



## Bataan Death March event honors soldiers that endured ordeal

*Annual tribute to take place Saturday, March 21 at White Sands Missile Range*

**By Alfredo Vasquez**  
*Special to the Courier*

EL PASO COUNTY – On April 9, 1942, about 75,000 Filipino and American soldiers were forced to surrender to the Japanese Imperial Army after battling for more than three months in defense of the Bataan Peninsula in the Philippines. The surrender led to one of the most harrowing treks endured by World War II Prisoners of War (POWs).

The Japanese army brutally pushed these POWs for over a week to march nearly 65 miles in intense tropical heat, humidity, and through insect infested vegetation to a railroad depot, where they were packed into overcrowded, unsanitary boxcars for transport to a village, called Capas. From there, they continued their journey for seven more miles to an ill-equipped prison camp.

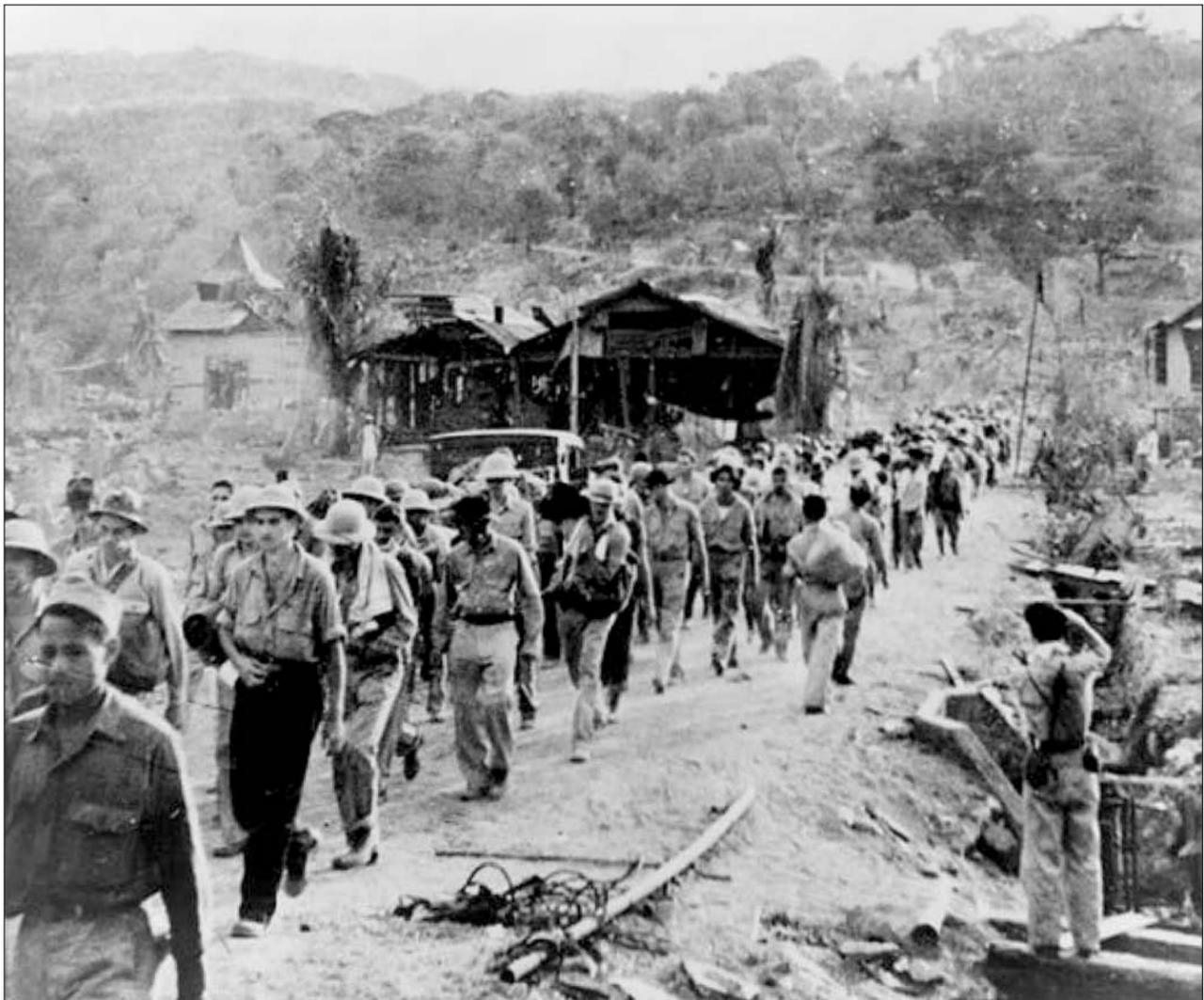
The deaths and suffering did not end with the march, however. In the overcrowded prison camp, thousands more died of disease, starvation, and continued abuse. Furthermore, the survivors endured forced labor and many later perished on unmarked “hell ships” that took them to Japan as slave laborers.

Today, this ordeal is recognized as a major World War II war crime due to the extreme brutality and high death toll. And, to honor those brave soldiers, the Bataan Memorial Death March event has been held every year since 1989.



Photo courtesy White Sands Missile Range

**A REMINDER – The Bataan Memorial statue, *Heroes of Bataan*, stoically stands in Las Cruces NM Veterans Park. The memorial sculpture, created by Kelly S. Hestir, was dedicated on April 13, 2002.**



– Photo courtesy National Archives and Records Administration

**HISTORIC STAND – After the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor in December 1941, they invaded the Philippines. American and Filipino forces defended the Bataan Peninsula for 99 days, significantly delaying the Japanese advance. Eventually, they were overcome and ordered to surrender, above, on April 9, 1942.**

This year’s 37th Annual Bataan Memorial Death March is slated for Saturday, March 21, at White Sands Missile Range. The early morning memorial event has grown into a marathon that organizers call the Army’s premier endurance event.

Why is it held at White Sands Missile Range? Because New Mexico holds a profound and unique connection to the Bataan Death March. The New Mexico National Guard’s 200th Coastal Artillery (AA) and 515th Coastal Artillery (AA), referred to as the “New Mexico Brigade”, were among the first U.S. Army units to fire on the Japanese following the attack on Pearl Harbor.

The soldiers with the 200th Coast Artillery found themselves at the forefront of one of the most significant battles of World War II, and their mission was crucial – defending the Bataan Peninsula alongside Filipino troops. Unfortunately, 829 members of the 200th Coast Artillery either died or went missing during this dark chapter of history. About 54,000 survivors were finally liberated in 1945, after years of suffering in captivity.

Individuals interested in participating in this year’s commemoration, may visit the event’s website, at [bataanmarch.com](http://bataanmarch.com), for more information about the Bataan Memorial Death March.

### **Drunk driving crashes spike in Spring**

## **March recorded the highest number of drunk driving crashes in Texas last year**

**By Jeff Salzgeber**  
*Special to the Courier*

TEXAS – As students and Texans take time off this March, it’s imperative that drivers always get a sober ride.

