



Primary election results

Some candidates win outright, others must compete in a runoff

By **Alfredo Vasquez**
Special to the Courier

EL PASO COUNTY – A handful of Republican and Democratic races remain unresolved after the March primary votes were cast. Now, these political hopefuls will compete in a runoff election that is scheduled for May 26.

Among the runoff races, the most intriguing one is that of the Senate nominee for the Republican Party, which pits incumbent U.S. Sen. John Cornyn against Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton.

After contentious campaigning by both candidates, the results showed Cornyn with 43 percent of the vote compared to 40 percent for Paxton.

In El Paso County, more than 23,000 votes were cast in the Republican primary contest. Cornyn was the winner with 46 percent of the vote compared to Paxton's 36 percent. The two will meet once again in the May runoff election. The winner is headed for a showdown against the Democratic candidate State Rep. James Talarico.

Talarico won with 52 percent of the votes compared to 47 percent for U.S. Representative Jasmine Crockett. El Paso Democrats cast larger numbers for Talarico, giving him 62 percent of the vote compared to Crockett's 47 percent. More than 27,000 voters participated in the Democratic primary election.

Another interesting primary election outcome occurred in two El Paso County commissioners' races. In Precinct 2, Miguel Teran beat incumbent

The Texas primary runoff election will be held on Tuesday, May 26.

The General Election will be on Tuesday, November 3.

David Stout with 53.2 percent of the vote to Stout's 46.8 percent. Precinct 2 is made up of Central El Paso and the Lower Valley.

In Precinct 4, Annette Griego upset incumbent

Sergio Coronado with 57.5 percent of the vote to 42.5 percent. Precinct 4 is made up of West and Northeast El Paso, Vinton, Westway, Canutillo, and Anthony.

After the election, Teran stated, "I am happy that things worked out and that we were able to get the message to El Paso County. I want to thank all my volunteers and my family who stood behind me, and my father who believed in me."

Teran, a project manager and son of a former county commissioner, campaigned on keeping tax rates down and guaranteeing the proper use of taxpayer funds in the county's development projects.

Griego stated, "I am feeling very happy, very supported and very blessed. I am eager to work and make changes." Griego is a nurse practitioner and business owner. She campaigned on providing transparency and looking to assist voters in understanding certificates of obligation for infrastructure projects to guarantee proper use of tax dollars. She also promised to look to lower or stabilize taxes.

Next for Teran is the race against Republican candidate Matt Sistrunck in the November election. Sistrunck did not face a primary challenger in the Republican primary for Precinct 2. Griego will face off against Republican candidate Leo Arcos, who also did not face a primary challenger in the Republican primary for Precinct 4.

In the race for El Paso County Judge, Ricardo Samaniego did not face a Democratic primary challenger, but he will have a Republican opponent in the November election. The incumbent county judge will run for a third term against Republican candidate Minerva Torres Shelton, who won the primary against Guadalupe 'Lupe' Giner by a vote of 61.85 percent to 38.15 percent.

In Texas' 16th Congressional District race to unseat incumbent U.S. Rep. Veronica Escobar, the Republican primary race drew seven candidates. Escobar, who was unopposed in the Democratic primary, is seeking her fifth term.

Of the seven Republican candidates, the top vote getters were Adam Bauman, a retired Border Patrol agent, and Manuel J. Barraza, a former judge previously convicted of federal crimes. Bauman, a Navy veteran who runs a canine drug detection business, garnered 24 percent of the vote. Barraza, who now works as a paralegal, took nearly 18 percent of the vote. The two Republican candidates will compete in the runoff election.

In the El Paso County judicial races, several new judges who ran in the



– Photo by Alfredo Vasquez

FIELD NARROWS – El Paso County Court House, above, will welcome two new members to commissioners court after the general election in November. Annette Griego defeated incumbent Sergio Coronado in the Democratic primary for Precinct 4 and will go up against Republican candidate Leo Arcos, who did not face a challenger in the Republican primary. Miguel Teran beat incumbent David Stout in the Democratic Precinct 2 race and will run against Matt Sistrunck, who also did not face a primary challenger in the Republican primary.

Democratic Party primary have already won their seats as they face no Republican challengers in the fall general election.

Among the candidates who will not face a challenger in the November is Amanda Enriquez. She won the 171st District Court judicial seat after finishing with more than 67 percent of the votes compared to 33 percent for Alex Cuellar.

Also, Democrat Eunice Reyes captured enough votes to avoid a runoff election for the judicial seat for County Court at Law No. 4. Reyes finished with more than 52 percent of the votes to claim the seat outright. She defeated Judge Marcos Lizarraga and lawyer Jeff Rago. Lizarraga, the current judge of the 168th District Court, received more than 34 percent of the votes, and Rago got just over 13 percent.

