



Photo by Tommy Vasquez

LET IT FLOW – Rio Grande water, above, has arrived in El Paso County after traveling nearly 650 miles from Colorado’s Rocky Mountains through New Mexico to reach El Paso County, then it continues for more than 1,250 miles to the Gulf of Mexico. Since the river water’s release from Caballo Lake reservoir at the end of May, the flow has pushed south nourishing the river sands that have accumulated through thousands of years.

Rio Grande comes back to life with release

Long-term drought makes for shorter, drier irrigation seasons

By Alfredo Vasquez
Special to the Courier

EL PASO COUNTY – The once mighty Rio Grande, also known as *El Rio Bravo*, is now a far cry from the river waters that long ago carved out the Paso del Norte landscape. Today, deplete of water for most of the year, the tightly controlled river flow only brings its liquid gold through its meandering channel for a couple of months annually. This year’s release from New Mexico’s Elephant Butte Dam then from Caballo Lake, the nearest reservoir to El Paso County, came at the end of May and officially marked the start of the irrigation season. The 2025 flow is estimated to be sending about 25,000 gallons per second down the river’s dry bed.

For Southern New Mexico and El Paso County farmers, the estimated 2,600 cubic feet per second of water is a vital resource amid drought conditions that have persisted for nearly three decades. “Drought is impacting the whole watershed and the region,” James Narvaez, Irrigation Systems director for the Elephant Butte Irrigation District (EBID), stated in a recent news release. Currently, Elephant Butte Dam is a little more than 13 percent full, according to EBID’s website. Last year, the dam, which is 120 miles north of El Paso, held water levels at about 27 percent of capacity. The dam has not been near or at capacity since the 1980’s. The EBID director related that this year the water will flow for the next 90 days and will serve 90,000 acres of land with water rights. He stated that about 8,000 farmers of small tracts of property will be able to irrigate their crops with

the river water, and the underground aquifers will also receive some replenishment. A few weeks prior to the river water release, the EBID board set the 2025 irrigation season’s allotment from the river at 6 inches per acre feet. This is approximately how much each farm will get for this irrigation season. Additional water for irrigation is procured with the use of wells that pump the precious commodity from the underground aquifers. The arrival of Rio Grande water to the Borderland stems from the snowfall in the mountains of southern Colorado near Pagosa Springs. From the 1980s to around 2003, Elephant Butte was full most of the time, which allowed farmers to irrigate from March through October, which meant that most of the demand was met through river water. But by the 2000s, water levels in Elephant Butte fell off from the prior decades and have remained low for nearly 30 years, which has made it complicated for water planners to predict how much water the Rio Grande will supply from year-to-year.

Introducing the Trump Doctrine

President Donald Trump gave an important speech in Riyadh that may come as close to outlining a “Trump doctrine” as we’ll probably see. It was a direct counterpoint to George W. Bush’s second inaugural address. The simplistic way to put it is that what liberty was for Bush, money is to Donald Trump.

That’s not quite right, though. The speech had values, they just weren’t typical values—accountable government, human dignity—but simply prosperity and peace. If Bush wanted to spread freedom, Trump wants to spread gleaming high-rise buildings.

He hailed the rise in the Gulf of a Middle East “defined by commerce, not chaos, where it exports technology, not terrorism, and where people of different nations, religions and creeds are building

cities together.”

Notably, there is no liberty in this affirming sentence – it’s all economic activity. The speech was very critical of Iran, but his critique was that it isn’t constructing anything. Instead, its landmarks “are collapsing into rubble and dust.”

Trump’s speech wasn’t isolationist, or alien to American traditions. The address ran in the slipstream of the Hamiltonian tradition as famously outlined by Walter Russell Mead, with its emphasis on the role of commerce in foreign affairs. And there was, as always, a Jacksonian element, as Trump spoke of smiting America’s enemies. There was, however, no Wilsonianism. In a passage that got attention, Trump rapped neocons and liberal nonprofits for trying, but

failing, to develop the Middle East because they didn’t know or respect the culture of the region.

There is merit in this charge. We had no idea what we were getting into in Iraq and Afghanistan, while George W. Bush’s vision for the spread of democracy systematically failed to account for the influence of culture, and for the centrality of order to liberty and other social goods.

That said, both Afghanistan and Iraq were originally conceived as wars of self-defense in the wake of a terror attack that shook America to its core. It’s also unpersuasive to hold up the Gulf states



See LOWRY, Page 7

View from here

By Dr. Glenn Mollette

Musk’s tantrum: What is he capable of doing?

Elon Musk’s wealth mainly comes from his ownership stakes in two companies: 1) Tesla. Around 37% of his wealth is from Tesla stock, although it was as high as 75% in 2020. 2) SpaceX. Valued contracts include a \$20 billion deal with the United States federal government. He also earned money from selling PayPal to eBay for \$1.5 billion in stock, receiving \$175.8 million personally. His net worth is estimated to be around \$424.7 billion but this varies from week to week depending on the stock market.

Other business ventures of Musk’s are Neuralink – brain machine interfaces and neurotechnology, The Boring Company – underground tunnels and infrastructure and SolarCity which is solar energy, but was sold to Tesla in 2016. In 1995 Musk owned

Zip2 which was an online content publishing company that was sold to Compaq. He also owns Starlink which is an internet constellation company.

No doubt Musk is a true visionary, entrepreneur and one of the greatest geniuses of our era.

Musk is still a young man, born June 28, 1971. The world may be yet to see what he will achieve.

However, anyone can spread himself too thin. Obviously, he has a lot of great people working for him, but anyone can overdo their capabilities or overestimate themselves.

In my opinion, it was a terrible idea for Musk to become so heavily involved in government and politics. He makes billions from the government contracts with SpaceX. I think that is

definitely a conflict of interest. However, he is now out of his leadership role in Washington. After his temper tantrum last week and saying all kinds of dumb stuff about President Trump he probably won’t be returning to any leadership roles. He further over elevated himself and his role in Trump’s election. This reminds us again of this truth: Intelligent geniuses can do and say stupid things. Throwing mud at President Trump on social media has made Musk look like a spoiled brat who has seemingly always gotten his way. Again, we are reminded, no one always gets his or her way in this life.

