



## NEWSBRIEFS

**Student debt**  
With the average student loan debt reaching over \$37,000 per borrower, the personal-finance website WalletHub has released its report on 2023's *States with the Most and Least Student Debt*, as well as expert commentary. To determine the states that are friendliest toward student-loan debtors, WalletHub compared the 50 states and the District of Columbia across 12 key metrics. The data set ranges from average student debt to unemployment rate among the population aged 25 to 34 to share of students with past-due loan balances. Texas was rated 22nd in the report, ranking (1-Most; 25-Avg.):

- 40th – Avg. Student Debt;
- 37th – Proportion of Students with Debt;
- 30th – Student Debt as % of Income (Adjusted for Cost of Living);
- 29th – Unemployment Rate of Population Aged 25 to 34;
- 9th – % of Student Loans Past Due or in Default;
- 19th – Availability of Student Jobs;
- 9th – Availability of Paid Internships; and
- 26th – Grant Growth.

Visit <https://wallethub.com/edu/best-and-worst-states-for-student-debt/7520> for the full report.

– Diana Polk

**EPCC pro family**  
Parents and caregivers interested in enrolling in college can now do so with their little ones in tow. El Paso Community College (EPCC) is excited to share its new initiative, “Family College”, a program geared at the equity and support of caregivers during their academic journey. The program, “Take a Class While Your Child Does Too!” is set to begin for Fall 2023 at the Valle Verde Campus, 919 Hunter Drive, and will provide college-credit classes (English 1301 and Speech 1315) for caregivers while their children, ages 6 to 14, simultaneously take classes with the EPCC Children’s College. The Children’s College classes include Drawing, Computers, Martial Arts, Reading, CSI and Gymnastics. Space is limited. Classes are offered evenings and Saturdays. For more information, contact Sandra Ornelas, EPCC Counselor, at [sornelas@epcc.edu](mailto:sornelas@epcc.edu).

– Jim Heiney

*Everybody is in favor of progress. It's the change they don't like.*  
– Quips & Quotes

## Daily scam calls can cause big problems

By Alfredo Vasquez  
Special to the Courier

EL PASO COUNTY – Anyone who owns a cellphone knows about robocalls. They have become a real problem lately. As a matter of fact, more than 33 million scam robocalls a day are made to Americans. These calls typically target the most vulnerable citizens – seniors – with scams including Social Security Administration fraud according to a recent report by the National Consumer Law Center and Electronic Privacy Information (NCLCEPI) Center.

Consequently, Federal Trade Commission (FTC) authorities said that they are going to do something about the problem by going after “lead-generation consent farms”, which are scams that often trick consumers by offering free prizes, rewards, or potential job leads if they provide their personal information. That “consent,” the FTC said, can then be sold to telemarketers and lead to receiving unwanted robocalls.

FTC officials reported that they “won’t stop until companies that violate the FTC Act and the Telemarketing Sales Rule hang up once and for all.” Already, court rulings have ordered violators to pay more than \$2 billion, and the FTC has collected more than \$394 million with most of the money refunded to defrauded consumers.

The latest FTC effort, known as Operation Stop Scam Calls, involves more than 100 federal and state law enforcement and the attorneys general of all 50 states and Washington, D.C. Together, they are



– Internet

**THIEVES ABOUND** – United States regulators announced recently that a nationwide crackdown was underway to stop companies from inundating people with billions of unwanted and illegal robocalls and telemarketing calls. Nearly \$30 billion was stolen from Americans through scam calls in 2021, according to the National Consumer Law Center and Electronic Privacy Information Center.

international network of robocallers.

The FCC announced the charges against what it called a “transnational illegal robocalling operation.” The operation involved a network of companies across the world that executed more than 5 billion robocalls to more than 500 million phone numbers over three months in 2021.

The illegal operation had been attempting to scam users since 2018 by claiming to facilitate the sale of vehicle services under the false notion of selling auto warranties, FCC

See SCAMS, Page 4

## Marioni is new SPED director in San Eli ISD

By Jeannie Meza-Chavez  
Special to the Courier

SAN ELIZARIO – The San Elizario Independent School District (SEISD) has named April Soliz Marioni as the new Special Education Director. Marioni is entering her 26th year in education, most recently as the principal of San Elizario High School since 2020.

Marioni holds a Master’s in Education in Guidance and Counseling, a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology and Spanish from Angelo State University and a Bachelor’s in Theology, and an Associate in Theology from the International Apostolic Bible College. She holds certifications as a special education teacher, counselor, English

as Second Language, and Principal.

Marioni will oversee the instructional learning environment of approximately 488 special education students in collaboration with 33 teachers. “I am thankful for the opportunity to continue serving San Elizario ISD in a different capacity. The road has been paved, and all the hard work that came before me will help us continue the work of the Special Education Department,” she said.

Marioni has been with SEISD for eleven years. She was principal of



– Photo courtesy SEISD

April Soliz Marioni

Ann M. Garcia Enriquez Middle School and has experience as an assistant principal, instructional facilitator and special education teacher.

Associate superintendent, Dr. Rogelio Segovia noted, “Mrs. Marioni is a proven leader dedicated to serving the children of San Elizario ISD and unwaveringly committed to fostering their academic success. We eagerly welcome her to lead our outstanding special education department, confident in her ability to further strengthen and elevate their collective efforts.”



# The Florida slavery smear

There have been so many poisonous and stupid lies about Florida since 2020, it's almost hard to keep track, but the latest may be the most outrageous.

As you might have heard thanks to the vice president of the United States, Florida allegedly wants to teach its students that slavery benefited slaves.

