



– Photos by Alfredo Vasquez

HERE A PANEL, THERE A PANEL – El Paso Electric (EPE) is developing huge solar farms with the utility’s first solar farm, above, located outside Chaparral, NM becoming operational a year ago. The new solar panels are expected to shift the energy landscape in the region by generating vast amounts of clean, zero-emission electricity locally for the first time. By investing in solar infrastructure EPE officials say they are paving the way for greener and more environmentally conscious communities.

EP Electric plans to keep lights on and counter climate change

Will electricity supplies fall short and leave homes and businesses in the dark?

By Alfredo Vasquez
Special to the Courier

EL PASO COUNTY – At a time when households and businesses are increasingly using electric-powered refrigerated air conditioners, more individuals are driving electric vehicles, and big technology companies need massive amounts of electricity to run data centers – such as the proposed Meta facility in Northeast El Paso – the demand for electricity is exceeding local utility officials’ expectations.

Kelly Tomblin, Chief Executive of El Paso Electric (EPE), stated in a recent news report that last summer power usage had surpassed the demand that was not expected to be reached until 2029. “I want that to sink in: We are six years ahead of our

demand,” Tomblin emphasized.

The sizzling summer heat of 2023 pushed the region’s power grid to the brink, according to the chief executive. Tomblin acknowledged that last July, EPE operators were “holding our breath, crossing our fingers” that the utility would be able to keep customers’ lights and AC units on.

Today, EPE officials stated that they are working to meet the escalating power demand and also produce cleaner electricity. They know that the stakes for a successful energy transition are high in the region, which experienced the hottest year on record in 2023 and could see summer temperatures become increasingly hazardous to human health in the years ahead.

To address the demand, a major project EPE is developing includes huge solar farms. The utility’s first solar farm, located outside Chaparral, NM,

became operational a year ago. The new solar panels are expected to shift the energy landscape in the region by generating vast amounts of clean, zero-emission electricity locally for the first time.

EPE also started receiving power last summer from the Buena Vista Energy Center in Otero County, New Mexico, a 120-megawatt solar farm with batteries onsite that soak up excess solar power during the day and discharge it onto the grid in the evening, when electricity is most needed.

Additionally, EPE expected another project, a solar farm in Santa Teresa, to start generating power this June. But the project developer, D.E. Shaw Renewable Investments (DESRI) experienced long delays and is now seeking to renegotiate the contract for that solar farm and potentially complete construction in 2026.

Meanwhile, DESRI is also constructing another local solar farm that EPE calls the Carne project.

The company is planning to start building this solar farm before the end of the year, once New Mexico regulators OK the project.

According to DESRI officials, Santa Teresa and Carne projects are relatively still on schedule, with the Carne solar farm expected to start generating

See ELECTRICITY, Page 2

Efforts progressing for Wyler Aerial Tramway to return

By Rudy Vasquez
Special to the Courier

EL PASO COUNTY – El Paso’s is advancing into Phase 1 of the reconstruction project, and contract bidding is now open. The El Paso State Delegation and the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) is leading this effort in collaboration with the Camino Real Regional Mobility Authority (CRRMA) and the El Paso Community Foundation (EPCF).

With design plans for the entire project nearly complete, the CRRMA is inviting contractors to submit bids for the construction of Phase 1, marking a crucial step towards bringing this iconic tramway back to life.

In efforts to revive the Wyler Aerial Tramway, the El Paso State Delegation, led by Senator César J. Blanco, Representative Lina Ortega, Representative Joe Moody, Representative Claudia Ordaz and Representative Mary Gonzalez, has secured \$20 million for the project, which will be used for this initial phase. The Phase 1 design plans include roadway extensions, additional parking, shelters, supportive infrastructure, an amphitheater, and hiking trails.

“The Wyler Aerial Tramway is an important local treasure and asset to the El Paso region, and I am happy to see that our collaborative efforts are moving us closer to the reopening of a new and improved tramway,” said



– Photos by El Paso Community Foundation

WHAT A VIEW – Several groups are committed to bringing the Wyler Aerial Tramway back online for rides including the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, the Camino Real Regional Mobility Authority and the El Paso Community Foundation.

See TRAMWAY, Page 3

Democrats lied and got caught

They didn't soulfully consider President Joe Biden's marked decline and decide, for the good of him, his party and the country, that he had to step down.

They lied, and they got caught.

The Democratic Party line on Biden was that he had turned in an exceptionally effective State of the Union address. He might mess up a name here or there, but he had gotten better with age. He should be judged on his achievements, which rivaled those of LBJ. Anything suggesting he was in decline was a paranoid lie, or – in a truly ridiculous neologism – “a cheap fake.”

Everything we saw with our own eyes was misleading. No, he hadn't wandered off at the G-7 summit. No, he hadn't frozen up at his Hollywood fundraiser. No, he wasn't having trouble walking

and getting up the stairs of Air Force One.

No, everything was fine.

No one formally enforced this party line, but everyone knew to follow it – Democratic leaders, journalists and donors. The whispered conversations stayed whispered. Then, the debate happened, and the party line was inoperative.

There were attempts to revive it, but it was a little like being a Communist in the 1930s when Stalin wrenched the party into a totally new position. It didn't matter whether the new line had any connection to the prior line; it had to be followed.

So, Joe Scarborough of MSNBC, who months earlier had issued forth with table-thumping assurances that Joe Biden was at the absolute top of his game, suddenly thought he might have to step aside.

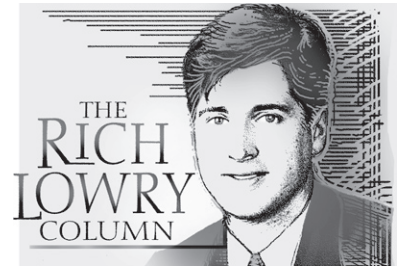
George Clooney, who co-hosted the aforementioned Hollywood fundraiser, wrote in The New York Times that at that event, Biden was

a shadow of his self, and suddenly former Obama speechwriter Jon Favreau could say that everyone he talked to at the event was appalled by Biden's state.

The president can be forgiven for being disappointed and angry that everyone who had been covering for him switched overnight.

There's no honor among thieves, but shouldn't there be at least a little among political co-conspirators?

