



— Photos by Alfredo Vasquez

SENSITIVE ISSUE – Senate Bill 4 authorizes local law enforcement officers to assist Border Patrol agents in arresting and deporting undocumented immigrants. Supporters of the new tactic said that the law is necessary to help curb illegal immigration happening along the Texas-Mexico border. Someone put up a handmade protest sign outside of the Border Patrol Station in Clint, TX.

El Paso County opposes ‘show me your papers’ law

By Alfredo Vasquez
Special to the Courier

EL PASO COUNTY – With new state immigration enforcement measures now in place along the southern border, one directive, that El Paso County Attorney Christina Sanchez insists this county is not going to go along with, is Texas’ Senate Bill 4 (SB4) – also known as the “Show me your papers” law. The bill was signed into law in 2023 by Governor Greg Abbott.

The new law authorizes local police to arrest and deport undocumented immigrants. Abbott and other supporters of SB 4 have said that the law is necessary to help curb illegal immigration happening along the Texas-Mexico border.

The latest border security mandate, however, remains entangled with legal challenges that include a lawsuit on constitutional grounds filed by the U.S. Department of Justice, El Paso County, Las Americas Immigrant Advocacy Center (LAIAC), and other civil rights groups. LAIAC provides legal assistance to asylum-seekers and other immigrants in the El Paso region.

Sanchez explained that SB 4 remains enjoined by the U.S. Supreme Court and that the case is currently pending before the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals. “SB 4 represents a dangerous and unconstitutional

What is the Texas SB4 immigration law?

Senate Bill 4 would allow police to arrest people accused of illegally crossing the state’s southern border outside of a port of entry. They would go before a magistrate judge who could order them to return to Mexico or face prosecution and jail time, with possible penalties ranging from a misdemeanor to a second-degree felony. The law allows police to arrest anyone without legal

status and accused of entering Texas through Mexico illegally. The law is meant to target people who recently crossed the border, not undocumented immigrants who have lived in Texas for years. SB 4 had been scheduled to take effect in March 2024, but its implementation was blocked by the courts after legal challenges were filed against the state of Texas.

National Immigration Resource Center recommendations

Legal experts recommend families with members who do not have legal status consult with an attorney and keep their contact information nearby.

- Gather important documents for all family members showing the length of time each one has been in the United States. This can include birth certificates, U.S. income tax returns, utility bills, leases, school records, medical or bank records. Have an electronic folder that can be accessible by phone.

- Identify emergency contacts, memorize their phone numbers, and make sure contacts can access all of your documents.

- Provide your child’s school or daycare with an emergency contact to pick up your child in case you are detained.
- Tell family members that if ICE detains you, they can try to use ICE’s online detainee locator (<https://locator.ice.gov/odls/#/search>) to find you with your date of birth and country of origin.

overreach that threatens to undermine public safety, erode trust between law enforcement and the communities they serve, and infringe on the rights of local governments,” she stated recently.

The county attorney emphasized that El Paso County’s stance is that SB 4 “unfairly targets immigrant communities, fosters fear, and diverts local resources away from critical public safety priorities”. She asserted that the legal battle by the county will continue even if the U.S. Justice

Department under President Donald Trump drops out of the lawsuit.

“Regardless of any changes in federal administration, including the incoming Trump administration’s stance on immigration and deportation efforts, we will continue to fight for justice and the rights of all individuals in our community,” Sanchez said. “We urge the courts

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New lighting brings night ball games to Canutillo HS

By Gustavo Reveles
Special to the Courier

CANUTILLO – Nighttime ball games finally became a reality for the Canutillo High Eagles last Friday (Feb. 7) with a ribbon cutting. The installation of state-of-the-art lighting at the school’s baseball and softball fields is the first Canutillo Bond project to be completed. The \$620,000 project is part of the \$16.5 million in upgrades assigned to Canutillo High School under

the \$386.2-million transformative bond referendum District voters approved in May 2024.

Lighting was installed as a Bond priority for Canutillo High School so that night games could be scheduled in time for the start of the 2025 baseball and softball season later this month.

“Canutillo High School had been the only 5A school in the region without lighting on its baseball and softball fields, which forced the District to host home games in the afternoons and to pull students from classes so that

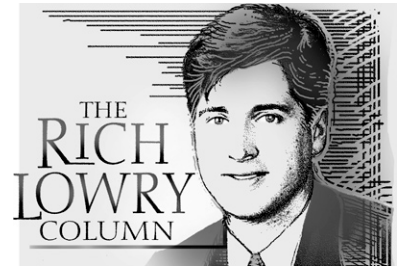
games could end before sundown,” said Superintendent Dr. Pedro Galaviz. “Students therefore missed out on important instructional time and made huge sacrifices to remain on track to meet their academic and athletic goals. Thanks to the District voters, students no longer have to make that additional sacrifice.”

Beyond the traditional lighting infrastructure, the new system includes features like wireless controls, as well as color-changing and energy-saving technology and advanced integration to video and audio displays. The

project was designed by MNK Architects and installed by Musco Lighting. All Canutillo Bond work is being managed by PROCEDEO Group, a nationally recognized bond program management company.

The Canutillo Bond is the largest per-capita bond ever approved in El Paso County. It will modernize existing campuses, address growth within the District’s boundaries and upgrade the safety and security infrastructure. Visit www.canutilloisd2024bond.com to learn more.

They gave Trump the center, and he took it



Donald Trump stood at the center of American politics – in both senses – when he was inaugurated in the U.S. Capitol in January.

