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Viewpoints



DONNIE DUNAGAN

TIPS FOR THE TROOPS

Hire vets; Congress, don't cut benefits

Goodfellow Air Force Base: This base is the best example I've seen in a half-century for volunteers helping a neighboring civilian community. Men, women, new corporals, senior sergeants, young officers of our Air Force here volunteer in strong numbers, and with vigor, to every call for help we've made in many months.

They aid our outreach and standdowns for veterans, and their building a big playground for kids at the Salvation Army property was the best job of volunteering I've ever seen. This old Marine of a quarter-century infantry has seen some volunteers. Matching our Goodfellow military citizens is hard to do — they're first-class Americans.

Employment for veterans: Some companies are proactively, with outreach, looking for and hiring veterans, recently discharged women and men needing that the most. In addition to the excellent companies hiring that we shared with you in our April 3 Viewpoints column, I have inquired with 43 other major companies, so far, looking for actual outreaching and positive action for our veterans.

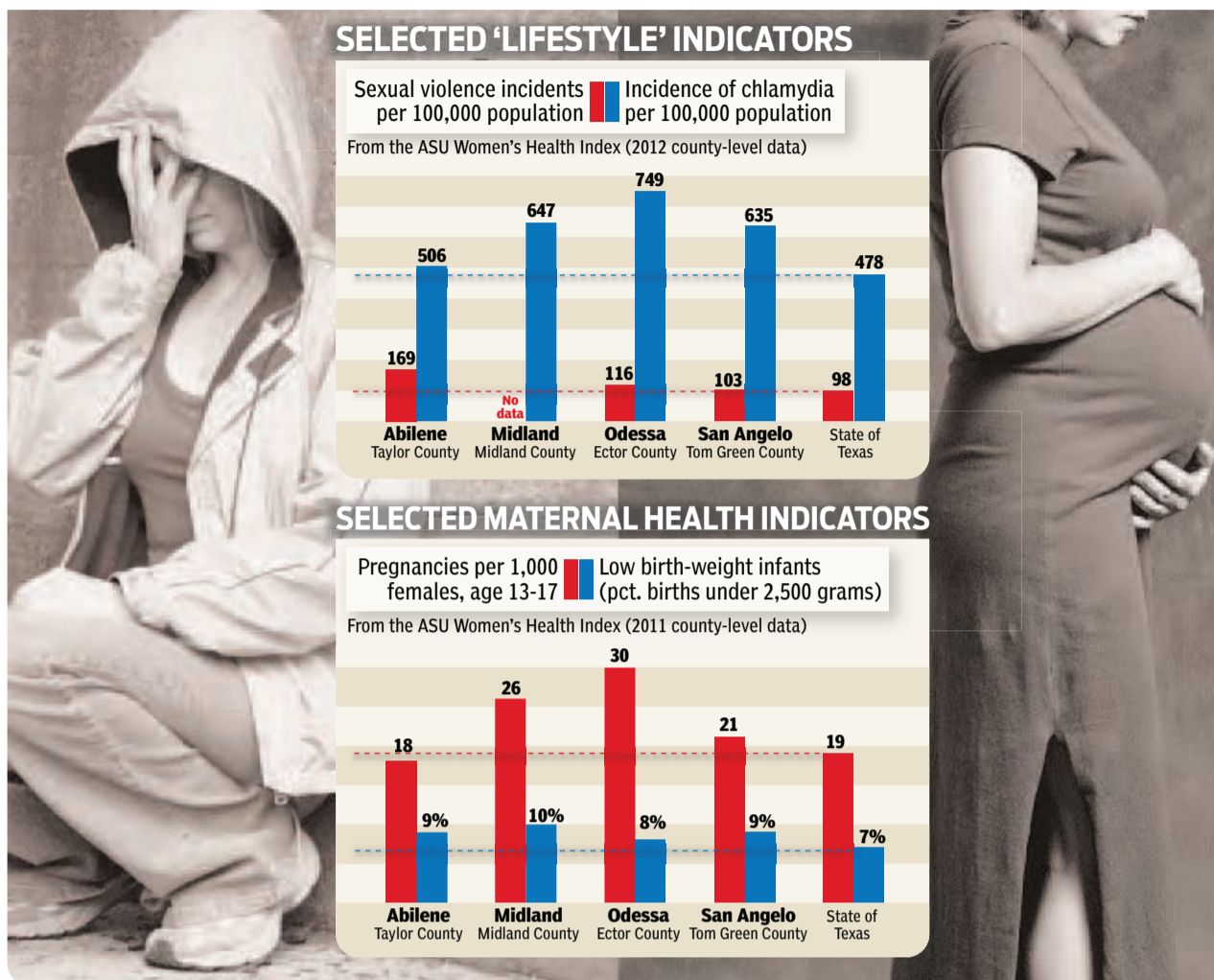
Here are more that are strongly doing that: Premier Blue Cross, First National Bank, Shell, International Paper, Hertz Corp., Blue Cross-Blue Shield, John Deere, Wells Fargo and UPS. And these companies have made especially strong efforts to hire and train new veterans: Home Depot, U-Haul, Walt Disney's many businesses and Lowe's. More will be listed later after additional inquiries.

