

The Mossad canard

It's almost conventional wisdom in certain quarters that Jeffrey Epstein must have been working for the Israeli intelligence service Mossad.

"It's extremely obvious to anyone who watches that this guy," Tucker Carlson said of Epstein the other day, "had direct connections to a foreign government. No one is allowed to say that that foreign government is Israel because we've been somehow cowed into thinking that that's naughty."

Steve Bannon, covering all his bases, says Epstein was working for Mossad, MI6, Saudi intelligence and the CIA, while Charlie Kirk of Turning Point USA only says that Epstein may have been working for Mossad.

The first question to ask about this purported

relationship is, "Why would Mossad want to associate itself with Epstein?" He was under investigation for his sexual crimes going back to 2005 and convicted of a few of them (as part of a sweetheart plea deal) in 2008, and would be under federal investigation again about a decade later.

Clearly, it would risk an enormous black eye for the State of Israel to connect itself to a known sex offender whose lifestyle was flamboyant and an ongoing crime scene.

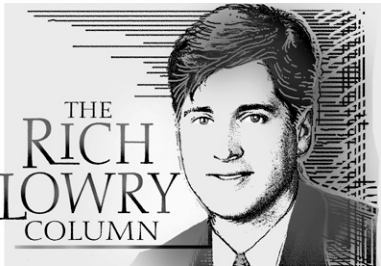
What would be the supposed upside? Compromising information on the rich and powerful? Presumably, there'd be much easier ways to honey-trap men with untoward sexual appetites than hope they become friendly with Jeffrey Epstein and compromise themselves on his private island.

If the notion of Epstein as an Israeli spy seems implausible, if not farcical, it's gotten some superficial plausibility from parts of the record that have been

exaggerated or misinterpreted.

Perhaps most important, the U.S. attorney for the Southern District of Florida who worked out the plea deal with Epstein, Alex Acosta, supposedly said that he was told to go easy on Epstein by higher-ups in the Bush administration at the time because Epstein was with intelligence. Acosta allegedly said this as part of his vetting process to become Trump's first secretary of labor in the first term.

But this didn't come directly from Acosta; rather an unnamed source told the story to a reporter. Acosta denies he ever said it. Asked about the matter



See LOWRY, Page 7

Food for thought By Dr. Glenn Mollette

Walking on the road

Walking on the road is generally allowed if there is no sidewalk available. However, some specific roads like highways or interstates usually prohibit pedestrian traffic.

Walking on roads for exercise can be safe if you walk facing traffic. Stay as far to the left as possible. Wear bright or reflective clothing. Be constantly aware of your surroundings. Choose roads with lower speed limits.

You do not always have the right of way. You do in the following situations: Crosswalks, marked or unmarked. Intersections with pedestrian signals. Sidewalks and paths yielding to pedestrians already in the road. Pedestrians must yield on roads without sidewalks where you should walk facing traffic. When traffic signals or

police give direction. When entering a roadway from your home or any property.

When visiting Florida in the winter, one or two people are killed every year in a crosswalk. They had the right of way but they still were killed. It doesn't matter if you were following the law when you end up dead and no longer able to walk.

We've had some nice weather recently in our area. This morning as I drove to the store people were out walking on our small two-lane road. They were jogging on the road and some were walking on the road. One couple was in a very shady spot taking for granted that traffic would see them.

I've had a couple of friends hit in recent years. One was out walking and was badly mangled but did live with

several surgeries and therapy. Another friend was hit and killed.

You can't take for granted that drivers are paying attention. So many drivers today are talking on their cell phones, texting, jiving to music or looking at everything other the road. You can't depend on drivers to assure you of your safety. We should all drive acutely aware of the road and our surroundings but drivers make mistakes. A jogger doesn't want to be in the path of someone who is distracted.

Today, I see kids in our neighborhood riding on mopeds with earplugs in listening to music. They are laughing and having a great time. Then there are the golf carts with kids hanging onto the back of them or ATV vehicles that are illegal on most public roads. An ATV going down the road at dusk with no headlights is a scary sight. Are they able to see you if you are on the road walking? Probably not.

The best we can do is our

best. If you are going to walk on the road, keep your attention in all directions. Try to move a couple feet off the road until cars pass. Give them plenty of room. This is not the place to "stand your ground." Don't listen to music. You need to hear whatever is coming.

We all need exercise but not at the risk of death. I'm grateful that I can still walk and jog some. I constantly try to stay aware. As drivers, our job is to slow down a little and drive as cautiously as possible.

Publisher's note

I have witnessed all of the things, and then some, mentioned in this op-ed across 40 years of driving and walking in El Paso. It's absolutely mind-numbing watching motorcycles being ridden down I-10 at 80-90 MPH between two lanes of traffic – doing a standing wheelie. Stupid things still happen here every day. I cannot speak about Florida.

The walking issue cuts both ways. Whether you are

driving the car or you are the pedestrian, everyone needs to be alert. I've witnessed poor driving when pedestrians are present. I've also witnessed poor decisions by pedestrians about "their" right-of-way. Particularly in parking lots when cars are moving about.

I am always intrigued by the no-look pedestrian approach of stepping out into traffic. I wonder what, if anything, is going on in a pedestrian's mind when they waltz out in front of a moving car in a parking lot, or anywhere. Lawsuit? Even at just five MPH it takes at least a second to stop – if the driver sees you immediately and is fast to the brake pedal – and the brakes are good.

I often will wait the whole five seconds to let moving cars through and then I can safely cross to the store. It doesn't matter if I, or any pedestrian, believes the right-of-way is his. You know why? Because the car always wins. That's why.

