

## NEWSBRIEFS

### Take Back Day by the numbers

On Oct. 28, 2023, the community once again emptied their medicine cabinets to help dispose of old, unwanted, and expired medications. Nationwide, DEA and its law enforcement partners collected 599,897 pounds of unneeded medications at 4,675 collection sites nationwide. Locally, the El Paso Division collected 4,409 pounds from various sites in El Paso, Midland, Alpine, Las Cruces, Albuquerque, and New Mexico Tribal Lands. For more than a decade, DEA's National Prescription Take Back Day has removed almost 17.9 million pounds of unneeded medications from communities across the country. Removing unnecessary medications from the home can help prevent situations involving: not taking medication as intended or dosed; taking someone else's prescription; and taking the medicine for euphoric effects rather than medicinal purposes. "Take Back Day is an important event for DEA, and these results demonstrate that it's an important event for our communities as well," said Acting Special Agent in Charge Eric Castañeda. "We thank everyone who helped us make our communities safer and healthier by safely disposing unwanted or expired medications." Complete results for DEA's Fall National Prescription Drug Take Back Day are available at Take Back Day (dea.gov).

— Carlos A. Briano

### One man's home...

Thinking about moving to Nebraska? If so, you might want to check out a rather unusual residence — a renovated missile silo. YouTube's Andrew Flair purchased the nuclear bunker last year for \$550,000 and turned it into an 2,000 square foot underground home. It's listed for sale for \$750,000 as "an opportunity to own a piece of cold-war military history and the ultimate survivalist retreat, weekend escape or perhaps an Airbnb." And it comes, "complete with electricity, hot and cold running water, working septic system with lift station, and a water purification system."

— John Grimaldi

*It is far better for our health and hearts to forgive and forget than to remember and hate.*

— Quips & Quotes

## Clint group initiates pan 'tree' project

By Alfredo Vasquez  
Special to the Courier

CLINT — A church youth group from the restful, rural town of Clint, Texas is putting into practice a universal lesson on sharing that started with a recent discussion that members had about finding a way that they, as a group, could show God's love for their community.

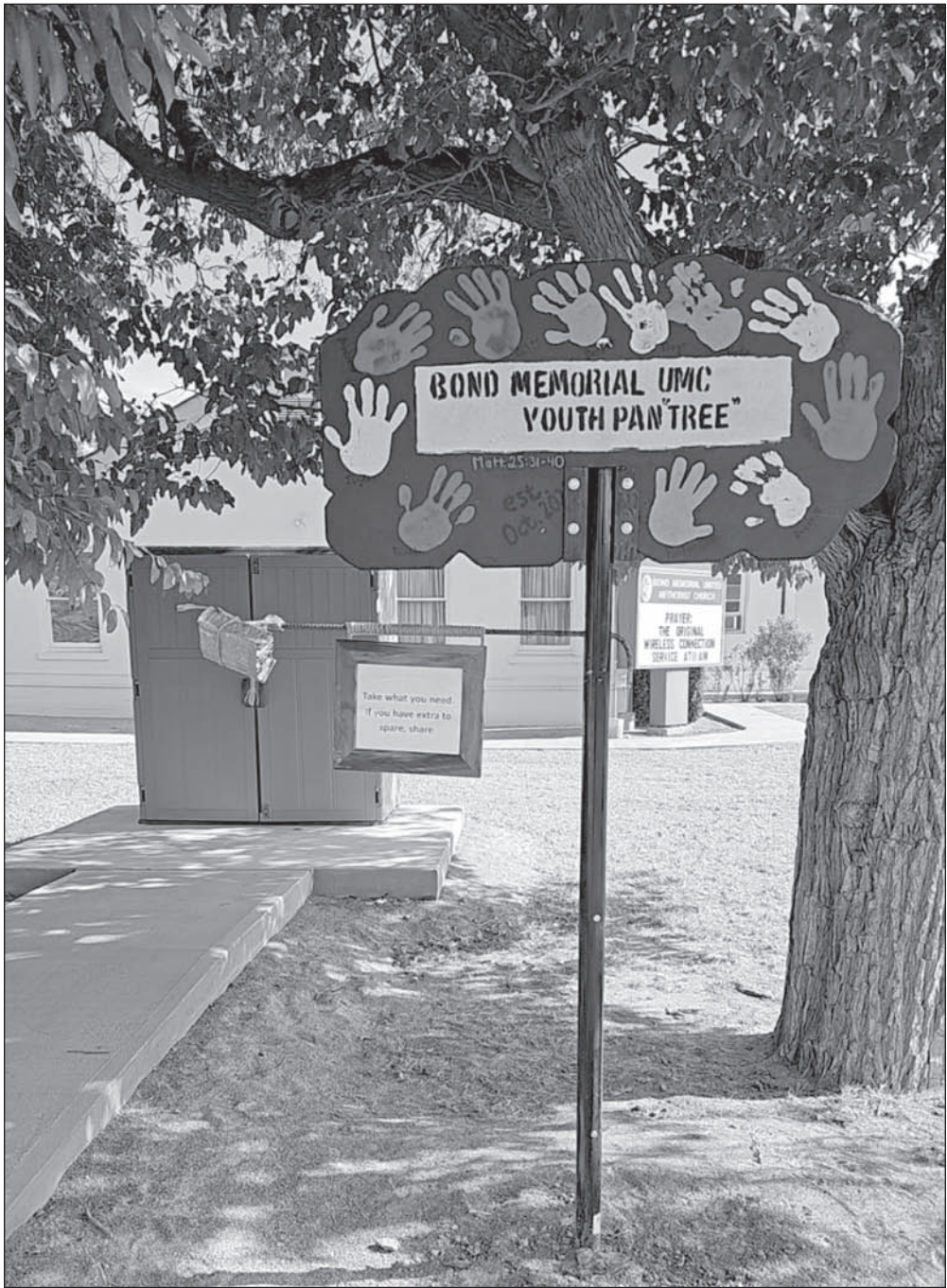
The youth group, which number about 12 participants, decided that they wanted to come up with a way to help families who are experiencing food insecurity in their community, according to Pastor Jacqui Lax, of Clint's Bond Memorial United Methodist Church.