Pretty much everything of import in national affairs will revolve around Trump for the foreseeable future, and he’s managed, in many respects, to occupy the political and cultural center.

Trump’s critics have long insisted that he be shunned and not “normalized.” Did someone tell Carrie Underwood, who performed “America the Beautiful” at the inauguration (spontaneously going a cappella when there was a snafu with the accompanying music)? Or the richest, most successful entrepreneurs in the country, who were on prominent display? Or, for the matter, did someone tell the Village People?

If someone had predicted that the group formed to appeal to gay disco fans in 1977 would, in the year of our lord 2025, be performing at a pre-inaugural rally for a Republican president-elect considered a troglodyte culture warrior by his enemies, he’d have been justifiably mocked and dismissed.

As it turns out, disco was never dead; it was just waiting for Trump to revive it (actually, disco-inspired music was already on the upswing before Trump came up with his trendy YMCA dance).

How did a Democratic Party that has long prided itself on its hipness and future-oriented attitude lose a coolness fight to Donald J. Trump?

Well, for one thing, the party’s primary voters renominated an octogenarian who couldn’t identify or align himself with a cultural trend if he were gently

directed to it by a bevy of solicitous aides. He was then swapped out for his unimpressive vice president, who was the beneficiary of a manufactured campaign to make her fun and interesting that collapsed of its own weight by November.

Joe Biden and Kamala Harris had to sit awkwardly and listen in the Capitol as Trump excoriated their governing record. The harshness of his critique has led some observers to deride his inaugural address as American Carnage 2.0, a reference to the famous phrase from his first inaugural. If Trump was

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Food for thought By Dr. Glenn Mollette

Start saving now for a good retirement

The plight of the average American is about the same. We would have more if we had saved more.

In 2022 the average median retirement savings for American households was \$87,000. As of 2024 25% of all American non retirees have no retirement savings (Guardian Life Insurance).

We seldom see the big picture when we are in our early twenties. There is so much to do such as obtaining a desired degree, marrying, buying a house, starting a family and essentially getting started in life. Very few, if any of us had a mentor who sat down with us and said, “Here is where you can be if you start now.”

Few 18-year-old high school seniors has anyone writing numbers on the chalkboard for them.

When I say numbers, I’m talking about what you can have in dollars if you start now. No one told me when I was 18 what I could have in 50 years if I could just put \$1,000 into the right stock or investment fund during my 18th year. That amount would be about \$117,000 at an annual average interest rate of 10 percent.

One thousand dollars is not easy for most 18-year-old high school seniors to put their hands on but it would be so worth it to any and all further down the road in life. Let’s say you put \$1,000 in a Roth IRA at 18-22 years of age. These are the years that many Americans are spending \$100,000 to \$200,000 on college. Year one you invest \$1,000 with the prospects of its being \$117,000 when you are 68. At age 19 you invest \$1,000 with the potential

of it being 106,000 in 49 years. At age 20 you invest \$1,000 with the potential of it being \$97,000 in 48 years. At age 21 you invest \$1,000 with the potential of it being \$88,000. In four years, you have potentially secured your financial future with an anticipated piggy bank loaded with \$408,000. The majority of Americans do not have \$400,000 to draw from in the retirement years.

Let’s say you keep up a trend of saving money until you are

68 by continuing to save \$100 a month. Your projected nest egg could be about \$1,270,000. This is because you started young and stayed with a faithful savings plan. Up your monthly savings to \$300 per month and you can anticipate about \$3,171,181.28.

Obviously, interest rates will vary, but over the last 50 years the stock market has averaged making ten percent per year.

Too many people wait until their thirties or even forties to think about retirement. So much more can be accomplished when the process is started early.

There is more to life than money. We can’t take it with us. We can make the lives of our children and grandchildren a little easier if we can teach them that a little effort started early will bring about a big return down the road.

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

EPSO concert to feature Tchaikovsky, Prokofiev

By Rosemary Flores
Special to the Courier

EL PASO COUNTY – Romance and love will fill the air at the El Paso Symphony Orchestra’s concerts on February 21 and 22, 2025. Conductor Bohuslav Rattay will lead the El Paso Symphony Orchestra in a Romeo and Juliet-themed concert with works on the famed story by Tchaikovsky and Prokofiev. “While some celebrate Valentine’s Day with chocolates and roses, Tchaikovsky and

Prokofiev remind us that love can be exhilarating, reckless, and – let’s be honest – downright fatal,” says Bohuslav Rattay. Few composers could convey emotions through their music as effectively as Tchaikovsky.

The program will open with two pieces by Tchaikovsky – his Romeo and Juliet overture “Fantasy” and his exquisite Serenade for Strings filled with lush and heart-rending harmonies.

Russian composer Sergei Prokofiev was one of the giants of 20th-century music. His works range from ballets – including Cinderella and Romeo and Juliet – to film music, such as Lieutenant Kije and Alexander Nevsky. The



– Photo courtesy El Paso Symphony Orchestra

Bohuslav Rattay second-half of the concert features Prokofiev’s beloved classic, Romeo and Juliet. “Whether your Valentine’s is a grand romantic affair or just a dramatic solo with a pint of ice cream, you’ll be in good company as the EPSO brings Tchaikovsky and Prokofiev to life, scoring the timeless tale (or tragic misadventure) of the world’s most famously doomed lovers, Romeo and Juliet,” adds Bohuslav Rattay.

