



– Internet

**FINANCIAL DISTRIBUTIONS** – The public school landscape is about to change in Texas with the Legislatures’ recent approval of funding for public schools and of vouchers for private schools. Texas currently has more than 384,000 teachers across more than 1,200 districts. Texas classroom teachers, like the one in photo above, average about \$60,700 per year, which ranks 30th in the nation, according to the National Education Association.

## Legislators approve funding for public schools and vouchers for private schools

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

TEXAS – Texas House of Representatives recently approved school financing legislation – similar to the one previously passed by the Senate – that will make state money available for families to use on their kids’ private school choices. All that is left to do is for House and Senate Republicans to finalize their voucher plan along with their public school financing bill and send them to Texas Governor Greg Abbott for his endorsement.

The House’s voucher plan puts \$1 billion to create education savings accounts, a form of subsidy that families could use to pay for private school tuition and other school-related expenses, like textbooks, transportation, and therapy. And the bill would tie the voucher program’s per-student dollars to public education funding so that the amount available to each participating student would increase when public schools receive more money and dip when public education funding declines.

Additionally, the House bill requires private schools to have existed for at least two years before applying for the program; it grants the state auditor authority to review the activities of organizations contracted to administer the program; and it requires the state’s annual report on the program to include dropout, expulsion and graduation data on participating students with disabilities, which would be broken down by grade, age, sex and race or ethnicity.

Also, under the House’s plan, if public demand exceeds the program’s capacity, students with disabilities and families defined by House lawmakers as low income would be prioritized, although they would not be guaranteed admission to any private school. Furthermore, a provision was added to the school-funding bill that would bar undocumented Texans from participating in the proposed voucher program, according to state officials.

Next is for House members to cast final votes to approve both the billion dollar school voucher program and the \$7.7 billion school finance bill. Afterwards, both proposals will head back to the Senate; whereby, during closed-door conference committee sessions, both chambers will reconcile their differences and have the bills ready for the governor’s signature before the legislative session ends June 2nd.

Republicans have tried to assure all Texans that the school voucher bill would prioritize low-income children and students with disabilities. However, Democrats expressed disappointment over the House’s approval of vouchers, saying the outcome represented big money interests prevailing over those of everyday Texans. “This bill is everything that is wrong with politics,” said Rep. Gina Hinojosa, a Democrat from Austin. She pointed out that the legislation imposes no admission requirements on private schools, meaning that they can deny any student, even those the state wants first in line for the program.

During the legislative proceedings, Democrats filed dozens of amendments in an attempt to make

the Texas legislation more equitable for underserved students, but they were all dismissed. One of the rejected proposals came from Rep. Harold V. Dutton Jr., D-Houston, who sought to offer higher voucher amounts to students on the lower rungs of the income ladder. He argued that some families could not afford to send their children to a private school even with \$10,000 in state support.

Furthermore, Democrats emphasized that the proposed school-funding bill (SB 2) would prevent any student whose parent cannot prove that the child is a U.S. citizen or that the child lawfully resides in the country from participating in the program. They raised questions about what state entity would be responsible for checking the children’s citizenship, how the legislation would protect the privacy of applicants and whether it would accommodate students who may find it difficult to access certain documents.

Republican officials stated that organizations helping the state administer the voucher program would oversee applications and that the process would include protections “for all personal information.” But, they acknowledged that if applicants were unable to provide proper documentation, they would not be able to participate in the program.

The House also gave initial approval to its priority school funding legislation. This year’s public education spending bill would increase schools’ base funding by \$395 – from \$6,160 to \$6,555. That amount, known as the basic allotment,

See **FUNDING**, Page 5



# Trump is right to want open sea lanes

Is it worth it to the United States to enforce freedom of navigation on the seas? That question was a subplot in the instantly famous leaked Signal chat over an operation to hit Houthi targets in Yemen.

Vice President J.D. Vance expressed skepticism, noting that more European than U.S. trade passes through the Suez Canal. Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth and National Security Adviser Michael Waltz, on the other hand, were strongly in favor. Hegseth correctly called freedom of navigation “a core national interest.”

Open sea lanes are necessary to U.S. commercial shipping and trade (80% of all global trade is carried by ocean), as well as to lines of communication with our allies and U.S. bases overseas. A strategy

document from U.S. Joint Forces Command observed a few years ago, “The crucial enabler for America’s ability to project its military power for the past six decades has been its almost complete control over the global commons.”

The fact is that President Trump’s decision to hit the Houthis toward the goal of open sea lanes was fundamentally American.

We’ve long recognized the wisdom of the 17th-century English adventurer Walter Raleigh when he said, “For whosoever commands the sea commands the trade; whosoever commands the trade of the world commands the riches of the world, and consequently the world itself.”

We fought the Quasi War with France during the John Adams administration over French privateers

seizing our shipping in the Caribbean.

President Thomas Jefferson reacted similarly to the Barbary states harassing shipping in the Mediterranean. He ordered U.S. ships to go after the corsairs, urging our commander to “chastise their insolence – by sinking, burning or destroying their ships and vessels wherever you shall find them.”

Jefferson’s actions were in keeping with his belief that we should be a trading nation and, as he had put it in a letter to James Monroe, “this will require a protecting force on the sea. Otherwise the smallest



See LOWRY, Page 7

Food for thought

By Anonymous

## Stock market roller coaster – don’t jump

You never undo your seat belt or jump from a moving roller coaster. Nor, should you when it comes to our current Stock market.