Is Musk too rich to go broke? Probably, but anyone can fail financially. Musk’s wealth is mostly tied up in stocks,

making him “cash poor,” or having low liquidity. But with SpaceX capturing 70% of the global launch market, his financial downfall is unlikely. Unless, he continues to hurl ill-will at President Trump which could potentially cost Musk a lot.

The problem is that if the US cancelled its contracts with SpaceX, it could impact our manned missions to the International Space Station. New space projects like NASA’s Artemis moon program could be impacted. Dozens of NASA science programs would be affected plus the impact on national security as SpaceX provides critical space launch and communication services to the US military. These and other consequences could

significantly affect the US space program and national security.

Trump, Musk and all the others on Capitol Hill need to work together for the common good of our nation. Musk has proven his genius and capabilities. However, his temper tantrum and verbiage last week make me wonder a bit as to just what he is really capable of doing in a moment of rage?

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

1973
52
Years
2025

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MS. WILDCAT AND MR. WILDCAT – From left are Itzazue Au Chavez and Esteban Mendoza. — Photo courtesy Anthony ISD

Anthony High School’s Class of 2025 earns more than \$3 million in scholarships

By Adriana Candelaria
Special to the Courier

Anthony, TX – Anthony Independent School District is proud to celebrate the graduation of 53 students from Anthony High School. The commencement ceremony was held on May

29, 2025, at the Magoffin Auditorium on the campus of the University of Texas at El Paso. This remarkable class broke a four-year record by collectively earning \$3,009,957 in scholarships. Among the many accomplishments,

See SCHOLARIPS, Page 5

King Crossword

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25 Minutes

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- 12 Twice cuatro
- 13 Done with
- 14 Here (Fr.)
- 15 Impulsive
- 17 Born abroad?
- 18 Sweetheart
- 19 Sequence
- 21 Freudian concept
- 22 Ersatz chocolate
- 24 Lascivious
- 27 "Wham!"
- 28 Rain-delay cover
- 31 MSNBC's Melber

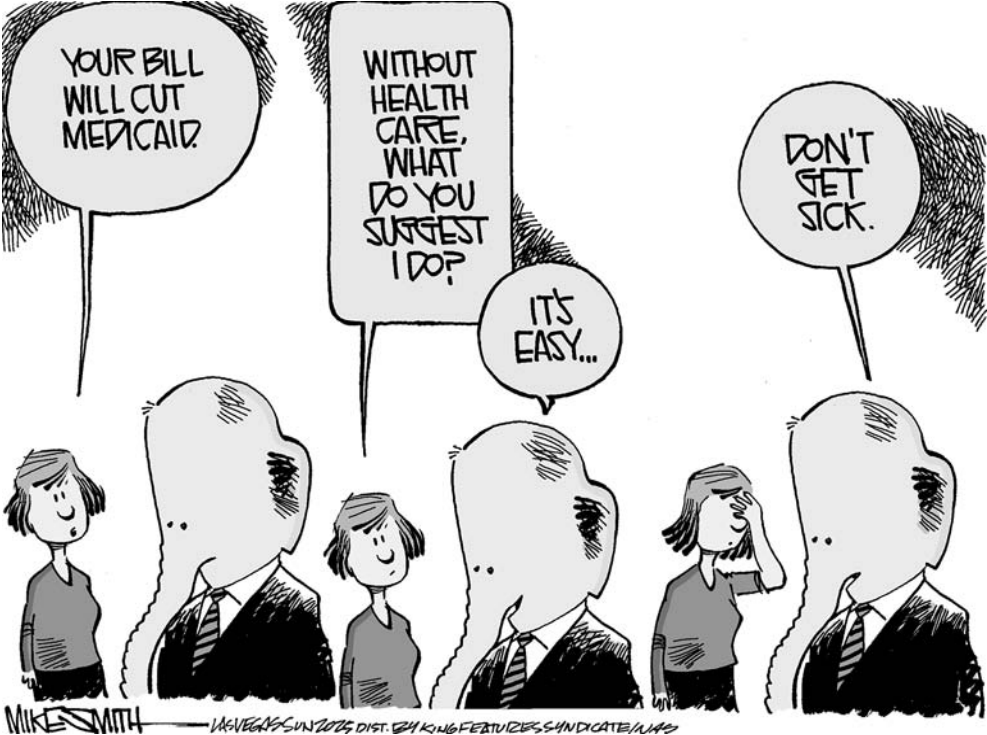
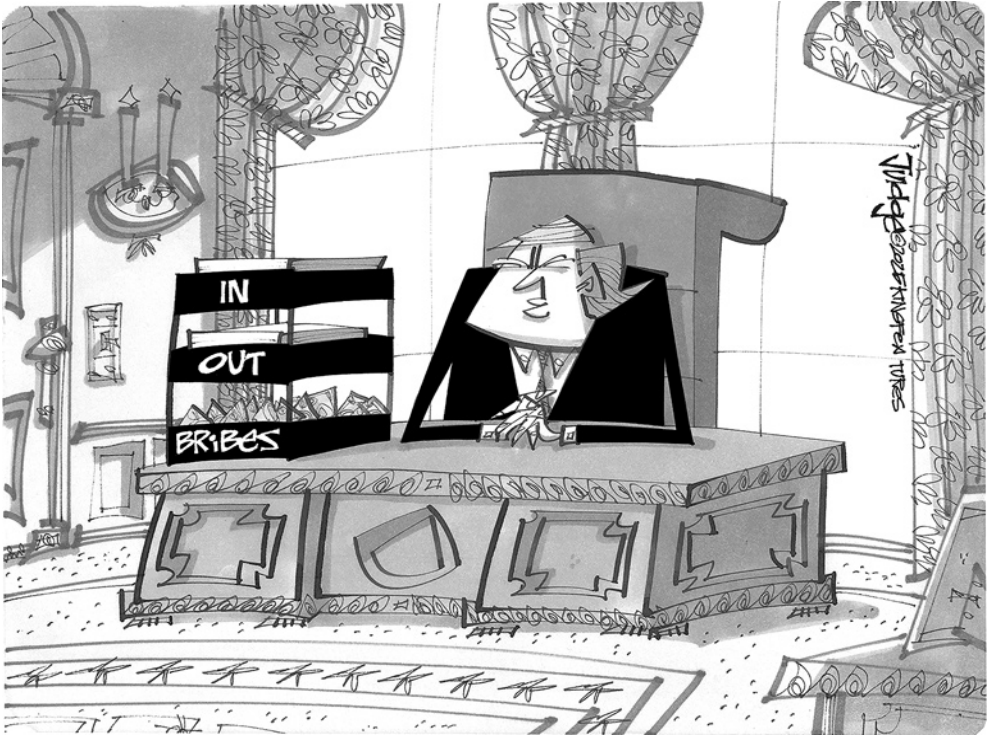
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- 33 "Gosh!"
- 34 Gasp for air
- 36 Scale members
- 37 Despot
- 38 Tub outlet
- 40 Battery size
- 41 Laugh track sounds
- 43 Author Lurie
- 47 "I love," in Latin
- 48 Tropical cooler
- 51 Writer Harper
- 52 Theater award
- 53 Length times width
- 54 "For shame!"
- 55 Frees (of)
- 56 Legendary loch

