



— Photo by Alfredo Vasquez

JOINING THE FIGHT – The City of San Elizario, City Hall above, has taken steps to deny and limit public services to planned immigration detention centers in the nearby City of Socorro. San Elizario joins the cities of El Paso and Socorro, along with El Paso County, in taking action to block the Trump administration from transforming the three warehouses into immigration detention centers.

County municipalities join forces

Legal channels sought to block detention centers

By **Alfredo Vasquez**
Special to the Courier

EL PASO COUNTY – With legal analysts pointing out that federal property purchases frequently fall outside local zoning and building rules which sharply limit a city’s power to block a detention center, local government leaders in El Paso County municipalities are joining in efforts to identify the leverage they have to obstruct the opening of such facilities in the region.

The latest governing council to express its opposition was the City of San Elizario. It recently passed resolutions that align with previous actions already taken by the City of El Paso, the City of Socorro, and El Paso County, which are steps to deny and limit public services for the planned immigration detention centers in the City of Socorro.

The San Elizario City Council unanimously adopted two resolutions against the Department of Homeland Security’s (DHS) planned detention centers in Socorro. The resolutions support El Paso County Emergency Services District #2 to limit or deny permits for emergency services to detention centers. The second resolution supports the Lower Valley Water District denying water services to the DHS warehouses in Socorro.

The resolutions are intended to raise political and

logistical resistance around the proposed conversion of three massive warehouses that are within the City of Socorro’s jurisdiction. San Eli officials acknowledged that plans are to keep coordinating with regional agencies and to track any new federal notices about the sites.

The transformation of the warehouses has faced widespread opposition because of the potential impacts on water, infrastructure, and emergency services in the area. Hundreds of residents across the county have voiced concerns about the impact on their communities.

DHS purchased three massive warehouses in Socorro for \$123 million in January as part of its “Detention Reengineering Initiative”, which would create multiple large-scale detention centers and processing hubs capable of holding thousands of people.

According to news sources, the Trump administration has allocated an estimated \$38 billion to purchase warehouses across the county for the detention of immigrants, which each would hold between 7,500 to 10,000 individuals. The

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San Elizario voters re-elect Miguel Chacon

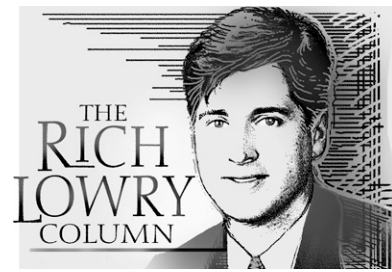
Miguel Chacon, right, has been re-elected mayor of the City of San Elizario. San Eli voters recently cast ballots for mayor and two alderperson positions. Chacon garnered 50 percent of the 250 votes cast, followed by Vincent C. Jemison at 38 percent and Robert Aguilar at 12 percent. Thomas Black won in the Alderperson Place 5 contest with 62 percent of the vote compared to 38 percent for Debbie Venegas. Candidates in the Alderperson Place 4 race went to a runoff on May 26 after no one received 50 percent of the vote. The result was not available prior to press time. Savannah Alarcon and incumbent Armando Alarcon were the top two vote-getters, at 32 percent and 31 percent respectively. Cassandra Caro followed at 20 percent and Antonio Flores received 16 percent of the vote.

— Alfredo Vasquez



— Photo courtesy City of San Elizario

Our screen culture increasingly can't read



We've been having a debate about "book bans" in recent years, but given the steep decline in student literacy, the deeper question is how anyone would notice whether a book is available in a school library or not. The New York Times published an eye-opening report on a study by the Educational Opportunity Project at Stanford documenting steep declines in student test scores, especially in reading.

Over the past 10 years, reading scores have declined in 83% of school districts. What looked like a COVID-19-driven catastrophe is, instead, part of a long-running trend. Reading scores were falling at a similar clip prior to the pandemic, in 2017-2019, and continued to fall into 2024. In a third of school districts, kids are reading a full grade level below where they were in 2015. This follows

what had been a steady increase in test scores from 1990 to the 2010s.

The ability to read is foundational to a child's development. It enhances verbal fluency, memory, concentration and executive function. It is associated with academic success and sundry advantages throughout life. That our schools are falling down so badly on such an elemental matter is nothing less than a civilizational failure.

Our children aren't learning to read, in part, because we've forgotten how to teach them. We decided to jettison a common-sensical, tried-and-true method of reading instruction – phonics – for faddish theories that haven't worked. It is notable that states showing improvement between 2022-2025 embraced phonics, which now goes under the rubric "the science of

reading."

It also can't be a coincidence that these harrowing trends are playing out against the backdrop of ubiquitous screens in schools. Schools are starting to ban mobile phones, but the screen that they take away with one hand, they give with the other. According to a New York Times survey, 80% of teachers say that students at their schools have a device assigned to them; it was only a third in 2019. More than 80% said that kids get devices...by kindergarten.

It would have been comparable recklessness

See LOWRY, Page 7



– Photo by Alfredo Vasquez

MEGA SPACE – El Paso County officials and residents are concerned that the Department of Homeland Security's three detention center warehouse facilities in the City of Socorro could strain local communities' water systems, electricity services, emergency responses, and local budgets.

