# West Texas County

VOL. 52, No. 14

SERVING ANTHONY, VINTON, CANUTILLO, EAST MONTANA, HORIZON, SOCORRO, CLINT, FABENS, SAN ELIZARIO AND TORNILLO

**APRIL 3, 2025** 



Photo courtesy Josh Luna

FAMILIES ON THE HUNT – Crowds of children and their parents go egg hunting during last year's Easter Eggstravaganza held at Applegate Park.

# Village of Vinton hosts 3rd Annual Easter Eggstravaganza

By Josh Luna Special to the Courier

VINTON – The Village of Vinton will host its Third Annual Easter Eggstravaganza from 10 a.m. from the Easter Bunny and an Easter egg hunt. The

place at Dr. Applegate Park, which is located at under. Registration begins at 10 a.m. with the hunt 436 E. Vinton Rd., near the village's town hall. itself beginning at 11 a.m. The event is free and everyone in the community is invited to attend.

The Easter Eggstravaganza will feature a visit to 1 p.m., Saturday, April 5. The event will take Easter egg hunt is open to children ages 12 and

Egg hunt participants are asked to bring baskets to collect their eggs. The plastic eggs will be filled with a treat or a special surprise. Other activities scheduled

See VINTON, Page 3

## **Chuco Punk**

# López pens the history of El Paso's Punk Rock scene

By Beau Bagley Special to the Courier

punk music scene is alive and well, according to author Dr. Tara López. Studies at Winona State University in Rochester, Minnesota, spoke to El students and the community at several events which took place at the EPCC Transmountain campus and the El Paso Museum of History on Friday, March 28, 2025.

López, who was born and raised in New Mexico, wrote the book *Chuco* Punk: Sonic Insurgency in El Paso. She spoke about the culture and

history that comes along with this brand of music.

"Most importantly, El Paso is not just a really important site of punk EL PASO COUNTY - The El Paso rock sound in the Borderland, but throughout the world," López said. "Often times, really important history The Assistant Professor of Ethnic is either forgotten or purposely erased, and this is a time where we need to make sure our dynamic cultures and Paso Community College (EPCC) histories are set in stone, because they're important."

"Yes, the book is about punk rock, but if you really dive deep into it, it's the history and culture and economics of this really special region," López added.

El Paso Community College (EPCC)

See LÓPEZ, Page 5



STORY TELLING - Dr. Tara López gives a talk and slide presentation as she explains the background of making her book, Chuco Punk: Sonic Insurgency in El Paso, to a capacity crowd at the El Paso Museum of History last Friday night, March 28.

# Ukraine invasion actully started in 2014

Ukraine got invaded by Russia. According to President Trump, it should never make that mistake again.

excluded from the early stages of negotiations over the war, Trump has blasted the embattled country for sticking up for its interests after being brutalized by Vladimir Putin for three years.

"Today I heard, 'Oh, well, we weren't invited.' Well, you've been there for three years," Trump said the other day. "You should have ended it – three years. You should have never started it. You could have made a deal."

This would be a fair charge to lodge against Ukraine if it had attempted to seize by force Russia's Rostov and Belgorod Oblasts and gotten bogged down in a costly war of attrition with no clear exit plan.

In reality, as we all know, Russia first invaded its cities, blowing Ukraine in 2014 (after the Maidan Revolution up its hospitals, toppled a pro-Putin president) and then followed destroying Miffed that Ukraine is miffed that it has been up in 2022 with a more far-reaching attempt to electricity decapitate Ukraine and render it a Russian satellite –

> Ukraine's offense is to have been victimized by an the alliance. expansionist Russia, a quality it has historically in common with Poland, Finland and the Baltic states, among others.

If Ukraine had shown better judgment than to be located next door to a much larger, perpetually aggrieved and autocratic neighbor, with which it shares a complicated history, perhaps this never would have happened.

Skeptics of the Ukraine war want to say that Russia was provoked into invading Ukraine – missiling grid

NATO's

assurances that Ukraine was on the path to joining

This wasn't in the offing anytime in the foreseeable future, though, and even if it had eventually happened, the idea that NATO would have used Ukraine as a launching pad for an invasion of Russia is phantasmagoric.

Vladimir Putin has set out his views on Ukraine at length, and they amount to the belief that Ukraine doesn't have a legitimate national identity

See LOWRY, Page 7

# Two Socorro ISD counseling teams earn national RAMP designation

**By Christy Flores-Jones** *Special to the Courier* 

School Counselor Association has recognized two outstanding counseling programs in the Socorro Independent School District as Recognized ASCA Model Programs (RAMP).