Biden showed monumentally poor judgment in



See LOWRY, Page 7

Electricity

From Page 1

electricity next summer. The Santa Teresa project is a 150-megawatt solar farm and battery array that are being developed in the desert near the Santa Teresa Port of Entry.

EPE and local government dignitaries also recently broke ground on another 150-megawatt solar farm in Fabens, a farming community in El Paso County's lower valley. EPE officials expect to complete this project by September of next year. EPE agreed with regulators to set a spending limit on the Fabens solar farm of \$257 million. And the utility guaranteed that the solar facility would produce power 30 percent of the time.

The current solar undertakings total about 580 megawatts of new solar capacity plus 140 megawatts of battery storage. This is

a big shift for a utility that has maintained about 2,500 megawatts of total generation capacity, mostly from the Palo Verde Nuclear Plant in Arizona and EPE's four local natural gas power plants.

Another aspect of the utility company's long-term strategy is the completion of the new \$211 million natural gas-fired power plant, called the Newman 6 unit. The Northeast El Paso facility is designed to turn on within a few minutes and produce power when the sun is not shining. And the plant is permitted to release into the air each year nearly 800,000 tons of carbon dioxide, which researchers identify as a greenhouse gas that contributes to climate change and warmer temperatures.

Company officials explained that the approach of adding solar alongside a gas-fired turbine is part of EPE's plan to invest in the local power grid and eventually rely entirely on clean, carbon-free energy sources by 2045.

Last year, EPE invested \$500 million into the local electric grid and built out 85 miles of new transmission lines and five new substations. The utility's grid investments are enabling the solar buildout, and the spending last year was an increase from \$220 million in 2022, according to Tomblin.

To recoup the money the electric company has spent on the new solar farms and the gas plant, EPE officials announced that plans are to ask regulators for a rate increase that would likely take effect next year. If the request is approved, EPE customers can expect to pay higher monthly bills. EPE officials estimate that household customers could see their electric bills rise by about \$4 per month.

EPE officials admitted that any strategy to achieve 100 percent carbon-free power depends in part on a plan to convert Newman 6 from running on natural gas to hydrogen, which, unlike gas,

produces no emissions when it's burned in a turbine.

David Rodriguez, vice president of energy supply for El Paso Electric, said that with some minor modifications, EPE can run Newman 6 today with fuel that is nearly 30 percent hydrogen and the rest natural gas. Within a decade, the hope is Newman 6 runs on 50 percent hydrogen, and then is entirely fueled by hydrogen within 20 years.

Currently, EPE gets a slim share of its power supply from solar, but about 45 percent of the utility's electricity comes from the Palo Verde Nuclear power plant, a carbon-free resource.

“If we're successful in the next couple of years in retiring these older (gas-fired power plant units), three of them in particular, we'll be at over 80 percent carbon-free power before 2035, Rodriguez stated.

In the meantime, Tomblin said that EPE may invest more in demand response

among other programs and products. Demand response, for example, includes things such as remote-controllable thermostats that EPE can raise when there's a big demand for power across the Borderland.

Another example would be time-of-use rates, which generally charge customers more for electricity they use during peak times – such as a late afternoon or early evening – and less when demand is lower, like late at night.

Today, EPE officials claim that they can comfortably provide enough power for the region on all but a handful of hot, summer days, when El Paso homes and businesses are cranking their air conditioners and soaking up far more electricity than during the rest of the year.

That's where demand response programs come in. If EPE can pay some customers to dial back their electricity consumption during those summer stretches when power is in high demand, that's far less costly for the utility than spending hundreds of millions of dollars to build a new power plant or solar farm.

For a big utility like EPE, lowering customers' usage can be just as good, and sometimes cheaper, than boosting the utility's supply of electricity.

WEST TEXAS COUNTY COURIER

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Town of Horizon City

In an effort to provide a safe, healthy and clean environment the Horizon City Code Enforcement Department asks that all residents please follow property maintenance requirements. Visit www.horizoncity.org for complete Ordinance requirements about the following topics and more:

- **Yards and Trees** – keep yards, including parkways and gutters, clear of weeds and debris; trees shall be trimmed to maintain proper clearance;
- **Stagnant Water** – items such as tires shall not be stored on properties in order to prevent mosquito growth; up to 5 tires may be brought to City Hall;
- **Outdoor Storage** – do not store indoor furniture/appliances outside;
- **Illegal Dumping** – violators will be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law;
- **Vehicle Parking** – only allowed on approved parking surfaces; do not park on yards;
- **Garage Sales** – maximum of 4 per year with a permit; and
- **Signs** – illegally placed signs will be removed; contact City Hall for further clarification.

Notice of Violation
Individuals or property owners must comply with a Notice of Violation.

If the property is not brought into compliance, the City may request a court order that would give the City authorization to access the property and correct the violation; all associated costs will be billed to the property owner.

Call 915-852-1046 with any questions
and/or to report violations.

People know Pueblo for its...

Famous Hot Salsa?

In Pueblo, the free government information is also hot. Spice up your life by dipping into the Consumer Information Center web site, www.pueblo.gsa.gov. You can download all the information right away. Sorry, salsa not available through our web site or Catalog.

Tramway

From Page 1

Blanco. "I look forward to continuing to champion additional state funding in the Senate and working with the entire El Paso Delegation, Texas Parks and Wildlife, Camino Real Regional Mobility Authority, and the El Paso Community Foundation to secure the additional public and private dollars needed to finish the new tramway."

"I have fond memories of the Wyler Tramway, and so do generations of El Pasoans. Nothing beats that view of our incredible hometown, so I'm excited to see the state funding our delegation secured lay the foundation that will bring the tramway back for generations to come. I won't stop until that happens," said Moody.

"The State of Texas has committed millions of dollars towards the reopening of the Wyler Aerial Tramway. I look forward to continuing to collaborate with local leaders to see the project is completed," said González.

"The overlook from the Tram will provide visitors with a stunning view of our city's majestic landscape," said Ortega. "Our community's quality of life will also benefit from the walking trails that will be available for everyone to use and enjoy."

Representative Eddie Morales, shared his sentiments, "As we always work to promote the livelihood of Texans, which includes the experience of viewing our beautiful natural and urban landscapes, I am excited about the funds secured to bring back the Wyler Ariel Tramway. I commend my colleagues for their hard work in securing these funds for El Pasoans and all Texans who make their way to El Paso to enjoy."

