

## NEWSBRIEFS

### Wanted

A shooting in Socorro, Texas leaves four people injured. Crime Stoppers of El Paso and the Socorro Police Department asks for help finding those involved in this shooting. On Wednesday, September, 6, 2023 at 6:08 p.m., officers from the Socorro Police Department responded to calls of shots being fired in the area of the Jardin de Flores Park. Socorro Police found that the shooting had taken place at the 200 block of Scabiosa Dr., which is by the northern part of the park. The responding officers learned that four males had been shot. All four went to area hospitals with what was classified as non-life-threatening injuries. Investigators learned from witnesses that vehicles fled the area after the shooting. At this time the investigation continues and no additional details are available for public release. The Socorro Police Department urges anyone in the community with information on this shooting to come forward. Anyone with any information on those involved in this shooting should call Crime Stoppers of El Paso at 566-8477 (TIPS) or online: [www.crimestoppersofelpaso.org](http://www.crimestoppersofelpaso.org). You will remain anonymous, and if your tip leads to an arrest, you may qualify for a cash reward.

— Sgt. Javier Sambrano

### School funding

With low-income school districts underfunded by around \$6,700 per pupil, WalletHub has released its report on the *Most and Least Equitable School Districts in Texas*. To find out where school funding is distributed most fairly, WalletHub scored the equitability of each school district in Texas based on two metrics: average household income and expenditures for public elementary and secondary schools per pupil. Alongside this report, WalletHub also released rankings for the *States with the Most and Least Equitable School Districts*. Texas ranked as the 27th (1-best) equitable state overall. There were 1,013 districts in the Texas report. For being equitable, districts in El

See BRIEFS, Page 4

*The strenght that comes from confidence can be quickly lost in conceit.*

— Quips & Quotes



— Photo courtesy El Paso County

**RAISES ALL AROUND** – El Paso County Commissioners Court, from left, Iliana Holguin, Precinct 3; Carlos Leon, Precinct 2; Ricardo Samaniego, County Judge; David Stout, Precinct 3; Sergio Coronado, Precinct 4.

## El Paso County commissioners court votes to increase tax rate

*Commissioners' pay raises are part of the budget*

By Alfredo Vasquez  
Special to the Courier

EL PASO COUNTY – In a four to one vote, El Paso County Commissioners Court recently approved two county tax rates that will cost the average homeowner about \$138 more a year in property taxes. The new tax rate – that includes pay raises for county employees, the county judge and commissioners – will go into effect October 1.

The county judge's annual salary will increase from \$131,481 to \$152,725. The commissioners' salaries will jump from about \$114,902 to \$133,467 a year.

El Paso County Judge Ricardo Samaniego said that the tax increase will not only fund the court's pay raises but also many of the county's growing needs including street and stormwater infrastructure that cannot be put off any longer.

Along with voting for the county's tax rate, commissioners court also approved an increase to the tax rate for the El Paso Hospital District, which includes University Medical Center (UMC) of El Paso. Hospital officials stated that they need additional funds for salaries, employee benefits, and operational expenses. The hospital district includes UMC, El Paso Children's Hospital, outpatient

clinics, primary care centers, and other affiliated programs.

The county's new tax rate was set at 45.9 cents, and it is expected to cost the average homeowner of a home valued at \$187,000 about \$100 more a year. UMC's tax rate was set at 23.6 cents per \$100 of property value, a \$38 increase per year to average homeowners.

The county adopted 'the voter approval rate' option, which is the highest amount commissioners court could approve without going to the voters. This tax rate will generate the revenue needed to fund the county's general fund of about \$454.7 million for the 2024 fiscal year, according to the county judge.

Commissioner Ilianna Holguin voted against both tax rates, as she tried to get commissioners to vote on the 'no new revenue rate' option. Commissioners court has three options for setting a tax rate; it can adopt (a) the current tax rate, (b) the no-new revenue rate, or (c) the proposed voter

approval rate.

"I've never felt comfortable giving myself a raise, and I am not going to do it now. Unfortunately, I seem to be the only one," Holguin stated after a recent meeting.

The new rate is expected to create \$34.4 million in additional revenue, and the boost in funds is already earmarked. Plans are to use \$14.7 million toward capital projects; \$2.7 million toward new positions; \$3.5 million toward step increases; and \$13 million for the fund balance, according to county officials.

Reports indicate that the major budget items that are fueling the increases are: the law enforcement collective bargaining agreement, which accounts for \$5.4 million of the budget; the adjustment to employee minimum wage comes at a cost of \$7.9 million; and the Wal-Mart shooter's trial

See TAX RATE, Page 4

### New salaries

El Paso County Commissioners Court recently approved pay raises for themselves and other county elected officials. Most county employees are getting a 4.75 percent wage increase. The county judge and commissioners are getting a 16 percent increase. Below are salaries for key county positions based on El Paso County reports.

Position	Current Salary	New Salary
County Judge	\$131,481	\$152,725
County Commissioners	\$114,902	\$133,467
County Tax Assessor	\$127,414	\$133,467
County Clerk	\$127,414	\$133,467
County Attorney	\$216,262	\$226,534
District Clerk	\$127,414	\$133,467
County Sheriff	\$190,226	\$199,262
Justices of the Peace	\$109,347	\$114,541
Constables	\$102,275	\$107,133



# GOP race is not quite as over as it looks

If it “got late early” in the old majestic Yankee Stadium with its long shadows, as the famous Yogi Berra quote had it, it’s gotten late before about the fourth inning in the Republican presidential race.

In 2016, Donald Trump loved to pump out the results of unreliable online polls that showed him trouncing his competitors by ridiculous margins.

Now, he doesn’t need to bother with the shoddy polls; he can do the same thing with blue-chip media polls. The new national CBS poll has him leading second-place Ron DeSantis by 46 points, 62-16. The latest Fox News poll had a more modest 37-point Trump lead. (Vivek Ramaswamy is third in both surveys, at 7% and 11% respectively.)

It’s sometimes said that Trump is the de facto incumbent in the race, and indeed these are the kind

of numbers you’d expect of a sitting president who is sweeping marginal opponents to the side as he secures his party’s renomination.

The top-line results aren’t that different from the primacy race – such as it is – on the Democratic side. The Fox poll has Joe Biden beating Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. 64 to 17, with Marianne Williamson at 9.

Is there a mercy rule in presidential politics?

