



— Internet

TRANSITIONING – Changes are coming to the public transportation services in the City of Socorro. The El Paso Transit Authority (ETA) announced last year that its buses, like the one above, would no longer stop in Socorro as of July 1, 2025.

City of Socorro launches on-demand microtransit services

Socorro’s new transit services will be offered Monday through Friday, from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m.

By **Alfredo Vasquez**
Special to the Courier

SOCORRO – After El Paso County Commissioners voted last year to have the El Paso Transportation Authority (ETA) end its transit service within Socorro city limits by July 1st, 2025, the lower valley town’s council members moved swiftly to complete their *Socorro ¡Avanzando!* transit plan.

ETA operates the regional bus system serving communities throughout El Paso County’s outlying communities. In 2024, the City Council of Socorro

voted to no longer enter into a service agreement with the El Paso transportation entity.

Instead, Socorro officials stated that through their transit planning process and by engaging with bus riders along the current routes, they were able to identify the community’s most pressing transit needs.

According to Socorro officials, the planning process revealed that an on-demand, microtransit service with zero-fare fees would best serve Socorro residents. The transit plan feedback indicated that the city could run its own transportation service.

City officials said that the planning process, titled *Socorro ¡Avanzando!*, included assessing current transit services and identifying traffic needs and improvement options. For their findings, the city also engaged local riders of ETA’s current bus routes, as well as community members, families, and stakeholders.

Thus, after all the information gathering activities were completed, City of Socorro officials announced recently that as of this coming July 1st, plans are to launch their new public transportation services.

To develop the new transit plan, City of Socorro council members partnered with The Goodman Corporation, a Texas-based professional service

See **SOCORRO**, Page 3

Rodriguez graduates prestigious FBI National Academy

Horizon City Police Department glad to have their Lieutenant back

By **Carolyn Morales**
Special to the Courier

Horizon City, TX – Lieutenant John Rodriguez, of the Horizon City Police Department (HCPD) has graduated from the prestigious FBI National Academy, when he completed Session 294 on June 5, 2025, at the FBI Training Academy in Quantico, Virginia.

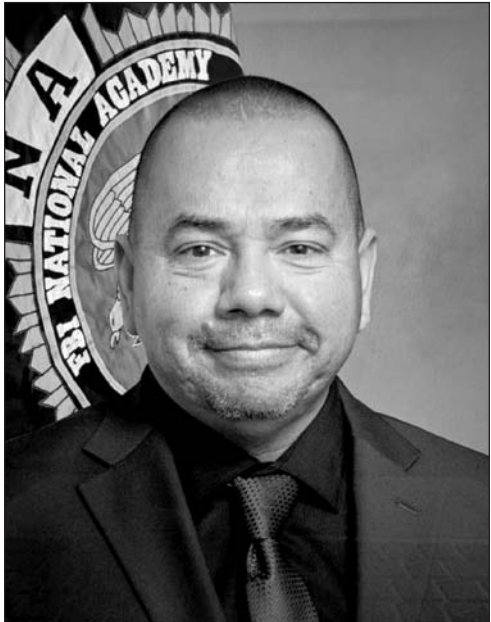
Rodriguez began his career with HCPD in August 2012 as a patrolman. In 2014, he assumed

the responsibilities of Officer in Charge during shifts when the patrol sergeant was unavailable. He became a certified Field Training Officer in October 2015, mentoring and guiding new recruits. He was promoted to patrol sergeant on November 1, 2016, and most recently to patrol lieutenant on March 10, 2024. With nearly 13 years of dedicated service, Rodriguez continues to exemplify the values of integrity, leadership, and professional growth.

The FBI National Academy is internationally recognized for its

academic excellence and leadership development. This elite, 10-week program provides advanced training in areas such as communication, behavioral science, leadership, and physical fitness. Admission is highly competitive – fewer than one percent of law enforcement officers nationwide are selected. They require a proven record of professionalism, experience, and leadership.

Session 294 included 239 law enforcement professionals from 48



– Photo courtesy Horizon City Police Department

See **RODRIGUEZ**, Page 5 Lieutenant John Rodriguez

Putin is playing Trump

It was never going to be easy for President Trump to bring an end to the Ukraine war, but it’s even harder when he’s operating under an erroneous theory of the conflict.

The man who instigated the war and who is the chief obstacle to peace is Vladimir Putin. Yet, this enemy of the West, murderer of dissidents and serial perpetrator of wars of territorial aggrandizement has never been subjected to the same U.S. pressure campaign as Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, whose fundamental offense is to be leading a country that his larger neighbor wants to subjugate.

After a much-anticipated phone call with Putin on Monday, Trump sounded optimistic and said Ukraine and Russia would keep negotiating, although there

was no indication of anything new.

After the browbeating he took in the Oval Office a few months ago and a pause in U.S. intelligence assistance, Zelenskyy got the message. He’s done everything possible to portray himself as the reasonable one who’s interested in pursuing a deal.

A U.S.-proposed general ceasefire? Zelenskyy has said he’s willing to accept it. Russia’s idea for direct talks in Istanbul? Zelenskyy said he’d go himself.

He signed a critical minerals deal with the U.S. Putin, in contrast, has been at the receiving end of an all-carrots approach, and has reacted accordingly.

One of Trump’s advantages on the world stage is that he can make use of the “mad man theory,” the idea that he’s so unpredictable and potentially extreme that it’s best not to displease him. Against

type, Trump has been less the madman with Putin than the therapist who speaks in dulcet tones, is understanding to a fault and is determinedly nonjudgmental.

Pretty much whatever Putin does, Trump says someone else would do the same in his circumstances. Putin could nuke Warsaw, and Trump might observe, “Well, it’s a shame and I hope he doesn’t do it again.”

Trump almost never strikes a pleading tone, but when Putin launched a large-scale strike on Kyiv last month, Trump posted on Truth Social,



See LOWRY, Page 7

View from here

By Dr. Glenn Mollette

Be extra vigilant after dark

Killer poses as policeman: Make sure you really know who is at your door

The recent murder of MinnesotastateRepresentative Melissa Horton and her husband Mark has dropped jaws across the country. The couple was gunned down in their home by someone masquerading as a police officer. Obviously, he was able to fool them long enough to kill them. Moments before and only five miles away he had visited the home of Minnesota state Senator John Hoffman and his wife Yvette shooting them multiple times, most likely thinking he was leaving them for dead. At this writing they are expected to survive.