1973
53 Years 2026
WEST TEXAS COUNTY COURIER
SERVING ANTHONY, VINTON, CANUTILLO, EAST MONTANA, HORIZON, SOCORRO, CLUTE, FARENS, SAN ELIZABIO AND TORNILLO

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Est. 1973

County

From Page 1

immigration detention centers in Socorro are poised to hold 8,500 people, according to DHS officials.

Meanwhile, internal DHS officials reported that the department has put additional

warehouse purchases on hold while new leadership reviews earlier plans. The pause does not automatically undo the deals that have already been finalized, including the Socorro sites; however, border-area leaders said that the hiatus gives them an opportunity to press utilities and permitting agencies to coordinate their strategies for halting the detention centers from opening.



Food for thought By Dr. Glenn Mollette

Dead noses smell no roses

May is a busy month with Mother's day, graduations and Memorial day weekend activities. Hopefully these occasions have presented or are presenting you with opportunities to connect with friends and family.

Too often our connection time with people is at the funeral home. Back in the old days, social family gatherings were more popular. Families would gather to visit. Today, our communication with others is a social media post or a text message at best. The days of people driving a few hours to just visit with others may be over, for some.

People still see others at the funeral home. I have spoken at a few funerals over the years and the crowds are not as large as they used to be. However, people still drop by to express their condolences.

Often, you will find people socializing with each other at funeral home visitations. They will be huddled in different corners of the funeral home catching up with people they haven't seen in a long time. Or, they are in the coffee room sharing jokes, enjoying food and having a good time. The grieving spouse or close family members are in the chapel grieving but throughout the funeral home, it's family and friend reunion time.

Several years ago, I spoke at the funeral of a dear man. He was in an open casket in the hallway of the church. No one seemed to pay any attention to him. He was dead. It wasn't like he could engage with anyone.

Yet, it seemed weird to me that while it was his funeral visitation, it did not seem to be about him. The occasion did lend itself to people gathering to visit, laugh and have a good time. The children weren't laughing or visiting very much as they were obviously grieving.

I think it is wonderful for people to gather, visit, laugh, eat and have a grand time. This is good for us all, but why don't we do it while we are alive? The dead person is not able to enjoy the fried chicken and banana pudding. Of course, the deceased is no longer present. If this is you, why not have the fried chicken and pudding while you are alive? We should try to have our family and friend gatherings while we are alive and can participate. You won't know who is at your funeral nor will you care. It really won't matter. Will those who gather, if they do gather, really be a comfort to the family that is left behind? Maybe they will. Maybe they won't.

The point of all this is that dead noses smell no roses. They don't savor the food or enjoy the laughter of those who are gathering. Thus, why don't we try to visit and have a good time with each other while we are alive?

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.

King Crossword

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50						51				52		
53						54				55		

Average Solve Time 26 Minutes

ACROSS

- 1 Cry
- 4 Vault
- 8 Daly and Allen
- 12 Common title start
- 13 Killer whale
- 14 Web addresses
- 15 Pithy joke
- 17 Legume
- 18 Suggests
- 19 TV guide abbr.
- 21 Wager
- 22 Expulsion
- 26 Errand runner
- 29 Whatever number
- 30 Hwy.
- 31 Caspian Sea

feeder

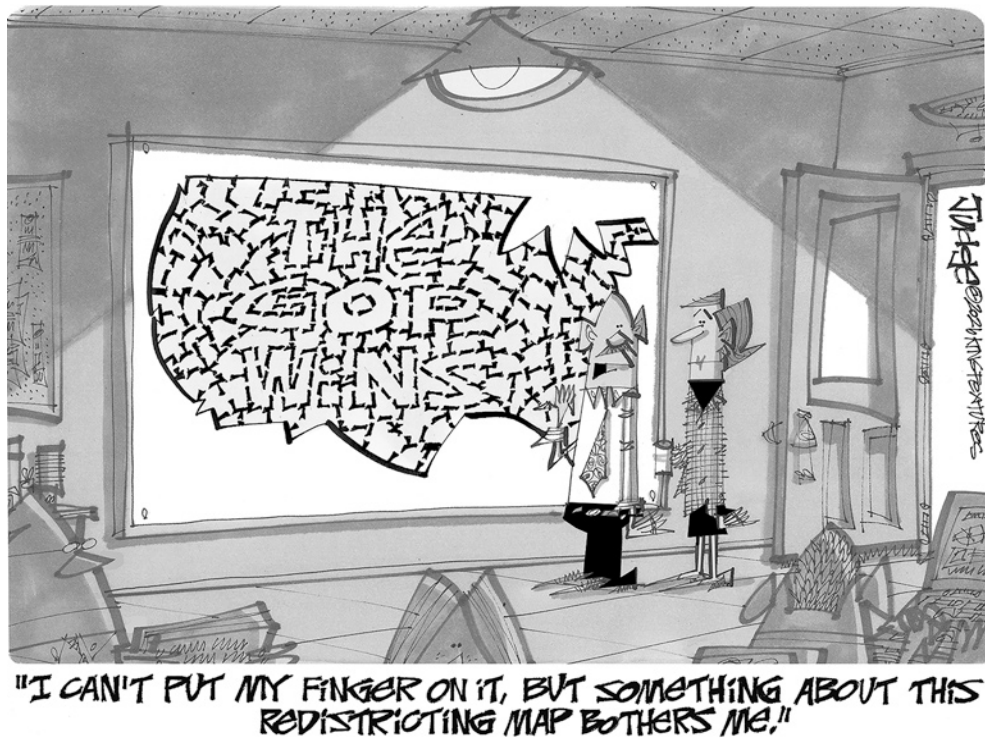
- 32 Keats creation
- 33 Go caroling
- 34 Capitol VIP
- 35 Year in Madrid
- 36 Epic narratives
- 37 On/off switch
- 39 "You've got mail" co.
- 40 Documentarian
- 41 Obligations
- 45 Beige
- 48 The whole crowd
- 50 Ache
- 51 Aswan's river
- 52 Victory
- 53 Abbr. on a schedule
- 54 Ticked (off)
- 55 Annex

