



– Photo by Josh Luna

**NEW ART** – The Village of Vinton recently celebrated the unveiling of a colorful mural that was composed by Alderete Middle School students. Participating in the special ceremony were, from left, Lulu Cloud, Village of Vinton mayor pro tem; Rachel Quintana, Village of Vinton mayor; Nidia Avila, Alderete Middle School principal; Estella Ramos, Alderete Middle School art instructor; and Dr. Josue Borrego, Canutillo Independent School District superintendent.

## Vinton unveils new mural that celebrates community

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

VINTON – A celebratory unveiling of a student-collaborated mural that showcases the Village of Vinton community was held recently at Dr.

Applegate Park (located at 436 E. Vinton Road). The event brought together students, educators, local leaders, and community members to recognize the creativity and dedication behind the students’ work of art.

Community members and local dignitaries gathered at the park on a cool Saturday morning

to celebrate the completion of the vibrant mural project that was designed and painted by students in the Alderete Middle School (AMS) Art Program in collaboration with their art teacher, Estella Ramos.

The mural reflects the spirit and culture of the

See MURAL, Page 4

## New organization focuses on wildlife conservation

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

EL PASO COUNTY – For more than fifty years, Rick LoBello has been advocating wildlife conservation by encouraging individuals, families, organizations and businesses to get involved with their environment.

LoBello related that over the years his life has been full of wildlife adventures including up close encounters with giant pandas, orangutans, mountain gorillas, elephants, mountain lions, and black bears.

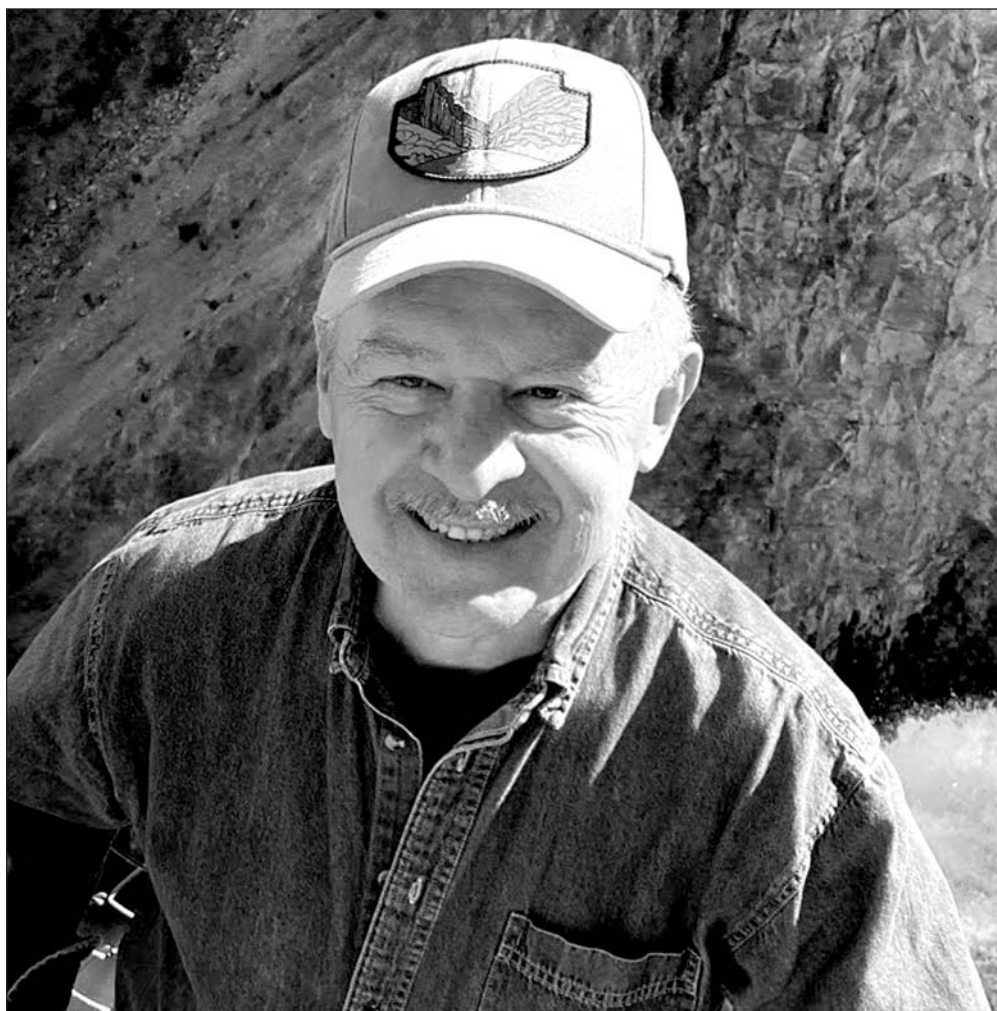
“The number one thing that I’ve learned is that the survival of wildlife is important to our survival and that our continued ignorance of that fact is one of our greatest failures,” LoBello stated. “We can put humans on the moon, create powerful computers, create weapons of mass destruction, but we can’t find a way to live in

harmony with the natural world. How can we continue to be so unconnected, so uninformed?” he commented.

So, to further his conservation efforts, LoBello recently started the El Paso Wildlife Conservation Society (EPWCS). With the new organization, he stated that he is reaching out to the many individuals in this region who, like himself, love wildlife. “In creating this organization I’m looking for people who want to make a difference,” he said.

EPWCS is intended to focus on wildlife conservation; and through its recently initiated webpage, LoBello plans to share stories about wildlife living in El Paso and the Chihuahuan Desert ecoregion, including the plants that flourish in this important habitat.

“We need to care more than ever and that starts with knowing what is out there. Only then can we learn to love



– Internet

See WILDLIFE, Page 4 Rick LoBello

# Trump versus the Pope

As far as showdowns between popes and secular leaders go, President Trump versus Pope LEO hardly rates.

Pope LEO hasn't forced Trump to come see him and stand for three days in the snow, the way Pope Gregory VII did to Henry IV, the Holy Roman Emperor, in 1077. Nor has he issued an interdict, a tactic favored by Pope Innocent III, against the United States.

On the other hand, Trump hasn't sacked Rome and forced the pope to submit to his will, in a repeat of Emperor Charles V's 16th-century gambit against Pope Clement VII.

It's still been a remarkably testy exchange

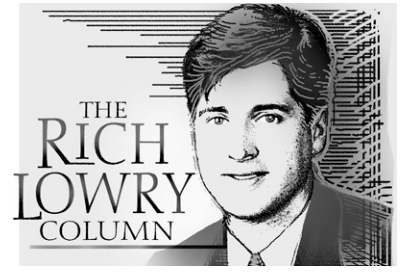
between Pope Leo and Trump over the Iran war. The president of the United States – stung by the pontiff's criticisms of his decision to launch the war and his ensuing rhetoric – has denounced Pope LEO in his characteristic terms, all but saying that His Holiness “doesn't have what it takes.”

