



## NEWSBRIEFS

### Canutillo ISD pay

The Canutillo Independent School District Board of Trustees approved a three percent general pay increase for all Canutillo ISD employees for the 2022-23 school year. The compensation plan, approved on May 24 at a regular board meeting, keeps Canutillo ISD's competitive advantage among other Region 19 districts. "We are the Best Small School District in Texas and our dedicated employees are the reason," said Superintendent of Schools Dr. Pedro Galaviz. "Our teachers, staff and administrators bring heart and soul to what they do on a daily basis and they do it so that our kids can reach their highest potential. We need to support our employees and appreciate them for all that they do because they do it with the best attitudes and intentions." For several years, the district has been in a sound financial position to continually implement salaries and pay structure adjustments to recruit and retain top talent and maintain equity. "We are all going through some trying times and with inflation and the cost of living on the rise, we need to provide competitive wages for our employees," said Board of Trustees President Sergio Coronado. "Our district, like many others nationwide, is facing challenges and although our students remain at the forefront, we also must reward our employees for their dedication and service to our students and district."

— Christina Rodriguez

### Family friendly cities

With nearly 32-percent of people who moved last year citing being closer to family as the main reason, the personal-finance website WalletHub has released its report on 2022's Best & Worst Places to Raise a Family, as well as accompanying videos and expert commentary. To determine the most family-friendly places in America, WalletHub compared more than 180 cities across 46 key metrics. The data set ranges from housing affordability to school-system quality to the percentage of residents who are fully vaccinated. El Paso was rated 96th in the report. Other stats:

- Irvine, CA has the fewest violent crimes (per 1,000 residents), 0.51, which is 46.1 times fewer than in

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*You never have to take a dose of your own medicine if you know when to keep your mouth shut.*

— Quips & Quotes



— Photo by Alfredo Vasquez

**TREATMENT** – El Paso VA outpatient clinics, like the Northwest Clinic above, provide primary care and specialty health services. Services include mental health, suicide prevention, women's wellness, and a pharmacy for military veterans and their families in the region.

## Garza named El Paso VA healthcare head

By Alfredo Vasquez  
Special to the Courier

EL PASO COUNTY – About 47,000 U.S. military veterans call El Paso County home, and nearly 15,000 more veterans consider Dona Ana County, New Mexico their place of residence. And, for most of these retired military members and their families, the El Paso Veteran Affairs healthcare system provides for their medical needs.

The El Paso VA healthcare system has seven medical clinics in El Paso and

Las Cruces. Its main clinic is at 5001 N. Piedras St., in North-Central El Paso, next to the former location of the William Beaumont Army Medical Center.

To oversee the El Paso-Las Cruces VA healthcare system a new director was named recently. As of June 6, Froylan Garza, former associate director of the Miami VA Healthcare System in Florida, has taken over the reins, according to U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs officials.

Garza replaces Michael Amaral who retired as the El Paso VA system director at the end of February, after holding the job for five years. Under Amaral, the El

Paso VA system expanded beyond its main medical clinic at 5001 North Piedras Street, next to the former location of William Beaumont Army Medical Center, by adding additional community clinics.

Amaral was instrumental in opening new clinics on the West Side, Northeast, and one in Central El Paso, which is its mental health center and sleep center, according to VA officials. The Las Cruces clinic also was expanded under Amaral's tenure.

Amaral also lobbied for a new, main VA medical center to be built next to the

See VA, Page 5

## Carrera receives Texas engineering award

By Ismael De La Rosa  
Special to the Courier

EL PASO COUNTY – Daniel Carrera, a former student from El Paso Community College (EPCC) won the 2022 Texas Society of Professional Engineers (TSPE) Texas Young Engineer of the Year Award. Daniel is the first El Pasoan to win this award since 1996.

Carrera was born and raised in El Paso, graduated from Franklin High School, and attended EPCC from 2007 to 2010 where he received his Associate of Arts in 2010. "Having been both a student and an employee (academic tutor) at EPCC, EPCC really was the best place to start for me," Carrera said. "I enjoyed my time at EPCC while getting top-notch education, and meeting amazing people, I was saving money and I learned many valuable skills – both technical and personal – that I still apply today."

"Daniel started out in developmental math classes and in 2011 he was my Calculus III student," Fan Chen, EPCC Math Instructor said. "He has been actively involved with our math outreach activities, talking to our EPCC First

Time in College students to show how he became who he is today. We need more students like Daniel, who celebrate their success by giving back to the community and trying to lift up the others."

Carrera transferred to Texas Tech University in Lubbock, Texas to pursue a degree in Architecture and then changed his major to Civil Engineering. He graduated in 2013 and returned to El Paso to work as an Engineer. He received his Master's degree in August 2018 from the University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP). He is a Professional Engineer, licensed in Texas and New Mexico. He also won the Texas Society of Professional Engineers El Paso Chapter, 2021 Young Engineer of the Year Award, and the American Society of Civil Engineers El Paso Branch 2021 Young Civil Engineer

of the Year Award.

Since 1970, there has only been one other El Paso winner (1996) of the Texas Young Engineer of the Year Award. "I was chosen over 40 other highly-talented nominees for this award. Representing El Paso means the world to me," Carrera said. "I'm obviously ecstatic to represent EPCC and beautiful El Paso at the TSPE State Conference June 15-17 in Houston, Texas where I will receive my award."

TSPE is a state society of the National Society of Professional Engineers (NSPE). TSPE's mission is to promote and enhance the profession and licensed practice of engineering. There are 25 local TSPE chapters across Texas. Every year, each chapter awards a Young Engineer of the Year (34 and younger) and an Engineer of the Year.



— Photo courtesy EPCC

Daniel Carrera

# Don't be penny-wise on Ukraine

Populist critics have gone after the new \$40 billion in aid to Ukraine hammer and tongs. Donald Trump has complained that we are sending billions to Ukraine “yet America’s parents are struggling to even feed their children.” Republican Sen. Josh Hawley calls the assistance “unfocused globalism.”

There’s no doubt that \$40 billion constitutes a vast sum, even in Washington, D.C., circa 2022, but the expenditure is warranted.

At the end of the day, there’s no getting around the fact that it costs lots of money to support a country fighting a war in the 21st century against an advanced, if incompetent, military foe.

the military of an adversary of the United States and trying to push it away from NATO’s borders without a single U.S. or Western soldier engaged in the fight.

All things considered, this is a deal.

