



Poll shows Americans want immigration reform

*Modernizing ports of entry
would be included
in reform efforts*

By Alfredo Vasquez
Special to the Courier

BORDER – Past and current administrations are failing to deliver immigration reforms that deal with the crux of the problem in the immigration system, according to a majority of the American public. A recent Gallup poll showed that 79 percent of U.S. adults think that a reasonable approach to immigration is good for the country.

To offer a path forward, U.S. Rep. Veronica Escobar, an El Paso Democrat, and Rep. María Elvira Salazar, a Republican from Florida, are advocating for a bipartisan immigration reform bill – the Dignity Act of 2025 – that would offer a compromise.

“The vast majority of immigrants are hard-working, law-abiding residents; and most Americans recognize that it is in our country’s best interest to find bipartisan reforms,” Escobar said when announcing the bill. “We can enact legislation that incorporates both humanity and security, and the Dignity Act of 2025 offers a balanced approach that restores dignity to people who have tried to navigate a broken system for far too long,” she stated. The 2025 bill is a revised version of a bill that Escobar and Salazar proposed in 2023.

The latest version of the Dignity Act would provide immigrants, who entered the U.S. illegally prior to Dec. 31, 2020, with the opportunity to gain legal status, obtain work permits, and pay restitution. The program would also give them protection from removal proceedings for seven years and would make them eligible for the Dignity Status, which would allow them to stay in the United States.

This bill would grant Dreamers (individuals brought to the U.S. as children) a permanent resident status for 10 years and offer a pathway to lawful permanent resident status through work experience, military service, or attending higher education. And it would establish humanitarian campuses across the southern border, where asylum seekers would be housed while their cases are considered and where criminal background checks would be held. “Credible fear interviews would be required within 15 days of arrival in the U.S. and a decision in the asylum case within 45 days,” Escobar noted.

To help alleviate visa backlogs, the bill would raise the visa cap to a maximum of 10 years and exempt spousal and minor children visas from these caps.

Also included in the new bill are upgrades and improvements to border infrastructure and increased training and minimum pay rates for U.S. Border Patrol agents. The bill also calls for protecting some public locations from immigration enforcement operations to include schools, hospitals, places of worship, courthouses, and places that provide disaster relief.

Additionally, the Dignity Act would increase penalties for illegally crossing the border, place a mandatory requirement to use E-Verifying



MAKING THE PITCH – When U.S. Congress reconvenes after the Labor Day weekend, Democrat U.S. Rep. Veronica Escobar (left) and Republican U.S. Rep. María Elvira Salazar (right) are scheduled to propose bipartisan immigration reform legislation that addresses fair citizenship pathways and border security enhancements.

systems for jobs to deter border crossings, and impose additional U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) accountability measures including requiring the agency to update detainee data within 24 hours and providing telephone calls to family members if they are relocated.

To implement these changes, the bill would allocate \$10 billion to the Department of Homeland Security. So far, a growing contingent of Democrats and Republicans has voiced support for the Dignity Act. The bill, however, is just starting the legislative process.

According to Jorge Loweree, the Director of Policy at the American Immigration Council, the revised act is clearly a compromise. “Neither side gets everything that they want. Both sides can very easily point to things they don’t like, but it is a positive development,” he commented in a recent report.

What is not in the Dignity Act is clear pathway to citizenship for immigrants who entered the country during the Biden administration. Ernesto Castañeda, a sociology professor and author of the book *Immigrant Realities: Challenging Common Misperceptions*, pointed out that nearly 4 million people who arrived following Dec. 31, 2020, would be ineligible for the program, including the immigrants who entered through the Biden Administration’s U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBE) *CBP One* app. President Trump shut down the *CBP One* app saying it had become a tool for “smuggling” immigrants. He implemented the *CBP Home* app.

The Office of Inspector General (OIG) published a Final Report on August 19, 2024 titled “*CBP Did Not Thoroughly Plan for CBP One Risks, and Opportunities to Implement Improvements Exist*” (<https://www.oig.dhs.gov/sites/default/files/assets/2024-08/OIG-24-48-Aug24.pdf>).

The OIG said that CBP did not conduct a formal risk assessment before expanding the use of the *CBP One* app “to meet its new operational objective of scheduling appointments for non-citizens to arrive at the Southwest Border.”

The report added that some individuals were

See IMMIGRATION, Page 4

Vasquez is SISD superintendent of schools

By Christy Flores-Jones
Special to the Courier

EL PASO COUNTY – The Socorro Independent School District Board of Trustees finalized the process to formally appoint the new superintendent of schools at a regular school board meeting on Aug. 20, 2025. The board voted 7-0 to approve Interim Superintendent James Vasquez as the next superintendent for Socorro ISD.

“It is an incredible honor to officially serve as superintendent of the Socorro Independent School District. I am inspired by the passion, talent, and dedication of our teachers, staff, students, and families, and grateful to the Board of Trustees for their trust in me to lead our great district,” Vasquez said. “Over the last 18 months, we have achieved so much together, and we will continue to propel Socorro ISD forward. The next chapter is ours as we continue to write SISD’s legacy of success. I look forward to leading our great district



James P. Vasquez

with continued achievement and opportunity for students, staff and the community.”

Vasquez has been leading as the interim superintendent since April 2024. Over the last school year, Vasquez led Socorro ISD through challenging times, overcoming a \$42 million budget deficit, working to restore a depleted fund balance, addressing declining enrollment and decreasing attendance, and rebuilding community trust and employee morale.

“We are pleased to be moving ahead with Mr. Vasquez as our next superintendent. Our unanimous vote to approve his contract solidifies our utmost confidence in his leadership and vision for Socorro ISD,” said SISD Board of

Trustees President Michael Najera. “He will serve the district with true commitment and a relentless spirit for success. Mr. Vasquez has deep roots in the district, a love for this community and an excellent record as an educator and administrator – the characteristics that the community was seeking in our next superintendent.”

Gerrymander for Me, but not for Thee

Let’s take a tour of the 13th congressional district in Illinois. It starts in East St. Louis and then moves steadily north. By the time it gets to Springfield, home of Abraham Lincoln, about 90 miles away, it takes a sharp turn to the east, reaching Decatur and finally Champaign, itself about 80 miles away from Springfield.

It’s a jagged, narrow strip of territory with no obvious rhyme or reason as it traverses six counties. It’s less a congressional district than a road trip, and bears a resemblance to the original gerrymander, a long, salamander-like state senate district in Massachusetts in 1812.

The only point of the new 13th district lines, fashioned with the redistricting after the 2020 census, was to gather together far-flung Democrats to create another Democratic congressional district. Mission

accomplished. The 13th district went from being a competitive district long held by a Republican to flipping to the Democrats in 2022.

