



NEWSBRIEFS

Fishy fisticuffs

Some octopuses get a kick out of punching fish that pass by them. Researcher Eduardo Sampaio broke up when, while scuba diving, he saw an octopus take a swing at a passing fish for no apparent reason. He told NPR recently that he laughed so hard that he almost choked on his underwater breathing apparatus. Sampaio was part of a team studying how octopuses and fish sometimes hunt for food together. So, why the fishy fisticuffs? Sampaio says in some cases they may be throwing punches so that they can keep the food they find for themselves. But he also says that he noticed that sometimes they'll throw a punch for no good reason.

– John Grimaldi

What's that lurking behind the bathroom mirror?

Samantha Hartsoe felt a cold draft coming from the bathroom of her New York City apartment and so she went in to check it out. What she found was somewhat startling and a bit creepy. It seems there was a large, square hole behind her bathroom vanity mirror. Armed with a hammer, she passed through into what turned out to be an empty two-story apartment. She told a local TV reporter that she found trash bags and an empty water bottle but no sign of an inhabitant. Before crawling back into her apartment to call the building's maintenance department she made sure the mysterious apartment's door was securely locked.

– John Grimaldi

A truly comfy bean dip

The pandemic has devastated businesses, big and small and they'll go to extremes in an effort to attract customers. Take the Los Toros Mexican Restaurant in Chatsworth, CA, a suburb of Los Angeles. It's the favorite eatery for Hollywood stuntman, Hunter Ray Barker, who volunteered to participate in an odd publicity stunt in an effort to gain attention by spending a day and a night in a giant bowl of bean dip. Why did he do it? Barker says that Los Toros is his favorite restaurant and he wanted to "turn a few more people into lifelong customers."

– John Grimaldi

The two methods now being used to redistribute wealth are taxation and children.

— Quips & Quotes

By Alfredo Vasquez
Special to the Courier

EL PASO COUNTY – El Paso County is the ninth most populated county out of 254 counties in the state of Texas with 865,657 residents. The latest figures dropped the West Texas county from sixth largest in 2010 and placed the border county just ahead of Fort Bend County's 765,394 population count, according to the U.S. Census Bureau's recently released 2020 preliminary data.

In front of El Paso County are the counties of Harris with 4,731,145 residents; Dallas at 2,613,539; Tarrant with 2,110,640; Bexar at 2,009,324; Travis with 1,290,188; Collin at 1,064,465; Denton County with 906,422 and Hidalgo with 870,781 people.

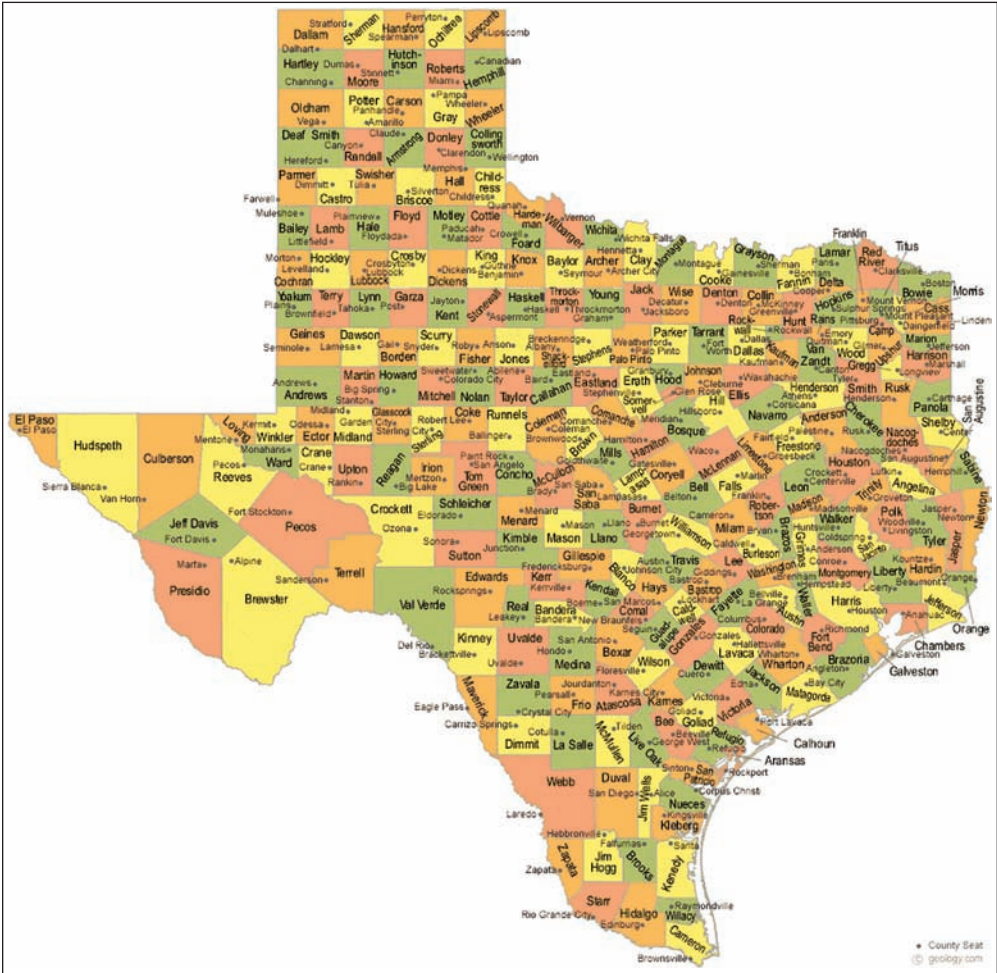
The largest El Paso County racial/ethnic groups are Hispanic with 82.6 percent of the borderland county's population, followed by White residents at 12 percent, and Black residents at three percent.

