



– Photo courtesy U.S. General Services Administration

**THE DAILY WAIT** – The Bridge of the Americas Land Port of Entry is toll-free making it a favorite crossing point between El Paso and Juarez. However, a large increase in professional truck and personal vehicle traffic over the last few years has created significant congestion making it difficult to support the higher volume of traffic.

## Bridge of the Americas could see changes

# Port of Entry may eliminate commercial lanes

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

EL PASO COUNTY – United States General Services Administration (GSA) recently released an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) that identifies, describes, and analyzes the potential effects of the proposed alternatives to the Bridge of the Americas Land Port of Entry (BOTALPOE) modernization project.

Built in 1967, BOTALPOE is located on 28 acres that sit on the international border which separates El Paso and Ciudad Juarez and is one of four crossings in the region. BOTALPOE processes toll-free inbound and outbound commercial, non-commercial, and pedestrian traffic. As a result, the volume of traffic is heavy with many travelers and commercial vehicles choosing to enter and exit through this facility in lieu of paying a toll.

Consequently, GSA officials reported that much of the port facility has reached the end of its life cycle as most of the buildings and infrastructure are operating at or beyond capacity and no longer meeting the Customs and Border Protection (CBP) current design standards. Officials stated that being the only toll-free port of entry in El Paso, an increase in truck and vehicular traffic over the last few years has created significant congestion making it difficult to support the increased volume of traffic.

Thus, in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act, an EIS study was conducted and a draft of its findings was presented during a 45-day public comment period which concluded November 4th. Now, GSA officials will take that input and prepare the final draft, known as the Record of Decision (ROD). The ROD will notify the public of the decision made on the proposed

action and present the reasons for that decision.

Congresswoman Veronica Escobar, in a recent press release, divulged that the environmental study of the project's impact is complete and that the GSA is leaning towards option four of the project, a plan that includes multi-level modernization to accommodate pedestrian and non-commercial vehicle traffic, which means that all north and southbound commercial cargo traffic would be eliminated.

According to Escobar, GSA officials said that this option would be conducted within the boundaries of the existing port and that there would be minor land acquisition in an area next to the bridge. She stated that GSA officials looked at the potential social, economic, and environmental impacts of the project and their preferred option is to eliminate commercial cargo traffic at the bridge. This aligns with the concerns expressed by residents from the surrounding neighborhood including the advocacy group *Familias Unidas del Chamizal*, which has raised concerns for years about the health effects of the bridge's heavy commercial traffic.

"We would not support the removal of commercial traffic if other land ports of entry in our region could not absorb the commercial traffic that will no longer go through the Bridge of the Americas," Escobar said during a press conference that was recently held to reveal GSA's apparent recommendation.

Escobar acknowledged that while the elimination of commercial traffic may be welcomed by some, others may have concerns about the changes.

Nonetheless, she emphasized that commercial traffic will be rerouted during construction, which is expected to begin in 2026 with the completion expected to be the end of 2029.

GSA officials stated that the purpose and need for the proposed action is multi-dimensional: to provide new/updated port infrastructure and facilities to correct deficiencies and bring facilities up to standards and current codes – specifically GSA P100 (Facilities Standards for the Public Buildings Service) and the Customs & Border Patrol (CBP) Land Port of Entry Design Standard.

In order to bring the Bridge of the Americas in line with these design standards and operational requirements, GSA plans are to improve the capacity and functionality of the land port of entry to meet future public demand, while maintaining the capability to meet border security initiatives and to ensure the safety and security for the employees and the travelling public.

As part of initial project planning, the GSA developed five (5) viable alternatives as potential means of implementing the project. All five alternatives included the phased removal of all existing buildings/structures and infrastructure within the existing port of entry boundaries and construction of new buildings/structures and supporting infrastructure.

Also, all five included minimal land acquisition

*"Investment in the Bridge of the Americas Land Port of Entry modernization will strengthen supply chains, improve operational capabilities and facility infrastructure, spur economic growth, and bolster the country's security."*

– U.S. Rep. Veronica Escobar



to ensure the safety and security for the employees and the travelling public.

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# Dockworkers for economic stagnation

It's the processing gate that roared.

APM Terminals at the Port of Mobile in Alabama uses a semi-automated gate to process trucks without union labor, and this supposed outrage is one of the reasons the International Longshoremen's Association went on strike. Never mind that the gate has been in operation for years and is a more efficient and safer way to check and admit trucks.