It's easy, meanwhile, to interpret LEO as taking veiled shots at Trump. “Enough with the idolatry of self and money!” is not an unusual sentiment for a Holy Father, but who can be certain he didn't have our guilt president in mind when he said it in a homily the other day?

A pope who doesn't rebuke a president of the United States for threatening to bring a foreign

civilization to an end isn't doing his job, yet it's important to understand that the Bible is not an injunction for pacifism, and it doesn't entail a condemnation of the Iran war.

The Bible presents a realistic view of the inevitability of human conflict. As Ecclesiastes says, there is “a time for war, and a time for peace.” In the books of Joshua, Judges, Samuel or Kings, it is often a time for war. The key question is whether or not a war is righteous – the difference between



See LOWRY, Page 7

## View from here By Dr. Glenn Mollette

# Iran and global uncertainty

A cloud of uncertainty has settled over the world. The Iran war affects us all in every corner of the planet. Once again, we see how dependent our planet is on oil. Once again, America is fighting a war in the Middle East. This doesn't feel good to Americans and most of our world.

We are asking questions in our country and no one can give us solid answers.

How long will this last in Iran? Two more weeks or two more years? Or, will this become our new normal? Will we wake up every morning to a new story about Iran?

How much will a gallon of gasoline cost tomorrow? What about a month from now? Will it be five dollars a gallon or even more? Will it cost \$150 to fill up the average truck? What will it cost to fill up truck hauling freight in an eighteen-wheeler? A lot.

What will our inflation

numbers look like by the end of April? What will the interest rate be to buy a house or a car? The average American doesn't want to think about trying to buy a new car. Who wants a \$700 a month car payment?

Will America have boots on the ground? How many more of our men and women will die because of Iran?

Is it now more dangerous to fly than ever? To what lengths will Iran go to bomb a plane or an American city? Is it really beyond their ability? Do we believe that Iran is incapable of touching us? Are we stupid?

How long will we, our children and grandchildren wonder about blowback from Iran or Iranian sympathizers?

On the flip side of these questions, we surely must agree with President Trump on one certainty. If Iran had put together a nuclear weapon and dropped it on Israel or

Washington, D.C. the stock market crash would have been worse than we can even imagine. The price of oil and the effect on our economy would have been beyond imaginable.

Still, none of us are enjoying all of this and we pray and hope for an end to come as soon as possible.

In the midst of this uncertainty, do the normal

thing as much as possible. Go to work. Take care of your loved ones. Pray and go to church. Pray for our President and national leadership. Pray that God gives them wisdom. Do your chores. Mow your grass and find healthy diversions. Artemis II was a beautiful diversion for us last week.

The wonderful event was so uplifting and triumphant for the American spirit. The space trip showed the side of American that we long and hope for. May this path be the direction we

continue to see for our country and planet.

In the middle of all this uncertainty, let's please agree as Americans that we will find a way to rise above, beyond and strive together to make our world a better and safer place.

Dr. Glenn Mollette is a syndicated columnist read in all fifty states. He is also the author of numerous books and can be heard each weekday morning on XM Radio 131.



1973 **53** WEST TEXAS COUNTY **COURIER** 2026

SERVING ANTHONY, VINTON, CANUTILLO, EAST MONTANA, HORIZON, SOCORRO, CLIVE, FARENS, SAN ELIZABO AND TORNEILLO

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# Aguilar reflects on 50 years at EPCC

By Beau Bagley  
Special to the Courier

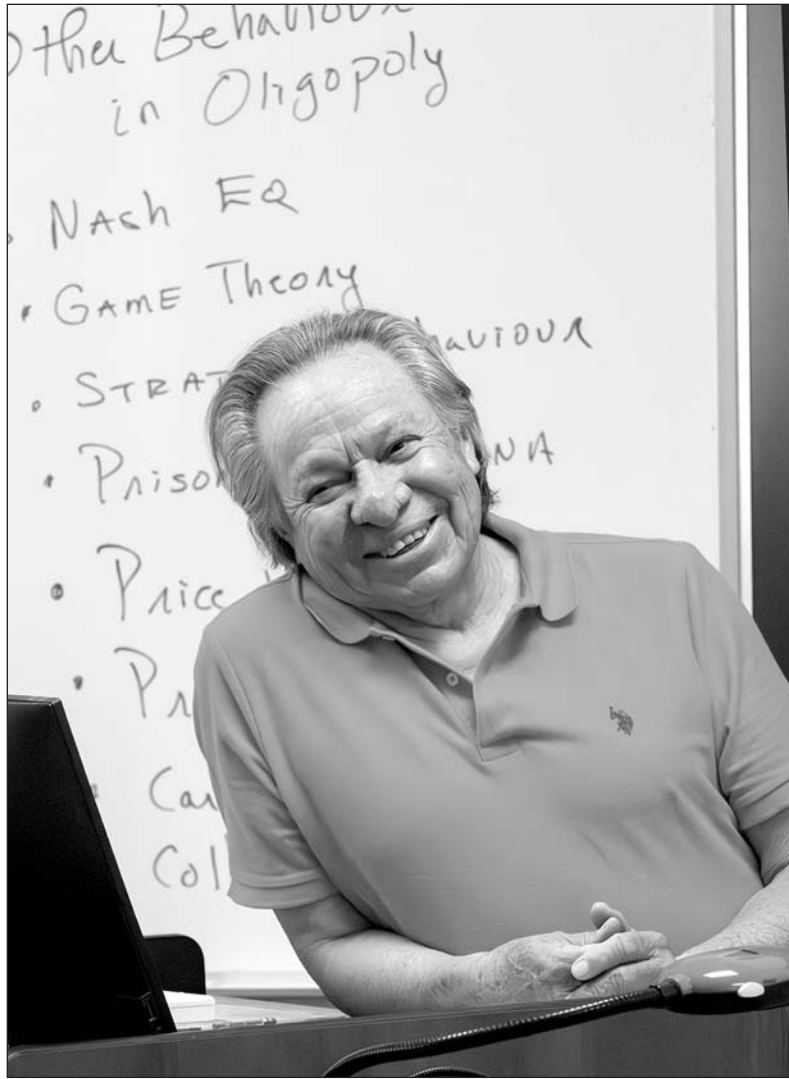
EL PASO COUNTY – For 50 years, Carlos Aguilar has dedicated his life to teaching economics and statistics at El Paso Community College (EPCC), shaping generations of students while remaining committed to growth both inside and outside the classroom.