Col. John O. Ensor Middle School counseling programs in Texas to receive this prestigious recognition, National Model framework.

Middle School was designated as help them potentially achieve RAMP status in the future.

"We are extremely proud of the RAMP designees," said Tammi Mackeben, SISD Director of School Counseling. "The application process ELPASO COUNTY-The American is extensive. Campuses must display SMART goals, data, and results for their comprehensive school counseling program. Their dedication to the students, faculty and community is immeasurable".

The counselors on each team are and SSG. Manuel R. Puentes Nicole Gomez, Belinda Ortega and Middle School are among only three Anita Montano from Col. John O. Ensor Middle School; Esmeralda Armendariz, Hannah Alvarado and Jo which is based on their dedication Jennifer Madrid-Chabre from SSG. to implementing school counseling Manuel R. Puentes Middle School; programs that align with the ASCA and Elizabeth Nuñez-Quintana and Rosaisela Ortiz from Salvador H. Additionally, Salvador H. Sanchez Sanchez Middle School.

RAMP designation is valid a RAMP School of Promise. This for five years. After this period, designation is awarded to schools that schools must reapply to maintain do not initially meet the criteria for their RAMP status. The ASCA RAMP status but are on track to do so. National Model is a framework for These schools receive mentoring to school counseling programs that

ON THE JOB - From left, Nicole Gomez, Belinda Ortega, Anita Montano make up the See SISD, Page 5 counseling team at RAMP designated Col. John O. Ensor Middle School.



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Contributors Alfredo Vasquez Steve Escajeda



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Photo courtesy Josh Luna

SAY BUNNY - Family photos are a staple of the Village of Vinton's Eggstravaganza.

## Vinton

From Page 1

crafts, face painting, music, inflatables, food HOPE, Custom Equipment Fabricators, Tritrucks, vendors, raffles and more.

Easter Eggstravaganza in the Village," said community partners," Quintana commented. Village of Vinton Mayor Rachel Quintana. "Our residents from our local community to take vintontx.us or call at (915) 886-5104.

advantage of what the Village of Vinton has to offer in their own backyard," she stated.

The mayor added that the sponsors for the Saturday morning event include Vinton Steel, for the Saturday afternoon event include games, JOBE, Parkhill, El Paso Health, Operation State Electric and El Paso Disposal. "The event "We are so excited to host our Third Annual would not be possible without these valuable

For more information about the upcoming goal, with many of our events, is to encourage celebration, sent a text to Josh Luna at iluna@

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**King Crossword** 

13

36 37 40 39 43 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53

Average Solve Time 21 Minutes

#### **ACROSS**

- Huck's raftmate
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- 8 "Phooey!"
- 13 List-ending abbr.
- 15 Dyeing vessel
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- 26 Chaps

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- 30 Stretches (out)
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- 52 Dance move 53 Tourist's chart

**DOWN** 1 Coffee, slangily

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9 Competent

11 Gives a darn?

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26 Soccer's Hamm

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20 Sweetie

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31 Western ranges

32 Swiss artist Paul

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14

- 42 Physical
- 43 Classic Kinks song 44 Bath bar
- 23 "Dilbert" engineer

Answer Page 4











- Photos courtesy El Paso Community College

LAW AND ORDER - A variety of local, regional, state and federal Law Enforcement agencies were on site to provide information on career opportunities during a Criminal Justice Expo at the Valle Verde campus Flexitorium.

# EPCC Criminal Justice Department holds 2025 expo

By Beau Bagley *Special to the Courier* 

EL PASO COUNTY - El Paso Community College (EPCC) Criminal Justice Department hosted the third featured many EPCC departments, like annual Criminal Justice Career Expo, not Fire Technology, Lambda Alpha Epsilon, students to learn in advance what is ahead just for EPCC students, but for the entire community, at the Valle Verde campus Law Enforcement Training Academy. Flexitorium.