"For years the El Paso community has been waiting for the grand return of the Wyler Tramway. As the state's only public tramway, we have the opportunity to attract visitors young and old to highlight the

beauty of our city," said Ordaz. "I'm excited that we are finally able to kick things off, and look forward to working with my colleagues' community members to get this project fully funded."

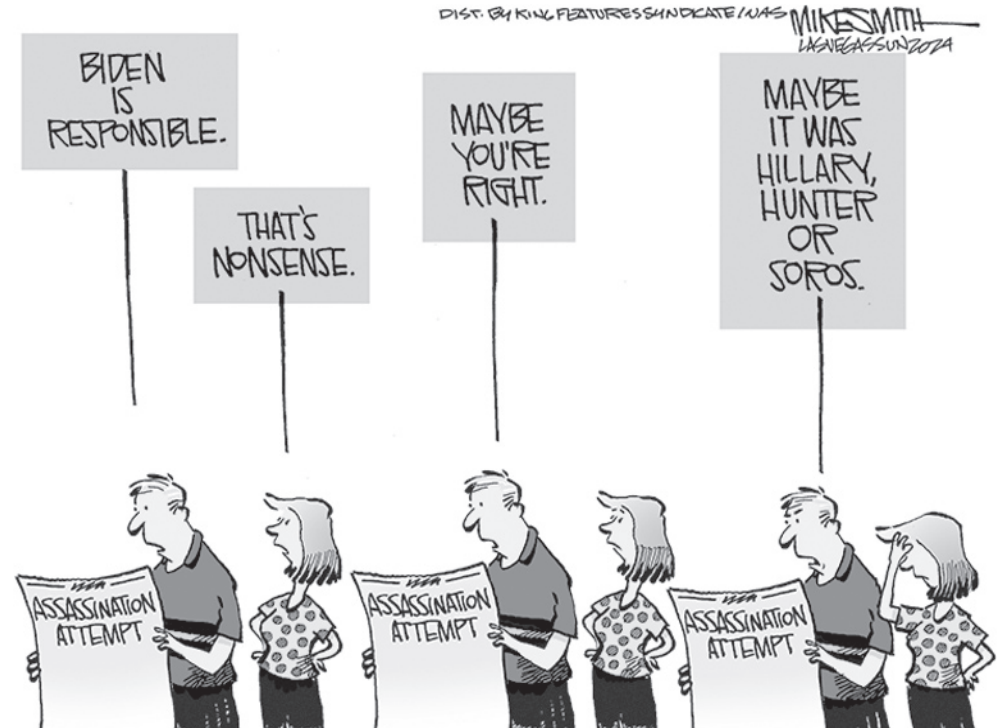
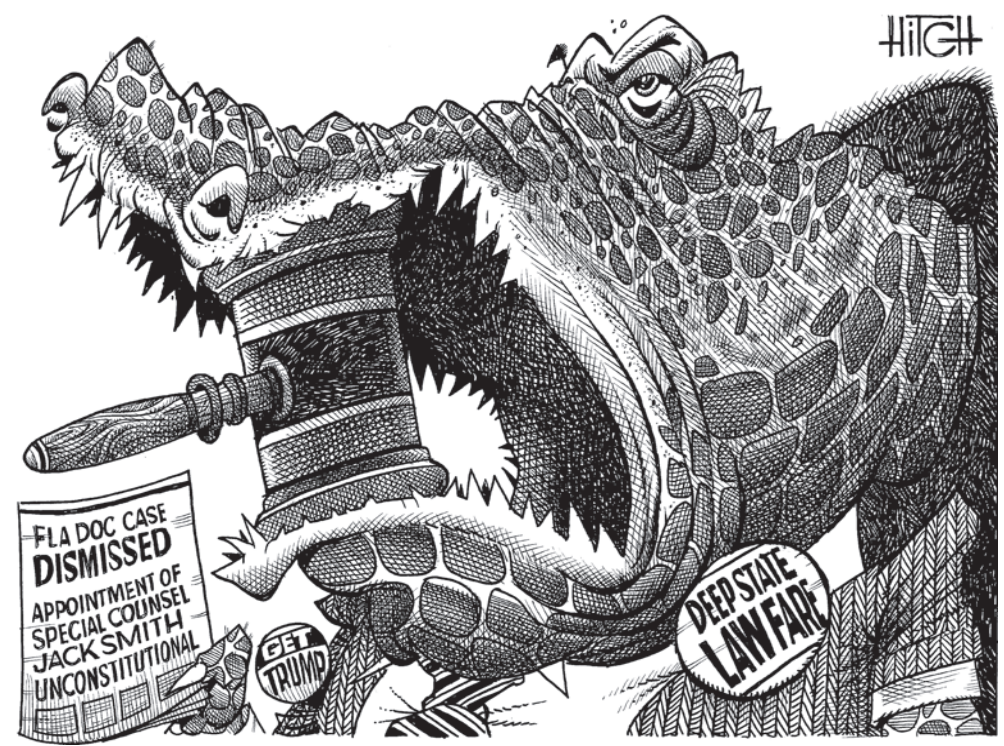
The El Paso Community Foundation received the original gift of the Wyler Aerial Tramway from El Paso broadcast pioneer and philanthropist Karl O. Wyler. Wyler, who owned and managed KTSM TV and radio, built the tramway to transport equipment to construct the radio transmitters in 1959. He opened the tramway to the public in the 1960s and then gifted it to the Foundation to ensure it would remain accessible to the public in perpetuity. In 1999, the El Paso Community Foundation gave the Wyler Aerial Tramway and 170 acres of adjacent property to TPWD, where it was enjoyed by the public as a state park from 2001 until its closing in 2018.

"It made sense in the 1990s for the El Paso Community Foundation to gift this treasure of our

community to the largest urban state park in Texas so that we all could enjoy it," said Eric Pearson President and CEO of the El Paso Community Foundation. "Now, we need to come together again to help make it the best possible new facility for the next generations to enjoy and learn about our Chihuahuan Desert."

"The Camino Real Regional Mobility Authority is now soliciting contractors to provide proposals for Phase 1 of the project, and we're excited for the public to know that the Wyler Aerial Tramway is really happening. This project is moving forward with intention, and that is evidenced by the support provided by the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department, our El Paso delegation, and the El Paso Community Foundation," said Raymond Telles, Executive Director of the CRRMA.