Visit www.epso.org for program and ticket information for this concert and other upcoming performances.



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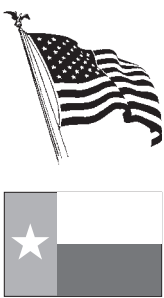
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PSB approves FY25-26 budget

By Martha C. Koester
Special to the Courier

EL PASO COUNTY – With the recent Public Service Board approval of El Paso Water’s Fiscal Year 2025-2026 water, wastewater and stormwater budgets, the utility will advance reliability, water supply and flood control projects.

Customers will see an increase of \$5.71 per month on the typical residential bill for water, wastewater and stormwater charges, but President and CEO John Balliew stressed that two new rate features will benefit the lowest water users. The features, approved by the PSB in December, expand EPWater’s growing menu of affordability options.

“We must ensure sufficient funding to operate and maintain our system, but we also look forward to implementing these options to ensure our services remain affordable,” Balliew said.

How to keep costs down Balliew urged customers to conserve to save money. Customers can reduce the impact of rate and fee increases

through the following:

Very low water users of 1 CCF (748 gallons) will qualify for a 30% discount on the minimum charges. Currently, about 15,000 customers qualify for this discount.

The waiver for the Water Supply Replacement Charge will be raised from 3 CCFs or less to 4 CCFs or less. An estimated 69,000 customers will receive \$15.62 in savings monthly.

Additionally, multiple residential rebate programs are available at epwater.org. Businesses can apply for EPWater’s WaterWise Rebate Program.

“Every residential consumer is in charge of their bill and how much water they use,” said PSB Chair Bryan Morris. “If you get a bill in the summertime and used 5 CCFs, you can make the conscious decision to water less and get your bill down to 4 CCF. Then you will see the benefits.”

For additional information, customers can also consult the website to learn how to understand their water bill.

Balliew named capital necessities caused by aging infrastructure as the primary budget driver. EPWater

maintains 5,400 miles of pipes, with an average age of 47 for water and 44 for wastewater.

EPWater’s funding priorities include:

- To enhance reliability, EPWater will invest \$342 million in vital water and wastewater improvements,

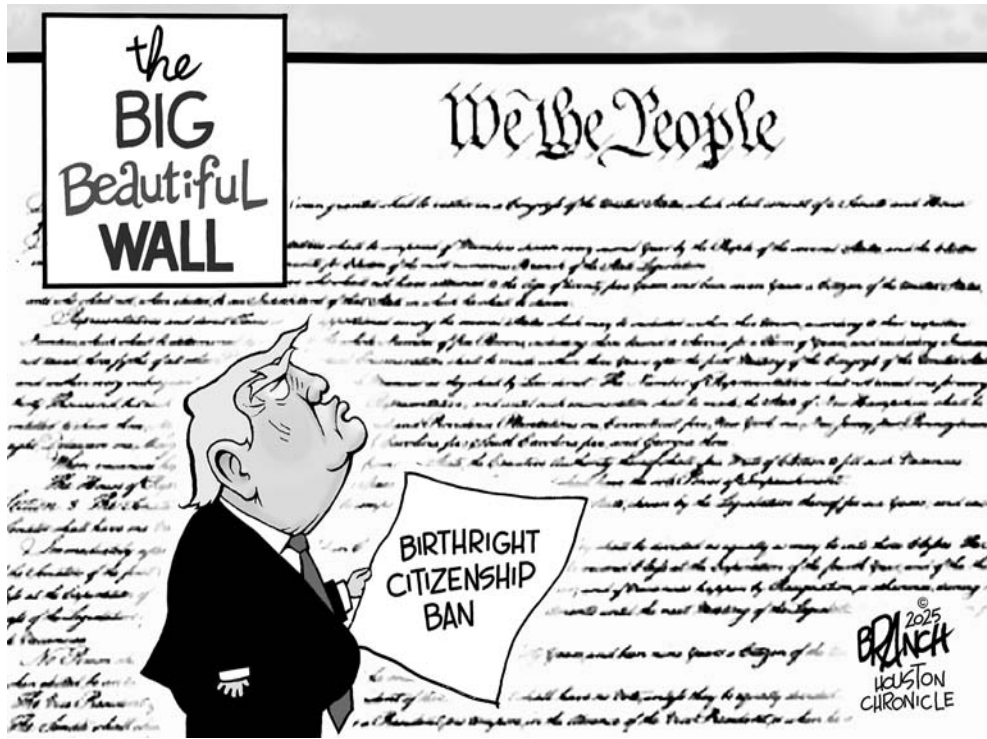
including for wastewater treatment plants, pipes, pumping systems and the advanced meter replacement

See WATER, Page 5



– Photo courtesy El Paso Water

BIG TICKET ITEM – The Bustamante Wastewater Treatment Plant expansion and rehabilitation is the largest project on the Fiscal Year 2025-2026 budget.



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Anthony ISD partners with Western Tech for CTE training

By Adriana Candelaria
Special to the Courier

EL PASO COUNTY – A new partnership between Anthony Independent School District and Western Technical College is paving the way for Anthony High School students to graduate with valuable Career and Technical Education (CTE) certifications.

At the start of the 2024-2025 school year, AISD and Western Tech entered into an agreement to offer students a head start in CTE fields while they also earn their high school diplomas.

Twenty-two Anthony High School juniors met the required qualifications to join the program and are now enrolled in Associate of Applied Science in Computer Science, Advanced Welding, and Medical Clinical Assistant programs.

