



NEWSBRIEFS

Retirement

With only 27% of workers reporting that they are “very confident” they will have enough money for retirement, the personal-finance website WalletHub has released its report on 2023’s *Best & Worst Places to Retire*, as well as expert commentary. To help Americans plan for a comfortable retirement without breaking the bank, WalletHub compared more than 180 U.S. cities across 45 key measures of affordability, quality of life, health care and availability of recreational activities. The data set ranges from the cost of living to retired taxpayer-friendliness to the state’s health infrastructure. El Paso was rated 132nd in the report.

Best vs. Worst:

- Pearl City, HI has the highest share of the population aged 65 and older, 25.50 percent, which is 3.2 times higher than in Irving, TX, the city with the lowest at 8.00 percent.
- Brownsville, TX has the lowest adjusted cost-of-living index for retirees, 75.39, which is 2.4 times lower than in Honolulu and Pearl City, HI, the cities with the highest at 182.16.
- Plano, TX has the highest share of workers aged 65 and older, 26.73 percent, which is 2.4 times higher than in Gulfport, MS, the city with the lowest at 11.10 percent.
- St. Louis, MO has the most home health care facilities (per 100,000 residents), 79.26, which is 28.8 times more than in New York, NY, the city with the fewest at 2.75.

Visit: <https://wallethub.com/edu/best-places-to-retire/6165> for the full report.

– Diana Polk

Vaccines

With vaccines preventing 4 to 5 million deaths worldwide per year according to the WHO, the personal-finance website WalletHub has released its report on 2023’s *States that Vaccinate the Most*, as well as expert commentary. In order to find out which states vaccinate most, WalletHub analyzed the 50 states and the District of Columbia across 16 key metrics, ranging from the share of vaccinated children to the share of people

See BRIEFS, Page 4

There would be fewer divorces if people tried as hard to keep each other as they did to get each other.

– Quips & Quotes



– Internet

OUT OF BOUNDS FOR TEENS – Teenage vaping in Texas is illegal. It doesn’t matter if it’s nicotine or THC, it’s against state law for a teen to vape or smoke using e-cigarette devices.

New law requires students caught with vapes at school to go to alternative education program

By Alfredo Vasquez
Special to the Courier

EL PASO COUNTY – With the new school year underway, school districts are sending out notices that advise parents and students about a new law aimed at cracking down on teenage vaping at school.

The new law, titled House Bill 114, was passed in the state’s last legislative session which ended in June. It mandates that any student caught with an e-cigarette within 300 feet of any school property, regardless of whether they contain THC or not, to be temporarily placed in alternative schooling.

The bill stipulates that a public school student found in possession of, using, selling, giving, or delivering e-cigarettes on school grounds or at school-related events must be placed in a school district’s Disciplinary Alternative Education Program (DAEP). It’s important to point out that this law also criminalizes chewing tobacco, cigars, and any other product that contains tobacco—not just vapes or e-cigs.

The Texas Education Agency

(TEA) leaves the length of the punishment up to districts, but in essence, an e-cigarette now carries the same penalty as bringing alcohol or drugs to school.

DEAP programs and facilities are required for all public schools as outlined in the Texas Education Code to address disciplinary issues that violate the state penal code, as well as crimes and violations that happen on school grounds.

Students put into the DEAP program generally lose “the privilege” of participating in programs under the University Interscholastic League (UIL), extracurricular activities, like fine arts competitions and athletic competitions. And not only will students lose the ability to participate in their regular activities but also lose the ability to attend those as spectators, according to school officials.

Students who are put into the DEAP program will continue their schoolwork “as normal” and are required to attend the program in a predetermined “uniform” where they work mainly online through a “self-pace” system.

School officials emphasize that in Texas, it is a felony to vape

E-Cigs

Electronic cigarettes are battery-operated devices that use an electric pulse to heat and aerosolize a flavored liquid that typically contains nicotine. They were first introduced to the U.S. in 2007, and they were advertised by the tobacco companies as a method to help individuals quit smoking.

THC in Texas, regardless of age or amount. Under the Texas Health and Safety Code, tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) from sources other than the marijuana plant, are classified as a Penalty 2 Group Substance and any amount is a felony.

A breakdown of the potential punishment for a THC conviction in Texas includes a state jail felony punishable by six months to two years in a state jail facility and a maximum \$10,000 fine for less than one gram. For one to four grams, it’s a third-degree felony punishable by two to ten years in prison and a maximum \$10,000 fine.

