



Reveles to advocate for multi-cultural approach on SBOE

By Alfredo Vasquez
Special to the Courier

EL PASO COUNTY – El Paso County residents have a new voice to speak for them on the Texas State Board of Education (SBOE), an organization that is responsible for determining what the state’s 5.5 million public school children learn in the classroom.

After the recent general election, Gustavo Reveles ended up receiving 314,162 votes, which is 50.9 percent of all votes cast. His Republican challenger Michael “Travis” Stevens got 302,549 votes, or 49.1 percent of the total count.

Reveles was the lone Democrat to win of five contested SBOE races held throughout the state. Republicans Tom Maynard (District 10), Pam Little (District 12), Aaron Kinsey (District 15), and Brandon Hall (District 11) prevailed in their contested races. With the four Republican winners, the GOP retains its majority on the education board. The new board now consists of ten Republicans and five Democrats.

The District 1 seat, which encompasses El Paso County and part of Bexar County, became open when the current board member El Paso Democrat Melissa Ortega decided to not seek another term. In other parts of the state, Democrats Marisa Perez-Diaz (District 3), Staci Childs (District 4), and Tiffany Clark (District 13) held onto their seats uncontested.

The 15 members on the board play an influential role in determining what students learn in the classroom and what is required for kids to graduate. They also oversee a \$56 billion state endowment to support Texas public schools, according to Texas Education Agency (TEA) officials.

An important issue facing the representative group this year is the revising of Texas’ social studies curriculum. Some conservatives on the Republican-dominated board campaigned on the idea that public schools are harming children with how they teach America’s history of racism and its diversity.

Reveles, who currently serves as communications director for the Canutillo Independent School District (CISD), said that he ran to ensure Texas’ border communities continue to have a presence at the state level. He stated that although he has not worked as a teacher or an educator, he asserted that the board needs people who respect educators as leaders and experts in their field.

Reveles stated that he wants to ensure students of all backgrounds feel represented in the curricula. He said that he would also like to see a more rigorous approval process of charter schools, which are publicly funded but privately managed.

Reveles, 49, is a graduate of Riverside High School and earned a Journalism degree from the University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP). Prior to joining CISD, he was public information officer for El Paso Independent School District (EPISD). He has also worked as a public education reporter for the El Paso Times and for the Fort Worth Star Telegram.

Reveles stated that he decided to seek the SBOE



– Photo courtesy Gustavo Reveles

NEW FACE – Gustavo Reveles, above, was recently elected to represent El Paso County on the State Board of Education. He said that he ran for the board because he is troubled by the board majority’s allowance to push an agenda that doesn’t respect minority rights and has approved curriculum standards that favors one group of Texans over another.

position, which is a non-compensated duty, because “I am troubled by the direction the SBOE has taken in the adoption of curricula and instructional materials. More and more we are seeing that the majority on the Board has an insistence on ignoring the contributions, culture and experiences of students and teachers of minority or underrepresented groups.” He added that the recent decision by the SBOE to approve a curriculum that favors one religious experience in a public instructional setting is a clear example of the state’s insistence of ignoring the experiences of all Texans.

For the next four years, Reveles along with his SBOE colleagues will be responsible for adopting state curriculum standards, graduation requirements, and instructional materials used in public schools. Board members are also in charge of reviewing and approving applications for new school charters. Additionally, SBOE manages the multi-billion Permanent School Fund and meet about five times a year in Austin.

“I represent a diverse district that spans from El Paso and the Big Bend to parts of the south-central Texas and suburban San Antonio. I will do my best to communicate and engage with students, educators, and parents throughout this vast region,” Reveles affirmed.

Individuals can email to grevelessboe@gmail.com to contact El Paso County’s new SBOE official.

County Attorney Sanchez sworn-in for 2025-2028 term

By Elhiu Dominguez
Special to the Courier

EL PASO COUNTY – Christina Sanchez officially took the oath of office as El Paso County Attorney on Thursday, January 2, 2025. The swearing-in ceremony was

held in the Commissioners Court Courtroom, on the third floor of the El Paso County Courthouse. Her constitutional term will extend until December 31, 2028.

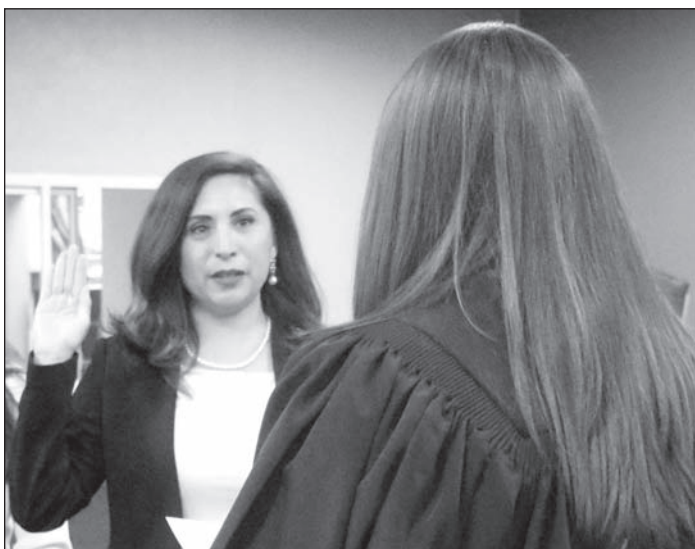
The Honorable Selina Saenz, Judge of the 65th District Court, presided over the ceremony and administered the oath of office to Sanchez. Additionally,

all Assistant County Attorneys and County Attorney Investigators were sworn-in during the event.

The El Paso County Attorney’s Office provides legal representation for the county, prosecutes juvenile criminal cases, enforces environmental laws, and secures protective orders for victims of domestic violence, stalking,

and bullying. The office also plays a vital role in protecting vulnerable populations, such as the elderly and children, and prosecuting hot check writers and deceptive businesses.

Operating with a budget of over \$10 million, the office comprises more than 100 employees dedicated to serving the community.



– Photos by Elhiu Dominguez

REPEAT AFTER ME – Judge Selina Saenz, back to camera, swore-in El Paso County Attorney Christina Sanchez in the picture at left and Assistant County Attorneys and County Attorney Investigators in the picture at right.

Having a big new car does not always mean the owner has money – it may mean he once had money.

– Quips & Quotes

The Musk factor

It's a testament to the energy and drive of Elon Musk that he's now a key adviser to an incoming president of the United States who he helped elect this year – and this is a side project for him.

What stamp collecting is to most of us – something

we make time for when not engaged in our day jobs – influencing the future direction of the United States government is to Musk.

