



## NEWSBRIEFS



— Photo courtesy Tornillo ISD

Jose Silva-Smith

### Silva-Smith recognized

Expanding Pathways in Computing (EPIC) named Jose Silva-Smith as recipient of the 2023 WeTeach\_CS Change Maker Teacher Award. The award was presented at the 2023 WeTeach\_CS Summit, a convening of nearly 300 computer science education professionals across the state of Texas. This award recognizes teachers and administrators whose work to advance computer science education in their classrooms and districts has had a significant impact. “We’re proud to uplift incredible individuals who are making significant impact in their computer science programming,” said Carol Fletcher, director of the EPIC team at the Texas Advanced Computing Center (TACC) at The University of Texas at Austin. “Our mission is to broaden participation in computing for every student regardless of race, gender, or income, and our awardees are making it possible.”

— Rachel Aguilar

### Oz Glaze sale

The Oz Glaze Senior Center’s Annual Rummage and Bake Sale will take place on Saturday, September 9, 2023 from 7:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. If you are a vendor you can rent a table for \$10.00 (no

See BRIEFS, Page 2

*Grandma and grandpa were too busy scratching out a living to need books on how to stop worrying.*

— Quips & Quotes

# Elks Lodge offers local students great scholarship opportunity

*Elks Lodge #187 has been serving the El Paso region for more than 60 years*

By Alfredo Vasquez  
Special to the Courier

EL PASO COUNTY – Now is the time for high school seniors to begin applying for college scholarships. And to be successful at garnering financial aid, Anna Dixon, a 2023 Franklin High School graduate who amassed thousands of dollars in scholarship funds, advised students that they have to “Try, try, and try again.”

Dixon, a recipient of a 2023 Elks Lodge Most Valuable Student (MVS) scholarship, reminded everyone that each student has something special to offer and there are so many foundations who are looking to fund the futures of bright students. “Perfect a handful of essays and set a goal to apply to a scholarship every week. Continued effort and determination will be rewarded eventually,” Dixon asserted.

Apparently, the Franklin HS grad’s process works because in addition to the Elks foundation scholarship, she also received scholarships from the National Merit Scholarship Corporation, the El Paso Independent School District, Texas DECA, the Firstlight Federal Credit Union, Franklin PTA, and Brigham Young University’s President Nelson Scholarship. “These awards total nearly \$50,000 for my next four years of education,” she said.

Dixon, who was salutatorian in a class of 728 students, was involved in a variety of school activities including president of DECA, secretary for FHS National Honor Society (NHS), chair of the Student Council Energy and Environment group, vice president of Mu Alpha Theta, and she ran varsity cross country her freshman and sophomore years.

This fall, Dixon will start classes at Brigham Young University in Provo, UT, where she plans to study mechanical engineering. “I hope to use this degree to explore the intersection of theoretical mathematics and practical inventions of the future. I want to focus on renewable energy and technology on the micro scale,” she stated. “After earning my bachelors, I hope to obtain a masters and perhaps PhD in this field,” she added.

But before she leaves town for college, Dixon is helping the El Paso



— Photo courtesy Dixon Family

**EVERY PENNY COUNTS** – 2023 Franklin High School graduate Anna Dixon aid that she was awarded a Most Valuable Student (MVS) scholarship from the Elks scholarship foundation because she followed her high school mentors’ advice – apply for the prestigious award. El Paso’s Elks Lodge #187 encourages El Paso County high school seniors to apply for its annual MVS scholarship program. The deadline to submit an application – forms now available online – is November 13.

Elks Lodge #187 promote the 2024 MVS scholarship program, which is now accepting applications through November 13.

With more than 850,000 members and 2,000 lodges nationwide, Elks Lodge members believe in providing charitable services to help build stronger communities. “We are a generous charitable foundation that

each year gives millions in scholarships, supporting youth...” stated Teddy Martinez, El Paso Elks Lodge #187 scholarship committee chair.

Additionally, starting with the 2024 MVS program, there will no longer be an interview component or top awards selections at the Elks’

See SCHOLARSHIP, Page 2



# Mutually assured re-nomination

There's being fortunate in your enemies, and then there's having enemies who are helping you take the first step in your political comeback.

Donald Trump and his adversaries want profoundly different things in the long run – Trump wants to be back in the White House; Democrats want him in an orange jumpsuit.

Yet, in the shorter term, they both are seeking the same thing – Trump as the Republican nominee, either so he can sweep to victory (Trump's view) or be beaten again and held to account for his crimes (the Democrats' view).

The serial indictments of Trump, even if it's not their primary purpose, advance this mutual interest. With every indictment, Trump dominates media attention and rallies Republicans to his side based on charges of selective prosecution.

The routine is so predictable; it's become boring. The first indictment of a former president had some novelty, but now it feels as commonplace as a pork chop on a stick at the Iowa State Fair.

The pushback against the notion that Trump's prosecutorial pursuers know that they might as well be 'MAGA' agents is that it's too clever by half, that Trump has these legal vulnerabilities and is simply paying the price. No theories about underhanded political motivation are necessary.

