



## NEWSBRIEFS

### Horizon City warrant amnesty

The Horizon City Municipal Court is offering amnesty to people that have outstanding traffic violation warrants in the Town of Horizon City. The amnesty period is August 14-26, 2023. People are encouraged to come in voluntarily to resolve cases. It is not the Court's policy to arrest people that come in during the amnesty period to get information about their options. Individuals may still choose to dispute their case by posting a cash bond. The Court will accept cash, cashier's check, money order, debit card or major credit card from people choosing to pay a ticket(s). The Court is located at 14999 Darrington Rd. next to Town Hall. If you think you may have an arrest warrant, you can check at [www.trafficpayment.com](http://www.trafficpayment.com) or call (915) 852-1048. Payments can be in person Monday through Thursday from 7:00 a.m. to 5:45 p.m. or online until August 26. Online payments will be reduced by \$50 per warrant if paid during the amnesty period. The Horizon City Police Department will conduct a warrant roundup after the amnesty period.

— Martin Cano

### Scooter is one cute ugly dog

The uglier the dog, the more there is to love. That might make an appropriate motto for the folks behind the annual World's Ugliest Dog contest, a staple at the Sonoma-Marín fair in Petaluma, California for the past 50 years. The aim is to celebrate imperfect canines and encourage adoption of pets in need of good homes. This year's winner was Scooter, a 7-year-old Chinese crested dog born with backward hind legs belonging to Linda Celeste Elmquist of Tucson, AZ. As Ms. Elmquist put it, "despite the challenges he has faced with his deformed hind legs, Scooter has defied all odds and shown us the true meaning of resilience and determination. He has become an inspiration to countless people around the world."

— John Grimaldi

*The saying goes that life begins at forty. However, it does not say what kind of life.*

— Quips & Quotes



— Images from Internet

**A GUN IN EVERY SCHOOL** – New school safety laws mandate that Texas school districts have armed security officers at all campuses, as depicted in photo above. The officers must be commissioned peace officers from school district police departments, school resource officers from law enforcement agencies, or peace officers hired as security officers.

## School safety laws effective in September

### TEA to announce webinars for new Texas school laws

By Alfredo Vasquez  
Special to the Courier

TEXAS – To help ease parents, students, and teachers' concerns about potential school shootings at their campuses, state lawmakers recently passed legislation that requires districts to secure all of their schools with armed officers and to train more staff members to identify students who may need mental health support.

And the new school safety law, which was approved during the second special legislative session called by Governor Gregg Abbott this summer, grants the Texas Education Agency (TEA) more authority to make sure schools have effective safety plans to respond to an active shooter situation.

In addition, legislators passed another law that requires every school staff member who regularly interacts with students to take evidence-based mental health training designed to help school staff identify signs that a student may need mental health support. Furthermore, the law allows schools to use school safety funds to employ unlicensed chaplains for mental health roles.

The new requirements on school safety, set to go into effect this September, came in response to the shooting at Robb Elementary School in Uvalde last year. But despite the new measures, state lawmakers did not listen to Uvalde parents, who advocated for legislation that would have raised the minimum age to buy

an AR-style rifle from 18 to 21.

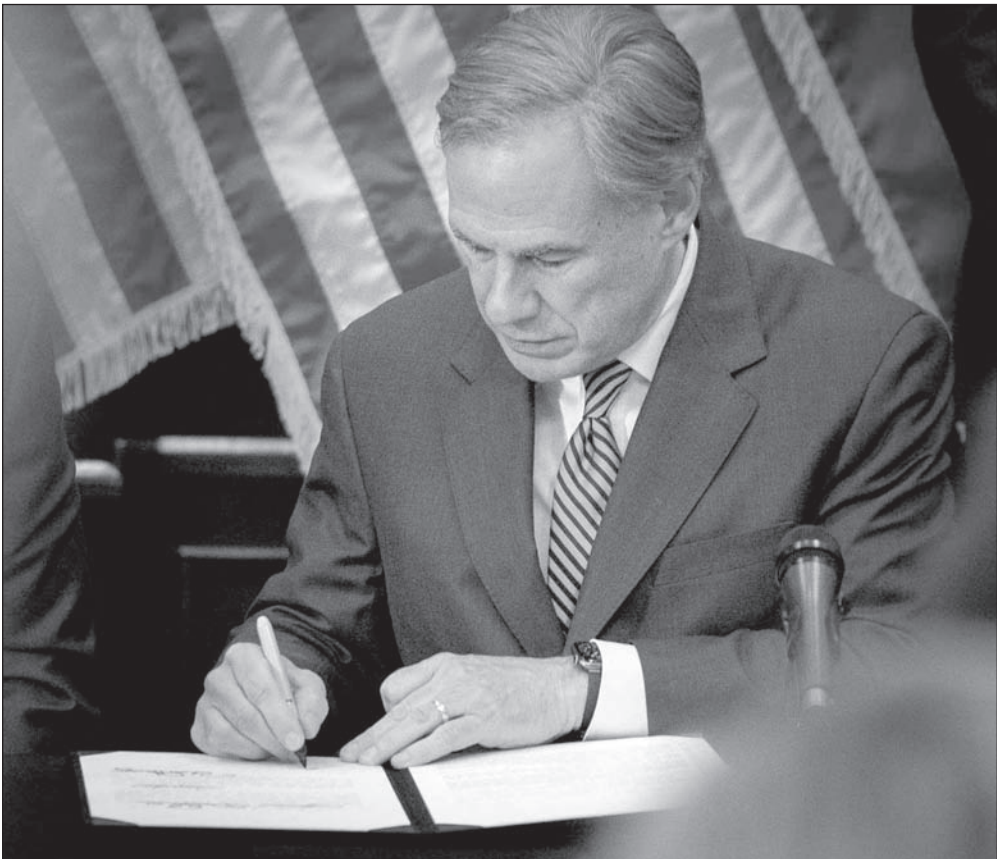
Over a year ago, a teenage gunman with an AR-15 assault rifle entered Uvalde's Robb Elementary School and killed 19 children and two teachers in what became Texas' deadliest school shooting. Seventeen people were also injured.

Nonetheless, experts acknowledged that the changes would bolster school safety. Although, they did indicate that requirements for armed officers at all campuses may be challenging

for some public schools to implement by the upcoming school year because of limited funding and staffing constraints. Subsequently, for now, the legislators chose not to punish schools for not having an armed guard at every school.

About a month after the shooting in Uvalde the governor and state leaders approved \$100 million toward school safety initiatives, including silent panic alert technology that was introduced by TEA recently to quickly

See LAWS, Page 2



**MIGHTY PEN** – Texas Governor Gregg Abbott recently signed into law a bill that provides additional funding for school safety and mental health. It creates the office of Chief of School Safety and Security that will be charged with ensuring that school districts comply with all mandated school safety standards.



