

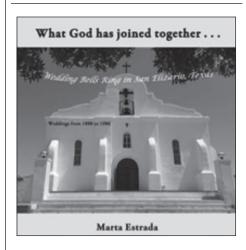
Vest Texas Count

VOL. 50, No. 18

SERVING ANTHONY, VINTON, CANUTILLO, EAST MONTANA, HORIZON, SOCORRO, CLINT, FABENS, SAN ELIZARIO AND TORNILLO

MAY 4, 2023

NEWSBRIEFS



San Eli weddings

Marta Estrada has written What God Has Joined Together: Wedding Bells Ring in San Elizario, TX 1880-1986. The book is a historical and photographic view of weddings in San Elizario, TX. It sells for \$20 and can be ordered by calling or sending a text to (915) 280-7024.

- Rick Shrum

FISD health services

Emergence Health Network, in collaboration with the Fabens Independent School District is now offering school-based mental health services at various campuses within the district to include Fabens Middle and High School. "I believe providing this type of awareness and care in the early years is so important and it's just another resource we now have to help our students succeed," said Veronica Vijil, **FISD** Superintendent. "School-based mental health increases academic achievement, improves attendance, and leads to fewer disruptions to the learning environment. We are looking forward to this new partnership.' Emergence Health Network also provides school-based services on several campuses within the El Paso Independent School District and Canutillo ISD.

- Noreen Jaramillo

That's no scarf

The lady was all set to board her flight at Tampa International Airport in Florida recently but when she put her carry-on bag through the checkpoint X-Ray machine the TSA agents saw that the boa in her bag was not a kind of decorative scarf, it was a boa constrictor. She claimed the snake was her emotional support pet. The TSA

See BRIEFS, Page 2

Always remember that no one is rewarded for having brains, but for using them.

– Quips & Quotes



- Photo by Alfredo Vasquez

THE PEOPLE KEEP COMING — The imposing metal and concrete border wall, above – with its coiled, razor-sharp wire streaming on top - runs along the Rio Grande through the entire span of El Paso city limits. But no matter how high or how sturdy the border wall may be, the flow of migrants could reach as many as 1,500 illegal immigrants per day in the El Paso region alone once the Title 42 restrictions are lifted

Border Patrol announces plan to address anticipated migrant surge

Title 42 coming to an end

By By Alfredo Vasquez Special to the Courier

EL PASO COUNTY – As all federal COVID policies are slated to end on Trump administration as part of a May 11th, El Paso County has become ground zero for an immigration surge Border Patrol to kick out asylumthat appears to be very unpredictable.

According to the US Border Patrol, into Mexico without hearing if they currently waiting in Juarez, Mexico this regulation applies to Cubans, for the restrictions (Title 42) to end so that they can cross into the United States and request asylum.

Title 42 was initiated during the pandemic policy that allowed the seeking migrants from the US and

more than 1,500 educators to attend

training at Harvard through the

Raising School Leaders program,

an initiative designed to develop

attendees

inception.

across Texas.

Charles Butt Foundation

covers expenses for the

tuition, travel, hotel, and

other discretionary costs

for a total investment of

more than \$10 million

since the program's

Attendees, including

including

principals

more than 40,000 migrants are have a credible case or not. Presently, Guatemalans, Haitians, Hondurans, Mexicans, Nicaraguans, Salvadorans, and Venezuelans.

With the impending COVID deadline, however, El Paso county and city officials are gearing up to deal with a possible flood of illegal migrants. County and city officials stated that preparations are underway to handle as many as 1,500 individuals per day.

Already, the influx of migrants who hope to seek asylum in the US has overwhelmed the few nongovernmental organization shelters available to them in both the Juarez and El Paso region.

To deal with the projected arrival of those thousands of migrants, Border Patrol officials announced recently that the agency has initiated a plan to help mitigate the asylum seeking phenomena and that a key component of the plan is the building of a second tent similar to the first large one that is located in the northeast part of El Paso County.

The second massive tent is expected to be operational by the end of June. Officials stated that the additional facility will give the agency three processing centers in El Paso that will expand its ability to gather biometric information on all new arrivals, run background checks on them, as well as offer assistance with housing arrangements.

The Border Patrol's plan also calls on federal officials to focus on freeing

Rincón heads to Harvard

50 school leaders from across Texas to attend

By Sofia Maciel *Special to the Courier*

FABENS - Edgar Rincón, proud stronger school leaders who will principal of Fabens High School, enhance the quality of education

With this new group, the Charles

Butt Foundation will have paid for

is among the 50 school leaders from across Texas selected as the 2023 group of educators to attend summer institutes at the Principals' Center at the Harvard Graduate School of Education sponsored by the Charles Butt Foundation, a nonprofit pursuing a more equitableandprosperous future for all Texans through education community and partnerships. The event Edgar Rincón runs from July 8 - 14.

individual as well as campus teams, will participate in one of two weeklong workshopsonleadership development, coaching,

or school turnaround led by Harvard

See RINCON, Page 5

See MIGRANTS, Page 4

Bragg is already losing

You don't know what's in the indictment.

That was the line that progressives repeatedly threw at conservatives dubious about Manhattan District Attorney Alvin Bragg's case over the last couple of weeks.

still don't know the other crime besides falsifying business records that's being alleged, because Bragg didn't specify it in a shocking prosecutorial failure and abuse of the process.

know what Bragg might come up with between now and the next hearing on Dec. 4?

To review, Donald Trump paid off porn star Stormy Daniels, with whom he had an alleged affair, prior to the 2016 election. Such hush payments may be is the other crime, and Bragg still won't tell us, or

sleazy, but they aren't illegal.

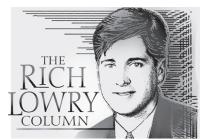
Still, the reimbursements from the Trump Organization to Trump fixer Michael Cohen, who paid off Daniels, were logged as legal expenses. This was deceptive and potentially a misdemeanor. Well, we've seen the unsealed indictment, and we Dragging a former president through the criminal justice process just to get him on such a minor offense, though, was unappealing even to Bragg.

How to make the misdemeanors into felonies? Well, if the misleading bookkeeping entries were What will be the new talking point? You don't in the service of another crime, then, presto, they become alleged felonies. Bragg, through the process known as stacking, or amassing counts through sheer repetition, claims to have 34 of them.

