

NEWSBRIEFS

SISD enrollment

The Socorro Independent School District (SISD) achieved an all-time high in enrollment, surpassing 48,000 students in January 2023. SISD exceeded its record high of 47,000 students in 2019 due to enriching academic experiences and east El Paso's rapidly growing population, along with the district's robust bond programs that have enabled SISD to add new schools and improvements to campuses. "In SISD, we strive to provide outstanding and equitable learning opportunities for all students to make them feel welcome and to prepare them for successful futures," said SISD Superintendent Nate Carman, Ed.D. "We are the fastest-growing school district in El Paso County, and the substantial increase in our student population mirrors our rapidly growing community in far east El Paso, City of Socorro and Horizon City." When sixth grader Adrian Enriquez registered at Salvador H. Sanchez Middle School on Jan. 12, 2023, he became the first student to surpass the district's enrollment record of 48,000 students.

— Christy Flores-Jones

Teacher retention

Fabens ISD was approved by Texas Education Agency this school year for the Teacher Incentive Allotment in its first year as a participating district. In 2019 the Texas Legislature through HB3 established a fund to help school districts reward, retain and recruit highly effective teachers. Fabens ISD, in its first year, was approved and will be able to reward nearly 30% of its eligible teachers with bonus pay. Fabens ISD looks forward to putting forth more teachers for recognition in this second year of participating in the Teacher Incentive Allotment.

— Sofia Maciel

Age is only a number

Flossie is her name and she has been declared the oldest feline on the planet by the Guinness Book of World Records. Flossie is fast approaching 27 years, the equivalent of 120 human years. Her new owner says, "she is still playful and curious, unbothered by her deafness and quickly adapts to new environments despite her lack of sight."

— John Grimaldi

It is better to keep a friend from falling than to help him up after he falls.

— Quips & Quotes

HFD adds paid positions to volunteers



— Photo courtesy HFD

SERVICE AT ITS FINEST – The Horizon Fire Department (HFD) station is located at 14151 Nunda Avenue, a couple of blocks from Horizon Blvd. The 10-bay station supports more than fifty volunteers that give their time and effort to become firefighters. Quint 401 is on display with its ladder extended.

By Alfredo Vasquez
Special to the Courier

HORIZON – To enhance its medical capabilities and to bolster its decreasing ranks of volunteers, the Horizon Fire Department (HFD) recently added eight paid positions to its duty roster including a captain, lieutenant, two engineers, and four firefighters.

"The positions were added to HFD because that part of the county... is growing, and we have seen a decrease in volunteering," stated Kris Menendez, fire chief for the El Paso County Emergency Services District (EPCESD) #1. HFD has two fire stations as part of the emergency services district program. The paid positions were split between Stations #1 and #2.

El Paso County's emergency services staff is currently providing volunteer services 24 hours

See HFD, Page 3



— Photo courtesy Anthony ISD

GOING GREEN – Anthony ISD Transportation and Maintenance Director, Rene Ramirez, with bus driver Martin Rivera, in front of AISD's new school bus and activities bus. Both buses meet new emission standards set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Anthony ISD replaces outdated school buses

By Andriana Candelaria
Special to the Courier

ANTHONY, TX – Two new buses have joined the Anthony Independent School District bus fleet with the purpose to reduce harmful nitrogen oxides (NOX) while providing AISD students with comfortable and safer transportation services.

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ)

granted AISD \$189,598 during the 2019-2020 school year after the district applied for TCEQ's Texas Volkswagen Environmental Mitigation Program.

As part of the agreement to qualify for the grant, AISD decommissioned an older-model school bus and the extracurricular activities bus; both vehicles were replaced with new buses that passed tougher emission standards set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

"We had the school bus since 1994

and the activities bus since 2003," said Rene Ramirez, AISD Maintenance and Transportation Director.

"When older-model buses sit idle, diesel exhaust or nitrogen oxides can accumulate around the bus and pose a health risk to children, adults and the environment. That is why we jumped at the opportunity to replace two of our buses and make transportation as safe as possible

See BUSES, Page 4

The Trump-Biden embrace

America may not want a Trump-Biden rematch, but Donald Trump and Joe Biden sure do.

A CNN poll late last year showed that 6 in 10 Republicans and Republican-leaning independents want a different GOP nominee in 2024, and a roughly similar proportion of Democrats hope for a nominee other than Biden.

Not that either man is inclined to pay any attention.

Trump wants revenge against a president who humiliated him in 2020 and who, with an approval rating in the mid-40s, would seem ripe for the picking.

Biden wants to run against a persistently unpopular, controversy-plagued former president whom he beat once before and used to great effect as a foil in the 2022 midterms.

Trump’s best argument is that his policies were better than Biden’s.

Biden’s best argument is that he’s not Trump.

It’s the weirdest, and most dispiriting, symbiotic relationship in politics. It’s the career politician soaked in conventional politics versus the upstart developer with zero respect for rules. The establishmentarian versus the populist. Boring

versus erratic. And... unpopular versus unpopular, as well as, now that you mention it, old versus old.

If Biden stepped aside, Trump might feel a little less driven to run, whereas if Trump declined to run, Democrats would have to be much more nervous about how Biden would match up against a younger, less toxic opponent.

As it is, the weakness of each is a motivator and prop for the other.

Just consider: It’s probably a good rule of thumb not to run a presidential candidate who’s under federal investigation for mishandling classified documents. But does that rule hold when your candidate could well be running against another candidate also under federal investigation for mishandling classified documents?

Such are the imponderables that a potential Biden-Trump rematch presents. Both can point at the other and try to argue, in effect, “Hey, your special counsel investigation is much worse than my special counsel investigation.”

Trump tucked into this debate in his characteristic fashion. In a Truth Social post, he mocked Biden for having classified documents “on the damp floor” of his “flimsy, unlocked, and unsecured” garage,

whereas Mar-a-Lago is “a highly secured facility.” (Of course, Biden famously insisted that his garage was locked – he has a classic Corvette to protect, after all).