It's certainly true that Trump had major exposure in the documents case, but the Alvin Bragg indictment is gossamer-thin, and we don't know yet what Special Counsel Jack Smith has next or what District Attorney Fani Willis is working with in Fulton County, Georgia.

Consider this thought experiment: If the Justice

Department and the other prosecutors knew that the indictments guaranteed a Ron DeSantis or Tim Scott nomination, would they still go through with them? If they thought they made Trump a stronger general election candidate and the favorite to beat Joe Biden, would they still pull the trigger? Or would they find some reason for forbearance when there's plenty to be said for forbearance in the first place?

It doesn't require a fine-grained understanding of Republican politics to grasp what's going on. Certainly, after the passionately pro-Trump GOP reaction to the Mar-a-Lago search, it was obvious

See LOWRY, Page 7



## Scholarship

From Page 1

annual leadership conference. Instead, every top 20 MVS scholar selectee will receive \$30,000. "This switch will better cultivate relationships amongst our scholars, create opportunities for more engaging programming, and allow for more Champions of the Order," Elks Lodge officials stated.

Including the scholarship program, The national Elks foundation spends more than \$80,000,000 every year for benevolent, educational and patriotic community-minded programs in such fields as benefitting physically handicapped children, scouting, athletic teams, veterans' works, a national "Hoop Shoot" free-throw contest involving more than 3 million children, physical and occupational therapy programs, and patriotic

presentations, according to foundation reports.

Dixon said that she learned about the Elks scholarship program through her NHS advisor and school's college advisor. She said that they encouraged her to apply for as many scholarships as possible and mentioned that the Elks scholarship program offered an especially prestigious opportunity. "I made it to the semi-finalist stage in the Elks program and was awarded

\$4,000 to use in pursuit of my undergrad degree," she said.

The MVS scholarships are designed for students who plan to pursue a four-year degree on a full-time basis (minimum of 12 semester hours), at a U.S. college or university. Interested applicants must be current high school seniors (or equivalent) and are citizens of the United States. Also, eligible applicants for the MVS scholarship do not have to be related to a member of

the Elks organization. And male and female students compete separately.

High school seniors may complete the application process online by visiting [enf.elks.org/MVS](http://enf.elks.org/MVS), the Elks' website. When filling out the forms, local area applicants are reminded to choose the El Paso Lodge 187 as their sponsoring lodge from a list of the lodges that are designated by the applicant's home address and zip code.

# 8WEEK 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

## Briefs

From Page 1

refunds) Call (915) 588-1639 for information or to rent. The center is located at 13969 Veny Webb in Horizon City.

– Patricia Moorcroft

### '48N48'

These fly boys broke the record for traversing mainland America, landing

in each of the 48 states in less than 48 hours. Delta A350 Capt. Barry Behnfeldt and Aaron Wilson with technician Thomas Twiddy took off in their 1980 PA32R Piper Saratoga and landed in each of the contiguous 48 states from Michigan to Maine. And they made what they called their "48N48" trip not in 48 hours but in a record breaking 44 hours and seven minutes.

– John Grimaldi

# WEST TEXAS COUNTY COUNIER

SERVING ANTHONY, VINTON, CANUTILLO, EAST MONTANA, HORIZON, SOCORRO, CLINT, FARMER, SAN ELIZABO 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.





Classified Ads

**LEGALS**



**PUBLIC NOTICE**

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS**

**LEGAL COUNSEL SERVICES**

Notice is hereby given that the El Paso County Housing Authority (EPCHA) is requesting

proposals for:

**General Counsel Legal Services RFP LEG07112023**

This solicitation is only available electronically in the Housing Agency Marketplace and the El Paso County Housing Authority website. To view the solicitation, please visit Housing Agency Marketplace (www.internationalprocurement.com) or El Paso County Housing

Authority (www.epcha.org). You will have the opportunity to register and view the solicitation. There is no fee associated with the use of this system. Vendors that download this solicitation via the Housing Agency Marketplace will automatically receive notification of amendments; and the date, time and place of the opening of the proposals. Any questions regarding the RFP

may be directed to Zulema Avila, (915) 764-3559 email [zavila@epcha.org](mailto:zavila@epcha.org). The closing date and time for receipt of proposals is August 25, 2023 at 12:00 P.M. MDT. Zulema Avila Finance Officer.

Sealed proposals will be received in the of Office of El Paso County Housing Authority, 650 NE G Avenue, Fabens, TX 79838, until 12 p.m. (noon) on August 25, 2023 and must

be marked in the lower lefthand corner: General Counsel Legal Services, RFP LEG07112023. The El Paso Couty Board of Commissioners reserves the right to reject any or all bids.

EPCHA is an Equal Opportunity Employer.