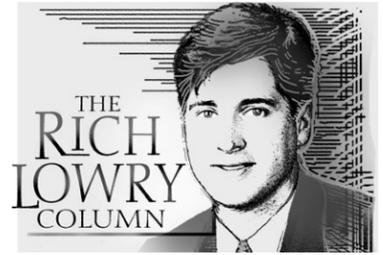
Last year Texas saw a spike in drunk driving crashes in March – more than any other month. As spring break celebrations begin, drivers can

keep celebrations fun and avoid death and other tragic consequences of impaired driving by driving like a Texan: kind, courteous and safe, and always choosing a sober ride.

With a focus on reaching college students around spring break, the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) will support community efforts across the state to stop

See CRASHES, Page 3

# The disgraceful ravings of Candace Owens



Joe McCarthy was famously undone by the rhetorical questions at a 1954 congressional hearing: "Have you no sense of decency, sir, at long last? Have you left no sense of decency?"

If the same queries were directed to Candace Owens at such a forum, she'd sail on unperturbed – since she has no idea what "decency" means. The conspiratorial podcaster has embarked on an investigative series on Erika Kirk, the widow of Charlie Kirk. In this context, "investigative series" means a loosely stitched together collection of sewerish falsehoods and innuendo smearing Erika Kirk.

Perhaps Owens can follow up with a franchise devoted to sully the reputations of the widows of assassinated husbands throughout U.S. history. Are we sure that Mary Todd Lincoln was as innocent

as she seemed? Didn't Jackie Kennedy act kind of weird in Dallas? What did Ida Saxton McKinley know and when did she know it?

The narrative and commercial logic always suggested that this is where Owens was headed. It didn't make any sense to libel TPUSA as being connected to the murder of its leader and founder – as Owens has for months now – without implicating its new leader, Erika Kirk. And, as the shock value of her anti-TPUSA campaign wore off, Owens had to stoke outrage and interest anew with something even more perverse. And what is more demented than portraying the wife of the victim of a shocking assassination as a black widow?

Whereas most of have seen in Erika Kirk a Christian woman bearing up under an intolerable burden

and stunningly forgiving the alleged murderer of her husband, Owens purports to see Clytemnestra, the mythical Greek figure who betrayed her husband Agamemnon upon his return from the Trojan War.

The title of her series is "Bride of Charlie." Get it? Like the "Bride of Frankenstein." As a so-called investigator, Candace Owens is like Perry Mason if the fictional attorney had been a schizophrenic high on crack. Her method is to pile will-o'-the-wisp connections one on top of another, often buttressed

See LOWRY, Page 7

## View from here By Dr. Glenn Mollette

# Stay alert to evil

President Donald Trump is obviously hated by some people on the planet. Anyone connected to the Ayatollah Khamenei most likely hates him. Anyone connected to Iranian terrorism hates him. Sadly, many American Democrats hate him. There have already been attempts to kill him and I fear there will be more from those connected to Iranian terrorism causes. Our Secret Service, FBI and others involved in protecting him are obviously aware that he is in constant danger. Let's all please pray for his safety and for there to be no complacency in protecting him.

The news media is always reporting where he is located. I don't think that wise. Whether he is in Mar-a-Lago, DC or New York City, is it really important that we all know?

I don't see how detailing his every location bodes well for his security. I am just a lowly voting citizen and what do I know? Not much, but I do believe these are perilous times as hostility from Iranian regime sympathizers is surely beyond the boiling point.

We hope and pray that Iran can become a country run by the people of the country. Who knows how long and what this will involve. We were in Iraq and Afghanistan for a very long time. Can we really point to those countries and boast of success? Both countries are still a mess and we lost thousands of lives and spent trillions of dollars.

I do hope that President Trump is successful and that the Iranian people can take back their country. This would be good for them and the world.

In the meantime, while you are praying for the safety of our President, look over your own shoulder. All of us are vulnerable. The TSA needs our utmost support emotionally and financially. Surely by the time you read this Congress will have restored their pay. We are all vulnerable whether flying or being in any public place where people gather. School and churches are extremely vulnerable. Please increase your attention to security.

Terrorism extremism can raise its ugly head any place at any time. Crazy people do crazy stuff and many seem to be happy to sacrifice their own lives to further their causes.

I don't like war or people being killed. However, Iran has been a constant supporter of terrorism. Khamenei has been the central figure and leader in the world of terror for about 37 years. That was far too long and there wasn't any end in sight.

My prayer is that the attack will end and this will soon be over. However, I doubt that the evil will all be totally destroyed and eliminated. We have to realize that in some way and some form there will be blowback. Therefore, be alert, practice safety and try to help and look out for each other. The world doesn't have to be a bad place. We can't give up. Keep treating each other respectfully and kindly and stay alert to evil.

IN THE SPIRIT OF FAIRNESS, HERE'S A REBUTTAL TO BOTH REPUBLICANS AND DEMOCRATS OVER THE STATE OF THE UNION...



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**FABENS INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**Request For Qualifications:**

Sealed bids/proposals to furnish the District with the following products and/or services will be accepted at the following times:

**WEDNESDAY APRIL 15, 2026**

**FORENSIC**

**FINANCIAL AUDIT SERVICES RFQ NO. 031226-001 ACCEPTED UNTIL 5:00 P.M. MT**

The selected firm will conduct an independent 7 year (2018-2025) forensic audit of district financial and procurement activities and provide recommendations regarding internal controls and financial oversight.

Interested firms may obtain the RFQ packet beginning on 3/25/2026 from the District website at:

[www.fabensisd.net](http://www.fabensisd.net)

Go to: Departments; To: Business & Finance; To: Manuals & Forms

Submissions should be delivered to:

**Fabens Independent School District**

Director of Finance 821 N.E. G Ave. Fabens, TX 79838

Or by email to:

[sinunez@fabensisd.net](mailto:sinunez@fabensisd.net)

Fabens Independent School District reserves the right to reject any or all submissions and to waive minor informalities.

WTCC: 03-12-26 03-19-26

Phone: 852-3235

E-mail: [wtcc@wtcc.com](mailto:wtcc@wtcc.com) Website: [wtcc.com](http://wtcc.com)

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**Contributors** Alfredo Vasquez Steve Escajeda

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# Socorro ISD to hold dual language information nights

By Christy Flores-Jones  
Special to the Courier

EL PASO COUNTY – The Socorro Independent School District will conduct Dual Language Academy Parent Information Nights for parents who are interested in enrolling their child in the innovative dual language program. The SISD program is available at four campuses: Myrtle Cooper Elementary, Bill Sybert School, Hueco Elementary and Dr. Sue A. Shook Elementary. Additionally, a new academy will open at James P. Butler Elementary for the 2026-27 school year.

Applications for upcoming 4-year-old Pre-K students will be accepted for the Dual

Language Academy. Upcoming students in kindergarten and first grade also may apply to be added to the current wait list. The enrollment process for the academy is based on various criteria and a lottery system.

The Dual Language Academy application window will be available from Monday, April 13, to Friday, May 8. Visit [www.sisd.net/duallanguageacademy](http://www.sisd.net/duallanguageacademy) on April 13 for the application link. More information about the SISD Dual Language Academy is also available on the site.

The benefits of being a dual language learner include proficiency and literacy in both languages, high levels of academic achievement, greater creativity, attention to detail, problem solving skills, and confidence.

