



## NEWSBRIEFS

### Credit scores

With household debt on the rise, fueled by inflation and record-high interest rates, the personal-finance website WalletHub has released its report on the *States with the Highest & Lowest Credit Scores in 2023* to illustrate how people in different parts of the country are holding up financially. You can check out the key findings below, followed by some WalletHub commentary. The average credit score in Texas is 680, which ranks 4th lowest in the U.S.

### Tips to Improve Your Credit Scores

- **Check Your Credit Report:** Every year, you are entitled to a free copy of your credit report from each credit bureau. You can also utilize credit monitoring websites such as WalletHub, to stay on top of changes in your report throughout the year. If you identify a mistake on your credit report, you'll need to follow the process for disputing credit report errors, which is one of the easiest ways to improve your credit score and doesn't take much time.
- **Be Cautious with New Credit Applications:** Applying for a credit card or loan can lead to a slight dip in your credit score, especially when you apply repeatedly within a short period. These inquiries can give lenders the impression that you are desperate to borrow and may need more money to pay them if your application is approved. Research and compare your options to find the best terms with the highest approval odds for your financial situation and limit your applications to just the top offers.
- **Maintain Low Account Balances:** One factor that impacts your credit score is credit utilization, which is determined by comparing the balance listed on your monthly statement against your credit limit. A higher ratio hurts your credit score, indicating you are stretched thin financially. Try maintaining a credit utilization ratio below 30% on each credit card. And if you want to maximize your credit score, aim for less than 10%.
- **Keep Unused Accounts Open:**

See BRIEFS, Page 3

*He who is not grateful for the good things he has would not be happy with what he wishes he had.*  
— Quips & Quotes



— Photos by Alfredo Vasquez

**SAFETY FIRST** – The Historic Mission Trail project will result in increased public safety for visitors of the historic Socorro Mission (above), Casa Ortiz and Casa Apodaca, Cougar Park, the Ysleta del Sur Pueblo, public schools, local businesses, and other areas of interest. The project was developed, in part, due to the community's requests to improve hazardous conditions along Socorro Road.

## City of Socorro closes year on a high note

By Alfredo Vasquez  
*Special to the Courier*

SOCORRO – From hiring a new police chief, establishing a Foreign Trade Zone, to garnering funds for its seven mile segment of the Historic Mission Trail, the City of Socorro is heralding major strides as the year comes to a close.

### New Police Chief

In a recent swearing-in ceremony, city leaders saw Robert C. Rojas assume the duties of police chief for the city of more than 36,000 residents. Rojas, who has more than 20 years of experience in law enforcement, will supervise the police department in one

of the fastest growing communities in El Paso County's lower valley. He replaces former Socorro Police Chief David Burton of Connecticut, who returned to his native New England roots earlier this year.

Prior to assuming his new role, Rojas was commander of the criminal investigations bureau of the El Paso County Sheriff's Office. He is an El Paso native with family ties to Socorro as he recalls visiting his grandfather in the Rio Vista area, which is located along the county's southeastern-most farmlands. He joined the El Paso County Sheriff's Office at age 20 and rose through its ranks from detention officer to various managerial posts including commander.

During his swearing-in ceremony,

Rojas stated that Socorro now has a chief who knows the community. He stated that in his first 90 days in office he plans to listen to the community to see what they want and to meet with city employees to hear what they need. "I need people who will understand what my vision is, and I want to understand what their vision is. Our goal is to build a great relationship with the community so they can trust us," he said.

Rojas is a 1999 graduate of Montwood High School. He joined the El Paso County Sheriff's Office in 2001 as a detention officer assigned to the Jail Annex. He remained in that position until 2004 when he was

See Socorro, Page 2



WELL MARKED – People wait for a bus along the Mission Trail. The route has signs all along Socorro Road.



# Was Napoleon a dullard?

The figure of Napoleon has long been an object of fascination, but the new Ridley Scott biopic makes one wonder why.

The film, perhaps inadvertently, partakes of the spirit of the times. The so-called Great Man theory of history – that it is exceptionally talented men who bend events to their will – is out of favor. Accordingly, the movie renders the stereotypical great man, Napoleon, as doltish and uninteresting.

No man is a hero to his valet, goes the old saying. But can't he at least be a hero, or a compelling persona, to the director of a \$200 million movie about him?

Apparently not.