Eight years ago, if you bought

a share of VOO or Vanguard S & P 500 ETF stock, you may have paid about \$220 for the share. Today, as of this writing it’s worth \$490.55. In other words, even with the fall of the

stock market recently you have made good money on your investment. A couple of weeks back it was up to \$560 which means you were flying high on your profit. Still yet, you have done well.

If you bought your share of VOO two weeks ago at \$560 then you have lost \$70, at least for now. You may lose some more but you have to hold tight. Don’t panic and sell now or you will have a loss. Ride it out and give the market time to settle down and rise again. If you have to cash in your stock then cash in while they are high.

Don’t invest your grocery money in stock. This is the money you need every week for food, shelter, travel and overhead. This is not the money you spend on stock. If

you do, then in two weeks you will have to sell your stock to eat and risk losing some of the money you invested. Only invest in stock what you don’t currently need for general living expenses.

Who knows how the market will perform over the next few weeks. It’s going to be a few weeks or months before the tariffs really shape up as to what is really what. The reports are that numerous countries are coming to the table interested in making deals and playing fair with the United States. This will be good for us and them. As these deals stabilize look for the stock market to become more stable once again. If Japan, India, South Korea, Canada and Mexico all level the playing field with the United States our stock market will level out. If there are more reports of industry manufacturing coming to the United States the stock market will begin to rise again.

Now may be a good time to buy but keep in mind the market may go down some more. If you bought VIG two

weeks ago then you’ve already seen a significant drop. Keep in mind you only lose it if you sell it when the stock is down. I feel confident that the stock market will come back bigger and bolder than ever but it may take a few months or longer.

The stock market has averaged making about ten percent over the last fifty years. This means it has had years when it made more and years when it made less. An average of ten percent is about the best you can do on your money over the long haul.

Now is not the time to faint or jump from the roller coaster. Rely on your stable income such as Social Security, or any other stable income you may have. If you have a regular paying job you may want to stay with it a little while longer if you can and if you enjoy your work.

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](https://www.facebook.com/glennmollette).



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ALL EARS – El Paso Community College students, faculty and staff listened as Dr. Joshua Hevert (inset) gave his account of what happened at Columbine High School in April 1999.

# EPCC professor holds Columbine discussion

By Beau Bagley  
Special to the Courier

EL PASO COUNTY – Joshua Hevert encountered an unimaginable tragedy in 1999 as a senior in high school. Now an Associate Professor of History at El Paso Community College (EPCC), Dr. Hevert was very happy and willing to talk about that experience of surviving the violent event of the Columbine High School shooting on April 20, 1999. This year marks the event’s 26th anniversary.

Hevert held a discussion with students and the community Wednesday, April 16 at the EPCC Valle Verde Flexitorium, *A Survivor’s Story*, as part of the EPCC History Department Lecture Series.

Hevert discussed what he experienced the day of the tragedy, how to place Columbine

in its historical context, and what it meant to survive after the unthinkable happens.

“I want both the students and the community to look at Columbine through a few different lenses,” Hevert said. “Most of all, I want our story to center less on the perpetrators and more on the community who had to wrestle with the unthinkable after the shooting took place. Stories of Columbine tend to be of the ‘true crime’ variety and try to answer the question, ‘why did this happen?’ when the truth is that the ‘why’ is very complicated if not impossible to truly understand.”

As a senior at Columbine in 1999, Hevert found himself in the technology lab with other students working on a project instead of his original destination, the library, where many students were killed. Hevert said he

See HEVERT, Page 4

## King Crossword

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- Average Solve Time 22 Minutes

ACROSS

1 Mediocre

5 Church seat

8 Greenish blue

12 Tora \_

Afghanistan

13 Noshed

14 PETA concerns

15 Slight criticisms

17 Pear-shaped fruits

18 Step

19 Hot dish holder

21 Oodles

24 Log chopper

25 Mandatory coll. courses

28 Calendar entry
- (Abbr.)

30 Zodiac animal

33 Chit

34 Concepts

35 Swelled head

36 Singer DiFranco

37 Proscribes

38 Eve’s mate

39 Born

41 Entryway

43 Dress designation

46 Ignited again

50 Shake \_ (hurry)

51 Dropouts

54 Portnoy’s creator

55 Coffee vessel

56 Barrel part

57 Fine spray

58 Sort

59 Curry and Reinking
- DOWN

1 Cookouts, briefly

2 LummoX

3 Met solo

4 Customs

5 Bud

6 Bordeaux summer

7 Left on a map

8 Tack on

9 Trembled

10 Desire

11 Celeb’s aide

16 Buddy

20 “Phooey!”

22 Zilch

23 Shell out

25 Estuary

26 A gazillion years

27 Groups of five

29 El \_ , Texas

31 Turkish title
- 32 Oft-tattooed word

34 “A likely story!”