Overall, Illinois lost one congressional district after the 2020 census and then managed to draw lines that changed the congressional ratio from a 13-5 Democratic advantage to a 14-3 Democratic advantage. The political analysis website 538 called the new map “the worst gerrymander in the country drawn by Democrats.”

This makes it especially inapt that a contingent of Texas Democrats fleeing the Lone Star State to try to stop what they consider unfair new congressional boundaries found a safe harbor in Illinois. Next time, their travel agent should do a hypocrisy check before booking a destination.

Illinois Gov. JB Pritzker welcomed the self-

exiling Democrats and hailed their courage. He told them that he and other top Democrats in the state were pleased “to stand in solidarity with you and send a clear message to all Americans.” His conscience showed no sign of being pricked by the fact that he signed off on the redistricting that saw Republicans in 2022 win nearly 44% of the popular vote in Illinois congressional races and only about 17% of the congressional seats.

A special session of the Texas legislature is considering new lines that could net Republicans



See LOWRY, Page 7

Food for thought By Dr. Glenn Mollette

Make America safe

I would love to go back to Washington, D.C. and feel like my wife and I could safely stroll the city at 9:00 or 10:00 at night. Actually, I would like to feel like we could safely walk the city at 10:00 in the morning. I am grateful that President Trump is taking a pro-active approach to making D.C. as safe as possible.

In 2024 there were over 14 million criminal offenses reported in the United States. (US Crime statistics, Bing.com)

How many cities, towns or even rural areas do you feel safe in today? My son and I were in NYC a few years back. We toured the Empire State building and it was almost 1:00 in the morning by the time we left the building and started looking for New York pizza. We walked back to Times Square and of course there were still people out but not that many. There wasn’t a minute that I wasn’t constantly looking around and wondering if we were safe. We had a good evening but it’s aggravating to have to be concerned.

What town or community in America can we go and not have to be concerned? Even in the smallest villages in America who knows if there is a mentally deranged person out and about looking for something bad to do or someone to hurt? Drunks and drug heads drive our roads. The mentally sick choose unpredictable times to unleash their problems on unsuspecting victims.

From just recent events, we know that you might be shopping at a Target

store, sitting in a classroom, worshipping in your church or just walking down the street for something bad to happen to you or any of us. No one is immune in any place in America.

It hasn’t always been this way. I remember that I was a child when my parents started locking the doors of our house. There was a time we didn’t even lock the doors. That was another era. Wouldn’t you love to once again live in a country or an area where you felt so

safe that you didn’t bother with locking your doors? Wouldn’t it be great if you didn’t have to lock them during the day? What if you didn’t have to keep a loaded gun close by or even lock your car?

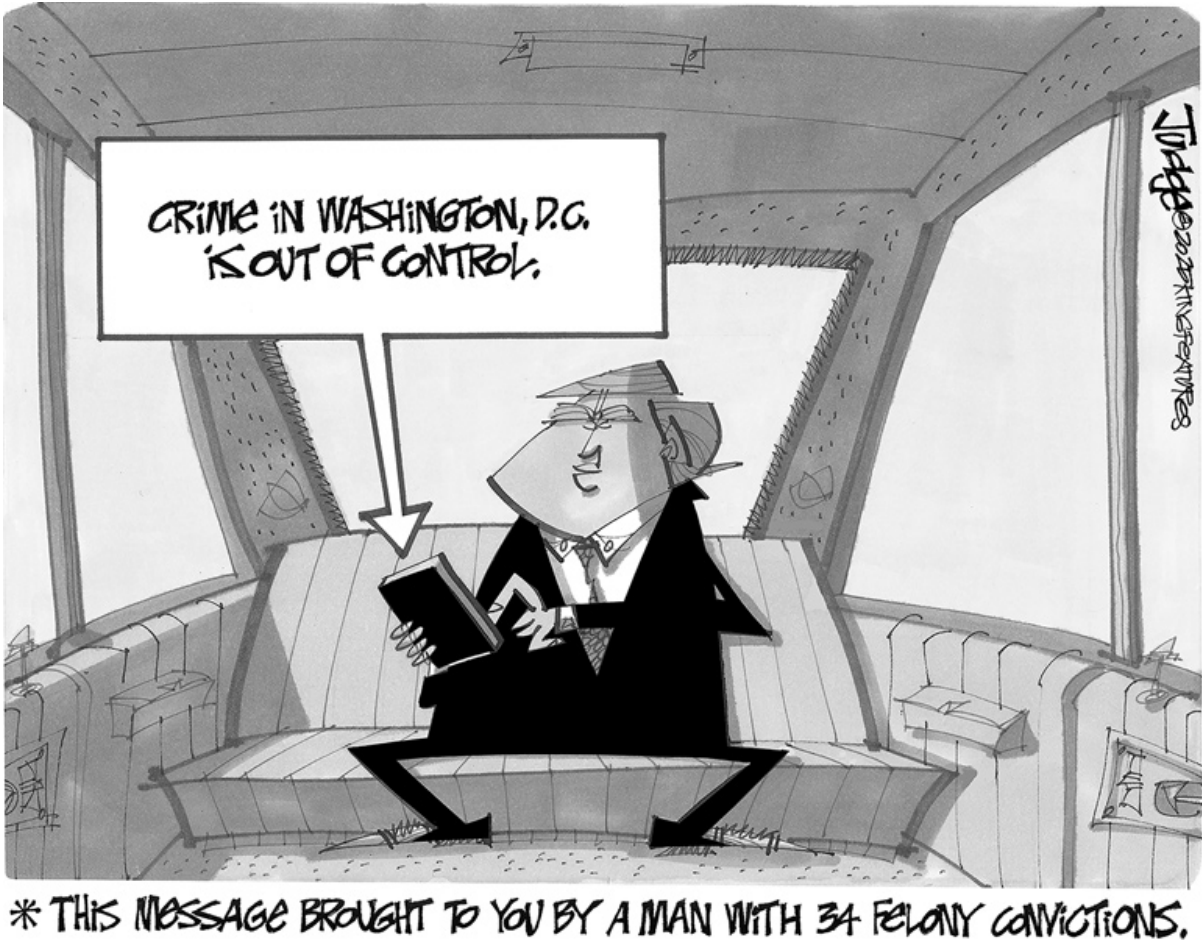
Wouldn’t that be a wonderful world?

Criminals stole 2969 cars in D.C. in 2024 and 2944 cars so far in 2025. This is bad for everyone, the victims, the insurance companies and the city.

God bless President Trump

for trying to make America and D.C. safe again. I pray that God enables him to make every town in America a place where we feel safe.

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.