The strike, affecting ports on the East Coast and in the Gulf, is off for now with a tentative deal on wages. But the larger issue of automation, wholly opposed by the union, is unresolved; it's been put off until an extension of the current contract expires on Jan. 15.

"Machines don't pay taxes," the president of the union local in Mobile complained. Yeah, well,

neither do wheelbarrows or iPhones, yet we still use them as tools to make any number of tasks easier and less time-consuming.

Harold Daggett, the president of the union, has pledged an unceasing war on automation. He famously makes nearly a million dollars a year and lives in a New Jersey mansion. No word on whether he insists that he and his family handwash their clothes and dishes – or employ a laundress and personal dishwasher – in order to forswear reliance on labor-saving devices.

Technological advance is necessary to economic advance. It would be disastrous if the longshoremen's union successfully blocked it at our ports, or, even worse, an alarmist view of automation were to prevail in our society at large.

We may think that we live in a time of revolutionary technological change, but

we aren't seeing big productivity gains. This is important because higher wages (and lower prices) ultimately depend on increased productivity – or being able to do more with equal or fewer inputs. Robert Atkinson of the Information Technology & Innovation Foundation points out that much of our new technology has been poured into the consumer market – smart phones, social media, online retail and the like. The key is applying technology to



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## Food for thought By John Grimaldi

# Jacob Wells calls it 'a crowd for the crowdless'

The Oxford dictionary describes crowdfunding as "the practice of funding a project or venture by raising many small amounts of money from a large number of people, typically via the internet." GoFundMe, created in 2010, is among the most well known online fundraisers. Jacob Wells and his family created their GiveSendGo website in 2015 as "a crowd for the crowdless," as he put it in an interview with Rebecca Weber, CEO of the Association of Mature American Citizens and host of AMAC's Better For America podcast.

Wells recalled that soon after serving in the military in 2006 he "began wrestling through what I was going to do. Myself and my siblings [six brothers and six sisters] sat down after a Thanksgiving meal, and we said, Wow, everyone we know is using crowdfunding to fundraise to make a difference within their community, to go on a missions trip with their church, to do whatever. We came to the conclusion that it's important to help people raise money for the financial

elements that they have, the issues that they have that require finances."

Of course, he said, "there are actually many things that money doesn't solve, particularly when there are difficult moments where you just have a tragedy, an issue that no amount of money you give to them is going to give hope." Wells added that his goal was "to build an incredible tool for people to raise money. But we're going to also share the hope that we have that people can realize that they are valuable, that they have purpose, that there is a God that loves them. And so we built GiveSendGo with those elements back in 2014 to compete. We launched at the end of 2015. And it's been a wild ride from there."

It wasn't easy, he said. "The challenges were numerous, partially because you don't know what you don't know when you get into something like this. We didn't come into it with a huge technical background from having gone to school for all of these things. And having learned the ins and outs of

what a startup would look like, we just took a step of faith. Beyond just the unknowns and the technical, the business environment, there's actually political elements that are fighting actively against the very freedoms that this country was founded upon. And, wow, we were in the middle of this fight as a platform that is now faced with those challenges where you have big players in the industry, like PayPal and Discover Card and other big institutions and financial institutions. But we stood tall and we built our own systems and we bought our own servers and we just took each step a day at a time, trusting that God would lead us as he has in the midst of those challenges, challenges that actually turned into successes because as we faced those challenges head on and stood boldly in them, they became successes allowing us to reach greater audiences. And now we have a platform that's in over 80 countries around the world. We have campaigns actively going on right now in the UK, in Australia

and in Africa and South America and throughout Europe. There are campaigns all over the world using our GiveSendGo platform. It's because we met challenges and we stood on our faith and our principles that they became successes."

It's noteworthy that GiveSendGo is a free platform. As Jacob explained it, "we actually champion generosity in our business model. We said we're not going to charge for our service when platforms like GoFundMe were taking 5 percent plus of every donation that came through. We said, we believe in a generous God; we're going to live generously ourselves. And what that means is people are raising money because they need it. They're in a situation. Thus, it doesn't make sense for us, as a platform, to take money from people that need it. Why don't we just ask the people that have the money to give a little bit extra, if they're willing. So we created a generosity model where we were going to be free and rely on the generosity of our users to just give us a little bit extra."