WTCC: 08-17-23

To Advertise Call 852-3235 Archives: [www.wtxcc.com](http://www.wtxcc.com)

El Paso County Tornillo Water Improvement District Notice of Public Hearing on Tax Rate

The EL PASO COUNTY TORNILLO WATER IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT will hold a public hearing on a proposed tax rate for the tax year 2023 on Thursday, August 31, 2023, at 6:00 p.m., at 19210 Cobb Ave., W.E. Neill Service Center Board Room, Tornillo, TX 79853. Your individual taxes may increase at a greater or lesser rate, or even decrease, depending on the tax rate that is adopted and on the change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in taxable value of all other property. The change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in the taxable value of all other property determines the distribution of the tax burden among all property owners.

Visit [Texas.gov/PropertyTaxes](http://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.

- FOR the proposal:

Eliberto Nuñez  
Loretta Aguilar  
Jorge Aguirre

Nancy Tarin  
Eusebio Villa, Jr.
- AGAINST the proposal:

NONE
- PRESENT and not voting:

NONE
- ABSENT:

Anel Lujan

The following table compares taxes on an average residence homestead in this taxing unit last year to taxes proposed on the average residence homestead this year.

	Last Year	This Year
Total tax rate (per \$100 value)	\$0.095195/\$100	\$0.088030/\$100
	Adopted	Proposed
Difference in rates per \$100 of value		\$ -0.007165
Percentage increase / decrease in rates (+/-)		-7.53%
Average appraised value	\$ 89,541	\$ 100,579
General homestead exemptions available (excluding 65 years of age or older or disabled person's exemptions)	\$ 0	\$ 0
Average residence homestead taxable value	\$ 89,541	\$ 100,579
Tax on average residence homestead	\$ 85.23	\$ 88.54
Annual increase / decrease in taxes if proposed tax rate is adopted (+/-) and percentage of increase (+/-)		+ \$ 3.31 + 3.88%

NOTICE OF VOTE ON TAX RATE

If the district adopts a combined debt service, operation and maintenance and contract tax rate that would result in the taxes on the average residence homestead increasing by more than 3.5 percent, an election must be held to determine whether to approve the operation and maintenance tax rate under Section 49.23602, Water Code.

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.



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

The Clint Independent School District will hold a public meeting at 5:30 p.m., August 29, 2023 in the Central Office Board Room, 14521 Horizon Blvd. El Paso, TX 79928. **The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the school district’s budget that will determine the tax rate that will be adopted. Public participation in the discussion is invited.**

The tax rate that is ultimately adopted at this meeting or at a separate meeting at a later date may not exceed the proposed tax rate shown below unless the district publishes a revised notice containing the same information and comparisons set out below and holds another public meeting to discuss the revised notice.

Maintenance Tax	\$0.757500/\$100 (Proposed rate for maintenance and operations)
School Debt Service Tax	
Approved by Local Voters	\$0.380000/\$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	0.34%	Decrease
Debt Service	2.08%	Decrease
Total Expenditures	0.47%	Decrease

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

	Preceeding Tax Year	Current Tax Year
Total appraised value* of all property	\$ 2,730,668,144	\$ 3,125,414,178
Total appraised value* of new property**	\$ 119,760,383	\$ 90,728,823
Total taxable value*** of all property	\$ 2,021,837,251	\$ 1,851,800,915
Total taxable value*** of new property**	\$ 103,971,611	\$ 73,685,070

\* “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\* \$139,870,635

\* 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
Last Year’s Rate	\$ 0.942900	\$ 0.380000*	\$ 1.322900	\$ 2,774	\$ 9,301
Rate to Maintain Same Level of Maintenance & Operations Revenue & Pay Debt Service	\$ 0.696700	\$ 0.380000*	\$ 1.076700	\$ 2,119	\$ 9,998
Proposed Rate	\$ 0.757500	\$ 0.380000*	\$ 1.137500	\$ 2,233	\$10,349

\*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	\$159,281	\$182,614
Average Taxable Value of Residences	\$ 84,725	\$ 40,850
Last Year’s Rate Versus		
Proposed Rate per \$100 Value	\$ 1.322900	\$ 1.137500
Taxes Due on Average Residence	\$ 1,121	\$ 465
Increase (Decrease) in Taxes		\$ (656)

**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 \$1.137500. This election will be automatically held if the district adopts a rate in excess of the voter-approval rate of \$1.137500.**

### 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)	\$ 79,617,650
Interest & Sinking Fund Balance(s)	\$ 6,259,107

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.



By Lucie Winborne

- Banging your head against a wall for one hour will burn 150 calories. However, we generally recommend something safer and less painful, such as, say, walking your dog.
  - The typewriter was first designed to print page numbers on books.
  - Snakes can sense an approaching earthquake from as far as 75 miles away and five days before it occurs.
  - “Omphalophobia” is the fear of belly buttons.
  - In England, all property of suicide victims was once confiscated and Christian burial rites were denied, while those who attempted the act but failed were charged as felons. The penalties were intended as a deterrent, due to the superstition that anyone who took their own life would wander the streets of their town and haunt their homes.
  - “Toy Story’s” character of Woody was originally intended to be a ventriloquist’s dummy.
  - When Salvatore Ferragamo was unable to purchase steel for shoe heels due to economic sanctions against Italy in the 1940s, he inadvertently created the wedge design while experimenting with Sardinian cork – gluing, trimming and fixing it to pieces of the sole.
  - Wheat isn’t just a multipurpose food source. It is also used in paper, hair conditioner and even stamps.
  - In Michigan and Connecticut, it’s illegal to kiss a woman in public on a Sunday.
  - Traffic has become so bad in major American cities that there isn’t even a definitive “rush hour” anymore.
  - The HBO comedy “Curb Your Enthusiasm” helped save a man from being falsely accused of the murder of 16-year-old Martha Puebla. Larry David’s acclaimed series was filming at Dodger Stadium the night the crime occurred, and its cameras fortunately picked up Juan Catalan, proving the truth of his alibi as well as his innocence.
- Thought for the Day: “How others treat me is their path; how I react is mine.”  
– Wayne Dyer

