

EST TEXAS COUNT

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

DECEMBER 14, 2023

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



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 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 Rojas stated that Socorro now has a David Burton of Connecticut, who returned to his native New England roots earlier this year.

Prior to assuming his new role, its seven mile segment of the Historic 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 to the Jail Annex. He remained in officer to various managerial posts that position until 2004 when he was including commander.

During his swearing-in ceremony,

El Paso County's lower valley. He chief who knows the community. He replaces former Socorro Police Chief 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

See Socorro, Page 2



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

Was Napoleon a dullard?

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.

dictator, or an enlightened reformer, or some of political debate of advanced countries.

The figure of Napoleon has long been an object of both, but he could never be considered dull, at least Georg fascination, but the new Ridley Scott biopic makes 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

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 Napoleon can be considered a proto-fascist of all, the climate, occupies an outsized place in the

We don't have swoon like the philosopher 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.

was assigned various tasks Command College. including a field training special traffic officer, investigator, and an academy instructor. He was promoted to deputy sergeant in 2014 undertook different assignments in Patrol, Criminal Investigations, and Operations & the Criminal Framework was approved. Investigations Division. In Investigations Division.

Science degree in Criminal sites within its city limits and Justice from Kaplan University extraterritorial jurisdiction. in 2014 and received a The new trade zone in Socorro, master's degree in public FTZ No. 302, will be the 35th administration from Purdue FTZ in Texas and the third in

University in 2022. He also El Paso County. is a graduate of the Federal Bureau of Investigations National Academy and the Bill Blackwood Law Enforcement As a deputy sheriff he Institute of Texas Leadership

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 Special Traffic Investigations. notification from the United He was promoted to deputy States Foreign Trade Zones with the Patrol - Special under the Alternative Site city's website stated.

According to the city's 2022, Rojas was appointed website, the approval of the to a deputy commander FTZ application will provide position and led the Criminal Socorro officials with the authority to allow businesses Rojas earned a Bachelor of to set up foreign trade zone

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 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

Some of the 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

of Entry in Tornillo, U.S. which received over 300 Iliana Holguin.

Historic Mission Trail

create and maintain local Mission Trail, the Texas requests, and the City of 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 wheelchair-users, and tourists Paso del Norte Trail along the Historic Mission Trail. galleries, restaurants, and lieutenant in 2018 and was Board that its application well as to enhance capital City officials stated that breweries along Socorro Road given different assignments to establish the trade zone investment in Socorro, the the funds will be used as a Socorro Active Transportation benefits 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 and pedestrians to historic pedestrians, and to mitigate sites, heritage tourism clusters, made possible thanks to the congestion by providing safe unique food establishments, efforts of the U.S. Foreign alternatives to motor vehicle regional parks, and natural Trade-Zone Board staff, the transport, according to officials areas that are being developed Port Director Eric Fernandez with the Texas Department along the Historic Mission at the Marcelino Serna Port of Transportation (TxDOT), Trail, officials related.

Congressman Tony Gonzalez, project funding requests this and County Commissioner past year from communities across Texas.

The transportation commission approved monies As for Socorro's Historic for 83 of the project funding 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, visiting the historic sites, art (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 twolane roadway. The project will involve the construction of approximately seven miles of trails and shared-use paths that will safely connect bicyclists



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Briefs

From Page 1

Your credit report will be used by many decisionmakers, 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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Save a Life
Texas Department of Transportation



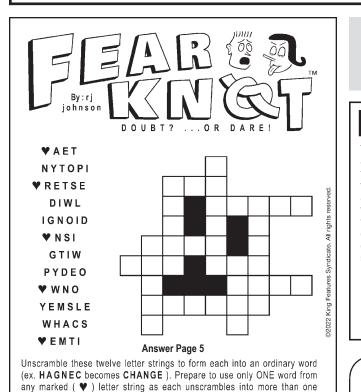






PUBLIC NOTICE TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS AND PARTIES:

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.



word (ex. ♥ RATHE becomes HATER or EARTH or HEART). Fit each

string's word either across or down to knot all twelve strings together. # AMERICAN LUNG ASSOCIATION®

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When you lose someone dear to you — or when a special person has a birthday, quits smoking, or has some other occasion to celebrate memorial gifts or tribute gifts made for them to your local American Lung Association help prevent lung disease and improve the care of those who suffer from it.