Napoleon can be considered a proto-fascist dictator, or an enlightened reformer, or some of

both, but he could never be considered dull, at least not until portrayed by a stolid Joaquin Phoenix, seemingly unaware that the general was a sparkling personality, a hugely energetic reformer and an inspiring leader of men.

As the Wall Street Journal critic Kyle Smith puts it, "Mr. Phoenix's Napoleon could never have commanded so much as a squadron of the Salvation Army."

The Great Man theory is now considered simplistic and even dangerous, and has about it the stale stench of dead white males. Academic historians tend to obsess with broad economic and social forces or with minutiae, while the largest impersonal force of all, the climate, occupies an outsized place in the political debate of advanced countries.

We don't have to swoon like the philosopher Georg Wilhelm Friedrich Hegel, who enthused after catching sight of Napoleon in Jena about "this world-soul, riding out of the city on reconnaissance."

But the general and emperor demonstrates that great men matter – not that they are virtuous or good, or that they can overcome every obstacle put in their way by themselves or others, or that large-scale factors don't count, but that individual leaders take a hand in shaping events, sometimes decisively.

Would any Macedonian other than Alexander the



See LOWRY, Page 7

## Socorro

From Page 1

graduated to deputy sheriff.

As a deputy sheriff he was assigned various tasks including a field training officer, special traffic investigator, and an academy instructor. He was promoted to deputy sergeant in 2014 and undertook different assignments in Patrol, Criminal Investigations, and Special Traffic Investigations. He was promoted to deputy lieutenant in 2018 and was given different assignments with the Patrol - Special Operations & the Criminal Investigations Division. In 2022, Rojas was appointed to a deputy commander position and led the Criminal Investigations Division.

Rojas earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Justice from Kaplan University in 2014 and received a master's degree in public administration from Purdue

University in 2022. He also is a graduate of the Federal Bureau of Investigations National Academy and the Bill Blackwood Law Enforcement Institute of Texas Leadership Command College.

### Foreign Trade Zone

The City of Socorro also recently celebrated an official Grant of Authority proclamation from the Foreign Trade Zone (FTZ) Board. City officials received the notification from the United States Foreign Trade Zones Board that its application to establish the trade zone under the Alternative Site Framework was approved.

According to the city's website, the approval of the FTZ application will provide Socorro officials with the authority to allow businesses to set up foreign trade zone sites within its city limits and extraterritorial jurisdiction. The new trade zone in Socorro, FTZ No. 302, will be the 35th FTZ in Texas and the third in

El Paso County.

Foreign Trade Zones are special areas in the U.S. that benefit companies by reducing import duties and other costs. FTZs encourage domestic manufacturing, help create and maintain local employment, and promote economic growth. The City of Socorro formally filed the Alternative Site Framework (ASF) application with the FTZ board in early 2023 with plans to promote economic development, increase job creation and retention, as well as to enhance capital investment in Socorro, the city's website stated.

Some of the benefits anticipated by city officials include duty-free and excise tax-free exporting of goods from an FTZ; merchandise warehousing indefinitely as duty and federal excise taxes are paid only when the products are transferred from an FTZ; and lower logistics costs for high-volume operators.

Socorro officials expressed that the FTZ designation was made possible thanks to the efforts of the U.S. Foreign Trade-Zone Board staff, the Port Director Eric Fernandez at the Marcelino Serna Port

of Entry in Tornillo, U.S. Congressman Tony Gonzalez, and County Commissioner Iliana Holguin.

### Historic Mission Trail

As for Socorro's Historic Mission Trail, the Texas Transportation Commission (TTC) recently approved \$16,174,505 for a trail project. TTC approved in Transportation Alternatives funding for the city to develop a seven mile segment of the Paso del Norte Trail along the Historic Mission Trail. City officials stated that the funds will be used- as a Socorro Active Transportation Network project- for planning, engineering, designing, and constructing the Paso del Norte Trail improvements.

The Transportation Alternatives program provides funding for the planning and construction of a variety of alternative transportation projects that improve the safety and mobility of non-motorized travelers, like bicyclists and pedestrians, and to mitigate congestion by providing safe alternatives to motor vehicle transport, according to officials with the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT),

which received over 300 project funding requests this past year from communities across Texas.

The transportation commission approved monies for 83 of the project funding requests, and the City of Socorro received the fourth largest award in the state for its project. The trail project is expected to address barriers faced by community members, pedestrians, bicyclists, wheelchair-users, and tourists visiting the historic sites, art galleries, restaurants, and breweries along Socorro Road (FM258).

