



– Photo by Alfredo Vasquez

**BRIGHT FUTURE** – Vinton Steel, above, referred to as a minimill, is located on 230 acres along Interstate 10 near the Vinton Road exit. The plant is a major contributor to the economy of El Paso County’s upper valley communities. Kyoei Steel projects generating \$18 billion in the local economy over the next 40 years.

## Japanese firm, Kyoei Steel, to invest over \$100M in Vinton

*Vinton Steel project is considered one of the most significant business ventures in the borderland’s history*

By Alfredo Vasquez  
Special to the Courier

VINTON – “This expansion is more than an investment in steel, it’s an investment in people, in progress, and in the future of Vinton. With innovation, sustainability, and community at the core, we’re proving that small towns can lead the way in building a stronger, cleaner, and more resilient economy,” Village of Vinton Mayor Rachel Quintana proclaimed during the recent groundbreaking ceremony held by Vinton Steel executives to herald the beginning of their \$250 million renovation project at the 64-year-old mill.

Vinton Steel, owned by Japanese company Kyoei Steel, is expected to create about 200 jobs at the plant and generate an \$18 billion economic boost for the local economy over the next 40 years, according to company officials.

The investment, dubbed Project V, is seen as one of the most significant business ventures in the Borderland’s history as plans call for the expansion and upgrade of the steel mill’s operations by more than 1.5 million square feet, officials said.

With the renovations, the Vinton mill will double its production

capacity of recycled steel products including reinforcing bars and grinding balls, at the same time integrate cutting-edge technology

that will reduce emissions and increase energy efficiency, company officials asserted.

“This expansion marks a pivotal moment not only for Vinton Steel but for the entire region,” said Hideichiro Takashima, chairman of Kyoei Steel, LTD, the parent company for Vinton Steel. He added that Project V is an investment in sustainable growth, innovation and the long-term prosperity of El Paso County and the Village of Vinton.

While under construction, the expansion endeavor is expected to provide about 250 jobs and a regional economic impact of more than \$112 million, according to

See VINTON, Page 6



– Photo by Josh Luna

**INTERNATIONAL UNDERTAKING** – Village of Vinton Mayor Rachel Quintana (center) welcomes Vinton Steel executives and government officials to her hometown. From left are Hideichiro Takashima, kyoei Steel L.T.D. chairman and representative director; Larry McManus, director of Business & Community Development for the Office of the Texas Governor, Economic Development and Tourism; Eduardo Gonzalez, Vinton Steel plant manager; Zentaro Naganuma – Consul General; and Masahiro Kitada, Vinton Steel chairman.



# Trump should get his new census – in 2030

Trump wants a new census. If, by this, he means a snap-census before the scheduled 2030 survey, he’s demanding that the federal government undertake a gargantuan task with minimal planning and no discernible source of funding. In statistical terms, it’d be like launching D-Day after a month’s preparation.

If the White Queen believes six impossible things

before breakfast, that the Census Bureau could pull this off would qualify as one of them. The agency couldn’t even competently conduct the last regularly scheduled census in 2020.

Given that conducting the census is a core function of the federal government – indeed, mandated by the Constitution – it is outrageous that the last survey missed so badly. It undercounted Florida and a handful of other Red states (as well as Illinois) and overcounted New York and a number of Blue states (plus Ohio and Utah).

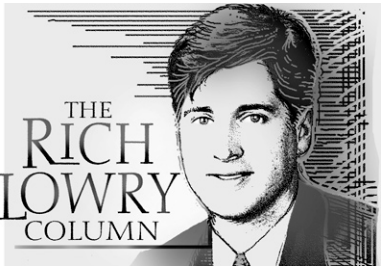
going to run smack into the relevant legal texts.

Article 1, Section 2 of the Constitution refers to “the Whole Number of free Persons,” while the 14th Amendment says “the whole number of persons in each State.” In a similar fashion, the U.S. code calls for a “tabulation of total population by States.”

So it’s hard to see how illegal immigrants can be excluded from the count. As it happens, they don’t seem to have much of an effect on the partisan breakdown of congressional seats one way or the other. Although the highest number of illegal immigrants live in California, they are spread around the country, and there are also large numbers in Texas and Florida.

A change that Trump wanted in the 2020 census was the inclusion, once again, of a citizenship question. This is highly relevant information that

See LOWRY, Page 10



1973  
52  
Years  
2025

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## Food for thought By Dr. Glenn Mollette

# President Trump and venous insufficiency

President Trump probably doesn’t want any pictures taken with his feet on his desk. Maybe he never puts his feet on his desk. His recent diagnosis of a venous blood supply problem warrants such a recline two or three times a day.

Millions of Americans, especially seniors, deal with ankle and lower leg swelling caused by the flow of blood from the lower leg not returning to the heart as adequately as it did earlier in life. It’s not a debilitating issue unless it’s ignored in which case a blood clot could develop in the lower leg or behind the knee. Blood clots are not good as they are not good for the veins. Even worse, a blood clot in the lower leg can travel to the upper part of the body which could be fatal. Thousands of Americans die every year from blood clots that travel to the heart or cause strokes which can be debilitating and fatal.

The smart thing for our President to do is to put his feet up on his desk for ten minutes or so three or four times a day. He can do so when he is talking on his telephone or if he is having a casual meeting. Doctors typically recommend compression socks. There are different grades of compression socks. Some are very light and go on very easy while others are like fighting

a war to put on because the compression is so tight. Most people don’t particularly enjoy compression socks. However, many testify that once you are used to them you feel better because your legs aren’t swelling as much during the day.

Besides compression socks and elevating your legs it’s good not to stand in one spot for too long. Walking is great, but just standing in one position can negatively impact the lower leg and the flow of blood as it returns to the heart. Sitting too long creates the same problematic scenario.

The President is doing the right thing by taking an aspirin a day to avoid clotting issues. Most people who develop a blood clot often end up on blood thinner for a while or a lifetime.

Alcohol makes your blood slicker. It doesn’t make it thinner as reported by a family physician.

A few years back, I had a pulmonary embolism after receiving my third covid shot so I have some experience to draw from on this.

President Trump can potentially live another robust 20 years or more. However, it’s reality, he is getting older and has to take care of himself.