That's a lot. But the linchpin of the whole endeavor

the accused, what it is.

He's writing an Agatha Christie mystery, the unknown isn't who committed the crime but what law



he or she might have violated. It's "Something or Other, We'll Let You Know as Soon as We Figure It Out, on the Orient Express."

This is a flaw, not in the handling of some low stakes case no one will ever know about, but an unprecedented, historic case. This prosecution has drawn massive media attention, has rocketed Trump back to a large lead in the polls for the Republican nomination, and will surely further derange our

See LOWRY, Page 7

Classified Ads

LEGALS

PUBLIC NOTICE

Alliance of Border **Collaboratives**

Invitation to Bid

TXHAF Legal Services Contract #22210004006 Texas **Department of Housing and** Community **Affairs**

ABC will accept proposals from an Attorney that will responsible for advising and representing clients Organization

in a variety of legal C o n t r a c t matters related to #22210004006, homeownership such as foreclosure prevention. property taxes, housing discrimination.

A Bid packet can

picked up starting April 10, 2023, through May 10, 2023, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Bid packets or proposals can be picked up from and delivered to ABC At 3627 Durazno Av. ΕI Paso. TX Submitted Bid Packets or proposals must have Community Housing Development

written on the lower left hand side of the envelope. A public opening of the packets will take place on May 10, 2023, at 3:00 p.m at the office of the Alliance of Border Collaboratives.

Attorney

must ensure that employees and applicants are not discriminated against because their of race. color, religion, sex, national origin, age, sexual orientation, or disability. The Attorney must be licensed and have at least 5 years

The

practicing law, with focus on housing if ABC has a conflict of interest with 24CFR 92356. ABC has conflict of interest procedure accordance with 92356. 24CFR ABC has a Bidders Protest Rights Procedure. reserves the right to reject any bids or to waive any informality in the

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

bidding.

WTCC: 05-04-23

Food for thought By John Grimaldi

It's not about growing old; it's about how you grow old

have just about doubled over the past two did in youth." decades.

its toll, causing an increased mortality rate in human pathologies such as cancer, diabetes, general among the elderly as well as a time out cardiovasculardisorders and neurodegenerative when it comes to expanded life spans. Not long diseases. "Aging research has experienced ago, the Washington Post reported that "unlike" an unprecedented advance over recent years, flu, which impacts both the very young and the very old, the coronavirus appears to put aging is controlled, at least to some extent, by mostly older people at higher risk of severe genetic pathways and biochemical processes disease and death.'

expectancy in the U.S. resume its growth in human health during aging with minimal sidethe future. It most likely will, say the experts. effects." But it is not because medical science is on a quest for immortality; rather, the goal is Lincoln allegedly said: "In the end, it's not to alleviate the illnesses that come with the years in your life that count. It's the life in aging. As the website, Lifespan.io, put it: your years."

More Americans than ever are growing "The immune system keeps us safe from the older and healthier these days. Consider the constant invasion of viruses, bacteria, and fact that on average we were lucky if we other pathogens, helping us to stay healthy lived past 47 years of age at the beginning and free from diseases. However, the immune of the 20th century. Yet nowadays most men system begins to break down as we get and women in the U.S. can look forward to older and we become ever-more vulnerable celebrating birthdays well into their 70s. In to diseases and infections. To solve this fact, the New England Centenarian Study at problem, scientists are exploring therapies Boston University tells us that the numbers to regenerate the immune system so that it is of us who make it past our 100th birthday better able to fight back against diseases as it

According to the National Library of To be sure, the covid pandemic has taken Medicine, the risk factors of aging are the particularly with the discovery that the rate of conserved in evolution ... the final goal [is] Going forward the question is, will life identifying pharmaceutical targets to improve

What it all comes down to is what Abraham

TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY



NOTICE OF APPLICATION AND PRELIMINARY DECISION **FOR TPDES PERMIT FOR LOWER VALLEY WATER DISTRICT**

PERMIT NO. WQ0016296001

APPLICATION. Lower Valley Water District (CN600630396), 1557 Farmto-Market Road 1110. Clint. Texas 79836, has applied to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality Elimination the discharge of treated wastewater at a volume not to exceed a daily average flow of 900,000 gallons per day. The Site Name: Mesa Del Norte WWTP (RN111664371). The domestic wastewater treatment facility will be located at 616 Northwest Camp Street, Fabens, in El Paso County, Texas 79838. The discharge route will be from the plant site to San Felipe Arroyo, thence to river drain, thence to Fabens Waste Channel, thence to Rio Grande Below Riverside Diversion Dam. TCEQ received this application on February 13, 2023. The permit application will be available for viewing and copying at Lower Valley Water District Main Office, 1557 Farm-to-Market Road 1110, Clint, Texas prior to the date this notice is published in the newspaper. This link to an electronic map of the site or facility's general location is provided as a public courtesy and not part of the application or notice. For the exact location, refer to the application. https://gisweb.tceq. texas.gov/LocationMapper/?marker=-106.1598.31.507944&level=18

experience

AVISO DE SOLICITUD Y RESOLUCION PRELIMINAR DE PERMISO TPDES POR LOWER **VALLEY WATER DISTRICT**

NUMERO DE PERMISO WQ0016296001

SOLICITUD. Lower Valley Water District (CN600630396), 1557 Farmto-Market Road 1110. Clint. Texas 79836, ha solicitado a la Comision de Calidad Ambiental del Estado de Texas (TCEQ) para el propuesto Permiso No. WQ0016296001 (EPA I.D.No. TX0144134) del Sistema de Eliminacion de Descargas de Contaminantes de Texas (TPDES) para autorizar la descarga de aguas (TCEQ) for proposed Texas Pollutant residuales tratadas en un volumen System que no sobrepasa un fluio promedio (TPDES) Permit No. WQ0016296001 diario de 900,000 galones por dia. (EPA I.D. No. TX0144134) to authorize Nombre de sitio: Mesa Del Norte WWTP (RN111664371). La planta esta ubicada en 616 Northwest Camp St., Fabens en el Condado de El Paso, Texas 79838. La ruta de descarga es del sitio de la planta a el Arroyo San Felipe, despues a el "Fabens Waste Channel", despues a el Rio Grande despues de pasar por de la presa de desvio "Riverside". La TCEQ recibio esta solicitud el 24 de Febrero del 2023. La solicitud para el permiso estara disponible para leerla y copiarla en La oficina central de Lower Valley Water District, 1557 Farm-to-Market Road, Clint, TX antes de la fecha de publicacion de este aviso en el periodico. Este enlace a un mapa electronico de la ubicacion general del sitio o de la instalacion es proporcionado como una cortesia y no es parte de la solicitud o del aviso. Para la ubicacion exacta, consulte la solicitud. https://gisweb.tceg.texas gov/LocationMapper/?marker=-106.1598.31.507944&level=18



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR:

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.