In reality, the Florida curriculum on slavery is extensive and includes pretty much everything you'd want a child to know about this enormity. The occasion for the Kamala Harris smear is one line that says, "Instruction includes how slaves developed skills which, in some instances, could be applied for their personal benefit."

This is not the first thing, or even the 19th, that you'd want students to learn about slavery, but it is also indisputably true.

No one is saying the enslaved "benefited" from

slavery.

It's not an endorsement of slavery to point out that slaves looked for every crack in the system to try to improve themselves and gain some autonomy – rather, it's an endorsement of the initiative and resilience of an oppressed people operating in the worst of circumstances.

We are supposed to believe that enslaved African Americans strained against their awful condition in every way – learning to read, worshipping on their own, defying their masters when they could, creating an elaborate system of escape, but they never, ever learned a skill to their own benefit.

This is, of course, nonsense. The Advanced Placement African American Studies curriculum that Florida has rejected contains almost exactly the same language about skills as the state's curriculum

– without causing a firestorm of criticism.

Some of the most honored African American figures in our history took advantage of whatever ability they had, while enslaved, to improve themselves and learn. In Baltimore, Frederick Douglass famously became a ship caulker and brought in \$6 to \$9 a week, rightly resenting "the right of the robber" exercised by his owner, who took his earnings.

In his extraordinary "African Founders: How Enslaved People Expanded American Ideals," David Hackett Fischer brings to light other lesser-known examples. He notes the example of one Captain

See LOWRY, Page 7



# SISD named 2023 TAEA District of Distinction

By Christy Flores–Jones  
*Special to the Courier*

EL PASO COUNTY – The Socorro Independent School District's Fine Arts department has been recognized with the 2023 District of Distinction Award from the Texas Art Education Association (TAEA) for a third consecutive year.

Socorro ISD is among the top 5.5 percent of districts in the state to earn the honor this year. The district received the award for providing a well-rounded education that advocates and integrates visual arts curriculum to inspire creativity and build social emotional learning that connects learners to their community and beyond.

"Socorro ISD is proud to offer one of the best visual arts programs in the region," said Superintendent Nate Carman, Ed.D. "Our students' talents have been recognized at the state and regional level and this is due in large part to our outstanding teachers who are committed to providing our students the best opportunities in fine arts education."

SISD offers award-winning, diverse and competitive fine arts programs to enhance student creativity, coordination, and discipline for a complete educational experience. The district provides endless opportunities in the fine arts at all campuses, including two exclusive fine arts academies – Paso Del Norte Fine Arts Academy, which is in its second year, and Ernesto Serna Fine Arts Academy, which debuted for the 2023-2024 school year.

"This award highlights the outstanding work of our students and visual art teachers who contributed to earning this distinction," said SISD Fine Arts director Armando Martinez. "We are honored to receive this award for a third year in a row, and we remain committed to ensuring that all our students seize their opportunities to showcase their talents and achieve success."

All the winning districts will be honored at the TAEA Administration & Supervision Division meeting and General Session during the TAEA Fall Conference General Assembly on November 17, 2023.

## Food for thought By John Grimaldi

# When fast is not fast enough

Experts predicted the failure of commercial supersonic air travel long before the first Concorde took off on January 21, 1976 ushering in a short-lived era of Super Sonic Travel (SST). On that day a British Airways SST took off from London's Heathrow Airport headed for Bahrain in the Persian Gulf and an Air France SuperJet flew from Paris to Rio de Janeiro, both carrying plane loads of passengers. After all, the Concorde was a British-French joint venture.

However, try as they might, the Concorde was inefficient and very expensive to maintain. And at least one commercial aviation expert warned that despite the plane's cruising speed of about 1,500 miles per hour, it was too slow to make it worth the exorbitant cost of a seat. An average round trip New York-London ticket, according to the *Smithsonian Magazine*, set you back about \$12,000 in 1976. According to the Consumer Price Index Inflation Calculator, that's the equivalent of \$63,656 today. Alas, the last flight of the Concorde took place in 2003. But efforts are underway to build a better, more efficient SST airplane.

The website, *Jalopnik*, reports that supersonic travel is not a thing of the past, that there is a market of "wealthy airline passengers" who await "the return of faster-than-sound transit" and that there are several companies focused on delivering "the spiritual successor to the Concorde very soon. American Airlines and United have both put deposits down on one company's supersonic jet – the Boom Supersonic Overture – that promises to be in passenger service by 2029."

As fast as SSTs are, one of

1973

50

Years

2023

WEST TEXAS COUNTY

COURIER

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## Food for thought By Dr. Glenn Mollette

# Life is always changing

No doubt life is always changing. If you don't like the weather it will change, eventually. It's been hot most all over but cooler weather will come. In most of the country, cooler weather will be welcomed sooner rather than later.

An Arizona friend told me last week, "One hundred degrees is actually nice in our area. One hundred and twenty degrees is unbearable." Across our country, Europe and Asia record temperatures have been recorded and for the longest periods of time.

When it's icy cold weather we hope and wish for warm weather. The problem in many of our areas is that we don't have much moderately cool weather or moderately warm. It seems to either be blazing hot or freezing cold.

It's hard to be satisfied. We get too hot and then we get too cold. Triple digit heat is insane and so is below zero. No one wants either one.

Have you ever been satisfied with your life? When were you satisfied? Were you happy when your parent was telling you what to do and how to live? Do you still have them telling you what to do? The day comes when they are no longer around. Most likely you didn't take as much advice from them as you should have.

We don't pay much attention to old people when we are young but we wish we had. They knew more than us but we thought we knew everything. We now know how smart they were. We learn the hard way and by the time we figure it out life has greatly changed.