This is not to minimize his significance. Far from it. The revolutionary businessman represents a distinctive and unexpected contribution to the Trump coalition.

From the perspective of a decade ago, if you had said the most visionary and wealthy entrepreneur on the planet was at the right hand of a Republican president-elect, promising to cut a couple of trillion dollars from the federal budget and bring massive innovation to the economy, you might have assumed Paul Ryan or someone in his ideological camp had gotten elected.

The former Speaker of the House and vice-presidential nominee was a relentless advocate of entrepreneurship, economic dynamism and a slimmed-down government.

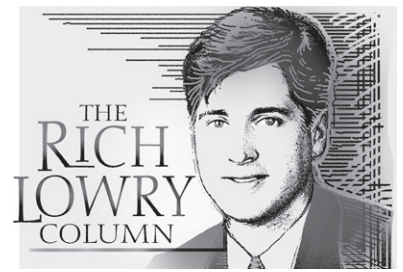
Within the GOP, the rise of Trump the populist put the political squeeze on the likes of Ryan, whose business-oriented, free-market creed suddenly felt stale and out of touch.

Now, a version of that worldview has returned via Musk.

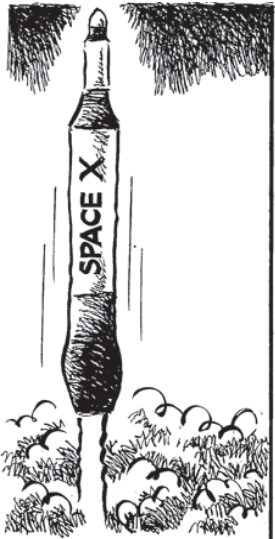
To be sure, the CEO of Tesla and SpaceX is a different animal. He has an in-your-face persona, a bit of a Silicon Valley version of Trump. He's been radicalized on immigration, becoming a fierce opponent of Joe Biden's open border. He's a cultural warrior seeking to destroy what he calls "the woke mind virus." And he can speak in apocalyptic tones.

All of this, and especially his acquisition of Twitter, has made him a populist hero in his own right, even as he champions an economic dynamism that would have thrilled conventional Republicans from the pre-Trump era.

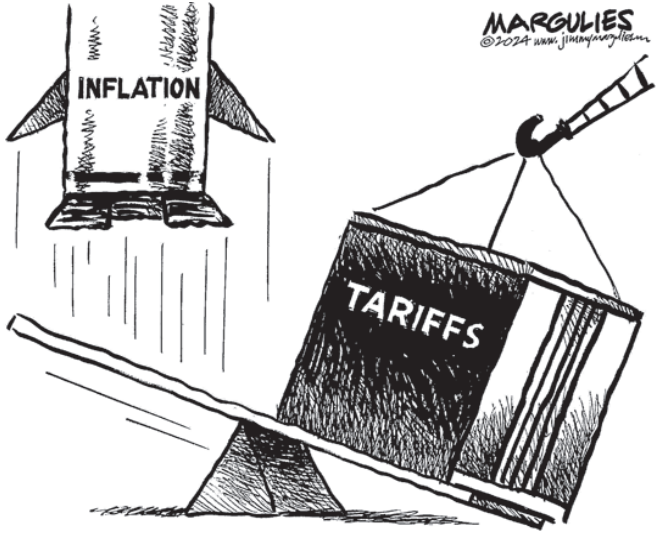
Trump contains multitudes. Part of him is an



See LOWRY, Page 7



Elon Musk Rocket Launch



Donald Trump Rocket Launch

Food for thought By dr. Glenn Mollette

Transitioning Into 2025

A new year is transition. The date changes. Some of us will mess up writing a check a time or two because we'll write 2024 until it finally sinks in that we are in a new year.

The new year means change. It always has and this year will not be any different. We will see a changing of the guard in our Presidency. President Biden is exiting after an unbelievable 50 or so years in national politics. President Trump is coming back and he has done what no other human has done before. I'm not simply referring rot being elected a second time after sitting out a term because that has happened. What I mean is no one has been vilified and harassed as he has been and even survived let alone ascend to the highest office in the

world. January will bring immediate change upon his inauguration. However, it remains to be seen what will change and what won't.

Life is always transitioning but we sometimes have difficulty making the transition. Some men never get over their high school sports career. They live in the past of the time when they were star athletes, but that may have been 20 to 40 years ago. We often have great difficulty overcoming a failed relationship or marriage. It happened ten years ago but the impact of it still troubles us. We often still grieve over the loss of a loved one who died 20 years ago. We still miss them and the joy they brought into our lives. We often cannot transition from our jobs or careers. We remember those 20 to

40 years that we worked a certain job or business. We look back to those days often as great days that we would like to go back to.

It's not easy to transition. The college freshman often misses their senior year of high school. Even as adults we remember those wonderful wasted days of childhood. The 35-year-old misses their teen years, the 80-year-old would like to be fifty again.

Often, we dread birthdays. The actual birthdate brings a new number. The 15-year-old loves that 16 number because it means freedom to drive. The 64-year-old anticipates 65 and Medicare and the Social Security check soon to come.

Our hope must be to transition as well as we can because transition is coming for us all.

An old preacher friend said, "At

every level there is a new devil." At every stage and age of life there are joys and obstacles. There are new struggles and also new opportunities.

Let's make 2025 the best year we've ever had. That may not be easy but it's worth a try and even if it's not our best year, keep in mind, it's the only year we have at this time. The life we have today is the only life we have. We don't have yesterday or even tomorrow. Let's give 2025 our best effort and do our best to be here at this same time and place next year.

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.glenmollette.com or www.facebook.com/glenmollette.

