left what capital was to Marx, sex was to Freud, and gravity was to Newton.

It is the King Charles head of American public life, a matter of obsession that comes up in debates and contexts where it has no possible relevance.

An opinion piece at CNN by former Obama official Van Jones was headlined, “The police who killed Tyre Nichols were Black. But they might still have been driven by racism.”

A piece at *The New York Times* on Memphis related the view that it “is the system and the tactics that foster racism and violence,” not “the specific racial identities of officers.”

This argument gets points for novelty but none for plausibility. The Memphis officers who brutalized Tyre Nichols may be guilty of many things – incompetence, malice, criminal wrongdoing – but white supremacy is unlikely to be one of them.

Presumably these officers don’t all hate their parents, children, neighbors, and colleagues as unworthy, racially inferior people who deserve no protection under our laws.

Maybe it’s only as police officers that these men become unwitting tools of white supremacy? This makes no sense, either. The *Atlantic* noted in an article last year that FBI data showed Memphis to be the most violent metropolitan jurisdiction in the United States in 2020. According to The New York Times, Memphis had nearly 350 murders in 2021, when New York City – 13 times larger – had about 480.

Of course, these murders disproportionately affect young Black men. Isn’t this just how a white supremacist would like it – overwhelmingly Black neighborhoods under siege as Black men kill other Black men? Why would white supremacism want to interfere with this dynamic by deploying police units to try to quell the disorder?

Indeed, the false consciousness in Memphis must run deep. Cereelyn Davis, the city’s first African American woman police chief, created the just-disbanded special police unit implicated in the Nichols beating.

Understandably, she thought it was very important to get a handle on rising homicides and dangerous reckless driving, but, unbeknownst to her, she was just serving the man.

The obsession with white supremacy is perverse and insulting on several levels. It implies that if urban neighborhoods are under-policed and dangerous, that is their natural state, whereas if they are robustly policed to try to make them safer – a worthy project that tends to be supported by people of all races – that is somehow an inherently “white” initiative.

It suggests that good African American, Hispanic and Asian cops are dupes, puppets on the string of nefarious white people using them to perpetuate white rule. And, finally, if taken seriously, it would vitiate the agency of the cops involved in the abuse of Tyre Nichols. How can they fully take the blame if an ineradicable, unavoidable force was ultimately responsible for their behavior?

The explanation for what happened in Memphis



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View from here By Dr. Glenn Mollette

Stop the cash flow to China

Do you get tired of hearing about China? Now we have floating surveillance balloons over our country. We are yet to know for sure what this is about but time will tell. China is probably scouting out the next land or business purchase. They may have come up with an easy way to determine which military bases have available adjacent land. It doesn’t matter if it’s for sale they can come up with enough money to buy the property. All they have to do is to keep piling up the money from everything they sell to the United States.

Alarms went off in Washington when the Fufeng Group, a Chinese agricultural company, bought 300 acres of land and set up a milling plant last spring in Grand Forks, N.D. The plant is a 20-minute drive from an Air Force base that, according to North Dakota Sen. John Hoeven, hosts a space mission that “will form the backbone of U.S. military communications across the globe.” (Source WSJ)

Ten years ago Smithfield Foods was purchased by China’s leading pork producer, Shuanghui International

Holdings Ltd. (now called WH Group Ltd.), for \$4.72 billion.

Keep in mind China has 1.5 billion people. This requires a lot of people to feed. China would love to gain as much of our farmland as possible to gain more control of our food production. This is one area where China really needs us. Our agricultural exports to them increased by over 27% from 2020 to 2021. They would not need us if they can gain control of our farmland. It’s also a plus for them if they can have it close to our military bases. This provides a two-fold benefit for them. In the middle of the cornfield, they can watch everything we are doing or even attempt to thwart what we are doing.

14.5% (\$45.0 billion) increase from \$310.3 billion in 2020.

China was the United States’ third-largest trade partner in 2021.

In 2021, 8.6% of total U.S. exports of \$1.8 trillion were exported to China and 17.9% of total U.S. imports of \$2.8 trillion were imported from China.

Mechanical Appliances, Sound Recorders and TV sets were the most traded commodity sectors. In the last five years, U.S. exports of those commodities show an upward trend from \$25 billion in 2017 to \$36.1 billion in 2021. The percentages of imports of those commodities from China out of total imports from the World are impressive with 37.0% in 2017 and 29.3% in 2021.

In 2021, U.S. exports of Agricultural Products to China continue to show an upward trend. In 2021, U.S. exports of Agriculture Products were \$31.6 billion, an increase of 27.5% (\$6.8 billion) from \$24.8 billion in 2020.

In 2021, China remained the major source of U.S. imports of Textile Products. In 2021, U.S. imports of \$50.3 billion of Textile Products from China constituted 32.6% of the total U.S. imports of Textile products.