Meanwhile, how are those guys and gals on Capitol Hill doing with regard to encouraging American businesses to hire veterans? Real poor, every source reports. How about some leadership by example, Congress? Hire veterans like all of us are trying honorably to do.

Employment up: Our national unemployment rate was 6.7 percent in March. Our post-9/11 figure for veterans was 6.9 percent. That is a big drop from earlier months — great progress.

U n e m p l o y m e n t

See DUNAGAN, 4D



SCRIPPS NEWSPAPERS

INDEX RAISES RED FLAGS

Women's health in West Texas lags behind rest of state



KENNETH L. STEWART

PATHWAYS TO PROGRESS

HOW TO GET A COPY

The ASU Women's Health Index is a partnership project between the Laura W. Bush Institute for Women's Health and Community Development Initiatives at the ASU Center for Community Wellness, Engagement and Development. For a complete copy of the report, go to <http://www.angelo.edu/dept/cdi/projects.php>.

Nancy Lee is director of the Office on Women's Health at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. She is a 1970s graduate of Houston's Baylor College of Medicine.

Lee recently shared an experience from her days in medical school as a means of observing Sexual Assault Awareness Month during April. She and other female classmates in med school volunteered to support sexual assault survivors who came into the emergency room as part of their commitment to helping other women.

"Several times a month," she said, "I left my house in the middle of the night to hold a woman's hand as she recounted the details of one of the worst experiences of her life. Though I had never been assaulted myself, I could feel her terror and pain. Walking back into my dark apartment ... I felt real fear. Would it happen to me?"

Lee calls the trauma of sexual violence a "crime against women's health" because it generates many long-lasting health effects. The immediate trauma can involve physical injury to victims, terrible anxiety and stress, unwanted pregnancy, sexual transmission of infections and dreadfully strained relationships.

Years afterward, struggles with hypertension, obesity, migraines, heart disease, chronic pelvic pain, gastrointestinal disorders and substance abuse are a few of the health problems that may follow the trauma.

The far-reaching public health impact of this "crime against women's health" is good reason to track the

See Nancy Lee's comments on sexual assault at <https://www.womenshealth.gov/blog/sexual-assault>.

extent of this abuse among West Texas women. This year's update of the ASU Women's Health Index includes new elements to focus on the issue. Community Development Initiatives at ASU annually produces the WHI as a partnership venture with the San Angelo office of the Laura W. Bush Institute for Women's Health.

The Women's Health Index uses more than 20 statistical indicators to compare women's health conditions in four West Texas cities — Abilene, Midland, Odessa and San Angelo — as well as statewide. The 2014 update is the third edition of the WHI.

A group of "lifestyle" indicators constitutes the new elements to the WHI this year. The first of the group is a direct measure of sexual violence in Texas and the West Texas cities. The WHI sexual violence measurement is based on the combined number of rape and sexual assault cases as regularly reported by police departments across the state to the Department of Public Safety.