Biden’s team and allies have made the opposite case that, in contrast to Trump, his mistakes were inadvertent and immediately reported to authorities. Regardless of the merits, there’s no doubt that Biden’s possession of classified documents materially assists Trump in his case; it might save him from indictment.

By the same token, Trump’s possession of classified documents materially assists Biden in his case; the discovery of the documents in Biden’s various unsecure locations may be a fiasco, but not one as drawn out and legally fraught as the Mar-a-Lago drama.

It’s a little like both parties running candidates in the 1972 campaign who had authorized break-ins, or in a 1980 campaign who had presided over double-digit inflation.

Now, it’s entirely possible that the second season



See LOWRY, Page 7

View from here By Dr. Glenn Mollette

The classified document stench just keeps growing

An Old Testament story records an overwhelming infestation of frogs throughout Egypt. There was no place in Egypt where frogs were not present in large numbers. The plague was sent in response to Pharoah’s attitude toward the Israelite people who lived in slavery under his rule. When God ended the plague there were piles of dead frogs all over Egypt. In the streets, bedrooms, bathrooms, closets, storage facilities, and places we can only imagine. It became a very stinky situation as they raked up the dead frogs and piled them up all over Egypt.

The Classified Document saga seems to be growing in similar fashion to the

dead frogs of Egypt. They appear to be everywhere and they stink. The odor has to be particularly bad for Presidents Donald Trump and Joe Biden as well as Vice President Mike Pence.

First came the big raid of Trump’s home in Florida. Late at night, FBI agents went through his home and personal items and carried out boxes of documents. Next, we hear that Biden has had classified documents in his home for years. They seem to be scattered everywhere throughout his house. Then, Mike Pence in Indiana has more classified documents. What are these men doing with these documents? They are scattered out like the dead frogs of Egypt.

Again, what are these individuals doing with classified documents? I used to keep a

big box of comic books when I was a kid. I would read a comic and then put it in the box. Sometimes I would read them again. I definitely knew that I had them. Why would past administrations hold on to classified documents? How did they get to the locations where they were found?

The National Archives has asked all the former Presidents to check for classified documents. Jimmy Carter? Where would he have them? In his family Bible? Mixed in with old Sunday school lessons that he has taught at the local Baptist Church? I don’t think so but you never know who might have picked them up, packed them in a box, and placed them on a shelf in his garage. What about George W. Bush? Could documents be under the seat of his old truck? Bill Clinton has emphatically stated he does not have any classified documents but he has made emphatic statements before. These former Presidents have said they do not have such documents.

Did Trump carry these documents out of the White House when he and his family climbed aboard the Presidential helicopter? I’ve never seen Trump or Biden carry anything. Which aid picked up some boxes and tossed them into the moving van? Where is White House security when it comes to classified documents?

Only time will tell and we may never know for sure about the plethora of classified documents. We hope they aren’t reading some of them in China or Russia. Who can say for sure where they are not being read? We do not know for sure whether or not someone else has them. Could another family member have a box or two somewhere? How much money would China, Russia or others pay for classified documents?

Democrats and Republicans will point fingers and scream about all this in the next election. Both sides will try to make the other side look worse but it appears there is plenty of stink everywhere.

1973
50
Years
2023

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Dettman, Iglesias, join UTEP band

Fabens High School Early College students Michael Dettman, left, and Julian Iglesias are the first students to ever join the UTEP symphonic band while still seniors in high school. Both hold associate degrees and are currently enrolled at UTEP. Fabens band director Miguel Soto relayed that Dr. Brandon Houghtalen, Director of Athletic Bands and Associate Director of Bands at the University of Texas at El Paso, is delighted to have these two young men in his band. “I am extremely proud of these boys. I am confident that they will never miss a future audition,” said Soto.



– Photos courtesy Fabens ISD

– Sofia Maciel

HFD

From Page 1

#1 at 14151 Nunda, and Station #2 located in the fast growing neighborhoods off of Eastlake Blvd. at 12361 Paseo Del Este Blvd.

The Horizon fire stations service approximately 148 square miles. Besides Horizon, they also serve the communities of Paseo del Este, Sparks, El Paso Hills, Horizon View Estates, Colonia Revolucion, Agua Dulce, and Lakeway Estates. And HFD provides backup assistance to other fire departments in the county.

According to the fire chief, about 49 percent of the growth that is occurring in the county is in the HFD's area, and 90 percent of HFD's responses are now medical in nature. The chief noted that the population within HFD's jurisdiction was nearly 57,000 residents with almost 19,000 of them living within the Town of Horizon City's limits.

Menendez also pointed out that a large percentage of elderly citizens live within the HFD region, in addition to the growing number of young families and small business owners who are moving into the area. "... including the seventh largest Walmart store in Texas," he added.

Because of El Paso County's east side population growth along with its rising emergency medical service needs, the EPCESD #1 program now requires fire department personnel to be certified paramedics who can provide advanced care, stated Menendez. And "training

a day, seven days a week, at both fire stations – the original Horizon facility, Station

volunteers for this level of care will start once all the new hires are on board," he said.

Another reason HFD is getting paid firefighters is because of a limited volunteer work force, especially during holidays and occasional weekends, the fire chief explained. With the eight new salaried positions, a variety of responsibilities will be addressed – from participating in fire drills to attending classes in firefighting,

emergency medical, hazardous materials, and related subjects.

Other duties for these firefighters are being able: to operate radio and other communication equipment; to inspect buildings, hydrants and other structures in fire prevention programs; to maintain fire equipment and facilities as well as to perform minor repairs. They also assist in developing plans for special firefighting assignments, such as emergency preparedness training, communications, and emergency aid procedures.