## King Crossword

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45						46				47			
48						49				50			
51						52				53			

Average Solve Time 21 Minutes

ACROSS

- 1 Golfer Ernie Chaney
- 4 Gullet
- 8 Engine noise
- 12 Horror star
- 13 Costa \_
- 14 Inter \_
- 15 Past
- 16 Novelist Jennifer Pealed
- 17 Pealed
- 18 Fresh starts
- 21 Boom times
- 22 Small batteries
- 23 Humorist Dave
- 26 Flow out
- 27 Depot vehicle

DOWN

- 30 "Iliad" setting
- 31 Shade
- 32 Spring honorees
- 33 \_ Salvador
- 34 Supporting sandwiches
- 35 Rolled-up Evergreen tree
- 37 Hindu honorific
- 38 Age-old knowledge
- 45 Soccer legend
- 46 Spring flower
- 47 Plastic \_ Band
- 48 Verbal
- 49 Quitter's word
- 50 Neighbor of Leb.
- 51 Duck's hangout
- 52 Checks out
- 53 Tel. number add-on

DOWN

- 1 Flair
- 2 Theater section
- 3 Winter fall
- 4 Eerie
- 5 Bobby who lost to Billie Jean King
- 6 Smoothie berry
- 7 Hopeful
- 8 Seine city
- 9 \_ Bator
- 10 Saturn feature
- 11 Cleaning cloths
- 19 Conceal, in a way
- 20 Arrest
- 23 "Dynamite" band
- 24 Notre Dame coach
- 25 Harry Potter pal
- 26 Where Ger. is
- 27 Large snake
- 28 Ref

- 29 Radiator sound
- 31 "That's wonderful!"
- 32 Hosp. scans
- 34 Charge
- 35 Places for bracelets
- 36 Relinquish
- 37 Pigs
- 38 Per person
- 39 Roman emperor
- 40 Family
- 41 Tea carrier
- 42 Rx amount
- 43 Cameo stone
- 44 Humorist Sahl

Answer Page 4

### Meeting dates and sites – All meetings 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.

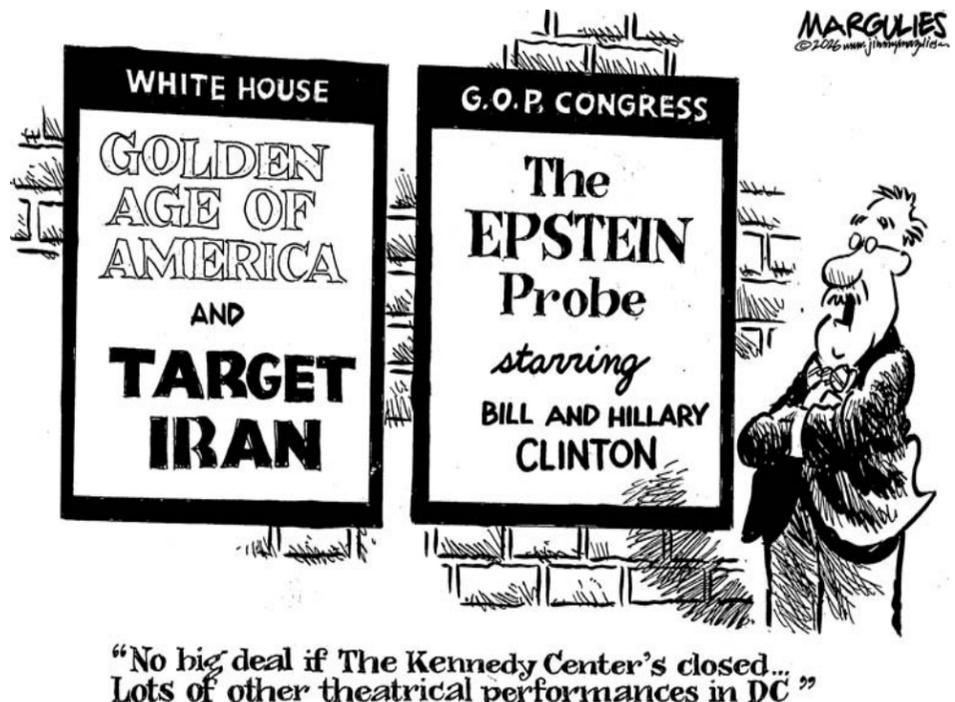
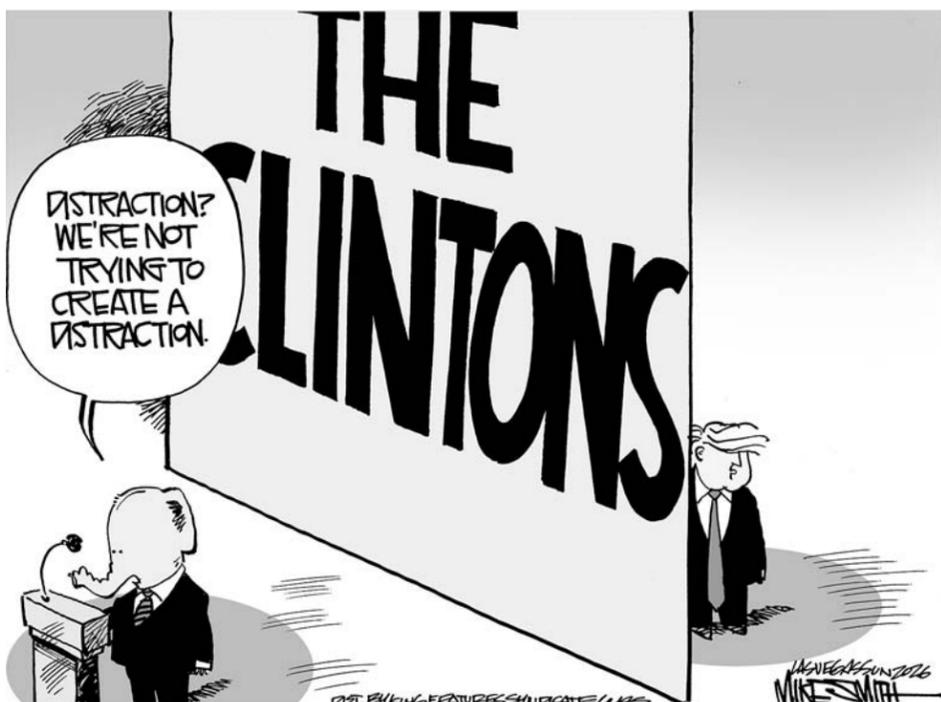
- March 25 at Bill Sybert School, 11530 Edgemere Blvd.
- March 26 at Dr. Sue A. Shook Elementary School, 13777 Paseo Del Este Blvd
- March 30 at Hueco Elementary School, 300 Old Hueco Tanks Rd.
- April 1 at Myrtle Cooper Elementary School, 1515 Rebecca Ann Dr.
- April 2 at James P. Butler, 14251 Ralph Seitsinger
- April 8 Makeup session at SISD District Service Center, 12440 Rojas Dr.

