

Using Vets.gov

About a month ago I reported a new web site called Vets.gov. When I tried using it, there were some technical issues and the site software offered to send me an e-mail when it was ready. I got that last week and tried it out. By going to Vets.gov, you will see a screen to sign in or create an ID.me account. I created an ID and checked it out. Since the site has your medical information, you'll have to do a dual authentication method. This means a double verification that it is you before seeing your information. I choose to have a text message sent to my smart phone. After I enter my login information, the system sends a text message to my phone with an code to enter on the second login screen. Once logged in, you will get several choices including apply for health care, apply for education, explore benefits, manage your health and benefits and find VF locations. Using the health benefits is similar to the older myhealth.va.gov. If you use the VA health service, you can refill prescriptions, send message to your health care team, schedule a VA appoint, get your health records and check on claims and appeals. Also on the home page is a link Find VA Locations. Since Sweetie and I are in Green Valley, AZ for the winter, I checked out the Find VA Location and found the Green Valley VA Clinic shown with a Google map showing it 4 miles away with their phone number and address. It also showed a VA hospital in Tucson 29 miles from here. Under the option Manage your health & benefits, you can keep all of your medical records including prescriptions, appointments, test results, etc . All in all, it is a pretty good site and is designed for active duty, guard members and Veterans, all in one place.

Christmas in southern Arizona is very different than in Moorhead, the biggest difference being the temperature, in the 70s each day. We did see some snow on the mountain top for a few days. We celebrated Hanukkah with a menorah in our window. We had Norwegian rice porridge with our Julenisse visitor on winter solstice and went to a local Lutheran church for a country/gospel band playing old-time Christmas songs. Of course, we watched and listened to Sissel Kyrkjebø singing Christmas songs on YouTube, a tradition for us. Speaking of YouTube which is owned by Google, they are in a childish fight with Amazon. Google removed access to YouTube from Amazon's devices such as Fire TV sticks. Amazon has removed Google devices from its on-line store. It reminds me of the childish fight between Apple and Adobe over Flash video. The childish behavior in Washington, D.C. is another example.

Bev and I wish all our friends back home a wonderful new year. We do miss you but really enjoy the weather here. We expect to be back in April.