Aguilar's journey with EPCC began during a time of uncertainty. After experiencing job loss in Michigan due to downturns in the oil industry and the struggles of Ford Motor Company, he returned to El Paso in search of new opportunities. Around the same time, EPCC was just beginning to establish itself.

"I came back to El Paso, and the community college had just opened," Aguilar said. "We were teaching classes at what we called the Logan Heights campus, which was located in old army barracks."

He started as a part-time instructor, teaching early morning and evening classes, laying the foundation for what would become a decades-long career at the college.

Aguilar's passion for education was sparked



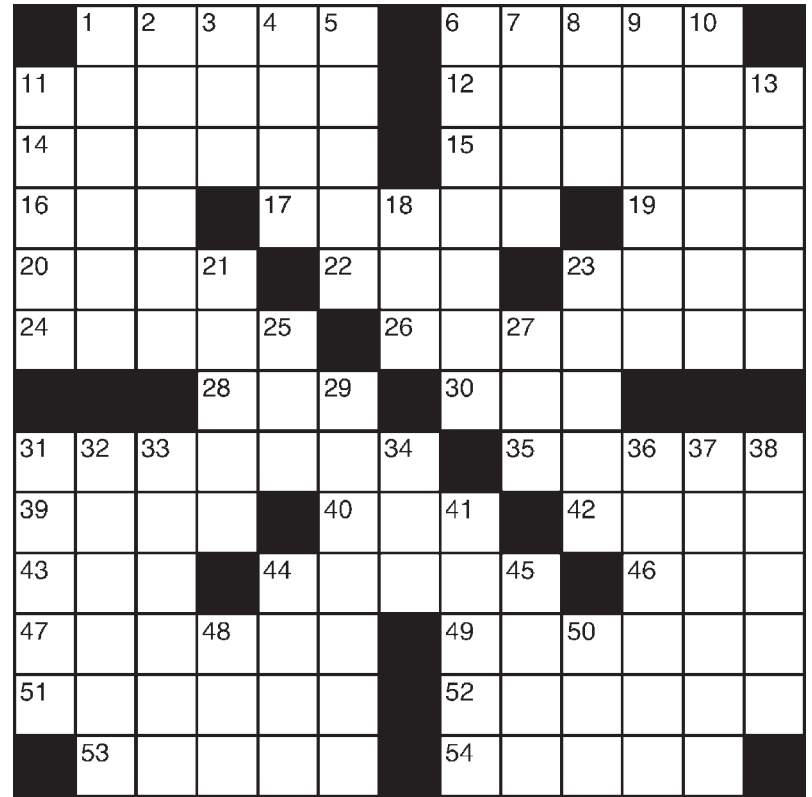
– Photo courtesy El Paso Community College

**UNIQUE STATISTIC – Carlos Aguilar, an Economics Instructor, has taught for 50 years at EPCC.**

during his time as a student. He recalls being inspired by the academic environment at The University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP) and

See AUGILAR, Page 5

## King Crossword



Average  
Solve Time  
21 Minutes

**ACROSS**

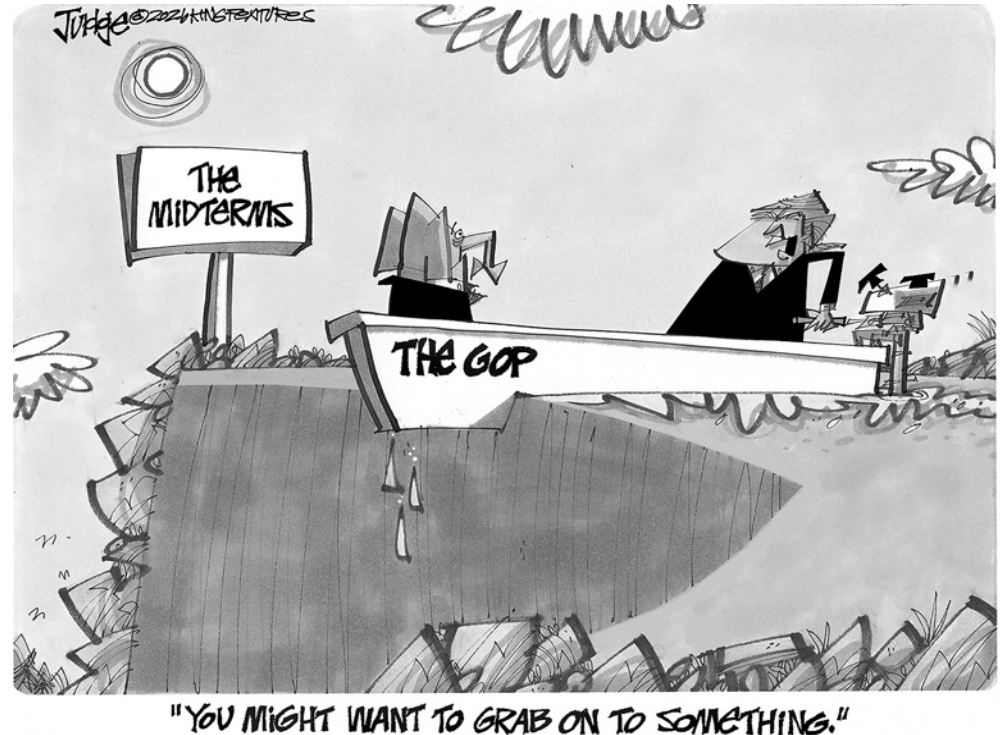
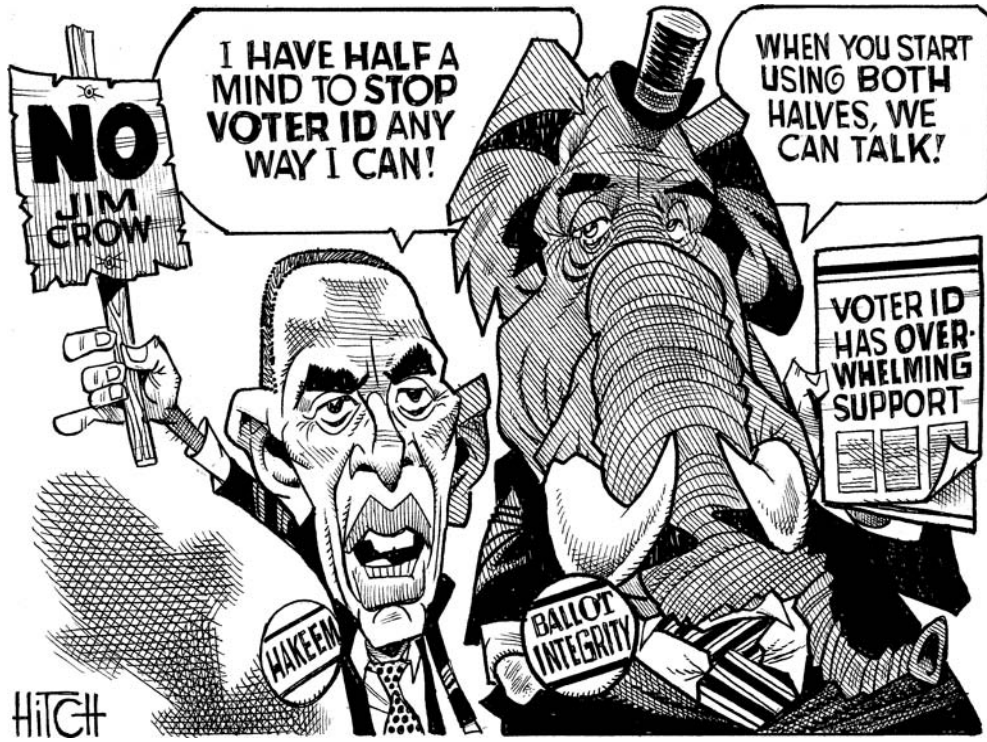
- 1 \_ Ark
- 6 Con games
- 11 French novelist
- 12 Heckler's weapon
- 14 "Delta Wedding" author Welty
- 15 Defeated in a footrace
- 16 Govt. stipend
- 17 Roly-poly
- 19 Roast VIPs
- 20 Golf pegs
- 22 Docs' org.
- 23 Lap dog, for short
- 24 Former First Daughter

