



NEWSBRIEFS

'Spring Swing'

The Junior Woman's Club of El Paso will be holding its 21st annual Spring Swing charity golf tournament on Sunday, April 7th at Top Golf located at 365 Vin Rambla Drive in El Paso. The family friendly event, which will help raise funds to support efforts that are close to the heart and remain #ElPasoStrong, will run from 9:00 am-1:00 pm with a hot breakfast buffet sponsored by In Vogue, tournament, and more. Register by March 29th online at bit.ly/JWCspringswing.

- \$100 per person which includes a goodie bag, buffet breakfast, appetizer, dessert, and unlimited soft drinks/coffee/tea/water. Hole-in-one tickets are available for purchase.

- \$275 for a Half Tournament Team of up to three players which includes a shared bay plus all of the above.

- \$475 for a Tournament Team of up to six players, which includes 1 bay, plus all of the above.

A variety of sponsorships are also available. For more information or sponsorship opportunities, please contact Regina Bowman-Daou at 915-526-0904 or Chris Francis at 915-525-7179, Co-Chairs for Spring Swing 2024. You may also email J'me Phelps, President of the JWC, at JuniorWomans@gmail.com.

– J'me Phelps

Canutillo ISD

The Canutillo Independent School District Board of Trustees has postponed a decision to merge Davenport Elementary with Childress Elementary and asked Superintendent Dr. Pedro Galaviz to develop different cost-savings alternatives for them to consider later this spring.

– Gustavo Reveles

EPCC grant

Texas Mutual Insurance Company is awarding a \$100,000 grant to El Paso Community College (EPCC) to continue funding the Risk Management Institute, which provides workplace safety and health courses for community employers, employees and the general public. This is the 10th consecutive year that Texas

See BRIEFS, Page 3

Giving help to the enemy used to be called treason. Now it's called "foreign aid."

– Quips & Quotes



– Internet

HEED COMPUTER WARNINGS – Using the computer can be costly if a person loses money in an email scam. The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) is trying to do something about it. They are asking individuals to visit ReportFraud.ftc.gov with information about any company or scammer that sent a malicious email whether it victimized them or not. The input can help stop scammers, according to FTC officials. The FTC website is available in English, Spanish and many other languages.

Stay alert for phishing, email scammers

Report scammers to Federal Trade Commission

By Alfredo Vasquez
Special to the Courier

EL PASO COUNTY – Unsuspecting individuals are losing a lot of money to email scams, sometimes their life savings, because scammers have figured out countless ways to cheat their victims out of their money using modern technology.

In some scams, the perpetrators may act friendly and helpful; others may threaten or try to scare their targets. These unscrupulous persons will do whatever it takes to get their victims' money or personal information to commit their theft.

For example, when a person gets an email unexpectedly about a charge to his or her credit card (or bank account) for something unfamiliar, one's first instinct may be to immediately call the company or respond to the email and try to stop the payment. Scammers know this and are taking advantage of it in a new phishing scheme.

In one recent instance, an individual got an email that looked like it was from Norton, a company that sells antivirus and anti-malware software. The email stated that the person has been, or about to be, charged for a Norton product, such as an automatic renewal

or a new order. If this is a mistake, the email stated that the receiver of the email should call immediately.

However, when the person calls, he is unknowingly connected to a scammer. Some scammers might ask you to "verify" your credit card information, while others might say they need your password to remote into your computer so that they can remove the Norton program. But if allowed, they could instead install malware and open one's files.

One El Paso County resident, who asked not to be identified, came forward recently to warn others not to make the mistake he made and avoid the headaches he has endured.

"Recently I was checking my emails, like I do every morning, when I came across an email, titled "Order Confirmation". Being curious, I wanted to know what this was about as there was an attachment to it," the elderly man related.

"I opened the email and there was a bill statement from Norton. I assumed that it was from my anti-virus security company," he said. "The email stated that services would continue for another two years and that \$899.99 would be deducted from my account that day."

"I looked to see where this money

Tips to avoid being scammed

- Never give your password to a stranger on the phone, even if they claim to be from a company you recognize.
- If you did give out your password, change it right away, update your computer's security software, run a scan, and delete anything it identifies as a problem.
- Make your passwords long, strong, and complex.
- Don't give your bank account, credit card, or personal information over the phone to someone who contacts you out of the blue.
- And if you do get a fake email, help your community by reporting it to the Federal Trade Commission, at ReportFraud.ftc.gov.

would be taken out from, but it did not specify in the email. Although it did state that refunds were available within 12 hours of payment and to call Customer Service, at (888) 473-1412, for more information," the El Paso County resident divulged.

Consequently, after searching from where the money was being taken out, he said that he could not find the

See SCAMS, Page 4

Unfit incumbents still run for office

There's a tried and true method for a White House to deal with a seriously ailing president – lie about it.

The American public, of course, didn't know the truth about Woodrow Wilson's condition after his stroke, nor about the extent of JFK's health difficulties. Meanwhile, FDR's dire condition was kept from the public when he was running for a fourth term that he had no business attempting. He died 82 days after his inauguration.

Joe Biden is the most unfit incumbent president running for another term in office since that 1944 campaign. That is not to say that he's going to – God forbid – shed this mortal coil soon after the 2024 election, but that we should be mindful of the lessons of 80 years ago. To paraphrase Winston Churchill, a president's inner circle is prone to

believe that the chief executive is so precious that he must be protected by a bodyguard of lies.

Few self-respecting physicians with the trust of the president are going to betray it. By early 1944, FDR had been diagnosed with a life-threatening condition, namely “acute congestive heart failure.” An examining physician called his health status simply “God-awful.”

Nonetheless, the White House rolled out FDR's doctor in September to pronounce the president's health “perfectly OK,” with “absolutely no organic difficulties at all.” He said the president, who had experienced alarming weight loss, had just decided to shed some pounds and that he's “proud of his flat – repeat F - L - A - T – tummy.”

Journalistic defenders can be trusted to attack and shame anyone who mistrusts the official story. Pro-

Roosevelt writer Marquis Childs called the well-founded rumors about FDR's health

a “wicked business,” and “the vilest kind of fear campaign.” The problem wasn't FDR's underlying condition, but the malignancy of his enemies: “Some people hate the president so much that the wish is father to the thought that his health is seriously undermined.”

Sound familiar?