Such an intrusion scares citizens because criminals copy the acts of other criminals. How do we know if a legitimate policer officer is

knocking on our door whether it’s the middle of the night or the middle of the day?

Two officers should make the visit and announce themselves as police loud and clear. They should clearly state the reason for the visit before entering a home. Flashlights or outside lighting should be on to help with visibility and identification. Uniforms should be visible with badges and IDs. The knock pattern should be a firm knock or doorbell press then they should announce themselves as police again. There should be a 30 second to one minute wait for a response from the resident before knocking or ringing the doorbell again. For a search warrant, the warrant should be shown before entry. Your

local sheriff or city chief of police may have a different protocol and it needs to be made known.

Unfortunately, this still doesn’t keep a criminal from copying the protocol to achieve their criminal endeavor.

I believe 99 percent of Americans are good law-abiding people. However, no one wants to be caught off guard by a criminal invasion. Representative Horton would not have wanted to mistakenly shoot a real policer officer who might have been doing his job to protect her. Sadly, the man was there to kill she and her husband. He succeeded. This is why door knocking after dusk is a bad idea unless you have a pre-arranged appointment and everyone knows who everyone is and the reason

for the visit.

When I was 12 years old, I was home alone while my parents were at church. About eight o’clock it was pitch black with darkness and a man started knocking on our front door. He then went to the back door and started knocking. He then came back to the front door and continued pounding the door. I was terrified. I didn’t know who it could be. I loaded our 12-gauge shotgun and aimed it at the front door in fear he would soon be coming through.

Like a fool, I opened the door but knew the outer storm door was locked. I had the shot gun close by. The man asked if my dad was home to which I replied, “No. he’s gone to church.” The man then inquired if my

father still had hogs for sale to which I replied, “Yes, but you’ll need to speak to him about that.” The man said he would come back later. To this day I don’t know who that man was but I’m glad I didn’t shoot him. It’s too bad Representative Horton or Senator Hoffman didn’t shoot the man knocking on their door in the middle of the night.

Knocking on doors at night is a bad idea.

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

(The opinion piece above is expresses Glenn Mollette’s thoughts and does not represent the West Texas County Courier’s views on the issue. The Courier does not recommend shooting people through doors. If you cannot fully identify somebody at your door you should move away to a secure area of your residence, call 911 and follow their instructions.)

1973
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Years
2025

WEST TEXAS COUNTY
COURIER

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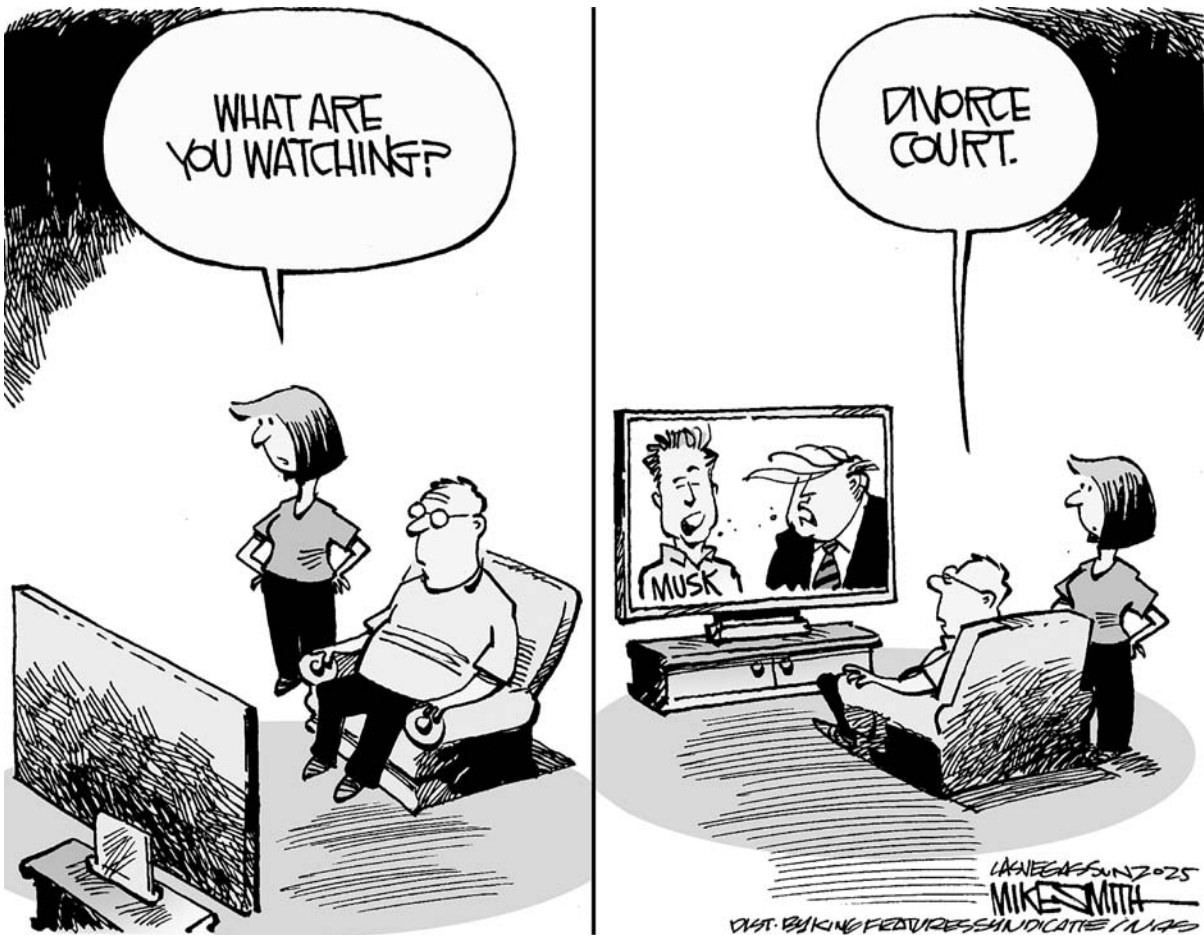
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King Crossword