Bonus Puzzles

GO FIGURE! by Linda Thistle The idea of Go Figure is to arrive 23 at the figures given at the bottom and right-hand columns of the diagram by following the arithmetic signs in the order × 28 they are given (that is, from left to right and top to bottom). Use only the numbers below the diagram to complete its blank 23 squares and use each of the nine numbers only once 28 28 20 DIFFICULTY: *** 1 2 4 5 6 7 7 8 9 * Moderate ** Difficult

CryptoQuip

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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

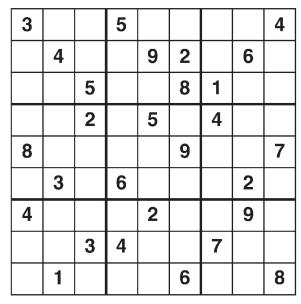
Z VSE'R HDDL RN RCJHR FDNFQD XMN ON SCNJEA LSTZEO CNJOM ACSXZEOH. RMDK'CD SQQ HN HTDRVMK.

Answer Page 5

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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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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
- 32 Peruvian of yore
- 34 Toronto Maple 37 Riddle, part 2
- 44 Wild party
- 47 Battle (for) 48 See 60-Down
- 49 Triumnhed
- 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"

- 65 Refine, as metal 66 What a hot rod may race on
- 70 Words on an apartment rental sign 74 Strong metal
- 76 City near Provo 77 Purple Hearts, e.g.
- 78 Riddle, part 4 85 Composer Satie
- 86 Apple app for
- importing video 87 "I suffer so!" 88 Pan coverer
- 89 Gave for a while 90 Sole servings
- 91 Buddhism branch 92 Just kills time 94 Two, in Spain
- 95 Occupied 96 End of the riddle
- 100 For the (temporarily) 102 Blow a horn 103 Stephen of
- "Rlackthorn" 104 Flower holder 106 Kailua Bay locale
- 109 Creator of Tom Sawyer 112 Gave a monetary
- penalty 116 Riddle's answer 121 Nogales nap 122 How figure skaters
- skate 123 Of financial
- matters 124 Rich, eggy cakes

125 Entertained lavishly 126 Boxing ref's ruling

1-800-LUNG-USA

- 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
- 15 Road sign no. 16 "Banjo on my knee" song
- 17 Winery tubs 18 "Frozen" snow 20 "_ Hollywood
- Screen Kiss" (1998 24 Be alive
- 25 Fifty percent 31 Talk show emcee,

- 33 Egypt's Sadat 35 Formally abolish 36 Displayed example
- 127 Court dividers 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, 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

