



NEWSBRIEFS

Canutillo ISD joins leadership program

The Holdsworth Center, an Austin-based nonprofit focused on leadership in public education, has selected the Canutillo Independent School District to join the Holdsworth Leadership Collaborative, an 18-month program that will help Canutillo build a strong bench of aspiring principals who are ready to step into school leadership positions when they arise. Canutillo is among 13 districts across the state chosen for Holdsworth's world-class leadership development program. "Canutillo demonstrated a strong commitment to developing principals and a growth mindset around learning new concepts," said Dr. Lindsay Whorton, president of The Holdsworth Center. "Great leaders draw out the best in people and inspire them to achieve the unimaginable. Every student in Canutillo deserves a strong principal at the helm of their school." As part of the Collaborative, a team of three – the superintendent and two district leaders – work with Holdsworth staff to define what great leadership looks like in Canutillo and use this definition to design systems and structures to strengthen the principal pipeline.

– Gustavo Reveles

Golf tourney

The 23rd Annual Santa Teresa Charity Golf Tournament is scheduled for September 15, 2023 at the Butterfield Trail Golf Club. The course is located at 1858 Cottonwood Dr. in El Paso. Sponsorship and registration details will come shortly. For more information email Ilse Arreola at ilse@gpiinc.biz or call (575) 589-2200, ext. 5.

– Ilse Arreola

A thirsty tale

Shortly after the turn of the last century, Frederick Miller first brewed his famed High Life beer and called it the Champagne of Beers. More than a hundred years later it is still promotionally compared to Champagne, much to the chagrin of the French brewers of their famous bubbly wine. Although

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When it comes to spotting the faults of others, everybody seems to have 20-20 vision.

– Quips & Quotes



– Photos by Alfredo Vasquez

MOMENT OF SILENCE – During the recent Memorial Day weekend, VICTORY members, above, began their tribute in front of San Lorenzo Catholic Church in Clint. The small gathering stands before the statue of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, which looms in the church's front courtyard, to receive Father Enrique Soto's blessing.

Memorial Day event exemplifies Town of Clint's patriotic fervor

By Alfredo Vasquez
Special to the Courier

CLINT – Nestled in El Paso County's lower valley verdant farmlands is the Town of Clint, one of the most patriotic communities in the region, and it has a lot to do with a core group of military veterans who live there and in surrounding neighborhoods.

These veterans, who came together in 2004 and named their group VICTORY (Veterans In Clint Thinking Of & Remembering You), not only maintain the town's welcoming Veterans Park, but also throughout the year hold fund raising events including enchilada dinners and prize drawings to support their efforts.

The local vets, who number in the dozens, are especially proud of having served their country when they host ceremonies during national holidays like Veterans Day in November and Memorial Day in May.

And like Clint's Memorial Day observances held every year for the past decade, the VICTORY members- this year in conjunction with the San Elizario Veterans Committee- led a moving tribute for the surrounding area families' sons and daughters who lost their lives serving their country, as well as for all U.S. military veterans and active duty personnel.

The recent Saturday morning observance began

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REMEMBRANCE – A commemorative wreath, right, was placed at the base of the Fallen Soldier statue at Clint Veterans Park in honor of Eduardo Pedregon, of San Elizario, who was killed in the Korean War in 1950.



Donald Trump body-slams CNN

A viral video that caused outrage a few years ago had Donald Trump body-slamming the cable network CNN personified as a professional wrestler.

This “MAGA” fantasy was all but made a reality at a CNN townhall with the former president in New Hampshire the other night.

Trump steamrolled the moderator Kaitlan Collins, relentlessly stuck to his most outrageous contentions on everything from Jan. 6 to claims the 2020 election was stolen, lit up the audience of supportive Republicans, and proved that he is as outlandishly entertaining and compulsively watchable as he was at his height in 2016.

The message to the rest of the GOP field was, “Watch out, below!”

The forum underlined how one of Trump’s greatest strengths is the sheer force of his personality.

One of his advantages in the 2016 primaries was that, as the leader in the polls, he always stood dead center in the debate stage, taller, more vivid, and more commanding than the other candidates.

It almost didn’t matter what Trump said or did on stage, because the way he acted and looked projected strength – there’s a reason the old pros, like the late Roger Ailes of Fox News and Trump himself, watch TV with the sound off to get a true sense of the impression being made.

If Trump wins the Republican nomination next year, it will be partly because Republicans are once again drawn to what they consider his distinctive and unmatched sense of personal power.

Trump’s is an odd and obviously very flawed kind of strength. For him, it’s a quality that is consistent with whining, insecurity, defensiveness and a refusal to take responsibility – all of which usually lead us to conclude someone is weak.

Trump makes up for it with what my *National Review* colleague Michael Brendan Dougherty calls “willfulness,” a deep-seated, near-primal drive to impose what he wants, whether on a political narrative, a negotiation, a set of rules or, at the CNN townhall, an interviewer.

Incapable of shame, he didn’t display the slightest



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View from here By John Grimaldi

Mark Levin: The nation cannot take eight years of ‘this Marxist stuff’

Special counsel John Durham received bipartisan support when he was selected four years ago to investigate wrong doing on the part of the FBI and Hillary Clinton’s 2016 presidential election campaign. Durham’s report, released a few weeks ago, revealed that the FBI and the Clinton campaign sought to prove Donald Trump’s campaign had ties with Russia. “In effect, the FBI was working with the Democrat Party and Clinton” to undermine President Trump, according to Mark Levin, host of a syndicated radio show and the weekly Fox News Life, Liberty and Levin show. He recently joined Rebecca Weber, CEO of the Association of Mature American Citizens, on her AMAC Better For America podcast.

Levin said that Andrew George McCabe who served as the Deputy Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation back then was leaking alleged findings to the media and then he would use those leaks to get FISA warrants. It was “the most egregious violation of the faith of the American people that I have ever seen.” He said they wanted to destroy Donald Trump. “They should have been indicted for obstruction... and brought in front of a grand jury. But that didn’t happen and it’s not going to happen. Part of the problem we have, and I’ve discussed this with individuals on Capitol Hill, is we’ve got to get these big Washington cases out of Washington because the grand juries are 95% Democrat. You can’t get the kind of grand jurors and juries that you need – a jury of peers. And so, when they

control the Department of Justice, the FBI and the U.S. attorney’s office. It’s very, very hard to take them on.”