Be careful out there.

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Years
2025

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Luevano selected to 2026 TASB class

By Jeannie Meza-Chavez
Special to the Courier

SAN ELIZARIO, TX – Lorenzo Luevano has been selected as a member of the Leadership Texas Association of School Boards (TASB) Class of 2026. Luevano is a trustee in the San Elizario Independent School District (SEISD)

A letter from Dan Troxell, Executive Director of TASB, and Rolinda Schmidt, President of the TASB Board of Directors informed, “You will be joining a cohort of 34 school board trustees from across Texas who are committed to strong governance, student-focused leadership, and public school advocacy.” Leadership TASB was developed and designed for school board members by school board members in 1993.

Luevano is excited about the selection, saying, “It is a chance to grow not only as a person and board member, but also as a community member.”

According to the Leadership TASB website, participants will visit “successful schools, investigate innovative programs, and have the opportunity to listen to nationally known speakers and experts in



– Photo courtesy San Elizario ISD
Lorenzo Luevano

education and business.”

The Leadership TASB Class of 2026 will meet for the first time in Houston during the annual TASA/TASB Convention. The board of trustees selected from across the state will have the opportunity to visit various school districts in Texas, located in Harlingen, Amarillo, and Texarkana, with a graduation ceremony at the annual TASB Summer Leadership Institute in Fort Worth.

Luevano has been a member of the SEISD Board of Trustees since February 8, 2023. He has actively engaged in ongoing training throughout his roughly two and a half years of service. He also holds the position of Secretary/Treasurer for the Far West Texas School Board Association, representing both SEISD and the Region 19 El Paso County Board of Trustees. He was recently elected Vice President of the San Elizario Neighborhood Association.

Luevano adds, “Being accepted into the Leadership TASB Class of 2026 is an opportunity to continue learning, plant seeds of progress, and cultivate pride in our community. It’s about opening doors for our district, students, and families – working together to shape a stronger, brighter tomorrow.”

