



– Photo by Alfredo Vasquez

PLANNING AHEAD – El Paso County leaders think that the next law school in Texas should be built on the UTEP campus. A recent study showed a demand for lawyers in the region in a wide range of specialties including tax, torts, corporate, administrative, labor, immigration, natural resources, international affairs, and criminal law.

Law school in El Paso County could be a reality by 2030

By Alfredo Vasquez
Special to the Courier

EL PASO COUNTY – The University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP) is the leading Hispanic-serving university in the United States. Eighty-four percent of its students are of Hispanic descent, and more than half of those students are first in their families to go to college.

This school year, UTEP enrolled more than 26,200 students, a record number. UTEP’s student enrollment has incrementally increased each year for the past few years. The growth is attributed to a variety of reasons including the enhancement of its multi-disciplinary programs, the expansion of special projects like the advanced manufacturing and aerospace center as well as the health science complex, and the addition of educational programs such as artificial intelligence and mining engineering.

A contingent of UTEP supporters think that the next move is to establish a law school on the Texas-Mexico border. Because of its location on the border and its demographics, UTEP and community leaders agree that the university is poised to establish a law school that would focus on international business law and the preparation of bilingual attorneys.

To look into the law school possibility, the state legislature approved \$250,000 in early 2023 for UTEP to conduct a law school planning study, which was led by Andrea Cortinas, UTEP vice president and chief of staff. The preliminary study indicated that there is an anticipated growth in the need for lawyers in El Paso and surrounding counties of one percent annually and 12 percent through 2034.

The initial study noted that El Paso is the only major metropolitan area in the state without a

law school; that the closest law program is at the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque; that the closest one in the state is at Texas Tech University in Lubbock; and that the last law school to open in Texas was the University of North Texas Dallas College of Law in 2014.

With that in mind, El Paso State Representative Vincent Perez, during the last legislative session, sponsored House Bill (HB 3475), a bill that would establish a law school to serve the West Texas region. HB 3475 asked the state for \$20 million over 10 years to establish a public law school in El Paso County. The bill was approved by the House and advanced to the Senate, where it was never brought up for a vote.

Nonetheless, Rep. Perez, who represents El Paso County’s lower valley, related that he was at least pleased that the legislation made it out of the House with a good amount of bipartisan support and added that he is confident that with community support the law school could become a reality. He stated that with additional funds and the necessary approvals, it is possible that UTEP could make a formal request for a law school as early as 2027, and the school could open by 2030.

“Clearly there is not enough home-grown attorneys here available to meet the demand,” Perez said, adding that there also is a great need for bilingual attorneys. “There’s just not enough attorneys available locally.”

To demonstrate to state legislators that the borderland community is committed to establishing a law school at UTEP, efforts to raise \$20 million in start-up funds have begun. At a recent El Paso Bar Association luncheon, UTEP President Heather Wilson encouraged members of El Paso’s legal community to support this effort. She asserted that it would show the community’s commitment

to this goal when conversations continue with the University of Texas System Board of Regents and the Texas Legislature.

Wilson acknowledged that any construction would need funds from the UT System. She pointed out that to earn American Bar Association accreditation, the law school would need a law library, moot court classrooms, and a student study/gathering space and added that the estimated costs, to include such things as project management, insurance, legal fees and the like, would range from \$60 million to \$110 million.

Wilson said that if the local community contributes

See SCHOOL, Page 5

Attorneys at Law in Texas

- Hispanics make up about 20 percent of the U.S. population and over 40 percent of the Texas population.
- In the U.S., there are more than 1.3 million active attorneys with 6 percent of them being Hispanic.
- In Texas, there are over 116,100 active attorneys with 11 percent of them being Hispanic.
- In Harris County (Houston) there are approximately 24,688 active attorneys with 9 percent of them Hispanic.
- Bexar County (San Antonio) has approximately 6,595 active attorneys with 23 percent of them Hispanic.
- In El Paso County, there are about 1,288 active attorneys with 53 percent of them Hispanic.
- Of all the licensed attorneys in Texas, 35 percent earned their law degrees at an out-of-state institution. Of those who earned their degrees in-state, most attended the University of Texas at Austin (19%), Texas Tech University (17%) and St. Mary’s University (10%).