“I fell in love with the welding program,” said Angel Dominguez, an AHS student. “I really think it’s a game changer, especially when you don’t know what you’re going to do after high school.”

Tuition for the students is funded by AISD. The program not only gives students an advantage in their future careers but also saves them thousands of dollars in education costs they would otherwise incur after graduation.

“It’s nice to know that if you want to learn how to do something, you don’t have to pay for it—whether it’s welding,



– Photo courtesy Anthony ISD

SKILL SET – Anthony High School student Angel Dominguez is enrolled in the welding program.

medical, or cybersecurity,” Dominguez said.

Being a CTE student enrolled in Western Tech requires determination and some small sacrifices for a bigger outcome. For example, students spend the first half of their school day taking their core high school classes. Instead of a regular lunch break, they pick up a to-go lunch and take a school bus to a 45-minute drive across the county to the Western Tech campus in the Lower Valley.

“The sacrifices are really worth it because, in general, that can lead you to any certification that you study enough for,” said Jaimie Terrazas, an AHS student enrolled in the cybersecurity program.

“Anthony really is just a small school, so it’s harder to get that exposure to other opportunities, and this helps us out with figuring out, ‘Oh, these are things we can do.’”

At the moment, only qualifying juniors are part of the partnership program between AISD and Western Tech. Senior CTE students continue attending El Paso Independent School District’s Center for Career & Technology Education. AISD aims to expand the program in the upcoming year to include qualifying sophomores, juniors, and seniors.

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Strange BUT TRUE

By Lucie Winborne

• There is a Guinness World Record for “most matchsticks extinguished with the tongue.”

• Jimi Hendrix served as a paratrooper in the U.S. Army’s elite 101st Airborne division, though an ankle injury allowed him to leave the service with a welcomed honorable discharge after one year of the three he’d signed up for.

• Medical students in 18th-century Scotland could pay their tuition fees in corpses.

• An IKEA in the Netherlands had to cancel its one-euro breakfast special because it attracted too many customers and caused highway traffic jams.

• Thomas Edison invented the tattoo pen.

• Rolex replaced, without charge, all the watches that had been seized by the Germans from shot-down Allied pilots during World War II.

• In its lifetime, the International Space Station will be hit by 100,000 meteoroids.

• During the Columbine High School massacre in 1999, two 20-pound propane bombs that were planted in the cafeteria failed to detonate. If they had, it is estimated that up to 488 students would have been seriously injured or killed.

• Every year, Iceland gets wider by 2 centimeters.

• The U.S. Embassy in Kathmandu, Nepal, has guidelines on what to do if you should stumble across a yeti (and no, we are not talking about the cup!).

Thought for the Day: “In everyone’s life, at some time, our inner fire goes out. It is then burst into flame by an encounter with another human being. We should all be thankful for those people who rekindle the inner spirit.”

– Albert Schweitzer

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CryptoQuip Answer

As homework, I’m supposed to read this book by writer Dahl in one day. Time to hit the Road!

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— Photo courtesy El Paso DEA

FEDERAL MANDATE – On Friday Jan. 31, special agents of the El Paso DEA, along with their Department of Justice partners, assisted DHS and other federal law enforcement partners with their immigration enforcement efforts at various locations throughout El Paso. The group above has participants from ICE, the Texas Department of Public Safety, the U.S. Border Patrol, the FBI, the DEA and DHS.

SB4

From Page 1

to uphold the protections guaranteed by the Constitution and to reject measures like SB 4 that undermine the principles of equity and inclusion.”

New El Paso County Sheriff Oscar Ugarte, who took office in January, has also spoken out against SB 4; and former Sheriff Richard Wiles stated that SB 4 could erode community trust in local law enforcement while potentially placing financial and capacity strains on county jails along the Texas border.

Currently, El Paso County Sheriff’s Office cooperates with federal law enforcement agencies, including accepting immigration holds by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (known as ICE holds) of inmates in the county jail. Under an ICE hold, inmates who are undocumented can be kept in jail until they are picked up by ICE. Sheriff’s office reports indicate that up to 2,800 inmates can be housed in the local county jail system which includes the Downtown jail facility and the Jail Annex compound located in the county’s east side.

Meanwhile, immigration advocates are urging county residents to know their rights. No matter what an individual’s immigration status is in the United States, he or she has rights to use if approached by an immigration officer or any law enforcement officer, according to a LAIAC representative. The local organization has been receiving numerous calls from residents worried about a possible interaction with immigration officers.

LAIAC officials affirmed that a person does not have to answer the door if immigration officers appear without a signed warrant with the person’s name and address

on it, and everyone has the right to remain silent and demand the presence of a lawyer when questioned by law enforcement.

The LAIAC representative stated in a recent news report that the group is partnering with local schools and other organizations to educate people on their rights when dealing with law enforcement. Also, residents with concerns about immigration crackdowns or in need of assistance with DACA renewals or citizenship, are asked to contact LAIAC by visiting its website or by calling (915) 544-5126.

People should know their rights

Everyone living in the United States, regardless of their immigration status, has certain rights and protections provided by the U.S. Constitution, according to the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) and Immigrant Legal Resource Center.

- You have the right to remain silent. You do not have to discuss your immigration or citizenship status with police or immigration agents. Anything you do say to an officer can later be used against you in court.
- If an immigration agent asks if they can search you, you have the right to say no. Agents do not have the right to search you or your belongings without your consent or probable cause.

