



– Photo by Alfredo Vasquez

**WATERWORKS** – The Roberto Bustamante Wastewater Treatment Plant, above, is located in El Paso County’s Lower Valley about five miles from the Ysleta Port of Entry and will soon have company. El Paso Water is building a new water purification facility, expected to be operational in 2028, that will be located near this site.

**El Paso Water**

**Wastewater to be converted into drinkable water**

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

EL PASO COUNTY – Construction has begun on El Paso Water’s nearly \$300 million facility that is designed to turn millions of gallons of treated wastewater into drinkable water. Plans are to build the first plant in the United States that will send purified sewage directly into the drinking-water supply, according to company officials.

The new wastewater treatment plant, dubbed the Pure Water Center, will be located between the Roberto Bustamante Wastewater Treatment Plant

and the Jonathan Rogers Water Treatment Plant that are located in an industrial area off of Pan American Drive, which is in El Paso County’s Lower Valley.

John Balliew, El Paso Water chief executive officer, stated during the recent groundbreaking ceremony at the construction site that the new plant is the culmination of the local water utility’s efforts to diversify the water supply for El Paso and move away from dependence on the Rio Grande. He said that it has taken more than a decade of working with state regulators, of conducting test projects, and of meticulously designing the facility to get to this point.

The Pure Water Center, which is expected to take

about three years to complete, is projected to begin supplying drinking water by 2028. Water officials claimed that it will add about 10 million gallons of drinking water to the city water system, or about 6 percent of summer water demand.

El Paso Water Executive Gilbert Trejo, who oversees engineering, operations and technical services, stated that the new treatment plant will provide the El Paso region with another water source to supplement the Rio Grande, which is subject to droughts, and that the Bustamante plant will continue to send other treated wastewater

See **WATER**, Page 4

**Anthony ISD teachers rewarded with financial incentive**

By **Adriana Candelaria**  
*Special to the Courier*

ANTHONY, TX – Nine Anthony Independent School District teachers have earned additional compensation for their impactful work after meeting the requirements of the Teacher Incentive Allotment (TIA) program, a state initiative that rewards educators with significant financial incentives based on student outcomes.

TIA was established during the 86th legislative session through House Bill (HB) 3 to recruit, retain, and reward highly effective teachers. To qualify, school districts must implement a system based on teacher observations and student growth measures. The qualification system must



– Photo courtesy Anthony ISD

**NICE REWARDS** – From left, Anthony ISD teachers Julie Garcia-Martinez, Brenda Lopez, Miguel Bustillos, Priscilla Terrazas, Alberto Villalobos, Maggie Hernande, Michael Stephenson, Janella Saad and Soraya Yanar were all recognized at a districtwide TIA event that included monetary incentives for performing well in the classroom.

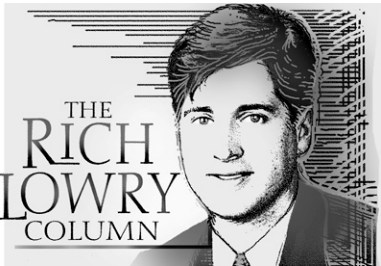


# Teslas aren't fascist vehicles

It's a trope to say that Donald Trump's opposition has been shell-shocked and rudderless in the wake of his election victory and his fast start out of the gate. Not to fear, though. The Left has hit on its next big project – an intifada against the country's largest maker of electric cars. The progressive fear and loathing of Elon Musk now may be greater than that directed at Donald Trump. Since protestors don't have ready access to SpaceX's rockets or to Starlink's satellites – absent finding a way to launch their own rival satellite network into space – they're waging war on Tesla. The heretofore trendsetting, eco-conscious vehicle for the affluent is now a hate object, a so-called "swasticar," the equivalent of a Volkswagen in 1930's Germany.

Everyone has a right to peacefully protest, of course, and to refuse to buy whatever products they wish. But when the Left engages in direct action, it's always a sign you should take steps to protect your property and person. Teslas have been set on fire, spray-painted and otherwise damaged. Charging stations have been burned and dealerships vandalized. Shots were fired at a Tesla showroom in Portland, Oregon. A woman in Colorado who attacked a Tesla dealership, including with a Molotov cocktail, was subsequently arrested near the location with more makeshift bombs in her car. A Tesla charging station in South Carolina was also Molotov-cocktailed. The vandal spraypainted "LONG LIVE UKRAINE" on the ground. In