And in the County Probate Court No. 2 race, Gabriella M. Reed defeated Judge Sergio H. Enriquez in the Democratic Party primary election. Reed received more than 54 percent of the votes, while Enriquez, who currently serves as judge for the 448th District Court, finished with less than 46 percent. Reed does not have a Republican challenger in the November election.

Chris Anchondo claimed victory for the 120th District Court and will face

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Kristi Noem rides off into the sunset



At times, you could be forgiven for having thought that Kristi Noem wanted to be a uniformed DHS officer rather than the secretary of the department.

Now, the cabinet member most inclined to glamour shots out in the field is going to have to go back to wearing civilian clothes.

For all his trademark firings during "The

Apprentice" and the rapid turnover of his first term, President Trump has been loath to oust top officials this time around. Kristi Noem is the exception, and she's earned the dubious distinction. Incompetent and preposterously self-promoting, Noem took a serious role and made it like something out of the HBO political spoof "Veep."

plane, and then, when they reached their destination, reinstated him because there wasn't anyone else to fly them home.

Reportedly, Noem tracked how often Tom Homan, the border czar who supplanted her in Minneapolis, was on TV and sought to outpace him.

The Journal related that Lewandowski was desperate to get a federally issued gun and badge and exacted retribution against those who didn't cooperate (he failed to get the gun, but apparently got the badge).

DHS officials denied much of the Journal story, but even if a fraction of it was true, it was still damning.

The two were turfy, sharp-elbowed bureaucratic players, not a new or unusual offense in Washington. But their enemies tended to be people who knew what they were doing, with Tom Homan high on the list.

Noem and Lewandowski raised eyebrows by taking an unusual amount of control over the department's spending. Self-dealing played a direct role in Noem's defenestration. The department

The Wall Street Journal recently published a devastating report on her time at the department, which she ran in close partnership with the man she's been rumored to be having an affair with, former Trump consultant Corey Lewandowski (she dismisses such reports as tabloid trash). It was a little like Antony and Cleopatra on the Potomac, except the empire was a sprawling bureaucracy and as farce rather than tragedy.

According to the Journal, Lewandowski fired a Coast Guard pilot who left Noem's blanket behind on another

See LOWRY, Page 7



Socorro ISD to host College, Career and Job Expo

Expo will include 68 employers, 49 colleges, universities, technical programs ready to meet, interview 10th to 12th grade students

By Christy Flores-Jones
Special to the Courier

Socorro Independent School District will host one of the city's biggest job expos for the district's sophomores, juniors and seniors to explore their future career options, including summer employment, college program, and internship opportunities. Sixty-eight businesses/employers and 49 college and university programs will participate

in the 2026 SISD College, Career, and Job Expo from 12:30 to 3:30 p.m. March 23 at Montwood High School.

"Through this event, we connect the employers with our students, who are just beginning their working journey," said SISD Career & Technical Education Coordinator Brenda Gonzalez. "We introduce them to these companies and we are able to create staffing opportunities by bridging our CTE programs and students

who have earned industry-recognized certifications with the needs of the employers in our community."

Some of the biggest employers in El Paso who hire from this Socorro ISD event will participate again in this year's job expo, including El Paso Chihuahuas, City Water Parks, El Paso Live, Chik-Fil-A and Charlie Clark Nissan El Paso. Many of the staff within these companies were hired through Socorro ISD and continue with long-term jobs and careers with the same

employers, Gonzalez said.

Students will have the opportunity to speak with college, university, technical school and military representatives and meet with local business and industry partners to explore future career opportunities available to them.

Students can also interview

with potential employers for summer jobs and internships. El Paso Workforce will be accepting applications for summer training and for job placement.

Students should be ready to interview, bring resumes and dress to impress. Students should visit sisd.net/ccje to register for the event.

2026 Socorro ISD College, Career and Job Expo

12:30 to 3:30 p.m. Monday, March 23, 2026
Montwood High School in the gymnasiums
12000 Montwood Dr.