What if ICE agents approach you?

- Stay calm. Don’t run, argue, resist, or obstruct the officer, even if you believe your rights are being violated.
- Keep your hands where the officers can see them. Don’t lie about your status or provide false documents.
- Don’t sign anything without first speaking to a lawyer.

What if ICE agents show up at work?

- Ask the agent if you are free to leave. If yes, leave calmly.
- If you have valid immigration documents, show them.
- Remain silent. You don’t have to discuss your immigration status.
- You can record your interactions with law enforcement as long as you do not interfere.

What if ICE agents show up at home?

- You don’t have to answer your door if ICE comes to your home.
- Ask why the agents are there. Ask for an interpreter if needed.
- If agents ask to enter, ask if they have a warrant signed by a judge. If so, ask the agents to slip it under the door or through a window. Take a photo of the warrant and ensure your name or address is on it.
- If they don’t have a warrant, you can refuse to let the agents in. Ask them to leave any information at the door.
- If agents force their way into your home, do not resist. Tell everyone in the residence to remain silent.
- If you are arrested, remain silent. Do not sign anything until you speak with a lawyer. Keep an immigration lawyer’s information somewhere safe and with family members in case they need to contact the lawyer for you.

What about at a traffic stop?

- The officer can require you to show your license, vehicle registration and proof of insurance, but you don’t have to answer questions about your immigration status.
- Ask the agent if you are free to leave. If they say yes, drive away.



Moments in time
THE HISTORY CHANNEL

• On Feb. 10, 1957, Laura Ingalls Wilder – author of the best-selling “Little House” series of books based on her childhood on the American frontier, which later inspired a popular TV series starring Melissa Gilbert as the young Laura and Michael Landon as her father, Charles – died at age 90 in Mansfield, Missouri.

• On Feb. 11, 1878, the first organization for recreational cyclists, called the Boston Bicycle Club, was formed. The club organized rides ranging from tricycle races to 100-mile trips, and less than 20 years after its founding, more than 100 similar clubs had formed in Massachusetts as middle-class participation in cycling increased in popularity.

• On Feb. 12, 1947, French fashion designer Christian Dior launched his first collection, which he dubbed the “New Look.” While some appreciated its exaggerated femininity as a departure from the more drab and boxy stylings of wartime austerity, others still living with rationing decried it as wasteful, and fellow French designer Coco Chanel declared that “Dior doesn’t dress women. He

upholsters them!”

• On Feb. 13, 1905, President Theodore Roosevelt, who had just won re-election, gave a speech to the New York City Republican Club about the state of American race relations and his plan for improving them. However, it was not until President Lyndon Johnson passed the Civil Rights Act in 1964 that government efforts to correct racial bias were actually set into law.

• On Feb. 14, ca. 270 A.D., Valentine, a priest in Rome, was beheaded for the crime of continuing to marry young lovers in defiance of Emperor Claudius, who had banned all engagements and weddings in the city due to his belief that Roman men were unwilling to enlist in the military because of their strong attachment to their wives and families.

• On Feb. 15, 1968, Henry Lewis was chosen over more than 150 other candidates as the first Black conductor of a major U.S. orchestra, the New Jersey Symphony.

• On Feb. 16, 2016, former French President Nicolas Sarkozy was placed under investigation over his campaign funds, related to spending in his unsuccessful 2012 bid for re-election when his campaign costs were more than twice the legal limit.

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Water

From Page 3

program. The Bustamante Wastewater Treatment Plant expansion and rehabilitation remains the largest project, with costs spread over the next few years.

• To accommodate growth, the utility will invest \$126 million in projects, including a northwest development waterline, east waterline extension and northeast wastewater main upgrades.

• To secure needed water supply, EPWater will invest \$76 million in projects to include the Kay Bailey Hutchison Desalination Plant expansion, Advanced Water Purification Facility and the Aquifer Replenishment program.

• To continue flood control improvements, \$66 million will go to new ponds, dams

and pipes in the west and northeast.

PSB member Hector Ocaranza asked whether building stormwater infrastructure can affect home insurance rates.

“Yes, it does because insurance companies factor whether a home is inside a flood zone and the degree of hazard,” Balliew said. “The cost can be significant. If new ponds results in a flood zone map revision, that puts money back in the pocket of those customers.”

Despite proposed rate increases, El Paso’s bills are among the lowest in the country, Balliew said.

“We have to respect the economic reality of El Pasoans, so we try to minimize rate increases,” he said. “We do this by spreading the cost of projects across multiple years and being judicious about how we are using customer money.”



— Photo courtesy El Paso Water

STILL BUILDING – Work will continue on the Aquifer Replenishment program in northeast El Paso.

UTEP's recruiting classes getting national attention

By Steve Escajeda
Special to the Courier

No matter how quickly fans want their football teams to win, the truth is that no team magically turns its fortunes around from one day to the next.

Along with a few other things, a losing team needs one main thing to become a winning team - time.

Some of the other things include better players, better faculties and a better schedule.

And that's exactly what the UTEP Miners have going for them heading into their final season in Conference USA.

In his first season as head coach, Scotty Walden led the Miners to a disappointing 3-9 record.

But we have to remember something, he's just starting to bring in his own players; the type that match his style of play.

Also, the schedule was terrible, with UTEP only playing five home games and going on the road seven times. And in case you've forgotten, two of those road games were at Tennessee and at Nebraska.

That put coach Walden and his young Miners in a very tough spot.

