



Photo by Alfredo Vasquez

**PROPER TREATMENT** – U.S. Representative Veronica Escobar along with other congressional leaders are trying to establish appropriate oversight and basic human rights protections for the thousands of immigrants being held in detention facilities that have been set up throughout the country including Fort Bliss' East Montana detention center, above.

## County residents voice detention facilities concerns

By Alfredo Vasquez  
Special to the Courier

EL PASO COUNTY – Today in the United States, many Americans are beginning to feel the same apprehension that Martin Niemöller expressed about Germany in the 1930's, including some El Paso County residents, who are alarmingly aware that the largest immigrant detention center in the country is right here in their own backyard.

As one long-time El Paso County resident, Ralph B., recently said, "When I realized that Immigration

& Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents are raiding American cities, rounding up migrants, and housing them in detention facilities, like the one in East El Paso County, Martin Niemöller's quote came to mind."

Niemöller is remembered for his post-World War II statement, which begins, "First they came for the socialists, and I did not speak out – because I was not a socialist. Then they came for the trade unionists, and I did not speak out because I was not a trade unionist. Then they came for the Jews, and I did not speak out – because I was not a Jew. Then they came for me, and there was no one left to speak for me."

The quotation expresses Niemöller's belief that

Germans had been complicit through their silence in the Nazi imprisonment, persecution, and murder of millions of people.

According to the Holocaust Encyclopedia, Niemöller (1892–1984) was a prominent Lutheran pastor in Germany. In the 1920s and early 1930s, he sympathized with many Nazi ideas and supported radically right-wing political movements. But after Adolf Hitler came to power in 1933, Niemöller became an outspoken critic of Hitler's interference in the Protestant Church. Because of his criticism,

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## Borrego hired as Canutillo ISD superintendent

By Gustavo Reveles  
Special to the Courier

CANUTILLO – Dr. Josue Borrego was officially hired on January 12 as the next superintendent of schools for the Canutillo Independent School District. It was a unanimous vote by the Board of Trustees. Borrego was named the lone finalist for the position on December 2. His contract was approved after the state-mandated waiting period required following the selection

of a superintendent candidate. He will officially begin his tenure later this month.

"I am thrilled to join the Canutillo ISD family and to work alongside the dedicated educators, administrators and auxiliary staff who make up this amazing district as we continue to prioritize education for the children of this community," Borrego said. "I thank the Board of Trustees for placing their trust in me during this critical moment for Canutillo. I vow to give everything I have to

meet our shared goals." Canutillo ISD Board President Sergio Martinez said Dr. Borrego is a strong fit for the district as it continues to build on its academic success. "We are known as the Best Small School District in Texas, and that is a distinction we intend to protect," Martinez said. "Dr. Borrego has a proven record of helping students succeed and schools excel. We expect that experience to elevate Canutillo even further."

Dr. Borrego holds an

Associate's Degree in Cross-Cultural Studies and a Bachelor's Degree in Biblical and Theological Studies from the Baptist University of the Americas in San Antonio. He earned a Master's Degree in Higher Education Administration and a Doctorate in K-12 Educational Leadership with a focus on Administration from Dallas Baptist University's competitive program.

He holds Texas teaching



Photo courtesy Fabens ISD

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Dr. Josue Borrego

# Trump pushes large defense spending, buildup

Finally, the United States will follow through on its NATO commitments.

That'd be the cheeky interpretation of President Donald Trump's announcement, via Truth Social, that he wants the U.S. defense budget to be \$1.5 trillion. This would represent a stunning 50% increase over the current budget and put the U.S. right around 5% of GDP, the target level that NATO countries recently adopted at Trump's insistence.

The details and follow-through will matter, but on its own terms, the Trump declaration is of epic significance.

Such a historic buildup would meet the moment – it's never made sense that the U.S. would enter a period of heightened risk of great power conflict at a time when it has difficulty replenishing its

missile stocks.

It would match the predilections of a president who enjoys throwing his weight around. If Trump wants to speak loudly and carry a big stick, it requires the resources to build and maintain the stick.

And it would match his vision of a world-class military. You can't have a Golden Dome – Trump's project for an enhanced missile defense – or a Golden Fleet – his notion of a next-generation navy – without a Golden Defense Budget.

The scale of spending contemplated here is truly astounding. A \$500 billion increase would roughly match the total annual spending of all non-U.S. NATO countries. The percentage increase would be the highest since the Korean War and double the biggest annual increases of the Reagan years.

"We still talk about the Reagan buildup," Secretary of War Pete Hegseth said in a speech last month, "and my kids and yours will someday talk about the Trump buildup."

The Trump proposal would not just be a down payment on that promise, but a big step toward fulfilling it.

If our military is highly proficient—as demonstrated in the Venezuela raid – it also doesn't have the materiel to wage a protracted major war.

Defense analyst Mackenzie Eaglin of the American

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## Detention

From Page 1

he was arrested and spent the last eight years of Nazi rule, from 1937 to 1945, in Nazi prisons and concentration camps.

During his recent visit to University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP), Tom Homan, former ICE director and now the appointed border czar, told an audience of about 500 persons that the on-going ICE immigrant roundups were vital to the U.S.'s national security because there were just too many immigrants who had broken U.S. law by entering the country illegally, and he highlighted the risks for human trafficking and cartel violence as some of the dangers of illegal immigration for both the U.S. and Mexico.

Meanwhile, about 200 individuals protested outside the UTEP auditorium where Homan was giving his speech. Carlos A., a local educator and UTEP graduate, was asked by a TV reporter why he was participating in the protest. He matter-of-factly retorted, "because if people don't speak out against what is happening in the United States today the same thing could happen that occurred in Nazi Germany in 1933, and we all know how that ended."

Another long-time borderland resident, Jaime M., who is a retired public-school counselor, bemoaned the fact that he is too old to actively participate in opposing the ICE raids but asserted that he strongly supports those individuals who are publicly voicing their opposition, like the hundred or so individuals who recently protested at the East Montana detention center's entrance.

The East Montana detention facility is projected to hold at least 5,000 detainees for deportation. Currently there are over

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THE  
RICH  
LOWRY  
COLUMN

Act of 1986, which granted amnesty to nearly 3 million undocumented immigrants.

- Barack Obama, while overseeing record deportations, also saw the unauthorized population grow during his term, with reports indicating 2.5 million people joining the illegal population under his administration.

- Donald Trump implemented policies that resulted in record-low unauthorized crossings in early 2025, with reports indicating a significant decline in the unauthorized immigrant population during his second term. He has overseen the largest expansion of immigration detention in U.S. history, reaching record levels of detention for individuals entering the country unlawfully.

## Record detention levels:

By late 2025, immigration detention reached the highest levels in history, with projections to nearly double as the Trump administration implements a mass deportation agenda. The administration has rapidly increased detention capacity, including opening the largest federal migrant detention center in American history in Fort Bliss, Texas, and utilizing other sites, such as a facility in the Florida Everglades. Detention funding has grown significantly, with a \$45 billion increase planned over three years, representing the largest investment in immigration detention in U.S. history. Prior to the second Trump administration, the Obama administration also oversaw high rates of detention and deportation, with a daily average of over 34,000 beds by 2016.