38 “Queen of Soul” Franklin

40 Skating figure

42 Scrap

43 Italian cheese, for short

44 Sci-fi race

45 Iso-

47 Boxer Spinks

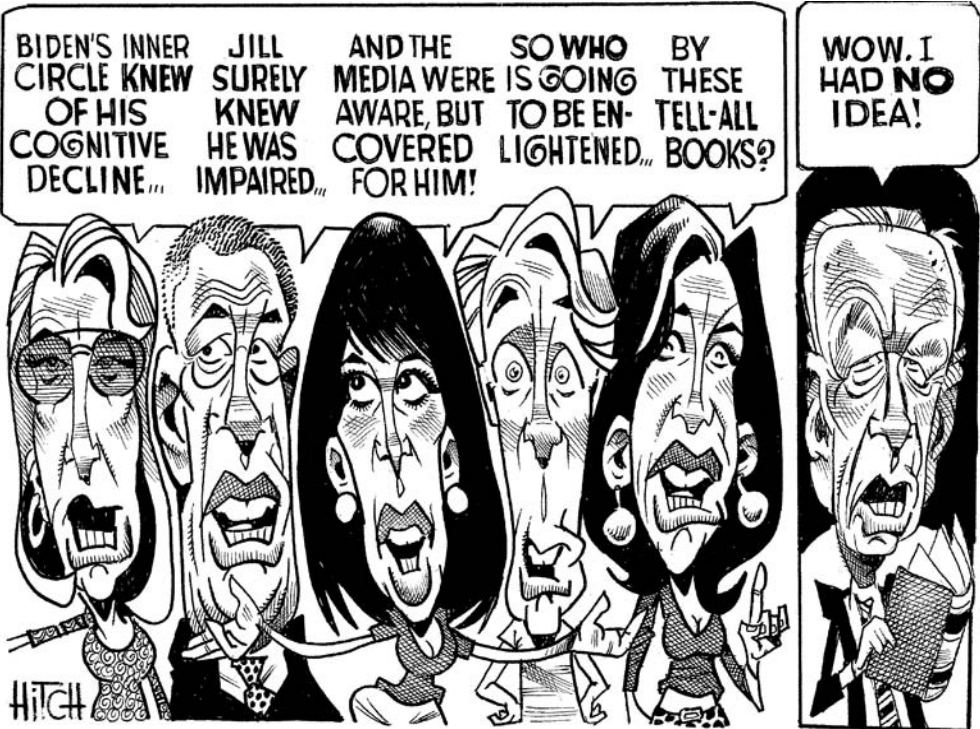
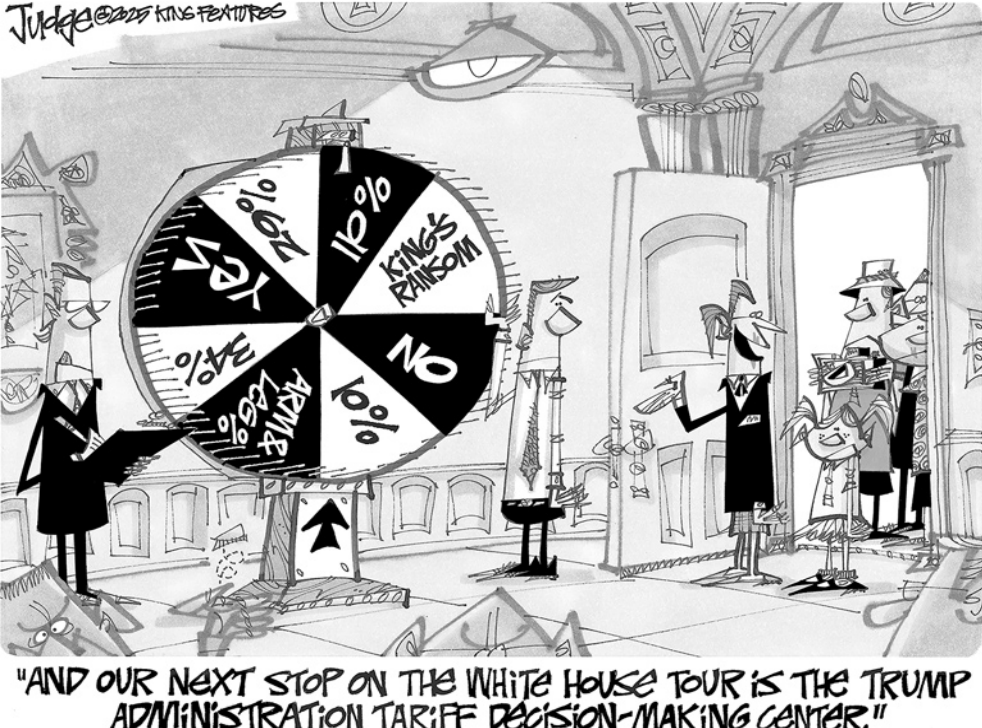
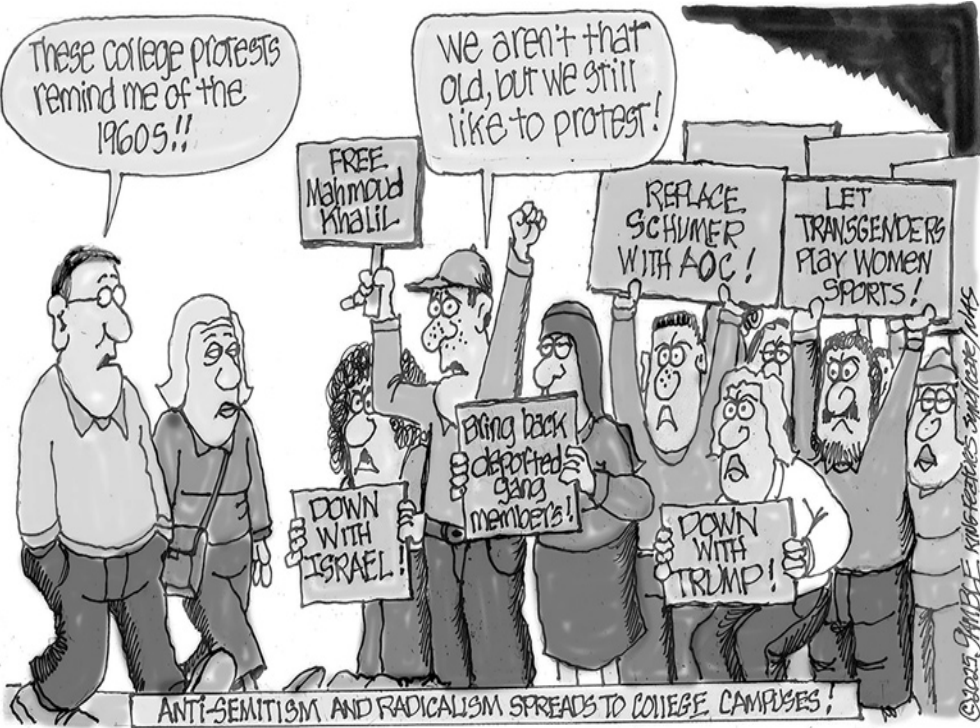
48 Press