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King Crossword

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57				58						59		

- Average Solve Time 22 Minutes**
- ACROSS**
- 1 Lawn coating
 - 4 Daring deeds
 - 9 Droid
 - 12 "That feels so good!"
 - 13 Host
 - 14 Ruckus
 - 15 Type of cable
 - 17 Sine qua _
 - 18 Feathery wrap
 - 19 Garish
 - 21 Mellow yellows
 - 24 Winter blanket
 - 25 Mauna _
 - 26 Fire sign?
 - 28 Emulate Scott
- DOWN**
- 1 Apply cream
 - 2 Listener
 - 3 "_ goes there?"
 - 4 Soft felt hat
 - 5 Diplomat's post
 - 6 Fed. health law
 - 7 Camping shelters
 - 8 Family cars
 - 9 Something to jump on
 - 10 Skunk's defense
 - 11 Theater award
 - 16 Jurist Fortas
 - 20 Stirred
 - 21 Grad
 - 22 "Encore!"
 - 23 Range of radio frequencies
- ACROSS**
- 31 Grecian vessels
 - 33 Evergreen tree
 - 35 "Zounds!"
 - 36 Army doc
 - 38 Karaoke prop, for short
 - 40 Assoc.
 - 41 Friendly
 - 43 Crude dwelling
 - 45 Brit's word of surprise
 - 47 Where Ger. is
 - 48 Help
 - 49 Timepiece attachment
 - 54 Blasting stick
 - 55 Follow
 - 56 Luau dish
 - 57 Sneaky chuckle
 - 58 Reading lights
- DOWN**
- 27 Skirt edge
 - 29 Like lemons
 - 30 Jittery
 - 32 Thailand, once
 - 34 Gets smart
 - 37 Embroidery yarn
 - 39 Waterpark slides
 - 42 Actress Loy
 - 44 Wall St. whiz
 - 45 Tub session
 - 46 Queue
 - 50 Doctrine
 - 51 Mimic
 - 52 Silent assent
 - 53 Insult
- Hamilton
Bradley and Asner
- Answer Page 4

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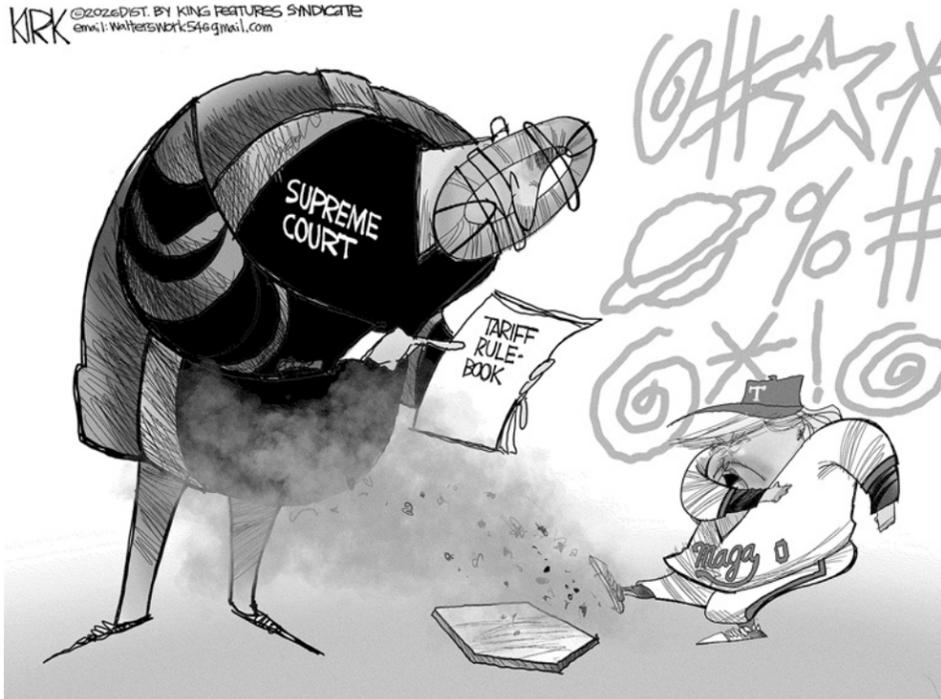
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Strange BUT TRUE

By Lucie Winborne

- Eastern Russia serves breakfast when western Russia serves dinner.

- If you are born blind due to lesions in the brain (congenital cortical blindness), rather than lesions in the eye (congenital peripheral blindness), you apparently can't become schizophrenic.

- Words have a lifespan of anywhere between 1,000 and 20,000 years.

- While inducting Bob Dylan into the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame, Bruce Springsteen noted that he first heard Dylan's song "Like a Rolling Stone" in the car with his mother, who liked the music but after a minute looked at her son and said, "That boy can't sing."

- The Oscar statue must always appear in an upright, vertical position and cannot be dressed, altered, rotated, stretched or embellished in any way.

- Oak trees are more prone to being struck by lightning than any other tree.

- A wildlife photographer documented an unlikely duo in northern Finland: a young female gray wolf and a male brown bear that met every night for 10 days. They weren't observed fighting, but roaming, playing and even eating from the same plate.

- Broccoli contains more protein per calorie than steak.

- On July 26, 2025, Thaddeus Daniel Pierce was born from an embryo that had been frozen since May 1994.

- North Dakota has the most golf courses per capita out of any state in America.

- After the beloved TV series "I Love Lucy" ended, Desi Arnaz offered Vivian Vance (Ethel) and William Frawley (Fred) their own spin-off called "The Mertzes," but Vance declined, primarily because she didn't want to work one-on-one with Frawley. The pair's onscreen chemistry notably didn't mirror their offscreen relationship.

Thought for the Day: "What is a weed? A plant whose virtues have never been discovered."