Tobacco, and Firearms (ATF), El Paso a great opportunity to visit with federal, County and the Doña Ana County Sheriff's state, and local criminal justice agencies Offices, the El Paso Fire Department, as well as universities within our region," the United States Secret Service, The EPCC Criminal Justice Professor Jeffrey

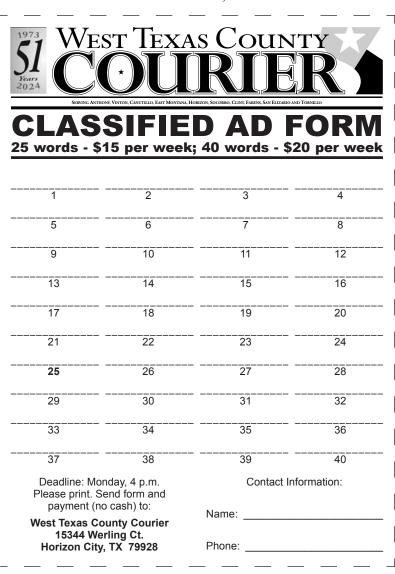
United States Federal Probation Office, Brockhoff said. among many others. Also featured were criminal justice departments from the opportunities in the Federal, State, University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP), and Local criminal justice fields, and New Mexico State University (NMSU), educational opportunities in various and Park University. The Expo also criminal justice administrations.

Many on hand learned about job

"It's a very good event, it's good for the EPCC Criminal Justice Club, and the of them, to start preparing themselves for the future, and find a career," El Paso "Whether students are preparing to Police Department Officer Recruiter The career exposition featured over 20 graduate and move directly into the Carlos Arellano said. "EPCC students offices and departments in the Criminal workforce or continuing their education from the Law Enforcement Training Justice field, like the Bureau of Alcohol, at a university, the expo allows students Academy have done a great job joining our ranks, so we're happy to be here."

The expo was coordinated by the EPCC

#### See EXPO, Page 5



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# **CryptoQuip** Answer

Being that my son's wife borrowed a large amount of money from me, is she my debtor-in-law.

#### By Lucie Winborne

- A rainbow on Venus is called a "glory."
- · LEGO bricks withstand compression better than concrete! An ordinary plastic LEGO brick can support the weight of 375,000 other bricks before it fails, which would theoretically allow you to build a tower nearing 3.5 km in height, but scaling that up to house-size bricks would prove too cost prohibitive.
- Giraffes are 30 times more likely to get hit by lightning than people are.
- Your brain is constantly eating itself, in a process phagocytosis, called where cells envelop and consume smaller cells or molecules to remove them from the system. Luckily, phagocytosis isn't painful or harmful, but helps preserve gray matter.
- Identical twins don't have the same fingerprints.
- The sun makes a sound in the form of pressure waves, but it's far beyond the range of human hearing.
- A comet smells like rotten eggs, urine, burning matches and almonds.
- One in 18 people have a third nipple. Known as polythelia, it's caused by a mutation in inactive genes.
- · Starfish don't have bodies. Alongwithotherechinoderms such as sea urchins and sand dollars, their entire "bodies" are technically classed as heads.
- Sunsets on Mars are blue.
- · There are roughly three ginger male cats to one ginger female. The ginger gene is found on the X chromosome, meaning female cats would require two copies of the gene to become ginger while males need just one.
- · Martial artists who smile before the start of a match are more likely to lose.
- At a temperature of 54,000 F, a lightning bolt is five times hotter than the surface of the sun.
- In the U.S., murder rates reportedly rise by 2.7% over the summer.

Thought for the Day: "All the art of living lies in a fine mingling of letting go and holding on."

Havelock Ellis

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# Moments THE HISTORY CHANNEL

- On March 31, 1492, King Ferdinand II of Aragon and Queen Isabella I of Castile issued the Alhambra Decree, which mandated that all Jews be expelled from the country by the end of July. The church had already forced much of Spain's Jewish population to convert, and modern historians estimate that around 40,000 Jews emigrated.
- On April 1, 1963, ABC aired the first episode of "General Hospital," which became the longest-running serial program produced in Hollywood. On the same day, rival network NBC premiered its own medical-themed soap opera, "The Doctors." Both networks aimed to capitalize on the popularity of shows such as "Dr. Kildare" and "Ben Casey."
- On April 2, 1992, mob boss John Gotti, aka the "Teflon Don" due to his notable ability to avoid conviction, was found guilty on 13 counts, including murder and racketeering, and sentenced to life in prison. A decade later, he died of throat cancer at age 61.
- On April 3, 1948, "The Louisiana Hayride," a country radio program broadcast out of Shreveport, Louisiana, debuted. It launched the careers of several country music giants, and also that of a certain teenage, honeyvoiced aspirant by the name of Elvis Presley.
- On April 4, 1975, Operation Babylift, an American airlift to the U.S. and other Western Vietnamese nations of children deemed orphans, had a disastrous start when an Air Force cargo jet crashed shortly after takeoff in Saigon, killing more than 135 passengers.
- · On April 5, 1984, Kareem Abdul-Jabbar scored the 31,420th point of his career, breaking Wilt Chamberlain's NBA all-time scoring record. Abdul-Jabbar's record would remain intact for almost four decades.
- On April 6, 1909, American explorer Robert Peary believed he had fulfilled a long-cherished dream when he, his assistant Henson Matthew and four Inuits reached what they determined to be the North Pole. Decades after Peary's death, however, navigational errors were discovered in his travel log, in all probability placing his expedition several miles short of its goal.