Levin went on to point out that America’s leftist elements have institutionalized political fraud. “We have states where there’s no voter ID, no signature requirements, no date requirements. And then they say it’s the cleanest election in American history. That’s just not true. What they do is to take the fraud element and legalize it, then you can run around and say it’s the cleanest election in American history. Why do they want to have voter harvesting? That is, after the votes are done, their people go out to nursing homes or they go out to homeless shelters and they quote-unquote, collect ballots. They are destroying the sanctity of the vote. They’re destroying the franchise. They know they are. Our borders are wide

open. People are coming in illegally. You don’t have to prove who you are you don’t have to sign your name. You don’t have to do any of these things. In fact, in a lot of these cities people who are not here legally can actually vote in local elections. How are you going to prevent them from voting in federal elections? So, I don’t buy this stuff that these elections are clean. And also, when you have the institutionalization of an unconstitutional decision like state courts or federal courts or a governor or a secretary of state or anybody of that sort, changing election laws that affect presidential and vice presidential elections, it’s utterly unconstitutional.”

The future of our country will be decided in the 2024 elections, he said, noting that if the left wins in the next election cycle, we’ll be in a very, very difficult place. The nation cannot take eight years

of “this Marxist stuff. What if they succeed in expanding the Supreme Court or getting rid of the filibuster? If anything, it should make people more concerned, more fired up. We need our Thomas Paine out there to spread the word. They have the media, but we have the numbers. We have an army of millions of patriots. Just remember, the revolution was basically supported by one third of the colonists. We don’t need everybody, but we do need a lot. And there are tens of millions who agree with us. And if they act, we will be able to push back. But it’s going to be tough. So we’ve got to get started now.”

The Association of Mature American Citizens (<http://www.amac.us>) is a senior advocacy organization that takes its marching orders from its members. We act and speak on their behalf, protecting their interests and offering a practical insight on how to best solve the problems they face today.



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– Photo by Alfredo Vasquez

YOUR LEFT, YOUR RIGHT – VICTORY members, with colorful banners held high, lead participants in a parade for about half a mile down a paved farm road to Clint Veterans Park, where the observance was held.

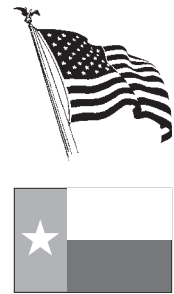
Memorial

From Page 1

outside in front of the town’s San Lorenzo Catholic Church, where a contingent of about 60 family members and friends of those veterans who would be honored that day met informally with the VICTORY members.

To acknowledge God’s presence in their lives and to receive the priest’s blessing, the small gathering stood before an imposing statue of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, which looms in the church’s front courtyard. On all sides of the iconic statue’s base are large marble slabs with the names of lower valley residents, who served in the American armed forces, etched

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Phone: 852-3235
E-mail: wtxcc@wtxcc.com
Website: wtxcc.com
Publisher
Rick Shrum
Contributors
Alfredo Vasquez
Steve Escajeda



Memorial

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on them for posterity.

Father Enrique Soto, the church’s priest for the past two years, sprinkled the audience with holy water as he recited prayers asking God to bless the local community residents and their military heroes. “It is an honor to be part of a ceremony that is held to remember the men and women who with their lives upheld the high standards of this country,” Father Soto commented.

Then, as the West Texas breeze cooled the morning sun the VICTORY members, with colorful banners held high, led participants in a parade for about half a mile down a paved farm road to Clint Veterans Park. There, a crowd of more than 200 guests sat on benches and chairs under the tall pine and cottonwood trees that shaded the park and waited cordially for the second half of the ceremony to start.

At the park, Julian Tellez, a VICTORY member, started

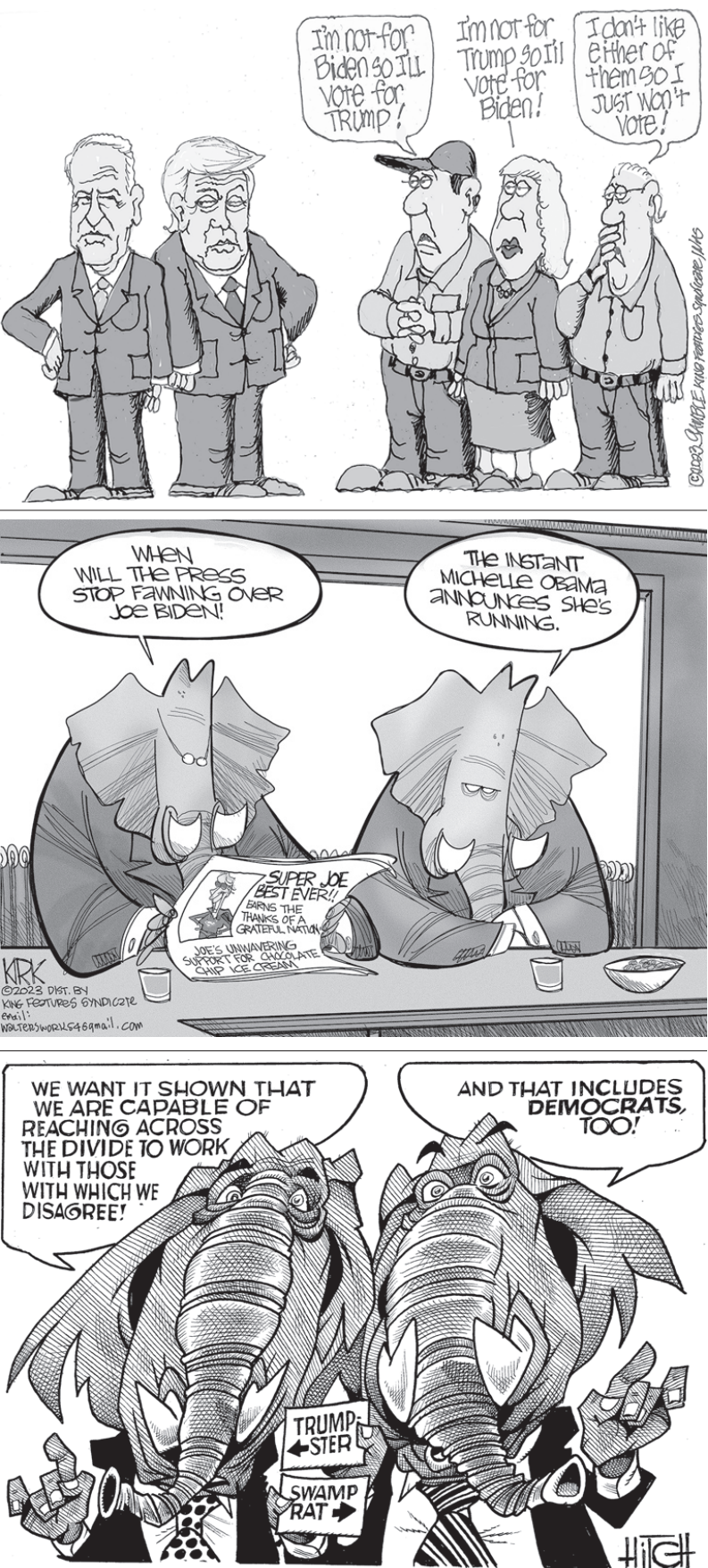
the program with the flag presentation by the Clint High School ROTC color guard, and then he introduced Clint High School student Luna Sanchez, who led the audience in the singing of the national anthem. Next, Jacqi Lax, minister of Bond Methodist Church in Clint, gave the invocation.