– Ralph Waldo Emerson

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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

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

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

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Canutillo Independent School District Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balance Governmental Funds For the Year Ended June 30, 2025

Data Control Codes	General Fund	Debt Service Fund	2024A & 2025 Bonds Capital Projects Fund	Other Funds	Total Governmental Funds
REVENUES:					
5700 Total Local and Intermediate Sources	\$ 28,111,858	\$ 15,054,478	\$ 2,487,973	\$ 844,254	\$ 46,498,563
5800 State Program Revenues	33,837,018	1,068,662	–	1,343,266	36,248,946
5900 Federal Program Revenues	5,986,021	–	–	5,051,310	11,037,331
5020 Total Revenues	67,934,897	16,123,140	2,487,973	7,238,830	93,784,840
EXPENDITURES:					
Current:					
0011 Instruction	38,747,807	–	–	4,429,451	43,177,258
0012 Instructional Resources and Media Services	790,358	–	–	183,622	973,980
0013 Curriculum and Instructional Staff Development	717,716	–	–	770,402	1,488,118
0021 Instructional Leadership	1,046,094	–	–	309,235	1,355,329
0023 School Leadership	4,009,453	–	–	160,234	4,169,687
0031 Guidance, Counseling and Evaluation Services	2,655,488	–	–	160,054	2,815,542
0032 Social Work Services	176,636	–	–	241,189	417,825
0033 Health Services	952,431	–	–	28,176	980,607
0034 Student (Pupil) Transportation	2,114,075	–	–	–	2,114,075
0035 Food Services	5,677,849	–	–	–	5,677,849
0036 Extracurricular Activities	1,493,861	–	–	230,269	1,724,130
0041 General Administration	3,471,584	–	252,895	22,509	3,746,988
0051 Facilities Maintenance and Operations	6,993,185	–	105,938	138,894	7,238,017
0052 Security and Monitoring Services	1,248,576	–	–	187,583	1,436,159
0053 Data Processing Services	1,849,539	–	359	24,300	1,874,198
0061 Community Services	23,074	–	–	309,029	332,103
Debt Service:					
0071 Principal on Long-Term Liabilities	795,320	9,565,000	1,218	–	10,361,538
0072 Interest on Long-Term Liabilities	87,306	4,616,928	272	–	4,704,506
0073 Bond Issuance Cost and Fees	424	309,175	2,707,479	–	3,017,078
Capital Outlay:					
0081 Facilities Acquisition and Construction	1,180,957	–	30,901,379	–	32,082,336
Intergovernmental:					
0099 Other Intergovernmental Charges	635,427	–	–	–	635,427
6030 Total Expenditures	74,667,160	14,491,103	33,969,540	7,194,947	130,322,750
1100 Excess (Deficiency) of Revenues Over (Under) Expenditures	(6,732,263)	1,632,037	(31,481,567)	43,883	(36,537,910)
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES):					
7911 Issuance of Bonds	–	7,100,000	196,880,000	–	203,980,000
7912 Sale of Real and Personal Property	290,066	–	–	–	290,066
7915 Transfers In	53	–	–	–	53
7916 Premium on Issuance of Bonds	–	1,074,035	5,676,341	–	6,750,376
7949 Proceeds of SBITAs	208,859	–	–	–	208,859
8911 Transfers Out (Use)	(1,000,000)	–	–	(53)	(1,000,053)
8949 Other (Uses) - Placed in Escrow for Refunded Bonds	–	(7,361,542)	–	–	(7,361,542)
7080 Total Other Financing Sources (Uses)	(501,022)	812,493	202,556,341	(53)	202,867,759
1200 Net Change in Fund Balances	(7,233,285)	2,444,530	171,074,774	43,830	166,329,849
0100 Fund Balance – July 1 (Beginning)	19,905,917	14,335,332	–	708,642	34,949,891
3000 Fund Balance – June 30 (Ending)	\$ 12,672,632	\$ 16,779,862	\$ 171,074,774	\$ 752,472	\$ 201,279,740

Most NFL teams make big changes, one makes little news

By Steve Escajeda
Special to the Courier

It was the ancient Greek philosopher, Heraclitus of Ephesus, who once said that the one constant in life is change.

Old Heraclitus must have been a football fan because somehow, he knew that NFL is never the same from one year to the next.

As usual, the NFL will look a little different next season with several big names wearing strange uniform colors.

And whether it's through free agency or a trade, teams are constantly looking to change their rosters for the better.

But then there is one team, and a so-called general manager of that team, who talks a big game and ends up doing nothing. But we'll get to that team – and that general manager later.

Some big changes for next season include the Super Bowl MVP, running back Kenneth Walker, leaving the Seattle Seahawks to play with Patrick Mahomes and the Kansas City Chiefs.