For 2012 (the latest available data), the three police units in Tom Green County (Sheriff's Office, San Angelo Police Department and ASU Police) reported 112 cases of sexual assault and five charges of rape, adding up to a sexual violence total of

See STEWART, 6D

The Women's Health Index uses more than 20 statistical indicators to compare women's health conditions in four West Texas cities as well as statewide.

The four cities are Abilene, Midland, Odessa and San Angelo. The 2014 update is the third edition of the WHI.

See FULTON, 4D

Curators say that, with provocative art, you can't please everyone

In San Angelo, a place perhaps known to the outside world as much for its national ceramics competition as for its conservative values, San Angelo Museum of Fine Arts Director Howard Taylor this year had to make an unprecedented judgment call with regard to two of the ceramic contest's entries.

Of the 100-plus works selected by juror Leopold Foulem for the museum's 20th San Angelo National Ceramic Competition last month, two pieces were questionable — possibly considered by some to be



BECCA SANKEY

VIEWPOINTS

objectionable — because of the social or cultural issues they depicted. Ultimately, one of those in the competition.

That piece, "Cupcake Eaters" by Wesley Harvey of San Antonio, won first place and the top \$2,000 prize.

"I haven't heard a single complaint," Taylor said. "There may be individuals who don't like it who mumble or complain to themselves, but that happens with everything. It's like a newspaper: It's full of opinions and ideas and sometimes they clash, and the people who read them react."

Roger Allen, director and founder of San Angelo's Old Chicken Farm Art Center, a partner in the ceramics show, was nonchalant about the piece and its win.

"Obviously there are a lot of places where

homoerotic art is shown, and obviously San Angelo is not one of those places," Allen said. "Anybody that judges a show like that ... is going to pick something different. Jurors (make a selection) based on their record and their academics and judgment and knowledge and so on."

Laura Huckaby, collections manager at the San Angelo Museum of Fine Arts, said the museum selects a different juror for each competition, which is held every other year. This year, ceramicist Leopold Foulem of Montreal, Canada, was selected.

"It's always somebody who's well-known in the ceramic arts and well respected and usually an instructor, a scholar, an artist; Leopold Foulem is all three of those," she said.

The museum last year advertised a call for entries from artists throughout North America, Huckaby said, and received nearly 800. Per protocol, the digital images of those entries, numbered and unnamed, were sent to Foulem in a PowerPoint file. Foulem, in turn, selected more than 120 entries, she said.

"It was so unusual that when I saw the slides, that

piece really stuck out," Foulem said of "Cupcake Eaters."

The silk flowers on one side of the vase were reminiscent of Chinese mille fleur ceramics, Foulem said, while the vignette on the other side brought to mind Greek ceramic scenes depicting torture, rape, murder, sacrifice and war.

"Is it tit for tat," he said. "Is murder more acceptable a scene than a sexual scene? I don't know. My point is a juror was to pick the best pieces there and

See SANKEY, 6D



CANDACE COOKSEY FULTON

COLUMNIST

Tech world she never made turns cyber-ugly

Pardon me, but I think I am about to scream.

##*\$&@)R&(OKF-(J#L M F P O I#J M Q-M@)!)%&.

There. That feels better. Didn't fix the problem of course, but I feel better. A lot of things have just been building up. I have issues. Major ones. And normally I can walk around acting like everything is just as nice as pie and whatever happens I can smile, say something I don't really mean like "Bless your little heart," and go right on with my business.

But this isn't about someone who needs his heart blessed. It's about something that for a nickel, and save for my environmentally "go green" consciousness, would be tossed in the river right now and I'd be typing this on my old faithful IBM Selectric.

Ooooh. Come to think of it, the old Selectric may very well be at the bottom of a landfill or river. There does come a time, you know. Yeah, almost 20 years out of college, third across-several-states move, I'd just bought an edgy much-larger-than-a-breadbox computer that came in a smaller-than-a-Buick, spotted-cow box. Well, I couldn't imagine ever needing or wanting the old typewriter again and somehow and somewhere I abandoned it.

And I hadn't thought about it in years. Now I'm all sentimental and wanting to hug something old and dependable, wanting my problem to be so simple as changing a ribbon.