## Crashes

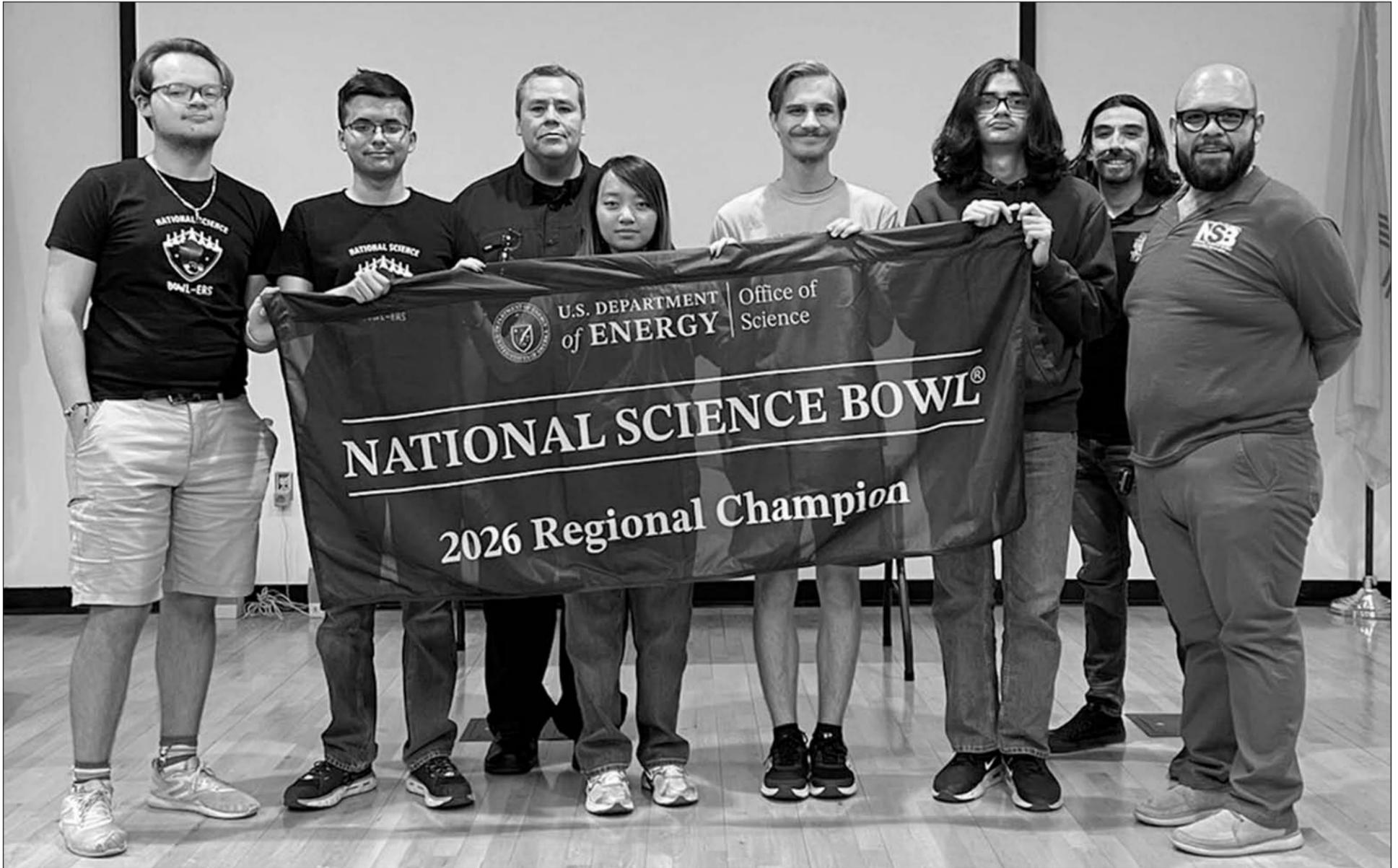
From Page 1

impaired driving. The message is simple: arrange a sober ride before you start celebrating. Never drive after consuming any amount of alcohol or other drugs. The consequences of driving impaired – including up to \$17,000 in fines and fees, jail time, losing your license, or ending your own or someone else's life – are simply not worth it. Find a sober ride to ensure that you have a fun and safe spring break.

"Drive Sober. No Regrets" is an important part of TxDOT's Drive like a Texan: Kind. Courteous. Safe. initiative. Drive like a Texan is about embracing the pride, camaraderie and responsibility of being a Texan on the road. By making thoughtful choices, we can all help keep each other safe. Visit [DriveLikeATexan.com](http://DriveLikeATexan.com) to learn more.



"No big deal if The Kennedy Center's closed... Lots of other theatrical performances in DC"



— Photo courtesy El Paso Community College

**THE STEM SQUAD** – From left, Trager Simpson, David Flores, Gabriel Mendoza (Coordinator), Helena Pham, Dominic Hufft, Adan Garcia, Frankie Reyes (Coach), Gerardo Quintero (Co-Coordinator) make up the Mavericks.

# Mavericks heading to National Science Bowl

**By Beau Bagley**  
*Special to the Courier*

EL PASO COUNTY – Last weekend, El Paso Community College (EPCC) and Doña Ana Community College held the 19th Annual National Science Bowl Regional Competition, taking place at the Doña Ana Community College Sunland Park Campus in New Mexico, and coordinated by EPCC Rio Grande Math faculty Gabriel Mendoza, Coordinator, and Gerardo Quintero, Co-Coordinator.

The Transmountain Early College High School

(TMECHS) Mavericks, a collaboration between EPCC and the El Paso Independent School District, took home the title for the third year in a row and will advance to the National Science Bowl.

The National Science Bowl is one of the largest and most prestigious Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) academic competitions in the United States, with more than 10,000 students competing nationwide each year. Since its founding in 1991, over 340,000 students have participated, and only a select few advance to the

National Finals.

The event brought together some of the most talented high school students in the region to compete in a rigorous academic contest that tests knowledge in mathematics, biology, chemistry, physics, energy, and earth and space science.

Throughout the day, the El Paso High School Tigers delivered an outstanding performance, remaining undefeated as they advanced through each round of competition. Their impressive run led them to the

See MAVERICKS, Page 5

E	L	S		C	R	A	W		P	U	R	R
L	O	N		R	I	C	A		A	L	I	A
A	G	O		E	G	A	N		R	A	N	G
N	E	W	B	E	G	I	N	N	I	N	G	S
			U	P	S		A	A	S			
B	A	R	R	Y		E	B	B		B	U	S
T	R	O	Y		H	U	E		M	O	M	S
S	A	N		F	O	R		W	R	A	P	S
			Y	E	W		S	R	I			
A	N	C	I	E	N	T	W	I	S	D	O	M
P	E	L	E		I	R	I	S		O	N	O
O	R	A	L		C	A	N	T		S	Y	R
P	O	N	D		E	Y	E	S		E	X	T

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

7	+	8	÷	1	=	15
-		+		+		
4	+	3	×	2	=	14
+		×		×		
9	-	6	×	5	=	15
=		=		=		
12		66		15		

**CryptoQuip Answer**

If crying people's melancholy drops always fall in aligned parallel pairs, I'd call them two-teared.