Ukraine, they prepared Molotov cocktails to blunt the advance of Russian tanks closing in on Kyiv; in America, progressive activists use them to stick it to an entrepreneur whose politics they don't like. Of course, Teslas have been painted with swastikas, as if a streamlined federal government is an indicator of incipient fascism. As always, the Left is bizarrely incapable of distinguishing between libertarianism – Musk wants more freedom and less government – and totalitarianism. On the merits, the contrast between Musk and



SEE LOWRY, PAGE 7

## Food for thought By Dr. Glenn Mollette

# When do people die?

A Catholic Priest, A Jewish Rabbi and a Baptist minister were discussing the beginning of life. The Priest said, "Life begins at conception. The Rabbi said he believed at birth. The Baptist minister thought for a minute and said, "I believe life begins when the last child leaves home and the dog dies." While there are different opinions about when life begins, what is the answer to the question, "When does life end?" Most of us would agree when we breathe our last breath is when it's over for us. However, too often the ending of life is even grimmer than us fighting for a breath of air and then we are nothing but a body of flesh and bone for some else to dispose. Too often life for many ends months or maybe even years before our final physical moment. Actually, possibly it has already happened to you and you haven't even realized that you are already dead. You died and you didn't even know it. You've been starring at your television, scrolling through social media and maybe even walking around the aisle of the grocery store just as dead as old King Tut, but not physically, just mentally, emotionally and spiritually. It happens to the best of people. You lose all interest in life. You have nothing that you look forward to. There is nothing you particularly want to do No place you really want to go and nobody you want to be around. You're dying, because you've given up. There are several scenarios that can bring us to this motionless zombie stage of life. Losing a spouse, losing a

job, losing a child, a business failure, financial failure, a major sickness or just outliving all your family and your friends. Too often people detach themselves from everyone or anything going on which limits their activity and interest even more. No doubt crippling disease changes our personalities and our interests. Battling cancer, diabetes, a neurological disease or take your pick of many more, changes our attitude about wanting to be out and about and doing what we use to do. Going to church, the local Kiwanis Meeting, or singing in the community choir may not have the same appeal. Regardless of what you or a loved one has going on it's well to take notice of this stage of life and not be too hard on your friend or yourself. Here is what you must try:

- Keep moving. Move whatever you can. Even if you are wheel chair bound, move your mind and whatever part of your body that you can move.
- Keep doing Do something. Read, pray, exercise, go to church, walk. Clean your house. Work a job, mentor people. Be a friend to others. Use your imagination.
- Keep trying. As long as you can breathe, don't quit.
- Have something to look forward to. This can be anything. Someone's birthday. A trip to the store. Moving the yard. A family gathering. A weekend trip, a movie, church, it can be most anything.
- Enjoy whatever you do. Laugh and have a good time.

The only person who can

keep you down is yourself. Your number one obstacle is usually yourself. If we can overcome what we mentally put ourselves through then we have a good chance of a good day. A good thought to add here, is the scripture Romans 8:21 – "If God be for us who can be against us?" Another one in Philippians 4:13 is, "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." Now, go and have a good day!

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](http://www.glennmollette.com) or [www.facebook.com/glennmollette](http://www.facebook.com/glennmollette).

1973  
52  
Years  
2025

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# Teachers

From Page 1

be reviewed and approved by the Texas Education Agency (TEA).

Once teachers meet eligibility requirements, they generate a TIA funding allotment from TEA for the district. Annual funding allotments are based on designations, the rural status of the campus, and the level of student economic need. Teachers at Anthony ISD can receive one of three designations: Recognized (\$7,798), Exemplary (\$15,328), and Master (\$27,546).

The TIA-designated allotment is awarded in addition to a teacher’s annual salary and other stipend opportunities. Combined, these incentives help teachers progress toward earning a six-figure income.

This year, the AISD TIA cohort includes teachers in the following subjects: physical education, fine arts, AP Spanish Language and Culture, math, English Language Arts, and science. The 2025 cohort grew by four additional teachers compared to the five recognized in 2024.

During a special ceremony surrounded by their families, Anthony ISD proudly recognized the following educators as part of its 2025 TIA cohort:

- Alberto Villalobos – Recognized Designation, Anthony Middle School;
- Brenda Lopez – Recognized Designation, Anthony Middle School;

- Janella Saad – Master Designation, Anthony Secondary Schools;
- Julie Garcia Martinez – Recognized Designation, Anthony Middle School;
- Magdalena Hernandez – Exemplary Designation, Anthony Middle School;
- Michael Stephenson – Exemplary Designation, Anthony High School;
- Miguel Bustillos–Exemplary Designation, Anthony Middle School;
- Priscilla Terrazas – Recognized Designation, Anthony Middle School; and
- Soraya Yanar – Master Designation, Anthony Secondary Schools.