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2025

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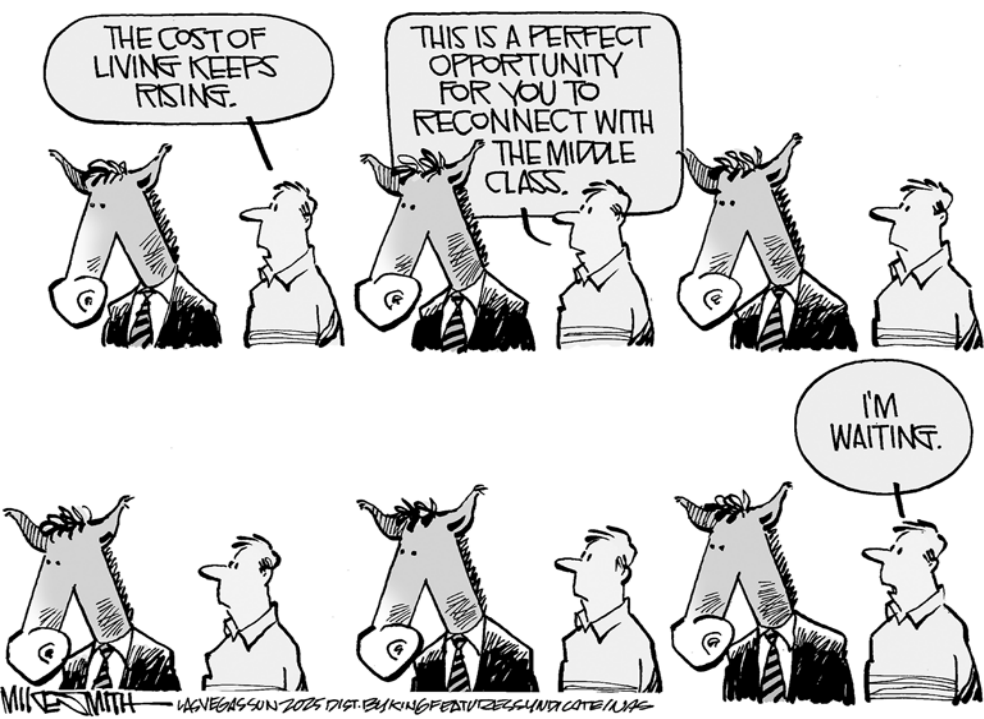
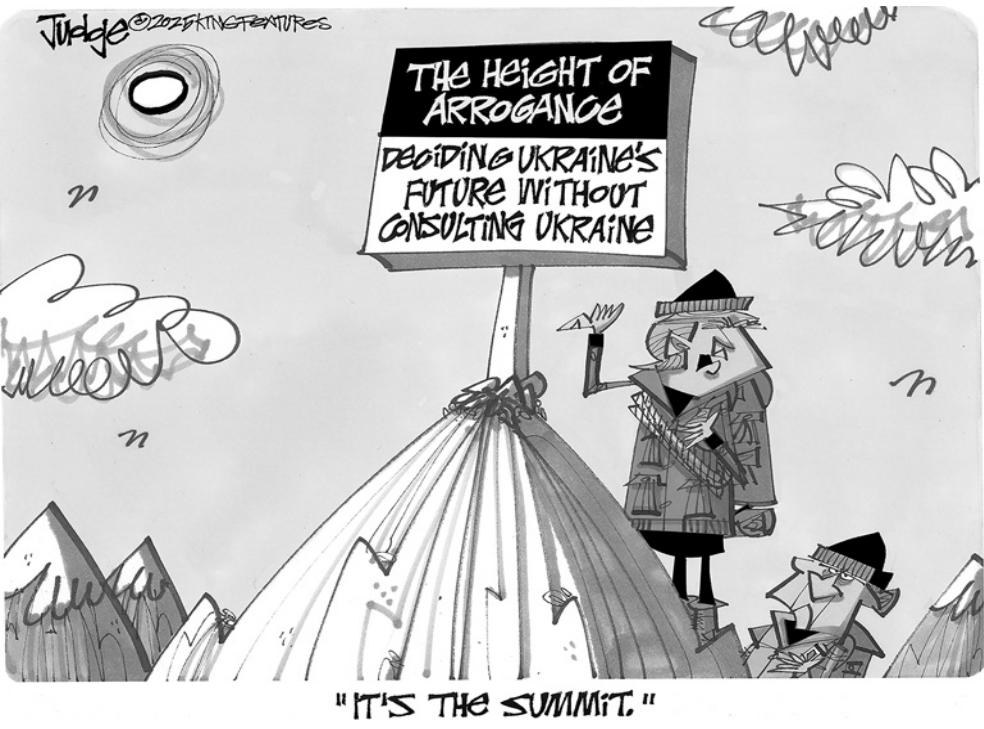
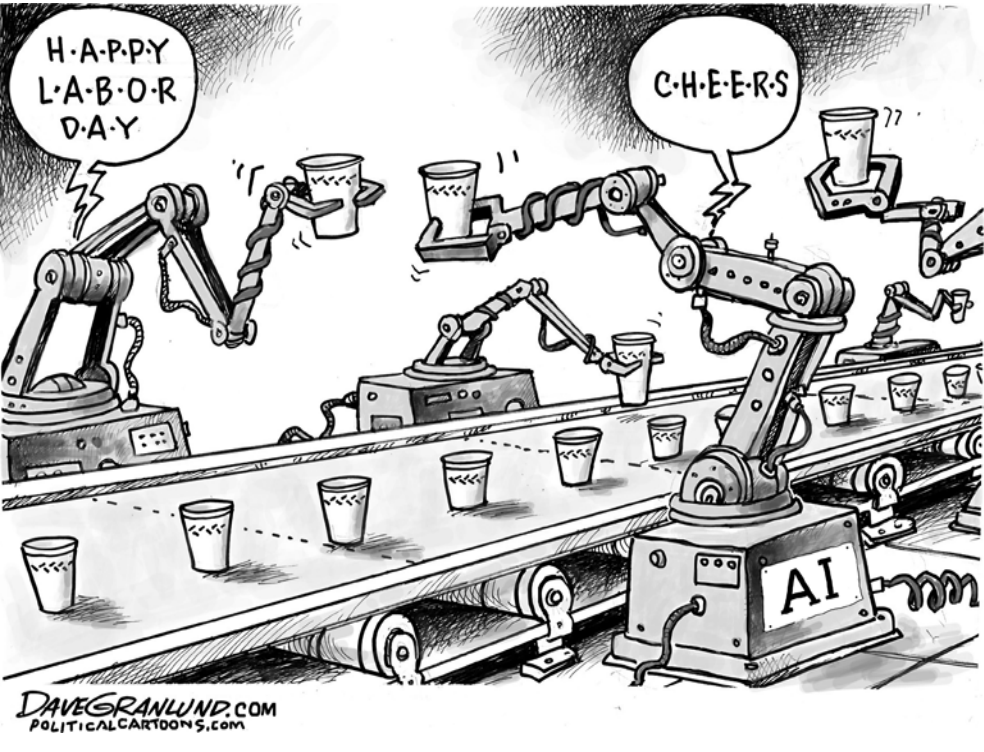
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LEGAL
ANTHONY HOUSING AUTHORITY
PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE
AGENCY PLAN & RESIDENT ADVISORY BOARD (RAB) MEETING
Notice is hereby given that the Anthony Housing Authority (AHA) will hold a Public Hearing to receive comments on its Public Housing Agency (PHA) Annual/5-Year Agency Plan and will convene a meeting of the Resident Advisory Board (RAB). The purpose is to present the draft plan, receive public input, and gather RAB recommendations prior to submission to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).
Date: Tuesday, September 2, 2025
Time: 5:30 PM (MT)
Location: AHA Board Room, 1007 Franklin St., Anthony, TX 79821
Public Review Period: August 28 – October 12, 2025
Written comments will be accepted during the public review period and at the hearing. Comments may be submitted by email to anthony.housing@ahatx.org and/or delivered in person at the address above, or mailed to: Anthony Housing Authority, Attn: Agency Plan Comments, 1007 Franklin St, Anthony, Tx 79821.
RAB participation: Members of the Resident Advisory Board will meet in conjunction with this hearing to provide input on the draft Agency Plan. All public housing residents and Housing Choice Voucher participants are welcome to attend and may express interest in serving on the RAB.
Authority: 24 CFR Part 903 (PHA Plans); 24 CFR §§ 903.13 & 903.19 (Resident Advisory Board).
Eluterio Alfaro
Ecutive Director
WTCC: 08-28-25