King Crossword

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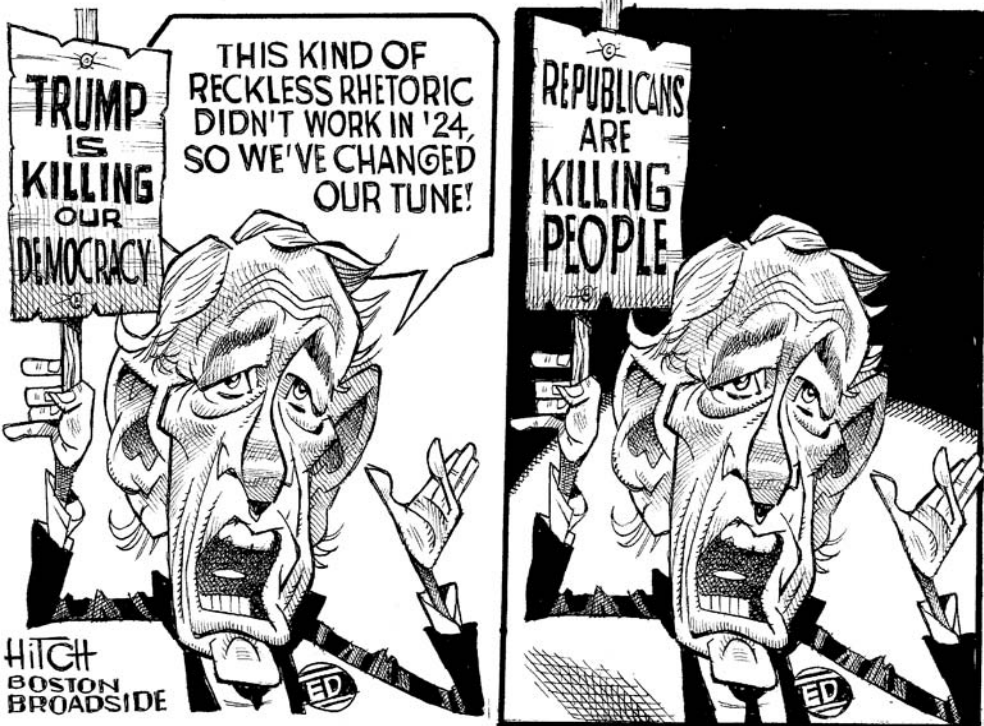
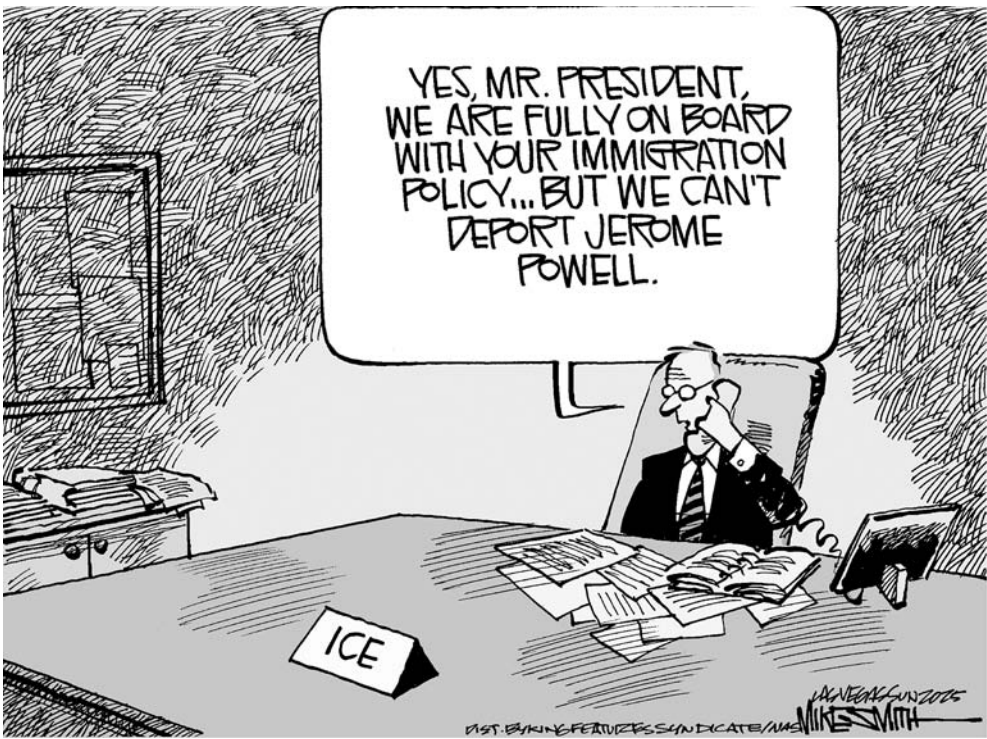
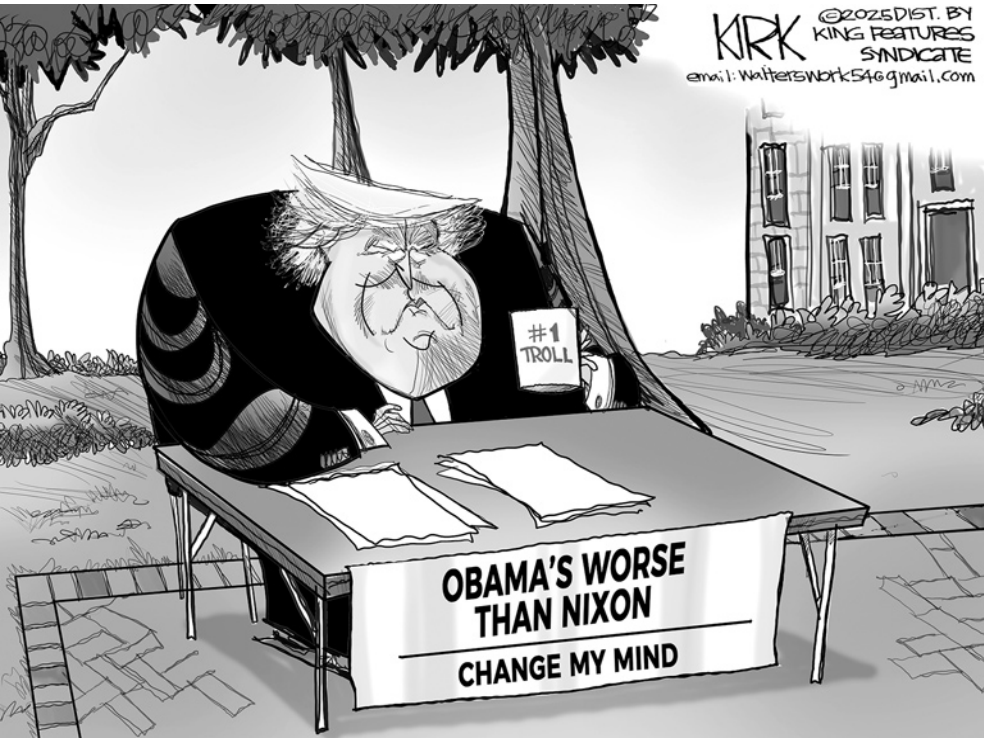
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 - 12 Lewd
 - 14 Throat clearer
 - 15 Baking dish
 - 16 Male red deer
 - 17 Sailor
 - 18 Excuses
 - 20 Leek's kin
 - 23 Revue segment
 - 24 Benefit
 - 25 Goulash spice
 - 28 Used a chair
 - 29 Eyelashes
 - 30 "The Voice"
- network

 - 32 Cane-cutting knife
 - 34 Roman emperor
 - 35 "CSI" settings
 - 36 Classic Sinatra song
 - 37 Actress Fanning
 - 40 As well
 - 41 Flair
 - 42 Tart dessert
 - 47 First-rate
 - 48 Pulling along
 - 49 Reply to "Shall we?"
 - 50 _ Juan
 - 51 "Simpsons" bus driver
- DOWN

 - 1 Chips go-with
 - 2 Half of bi-
 - 3 Citric beverage
 - 4 Physics particle
 - 5 Sport
 - 6 Busy insect
 - 7 Hearty pub entree
 - 8 Papeete's island
 - 9 Melville captain
 - 10 Prefix with "scope"
 - 11 911 responders
 - 13 Family
 - 19 Turkish currency
 - 20 Delivery docs
 - 21 Linguist Chomsky
 - 22 Tiny bit
 - 23 Mariners
 - 25 Patchy horses
 - 26 Recognized
 - 27 "East of Eden" girl
- 29 Converse
 - 31 Coquettish
 - 33 Genetic copies
 - 34 "Us" actress Lupita
 - 36 Synthesizer pioneer
 - 37 Transaction
 - 38 Medicinal plant
 - 39 Philosopher Immanuel
 - 40 IRS agent
 - 43 Historic time
 - 44 Trench
 - 45 Bank acct. entry
 - 46 Conceit
- Answer Page 5