49 Recipe amts.

52 Web address

53 Squid squirt

Answer Page 4







# Hevert

From Page 3

heard a teacher say run and was very fortunate to get out of the school within the first ten to fifteen minutes of the shooting. He added that those moments will never leave him.

Yvette Rodriguez, a Multidisciplinary studies major at EPCC who is studying to be a social worker, was curious about mental health struggles after the event, and found it therapeutic for Hevert to discuss the event. “I am here because I have a 20-year background in law enforcement, so I think that as bad as it is if the situation would happen, it’s the aftermath of a survivor that interests me,” Rodriguez said. “It’s when the dust settles what happens to the survivor, are they still receiving the treatment that they should be receiving and the aftercare, so I am really interested in hearing about that. Hopefully the survivor continues to get treatment.”

A lot of the discussion centered around Columbine and if it should always remain in the public’s consciousness. Hevert spoke of comparisons of Columbine and the tragedy in El Paso on August 3, 2019.

“I will always feel that Columbine is relevant because I am a survivor and a historian,” Hevert added. “The questions and issues raised by Columbine, Sandy Hook, Marjorie Stoneman Douglass, Uvalde, and all of the other tragedies over the last three decades have yet to be answered or solved. How do we address school safety? What limits, if any, should be placed on gun ownership? These are questions that evolve and change over time and the answers to those questions change, too. As long as we are asking those questions and seeking those answers, Columbine will always be relevant.”



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CryptoQuip

Answer

Song the cattleman crooned as he put down rich soil to grow his pasture: “Loam on the Range.”

5	-	3	×	8	=	16
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×		÷		×		
6	-	2	+	9	=	13
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24		5		36		



# Strange BUT TRUE

By Lucie Winborne

- When the Apostle Paul wrote about seeing “through a glass darkly,” there were no glass windows in the Greco-Roman world.
- There are more trees on earth than stars in our galaxy.
- The Roman Empire didn’t have a Foreign Office, but they did boast a “Bureau of Barbarians.”
- Canada has a strategic maple syrup reserve to ensure global supply in case of emergency.
- Actress Angelina Jolie once attempted to hire a hitman to kill her, instead of committing suicide. Fortunately, she would-be assassin successfully talked her out of it by asking her to wait a month.
- The largest print photograph ever taken was 111 feet wide and 32 feet high.
- In 2008, the Municipality of Florence officially apologized for expelling Dante Alighieri seven centuries earlier.
- A cat’s ability to see well at night is due to its tapetum lucidum, a structure that

- reflects visible light back through the cat’s retina. It’s also what causes the eyes’ weird “glowing” effect in the dark.
- Records suggest that between 1529 and 1532, King Henry VIII gambled away nearly a million pounds, by modern standards.
  - Retired Jamaican sprinter Usain Bolt was offered the position of wide receiver in the NFL but declined it due to the hits that NFL players typically take.
  - In 2008, PETA requested Ben & Jerry’s use breastmilk instead of cow’s milk to make ice cream. This was unanimously rejected by Ben & Jerry’s and La Leche League International.
  - Sixty-five percent of test subjects had the urge to yawn after reading about yawning.
  - From 1746 until 1996, English law considered bagpipes not as a musical instrument, but a weapon of war, used to “instill courage in soldiers and put the fear of God into the enemy.”
  - The kitchen dishwasher was invented by a politician’s socialite wife who was fed up with servants breaking her expensive dishes.
  - Author Roger Highfield’s 1999 book “The Physics of Christmas: From the

- Aerodynamics of Reindeer to the Thermodynamics of Turkey” detailed a darker side to Rudolph’s famously red nose – not alcoholism, but some kind of parasitic infection.
- A tornado in Oklahoma once ripped a full motel off the ground. Its sign was later found in Arkansas.
  - Chilean poet Pablo Neruda always wrote in green ink, which for him was a color of hope and abundance.
  - LeBron James’s decision to leave Cleveland to join the Miami Heat was such a shocker that even Osama Bin Laden’s translator, who was being held at Guantanamo Bay prison in Cuba, wrote about it to his lawyers, declaring that “LeBron James is a very bad man. He should apologize to the city of Cleveland.”
  - More germs are transferred by shaking hands than kissing.
  - Fearing someone would murder him at Alcatraz, Al Capone practiced his banjo in the shower room.
- Thought for the Day: “Wars and elections are both too big and too small to matter in the long run. The daily work – that goes on, it adds up.”  
– Barbara Kingsolver
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## Moments in time