Two big name quarterbacks will be with new teams. Tua Tagovailoa left the Miami Dolphins for the Atlanta Falcons while Kyler Murray left the Arizona Cardinals for the Minnesota Vikings.

Long-time Tampa Bay wide receiver Mike Evans is no longer with the Bucs and will now catch passes from Brock Purdy and the San Francisco 49ers.

One of the edge rushers that every team was after, Trey Hendrickson, left the Cincinnati Bengals and will now chase down quarterbacks for the Baltimore Ravens.

Running back Travis Etienne has left the Jacksonville Jaguars and will now join the New Orleans Saints.

He really hasn't seen a lot of action with the Green Bay Packers because he backed up Jordan Love, but when he did play, Malik Willis looked like he could start for a lot of other teams. Well, he'll get his chance after being traded to the Miami Dolphins.

There were many other players who left their old teams for one reason or another, but the ones listed earlier are the bigger names.

This is where we get into that certain team and that certain general manager.

You'll notice that in all those transactions listed, not one of them mentioned the Dallas Cowboys.

That's because once again, general manager and owner, Jerry Jones, said the organization would be very aggressive during this signing period. And once again – they weren't

As anyone who follows the team knows, the Cowboys have one of the best offenses in the NFL. Scoring points in not a problem for them.

However, anyone who follows them also knows that the Cowboys have one of the worst defenses in the league and keeping the other team from scoring points was a very big problem for them.

So, it made sense that Jerry and his cronies would make a splash by either signing a big-name free agent or making a block-buster trade.

They were especially interested in pass rushers Maxx Crosby from the Las Vegas Raiders or Hendrickson from the Bengals.

Of course, they got neither.

In fact, the Ravens beat out the Cowboys by signing Crosby. Then that trade was cancelled because Crosby failed his physical exam. So, then what did the Ravens do? They beat out the Cowboys again by signing Hendrickson.

Don't get me wrong, Dallas did get a few defensive players, they've added edge rusher Rashan Gary, safety Jalen Thompson, cornerback Cobie Durant,

defensive tackle Otito Ogbornia and safety P.J. Locke.

Not exactly household names. Not much to get excited about.

Now don't forget that Crosby is still out there, but it appears as though he's decided he wants to stay with the Raiders, but you never know.

What Jerry should know by now is that his job is to keep his best players, like Micah Parsons, and add more good ones.

Heck, the Cowboys lost Demarcus Lawrence a year ago and he went on to win a Super Bowl ring with the Seahawks.

Let's face it, Jerry Jones is quickly approaching Joe Biden territory.

The only great move he ever made was hiring Jimmy Johnson as his coach, and that was 37 years ago.

The Dallas Cowboys own the NFL's longest streak of not returning to the conference title game (the game to get to the Super Bowl) at 30 years.

It looks like 31 is a lock.

Senior moment By Matilda Charles

Are you paying for subscriptions you don't use?

Remember when you signed up on a trial basis for a subscription, app or streaming service, then decided you didn't like it, never used it? Are you still paying for that?

They say that many of us have nearly \$20 per month in unused products, coming to hundreds per year, that we've forgotten about – but we're still paying for.

With spring cleaning coming up in a few months, it's a good time to also clean up our expenses. The way to get started on identifying services you aren't using is with your monthly checking and credit card statements. Ideally you're also saving at least a year of both, because some subscriptions and services only bill annually and won't show up on your monthly statements.

Go through those statements and be sure you can identify each and every item. The annual ones might be hard to spot, but it's worth finding them as most are on automatic renewal.

With some items such as a weekly newsletter, it might be going to a temporary email address you created and

then forgot about.

Next to the deduction or expense on your credit card or bank statement should be a company name and phone number. Call them! Ask for the service or subscription to stop immediately, and ask for a partial refund. You might get some money back!

Another clue is to go back through your junk email. It's possible your subscription was waylaid and you never saw it.

For the future, it's not that you should never again sign up on a trial for a service or product, but that you need to beware of when it will expire and you'll start being charged. Make a note on your calendar to decide whether you want to keep going (and be charged) or contact them in advance to have it stopped.

Remember, it's your money!

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- FUN 'N' GAMES**
- ACROSS**
- Lack of vitality
 - Neighbor of Florida
 - Garlicky sauces
 - In a rational manner
 - Unexpired driver's license, e.g.
 - Well-spoken
 - Whole bunch of baby felines?
 - Regions, weatherwise
 - Some reddish deer
 - Sex educator
 - Shere
 - Jokester Jay
 - Viscous stuff
 - DVD- (data holders)
 - Make angry
 - Dogs that hunt egrets?
 - Fade away
 - B.A., e.g.
 - Corp. exec in charge of ads and branding
 - Locale
 - "Oh, gotcha"
 - Snacks that help physicists build atomic bombs?
 - Campus digs
 - Text-scanning device: Abbr.
 - French for "the king"
 - Head up