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING TO DISCUSS BUDGET AND PROPOSED TAX RATE

The Clint Independent School District will hold a public meeting at 5:30 p.m., on Monday, August 25, 2025 in the Clint ISD Board Room, 14521 Horizon Blvd. El Paso, TX 79928. **The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the school district’s budget that will determine the tax rate that will be adopted. Public participation in the discussion is invited.**

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

Maintenance Tax	\$0.752400/\$100 (Proposed rate for maintenance and operations)
School Debt Service Tax	
Approved by Local Voters	\$0.370000/\$100 (Proposed rate to pay bonded indebtedness)

Comparison of Proposed Budget with Last Year’s Budget

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

Maintenance and Operations	10.99%	Increase
Debt Service	10.57%	Decrease
Total Expenditures	9.14%	Increase

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

	Preceding Tax Year	Current Tax Year
Total appraised value* of all property	\$ 3,479,548,290	\$ 3,906,726,484
Total appraised value* of new property**	\$ 76,760,002	\$ 201,746,738
Total taxable value*** of all property	\$ 2,101,802,367	\$ 2,465,388,659
Total taxable value*** of new property**	\$ 66,933,090	\$ 168,996,995

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

Bonded Indebtedness

Total amount of outstanding and unpaid bonded indebtedness* \$124,651,416

* Outstanding principal.

Comparison of Proposed Rates with Last Year’s Rates

	Maintenance & Operation	Interest & Sinking Fund*	Total	Local Revenue Per Student	State Revenue Per Student
Last Year’s Rate	\$ 0.755200	\$ 0.380000*	\$ 1.135200	\$ 2,524	\$10,741
Rate to Maintain Same Level of Maintenance & Operations Revenue & Pay Debt Service	\$0. 681270	\$ 0.370000*	\$ 1.051270	\$ 2,457	\$10,708
Proposed Rate	\$ 0.752400	\$ 0.370000*	\$ 1.122400	\$ 2,622	\$11,242

*The Interest & Sinking Fund tax revenue is used to pay for bonded indebtedness on construction, equipment, or both.
The bonds, and the tax rate necessary to pay those bonds, were approved by the voters of this district.

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

	Last Year	This Year
Average Market Value of Residences	\$ 200,068	\$ 202,310
Average Taxable Value of Residences	\$ 70,592	\$ 41,605
Last Year’s Rate Versus		
Proposed Rate per \$100 Value	\$ 1.135200	\$ 1.122400
Taxes Due on Average Residence	\$ 801	\$ 467
Increase (Decrease) in Taxes		\$ (334)

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

Notice of Voter-Approval Rate: The highest tax rate the district can adopt before requiring voter approval at an election is \$1.122400. This election will be automatically held if the district adopts a rate in excess of the voter-approval rate of \$1.122400.

Fund Balances

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

Maintenance and Operations Fund Balance(s)	\$ 68,189,468
Interest & Sinking Fund Balance(s)	\$ 6,091,871

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

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

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



By Lucie Winborne

James Doohan, beloved by Star Trek fans as “Scotty,” was awarded an honorary doctorate by the Milwaukee School of Engineering after it was discovered that half of the school’s students had been inspired to pursue engineering careers by the fictional character he portrayed.

A boy born with only 2% of his brain defied doctors’ expectations when the organ grew to 80% of the average size.

The first written ice cream recipe was found in a 1665 recipe book.

Rocking chairs were used in mental facilities and hospitals to soothe and comfort patients long before their widespread adoption in homes.

Some asteroids get pulled into a planet’s gravity and become their moons.

White-tailed jackrabbits are the greatest land jumpers, having been recorded leaping 21 feet vertically.

In early 1949, Victor T. Hoeflich introduced the “Man-from-Mars Radio Hat,” featuring a portable radio built into a pith helmet. It retailed for \$7.95 and was sold across the country for a while, but lost popularity due to its technical limitations, which included losing its signal and making annoying squealing noises.

A man was jailed for two years for cheating at poker. His method? Using infrared contact lenses to see cards pre-marked with invisible ink.

In Alaska, plants can grow exceptionally large due to receiving up to 20 hours of sunlight daily, which greatly enhances their photosynthesis process.

When Nebraska implemented a law allowing parents to leave unwanted newborns at safe havens, no age limit was specified. Within just weeks, 36 kids had been dropped off, but not one was a newborn and the oldest was 17.

Penicillin’s original name was “mold juice.” Bet you think the revised moniker has a much nicer ring, too.

Thought for the Day: “A happy marriage is the union of two good forgivers.”
– Ruth Graham

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Moments in time
THE HISTORY CHANNEL

On Aug. 11, 1806, while hunting for elk along the Missouri River, Meriwether Lewis was accidentally shot by one of his own men, likely Private Pierre Cruzatte, though Cruzatte, who was blind in one eye and nearsighted in the other, denied it. Historians suspect he mistook the leather-clad Lewis for an elk. Lewis made a full recovery.

On Aug. 12, 1994, Major League Baseball players went on a strike that lasted for 232 days and caused the cancellation of that year’s World Series for the first time in 90 years.

On Aug. 13, 1941, Henry Ford displayed his “Soybean Car,” the plastic body of which was partially composed of the legumes. It weighed half as much as a steel-bodied car and Ford claimed it was safer, but the model never actually went into production.

On Aug. 14, 1985, the “King of Pop,” Michael Jackson, bought the publishing rights to the vast majority of the Beatles’ catalog for a cool \$47 million. After his death, Sony, one of his primary creditors, assumed full control of the catalog.