Some of the existing barriers include the lack of sidewalks, shared-use paths, and other pedestrian and bicyclist infrastructure that separate users from motorized vehicle traffic along the two-lane roadway. The project will involve the construction of approximately seven miles of trails and shared-use paths that will safely connect bicyclists and pedestrians to historic sites, heritage tourism clusters, unique food establishments, regional parks, and natural areas that are being developed along the Historic Mission Trail, officials related.

1973

50

Years

2023

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Briefs

From Page 1

Your credit report will be used by many decision-makers, such as lenders, landlords, and employers, to determine whether you are trustworthy.

They are more likely to trust an applicant with a more extended history of responsible money management, so keeping these accounts open will extend that positive history. You should not, however, keep an unused account open if you have

to pay an annual fee for it. You should close accounts costing you money and use the savings to pay down other debts or build an emergency fund.

- Get a Secured Credit Card: If you are struggling with getting approved for a

“regular” credit card, open a secured credit card to help build your credit history. Secured credit cards are easier to get than most other credit cards since they require a refundable security deposit, the amount of which usually acts as your spending limit.

Secured cards are treated just like any other credit card on your credit report, too.

Visit <https://wallethub.com/edu/states-with-the-highest-lowest-credit-scores/79466/> for the full report.

– Diana Polk

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Drink. Drive. Go to Jail.

 Save a Life<sup>™</sup>  
Texas Department of Transportation





# PUBLIC NOTICE

## TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS AND PARTIES:

The *West Texas County Courier* will not publish the last two weeks of December. The first issue of 2024 will be January 4.

The *West Texas County Courier* office will close beginning Wednesday, December 13, 2023. The office will open again on Friday, December 29, 2023.

# FEAR & KNOT

By: rj johnson

DOUBT? ...OR DARE!

♥ AET

NYTOPI

♥ RETSE

DIWL

IGNOID

♥ NSI

GTIW

PYDEO

♥ WNO

YEMSLE

WHACS

♥ EMTI

Answer Page 5

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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# Bonus Puzzles

## 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 5

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# Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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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# 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: **E** equals **N**

Z VSE'R HDDL RN RCJHR

FDNFQD XMN ON SCNJEA

LSTZEO CNJOM ACSXZEOH.

RMDK'CD SQQ HN HTDRVMK.

Answer Page 5

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## ZERO CHECKING ACROSS

1 James of "Alien Nation"

5 Lead-in to hazard

8 "My opinion is..."

13 Tried very hard

19 Tumblers, e.g.

21 Actress Hunt

22 Fatal

23 Start of a riddle

26 Strong metal

27 Vertical line on a graph

28 Attack like an alligator

29 Land north of Mex.

30 \_country (music genre)

32 Peruvian of yore

34 Toronto Maple \_

37 Riddle, part 2

44 Wild party

47 Battle (for)

48 See 60-Down

49 Triumphed

50 "Right now!"

51 First class for painters

53 City law: Abbr.

54 Sea predator

56 Actor Mickey

57 Paint crudely

58 Riddle, part 3

61 Borgnine of Hollywood

63 Gulf country

64 Sandler of "Spanglish"

## DOWN

1 Cornfield cries

2 Eight, in Berlin

3 Actor Gross of "Ellen"

4 "The negotiation is off!"

5 Severe

6 \_bitty

7 Org. that inspects factories

8 Fighting \_ (NCAA team)

9 Utter failure

10 Sever

11 Competitor of Ben & Jerry's

12 Yard feature

13 Place to ski

14 Vietnamese holiday

15 Road sign no.

16 "Banjo on my knee" song

17 Winery tubs

18 "Frozen" snow queen

20 " \_ Hollywood Screen Kiss" (1998 film)

24 Be alive

25 Fifty percent

31 Talk show emcee, e.g.

125 Entertained lavishly

126 Boxing ref's ruling

127 Court dividers

33 Egypt's Sadat

35 Formally abolish

36 Displayed example of a product

37 Gives the slip to

38 Aviation military branch

39 Fix the pitch of again

40 Architect Saarinen

41 Sierra Nevada evergreen

42 Blister, e.g.

43 Like GIs peeling potatoes

45 Flower holder

46 Santa's bagful

50 Egg on

52 "Yes, if memory serves"

54 Benefit bagful

55 Chewbacca's companion

59 \_ -la-la

60 With 48-Across, record of arrests, slangily

62 Put in financial distress

66 Gene-splicing stuff

67 Verifiable

68 No longer practicing: Abbr.

69 Marcos of the Philippines

71 Texas city

72 Poet Wylie or novelist Glyn

73 Double cluck of

reproach

75 Some till bills

77 Sweetie

78 LP player of old

79 Uganda's Idi

80 Donator of services

81 Old TV clown

82 "Fer \_!" ("Like, totally!")