THE HISTORY CHANNEL

- On April 21, 1966, a bar crawl in New York’s West Village led to what became known as the “Sip-In,” when Dick Leitsch, Craig Rodwell and John Timmons publicly identified as gay and demanded to be served regardless, defying an unofficial but widespread practice of banning gay customers from bars.
- On April 22, 1992, dozens of sewer explosions caused by a gas leak, the warning signs of which were ignored by both the government and the national oil company in Guadalajara, Mexico, killed more than 200 people and damaged 1,000 buildings.
- On April 23, 1937, Richard Nixon, then a soon-to-be law school graduate, applied for a position with the FBI, but was turned down for reasons that remain unclear. Later, FBI director J. Edgar Hoover would comment that “the FBI’s loss would become the country’s gain.”
- On April 24, 1863, the Union army issued General Orders No. 100, which provided a code of conduct for Federal soldiers and officers in their dealings with Confederate prisoners and civilians. The orders were developed by

- Prussian immigrant Francis Lieber, whose three sons served during the Civil War.
- On April 25, 1983, the German news magazine Stern announced the discovery of Adolf Hitler’s diaries. They were, however, later exposed as forgeries. Experts believe that Hitler never actually kept a diary.
  - On April 26, 1986, nearly a decade after they met at a celebrity tennis tournament, television news reporter Maria Shriver and former bodybuilder Arnold Schwarzenegger were married at St. Francis Xavier Church in Hyannis, Massachusetts. They went on to have four children, but in 2011, it was revealed that Schwarzenegger had fathered another child with the family’s housekeeper, and the couple announced their separation and eventual divorce.
  - On April 27, 1913, 13-year-old Mary Phagan was discovered murdered in the basement of the Atlanta, Georgia, pencil factory where she worked. Two notes next to her body attempted (unsuccessfully) to pin the crime on the night watchman, but eventually the factory owner, Leo Frank, was lynched and hanged for it despite a complete lack of implicating evidence. He was posthumously pardoned in 1986.
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## Funding

From Page 1

would automatically go up every two years by tying it to property value growth. Forty percent of the allotment would go to non-administrative staff salaries, with higher pay increases reserved for teachers with more than a decade of classroom experience.

In addition, the bill would limit schools’ use of educators who lack formal classroom training, which would prevent uncertified teachers from instructing in core classes. It would also change the current settings-based model for special education funding by providing schools money based on the individual needs of students with disabilities.

The \$7.7 billion school finance bill and \$1 billion school voucher program are viewed as big wins for the Republican governor and his allies. “This is an extraordinary victory for the thousands of parents who have advocated for more choices when it comes to the education of their children,” Gov. Abbott stated after the House vote, and he vowed to sign the bills into law when they reached his desk.



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# Welcome to the NBA playoffs: And the winner is...

By Steve Escajeda  
*Special to the Courier*

After a long and forgettable regular season, the NBA playoffs finally got started this week.

Well, I shouldn’t say the regular season was so boring it was totally forgettable. But really, how exciting was the season when the only thing everybody really talked about was a trade?

You remember? The city of Dallas still can’t believe that the Mavericks traded their superstar Luka Doncic to the Los Angeles Lakers for an aging and often injured Anthony Davis.

But all that is in the past, let’s talk about the NBA playoffs and who is going to win the whole thing.

As you many know, 16 teams are in the mix but as always, only a few have any real chance of winning a title.

On the Eastern side of things, the team with the best record was the Cleveland Cavaliers. The Cavs got off to a great start and played well all season.

Then of course, you have the defending champion Boston Celtics, the New York Knicks and the Milwaukee Bucks.

I know, the Indiana Pacers have the fourth best record in the East, but they don’t seem to have the mental toughness to go very far in these playoffs.

The Bucks finished fifth, but they are a team who has won it all and knows what it takes to win a playoff series.

But let’s be honest, from the first week of the season, it’s been clear that the Cavs and the Celtics have been on a collision course for the Eastern Conference championship.

And it would be quite a shocker if that didn’t happen.

In the West, it’s a little more complicated with many teams having a legitimate chance.

The Oklahoma City Thunder,

Houston Rockets, Los Angeles Lakers, Denver Nuggets, Los Angeles Clippers, Minnesota Timberwolves, Golden State Warriors and even the Memphis Grizzlies, all have a chance.

Amazingly, that’s all eight teams in the West. In fact, two of the hottest teams heading into the playoffs were the Warriors and the Clippers.

Since the West is so close, let’s break down the matchups.

The top-ranked Thunder are taking on the Grizzlies. The Thunder will get by this round like they’re supposed to.

Next, you have the Nuggets and the Clippers. This one is a total toss-up. The Clippers have the momentum, the Nuggets have Nikola Jokic. Slight advantage to Denver.

The Lakers open with the T-Wolves. This another tough one. The only reason we’ll go with the Lakers is that they have home court advantage.

And that leaves us with the Rockets and the Warriors. The Warriors have

been a different team since they acquired Jimmy Butler in the middle of the season.

They have really improved but the Rockets should still win this one.

The Thunder had the best record in the NBA this season, mainly because they had the league’s best player in Shai Gilgeous-Alexander and a suffocating defense. Well, as suffocating as any defense in the NBA can be anyway.

For that reason, they get by Jokic and the Nuggets.

The Rockets are as tough a team as there is in the league. The Lakers have Doncic and LeBron James, but tough they are not.

It’ll be that toughness around the basket that will pull the Rockets past the Lakers.

So, just like in the East, the West will come down to its top two teams, the Thunder and the Rockets.

Going back to the East, the Cavs have an outstanding lineup with

guards, Donovan Mitchell and Darius Garland along with twin towers Jarrett Allen and Evan Mobley.