An individual found with four to 400 grams of a THC substance will face a second-degree felony charge, which is punishable by two to 20 years in prison and a maximum \$10,000 fine. If caught with 400 grams or more,

See VAPING, Page 5

Trump creates a spin-off

Just how dominant is Donald Trump in the Republican Party?

He’s so far ahead in the polls that he felt comfortable skipping the first GOP presidential debate in Milwaukee, while on the actual debate stage, his epigone, Vivek Ramaswamy, soaked up an outsized portion of the attention.

The 38-year-old billionaire biotech entrepreneur shows that the Trump brand is so strong that it can create successful subsidiaries, the Trump storyline so compelling that subplots can be spun off into their own programs.

Thursday night was a “MAGA” tag team, with Trump trying to detract from the debate from the outside and Ramaswamy shaking it up on the inside.

When Trump declared a victor afterwards, it was, unsurprisingly, Ramaswamy – for having the courage and perspicacity to declare Donald Trump the greatest president of the 21st century.

If Ramaswamy mind these occasional condescending pats on the head, he hasn’t yet showed any sign of it. He is making history as the first presidential candidate to be in the tank for his leading opponent.

Ramaswamy’s devotion to Trump raises the natural question why he’s in the race and running the risk of denying everyone the benefits of a Trump second term? Why should the pilot fish try to supplant the shark?

Ramaswamy has learned shrewdly from the power of the Trump phenomenon.

The first lesson is that if you want to benefit

from the energetic support of MAGA, you have to be pro-Trump. Many candidates, media figures, and social media influencers long ago figured this out. Ramaswamy’s truly audacious innovation is to apply this insight to his own presidential campaign in a race including Trump himself.

If Ramaswamy leaps ahead of Gov. Ron DeSantis into second place in national polls, the top of the GOP field will consist of Donald Trump and a pro-Trump alternative who is zealous in defense of Trump’s interests and loath to criticize him for anything.

The second lesson is that whatever gets the



See LOWRY, Page 7

Food for thought By Dr. Glenn Mollette

Aaron Rodgers: Life changes

National football star Aaron Rodgers’s football career may be over, but maybe not. It’s hard to keep a good man down. Sometimes, there is too much to overcome to come back.

Many of us watched the mega media debut of Rodgers as a New York Jets quarterback. His move from Green Bay after 18 seasons catapulted him to New York City celebrity status. He came to the Jets after a hugely successful career with the Packers. His accomplishments were many

and include a Super Bowl ring. He was received the Super Bowl MVP award and four NFL MVP awards. He was touted as the man who would revitalize the Jet’s program and lead them to glory.

Rodger’s financial package to make the move from Wisconsin to the Jet’s program was \$75 million dollars over two years. The money is guaranteed even though he may never play again. Rodgers reportedly took a salary cut to make the move.

During last week’s Monday night football game on the fourth play of the game, Rodger’s Achilles heel tendon was torn during the play. The injury requires surgery and the rest of the season to rehabilitate. The spirit of the electrified crowd spiraled south as Rodgers was transported off the field.

Unfortunately, Rodger’s injury goes along with the game of football and can happen in most any sport. People can and do get hurt. There are no guarantees.

Life has no guarantees. We aren’t guaranteed another day. Regardless of the size of the financial package,

we can complete the trip. We can promise we will work a job for ten years but it all depends on our health and good fortune. We aren’t assured of another day. We hope, we have faith, we trust, we believe, and we try to make good on our commitments. After this, it’s all in the hands of God.

I do hope Aaron Rodgers recuperates and is able to end his career on a higher note. I suspect that today he might be happy to end his football career by simply being able to play and walk off the field.

Depending on our circumstances, our lives and perspectives seem to always be changing.

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

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

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Briefs

From Page 1

without health insurance to the flu vaccination rate among adults. Texas was rated 45th in the report. Vaccination in Texas was ranked (1-Best; 25-Avg.):

- 28th – Influenza Vaccination Rate in Children Aged 6 Months to 17 Years Old;
- 48th – Share of Teenagers Aged 13-17 with Up-To-Date HPV Vaccination;
- 25th – Share of Teenagers Aged 13-17 with Men ACWY Vaccination;
- 42nd – Flu Vaccination Coverage Rate Among Adults;
- 44th – Share of Adults with Tetanus Vaccination;
- 28th – Share of Adults Aged 60 and Older with Zoster Vaccination
- 33rd – Share of Children 19-35 Months old Living

in Poverty with Combined 7-Vaccine Series; and

- 51st – Share of Civilian Noninstitutionalized Population without Health Insurance Coverage.

Visit<https://wallethub.com/edu/states-that-vaccinate-the-most/66237> for the full report.

