



BUSY HUB – El Paso International Airport, above, is the busiest commercial airfield serving West Texas, Southern New Mexico, and Northern Mexico. It handled 4,038,530 passengers in 2024, with 97,737 aircraft operations. The first El Paso airport was built in 1929 by Standard Airlines, which later became a division of American Airlines. In 1936, American Airlines and the City of El Paso came to an agreement to establish the airport at its current location.

TAR Mexico restores flights to Ciudad Chihuahua

By Alfredo Vasquez
Special to the Courier

EL PASO COUNTY – El Paso International Airport’s traffic has remained stagnant with passenger and cargo volumes for the past couple of years. To spur revenue growth, plans are to promote the addition of certain non-stop flights to popular destinations, according to airport officials.

El Paso International Airport is the 82nd busiest airport in the United States and Canada. It currently offers travelers about 55 daily nonstop flights to thirteen cities, and it continues to serve as a key

hub for regional and international cargo freight operations and scheduled flights.

In 2025, the airport handled 3.84 million passengers, and cargo traffic returned to normal levels after several years of fluctuating volumes. Final estimates for fiscal year 2025 revenues are expected to reach nearly \$43.5 million, which would be 7.4 percent higher than the prior year, according to airport officials.

Revenues for fiscal year 2026 are projected to top \$45.4 million including \$2.1 million in non-operational land lease income from industrial buildings and hotels.

As part of its growth plan, the local airport has

negotiated a deal with Mexico’s largest regional airline, TAR Mexico (previously known as TAR Aerolineas), to bring an international flight back to El Paso International Airport, which has been without one for over a decade.

TAR Mexico representatives recently announced that service between El Paso and Chihuahua City, Mexico, started this summer. The Chihuahua state capital is about 245 miles south of El Paso, or about a four-hour drive. The flights are offered three times per week on 50-seat Embraer jets, which are Brazilian manufactured airplanes.

TAR Mexico is an eleven-year-old airline, based in Queretaro, in Central Mexico, and currently serves sixteen cities in Mexico. The El Paso flights are its first service outside Mexico. TAR officials said that they also plan to offer service in the future to other cities in states along the U.S.-Mexico border, including Laredo and Harlingen in Texas, and Tucson and Phoenix in Arizona.

El Paso Mayor Renard Johnson acknowledged recently that El Paso has long prioritized reestablishing direct commercial air service to Mexico. “This new route not only strengthens the enduring business and cultural connections between El Paso and Chihuahua but also brings us closer to the people, families, and opportunities on both sides of the border,” the mayor stated.

To attract TAR Mexico to El Paso, the city is providing the airline with incentives that were approved by city council in 2023, according to an airport spokesperson. The addition of the Mexican airline will bring a seventh airline to the El Paso airport.

El Paso city data indicates that the most used airline is Southwest Airlines, which handles over 48 percent of the more than 4 million passengers that stream through the local airport annually. Southwest Airlines leads in passenger traffic mainly because it provides non-stop service from El Paso to various



NEW SERVICE – TAR Mexico jets, like the one above, recently started international flight service at El Paso International Airport. The City of El Paso approved an agreement that provides the airline incentives that set reduced rates for two years on landing fees, federal inspection service usage fees, marketing and office space leasing fees.

See FLIGHTS, Page 5

The preposterous case against the new defense bill

Congress has been known to slip indefensible special-interest provisions into large must-pass bills when no one is looking. What it has never done before is use such sleight of hand to hand over control of the U.S. military to a foreign country. But that’s what we’re told is on the verge of happening on Capitol Hill.

The House just passed the National Defense Authorization Act, a sprawling \$1.15 trillion bill that supposedly includes a provision buried in it “merging” the U.S. and Israeli militaries.

This provision, known as Section 219, has united some of the most fervent anti-Israel conspiracy theorists on the right and the left in denouncing the alleged betrayal of America, from Marjorie Taylor Greene to AOC, from Tucker Carlson to Cenk Uygur. AOC has warned that the provision “is an

existential threat to American sovereignty and democracy.” Marjorie Taylor Greene has said anyone who voted for the bill “sold out the American people to a foreign country.” Tucker Carlson wants literal treason trials.

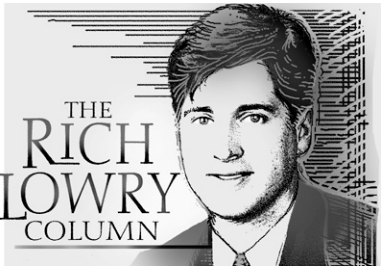
So what is the substance of Section 219? Legislation often has obfuscatory titles, but this provision is deemed, with admirable clarity, the United States-Israel Defense Technology Cooperation Initiative. It calls for the secretary of defense to designate “an executive agent” to coordinate between the U.S. and Israel on “bilateral defense technology research, development, testing, evaluation, integration and industrial cooperation.” The Pentagon will come up with a plan for such cooperation and report back to Congress.

That’s it. There is nothing about merging the general

staffs of the U.S. military and the IDF; nothing about creating a joint office where Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth and his Israeli counterpart, Israel Katz, work together; nothing about giving Bibi Netanyahu partial control of CENTCOM.

That the United States would want a close working relationship with Israel on military technology is hardly surprising. Israel is one of the world’s most innovative societies and, given its precarious security environment, has become a leader in advanced defense technologies.