Additionally, in 2021, China remained the major source of U.S. imports of Furniture, Bedding, Lamps, Toys, Games, Sports Equipment, Paint, and other Miscellaneous Manufactured Items. In 2021, the U.S. imports of \$68.5 billion of Miscellaneous Manufactured Items from China constituted 53.2% of total U.S. imports of those commodities. (Source: Government info data)

What can we do about China? Try to buy products not made in China. You have to shop but it’s possible. Shrinking the cash flow to China is crucial to reducing their growing economic and military power. By all means, please do not sell them your land.

Glenn Mollette is a graduate of numerous schools including Georgetown College, Southern and Lexington Seminaries in Kentucky. He is the author of “Uncommon Sense” and 12 other books. His column is published weekly in over 600 publications in all 50 states. Learn more at www.glenmmollette.com or www.facebook.com/glenmmollette.

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View from here By U.S. Senator John Cornyn

Time to get America’s fiscal house in order

The national debt is \$31.5 trillion and counting. If it were divided among all income taxpayers, each person would be on the hook for nearly \$250,000.

Will we ever be in a situation where the average taxpayer receives a quarter-million-dollar bill from the U.S. government? Not a chance. But it’s startling to see how much debt the United States has taken on, and even more jarring to realize there’s no plan to address it.

Making matters worse, we’re quickly approaching an alarming deadline. Unless action is taken soon, the U.S. will default on its debts in the coming months, sending our wobbly economy into a full-blown spiral.

This looming crisis didn’t pop up out of nowhere. The U.S. narrowly avoided a debt crisis in 2021, but we’ve been moving toward this unavoidable reality for years. Out-of-control spending habits have driven the national debt from \$3.2 trillion in 1980, to \$9.7 trillion in 2000, to \$31.5 trillion today.

Washington can’t continue to borrow and spend like there’s no tomorrow. It’s time to address the root causes that brought us here.

First, Congress needs to return to regular order in funding the government each fiscal year. It must abandon the habit of stopgap funding bills and last-minute omnibuses and pass regular, on-time appropriations bills.

The Senate and House Appropriations Committees are charged with writing 12 separate bills to fund different components of the federal government prior to Sept. 30, the end of the government’s fiscal year. That didn’t happen in 2022 or 2021. The Democrat-led Senate did not pass a single regular appropriations bill and instead used stopgap funding measures to keep the wheels of government turning while they compiled a massive spending bill. All of this happened in a rushed fashion, completely out of the public’s view.

This is a maddening way to fund the government, and it’s time for change. Public hearings, debates, and votes on individual appropriations bills are the only path forward. Temporary funding legislation and 4,000-page appropriation bills are not the picture of responsible governing.

Next, we need to reform spending. There’s bipartisan agreement that entitlements, which account for nearly two-thirds of the federal budget, are unsustainable in their current form. Projections show Social Security recipients will see a reduction of almost 25% in their benefits if we do nothing – an unacceptable outcome. It’s time for tough conversations and significant reforms to protect the longevity of these programs for the people who need them most. Sen. Mitt Romney’s, R-Utah, TRUST Act, which seeks to rescue the Social Security Trust Fund, is a great starting point for these conversations.

Finally, Congress should pass a balanced budget amendment – similar to ones I’ve authored and voted for previously – to make clear that the government can’t spend more than it takes in. There’s real-world evidence that balanced budget requirements work. Virtually every state in the nation has one, including Texas, which just started its legislative session with a \$33 billion surplus. States, families, and businesses across the country have no choice but to operate on a balanced budget. The federal government should do the same.

There are a range of other measures Congress can take to address the financial fire that’s raging. Congress should ban earmarks to ensure critical funding bills are not a playground for quid pro quo. I’ve opposed the use of earmarks and voted to strip them out of the most recent omnibus bill.

Senate Republicans have offered a laundry list of bills to restore order and accountability in federal spending.

Sen. Mike Braun’s, R-Ind., No Budget, No Pay Act would suspend pay for members of the House and Senate if Congress fails to pass a budget or spending bills on time.

Sen. Mike Lee’s, R-Utah, CBO Show Your Work Act would require the Congressional Budget Office to publish the data and models it uses to analyze the cost of legislation.

If government funding is not enacted on time, Sen. James Lankford’s, R-Okla., Prevent Government Shutdowns Act would force Congress to stay in session until funding agreements are reached, and ensure the government stays open until that happens.

These are just a few of the countless proposals Senate Republicans have put forward that deserve serious consideration.

President Biden needs to ditch his head-in-the-sand approach to this crisis and work with Republicans to get our financial house in order. He was in the room when Congress negotiated the 2011 Budget Control Act, which was the last meaningful attempt to restrain Washington spending. If the president wants to lead, this is his chance.