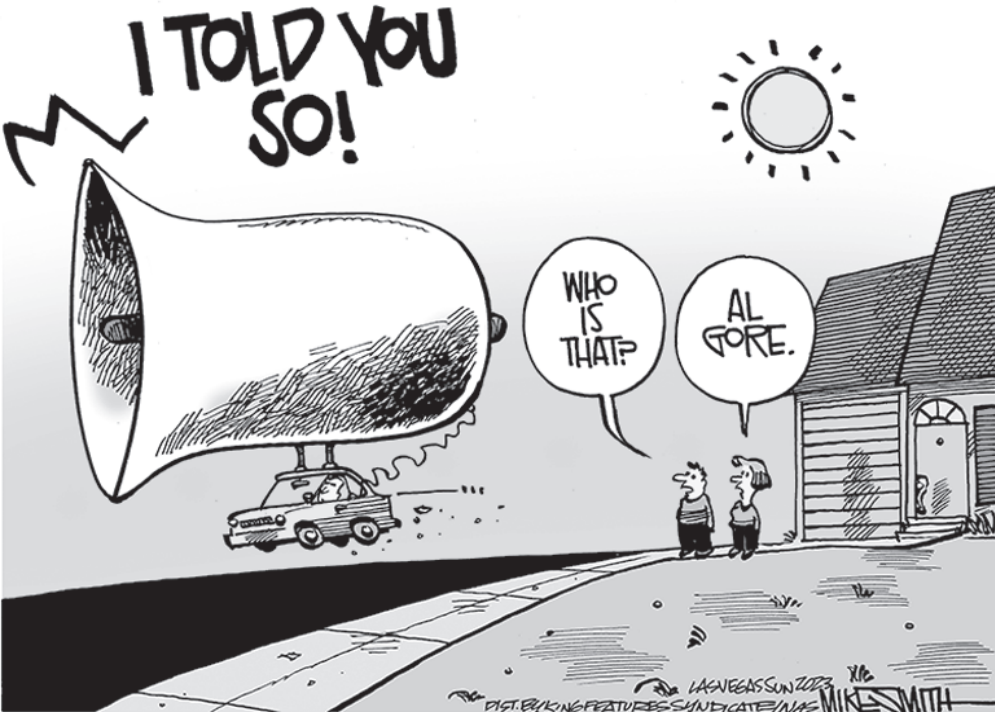
Life is always changing. Children grow into adults. Our bodies change. We get old if we are very fortunate and blessed.

If possible, try to be happy and content today with what you have, where you are and what you are doing. Life changes and while it may get better and better, it can always become worse.

Enjoy the sunshine and enjoy the rain. Enjoy the car ride or sitting in your swing. Enjoy

See LIFE, Page 4





# Paseo del Este Municipal Utility District No. 1

## Notice of Public Hearing on Tax Rate

The Paseo del Este Municipal Utility District No. 1 of El Paso County will hold a public hearing on a proposed tax rate for the tax year 2023 on Wednesday, August 23, 2023, at 10:30 A.M. MT at TRE & Associates, LLC, 6101 West Courtyard, Building One, Suite 100, Austin, Texas 78730. 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 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 Holford, Roark, Mellenbruch and Covington

**AGAINST** the proposal: NONE

**PRESENT** and not voting: NONE

**ABSENT:** Director Mills

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 of value)	0.75/\$100	0.75/\$100
	Adopted	Proposed
Difference in rates per \$100 of value		\$ -
Percentage increase / decrease in rates (+/-)		- %
Average appraised residence homestead value	\$ 268,787	\$ 283,935
General homestead exemptions available (excluding 65 years of age or older or disabled person's exemptions)	\$ -	\$ -
Average residence homestead taxable value	\$ 268,787	\$ 283,935
Tax on average residence homestead	\$ 2,015.90	\$ 2,129.51
Annual increase / decrease in taxes if proposed tax rate is adopted (+/-)	\$ 113.61	
and percentage of increase (+/-)	5.64%	

If the proposed combined debt service, operation and maintenance, and contract tax rate requires or authorizes an election to approve or reduce the tax rate, the Paseo del Este Municipal Utility District No. 1 proposes to use the tax increase for the purpose of administrative expenses or to reimburse amounts owed to developers.

### 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.



Life

From Page 2

whatever labor you have to do. The time is coming when all will be through. Live your life the best you can and there will be times you don't understand. So, make your schedule, make your plans and always do the best you can. After all is said and done, it's all in God's hands.

Glenn Mollette is a graduate of numerous schools including Georgetown College, Southern and Lexington Seminaries in Kentucky. He is the author of "Uncommon Sense" and 12 other books. His column is published weekly in over 600 publications in all 50 states. Learn more at [www.glennmollette.com](http://www.glennmollette.com) or [www.facebook.com/glennmollette](https://www.facebook.com/glennmollette).

Fast

From Page 2

the reasons that the Concorde failed in the end was the fact that the three hours or so that it took that plane to travel from New York to London was not fast enough to make its high cost worth it. High rollers are not willing to pay the premium to simply cut little more than three hours off their trip; they want to be able to fly to London in an hour or so, have a business lunch and get back to New York in time to have a late afternoon cocktail before dinner. Thus, the new focus is on the creation of hypersonic passenger aircraft.

Retired Air Force Brigadier General Blaine Holt recently told *Newsmax* that the next horizon as regards commercial airfare is decidedly hypersonic. As he put it, "People are turning away from folks who think our best days are behind us undaunted and going into science and tech. We are coming back to something that is in our bones as a nation.

Hypersonics, and the science that spins off of it, is so exciting."