(c) 2023 King Features Synd., Inc.



Moments in time  
THE HISTORY CHANNEL

- On Aug. 14, 1040, Scotland’s King Duncan I was killed, not in his sleep, as Shakespeare would later portray the event in his famous play, but in a battle against his cousin and rival, Macbeth, who went on to succeed Duncan as king.
- On Aug. 15, 1914, architect Frank Lloyd Wright’s handyman, Julian Carlton, murdered Wright’s mistress, Martha Borthwick, along with her two children and four other adults, at Wright’s home and studio in Wisconsin before burning the home to the ground. Two men managed to escape, and Carlton died in prison several weeks later.
- On Aug. 16, 1962, Ringo Starr replaced Pete Best as drummer for The Beatles after the group’s manager, Brian Epstein, fired Best at the request of John Lennon, Paul McCartney and George Harrison. Best sued the rockers for defamation of character and won an out-of-court settlement.
- On Aug. 17, 1992, 57-year-old Woody Allen confessed to his affair with Soon-Yi Previn, who was notably not just 35 years his junior but the adopted daughter of his longtime partner, actress Mia Farrow. Allen and Previn married and adopted two daughters of their own.
- On Aug. 18, 1992, Boston Celtics forward Larry Bird, widely regarded as one of the greatest basketball players in history, announced his retirement from the game and took a front-office position with the team. The following year, his No. 33 jersey was retired in a sold-out ceremony at Boston Garden.
- On Aug. 19, 1791, Benjamin Banneker, a largely self-educated freeman, wrote a letter to Secretary of State Thomas Jefferson in which he criticized Jefferson’s support of slavery and requested justice for African Americans, using language from the Declaration of Independence.
- On Aug. 20, 1858, German pathologist and statesman Rudolf Virchow’s groundbreaking medical text “Cellular Pathology” was published in Berlin, establishing the basis for modern medical science. Virchow was dubbed the “Pope of Medicine” by his colleagues and is today considered the “Father of Modern Pathology” and the founder of social medicine.

(c) 2023 King Features Synd., Inc.

# San Elizario Independent School District Public Notice of Non-Discrimination

It is the policy of San Elizario Independent School District to prohibit discrimination on the, basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, or any other basis prohibited by law in the admission or access to programs, delivery of services or employment.

The San Elizaraio Independent School District is fully committed to meeting its responsibilities as specified by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended; Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972; prohibiting sex discrimination, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended; the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended; and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

Inquiries concerning your rights may be referred to Rogelio Segovia, Associate Superintendent, 1050 Chicken Ranch Rd., Mail: PO BOX 920, San Elizario, TX 79849, (915) 872-3900.

## Notificación Publica

Es a norma de conducta del Distrito escolar de San Elizario prohibir la discriminación en base de raza, color, origen nacional, sexo, edad ó deshabilidad en la admisión ó el acceso a programas, entrega de servicios ó empleo.

El distrito escolar de San Elizario esta comprometido a cumplir con las responsabilidades especificadas por el Título VI del Acta de Derechos Civiles de 1964, como enmendado, el Título IX de la Enmienda de Educación de 1972, como enmendado, que prohíbe la discriminación sexual, la Sección 504 del Acta de Rehabilitación de 1973, como enmendado, la Ley de Discriminación por Edad de 1975 como enmendado, y el Acta de Americanos con Deshabilidades.

Para información tocanta a sus derechos comuniquese con Rogelio Segovia, Superintendente Asociado, 1050 Chicken Ranch Rd., Por Correo: PO BOX 920, San Elizario, TX 79849, (915) 872-3900.

WTCC: 08-17-23

Send Your  
Newsbrief To:  
wtxcc@wtxcc.com

## CryptoQuip Answer

Why do most cartoon and picture captions seem to be insured? Because they are underwritten.