Trump could be forgiven for looking at his opponents and seeing: a highly touted governor whose campaign has steadily sunk in national polls as he’s shed staff and fired a campaign manager; a young, smooth-talking entrepreneur who isn’t a threat to him but is helpfully soaking up some share of the non-Trump vote; a sunny senator who has

made some gains but certainly hasn’t broken out; a former vice president who is hated by MAGA (for all the wrong reasons); a former governor who is a gifted political pugilist but is unpopular in the party; and a bunch of others whose names he doesn’t necessarily need to know.

What’s not to like?

Even if one of the candidates surges and sweeps up all the current non-Trump vote, there’s simply not enough of it to get to 50 right now. No wonder Trump is talking as if the race is over, the Trump

See LOWRY, Page 7



Food for thought

By Dr. Glenn Mollette

## Mitch McConnell: Does he really feel like working?

Is Senator Mitch McConnell too old to serve in the United States Senate? The same question is being asked of California U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein, President Joe Biden, and even former President Donald Trump. How old is too old?

Some people are old and sickly by the time they are fifty or even younger. Some people are robust and very active at age 80. McConnell is 81, Feinstein is 90, President Biden is 80 and Trump is 77.

My grandfather Hinkle ran a country grocery store until two weeks before he died at age 83. My grandmother was almost 80 before she finally

closed the doors to the store. They were still working but in their last couple of years they seemed to be just holding on. My dad was enjoying fishing and hunting and his mind was clear up until his death at 85. However at age 55 he knew it was time to retire from his 37 years of underground coal mining. There is wisdom in knowing when to make life transitions.

We all know there comes a time to retire. None of us want anyone else forcing that on us but commonsense is imperative. A person is not allowed to serve as President of the United States until they are 35 years old. We need to

have a number on the other end as well – perhaps 80 or 82. If someone is elected at 81 they still have four years putting them at 85 when they have to step aside.

I’ve worked with a number of 75 to 85 year old people. They are overall good workers, dependable and mean well but the aging process overcomes us all eventually.

It’s about over for McConnell. He needs to finish his term and retire gracefully. This means he has two more years on his current term. Reelection for him is not until 2026. He can accomplish a lot even yet if his health holds up. President Biden should

try to get through this term and retire. Rehoboth Beach is calling him and he needs to enjoy his remaining years in Delaware. If Trump were to be elected then he definitely needs to retire at the end of his four years.

Most Americans formulate their opinion about this based on their party affiliation. Democrats and Republicans want to stand by their man or woman. We can hardly blame McConnell for wanting to stay on. He could be once again the majority leader in the Senate. That’s a hard position to pass over for a rocking chair in Louisville.

or woman should be limited to 12 years as should a U.S. Senator. We limit the President to eight why should these other politicians camp out forever in the Capitol? They have made it America’s premier nursing home facility.

This is not to say that we can’t all be useful when we hit our eighties. There are certainly millions of Americans still trying to work jobs in their golden years. Sadly, I don’t believe many of them really feel like it or are able to be working at such a late stage of life.

Feinstein should have quit several years ago. She definitely shows all the signs of not being well enough to do her job.

The problem is we let these people serve too many years in office. A U.S. Congressman

Glenn Mollette is a graduate of numerous schools including Georgetown College, Southern and Lexington Seminaries in Kentucky. He is the author of “Uncommon Sense” and 12 other books. His column is published weekly in over 600 publications in all 50 states. Learn more at [www.glennmollette.com](http://www.glennmollette.com) or [www.facebook.com/glennmollette](https://www.facebook.com/glennmollette).

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San Eli schools receive Purple Star Designation

By Jeannie Meza-Chavez  
Special to the Courier

SAN ELIZARIO – All San Elizario Independent School District (SEISD) schools are Purple Star Designated. For the second year, district schools have carried the standard to support military-connected students and families. Alarcon Elementary School and the Ann M. Garcia-Enriquez Middle have once again received the Purple Star Designation from the Texas Education Agency.

Since 2022, four schools (Lorenzo G. Loya Primary School, Sambrano Elementary School, Borrego Elementary School, and San Elizario High School) have been previously designated. “When military-connected students enroll in our schools, we want them to know that we stand with them and appreciate them and will be there to help them transition,” said District Parent Liaison Flor Sanchez.

The designation includes having a designated military-connected liaison, an updated website, and a transition plan to assist students upon enrolling in district schools.

The SEISD serves thirty

military-connected students in grades pre-k through 12<sup>th</sup> grade. The district provides military-connected students a buddy upon entering the school system. Then, they can engage in numerous campus and district-wide events honoring the military children and families. All schools in the district have military-designated personnel who work to address the particular circumstances of military-connected students.

Sanchez states, “The best peace of mind that we can give military-connected parents is we will be here to help their children, and the practices we use for them are also a good practice for all students.” Military-connected students and families can expect continuous activities throughout the year, such as being part of the Military Connected Club (MCF), wearing military or purple shirts on Thursdays, and celebrating certain months by highlighting service members and their families. Students also have the opportunity to participate in after-school clubs and receive extra instructional support for military families affected by deployment.

Lower Valley Water District  
Public Notice

The LOWER VALLEY WATER DISTRICT is proposing to amend its rate order to include the following a \$1.25 increase to the Water and Wastewater Base Rate for both Residential and Commercial Customers.

The LOWER VALLEY WATER DISTRICT will hold a public hearing on the proposed monthly Water and Wastewater Base Rate on Thursday, September 28, 2023, at 6:15 p.m. at 1557 FM 1110, Clint, Texas 79836.

The rate is attributable to the increase in wholesale of water and wastewater treatment expense incurred by LOWER VALLEY WATER DISTRICT.