AD DEADLINE

Friday 4 p.m. for the next Thursday.

CLASSIFIED RATES

\$15 for 25 words, \$20 for 40 words. Ad must be in writing and pre-paid. The West Texas County Courier reserves considers inappropriate.

DISPLAY RATES:

Open rate — \$40 per column inch. Call for more information or to set an appointment. The West Texas County Courier reserves the right not to publish advertising it considers inappropriate.

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Phone: 852-3235

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

> **Publisher** Rick Shrum Contributors Alfredo Vasquez Steve Escajeda



Homesteader Est. 1973 News, Inc.

Briefs

From Page 1

said, in an Instagram post, "Our officers at Tampa International Airport didn't find this hysssssterical! Coiled up in a passenger's carry-on was a 4-foot boa constrictor!

- John Grimaldi

He got up

Floridian Wesley Williams broke his back a couple of years ago when he fell off his 27-foot unicycle at a Spain's Got Talent event. He survived the fall, picked himself up, dusted himself off and started all over again. But his time he didn't break any bones but he did break the Guinness record for building the world's tallest unicycle nearly 32 feet in height – and riding it for a distance of nearly 28 feet 27 feet.

– John Grimaldi

To Advertise Call 852-3235

Anthony HS seniors attend YWCA event

By Adriana Candelaria *Special to the Courier*

ANTHONY, TX - The Anthony Independent School District sent all of its Anthony High School senior female students to the 28th Annual YWCA Women's Luncheon at trip possible. the El Paso Convention Center on Thursday, April 22.

Students got a fresh outlook the occasion. on the power of determination, from presenters at the event.

It was the first time that most of the students attended a formal luncheon. Stephanie Ramirez, an Anthony High School eye-opening experience.

how to be more open-minded, as well," Espinoza said. to continue being who I am, said.

featured luncheon Academy and Golden Globe award-winning actress Geena made possible thanks to the Davis as they keynote speaker. generous donations of AISD Davis delivered a speech about Superintendent the importance of having Troncoso, more lead female characters in School, Jack Chapman with the movies and shows.

moment. We were shown that Willie's Body Shop.

it's important for us to speak up, be who we are, and not hide anything about ourselves," Ramirez said.

Anthony High School Principal Sandra Espinoza and teacher Mary Westbrook organized the event and gathered donations to make the

Students were also prepared with dining etiquette tips for

"I think it's very important tenacity and self-worth after for girls to know how valuable listening to impactful stories they are, that if they love and respect themselves, it's going to show, it's going to glow, and it's going to make them stronger women," Espinoza said.

"It's very important that all the senior, says the event was an students have this opportunity. Hopefully soon we can find "I think it's going to show me something for our young men

The Anthony High School and not be afraid to speak up senior class includes 24 female and be powerful," Ramirez students. One junior student and one sophomore student also attended the event.

The experience was Dr. Oscar Anthony help of the Westbrook family "It was a very empowering and Espinoza Associates DBA

View from here By dr. Glenn Mollette

When someone knocks on your door

apple pie. Politicians, sales persons, clergy, media to try to gain new business. It's true girl scouts, federal census workers, and the you can reach more people more efficiently list goes on of persons and professions who via Internet advertising, social media and have depended on knocking on doors.

I needed to knock on a lot of doors to they will respond to your advertising. sell 20 papers which made me a cool \$1. Serving churches for years I have probably knocking on doors because they are paranoid shot me.

The recent shooting of a 16-year-old a friend. teenager in Kansas City, mistakenly knocking on the wrong door, is beyond subscriptions, brushes, vacuum cleaners, block away. Who shoots through a door and invite you to church? without reason unless the individual is crazy or on drugs or perhaps both? The don't immediately invite them into problem is, we do have a severe mental illness epidemic in America and a drug crisis. Throw in America's growing gun also should talk to you about a future violence issues and therefore knocking on appointment when you can make time for strange doors becomes a scary scenario.

at dinner time is a bit aggravating. Usually for me, it's a high school band member have further interest. You can always say selling mulch to raise money for the band. Or, it's someone raising money for another have a chain lock on your door or a glass school project. You can't be irritated with a locked door you can talk through then you 15-year-old kid is out trying to raise money are even better off. for his school. Unless, you are crazy or on all means, don't be this person.

For the most part, more and more the door.

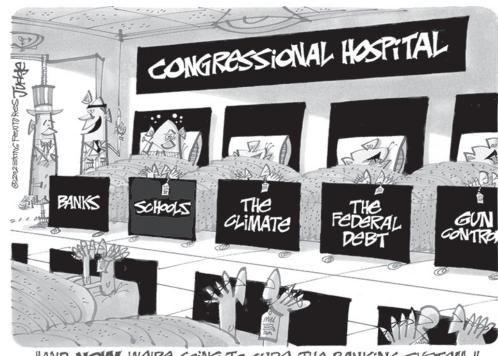
Knocking on doors is as American as industrious people are relying on social other media sources than by taking all day When I was a child, I sold Gritnewspapers. to knock on a few doors. If people want it,

People have rightfully withdrawn from knocked on over a thousand plus doors to of disturbing someone's favorite television invite people to church. I'm so glad no one program, meal or nap. This is never a good environment for making a sale or making

Maybe the day of selling magazine insane. The teenage boy was at the wrong and stuff like that door-to-door is in the past. house to pick up his brothers who were a Do any ministers ever knock on your door

If someone does knock on your door, your house. They should have a picture identification badge for you to see. They the pitch. In addition, they should present I admit hearing someone knock on the door you with some information containing a phone number so you can call them if you "no thank you," and shut your door. If you

Give consideration to the hard work some drugs. Then anything might tick you off. By people put into knocking on doors. Give careful consideration to how you answer



"AND **MOVIV** WE'RE GOING TO CURE THE BANKING SYSTEM."