DOWN

- 1 Columnist Maureen
- 2 Massage target
- 3 Actor LaBeouf
- 4 Dreadful
- 5 Actor Rob
- 6 Bird (Pref.)
- 7 Gents
- 8 Passion
- 9 Motormouths
- 10 Frozen drink brand
- 11 Level
- 16 Cover
- 20 Hogwash
- 22 Witch group
- 23 Dazzles
- 24 Napkin's place
- 25 Geological period
- 26 Namibia's capital
- 27 Gilpin of "Frasier"

- 29 Actor Stephen
- 30 Apiece
- 35 _la-la
- 37 East Asian country
- 39 Silents star Mary
- 40 Hearty brew
- 41 Sentry's cry
- 42 Iowa city
- 43 Citrus drinks
- 44 Beget
- 45 Small bills
- 46 Secret-protecting docs
- 49 Slugger's stat
- 50 Succor

Answer Page 5



NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING TO DISCUSS BUDGET AND PROPOSED TAX RATE

The Canutillo Independent School District will hold a public meeting 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, June 24, 2025 in the Central Office Board Room, 7965 Artcraft, El Paso, Texas 79932. **The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the school district’s budget that will determine the tax rate that will be adopted. Public participation in the discussion is invited.**

The tax rate that is ultimately adopted at this meeting or at a separate meeting at a later date may not exceed the proposed tax rate shown below unless the district publishes a revised notice containing the same information and comparisons set out below and holds another public meeting to discuss the revised notice.

Maintenance Tax	\$0.707300/\$100 (Proposed rate for maintenance and operations)
School Debt Service Tax	
Approved by Local Voters	\$0.400000/\$100 (Proposed rate to pay bonded indebtedness)

Comparison of Proposed Budget with Last Year’s Budget

The applicable percentage increase or decrease (or difference) in the amount budgeted in the preceding fiscal year and the amount budgeted for the fiscal year that begins during the current tax year is indicated for each of the following expenditure categories:

Maintenance and Operations	8.73%	Decrease
Debt Service	6.98%	Increase
Total Expenditures	5.92%	Decrease

Total Appraised Value and Total Taxable Value (as calculated under Section 26.04, Tax Code)

	Preceding Tax Year	Current Tax Year
Total appraised value* of all property	\$ 6,360,955,068	\$ 6,993,863,517
Total appraised value* of new property**	\$ 207,724,246	\$ 195,372,826
Total taxable value*** of all property	\$ 3,708,142,214	\$ 4,335,466,982
Total taxable value*** of new property**	\$ 184,140,875	\$ 183,114,435

* “Appraised value” is the amount shown on the appraisal roll and defined by Section 1.04(8), Tax Code.
** “New property” is defined by Section 26.012(17), Tax Code.
*** “Taxable value” is defined by Section 1.04(10), Tax Code.

Bonded Indebtedness

Total amount of outstanding and unpaid bonded indebtedness* \$154,009,627

* Outstanding principal.

Comparison of Proposed Rates with Last Year’s Rates

	Maintenance & Operations	Interest & Sinking Fund*	Total	Local Revenue Per Student	State Revenue Per Student
Last Year’s Rate	\$ 0.755200	\$ 0.400000*	\$ 1.155200	\$ 7,965	\$ 5,623
Rate to Maintain Same Level of Maintenance & Operations Revenue & Pay Debt Service	\$ 0.687810	\$ 0.232620*	\$ 0.920430	\$ 7,669	\$ 5,288
Proposed Rate	\$ 0.707300	\$ 0.400000*	\$ 1.107300	\$ 8,212	\$ 5,405

*The Interest & Sinking Fund tax revenue is used to pay for bonded indebtedness on construction, equipment, or both.
The bonds, and the tax rate necessary to pay those bonds, were approved by the voters of this district.

Comparison of Proposed Levy with Last Year’s Levy on Average Residence

	Last Year	This Year
Average Market Value of Residences	\$ 328,453	\$ 342,781
Average Taxable Value of Residences	\$ 187,996	\$ 214,634
Last Year’s Rate Versus		
Proposed Rate per \$100 Value	\$ 1.15520	\$ 1.107300
Taxes Due on Average Residence	\$ 2,171.73	\$ 2,376.64
Increase (Decrease) in Taxes		\$ 204.91

Under state law, the dollar amount of school taxes imposed on the residence homestead of a person 65 years of age or older or of the surviving spouse of such a person, if the surviving spouse was 55 years of age or older when the person died, may not be increased above the amount paid in the first year after the person turned 65, regardless of changes in the tax rate or property value.

Notice of Voter-Approval Rate: The highest tax rate the district can adopt before requiring voter approval at an election is \$1.10730. This election will be automatically held if the district adopts a rate in excess of the voter-approval rate of \$1.10730.