– State Bar of Texas and American Bar Association

Yes, Ozempic for one and all

Americans are going to get a little healthier. President Trump cut deals with the drugmakers Eli Lilly and Novo Nordisk to increase access to obesity drugs in a major benefit to American public health.

The agreements are a win-win-win – good for consumers, good for the companies and good for Trump.

One of the most irrational superstitions of our time is that Big Pharma, which has long been routinely delivering near-miraculous therapeutics to extend and improve our lives, is a public enemy. Its latest breakthrough is a class of so-called GLP-1 drugs that make it easier to lose weight and to avoid associated serious health problems, from Type 2 diabetes to heart disease.

The basic dynamic of the Trump deals is that

the companies will, through lower prices, expand their market share, thus generating more revenue. The companies also get tariff relief and expedited review for select drugs.

Health and Human Services Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr., the MAHA leader with a paranoid streak about modern medical advances, has been hostile to GLP-1 drugs, the most famous of which is Ozempic, sold by Novo Nordisk.

If everyone could do as many pushups and pullups as the hyper-fit 71-year-old Kennedy, perhaps we could turn our back on GLP-1s.

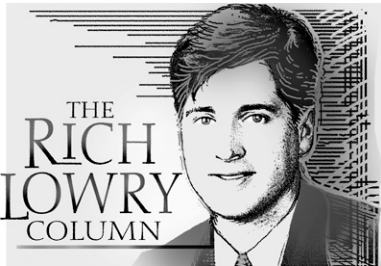
Certainly, RFK Jr. is correct that Americans should eat better and work out more. But our body mass index has been increasing for about 150 years, as we’ve made calories cheaper and more abundant over

time. As it happens, the things that we like to eat or drink that are bad for us – fast food, soda, chips, cookies – are cheap, convenient and taste good.

Even if we manage to convince people that they should eat more fruit, vegetables and legumes, while taking a Peloton class every day, not everyone is going to do it as a matter of lifestyle constraints, individual preference or simple lack of willpower.

There’s also the fact that once you put on weight, physiological changes make it more difficult to shed it.

About 40% of Americans are obese. Wouldn’t it



See LOWRY, Page 7

Food for thought

By Dr. Glenn Mollette

Age Don’t focus on the number

We battle age at both sides of life. The young adult must prove they have enough knowledge and skills to do the job. The senior adult must prove they still have the health, skills and motivation to do the job. Both sides of the spectrum can be challenging.

Actually, at every level it’s the same. The forty-year-old doesn’t get a pass from proving he has the skills and desire to perform the tasks but often is given the first glance as a stronger candidate for the job.

When I was 20 years old, I was in college and serving as a senior pastor of a church in Lexington, Kentucky. I went on to several other senior pastoral positions in Kentucky, Ohio and Indiana. From age 20 to 30 I knew I

was competing with men 30 to 55 who had more experience and could point to more success than I could. It all worked out and I did receive numerous opportunities and places to serve. At age 49, I was receiving calls from different churches in various states about serving as their pastor. I almost went to at least three of those opportunities. Around age 50 seemed to be a peak time for moving to a new senior pastoral position. I had vast experience, doubled and tripled attendance everywhere I had been and generated millions of dollars in contributions to the churches and their causes. For someone in my profession, 45 – 50 is a grand time.

I was fortunate that at age 50 I had found my place in life

with my current job. It doesn’t feel like a job but a daily opportunity to serve and help ministers around the world to train for greater service and fulfill their callings in life.

My dad was another story. By the age of 55 he had worked about 37 years in the coal mines and he was done with that part of his life. Age 50 would be a hard time to begin a new career as a coal miner. There are so many jobs where 50 or 55 is a great age and some jobs where it’s not.