Paseo del Este Municipal Utility District No. 11 of El Paso County

Notice of Public Hearing on Tax Rate

The Paseo Del Este Municipal Utility District No. 11 of El Paso County will hold a public hearing on a proposed tax rate for the tax year 2025 on Thursday, September 11, 2025, at 11:30 a.m., in person at the offices of TRE & Associates, LLC, 110 Mesa Park Drive, Suite 200, El Paso, Texas 79912. Your individual taxes may increase at a greater or lesser rate, or even decrease, depending on the tax rate that is adopted and on the change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in taxable value of all other property. The change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in the taxable value of all other property determines the distribution of the tax burden among all property owners.

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.

- FOR the proposal: Directors Cynthia Ruiz, Alexandra Treviño, Jon Muir, and Marcela Quintana
- AGAINST the proposal: NONE
- PRESENT and not voting: NONE
- ABSENT: Director Jose R. Soto

The following table compares taxes on an average residence homestead in this taxing unit last year to taxes proposed on the average residence homestead this year.

	Last Year	This Year
Total tax rate (per \$100 value)	0.7423/\$100	0.7638/\$100
	Adopted	Proposed
Difference in rates per \$100 of value		+ \$ 0.0215
Percentage increase / decrease in rates (+/-)		+ 0.49%
Average appraised value	\$ 232,936	\$ 244,464
General exemptions available (excluding 65 years of age or older or disabled person's exemptions)	\$ -	\$ -
Average residence homestead taxable value	\$ 232,936	\$ 244,464
Tax on average residence homestead	\$ 1,729.08	\$ 1,867.22
Annual increase / decrease in taxes if		
proposed tax rate is adopted (+/-)		+ \$ 138.13
and percentage of increase (+/-)		+ 7.99%

NOTICE OF TAXPAYERS' RIGHT TO ELECTION TO REDUCE TAX RATE

If the District adopts a combined debt service, operation and maintenance, and contract tax rate that would result in the taxes on the average residence homestead increasing by more than eight percent, the qualified voters of the district by petition may require that an election be held to determine whether to reduce the operation and maintenance tax rate to the voter-approval tax rate under Section 49.23603, Water Code.

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.

King Crossword

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Average Solve Time 24 Minutes

ACROSS

1 AWOL pursuers

4 Lab sci.

8 Beach crawler

12 Fair-hiring letters

13 Corporate symbol

14 Aware of

15 _ pro nobis

16 Long-haired feline

18 Windshield cleaner

20 Hide-hair insert

21 Elite alternative

24 Bar legally

28 Three digits after 1

32 Lighten

33 Auction action

34 Tools for duels

36 _ Na Na

37 Beatnik's assent

39 "The danger has passed"

41 Aquarium favorite

43 Morales of "Jericho"

44 Non-dairy milk type

46 Bounds

50 "Play it cool"

55 Protrude

56 Challenge

57 _ Domini

58 Whatever

59 Egg on

60 Harvest

61 Reuben bread

DOWN

1 Calico's call

2 Actress Gilpin

3 Ivory, for one

4 "The Silence of the Lambs" role

5 Sweetie

6 Custard ingredient

7 Earth circler

8 Sandpaper type

9 GOP org.

10 _ glance

11 Droid

17 Caviar

19 Ecol. watchdog

22 Nightclub of song

23 "Rumour Has It" singer

25 Hit with a stun gun

26 Job-safety org.

27 Dessert fruit

28 Slightly

29 Go by subway

30 Redact

31 Congers

35 Edible mollusk

38 Food seller

40 Fib

42 Small battery

45 Despot

47 Slightly open

48 Weak

49 Eyelid woe

50 Billboards

51 Tube top

52 Capote nickname

53 French article

54 Navarro of "The View"

Answer Page 6

Luncheon to mark EPRTA 80th anniversary

By Clara Duncan-Adams
Special to the Courier

EL PASO COUNTY – The El Paso Retired Teachers Association (EPRTA) is observing their 80th anniversary in September. The organization was formed in 1945. This year’s EPRTA president, Anna Marie Tolland, is inviting all retired teachers to attend a luncheon on September 17, 2025 to mark the occasion. The event is scheduled for noon at the Airport Wyndham Hotel in El Paso (2027

Airway Blvd.) and requires a reservation. Membership in EPRTA is not required to attend. The keynote speaker will be Tim Lee. Lee is Executive Director of the Texas Retired Teachers Association and will address health care and other legislative issues. The luncheon cost is \$28 per person. Contact Tolland at (817) 805-1983 to make a reservation for the event. The deadline to reserve is Monday, September 8. The menu includes Waldorf salad, chicken marsala with mushrooms, mashed potatoes, green beans and key lime pie.

