



Water rates change for county's outlying communities

By Alfredo Vasquez
Special to the Courier

EL PASO COUNTY – The El Paso County communities of East Montana, Desert Acceptance, Mayfair-Nuway, Schuman-Brothers, Colonia Revolucion, and Hillcrest Center will have new water and wastewater fees to budget for starting in October.

The increase in fees was announced recently by El Paso County officials as part of its new rate structure for the areas that are receiving county-managed water and sewer services.

“This rate schedule is intended to provide basic water and sewer (where applicable) services to families while also encouraging conservation,” according to county officials. “This rate schedule applies to all meter sizes within the system,” they added.

County officials stated that the monthly fees for water service in these easternmost areas of the county will now be \$42.34 a month with additional fees being added after 3,000 gallons of water use.

Subsequently, for use of 3,001 to 6,000 gallons of water, the fee will be an additional \$3.29. For use of 6,001 to 10,000 gallons of water, the fee will be an additional \$6.20 per month. And for use of over 10,000 gallons of water, the cost will include an additional \$8.11 to the monthly base rate.

The monthly base fee for wastewater services for these county communities will be \$40.82 for sewer volume rate of 2,000 gallons or less. An additional

See WATER, Page 2



– Photo courtesy El Paso Water

NEW DEMAND – El Paso County's new rate schedule is intended to provide basic water and sewer services to families while also encouraging conservation, according to county officials. The new rates apply to the growing communities in the easternmost part of the county where water storage facilities, like the one above, have been installed.

Jewel Box Series begins monthly shows in October

By Rudy Vasquez
Special to the Courier



– El Paso Community Foundation

KICKING IT OFF – Sangre Gitana opens the ninth Jewel Box Series on October 13. The group blends fiery rhythms with passionate flamenco dance.

EL PASO COUNTY — The ninth El Paso Community Foundation Jewel Box Series at the Philanthropy Theatre will begin with the fiery flamenco music and dance of Sangre Gitana and end with a dance-infused play called The Mad Flower.

Eight shows by seven performing arts groups make up the 2024-2025 season, which will be staged on Sunday afternoons from October 2024 through May 2025 in the Philanthropy Theatre in the Plaza Theatre Performing Arts Centre.

The season begins at 2:30 pm Sunday, October 13 with what promises to be a colorful performance of flamenco music and dance by El Paso's popular Sangre Gitana.

General admission tickets are \$15, on sale at the Plaza Theatre Box Office (no service fees) and Ticketmaster.com (with service fees). Note: The venue allows only clear bags and no longer accepts cash.

The season includes two shows by Star on the Mountain Theatrical Productions – the interactive murder mystery This Murder Was Staged (November 10) and topical drama Stop Kiss (February 9). Playwright Félix Arenas returns with Requiem for Rosa Elena's Dream on April 13.

New to the Jewel Box are piano bar veteran

See JEWEL BOX, Page 4

The real scandal in Springfield

In what ranks as one of the most memorable debate moments in recent history, Donald Trump said that Haitian immigrants are eating people's pets in Springfield, Ohio.

No one has yet turned up evidence that this is true, although there is an audio recording of a man reporting that he witnessed four Haitian immigrants absconding with geese from a local pond.

Since everyone is always happy to see geese go someplace else, this call hasn't made much of an impression on the debate over Trump's comments, which, true to form, were the most incendiary thing he could say about Springfield.

Even if Tabby and Fido aren't on the menu in the small Ohio town, the fact remains that a place with a population of 60,000 [58,662 in the 2020 census]

has seen an influx of 15,000 to 20,000 Haitian immigrants since 2020, making the new arrivals a wildly disproportionate share of the population in short order.

Prior to this point, Springfield had nothing to do with Haiti, and looking at the map, a town located between Columbus and Dayton would be one of the least likely places to have anything to do with Haiti. It is very far from Little Haiti in Miami, and it had no pre-existing Haitian population or an infrastructure to provide services to Haitian Creole speakers.

No matter. Under the Biden administration's open-handed immigration policies, every place in the country has become subject to sudden, disruptive demographic change. We've seen it in big cities, where Democratic mayors have complained of the

associated burdens, and now we are seeing it in a small city. To match in relative terms what's happened in Springfield, more than 2 million migrants would have had to arrive in New York City in the past several years.

Numbers matter. No one would care if there were 150 new Haitian migrants in Springfield since 2020, or 1,500. But 15,000 is a different proposition. Quantity, as they say, has a quality all of its own.

To be clear, Haitian immigrants (many permitted here legally under Biden policy) didn't begin showing up in Springfield hoping to filch



See LOWRY, Page 7

View from here By Dr. Glenn Mollette

Trump's angry? Kamala's got joy?

Did Trump seem angry during the debate?

