



## El Paso Zoo hosts 20th Annual Chihuahuan Desert Fiesta

By Alfredo Vasquez  
*Special to the Courier*

EL PASO COUNTY – Borderland residents are invited to take the opportunity this month to enjoy learning more about their region's desert landscape through the creative exhibits and discovery demonstrations that will be presented by local organizations and educators during the 20th Annual Chihuahuan Desert Fiesta.

This year, the highly anticipated desert celebration, will be hosted by the El Paso Zoo in conjunction with the Chihuahuan Desert Education Coalition (CDEC), from 10:30 a.m. to 3 p.m., Saturday, September 21. Visitors can expect animal encounter presentations, educational booths, and a variety of entertainment at the zoo. Fiesta celebration events at the zoo will be included as part of the regular entrance fee.

Among the performers at the zoo's Wildlife Amphitheater will be Ballet Folklorico Cuauhtli from Champion



– Photos courtesy of Chihuahuan Desert Education Coalition

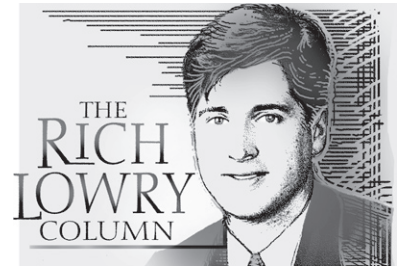
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**STEER CLEAR OF THIS ONE** – The El Paso Zoo Education Department will feature a wild encounters presentation that highlights the various Chihuahuan Desert inhabitants, like the rattlesnake shown above.



**FIESTA HOST** – The Chihuahuan Desert Fiesta, which originated in 2005 by the Chihuahuan Desert Education Coalition, has been growing in popularity throughout the years. This year's fiesta events will be held at the El Paso Zoo, shown above.

# Our national honor is missing in action



Famously, a message from President Theodore Roosevelt's Secretary of State, John Hay, electrified the 1904 Republican convention: "This Government wants Perdicaris alive or Raisuli dead."

Ion Perdicaris, a wealthy Greek American, had been kidnapped in Morocco by a bandit named Ahmed al-Raisuli. Hay's line served as a U.S. ultimatum to bring the affair, after the United deployment of the U.S. Navy to Morocco and drawn-out negotiations, to a conclusion.

We've come a long way from the time when the kidnapping of one American, whose citizenship was actually a little murky, elicited a thunderous reaction as a matter of national principle.

Needless to say, no one is ever going to mistake Joe Biden for TR, one of the most compelling figures

in American history, but the president couldn't be a better representative of our attenuated sense of national honor.

A terrorist group killed and kidnapped U.S. citizens and is still holding them in horrific conditions, and the U.S. government has been doing a tap dance between the terrorists and an Israeli government fighting and bleeding to try to save them.

U.S. officials condemn Hamas, yet there is none of the righteous fury one would expect of a government whose citizens have been subjected to such grotesque mistreatment.

When Hamas murdered Hersh Goldberg-Polin in cold blood, President Biden blamed Israeli Prime Minister Bibi Netanyahu for his recalcitrance in negotiations – even though Hamas took the

hostages, Hamas has refused to release them, Hamas has a policy of killing them if there is some chance they could get rescued, and Hamas threatens to do the same again.

We've imposed no significant consequences on Iran for its sponsorship of a terror group with American blood on its hands.

We are mealy-mouthed and skittish, a super power constrained by its unwillingness to fully take its own side in a fight.

We should feel a profound sense of national

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## Food for thought By Dr. Glenn Mollette

### The seed we plant

When it comes to life, there are no guarantees. A few people will live to be 100 and beyond. The majority of people will die much younger. We don't know for sure. Your health can be great and still anything can happen. Your health might be bad. A friend who lived to be about 77 said, "If I knew I was going to live this long I would have taken better care of myself." He meant it to be

humorous.

Seventy-seven doesn't seem very old if you are 80. You may feel if you are 70 that you've just really started to live. It has a lot to do with who you are, how you feel, and the overall condition of your life. Sadly, there are a lot of miserable people who are still very young but can't figure out their lives.

Age is truly just a number especially if you feel good,

can take care of yourself, and have something to live for. This could be anything from a grandchild, to a job, a hobby, your career, or just spending your money. It's important to have an interest. You need to have something to do. Everyone needs to be pursuing something they enjoy. You need a reason to get up in the morning. It will keep you going.

You may be here 30 years from now or maybe you won't. It won't hurt you to plan for the long haul. This

means eating as healthy as possible, exercising some every day, managing your weight, and visiting your doctor routinely. This may help you to live a little longer and enjoy the remaining years you have. It's not a guarantee, but it's worth a shot. Keep trying to save a few dollars every month. Regardless of your age, there is always something that's going to come up. You will need a new roof, furnace, or car. The list is endless.

Yet, today might be our last. We never know. Be kind every chance you have. Say thank you often. Do the small things that may help family and friends. Build others up. Give them a boost by saying something good to them. Treat others the way you want to be treated. Forgive people. Forgive yourself. Put the past behind you because you can't change the past. Try to do something every day you

enjoy. That may be walking, reading, playing music, talking to people, cooking, or it could be anything. Regardless of how long we live, life is short.

