



NEWSBRIEFS

DEA hiring agents

On Monday, February 26, the Drug Enforcement Administration's El Paso Division began accepting applications for Special Agents to work in one of five local offices: El Paso, Midland, or Alpine, Texas or Las Cruces, Roswell, or Albuquerque, New Mexico. Upon completion of a 16 to 20-week basic agent training (BAT) course in Quantico, Virginia, the hired applicants will return to the local office they chose on their application. Interested candidates should apply on www.usajobs.gov. The posting will close on March 11 at midnight, or when 100 applications have been received, whichever comes first.

"This is a unique opportunity for local candidates who want to remain here," said Towanda R. Thorne-James, Special Agent in Charge of the DEA's El Paso Division. "Those who may have been interested in becoming Special Agents but could not move to another part of the country may now be very interested in applying." The minimum qualifications needed to apply for the GS-1811 Criminal Investigator (Special Agent) position are:

- U. S. Citizenship required;
- Must be able to obtain and maintain a Top-Secret security clearance;
- Possess and maintain a valid state driver's license;
- Must be at least 21 years of age and not older than 36 at the time of appointment, unless you are a preference eligible veteran;
- Must be in excellent physical condition; and
- Must be willing and able to carry and handle a firearm.

In addition, applicants can also qualify based on education (minimum 3.0 GPA) and/or investigative experience, or a combination of both.

— Carlos Briano

SISD mariachi bands

Americas, Socorro high schools win prestigious Division 1 rating. The 2024 Texas UIL State Mariachi Festival was a great success for the Americas High School Mariachi Los Pioneros and Socorro High

See BRIEFS, Page 2

Experience is about the cheapest thing people can get, if they're wise enough to get it secondhand.

— Quips & Quotes



— Internet

TAKEN TO COURT – Of the top ten gun manufacturers whose firearms are most seized by the Mexican government, six of them are American companies, according to data released by the Secretariat of National Defense. Topping the list was Colt, which had more than 8,500 of its firearms seized in 2022 by Mexican authorities. Consequently, the Mexican government has filed a lawsuit in US court alleging that these businesses are liable for the increase of guns in Mexico. Government officials name Colt specifically as it manufactures a trio of specialty pistols – the Emiliano Zapata 1911 (above left), the El Grito (above right) and the El Jefe – that they claim are catering to the cartel culture.

Lawsuit claims US gun industry contributes to gun violence in Mexico

By Alfredo Vasquez
Special to the Courier

US/MEXICO – El Paso County residents are well aware of the constant trafficking of firearms that occur at the ports of entry into Mexico. Local Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officials report caches of weapons and ammunition seizures at checkpoints on a regular basis. And borderland news reporters detail almost daily the seemingly never-ending shootings that occur in Ciudad Juarez and surrounding communities.

Mexican government officials blame, to a large extent, the United States gun manufacturers for its surge in gun-related deaths. In Juarez, alone, more than 1,100 killings were reported last year, with nearly all of those deaths coming at the hands of gun-wielding assassins.

To address the gun killing crisis, Mexican government officials filed a lawsuit in 2021 against a handful of American gun manufacturers alleging that bad business practices by these companies have worsened gun violence in Mexico, particularly by making their wares easily available to drug and smuggling cartels within its borders.

The Mexican lawsuit filing in an American court system was the first of its kind by a foreign country. "For decades the Mexican government and its citizens have been victimized by a deadly flood of military-style and other lethal guns that flows from the US across the border. This flood is not a natural phenomenon or an inevitable consequence of the gun business or of U.S. gun laws," stated Mexico's original complaint.

The US's southern neighbor recently recorded the third-highest rate of gun-related deaths in the

world, despite having extremely strict laws prohibiting firearms. Mexican officials pointed out that Mexico has a single gun store that grants fewer than 50 permits a year, primarily to government officials, journalists, and other individuals at risk of being targeted by the cartels.

Mexico's \$10 billion lawsuit claims that 70 to 90 percent of illegal firearms recovered at Mexican crime scenes were made in the U.S. and shows that the majority of these guns were made by six companies including Smith & Wesson, Beretta, Century Arms, Colt, Glock, and Ruger. Mexican officials estimated that 500,000 guns are trafficked from the U.S. into Mexico every year.

However, in 2022 a district court judge in Massachusetts struck down the lawsuit on the grounds that it

See LAWSUIT, Page 3



— Photo courtesy EPCC

Dana Eisenga

Baseball field named for Eisenga

By Jim Heiney
Special to the Courier

EL PASO COUNTY – El Paso Community College (EPCC) honored an Athletic Department and El Paso baseball stalwart by naming the Tejanos home field for him. Dana Eisenga has spent more than 25 years assisting student-athletes obtain their career goals.

After serving our country for 26 years, Eisenga, then stationed in El Paso, went to the first ever EPCC Tejanos baseball game and never left. Starting as a volunteer, he became a fulltime staff member of the EPCC Athletic Department. Along with announcing EPCC baseball and softball games, he has been instrumental in the implementation of GPA requirements on scholarship athletes. "Being there to assist each student athlete graduate and transfer to a university has been my priority," Eisenga said.

Eisenga has been involved in the citywide baseball scene as well. He has been on the El Paso Baseball Hall of Fame Board of Directors since 2001. He currently serves as the Secretary and Treasurer and was honored by being inducted into the Hall in 2012. Now "retired", could not stay away and has returned part-time for his love of baseball. "It was a total shock coming to the first game this season and the sign was up," he said.

Kids shouldn't be on social media at all



Mark Zuckerberg is very sorry. His apology at a Senate hearing to the families of victims of online child sex abuse was dramatic, and the human thing to do in the moment, although he was pressured into it under persistent questioning from Sen. Josh Hawley, a Republican from Missouri.

Zuckerberg's contrition – whether real, fake or somewhere in between – doesn't really matter one way or the other, though. The key question is why we are subjecting our children to a vast, real-time experiment in exposure to a radically new medium that evidence suggests is harmful to their emotional and mental health.

This dubious venture is unquestionably a boon to the bottom line of Meta and its peer companies,

but it's doubtful that any parent in America has ever thought it was good for their kid. "Gosh, how can I get my tween to spend more time on Instagram?" is, needless to say, a thought most parents don't have.

Social scientist Jonathan Haidt has been on this case for some time now and points out a marked increase in teen depression and anxiety that coincides with the rise of social media, particularly among girls. It is, to be sure, difficult to nail down with absolute certainty a direct relationship between social media and these distressing outcomes, but many studies find a connection, and the lived experiences of families is, overwhelmingly, that the takeover of adolescence by social media hasn't been a healthy phenomenon.

At the very least, social media is addictive and represents an opportunity cost compared to time that could be spent talking with friends, going outside or even reading a book.

Congress should press the brakes on the revolution that has given Mark Zuckerberg and other tech titans an outsized role in raising our kids and require that users of social media be age 18 or older. Surely, it's not too much to ask that Zuckerberg and Co. make their fortunes exclusively off adults.