## King Crossword

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**Average Solve Time 25 Minutes**

**ACROSS**  
1 "Lion" star Patel  
4 Obi  
8 Banshee's cry  
12 Hot temper  
13 Nick and Nora's pet  
14 Conceal  
15 Pompeii volcano  
17 Altar vows  
18 Three, in Rome  
19 Fairy tale maidens  
21 Protein-rich grain  
24 Nanny's charge  
25 Boot brand  
26 Eggy quaff  
28 "Tiny Alice"

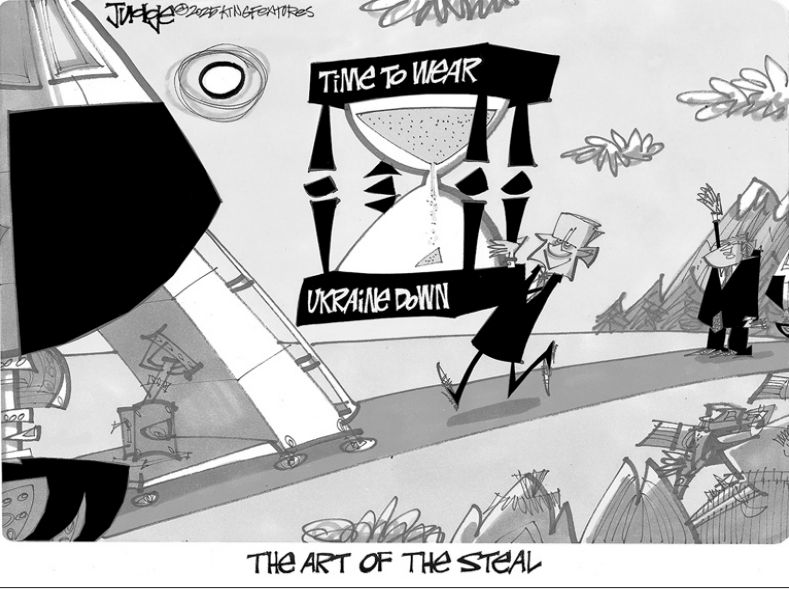
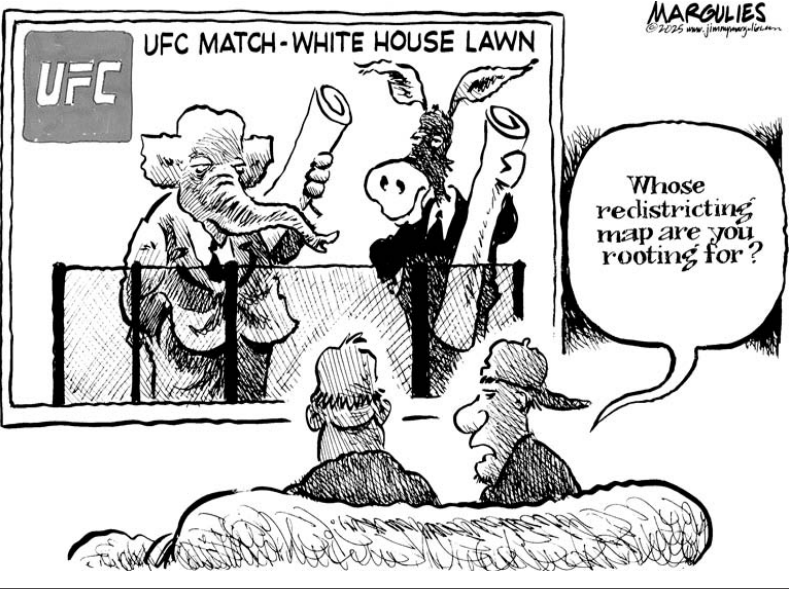
playwright  
32 Mr. Guinness  
34 Online guffaw  
36 The Emerald Isle  
37 Name on a vacuum  
39 Conk on the head  
41 Kilmer of "The Doors"  
42 Highland hat  
44 Goodies  
46 Weapons store  
50 Entirely  
51 Active sort  
52 Birthing experts  
56 Jai \_  
57 Soon, poetically  
58 Ecol. watchdog  
59 Apportion  
60 Wimbledon units  
61 Half dozen

**DOWN**  
1 Mil. group  
2 Before  
3 Traces  
4 Buy at a discount  
5 "Do \_ say!"  
6 Poker variety  
7 Tears into  
8 Tea kettle  
noisemaker  
9 Staffer  
10 Pop star  
11 Minus  
16 Ornate vase  
20 Extinct bird  
21 Campus area  
22 Unsightly  
23 ISP giant  
27 Sailor  
29 Clams and oysters, e.g.

30 Part of Q.E.D.  
31 Congers  
33 Exclusive group  
35 Parcel of land  
38 A Bobbsey twin  
40 Seafood order  
43 May honorees  
45 Yale grad  
46 Cain's dad  
47 Actor's quest  
48 Membership  
49 Queue  
53 Speck  
54 Roof ornament  
55 Jazz band instrument

Answer Page 4





CORRECTED NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING TO DISCUSS BUDGET AND PROPOSED TAX RATE

The Anthony Independent School District will hold a public meeting at 6:00 p.m., Wednesday, September 17, 2025 in the Anthony ISD Board Room, 813 Sixth Street, Anthony, Texas 79821. The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the school district’s budget that will determine the tax rate that will be adopted. Public participation in the discussion is invited.

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

Maintenance Tax	\$0.786900/\$100 (Proposed rate for maintenance and operations)
School Debt Service Tax	
Approved by Local Voters	\$0.160000/\$100 (Proposed rate to pay bonded indebtedness)

Comparison of Proposed Budget with Last Year’s Budget

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

Maintenance and Operations	13.04%	Increase
Debt Service	0.16%	Increase
Total Expenditures	12.49%	Increase

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

	Preceding Tax Year	Current Tax Year
Total appraised value* of all property	\$ 394,942,699	\$ 397,734,051
Total appraised value* of new property**	\$ 443,113	\$ 1,194,474
Total taxable value*** of all property	\$ 243,063,422	\$ 253,466,396
Total taxable value*** of new property**	\$ 443,113	\$ 1,129,002

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

Bonded Indebtedness

Total amount of outstanding and unpaid bonded indebtedness\* \$2,255,000

\* Outstanding principal.

Comparison of Proposed Rates with Last Year’s Rates

	Maintenance & Operations	Interest & Sinking Fund*	Total	Local Revenue Per Student	State Revenue Per Student
Last Year’s Rate	\$ 0.786900	\$ 0.127700*	\$ 0.914600	\$ 3,303	\$ 12,861
Rate to Maintain Same Level of Maintenance & Operations Revenue & Pay Debt Service	\$ 0.786900	\$ 0.160000*	\$ 0.946900	\$ 3,352	\$ 14,686
Proposed Rate	\$ 0.786900	\$ 0.160000*	\$ 0.946900	\$ 3,352	\$ 14,680

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

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

	Last Year	This Year
Average Market Value of Residences	\$ 170,002	\$ 179,557
Average Taxable Value of Residences	\$ 70,002	\$ 39,557
Last Year’s Rate Versus		
Proposed Rate per \$100 Value	\$ 0.914600	\$ 0.946900
Taxes Due on Average Residence	\$ 640.24	\$ 374.57
Increase (Decrease) in Taxes		\$ – 265.67

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

Notice of Voter-Approval Rate: The highest tax rate the district can adopt before requiring voter approval at an election is \$0.946186. This election will be automatically held if the district adopts a rate in excess of the voter-approval rate of \$0.946186.

Fund Balances

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

Maintenance and Operations Fund Balance(s)	\$ 3,556,021
Interest & Sinking Fund Balance(s)	\$ 28,805

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

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

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



## San Elizario Independent School District Public Notice of Non-Discrimination

It is the policy of San Elizario Independent School District to prohibit discrimination on the, basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, or any other basis prohibited by law in the admission or access to programs, delivery of services or employment.