Lax, who has been pastor of Clint's Methodist church for more than a year, related that the kids wanted to provide a service that was available anytime, day or night, and that didn't require those in need to have to come into the church and ask for help. Thus, the idea for the Bond Memorial UMC Pan 'tree' project came to life.

The pastor stated that the group, first, secured a funding source — a grant specifically earmarked for community outreach — that was available through the United Methodist New Mexico Annual Conference. Then, "I assigned the kids tasks, such as looking for possible building structures and what types of items to stock the pantry with," she said.

Once the funding was received

See PROJECT, Page 4



— Photos courtesy Jacqui Lax

**GIVE AND TAKE** — The Clint community Pan 'tree', located at 201 McKinney Street, is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week.



**DEDICATION** — Clint Bond Memorial United Methodist Church members gathered for a ceremony on a recent warm October morning to dedicate the youth group's new Pan 'tree' project.



# Anti-Israel demonstrators hate the West

The cataract of anti-Israel sentiment on college campuses has been shocking, but it shouldn't be surprising.

It is the poisoned fruit of teaching a generation of college students to despise their own civilization.

Jesse Jackson famously led a chant at Stanford University in 1987, "Hey, hey, ho, ho, Western Civ has got to go." He was talking about the college course, but he might as well have been talking about the thing itself.

Jackson and his allies had extraordinary success in extinguishing the teaching of Western Civ. Not only have we largely stopped transmitting the story of our own civilization, we have substituted an alternative narrative that the West is reducible to racism, imperialism and colonialism.

It is in this context that the current outburst of anti-Zionism has to be understood. Yes, it has been fed by anti-Israel agitation on campus over the decades and yes, students are susceptible to witless radicalism in the best of circumstances. Yet the loathing of Israel is particularly intense because it is viewed as an outpost of Western civilization and all its alleged ills.

The hatred of Israel is tainted by and, in some cases, driven by anti-Semitism. Another way to look at it, though, is that it's not so much about hatred of the "the other," as progressives put it, as hatred of ourselves and all our works.

It is, on one level, incorrect to consider Israel exclusively an artifact of the West. The Jews are indigenous to the region going back to Abraham,

with their story caught up in the story of the land. A large proportion of the current population traces its origins from the Middle East and North Africa, rather than Europe.

But there is no doubt that Israel is a Western society – in its political system, in its respects for rights, in its innovative economy, in its mores. Someone sitting in a coffee shop in Tel Aviv could easily think they were in any thriving coastal society in the West.

From any rational perspective, this would be



See LOWRY, Page 7

# Anthony HS percussionists finish first in their class

By Adriana Candelaria  
Special to the Courier

ANTHONY, TX – The Anthony ISD varsity percussion ensemble competed for the first time in the Sun City Throwdown, a competition focused on percussion talents.

The Anthony percussion competed in Class A division and had a triumphant performance that earned them the titles of Outstanding Tenors, Outstanding Snares and the coveted 1st place in their class.

"Our percussion section is made up of kids who are determined and dedicated. This season has reflected their hard work," said Hilario Lozoya, AISD Percussion Tech.

The competition, hosted annually by Eastwood High School, drew talented bands from all over the region, making it a fierce musical showdown. However,



– Photo courtesy Anthony ISD

**GOT THE BEAT** – The band members left the competition grounds with their trophies, carrying the pride of their community on their shoulders.

the Anthony ISD band stood tall with their remarkable musical talents.

"I am proud of what they have accomplished within these few months. This program is headed in the right direction," Lozoya said.

One of the highlights of their performance was the drumline showcasing their incredible talent. The judges were impressed as the band's tenors and snares delivered a breathtaking performance.

They look forward to further opportunities to showcase their exceptional musical talents and are already setting their sights on future victories.

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Years

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**Publisher**  
Rick Shrum

**Contributors**  
Alfredo Vasquez  
Steve Escajeda



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– Photo courtesy San Elizario ISD

OFF TO A RUNNING START – Runners and coaches from the Borrego Running Club took time out for a group picture.

# Moreira-Puentes leads SEISD running club

By Jeannie Meza-Chavez  
Special to the Courier

SAN ELIZARIO – The Borrego Running Club, started by Elena Moreira-Puentes, is thriving. Moreira-Puentes is a 3rd-grade teacher at Alfonso Borrego Sr. Elementary School in the San Elizario Independent School District (SEISD). The running club is open to students in 3rd through 6th grade.