Immigration

From Page 1

able to make a large number of registrations on the app in order to increase their odds of securing appointments. At least 10 individuals, all from Russia or Armenia, made hundreds of registrations on the app. The inspector general also said that the app should have used some information to identify potentially suspicious activity. Some immigrant destination addresses were

listed hundreds of times from the same port of entry. The Trump Administration backs the *CBP Home* app. The app primarily gives people that are in the U.S. illegally a streamlined process to voluntarily leave the U.S. and return to their home countries. It helps users with various aspects of the self-deportation process, including confirming their identity, gathering necessary information, and potentially accessing travel assistance. By utilizing the app and

voluntarily departing, individuals may have a better chance of returning to the U.S. legally in the future, compared to those who are deported. Rep. Salazar stated that she is supporting the 2025 Dignity Act because the U.S. needs to help many of these immigrants to stay in the country legally. “We have 10 million people or more working in construction, hospitality, agriculture, dairy, fisheries, slaughterhouses, who are undocumented but are not criminals,” she stated.

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It's easy to Start! whether you're by yourself or with friends, family and co-workers. You'll all feel a difference and live longer, heart-healthier lives.

Join the movement.

heart.org/start

start!

American Heart Association Learn and Live

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CryptoQuip Answer

When you’re more amicable to people who look up facts in books, is that referential treatment?

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Moments in time

THE HISTORY CHANNEL

- On Aug. 25, 1921, Franklin D. Roosevelt was diagnosed with polio – also known as infantile paralysis because it usually strikes much younger people – at the age of 39. He never regained the full use of his legs.
- On Aug. 26, 1936, suffragist Susan B. Anthony’s likeness appeared on a U.S. postage stamp that soon sparked some controversy: While some critics claimed it was an election-year ploy for women’s votes, others insisted that it showed a cigarette in her lips.
- On Aug. 27, 1967, Beatles manager Brian Epstein was found dead from an accidental overdose of Carbrital, a drug used to treat insomnia. A “scared” John Lennon later said that “I knew that we were in trouble then. I didn’t really have any misconceptions about our ability to do anything other than play music.”
- On Aug. 28, 1987, the Arcadia, Florida, home of Richard, Robert and Randy Ray burned down in what was almost certainly an act of arson. The

- three young siblings, who were not at home at the time, had already faced severe discrimination due to their HIV status in an era in which the virus was still largely considered a “gay disease.”
- On Aug. 29, 1914, the Women’s Defence Relief Corps was formed in Britain. Women’s rights organizations in Britain at first opposed the country’s entrance into the war, but reversed that position after recognizing the war effort’s potential to gain advancement for British women on the home front.
 - OnAug. 30, 2006, the California State Senate passed the Global Warming Solutions Act, which made California the first state to place caps on carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases, including those found in automobile emissions.
 - On Aug. 31, 1888, prostitute Mary Ann Nichols, the first known victim of a London serial killer called “Jack the Ripper,” was found murdered and mutilated in the city’s Whitechapel district. In 1892, with no leads found and no more murders recorded, the Ripper file was officially closed, but criminologists, historians and amateur sleuths still debate his true identity to this day.

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By Lucie Winborne

- Beef and liver paste, squeezed from a tube, was the first meal eaten in space, consumed by Yuri Alekseyevich Gagarin, who chose it because it was space-friendly.
- Cigarettes were once advertised as a source of relief for asthma and hay fever.
- September is the only month to have the same number of letters in its name as its number in the calendar year.
- A full head of hair can support the weight of two elephants.
- The original recipe for Oreos, which were originally called Oreo Biscuits (though it’s not clear where “Oreo” came from), included pork fat for the cookie’s creamy center.
- Ninety-five percent of books that are submitted to traditional publishers are rejected.
- Senet, or senet net hab (“game of passing through”), the oldest known board game, dates back more than 5,000 years and has been found in the tombs of Egyptian royalty, including King Tut.
- Canada’s Parliament once argued about the appropriateness of using the word “fart” on the chamber floor.
- In medieval Europe, animals, especially pigs, were put on trial for crimes, with prosecutors, defense attorneys and judges.
- Oct. 31, 2000, was the last day all humans were together on Earth. Since

- that time, there has always been at least one person in space.
- It takes 90 days for one drop of water to travel the Mississippi River.
 - The average person is made up of around 56% bacteria.
 - The world’s largest bowling alley is in Japan, with a whopping 116 lanes.
 - Need a natural remedy for a blocked nose? Try an onion. Its sulfur content is thought to draw mucus from the body.
 - The word “mortgage” comes from a French word meaning “death contract.”
 - According to the Guinness World Records, the world’s hottest chili pepper is the Pepper X, rating at an average of 2,693,000 Scoville Heat Units.
 - Panda bears have been known to eat for 12 hours straight.
 - The temperature of a shooting star is around 3,000 degrees Fahrenheit.
 - In early 2019, an 18-karat gold toilet named “America,” made by Italian artist Maurizio Cattelan and valued at \$6 million, was stolen from Blenheim Palace in England. The four thieves responsible were captured, but the toilet’s ultimate fate remains a mystery, though authorities suspected it may have been melted down.
 - The bite of a mountain gorilla is twice as strong as a lion’s.

Thought for the Day: “Nearly all men can stand adversity, but if you want to test a man’s character, give him power.”

– Abraham Lincoln

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Lower Valley Water District Notice of Public Hearing on Tax Rate

The LOWER VALLEY WATER DISTRICT will hold a public hearing on a proposed tax rate for the tax year 2025 on September 18, 2025 at 5:15 PM at District Office, 1557 FM 1110, Clint, TX 79836. Your individual taxes may increase at a greater or lesser rate, or even decrease, depending on the tax rate that is adopted and on the change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in taxable value of all other property. The change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in the taxable value of all other property determines the distribution of the tax burden among all property owners.

Visit 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.

FOR the proposal: **David Carrasco, Rosalinda Vigil, David Estrada, Rodrigo Chavez and Henry Trujillo**

AGAINST the proposal: **NONE**

PRESENT and not voting: **NONE**

ABSENT: **NONE**

The following table compares taxes on an average residence homestead in this taxing unit last year to taxes proposed on the average residence homestead this year.

	Last Year	This Year
	Adopted	Proposed
Total tax rate (per \$100 value)	\$0.144716/\$100	\$0.176899/\$100
Difference in rates per \$100 of value		+ \$0.032183
Percentage increase / decrease in rates (+/–)		+ 22.24%
Average residence homestead appraised value	\$ 157,569	\$ 165,817
General homestead exemptions available (excluding 65 years of age or older or disabled person’s exemptions)	\$ 0	\$ 0
Average residence homestead taxable value	\$ 157,569	\$ 165,817
Tax on average residence homestead	\$ 228.02	\$ 293.33
Annual increase / decrease in taxes if proposed tax rate is adopted (+/–) and percentage of increase (+/–)	+ \$ 65.31	+ 28.64%

If the proposed combined debt service, operation and maintenance, and contract tax rate requires or authorizes an election to approve or reduce the tax rate the Board of Directors of LOWER VALLEY WATER DISTRICT proposes to use the tax increase for the purpose of sustaining the debt tax rate while ensuring sufficient funding for both current and future infrastructure projects.