On Aug. 15, 1950, Princess Anne, the second child and only daughter of England’s Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Philip, was born. She has long been widely admired for her seemingly tireless work ethic (she does not plan to retire until she’s 90) and involvement with more than 300 charities, as well as her general practicality and reliability.

On Aug. 16, 1987, a plane crash at Detroit Metropolitan Airport in Michigan killed 156 people, including Nick Vanos, a center for the NBA’s Phoenix Suns, and left just one survivor, 4-year-old Cecelia Cichan of Tempe, Arizona. The accident was determined to have been caused by pilot error, with speculation that the pilots might have been rushing their pre-flight checks to avoid incoming bad weather.

On Aug. 17, 1977, the day after Elvis Presley died, FTD delivered more than 3,100 floral arrangements, not only cleaning out Memphis-area florists, but setting a record for the most flowers sold in America in just one day.

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Centers

From Page 1

Department of Agriculture, were not part of the DOL closure plan. Those centers are being evaluated, an agency spokesperson reported in early June.

According to a DOL review, using 2023 data, it found that the average annual cost per student at the El Paso center was \$29,538, well below the national average cost of \$49,769 per student, and that El Paso's average graduation rate was 53 percent compared to 38 percent nationally.

The lawsuit, that put a pause on the closures, was filed in June in the New York federal court by the National Job Corps

Association and several center contractors. They asserted that the DOL's program review used a flawed methodology aimed at understating the Job Corps' performance and overstating the program's costs, and that it also did not consider DOL-required safety measures during the COVID-19 pandemic that increased the program's costs per student.

Nonetheless, association officials stated that they want to work with the Trump administration and Congress to address DOL concerns in the Job Corps program.

Meanwhile another lawsuit, also filed in June, by students in Job Corps centers in several states, aims to keep the program operating. This lawsuit is pending in a federal court in Washington, D.C.

Officer Alis is retired

By Gustavo Reveles
Special to the Courier

CANUTILLO – Officer Alis, a 9-year-old Belgian Malinois, joined the Canutillo ISD Police Department in July 2018. She was Canutillo Independent School District (CISD) Police Department's first K9 and was retired last week on August 14. Over the past seven years, she has worked tirelessly alongside the district's safety and security team, specializing in the detection of narcotics and weapons. Her presence significantly enhanced the district's capabilities in maintaining safe learning environments across all campuses.

"Officer Alis has been more than a K9. She is a trusted protector, an educator and a friend to our students and staff," said Canutillo ISD Police Chief Fernando Martinez. "Her work has

directly contributed to keeping harmful substances and dangerous items out of our schools. Her impact on student safety is immeasurable, and she has paved the way for future K9 officers in our district."

Beyond her official duties, Alis also played an important role in student outreach. She frequently visited campuses and classrooms, helping students with social anxiety feel more at ease in their school environment. Her calm demeanor and friendly disposition made her a beloved figure among students, educators and families alike.

Now stepping away from active duty, Alis will spend her retirement with her handler, Sgt. Andres Hernandez. No longer bound by her police responsibilities, she will enjoy a well-earned life of relaxation, treats and play.

The District is in the initial stages of finding a new K9 officer.

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The WNBA’s worst enemy is... the WNBA

By Steve Escajeda
Special to the Courier

Someone a lot smarter than me once said the definition of insanity is doing the same thing over and over and over again and expecting a different result. Or how about this one, “if it ain’t broke, don’t fix it.”

But if something is broken, you either fix it by trying something different or end it and put it out of its misery.

And that brings us to the Rodney Dangerfield (look him up) of sports leagues – the WNBA.

The Women’s National Basketball Association was started in 1997. It was totally funded by the men’s NBA.

Almost 30 years later, the NBA still funds about 42-percent of the women’s league.

And with all that funding, the WNBA has lost money every single year it has been in existence. Last year the league lost \$50 million.

That’s insanity. If any other organization lost that kind of money every year for 28 years, they would have been out of business a long time ago.

But the NBA keeps doing the same thing every year and they keep hoping for a different result.

Of course, the WNBA has received more press than ever the last two years because of the emergence of superstar Caitlin Clark.

But for some insane reason, many of the WNBA players have come out against Clark because of jealousy and racism.

One example was WNBA star A’ja Wilson, who said it was all about race, arguing that black women are “swept underneath the rug” despite their achievements.

A lot of players and commentators have brought up the “race” thing

when all they should be talking about is achievement, whether a player is black or white or whatever.

It’s gotten to the point that players have started to bully Clark with hard fouls that knock her to the ground. In fact, Clark has missed a few games due to injury, including the all-star game.

Knowing that nobody would care anymore, the league cut the all-star game ticket prices in half once it was learned that Clark wasn’t going to participate.

What doesn’t help is that many of the WNBA players have become totally unlikeable. The things many of them do and say just turn the fans off.

During the all-star game, WNBA players took the court wearing “Pay us what you owe us,” t-shirts.

Wow, for a league that loses millions every year, they should have worn t-shirts saying, “Thanks for paying us though we haven’t earned it.”

If a company kept paying me though

I was losing millions of their dollars, I would keep my mouth shut, lay low and be eternally grateful.

That’s insane!

Now if all that isn’t enough to explain what is wrong about the WNBA (besides the fact that it just isn’t a good product), here’s the latest embarrassment.

Well, this really isn’t their fault, but because of their arrogance, nobody is feeling sorry for them.

Over the last couple weeks, something has been raining onto WNBA courts across the country – sex toys.