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

**Publisher**  
Rick Shrum

**Contributors**  
Alfredo Vasquez  
Steve Escajeda

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# Segovia chosen to head Fabens ISD

By Sofia Maciel  
*Special to the Courier*

FABENS – On October 26th during a special meeting of the board, the Fabens Independent School District (FISD) Board of Trustees named Dr. Rogelio Segovia the sole finalist to become the Superintendent of Schools. They chose him from multiple qualified candidates due to his extensive experience, leadership skills, and commitment to student success.

Segovia has a wealth of experience from various educational leadership roles across El Paso public schools – most recently as assistant superintendent of curriculum and instruction for FISD.

Board President Orlando Flores expressed confidence in the selection, stating, "After reviewing top-notch candidates, the Fabens ISD board of trustees

selected Dr. Segovia. The board of trustees looks forward to a long-lasting collaboration and partnership with him. Together, this team of eight will serve the Fabens ISD community to the best of its ability."

Under Texas law, the school board must wait at least 21 days before officially hiring Segovia as superintendent. During this period, the community will have the opportunity to learn more about his vision and goals for the district.

Segovia said, "I would like to thank the Fabens ISD Board of Trustees for this incredible opportunity. I am beyond excited to continue working alongside our amazing Fabens ISD board of trustees, leadership team, district employees, and the community to shape a bright future for our students. I would also like to extend my gratitude to our acting superintendent, Martin Torres, for his dedication during this transition period. Go Wildcats!"



– Photo by Liz Serrano

Dr. Rogelio Segovia



# Lanes

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in areas immediately adjacent to the port, with some requiring varying degrees of additional land acquisition to the east. Additionally, GSA could have decided to take no action, which brought the total number of options within the EIS document to six.

Making the port's modernization efforts possible is the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) which was signed by President Joe Biden in 2021. "America's land ports are vital to our economy and our security, with billions of dollars in goods and services crossing our borders each and every day," said GSA Administrator Robin Carnahan. "These bipartisan investments are a historic opportunity to modernize our land ports in ways that will create good-paying jobs and strengthen supply chains, while enhancing safety and security."

The \$3.4 billion in direct spending by GSA under the new law is estimated to support, on average, nearly 6,000 annual jobs over the next 8 years; add \$3.23 billion in total labor income across the United States; contribute an additional \$4.5 billion to the National Gross Domestic Product (GDP); and generate hundreds of millions of dollars in tax revenue for state, local, and federal governments, according to GSA reports.

The Bridge of the Americas project, which will involve a more than \$600 million investment, will fully modernize the facility to improve traffic flow and decrease wait times, GSA officials claimed. They added that the project will also allow CBP to more effectively deploy technology to identify high risk activity and shipments, combat drug trafficking, and increase operational security.

"The economic prosperity of El Paso and the strength of our national supply chain relies on the trade flowing across our outdated land ports



- Photo courtesy U.S. General Services Administration

**SAY WHAT** - The U.S. General Services Administration (GSA) encouraged community members to provide feedback on the Bridge of the Americas Land Port of Entry modernization project proposal was presented in a series of public meetings held throughout El Paso County. Public comments were accepted and recorded through November 4th.