I thought he was intense. There's a difference. Aren't you a little intense? Doesn't it bother you when you dread going to the grocery store because you need more money to buy the same things? Doesn't it irritate you that

your town is starting to look like a third world country? Doesn't it make you a little intense when so many undocumented people are getting medical care that you can't afford? Doesn't it provoke you some that your grandchildren can't play outside at night because America has become

so unsafe? Do you even feel safe for them to be out in the yard or down the street alone during the day? Doesn't it make you just a little uptight when you go to buy a car and know that if you can't pay cash for it that you will make payments and big ones for a long time?

Doesn't it make you a bit irritable that renting an apartment of any size is insanely expensive? Does it bother you that buying a house might never be within your reach? How do you feel about seeing your ability to financially enjoy retirement shrink more every day? Does it bother you that babies are aborted in such late stages of pregnancy when there is no medical necessity or concern about the mother's or baby's health? Doesn't it concern you that our country is so involved in the Ukraine-Russia war and also the Israel-Hamas war? Could we end up in World War III? Doesn't it bother you that we are living in an era where we need police protection more than ever but some government

leaders want to defund the police? Doesn't it tick you off a bit that you may never be able to retire?

I think Trump has every reason to be a little high strung and intense. I suspect you have times when you are as well. Now Kamala, naw, she's got joy. None of this stuff is bothering her at all. She laughs, giggles and has some funky facial expressions going on. As millions of people have illegally crossed our border for almost four years, she and Joe Biden have let them have their way. Prices on everything during her entire tenure. Her solution is that America is going to move on and she will give every hopeful home owner \$25,000, and everyone will be filled with joy.

Handing out big checks to Americans, businesses and even colleges and non-profits during covid started this huge mess of people preferring to stay home instead of work. It also began this economy crisis our nation is suffering. We can thank Kamala and Biden for this joy that she only wants to continue. Which are you feeling today? Trump's intensity or Kamala's joy?

Water

From Page 1

\$5.21 fee will be applied after the 2,000-gallon wastewater limit.

The County's East Montana Water System is managed by the Road & Bridge Department.

This system, which was installed in 2002, was funded through grants from The Texas Water Development Board and the U.S. Department of Agriculture- Rural Development. The Road and Bridge department is currently accepting applications for water service in this area.

To qualify for water and wastewater services, the applicant must reside on the lot, have a septic tank permit, have a certificate of subdivision compliance, install back flow/pressure regulator valve, and pay the water connection fee, installation fee and deposit fee.

However, limited water connections are available, and service will be provided on existing residential lots and only one connection per lot. For more information, call 546-2015. Also, interested individuals may visit El Paso Water's online website at epwater.org for specific details on the water rate changes for the county's outlying communities.



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

MAIL:
15344 Werling Ct.
Horizon City, TX 79928

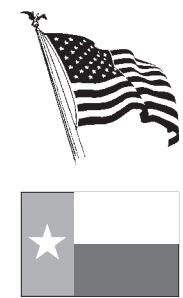
Phone: 852-3235

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

Publisher
Rick Shrum

Contributors
Alfredo Vasquez
Steve Escajeda

Homesteader
Est. 1973
News, Inc.



TxDOT's trailer hitch and towing safety tips

New initiative promotes safety tips to prevent trailer-related crashes

By Jeff Salzgeber
Special to the Courier

TEXAS – Whether it's taking a boat on a lake or operating a business, millions of Texans hitch a trailer to their vehicle every year. Knowing how to safely attach or tow a trailer can save lives. That's why TxDOT is urging drivers to learn how to properly attach a trailer and drive safely, once it's attached.

Wife and mother of three Kelly Hall of Tyler was tragically killed on March 8, 2021, when a food trailer became unhitched from the truck that was towing it and struck her vehicle.

To help avoid crashes like these, TxDOT is sharing the following safety tips.

Choosing the correct equipment

- Check your vehicle's tow rating in the owner's manual to confirm it can tow the trailer's weight when fully loaded.

- Ensure your hitch ball is the correct size and capacity for the coupler, trailer and load. Hitch balls and couplers are stamped with their size and maximum weight capacities. Improper ball size or capacity could cause the trailer to detach from the tow vehicle.

- Check the tires' pressure on the tow vehicle and trailer, including spare tires. Your vehicle's tires may require a higher pressure while towing. Check the vehicle owner's manual.

Tips for safely hitching a trailer

See TxDOT, Page 4



Donate Your Vehicle

Call (877) 731-0169 to donate your car, truck, boat, RV, and more today!

How it Works:



1. Contact Us
Call (877) 731-0169



2. Schedule Pickup
We'll pick up your vehicle for FREE - at a time and place convenient for you.



3. Receive Top Tax Deduction
You may qualify for a tax deduction.

- Support Veteran Nonprofits.
- Free Pickup & Towing.
- Top Tax Deduction.