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## López From Page 1

was recently awarded a Humanities of and Texas grant to support public humanities society, including the programming, and in turn, helped movement's essential produce the series Communities of DIY ethos. Sound: Exploring El Chuco's Punk Rock History and Culture. This series seeks to in April with a panel acknowledge this important vet mostly discussion: Reflections unknown piece of Borderland history and on Chuco Punk, taking to increase awareness and appreciation place Saturday, April of this movement on campus and in the 5, 2025, at Eloise in community.

"I think EPCC students and the public DJ and entrepreneur, will be surprised to learn that punk Marina rock permeated every major area of Tony Leal, a Mexican the Borderland: the Lower Valley, the American musician, and Westside, Central, Ciudad Juárez, Las Bobbie Welch, a concert Cruces, you name it!" EPCC English promoter. On April 10, these events to life, said. "Mostly young to the Borderland. people created a scene and community out of nothing, and the music they created was enjoyed and appreciated locally and on a national scale."

Activities Friday included a lecture, Platica with Tara López: Exploring Chuco Punk and Overlooked Histories. which took place for EPCC students at the Transmountain campus, followed by Chuco Punk: Sonic Insurgency in El Paso - An Evening with Author Tara López Friday evening at the El Paso Museum of History. Dr. López

## Upcoming events

Events are free and open to the public

- · Saturday, April 5, 7:00 p.m. at Eloise, 126 Shadow Mountain Drive: Marina Monsisvais will facilitate this local panel of former and current punk rock musicians and promoters, including Bobbie Welch and Tony Leal, to learn about their lived experiences in this culture.
- · Thursday, April 10, 6:00 pm. at the EPCC Rio Grande campus Cafeteria: The film The Repo Man. The film will be shown as representative of punk rock's first wave and as connected to the Borderlands.

helped contextualize El Paso punk rock stories and its evolution in historical movements contemporary

The series continues West El Paso with local Monsivais,

Professor Margie Nelson Rodriguez, EPCC's Rio Grande campus will show the when we get invited to talk about it, who collaborated with EPCC History movie, The Repo Man, representative of why not go for it? It's also neat to hear Instructor Vanessa Camacho to bring punk rock's first wave and as connected how each generation of punks builds

Monsivais wasn't born in El Paso, It's beautiful."



Dr. Tara López

Los Angeles in fact, but has grown to appreciate the local music scene, especially punk music. "It started with the community. I found my people in punk. Free thinkers who didn't need circumstances or their music to be perfect. They just made things happen, and being the kind of person that just makes things happen, I was naturally drawn to the scene and the beautiful people it attracts," Monsivais said. "We've always been here, never not going to be here, so

upon the ones who came before them.



Photos courtesy El Paso Community College

IN THE COLLECTION - Chuco Punk, a book on El Paso's Punk Rock scene, forms part of a display in the library of the EPCC Transmountain campus.



QUALITY TEAM - SSG. Manuel R. Puentes Middle School has earned the RAMP designation. The school's counselors are, from left, Esmeralda Armendariz, Hannah Alvarado and Jo Jennifer Madrid-Chabre.

#### SISD

From Page 2

emphasizes data-informed decision-making, systematic is committed to supporting program delivery, and a focus the school's mission and the on student achievement, success of its students.

attendance, and discipline. RAMP demonstrates administrators, school boards, families, and the community that the school



MOVING FORWARD - From left, Rosaisela Ortiz and Elizabeth Nunez-Quintana offer counseling at Salvador H. Sanchez Middle School. It has been designated a RAMP School of Promise

## Expo

From Page 4

Criminal Justice department, and assisted by Career and Transfer Services, a group who loves to put their best foot featuring Law Enforcement forward when showcasing EPCC. "We love bringing events that encourage our Officers, Bailiffs, and more. students to further their careers, and this is a great Academics/CriminalJustice way for the College to work for with many different agencies on the Criminal Justice and companies," Career and Department.