The San Elizaraio Independent School District is fully committed to meeting its responsibilities as specified by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended; Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972; prohibiting sex discrimination, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended; the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended; and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

Inquiries concerning your rights may be referred to Dr. Jeannie Meza-Chavez, Superintendent, 1050 Chicken Ranch Rd., Mail: PO BOX 920, San Elizario, TX 79849, (915) 872-3900.

### Notificación Publica

*Es a norma de conducta del Distrito escolar de San Elizario prohibir la discriminación en base de raza, color, origen nacional, sexo, edad ó deshabilidad en la admisión ó el acceso a programas, entrega de servicios ó empleo.*

*El distrito escolar de San Elizario esta comprometido a cumplir con las responsabilidades especificadas por el Título VI del Acta de Derechos Civiles de 1964, como enmendado, el Título IX de la Enmienda de Educación de 1972, como enmendado, que prohíbe la discriminación sexual, la Sección 504 del Acta de Rehabilitación de 1973, como enmendado, la Ley de Discriminación por Edad de 1975 como enmendado, y el Acta de Americanos con Deshabilidades.*

*Para información tocanta a sus derechos comuniquese con Dr. Jeannie Meza-Chavez, Superintendente, 1050 Chicken Ranch Rd., Por Correo: PO BOX 920, San Elizario, TX 79849, (915) 872-3900.*

WTCC: 09-04-25

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## Strange BUT TRUE

By Lucie Winborne

• Steve Jobs would eat the same fruit or vegetable for weeks on end, and believed that binging nothing but apples or carrots reduced his body odor to the extent that he would need to shower just once a week.

• Earth is the only planet in the solar system with rainbows.

• In 2020, researchers at Ohio State University found that smokers with better math skills were more likely to quit smoking, as they retained more of the risk statistics associated with the habit.

• A heatwave can make train tracks bend.

• “Mamihlapinatapai,” from the Yaghan language of Tierra del Fuego and defined as “a look shared by two people, each wishing that the other would initiate something that they both desire but which neither wants to begin,” was recognized in the 1994 Guinness Book of World Records as the world’s most succinct word.

• Until 1911, the MLB had a rule stating that if an umpire was “unable to see whether a catch has been fairly made or not,” he was free to appeal to the game’s spectators for a judgment.

• Silk is stronger than steel.

• If you want to listen to a

song called “Chosen Priest and the Apostle of Infinite Space” by Bull of Heaven, you’ll need to reserve two months for the experience.

• Coconuts, in different forms, are antiviral, antifungal, antibacterial and antiparasitic.

• The eyes on Michelangelo’s statue of David look in different directions. Why is debatable, but some scholars believe the artist wanted to ensure the shepherd’s gaze was as impactful as possible from either side.

• A crocodile cannot stick its tongue out.

• A fight between chameleons is more likely to be both initiated and won by the lizard with the brighter stripes. But then, such conflicts are rare, since that flashier color display is typically enough to win the duel.

• The Popigai crater in northern Siberia contains an estimated trillions of karats of industrial-grade diamonds. Unfortunately, they’re too expensive to mine.

• Bulgarians nod when they want to say no and shake their heads when they want to say yes.

Thought for the Day: “There are three kinds of men. The one that learns by reading. The few who learn by observation. The rest of them have to pee on the electric fence for themselves.”

– Will Rogers

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## Moments in time

• On Sept. 1, 1878, Emma Nutt of Boston became the first female telephone operator. Until then, most telephone operators were teenage boys, whom customers weren’t overly happy with due to their gruffness and penchant for jokes and cursing.

• On Sept. 2, 1995, pop star Michael Jackson’s recording of “You Are Not Alone,” penned by R. Kelly after Kelly lost people close to him, made it to the top of Billboard’s Hot 100, becoming Jackson’s 12th No. 1 hit. It also earned American Music Award and Grammy nominations for Best Pop Vocal Performance.

• On Sept. 3, 1939, in response to Hitler’s invasion of Poland, Britain and France declared war on Germany.

• On Sept. 4, 2016, Pope Francis declared Roman Catholic nun Mother Teresa, who had dedicated her life to caring for India’s poor and marginalized, Saint Teresa of Calcutta before an approving crowd of thousands in Vatican City’s St. Peter’s Square. Her numerous awards included the 1979 Nobel Peace Prize.

• On Sept. 5, 2024, Oksana Masters, who was born with disabilities linked to the Chernobyl nuclear disaster, including webbed fingers and six toes on each foot, and abandoned as a baby but adopted at age 7 by an American professor, won her 9th Paralympic gold medal, scoring 19th overall across rowing, cycling and skiing.

• On Sept. 6, 1781, British Brigadier General Benedict Arnold, a former Patriot officer who had already become infamous for betraying the United States by attempting to sell the Patriot fort at West Point, New York, to the British the previous year for 20,000 pounds, added to the stains on his reputation by ordering his British command to burn every building in New London, Connecticut, after they’d looted the town, to the equivalent of more than \$500,000 worth of damage.

• On Sept. 7, 1911, radical French poet Guillaume Apollinaire was arrested and jailed on suspicion of stealing Leonardo da Vinci’s “Mona Lisa” from the Louvre Museum in Paris. Due to a lack of evidence, he was released after five days.

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R	A	N	T	E	R	P	S	R	O	A	D	I	E	M	A
D	D	A	Y	S	T	Y	E	S	E	G	G	S	O	N	A

## CryptoQuip Answer

Peculiar human society whose members always tend to hit each other on the head: Bop Culture.

Paseo del Este Municipal  
Utility District No. 2  
Notice of Public Hearing  
on Tax Rate

The Paseo del Este Municipal Utility District No. 2 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 1:00 P.M. (MDT) at TRE & Associates, L.L.C., 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 taxable value of all other property determines the distribution of the tax burden among all propertyowners.

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 Jorjorian-Raynal,  
Esparza, Newsom, Mezzacappa  
and Wardy

**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
Total tax rate (per \$100 of value)	\$0.7308/\$100 Adopted	\$0.7173/\$100 Proposed
Difference in rates per \$100 of value	– \$ 0.0135	
Percentage increase / decrease in rates (+/–)	– 1.85%	
Average appraised residence homestead value	\$ 409,827	\$ 417,527
General homestead exemptions available (excluding 65 years of age or older or disabled person’s exemptions)	\$ –	\$ –
Average residence homestead taxable value	\$ 409,827	\$ 417,527
Tax on average residence homestead	\$ 2,995.02	\$ 2,994.92
Annual increase / decrease in taxes if proposed tax rate is adopted (+/–)	– \$ 0.10	
and percentage of increase (+/–)	0.00%	

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 Paseo del Este Municipal Utility District No. 2 proposes to use the tax increase for the purpose of administrative expenses or to reimburse amounts owed to developers.