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ACROSS

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 - 14 Deserve
 - 15 Most spiteful
 - 17 Erte's style
 - 18 Naval rank
 - 19 Director DuVernay
 - 21 Hosp. workers
 - 22 Frasier's ex-wife
 - 26 Hay bundles
 - 29 Transcript no.
- 30 Dr. of hip-hop
 - 31 Spanish cheers
 - 32 Espionage org.
 - 33 Close
 - 34 "Diamonds" singer
 - 35 Kilmer of "Top Gun"
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 - 41 Dodges
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 - 5 Property claims
 - 6 Mini-albums, for short
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 - 8 Bicycle part
 - 9 "Norma _"
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 - 16 Corvette quartet
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 - 33 Neighbor of Tibet
 - 35 TiVo precursor
 - 36 Foes
 - 38 Hawkeye
 - 39 "For _ sake!"
 - 42 Actress Merrill
 - 43 Eve's grandson
 - 44 Without
 - 45 Busy insect
 - 46 Sgt., for one
 - 47 Corn spike
 - 49 Chopper

Answer Page 4

Socorro

From Page 1

firm with expertise in planning, engineering, and project management. City officials stated that, together, they were able to focus on providing transit services that better aligned with the community’s needs.

Subsequently, this July Socorro city officials will launch the city’s own on-demand microtransit services. The new endeavor, however, will come with certain specified features. For instance, city officials determined that the new transit service be operated directly by the city using its existing vehicle fleet and that it rely on the TripMaster software.

So, beginning in July, Socorro’s transit services hours will be from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday through Friday, but will exclude major holidays. The services will be at zero cost initially, but demand could require a fee adjustment, according to a City of Socorro news release.

The Socorro transit services will run on a same-day trip schedule with limited advance reservations, and, according to city officials, will target wait times to less than 30 minutes for most riders. Also, plans are to be able

to adapt service offerings as demand and resources evolve.

“Microtransit will offer residents a more accessible, flexible, and responsive transit option compared to the infrequent and hard-to-access fixed-route bus services provided by ETA,” according to the City of Socorro news release.

“Socorro is growing and changing at a pace exceeding the state average,” stated one

Socorro city administrator. “As a result, it’s important for the city to better understand the unique challenges and opportunities it has when it comes to ensuring high-quality transit services.”

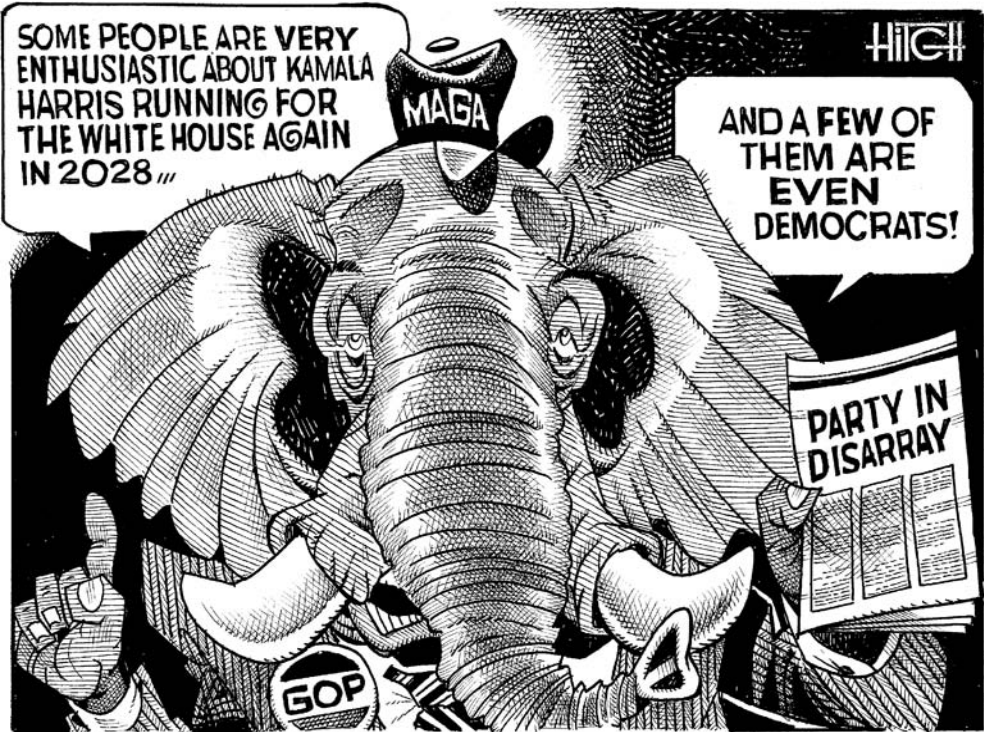
Current City of Socorro council members are Rudy Cruz Jr, mayor; Ruben Reyes, at large representative; Cesar Nevarez, District 1 representative; Alejandro Garcia, District 2 representative; Maria “Gina” Cordero, District 3 representative; Irene Rojas, District 4 representative; and Adriana Rodarte, city manager.

ETA officials stated that their public transportation services will continue without interruption in the other townships that depend on ETA assistance including the Village of Vinton, Town of Anthony, Town of Horizon City, City of San Elizario, and Town of Clint.



– Internet

Archives: www.wtxcc.com



Salcido, Corona, take on new roles in SEISD

By Horacio Hernandez
Special to the Courier

SAN ELIZARIO – The San Elizario Independent School District is preparing for the upcoming school year with new leadership in place. Superintendent Dr. Jeannie Meza-Chavez has announced two key administrative appointments: a new Director of Special Education and a new principal for Ann M. Garcia-Enriquez Middle School.

Richard Salcido, who has served as principal of Ann M. Garcia-Enriquez Middle School for the past five years, has been named the district’s new Director of Special Education. Salcido brings nearly two decades of educational experience, including previous roles as assistant principal at both the high school and middle school levels in neighboring districts. He began his career as a special education teacher and led a special education department for eight years.