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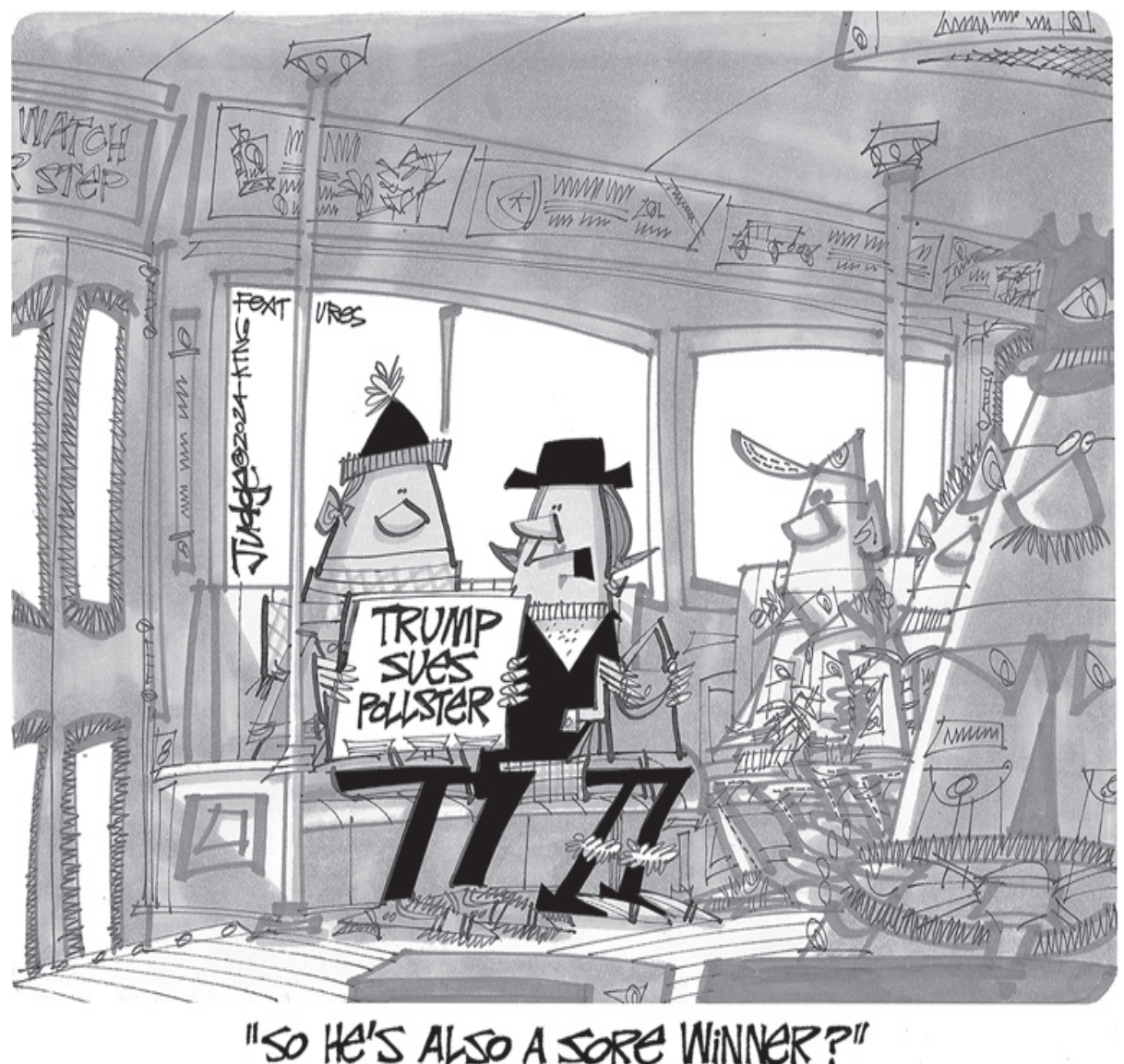
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MAIL: 15344 Werling Ct. Horizon City, TX 79928

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E-mail: wtcc@wtcc.com
Website: wtcc.com

Publisher Rick Shrum
Contributors Alfredo Vasquez Steve Escajeda

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"SO HE'S ALSO A SORE WINNER?"

EPWater construction resumes

By Denise Parra
Special to the Courier

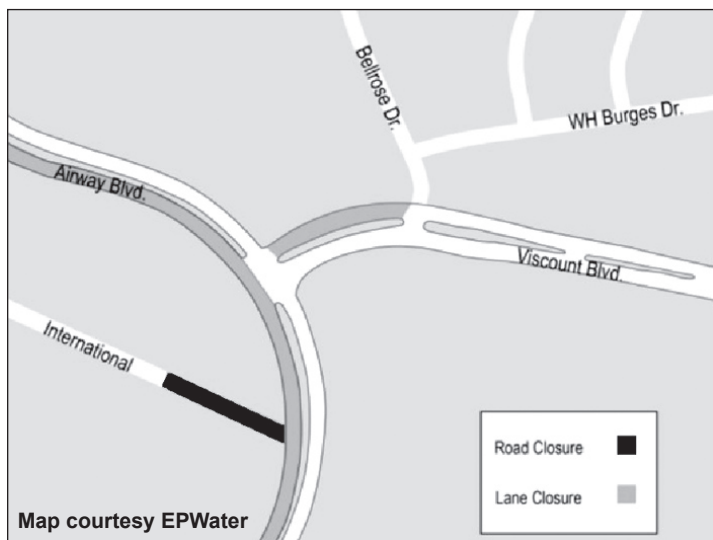
EL PASO COUNTY – Beginning Monday (Jan. 6) El Paso Water resumed construction on two projects near the intersection of Viscount and Airway boulevards, a waterline rehabilitation and Pipeline Protection Project.

The waterline project involves the replacement of a cast-iron main to address a consistent water leak near Airway and Viscount. EPWater has tried several non-intrusive methods to resolve the leak, but replacement is the best option. Directional drilling will be used to install a corrosion resistant waterline with a life span of 50-100 years.

The Pipeline Protection Project is also resuming on the westbound lanes of Viscount. EPWater is proactively replacing metal water mains citywide that cross major gas pipelines to minimize the likelihood of breaks.

Business access will be maintained, and drivers should follow detour signage and traffic control (see map below):

- Two southbound lanes of Airway closed from Viscount to Gateway West;
- No access to International Drive from Airway; and
- Viscount westbound reduced to one lane from Bellrose Drive to Airway.



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- Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) Therapy and Grief Counseling

What kinds of vehicles can I donate?

Veteran Car Donations accepts most cars, trucks, boats, RVs, and motorcycles. We can pick up your vehicle, running or not.