The national debt will haunt every generation until enough leaders show the courage to make tough choices and fix this mess. There’s never been a more important time for action. I encourage my colleagues to join me in this process.



View from here

By Jane M. Orient, M.D.

Someone has finally died

Lawsuit filed over HCQ prescription for COVID

Many medical authority figures have warned people not to take hydroxychloroquine (HCQ), lest they die or go blind – if they take it for COVID. If they need it for lupus, or rheumatoid arthritis, or malaria, we must not allow use for COVID to create a shortage of their essential remedy.

Thousands of patients have defied the experts and taken HCQ anyway. Now, a patient who obtained a prescription from a telehealth doctor has died. His family is suing the doctor, and the case is getting prominent media coverage¹.

I am not acquainted with the physician, Dr. Medina Culver. Some people seem to disapprove of her because she has long hair, a flamboyant personality, and a large following on social media, none of which seem relevant or newsworthy to me. Neither does her membership in America’s Frontline Doctors (AFLDS) – which is also being sued for allegedly promoting the drug improperly².

The plain facts are that the patient had a telemed appointment with Dr. Culver in August 2021, at which time Dr. Culver reportedly prescribed hydroxychloroquine and ivermectin for COVID – 19 treatment or “preventative therapy.” Dr. Culver never performed a physical examination of Mr. Parker – it was a *telemed* visit, remember.

According to the lawsuit, the patient developed cold – like symptoms in late January 2022. His body was found Feb 3, 2022. The Washoe County, Nevada, coroner listed the cause of death as “sudden in the setting of therapeutic use of hydroxychloroquine.”

The news article does not report whether the patient took the HCQ that had been prescribed 6 months earlier, whether he had COVID, whether he took any other drugs, or what he died of. Nevertheless, a retired medical school professor was able to opine that the patient’s death might have been prevented “if Dr. Culver had performed a more thorough evaluation including a physical exam to evaluate his heart function, a blood pressure measurement, and an EKG to ensure he did not have an abnormality” – six months earlier.

The dreaded EKG abnormality that can occur with HCQ or numerous other medications³, including erythromycin and related drugs (e.g., Z-pak), Cipro and related drugs, and a long list of psychotherapeutic drugs, is a prolonged QT interval. That’s a delayed repolarization of the conduction system. A premature beat falling in a vulnerable spot could trigger a dangerous arrhythmia called torsades de pointes⁴. The number of cases of this rhythm reported in seriously ill hospitalized COVID patients who received HCQ? *Zero*.

Do doctors screen patients for congenital prolonged QT before prescribing any of these drugs? They do not. Or do periodic EKGs during therapy? That would probably be disallowed as “unnecessary.”

The retired professor made the oft – repeated statement that the FDA has not specifically approved HCQ for COVID. It has also not approved the indications for which one out of five doctors’ prescriptions are written. Once approved for safety, as HCQ was in 1955, doctors are free to use a drug for any indication for which they believe it is useful. If a drug company wants to advertise that use, it can spend years and millions of dollars to get it approved. Approval doesn’t make the drug safe – listen to the long list of adverse effects in the TV ads.

HCQ has been used by hundreds of millions of people worldwide, is available without prescription in many places, and is safer than many over-the-counter drugs such as Tylenol.

Telehealth is touted as a great answer to physician shortages and difficult access to care – despite the inability to do a physical examination. Unless it involves an “off-label” prescription for COVID.

People die, often after taking a treatment. If it happens after a COVID vaccine, correlation doesn’t prove causality, and beware of the *post hoc, ergo propter hoc* (“after this, therefore because of this”) logical fallacy. But different rules apply to early, officially disparaged COVID treatment.

More than 1 million U.S. deaths⁵ have been attributed to COVID. Very few of those patients probably received early treatment with a repurposed drug. More than 34,000 deaths⁶ have been reported in association with COVID vaccines, but causation has not been proved.

Finally, someone is suing because a patient was given HCQ or ivermectin, instead of because a hospital denied a patient ivermectin⁷. Doctors who prescribe a potentially life – saving drug despite vilification by authorities, hospitals, and medical associations had better take notice: malpractice attorneys

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SEISD

From Page 1

already operating on a four-day-per-week schedule. Many, like SEISD, are small rural school districts. A quick look at job postings throughout the region shows that even districts with university partnerships hosting student-teacher internships and residencies need help to fill every single classroom with certified teachers. Meza-Chavez said, “When you talk to the parents of students whose children have had a guest teacher covering class from the beginning of the year, the

conversation changes.” SEISD, like many districts across the region and the state, continues to experience increased vacancies. Last year alone, San Elizario High School had five vacancies out of seven science positions. Fortunately, the district covered the extended vacancies with substitute teachers, referred to as guest teachers. However, the fact remains that, classes with existing vacancies were not covered by individuals certified in science. The 2022-2023 school year had five teacher vacancies that were carried over from the previous year. Two of those vacancies are