“Being a principal has shown me how collaboration, inclusion, and individualized

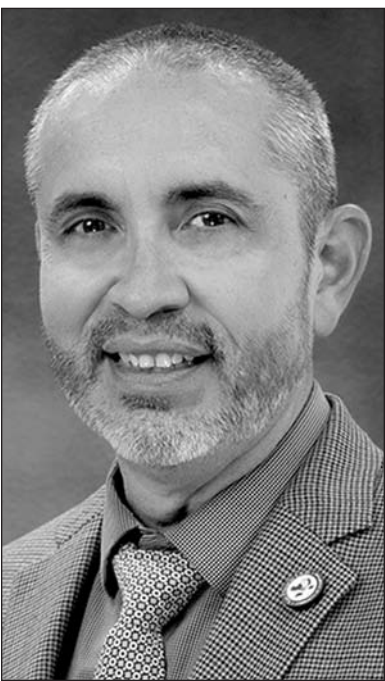
support are essential to helping every student succeed and access the services they need,” said Salcido.

Salcido holds a Master’s degree in Computer Information Systems from the University of Phoenix and a Bachelor’s degree from the University of Texas at El Paso.

Taking over as principal at Garcia-Enriquez Middle School is Alexander Corona, who has worked alongside Salcido as assistant principal for the past five years. Corona brings a varied background to the position, having worked as a school counselor, theater arts teacher, and site manager for Region XIX’s Head Start Program.

“Mr. Corona being named principal at Ann M. Garcia-Enriquez Middle School is a well-deserved opportunity,” Salcido said. “I know the campus will continue to grow and thrive under his servant leadership.”

Corona earned a Master’s in Education from the University of Texas at El Paso and holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology



Richard Salcido

and Theater from Occidental College. He said he is ready to take the next step in his leadership journey.

“As I step into the principal role, I’m eager to build on the



Alexander Corona

skills gained as an assistant principal to lead a supportive, high-achieving school community and help our students soar to new heights,” said Corona.

– Photos courtesy San Elizario ISD

Strange BUT TRUE

By Lucie Winborne

• According to legend, and the official story from Nathan’s, four immigrants held the first hot dog eating contest at Nathan’s Famous stand on Coney Island on July 4, 1916, to prove who was the most patriotic.

• Koala bears have no sweat glands, so they cool themselves by licking their arms and stretching out as they rest in trees.

• Asbestos used to be a common sight on film sets. The carcinogenic mineral was a common substitute for snowflakes in film-making until shortly after World War II.

• No matter how hot your summer day feels, you won’t actually be able to cook an egg on a sidewalk. That’s because you’d need a temperature of at least 158 F, and the highest recorded only reached 131 F. Besides that, concrete isn’t a good heat conductor.

• When it comes to wine, and Sauvignon Blanc in particular, a cat pee-like aroma is often indicative of a high-quality vintage.

• Inazawa Grand Bowl bowling center in Japan is the world’s largest bowling alley, with 116 lanes.

• Mars’ dust storms, the planet’s defining weather feature, are the largest in the solar system and can last for months.

• Despite producing 95% of the world’s bourbon supply, Kentucky’s official drink is milk.

• A museum in Helsinki, Finland, has been infested with *Loxosceles laeta*, venomous recluse spiders, that originally came from South America. The spiders are extremely resistant to attempts to kill them, and no one knows who imported them.

• The average person can only hear sounds up to 20 kHz, but a violin string can vibrate at frequencies of up to 100 kHz.

• A male cheetah can cause a female cheetah to ovulate by barking at her.

Thought for the Day: “Never limit yourself because of others’ limited imagination; never limit others because of your own limited imagination.”

– Mae Jemison

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CryptoQuip
Answer

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Moments in time

THE HISTORY CHANNEL

- On June 16, 1858, newly nominated senatorial candidate Abraham Lincoln told more than 1,000 delegates at the Illinois Republican Convention in Springfield that the nation was facing a crisis that could destroy the Union, paraphrasing a New Testament passage when he warned that “a house divided against itself cannot stand.”
- On June 17, 1976, the National Basketball Association announced a merger with its rival, the American Basketball Association, and took on the ABA’s four most successful franchises: the Denver Nuggets, the Indiana Pacers, the New York (later Brooklyn) Nets and the San Antonio Spurs.
- On June 18, 1178, five badly frightened monks in Canterbury, England, witnessed an explosion on the moon’s surface after the sun had set. As their abbey’s chronicler described it, “A flaming torch sprang up, spewing out... fire, hot coals and sparks.” The moon, he marveled, “throbbed like a wounded snake.”
- On June 19, 2014, two weeks after he abdicated the Spanish throne amidst low approval ratings, King Juan Carlos I removed his red sash, symbolic of his status as the leader of the Spanish military, and draped it around the waist of his son, 46-year-old Crown Prince Felipe, completing his official transfer of power.
- On June 20, 1981, four Dutch studio musicians recording under the name Stars on 45, who sounded uncannily like the Beatles, made it to the top of the U.S. pop charts with their single titled “Medley: Intro Venus/ Sugar Sugar/No Reply/I’ll Be Back/Drive My Car/Do You Want To Know A Secret/We Can Work It Out/I Should Have Known Better/Nowhere Man/You’re Going To Lose That Girl/Stars On 45.”
- On June 21, 1913, aviatrix Georgia “Tiny” Broadwick, who stood just four feet, eight inches tall and weighed 80 pounds, became the first woman to parachute from a plane. On the way up, she was suspended from a trap seat outside the cockpit, with her parachute on a shelf above her.
- On June 22, 1953, a Brooklyn newsboy received an unusual nickel in payment. Upon dropping it on the ground he discovered it was hollow and contained a tiny photo of coded numbers. His discovery led the FBI to a Soviet spy named Rudolf Abel.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

AYUDA, Inc.

Invitation to Bid

Adults and Youth United Development Association Inc. (AYUDA, Inc.) is a recipient of the

Amy Young Barrier Removal Program Contract #1003759

from the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs.

AYUDA will accept proposals from licensed General Contractors/

Builders for up to 50 Single Family Home Barrier Removal modifications for each contract. A Bid packet can be picked up starting June 30, 2025, through July 30, 2025, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Bid packets or proposals can be picked up from and delivered to:

AYUDA, Inc. 1325 Beverly Ann San Elizario, TX 79849

Submitted Bid Packets or proposals must have

Amy Young Barrier Removal Program Contract #1003759

written on the lower left-hand side of

the envelope. A public opening of the packets will take place on July 31, 2025, at 3:00 p.m. at the office of AYUDA (phone 915-851-0272).