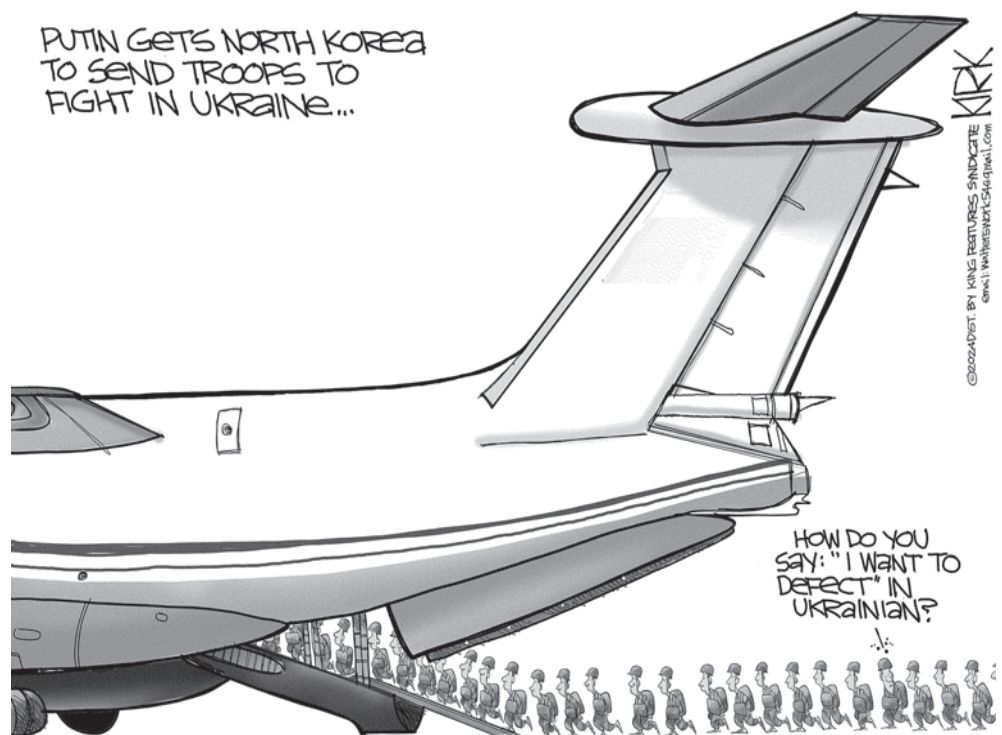
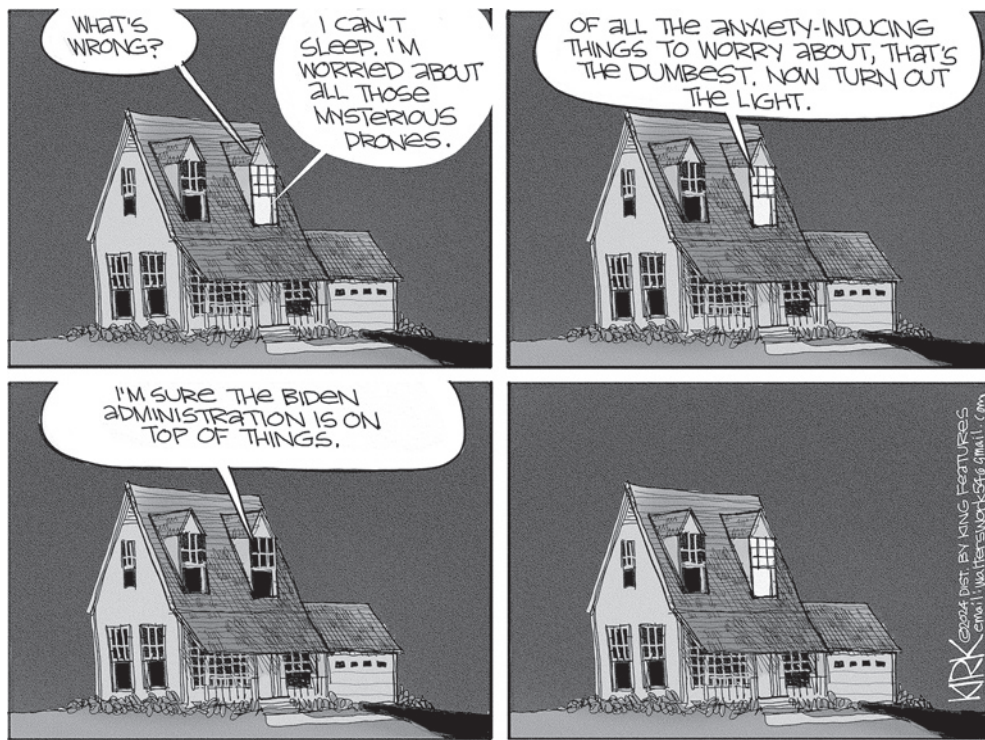
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– Photo by Ben Lowy / The Texas Tribune

SLOW GOING – Border wall construction near Del Rio in Val Verde County in September. Texas has allocated \$3.1 billion for wall construction to date. It says it has built 50 miles. The state pays between \$17 million and \$41 million per mile of construction

Texas' border wall plagued by landowner refusals to participate

TEXAS – A story by Zach Despart, Yuriko Schumacher and Uriel J. Garcia posted online in December by *The Texas Tribune* (texastribune.org) goes in depth to breakdown many issues faced by Texas as it attempts to secure its border with Mexico. At least a third of landowners

approached by state officials have refused to let wall be built on their properties. That's forced the state to largely build on ranchland in remote areas, or erect sections that are full of gaps. Here is a summary of their findings:

- In the last three years, Texas has spent \$3.1 billion to

build 50 miles of disconnected wall along the border. State officials have kept the details of the program largely confidential.

- A *Texas Tribune* investigation has identified for the first time where Texas has built its border wall so far. The findings show that the wall is not a singular structure that can effectively keep migrants out – as Gov. Greg Abbott often portrays it. It's been built in two dozen short, scattershot pieces spread across six counties, some less than 100 yards wide and others more than 700 miles apart.

- *The Tribune* found that the program has been hampered from the start by property owners' reluctance to let the state build a wall on their land. About one-third of landowners approached by the state have refused to participate so far.

- As a result, construction appears to be driven by where the state can most easily acquire land, instead of where a wall would be most effective at deterring illegal crossings, said border security experts who reviewed the *Tribune's* findings.

- *The Tribune* found that Texas has mostly built on sprawling ranches in rural areas far from main roads or population centers. The

experts said the priority should be urban centers, where people sneaking across can easily disappear into safe houses or waiting vehicles. Of the 95 land agreements the state has secured so far, less than one-third are in the 20 most populous border cities.

- The state has some tools to persuade landowners who are resistant to selling their land. It can offer more money and may already be doing so: The sum the state has paid per mile of land access has quintupled to just over \$322,000 since the first fiscal year of the program.

- Gov. Greg Abbott has suggested he is open to scaling back Operation Lone Star, which the border wall program is part of, once the Trump administration can ramp up and implement its immigration policies. But he has declined to share how that would affect the state's wall construction plans.

- In the meantime, the governor is asking for \$2.9 billion for border security funding from the Legislature in the upcoming session.

Visit <https://apps.texastribune.org/features/2024/texas-border-wall-greg-abbott-landowners/> at *The Texas Tribune* for the whole story.

Strange BUT TRUE

By Lucie Winborne

- Jim Cummings, who voices Winnie the Pooh, calls sick children in hospitals and talks to them in the character's voice. He once phoned a little girl who was fighting cancer, and her mother told him it was the first time the child had smiled in six months.