NOTICE OF VOTE 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 3.5 percent, an election must be held to determine whether to approve the operation and maintenance tax rate under Section 49.23602, 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.

Paseo del Este Municipal  
Utility District No. 3  
Notice of Public Hearing  
on Tax Rate

The Paseo del Este Municipal Utility District No. 3 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 9:00 A.M. (MDT) at TRE & Associates, L.L.C., 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 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 Adauto, Boswell,  
Quintana and Drozd

**AGAINST** the proposal: NONE

**PRESENT** and not voting: NONE

**ABSENT:** Director Smith

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 of value)	\$0.6937/\$100 Adopted	\$0.6792/\$100 Proposed
Difference in rates per \$100 of value	– \$ 0.0145	
Percentage increase / decrease in rates (+/–)	– 2.09%	
Average appraised residence homestead value	\$ 282,308	\$ 288,332
General homestead exemptions available (excluding 65 years of age or older or disabled person’s exemptions)	\$ –	\$ –
Average residence homestead taxable value	\$ 282,308	\$ 288,332
Tax on average residence homestead	\$ 1,958.37	\$ 1,958.35
Annual increase / decrease in taxes if proposed tax rate is adopted (+/–)	– \$ 0.02	
and percentage of increase (+/–)	0.00%	

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 Paseo del Este Municipal Utility District No. 3 proposes to use the tax increase for the purpose of administrative expenses or to reimburse amounts owed to developers.

NOTICE OF VOTE 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 3.5 percent, an election must be held to determine whether to approve the operation and maintenance tax rate under Section 49.23602, 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.



# El Paso County Tornillo Water Improvement District Notice of Public Hearing on Tax Rate

The EL PASO COUNTY TORNILLO WATER IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT will hold a public hearing on a proposed tax rate for the tax year 2025 on Wednesday, September 17, 2025, at 7:00 p.m., at 19210 Cobb Ave., W.E. Neill Service Center Board Room, Tornillo, TX 79853. 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:

Eusebio Villa, Jr.  
Loretta Aguilar  
Hector Luna

Jorge Aguirre  
Ariel Lujan  
Alejandro Rodriguez

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
Total tax rate (per \$100 value)	\$0.084278/\$100	\$0.080217/\$100
	Adopted	Proposed
Difference in rates per \$100 of value	– \$ 0.004061	
Percentage increase / decrease in rates (+/–)	– 4.82%	
Average appraised value	\$ 109,805	\$ 119,388
General homestead exemptions available (excluding 65 years of age or older or disabled person’s exemptions)	\$ 0	\$ 0
Average residence homestead taxable value	\$ 109,805	\$ 119,388
Tax on average residence homestead	\$ 92.54	\$ 95.77
Annual increase / decrease in taxes if proposed tax rate is adopted (+/–)	+ \$ 3.23	
and percentage of increase (+/–)	+ 3.49%	

## NOTICE OF VOTE ON 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 3.5 percent, an election must be held to determine whether to approve the operation and maintenance tax rate under Section 49.23602, 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.



– Photo by Josh Luna

**LET THE UPGRADES BEGIN** – Village of Vinton Mayor Rachel Quintana is flanked by El Paso Mayor Renard Johnson, left, and by El Paso County Judge Ricardo Samaniego, right, during Vinton Steel’s recent groundbreaking ceremony at Vinton Steel.

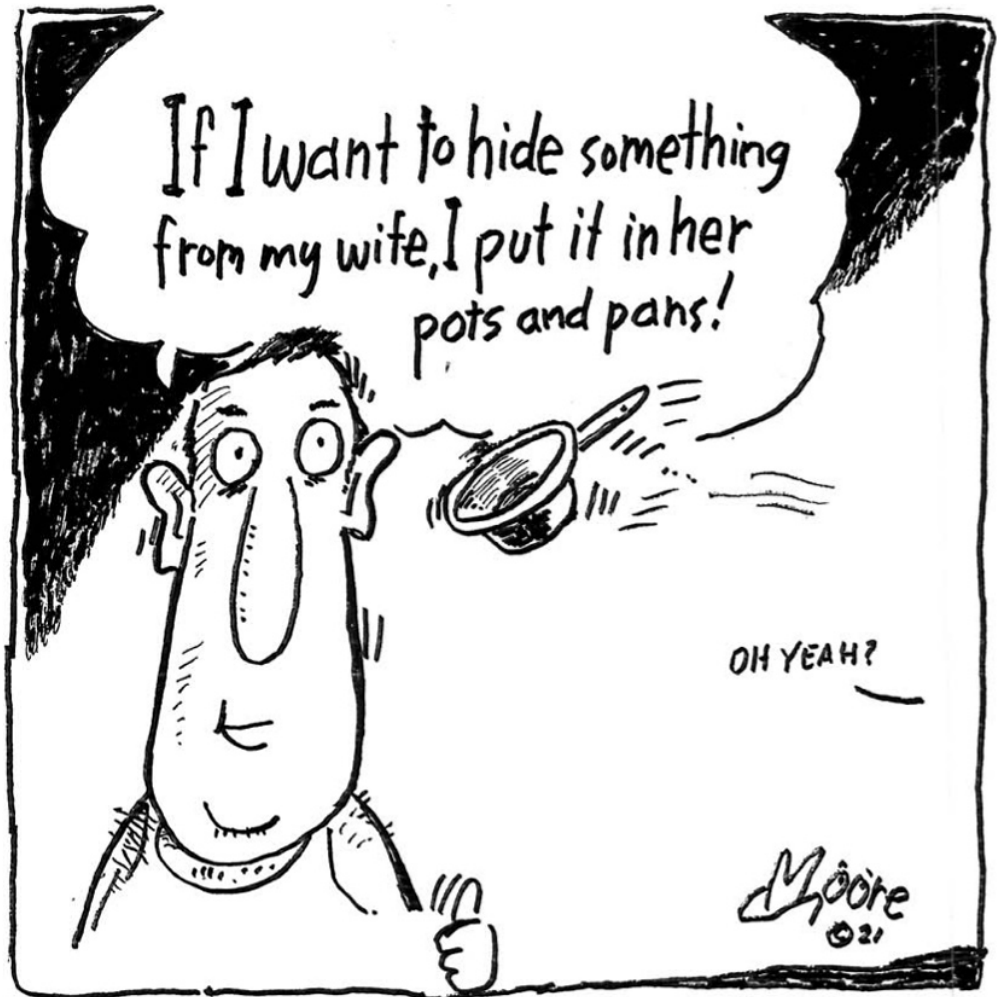
## Vinton

From Page 1

local officials. Plans are to complete the work in 2027.

Sergio Coronado, El Paso County Commissioner whose Precinct 4 includes the upper valley, stated during the groundbreaking ceremony that the

Village of Vinton and El Paso County are proud to stand alongside Vinton Steel in this transformative expansion. “Project V will not only boost our local economy with hundreds of new jobs but also set a standard for innovation and environmental stewardship in the steel industry. This is a win for our community, our workforce, and our future,” the commissioner boasted.