At this year’s occasion, eleven handcrafted wood and glass triangular holders, which encased a folded American flag that was flown at the Capitol in Washington D.C., were presented to family members of one veteran who lost his life in the Korean War and ten other local area veterans who passed away recently.

A special presentation during the ceremony was the placing of a large wreath at the base of the park’s Fallen Soldier statue in honor of Eduardo Pedregon, who at the age of 17, joined the U.S. Army after coaxing his mother to sign the permission forms.

Pedregon was just 19 years old when he was shipped to Korea at the height

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING TO DISCUSS BUDGET AND PROPOSED TAX RATE

The Socorro Independent School District will hold a public meeting at 6:00 P.M. on Wednesday, June 21, 2023 in the District Service Center, Board Room, 12440 Rojas Dr, El Paso, TX 79928. **The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the school district’s budget that will determine the tax rate that will be adopted. Public participation in the discussion is invited.**

The tax rate that is ultimately adopted at this meeting or at a separate meeting at a later date may not exceed the proposed tax rate shown below unless the district publishes a revised notice containing the same information and comparisons set out below and holds another public meeting to discuss the revised notice.

Maintenance Tax	\$0.854600/\$100 (Proposed rate for maintenance and operations)
School Debt Service Tax	
Approved by Local Voters	\$0.395112/\$100 (Proposed rate to pay bonded indebtedness)

Comparison of Proposed Budget with Last Year’s Budget

The applicable percentage increase or decrease (or difference) in the amount budgeted in the preceding fiscal year and the amount budgeted for the fiscal year that begins during the current tax year is indicated for each of the following expenditure categories:

Maintenance and Operations	2.98%	Decrease
Debt Service	13.37%	Decrease
Total Expenditures	4.00%	Decrease

Total Appraised Value and Total Taxable Value (as calculated under Section 26.04, Tax Code)

	Preceding Tax Year	Current Tax Year
Total appraised value* of all property	\$ 19,343,533,566	\$ 24,463,239,002
Total appraised value* of new property**	\$ 1,272,297,602	\$ 1,061,659,291
Total taxable value*** of all property	\$ 14,542,586,331	\$ 17,621,425,705
Total taxable value*** of new property**	\$ 908,876,019	\$ 1,002,517,130

* “Appraised value” is the amount shown on the appraisal roll and defined by Section 1.04(8), Tax Code.
** “New property” is defined by Section 26.012(17), Tax Code.
*** “Taxable value” is defined by Section 1.04(10), Tax Code.

Bonded Indebtedness

Total amount of outstanding and unpaid bonded indebtedness* \$783,580,783

* Outstanding principal.

Comparison of Proposed Rates with Last Year’s Rates

	Maintenance & Operations	Interest & Sinking Fund*	Total	Local Revenue Per Student	State Revenue Per Student
Last Year’s Rate	\$ 0.854600	\$ 0.395112*	\$ 1.249712	\$ 3,958	\$ 9,033
Rate to Maintain Same Level of Maintenance & Operations Revenue & Pay Debt Service	\$ 0.854600	\$ 0.395112*	\$ 1.249712	\$ 3,728	\$ 6,912
Proposed Rate	\$ 0.854600	\$ 0.395112*	\$ 1.249712	\$ 3,738	\$ 9,331

*The Interest & Sinking Fund tax revenue is used to pay for bonded indebtedness on construction, equipment, or both.

The bonds, and the tax rate necessary to pay those bonds, were approved by the voters of this district.

Comparison of Proposed Levy with Last Year’s Levy on Average Residence

	Last Year	This Year
Average Market Value of Residences	\$ 206,777	\$ 232,950
Average Taxable Value of Residences	\$ 144,915	\$ 168,439
Last Year’s Rate Versus		
Proposed Rate per \$100 Value	\$ 1.249712	\$ 1.249712
Taxes Due on Average Residence	\$ 1,811.02	\$ 2,105.00
Increase (Decrease) in Taxes		\$ 293.98

Under state law, the dollar amount of school taxes imposed on the residence homestead of a person 65 years of age or older or of the surviving spouse of such a person, if the surviving spouse was 55 years of age or older when the person died, may not be increased above the amount paid in the first year after the person turned 65, regardless of changes in the tax rate or property value.

Notice of Voter-Approval Rate: The highest tax rate the district can adopt before requiring voter approval at an election is \$1.249712. This election will be automatically held if the district adopts a rate in excess of the voter-approval rate of \$1.249712.

Fund Balances

The following estimated balances will remain at the end of the current fiscal year and are not encumbered with or by a corresponding debt obligation, less estimated funds necessary for operating the district before receipt of the first state aid payment:

Maintenance and Operations Fund Balance(s)	\$ 109,651,223
Interest & Sinking Fund Balance(s)	\$ 65,316,598

A school district may not increase the district’s maintenance and operations tax rate to create a surplus in maintenance and operations tax revenue for the purpose of paying the district’s debt service.

Visit [Texas.gov/PropertyTaxes](https://www.texas.gov/PropertyTaxes) to find a link to your local property tax database on which you can easily access information regarding your property taxes, including information about proposed tax rates and scheduled public hearings of each entity that taxes your property.

The 86th Texas Legislature modified the manner in which the voter-approval tax rate is calculated to limit the rate of growth of property taxes in the State.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING TO DISCUSS BUDGET AND PROPOSED TAX RATE

The Canutillo Independent School District will hold a public meeting 6:00 p.m. on Monday, June 19, 2023 in the Central Office Board Room, 7965 Artcraft, El Paso, Texas 79932. **The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the school district’s budget that will determine the tax rate that will be adopted. Public participation in the discussion is invited.**

The tax rate that is ultimately adopted at this meeting or at a separate meeting at a later date may not exceed the proposed tax rate shown below unless the district publishes a revised notice containing the same information and comparisons set out below and holds another public meeting to discuss the revised notice.

Maintenance Tax	\$0.942900/\$100 (Proposed rate for maintenance and operations)
School Debt Service Tax	
Approved by Local Voters	\$0.360000/\$100 (Proposed rate to pay bonded indebtedness)

Comparison of Proposed Budget with Last Year’s Budget

The applicable percentage increase or decrease (or difference) in the amount budgeted in the preceding fiscal year and the amount budgeted for the fiscal year that begins during the current tax year is indicated for each of the following expenditure categories:

Maintenance and Operations	4.15%	Decrease
Debt Service	13.77%	Increase
Total Expenditures	1.41%	Decrease

Total Appraised Value and Total Taxable Value (as calculated under Section 26.04, Tax Code)

	Preceding Tax Year	Current Tax Year
Total appraised value* of all property	\$ 4,695,313,989	\$ 5,494,868,550
Total appraised value* of new property**	\$ 147,424,347	\$ 133,676,376
Total taxable value*** of all property	\$ 3,221,585,329	\$ 3,830,614,780
Total taxable value*** of new property**	\$ 132,386,948	\$ 116,861,441

* “Appraised value” is the amount shown on the appraisal roll and defined by Section 1.04(8), Tax Code.
** “New property” is defined by Section 26.012(17), Tax Code.
*** “Taxable value” is defined by Section 1.04(10), Tax Code.