— Internet

## Immigration and deportation

### Removals:

- Barack Obama holds the record for removals. During his eight years in office (2009–2017), the Obama administration removed more than 3 million people, a higher number than any previous U.S. president. Deportations peaked in 2012–2013, with over 400,000 formal removals in a single year, earning him the nickname "Deporter in Chief" from groups like the National Council of La Raza (now UnidosUS) as well as some media outlets. Unlike his predecessors who often relied on "returns" (simply turning people back at the border), the Obama administration shifted toward formal "removals," which carry stiffer penalties. His administration prioritized the removal of noncitizens convicted of crimes and recent unauthorized border crossers, with a record 438,421 removals in fiscal year 2013 alone. Obama's removal numbers surpassed those of the George W. Bush and Bill Clinton administrations combined.

- George W. Bush's two terms saw over 2 million removals. Based on data regarding formal removals (deportations) conducted by the Department of Homeland Security and Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), the Bush administration deported the second-most people in U.S. history.

- Donald Trump had approximately 1.2 million removals in his first term. Despite Trump's campaign promises of mass deportation, data showed that Obama's administration actually removed more people in his first

term than the Trump administration did in its first term.

### Removals vs. Returns:

These numbers refer to "removals" (formal, often punitive orders). If "returns" (voluntarily turning people back at the border) are included, the rankings change, with Bill Clinton having a much higher total due to high return numbers in the 1990s.

### Unauthorized migration:

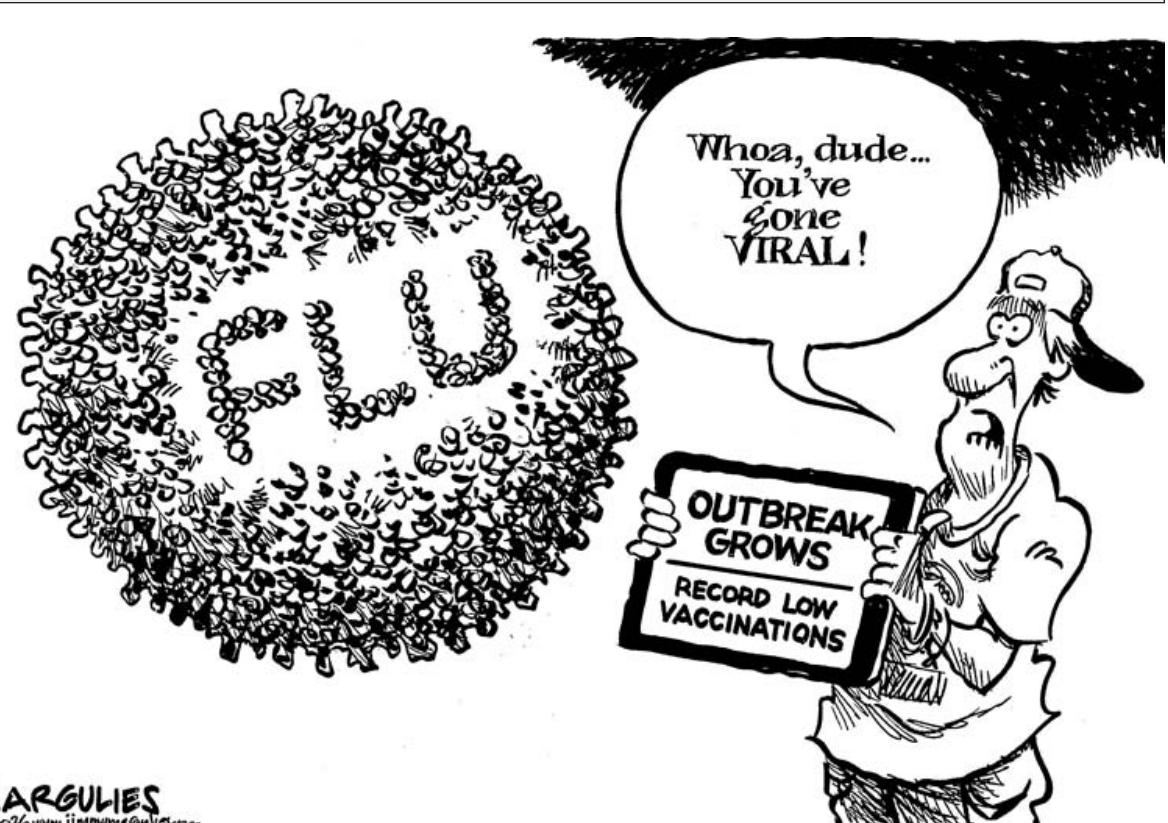
- Based on data regarding migrant encounters and the growth of the unauthorized population, the administration of Joe Biden has overseen the highest levels of unauthorized migration into the United States. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) recorded nearly 11 million nationwide encounters with migrants between fiscal years 2021 and 2024, a record level. The unauthorized immigrant population in the U.S. soared to an all-time high of 14 million in 2023 during the Biden administration.

### Gotaways:

- Over 1.7 million "known gotaways" – individuals who evaded Border Patrol – were reported to be living in the U.S. interior during the Biden administration. While the Biden administration saw the highest number of encounters, it is noted that many of these individuals were processed and released into the U.S. to await immigration proceedings.

### Other notes:

- Ronald Reagan signed the Immigration Reform and Control



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# WEST TEXAS COUNTY COURIER

1973

53

Years

2026

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Letters must not be more than 250 words in length. They should be dated, must be signed and have an address and daytime phone number. Only the name and city will be printed with the letter. The West Texas County Courier reserves the right to edit or reject letters to the editor or other submitted material it considers inappropriate.



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## Retamoza named to ATSSB two years running

By Sofia Maciel  
Special to the Courier

FABENS – Azul Retamoza, a Fabens High School senior, has been selected to perform in the Association of Texas Small School Bands (ATSSB) 4A All-State Symphonic Band for the second consecutive year.

The ATSSB All-State selection process is highly competitive, requiring multiple levels of auditions – including region, area, and state. Only the top student musicians from Texas small schools classified as 1A through 4A earn All-State recognition.

“Azul is an exceptional musician and a strong leader within our band program,” said Miguel Soto, Director of Bands at Fabens High School. “Her work ethic, consistency, and commitment to excellence set a high standard for our students. She represents Fabens High School and the Fabens community with great pride.”

Reflecting on her achievement, Azul shared, “I am very proud of how much I’ve grown as a musician and of the journey it took to get here. Going to state for the second year in a row is an exciting opportunity. I would like to thank God for guiding me and blessing me with the gift of music, my director, Mr. Soto, for helping me develop my skills, and my family for their endless love, patience, and support. I could not have done this without them.” In addition to her musical accomplishments, Azul has demonstrated strong leadership within the Fabens High School Band program, serving as Assistant Drum Major.