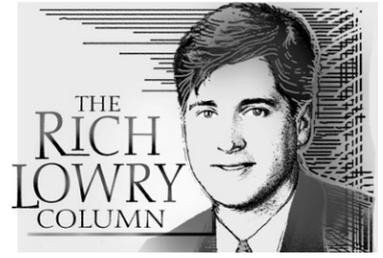
Nearly \$9 billion of the package replenishes U.S. stockpiles after Biden sent U.S. weapons to Ukraine on an emergency basis using Presidential Drawdown Authority. It’d be perverse not to replenish our supplies of Javelins at this point in the name of economizing over Ukraine.

Likewise, several billion dollars in the package pay for the U.S. deployment of troops to NATO countries.

Part of the military aid is billions of dollars in financing for Ukraine and NATO countries to buy U.S. weapons, something that Trump has supported strongly in the past on “America First” grounds.

Indeed, it is strange that critics of the bills are invoking nationalism in their opposition. Hawley worries that the bill doesn’t represent “a nationalist foreign policy.”

By what definition? Assisting a sovereign country in defending its borders against a nation bent on restoring its imperial glory is a broadly nationalist project. So is resisting an adversary of the United States that, together



## Food for thought By John Grimaldi

### Experts encourage seniors to become computer savvy

I miss my typewriter! I miss the sound and the feel of it. But, alas, they tell me, “it’s the 21st century, get with it.” My response is, “I could pick a century out of a hat and get a better one.”

I admit it—I am technologically deficient. So I asked the experts to tell me why this 78-year-old hack of a reporter needs a computer, why do I need to know how to “surf the internet?”

And here’s what the techies at a company called Avast had to say. They bill themselves as “a

global leader in digital security and privacy” and I figured they would have the answers.

*Q: I’m a senior citizen. I read newspapers and magazines, listen to the radio and watch TV. I get my information the old fashioned way. Why is it so important for me to learn how to use a computer?*

The major benefit of using computers is simply the ability to stay connected in

the modern world. Online banking, social media, many government services and much more are moving increasingly, if not entirely, online. It may soon be impossible to access any of these services without a computer. In other words, if you’re not digitally proficient, you can’t fully participate in society these days. Once people find how technology can facilitate them in their passions and hobbies, they would find their own reasons to learn.

*Q: I know how to turn on my computer, find information on the internet and receive and send emails. Isn’t that enough... doesn’t that make me digitally literate? What else do I need to know?*

You need to learn how to stay safe online, practicing ‘defensive internet use,’ and understanding what happens with your data.

It includes knowing how to set and manage strong passwords, keeping on top of privacy settings, and having a basic understanding of what’s safe and not safe to click on or visit online. If you can do that, you have a baseline for digital literacy.

*Q: You say, it’s important to use my computer and my cell phone in a safe way... to beware of conmen. I say, it’s a good reason for not using these devices.*

People put up barriers to new technology because they think it’s kind of difficult. And in fact, it’s really just a bit like being an entrepreneur in that you need to prepare to fail. You need to just try things. A lot of adults lack confidence and feel scared to make mistakes. Yes, the experts agree, it can be dangerous to use cell phones or computers, but the benefits far outweigh these risks. You need to overcome that

lack of confidence and feeling scared to make mistakes. You need to stop worrying about it and get on with it.

*Q: You say that it will improve my life. I ask, how?*

There are so many opportunities for senior citizens via a computer and the internet. They can find information about any hobby or any interest they may have. In addition, it can give them access to new friends and groups of people who share their passions. There are social media platforms dedicated to knitting and crochet, for example. There are thousands of car clubs on Facebook alone. There are even sites that can help retirees find the best prices on flights, hotels, credit cards and more, ensuring that pensions can stretch even further. Whatever the passion, interest or benefit, you can find more, faster, online than you ever could off the internet.

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1973  
**49**  
Years  
2022

**WEST TEXAS COUNTY**  
**COURIER**

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## Alvarado, Luna, recognized by Daughters of the Republic of Texas

CLINT – In separate essay contests, Dr. Luis C. Luna, a 7th grade teacher at Clint Jr. High School and his student, Ivy Alvarado both gained recognition from the Daughters of the Republic of Texas (DRT). Alvarado placed first in District 1 and was a finalist for the State of Texas. Luna was named the National 7th Grade Teacher of the Year 2022 “for excellence in teaching Texas history”.

The DRT awarded Clint Jr. High School \$1,000 in recognition of the duos efforts.

The DRT, from their website, is a lineal organization, shall educate, research, preserve, and protect the history of the Republic of Texas for all future generations. They are dedicated to:

- Perpetuate the memory and spirit of the men and women who achieved and maintained the independence of Texas.
- Encourage historical research into the earliest records of Texas, especially those relating to the Revolution of 1835 and the events which followed; to foster the preservation of



– Image courtesy Clint ISD

**RECOGNITION – The Daughters of the Republic of Texas named Dr. Luis C. Luna their National 7th Grade Teacher of the Year.**



— Photo courtesy Clint ISD

**ACHIEVEMENT** – From left are Clint ISD teacher Dr. Luis C. Luna, student Ivy Alvardo, with her certificate from District 1 of the Daughters of the Republic of Texas for her essay and Superintendent Dr. Juan Martinez.

**DRT**

From Page 2

documents and relics; to encourage the publication of records of individual service of the soldiers and patriots of the Republic and other source material for the history of Texas.

- Promote the celebration of Texas Honor Days; to secure and memorialize historic spots by erecting markers thereon, and to cherish and preserve the unity of Texas, as achieved and established by the fathers and mothers of the Texas Revolution.

– Rick Shrum

# Tabor receives national teaching award

By Christina Rodriguez  
Special to the Courier

CANUTILLO – Catherine Tabor, computer science teacher at Canutillo Independent School District’s Northwest Early College High School is known for being at the forefront of providing access and opportunity for her students to develop solid skills in computer science. Her prowess in the computer science field coupled with her passion for teaching did not go unnoticed by the Computer Science Teachers Association (CSTA) and Infosys Foundation USA who have selected her as a 2022 winner of the CSTA/Infosys Foundation USA Awards for Teaching Excellence.

“It is such an honor to be recognized by my peers for my work in making computer science accessible and equitable,” Tabor said. “Computer science is for all students and I believe that a small part of the ongoing success of our students is due to the problem solving and critical thinking skills that computer science provides, regardless of their future career paths.”

Tabor was selected for her ability to demonstrate excellent work inspiring students to explore the computer science field; effectively engaging students in learning rigorous, standards-aligned, computer science content; and a focus on broadening the participation of underrepresented students in computing.