- The odds of giving birth to a baby at 12:01 a.m. on Jan. 1 are around 1 in 526,000 – roughly the same as the odds of getting struck by lightning.

- In ancient Greece, throwing an apple at a woman was considered a marriage proposal.

- Iceland has one of the largest gun ownership rates in the world, but one of the lowest crime rates in the world.

- The dragon tree of the Canary Islands is famous for its thick, deep-red sap. Called dragon's blood, the resin might be responsible for the intense hue of the famous Stradivarius violins built in the 17th and 18th centuries.

- Every second, a large hurricane releases the energy of 10 atomic bombs.

- Pinecones have genders. Male pinecones shed pollen and female pine cones make seeds. When the wind blows pollen into the female cones, the seeds become pollinated.

- All telephone service in the U.S. and Canada stopped for one minute on Aug. 4, 1922, to mark the funeral of Alexander Graham Bell.

- Lawyer James Thornton successfully sued the U.K. government to admit that it was breaching legal limits for air pollution.

- The East China Sea parts annually and exposes a narrow 2.9 km-long strip of land, allowing thousands of people to cross from Jindo Island to Mado Island of Korea. This land is exposed about an hour each day for approximately four days every year.

Thought for the Day: "If you want evidence that the world is a terrible place, watch the news and surf the web. But if you want to remember how incredible this planet is, go out into nature. Unlike social media and the news, nature has no incentive to keep us agitated, angry and anxious."
– Austin Perlmutter

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CryptoQuip Answer

Country division in which people always drape themselves in long South Asian garments: a sari state



Moments in time

THE HISTORY CHANNEL

- On Jan. 6, 1975, "Wheel of Fortune," one of American television's longest-running syndicated game shows, debuted on NBC. Created by Merv Griffin, it was hosted for decades by Pat Sajak and Vanna White, the latter of whom often contributed her own puzzles and was noted as apparently never wearing the same gown twice in more than 6,000 episodes.
- On Jan. 7, 1785, Frenchman Jean-Pierre Blanchard and American John Jeffries flew from Dover, England, to Calais, France, in a gas balloon, becoming the first people to cross the English Channel by air, though they almost crashed into it along the way due to excess weight from objects that had to be jettisoned.
- On Jan. 8, 2002, President George W. Bush signed the No Child Left Behind Act into law, which created new standards and goals for America's public schools and applied tough corrective measures for failure to meet them. Nowadays, however, it is largely regarded as a failed experiment.

• On Jan. 9, 1887, nearly an inch of snow fell every hour for 16 hours on the western American plains, impeding the ability of already starving cattle that "staggered through village streets and collapsed and died in dooryards" to find food. Millions of the animals were lost, sending hundreds of ranchers into bankruptcy and ending the era of the open range.

• On Jan. 10, 2008, Tata Motors introduced the small, bubble-shaped Nano, billing it as the world's cheapest car with an anticipated price of about \$2,500, thanks to its lack of amenities including radio, airbags, air conditioning, even a second windshield wiper.

• On Jan. 11, 2010, Miep Gies, the last survivor of the small group that helped hide Anne Frank, her family and four others from the Nazis during World War II, died in the Netherlands at age 100.

• On Jan. 12, 1995, Malcolm X's daughter Qubilah Shabazz was arrested for conspiring to kill Louis Farrakhan, who she believed was responsible for her father's assassination. After she admitted her "responsibility," though not guilty, the government accepted a plea bargain.

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Tidbits By John Grimaldi

Brumation

This alligator managed to survive, thanks to brumation – the ability for reptiles to slow down their bodily functions. The critter had been trapped in a drainage pipe in Hilton Head, SC for some six months. According to wildlife expert Matt Kraycar, brumation "is basically like hibernation for reptiles. So as it gets cooler, they're going to shut their body down. So by doing that, he doesn't really need to eat as much as he typically would during the summer, and I'm sure there were still fish and turtles coming through those pipes as well, so it didn't look like he was starving by any means."

The Key Lime pup

Golden Retrievers come in light golden, golden, and dark golden. But Shamrock, a newborn retriever belonging to Carole DeBruler, owner of Florida's Golden Treasures Kennel, came into this world wearing a rather attractive light green coat. The pup's coloration was the result of biliverdin, a green bile sometimes found in the wombs of mother dogs, according to the experts. And, they say, Shamrock's coat will eventually bear the standard yellow color of retrievers.

It was fate

She lost her wedding ring

on Galveston Island, TX but Deysi Maldonado was lucky enough to have the Galveston Island Treasure Hunters Club come to the rescue. But, as it turned out, it wasn't the metal detectors that helped find her band of gold. It was a couple who accidentally came across the ring. Caleb Brignac and his girlfriend were digging in the sand, came across a fishing net that was partially buried and, as fate would have it, when they pulled it out of the sand out came the diamond ring.

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The El Paso County Emergency Services District #1 (Horizon Fire Department) is located at 14151 Nunda Ave., Horizon City, TX 79928. Phone (non-emergency): (915) 852-3204; EMERGENCY: 911; Fax: (915) 852-8400.

Katherine Ames
Administrator

WTCC: 01-09-25

PUBLIC NOTICE

**El Paso County
Emergency
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District #2**

Notice of Location

The El Paso County Emergency Services District #2 is located at 16001 Socorro Rd., (mail: PO Box 265), Fabens, TX 79838. Phone (non-emergency): (915) 851-0304; EMERGENCY: 911; Fax: (915) 851-9000; Ambulance (county): (915) 779-2111.

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While college bowl system declines, the Sun Bowl shines

By Steve Escajeda
Special to the Courier

Let's be honest, the end of the NCAA football season isn't the same as it used to be.

First, we went from a four-team playoff system to a 12-team format. That means that fewer teams are available of the traditional bowl games.

Then throw in the fact that many of the better players for almost every team has decided not to play in what they consider a meaningless game and get ready for the pros. Many of the players would rather sit out the game instead risking any injury that could cost them a career.

And then many players enter the transfer portal right after the regular season ends making them no longer a part of the team.

Heck, even a number of coaches decide to leave their teams and take other jobs before their bowl game.

Things got so bad this year that after Marshall's coach Charlie Huff announced he was leaving the team at the end of the season, 25 players went into the transfer portal, including all three quarterbacks, which meant they had to cancel their appearance in the Independence Bowl because they didn't have enough players to field a team.

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

With all this negative news surrounding the bowl games it was nice to see that one game went off without a hitch.

The 91st annual Tony the Tiger Sun Bowl featured Louisville from the ACC and Washington, formerly of the Pac-12. And boy did they put on a show for the nearly 41,000 fans who showed up.