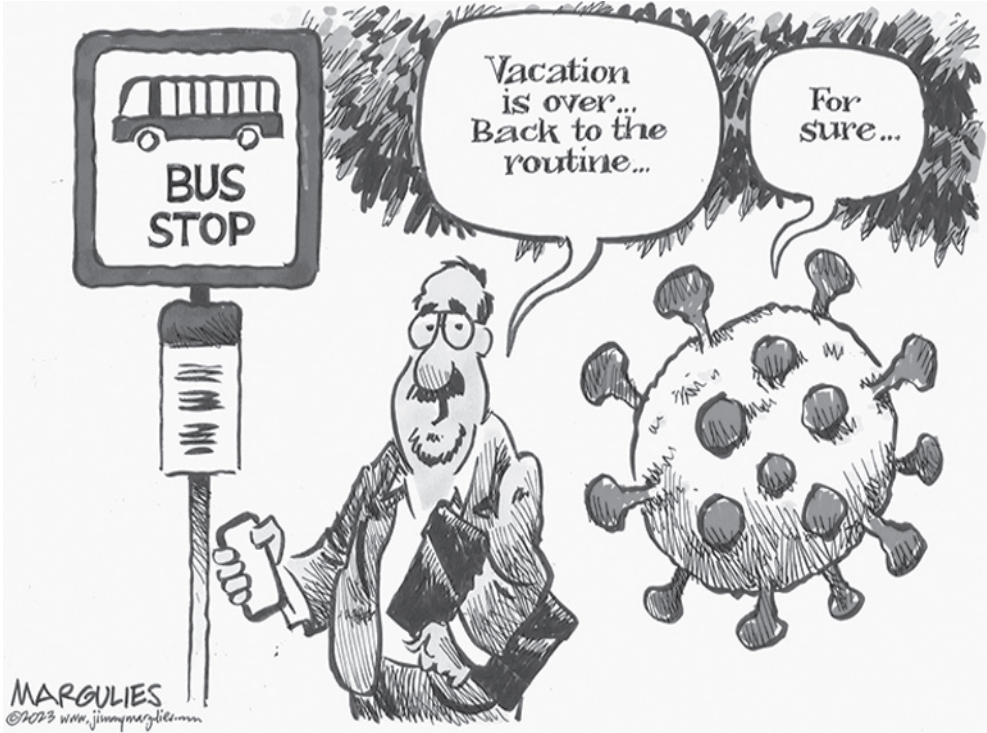
Non-Residential/Commercial Water & Wastewater Base Rates

Meter Size	Water Minimum		Wastewater Minimum	
	Current	Proposed	Current	Proposed
Minimum Charge for Water Level 1: 0.00 – 4.00 CCFs				
3/4"	\$31.65	\$32.90	\$31.65	\$32.90
1"	\$49.75	\$51.00	\$49.75	\$51.00
1 1/2"	\$70.00	\$71.25	\$70.00	\$71.25
2"	\$90.00	\$91.25	\$90.00	\$91.25
3"	\$106.50	\$107.75	\$106.50	\$107.75
4"	\$123.00	\$124.25	\$123.00	\$124.25
6"	\$150.50	\$151.75	\$150.50	\$151.75
8"	\$182.00	\$183.25		

Residential Water & Wastewater Base Rates

Meter Size	Water Minimum		Wastewater Minimum	
	Current	Proposed	Current	Proposed
Minimum Charge for Water Level 1: 0.00 – 4.00 CCFs				
3/4"	\$16.00	\$17.25	\$28.75	\$30.00
1"	\$29.75	\$31.00		
1 1/2"	\$35.00	\$36.25		
2"	\$40.00	\$41.25		

WTCC: 09-14-23





# El Paso Water penalized \$2 million by TCEQ

Penalty to be offset in exchange for environmental project

By Denise Parra  
Special to the Courier

EL PASO COUNTY – The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) has approved an Agreed Order with El Paso Water on an administrative penalty as part of the enforcement action of the Frontera Force Main Wastewater release. Pipe failures resulted in the utility discharging 1.2 billion gallons of wastewater into the Rio Grande from August 2021 to January 2022.

Beginning August 2021, major parallel wastewater pipelines in West El Paso, also known as the Frontera Force Mains, experienced multiple breaks. EPWater was in the process of a two-year project to replace the pipelines, which started in March 2020, after a condition assessment revealed significant corrosion. The project was 60% complete when the breaks happened. To avoid impacting public health and safety, EPWater

redirected wastewater into the Rio Grande for about five months.

Contractors worked seven days a week for four months to accelerate the installation of more than a mile of the Frontera pipeline. The new line became operational in December 2021, and discharge to the river stopped in early January 2022.

The pipelines carry wastewater from more than 110,000 Westside and Upper Valley residents to the John T. Hickerson Water Reclamation Facility. On average, the lines carry about 10 million gallons of wastewater daily. EPWater expedited the replacement of the Frontera Force Mains with fiberglass water lines, a corrosion-resistant material. The utility worked with a contractor to overcome supply chain issues and have the pipe and components manufactured onsite.

The Agreed Order incorporates a provision specifying an administrative penalty amount of \$2,016,000 assessed by TCEQ that will be offset by EPWater’s

successful performance of a Supplemental Environmental Project (SEP).

The Project was performed as part of the settlement of an enforcement action brought by TCEQ. “Discharging wastewater into the Rio Grande was not a decision we took lightly, and we put forth great efforts to make this right,” said John Balliew, EPWater President and Chief Executive Officer. “We are pleased that TCEQ considered our cleanup and remediation efforts in the areas that were impacted.”

EPWater fully cooperated with TCEQ from the onset of the wastewater discharge and expended upwards of an estimated \$7 million as part of the cleanup. The penalty offset means that the utility will not have to divert ratepayer funds from approved budget expenditures for the penalty. “We do not want to experience another wastewater emergency in this area or anywhere else in the city,” Balliew said. “We are fully committed to doing everything we can to improve our wastewater system and reduce the likelihood of this happening again.”

## Enriquez named San Elizario HS principal

By Jeannie Meza-Chavez  
Special to the Courier

SAN ELIZARIO – The San Elizario Independent School District (SEISD) has named Troy Enriquez as the new principal at San Elizario High School (SEHS).

Enriquez holds a Masters of Education in Educational Administration and Leadership from Columbia University and a Bachelor of Arts in Government and History from the University of Texas at Austin.

Enriquez states of his appointment, “The opportunity to lead at San Elizario High School and in the district of San Elizario is an honor and a privilege.”

He adds, “Our campus will be focused on displaying our students’ academic, fine arts, and athletic achievements and spotlighting the top-tier instruction provided to students daily.”

Enriquez previously served as the Coordinator of School Improvement at the Ann M. Garcia-Enriquez Middle School and as Principal of the Mesa Hills Academy and College Preparatory. He has ten years of experience as a teacher and school administrator.

Associate Superintendent Dr. Rogelio Segovia, said, “We are thrilled to welcome Mr. Enriquez as the new principal of SEHS, and we are incredibly excited to witness the remarkable achievements

that lie ahead under his leadership.” SEHS has 1,022 students in grades 9 through 12 with approximately eighty teachers.

Enriquez takes over SEHS, which, in the most recent 2023 U.S. News Best High School World Report, ranks SEHS 11th in El Paso County. SEHS is well known for its athletic success, with three soccer state championships and six cross-country state championships. In 2022, the Career and Technology Department earned a Quiz Bowl Team state title.