DOWN

- 1 Halt
- 2 "It can't be!"
- 3 Hive population
- 4 Hang around
- 5 Painter Max
- 6 Expert
- 7 Series opener
- 8 Big brass
- 9 Rage
- 10 Org. with a style manual
- 11 Nine-digit ID
- 16 Slander in print
- 20 Purchase
- 23 Advanced math
- 24 Sicilian peak
- 25 Bylaws, briefly
- 26 Sudden wind
- 27 Disc-shaped cookie
- 28 Sharp tooth
- 29 Commotion
- 32 Penny
- 33 Like seawater
- 35 Boxing legend
- 36 Turned bad
- 38 Hog's "hello"
- 39 "Hello" singer
- 42 Illinois neighbor
- 43 Wife of Geraint
- 44 Fax
- 45 Clean air org.
- 46 Baseball fan's headwear
- 47 Tear
- 49 Compete

Answer Page 4

Archives: www.wtxcc.com



CLINT ISD WILL SERVE UP GOOD NUTRITION FOR LOCAL CHILDREN THIS SUMMER

CLINT ISD SERVIRÁ UNA BUENA NUTRICIÓN PARA NIÑOS LOCALES ESTE VERANO

Bringing healthy summer meals to the Clint, Horizon, and Montana Vista areas ensures kids have a healthy summer break and return to school ready to learn.

Llevar comidas de verano saludables a las áreas de Clint, Horizon y Montana Vista asegura que los niños tengan unas vacaciones de verano saludables y regresen a la escuela listos para aprender.

This summer, the Clint Independent School District will connect children 18 and younger and enrolled students with disabilities up to 21 years old with healthy, no-cost summer meals. The Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) is a U.S. Department of Agriculture nutrition program administered in the Lone Star State by the Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA). For the children who rely on school meals during the academic year, these meals offer a source of good nutrition when school is out during the summer months.

Este verano, el Distrito Escolar Independiente de Clint conectará a los niños de 18 años o menos y a los estudiantes matriculados con discapacidades hasta los 21 años con comidas de verano saludables y sin costo. El Programa de Servicio de Alimentos de Verano (SFSP) es un programa de nutrición del Departamento de Agricultura de los EE. UU. Administrado en el estado de Lone Star por el Departamento de Agricultura de Texas (TDA). Para los niños que dependen de las comidas escolares durante el año académico, estas comidas ofrecen una fuente de buena nutrición cuando no hay clases durante los meses de verano.

"The Clint, Horizon, and Montana Vista area children need good nutrition year-round, so they can learn, grow and succeed in life," said Carlos Villalobos, CNP Director. "With nearly 2 million food-insecure children living in Texas, these healthy meals are vital to nourishing young Texans during the summer vacation."

"Los niños del área de Clint, Horizon y Montana Vista necesitan una buena nutrición durante todo el año, para que puedan aprender, crecer y tener éxito en la vida", dijo Carlos Villalobos, Director de CNP. "Con casi 2 millones de niños con inseguridad alimentaria viviendo en Texas, estas comidas saludables son vitales para nutrir a los jóvenes tejanos durante las vacaciones de verano."

CLINT AREA ÁREA DE CLINT

Clint High School
13890 Alameda Ave.
Clint, TX 79836

June 1 to June 26, 2026
Monday through Thursday
Breakfast: 9:15 a.m. - 9:45 a.m.
Lunch: 11:50 a.m. - 12:25 p.m.

Junio 1 a Junio 26, 2026
Lunes a Jueves
Almuerzo: 9:15 a.m. - 9:45 a.m.
Comida: 11:50 a.m. - 12:25 p.m.

Clint Early College Academy
13100 Alameda Ave.
Clint, TX 79836

June 1 to June 26, 2026
July 8 to July 10, 2026
Monday through Thursday
Breakfast: 7:30 a.m. - 8:00 a.m.
Lunch: 11:35 a.m. - 12:25 p.m.

Junio 1 a Junio 26, 2026
Julio 8 a Julio 10, 2026
Lunes a Jueves
Almuerzo: 7:30 a.m. - 8:00 a.m.
Comida: 11:35 a.m. - 12:25 p.m.