The combined incentives for Anthony ISD teachers totalled \$132,268.

“The TIA program is more than just a financial incentive; it’s a powerful tool for attracting and retaining top talent,” said Fernando Garnica, Anthony ISD’s Director of Human Resources.

“We are proud to recognize our teachers who have earned a designation. These designations reflect a commitment to excellence and dedication, resulting in measurable student growth and achievement. Anthony ISD recognizes the dedication, passion, and excellence that our teachers bring to the classroom every day and we celebrate their hard work and the positive impact they have on our students’ lives.”

Read more about the TIA program and explore hiring opportunities with AISD by visiting [anthonyisd.net](http://anthonyisd.net).

## King Crossword

1	2	3		4	5	6	7	8		9	10	11
12				13						14		
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21	22	23					24					
25				26		27		28			29	30
31				32		33		34		35		
36				37		38		39		40		
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45	46						47					
48				49		50				51	52	53
54				55						56		
57				58						59		

Average  
Solve Time  
22 Minutes

### ACROSS

- 1 Menagerie  
4 Embedded spies  
9 "Frontline" airer  
12 Year in Spain  
13 Empathic words  
14 Land in la mer  
15 Unfortunate soul  
17 "Wham!"  
18 Ga. neighbor  
19 Tabloid subjects  
21 Cal \_ (baseball's "Iron Man")  
24 Scored 100 on  
25 Buckeyes' sch.  
26 Crater edge  
28 Succinct

31 Shakespeare title starter

- 33 LAPD alert  
35 Peruse  
36 Sasha's sister  
38 With it, once  
40 Summer mo.  
41 Norms (Abbr.)  
43 In a morose way  
45 Concludes by  
47 Tank filler  
48 Zodiac cat  
49 Precinct canine  
54 Fiddle stick  
55 Ten \_ (long odds)  
56 Flying saucer  
57 New England cape  
58 Trudges  
59 Apply cream

### DOWN

- 1 Microwave  
2 Yoko from Tokyo  
3 Tic-tac-toe win  
4 Bette in "Beaches"  
5 South Pacific region  
6 Restroom, for short  
7 Writer Jong  
8 Choose  
9 Fantasy  
10 Shapeless mass  
11 Stitches  
16 '60s Atty. General  
20 Lusty look  
21 Meander  
22 Actress Fisher  
23 Earns  
27 Speedometer stat  
29 Biblical king

- 30 Jittery  
32 Poses  
34 Imploring  
37 Conforms  
39 Locales  
42 Pub seat  
44 Employ  
45 Exile isle  
46 Inert gas  
50 Brit's restroom  
51 Flop  
52 One \_ kind  
53 Sailor

Answer Page 4

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# Strange BUT TRUE

By Lucie Winborne

- Africa is the only continent with land in all four of Earth's hemispheres.
- Programmer Terry Davis, who suffered with schizophrenia, spent a decade working on an operating system to "talk to God."
- The highest golf course in the world is the Tuctu Golf Club in Morococha, Peru, sitting 14,335 feet above sea level at its lowest point.
- Vladimir Putin's grandfather worked as a chef for Rasputin, Lenin, and Stalin.
- Bluetooth technology was named after 10th-century King Harald Bluetooth, who united Denmark and Norway, just like technology united computers and cellphones.
- Colonel Sanders got fired from a dozen jobs, was a lawyer who once assaulted his own client in court, started a restaurant that went out of business, and found himself broke at the age of 65. That's when he started KFC.
- Iceland has an official book-buying season that runs from September through

- December. More than half of all the books sold in the country are purchased during the month before Christmas.
- The Mayans drilled holes in their teeth to insert semiprecious stones.
  - North Korea's 105-story Ryugyong Hotel, nicknamed "The Hotel of Doom," is one of the world's tallest unoccupied building.
  - Australian compass termites construct their mounds on a north-south axis.
  - According to a study of 79,777 patients, violent criminals had a much lower level of cholesterol than nonviolent individuals.
  - Linonophobia is a fear of string.
  - Mario Puzo, author of "The Godfather" books who also helped adapt them to film, had no formal training and had never written a screenplay before. After winning two Oscars for the first two movies, he bought a book to help himself learn how to be a screenwriter.
  - Delaware and Colorado allow a marriage to be annulled if it was performed as a dare.
  - At the center of every snowflake is a pollen or dust particle on which an extremely cold water droplet has frozen to form an ice crystal.