“Our campus will be focused on displaying our students’ academic, fine arts, and athletic achievements and spotlighting



– Photo courtesy San Elizario ISD  
**Troy Enriquez**  
the top-tier instruction provided to students daily,” Enriquez said.

## Tax rate

From Page 1

expenses are at \$1.25 million.

The complete funds budget, which includes special revenue, debt and capital projects, is estimated to be about \$566.2 million – about \$12 million more than last year, according to county officials.

County Administrator Betsy Keller stated that about half of the county’s general fund budget is comprised of programs or services mandated but not funded by the state including state prisoner incarcerations, public defender salaries, and election costs.

“As a taxpayer on a fixed income, I find it hard to find justification for a sixteen percent pay increase,” commented one El Paso County homeowner. “But worst was the county judge’s statement during the budget proceedings meeting that essentially ridiculed Commissioner Iliana Holguin for voting against the large pay hike. Retorting that if she didn’t want the increase she could always return it to the county was really uncalled for,” the homeowner bristled.

## Strange BUT TRUE

- By Lucie Winborne
- The dot over the lowercase versions of the letters i and j is known as a tittle.
  - There are clocks to tell us the time, and then there’s the Shortlife clock, which tells us how long we have left to live. No, it’s not perfect, but it does estimate a person’s remaining longevity based on World Health Organization data.
  - “The Lord of the Rings” movie trilogy was nominated for an astounding 800 awards, of which it received 475, making it the most-awarded series in cinema history.
  - One of the most critical issues with AI is that even its creators can’t understand some of the decisions the software makes, or why.

- Do you like apples? Then you’ll likely appreciate the efforts of Tom Brown and his decades-long quest to track, collect and preserve forgotten varieties of the fruit. Brown has discovered more than 1,200 types, including some with rare flavors such as banana and pineapple.
- In 1924, Babe Ruth accidentally ran headlong into a concrete wall during a game between the New York Yankees and the Washington Senators, knocking himself out cold for a full five minutes. Upon regaining consciousness, he not only finished the game but scored two more hits and went on to play a second game afterward.
- More than 200 viruses can result in the common cold. Kerchoo!

- Camp Bonifas, near the Korean Demilitarized Zone, has a par-three, one-hole golf course on it that is surrounded on three sides by landmines. As one might well expect, it has been dubbed “The Most Dangerous Hole in Golf.”
- ThoughtfortheDay: “Integrity is the only path where you will never get lost.”  
– Mike Maples Jr.
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## Briefs

From Page 1

Paso County were ranked (1-best, 1,013-worst):

- 100 – Tornillo ISD;
- 239 – Canutillo ISD;
- 585 – Socorro ISD;
- 621 – Anthony ISD;

- 770 – El Paso ISD;
  - 782 – Clint ISD;
  - 851 – San Elizario ISD;
  - 852 – Ysleta ISD; and
  - 948 – Fabens ISD.
- Visit <http://wallethub.com/edu/states-equitable-school-districts/76723> for the full report.
- Diana Polk

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### CryptoQuip Answer

When you drive on a certain Caribbean island and your car conks out, would you have a Nevis breakdown?

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6	+	9	+	8	23
24		23		18	





# Moments in time

THE HISTORY CHANNEL

• On Sept. 11, 1885, British author, essayist and poet D.H. Lawrence made his debut on the world stage. Best known today for his novels “Sons and Lovers,” “Women in Love,” “The Rainbow” and “Lady Chatterly’s Lover,” Lawrence was also once notably accused of being a British spy, while “Lady Chatterly’s Lover” stood trial with its publisher for obscenity (both were acquitted).

• On Sept. 12, 1953, in what was unquestionably “the wedding of the season,” photographer Jacqueline Bouvier married Massachusetts senator John F. Kennedy in Newport, Rhode Island. The ceremony even included a personal blessing from Pope Pius XII.

• On Sept. 13, 1974, three members of the Japanese Red Army (JRA), a communist militant group formed in Lebanon, overtook the French Embassy in the Hague and took 10 hostages, including the French ambassador. The siege ended after the group’s demands for the release of another JRA member, cash and a plane were met.

• On Sept. 14, 1985, “The Golden Girls,” a popular American sitcom about the adventures of four single,

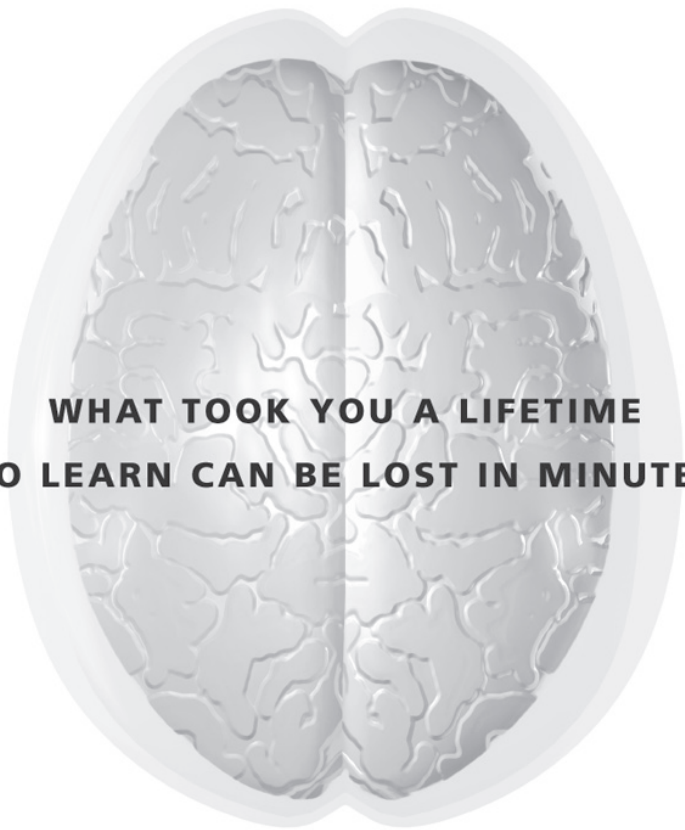
older women sharing a home in Miami, premiered on NBC. The series ran for six seasons – with each of its titular characters earning an Emmy for their role – and also won two Primetime Emmy Awards for Outstanding Comedy Series and three Golden Globe Awards for Best Television Series.

• On Sept. 15, 2008, the financial services firm Lehman Brothers Holdings filed for bankruptcy, marking the climax of the subprime mortgage crisis. After the company was notified of a pending credit downgrade, the Federal Reserve called on several banks to negotiate financing for its reorganization.