That a nefarious interpretation of the bill



See LOWRY, Page 7

Food for thought By Dr. Glenn Mollette

Delay does not pay

Delay is not always the best plan but you can’t do everything today. You can delay paying your utility bills a few days but

you can’t delay for very long because the utility company will turn off your power or water. You can delay mowing

your grass for a few days but eventually the grass will become unmanageable if you wait too long. You can postpone going to the doctor for a while. If you wait too long your minor problems may become major

problems. Some things in life have to be done today while some can wait a few days. We can’t do everything today. Often there are expenditures we would perhaps like to make but can’t afford at the present moment. So, we have to save our money and wait until we have the money. Too often people can’t wait and buy now to pay later. There may be some purchases like this we can justify such as a house or a car. We have to have some place to live and transportation to work. How much you can afford to spend on monthly payments for housing and transportation depends on your income. Try not to overdo it because even reasonable amounts of money are not fun to pay back, especially with interest attached. Delay depends on how much time we have. A 21-year-old feels like life is forever while

a 70-year-old knows time is fleeting. If you are graduating from high school, all of life is before you. If you are past 65, then you better move a little faster doing what you want or need to do. Of course, nothing is for certain. A young adult has no guarantees and some old people just keep getting older. We never know for sure but we do know our chances diminish greatly with age. The body wears out. Eighteen-year-olds should try really hard to earn some money and put \$2,000 or \$3,000 a year into a Roth IRA account. Let’s say you are 18 and can rake up \$3,000 in 12 months time to invest in a Roth IRA and never touch it until you are 68 you will have about \$184,000. For the last 50 years, the stock market

See DELAY, Page 5

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON TAX INCREASE

A tax rate of **\$0.100000 per \$100 valuation** has been proposed by the governing body of **El Paso County Emergency Services District #1**.

PROPOSED TAX RATE	\$0.100000 per \$100
NO-NEW-REVENUE TAX RATE	\$0.099393 per \$100
VOTER-APPROVAL TAX RATE	\$0.106478 per \$100

The no-new-revenue tax rate is the tax rate for the 2026 tax year that will raise the same amount of property tax revenue for El Paso County ESD #1 from the same properties in both the 2025 tax year and the 2026 tax year.

The voter-approval rate is the highest tax rate that El Paso County ESD #1 may adopt without holding an election to seek voter approval of the rate.

The proposed tax rate is greater than the no-new-revenue tax rate. This means that El Paso County ESD #1 is proposing to increase property taxes for the 2026 tax year.

A PUBLIC HEARING ON THE PROPOSED TAX RATE WILL BE HELD ON August 13, 2026 at 6:30 PM at 13661 Paseo Del Este., El Paso, TX 79928 or virtual meeting: Microsoft teams; access code: 222 911 005 892 776; Passcode: TV6A35c3

The proposed tax rate is not greater than the voter-approval tax rate. As a result, El Paso County ESD #1 is not required to hold an election at which voters may accept or reject the proposed tax rate. However, you may express your support for or opposition to the proposed tax rate by contacting the members of the Board of Commissioners of El Paso County ESD #1 at their offices or by attending the public hearing mentioned above.

YOUR TAXES OWED UNDER ANY OF THE TAX RATES MENTIONED ABOVE CAN BE CALCULATED AS FOLLOWS:

Property tax amount = (tax rate) x (taxable value of your property) /100

FOR the proposal: **Bill Mayberry** **Deanne Rankins**
Jeff Booth **Jose Berumen**

AGAINST the proposal: None

PRESENT and not voting: None

ABSENT: **Amanda Anaya**

Visit Texas.gov/PropertyTaxes to find a link to your local property tax database on which you can easily access information regarding your property taxes, including information about proposed tax rates and scheduled public hearings of each entity that taxes your property.

The 86th Texas Legislature modified the manner in which the voter-approval tax rate is calculated to limit the rate of growth of property taxes in the state.

The following table compares the taxes imposed on the average residence homestead by **El Paso County ESD #1** last year to the taxes proposed to the be imposed on the average residence homestead by **El Paso County ESD #1** this year.

	2025	2026	Change
Total tax rate (per \$100 of value)	\$0.100000	\$0.100000	No change of 0.100000 per \$100, or 0%.
Average homestead taxable value	\$250,748	\$254,376	Increase of 1.44%.
Tax on average homestead	\$250.75	\$254.38	Increase of \$3.63, or 1.44%
Total tax levy on all properties	\$7,727,064,471	\$8,121,977,257	Increase of \$394,912.79 or 4.98%.

For assistance with tax calculations, please contact the tax assessor for **El Paso County ESD #1** at **915-771-2300** or ctaxassessor@epcounty.com, or visit epcounty.com for more information.



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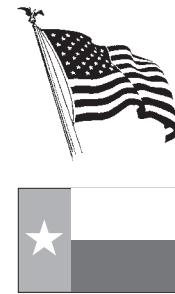
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King Crossword

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Average Solve Time 24 Minutes

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8 Maui's _ Highway

12 Rock's Brian

13 Continental coin

14 Petri dish gel

15 Scrape (out)

16 Shakable

paperweight

18 Egypt's Anwar

20 Quibble

21 Composer Bartok

24 Informative

28 Hall & Oates

ballad of 1976

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2 "Diana" singer

3 Not single-sex

4 Locale in "The Great Gatsby"

5 Attila, e.g.

6 Acapulco gold

7 Cut, as a lawn

8 Summer top

9 Previously

10 Collar

11 Common verb

17 Tonic's mixer

19 Six-pack muscles

22 Novelist Anita

23 Poker pot starters

25 "That _ close one!"

26 "No seats" signs

27 Evergreens

28 Weeps

29 Robust

30 Buffalo's lake

31 List-ending abbr.

35 Not for

38 Large constrictor

40 Run after K

42 Summer mo.

45 Telly watcher

47 Slightly open

48 Cathedral area

49 Kept tabs on

50 Cutting tool

51 Chariot trailer

52 Three, in Rome

53 Notable time

54 Vichy water

Answer Page 4



NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING TO DISCUSS BUDGET AND PROPOSED TAX RATE

The Tornillo Independent School District will hold a public meeting at 5:30 P.M. on Monday, August 17, 2026 in the W.E.Neill Service Center, 19210 Cobb Avenue,Tornillo, Texas 79853. **The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the school district’s budget that will determine the tax rate that will be adopted. Public participation in the discussion is invited.**

The tax rate that is ultimately adopted at this meeting or at a separate meeting at a later date may not exceed the proposed tax rate shown below unless the district publishes a revised notice containing the same information and comparisons set out below and holds another public meeting to discuss the revised notice.