V A L O R  
O E  
Y A W S  
A D I S O W N  
G L A  
S E R V O D O G  
O W E  
S A L I N E  
Y

P E A S A G T S E S A M E S A T R A  
A L I E D I O A N I M A T E B E E S  
D O R I S D A Y A N D N I G H T R A P S  
S I C K O N I M I S M M O M O A  
R O S A N N E C A S H A N D C A R R Y  
T A E M I G R A T E B A R D O T  
U N W I S E A L T A C C R A S C I  
T O M M I X A N D M A T C H N E C T A R  
O D E O N T E A S E R A S H E R A  
R E N F O R A L E I E D W A R D S  
J U D E L A W A N D O R D E R  
I N S O L E S N O D B E E B M B A  
T E T E T R I M A S I N A D O R B  
G A E L I C B O B H O P E A N D P R A Y  
O R E C U T I N A R A A S I T I S  
F L A I L S F I T N E S S O D S  
L U C I L L E B A L L A N D C H A I N  
I T A L Y I S O E G O O N S E T  
T U B E J A C K W I L D A N D C R A Z Y  
E R L E E L E M E N T R E O I L E R  
S E E N T A P E R E D S S E O T R O

**Moments in time**  
THE HISTORY CHANNEL

- On March 12, 1988, a sudden hailstorm caused a stampede of fans at a soccer match in Kathmandu, Nepal's National Stadium, killing at least 70 people and injuring hundreds more.
- On March 13, 1942, the Quartermaster Corps of the United States Army began training dogs for the newly established War Dog Program, or "K-9 Corps." More than a million dogs served on both sides during World War I, the most famous being Rin Tin Tin, who made his film debut in 1922.
- On March 14, 1979, Judy Chicago's art installation "The Dinner Party" debuted at the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, earning praise for its feminist focus as well as controversy over its use of genital imagery. It remains on permanent display at the Brooklyn Museum in New York City.
- On March 15, 2021, Deb Haaland became the first Indigenous person in American history to serve as a cabinet secretary when she was sworn in as Secretary of the Interior.

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# Strange BUT TRUE

By Lucie Winborne

- In ancient Greece, lipstick was seen as scandalous by most women and worn predominantly by sex workers.
- The record for the longest tire skid was set in 1964 at the Bonneville Salt Flats in Utah.
- Ornithologists often use Cheetos to study behavior in crows. Along with being easy to spot because of their bright orange color, they're also one of a crow's favorite treats.
- Apollo 17 astronaut Harrison Schmitt is allergic to moon dust.
- Michigan still has a 1931 law on the books stating that "any man who shall seduce and debauch any unmarried woman shall be guilty of a felony." If convicted, the man can be punished with up to five years in state prison or a fine of up to \$2,500.
- Pentheraphobia is the intense and disproportionate fear of your mother-in-law.
- Thumbs have their own pulse.
- A 2015 study of black garden ants found that the insects might occasionally feel self-doubt.
- Some throat singers are able to produce four tones simultaneously.

• The first Hershey's chocolate bars with almonds were produced in 1908 because they were cheap to make. The nuts took the place of some of the more expensive milk chocolate, which meant Hershey's could keep the price of the candy at a nickel.

• William Hogarth had a pug called Trump, who famously features in several of his paintings. Louis-Francois Roubiliac created a sculpture of Trump in terracotta to accompany a bust of Hogarth in 1741.

• In the U.S. alone, up to 500 million drinking straws are used every day.

• Venus rotates backward and has days longer than its years.

Thought for the Day: "I love being married. It's so great to find that one special person you want to annoy for the rest of your life."

– Rita Rudner

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## Mavericks

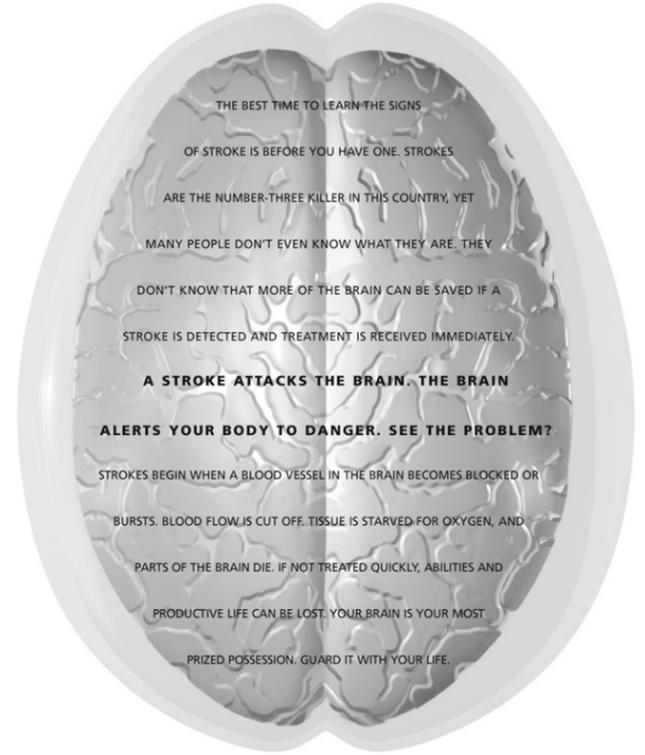
From Page 4

championship match against TMECHS, last year's regional champions. Because the Science Bowl follows a double-elimination format, and El Paso High School had not yet reached its second loss, a second final round was required after TMECHS handed them their first defeat.

In an intense and highly competitive conclusion, the Mavericks ultimately secured the deciding victory, earning the regional title once again. As a result, TMECHS will represent the El Paso region at the National Science Bowl in Washington, D.C. on April 29, 2026. TMECHS students have earned the opportunity to compete on the national stage against top teams from across the country.

"I am incredibly proud of all ten students who competed and represented our school with academic excellence, determination, and Maverick pride," Frankey Reyes, TMECHS Dual Credit Science Instructor said. "I would also like to recognize the following five students for earning the honor of advancing to the national competition: Trager Simpson, David Flores, Adan Garcia, Dominic Hufft, and Helena Pham. These five students will travel to Washington, D.C., sponsored by the U.S. Department of Energy, a tremendous achievement and opportunity for our students."

Visit [www.epcc.edu/Academics/DualCredit/early-college-high-school](http://www.epcc.edu/Academics/DualCredit/early-college-high-school) for more information on the EPCC Early College High School programs.