– Diana Polk

Driving teens

With summer being a popular time for teens to get driver’s licenses and an average of eight teens dying every day from motor vehicle injuries, the personal-finance website WalletHub has released its report on 2023’s Best & Worst States for Teen Drivers, as well as expert commentary. In order to determine the safest and least costly driving environments for U.S. teenagers, WalletHub compared the 50 states based on 23 key metrics. The data set ranges from the number of teen driver fatalities to the average cost of car repairs to the presence of impaired-driving laws. Texas was rated 13th in the report. Teenage driving in Texas was ranked (1-Best; 25-Avg.):

- 25th – Teen Driver Fatalities per 100,000 Teens;
- 25th – Teen DUIs per 100,000 Teens;
- 37th – Avg. Cost of Car Repairs;
- 1st – Presence of Distracted-Driving/Texting-While-Driving Laws;
- 42nd–Premium Increase After Adding Teen Driver to Parent’s Policy;
- 11th – Provision of Teen Driver’s Graduated Licensing Program Laws;
- 21st – Vehicle Miles Traveled per Capita;
- 7th – Presence of Occupant-Protection Laws;
- 34th – Quality of Roads; and
- 1st – Presence of Impaired-Driving Laws.

Visit: <https://wallethub.com/edu/best-worst-states-for-teen-drivers/4598> for the full report.

– Diana Polk

Strange

BUT TRUE

By Lucie Winborne

- In 2014, there was a school in Turin, Italy, that had just one teacher and one student. Though the latter admitted to being lonely, officials decided to keep the school open as long as at least one pupil was enrolled.
- Embryonic bats go through a stage called “peek-a-boo,” when their wings grow to cover their eyes.
- Muhammad Ali’s star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame is the only star that is not on the sidewalk, but on the wall of the Kodak Theatre, to honor the boxing champ’s request that he “did not want to be walked on.”
- Pennies are used to adjust the time in London’s famous Big Ben clock tower. A single cent can change the pendulum’s center of mass and alter the time by 0.4 seconds per day.
- Michael Bay filmed Megan Fox washing his Ferrari as her audition for “Transformers.”
- Halley’s Comet has two correct pronunciations. It can rhyme with “daily” or “valley” since its discoverer, Edmond Halley, spelled his name six different ways during his lifetime.
- The 2003 invasion of Iraq was originally dubbed “Operation Iraqi Liberation” but quickly changed due to the fact its acronym spelled out “oil.”
- After learning that her husband had been killed in World War II, Mariya Oktyabrskaya sold everything she owned to donate a tank to the Soviet Red Army, with the condition that she be allowed to drive it. When the tank was hit by gunfire, she would not only risk her own life to jump out and repair it, but ended up becoming the first female tanker to receive the Hero of the Soviet Union award.

Thought for the Day: “Too many people overvalue what they are not and undervalue what they are.”

– Malcolm Forbes

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Moments in time

THE HISTORY CHANNEL

• On Sept. 18, 1769, John Harris, a spinet and harpsichord maker from Boston, completed the first spinet piano to be made in America. Upon its debut, the Boston Gazette averred that the instrument “in every respect does honour to that artist.”

• On Sept. 19, 1676, Nathaniel Bacon and an army of rebel followers made up of farmers, slaves and indentured servants, set fire to Jamestown, the capital of the Virginia colony, in what came to be known as Bacon’s Rebellion, a civil war that pitted Bacon against Virginia governor Sir William Berkeley.

• On Sept. 20, 1942, as part of the British war effort to conserve fuel, citizens were requested to bathe in no more than 5 inches of water. The royal family even painted black lines on all the household bathtubs at said depth, and put up posters around the palace with reminders of the need to conserve energy.

• On Sept. 21, 2012, David Villalobos jumped from the Wild Asia monorail train into a tiger den at the Bronx Zoo and was mauled by a 400-pound Siberian tiger named Bachuta. Quick-thinking employees chased the animal away using a fire extinguisher, and Villalobos, though injured, was able to roll under a wire to safety and survived.

• On Sept. 22, 1999, Saudi Arabia joined other Arab countries in a threat to boycott the Walt Disney entertainment company as a protest against the Israeli exhibit at the millennium show in Florida, which portrayed Jerusalem as the capital of Israel.

• On Sept. 23, 1989, foggy conditions led to one of the worst days for accidents on the German Autobahn, with five vehicular pileups involving 256 cars and a large number of serious injuries. The Autobahns in Germany have no speed limits, and cars sometimes travel as fast as 140 mph.