It's not like the Sun Bowl wasn't affected by all the bowl game nonsense, Louisville's starting quarterback and star receiver didn't play and Washington was starting a freshman quarterback, making only the second start of his career.

So there was a little fear that this could be a dud off a game.

In the end, it turned out to be one of the best Sun Bowl games ever.

With Louisville seemingly in control, leading by two touchdowns (35-21) with just under four minutes left in the game, things really got interesting.

The Washington Huskies scored a touchdown to cut the lead to 35-28. They got the ball back and on 4th down from the one-yard line with

just nine seconds left in the game, the Huskies scored on a touchdown pass to make it 35-34 and just a kick away from overtime.

But Washington had no intension of going to overtime and they decided to go for two points and the win.

You can imagine how loud the Sun Bowl got with fans from both teams yelling at the top of their lungs.

We all know now that Washington's pass in the end zone was no good and the Louisville Cardinals held on for the dramatic 35-34 win.

But when you really think about it, El Paso was the big winner.

The day was sunny and beautiful and must have looked great on CBS's national broadcast. The halftime show was awesome and received a huge applause from the crowd, especially from those out-of-town fans who aren't used to the pageantry of ballet folkloric, mariachis and those amazingly colorful dresses flowing in the wind.

The game was better than anybody would have thought and the two quarterbacks who hadn't played much at all, put on a great show and played

like seasoned veterans.

In fact, Washington's freshman quarterback, Demond Williams, connected with wide receiver Giles Jackson on four touchdown passes, setting a Sun Bowl record.

I don't know what's going to happen to the future of bowl games, things aren't looking very good to be honest.

The money the players are being paid makes them professionals, soon they'll want to unionize, college football may eventually turn into a minor league system for the NFL, there's even talk about bowl games eventually paying players to attend their games.

None of this sounds very positive, but then pure greed for money and fame rarely ends well.

All of these changes by the NCAA, the college presidents, the players, the coaches, the agents, the conferences, the television networks and their sponsors, are based on one sole thing - making more money.

I'm so proud of the Sun Bowl and the Sun City - which is known for giving and its hospitality.

Senior moment By Matilda Charles

Planning 2025

I don't know what it is about hanging up a new calendar that makes me want to organize the whole year and set goals. But once again, as I hung up the 2025 calendar on the kitchen wall, I immediately began to consider how I might make the new-year better and more productive.

As part of being "organized," I decided to set daily, weekly and monthly goals.

Here is what my 2025 will look like:

- On a daily basis I will do some form of exercise. (Let's see how long this lasts.) It might be 15 minutes on the treadmill, 20 minutes of bicep-building with hand weights. I'll spend 30 minutes on the piano, and for brain strength I'll do one or more crossword puzzles.

- I will read one book per week. This shouldn't be too hard, thanks to Kindle Unlimited on Amazon. Each week I will vacuum, whether I want to or not, and

complete one section in my free online French lessons (www.duolingo.com). I've already started playing online chess (see chess.com) against the computer as a skills brush-up before signing up for weekly in-person chess at the rec center.

- Monthly I will try to increase my savings by cutting back on what I spend. This one might be tough. And I've already volunteered to make the morning hello calls from the senior center on four days next month.

- In the middle of all that, I'll organize and plan for summer, when I'll grow a few vegetables. I'll vow to donate half the fresh veggies to the food bank. And I want to do a slow but thorough decluttering before next fall.

How about you? Does that new 2025 calendar with all the empty boxes make you want to fill them out? What will you do with your 2025?

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NOT A SINGLE SPOT

- ACROSS**
- Hoover, e.g.
 - Hertz rival
 - Military vehicle for recon
 - Roma's place
 - Go into a major tizzy
 - Worth of a security at its face
 - Rare musical gift
 - Being filmed
 - Aug. follower
 - Feel awful
 - Tree's anchor
 - Sandbox toyw
 - Elicitor of a rave review
 - Newton and Asimov
 - Beats of life
 - Klutzy sorts
 - Naiad or dryad
 - Plant swelling
 - Ben of "Zoolander"
 - Mint quality
 - "13th" director DuVernay
 - Styne of song
 - TV spots
 - Vaper's item
 - How-to unit
 - Catch sight of
 - Ostrich's kin
 - Big name in cosmetics
 - Big bees
 - Rainforests and

DOWN

- Round one of the corners in Monopoly
- Mets' div.
- Vast span
- Awful review
- First-aid plant
- Purplish berry
- Derby, e.g.
- Buffalo's county
- Aladdin's monkey pal
- Excellent etiquette
- Wasn't penned up
- Levi's, e.g.
- Start
- Singer Celine
- Green sushi condiment
- "M*A*S*H" actor David Ogden _
- Famed Steelers play of 1972
- Cole Porter's " _ Love"
- "I got _ in Kalamazoo"
- Toothpaste tube inits.
- _ kwon do
- O.J. Simpson trial judge
- Activity that will be unsuccessful when applied to this puzzle's theme?
- Hans Christian _
- JFK Library architect
- The Beach Boys' "Help Me, _"
- People giving rubdowns
- Printer brand
- Motto
- Big cheeses
- Suited to _
- Goldfish and minnows are members of it
- Samuelsson who got the winning goal in the 1991 Stanley Cup
- Driver's 180
- Large parrots
- Cider fruit
- Chou En_
- Picnic pest
- Emceeing aid
- Earthy hues, to Brits
- Satirizes
- Division of a long poem
- Tolkien brute
- Coll. in the Old Dominion State
- Home of the NFL's Bucs
- Symbol of a fresh start
- Gold-related
- "Royal," in
- Across
- Up to, in brief
- Metal in rocks
- Small error
- German for "eight"
- Design detail
- _ wrestling
- Strategy
- Quaint newspaper section
- Primary
- Dressed for night-night
- IHOP topping
- Result
- _ Moines
- Autograph: Abbr.
- All tied up
- Sharp knocks
- "You are not!" retort
- Noble acts
- "All booked up, sorry"
- Model Tequila
- Catch sight of
- Liverpool loc.
- Purple flower
- _ acid (fat substance)
- Irish actor Stephen
- Allowance
- Sizable vase
- Put to work
- A single time
- Sports sides
- Early TV host Jack
- "Dark Angel" star Jessica
- Healthy intellects
- Introducing
- Broadcaster
- Aeries, e.g.
- Big primate
- Clutch sitter
- Film scorer Morricone
- _Z (old Camaro)
- List of options
- Partly open
- Neuwirth of "Cheers"
- Nonclerical
- "Me? Never!"
- Husbands-to-be
- Tots' haulers
- _ discount
- Smartphone pic, often
- Railing sites
- Sunni's faith
- Animated 2016 Disney film
- After a time
- 100 Sup at home
- Adobe Acrobat file
- Forever _ day
- "Manhattan Beach" novelist Jennifer
- Sooner than, poetically
- Sch. in Terre Haute
- Gig hookup
- FedEx rival
- Zodiac lion
- Dallas Stars' org.
- "Yabba dabba _!"