Moreira-Puentes has been teaching for 25 years. Since starting her career in 1999 she has received numerous accolades. In 2015 she was honored as Teacher of the Year at Josefa L. Sambrano Elementary School. Throughout her teaching career, she has been named Teacher of the Month four times for her school and once for SEISD. She was recently selected as a 2024 El Paso Marathon

Ambassador. Moreira-Puentes is also on the Royal Run for Hope Committee, a non-profit racing community committed to helping local children and their parents affected by cancer.

Moreira-Puentes said she started the running club to share her love of running with the kids and community. She sees running as more than a physical task. Through running, she recalled, “I have seen kids boost their confidence levels, work towards a long-term goal, persevere in the face of something challenging and new, and learn how to cheer on and uplift their peers.”

This year, the group has grown not only with students but also with sponsors. SEISD teachers Ana Caudillo and Olga Galache also coached students into better health through running this school year.

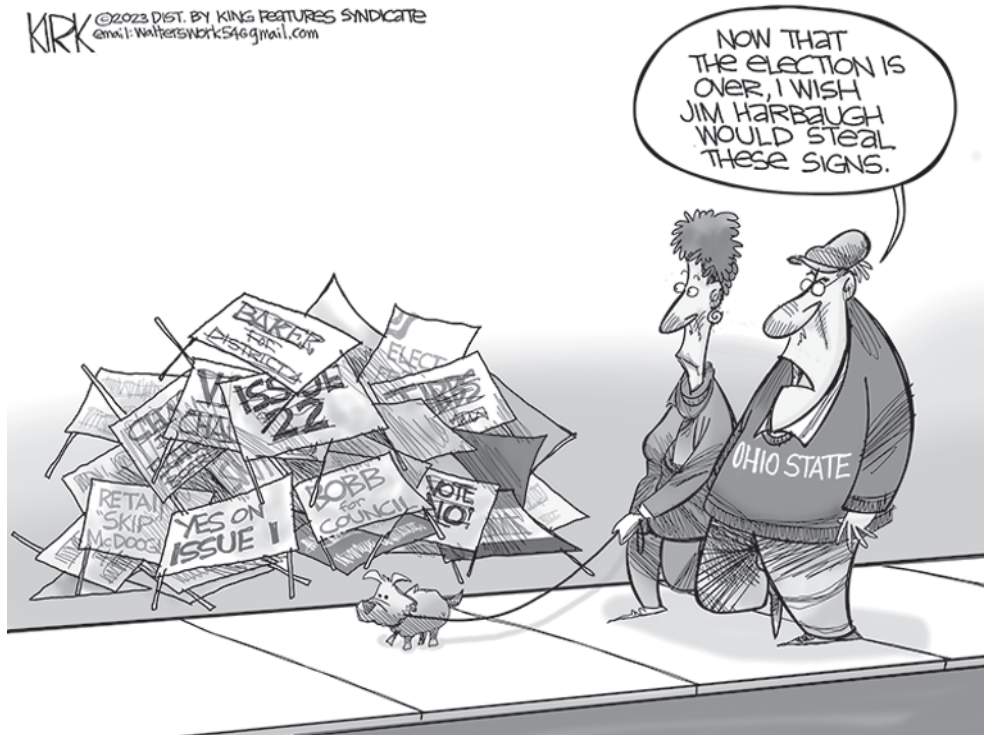
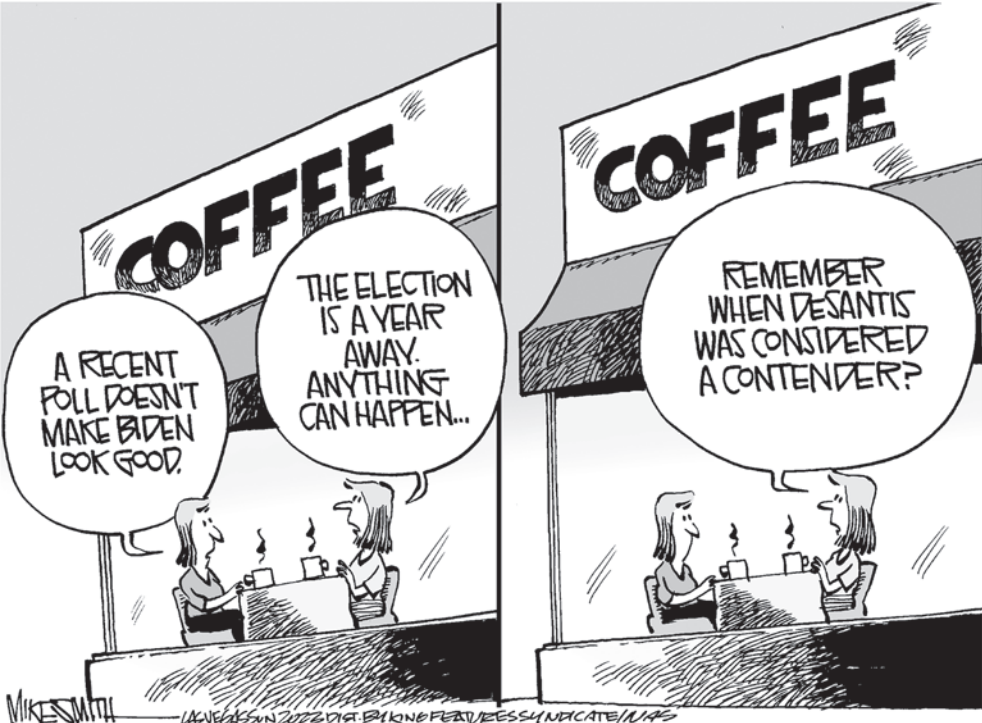
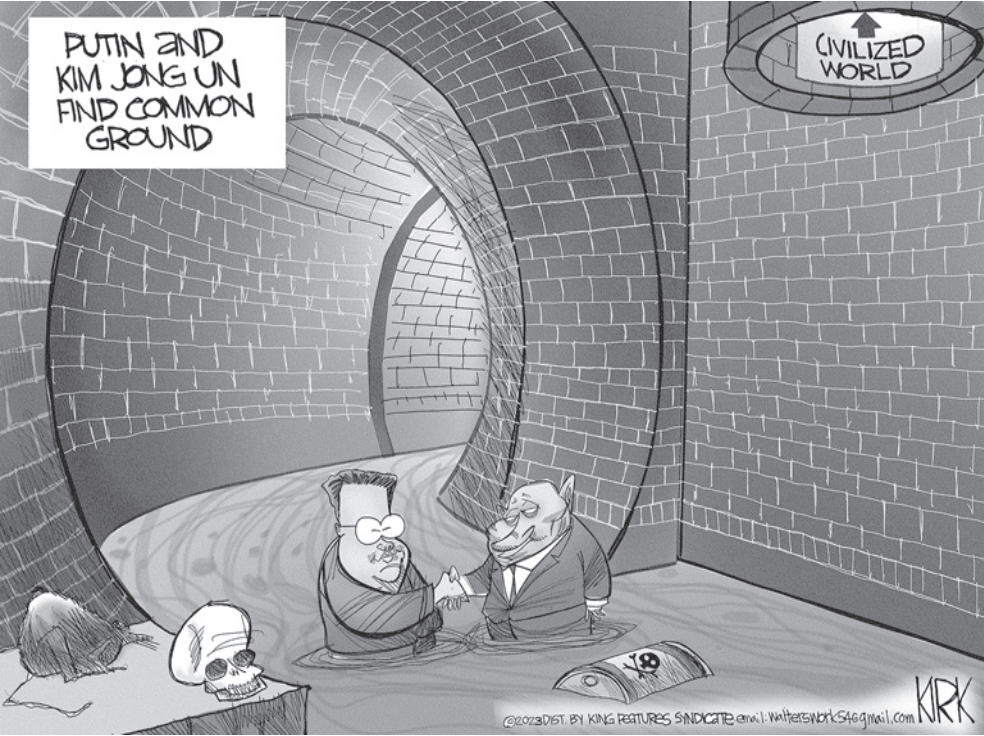
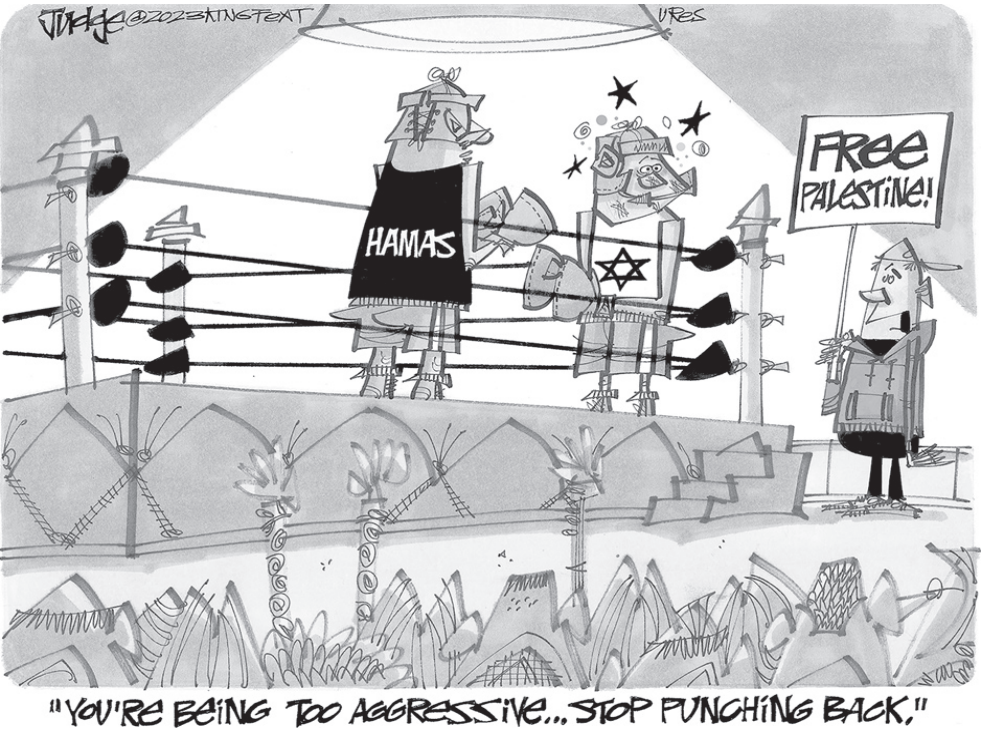
Moreira-Puentes began running after

she experienced a shift in her family dynamics. Her journey involved a divorce, and her children moved out. What started to stay active has turned into much more. Running is something she does for herself. For her, it is about taking pride in the dedication and hard work it has instilled in her as an individual after completing a full marathon and countless 5ks, 10ks, and half marathons. “I started a running group in my community in 2016. Running has changed my life by giving me a community of uplifting people who have become some of my best friends,” she said.