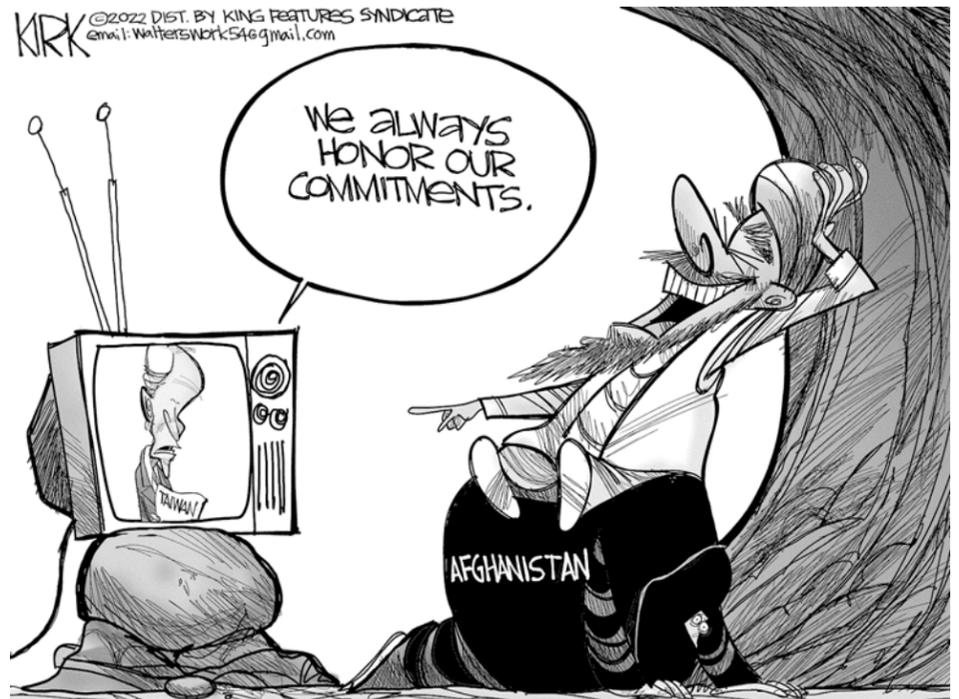
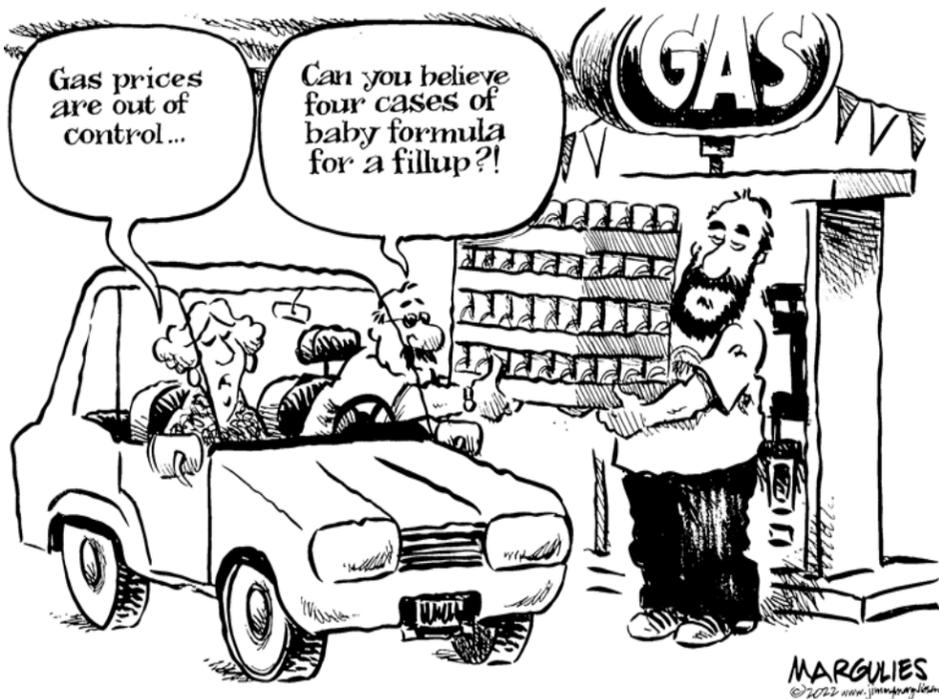
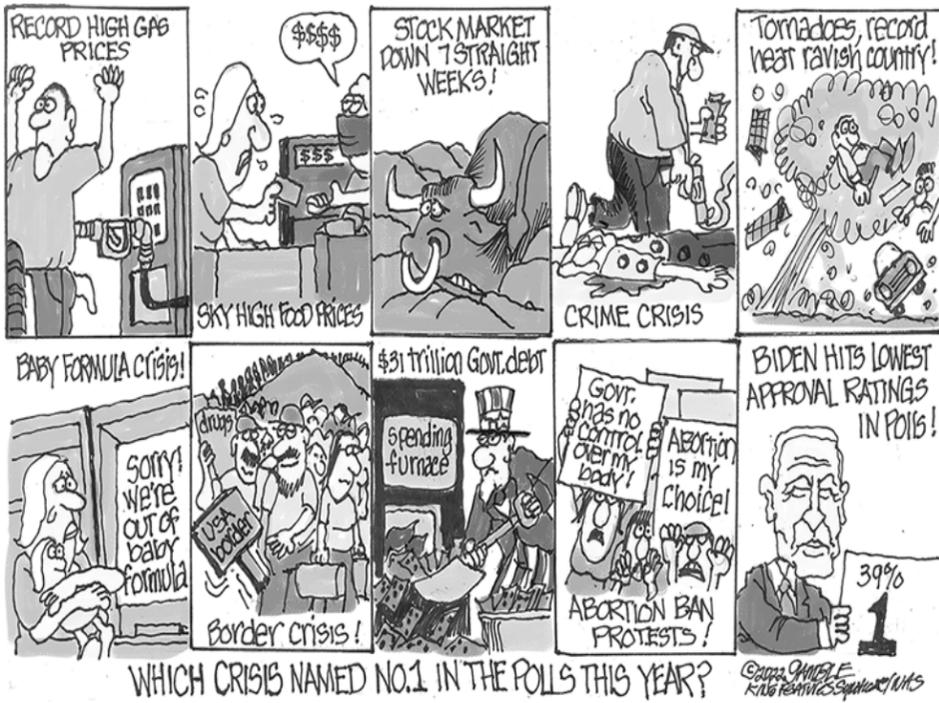
As part of the award, Tabor will receive a cash prize of \$7,500, a scholarship to the 2022 CSTA Annual Conference in Chicago, IL, and have a featured article that shares her work published on CSTA’s The Voice, an interview in the CSTA+ newsletter, which will also run on The Voice, and/or will be featured in a video at the CSTA Annual Conference.