For more information and updates on the project, as well as future announcements regarding the RFP process, please visit www.crrma.org.





— Photo courtesy El Paso Community College

DISCUSSING OPPORTUNITIES – Elizabeth Escajeda, right, a resident of Johnson Housing, talks with John Estrada, left, last Saturday. Estrada works in the EPCC Office of Students with Disabilities.

EPCC hosts event for potential students

By Beau Bagley
Special to the Courier

EL PASO COUNTY – El Paso Community College (EPCC) and the Housing Opportunities and Management Enterprises (HOME) hosted the EPCC Round Up last Saturday at the Johnson Community Hall at 9000 Roanoke Street. The community-focused event connects prospective HOME students with valuable resources and information about higher education opportunities available at EPCC.

“EPCC Round Ups are like EPCC enrollment Pop Up shops that we host at different locations throughout the city,” Michael Talamantes, EPCC Recruitment Services Director, said. “We hosted our first evening EPCC Round Up in the spring of 2023 at the SISD District Service Center. We invited prospective students and their parents from across Region 19 to learn about our enrollment process and visit with various departments in our program of study resource fair. We are excited to host an EPCC Round Up and provide the same level of experience for the residents of El Paso Housing Authority.”

The EPCC Round Up is designed to provide residents with direct access to the support and guidance necessary to navigate their educational journeys. Representatives were on hand to answer questions, provide insights into various programs, and assist with the admissions process.

“Building futures with HOME and EPCC is a cornerstone of our community engagement,” said Gerald Cichon, HOME CEO. “We are dedicated to empowering individuals through education and ensuring they have the tools and resources needed to succeed.”

CryptoQuip Answer

Stop trying to convince me that female sheep have no capacity to long for things. Ewe wish!

Strange BUT TRUE

By Lucie Winborne

• Guglielmo Marconi, whose invention of wireless telegraphy was credited for saving the lives of over 700 Titanic passengers after it sank in 1912, had turned down a free passage on the ship, choosing instead to go to America via the Lusitania three days earlier. He narrowly missed death at sea a second time in 1915, when he was again a passenger on the Lusitania, about a month before it was sunk by a German U-boat.

• The story of Cinderella first appears in a Chinese book written in the 850s.

• Margaret Dixon, a Scottish criminal, was hanged at Musselburgh in 1728. However, just a few hours later, she climbed out of her coffin, and was reprieved and pardoned. Still, as her husband was considered a widower because she was “officially” deceased, Scottish law dictated that they had to remarry.

• The country of Liechtenstein has twice as many registered corporations as citizens.

• On April Fools’ Day 1957, the BBC television documentary “Panorama” broadcast a documentary about the so-called spaghetti orchards of Switzerland, with discussions of spaghetti plantations in Switzerland and Italy, the spaghetti weevil, and the reason for the pasta’s being of such uniform lengths held against a background of Swiss “spaghetti trees.” Many viewers, forgetting or failing to notice the date, believed the orchards were real!

• Groups of geese on the ground are called a gaggle, but in the air they’re referred to as a skein.

• Honey has been used as a center for golf balls and in antifreeze mixtures.

Thought for the Day: “I attribute my success to this: I never gave or took any excuse.”
– Florence Nightingale

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Moments in time

THE HISTORY CHANNEL

• On July 29, 1958, in response to the Soviet Union’s launch of its first satellite, Sputnik I, the U.S. Congress passed legislation establishing the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), the civilian agency responsible for coordinating America’s activities in space.

• On July 30, 1966, a three-chord tune penned by Chip Taylor (aka James Voight, brother of actor Jon Voight) called “Wild Thing” became a No. 1 hit for The Troggs. Interestingly, royalties earned from the song that neither its writer or singer took seriously, enabled said lead singer to research and become an expert on the phenomenon of crop circles.

• On July 31, 1999, Linda Tripp, the only person involved in the impeachment proceedings against President Bill Clinton to face criminal charges, was indicted for illegal phone tapping after a 13-month investigation.

• On Aug. 1, 1929, inventor Thomas Edison held a competition in New Jersey to select his next 49 proteges. Among the challenging and extensive questions posed to hopeful contestants on the subjects of science, geography, history, chemistry and personal ethics was the especially pertinent “What new discovery or invention do you believe would be the greatest benefit to mankind?”

• On Aug. 2, 2007, Fisher-Price recalled more than 1.5 million Chinese-manufactured toys due to concern that the paint used on them could pose a health risk to young children if ingested. The affected toys included Sesame Street’s Big Bird and Elmo, which were targeted at kids more likely to put the figures in their mouths.

• On Aug. 3, 1916, Sir Roger David Casement, an Irish-born diplomat who in 1911 was knighted by King George V, was hanged for his role in Ireland’s Easter Rising.

• On Aug. 4, 1753, George Washington became a Master Mason, the highest basic rank in the secret fraternity of Freemasonry, in a ceremony held at Masonic Lodge No. 4 in Fredericksburg, Virginia. He was 21 years old and would soon command his first military operation as a major in the Virginia Colonial Militia.

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Senior moment By Matilda Charles

Changes to RSV vaccine recommendations

The vaccine for RSV (respiratory syncytial virus) has come under some changes in the CDC recommendations list. Until recently, they suggested that anyone over 60 should consider getting the vaccine.

Now they say, specifically:

- If you're over 75, get the shot.
- If you're between 60 and 74, get the shot if you're at risk of contracting a severe case of RSV. Those most at risk include those with a chronic condition such as lung disease, diabetes, liver disorders and more.

• If you're between 50 and 59, one of the two versions of the vaccine is suitable for you if you run the risk of severe RSV.

In other words, if you're at risk, you move to the head of the priority line. RSV causes lower respiratory tract disease, and the shots have an 80% efficacy rate, which means they will likely help.