# Military diversity, equity and inclusion programs targeted

House Republicans voted to end diversity, equity and inclusion programs and personnel at the Pentagon, and one wonders whether the U.S. military will ever be the same.

The provision was one of a number of anti-“woke” measures in the House-passed National Defense Authorization Act – including reversing the Pentagon’s new abortion-enabling paid travel and leave policies – that have occasioned sputtering outrage.

According to National Security Council spokesman John Kirby, there’s no way that President Joe Biden would ever sign such legislation “that would put our troops at greater risk or put our readiness at risk.”

America’s leaders used to worry that we wouldn’t have enough stopping power to defend against Soviet tanks potentially pouring through the Fulda Gap or a survivable nuclear force in the event of a nuclear first strike; now they worry servicemembers might

not be learning enough about microaggressions. Last year, Bishop Garrison, serving at the time as the senior advisor to the Secretary of Defense for human capital and diversity, equity and inclusion, said that diversity, equity and inclusion needs to be part of every decision that the military makes – it’s a “force multiplier,” and will make the military more lethal.

It’s not clear how this could possibly be true. Is the Marine operating a howitzer going to be more proficient if he’s familiar with the work of Ibram X. Kendi? Will our fighter pilots be better at aerial warfare if they think the U.S. is defined by systemic racism? Are our submariners lacking so long as they don’t know that it’s supposedly offensive to ask someone with an accent where he or she is from?

If diversity training is so crucial to a fighting force, maybe we should stop sending so many munitions

to Ukraine and ship the embattled country PowerPoint presentations on equity instead?

The U.S. military has been a model for decades of how to build a racially diverse institution that is united by common purpose and standards. That doesn’t mean it is perfect – nothing is – but it was notably diverse long before anyone thought it needed diversity, equity and inclusion training.

Thankfully, by its standards, the Pentagon doesn’t spend much on diversity, equity and inclusion. It requested just \$115 million in 2023, although that was an increase of nearly \$30 million.

This suggests that the personnel and programming around diversity, equity and inclusion can be easily



See LOWRY, Page 7

## Laws

From Page 1

alert police when there is an intruder in a school.

Abbott also appointed a chief of school safety and security, a new TEA position, to serve schools and Legislature as a security expert. And he ordered that audits be conducted to see how effective schools

are at detecting and stopping intruders.

The latest school safety law, labeled House Bill 3 (HB 3), expands and reinforces those school safety initiatives, as well as requires mental health training for more school staff and outlines more ways schools can use state funding for school safety.

According to TEA officials, HB 3 creates a new safety and

security department that will be led by Abbott’s appointed chief of school safety and security. That department will be tasked with monitoring school districts’ compliance with safety requirements, including the intruder detection audits ordered by the governor.

If a district fails to submit school safety information or address any concerns, the new

law gives the commissioner of education the power to appoint a conservator to oversee the district’s school board and superintendent and correct the issues.

However, the law also states that this corrective action would

not apply to school districts that cannot afford to have an armed officer at every school.

The new legislation will require more cooperation between TEA and the Texas School Safety Center, a research center at Texas State University that is tasked with collecting and sharing school safety information from schools and law enforcement.

TEA and the university center will work together to assess the security of school campuses at least once every four years and to set facility standards for districts at least

once every five years. The legislation also directs the TEA commissioner to develop guidelines for districts to notify parents of “violent activity”

that takes place or is investigated at a district, and directs the Texas

School Safety Center to provide schools with resources that they can make available to parents on how to safely store their firearms at home.

School districts must also provide the Texas Department of Public Safety and local emergency responders with maps of each school and let them conduct a walkthrough of school buildings.

To help defray some of the costs that school districts will incur due to the new mandates, legislators raised the amount

See LAWS, Page 4

# 8 WEEK COLLEGE

at Mission del Paso campus

## BUSY SCHEDULE?

## MORE SUCCESS IN LESS TIME!

### Take advantage of 8-Week College at the Mission del Paso campus.

Classes meet twice a week in person & the rest is online!

8-week classes can help!

- Avoid burnout
- Fewer courses to take at the same time
- Hybrid format gives you flexibility
- Earn credit in half the time



# ENROLL TODAY

GO.EPCC.EDU/8WEEKCOLLEGE

## WEST TEXAS COUNTY COURIER

SERVING ANTHONY, VINTON, CANUTILLO, EAST MONTANA, HORIZON, SOCORRO, CLINT, FARENS, SAN ELIZABIO AND TORNILLO

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

**COPYRIGHT:**  
Entire contents © 2023 Homesteader News, Inc. Individual authors retain all rights. Pictures, drawings and written material appearing in the West Texas County Courier may not be used or reproduced without written permission of Homesteader News, Inc.

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

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

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

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

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

**MAIL:**  
15344 Werling Ct.  
Horizon City, TX 79928

Phone: 852-3235

E-mail: [wtxcc@wtxcc.com](mailto:wtxcc@wtxcc.com)  
Website: [wtxcc.com](http://wtxcc.com)

**Publisher**  
Rick Shrum

**Contributors**  
Alfredo Vasquez  
Steve Escajeda

Homesteader  
Est. 1973  
News, Inc.



# Beware of scam water filtration systems

By Martha C. Koester  
Special to the Courier

EL PASO COUNTY – Having doubts about the offers to test your water as well as the salespeople urging you to buy a pricey home water filtration system?

Trust your intuition and rest assured that your water is safe to drink, El Paso Water employees said. The utility has hundreds of employees working around the clock to ensure El Paso receives the highest quality water possible.

The calls come in steadily to El Paso Water, asking if the salesperson urging them to buy pricey home water filtration systems are trustworthy or legitimate. The expensive systems are unnecessary. EPWater employees conducting home visits to customers may be identified by their official utility uniform and identification. Vehicles are usually marked with the EPWater logo as well.

“EPWater tests hundreds of water samples a month to monitor the quality of water flowing through El Paso’s taps. In 2021, lab employees

received about 40,000 samples and performed about 340,000 chemical and biological analyses,” Quality Control Chemist Miguel Venegas said.

EPWater is regulated by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, which holds utilities across the state accountable for meeting EPA Safe Drinking Water Act standards for metals, microbiological components and other substances in tap water. The utility makes every effort to meet and exceed the criteria.

“I wouldn’t let my family drink tap water if it wasn’t safe to drink,” said Richard Wilcox, Water Supply Manager. “EPWater’s International Water Quality Laboratory actively monitors water quality. We test water for metals, microbiological components, water quality compounds and organic substances. Our instrumentation can detect substances at the parts-per-trillion level.”

Dr. Kristina Mena, Dean of the El Paso

Campus of the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston School of Public Health says you need to weigh the risks. She specializes in microbial risk assessment. Mena said EPWater treatment plants already provide the most optimal public health safeguards.

“If the homeowner can’t logistically or financially properly maintain the filtration system, they could create an environment for certain types of bacteria to grow, which is a health hazard.”