Fund Balances

The following estimated balances will remain at the end of the current fiscal year and are not encumbered with or by a corresponding debt obligation, less estimated funds necessary for operating the district before receipt of the first state aid payment:

Maintenance and Operations Fund Balance(s)	\$ 13,066,072
Interest & Sinking Fund Balance(s)	\$ 12,742,332

A school district may not increase the district’s maintenance and operations tax rate to create a surplus in maintenance and operations tax revenue for the purpose of paying the district’s debt service.

Visit [Texas.gov/PropertyTaxes](https://www.texas.gov/PropertyTaxes) to find a link to your local property tax database on which you can easily access information regarding your property taxes, including information about proposed tax rates and scheduled public hearings of each entity that taxes your property.

The 86th Texas Legislature modified the manner in which the voter-approval tax rate is calculated to limit the rate of growth of property taxes in the State.



By Lucie Winborne

- A Bangkok restaurant has been serving customers from a “perpetual stew” that has been cooking for more than four decades.
- Each year, Americans spend more on beauty than education.
- The Empire State Building generates more revenue from its observation decks than from its 85 floors of office space.
- Vincent van Gogh fell in love with his cousin Kee Vos Stricker, and on one occasion proposed marriage, even putting his hand over a candle and saying he wouldn’t remove it until they could marry. Kee’s disapproving father, however, had other ideas: He blew out the candle and banned the artist from the house.
- The stiletto heel was inspired by a dagger.
- A convicted con man once sold a “solar-powered clothes dryer” in national magazines for the bargain price of \$49.95. Of course, buyers probably didn’t consider it such a bargain when all they got for their money was a length of clothesline.
- Actor Mark Ruffalo dreamed he had a brain tumor. The next day, a CT scan revealed a

- benign growth behind his ear.
- France is the most visited country in the world.
 - The town of Idyllwild, California, elected their first, and most unusual, mayor in 2012 – a golden retriever named Max. After he passed away the following year, he was succeeded by Maximus Mighty-Dog Mueller, aka Mayor Max II.
 - A study claims that falling in love comes at the cost of losing two close friends.
 - In medieval Europe, butter was a luxury item that only the rich could afford to use regularly in their cooking.
 - Dr. Seuss coined the word “nerd.” The term originated in the 1950 book “If I Ran the Zoo.” The sentence goes: “And then, just to show them, I’ll sail to Ka-Troo. And bring back an IT-KUTCH, a PREEP and a PROO, a NERKLE, NERD, and a SEERSUCKER, too!”

- Every year, 11,000 injuries are reported in America as a result of sexual experimentation.
 - Reese’s Peanut Butter Cups were originally named “Penny Cups” after the amount they cost at the time.
- Thought for the Day: “What you get by achieving your goals is not as important as what you become by achieving your goals.”
- Zig Ziglar

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† AMERICAN LUNG ASSOCIATION. of Texas

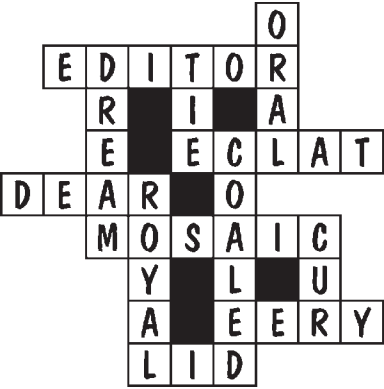
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www.texaslung.org

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CryptoQuip Answer

Favored tune from somebody who would like to become a short-order cook: “I Beleive I Can Fry.”





Moments in time

THE HISTORY CHANNEL

On June 9, 1934, Donald Duck made his cinema debut in Disney’s “The Wise Little Hen,” along with his pal Peter Pig. The pair do their best to get out of helping Mrs. Hen plant corn by faking tummy troubles, but she teaches them a lesson (not to mention repentance) with the help of some castor oil.

On June 10, 2015, Juan Felipe Herrera, a prize-winning author and the son of migrant farmworkers, whose mother recited poetry and taught him songs from the Mexican Revolution, became America’s first Latino poet laureate.

On June 11, 1949, country singer Hank Williams Sr. delivered such an electrifying performance when he made his first Grand Ole Opry radio broadcast that he was called out for six encores and the audience had to be implored not to call for any more in order for the show to continue.

On June 12, 1975, India’s prime minister, Indira Gandhi, was found guilty of electoral corruption in her 1971 campaign. Despite calls for her resignation, she refused to resign and later declared

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On June 13, 2006, jurors began deliberations in the trial of Susan Polk for the 2002 murder of her husband, psychotherapist Felix Polk. The couple had raised three sons together and were in the middle of a contentious divorce at the time of his death. Two of the sons testified against their mother at the trial, which ended in her conviction and incarceration.

On June 14, 1777, the Continental Congress adopted a resolution stating that “the flag of the United States be 13 alternate stripes red and white” and that “the Union be 13 stars, white in a blue field, representing a new constellation.” Known eventually as the “Stars and Stripes,” it was based on the Grand Union flag, which was carried by the Continental Army in 1776 and also contained 13 red-and-white stripes.

On June 15, 1667, French physician Jean-Baptiste Denis performed the first blood transfusion on a feverish boy, using lamb’s blood. The boy recovered, but two other patients died after the procedure, leading to centuries-long bans on it.

Scholarships

From Page 3

graduating senior Jozef Nava was awarded the Tommy Sanchez Scholarship. Other notable scholarships earned by students included UTEP’s Excellence Scholarship and the “Keep Moving” Scholarship from the Texas Association of Latino Administrators and Superintendents (TALAS) El Paso Chapter.

“We are very proud of the Class of 2025,” said Anthony High School Principal Sandra Espinoza.

“This class stood out due to their incredible involvement in extracurricular activities. Many of them set a goal to reach the state level in their events, and they made it happen. From band and colorguard to esports and UIL academics, our students not only made it to state competitions, they placed in

the top level. We are proud of every one of them.”

Each year, the Mr. and Ms. Wildcat awards are given to students who exemplify academic excellence and outstanding character during their time at Anthony High School.

This year’s honorees are: Mr. Wildcat – Esteban Mendoza and Ms. Wildcat – Itzazue Au Chavez.

While the graduates have chosen various paths after graduation, many will attend local universities such as New Mexico State University and The University of Texas at El Paso.

“CongratulationstotheClass of 2025,” said Superintendent Dr. Oscar A. Troncoso.