The Census Bureau's data also reported that the median age for El Paso County residents is approximately 32.2 years of age. Additionally, the median household annual income of El Paso County households was nearly \$47,000. However, over 17 percent of El Paso County families live in poverty.

Looking at Texas as a whole, the census numbers showed that the Lone Star state gained the most residents of any state since 2010. And its Hispanic population is now nearly as large as the non-Hispanic population, with just half a percentage point separating them. Texas gained nearly 11 Hispanic residents for every additional White resident since 2010, state officials pointed out.

Overall, Texans of color accounted for 95 percent of the state's population growth. The 2020 census puts the state's population at 29,145,505- a 16 percent jump from 25.1 million in 2010. Hispanic Texans were responsible for half of that increase, according to the bureau's report.

Non-Hispanic White Texans now make up just 39.8 percent of the state's population- down from 45 percent in 2010. Meanwhile, the share of Hispanic Texans has grown to 39.3 percent.



Texas is comprised of 254 counties, as shown in map above. The ten most populated counties include Harris, Dallas, Tarrant, Bexar, Travis, Collin, Denton, Hidalgo, El Paso, and Fort Bend. The figures below show the U.S. Census Bureau's 2020 counts for people living in El Paso County. The charts also give an analysis of how those counts have changed from the 2010 Census. All racial groups are included. Ethnicity – whether someone is Hispanic or Latino – is counted separate from race.

The Hispanic population's imminent arrival at becoming Texas' largest demographic group marks a significant milestone ahead of this year's redistricting, during which state lawmakers will draw new political maps that designate seats in Congress and the state House and Senate. The process inevitably turns into an intense and protracted fight over political control for the next decade, state officials acknowledged.

Nationwide, the United States grew significantly more diverse over the past decade also, as the populations of people who identify as Hispanic and Asian surged, and the number of people who said they were more than one race more than doubled, the Census Bureau reported.

Although the report indicated that the country's population growth slowed substantially over the past decade, nonetheless, the data revealed that growth did occur among groups who identified

as Hispanic, Asian, Black and more than one race- an increase of about 23 million people.

Furthermore, the data showed that the White population declined for the first time in history. Presently, people who identify as White make up 58 percent of the U.S. population, down from 64 percent in 2010, and 69 percent in 2000.

Individuals who identify themselves as White on the census form have been decreasing as a share of the country's population since the 1960s, according to census report. The decrease, of 2.6 percent, was driven in part by a decline in the birthrate and the aging of the White population with the median age of 44 years compared with just over 30 years of age for Hispanics, officials surmised.

Some social scientists theorized that another possible reason for the decrease was that more Americans who previously identified as White on the census are now choosing more than one race. The experts highlighted the fact that the single biggest population increase was among people who identified as more than one race- a category that first appeared on census forms 20 years ago. Now, it is the fastest-growing racial and ethnic category.

The five largest cities in the country are New York, Los Angeles, Chicago, Houston, and Phoenix. Philadelphia is now the sixth largest city, bumped from fifth by Phoenix, which was the fastest growing of the largest cities, according to the 2020 Census Bureau data.

El Paso County Population	2020 Count	Change	% Change
Total	865,657	65,008	8.1
White	313,741	-343,253	-52.2
Black	29,054	4,191	16.9
American Indian	10,337	4,331	72.1
Asian	12,073	3,790	45.8
Pacific Islander	1,885	886	88.7
Other Race	188,300	104,506	124.7
Two or More Races	310,267	290,562	1474.6
Hispanic	715,351	57,218	8.7



American ignominy

So far, the American withdrawal from Afghanistan has been a chaotic and even deadly abandonment. We leave behind so many Afghans who helped us over two decades and are now desperate to escape the Taliban.

Why are Taliban troops having such an easy time with pro-government forces, who either surrendered at their first encounter or simply deserted? The Taliban militias cut through them like a knife through butter, in spite of 20 years of training and an estimated \$88 billion of the United States' money to formulate an Afghan-armed military.

Actually, it's a story of three governments – the Taliban, the

puppet government installed in Kabul and the U.S. government – one of them living in the dark ages but emerging victorious yet again.