Maintenance Tax	\$0.732800/\$100 (Proposed rate for maintenance and operations)
School Debt Service Tax	
Approved by Local Voters	\$0.468900/\$100 (Proposed rate to pay bonded indebtedness)

Comparison of Proposed Budget with Last Year’s Budget

The applicable percentage increase or decrease (or difference) in the amount budgeted in the preceding fiscal year and the amount budgeted for the fiscal year that begins during the current tax year is indicated for each of the following expenditure categories:

Maintenance and Operations	0.92%	Decrease
Debt Service	0.04%	Decrease
Total Expenditures	0.83%	Decrease

Total Appraised Value and Total Taxable Value (as calculated under Section 26.04, tax Code)

	Preceding Tax Year	Current Tax Year
Total appraised value* of all property	\$ 270,381,611	\$ 397,440,146
Total appraised value* of new property**	\$ 2,571,855	\$ 126,158,273
Total taxable value*** of all property	\$ 196,692,163	\$ 317,853,610
Total taxable value*** of new property**	\$ 2,000,349	\$ 125,931,919

* "Appraised value" is the amount shown on the appraisal roll and defined by Section 1.04(8), Tax Code.
** "New property" is defined by Section 26.012(17), Tax Code.
*** "Taxable value" is defined by Section 1.04(10), Tax Code.

Bonded Indebtedness

Total amount of outstanding and unpaid bonded indebtedness* \$14,520,683

* Outstanding principal.

Comparison of Proposed Rates with Last Year’s Rates

	Maintenance & Operation	Interest & Sinking Fund*	Total	Local Revenue Per Student	State Revenue Per Student
Last Year’s Rate	\$ 0.618900	\$ 0.468900*	\$ 1.087800	\$ 3,183	\$13,647
Rate to Maintain Same Level of Maintenance & Operations Revenue & Pay Debt Service	\$ 0.626130	\$ 0.412870*	\$ 1.039000	\$ 5,223	\$12,603
Proposed Rate	\$ 0.732800	\$ 0.468900*	\$ 1.201700	\$ 5,354	\$13,463

*The Interest & Sinking Fund tax revenue is used to pay for bonded indebtedness on construction, equipment, or both.

The bonds, and the tax rate necessary to pay those bonds, were approved by the voters of this district.

Comparison of Proposed Levy with Last Year’s Levy on Average Residence

	Last Year	This Year
Average Market Value of Residences	\$ 132,366	\$138,024
Average Taxable Value of Residences	\$ 0	\$ 0
Last Year’s Rate Versus		
Proposed Rate per \$100 Value	\$ 1.087800	\$ 1.201700
Taxes Due on Average Residence	\$ 0	\$ 0
Increase (Decrease) in Taxes		\$ 0

Under state law, the dollar amount of school taxes imposed on the residence homestead of a person 65 years of age or older or of the surviving spouse of such a person, if the surviving spouse was 55 years of age or older when the person died, may not be increased above the amount paid in the first year after the person turned 65, regardless of changes in the tax rate or property value.

Notice of Voter-Approval Rate: The highest tax rate the district can adopt before requiring voter approval at an election is \$1.050342. This election will be automatically held if the district adopts a rate in excess of the voter-approval rate of \$1.050342.

Fund Balances

The following estimated balances will remain at the end of the current fiscal year and are not encumbered with or by a corresponding debt obligation, less estimated funds necessary for operating the district before receipt of the first state aid payment:

Maintenance and Operations Fund Balance(s)	\$ 5,380,200
Interest & Sinking Fund Balance(s)	\$ 0

A school district may not increase the district’s maintenance and operations tax rate to create a surplus in maintenance and operations tax revenue for the purpose of paying the district’s debt service.

Visit [Texas.gov/PropertyTaxes](https://www.texas.gov/PropertyTaxes) to find a link to your local property tax database on which you can easily access information regarding your property taxes, including information about proposed tax rates and scheduled public hearings of each entity that taxes your property.

The 86th Texas Legislature modified the manner in which the voter-approval tax rate is calculated to limit the rate of growth of property taxes in the state.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON TAX INCREASE

A tax rate of \$0.091712 per \$100 valuation has been proposed by the governing body of EL PASO COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT #2.

PROPOSED TAX RATE	\$0.091712 per \$100
NO-NEW-REVENUE TAX RATE	\$0.084458 per \$100
VOTER-APPROVAL TAX RATE	\$0.088955 per \$100
DE MINIMIS RATE	\$0.091712 per \$100

The no-new-revenue tax rate is the tax rate for the 2026 tax year that will raise the same amount of property tax revenue for EL PASO COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT #2 from the same properties in both the 2025 tax year and the 2026 tax year.

The voter-approval rate is the highest tax rate that EL PASO COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT #2 may adopt without holding an election to seek voter approval of the rate, unless the de minimis rate for EL PASO COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT #2 exceeds the voter-approval rate for EL PASO COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT #2.

The de minimis rate is the rate equal to the sum of the no-new-revenue maintenance and operations rate for EL PASO COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT #2, the rate that will raise \$500,000, and the current debt rate for EL PASO COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT #2.

The proposed tax rate is greater than the no-new-revenue tax rate. This means that EL PASO COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT #2 is proposing to increase property taxes for the 2026 tax year.

A PUBLIC HEARING ON THE PROPOSED TAX RATE WILL BE HELD ON August 11, 2026 AT 6:00 PM AT 16001 Socorro Road, Fabens, TX 79838.

The proposed tax rate is greater than the voter-approval tax rate but not greater than the de minimis rate. However, the proposed tax rate exceeds the rate that allows voters to petition for an election under Section 26.075, Tax Code. If EL PASO COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT #2 adopts the proposed tax rate, the qualified voters of the EL PASO COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT #2 may petition the EL PASO COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT #2 to require an election to be held to determine whether to reduce the proposed tax rate. If a majority of the voters reject the proposed tax rate, the tax rate of the EL PASO COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT #2 will be the voter-approval tax rate of the EL PASO COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT #2.