National Down Syndrome Congress to meet in Florida

Applications for scholarships to attend convention now open



- Photo courtesy El Paso Community Foundation

CARING - Felipe Martinez and Keira Castaneda attended a recent Down Syndrome Coalition for El Paso event.

By Rudy Vasquez *Special to the Courier*

PASO **COUNTY** Applications to apply for scholarship to attend the National Down Syndrome Congress Convention are open. Every year, the Down Syndrome Coalition for El Paso (DSC) awards a scholarship to an individual with Down syndrome and up to two family members or legal guardians to help cover the costs of attending the convention. The deadline to apply is, Friday, GETTING INVOLVED - The EI Paso May 5, 2023.

Congress Convention is held annually, with this being its 51st also be an advocacy boot camp, year. The convention will take place in Orlando, Florida, from July 20-23, 2023 with individuals and families from around the globe attending. The convention includes workshops, and with topics that include: lifespan, community support in the region siblings, youth and adults to empower and inspire. There will



EL PASO **COMMUNITY FOUNDATION**

- Image courtesy El Paso Community Foundation Community Foundation is helping The National Down Syndrome people that would like to attend the Florida convention.

> deep dive sessions for immersive learning on various topics, a fun run and banquet to celebrate one another on this fun-filled weekend!

"The Down Syndrome Coalition conferences for El Paso is focused on providing

See MEET, Page 5

Migrants

From Page 1

up border agents from administrative duties so that they can focus instead on catching illegal entrants. Consequently, the new strategy enlists the help of contractors, vendors, and volunteers to deal with the various clerical tasks now being performed by Border Patrol personnel.

Additionally, Border Patrol agents from the northern border will be assigned to assist in interviewing migrants who are in custody in El Paso by using videoconferencing technology. There are currently about 200 civilian processing coordinators serving the West Texas districts.

Another part of the new plan will bring federal asylum adjudicators from U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services into the processing centers to assist in determining which

meet the initial threshold will be processed for deportation, as the agency plans to ramp up its repatriation flights program

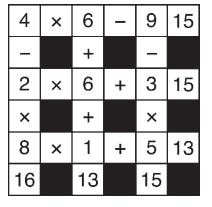
Whether or not the federal government's latest approach will help alleviate the migrant crisis is difficult to predict, but the situation is frustrating many El Paso County residents. And local residents are questioning the US Congress inability to agree on a viable solution that would be beneficial for everyone.

"What is holding up Congress from coming up with a strategy that the majority would support?" Life-long El Pasoan Ralph Briones expressed. "I feel sad seeing the waves of migrants trekking through the El Paso region," Briones acknowledged. And he wondered aloud about just how bad things must be in these migrants' home countries that they would be willing to risk their lives on such a long, treacherous journey through unknown lands to get to the United States.



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CryptoQuip Answer

What do you call somebody who stops using an illness-treating substance? A medicine dropper.

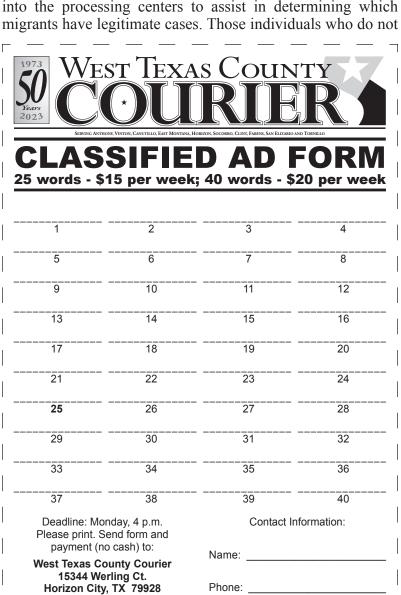
By Lucie Winborne

- Seventy-five percent of all sesame seeds grown in Mexico wind up on McDonald's hamburger buns.
- In 1998, a British man faked his own death by leaving his clothes on the beach and hiding to make his wife realize how much she missed him. Unfortunately, the prank backfired, as she divorced him after learning about it.
- Former First Lady Hillary Clinton served on the boards of TCBY and Walmart.
- · Earthworms in the northern part of North America are a non-native, invasive species and a major factor in forest deterioration.
- · The last duel in Canada wasn't much of a fight at all, being between two men who were so terrified that one fainted and the other was seized by horror. As if that weren't enough, their guns were loaded with blanks.
- · Michael Bay, producer of "Friday the 13th," walked out of the film's screening because it contained too much sex.
- Ever wonder why garlic is so anathema to vampires? One theory goes that it's an antibiotic, and since vampirism was often thought to be a disease, it was harmful to them. Another holds that it was believed to repel mosquitoes, and since they're both bloodsuckers, vampires would be repelled as well.
- Brazil has the largest Japanese community outside of Japan.
- · A city in Sweden uses light therapy in bus stops to combat depression during the winter when 19 hours of the day are darkness.
- Astronomers have discovered a cloud of fiery gas about 3,000,000 light years across that reaches temperatures in the tens of millions of degrees and gobbles entire galaxies as it moves along.
- The cable car is the only moving National Historic Monument in the world.

Thought for the Day: "Nature has given us all the pieces required to achieve exceptional wellness and health, but has left it to us to put these pieces together."