Ragtag though it was, the Taliban governed Afghanistan before the United States invaded and drove them out. The Muslim militants' support of Osama bin Laden and the 9/11 attacks was given as the reason. In December 2001, the U.S. invaded Tora Bora after intelligence pinpointed bin Laden there. But he escaped to Pakistan and went into hiding for several years, until the Obama administration flushed him out and killed him.

The second government – the U.S.-established Afghan civilian government – was the U.S. pawn, and the United States did exactly with it what it did in Vietnam. American taxpayers threw in a total of \$2.25 trillion



for Afghanistan military and civilian endeavors and an ever-increasing number of troops. Over 2,000 armed forces died.

The blood and treasure supported a corrupt cast of characters.

Meanwhile, the United States, in its fury over the deadly terrorist destruction of the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, was willing to occupy Afghanistan despite its history

of successfully resisting Soviet invaders and others who tried over the centuries. It was, like Vietnam, a quagmire.

Then successive American administrations and our allies did

See FRANKEN, Page 4

Canutillo Independent School District Public Notice

Public Meeting to Review Federally Funded Programs

The Canutillo Independent School District (CISD) will conduct a public information meeting to review the following CISD Programs funded with Federal Funds:

- Title I, Part A- Improving Basic Programs
- Title I, Part C- Education of Migratory Children
- Title II, Part A- Teacher and Principal Training & Recruiting
- Title III, Part A- Limited English Proficiency (LEP)
- Title IV, Part A- Student Support and Academic Enrichment
- IDEA Part B- Formula
- IDEA Part B- Preschool
- Perkins V: Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century

The meeting will be held via zoon Wednesday, September 1, 2021 at 5:30 PM, Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86135509002>, Meeting ID: 861 3550 9002, PIN: 276040212#, and Thursday, September 2, 2021 at 9:00 a.m., Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86135509002>, Meeting ID: 861 3550 9002, PIN: 276040212#.

Individuals that require technical assistance should contact the Canutillo ISD Public Information Office at least 2 days before the meeting at (915) 877-7482.

Distrito Escolar Independiente de Canutillo Aviso al Público

Junta Pública para Informar sobre los Programas proveídos con Fondos Federales

El Distrito Escolar Independiente de Canutillo llevara a cabo una junta pública para revisar los siguientes programas con Fondos Federales:

- Título I, Parte A- Mejora de Programas Básicos
- Título I, Parte C- Programa de Migrante
- Título II, Parte A- Entrenamiento y Reclutamiento de Maestros y Directores
- Título III, Parte A- Adquisición del Idioma Ingles
- Titulo IV, Parte A-Estudiente y Enriquecimiento Academico
- IDEA Parte B- Formula
- IDEA Parte B- Pre-Escolar
- Perkins V: Fortalecimiento de Carreras en Tecnología Educación para el siglo XXI

La reunión se llevará a cabo por videoconferencia el miercoles 25 de agosto de 2021 a las 5:30 p.m., enlace: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86135509002>, ID de la reunión: 861 3550 9002, contraseña: 276040212# y jueves 26 de agosto de 2021 a las 9:00 a.m., Enlace: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86135509002>, ID de la reunión: 861 3550 9002, contraseña: 276040212#.

Las personas que requieren asistencia técnica deben comunicarse con la Oficina de Información Pública de Canutillo ISD al (915) 877-7482..

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Paseo del Este Municipal Utility District No. 10 of El Paso County

Notice of Public Hearing on Tax Rate

The Paseo Del Este Municipal Utility District No. 10 of El Paso County will hold a public hearing on a proposed tax rate for the tax year 2021 on Tuesday, September 7, 2021, at 12:00 p.m., in person at the offices of Inframark, LLC, 13034 Eastlake Boulevard, Suites D-E, El Paso, Texas 79928; via means of a toll-free conference number 1 (888) 599-1357; Access Code: 8529; and via Zoom videoconference Meeting ID: 836 5801 2356; Passcode: 731937. Your individual taxes may increase at a greater or lesser rate, or even decrease, depending on the tax rate that is adopted and on the change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in taxable value of all other property. The change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in the taxable value of all other property determines the distribution of the tax burden among all property owners.

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.

FOR the proposal: **Directors Luis Ortega, Greg Spence, B.D. Reynolds, Martin Lettunich and Ysrael Valencia**

AGAINST the proposal: **NONE**

PRESENT and not voting: **NONE**

ABSENT: **NONE**

The following table compares taxes on an average residence homestead in this taxing unit last year to taxes proposed on the average residence homestead this year.

	Last Year	This Year
Total tax rate (per \$100 value)	0.7500/\$100	0.7500/\$100
	Adopted	Proposed
Difference in rates per \$100 of value	\$ 0/\$100	
Percentage increase / decrease in rates (+/–)	0%	
Average appraised value	\$ 198,770	\$ 218,643
General exemptions available (excluding 65 years of age or older or disabled person’s exemptions)	\$ 0	\$ 0
Average residence homestead taxable value	\$ 198,770	\$ 218,643
Tax on average residence homestead	\$ 1,490.78	\$ 1,639.82
Annual increase / decrease in taxes if proposed tax rate is adopted (+/–)	+ \$149.05	
and percentage of increase (+/–)	+ 10.00%	

NOTICE OF TAXPAYERS’ RIGHT TO ELECTION TO REDUCE TAX RATE
If the Dstrict adopts a combined debt service, operation and maintenance, and contract tax rate that would result in the taxes on the average residence homestead increasing by more than eight percent, the qualified voters of the district by petition may require that an election be held to determine whether to reduce the operation and maintenance tax rate to the voter-approval tax rate under Section 49.23603, Water Code.