• On Sept. 24, 1906, Devil’s Tower (also called Grizzly Bear Lodge) in northeastern Wyoming was named America’s first national monument. The tower is a sacred site for many Plains Indians, and also a popular site for rock climbing.

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Vaping

From Page 1

he or she is looking at a first-degree felony crime which is punishable by five to 99 years in prison and a maximum \$50,000 fine.

So, one can see that the punishment for a conviction for possession of THC is extremely serious. Fortunately, if the perpetrator is under the age of 17, he or she will likely be prosecuted as a juvenile, where the focus is on rehabilitation rather than severe punishment.

Possible punishment options for teens 17 and under caught vaping THC include drug counseling, a juvenile diversion program, juvenile probation, placement in a residential or treatment facility, or commitment to the Texas Juvenile Justice Department (TJJD).

The legal age for tobacco used to be 18, but in 2019, Texas lawmakers cracked down in response to the rise of e-cigarettes among teens. They raised the minimum age to purchase or use tobacco to 21 years old, unless the person is at least 18 years old and on active duty in the military.

According to the Texas Health and Safety Code, youth under age 21 who use or possess tobacco face a fine of up to \$100. Violators may also be required to perform community service and attend a tobacco awareness class.

In addition to the criminal and educational repercussions associated with teenage



– Internet

A FAST TRANSFER – A new law targeting vaping on school campuses went into effect with the start of classes this month. Now public school students found in possession of a vape pen or e-cigarette on campus or at a school-sponsored event will end up in alternative school.

vaping in Texas, there are also collateral consequences that can follow teens throughout their lives if convicted of juvenile offenses. These could include loss of college scholarships, difficulty finding

employment, and even a record that could potentially prevent them from being able to obtain financial aid or housing in the future.

Finally, it is important to point out that all districts have

their own way of carrying out state mandates. To find out the punishment in a particular district, contact school administration or review the district’s Student Code of Conduct manual.

PUBLIC NOTICE TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS AND PARTIES:

The *West Texas County Courier* will publish two editions early. The October 5 and October 12, 2023 issues will go to press on Wednesday, September 27, 2023.

All material for these publications must be submitted to the *West Texas County Courier* no later than Wednesday, September 20, 2023.

The *West Texas County Courier* office will close beginning Thursday, September 28, 2023. The office will open again on Tuesday, October 10, 2023.

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What happened to the Jets is a little too ironic

By Steve Escajeda
Special to the Courier

Back in 1996, Canadian rock star Alanis Morissette released the song “Ironic.”

Some of you may know the song and the lyrics, but for those of you who don’t it talks about some of things that go wrong no matter how careful you plan for them.

In other words, it’s ironic how bad things can turn out sometimes.

Some of the samples included in the song talk about having 10,000 spoons to choose from when all you need is a knife. Or how a man finally conquered his fear of flying and ironically, that plane is one of those few that crashes. Or how a man gets a last-minute pardon from the electric chair, but the message arrives two minutes late.

Ouch. Sometimes life can be a cold, bitter and unforgiving pill to swallow.

And though it has nothing to do with life and death, that’s probably how every New York Jets fans is feeling right about now.

The Jets won the third Super Bowl ever back in 1969, when a young, brash quarterback by the name of Joe Namath shocked the world and led the Jets to the upset over the highly

avored Baltimore Colts.

That was a great memory for all New York jets fans. Unfortunately, there haven’t been very many other goods ones since.

The Jets never returned to the Super Bowl after that victory 54 years ago.

The Jets have had a couple of good years since, but for the most part they’ve suffered through miserable season after miserable season, reliving the memories of the team with Namath and his favorite target, former Texas Western (UTEP) wide receiver Don Maynard.

But all is not lost for Jets fans, in 2022 they drafted some talented young players who have impressed right away. They’ve acquired some defensive players who have made the team one of the toughest in the NFL.

They had some great running backs, wide receivers, defenders and linemen. What they didn’t have was a good quarterback. Though they picked BYU’s Zach Wilson with the second pick in the 2021 NFL Draft and he was supposed to be their quarterback of the future.

He has simply looked awful.

A year ago a lot of experts were saying that this talented Jets team was only a quarterback-away from being a true Super Bowl contender.

So what did they do? They went out and traded for one of the best quarterbacks to ever play the game – Aaron Rodgers.

Every Jets fan was delirious when they learned that the former Green Bay Packer was going to be playing in the Big Apple.

And how could you blame them? Rodgers was the final piece to the winning puzzle.

He was the guy who was finally going to end the Jets’ long national nightmare.