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### Tornillo Independent School District Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balance Governmental Funds For the Year Ended August 31, 2025

Data Control Codes	10 General Fund	Other Funds	Total Governmental Funds
<b>REVENUES:</b>			
5700 Total Local and Intermediate Sources	\$ 1,088,580	\$ 584,666	\$ 1,673,246
5800 State Program Revenues	10,109,471	1,832,266	11,941,737
5900 Federal Program Revenues	876,030	1,441,000	2,317,030
5020 Total Revenues	12,074,081	3,857,932	15,932,013
<b>EXPENDITURES:</b>			
<b>Current:</b>			
0011 Instruction	5,694,503	991,083	6,685,586
0012 Instructional Resources and Media Services	153,199	78	153,277
0013 Curriculum and Instructional Staff Development	333,754	975,205	1,308,959
0021 Instructional Leadership	110,807	–	110,807
0023 School Leadership	780,956	45,904	826,860
0031 Guidance, Counseling and Evaluation Services	275,017	226,401	501,418
0032 Social Work Services	2,029	32,925	34,954
0033 Health Services	169,148	1,016	170,164
0034 Student (Pupil) Transportation	276,054	–	276,054
0035 Food Services	836,593	9,708	846,301
0036 Extracurricular Activities	337,959	1,048	339,007
0041 General Administration	748,851	18,922	767,773
0051 Facilities Maintenance and Operations	1,659,703	–	1,659,703
0052 Security and Monitoring Services	229,613	210,103	439,716
0053 Data Processing Services	513,504	–	513,504
0061 Community Services	5,391	54,804	60,195
<b>Debt Service:</b>			
0071 Principal on Long-Term Liabilities	27,521	876,000	903,521
0072 Interest on Long-Term Liabilities	3,334	412,183	415,517
0073 Bond Issuance Cost and Fees	–	2,000	2,000
<b>Capital Outlay:</b>			
0081 Facilities Acquisition and Construction	–	74,300	74,300
<b>Intergovernmental:</b>			
0099 Other Intergovernmental Charges	19,377	–	19,377
6030 Total Expenditures	12,177,313	3,931,680	16,108,993
Capital Outlay:	(103,232)	(73,748)	(176,980)
7912 Sale of Real and Personal Property	1,148	–	1,148
1200 Net Change in Fund Balances	(102,084)	(73,748)	(175,832)
0100 Fund Balance – September 1 (Beginning)	5,974,455	267,126	6,241,581
3000 Fund Balance – August 31 (Ending)	\$ 5,872,371	\$ 193,378	\$ 6,065,749

# UTEP's basketball season ends with March Sadness

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

Well, it's finally over, the UTEP Miners are done with Conference USA and will soon become members of the Mountain West Conference.

Okay, okay, I know the women's basketball team just eked into the CUSA Tournament and sports like beach volleyball, men's and women's golf, rifle, softball, and track and field still have games left to be played, but let's be honest, the two sports that the fans care about (and make any money for the university) are football and men's basketball.

And now those two programs are done for the year.

The UTEP basketball team failed to qualify for the CUSA Tournament by finishing 11th in a 12-team league, after its 64-61 loss to Jacksonville St. last Saturday. Only the first 10 teams in the conference qualify for a chance to advance to the NCAA Tournament.

The Miners, who used to contend for conference championships every year, find themselves at their lowest point in a long time.

They've suffered through a few difficult seasons since Don Haskins retired in 1999, but at least they managed to qualify for the league tournament at the end of the year.

After he was given a contract extension before the season, Joe Golding and his basketball team finished 11-20 this year.

Amazingly, he was given the extension after finishing the last three years with records of 18-15, 18-16 and 14-18. Not exactly showing signs of turning the program into a winner.

In his five seasons, Golding has put together an 81-83 record overall, and a 39-53 record in CUSA.

In his two seasons as the head football coach, Scotty Walden has put together a 5-19 record. Again, not exactly signs of turning the program

into a winner.

Of course, football has always been a big loser at UTEP. But basketball has always been the savior, basketball has always been the thing local fans looked forward to after another miserable football season.

In recent years, that hasn't been the case.

This year's UTEP basketball team had to go to double overtime to defeat a division III school (St. Thomas), they lost to William and Mary, they lost to Norfolk State, and they finished 7-13 in lowly Conference USA.

And all the UTEP football (2-10) and basketball (11-20) teams have to do is get better for next season's move to the MWC, which is much tougher than the conference they're leaving.

Yeah, the same inferior conference they had to fight hard to stay out of last place, in.

The question is how are they going to get better?

All Walden and his football team have to do is win at national powerhouses Michigan and Oklahoma; win at New Mexico, Air Force and North Dakota State, and win home games against Oregon State, Nevada and Wyoming.

And as far as the basketball team, if Golding returns as the coach, which he should unless something unusual happens, they have to see which members of the team will return and which will enter the dreaded transfer portal.

They also have to see how tough the basketball schedule will be.

UTEP fans all over the city have been crying for the team to leave CUSA and get into the MWC. Now it's happening, but it couldn't be happening at a worst time.

The way to win these days is by having the ability to pay more money to athletes. Like when Cuba Gooding Jr. once asked Tom Cruise to "show me the money."

Somehow, some way, UTEP is going to have to get former Miner players and coaches, along with famous El Pasoans, local billionaires and multi-millionaires, and season-ticket holders, involved to pitch in for the cause.

UTEP is going to have to dedicate more money to athletics. The good thing about spending money on an athletics program, if successful, it can pay the university back with increased ticket sales, merch sales, concession sales and playoff game revenue if they get there.

It was a downer of a year, especially for the basketball team. Fan interest is dropping; attendance was usually under 4,000 and ticket prices were lowered to \$9.15 just to get fans to show up.

UTEP has got to make some tough changes to their athletic department.

Like they said in *The Godfather*, "it's not personal, it's just business."

## Senior moment By Matilda Charles

# Nursing home verses assisted living

Nobody wants to think about it, but the day might come when we need the services of a nursing home to heal from an illness or injury. Or we might get to the point where we start thinking about getting some help, or even moving to a place where the help is already there.

One thing is certain: It's less stressful if we plan in advance for the day those situations might arise. The first step is to understand the differences between the two: nursing home versus assisted living.

A nursing home has 24/7 medical staff if you need constant care. You'll get food, baths, therapy if necessary, rehabilitation, medical treatment and more.

Medicare may or may not pay for some of the services you receive in a nursing home. The same for Medicaid, depending on your financial situation.

Assisted living can be quite different, the biggest being that you live in your own home within the facility. You'll have that private accommodation but also meals, recreational activities, visits from doctors and nurses, housekeeping and laundry services, and daily help with

tasks you can't do by yourself.

Many facilities offer both, with the option to move from assisted living to their nursing home if your health takes a downturn. A continuing care retirement community (CCRC) can offer the peace of mind of knowing that whatever level of care you need, it can be found in the same location.

Medicare probably won't pay for much of the cost.

And therein lies the huge concern for anyone needing to learn about nursing homes and assisted living facilities: the cost. Do your homework and ask a lot of questions about who pays for what. Here are a few places to start.

Look at the eldercare locator ([eldercare.acl.gov/home](http://eldercare.acl.gov/home)) or call them at 800-677-1116 to find resources.

Compare local facilities at [tinyurl.com/4ayaubhb](http://tinyurl.com/4ayaubhb).

Also see the government's long-term care website at [acl.gov/ltc](http://acl.gov/ltc).