“We are confident that the education they received at Anthony ISD has prepared them for bright, adventurous futures. We couldn’t be prouder of their achievements and look forward to seeing all they will accomplish.”

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING TO DISCUSS BUDGET AND PROPOSED TAX RATE

The Fabens Independent School District will hold a public meeting at 6:30 P.M. on Wednesday, June 25, 2025 in the Fabens ISD Administration Building, 821 NE “G” Avenue Fabens, Texas 79838. **The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the school district’s budget that will determine the tax rate that will be adopted. Public participation in the discussion is invited.**

The tax rate that is ultimately adopted at this meeting or at a separate meeting at a later date may not exceed the proposed tax rate shown below unless the district publishes a revised notice containing the same information and comparisons set out below and holds another public meeting to discuss the revised notice.

Maintenance Tax	\$0.770600/\$100 (Proposed rate for maintenance and operations)
School Debt Service Tax	
Approved by Local Voters	\$0.330700/\$100 (Proposed rate to pay bonded indebtedness)

Comparison of Proposed Budget with Last Year’s Budget

The applicable percentage increase or decrease (or difference) in the amount budgeted in the preceding fiscal year and the amount budgeted for the fiscal year that begins during the current tax year is indicated for each of the following expenditure categories:

Maintenance and Operations	18.16%	Increase
Debt Service	2.01%	Increase
Total Expenditures	16.83%	Increase

Total Appraised Value and Total Taxable Value (as calculated under Section 26.04, tax Code)

	Preceding Tax Year	Current Tax Year
Total appraised value* of all property	\$ 431,507,099	\$ 498,728,487
Total appraised value* of new property**	\$ 2,813,123	\$ 2,020,975
Total taxable value*** of all property	\$ 255,555,307	\$ 287,303,478
Total taxable value*** of new property**	\$ 2,627,582	\$ 1,978,735

* “Appraised value” is the amount shown on the appraisal roll and defined by Section 1.04(8), Tax Code.
** “New property” is defined by Section 26.012(17), Tax Code.
*** “Taxable value” is defined by Section 1.04(10), Tax Code.

Bonded Indebtedness

Total amount of outstanding and unpaid bonded indebtedness* \$19,608,500.

* Outstanding principal.

Comparison of Proposed Rates with Last Year’s Rates

	Maintenance & Operation	Interest & Sinking Fund*	Total	Local Revenue Per Student	State Revenue Per Student
Last Year’s Rate	\$ 0.791000	\$ 0.332100*	\$ 1.123100	\$ 1,675	\$12,246
Rate to Maintain Same Level of Maintenance & Operations Revenue & Pay Debt Service	\$ 0.796100	\$ 0.330700*	\$ 1.126800	\$ 1,784	\$12,042
Proposed Rate	\$ 0.770600	\$ 0.330700*	\$ 1.101300	\$ 1,740	\$11,978

*The Interest & Sinking Fund tax revenue is used to pay for bonded indebtedness on construction, equipment, or both.
The bonds, and the tax rate necessary to pay those bonds, were approved by the voters of this district.

Comparison of Proposed Levy with Last Year’s Levy on Average Residence

	Last Year	This Year
Average Market Value of Residences	\$142,009	\$152,642
Average Taxable Value of Residences	\$ 6,439	\$ 19,828
Last Year’s Rate Versus		
Proposed Rate per \$100 Value	\$ 1.123100	\$ 1.101300
Taxes Due on Average Residence	\$ 72	\$ 218
Increase (Decrease) in Taxes		\$ 146

Under state law, the dollar amount of school taxes imposed on the residence homestead of a person 65 years of age or older or of the surviving spouse of such a person, if the surviving spouse was 55 years of age or older when the person died, may not be increased above the amount paid in the first year after the person turned 65, regardless of changes in the tax rate or property value.

Notice of Voter-Approval Rate: The highest tax rate the district can adopt before requiring voter approval at an election is \$1.101300. This election will be automatically held if the district adopts a rate in excess of the voter-approval rate of \$1.101300.

Fund Balances

The following estimated balances will remain at the end of the current fiscal year and are not encumbered with or by a corresponding debt obligation, less estimated funds necessary for operating the district before receipt of the first state aid payment:

Maintenance and Operations Fund Balance(s)	\$ 10,996,701
Interest & Sinking Fund Balance(s)	\$ 0

A school district may not increase the district’s maintenance and operations tax rate to create a surplus in maintenance and operations tax revenue for the purpose of paying the district’s debt service.

Visit [Texas.gov/PropertyTaxes](https://www.texas.gov/PropertyTaxes) to find a link to your local property tax database on which you can easily access information regarding your property taxes, including information about proposed tax rates and scheduled public hearings of each entity that taxes your property.

The 86th Texas Legislature modified the manner in which the voter-approval tax rate is calculated to limit the rate of growth of property taxes in the state.

Veteran NFL quarterbacks try for success elsewhere

By Steve Escajeda
Special to the Courier

Unless you’ve been hiding under a rock, you heard that Aaron Rodgers just signed a contract to quarterback the Pittsburgh Steelers this season.

It’s just for one year and it’s for a whopping \$13 million bucks.

Just like it was weird seeing him in a New York Jets uniform, it’ll be even weirder seeing him in Pittsburgh gold and black.

Rodgers spent 18 seasons with the Green Bay Packers building a Hall of Fame career and leading them to a Super Bowl victory.

After spending the last two with the Jets, the 41-year-old Rodgers is out to prove he can still get it done at his advanced age.

The Steelers are always good, they always make the playoffs, and they are always a contender for the Super Bowl. But ever since Ben Roethlisberger retired, they’ve always been just a good quarterback away from getting to the big game.

They are hoping they have their man now.

But Rodgers isn’t the only NFL veteran quarterback who will find himself in a different uniform this season.

Like Rodgers, Russell Wilson once led his team, the Seattle Seahawks, to a Super Bowl win. This year Wilson will be throwing passes for the New York Giants.

Wow, talk about somebody looking funny in a different uniform, Wilson will look stranger than ever in the

Giants’ red, white and blue.

The question is whether the 36-year-old Wilson can still get it done.