Remember typewriters? You could just roll a piece of paper into the top of the machine, start typing and let the little metal spikey keys smack letters onto the paper. The letters became words and the words became a column, and the column got finished and I went to bed and, as my mama would say, "slept the night through."

If only anything were ever that easy.

It's four minutes until midnight Monday and I'm sitting here a sad, frustrated (like I might cry) writer. Would you believe this column was due 12 hours ago? Well, 11 hours and 59 minutes. Noon on Monday is the deadline. But I nearly always send in the column

VIEWPOINTS

STEWART
from ID

117 incidents. The WHI measure then divides the incidents by the total population and multiplies the result by 100,000.

This procedure yields a sexual violence rate for Tom Green County and San Angelo of 103 per 100,000 residents. Not all victims of sexual violence are female, but by far women and girls make up the vast majority.

We were unable to apply the measure to Midland and Midland County because correct 2012 data is unavailable. However, the measurement procedure for the state and the two other cities leads to a sexual violence rate of 169 per 100,000 in Abilene and Taylor County, 116 per 100,000 in Odessa and Ector County, and 98 per 100,000 for Texas overall.

It is noteworthy that each West Texas city has a higher rate of sexual violence than the state as a whole. Indeed, the average rate of sexual violence for the three West Texas cities is 129 incidents per 100,000 people — about 32 percent above the statewide incidence rate.

The difference is not a happenstance of the oil boom or other current events since the West Texas cities have higher sexual violence rates over the years. The observation demonstrates the importance of the new focus on lifestyle indicators in the WHI.

Most people think of “lifestyles” in terms of the personal choices an individual makes to follow a certain positive or negative way of living. Some people are perceived to make “responsible choices” toward

positive lifestyles such as a healthy one, for example.

The normal progression of thought from there focuses on “irresponsible choices” by other people and typically blames them for individual flaws or problems leading to an unhealthy lifestyle. Funding expensive social programs attempting correction then meets the ire of citizens who blame individuals for perceived “irresponsible choices” and resent paying for it.

This resentful, blaming view suffers a key oversight, though. It is blind to the community’s side of the coin. The fact that individuals choose lifestyles requires that both positive and negative lifestyles coexist in the community.

Yes, alongside the most celebrated community efforts to promote healthy choices is an underbelly of organized community activities — much of it accepted as legitimate — supporting unhealthy options. The higher rate of sexual violence in West Texas cities indicates something about the pulse of that organized activity has in our community.

Indeed, other factors in the WHI multiply the concern.

For instance, the incidence rate of chlamydia — the most commonly reported sexually transmitted infection — averages 635 per 100,000 residents in the four West Texas cities. This average is 33 percent higher than the state, mirroring the pattern for sexual violence.

Also correlated is an average teen pregnancy rate for the West Texas cities (23.7 per 1,000 females age 13-17) that is 28 percent above Texas overall, and the average rate of

low birth weight babies (9.1 per 100 births in the four cities) is 35 percent higher than the state as a whole.

Too many West Texans are hampered by the blame-game, resentful imagery stemming from popular thinking about negative lifestyles. On the other hand, a hopeful sign came to attention at just the moment I was putting the finishing touch on writing this column. The ASU president’s office proclaimed April 23 to be Denim Day on campus as part of Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month!

More and more leaders are recognizing the need to create awareness and manage activity in ways that bend the arc toward healthy lifestyles, just as they do to engender business and occupational success or civic involvement as part of a community’s ways of life.

The Concho Valley Rape Crisis Center deserves applause for its leadership and tireless commitment to bending the particular arc revealed in this year’s WHI lifestyle indicators.

House of Faith, the Concho Valley Alcohol and Drug Abuse Council, the Concho Valley CARES coalition and San Angelo’s Laura W. Bush Institute for Women’s Health are just a few other organizations giving leadership toward the same direction.

These and other community organizations are leading the way. Many more of us need to jump onboard.

Kenneth L. Stewart is director of Community Development Initiatives at the ASU Center for Community Wellness, Engagement and Development. Contact him at kenneth.stewart@angelo.edu.

SANKEY
from ID

not make a moral statement about the work. The statement is as equal as any other statement made in ceramics.”