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.

Paseo del Este Municipal Utility District No. 11 of El Paso County

Notice of Public Hearing on Tax Rate

The Paseo Del Este Municipal Utility District No. 11 of El Paso County will hold a public hearing on a proposed tax rate for the tax year 2021 on Thursday, September 9, 2021, at 11:30 a.m., in person at the offices of TRE & Associates, LLC, 110 Mesa Park Drive, Suite 200, El Paso, Texas 79912; via means of a toll-free conference number 1 (888) 599-1357; Access Code: 8529; and via Zoom videoconference Meeting ID: 312 808 3516; Passcode: 688658. Your individual taxes may increase at a greater or lesser rate, or even decrease, depending on the tax rate that is adopted and on the change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in taxable value of all other property. The change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in the taxable value of all other property determines the distribution of the tax burden among all property owners.

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.

FOR the proposal: **Directors Jose R. Soto, Darwin Voge, Marisa Lascurain, Alexandra Treviño, and Cynthia Ruiz**

AGAINST the proposal: **NONE**

PRESENT and not voting: **NONE**

ABSENT: **NONE**

The following table compares taxes on an average residence homestead in this taxing unit last year to taxes proposed on the average residence homestead this year.

	Last Year	This Year
Total tax rate (per \$100 value)	0.7500/\$100	0.7500/\$100
	Adopted	Proposed
Difference in rates per \$100 of value	\$ 0/\$100	
Percentage increase / decrease in rates (+/–)	0%	
Average appraised value	\$ 148,053	\$ 159,991
General exemptions available (excluding 65 years of age or older or disabled person’s exemptions)	\$ 0	\$ 0
Average residence homestead taxable value	\$ 148,053	\$ 159,991
Tax on average residence homestead	\$ 1,110.40	\$ 1,199.93
Annual increase / decrease in taxes if proposed tax rate is adopted (+/–)	+ \$ 89.54	
and percentage of increase (+/–)	+ 8.06%	

NOTICE OF TAXPAYERS’ RIGHT TO ELECTION TO REDUCE TAX RATE
If the district adopts a combined debt service, operation and maintenance, and contract tax rate that would result in the taxes on the average residence homestead increasing by more than eight percent, the qualified voters of the district by petition may require that an election be held to determine whether to reduce the operation and maintenance tax rate to the voter-approval tax rate under Section 49.23603, Water Code.

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.

Franken

From Page 2

what we do best. We lied about progress there, or at least stretched the truth. So with that backdrop, why has the shattered Taliban always been proficient at wearing down the Americans and so easily rolling over the Afghans?

There is a considerable body of thought that it’s because the Taliban have a mystical cause: They don’t fear death because they

dream of Paradise. Plus, their enemies are always the invaders ... infidels.

The U.S. and its lackey government have only money. Fundamentalist passion always beats money, particularly when it is so misspent. To his credit, Donald Trump wanted to withdraw troops but was not able to. President Joe Biden, who quickly opposed being there after first supporting the invasion, last April announced that his administration would finally withdraw all American troops from Afghanistan. After the past days of miscalculation and

tumult, it was a defiant President Biden who addressed the nation:

“I stand squarely behind my position... We gave them every chance for their own future.”

But now that the Taliban is taking the country back with such ease, escape for U.S. diplomats, families, supporters of Americans and the allies has turned into a helter-skelter mess. Biden has ordered thousands of troops back, but they were fired upon and unable to land for several hours because the runways were jammed with Afghans desperate to escape. How desperate? Many fell to their deaths while clinging to the side of a U.S. military plane as it took off. It was like fleeing from Saigon in April 1975 when the last Americans took flight. Only worse.

As the Taliban army rolls through Kabul and takes over, the country’s president has fled and his government has collapsed. As reports of new Taliban atrocities seep out, Joe Biden will bear the blame. Republicans have already started. Even Donald Trump sent a gloating email: “DO YOU MISS ME YET?”

There is time for recriminations later, including accounting for at least three presidents—Bush, Obama and Trump. Right now the American mission is to escape Afghanistan without further bloodshed and shame. Then the blame game can begin. Will we learn from defeat this time?

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Lower Valley Water District
Notice of Public Hearing
on Tax Rate

The LOWER VALLEY WATER DISTRICT will hold a public hearing on a proposed tax rate for the tax year 2021 on September 9, 2021 at 5:30 PM at the District Office, 1557 FM 1110, Clint, TX 79836. Your individual taxes may increase at a greater or lesser rate, or even decrease, depending on the tax rate that is adopted and on the change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in taxable value of all other property The change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in the taxable value of all other property determines the distribution of the tax burden among all property owners.