- "Passion purpura" is the medical term for a hickey.
  - Saccharin, the first artificial sweetener, was discovered by accident when chemist Dr. Constantine Fahlberg forgot to wash his hands after work and tasted something "unspeakably sweet" during dinner. He interrupted the meal to sample every beaker in his lab, which fortunately contained nothing poisonous.
  - The distress signal SOS does not actually stand for anything.
  - Donald Trump was the first president in 168 years not to have a pet in the White House.
  - It took Frank Lloyd Wright 15 years, 700 sketches and six sets of working drawings to create the Guggenheim Museum in New York.
  - Hasbro has a "Monopoly Speed Die" and an official rulebook for "extreme" Monopoly variants.
  - Composer Richard Wagner used to preserve his own nose hair clippings for posterity.
- Thought for the Day: "My father always said, 'Never trust anyone whose TV is bigger than their bookshelf' – so I make sure I read."
- Emilia Clarke
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## Moments in time

THE HISTORY CHANNEL

- On April 7, 1961, President John F. Kennedy sent a letter to Congress endorsing America's participation in an international campaign to preserve ancient temples and historic monuments in Egypt's Nile Valley. The campaign was initiated by UNESCO with the aim of saving sites threatened by the construction of the Aswan High Dam.
- On April 8, 1994, the body of grunge rocker Kurt Cobain was discovered at his home in Seattle by a workman. The heroin-addicted, troubled artist had died from a self-inflicted gunshot wound, leaving behind fellow rocker Courtney Love, his wife, who had reported him missing, and toddler daughter Frances Bean Cobain.
- On April 9, 1859, 23-year-old writer Samuel Langhorne Clemens received his steamboat pilot's license. He navigated his own boats for two years until the Civil War put a halt to steamboat traffic, and in 1861 penned a humorous travel letter signed "Mark Twain," a pseudonym he would continue to use as a popular author for nearly

- five decades.
- On April 10, 1975, 41-year-old Lee Elder became the first Black golfer to play in the Masters, considered the sport's most prestigious event. The Professional Golfers' Association, organizer of the main professional tours played by men in North America, hadn't approved participation by African Americans in events it cosponsored until 1952.
  - On April 11, 1979, Ugandan dictator Idi Amin fled the capital of Kampala as Tanzanian troops and forces of the Uganda National Liberation Front began to close in. Two days later, Kampala fell and a coalition government of former exiles took power. Amin, who was notorious for his brutality, escaped to Libya and eventually settled in Saudi Arabia, where he died in August 2003.
  - On April 12, 1861, the American Civil War began after Confederate forces fired on Fort Sumter in Charleston Harbor, South Carolina.
  - On April 13, 1360, a hailstorm killed an estimated 1,000 English soldiers in Chartres, France. One survivor described it as "a foul day, full of mist and hale, so that men died on horseback."
- ©2025 King Features Synd., Inc.

## Grant applications open to regional animal welfare organizations for assistance with essential supplies

By Rudy Vasquez  
Special to the Courier

EL PASO COUNTY – The El Paso Community Foundation is accepting applications for the new Borderland Rescue Fund. Animal welfare organizations may apply for grants of up to \$1,500 to assist with essential supplies. The Foundation created the Borderland Rescue Fund in response to the increasing number of area animals requiring care in recent years. In 2024, more than 25,000 animals entered shelters and rescues in the El Paso area.

The application process for the Borderland Rescue Fund is simple and straightforward, to allow organizations to focus on their vital work. Animal welfare organizations from the El Paso area, Southern New Mexico, and West Texas are encouraged to apply.

Nonprofit organizations may apply at [epcf.org/borderlandrescuefund](http://epcf.org/borderlandrescuefund).


"Staff and volunteers at animal welfare organizations are often overwhelmed, working tirelessly to ensure the well-being of our community's animals," said Tess Passero, program officer with the El Paso Community Foundation. "Our goal is to alleviate some of their burden and show them how much they are valued."

Other key initiatives of the Borderland Rescue Fund include an expanded 15 location Pet Pantry Network, made possible by a partnership with the City of El Paso and its libraries, and a Medical Reserve Fund for injured and sick animals and their rescuers.


"This is a growing need, that we want to address as comprehensively as possible," said Eric Pearson, President and CEO of the Foundation.

The Summerlee Foundation, a Dallas-based organization that supports animal protection and historical preservation in Texas, helped make this grant program possible.