Of course, the political allies will always do their duty. Harry Truman, recently selected as FDR's new vice presidential nominee, told reporters after



See LOWRY, Page 7

Federal court blocks extreme Texas legislation that would overstep federal immigration law

(Publisher's note: The following was released by the El Paso County Attorney's Office from Elhiu Dominguez on February 29. It is, except for some formatting, as sent, including the headline.)

TEXAS – The United States District Court for the Western District of Texas today [February 29, 2024] granted a motion for preliminary injunction to block Texas Senate Bill 4 (88-4), which would permit local and state law enforcement to arrest, detain, and remove people they suspect to have entered Texas from another country without federal authorization. The legislation is one of the most extreme anti-immigrant laws ever passed by any state legislature in the country.

A lawsuit from civil rights groups argues that the S.B. 4 violates the supremacy clause of the U.S. Constitution and

is preempted by federal law, as Texas judges would be required to order a person's deportation regardless of whether a person is eligible to seek asylum or other humanitarian protections under federal law. Advocates have warned that the law will separate families and directly lead to racial profiling, subjecting thousands of Black and Brown Texans to the state prison system, which is rife with civil rights abuses.

The lawsuit was filed in December 2023 by the American Civil Liberties Union, the ACLU of Texas, and the Texas Civil Rights Project (TCRP) on behalf of El Paso County, American Gateways, and Las Americas Immigrant Advocacy Center. It was subsequently consolidated with a lawsuit by the Department of Justice.

The court's decision will temporarily block the law

from going into effect as the case is litigated. Without an injunction, the law would have gone into effect on March 5, 2024. This ruling is likely to be appealed by the state.

The following reactions are from:

Anand Balakrishnan (he/him), senior staff attorney at the ACLU's Immigrants' Rights Project, said:

“The federal court's decision confirms over a century of Supreme Court precedent, affirming that immigration enforcement is squarely within the federal government's authority. S.B. 4 is a blatantly unconstitutional attempt to bypass federal law. We applaud the court's decision, but we must ensure this harmful law is struck down altogether.”

Jo Anne Bernal (she/her), El Paso County Attorney said:

This decision is a recognition that SB 4 will cause harm to El Paso County. El Paso taxpayers will pay for the consequences of a bill that is unnecessary. It is the federal government's responsibility to enforce immigration law. The State of Texas should not lay that responsibility on the backs of local law enforcement or local governmental entities. It is a divisive and dangerous law, and we are very grateful that, at least for now, will not take effect.

Iliana Holguin (she/her), El Paso County Commissioner Precinct 3, said:

“El Paso County applauds the court's clear confirmation today that immigration policies rest solely under Federal jurisdiction, and the state of Texas' interference with the U.S. Constitution will not be tolerated. A piecemeal approach from individual states on federal matters such as immigration enforcement would put an undue burden on local taxpayers, while opening

the door to potential civil rights violations for border residents and immigrants alike.”

Jennifer Babaie (she/her), Director of Advocacy and Legal Services with Las Americas Immigrant Advocacy Center, said:

“With today's decision, the court sent a clear message to Texas: SB 4 is unconstitutional and criminalizing Black, brown, indigenous, and immigrant communities will not be tolerated. This crucial decision allows us to continue to focus our efforts on building a safe, legal, humane immigration system not contingent on abuses like racial profiling and harassment. We must continue to be vigilant against Texas' politics of fear and hatred. But today, immigrants and Texans of color get to pursue living lives of hope, opportunity, and family. It's a win worth celebrating.”

Edna Yang (she/her), co-executive director of American Gateways, said:

“This decision is a victory for all our communities as it stops a harmful, unconstitutional, and discriminatory state policy from taking effect and impacting the lives of millions of Texans. Local officials should not be federal immigration agents, and our state should not be creating its own laws that deny people their right to seek protection here in the U.S. While we are thankful for this court decision, we know that too many people fleeing persecution are being denied their legal rights to make their case and seek political asylum. The only way to fix our broken immigration system is through federal congressional action, not individual state action.”

David Donatti (he/him), senior staff attorney at the ACLU of Texas, said:

“The court's decision to

block this anti-immigrant law from taking effect is an important win for Texas values, human rights, and the U.S. Constitution. Our current immigration system needs repair because it forces millions of Americans into the shadows and shuts the door on people in need of safety. S.B. 4 would only make things worse. Cruelty to migrants is not a policy solution.”

Aron Thorn (he/him), senior attorney, Beyond Borders Program at TCRP, said:

“We celebrate today's win, blocking this extreme law from going into effect before it has the opportunity to harm Texas communities. This is a major step in showing the State of Texas and Governor Abbott that they do not have the power to enforce unconstitutional, state-run immigration policies. While this is only the first step in abolishing the law, people across the state can breathe a sigh of relief knowing they will not be needlessly arrested or deported by Texas under S.B. 4.”

The order granting a preliminary injunction is available here:


<https://www.aclu.org/documents/las-americanas-v-mccraw-order-granting-preliminary-injunction-access>

“Know Your Rights” under S.B. 4 materials in English here:

<https://www.aclutx.org/en/know-your-rights/know-your-rights-under-texas-deportation-scheme-sb4>


Access “Know Your Rights” under S.B. 4 materials in Spanish here:

<https://www.aclutx.org/es/know-your-rights/conozca-sus-derechos-segun-el-plan-de-deportacion-sb4-de-texas>



**WEST TEXAS COUNTY
COURIER**

SERVING ANTHONY, VINTON, CANUTILLO, EAST MONTANA, HORIZON, SOCORRO, CLIVE, FARENS, SAN ELIZABO AND TORNILLO



PUBLISHED:
Published each Thursday (minimum 50 issues) by Homesteader News, Inc. Office open Monday through Thursday.

COPYRIGHT:
Entire contents © 2024 Homesteader News, Inc. Individual authors retain all rights. Pictures, drawings and written material appearing in the West Texas County Courier may not be used or reproduced without written permission of Homesteader News, Inc.

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

AD DEADLINE:
Friday 4 p.m. for the next Thursday.

CLASSIFIED RATES
\$15 for 25 words, \$20 for 40 words. Ad must be in writing and pre-paid. The West Texas County Courier reserves the right not to publish advertising it considers inappropriate.