FOR the proposal: **David Estrada, Henry Trujillo, Rosalinda Vigil, David Carrasco and Rodrigo Chavez**

AGAINST the proposal: **NONE**

PRESENT and not voting: **NONE**

ABSENT: **NONE**

The following table compares taxes on an average residence homestead in this taxing unit last year to taxes proposed on the average residence homestead this year.

	Last Year	This Year
Total tax rate (per \$100 value)	\$0.195033/\$100	\$0.176315/\$100
	Adopted	Proposed
Difference in rates per \$100 of value	– \$0.018718	
Percentage increase / decrease in rates (+/–)	– 9.60%	
Average appraised value	\$ 94,019	\$ 108,031
General exemptions available (excluding 65 years of age or older or disabled person’s exemptions)	\$ 0	\$ 0
Average taxable value	\$ 94,019	\$ 108,031
Tax on average residence homestead	\$ 183.37	\$ 190.47
Annual increase / decrease in taxes if proposed tax rate is adopted (+/–)	+ \$ 7.10	
and percentage of increase (+/–)	+ 3.87%	

NOTICE OF TAXPAYERS’ RIGHT
TO ELECTION TO REDUCE TAX RATE

If the district adopts a combined debt service, operation and maintenance, and contract tax rate that would result in the taxes on the average residence homestead increasing by more than eight percent, the qualified voters of the district by petition may require that an election be held to determine whether to reduce the operation and maintenance tax rate to the voter-approval tax rate under Section 49.23603, Water Code.

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.

Haciendas del Norte
Water Improvement District
Notice of Public Hearing
on Tax Rate

The Haciendas Del Norte Water Improvement District will hold a public hearing on a proposed tax rate for the tax year 2021 on September 7, 2021 at 13931 Sagebrush Circle, El Paso, TX 79938 at 7:30 p.m. Your individual taxes may increase at a greater or lesser rate, or even decrease, depending on the tax rate that is adopted and on the change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in taxable of all other property. The change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in the taxable value of all other property determines the distribution of the tax burden among all property owners.

FOR the proposal: **Joseph McCandless, Daniel Diaz, Ed Brown and George Gibson**

AGAINST the proposal: **NONE**

PRESENT and not voting: **NONE**

ABSENT: **NONE**

The following table compares taxes on an average residence homestead in this taxing unit last year to taxes proposed on the average residence homestead this year.

	Last Year	This Year
Total tax rate (per \$100 value)	\$ 0.214680	\$ 0.196931
	Adopted	Proposed
Difference in rates per \$100 of value	\$ 0.017749	
Percentage increase / decrease in rates (+/–)	– 8.268%	
Average appraised value	\$ 221,562	\$ 240,441
General exemptions available (excluding senior citizen’s or disabled person’s exemptions)	\$ 0	\$ 0
Average taxable value	\$ 221,562	\$ 240,441
Tax on average residence homestead	\$ 475.65	\$ 473.50
Annual increase / decrease in taxes if proposed tax rate is adopted (+/–)	– \$ 2.15	
and percentage of increase (+/–)	– 0.45%	

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.

Strange BUT TRUE

By Lucie Winborne

- The oleander is the official flower of the city of Hiroshima. It was the first to bloom again after the explosion of the atomic bomb in 1945.
- The earliest written record that mentions the practice of medicine is Hammurabi's Code from the 18th century BC in Mesopotamia, which includes information for physicians about payments for successful treatments and punishments for medical failures. For example, payment was better for curing the wealthy, but failing to do so could result in the loss of a hand.
- Live next door to a lottery winner? You might want to use caution while shopping: A 2016 study by the Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia found that you're more likely to go bankrupt thanks to trying to keep up with your neighbor's new spending habits.
- Charlton Heston was cast as Moses in the 1956 blockbuster movie "The Ten Commandments" partly because he resembled Michelangelo's famous statue

- of Moses.
- Calvin Graham was just 12 years old when he enlisted in the U.S. Navy following the attack on Pearl Harbor. He won a Bronze Star and a Purple Heart before the Navy found out how old he was (courtesy of his mother) and discharged him two days before his 13th birthday.
 - Rocky Road ice cream was originally marketed during the Great Depression as a metaphor for coping with the economic crash.
 - The term "coccyx" (more familiarly known as your tailbone) is derived from the Greek word kokkux, or "cuckoo," because its curved shape resembles the bird's beak.
 - In 2015, Legoland became the first theme park to create its own currency.
 - When Henri IV of France wed Maria de Medici in 1600, he could not actually be present for the ceremony. Instead, he sent a life-sized sculpture of himself... made entirely out of sugar.
 - Ancient Egyptians believed that men menstruated too and that blood in men's urine and stool was a positive sign of fertility. Little did they know that parasitic worms were the likely cause.
 - Japanese trains, reputedly the most punctual in the world, issue passengers with a "delay certificate" if a train is running more than five minutes behind schedule. The documents can be shown to bosses or teachers to explain a passenger's lateness.
 - Only a quarter of the Sahara Desert is sandy.
 - Because they both lost so many players to World War II military service, the Pittsburgh Steelers and Philadelphia Eagles combined to become the "Steagles" during the 1943 season.
 - Many inventions and discoveries have come about through the medium of dreams, including the alternating current generator, the sewing machine, Google, the periodic table and DNA's double helix spiral form.
 - The asteroids in "Star Wars" were actually painted potatoes.
- Thought for the Day: "The life given us, by nature, is short, but the memory of a well-spent life is eternal."
— Marcus Tullius Cicero
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Moments in time