These suggestions are for those who didn't get the vaccine last year (the first year the vaccine was available); you don't

See SENIOR, Page 6

Classified Ads

LEGAL

VILLAGE OF VINTON, TX

PUBLIC NOTICE

Request for Proposals

Consulting Services #2024-002

The Village of Vinton is seeking consultant services related to the development of a Stormwater Management Plan for the Village of Vinton, Texas by issuing a Request for Proposals (RFP). The RFP package may be accessed at:

https://vintonx.gov/office2.com/vertical/sites/%7B9571B011-F39E-4B6F-A49E-0B16B6056A3%7D/uploads/Village_of_Vinton-RFP_2024-002_Stormwater_Consulting_Services.pdf

Proposals must be received in a sealed envelope or box at the Village of Vinton by 11:00 AM on August 19, 2024, MST and must be clearly labeled "2024-002 Vinton Stormwater Masterplan." Proposals are to be addressed to the Village Administrator, Village of Vinton, 436 E. Vinton Rd. Vinton, TX 79821. Proposals arriving late will be returned unopened.

All interested respondents can register with the Project Manager, Daniel Bueno Jr., to receive updates, addenda or any additional information required. The

Village is not responsible for any failure to register. An optional pre-proposal meeting will be held for this project on August 7, 2024 at 11:00 AM at 436 E. Vinton Rd., Vinton TX 79821.

Inquiries to the Village requesting clarification of the Request for Proposals must be made via e-mail and must be received prior to the end of the business day on August 7, 2024. Such inquiries are to be delivered to Daniel Bueno, Jr. Project Manager at dbueno@vintonx.us. Respondents shall designate a contact person to address any questions concerning a proposal. Respondents shall also state the name and title of individuals who will make final decisions regarding contractual commitments.

Proposals will be opened immediately after the deadline for submittal, at 11:00 AM at the Request for Proposal Committee Meeting, City Council Chamber, 436 E. Vinton Rd. Vinton, TX 79821.

The Village of Vinton, Texas is an Affirmative Action and Equal Opportunity Employer.

Andrea N. Carrillo
Village Administrator

WTCC: 07-25-24
08-01-24

LEGAL

Town of

Anthony, TX

Public Notice

Request for Proposals

Administrative/ Professional Services 2025-2026 TxCDBG

Deadline Extended

The Town of Anthony, TX plans to apply for the upcoming 2025-2026 TX Community Development Block Grant Fund Program of the Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA). These services are being solicited to assist the Town of Anthony, TX in its application and administration of the TxCDBG contract, if awarded, to support eligible activities associated with the program in the Town of Anthony, TX. Accordingly, the Town of Anthony, TX is seeking to contract with a qualified Professional Administrator or Service Provider (individual/firm) to prepare the application and/or administer the awarded contract.

This RFP is only available electronically. Proposals packets are available at <https://townofanthony.org/rfp-2025-2026-txcdbg-program-packet/>

Proposals MUST be submitted electronically in.pdf format via email to varmendariz@townofanthony.org with the subject line:

Town of Anthony, TX RFP 2025-2026 TxCDBG Program Packet

or submitted through the website portal. Proposals must be received by the Town of Anthony, TX no later than 2:00 p.m. on August 5, 2024 to be considered.

Proposals will be opened the morning of August 12, 2024 at 9 a.m. and the award date will be August 12, 2024 during the Regular Town Council meeting.

The Town of Anthony, TX reserves the right to reject any or all proposals. The Town of Anthony, TX reserves the right to negotiate with any and all individuals or firms that submit proposals, as per the Texas Professional Services Procurement Act and the Uniform Grant and Contract Standards. Section 3 Residents and Business Concerns, Minority Business Enterprises, Small Business Enterprises and Women Business Enterprises are encouraged to submit proposals.

Town of Anthony, TX is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer.

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Valerie M. Armendariz
Town Clerk

WTCC: 08-01-24

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING TO DISCUSS BUDGET AND PROPOSED TAX RATE

The Anthony Independent School District will hold a public meeting at 5:30 p.m., Wednesday, August 14, 2024 in the Anthony ISD Board Room, 813 Sixth Street, Anthony, Texas 79821. **The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the school district's budget that will determine the tax rate that will be adopted. Public participation in the discussion is invited.**

The tax rate that is ultimately adopted at this meeting or at a separate meeting at a later date may not exceed the proposed tax rate shown below unless the district publishes a revised notice containing the same information and comparisons set out below and holds another public meeting to discuss the revised notice.

Maintenance Tax	\$0.786900/\$100 (Proposed rate for maintenance and operations)
School Debt Service Tax	
Approved by Local Voters	\$0.127788/\$100 (Proposed rate to pay bonded indebtedness)

Comparison of Proposed Budget with Last Year's Budget

The applicable percentage increase or decrease (or difference) in the amount budgeted in the preceding fiscal year and the amount budgeted for the fiscal year that begins during the current tax year is indicated for each of the following expenditure categories:

Maintenance and Operations	2.37%	Decrease
Debt Service	0.68%	Decrease
Total Expenditures	2.30%	Decrease

Total Appraised Value and Total Taxable Value (as calculated under Section 26.04, Tax Code)

	Preceding Tax Year	Current Tax Year
Total appraised value* of all property	\$ 365,276,469	\$ 393,784,028
Total appraised value* of new property**	\$ 3,916,497	\$ 433,714
Total taxable value*** of all property	\$ 222,077,640	\$ 244,219,322
Total taxable value*** of new property**	\$ 3,841,493	\$ 433,714

* "Appraised value" is the amount shown on the appraisal roll and defined by Section 1.04(8), Tax Code.
 ** "New property" is defined by Section 26.012(17), Tax Code.
 *** "Taxable value" is defined by Section 1.04(10), Tax Code.

Bonded Indebtedness

Total amount of outstanding and unpaid bonded indebtedness* \$2,630,000

* Outstanding principal.

Comparison of Proposed Rates with Last Year's Rates

	Maintenance & Operations	Interest & Sinking Fund*	Total	Local Revenue Per Student	State Revenue Per Student
Last Year's Rate	\$ 0.686200	\$ 0.194100*	\$ 0.880300	\$ 2,760	\$ 11,278
Rate to Maintain Same Level of Maintenance & Operations Revenue & Pay Debt Service	\$ 0.696580	\$ 0.185280*	\$ 0.881860	\$ 2,993	\$ 11,002
Proposed Rate	\$ 0.786900	\$ 0.127788*	\$ 0.914688	\$ 3,157	\$ 12,502

*The Interest & Sinking Fund tax revenue is used to pay for bonded indebtedness on construction, equipment, or both.

The bonds, and the tax rate necessary to pay those bonds, were approved by the voters of this district.