The eight new paid members of the staff, who previously were



– Photo courtesy El Paso County ESD #1

BUSY MAN, DEPARTMENT – Kris Menendez, fire chief for El Paso County Emergency Services District #1, started as a volunteer firefighter in 1991; he was 15 years old. He said that since then he has witnessed many changes throughout his three decades-long career... the community's rapid growth, new technology, availability of resources, and the number of emergency calls. "The year I started, there were only about 300 emergency calls. Last year (2022), we responded to more than four thousand calls," Menendez related.

volunteers, will be scheduled to work a 48/96 hour shift, Menendez said. "This means that they work two days starting at 0800 (8 a.m.) and ending at 0800. Then they are off for four days, and then firefighters start the process all over," he explained.

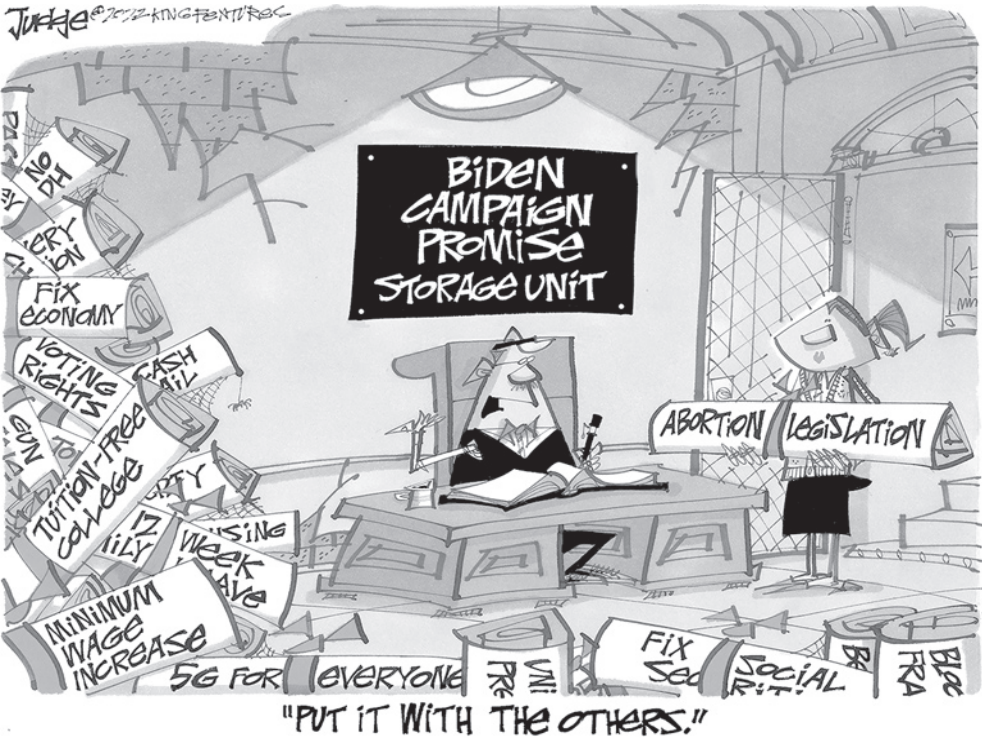
Currently, the Horizon Station #1 has 58 volunteers, with eight full time firefighters and eight fire marshal officials. "Anyone can be a volunteer, you just have to be over the age of 18, have no criminal record, and pass a background check and drug test," the fire chief stated.

As for volunteers, Menendez said that some join because they want to work as a paid firefighter someday. Until then, they prepare for the next level by volunteering. Others become volunteers because they are enrolled in a firefighting academy, either through a college or technical school program, and want to learn firefighting skills firsthand.

"I want to thank the community for their support in making the paid firefighter positions a reality. I have been with the department now for over 31 years, and it is amazing that we are here now. The Horizon Fire Department will be a combination department, featuring full-time firefighters and

volunteers," Menendez said. Menendez offered that more paid firefighter positions be added in the near future. "This could happen as early as December of 2023," he said.

Visit El Paso County's emergency services district website, at www.epcesd1.com, for more information on how to become a volunteer firefighter.



Senior moment

By Matilda Charles

Ways to train your brain

There are several “brain support” online programs out there, but many cost more than we’d like to pay.

Lumosity (lumosity.com) comes in seven languages and has games that promote memory, attention, flexibility, problem-solving and more. After you sign up, you’ll get three free games per day, and the Brain Performance Index monitors your progress. There is a subscription plan, of course, if you want access to more areas of the site, and you can pay by the month or the year. Test the free version first to see if you like it.

BrainHQ (brainhq.com) is another cognitive

training program that you can access online. Their exercises explore brain speed, memory, attention and more. And you can design your own program. Their goals are to help you think faster, focus better and remember more. You can try it out by subscribing to their email newsletters, which have free daily exercises to sample.

As for me, I’ve found books that don’t cost much and are good at putting my brain through its paces on a daily basis. The New York Times series of puzzle books begins with the Monday editions, which are the easiest of the week. (The crossword puzzles get increasingly difficult as the week progresses.) I

found the whole series of spiral-bound puzzle books (50 to a book) on Amazon.

Then there are the online jigsaw puzzles at TheJigsawPuzzles.com. The puzzles (a new one every day) can be set in any number of ways, including the number of pieces in a puzzle. I’ve found that the 100-pieces level is plenty challenging when viewed on a computer monitor.

And then there is online chess, for those of us who used to play back in the day but would be embarrassed to lose to a small child now without serious brushing up of our skills. Try this for free at www.chess.com and play against their computer.

