



## NEWSBRIEFS

### Starting careers

With graduation season upon us and many employers still experiencing labor shortages, the personal-finance website WalletHub has released its report on *2024's Best & Worst Places to Start a Career*, as well as expert commentary, to help recent graduates launch their careers in the right place. WalletHub compared more than 180 U.S. cities based on 26 key indicators of career-friendliness. The data set ranges from the availability of entry-level jobs to monthly average starting salary to housing affordability. El Paso was rated 149th in the report. Other stats:

- Columbia, MD has the highest median annual household income (adjusted for cost of living), which is 3.3 times higher than in Detroit, MI, the city with the lowest.
- Oxnard, CA has the highest workforce diversity, which is 2.3 times higher than in New Haven, CT, the city with the lowest.
- Miami and Hialeah, FL have the lowest unemployment rate, which is 5.9 times lower than in Detroit, MI, the city with the highest.

“Transitioning out of school and into the workforce can be a difficult and stressful process, but certain cities make things a lot easier than others. The best cities for starting a career not only have a lot of job opportunities but also provide substantial income growth potential and satisfying work conditions. It’s also important to consider factors such as how fun a city is to live in or how good of a place it is for raising a family, to ensure life satisfaction outside of your career. Atlanta is the best place to start a career, boasting one of the highest growth rates in the median household income, at around 8.9% annually. Plus, the median annual household income in Atlanta is already pretty high, at nearly \$79,000. In addition, Atlanta has a lot of job opportunities at companies that are rated at least 4 out of 5 stars on Glassdoor, along with plentiful entry-level jobs, and residents have a high rate of satisfaction with their jobs.”

– *Cassandra Happe*  
*WalletHub Analyst*

Visit <https://wallethub.com/edu/best-worst-cities-to-start-a-career/3626> for the full report.

– *Diana Polk*

**People determine your character by observing what you stand for, fall for and lie for.**

– **Quips & Quotes**



– Photo courtesy of the U.S. Border Patrol

**READY TO GO... DEFENDING THE BORDER** – Although laws, threats, and challenges have evolved over time, the Border Patrol’s core values of vigilance, service to country, and integrity have stood resolute over the last 100 years. Border Patrol agents, are ready, stand guard at the banks of the Rio Grande in El Paso.

## 100 years strong Border Patrol born El Paso County

By **Alfredo Vasquez**  
*Special to the Courier*

EL PASO COUNTY – “For me, the most difficult part of being a Border Patrol officer was knowing the plight of the immigrants who we encountered trying to cross the border illegally,” said Jaime [last name withheld], a Border Patrol agent in the El Paso sector for nearly 30 years – from 1980 to 2010. “Most of them just wanted to find a job in the U.S. and provide a better life for their families,” he said.

And back in those days, Jaime related that it was mainly a numbers game. “We would catch an undocumented alien, load him onto a van, and take him to a processing center at the Ports of Entry (POE), where he would undergo an identification procedure, then be released back to Mexico. And it seemed that we would keep catching these same men multiple times, and go through the routine all over again each time. It was just a numbers game,” he noted. Back then, those caught were almost always male individuals from Mexico, Jaime pointed out.

For a century, Border Patrol agents have been catching undocumented immigrants along the United States – Mexico boundaries, guarding American sovereignty. To commemorate the 100-year milestone,

a recent celebration was held in El Paso County, the birthplace of the U.S. Border Patrol agency.

“This year, the United States Border Patrol reaches its centennial year: a rare milestone marking our ability to overcome every challenge, endure every hardship, and win every battle along the way,” said U.S. Border Patrol Chief Jason Owens during the recent celebration. “It is an homage to our collective resilience across a difficult journey through time. On this important occasion, we recognize, honor, and thank the tens of thousands who have selflessly donned the Border Patrol uniform or stood beside those who have.”

The Border Patrol and El Paso’s histories are interwoven, and the U.S. Border Patrol, El Paso Sector has been largely comprised of locals who have made the noble choice to serve and protect their communities – El Paso County men and women, like Jaime B. and now, his two sons, who are currently Border Patrol officers, one stationed in the Santa Teresa area and the other attached to Special Operations details.

“While we are looking back and recognizing the proud and storied history of the United States Border Patrol, it is also a time to chart our future and the path forward,” Chief Owens stated. “We will continue to

recruit the best possible people to join our ranks and equip them with the tools and training they need to carry the torch ahead for the next 100 years.”

Today, the U.S. Border Patrol is a sophisticated force of almost 19,000 agents, employing advanced technology to manage and protect more than 8,000 miles of land and coastal U.S. borders. Its mission to prevent unauthorized entries and uphold national security remains as vital as ever.

“El Paso is such a fitting place to commemorate this significant milestone, it is where the legend began,” said El Paso Sector Chief Patrol Agent Anthony Scott Good. “So many foundational events in the Border Patrol’s history occurred right here in El Paso – like advancements that have impacted our operations nationwide to this day.”

Border Patrol’s roots in El Paso date to as early as 1904, when mounted watchmen of the U.S. Immigration Service patrolled the border to prevent illegal crossings. These inspectors operated out of this region, patrolling as far west as California trying to restrict the flow of illegal Chinese immigration. Through the 1910s and into the 1920s, the need for a coordinated border effort

See **BORDER PATROL**, Page 2

# No candidate should bank on anyone's race



The progressive journalist Thomas Frank wrote a much-discussed book in 2004 titled, "What's the Matter with Kansas?" Right now, some other like-minded journalist might be thinking of writing a book called "What's the Matter with People of Color?"