The General Contractor/Builder must ensure that employees and applicants are not discriminated against because of their race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, sexual orientation, or disability. General Contractor/Builder must be licensed with El Paso County and the City of El Paso, TX. General Contractor/Builder must also know current El Paso County

Construction of Single-Family Homes Codes with a minimum of 3 years of experience.

AYUDA has a conflict of interest procedure in accordance with 24CFR 92356. AYUDA has a Bidders Protest Rights Procedure. AYUDA reserves the right to reject any bids or to waive any informality in the bidding.

Adults and Youth United Development Association Inc. is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer.

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Rodriguez

From Page 1

U.S. states, the District of Columbia, 14 countries, six military organizations, and four federal civilian agencies. By completing the program, Rodriguez joins a distinguished network of law enforcement leaders from around the world.

FBI Academy instructors, many of whom are internationally recognized experts, deliver the program’s academic content, with coursework accredited by the University of Virginia. Since its inception in 1935, the FBI National Academy has graduated over 56,000 law enforcement professionals. The National Academy shares its home with the FBI’s New Agent and Intelligence Analyst training programs at the FBI Training Academy in Quantico.

Rodriguez is the fourth current HCPD officer to complete the program. He joins Chief of Police Marco A. Vargas, Assistant Chief of Police Jose A. Kluge, and Lieutenant Kaycee Valdez. He returns with enhanced skills, strategic insight, and a broadened professional network that will further strengthen HCPD leadership and service to the Horizon City community.

Socorro Independent School District

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public Meeting to Review Federally Funded Programs

The Socorro Independent School District will conduct a public information meeting to review the following 2025-2026 ESSA Federal Grants:

- Title I, Part A – Improving Basic Programs
- Title I, Part C – Migrant Education Program
- Title I, Part D, Subpart 2 – Prevention and Intervention Programs for Children and Youth Who Are Neglected, Delinquent, or At-Risk
- Title II, Part A – Preparing, Training and Recruiting High Quality Teachers, Principals or Other School Leaders
- Title III, Part A – English Language Acquisition
- Title IV, Part A – Student Support and Academic Enrichment

A Regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of Socorro ISD will be held June 24, 2025, beginning at 6:00 PM in the District Service Center Board Room, 12440 Rojas Drive, El Paso, Texas 79928.

S.I.S.D does not discriminate against any individual with regard to race, color, national origin, age, religion, sex, marital or veteran status, the presence of a medical condition, disability, or any other legally protected status. 42 U.S.C 2000e-2(a); 20 U.S.C. 1681: Labor Code 21-051.

AVISO PUBLICO

Lajunta Pública para Revisar los Programas de Fondos Federales


El Distrito Escolar Independiente de Socorro llevará a cabo una junta pública para revisar los siguientes programas federales de 2025-2026:

- Título I, Parte A – Mejorando Programas Básicos
- Título I, Parte C – Programa Educativo Migrante
- Título I, Parte D, Subparte 2 – Programas de Prevención e Intervención para Niños y Jóvenes Abandonados, Delincuentes o en Riesgo
- Título II, Parte A – La Preparación, la Capacitación y la Contratación de Maestros, Directores de Escuelas de Alta Capacidad u Otros Dirigentes Escolares
- Título III, Parte A – Adquisición del Idioma Inglés
- Título IV, Parte A – Apoyo Estudiantil y Enriquecimiento Académico

El 24 de junio de 2025 se llevará a cabo una reunión regular de la Mesa Directiva de Socorro ISD a partir de las 6:00 p. m. en la sala de juntas del Centro de Servicios del Distrito, 12440 Rojas Drive, El Paso, Texas 79928.

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UTEP hopes decision to keep Golding was a good one

By Steve Escajeda
Special to the Courier

We’re about three months away from the start of Scotty Walden’s second season as the UTEP football coach. After putting together two straight top-rated recruiting classes, it’ll be exciting to see if the football team will take a step up this season and challenge for a Conference USA title. The timing of that would be especially important knowing that they will be moving to the bigger and better Mountain West Conference in 2026. But it isn’t football that has been making news out of UTEP lately, it’s the basketball team that has been recruiting new players and filling out the coaching staff over the last couple of months. After losing players to graduation and the transfer portal, head coach Joe Golding has been busy re-building his entire team.

Golding has been doing this going into the final year of his five-year contract, not knowing if he’ll even be re-hired at the end of this coming season.

And Golding has not had a ton of success at UTEP, with a mediocre 70-63 record in his four years here. That also includes a disappointing 32-40 record in CUSA games.

So, there was plenty of talk about letting Golding go after the Miners lost 8 of their last 9 games of the season. But through all the uncertainty,

Golding kept recruiting and hiring new coaches as if he was going to be re-hired.

And he was. Well, it was announced this week that Golding was given a three-year contract extension that will keep him as the Miners head man through the 2027-28 season, and maybe longer.

This year’s 2025-26 season will represent the final year of his five-year deal.

The new contract guarantees him two years (2026-27 & 2027-28), with an option for 2028-29 if he can lead the Miners to conference championship or an NCAA Tournament appearance.

There are some fans who believe this is a bad deal and they believe four years has been plenty of time for Golding to turn this program into a winner. Which he hasn’t.

But there are more things at play here.

With all the NIL (name, image and likeness) changes going on right now, it’s a crazy time for universities all over the country. Colleges can now

recruit players, round up the money and pay the student athletes directly starting this July 1.

It’s all about timing. Getting a new coach right now may not be the best thing in the world.

There’s also the move to the Mountain West Conference. This means playing better teams, this means a better TV deal, this means having to recruit better players.

How many good players are going to trust a team with a brand new unestablished coach? Or want to play on a team where the coach might be gone in a year?

The stability of having a coach under contract is great for everybody.

Of course, there are many who will say, “what good is a long contract for a coach who isn’t winning?”

That’s the risk UTEP is willing to take. Nobody will ever say that Golding doesn’t work his tail off. No one can say Golding isn’t passionate about his team.