Taylor made the first decision by permitting the piece to be a part of the competition and exhibit, a choice he’s had to make before — just not with the ceramics show, he said.

“I wanted to display it because I had looked at all the shows we’ve done over a 30-year period and not had any problems previously, and I think there have been things as challenging as this,” he said. “I had a feeling the juror liked it a lot, and he had his reasons for it. He’s a brilliant juror.”

“I knew probably it would be something he would want to focus on, so I thought I should talk to the artist and say, ‘I think your work is fine. I have no problems with it ... but some people might find it objectionable, so do you mind if I turn it at an angle so the main imagery isn’t right in people’s faces, especially families?’ And he said, ‘Absolutely. I’m thrilled just to be in the show.’”

As owner of Vino Dipinte Art Gallery, Alejandro Castanon has had to make similar calls: Last April, the gallery debuted its first nude art show.

“What I found out through the nude show was we had to make a clear distinction between what we thought was crude or lewd and what was largely considered in the art community as being art,” Castanon said. “I couldn’t let anything (too provocative) get past me

as far as getting in (the show) because we were trying to create an idea of nude art as being educational.”

San Angelo is largely conservative, Castanon said, but its art market is divided in terms of what is perceived as art or an offensive statement piece.

“Before we did the show, we had established a following already with our classes, so we had let people know we were going to do this and if they didn’t want to come, they didn’t have to,” he said. “We ended up selling out, so I know there is an audience for it, and they want it to be tastefully done.”

Rules for what would be an acceptable submission were clearly outlined in the call for entries, Castanon said, so none of the 60 pieces submitted was erotic.

Castanon still threw some audience members for a loop with the inclusion of live models clad only in body paint.

“People were discreetly offended, and the other half enjoyed the shock,” he said. “They thought it was different; they thought it was new. For it to be brought to San Angelo was something they had never seen before, and that’s what I wanted. We created a nice stir and good word-of-mouth, a positive review from what I gathered.”

Preparing for another nude show this summer, Castanon this time isn’t worried about the public’s reaction.

“Now my perception is we welcome somebody not liking it, and if they want to protest it that’s fine, but we have just as many people who like it as those who don’t,” he said. “Obviously you can’t

please everybody.”

As for “Cupcake Eaters,” the winning ceramic piece, Castanon said he didn’t find it offensive but was surprised it was featured and — even more so — that it won.

“It didn’t seem creative to me,” he said. “I saw some pieces that were really, really amazing. I thought this was more to send out a message and create a shock value.”

Ultimately, he said, it’s the juror’s choice what wins, and the viewer, too, has the freedom to look — or look away.

Taylor said the museum tries to be sensitive to its audience and, at the same time, provide an accurate representation of what’s occurring in the art world.

“Living contemporary artists are constantly taking on social and cultural issues so that’s something we accept and understand, and our audience has been very mature,” he said.

Foulem, too, didn’t notice dismay concerning the winning piece’s subject matter; instead, he said, art goers were disappointed that vase’s depiction wasn’t in full view.

“Unless you have a magnifying glass and are looking for trouble, you don’t really know what’s happening” in the vase’s illustration, Foulem said. “In the context of an art museum, it’s as mild as sugar in a coffee.”

According to his website, Harvey is an adjunct faculty member in the sculpture and ceramics department at University of the Incarnate Word. He could not be reached for this story.

Becca Nelson Sankey is a freelance writer living in San Angelo.

‘America’s Pharmacist’ Makes Startling Discovery: A Real Memory Pill For Aging Adults

Dr. Nancy Bryan calls it a “The Fountain of Youth” for older minds. Get your Free Supply Today!

Dr. Nancy Bryan has seen the anguish of memory loss and mental decline up close and personal. “I can’t tell you how many times someone would come up to my counter and ask, ‘Do you have anything that can improve my memory?’”

“It’s the real fear of losing your independence. And it’s so bad that seniors are more worried about mental decline than death itself.”



Seniors worry more about memory loss and cognitive decline than they do about death, according to a new survey.

“It broke my heart,” she added. “So much so that I vowed to find a remedy that would relieve these people of their anguish.”