NOTICE OF TAXPAYERS’ RIGHT TO ELECTION TO REDUCE TAX RATE

If the district adopts a combined debt service, operation and maintenance, and contract tax rate that would result in the taxes on the average residence homestead increasing by more than eight percent, the qualified voters of the district by petition may require that an election be held to determine whether to reduce the operation and maintenance tax rate to the voter-approval tax rate under Section 49.23603, Water Code.

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.

The Nelson era begins at UTEP this weekend

By Steve Escajeda
Special to the Courier

Every year, all El Pasoans wish for the same thing, more rain, less heat, and for a good season from the UTEP football team.

And almost every year, El Pasoans end up not getting what they wished for.

But this year could be very different, and that potential difference will kick off this Saturday evening in Utah.

The Miners open the 2025 season at Utah State with a new attitude and a new quarterback.

It’s been no secret that the Miners have had the best-rated recruiting class in Conference USA the last two years in a row. When you stack that on top of the fact that they also have the top high school quarterback in the country from two years ago – this season could be special.

Coach Scotty Walden finally decided on a starting quarterback this past week when he went with Malachi Nelson, who attended USC and Bosie State his first two college seasons.

Though it took Nelson a while to establish himself as the team’s main man, UTEP fans are hoping he’s the savior of a program that has had only one winning season in the last 10 years going 32-85 over that stretch.

Walden struggled in his first year at UTEP going 0-6 to start the season but

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finished 3-3 the rest of the way and they’re hoping to keep the momentum going.

The Miners must get better in several categories. The defense cannot allow over 32 points a game. The running game must do better than 120 yards per game – just 3.3 yards per rush, and convert more than 33% on third-downs. Field goals also need to be better than 10 of 18 – just 55%.

The Miners should be better in all those categories. They have additional talent coming in and the returning players are a year older.

UTEP will also be looking at new running backs Hahsaun Wilson, Elijah McCoy and Ashten Emory. Wilson is a senior transfer from Charlotte, while McCoy and Emory are both freshmen.

The Utah State Aggies were just 4-8 last season but they too finished strong by winning three of their last five games.

The Aggies score over 32 points a game, compared to UTEP’s 19. They averaged 468 total yards per game,

compared to UTEP’s 320. They scored a total of 51 touchdowns last year, compared to UTEP’s 24.

While the Miners are turning to a new quarterback, Utah St. will return Bryson Barnes, who played in nine games in 2024 and threw 12 touchdown passes.

Though Barnes shared quarterback duties with someone else, his 12 TD passes were still more than what any UTEP QB had (Skyler Locklear 10).

So, when you break things down on paper, it looks like Utah St. is a little better than the Miners. And then when you throw in the fact that the game will be played in Logan, UT, you can see that UTEP will be up against it.

But it’s games like this that can change a program’s entire direction. The Miners have easily been the worst college football program over the last 60 years. It’s not even close.

However, the Miners have never had two straight top-rated recruiting classes before. They’ve also never had a five-star quarterback recruit make

his way to the Sun City before.

If those two “firsts” can happen, why can’t the culture, the excitement, and the expectation of losing be changed?

I’m not saying the Miners will compete for a national championship, but there’s really no reason they shouldn’t at least compete for a CUSA title.

Last year, it seemed like the Miners were just a quarterback away from having a winning season. Well, they’ve got their quarterback now. Now is the time to raise some eyebrows around the country.

Hopefully most of the city will be tuning in to watch these new-and-improved Miners. For those who want to catch the game, it’ll be televised nationally on CBS Sports Network starting at 5:30 p.m., or it can be heard on 600ESPN (AM) radio.

Just picture the Miners knocking off Utah St. and then coming home a week later with 45,000 fans in the Sun Bowl against UT Martin.

And hopefully, this will just be the first Aggies’ team we beat up on.

Senior momentBy Matilda Charles

Doing the right thing

How many of us are continuing to do things we feel we should, even if we don’t want to?

A neighbor bemoaned the fact that her husband had signed them up for yet another line dancing class at the senior center. “And I don’t want to go,” she said. “I’m tired of learning new dances. I’d like to just enjoy the ones I already know.”

Like many of the people at the senior center, my neighbor and her husband were generally signed up for one or more classes being offered. And to the staff’s credit, there is a wide variety of classes to choose from on a rotating basis. We have tech classes, language classes, seated yoga, drawing and painting, Cooking for One, writing your memoir... and another line dance class. We’ve been through several and now there’s apparently one called Cowboy Hustle.

And my neighbor didn’t want to learn it.

Curiosity got the better of me, and one recent day at the senior center I asked the group waiting for a class what

they keep doing just because it’s the right thing to do. There was a variety of replies:

- Attempting to walk thousands of steps per day.
- Walking the neighbor’s dog so she doesn’t have to give it up.
- Counting calories.
- Sewing clothes for the grandchildren.
- Eating vegetables every day.
- Taking the mother-in-law out to lunch every Friday.

I saw my “no more line dancing” neighbor again. Maybe he just wants to keep both of you active and healthy, I suggested. And maybe he enjoys doing things with you, I added. She smiled and nodded, acknowledging that her husband was actually a good guy. And I knew that she’d be there learning the Cowboy Hustle alongside her good guy husband.

How about you? What do you keep doing just because it’s the right thing to do?