– Photo courtesy EPWater  
**QUALITY CONTROL – Miguel Venegas tests one of the hundreds of samples EPWater collects each month.**

Ultimately, Wilcox and with elevated pH and encouraged consumers to be vigilant and informed when it comes to their drinking water. “Remember, some systems may result in drinking water that is stripped of minerals (915) 594-5733.

Customers with questions or concerns about water quality should call the International Water Quality Laboratory at (915) 594-5733.

## Town of Horizon City

In an effort to provide a safe, healthy and clean environment the Horizon City Code Enforcement Department asks that all residents please follow property maintenance requirements. Visit [www.horizoncity.org](http://www.horizoncity.org) for complete Ordinance requirements about the following topics and more:

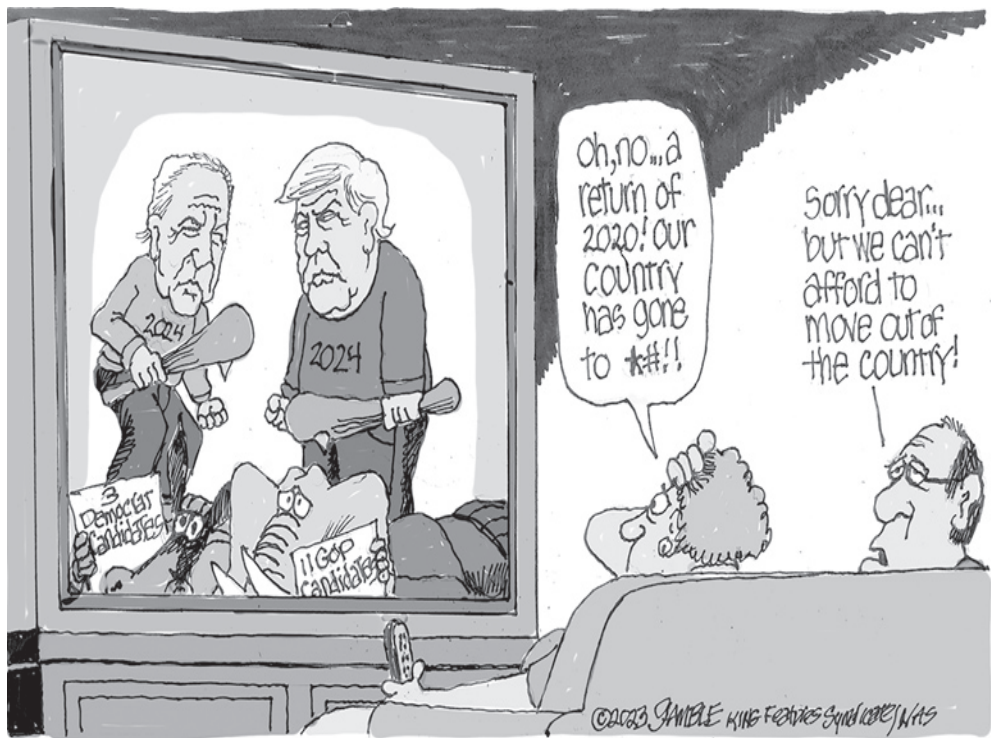
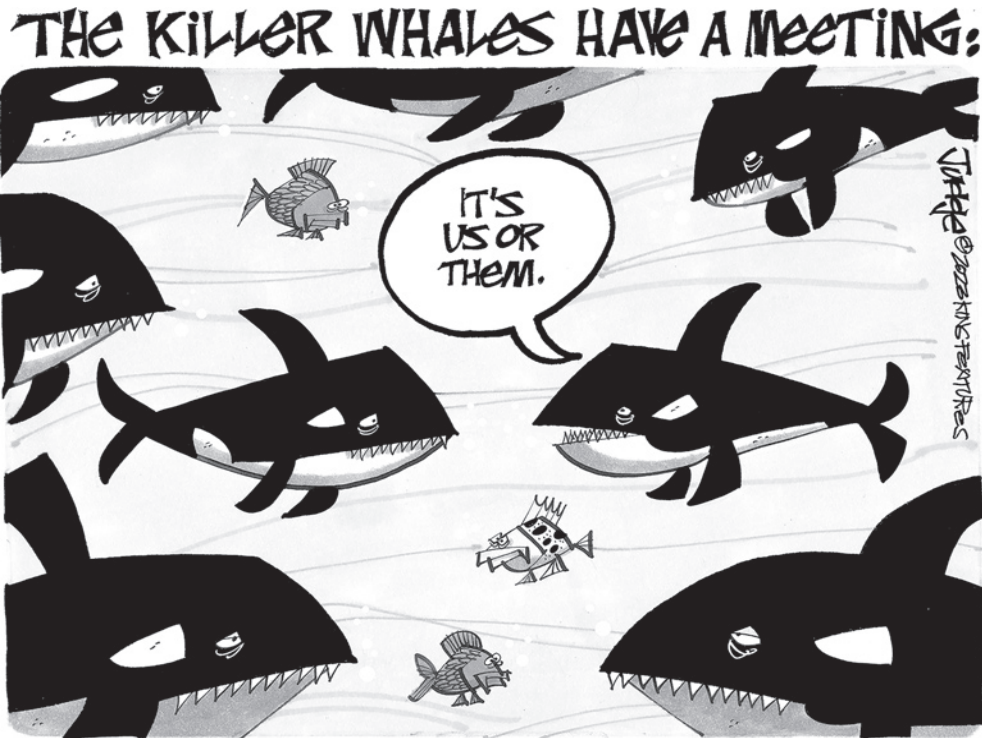
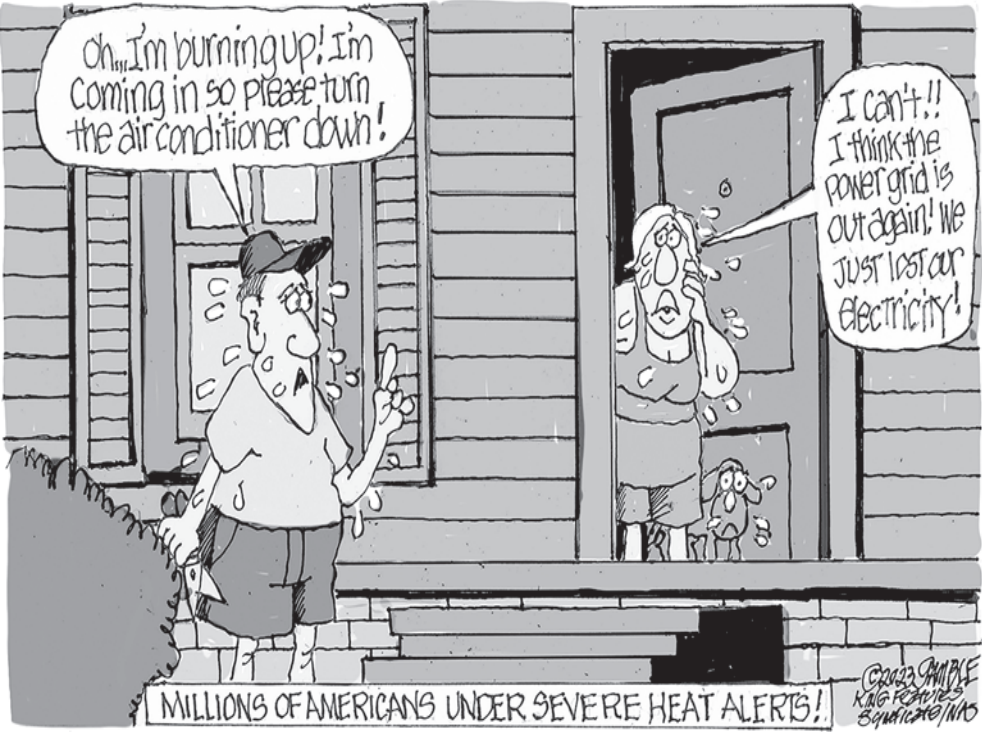
- **Yards and Trees** – keep yards, including parkways and gutters, clear of weeds and debris; trees shall be trimmed to maintain proper clearance;
- **Stagnant Water** – items such as tires shall not be stored on properties in order to prevent mosquito growth; up to 5 tires may be brought to City Hall;
- **Outdoor Storage** – do not store indoor furniture/appliances outside;
- **Illegal Dumping** – violators will be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law;
- **Vehicle Parking** – only allowed on approved parking surfaces; do not park on yards;
- **Garage Sales** – maximum of 4 per year with a permit; and
- **Signs** – illegally placed signs will be removed; contact City Hall for further clarification.