The ATSSB 4A All-State Symphonic Band will perform at the Texas Music Educators Association (TMEA) Convention

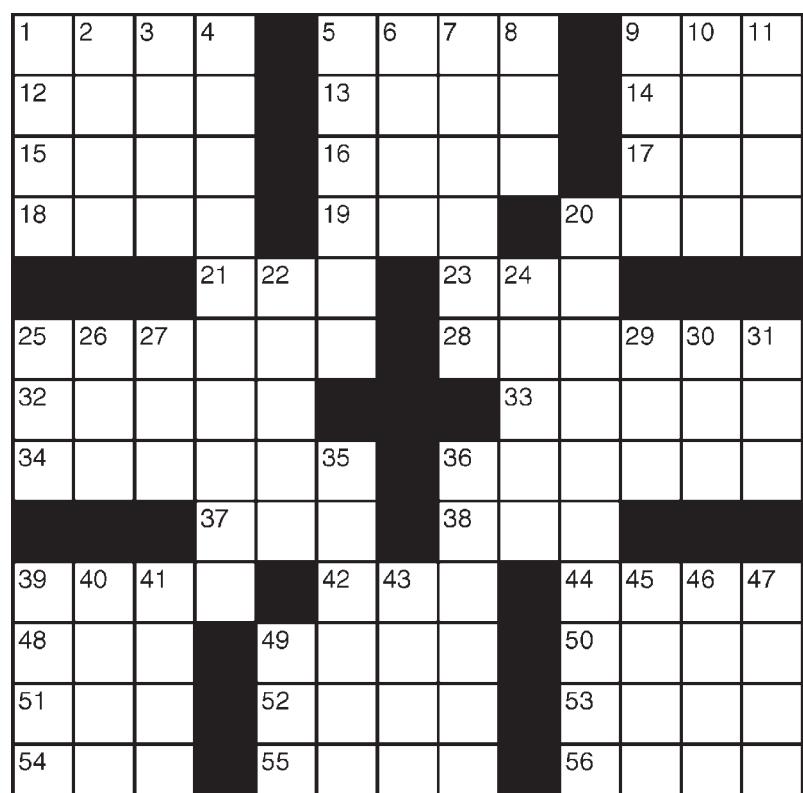


– Photo courtesy Fabens ISD

Azul Retamoza

in San Antonio on February 14 at 9:40 a.m. at the Lila Cockrell Theatre. It represents the culmination of months of auditions and preparation by the state’s top high school musicians. The performance is recognized as one of the highest achievements for student musicians in Texas and takes place alongside other All-State ensembles from across the state.

## King Crossword



**Average Solve Time 21 Minutes**

23 Follower (Suff.)	55 Diminutive suffix	27 Coach Parseghian
25 Cerebral	56 Dance move	29 Physique
28 Car safety feature	30 “_ was saying...”	31 Retrieve
32 Tree bumps	DOWN	35 Sense
33 Unfettered	1 Baby’s father	36 Low-budget flick
34 Sketch	2 Leeway	39 Small plateau
5 Old name for	36 Outlaw	40 Cameo stone
France	37 Summer in Paris	41 Single
9 Microwave	38 Flavor enhancer,	43 Legal document
12 Top-of-the-line	for short	45 Plane reservation
13 Golden Rule	39 Aspic shaper	46 Pot starter
preposition	42 Pair	47 Incubator noise
14 “As I see it,” in a	44 Now, in a memo	49 Bovary’s title
text	48 Rock producer	(Abbr.)
15 Lady of Spain	Brian	50
16 Teen fave	49 TV’s Griffin	51
17 Stannum	50 Painter Magritte	52
18 Out of control	51 Thesaurus wd.	53
19 Pool unit	52 DLI doubled	54
20 Faction	53 Partner	55
21 Humorist	54 Chopper	56

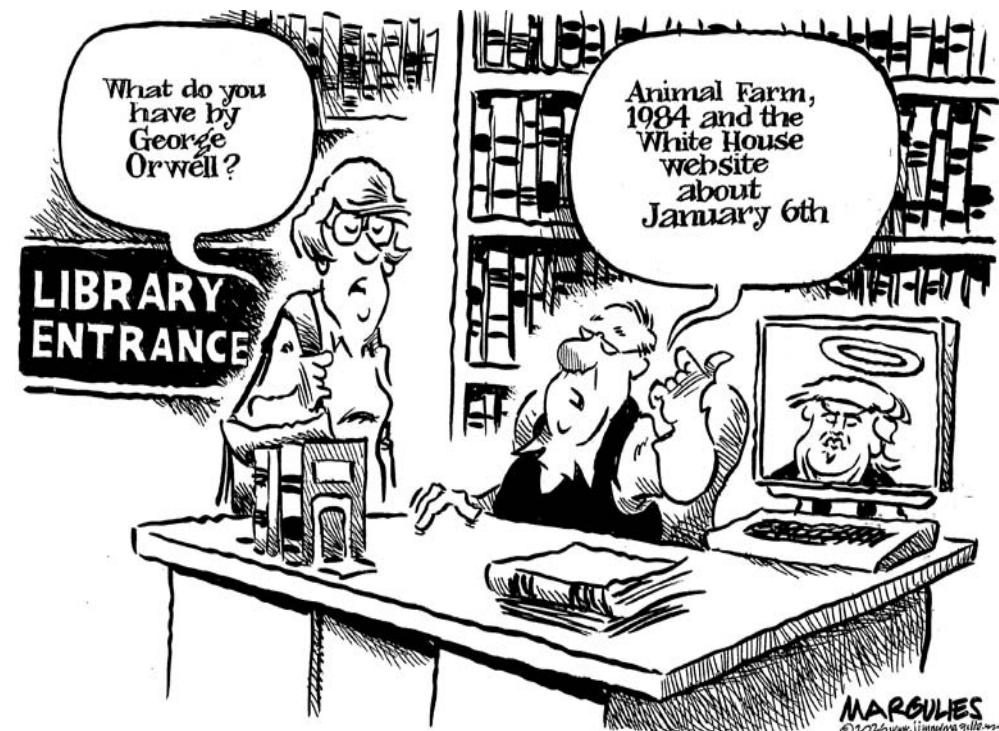
Answer Page 4



A BRIEF MOMENT OF SILENCE FOR Renee Nicole Good



“WE WILL REPLACE THE FRIGIDITY OF RUGGED INDIVIDUALISM WITH THE WARMTH OF COLLECTIVISM”  
- ZOHRA MAMDANI



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## Detention

From Page 2

3,000 persons housed at the center, according to U.S. Rep. Veronica Escobar's office. And ICE reported that as of January there were 212 detention facilities across the country with more than 73,000 individuals held at these sites.

To construct and operate the El Paso detention facility, which opened in August, federal government officials acknowledged that U.S. taxpayers are paying \$1.26 billion to the Henrico, Virginia-based Acquisition Logistics LLC. And from the onset, the center has been accused of inhumane conditions and human rights violations.

Local news reports have cited that about 90 emergency 911 health calls have come from the facility in the first 15 weeks of operation; a national newspaper reported that there were multiple violations during construction; and the ACLU (American Civil Liberties Union) alleged that acts of physical violence have been committed against detainees. Also, reports have now surfaced that two detainees have died while at the East Montana facility.

Congresswoman Escobar insists that the local detention facility is not meeting the minimum



U.S. Rep. Veronica Escobar

federal standards for the care of human beings in its custody. She stated recently that the food served to detainees are small portions of half-frozen meals. She also claimed that the detainees are being kept at the facility for longer periods of time than necessary (some as long as two months) by the privately-run facility because the company is charging the American taxpayer by the day, for each person detained.

About the present immigrant situation in the U.S., El Pasoan Gloria S. commented, "I am no politician, I am not a lawyer, and I didn't graduate from college, yet I know that due process is a constitutional guarantee for everyone in this country and that it is wrong when an individual's rights are being denied. I don't understand why our lawmakers can't see that also."

Robert S., a life-long resident of El Paso County and a prominent community leader, said that the detention center, that is located on Fort Bliss land along the East Montana highway, might be necessary but that it should be properly and legally supervised and that immigrants must be treated humanely and ethically. "Anything short of that is against American principles," he added.