Congress has already imposed an age limit, just

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Briefs

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School Mariachi Los Gavilanes in the Socorro Independent School District. Both ensembles earned the highest possible rating, the Superior Rating Division 1 trophy, for their exceptional performances at the contest on February 23 in Seguin, TX. The ensembles competed among the top mariachi groups in the state, showcasing their outstanding mariachi programs with student musicians who have exceptional vocal and instrumental talents. "We are incredibly proud of Los Pioneros and Los Gavilanes for earning a Division 1 rating at state," said SISD Fine Arts Director Armando Martinez. "This amazing achievement is due to the hard work of our excellent teachers and talented students. We look forward

to continuing this high level of excellence in our mariachi programs." Los Pioneros is directed by mariachi instructors Jose Luis Rios and Rocio Manriquez, and Los Gavilanes is directed by mariachi instructors Roger Rosales, Juan Gonzalez and Jose Parada. SISD had five high schools advance to state, the most from any single district in the area

– Christy Flores-Jones

SISD ratings

The 2022-2023 Federal Report Cards for the State of Texas, the Socorro Independent School District, and SISD schools are available on the district website, school websites, and the Texas Education Agency website. The reports for the state, district, and schools can be found on the district website at:

- <https://www.sisd.net/federalreportcards>; or
- <https://tea.texas.gov/texas-schools/accountability/academic-accountability/performance-reporting/federal-report-cards>

[gov/texas-schools/accountability/academic-accountability/performance-reporting/federal-report-cards](https://www.sisd.net/federalreportcards)

The report gives information such as student achievement, graduation rate, school quality, student success, civil rights data, and teacher quality data. Hard copies of the report may be made available upon request at SISD schools or the District Service Center. Please contact your child's school or the District Service Center if you have any questions concerning federal report cards.

– Christy Flores-Jones

Classroom Fund

The Classroom Fund was created in 2011 as a special project of the El Paso Community Foundation. Since then, over \$650,000 has been awarded to purchase materials and equipment to enhance learning opportunities and engage students in the El Paso and Las Cruces area. Full-time educators in the El Paso and Las Cruces area are invited to apply for resource grants up to \$1,000 in materials for the 2024-2025 school year.

Applications are due by March 22, 2024.

• Grants are available to all full-time, Pre-K through 12th grade educators, including teachers, librarians, guidance counselors, school nurses, and coaches. Eligible candidates must spend at least 75% of their time working directly with students.

• Requests must be for materials students will use or experience directly.

• Grant recipients are required to follow up with a report on the use of materials through photographs, video or a written letter. Grant requests are reviewed by The Classroom Fund Review Committee and are approved based on merit and available funds.

All grantees will be notified by late April. Visit <https://theclassroomfund.org/> to learn more about eligibility requirements or to apply. Email info@theclassroomfund.org with any questions

– Rudy Vasquez

Travis Letter

Texas Land Commissioner Dawn Buckingham M.D. is encouraging Texans to

view the original Travis Letter written by William B. Travis at the Alamo. He addressed his letter "To the People of Texas and All Americans in the World" and passionately pleaded for aid for the Alamo garrison. This incredible piece of Texan and American history will be displayed at the Alamo Exhibit at the Ralston Family Collections Center through March 24, 2024. The Texas State Library and Archives Commission has loaned the Travis Letter to the Alamo. "I'm thrilled to announce the return of the historic letter by William B. Travis to the Alamo. This marks only its second display since the original battle in 1836. It's an honor to play such a significant part in sharing this iconic piece of history with the world," said Buckingham. "This unique exhibit will allow Texans and people from across the nation to experience an iconic part of Texas and American history. For over 180 years, the Travis Letter has helped tell the story

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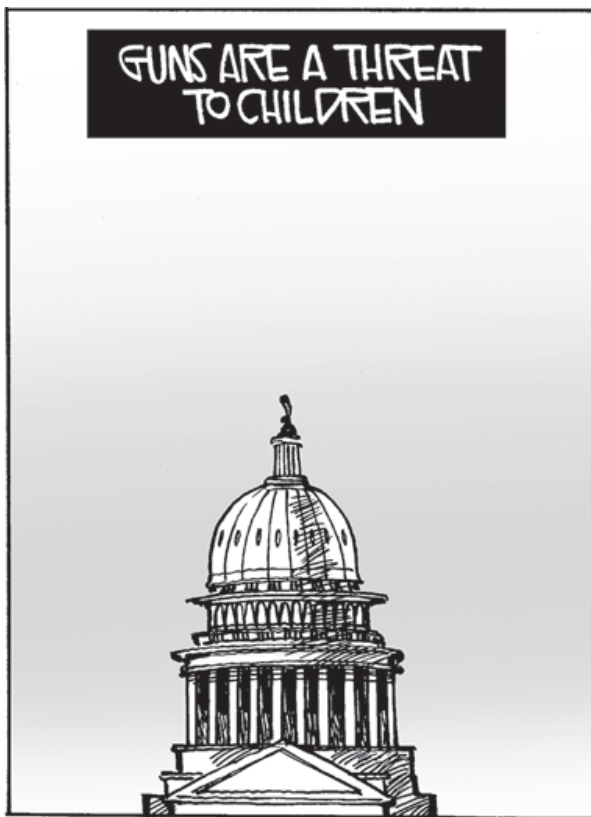
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Lawsuit

From Page 1

violated the Protection of Lawful Commerce in Arms Act (PLCAA), a law passed in 2005 by Congress and signed by President George W. Bush. It protects firearms manufacturers and dealers from being held liable in civil court for crimes committed with their products. The law states that the gun industry cannot be sued for the criminal or unlawful misuse of firearms or ammunition.

But the lawsuit was revived recently in the First Circuit Court of Appeals in Boston. The appeals court picked the case back up in part because of the argument that the gun industry's conduct allegedly violates the "predicate exception" of the PLCAA, which exempts manufacturers from protection if they cause harm by knowingly engaging in illegal conduct.

The renewed suit alleges that the industry adheres to "willfully blind, standardless distribution practices" that put military-grade weapons into the hands of cartels with serious profit to gain.

Lawsuit advocates asserted that guns are bought and sold in a three-tiered process. "They're built by manufacturers and sold to distributors who in turn sell them to individual dealers. In the U.S., dealers tend to cluster in border states and on average make double the annual sales of dealers elsewhere," they stated.

The suit alleges that manufacturers are using a "head-in-the-sand approach" and aren't doing everything they can- or are legally bound to do- to prevent their guns from ending up in the hands of problematic downstream buyers. It contends that the industry is propped up by "straw sales, multiple sales and repeat sales"; in other words, bulk sales to people who are clearly buying weapons on behalf of people who cannot legally purchase them.

The suit acknowledges that tracing guns from the factory floor to the scene of a crime can be difficult, but that gun manufacturers could easily implement practices to trace "crime guns" back to the point of sale. One suggestion is to circumvent destroyed serial numbers by inscribing an additional hidden serial number inside the gun for use by law enforcement.

Another issue cited in the complaint is the marketing of military-grade weapons to a civilian market after a ban on "semi-automatic assault weapons" was lifted in 2004. The suit singles out a .50 caliber sniper rifle manufactured by Barrett Firearms Manufacturing, Inc., whose product, the 82A1, has become a "weapon of choice" for Mexican cartels because it can shoot down helicopters and penetrate armored vehicles.