For Democrats, the presidential polling among Latinos and African Americans ranges from concerning to extremely disturbing, as President Joe Biden sheds support to Donald Trump. The Republican was so bold as to hold a campaign rally that drew thousands in the South Bronx, a heavily Hispanic and Black area where Republicans may be rumored to exist but are rarely actually seen.

A New York Times poll in March had Trump beating Biden among Hispanic voters 46-40, while a Wall Street Journal poll last month found that 30% of African-American males say they are definitely

or probably going to vote for Trump. Other surveys show less stark results, but something is going on, especially with Hispanic voters.

If nothing else, we are seeing the foolhardiness of Democrats believing that all minorities – with a dizzying array of national backgrounds and socioeconomic and demographic characteristics – could be lumped together as "people of color" and corralled into the Democratic coalition with woke political appeals. That might work on college campuses; it doesn't work in the rest of the country.

The problem for Biden is that Hispanics are too much like the rest of America. In Cygnal polling, 69% of Americans say the country is on the wrong track, and 72% of Hispanics think the same. Hispanics care about the economy as much as – in fact, more than – anyone else. Whereas 30% of the country

says inflation and the economy is the top issue, 42% of Hispanics say it is.

All of this means that only 37% of Hispanics view Biden favorably, essentially the same percentage as among whites.

Changing Hispanic attitudes toward immigration is a big part of the picture. A CBS poll in Arizona found that 52% of all voters think recent immigrants have made life worse. What outrageous xenophobia, you say? Well, 40% of Hispanic voters think they've made life worse, too (a slim plurality, 42%, say they've made it better).

While the Left thought that Hispanics would

See LOWRY, Page 7



– Photos courtesy of the U.S. Border Patrol

**ON DUTY** – "Without exaggeration, the entirety of the Border Patrol's existence has had a profound and positive impact on our nation's history. The legacy of every single Border Patrol employee is captured in what we do every day in our efforts to secure the border, save lives, and safeguard our communities," U.S. Border Patrol Chief Jason Owens, above, said during a recent celebration in El Paso to commemorate the Border Patrol's centennial anniversary.



## Border Patrol

From Page 1

only intensified, particularly when Prohibition and expanded immigration restrictions went

into effect.

In 1915, Congress authorized a separate group of Mounted Guards assigned to inspection stations; their work was initially supplemented by military troops and Texas Rangers along the southwest border.

Illegal crossings and customs violations, however, continued to increase, so in 1918, Supervising Inspector Frank W. Berkshire wrote to the Commissioner-General of Immigration expressing his concerns about the lack of a coordinated, adequate effort to enforce immigration and customs laws along the border with Mexico.

As Prohibition went into effect in 1920, and with limits placed on immigration by the Immigration Acts of 1921 and 1924, the mission of the Border Patrol became one of the government's central concerns.

As a result, on May 28, 1924, Congress passed the Labor Appropriation Act of 1924, officially establishing the U.S. Border Patrol for the purpose of securing the borders between inspection stations. In 1925 its duties were expanded to patrolling the seacoast.

By 1932, the Border Patrol was placed under the authority

of two directors, one in charge of the Mexican border office in El Paso, the other in charge of the Canadian border office in Detroit.

When President Franklin D. Roosevelt took office in 1933, he combined the Bureau of Immigration and the Bureau of Naturalization into the Immigration and Naturalization Service. And the first Border Patrol Academy opened as a training school at Camp Chigas, El Paso, in December 1934.

By the 1960s, the business of human smuggling began to involve drug smuggling. Consequently, Border Patrol began assisting other agencies in intercepting illegal drugs from Mexico. The 1980s and 1990s saw a significant increase of illegal migration to the U.S., so the Border Patrol responded with increases in manpower and the implementation of modern technology.

In an effort to bring a level of control to the border during that era, the Border Patrol undertook a series of successful operations: Operation "Hold the Line," for instance, was established in 1993 in El Paso, and proved an immediate success. Operation "Gatekeeper" was implemented in 1994,

reducing illegal entries in San Diego by more than 75 percent over the next few years.

With illegal entries at a more manageable level, the Patrol turned attention to other areas, such as establishing anti-smuggling units and search and rescue teams such as Border Patrol Search, Trauma and Rescue (BORSTAR) or the Border Safety Initiative (BSI), created in 1998 in cooperation with the Mexican government.

After the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, homeland security became a primary national concern, so border security again became a topic of increased interest in Washington. On March 1, 2003, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) was established, and the U.S. Border Patrol became part of U.S. Customs and Border Protection, a component of DHS.

Subsequently, according to Border Patrol officials, the 21st century promises to see the modernization of the Patrol advance at a dizzying rate as specialized technology holds increasing potential to assist agents in fulfilling the Border Patrol's mission. Cooperation with neighboring countries also holds hope to increase border safety and law enforcement.



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

**COPYRIGHT:**  
Entire contents © 2024 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: [wtcc@wtcc.com](mailto:wtcc@wtcc.com)  
Website: [wtcc.com](http://wtcc.com)

**Publisher**  
Rick Shrum

**Contributors**  
Alfredo Vasquez  
Steve Escajeda

**Homesteader**  
Est. 1973  
**News, Inc.**



# Hernandez puts kindness ahead of graduation

By Beau Bagley  
Special to the Courier

EL PASO COUNTY – Bianca Hernandez believes in sharing kindness. She likes to learn something new every day. She found a career in nursing was perfect for what she wanted to do in life. Hernandez graduated from Silva Health Magnet in 2022 at 17 years old with her Licensed Vocational Nurse (LVN) degree, and decided El Paso Community College (EPCC) was where she wanted to continue. She earned her Associate’s Degree in while working as a LVN at University Medical Center (UMC) in the medical oncology unit.