83 Take responsibility for something

84 Easter flower

92 Spot's jingler

93 Tennis player

Edberg

96 Fava \_

97 Catch sight of

98 Dressed for a ball

99 Serve, as at a restaurant

101 Concluding musical parts

104 "You, over there..."

105 Dayton locale

107 Horse foot

108 \_ Reader (eclectic quarterly)

110 "Oh, sure!"

111 Part of a vase

113 Alaska city

114 Revise text

115 "ER" folks

117 Marshall Plan prez

118 Swallowed

119 Big success

120 Overly

# Super Crossword

7 5 3 6 8 2 1 4 9

1 6 9 3 4 5 7 2 8

8 4 2 7 9 1 3 6 5

6 3 1 4 2 9 5 8 7

2 9 8 5 3 7 6 1 4

5 7 4 1 6 8 2 9 3

9 1 5 8 7 6 4 3 2

3 8 7 2 1 4 9 5 6

4 2 6 9 5 3 8 7 1

A

S I B

P L

B A L E

T S

P E W T E R

I U

L E A P T

T

P A W

I A

A S P S

B

E

PREZ JOCKEYS WELK DRJ

REDO INASNTT OXENRIA

EPIC MONTANE VIVACITY

RATON I AM NAES VELLEZ

EVERY LETTER OF T CELL

QED ULA ELK LASER TAX

SKOSH IOWAN MYHERO

JERK SEANN AGAPE MANX

ARIANA RIGBY GIN OMOO

XACTO ESQ RIG QTR

THE ALPHABET IS USED AT

QED MIO BIV NNE TOQUE

WALK TCM JESSE ADJUST

AROO CHAPO QUAFF OAKS

WOWZER ISUZU DOFFS

ADV SIGMA OAS CIA TWA

OPTTO LEASTSIXTIMES

BILGE BAMS HIP ERIES

AMUSED BY THE FONZ ANNI

JAM MOLE EARLOBE QUIZ

AXE SHES ESSENCE I SEE

# CryptoQuip Answer

I couldn't think of the name of a familiar basic chemical substance. I had an elemental block.

8 - 1 x 4 28

- x x

3 x 7 + 9 30

x + -

5 + 8 + 6 19

25 15 30









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

Great have toppled the Persian empire and marched on India? Would any Frenchman besides Charlemagne have united much of Europe under his rule and brought about an intellectual and cultural renaissance? Would any Russian other than Peter the Great have modernized the Russian empire, defeated the Turks and Swedes, and built St. Petersburg? How different the 20th century would have looked without Hitler, Stalin and Mao. By the same token, only Napoleon – who rose to power in France only six years fleeing his native Corsica with almost nothing – would have undertaken his historic campaign of institution-building in France and conquest in Europe. Many of his changes in France proved worthy and enduring, while his ambitions in Europe were rightly resisted by other powers, England foremost among them. At the end of the day, he was a captain of war who knew one thing above all – the offensive to seek and destroy the enemy army. He had speed on his side, a feel for topography and

the flow of battle, and innovative tactics. These enabled him to destroy enemy armies and pick apart coalitions arrayed against him for years, as his legend grew. As always happens, though, his rivals learned from him, and his military advantages slipped away. He lost a long battle of attrition, in masses of broken men, horses and weapons. His operational prowess, synonymous with great victories at Ulm and Austerlitz, didn’t translate into success in the ultimate geopolitical war. It all ended in ashes and exile, twice. Napoleon was unforgivably careless with the blood and treasure of France, and that of the rest of Europe that struggled so mightily to stop him. It’s not a story that should occasion hero worship, or romantic images like the famous Jacques-Louis David painting of Napoleon crossing the Alps. But it’s not a story devoid of interest, or featuring a slightly ridiculous dullard at its center. Hollywood, in a rank distortion, somehow has made it so. Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review. (c) 2023 by King Features Synd., Inc.