**Notice of Violation**  
Individuals or property owners must comply with a Notice of Violation.

If the property is not brought into compliance, the City may request a court order that would give the City authorization to access the property and correct the violation; all associated costs will be billed to the property owner.

**Call 915-852-1046 with any questions and/or to report violations.**

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





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

The Anthony Independent School District will hold a public meeting at 5:45 p.m., Wednesday, August 16, 2023 in the Anthony ISD Board Room, 813 Sixth Street, Anthony, Texas 79821. **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.

Maintenance Tax	\$0.736200/\$100 (Proposed rate for maintenance and operations)
School Debt Service Tax	
Approved by Local Voters	\$0.194100/\$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:

Maintenance and Operations	3.49%	Increase
Debt Service	0.37%	Decrease
Total Expenditures	3.32%	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	\$ 329,933,752	\$ 352,254,101
Total appraised value* of new property**	\$ 969,060	\$ 3,916,497
Total taxable value*** of all property	\$ 234,638,201	\$ 212,532,027
Total taxable value*** of new property**	\$ 845,397	\$ 3,841,493

\* “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\* \$2,995,000

\* 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
Last Year’s Rate	\$ 0.871600	\$ 0.114212*	\$ 0.985812	\$ 3,160	\$ 9,995
Rate to Maintain Same Level of Maintenance & Operations Revenue & Pay Debt Service	\$ 0.712100	\$ 0.197570*	\$ 0.909670	\$ 2,448	\$10,954
Proposed Rate	\$ 0.736200	\$ 0.194100*	\$ 0.930300	\$ 2,699	\$11,961

\*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	\$ 140,375	\$ 153,490
Average Taxable Value of Residences	\$ 100,375	\$ 53,940
Last Year’s Rate Versus		
Proposed Rate per \$100 Value	\$ 0.985812	\$ 0.930300
Taxes Due on Average Residence	\$ 970.27	\$ 497.62
Increase (Decrease) in Taxes		\$ (472.65)

**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 \$0.880300. This election will be automatically held if the district adopts a rate in excess of the voter-approval rate of \$0.880300.**

### 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)	\$ 3,647,332
Interest & Sinking Fund Balance(s)	\$ 0

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.

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.

The 86th Texas Legislature modified the manner in which the voter-approval tax rate is calculated to limit the rate of growth of property taxes in the State.

## Laws

From Page 2

districts receive each year for school safety expenses to \$10 per student and provided districts with an additional \$15,000 per campus

Lawmakers also allocated \$1.1 billion in the state budget for TEA to award grants to help school districts pay for the new school safety requirements, like the silent panic alerts. School districts will first be able to apply for funds to help them meet minimum safety standards. Then in a second cycle, grants will be offered to school districts so that they can meet other identified safety needs, according to TEA officials.

However, a spokesperson for the Texas Public Charter Schools Association (TPCSA) noted that charter schools are particularly worried about the changes because they can’t levy taxes to help pay for school security upgrades, unlike traditional public school districts.

“Everyone wants to do everything possible to keep students safe, but we are very

See LAWS, Page 5

6	–	3	×	9	27
+		+		–	
7	+	1	×	4	32
×		×		×	
2	×	7	+	5	19
26		28		25	

						W
	M	O	N	T	E	
	O			R	E	A
	A			O		
O	U	T	L	A	W	
		A		E		
			V	O	L	U
G	R	I	E	F		U
			T	A	N	G
				O		

## CryptoQuip Answer

Town in which the roads are completely teeming with tire-snagging depressions: The Holey City.

T	B	A		D	A	D		E	P	E	E	S		A	G	R	I	P	P	A
H	A	D	T	I	M	E		C	O	N	G	A		L	O	O	N	I	E	S
E	T	H	I	C	A	L		L	O	C	A	L		L	T	U	H	U	R	I
W	H	E	N	T	H	E	L	A	D		D	E	C	I	D	E	D			
H	E	R	B	A	L		O	I	L	S				U	N	A		C	S	T
O	D	E	A		T	O	R	E	T		I	R	E	F	R	O	M	H	E	R
			D	E	L	A				S	L	O			U	K	R	A	I	N
L	O	N	G		C	A	R	E	E	R		E	S	P	N		A	N	T	O
T	W	E	E	T			S	M	O	L	D	I	E	R			S	T	U	A
D	E	M			F	N	C	I	N	O			O	T	H	E	R			
			D	O	I	N	G		Y	A	R	N	E	M	B	R	O	I	D	E
				T	O	G	U	P				S	E	R	A	P	E		P	E
P	I	A	B	S	T			E	K	E	S	O	U	T		L	L	A	M	A
E	L	B	O			C	E	E	S		W	H	A	T		D	I	D	S	H
N	E	O	D	A	D	A		T	A	I			O	S	S	A				
C	R	Y	D	R	A	M	A	T	I	C	A	L	L				P	H	I	S
E	T	S		K	E	R			E	R	I	E		B	A	T	A	L	I	
			G	O	O	D	B	Y	E	C	R	E	W	E	L		W	O	R	L
L	O	A	L	T	O		O	V	O	I	D			T	E	A	R	O	S	E
O	R	A	L	L	A	W		D	E	L	V	E		R	A	S	S	L	E	R
C	A	P	E	A	N	N		A	L	D	E	R		E	T	H		D	E	S