Bonded Indebtedness

Total amount of outstanding and unpaid bonded indebtedness* \$67,069,627

* Outstanding principal.

Comparison of Proposed Rates with Last Year’s Rates

	Maintenance & Operations	Interest & Sinking Fund*	Total	Local Revenue Per Student	State Revenue Per Student
Last Year’s Rate	\$ 0.942900	\$ 0.360000*	\$ 1.302900	\$ 7,407	\$ 4,558
Rate to Maintain Same Level of Maintenance & Operations Revenue & Pay Debt Service	\$ 0.849080	\$ 0.183830*	\$ 1.032910	\$ 6,444	\$ 4,496
Proposed Rate	\$ 0.924900	\$ 0.360000*	\$ 1.302900	\$ 7,955	\$ 4,666

*The Interest & Sinking Fund tax revenue is used to pay for bonded indebtedness on construction, equipment, or both.

The bonds, and the tax rate necessary to pay those bonds, were approved by the voters of this district.

Comparison of Proposed Levy with Last Year’s Levy on Average Residence

	Last Year	This Year
Average Market Value of Residences	\$ 256,894	\$ 296,591
Average Taxable Value of Residences	\$ 188,210	\$ 219,505
Last Year’s Rate Versus		
Proposed Rate per \$100 Value	\$ 1.302900	\$ 1.302900
Taxes Due on Average Residence	\$ 2,452.19	\$ 2,859.93
Increase (Decrease) in Taxes		\$ 407.74

Under state law, the dollar amount of school taxes imposed on the residence homestead of a person 65 years of age or older or of the surviving spouse of such a person, if the surviving spouse was 55 years of age or older when the person died, may not be increased above the amount paid in the first year after the person turned 65, regardless of changes in the tax rate or property value.

Notice of Voter-Approval Rate: The highest tax rate the district can adopt before requiring voter approval at an election is \$1.302900. This election will be automatically held if the district adopts a rate in excess of the voter-approval rate of \$1.302900.

Fund Balances

The following estimated balances will remain at the end of the current fiscal year and are not encumbered with or by a corresponding debt obligation, less estimated funds necessary for operating the district before receipt of the first state aid payment:

Maintenance and Operations Fund Balance(s)	\$ 19,948,940
Interest & Sinking Fund Balance(s)	\$ 12,973,626

A school district may not increase the district’s maintenance and operations tax rate to create a surplus in maintenance and operations tax revenue for the purpose of paying the district’s debt service.

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The 86th Texas Legislature modified the manner in which the voter-approval tax rate is calculated to limit the rate of growth of property taxes in the State.

Briefs

From Page 1

Miller Beer is not exported to France, a shipment of more than 2,000 cans of it was making its way via Belgium recently, much to the chagrin of the French Champagne brewers who asked the Belgian Customs Administration to seize the shipment and destroy it. And they did. For sure, the Comité Champagne said merci.

— John Grimaldi

Belly up to the bar

It’s official: Tennessee may have an average number of bars but the Volunteer State has the biggest bar in the world, according to the Guinness Book of World Records. It’s located in the Humble Baron whiskey distillery in Shelbyville, TN. The circular bar measures a whopping 518 feet and can accommodate more than 15,000 tipplers in a town with not quite 24,000 residents. But it’s about an hour’s drive from Nashville with its population of nearly 700,000. The folks at Guinness tell us that “in the center of the bar is an indoor stage where there are 17 stations featuring on tap, crafted cocktails made from Uncle Nearest Premium Whiskey.

— John Grimaldi

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By Lucie Winborne

• At just 15 years old, actor Sylvester Stallone’s classmates voted him “most likely to end up in the electric chair.”

• One day in 1930, the BBC announced on air that “there is no news,” and played piano music.

• Fulmars, a type of seabird, vomit putrid fishy oil on predatory birds in self-defense, which not only smells awful but is lethal to the attackers, as it permanently glues their feathers together.

• If viewed from space or a high altitude, the sun appears to be white.

• Larry Lemieux, a Canadian sailor at the 1988 Olympics, was about to win a silver medal when he abandoned the race to save two other competitors whose boat had capsized. While he lost the silver medal, he was given the Pierre de Coubertin medal for sportsmanship.

• Iceland has the largest population of green-eyed people in the world.

• During World War II, the Lay-Z-Boy company had to stop producing recliners because of the war effort. Instead, they used their production facility to mass produce (we hope much more comfortable) seats for tanks and other military vehicles.

• A hydrangea flower’s color is determined by the relative acidity of the soil in which it’s grown: Acidic soil will produce a blue flower, while alkaline soil will yield a pink blossom.


• The Sami people of Northern Finland have a unit of measurement called the “poronkusema”— the distance a reindeer can walk before it needs to urinate.

• Had a solar eruption happened nine days earlier than it did in 2012, the Earth would have been hit by a massive solar storm that would likely have caused major X-ray and UV radiation and power failure over the planet. It also would likely have cost trillions of dollars and taken four to10 years to recover from. Timing really is everything!

Thought for the Day: “Great opportunities to help others seldom come, but small ones surround us every day.”

— Sally Koch

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Moments in time

THE HISTORY CHANNEL

• On June 5, 1981, a weekly Morbidity and Mortality Report published by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention noted five cases of a rare form of pneumonia in Los Angeles. Later, they would be recognized as the first incidences of the AIDS virus.

• On June 6, 1884, philanthropist and businessman George Williams co-founded the Young Mens Christian Association, or YMCA, with the aim of creating a supportive community for men like himself to address societal challenges.

• On June 7, 1939, George VI and Elizabeth I became the first king and queen of Great Britain to travel to the United States, where they met with President Franklin D. Roosevelt at his invitation. In a letter to her mother-in-law, Queen Elizabeth described the Roosevelts as “such a charming and united family and living so like English people when they come to their country house.”

• On June 8, 1999, some 1.3 million copies of *Hannibal*, the final book in the Hannibal Lecter series by Thomas Harris, arrive in bookstores. The cannibalistic serial killer first appeared in harris’ 1981 book, *Red Dragon* as a minor character.

• On June 9, 2020, Dr. Kathy Sullivan became the first woman to reach the deepest part of the ocean, the Mariana Trench (36,201 feet). Sullivan had earlier achieved notoriety by becoming the first American woman to complete a spacewalk, in 1984.