YOUR TAXES OWED UNDER ANY OF THE RATES MENTIONED ABOVE CAN BE CALCULATED AS FOLLOWS:

Property tax amount = (tax rate) x (taxable value of your property) /100

FOR the proposal:	Adrian Santana	Michael Diaz	Antonio Bernal
	Rick Avalos	Roland Glidden	
AGAINST the proposal:	None		
PRESENT and not voting:	None		
ABSENT:	None		

Visit Texas.gov/PropertyTaxes to find a link to your local property tax database on which you can easily access information regarding your property taxes, including information about proposed tax rates and scheduled public hearings of each entity that taxes your property.

The 86th Texas Legislature modified the manner in which the voter-approval tax rate is calculated to limit the rate of growth of property taxes in the state.

The following table compares the taxes imposed on the average residence homestead by EL PASO COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT #2 last year to the taxes proposed to be imposed on the average residence homestead by EL PASO COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT #2 this year.

	2025	2026	Change
Total tax rate (per \$100 of value)	\$0.087138	\$0.091712	Increase of 0.004574 per \$100, or 5.25%
Average homestead taxable value	\$184,814	\$194,342	Increase of 5.16%
Tax on average homestead	\$161.04	\$178.23	Increase of \$17.19, or 10.67%
Total tax levy on all properties	\$6,888,365	\$7,796,162	Increase of \$907,797, or 13.18%

For assistance with tax calculations, please contact the tax assessor for EL PASO COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT #2 at (915) 212-0106 or citytaxoffice@elpasotexas.gov, or visit <https://www.epcountyesd2.org/> for more information.

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CryptoQuip
Answer

I could not think of the name of that basic chemical substance. I had an elemental block.

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On Aug. 3, 1923, Calvin Coolidge was sworn in as the 30th president of the United States, hours after the death of President Warren G. Harding, who had died suddenly of a heart attack or stroke while on vacation in California. Coolidge's oath was administered by his father, a notary public, under the light of a kerosene lamp while he was visiting family in Vermont.

On Aug. 4, 1790, the first U.S. Congress authorized the construction of 10 vessels to patrol American ports from Massachusetts to Georgia. The United States Coast Guard, originally known as the Revenue Marine and then the Revenue Cutter Service, was the idea of Alexander Hamilton and designed to intercept marine smugglers and collect tariffs on imported goods.

On Aug. 5, 1948, American diver Sammy Lee earned a gold medal at the London Olympics two days after his friend and fellow diver Vicki Draves won hers. They were the first Asian Americans to win Olympic gold medals for the United States. Draves was also the first woman to take home gold medals in both springboard

and platform diving.

On Aug. 6, 1890, William Kemmler, convicted of murdering his lover, Matilda Ziegler, with an axe, became the first person to be executed by electric chair, at New York's Auburn Prison. Inventor George Westinghouse notably opined, "They would have done better with an axe."

On Aug. 7, 1987, Lynne Cox, clad in just a swimsuit, entered the near-freezing waters of Little Diomed in Alaska. Two hours and 16 minutes later she had crossed the international dateline and completed the first recorded swim from the United States to the Soviet Union, ending at Big Diomed in the Bering Strait.

On Aug. 8, 1844, Brigham Young was chosen to be the next leader of the Mormon Church, following the mob assassination of the church's founder, Joseph Smith, and his brother Hyrum six weeks earlier.

On Aug. 9, 1973, NASA asked Skylab astronauts to share a housefly-sized piece of their filet mignon with two spiders, Anita and Arabella, on the astronauts' mission so the arachnids could maintain their experimental work on spinning webs in zero-G.

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By Lucie Winborne

According to facial recognition software, Leonardo da Vinci's "Mona Lisa" is 83% happy, 9% disgusted, 6% fearful and 2% angry.

The low air pressure of a twister can literally pull a person's eardrum outward.

In 1900, motor boating was included in the Olympic Games. Only a few races were held, however, and they were eventually discontinued due to inconsistent weather and mechanical failures.

One acre of peanuts can make 30,000 peanut butter sandwiches.

Chuck Norris had his own line of jeans called "Action Jeans." The first Europeans to discover the Great Lakes named them the "Sweetwater Seas" and believed that China bordered their shores.

The skin of a jellyfish is so thin that the animal can breathe through it.

Cellist Daniel Crawford composed a musical piece for the cello in which each note

represents a year on NASA's record of global average temperature, from 1880-2012.

Between 1930 and 1935, nearly 750,000 American farms were lost through bankruptcy or sheriff sales.

A man once sued Anheuser-Busch with the claim that the company's ads misrepresented his potential attractiveness to the opposite sex, if he would just drink their beer.

The Persian epic "Explanation of Chatrang and the Invention of Nard" tells the story of chess being introduced to the royal court by an envoy from India.

During the 18th and 19th centuries, many British and American newspapers featured elegies for dead pets. Among them, one scholar found six for monkeys, 12 for canaries, 17 for cats and 53 for dogs.

Egyptians used vast amounts of linen to mummify a body – in fact, the fabric on one mummy from the 11th dynasty measured 9,095 feet, enough to cover three tennis courts.

Thought for the Day: "You've got to get to the stage in life where going for it is more important than winning or losing."

– Arthur Ashe

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Flights

From Page 1

cities including Dallas, Los Angeles, San Antonio, Austin, Houston, Denver, Phoenix, Las Vegas, San Diego, Long Beach, and Orlando.

But the other airlines are starting to jump into the fray by expanding their direct flights offerings. For example, American Airlines now provides non-stop service from El Paso to Austin, Phoenix, Dallas/Fort Worth, Chicago O’Hare, Los Angeles, and Seattle.

Delta Airlines provides non-stop service from El Paso to Atlanta. Frontier Airlines provides non-stop service to Las Vegas and Denver. Both airlines also offer several connecting flights across North America.

Whichever airline a passenger uses, El Paso International Airport officials suggest that they arrive two hours ahead of their flight, have their REAL ID credentials ready, and check Transportation Security Administration (TSA) guidelines for boarding and luggage.