• On Sept. 16, 1893, history’s largest land run was launched with a single pistol shot as more than 100,000 people, on horseback and in carriages, rushed into the Cherokee Strip of Oklahoma in their bids to claim valuable land that had once belonged to Native Americans.

• On Sept. 17, 1796, George Washington prepared the final draft of his presidential farewell address. Two days later, it was published in Claypoole’s American Daily Advertiser in Philadelphia, officially notifying the American public that Washington would voluntarily step down as the nation’s first president.

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## WHAT TOOK YOU A LIFETIME TO LEARN CAN BE LOST IN MINUTES.

WITH A STROKE, TIME LOST IS BRAIN LOST.


If you suddenly have or see any of these symptoms, call 9-1-1 immediately:  
Numbness or weakness of the face, arm or leg, especially on one side of the body • Confusion, trouble speaking or understanding • Difficulty seeing in one or both eyes • Trouble walking, dizziness, loss of balance or coordination • Severe headache with no known cause

Learn more at [StrokeAssociation.org](https://www.strokeassociation.org) or 1-888-4-STROKE.



American Stroke Association

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

The Canutillo Independent School District will hold a public meeting 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, September 26, 2023 in the Central Office Board Room, 7965 Artcraft, El Paso, Texas 79932. **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>	\$0.760500/\$100 (Proposed rate for maintenance and operations)
<b>School Debt Service Tax</b>	
<b>Approved by Local Voters</b>	\$0.400000/\$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>	4.15%	Decrease
<b>Debt Service</b>	13.77%	Increase
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	1.41%	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	\$ 4,454,011,303	\$ 5,124,200,655
Total appraised value* of new property**	\$ 147,619,611	\$ 131,160,417
Total taxable value*** of all property	\$ 3,204,404,679	\$ 3,265,525,436
Total taxable value*** of new property**	\$ 132,975,863	\$ 107,102,971

\* “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\* \$67,069,627

\* Outstanding principal.

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

	Maintenance & Operations	Interest & Sinking Fund*	Total	Local Revenue Per Student	State Revenue Per Student
<b>Last Year’s Rate</b>	\$ 0.942900	\$ 0.360000*	\$ 1.302900	\$ 7,407	\$ 4,558
<b>Rate to Maintain Same Level of Maintenance &amp; Operations Revenue &amp; Pay Debt Service</b>	\$ 0.648600	\$ 0.001880*	\$ 0.650480	\$ 1,102	\$ 9,831
<b>Proposed Rate</b>	\$ 0.760500	\$ 0.400000*	\$ 1.160500	\$ 6,598	\$ 6,632

\*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	\$ 256,879	\$ 288,196
Average Taxable Value of Residences	\$ 187,946	\$ 152,904
Last Year’s Rate Versus		
Proposed Rate per \$100 Value	\$ 1.302900	\$ 1.160500
Taxes Due on Average Residence	\$ 2,448.75	\$ 1,774.45
Increase (Decrease) in Taxes		\$ 674.30

**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 **\$1.160500**. This election will be automatically held if the district adopts a rate in excess of the voter-approval rate of **\$1.160500**.

### 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)	\$ 19,647,923
Interest & Sinking Fund Balance(s)	\$ 13,146,575

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://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.

# ‘Prime Time’ proving all college football teams have a chance

By Steve Escajeda  
*Special to the Courier*

With the UTEP Miners’ humiliating 38-7 loss to Big Ten weakling Northwestern over the weekend, it appears that yet another long losing season is in store for local fans.

UTEP was actually favored to beat the Wildcats and outplayed them in the first half when they went into the halftime locker room tied 7-7.

Then came the second half and the Miners were a completely different team. The same can be said for Northwestern. The Wildcats ran and passed up and down the field and outscored the Miners 31-0 in the second half.

In other words, one team went into halftime and made some outstanding second-half adjustments, while the other team didn’t.

On the talk show after the game fans were calling for head coach Dana Dimel to be replaced. More and more fans are complaining about the play calling on offense, which Dimel does, and they are putting a lot of the blame on quarterback Gavin Hardison.

It’s true, Miner teams under Dimel have had a difficult time scoring points, but their defense has definitely improved since he arrived.

Many UTEP fans are calling for an immediate change and an instant fix, but we all know that it’s impossible to change a team from a winner to a loser in just one season.

Or is it?

When fans think of must-see TV in college football they think of teams like Alabama, Notre Dame, Georgia, USC, Texas, Michigan, Clemson, Ohio State and a few others.

Fans don’t get excited to watch 1-11 teams with very little history of ever being successful.

And yet, that’s exactly what the Colorado Buffaloes were last year.

They were easily one of the worst college teams in the country last season and a team that somebody like UTEP could handle.

Then they made a coaching change. And the rest is already going down as history.

New Colorado coach Deion “Prime Time” Sanders, who was hired after three season at little Jackson State, was hired to hopefully change the losing culture at the school.

Talk about an instant change in attitude, everyone who’s ever listened to Sanders knows that he’s outspoken, brash, confident and flashy. Those are words you’d never apply to Colorado football.

Like a new sheriff, Sanders rode into town and made some drastic changes. He almost totally turned over the roster by bringing in over 80 new players.

He’s brought in many of his NFL buddies as coaches and as mentors,

talking to the players and inspiring them.

Of course, all that works in the locker room when players are in their towels and flip flops, but the experts knew that when Colorado opened the season at TCU, the team that played for the national championship last season, the Buffaloes would get destroyed.

Because nobody can come in and change things in just one season, right?

Well, as many of you know, Colorado upset TCU 45-42. And it wasn’t just the win, it was the way they did it, with flash and big plays and attitude.

Then last weekend Colorado played at home against Nebraska. Would they have a letdown from the big win over TCU?

No.

They handled the Cornhuskers easily 36-14 and Deion Sanders and his Buffaloes have become the #1 college football must-see program in

the country.

But how can that be? This team won just one game last year. And even if he brought in 80 new players, it takes a few games to get used to each other and it takes time to get used to what the coach wants.

But they’ve done it.

Sure, we’re just two games into the season. Colorado still has tough games against Oregon, USC, Arizona State, UCLA and Utah. But look at what he has accomplished already.

El Paso fans aren’t saying that a new coach can come in and make the Miners a Top-25 team in his first two games. But Sanders has proven that the attitude of a leader can be transferred to a group of young men if they are willing to buy in.

No one knows if a change in the staff will change UTEP’s football fortunes.