75 Some till bills

*** GO FIGURE!

Answer Page 5

- 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

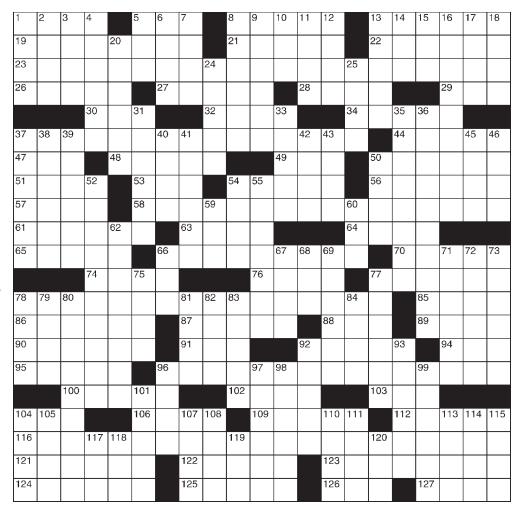
118 Swallowed

119 Big success

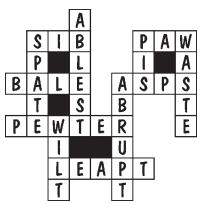
120 Overly

Answer Page 5

Super Crossword



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





CryptoQuip Answer

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

8	ı	1	×	4	28
_		×		×	
3	×	7	+	9	30
×		+		_	
5	+	8	+	6	19
25		15		30	



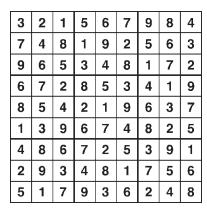
By Lucie Winborne

- When the D-Day forces landed on the beaches of Normandy, France, on June 6, 1944, Adolf Hitler was asleep. TITLE: None of his generals dared to send reinforcements without his permission, and no one even dared to wake him, since he'd issued strict orders not to be disturbed.
- Onitsone-yearanniversary, NASA's Curiosity Rover sang the "Happy Birthday" song to itself on Mars.
- Atomic bomb tests were a major tourist attraction in Las Vegas during the 1950s.
- Microplastics aren't an issue only in the world's oceans and ice caps. Researchers have discovered the tiny particles in clouds over Japan's Mount Fuji and Mount Oyama.
- A study found that students who chewed gum earned better math test scores than those who didn't.
- Ever wonder why our friends across the pond wish each other a "Happy Christmas" as opposed to Americans' "Merry Christmas"? In the 19th century, the word "merry" also meant intoxicated, so they wanted to separate it from public insobriety
- When staying at hotels, guests are more likely to interact with female robots, especially if they have human-like features, than male robots.
- Next time you're feeling stressed, try reaching for a hunk of chocolate: The sweet's smell increases theta brain waves, which triggers relaxation.
- Right-handed people tend to chew food on their right side, while left-handed folks are prone to chewing on their left.

Thought for the Day: "Experience is a hard teacher because she gives the test first, the lesson afterwards."

- Vernon Sanders Law

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Moments in time THE HISTORY CHANNE

- On Dec. 11, 2008, Bernie Madoff, the founder and chairman of Bernard L. Madoff Investment Securities LLC, was arrested and subsequently convicted of fraud for the multi-billion-dollar Ponzi scheme that fleeced investors around the world for decades.
- Dec. 1968, On 12, American actress Tallulah Bankhead died at the age of 66 from double pneumonia. A flamboyant personality with a huskily seductive voice and a flair for exhibitionism, her greatest success was as a stage actress (she was the inspiration for Blanche Dubois in "A Streetcar Named Desire"), though she also appeared in several prominent films and on TV and radio.
- On Dec. 13, 1642, Abel Tasman, a Dutch explorer and merchant, reached the coast of South Island in New Zealand and named it Staten Landt. The first European in recorded history to land on the Australian island state of Tasmania, he claimed it for the Dutch crown, and it was named for him as well.
- On Dec. 14, 1974, disaster film "The Towering Inferno," starring professional rivals Steve McQueen and Paul Newman, was released. The film was shot in sequence so all the actors looked authentically haggard and dirty as it progressed.
- On Dec. 15, 1840, Napoleon Bonaparte received a French state funeral in Paris more than two decades after his death on the island of St. Helena, when his remains were exhumed and transferred to the Hotel des Invalides on the initiative of the French prime minister

and King Louis-Philippe.

- On Dec. 16, 1907, in order to demonstrate America's new presence as a world power, President Theodore Roosevelt embarked on a round-the-world cruise in a group of U.S. Navy battleships, making friendly courtesy visits to a number of international ports.
- On Dec. 17, 1986, Special Agent Polifrone went undercover to lure out American mafia hitman Richard Kuklinski. Polifrone gave Kuklinski some fake cyanide to use for a murder. Kuklinski found out later that it was fake and decided not to go through with the hit but was arrested at a roadblock on his way home.
- On Dec. 18, 1966, Dr. Seuss's popular book "How the Grinch Stole Christmas" was made into an animated TV special narrated by well-known horror movie star Boris Karloff, who also provided the voice of the titular character, and shown for the first time on CBS.
- On Dec. 19, 1942, American fighter pilot Eddie Rickenbacker was pulled out of the Pacific Ocean after being lost at sea for 22 days. He and six other men would have starved to death if they hadn't caught and eaten a seagull. Rickenbacker was on a special mission in the South Pacific when he went missing.
- On Dec. 20, 1990, the Population Crisis Committee declared Lagos, Nigeria the worst city in the world in which to live, with the top-ranked cities listed as Montreal, Melbourne and Seattle-Tacoma. Half of Lagos' homes lacked water and electricity, and only one person in 100 owned a telephone. The city also had a density of 5.8 persons per dwelling.
- On Dec. 21, 2007, Britain's former prime minister Tony

Blair left the Anglican Church to become a Roman Catholic. The cardinal who led the service to welcome him said he was "very glad" to do so, but controversy remained on whether the conversion was in pursuit of the European Union presidency.