Delay

From Page 2

has averaged about 10 percent annual growth. If you invested \$3000 a year at age 18 and 19 you would have about \$632,000. Do you know how many Americans have this much money? Only 3.5% of Americans or around 12 million people have \$500,000 or more in retirement savings. Only around 1% have \$600,000 or more.

Granted, \$600,000 won’t buy near as much in 50 years but it will buy something. The point is, delaying investing into a Roth IRA or any 401k is very, very costly. Many 18-year-olds do the exact opposite. They go out and go head over heels in debt. They borrow hundreds of thousands of dollars to obtain an English or Psychology degree from a pricey college that they never use. Saving money becomes a bone crushing impossibility for years and years. Sometimes many never are able to save any. The end result, old age is not good. A 65-year-old couple once said, “We’ve got to figure out a retirement.” Sadly, they had never saved a penny. Today they are both on Medicaid living in a nursing home.

Mow yards, dig ditches, work at a department store or whatever it takes. Spend some time early in your life saving a few dollars. The end result will be amazing but delay does not pay.

Dr. Glenn Mollette is the author of 15 books. He is a graduate of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville Kentucky, Lexington Theological Seminary, Lexington, Kentucky, and is the founder of Newburgh Theological Seminary, Newburgh, Indiana. His column is published in over 600 media outlets nationally.

Town of Horizon City

In an effort to provide a safe, healthy and clean environment the Horizon City Code Enforcement Department asks that all residents please follow property maintenance requirements. Visit www.horizoncity.org for complete Ordinance requirements about the following topics and more:

- **Yards and Trees** – keep yards, including parkways and gutters, clear of weeds and debris; trees shall be trimmed to maintain proper clearance;
- **Stagnant Water** – items such as tires shall not be stored on properties in order to prevent mosquito growth; up to 5 tires may be brought to City Hall;
- **Outdoor Storage** – do not store indoor furniture/appliances outside;
- **Illegal Dumping** – violators will be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law;
- **Vehicle Parking** – only allowed on approved parking surfaces; do not park on yards;
- **Garage Sales** – maximum of 4 per year with a permit; and
- **Signs** – illegally placed signs will be removed; contact City Hall for further clarification.

Notice of Violation

Individuals or property owners must comply with a Notice of Violation.

If the property is not brought into compliance, the City may request a court order that would give the City authorization to access the property and correct the violation; all associated costs will be billed to the property owner.

Call 915-852-1046 with any questions and/or to report violations.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING TO DISCUSS BUDGET AND PROPOSED TAX RATE

The Anthony Independent School District will hold a public meeting at 6:00 p.m., Wednesday, August 19, 2026 in the Anthony ISD Board Room, 813 Sixth Street, Anthony, Texas 79821. **The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the school district’s budget that will determine the tax rate that will be adopted. Public participation in the discussion is invited.**

The tax rate that is ultimately adopted at this meeting or at a separate meeting at a later date may not exceed the proposed tax rate shown below unless the district publishes a revised notice containing the same information and comparisons set out below and holds another public meeting to discuss the revised notice.

Maintenance Tax	\$0.786900/\$100 (Proposed rate for maintenance and operations)
School Debt Service Tax	
Approved by Local Voters	\$0.140000/\$100 (Proposed rate to pay bonded indebtedness)

Comparison of Proposed Budget with Last Year’s Budget

The applicable percentage increase or decrease (or difference) in the amount budgeted in the preceding fiscal year and the amount budgeted for the fiscal year that begins during the current tax year is indicated for each of the following expenditure categories:

Maintenance and Operations	0.34%	Decrease
Debt Service	0.19%	Decrease
Total Expenditures	0.33%	Decrease

Total Appraised Value and Total Taxable Value (as calculated under Section 26.04, Tax Code)

	Preceding Tax Year	Current Tax Year
Total appraised value* of all property	\$ 402,532,486	\$ 397,639,099
Total appraised value* of new property**	\$ 1,199,217	\$ 2,740,980
Total taxable value*** of all property	\$ 227,876,417	\$ 213,317,166
Total taxable value*** of new property**	\$ 1,133,283	\$ 2,277,675

* “Appraised value” is the amount shown on the appraisal roll and defined by Section 1.04(8), Tax Code.

** “New property” is defined by Section 26.012(17), Tax Code.

*** “Taxable value” is defined by Section 1.04(10), Tax Code.

Bonded Indebtedness

Total amount of outstanding and unpaid bonded indebtedness* \$1,865,000

* Outstanding principal.

Comparison of Proposed Rates with Last Year’s Rates

	Maintenance & Operations	Interest & Sinking Fund*	Total	Local Revenue Per Student	State Revenue Per Student
Last Year’s Rate	\$ 0.786900	\$ 0.159200*	\$ 0.946100	\$ 3,396	\$ 14,809
Rate to Maintain Same Level of Maintenance & Operations Revenue & Pay Debt Service	\$ 0.712400	\$ 0.160000*	\$ 0.872400	\$ 3,166	\$ 15,130
Proposed Rate	\$ 0.786900	\$ 0.140000*	\$ 0.926900	\$ 3,363	\$ 15,664

*The Interest & Sinking Fund tax revenue is used to pay for bonded indebtedness on construction, equipment, or both.

The bonds, and the tax rate necessary to pay those bonds, were approved by the voters of this district.

Comparison of Proposed Levy with Last Year’s Levy on Average Residence

	Last Year	This Year
Average Market Value of Residences	\$ 188,744	\$ 194,494
Average Taxable Value of Residences	\$ 48,744	\$ 54,494
Last Year’s Rate Versus		
Proposed Rate per \$100 Value	\$ 0.946100	\$ 0.926900
Taxes Due on Average Residence	\$ 461.17	\$ 505.10
Increase (Decrease) in Taxes		\$ 43.93

Under state law, the dollar amount of school taxes imposed on the residence homestead of a person 65 years of age or older or of the surviving spouse of such a person, if the surviving spouse was 55 years of age or older when the person died, may not be increased above the amount paid in the first year after the person turned 65, regardless of changes in the tax rate or property value.