Despite the losing record, there's no doubt that UTEP football is heading in the right direction. Last year UTEP had the best recruiting class in CUSA and the best in the program's history.

How the heck are they going to top that? By having the best recruiting class in CUSA again this year.

That's right, the Miners did it again, but it doesn't stop there. UTEP's

recruiting class (which consists of 53 players) was also ranked as the fifth best among all "group of five" conferences, which are the American Athletic Conference, Conference USA, Mid-America Conference, Sunbelt Conference and the Mountain West Conference.

That includes teams like Army, Navy, Tulane, Memphis, Rice, South Florida, UAB, Northern Illinois, Marshall, James Madison, Air Force, Boise State, San Diego State, Washington State, Nevada, Fresno State, Western Kentucky and Liberty, just to name a very few.

For the Miners to be ranked fifth on a list like that isn't too shabby at all. Remember that Boise State advanced to the College Football Playoff, Army just missed making it to the playoff, Northern Illinois handed Notre Dame its only loss of the regular season and four of those teams finished in the final Top 25 national rankings.

Let's be honest, every football team is only as good as its quarterback. Yes,

the Miners needed help from so many positions, both the offensive and defensive lines, their secondary and at the running back spot. Heck, they're also in terrible need of a kicker.

If it all starts with the quarterback, the Miners might have just solved that need.

Don't ask me how, but UTEP got the nation's top college recruit of two years ago, five-star quarterback Malachi Nelson to sign with them.

After starting his career as a backup at USC and Boise State, Nelson is getting a chance to prove that he is still one of the better quarterbacks in America.

The Miners also signed a bunch of bigger lineman, especially on offense, to protect their QB and open holes for the running game, which they didn't do at all last year.

A huge plus this year will be their schedule. Yes, the Miners will have that one game where they get paid a million bucks to be slaughtered, but at least it's just one game, not two.

UTEP will travel to Austin to take on the Arch Manning-led Longhorns in their third game of the season.

And who knows, maybe this Miners team can make it a 31-13 game instead of 54-0.

The new-and-improved Miners will start Walden's second season on Aug. 30 at Utah State (a team they'll see in the MWC).

Then they'll play their first game at the Sun Bowl on Sept. 6 against Tennessee-Martin, which finished 9-5 last year and advanced to the second round of the FCS (smaller division) playoffs.

Again, UTEP football is beginning to get noticed by some college sports outlets and you can tell they are kind of curious about what the long-losing Miners do this year.

When those outlets say UTEP's recruiting class ranks fifth out of the 68 "group of five" conferences, they expect good things to start happening football-wise in El Paso.

Let's hope they're right.

Senior moment By Matilda Charles

Winter activity: painting

It looks like we're in for a long winter, with extremely cold temperatures in several places. Many of us are already realizing that we just don't want to go out in that. But what shall we do to occupy ourselves while we're at home?

I don't know how it started, but in my neighborhood this winter the favorite activity has become... painting. Each day new photos of "works of art" are sent around via cellphones as the idea spreads.

I decided to join in. Between the internet and home deliveries, we have access to everything we need without going out!

My first step was to do a YouTube search for painting lessons. Right at the top was "Beginner's Guide to Painting," and I was off and running.

On YouTube it's possible to narrow down the search results to the subjects you're most interested in learning to paint, whether it's sunsets, flowers, mountains, snow

scenes, cats, dogs, lakes, vintage cars, beaches - if it can be painted, there's a tutorial for it. The topics can be further broken down by watercolor and acrylic painting.

There are even videos that outline what supplies you need.

Some suggestions, if you'd like to paint:

Unless you have a store near you that will ship or deliver supplies to you, look online for the big names such as Michaels, Joann and Hobby Lobby as places to start.

You need paint and water, and something to paint on, such as paper or canvas panels, plus a selection of brushes. Add in a small plastic palette for mixing colors.

Look for beginner kits that have a selection of a dozen or so small tubes of acrylic paint colors or a dozen watercolors in a metal tray.

If you fear you have no real talent for painting, I invite you to explore Acrylic Squeegee Painting on YouTube. That technique can make anyone an artist!

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21 Hamburg's river	77 Seville's land, to its natives	DOWN	40 Football Hall of Famer Ozzie	92 Fitting
22 Humorist Bombeck	78 Hip-hop bro	1 Trap by a winter storm	41 Part of FBI	93 A total lack of compassion
23 _ citato (in the work already mentioned)	80 Himalayas, e.g.: Abbr.	2 Constellation between Cassiopeia and Draco	42 Mimic	94 Carbon _ (exhaled gas)
24 Colonel North, in brief	82 Garbo of the silver screen	3 Dredge up	45 Mo. in fall	95 Have a gabfest
25 "So right!"	84 Garden in Genesis	4 Ernie's buddy	46 Big feather	96 Actor Cage
26 Notice	85 Raised, flat land	5 "Wait just _"	47 Logging tool	97 _ Trail (Everglades highway)
27 Start of a riddle	89 Ohio college that was the first in the U.S. to admit women	6 "Dang it!"	48 Pothole filler	102 Jousting knight
31 Suffix with cash	92 End of the riddle	7 Converses	49 Christened	104 Play a guitar
32 Dollar divs.	98 Luau paste	8 "For _ know..."	51 Japanese metropolis	105 Determined to achieve
33 Mil. roadside hazards	99 That lady	9 Increase	52 Crooked	106 Specifically
34 Busy Chicago airport	100 Full of curves	10 Like a song of lament	53 Together (with)	107 "That's someone _ problem"
36 Small seed	101 Calf catcher	11 Lairs for grizzlies, e.g.	54 Together (with)	110 White gem
39 Web, for a fly	103 "It's just one of _ things"	12 "St. _ Fire"	55 Homer's epic	111 Climbing plant
41 ROY G. _	105 Saturate	13 Lying on a king or queen	58 Pasta tubes	112 "Don't say it!"
43 Moral wrong	106 _ Aviv	14 Eatery list	59 "Cosmos" host Carl	113 Statistician Silver
44 Riddle, part 2	108 First year of the 10th century	15 Comb parts	62 Akron-to-Atlanta dir.	114 Waistcoat
49 Source of a scratch from a tabby	109 Riddle's answer	16 Brand of food seasoning	63 Belly	115 Reverberate
50 Russian empress	116 Hair removal brand	17 Large markets	65 Genre for Yes and Genesis	116 Letters before xis
51 Ark builder in Genesis	117 Falafel bread		66 "Come, Fido"	
			68 DOJ heads	
			71 Babe or fox	
			72 Like Cheerios	
			73 Key or corkscrew	