But the Celtics are the Celtics, with Tatum and Brown, they’ve been there, done that, and they will do it again.

The Thunder and the Rockets are both hard-nosed, but OKC has a little more firepower offensively than the Rockets.

So that leaves us with the upstart Thunder and the veteran Celtics in the NBA Finals.

They played each other twice during the regular season and the Thunder won both.

The Thunder won 68 games in a tougher division than the Celtics did in winning 61.

Everything on paper points to the OKC Thunder winning it all.

But when you toss in experience and heart and mental toughness, it points to the Celtics winning their second title in a row.

## Senior moment By Matilda Charles

# Social Security to recover overpayments

Word is that Social Security is going to “claw back” any overpayment to the tune of 100% of the monthly benefit check until it’s all paid back, inciting panic across the land.

But it’s not necessarily true.

That recovery of benefits will only affect overpayments that began on March 27 of this year. Yes, they’ll take full payments until that overpayment is repaid. But any overpayments made prior to that date will be made at the rate that was in place before: 10% of the benefit check.

So, if your check is usually \$1,000, the amount they’ll take out is \$100, not your full check. It will be the same if you receive Supplemental Security Income (SSI). They’ll take 10%, not the full check.

Not that having any amount deducted will be easy.

Before you start to panic that you might get the dreaded “overpayment” letter from Social Security, here are a few facts, courtesy of a report by Social Security’s Office of the Inspector General:

Overpayment (and even underpayment) doesn’t happen

very often, in less than 1% of benefits paid.

There are two main reasons why an error can occur: People report the wrong information about their income or fail to make corrections if there are changes (especially those who are under full retirement age and still working), and there are problems with Social Security’s processing, specifically errors made when workers enter the data.

If you receive the overpayment letter, you might be able to waive the recovery of the amount owed, especially if the overpayment was not your fault. Go to the Social Security website and look for SSA form 632 ([www.ssa.gov/forms/ssa-632.html](http://www.ssa.gov/forms/ssa-632.html)). If that doesn’t go well, you can appeal by using SSA form 561 ([www.ssa.gov/forms/ssa-561.html](http://www.ssa.gov/forms/ssa-561.html)).

You can also try calling them at 800-772-1213. If that doesn’t work, look for a Social Security office in your area by going to [secure.ssa.gov/ICON/main.jsp](http://secure.ssa.gov/ICON/main.jsp) and putting in your ZIP code.

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## Super Crossword

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126							127									128						

FROM ALABAMA TO LOUISIANA ACROSS	63 The "A" of ETA: Abbr.	player Linden	18 Say "yes" to	75 Grades K-6: Abbr.
1 Complaints to otologists	64 Tech sch.	110 Sue Grafton's " _ for Evidence"	19 "No kiddin'?"	77 Longtime bud
9 Foreboding	65 Some raptors	112 Sallie _	24 Lip off to	81 Many times
16 ESPN datum	66 Vinaigrette	115 Gung-ho	29 Interoffice note	82 Gator's kin
20 Feelings	alternative	116 Like a shutter so shabby there's no point in putting in a new louver?	30 Wound cover	83 Karate blow
21 Alternative to chocolate	67 Team letdowns	123 Head, in Nice	31 Academic A-lists	84 Blue-green
22 Rev gauge	70 Apple tablets	124 Attacks like a bird	32 Ancient cuneiform language	89 Has no life
23 Ailment suffered from being given too much leeway?	72 Mild	125 Tombs for pharaohs	34 Attaches	90 False appearances
25 Bicolor whale	73 Actor Koteas	126 Greek strife	35 Deep thinkers	91 Maker of Skin So Soft
26 Poet Hughes	74 Thighbone	goddess	37 Retina locale	93 Apt. units
27 Tooth doctors' org.	76 Watering tube	127 In a very similar way	38 Home of Pago Pago	94 True-to-fact
28 Scarf down	79 Earth's star	128 Cliffhanger feeling	40 Seed case	96 Finger-pointing people
29 Cantata's kin	80 Bivalve mollusk that's neither anxious nor perturbed?		41 Wee amount	97 Recently
30 "The Chi" airer, in brief	85 1040 ID		42 TV host Banks	98 Four-leaf _
33 Alpo alternative	86 Sock fillers		46 Arctic boot attachment	99 One of the Windward Islands
36 Things people run on racetracks in Switzerland's capital?	87 Instant, in some brand names	DOWN	47 Pawn	100 "Dr." of insoles
39 Coke and Pepsi's business?	88 " _ come to save the day!"	1 Conger, e.g.	51 Approximate	102 Diner grub
43 Collide with	90 Blubber	2 Docs' org.	53 U.S. soldiers	104 Sine, for one
44 Robots in human form	92 Suburb of Buenos Aires	3 Decompose	54 One of the Leeward Islands	105 Actor Cary
45 "Fer cryin' out loud!"	97 Eight-note spans	4 Working hard	55 Contained as a part of	111 Eensy
48 Barkeeper on "The Simpsons"	101 Monty Python member wearing no jewelry or fancy clothes?	5 Quote	56 Very pale	113 "Right away!"
49 Audio game from Hasbro	103 Topmost point on a perfume bottle?	6 Magician Harry	58 " _ a pity"	114 "Game of Thrones" actress Bianco
50 Soothsayer	106 Alan of "Tower Heist"	7 Call a halt to	59 Pottery piece	116 Packers' and Panthers' gp.
52 Off-limits	107 Blast source	8 Atlanta-to-Miami dir.	60 Downcast	117 Sugar suffix
54 Farrow of film	108 Lindsay of	9 Exiled Roman poet	61 Uno + due	118 Co-_ (some apartments)
57 Storytellers' leagues?	109 Barney Miller	10 Gruesome	62 Spy novelist Fleming	119 Sch. in Manhattan
		11 Ballpoint fluid	63 Smart _ (wise guys)	120 "Hamilton" composer _Manuel Miranda
		12 S.F. NFLer	68 Actor Elliott	121 TV plugs
		13 City in southwest New York	69 PC key abbr.	122 Mao _-tung
		14 Long, loose overcoat	71 "Pick up the Czech," e.g.	
		15 Airline to Sweden	72 "Well, I'll be!"	
		16 Snitching sort	74 Antagonist	
		17 Kilt pattern		