## Moore Texas by Roger MOORE

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Paseo del Este Municipal  
Utility District No. 4  
Notice of Public Hearing  
on Tax Rate

The Paseo del Este Municipal Utility District No. 4 of El Paso County will hold a public hearing on a proposed tax rate for the tax year 2025 on Friday, September 12, 2025, at 9:30 A.M. (MDT) at TRE & Associates, L.L.C., 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 taxable value of all other property determines the distribution of the tax burden among all propertyowners.

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 Lascurain, Gonzalez, Franco and Lopez

**AGAINST** the proposal: NONE

**PRESENT** and not voting: NONE

**ABSENT:** Director Campbell

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 of value)	\$0.7500/\$100 Adopted	\$0.8018/\$100 Proposed
Difference in rates per \$100 of value	+ \$ 0.0518	
Percentage increase / decrease in rates (+/–)	+ 6.91%	
Average appraised residence homestead value	\$ 332,825	\$ 311,321
General homestead exemptions available (excluding 65 years of age or older or disabled person’s exemptions)	\$ –	\$ –
Average residence homestead taxable value	\$ 332,825	\$ 311,321
Tax on average residence homestead	\$ 2,496.19	\$ 2,496.17
Annual increase / decrease in taxes if proposed tax rate is adopted (+/–)	– \$ 0.02	
and percentage of increase (+/–)	0.00%	

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 Paseo del Este Municipal Utility District No. 4 proposes to use the tax increase for the purpose of administrative expenses or to reimburse amounts owed to developers.

NOTICE OF VOTE 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 3.5 percent, an election must be held to determine whether to approve the operation and maintenance tax rate under Section 49.23602, 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.

Paseo del Este Municipal  
Utility District No. 5  
Notice of Public Hearing  
on Tax Rate

The Paseo del Este Municipal Utility District No. 5 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 10:30 A.M. (MDT) at TRE & Associates, L.L.C., 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 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 Alonzo Jr., Ortiz, Ortega and Valdez

**AGAINST** the proposal: NONE

**PRESENT** and not voting: NONE

**ABSENT:** Director Juarez

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 of value)	\$0.6852/\$100 Adopted	\$0.6816/\$100 Proposed
Difference in rates per \$100 of value	– \$ 0.0036	
Percentage increase / decrease in rates (+/–)	– 0.53%	
Average appraised residence homestead value	\$ 282,936	\$ 284,414
General homestead exemptions available (excluding 65 years of age or older or disabled person’s exemptions)	\$ –	\$ –
Average residence homestead taxable value	\$ 282,936	\$ 284,414
Tax on average residence homestead	\$ 1,938.68	\$ 1,938.57
Annual increase / decrease in taxes if proposed tax rate is adopted (+/–)	– \$ 0.11	
and percentage of increase (+/–)	– 0.01%	

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 Paseo del Este Municipal Utility District No. 5 proposes to use the tax increase for the purpose of administrative expenses or to reimburse amounts owed to developers.

NOTICE OF VOTE 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 3.5 percent, an election must be held to determine whether to approve the operation and maintenance tax rate under Section 49.23602, 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.

# Jerry Jones leaves Cowboy fans scratching their heads

**By Steve Escajeda**  
*Special to the Courier*

I'm in my sixties and though I'm still doing very well physically and mentally, I know that someday I'll be too weak to do a jumping jack and too senile to make good decisions.

If you saw former president Joe Biden over the last four years, you know what I mean.

Well, I think one guy proved last week that he's officially reached the "too senile to make good decisions" part of his life. And the truth is that he's probably been there for quite a while.

Last week, Dallas Cowboys owner and general manager Jerry Jones did the unthinkable and traded his best defensive player Micah Parsons to the Green Bay Packers.

Parsons isn't just the Cowboys best defensive player; he is one of the best two or three defensive players in the entire National Football League.

Over the last two seasons, Jones has waited until right before the start of the season to sign contract extensions to quarterback Dak Prescott two years ago and then receiver CeeDee Lamb last year.

And everyone thought he was going to do the same thing with Parsons this year.

But Jones shocked all Dallas Cowboys fans by getting rid of his best player.

Not only did Jones get rid of Parsons, he sent him to the Packers, who are one of the teams the Cowboys will have to contend with to make the playoffs.

Normally, it would be bad enough that Jones trades Parsons, but it got worse when the Cowboys' owner tried to explain why he did what he did.

Jerry actually said that the Cowboys now have a better chance of winning

than when they had Micah Parsons.

Jones tried to say that because he paid Dak and CeeDee a lot of money, that he was all in on making the Cowboys better. Remember this was the guy who kept saying that he was “all in” on getting the available free agent players to make Dallas a champion again, and he wound up getting nobody.

The Cowboys don't have a running back, they lost offensive lineman Zack Martin to retirement, and they lost another good defender, DeMarcus Lawrence to free agency.

And Jerry Jones has the audaciousness to say the Cowboys are even better now without Parsons.

Does anyone really believe Jerry made a well thought out rational decision trading away Parsons?

On the other hand, if this works out for the Cowboys, Jerry Jones will be considered a genius for making the trade.

So, let's see what Dallas got in

exchange for Micah.

Green Bay traded defensive tackle Kenny Clark to Dallas, along with two first-round draft picks, one in 2026 and one in 2027.

Clark is a good guy to have in the middle of the defensive line and hopefully he'll help stop the run, but he'll be 30 this year and his best seasons are behind him.

Dallas will have Green Bay's first round picks the next two years, but the Packers, who are already good, will be even better with Parsons on their team.

Because of that, the Packers will pick late in the first round, about pick number 25 to 30. So, though it sounds good to have those first round choices, the Cowboys won't be getting anywhere near the top 10 players coming out of college.

So, I don't think the Cowboys got nearly enough for the 26-year-old Parsons, who is on his way to a Hall-of-Fame career.

The Cowboys open the NFL season on Thursday night against the defending Super Bowl champion Philadelphia Eagles. Does anyone really think the loss of Parsons gives Dallas a better chance of pulling the upset?

It was already going to be tough for the Cowboys to finish ahead of the Eagles and the Washington Commanders in their own division this season. Now the experts think the Cowboys may even finish behind the New York Giants as well.

As far as Jerry Jones, it's obviously difficult for any older individual to admit that he's lost his fastball. It's tough to admit you can no longer drive a car, or climb a ladder, or run a professional football team.

As the general manager, Jerry Jones hasn't led the Cowboys to a Super Bowl in nearly 30 years.

I'm afraid that when this February comes around, it'll be exactly 30 years.

## Senior moment By Matilda Charles

# Save money at the Habitat ReStore

It's that time of year again. Summer is fading and it's time to start thinking about what cold weather might bring. As well as revisiting the parts of the to-do list that didn't get completed during the summer.

In my house that incomplete portion of my list includes painting the stairs before management notices the peeling and issues a fine and having a new window installed in the living room.

The reasons for not having done those things yet are the price of a can of paint (\$42 for a gallon when I need less than a quart) and over \$500 for the window, installation not included.