Comparison of Proposed Levy with Last Year's Levy on Average Residence

	Last Year	This Year
Average Market Value of Residences	\$ 156,614	\$ 167,797
Average Taxable Value of Residences	\$ 56,614	\$ 67,797
Last Year's Rate Versus		
Proposed Rate per \$100 Value	\$ 0.880300	\$ 0.914688
Taxes Due on Average Residence	\$ 498.37	\$ 620.13
Increase (Decrease) in Taxes		\$ 121.76

Under state law, the dollar amount of school taxes imposed on the residence homestead of a person 65 years of age or older or of the surviving spouse of such a person, if the surviving spouse was 55 years of age or older when the person died, may not be increased above the amount paid in the first year after the person turned 65, regardless of changes in the tax rate or property value.

Notice of Voter-Approval Rate: The highest tax rate the district can adopt before requiring voter approval at an election is \$0.794688. This election will be automatically held if the district adopts a rate in excess of the voter-approval rate of \$0.794688.

Fund Balances

The following estimated balances will remain at the end of the current fiscal year and are not encumbered with or by a corresponding debt obligation, less estimated funds necessary for operating the district before receipt of the first state aid payment:

Maintenance and Operations Fund Balance(s)	\$ 3,845,306
Interest & Sinking Fund Balance(s)	\$ 142,778

A school district may not increase the district's maintenance and operations tax rate to create a surplus in maintenance and operations tax revenue for the purpose of paying the district's debt service.

Visit Texas.gov/PropertyTaxes to find a link to your local property tax database on which you can easily access information regarding your property taxes, including information about proposed tax rates and scheduled public hearings of each entity that taxes your property.

The 86th Texas Legislature modified the manner in which the voter-approval tax rate is calculated to limit the rate of growth of property taxes in the State.

Taking a look at the quirky side of the Paris Games

By Steve Escajeda
Special to the Courier

At the moment, the entire sports world is focused on the Olympics going on in Paris.

Athletes from all over the globe are busy representing their countries, competing in as many sports as you can think of.

And though the games are filled with fine-tuned athletes, who try their best to perform as flawlessly as possible – it doesn't always happen.

The Olympic games themselves sometimes stumble or have their unusual moments.

One thing that is utterly unusual about these Paris games involves a certain sport.

Well, if you can call it a sport.

As usual, countries will compete on the basketball court, and in the track and field stadium, and in the swimming pool, and in the boxing ring, and on the gymnastics mats, and so on.

This year, for the first time (and hopefully the last), the Olympics will introduce breakdancing as a competition.

No, I didn't say breakdancing as part of the entertainment portion of the opening ceremonies, I said breakdancing as an Olympic sport.

I don't know about you, but I thought breakdancing disappeared about 20 years ago. But apparently, it's making a sad comeback.

The breakdancing competition will be officially known as Breaking, and will feature men and women flipping,

twirling, skipping and spinning their way toward Olympic Gold.

Three other sports, skateboarding, surfing and sport climbing, are also fairly new, but at least those can be considered sports, instead of just a fancy way of polishing the floor.

In the "oops" department, the Paris opening ceremonies went pretty well, unless you are the team from South Korea.

Everyone knows that South Korea and North Korea are bitter enemies. South Korea is free and democratic and an ally of the United States, while North Korea is a communist country led by the dictator, Kim Jong Un.

So, you can imagine how upset the South Koreans were when they were introduced in the opening ceremonies as the "Democratic People's Republic of Korea," which is the official name for North Korea.

That's like introducing Joe Biden as Donald Trump, or Will Smith as Chris Rock, or Michigan as Ohio State, or Coke as Pepsi, or Whoopi Goldberg as anyone with a brain.

Of course, the Olympic committee apologized a few hundred times to the South Korean officials and said it wouldn't happen again.

We shall see.

Losing the chance at a medal can be heartbreaking to an athlete who has trained the last three years for this event. But it won't compare to what Italian high jumper Gianmarco Tamberi lost during the opening ceremonies.

The 2020 gold medalist offered a

profuse apology to his wife after his wedding ring slipped off his finger as he was serving as Italy's flag-bearer on a boat in the Seine River.

Tamberi made the best of the situation by saying afterward, "If it really had to happen, if I really had to lose it, I couldn't imagine a better place. It will remain forever in the riverbed of the City of Love."

There was also the news of the country of Georgia and its female shooter, Nino Salukvadze, who became the first woman to compete at 10 Olympic Games in a career that began representing the Soviet Union.

Salukvadze won the gold medal as a 19-year-old Soviet prodigy. She has competed at every Summer Olympics since 1988.

She didn't win any medals this time around, finishing 38th. But that's not really the point, is it? Think about it. She competed in her first Olympics 36 years ago.

In 1988 I was trying to figure out this new fancy thing called Microsoft Office.

And wouldn't it be nice, since Russia and the Ukraine are in the same Olympics anyway, if they would settle their differences on the athletic field – and *only* on the athletic field.

If they would both stop and think

about how the Olympics are supposed to bring this world closer together, they might exchange their army boots for basketball sneakers.

A controversial opening ceremony decision that angered a lot of people was France's choice of re-enacting DaVinci's "The Last Supper" by a group of drag queens.

Needless to say, there were a lot of religious groups and competing countries who weren't exactly pleased with what they felt was a clear mockery of the Christian faith.

Unfortunately, all this wackiness had to include some tragedy, when it was learned that Samoa's boxing coach, Lionel Fatu Elika, died after the opening ceremonies, Friday night at the Olympic Village.

The 60-year-old national coach suffered cardiac arrest and efforts to save him were unsuccessful.

By the time it's all over, these 2024 Paris Games will produce some of the best sports memories ever – the Olympics always do.

But it's fun to take a look at the quirky things that go on behind the scenes.

Let's hope all the future news involving the Games has to do with winning medals and the sheer integrity of athletic competition.

Senior

From Page 1

need one every year.

Step one would be to ask your doctor if you should get the vaccine. If the answer is yes, ask if there is a preference between the two (Arexvy vs. Pfizer). Ask when you should get it. The CDC recommends late summer and early fall, before the RSV season hits.

At this point, the CDC is looking at studies to decide whether additional doses are needed in

seniors, especially considering the potential side effects that popped up in clinical trials. Specifically, the CDC, as well as the FDA, are monitoring the data to see if there is a possibility of increased risk of Guillain-Barré syndrome (GBS) with the RSV vaccine. That is likely the reason for the change from "everyone over age 60" should consider getting the vaccine to "those who are at the highest risk" for severe RSV disease.