*(The people interviewed for this story requested that their last names be withheld.)*

## Borrego

From Page 1

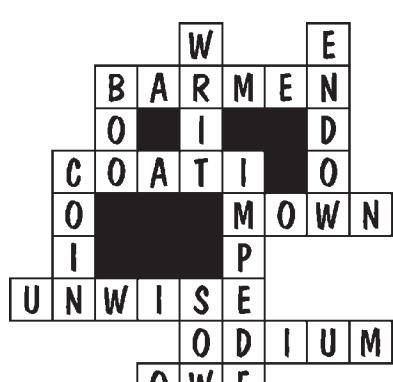
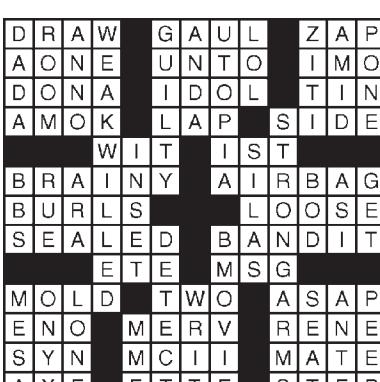
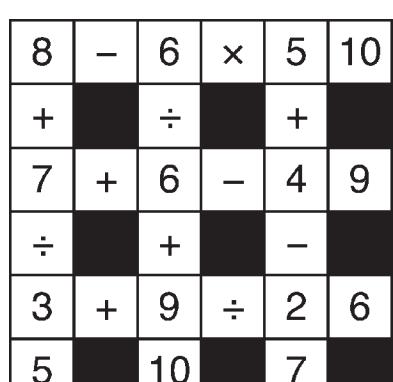
certifications in English Language Arts and Reading for grades 8 through 12, as well as a supplemental certification in English as a Second Language. He also is certified as a Principal and Superintendent.

Born in Piedras Negras, Coahuila, Mexico with roots in the Eagle Pass, Texas, region, Borrego said he understands the unique challenges and opportunities facing border communities. "I am excited to return to a district that serves families like the one I was born in," he said. "These families understand

the power of education, and I look forward to serving this community. Canutillo already is a leader in El Paso, and together we are poised to set standards across the state."

Borrego succeeds longtime Superintendent Dr. Pedro Galaviz, who retired in June after 13 years of service. Dr. Jesica Arellano has served as interim superintendent since July and will return to her role as executive director of curriculum and instruction upon Dr. Borrego's arrival.

"We are grateful to Dr. Galaviz for his outstanding leadership and service to our students and community," Martinez said. "We also thank Dr. Arellano for guiding the district during this transition. Her leadership was instrumental in preparing us for this next chapter."



### CryptoQuip Answer

When something suddenly goes extinct for no apparent reason, what might you call that? Poof of existence.

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**Archives: www.wtxcc.com**



By Lucie Winborne

- Belize wins the prize for having the national flag with the most colors – 12.
- A California man discovered that he'd been paying his neighbor's power bill for an astonishing 15 years because his meter was mapped to the wrong apartment.
- Labatt Park in London, Ontario, dating back to 1877, is the oldest continually operating baseball grounds in the world.
- A Japanese man who didn't speak to his wife for 20 years while they still lived together and raised three children admitted his silence was due to jealousy of the attention she paid to their kids. Fortunately, the couple finally reconciled after said kids sought help from a TV show.
- Marie Curie was the first person ever to win two Nobel Prizes, one for physics and the other for chemistry, in honor of her work on radioactivity.
- Hawaiian pizza was invented by a Greek immigrant inspired by the sweet and savory flavors of Chinese cuisine.
- Atoms are nearly 100% empty space.
- Cotard's Syndrome, aka Walking Corpse Syndrome, causes sufferers to believe they are dead or missing body parts.
- Ancient Egyptians pronounced the word "cat" as "mew" or "meow."
- A 2001 study conducted at the University of Leicester showed that when cows listen to slow, soothing songs, they produce 3% more milk.
- Those CAPTCHA tests that verify you're human and not a robot have a dual purpose: Each time you identify a bus or traffic light or what have you, you're also helping to improve AI algorithms for companies like Google.
- There are more than 1.4 billion insects for each human on Earth.

Thought for the Day: "Human kindness has never weakened the stamina or softened the fiber of a free people. A nation does not have to be cruel to be tough."

– Franklin D. Roosevelt

## Classified Ads

### LEGAL

TEXAS  
COMMISSION ON  
ENVIRONMENTAL  
QUALITY



NOTICE OF  
APPLICATION  
AND  
PRELIMINARY  
DECISION  
FOR WATER  
QUALITY LAND  
APPLICATION  
PERMIT  
FOR MUNICIPAL  
WASTEWATER  
RENEWAL

PERMIT NO.  
WQ0013441001

APPLICATION  
Clint Independent School District, 300 North Kenazo Avenue, Horizon City, Texas 79928, has applied to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) for a renewal of Texas Land Application Permit (TLAP) No. WQ0013441001 which authorizes the disposal of treated domestic wastewater at a daily average flow not to exceed 60,000 gallons per day via subsurface disposal by means of rapid infiltration/evaporation. The domestic wastewater treatment facility and disposal site are located at 3490 Ascencion Street, in El Paso County, Texas 79938. TCEQ received this application on August 29, 2025.

This link to an electronic map of the site or facility's general location is provided as a public courtesy and not part of the application or notice. For the exact location, refer to the application.

<https://gisweb.tceq.texas.gov/LocationMapper/?marker=-106.161388,31.796388&level=18>

ADDITIONAL  
NOTICE

The TCEQ Executive Director has completed the technical review of the application and prepared a draft permit. The draft permit, if approved, would establish the conditions under which the facility must operate. The Executive Director has made a preliminary decision that this permit, if issued, meets all statutory and regulatory requirements. The permit application, Executive Director's response to

preliminary decision, and draft permit are available for viewing and copying at Clint Independent School District Administrative Office, Front Desk, 14521 Horizon Boulevard, El Paso, in El Paso County, Texas.

The application, including any updates, and associated notices are available online at the following webpage:

<https://www.tceq.texas.gov/permitting/wastewater/pending-permits/tlap-applications>

ALTERNATIVE  
LANGUAGE  
NOTICE

Alternative language notice in Spanish is available at:

<https://www.tceq.texas.gov/permitting/wastewater/plain-language-summaries-and-public-notices>

El aviso de idioma alternativo en español está disponible en

<https://www.tceq.texas.gov/permitting/wastewater/plain-language-summaries-and-public-notices>

PUBLIC  
COMMENT/  
PUBLIC  
MEETING

You may submit public comments or request a public meeting about this application. The purpose of a public meeting is to provide the opportunity to submit comments or to ask questions about the application. TCEQ holds a public meeting if the Executive Director determines that there is a significant degree of public interest in the application or if requested by a local legislator. A public meeting is not a contested case hearing.

OPPORTUNITY  
FOR A  
CONTESTED  
CASE HEARING

After the deadline for submitting public comments, the Executive Director will consider all timely comments and prepare a response to all relevant and material, or significant public comments. Unless the application is directly referred for a contested case hearing, the response to

comments will be mailed to everyone who submitted public comments and to those persons who are on the mailing list for this application. If comments are received, the mailing will also provide instructions for requesting a contested case hearing or reconsideration of the Executive Director's decision. A contested case hearing is a legal proceeding similar to a civil trial in a state district court.