Notice of Voter-Approval Rate: The highest tax rate the district can adopt before requiring voter approval at an election is \$0.928209. This election will be automatically held if the district adopts a rate in excess of the voter-approval rate of \$0.928209.

Fund Balances

The following estimated balances will remain at the end of the current fiscal year and are not encumbered with or by a corresponding debt obligation, less estimated funds necessary for operating the district before receipt of the first state aid payment:

Maintenance and Operations Fund Balance(s)	\$ 3,390,922
Interest & Sinking Fund Balance(s)	\$ 100,757

A school district may not increase the district’s maintenance and operations tax rate to create a surplus in maintenance and operations tax revenue for the purpose of paying the district’s debt service.

Visit Texas.gov/PropertyTaxes to find a link to your local property tax database on which you can easily access information regarding your property taxes, including information about proposed tax rates and scheduled public hearings of each entity that taxes your property.

The 86th Texas Legislature modified the manner in which the voter-approval tax rate is calculated to limit the rate of growth of property taxes in the State.

Romo could be sacked for Milwaukee OWI arrest

By Steve Escajeda
Special to the Courier

The news of any professional sports athlete being arrested for anything isn’t surprising to anyone anymore. Whether it’s assault, domestic violence, illegal gun possession, drug possession, driving drunk, speeding, game-fixing for gambling, tax evasion or even murder, you hear about an athlete committing some kind of felony almost every day. And that’s regardless whether they are in the pros or in college. It’s rare though, when you hear about a professional announcer getting into big trouble. But that’s exactly what we had when CBS announcer and former Dallas Cowboys quarterback Tony Romo got arrested last week for alleged drunk driving. There are some TV sports personalities out there who are loud and brash, and it wouldn’t exactly shock anyone if they messed up. But not Romo.

Romo may not have won the big one with the Cowboys, but he soared to the top of the NFL analyst list when he started doing games for CBS in 2017, partnering with veteran broadcaster Jim Nantz. The former 4-time pro bowler made an immediate splash with his enthusiasm and by having the knack of predicting the plays before they happened on the field. He gave fans an insight as to how an NFL quarterback thinks. With his ability to see the football future, you would think he should have seen that driving a vehicle after having a few drinks could affect his whole career and reputation. Romo had just completed a round of golf in Milwaukee, WI. And in case you didn’t know – he’s a scratch golfer. That means he is very close to qualifying as a professional. Anyway, many golfers finish their

round and immediately move on to the 19th hole. For you non-golfers, that means the golf course bar for a drink or two. Only problem was it appears as if Romo had one or two, too many. Anyway, Tony Romo was placed on indefinite leave by CBS after being arrested on charges related to operating a vehicle while intoxicated (OWI) on July 23. He posted bond and was quickly released. Of course, because Romo seems like a nice guy and had never been in any trouble before, the first response is to give him the benefit of the doubt. And then the police bodycam was released, and an open alcohol container was found in the vehicle – and that changed everything. Although Romo was completely cooperative and respectful with the police, there’s no doubt he should not have been driving. It’s never a happy thing when a good guy makes a horrible mistake,

but he has to face the consequences like everybody else. Well, not like *everybody* else. We all know that politicians tend to get away with much worse. Romo isn’t the first booth man to get in trouble with the law – just the latest. Some of the more prominent announcer firings goes back to 1988 when Jimmy “The Greek” Snyder was let go by CBS when he tried to explain why black athletes were superior, going back to the times of slavery. His cringy explanation cost him his job. In 1997, NBC’s Marv Albert was fired after allegations that he was prone to having over the top kinky sex with women. One woman said he bit her 15 times. Danyelle Sargent was fired from ESPN in 2006. She dropped an F-bomb on the air out of frustration. Also in 2006, ESPN’s Baseball Tonight analyst Harold Reynolds was fired after an ESPN employee accused

him of sexual harassment. In 2008, ESPN NFL analyst Sean Salisbury, was let go after this 45-year-old former quarterback sent text with a picture of his private parts to female employees at ESPN. Other famous commentators who were fired for various reasons include Howard Cosell, Jon Gruden, Rush Limbaugh, Ryan Clark and Brent Musburger. Some were eventually hired again, some faded away quietly. As far as Romo, he’s been replaced by future Hall of Famer J.J. Watt. Whether the replacement is temporary or permanent I guess depends on how Watt performs. Not that there’s ever a good time to get arrested, but Romo’s timing couldn’t be worse with exhibition football starting this week. Romo came back many times as a player and he’ll probably make a come back from this.

Senior moment By Matilda Charles

Calculating our 2027 Social Security

There is talk among the experts who track these things that the Social Security Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) will rise 3.8% for 2027. This is down slightly from their guess of 3.9% just two months ago. In other words, we can’t take that estimated increase in our Social Security benefit to the bank just yet. There is room for change between now and October, when the official 2027 figures come out based on July, August and September numbers. One thing that’s not likely to change, however, is that seniors are struggling, especially the over 24 million of us who have only Social Security for income. One thing that many of us object to is the method used to calculate Social Security increases each year. Those increases are based on the CPI-W, or Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers. That index measures the spending habits of people who receive more than half of their income from clerical or hourly jobs. According to the Department of Labor, the average person in that group is 40 years old – much younger than

the typical Social Security recipient. That’s not us. Consumers in that age group spend in different ways, more on transportation and clothing, while we spend a bigger chunk of our income on health care and prescription drugs. Many of us, therefore, keep asking why the alternative CPI-E (Consumer Price Index for the Elderly) isn’t used to calculate Social Security increases. The answer: The Bureau of Labor Statistics considers the CPI-E to be experimental. After all these years, with so many millions of us on Social Security, we’re an experiment? Take a look at the Senior Citizens League website (seniorleague.org) and scroll through the articles, especially their recent survey of seniors and income. Their goal is to protect our benefits, whether it’s Social Security, Medicare or for veterans. Their numbers are solid and can be trusted.