But there are two aspects of the game he still has to prove himself on

– recruiting and game management. Can he recruit top-notch talent to UTEP, and can he outcoach the other team’s guy and get his talent across the finish line first?

Under Golding, the Miners have shown that they can play the kind of dense that would make Don Haskins proud. But Haskins always had teams that could shoot and rebound.

Golding’s teams have had a tough time doing any of that consistently. And that comes down to recruiting.

So, the Miners will have their basketball coach for the next three years (at least), and they’re going to have to go with him, win or lose.

I think UTEP made the right move, and I think Golding will get this thing going in the right direction.

UTEP Athletics is busy developing new ways to generate more money so that their coaches, especially Golding, can offer more bucks to better recruits.

Unfortunately, it’s all come down to NIL money for Golding – and better coaching.

Senior moment

By Matilda Charles

Outwitting the scammers

My phone number appears to have gotten on another list somewhere, and the potential scammers are coming out of the woodwork – again. I have my suspicions about where they could have found my number this time, but I can’t prove it, of course. All I can do is keep fending them off ... by not answering the phone if I don’t recognize the number or hanging up quickly if I’ve answered and realize it’s a scam. After a period of time, it will wind down as they don’t have the satisfaction of anyone answering or falling for their scheme.

I try to stay off their radar by keeping to a minimum the number of places that have my information, but sometimes it’s just required that you provide a phone number. We have to weigh the value of what we’ll get – perhaps it’s the grocery store loyalty card that requires a phone number to sign up, or even for voter registration – versus the potential abuse of our phone

number when the scammers get it.

I keep a spare email address for the same reason. If forced to give one out, and not really trusting what will be done with it, I give the “trash” address and once a month go through and delete what generally turns out to be 95% spam email.

Then there are the passwords for the things we need to do online. We’re advised to have “strong” passwords, but what does that really mean? It means using all the types of keys on the keyboard: upper and lower case letters, symbols and numbers. Don’t go with something that’s too easy for a thief to figure out, like the name of your former high school.

We can outwit the thieves who want our money and peace of mind. It just takes a little work.

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Super Crossword

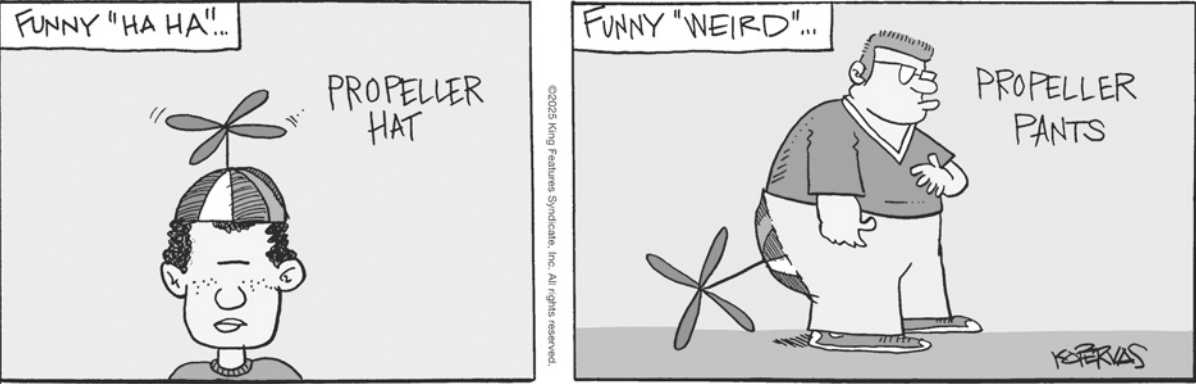
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Answer Page 4

- SAME-SOUNDING SIX ACROSS**
- 1 Woes
- 5 Doubtfire's title
- 8 Italian wine region
- 12 Blaster's stuff
- 15 Young wolf
- 18 Italian "Bye!"
- 19 "Well now!"
- 20 Demonstrate
- 21 "Yuk" relative
- 22 Enzyme name suffix
- 23 Black gem
- 24 Absolutely won't
- 26 Player of Lou Grant
- 28 Jill Biden, _
- 29 Definition of homophone #1
- 31 Name on a thesaurus
- 33 Merkel of "Twin Beds"
- 34 How goods are sold in most stores
- 35 Wearing a disguise, in brief
- 37 Gallery works
- 38 "Ben-_"
- 40 Halts
- 41 Definition of homophone #2
- 48 Bloomie's or Barney's rival
- 49 Hi-tech address
- 50 Tint
- 51 Nobles, collectively
- 56 Had a bite
- 57 "Insecure" network
- 58 Personal manner
- 60 Ore
- 61 Definition of homophone #3
- 64 Sponge gently
- 67 Suffix with Ecuador
- 68 Give the title
- 69 600 minutes after noon
- 70 Definition of homophone #4
- 76 Find an owner for, as a cat
- 77 Veers suddenly
- 78 Suffix with rocket
- 79 GPs, e.g.
- 82 Car washers, at times
- 83 Drink daintily
- 84 ETA part: Abbr.
- 85 Hoops tourney org.
- 86 Definition of homophone #5
- 91 Aspiring atty.'s exam
- 95 Label
- 96 Garden tool
- 97 Writer Nin
- 98 Will certifier, e.g.
- 102 Bro or sis
- 103 Trail mix muncher, maybe
- 105 Definition of homophone #6
- 109 However, for short
- 112 Sounding off
- 113 Pesky annoyance
- 114 Little setback
- 115 Petting zoo female
- 116 "Annabel Lee" writer
- 117 Great joy
- 118 Petting zoo female
- 119 Homophone #1
- 120 Homophone #2
- 121 Homophone #3
- 122 Homophone #4
- 123 Homophone #5
- 124 Homophone #6
- DOWN**
- 1 PC symbol
- 2 Script part
- 3 Sweet treat that's tiered
- 4 Chicago White _
- 5 Telegraphic code creator
- 6 Scarlett's Butler
- 7 Large couch
- 8 Accedes
- 9 Brand of cat food
- 10 Lug around
- 11 Victorious cry
- 12 Robbery
- 13 Lowest point
- 14 Mere hint
- 15 Biblical name of Palestine
- 16 Log-on name
- 17 Green gem minerals
- 25 Road 180
- 27 Location
- 29 Big name in waffles
- 30 Noble Brit
- 32 "My mistake!"
- 35 "Insecure" co-star
- Rae
- 36 Clutter-free
- 37 Feel poorly
- 38 Elvis Presley hit
- 39 4x4, for short
- 42 _ Goldberg machine
- 43 Horse's gait
- 44 "Mask" star
- 45 On _ with
- 46 Novice, in slang
- 47 Goddess of agriculture
- 52 Allude
- 53 Oodles
- 54 "The World According to _"
- 55 Like a K-6 school: Abbr.
- 57 Top seller
- 58 Feigned kissing sound
- 59 Producing charged particles in
- 60 Film prefix with "Cop"
- 61 Insect feelers
- 62 Aug. follower
- 63 Hubbub
- 64 Sweetheart
- 65 "The King _"
- 66 Weed _ (lawn product)
- 71 Short-billed rail
- 72 Corn coverer
- 73 Fat-removal job, for short
- 74 Inca's home
- 75 Basil, for one
- 79 "Band on the Run" singer
- 80 Surrealist Salvador
- 81 Speaks
- 83 Kin of reggae
- 84 Mimic
- 85 Three trios
- 87 To be, to Henriette
- 88 More apt to complain
- 89 "Check," at a poker table
- 90 Dam creation
- 91 _ Tar Pits
- 92 Like some huts or hats
- 93 Penitent sort
- 94 Safari shelter
- 99 Michael of R.E.M.
- 100 Singer such as Pavarotti
- 101 "Shucks!"
- 102 "Yes, _!" ("Indeedy!")
- 103 Vietnam's capital
- 104 Bury
- 106 Latvia's capital
- 107 Paris hub
- 108 Actress _ Pinkett Smith
- 110 Barbers cut it
- 111 Ugly beast
- 114 Sow or cow