- 1890s veep
- Stevenson
- Back of an overseas ship?
- Entrepreneur
- Bezos who cooks sheep delicacies?
- Tan-colored
- "Ich bin _ Berliner"
- Actors Momoa and Statham
- Frigid
- Ladies who use Speed Stick?
- _ Newton
- Shared a living space
- Water, in Lille
- 2008 documentary about the national debt
- Cover girl from a city in central Georgia?
- Fire breather's parachute descent?
- Flabbergast
- Paddy food
- _ Park (Edison's home)
- Machinery wheel
- Unwell
- Package shipped to singer Dolly?
- From the top
- En _ (in full court)
- Free TV spot, in brief
- "I taut I _ a puddy tat!"
- Med. group
- Serenity in a rabbit colony?

- DOWN**
- Request
 - Capital of Kenya
 - Buries
 - Doles (out)
 - Specks in la mer
 - "Anthem" author
 - Benefit
 - Med. test worker
 - Balm additive
 - Playbill info
 - Befuddle
 - Some track runners
 - Lymphoid throat mass
 - Ravens' gp.
 - "Send me"
 - "Yes, yes!," in France

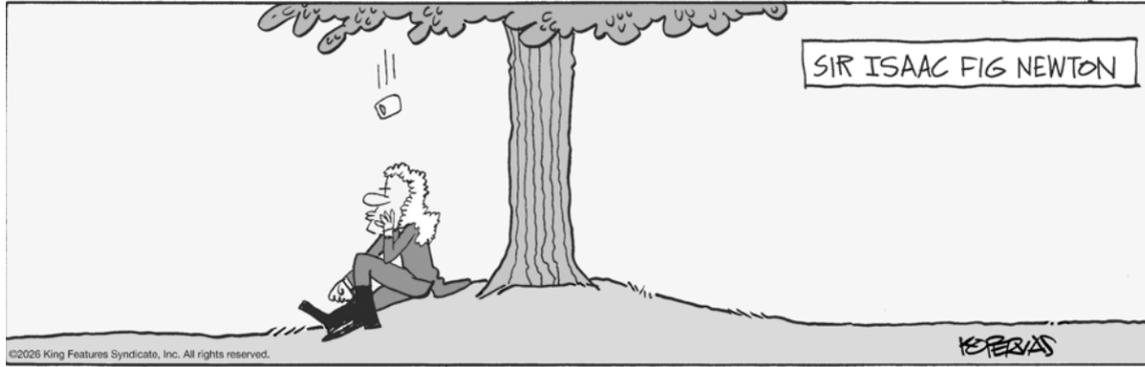
- Food flatfish
- Suffix with Benedict
- Roads: Abbr.
- Bun worn at the back of the neck
- Savvy about
- Fight arbiter
- Co. shuffling
- Expectation
- That girl
- Unstimulating java
- Letter stroke
- Protest at which people lie down
- "Uncle" of old TV
- Whole lot
- U.S. spy gp.
- "Uncle" of the U.S.
- Singer Aimee
- "Of the day," on menus
- VIPs at raves
- DOJ agency
- Tolkien fiend
- Crooner Orbison
- Often-dinged car feature
- _o'-shanter
- Mao _-tung
- Ending for ball or bass
- DE-to-VT dir.
- Dad's mate
- Angsty genre
- Flanders of "The Simpsons"
- Fishing boots
- Animal's coat
- The same: Prefix
- Hiatus

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		60	61	62					
63									64		65		66								
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		97			98				99	100	101	
102						103		104		105		106			107				108		
109						110					111			112	113				114		
																			115		
119	120																				
126																					
129																					