Jonathan Lowy, of Global Action on Gun Violence (a nonprofit that aims to inspire change in the gun industry through litigation), is part of a team representing Mexico in court. He stressed that the call for enhanced regulation wasn't intended to punish



- Internet

WEAPON OF CHOICE? – El Jefe is named as a third pistol favored by drug cartels.

law-abiding dealers.

"The overwhelming majority of gun dealers do not sell a single crime gun," Lowy stated, "A small percentage of dealers sell virtually all the crime guns... the good gun dealers don't like that anymore than the government of Mexico."

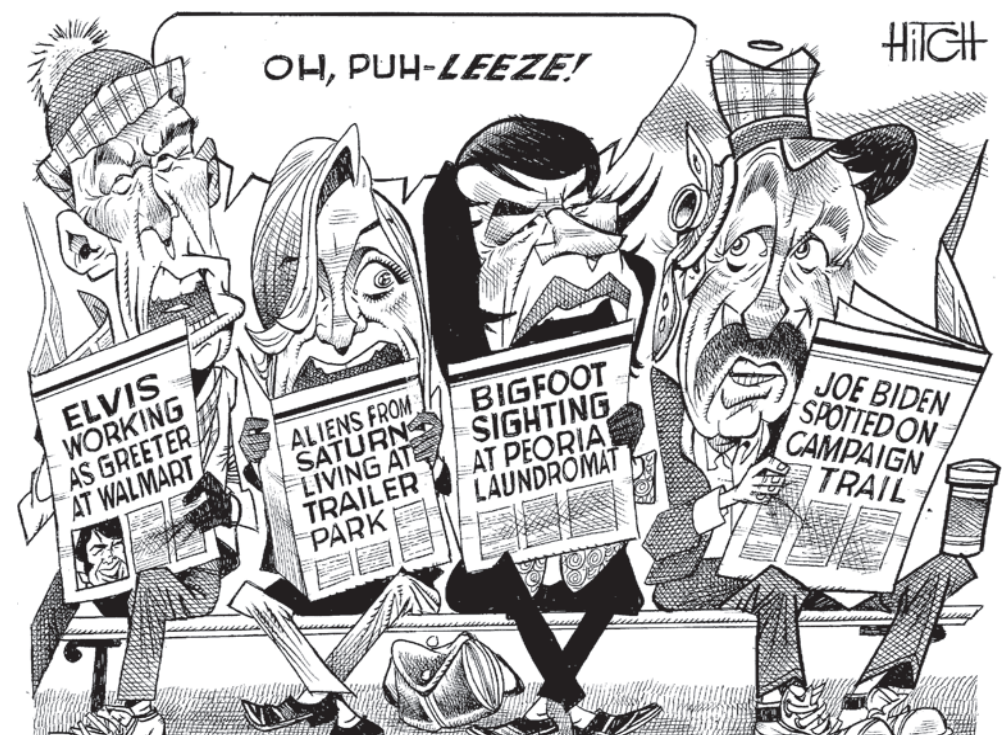
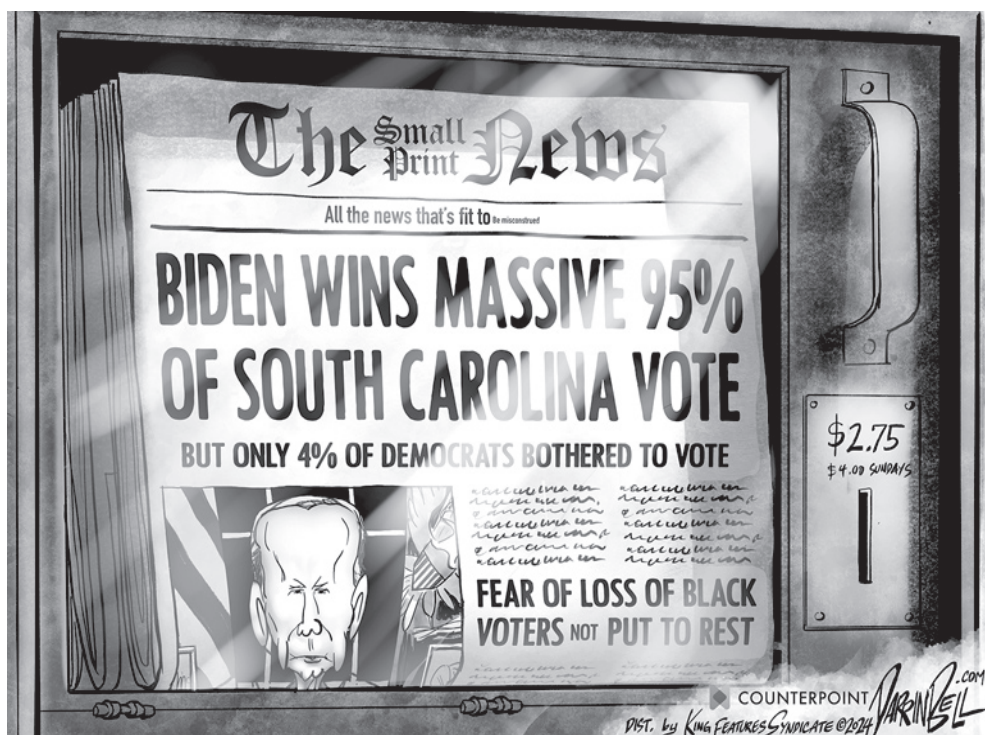
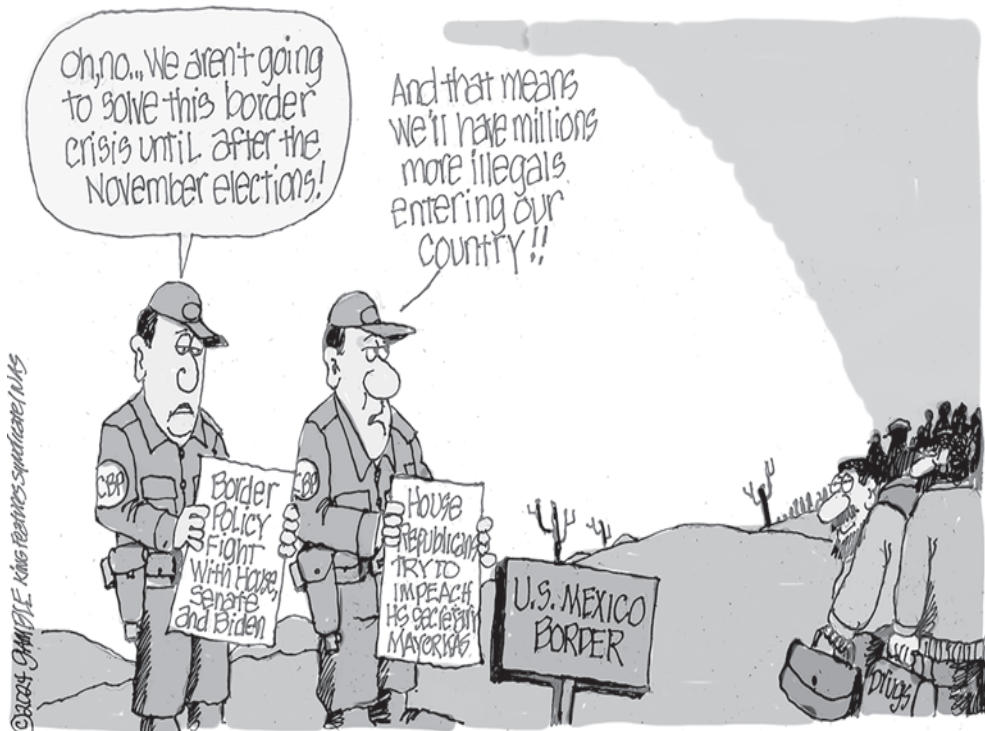
Counsel for the gun industry has countered that this case implicates a clash of national values and wants the suit dismissed again. "By seeking to bankrupt US gun makers, this gambit not only threatens America's constitutional freedoms, but also the careful balance of firearms regulations set by Congress and state legislatures," they argued. "Mexico's gun violence problem was rooted in the fact that the government was 'unable to control