“One night, I was reviewing research papers on memory loss and — I couldn’t believe my eyes! There, right in front of me was...conclusive evidence of a real memory pill.”

“I was so excited that I contacted the author immediately. I knew that potentially millions of people could benefit from this discovery.”

Samuel Brant was the researcher and he observed a common ‘disturbance’ in aging brains, one that may be the defining cause of a fading memory.

IS YOUR BRAIN... STARVING?

He saw evidence that older minds were literally starving for oxygen. “Gasping for air,” in his words because of poor circulation.

“Poor circulation means there’s less oxygen to the brain, a sure sign of premature memory decline,” says Dr. Bryan.

“And that means there are a lot less critical brain antioxidants and nutrients nourishing the brain.”

“Even worse, reduced blood flow further numbs the brain by slashing the neurotransmitters, those vital messenger molecules that help you process information, retrieve thoughts and memories, and help you concentrate and focus.”

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Brant and a team of neuroscientists developed a natural, drug-free compound shown in research to wake up aging brains to actually ‘think younger.’

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Dr. Bryan admitted to a few memory issues herself. “So I asked Brant for a bottle and within a few days, I can honestly say my memory



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was crystal-clear and I was able to concentrate like a laser beam.”

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The breakthrough formula helps revitalize listless brain cells and protect them from the damaging free radicals caused by stress and harmful toxins that are in the air, our water, and our food.

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Soon after, Dr. Bryan was recommending the new formula to her long-suffering customers. “It was an instant best seller in my pharmacy practice. Customers were coming to me all the time, thanking me for sharing it with them.” “I even told my colleagues about it and they were ecstatic at how effective this simple, natural formula really is.”

“A lot of doctors that come out of medical school can treat an infection, a broken arm, or a skin rash,” explains Dr. Bryan. “But when it comes to fading memories or loss of concentration and focus, it’s a completely different story. They’re often at a loss as to what to do when people can’t remember where they

left their keys or how to find their way home.”

“With this simple, natural, drug-free formula, we can finally offer something that works. And you don’t even need a prescription to get it.”

ACID TEST

Recently, Dr. Bryan was required to take a state board of pharmacy jurisprudence to become licensed in another state, a challenge that tests a candidate’s knowledge of pharmaceutical law and practices.

“Along with my preparation, I took the natural memory compound for two weeks prior to the exam, and I passed with ease! I was able to recall the answers automatically — with absolutely no effort at all!”

This amazing formula has been embraced by healthcare professionals across the country and for good reason.

First, the individual ingredients were submitted to the ‘gold standard’ of research, a placebo-controlled, randomized, double-blind clinical trial, using the same FDA-sanctioned brain testing protocols used to qualify prescription-sold cognitive medicines.

“The findings for improved brain function were shocking,” says Dr. Bryan.

Secondly, the impressive results were then shared with the entire medical community in a well-respected and peer-reviewed medical journal.

Thirdly, this memory-boosting wonder compound passed the toughest review of all — scrutiny from the consumers.

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The word was out and in no time, this natural ingredient has quickly become the #1 selling brain health ingredient in the country. We conservatively estimate that 10 million doses have been used and folks couldn’t be happier.



“America’s Pharmacist,” Dr. Nancy Bryan, was so impressed with her new-found mental abilities that she recommended this prescription-free natural compound to all her customers with incredible success.

DELIGHTED USERS

Jeff S. says he “feels so much more focused and more energized now that I’m no longer fearful of forgetting things.”

Jessica T. of Phoenix, AZ, reports that she experienced a night-and-day change in her mind and memory.

At age 57, she was undergoing a rapidly declining memory.

“I was about ready to see a neurologist when I came across this product.”

“In about a month, it was like a light switch. My memories just flooded back to me. And I have my clarity and focus back as well.”

“I recommend it too,” says Dr. Bryan. “It’s perfect for boosting one’s brain power. It worked for me and it will work for you.”

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When you call, ask how you can also get a FREE copy of the medically acclaimed book, “Maximizing Brain Power” The Nutraceutical Breakthrough for Memory Loss and “Brain Fog”. It’s a \$20 value, but it’s yours FREE. But supplies are limited so call now!

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