## Strange BUT TRUE

By Lucie Winborne

- Remember the stunning green Versace gown worn by Jennifer Lopez at the 2000 Grammy Awards ceremony? Not only was it a sartorial feat of engineering, it inspired the creation of Google Images: The search engine added that function because so many people were looking for pictures of the outfit.
- The beloved Sesame Street characters Bert and Ernie were named for a police officer and taxi driver in Frank Capra’s holiday classic “It’s a Wonderful Life.”
- Biologists named a species of ants unique to New York City “ManhattAnts.”
- Due to a shrimp’s open circulatory system, it has no arteries, and its organs just float around in its blood.
- Spain’s national anthem, the “Marcha Real” (“Royal March”), is one of only four such anthems in the world (along with those of Bosnia-Herzegovina, Kosovo, and San Marino) to have no official lyrics.
- British military tanks are equipped to make tea.
- The original recipe for chocolate contained chili powder instead of sugar.
- The longest walking distance in the world, from Magadan in Russia to Cape Town, South Africa, is 14,000 miles. Be sure to take plenty of extra shoes!
- On the other hand, if you’re more in line for a much quicker journey, hop on the world’s shortest commercial flight, from Westray Island to Papa Westray Island in Scotland -- it’ll take all of 90 seconds.
- IKEA rugs were used for the Night’s Watch cloaks in Game of Thrones.
- Abraham Lincoln remains the only U.S. president ever to have held a patent. While his invention was registered as a device for “buoying vessels over shoals” in 1849, it was never actually used on boats or made commercially available.
- Hellmann’s, anyone? In some countries, mayonnaise is a popular pizza topping.

Thought for the Day: “Great thoughts speak only to the thoughtful mind, but great actions speak to all mankind.”

– Theodore Roosevelt

(c) 2023 King Features Synd., Inc.





# Moments in time

THE HISTORY CHANNEL

• On July 31, 1703, author Daniel Defoe (Robinson Crusoe) was placed in a pillory after being found guilty of seditious libel for publishing a politically satirical pamphlet, but instead of mud or rotten food (or even worse), he was pelted with flowers, while his friends sold copies of the pamphlet nearby.

• On Aug. 1, 1971, race car legend Richard Petty won the Dixie 500 in Atlanta, Georgia, and became the first NASCAR driver to score \$1 million in career earnings.

• On Aug. 2, 1909, the centennial year of Abraham Lincoln’s birth, the U.S. issued the Lincoln penny, designed by Victor David Brenner. It was the first widely circulating design of a U.S. president on a coin, an idea that had in the past been seen by George Washington as too reminiscent of monarchy.

• On Aug. 3, 2004, the pedestal of the Statue of Liberty reopened after being closed for safety and security improvements following the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks on New York City’s World Trade Center. The remainder of the statue stayed closed until July 4, 2009, when the observation deck in the crown was reopened to visitors chosen hourly by lottery.

• On Aug. 4, 1964, the bodies of civil rights workers Michael Schwerner, Andrew Goodman and James Chaney were discovered in a partially constructed dam near Philadelphia, Mississippi, after disappearing more than a month before. Before their bodies were found, outrage over the KKK-perpetrated murders aided passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

• On Aug. 5, 2013, the first lab-grown hamburger, made from taking cow cells and turning them into the strips of a muscle, was cooked and eaten at a news conference in London, England. Tasters remarked that while it lacked some of a conventional burger’s juiciness, the flavor and texture were fairly similar.

• On Aug. 6, 1916, watermelons proved to be a major problem for Army officials in El Paso, Texas, to the point of actually being banned. Since their thick rinds couldn’t be burned or properly disposed of, they drew a plague of flies, which military experts warned could breed disease.

(c) 2023 King Features Synd., Inc.

## Laws

From Page 4

concerned about our schools’ ability to meet all of the new requirements given the limited resources that are available,” the TPCSA official stated.

In addition to paying for officers’ salaries and benefits, school districts have to take care of equipment costs, like paying for uniforms, different types of gear, and patrol vehicles, one current school police chief pointed out.

Texas Association of School Boards (TASB) estimates that the cost of hiring one police officer for districts could range from \$80,000 to \$100,000 per year. TASB officials asserted that the predicament becomes more problematic because the pool for eligible officers is competitive amid a nationwide shortage of law enforcement job candidates.

Consequently, if a school district can’t staff all of its schools with armed officers because of financial or staffing constraints, the legislation allows for a school board to claim a “good cause exception.” Each school board will determine what these exceptions will look like locally and must outline an “alternative security standard with which the district is able to comply,” TEA officials noted.

According to the new law, alternative plans can include allowing trained staff members to be armed. A new option in the school safety law approved this year is for districts to contract with a licensed private security firm that has personnel licensed to be armed.

Districts can even arm their staff members through the state-run school marshal program, which requires 80 hours of training and certification by the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement, or by setting their own policies, known as Guardian Plans, to designate specific individuals to carry firearms.

Arming school staff could be less expensive than hiring police officers, but it still requires vetting and training under the school marshals program. The state pays for school marshal training. That training is not always widely available, so school districts may still incur travel costs for their staff to be trained.

“I think many districts will want to stay as closely aligned to the statute as possible. In part because they do want to provide the best possible safety for students, but also in part because they would not want to be out of sync with the legal requirements if there were an emergency event,” one local school administrator surmised.

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

The Fabens Independent School District will hold a public meeting at 6:00 P.M. on Wednesday, August 16, 2023 in the Central Office Board Room, 821 NE “G” Avenue Fabens, Texas 79838. **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.

<b>Maintenance Tax</b>	\$0.791000/\$100 (Proposed rate for maintenance and operations)
<b>School Debt Service Tax</b>	
<b>Approved by Local Voters</b>	\$0.332100/\$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>	3.28%	Increase
<b>Debt Service</b>	1.49%	Decrease
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	2.88%	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	\$ 360,846,195	\$ 419,162,925
Total appraised value* of new property**	\$ 1,886,650	\$ 2,089,526
Total taxable value*** of all property	\$ 252,403,898	\$ 242,888,060
Total taxable value*** of new property**	\$ 1,750,150	\$ 2,025,230

\* “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\* \$20,388,744

\* Outstanding principal.

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

	Maintenance & Operation	Interest & Sinking Fund*	Total	Local Revenue Per Student	State Revenue Per Student
<b>Last Year’s Rate</b>	\$ 1.005400	\$ 0.332100*	\$ 1.337500	\$ 1,678	\$10,922
<b>Rate to Maintain Same Level of Maintenance &amp; Operations Revenue &amp; Pay Debt Service</b>	\$ 0.774900	\$ 0.332100*	\$ 1.107000	\$ 1,385	\$11,137
<b>Proposed Rate</b>	\$ 0.791000	\$ 0.332100*	\$ 1.123100	\$ 1,446	\$11,404

\*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	\$110,689	\$128,100
Average Taxable Value of Residences	\$ 46,630	\$ 0
Last Year’s Rate Versus		
Proposed Rate per \$100 Value	\$ 1.337500	\$ 1.123100
Taxes Due on Average Residence	\$ 624.00	\$ 0
Increase (Decrease) in Taxes		\$ (624.00)

**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 \$1.123100. This election will be automatically held if the district adopts a rate in excess of the voter-approval rate of \$1.123100.**

### 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)	\$ 12,373,734
Interest & Sinking Fund Balance(s)	\$ 680,366

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.