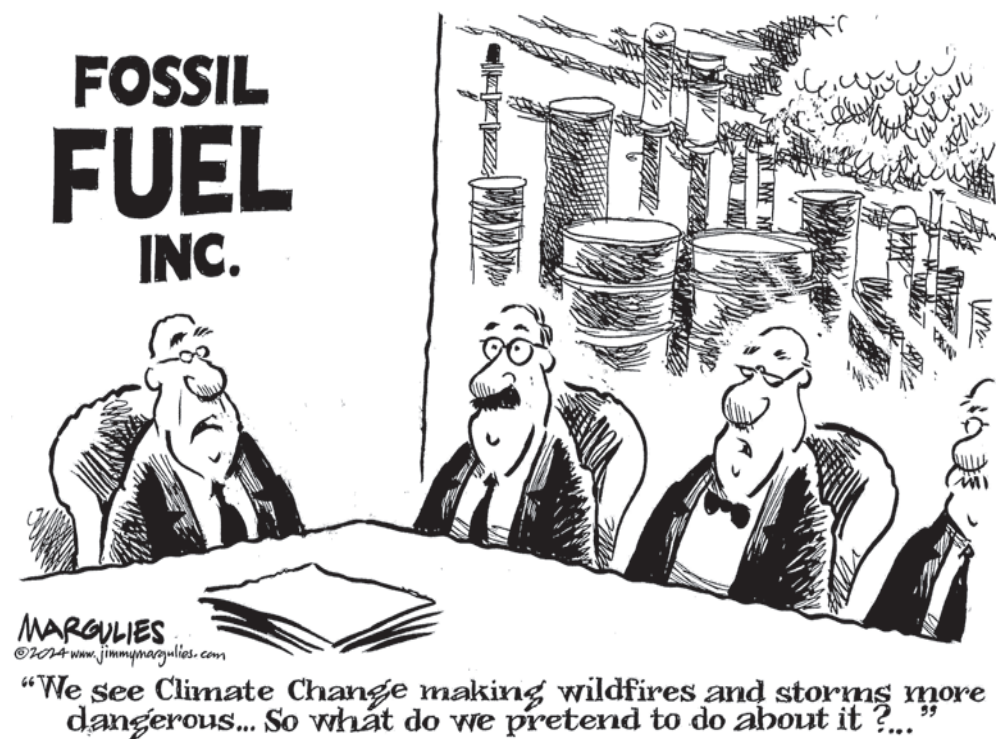
of entry," said Congresswoman Escobar. "Thanks to the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, the much-needed modernization and expansion of the Bridge of the Americas Land Port of Entry will be fully funded. I look forward to working closely with the General Services Administration, the Department of Homeland Security, and community partners and stakeholders in our binational region to ensure this project creates good-paying jobs, promotes economic growth and development, and reduces air pollution in the borderland."

The Bridge of the Americas is one of 26 major

construction and modernization projects at land ports of entry that are being funded through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. The average land port is nearly 40 years old and long overdue for upgrades, stated a GSA report.

The report noted that these projects provide the opportunity to incorporate sustainability features that will sharply reduce greenhouse gas emissions, mitigate the impact of buildings on the environment, and simultaneously increase the

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— Photos courtesy El Paso Community College

**CHAMPIONS** – The Tejanos, from left, are Joaquin Moya, Wallace Kigen, Hector Sanchez, Timothy Kiprotich, Ian Kiprono, Gideon Kiprotich, Gideon Kipkorir, Gustavo Salazar, Jesus Herrera, Ayden Lugo and Mathew Kipkoech.

# Tejano team wins WJCAC, NJCAA Region V

**By Jim Heiney**  
*Special to the Courier*

EL PASO COUNTY – El Paso Community College Men won the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) Region V and Western Junior College Athletic Conference (WJCAC) Championships in Hobbs, New Mexico. The women’s team finished 2nd behind New Mexico Junior College.

Along with the Championship, the EPCC Tejanos placed 4 runners in the Top 10 for the 8K race and were named All-Conference. They are (3) Mathew Kipkoech, (4) Wallace Kigen, (6) Hector Sanchez and (10) Timothy Kiprotich.

The 2nd Place EPCC Tejanos had 2 All-Region finishers in the 5K Race. They are (3) Antonia Ronoh and (5) Esnath Ndlovu.

Next up, the teams travel to Richmond, Virginia on November 9th for the NJCAA Division 1 Cross Country and Half Marathon National Championships.



**HEADING FOR NATIONALS** – The Tejanas, back row from left, are Mercy Chebii, Hilda Kipkogei, Faith Kandie, Jezarae Valenzuela. Front row from left, are Esnath Ndlovu, Hannah Martinez, Sofia Ramirez, Antonia Ronoh, Charity Jiprotich.