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POTENTIAL SPIN

DOCTORS ACROSS

1 Pairs
5 Actress Thurman
8 "Well done!" for a diva
13 "Shame on you!"
19 Bows' shapes
20 Is able to
21 Fundamental
22 Not planted
23 Coach inducted into the Basketball Hall of Fame in 2008
25 Make dim, as by tears
26 Meal with a pastry crust
27 Spanish for 70-Down
28 "Star Trek" lieutenant Yar
30 Fashion designer once known for his metal couture
32 Equal to the face value
34 Shul text
36 Cartel formed in '60
37 Dress up, with "out"
38 "The Human Stain" novelist
40 Hazy stuff
41 Heads, to Fifi
43 Sleek, in brief
44 Foot cover
46 Fido's pests
48 _Magnon
49 Soccer's Chastain
52 Player of Clair

Huxtable on "The Cosby Show"
55 Drink like Fido
56 Greek coin
58 Baseballer
59 Jurists' gp.
60 Speck in the ocean
63 High choir voice
65 Ivory tickler
69 Star of 2015's "Ant-Man"
71 Prior to
72 She played Lulu Hogg on "The Dukes of Hazzard"
73 Six-stanza poem
74 Siberian husky, e.g.
76 Skyrockets
77 Tolkien fiend
78 Moisturizer brand
79 Rim
81 Tiny peeve
82 Star of "Trapper John, M.D."
87 Apprise
90 Bullfight cry
91 Really unkind
92 German river
93 Golf champ
94 Gettysburg victor
96 Bucket
98 "Kindergarten Cop" co-star
103 Obsolete TV hookup
104 Mia of soccer
105 Chichi tie
106 Give birth, as a

cow
107 1960-89 NFL commissioner
110 Ordeal
112 Kuwait export
113 Reply
114 Cacophony
116 What nine featured celebrities in this puzzle are?
118 Puerto Ricans, e.g.
119 Certain opening for a bolt
120 Bray syllable
121 Sensed
122 Bitcoins, e.g.
123 Ends
124 Census stat
125 Punky Brewster player Soleil Moon _

DOWN

1 Mic-testing sound
2 Ghost
3 Ink-squirting mollusks
4 Lithuania, once: Abbr.
5 West Coast sch. with the Bruins
6 Eminent conductor
7 Slangy "Well, then..."
8 Fraud-finding org.
9 Polo designer
Lauren
10 Sailing
11 It bought MTV in 1985
12 Old Athenian citadel
13 Rap's Shakur

14 Snooty sort
15 Univ. in the Midwest's Manhattan
16 First-rate
17 Heyday of Glenn Miller
18 Leg part
24 "That was my best shot"
29 Place to buy sketchpads
31 Aqua _ (corrosive liquid)
33 Actor Ladd
35 Matey's cry
39 _-dieu (prayer bench)
40 Scraped, as an 18-Down
41 Pouches for infusion
42 Turf for lawns
45 Having bright peepers
47 James Bond player Daniel
49 Radar signals
50 Tabulae _ (blank slates)
51 High grade
52 Spur on
53 Dove sound
54 Panasonic bought it in 2009
57 Beef quality rater, in brief
61 "Candle in the Wind" singer John
62 Old Greek warship
64 Change the tag on
65 Actor Simon of "Mission: Impossible" films

66 Tehran native
67 Sans _ (font style)
68 Delicious
70 Dad's brother
72 Peas' places
74 _-mo
75 Take away (from)
78 Holiday tree dangles
80 Organic compound
82 Petite pooch, for short
83 An hour before noon
84 Laughs at, say
85 Bolivian capital
86 435 in Cong.
88 Seer's shrine
89 Fashionable Banks
93 One no longer working
95 Lured
97 Declaration when asking for directions
99 Transforms (into)
100 One fleeing to get hitched
101 In a devilish way
102 Cross out
104 Tot's equine rocker
105 Fable author
107 Pasty-looking
108 Philosopher
Descartes
109 " & Stitch"
111 Pinnacle
115 UFO crew
117 On's opposite

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				121
122								123					124				125

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

deciding to run again last year. He almost certainly was in the grips of legitimate self-delusion, though. It's natural that an old person who is in decline is the last to realize or admit it, and his belief that, on paper, he was a stronger candidate than Kamala Harris wasn't crazy.

Biden's enablers were the truly cynical and dishonest ones, hoping that their fake narrative about Biden's continued vitality could see them through until November.

Their credibility should be shot as they make the switcheroo to Harris.

The same Democratic establishment that gave you Joe Biden without offering Democratic voters a legitimate choice (serious primary challengers were warned off this year), now is giving you Kamala Harris without offering Democratic voters a legitimate choice.

The same party that lied about Joe Biden without compunction or remorse now wants you to credit everything it is going to tell us

about the marvelous, heretofore unappreciated qualities of Kamala Harris.

The same vice president who insisted, as of roughly the day before yesterday, that Joe Biden was the very picture of energy and effectiveness now wants us to believe everything else she's going to say after he's been forced from the race by his feeble state.

The same people who thought Joe Biden was incapable of doing interviews and teleprompter speeches on the campaign trail will tell us he's perfectly capable of fulfilling his duties in the most trying job on the planet.

Finally, the same Democrats who were threatening Joe Biden with ignominy and exclusion if he stayed in the race a couple of more weeks now want us to buy their paeans to his great statesmanship.

In sum, the perpetrators of a shameful cover-up want us to move on as if nothing happened, when the stink of their rank deception should dog their candidate and their party the rest of this campaign.

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

Some meds can make esophageal disorders worse

DEAR DR. ROACH: I'm a 68-year-old female with osteopenia. My doctor wants me to take a bone medication such as Boniva or Fosamax. I've read that folks with esophageal issues may be harmed by taking these. Can you explain why? – C.M.C.



First off, we don't usually treat isolated low bone mass (osteopenia) with powerful medicines like the ones you mentioned, which are both bisphosphonates. These medicines have the potential for harm and should only be used when the benefits clearly outweigh the risks.