Clint Junior High School
12625 Alameda Ave.
Clint, TX 79836

June 1 to June 19, 2026
Monday through Thursday
Breakfast: 8:20 a.m. - 8:50 a.m.
Lunch: 11:15 a.m. - 1:25 p.m.

Junio 1 a Junio 19, 2026
Lunes a Jueves
Almuerzo: 8:20 a.m. - 8:50 a.m.
Comida: 11:15 a.m. - 1:25 p.m.

Surratt Elementary School
12675 Alameda Ave.
Clint, TX 79836

June 1 to June 12, 2026
Monday through Thursday
Breakfast: 7:25 a.m. - 7:50 a.m.
Lunch: 10:45 a.m. - 12:45 p.m.

Junio 1 a Junio 12, 2026
Lunes a Jueves
Almuerzo: 7:25 a.m. - 7:50 a.m.
Comida: 10:45 a.m. - 12:45 p.m.

HORIZON AREA ÁREA DE HORIZON

Horizon High School
14651 Horizon Blvd.
El Paso TX 79928

June 1 to June 26, 2026
Monday through Thursday
Breakfast: 9:30 a.m. - 9:55 a.m.
Lunch: 11:50 a.m. - 1:10 p.m.

Junio 1 a Junio 26, 2026
Lunes a Jueves
Almuerzo: 9:30 a.m. - 9:55 a.m.
Comida: 11:50 a.m. - 1:10 p.m.

Horizon Middle School
400 North Kenazo Drive
El Paso, TX 79928

June 1 to June 19, 2026
Monday through Thursday
Breakfast: 8:20 a.m. - 8:40 a.m.
Lunch: 11:00 a.m. - 1:25 p.m.

Junio 1 a Junio 19, 2026
Lunes a Jueves
Almuerzo: 8:20 a.m. - 8:40 a.m.
Comida: 11:00 a.m. - 1:25 p.m.

Ricardo Estrada Middle School

851 South Darrington Rd.
El Paso, TX 79928

June 1 to June 19, 2026
Monday through Thursday
Breakfast: 8:20 a.m. - 8:40 a.m.
Lunch: 11:15 a.m. - 1:25 p.m.

Junio 1 a Junio 19, 2026
Lunes a Jueves
Almuerzo: 8:20 a.m. - 8:40 a.m.
Comida: 11:15 a.m. - 1:25 p.m.

Desert Hills Elementary School
300 N. Kenazo Drive
El Paso, TX 79928

June 1 to June 12, 2026
Monday through Thursday
Breakfast: 7:20 a.m. - 7:50 a.m.
Lunch: 10:40 a.m. - 12:45 p.m.

Junio 1 a Junio 12, 2026
Lunes a Jueves
Almuerzo: 7:20 a.m. - 7:50 a.m.
Comida: 10:40 a.m. - 12:45 p.m.

Frank Macias Elementary
14400 Golden Eagle Dr.
El Paso, TX 79928

June 1 to June 12, 2026
Monday through Thursday
Breakfast: 8:00 a.m. - 8:30 a.m.
Lunch: 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Junio 1 a Junio 12, 2026
Lunes a Jueves
Almuerzo: 8:00 a.m. - 8:30 a.m.
Comida: 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Carroll T. Welch Elementary School
14510 McMahon Ave.
El Paso, TX 79928

June 1 to June 12, 2026
Monday through Thursday
Breakfast: 7:20 a.m. - 7:45 a.m.
Lunch: 10:45 a.m. - 12:45 p.m.

Junio 1 a Junio 12, 2026
Lunes a Jueves
Almuerzo: 7:20 a.m. - 7:45 a.m.
Comida: 10:45 a.m. - 12:45 p.m.

MONTANA VISTA AREA ÁREA DE MONTANA

Mountain View High School
14964 Greg Dr.
El Paso, TX 79938

June 1 to June 12, 2026
Monday through Thursday
Breakfast: 8:30 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.
Lunch: 12:10 p.m. - 1:40 p.m.

Junio 1 a Junio 12, 2026
Lunes a Jueves
Almuerzo: 8:30 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.
Comida: 12:10 p.m. - 1:40 p.m.

East Montana Middle School
3490 Ascension Rd.
El Paso, TX 799384250

June 1 to June 26, 2026
Monday through Thursday
Breakfast: 8:20 a.m. - 8:40 a.m.
Lunch: 11:00 a.m. - 1:15 p.m.

Junio 1 a Junio 26, 2026
Lunes a Jueves
Almuerzo: 8:20 a.m. - 8:40 a.m.
Comida: 11:00 a.m. - 1:15 p.m.

Red Sands Elementary School
4250 O'Shea Rd.
El Paso, TX 79938

June 1 to June 12, 2026
Monday through Thursday
Breakfast: 7:00 a.m. - 7:40 a.m.
Lunch: 10:25 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Junio 1 a Junio 12, 2026
Lunes a Jueves
Almuerzo: 7:00 a.m. - 7:40 a.m.
Comida: 10:25 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Montana Vista Elementary School
3550 Mark Jason Dr.
El Paso, TX 79938

June 1 to June 12, 2026
Monday through Thursday
Breakfast: 7:00 a.m. - 7:45 a.m.
Lunch: 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Junio 1 a Junio 12, 2026
Lunes a Jueves
Almuerzo: 7:00 a.m. - 7:45 a.m.
Comida: 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Note: All Clint ISD campuses and offices will be closed June 29 through July 7, 2026.