The *Newsmax* report explains that while the SSTs of yore traveled at about Mach 2 or 1,535 miles per hour, a hypersonic flies at a speed of Mach 9 or more than 6,900 miles an hour, making it possible to fly from New York to Tokyo in about an hour – a trip that today takes conventional airliners more than 14 hours. The report focuses on the work in progress of Venus Aerospace of Houston, TX. It's working on a hypersonic aircraft that can carry about a dozen passengers at Mach 9.

Hermeus in Atlanta, GA says it is planning to have a plane that could get passengers from New York to Paris in an hour and a half and that it will be ready by 2029.

The Association of Mature American Citizens (<http://www.amac.us>) is a senior advocacy organization that takes its marching orders from its members. We act and speak on their behalf, protecting their interests and offering a practical insight on how to best solve the problems they face today.

Archives: [www.wtxcc.com](http://www.wtxcc.com)



- By Lucie Winborne
- The blobfish gets its nickname from its saggy appearance when it's brought to the surface from the deep part of the ocean where it lives. Because it has no skeleton and very little muscle, water pressure that would crush human organs gives the animal physical structure at that depth.
  - To maintain the historical accuracy of the American Colonial era, Disney World's Liberty Square was built without any restrooms. (But no, you won't find any outhouses, either.)
  - And speaking of restrooms, there are public toilets for dogs in China.
  - The character of cross-dressing Corporal Klinger on the TV series "M\*A\*S\*H" was allegedly influenced by comedian Lenny Bruce's claim that he was discharged from the Navy for saying he had "homosexual tendencies."
  - Eberhard Anheuser, cofounder of the Anheuser-Busch brewery, got his start in manufacturing with soap and candles.
  - Due to a technical glitch in his debit card payment processing, a man was accidentally charged 23 quadrillion dollars. As if that wasn't bad enough, since he didn't have the amount in his account, he was also charged a \$15 overdraft fee!
  - One-third of men's fragrances sold are actually worn by women.
  - Amethysts got their name from the ancient Greek word "amethystos," meaning "not drunk." They were once believed to prevent intoxication.
  - After the release of the 1996 film "Scream," which involved an anonymous killer calling and murdering his victims, caller ID usage tripled in the United States.
  - Canadian radio stations are required by law to play Canadian artists on the airwaves at least 35% of the time.
  - The "little black dress" was compared to the Ford car when it debuted in 1926, for its practicality and simplicity.
- Thought for the Day: "Never rob your character to enrich your pocket."  
– James Lendall Basford
- (c) 2023 King Features Synd., Inc.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

ON TAX INCREASE

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

PROPOSED TAX RATE	<b>\$0.100000</b> per \$100
NO-NEW-REVENUE TAX RATE	<b>\$0.089384</b> per \$100
VOTER-APPROVAL TAX RATE	<b>\$0.108948</b> per \$100

The no-new-revenue tax rate is the tax rate for the 2023 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 2022 tax year and the 2023 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 2023 tax year.

A PUBLIC HEARING ON THE PROPOSED TAX RATE WILL BE HELD ON August 16, 2023 at 6:30 PM at 14151 Nunda Ave., Horizon City, TX 79928 or virtual meeting: virtual meeting: Microsoft teams; access code: 290 393 108 682; Passcode: 3auPgx

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 Jose Berumen Deanne Rankins  
Jeff Booth Amanda Anaya

**AGAINST the proposal:** None  
**PRESENT** and not voting: None  
**ABSENT:** None

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.

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

	2022	2023	Change
<b>Total tax rate (per \$100 of value)</b>	2022 adopted tax rate \$0.100000	2023 proposed tax rate \$0.100000	No change of 0.100000 per \$100, or 0%.
<b>Average homestead taxable value</b>	2022 average taxable value of residence homestead \$188,406	2023 average taxable value of residence homestead \$210,635	Increase of 11.79%.
<b>Tax on average homestead</b>	2022 amount of taxes on average taxable value of residence homestead \$188.41	2023 amount of taxes on average taxable value of residence homestead \$210.64	Increase of \$22.23, or 11.79%
<b>Total tax levy on all properties</b>	2022 levy \$5,028,437.85	2023 proposed levy \$6,115,686,087 x 0.100000/100	Increase of \$1,087,248.24 or 21.62%.

For assistance with tax calculations, please contact the tax assessor for **EI Paso County ESD #1** at **915-771-2300** or [ctaxassessor@epcounty.com](mailto:ctaxassessor@epcounty.com), or visit [epcounty.com](http://epcounty.com) for more information.

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CryptoQuip

Answer

That kid loves Spider-Man and Black Panther, so at his birthday party they served Marvel cake.

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# Moments in time

THE HISTORY CHANNEL

- On Aug. 7, 1935, a tennis match in London was interrupted by, of all things, flying ants. The obnoxious critters didn't just annoy athletes, but encroached on people's kitchen pantries and piled up on their doorsteps. Authorities called it the worst pestilential attack in 25 years.
- On Aug. 8, 1921, the ship Alaska, which was headed for San Francisco, hit a rocky ledge twice off the coast of Alaska during a fog, causing the ship's boilers to explode. A number of passengers were thrown into the ocean. While 166 people were rescued by the ship Anyox, 31 remained missing and 28 lost their lives.
- On Aug. 9, 1979, the seaside town of Brighton became the first major resort in Britain to set aside a 200-yard stretch of its beach for nudists. When it officially opened the following year, Councillor Eileen Jakes told the attendant media: "There are 2,000 naturists in Sussex and millions of other people fly to the South of France each year to strip off. I would like to see them come here instead."
- On Aug. 10, 2008, singer-songwriter/actor/composer Isaac Hayes died of a stroke at the age of 65. Hayes cofounded the Southern soul-music label Stax Records and was best known for his work on the soundtrack of the movie "Shaft," including singing its theme song. He was also the first Black musician to win an Oscar (for that film).
- On Aug. 11, 2021, The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention advised all pregnant women to get the COVID-19 vaccine, as hospitals in hot spots around America noted a disturbing number of unvaccinated mothers-to-be coming down with serious

## Scams

From Page 1

officials reported.