TO REQUEST  
A CONTESTED  
CASE HEARING,  
YOU MUST  
INCLUDE THE  
FOLLOWING  
ITEMS IN YOUR  
REQUEST:

your name, address, phone number; applicant's name and proposed permit number; the location and distance of your property/activities relative to the proposed facility; a specific description of how you would be adversely affected by the facility in a way not common to the general public; a list of all disputed issues of fact that you submit during the comment period; and the statement "[I/we] request a contested case hearing." If the request for contested case hearing is filed on behalf of a group or association, the request must designate the group's representative for receiving future correspondence; identify by name and physical address an individual member of the group who would be adversely affected by the proposed facility or activity; provide the information discussed above regarding the affected member's location and distance from the facility or activity; explain how and why the member would be affected; and explain how the interests the group seeks to protect are relevant to the group's purpose.

Following the close of all applicable comment and request periods, the Executive Director will forward the application and any requests for reconsideration for a contested case hearing, the response to

case hearing to the TCEQ Commissioners for their consideration at a scheduled Commission meeting.

The Commission may only grant a request for a contested case hearing on issues the requestor submitted in their timely comments that were not subsequently withdrawn. If a hearing is granted, the subject of a hearing will be limited to disputed issues of fact or mixed questions of fact and law relating to relevant and material water quality concerns submitted during the comment period.

TCEQ may act on an application to renew a permit for discharge of wastewater without providing an opportunity for a contested case hearing if certain criteria are met.

EXECUTIVE  
DIRECTOR  
ACTION

The Executive Director may issue final approval of the application unless a timely contested case hearing request or request for reconsideration is filed. If a timely hearing request or request for reconsideration is filed, the Executive Director will not issue final approval of the permit and will forward the application and request to the TCEQ Commissioners for their consideration at a scheduled Commission meeting.

MAILING LIST

If you submit public comments, a request for a contested case hearing or a reconsideration of the Executive Director's decision, you will be added to the mailing list for this specific application to receive future public notices mailed by the Office of the Chief Clerk. In addition, you may request to be placed on: (1) the permanent mailing list for a specific applicant name and permit number; and/or (2) the mailing list for a specific county. If you wish to be placed on the permanent and/or the county mailing list, clearly specify which list(s) and send your request to TCEQ Office of the Chief Clerk at the address

below.

All written public comments and public meeting requests must be submitted to the Office of the Chief Clerk, MC 105, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, P.O. Box 13087, Austin, TX 78711-3087 or electronically at

[www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/comment](http://www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/comment)

within 30 days from the date of newspaper publication of this notice.

INFORMATION  
AVAILABLE  
ONLINE

For details about the status of the application, visit the Commissioners' Integrated Database at

[www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/cid](http://www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/cid)

Search the database using the permit number for this application, which is provided at the top of this notice.

AGENCY  
CONTACTS AND  
INFORMATION

Public comments and requests must be submitted either electronically at:

[www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/comment](http://www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/comment)

El aviso de idioma alternativo en español está disponible en

[www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/comment](http://www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/comment)

or in writing to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, Office of the Chief Clerk, MC 105, P.O. Box 13087, Austin, Texas 78711-3087. Any personal information you submit to the TCEQ will become part of the agency's record; this includes email addresses. For more information about this permit application or the permitting process, please call the TCEQ Public Education Program, Toll Free, at 1-800-687-4040 or visit their website at:

[www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/pep](http://www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/pep)

Si desea información en Español, puede llamar al 1-800-687-4040.

Further information may also be obtained from Clint Independent School District at the address stated above or by calling Mr. Benjamin Natera, Facilities and Construction Coordinator, at (915) 926-3221.

Issuance Date:  
January 12, 2026

WTCC: 01-22-26

### LEGAL

TEXAS  
COMMISSION ON  
ENVIRONMENTAL  
QUALITY



NOTICE OF  
APPLICATION  
AND  
PRELIMINARY  
DECISION  
FOR WATER  
QUALITY LAND  
APPLICATION  
PERMIT  
FOR MUNICIPAL  
WASTEWATER  
RENEWAL

PERMIT NO.  
WQ0014005001

APPLICATION  
AND  
PRELIMINARY  
DECISION

Clint Independent School District, 300 North Kenazo Avenue, Horizon City, Texas 79928, has applied to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) for a renewal of TCEQ Permit No. WQ0014005001 which authorizes the disposal of treated domestic wastewater at a daily average flow not to exceed 7,050 gallons per day via a non-public access subsurface drip irrigation system with a minimum area of 1.62 acres. This permit will not authorize a discharge of pollutants into water in the state. TCEQ received this application on August 29, 2025.

ALTERNATIVE  
LANGUAGE  
NOTICE

A alternative language notice in Spanish is available at:

[www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/cid](http://www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/cid)

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PUBLIC  
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[www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/pep](http://www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/pep)

Si desea información en Español, puede llamar al 1-800-687-4040.

Further information may also be obtained from Clint Independent School District at the address stated above or by calling Mr. Benjamin Natera, Facilities and Construction Coordinator, at (915) 926-3221.

Issuance Date:  
January 12, 2026

WTCC: 01-22-26

### LEGAL

TEXAS  
COMMISSION ON  
ENVIRONMENTAL  
QUALITY



NOTICE OF  
APPLICATION  
AND  
PRELIMINARY  
DECISION  
FOR WATER  
QUALITY LAND  
APPLICATION  
PERMIT  
FOR MUNICIPAL  
WASTEWATER  
RENEWAL

PERMIT NO.  
WQ0014005001

APPLICATION  
AND  
PRELIMINARY  
DECISION

Clint Independent School District, 300 North Kenazo Avenue, Horizon City, Texas 79928, has applied to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) for a renewal of TCEQ Permit No. WQ0014005001 which authorizes the disposal of treated domestic wastewater at a daily average flow not to exceed 7,050 gallons per day via a non-public access subsurface drip irrigation system with a minimum area of 1.62 acres. This permit will not authorize a discharge of pollutants into water in the state. TCEQ received this application on August 29, 2025.

ALTERNATIVE  
LANGUAGE  
NOTICE

A alternative language notice in Spanish is available at:

[www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/cid](http://www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/cid)

Search the database using the permit number for this application, which is provided at the top of this notice.

PUBLIC  
COMMENT/  
PUBLIC  
MEETING

You may submit public comments or request a public meeting about this application.

The purpose of a public meeting is to provide the opportunity to submit comments or to ask questions about the application.

TCEQ holds a public meeting if the Executive Director determines that there is a significant degree of public interest in the application or if requested by a local legislator. A public meeting is not a contested case hearing.

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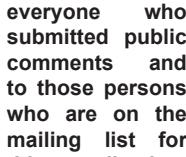
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MAILING LIST

If you submit public comments, a request for a contested case hearing

# If you think sports are on the level, don't bet on it

By Steve Escajeda  
Special to the Courier

Many in the world of sports have been complaining about the way college athletics is set up, paying players, allowing them to transfer at will, allowing teams to change conferences almost at will and merging gambling establishments with sports leagues.

It's amazing to me that those in charge of the system seem to be surprised at all the problems that have grown out of their dumb choices.

Especially the one about allowing gambling establishments to be a part of the system, as long as they include a little sentence about calling this number if you think you have a gambling problem.

I'll tell you who has a gambling problem — sports leagues. Both professional and... well, I guess college sports are professional too now.

It used to be that this was primarily as professional league problem, but now that players in school are getting paid big money, it's wide open for gangsters and scammers to get young men to take a bribe.