Nota: Todos las escuelas y oficinas de Clint ISD estarán cerrados del 29 de Junio al 7 de Julio de 2026.

For more information about Clint ISD summer meals, please call (915) 926-4980.

Para obtener más información sobre las comidas de verano de Clint ISD, llame al (915) 926-4980.

Clint Independent School District is one of the nonprofit organizations partnering with TDA to serve meals across Texas. Families are encouraged to use these three tools to find a meal site anywhere in the state:

- Call 2-1-1 to speak to a live operator;
- Visit www.SummerFood.org for an interactive site locator map; or
- Text FOODTX or COMIDA to 877-877.

Clint ISD" es una de las organizaciones sin fines de lucro que se asocia con TDA para servir comidas en todo Texas. Se anima a las familias a utilizar estas tres herramientas para encontrar un sitio para comer en cualquier parte del estado:

- Llame al 2-1-1 para hablar con un operador en vivo;
- Visite www.SummerFood.org para obtener un mapa de localización de sitios interactivo; o
- Envíe un mensaje de texto con FOODTX o COMIDA al 877-877.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.
USDA es un proveedor y empleador que ofrece igualdad de oportunidades.

UTEP Miners lose a gem: Joe Gomez dies at 78

By Steve Escajeda
Special to the Courier

It's always sad when a former UTEP player or coach passes away, especially one that left a mighty big mark on the university.

Last week, a famous UTEP sports figure passed away, but he never threw a touchdown pass or hit a layup or stole a base. He never served as a head coach or as an assistant of any kind; still, he had as much of an impact on the department as anyone else over the last six decades.

Long-time UTEP fan, historian, promoter, donor and volunteer Joe Gomez passed away at the age of 78.

Gomez died last weekend of natural causes, according to the medical examiner.

If you've ever been to the Don Haskins Center or the Foster Stevens Center (UTEP basketball practice facility) you've no doubt seen a lot of memorabilia from the Miners and the 1966 National Championship team.

Much of that was donated by Joe Gomez.

Gomez, who was born in Puerto Rico but moved to El Paso in 1958, graduated from UTEP in 1970 and spent his adult life promoting the Miners to the city, the state of Texas and the entire country. He never thought the Miners got the kind of praise they should have.

It was just last November that Gomez donated a painting he had of legendary coach Don Haskins to the university. The painting, created by artist Phil Behymer in 1997, was originally displayed at the Adair Margo Gallery.

But after they renamed the arena, the "Don Haskins Center," Gomez said it belonged there.

Gomez' passing left quite an impact on those who knew him.

I spoke to a few people around town to give me their feelings about

Gomez.

UTEP sports radio announcer Jon Teicher said, "I think Joe was one of the first people I met when I first arrived in El Paso almost 50 years ago. His passion for the Miners, along with all his donations to the program were proof of his love for UTEP."

"Joe was always someone we had on speed dial when we were planning to recognize the accomplishments of the '66 team, including the 20th anniversary screening of 'Glory Road' earlier this year," said Jim Senter, UTEP athletics director. "I don't think anybody loved the Miners longer or more passionately than Joe."

"My dad was always very happy and thankful for all that Joe did for that 1966 team," said Steve Haskins, son of Don Haskins. "He spent so much time getting them recognized whenever he could, putting all those reunions together and even getting

them their championship rings."

By the way, Gomez spent his own money to purchase championship rings for the team members on their 20th reunion, which were handed out at halftime of a game in 1986.

Highlighting the national title team wasn't all Gomez did for the basketball program.

"And though Joe is primarily known for promoting the 1966 team, people forget that he was also in charge of the Sun Carnival Basketball Tournament back in the 1980s and was instrumental in bringing in teams like Ohio State, Alabama, Texas, Villanova, Auburn, Michigan and many others," said Steve Kaplowitz, SportsTalk radio host on 600 ESPN El Paso. "The Sun Carnival Basketball Tournament was the best in the country, and it was all because of Joe Gomez."

"He was honestly one of the kindest people I've met and certainly one of the most giving," said Duke Keith,

voice of El Paso Locomotive and Rhinos games. "Other than maybe the coach and players themselves, there is no greater representative of the 1966 NCAA champion Texas Western Miners than Joe Gomez."

Every person I spoke to made it a point to emphasize how nice of a man Joe Gomez was and how he made time for everyone.

Gomez may be gone but his legacy will live on for decades whenever anyone, especially youngsters just learning about UTEP history, see all the items he donated surrounding that national championship.

And with it, all the racial implications it had, being the first team with an all-black starting lineup to play in the NCAA title game.

I guess it can all be summed up by Doug Rutter, Gomez' best friend.

"I very sad about my friend's passing, I wish he would have had more time."