DISPLAY RATES:
Open rate — \$40 per column inch. Call for more information or to set an appointment. The West Texas County Courier reserves the right not to publish advertising it considers inappropriate.

MAIL SUBSCRIPTIONS:
Minimum 50 issues for \$50. Delivery via 1st class mail.


MAIL:
15344 Werling Ct.
Horizon City, TX 79928

Phone: 852-3235



E-mail: wtcc@wtcc.com
Website: wtcc.com

Publisher
Rick Shrum

Contributors
Alfredo Vasquez
Steve Escajeda



**Homesteader
News, Inc.**
Est. 1973

Briefs

From Page 1

Mutual, the state's leading provider of workers' compensation insurance, has given a \$100,000 grant to the college to support the Risk Management Institute. "We are proud to continue this partnership with Texas Mutual, allowing us to provide workplace safety courses throughout our campuses," said Blayne Primozich, associate vice president of workforce and continuing education at El Paso Community College. "Supporting the El Paso community by training the local workforce is top priority for the EPCC Risk Management Institute, and we're glad we can continue to help make El Paso businesses safer places to work." For more information about the El Paso Community College Risk Management Institute, call (915) 831-7130 or visit . For more information on Texas Mutual and its work in the community, visit texasmutual.com.

- Jim Heiney

Film submissions

The 17th annual El Paso Community Foundation Plaza Classic Film Festival is accepting submissions for its Local Flavor Showcase and Awards, which highlights locally made and connected films. Filmmakers will vie for \$3,650 in cash awards - including new awards for student films. Both short and feature-length films will be accepted (no works-in-progress) now through 11:59 pm Monday, June 17, 2024. Go to plazaclassic.com/local-flavor to submit. There is no charge to submit a

film. Projects must have been completed on or after January 1, 2023 and must be made locally, set locally, or have a connection of some kind to the El Paso-Juarez-Las Cruces area, which should be noted in the online entry form's Synopsis window. Entries selected by a panel of judges will be announced in July and screened as part of the Local Flavor Showcase and Awards during the Plaza Classic Film Festival, which runs July 18-28, in and around the Plaza Theatre. The seventh annual Local Flavor Awards will be announced at the end of the showcase. This year's awards include the \$1,500 First Prize, \$1,000 Second Prize, and \$750 Third Prize. A \$250 Audience Favorite Award will be determined by a live text-to-vote during the showcase. New this year: a \$100 First Prize for a film by a college student, and a \$50 First Prize for a film by a high school student. Call 915-533-4020 or email local@plazaclassic.com for more information.

- Rudy Vasquez

Tax advantage

With the tax deadline for most Americans fast approaching and low- and middle-income families expected to pay higher effective tax rates than the wealthy, the personal-finance website WalletHub has released its report on the *Best States to Be Rich or Poor from a Tax Perspective*, as well as expert commentary, to help people find the states that will save them the most money on taxes. In order to identify the states where people in different income brackets spend the most and least on taxes,

See BRIEFS, Page 4

Anthony Independent School District Notice of Public Hearing

Anthony Independent School District will hold a public hearing to discuss the District's 2022-2023 Annual Accountability Report as part of the regular monthly School Board meeting, which is scheduled for 6:00 p.m., Wednesday, March 20, 2024 at the Anthony ISD Boardroom, 813 6th Street, Anthony, TX.

The public is invited to attend. The report will also be available for review after the hearing at all Anthony ISD campuses, central office, and the district website.

For more information, call 886-6506.

Junta Publica

Distrito Escolar Independiente de Anthony

El Distrito Escolar Independiente de Anthony llevará a cabo una audiencia pública para discutir el Informe Anual Reporte de Responsabilidad del Distrito 2022-2023 como parte de la reunión mensual de la Mesa Directiva de la Escuela, la cual está programada para las 6:00 pm el miércoles, 20 de marzo de 2024 en la sala del consejo de Anthony ISD, 813 6th Street, Anthony, TX.

Todos los individuos interesados están invitados a asistir. El reporte estará disponible después de la reunión en todas las escuelas del distrito, en el edificio de las oficinas administrativas, e internet del distrito.

Para mas información, favor de llamar al 886-6506.

WTCC: 03-07-24



Scams

From Page 1

source. “Now, I realize that this is when I should have stopped the interaction with this email,” he noted in hindsight. “But at the time it was bothering me so much that I called the service number that was listed in the email to cancel the order,” he continued.

“As soon as I called, however, the scammer was somehow able to take over my computer,” the pitiable victim declared. “When I saw the online activity taking place and when he opened my Wells Fargo Bank web page, I immediately called the bank,” he said.