THE HISTORY CHANNEL

- On Aug. 23, 1902, pioneering cookbook author Fannie Farmer, who changed the way Americans prepare food, opens Miss Farmer's School of Cookery in Boston. Farmer later educated medical professionals about the importance of proper nutrition for the sick.
 - On Aug. 24, 1875, Capt. Matthew Webb of Great Britain becomes the first person to successfully swim the English Channel without assistance. Webb reached shore in 21 hours and 45 minutes. In 1883, Webb attempted to swim the Niagara River and drowned in 10 minutes.
 - On Aug. 25, 1950, in anticipation of a strike by railroad workers, President Harry Truman issues an executive order putting America's railroads under the control of the U.S. Army, saying it was necessary for the protection of American citizens as well as "essential to the national defense and security of the Nation." He used the same justification for seizing control of steel plants.
 - On Aug. 26, 1974, Charles Lindbergh, the first man to accomplish a solo nonstop flight across the Atlantic Ocean, dies in Hawaii at age 72. To reduce weight during his famous 1927 flight, everything not essential was left out: radio, gas gauge, night-flying lights, navigation equipment and parachute.
 - On Aug. 27, 1938, George E. T. Eyston breaks his own automobile land speed record with a 345.49 mph run at the Bonneville Salt Flats. His Thunderbolt had two 2,000-horsepower Rolls Royce motors geared together.
 - On Aug. 28, 1988, an airshow at Ramstein Air Base in Germany turns tragic when three military fighter jets collide in mid-air and fall into the crowd. Seventy of some 100,000 spectators died and hundreds more were injured.
 - On Aug. 29, 1942, the Red Cross reveals that Japan refused free passage of ships carrying food, medicine and other necessities for American POWs held by Japan. Japan allowed just 10% of what POWs elsewhere received.
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Battle of I-10 back this weekend after taking a year off

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 #2**.

PROPOSED TAX RATE	\$0.100000 per \$100
NO-NEW-REVENUE TAX RATE	\$0.088463 per \$100
VOTER-APPROVAL TAX RATE	\$0.100542 per \$100

The no-new-revenue tax rate is the tax rate for the **2021** tax year that will raise the same amount of property tax revenue for **El Paso County ESD #2** from the same properties in both the **2020** tax year and the **2021** tax year.

The voter-approval rate is the highest tax rate that **El Paso County ESD #2** 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 #2** is proposing to increase property taxes for the **2021** tax year.

A PUBLIC MEETING ON THE PROPOSED TAX RATE WILL BE HELD ON August 31, 2021 at 6:00 PM at 16001 Socorro Road, Fabens, TX 79838 and via web at <https://www.epcountyesd2.org/2021-meetings/>.

The proposed tax rate is not greater than the voter-approval tax rate. As a result, **El Paso County ESD #2** 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 #2** 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:

$$\text{Property tax amount} = (\text{tax rate}) \times (\text{taxable value of your property}) / 100$$

FOR the proposal: **Adrian Santana, Mike Diaz, Michael Barnes, Jacqueline Butler and Rick Avalos Jr.,**

AGAINST the proposal: **None**

PRESENT and not voting: **None**

ABSENT: **None**

The 86th 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 #2** last year to the taxes proposed to be imposed on the average residence homestead by **El Paso County ESD #2** this year.

	2020	2021	Change
Total tax rate (per \$100 of value)	\$0.095097	\$0.100000	Increase of 0.004903, or 5.16%
Average homestead taxable value	\$95,231	\$107,676	Increase of 12,445, or 13.07%
Tax on average homestead	\$90.56	\$107.68	Increase of 17.12, or 18.90%
Total tax levy on all properties	\$3,704,830	\$4,314,359	Increase of 609,529, or 16.45%

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 epcountyesd2.org for more information.

By Steve Escajeda
Special to the Courier

Fans in El Paso and Las Cruces are getting ready for this Saturday's annual Battle of I-10 football game at Aggie Memorial Stadium.

It'll kickoff the 2021 season for both the Miners and the Aggies, who are anxious to get the year off on the right foot.

But this weekend's game brings with it a little something special.

After the nightmare season of 2021 that was spoiled by the covid-19 pandemic, resuming the rivalry will be a welcomed experience.

I say “resuming” because this game wasn’t played last year. UTEP only played eight games (3-5) because four of them were cancelled due of the virus.

If you think that was bad, NMSU didn't play a single game. The Aggies entire 2020 season was wiped out due to the severe New Mexico pandemic restrictions.