- On Dec. 22, 1945, broadcast journalist Diane Sawyer was born in Louisville, Kentucky. Before landing at CBS in 1978, she was a White House press aide during the Richard Nixon administration and later assisted Nixon with his memoirs. At one point she was the highest-paid woman in American TV news.
- On Dec. 23, 1954, Dr. Joseph E. Murray and several other surgeons performed the first truly successful human kidney transplant, between identical twin brothers, at Peter Bent Brigham Hospital in Boston, Massachusetts.
- On Dec. 24, 1828, eggnog riots began at the U.S. Military Academy in West Point, New York, in what was also known as the Grog Mutiny. The disturbances were sparked by cadets' copious consumption of eggnog made with smuggled whiskey and lasted until the next day.
- On Dec. 25, 1868, President Andrew Johnson offered amnesty to all Confederate soldiers with Proclamation 179. It was the fourth order of its kind, with earlier agreements re-establishing legal rights to Confederate soldiers if they signed oaths of loyalty to the United States.
- On Dec. 26, 1991, Jack Ruby's 38-caliber Colt Cobra revolver, which the nightclub owner used to kill J.F.K. assassin Lee Harvey Oswald, sold for \$220,000 in a Las Vegas auction. The original asking price was \$1 million.
- On Dec. 27, 2019, Valerie

Sneade and Jason Roy got married at their local Dunkin' Donuts in Worcester, Massachusetts, after ending their relationship at the same shop nearly three decades earlier. The reunited couple attributed their long separation to misunderstandings and "words that didn't come out right."

- On Dec. 28, 1967, American businesswoman Muriel "Mickie" Siebert became the first woman to own a seat on the New York Stock Exchange. She also became the first female superintendent of banking for New York State. And after her death, the New York Stock Exchange named Siebert Hall for her, marking the first time a room at the stock exchange was named for a person.
- On Dec. 29, 1852, Emma Snodgrass was arrested in Boston for the crime of... wearing pants. Mocked by one newspaper as "the foolish girl who goes around in virile toggery," she was sent home to her police officer father in New York but went on to repeat the act a number of times.
- On Dec. 30, 1940, California's first freeway, Arroyo Seco Parkway, also known as the Pasadena Freeway, officially opened to traffic. Now considered narrow and outdated, though still in use, it was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 2011.
- On Dec. 31, 1970, Paul McCartney, after struggling through the summer of that year with the idea of having to bring legal action against his bandmates in order to be released from Apple Records and business manager Allen Klein, filed a lawsuit in London's High Court of Justice to dissolve the Beatles.

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I can't seem to trust people who go around making rough drawings. They're all so sketchy.

6	×	5	1	7	23
+		ı		+	
8	ı	1	×	4	28
×		×		+	
2	×	7	+	9	23
28		28		20	

UTEP and the Tony the Tiger Sun Bowl get 'grrreat' news

Two Top 25 Teams

The 90th Sun Bowl game will

feature #16 Notre Dame (9-3)

and #19 Oregon State (8-4)

on Dec. 29.

By Steve Escajeda Special to the Courier

Usually, when the words "football" and "El Paso" are used together in the same sentence, it follows with words like "loss" and "disappointment."

Bu that was not the case last week when El Pasoans celebrated football like they hadn't in a long time.

First of all, the miracle that occurred now, El Pasoans during the Tony the Tiger Sun Bowl can celebrate the selection process is still a bit of a mystery. But who cares? The fighting college Irish are coming to the Sun Bowl!

And then the next day, the UTEP old Scotty Walden would be the 27th a national TV audience. coach in the school's history.