You read correctly; some sex toys have been flying onto the court of some WNBA games.

The league has been busy trying to find out who’s doing this.

Well, it turns out that a crypto coin group is responsible for the stunt, trying to promote its product.

An anonymous spokesperson for the group told ESPN, “The WNBA and

all its controversy made the league a logical target.”

I guess it’s working. The price of the coin has gone up 300 percent since this started.

Of course, no one should be able to throw anything on the court of any sporting event. And the guys that put this together should spend at least a weekend in a cell. Maybe in tough women’s prison.

But the point is that the WNBA has become a target.

The only people who take them seriously are themselves.

But because of the “Caitlin Clark” hype, the WNBA is getting a new TV deal, ticket sales are up, merchandise sales are up, the league is expanding, and the teams use charter flights now.

The league is finally getting a chance to support itself, like every other league.

If they do that, then it won’t be insane for the players to put those t-shirts back on.

Senior moment By Matilda Charles

Exercise videos available on AARP

Here’s one more reason to keep checking back on the AARP website: the big selection of fitness offerings in the healthy living section. There are the articles, of course: complete guide to pickleball, link between sugar and cancer, ways to get an energy boost and others. But it’s the workout videos that have caught my eye.

The site (aarp.org) has videos on cardio, walking, balance, stretching, core exercises and more. The knees get a lot of much-needed attention with videos on improving knee mobility and building stronger knees. Strength training has videos on building both the upper and lower body muscles.

What I appreciated in these videos is that many of them can be done while seated or holding a chair for balance, if necessary, and none require expensive equipment. A couple of light hand weights (or even soup cans), maybe a mat for the floor, and that’s all you need.

The yoga section is comprehensive, with videos aimed at beginners who are ages 50 and 60 plus a video for those

who are already 70.

But I think my favorite area is the 10-minute section for when I just don’t have time for a full workout. If you can’t make your way around the AARP site to get to the videos, do a search for “10-minute workout” to find a long list of short videos done by experts. Or search for “Denise Austin” and you’ll find dozens of exercise videos she’s created for seniors.

If you’re only going to look at one exercise article, make it “10 Exercises to Do Today for a Healthier, Happier Tomorrow.” These exercises are geared to helping us continue doing the daily things we need to accomplish: Strengthen your grocery-carrying muscles, keep your shoulder muscles limber and strong so you can put away dishes and (a favorite of many) strengthen your grip so you can open jars.

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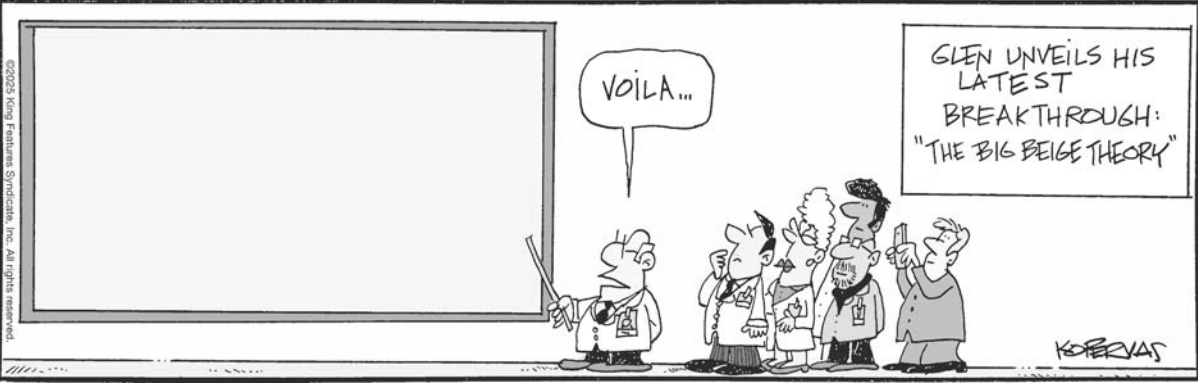
Super Crossword

1	2	3		4	5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13	14	15		16	17	18
19			20								21								22	
23										24									25	
26									27					28			29			
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100																				
105																				
113																				
117																				
124																				
127																				