Diane McLaren

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Moments THE HISTORY CHANNEL

- On May 1, 1830, Irish-born American labor leader Mary "Mother" Jones was born in County Cork, Ireland. After losing her husband and four children in the yellow fever epidemic of 1867 and all her belongings in the Chicago Fire of 1871, she devoted herself to organizing and advancing the cause of labor, delivering her last speech on her 100th birthday.
- On May 2, 2011, U.S. Special Operations Forces killed Osama bin Laden during a raid on his secret compound in Abbottabad, Pakistan, ending a 10-year manhunt for the leader of the al-Qaida terrorist organization and coordinator of the attacks on the World Trade Center in 2001.
- On May 3, 1939, The Andrews Sisters recorded "Beer Barrel Polka," aka "Roll Out the Barrel." The song became a popular standard during World War II and later the signature tune of flamboyant singer/pianist Liberace.
- On May 4, 1987, the U.S. House and Senate Committee began three months of hearings into the Iran-Contra affair, which involved the secret sale of American

- arms to Iran with some of the proceeds going to Contra rebels seeking to overthrow the Nicaraguan government.
- On May 5, 1865, Decoration Day was first observed in the U.S., with the tradition of decorating Civil War soldiers' graves with flowers. Later the date was moved to May 30 and included American graves from the first and second World Wars, eventually becoming better known as Memorial Day.
- On May 6, 1527, the Renaissance ended with the Sack of Rome by German troops as part of an ongoing conflict between the Habsburg Empire and the French Monarchy. German troops killed over 4,000 Romans, imprisoned the pope, and looted works of art and libraries. An entire year passed before order was restored.
- On May 7, 2001, Ronnie Biggs, one of the "Great Train Robbers" who managed to elude capture and settled in Brazil following his prison escape on July 8, 1965, returned voluntarily to Britain, where he was jailed to complete the remaining 28 years of his sentence. He was released in 2009, two days before his 80th birthday, on "compassionate grounds" and died four years later in a nursing home.

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TxDOT urges drivers to slow in work zones

Work zone crash fatalities decreased for the first time since 2018

By Jeff Salzgeber *Special to the Courier*

TEXAS – Following a year in which fewer people were killed in work zone crashes in Texas, TxDOT is calling on all drivers to stay vigilant and help continue that downward in a hurry, should traffic stop suddenly. Reartrend. As National Work Zone Awareness Week kicks off, TxDOT's "Be Safe. Drive Smart." campaign is reminding drivers to stay alert and exercise caution when going through road construction and maintenance areas.

Traffic fatalities in the state's work zones were down 16% in 2022, decreasing for the first time since 2018. Despite that, 205 people lost their lives and another 788 were seriously injured in Texas work zones last year. The vast majority of those killed, 85%, were drivers or their passengers.

"Although it's encouraging to see a reduction in the number of work zone crashes and fatalities last year, one life lost is too many." said TxDOT Executive Director Marc Williams. "We're calling on all Texas drivers to slow down and stay alert when traveling through work zones. Doing so could save a life, including your own."

The "Be Safe. Drive Smart." campaign offers five tips for safely navigating work

• Slow down. Follow the posted speed limit and proactively adjust your driving to match road conditions. Excessive speed is one of the leading causes of work zone crashes.

 Pay attention. Avoid distractions, keep your mind on the road and put your phone away.

• Watch out for road crews. Roadside workers want to get home safely, too. Always follow instructions and be mindful of construction area road signs.

• Don't tailgate. Give yourself room to stop end collisions are the most common type of work zone crashes.

· Allow extra time. Road construction can slow things down. Count on it, and plan for it.

TxDOT also reminds motorists of the state's Move Over/Slow Down law that requires drivers to move over a lane or reduce their speed to 20 mph below the posted speed limit when approaching TxDOT, emergency, law enforcement, tow truck or utility vehicles stopped with flashing lights activated on the roadside.

Traffic fines double in work zones when workers are present and can cost up to \$2,000. Failure to heed the Move Over/Slow Down law can also result in a fine of up to \$2,000.

Roadway safety professionals encouraged to wear orange on April 19 for National Go Orange Day to proudly show their support for work zone safety.

TxDOT's "Be Safe. Drive Smart." campaign is a key component of #EndTheStreakTX, a broader social media and word-of-mouth effort that encourages drivers to make safer choices while behind the wheel to help end the streak of daily deaths. Nov. 7, 2000, was the last deathless day on Texas roadways.

Rincón

From Page 1

faculty and other national and international experts. Each benefits all students." program is designed to inspire, challenge, and empower school leaders to bring lasting impact to their campuses and were considered rural or had a of Texas, and beyond.

Leadership School. I can't wait to go!" said Edgar Rincón.

"Great teachers, along with Foundation. professional

they have ever experienced and that they return to their campuses energized, inspired, and empowered to make meaningful that change

For this summer's institutes, preference was given to school leaders from districts that communities, the entire state student enrollment of less than 5,000. "As demographics shift "This is great opportunity in Texas, we recognize that the to bring back what I learn. needs of schools in rural and The Achieving Excellence: smaller districts are unique. Development Creating a space for school for Principals Institute at leaders in rural and smaller Harvard, will allow me to districts to find commonalities, grow as a principal, which in problem solve, and build turn will allow me to make a a network of support is an bigger impact at Fabens High important component of this year's Raising School Leaders program," added Miller.

Following the Harvard strong school and district Institutes, attendees remain a leaders, represent the most part of the program's statewide significant influencers of network of school leaders academic achievement and and are empowered to work supportive culture," said Tim together to create change at Miller, Director of Leadership the campus and district levels. Development at the Charles Alumniare sponsored to attend "Our the organization's biannual alumni often report that their leadership symposium and Harvard experience is the best receive continuous support and development professional development.

Meet

From Page 4

to visit that larger family intellectual challenges. and immerse themselves in a fellowship dedicated to org/ if you want to apply or learning more about ways learn more about the Down to not only live with Down Syndrome Coalition for El syndrome, but to thrive.," Paso.

said Adam Tirres, Program Officer, El Paso Community Foundation.

Founded in January 2015, for those living with Down with the support of the El Paso syndrome, but it's important Community Foundation, the to remember that there is a Down Syndrome Coalition global community sharing for El Paso (DSC) filled a the same experiences. In fact, need for community support, it's more of a global family, resources, and advocacy for and we're happy to provide families of individuals with the opportunity for a family Down Syndrome and other

Please visit https://dscep.



- Image courtesy El Paso Community Foundation

ADVOCATES The Syndrome Coalition for El Paso provides support and resources for families that face the challenges of Down Syndrome.



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UTEP football has no choice but to sacrifice wins, for money

By Steve Escajeda Special to the Courier

Have you ever suddenly been hurts mine. shocked out of bed due to a horrible dream, just to be relieved once you boy gets to fill out its schedule and realized it was only a dream?

That must be what UTEP football coaches do every night. The only difference is that this is not only a happily repeating cha-ching. dream – it's a nightmare.

downright scary.

horribly bad but it does include two tough road games at Northwestern and at Arizona.