“We are very proud of Ms. Tabor and privileged to have her as a teacher at NWECHS to share her wealth of experience and knowledge with our students to inspire them to pursue careers in computer science when they may have otherwise not had the exposure to what this field has to offer,” said NWECHS Principal Jessica Arellano. “Our students have been and continue to be very successful in grasping computer science concepts and skills and are thriving under the guidance and teaching of Ms. Tabor.”



– Photo courtesy Canutillo ISD

Catherine Tabor



## NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING TO DISCUSS BUDGET AND PROPOSED TAX RATE

The San Elizario Independent School District will hold a public meeting at 5:30 P.M. on Monday, June 20, 2022 in the SEISD Administrative Office, 1050 Chicken Ranch Rd., San Elizario, Texas. **The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the school district's budget that will determine the tax rate that will be adopted. Public participation in the discussion is invited.**

The tax rate that is ultimately adopted at this meeting or at a separate meeting at a later date may not exceed the proposed tax rate shown below unless the district publishes a revised notice containing the same information and comparisons set out below and holds another public meeting to discuss the revised notice. Visit [Texas.gov/PropertyTaxes](https://www.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.

<b>Maintenance Tax</b>	\$0.903300/\$100 (Proposed rate for maintenance and operations)
<b>School Debt Service Tax</b>	
<b>Approved by Local Voters</b>	\$0.149700/\$100 (Proposed rate to pay bonded indebtedness)

### Comparison of Proposed Budget with Last Year's Budget

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

<b>Maintenance and Operations</b>	1.21% Increase
<b>Debt Service</b>	3.34% Decrease
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	1.02% Increase

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

	Preceding Tax Year	Current Tax Year
Total appraised value* of all property	\$ 437,770,131	\$ 544,436,830
Total appraised value* of new property**	\$ 5,686,695	\$ 12,460,782
Total taxable value*** of all property	\$ 304,521,406	\$ 349,507,494
Total taxable value*** of new property**	\$ 5,076,965	\$ 12,272,844

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

### Bonded Indebtedness

Total amount of outstanding and unpaid bonded indebtedness\* \$25,065,000

\* Outstanding principal.

### Comparison of Proposed Rates with Last Year's Rates

	Maintenance & Operations	Interest & Sinking Fund*	Total	Local Revenue Per Student	State Revenue Per Student
<b>Last Year's Rate</b>	\$ 0.920700	\$ 0.169300*	\$ 1.090000	\$ 1,095	\$10,495
<b>Rate to Maintain Same Level of Maintenance &amp; Operations Revenue &amp; Pay Debt Service</b>	\$ 0.979770	\$ 0.122980*	\$ 1.102750	\$ 1,241	\$10,279
<b>Proposed Rate</b>	\$ 0.903300	\$ 0.149700*	\$ 1.053000	\$ 1,240	\$10,422

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

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

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

	Last Year	This Year
Average Market Value of Residences	\$ 101,850	\$ 129,024
Average Taxable Value of Residences	\$ 61,887	\$ 63,606
<b>Last Year's Rate Versus</b>		
Proposed Rate per \$100 Value	\$ 1.090000	\$ 1.053000
Taxes Due on Average Residence	\$ 674.57	\$ 669.77
Increase (Decrease) in Taxes		\$ (4.80)

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

**Notice of Voter-Approval Rate: The highest tax rate the district can adopt before requiring voter approval at an election is \$1.053000. This election will be automatically held if the district adopts a rate in excess of the voter-approval rate of \$1.053000.**

### Fund Balances

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

Maintenance and Operations Fund Balance(s)	\$ 12,071,397
Interest & Sinking Fund Balance(s)	\$ 186,621

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



By Lucie Winborne

- Until 1937, it was illegal for men to be topless in the U.S., even on beaches.

- Is there a "junk drawer" in your house? If so, you're in good company, as a whopping 80% of Americans have at least one, but the average household actually boasts three. The most common items found in these catchalls are super glue (57%), writing utensils (also 57%) and duct tape (51%). What's in yours?

- Gary Kremen, the founder of Match.com, one of the world's largest and most popular online dating websites, lost his girlfriend to a guy she met on Match.com.

- The origin of the phrase "in the limelight" comes from the early days of theater, when spotlights were produced by directing a flame at calcium oxide, or quicklime.

- In 1922, Americans consumed around 1,000,000 Eskimo Pies a day, which not only hiked up the cost of cocoa beans by 50%, but also single-handedly lifted Ecuador's economy out of a depression.

- According to the market research firm Euromonitor International, worldwide chewing gum sales have declined by 15% since 2007, the same year that the iPhone came out. The firm attributed the decrease to consumers distracted by their phones in checkout lines, where most gum purchases are made.

- Ichiro Suzuki, baseball's all-time hits leader, learned Spanish solely for the purpose of trash-talking opponents.

- An "endling" is a term used for the last animal of an entire species. When an endling dies, the species is considered extinct.

Thought for the Day: "Respect your efforts, respect yourself. Self-respect leads to self-discipline. When you have both firmly under your belt, that's real power."  
 — Clint Eastwood

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Moments  
in time

THE HISTORY CHANNEL

- On June 6, 1683, the Ashmolean, the world's first university museum, opens in Oxford, England. Today, the collection at the Ashmolean Museum of Art and Archaeology ranges in time from the earliest implements of man, made about 500,000 years ago, to 20th century works of art.

- On June 7, 1942, the Battle of Midway – one of the most decisive U.S. victories in its war against Japan – comes to an end. The outnumbered U.S. Pacific Fleet destroyed four Japanese aircraft carriers with the loss of only one of its own, the Yorktown.

- On June 8, 1968, James Earl Ray is arrested in London, England, and charged with the assassination of civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr. In 1969, Ray pleaded guilty to King's murder. Three days later, he attempted to withdraw his guilty plea, claiming he had been set up as a patsy in a larger conspiracy.

- On June 9, 1893, the interior of Ford's Theatre collapses when a basement pier gives way, killing 23 people. The building – where President Lincoln was assassinated – housed hundreds of government clerks.

- On June 10, 1692, in Salem Village in the Massachusetts Bay Colony, Bridget Bishop, the first colonist to be tried in the Salem witch trials, is hanged after being found guilty of the practice of witchcraft. The witch trials, which resulted in the executions of 19 innocent women and men, ended in October.

- On June 11, 1979, film actor John Wayne, born Marion Morrison, dies at age 72. The "John Wayne" name was created when the director of "The Big Trail" didn't think Marion was a good name for an actor playing a tough Western hero.