## Strange BUT TRUE

By Lucie Winborne

- There’s a surgical procedure called selective amygdalohippocampectomy that removes half of the brain’s amygdala – and with it, much of the patient’s sense of fear.
- Obituary writers have their own awards, which are called The Grimmys.
- Londoners in the 1600s were advised to keep “fart jars” – consisting of trapped fart odors – on hand to combat bubonic plague. The idea was that the potent smell would somehow purify the air!
- During World War II, the term “security blanket” was slang for measures meant to keep military information secret, or covered up.
- Future Martians might marvel at the Valles Marineris (a.k.a. Mariner Valley) the same way Earthlings marvel at the Grand Canyon. The huge rift is more than eight times the length of the Grand Canyon, and four times as deep.
- The Eiffel Tower leans slightly toward the shade on sunny days.
- Forbes estimates that Barbie’s Dream House would be worth around \$16 million if it were real. The three-story house has seven rooms, an elevator, a garage and a pool.
- In 1897, Indiana state legislators tried to pass a bill that would have legally redefined the value of pi as 3.2.
- A game show in Japan featured one item in a room that was replaced with a look-alike item made of chocolate or other candy. Contestants would try to find it by biting into various objects.
- The ancient Greeks believed that pearls were the hardened tears of joy from Aphrodite, the goddess of love.
- Elton John has pianos named after Aretha Franklin, Nina Simone and Diana Krall.
- There’s a five-story, blood-red waterfall in Antarctica.

Thought for the Day: “The greatness of a man lies not in how much wealth he acquires, but in his integrity and his ability to affect those around him positively.”  
– Bob Marley

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## CryptoQuip Answer

I have a snazzy new grizzly-shaped area rug, but I keep avoiding it. It’s a bear to walk on.

– Bob Marley





**Moments in time**  
THE HISTORY CHANNEL

• On Nov. 4, 1960, English primatologist Jane Goodall was observing a group of chimpanzees in Gombe Stream National Park in Tanzania when she saw one of them making and using a tool, something previously believed exclusive to humans.

• On Nov. 5, 1862, more than 300 Santee Sioux in Minnesota were found guilty of raping and murdering Anglo settlers and sentenced to hang. A month later, President Abraham Lincoln commuted all but 39 of the sentences. While one of the condemned was granted a last-minute reprieve, the others were hanged simultaneously on Dec. 26 in a mass execution witnessed by a large crowd.

• On Nov. 6, 2013, it was announced that the only known copy of Napoleon's will, which had been written by his close adviser, would be auctioned off in Paris, France. It sold for \$483,000.

• On Nov. 7, 1944, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt was elected to a fourth term in office. He remains the only American president to have served more than two.

• On Nov. 8, 1939, on the 16th anniversary of Adolf Hitler's Beer Hall Putsch (a failed takeover of the government in Bavaria), a bomb hidden in a pillar behind him exploded just after he finished giving a speech. He was unharmed, though seven people were killed and 67 others wounded.

• On Nov. 9, 1965, one of history's largest power failures occurred when New York State, portions of seven nearby states, and parts of eastern Canada went black at the height of rush hour, thanks to the tripping of a 230-kilovolt transmission line near Ontario, Canada, which caused several other lines to fail as well. Eight hundred thousand people were trapped in subways, thousands more were stranded in office buildings, elevators, and trains, and 10,000 National Guardsmen and 5,000 off-duty policemen had to be called into service.

• On Nov. 10, 1973, newspapers reported the confiscation and burning of 36 copies of Kurt Vonnegut's novel "Slaughterhouse-Five" by school officials in Drake, North Dakota, after a student's mother took a complaint about the book to the principal.

**Lanes**

From Page 3

mission readiness of the federal government by increasing resilience to climate change. Additionally, these projects must be conducted in a way that strives to be responsive to local community needs and meets the administration's overall commitment to support the livability and vitality of communities where federal facilities are located.

Meanwhile, El Paso County Commissioners Court has asked its staff for a study to identify ways to increase commercial traffic at the Tornillo Port of Entry (POE), which is located about 26 miles east of the Bridge of the Americas. The El Paso County Economic Development Department said that it has already gathered a team of experts from education institutions and engineering firms, to identify the potential competitive advantages of the Tornillo POE and promote them to companies in hopes of increasing commercial traffic.

County officials stated that they want to see its \$90 million investment in the Tornillo POE start to produce a return and so the current study, which is funded through a federal grant, is intended to identify competitive advantages of the Tornillo POE, like fuel efficiency, distance, and time. Furthermore, as the Bridge of the Americas looks to potentially close as part of the modernization project, county officials expect the results of the study to show that the Tornillo POE is a viable option for commercial traffic.

**Anthony Independent School District Public Notice**

The Anthony Independent School District will hold a public meeting to discuss the proposed renewal of the District's Innovation Plan for the 2025-2031 school years. The meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 20, 2024 at 5:45 p.m., in the Anthony ISD Board Room located at 813 6th Street, Anthony, TX.