But it’s obvious what they have now – isn’t working.

## Senior moment By Matilda Charles

# Classes from the comfort of home

The course catalog for the winter semester of the local senior college arrived in the mail, and I’ve already highlighted over a dozen classes, talks, lectures and seminars that I’d like to take.

Not that I’ll take all of them, of course. But I will likely sign up for a few that have especially piqued my interest.

Archaeology has become a special interest over the past several years, to the extent that I looked into going on a dig in a foreign country. Covid slammed shut that possibility (as well as the digs themselves), but if I’m not reading an archaeology magazine, I’m looking at archaeology YouTube videos online. This talk promises to be right along my favorite lines: the results of a dig in Ireland.

A four-week course on banned books also looks to be very interesting, as does the two-week seminar on the differences between northern and southern Italy, including cuisine, landscape, culture and customs. All the classes will be filmed and available online afterward.

The best part of all three of these? They’ll be presented live online via Zoom, with viewing right from the comfort

of home ... which is excellent timing and forward thinking on someone’s part because, of course, Covid is rearing its head again around here. We’re likely headed for strong suggestions of mask wearing, curbside shopping and Covid boosters. To be able to safely take a few classes is going to be a highlight in what might otherwise be a dreary winter.

If you don’t have a senior college near you and you would like to take classes, fear not. Some of the best sources of online classes are found through Coursera ([www.coursera.org](http://www.coursera.org)), which range from business classes to humanities; through Harvard ([pll.harvard.edu](http://pll.harvard.edu)), with many free offerings; and through Class Central ([www.classcentral.com/universities](http://www.classcentral.com/universities)), with links to hundreds of colleges and universities.

Beware of the supposedly free online colleges that offer degrees. Check the fine print for the actual costs and fees, which can be considerable.

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**MILK-AND-HONEY**  
**POOCHES**  
**ACROSS**  
1 Web page directories  
9 Espresso, e.g.  
16 Basic lessons  
20 Open to suggestion  
21 Solar or lunar phenomenon  
22 U.S. island territory  
23 Start of a riddle  
25 Paree “to be”  
26 Tar’s “Help!”  
27 Wrinkly tangelo variety  
28 Cavaliers’ org.  
29 Stuff expelled from a volcano  
31 West Aleutian island  
33 Brand of contact lens solution  
35 Outbreak of zits  
37 Reply to “Which girl?”  
38 Mom on “The Cosby Show”  
41 Riddle, part 2  
45 Old-style “Yay!”  
47 Voguish Christian  
48 \_ kwon do  
49 Was the father of  
50 \_ Lady of Guadalupe  
51 Eager kids’ question  
53 Pinkish red  
55 Not even one  
56 Riddle, part 3

61 Aykroyd of film  
62 Favorite son of Isaac  
63 Beard on grain  
64 Eyes lewdly  
65 Fissure  
67 Great joy  
69 Remedies  
70 Cross the mind of  
74 \_ T (exactly)  
75 Boring carpentry tool  
76 Otology subject  
77 Bert who played a lion  
78 Spike on a film set  
81 Riddle, part 4  
85 Grease-laden  
87 Diarist Nin  
88 Snares, e.g.  
89 Previous to, in verse  
90 Canonized fifth-cen. pope  
92 Barely manage, with “out”  
93 Canadian gas brand  
95 Ancient Greek lyric poet  
97 End of the riddle  
101 Campus complexes  
102 Commanded  
103 \_ Mawr College  
104 \_ a one (zilch)  
105 Rival of Lyft  
107 Threat ender  
109 Windows 10 runners, e.g.  
110 A few  
112 Ewe noise

115 Viva \_  
116 Riddle’s answer  
122 Slaughter of baseball  
123 Racked up  
124 Anticlimactic happening  
125 Muralist Jose Maria \_  
126 Rodent-catching cats  
127 With two-channel sound  
**DOWN**  
1 Plank cutters  
2 Modest “I think,” online  
3 Alternatives to  
9-Across  
4 Suffix with absorb  
5 Bucko  
6 In re  
7 Put a stopper in  
8 Vend  
9 Ron of the 1970s  
Dodgers  
10 First female  
Supreme Court justice  
11 Viral cause of a winter woe, informally  
12 It funds Soc. Security  
13 Pollution-control gp.  
14 U.S. immigrants’ class  
15 Gomez of “Getaway”  
16 Old Time film critic  
James  
17 Totally bungled

18 The late 1970s, politically  
19 Applied, as finger paint  
24 Makes soiled  
30 787s, e.g.  
31 Lung filler  
32 Pamphlet  
34 Old name for Tokyo  
35 Classic game consoles  
36 Bamboozle  
38 Had grub  
39 Thelma’s film sidekick  
40 Of a major blood vessel  
42 Astronomer  
Hubble  
43 Furry scarves  
44 Musical set in Oz, with “The”  
46 “Ver-r-r-ry funny”  
52 Salamander  
53 V8 vegetable  
54 Charley horse, e.g.  
57 French for “eight”  
58 Areas on a golf course  
59 Be in accord  
60 Bodily pouch  
66 Pooch with a corded coat  
68 Pai \_ poker (casino game)  
69 Adorable kids  
70 Waikiki’s island  
71 Like many gory movies  
72 Constellation Aries  
73 Mandates

75 Skywalker of “Star Wars”  
76 Scandalous corporation of 2001  
78 Old sweeties  
79 Whichever of the two  
80 Alternative magazine to House Beautiful  
82 Rival  
83 “Sounds right to me”  
84 Back of a 45 record  
86 “Darn tootin’!”  
91 Poetic eyes  
93 “Roots” Emmy winner  
94 35mm camera inits.  
96 Fish-fowl linkup  
98 Coal mine vehicle  
99 Put in a crate  
100 Burden with one’s problems  
106 Pintos, e.g.  
108 For fear that  
109 Bygone  
111 Bygone Dodge  
112 Dutch South African  
113 Novelist Rice  
114 In re  
117 Doc’s org.  
118 Rebel Turner  
119 Jewel box inserts  
120 Tennis barrier  
121 “Now \_ seen it all!”