Recently, a friend lay dying. I asked him what I could do for him. He said, "All I would like to have is one more day." Today, may be our one more day. Whatever we do on this one day will hopefully be a blessing not only to us but in some way will be a blessing to someone today or years from now.

The seed we plant will bring a harvest, of some kind.

Glenn Mollette is a graduate of numerous schools including Georgetown College, Southern and Lexington Seminaries in Kentucky. He is the author of "Uncommon Sense" and 12 other books. His column is published weekly in over 600 publications in all 50 states. Learn more at [www.glennmollette.com](http://www.glennmollette.com) or [www.facebook.com/glennmollette](http://www.facebook.com/glennmollette).

### PUBLIC NOTICE

#### Village of Vinton USEPA Cleanup Grant

**Be Part of the Transformation, Join Us!** The Village of Vinton was awarded a \$2,000,000 U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) Brownfields Cleanup Grant to officially kick off the "Community Park Site" Project to advance the remediation and cleanup efforts of approximately 11.3 acres of land at 475 Vinton Rd., Vinton, TX 79821.

You're invited to attend the project's kick off public meeting where the project team will provide attendees with a brief presentation, key project updates, and give an opportunity for residents to provide their feedback.

The meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 25, 2024 at 6:30 p.m. at the Village of Vinton City Hall, 436 E. Vinton Rd., Vinton, TX 79821.

**Virtual Option:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86283266079?pwd=QHTusPcAyT1lLtFMtaBMeTft6UZajb.1> **Meeting ID:** 86283266079 **Passcode:** 827964

**Webpage:** <https://vintontx.govoffice2.com/brownfields>

### AVISO PUBLICO

#### Village of Vinton USEPA Conceder de Remediación

**Sea parte de la transformacion, Acompañenos!** La Ciudad de Vinton a recibido \$2.000.000 de la Agencia de Protección Ambiental (U.S Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) bajo el programa de limpieza de terrenos (Brownfields Cleanup Grant) para oficialmente iniciar con la remediación de aproximadamente 11.3 acres, el futuro sitio del Parque Comunitario en el 475 Vinton Rd., Vinton, TX 79821.

Los invitamos a asistir a la junta publica donde el equipo del proyecto dará una presentación sobre el proyecto, actualizaciones clave y una oportunidad para residentes de dar comentarios.

La reunión es miércoles, 25 de septiembre, 2024, a las 6:30 p.m. en las Oficinas de la Ciudad de Vinton, 436 E. Vinton Rd., Vinton, TX 79821.

**Opción Virtual:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86283266079?pwd=QHTusPcAyT1lLtFMtaBMeTft6UZajb.1> **Meeting ID:** 86283266079 **Passcode:** 827964

**Pagina web:** <https://vintontx.govoffice2.com/brownfields>

WTCC: 19-19-24



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# Paseo del Este Municipal Utility District No. 10 of El Paso County

## Notice of Public Hearing on Tax Rate

The Paseo Del Este Municipal Utility District No. 10 of El Paso County will hold a public hearing on a proposed tax rate for the tax year 2024 on Friday, September 27, 2024, at 12:00 p.m., in person at the offices of Inframark, LLC, 13034 Eastlake Boulevard, Suites D-E, El Paso, Texas 79928; via means of a toll-free conference number 1 (888) 599-1357; Access Code: 8529; and via Zoom videoconference Meeting ID: 865 9478 8531; Passcode: 399902. Your individual taxes may increase at a greater or lesser rate, or even decrease, depending on the tax rate that is adopted and on the change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in taxable value of all other property. The change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in the taxable value of all other property determines the distribution of the tax burden among all property owners.

Visit [Texas.gov/PropertyTaxes](https://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.

**FOR** the proposal: **Directors Luis Ortega, Ysrael Valencia and George Mendez**

**AGAINST** the proposal: **NONE**

**PRESENT** and not voting: **NONE**

**ABSENT:** **Director Greg Spence**

The following table compares taxes on an average residence homestead in this taxing unit last year to taxes proposed on the average residence homestead this year.

	Last Year	This Year
Total tax rate (per \$100 value)	0.6810/\$100	0.6591/\$100
	Adopted	Proposed
Difference in rates per \$100 of value		\$ (0.0219)
Percentage increase / decrease in rates (+/-)		- 3.22 %
Average appraised value	\$ 290,552	\$ 310,687
General exemptions available (excluding 65 years of age or older or disabled person's exemptions)	\$ -	\$ -
Average residence homestead taxable value	\$ 290,552	\$ 310,687
Tax on average residence homestead	\$ 1,978.66	\$ 2,047.74
Annual increase / decrease in taxes if proposed tax rate is adopted (+/-) and percentage of increase (+/-)		+ \$69.08 + 3.49%

### NOTICE OF TAXPAYERS' RIGHT TO ELECTION TO REDUCE TAX RATE

If the District adopts a combined debt service, operation and maintenance, and contract tax rate that would result in the taxes on the average residence homestead increasing by more than 3.5 percent, an election must be held to determine whether to approve the operation and maintenance tax rate under Section 49.23602, Water Code.