"We take seriously our responsibility to protect consumers and the integrity of U.S. communications networks from the onslaught of these types of pernicious calls," FCC Enforcement Bureau Chief Loyaan Egal stated recently.

The FCC countered the illegal network's efforts by directing all U.S.-based voice service providers to stop carrying traffic from specific identifiable numbers. That action caused illegal calls from the network to drop by 99 percent.

In addition to targeting telemarketers, the crackdown also targeted Voice over Internet Protocol providers who facilitate robocalls, which often come from outside the country.

Federal authorities said that they are ramping up their war on phone scammers to make it harder for fraudsters to contact everyday Americans. "We are taking action against those who trick people into phony consent to receive these calls and those who make it easy and cheap to place these calls. The FTC and its law enforcement partners will not rest in the fight against illegal telemarketing," asserted FTC Bureau of Consumer Protection Director Samuel Levine.

1973

50

Years

2023

# WEST TEXAS COUNTY

# COURIER

SERVING ANTHONY, VINTON, CANUTILLO, EAST MONTANA, HORIZON, SOCORRO, CLINT, FABENS, SAN ELIZABO AND TORREILLO

## CLASSIFIED AD FORM

25 words - \$15 per week; 40 words - \$20 per week

1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20
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33	34	35	36
37	38	39	40

Deadline: Monday, 4 p.m.  
Please print. Send form and payment (no cash) to:

**West Texas County Courier**  
15344 Werling Ct.  
Horizon City, TX 79928

Contact Information:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

## Classified Ads

### LEGALS

#### Village of Vinton, TX

#### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Public hearings will be held at 6:30pm on Monday, August 28, 2023 during the Planning & Zoning Commission Meeting, and on Tuesday, September 5, 2023 during the Regular Council Meeting at Vinton Village Hall, 436 E. Vinton Road, Vinton, Texas.

The purpose of the public hearings is to allow any interested persons to appear and testify regarding the following item:

1) A request to amend the Unified Development Code section 3.05.04K to allow recreational vehicles in manufactured home parks for 30 days.

Those who are unable to attend may submit their views in writing to the Village Administrator at 436 E. Vinton Road, Vinton, Texas 79821. Persons with disabilities that wish to attend this meeting should contact City Hall at (915) 886-5104 to arrange for assistance. Individuals who require auxiliary aids or services for this meeting should contact City Hall at least two days before the meeting so that appropriate arrangements can be made.

MEETING WILL BE HELD IN PERSON, BUT THE PUBLIC CAN ACCESS THE MEETING THROUGH THE ZOOM.US PLATFORM AT THE FOLLOWING URL:

LINK: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2520023141?pwd=WVRDZDIFR3ZHR3FJVlJuL3ZLWTB6dz09>

THE VILLAGE PROVIDES T W O - W A Y COMMUNICATION FOR MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC TO COMMUNICATE WITH THE

COMMISSION DURING THE PUBLIC HEARING BY CALLING THE FOLLOWING NUMBER: +1 346 248 7799 AND THEN DIAL IN THE MEETING ID 252 002 3141 AND PASSCODE: 1 2 3 4 5 FOLLOWED BY THE POUND SIGN (#). THE MEETING WILL OPEN AT 6:25 PM ON EACH OF THE MEETING DATES SO THAT PEOPLE MAY START JOINING. THE MEETING WILL START AT 6:30 PM.

*Andrea N. Carrillo*  
Village Administrator

WTCC: 08-10-23

## NOTICE OF MEETING TO VOTE ON TAX RATE

A tax rate of **\$0.086457 per \$100** valuation has been proposed by the governing body of EL PASO COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT #2.

PROPOSED TAX RATE	<b>\$0.086457</b> per \$100
NO-NEW-REVENUE TAX RATE	<b>\$0.086457</b> per \$100
VOTER-APPROVAL TAX RATE	<b>\$0.088115</b> per \$100

The no-new-revenue tax rate is the tax rate for the 2023 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 2022 tax year and the 2023 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.

The proposed tax rate is not greater than the no-new-revenue tax rate. This means that EL PASO COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT #2 is not proposing to increase property taxes for the 2023 tax year.

A PUBLIC MEETING TO VOTE ON THE PROPOSED TAX RATE WILL BE HELD ON August 15, 2023 AT 6:00 PM AT 16001 Socorro Road, Fabens, TX 79838 and via web at:

<https://www.epcountyesd2.org/2023-meetings>

The proposed tax rate is also not greater than the voter-approval tax rate. As a result, EL PASO COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT #2 is not required to hold an election to seek voter approval of the rate. However, you may express your support for or opposition to the proposed tax rate by contacting the members of the BOARD OF DIRECTORS of EL PASO COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT #2 at their offices or by attending the public meeting mentioned above.

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

<b>FOR the proposal:</b>	Adrian Santana	Michael Diaz	Roland Glidden
	Rick Avalos	Michael Barnes	
<b>AGAINST the proposal:</b>	None		
<b>PRESENT</b> and not voting:	None		
<b>ABSENT:</b>	None		

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.

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.

	2022	2023	Change
<b>Total tax rate (per \$100 of value)</b>	\$0.093580	\$0.086457	Decrease of -0.007123, or -7.61%
<b>Average homestead taxable value</b>	\$127,561	\$143,804	Increase of 16,243, or 12.73%
<b>Tax on average homestead</b>	\$119.37	\$124.33	Increase of 4.96, or 4.16%
<b>Total tax levy on all properties</b>	\$4,762,271	\$4,991,738	Increase of 229,467, or 4.82%

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](mailto:citytaxoffice@elpasotexas.gov), or visit [epcountyesd2.org](https://www.epcountyesd2.org) for more information.