Regardless of what we do in life, we are to some extent competing with age. Unless we can prove it doesn’t matter. If we can prove it doesn’t matter then people forget about it. Someone is not too old or too young to do the job unless they prove they are too old or too young. President John F. Kennedy was 36 and he did the job. We have had elderly Senators and Representatives who have performed their jobs well and others who have obviously become too old to do their jobs.

Regardless of your age you have to prove yourself. Twenty-one might be too young, but maybe not if you

are willing to work hard, educate and prove yourself. Eighty might be too old, but maybe not if you have the health, motivation and skills to keep going.

Don’t let the number be the determining factor. Evaluate your skills and motivation and do your best whatever the job or task.

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 or www.facebook.com/glennmollette.

Food City to host free health fair

Courier Staff Writer

EL PASO COUNTY – Food City Supermarkets, with Medilink Consultants, will host the Food City Health & Wellness Fair on Saturday, November 22nd. The free event runs from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. in the Food City Ranchland parking lot at 7444 Gateway Blvd East in El Paso.

Highlights include free flu shots, car seat safety checks, and giveaways from local vendors. Participating partners (subject to change) include El Paso Health, GenMobile, Walgreens, Perches Funeral Homes, Aetna, UnitedHealthcare, Blue Cross Blue Shield, Molina Healthcare, Alignment Health, Devoted Health, Healthspring, Humana,

Marketplace Health Insurance, WellCare, Caring Partners, Conviva, Village Medical, and WellMed.

“Our goal is to make health and wellness resources more accessible to families in El Paso,” said Melissa Santos, Director of Finance and Marketing for Food City Supermarkets. “We’re proud to bring together so many trusted healthcare providers and organizations to help our neighbors stay informed and healthy as we head into the new year.”

The Food City Health & Wellness Fair is open to the public, and no registration is required. Families are encouraged to stop by, take advantage of free services, and learn about community resources available to them year-round.

1973
52
Years
2025

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‘Hack the Border 4.0’ this week

EL PASO COUNTY – El Paso Community College (EPCC) Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) will host the nationally renowned 4th Annual ‘Hack the Border 4.0’, and event that offers workshops in Artificial Intelligence and Cybersecurity, along with competitions like ‘Capture the Flag’ (CTF) and the ‘Datathon’.

The Datathon offers students a chance to apply skills through real-world challenges, while CTF competitions provide participants with an opportunity to engage in hands-on scenarios.

EPCC has been designated as a Center of Academic Excellence in Cybersecurity through organizations such as the National Cybersecurity Training & Education Center and the National Security Agency.

The event takes place November 20-21 at the EPCC Valle Verde Campus, AST Building Flexitorium, Rm. 150, 919 Hunter Drive. Cybersecurity industry leaders and all STEM majors are welcome. Visit www.hacktheborder.org to register. Contact Dr. Christian Servin at CServin1@epcc.edu or (915) 831-2064 for more information.

– Beau Bagley

Longtime Horizon resident, Johnston, dies

Karen Beryl Johnston passed away September 18, 2025 at the age of 92. Karen was born October 4, 1932 in Ansley, Nebraska to Harold and Ethel Clingerman. After graduating from high school in Lincoln, Nebraska, Karen obtained an Associates in Business Administration.

Karen lived a full and active life. A “cradle” Episcopalian, she was a member of All Saints Episcopal Church in El Paso, following many years of membership in Church of the Incarnation (St. Brenden’s) in Horizon City.

While living in Nebraska, Karen served on the school board and was a Cub Scout Den mother. After moving to Horizon City, where she lived for 35 years, she served on city council, the Planning & Zoning Commission, Board of Adjustments, and on the Executive Board of the Texas Tech/Clint ISD Children’s Wellness Center. Karen was a substitute teacher for Clint ISD for many years.

Karen was an avid gardener and obtained Master Gardener certification through the Texas A&M Extension Center of El Paso County. She taught piano to children in Horizon City and was a member of the El Paso Chorale. She enjoyed reading, sewing, writing, hiking, and cross country skiing with her children in Nebraska.