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.



# Canutillo ISD adopts lower tax rate for Fiscal Year 2024

By Gustavo Reveles  
Special to the Courier

CANUTILLO – The Canutillo Independent School District Board of Trustees on Tuesday adopted a fiscal year 2024 tax rate of \$1.1552 per \$100 valuation – a half-cent reduction from the tax rate set last year.

The approved tax rate is lower than the rate approved last year. But the El Paso Central Appraisal District valued homes at a higher rate this year, so the average homeowner may see an increase in their

school tax bill.

“We continue to be good stewards of the taxpayers in Canutillo, and our tax rate continues to decrease because of the unprecedented growth our community is experiencing,” said Superintendent Dr. Pedro Galaviz. “We had anticipated a slight increase in the tax rate because of the passage of the Bond in May, but fortunately we were able to bring to the board a slight decrease.”

Last year’s tax rate was \$1.1605, which is \$0.0053 higher than the approved tax rate for this fiscal year.

The average value of a Canutillo ISD home – a figure set by the Central Appraisal District and not the school district – increased from \$257,416 to \$282,482. That means the average school tax bill in the district increased by \$281 this year because of a higher average home valuation.

For comparison, the Fiscal Year 2024 tax rate on an average home valuation from last year would yield \$1,818.47 in school taxes – about \$8.34 less than it did last year.

The school taxes are used for the cost of operating schools,

including school programs, teacher salaries and health insurance and the maintenance of all campuses.

Trustees earlier this summer approved an operating budget for Fiscal Year 2024 of \$89.1 million.

## Notice of Public Meeting To Discuss San Elizario Independent School District’s State Financial Accountability Rating (FIRST)

The San Elizario Independent School District will hold a public hearing at 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, October 9, 2024 in the boardroom of the San Elizario ISD Administration Building, 1050 Chicken Ranch Road, San Elizario, Texas.

The purpose of this hearing is to discuss San Elizario Independent School District’s rating on the state’s financial accountability system. This meeting will be held in conjunction with the scheduled board of Trustees’ Meeting.

WTCC: 09-19-24

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## Classified Ads

### LEGAL

#### TOWN OF ANTHONY, TX

#### PUBLIC NOTICE

#### TAX LEVY ORDINANCE

The Town of Anthony will conduct a **PUBLIC HEARING** at 5:30 p.m., September 23, 2024, at Town Hall, in the Town Council Chambers, 401 Wildcat Drive, Anthony, TX 79821

The purpose of the Public Hearing is to allow any interested person to appear and testify at the hearing regarding the adoption of the Fiscal Year 2025 Tax Levy Ordinance.

Those unable to attend are invited to submit their views in writing to the Town of Anthony, TX, Attn: Anthony David Turner, 401 Wildcat Drive, Anthony, TX 79821. Town Hall is accessible for handicapped persons. Handicapped persons in need of special assistance to attend the hearing are encouraged to contact the Interim Town Clerk at (915) 886-3944, fortyeight (48) hours prior to this meeting. Copies of the budget are available for review at 401 Wildcat Drive, Anthony, TX 79821.

Copies of the proposed ordinance are available online on the Town of Anthony website at <https://townofanthony.org/> financials and at the Office of the

City Clerk at the address above.

Valerie M. Armendariz  
Town Clerk

WTCC: 09-19-24

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Valerie M. Armendariz  
Town Clerk

WTCC: 09-19-24

### LEGAL

#### TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY



#### NOTICE OF APPLICATION AND PRELIMINARY DECISION FOR TPDES PERMIT FOR MUNICIPAL WASTEWATER

#### RENEWAL

PERMIT NO. WQ00101660011

#### APPLICATION AND PRELIMINARY DECISION.

El Paso County Water Control and Improvement District No. 4, P.O. Box 3880, Fabens, Texas 79838, has applied to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) for a renewal of Texas Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (TPDES) Permit No. WQ0010166001, which authorizes the discharge of treated domestic wastewater at an annual average

flow not to exceed 1,200,000 gallons per day. TCEQ received this application on July 28, 2023.

The facility is located at 17270 Alameda Avenue, in El Paso County, Texas 79838. The treated effluent is discharged to Fabens Waste Canal, thence to the Rio Grande Below Riverside Diversion Dam in Segment No. 2307 of the Rio Grande Basin. The unclassified receiving water use is minimal aquatic life use for Fabens Waste Canal. The designated uses for Segment No. 2307 are primary contact recreation, public water supply, and high aquatic life use. This link to an electronic map of the site or facility’s general location is provided as a public courtesy and is not part of the application or notice. For the exact location, refer to the application.

<https://gisweb.tceq.texas.gov/LocationMapper/?marker=-106.145555,31.483055&level=18>

The TCEQ Executive Director has completed the technical review of the application and prepared a draft permit. The draft permit, if approved, would establish the conditions under which the facility must operate. The Executive Director has made a preliminary decision that this permit, if issued, meets all statutory and regulatory requirements. The

permit application, Executive Director’s preliminary decision, and draft permit are available for viewing and copying at El Paso County Water Control and Improvement District No. 4, 117 East Main Street, Fabens, Texas.