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Tornillo Independent School District

Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balance

Governmental Funds

For the Year Ended August 31, 2022

Data Control Codes		10 General Fund	Other Funds	Total Governmental Funds
REVENUES:				
5700	Total Local and Intermediate Sources	\$ 1,015,084	\$ 544,710	\$ 1,559,794
5800	State Program Revenues	10,795,168	979,933	11,775,101
5900	Federal Program Revenues	920,127	3,786,933	4,707,060
5020	Total Revenues	12,730,379	5,311,576	18,041,955
EXPENDITURES:				
Current:				
0011	Instruction	5,729,655	2,098,274	7,827,929
0012	Instructional Resources and Media Services	212,148	113,781	325,929
0013	Curriculum and Instructional Staff Development	181,590	812,566	994,156
0021	Instructional Leadership	141,101	143,607	284,708
0023	School Leadership	800,913	125,100	926,013
0031	Guidance, Counseling and Evaluation Services	311,060	61,728	372,788
0032	Social Work Services	–	30,470	30,470
0033	Health Services	161,453	55,955	217,408
0034	Student (Pupil) Transportation	226,324	12,580	238,904
0035	Food Services	827,880	52,029	879,909
0036	Extracurricular Activities	370,501	–	370,501
0041	General Administration	890,417	44,932	935,349
0051	Facilities Maintenance and Operations	1,847,721	154,552	2,002,273
0052	Security and Monitoring Services	378,131	68,422	446,553
0053	Data Processing Services	436,068	20,994	457,062
0061	Community Services	85,241	175,192	260,433
Debt Service:				
0071	Principal on Long-Term Liabilities	1,203	807,300	808,503
0072	Interest on Long-Term Liabilities	61	483,728	483,789
0073	Bond Issuance Cost and Fees	–	2,790	2,790
Capital Outlay:				
0081	Facilities Acquisition and Construction	367,684	–	367,684
Intergovernmental:				
0099	Other Intergovernmental Charges	18,233	–	18,233
6030	Total Expenditures	12,987,384	5,264,000	18,251,384
1100	Excess (Deficiency) of Revenues Over (Under) Expenditures	(257,005)	47,576	(209,429)
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES):				
7912	Sale of Real and Personal Property	23,332	–	23,332
1200	Net Change in Fund Balances	(233,673)	47,576	(186,097)
0100	Fund Balance – September 1 (Beginning)	8,218,668	224,026	8,442,694
3000	Fund Balance – August 31 (Ending)	\$ 7,984,995	\$ 271,602	\$ 8,256,597

Buses

From Page 1

for our students and staff,” Ramirez said.

Due to delays caused by COVID-19, it took longer than originally expected to obtain the new buses. The first new school bus arrived at the district at the start of the 2022-2023 school year and has been transporting students to and from school since then.

The second new bus, which is the latest extracurricular activities bus, arrived in January and is also in service transporting students. The new activities bus can sit 48 people, includes Wi-Fi and will be fitted with a TV video system for students to have entertainment while traveling for extracurricular activities.

Both buses include seatbelts, an intercom system and air conditioning.

“We want to give our students and sponsors the best transportation possible to and from their events. Especially since our district travels more than 200 miles for our 2-A competition events, we know the importance of providing them with a comfortable ride,” Ramirez said.

The purchase for both buses totaled a cost of \$293,050. The district invested more than \$103,000 to cover the remaining balance after the TxVEMP grant.

AISD currently accounts for eight school buses, one extracurricular activities bus and one charter bus. The district continues striving to receive more grants to continue upgrading its fleet and eliminate harmful emissions for the environment.

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CryptoQuip Answer

Movie prophecy concerning the demise of an online money transfer service: “I see dead PayPal.”

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By Lucie Winborne

- In the 1800s, popcorn was often eaten as a cereal with milk and sugar.
- Players of the video game “Call of Duty” have spent more hours thus engaged than the entire course of human existence.
- There are more than 400 Scottish words for snow.
- The longest surgical procedure in history, in which doctors separated a pair of Nepalese conjoined twins who were born with a shared brain cavity, took place in Singapore in 2001 and lasted 103 hours.
- Cats born in May were once thought to be not just poor rodent killers, but prone to bringing home snakes.

• A Harvard study found that a person's IQ can drop by as much as 13 points when they are under financial stress, due in part to the amount of brain power used to think about such burdens that causes distraction.

• Alexander the Great loved his horse, Bucephalus, so much that when it died in 326 B.C., he named the town of Bucephala for it.

• If the sun explodes, we won't know it until just over eight minutes afterward.

• “Guerrilla grafting” is the illegal process of turning city-maintained sterile fruit trees into fruit producers by splicing compatible branches onto the sterile trees with branches from the fruiting trees.

• When Indian police caught a thief who allegedly stole a gold chain from a woman on the street in Mumbai, the miscreant swallowed the object. An enema was subsequently administered at a hospital, but no results were achieved, until the man was force-fed over 40 bananas – one of the best digestive food aids – after which he was made to clean and disinfect the chain before relinquishing it.

Thought for the Day: “Life is a great big canvas, and you should throw all the paint on it you can.”

– Danny Kaye

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Moments in time

THE HISTORY CHANNEL

- On Feb. 13, 1974, the Symbionese Liberation Army, which had kidnapped 19-year-old heiress Patricia Hearst, demanded a ransom in the form of \$70 worth of food to be given to every needy Californian – an exchange that could cost as much as \$400 million.
- On Feb. 14, 1962, Jacqueline Kennedy led a virtual tour of the White House's staterooms, which she had recently refurbished. Wearing a red wool dress and pearls, she described the mansion's

antiques, furnishings and historic portraits to a wide TV audience at home, earning both critical praise and an honorary Emmy.

- On Feb. 15, 1953, 17-year-old Tenley Albright, of Boston, became the first American female to win the world figure skating championship at an outdoor rink in Davos, Switzerland, with all seven judges giving her a first-place vote. Three years later, at the Winter Olympics, she also became America's first female skating gold medalist.
- On Feb. 16, 1894, gunslinger John Wesley Hardin was pardoned after spending 15 years in a Texas prison for murder. Reputed to have

fatally shot one man merely for snoring, Hardin likely killed more than 40 people. While he became an attorney after his release, the following year he took a bullet in the back himself in a revenge shooting.