still in high school science. In addition, three of those positions have been open for more than 500 calendar days. Furthermore, the athletic trainer position has been open for 229 calendar days. The total number of teacher vacancies today, including the five positions that carried over from last year, is 12. Four of those positions require a bilingual certification. For SEISD, this amounts to a significant academic impact and continued adverse interruption to the continuity of educational services for students. Giving students a certified teacher from day one is the impetus for

implementing a four-day week. Other benefits include employee retention and attracting new employees. The four-day week also creates a space for students and staff to take care of social, emotional, and physical wellness by having that extra day in the week to make that their focus. SEISD will use the next few months to prepare and finalize adjustments to begin this new 4-day week calendar for the next school year. The new school year will start on Tuesday, July 25, 2023. Visit <https://www.seisd.net/4dayweek> for more information and updates.

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CryptoQuip

Answer

If I knew some cruel folks had been dispatched, I would probably cry “The brutish are coming!”

Strange BUT TRUE

By Lucie Winborne

- A Calvin and Hobbes comic from 1992 referred to the start of the universe as the “Horrendous Space Kablooie” because they thought “The Big Bang” was too boring.
- When a man noticed that his food supply was mysteriously diminishing he set up a webcam, only to discover that a woman had been living in one of his closets – for a year!
- During Spain’s colonial period, the builders of Filipino churches used millions of egg whites in the mortar to make the structures more durable. This also accounts for why Filipino desserts often use lots of eggs: Many of the recipes were developed to use up all those leftover yolks.
- In 2013, Belgium created five limited edition stamps that smelled and tasted like chocolate.
- A service operated in several Chinese cities that we’d like to see replicated in America is that of “jam busting.” Drivers stuck in traffic snarls who urgently need to be somewhere make a phone call and two people show up on a motorbike. While one stays with the driver’s car, the other transports the frustrated driver to their destination.
- According to the American Kennel Club, dogs will fake a sneeze for play and communication purposes.
- Modern negligence law resulted from a 1932 Scottish court case, Donoghue v. Stevenson, aka the “Snail in the Bottle” case, in which Mrs. May Donoghue sued beer manufacturer Mr. David Stevenson after she drank a bottle of ginger beer with a dead snail in it and became ill.

Thought for the Day: “History, despite its wrenching pain, cannot be unlived, but if faced with courage, need not be lived again.”
– Maya Angelou

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• On Feb. 20, 1962, the NASA spaceship Friendship 7, named and piloted by Marine Lieutenant John Glenn, was launched from Cape Canaveral, Florida, in the first complete orbit around Earth made by an American astronaut.

• On Feb. 21, 1933, Miriam A. “Ma” Ferguson, who made history by becoming the first woman governor of Texas, announced that Feb. 26 through March 4 would be officially known as “Texas Week.” The state’s Independence Day, March 2, falls in this period.

• On Feb. 22, 1879, Frank Winfield Woolworth opened the Great 5 Cents Store (later Woolworth’s) in Utica, New York. Originally promising that nothing would cost more than a nickel, the chain expanded over the next 50 years to 1,000 stores, but retail market changes eventually forced the last U.S. shop to permanently close in 1997.

• On Feb. 23, 1997, the three-and-a-half hour Holocaust drama “Schindler’s List” aired commercial-free on the NBC television network. Seen by 60 million people, it was the first film to display TV Guide’s rating of TV-MA (unsuitable for children under 17), due to scenes of violence and brief nudity, which also sparked some political controversy.

• On Feb. 24, 2020, American film producer Harvey Weinstein’s career came to a disgraceful end amid multiple allegations of sexual harassment and assault when he was convicted of rape and a criminal sex act. Many people, especially women, viewed the verdict as a victory for the burgeoning #MeToo movement, which sought to assist survivors of sexual assault.

• On Feb. 25, 1570, Pope Pius V declared England’s Queen Elizabeth I a heretic and excommunicated her from the Roman Catholic Church by way of a papal bull releasing Catholics from any loyalty to her and calling upon them to remove her from the throne.

• On Feb. 26, 1951, American novelist James Jones published “From Here to Eternity,” about the U.S. Army in Hawaii before the 1941 attack on Pearl Harbor. It was later memorably adapted into an Academy Award-winning movie featuring such Hollywood luminaries as Deborah Kerr, Burt Lancaster, Donna Reed and Montgomery Clift.

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Funding

From Page 1

of a new police station, municipal courthouse, and an emergency shelter facility.

Escobar related that Anthony’s funding would be used to construct these essential public service facilities. “Currently, the police department and courthouse are housed in the same building as the town hall and other public services, and... do not have an emergency shelter. The current facility is too small to sustain all of these essential services, and building a new facility for the police department, courthouse, and an emergency community shelter complex will allow Anthony to keep up with the community’s growth, safety, and tourism,” the U.S. representative stated.