#### ALTERNATIVE LANGUAGE NOTICE

Alternative language notice in Spanish is available at:

<https://www.tceq.texas.gov/permitting/wastewater/plain-language-summaries-and-public-notices>

El aviso de idioma alternativo en español está disponible en:

<https://www.tceq.texas.gov/permitting/wastewater/plain-language-summaries-and-public-notices>

#### PUBLIC COMMENT / PUBLIC MEETING

You may submit public comments or request a public meeting about this application. The purpose of a public meeting is to provide the opportunity to submit comments or to ask questions about the application. TCEQ holds a public meeting if the Executive Director determines that there is a significant degree of public interest in the application or if requested by a local legislator. A public meeting

is not a contested case hearing.

#### OPPORTUNITY FOR A CONTESTED CASE HEARING

After the deadline for submitting public comments, the Executive Director will consider all timely comments and prepare a response to all relevant and significant public comments. Unless the application is directly referred to a contested case hearing, the response to comments will be mailed to everyone who submitted public comments and to those persons who are on the mailing list for this application. If comments are received, the mailing will also provide instructions for requesting a contested case hearing or reconsideration of the Executive Director’s decision. A contested case hearing is a legal proceeding similar to a civil trial in a state district court.

TO REQUEST A CONTESTED CASE HEARING, YOU MUST INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING ITEMS IN YOUR REQUEST: your name, address, phone number; applicant’s name and proposed permit number; the location and distance of your property/activities relative to the proposed facility; a specific description of how you would

be adversely affected by the facility in a way not common to the general public; a list of all disputed issues of fact that you submit during the comment period; and the statement “[I/we] request a contested case hearing.” If the request for contested case hearing is filed on behalf of a group or association, the request must designate the group’s representative for receiving future correspondence; identify by name and physical address an individual member of the group who would be adversely affected by the proposed facility or activity; provide the information discussed above regarding the affected member’s location and distance from the facility or activity; explain how and why the member would be affected; and explain how the interests the group seeks to protect are relevant to the group’s purpose.

Following the close of all applicable comment and request periods, the Executive Director will forward the application and any requests for reconsideration or for a contested case hearing to the TCEQ Commissioners for their consideration at a scheduled Commission meeting.

The Commission

may only grant a request for a contested case hearing on issues submitted in their timely comments that were not subsequently withdrawn. If a hearing is granted, the subject of a hearing will be limited to disputed issues of fact or mixed questions of fact and law relating to relevant and material water quality concerns submitted during the comment period. TCEQ may act on an application to renew a permit for discharge of wastewater without providing an opportunity for a contested case hearing if certain criteria are met.

#### EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ACTION

The Executive Director may issue final approval of the application unless a timely contested case hearing request or request for reconsideration is filed, the Executive Director will not issue final approval of the permit and will forward the application and request to the TCEQ Commissioners for their consideration at a scheduled Commission meeting.

#### MAILING LIST

If you submit public comments, a request for a contested case hearing or a reconsideration of the Executive

Director’s decision, you will be added to the mailing list for this specific application to receive future public notices mailed by the Office of the Chief Clerk. In addition, you may request to be placed on: (1) the permanent mailing list for a specific applicant name and permit number; and/or (2) the mailing list for a specific county. If you wish to be placed on the permanent and/or the county mailing list, clearly specify which list(s) and send your request to TCEQ Office of the Chief Clerk at the address below.

All written public comments and public meeting requests must be submitted to the Office of the Chief Clerk, MC 105, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, P.O. Box 13087, Austin, TX 78711-3087 or electronically at:

[www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/comment](http://www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/comment)

within 30 days from the date of newspaper publication of this notice.

#### INFORMATION AVAILABLE ONLINE

For details about the status of the application, visit the Commissioners’ Integrated Database at:

[www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/cid](http://www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/cid)

Search the database using the permit number for this application, which is provided

at the top of this notice.

#### AGENCY CONTACTS AND INFORMATION

Public comments and requests must be submitted either electronically at:

[www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/comment](http://www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/comment)

or in writing to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, Office of the Chief Clerk, MC 105, P.O. Box 13087, Austin, Texas 78711-3087. Any personal information you submit to the TCEQ will become part of the agency’s record; this includes email addresses. For more information about this permit application or the permitting process, please call the TCEQ Public Education Program, Toll Free, at 1-800-687-4040 or visit their website at:

[www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/pep](http://www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/pep)

Si desea información en Español, puede llamar al 1-800-687-4040.

Further information may also be obtained from El Paso County Water Control and Improvement District No. 4 at the address stated above or by calling Ms. Romie Martinez at 915-764-2212.

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# Mountain West changes may be good for the Miners

By Steve Escajeda  
Special to the Courier

Ever since the Mountain West Conference was formed out of former Western Athletic Conference members, UTEP has wanted back in.

If some of you are too young to remember, back in 1998, Air Force, BYU, Colorado State, Utah, Wyoming, San Diego State, UNLV and New Mexico got together and decided to leave the WAC and create a new league known as the Mountain West Conference.

The only problem was that UTEP was also a member of the WAC, and the Miners were not invited to the party.