Wilson has been one of the best quarterbacks in the league during his 13-year career, mostly with the Seahawks, throwing for over 46,000 yards and 350 touchdowns.

The third quarterback on our list has a little bit of a different story, in that he doesn’t have a team to play with yet.

Kirk Cousins has also spent 13 years in the NFL with the Washington Commanders, the Minnesota Vikings and the Atlanta Falcons.

Cousins has always been a top tier quarterback and capable of leading a team to a tremendous regular season, but never really able to get his teams very far in the playoffs.

After six years in Washington and six more in Minnesota, Cousins spent a turbulent season with the Falcons last year and the thinking is that Atlanta will get rid of him this year.

So right now, all the experts are

trying to predict what team he’ll go to. But it’s almost certain that Cousins, with his nearly 43,000 passing yards and 288 touchdowns, will be a prized catch for some team that is only a good quarterback away from advancing to the next level.

A couple other guys, who are not stars yet but have been trying to make their name in the league, will be trying with new teams.

Justin Fields, who came out of Ohio State as was projected to be a star in the league but has struggled a lot in his four short years in the league.

Fields is a great runner and I’ve always believed that he’s be a better running back than a quarterback because he doesn’t have the best accuracy.

The Chicago Bears took a chance on him and it didn’t work. So now Fields will try to get his career going with the New York Jets.

It’ll be especially tough for Fields to take over for Aaron Rodgers in

New York. As everybody knows, the New York fans and media are the toughest in the league. And the 26-year-old Fields, who has thrown 45 touchdown passes but also tossed 31 interceptions.

Then there’s Daniel Jones, who is going from the New York Giants to the Indianapolis Colts.

Jones spent six unspectacular seasons with the Giants, throwing 70 touchdowns but also 47 interceptions. Those are not great numbers, but the Colts are hoping that a change of scenery might help Jones turn into the quarterback everyone expected coming out of Alabama.

There are always quarterback changes in the NFL, but the three big names, Rodgers, Wilson and Cousins, are long-time veterans who we all associate with a particular team.

Of the three, I think Rodgers is going to have the best chance to succeed. The Steelers were 10-7 last year and now with Rodgers, maybe 12 or 13 wins are in the future.

Senior momentBy Matilda Charles

Tuning out the news

Tuning out the news

Today marks seven days since I’ve watched the television news. For a news junkie, that’s a very long time. But I feel much better for having taken a break.

It can’t be good for us, either mentally or physically, to be constantly bombarded with information that causes stress and likely has a health impact in the form of higher blood pressure.

The chronic chaos shown to us on television news even impacts us socially when we don’t know anymore what the safe topics are, and sometimes we just give up and don’t talk much at all when we’re with others. Gone is the spontaneity (and the joy) we once felt, and we eventually stop socializing altogether because of the additional stress it brings when in the company of others who insist on talking about negative news topics.

The news comes at us from several directions: the

computer, the television, our cellphones. Add to that the stream of breaking news alerts either on the television or notifications chiming on our phones, and we just don’t get away from it.

Before I could go cold turkey and avoid the news, I knew I’d have to keep up with weather. In my area it’s safer to know what’s coming. To stay ahead of possible bad weather I use the Weather Channel on TV and Wunderground (www.wunderground.com) on the computer.

Not that I can do this indefinitely, of course, avoiding the news. At some point I’m going to have to check back in with the rest of the world. But it’s been a relief not to be bombarded with constant chaos, hysteria, sensational crawlers on the screen and differing viewpoints about world events.

I invite you to try it for yourself, even if it’s just for a few days. You’ll feel better.

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Super Crossword

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MIXED-UP SINGERS

ACROSS

- 1 Fuel dispenser
8 Lord's home
14 Made untidy
20 The Beatles'
Rigby
21 Coated with gunky stuff
22 Box up
23 "Sk8er Boi" singer making an exit?
25 Stir to action
26 Go kaput
27 Italia's capital
28 Very sad tune from the "Sir Duke" singer?
30 Stephen of the screen
32 Very big bird
34 Seattle-to-L.A. dir.
35 Jaded
36 Hazard encountered by the "Thank U, Next" singer?
42 By birth
44 Diatribe deliverers
45 Many a stencil user
48 Dog in "The Thin Man"
52 Consent (to)
53 "Lean on Me" singer makes twisting movements?
55 Pub potable
56 Unit of petrol

- "@" signs
58 Total up
59 Cambodian money unit
61 Part of QED
63 Actor Carroll O'_
64 "Grease" singer's big country home?
69 Subway system named after the "Careless Hands" singer?
72 UFO crew
73 Czech-German river
75 Infirmary-free
76 Leah's father, in the Bible
77 Ellipsis part
79 "That's someone _ problem!"
81 Lacking hair
85 Webpage for devotees of the "Don't Speak" singer?
88 Spain's peninsula
90 Morays, e.g.
91 Creator of body designs
92 Splash, as cooking oil
93 Stanley Cup org.
94 Person painting a portrait of the "All My Ex's Live in Texas" singer?
96 Port in Iraq
100 Hawaiian strings, for short

- 103 Binge-watching aid, in brief
104 Part of R&R, in brief
105 "Toxic" singer dissects a sentence?
110 Soothe
112 Cut (off)
115 California city
116 "Hound Dog" singer's noisy pet dogs?
119 Totally ruins
120 Ornamental tuft on a hat
121 Funeral tunes
122 Set of nine
123 Dior dresses
124 Jean Arp or Max Ernst

DOWN

- 1 Neuter, as a horse
2 Jai _
3 Pay to a fired worker
4 _ gow poker
5 Not marked, as a test
6 Not stereo
7 People studying to be docs
8 Suffix with Sudan
9 Deli dish
10 Brand of
103-Across
11 Despot Idi
12 Ministers (to)
13 Sword parts