Senior moment By Matilda Charles

Protect yourself from scams

The Federal Trade Commission has some great consumer advice about keeping your online information safe from scammers. With new breaches and thefts being reported all the time, we need to know as much as we can.

See consumer.ftc.gov/node/77479 for a detailed list of suggestions and help.

Keeping your software up to date is at the top of the list, and it makes sense. After all, your devices could include cellphones, computers, smart TVs and more. Turn on "automatic updates" so those are installed without you needing to remember.

At the same time, your home's Wi-Fi network needs monitoring. At that FTC link, click on the information to secure your network.

One of the suggestions is "Choose an automatically generated password" and it gives links to the various browsers for more detailed information, such as Chrome, Mac and Firefox.

My personal opinion: You don't need a third party or anything automatically generated to help you come up

with a strong password.

To create a password, don't use any known information such as your mother's maiden name or somebody's date of birth. Use information that is likely only known to you, or better yet, use a short phrase (but be sure it's at least 15 characters long). Then intersperse that phrase with numbers, capital letters and symbols.

Example of your phrase: I really hate scammers
Then insert numbers and symbols:
I*really693#HATE@@scammers##

And yes, it's a pain to remember all that just to sign into an account online. And perhaps you'll need to write it down... but that's OK as long as you keep the information nearby but not next to the computer where someone else can find it.

The link at the FTC page has much more information, including what to do if you somehow do get scammed.

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Super Crossword

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- REGRESSION
- ANALYSIS
- ACROSS
- 1 Bourbon brand
- 8 Belly area
- 15 Girlfriend, in Genoa
- 20 Pertaining to the womb
- 21 Spiced Starbucks selection
- 22 Autos for test-driving
- 23 Food, clothes or money [actress Danes]
- 25 Greek market of old
- 26 DC-10, e.g.
- 27 Lariat feature
- 28 Rushes about wildly
- 30 Marketed
- 31 Grain tower
- 32 Like a skimpy swimsuit [actor Perry]
- 35 Church area
- 37 Powders mixed into liquids, e.g.
- 38 Research ctr.
- 39 Shoes worn with tutus [designer McCartney]
- 44 Tenth mo.
- 46 Perjurer's confession
- 47 Fork prong
- 48 Pop singer Rita
- 49 Mai _ (drink)
- 52 Young morays, say
- 54 Huge Asian mammal [justice Kagan]
- 60 Tijuana-to-Vegas dir.
- 61 Add_ (extras)
- 63 Olive _ (military uniforms)
- 64 Small lakes
- 65 _ Jima
- 67 Having supple arms and legs [jazzman Davis]
- 72 Nuptial vow
- 73 Moving spryly
- 75 Smoothly polite
- 76 Neighbor of TV's Homer
- 78 Surg. sites
- 80 Roomy place to house vehicles
- 82 Lead or tin [actress Jones]
- 85 Vacation spot
- 87 Swallowed
- 88 Little fellow
- 89 Performs like Ice Cube
- 91 Initial venture
- 92 1040 info
- 93 Small, springy apparatus [director Scorsese]
- 98 Zenith
- 101 Almsgiving [singer Grande]
- 106 _Alt-Del
- 108 Major_ (butler)
- 112 Gives one's approval
- 113 Persia, today
- 114 Showed anew

- 115 Ellipses
- 116 What the eight featured celebrities in this puzzle are doing?
- 121 Edit further, perhaps
- 122 State of joy
- 123 Bones near tibiae
- 124 Bottom-of-barrel residue
- 125 Febroy of Broadway
- 126 Greek Week guy
- DOWN
- 1 Vaults
- 2 Writer Calvino
- 3 Lead or tin
- 4 "I'm Sorry" singer
- 5 The Emerald Isle
- 6 Singer DiFranco
- 7 Most soft, dry and crumbly
- 8 "Solid Gold" host Marilyn
- 9 Breakfast chain, for short
- 10 Flow barrier apparatus [director Scorsese]
- 11 Discharge from the military, informally
- 12 Skater Midori
- 13 Minks' kin
- 14 Femme _
- 15 Modify
- 16 #1 song, say
- 17 "The Father" actress Poets
- 18 Tools for fruit preparation
- 19 How bedding is often packaged