You can apply for a grant, donate and get more information about the Borderland Rescue Fund at [epcf.org/borderlandrescuefund](http://epcf.org/borderlandrescuefund)




## Youth Emergency Shelter



El Paso Center for Children began as an orphanage in 1919 and continues to be a source of support and shelter for thousands of runaway, homeless, and exploited youth. It is currently the **only Runaway and Homeless Emergency Temporary Shelter in West Texas** for youth ages 11-17. During hardship, young people find access to emergency shelter, basic needs, and case management in a warm all-inclusive environment.

While The Center's services have evolved and grown over the decades, they remain **all free, all the time**. We also offer free services through Family Counseling, Counseling for Victims of Crime, Parent Cafés, Early Childhood Services, Outreach and Housing (ages 18-24), and the area's first and only Drop-in Center specializing in serving youth who are at risk of and/or experiencing commercial sexual exploitation/human trafficking.

**CHECK US OUT:**




**Youth Served in 2023:**

77

**Who We Serve**

- Runaway and Homeless Youth ages 11-17
- Youth without foster placement and in need of temporary emergency shelter




### Why They Need Services

- Ran away from home due to family conflict
- Parents/Caregivers kicked them out of the house
- Alienated from their families/Unsafe home environment
- Tired of sleeping on friends' couches
- Tired of living on the street
- Mistreated in a relationship
- In crisis and needing help
- Victims of Crime

**Our Services**

- Emergency temporary shelter and warm home-like welcome
- Dedicated, trained, and supportive staff
- All inclusive environment
- Hot meals / showers / set of clean clothes
- Access to washer and dryer / personal care items
- Access to phone, computer, and email
- Case management and crisis intervention
- Counseling / mediation with safe family or safe family members
- Help with accessing critical needs (identification, health care, Social Security)
- Education support
- Job readiness support
- Street survival and safety tips



### Partners

- School Districts
- El Paso Community Shelters
- Paso del Norte Center of Hope (survivors of trafficking)
- El Paso Coalition for the Homeless
- Adult and Juvenile Probation
- Safe Place Sites
- El Paso Community
- Generous Funders

**96%** of youth ages 11-17 who stayed at our shelter said they would come back if they needed help again.

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# Learning from a mistake shouldn’t be this hard

By Steve Escajeda  
*Special to the Courier*

The hope for everyone is to live life to the fullest, even if you end up slipping and falling once in a while. It’s only natural to make mistakes on your daily journey. The key is to hopefully learn from them and not repeat the same ones over and over. And I believe most people are smart enough to learn from their mistakes and make better decisions the next time around. But there are always those out there who can’t seem to make this rather obvious correction. They go through life making a mistake, saying they’re sorry and promising they won’t do it again. Only to repeat the same dumb mistake again and again. And that brings me to Ja Morant of the NBA’s Memphis Grizzlies.

Morant was considered the league’s biggest young star a couple years ago with his amazing speed, high-flying dunks, 3-point shooting and his good guy charisma. At least that’s what everybody thought. It turned out that Morant was not the good guy next door. He turned out being the kind of guy who gives you a reason to keep your door locked. After his “shooting star” start of a career, the NBA suspended Morant eight games in 2023 for being seen in a Denver nightclub displaying a handgun. The incident was also recorded and shown on Instagram for the world to see. Afterward, Morant said all the right things. He said he was sorry, that he

had a lapse in judgement, that really wasn’t who he is, and that it would never happen again. And I think that a lot of people, including me, kind of believed him and gave him the benefit of the doubt. It appeared that he had learned from this one mistake. He didn’t. Only about two months later, there was new Instagram video showing Morant with a handgun in a car with his buddies. The sports world couldn’t believe a guy could be dumb enough to make the exact same mistake again... and so quickly. I mean, that’s a very special kind of dumb. This time, the NBA Commissioner, Adam Silver, who believed Morant the first time, suspended him for 25 games. Morant came back for the 2024 season but wasn’t the same player he was his first two years. This season, Morant has returned to being the impact player he once was,

and his Grizzlies are heading toward the playoffs again in a couple weeks. In fact, Morant has been so good that last week he started making the “finger gun” sign on the court after making a shot. Now I know the finger gun never really shot anyone, but given his past, I really can’t blame the NBA for asking Morant to stop making that gesture on the court. Now that I think of it, you can’t make the “slash throat” sign, or any other vulgar hand gesture on the court. So, the league warned Morant not to make that same mistake on the court again. Guess what? Right, a couple days later, Morant did the same thing against the Miami Heat. This time the NBA didn’t suspend him, but the league did fine him \$75,000 for it. Of course, to a player making \$197 million, a fine like that is like fining a guy like me a dime and three pennies.