“I love nursing because it literally gives me the tools to share light... to make someone feel better and cared for. I am blessed to be given an opportunity where I can be there for someone else in their lows but also be able to cheer for them to achieve their highest.”

Hernandez is a first-generation college student. It was hard for her family, at first, to comprehend why she wanted to be a nurse and continue her education. But, she says, the support has been there – especially after winning the prestigious Diseases Attacking the Immune System (DAISY) award, in the first quarter of 2024. “They are proud of all the things I do, even the smallest ones. I could not be here without all of them.”

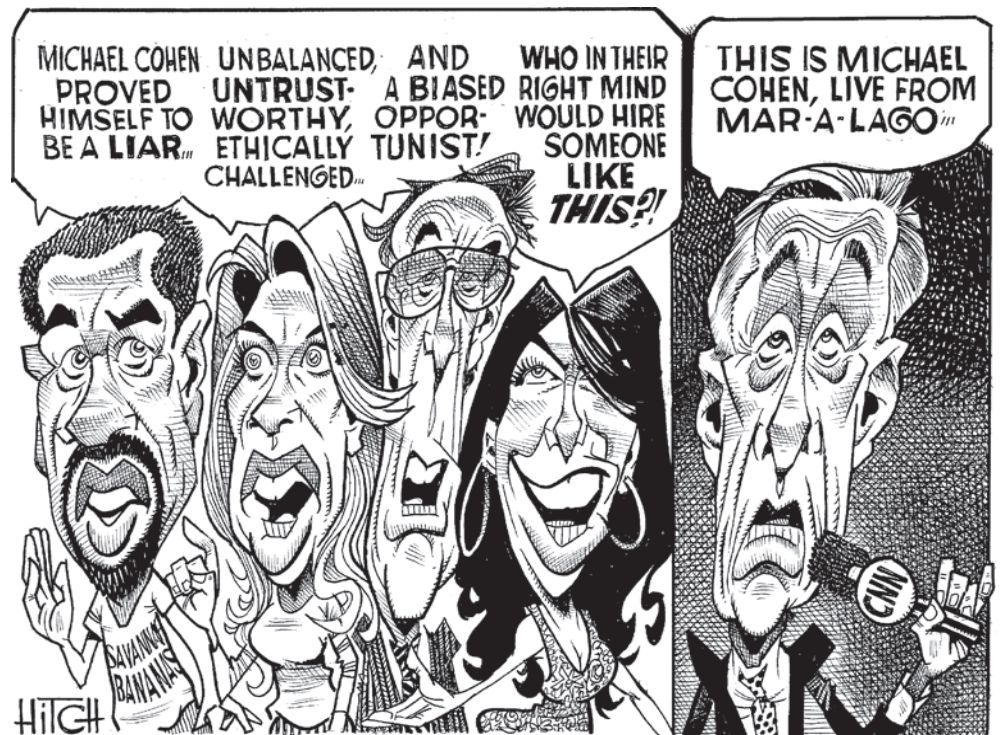
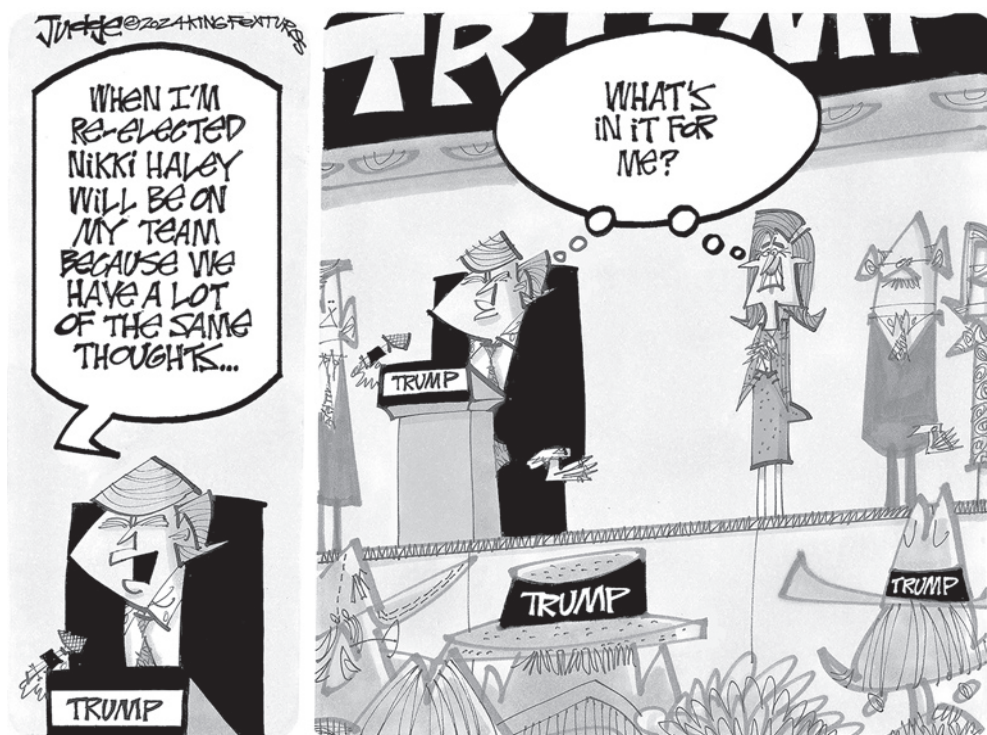