cartel violence within its borders,' and not through predatory conduct by manufacturers," they added.

Lowy is representing Mexico in court alongside renowned Austin-based antitrust lawyer Steve Shadowen. Together they will seek injunctive relief in the form of major industry-wide change, something other countries are supporting including the governments of Antigua and Barbuda, Belize, the Bahamas, Jamaica, and Trinidad and Tobago. These countries filed an amicus curiae brief in support of Mexico, hoping to address their own gun violence problems.

Additionally, attorneys general of 13 U.S. states have expressed support for

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Briefs

From Page 2

of the Alamo defenders who courageously faced insurmountable odds in the name of freedom."

- Kimberley Hubbard

Credit cards

With inflation making it more difficult for Americans to keep up with payments on their loans and lines of credit, WalletHub has released its latest report on the Cities with the Most People in Financial Distress, to shed light on where Americans are having the biggest financial difficulties. WalletHub compared the 100 largest cities without data limitations across nine key metrics. The data set includes factors like the average credit score, the change in the number of bankruptcy filings between December 2022 and December 2023, and the share of people with accounts in distress. El Paso was rated 24th in the report.

"Getting out of the downward spiral of financial distress is no easy feat. You may get temporary relief from your lenders by not having to make payments, but all the while interest will keep building up, making the debt even harder to pay off. People who find themselves in financial distress should budget carefully, cut non-essential expenses, and pursue strategies like debt consolidation or debt management to get their situation under control. It seems that in the Windy City, people's financial security is also blowing away. The share of Chicago residents who are allowed to skip debt payments due to financial difficulties went up by nearly 30% between Q4 2022 and Q4 2023. Chicago residents also had the third-most accounts in distress per person. Financial distress may increase further, too,

as Chicago has some of the highest Google search interest in the country for terms like 'debt' and 'loans,' which indicates that people need to borrow even more."

- Cassandra Happe WalletHub Analyst

Visit https://wallethub.com/edu/cities-with-the-most-people-in-financial-distress/133346 for the full report.

- Diana Polk

Property taxes

Each year, the average American household spends \$2,869 on real-estate property taxes plus another \$448 for residents of the 26 states with vehicle property taxes. In order to determine who pays the most relative to their state, the personal-finance website WalletHub has released its Property Taxes by State in 2024 report, as well as expert commentary. The report compares home and vehicle taxes across the nation. Texas was rated 45th in the report. Property Taxes in Texas (1st-Lowest; 25th-Avg.):

- Real-Estate Property Tax Rank: 45th;
• Vehicle Property Tax Rank: 1st;
• Real-Estate Tax on Median State Home Value: \$3,872;
• Real-Estate Tax on Median U.S. Home Value: \$4,586; and
• Vehicle Property Tax on Best-Selling Car: \$0.

"Some states charge no property taxes at all, while others charge an arm and a leg. Americans who are considering moving and want to maximize the amount of money they take home should take into account property tax rates, in addition to other financial factors like the overall cost of living, when deciding on a city."

- Cassandra Happe WalletHub Analyst

Visit https://wallethub.com/edu/cities-with-the-most-people-in-financial-distress/133346 for the full report.

- Diana Polk

Commentary

Should local tax policy be adjusted to rely more or less on property taxes versus other forms of taxation?

"This issue has several dimensions. First, as property taxes pay for public education, poorer neighborhoods suffer. Second, legislative initiatives in some parts of the country (most famously, Proposition 13 in California) have limited the property taxes available to cities by restricting the ability to assess increased property values. However, property taxes are generally progressive - that is, the more valuable the property, the higher the taxes. Alternatives to property taxes like sales taxes tend to be regressive - falling more heavily on poorer populations. Income taxes, on the other hand, can be structured to be progressive."

- Roberta Mann Professor Emerita University of Oregon School of Law

Should certain groups of people be exempt from property taxes or be taxed at a lower rate?

"Many states do provide exemptions or preferential rates to certain groups. However, my personal opinion is that this special treatment is not a good tax policy. Public Choice Theory suggests that advocacy groups may be able to convince lawmakers to grant special treatment even if it is not in the best interest of society overall. Using the tax system to provide benefits is subject to less scrutiny than direct expenditures, making it a preferred tool for these types of provisions. In my opinion, it is better to keep it simple and use other methods to provide assistance or relief if it is in the overall interest to do so."

- Jeffrey H. Kahn Professor and Associate Dean for Business Law Programs Florida State University

"It is common to provide at least a partial exemption to senior citizens, veterans, first responders, and homeowners (homestead exemption). Property tax exemptions reflect a community's values, and those values may differ from other, even neighboring communities. Allowing individual communities to decide these issues arguably offers the most representation to the property owners that they are taxing."

- Valrie Chambers, Ph.D., CPA Beights Research Fellow; Associate Professor; Stetson University

Should more types of property be subject to property taxes? If yes, what types?

"Personal property taxation regimes have been tried, but they are problematic for many reasons, including mobility and the reliability of assessment. Costs to verify can be high. We should not favor systems that have high transaction costs, low reliability, or ease of evasion."

- Edward A. Morse

"Property other than real estate can be subject to property taxes, but that tends to be highly unpopular. Virginia has an annual personal property tax based on the value of motor vehicles. A federal luxury tax applied to yachts and airplanes (as well as some other luxury goods) from 1991 to 1993. The tax was repealed after the boat-building industry lost thousands of jobs. Although the tax was designed to raise revenue from wealthy persons purchasing luxury goods, it turned out the luxury tax discouraged purchases of those items, which hurt working-class people who built them."

- Roberta Mann

Visit https://wallethub.com/edu/states-with-the-highest-and-lowest-property-taxes/11585 for the full report.

- Diana Polk



By Lucie Winborne

• In 2003, Marvel successfully argued in a U.S. court that mutants were "nonhuman creatures" and, therefore, toys, in order to save on taxes, since X-Men action figures were being imported as dolls but toys have a lower tariff.

• An ostrich can run faster than a horse.