Karen and a group of friends also participated in many West Texas chili cookoffs. She was a great neighbor.

Karen is survived by her five children: Jeff, Kim, Scott, Jill and Amy, along with eight grandchildren and 13 great grandchildren.



Karen Beryl Johnston

King Crossword

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- Average Solve Time 24 Minutes

ACROSS

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8 Many corp. recruits

12 Tora _

Afghanistan

13 “Unstoppable” singer

14 Killer whale

15 Pants

17 Little dent

18 Seize greedily

19 School papers

21 Shoe width

22 Belgrade resident

23 Corn core
- 26 Calendar box

28 Ginger cookies

31 Crony, out West

33 Tavern

35 Unsigned (Abbr.)

36 Disney mermaid

38 Lucy of “Elementary”

40 Sushi choice

41 Final notice

43 Sphere

45 Building’s front

47 TV type

51 Phil of folk music

52 Toothbrush features

54 Suit to _

55 Non-Rx

56 Feedbag fill

57 Overlook

58 Director Craven
- 59 Gosling or Reynolds

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1 Recedes

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4 Coffee bar offering

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8 Vaccine maker

9 Queensland’s capital

10 Skin breakout

11 Droops

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20 “For _ a jolly good...”

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- 25 Brunch breads

27 Actor Brynner

29 “The Bells” author

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34 “I, Tonya” and “Gandhi,” for example

37 Cover

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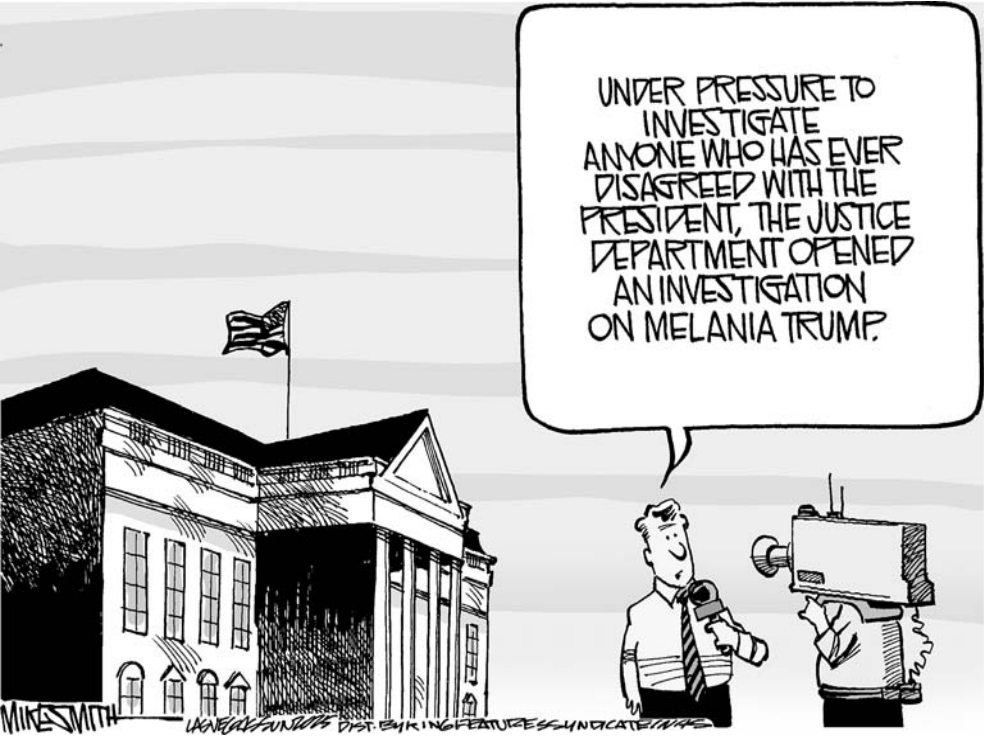
46 Play opener

48 Do in

49 Self-referential

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- Answer Page 4



Senior moment

By Matilda Charles

Finding food

I recently learned a few things about my local food bank that I didn't know. Maybe your food bank has these services as well.