- On Feb. 17, 2007, customs officers in Sydney, Australia, freed Sylvester Stallone after holding him for several hours and confiscating items from his staff members' suitcases. Officials claimed X-rays revealed banned products but refused to give any further details, and Stallone called the incident “a misunderstanding.” The actor was in Australia to promote his Rocky Balboa character.

- On Feb. 18, 1937, severe dust storms hit five western

states, resulting in a dozen deaths within a few days. Citizens were advised to plug their window sills and door jambs, and hang wet sheets over their doors and windows. They could taste dirt and dust in their food, and the clouds of it were so thick that they blocked the sun.

- On Feb. 19, 1473, Nicolaus Copernicus was born in Poland to a prosperous merchant family. Originally designed for a career in church law, he is considered the father of modern astronomy and was the first European scientist to propose that Earth and other planets revolve around the sun.

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Socorro Independent School District

Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balance

Governmental Funds

For the Year Ended June 30, 2022

Data Control Codes	General Fund	Debt Service Fund	Capital Projects 2018-2020	Other Funds	Total Governmental Funds
REVENUES:					
5700 Total Local and Intermediate Sources	\$ 113,743,145	\$ 50,847,082	\$ 277,969	\$ 693,933	\$ 165,562,129
5800 State Program Revenues	315,121,818	15,427,905	–	3,288,618	333,838,341
5900 Federal Program Revenues	10,478,323	–	–	103,120,081	113,598,404
5020 Total Revenues	439,343,286	66,274,987	277,969	107,102,632	612,998,874
EXPENDITURES:					
Current:					
0011 Instruction	268,204,385	–	2,365,290	39,624,502	310,194,177
0012 Instructional Resources and Media Services	5,526,031	–	131,816	956,865	6,614,712
0013 Curriculum and Instructional Staff Development	3,642,909	–	–	4,761,043	8,403,952
0021 Instructional Leadership	6,187,230	–	–	1,803,803	7,991,033
0023 School Leadership	28,069,372	–	141,414	1,405,704	29,616,490
0031 Guidance, Counseling and Evaluation Services	13,022,117	–	106,554	5,185,141	18,313,812
0032 Social Work Services	738,224	–	–	1,182,830	1,921,054
0033 Health Services	2,271,790	–	35,904	5,214,291	7,521,985
0034 Student (Pupil) Transportation	14,326,236	–	–	767,592	15,093,828
0035 Food Services	–	–	1,961,393	30,419,884	32,381,277
0036 Extracurricular Activities	11,642,163	–	–	328,518	11,970,681
0041 General Administration	9,939,233	–	–	462,340	10,401,573
0051 Facilities Maintenance and Operations	44,239,183	–	8,667	3,570,621	47,818,471
0052 Security and Monitoring Services	9,407,235	–	5,303	3,259,747	12,672,285
0053 Data Processing Services	6,479,199	–	85,693	1,042,562	7,607,454
0061 Community Services	1,019,757	–	–	1,465,155	2,484,912
Debt Service:					
0071 Principal on Long-Term Debt	4,021,544	24,581,894	–	10,069	28,613,507
0072 Interest on Long-Term Debt	257,586	38,208,254	–	321	38,466,161
0073 Bond Issuance Cost and Fees	–	35,806	–	–	35,806
Capital Outlay:					
0081 Facilities Acquisition and Construction	1,230,896	–	111,222,280	511,019	112,964,195
Intergovernmental:					
0099 Other Intergovernmental Charges	2,324,166	–	–	–	2,324,166
6030 Total Expenditures	432,549,256	62,825,954	116,064,314	101,972,007	713,411,531
1100 Excess (Deficiency) of Revenues Over (Under) Expenditures	6,794,030	3,449,033	(115,786,345)	5,130,625	(100,412,657)
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES):					
7912 Sale of Real and Personal Property	573,541	–	–	–	573,541
7913 Right-to-Use Leases	737,607	–	–	–	737,607
7914 Non-Current Loans	2,558,186	–	–	–	2,558,186
7915 Transfers In	96,907	–	–	30,606	127,513
8911 Transfers Out (Use)	(4,030,606)	–	–	(96,907)	(4,127,513)
7080 Total Other Financing Sources (Uses)	(64,365)	–	–	(66,301)	(130,666)
1200 Net Change in Fund Balances	6,729,665	3,449,033	(115,786,345)	5,064,324	(100,543,323)
0100 Fund Balance – July 1 (Beginning)	109,651,223	65,316,598	193,644,041	2,640,303	371,252,165
3000 Fund Balance – June 30 (Ending)	\$ 116,380,888	\$ 68,765,631	\$ 77,857,696	\$ 7,704,627	\$ 270,708,842

Send Your
Newsbrief To:
wtxcc@wtxcc.com

NMSU halts basketball, but that’s the least of their worries

By Steve Escajeda
Special to the Courier

The UTEP men’s sports season hasn’t exactly been a rousing success. The football team went through its annual share of losing and the basketball team is fighting to stay out of last place in the Conference USA standings.

But no matter how disappointing the UTEP athletic season has been they can always say one thing – at least we’re not the New Mexico State Aggies.

What in the world is going on 45 miles north of UTEP?

Last week New Mexico State University (NMSU) announced they were going to suspend the rest of the men’s basketball season until further notice.

So what happened this time?

I say “this time,” because back in November a member of the Aggies

basketball team shot and killed a University of New Mexico (UNM) student. An investigation of that incident is still going on.

And, believe it or not, the reason for suspending the season last week has absolutely nothing to do with that shooting incident.

Wow, talk about a program that is completely falling apart.

This time around, it has been alleged that some members of the team have been hazing a fellow player or players. It hasn’t been reported how much of this was going on, or who was doing it, but harassing, intimidating, and bullying players has almost been totally eliminated in college athletics.