Do you see a pattern here?

And yes, it's the price of nearly everything nowadays that keeps so many of us from taking care of things like we should.

However, I've just learned of a way to get at least a few things on my list: The Habitat for Humanity ReStore. They have 900 locations across the country, and one of

those just happens to be near me.

Started in 1976, Habitat for Humanity is the group that will build homes around the world that are then sold for affordable amounts to low and moderate income families, improve and repair houses for seniors so they can stay in their homes, provide disaster response, and much more.

Their Habitat ReStores are loaded with good quality used merchandise that they take in with donations. It not only keeps household items out of the landfills, but it allows people to buy those items at very reduced prices. They carry used furniture, building materials, appliances, housewares and so much more, some of it donated by corporations.

To find locations near you, go online to [www.habitat.org](http://www.habitat.org), click “Shop” and then click “Habitat ReStores.” Put in your ZIP code.

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# Super Crossword

FETE-FULL FLOWERS ACROSS

1 Little jump

4 Brains

10 Teeny bits

15 Female horse

19 Friend, in Paris

20 Social outcast

21 Ice cream utensil

22 Female gamete

23 Cap production place

25 \_ firma

26 "I saw," to Caesar

27 Newspaper stories

28 Vehicle attachment to transport watercraft

30 "Get it?"

31 "Ender's Game" star Butterfield

33 Actress Long or Vardalos

34 Closes in on

35 Cry while wearing a costume

41 Some boxing punches

43 On top of, in verse

44 Divine figure

45 Feel poorly

47 Pub barrel

51 Pundits' paper pieces

54 Power to attract others

57 Unceasingly

59 Newbie at a law school

60 Sculling tool

61 Org. that screens

bags

62 Patron of sailors

63 "Second gentleman" Emhoff

65 Forget to say

67 Lots and lots

68 Logical thought process

72 Some sharp turns

75 Coll. lecturer

76 Low-fat, informally

77 Pina \_

81 "I have it!"

82 Hosp. test in a big tube

83 Christian of fashion

85 Led to a seat

86 Typical D.C. dealings

91 County in New Mexico or Colorado

92 Method

93 Muscle: Prefix

94 University of Maine's city

96 Neighbor of Kan. and la.

97 Pro at taking dictation

99 Swear words and such

103 Clear wrap

106 Says "yes" to

108 USN officers

109 Sleuth, in old slang

110 Straight, flexible

wire receiving waves

113 Rather little

118 Prefix with present

119 Gorme of song

120 Post-event bash... or where eight key words in this puzzle might appear

122 Diatribe

123 U. of Maryland team

124 Band flunky

125 Atlas feature

126 Pivotal WWII event

127 Eye maladies

128 Prods

129 "Yes" vote

DOWN

1 "Funny joke!"

2 Vizquel of baseball

3 Brad of "Fight Club"

4 Sissy of the screen

5 Gavin of "The Mary Tyler Moore Show"

6 Jester Johnson

7 Ocho \_ (resort in Jamaica)

8 Pothole filler

9 Sheepish

10 Colon's meaning in an analogy

11 Whale locale

12 Burrito base

13 Large arteries

14 Trade jabs

15 Apt place to make a scene

16 Birthplace of St. Teresa

17 Less courteous

18 Kuwaiti chiefs

24 Finance-related: informally

Abbr.

28 Lamb's cry

29 Growth on an elk's head

31 Intro studio class

32 Jane of "Live and Let Die"

35 Horn blasts

36 Transplant, as a flower

37 Cara of "Fame" fame

38 Enjoy a novel

39 Element #50

40 Chronicle

42 Zealots

46 "This makes no sense to me"

48 Singer Eartha

49 Canadian gas brand

50 FBI guy, e.g.

52 Barbies, e.g.

53 Big rig

55 Poet Maya

56 Enter

58 Like numbers with more than two divisors

63 "Whoop-de-\_"

64 When a team travels, perhaps

66 TV bartender

Szyslak

67 Shoelace tag

69 "Will & Grace" actor McCormack

70 Ventilates

71 Big Apple neighborhood

72 Microwaves, informally

73 Sailor's cry

74 Lassies

78 Sports center

79 Removal of govt. controls

80 Pueblo brick

82 E. Sicilian volcano

84 "Time \_ the essence!"

85 Forearm part

87 "How sad"

88 Cure by exposing to burning wood

89 E-addresses

90 Gmail rival

95 A Great Lake

98 "Later"

100 Rock-\_ jukebox

101 Alternative to a ballpoint

102 Golden State sch.

103 Fencing need

104 Ex-NFLer Rashad

105 Lisa of "Melrose Place"

107 Marsh bird

111 Fish snares

112 Scottish loch

113 Forest buck

114 Contents of Rx bottles

115 "\_ la Douce"

116 Go nowhere

117 Really promote

120 "How \_ you?"

121 Haze

Answer Page 4

Super Crossword

1	2	3		4	5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13	14		15	16	17	18
19				20							21						22			
23			24								25						26			
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43					44						45	46			47			48	49	50
51			52	53		54				55				56						
57					58				59					60				61		
62							63	64				65	66				67			
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72	73	74			75					76					77			78	79	80
81				82				83	84					85						
86			87					88				89	90			91				
92							93				94				95			96		
			97			98			99	100						101	102			
103	104	105				106		107		108					109					
110					111				112					113	114			115	116	117
118					119						120	121								
122					123						124							125		
126					127						128							129		



Paseo del Este Municipal  
Utility District No. 6  
Notice of Public Hearing  
on Tax Rate

The Paseo del Este Municipal Utility District No. 6 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 2:00 P.M. (MDT) at TRE & Associates, L.L.C., 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 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 Huit, Peterson and Rico  
**AGAINST** the proposal: NONE  
**PRESENT** and not voting: NONE  
**ABSENT:** Directors Wheeler and Romero

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 of value)	\$0.7500/\$100 Adopted	\$0.7500/\$100 Proposed
Difference in rates per \$100 of value	\$ 0.0000	
Percentage increase / decrease in rates (+/–)	0.00%	
Average appraised residence homestead value	\$ 298,239	\$ 305,256
General homestead exemptions available (excluding 65 years of age or older or disabled person’s exemptions)	\$ –	\$ –
Average residence homestead taxable value	\$ 298,239	\$ 305,256
Tax on average residence homestead	\$ 2,236.79	\$ 2,289.42
Annual increase / decrease in taxes if proposed tax rate is adopted (+/–) and percentage of increase (+/–)	+ \$ 52.63 + 2.35%	

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 Paseo del Este Municipal Utility District No. 6 proposes to use the tax increase for the purpose of administrative expenses or to reimburse amounts owed to developers.

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.