• On June 10, 2003, the Henry Ford Museum of American Innovation in Dearborn, Michigan, opened Mrs. Fisher’s Southern Cooking restaurant in honor of Abby Fisher, who journeyed from enslaved plantation cook to upscale caterer and cookbook author after migrating west to California. “What Mrs. Fisher Knows About Old Southern Cooking, Soups, Pickles, Preserves, Etc.” is the oldest known cookbook by a formerly enslaved person.

• On June 11, 1963, Alabama governor George Wallace stood in front of the Foster Auditorium at the University of Alabama and refused entry to two African American students, resulting in the issue of Executive Order 11111 by President John F. Kennedy. The order brought in the National Guard, forcing Wallace to step aside.

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Memorial

From Page 3

of the Asian conflict. He never returned. The San Elizario native was declared missing in action (MIA) in 1950. It wasn’t until 2011 when DNA testing identified his remains. The young soldier’s body is now buried at Arlington National Cemetery in Washington D.C.

Participating in the laying of the wreath was Pedregon’s younger brother Saul, who lives in Clint and remembers being about 11 years old when he saw his older brother for the last time.

“Our family is really appreciative of the recognition my brother is being shown today,” Saul stated. “He was also honored by the San Elizario veterans organization a few years ago. They renamed the town’s historic museum in my brother’s honor,” he added.

To honor the ten recently deceased local area veterans for their military service, the veterans’ families took center stage, one at a time, while Al Borrego, head of the San Elizario Veterans Committee, read a brief narrative about the veteran. Each family was presented with a commemorative flag.

The ten veterans paid tribute to this year included Willie Perez Sr., Army; Bobby Marquez, Army; Florentino Gonzalez, Air Force; Edgar Rex Burr Sr., Marine; Victory Franco Jr., Army; Benjamin J. Parada Jr., Army; Daniel R. Ortiz, Air Force; Martin Ortega, Army; John Richard Orr, Marine; and Michael Ayers (military branch unknown).

The solemn affair exemplified the patriotic fervor that pervades the Town of Clint, a rural community of about 1,000 residents and about 25 miles east of downtown El Paso. The event showed that the lower valley community will never forget its military servicemen and women as long as the VICTORY group is in town.

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

CryptoQuip Answer

Country division in which people always drape themselves in long South Asian garments: a sari state.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING TO DISCUSS BUDGET AND PROPOSED TAX RATE

The San Elizario Independent School District will hold a public meeting at 5:30 P.M. on Wednesday, June 21, 2023 in the SEISD Administrative Office, 1050 Chicken Ranch Rd., San Elizario, Texas. **The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the school district’s budget that will determine the tax rate that will be adopted. Public participation in the discussion is invited.**

The tax rate that is ultimately adopted at this meeting or at a separate meeting at a later date may not exceed the proposed tax rate shown below unless the district publishes a revised notice containing the same information and comparisons set out below and holds another public meeting to discuss the revised notice.

Maintenance Tax	\$0.823300/\$100 (Proposed rate for maintenance and operations)
School Debt Service Tax	
Approved by Local Voters	\$0.169700/\$100 (Proposed rate to pay bonded indebtedness)

Comparison of Proposed Budget with Last Year’s Budget

The applicable percentage increase or decrease (or difference) in the amount budgeted in the preceding fiscal year and the amount budgeted for the fiscal year that begins during the current tax year is indicated for each of the following expenditure categories:

Maintenance and Operations	5.59%	Increase
Debt Service	0.18%	Increase
Total Expenditures	5.37%	Increase

Total Appraised Value and Total Taxable Value (as calculated under Section 26.04, Tax Code)

	Preceding Tax Year	Current Tax Year
Total appraised value* of all property	\$ 529,859,196	\$ 655,518,178
Total appraised value* of new property**	\$ 12,788,406	\$ 9,175,584
Total taxable value*** of all property	\$ 337,280,116	\$ 390,271,895
Total taxable value*** of new property**	\$ 11,968,922	\$ 9,097,079

* “Appraised value” is the amount shown on the appraisal roll and defined by Section 1.04(8), Tax Code.
** “New property” is defined by Section 26.012(17), Tax Code.
*** “Taxable value” is defined by Section 1.04(10), Tax Code.

Bonded Indebtedness

Total amount of outstanding and unpaid bonded indebtedness* \$24,360,000

* Outstanding principal.

Comparison of Proposed Rates with Last Year’s Rates

	Maintenance & Operations	Interest & Sinking Fund*	Total	Local Revenue Per Student	State Revenue Per Student
Last Year’s Rate	\$ 0.903300	\$ 0.149700*	\$ 1.053000	\$ 1,260	\$10,871
Rate to Maintain Same Level of Maintenance & Operations Revenue & Pay Debt Service	\$ 0.875600	\$ 0.166000*	\$ 1.041600	\$ 1,328	\$10,310
Proposed Rate	\$ 0.823300	\$ 0.169700*	\$ 0.993000	\$ 1,279	\$10,937

*The Interest & Sinking Fund tax revenue is used to pay for bonded indebtedness on construction, equipment, or both.

The bonds, and the tax rate necessary to pay those bonds, were approved by the voters of this district.

Comparison of Proposed Levy with Last Year’s Levy on Average Residence

	Last Year	This Year
Average Market Value of Residences	\$ 127,350	\$ 146,816
Average Taxable Value of Residences	\$ 61,973	\$ 75,719
Last Year’s Rate Versus		
Proposed Rate per \$100 Value	\$ 1.053000	\$ 0.993000
Taxes Due on Average Residence	\$ 652.58	\$ 751.89
Increase (Decrease) in Taxes		\$ 99.31

Under state law, the dollar amount of school taxes imposed on the residence homestead of a person 65 years of age or older or of the surviving spouse of such a person, if the surviving spouse was 55 years of age or older when the person died, may not be increased above the amount paid in the first year after the person turned 65, regardless of changes in the tax rate or property value.

Notice of Voter-Approval Rate: The highest tax rate the district can adopt before requiring voter approval at an election is \$0.993000. This election will be automatically held if the district adopts a rate in excess of the voter-approval rate of \$0.993000.

Fund Balances

The following estimated balances will remain at the end of the current fiscal year and are not encumbered with or by a corresponding debt obligation, less estimated funds necessary for operating the district before receipt of the first state aid payment:

Maintenance and Operations Fund Balance(s)	\$ 11,994,396
Interest & Sinking Fund Balance(s)	\$ 305,883

A school district may not increase the district’s maintenance and operations tax rate to create a surplus in maintenance and operations tax revenue for the purpose of paying the district’s debt service.

Visit [Texas.gov/PropertyTaxes](https://www.texas.gov/PropertyTaxes) to find a link to your local property tax database on which you can easily access information regarding your property taxes, including information about proposed tax rates and scheduled public hearings of each entity that taxes your property.

The 86th Texas Legislature modified the manner in which the voter-approval tax rate is calculated to limit the rate of growth of property taxes in the State.