Other teams joined the WAC like Boise State, Fresno State, SMU, Rice, Tulsa and Nevada.

Not too bad of a lineup, but eventually they all left for different conferences as well and UTEP finally bolted for Conference USA in 2005.

During that first year, UTEP was joined by league members, SMU, Central Florida, Memphis, Southern Miss, East Carolina, Houston, Marshall, Alabama-Birmingham, Tulsa, Tulane and Rice.

Would you believe that the only team out of those that is still with CUSA is UTEP. All the other 2005 members have gone on to better leagues, except for you-know-who.

Like that awkward kid that never gets chosen for basketball, UTEP has gone from those CUSA teams in 2005, to today's lineup of Kennesaw State, Sam Houston State, Florida International and Jacksonville State. Next year they'll

add Missouri State and Delaware.

I don't mean to put down any college programs, but let's be honest, there was a time that UTEP ran with some pretty good company. Those days are definitely in the past.

Or are they?

While the Mountain West Conference has been thumbing its nose at the Miners for over 25 years, now it is going through a crisis of its own.

Four teams, Boise State, Colorado State, Fresno State and San Diego State have all decided to leave the MWC and join the remaining two PAC schools, Washington State and Oregon State.

After all those other teams left the former PAC-12, looks like they're planning to build it up again without the USC's and UCLA's of the world.

The sudden departure, which is supposed to happen during the 2026 season, leaves the MWC with just eight teams, Air Force, Hawaii, Nevada, New Mexico, San Jose State, UNLV, Utah State and Wyoming.

Of course, that's unless teams like UNLV and Nevada decide to bolt as well.

And because of the sudden openings in the Mountain West, talk has started once again about the possibility of UTEP rejoining some of their own league members.

And it makes all the sense in the world. UTEP should be playing teams from Colorado, Nevada, New Mexico, Texas, Utah, Wyoming and California. Those are our neighbors. It only makes geographic sense.

Why are the Miners traveling to Tennessee, Florida, Kentucky, Georgia, Virginia and Alabama? Those states are nowhere near the Sun City and it must cost the university a ton of money to fly our teams to those places every year.

Another problem with CUSA is that other than New Mexico St., the Miners have no natural rivals that get the fans excited. In the old days they had BYU and Utah and Colorado St. and Wyoming and Air Force and the New

Mexico Lobos to get the fans pumped.

When fans hear that Kennesaw St. or Florida International is coming to town, nobody cares. It's a hard sell to get the fans to the Sun Bowl or the Don Haskins Center.

If the Mountain West gets down to five or six teams, which I think it soon will, it will have to start looking for replacements, and I think this time UTEP has a real good chance.

Again, the league won't be as strong as it once was, but at least the Miners will be playing teams in their region, against teams that El Pasoans are more familiar with.

UTEP, which hasn't been aggressive in the past; watching teams and leagues leave them at the curb for years, has got to start expressing its interest to make a change before it's too late – again.

A window of opportunity has opened for the Miners. The biggest reason may just be a chance to cut its travel budget.

The fans can travel to New Mexico easier than to Virginia, that's for sure.

## Senior moment By Matilda Charles

### Massive data breach

The word going around is that hackers have stolen 2.9 billion Social Security numbers, which means everyone. And now it appears all that information, including other personal information, has been released on the internet. That batch of data can include not only Social Security numbers, but names, phone numbers, current and former addresses, lists of relatives and more.

It's time to get very, very serious about protecting our personal data, our identity, our banking information and everything else. Although the horse is out of the barn when it comes to that information being released, there are still steps we can take to try to protect ourselves.

Don't carry your Social Security card in your wallet. Leave it at home, perhaps in an envelope inside a cabinet where you can access it easily.

Change your passwords. Use not only letters but numbers and symbols in your new passwords.

When you get a Medicare statement about any medical

treatment you've had, go over it carefully to be certain there's nothing listed that you didn't get.

Be more cautious than ever about answering the phone. It's possible for thieves to fake the number they're calling from, and they can appear to be from your bank or another company you know. Never answer any questions about your personal information.

Treat any emails you receive that ask for personal information as fraud. Don't click the links, delete them.

Send for your credit reports (or get them online) to check all your information. Put a freeze on all three credit bureaus at the same time. Those are TransUnion, Equifax and Experian. With a freeze, no one will be able to open a new account in your name because no one can check your credit. If necessary, you can do a temporary freeze lift if you're applying for credit somewhere. All three credit bureaus have this option available by phone.

Of all the data breaches we've had, this is the worst.