R  
RUE  
EC  
N E C T A R  
F A N C H O R  
I T B  
T R I F L E  
C I S  
S H R U B E

7 - 5 x 8 16  
+ x -  
6 ÷ 3 x 6 12  
x - x  
1 x 2 + 9 11  
13 13 18

STAYEDBACKIKEASTEW  
PAGE TURNERTEXTARNIE  
FRESHPAIRIOFEYES TIDED  
NEEACEMEDICINE  
COLORSINDESPAIROVER  
RIO DOINLET PETERS  
ALISTAIRCOOKEUPS  
MERGERMEANPRE CIAO  
PRETESTTHEBLAIRWITCH  
OATVOIDERATO  
SCIENCEFAIRPROJECTS  
ALARMREPSEMU  
SOLITAIRERINGGRAMMAR  
HEMSUTA OEUFO TOOLE  
LSD SINCLAIRLEWIS  
ASASETIRVKLMN ETA  
BADHAIRDAYS EATSCROW  
SHRAPNELAMT RHO  
CAINT WILDPRAIRIEROSE  
ARENAONOR SPACESAVER  
MANATNGOSCENRALAIR

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

The Tornillo Independent School District will hold a public meeting at 5:30 P.M. on Tuesday, August 30, 2023 in in the W.E. Neill Service Center, 19210 Cobb Avenue, Tornillo, Texas 79853. **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	\$0.668800/\$100 (Proposed rate for maintenance and operations)
School Debt Service Tax	
Approved by Local Voters	\$0.468900/\$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	4.61%	Decrease
Debt Service	0.94%	Decrease
Total Expenditures	4.27%	Decrease

## 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	\$ 128,227,880	\$ 148,076,147
Total appraised value* of new property**	\$ 2,096,956	\$ 1,308,020
Total taxable value*** of all property	\$ 98,540,497	\$ 90,704,355
Total taxable value*** of new property**	\$ 2,008,117	\$ 1,144,024

\* “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\* \$14,561,500

\* 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
Last Year’s Rate	\$ 0.899500	\$ 0.468900*	\$ 1.368400	\$ 1,601	\$12,701
Rate to Maintain Same Level of Maintenance & Operations Revenue & Pay Debt Service	\$ 0.656900	\$ 0.474500*	\$ 1.131400	\$ 1,388	\$13,134
Proposed Rate	\$ 0.668800	\$ 0.468900*	\$ 1.137700	\$ 1,552	\$12,982

\*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	\$ 89,421	\$100,434
Average Taxable Value of Residences	\$ 49,421	\$ 434
Last Year’s Rate Versus		
Proposed Rate per \$100 Value	\$ 1.368400	\$ 1.107700
Taxes Due on Average Residence	\$ 676.28	\$ 4.81
Increase (Decrease) in Taxes		\$ – 671.47

**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 \$1.161538. This election will be automatically held if the district adopts a rate in excess of the voter-approval rate of \$1.161538.**

## 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)	\$ 5,928,990
Interest & Sinking Fund Balance(s)	\$ 182,871

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 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.



# MLB needs to add forgiveness to its recent changes

**By Steve Escajeda**  
*Special to the Courier*

They say that the one constant thing in life is that eventually, things will change.

Everything that seems reasonable and proper today will one day look ridiculous in years to come. It's simple, attitudes change.

For the same token, some things that looked terrible years ago, can look totally normal today.

Let's take gambling, especially gambling in sports. Not too long ago, the idea of allowing anyone to gamble on sporting events in the United States was unimaginable.

In the world of sports – there was no greater sin.

Anyone who wanted to place a bet on a game or a match had to hide in the shadows and meet with their neighborhood bookie.

And of course, if you lost and weren't able to pay up, they would send a 6-foot-4, 280-pound fellow by the name of Rocco to either collect the money or inflict some pain.

The thing sports organizations feared the most about gambling was the potential for players or coaches to make bets on their opponents and then lose the game on purpose.

And in the past, players, coaches, owners and referees have been caught

“fixing” games or matches or races to guarantee gambling winnings.

But that was all back in the day. Today, it's perfectly legal for Americans to bet on professional and college games. Professional sports leagues and athletes are actively partnering with sportsbooks and casinos.

So, with all that being said, don't you think it's time that Major League Baseball lifts its suspension on Pete Rose?

For those youngsters out there, that have no idea who Pete Rose is: Rose is the former Cincinnati Red who is the all-time MLB leader in hits (4,256), games played (3,562), at-bats (14,053), singles (3,215). He won three World Series, three batting titles, one Most Valuable Player award, 17-time all-star, two Gold Gloves and the Rookie of the Year award.

And despite being one of the greatest players of all time, he is not in the Hall of Fame.

You see, Pete Rose was caught gambling on baseball games after his playing career was over. He was a manager at the time.

Though it was never proven that he bet on his own team to lose, MLB deemed that his actions were a threat to the “dignity of the game.”

And they acted as if this was the worst thing anyone could do to baseball.

Though it's not good, players who have beaten their wives, been arrested on weapons or drug charges, been charged with assault or any other kind of financial schemes have been treated much better than Rose has.

Because he was caught gambling on baseball games, Rose was banned from professional baseball in every way, and continues to be.

Really? Guys like Barry Bonds, Mark McGwire, Alex Rodriguez, Sammy Sosa and Jose Canseco never got banned from baseball for cheating during the steroid era.

Talk about ruining the integrity of the game.

It's funny, steroids are still illegal – gambling is not.

Another thing that's not illegal anymore in many states is marijuana.