Well, I guess not totally.

Embarrassing for the school? I’ll say. The day this was announced, it was the top story on ESPN.

The school said in the statement that these hazing allegations have prompted an investigation by the university. It

led to the NMSU coaching staff being put on paid administrative leave.

I think it’s safe to say that when the Aggies hired Greg Heiar to take over as head coach this season, at least from a leadership perspective, they hired the wrong guy.

As bad as these hazing allegations sound, they pale in comparison to what happened with the team in late 2022.

And after you hear this, you’ll wonder why they didn’t suspend their program back then.

The story goes like this: Back in November, NMSU player Mike Peake got into a fight with an UNM student some days earlier. To get back at Peake, a female friend of the UNM student met Peake and became friendly with him. She then llured him to the UNM campus where the UNM student was waiting for him.

A shootout followed. Peake shot and killed the NMU student in Albuquerque in what police called a

self-defense case.

This is where things really get strange.

While Peake was waiting for police to arrive on the scene, he called for help. Three members of the NMSU basketball team drove to the site. They took Peake’s gun, and other evidence away, so police arriving to the scene wouldn’t find it.

Surveillance video cameras show the car racing up to the scene. Peake hands stuff to the guys in the car and the car leaves the scene.

To put the icing on the cake, it turns out that the NMSU players had stashed all the evidence – in the hands of NMSU staffers and coaches!

Lorenzo Jenkins, a special assistant to coach Heiar, had Peake’s tablet in a backpack. An unnamed NMSU administrator had his phone. State police said the gun used in the shooting was located at the team hotel in Albuquerque. Assistant coach Dominique Taylor had the gun wrapped in a towel after Heiar called him. Heiar told Taylor that NMSU players Marchelus Avery, Issa Muhammad and Anthony Roy could tell him where to find the weapon.



– Photo by Acavius Largo

ALL SMILES – Ivan Rangel

Rangel named head football coach, athletic coordinator

By Celeste Reyes
Special to the Courier

EL PASO COUNTY – Montwood High School announced Ivan Rangel as the new head football coach and athletic coordinator Jan. 17 at the school.

“There are a lot of emotions running through my head,” Rangel said. “Being named head football coach is a dream come true.”

Rangel has been coaching since he was a student in college. He has served as a freshman coach, junior varsity coach, a defensive coordinator and was formally the defensive coordinator for the Montwood Rams football team.

He said as a coach he intends to implement a new defensive approach

and continue the trajectory that the offensive has been on.

“We want people to know that Montwood football is back and here to win,” Rangel said.

The new head coach said that all the support he has received from the school, administration, staff, the students, and their families is what has enabled him to reach this notable moment in his ca

Cameron Harrelson, a junior and football athlete at Montwood High School, said he believes the new leadership will bring improvements and discipline to the team.

“He is the kind of coach that everyone wants,” Harrelson said. “He is a big role model, and we have a lot of respect for him.”

This is unbelievable. Three players that tried to hide evidence in a deadly shooting called the head coach to tell him where the gun is stashed. Then the head coach tells an assistant where it is and the assistant wraps the gun in a towel. All the while, none of these so-called adults calls the police to say they have the evidence in a killing.

Hi kids... can you say the word “cover-up?”

Will some administrators and staffers and coaches and players be removed from NMSU?

Of course.

But I think for some, removal from their job is the least of their worries.

I think some of them will be removed from the freedom of society for months or even years, if you know what I mean.

Super Crossword

UNBRIDLED ENERGY ACROSS

1 Elevates

9 Faithful attendant in “Othello”

15 Maritime

20 Intensify

21 Quark model particles

22 Kagan of justice

23 Start of a riddle

25 Deserves

26 Violinists’ rub-ons

27 Radio’s Glass or Flatow

28 Fished for morays

30 Jostle (for)

31 In _ (mired)

32 Riddle, part 2

37 English diarist Samuel

39 Confuses

40 Aviary homes

41 Apple, e.g.

43 Next yr.’s alums

45 Look after

49 Riddle, part 3

56 With 59-Across, DVD format

59 See 56-Across

60 Supervises

61 _ Speedwagon

62 Liquid-emptying conduit

65 Bits of land in la mer

66 Pollute

68 Target of Arrid or

Sure

69 Riddle, part 4

76 Some purple flowers

77 Drifting types

78 Home of Club Cal

Neva casino

79 Place side by side for contrast

82 Ayres of “State Fair”

83 Scold

86 _ out a living

87 ID for the IRS

88 Riddle, part 5

91 Part of MCAT

93 Fair-hiring abbr.

94 Irate, with “off”

95 “The Office” actor Wilson

99 Cure provider

103 “Como _?” (Spanish greeting)

108 End of the riddle

113 E. _ (bacterium)

114 Bagel salmon

115 1980s Pontiac

116 JVC rival

117 Bacterium that requires oxygen

119 Shady recess

121 Riddle’s answer

125 Sleep loudly

126 Turns out

127 Bring back in from another country

128 Axed down

129 Not wobbling

130 Florida city south

of Tampa Bay

DOWN

1 Put a fresh bandage on

2 Onto dry land

3 Frosts over

4 Soundness of mind

5 Enthusiasm

6 Taco sauce

7 Hagen of Broadway

8 According to

9 Chef Lagasse

10 Threaten

11 Lead-in to thermal

12 Sophia of “Firepower”

13 Doctors in training

14 “Boyfriend” singer Simpson

15 “You _ have worried”

16 According to

17 Enthusiasm

18 Markswoman Oakley

19 Surgical beam source

24 Encircle with a belt

29 Sue Grafton’s “_ for Evidence”

33 Papas’ other halves

34 Central German river

35 Deputy: Abbr.

36 Oct. clock setting

38 Plan detail

42 Choose (to)

44 Fishing pole

46 Asmara native

47 Midday snooze

48 Salon supply

49 “Understood, dude”