- 26 Most sore
- 28 401(k) alternative
- 30 Med. plan
- 31 Popeye's veggie
- 35 Muslim legal expert
- 39 Centers
- 40 Possesses
- 42 Uttered
- 43 Before
- 44 "Graceland" singer Paul
- 46 The Browns, on scoreboards
- 47 Chew out
- 49 Tex-Mex treat
- 51 "I, Robot" author
- 52 Leg joints
- 53 Hosiery shade
- 54 Repaired shoes

**DOWN**

- 1 Mal de mer
- 2 "Golden" tunes
- 3 Dye type
- 4 Angelic instrument
- 5 Milan's La \_
- 6 Tolerate
- 7 Brilliant stroke
- 8 Invoice fig.
- 9 "Little Women" matriarch
- 10 Pancake towers
- 11 Defeats
- 13 Start
- 18 Hollywood's Thurman
- 21 Tibia settings
- 23 Reverent
- 25 Altar in the sky
- 27 "Let me think..."
- 29 Reach
- 31 Biblical realm
- 32 Least spoiled
- 33 Portugal's place
- 34 Sandwich meat
- 36 Glib
- 37 Inclined
- 38 Concepts
- 41 Remote locations?
- 44 Halt
- 45 iPod model
- 48 Asia's \_ Darya river
- 50 Keypad trio

Answer Page 4



# Wildlife

From Page 1

them. It's hard to love what you don't know, and if you don't love something chances are you won't care," LoBello remarked. "The fate of the natural world and all its parts is the fate of humankind. Their survival is our survival. If the world cannot be made safe for them, it will certainly not be a safe place for you and me," he continued.

LoBello currently works with the El Paso Zoo and Botanical Gardens as an education and conservation curator and as the chair of zoo's conservation committee. He also maintains a blog, called One Earth One Time (OEOT).

LoBello has worked in the field of conservation education since 1973 when he started his career as a zoological curator at the Kansas City Museum of History and Science. Next, he worked for nearly 25 years as a park ranger and executive director at four national parks including

Big Bend, Yellowstone, Guadalupe and Carlsbad Caverns National Parks.

Since coming to work at the El Paso Zoo in 2002, LoBello said that his main goal has been to help people in El Paso County connect with the animals that live here and to encourage them to take a personal interest in helping the zoo with its mission of saving endangered species. As part of his duties, he is also involved in helping to direct funds to many different conservation efforts around the world.

Additionally, LoBello is involved with various environmental groups including the Chihuahuan Desert Education

Coalition, the Texas Lobo Coalition, and the coalition that helped declare Castner Range of the Franklin Mountains as a National Monument.

LoBello is also engaged in a couple of other projects; one is advocating for the introduction of the wolf into the Chihuahuan Desert eco-region, and the other project is helping to establish the proposed U.S.-Mexico International Park. And in 2009, he wrote a guidebook for the

Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund International, entitled Guide to Rwanda's Volcanoes National Park: Home to Critically Endangered Mountain Gorillas, which is available on Amazon.com.

*"We need to understand how working to save wildlife also helps people. By taking a holistic conservation approach, we can protect wildlife, while also developing programs that address the needs of people."*

- Rick LoBello

Visit [elpasowildlifeconservationsociety.wordpress.com](http://elpasowildlifeconservationsociety.wordpress.com) for more information about the El Paso Wildlife Conservation Society, or text Rick LoBello at (915) 474-1456.



# Mural

From Page 1

Canutillo Independent School District (CISD) Superintendent Dr. Josue Borrego, who was appointed in January to lead the upper valley district. CISD's current enrollment is approximately 6,700 students across ten campuses. AMS serves about 560 students.

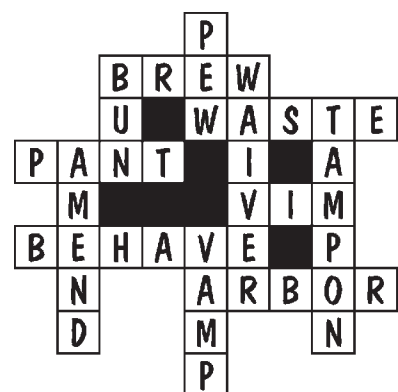
"These AMS students have brought their ideas and imagination to life in this mural," said Rachel Quintana Village of Vinton mayor. "It's inspiring to see their creativity on display for the whole community to enjoy," she added.

Village of Vinton, and it highlights the creativity and hard work of Alderete Middle School students, according to

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# CryptoQuip Answer

Pop and soul superstar who adores fish such as bluefin, yellowfin and albacore: Tuna Turner.