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OPENING SEQUENCE ACROSS

1 Off-guard way to be caught

9 Bread has a lot of them

14 Anchorage locale

20 Aspire to something specific

21 Love, in Lido

22 Hoped for

23 Founder of the Miracles

25 Lodged

26 Pulley part

27 With long suffering

29 Rajah's wife

30 Alternatives to Cokes or Pepsis

33 _-mo

34 Twice LI

35 Raptor's claw

36 Record player

41 Ape in an arcade game

43 1307-27 king of England

44 Prefix with natal or con

46 Comic book shriek

47 Thick dell cut

48 This, in Baja

50 Olduvai Gorge

57 Beer cask

58 Removes (oneself)

60 Veteran

61 Europe's "Eternal City"

62 French battle site

of '44

63 Doesn't skip, as an event

65 Reagan appointee

67 Speak frankly

71 Jungle gym

73 Film director

74 1954-76 Dodgers manager

76 T-man

77 Outing ruiner

78 "How was _ know?"

79 Self-server

81 Some IRA contents

84 Master of the dog

88 Sundown's direction

89 Accepted

90 China's Long

91 2012 Best Director

93 Alternative to Match or OkCupid

95 It's pushed in an ice rink

101 Tart gin cocktail

103 Once-popular anesthetic

104 Certain pipe shape

105 Maple fluid

106 Tax return ID

107 Tiger's sound

108 Restricting freedom of thought

111 Work site welfare org.

115 Poppas' partners

117 "Arrow's Fall" novelist

121 Of high peaks

122 "Rapture" singer

123 All aspects

124 Fitting one inside another

125 A-bomb trial

126 Index entries... or what 10 answers in this puzzle have?

DOWN

1 KGB's land

2 Lost clown fish of film

3 Sitting on

4 Stir to life

5 Go gray, say

6 Singer

7 It may get plugged up

8 Pig food

9 Jenner of reality

10 Prenatal exam

11 Suitor's flower

12 Rodeo horse

13 Submitted, as an entry

14 Out of whack

15 Taoism's _-tzu

16 Inuit parka

17 Fr. resort port

18 Really into

19 Appending

24 Bottom

28 In this way

30 _ Nabisco (old corp.)

31 World Champion

32 Clip, as a coupon

35 Young kid

36 Study fixture

37 Not in use

38 Gala bagful

39 Hailed car

40 Thing flown in the wind

41 Scooby-_-

42 Wiggling fish

45 Otherwise

49 "Still I Rise" poet

51 Until this time

52 Element #26

53 Saudis, say

54 Nut with caffeine

55 Kuwaiti royal

56 Positive votes

58 Env. alert

59 Santa's bagful

62 Short-limbed lizard

64 Urban haze

65 Reel from a wallop

66 Certain skin bulge

67 Time in office

68 Jai _

69 Secular

70 Green Hornet's valet

72 Fried stuffed dumplings

75 Many a new driver

78 "Pass the ball to me!"

80 Crawl (with)

81 Diner worker

82 Concluded

83 Vodka brand

85 Part of ER: Abbr.

86 "Huzzah!"

87 Cinch _ (trash bag brand)

89 Sister station of Flix, in brief

92 Give the evil eye to

94 _ Tin Tin

95 Politico

96 "Troy" actor

97 Bites, as a horse at the bit

98 Muppet frog

99 Tracey of "Mrs. America"

100 Patron

102 Apple debut of 2010

105 Splinter groups

108 Opposite of new

109 Spreadable cheese

110 It may get plugged up

111 Eight, in Baja

112 Alternative to Heath, candy-wise

113 Clutched

114 Positive votes

116 Netflix's "Anne With _"

118 Opposite of NNW

119 Install, as tile

120 "How cute!"

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					116				117						118	119	120				
121									122					123							
124									125					126							

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

has gotten some traction underlines how any preposterous lie, so long as it's about Israel, gets a hearing these days. Like many conspiracy theories, this one depends on a dark view of American society. We are allegedly so corrupt that we are handing control of our military to a foreign country without any senior military leaders or officials in an "America First" administration lodging a complaint. No wonder Tucker Carlson wants the kind of tribunals that attended the end of World War II.

At the first Nuremberg Trials, Wilhelm Keitel was found guilty of crimes against humanity and hanged; at the second Nuremberg Trials, Mike Johnson will be found guilty of supporting mutually beneficial technology sharing between allies – means of execution yet to be determined.

One perversity here is that Netanyahu conceives of the technological cooperation as a substitute for the U.S. military aid that he supports phasing out. In other words, enemies

of Israel oppose U.S. military aid, and when a constructive plan is offered for how to go about ending it, they oppose that, too, as an Israeli plot.

Another perversity is that the U.S. should want a very close relationship with Israel on missile defense, an area where Israel excels and that, as we've seen in the Ukraine and Iran wars, is crucial to modern warfare. And yet, the same people who portray themselves as zealously protective of the U.S. national interest want us to turn our back on a source of technological advance.

Israel naturally fits in the Western alliance, but nations ultimately pursue their selfish interests. If we spurn the Jewish state out of irrational animus, it will inevitably look elsewhere and perhaps build a stronger relationship with China. Then we will surely be told by the critics now obsessed with ending the U.S.-Israel relationship that Israel has shown its true colors and deserves even more of our scorn.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.
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Maybe its COPD, but issue could have another cause

DEAR DR. ROACH: I decided to practice using an inhalation spirometer, partly because I have a daily productive cough (small amounts three to four times a day). I smoked a pack of filtered cigarettes a day from ages 17-29. I smoke marijuana now. My scoliosis is quite complex and has taken over 4 inches off my height. But at age 75, I volunteer as a stable hand for 6-8 hours a week, and they say that I'm the hardest-working volunteer! I'm lean and fit. I do three inhalation tests in a row, and it's always 2,400 mL. Do I have chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), and should I report this to my primary care physician? He doesn't know about my current marijuana consumption. -- C.R.



The diagnosis of COPD is made based on symptoms (usually shortness of breath, cough, and sputum production); frequent exacerbations of breathing troubles; and abnormalities on breathing tests (or if there's no other explanation). Your history of smoking tobacco and cannabis are compatible with a diagnosis of COPD, but you'd need pulmonary function testing in a lab.