**Notificacion Pública**

El Distrito Escolar Independiente de Anthony llevará a cabo una junta pública para discutir la propuesta de renovación del Innovación del Distrito Planear para los años escolares 2025-2031. La junta se llevará a cabo el miércoles 20 de noviembre 2024 a las 5:45 p.m., en la sala de juntas de Anthony ISD ubicada en 813 6th Street, Anthony, TX.

WTCC: 11-07-24



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**Notice of Public Meeting to Discuss Anthony Independent School District's State Financial Accountability Rating (FIRST)**

The Anthony Independent School District will hold a public meeting at 6:00 P.M. on Wednesday, November 20, 2024 in the Anthony ISD Board Room, 813 Sixth Street, Anthony, Texas 79821.

The purpose of the meeting is to discuss Anthony Independent School District's rating on the State's Financial Accountability Rating System.

WTCC: 11-07-24

**Notice of Public Hearing to Discuss Tornillo Independent School District's State Financial Accountability Rating (FIRST)**

Tornillo Independent School District will hold a public meeting at 5:30 PM, Thursday, November 20, 2024, in the boardroom of the W.E. Neill Service Center, at 19210 Cobb Ave., Tornillo, Texas 79853.

The purpose of this hearing is to discuss Tornillo Independent School District's rating on the state's financial accountability system.

WTCC: 11/07/24







Comix

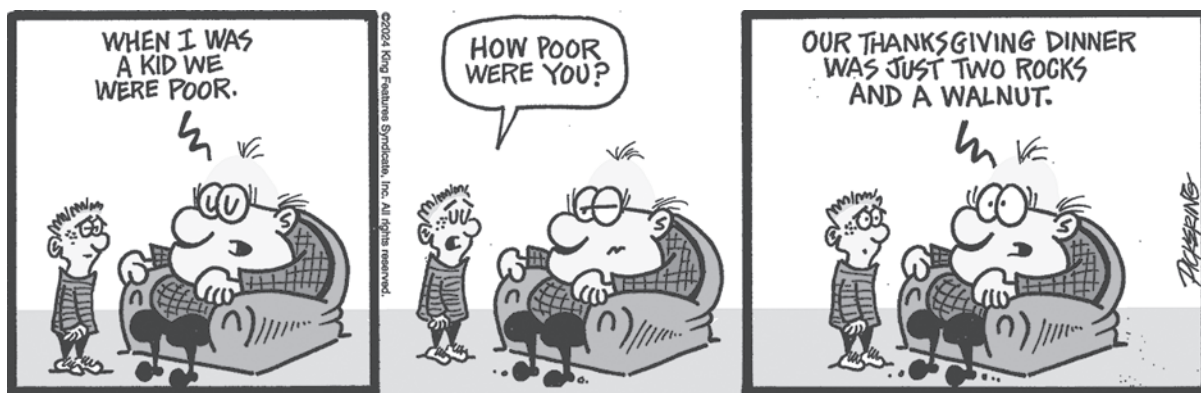
**OUT ON A LIMB** By Gary Kopervas



**AMBER WAVES** By Dave T. Phipps



**THE SPATS** By Jeff Pickering



**TIGER** By Bud Blake



**Lowry**

From Page 2

other sectors of the economy.

Which brings us back to the ports. The productivity benefits of technology – automated gates, cranes and cargo-handling, among other things – are obvious.

Yet, China, the Netherlands and Singapore are outpacing us. Rotterdam began automating in the early 1990s. In contrast, we have fully automated only three terminals at our ports, with another three considered semi-automated. We don't have a port that cracks the World Bank's list of the top 50 around the globe.

Depending on the circumstances, automation does eliminate some jobs, but it creates others. If the catastrophic warnings about the job-destroying effects of technology were accurate, we'd all be unemployed farmers. Recently, we've seen how the disruptive innovation of the likes of Amazon and FedEx has led to huge increases in warehouse and storage jobs, and in trucking as well.

In the maritime sector, union officials hated the shipping container revolution of the 1960s, too.

The containers did reduce port jobs, but brought a nearly miraculous boost to efficiency. Would anyone really want to go back to taking days to load and unload ships or workers trying to figure out how to fit random stuff on a vessel?