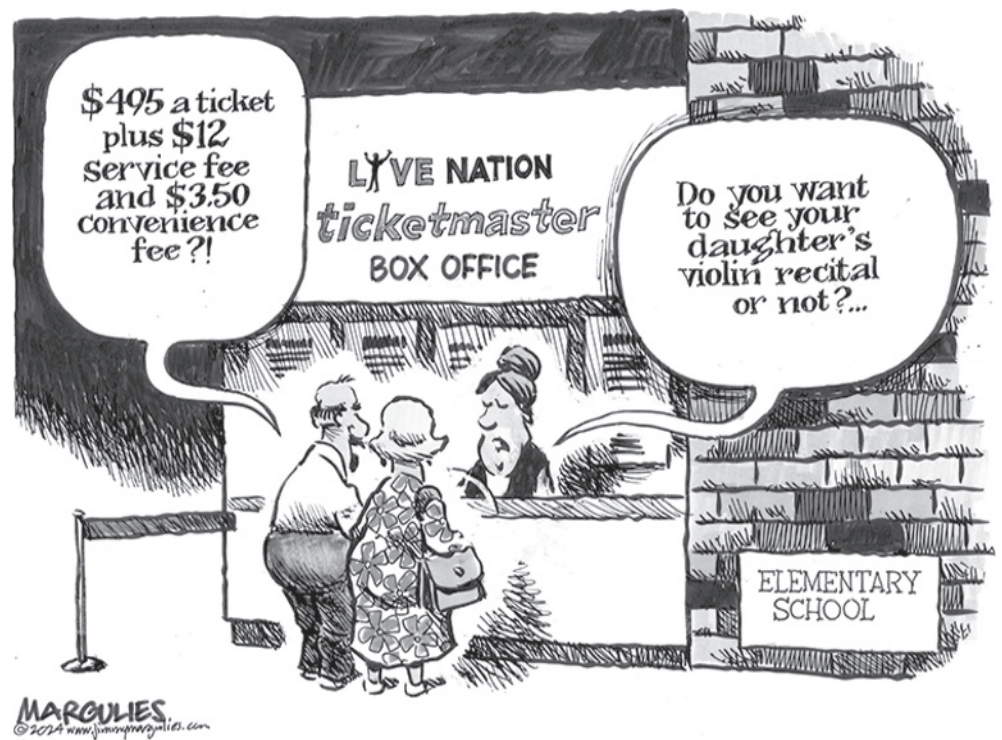
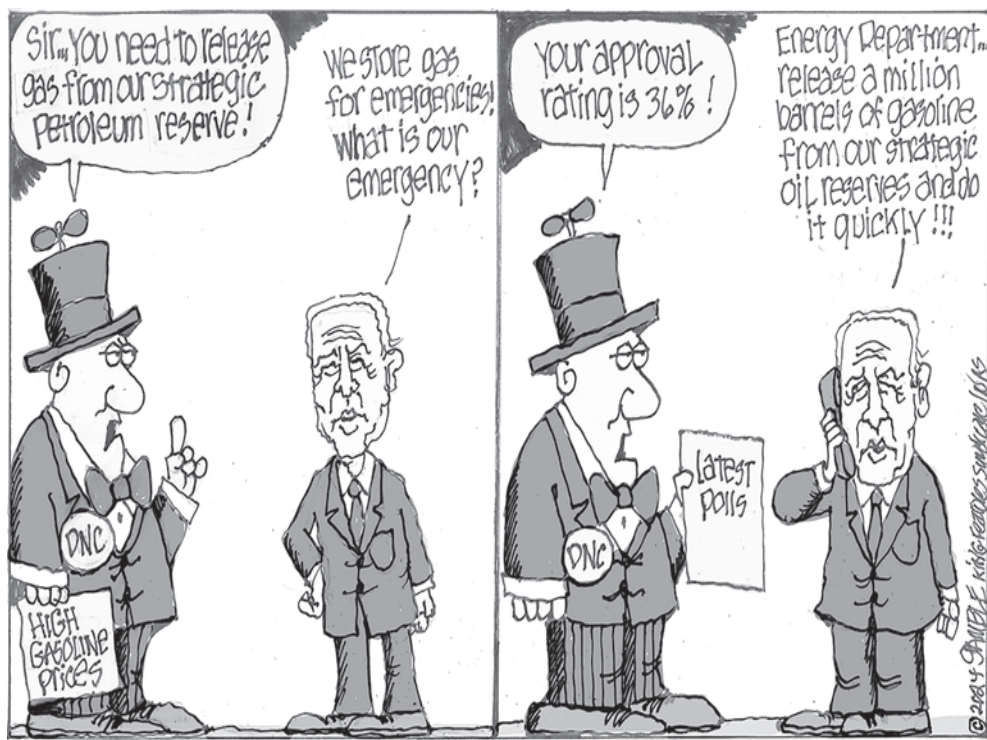
The DAISY award given to Hernandez highlights the the accomplishments she has had so far in her young adult life. The DAISY award is a recognition program to celebrate and recognize nurses’ kindness and compassion by collecting nominations from patients, families and co-workers, and was awarded



– Photo courtesy El Paso Community College

**MOVING ON** – Bianca Hernandez believes in sharing kindness and learning something new every day. She nursing was perfect for what she wanted to do in life. Hernandez graduated Silva Health Magnet in 2022 at 17 years old with her Licensed Vocational Nurse degree, and chose El Paso Community College to forward her education.