# The greed in college athletics is sinking to new depths

By Steve Escajeda  
*Special to the Courier*

Every team in every league knows that their rosters won’t be exactly the same as they were the year before, no matter how good or bad they performed.

Players are cut, they’re traded, some retire, and many just decide they want to play elsewhere.

And every fan has to re-familiarize themselves with the squad.

But it’s one thing to have to look up the names of new players on the roster at the start of a new season – it’s quite another to have to look up what new teams make up your favorite league.

It’s no secret that the landscape of college athletics, especially football, is changing. Players getting to change colleges almost at will, athletes being paid incredible amounts of money to play at certain colleges, and astronomical TV deals that bring millions, maybe billions, to conferences and colleges.

It used to be that you knew what teams were in the Big Ten or the ACC or the SEC or the Big 12 or the PAC 12. But corporate greed is changing all of that. You can almost see the dollar signs in the eyes of university presidents.

The PAC 12 has always been referred to as the “conference of champions” because they win more titles than any other league. But most of those titles come in the minor sports like swimming, gymnastics, tennis, track and field, lacrosse, golf, fencing and others. I’m not trying to downplay their achievements but let’s be honest, the fans pay attention to football and basketball.

That’s where all the money is.

A couple years ago, the PAC 12 was doing fine. Since then, USC and UCLA left to join the Big Ten. Washington and Oregon have announced that they are also leaving for the Big Ten. Then just last week, Arizona, Arizona State,

Colorado and Utah announced that were leaving for the Big 12.

That leaves the PAC 12 with just four teams, Oregon State, Washington State, Cal and Stanford.

Of course it’s going to affect other conferences. Will the Mountain West merge with the PAC 12 schools? Will those remaining four just join other conferences?

It’s a mess. But it doesn’t end there.

There are schools like Florida State saying they no longer want to be in the ACC. And if they leave can Clemson be far behind? If you’re as confused as I am, here’s what the new alignments look like... so far.

## SEC

Texas and Oklahoma will now be in the SEC with the likes of Alabama, LSU, Tennessee, Georgia and those guys. The SEC will now have 16 teams.

## Big Ten

Oregon, USC, UCLA and Washington

will push the Big Ten to 18 schools (I know, either they’ve just refused to change their name or they’re terrible at math), joining Ohio State, Michigan, Penn State, Wisconsin and all the others.

## Big 12

Over the next two years (after losing Texas and Oklahoma), the Big 12 conference will be adding Houston, BYU, Cincinnati, Central Florida, Arizona, ASU, Utah and Colorado, who will be joining Baylor, Kansas, TCU, Texas Tech and the rest, growing the conference to 16 teams.

## ACC

The ACC is remaining the same, but with Florida St. already announcing they want to leave, other colleges like Clemson, Miami, North Carolina and Duke could make some noise.

## CUSA

Closer to home, Conference USA members Charlotte, FAU, North Texas,

Rice, UAB and UTSA left to join the AAC (American Athletic Conference). James Madison and three other former CUSA members Marshall, Old Dominion and Southern Miss left to join the Sun Belt Conference.

Conference USA will look like this, UTEP, Western Kentucky, Louisiana Tech, Middle Tennessee, Florida International, Jacksonville State, Liberty, Sam Houston and NMSU. Kennesaw State will be joining in 2024.

Schools used to be joined by region, but now teams are scattered all over the country for one reason and one reason only – money.

Very greedy men are forming super greedy conferences that will leave out the little guys.

Those universities that are left for dead are going to have to cut certain sports to stay afloat.

Every time I see them say they are looking out for the best interests of the student-athlete, I check to see how much their nose has grown.

## Senior moment

By Matilda Charles

# New drug for Alzheimer’s disease

The FDA recently approved a new drug that is supposed to slow the progression of Alzheimer’s.

Earlier this year, the FDA gave conditional approval to Leqembi, pending more safety and efficacy trials. Now, with “accelerated approval,” the drug has full approval.

Another drug, Aduhelm, launched in June 2021, still only has conditional approval and is waiting results from more trials.

Both drugs work in a similar way, targeting the proteins in the brain. There are differences, however.

One difference between Leqembi and Aduhelm is the way it’s delivered. Aduhelm is given by spinal infusion and Leqembi is given intravenously every two weeks (although other means are being studied in trials that are still going on).

Another difference is in what the drugs do: Aduhelm targets the plaques in the brain, while Leqembi targets the proteins that create the plaques.

The other is the cost. Leqembi will likely cost \$26,500 per year, although that can vary by patient weight and

what schedule of maintenance dosing the patient is to get. Medicare will likely cover the majority of patients if they have a supplemental drug plan. The rest will likely pay the 20% coinsurance not covered by Medicare.

Aduhelm had much different pricing when it first came out – \$56,000 per year. Our Medicare Part B went up by \$21.60 in 2022, up to \$170 per month, likely due to the cost of Aduhelm, which Medicare initially expected to cost close to \$3,000. Some insurers said they wouldn’t cover the drug unless prices came down. The cost of the drug eventually did come down, to \$28,200.

The caveat about Leqembi, however, is that the experts point to the very small degree of slowing of early Alzheimer’s in the patients in the trial. In many, the result could be quite subtle. Still, some researchers say it does buy patients time and could delay the coming of the later stages of dementia.