Transfer Services Specialist Gabriel Hernandez said.

EPCC plans to hold another Criminal Justice Career Expo on April 11, 2025, 9:00 a.m. -Noon at the Paseo del Norte Hotel in downtown El Paso, agencies, Court Reporters, Legal Interpreters, Probation

Visit www.epcc.edu/ more information

# Transfer portal takes a big bite out of UTEP basketball - again

By Steve Escajeda Special to the Courier

As we've been saying over the last decade, it seems as if the NCAA transfer portal is getting bigger and bigger.

More and more players, no matter how good or bad their team was, enter the transfer portal to see what larger universities are interested in them.

It used to be that players would leave for a chance to join bigger schools with Frazier and Kevin Kalu, along with bigger reputations that are on national television more often. That way there was a better chance they'd be seen by next season, which means they've got NBA scouts and coaches.

But nowadays players don't leave bigger paycheck.

Why? The decision was made to pay players for their name, image and not just to save the program, but to likeness (NIL). Young men all over the country now fish for the team that will throw the most money at them.

And while paying the players for bringing millions of dollars to their school isn't necessarily a bad thing, having basically no controls in place is a horrible thing.

In other words, the schools with the most money can afford to get the better players, making them a better team, allowing them to go farther in the NCAA Tournament, which will earn the school more money, and around and around it goes.

And it's precisely because of this that UTEP only has three players returning from last year's team.

Six UTEP players have decided to say adios to El Paso and try to make more money somewhere else.

That's a huge problem for midmajor schools like UTEP. They have the money they have and that's it.

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while the Miners have about half that.

It isn't a fair system, and it will always be a problem for the Miners.

Starters Cory Camper, David Terrell and Devon Barnes have left the team, along with Derick Hamilton, Ahamad Bynum and Babacar Mbengue.

The only players returning from last year's disappointing 18-15 team are sophomores Elijah Jones and Trey Horton, and freshman K.J. Lewis.

The Miners also lost starters Otis needs a raise. sub Baylor Hebb, to graduation.

five players on a 15-member roster.

Coach Joe Golding, heading into for the exposure, they leave for a the final year of his five-year contract, is going to have to go out there and recruit as he's never recruited before, save his job.

UTEP is looking at its final season in

Other schools have millions to offer Conference USA before moving to the whether its players or coaches, UTEP Mountain West Conference in 2026.

> So, if Golding wants to join the Miners in this bigger, better conference he's going to have to get bigger, more talented players who can actually compete at the CUSA level, let alone the MWC.

> And unfortunately, the only way the orange and blue can compete is if they have more green to hand out. Let's face it, the UTEP athletic department

Plain and simple, Golding is going to have to put on his accounting cap UTEP has two players signed for and somehow make the dollars work.

> At UTEP, the word has always been that the transfer portal kills the program, well the truth is that it can also rebuild a program. There's nothing that prevents Golding from getting talented 3-star athletes who will at least see UTEP as a steppingstone to better things.

That's the way things are now,

will always be an off-ramp toward bigger things.

Until UTEP acquires bigtime corporate donors like the bigger schools do, it'll be a peculiar little fish in a big pond.

Next season is Joe Golding's last chance to save his UTEP career and he'll have to do it with almost an entirely new team.

That's going to be extremely tough, but it's a big challenge, and Golding is all about taking on big challenges.

To be honest, with the transfer portal, NIL, changing conferences, recruiting players and managing payments, I don't know how Golding sleeps at night.

But he's such a nice guy that almost all of El Paso is rooting for him.

Winning with new players is not going to be easy, but other teams have proven it's not impossible.

Maybe UTEP will be the next.

# Senior moment By Matilda Charles

# Scams against seniors are getting worse

Data breaches and financial scams against seniors are at all-time highs. What was bad before is apparently even and Experian and go over them line by line. Be sure there

Why do scammers target seniors? Here are the top reasons:

- They perceive that we have a lot of money. After they assume. And now we have huge pension and Social Security income that surely puts us in a high income bracket, they assume.
- Many of us grew up in an era when we were polite to people on the phone. Scammers take advantage of that senior center, library or even your bank for a class on how and coax us into divulging private information.
- Many of us aren't especially skilled with technology. We press buttons on our phone that we shouldn't, or enabled the download of a virus or made a connection to you don't recognize the number. the scammers.