What kinds of vehicles can I donate?

Veteran Car Donations accepts most cars, trucks, boats, RVs, and motorcycles. We can pick up your vehicle, running or not.

It gets better: your car donation can be picked up within 24 hours, and in some cases even the same day.



Donate Your Vehicle Today
877-731-0169



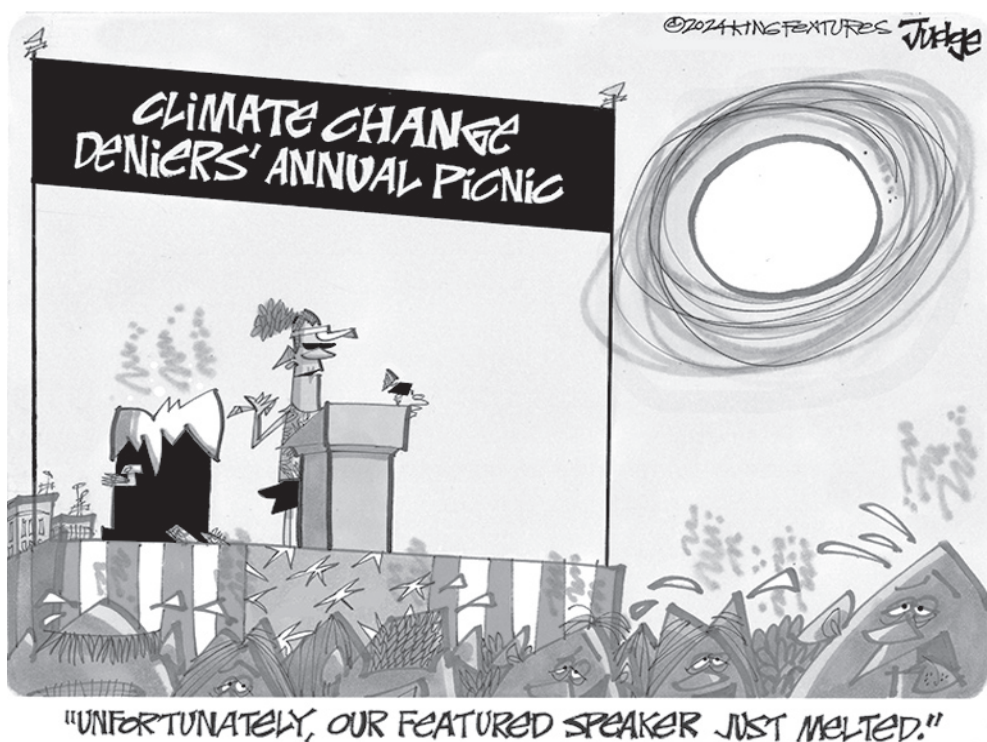
While we appreciate every donation, in some cases, we find that we are unable to accept certain vehicles, watercraft, and/or recreational vehicles due to the prohibitive costs of acquisition. If you have any questions, please give us a call at (877) 731-0169.



How Your Vehicle Donation Helps Veterans

Your vehicle donation directly helps us to provide our nation's heroes with much needed programs and services, such as:

- Essential Medical Care and Mental Health Services
- Mentoring, Job Skills Training, and Employment Assistance
- Food, Emergency Shelter, and Housing for Homeless Veterans
- Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) Therapy and Grief Counseling



Tidbits By John Grimaldi

A funny Nobel Prize

There's the Nobel Prize and then there is the Ig Nobel Prize. The Nobel Prize honors "discoveries that have conferred the greatest benefit to humankind." The Ig Nobel Prize was created in 1991 by Marc Abrahams, editor and co-founder of the Annals of Improbable Research, to make "people laugh and then think." Among this year's prize winners was a Japanese research team that discovered mammals can breathe through their butts. This year's Ig Nobel Peace Prize was awarded to the late Harvard psychologist, B.F. Skinner, for his research into whether pigeons in missiles were able to guide their flights.

Autumn art?

Margaret Zeitouny went for a walk with her dog on a trail in Waltham's Cedarwood Park in Massachusetts and stumbled upon a formation of

pinecones "in a circle pattern with a repetitive design. Making them is a meditative thing. I don't know if the artist is coming up and checking on it, but I am. I want to take a picture a day until it's not there anymore. I am not on board with aliens, and definitely not on board with satanic ritual. I appreciate that someone spent a significant amount of time putting it together and put it together on the edge of the trail."

A first daredevil

According to the Encyclopedia Britannica, bungee jumping is a sport in which the jumper falls from a high place connected to a large elastic cord. Stunt driver Laurent Lasko took bungee jumping to a new level recently when he attached his car to eight bungee cords and dropped no less than 213 feet, three inches, becoming the first daredevil to win the Guinness World Records title

for "the highest car bungee jump." The event took place in the Paris Business District, organized by the Nissan motor company.