- 24 IM chuckle
- 29 City near Bangalore
- 31 Booming jet of old, in brief
- 32 Jazz genre
- 33 Bitter brew
- 34 Karel Capek sci-fi play
- 36 Actor Pascal
- 37 Floored it
- 39 Good, in Nice
- 40 From dusk to dawn
- 41 Dynamo
- 42 52, to Flavius
- 43 Hotel cousin
- 45 Li'l Abner creator Al
- 48 Ashley or Mary-Kate
- 49 Cooked in a clay oven, as naan
- 50 Neighbor of a Spaniard
- 51 Part of TGIF
- 53 NBC skit show, in brief
- 55 Lazy sort
- 56 Meyers of "Kate & Allie"
- 57 "Rambo" site, for short
- 58 Decline
- 59 _ polloi
- 62 "What a pity!"
- 66 Bullfight yell
- 68 Your and my
- 69 Droop down
- 70 Mendes of movies
- 71 Berlin article
- 73 _ discount
- 74 Long, thin fish
- 77 Clear of mist
- 79 Eye sore
- 81 High-kicking French dance
- 82 Dilettantish
- 83 Long, thin fish
- 84 Org. enforcing the 104-Across
- 86 First post-band album, perhaps
- 90 Vodka brand
- 92 Marine snail with no shell
- 93 Cooking wine
- 94 Lyricist Gershwin
- 95 Actor Cage, to friends
- 96 "Addams Family" cousin
- 97 Compadre
- 98 Harmony
- 99 Shamrock, e.g.
- 100 Threat
- 102 Guys contracted by the Mafia
- 105 Bird hangouts
- 106 Wading bird
- 107 Tic _ (mint)
- 109 Toothbrush brand
- 110 Region of China
- 111 In tune
- 113 "_ Rhythm"
- 114 Country's McEntire
- 117 Mo. neighbor
- 118 Native suffix
- 119 Tiny objection
- 120 Space station until 2001

Answer Page 4

Comix

OUT ON A LIMB By Gary Kopervas



AMBER WAVES By Dave T. Phipps



THE SPATS By Jeff Pickering



TIGER By Bud Blake



Lowry

From Page 2

if schools had decided at the outset of the television age that every schoolchild needed a personal TV. Parents struggle to get their kids off devices at home, and then send them to school, where they read "To Kill a Mockingbird" on an iPad.

Now, books haven't disappeared from classrooms, but they aren't nearly as prevalent as they should be. A new study by the Rand Corporation found that most English teachers assigned at least one full book during the school year, although 9% didn't assign any, and roughly two-thirds assigned between only one to four.

Engaging with a whole book in print is so important because not all reading is equal. One analysis found that "digital reading does improve comprehension skills, but the beneficial effect is between six and seven times smaller than that of print reading." So, too, reading a book is better than reading a series of extended passages; it requires more attention and greater immersion.

As education expert Robert Pondiscio of the American Enterprise Institute points out, it's a mistake to think of reading as solely a technical skill, since reading comprehension also depends on what the great educational theorist E.D. Hirsch called "cultural literacy," the basic facts about history, civics, art and the like that form our common knowledge. To our great detriment, schools have downgraded this, too.

The worst-case scenario is that we have become a screen culture that is only capable of producing screen kids. A report last year in the journal *iScience* found that reading for pleasure steadily declined from 2003 to 2023. On top of evidence that reading also fell from the 1940s to 2003, this makes for an 80-year decline.

The poet and essayist Joseph Brodsky said, "There are worse crimes than burning books. One of them is not reading them." And not being capable of reading them is even worse than that.

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

Under weight people carry some health risks

DEAR DR. ROACH: I have a sister who is in her mid 60s and has a very low weight. She cooks a lot but doesn't eat much. Is there something to suggest helping her gain some weight? She weighs 80 pounds and is 5 feet, 2 inches tall. By contrast, I'm 5 feet, 4 inches tall, and weigh 150 pounds. I'm worried that if she gets sick, she won't have anything to live off of. – P.L.W.



With all the recent press about GLP-1 medicines helping people to lose weight, there's been much discussion about the health risks of being obese. However, there are health risks of being underweight as well. In fact, the health risk of being as underweight as your sister (a BMI level of 14) is about the same as the overall health risk of a person with a BMI of 50. (For her, this would equate to being about 300 pounds.)

I don't know why she isn't gaining weight, but there are many possibilities. Weight loss due to psychiatric diseases like major depression and anorexia nervosa is common and under diagnosed. Some diseases keep people from absorbing nutrients, especially celiac or Crohn's disease. People can lose calories through their urine (diabetics), while others use up their calories too fast (due to high thyroid levels, advanced cancer, etc.). There are many other less-common possibilities.

One critically important issue is to be sure of how much your sister is eating. It sounds like she isn't eating much, which makes some issues more likely than others. While there are appetite stimulants, I don't use these unless I understand what is causing the problem. A careful evaluation by a general physician is called for.

DEAR DR. ROACH: Can you say more about potassium and chronic kidney disease (CKD)? I have stage 3 CKD with a glomerular filtration rate (GFR) in the mid-40s. I like to have a banana for breakfast; is it bad for me? – S.B.

CKD is separated into different stages depending on the estimated GFR, which signifies the overall function of the kidney. A normal GFR is considered to be 90 or higher, and people who have kidney disease and a normal GFR are considered to be in stage 1. Stage 2 CKD is having a GFR between 60-89; stage 3a is between 45-59; stage 3b is between 30-44; stage 4 is between 15-29; and stage 5 is considered to be 15 or less.

Most people with stage 3a CKD don't have trouble with the modest potassium load from a banana, but high levels of blood potassium become much more problematic when a person has a GFR that is below 45. Your regular doctor or kidney specialist (you should have one if you don't already) should be periodically testing your blood.

If your potassium level is already high, you may be recommended to reduce your intake of high-potassium foods. However, a plant-based diet that is rich in these foods helps to protect you against the progression of kidney disease, so I wouldn't limit these foods unless your specialist tells you that it's time.