On the east side of the county, Horizon City is slated to receive \$1.75 million for the initial design and environmental study of the Transit-Oriented Development (TOD). The purpose of the TOD is to create a “center” that provides settings for active community life, social interaction, and increased economic activity, according to the city’s website. It states that the plan encourages walkable, multi-modal development which is conducive to increased transit usage.

El Paso County is also receiving much-needed funding. For a lower valley endeavor, the county has been given \$500,000 to launch a business retention and expansion program along the historic Mission Trail, which includes the eastern edge of El Paso, Socorro, Tornillo, and the San Elizario Historic District. Additionally, the county is receiving about \$4 million to improve its Senior Meal and Community Kitchen services and facilities, as well as its Animal Welfare Pet Wellness Clinic.

Alongside Escobar and Quintana at

the news conference were leaders from a handful of the organizations and agencies selected to receive funding, like John Martin, a coordinator with the Opportunity Center for the Homeless. He talked about the \$2.5 million his group will receive for a homeless men’s shelter, called *La Casa de Los Abuelitos*. He stated that the shelter will provide 31 additional beds, 20 of which will be permanent housing and that the facility will provide case management support.

Receiving \$600,000 in federal funding, El Paso Children’s Hospital officials stated that the funds would support a mobile clinic to provide basic and specialized pediatric care in portions of El Paso County where such services are scarce. Hospital officials explained that the mobile clinic will provide clinical services, vaccinations, financial education, and resources for parents, as well as education with school district nurses and teachers.

Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center El Paso’s Border Health Center was awarded \$3 million to support its various programs. And Texas A&M Transportation Institute received \$750,000 to conduct a study on how to improve land border crossing transit and pedestrian connectivity to business districts in the El Paso region.

Other El Paso area projects receiving funding include \$2 million for the El Paso Independent School District’s After-School Community Learning Centers; Broadening STEAM Learning Ecosystems; \$1 million for a 34-acre-foot desilting basin; \$100,000 to conduct an appraisal study for future projects on the Franklin Canal; and \$1.75 million for El Paso International Airport to install a 2.5-acre solar covered parking facility, which is expected to generate more than half of the energy consumed by the terminal annually.

Lawsuit

From Page 4

may target you. Ditto for entities that organize telehealth services and/or provide favorable information on a repurposed drug.

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

1 – <https://thisisreno.com/2023/02/vegas-physician-americas-frontline-doctors-sued-after-washoe-county-man-died-from-hydroxychloroquine/>

2 – https://www.medpagetoday.com/special-reports/features/103026?xid=nl_medpageexclusive_2023-02-09&eun=g403576d0r&utm_source=Saithru&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=MPTExclusives_020923&utm_term=NL_Gen_Int_Medpage_Exclusives_Active

3 – <https://medssafety.com/list-of-drugs-that-cause-qt-prolongation-or-irregular-heart-rhythm/>

4 – https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Torsades_de_pointes

5 – <https://www.worldometers.info/coronavirus/country/us/>

6 – <https://www.openvaers.com/covid-data>

7 – <https://aapsonline.org/aaps-supports-courts-authority-over-a-hospital-that-denies-patients-access-to-a-common-treatment/>

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

Classified Ads

LEGALS

PUBLIC NOTICE

Alliance of Border Collaboratives

Invitation to Bid

Alliance of Border Collaboratives (ABC) is a recipient of

Amy Young Barrier Removal Program Contract #1003316

from Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs.

ABC will accept proposals from licensed General Contractor/Builder for up to 50 Single Family Home Appraisals for each contract. A Bid packet can be picked up starting February 27, 2023 through March 27, 2023 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Bid packets or proposals can be picked up from and delivered to Alliance of Border Collaboratives,

2524 Montana Ave., El Paso, TX 79903.

Submitted Bid Packets or proposals must have Amy Young Barrier Removal Program Contract #1003316 written on the lower left hand side of the envelope. A public opening of the packets will take place on March 29, 2023 at 11:00 a.m. at the office of the Alliance of Border Collaboratives. Phone (915) 584-2875.

The General Contractor/Builder must ensure that employees and applicants are not discriminated against because of their race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, sexual orientation or disability. General Contractor/Builder must be certified and licensed with El Paso County and the City of El Paso, TX. General Contractor/Builder must also know new current El Paso County Construction of

Single Homes Codes with a minimum of 3 years of experience.

ABC has a conflict of interest procedure in accordance with 24CFR 92356. ABC has a Bidders Protest Rights Procedure. ABC reserves the right to reject any bids or to waive any informality in the bidding.

The Alliance of Border Collaboratives is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer.