Vulture vomit theory

It happened in March of 1876 when chunks of red meat rained down from the sky in Bath County, KY. It's known as the Kentucky Meat Shower and Professor Kurt Gohde of Transylvania University in Lexington says the school has preserved a piece of the meat that rained down that day. He says a good guess is that it's all about "a weather pattern where winds will pick up small fish and frogs, I think it's called an up-spout, and then they lay them down in another place. For me, the vulture vomit theory is the only one that feels possible." That piece of meat is currently part of an exhibit at The Bath County History Museum exhibit dedicated to most mysterious historical events.

www.wtxcc.com • www.wtxcc.com • www.wtxcc.com • www.wtxcc.com • www.wtxcc.com

Grants available for groups serving veterans

By Angela Woellner
Special to the Courier

TEXAS – Organizations that provide services to veterans in Texas are encouraged to apply for the Texas Veterans Commission's (TVC) Fund for Veterans' Assistance (FVA) grant program. The application period opened on Sept. 12, 2024, and will close at 5 p.m. on Nov. 12, 2024. An estimated total of \$31 million in grant funding is available. These grants are awarded to nonprofit organizations and local government agencies that provide direct services to veterans.

New this year for the 2025-2026 funding period ahead:

- The term of the grant is extended from 12 months to 14 months;
- Funding limits are increased up to \$600,000 depending on the grant program; and,
- Applicants are eligible to apply and be awarded three grants. County governments

may be awarded four grants, including a Veteran Treatment Court grant.

The grants support a wide range of services from emergency financial assistance to transportation, legal services to family support services, and home modification to rental and mortgage assistance. TVC awards grants in five categories: General Assistance, Housing for Texas Heroes, Veterans Mental Health Grants, Veterans Treatment Courts, and Veteran County Service Offices.

Interested nonprofit organizations and government agencies that provide direct services to veterans may find more information and how to apply at <https://tvc.texas.gov/grants/grantseekers/>.

Veterans needing assistance can find organizations providing services in their area at <https://tvc.texas.gov/fund>. Those listed in this directory receive support from TVC FVA grants.

Since 2009 through the current 2024-2025 grant cycle, more than \$313 million in grant funding has been awarded through more than 1,400 FVA grants.

PUBLIC NOTICE TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS AND PARTIES:

The *West Texas County Courier* will publish three editions early. The October 17, 24 and and 31, 2024 issues will go to press on Friday, October 11, 2024.

All material for these publications must be submitted to the *West Texas County Courier* no later than Friday, October 4, 2024.

The *West Texas County Courier* office will close beginning Friday, October 11, 2024. The office will open again on Monday, October 28, 2024.

TxDOT

From Page 3

- Verify each part of the hitch system is in good condition.
- Ask a friend or coworker to help you line up the vehicle and trailer.
- Always use safety chains. They are required by law and are your first line of defense if the trailer detaches. Make sure the safety chains are properly crisscrossed and connected. Check that the trailer lights, running lights and brake lights are working.
- Properly distribute and balance your trailer load weight and secure all cargo.

Tips for driving safely when towing a trailer

- Slow down, stay alert and leave plenty of stopping distance. It will take longer to stop with a trailer than with a vehicle alone.
- Watch for trailer sway. If you see the trailer swinging back and forth, remove your foot from the gas and gently apply the trailer brakes until the swaying stops.
- Take extra care when turning or changing lanes.

Jewel Box

From Page 1

Alissa Musto, who headlines the request-oriented Piano Ma'am Sing-Along on January 12, and contemporary classical composer Daniel Villasenor (Frontera Bugalú), who performs original solo piano compositions on December 8.

The SOMOS Performance Group, founded by mother-daughter Beth Leffler and Josey Pickett, performs the Peter Pan prequel Peter and the Starcatcher on March 9. Mad Flower Productions, founded by high school theater educators Talia Leilani Davila and Noelle Mullenix, closes the series with The Mad Flower, an original play with dance, on May 11.

The Jewel Box Series was created in partnership with El Paso Live in 2014 to host local performing artists and groups in that jewel box of a venue, the Philanthropy Theatre in the Plaza Theatre Performing Arts Centre.

Jewel Box Series 2024-2025 Season

Sangre Gitana
Sangre Gitana
2:30 p.m. October 13, 2024
The colorful El Paso group blends fiery rhythms with passionate flamenco dance.

This Murder Was Staged
Star on the Mountain
Theatrical Productions
2:30 p.m. November 10, 2024
An interactive murder mystery in which everyone, including the audience, is a suspect.