Answer Page 4

Super Crossword

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18		
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92	93	94									95						96	97	
98				99				100						101					102
103				104				105					106	107				108	
	109					110	111					112	113			114	115		
116						117					118					119			
120						121										123			
124						125										127			

Comix

OUT ON A LIMB By Gary Kopervas



AMBER WAVES By Dave T. Phipps



THE SPATS By Jeff Pickering



TIGER By Bud Blake



Lowry

From Page 2

unsparing in his description of the status quo, though, he was soaring in his promises of “a thrilling new era of national success.”

He talked of bringing a “revolution of common sense,” positioning that wouldn’t be so easily available to him if the other side hadn’t ceded so much ground.

Trump’s urgency about securing the border wouldn’t have nearly the same political salience if Biden hadn’t been so heedless about a record-breaking influx of illegal immigrants.

Trump wouldn’t get to speak of defeating “record inflation” if there hadn’t been record inflation in the first place.

Trump’s decision to make it official government policy to only recognize two genders would be irrelevant if the Democrats hadn’t hitched themselves to gender insanity.

Trump’s call for ending the efforts to insinuate race and gender into all aspects of American life would be meaningless if DEI hadn’t become Democratic gospel.

The Democrats appeared to believe that it didn’t matter how out of touch and radical they’d become, so long as they were running against a Donald Trump who could be ruled out of bounds. But if the public concluded that Trump made more sense than his adversaries, a campaign to render him ipso facto unacceptable was going to fail.

This is not to say that Trump is an anodyne centrist. His zeal for tariffs and apparent determination to retake the Panama Canal are hardly consensus positions, and he didn’t mention his imminent Jan. 6 pardons in his address. No matter how much momentum Trump has now, controversies will pile up and events will take a hand. The current goodwill could prove quite transitory.

Still, it was Trump who was the focus of all the attention on Monday, Trump who is setting the agenda and Trump who can plausibly define himself as closer to the middle than his opponents – and they brought it on themselves.

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

Medical use of DMSO is potentially dangerous

DEAR DR. ROACH: I’m interested in consuming dimethyl sulfoxide (DMSO). I’ve read that it will destroy the root of cancer and hasten the healing of broken bones, ligaments and strained muscles. My question is whether it is OK to consume the suggested amount of DMSO? My aortic valve was replaced with a mechanical valve three years ago. After 12 months of follow-up exams, I was informed that the valve had sealed perfectly and was told to enjoy life. -- W.H.



DMSO is indicated by the Food and Drug Administration for the symptomatic relief of interstitial cystitis, a chronic and painful bladder condition. It is instilled directly in the bladder and is sometimes used for other urinary conditions, although there is no evidence of its usefulness.

DMSO is often used topically for musculoskeletal injuries, and some people do note pain relief. Numerous studies on rheumatological conditions (such as rheumatoid arthritis) failed to show a benefit, although a study from Germany in 1995 showed that DMSO gel with a 25% concentration reduced pain when applied to joints. Other studies were unable to confirm this.

For cancer, there are no convincing studies that show benefit, and some studies have shown an increase in breast cancer cell growth with DMSO.

Based on studies showing minimal benefit and potential harm, I don’t recommend the use of DMSO. What’s more important is that the studies have been done with medical-grade DMSO, which is only available with a prescription. When you buy DMSO at a hardware store, you are getting industrial-grade DMSO, which is potentially contaminated with industrial toxins and isn’t intended for human use.

In addition, DMSO is very good at bringing other substances with it into the skin. This is useful as a drug-delivery system but dangerous when the DMSO you use is contaminated with chemicals or if you get those chemicals on your skin. While I can find DMSO for sale that companies purport to be very pure, you are relying on the company that may or may not have purified it, as it isn’t independently tested.

However, I do not think that the topical use of DMSO is likely to be a danger to your prosthetic heart valve.

DEAR DR. ROACH: Recently, at an event sponsored by our community, an expert on the gut microbiome gave a lecture on how to keep it in balance. While the lecture was generally informative and useful, at one point, he stated that vaccines were detrimental to the microbiome. Is there any evidence (other than anecdotal) that supports such an opinion? -- W.G.

The huge number of bacteria in our gastrointestinal tract is referred to as the microbiome, and our microbiome can have effects on many aspects of our functioning. How much of an effect it has is debated.