Vitamins probably not reason for cramping

DEAR DR. ROACH: I have been told at the age of 70 that I am in the early stages of the eye disease macular degeneration. The doctor told me to take PreserVision AREDS 2 vitamins. He said that I will be taking them for the rest of my life. I started them immediately, and a few nights later, I started having severe left leg cramps to the point where I woke out of a sound sleep to jump out of bed and shake off the cramp. Is this typical? – C.L.



For the dry form of age-related macular degeneration, the AREDS and AREDS2 vitamins are the usual treatment. Although they are not a cure, they do slow progression of the disease. My experience with these has been that they almost never cause side effects, and muscle cramping is not a reported side effect by the manufacturer. The timing, however, certainly is suspicious. You can try stopping them for a few days, then restarting them to see if the cramps are truly affected by the vitamins. If they are, you have two choices. The first is to deal with cramps the same way that people who get them at night for no particular reason deal with it, which is by getting regular moderate exercise and stretching the calf and hamstring muscles before bed. Having weight on the toes is a trigger for many people, so very light bed covers that aren’t tucked in can be surprisingly helpful. I’ve had a few readers come up with devices to keep all weight off of their toes in bed. Your second option is to discuss an alternative with your eye professional. The AREDS and AREDS2 formulas were shown to be helpful, but some eye professionals only choose a few components of the formula.

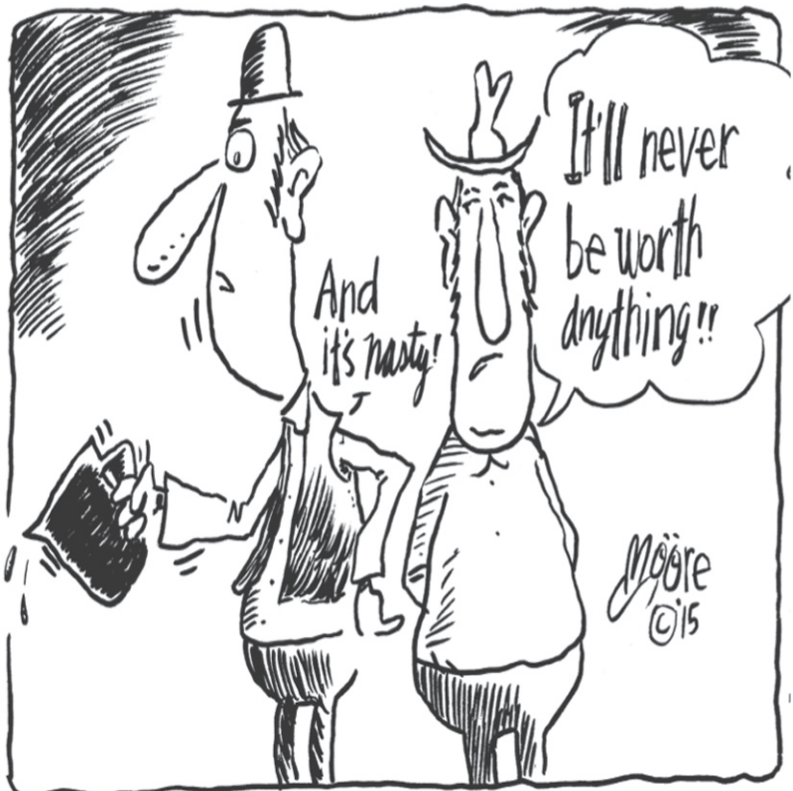
DEAR DR. ROACH: I recently had a CT scan of my chest and pelvis that resulted in an incidental finding of “mild bibasilar atelectasis.” My doctor does not seem to be concerned at all. Should they be? – J.M.

“Bibasilar atelectasis” is a scary-sounding term unfamiliar to most people, so I understand why you might be concerned. “Atelectasis” refers to non-inflation of the tiny air structures in the lung called the alveoli. The bottom of the lungs are the bases, so “bibasilar atelectasis” means a partial collapse of the lung at the bases. This is very common in people who aren’t breathing deeply, such as those who undergo surgery. In healthy people, this finding is not likely to represent serious disease of the lung. Before (and while you were getting) your CT scan, you might not have been breathing very deeply, allowing a very small portion of the lungs to deflate a bit. A few really deep breaths are all that is usually needed to open up those air sacs again. Sighing is a mechanism found in virtually all animals that helps treat and prevent atelectasis. If that was the only finding on your CT scan, and you are otherwise healthy, your doctor is right not to be concerned, although I wish that they had explained it a little better to keep you from getting concerned in the first place.