So the chance to get back on the football field has got both teams excited and ready to do what they enjoy most, play the game.

And not just play the game, play the game in front of fans. There are no restrictions when it comes to the number of fans who can go to the stadium. Unlike last season, when many college games were played in empty stadiums, well, unless you count the number of silent cardboard cutout fans who lined the first few rows.

Local fans will get to sit in comfort again, enjoy some nachos or a hot dog and a drink,

and yell their lungs out for their favorite team.

But no matter how great it'll feel just to get back to playing, we can't forget there is a football game going on. How will it go?

Well, UTEP has an almost unbelievably bad 5-39 record over the last four years and understandably, was picked to finish dead last in this year's Conference USA standings.

Although they did win three games a year ago, the Miners come into this season on a four-game losing streak.

But if anything is in the favor of this year, at least they'll know what to expect. The Miners are an experienced team, bringing back all 11 starters on offense and nine on defense.

That alone, should go a long way at putting the Miners over the top in some close games. After all, learning how to win those games instead of lose them, takes time and experience.

UTEP quarterback Gavin Hardison has a gun for an arm. But no matter how strong it is, it can't do much damage if it keeps missing the target. If Hardison can improve on his accuracy, talented receivers Jacob Cowing and Justin Garrett will put up some impressive numbers.

The Miners are probably the deepest at running back, led by former Parkland High School standout, Deion Hankins. But you can add Quadraiz Wadley and Ronald Awatt and Willie Eldridge to the mix and the production won't drop off much at all.

On defense, the Miners are led by big defensive end Praise Amaewhule, who recorded seven

See SPORTS, Page 8

Super Crossword

HIDDEN STAIRS

ACROSS

57 Cannes' Palme _
Hindu monks
Gorilla or gibbon
Baby doll call
Igrominy
Wound antiseptic
Nothing
Chilled
Tabloid VIP
Long poems in
d arch animals speak
d act like humans
Figure skater's
p
Drizzles, e.g.
Beethoven
ecialty
Much-shared GIF,
ybe
Murmur
continuously
Bodega, e.g.
Detecting of
eetness, flavor, etc.
Spiny-crested
rd
Place atop
Not busy
Installments of TV
ies that were not
served
Biology and
blogy, e.g.
It may be loose-leaf
Clan carvings
" _ found it!"
Pub. houses hire
m
One of the Judds

DOWN

1 Sis, say
2 Adversity
3 Org. for a
periodontist
4 Say wrongly
5 Gung-ho on
6 In view
7 Ekberg of
Hollywood
8 Blue Period artist
Pablo
9 Overhead rails
10 Highway distance
marker
11 Keen insight
12 Rhythm
13 Lumber tool
14 High ethical
standards
15 Encourage
16 Court excuse
17 _ Park (Edison's
lab site)
18 Jed Clampett

192 Enter... or what
each of seven long
answers in this puzzle
has
116 Prepare to pray, say
117 Go higher
118 Old Olds
119 Conductor of
impulses
120 Composer Camille
Saint_
121 Direct
122 Age-verifying docs.
123 Trees that tremble

player Buddy
24 Singer Benatar
28 Parcel (out)
29 Make obscure
30 Pooh creator
31 Put up _ fight
32 Undergoes
oxidation
34 TV's Turner
35 Orator of old Rome
37 Neighbor of Colo.
38 GI address
42 Scottish isle
43 Pop music of
Jamaica
44 Quits
45 Eyelashes,
anatomically
46 Give the boot
47 Awareness
50 Danish port
54 Irish playwright
Sean
55 Ale grain
56 Capri, e.g., to a
Capriote
58 Filmmaker
Preminger
59 Stellar bear
60 Dog healer
61 Ending for journal
63 Three- _ sloth
64 NASA moon
lander
65 Ending for journal
66 Insurer with a duck
mascot
67 San _ Bay
68 Stellar hunter
69 Grain storers

72 Redcap, e.g.
73 On the job
77 "POV" aier
78 Fog
79 Open, as some
jackets
80 John Irving's "A
Prayer for Owen _"
82 Armories
83 Freeway exit
inclines
84 Came to pass
86 Tavern cask
87 Green gp.
88 Adds pep to
90 Take revenge
92 "Behold!," to
Brutus
93 Brutus' lang.
94 Sent forth
96 Ukraine city
98 Goes on foot
99 "George & _"
(1990s talk show)
100 "Yes, _!" ("For
sure!")
101 Actor Davis in
many Spike Lee films
102 Creme-filled
cookies
103 Puppy bite
108 Funny Fey
109 Wallet singles
111 Internet ID
112 _ Lankan
113 Fury
114 Comedian Rickles
115 USNA grad.

Answer Page 7

Sports

From Page 6

sacks and eight tackles for losses in just eight games.

The Aggies, on the other hand, are a complete mystery. As we said earlier, they didn't play a single game in 2020 and come into the season with 35 players who have never played a snap for the team.

To make matters worse, during their last full season in 2019, NMSU was just 2-10.