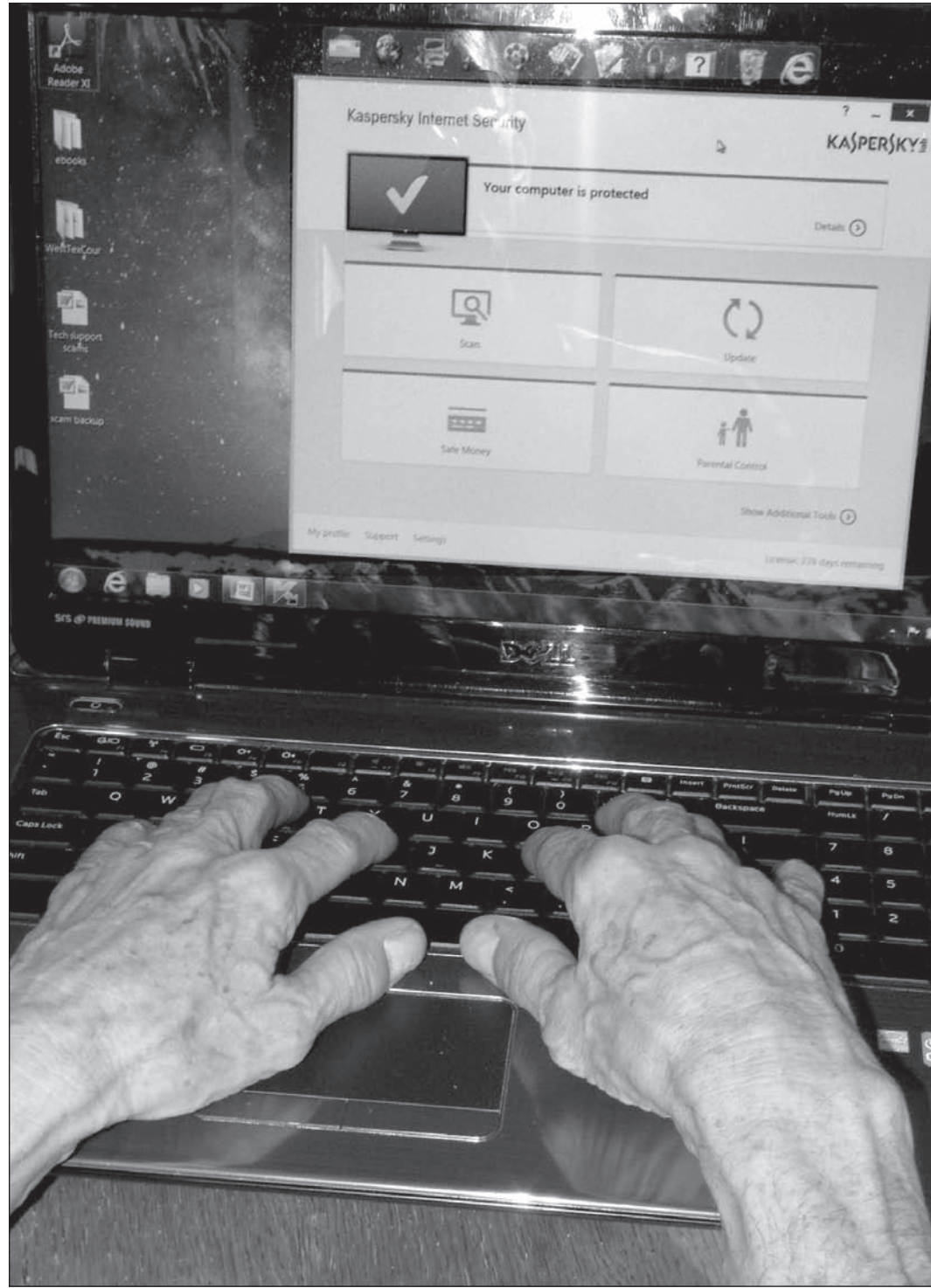
“After battling through all kinds of (communication) obstacles, I finally was able to talk to a person at the bank. I anxiously explained what was taking place while we were talking. I could see that the scammer was processing a Zelle payment to Sue Wood. I informed the bank official on the phone that this activity was taking place as we spoke, but she stated that the money had already been released and that the bank would start an investigation,” the victim recounted.

Two days later, the unfortunate dupe received a letter from Wells Fargo that stated, “Based on the information available to us, we have determined that this payment was processed as requested and that no error occurred.”

To this day, this unlucky fellow has not been able to recuperate his money. It was hundreds of dollars. “If anything, I learned, DO NOT OPEN E-MAIL, UNTIL CONFIRMED,” he exclaimed.

Law enforcement officials are constantly reminding individuals that when one gets an email or text, that they are not sure about, do not click on any links. They emphasize that persons should not use the number in the email or text. Instead, if they want to call the company that supposedly sent the message, look up their phone number online.

Additionally, the Department of Justice



– Photo by Alfredo Vasquez

KEEP CURRENT – Updating your computer’s security software may help users avoid certain scams. However, the software cannot stop anyone from opening a suspicious email and clicking on the links. Visit [ReportFraud.ftc.gov](https://www.reportfraud.ftc.gov) even if you don’t lose money but still want to report an attempted scam. Visit [DoNotCall.gov](https://www.donotcall.gov) to report telemarketers or to register your phone number on the government’s Do Not Call list.

offers the National Elder Fraud Hotline, which provides services to senior citizens who may be victims of financial fraud. The hotline is manned by case managers who can assist callers with

reporting the suspected fraud to relevant agencies and by providing resources and referrals to other appropriate services as needed. The hotline’s toll free number is 833-FRAUD-11 (833-372-8311).

earners pay over 13% of their income in taxes in New York, but less than 4% in Alaska. WalletHub’s study based these calculations on an income of \$25,000 for low earners and \$150,000 for high earners.”

– *Cassandra Happe*
WalletHub Analyst

Expert Commentary

Which state and local tax instruments are the most and least fair?

“States primarily generate revenue through various sales taxes, followed by individual income tax. Local revenue is predominantly derived from property tax, while local sales and individual income taxes are gaining importance but still constitute a relatively small proportion. Fairness in taxation is not an objective, scientific concept; rather, it is subjective. Under the assumption that those with the highest ability to pay should bear the government’s cost, individual income tax is generally regarded as fair due to its higher burden on individuals with greater incomes. However, some states and localities implement a flat-rate income tax. In

addition, individual income tax is particularly well-suited for considering taxpayers’ individual circumstances, such as having dependents. In contrast, sales taxes are viewed as less fair because a higher percentage of low-income households’ income is spent on goods. Various exemptions, such as those for food and other necessities, can be employed to make sales taxes somewhat fairer. Assessing the fairness of property tax is more complex. Generally considered reasonably fair, property tax is justified by homeowners receiving public services like education and police protection. Additionally, homeowners typically have higher incomes than renters, although property taxes can also impact rental costs.”

– *Iuliia Shybalkina, Ph.D.*
Assistant Professor
University of Kentucky

What makes some state and local tax systems better able to weather economic downturns?

“It is helpful to distinguish between short-run stability and long-run

See BRIEFS, Page 5

Strange BUT TRUE

By Lucie Winborne

- On their urban forest data site, the city of Melbourne in Australia assigned email addresses to each of the city’s trees so it would be easier to catch and rehabilitate damaged ones. Instead, the trees received love letters.

- Wild female chimpanzees, much like humans, experience menopause.

- Giant lily pads in the Amazon River can grow up to 6 feet in diameter and even support up to 100 pounds without breaking.

- A man in the U.K. who became paralyzed after a cycling accident spent four years raising 22,000 pounds for an innovative treatment that might enable him to walk again. However, when he heard of a disabled boy who also needed surgery, that had better odds of success, he donated the entire amount to the child instead.

- On the moon, it would be possible for humans to walk on water.

- Eric Money is the only NBA player to officially score for both teams in the same game.

- A group calling themselves Sieged Security hacked into the Idaho National Laboratory with a most extraordinary ransom demand – not cash, but for the lab to research the creation of feline-human hybrids!