WTCC: 02-23-23

VILLAGE OF VINTON, TX

PUBLIC NOTICE

Request for Qualifications

Municipal Court Judge Services

The Village of Vinton (the “Village”) is soliciting sealed Requests for Qualifications

(RFQ) for judge of its Municipal Court. The Vinton Municipal Court is not a court of record and operates under the authority of Chapter 29, Texas Government Code (TGC). The primary responsibility of the Municipal Court is to adjudicate alleged criminal violations of Village ordinances which are punishable by a fine. The jurisdiction of the Municipal Court is set forth in TGC Section 29.003. The Judge of the Municipal Court is appointed by the Village Council to serve a two year term, which runs from January 1 in odd-numbered years through December 31 of even numbered years. In this case, because there is a vacancy in the term office of municipal judge, the appointment will be for the remainder of the unexpired term of office only, until December 31, 2024. The Municipal Judge is an independent contractor and as such is not eligible

for any employee benefits. The compensation of the Municipal Judge will be negotiated prior to appointment.

Scope of Service

• Process and adjudicate all alleged municipal ordinance violations as well as any other cases coming before the court that are within its jurisdiction as specified in Texas Government Code Section 29.003 in accordance with the objectives and procedures set forth in Chapter 45, Code of Criminal Procedure.

• This is part-time judicial service position on an on-call basis depending on whether there are any case filings that require processing or adjudication.

• The Municipal Judge conducts arraignments, pretrial hearings, bench trials, jury trials (if requested), enforcement hearings, bond hearings and other hearings as may

be necessary and renders orders resulting therefrom, including, but not limited to, the assessment of fines for ordinance violations.

• The Municipal Judge may be required to issue warrants and other legal process.

• The Municipal Judge must have availability to provide judicial services upon short notice when requested by the Court Clerk.

• Because the Municipal Court has not been active for several years, the Municipal Judge will also be expected to review old case files and assist Court staff in redeveloping case processing procedures.

The full list of qualifications (packet) is available at the address below or on the Village of Vinton website (<https://vintontx.gov/office2.com/employment>).

Qualified applicants are invited to submit qualifications and proposals for service as the Vinton Municipal Court Judge. In order to be considered, proposals must include all the applicable documentation described in the Proposal Requirements. Eight (8) original proposals must be sealed and returned to:

Village of Vinton
Attention: Village Administrator
436 E. Vinton Rd.
Vinton, TX 79821

All proposals must be submitted by 5:00 P.M. MST on March 9, 2023. All proposals must be plainly marked with “Municipal Judge Services RFQ #2023.”

Applicants (“Proposers”) are responsible for delivery of response by the date and time set for the closing of the proposal acceptance responses

received after the date and time set for the closing will not be considered.

The Village of Vinton reserves the right to reject any and all proposals and waive informalities in proposals received.

All inquiries concerning this RFQ must be made in writing and addressed to the address or email below, with email being the preferred method.

Village of Vinton
Andrea Nichole Carrillo, MPA
Village Administrator
436 E. Vinton, Rd.
Vinton, TX 79821
acarrillo@vintontx.us

The Village of Vinton, Texas is an Affirmative Action and Equal Opportunity Employer.

Andrea N. Carrillo
Village Administrator

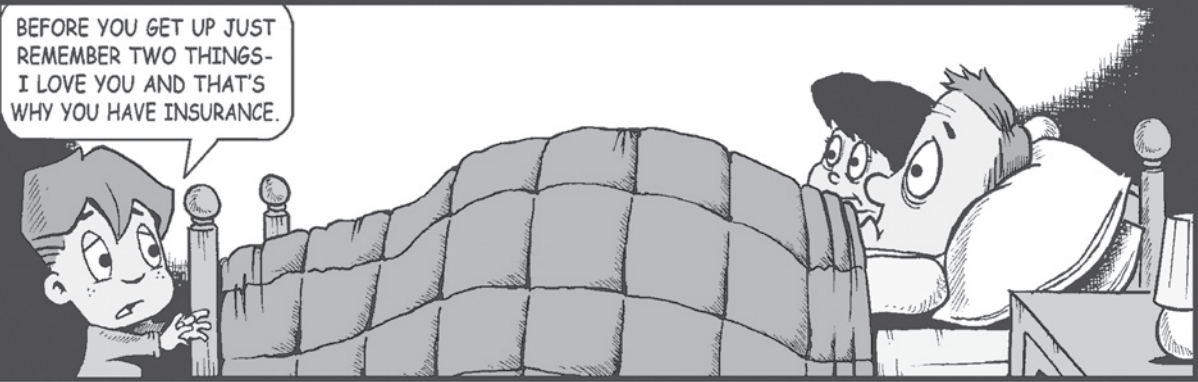
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Comix