Moreira-Puentes coached the Latin Dance Team from 1999 to 2020 at Sambrano Elementary

See CLUB, Page 5

**HUGE YARD SALE**  
509 Franklin St., Anthony TX  
**November 18-19**  
Household items, domestic items, clothing, toys and more.







– Photos courtesy Jacqui Lax

Project

From Page 1

in late August, the youth group members turned their attention to scheduling the time for putting the food pantry together, which ended up being during the schools’ fall intercession in mid-October.

The Clint pastor stated that the concrete foundation was laid the first week of the intercession and that during the following week the youngsters erected the building, assembled the shelving, painted signs, and stocked the food items. And so, after a morning worship service on a late October day, Pastor Lax and church members held a special dedication ceremony for the new Pan ‘tree’ project.

The community pantry is now stocked with non-perishable food supplies and basic hygiene and household items, such as dish and

See PROJECT, Page 5

**ASSEMBLY REQUIRED** – Clint youth group members Mike Fields and Jordan Cardwell Roach, left, put together the shelving that holds the donated items, below, in the Pan ‘tree’ shed



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CryptoQuip Answer

What would everybody call the top official leader of Dear Abby’s fan club? Advice president.

Strange BUT TRUE

By Lucie Winborne

- Australia is the only continent without an active volcano.
- A world championship for throwing mobile phones has been held annually in Finland since 2010. Contestants are judged on their technique as well as the length of their throw.
- The Sky Beam that shoots out of Las Vegas’s Luxor Hotel attracts so many insects that it’s established a new ecosystem of moths, bats and owls.
- You’ve undoubtedly heard of wishing upon a star, but how about an eyelash? An old superstition held that if one lost an eyelash, they should place it on the back of their hand, then throw it over their shoulder while picturing their desire. Or they could place it on the tip of their nose, then blow it off. But if the lash got stuck, they were out of luck!
- The term “grumble” is used to refer to a group of pug dogs.

• According to Greek historian Herodotus, a solar eclipse ended a six-year war in 583 B.C. when the act of “day turning into night” resulted in a draw that led to a peace treaty.

• A statue of Nikola Tesla in Silicon Valley provides free Wi-Fi.

• Not that we expect them to attempt it anytime soon, but cows cannot descend stairs. First, they can’t easily see the ground after their feet, but their knees and hips also make it difficult for them to move at a downward angle (like some humans!). Plus, their weight would leave them off-balance and at risk of toppling.

Thought for the Day: “Few people know how to take a walk. The qualifications are endurance, plain clothes, old shoes, an eye for nature, good humor, vast curiosity, good speech, good silence and nothing too much.”  
– Ralph Waldo Emerson

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# Moments in time

THE HISTORY CHANNEL

- On Nov. 13, 1985, the Nevado del Ruiz volcano in Colombia erupted in the late evening and caused volcanic mudflows that flooded the city of Armero, killing 25,000 residents. The tragedy is considered to be one of the deadliest volcano-related disasters in the 20th century.
  - On Nov. 14, 1851, Herman Melville’s epic novel “Moby-Dick,” about peg-legged Captain Ahab’s obsessive search for vengeance on the white whale that maimed him, made its debut in the U.S. Published to mixed reviews, it was a commercial failure and achieved its present standing as a Great American Novel only after the centennial of Melville’s birth.
  - On Nov. 15, 1956, the movie “Love Me Tender,” a black-and-white musical Western starring the King of Rock and Roll, Elvis Presley, was released. Named after Presley’s hit single, it was his only film that did not place him in top billing, as it was also his debut. The singer later regretted making the film, though he’d expressed a serious interest in acting,
  - On Nov. 16, 2004, President George W. Bush
  - On Nov. 17, 1558, Elizabeth I, daughter of King Henry VIII and Anne Boleyn, ascended to the throne of England, the third of Henry’s offspring to assume that position. A carpet was laid down for her to walk on to Westminster Abbey, and people cut out pieces as mementos of the day. Her reign, which lasted 45 years until her death at age 69 from what was likely pneumonia, is remembered as a “Golden Age” in British history.
  - On Nov. 18, 2015, New Zealand rugby union football player Jonah Lomu, who was perhaps rugby’s first global icon, died of a heart attack at age 40 after a long battle with kidney disease.
  - On Nov. 19, 1703, Eustache Dauger, aka “The Man in the Iron Mask,” a political prisoner famous in French history and legend, died in the Bastille. Contrary to fictional representations in literature and cinema, there is no historical evidence that his mysterious facial covering was made of anything but black velvet.
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## Club

From Page 3

School. When she arrived at Borrego Elementary School she thought it was a perfect opportunity to put her coaching skills and love for running together. The running club has 45 student members. Third-grade student Kate Luna said, “I like to be in the running club so everybody can get off their video games and exercise.”

Running has allowed the students to connect as a community through movement and can be a start to their lifelong journey in health and fitness. They can use the experience to pursue running sports like cross country or track, use their running skills in other sports, or run for fun.