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6 Ooze  
10 Lavish party  
14 PC peripheral  
19 "Halt!" at sea  
20 Forearm bone  
21 Nagging pain  
22 Amtrak train  
23 Part of a cylinder lock preventing motion  
25 Lectures aided by blackboards  
27 Concerning  
28 Gigi's "yes"  
29 Working stiff  
30 "Bad Guy" singer Billie  
31 Wrestler's leg lock  
35 Pop rocker Turner  
36 Co. big shot  
37 Eye, to poets  
38 \_ Dhabi  
39 Egg-shaped  
41 Instant lawn  
44 Manor  
46 Original name of the comic strip "Popeye"  
49 French painter Camille  
51 San Diego baseballer  
52 Pulsate  
53 Revered one  
56 Arizona tribe  
59 Burglarize

60 Twosome  
62 Adhesive-roll containers  
66 Study of light  
67 Actor's signal  
68 "Angel" singer Yoko  
69 Simple chord  
70 Flaky dessert  
71 Bit of body art, informally  
72 Being staked  
74 Inoculation creation  
77 Siblings' daughters  
78 Noted coach Parseghian  
79 Scientology's \_  
118 Bill blocker  
80 With 84-Across, think piece in a newspaper  
81 Lug along  
82 \_ Taco (frozen treat)  
84 See 80-Across  
87 Edible fungus whose cap has not yet opened  
92 Sunday paper extra  
96 That, to Lucia  
97 Forest, brush or desert  
98 Pothole filler  
99 Inclined (to)  
100 "The Thinning" actress \_ Marie Johnson  
101 \_ diagram (logic image)

**DOWN**

1 "Ya get it?"  
2 Makes evident  
3 Went hogwild  
4 Eleanor of kiddie lit  
5 Erwin of early films  
6 District outside a city  
7 Novelist Bret Easton \_  
8 Boise-to-Fargo dir.  
9 Golf target  
10 Confronted

11 Reverberate  
12 Larger \_ life  
13 Moray, e.g.  
14 Day play, say  
15 City near Orlando  
16 Hoagie shop  
17 Deer cousins  
18 Make pulp of  
24 Boxer Michael Richards  
26 Rock guitarist  
29 Chubby  
32 Spain's Hernando de \_  
33 "I knew it!"  
34 Kimono sash  
35 London art gallery  
39 Like some strict Amish  
40 "Come" and "go," e.g.  
41 "Get the lead out!"  
42 Tooth flossing, e.g.  
43 Really hated  
45 Stridex target  
46 Sporty car roof option  
47 Tell everything  
48 Be next to  
50 Really, really  
53 "No way!"  
54 Wary  
55 Light musical work for the stage  
57 Baseballer with a record 4,256 hits  
58 Close enough to get  
60 Penny, e.g.

61 Intl. oil group  
63 Medicine amount  
64 Pen fluids  
65 PBS' "Science Kid"  
70 Many groaners  
73 "Power" rapper  
74 Biblical book after Micah  
75 Work in verse  
76 Playthings  
82 "Get the lead out!"  
83 Big name in lawn products  
85 Draw off via a tube  
86 Oppositionist  
88 Ohio city or college  
89 Jazz chord  
90 Boating tool  
91 Mine metal  
93 Giving a thrill  
94 Manicotti cheese  
95 Confronts  
99 Does improv  
101 Cello cousin  
102 Boxer Mike  
103 Egypt's \_ High Dam  
104 Jesting sort  
105 General \_ chicken  
106 Stray-rescuing gp.  
107 Part of mph  
108 Confront  
109 Choir voice  
113 Actress Arden  
114 Devalitize  
115 Bit of history  
116 Day-\_ paint

**Answer Page 4**

## Super Crossword

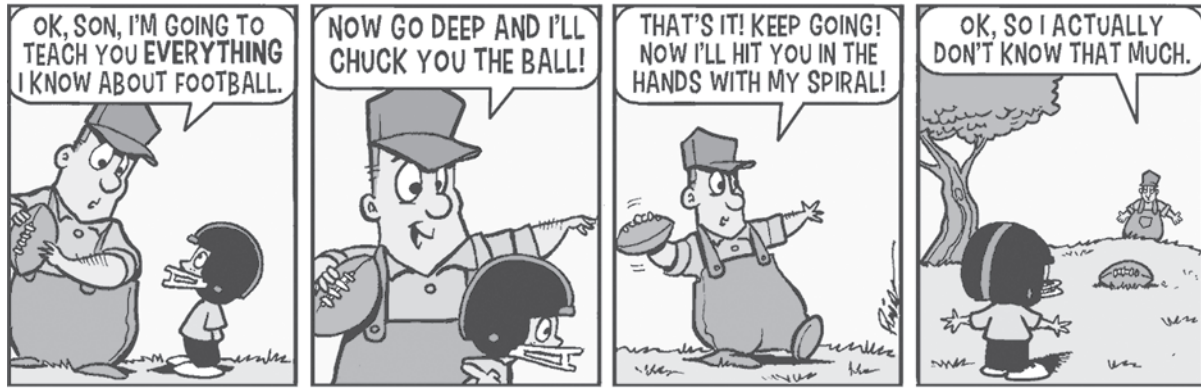
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	
19					20				21				22					
23				24					25			26						
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31				32			33	34				35						
36				37			38			39	40				41	42	43	
44			45			46			47					48				
			49			50			51					52				
53	54	55			56		57	58	59			60	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									124			