The latest gambling scheme didn't just involve one player, and it didn't involve just one team. Federal officials announced that 39 players from 17 different colleges were involved in a point-shaving scheme going back to 2023.

Players from Abilene Christian, Alabama State, Buffalo, Coppin State, DePaul, Eastern Michigan, Fordham, Kennesaw State, La Salle, New Orleans, Nicholls State, North Carolina A&T, Northwestern (La.) State, Robert Morris, Saint Louis, Southern Mississippi and Tulane were involved.

But wait, it gets better. Players from the China Basketball Association were targeted first in 2022 and they performed badly on purpose so that

gamblers could bet against their teams.

It worked so good there that the crooks involved decided to try it out here in the good old USA.

As the authorities put it, the defendants described as "fixers," recruited players to participate in the scheme and offered bribes ranging from \$10,000 to \$30,000 a game to intentionally underperform. The bettors then placed bets and won millions in wagers on the fixed games.

They said the bribery charges carry a maximum sentence of five years. The fraud charges carry a maximum sentence of up to 20 years.

One of the defendants is Kennesaw State's Simeon Cottle. He won't be with the team when the Miners play them on the next-to-last game of the season on March 5.

Cottle, who leads Conference USA in scoring at 20.2 points a game, has been suspended from the team after the allegations were announced.

Of course, you couldn't have a major scheme like this without the NBA somehow being involved.

It turns out that former NBA player Antonio Blakeney was also named. Blakeney, a former Chicago Bull, allegedly was part of the group that recruited players to participate in the scandal and offered bribes. Blakeney, who played at LSU, has also played overseas in China and Israel.

Oh, and going back to fixing those games in China, at the time Blakeney was the league's leading scorer. They say he allegedly manipulated his own performance and recruited other players from his team to join in.

It was just two months ago that it was learned that the NBA was involved in game fixing.

That one involved former Portland Trail Blazers coach Chauncey Billups, Miami Heat guard Terry Rozier and former NBA player and coach Damon Jones, who were all indicted in a pair of federal investigations into illegal sports betting and rigged poker games.

Remember that one? It seems like everyone, including me, already forgot about that.

So, what to do?

What can be done when you look at these partnerships, NFL (FanDuel, DraftKings, Caesars), NBA (DraftKings, FanDuel), MLB (FanDuel, DraftKings), NHL (ESPN BET, BetMGM, FanDuel, theScore Bet), MLS (BetMGM), WNBA (DraftKings), NASCAR (BetMGM, FanDuel), UFC (DraftKings) and the PGA Tour (DraftKings, FanDuel, BetMGM).

As you can see, nothing can be done. Sports in America are in full partnership with legalized gambling. That opens up the door for people to fix the outcomes and guarantee winning bets.

It's funny, all the sports leagues held off from associating with gambling establishments because they thought it would encourage illegal gambling and strip down integrity. Think baseball and Pete Rose.

So, they obviously knew this would happen.

Like the old saying goes, it's not whether you win or lose, it's how you bet on the game.

## Senior moment

By Matilda Charles

### Finding help this year

Now that we have our new Social Security benefit amount and see, after the Medicare Part B deduction, just how little it's going to be, many of us are on the edge of panic — or at least very worried. We barely made it through last year, month by month. What are we going to do this year when the prices are continuing to rise but our Social Security didn't?

Last year the average Social Security benefit was \$2,015, and this year it's slated to be \$2,071, up about \$56 per month. After deducting the \$185 Part B last year, the average benefit was \$1,830 per month. This year Part B has gone up to \$202, making \$1,869 the average benefit. Doing the math, it means that we have \$39 more per month to spend.

And let's not forget that the Part B deductible has also gone up, now at \$283 per year before Medicare kicks in.

We need help.

The National Council on Aging has created BenefitsCheckUp (BenefitsCheckUp.org), which is a one-stop shop for finding help programs. There are 2,000 of them in their database, and it's free to use. You only need to enter your ZIP code and select the type of benefits you want to look at. Then you'll answer a few questions and be presented with a list of options that includes contact information and tells you how to apply for the help.

If you need a little help with that database, call them at 800-794-6559, or click on their "Find Local Help" link for help in your state.

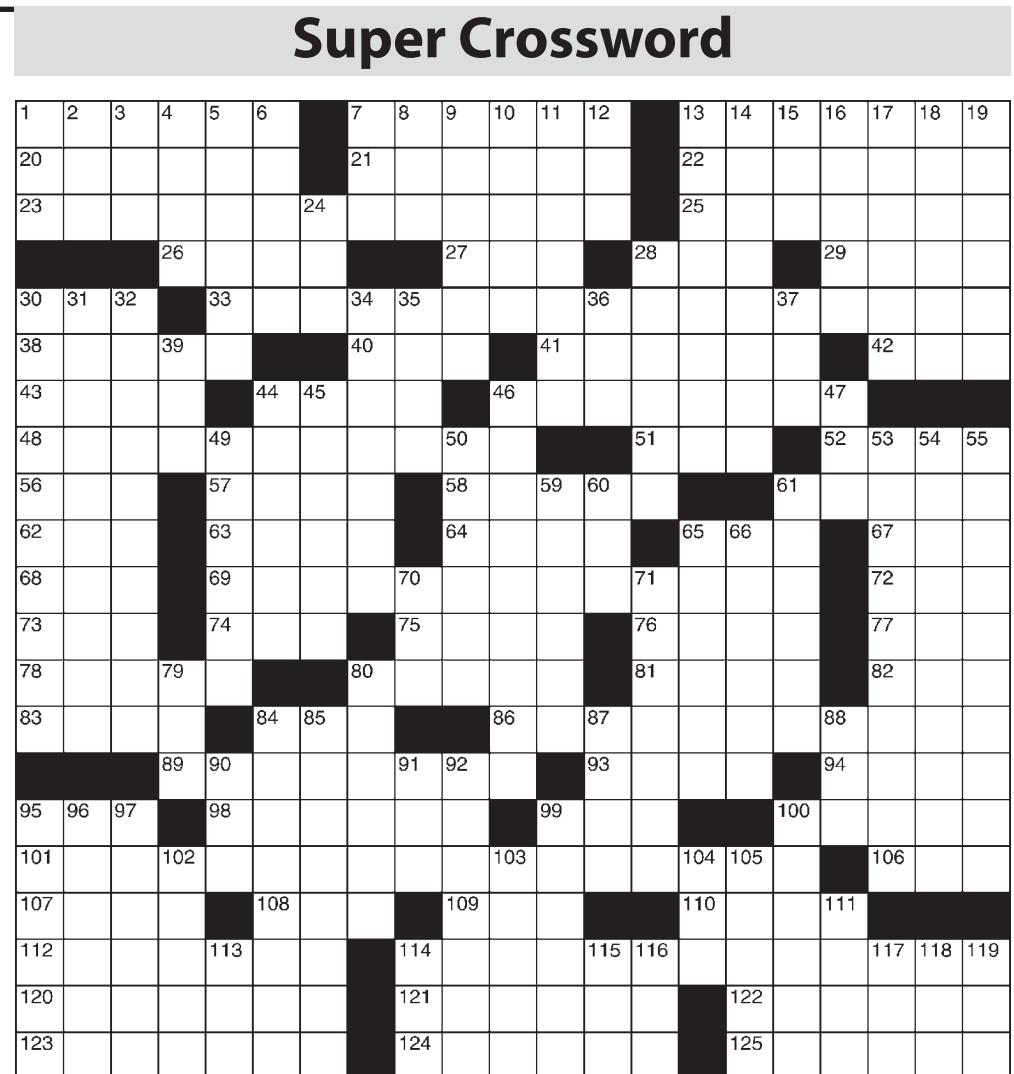
BenefitsCheckUp identifies a wide range of assistance, from free legal advice, to property tax reduction, to "Extra Help" to pay for Part D Medicare drug coverage and deductibles, to heating assistance and much more.