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.

The 86th Texas Legislature modified the manner in which the voter-approval tax rate is calculated to limit the rate of growth of property taxes in the state.



# Ohtani is the stuff baseball legends are made of

By Steve Escajeda  
*Special to the Courier*

When I first heard of all the talk a few years ago about a Japanese baseball player named Shohei Ohtani and how he might be one of the best whoever played the game, I thought to myself, “oh please.” After five years, I totally disagree that he’s one of the best baseball players ever to play the game. I now think he’s undoubtedly the best. We are witnessing baseball’s GOAT and don’t even know it.

I know some of you might be thinking that I’ve just had an adult beverage or two.

But when you really sit back and assess what he’s accomplished and continues to do night-in and night-out, it becomes really clear.

In case you haven’t heard, the Los Angeles Angels pitcher/designated hitter is the first player since Babe Ruth (100 years ago) to pitch for a team and then play another regular position on the days when he’s not pitching.

The game has always been the same, either you’re a pitcher or a position player, but you’re never both.

And Ruth only did it for three years before giving up pitching entirely to focus solely on hitting.

It’s one thing to do both, but it’s quite another to do both extremely well.

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

Ohtani is one of the best pitchers in the game and he’s certainly become the most feared hitter in baseball.

To give you an example, just last week the Angels played a doubleheader with the Detroit Tigers. In the first game, Ohtani pitched all nine innings, struck out eight batters and allowed only one hit and won the game. In the second game he was the designated hitter and hit two home runs.

That’s the kind of dominance you see in little league games.

Ohtani won the Most Valuable Player award in 2021. On the mound that season he had a 9-2 record with a 3.18 earned run average and he struck out 156 batters in 130 innings.

As a hitter he hit 46 homeruns, had 100 runs batted in and showed that he also had a little bit of speed by stealing 26 bases.

No player in the history of baseball had ever had a season like that – until this year.

His season is going so well for Ohtani that it’s no longer a question of who

is going to win the American League MVP award, but by how much.

With over 50 games still to be played, as of last Sunday Ohtani had already won nine games on the mound (the major league leaders have 11 wins). His earned run average is 3.43 and he’s already matched his 2021 total in strikeouts with 156. Except this time he’s done it in just 120 innings.

As if those numbers aren’t impressive enough, he’s having an ever better season with the bat.

Ohtani leads all of professional baseball in homeruns (39), total bases (265) and slugging percentage (.683). He’s 5th in runs scored (80), 8th in hits (117) and 10th in batting average (.302).

Again, these may be the kind of stats you see in high school or video games, but no player has ever put this much distanced between himself and the second-best in the history of the sport.

Bo Jackson is the best athlete I ever saw but he never pitched in baseball and he never played defense in football.

The only thing holding Ohtani’s stardom back is his team, the Los Angeles Angels.

The sad thing is that he’s accomplished all these amazing feats in on a team nobody cares about.

The Angels haven’t had a winning season since Ohtani arrived in 2018. In fact, they haven’t had a winning season at all since 2015.

That means he has never played in a single playoff game, and that’s where the true heroes are made, like Derek Jeter and David “Big Papi” Ortiz and Mariano Rivera and John Smoltz and Albert Pujols and many others who were already all-stars but took their game to another level when it counted the most.

Unfortunately, Ohtani hasn’t gotten that chance... yet.

His Angels are doing better this season and are just three games out of a playoff spot.

This may be the year that everyone gets to witness the greatest baseball player ever on the greatest stage.

## Senior moment By Matilda Charles

### Buying a new vehicle

We all cringe the day when it becomes apparent that we need to buy a new vehicle. And it’s not only the expense that makes us leery. It’s the whole process of wondering how we’re going to be treated if we go to a dealership.

The best way to handle it is: Do your homework (a lot of it) in advance, as much as you can.

Contact your financial institution about pre-approval for a loan and their interest rates. Know how much vehicle you can buy before you end up at a dealership.

Check Kelley Blue Book online and try to determine what value your current vehicle might have. It might be worth more than you suspect because trade-ins are hot items nowadays.

Try to find something you like that’s already on the lot at a dealership that you can test drive so you’re not waiting months for delivery.

Still, if you’re certain about a particular vehicle, you might see on a dealer website that the vehicle is “in

transit” and will arrive “soon.” A deposit at the dealership can hold that vehicle for you. Warning No. 1: That deposit will likely be non-refundable. Warning No. 2: Get it in writing, including the sales price and VIN. In other words, do any haggling before you put down a deposit.

When at the dealership, do not express happy feelings for any certain vehicle or color. Remain noncommittal. Expect them to push you to accept their financing. Don’t disclose your credit score when they ask; they’re getting ready to start pushing the financing.

Don’t disclose that you’re already pre-approved for a loan elsewhere until the very end when you’ve selected a vehicle.

Don’t tell them how much you want for your trade-in; they might be ready to offer even more.

And mostly, be willing to walk away if you’re pressured too much. If you get tired, go home. There are other dealerships everywhere.

(c) 2023 King Features Synd., Inc.

## Super Crossword

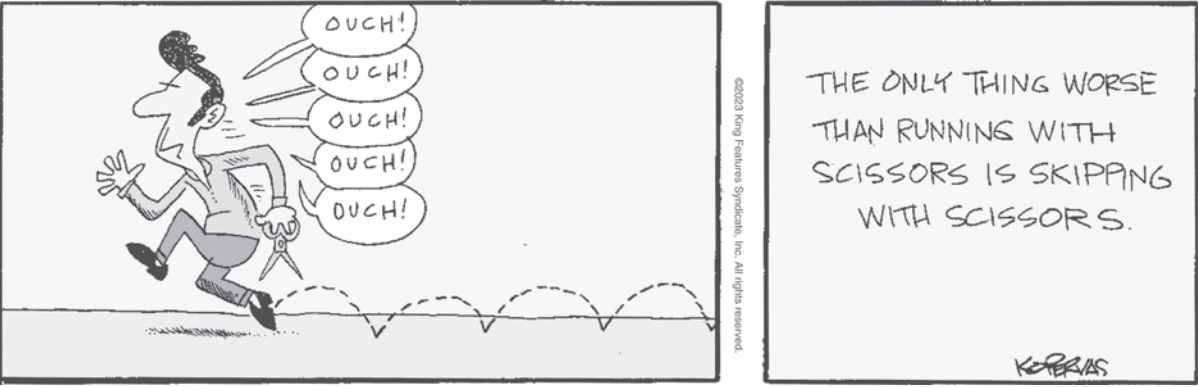
1	2	3		4	5	6		7	8	9	10	11		12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19			20					21						22						
23								24						25						
26							27						28							
29							30						31					32	33	34
35						36					37	38				39	40			
				41	42	43				44				45						
46	47	48						49	50	51		52		53		54				
55							56				57				58					
59						60	61						62	63						
	64			65	66							67	68					69	70	
				71						72								73		74
75	76	77						78	79	80					81	82	83			
84							85					86		87						
88						89			90		91			92						
93								94				95	96	97			98	99	100	101
102						103					104				105	106				
				107	108					109	110				111					
112	113	114							115						116					
117									118						119					
120									121						122				123	