The 90th Sun Bowl game will feature #16 Notre Dame (9-3) and #19 Oregon State (8-4) on Dec. 29. This is the first time since 2008 that both Sun Bowl teams are ranked in the Top-25.

The matchup is so special that the game was sold out, mostly because of Notre Dame, in less than 24 hours.

This game will be one of the best of the bowl season, which means that CBS will enjoy some great ratings.

The only damper connected to this game is the number of players on both teams who have either entered the transfer portal or have chosen not to play to avoid any injury.

But the name power alone of Notre Dame will have tons of people from all around the country tuning in to watch.

This is also a special Sun Bowl because no one really knows what

Send Your Newsbrief To: wtxcc@wtxcc.com

49 Des Moines native

51 Cry to a lifesaver

53 Move in spasms

56 "American Pie"

actor _ William Scott

58 Visibly awed

60 Tailless cat

61 Pop's Grande

109 Western treaty

111 U.S. spy gp.

112 Former Pan Am

115 Decide you will

117 See 33-Across

121 Part of a ship's hull

inits.

10 Yang partner

11 Office scribe

14 Third bk. of the

15 Roguish behavior

16 Group of precision

12 Interlaced

13 Is

12 dissolving into the Pac-2 (all the first round. other teams have left to join other conferences), the Sun bowl will have to ditch their affiliation with the Pac conference and find someone else to take on the ACC representative.

But all that will be decided the months to come. As for fact that a bigtime football powerhouse is

playing in our town in front of a their time running plays, slowed the football team announced that 34-year-packed Sun Bowl stadium, in front of

> That's a win-win-win for El Paso. Speaking of winning, coach Walden did a lot of that at Austin Peay before accepting the job at UTEP, replacing Dana Dimel, who was just fired after six years with the Miners.

Walden led the Governors to a 9-3 record last season, in which they advanced to the NCAA Division 1 Football Championship tournament, ourselves struggling to stay interested and football are both winners.

He was 26-14 in his four years Tennessee.

Over the last 11 seasons, the Miners have been led by Dana Dimel and

Sean Kugler. Each coach very boring style of football. Both offenses took

game down and tried to run it down their opponent's throats.

To put it in perspective, who would you rather watch, the Kansas City Chiefs and Miami Dolphins, or the Chicago Bears and New England Patriots?

Exactly.

In fact, those of us reporters who have spent time in the press box covering UTEP football for years, often found

will happen next year. With the Pac- losing to #18 Chattanooga 24-21 in not just because of the losing, but because of the style of losing.

> But UTEP's new coach vows at Austin Peay, which is located in he's going to bring an exciting and innovative offense to the Sun Bowl.

> > And here are some stats to prove it. This past season, his Austin Peav squad ranked fourth nationally in passing efficiency (162.17), ninth enjoyed just one in scoring offense (34.1 ppg), 11th winning season in passing completion percentage and to be totally (.667), 13th in passing offense honest, each ran a (274.1 ypg) and 15th in total offense (426.8 ypg).

> > > Instead of trying to run out the clock, Walden has said his team's at UTEP will try to run a play about every 12 seconds. It'll be a fast-break style of offense.

> > > Win of lose, at least in the beginning, that type of play will put butts in the

Of course, the Tony the Tiger Sun Bowl will have to see what happens with the Pac-12 going forward. And we have no clue whether Walden will turn UTEP into a winner.

But at least for this month – El Paso

Senior moment By Matilda Charles

Book brain food

Now here's a "novel" way to increase our brain function. It doesn't involve getting more exercise or eating certain foods. It doesn't include doing puzzles. We only need to grab a book and start flipping pages.

"quantifiable changes" in brain activity when participants read a book. Granted, it was a bit more regimented than just grabbing your favorite author's latest bestseller.

scan each day for a few days. Then they were given the in 2024 re-reading the novels that had an impact on us, as thriller "Pompeii" by Robert Harris with instructions to read 30 pages a night. Each morning they were given The reference librarian is sure to be a good source for another brain scan. After the book was finished (about book suggestions. nine days), they were given more scans to see how the brain reacted. Researchers were able to track which portions of the book the participants were reading and

correlate them to the brain scan images.