Pianist – Daniel Villasenor
Daniel Villasenor
2:30 p.m. December 8, 2024
The Frontera Bugalú keyboardist goes solo with original music inspired by dreams.

Piano Ma'am Sing-Along
Alissa Musto
2:30 p.m. January 12, 2025
Request your favorite songs and sing along with this former Miss America finalist.

Stop Kiss
Star on the Mountain
Theatrical Productions
2:30 p.m. February 9, 2025
Diana Son's topical drama about the consequences of a first kiss.

Peter and the Starcatcher
SOMOS Performance Group
2:30 p.m. March 9, 2025
The Tony Award-winning play tells the backstory of Peter Pan, Tinker Bell and Hook.

† AMERICAN LUNG ASSOCIATION of Texas

YOUR Gift IS A WAY TO CONQUER LUNG DISEASE

Find out how you can help ...

www.texaslung.org

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

1-800-LUNG-USA

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

TEMPOS
UEM
PAGANLE
VULGAR
O A
ANEW
UEAGER
NORM
P

COBRA DECAL ACDC SOMA
AXIOM ECONO MAIL URAL
IFSOMEBOYWROTEA BAKE
NOT OVALS FEE UNMUTE
ERRS ISA IRABU CERISE
DOUBLEBIOGRAPHYABOUT
MAS DUT TOSS NRA
PLUME PAL PROF UPSET
SUPERMODEL CRAWFORD
ACED OLD ALIGN DEFAME
LIN SUE ASIDE FED RAE
MADMAN IRENE ALL SIGN
ANDACTRES SWILLIAMS
JADED LASS WET INLAY
ASE USSR DEAMSG
WHATSHOULDITBETITLED
SEDAKA SEEPS AIM EXEC
BERYLS ELL ERVIN ONO
BONO ATALEOFTWOCINDYS
BRET LANE MURAL GSUIT
SODS ANTE ALEXI HASTA

CryptoQuip Answer

If I knew some cruel folks had been dispatched, I would probably cry "The brutish are coming!"

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|----|---|----|---|----|
| 3 | + | 2 | × | 6 | = | 30 |
| + | | + | | + | | |
| 7 | + | 8 | ÷ | 5 | = | 3 |
| - | | ÷ | | + | | |
| 4 | - | 1 | + | 9 | = | 12 |
| = | | = | | = | | |
| 6 | | 10 | | 20 | | |

Strange BUT TRUE

By Lucie Winborne

- Baby porcupines are known as porcupettes.
- In the early 20th century, California's Glass Beach was used as a trash dump. Decades of ocean tides have cleared the beach and polished discarded bottles and automobile tail lights into collectible pebbles of sea glass.
- In 1939, Hitler's nephew wrote an article titled "Why I Hate My Uncle." He came to America, served in the Navy and settled on Long Island.
- Continental plates drift as fast as fingernails grow.
- Nineteenth-century British surgeon George Merryweather believed leeches could predict the weather. Sadly, his "tempest prognosticator," displayed at the Great Exhibition in 1851, failed to catch on.
- Viking burials included board games.
- Child star Shirley Temple reportedly didn't love her famous curls, preferring instead the cropped 'do of her hero, Amelia Earhart.
- Remember this when you're attempting to settle a dispute with currency: When you flip a coin, there is a slightly greater chance that it will end up on the side it started.
- The NASA Vehicle Assembly Building in Florida is so huge it has its own weather.
- Women in traditional Rwandan societies avoid eating goat meat, as it's believed this will cause them to grow a beard.
- The record for the longest tire skid was set in 1964 at the Bonneville Salt Flats in Utah.
- Walt Disney World is a surprisingly popular place for people to scatter the ashes of their deceased loved ones. Unsurprisingly, the "Happiest Place on Earth" takes a dim view of the practice, saying that anyone bringing human remains onto the property will be asked to leave.
- The modern popped collar originated as a way to keep tennis players' necks from getting sunburned.

Thought for the Day: "What sculpture is to a block of marble, education is to a human soul."

– Joseph Addison

©2024 King Features Synd., Inc.