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# Strange BUT TRUE

By Lucie Winborne

- Australia is wider than the moon.
- The Cowardly Lion's costume in 1939's "The Wizard of Oz" was made from actual lion skins and fur, and weighed roughly 60 pounds.
- Nobody knows who invented the fire hydrant – its patent was lost in a fire!
- When 300,000 people walked across San Francisco's Golden Gate Bridge in observance of its 50th anniversary on May 24, 1987, the iconic structure sagged seven feet.
- A single orange tree can have over 60,000 flowers, but less than 1% will turn into fruit.
- The Virgin Mary, mother of Jesus, is mentioned more times in the Quran than in the Bible, and is also the only woman mentioned by name in the Quran.
- Japanese runner Shizo Kanakuri "finished" the 1912 Olympic marathon in 1967 with an unforgettable end time of 54 years, 8 months, 6 days, 5 hours, 32 minutes and 20.3 seconds.
- After the story of a California prison inmate who gave his paycheck of \$17.74 for more than 130 hours of labor to relief work in Gaza went viral, donors raised over \$100,000 for him.
- Sleeping through summer is known as estivation.
- Cicadas have been known to confuse the roar of power tools for mating calls and sometimes even swarm people using lawn mowers.
- Hay-on-Wye in Wales is home to the famous Honesty Bookshop, an outdoor book market with a collection box instead of a cashier.
- Sea otters have the thickest fur of any mammal, at 1 million hairs per square inch.
- Marshmallows are about 50% air.
- Prisoners are more likely to be granted parole if their hearing is held first thing in the morning rather than at the end of the day.

Thought for the Day: "The beautiful thing about setbacks is they introduce us to our strengths."  
- Robin Sharma



**Moments in time**  
THE HISTORY CHANNEL

• On April 20, 1871, Congress passed the Third Enforcement Act, aka the Ku Klux Klan Act, which authorized President Ulysses S. Grant to declare martial law, impose heavy penalties and use military force to suppress terrorist organizations, in particular the Ku Klux Klan.

• On April 21, 1794, Josephine de Beauharnais, the future Empress of France and first wife of Napoleon Bonaparte, was imprisoned during the Reign of Terror. Released five days after the beheading of her then husband Alexandre de Beauharnais, her marriage to Napoleon ended in divorce after she failed to provide him an heir, but he continued to provide for her, declared her "Empress for life" and allowed her to retain the title of Empress Josephine.

• On April 22, 1915, German forces fired more than 150 tons of lethal chlorine gas at two French colonial divisions in Ypres, Belgium. It was the first major such attack by the Germans and devastated the Allied line.

• On April 23, 1961, Judy Garland delivered a Carnegie Hall performance that was greeted by a standing ovation before she even began to sing and was interrupted throughout by additional ovations. That performance has often been lauded as "the greatest night in showbiz history."

• On April 24, 1953, Winston Churchill was knighted by Queen Elizabeth II. He retired as prime minister two years later but remained in Parliament until 1964, the year before his death.

• On April 25, 1989, James Richardson was released from a Florida prison 21 years after being wrongfully convicted of murdering his seven children. Special prosecutor Janet Reno had agreed to the release after evidence showed his conviction resulted from misconduct by the prosecutor. His neighbor, Betsy Reese, confessed to the crime.

• On April 26, 2012, former Liberian president Charles Taylor was found guilty of abetting horrific war crimes, including rape and mutilation, in Sierra Leone. His conviction was the first for war crimes by a former head of state in an international court since the Nuremberg trials of Nazi leaders after World War II.

# 203 people killed in Texas work zone traffic crashes in 2025

By Jeff Salzgeber  
Special to the Courier

TEXAS – Highway work is dangerous work, often just inches away from speeding traffic. Help keep our workers and everyone on the road safe by slowing down in work zones and driving like a Texan: kind, courteous and safe.

A growing state means more Texans on our roads, and the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) is meeting that increased demand with roadway improvements underway in more than 1,800 active work zones across the state. This month, TxDOT is highlighting safety tips in work zones to help protect workers and drivers.

In 2025, there were more than 28,000 traffic crashes in Texas work zones, resulting in 203 people killed, including seven roadside workers.

And while workers are at risk doing their jobs to keep us safe, most of the

people who died in work zone crashes were drivers and their passengers. Driving with caution through work zones is as much for your protection as it is for the people working.

In recognition of National Work Zone Awareness Week, April 20–24, TxDOT is raising awareness about how to be safe and drive smart in work zones to avoid crashes and fatalities.

"Maintaining a safe highway system requires year-round effort from brave and dedicated work crews," TxDOT Executive Director Marc Williams said. "Unfortunately, work zone crashes happen far too often. It's crucial that drivers slow down, pay attention and give workers space. It's the Texan thing to do."

Stay safe in work zones with these "Be Safe. Drive Smart" tips:

- Slow down. Follow the speed limit and adjust your speed to road conditions. Remember that traffic fines double in work zones when workers are present.
- Stay alert. Focus on driving, avoid

distractions and put your phone away.

- Watch out for road crews. Roadside workers deserve to get home safely, too. Always follow their instructions and work zone signage.

- Never tailgate. Give yourself room to stop in a hurry. Rear-end collisions are the most common type of work zone crash.

- Allow extra time. Road construction can slow down traffic. Plan ahead so you aren't tempted to speed.

Motorists are also reminded to follow the state's Move Over or Slow Down law. The law requires drivers to move over a lane or reduce their speed to 20 mph below the posted speed limit when approaching vehicles stopped on the roadside with flashing lights activated. That's not just law enforcement cars, but emergency vehicles, TxDOT vehicles, tow trucks or utility vehicles.

"Be Safe. Drive Smart" is an important part of TxDOT's Drive like a Texan: Kind. Courteous. Safe. initiative. Visit [DriveLikeATexan.com](http://DriveLikeATexan.com) to learn more.

## Aguilar

From Page 3

later by the dedication of his professors in graduate school.

"We had instructors where students would sit outside just waiting to get into the classroom and listen to the lecture," Aguilar said. "That level of passion and commitment really stayed with me."

Over the years, Aguilar has made a lasting impact on both his students and the community. Among his proudest accomplishments is seeing former students achieve academic success at the highest levels.

"I know of four students who went on to earn their PhDs in Economics," he said.

In addition to teaching, Aguilar has contributed to the broader community through research and commentary on economic and social issues, often sharing his insights with local news media to help explain complex topics affecting the region.

During his 50 years of service at the college, Carlos had many non-teaching assignments. Two that he particularly remembers are that he

successfully chaired the first SACS College Accreditation Committee and for two years in the 1990s chaired the Faculty Salary Committee, which brought about one of the most successful pay raises approved by the Board of Trustees.

Despite five decades in the classroom, Aguilar remains grounded and forward-thinking. Rather than focusing on milestones, he emphasizes continuous improvement and learning.

"I've never found the perfect lecture, and I've never found the perfect syllabus," he said. "Students still make comments that inspire us to present material in new ways."

He believes that some of the most valuable lessons in teaching come directly from students themselves.

"Listen to your students because they're the best teachers for you," Aguilar said. "I've learned how to explain things more simply by paying attention to how they think and respond."

As EPCC recognizes Aguilar's 50 years of service, he remains characteristically humble about the milestone. "I don't really celebrate," he said. "Every day's a good day for me. I'm ready for the next 50."