Anyway,backtothisSaturday's game, head coach Doug Martin says he isn't totally sure yet who'll start at quarterback for the Aggies, but it appears that junior college transfer Jonah Johnson will get the nod.

Johnson, like many others, is new to the program and it'll probably take time for him to get comfortable with big-time college football.

Due to the inexperience and turnover in the NMSU football program, the odds favor UTEP in this one.

But the Aggies do come into the game having won three straight from the Miners, so they won't be suffering from a lack of confidence.

Whatever happens this Saturday, both teams will come out on top just by taking the field after the disappointment of 2020.

The cherry on top of the sundae, will go to the team who can start turning its program around with a big rivalry win.

Archives: www.wtxcc.com

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: Y equals T

OQBD F LFD YZKBT YS
USLIBA RSJ YS NJR F
NSFY, OSJAC RSJ USDTKCBZ
KY F TFKAT IKYUQ?

Answer Page 7

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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

Answer Page 7

♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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VA grants to help homeless veterans



by Freddy Groves

More than 260 non-profit community programs across the country received portions of \$418 million in grants for the Support Services for Veteran Families program. Last year alone the Department of Veterans Affairs served 77,590 veterans and their 19,919 children in the program.

The SSVF program runs in all 50 states, as well as Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands, District of Columbia and Guam. Its main focus is homelessness and getting veterans and their families into permanent housing. The SSVF partners with community programs with all manner of help: case management, VA benefits, health care, child care, daily living services, legal assistance, transportation, financial planning, counseling and much more. In some cases,

there are time-limited payments to landlords, utilities and moving companies if that helps a veteran and family to stay in or get to permanent housing.

To learn more about the SSVF program, go online to www.va.gov/homeless/ssvf. There's a list of SSVF providers by state for programs all across the country, plus contact information and phone numbers. You also can call the National Call Center for Homeless Veterans at 1-877-4AIDVET (1-877-424-3838).

The best website is www.va.gov/homeless, where you can click on Community Resource and Referral Centers (CRRCs). That page also has a chat link. If you're in crisis, call 1-800-273-8255 and press 1. Additionally, you can call your closest VA medical center. If you have no other options (no phone, no internet, are homeless or are at imminent risk for it), just go. Just show up at the medical center. If you are not yet homeless, contact them in advance, due to COVID restrictions.

One thing to keep in mind: These grants given to community programs are not bottomless buckets. Funding can and does run out, and there isn't more until the next disbursement. If you need help, apply now. Make your calls, get put on lists.

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by Jo Ann Derson

• Coffee filters make wonderful glass cleaners. They leave behind no streaks and no residual lint.

• Berries are in season, and there's no greater time to stock up. But don't feel like you have to make jam out of all the berries. Freeze in a single layer and transfer to a freezer-safe bag or container. Later they can be popped into muffins and quick breads, as well as eaten straight out of the bag for a delicious treat.

• "Do you love burgers? Here's a great thing our family does that saves money and is very handy: When ground beef goes on sale, we buy a large quantity and premake many burger patties, seasoned and shaped just as we like them. Then we separate them with butcher's paper cut into squares. We put them in stacks, and then into empty bread bags to store in the freezer. When we are getting ready to cook out, the patties don't have to be all the way defrosted, just put on the grill and cooked up!" – A.J. in Florida

• Okra, which is at its peak July through September, makes an excellent stew thickener. But it's quite yummy on the grill as well, brushed with olive oil and lightly seasoned. Just be sure you don't wash it until you are ready to use it. There's a natural protective coating on it, and if you wash it off, it'll get slimy.

• Old socks can be fitted around the head of an old mop or Swiffer base. Spray with cleaner and clean away. When you are done, remove the sock and launder.

Send your tips to Now Here's a Tip, 628 Virginia Drive, Orlando, FL 32803. (c) 2021 King Features Synd., Inc.

GO FIGURE! by Linda Thistle

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.

DIFFICULTY: ★★★

★ Moderate ★★ Difficult

★★★ GO FIGURE!

Answer Page 7

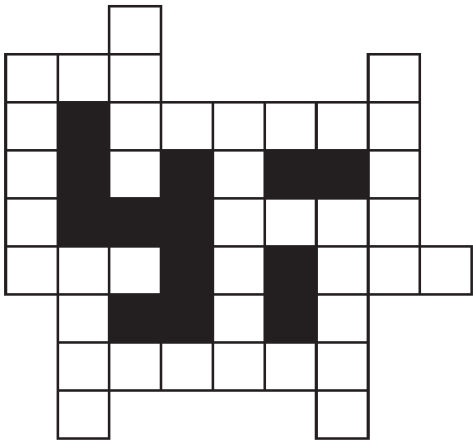
	+		-		4
+		+		×	
	÷		+		4
÷		×		-	
	×		-		3
2		7		6	

1 2 3 4 4 5 6 7 8

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ULF
BROLEN
RUFOL
MEPH
ORCSEA
♥RAB
EUBA
♥HEFSL
ESH
LIMNEA
♥ERBAL
KULC



Answer Page 7

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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