- In the small Japanese town of Kamikatsu, residents are required to sort their solid waste into 45 different recycling categories.

- Jenga blocks have subtle differences in dimensions to make their construction less stable. Each brick is a different size and weight, so no two games will be alike.

Thought for the Day: “Great things are done by a series of small things brought together.”

– Vincent van Gogh

©2024 King Features Synd., Inc.

Briefs

From Page 3

WalletHub calculated the share of a resident’s income that they contribute toward sales and excise taxes, property taxes and income taxes. Texas was rated 40th in the report (10th best for the wealthy). Tax Burden in Texas (1-Best, 25-Avg.):

- 30th – Middle-Income Earners (9.97% of Income)
- 10th – High-Income Earners (7.51% of Income)

“The wealthy and less fortunate are both subject to taxes, but unfortunately people who are not as well off can end up getting hit harder due to the regressive nature of many taxes. Living in a state where your income bracket isn’t squeezed as hard during tax season can save you a lot of money. A few states even cut costs dramatically by not charging income tax altogether. Illinois residents with low incomes pay the greatest percentage of their income in taxes, at nearly 14%, while people in Alaska pay around half that, at nearly 7%. On the other end of the spectrum, high





- On March 4, 1933, in the midst of the Great Depression, Franklin D. Roosevelt was inaugurated as the 32nd U.S. president. He would later notably lead the country out of the Depression and to victory in World War II.
- On March 5, 1963, beloved American country western singer Patsy Cline, whose rich, soulful voice made her one of the genre's classic performers of such ballads as "I Fall to Pieces" and "Crazy," died in an airplane crash at age 30.
- On March 6, 2018, the world's oldest known message in a bottle was discovered by Tonya Illman in Western Australia as she walked on the beach with her husband, Kym. The bottle had been

thrown overboard from the German sailing ship Paula in 1886 as it crossed the Indian Ocean, and said only, "Could the finder please plot the coordinates it was found, and the date it was found, and send it back?"

- On March 7, 1965, up to 600 nonviolent activists marched to help African American citizens obtain the right to vote. Despite the peacefulness of their actions, the protesters were brutally attacked, with one woman, Amelia Boynton, beaten to the point of unconsciousness.
- On March 8, 1986, 29-year-old tennis star Martina Navratilova became the first in her sport to earn more than \$10 million in prize money when she won the U.S. Women's Indoor Championships in New Jersey.
- On March 9, 1611, Dutch astronomer Johannes

Fabricius and his father, David, first observed sunspots, which are areas of reduced surface temperature. Johannes wrote and published a 22-page pamphlet on their findings, "Account of Spots Observed on the Sun and of Their Apparent Rotation with the Sun," though his father initially disagreed with his son's conclusion.

- On March 10, 1949, Mildred Gillars, aka "Axis Sally," became the first woman in American history to be convicted of treason. Gillars worked for Nazi Germany's state radio program during World War II, and from 1942 to the end of the war broadcasted Nazi propaganda in an effort to convince U.S. soldiers to give up the fight. Records of the broadcasts eventually convicted her when she was later arrested and returned to the States.

©2024 King Features Synd., Inc.

IF YOU THINK PICKING UP DOG POOP IS UNPLEASANT, TRY DRINKING IT.



Pet waste washes into storm drains, polluting our rivers, lakes and drinking water sources. Get the scoop.

The Town of Horizon City Storm Water Management Team would like to remind our residents how very important it is to keep our storm drains and ponding areas trash free.

Town of Horizon City Storm Water Management Program
14999 Darrington Road • Horizon City, Texas 79928
(915) 852-1046 • Fax (915) 852-1005 • www.horizoncity.org

Briefs

From Page 4

stability. An ideal tax should provide short-term stability while being conducive to capturing economic growth over an extended period. Taxes levied as fixed amounts per item, such as those on cigarettes, irrespective of their value, are particularly ineffective in capturing growth, while income taxes demonstrate the greatest ability to adapt to growth. However, an excessive level of short-term instability linked to fluctuations in the business cycle is undesirable. Property taxes, predominantly employed by localities and minimally by states, are generally regarded as the most stable. This stability stems from the lag in property assessment and taxation in response to house price depreciation or appreciation. On the other hand, income taxes exhibit significant short-term volatility, with corporate income taxes being even more unpredictable, albeit constituting a small share of state and local revenue. Sales taxes fall in the middle ground concerning stability. Despite income fluctuations, people have limitations on reducing their consumption. The introduction of more exemptions for essential goods can heighten the volatility of sales taxes. Striking a balance between short-run stability and long-run adaptability is

important in designing a resilient tax system."

— Iuliia Shybalkina, Ph.D.

How do American notions of economic mobility inform tax preferences and tax policy?

"There has been significant opposition to state and local income taxes, including calls for elimination, tax cuts, and/or moving from a graduated rate to a flat-rate structure. This has especially been the case lately, in part due to states and localities amassing significant savings from better-than-expected recovery from the pandemic and federal pandemic aid. Many places hope that such measures can attract more businesses and residents (looking at Texas and Florida). Unfortunately, given that income taxes constitute a large portion of state revenue, such reforms are likely to result in public service cuts that tend to affect low-income families more than high-income ones. To avoid cuts, places would need to increase other taxes, such as sales taxes that are considered less fair or miscellaneous taxes, for example, gambling taxes that do not raise much revenue and are also inequitable."

— Iuliia Shybalkina, Ph.D.

Visit <http://wallethub.com/edu/best-states-to-be-rich-poor-from-a-tax-perspective/11257/> for the full report.

— Diana Polk

Classified Ads

LEGALS

VILLAGE OF VINTON, TX

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS

Public hearings will be held at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, March 26, 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 alcohol sales for off-site consumption in Town Center zoning.

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:

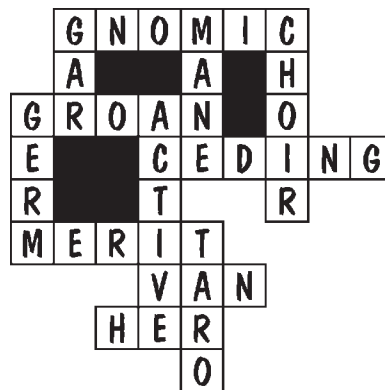
LINK: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2520023141?pwd=WVRDZDIFR3ZHR3FJVlJUL3ZLWTB6dz09>

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: 12345 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: 03-07-24



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

CryptoQuip Answer

Why do car mechanics always seem to drink coffee at work? Because it's break fluid!