- On June 12, 1982, a large crowd descends upon New York City's Central Park, demanding nuclear disarmament. Estimates placed the number of attendees at over a million.

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Newsbrief To:  
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**VA**

From Page 1

new William Beaumont hospital complex in far East El Paso, near Spur 601 and Loop 375. He announced last year that plans are in the works for a proposed, 500,000-square-foot El Paso VA medical center on 22 acres at the new Beaumont site but that Congress still needed to fund the project in its entirety.

Amaral was also William Beaumont's chief of staff before becoming the El Paso VA director. Amaral stated that now that he is retired, he plans to continue to live in El Paso and travel.

Meanwhile, Garza takes over an El Paso VA system that has seven clinic locations, including the one in Las Cruces. But he has plenty of experience to rely on, as he has held various positions in the U.S. Veterans Health Administration since 2013, including a recent stint as interim medical center director of the VA healthcare system in Amarillo, Texas. And Garza's educational background includes a bachelor's degree in political science and a master's degree in public administration from the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley in Edinburg.

"Garza's extensive experience at the Miami VA Healthcare System will be an asset to our health care network, and more importantly, for veteran health care in the El Paso area," Dr. Wendell Jones, who oversees the El Paso VA system as director of the VA Heart of Texas Health Care Network, said in a statement.

Garza comes into his new job as plans are in the works for a proposed, 500,000-square-foot El Paso VA medical center at the new Beaumont site on Fort Bliss land in far East El Paso. With \$150 million in the bank, El Paso stands a good chance of having an expanded Veteran Affairs healthcare center by 2026, a top administration official stated recently.

Speaking at a House Appropriations subcommittee meeting recently, Dennis McDonough, Secretary of Veterans Affairs, said that site preparation is ongoing thanks to the initial appropriation. But full-fledged construction is pending on approval of a \$550 million budget request for fiscal year 2023.

McDonough stated that the goal of the expansion is to serve a growing veteran population in El Paso and to increase mental health services. "We believe El Paso is a groundbreaking new way for us to get construction done more quickly. We want to hold ourselves to those timelines," McDonough said. "We're anticipating beginning in April 2023 and then we anticipate finishing in 2026 with the new facility," he stated.



— Photo courtesy U.S. Veteran Affairs Administration

**NEW BOSS – Froylan Garza is the new director of the El Paso VA healthcare system. There are seven VA medical clinics in El Paso and Las Cruces. The main clinic is at 5001 N. Piedras St., in North-Central El Paso, next to the former location of the William Beaumont Army Medical Center.**

"We think that's kind of a pilot for us to be able to speed to market the kind of care that we need in a growing community like El Paso, where we're seeing significant demand from new veterans," the secretary added.

U.S. Rep. Tony Gonzales, R-Texas, who represents portions of Northeast and Far East El Paso, has been pushing for the expanded VA healthcare funding. "Last year, I secured initial funds for an updated VA healthcare center in El Paso but the work doesn't stop there. While the first phase of funding is underway, I will push for full funding for this project in next year's budget. As a veteran myself, providing for our military – both active duty and retired – is a top priority," he said.

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**CryptoQuip Answer**

I'm presuming the favorite musical category of many stepfathers is probably alternative pop.

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**NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING TO DISCUSS BUDGET AND PROPOSED TAX RATE**

The Socorro Independent School District will hold a public meeting at 6:00 PM. on Tuesday, June 21, 2022 in the District Service Center, Board Room, 12440 Rojas Dr., El Paso, Texas 79928. **The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the school district's budget that will determine the tax rate that will be adopted. Public participation in the discussion is invited.**

The tax rate that is ultimately adopted at this meeting or at a separate meeting at a later date may not exceed the proposed tax rate shown below unless the district publishes a revised notice containing the same information and comparisons set out below and holds another public meeting to discuss the revised notice. Visit Texas.gov/PropertyTaxes to find a link to your local property tax database on which you can easily access information regarding your property taxes, including information about proposed tax rates and scheduled public hearings of each entity that taxes your property.

<b>Maintenance Tax</b>	\$0.854600/\$100 (Proposed rate for maintenance and operations)
<b>School Debt Service Tax</b>	
<b>Approved by Local Voters</b>	\$0.397284/\$100 (Proposed rate to pay bonded indebtedness)

**Comparison of Proposed Budget with Last Year's Budget**

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

<b>Maintenance and Operations</b>	1.73%	Increase
<b>Debt Service</b>	1.95%	Increase
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	1.75%	Increase

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

	<b>Preceding Tax Year</b>	<b>Current Tax Year</b>
Total appraised value* of all property	\$ 16,854,595,446	\$ 21,031,751,055
Total appraised value* of new property**	\$ 579,901,398	\$ 817,030,423
Total taxable value*** of all property	\$ 13,024,718,015	\$ 15,268,860,315
Total taxable value*** of new property**	\$ 527,258,549	\$ 771,101,937

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

**Bonded Indebtedness**

Total amount of outstanding and unpaid bonded indebtedness\* \$802,207,677

\* Outstanding principal.

**Comparison of Proposed Rates with Last Year's Rates**

	<b>Maintenance &amp; Operations</b>	<b>Interest &amp; Sinking Fund*</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Local Revenue Per Student</b>	<b>State Revenue Per Student</b>
<b>Last Year's Rate</b>	\$ 0.876500	\$ 0.398954*	\$ 1.275454	\$ 3,765	\$ 6,978
<b>Rate to Maintain Same Level of Maintenance &amp; Operations Revenue &amp; Pay Debt Service</b>	\$ 0.903010	\$ 0.404910*	\$ 1.307920	\$ 3,843	\$ 6,951
<b>Proposed Rate</b>	\$ 0.854600	\$ 0.397284*	\$ 1.251884	\$ 3,854	\$ 7,038

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

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

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

	<b>Last Year</b>	<b>This Year</b>
Average Market Value of Residences	\$ 168,608	\$ 208,034
Average Taxable Value of Residences	\$ 135,801	\$ 146,068
Last Year's Rate Versus		
Proposed Rate per \$100 Value	\$ 1.275454	\$ 1.251884
Taxes Due on Average Residence	\$ 1,732.07	\$ 1,828.60
Increase (Decrease) in Taxes		\$ 96.53

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

**Notice of Voter-Approval Rate: The highest tax rate the district can adopt before requiring voter approval at an election is \$1.251884. This election will be automatically held if the district adopts a rate in excess of the voter-approval rate of \$1.251884.**

**Fund Balances**

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

Maintenance and Operations Fund Balance(s)	\$ 67,351,191
Interest & Sinking Fund Balance(s)	\$ 17,008,155

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

# A lesson on bad shopping from the Browns

By Steve Escajeda  
Special to the Courier

Have you ever gone shopping and saw something you know you didn't need, was too expensive, and just wasn't sure it was the right fit for you – but you bought it anyway?