See **HERNANDEZ**, Page 4





- On June 10, 1692, Bridget Bishop became the first person executed for witchcraft during the notorious Salem witch trials, after a trial lasting eight days. She had already been accused and declared innocent a decade prior to the hysteria.
- On June 11, 1509, England's King Henry VIII

married the first of his ill-fated wives, Catherine of Aragon. When she failed to produce a male heir, he divorced her against the will of the Roman Catholic Church, triggering the country's Protestant Reformation. Catherine spent her last years in isolation and continued to consider herself England's rightful queen until her death.

- On June 12, 2016, Omar Mateen forced his way into Pulse, one of Orlando's biggest nightclubs, and opened fire with an assault

rifle on the predominantly gay crowd. Forty-nine people died and dozens more were injured in what was then the deadliest mass shooting in modern American history.

- On June 13, 1805, having hurried ahead of the main body of his expedition to the Pacific with fellow explorer William Clark, Meriwether Lewis and four other men arrived at the Great Falls of the Missouri River, confirming that the party was headed in the right direction.
- On June 14, 1922, at the

dedication of a memorial site for Francis Scott Key, composer of "The Star-Spangled Banner," Warren G. Harding became the first American president to have his voice transmitted by radio while addressing a crowd. It was not until three years later, however, that a president (Calvin Coolidge) would deliver a radio-specific address.

- On June 15, 1300, poet Dante Alighieri was elected one of six Priors (magistrates) of Florence, Italy, his native city. His political activities, which included the banishment of several of his rivals, led to his exile from Florence and separation from his family for 15 years, during which time he wrote his most famous work, "The Divine Comedy."
- On June 16, 2012, China launched the Shenzhou-9 space capsule on a mission that included the country's first female astronaut, military pilot Liu Yang. The crew spent a week at the Tiangong space lab to test systems and conduct experiments.

©2024 King Features Synd., Inc.



By Lucie Winborne

- In 1925, a war between Greece and Bulgaria started after a stray dog crossed their border.
- During the 1917 siege of Jerusalem, the British, in an effort to capture the city from an entrenched Ottoman garrison, airdropped cigarettes filled with large doses of opium in the hope their opponents would be too stoned to fight. It worked.
- Holland, Michigan, has 168 miles of tubing coiled underneath its streets that circulates hot water in order to melt any snow on the ground.
- China's Three Gorges Dam is so huge that it's slowed the rotation of Earth.
- Hard-rocker Ozzy Osbourne once fell asleep during a driving test and woke up to find a note on the seat that said, "You have failed." But give him credit for persistence: After 19 attempts, he finally managed to pass the test in 2009 at the age of 60, and then purchased a Ferrari.

• In Wisconsin, it's legal for kids of any age to drink alcohol in a bar as long as they are with their legal guardian.

• Dwayne Johnson's beard in the movie "Hercules" was made of yak testicle hair.

• The Aztecs regarded childbirth as a form of battle. Women who didn't survive it were thought to rise to one of the highest heavens, the same one as for male warriors who died in battle.

• In 1986 a Soviet pilot made a bet with his co-pilot that he could land his airplane blind. He curtained all the cockpit windows and crashed the plane into the landing strip, killing 70 out of his 87 passengers.

Thought for the Day: "Life is like skiing. The goal is not to get to the bottom of the hill. It's to have a bunch of good runs before the sun sets."  
— Seth Godin

©2024 King Features Synd., Inc.

### Socorro Independent School District PUBLIC NOTICE

#### Public Meeting to Review Federally Funded Programs

The Socorro Independent School District will conduct a public information meeting to review the following 2024-2025 ESSA Federal Grants:

- Title I, Part A – Improving Basic Programs
- Title I, Part C – Migrant Education Program
- Title I, Part D, Subpart 2 – Prevention and Intervention Programs for Children and Youth Who Are Neglected, Delinquent, or At-Risk
- Title II, Part A – Preparing, Training and Recruiting High Quality Teachers, Principals or Other School Leaders
- Title III, Part A – English Language Acquisition
- Title IV, Part A – Student Support and Academic Enrichment

A Regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of Socorro ISD will be held June 19, 2024, beginning at 6:00 PM in the District Service Center Board Room, 12440 Rojas Drive, El Paso, Texas 79928.

S.I.S.D does not discriminate against any individual with regard to race, color, national origin, age, religion, sex, marital or veteran status, the presence of a medical condition, disability, or any other legally protected status. 42 U.S.C 2000e-2(a); 20 U.S.C. 1681: Labor Code 21-051.