9	-	7	÷	2	=	1
-		-		+		
1	+	4	-	3	=	2
+		x		x		
5	+	8	x	6	=	78
=		=		=		
13		24		30		

If you're not covered, you'll be discovered.



An estimated 1 in every 5 vehicles on our Texas roads has no automobile insurance, but that's about to change. • TexasSure Vehicle Insurance Verification matches vehicle registration information to insurance policy data to immediately tell law enforcement officers and tax assessor-collectors who's driving without insurance. • So, if you're not covered, better get insured! • To learn more, visit: www.TexasSure.com

TexasSure catches drivers without insurance.

To Advertise Call 852-3235
Archives: www.wtxcc.com

Last month of college hoops has been a little too crazy

By Steve Escajeda
Special to the Courier

With powerful teams like UCLA, Michigan, Gonzaga, Villanova and Louisville struggling this season, the NCAA basketball tournament will be totally up for grabs when it starts in a couple weeks.

Yes, the college basketball season is heading toward its conference tournaments, which will then lead us to three weeks of March Madness.

Locally, the UTEP Miners and NMSU Aggies have gone through forgettable seasons and are not expected to make any real noise during the Conference USA Tournament.

And though we can expect to see the normal buzzer-beaters and amazing upsets that the college basketball playoffs always give us, it's the unexpected happenings we saw in college basketball the last couple of weeks that have people talking.

First of all, there's been a whole lot of talk lately about fans storming the court at the end of games. Though it almost never happens, the fear is that someone will get hurt some day.

Well, over the last month a player and a school paid the price for fans who rushed onto the court at the end of games.

Three weeks ago, LSU was fined \$100,000 because their fans stormed the court after their upset win over Kentucky, which is against league rules.

Two weeks ago, Duke's Kyle Filipowski was slightly injured when Wake Forest students rushed the court after their upset win over the Blue Demons.

Now coaches and athletic directors are calling for a ban of the ritual all together. But it's also exciting to watch young people go nuts when their team pulls a big upset.

The best solution I've heard is for a

30-second or one-minute countdown to take place right after the game ends so that the opponents can get off the court before fans go crazy around their team. And if anyone ever violates that rule, they are banned from that arena for life. That sounds like a nice compromise to me.

Then there was that ugliness at the Texas-Texas Tech game last week where angry Tech fans started launching items at the court.

It all started midway through the second half, Texas was dominating Texas Tech, so the home fans were already frustrated, but then the Longhorns' Brock Cunningham delivered a hard bump into Tech's Darrion Williams, knocking the Red Raiders player out of bounds.

While officials were reviewing the play, water bottles and other items were thrown onto the floor and security could be seen escorting a few knucklehead fans out of the arena.

It took a while for things to settle down.

But it was good to see many Texas Tech fans standing and applauding when security was seen physically escorting the troublemakers out of the building. Hopefully they will be banned from that arena for life.

Also last week, Indiana and Wisconsin were in a good game at Indiana's Assembly Hall arena.

With about 10 minutes to go in the second half, the score was tied 54-54.

And then that's when it happened. The fire alarm went off and after a little uncertainty, fans, staff and both teams began to evacuate the building.

Thankfully, everybody began filing back into the arena about 20 minutes later after it was determined to be a false alarm... pun intended.

It was later determined that the alarm started in the balcony area, but no one is quite sure what caused the system to go off.

The last few weeks of college basketball have been pretty wild. But let's hope that all the wild stuff only happens on the court from this day forward.

With teams like Houston, South Carolina, Iowa State, Creighton, St. Mary's, Dayton and Utah State among the solid contenders for a national championship, this year's march to madness should be especially intriguing.

Of course, many El Paso fans will have their eyes on former Burges High star Tristen Newton and his defending champion UConn Huskies.

Newton, who is in the running to be named to the All-American team this year, has a very good chance of leading his Huskies to back-to-back titles, but we'll just have to wait and see.

It's been a wild and crazy college basketball season. The best part is that the most exciting kind of craziness is still to come.

Senior moment By Matilda Charles

Don't reach for vitamins or supplements too fast

Oh, it was so tempting, I have to admit. When a neighbor strolled by on her afternoon walk, we got to talking about how she stays in shape, and she rattled off a list of vitamins and supplements that she takes. She swears by them, and she appears to be in excellent condition... although being 20 years younger might have something to do with it.

Still, I was tempted to try some of those supplements she recommended.

But a little voice told me to check first before I loaded up my cart at the big box store. It's a good thing I did.

I learned that too much calcium can affect the absorption of several medications, and St. John's wort can change how over 70% of prescription drugs work, sometimes in dangerous ways. I also learned that one of the supplements advertised on TV is made with grapefruit, which I cannot have.

This is a time to be cautious. Do not add any supplements to your diet without running it by your doctor. Even giving a list of potential supplements to the nurse practitioner can be a good start if she also asks the doctor. If you're

thinking about taking vitamin D or Omega-3, ask about increasing your intake of seafood instead. If you wonder about magnesium for bone health, ask whether you need it or if you should eat more bananas.

Read the labels on your food. Cereal, for example, is already fortified with several vitamins.

Remember that the vitamin and supplement industry is not regulated. Many are made overseas, and our FDA has no say in what's actually in each one.

Researching drug interaction websites can help. The one I liked best is www.drugs.com (click "Interaction Checker").

Read what the National Institutes of Health has to say about dietary supplements for seniors at www.nia.nih.gov/health/vitamins-and-supplements/dietary-supplements-older-adults

Search their database of 178,111 supplements at dsld.od.nih.gov.

©2024 King Features Synd., Inc.