The team was featured on HBO’s Hard Knocks NFL training camp reality show. Rodgers was seen attending Broadway shows and other New York landmarks.

In other words, he was accepting his new city and the fans were making him one of their own.

It was a match made in NFL heaven. Ah, but remember Alanis

Morissette’s song.

On the 2023 season’s first Monday Night Game, on the first home game of the season for the Jets, on the first possession the Jets have the ball, on the fourth snap Rodgers has ever taken with the team... it was all over.

How ironic.

Rodgers was sacked, his feet are intertwined and his left Achilles tendon is torn and his season is over.

Can you imagine how every New York Jets fan is feeling?

Just like the song implies, the team did everything right, they got the right players, they got the right quarterback and still, ironically, something goes tragically wrong no matter how hard they try.

I think all sport fans are still in a little bit of disbelief that this happened to Rodgers so quickly.

The Jets are going to go with Wilson for now, and hope that his short time learning from Rodgers will pay off.

Another irony is the song’s lyrics about that plane crashing down.

I mean they are named the Jets, right?

Senior momentBy Matilda Charles

Skip the yard sale

If all the decluttering you did over the summer has now left you with piles of belongings, you might be ready to just have it all gone.

And you might say, “I think I’ll hold a yard sale!” If you’ve been to several yard sales, it looks so easy.

Holding a yard sale is a lot of work! There’s all that sorting, and pricing, and carrying, and recruiting of help, not to mention going around to post flyers (and taking them down after the event), as well as worrying whether the weather will cooperate with a mild, non-rainy day. And then you carry back into the house all the things you didn’t sell and stack them up again.

When you really just want it all gone, you have a few other choices. What you need to remember is the “twice” rule: Only pick up and carry an item twice. You pick up

an item and put it in your vehicle, and you pick up that item to take it to its final spot. That’s it.

A consignment shop near you can help you earn a few dollars for items in good condition. Some will concentrate on clothing and others might prefer bric-a-brac and knick-knacks. Be sure to clarify the details before you take your items to drop off: How is the pricing decided and what cut does the shop take? Is there a time limit on how long your items can stay there? Is your agreement in writing?

Donations to charity organizations such as Goodwill or The Salvation Army won’t get you any cash, but you might end up with a small tax deduction if you get a receipt. Check their websites for information on how to calculate the value of your donations.

Remember: Only pick up an item twice!