A person with low bone mass and a history of a fragility fracture has osteoporosis, regardless of their bone density. Some people with low bone density may be at such a high risk for fracture (based on their FRAX score) that treatment is indicated. Before treating someone with medication, many authorities recommend a 10-year risk of a fracture of 20% or higher (or a risk of a hip fracture of 3% or higher). You should find out your FRAX score.

The issue with the esophagus is that if pills get stuck in the esophagus, they can cause severe damage to it. So, people with esophageal disorders – such as achalasia, esophageal stricture or varices, or Barrett's esophagus – should not take these types of medicines by mouth. People with reflux without these complications can take oral bisphosphonates as long as they can comply with staying upright for 30 minutes after taking them.

DEAR DR. ROACH: My boyfriend got cancer from HPV. He was successfully treated. Is he capable of transmitting it to me? – S.

HPV causes different types of problems. Warts are all caused by HPV, but only a few strains of HPV can predispose people to cancer.

The most common HPV-related cancer in men is head and neck cancer, since HPV is the leading cause of these cancers. Most of these cases in men occur from a sexually acquired HPV infection. Men are at a higher risk for HPV-related head and neck cancers than women, even though women are at a much higher risk for the overall HPV-related cancers (since cervical cancer unfortunately remains common).

Once a person has HPV, they can potentially spread the virus, even without any visible signs of infection. Condoms reduce but do not eliminate the risk of transmission. Close skin-to-skin contact is necessary for transmission, and although sexual contact is a common way of transmitting HPV, it is not necessary. Most people cure themselves of the virus within a few years.

By far, the best way to prevent HPV transmission (apart from never having close contact with anyone) is vaccination. The HPV vaccine is highly effective at preventing infection if it is given before the onset of sexual activity, but it still may be fully or partially effective after the onset of sexual infection.

The HPV vaccine prevents infection, but it is not recommended for treatment. The recommendation from the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices is to vaccinate at the age of 11 or 12, up to the age of 26. But it is approved up to the age of 45. I have rarely given individual patients the HPV vaccine even after that age, based on their particular circumstances, and insurance typically does not pay for it in the United States.

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.

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Moore Texas by Roger MOORE
Franklin Roosevelt is the only President to ever be made Honorary Chief by Texas' Tigua Indians.

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: N equals Y

CSZK SWNEXR SZ BZXLEXBD
GD SIJS QDGJHD CIDDK IJLD
XZ BJKJBESN SZ HZXR
QZW SIEXRC. DVD VECII

Answer Page 4

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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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VA fails to contact Vietnam vets



by Freddy Groves

If you served in Vietnam, were exposed to an herbicide like Agent Orange, got sick and submitted a claim that was denied, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) was supposed to find you and offer compensation.

Did they? Specifically, after the Nehmer v. U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs class action lawsuit in 1986, it was decreed that Agent Orange exposure resulted in service-connected diseases. Despite the thousands of claims that were denied, the VA was to find those veterans and pay compensation.

The eligibility requirements, per the lawsuit, were that the veteran had to have one of the covered diseases from AO exposure, the VA had to have received a claim for a service-connected disease and the claim had to have been denied.

Then, also per the lawsuit, the VA had to look for all the veterans they'd previously denied, digging through their records, without any action required on the part of the veteran (or family member, if the veteran was then deceased) – and award benefits for it.

Then because of possible shipboard exposure to AO, and after three additional presumptive conditions were added to the list, the VA issued a press release saying they would send letters to veterans saying they would review all the records.

Enter the Office of Inspector General (OIG) to see how the VA was doing in tracking down the veterans.

The result: The OIG calculates that the VA neglected to send letters to over 88,000 veterans. And the OIG calculated that 86,894 veterans were likely eligible but were not identified by the VA to have their claims looked at again.

What followed was a list of what sounds like excuses on the part of the VA as reasons they didn't find all

the veterans. You can read those for yourself in the OIG report at <https://tinyurl.com/sd9u3net>.

If you believe you qualify for benefits under Nehmer and had a denied claim for herbicide exposure and subsequent illness, call the VA. Don't let them miss you again.

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• Glassware will sparkle if you add a capful of bleach to the rinse water when hand-washing dishes.

• "Berries are in season, and I use berry baskets for lots of little storage uses. The best one is to use one to hold my sponges at the sink area. It keeps small brushes corralled as well." – I.R. in Florida

• "We had an impromptu princess/magical fairy tea party at our house yesterday, and we came up with the best on-the-spot magic wands. We cut big stars out of paperboard (like a cereal box) and decorated them with stickers, construction paper and glitter, then we threaded them on long kebab sticks. I snipped the pointy end and covered it with colorful tape. Presto, party wand!" – E.D. in Maine

• To keep salt from coming out of a saltshaker too quickly, add some plain, uncooked white rice to the salt. The large grains of rice will block some of the holes, causing less salt to come out with each shake.

• "When I take my dog to 'Grandma' for dog sitting, I measure out each meal into a plastic zipper-top bag. This way, Mom doesn't have to remember how much to feed at each mealtime, and it makes it easy to serve." – V.Y. in Texas

• "At my child's daycare, there is a 'Where's Mommy and Daddy?' board. Parents bring in a picture of themselves at their job, and the children can see the picture and know that it shows what Mommy or Daddy is doing while the child is playing." – S.E. in Missouri

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.

	+		-		=	9		
-		+		+				
	+	3	×		=	28		
+		×		÷				
	+		+		=	15		
=		=		=				
14		22		3				
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

DIFFICULTY: ★★

★ Moderate ★★ Difficult

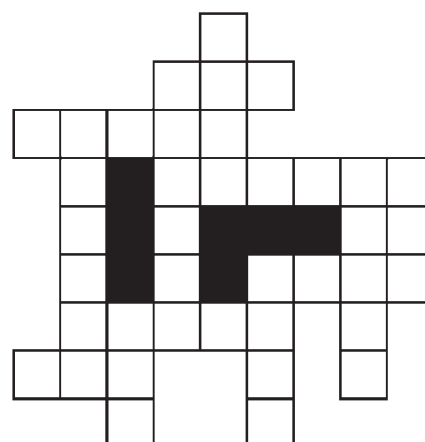
★★★ GO FIGURE!

Answer Page 4

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- EEY
- BAMOKI
- HEMTY
- ♥ USBT
- HABDUD
- ♥ YEB
- ♥ ESMA
- ♥ TABES
- OYT
- TIDNYA
- ASTUL
- OASY



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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