RULING PARTY	sign-off?	114 Iowa college	31 Most vinegary	83 Kind of tide
ACROSS	65 Secretive U.S. org.	116 Louver strip	32 "Understood"	84 Used a spade
1 Gilda Radner	67 Tehran's land	120 Hula _	34 Sch. in the Granite State	86 Cronies
character on "Saturday Night Live"	68 Jug handle	121 What's revealed by taking an X-ray of a Persian ruler?	35 Director Ang	87 Model Macpherson
9 Certain martial arts surface	69 Skye of film	127 Shower affection (on)	36 Mai _ (drink)	88 Doe or stag
16 Just OK	70 Save the Russian ruler from tumbling to the ground?	128 Butt forcefully	37 UFO pilots	92 Spaghetti sauce brand
20 Enthusiastic reply to a request	75 Actors Mineo and Landi	129 Waters north of Australia	38 Commotion	95 GPS calculation
21 Raised, as a building	77 Car club inits.	130 Went swiftly	39 Commotion	97 Egyptian _ (cat breed)
22 Central point	78 Coin-op hole	131 Visits during a trip	40 Actress Mireille _	98 Cold cubes
23 British ruler applying veneer?	79 Thesaurus entry: Abbr.	132 Car mileage recorder	41 Singer Paul	99 GPS calculation
25 Violent anger	80 Afghan ruler caught up in a tornado?	DOWN	44 Ending for cash	100 Grape cluster
26 Nutrition Facts category	85 Stared in amazement	1 Son of Willy Loman	45 Comedian Hart, casually	101 Visual insult
27 Brewed beverage	89 Agate playing marble, informally	2 Tibet locale	47 Hoosier State	103 Slope-hitter's headwear
28 Great Plains tribe	90 Lingo suffix	3 Bat very gently	48 Building story	104 Energetic sort
29 The Devil	91 Greek money	4 Emerging	49 Part-goat god	107 Small sailboat
30 Nile goddess	93 Brewed beverage	5 Actor Studi	50 Where it's at	108 Citation
33 Turkish ruler's pungent condiment?	94 Exam taker	6 Herr's "Alas!"	54 "It's _ real!"	109 Officiated on the diamond
38 Quaint office transcribers	96 Very easy task for a Muslim ruler?	7 Sits tight	55 Boast	110 Vessel used to lure U-boats
41 Sleep study diagnosis	102 Many a war vet's affliction	8 Writer Rice	58 Irritated	111 Foul-smelling
42 Regarding	105 Behave badly	9 Pa Clappett	60 Big name in peanut butter	112 Profs' degs.
43 Something a French-kissing Arab ruler has?	106 Yellowstone gusher	10 Arg. neighbor	61 Break out in _	115 Maestro Klemperer
46 Small sailboats	107 English ruler making mouse sounds?	11 Last mo.	62 Actress Berry	117 Strong desire
51 Nuptial vow	111 Bomb part	12 Golfer Lorena	63 Set to a slow speed	118 1940s film critic James
52 Really smell	112 Liquid _ (Drano rival)	13 Volcano in E. Sicily	64 Bow shapes	119 " _ she blows!"
53 Kind of tide	113 Electees	14 _ Fables	66 Berry of Brazil	121 This yr.'s grads
56 China's Zhou _ rival		15 Six-pt. plays	70 Some mollusks	122 Hosp. VIPs
57 Actress Perez		16 Shredded bit	71 Loathe	123 "Give _ try"
59 Hindu ruler's radio		17 Pontificate	72 Oohs and _	124 Obtained
		18 Fructose, e.g.	73 "Lord, is _?"	125 Med. group
		19 Yoked yaks	74 Precursors of embryos	126 DVD- _
		24 Utters breathlessly	75 Brief parody	
		29 Oral	76 Cry of woe	
			81 Person crying	
			82 Golf gizmo	

Answer Page 4

Super Crossword

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	
20								21							22				
23								24							25				
26						27					28				29				
			30	31	32			33	34	35	36			37					
38	39	40					41					42							
43							44					45		46	47	48	49	50	
51				52							53	54	55		56				
57			58			59		60	61	62	63			64					
			65			66		67				68			69				
			70					71	72			73			74				
75	76					77				78				79					
80				81				82				83	84		85		86	87	88
89								90				91	92				93		
94						95		96	97	98	99	100					101		
				102				103	104		105				106				
	107	108	109							110				111					
112								113				114	115			116	117	118	119
120										122	123	124			125	126			
127								128						129					
130														132					

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

a lunch with the president that he's "still the leader he's always been, and don't let anybody kid you about it."

Truman told a friend, in contrast, that the president's "hands are shaking and he talks with considerable difficulty." According to Truman, FDR was "just going to pieces" physically, and he said he was like "a phonograph record played at the wrong speed."

This wasn't an unusual reaction. People around Roosevelt were in great fear of his dying, yet no one let on.

FDR himself, who demonstrated an almost-admirable lack of curiosity about his own health, still knew how he felt, and wasn't going to let voters know. He warned, "Hysterical last-minute accusations or sensational revelations are trumped up in an attempt to panic the people on election day."

Uh-huh.

FDR did have reserves of energy that were enough to overcome the murmurings about his health, but not the fact that they were true.

Perhaps Roosevelt can be forgiven more than most for his deceptions since – as a giant of American statesmanship who was ably managing a world war – it's understandable that he might consider himself an indispensable man. Yet, it was madness how irresponsible he was about the inevitable succession. In "Ascent to Power," his forthcoming book on this period, David L. Roll writes, "Truman began his accidental presidency utterly unprepared. FDR made no effort to bring him up to speed on current foreign relations and domestic issues nor did Truman insist on being informed by FDR or staff."

The fact is that it's never a convenient time for an administration to be honest about a president's serious health problems; it can only hurt him and help his adversaries.

At the beginning of his term, Biden's boosters, hopefully and absurdly, compared him to FDR. But it may be in exhibiting the same reflexes as the legendary Democrat in 1944 that the comparison is most apt.

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

COVID vaccines debates continue over cancer risks

DEAR DR. ROACH: I am looking for your opinion regarding the new COVID booster. I am not opposed to vaccinations, as I have had the initial two shots and one booster. About 18 months ago, I was diagnosed with prostate cancer and have since had my prostate removed. My current PSA readings are undetectable, for which I'm grateful. I was also diagnosed with melanoma 12 months ago (along with multiple basal spots). Biopsy results showed that all were successfully removed and were within positive margins, for which I'm also grateful. I want to get the new COVID booster for obvious reasons, but I'm reading that the boosters are creating cancer recurrence (including prostate cancer and melanoma) in some patients. Clearly, I don't want either to return, but I also don't want to get COVID. Can you help with my dilemma and offer a recommendation? – T.I.