Though these aren't considered powerhouses, means they spend most of their time blue. playing with the big boys.

The Miners don't have a very bright past playing against any of the big boys, or the middle-sized boys for that matter, and they haven't had much success playing on the road.

Before I get into some of the Miners' future opponents, let's put things into perspective.

When anyone finds themselves in a situation where they aren't making enough money to pay the bills, what do they do? Somehow, some way, they go out and make more money.

In college football, many of the smaller schools travel to the bigger, richer schools to get slaughtered. But they get something else as well – they get paid to go there.

Smaller colleges sacrifice themselves physically to get a million

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dollar paycheck from universities that have billions. In other words, that traveling to Nebraska to take on the athletic amount of money hurts their bank account as much as buying a Big Mac

Evertbody wins... kind of, the big walks away with another win, the little guy limps home with a loss but its athletic director spends the week

Well, UTEP now considers itself one I don't know if any of you have seen of the little guys of college football. UTEP's football schedule over the It's no secret that the team hasn't next few years, but let's just say, it's exactly made it a habit of winning football games and thus, El Pasoans This year's schedule isn't too are finding better things to do with their money on a Saturday night than spending it on losing football.

teams make money for the athletic program and if you see their upcoming Northwestern is from the Big 10 and schedules, there's going to be a lot UTEP aren't finished yet so a few Arizona is a Pac-12 school, which of limping home for the orange and more David-Goliath matchups can

In 2024, the Miners are not only Cornhuskers, they will then take a trip to Tennessee to meet the powerhouse men's basketball games is way down. Volunteers.

take the short but lethal trip to Austin and take on the Texas Longhorns.

It gets worse in 2026. In a two-week span in September, UTEP will travel to Norman to take on the Oklahoma Sooners and then for the first time ever, they will make the trek to Ann Arbor the road. and meet the Michigan Wolverines.

In 2027, 2029 and 2031, the Miners will make trips to Austin again and play the Longhorns. In 2028, they make a return trip to Nebraska and in 2032, UTEP makes the short jaunt to So UTEP has to find another way to Lubbock to play the Texas Tech Red Raiders.

Of course the schedule-makers at

There's no doubt that the UTEP program is struggling financially. Attendance at football and UTEP fans have always shown up big The following year the Miners will time when the teams are winning, but that has not been the case in recent

> Things have gotten so bad that in two of the next three years, instead of playing 6-and-6, the Miners will only have five home games and seven on

> It's the chicken and the egg question all over again. Do fans have to show up and help the team play better and win more games, or does the team have to start winning games so that fans will start showing up?

> At one time, Boise State, Kansas State, Cincinnati, Northwestern, TCU and some others were just like UTEP, and look where they are now.

So there's still hope for the future, but for now... cha-ching!

Senior moment By Matilda Charles

Is AARP membership worth having?

I remember feeling uneasy when the first AARP dieting and money management to tests that predict cancer, envelope showed up in my mailbox. It was one thing to places to retire and much more. The two publications are quietly hit the Big Five-O, and it was another thing to worth the \$16 price of membership by themselves because realize that I was then eligible for membership in a group of the information they present. for seniors.

It took a little while, but I did sign up. Over the years to install it. I've stayed. The benefits are worth it. Here are a few:

AARP membership.

The list of benefits and discounts keeps growing, many of them local. Rental cars and travel, insurance of all kinds, flowers and groceries, transmissions and tires, something has gone astray, call them at 888-687-2277. paint... and pizza.

There's the Smart Driver online safety course that, once AARP website: aarp.org. you pass it, could save you money on your auto insurance.

The monthly newspaper, the AARP Bulletin, is worth reading for the information it contains: money, investing, senior news and events in my state, government affairs, Social Security and health. Then there's the bi-monthly AARP magazine, with a wide variety of articles, from

71 Mesmerized

AARP has an app now with good instructions on how

If you sign up for AARP membership (the first year I get a discount on my cellphone plan for having an is reduced to \$12), it will likely take a few months for your publications to start up. If you change your address, the same thing might happen, depending on where in the publishing cycle your change occurs. If you suspect Meanwhile, you can read both of them online at the

> What interests me the most today is the 25% off discount on a first order from Silver Cuisine by bistroMD, especially the low sodium meals.

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Super Crossword

"TAKE IT BACK!" **ACROSS**

- 1 Reid and Lipinski 6 "Born Free
- 10 Really bothered 15 Refer to as an
- example 19 Beeth
- 20 "The Wizard of Oz" actor Bert 21 Abu _ (Persian Gulf emirate)

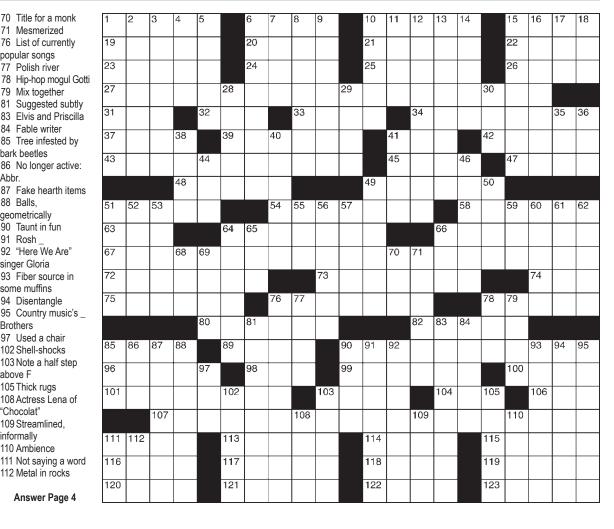
22 Over again

- 23 Ailey of choreography 24 Mild Dutch cheese
- 25 Tricky billiards shot 26 Fare-_-well 27 Start of
- instructions for making sense of 67-Across 31 "_ Haw"
- 32 "A Wrinkle in Time" director DuVernay 33 Aleve may relieve it 34 Got in a trap
- 37 Rowing blades 39 Be present 41 Renoir's skill 42 Vent views
- 43 Part 2 of instructions 45 Appear to be 47 Goulash, e.g.
- 48 Fetal homes 49 Cooing park
- scavenger 51 Genre of serious