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<b>PEOPLE WITH CONNECTIONS</b>	53 Butterfly food	103 "Mame" star	sports	72 Time soon to come
<b>ACROSS</b>	55 Cineplex _ (old theater)	weighing people down?	17 It shows a pupil's grades	73 Suspension bridge part
1 Stew morsels	56 Alternatives to coffees	108 Turin locale	18 Analyze	76 Popular food seasoning brand
5 G-man, e.g.	57 Distinctive times	109 Kin of "equi-"	24 "Rescue us!"	77 Cornrow, e.g.
8 Bun-topping seeds	59 Wife of Zeus	110 Inflated head	25 _ Hess (former oil giant)	78 Vast chasm
15 Razor brand	60 Stimp's pal	111 Beginning	30 Jazz singer	81 Slugging stat
19 "That's _" ("Untrue!")	61 Go _ ride	114 Telly	Carmen	82 Crucial artery
20 God, in Turin	63 Luau gift	115 "Oliver!" Oscar nominee being zany?	32 Visa rival, for short	83 Went across
21 Perk up	64 "ER" co-star	120 Writer _ Stanley Gardner	33 Soothes	85 Print quality stat
22 Picnic pests	Anthony	121 Iron or tin	34 "_ boy!"	87 In a very cold manner
23 "Secret Love" singer having two opposing personalities?	67 "Sleuth" co-star portraying a policeman?	122 Classic auto	35 "La Brea" network	88 Pick out
26 Performs like LL Cool J	71 Boot parts	123 Robert of "The Sopranos"	36 "Nuts!"	90 Welcome
27 2007 documentary about the U.S. health care system	74 Silent "yes"	124 In view	37 One-on-one instructor	91 Poet Ogden
28 Pick-up-sticks math game	75 Network on the telly, with "the"	125 Got narrower	38 Positive pole	94 China's Mao
29 Suffix with 110-Across	76 Wall Street deg., often	126 It's opposite NNW	42 "I believe," to texters	_tung
30 "Aquaman" star Jason	79 Head, in Pau	127 Other, in Spain	43 Iniquitous	98 Actress Quinn
31 "Seven Year Ache" singer buying goods at wholesale?	80 Pare down	<b>DOWN</b>	44 " _-ching!"	99 Blossom
37 _ kwon do	82 Speller's clarification	1 Paw bottoms	45 Pungent	100 Mystery awards
39 Change habitats	84 Cute, cutesily	2 "The Time Machine" race	46 Tax-deferred svgs. plans	101 English biscuits
40 Brigitte of "Contempt"	86 Scottish language	3 Guys staffing military flights	48 Motionless	103 Some Miller beers
41 Not smart	89 Frequent USO show performer	4 Watch brand	51 "Hud" actress Patricia	104 Arm muscle, informally
44 Height: Abbr.	92 Raw rock	5 Count up	52 Huck Finn, for one	105 Words on a help desk
45 Ghana's capital	93 Interrupt dancers, say	6 Designer Versace	54 Burn a bit	106 NYC rep starting in '19
47 Biol. or geol.	95 Coach Parseghian	7 Playing (with)	58 Williams of tennis	107 Rock _ (Brazilian music festival)
49 Star of many silent Westerns creating an ensemble?	96 The way things are now	8 _ Diego	62 Lyric poem	112 Weizman of Israel
	97 Swings about, as one's arms	9 Conclusion	63 Huck Finn, for one	113 Novice
	99 Exercise goal	10 "Ransom" actor Gary	65 Prez called "Ike"	115 Fast plane
	102 Has too much, briefly	11 Mennonite sect	66 Net pop-ups, e.g.	116 In the style of
		12 Soft rock?	67 "Uptown Girl" singer Billy	117 Suffix with alp
		13 Archaic verb suffix	68 Oxide, e.g.	118 "Inc." relative
		14 In position	69 Fetus' home	119 Female deer
		15 Overseas	70 Play award	
		16 List of players, in song)	71 "Let _" ("Frozen" song)	

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					
27					28			29					30						
		31		32				33	34			35	36						
37	38			39								40							
41			42	43			44				45	46			47	48			
49					50	51				52			53	54					
55					56					57			58		59				
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			67					68	69				70						
71	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					
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103								104	105						106	107			
108										109				110			111	112	113
114							115	116						117	118				
120														122				123	
124														126					127

Comix

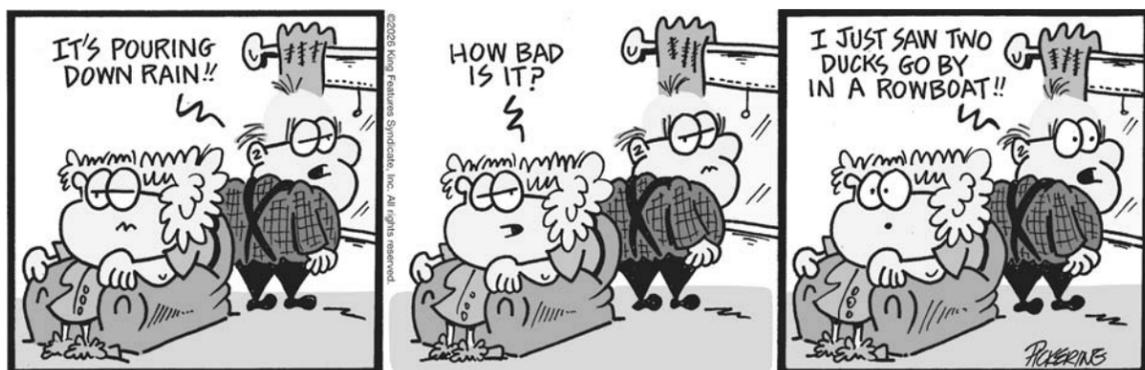
**OUT ON A LIMB** By Gary Kopervas



**AMBER WAVES** By Dave T. Phipps



**THE SPATS** By Jeff Pickering



**TIGER** By Bud Blake



**Lowry**

From Page 2

by flagrant factual mistakes, and insist that if she's debunked, it just shows how she must be on the right track.

Her mantra is that "we don't know-know, but we know" – in other words, her malicious, irrational intuitions are superior to actual knowledge backed by facts. She now says that "Erika Kirk should be dragged into a police precinct for questioning," and anyone who disagrees is "a full-blown fraud." According to Owens, "the amount of evidence that is now piling up, I would say, against Erika Kirk, is almost akin to an NBC Dateline episode."

Usually, conspiracy theories spring up around assassinations that are hard to fathom or have some ambiguity about them. It is clear that Lee Harvey Oswald acted alone in killing JFK, but it's understandable that there have been questions about the event. It is the depraved achievement of Candace Owens to make a bonkers true crime drama, with all sorts of mysteries and twists, out of an open-

and-shut murder case.

Kirk's accused killer, Tyler Robinson, had a motive, left a trail of damning evidence and confessed to multiple people. To dismiss all this and call for Erika Kirk to be frogmarched into a police station is so mad it makes Owens' conviction that both the moon landing and dinosaurs are fake look well-grounded by comparison.

It is a symptom of our time that such malevolent buffoonery is rewarded with a huge audience. It is impossible to discredit Owens because she is not in the credibility business to begin with. In the attention economy, denunciations are just as useful as praise, especially if a media figure is posing as a brave truth-teller – so brave that, in this case, she's willing to drag through the mud a mother of two who saw her beloved husband murdered less than six months ago.

It's not just that decency is not necessary in the Candace Owens business model, it would be an obstacle.

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

**The relationship between HRT and UTIs**

**DEAR DR. ROACH:** In a recent column, you wrote that hormone replacement therapy (HRT) should be considered in elderly women to prevent urinary tract infections (UTIs) by stopping bacteria from getting into the bladder in the first place. How does this work? Which is better: pills or vaginal creams? Isn't HRT in postmenopausal women frowned upon these days? I also wonder whether HRT in elderly men also helps prevent UTIs. (My husband, who died recently at 82, had a succession of UTIs during the final months of his life, which may have contributed to his death from pneumonia and sepsis.) – J.H.