OUT ON A LIMB By Gary Kopervas



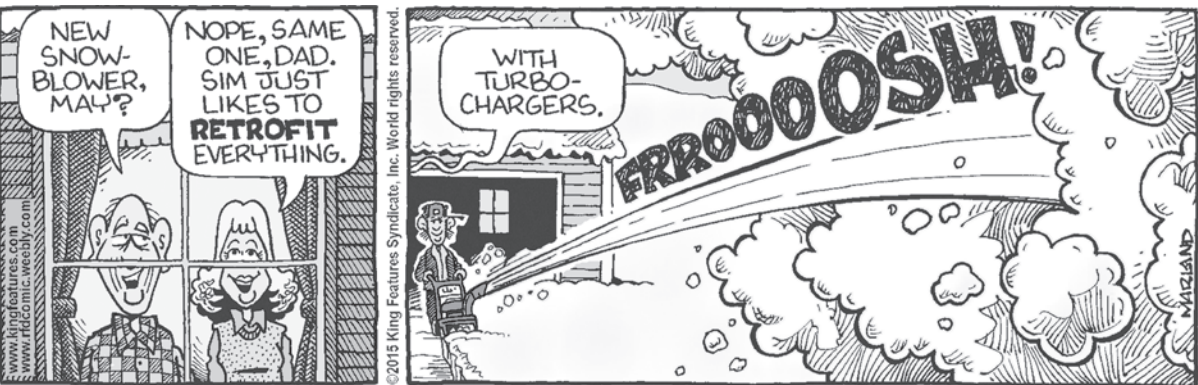
AMBER WAVES By Dave T. Phipps



THE SPATS By Jeff Pickering



R.F.D. By Mike Marland (THIS IS THE FINAL R.F.D. MIKE MARLAND HAS RETIRED.)



TIGER By Bud Blake



Lowry

From Page 2

is more straightforward than any of this. Police are given considerable authority, and human beings—of all races and creeds, in all times and places — have a natural tendency to abuse authority unless constrained by institutions, norms and accountability. If you are unwilling to

believe that the cops in this case were self-loathing Black men, then their behavior becomes a function of poor training and supervision, abysmal decision-making, anger in the moment, free-floating cruelty, or some combination of these things. The left elevates race above all the other factors that might play into a police encounter gone horribly wrong because the racial interpretation allows

it to make a broader critique of American society and force wide-ranging political and social changes. This is a very useful narrative, which is why it is loath to give it up even in an incident involving Black cops. Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review. (c) 2023 by King Features Synd., Inc.

Bariatric surgery comes with some higher risks

DEAR DR. ROACH: I have had a BMI over 40 for the last 20 years, and I have not been able to lose weight or keep the weight off. My doctor prescribed Ozempic, which is helping, but as soon as I stop, all the weight creeps back on in a few weeks. I was always wary of surgery for weight loss, but recent studies seem to indicate better long-term health outcomes. What are your thoughts? – S.O.



Medical or surgical treatment for weight loss is not right for every person who is overweight. Many people take medications in the class called glucagon-like peptide-1 agonists, which includes semaglutide (Ozempic and Wegovy), liraglutide (Saxenda and Victoza) and tirzepatide (Mounjaro). But these medicines have the potential for harm, and an individual’s risks, especially conditions that can be affected by being severely overweight or obese, need to be carefully considered.

Surgery has far more risks than medication and requires the most careful consideration before receiving a recommendation of bariatric surgery, of which there are many types.

I am much more likely to refer a patient to one of my colleagues in bariatric surgery when a patient is very obese and when there are clear medical issues that I can expect to get better with surgery. These medical issues can include diabetes, obstructive sleep apnea, or nonalcoholic fatty liver disease. Most of the time, these conditions can be well-managed without bariatric surgery, but sometimes management is very difficult. In this case, consideration of bariatric surgery is worthwhile.

Bariatric surgery is never the first choice in weight management. A comprehensive lifestyle intervention – with an individualized diet (ideally recommended by an expert such as a registered dietician or nutritionist), moderate exercise (with a goal of 150 minutes per week minimum), and regular meetings to help keep a person on track – is the right place to start. It is effective for many people if they maintain the behavioral changes.

I have been prescribing some of my patients with the GLP-1 or GLP-1/GIP medications with good results, but as you mention, if you stop taking them, they stop working. Unless you make a dramatic change to your lifestyle that you can keep up, the weight will return.

Bariatric surgery does have very strong long-term weight-loss data, as well as dramatic reductions in diabetes when used for the appropriate people.

DEAR DR. ROACH: My shoulder pain seems to be getting worse (lack of cartilage), and it is interfering with sleep. I haven’t taken any pain medication for it, but I read that the best relief is from either aspirin or ibuprofen. I’d like to switch them back and forth – maybe two to three days with aspirin, then one day with ibuprofen (the most I can tolerate being 200 to 300 mg a day). How much aspirin is OK to use in this way? – J.B.