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Super Crossword

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- 9 Break away
- formally
- 15 Lazes about
- 20 Out of prison
- conditionally
- 21 Brand of infant
- formula
- 22 “_ vincit amor”
- (“Love conquers all”)
- 23 Try to get the job
- done
- 24 “The Grass Is
- Singing” novelist
- 26 Falco of “Oz”
- 27 Bonding stuff
- 29 Peeving
- 30 O or Elle, e.g.
- 31 Original host of
- “Who Wants to Be a
- Millionaire”
- 35 In a calm way
- 37 Bellhop’s employer
- 38 Ultimate
- 40 Actress Hagen
- 41 They suffer for
- what they believe in
- 45 First lady who
- wrote “American
- Grown”
- 52 Self-confident
- declaration
- 53 Zilch
- 54 Ugly plants
- 55 Stuff oozing down
- a trunk
- 56 She sang “I’ll Be
- Missing You” with Puff
- Daddy
- 60 Skewed view
- 61 Unicycle part
- 62 Trout feature
- 63 “_ go bragh”
- 64 Makes taboo
- 65 Sister chain of
- Marshalls
- 67 Art collector who
- founded a Manhattan
- museum
- 72 Daisy parts
- 74 Nets or Nats
- 75 Daily opinion page
- 76 The Monkees’ “_
- Believer”
- 79 Since
- 80 Like lingerie
- 81 She played Kerry
- Weaver on “ER”
- 84 Hertz offering
- 85 Actress Keanan of
- “Step by Step”
- 87 Transmitted
- 88 This plus that
- 89 George C. Scott’s
- “Taps” co-star
- 92 Certain stream of
- particles
- 95 N, S, E or W
- 96 _ de mer
- 97 Utility bill info
- 99 Waifish
- supermodel
- 104 Creator and star of
- FX’s “Atlanta”
- 110 Wall St. hedger
- 111 Remove a collar
- from, e.g.
- 113 Musk of SpaceX
- 114 Co. transfer
- 115 Luminaries like the
- eight featured in this
- puzzle? (hint: look at
- their first few letters)
- 118 Took off on
- 121 Pacific island
- nation
- 122 Dubbed
- 123 Greatness
- 124 Some female
- singers
- 125 Refuges
- 126 Goes along with
- humbly
- DOWN
- 1 Strength
- 2 Battery pole
- 3 Small shoot
- 4 George who
- played Sulu
- 5 Singer Rita
- 6 Get decayed
- 7 Touches down
- 8 Leave alone
- 9 Second half of a
- single
- 10 “_ Beso”
- 11 City about 50
- miles west of Athens
- 12 Arab leader
- 13 Casino chips, e.g.
- 14 J.R. Ewing’s mother
- 15 California city near
- San Jose
- 16 Meditation
- syllables
- 17 Japanese cartoon
- art
- 18 Ultimate
- 19 Drooping
- 25 Invested (with)
- 28 Funny Tracey
- 32 Timid
- 33 “_ favor”
- 34 Old Andean
- 36 Eatery bill
- 39 Chopping with an
- ax
- 41 Peeve
- 42 Brazilian berry
- 43 Cloudburst
- 44 Blasting aid
- 46 Passports, e.g.
- 47 Rent
- 48 The, in Paris
- 49 Area south of the
- Black Sea
- 50 Karl with a
- manifesto
- 51 Zenith
- 53 Manipulation of
- matter on a tiny scale
- 57 Satan’s home
- 58 God of love
- 59 Liveliness
- 60 Satchel, e.g.
- 61 “Eww, no more!,”
- in texts
- 64 Lazy type
- 65 Ellington’s “Take _
- Train”
- 66 Yoda is one
- 68 Klutzy type
- 69 Medication for acid
- reflux
- 70 Part of LGBT
- 71 “Fresh Air” airer
- 72 Postwar deal
- 73 Morales of the
- screen
- 77 Prefix with
- analysis
- 78 Pallid
- 80 Put in words
- 81 Feline sign
- 82 Occurring every
- year
- 83 Clippers’ org.
- 85 Provocation
- 86 Ruler’s seat
- 87 WWII battle city in
- France
- 90 Pindar poem
- 91 Frog-to-be
- 92 Sullied reputation
- 93 Yolk’s place
- 94 Business card no.
- 98 Slanted
- 99 Iota-lambda link
- 100 “That’s _ shame”
- 101 Fastening rod with
- a crosspiece
- 102 Lazy type
- 103 Bulgarian capital
- 105 Essentials
- 106 Arrangement
- 107 Leaf features
- 108 Vote in
- 109 Roping event
- 112 Being seen via the
- small screen
- 116 Kung _ shrimp
- 117 Wallet bill
- 119 Discharge from
- service, informally
- 120 Wallet bill