The longshoremen's union on the West Coast accepted fully automated machinery in a 2008 contract and hasn't been devastated. It has added jobs since 2020 and got a generous wage increase in its latest contract.

Thriving ports capable of handling larger ships and more cargo are a national economic asset. An analysis for the Pacific Maritime Association, representing shipping companies and port and terminal operators, noted of the ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach, "These economic engines anchor a network of 29 West Coast ports that supports 12.5 million jobs and generates nearly 9% of U.S. Gross Domestic Product."

Our ports should be run for the benefit of all of us, and the wider economy, not for a union advancing a worldview that can only bring stagnation and mediocrity.

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

**Myeloma patients face tough survival rates**

*DEAR DR. ROACH: Can someone have diffuse multiple myeloma with serious symptoms (like bone pain, pale skin, amber-colored urine, constipation, fatigue, insomnia, excessive sweating, and dizziness) and still be alive after four years? – J.O.*



Multiple myeloma is a type of cancer of the bone marrow. The cells in the bone marrow (called plasma cells) stop responding as they should and make large amounts of antibodies. Unfortunately, these antibodies don't help you fight off infections; they consist of a single clone that usually doesn't have any discernible activity.

What myeloma does do is crowd out the rest of the cells in the bone marrow so that the person can't make adequate red blood cells (causing pale skin and dizziness), blood-clotting cells (predisposing people to bleeding), and other immune system cells. This puts a person at a high risk for infection.

The myeloma cells can get into the bone and cause bone pain. The high metabolic activity can also cause dizziness and sweating, and many cancers cause more nonspecific symptoms like fatigue, insomnia and constipation. Myeloma can also damage the kidney.

Although myeloma is generally considered incurable, new treatments have greatly improved the prognosis. In people with the standard type of myeloma, survival is eight years with the usual treatment. With a stem-cell transplant, survival with average-risk myeloma is over 12 years. Some highly aggressive forms of myeloma have a much worse survival rate.

I don't have enough information to tell whether you have standard or high-risk myeloma. Your symptoms suggest that your disease isn't under good control. But the majority of people treated with the best available treatments do live longer than four years.

*DEAR DR. ROACH: I've had stronger body odor during the past few months and can't figure out why. I am a healthy, 69-year-old woman in great shape. There hasn't been any changes in my exercise regimen, diet or medications at all. Why is this happening? – K.D.*

Body odor is mostly caused by bacteria that live on the skin. These bacteria can change under a variety of conditions. One of those conditions is sweat, so a change in sweat due to a change in temperature or humidity can favor the growth of different bacteria, which affects your body odor.

It was a very hot summer for most of the country, so this could've been a possibility. Also, the regular sweat that perspires is different from the sweat we have under times of high stress or anxiety, and many people recognize that this also leads to a particular odor.

Although exercise, changes in diet, and some medications can change the bacteria that live near the sweat glands, you've eliminated all of these. Hormonal changes (most notably among adolescents) lead to different bacteria, but menopause can also have a similar effect (although age 69 typically isn't a time when we see major hormone changes in women).

Medical issues like diabetes or kidney or liver disease lead to changes in body odor that some, but not all, people can recognize. Finally, if you are living with someone, their skin bacteria can become your skin bacteria, so this is another possibility.

Regular soap and water, as well as deodorants, are effective for most people, but I've had a handful of patients who benefitted from the cleansers we use prior to surgery, like chlorhexidine gluconate. They can dramatically change the body bacteria and restore equilibrium.

*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

1967: Baseball head coach Bib Falk, of the Texas Longhorns, was given over 400 cigars when he retired... a cigar for every victory!

## 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: S equals Z

J LZDP Z NGZSSM GPR  
 UVJSSFM-NLZXPX ZVPZ VWU,  
 CWH J YPPX ZDIJKJGU JH.  
 JH'N Z CPZV HI RZFY IG.

Answer Page 4

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## Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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

**DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ◆**

◆ Moderate ◆◆ Challenging

Answer Page 6

◆◆◆ HOO BOY!

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## Proving a negative?



by Freddy Groves

An elderly Vietnam-era veteran is being hounded by a government agency that is insisting he pay back a loan... a loan he never took out.

The Small Business Administration (SBA) says he took out the loan in 2021 and if he doesn't pay it back, they will take 15% of his Social Security check until it's paid for.