Moments in time

THE HISTORY CHANNEL

- On Sept. 23, 1944, President Franklin D. Roosevelt defended his beloved dog Fala's honor while dining with the International Brotherhood of Teamsters union. The canine had recently been the butt of a Republican political attack, and the president remarked that while he and his family had been the object of "malicious falsehoods" in the past, he asserted the right to "object to libelous statements about my dog."
- On Sept. 24, 2016, the National Museum of African American History and Culture opened on the National Mall. President Barack Obama led the ceremony and rang the Freedom Bell, a bell from an African American Baptist church founded in 1776.
- On Sept. 25, 1970 The Partridge Family made its debut on ABC. Though most of the fictional family was portrayed by nonmusical actors, the show did propel lead singer David Cassidy onto the path of teen idol stardom.
- On Sept. 26, 1820, frontiersman Daniel Boone – who, incidentally, never wore a coonskin cap, preferring one of beaver instead – died in his sleep at his son's home near present-day Defiance, Missouri, at the age of 86.
- On Sept. 27, 1989, Hollywood actress and socialite Zsa Zsa Gabor, while standing trial for slapping a police officer, stormed out of the courtroom in the middle of the district attorney's closing remarks. Later that day, she was convicted and given a sentence of 72 hours in jail, 120 hours of community service, and \$13,000 in fines and restitution.
- On Sept. 28, 1918, a Liberty Loan parade in Philadelphia launched a severe outbreak of Spanish flu in the city that turned into a pandemic. By the time it ended, an estimated 20-50 million people around the world had died.
- On Sept. 29, 1988, Stacy Allison of Portland, Oregon, became the first American woman to reach the summit of Mount Everest, which at 29,035 feet above sea level is Earth's highest point. She was later part of a team that marked the first successful all-women ascent of Ama Dablam, a mountain of 22,495 feet, in Nepal.

©2024 King Features Synd., Inc.

Consumer Cellular®

BIG WIRELESS COVERAGE, WITHOUT BIG WIRELESS COST.

Plans start at just \$20/month.

Switch & Save Today. **888-695-3086**

100% U.S. BASED CUSTOMER SERVICE.
All of our support teams are just a call or click away.



PREMIUM NATIONWIDE 5G COVERAGE.

Get the exact same nationwide coverage as the largest carriers, including 5G for up to half the cost.

© 2024 Consumer Cellular Inc. Terms and Conditions subject to change. Up to half the cost savings based on Consumer Cellular's single-line, 1.5 and 10GB data plans with unlimited talk and text compared to T-Mobile and Verizon's lowest cost, single-line post-paid unlimited talk, text and data plans, January 2024. Plans shown above include \$5 credit for AutoPay and E-billing. Taxes and other fees apply. Credit approval required for new service. Cellular service is not available in all areas and is subject to system limitations.

WEST TEXAS COUNTY COURIER

To Our Readers

From time to time we carry ads from large, well known product and service providers. If you are considering using these products or services, please call them using the phone numbers in the *Courier*. The numbers are associated with an account for the *West Texas County Courier*. Thanks for picking up the *Courier*.

NORTH AMERICA'S

#1 Selling Walk-In Tub

Featuring our *Free Shower Package*

SPECIAL OFFER

Now you can finally have all of the soothing benefits of a relaxing warm bath, or enjoy a convenient refreshing shower while seated or standing with Safe Step Walk-In Tub's **FREE Shower Package!**

- ✓ First walk-in tub available with a customizable shower
- ✓ Fixed rainfall shower head is adjustable for your height and pivots to offer a seated shower option
- ✓ High-quality tub complete with a comprehensive lifetime warranty on the entire tub
- ✓ Top-of-the-line installation and service, all included at one low, affordable price

Now you can have the best of both worlds—there isn't a better, more affordable walk-in tub!

Call today and receive a **FREE SHOWER PACKAGE**

PLUS \$1600 OFF

FOR A LIMITED TIME ONLY

Call Toll-Free **1-888-727-2581**



With purchase of a new Safe Step Walk-In Tub. Not applicable with any previous walk-in tub purchase. Offer available while supplies last. No cash value. Must present offer at time of purchase.



Call Today for Your Free Shower Package

1-888-727-2581



CSLB 1082165 NSCB 0082999 0083445

Comix

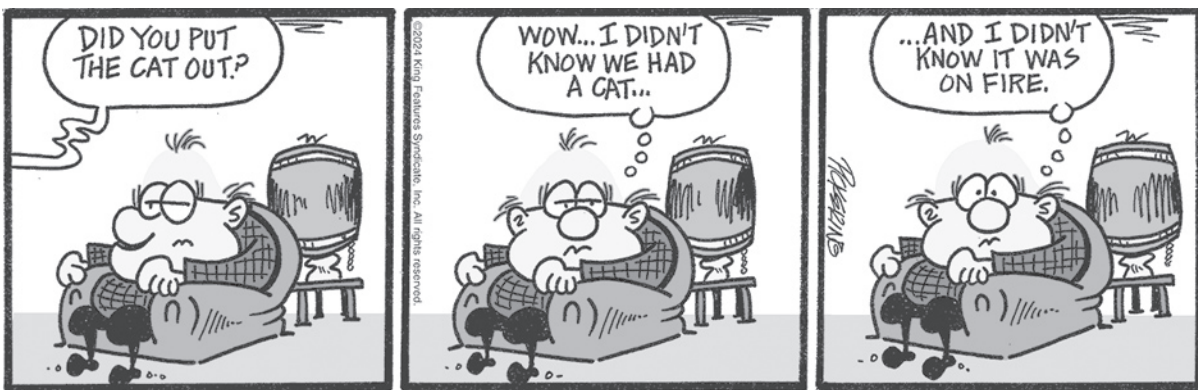
OUT ON A LIMB By Gary Kopervas



AMBER WAVES By Dave T. Phipps



THE SPATS By Jeff Pickering



TIGER By Bud Blake



Lowry

From Page 2

unsuspecting domestic short hairs. Rather, they were looking for work in a city that was seeing something of an economic revival. That's all well and good, but people are more than cogs to be plugged into warehouses or manufacturing operations.