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Super Crossword

1	2	3	4	5	6		7	8	9	10	11	12	13		14	15	16	17	18	19
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GAMEPLAY	little dogs	112 Voting group	15 Ballpoint, e.g.	73 Normandy city
ACROSS	61 _OPs (CIA tactics)	113 One causing fright	16 Put up tents	74 _ Reader (eclectic quarterly)
1 Served in blazing liquor	62 Maple or oak	114 Ovid's "_ Amatoria"	17 Sharp as _	78 _ nous (between us)
7 Longtime executive of the Oakland Raiders	64 Morally rigid	117 Regard highly	18 Maker of GOLEAN cereals	79 Trifled (with)
14 Utters words	68 60% of cinco	119 Shop dedicated to selling a classic board game?	19 Dutch genre painter Jan	81 \$\$\$
20 Tulip relatives	69 Classic board game that's popular with inhabitants of heaven?	123 Prickly plant	24 Preludes	84 Possibilities
21 Divider of musical measures	73 Make whole again	124 Snooty sort	29 Janitors' tools	86 _-Terre (capital of Guadeloupe)
22 Began vigorously	75 San Francisco's region	125 "Everything's good here"	31 Actress Lively	88 U.S. region with aging factories
23 Classic board game played by judges between trials?	76 Don of radio	126 "Marty" star	32 Injure	90 _ bean
25 Put in a box	77 Tennis match unit	Borgnine	33 "Got it now"	91 Journalist Burnett
26 Ending for priest	80 First-string players	127 When a check to a landlord is due	34 Nail file stuff	92 Actress Duff
27 Gets frantic with fear	82 Springfield's Flanders	128 "_ what your country can do for you ..."	35 Throat bug	95 "Neato!"
28 Oil rig part	83 Singapore sling		36 Analgesic targets	98 Rave about
30 Feel sore	85 Havana resident, to Havanans	DOWN	37 "I'll pay for this one"	100 Tooth type
31 Russian war vessel on which a classic board game is played?	87 Infatuate	1 Big ice sheet	42 Exuberant war cry	102 Lack of vigor
35 Person knocking over a drink, e.g.	89 Classic board game played at a shindig?	2 They may be chapped	43 Ending for Siam	103 Beats it
38 "_ queen!" ("You go!")	93 Tennis court divider	3 Toby brews	45 Commercial lead-in to -gram or -matic	104 Sudden flood
39 Grandiosity	94 Of atomic weapons	4 Space station until 2001	46 Turn the car toward	105 More aged
40 "Toodle-oo!"	96 "... or _ thought!"	5 "C'mon, help me out here"	47 Ballet promoter, e.g.	106 Staff anew
41 Bauxite, e.g.	97 Filly's father	6 Will subject	48 "Huh-uh!"	107 "Papi Chulo" co-star Matt
44 Publish anew	98 Mexican 81-Down	7 Bubbling over	49 Teetotalers	108 School, in Soissons
47 Neighbor of Mich. and Ill.	99 "Combat!" actor	8 Knight's weapon	51 About	109 Prefix with -hedron that means "twenty"
50 Review of a classic board game?	Morrow	9 Containing	52 Landscaping plant	110 Like brine
54 Quiver	101 Captured with a rope	10 TV title ET	53 Step	114 Related
56 Tangle up	104 Classic board game you keep making people play even though they have no interest?	11 Cruella De _ ("101 Dalmatians" meanie)	55 Has food	115 Nevada city
57 Trifecta, e.g.	111 Appeal	12 Like purchases gotten via the program	59 Pack tightly	116 "Let it stand"
58 1/60 min.		13 Close using stitches	63 "My People" writer	118 Hi-_ graphics
60 Like some noisy		14 Cleaned with a broom	Abba	120 Author Anais
			65 A, in French	121 Hitter Mel
			66 Wolfgang Puck's restaurant	122 Brother of DDE's follower
			67 Bring forth	
			70 Make juice of	
			71 Ethel Merman's "_ Was a Lady"	
			72 "The jig _!"	

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

another five seats. Texas Gov. Greg Abbott has cited a Department of Justice letter saying that some of the current districts need to be redrawn because they represent unconstitutional racial gerrymandering (the Biden Justice Department had been fighting Texas because, in its view, the current lines didn't reflect enough racial gerrymandering).

The Supreme Court is taking up a Louisiana case that should clarify the extent to which states can consider race in drawing so-called majority-minority districts. In the meantime, the partisan effect of the new Texas lines before the 2026 midterms is unmistakable. If Republicans were likely to lose five seats from the redistricting, there's no doubt that the state's Republican governor and Republican legislature wouldn't be undertaking it.

Drawing district lines is an inherently political enterprise, and parties tend to give themselves the best of it. When Democrats controlled the Texas legislature, they maintained congressional lines in their favor.

It wasn't until Republicans won the state house for the first time since Reconstruction in 2002 that the GOP could redraw the congressional map and Republicans subsequently won a majority of Texas congressional seats in 2004, also for the first time since Reconstruction.

Since Democrats gerrymander too, they have limited options for retaliating against Texas. Pritzker says he may redraw his state's lines, but this would require gerrymandering on top of his current gerrymander. California Gov. Gavin Newsom is making similar noises, but the California map is already tilted toward Democrats. Republicans won nearly 40% of the congressional vote in the Golden State in 2024, but only about 17% of the seats.

If the Texas plan goes through and all else remains equal, the Lone Star State will have about the same partisan skew as California.

Less gerrymandering would be better rather than more, but Democrats like Gov. Pritzker, who blessed his state's meandering 13th district, have no standing to make the case.

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

Communication key to making good decisions

DEAR DR. ROACH: I was just diagnosed with sudden sensorineural hearing loss. They gave me a steroid injection into the ear and more steroids by mouth, but they say it's up to me whether I want to try hyperbaric oxygen. Do you have any opinion on it? How does breathing pure oxygen at 2 atmospheres help anything? Is there some underlying theory to explain why people do this? It seems to me all this accomplishes is that it raises my blood oxygen level from 97% to 100%. How can this help anything? – D.J.L.



Sudden sensorineural hearing loss is an uncommon condition. It can often be misdiagnosed, and since some people get better by themselves, it is sometimes never diagnosed at all.

I suspect there isn't one single cause in all cases as several causes have been proposed, including infections (especially viral), medications and recreational drugs, brain tumors, autoimmune diseases, head trauma, and associations with other diseases. But most cases have no clear underlying cause.

In addition to a careful exam, hearing tests and an MRI of the brain are generally recommended. Early treatment with steroids (either by injection, orally, or both) has been shown to enhance recovery.

In people with more severe hearing loss, hyperbaric oxygen has been shown to improve outcomes compared to steroids alone. It is thought that the high amount of oxygen delivered via the hyperbaric chamber may be able to deliver oxygen to areas of the cochlea that were damaged, but the mechanism of action isn't completely clear.

The benefit of hyperbaric oxygen isn't that it gets your red blood cells more oxygenated. You can't do better than 100%, and 97% is very close to 100%. With hyperbaric oxygen, the fluid of the blood itself carries much more oxygen, which is then dissolved in the plasma – not in the red blood cells. The oxygen in the fluid is 60 times higher with 3 atmospheres of oxygen compared to room air, which is enough to deliver oxygen to your tissues without red blood cells.

Carefully done, the risks of hyperbaric oxygen are small. The high pressure can cause pain and pressure in the ear and sinuses, which can be relieved by equalizing pressure through maneuvers that open the Eustachian tube (such as yawning or swallowing).