• Seventy-five percent of Japanese homes boast a high-tech toilet, the latest models of which eliminate the need for toilet paper, keep you warm, check your blood pressure, play the sound of running water to, er, drown out your business, and automatically open and shut so you won't have to touch anything.

• Prior to the adoption of standard time zones in 1883, each city or town set its own local time based on the sun's position.

• Six years after Hall of Fame pitcher Gaylord Perry stated, "They'll put a man on the moon before I hit a home run," he struck the only one of his career just hours after Neil Armstrong stepped onto the lunar surface.

• Actor George Reeves, who played Superman in the 1950s, once had to deflect a young fan who wanted to test his "invulnerability" by bringing a pistol to a live appearance. Reeves convinced the boy to hand over his gun by warning him that a bystander might be hurt by bullets that bounced off his Superman suit.

• A 2018 study found that wearing a necktie can reduce the blood flow to your brain by up to 7.5%.

Thought for the Day: "Don't say you don't have enough time. You have exactly the same number of hours per day that were given to Helen Keller, Pasteur, Michelangelo, Mother Teresa, Leonardo da Vinci, Thomas Jefferson and Albert Einstein."

- H. Jackson Brown Jr.

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CryptoQuip Answer
If only a few workers remained at the cemetery, I'd call that a skeleton crew.

1 + 9 x 3 = 30
+ - +
5 + 2 ÷ 7 = 1
- x +
4 + 8 ÷ 6 = 2
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Moments in time
THE HISTORY CHANNEL

• On Feb. 26, 1917, the Original Dixieland Jass (later Jazz) Band recorded "Livery Stable Blues," the world's first jazz record, for the Victor Talking Machine Company in New York. That same year, the group also made the first appearance of a jazz band in a motion picture, a silent film titled "The Good for Nothing."

• On Feb. 27, 1938, a new mascot design was created by Chris Klein and C. Karnstadt for use by the Pontiac car brand, in the form of an Indian maiden. The theme was inspired by connections with the General Motors war chief who was employed in the GM manufacturing division.

• On Feb. 28, 1983, the final episode of "M*A*S*H," a series about the staff of an Army hospital during the Korean War, titled "Goodbye, Farewell and Amen," became the most-watched television episode in U.S. history, with an estimated 106 million American viewers.

• On Feb. 29, 2012, Davy Jones, a former teen idol and singer for The Monkees, died of a heart attack at the age of 66. Jones starred with his bandmates in a popular TV series and a few other shows during his career, later returning to his first passion of horses and becoming a jockey.

• On March 1, 2008, Britain's Prince Harry, who had been sent secretly to Afghanistan with his regiment in December at his request, was forced to return to Britain after the American website the Drudge Report made his deployment public.

• On March 2, 1969, the supersonic airliner and joint British/French project Concorde set off on its maiden flight, reaching 10,000 feet and 300 mph. It would be another seven years before the plane began commercial flights, which continued until 2003, when it was retired from service.

• On March 3, 2005, Steve Fossett became the first person to fly a plane solo and nonstop around the globe without refueling, landing his Virgin Atlantic GlobalFlyer in Salina, Kansas, after a 67-hour journey. Two years later, he would disappear while flying over the Great Basin Desert, with his wrecked aircraft discovered in 2008.

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County Attorney shuts down strip club

By Elhiu Dominguez
Special to the Courier

EL PASO COUNTY – The BYOB "Gentlemen's Club" operated without a TABC license and was not registered with the City of El Paso as a Sexually Oriented Business. The El Paso County Attorney's Office today announced it has secured a Temporary Restraining Order (TRO) against Jaguars Gold Club, A.K.A. Jaguars, a club with a history of documented illegal activity located at 11377 Gateway West Blvd. The TRO effectively shuts down Jaguar's operations as the County Attorney's Office continues its investigation and prepares for further legal proceedings.

This lawsuit is separate from a similar one filed yesterday, Thursday, February 22, 2024, by the City of El Paso. The city's lawsuit seeks a Temporary and Permanent Injunction against Jaguars Gold Club, its owners, and managers for violations of the City's Sexually Oriented Business Ordinance.

Last week, investigators from the El Paso County Attorney's Office with the help of partners from the Texas Anti-Gang Center, including officers from the El Paso Police Department, Homeland Security Investigations and Office of the Inspector General of Texas served the establishment with a Temporary Restraining Order that directs the business to remain closed until March 5, 2024. They served the business and at least two managers with a closure order.

The closure of the club was the result of a lawsuit brought by the Nuisance Abatement Team of the County Attorney's Office against the for-profit corporation RCI Hospitality Holdings, Inc, and the managers of the business Angel Richard "Ricco" Torres, Donnell Lee James, and Javier Diaz.

The County Attorney's Office gathered compelling

evidence from El Paso Police Department Vice and Narcotics units, Pebble Hills Regional Command, and State investigators Chavez and Maldonado, showing that Jaguars had become a persistent center for criminal activity, as evidenced by over 750 calls for service received from January 2018 to December 31, 2023.

Alleged criminal activity and CPRC violations at Jaguars Gold Club since January 2018 include:

- Discharge of a firearm: 13 violations.
- Delivery, possession, or use of a controlled substance: 57 violations.
- Prostitution/promotion of prostitution: 13 violations.
- Aggravated assault: 22 violations.
- Disorderly conduct: 52 violations.
- Criminal trespass: 1 violation.
- Criminal mischief: 1 violation.
- Sale or storage of beer or alcohol without a permit or license: 22 violations.
- Employee under 21 at sexually oriented business: 1 violation.
- Violation of City of El Paso's Sexually Oriented Business ordinance: at least 26 violations.
- At least sixteen (16) of the violations noted also involved a gun.
- At least twelve (12) violations involved a criminal street gang member.

The evidence in the case was presented and the request for a Temporary Restraining Order was signed by the 41st District Court judge, the Honorable Annabell Perez. The establishment was closed last night around 9:30 p.m. and should remain closed at least until March 7th, 2024. The Court will hear evidence to consider the approval of a Temporary Injunction on March 1, 2024, at 9 a.m.

El Paso County Attorney Jo Anne Bernal expressed her satisfaction for the outcome in this case. "Establishments that become centers of illegal

activity pose a direct threat to the safety and well-being of our community. This Temporary Restraining Order is a crucial step in holding

Jaguars accountable and sends a strong message that we will not tolerate businesses that undermine the safety of our neighborhoods," she said.

Classified Ads

LEGALS

VILLAGE OF VINTON, TX

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS

Public hearings will be held at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, March 21, 2024 during the Planning & Zoning Commission Meeting, and on Tuesday, April 2, 2024 during the Regular Council Meeting at Vinton Village Hall, 436 E. Vinton Road, Vinton, Texas.

The purpose of the public hearings is to allow any interested persons to appear and testify regarding the following items:

- 1) A request to amend the Unified Development Code to allow truck stops and gasoline stations on Town Center thru a Special Use Permit.
- 2) A request to amend the Unified Development Code to allow food trucks in Town Center, C-1 and C-2 zonings.