- 14 Honey drink
15 Clothe
16 Angry look
17 Sweatbox
18 Twisty turns
19 John of plows
24 Dalai _
29 Freshens up
31 Key in
33 Dark
36 Snatch
37 Relay, say
38 Prior to
39 "Dream on!"
40 Rarefied air
41 Map no.
43 Botch it up
46 Poets' Muse
47 Q-U linkup
48 Make up (for)
49 Redirect, as a train
50 Choir voice
51 Jetsons' dog
53 Actor Ferrell
54 "_ in peace"
56 Hawaiian string, of a sort
59 Lisa of "Soap Talk"
60 ICU tubes
62 Painter's studio
63 Cartoon pic
64 Dijon dance
65 Off to _ start (behind)
66 Insult in print
67 Toronto Maple _
68 Unleash on

- 70 Syngman of South Korea
71 Family VIPs
74 Make drunk
77 Contact by phone
78 Many a time
80 Fine fiddle
81 Singer Midler
82 Constitution part establishing the executive branch
83 Whoppers
84 Pub missile
86 Final degree
87 Refusals
88 Hoppy brew, for short
89 Drove fast
92 Wandered
93 C.S. Lewis' fantasy world
95 Tony winner
Judith
96 Back half of a 45
97 Chef's cover
98 Five plus two
99 Lift
101 Iota follower
102 Flynn of film
106 Mail out
107 Highway rig
108 X Games airer
109 _ gin fizz
111 Actress Ward
113 Rich rocks
114 Hushed "Hey!"
117 Trio in "mammal"
118 Links org.

Answer Page 4

Comix

OUT ON A LIMB By Gary Kopervas



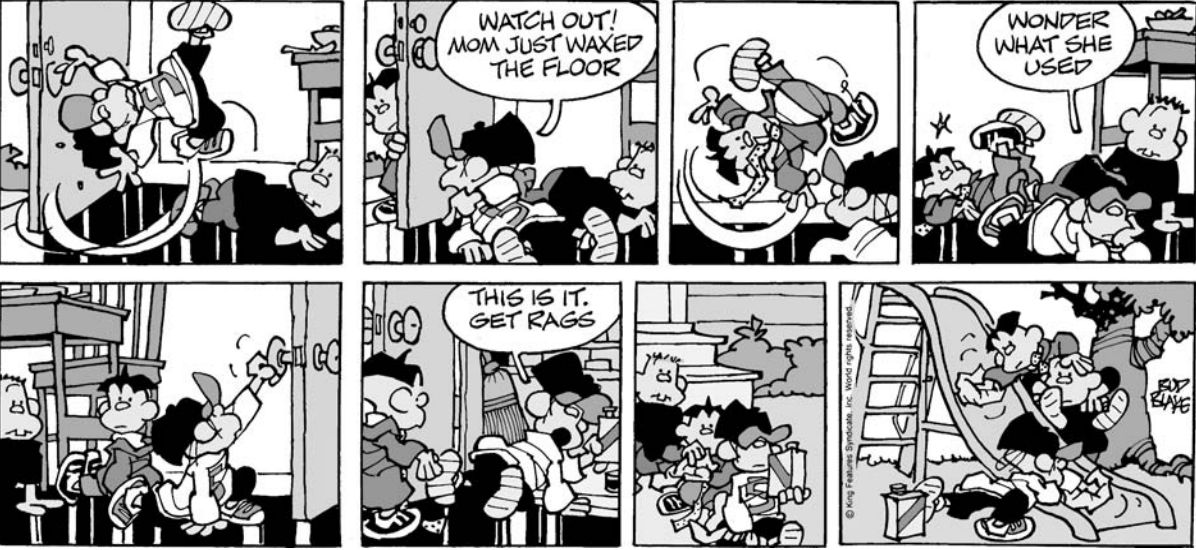
AMBER WAVES By Dave T. Phipps



THE SPATS By Jeff Pickering



TIGER By Bud Blake



Lowry

From Page 2

as a counterexample of development – anyone can run an emirate sitting atop gobs of oil and living under the U.S. security umbrella.

Trump’s vision is actually as universalist as Bush’s; Bush believed every country could become a democracy, and Trump believes that every country can prosper.

Iran can be “a wonderful, safe, great country, but they cannot have a nuclear weapon.” Lebanon, too, can embrace “a future of economic development and peace.” He’ll reach out to anyone and bring them into this charmed circle of commerce and comity. “As I’ve shown repeatedly,” he said, “I am willing to end past conflicts and forge new partnerships.”

For Trump, it’s the results that matter – the prosperity and peace – not how a given government achieves them. That’s none of our business. “I believe it is God’s job to sit in judgment,” he pronounced. Trump’s job is to promote “stability, prosperity and peace.”

In sum, the speech was a deal-maker’s realpolitik, or a doctrine that we won’t really

have a doctrine except for trying to get everyone rich and to get along with as many people as possible.

The address was certainly bracing. But values do matter. Liberal societies are, as a general matter, more reliably our friends, and more reliably achieve prosperity. If Bush’s vision advanced an unrealistic view of what motivates mankind – all yearning for liberty, no yearning for power or revenge – Trump drastically simplifies human motivation in his own way. As history has shown, people will fight and die for faiths and ideologies when these have nothing to do with prosperity, or actively destroy it.

Also, it should be said that standing for democratic ideals is an enormous part of America’s appeal around the world, and if we get into a competition with China purely over who is richer and can cut more deals, we are kicking away a major advantage. That’s likely an insight for another president, though. Trump has his doctrine.

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

The pros and cons of screening tests

DEAR DR. ROACH: I see screening tests advertised often. For \$160, I can get screened for conditions that might cause strokes, heart disease, aneurysms, etc. My partner and I are in our early and mid-60s. Should we get these done? – K.S.



Sometimes screening tests make a great deal of sense; other times they don’t. It all depends on how likely it is that a person would have the condition in question.

For example, screening for an aneurysm of the aorta has been proven to save lives in men between 65-75 with any history of smoking. It can also be considered in other people, especially if there is a family history of an abdominal aortic aneurysm.

On the other hand, many stand-alone screening centers offer ultrasound evaluations of the carotid arteries in the neck, but expert groups such as the United States Preventive Services Task Force recommend against it in people without symptoms. They have concluded that screening for blockages of the carotid arteries in people without symptoms is more likely to result in harm than benefit.