Don't be afraid to apply for the help benefits you're entitled to.

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## Super Crossword

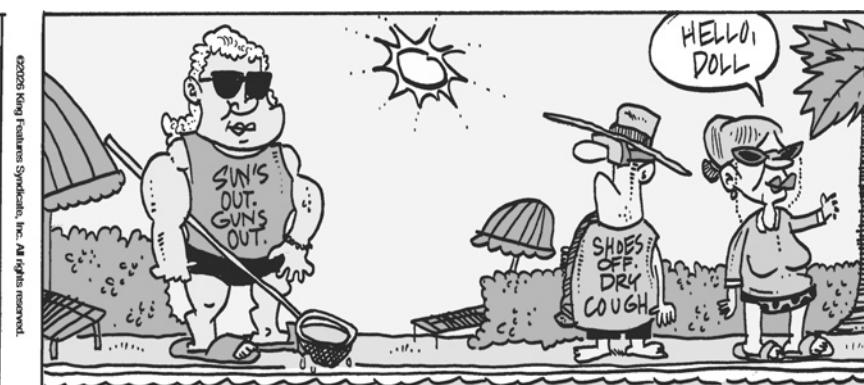
FAMILY EXPANSION	58 Alex of "The Godfather"	99 Troop gp.	15 Hair hider	chamber
ACROSS	61 Unit of work	100 They negate deles	16 Linda in 1998	66 Shout of joy
1 It turns litmus	62 Orioles great	101 Afghan-wrapped	headlines	70 State east of Colo.
paper blue	Ripken	football?	17 "Rabbit, Run"	71 Nuclear trial
7 Strip a disguise	63 Gp. for Qatar	106 "Help!"	novelist John	prohibition
from	64 Sea in 75-Across	107 Guthrie at	18 Mae (loan	79 Catch cold
13 "Baby" (#1 U2	65 "Now I see!"	Woodstock	provider)	80 Tartan skirt sporter
album of 1991)	66 "Help!"	108 B-to-F string	19 Graham or Lorne	84 First Constitution
20 Arrive like the tide	67 Matchstick-	109 Thai tongue	24 Sister of Bert	section
21 Savage	removing game	110 "Think of a loan"	Bobbsey	85 Risen people
22 Less dull	68 Suffix with señor	112 Foot lever	28 Big name in	87 Galileo's gp.
23 Rural lumberjack	69 Item pinned on	114 Clean a jack-o'-	shortening	88 Inclined (to)
resting after chopping?	to support a Russian	lantern with a Hoover?	30 Weedkillers	90 Petition, e.g.
25 Lounged around	poet's election to	120 More weighty	31 Singly	91 History unit
26 Dreamcast	office?	121 Alicia of ballet	32 James Fenimore	92 Light refrain
producer	72 Sarge, e.g.	122 Choose	Cooper novel, with	95 Disinterest
27 Get as clear profit	73 Abbr. for a handy-	123 Aden citizens	"The"	96 "No!" ("Uh-uh!")
28 100-yr. period	andy	124 French edict site of	34 Grow wealthy	97 Glistening
29 Heap (up)	74 Mil. missions	1598	35 I Male War	99 Hall-of-Fame
30 Trough for toting	75 Qatar locale	125 Nail coater	Bride"	footballer Mel
bricks	76 Lovers' deity		36 History unit	100 Flower organ
33 Extended cloth	77 Still		37 Suffix of enzymes	102 Dry, white Italian
used for messy cold-	78 Revise	1 Wall St.	39 Monogram in civil	wine
weather meals?	80 Prepare to give a	opportunist	rights	103 Strips for breakfast
38 Hostile force	ring?	2 Singer Rawls	44 Grab quickly	104 Currency unit of
40 Down food	81 Horse father	3 Dutch airline	45 Departure	Laos
41 Purple spring	82 Beijing-to-	4 Home to edelweiss	46 Most prickly	105 Musical exercise
blooms	Shanghai dir.	5 Probable	47 Trio less one	111 Lab safety org.?
42 Wide-shoe letters	83 Shot fluids	6 Architect Jones	49 Crustacean such	113 Major racket
43 Spool	84 "see it..."	7 Alien craft	as a wood louse	114 U-Haul rental
44 Gets firm	86 One of the	8 Writer Anaïs	50 Kudos	115 Capitalize on
46 Produced a	Skywalkers dressed up	9 Not be joking	53 Features of	116 Cal. dozen
napped surface on	as St. Nick?	10 "Get Happy"	cloudless days	117 Jong-un
48 Chart showing	91 Kind of pear	songwriter	54 Cuts, as pie	118 Suffix with chlor-
the highs and lows of	93 With skill	11 Highland terrier,	55 Far-off distance	119 "Blu Dipinto di
actress Ellen's career?	94 Fir's cousin	briefly	59 Jewish mysticism	Blu" (1958 hit)
51 LP replacers	95 "Ender's Game"	12 Saloon barrel	60 "McQ" actor	
52 KGB's milieu	star Butterfield	13 Figured out the	Gulager	
56 "all over!"	98 Unmoving	value of	61 Speed skater Dan	
57 Asian dress	machine part	14 Stations	65 Of a heart	



Answer Page 4

## Comix

## OUT ON A LIMB By Gary Kopervas



## AMBER WAVES By Dave T. Phipps



## THE SPATS By Jeff Pickering



## TIGER By Bud Blake



## Lowry

From Page 2

Enterprise Institute has long been ringing the alarm. She recently noted that during the short Israel-Iran war, we fired 150, or one-quarter, of our THAAD missiles, exceeding our annual purchase rate by three times. In the Red Sea, the Navy fired more Tomahawks in January 2024 than it bought in all of 2023.

These shortfalls, as Eaglin points out, are especially disturbing when compared to the building capacity of our adversaries. Whereas the Russians make more than 300,000 artillery shells a month, we make only 40,000 155mm shells. "Beijing builds six naval combatant ships," she writes, "for every 1.8 ships the U.S. builds."

Even The New York Times – not known for beating the drums for more defense spending – devoted a splashy editorial last month to the sorry state of our military-industrial base.

In his new book, "War and Power," scholar Phillips Payson O'Brien relates how wars between great powers are usually not won by brilliant battle plans, or by the commitment or

proficiency of the troops. Rather, it is productive capacity – and the ability to degrade that of the enemy while maintaining or increasing your own – that makes the difference.

The Nazis weren't going to win the Battle of Britain when the Brits were producing twice as many aircraft as Hitler.

On top of this, a nation needs to make shrewd choices about what it is building (the Nazis also had the wrong planes for the Battle of Britain – bombers with payloads that were too small and fighters with limited range).

The U.S. needs to make sure that it is not overinvesting in the weapons systems of the past, although a defense budget on the scale that Trump is discussing would relieve some pressure from these choices. We could very well have our traditional subs and jet fighters, and our cutting-edge drones, too.