Those who are unable to attend may submit their views in writing to the Village Administrator at 436 E. Vinton Road, Vinton, Texas 79821. Persons with disabilities that wish to attend this meeting should contact City Hall at (915) 886-5104 to arrange for assistance. Individuals who

require auxiliary aids or services for this meeting should contact City Hall at least two days before the meeting so that appropriate arrangements can be made.

MEETING WILL BE HELD IN PERSON, BUT THE PUBLIC CAN ACCESS THE MEETING THROUGH THE ZOOM.US PLATFORM AT THE FOLLOWING URL:

LINK: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2520023141?pwd=WVRDZDZlRjZHR3FjVjU3ZlWTB6dz09>

THE VILLAGE PROVIDES TWO-WAY COMMUNICATION FOR MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC TO

COMMUNICATE WITH THE COMMISSION DURING THE PUBLIC HEARING BY CALLING THE FOLLOWING NUMBER: +1 346 248 7799 AND THEN DIAL IN THE MEETING ID 252 002 3141 AND PASSCODE: 1 2 3 4 5 FOLLOWED BY THE POUND SIGN (#). THE MEETING WILL OPEN AT 6:25 PM ON EACH OF THE MEETING DATES SO THAT PEOPLE MAY START JOINING. THE MEETING WILL START AT 6:30 PM.

Andrea N. Carrillo
Village Administrator

WTCC: 02-22-24

Public Notice Town of Anthony, TX

Order of Cancellation

The Town of Antony, TX hereby cancels the election scheduled to be held on Saturday, May 4, 2024, in accordance with Section 2.053(a) of the Texas Election Code. The following candidates have been certified as unopposed and are hereby elected as follows:

Orden de Cancelación

El Pueblo de Anthony, TX por la presente cancela la elección que, de lo contrario, se hubiera celebrado el Sabado, 4 de mayo 2024 de conformidad, con la Sección 2.053(a) del Código de Elecciones de Texas. Los siguientes candidatos han sido certificados como candidatos únicos y por la presente quedan elegidos como se haya indicado a continuación:

Candidates (Candidatos)

- 1) Todd D. Wolford
- 2) Eluterio "Louie" Alfaro
- 3) Eduardo "Eddie" Chavez

Office Sought (Cargo a que presenta candidatura)

- 1) Councilman Seat 3 (Concejal 3)
- 2) Councilman Seat 4 (Concejal 4)
- 3) Councilman Seat 5 (Concejal 5)

A copy of this order will be posted on Election Day at each polling place that would have been used in the election.

El día de las Elecciones se exhibirá una copia de esta orden en todas las mesas electorales que se hubieran utilizado en la elección.

Valerie M. Armendariz
Town Clerk

February (Febrero) 21, 2024
Date of Adoption (Fecha de adopción)

WTCC: 02-29-24

Lawsuit

From Page 3

for their contributions to gun violence in Mexico."

Lowy emphasized that the injunctive relief is extraordinarily important because the court, in essence, would require the industry to behave responsibly and in a way that does not arm the cartels.

In the meantime, the lawsuit's supporters can only envision how life in Mexico would be a far different place if the law suit were successful. "Existence for the Mexican people would be far different if life could be led without dangers and threats from the armed cartels with less fear and more freedom to gather together and enjoy life," they collectively dream.

Mexico's lawsuit. California's attorney general recently stated that the gun manufacturers needed to be held "accountable

This is not your daddy's basketball program

By Steve Escajeda
Special to the Courier

The history of UTEP basketball received a big hug last week when the statue of Don Haskins was unveiled in front of the Don Haskins Center.

The statue of The Bear will hopefully remind some people, and introduce others, to a time when the UTEP basketball program was one of the best in the United States.

When UTEP basketball was ranked in the Top-25, or near the Top-25, on a yearly basis.

The Miners were always winning conference championships and were always either in the NCAA Tournament or at least in the NIT.

The statue is a great tribute to a certain time in UTEP basketball history.

Okay, now let's take a sharp right turn and come back to reality.

The Miners aren't exactly what they used to be.

The last time UTEP had a very successful basketball season was 2014-15, when they finished 22-11 overall and 13-5 in Conference USA and advanced to the NIT.

That was the team with guys like Vince Hunter, Cedrick Lang, Julian Washburn, Omega Harris and Matt Willms.

During the 2013-14 season the Miners were 23-11.

The coach of both those teams was longtime former Haskins assistant coach Tim Floyd, who had returned to UTEP after years of coaching elsewhere.

Since those teams, the past decade has been embarrassing for the Miners. The once powerful UTEP basketball program has won 129 games and lost 145 over the last 9-plus years.

Gone are the days of 24-28 wins. Gone are the days of lifting

championship banners at the Don Haskins Center. Gone are the days of 12,000 crazy fans selling out the arena with a hard-to-get UTEP basketball ticket.

Now fans are beginning to wonder whether the guy they thought would lead the Miners back to greatness is really is the guy.

The five years before Joe Golding took over the Miners, they had one winning season – barely (17-15), an even-even season (12-12) and three losers (15-17, 11-20, 8-21).

Remember, Golding was hired from Abilene Christian after the Wildcats upset the Texas Longhorns in the opening round of the NCAA Tournament in 2021.

In Golding's first season, the Miners were 20-14 and everyone assumed that his teams would just get better and better.

But if you've been paying any attention, you know that hasn't been the case.

The Miners finished 14-18 last year

and have been struggling to stay above .500 this year.

Everybody knew Golding was going to bring a fiery brand of defense to El Paso. Just like Don Haskins himself, Golding knows that defense wins championships. But there's more to the game than just guarding – you have to score a little too.

And Golding's teams have had one thing in common, they're offensively challenged.

His team's at UTEP have been pretty awful at shooting from the field, the 3-point line and the free throw stripe. And as far as I know, those are the only ways to score.

Don't get me wrong, this year's team hustles all over the court. They have a lot of heart and they are as hard-nosed as they come.

But they lack offensive talent.

They don't have that one guy they can count on to make that basket at crunch time. This team doesn't have a true point guard who can run the show

and make the right pass at the right time. They are also lacking a good big man, a shot blocker, a rebounder, an intimidating figure under the basket who can score.

The question is whether Golding can recruit the kind of talent he needs to bring UTEP back.

It used to be that the Miners were always fighting for a playoff spot or for position to win a championship. Now UTEP basketball teams always seem to be fighting to stay out of last place.

I believe El Pasoans genuinely like Joe Golding and want him to succeed. But when listening to fans on talk shows, some are beginning to grow impatient.

El Paso fans are used to winning basketball teams. They aren't going to wait much longer for things to turn around.

Next year will be Golding's fourth year at the helm. If things continue as they have, don't be surprised if that impatience turns into anger.

Senior moment By Matilda Charles

How to get financial help

A survey released last month indicated that consumer sentiment was higher than it's been in quite a while, since the summer of 2021. This is supposed to be a good thing.

The first thing I needed to do was look up the definition of "consumer sentiment." It's how we feel about the state of the economy and our own finances, how positive we are about short-term and long-term economic growth. According to the survey, that positivity occurred everywhere, and income, education, age and location didn't matter.