The question is, will Morant finally learn from his mistakes? It’s unlikely because of two things, his history, and what he said afterward. “I was pretty much a villain for two years now. Every little thing, if somebody can say something negative about me, it’s going to be out there. So, yeah. I don’t care no more.” That sounds like a guy who not only will never learn from these mistakes, he sounds like he doesn’t even believe he’s done anything wrong. Is Morant going to end up being a cautionary tale, like Aaron Hernandez, Ken Caminiti, Len Bias, Tonya Harding, John Rocker, Lance Armstrong, Rae Carruth, Ricky Williams, John Daly and many others who ruined their careers through drugs, guns, murder, alcohol, or some other form of illegal activity? Who knows. Sometimes the biggest enemy of integrity is ego... along the simple inability, or refusal, to learn from a mistake.

## Senior moment By Matilda Charles

### My indoor garden

The many feet of snow on the ground where I live is an indication of just how far I am from starting a vegetable garden this year. However, it’s not too early to start vegetable seeds indoors. Not all vegetables are good candidates for starting inside from seed (root vegetables such as carrots won’t do well started in shallow containers), but peppers, onions and spinach are good candidates to start indoors. Later, I’ll add seedlings for more variety, including marigolds to repel garden pests.

- On my to-do list: Schedule the guy with his tiller to come break up the ground in a month. There’s no sense in renting a heavy machine I’ll have no way to operate.
- Order a load of mulch for delivery later to be spread for weed control and preserving moisture in the soil.
- Cut the milk cartons I’ve saved over the winter into seed germination pots. A 3-inch depth will be deep enough

– and they’re free. A layer of plastic wrap will serve as a humidity dome.

- Collect from my neighbor all the ice-pop sticks her grandchildren have left so I can use them as plant markers.
- Be sure the indoor grow light works, that I don’t need a new bulb.

But most fun of all the things on my to-do list will be choosing the seeds and deciding what to grow. Catalogs have been arriving (they all also have websites), each more beautiful than the last. If you have no yard, consider container gardening. If you have a sunny location, you can grow peas, strawberries, lettuce, potatoes, spinach and so much more right outside your door. Do an online search for “container vegetable garden” for advice on the size of containers to use, the type of soil and a list of vegetables that should not be planted next to each other.

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PREPARING FOR NOTHING ACROSS				
1 Pleased	61 Smidgen	116 Not endless	24 Pooch's bark	paper
5 Rocker Townshend	63 "POV" network	117 Riddle's answer	29 D.C. hrs.	76 Certain wind instrument
9 Frankenstein aide	65 Huck Finn's floater	124 12-step support group	30 General discomfort	79 Ear part
13 Jumped ship	67 Bandleader Arnaz	125 Chocolate-and-caramel candy	31 Schedules	80 Wife's sibling, e.g.
19 Member of a canine unit	68 Riddle, part 4	126 Talus	32 Responsibility	81 Rubbish heap
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23 Start of a riddle	77 Nintendo console	129 Hit with a stun gun	35 Relaxes	86 LA-to-IN dir.
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26 Microsoft Word creations, informally	79 Tree of the pine family	DOWN		
27 Regret a lot	80 "_ a deal!"	1 Vehicle navig. aid	41 Healing plant	92 "Pics _ didn't happen!"
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36 Prego competitor	87 Prefix with Chinese	3 Lofty peak	45 Offensively self-assertive	96 Topaz quartz
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40 Tavern spigot	95 Joust weapon	7 Lump in the throat	50 Slate-colored	104 Makes heavy, dull sounds
43 In addition	97 Pencil add-on	8 Yolked thing	51 Delta, for one	107 Auto engine
47 Largest known asteroid	98 Martial arts teacher	9 Rack up	52 Big name in big computers	108 Mello _ (soft drink)
48 Riddle, part 3	99 Italian wine city	10 Thick and sticky	60 Street poet Scott-Heron	109 Tale _ (sob story)
53 Sch. near Harvard	100 Delhi dress	11 Yoko from Tokyo	62 Dawn drops	110 Troop support gp.
54 Disposed (of)	102 Org. for the Ravens, but not the Falcons	12 Mended, as a sweater	64 Lanka lead-in	111 Soup scoop
55 Actor Sharif	105 Lock lips with	13 "How come, though?"	66 Gp. often flagging bags	112 Ditty
56 Nero's 2,001	106 End of the riddle	14 Battery end	68 Celine of pop	116 Craze
57 Fearful	107 End of the riddle	15 "I'm the culprit"	69 _ Wafers	118 Cyber-guffaw
58 Bro relative	113 Conditionally free prisoner	16 Valleys, plateaus and canyons	70 Actress Falco	119 Kit _ (candy bar)
59 _ orange (inedible fruit)	114 Letters before gees	17 "Attack of the Clones," vis-a-vis "Star Wars"	72 Old German kingdom	120 Kyoto sash
	115 Maui feast	18 Actress Ruby	73 Most disgusting	121 Pea holder
		20 Part of UPC	74 Student's Ph.D.	122 Suffix with meth- or prop-
				123 In-favor vote