At one time gay people couldn't marry, women couldn't vote, black

people couldn't own property, cocaine and heroin used to be legal, smoking used to be allowed everywhere, children would go to work instead of school.

I could go on forever but my point is that things change, times change, perspectives change.

Because of the changes in attitude about gambling, I think 34 years of being banned from baseball and the Hall of Fame is enough of a punishment.

Do I believe Rose will ever be allowed into the Hall of Fame? I do.

But I also believe that men with cruel hearts will do it after he dies so that he won't be able to witness it or celebrate it with his family.

Did Rose break baseball's law? He did. But there are also convicted murderers who have served their time and are now free to walk the streets.

It's about time Rose was free to take his place and walk among his Hall of Fame brothers.

Nobody ever played the game harder than he did, or respected it more while playing, maybe that's why his nickname was "Charlie Hustle."

## Senior moment By Matilda Charles

# Bad air summer

## How is the air where you live?

At this writing, a large part of the country is under summer heat alerts with temperatures soaring above normal numbers and breaking long-standing records. Combine that with the wildfire smoke coming down from Canada, and parts of the country are hit with a double whammy when it comes to breathable air. Nearly 100 million people are under air quality alerts.

We seniors need to be very cautious about both extreme heat and the wildfire smoke. Even short-term exposure can do physical damage. Here are a few smoke and heat things I've learned already this summer:

- Keep the doors and windows closed and turn on the air conditioning. Even if yours is a single window unit, it will help cool and clean the air. If you're blessed with central air, invest in several new filters and put a new one

in every few weeks until the wildfires are gone. Look for HEPA filters to capture the microscopic particles (known as PM2.5) in the air. Ask for help, if necessary, to determine if your HVAC unit has a fresh air intake (which can bring smoke in) or if it recirculates the indoor air.

- Sip on extra water, even if you are not thirsty. By the time you feel thirst, you're already slightly dehydrated. Consult your doctor if you've been told to limit your liquids.
- Close the curtains and drapes against the sun.
- If there's just no getting away from the heat where you live, go to the library, a big-box store or any cooling station.
- Know your area's AQI, or air quality index number, if you have to go out. Look at AirNow ([airnow.gov](http://airnow.gov)) and put in your ZIP code. Watch the PM2.5 number as well as ozone levels.

(c) 2023 King Features Synd., Inc.

# Super Crossword

COOLING TREND

ACROSS

1 Didn't move any closer

11 Swedish retail giant

15 Frets

20 Book you can't stop reading

21 Pupil's book

22 Palmer of golf, to fans

23 Additional person called on to peruse something

25 Ebbd and flowed, as water

26 Premaritally named

27 Rarity in golf

28 Curative stuff

30 Fills with a crayon, say

35 Feel hopeless about

38 \_ Grande

39 Bring to ruin

42 Authorize to

43 Tony winner

Bernadette

44 Longtime

"Masterpiece Theatre" host

49 Increases

50 Corporation

combination

51 Malicious

52 Start for historic

53 "I'm outie!"

57 Practice exam, maybe

59 Legendary title

figure of a 1999 horror film

63 Granola bit

65 Invalidate

66 Bards' Muse

67 Some schoolkids' judged constructions

75 Startle

76 D.C. VIPs

77 Outback bird

78 Bit of jewelry with a single diamond

83 English class concerning

89 Skirt borders

90 Hagen of the stage

91 Egg, in Paris

93 "Lawrence of Arabia" star

94 '60s hallucinogen

95 "Main Street" novelist

98 How silverware is often sold

102 Hip-hop producer

Gotti

103 String after J

104 O'Hare abbr.

105 Times of trouble with tresses

108 Has a helping of humble pie

112 Explosion

fragments

113 Qty.

116 Pi-sigma link

117 "I \_ Say No" (song from "Oklahoma!")

118 State flower of Iowa

126 Sporting site

127 \_ about (circa)

128 Foldaway bed or table, e.g.

129 \_arms (old soldier)

130 Gps. such as Oxfam and CARE

131 Ducted cooling system (and what nine answers in this puzzle have)

DOWN

1 UV ray-blocking stat

2 Sticky sealant

3 Cake candle count

4 Like some simple questions

5 Old anesthetic

6 Swindles

7 Lingerie top

8 Darth Vader, as a boy

9 "Juno" actor

Michael

10 McDonald's

honcho Ray

11 Suffix with Gotham

12 Essential

13 Off the hook

14 Really baffled

15 Lampoons

16 Ribbed cloth for dresses

17 Option for bitter greens

18 Frankfurter

19 Jewish feasts

24 Nourished

29 Ladle

30 Runner's pain

31 OPEC vessel

32 Tours' river

33 Dictator Amin

34 Average

36 Wapiti

37 Witness

40 "Rhyme Pays" rapper

41 Ark "captain"

45 Mil. bigwig

46 Masters peg

47 Fiery felony

48 A unified goal for the future

49 Mentalist Geller

52 Gl's chaplain

53 Mag. sales stat

54 "Leave \_ that"

55 Doesn't delay

56 "Well now!"