I'm guessing they didn't survey participants in my area. However, I did. In one of my informal polls of local friends and acquaintances, I learned that:

- Going to the grocery store is still an experience filled with tension and anxiety. We never know what prices will be this week, whether we'll be able to buy what we need and stick to a budget or whether we'll need to have soup and sandwiches for dinner three times this week instead of two.
- Going to the food bank is still embarrassing, but we do it

anyway, usually before making a trip to the grocery store and planning meals around what we get from the food bank.

Then there are basic expenses like utilities and transportation...

If this describes your situation, consider looking into the National Council On Aging Benefits CheckUp. Every year billions of government dollars aren't claimed, mostly because seniors don't know about it. Specifically, there is money out there to help us pay for groceries, utilities, prescriptions, etc.

To get help, call the Benefits CheckUp helpline at 800-794-6559. You can also go online directly to benefitscheckup.org to see if you're eligible for any of the help. You don't need to sign up. You will still be shown a list of help options. I ended up with a list of over 80 programs.

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25 Japanese city that hosted the 1998 Olympics	86 Secret writing	6 Chimpanzee	50 Package delivery co.	93 Wise-acting
26 Start of a riddle	87 Postal pieces	variety	51 Carpentry material for some cabinets	94 Thick-skinned critters
29 Japanese buckwheat noodle	88 Detectives like TV's Magnum, for short	7 "_ have to wait"	52 Chi follower	95 Day, in Chile
30 Dr. Seuss' Sam_	89 Karachi's nation: Abbr.	8 Got married	53 Spicy Spanish pork sausage	96 Study guys
31 Amo, amas, _	91 Very long time periods	9 Lure for insect extermination	54 Taxonomic subdivisions	97 Abbr. on a bad check
32 "Addams Family" cousin	92 End of the riddle	10 The earth as a goddess	56 Become lively	98 End a vacation
35 Riddle, part 2	99 Disloyal type	11 Cut _ (dance)	57 Cheer yell	103 Mother-of-pearl
43 Faint smell	100 Impulsive desire	12 Pago Pago people	58 With 63-Across, for the time being	104 Surfing need
45 Foldout bed	101 Illusionist Geller	13 "Meteor" actor Martin	59 See 75-Across	105 Cake finisher
46 Co-workers of MDs	102 Like planted seeds	14 1972 Billy Wilder comedy film	63 Oven used to bake naan	106 Holy Week's time
47 Stalactite site	104 Riddle's answer	15 Long, involved story	64 Spiny anteater	107 Eldest of the Brady boys
48 Florence's river	113 Enter very quickly	16 Shut loudly	65 Most unkind	108 Helper: Abbr.
49 Total amount	114 Novelist Caldwell	17 Actress Skye of "Stranded"	67 Conservation org. with a panda logo	109 For fear that
51 "Scram!"	115 Common gauge for toy trains	18 Grammy winner Brian	68 Pooch's yap	110 Half a train track
52 Minecraft and StarCraft, e.g.	116 "Despite that..."	21 "_ the breaks!"	69 Big blue body	111 _ gin fizz
55 Riddle, part 3	117 Gets smaller	27 Former Egypt-Syr. alliance	71 Genre of many sitcoms	112 Camp shelter
60 Brief promos	118 "Happy Days" actress Ross	32 "Let me!"	74 Wide shoe spec	113 Yank's rival
61 Triceps' place				
62 Pop's Celine				

Super Crossword

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Comix

OUT ON A LIMB By Gary Kopervas



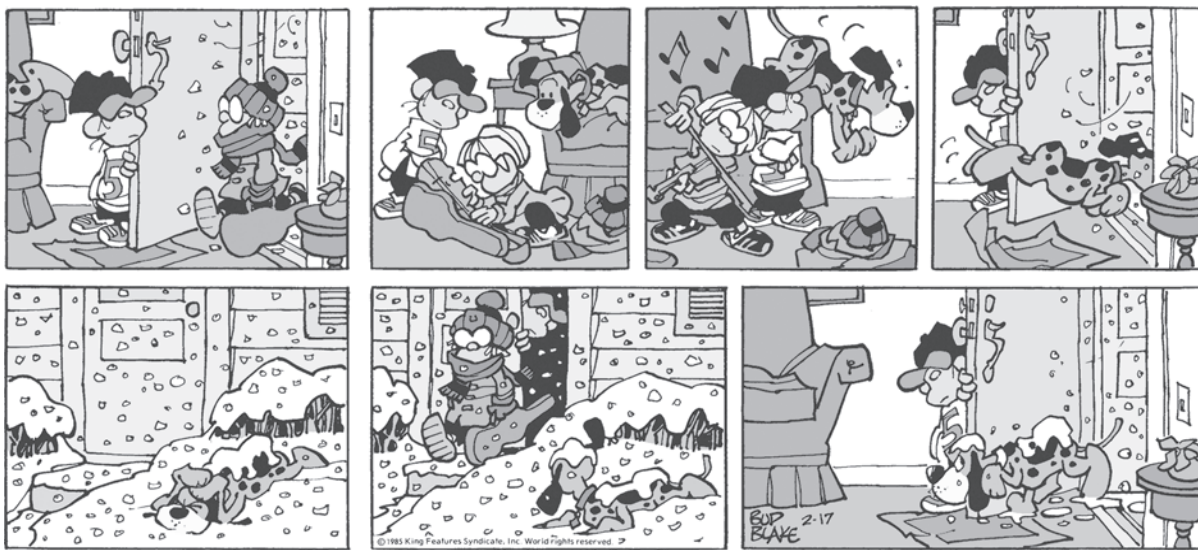
AMBER WAVES By Dave T. Phipps



THE SPATS By Jeff Pickering



TIGER By Bud Blake



Lowry

From Page 2

in the wrong place. The Children's Online Privacy Protection Act prevents the companies from collecting personal information from children under age 13, effectively prohibiting them from social media. But 13 draws the line much too young.

Regardless, the companies have been happy to make a mockery of the rule. About 40% of kids age 8-12 use social media, while usage by teens age 13-18 is nearly ubiquitous.

For social-media companies, these kids are just another market. According to a Wall Street Journal report a couple of years ago, "Inside the company, teams of employees have for years been laying plans to attract preteens that go beyond what is publicly known, spurred by fear that Facebook could lose a new generation of users critical to its future."

Let's say the research and everyone's intuition is wrong, and social media isn't driving worse outcomes for kids.

What's the harm in staying off social media until they're older? That kids will miss out

on the latest absurd and perhaps dangerous TikTok trend? That they won't get to envy people posting photos on Instagram to make themselves look more interesting and beautiful than they really are? That they will talk to their families and friends more and engage in more activities in the real world?

As Yuval Levin of the American Enterprise Institute points out, there are ways to put teeth in a more stringent age restriction, create a reliable mechanism for age verification, and give those parents who desperately want their young kids on social media a way to opt in. Once every teen isn't on social media, it becomes easier to stop teens from using social media.

Perhaps, over time, it will become clear that the teen mental health crisis wasn't driven by social media and – more improbably – being on TikTok is good for 15-year-olds. If so, we can go back and repeal the age-18 restriction – and apologize, if we must, to Mark Zuckerberg.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review. ©2024 by King Features Synd., Inc.