“I hope they can look back to their time on the Borrego Running Club and channel the fun, skill, and love for running that they started here. I’m passionate about my running, but I’m mostly grateful for the opportunity to share my love of running with the community that I’ve served for close to 25 years, San Elizario,” Moreira-Puentes said.

### Notice of Public Hearing to Discuss Tornillo Independent School District’s State Financial Accountability Rating (FIRST)

Tornillo Independent School District will hold a public meeting at 5:30 PM, Thursday, November 30, 2023, in the boardroom of the W.E. Neill Service Center, at 19210 Cobb Ave., Tornillo, Texas 79853.

The purpose of this hearing is to discuss Tornillo Independent School District’s rating on the state’s financial accountability system.

WTCC: 11/16/23



– Photo courtesy Jacqui Lax

**CONSTRUCTION CREW** – Clint church youth group members **Andrew A., Rankin G., and Brock B.** assembled the shed that serves as the Clint community food pantry, dubbed The Pan ‘tree’.

## Project

From Page 4

laundry soaps. “We are also looking to add blankets and sweaters to the pantry as the weather is getting colder,” the pastor noted.

Lax said that the pantry is open to anyone in the community who needs temporary help with providing food for his or her family. “Our theme comes from Matthew 25:31-40 about helping those in need, and our sign (located by the Pan ‘tree’) states, ‘Take what you need. If you have extra to spare, share,’” she pointed out.

The Clint community Pan ‘tree’ is located at 201 McKinney Street. It is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Also, donations are accepted anytime.

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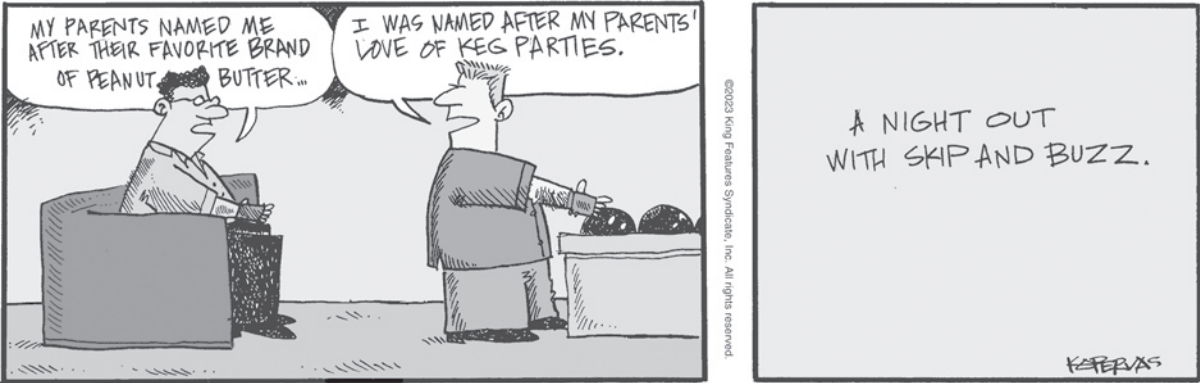