- films 54 Kissing and caressing 58 Greek god of the 63 Huge Brit. lexicon 64 Pedicured body
- part 66 "Av "The Simpsons") 67 Message to congratulate solvers
- who figure out this answer 72 Northeast African nation
- 73 Decorator 74 Suffix with Gabon 75 Welding alloy 76 Jihad
- 78 Capri and Aruba 80 Plant lice 82 Disconnected 85 Units of work
- 89 Locale 90 Part 3 of instructions 96 Ballet moves 98 "Planet Money"
- airer 99 Misspends 100 Spout off
- 103 Basic idea 104 "We need assistance!"
- rival 111 Heath
- 101 Calif. volcano 106 Onetime Pan Am 107 End of instructions

- 113 Former congressman Mo 114 For _ (not gratis) 115 Acoustic 116 Push along 117 Gymnastics legend Comaneci
- 118 a soul (no one) 120 Disarray 121 Artery-opening tube 122 Portuguese for "years"
- 123 More rational DOWN
- 1 Cousin of a coffeehouse 2 Curative plant
- 3 Monte Carlo setting 4 "Yeah, right!" 5 Actress Berger of "De Sade"
- 6 Brits call it a "lift" 7 Put freight on 8 Make pointy, as a
- pencil 9 Hostile insect in a swarm 10 Guys writing
- slogans, maybe 11 This and 12 Item dyed for a spring holiday 13 One who fails to
- 14 Stadium rows 15 Sleeps lightly 16 Get via will
- show up

- 17 Simple shirt 18 Baaing "ma" 28 Dodge
- 29 Venetian beach 30 "Fifth Beatle" Yoko 35 Indy-to-Cleveland dir.
- 36 38 Pond gunk 40 Coiled like ivy 41 Speller's clarification 44 Zeta follower
- 49 What a head rests on in bed 50 Brand of spongy
- 51 Sleeps lightly 52 Printing proof, for short 53 Aleve alternative
- rank 56 Groups devising plots 57 Tyke 59 Tyke
- 61 Like Santa, weight-wise 62 Strongboxes for valuables 64 Pipsqueaks 65 Three _ kind
- 66 Pool stick 68 "_ be my pleasure!" 69 La _ Tar Pits
- 76 List of currently popular songs 77 Polish river 78 Hip-hop mogul Gotti 79 Mix together 81 Suggested subtly Flyis and Pris 84 Fable writer 85 Tree infested by bark beetles 86 No longer active: Abbr. 46 Fine goat coat 87 Fake hearth items 88 Balls. geometrically 90 Taunt in fun 91 Rosh 92 "Here We Are" singer Gloria 93 Fiber source in some muffins 94 Disentangle 55 Naval acad. grad's 95 Country music's _ Brothers 97 Used a chair 102 Shell-shocks 103 Note a half step 60 Push along above F 105 Thick rugs 108 Actress Lena of "Chocolat" 109 Streamlined, informally 110 Ambience 111 Not saying a word 112 Metal in rocks
 - Answer Page 4



Comix

OUT ON A LIMB By Gary Kopervas







AMBER WAVES By Dave T. Phipps









THE SPATS By Jeff Pickering







TIGER By Bud Blake

















Lowry

From Page 2

politics, with unforeseeable consequences.

the most encouraging aspect of this sorry episode so far is that Bragg has demonstrated the pursuit of Donald Trump that even left-ofcenter pundits won't line up in support.

This might not be enormously confidenceinducing, but at a time of deep divisions, it shows that a disgracefully weak and contrived prosecution is a source of at least a measure of agreement among commentators usually atop Trump villain, said the indictment "landed wholly opposed to one another.

Who knew that Alvin Bragg would become debate?

the internet, has run two doubtful pieces about about the shoddiness of his handiwork. the indictment. Mark Joseph Stern notes that "Bragg's legal theory is, if not convoluted, a fairly confusing effort to patch together Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review. disparate offenses into one alleged crime, (c) 2023 by King Features Synd., Inc.

carried out over 34 illegal payments."

Over at Vox, Ian Millhiser, usually a taker on any adventurous progressive legal theory, can't get on board the Bragg Train on this one: "It is unclear that the felony statute that And Bragg couldn't even dot his i's. Perhaps Trump is accused of violating actually applies to him."

Ruth Marcus of The Washington Post that it's possible to behave so egregiously in warned about the potential weakness of the case prior to the unsealing of the indictment and is now decidedly unimpressed. She calls it "disturbingly unilluminating, and the theory on which it rests is debatable at best, unnervingly flimsy at worst."

> Former FBI deputy director Andrew McCabe, like a dud... an unimpressive document."

Pundits won't determine the course of the a unifying force in the nation's political Bragg prosecution, but the climate around it matters, if nothing else, as a barometer of its The online publication Slate, a reliable strength and merits. It is telling that Bragg has source of some of the worst legal analysis on managed to create a loose right-left consensus

UTI prescription and treatment raise questions

DEAR DR. ROACH: I was diagnosed with a UTI on my yearly physical urinalysis, but I had no symptoms. I was

prescribed Cipro. The five pages of warnings attached to the prescription scared me! So, I checked the FDA and Mayo Clinic websites. Both said that the "risks outweigh benefits" it "should not be the first choice to treat a UTI." But my doctor says to take it, so *I will − 500 mg twice a day* for seven days. Possible side



effects include tendon ruptures (including the aorta), nerve damage and more. Scary! I am 71 and in good health with high blood pressure as my only problem, but it's under control. I wasn't told if my UTI is complicated or uncomplicated, but I assume uncomplicated, as my blood work, including kidney tests, were all normal. Is this drug safe? Why does the FDA say not to prescribe this as the first choice? -C.J.

There is a lot wrong here. First off, asymptomatic bacteria in the urine does not normally get treated, so I wouldn't have recommended treatment in the first place. I'm not even sure why your doctor ordered a urinalysis – it's not recommended as a screening test for most.

Second, I agree with your research that ciprofloxacin (Cipro) should not be the first-line treatment for symptomatic urine infections. Ciprofloxacin does increase risk of tendon rupture very slightly (three to four cases per 100,000 people treated); may damage the aorta (eight cases per 100,000 in one study, while another large study showed no risk); and may cause neuropathy in one case per 150,000.