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## Super Crossword

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119							120							121						
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Comix

OUT ON A LIMB By Gary Kopervas



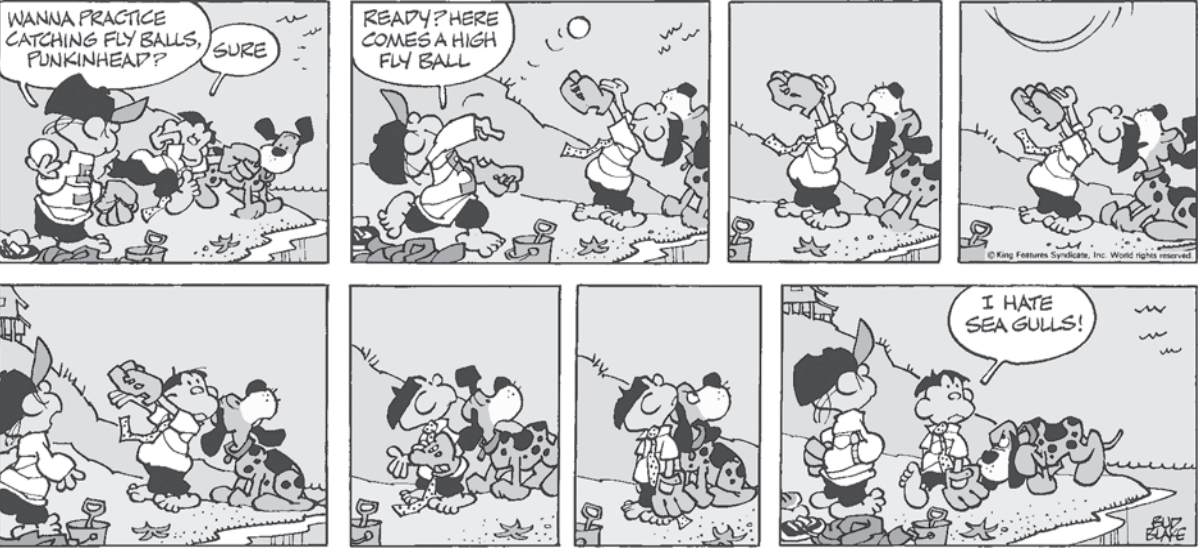
AMBER WAVES By Dave T. Phipps



THE SPATS By Jeff Pickering



TIGER By Bud Blake



Lowry

From Page 2

David Stodder, the leading shipbuilder in Baltimore in the late 18th century. As of 1790, about two dozen of his workers were slaves, and he freed them in his will. “Among these slaves,” Fischer writes, “were some of his most highly skilled workers.”

Or consider George R. Roberts, who was probably born a slave in southern Maryland. He became an experienced seaman and eventually “came home to Baltimore, bought a small house in the happy neighborhood that is still called Canton, and became prominent in the civic life of the city.”

Or Robert Lemmons, born a slave in Texas. He learned from a rancher who employed him and became extremely adept at handling mustangs. Freed after the Civil War, according to Fischer, he “saved his profits, invested in land, built a holding of 1,200 acres, became a successful rancher, rented some of his land, added another business, and became a local money lender.”

Was slavery good for these men? Absolutely

not. The point is what they accomplished despite slavery, not because of it.

Two can play the Kamala Harris game, by the way.

In her famous 1619 Project essay, The New York Times writer Nikole Hannah-Jones writes that: “Black people were not chattel. And so the process of seasoning, instead of erasing identity, served an opposite purpose: In the void, we forged a new culture all our own.”

There she goes – saying slavery served some good, that it was “seasoning.”

Imagine if the Florida curriculum said that slavery gave us African American hairstyles? There’d be outrage, but Hannah-Jones says it: “Today’s avant-garde nature of black hairstyles and fashion displays a vibrant reflection of enslaved people’s determination to feel fully human through self-expression.”

The left wouldn’t have to deny the historical record or tie itself into knots if it weren’t so determined to lie about DeSantis, but that imperative overwhelms everything else.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review. (c) 2023 by King Features Synd., Inc.

Hormone therapy too risky for 60-year-old

DEAR DR. ROACH: In a recently published column, you stated, “As always, the decision belongs to the patient,” while addressing a concern about the benefits and risks of stopping a statin drug. Oh, really? Then, why is it that, once I turned 60, not a single doctor will prescribe hormone replacement therapy (HRT) to stop my debilitating postmenopausal symptoms? After suffering from menopausal symptoms starting at age 42, I was finally prescribed HRT at age 57. What relief I felt, as it was the only remedy to alleviate my hot flashes, weight gain, lack of sleep and vaginal dryness. Once I hit 60, I was ordered to stop HRT, and no one since will prescribe it for me now. I am 66, suffer from hot flashes daily and have my sleep interrupted at least five times a night with terrible night sweats. I have tried just about every over-the-counter offering with zero effectiveness. I will gladly trade the greater risk of heart attack and stroke, and the possible shorter life span, for relief from symptoms that affect my daily quality of life. Clearly, the choice is not mine, because if I had a choice, I would ask for continued prescriptions of HRT to give me relief. Why don’t I have that choice as a patient? – R.M.T.



A patient always has the right to refuse a treatment recommended from a physician. However, the physician has the obligation to consider the risks and benefits of a treatment, and is not obliged to prescribe a treatment that they do not think is appropriate.

If a patient asks me for a treatment that has been shown to be ineffective and has the potential for serious adverse effects, I don’t prescribe it, but will work with the patient to find alternative treatments. For example, some nonhormonal prescription treatments are moderately effective for hot flashes and sleep disturbance, and topical estrogen is very effective for vaginal dryness.

However, the case of HRT for symptoms of menopause is more complicated, because estrogen is the most effective treatment we have for menopausal symptoms, particularly for hot flashes. There are risks to HRT, but the benefits for some women are so great that they are willing to accept some risks.