Trump's taste for gilding everything can be over the top. It'd be a national service, though, if he manages to make the U.S. defense budget golden.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review. ©2026 by King Features Synd., Inc.

## Strengthening immune system helps with cancer

DEAR DR. ROACH: I have read about using the immune system's response as a mechanism to battle cancer (such as brain and pancreatic) and to reduce the devastating impact that cancer and its treatment has on humans. I understand current drug trials show promising results. How do doctors and scientists use the immune system to treat cancer? – J.W.



The concept of using the immune system to treat cancer is old, but the ability to do so has dramatically improved in the past few years. There are a few specific types of treatments that I'd like to highlight:

Immune checkpoint inhibitors are treatments that release inhibitions on the immune system. (These "strengthen" the immune system, which has beneficial but also potentially toxic effects.) For melanoma, the most dangerous form of skin cancer, these treatments have revolutionized treatment and led to dramatically improved outcomes in people whose melanoma has spread. Response rates are up to 60% in a disease where the prognosis used to be dismal.

The unleashed immune system can destroy cancer very effectively, but it also can attack healthy organs, with many people (between 10% to 60% depending on drugs and doses) developing damage to the skin, lungs, liver, thyroid, colon and heart. These toxicities range from mild to life-threatening.

The body's own immune cells can be genetically engineered to kill cancer cells. Chimeric antigen receptor T cells (CAR T cells) can be specifically changed to recognize cancer cells. This can lead to complete remission with some cancers, especially some leukemias and lymphomas. Unfortunately, they can also attack the body, leading to neurological damage that can be very serious.

Developing cancer vaccines is a highly promising strategy for personalizing the immune system to attack a person's own cancer. Although the United States has recently made dramatic cuts to its support of this research, researchers in other countries continue to study this. It can be used in combination with other traditional or immune-based treatments.

The immune system can be used to help treat cancer effectively, but there is still the potential for serious side effects.

DEAR DR. ROACH: I am 89 years old and doing reasonably well, but I have noticed some loss of energy and a bit of my balance. I try to walk, do some exercises, and then hit the hot tub every day to help relax my joints. I recall reading an article about a study, which concluded that 15 minutes in a hot tub equated, cardio-wise, to a 15-minute jog. I would really appreciate your opinion on this proposition. – J.D.

I read the study that I think you are referencing from Coventry, England, and the headline writers overstated the more cautious conclusions of the actual study. Being in a hot tub or sauna does increase the heart rate and the ability of the heart to exert itself when done daily for four weeks in people with heart failure.

Other studies have found that healthy volunteers also get small but significant improvements in their cardiac reserve, similar to (but not quite as much as) what would be expected with exercise.

The benefits of exercise are well-known and large and go beyond the effects of the heart, while the benefits of regular hot-tub or sauna bathing appear to give some but not all the benefits of regular exercise. At age 89, there is a risk of heat-related injuries, including lightheadedness and falling, so I would urge caution for new users not to use too high of a heat or stay in for too long, especially when first starting.

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). ©2026 North America Synd., Inc. All Rights Reserved.



## Moore Texas by Roger MOORE

Happy, Texas once had as a slogan: The town without a frown.

## 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: L equals X

H Q G I J N E G A Q S I D J P K K G I V B  
D N G J G L A S I Y A W N X I N  
Z O O Z X G I A X G Z J N I, H Q Z A  
E S D Q A B N P Y Z V V A Q Z A?  
O N N W N W G L S J A G I Y G.

Answer Page 4

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## Weekly SUDOKU

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

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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## Dangerous items in mental health units

### VETERANS POST

by Freddy Groves

It defies belief that these things could have been allowed to happen: The mental health units at a VA facility were loaded up with items that could be used in suicides.

Specifically, some of the items included exposed pipes that could be used for hanging, faucets without rounded edges, protruding cabinet door handles that could be used as anchor points and unsecured cords and equipment.

How does that happen? Consider the steps that were taken when the facility was built.

Blueprints were drawn, and somebody had to sign off on them. Materials lists for things like toilets and faucets were created, and somebody had to sign off on them. The facility had to be

inspected as it was being built, and somebody had to sign off on the various stages during construction. And so on all the way until final inspection.

Then we get to the part where the mental health experts who work there showed up at the facility. Trained in suicide prevention, did they not notice all the potentially dangerous items in the facility? Not even during their required twice-annual inspection to look for such hazards? And what about the higher-up staffer whose job it was to ensure that all staff members who enter the mental health unit "are trained on the environmental hazards that represent a threat to suicidal patients, and how to identify and abate them"?

Enter the VA's Office of Inspector General for an on-site inspection. When the OIG saw all the problems, they didn't wait to express their concern in a full report. Instead, they quickly released

a preliminary report so that staff in all other VA mental health facilities would also be made aware of potential risks. At the facility in question, staff jumped to remove some of the hazards, per the OIG's request, began 15-minute patient safety checks and started staff education.

Meanwhile, thankfully, the VA OIG will maintain oversight of the facility until a long-term corrective plan is completed.

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• "Here's a great chore for little kids. Our family seems to leave shoes all over the house. I will have my 4-year-old collect the shoes and deliver them to the room of the person to whom the shoes belong. It's a very easy chore and even like a game sometimes." – A.J. in Texas

• "When cooking from a recipe that I'm not super familiar with, I tape it to the front of my kitchen cabinet. It's in a central location, easy to see and won't get dirty. If it turns out to be something I like, I put it in a plastic sleeve protector in my cookbook. I can still pull it out and tape it to the cabinet when necessary." – R.G. in Georgia

• I love baked goods. These are some good tips that I use all the time. Use a wine glass to cut biscuits. Set a loaf of baked bread on a tea towel top down, then use a serrated knife to cut from the bottom. Your slices will look perfect, as you won't crush the top.

• If your family likes stuffing, try baking it in muffin tins for single servings. It works very well.

• "I use a garment rack to dry outerwear overnight. Hang from skirt hangers (the ones with clips) and make sure there is plenty of room for air to circulate around the damp pieces. I use a small fan pointed at the rack, and make sure it's in a warm location, as this doesn't work so well in our cold utility room." – D.L. in Michigan

Send your tips to Now Here's a Tip, 628 Virginia Drive, Orlando, FL 32803. ©2026 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.

DIFFICULTY: ★★

★ Moderate ★★ Difficult  
★★★ GO FIGURE!

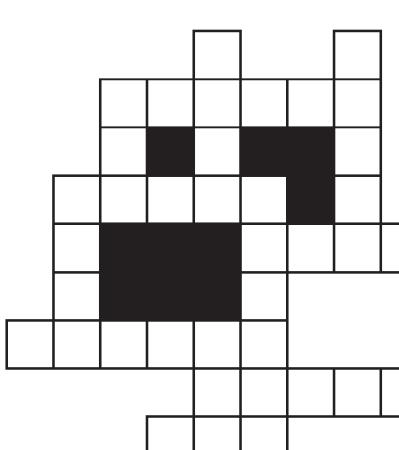
Answer Page 4

	-		×		10
+		÷		+	
	+		-		9
÷		+		-	
	+		÷		6
5		10		7	
2	3	4	5	6	6
7	8	9			

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OBO  
WENIUS  
DUMIO  
RTWI  
DEMPIE  
♥ EWO  
♥ NCIO  
♥ WEDNO  
WOS  
ENRAMB  
TACIO  
WMNO



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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