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				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	122	123
124								125					126								
127								128					129					130			



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

his enemies is a good one for him: He is a creator; they are destroyers. That doesn't mean that the protests and mayhem aren't having an effect; Tesla sales had already been dropping, and the "Tesla Takedown" is likely to accelerate the trend.

Part of the point is intimidation. The agitation is meant to exact a price on Musk for DOGE and get him to abandon the effort, as well as to make Tesla's workers and the company's consumers afraid. No one wants to buy an expensive vehicle and then become a political target or have their car vandalized.

Much mockery was directed at President Trump for touting the wonders of Teslas at a White House event, but the president was trying to counteract a campaign of harassment and vengeance directed at one of his top advisers, whom he believes is doing good and necessary work. Asked by a reporter if he'd consider the anti-Tesla violence domestic terrorism, Trump said, "Yes," and rightly so.

The Code of Federal Regulations defines

terrorism as "the unlawful use of force and violence against persons or property to intimidate or coerce a government, the civilian population, or any segment thereof, in furtherance of political or social objectives." Part of the definition of domestic terrorism according to the Patriot Act is acts "dangerous to human life" intended "to influence the policy of a government by intimidation or coercion."

Musk enjoys being a provocateur. Yet, when he or his supporters talk of burning things down, they mean it metaphorically. His witless and inflamed enemies, on the other hand, are willing to literally burn things down. It is darkly amusing to see people for whom electric cars are necessary to saving the planet attack the most successful EV brand in the country and take out the kind of charging stations that President Biden labored so mightily and futilely to build.

The Left still doesn't have an answer to Donald Trump, but they've sure found a cudgel against one of American industry's most innovative products.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.  
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Floater in man’s eye is incredibly distracting

DEAR DR. ROACH: I am a 67-year-old male with generally good vision. I’ve had a few floaters in my eyes over the years, but they have generally been small and have not significantly affected my vision. However, about six months ago, I suddenly had a large floater appear in one of my eyes that did affect my vision. It is right in the center of my field of vision and is very distracting. I had a checkup with my optometrist soon after, and she said there were no major issues with my eye. She said that my brain would adjust to the floater so I would not notice it as much. However, six months later, I still find it very distracting. I frequently have to move my eye to try and get it out of my center vision so I can see clearly. Are there any treatments that can be done to remove distracting floaters? – D.H.



"Floaters" are bits of cellular debris in the vitreous humor, which is the gel-filled space in between the lens and the retina. The sudden appearance of floaters can represent serious eye disease, such as a detached retina, so it was wise to get an evaluation when you noticed a sudden change.

The eye does not have a way to remove floaters, so you will have them as long as you live unless you do something about it. As your optometrist said, they don't bother most people; however, several of my readers over the years have been so bothered by floaters that they have undergone surgical vitrectomy. This is the removal of all the gel material from the vitreous cavity, including all (or nearly all) of the vitreous opacities that cause floaters. Published complication rates with this procedure are less than 1% in experienced hands.

I have also read about using a laser to break up large floaters into smaller and presumably easier-to-ignore pieces, but I have no personal experience with this. In addition, the literature is mixed.

DEAR DR. ROACH: I was diagnosed with sleep apnea decades ago. While I was not obese, I was a little overweight at the time and made a commitment to eat better. I lost 10-20 pounds, and I'm down to under 250 pounds at 6 feet, 1 inch tall. Voila, my sleep apnea was cured! I kept the weight off and have not snored since. While you note the connection between excess weight and sleep apnea, I didn't see any mention of weight loss as a cure. Is it really this easy, or was I just lucky? – D.K.

Weight loss is effective at treating sleep apnea in many people. However, losing and keeping the weight off in the long-term is very hard for most people. The GLP-1 drug tirzepatide (Zepbound) was recently approved for obstructive sleep apnea in people who are obese, in combination with a healthy diet and physical activity. GLP-1 agonists are quite effective at helping people lose weight and keeping the weight off (as long as the person keeps taking the medication).