### AVISO PUBLICO

#### Lajunta Pública para Revisar los Programas de Fondos Federales

El Distrito Escolar Independiente de Socorro llevará a cabo una junta pública para revisar los siguientes programas federales de 2024-2025:

- Título I, Parte A – Mejorando Programas Básicos
- Título I, Parte C – Programa Educativo Migrante
- Título I, Parte D, Subparte 2 – Programas de Prevención e Intervención para Niños y Jóvenes Abandonados, Delincuentes o en Riesgo
- Título II, Parte A – La Preparación, la Capacitación y la Contratación de Maestros, Directores de Escuelas de Alta Capacidad u Otros Dirigentes Escolares
- Título III, Parte A – Adquisición del Idioma Inglés
- Título IV, Parte A – Apoyo Estudiantil y Enriquecimiento Académico

El 19 de junio de 2024 se llevará a cabo una reunión regular de la Mesa Directiva de Socorro ISD a partir de las 6:00 p. m. en la sala de juntas del Centro de Servicios del Distrito, 12440 Rojas Drive, El Paso, Texas 79928.

S.I.S.D no discrimina a ningún individuo a causa de su raza, de su color, de su nacionalidad, de sus creencias religiosas, de su género, de su estado legal, o de veterano, ninguna condición médica o incapacidad, o ningún otro estado legal. 42 U.S.C 2000e-2(a); 20 U.S.C. 1681: Labor Code 21-051.

WTCC: 06-13-24

### Hernandez

From Page 3

to her by the UMC Directors of the Hospital.

It wasn't always easy. In fact, Bianca considered giving up her dream, but credits Edna Ramirez, her first nursing instructor, with helping guide her through the rigors of Nursing school.

Now she won't stop there. Bianca plans to continue her education in Nursing, where she hopes to achieve her Bachelor's degree then a Doctorate degree, and will always put patients first, thanks to EPCC.

"EPCC has always been about giving back to the community. It is something I will always take with me. During all my clinical rotations, teaching presentations, and community visits, it is always about putting our people first."

El Paso Community College celebrated National Nurses Week May 6-12.

Bianca graduated with her fellow classmates on May 10 at the Don Haskins Center with ceremonies.

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

E D  
 U M B R A  
 P U N P A I D  
 I N R  
 R A T I N G  
 R E D U  
 M E D E N  
 E A  
 U N I T

SILICA ALEAP DWI WANG  
 OVISAC ROUSH EIN ODOR  
 RABBLIETOURNAMENT EASE  
 ENSNARED ANODE TIGHT  
 BBC RAP THE MISSION  
 DMITRI SAM ORE RAMONA  
 OOPSICECREAM HERE  
 OSAKA GOING BAUM DOE  
 MEDS DAWN AVENGERHUNT  
 BID FREAK MOUSER  
 ALPMASSAGE ARABBEETLE  
 BIOLAB PANEL LEIG  
 RAMBLEDEGGS WHIR PRIDE  
 ARP LOSS ASHEN PEROT  
 CAIN OUTINGREPORT  
 SESAME AAA INS ITONYA  
 ALESOFJUSTICE HMS  
 HILTS ELIMS AESTHETE  
 AXEL REAMEDANDSHOUTED  
 RICE ARI AUDIO ORMOND  
 ARTS EST LEAKS TEENSY

### CryptoQuip Answer

Special computer memory units made to be used by actress Reid and skater Lipinski: Tara bytes.

9	-	6	+	7	=	10
-		-		+		
3	+	5	÷	4	=	2
×		÷		+		
8	+	1	×	2	=	18
=		=		=		
48		1		13		

# Canutillo ISD names teachers, employee of the year

By Gustavo Reveles  
Special to the Courier

CANUTILLO – Sarah Spencer is the 2024 CISD Elementary Teacher of the Year. Spencer is a Deanna Davenport Elementary School special education teacher. Camila Zeh is the 2024 CISD Secondary Teacher of the Year. She teaches science at the Northwest Early College High School. Imelda Salgado is the 2024 CISD Auxiliary Employee of the Year. She is the Parent Liaison at Canutillo Elementary School.

“Canutillo ISD is the highest performing school district in El Paso because of the work our teachers and employees do and the commitment they make to student performance,” said Superintendent Dr. Pedro Galaviz. “Ms. Spencer, Ms. Zeh and Ms. Salgado showcase the high-quality of work that is performed in CISD on a daily basis.”

The three winners were chosen by a panel of judges who used interviews, letters of recommendation and other factors in determining who would be selected as the 2024 TOYs and AEOY.

Spencer and Zeh will represent Canutillo ISD at the Region 19 Teacher of the Year Program for a chance to be named the top educator in West Texas and represent the city at the Texas Teacher of the Year contest.

The winners were recognized during a gala sponsored by Raiz Federal Credit Union, which featured the theme of “Canutillo’s Aces.” The winners received a \$1,000 stipend from the District.

**EVEN TEXTERS AND DRIVERS HATE TEXTERS AND DRIVERS.**

**STOPTEXTSSTOPWRECKS.ORG**

Ad Council NHTSA

## 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, June 25, 2024 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>	3.46%	Decrease
<b>Debt Service</b>	14.36%	Increase
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	0.58%	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	\$ 5,486,571,745	\$ 6,453,503,632
Total appraised value* of new property**	\$ 131,160,417	\$ 206,882,618
Total taxable value*** of all property	\$ 3,265,525,436	\$ 3,977,203,936
Total taxable value*** of new property**	\$ 107,102,971	\$ 189,070,976

\* “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\* \$63,679,627

\* 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>	\$ 0.760500	\$ 0.400000*	\$ 1.160500	\$ 6,845	\$ 5,907
<b>Rate to Maintain Same Level of Maintenance &amp; Operations Revenue &amp; Pay Debt Service</b>	\$ 0.694890	\$ 0.171790*	\$ 0.866680	\$ 6,028	\$ 5,540
<b>Proposed Rate</b>	\$ 0.755200	\$ 0.400000*	\$ 1.155200	\$ 7,946	\$ 5,649