This year’s Oakland A’s are among the best ever... at losing

By Steve Escajeda
Special to the Courier

There’s nothing like a rags-to-riches story in professional sports. You know what I mean, watching that team that has always struggled, finally put things together and have that incredible winning season.

When I think about that, memories of the 2002 Oakland A’s come to mind.

In case you don’t remember, the movie *Moneyball* told the story of how the A’s set the all-time Major League record by winning 20 straight games on the way to a first-place 103-59 regular-season record.

What makes that season even more amazing is that Oakland lost their three best players, first baseman Jason Giambi, outfielder Johnny Damon and pitcher Jason Isringhausen after the 2001 season.

The Athletics (their real name) were struggling in last place for most of the season until they went on their historic streak and made the playoffs.

That was a great 2002 season for Oakland. Unfortunately, we have to fast forward to 2023.

Once again, the Oakland A’s are on a record pace, but this is not the kind of record they’d like to be remembered for.

As of last Sunday the A’s had played 60 games, and have won only 12 of them.

Yes, Oakland’s record is 12-48, which gives them a winning percentage of .200. To put it plainly, they’re just winning 20 percent of their games.

Since the 1900s began, no team in

professional baseball’s modern history has had a lower winning percentage.

Just like nobody thought the A’s could break the all-time winning streak, nobody thought a team could be this monumentally bad.

Of course, there are still 102 games left in the season and that gives the team plenty of time to turn things around. But this team may even be worse than their record indicates.

In those 60 games, Oakland has been outscored by a total of 210 runs. That means they are losing each game by a whopping average of 3.5 runs a game. To put that in perspective, baseball’s second-worst team, the Kansas City Royals (17-41), are losing by an average of just 1.3 runs a game.

We’re not even close to the mid-point of the season and the A’s are already 26.5 games out of first place in their division. Again, the second-worst Royals are 13.5 games out of first.

I think the truest indication that this team could be the worst ever was

determined in their first 21 games. The A’s had already been outscored by 100 runs, the most in history. To makes matters worse, the pitching staff’s earned run average of 8.08 also shattered the previous record. Oh, and they also have the league’s worst fan attendance.

What we’re not going to do is compare this year’s A’s to some of the teams that played in the 1800s. The game was brand new and who knows what kind of baseball they were playing.

But just for fun, among the top ten worst teams ever are the 1899 Cleveland Spiders (20-134), the 1890 Pittsburgh Alleghenys (23-113) and the St. Louis Browns, who made the list twice, in 1897 and 1898 with records of 29-102 and 39-111.

As you can probably tell by their unusual names, none of those teams exist anymore.

Even though we’re going back 123 years, 1900 is considered the beginning of baseball’s “modern” era.

So we’ll compare today’s A’s with modern era teams.

Talk about keeping bad news in the family... believe it or not... the worst record ever belongs to the 1916 Philadelphia A’s, who had a miserable 36-117 record.

I know what you’re wondering so here it goes, the Philadelphia A’s moved to Kansas City in 1954 and eventually landed in Oakland in 1968.

That Philadelphia team won just 23.5 percent of their games. As we mentioned earlier, this year’s A’s have won just 20 percent of their games.

If they keep up (or down), at this rate, the Oakland A’s will finish with a 33-129 record.

The amazing thing is that just two years ago, in 2021, Oakland had a winning record (86-76).

With attendance way down, there’s serious talk of Oakland moving to Las Vegas.

And why not, if you’re going to lose money, there’s no better place than Vegas.

Senior moment By Matilda Charles

Decluttering: Do it your way

Consider this a firsthand account of clearing clutter. I read several self-help books; I sought advice from those who call themselves experts.

But I suspected that the “how to declutter” books would be a lost cause when I saw passages that suggested taking photos of cherished items as a way of remembering them; I knew that plan was not for me. It was the same with instructions to take it one room at a time or to take months to finish the task.

In the end, I rejected all I heard and read and opted for doing it my way: quickly and ruthlessly.

The key to successful decluttering is to ask yourself realistic questions:

If you’re working on clothing and realize that you haven’t worn certain items in years, how likely are you to wear them ever again? If you have a set of dishware once owned by your grandmother and have never used it, are you likely to ever use it now? If you’re sorting memorabilia from

vacations, do you remember the details of your trip?

Give yourself one month to declutter, working at it for at least an hour every day, boxing things up as you go and dividing them into items to be donated or to be thrown out. At the end of the month, call the dump haulers or the people who take donations.

Keep in mind: If you haven’t put up outdoor holiday decorations in five years, you won’t start now. Relatives who indicate they want a certain item need to remove it immediately. You really don’t need 17 sets of sheets or towels. Just because your mother kept her own mother’s cherished items for 30 years doesn’t mean you need to do the same.

But best of all: If something is no longer on a shelf, you don’t have to dust it.

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INITIAL WORDS				
ACROSS				
1 Jacob bought his birthright	57 Some city planners	Wind" producer piling up debt?	(on)	75 "Ali _ and the Forty Thieves"
5 City in Pennsylvania	60 Big, ornate cupboard	116 Hog's food	30 Swung sticks	76 Cutely nerdy, in slang
12 Hooting avian	62 Send off	117 "Is" pluralized	32 Generational treasures	77 Format for presenting films in video form
15 Factory type	63 Historic time	118 One ousted	33 " _ talk?" (Joan Rivers catchphrase)	79 Stamps on passports
19 Pibb _ (soda brand)	64 Tuskegee	119 Have a strong desire	34 Prefix with discrimination	80 Copycat
20 Kenya's capital	65 University founder steeping beverages?	120 Voluptuous	35 _-cone	81 Onion relative
21 Foot digit	71 Kitten's call	121 Have a strong desire	38 Europe-Asia border river	84 NFL goals
22 Vicinity	72 Gal pal, in Paris	122 Deep bows of respect	39 "Don't _ didn't warn you!"	85 Jack's hill-climbing partner
23 U.S. president	73 Receptacle in a kitchen sink	123 They precede omegas	40 Runner or writer	86 Counterfeit
ordering steeds to turn right?	75 Trees with very light wood		Packer	88 Remedial regimen
26 Have a strong desire	78 Performed	DOWN		
27 Ending for cyan-	79 Car parker	1 Many an alimony recipient	41 Conifers with red arils	89 Debussy's "Clair de _"
28 Turns sharply	82 Road runner	2 Sports domes	43 Israelites	90 Before, to Browning
29 Winter footwear item	83 Fruit drink	3 Haul in	46 Old TV's " _ Na Na"	94 High dice roll
30 Styx and The Stones	84 "Hidden Figures" actress growing	4 Old Egypt-Syr. alliance	47 Basil or sage	95 Quattro carmaker
31 More suspicious	podded vegetables?	5 Year, in Paris	48 Sailor's saint	96 Astronomer
33 Inclined positions	87 Placed in a carafe	6 Pilsners, e.g.	49 Razz	Tombaugh and aviator
35 "Da Ali G Show" star _ Baron Cohen	91 "Point taken"	7 Arena section	50 Tibetan monk	Cessna
36 Taken in food	92 _ Lanka	8 Mined metals	51 Pair for the slopes	97 Value highly
37 Women's suffragist keeping an apiary?	93 Sci-fi writer going on cruises?	9 "Ni-i-i-ice!"	52 Sacred vow	99 Funnies
42 I, to Freud	98 Split-off religions	10 Spurs' gp.	57 Summits	100 Meditative
44 Speak wildly	102 New Hampshire city	11 Website for finding homestays	58 Assns.	Chinese martial art
45 "Absolutely not!"	103 Quiet spells	12 Lazy or useless	59 Novelist	101 Some reptiles
46 "Dallas" actress fancying blue birds?	104 Govt. aid for a start-up	13 Refuses to	60 Hawthorne	105 Cubes of hay
53 Lumber tool	106 Ballet dancer's rail	14 Table support	61 Big furniture retailer	106 Perch's kin
54 Underworld	107 Lamarr of old films	15 Old Testament prophet	62 She baas	107 Rabbit's kin
55 Disprove	108 Coup _ (overthrow)	16 Steam locomotive, in old lingo	65 "And there you have it!"	108 Ten: Prefix
56 Otherwise called, in brief	110 Rosemary player	17 Listen supportively	66 Muslim ruler	109 This, in Spain
	Farrow	18 Dawdles	67 Verdi opera	112 24-hour span
	111 "SOS" quartet	24 Show clearly	68 It's a thought	113 Lab eggs
	112 "Gone With the	25 Heap affection	69 Musical work	114 Actor Wheaton
			70 Post-WWII alliance	115 Short snooze
			74 Prefix with discrimination	