Even with early-stage CKD, I wouldn't use a potassium-based salt substitute without talking to your doctor first, who will likely want to look at a recent blood test.

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.

Archives:
www.wtxcc.com



Moore Texas by Roger Moore
1902: A barrel of oil was only 3¢. Might get there again, huh?

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: C equals R

PT BI NCDFY CSAPKS P CSZMRS
FD MRS FYLF YSCN ZCDB L
JLMCSJ FCSS, ADTFCLCI FD
KDKMJLC NLI JSLZ.

Answer Page 4

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Weekly SUDOKU

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

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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The Star Act



by Freddy Groves

The Major Richard Star Act seeks to allow 55,000 combat-injured veterans (who have less than 20 years of service) to receive their full pay at the same time they get disability benefits. The explanation on the website for the U.S. Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs on the history of the act reads like a tennis match, and you could get whiplash watching the ball being volleyed back and forth. We have the vote in the Senate going from the Committee to a vote that was blocked by the Republicans as something we can't afford... to the Democrats who offered a compromise motion about floor time for the vote... back to the Republicans... back to the Democrats...

Currently, for those who don't have their 20 years, there's a reduction in pay in exchange for disability benefits, and that's what the

Star Act can fix.

It's mind-boggling to consider: You serve your country and end up so combat-injured you can't continue and you are medically retired. Then, the rules say, you have to decide between DoD retirement benefits and VA disability benefits. And for every VA dollar, they take away a DoD dollar.

Needing to calculate having VA-disability dollars deducted from DoD pay benefits doesn't help veterans decide their financial future, but passage of the Star Act would.

The Star Act says injured veterans should at least be given a choice of getting Combat-Related Special Compensation (CRSC) or their regular retirement pay plus the Concurrent Retirement and Disability Pay (CRDP) service-connected disability compensation. There are financial considerations of all types between the two. One example is that CRSC is not subject to division with a former spouse and CRDP is. CRSC is not taxable; CRDP is. One requires 20 years of service, and one requires 50% disability instead of

10% and being at least 60 years old. There's a lot that goes into the decision.

If you're in a position of needing to decide which financial route to go, see the info at www.dfas.mil/RetiredMilitary/disability/comparison.

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• "Planning a new roof? Go light on the color for cooling benefits. Check with your home insurance company to see what discounts it might offer for different styles or options, like upgraded hurricane clips or fire retardant materials."
– R.E.W. in Tennessee

• Cut a cord of firewood in the spring and cure it yourself. Store it away from the house and properly care for the wood by stacking it where it will have access to the sun and wind to dry it. Let it season for six months or longer, and you'll have firewood ready when the temperatures drop again.

• "If you are melting chocolate in your microwave, do yourself a favor: Line the bowl with wax paper or parchment paper. The chocolate is still easily stirrable, but when you take it out, you can lift and scrape all the chocolate off the paper so that none is wasted!"
– A.A. in Florida

• At the store, check bagged frozen vegetables with the squeeze test: If it is hard and solid, it has thawed and refrozen. You should choose another bag.

• Keep musty smells out of your linen closet by stashing a box of baking soda on one of the shelves, just as you would in the kitchen.

• "Place a bit of clear tape over the place where you are going to drive in a nail to prevent the nail from cracking drywall. The nail goes right in. Also, if you are nailing into wood, you can drag your nail through some soap (a bar soap is fine) before striking and it does the same thing – it'll keep the wood from splitting. You can even keep a travel size bar of soap in your nail apron just for this."
– P.K. in New Jersey

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

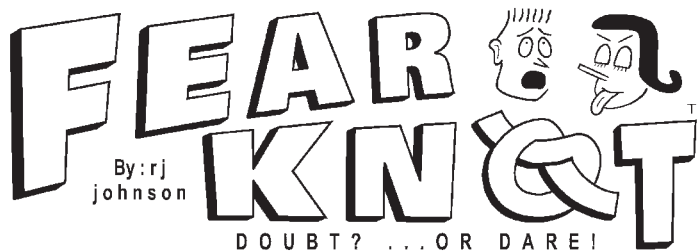
GO FIGURE!

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.

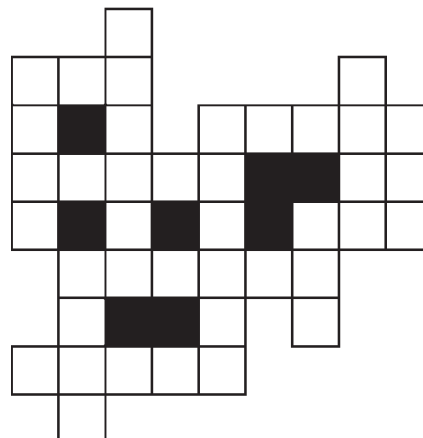
	+		+		= 14			
+		-		+				
	-		+		= 14			
÷		×		×				
	+		×		= 44			
=		=		=				
5		36		56				
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

Answer Page 4

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- LAL
- MYFPRU
- ♥ HERTE
- ORPU
- ♥ LANMIA
- LYF
- ♥ NATU
- ENFLO
- ♥ RFA
- TYNPHO
- TUYNI
- ♥ AFEL



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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