Comix

OUT ON A LIMB

By Gary Kopervas



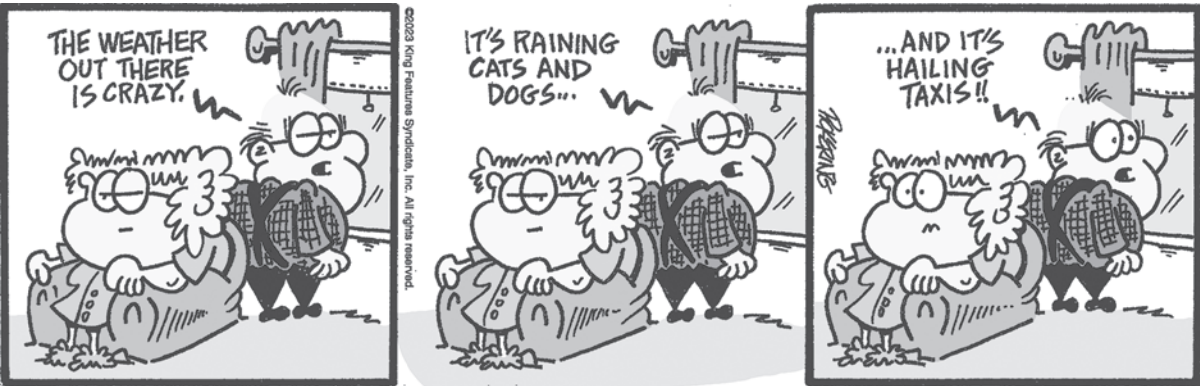
AMBER WAVES

By Dave T. Phipps



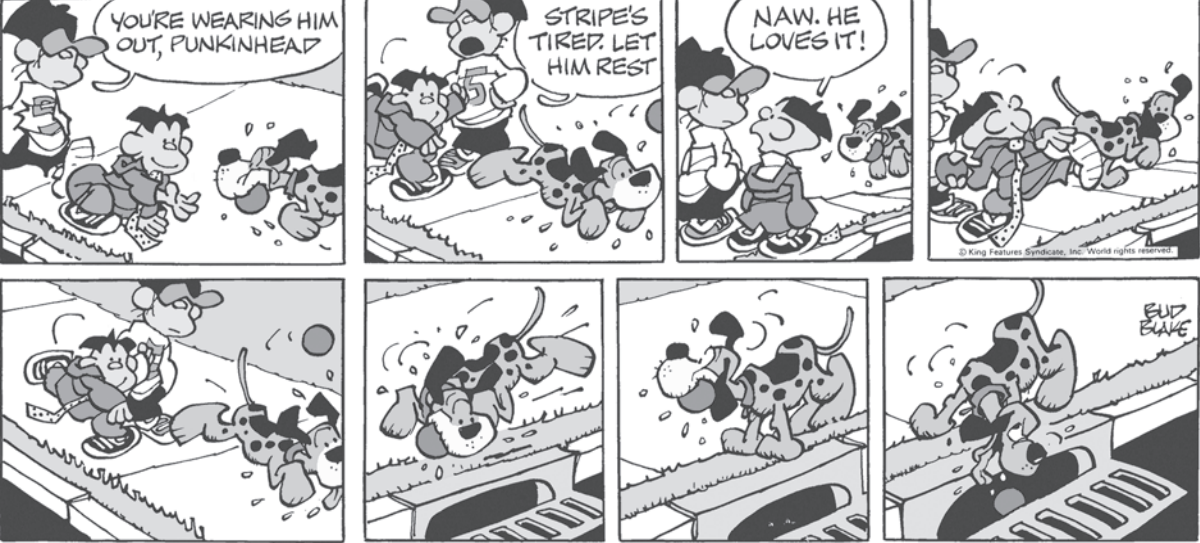
THE SPATS

By Jeff Pickering



TIGER

By Bud Blake



Lowry

From Page 2

something to celebrate. Many legitimate criticisms can be made of Israel, and indeed are a feature of the Israeli domestic debate itself, but there’s no doubt that it is a flourishing society.

If Gaza were equally Westernized, it would be worrying about whether it’s overbuilding seaside real estate rather than having to get water and electricity from the neighboring country its governing authority – a savage terror group – is trying to destroy.

Yet this is the society that anti-Western opinion holds up and wants to sweep all before it. This point of view loves Gaza for its failure and hates Israel for its success; loves Gaza for its terror and hates Israel for its self-defense; loves Gaza for its vicious anti-Western sponsors and hates Israel for its Western allies, especially the United States.

If this seems perverse, it’s what you’d expect of students and young people who have absorbed the premises of Michel Foucault, Howard Zinn, Edward Said and their imitators. Even if students have never heard of them,

these men and their thought suffuse higher education.

But what about the violence? How can these kids look past it, or implicitly endorse it?

Violence is part of the radical anti-Western vision. The anti-colonial bible, “The Wretched of the Earth,” written by Frantz Fanon in 1961, is widely taught on campus. Fanon sketched out a woke worldview before anyone used that term, arguing that, as a New Yorker essay put it, “the Western bourgeoisie was ‘fundamentally racist’ and its ‘bourgeois ideology’ of equality and dignity was merely a cover for capitalist-imperialist rapacity.”

Fanon wrote that “decolonization is always a violent phenomenon,” and in a preface to the book, the French philosopher Jean-Paul Sartre declared that the wretched of the earth “become men” through “mad fury.”

By this standard, Hamas is a good and worthy anti-colonial organization, and there’s no wonder it has found supporters and useful idiots among the West’s self-loathing radicals.

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

Paget’s disease brings uncomfortable symptoms

DEAR DR. ROACH: My husband has been diagnosed with Paget’s disease. I would like to know more about it; this is the first time I have ever heard of it. I would like to know the treatments and how much damage affects the bones. He is 76, had prostate cancer and underwent radiation treatment. – C.W.



Paget’s disease of the bone is a common disease in people of European ancestry, with a lifetime prevalence of approximately 3%, although it remains undiagnosed in many. The cause of the disease appears to be a defect in bone reabsorption by the osteoclast, a specialized cell that normally helps maintain bone health. Paget’s disease is not a cancer. It is normally diagnosed over the age of 55.

Most cases of Paget’s disease are asymptomatic; however, without treatment, some people will develop arthritis, pain, deformities and fractures. The bone deformities may lead to nerve compression and, in the case of the tiny bones in the ear, hearing loss. X-rays and a high alkaline phosphatase (ALP) blood test are suggestive of the diagnosis. A bone scan is recommended to see the extent of damage from the disease.

Fortunately, highly effective treatments are available. Bisphosphonate drugs, the same drugs that are used to treat many people with osteoporosis, are very effective. A single treatment with zoledronic acid is effective at stopping (not reversing) the progression of the disease, and fewer than 20% of people will need a second dose. Diagnosing and treating early are ideal.

I don’t think his prostate cancer or radiation treatment has anything to do with his diagnosis of Paget’s.

DEAR DR. ROACH: I’m a 76-year-old male who was recently diagnosed with transitional cell carcinoma of the ureter, but I don’t have a history of smoking or any occupational exposure to chemicals, plastics, rubber or dyes. My cancer was found through a CT scan with contrast dye after having asymptomatic hematuria. It’s isolated to the proximal ureter and a kidney. How rare is that? I have to have the kidney and ureter removed. Can you talk about living with one kidney and the adjustments that I’ll have to make? – R.P.