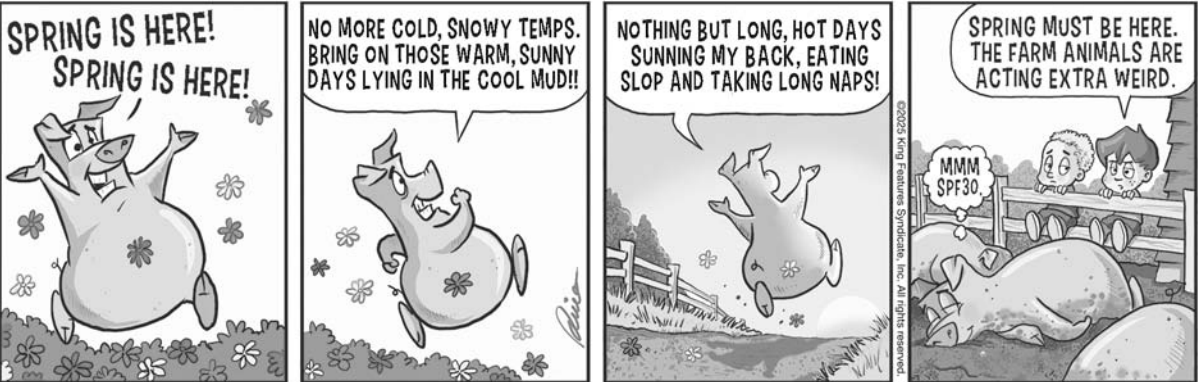


Comix

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

powers in Europe, every one which possesses a single ship of the line may dictate to us.” He concluded that “naval force then is necessary if we mean to be commercial.”

During James Madison’s presidency, we fought the War of 1812 over British interference with our trade and impressment of sailors. Needless to say, Adams, Jefferson and Madison aren’t strange interlopers in the American experience; they are among our most honored statesmen, and were fully vested in freedom of navigation.

In the aftermath of the two world wars – also involving questions of freedom of navigation – the United States had the power to enforce peace on the seas, and it’s been a boon to the U.S. and to the rest of the world. As Gregg Easterbrook points out in his compelling book “The Blue Age,” there hasn’t been a major fight on the sea since the Battle of Leyte Gulf in 1944. Trade has increased accordingly, and increased wealth here and elsewhere.

There is nothing inevitable about any of this.

In fact, considering the sweep of world history, conflict and predation at sea are the norm.

If we step back, a vacuum isn’t going to be filled by selfless or friendly powers. It either won’t be filled at all, feeding chaos, or a hostile power like China will enforce an arrangement to its liking.

The Red Sea demonstrates the dynamic in microcosm. President Biden’s abdication allowed insurgents to attack commercial shipping, sending insurance rates soaring, or diverting vessels away from the Suez Canal to the longer, more expensive route around the Cape of Good Hope. One analysis says the attacks added 0.7% to inflation in global core goods in the first six months of 2024.

European navies aren’t going to deal with the problem (they barely exist), and so it falls to us.

Thomas Jefferson wasn’t available to be added to the Signal chain about the anti-Houthi operation. Still, there is no doubt that he would have approved.

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

Brain aneurysm needs careful consideration

DEAR DR. ROACH: I am an 80-year-old woman in good health with low blood pressure, and the only medication I take is levothyroxine. A 6-by-5.5-mm aneurysm was discovered in my brain, and the scan shows one lobular protrusion that may be of concern for rupture. I am trying to decide if I should go through with a procedure, but I am not sure about the effectiveness, risks, and possible post-procedure adverse reactions. It is my understanding that these coils have been on the market for a while, and I was wondering which product is best if this information is available. I was informed that the coil is made of platinum. Two last questions: Does the coil lead to clotting, causing the aneurysm to be occluded? What prevents blood clots from entering the vascular system in the brain and causing problems? – I.C.



An aneurysm is a weakening in the wall of the artery, which causes part of the artery to enlarge. If the enlargement is big enough, a person is at risk for rupture, which causes a bleed inside the brain that can lead to a potentially devastating stroke, depending on the size and location of the aneurysm.

When the aneurysm is big enough to be concerned for rupture, they are considered for repair, which can be done through the surgical placement of a clip or by placing a platinum coil inside the aneurysm. This is done endovascularly, meaning that a catheter is placed in the affected artery. Under a fluoroscopy (a real-time X-ray), the coil is opened up. This causes a clot in the aneurysm, which protects the thinned wall from enlarging further and reduces the risk of rupture.

You are quite right that the clot can propagate and break off. A large study showed that this can happen up to 9% of the time, but newer techniques and medications to prevent this complication have the potential to reduce it further.