MINERAL BOOST ACROSS	55 Signal light shaped like an abdominal organ?	given to eight answers in this puzzle?	31 "Eat _ Chikin" (Chick-fil-A slogan)	79 Area drained by a river
1 Hello, in Rio	63 _ fire (ignited wood, say)	124 Filmmaker	32 Tabloid pair	81 Instant lawn
4 Look after	64 Caught up in _ of	DuVernay	33 IRS IDs	82 Middle grade
10 Capture on film again	67 See 25-Across	125 Clarke of "Game of Thrones"	34 Diarist Anaïs	83 Big head
16 Laceration	68 Voice a view	126 Eradicated	35 Gift stick-on	85 Zero
19 Concerning past events	69 Hoppy pub quaff, in brief	127 Marks, as a ballot	37 Attention-getting sound	88 For _ (not free)
21 Single-person, as a band	70 Small group of child prodigies?	128 Pardner	38 Common sunfish variety	89 "_ it a pity?"
22 Be incorrect	74 Scottish cap	129 Tantalizes	41 Slanted type	91 Big wind instrument
23 Writing a computer program based on a Grimm story?	75 Mild cheese	130 Afore	42 Sinus-cleaning apparatus	92 Apian abode
25 With 67-Across, persona for Snoopy	77 1982 Disney cyberfilm		43 Cow-bison hybrid	93 Noisy insects
26 Remove from a crate	78 _ tide	DOWN	44 "Bad!" cluck	95 "Whichever"
27 Iowa's tree	79 Actor Noah	1 Cry of mock enthusiasm	45 Tarzan player Ron Hansen	96 Kia or Tesla
28 Plant plots	80 Very destructive hurricane?	2 Former NPR host	46 Chafe	97 Like some poor ratings
30 Wasps' home	84 Unfamous people	3 Athletic shoe brand	47 Social welfare org.	98 NASA cancellations
31 Diplomatic delegation headed for a meeting with Philippine president Ferdinand?	86 Oklahoma tribe	4 Playpen array	106 Suffix with aero- or velo-	107 It merged with Exxon
36 Cards used by psychics	87 Moo goo _ pan	5 "The Father of Art Deco"	108 Wake rudely	110 River vessel
39 Et _ (and others)	90 Doha native	6 Actress Vardalos	110 River vessel	111 Pianist Rubinstein
40 Paris subway	91 U.K. network	7 Nero's 650	111 Pianist Rubinstein	112 Sew loosely
41 Unintelligible message on a warning sign?	94 School chaplain?	8 _ kwon do	112 Sew loosely	115 30-day mo.
47 Wash. VIP	100 Vowel quintet	9 Butter substitutes	115 30-day mo.	116 College town in Iowa
48 Started to cry, with "up"	103 iPod variety	10 Big jukebox brand	116 College town in Iowa	119 Everybody
49 Orig. copies	104 Win over	11 Brian of Roxy Music	119 Everybody	120 Recline
50 Sugar block	105 Have the same remorseful feelings that I'm having?	12 Danson of "Ink"	120 Recline	121 Educ. group
53 Occasionally	109 Healing sign	13 Pal, to Pedro	121 Educ. group	122 Ex-Laker Gasol
	113 Ari of NPR	14 Former TWA rival	122 Ex-Laker Gasol	123 Trio after K
	114 _ Canals	15 Hypothetical memory imprint		
	115 Huge desert	16 Says "no" to		
	117 "Science Kid" of PBS	17 Smelter input		
	118 Dietary extras	18 Keep trying		
		20 Pasta-serving cafe		
		24 River nymph		
		29 Hip-hop "Dr."		

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

at a press conference as labor secretary when the Epstein story reemerged, Acosta seemed to deny it, although, admittedly, in a halting and indirect fashion.

As part of an extensive 2020 Justice Department Office of Professional Responsibility report into the handling of the case by Acosta and the Southern District, Acosta told the investigators that he had no information about Epstein being an intelligence asset and that his answer at the press conference was meant to be a “no.” The report related that “OPR found no evidence suggesting that Epstein was such a cooperating witness or ‘intelligence asset,’ or that anyone –including any of the subjects of OPR’s investigation – believed that to be the case.”

What about Epstein’s well-documented relationship with former Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak? One assumes that a Mossad asset wouldn’t spend inordinate time with a former high-ranking Israeli official.

Alan Dershowitz, who represented Epstein,

maintains that he asked his client if he had contacts with intelligence agencies, and Epstein said “no,” even though it would have been in his legal interest to disclose any relationships.

Regarding Epstein’s death, which many believe was really a murder, the Mossad accusations get more fantastic: Israeli intelligence had to clean up after itself by killing an American citizen on U.S. soil, while he was held in a U.S. jail?

By the way, if Mossad killed Epstein, and was capable of pulling off a no-fingerprints operation in extremely difficult circumstances on U.S. soil, surely they would have killed his close associate Ghislaine Maxwell before she went to trial with an incentive to spill her guts.

All of this so beggars belief that it’s almost not worth addressing, except that influential voices on the right believe Israel might be behind one of the most hideous scandals in recent American life.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review. ©2025 by King Features Synd., Inc.

COVID booster before traveling is prudent

DEAR DR. ROACH: My husband and I will be traveling to the United Kingdom in July and will be on a ship with about 700 passengers. We are wondering whether it would be smart (or unnecessary) to get a COVID booster before the trip. We are both in our late 60s and have had all the available COVID shots. (The last one we received was on Oct. 10, 2024.) I have mild asthma, and we both have BMIs of about 30 with no other health issues. There is so much information and misinformation on these vaccinations, so I would appreciate your educated opinion. – O.W.I.



In my opinion, it would be very smart to get a COVID shot before you go, ideally at least two weeks ahead but no more than three months ahead. The vaccine takes about two weeks to work and gives its best protection for about three months.

At the time of this writing, a new strain (NB.1.8.1) is rapidly spreading in other countries and in North America. It would be very prudent for you both to get the vaccine, especially given your risk factors of being over 65, being a little overweight, and (in your case) having mild asthma. You may very well be exposed on a cruise ship, which is where some of the earliest COVID cases came from.

In the United States, the Food and Drug Administration has recently set new requirements on who can get the vaccine, and they have done so without the input of experts – the basic scientists, clinicians and epidemiologists who should all be giving input on vaccine policies. In short, administrators have removed your doctor’s ability to decide whether you are appropriate for the vaccine.

Since you are over 65, you and your husband should still be able to get the vaccine unless the FDA further restricts the ability to get vaccines. For others in similar situations, I recommend getting the vaccine while you still have this choice.

DR. ROACH WRITES:

Quite a few readers asked me about a recent high-profile case of advanced prostate cancer – President Joe Biden – and how this could have happened.

I first answer with humility. I don’t know what the screening was like for President Biden. Although I have read reports that he was not being screened, I am not confident that I know enough to have an opinion on the appropriateness of the screening strategy used in his case.