Urothelial cancers (the new name for transitional cell cancers) come from the lining of the urinary tract and can be present in the kidneys, ureters (the tubes that carry urine from the kidneys to the bladder), bladder and urethra (the tube that carries urine outside of the body). They are not common, about one per 100,000 people per year.

About 17% of people with cancer in the ureter will also have cancer in the bladder at the same time, and almost half will develop cancer in the bladder later in life. Careful screening, such as a look inside the bladder every six months, is essential.

You are correct that smoking and certain industrial exposures are risk factors for developing these cancers, but so is the place of origin; cancer syndromes such as Lynch syndrome; other toxins such as the drug phenacetin; and traditional Chinese herbs containing aristolochic acid. For localized diseases, complete removal is the safest approach, since there may be multiple small areas affected by cancer.

Living with one kidney is not that different from living with two, as the other kidney somewhat compensates for the missing one. Some medications may need to have lower doses, but usually, this is not the case.

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](mailto:ToYourGoodHealth@med.cornell.edu). (c) 2023 North America Synd., Inc. All Rights Reserved.

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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: **H** equals **W**

HFPE HKLIX ZWZQOSKXO GPII  
EFZ EKR KJJNGNPI IZPXZQ KJ  
XZPQ PSSO'C JPT GILS?  
PXWNGZ RQZCNXZTE.

Answer Page 4  
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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging  
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

Educational benefits scam



by Freddy Groves

You wouldn't think that a barber school would be a hotbed of crime, but apparently it can be. A barber school in a southern state was caught defrauding the Department of Veterans Affairs by stealing money from veterans' education benefits.

The Post-9/11 GI Bill program pays schools directly to cover the tuition and fees for veterans attending those schools. To be paid, the schools need to submit a thick stack of documents, including an initial application. Once approved, they then need to provide information about the courses, the number of hours per week, the dates of enrollment, the costs and so on. Part of this is an agreement to charge veterans the same tuition and fees that civilian students pay.

That is where this particular barber school

went over to the dark side. Where civilian students were charged \$2,400, veterans were charged \$22,400 for the course. Not only did the owner charge more for veterans, but accurate records weren't kept, and worse, the students weren't given their certificates of completion when they finished. The total scammed was in excess of \$235,000. The government is seeking treble damages, three times that amount, as penalty.

Thankfully, not all schools engage in scams and theft like the barber school. Most are probably legit. If you want to go to school, the VA might pay for it if you qualify. Take a look at [www.va.gov/education/about-gi-bill-benefits/post-9-11](http://www.va.gov/education/about-gi-bill-benefits/post-9-11) for the dates and number of days of service required. On this page you'll also find information on benefits such as payment for tuition and fees, textbooks, housing ... and even moving expenses. (If you're in a very rural area with fewer than six people per square mile, you could qualify.)

To compare the various

VA educational benefits at different schools, see [www.va.gov/education/gi-bill-comparison-tool](http://www.va.gov/education/gi-bill-comparison-tool). Or call the GI Bill Hotline for more information: 888-GIBILL-1 (888-442-4551).

Remember: If you see something wrong, some type of fraud or a scam or scheme, report it. It's veterans' benefits that you'll be protecting.

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- Mail service is a wonderful thing. Order what you want on the internet and it's in your mailbox or on your doorstep tomorrow. From efficiency to penny pinching, you can use the mail order to help out in numerous ways. Or, use it to bring a smile to someone's face: Keep a stack of stamped postcards with you. Jot a note and mail one off whenever the mood strikes. I almost guarantee a great response from the recipient! Who doesn't love real snail mail? – JoAnn
- I love to shop, and for the best deals, I go online to trusted e-retailers. When shopping online, don't forget to factor in shipping and handling, as some companies offer free shipping on orders over a certain dollar amount; some don't!
- One of the greatest assets in our communities is the public library, and mine has just added a new service that I'm over the moon about: delivery! I can search the card catalog from home and have the books I want delivered right to my house. It's so convenient. – J.H. in Florida
- My uncle is really hard to buy for. He doesn't get out much, and he has everything he could ever need in his apartment. I hit gold with gift mail order memberships. We've done beer, cheese and fruit, and this year is meat! They send a different one every month. You can find these services on the web. Thought I'd pass it along as a gift idea. – W.L. in Arkansas

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.

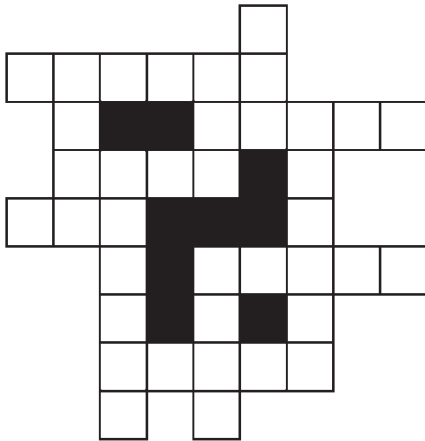
DIFFICULTY: ★

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

	x		-		30			
-		+		+				
	-		x		32			
x		x		x				
	+		x		16			
28		5		28				
1	1	2	4	5	6	7	8	9



- FYA  
LUYEGO  
♥DIGLE  
♥RTNA  
DRENGU  
♥NDE  
OFDL  
♥ENRAG  
♥NGU  
♥TEFRIS  
TUFEL  
♥YERL



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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