Foot pain source could not be pinned down

DEAR DR. ROACH: My daughter and her friend went to a concert and had to climb stairs. They ended up walking about 2.5 miles in total. After returning home, my daughter had severe pain in both of her feet and was unable to stand or walk on them. She said it felt like someone was crushing them. The pain did not get better, so she went to the emergency room a few days later. A doctor there performed an X-ray and said that the pain was due to bunions, although they did not even look at her feet. She also saw a foot specialist who told her that the diagnosis was neuropathy of the feet and recommended Neurontin for pain. He asked her if she has diabetes, but she does not. They told my daughter that she will have to live in pain for the rest of her life. The doctor recommended getting some tests done on her nerves at the hospital, but she doesn't have money to pay for these tests. What can be done to help her? How is it possible that the pain started so suddenly? She is in constant pain and is unable to walk. – K.B.



"Neuropathy" is not a diagnosis; it's a name for a diverse group of diseases that cause damage to the nerves, specifically signifying the nerves in the brain and spinal cord or those outside of them.

The recommendation of getting nerve testing done is correct. This does sound like neuropathy from the little bit of information I have, although neuropathies do not typically begin with exercise the way you described. I have seen several cases where muscles have become terribly inflamed and even break down after a period of unusually strenuous exertion (this usually gets better with time), but I would have expected the doctors to make that diagnosis.

There is a compressive neuropathy in the foot (tarsal tunnel syndrome) where the nerve is damaged by pressure from muscles, bones and connective tissue, but this happening to both feet at the same time would be surprising. Metabolic neuropathies, like B12 deficiency, cause symptoms on both sides but do not begin suddenly. I'd be worried about her lower spine.

I don't know what your daughter's financial situation is, whether she might be eligible for Medicaid or the Affordable Care Act, or whether there is a free medical clinic near you. I have had many patients make just enough money that they don't qualify for Medicaid, but are unable to afford commercial insurance and don't get it through work.

DEAR DR. ROACH: What is your opinion of laser therapy for joint pain? What are the risks and benefits? – M.J.

Low-level laser therapy, sometimes called cold laser, is thought to improve circulation, lessen inflammation and decrease pain sensitivity when applied to the skin over a joint with osteoarthritis, such as the knee.

In several reviews of small studies, laser treatment provides a modest benefit in decreasing pain, disability and stiffness when compared to a treatment that appeared the same to the participant but did not use the same kind of laser. (In the most stringent studies, even the person using the laser didn't know whether it was set to the effective treatment or not.) Muscle strength was also increased. In these studies, no adverse effects were noted.

However, this therapy is still regarded as experimental, so it is not usually covered by insurance. Generally, insurance companies will cover treatments once enough evidence accumulates to prove them effective.

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. ©2024 North America Synd., Inc. All Rights Reserved.

Archives: www.wtxcc.com



Moore Texas by Roger Moore

March 2, 1836, Washington on the Brazos: The first draft of the Texas Declaration of Independence was so full of errors that a new copy had to be signed the next day.

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: U equals H

SY CZJB T YOQ QCWPOWV
 WOITZOR TL LUO
 HOIOLOWB, S'R HTJJ LUTL
 T VPOJOLCZ HWOQ.

Answer Page 4

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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6			1				8	
9		1	5					8
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Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ◆

◆ Moderate ◆◆ Challenging

Answer Page 4

◆◆◆ HOO BOY!

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Double benefits for education



by Freddy Groves

Per a Department of Veterans Affairs Office of Inspector General (VAOIG) report, veterans who are enrolled at the same time in two different education programs are receiving housing allowance benefits from both.

The two programs are the Post-9/11 GI Bill and VET TEC. Oddly enough, there's no prohibition against the double payments because the way that the VET TEC program was established isn't the same as other education programs (such as the Montgomery GI Bill) that specifically ban dual benefits. In other programs, a veteran must choose between one set of benefits or the other.

The Post-9/11 GI Bill program consists of three or four years of benefits that include books and supplies, tuition and a housing allowance.

The VET TEC program

focuses on high-tech training through specific providers. Benefits include the cost of classes and a housing allowance.

The Office of Inspector General (OIG) took 30 random veterans to study and determined that all of them received dual housing allowance benefits, averaging \$3,100.

They were also able to identify 249 veterans whose training and education programs overlapped, and calculated how many days that included and how much in housing benefits were paid. In the first example in the OIG report, the veteran received over \$12,000 for 105 overlapping days. In the second example, the veteran received nearly \$11,000 for 58 overlapping days.

The VBA tried, says the report, to halt the dual housing payments. They were informed by attorneys that it wouldn't be "veteran-friendly" to reduce benefits and that no laws were being broken in paying the dual benefits. Only in other programs was the veteran

required to only pick one program for benefits.

Congress stepped in with bill amendments to continue the VET TEC program past the end of the pilot period (the five-year pilot will end in April 2024), but according to the OIG report, the bills don't prevent "the concurrent receipt of educational benefits, including monthly housing allowance payments."

If you'd like to read the whole report, go to <http://tinyurl.com/43z96am2>.

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• From L.D.W. in Illinois: "When I have a recipe, I put all the ingredients on the counter, and as I use each one, I put it away. My daughter and daughter-in-law like the idea, as they at one time or another forget an item." I like that one, too, L.D.W. A well-prepared cook makes a delicious meal.

• "To wrap a baby gift in unforgettable gift wrap, circle the announcement in the paper with a colorful marker, then use the newsprint to wrap your package. It has always gotten rave reviews from recipients." – R.L. in Virginia

• Another reason to get the newspaper: Crushed newspaper makes a great rag for shining windows in your home and in the car. No lint left behind!

• "When thickening soup, don't overlook instant potato mix. It's perfect for making a thin broth into a nice, thick stew sauce, and it's pretty cheap. It only takes a couple of tablespoons." – I.F. in Utah

• Want delicious fried chicken crust but not the dripping oil? Baste chicken pieces with mayonnaise, then dredge in crushed cracker crumbs mixed with a bit of flour. Bake and enjoy.

• If your plastic food containers develop an unpleasant odor, never fear: Scrub with a paste of baking soda and lemon juice. Rinse and air-dry.

Send your tips to Now Here's a Tip, 628 Virginia Drive, Orlando, FL 32803. ©2024 King Features Synd., Inc.

GO FIGURE!

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

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ANR

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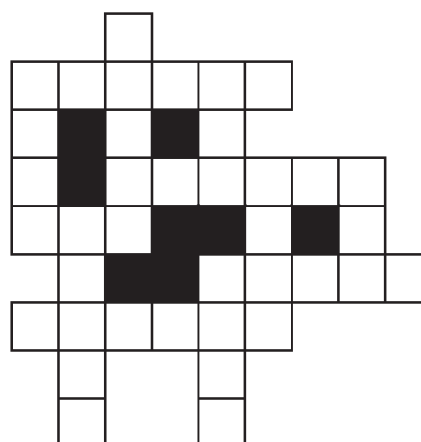
GSUNW

♥AGS

HEGCRA

♥NOGAM

♥HWNE



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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