Here are a few suggestions for staying safe in the war with the scammers:

- Order your credit report from TransUnion, Equifax isn't anything you don't recognize, that no extra loans show up and no additional names are listed. To do this, go online to annualcreditreport.com and order your free credit reports. If you spot something wrong, report it at all, we worked all those years... we saved a lot of cash, IdentityTheft.gov or call the National Elder Fraud Hotline at 833-372-8311.
  - Lock down your credit at all three credit bureaus. This will keep anyone from opening credit in your name.
  - Learning safety on your electronic devices ask your to avoid falling for an online scam.

And perhaps most valuable of all: Don't feel the need to be polite if a stranger calls you on the phone and starts click links in strange email, not realizing that we've just asking questions. Just hang up. Better yet, don't answer if

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# **CROSS WORDS** 56 212 degrees

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- Moreau, e.g. 46 Penetrating 47 Get older 50 Give off 51 Shaggy's nickname for his dog 52 Pollen lover 53 Actress Perlman 54 "Life Is Good" rapper

55 Letter after pi

**DOWN** 1 Panorama 2 Entomb 3 Navigate 87 Prefix with byte or 4 A Gershwin brother 88 Suffix with Euclid 5 Male tabby 6 Eve of old TV 89 An ex-Trump 92 Fix typos, say one's time 93 Plus more: Abbr. 8 Missile in the Gulf 94 \$5 bills, in slang War 9 "Heavens!" 96 Intense controversy 10 Shred 99 "That doesn't ring 11 \_ Stakes (horse race) 101 Regressed 12 Kayak cousin 102\_-la-la 13 "Gemini Man" 103 Group of warriors director Lee in "Kung Fu Panda" 14 Grazing land 106 Church part for the 15 "Proud Mary" star P. Henson clergy 16 Makes the 110 Chant 111 Boxing great Billboard Top 40, e.g. 112 Flummoxed 17 Of a resistance

115 Suffix with Motor

117 Oxidizer in liquid rocket propellants 25 Pertaining to 31 Black, to Poe 122 Swedish soprano 33 Aide: Abbr. Jenny 123 '50s prez 34 U.S. "Itd." 124 \_ Mae (HUD corp.) 35 Female sib 125 Yo-yo part 36 Dutch artist Jan 1261 ucv's auv 38 -Cat 39 From Z127 Toon Flanders 128 Villains' looks 40 Lettuce type 129 What nine key 42 Option list 43 East Asian nanny words in this puzzle are synonyms of 44 Platter 45 \_ Lodge (motel chain) 46 Actor Harvey 48 Heredity unit 49 Wolfs down 52 Malaise, with "the" 53 Horse colors 55 Little \_ (the Ocean State) 57 Proposal 58 Original NYC subway line 59 State exec. 60 Before surgery, in

71 Chimp's kin

72 Book division

73 Vexed state

116 British prep school

18 Artery insert 74 Dairy case 24 Like Brits containers 78 Musical finale 79 Somewhat 80 Act of liturgy 82 Film units 83 Uses a trowel 85 Noodles in peanut sauce 90 Battle (for) 91 Additionally 92 Israel's Abba 94 Vast stretch 95 Large tuna 96 Wild rants 97 Gorilla, e.g. 98 Historic time 100 Olympic swimmer Matt 101 Actress Taylor 103 Grazing land 104 De-knot 105 Renowned 106 Asteroid found in 1801 107 Chocolate drink 108 T-man Ness 109 Big dipper 112 Comic Meara 62 "Star Trek" 113 Rake prong lieutenant 114 Mix, as paint 64 Agave plants 118 Luau guitar, for 65 Salt Lake City short 119 Martini liquor native 69 Additionally 120 Longtime CBS 70 Fertilizable series 121 30-day mo. gametes

Answer Page 4

#### **Super Crossword** 19 20 22 26 39 56 60 63 65 87 88 89 93 99 100 102 101 107 108 109 103 104 105 112 113 114 116 117 118 120 121 122 123 124 125 128 126 127 129

## **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

Ukrainian land and resources and his fear of a will involve painful concessions by Kiev. successful Slavic democracy next door giving his own people ideas.

Zelenskyy clapped back at Trump, the U.S. needlessly insulting an ally and condemning president responded with a contemptuous it in perversely moralizing terms is another. salvo on Truth Social. Trump deemed him a "moderately successful comedian" (Zelenskyy used to have a career in entertainment) and, more significantly, a "Dictator without Elections."