Comix

OUT ON A LIMB By Gary Kopervas



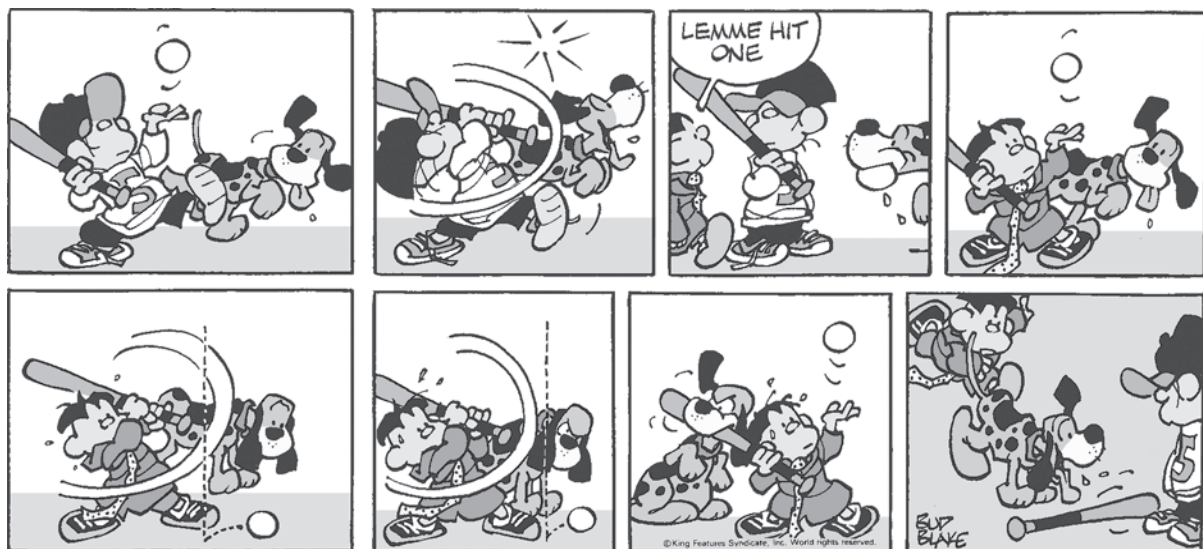
AMBER WAVES By Dave T. Phipps



THE SPATS By Jeff Pickering



TIGER By Bud Blake



Lowry

From Page 2

spotlight directed your way is a good thing. If it means, on the basis of no evidence whatsoever, accusing all your opponents on the debate stage of being “bought and paid for,” go for it. If it means attributing the hawkishness of Nikki Haley on Ukraine to her intention to get lucrative seats on the boards of defense contractors, why not?

If a given proposition is indefensible, it means that you will seem even more courageous to your fans when you advance it or defend it.

Relatedly, always paint with bold colors. At one point during the debate, DeSantis objected to questions that asked candidates to raise their hands as childishly simplistic. In contrast, Ramaswamy was happy to raise his hand, reaching toward the sky with the overeagerness of an apple-polishing student sitting in the front row.

Would he support Trump as the nominee even if he's convicted of crimes? Hand raise. Will he cut off aid for Ukraine? Hand raise.

Finally, never get separated from Trump on

anything important. As Trump has defended Jan. 6, so has Ramaswamy found unpersuasive justifications for it. Since Mike Pence has been cast into the outer darkness by MAGA for doing his constitutional duty on Jan. 6, Ramaswamy is going to have nothing to do with the former vice president. He refused to say on the debate stage that Pence had done the right thing that day but did want to make it clear that he would absolutely pardon Donald Trump as president.

That Ramaswamy would accuse others of bad faith is hilarious, given his own blatant pandering.

And the answer to the paradox of a pro-Trump candidate running against Trump is that every vote Ramaswamy gets is denied to some other non-Trump contender who might be a more serious threat to the former president. Ramaswamy may deny that this is the dynamic, but Donald Trump clearly understands it, which is why he has nothing but praise for his notional opponent.

*Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.
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Spinal cord injury misdiagnosed

DEAR DR. ROACH: Have you ever heard of a “low blood pressure stroke”? That was my husband’s (incorrect) diagnosis several years back when he suddenly could not move his arms and legs. He was told that not enough oxygen was getting to his spine. (His blood pressure is historically low, usually around 90/60.) That lasted about seven months, and he was bedridden the entire time. He then went to a neurosurgeon and was (correctly) diagnosed with a spinal cord injury. He had C1-C2 surgery and had use of his limbs the next day. After months of physical therapy, he regained a lot of function. We’ve never heard of that diagnosis before or after his experience. Does it really exist? – E.S.K.



The brain has tremendous ability to regulate its own blood flow under a very wide range of blood pressures, but there are some limits. When a person is used to very high blood pressure levels, such as 200/110 for months or years, a sudden drop to 90/60 (or even 120/80 sometimes) can cause a stroke. That's the main reason we don't lower blood pressure too quickly in people who have had very high blood pressure levels for a long time. It takes weeks or months for the brain to recover its ability to regulate blood flow.

In a person who has a heart attack, prolonged low blood pressure (or no blood pressure) will also cause brain damage. That's why starting CPR as quickly as possible is so critical in order to preserve brain function.

In both of these cases, not enough blood is getting to the central nervous system (the brain, the spinal cord and the retinas), which can lead to cell death – the hallmark of a stroke. But these are extreme cases.

A healthy person whose normal blood pressure is around 90/60 is at risk for fainting when suddenly standing; however, they are at a lower-than-average risk for heart disease and stroke. The diagnosis of “a low blood pressure stroke” for your husband doesn’t make any sense at all to me, and advanced imaging of the brain should have made it abundantly clear that it was not the right diagnosis.

I'm shocked that he wasn't treated correctly for that long. But I'm very happy to hear that his neurosurgeon did not assume the diagnosis of a stroke, instead making the correct diagnosis and performing the procedure to help him recover. Your husband is fortunate that he still had neurological function to recover after such a long time, since spinal cord injuries generally heal better when treated promptly.

DEAR DR. ROACH: My primary care physician and blood specialist claim there is nothing that will increase white blood cell count. Are there any supplements that I can take or foods I can eat to improve the low count? – R.J.L.

The question is, why is your white blood cell count low? Some people have low white blood cell counts for no reason; it runs in families, so there aren't any health concerns there. However, there are a large variety of blood diseases that cause low white cell counts. Some affect the lymphocytes, while others affect the granulocytes (the two main types of white cells).