I recommend against the combination of a medicine like ibuprofen (or naproxen, like Aleve) and aspirin. They have similar toxicities and work nearly in the same way, so you don’t get much more, if any, pain relief and instead increase the risk of kidney and stomach damage. The combination of aspirin or an anti-inflammatory drug like ibuprofen with the drug acetaminophen (Tylenol) is commonly used and can lead to improved pain relief without a big toxicity risk when taken in the recommended doses..

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
In the Roman calendar, March was generally considered the first month of the new year. Ceasar must have been a Texan.
Order your Bona Fide Original Real Texas Calendar at:
www.texascalendars.com

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 K

ZV Z FLRX ENHR BDMRO
VNOFE AQG KRRL GZEYQIBARG,
Z XNMOG YDNKQKOW BDW
"IAR KDMIZEA QDR BNHZLU!"

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Fast help for suicidal veterans

VETERANS POST
by Freddy Groves

It has a very long title, but a short, concise purpose. The Veterans Comprehensive Prevention, Access to Care, and Treatment Act of 2020, or the Veterans COMPACT Act of 2020, section 201, allows eligible suicidal veterans to go to an emergency room for help. This opens the door for 9 million veterans to get the care they need.

But the scope is much wider. An acutely suicidal veteran can go to not only a Department of Veterans Affairs emergency room, but any emergency room.

The VA will pick up the tab, at no cost to the veteran, for inpatient or crisis residential care for up to 30 days and then outpatient care for up to 90 days, as well as any necessary transportation. The veteran doesn't need to be enrolled in VA health care.

After getting that care,

they'll determine eligibility for any other VA services and benefits and refer the veteran to appropriate programs.

Even though the VA believes that there are 9 million veterans who can take advantage of this, if necessary, there are a few eligibility requirements.

Veterans must have been discharged or released from active duty after serving more than 24 months, and leave under conditions other than dishonorable.

Eligible individuals are former members of the armed forces (including reserves) who served more than 100 days "under a combat exclusion or in support of a contingency operation either directly or by operating an unmanned aerial vehicle from another location" and again, be discharged under conditions other than dishonorable.

And thirdly, former members of the armed forces who were the victims of sexual assault or sexual harassment are eligible.

If you or someone you know needs help, there are a number of ways to

get it. Go online to www.veteranscrisisline.net and view the choices. You can call them by dialing 988 and then pressing 1. You can chat online at that website. Or you can text a message to 838255. Help is available 24/7 from qualified, trained people.

Or, per this Act, help is as close as the nearest emergency room.

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• "Be sure you use bathroom fans correctly, turning on to remove steam, but turning off to keep from pumping out heat. This is equally important in the summer, when you pump out valuable cooled air. Many people don't think of fans this way, and they end up running for hours." – R.D. in Mississippi

• Keep salt or baking soda by the stove for small quick cleanups. A good dose of salt will stop an egg from running all over the place. Dip a damp cloth in baking soda for a handy scrub. Although a handful of either might work in a pinch on a small flare-up on the stove, you should have a fire extinguisher close by for fires.

• "I used to comb through my last year's calendar for important yearly dates when transferring them to the new year's calendar. This year I have gotten smart. At the end of the month, before turning the page, I have highlighted the items I would want to put in next year's calendar. When I look back, I will not have to search through all the entries for the good stuff." – U.L. in Ohio

• "I just spent a lot of time cleaning my mother's bathtub in a long-neglected bathroom. To keep it from mildewing, I used paste wax to protect the walls. You can use car wax for the same purpose, and many people know about this helpful tip. But I wanted to add a caution: walls only. Especially if you have an elderly resident (or a child), do not wax the inside of the tub, and make sure to have a nonslip mat in the tub at all times." – A daughter in Oregon

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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

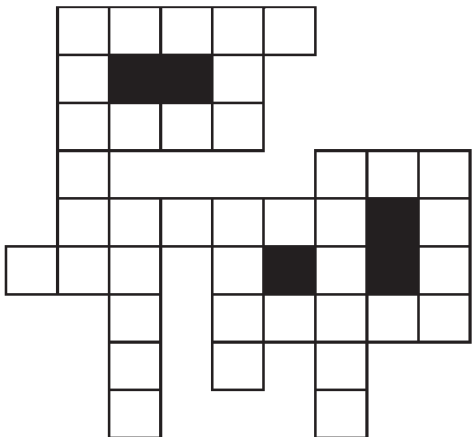
	x		+		10
+		x		x	
	-		x		6
÷		-		-	
	+		÷		3
3		3		2	

1 2 3 3 4 5 7 8 9

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ENZ
IGAVES
EGVRE
AFGF
♥RULEGG
NFA
OLUS
ZOFR
♥EGL
YENFLO
FINYU
♥EVNA



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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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ◆◆◆

◆ Moderate ◆◆ Challenging
◆◆◆ HOO BOY!

Answer Page 4

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