I'm glad that you wrote because I didn't make this point clear enough. I specifically meant topical estrogen that can be a cream, tablet or ring – all of which deliver estrogen locally. The tissue lining of the vulva and vagina are estrogen-sensitive, and the low levels of estrogen that occur after menopause often cause them to atrophy.

Not only can this cause dryness and discomfort, the urethra sometimes doesn't seal properly. Bacteria can then get into the urine and make their way up into the bladder (and sometimes into the kidneys). Having a healthy lining reduces the risk of UTIs. Topical estrogen is not considered HRT.

While oral estrogen (which is considered HRT) also helps these tissues, there is an increased risk of heart disease if systemic estrogen (a pill or patch) is started at age 60 or more than 10 years after menopause, so topical estrogen is safer. Topical estrogen is not appreciably absorbed, so it does not have the potential for harm in the heart or the potential for blood clots.

People with estrogen-sensitive tumors should still discuss topical estrogen with their oncologists as small amounts are absorbed when the lining is atrophied.

HRT is not an effective treatment to prevent UTIs in men. Although there are several reasons that older men can get UTIs, the most important one is that the prostate gland enlarges, making it more difficult for the bladder to be drained. In men with enlarged prostate glands, the urine can become "stale" and a breeding ground for bacteria. Testosterone replacement has many potential benefits, but it does not shrink the prostate. (It's the reverse, unfortunately.)

Shrinking the prostate with medication or a surgical procedure is occasionally necessary in men with recurrent UTIs.

**DEAR DR. ROACH:** For at least a decade, I've had CT scans that noted an incidental "small" liver cyst. The latest CT scan mentions that the liver cyst is 3 cm. Is a 3-cm liver cyst considered small? I am trying to understand if the actual measurement now means that it's no longer small. If this is the case, do I need to see a specialist? Thank you for any assistance you can provide. (I'm now 60, but the cyst was first noted when I was in my late 40s.) – K.B.

Incidental findings on CT scans or MRIs are common, and sometimes it's not clear what to do. But as we have gained more experience with liver (and kidney) cysts, there is now an accepted regimen. These cysts are common, with perhaps 10% to 20% of people having them appear in advanced imaging like a CT scan.

For a "simple" liver cyst (meaning that the cyst appears to be a single fluid-filled space with no walls and no enhancement with contrast) that is less than 4 cm, the risk is very small; no further testing is required for the cyst. The fact that yours is still small after at least a decade is further evidence that this is not one to worry about.

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**

March 9, 1731: Canary Islanders arrive as some of the first settlers near San Antonio. They expected the landscape to be like their island... OOPS. So much for truth in advertising.

**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: X equals L

HI YWSHBA UFEUXF'V  
TFXZBYJEXS KWEUV ZXMZSV  
IZXX HB ZXHABFK UZWZXXFX  
UZHVV, H'K YZXX GJFT  
GME - GFZWFK.

Answer Page 4

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**Top scores for VA cemetery services**



by Freddy Groves

It comes as a big surprise, given the seriousness of burying a loved one, but the VA's National Cemetery Administration (NCA) just earned an extremely high score on satisfaction with its services. As measured by the American Customer Satisfaction Index (ACSI) of over 100 government services and agencies for 2025, the NCA ranked 98 out of 100, the highest score ever. The NCA twice earned a score of 97, while the average of other government agencies was 70.4.

Last year the NCA buried over 130,000 veterans and their family members at the 157 national cemeteries in 44 states. Burial and memorial benefits include a gravesite, perpetual care of the site, a Presidential Memorial Certificate, a marker or medallion, a burial flag given at the funeral and military funeral honors that

include the playing of "Taps."

If you're a veteran, have you made your final plans yet? Are they in writing? When the time comes, it will be easier on your family if arrangements have already been concluded. You can do this by having a pre-need determination done (VA Form 40-100007) to determine your eligibility and approval for burial.

Start with [va.gov/burials-memorials](http://va.gov/burials-memorials) and click "Eligibility." Have your DD-214 in hand. If you need help, call them at 800-535-1117.

To learn more about your burial and memorial benefits, see [www.cem.va.gov/burial-memorial-benefits](http://www.cem.va.gov/burial-memorial-benefits).

As part of advance planning, consider the Veterans Legacy Memorial website ([www.vlm.cem.va.gov](http://www.vlm.cem.va.gov)). Each veteran buried at a VA national cemetery has a webpage listing name, dates of birth and death, war period served, decorations, rank and more. Family members can later add photos and documents if they wish. Your advanced planning might include

a handful of photos and information you'd like to see added later. Include the phone number 866-245-1490 in your information in case your family needs help with uploading files when the time comes.

Be sure your family knows where you're keeping your pre-need approval and Veterans Legacy Memorial documents.

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- "Snow will better slide off a shovel that has been sprayed with furniture polish." – T.L. in Minnesota

- Here's an old tip but a good one: Before going away on vacation, put a couple ice cubes in a plastic baggie, set at the front of the freezer. When you return, if there is any evidence of melting, you will know you've lost power while you were gone. If the bag is one big, flat cube, you lost power long enough to suspect all your refrigerator items of being spoiled.

- To temporarily get a winter frost effect on a window, use this fun recipe. Dissolve 4-6 tablespoons of Epsom salts in a beer. When the salt is dissolved, dip a clean rag in the mixture and wipe it on your windowpane. As it dries, crystals will form, creating a frost effect. This is a great solution for a window you don't want to be clear but also don't want to permanently alter. The effect washes off with soap and water.

- "If you get a residue inside your coffee cups when they go through the dishwasher, it might be time to give your machine a once-over, but in the meantime, spray the insides of the coffee cups with a bleach-based cleaner like 409 just before you turn it on. That should help." – E.T. in Michigan

- Cut your kitchen sponge in half or even thirds. You can clean just as well with a smaller sponge, and you will extend its life, saving you money. A smaller sponge dries out more quickly.

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.

	+		÷		=	15		
-		+		+				
	+		×		=	14		
+		×		×				
	-		×		=	15		
=		=		=				
12		66		15				
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

Answer Page 4

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**Weekly SUDOKU**

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

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

**DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ◆◆◆**

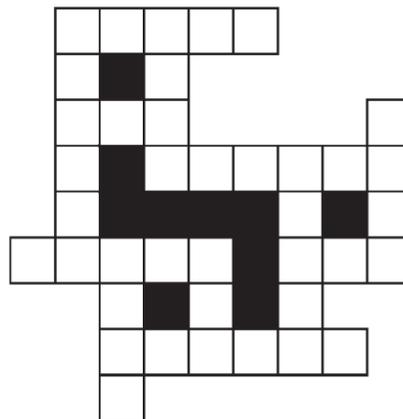
◆ Moderate ◆◆ Challenging  
◆◆◆ HOO BOY!

Answer Page 4

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- ♥ DGO
- WINDOS
- LOVRA
- SYRO
- YEVGOA
- ♥ WLO
- ♥ NSGA
- NODLE
- ♥ YWA
- ♥ ANESIL
- ♥ EVSOR
- ♥ DWLE



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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