Comix

OUT ON A LIMB By Gary Kopervas



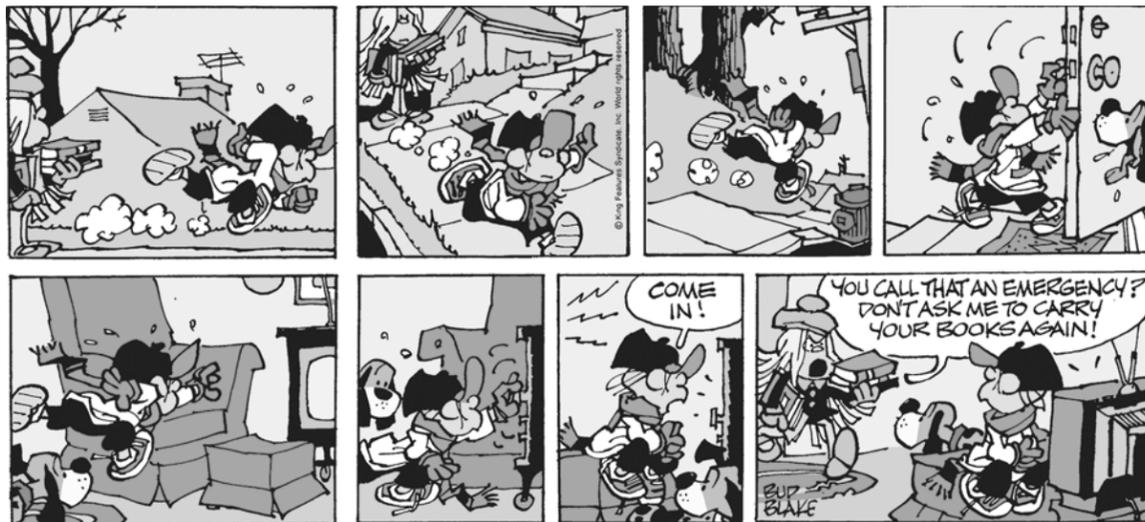
AMBER WAVES By Dave T. Phipps



THE SPATS By Jeff Pickering



TIGER By Bud Blake



Lowry

From Page 2

approved a \$220 million contract – funneled in part through firms run by Noem and Lewandowski allies – for an ad campaign encouraging illegal immigrants to go home.

The ad starred – who else? – Kristi Noem. She was on horseback and in chaps. The implicit message was that if illegal immigrants didn't leave on their own, she'd immediately form a posse and run them over the border. It was a production worthy of a spaghetti western, or – more to the point, given her political ambitions – a commercial for a 2028 presidential campaign.

Noem couldn't defend the sketchy spending decisions, or the blatantly self-glorifying ad, or much of anything else, in brutal back-to-back House and Senate congressional hearings that precipitated her doom. She'd already been taken down a notch after the Minneapolis ICE operation went sideways. Not working with copious supplies of credibility to begin with, she tossed away whatever she had by instantly labeling both agitators shot by DHS agents

“domestic terrorists.”

All of this said, it was Trump who hired Noem despite her manifest deficiencies, including no notable experience in immigration enforcement. She was camera-ready and loyal, so why not? Her designated replacement, Oklahoma senator Markwayne Mullin, also doesn't have a background in immigration policy. One hopes, though, that he won't interfere with the professionals and will continue the Homan-backed approach of focusing on apprehending illegal immigrants who have committed other criminal offenses and received final orders of removal, and ramping up worksite enforcement.

The French World War I-era statesman Georges Clemenceau once said, “War is too important to be left to the generals.” By the same token, immigration enforcement is too important to be left to self-serving glory hounds that are focused more on the main chance than the underlying mission.

Trump's first firing was the right one.

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

Why people still die of pneumonia

DEAR DR. ROACH: Why do people still die of pneumonia? With all the advances that we've seen in modern medicine, losing anyone to this ailment seems like such a waste. Is it a question of pneumonia being difficult to pin down because of the root cause, whether it's bacterial, viral or fungal? Is it due to a delayed diagnosis and/or delayed treatment? Is it the development of drug-resistant pneumonia strains? I just don't get why people still die from pneumonia or from “complications” of pneumonia. I'm a 73-year-old stroke and cancer survivor who is in relatively good health. How can I best avoid getting pneumonia myself? – D.K.



Pneumonia is an infection of the lungs that is sometimes called a “lower respiratory tract” infection to distinguish it from an “upper respiratory infection,” like bronchitis. The majority of pneumonias are bacterial or viral, but fungal pneumonia is a rare cause that is usually seen in hospitalized patients.

You did a very good job of identifying some of the reasons why people still get very sick (and even die) of pneumonia. But an important additional reason is that there are some bacteria that grow very fast and are able to overwhelm the body's immune system within days. It is often true that late medical attention allows the infection to progress to the point where we still lose patients from pneumonia, even with all that modern medicine can offer.

Another reason is that when people are very frail, either because they are very old or have other underlying health conditions, the body's defenses are weak. Antibiotics can only do so much; doctors still rely on the body to do most of the work by getting rid of the infection.

Drug resistance is a big problem, especially inside hospitals. I have seen cases where the bacteria are resistant to all the available antibiotics. There has been a race between the ingenuity of drug developers and bacterial evolution, and our ingenuity has been slowing down lately, with fewer types of antibiotics being discovered and released. Avoiding the unnecessary use of antibiotics helps reduce resistance.

The easiest thing a person over 50 can do to avoid pneumonia is to get the available vaccines, especially the pneumococcal vaccine (PCV20 or PCV21, called Prevnar). But for a person with health issues in their 70s, you should get the respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) and COVID-19 vaccines. Because influenza damages the lung's ability to fight off infections, getting pneumonia after the flu is particularly dangerous, so the annual flu vaccine remains important.

Smoking also damages the lung's ability to fight off infections, so quitting smoking reduces pneumonia risk. Excess alcohol consumption also predisposes people to pneumonia, so men shouldn't exceed two drinks at a time (one drink for women).