COVID-19 infections were known to have a marked detrimental effect on the microbiome, but the effect of vaccination on the microbiome was not well-studied until quite recently. A 2024 study from the University of Cambridge found that the microbiome was only minimally affected by vaccination.

Based on this recent study, I disagree with your community speaker and conclude that if you’re concerned about your microbiome, you’d be much better off getting vaccinated and taking other steps to prevent infection.

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

Feb. 13, 1913: La Prensa, a Spanish language newspaper aimed at Mexicans living temporarily in Texas, is founded in San Antonio.

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: Q equals R

RY SIUGLIQO, N'U YXXIYGT HI
 QGRT HSNY MIO ME LQNHGQ
 TRSZ NA IAG TRE. HNUG HI
 SNH HSG QIRZT!

Answer Page 4

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Weekly SUDOKU

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

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ◆◆◆

◆ Moderate ◆◆ Challenging

Answer Page 4

◆◆◆ HOO BOY!

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New illnesses added to presumptives



by Freddy Groves

In January the Department of Veterans Affairs added several illnesses to its list of presumptives, courtesy of the PACT Act. Done in two batches, the new additions to the list make it easier for veterans to get the care they need without the dragged-out process of proving that where they were stationed was the cause of their current condition. The illnesses are now considered service-connected, which gives veterans free health care for those conditions.

The first batch of conditions (in effect on Jan. 2) included urinary bladder, ureter and related genitourinary cancers. The second batch (Jan. 10) included acute and chronic leukemias, multiple myelomas, and myelodysplastic syndromes and myelofibrosis.

Locations matter, and these presumptives are covered for veterans who served

in Somalia, Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, the neutral zone between Iraq and Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, Oman, the Gulf of Aden, the Gulf of Oman, the Persian Gulf, the Arabian Sea or the Red Sea on or after Aug. 2, 1990.

After 9/11, the covered locations are for those who served in Afghanistan, Iraq, Djibouti, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, Yemen or Uzbekistan.

K2 veterans, you haven't been forgotten. In fact, those serving at Karshi-Khanabad have been recipients of a major push by the VA to get you the health benefits you should have. Too many K2 veterans have undiagnosed illnesses and multi-symptom illnesses, likely from what was in the toxic environment while you were there: jet fuel, asbestos roof tiles, volatile organic compounds, depleted uranium, open burn pits, and more. A recent VA news release says that of the 16,000 K2 veterans, 13,000 are enrolled in VA care. Of those, 11,800 have at least one service connected

condition, with the average having 14.6 service-connected conditions.

If you're K2 – and even if you aren't – and haven't signed up for health care, call the VA at 1-800-MYVA411 (800-698-2411). Get the benefits you're supposed to have.

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- To ripen a green tomato, wrap it in a sheet of newspaper or place it in a paper bag. It can then be left on the counter for several days to ripen.

- "To keep those ice crystals from forming on the top of your quart of ice cream, just cut a square of plastic wrap and push it down onto the surface of the ice cream each time you scoop a bowlful out. It peels off easily when you're ready for another helping, but there's no ice! Works for me!" – T.D. in Nebraska

- White vinegar will clean off fruit or food coloring stains on your hands – or most other places too!

- F.J. of Texas writes: "Keep a fresh roll of unscented toilet tissue in the kitchen to clean up on the stove and countertop. It cleans up good because of its absorbency, and it saves money on expensive paper towels."

- "If you add a teaspoon of sugar to your biscuit mix or to the dough for rolls, it will help them brown well and they will come out of the oven with golden tops." – Jan R. of Michigan

- "I have added an additional shower curtain bar in my tub. I hang up my towels and washcloths there to air dry, and they are out of sight behind the shower curtain. It's very convenient." – A reader

- You can get five or six more uses out of a pump-top lotion bottle if you cut off the top to access the lotion inside that doesn't come out of the pump once the level is too low. You'd be surprised how much is still in there!

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: ★★

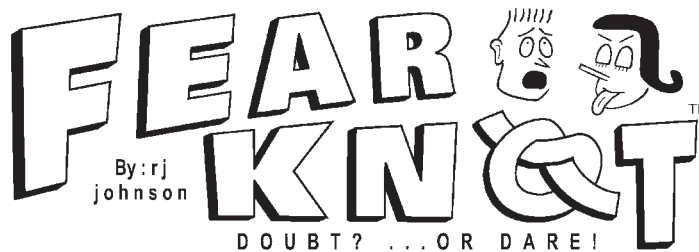
★ Moderate ★★ Difficult

★★★ GO FIGURE!

Answer Page 4

		-		+				= 12
+			+			-		
	+			+				= 11
÷			+			×		
	+			×				= 55
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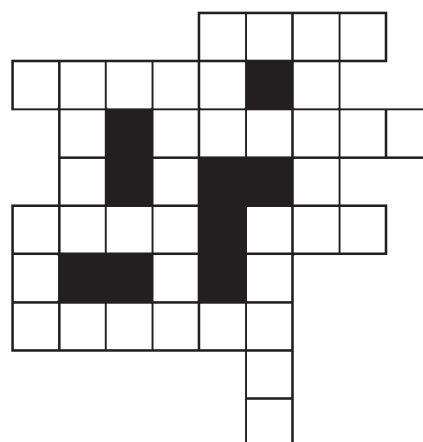
OFDOR

♥NSO

♥NOTDEA

♥CESLA

♥EWRA



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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