Here's what they learned: During reading, and for days afterward, there were significant activity increases in the parts of the brain associated with story comprehension, as well as processing language.

According to the study, the reading has to be fiction to get these brain connectivity changes, something with a Emory University did a study that showed how there are narrative that describes events unfolding, and a story we can identify with.

Here's my thinking: While researchers don't know yet how long these brain changes last after reading a novel, In the study, participants were given a baseline brain it's at least five days. Perhaps we should spend some time well as new narrative fiction and a few of the old classics.

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112 113 114

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141

Super Crossword A TO Z REPEATEDLY 63 The Beatles 123 Cartoon hits marchers 77 Judo halls **ACROSS** "Eleanor_' 125 Cool, man 17 Ceremony 78 Blue hue Dubya or JFK 79 Walrus tooth 65 Gibson liquor 126 Some Native 18 "Run This Town" 5 Horse riders 66 1847 Herman 84 Aliens, briefly Americans rapper 12 Bandleader 127 Getting a laugh of 26 Toon frame 85 Tot's glassful Melville novel 19 20 21 86 Yank who wore #13 out 28 Laugh syllable Lawrence 67 Big name in utility 16 NBA's Erving, 129 Cool guy on from a Stooge 87 Small amount, as knives 25 familiarly 68 Atty.'s title "Happy Days" 31 Plant _ (claim of sales 133 Years, in Italy 19 Totally alter 69 18-wheeler some territory, maybe) 88 Jazz saxophonis 134 Traffic snarl Dave 20 Visibly sulky 71 Div. of a hoops 34 Writer Mario 21 Pack of vaks 135 Lawn digger Vargas 90 Injure greatly game 22 Coastal inlet 73 See 33-Across 136 Popular place for a 35 Mitigate 92 People crushing 23 Monumental 80 Mine, in Italy 36 "King Kong" studio piercing things 39 81 ROY G 93 Stick on 24 Of very hilly regions 137 Give a test to 38 Solidifies 96 Biblical song 25 Liveliness 82 Albuquerque-to-138 Log splitter 43 "Seminar," for 50 27 Betray by snitching "Marines," e.g.: Abbr. 139 "_ Out of My 98 Points of Denver dir. 45 River in Italy 29 Possible answer to 83 Chef's hat League" convergence 101 Prizes highly "Who is?" 85 Travel by foot 140 Basic nature 46 "Kisses and hugs" 63 65 30 Scottish refusals 89 Cable inits. for old 141 "That's clear" svmbol 103 Animals: Suffix 32 Lupe of "Mexican 47 Glide in a rink 105 Kismet films 67 68 69 91 Reverend Jackson DOWN 108 Wolf down Spitfire" 48 Glaring 33 With 73- and 93 Tweak 1 Trig, for calc, e.g. 50 "That's the _ goes" 110 Suppress 73 74 117-Across, notable 94 Ending for buck 2 Put new concrete 52 Med. insurer 112 Pre-liftoff fact about this puzzle's 53 NFL's Jaguars, on 95 "EI _" (nickname of expression solution a drug lord) 3 Revised copy scoreboards 113 Hot dog 37 Antigen-attacking 97 Drink heartily 4 Cholesterol-54 The "E" of 114 Judicial inquest 89 lymphocyte 99 Acorn trees lowering drug 39-Across 116 Book divs. 39 Abbr. ending a 55 Well-off 100 "Incredible!" 5 Funny Carrey 118 Lauder of 94 95 math proof 102 D-Max pickup 6 Artist Yoko 57 Muslim face veil cosmetics 59 Arouse 100 40 Suffix with form maker "Be quiet!" 119 Cereal utensil 102 103 104 41 Deer relative 104 Tips, as a hat 8 Univ. about 50 62 Linguist Chomsky 120 Basra citizen 106 108 110 107 109 42 Surgical tool 106 Wd. often ending miles west of Topeka 64 Mark over a short 121 Mexico's _ 44 Put a levy on 9 Coating with vowel California in "-ly' 115 116 117 118 68 Pliocene, e.g. 107 Rho-tau link 122 Huge-screen film 47 Smidae alossy varnish

format

124 In-favor votes

128 "Stupid me!"