**EVEN TEXTERS AND DRIVERS HATE TEXTERS AND DRIVERS.**

[STOPTEXTSSTOPWRECKS.ORG](http://STOPTEXTSSTOPWRECKS.ORG)

Ad Council NHTSA

**Save a Life.**

**#SlowDown #MoveOver**

# The "Not For Long", NFL, has forgotten what made it the king

By Steve Escajeda  
Special to the Courier

The 3-day NFL Draft, which is being held this weekend in Pittsburgh, has turned into one of the biggest spectacles in sports.

Over those three days, 700,000 fans are expected to turn out in person and millions of fans of every team will be watching intently on TV to see which players are chosen, even though it'll take a few years before they learn if the picks really pay off.

But either way, the ever-popular NFL will be enjoying three days of extremely positive coverage and considering the news they've been getting lately... they can use it.

Lately, it seems as if every decision the league has made has been the wrong one, especially when it involves what should be their top priority – the fans.

The NFL had better get its act together because they should remember that boxing, horseracing and baseball used to be the top-rated sports in America at one time. And look what happened to them.

It used to be that the NFL always catered to the fans, but over the last few years, the league has focused on one thing and one thing only, making as much money as humanly possible.

For years, NFL fans watched Sunday games on Fox or NBC or CBS. They've gotten used to watching Monday night games on ESPN and even Thursday night games on Amazon Prime.

Now the NFL is expanding its schedule to include games on Netflix, YouTube TV, Paramount, Peacock and the NFL Network.

In other words, it has been determined that to watch all the games, it'll cost \$1,000 to \$1,500 a year just to subscribe to all these streaming services.

The NFL has gotten so greedy that the U.S. Federal Government is getting

involved. The league operates under an antitrust exemption which allows them to make TV deals (as a league) to broadcast their games – but only through free over-the-air networks.

If the NFL loses their antitrust exemption, every team can make any individual deal they want, and the Dallas Cowboys could be on more networks and charge more money than the Jacksonville Jaguars or the Arizona Cardinals.

In other words, it's every team for themselves instead of what we have now. Every team (and fan) would benefit equally – which makes the league so competitive and watchable.

And how about the prices of going to NFL games in person?

Just a decade ago in 2015, the average cost for a family of four to attend an NFL game (including parking and concessions) was \$550. Today the average cost is \$1,339.

The league is making it more

expensive for the fans whether they stay at home or go to the stadium.

Then there's the increase of international games. The league is increasing their international schedule to seven games. In 2015, they had three.

Every Sunday, local fans watch football from 11 a.m. to the end of the Sunday night game at around 9:30 p.m.

That's a lot of football. But now the NFL is asking you to start watching at 7 a.m.

I love football, but not 14 straight hours of it.

We have Monday and Thursday games, but the NFL is actually considering adding a Wednesday or Friday night game.

The NFL is going to learn that too much of a good thing is never good. That's why you end up hating your favorite song after it's been played to death.

Now the league is talking about

expanding to 18 games.

They never should have gone to 17 games. Sixteen was perfect, eight at home and eight away. Now with 17 you have an unequal number of home games to away; that's not very smart.

So of course they were always going to go to 18. Eighteen means more money.

Screwing up the schedule even more were those international games. Some team is giving up a home game when they travel to Germany or Brazil or Spain or wherever.

Some teams have ended up playing only seven home games, nine away games and that one international game.

I'll bet their fans really loved that.

There's also the sad fact that the NFL might play this season with replacement referees.

At least the NFL Draft will be on ABC... well... the first two days anyway.

## Senior moment By Matilda Charles

# Exercising to avoid falls

If your weather is anything like mine right now, the promised end of winter hasn't happened yet, with storms continuing to roll in every few days right on schedule. The things that have not gone away yet, however, are Covid, flu and RSV.

Which means that getting outside on a schedule for exercise isn't possible, and neither is working out on the machines at the rec center among lots of other people.

Still, getting some kind of exercise is important. They say we need 150 minutes of exercise per week (aerobic and strength training combined), as well as balance exercise. And all of those things can be done at home.

The benefits certainly make it worthwhile: maintain muscle mass, improve our sleep, stay mobile, improve mental health, stay independent, reduce risk of high blood pressure.

And avoid falls. This may well be at the top of the list of reasons to exercise. A bad fall can lead to hospitalization, a need for surgery, loss of independence – all those things we want to avoid.

All it takes is doing a few exercises to build our leg

strength, tighten our core and improve our balance.

Here are a few places online to get more information about exercising for seniors:

GototheJohnsHopkinswebsite(www.hopkinsmedicine.org) and search for "Balance and Strength Exercises for Older Adults," which includes two exercise videos that can be done at home.

Check the Mayo Clinic website (mayoclinic.org). Search for balance exercises.

Go to the CDC website (cdc.gov) and search for "What Counts as Physical Activity for Older Adults."

Click the link to their free publication "Physical Activity Guidelines for Americans" and scroll to Chapter 5, Active Older Adults. The 118-page publication is very well done.

As always, check in with your health care provider to ask about any new exercise before you start.

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### GEM OF A PUZZLE

- ACROSS**
- 1 Law enforcers, slangily
  - 5 War on Poverty prez
  - 8 Husband on "The Munsters"
  - 14 Injections
  - 19 High hairstyle
  - 20 Atop, in verse
  - 21 Baltimore pro athlete
  - 22 Conical home
  - 23 Fifth Avenue retailer of luxury goods
  - 25 Pungent sushi paste
  - 26 Tibetan, e.g.
  - 27 "Cool, dude!"
  - 28 Many an intl. charity gp.
  - 29 Where to hit a home run
  - 31 Simpson trial judge Lance
  - 32 Khaki color
  - 33 Warlike deity
  - 34 Frequently, in verse
  - 35 What a dealer deals from
  - 38 River vessel
  - 41 Parisian play part
  - 45 Put in a tomb
  - 46 Indian dress
  - 47 Stores away
  - 48 Closest bud
  - 51 Bit of wristwear with small, linked segments

- 108 Alternative to rhinestone
  - 114 Capote, to pals
  - 115 Small hotel
  - 116 Ordinary
  - 117 Cell with an axon
  - 118 Things associated with eight answers in this puzzle
  - 120 Helmsley of hotels
  - 121 Wash out the mouth audibly
  - 122 Busy insect
  - 123 Detestable
  - 124 Secret rendezvous
  - 125 Roots firmly
  - 126 Sporty English autos
  - 127 Did perfectly
- DOWN**
- 1 Rotten
  - 2 Downer drug
  - 3 Adobe Acrobat file, for short
  - 4 Gut-punch sound
  - 5 Way past the time that
  - 6 "Crazy in Love" singer
  - 7 Third-year H.S. students
  - 8 Sportscaster
  - 9 Rubs away
  - 10 Goes upward
  - 11 Utah town near Arches National Park
  - 12 Jessica of "Dark Angel"
  - 13 Moonwalker