Comix

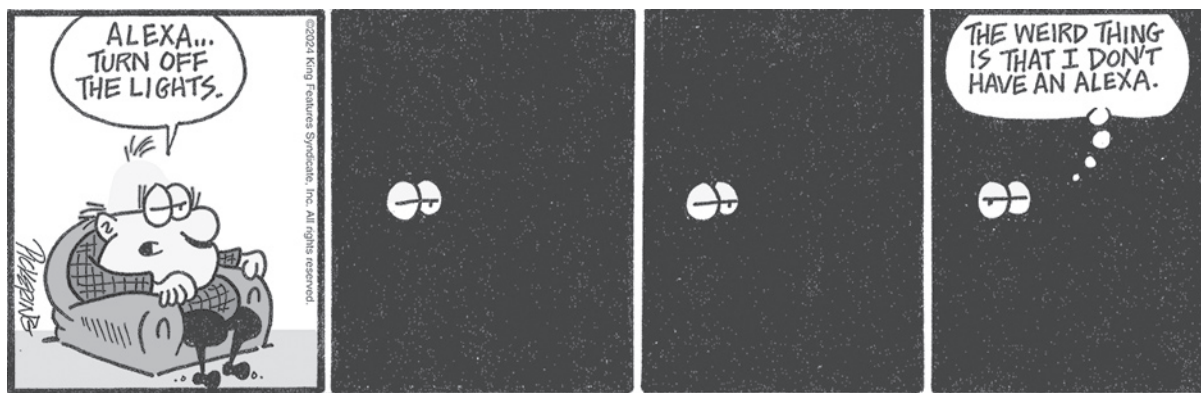
**OUT ON A LIMB** By Gary Kopervas



**AMBER WAVES** By Dave T. Phipps



**THE SPATS** By Jeff Pickering



**TIGER** By Bud Blake



**Lowry**

From Page 2

embarrassment, but Joe Biden doesn't embarrass easily. He left U.S. citizens behind in Afghanistan and has failed to neutralize a rag-tag band of rebels who continue to disrupt shipping in the Red Sea despite the presence of the U.S. Navy.

Back in 1904, when Perdicaris was released and saw U.S. vessels in the water outside Tangier, he exulted at "such proof of his country's solicitude for its citizens and for the honor of its flag."

Biden is now falling short not just of the TR standard, but that set by Lord Palmerston, the great British foreign secretary, under much less provocation. In 1850, Palmerston sent the Royal Navy to vindicate the interests of David Pacifico, a British citizen and Jew born in Gibraltar, who was seeking recompense from the Greek government for the destruction of his property.

Responding to his critics, Palmerston delivered a nearly five-hour speech describing the question in the matter as, "whether, as the Roman, in days of old, held himself free from

indignity, when he could say Civis Romanus sum (I am a Roman citizen); so also a British subject, in whatever land he may be, shall feel confident that the watchful eye and the strong arm of England, will protect him against injustice and wrong."

Of course, the sentiments of Hay and Palmerston are from long ago. It is likely that Joe Biden and the people around him feel about those attitudes the way John Kerry felt after Vladimir Putin went into Ukraine the first time in 2014: "You just don't, in the 21st century, behave in 19th century fashion."

National honor, in any robust sense, presumably strikes them as atavistic and chauvinistic, too simplistic and unyielding for the demands of our complicated times. Hamas, though, isn't playing by 21st-century rules. It is acting by the same bloody-minded imperatives of barbarians from any time or place. We may think we are responding with great subtlety and sophistication, but we shouldn't be surprised if they consider us weaklings and fools.

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

**Woman chooses to use aspirin for DVT**

*DEAR DR. ROACH: I am an 81-year-old female who has been on Xarelto for years due to deep vein thrombosis (DVT). I also have an inferior vena cava (IVC) filter. I read that low-dose aspirin (325 mg) is just as effective in preventing clots in the legs as Xarelto, which is very expensive. My doctor advises against changing to aspirin, but won't give me an explanation as to why. I switched anyway, and the redness in my foot disappeared. After one month of taking 325 mg of coated aspirin daily, I have no symptoms and actually feel better. What are your thoughts? – A.B.*



Although aspirin is better than nothing, it has been proven to be less effective than Xarelto and similar medicines in people who are at risk for blood clots. In a yearlong trial comparing the two, recurrences of DVT (a blood clot in the deep veins of the leg) occurred in just over 1% of people taking Xarelto and in 4.4% of people taking aspirin. (This study used low-dose aspirin – 100 mg – rather than the full-dose of 325 mg that you are taking.) The risk of bleeding was about the same among the aspirin group and the Xarelto group.

Aspirin is an anti-inflammatory, which may be why the redness in your foot disappeared. I doubt it had anything to do with a blood clot.

For people at a high risk, I recommend against changing from a more-effective medicine like Xarelto to aspirin. In your case, you are protected against a blood clot in the lung by your filter, which is designed to catch any clot before it can get to the lung. Unfortunately, the IVC filter slightly increases the risk of a recurrence of a blood clot in the legs, so it's important to keep taking medication to reduce your risk.

Given the serious nature of a blood clot, I can't recommend disregarding your doctor's advice, although you deserve a thorough explanation from your doctor. If the main issue for your wanting to change medications is the expense, you might ask your doctor if there are less-expensive alternatives that would still be as effective as Xarelto. The manufacturer also offers a program to help with expenses.