58 Tic-toe link

60 Div. of NYC

61 Cup's edge

62 Minuscule

64 \_ cotta

67 Gin flavorer

68 Not flustered

69 Camera part

70 CPR teacher, maybe

71 Service cost

72 Rainy mo.

73 "U can't b serious!"

74 Hearer of court evidence

75 Fire residue

79 Texas capital

80 "\_ be a pleasure"

81 Guitar part

82 Aquatic bird

84 Ocean off Fla.

85 A Stogee

86 It cuts grass

87 Samuel of justice

88 Cut again, as lumber

92 Star status

94 Pounced on

95 Lady of Sp.

96 Climbing vine

97 \_ funk (sad)

98 1978-80 FBI sting

99 African desert

100 Best Actor winner

Brody

101 "Pacific Blue" actress

Moakler

102 Like engines in neutral

106 Took back, as one's title

107 Sticky stuff

109 Hearer of court evidence

110 Tom Jones' "\_ Lady"

111 Reef material

114 Richie's mom, to Fonzie

115 Sticky stuff

119 John, across the pond

120 OR workers

121 John, across the pond

122 Sales check: Abbr.

123 Female cells

124 Six, in Italy

125 Go astray

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

124

125

126

127

128

129

130

131

Answer Page 4



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

that targeting Trump would benefit him. If there were any doubt, the Trump surge in the polls after the Bragg indictment should have removed it.

Still, Trump’s pursuers have persisted.

For Trump, the Leninist logic of the worse, the better applies – the more he’s indicted and the weaker the cases, the more Republicans are inclined to believe he’s the victim of a politicized justice system.

For Trump’s adversaries, meanwhile, quantity trumps quality; everyone gets a piece of the action, and it increases the odds that a trial or two happens before the November 2024 election.

If the indictments boost Trump in the primaries, they hurt him in the general, and trials and guilty verdicts would presumably wound him even more.

Again, if Trump’s prosecutors believed that rushing to trial would somehow boost Trump against Biden, it’s hard to see them being so desperate to get him in courtrooms as soon as

possible.

Ofcourse, Trump doesn’t like getting indicted more than anyone else. His denunciations of “these vicious Communists, Marxists, Fascists, and Radical Left Democrats,” “THESE LUNATICS AND THUGS” who are out to get him are wholly sincere. But without the vicious Communists et al., he might well be 10 points lower in the polls, and anything that makes the primary race look more competitive is bad for him.

The legal handiwork of the “LUNATICS AND THUGS” is one of the former president’s most valuable political assets.

Trump and his enemies may despise one other, but they are working toward the same immediate outcome, i.e., a high-stakes, hate-filled, Third World-ish Trump-Biden rematch with the possibility of jail for one of the contenders if he loses and intense prosecutorial scrutiny for the other if he comes up short.

And everything so far indicates that they’re going to get it.

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

Heart attacks occurs after treatment for infections

DEAR DR. ROACH: My mom had a throat and palate infection that was treated in 2017, and about two weeks later, she had a heart attack. In 2023, she had pneumonia, and was briefly hospitalized and treated, but again about two weeks later, she had another heart attack. We asked her cardiologist if there is a relationship between either the infections themselves or the treatment of infections and heart attacks, but he was not aware of any. This seems too unlikely to be a coincidence. What is your experience on this? – A.C.S.



A heart attack happens when the demand for blood from the heart is greater than the ability of the blood vessels can provide. In practice, this almost always means that there are blockages in the blood vessels. However, an increase in the workload of the heart, such as strenuous exercise or an infection (fever tends to increase heart rate, and the blood flow from the heart usually increases with serious infection) can be what leads a person to have a heart attack. It’s possible that this is what happened with your mom. The timing of two weeks after the event is longer than expected, but it’s possible.

Whether from chronic infection or inflammatory conditions like rheumatoid arthritis, inflammation in the blood increases the risk of heart disease in the long term, so if there is a connection, and it’s not just coincidental, that would be the most likely cause.

DEAR DR. ROACH: You wrote about the dangers of testosterone replacement in men over 70 in your column a few months ago. Could you please describe the dangers of this again? My husband is 73 and injects testosterone every 10 days or so. He’s not feeling too well overall, but he doesn’t know why. He’s been to the cardiologist, but the studies came back fine. He says he feels nerves in his stomach and a bit of shortness of breath. He’s also tired and without much energy. – E.D.

There are clear dangers with excess testosterone use, especially in older men. Some men use very high doses of testosterone or other androgens for muscle building, and this can cause heart damage, blood clots and stroke. I strongly do not recommend doing this, but it is generally used illicitly.

By contrast, for men in whom testosterone therapy is given appropriately, the dangers are quite small, and in most men, the benefits outweigh the risks. Men should have a clear reason to receive testosterone therapy, such as having low bone density, low libido, loss of body hair, or development of breast tissue, in addition to repeatedly low testosterone levels (including a level taken between 8 a.m. and 10 a.m. when testosterone levels are highest). In these men, the goal is to stabilize the testosterone level, and the risks of the catastrophic outcomes listed above appear to be very small, or even zero. Testosterone levels should also be measured during therapy.