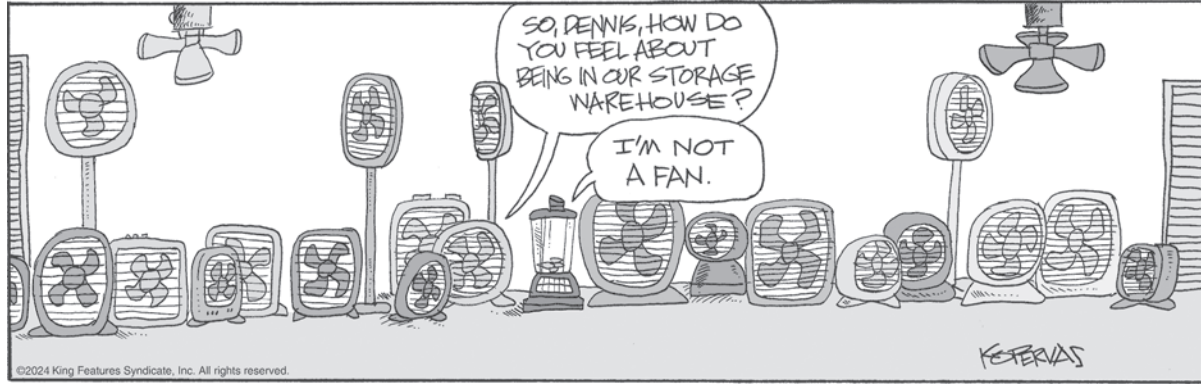
Answer Page 4

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								
26					27					28	29					30			
		31	32	33				34	35	36				37	38				
39	40							41					42						
43						44	45					46					47	48	
49					50						51	52	53				54		
55						56					57						58		
59				60					61	62	63					64	65		
			66					67					68						
69	70	71						72					73				74	75	76
77								78					79				80		
81						82	83				84	85	86				87		
88				89							90						91		
97	98							99						100	101				
102																			
108						109	110										115	116	
117											118						119		
120											121						122		

Comix

OUT ON A LIMB By Gary Kopervas



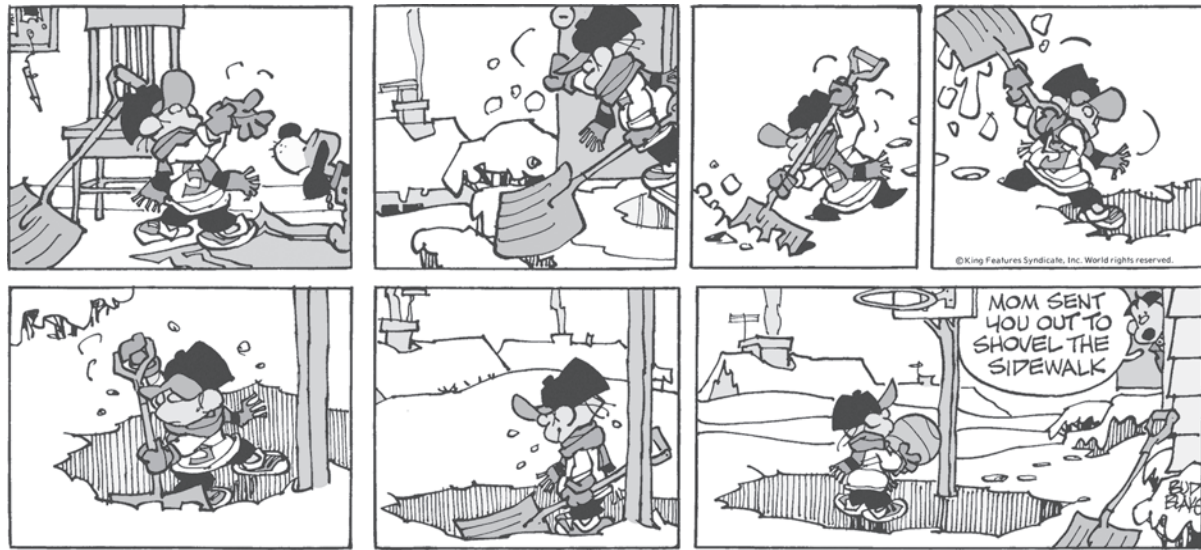
AMBER WAVES By Dave T. Phipps



THE SPATS By Jeff Pickering



TIGER By Bud Blake



Lowry

From Page 2

inward-looking protectionist who believes, almost no matter what, that we are getting ripped off by foreign countries. Part of him is also a champion of endless possibility. Part of him is a tribune of the working class. Part of him is also inclined to make the stock market the economic measures of all things. He'll talk of American carnage, and of an American golden age.

This is a protean mix, and subject to change depending on circumstances and who is around Trump at any given point.

A danger of populism is that it can succumb to pure nostalgia and become overly defensive, giving in to a distrust of technology, big companies and economic change. So long as Musk is a major player in Trump's world, there is a strong counter to this tendency.

Musk is the paladin of a future ripped from the covers of paperback science-fiction novels circa the 1950s – rocket ships, futuristic cars, robots and giant tunnel-boring machines.

He has almost single-handedly changed

Republican attitudes toward Big Tech. He's proven that you can be a Silicon Valley entrepreneur and not be woke or a cowardly fellow traveler with left-wing politics. There's still plenty of contempt of and distrust for tech companies on the Right, but now it is Democrats who talk more of ideas like repealing Section 230 to hobble social-media companies.

At the same time, Musk's Department of Government Efficiency has made seeking to cut government fashionable again on the Right, when this priority had mostly lost out to other concerns since the advent of the Trump era. The hope that DOGE will cut as much as \$2 trillion from the budget is unrealistic, but any savings and efficiencies would be welcome.

Who knows how effective Musk will be in his role as a change agent confronting government, the most difficult institution to change? Sending a man to Mars might be easier. But Musk brings a boundless optimism and can-do verve to the effort, and he's a healthy new ingredient to Trump's populist mix.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review. ©2025 by King Features Synd., Inc.

Fathering a child at age 80 has many considerations

DEAR DR. ROACH: I am a reasonably healthy 80-year-old man who is fortunate enough to have a partner of child-bearing age. She would like to bear us a child, but I am concerned about any potential problems with my old genes and any birth defects that might be caused by them. Please help us decide. – R.B.