Answer Page 4

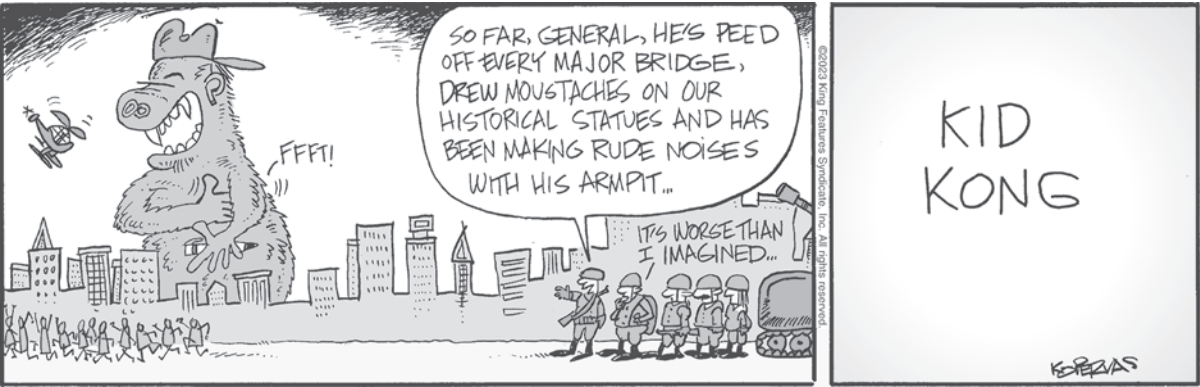
Super Crossword

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	102						103							104	105					
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120							121				122						123			

Comix

OUT ON A LIMB

By Gary Kopervas



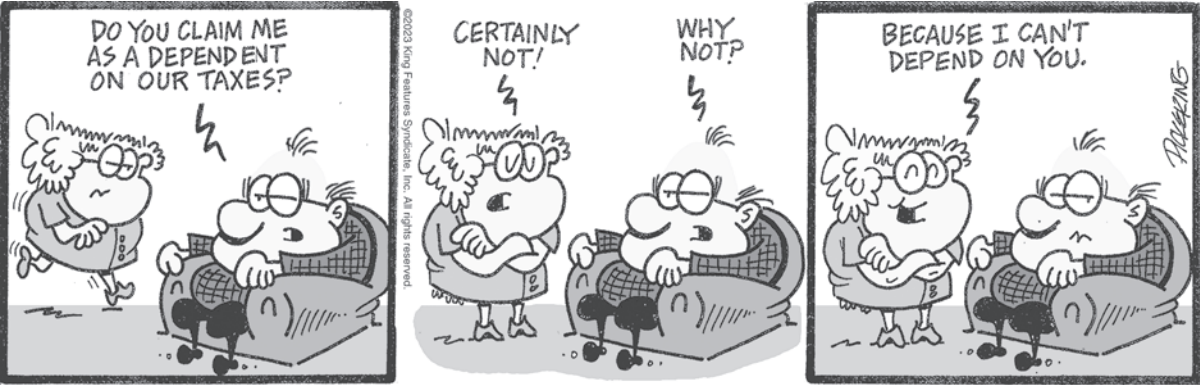
AMBER WAVES

By Dave T. Phipps



THE SPATS

By Jeff Pickering



TIGER

By Bud Blake



Lowry

From Page 2

defensiveness about Jan. 6 or his conspiracy theories about the election, despite Collins repeatedly challenging him on them. He bulldozed through every fact check, even saying he'd completed his border wall. He mocked the claims of E. Jean Carroll, who had just won a jury verdict against him in New York. There was never a sense that he wasn't in complete command – Gulliver easily swatting away a determined but unthreatening Lilliputian.

Was Trump truthful or respectful? Of course, not. The dynamic, though, is that the more he says things he shouldn't, the stronger he seems. For Republicans, there was also the advantage of Trump taking on the cable network they disdain most; he turned the much-hyped town hall into an embarrassment for its sponsor.

This points to the way that Trump can out-MAGA Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis and the rest of the GOP field – by always being on the offensive, never being abashed about his own

contradictions or mistakes or weaknesses, making himself the constant focus of attention, and overall just being a bigger personality.

It always helps when other Republicans seem afraid of him, and they usually do.

Of course, Trump's is, to a large extent, a faux strength. There's a place for discipline, selflessness and knowledge in true strength. It also will avail Republicans little if Trump projects his characteristic showy strength in the course of winning the GOP primaries and then loses the general election – or wins, only to govern in an even more shambolic fashion than the first time around.

There's a lot of material that DeSantis or another Republican candidate has to work with against Trump, who is vulnerable to attacks from the right on his response to the coronavirus and his performance on other conservative priorities as president. But no one else is becoming the nominee unless at the end of the day Donald Trump is no longer the biggest person in the room.