Your neurosurgeon needs to weigh the risk of a clot or rupture during the procedure against the benefit of preventing a spontaneous rupture of the aneurysm. This takes judgment, and only your doctor can make this call based on the precise characteristics of your aneurysm and your overall medical condition.

I will note that the risk of rupture or a clot breaking off are lower when the aneurysm hasn’t ruptured, compared to when the procedure is done as an emergency. You also have to rely on your surgeon to choose the best product for you. Unfortunately, there aren’t studies to guide the decision, so it’s left to clinical judgment. With my own patients, I defer to the surgeon.

DEAR DR. ROACH: I have never given much thought to the spellings of various medications. Why do some have an uppercase first letter while others do not? Patent versus generic maybe? – C.A.W.

You’re right. All medicines have a generic name, which is uncapitalized, as well as a brand name. For example, furosemide’s brand name is Lasix. There’s also a chemical name, which is usually a mouthful. Manufacturers try to make the brand name memorable (“Lasix” was chosen to remind doctors that it “lasts six” hours), so they will often choose to use the brand name even when a generic substitute is available.

I prefer generic names when prescribing medications and when discussing them with the students and residents I teach, as the generic name often gives clues to the structure and mechanism of the drug.

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.





**Moore Texas by Roger Moore**  
April 25, 1875, Pecos: 3 Black Seminole scouts save their horseless white commander from Indians. All get the Medal of Honor.

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: J equals C

HNFC DOA JSDDMAKSF  
JVNNFAI SH OA EWD INYF VPJO  
HNPM DN CVNY OPH ESHDWVA:  
“MNSK NF DOA VSFCA.”

Answer Page 4

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Weekly SUDOKU

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

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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Missing inventory



by Freddy Groves

If you’re getting care at a Department of Veterans Affairs facility and staff can’t find the equipment or supplies needed for your treatment, somebody has goofed up, likely somebody in inventory control.

One hospital alone, as investigated by the VA Office of Inspector General, was supposed to stock \$203 million in equipment and \$5.5 million in expendable supplies. In verifying the accuracy of the inventories, 82% of items in a random sample of surgical or medical items were found to be incorrect. That’s 49 of the 60 items checked. As an example, inventory records showed over 1,100 decontamination gowns. In reality, there was one gown.

Then there were the over 1,500 expired items, the 94% of items that were not in the locations where they should have been and

the new supplies found in dumpsters.

Interestingly enough, the Veterans Integrated Service Network (VISN) had conducted quality control reviews two years in a row, which meant they received documents and information from the facility. Their on-site reviews didn’t find the deficiencies the VAOIG did: missing data, expired supplies, inventory discrepancies, missing medicine cabinets, lack of correct use of the barcode system and more. Then there was the lack of training.

And the VISN reviewers – because they lean heavily on data supplied to them – apparently didn’t notice the unlocked bins of veteran files, containing personal and health information, sitting outside the warehouse door.

The finger of blame for the expiration of biological and non-biological implant items can be pointed in several directions: staff because they weren’t tracking the inventory, the various departments that used different methods to track

their items, vendors that weren’t made responsible for monitoring the items they supplied. And when problems did surface (damage and loss, for example), no one investigated.

The end result of this VAOIG inspection was chilling: Patients were medically at risk because of expired implant items and financially at risk due to their personal and health information sitting in bins outside the warehouse door.

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• Got fresh herbs? Try this drying tip/car freshener in one: Lay herbs flat on newspaper in your car. Keep windows closed, and after a nice sunny day, you’ll have a delicious-smelling car and dried herbs to store for later dishes.

• “Raised beds are a nice addition to our garden area, but the gophers liked them too. We lined them with chicken wire to keep the beds from being attacked from below,” – J.J. in Illinois

• When starting plants from seeds, you can use an old cupcake pan. Use paper liners or coffee filters to line the cups. Add soil and seeds. Water as necessary. When the seedlings are ready for replanting, simply lift out and break the bottom seal of the paper or filter, and plant as-is in the ground. It’s easy to transport them in the pan, and no leaks.

• Two things your garden should have: a rain barrel and a compost pile. Both are relatively easy to set up, and pay big dividends. You can get a book at your local library on how to set up a compost pile. Some cities will give away rain barrels or hold workshops. Find out today!

• “To keep track of what is planted in your garden, you use garden markers. Make your own by writing the type of flower, plant or herb on a brick or large flat stone. Use permanent marker and cover with clear acrylic if you want it to last longer. You can even use both sides for different seasonal items.” – Z.M. in Georgia

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.

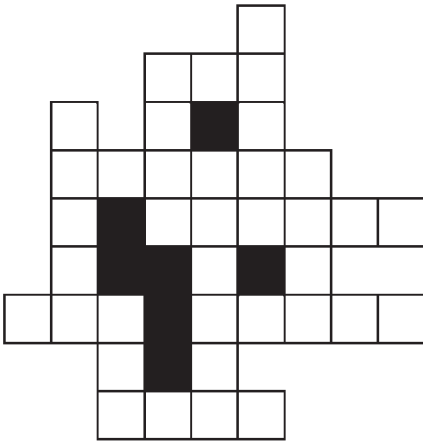
Answer Page 4

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	-		×		= 16			
-		+		-				
	+		÷	4	= 2			
×		÷		×				
	-		+		= 13			
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1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9



ITB  
DISMOW  
HOBRA  
HWSI  
♥ ADSBEE  
TWA  
♥ AMET  
MAWIS  
BEW  
DREHLA  
EMABA  
♥ EHTW



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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