It is true that Ukraine has been under martial law since it (foolishly) got invaded by Russia. Yet, Zelenskyy's popularity has held up, and he has much more democratic credibility than his adversary Vladimir Putin, who poisons and imprisons his political opponents.

that he talked us into supporting Ukraine in the war. If it hadn't been for this scam artist, U.S. – and our European allies – wouldn't have ©2025 by King Features Synd., Inc.

believed we should stop a nation hostile to the West from installing a puppet government in a neighboring, sovereign state.

All that said, Ukraine isn't going to succeed separate from Russia. This is at the bottom in reestablishing its pre-2014 or even pre-2022 of the conflict, as well as Putin's coveting of borders, and any plausible cessation of hostilities

This doesn't justify adopting an ahistorical perspective on the war and blaming Ukraine When Ukrainian President Volodymyr for its plight. Realpolitik is one thing;

> Perhaps Trump's blunderbuss attacks on Ukraine will soften it up to accept an unsatisfactory but unavoidable deal. Still, the Kremlin is surely taking note that the president of the United States can't disguise his bitterness toward the weaker, hard-pressed country that Putin wants to humiliate and dismember.

It used to be said that a liberal is too broadminded to take his own side in a fight. Trump is too consumed with pursuing a deal to Another Trump count against Zelenskyy is acknowledge Ukraine is on our side.

Trump implies, a bipartisan majority in the Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.

# **Anesthesia for colonoscopy** has low risk of delirium

DEAR DR. ROACH: My husband, who is 71, has been having some short-term memory problems over the past

two years. We recently saw his primary care doctor, who asked him some questions and had him do a few tasks. He did fail a few of them. She agreed that there was something going on, and now we have to wait to see a neurologist. He has an appointment for a colonoscopy next month, and I'm concerned about



how the anesthesia will affect his already compromised short-term memory. I saw the same thing happen with my father; he was having the same issues and broke his leg, which required surgery. He was never the same afterward. He couldn't live on his own anymore and required memory care right away. I have been told by medical staff at the hospital that this sometimes happens after a surgery because of anesthesia. What are your thoughts about my husband's upcoming colonoscopy? Should I be worried about what this will do to his memory issues? – S.L.

There are many kinds of memory issues that can affect older adults, and while Alzheimer's disease is the most common, this does not mean that your husband has it. Getting an evaluation by a neurologist is an excellent idea.

Anesthesia does not cause dementia. However, some people, like your father, do develop a complication called postoperative delirium. Delirium is different from dementia because it comes on quickly. The cause is almost always identifiable, whether it's due to medical illness, surgery, infection, low oxygen, metabolic abnormalities (such as sodium levels), etc. Delirium can last for a very long time and often unmask dementia that had been previously well-controlled.

The risk of delirium after the usual medication for a colonoscopy is small. The inhalation agents given in general anesthesia are much more likely to cause delirium. While a colonoscopy can be performed without sedation, in my opinion, the risk of delirium after a colonoscopy with the usual sedation is so low that it is not necessary to forgo it.

DEAR DR. ROACH: My son is being tested for mixed connective tissue disease (MCTD) and rheumatoid arthritis (RA) due to joint pain. Can you tell me more about this disease, and can he recover from it or live with it? -D.D.

Both RA and MCTD are rheumatologic diseases that affect many systems of the body. MCTD is often considered an overlap syndrome as it has features that resemble lupus, systemic sclerosis (scleroderma), RA, and polymyositis. Disease of the blood vessels can be a major problem with MCTD, including pulmonary artery hypertension.

Both RA and MCTD are serious diseases. Joint pain is a hallmark symptom of both diseases, but they commonly affect the skin and may also affect the lungs, heart and kidneys, as well as various parts of the nervous, hematologic and gastrointestinal systems.

Treatment for MCTD for many years was steroids, but hydroxychloroquine has become a useful part of the treatment regimen and has less toxicity than long-term steroids. Unfortunately, the strong effectiveness of biological agents in people with RA is not seen in people with MCTD.

I can't emphasize enough how important it is to have an expert rheumatologist as the diagnosis is not always straightforward. Interpreting the laboratory and clinical findings requires judgment and experience. A referral to a specialty hospital may be worthwhile.

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 To Your Good Health @med.cornell.edu. ©2025 America Synd., Inc. All Rights Reserved.

# **Archives: www.wtxcc.com**



# Moore Texas by Roger Moore

April 2, 1921: Threats of secession follow Gov. Neff's veto of a bill creating West Texas Agricultural and Mechanical College.

# 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: H equals M

IKTDC GFOG HV YPD'Y RTLK IPZZPRKB O XOZCK OHPQDG PL HPDKV LZPH HK, TY YFK

HV BKIGPZ-TD-XOR?