I think we all have. And it gets much worse when you purchase the wrong thing from a place that offers no refunds.

The term “buyer’s remorse” has to do with that very thing. Spending money on something you ended up regretting.

Sometimes it’s a car, maybe some jewelry, it could be a house, but it’s usually something significant that you end up kicking yourself for – because you knew better and still made the wrong choice.

That brings us to the Cleveland Browns. They should have their credit card taken away.

A few months ago the Browns noticed something shiny in the quarterback aisle of the NFL shop. They couldn't believe that every other NFL team had passed by the shiny thing without buying it.

“How did we get so lucky,” they must have thought.

Sure, the shiny thing was way too expensive and way too much of a risk... but it so unbelievably shiny.

So, the Browns did what every other irresponsible shopper does. They went ahead and made the purchase and would worry about how they were going to pay for it later.

Oh, by the way, the shiny thing they picked up was quarterback Deshaun Watson.

Watson, without a doubt, is one of the very best quarterbacks in the NFL and any team would love to have him. Well, I guess they would have loved to have him a couple years ago.

You see, over the 18 months, no less than 23 women have come forward alleging Watson sexually assaulted them at one time or another, many of them massage workers.

According to most of them Watson tried to force them to give him a little extra after his massage. Enough said.

Things got so bad that Watson, after leading the Houston Texans to the playoffs two straight years, was let go by the team when all these reports were made public.

And no other team picked him up although they could have.

Then the Cleveland Browns, like a desperate gambler trying to get his money

back, decided to roll the dice on Watson. They thought he'd come out of this all shiny and new again.

In fact, the Browns were so convinced that they didn't just sign him to a new contract. They actually made Watson the second-highest paid quarterback in the league at \$230 million (\$46 million a year for 5 years).

Wow! Who said crime doesn't pay?

Oh, here's another thought. Have you ever bought something you thought you needed? Then you get home and realize you already had one?

I wonder if the Browns are thinking that right now? You see, the Browns still have quarterback Baker Mayfield on the roster.

You remember Baker Mayfield? He's the guy that makes all those commercials. He's also the guy who led the Cleveland Browns to the playoffs a couple years ago. And he was expected to be the team's quarterback for years to come.

So the Browns have been trying to unload Mayfield, but no NFL teams are willing to trade for him.

Now Cleveland is in an interesting situation. They have Watson, who is tied up with all these allegations. He could still be punished and suspended anywhere from six games to a year by the NFL.

Cleveland also still has Mayfield. And he knows the team doesn't want him as their quarterback.

To make matters worse, Watson allegedly offered each woman \$100,000 and procured signed nondisclosure agreements.

That's not legally an admission of guilt, but it's right up to the edge close.

What will the Browns look like this season? Will they have a superstar quarterback? Will they have a star quarterback? Or will they have neither one?

What they do have a huge monthly bill to pay and a few front office personnel to fire.

The next time you walk by an expensive shiny thing that you know you don't need – just keep walking.

## Briefs

From Page 1

Memphis, TN, the city with the most at 23.52.

• Columbia, MD has the highest median family annual income (adjusted for cost of living), \$123,819, which is 3.4 times higher than in Newark, NJ, the city with the lowest at \$36,758.

• Overland Park, KS has the lowest share of families receiving food stamps, 2.03 percent, which is 20.6 times lower than in Detroit, MI, the city with the highest at 41.73 percent.

• South Burlington, VT has the lowest share of families living in poverty, 2.50 percent, which is eleven times lower than in Detroit, MI, the city with the highest at 27.60 percent.

Visit <https://wallethub.com/edu/best-cities-for-families/4435> for the full report.

– Diana Polk

## Council recognized

The Canutillo Independent School

District's Northwest Early College High School (NWECHS) student council students had a busy school year working towards uplifting their campus and community. Their diligent efforts were capped with the honor of being recognized by the Texas Association of Student Councils (TASC) as an outstanding student council in the areas of drugs, alcohol, safety, and health (DASH); pride and patriotism; energy and environment; and community service. They were in a group of 209 out of 1,165 TASC member schools to receive recognition. “This year has been a huge learning curve as a first-year student council advisor. However, without the help from teachers, the staff, and the support of our principal, Mrs. Jesica Arellano, none of this would be possible,” said Miguel A. Martinez, advisor of NWECHS student council. “I want to give all the credit for the ideas, the planning, the organization, and the continual motivation, to my student council officers. They're the true spirit of all the good things happening at our

campus.” Paris Gastelum, president of NWECHS student council, echoed the sentiments of treasurer Sabastian Esparza upon learning of this recognition by saying, “We will use this honor as momentum to only get better.”

– Christina Rodriguez

## Crabby little robot

Some engineers might build things that are bigger but these engineers created a robot measuring half a millimeter wide – less than half the width of a grain of sand. It's got to be the world's smallest automaton. It looks like a very tiny crab and it walks, it twists and turns and it can jump. And, says Northwestern University engineering professor, it took him and his team about a year and a half to build it. He says it can be used “to repair or assemble small structures or machines in industry or as surgical assistants to clear clogged arteries, to stop internal bleeding or to eliminate cancerous tumors – all in minimally invasive procedures.”

– John Grimaldi

## Super Crossword

### COUNTRY MUSIC

#### ACROSS

- 1 Charbusters
- 8 Farthest point in an orbit
- 14 Uncommon
- 20 Salary reductions
- 21 Child raiser
- 22 Add insult to injury, maybe
- 23 Question in 1 Corinthians 15:55
- 26 Europe-Asia border river
- 27 Wood splitter
- 28 Ski lift part
- 29 Prefix with lock
- 30 Supplicate on behalf of
- 35 \_pollo (commoners)
- 37 Sermon topic
- 38 Suffix with Sudan
- 39 Massage
- 40 Old booming jet, for short
- 41 “\_ changed man!”
- 43 Designer Geoffrey
- 45 Salon colorists
- 47 “Is this actually happening?”
- 50 Oviedo locale
- 53 Situated over
- 56 Brine source
- 57 New Hampshire academy
- 58 “I'm going through the same thing!”
- 61 Shipping charge, e.g.
- 62 Steering part on a

- 63 Long (for)
- 64 Vikings' org.
- 66 Refusing to be cheerful
- 71 Regarding
- 72 Agree
- 76 Pop's mom
- 77 Actress Amy
- 79 SSNs, e.g.
- 80 Pressing tool
- 81 Fig treat from Nabisco
- 83 Seeming eternity
- 85 DNA-studying partner of James Watson
- 87 “My turn is coming right up”
- 91 He KO'd many rivals
- 93 Ball-\_ hammer
- 94 Forrest Gump player
- 95 “Quantum Leap” actor
- 98 Bend down
- 100 Abrupt
- 101 Body pouch
- 102 Secretive U.S. gal.
- 105 She bleats
- 106 Part of UCLA
- 109 33rd prez
- 110 Restaurant bill addition
- 112 Crucial component
- 116 Long (for)
- 118 Boyfriends, in Paris
- 120 Dir. opposite
- 7-Down
- 121 Viking org.