This is a question I usually hear from my patients when they are in their 60s or 70s. Eighty is quite old to be considering fathering a child.

The first issue is that men get less fertile as we age. Older men are less likely to get their partners pregnant, and this difference is apparent by the age of 35. There is not a lot of data for potential fathers in their 80s.

If you and your partner do have a successful pregnancy, there is an increased risk of deleterious genetic conditions and birth defects that are more likely in children who have older fathers. Down syndrome, which is normally associated with an advanced maternal age, is also more common among the offspring of older fathers.

Some heart conditions are more common. Epilepsy and schizophrenia are more common as well, as are autism spectrum disorders. Some cancer rates are increased. Babies are more likely to have a low birth weight, be born premature, and require the neonatal ICU.

However, the magnitude of the effect is modest. On average, 1 in 50 pregnancies with a father under the age of 30 will have one of the common health conditions that are studied in couples. With children who have a father over 50, the rate is 1 in 38. Even though the odds are that you would have a healthy child, the likelihood of a significant health issue for a man over 80 will be substantially more concerning. Data just does not exist for men as old as you are that can give us a reliable estimate.

Another issue to consider is whether you will be around to see your child grow up and be there as a father. The average 80-year-old man has a life expectancy of just under eight years. If you are substantially healthier than average, or if your parents lived for a very long time, this number could be better. But the average 80-year-old (assuming your partner has the child while you are still 80) is not likely to see their child reach their 10th birthday. The early death of a father has a negative impact on the physical and mental health of a child.

I conclude that there are significant risks in bringing a child into the world at your age.

DEAR DR. ROACH: I got my first dose of Shingrix (shingles vaccine) in 2022 and forgot to get the second. Do I need to get two more doses now or just one? – L.B.S.

According to the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices, the vaccine series does not need to be restarted, and you can just take the second dose.

However, this type of delayed administration hasn't been thoroughly tested. I've had patients come back several years after the first dose and elect to redo the whole series just to be sure.

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. ©2025 North America Synd., Inc. All Rights Reserved.

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Moore Texas by Roger MOORE

January 3, 1959: Alaska is admitted to the United States. Texas is no longer the biggest state.

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 T

ZVOMRAN BUYUQUVM UM
 CGUZG SDVSHD JHCJNQ
 BAJSD RGDYQDHYDQ UM HVMF
 QVORG JQUJM FJAXDMRQ:
 J QJAU QRJRD.

Answer Page 4

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Weekly SUDOKU

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

◆◆◆ HOO BOY!

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MDMA study for PTSD



by Freddy Groves

With money from the National Defense Authorization Act for 2024, a \$1.5 million grant program is beginning a study using Methylendioxyamphetamine-assisted (MDMA, also known as ecstasy) psychedelic therapy for alcohol use disorder (AUD) and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).

The Department of Veterans Affairs will hook up with researchers at Yale and Brown universities to use the drug along with psychotherapy. The goal, says a news release, is to use the drugs to “increase emotional openness, reduce fear and promote introspection during therapy.” Test subjects will either be given the real dose or a low dose as a placebo.

The West Haven VA Medical Center in Connecticut and the Providence VA Medical

Center in Rhode Island are the sites for the study, and they’re starting soon.

The standard PTSD treatment, using selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors (SSRI) doesn’t work on approximately one-third of people. The difference between the two (SSRI vs. MDMA) is how much serotonin is released. While the SSRI class of drugs blocks the release of serotonin, MDMA aids it, bringing feelings of euphoria... hence the street name “ecstasy.”

MDMA isn’t going to be the whole answer, however. Treatment will need to be in conjunction with therapy and under highly controlled circumstances. In any event, it will be the first time since the 1960s that they’ve tried psychedelic-assisted therapy.

There are those who worry about going down this road, as well they should. Once it gets out that the VA is actually doing studies on using a street drug as a treatment, those who suffer from PTSD or AUD might decide to take matters into

their own hands and self-medicate. The potential for disaster comes from the amount of the drug to be used. In therapy the amount will be minuscule. With a drug acquired on the street, there’s no telling what’s really in it, and there will be no accompanying therapy.

If you want to participate in the VA study, your first step will be to contact your care team at the local VA medical facility to ask for a referral.

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- “Fill a quart-size zip-top bag with water and double-bag it, making sure there is no air in the bag. Place it inside the toilet tank, on the opposite side from the pump. Secure it there, if you can. This will displace some of the water when you flush, and you will use less water as a consequence.” – E.S. in Florida

- If you have a stained porcelain sink, try using it to soak your stained garments. The presoak can do double duty on the stained sink and washable alike.

- To make your own breadcrumbs without a chopper or blender, place dry bread pieces in a plastic bag. Use a rolling pin to “roll” them to crumbs.

- Save water in the shower by using your kitchen timer, set for no more than 5 minutes. If you can find a digital one, you will know better how much time you have left. After a little while, you almost don’t need the timer.

- “If you seal your jelly jars with wax, here’s a good tip for you: Place a small piece of string into the wax before it hardens. Then you’ll be able to pull on the wax to remove the wax when you are ready to enjoy your homemade goodies!” – U.L. in Maine

- “Laundry stain removers can be good to remove stains from concrete drives. For instance, my relatives’ car was leaking, and I was able to get the stains from my pavers using a spray and wash stain remover that I borrowed from the laundry room. It worked very well.” – S.E. in Arkansas

Send your tips to Now Here’s a Tip, 628 Virginia Drive, Orlando, FL 32803. ©2025 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!

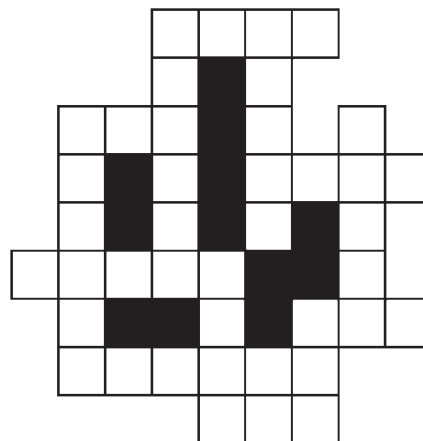
Answer Page 4

	+		×		=	56		
+		+		-				
	-		×		=	35		
÷		÷		×				
	+		+		=	10		
=		=		=				
14		2		6				
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

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- BBO
- BLARTI
- TABEA
- ♥ UHST
- NULAGI
- EET
- ♥ ERBA
- BUOMG
- ♥ BTA
- ♥ TREBAS
- ♥ ERSIA
- ♥ R GEO



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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