I can’t speculate on the cause behind your husband’s symptoms. Nonspecific symptoms, such as low energy, can be caused by low testosterone, but unless there are more specific symptoms of low testosterone, I generally do not recommend testosterone replacement.

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.

To Advertise Call 852-3235  
Archives: [www.wtxcc.com](http://www.wtxcc.com)





**Moore Texas** by Roger MOORE  
September 15, 2000: Gov. Bush appoints the TEXAS Quarter Dollar Design Advisory Committee.

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: G equals M

RLU OI GIDA XYHAIIC YCO  
BSXAMHN XYBASICD DNNG AI  
JN SCDMHNO? JNXYMDN ALNU  
YHN MCONHRHSAANC.

Answer Page 4

©2023 King Features Synd., Inc.

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

© 2023 King Features Synd., Inc.

Funds for homeless veteran services



by Freddy Groves

The Department of Veterans Affairs recently handed out over \$11 million to 79 organizations to cover legal services for veterans who are either homeless or about to be homeless.

The Legal Services for Veterans Grant Program, a component of the Veterans Justice Program, handles a wide variety of legal matters, and these funds will go a long way to keep veterans from being homeless. In a given year, at least 10% of funds must go to legal services for women veterans.

Whether it's specific housing issues (dealing with landlords in eviction disputes, for example), criminal defense, family law (such as haggling over custody or child support) or discharge upgrade, any of those issues (and others) can keep a veteran from acquiring and keeping stable housing. The stats for one year (2022) show

just how serious the housing problems can be: The VA put 40,000 homeless veterans into housing, kept 17,000 veterans from becoming homeless and helped 191,000 veterans avoid foreclosure and keep their homes.

An added bonus is that many of those legal service providers have set up shop in VA facilities doing pro bono (free) work on all types of legal matters. Check [www.va.gov/HOMELESS/lsv/MLP\\_LC\\_List.pdf](http://www.va.gov/HOMELESS/lsv/MLP_LC_List.pdf) for the list of the facilities and what services each provides. If you find services at a VA facility near you, read the fine print. Some have gone to remote appointments only, most have only certain days of the month that they're open, and each has a list of which services you can get. While one might list criminal cases and IRS disputes, another only lists civil matters or bankruptcy and consumer debt. Some of them note that they prioritize homelessness. Still, each has a contact person noted. While most are legal aid organizations, a few are run

as clinical programs for law schools.

To see a list of the newest grantees who've received grant funds for homeless veterans or veterans at risk for homelessness, go to [www.va.gov/HOMELESS/lsv/LSV-H\\_Award\\_list.pdf](http://www.va.gov/HOMELESS/lsv/LSV-H_Award_list.pdf).

Rule of thumb: If you suspect you're about to become homeless, don't delay getting help.

(c) 2023 King Features Synd., Inc.



• My father taught me all I know about working the grill – even though it was his job! One tip that's served me best is this simple beauty: Let the meat sear before you move it. Give it a chance to cook on one side well enough that it lifts away from the grill. If it's sticking, you probably need to leave it alone! Happy grilling.

• "Kitchen stores sell grill brushes, but they can be expensive. I use a good-quality paintbrush from the hardware store for grilling only, and replace it a couple of times throughout grilling season. I find it to be a better brush, and less expensive to boot!" – B.F. in Illinois

• Your grilled meats will be more moist and taste better if you let them rest for a few minutes after you take them off the grill. It allows the meat to redistribute the natural juices. If you are worried about temperature, just cover the meat with foil.

• "It's best to clean a grill just after cooking, but if you weren't able to, that's OK. When faced with a messy grill surface, just preheat, then clean. The heat will burn off drippings and make it easier to scrub." – R.T. in Florida

• Use plain household vinegar to kill grass that grows in the cracks of walkways and driveways.

• You should never use a cooking spray on your grill. Instead, soak a paper towel in oil and use your tongs to oil the grill surface.

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		16
+		x		-	
	÷		x		12
x		-		x	
	x		+		11
13		13		18	

1 2 3 5 6 6 7 8 9

©2023 King Features Syndicate, Inc.



BFI

♥ RENACT

♥ HBUSR

TAIN

♥ HARNOC

URE

♥ THIC

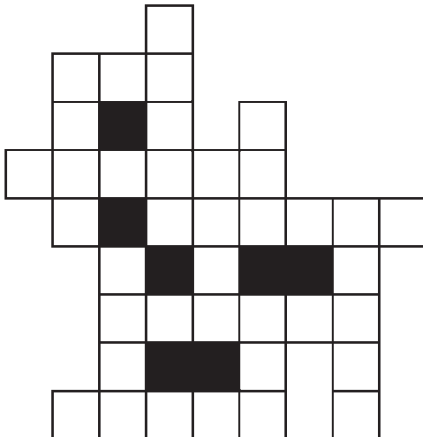
EBOES

♥ RCA

♥ RELFIT

♥ ARTEC

♥ EFER



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.