The veteran has tried to tell them he never applied for nor received any loan, that he hadn't owned a business (and therefore didn't qualify for a business loan), and the SBA wants him to prove it.

How do you prove a negative?

It seems that the SBA would have records of where they sent that loan money, if indeed the loan was issued. But no, they're insisting the veteran prove he didn't get the loan.

Granted, there were

billions of dollars handed out to fraudsters and thieves in the SBA loan program during the pandemic. But again, how do you prove a negative?

The average monthly Social Security check this year is around \$1,782. Taking away 15% leaves \$1,514. Even before deducting that 15%, it's not a lot of money, and the veteran probably doesn't have a lot to spare at the end of the month.

At this point, taking the veteran's Social Security money is on hold – for now – after a local investigative reporter got involved and made calls.

But a quick look on the internet shows that this veteran is only one of many this has happened to – people being nailed for loans they never received. When they complain, all are being told to send in a long list of financial documents, such as tax returns. At first glance it looks like a scam to steal personal information.

If you're the victim of fraud such as this, deal directly with the SBA

Office of Inspector General and file a complaint. As an added step, consider submitting a FOIA request for all documents related to the problem, such as the loan application itself.

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- Fill your salt and pepper shakers a fourth of the way with uncooked white rice. Dry rice will allow the salt or pepper to flow more freely from the shaker. If your shaker is opaque, you can tell when it's time to add more salt or pepper when the shaker starts to rattle

- Mark old toothbrushes with masking tape so you can tell the difference between cleaning brushes and those you use for your teeth. You can clean a toothbrush in the dishwasher. Put it with the silverware.

- Because fabric softeners can leave residue in the dryer's lint trap, clean yours out at least every other month. Just scrub with plain old soap and water.

- "Add this to the list of wonderful cleaners for wood floors: tea. Just brew a couple of cups and use the tea as you would your regular wood floor cleaner. It's nice and shiny afterward." – P.L. in Oregon

- Use a turkey baster to "squirt" pancake batter into your frying pan. Mix the batter as normal and unscrew the top of the baster to load. You can use it to make letters for fun kids' breakfasts. No drips!

- I sew looped tags onto the corner of our family's washcloths. My husband installed several hooks in the shower, and when we are finished with our washcloth, we hang it up by the tag after rinsing it out. They do not mildew this way, because they are allowed to dry.

- If you have trouble opening the lid on glass jars, try using a pair of standard dishwashing gloves. They work to grip both the lid and the jar. They work especially well if your hands are the least bit moist. – D.Y. in Pennsylvania

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.

**DIFFICULTY: ★★**

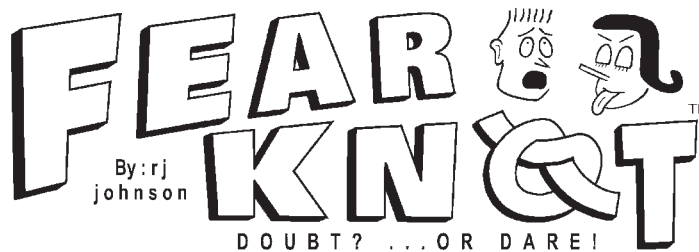
★ Moderate ★★ Difficult

★★★ GO FIGURE!

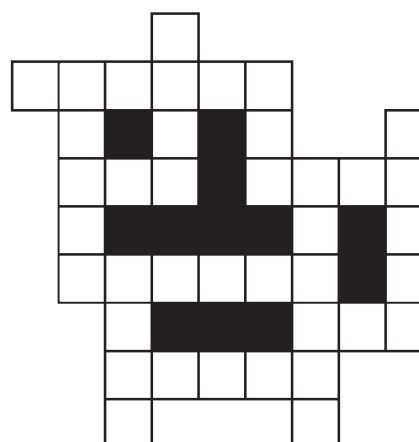
Answer Page 4

	+		×		=	78		
-		-		+				
	+		+		=	8		
÷		×		÷				
	+		÷		=	1		
=		=		=				
2		28		1				
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

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- ITH
- ♥ESPELA
- TENIL
- ♥HTWE
- WRETLO
- ♥ELE
- ♥ELRA
- ♥OLTLA
- ♥WLO
- ♥GHETHI
- ♥NEATO
- RTTA



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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