- 122 Tune whose opening lyric, and lyricist, begin eight answers in this puzzle
  - 128 Motion detector part
  - 129 Agee of the old Mets
  - 130 Small eating alcove
  - 131 Waiters take them
  - 132 Like training at the location itself
  - 133 Occupy fully
- DOWN**
- 1 Wedded partner
  - 2 Chennai, before 1996
  - 3 “Sure thing, cap'n!”
  - 4 La \_ (Milan opera house)
  - 5 Crude abode
  - 6 Biblical verb suffix
  - 7 NYC-to-Miami dir.
  - 8 High points
  - 9 Peeling tools
  - 10 Raw metal
  - 11 Allstate rival
  - 12 Put into a hall of fame
  - 13 Kett of old comic strips
  - 14 \_ Gyra (jazz fusion band)
  - 15 Prefix with gender
  - 16 Utah ski spot
  - 17 Slide in again
  - 18 Go on with
  - 19 Train operator
  - 24 Barn feed
  - 25 Cymbal pair in a

- drum kit
- 31 Nathaniel Hawthorne's Hester
- 32 Feel remorse over
- 33 James \_ Garfield
- 34 Consumer protection agcy.
- 36 Wild Alpine goats
- 42 Soccer great
- 44 Summer, in Soissons
- 45 Royal crown
- 46 Worried
- 48 E-cig's lack
- 49 Busy insect
- 50 Its capital is Damascus
- 51 16 ounces
- 52 Lindley of “The Ropers”
- 54 NYC stage awards
- 55 Small bunch of flowers
- 59 Spock and Seuss: Abbr.
- 60 Alternative to “his” or “her”
- 61 Go by plane
- 64 Nary a soul
- 65 Backyard borders
- 67 Open, as a present
- 68 Language of “mea culpa”
- 69 Be a rapper?
- 70 BoSox rivals
- 73 Freud's “one”
- 74 Ensnare
- 75 “Cannon” has three

- 78 The Brady kids, e.g.
- 82 Restated
- 84 Gambling parlor, briefly
- 85 Chick\_-\_A
- 86 Prefix with lock
- 87 “No kidding?”
- 88 Artist known for illusions
- 89 Boston area with the Paul Revere statue
- 90 UFO crew
- 91 Alias abbr.
- 92 Find by chance
- 96 In line with
- 97 One or more
- 99 Be indebted
- 103 “Belt out that tune!”
- 104 She founded the U.S. Shakers
- 106 Crude abode
- 107 First phases
- 108 Long looks
- 111 Letter-shaped girders
- 113 PSATs, e.g.
- 114 “No kidding!”
- 115 Deep-seated
- 117 To be, to Claudius
- 119 Regarding
- 123 Blue Jays, on scoreboards
- 124 Abbr. for someone with only one given name
- 125 34th prez
- 126 Firewood box
- 127 Repub. west of Zambia

Answer Page 8

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19		
20							21						22							
23							24					25								
26							27			28					29					
30				31	32	33			34				35	36		37				
38				39			40			41	42			43	44					
			45				46		47	48				49						
50	51	52				53		54	55		56			57						
58						59				60			61							
62							63				64	65			66	67	68	69	70	
71						72	73				74			75		76				
77					78		79			80				81	82					
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87	88	89	90				91	92			93				94					
95							96			97			98	99						
100										102	103	104		105				106	107	108
109						110	111			112	113			114				115		
116				117		118				119								121		
122					123						124				125	126	127			
128										129					130					
131										132					133					

# Comix

## OUT ON A LIMB By Gary Kopervas



## AMBER WAVES By Dave T. Phipps



## THE SPATS By Jeff Pickering



## R.F.D. By Mike Marland



## TIGER By Bud Blake



## Lowry

From Page 2

with its de facto ally, China, wants to reduce our national power and influence, and end the preeminence of the U.S.-led Western world.

It's not as though the assistance keeps us from pursuing urgent domestic priorities. We don't have a baby formula shortage because we've sent too many weapons to

Ukraine, and the shortage – in large part, a regulatory problem – would still exist if our new level of assistance to Ukraine were \$0. The same is true with the border. Biden is not interested in the policies that might restore order there, which was true prior to the Ukraine war and will presumably be true after.

There's certainly more Europe could do, especially regarding general support for the Ukrainian government and

food assistance to Ukraine and countries most affected by war-related disruptions. Our other allies who don't have an interest in taking sides between Ukraine and Russia should be providing food assistance, as well.

There should be no mistaking, though, that the stakes in the war are large. The outcome will profoundly affect the future of Ukraine, the robustness of the Western alliance, perhaps the nature of the Russian regime,

# Walking difficult after visit to bowling alley

**DEAR DR. ROACH:** My partner and I are in our 60s, exercise regularly (three to five times per week), eat a well-balanced diet and are of average weight. Recently, we went bowling for two games and found ourselves sore in the area right below our buttocks. We were very sore for several days, making walking difficult, especially up and down stairs. What would have caused this area to get so sore? We named it “bowling butt” for lack of a medical term. – M.B.



Starting a new activity will often cause people to overuse some muscles that aren't used to the strain. Bowling involves forceful extension of the thigh, which is the gluteus maximus muscle, as well as other muscles in the hip to maintain stability. Two games were enough to exhaust that muscle, and the untrained muscle will often suffer small tears, which take days to heal properly. The fact that you were sore with activities involving thigh extension helps confirm the diagnosis. Some people think it's lactic acid in the muscle, but that is gone after a few hours.

Naming a disease is serious business, and I did a look for similar names in the literature. I did find “Wii butt,” a pain sensation after playing games, including bowling, on the Wii video game system, but none for actual bowling. I'm not sure “bowling butt” will catch on, however.