STOPPING STITCHING ACROSS	58 _ Little (mouse of kiddie lit)	119 Grappler, rural-style	Rivera	74 Mao _-tung
1 "Still open," on a sched.	59 Biden's party: Abbr.	120 Gloucester's peninsula	33 Sir of Seville	75 British coins
4 Poppa	60 Los Angeles district	121 Birch-family tree	34 Former senator Lott	76 Forewarn
7 Some swords	62 Part of OTOH	122 Ordinal number suffix	36 Roadwork goop	77 Hip-hop devotees, in old slang
12 Nero's great-grandfather	64 Riddle, part 4	123 _ Plains	37 " _ 3 Lives" (1952 memoir)	79 Etta of old comics
19 Wasn't too rushed to do something	71 Dress in fine duds	DOWN	38 Ascended	80 Morales of "La Linea"
21 Dance with people in a line	72 Pedro's shawl	1 "I Can See for Miles" band	39 Declaimed	82 Fleur-de_
22 One-dollar Canadian coins	73 Caged bird, often	2 Scrubbed in a tub	40 Organic fertilizer	83 Power cord attachments
23 Of morals	75 "Blue Ribbon" beers	3 Get stuck (to)	42 Prefix for "outer"	85 Declined in status
24 In the vicinity	78 Barely makes, as a living	4 Formal rulings	43 Fill a nest, in a way	87 Lap dog
25 One of Capt. Kirk's officers	81 Andes beasts	5 " _ and the Night Visitors"	46 Inc., to a Brit	89 Bismarck or Pierre native
26 Start of a riddle	84 Nudge rudely	6 "Take this out" mark	47 Was behind financially	91 Freezing
29 Like much folk medicine	85 "Meh" grades	7 Custard-filled pastry	48 Pixar's lost clown fish	94 Wall St. manipulator
30 Lubricates	86 Riddle, part 5	8 Dog named Fifi, maybe	49 Con at large	95 Show up
31 Italian "a"	88 1960s art movement	9 Forms a bladderlike sac around	50 Kuwaiti VIP	96 German art songs
32 Winter hours in Minn.	90 _ chi	10 "My stars!"	51 Actor Moss who co-starred on "The Bold and the Beautiful" for 25 years	97 Actor Ayres
35 Ancient recital halls	92 Peak in the "Odyssey"	11 Bargain event	53 In proportion	99 "Over the Rainbow" composer Arlen
36 Riddle, part 2	93 End of the riddle	12 Just for laughs	57 Wind-deposited loam	100 "Maybe... ask me later"
41 Boxer Oscar _ Hoya	98 Letters after upsilons	13 Gradually lost light	58 Armor pieces	101 See 63-Down
44 _-mo replay	102 Sci-fi visitors	14 Libertine guy	61 Sch. in Manhattan	105 Sheep call
45 Kiev's country	103 Prefix with plunk	15 Very pixel-dense, as a TV picture	63 With 101-Down, rubber-soled canvas shoes	106 Flooded (in)
46 Riddle, part 3	104 Presque Isle's lake	16 More, to musicians	65 "How curious"	107 Windy blast
52 X Games	105 Celebrity chef Mario	17 _ capita	66 Words after "Make love"	108 Cantina pot
broadcaster	107 Riddle's answer	18 Simile center	67 Cat call	109 Jedi guru
54 Playwright Chekhov	112 Not forsaking	20 Old-style sheriff's emblem	68 Dude, slangily	110 Daredevil Knievel
55 Cartoon canary	115 Elliptical	27 Lav in a pub	69 Engine speed stats	111 French "to be"
56 Burn with no flame	116 Fragrant Chinese flower	28 Pool hall stick	70 "You betcha!"	112 Tone _ ("Wild Thing" rapper)



Comix

OUT ON A LIMB By Gary Kopervas



AMBER WAVES By Dave T. Phipps



THE SPATS By Jeff Pickering



TIGER By Bud Blake



Lowry

From Page 2

axed, and they should be.

Diversity, equity and inclusion is a scammy fad that has ballooned into a more than \$3 billion industry even though there’s no solid evidence that it works, and it may well make things worse.

As the left-of-center author and podcaster Jesse Singal writes, diversity, equity and inclusion programs often “seem geared more toward sparking a revolutionary re-understanding of race relations than solving organizations’ specific problems. And they often blame white people – or their culture – for harming people of color.”

Why does the military, of all institutions, need that?

At the very least, diversity, equity and inclusion is another administrative burden. A recent report on the fighting culture of the U.S. Navy prepared at the direction of Arkansas Sen. Tom Cotton and several Republican congressmen noted that “non-combat curricula consume Navy resources, clog inboxes, create

administrative quagmires, and monopolize precious training time.”

At worst, it is injecting a poisonous ideology into a fighting force that needs to look past racial and other divisions and needs to believe in this country’s worth.

Those who want diversity, equity and inclusion in the armed forces either can’t distinguish between the military and an elite liberal arts college, or want it to be corrupted by the same rotten ideas.

House Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries said the National Defense Authorization Act shows “that extreme MAGA Republicans are willing to even detonate the ability of our military to do what it needs to do to keep us safe.”

To the contrary, it is progressives who want the military to bend to their ideological imperatives. We aren’t going to deter or – if it comes to that – defeat an adversary like China with diversity, equality and inclusion trainers or self-flagellating nonsense about our society’s supposed irredeemable flaws.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review. (c) 2023 by King Features Synd., Inc.

Control calcium while taking thyroid medication

DEAR DR. ROACH: I had a thyroidectomy, and I take levothyroxine. Instructions for the medication state not to take it within four hours of consuming calcium. No discussion of the drug has clearly stated whether this only refers to calcium supplements or whether this also includes high-calcium foods. I usually take levothyroxine when I wake up, between 2 a.m. and 3:30 a.m., to avoid breakfast dairy products (i.e. yogurt, cheese and soy milk) and dinner foods (broccoli, leafy greens, dairy and soy). I go to bed fairly early. I eat mainly plant-based, plus dairy. I have asked some doctors and pharmacists, only to have them answer with the question: “Doesn’t that only apply to supplements?” I don’t know! That’s why I’m asking. I want my thyroid prescription to work as it’s supposed to. Can you shed light on this issue? – E.G.