The device that you have (which I think is an incentive spirometer) is very helpful for expanding the lungs, and it's especially used after surgery. But the number doesn't tell me a lot about your lung function.

The problem with COPD is that breathing gets obstructed, and although obstruction occurs with both inspiration and exhalation, it's mostly when a person breathes out that symptoms occur. Some people have cough or sputum production without having any trouble breathing. This is most compatible with chronic bronchitis, which is one of the most common presentations of COPD; the other is emphysema.

Scoliosis, curvature of the spine, can cause a completely different lung disease called restrictive disease. With restrictive diseases, it's not airflow that's the primary problem; it's the lung volume. With severe chest-wall deformities like scoliosis and kyphosis (when the spine is bent forward, sometimes called a "dowager's hump"), the lungs can't expand fully.

I'd discuss your lung symptoms with your physician, who'll consider sending you in for pulmonary function tests. These tests will tell you whether you have an obstructive disease, like COPD, or a restrictive disease. You should tell your doctor about your cannabis use; he should know and be professional about it.

If you do have COPD, I recommend against smoking cannabis. Although the evidence isn't as strong that smoking cannabis causes COPD the way that smoking tobacco does. I still recommend against it in people with lung disease. If you want to use cannabis, take a gummy, since this doesn't potentially harm your lungs the way that smoking does.

DEAR DR. ROACH: I've noticed that when I wipe the cap of my glass water bottle, there's a dark gray or black material inside the cap after I've refilled it. Is this mold? Should I stop refilling the water bottle? -- D.D.

The cap of your glass water bottle is made from aluminum. When you open and close the cap, the aluminum metal is exposed to air, where it reacts with oxygen to form aluminum oxide. This is the black material that you're wiping off the cap. Aluminum oxide is inert and passes through the body, so you don't need to worry about it.

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
August 2, 1973: The infamous “Chicken Ranch” in La Grange ceases operations.

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 C

L REXKW FEO OSLFV EJ OSY
FUZY EJ OSUO PUALR
RSYZLRUK AXPAOUFRY.
L SUW UF YKYZYFOUK PKERV.

Answer Page 4

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Weekly SUDOKU

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

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 VA OIG hard at work



by Freddy Groves

The VA’s Office of Inspector General (OIG) looked closely at expenditures for pharmaceuticals for one year and discovered that some of the money wasn’t spent as required. Specifically, the VA spent \$11.7 billion on drugs during that year, and \$11.4 billion was spent correctly via prime vendor contracts. However, 3% (\$322.5 million) was spent outside the required contract. While it’s a fraction of the whole amount, three hundred million is still three hundred million.

The purchasing rules say that employees have to document their attempts at finding the required drugs before they go straight to open market buying. Without compliance with those rules, the budget goes out the window, not to mention the potential for fraud.

The OIG had recommendations for the Veterans Health Administration and the VHA should have been embarrassed to have to be told those things: establish guidance for staff, do routine assessments of purchases and develop a way to keep an eye on purchases made outside the contracts.

Meanwhile the OIG has continued to go after the scammers who think they’ll never get caught.

Such as the thief who impersonated a veteran for 30 years, stealing benefits, medical care and drugs. Prior convictions included stolen property, grand larceny, sale of drugs, forgery and more. When he was finally nabbed, he was staying in housing for veterans using the stolen name.

Then there is the husband and wife team who allegedly ran a drug abuse recovery program. They thought they could get away with wire fraud and excessive billing.

And how about the company that billed both Medicaid and the VA for sleep studies that had been done by unqualified

personnel, studies that were never done at all, and forged referrals? This went on for four years.

Sleep studies fraud must be a big thing, because at the same time there was another case across the country that had netted the thieves in excess of \$2 million.

Visit www.vaoig.gov/hotline/online-forms to report fraud.

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• “I have stained coffee cups. My hands have arthritis, and it’s hard to wash them by hand. A young woman at church suggested I purchase a small bottle of dishwasher soap. The kind you put in a dishwasher, even though I don’t have one. I squirt a little in the cup and add hot water. It sits while I wash up the other dishes and then swishes right out.” – T.T. in Missouri

• “For the summer I fill a gym-size duffel bag with “spontaneity supplies” and keep it in the trunk of my car. It includes swimsuits for all family members, a blanket and cups, plates and silverware for a picnic. Now, if we find we have some unexpected free time, we can go to the beach or pool, or have a picnic by just picking up some sandwich supplies from the closest grocery store!” – via e-mail

• You can use a clean paper milk carton to pour batter for pancakes. The spout makes it easy to pour and reduces splatter.

• “I got tired of always looking for the dustpan, and so I put a magnet on the back of it. It sticks right on the side of the fridge, right next to the broom.” – L.M. in Kentucky

• Avoid eye strain by making sure your computer monitor is in the correct position. It should be placed directly in front of you, at least an arm’s length away. If you have trouble seeing the screen, you can adjust the resolution to make the screen items bigger.

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.

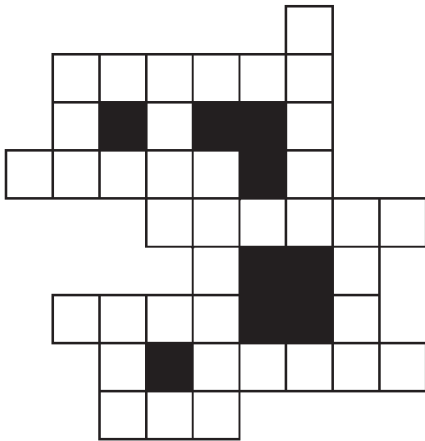
Answer Page 4

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	+		×		= 26			
+		-		+				
	-		+		= 14			
-		÷		+				
	-		÷		= 1			
=		=		=				
10		1		11				
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9



UBP
CLUTED
♥ SATCO
♥ NELI
♥ BETLUS
♥ TPU
PECI
PENUD
♥ BTU
SPUTHY
OYENB
♥ USNP



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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