Answer Page 4

## 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				
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62																					
63					63				64						65		66				
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				74				75						76				77			
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85					86		87						88					89			
90					91		92				93	94				95	96				
97						98				99					100		101				
102																					
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107					108				109					110	111				112	113	114
115																					
116					116	117	118					119					120	121			
122																					
123					123										124						
125																					
126					126																
127																					



Comix

OUT ON A LIMB

By Gary Kopervas



AMBER WAVES

By Dave T. Phipps



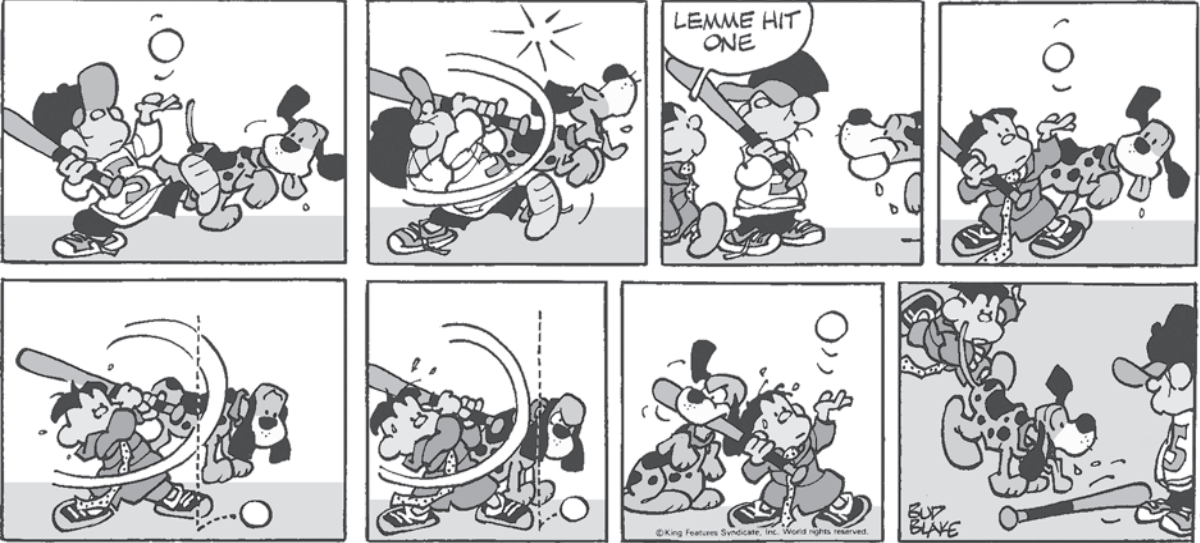
THE SPATS

By Jeff Pickering



TIGER

By Bud Blake



Lowry

From Page 2

super PAC is running spots hitting Biden, and Trump says there’s no need for him to show up at the Republican debates.

The cockiness could well be justified, but a sense of inevitability can be a two-edged sword. On the one hand, it disheartens the opposition and communicates strength; on the other, it can fade into a high-handed sense of taking the voters for granted.

And Trump still has to win Iowa, where his support is a little softer. After all the talk of having the election stolen from him in 2020 and the chest-beating about his dominance now, a defeat there – in a clean process overseen by fellow Republicans – would be a stinging setback that might change the dynamic everywhere else.

The new NBC News/Des Moines Register poll has Trump at 42%, with DeSantis at 19% and South Carolina Sen. Tim Scott at 9%.

That’s a substantial lead, but both DeSantis and Scott have large portions of the electorate saying they are their second choice or that they are actively considering them. Both also have high favorable ratings comparable to Trump’s.

In the portion of the survey conducted prior to the Georgia indictment, his lead was 38 – 20 over DeSantis – again, sizable, but not nearly enough to say he has this thing put away, not in the middle of August.

Iowa can break late. Former Pennsylvania Sen. Rick Santorum, who won Iowa in 2012, didn’t really start moving until late December. Former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee, who won four years earlier, started his upward march around November. If someone is going to replicate this kind of climb, the big upward move may still be months away.

So it looks late out there, no doubt, and has for some time, but it’s not over.

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

Osteoporosis screening for men remains controversial

DEAR DR. ROACH: My husband and I are confused about the guidelines concerning when older men should be screened for osteoporosis. All the information seems to suggest that it is only needed for men over 70 who have had a fracture. In my husband’s case, he was only told to get a DEXA (dual-energy X-ray absorptiometry) scan after he had backpain and several compression fractures of the thoracic spine (up to 70%), at the age of 72. His T-score was -2.8 for his spine. I can’t help feeling that because he is male, weighs 200 pounds, has an active lifestyle and was previously 6 feet, 2 inches tall, the issue of osteoporosis just never came up during his yearly primary care visits (even though his height had decreased since at least 2019, and he’s now only 6 feet tall). This is a potentially life-threatening condition for older women and men, but the risks for women seem to get all the attention. What’s the reluctance to order a simple, fast, painless, not-too-expensive test to screen men earlier? – B.W.



In general, screening tests (by definition, a test done on a person with no symptoms of the condition) are done when there is good evidence that the screening will lead to an improved outcome in the screened group compared to an unscreened group. The data in women is strong enough that all women over 65 and women younger than 65 with additional risks for osteoporosis should be screened with a DEXA scan, but there is not strong enough data to support screening in men.

Osteoporosis screening in men is controversial. While one of the most influential groups does not recommend screening in all men over 70, some groups do, despite an absence of proven benefit. They base this recommendation on the fact that, as you say, it’s not a particularly dangerous test (the radiation dose is small), nor is it expensive (the average cost is \$150, but can be higher in some states). One major downside of testing in general is that no screening test is perfect. As such, an unexpected finding of osteoporosis in a man requires that the screening test be repeated to be sure the test result is accurate.

Even though men are not always recommended for screening, there are some medical findings that should prompt a test. One is a loss of height – losing more than 1.5 inches of height should have prompted a DEXA scan. (Strictly speaking, this is no longer a screening; it’s an evaluation of the cause of an unexpected medical finding.)

A low testosterone level (either by itself – hypogonadism – or as a result of medical treatment for prostate cancer); primary hyperparathyroidism; inflammatory bowel disease; and long-term use of prednisone and similar drugs are all known risk factors for osteoporosis that should at least trigger a discussion of a DEXA scan. Similarly, the finding of osteoporosis in a man should prompt consideration of the underlying reason behind it, which could include any of the risk factors listed above.

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.