Nutritional deficiencies are extremely rare in North America (vitamin B12, folic acid and copper are the exceptions that should be looked for), so neither diet nor supplements are usually helpful. If there's an absence of blood disease or symptoms, low white blood cell counts usually do not need treatment.

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.

Archives: www.wtxcc.com



Moore Texas by Roger MOORE
September 17, 1875: A deadly hurricane in Indianola kills 900. Although rebuilt, another storm in 1876 finished it off.

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: O equals P

BD XSW EOOJX E FCERBMT OEQ
RS EM ENFC DSG E ZGBCD
OCGBSQ, BR NSWJQ ZC E
RHS-ABMWRC HEGABMT.

Answer Page 4
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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging

Answer Page 4 ♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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The VA OIG strikes again



by Freddy Groves

Anyone who calls in advance with threats to kill staff, and then tries to enter a federal building with a loaded firearm, can't be too bright. The man who did this, demanding prescription drugs in his voicemail message, couldn't have been surprised when he was met by Veteran Affairs Police and relieved of the gun in his pocket.

And what was he going to do with those zip ties he had? His mother, who had driven him to the Department of Veterans Affairs clinic and claimed not to know her son planned violence (and then bailed him out the same day on a \$500 surety bond), told investigators her son's motive would have been to take his doctor hostage.

It wasn't until a day later, when he told an acquaintance he planned to return to the VA that the police took it seriously and grabbed him.

When the VA OIG talked to him, the bail amount suddenly went up to \$500,000.

And then there's the guy who tried to get an increase in his VA disability benefits for service-connected degenerative disc disease with degenerative arthritis. He claimed he had trouble walking, getting out of bed, lifting anything, bending and so on. Sounds quite painful, truthfully, and his exam videos showed that he did indeed have trouble with those activities.

Except it wasn't the truth. He neglected to mention his fitness club membership when he went for his physical exams. VA OIG investigators filmed him at the club lifting, bending, squatting ... and completing leg presses with 800 pounds of weights. They even discovered his personal stash of online videos showing him doing all those activities. He went to the fitness club the same day as (and the day after) one of his medical exams for Social Security disability, which he'd also applied for.

When he's sentenced he could get 10 years, not to mention a \$250,000 fine, plus an order to pay back the money he stole from the VA.

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• When I need to dust the ceiling, I don't have a fancy contraption; I just use my broom. If you have popcorn ceilings, you can rubber band a feather duster to the end of your broom. Look around your house, and maybe you'll find a sneaky cleaning purpose for everyday items.

• Dirty candles can be cleaned up quickly with a leg of panty hose. Slip the candle in the hose, rub the outside of the candle and release.

• "Rub banana on CDs with scratches. Wipe the excess off with a soft towel and make sure all of the banana is gone before you put it in your player. It usually does the trick for me." – E. in Maine

• You can use a coffee filter to clean the screen of your television. It's not scratchy and non-static. Be sure not to press down hard into today's screens. And use only approved cleaners for your flat-screen and plasma television sets.

• "I purchased a medium-size colander with a handle at the dollar store. I have it hanging on a hook in the kids' bathtub. It's much easier for them to scoop toys out of the water, and more fun too, I think." – A.C. in Nebraska

• You may not think to do this often, but you should: Clean your laptop! Not just the screen or keys, but the exterior as well. Get a microfiber cloth, spritz the cloth (never the machine itself) with a bit of isopropyl alcohol and rub away dirt and grime.

• Need to clean your iron? Scrub the face with salt. Then heat it and run the iron over the salt. I pour the salt on foil for even more heat effect.

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

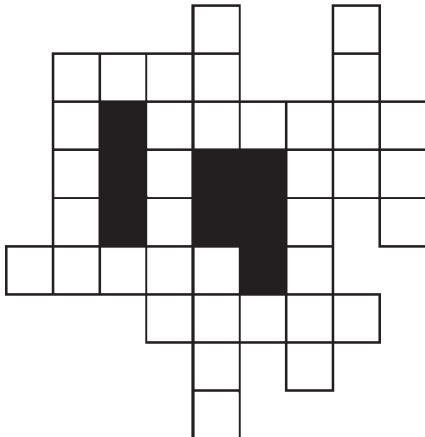
	-		x		9
x		+		x	
	x		+		16
+		+		-	
	÷		+		16
15		7		9	

1 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 9

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ILT
WODNIS
KIBSR
♥IRTO
♥RODBAS
ICH
IWKI
AYNER
HNT
HODLIS
♥TIREN
EHYA



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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