You mentioned the risk of heart disease and stroke. A landmark study called the Women’s Health Initiative helped to define and quantify those (and other) risks. Its effect has been to dramatically reduce the prescribing of menopausal hormone therapy, but the results should not be interpreted to mean that hormone treatment is always inappropriate, even in women who are in their mid-60s, where risks are higher.

Moreover, a woman’s entire health status should be considered when deciding whether to prescribe hormone treatments. In women with a history of an estrogen-dependent tumor (like many breast cancers), a history of a blood clot or a stroke, or a few other issues, the harm almost certainly outweighs the benefits. Otherwise, a wise clinician looks at the patient’s risk for heart disease, blood clots and similar conditions. Women at a very high risk for heart disease should probably avoid estrogen. Using lower-dose estrogen by patch (rather than pills) is wise for women at moderate risk, such as those who are in their 60s.

Physicians do not want to prescribe medications that will harm their patients, and most have stopped prescribing menopausal hormone therapy entirely for women, to prevent disease. However, it still has a role in treating symptoms. I recommend you seek out an expert in treatment of menopausal treatments and have a frank discussion about your willingness to assume risk in order to have a better quality of life.

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](mailto:ToYourGoodHealth@med.cornell.edu). (c) 2023 North America Synd., Inc. All Rights Reserved.





**Moore Texas** by Roger MOORE  
Franklin Roosevelt is the only President to ever be made honorary Chief by Texas’ Tigua Indians.

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: X equals L

LFVL CZK XNIYE EWZKYB-OVR  
VRK SXVGC WVRLFYB, EN VL  
FZE SZBLFKVP WVBLP LFYP  
EYBIYK OVBIYX GVCY.

Answer Page 4

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

9					3	5		
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	3		9					8
		4		1		3		

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 4

♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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Veteran suicide in a VA emergency room



by Freddy Groves

A veteran with a documented history of suicidal thoughts and attempts, as well as drug abuse and PTSD, committed suicide while being left unattended in a VA facility emergency room.

The Department of Veterans Affairs Office of Inspector General investigated, and they unearthed the facts. They are not pretty.

The veteran showed up at the VA facility ER with bladder complaints and depression. He’d been there before, and it was noted in his file that he’d had admissions for substance abuse and suicidal thoughts.

The first medical person (“Nurse 1”) did a triage, which is asking questions to decide how to classify the patient. Instead of using the computer to ask him

specific questions (per policy) and record his answers, she did it from memory. Nurse 1 allegedly told the physician (who was resting in another room) there was a patient waiting. Another person, Nurse 2, did a bladder scan.

An hour later, no physician had shown up. An additional hour later, Nurse 1 left for the day and handed off the records to incoming staff.

Later a technician found the veteran on the floor of the room, dead by suicide, still unseen by a doctor.

The OIG investigation revealed:

During the investigation, Nurse 1 could not recall from memory the risk assessment questions she supposedly asked the veteran. Nurse 1 also did not actually alert the physician that patients were waiting.

The physician did not respond to an alert from Nurse 2 either about patients waiting and did not get up until the boss came on shift.

The “Door to Doc” policy was severely violated. That

performance policy states that the target is 25 minutes from the time a patient walks in the door to the time he’s seen by a doctor – not the two hours and 20 minutes this veteran languished by himself.

Information surfaced that showed facility admin sought to interfere with the OIG investigation, instructing in emails that “appropriate responses to direct questions are: yes, no, I don’t know, and I don’t remember.”

To read the whole report, see [www.va.gov/oig/pubs/VAOIG-22-01540-146.pdf](http://www.va.gov/oig/pubs/VAOIG-22-01540-146.pdf).

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• Assorted hardware seems to collect in big, random piles in our tiny workshop. Nails, screws and bolts of all sizes are mixed together, tossed on the bench when a project is complete. Every so often, the kids and I make a game of sorting and organizing it using a muffin pan. It’s easy to sort by size and type!

• “After cleaning my paintbrushes recently, I decided to hang them from the clothesline to dry. It worked great, as the bristles were nice and soft when they were dry. I think it helped to hang straight down.” – O.C. in Washington

• Before you start a painting project and head to the hardware store, determine what you might need and raid your recycling bin for containers.

• Here’s a great way to get your lawn tools organized and off the floor: If you have any PVC pipe, you can cut some 4- or 5-inch sections and screw them into the wall vertically a foot or two from the floor in your garage. Slip the handle of your rake, garden hoe, broom, etc., down into the pipe, and it will stay stable against the wall. Make sure the pipe is wide enough.

• There are lots of shop, lawn and garden fluids that are not allowed in the trash. Contact your waste management provider to see if there is a place you can drop off hazardous waste in your community.

Send your tips to *Now Here's a Tip*, 628 Virginia Drive, Orlando, FL 32803. (c) 2023 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 4

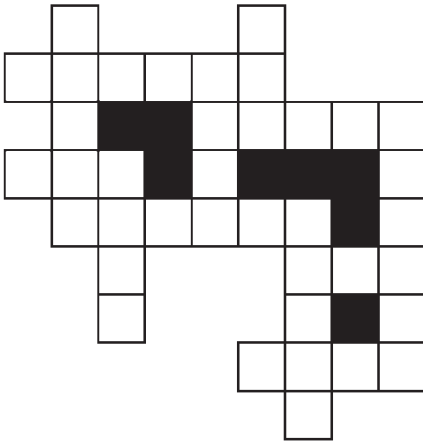
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♥DUDLEE  
♥DDA  
♥ALNE  
IRDEN  
♥NKI  
KARNET  
♥ASKEH  
♥ADLU



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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