Paseo del Este Municipal  
Utility District No. 7  
Notice of Public Hearing  
on Tax Rate

The Paseo del Este Municipal Utility District No. 7 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 3:00 P.M. (MDT) at TRE & Associates, L.L.C., 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 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 Hansen, Goldfien,  
Garnica,Moye and Ulrich  
**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
Total tax rate (per \$100 of value)	\$0.6894/\$100 Adopted	\$0.7196/\$100 Proposed
Difference in rates per \$100 of value	+ \$ 0.0302	
Percentage increase / decrease in rates (+/–)	+ 4.38%	
Average appraised residence homestead value	\$ 275,097	\$ 272,742
General homestead exemptions available (excluding 65 years of age or older or disabled person’s exemptions)	\$ –	\$ –
Average residence homestead taxable value	\$ 275,097	\$ 272,742
Tax on average residence homestead	\$ 1,896.52	\$ 1,962.65
Annual increase / decrease in taxes if proposed tax rate is adopted (+/–) and percentage of increase (+/–)	+ \$ 66.13 + 3.49%	

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 Paseo del Este Municipal Utility District No. 7 proposes to use the tax increase for the purpose of administrative expenses or to reimburse amounts owed to developers.

NOTICE OF VOTE 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 3.5 percent, an election must be held to determine whether to approve the operation and maintenance tax rate under Section 49.23602, 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.



# Lupus, or SLE, is a systemic disorder

DEAR DR. ROACH: What is lupus, and what does it do to your body? I just had a friend who was diagnosed with it after many months of tests. – T.S.B.



The term “lupus” generally means systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE), which is a systemic disorder as its name suggests. So, by definition, it affects multiple systems of the body.

One of the most commonly affected systems is the skin, and one particular localized disease of the skin – discoid lupus – is a condition that helps make the diagnosis of SLE. I sometimes hear people with discoid lupus say that they have “lupus,” but it is not the systemic disease unless other criteria are met. Other skin conditions seen with SLE include the classic “butterfly” rash on the face, marked sun sensitivity, mouth ulcers, and hair loss.

People with SLE commonly have systemic or “constitutional” symptoms such as fatigue, fever and generalized aching. Weight loss is common with early SLE, but some people gain weight due to salt and water retention from the kidney manifestations of SLE or from treatment.

Joint problems (both pain and swelling) are present in over 90% of people with SLE. It always affects more than one joint. Kidney problems with protein in the urine are common and a diagnostic criterion. Neurological disorders are infrequent but may include seizures, peripheral neuropathy, and acute confusion or psychosis.

The lining of the heart and lungs are often affected, which can be heard by an examiner. An electrocardiogram shows typical changes. All of the blood cells – red, white and “blue” (platelets) – can be decreased.

Finally, there are blood proteins that are elevated in people with SLE. The ANA level is almost always high, but this is not a specific finding. I have seen more patients misdiagnosed with lupus because of a high ANA level and no other criteria for SLE than I have ever seen correctly diagnosed.

The anti-Smith antibody is much more specific but not commonly seen, while the anti-double-stranded DNA test is more common and specific than an ANA test. Blood tests alone do not diagnose SLE.

There are different scoring systems to make the diagnosis of definite and probable SLE using these criteria, but in clinical practice, the diagnosis is made using the judgment of an experienced clinician. In my practice, I refer all of my patients with suspected SLE to a rheumatologist.

The diagnosis of SLE isn’t completely straightforward and requires expertise, while the management of SLE requires a clinician who is both experienced and currently up-to-date in the medical treatment. This, again, usually means a rheumatologist.

Seventy years ago, prior to the development of steroids, the diagnosis of SLE used to be extremely dangerous, with half of people who were newly diagnosed dying within five years. Since steroids have many side effects and aren’t 100% effective, many new drugs have been developed, and most people who are diagnosed with SLE now can be well-managed.

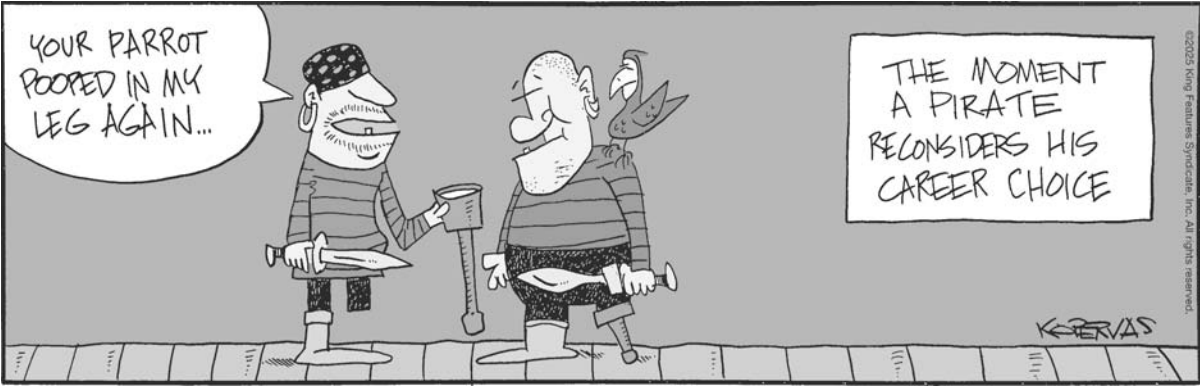
However, it is still a serious, life-changing diagnosis that increases the risk of heart disease and cancer in addition to all the organ issues mentioned above. A general doctor working with the rheumatologist can recommend treatments to reduce your heart risk, as well as appropriate cancer screening tests.

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

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### Lowry

From Page 2

it’s entirely appropriate to ask.

There was a long period from the 19th century through 1950 when the survey had a citizenship question. Then, it was relegated to the so-called “long form.” Finally, the long form itself was axed after 2000.

Now, it’s considered a scandal to even think about reviving the question. Trump’s proposal to ask the question on the 2020 census encountered stiff resistance and the Supreme Court squashed it.

By the way, non-citizens do have a notable impact on congressional apportionment. Recent research by the Center for Immigration Studies found that all immigrants (naturalized citizens as well as all other categories of immigrants) shifted 14 congressional seats to Democratic states on net in 2020.

Non-citizens also distort the composition of congressional districts. According to the study, there are the same number of citizens in the 13 congressional districts with the highest share of non-citizens as

in the 9 districts with the lowest share of non-citizens. In other words, the citizens in those 9 low-immigration districts get 4 fewer representatives than the citizens in the 13 high-immigration districts. It’s one man, one vote – with an asterisk.

To take an example from Texas, the Democratic-held 33rd district, where non-citizens are nearly 30% of the population, has 208,000 fewer voting-age citizens than the Texas 21st district. So the citizens in the 33rd district have marginally more clout and representation, thanks to a population tilted toward those who can’t vote.