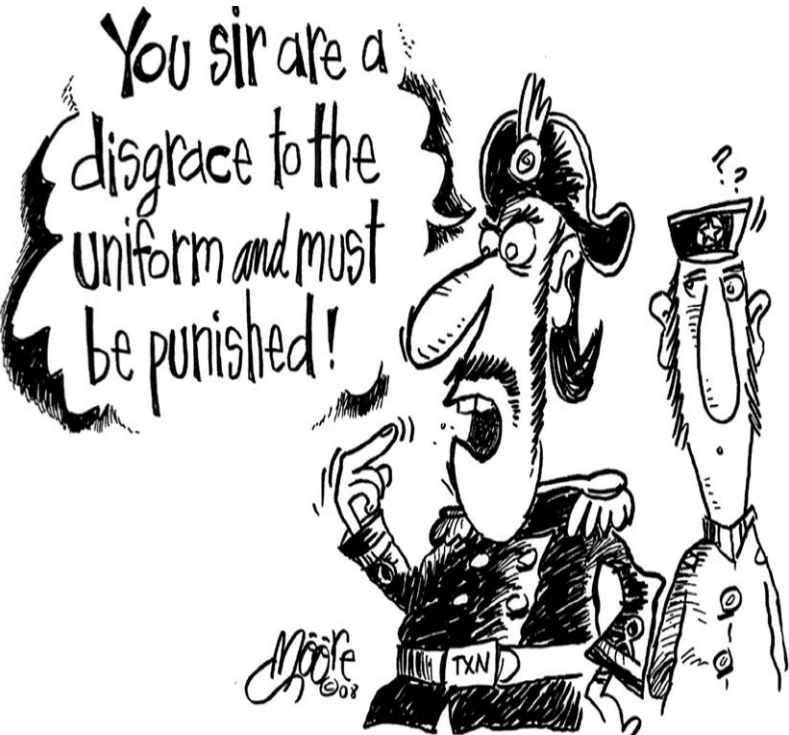
While I understand why physicians want to get your opinion on your treatment, it doesn't sound like they gave you enough information to make an informed choice. In my opinion, they should have gone over the risks and benefits. Then they could have given you a clear recommendation.

DEAR DR. ROACH: In a recent column, you stated that the body works to keep blood pH levels steady. My urologist has recommended that I drink baking soda in water to alkalinize my urine. Is it true that urine pH levels can be changed even though blood pH levels cannot? – C.T.

This is true. Your urologist is taking advantage of the fact that your kidneys will excrete the bicarbonate ion into your urine very quickly after you take it in by mouth. (Baking soda is sodium bicarbonate. We sometimes use potassium bicarbonate for this purpose, too.) Your blood pH will stay normal, but the urine pH will go up into the alkaline range.

Kidney stone specialists use this to reduce formation of uric acid stones. Potassium citrate also has the same effect on urine pH levels. With a higher urine pH (even just to 6.5 or 7), uric acid cannot form stones. Long-term treatment with urinary alkalization dramatically decreases stone formation.

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
August 21, 1844: Although a Texas hero for his leadership in the Yucatan naval campaign, Commodore Edwin Moore insisted on his OWN court martial on a number of charges.

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: T equals F

LEAZ JXH'OA RXOA PRMKPQGA
NX BAXBGA LEX GXXW HB
TPKNV MZ QXXWV, MV NEPN
OATAOAZNMPG NOAPNRAZN?

Answer Page 4

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Weekly SUDOKU

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

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 4

♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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When the punishment isn't enough



by Freddy Groves

It's most disturbing when one in a position of authority, someone tasked with the specific job of helping veterans, turns out to be a thief. This is what came to light recently when a Veterans Service Representative (VSR) pleaded guilty to stealing money from the very veterans he was supposed to help.

The scammer broke a federal law when he solicited and accepted gratuities for helping veterans prepare their claims for retroactive disability benefits. He had his hand out for between 10 and 20% of each veteran's benefits after their claims were approved – while he was employed by the VA.

He's scheduled to be sentenced later this year and could get five years in prison, as well as a hefty fine.

Then we have the

scammer nailed for identity theft and stalking. By stealing personal information, he was able to stalk victims online and in person, do transactions at their banks, change the routing information for their direct deposits, impersonate them at banks and other places, change their account information – and have their benefits terminated. This criminal could have been given a sentence of 164 years. But no, five years it is. Why is that?

Then we have a former CEO of a Veteran Service Organization (VSO) who scammed money in federal grant funding that had been given to a nonprofit shelter for homeless veterans. He'd submitted multiple applications for the grant funding, claiming it was for counseling services that nobody ever got, and put over a million dollars in his pocket from the VA and a cool half million from the Department of Labor. His punishment could be only 10 years in prison.

Interestingly enough, there is a man with the exact same

name in the same location who once claimed to be an investment counselor and had a radio talk show and who went to prison for scamming banks...

Is he back? Is this what happens when the prison sentences are too short?

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• “Every member of our family has a plastic bin in his/her closet to hold items not currently in use. For the littler ones, it's hand-me-downs that are not quite ready for use. For my husband and myself, it is out of season items. And for everyone, there is a bin in the garage where we place usable items that no longer fit. Whenever it's full, we either donate it or start planning our next tag sale.” – A.E. in Massachusetts

• “If you have to talk to someone at the cable company, call on a Thursday (unless it's urgent), as that's the day they tend to have the fastest response times, experts say.” – J.C. in Florida

• If you have lost a zipper pull, you can create a temporary one with a paperclip.

• You can use a salad spinner to gently “wring out” delicate hand washables. Remove excess water, and then hang dry or lay flat according to the garment's instruction.

• Here's an oldie but a goodie! Iced coffee is at its best when brewed with twice the usual amount of ground coffee, because the coffee is diluted by the (melting) ice cubes. Or use regular-strength brewed ice coffee and serve over coffee ice cubes. They're easy to prepare: Pour cool brewed coffee into ice-cube trays and freeze.

• Clear bins make it easy to group like items in your pantry. You can remove the bin, get what you need and replace it rather than digging through cans and boxes on a shelf and having to straighten it back up when you're done.

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.

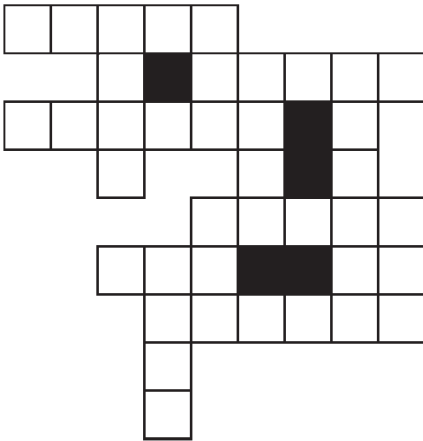
Answer Page 4

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	+		÷		= 5			
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	-		+		= 5			
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MOYPEN
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MIGNA
♥EAP
♥SUDCER
IGPNI
♥YPER



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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