Large amounts of elemental calcium do decrease the absorption of the thyroid hormone, thyroxine. If you were to take thyroxine (Synthroid and others) at the same time as you would a large calcium pill, you could expect the thyroid medicine to be about 7% to 8% less absorbed. (Iron and caffeine also decrease thyroid hormone absorption.)

A glass of cow’s milk taken at the same time will decrease thyroid hormone absorption. Soymilk has not been studied, but I would expect calcium-fortified soy milk to be similar to milk, yogurt and some high-calcium cheeses in their ability to reduce thyroxine absorption.

However, I think you may be taking things too far. One hour is probably adequate enough to separate calcium from thyroxine. Furthermore, if you are consistent in taking your medication, your dose will get adjusted to the correct level. I doubt that vegetables have any effect on absorption.

Finally, in a study of people who took thyroxine sometimes with and sometimes without their calcium, the change was not enough to get them out of the desirable range, although the levels were definitely affected. The dose of thyroid hormone has a little bit of leeway in most people, although some people (such as those with a history of thyroid cancer who are now on replacement therapy after surgery) need to have a very exact dosage. So, avoiding calcium, iron and caffeine in those cases is more critical.

DEAR DR. ROACH: I am a 72-year-old woman who, over my adult years, has developed allergies to Tylenol and all NSAIDs. Just this week, I developed a rash after taking aspirin, which was my last resort for pain. I was given a prescription for tramadol, but I really don’t want to take a narcotic for aches and pains I only have periodically. Instead, I use ice, heat, stretching and exercise, which keep me pain-free most of the time. – T.W.

I have rarely seen a person allergic to so many classes of medicines, but it can occasionally happen. It’s unfortunate, but I certainly agree with you that an opioid (the term narcotic isn’t used any more) is too powerful a medication to use lightly.

There are serious side effects that can happen with tramadol, like any other opioid, and even appropriate use of opioids can lead to opioid use disorder. Misuse of prescription drugs is a huge problem in North America, and not prescribing them in the first place is a good way to prevent problems. (People who misuse opioids commonly get them from a friend or relative.)

Nonprescription ways of treating pain seem like a very good way to treat the occasional pains we all get. Topical treatments, like menthol, camphor-based creams or even topical NSAIDs like diclofenac, may not cause allergic reactions, so you might have success by trying those.

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





**Moore Texas** by Roger Moore  
Reportedly San Antonio has a law against washing or repairing your car on Sunday.

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: Q equals R

KRDH WH DBWYB KBP QROCZ  
OQP YRLSVPKPV T KPPLWHX DWKB  
KWQP-ZHOXXWHX CPSQPZZWRHZ:  
KBP BRVPT YWKT.

Answer Page 4

©2023 King Features Synd., Inc.

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging

Answer Page 6

♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

© 2023 King Features Synd., Inc.

\$54 million in kickbacks



by Freddy Groves

Yet another scammer thought he would get away with his crimes. In a recent case, a thief was convicted for his part in a large compounded prescription drug ring, with kickbacks and bribes that included money, dinners and hunting trips.

The Anti-Kickback Statute (AKS) bans offering bribes for medical care or drugs that aren't medically necessary for patients. This applies to prescriptions that will be paid by TRICARE and Medicare (or any government program), and it was the physicians of those patients who were targeted and encouraged to use a certain pharmacy.

Theft had apparently been going on for many years, likely beginning in 2012. Over the years, the thieves submitted over \$54 million in false claims. Of that, TRICARE had paid out over

\$42 million in claims for those drugs. The compounded drugs in question had been rigged to be the most expensive possible to get back the most money in payment from TRICARE, and included drugs and pain/scar creams. The scammers would use "test billing" on fake claims to learn which claims would be paid the best.

TRICARE is the benefit program that provides coverage for retirees, spouses and families, active duty and others. In this case, the thieves submitted fake claims in over 30 states and a few foreign countries (which is likely why the scammer turned over his passport).

The original indictment was dated 2020 and included a whole alphabet of government agencies, including the FBI, Health and Human Services, Department of Defense, Department of Justice and the VA Office of Inspector General.

Meanwhile, several others were charged in the crimes, which included soliciting or receiving health care kickbacks and offering to

pay kickbacks. Additionally, they used "blanket letters of authorization" as permission to modify the prescriptions of the drugs to get the most profit.

A big thumbs-up to the Health Care Fraud Strike Force Program that spearheaded the investigation. Since 2007, they've gone after thousands of thieves that have billed more than \$24 billion in fake claims.

(c) 2023 King Features Synd., Inc.



by Jo Ann Derson

• To bring out the natural sweetness of corn on the cob, try sprinkling a little bit in the pot after the water has come to a boil.

• If the scar of a cantaloupe is rough or has a stem attached, the melon was picked too early and won't ripen as good as one with a smooth scar. Also, check the net pattern over the outside; it should be even and an overall tan-yellow color, not green or mottled.

• You can remove berry stains from your fingers with lemon juice. Got berry juice on your tablecloth? Here's E.B. of Mississippi's suggestion: "Pour a generous amount of milk on the spot, let it soak for 15 minutes or more. Then soak in cold water with soap for an hour or more. Wash, rinse and dry."

• Soak raisins in cold water before chopping so that they won't stick to your knife.

• "Use celery ribs lined up to create a base for your roast. This way, the juices move around more and the roast never sticks to the pan. I serve the celery with the roast, but you don't have to if you don't want to." – A.T. in Tennessee

• Need to chill some drinks for a party fast? Pile on the ice, of course, then add the secret weapon: water. Icy water chills drinks quicker than placing them in ice alone. The heat is transferred from the warm drinks to the water because there's total contact.

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

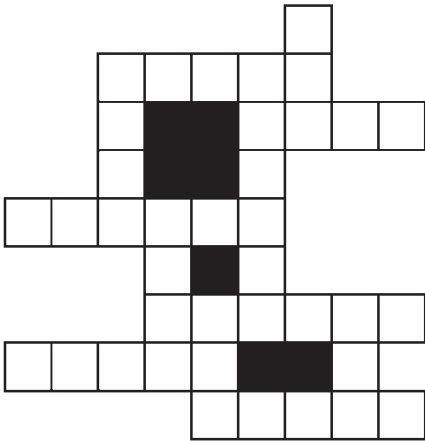
	-		x		27
+		+		-	
	+		x		32
x		x		x	
	x		+		19
26		28		25	

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 7 9

©2023 King Features Syndicate, Inc.



TOF  
VUMEOL  
GOANT  
♥OTMA  
ORLWET  
♥EEW  
♥ELVA  
FIGER  
♥MGU  
OWLTAU  
NOMET  
♥ERMA



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.

©2023 King Features Syndicate. All rights reserved.