\*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	\$ 294,031	\$ 332,075
Average Taxable Value of Residences	\$ 157,582	\$ 189,338
<b>Last Year’s Rate Versus</b>		
Proposed Rate per \$100 Value	\$ 1.160500	\$ 1.155200
Taxes Due on Average Residence	\$ 1,828.74	\$ 1,663.46
Increase (Decrease) in Taxes		\$ (165.28)

**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 \$1.155200. This election will be automatically held if the district adopts a rate in excess of the voter-approval rate of \$1.155200.**

### 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)	\$ 17,482,820
Interest & Sinking Fund Balance(s)	\$ 14,581,887

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.



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

enjoy getting called “Latinx” and seamlessly fit into its victim-industrial-complex, Trump “the blue-collar billionaire” probably has more in common with the average Latino working-class male than any member of the (exclusively Democratic) Congressional Hispanic Caucus.

The division of the electorate among class lines, long evident among whites, now appears to be showing up among Hispanics. Ruy Teixeira of the American Enterprise Institute cites a YouGov poll that found Biden leading by 1 point among working-class Hispanics and 39 points among college-educated Hispanics. Working-class Hispanics tend to be more moderate or conservative than their college-educated counterparts and are more pessimistic about the economy and concerned about inflation. As Teixeira notes, about 78% of Hispanic voters are working class, and even higher percentages in Arizona and Nevada, states where Trump is leading.

There appears to be a trend among Hispanic voters. Hillary Clinton won them by nearly 40 points in 2016, while Biden carried them by 23 points in 2020 and could go lower this year. The move among Black voters is more provisional and less pronounced, but still real and obviously worrying to Democrats given their investment in advertising directed at these voters and Biden’s recent fevered commencement address at Morehouse College.

It’s best to think of the Latino and Black voters telling pollsters that they support Trump as very much potential voters – Trump will have to continue to make his case, and the Republican National Committee find ways to reach them and turn them out. But, as the Republican political analyst Patrick Ruffini points out, if culturally conservative non-whites break away from the Democratic coalition it would be a boon for the GOP.

What’s wrong with people of color? This year they could prove too politically independent-minded.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review. ©2024 by King Features Synd., Inc.

**Patient questions his ALS diagnosis**

*DEAR DR. ROACH: My question is about amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS). I have been diagnosed with this horrible, debilitating disease, and I don't know where I am headed. I went to a hospital for a second opinion and additional testing to rule out other possible causes of this numbness. Nary a test was done – the neurologist looked at the electromyography (EMG) done by a neuromuscular doctor at another facility, and he just agreed with the diagnosis. I wanted to get tests done to see if it was perhaps a concussion, if it was from using yard sprays or from COVID vaccines, or if it was due to my having a terrible bad back for years, but none of these were even considered. I am deteriorating rapidly. Would you please give me some suggestions? Am I wrong for seeking other causes? – J.B.*



I am very sorry to hear that you have been diagnosed with ALS. I understand why you would like to believe there are other possibilities for this because there are no treatments for ALS that can stop the progression of this fatal disease.

The diagnosis of ALS is made after a thorough examination and history review. Electrodiagnostic studies, like an EMG or a nerve conduction test, can help support the diagnosis, but they do not make the diagnosis themselves. The nerve conduction study is normal for ALS, while the EMG shows the nerves that are not connecting to the muscles. Other diseases of the muscles and muscle nerves should be considered. MRI scans are usually performed, as they can identify conditions that mimic ALS.

The terrible back you mention could include a condition called cervical myelopathy, which has some features that can be mistaken for ALS. Routine blood and urine testing should be done to exclude other conditions, such as Lyme disease, and the spinal fluid is sometimes analyzed if the neurologist suspects immune-mediated nerve disease.

However, none of the other possibilities that you mention is likely to be confused for ALS by an experienced neurologist who does a complete exam.

I have three concerns: The first is that you are suggesting you may not have had a thorough evaluation so far. Second, the only symptom you mention is numbness, and although this can occasionally happen with ALS, you are much more likely to have weakness and muscle twitching without numbness. Third, ALS tends to progress slowly, not rapidly.

For all these reasons, and because you need to be sure of your condition, I recommend getting another opinion from a neurologist who doesn't rely on someone else's history review and exam.

*DEAR DR. ROACH: I am a 94-year-old female who takes one 0.75-mg pill of levothyroxine per day since 1970. It was prescribed because of low energy. My doctor thinks the usual blood test is all that is required for proper diagnostics. Would I benefit from a more thorough test, and if so, what would you recommend, as my energy level is now very low? – S.H.*

For most people with low thyroid levels, a simple test of the thyroid level and/or the TSH (thyroid stimulating hormone) level is all that is needed to be sure the dose of the replacement thyroid hormone, levothyroxine, is adequate. However, there are many causes for low energy. A low blood count and abnormalities of any critical organ can all cause fatigue.

The diagnosis starts with a careful history review and exam. Lab tests are important, but nothing is as likely to give the correct diagnosis as listening to the patient will.