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

Some wounds must heal from the inside

DEAR DR. ROACH: Whenever I got a wound while I was young, my mother would take me to the hospital to get stitches. I am now 94. I went to get a wound seen, and the nurse said that it needed to heal from the inside. They treated it with gauze, wrapping and then a stocking. It took months to heal. Why the big change? Why couldn't they have just put in stitches and saved me months of healing? – D.J.

to your good health
WITH Dr. Keith Roach

A wound can be sutured (stitched) closed when it is new, clean and regular. A wound cannot be closed if it is infected or irregular. Most chronic wounds cannot be closed by stitching. Also, if there is a lot of swelling around the wound, there may be so much pressure that the wound cannot be closed and must be allowed to heal over time. This is often the case with larger wounds.

Basic principles of wound healing are to treat and prevent infection by bacteria or other germs, control pain and bleeding, and avoid treatments that are toxic to open wounds. I hear very frequently from people who have mistreated wounds. Strong agents like hydrogen peroxide, iodine, bleach and even soaps will kill more of your body's healing cells than bacteria, and they should not be used in open wounds.

I also hear people say wounds "need air," but wounds heal faster when they are moist. A barrier like petrolatum (Vaseline or many other proper wound-care agents) and a clean cover will accelerate wound healing. Most wounds do not need topical antibiotics, and these should only be used when recommended by an expert. The best experts for wound care are wound-care nurses and, in extreme cases, vascular or plastic surgeons.

It takes time for a wound to heal. How much time depends on many factors, but a time span of months is not unusual, especially with a person in their 90s, who may not have the same blood supply they had when they were much younger.

DEAR DR. ROACH: I take 25 mg of quetiapine at night as a sleeping aid, and one of the side effects is an increase in blood sugar. I am curious if that will also show a rise in my A1C blood work as well? – T.F.

Quetiapine (Seroquel), an antipsychotic medication that is often used as a sleep aid due to its side effect of sedation, has at least two ways that it can increase blood sugar.

The first is that it directly acts against insulin, causing the body to try to release more insulin. At the same time, it reduces the ability of the body to make insulin. The combination means that in people who don't have much reserve (such as people with prediabetes or diabetes), this will increase their blood sugar. Secondly, the resistance to insulin helps promote weight gain, which worsens the resistance to insulin even more.

Any condition that raises blood glucose significantly for a long enough period will increase the A1C. The A1C measures the amount of sugar on hemoglobin molecules in red blood cells. The higher the blood sugar and the longer it stays high, the higher the A1C level.

A dose of 25 mg of quetiapine is relatively small, so it doesn't usually have these metabolic changes the way that quetiapine used for schizophrenia does – at the usual dose of 400 to 800 mg daily in adults. Still, I do not prescribe quetiapine as a sleep aid, since I greatly prefer nonmedication treatments such as cognitive-behavioral therapy whenever possible.

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.

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Moore Texas by Roger Moore
June 8, 1911: The “rain battles” begin in post. shots of dynamite are fired into the atmosphere to induce moisture.

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: R equals T

ZVOMRAN BUYUQUVM UM CGUZG
SDVSHD JHCJNQ BAJSD
RGDX QDHYDQ UM HVMF QVORG
JQUJM FJAXDMRQ: J QJAU QRJRD.

Answer Page 5

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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 5

♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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Proposed 2024 VA budget is not good for veterans



by Freddy Groves

While the proposed 2024 Department of Veterans Affairs budget increase of 5% sounds good, it’s actually the lowest hike they’ve seen in nearly 10 years. The president claims that there is a “sacred obligation” to support veterans and that \$325 billion will do just that.

As always, the devil is in the details, and that budget would cut into critical VA programs to the tune of 22%.

Per a VA.gov news release, those cuts would mean:

- 30 million fewer healthcare outpatient visits for everything from mental health services to cancer screenings and treatments to wellness care.
- 81,000 jobs would vanish across the health care system at the VA.
- 50,000 housing vouchers

would be eliminated.

- 6,000 jobs would be eliminated among those who handle the disability claims backlogs, which would cause delays in getting benefits for education, insurance, pensions and more. The net result would be 134,000 additional backlogged claims. This comes at the same time the VA is supposed to be increasing hiring because of the extra work due to the PACT Act, which offers help and benefits to those veterans who were exposed to toxins.

- 500 cemetery worker jobs would be lost, meaning the five new cemeteries would be delayed and maintenance at current cemeteries would suffer.

- Impaired abilities to expand telehealth care, with limited medical equipment for the veterans to use at home. The information and technology area, for example, would be short \$345 million for the network.

- \$565 million less for construction to fix or build

VA hospitals and clinics. If you read about the budget in various places, all the glowing language might make it look as though so many millions are being provided to help veterans ... but keep a calculator handy and do the math. Consider your own financial position and think of what a 22% shortfall would do. There would be cutbacks, doing without, unmet needs, etc. Check out www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=5874 to read more about the damage the budget would do.

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- Use a mesh bag to hold flowers in place in a vase. Just roll or wad it up and put it down in the bottom of the vase. When you are done with the flowers, you can use a stick to swish the bag around and loosen any gunk inside the vase when cleaning. Launder the mesh or just toss.
- When freezing leftovers, especially soup or stew, consider using zipper-closing bags. They can be filled and frozen flat, then stacked nicely. They take up much less room than standard containers.

- “To make a waterproof mattress protector in a pinch, slit a large garbage bag down the side and bottom, lay it flat over the mattress and cover with a beach towel. Then put the sheet over that. The garbage bag protects the mattress; the towel makes it comfortable.” – U.D. in Tennessee

- Keep a box of baking soda in the fridge. When it’s time to replace it, dump it down the drain and follow with a small bottle of vinegar and a hot water flush. Keep your kitchen smelling nice and use less chemicals to do it.

- “Here’s a fun invitation to make and receive: Blow up a balloon and pinch (don’t tie). Write the details of the party on the balloon in permanent marker. Let it dry fully before you deflate it. Then send it!” – R.A. in Washington

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

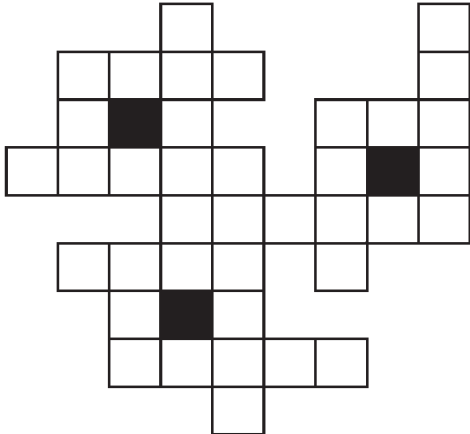
	÷		×		8
+		+		−	
	−		×		6
÷		÷		×	
	+		÷		1
3		1		9	

1 2 3 3 4 5 6 7 9

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- UTH
- GUTEON
- ♥ APTLE
- ♥ EHSO
- ♥ TECASN
- PLI
- HNTE
- TEPNS
- ♥ PSA
- OTHCRO
- ♥ UCRET
- ♥ TAHL



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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