They come with families and with needs for housing, health care and education. They have pre-existing cultural predilections different from ours (Haiti and the United States are very different places), and if they don't speak the language, that makes everything even more difficult. Nor are resources unlimited. Health care facilities, schools and the housing stock have all been strained in Springfield.

The New York Times reports that consultations began to take three times as long at the local community health center. The head of the clinic told the paper: "We lost productivity. We had huge burnout of staff." It hired six Haitian Creole speakers, and annual spending on translation services increased from \$43,000 in 2020 to \$436,000.

The school district, according to the Times, has had to hire two-dozen new English-as-a-second-language instructors and several interpreters.

The city manager, Bryan Heck, wrote a letter to U.S. senators saying that the influx is "putting a significant strain on our resources and ability to provide ample housing for all of our residents." The Haitians also tend to be poor drivers. Ohio Governor Mike DeWine has pledged help from the state highway patrol.

News reports often dismiss the concerns of residents as ill-informed or xenophobic. Their complaints about the costs and disorder associated with the wave of immigration are legitimate, though, and the sense that the town has undergone a large-scale change that no one was consulted about is very real. Who signed up to become a laboratory for Biden's experiment in permitting Haitians to come to and stay in the United States?

The cats and dogs may be safe and sound, but all is not right in Springfield.

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

Pros and cons of prescription Fosamax

DEAR DR. ROACH: I'm a 65-year-old, overweight white woman. I recently had a DEXA scan, and based on the results, my general physician prescribed Fosamax for osteopenia.

The first dose created a horrible reaction two days after ingestion, with severe pain in both of my arms, my neck, and my legs. I was in absolute agony for two days, then it cleared up.

With the next dose a week later, I hesitated, but still decided to take it. Two days later, the reaction hit me again, only worse. I could barely walk, and my energy was so low. I spent four days in bed, except to cry when heading to the bathroom. I had not taken my Lasix prescription for those four days, as I could barely make it to the bathroom.

I contacted my doctor, and she discontinued Fosamax. She's referring me to a rheumatologist. I read that this drug has all my symptoms, plus more, listed under the severe reaction warning. I will not take it again.

Also, a friend told me that this drug is not effective for osteoporosis after more than 20 years of drug tests, and I should not have been prescribed this drug, since I have osteopenia, not osteoporosis. Your thoughts? – C.W.



Alendronate (Fosamax) is in the class of drugs called bisphosphonates. These are powerful drugs that should not be prescribed lightly. They do have the potential for severe side effects. Severe musculoskeletal pain can occur days or months (sometimes years) after starting the medicine. The Food and Drug Administration has advised prescribers to discuss this possibility with their patients so that the drug can be stopped immediately if it occurs. There are other options available if the person really needs treatment.

Your friend is half right. Powerful drugs like Fosamax are usually not indicated in people who have low bone mass (osteopenia) without osteoporosis. However, a history of a fragility fracture (breaking a bone from minor trauma that isn't expected to cause a fracture) can make the diagnosis of osteoporosis, even if the bone density isn't in the usual osteoporotic range. A person can have a high risk of fractures for other reasons, and a clinical tool called the FRAX score helps clinicians identify those who might benefit from treatment.

But your friend is also half wrong. When used appropriately, Fosamax and other bisphosphonate drugs are effective at reducing the risk of fractures. A vertebral body fracture can cause years of pain and be avoided easily, while a hip fracture can be devastating. So, there are very good reasons to prescribe these medicines.

Finally, let me warn readers against complacency in treatment with these drugs. They may be appropriately prescribed for a high-risk person, but most people should not stay on this drug forever. Follow-up DEXA scans should guide therapy, and after three to five years, a conscious decision should be made whether to continue therapy.

Readers who have been on these drugs for more than five years and haven't had careful follow-ups on their results should ask their doctors whether they still need to be taking them.

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.

† AMERICAN LUNG ASSOCIATION of Texas

YOUR Gift IS A WAY TO CONQUER LUNG DISEASE

Find out how you can help ...

www.texaslung.org

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

1-800-LUNG-USA



Moore Texas by Roger MOORE

The folks of Uncertain, TX are absolutely uncertain about the origin of their town's name... really.