Second, I answer from my knowledge on the biology of prostate cancer, which is that not all prostate cancers can be caught through screening. A PSA level can be low even with advanced cancer. Also, some prostate cancers can grow very quickly in between screenings. Both of these would be uncommon, however.

Screening does reduce the risk of death from prostate cancer but does not eliminate it. Prostate cancer death rates have decreased by about half in the U.S., partly from screening and partly due to improvements in medical, radiological and surgical treatment.

Third and most importantly, I answer with compassion. Looking backward is not helpful to the person who is facing a difficult diagnosis. I wish the best for President Biden and his family, and I am confident that he will get the best care available.

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. ©2025 North America Synd., Inc. All Rights Reserved.

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Moore Texas by Roger Moore
1942: The Corn Dog is introduced by concessionaires Carl and Neil Fletcher at the State Fair of Texas.

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: F equals W

WMOOXF UXWWIUSJWC FMSIO-
FMQ SLMS'B YIUXHJWC IAIW
WMOOXFIO HXWSL YQ HXWSL:
M OIUIBBJAI BSOMJS.

Answer Page 5

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Weekly SUDOKU

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

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 5

♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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Don't miss your earned benefits



by Freddy Groves

Whether you're a veteran and aren't certain of all the VA benefits you might use, or if you're considering signing up with an eye to any benefits you might get now or down the road, here are a few of the typical VA benefits.

Eligibility for a VA-backed home loan: The question that often comes up is whether the Certificate of Eligibility (COE) can be used more than once. Answer: Yes, under certain circumstances. If you either pay off the first loan and sell the house, or if another veteran (with their own eligibility) buys the house, you could qualify to renew your certificate and use it again. For more info call the VA Loan Guaranty Service at 877-827-3702.

Education benefits: There are multiple programs, the most common being the Post-9/11 GI Bill, and in certain cases the spouse

and children can qualify for education benefits and career counseling as well. Call 888-442-4551 for more information.

And there are so many more benefits: Support for veteran-owned small business, disability compensation, several options for life insurance, disability housing grants, pre-need eligibility determination for burial in a VA national cemetery, aid and attendance or housebound allowance, health care and Veteran Readiness and Employment (VR&E).

Each benefit comes with its own set of eligibility criteria (minimum active duty service as well as qualifying dates). See www.va.gov/service-member-benefits as a place to start.

However, one of the best benefits resources is the "2025 VA Federal Benefits Guide for Veterans, Dependents, Survivors, and Caregivers." See <https://tinyurl.com/3epjn7vc> for the 120-page handbook. Last word was that only "a few" copies would actually be printed, so you'll likely

need to access the book online, unless a veterans service organization near you managed to snag (or print out) a copy. Still, it's worth seeing, even if you have to view it online. The book is very well done and is very detailed.

If you've earned the benefits, use them!

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by Jo Ann Derson

• Keep a pretty basket by your front door for anything that needs to go out with you when you leave. This can be store returns, backpacks, exercise gear for the gym, your sunglasses, whatever. When you leave the house, check the basket!

• "I use small tension rods to hold wrapping paper in my laundry room. I have the birthday/general use ones upright under a desk (they fit and don't fall over, so I can store them close together) and the holiday ones are in the very top of a high shelf in the cabinet, out of the way." – C.S. in Mississippi

• If you have a little bit of touchup paint left in your gallon can, transfer it to a mason jar. Write the exact color and brand on the lid, and it will be much easier to store.

• Fold and snip a coffee filter into a paper snowflake. Lay over an iced cookie or cake to sift a sugar design on top.

• "Our basement was dark and a little claustrophobic. My husband painted it a lovely sunny yellow and that helped, but it needed something else. I took a photo of the spectacular view at our son's house in Montana, and had the photo blown up. We mounted it on the wall with some dummy curtains! It's perfect, and it reminds me of him." – R.W. in New York

• Need to chill a bottle of wine quickly? Wet a kitchen towel, then wrap it around the wine. Twist the ends to secure, and put the whole thing in the freezer for 30 minutes.

Send your tips to Now Here's a Tip, 628 Virginia Drive, Orlando, FL 32803. ©2025 King Features Synd., Inc.

GO FIGURE!

The idea of Go Figure is to arrive at the figures given at the bottom and right-hand columns of the diagram by following the arithmetic signs in the order they are given (that is, from left to right and top to bottom). Use only the numbers below the diagram to complete its blank squares and use each of the nine numbers only once.

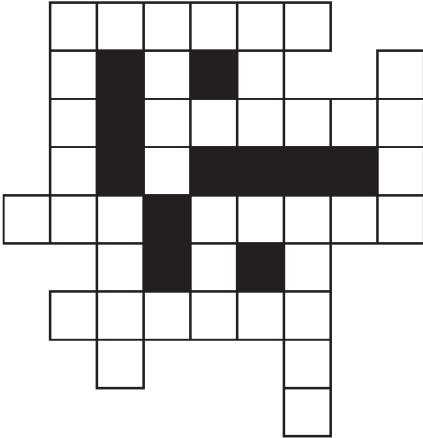
Answer Page 5

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	+		+		= 8			
+		+		+				
	+		+		=23			
+		÷		-				
	+		×		=33			
=		=		=				
16		2		11				
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9



RYC
♥ORTEDU
TEMTA
♥ADEM
♥TECIRD
TLE
OYER
♥IDEMA
♥DNA
♥MYALEN
♥ARNID
DTOR



Answer Page 5

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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