**DEAR DR. ROACH:** I have no health issues, but I'm a cheapskate. I see products labeled as “grain-free” or as “gluten-free,” but they always cost more than the regular product. Are there any health benefits to using these, or are they marketing gimmicks? – L.C.

They are not marketing gimmicks at all. People with celiac disease have sensitivity to a protein in gluten, called gliadin. Even small amounts of gluten can cause long-lasting damage to the intestines, and many people with celiac disease will be unable to properly absorb nutrients if they are regularly exposed to gluten. This can manifest with severe symptoms, such as weight loss, diarrhea and severe metabolic disturbance. Or it can trigger much milder ones, such as mild abdominal discomfort after eating, skin changes, anemia or joint pains.

Because the symptoms of celiac disease are so varied, a physician must be fairly convinced it's celiac before making the diagnosis. Biopsy is the gold standard for certainty, but blood testing – if done while consuming a diet containing gluten – is suggestive. I strongly recommend getting a diagnosis before going on a strict gluten-free diet if you suspect celiac disease.

For people with diagnosed celiac disease, strict adherence to a gluten-free diet is essential, and the increasing availability of gluten-free foods has made the lives of people with celiac disease better. Many grains are gluten-free naturally.

There are people with symptoms from gluten-containing foods but who do not have celiac disease. The term is “non-celiac gluten sensitivity.” Some people with this condition are sensitive to components of the food other than the gluten, although there are some people who are sensitive to gluten but do not have celiac disease.

For people without NCGS and without celiac disease, avoiding gluten is not necessary. A diet with many different whole grains has been proven to reduce heart disease risk compared with a more meat-based diet.

*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](mailto:ToYourGoodHealth@med.cornell.edu). (c) 2022 North America Synd., Inc. All Rights Reserved.*

and China's consideration of whether or not it is too risky to try to take Taiwan by force.

“Paris is worth a Mass,” Henry of Navarre supposedly said before converting to Roman Catholicism and becoming king of France in the 16th century.

Similarly, staving off Russia, and perhaps defeating it without firing a shot, is worth \$40 billion.

*Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review. (c) 2022 by King Features Synd., Inc.*



**Moore Texas by Roger Moore**  
Spaniards tried civilizing the Indians by giving them items like longhanded underwear.

## 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: **W** equals **M**

X'W TICDEWXPB SZC QMYFIXSC  
WEDXGMV GMSCBFIL FQ WMPL  
DSCTQMSZCID XD TIFOMOVL  
MVSCIPMSXYC TFT.

Answer Page 5

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## Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

	5		9					8
		4		3	5	6		
3					2			7
1			4					2
	8			7		5		
		6			9		1	3
	9			1		2		
	2	8			4			1
5			3					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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# The VA releases its Equity Action Plan



by Freddy Groves

In response to Executive Order 13985, the Department of Veterans Affairs has now released its Equity Action Plan.

The order, signed in January 2021, was intended to bring equity to underserved communities, such as Blacks, Latinos, Native Americans, Asian Americans and others, as well as lesbian, transgender, LGBTQ+ and gay persons, as well as those who live in rural areas. The role of the White House Domestic Policy Council was to formulate and implement the administration's policy objectives and embed them across federal government. Hence the VA's newly released Equity Action Plan.

The VA's highest priorities are to provide all veterans with world-class health care, ensure

that veterans and their families can access benefits and honor veterans with a final resting place as a tribute to their service.

And it must be done in a fair and impartial way, with tools and resources for all veterans, by eliminating barriers and creating opportunities. To ensure this, the VA will:

- Develop data for equity strategy (capture the demographics so women, LGBTQ+, Blacks and others can be identified),
- Improve access (reduce barriers by "creating institutional pathways for underserved vets to increase awareness" of VA benefits and services),
- Increase contract awards to women-owned businesses and small disadvantaged businesses,
- And address health equity for underserved veterans (which is impacted by race, gender, income, education and more).

VA officials already have started taking steps. For example, they have expanded the gender-affirming care and

benefits package for LGBTQ+ veterans. (The VA provides all medically necessary gender-affirming care to transgender veterans, short of surgical interventions.) Additionally, they've instructed VA adjudicators to classify as eligible for benefits any veteran who was discharged due to sexual orientation, gender identification or HIV status. Medical records now display the patient's birth sex, self-identified gender identity, sexual orientation and preferred pronouns.

Visit [www.va.gov/ORMDI/docs/EO13985-VA\\_Final\\_Equity\\_Action\\_Plan.pdf](http://www.va.gov/ORMDI/docs/EO13985-VA_Final_Equity_Action_Plan.pdf) for details of the plan..

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• Need a patch for old woodwork? Try mixing paint (whatever color you're using) and flour. Make a paste, fill in the holes and let dry. It's hard like cement, and can be sanded into shape if necessary.

• Use baking soda to scrub away stuck-on food on your grill. Sprinkle it on the metal brush, and scrub away. If your grate is beyond the power of fire and baking soda, remove it and lay it on the ground on some newspaper. Spray with oven cleaner and let sit (keep pets and kids away from it). Rinse with a garden hose and replace on the grill.

• "I have a plastic cup that changes color when the drink is hot. Oddly enough, it changes at the perfect temperature for my baby's bath. So, I fill the tub and toss in the cup. When the cup starts to change back to its original color (blue), I know the bathwater is not too hot." — P. in Idaho

Send your tips to Now Here's a Tip, 628 Virginia Drive, Orlando, FL 32803. (c) 2022 King Features Synd., Inc.

## GO FIGURE! by Linda Thistle

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.

**DIFFICULTY: ★★★**

★ Moderate ★★ Difficult

★★★ GO FIGURE!

Answer Page 5

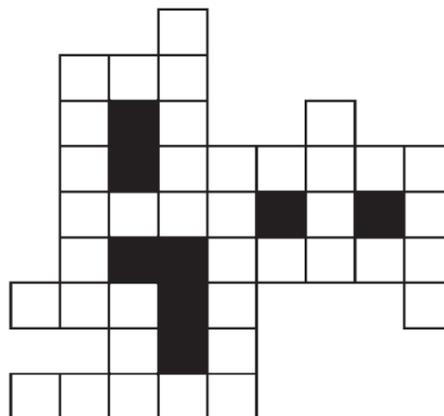
	+		×		24
×		÷		×	
	×		+		17
+		×		+	
	×		-		27
26		24		29	

1 2 3 4 5 6 8 8 9

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- BPU
- OARBEE
- ♥ EUPER
- TYIP
- FRYAIT
- ♥ RFO
- PYLE
- ♥ BOTRA
- ♥ EPR
- BOUPLE
- OLYRA
- TEYB



Answer Page 5

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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