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: F equals K

ZV Z FLRX ENHR BDMRO VNOFE
 AQQ KRRL GZEYQIBARG, Z
 XNMOG YDNKQKOW BDW
 "IAR KDMIZEA QDR BNHZLU!"

Answer Page 4

©2024 King Features Synd., Inc.

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging

Answer Page 6

♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

© 2024 King Features Synd., Inc.

Getting away with long-term fraud



by Freddy Groves

Two thieves created a scam they managed to keep going for over a decade before finally being caught. Keeping it going that long doesn't make them smart; it makes them long-term lowlifes.

Solely for the purpose of scamming the government, two guys started up a couple of construction companies. Their goal was to bid on the special contracts with the Department of Veterans Affairs that were for small businesses owned by service-disabled veterans. During that decade, they managed to get 67 of the small business contracts, the majority of which were for over \$1 million each. The problem was that neither scammer had ever served in the military and therefore didn't qualify.

Instead, they paid genuine service-disabled veterans to lie and say they owned and

ran the companies.

Being awarded the contracts took 67 contracts away from real veterans trying to honestly run real businesses. The Veterans Entrepreneurship and Small Business Development Act of 1999 aims to award 3% of all government contracts to service-disabled veterans who own small businesses, although in recent years that figure has exceeded 4% of contracts. At this point there are nearly 2 million veteran-owned businesses.

In addition to the 67 scam contracts, in one case the thieves filed a protest against a VA decision to award a contract to another company. The VA had received five proposals for a certain job and chose one based on their examination of that company's qualifications, even though it was not the lowest bid. The scammers lodged protest of several points.

Enter the Office of Inspector General for the VA to investigate the ongoing fraud. For all of their good work, the OIG can't control the courts. The

two scammers will never see a day of jail time even though the penalty for just one of the crimes could have sent them away for 10 years. Instead, they were given a year of probation, some community service and a fine. It's clearly not enough to send a strong message to other would-be scammers.

©2024 King Features Synd., Inc.



- When preparing outdoor furniture for winter storage, it's important to give it a nice cleaning. If you have a truck, why not load it up and bring it to the local self-serve car wash? The specialized brushes make it easy to clean right there in the back of the vehicle, and a pressure rinse gets soap and dirt from all the nooks and crannies.

- "While at a backyard barbecue now that the weather has turned nice out (down in the South, anyway), I learned this trick from a neighbor. Put hot dogs in the slow cooker. Don't add water or anything. They taste really good without taking up space on the grill." – J.V. in Alabama

- To keep algae from growing in your backyard birdbath, add a few copper pennies. Or you can get a small piece of copper pipe from the home-improvement store. It keeps the algae from getting out of control.

- "We keep a regular size galvanized steel trash can with lid out on our deck for the kids' toys. It's big enough to hold everything, convenient enough to drag around the yard to clean up, and the lid protects the toys from the weather and bugs!" – W.K. in Illinois

- "I had a plastic storage bin that cracked and I was about to throw it out when my son stopped me. He cut holes in either side and used it to cover the outdoor pipes that stick up out of the ground. Now they will be protected from cold temperatures, and from the weed eater through the rest of fall. My boy!" – T.R. in South Carolina

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.

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|----|---|----|---|----|---|---|
| | + | | × | | = | 30 | | |
| + | | + | | + | | | | |
| | + | | ÷ | | = | 3 | | |
| - | | ÷ | | + | | | | |
| | - | | + | | = | 12 | | |
| = | | = | | = | | | | |
| 6 | | 10 | | 20 | | | | |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |

DIFFICULTY: ★

★ Moderate ★★ Difficult

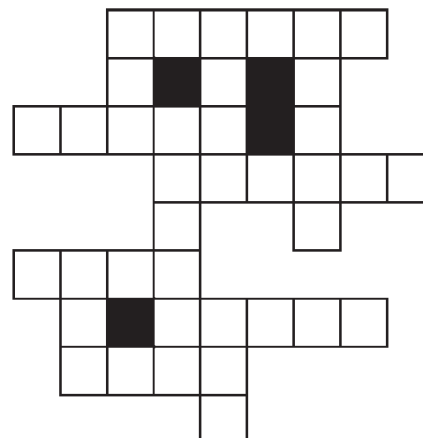
★★★ GO FIGURE!

Answer Page 4

©2024 King Features Syndicate, Inc.



- NNU
- WAROVE
- AOGME
- ♥ OMNR
- URGLVA
- ♥ TGU
- NUME
- AGNPA
- ♥ PMA
- MOPEST
- ♥ EARGE
- ♥ EWNA



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.

©2024 King Features Syndicate. All rights reserved.