Proper nutrition and good dental health are important for everyone. Diabetics should have their diabetes under good control. Chronic liver, lung, kidney and heart disease all predispose people to infections, so making sure that these are optimally managed reduces the risk further. Both cancer and its treatments can affect the immune system.

People who are at risk for pneumonia should know the signs and seek medical care quickly if pneumonia is suspected. Although the classic symptoms of fever, cough, and shortness of breath can occur at any age, older people often experience confusion and a low fever. Their heart rates are often raised.

Some symptoms can be subtle – new falls, incontinence, and loss of energy. A significant, unexplained change in overall functioning might signify a serious infection like pneumonia and deserves an evaluation.

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



Moore Texas by Roger MOORE

March 3, 1836: Sam Houston is named Commander in Chief of the Texas Army.

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: R equals H

IONYGBM YFPNYC CNQT GT
 QRGWR FJFYXENBX ONJFP
 PGTZGTZ PMWYFB RXLTP NI
 DYMGPFF: DPMOL EFMWR.

Answer Page 4

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Weekly SUDOKU

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

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging
 ♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

Answer Page 4

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Second amendment no longer trampled

VETERANS POST

by Freddy Groves

For the first time in three decades, the VA will no longer assist the FBI in depriving veterans of their right to own firearms.

This is a very big deal. For too long, any veteran who needed fiduciary help to manage his finances was reported to the FBI's National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS) and was deemed a "prohibited person." There went the veteran's right to own a firearm – all because he needed help writing a check for his electric bill.

Yes, a fiduciary does more than just make payments. Their job is to protect the veteran who can't manage financial affairs because of age, injury or disease. A fiduciary is appointed only after medical determination that the veteran is in need

of help. The fiduciary then undergoes a background check, credit report check and more to be certain who is going to be managing the veteran's affairs.

The fiduciary then (apparently) spends a lot of time filling out forms, submitting information, verifying school attendance for any dependents, reporting on illnesses and medical conditions, and so much more.

Needing help managing finances shouldn't mean that a veteran cannot own a firearm – but it has, for decades.

Being denied approval to own a firearm, courtesy of the FBI's NICS, can be for any number of serious reasons, such as having domestic violence convictions, being put in a mental institution and being addicted to controlled substances. Nowhere on the list is needing assistance with writing monthly checks or doing paperwork.

And now, finally, the VA is going to right this wrong. Additionally, the VA is going to be sure the FBI goes back and removes any of the info that saw past veterans deprived of their right to own a firearm after being reported to NICS. Plus the ATF (Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives) is going to review its own rules to be certain veterans' rights aren't being trampled this way. It's about time.

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• Peas, spinach, sweet potato, squash and carrots can be pureed and added to baked goods to increase fiber and nutrients. They are especially useful in soups to thicken a broth without adding fat. You can sneak some veggies into unexpected places, too – like cookies, pancake batter and pasta dishes, or make a flavorful sandwich spread.

• "Juice ice cubes in water is good for you. It hydrates without a lot of sugar, while still tasting a little bit sweet." – F.R. in Alabama

• It's easy to sort hardware using a muffin pan. If you get a pan that has 12 depressions, you can line nails and screws and such in a line according to size, making it even more convenient.

• "When you get a new pair of running shoes, spray the insides with spray starch. We have always done this and it keeps them fresher longer." – S.M. in Indiana

• Tongs lost their clip? Use the rubber band from a bunch of broccoli to hold the ends together in storage.

• Lettuce will last longer if you store it in the crisper drawer in a clean paper bag.

• Tubes make it easy to access toothpaste when they are full, but it's sometimes hard to get that last bit out. Here's a tip from C.W. in Oregon: "To get the last part of the tube of toothpaste to come out, run the tube under warm water for a few seconds. There's more in the tube than you think!"

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.

	+		+		= 10			
+		+		+				
	+		÷		= 2			
+		+		÷				
	-		-		= 1			
=		=		=				
14		17		6				
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

Answer Page 4

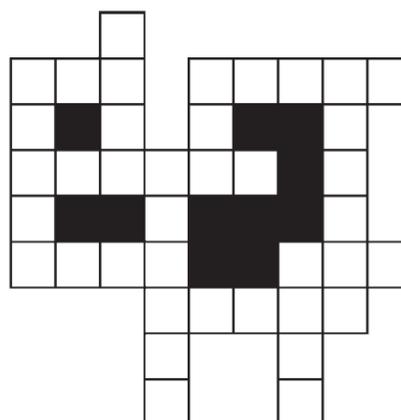
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FEAR KNIGHT

By: rj johnson

DOUBT? ... OR DARE!

- OJY
- TANIRU
- HERTI
- ♥OYRG
- NANEMP
- AUT
- DOUJ
- NYROA
- ♥GRA
- NOYEMP
- MYJPU
- ♥UTNR



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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