*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. ©2024 North America Synd., Inc. All Rights Reserved.*



**Moore Texas by Roger MOORE**  
San Juan, TX once had a church that accommodated 23 denominations.

## 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: R equals S

RXHFYTD FVIXBQHP IHIVPA  
BEYQR ITCH QV SH BRHC SA  
TFQPHRR PHYC TEC RZTQHP  
DYXYERZY: QTPT SAQHR.

Answer Page 4

©2024 King Features Synd., Inc.

## Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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!

©2024 King Features Synd., Inc.

## Getting help when leaving the service



by Freddy Groves

Those who leave the service can be in for quite a life change, not only for them but for their families. The transition can be something of a challenge.

The VA knows this and has set aside \$4 million to be used this year as grants to organizations that help with that transition. Additionally, the grant organizations are expected to match that amount, effectively doubling the money.

The services these organizations are to provide include employment placement, interview training, resume help and more. Just getting help with a resume can be a huge step. Trying to translate your military MOS to its civilian equivalent can be daunting.

Besides the grants, the VA takes its own steps. See [benefits.va.gov/transition/transition-home.asp](https://benefits.va.gov/transition/transition-home.asp) for more information.

The Military to Civilian Readiness Pathway (M2C Ready) is a two-year effort: one year before you leave the service and one year afterward.

Part of M2C Ready is the Solid Start program, which helps veterans during the first year of leaving the service. They give you three calls during that first year (at the 90, 180 and 365 day marks) to make sure you know about the benefits you have. (A heads up... take care that you're not talking to a scammer. Veterans are often targeted, so beware what personal info you disclose on the phone.)

You can call Solid Start at 800-827-0611 or see [benefits.va.gov/transition/solid-start.asp](https://benefits.va.gov/transition/solid-start.asp). The page has lists and links to resources you can use. Among others, the sources include employment help, housing assistance, pensions, education, life insurance and getting your records. Don't miss the link to the VA Welcome Kit at the bottom of the page. Get one (it's a download) and keep it with your important documents.

If you're not actually leaving the service yet and are moving from one duty station to the next, hook up with TAP or the Transition Assistance Program. Check the "modules" at [benefits.va.gov/TRANSITION/VA-TAP-Course-Catalog.asp](https://benefits.va.gov/TRANSITION/VA-TAP-Course-Catalog.asp) for videos on topics of your choice. These are actual training sessions with resource guides.

©2024 King Features Synd., Inc.



- If you keep aloe around for soothing your skin after being out in the sun, take this tip from J.C. in Florida: "Keep aloe in your fridge; it keeps it cool, and it feels even more refreshing."

- Want to eat more fruits and veggies? Keep pre-cut fruit and easy veggie dippers like carrots, bell pepper strips and celery at eye level in see-through containers in your fridge. The more you see it, the more you will eat it.
- WEDDING TIP: To create a beautiful garland for banisters, use white or light-colored tulle, draped in sections and gathered with a lovely bow. Twist the tulle around a string of clear lights for an even more dramatic effect.

- To create an easy resting mat for toddlers, sew three pillowcases together in a row along the long end. When needed, stuff three pillows in, and it creates a long mat, suitable for naptime or TV time.

- Use wide, flat rubber bands, such as you might find on a broccoli stalk, to identify your drinking glass. Write each person's name in permanent marker on the band, and slip over the glass. Another benefit? It makes the glass non-slip!

- Chalkboard paint is a wonderful creation for creative kids. If you rent and can't paint, you can purchase large squares of smooth pressboard at a building supply store and paint those. Then just mount them to the wall using mirror clips.

Send your tips to Now Here's a Tip, 628 Virginia Drive, Orlando, FL 32803. ©2024 King Features Synd., Inc.

## GO FIGURE!

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.

	-		+		=	10		
-		-		+				
	+		÷		=	2		
×		÷		+				
	+		×		=	18		
=		=		=				
48		1		13				
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

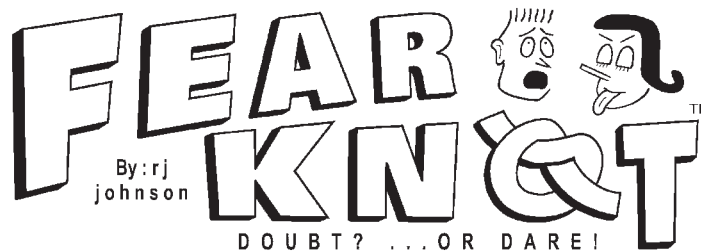
DIFFICULTY: ★

★ Moderate ★★ Difficult

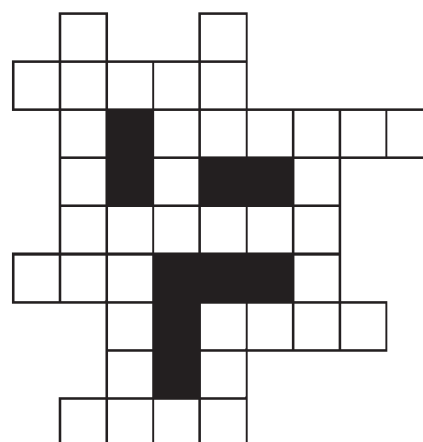
★★★ GO FIGURE!

Answer Page 4

©2024 King Features Syndicate, Inc.



- ERD
- NIPDUA
- ♥BUARM
- ♥ENDE
- ♥AGNIRT
- ♥AET
- ♥UTRN
- ♥EMDNA
- ♥NDA
- IMPREE
- ♥EGURA
- TUIN



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.

©2024 King Features Syndicate. All rights reserved.