Answer Page 4

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# Weekly SUDOKU

| 1           | 4 |   | 8 |   | 3 |   | 6 |   |
|-------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 3           | 2 | 5 | 1 | 4 |   | 7 | 9 |   |
|             | 9 |   |   |   | 2 |   |   | 1 |
|             | 5 | 4 |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|             | 1 | 9 | 3 |   |   | 4 |   |   |
|             |   |   |   |   |   | 5 |   | 9 |
| 4           | 3 |   | 6 | 1 | 8 |   | 5 |   |
| 4<br>5<br>9 |   | 1 |   |   |   | 8 |   | 4 |
| 9           |   |   | 5 | 2 |   |   |   | 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:** ◆



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# VA by the numbers

by Freddy Groves

According to a recent headline, the Department of Veterans Affairs processed one million disability claims two weeks faster than they did in the last fiscal year.

has The VA each processed Recently on one day alone therapists and they processed 12,000 claims, the highest number for health care services. they've ever reached. By January they'd processed blog put out by benefit payments totaling \$62 billion and saw their accuracy rate go up to 92%.

processed.

news that the VA fired 1,400 probationary employees in the latest round of forced any dollars to the health dismissals, what you might care budget, the new VA not see touted anywhere is flag policy does have value. that the VA is still hiring for the 300,000 mission-critical types of flags that can be slots it needs to fill.

Those 1,400 employees flag are on the very short were "probationary," which means they'd been on the job less than a year in nonmission-critical jobs or were on what Secretary Collins in a different employment is doing and saying, go to category for less than two Secretary's Blog at news. years. The savings from that va.gov/category/secretarysopens up \$98 million to be put blog and watch the videos. into health care benefits.

Those 300,000 missioncritical positions they need to been fill are exempt from the hiring averaging 10,000 claims freeze and include 94,000 week. nurses, 3,000 physical 12,000 pharmacists – all necessary

Additionally, per Secretary Doug Collins, the elimination of diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) Which is all good news initiatives in the VA frees for those who are waiting up \$14 million for health for their claims to be care services. Halting the contracts for DEI training While it's all over the and materials adds another \$6 million to the kitty.

> And while it doesn't add Specifically, it limits the on display at VA facilities.

The U.S. flag, Prisoner of War (POW) flag and Missing in Action (MIA) list of flags that may be displayed at the VA.

If you'd like to keep an eye

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- · Spring is a wonderful time to clean the walls inside your house. It clears away hidden dust and really freshens a room. Clean painted walls by dusting them first with a dry mop, then washing with a rag dampened in water. If you need a little extra oomph - say, in the kitchen or bath add a couple drops of mild dish soap.
- Protect your broom by storing it handle side down. You can purchase wall clips at your local hardware store, and then it'll be off the floor, ready when you are!
- The Vision Council offers tips to minimize digital eye strain: Use the 20-20-20 rule: every 20 minutes, take a 20-second break and look at something 20 feet away.
- Use a strip of hook and loop tape to secure game controllers to their consoles. This way, you'll never have to go looking for one when you're ready to play.
- · "Fill your sink with soapy hot water as you are cooking dinner. Your dirty pans and bowls can go right in the sink to soak. After dinner, they will be easy to wash." - E.D. in South Carolina
- Make your stainless-steel sink sparkle by buffing it with a few drops of mineral oil and a soft rag, after a good cleaning, of course.
- "If a pocket or two on an over-the-door shoe rack has busted, it's not done being useful. You can cut remaining pockets to fit inside your bathroom cabinet. Secure at the top with screws. Place cups in a few pockets to hold cotton swabs or balls, etc." -W.L. in Washington

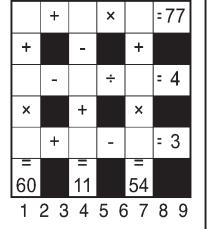
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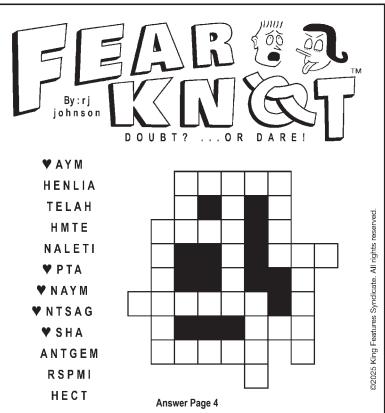
# **GO FIGURE!**

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.

Answer Page 4

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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.