*DEAR DR. ROACH: I am a 67-year-old woman in good health. I have been taking omeprazole for at least 10 years, and it was originally prescribed to help chronic cough. With all the talk of an increased dementia risk from this medication, what is the safest way to wean off of it? – C.H.*

There is some evidence that proton-pump inhibitors like omeprazole increase dementia risk. But the evidence isn't strong, and there are studies that haven't shown a risk. Still, omeprazole and similar drugs do have the potential for long-term side effects, and it is always worth a periodic trial off of the medicine to see whether it is still needed.

If you and your physician agree to stop the medication, my usual recommendation is to cut the dose in half for a week, then take it every other day for another week before stopping. People on a high dose may need to cut the dose in half twice.

*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**

A Texas Horned Toad named "Big Jim" was MAILED to 38 cities in 1938.

**CryptoQuip**

This is a simple substitution cipher in which each letter used stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Solution is accomplished by trial and error.

Clue: **K equals P**

XTOYF KGTKUFWM WTAWFGAYAQ  
 VUF SFXYNF TZ JA TADYAF  
 XTAFM VGJANZFG NFGOYWF:  
 "Y NFF SFJS KJMKJD."

Answer Page 4

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**Weekly SUDOKU**

by Linda Thistle

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

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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**K2 presumptives: Too late for too many**



by Freddy Groves

Sixteen thousand veterans who served at K2 are now eligible for expanded Department of Veterans Affairs benefits. This will be welcome (and overdue) news for many.

K2, also known as Karshi-Khanabad and Camp Stronghold Freedom, was an Uzbekistan airbase used from 2001 to 2005 during Operation Enduring Freedom after the Sept. 11 attacks.

The VA is now making Gulf War illnesses a presumptive in those who served at K2, recognizing that those who served there were exposed to "several contaminants of concern" and ensuring that exposures to those toxins are taken into account for K2 veteran claims – all good steps forward.

But it wasn't always so. A 2015 study detailed all the multiple types of cancer among those who'd served at K2. The VA rejected the

information and claimed there was no high rate of cancer even though there had been many documented cases.

A 2020 congressional study, however, opened up some previously classified documents that showed the toxins and hazards were very real and so were the health consequences:

Kerosene, jet fuel, contaminated soils that could "cause adverse health effects," particulate matter, uranium, elevated levels of tetrachloroethylene, burn pits, jet fuel plumes, radiation exposure, asbestos in the soil and more.

One of the veterans who testified before the committee said that they'd constantly been told there was no risk from the toxic exposures. Further, any high environmental readings were blamed on faulty test equipment.

A Deployment Health Clinical Center (now the Psychological Health Center of Excellence) advice sheet instructed medical staff to "listen actively" when returning service members

expressed concerns about exposure to toxins at K2. "It often helps rapport if you thank them" for their service, it says. But meanwhile, yeah, they tried to abate radiation in the soil with more soil dumped on top, and you walked around in glowing green water and breathed in jet fuel fumes. But hey, the protective measures were effective, and would you like a mental health consultation?

If you're an ill K2 veteran or a surviving family member, call the VA. Don't wait until they call you.

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• "I recently did a little work on my car, and afterward I washed and waxed it. My tools got pretty grimy, so I cleaned them too. Since I had the wax out, I used it on several of them to keep them from rusting in storage." – via email

• Add a softener sheet to your vacuum bag or canister when you change it. While you clean, you will distribute the good smell throughout your home. You also can use a cotton ball scented with your favorite essential oil or even perfume.

• If you have trouble threading needles, try spritzing some hairspray on your finger, and twist the end of the thread. It will keep the fibers together and stiffen it enough to be easily threaded.

• It is possible to save a bit of money on car maintenance if you can't change your own oil. Learn common add-ons you will be offered at oil and lube places. Air filters are surprisingly easy to replace on your own, and so are windshield wipers. Very often, the staff of auto-supply chains will lend you tools or even assist you right in the parking lot.

• Got bug bites? Try these for some relief from the itching of insect bites: apple cider vinegar; a paste of baking soda and water, allowed to dry on the bite; a similar paste of meat tenderizer and water; or antiperspirant.

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.

	+		÷		=	1		
-		+		+				
	+		+		=	12		
×		×		+				
	+		-		=	7		
=		=		=				
12		36		20				
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

**DIFFICULTY: ★**

★ Moderate ★★ Difficult

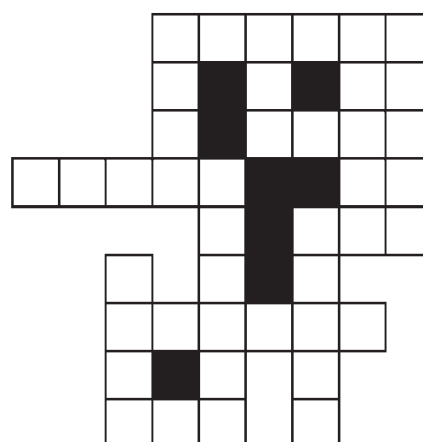
★★★ GO FIGURE!

Answer Page 4

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- EBG
- ERNALK
- KNATE
- ♥ AGNT
- GARION
- YKE
- ♥ EGRA
- KUBON
- ♥ NTO
- BAYERN
- UGNEL
- KYLO



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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