50 Farm tower

51 Un-, non-, pro- and con-

52 Vacation getaway

53 Shah’s land

54 Horse noise

55 Boat in Venice

56 Theda of silent films

57 Describe by drawing

58 Potentially offensive, for short

63 Disloyal sorts

64 Capital of South Dakota

66 Throw easily

67 Lhasa’s land

70 Narrow inlets

71 African vipers

72 Singer Redbone

73 Strewn, as seeds

74 Military group

75 “Yes” signals

79 Boeing plane

80 Hawaiian guitar, for short

81 Lamb nurser

83 In _ (prior to birth)

84 Start for eminent

85 _ one’s time

89 Chocolate snack cake

90 Lone Star State coll.

92 Mr. Capote, informally

93 Contest competitor

96 Filmdom’s Hitchcock

97 Ugandan despot Amin

98 Girls in family trees

100 Listening accessory for an iPod

101 Text written for commercials

102 Oahu shindig

104 Tiny pieces

105 Overly, emphatically

106 Writer Camus

107 Midday snooze

108 Really mark down

109 Singer Lena

110 “The _ Incident” (Henry Fonda film)

111 Singer with the #1 hit “Royals”

112 Bottom point

118 Humorist Bombeck

120 Metal source

122 “That _ lie!”

123 Divs. of days

124 “For” vote

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												35						36		
37																				
49	50	51	52						53	54	55					56	57	58		59
60									61							62	63			64
65									66							67		68		
69																73				74
																				75
79	80								81		82					83	84	85		
86									88	89						90				
91																				
108	109	110							111							112		113		
114																117	118			
119																				
125																				
128																				

Answer Page 4

Comix

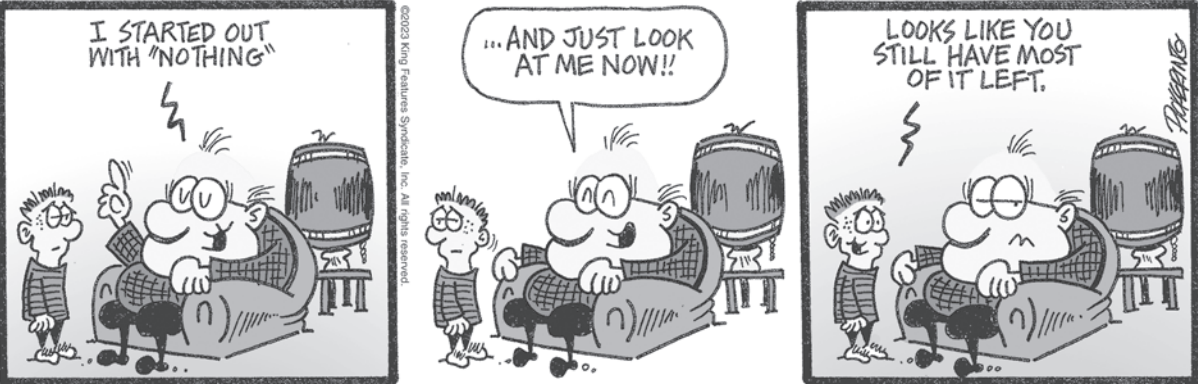
OUT ON A LIMB By Gary Kopervas



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

of Trump versus Biden never makes it to production. Despite all signs indicating that he wants to run again, Biden might pull up short because he doesn't feel up for it. For his part, Trump has a significant chance of winning the Republican nomination, yet it isn't a

gimme, and it shouldn't help him that Biden and the Democrats so obviously want to run against him, just as they wanted to run against so many of his acolytes last November. If the prospect of returning to 2020 is unappealing, look on the bright side: We never really left. Trump has never let us forget that he lost to Biden (although he prefers to refer to

it as getting the election stolen from him), while Biden has never let us forget that Trump is waiting in the wings. Despite their enmity, both men want and need each other politically, whether that's what the country is interested in or deserves, or not. Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review. (c) 2023 by King Features Synd., Inc.

Therapy doesn't resolve hot flashes nightmare

DEAR DR. ROACH: I am 78; I had a hysterectomy in 1976 due to excessive vaginal bleeding, but I still have my ovaries. I have had hot flashes since undergoing menopause – they usually last three to five minutes, and I have them about every two hours around the clock (which obviously interferes with my sleep). Over the last 28 years, I have tried Premarin (which gave me bad headaches), gabapentin, venlafaxine, Bellergal, melatonin, black cohosh, clonidine, DHEA, Pro-Gest cream (chamomile, hops and valerian root), progesterone and estrogen (together), avoiding caffeine, and eliminating dairy products. TITLE: None of these has helped. I would appreciate it if you could offer any suggestions. – L.E.



I'm sorry to hear of your difficulties. You have certainly tried about all the available therapies. There are two additional ones you might want to consider: Megestrol is a hormonal therapy that is helpful for some women, but the fact that you haven't responded to estrogens and progestins is not promising. The other is called a stellate ganglion block. You can ask your physician about it.

DEAR DR. ROACH: After a patient has had megadoses of IV and oral antibiotics, is there anything they should do to restore the balance in their body, such as eating probiotics or yogurt? Or is that all nonsense? – N.W.

The idea makes perfect sense: Antibiotics not only kill the bad bacteria that is infecting us, they also kill many of the healthy bacteria that help us with digestion and other functions. (The whole suite of healthy bacteria living in our gut is termed the "microbiome.") Why not help the gut return to normal by giving it some healthy bacteria, such as those found in yogurt with live cultures, or specific probiotics, which are just the healthy bacteria? The answer is that it has been very hard to prove that there is any benefit in doing so. In people with no symptoms after finishing an antibiotic course, there probably aren't any benefits. At least one study showed what researchers called a "very severe disturbance" in the person's microbiome and actually slowed the return to a person's normal microbiome, which they had prior to antibiotics. Worse still, very rarely, infections have been transmitted through probiotics. Symptoms after antibiotic therapy, especially diarrhea and fever, could indicate a very severe infection called Clostridioides difficile ("C. diff"), which does not respond to probiotics and usually needs powerful antibiotics to treat. Probiotics have not been found to prevent C. diff.