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

“Vladimir, STOP!”

The play for the Kremlin is obvious here. It wants to keep inching ahead with territorial gains, and if it continues to string along negotiations, has to hope that Trump tires of the whole thing and cuts off U.S. aid to Ukraine. That would reward Putin’s intransigence with an important diplomatic victory – a split between the U.S. and Europe – and a chance to make major advances against an increasingly hard-pressed Ukraine.

Trump at times seems to realize this, and has referred to Putin “tapping me along.” But the master at establishing leverage in negotiations has failed to do so over Putin. In part, this is because the president has absorbed his MAGA base’s view that Putin isn’t really the problem – the Russian leader was baited into war by globalists who took insufficient account of Russia’s interests and feelings.

Whatever one thinks of the policy of NATO expansion, Ukraine didn’t invade Russia, and Putin’s opposition to Ukraine’s existence as its

own independently governed nation is at the root of the war.

So long as Putin believes that he’s winning and holds “all of the cards,” there’s no reason for him to become more pliable. Trump and other administration officials have floated further economic measures against Russia, but these would probably be of limited utility. If the administration stipulated that if Putin doesn’t drop his maximalist demands – basically for a Ukraine that can’t defend itself – it will back Ukraine to the hilt, that might change his calculations.

Russia’s gains have come at a hideous cost – nearly a million Russian casualties since the start of the war. If Ukraine isn’t going to buckle and the U.S. isn’t going to abandon her, then the Russians could reach a point of exhaustion.

Short of that, Putin has every reason to think he can persevere when the world’s superpower has little sympathy for the victim of his unprovoked aggression.

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

Nonalcoholic fatty liver is increasingly common

DEAR DR. ROACH: I am 59 years old and am having problems with my lower abdomen. After colonoscopy and ultrasound, my doctor called to say I have a fatty liver. When asked what that means, I was told to lose weight. I weigh 170 pounds, and am 5 feet, 6 inches tall. Research online suggests that alcohol is an issue, but I don’t drink. I may have a drink or a beer when I go out, but most times I am the designated driver, so I don’t drink. The only medication I take is estradiol-norethindrone 0.5-0.1; I take one daily. Diabetes does not run in my family, and I have not been tested for it. Can you give me information on “fatty liver” and treatment? – J.A.



Non-alcoholic fatty liver disease (NAFLD) is an increasingly common problem; in fact, it is the most common liver disorder in industrialized countries. Recent studies have suggested that 30 percent to 46 percent of people in the U.S. have NAFLD. Most people are diagnosed in their 40s or 50s.

Obesity, particularly abdominal obesity (as opposed to fat around the hips and thighs) is common in fatty liver disease. People with suspected NAFLD should have other possible causes evaluated, especially viral hepatitis (types B and C), hemochromatosis and autoimmune hepatitis.

Simple fatty liver is a benign condition; however, some people will develop the more serious condition non-alcoholic steatohepatitis (NASH). Seventy percent of people with NASH are obese, and up to 75 percent have Type 2 diabetes. NASH without treatment can lead to fibrosis and even cirrhosis of the liver.

Your body mass index is 27, so you are considered overweight, not obese. Still, I would recommend gradually losing 10 pounds or so. I also would recommend that you continue to drink very moderately or not at all. Exercise also can help.

DEAR DR. ROACH: I am 77, female and in great health except for being diagnosed with achalasia. I know it is rare, and I was happy to find out why my digestive system had discomfort. Do yoga twists or shoulder stands worsen this? It seems worse when I do these. – E.H.