The main harm comes from false-positive ultrasounds, which must often be confirmed by an angiogram. About 1% of people get a stroke during an angiogram, which is more than the expected benefit of finding and treating blockages in a person with no symptoms. Some people would be helped by screenings, but more people are expected to be harmed.

I have also seen an unfortunate lack of timely follow-ups. I had a family member get a screening done, and shortly after he died of a heart attack, a letter came from the center saying that he should follow up with a cardiologist.

In my opinion, screening tests should be decided on by your doctor, who knows your medical history. I don’t recommend going to places that just do screening, even if the monetzry cost is affordable.

DEAR DR. ROACH: I am an 81-year-old man in fairly good health, I think, except for osteoporosis. Three years ago, I had a very weak pulse rate and was hospitalized. My wife thought I was having a stroke. The cardiologist had a pacemaker implanted, and I’ve been good since. But two months ago, the cardiologist listened to my chest and said I had a murmur, a word I didn’t know. She also said “sinuses” and “plaque” and “valve.” She ordered an echocardiogram, which I’ve had, but don’t know the results of yet. Am I in danger? If so, how much? – W.C.G.

By now, I hope and expect that your cardiologist will have told you not to worry. A “murmur” is just a sound that doctors can hear from the heart, which sometimes means that there is damage to one of the four valves of the heart. Guessing by the terms she used, I think your cardiologist is concerned that you may have calcium (“plaque”) in the aortic valve, which is supported by the sinuses of Valsalva in the aortic root.

Calcium in the aortic valve by itself may not cause problems, but it can keep the valve from being able to open all the way – a condition called aortic stenosis. It isn’t always easy to hear the difference between aortic valve calcification and aortic stenosis, but an echocardiogram gives a very accurate measurement of the aortic valve opening.

If you have aortic stenosis, she will discuss your options, which may include surgery if it is severe. However, if you have the more common calcification without stenosis, she will make sure that your blood pressure and cholesterol levels are controlled and will likely redo the echo in a few years.

Dr. Roach regrets that he is unable to answer individual questions, but will incorporate them in the column whenever possible. Readers may email questions to ToYourGoodHealth@med.cornell.edu. ©2025 North America Synd., Inc. All Rights Reserved.



Moore Texas by Roger Moore
The Texas town of Ding Dong is in, where else, Bell County.

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 T

QXFRATE JZOT QARW CRWT-
YRED BUR BRZKE KSGT JR
YTVRWT X CURAJ-RAETA VRRG:
“S YTKSTFT S VXO QAD.”

Answer Page 4

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Veterans Legacy Memorial has expanded



by Freddy Groves

The Veterans Legacy Memorial has just expanded by 210,000 pages, courtesy of the American Battle Monuments Commission.

The ABMC manages cemeteries and federal memorials in 17 countries to honor the over 200,000 service members who died in World War I and World War II and who are buried in those overseas locations. Organized in 1923, the agency constructed and maintains the sites, which includes memorials, monuments and headstones. Each location on the ABMC website (www.abmc.gov) includes virtual 360 drone footage of the area, search function, the history of each site and more.

The list of ABMC sites reads like a history book: Normandy American

Cemetery in France, the Corozal American Cemetery in Panama, the Manila American Cemetery in the Philippines, the Cambridge American Cemetery in England and so many more sites of previous wars and conflicts around the globe.

And now 210,000 of those service members will have their own individual pages added to the Veterans Legacy Memorial digital online website (www.vlm.cem.va.gov), which contains the names of those buried across the country. The addition will bring the total pages to over 10 million.

Each Veterans Legacy Memorial service member page includes a bio with branch of service, dates of birth and death, rank, decorations and stories and photos uploaded by family and friends.

If you want to pre-qualify for burial in a national veterans cemetery, you can apply in advance at va.gov/

burials-memorials. (Click on “Eligibility” and fill out the VA Form 40-10007.) You’ll need your DD-214. Or call the scheduling office at (800) 535-1117 if you need help with the paperwork.

Once approved, if you wish, you can create your own Legacy page that will be activated upon your passing. It’s called “Your Story, Your Legacy,” and you’ll be able to create it to read just as you wish.

If you’re trying to add to a Legacy page for a family member (or create your own) and need help, call National Cemetery Support at (866) 245-1490.

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• Going to the beach for your vacation? Here’s a handy hint to take great care of your swimsuit. They get more expensive all the time! Pack at least two suits and bring a box of baking soda. Soak suit for 15 minutes in a baking soda and water solution, then lay flat on a towel. Roll the towel up and wring lightly. Unroll and hang to dry. Rotate suits.

• Fill a 2-liter soda bottle with water, then plunge the top into a potted plant for self-watering while you are on vacation. Use smaller bottles for smaller pots.

• “This should be a life tip. Feel comfortable in your party clothes. You will be more confident and be a better conversationalist than if you are uncomfortable in very high heels or a too-tight dress. Let your inner light shine! It took me 60 years of uncomfortable clothes for this grandma to figure it out.” – F.L. in Oregon

• Use your Christmas light timers to set different lights to go on or off at certain times of the day while you are away on vacation. You can even use a timer on a radio, so it comes on sometimes too. The variation will make people think you are home.

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.

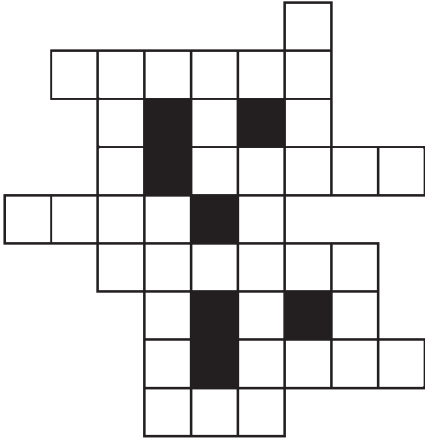
Answer Page 4

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	+		-		= 4			
+		+		+				
	+		÷		= 1			
÷		÷		×				
	+		×		= 60			
=		=		=				
2		1		60				
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9



ETI
DOLACE
LYARO
♥ERDA
CAMISO
URC
ALRO
♥EMDAR
DLI
♥TERIDO
♥TELCA
♥YERE



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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Weekly SUDOKU

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

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging

Answer Page 5

♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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