- Armstrong
- 14 Work crew
- 15 Hem and haw
- 16 Sheriff Taylor's tyke
- 17 Greenish shade
- 18 Dispatch
- 24 Oscar nominee
- 29 Pub
- 30 Realtor's unit
- 36 DIYer's set
- 37 Singer Garfunkel
- 38 It may be fretless
- 39 Globe
- 40 Sortie signal
- 42 Arresting, informally
- 43 Canary of cartoons
- 44 Perfumer Lauder
- 46 Titled man
- 47 Looks over
- 48 Big name in pens
- 49 Relating to an eating-away process
- 50 Somewhat stiff
- 52 Mark indelibly
- 53 Old-time actress
- 54 Genre for "L.A. Confidential"
- 55 Love, in Latin
- 58 Ambien or ZzzQuil, for short
- 63 Wood cutter
- 65 \_ loss for words
- 66 12/24, e.g.
- 67 Miss
- 69 Sharp-tasting
- 70 "Dies \_" (hymn)
- 71 "Avatar" race

- 72 Major Calif.-to-Fla. hwy.
- 73 Disco singer
- Payne
- 76 Corrida shout
- 79 Wallet wad
- 80 Mailbox item: Abbr.
- 82 Aquatic rodents
- 83 American marsupial
- 86 Graceful, swift horses
- 87 Actress Longoria
- 88 Chap
- 90 Second wife of Lennon
- 94 Arranging on a dish for serving
- 96 Brick-shaped tart candy
- 97 Betrayer Benedict
- 98 Old-time actress
- Ella
- 99 A.M. show since '75
- 100 Facility for outpatients
- 101 Set ablaze
- 102 Felt intuitively
- 104 Brilliant effect
- 105 Grand Coulee, e.g.
- 108 Niche religion
- 109 Exploiter
- 110 Sea marker
- 111 Playwright William
- 112 Extract the juice from
- 113 Hydrant site
- 118 Grand Coulee, e.g.
- 119 Eggs, in labs

## 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										
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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	
116										117										118		119
120										121										122		123
124										125										126		127

Comix

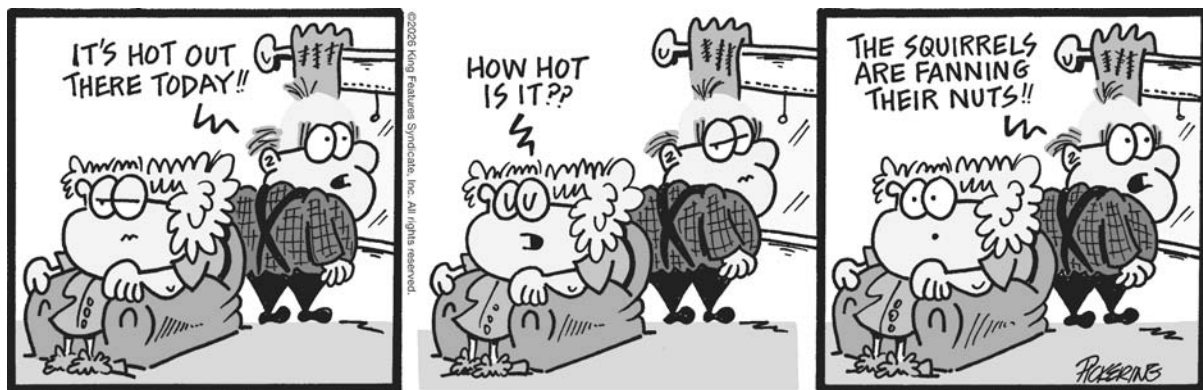
**OUT ON A LIMB** By Gary Kopervas



**AMBER WAVES** By Dave T. Phipps



**THE SPATS** By Jeff Pickering



**TIGER** By Bud Blake



**Lowry**

From Page 2

Israel, say, prevailing in the Battle of Deborah, or seeing the Babylonians destroy Jerusalem.

On Palm Sunday, Pope LEO cited Isaiah 1:15 for the proposition that God doesn't listen to the prayers of those who wage war: "Even though you make many prayers, I will not listen: your hands are full of blood." The context of this verse, though, is the injustice and corruption of the people of Judah – in other words, their self-abasement.

It makes no sense, as a broader matter, to cite Isaiah as an injunction against waging war or evidence that God pays no heed to the prayers of those who fight. Later in the book, King Hezekiah of Judah prays for God's help in stopping an Assyrian army threatening Jerusalem, and 185,000 Assyrian soldiers are struck down.

Jesus preaches love and mercy, of course, but that is not a warrant for pacifism. The great Christian thinkers St. Augustine and St. Thomas Aquinas gave us just war theory, reconciling Christian ethics with the existence of evil in the

world and the necessity of warfare. According to this view, which is embraced by the Catholic Church, a war can only be fought for a just cause and has to be waged in keeping with moral standards, minimizing harm to civilians.

Pope LEO has wrongly made it sound as though no war can possibly be just, and regardless, his opposition to the Iran war isn't dispositive or binding on anyone else.

The pontiff might consider that Trump first talked of attacking Iran when the regime was in the midst of slaughtering thousands of protesters in the streets, and if the current government fell and gave way to one with more respect for the rights of its people, it would be a boon to Iranians and a large step toward a safer and more peaceful region.

Trump's wild threats are understandably anathema to Pope LEO, but they don't define the Iran war or change the fact that the Bible portrays warfare as a tragic fact of human existence. Yes, as Isaiah says, they shall beat their swords into plowshares, but not yet.

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

**Correct drugs may mitigate trigeminal neuralgia**

*DEAR DR. ROACH: I am a 73-year-old female who's in above average health. I have recently been diagnosed with trigeminal neuralgia after many trips to the dentist and finding out that my pain wasn't dental-related. I experienced electrical shock pains in my lower left jaw when I talked and ate, and sometimes when I brushed my teeth. I am on 300 mg of gabapentin, and after a month, I can say that I'm about 95% better.*



*I still feel some sharp sensations for a few seconds when starting to eat. In the previous year, I was on Fosamax for osteoporosis for one year. Since this didn't show an improvement, I was given one infusion of Reclast. I will be due for another in June. I mentioned this diagnosis to my ophthalmologist recently, and she mentioned that these drugs for osteoporosis could possibly narrow the openings that the trigeminal nerves run through, therefore rubbing on the nerves themselves. Do I need to stop taking the osteoporosis treatment to stop the nerve pain? Your thoughts on this would be appreciated. – D.K.V.*

Trigeminal neuralgia is a neuropathy (a disease of the nerve) that, in this case, causes face pain. The pain is often described as an electric shock, but it can vary in different people. It also gets misdiagnosed as a dental condition. Gabapentin (Neurontin) is often tried, and a 95% reduction is a very good outcome in this disease, which can sometimes be frustrating to treat.