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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**Moore Texas by Roger Moore**  
A barrel of oil was only 3¢ in 1902... may get there again, huh?

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: K equals L

M DHFKUW'O OBMWV HS OBA  
WGZA HS G SGZMKMGI NGQMD  
DBAZMDGK QFNQOGWDA. M BGU  
GW AKAZAWOGK NKHDV.

Answer Page 4  
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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

Answer Page 4  
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The Million Veteran Program



by Freddy Groves

The Department of Veterans Affairs has now taken the DNA from 1 million veterans in their Million Veteran Program. The MVP research project is the first anywhere to study the health and genetic data of the veterans for the purpose of learning more and providing better care to current and future generations.

So far the projects they’ve researched include diabetes, PTSD, kidney disease, cancer, Gulf War illness and more.

Joining the program is easy: Fill out the consent forms and give permission for the program to get into your health records, provide a blood sample (mail it in or have it drawn at an MVP facility), and complete all the surveys that cover lifestyle, health and exposures. Then you’re in.

To be considered:

- The information you provide will be kept indefinitely.
- No information from the research will be placed in your health record, which means that if the blood screening or anything else turns up an illness, you won’t be told. The research is for the benefit of current and future generations, not individuals.

To learn more about the program, see [www.mvp.va.gov/pwa](http://www.mvp.va.gov/pwa). You’ll be able to read the 300-plus scientific publications and sign up for the research updates.

Be sure to scroll down the FAQ for answers to a lot of questions before you consider signing up. Look for the links that access a map showing all the MVP clinic locations. You’ll only need to go in one time, unless in the future you agree to join other avenues of research, in which case additional consent would be needed. Take a long look at the drop-down section titled “Confidentiality, Privacy, and Security” to see how your DNA and

health information will be secured and who else will be allowed access.

You can also call MVP with questions at 866-441-6075 or send an email to [AskMVP@va.gov](mailto:AskMVP@va.gov). If you don’t have (or don’t want to use) the internet to join the project or sign the consent forms, you can still arrange an in-person meeting to give your permission.

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• On internet memes, they call them “life hacks,” simple tricks to save you perhaps time, money or simply frustration. Here’s mine: Place a bowl near your entryway. Place your keys in the bowl when you come home. They stay there until you leave. No more lost keys. Now more life hacks for your tip file. – JoAnn

• Put a dryer fabric softener sheet on the back of a fan. It sticks and will distribute a fresh scent through your room. – T.I. via email

• Put an apple in the potato bag to keep them from growing buds. Check often. – E.W. in Oregon

• Sharpen your scissors by cutting through aluminum foil. All you have to do is fold a piece over on itself and use your dull scissors to cut strips.

• Store popcorn in the refrigerator. You will have less unpopped kernels, because the cold temperature makes them heat more evenly. – W.A. in Massachusetts

• Got chewing gum stuck in your hair? Rub with a spoonful of peanut butter. Massage into the gum-stuck hair. The oil in the peanut butter breaks down the gum, and you then can comb it out or wash out residue once you pick away the globs. How about on your clothes? Remove the garment and stick it in the freezer for several hours. The gum hardens, and you can literally peel it off in chunks. Use an old toothbrush to brush out any remaining crumbs of gum.

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

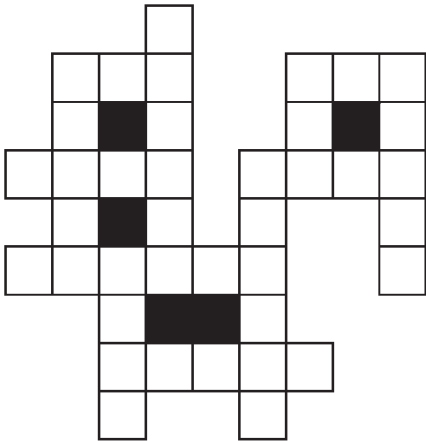
	–		×		28
–		×		×	
	×		+		30
×		+		–	
	+		+		19
25		15		30	

1 3 4 5 6 7 8 8 9

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- AWP  
RPTWEE  
♥EPTSA  
♥LEAB  
PUBTAR  
♥IPS  
TWLI  
♥SEWTA  
BSI  
♥TESBAL  
♥TABLE  
♥SPSA



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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