It's critical to note that not everyone with obstructive sleep apnea is obese. Some people just have the anatomy in the back of their throats that makes sleep apnea more likely, despite having a normal weight. Weight loss may not help them at all in these cases.

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](mailto:ToYourGoodHealth@med.cornell.edu). ©2025 North America Synd., Inc. All Rights Reserved.

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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: I equals Y

ITE FGOQQI HOS'M JZUU MWOM  
WGOCI, JEUHEQOF VEI  
UZMMZSV TCGF MWGFG.  
WG'U DEFQI FGHTVSZAODQG.

Answer Page 4  
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Weekly SUDOKU

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

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging  
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

Answer Page 4

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A slimmed-down VA



by Freddy Groves

The staffing cuts at the Department of Veterans Affairs continue. As of today, another 585 non-mission-critical or duplicate contracts are terminated, out of 90,000 existing contracts totaling \$67 billion. This will put \$900 million back in the kitty to be spent on veterans, their caregivers, families and survivors.

That's a lot of money.

It makes me wonder how those contracts came to be in the first place. The canceled contracts covered such services as taking minutes at meetings, leadership coaching, mentoring staff, creating meeting agendas and creating PowerPoint slides (laughingly called "executive support.")

Are those not things that staff should be doing?

These contract cancellations are on top of the additional 1,400

probationary positions that were eliminated (employees who had worked for the VA for less than a year), saving \$83 million to be spent on veterans for benefits, services and health care.

Meanwhile, plans continue to fill 300,000 mission-critical positions at the VA that were exempted from the hiring freeze. These include: 94,000 nurses, 8,300 psychologists, 12,000 pharmacists and 3,000 physical therapists – all hands-on for care of veterans.

I do, however, worry about the VA Office of Inspector General in all of these cuts. I hope cool heads prevail and they take a moment to realize just how much money the VAOIG saves by identifying, investigating and auditing VA waste. At this time I can't find any mention of staff cuts at the VAOIG, thankfully. Recent updates on their activities show scammers being caught for fraud (\$1 million), fraud (\$300,000) and more fraud (\$392,000). In the last 12 months, the OIG has derailed schemes totaling \$3 billion being

stolen from the VA.

If anything, I would wish that the VAOIG be listed as a "mission critical" department and have their staff doubled. My second wish would be that the penalties (prison time, fines and restitution) also be doubled. Too often the criminals seem to only get a slap on the wrist for their scams against the VA.

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by Jo Ann Derson

• There's no end to the quick time-savers and innovations in the kitchen. Today's homemakers are likely to have a full-time job already. Here's one for those mornings when you want to get a little fancy, but don't have all day: Make hash browns in a waffle iron. Parboil shredded potatoes the night before. Store in the refrigerator in a plastic bag. Generously oil your waffle iron and scatter precooked potato shreds on. They cook twice as fast, and have all of the double-sided crispiness of pan-fried.

• Freeze leftover wine for use in cooking. Use and ice-cube tray for uniform measuring.

• Want to hard-cook many eggs at once? Bake the eggs in the oven 325-350 for 30 minutes, then submerge them in ice water for 10 minutes. Peel and enjoy.

• Try prep cooking once a week for as many elements of that week's meals as possible. Chop veggies, saute or even brown meats for casseroles or prep slow cooker bags. It does save time if you are able to cook two meals at once, say, roast two chickens: one for tonight's dinner and another for chicken enchiladas later in the week.

• I only buy my bread when it's two for one. I freeze it in half loafs, so I always have fresh bread, even if my nest is empty now! – D.D. in Maryland

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.

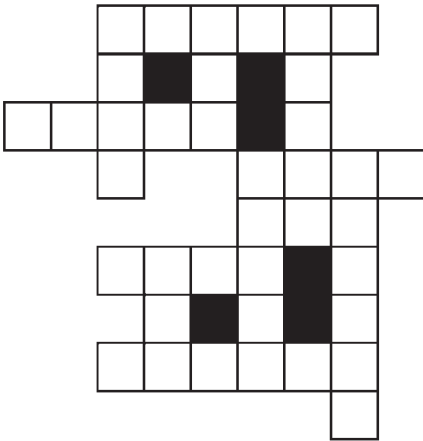
Answer Page 4

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	-		×		=21			
+		+		-				
	+		-		= 9			
-		×		-				
	+		×		=51			
=		=		=				
1		48		2				
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9



NEH  
PUMEST  
♥ LERFI  
MEAF  
PEMCAN  
♥ RMA  
ECFL  
♥ ERNSO  
♥ EAL  
HEIRUM  
♥ ATHEC  
♥ ITNH



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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