130 Partakes of

131 "Grimm" airer

132 Wye follower

Answer Page 4

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123 124

129 130

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135

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70 Big name in

infomercial knives

72 Eligible for Soc.

74 Class for an Eng.

75 Little jewel

76 Sam of golf

major

Comix

OUT ON A LIMB By Gary Kopervas



AMBER WAVES By Dave T. Phipps









THE SPATS By Jeff Pickering



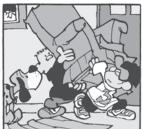




TIGER By Bud Blake















Lowry From Page 2

Great have toppled the Persian empire and Europe under his rule and brought about an intellectual and cultural renaissance? Would Turks and Swedes, and built St. Petersburg?

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 speed on his side, a feel for topography and (c) 2023 by King Features Synd., Inc.

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 marched on India? Would any Frenchman learned from him, and his military advantages besides Charlemagne have united much of slipped away. He lost a long battle of attrition, in masses of broken men, horses and weapons. operational prowess, synonymous any Russian other than Peter the Great have with great victories at Ulm and Austerlitz, modernized the Russian empire, defeated the didn't translate into success in the ultimate geopolitical war. It all ended in ashes and exile, How different the 20th century would have twice. Napoleon was unforgivably careless with the blood and treasure of France, and that of the rest of Europe that struggled so mightily

> 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.

to seek and destroy the enemy army. He had Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.

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

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. (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

Answer Page 4



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The Million Veteran Program

by Freddy Groves

The Department taken the DNA from 1 is the first anywhere to individuals. study the health and genetic generations.

So far the projects they've PTSD, kidney disease, more.

health and exposures. Then titled you're in.

To be considered:

• The information provide will be indefinitely.

• No information from the research will be placed in with questions at 866-441your health record, which 6075 or send an email to of means that if the blood AskMVP@va.gov. If you Veterans Affairs has now screening or anything else don't have (or don't want to turns up an illness, you use) the internet to join the million veterans in their won't be told. The research project or sign the consent Million Veteran Program. is for the benefit of current forms, you can still arrange The MVP research project and future generations, not an in-person meeting to give

To learn more about the data of the veterans for program, see www.mvp. the purpose of learning va.gov/pwa. You'll be able more and providing better to read the 300-plus scientific care to current and future publications and sign up for the research updates.

Be sure to scroll down researched include diabetes, the FAQ for answers to a lot of questions before you cancer, Gulf War illness and consider signing up. Look for the links that access a Joining the program is map showing all the MVP easy: Fill out the consent clinic locations. You'll forms and give permission only need to go in one time, for the program to get into unless in the future you your health records, provide agree to join other avenues a blood sample (mail it in of research, in which case or have it drawn at an MVP additional consent would facility), and complete all the be needed. Take a long look surveys that cover lifestyle, at the drop-down section "Confidentiality, Privacy, and Security" to see how your DNA and

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

> You can also call MVP 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.

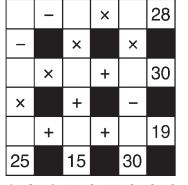
Send your tips to Now Here's a Tip, 628 Virginia Drive, Orlando, FL 32803. (c) 2023 King Features Synd., Inc.

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.

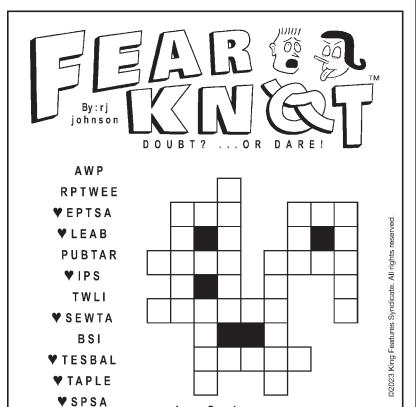
DIFFICULTY: ★★★

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



3 4 5 6 7 8 8 9

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Unscramble these twelve letter strings to form each into an ordinary word (ex. HAGNEC becomes CHANGE). Prepare to use only ONE word from any marked (♥) letter string as each unscrambles into more than one word (ex. ♥ RATHE becomes HATER or EARTH or HEART). Fit each string's word either across or down to knot all twelve strings together.

Answer Page 4