† AMERICAN LUNG ASSOCIATION  
of Texas

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TO CONQUER  
LUNG DISEASE

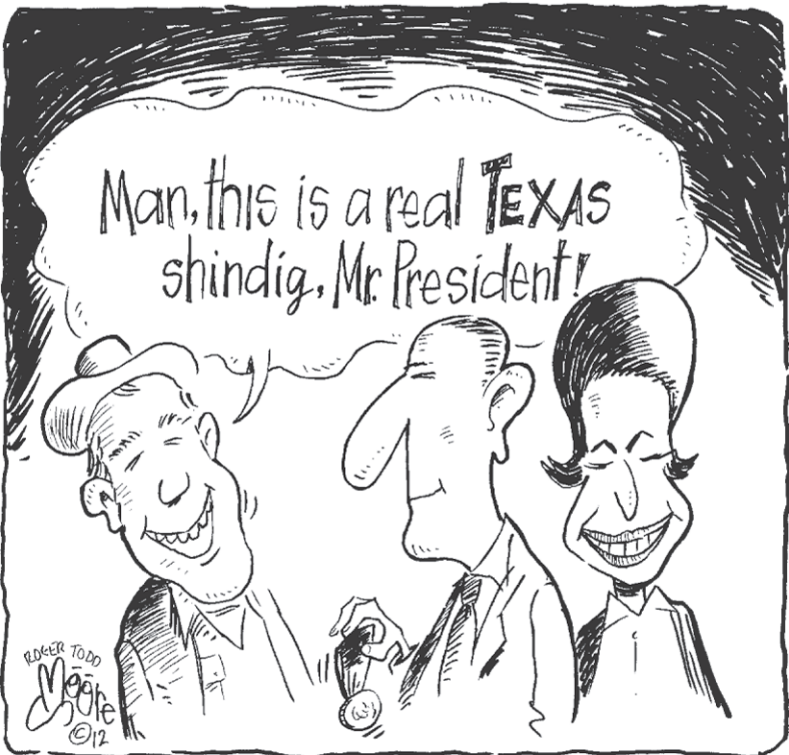
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www.texaslung.org

When you lose someone dear to you — or when a special person has a birthday, quits smoking, or has some other occasion to celebrate — memorial gifts or tribute gifts made for them to your local American Lung Association help prevent lung disease and improve the care of those who suffer from it.

1-800-LUNG-USA





**Moore Texas** by Roger Moore  
September 14, 1964: President Johnson, a Texan, presents J. Frank Dobie, a Texan, with the prestigious Medal of Freedom.

## 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: X equals U

IMPW ZUX YQCKP UW V NPQEV CW  
NVQCGGPVW COTVWY VWY ZUXQ  
NVQ NUWHO UXE, IUXTY ZUX  
MVKP V WPKCO GQPVHYUIW?

Answer Page 4  
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## Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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

**DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦**

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging

Answer Page 4 ♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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# Mobile medical units are coming



by Freddy Groves

The Department of Veterans Affairs is sending a fleet of 25 mobile medical units across the country over the next six months, and the first ones are already out there, with the initial two having arrived in Orlando, Florida, and Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

These mobile medical units are intended to provide care and support to homeless veterans and those at risk. Veterans will be able to get primary care, lab work, telehealth services, audiology, women’s health and more from the Homeless Patient Aligned Care Teams (HPACT) that will move from place to place in the vehicles. They’ll be parked in a variety of VA medical centers, outpatient clinics and referral centers – wherever there are VA services.

Whether you’re near San Diego, California; Chicago,

Illinois; Bay Pines, Florida; or New Orleans, Louisiana, there is a van coming. To check the schedule of anticipated arrival dates and locations of the medical units, go to <https://tinyurl.com/bdfzmzpa>.

If you can’t wait on the van, if you are a homeless veteran or at risk for becoming homeless, call 877-424-3838 any hour of the day or night. Don’t wait. Make the call as soon as you know what your situation is going to be.

Go online to [www.va.gov/HOMELESS/HPACT.asp](http://www.va.gov/HOMELESS/HPACT.asp) for more information about the care teams and how they can help you.

The mobile medical unit vehicles will add to the 83 mobile vet centers the VA has scattered across the country that provide a place for confidential counseling and outreach. They’re able to access your records from those locations so your care can stay on track. You can talk to someone quickly by calling the Vet Center Call Center at 877-927-8387. Whether you’re the veteran or a veteran’s family, whether you want to talk about

your military experiences, traumatic events or any other issue, veterans will be at the other end of the phone, day and night. See [www.vetcenter.va.gov](http://www.vetcenter.va.gov) for more information. Click on “Locations” to find the vet center closest to you.

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• A trio of sewing tips from S.R. in Idaho: “Store patterns in plastic baggies. It’s hard to get them back into their envelopes, and I find that the baggies store just as well. I keep my pattern from tearing by spraying them with spray starch. I also sharpen needles by stitching through very fine sandpaper. These tips have worked for me for many years.”

• “It’s almost time for Scouts to start up again. I have been washing uniforms and sashes, and find this trick to be helpful when it comes time to stitch on badges. Put a bit of plain school glue on the back of your badge, place it where you want it on the sash, then let it dry. It will stay in place long enough to stitch the edges. When you launder it, the glue will wash right out.” – R.D. in Florida

• Solve the case of the tricky screw: Coat problem screws with clear fingernail polish right before you insert them. They will hold tightly after that.

• To keep hair shiny and soft, rinse weekly with a mix of half vinegar (apple cider or white) and water. The smell goes away quickly, but the softness and shine stick around.

• If you have a cracked or otherwise leaking vase that is opaque (not glass), try heating a bit of paraffin wax and coating the inside of the vase with it. Let it harden, and it should be watertight again.

• “To keep plywood or thin materials from splitting, I tape my cut line with low-tack masking tape. It keeps my cut sharp, reduces the fraying, and it’s easy to remove when I’m done.” – G.S. in Minnesota

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

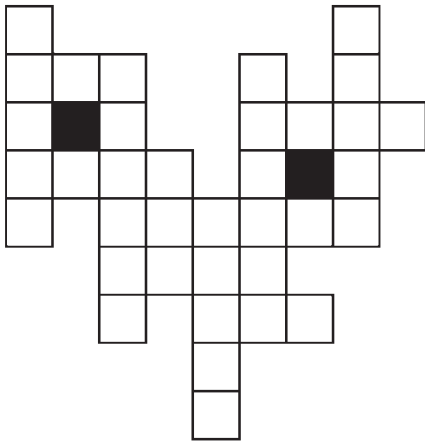
	+		×		22
−		×		×	
	×		−		19
×		−		+	
	+		+		23
24		23		18	

2 3 4 5 6 7 8 8 9

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TBE  
REMPEA  
BYALD  
♥EDLA  
MULECY  
♥RFA  
♥AMTE  
BECAL  
YED  
♥ELYFAT  
♥MARLE  
♥ETRA



Answer Page 4

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

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