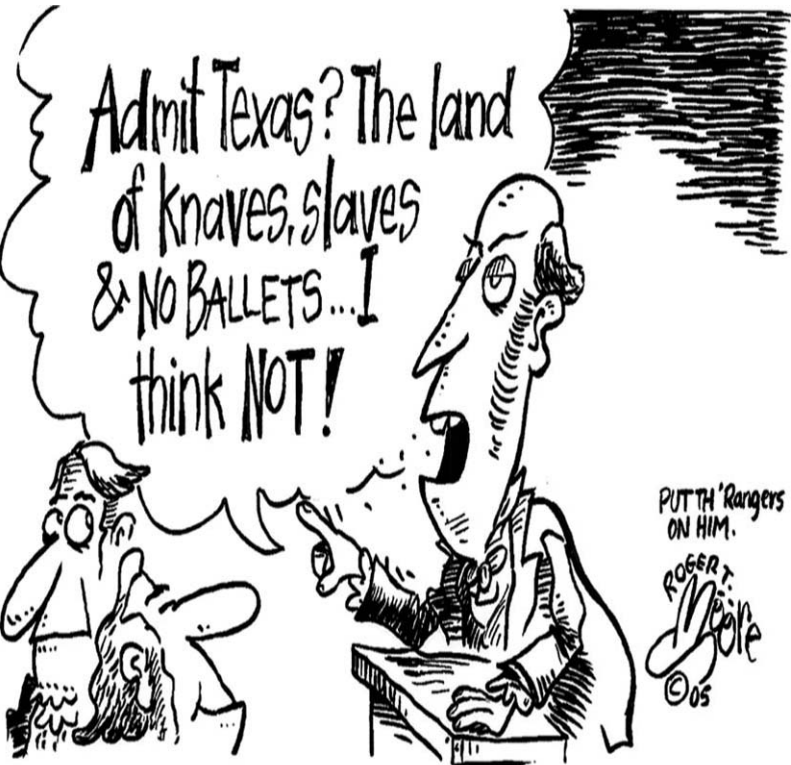
Achalasia is a disease of abnormal movement in the esophagus, the muscular tube that carries food from the back of your throat to the stomach. It is caused by damage to the nerves in the esophagus, possibly from destruction by the body’s immune system. Because of the nerve damage, the food gets stuck in the esophagus, leading to difficulty swallowing and vomiting of undigested food. Both solids and liquids are affected, as opposed to esophageal cancer, in which the problem is mostly solids.

Gravity helps us swallow, so being upside down will make gravity work against you, and I would expect the condition to worsen with yoga positions that turn the esophagus upside down. I wouldn’t recommend those types of positions, especially since they may cause or worsen vomiting.

Treatment of achalasia should be done by an expert in the condition, and may include dilation of the esophagus, injection with Botox into the muscle or surgery.

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

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Moore Texas by Roger Moore
June 16, 1838: John Quincy Adams began a 3 week filibuster in the House of Representatives against the annexation of Texas.

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: V equals Y

Y QATUI NQTN TKNPU BTUO
ETH ZDVYLJ T LAE VPUO
QPKOAV NATB TLI KTWWY LJ
NQAB NQA UDRRTWP HTZUAH.

Answer Page 4

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The monsters among us



by Freddy Groves

Just when you think you’ve seen it all and that you’re basically shockproof, along comes something that makes you wonder how people can do the things they do.

Take the guy who collected years of VA benefits belonging to his uncle. As bad as that is, it’s only the tip of the iceberg. The criminal was the caregiver for his uncle, who had severe physical disabilities and was often locked in the garage without access to food or a bathroom.

The criminal pocketed the over \$9,000 per month in disability compensation, as well as the Social Security the uncle received. Then, when the uncle died, the thief didn’t let anyone know, telling relatives the uncle went to live in a nursing home. That left him free to continue to collect the money and spend it on a lavish lifestyle, vacations,

reptiles and, apparently, shotguns – despite being a convicted felon who could not own guns.

When the scheme fell apart, after relatives started hunting for the nursing home and their family member, police found the body of the uncle in a garbage can in the shed in the backyard. He’d been dead for probably five years.

Can you imagine? I can’t.

There are questions, of course.

How was a convicted felon given custodial rights over a disabled veteran, not only his care but his finances? Was the felon not investigated as a fiduciary to manage all that money, with requirements to send reports and answer questions about the veteran?

Where was the family who hadn’t seen or talked to their relative since 2018? Did they not visit or at least call on the phone?

Did the VA not check the veteran in person at least once? Were there no mandatory physical exams to verify that the disability level and benefits were still

appropriate? No calls on the phone?

Several balls were dropped during this veteran’s life, by family, by neighbors, by the VA. I cannot believe no one checked on him.

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- When cooking meat, you have to take care. Here are two tips straight from my local butcher: First, let meats come to room temperature before cooking. It allows the meat to cook more evenly and you won’t end up with a cold center and a burnt outside. Secondly, when your meat comes off the grill or out of the oven, give it time to rest before serving. This allows the juices to redistribute throughout the cut of meat, and you’ll end up with juicy goodness in every bite.
- “Depending on how you scoop it, you can end up with too much or too little flour. Here is a tip about getting the best amount every time. Give the flour a stir with a spoon and then lightly spoon it into a measuring cup. When it is heaped over, use a knife to level out the measure without tamping down.” – Y.E. in Arkansas

- “Baking is a science as well as an art. It’s about interaction of ingredients and what happens when they mix in certain ways. So this is not so much a tip as a caution. Make sure of your substitutions, and use the right amounts of things. Then your cakes will be light and fluffy and your pastry will be flaky and moist.” – B.G. in Pennsylvania

- Berries are in season and there’s no greater time to stock up. But don’t feel like you have to make jam out of all the berries. Freeze in a single layer and transfer to a freezer-safe bag or container. They can be popped into muffins and quick breads, as well as eaten straight out of the bag for a delicious treat.
- When searing meat on a stovetop, be sure your pan is oiled (if called for) and at temperature. Otherwise, it’ll stick.

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.

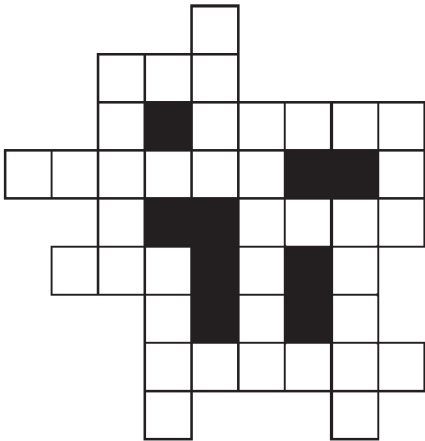
Answer Page 4

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÷		-		×				
	+		×		=88			
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1		9		48				
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9



- ABC
- HYNLOU
- GNERI
- YEBT
- ♥LEBNEA
- SYO
- VYAN
- INUCT
- ♥BNO
- OGEYVA
- ♥VLOSA
- RHBE



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

8					2			
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		5	7				2	
			9			1	7	

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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