Ultimately, the way to diminish these effects is to reduce the level of immigration. Early indications are that there has been a large exodus of illegal immigrants since Trump’s election, and the U.S. will have net negative migration for the first time in half a century. If Trump wants to fully capture the changes he’s effecting in immigration policy, he should indeed want a new census – in 2030.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.  
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Paseo del Este Municipal  
Utility District No. 8  
Notice of Public Hearing  
on Tax Rate

The Paseo del Este Municipal Utility District No. 8 of El Paso County will hold a public hearing on a proposed tax rate for the tax year 2025 on Friday, September 12, 2025, at 10:30 A.M. (MDT) at TRE & Associates, L.L.C., 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 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 Quiñones, Silva, Hunt, Bruder and De Alba

**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
Total tax rate (per \$100 of value)	\$0.6278/\$100	\$0.6237/\$100
	Adopted	Proposed
Difference in rates per \$100 of value	– \$ 0.0041	
Percentage increase / decrease in rates (+/–)	– 0.65%	
Average appraised residence homestead value	\$ 258,029	\$ 259,711
General homestead exemptions available (excluding 65 years of age or older or disabled person’s exemptions)	\$ –	\$ –
Average residence homestead taxable value	\$ 258,029	\$ 259,711
Tax on average residence homestead	\$ 1,619.91	\$ 1,619.82
Annual increase / decrease in taxes if proposed tax rate is adopted (+/–)	– \$ 0.09	
and percentage of increase (+/–)	– 0.01%	

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 Paseo del Este Municipal Utility District No. 8 proposes to use the tax increase for the purpose of administrative expenses or to reimburse amounts owed to developers.

NOTICE OF VOTE ON 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 3.5 percent, an election must be held to determine whether to approve the operation and maintenance tax rate under Section 49.23602, 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.

Paseo del Este Municipal  
Utility District No. 9  
Notice of Public Hearing  
on Tax Rate

The Paseo del Este Municipal Utility District No. 9 of El Paso County will hold a public hearing on a proposed tax rate for the tax year 2025 on Friday, September 12, 2025, at 11:30 A.M. (MDT) at TRE & Associates, L.L.C., 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 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 Bustamante, Lascurain, Grenier, Zuniga and Romero

**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
Total tax rate (per \$100 of value)	\$0.7050/\$100	\$0.7048/\$100
	Adopted	Proposed
Difference in rates per \$100 of value	– \$ 0.0002	
Percentage increase / decrease in rates (+/–)	– 0.03%	
Average appraised residence homestead value	\$ 268,790	\$ 268,858
General homestead exemptions available (excluding 65 years of age or older or disabled person’s exemptions)	\$ –	\$ –
Average residence homestead taxable value	\$ 268,790	\$ 268,858
Tax on average residence homestead	\$ 1,894.97	\$ 1,894.91
Annual increase / decrease in taxes if proposed tax rate is adopted (+/–)	– \$ 0.06	
and percentage of increase (+/–)	+ 0.00%	

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 Paseo del Este Municipal Utility District No. 9 proposes to use the tax increase for the purpose of administrative expenses or to reimburse amounts owed to developers.

NOTICE OF VOTE ON 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 3.5 percent, an election must be held to determine whether to approve the operation and maintenance tax rate under Section 49.23602, 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.





**Moore Texas** by Roger MOORE  
September 5, 1876: Francis Allen’s birthday. She was the first woman to graduate medical school AND likely suffered through many stereotypical situations.

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: F equals C

UJFGSRZD VGOZH TWFRJIK  
BVWTJ OJOQJDT ZSBZKT IJHC  
IW VRI JZFV WIVJD WH IVJ  
VJZC: QWU FGSIGDJ.

Answer Page 4

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Weekly SUDOKU

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

Answer Page 4

♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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Avoiding foreclosure



by Freddy Groves

Veterans who are in danger of losing their homes to foreclosure have just been given protection with the VA Home Loan Program Reform Act. Just passed, the act offers help just as the previous program, Veterans Affairs Servicing Purchase (VASP), expires.

The old VASP program helped veterans by purchasing their VA home loans and changing them to incorporate more manageable repayment terms. This typically meant stretching the repayment period out to 40 years and lowering the interest rate.

The new Partial Claim Program will involve the VA taking out a lien (a claim) on the home and paying off part of the overdue mortgage, thus canceling the foreclosure and bringing the loan current. The veteran doesn’t have to pay back

that money until either the home is refinanced or it’s sold. In other words, the past due amount will be put at the end of the loan with no interest. The program will run for five years and any help given cannot exceed 25-30% of the unpaid principal, depending on when that default occurred. Victims of a declared disaster (and unable to make payments because of that) can qualify for assistance.

That’s good stuff.

Not needing to pay the money back immediately, and not having it rolled into what they currently pay, will give veterans the breathing room they need to reduce their financial outgo over the long term – and keep their homes.

If you’re a veteran in a bad situation (and have missed three mortgage payments) that could end with the foreclosure on your home, there are steps you can take now: Call either the VA regional office nearest you, or the VA home loan guaranty department (877-827-3702) or your lender

to see if you qualify under the new Partial Claims Program.

If you’re struggling right now and have fallen behind in making your mortgage payment, don’t delay in finding out if you qualify for help. You won’t be alone; they’re expecting to assist 70,000 veterans to keep their homes.

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• “Beautiful umbrella stands don’t have to be limited to umbrellas. We keep sports equipment (bats, a lacrosse stick, yoga mat) in ours and it works just as well.” – T.J. in Kansas

• Make your own camping lamp: Strap a head lamp to a full gallon jug of water. It fills the tent with a soft light, and you can still drink the water!

• Use rubbing alcohol to clean window frames and trays. It evaporates quickly with no residue left behind.

• “If you have a retractable cord on your vacuum, try this trick. Clip a clothespin at the optimum length, and the cord will not retract past that point. So, no more snapping right out of the outlet, which used to happen to me.” – P.L. in Tennessee

• Coffee filters make wonderful glass cleaners. They leave behind no streaks and no residual lint.

• “If you have a spade with a long handle, you can transfer common measurements to the handle. Just lay a tape measure alongside the handle, and use a black marker to note common spacing, like feet and inches. Then, when you put in plants, you can check quickly whether they are spaced correctly. Very handy!” – P.E. in Arkansas

• Old socks can be fit around the head of an old mop or Swiffer base. Spray with cleaner and clean away. When you are done, remove the sock and launder.

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.

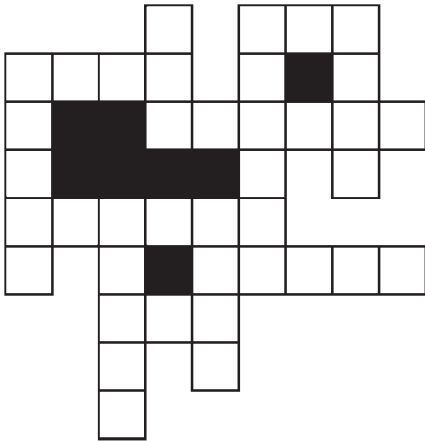
Answer Page 4

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	+		×		=60			
+		+		+				
	+		×		=84			
-		×		+				
	+		÷		= 1			
=		=		=				
3		51		18				
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9



- PIM  
♥ PASLIN  
USMRE  
♥ ILCO  
♥ NAGMIR  
AGH  
RMGI  
♥ HESLA  
IRM  
TULHER  
CIGNI  
♥ SPSA



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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