DEAR DR. ROACH: Why are older patients always asked, "Have you ever fallen?" It is annoying, and I wish you would stop asking. – L.M.B.

Falls in older adults are a major cause of disability. Falls can lead to fractures, and fractures lead to poor movement, sometimes to a progressive decline. A history of a fall is a major risk for future falls, so any person with a history of indoor falls should undergo a comprehensive evaluation as to why they fell and see what can be done to prevent future falls. This includes, of course, managing any chronic illness, but also correcting vision as much as possible; evaluating the home for risks such as poor lighting and area rugs; and evaluating gait and balance, with a referral to a physical therapist for exercises to improve these, and for assistive devices if necessary. Falls may also be the first indication of a significant medical or neurological condition that may benefit from treatment. I'm sorry you find it annoying, but it is an important question.

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. (c) 2023 North America Synd., Inc. All Rights Reserved.



Moore Texas by Roger Moore
February 13, 1991: Texas Legislature establishes a procedure to allow the Native American church to use peyote in their ceremonies.

CryptoQuip

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

Clue: K equals P

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

Answer Page 4

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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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Get your free PACT Act screening



by Freddy Groves

As of the first week of 2023, the Department of Veterans Affairs had screened 1 million veterans for exposure to toxins. As part of the PACT Act, signed last summer, they pulled out all the stops to get this done.

If you’re one of the million who stepped up to get your screening, well done. If you haven’t, don’t let this opportunity pass by.

The PACT Act expands benefits for veterans who were exposed to toxins from Agent Orange and other chemicals, as well as from burn pits, Camp Lejeune water, radiation and others. The damage from those can take years to surface in your health.

You might have been turned down in the past if you filed a claim, but the PACT Act opens a big new

door: You no longer have to prove that your illness was caused by toxic chemicals. It will be assumed that it was based on your service in that location. The PACT Act adds to the list of presumed medical conditions, called “presumptives.”

If you’ve never received VA health care, you can still qualify for this screening. Call them. They’re doing screenings at VA facilities across the country, and it takes about 10 minutes. It’s better to get going with the VA now rather than wait until down the road when a health issue might crop up. Get the screening; get your information on file. Benefits will be backdated to the time the bill was signed, so don’t delay.

Survivors of a veteran also might be eligible for the benefits – either a monthly payment or a one-time payment – for a surviving spouse, dependent child or dependent parents.

To learn more about the PACT Act, go to www.va.gov/resources/the-pact-

act-and-your-va-benefits. At that link you can apply online for disability compensation with Form 21-526EZ. You can also call them at 800-698-2411. Or call 800-827-1000 for help applying online. Look for Form 10-10EZ to apply for VA health care or to check the status of an application you already submitted.

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by Jo Ann Derson

• To store asparagus, trim the ends and wrap them in a few paper towels that you have dampened. Keep it in the fridge for two days max. This will keep it very fresh and tasty.

• “To stretch your food dollar – especially now that the weather is colder, and soups and stews are daily fare – substitute peas, beans and lentils for meats whenever possible. Not only will this semi-vegetarian diet keep your food dollars down, it will make you healthier and it’s a more eco-friendly diet.” – K.F. in Connecticut

• If you add dried fruit or raisins to your batter for cakes or muffins, roll them or shake them in flour first. This will prevent them from sinking down to the bottom of the pan.

• Bathroom fan reminder: When you leave your bathroom fan running excessively, you are pumping heat out of your house. Set a timer for 10 minutes maximum, and then turn it off.

• “Old pantyhose can be washed and cut up to use as stuffing for a toy. The same is true for other light materials. This can be a good way to get one more use out of something rather than putting it in the trash bin.” – P.L. in Pennsylvania

• If your bathtub has a grainy or rough texture, try soaking the bath in vinegar, either by adding a large bottle to some water and plugging it up, or by laying down a towel and soaking it in vinegar. Scrub and remove.

Send your tips to Now Here’s a Tip, 628 Virginia Drive, Orlando, FL 32803. (c) 2023 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 4

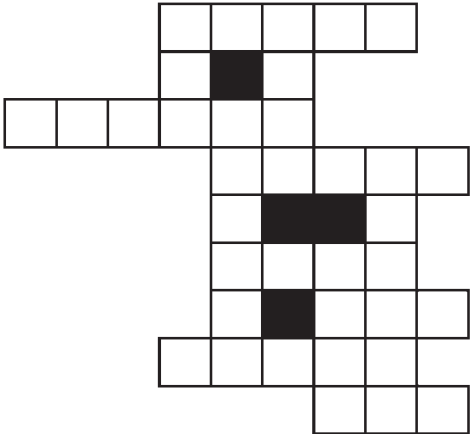
	×		+		15
+		−		×	
	+		×		18
×		×		−	
	×		−		26
15		21		15	

1 2 3 4 5 7 7 8 9

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- ♥ DSO
- SLAMRA
- DRUPO
- ♥ UPSO
- AIMKOD
- ♥ RKI
- ♥ TESA
- ♥ AKDEN
- ♥ PSA
- DRIMIA
- ♥ SEMTI
- KOAM



Answer Page 4

Unscramble these twelve letter strings to form each into an ordinary word (ex. HAGNEC becomes CHANGE). Prepare to use only ONE word from any marked (♥) letter string as each unscrambles into more than one word (ex. ♥ RATHE becomes HATER or EARTH or HEART). Fit each string’s word either across or down to knot all twelve strings together.

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