I have also heard people making that claim, but it isn't supported by evidence. Both the National Cancer Institute and the American Cancer Society agree that there is no evidence, nor a scientific reason, suggesting that COVID-19 vaccinations increase the risk of cancer growth, whether it was the first one or an additional one. (By the way, if you saw, like I did, the term "turbo cancer," you can safely disregard the claim, since this isn't a real entity. That's fearmongering.)

The COVID vaccine, whether it's an mRNA or a traditional vaccine (like the Novavax), is a very limited exposure of a critical protein in our immune system to help "teach" the immune system how to recognize a COVID infection. The vaccine provides pretty good protection against infections for a few months and excellent protection against severe infections (including hospitalization and death) for close to a year. Yearly vaccination seems like it might be reasonable, although public health experts have not decided on a long-term COVID vaccination plan.

People with cancer are particularly recommended to get vaccinated, since both cancer and its treatments may affect the immune system and make infections more serious. However, chemotherapy may affect the body's ability to successfully react to the vaccine, so your oncologist can help you decide the optimal time to get the vaccine if you are undergoing chemo.

DEAR DR. ROACH: You recently wrote about varicoceles and said that they are more common on the left side of the body. Why is that? – A.M.

A varicocele is a dilated vein in the spermatic cord that can sometimes cause symptoms of fullness or discomfort in the scrotum. A varicocele forms just like any other varicose vein – increased pressure causes damage to the vein or the valves within the vein that are supposed to stop the backward flow of blood.

On the left side, the spermatic vein empties into the renal vein, but does so at a sharp angle that can allow for higher pressure and backward flow of blood. By contrast, the right spermatic vein empties into the inferior vena cava, which is large and has lower pressure.

In fact, when a man has a varicocele only on the right side, it raises concern for a tumor that can compress the inferior vena cava. However, the risk is still quite small – 2.7% of right-sided varicoceles compared to 1.6% of left-sided varicoceles.

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 6, 1836: The Alamo is overrun by Santa Anna's army. All the Texian defenders are killed.

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: Q equals F

SPG MY LTD OKLPTRZLE
 TBSTGE EKKO XY MDZRJ
 LYQQKK TX SYDJ? HKLTAEK
 ZX'E HDKTJ QBAZM!

Answer Page 5

©2024 King Features Synd., Inc.

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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!

©2024 King Features Synd., Inc.

Stand Downs are starting for 2024



by Freddy Groves

The Stand Downs for 2024 are gearing up, with slightly warmer weather now upon us. They'll run from now until the end of October in various places around the country.

Stand Downs, started in 1988, are one-, two- or three-day events meant to provide services to homeless veterans or those who are at risk of becoming homeless. The services provided can vary, depending on the location and the length of the event, but in most cases, veterans can get help with housing, mental health counseling, treatment for substance abuse, health care and screenings, help with VA claims, dental care, tax help and more.

You'll likely find food, showers, clothing, haircuts and information about

support for caregivers, suicide prevention and legal advice. Sometimes the events are held right on the grounds of a VA medical center or a fairground, city park or other community space.

The list of events for 2024 (www.va.gov/homeless/events.asp) is being added to all the time. So if you don't see an event near you, check back. Or search online, putting in "Stand Downs 2024" and the name of your state for events that haven't made it to the main listing yet.

But no matter what the event includes or where it's located, it will be run mostly by veterans with help from volunteers. How about you? Are you in a position to step up and assist at a Stand Down? You might be running a van to pick up veterans without transportation. Or you might be preparing food in a tent on the site. If you're a legal professional, you might be looking over a document a

veteran has received from a landlord. Whatever role you take at a Stand Down, it will be valuable and worthwhile – and appreciated.

If you are part of a company or service group and want to host an event, start with the Stand Down POC (point of contact) at the closest VA medical center, or ask for the homeless coordinator. And thank you.

©2024 King Features Synd., Inc.



• When putting in new plants, you can tear strips of tin foil, then use toothpicks or small stakes to pin them to the ground in your new garden. It will keep the cats out, and can even discourage birds.

• To remove the fat from your pot roast or other slow-cooked meat dish, make then refrigerate. The fat will float to the top of the juices and coagulate. Remove this layer of fat and then reheat.

• "My kids are long past wagon size, but their wagon isn't done hauling yet. I put it to good use in the garden. I can park it in the shed stocked with all the things I might need. It's very handy." – A.A. in Florida

• "When starting out a new exercise class, be sure to give it a full month before you decide whether you like it or not. Especially classes that are harder, since you might be very sore and think that means you don't care for the class." – L.M. in Virginia

• "Dedicate a photo album to class photos. It will be easy to see the changes your little ones have gone through over the years. It's especially nice when you include the individual portraits for each year and make the album for just one child. It makes a special gift, too." – J.K. in Pennsylvania

• Researchers have developed an algorithm that transforms complex data into musical sounds.

• To sharpen a pair of worn scissors, try cutting through a piece of aluminum foil that is doubled or tripled over. Be sure to clean and dry scissors you use in the kitchen.

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

	-		÷		=	1		
-		-		+				
	+		-		=	2		
+		×		×				
	+		×		=	78		
=		=		=				
13		24		30				
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

DIFFICULTY: ★

★ Moderate ★★ Difficult

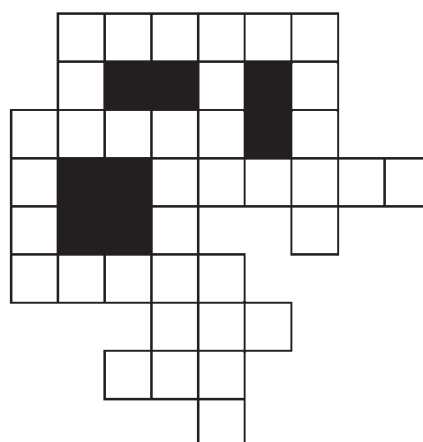
★★★ GO FIGURE!

Answer Page 5

©2024 King Features Syndicate, Inc.



- NVA
- DEGNIC
- ♥ IRTME
- RGME
- ♥ MOGICN
- ERH
- ♥ ENMA
- HIRCO
- ♥ GRA
- TEAVIC
- ♥ NARGO
- AOTR



Answer Page 5

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

©2024 King Features Syndicate. All rights reserved.