Resistance to drugs like ciprofloxacin has been increasing. Other choices, like nitrofurantoin, trimethoprim/ sulfamethoxazole or cephalexin, have more effectiveness with less risk of toxicity. That's why Cipro is no longer a first-line choice. But it can be hard for doctors to unlearn behaviors.

Usually, Cipro is effective and doesn't cause side effects, but practicing evidence-based medicine means changing behaviors to reflect new information, even if your personal experience has generally been good. An individual doctor isn't likely to see damage to tendons, aorta or nerves, but if all doctors changed their behavior, there would be even fewer of these rare events.

When it is used, a short course of ciprofloxacin is normally prescribed for three days, not seven, for uncomplicated urine infections in women. The less a person uses this drug, the lower the risk of these rare but severe side effects. Three days is normally sufficient.

DEAR DR. ROACH: I want to know how to reduce my blood pressure because it is currently 142/90. - S.L.

Treatment of mildly elevated blood pressure of the type you have starts with lifestyle changes. The first thing is to try to reduce sodium in your diet. Some sodium comes from what vou add to food, but much more is in prepackaged foods, especially canned foods. Potassium, found in most fresh fruits and vegetables, has a beneficial effect on blood pressure, especially when sodium is also reduced.

Regular exercise can drop blood pressure by 3 to 5 points. Avoiding alcohol can reduce blood pressure as well. Excess alcohol – more than one drink a day for women or more than two drinks a day for men – is particularly likely to increase blood pressure, so cutting down or stopping helps reduce blood pressure.

Combining all of this advice can reduce the risk of requiring medicines by almost half. Additional treatments, such as meditation and stress reduction, further reduces blood pressure and the need for medication. However, some people, even if they do everything right, can still benefit from medication, which can reduce the risk of heart disease and stroke when appropriately given to patients.

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

May 3, 1693: Don Gregorio de Salinas Varona, while on expidition to Texas, concludes that the land is unsuitable for development.

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: N equals S

IPJF MW OWT LJBB NWGUSWMO IPW NFWZN TNRVK JV RBBVUNN-FXUJFRVK NTSNFJVLU?

> J GUMRLRVU MXWZZUX. Answer Page 4

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Weekly **SUDOKU**

by Linda Thistle

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

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ◆◆

◆ Moderate ◆◆ Challenging

Answer Page 4



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Home loans for Native American veterans

by Freddy Groves

VA-backed approximately 6.63%.

a Native American or American. Then, starting in March and for the next 24 Loan program (NADL). The income ratio. loan can be to either buy, build or improve a home.

fine print The Hawaiians, Alaska Natives months. Pacific Islanders under the Native American a down payment or pay Programs Act of 1974, private mortgage insurance which includes American (PMI), although you might Samoa, Commonwealth of be required to pay the the Northern Marianas and funding fee. (Sometimes Guam.

The home must be on loan amount and not pay it

federal trust land, and the tribe out of pocket.) must have a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with NADL and the interest rate the federal government.

you'll need the typical COE, 2.5% rate. home a certificate of eligibility. You mortgage is currently in the can get an application at www. call 888-349-7541. You neighborhood of 5.5% for va.gov. Look for VA Form can also go online to www. a 30-year loan, and a refi is 26-1880. If you're uncertain about your eligibility, you can Unless you qualify as call the VA at 877-827-3702.

To qualify for a VA home are married to a Native loan, you'll need a decent FICO score, the higher the better. Somewhere between 580 months, a home loan can be and 640 should be enough, had with a mortgage interest depending on the demands rate of 2.5% through the of individual lenders. Ideally, Native American Direct you'll have a good debt-to-

You'll also need to meet minimum the service has requirements. Different time important details, of course. periods require different "Native American" includes lengths of service, ranging Native Americans, native from 90 to 181 days to 24

> You won't need to make you can roll this into the

If you have an existing is 3.5% or more, you'll be On an individual level, able to refinance at the new

> For info about the NADL, benefits.va.gov and search for Native American Direct Loan (NADL).

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- When packing cookies in a single layer, I trace the shape of my container on parchment paper using the lid as a template. It's pretty easy, and it fits exactly.
- · For scratch paper, I use the back side of my kids' extra art pages. We choose the best to display, then they chop up the rest into small booklets, which they staple at the top. And we have notepads! - M.L. in Iowa
- Keep a map or globe in your family or TV room. This way, when a place is mentioned on the news or in another program, you can find it on the map. This is a great thing to do with kids, but it's handy and worthwhile for anyone. - via email
- · If you have a very stinky trash can, scrub it with a paste made from baking soda and just a bit of water. It works as a mild abrasive. Then fill a spray bottle with plain white vinegar and spray. It should foam for a moment. Let it sit for about 10 minutes, then rinse well with hot water. Clean and deodorized!
- · We have large buckets that store random toys on our back porch. It seems that whenever we'd touch the buckets to get a toy, a horde of mosquitoes would erupt. There's no water, so we didn't know what to do. And we didn't want to douse it with chemicals, as it's filled with kid stuff. A neighbor suggested we put a few dryer sheets in each one, and they really have worked. I guess the bugs don't like the smell! - W.S. in Florida

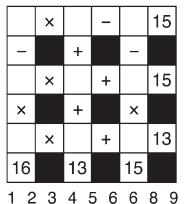
Send your tips to Now Here's a Tip, 628 Virginia Drive, Orlando, FL 32803. (c) 2023 King Features Synd., Inc.

GO FIGURE! by Linda Thistle

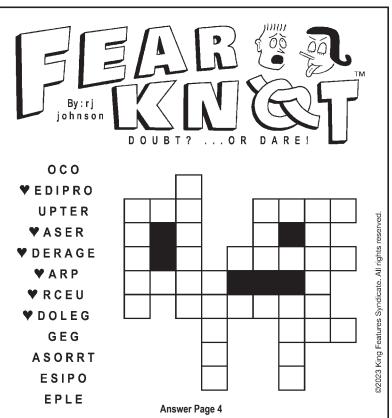
The idea of Go Figure is to arrive at the figures given at the bottom and right-hand columns of the diagram by following the arithmetic signs in the order they are given (that is, from left to right and top to bottom). Use only the numbers below the diagram to complete its blank squares and use each of the nine numbers only once.

DIFFICULTY: ★★

★ Moderate ★★ Difficult * * * GO FIGURE! Answer Page 4



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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.