Bisphosphonate drugs like alendronate (Fosamax) or zoledronic acid (Reclast) do not directly cause trigeminal neuralgia. Most cases are thought to be caused by the compression of the nerve root that is deep inside the brain by an artery. Microdecompression of the nerve is sometimes used to treat trigeminal neuralgia, although the success rate isn't perfect and the pain relief isn't always permanent.

Bisphosphonates can occasionally cause a condition called osteonecrosis of the jaw. This condition can press on the trigeminal nerve, causing a facial pain syndrome. Your endocrinologist or primary care doctor who is prescribing the treatment should be aware of your facial pain and ensure that you do not have this complication.

*DEAR DR. ROACH: I am writing to seek advice regarding medical privacy for someone I know. Due to significant distress caused by social media, this individual is hesitant to seek medical care for fear of being recognized and is looking for a highly private or discreet health care option. Could you please provide information on which steps one should take if they require a high level of anonymity when seeing a doctor? Are there specific resources or types of practices that specialize in this level of privacy? – D.H.*

I daresay that there are physicians who have many famous patients. Certainly, a physician who has a smaller practice and a private entrance would make sense for a person who doesn't want to be seen in public. I suspect that the best way to find out is by asking other famous people who live in the same area. I have known doctors who were "physicians to the stars."

On rare occasions when I have a similar situation, I come in early before anyone else has arrived (my practice is a busy academic group) so that the patient can be seen with as much privacy as possible.

I would also argue that privacy should be respected for all patients, but anonymity is probably unwise (and may be impossible for someone who is very well-known), as having a patient's correct medical history is important.

*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.*

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**Moore Texas by Roger MOORE**

April 20, 1872: An Indian battle at Howard's Well causes the cancellation of hunting permits for the Native Americans.

**CryptoQuip**

This is a simple substitution cipher in which each letter used stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Solution is accomplished by trial and error.

Clue: T equals P

TUT ZVM WUSR WSTPKWFZK  
 EDU ZMUKPW NOWD WSAD ZW  
 GRSPNOV, JPRRUENOV ZVM  
 ZRGZAUKP: FSVZ FSKVPK.

Answer Page 4

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**Weekly SUDOKU**

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

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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**Veteran suicide prevention grants**



by Freddy Groves

Across the country, state and local governments, nonprofits, certain tribes and other community organizations are going to share in a \$112 million grant program for their work in veterans suicide prevention.

The Staff Sergeant Parker Gordon Fox Suicide Prevention Grant Program (also known as SSG Fox SPGP) promotes outreach to identify veterans at risk, clinical services for emergency treatment, case management, baseline screening, education, peer support, help with connecting with benefits and more. Help can also be in the form of temporary income support, legal services, child care, financial counseling and fiduciary help.

And it works: Over 90% of veterans who got these services reported improvements in their mental health and well-

being.

The grant organizations will work with local VA medical centers to verify that the individual is a veteran, has some risk factors (such as traumatic brain injury, recent loss, homelessness or history of abuse) and has been assessed as to the degree of risk of suicide.

Veteran suicide stats are, as they always have been, grim to consider. The national suicide report for 2025 says that the number of suicides have decreased (for 2023, the last year numbers were available). Specifically, 2023 had 44 fewer veteran suicides than in 2022. The report calls that an "encouraging" result – even though the number for 2023 was a whopping 6,398 veterans.

In an analysis of the stats, 61% of those veterans were not getting VA health care. The group most affected were veterans ages 18 to 34 with risk factors of homelessness, health problems and pain, with pain being the biggest risk factor.

To learn all the details

about the SSG Fox SPGP grant program, see [www.mentalhealth.va.gov/ssgfox-grants/docs/SSG-Fox-SPGP-Program-Guide-508.pdf](http://www.mentalhealth.va.gov/ssgfox-grants/docs/SSG-Fox-SPGP-Program-Guide-508.pdf).

If you (or a veteran you know) are at risk for suicide, call the VA crisis hotline at 988, then press 1. That's all you need to dial. Or text to 838255. Or go online to chat at [www.veteranscrisisline.net](http://www.veteranscrisisline.net). Somebody is there 24/7. It's free and confidential, and you don't have to be enrolled in VA health care or benefits.

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• When your cut up fruit is about to expire and you don't think you'll be able to eat it in time, just freeze it for smoothies. Lay it out in a single layer and pop it in the freezer. When it's frozen you can put it in a zip-top baggie for easy storage.

• If it's garage sale time, try this trick: Wrap a picture frame tightly with tulle. Then you can hang earrings from the tulle. Maybe someone will think it's so cute that you'll sell the frame!

• "Do you have a lot of coffee mugs? Maybe it's time you show them off! My granny has so many coffee mugs from trips and that she got as presents. My daddy put up five long shelves in one wall of her kitchen. They are the perfect place to line up and display all the mugs, and each one has a story, which is fun to hear." – F.E. in North Carolina

• "My wife saw a picture of a narrow shelving unit on wheels that fits in the space between your fridge and the wall. It's really cool, and I made it for her. It's so handy that I made another one for my shop. I can store cans and small containers of shop supplies, and I repurposed her spice rack for my most-used hardware." – J.C. in Florida

• Stubborn stains in the toilet? Try dropping in a few denture tablets in the evening before bed, then scrub and flush in the morning.

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.

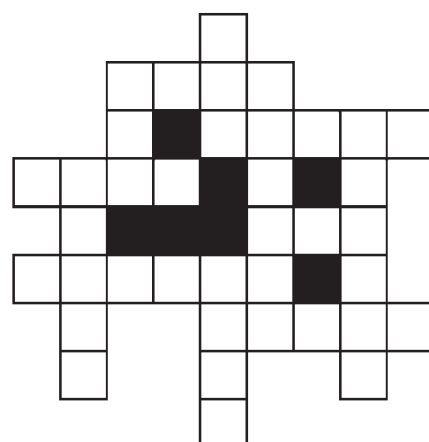
	+		÷		=	15		
+		+		+				
	+		×		=	30		
+		÷		+				
	+		-		=	6		
=		=		=				
15		2		9				
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

Answer Page 4

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- EWP
- ♥ EWVIRA
- BROAR
- ATPN
- VEHEBA
- MVI
- EBWR
- ♥ DEMNA
- ♥ UBN
- PNAMTO
- ♥ TEWSA
- PVMA



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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