The local food bank has a mobile pantry that goes to the senior housing building once a month for seniors who can't get out to the regular weekly location. While they don't carry a large variety on the van, they do have some of most everything, including canned and boxed foods, coffee and tea, some meats in a small freezer, dairy and bread.

They've just started home delivery

in the area, right in time for winter. For this a senior needs to sign up in advance and have their doctor sign a form saying yes, they could benefit from having food delivered instead of having to go out on icy roads to make a pickup. The sign-up form also has a place to list any allergies and preferences, so the box of food is a bit customized.

Our local food bank isn't the only one in the area. Churches and towns sometimes have their own. See www.gsfb.org/food-map and put in your ZIP code for locations near you. In my area I discovered six additional food bank locations I knew nothing about.

Look into the senior food box program. Once a month participants in the

program have a box of food delivered. Find contact and income eligibility information by doing an internet search for the Commodity Supplemental Food Program in your state.

Then there is Meals on Wheels, where prepared food is delivered to seniors who have trouble cooking for themselves. They often have low sodium and diabetic meal options. Depending on your location, there might be a small fee for the meals.

If you need food, don't give up. It's out there and you can find it. There are more food sources than you might imagine.

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Strange

BUT TRUE

By Lucie Winborne

- Mummies can still have fingerprints.
- President Herbert Hoover spoke Mandarin Chinese with his wife, Lou Henry Hoover, to avoid eavesdroppers during their stint in the White House.
- The Appalachian Mountains are older than the Atlantic Ocean.
- McDonald's buys about 2 billion eggs every year just for their U.S. restaurants.
- The concept of contact lenses dates back to LEOnardo da Vinci, who described a vision correction method involving a water-filled glass hemisphere over the eye. Centuries later, British polymath Thomas Young created a lens prototype made of glass and filled with water based on another theoretical idea, by philosopher/scientist Rene Descartes.
- Israel used piracy laws as the basis for prosecuting Nazi war criminal Adolf Eichmann.
- Lucille Fay LeSueur got her stage name, Joan Crawford, from a contest run in the fan magazine Movie Weekly.
- Bat species make up 21% of all mammals.

- Our physical and emotional states can change how we see color. Fatigue may dull sensitivity to contrast, some medications can alter the way the retina processes light, and positive thinkers often view hues as slightly more vivid.
 - The inventor of the stop sign never learned how to drive.
 - Before time zones were established in 1883, North America had more than 144 local times.
 - Irene Triplett, the last American to collect a Civil War pension, died in 2020.
 - Calvin Coolidge's vice president, Charles G. Dawes, a self-trained pianist and flautist, is the only American veep to have penned a No. 1 hit pop song, a short instrumental piece titled "Melody in A Major."
- Thought for the Day: "Of all the liars in the world, sometimes the worst are our own fears."
- Rudyard Kipling

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CryptoQuip

Answer

Country musician who was famous for giving overly dramatic renditions of songs: Hammy Wynette.



Moments in time

THE HISTORY CHANNEL

• On Nov. 17, 1991, Fox aired the first condom ad on network TV during the teen sitcom “Herman’s Head,” inspired by increasing anxiety about the spread of AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases.

• On Nov. 18, 1996, exotic bird expert and protector Tony Silva was sentenced to seven years in prison for heading an illegal parrot-smuggling operation — one of many people to be arrested during Operation Renegade, a three-year international investigation into bird smuggling by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s Division of Law Enforcement.

• On Nov. 19, 1969, Brazilian soccer star Pelé, considered one of the greatest players in his sport, scored his 1,000th professional goal in a game, against Vasco da Gama in Rio de Janeiro’s Maracana stadium.

• On Nov. 20, 1866, Pierre Lallement received a U.S. patent for the country’s first pedal bicycle. Unfortunately, he wasn’t able to capitalize on his invention. Failing to acquire enough funds to open a factory, he sold the rights to the patent in 1868 and died in obscurity in 1881.

• On Nov. 21, 1934, a teenage and terrified Ella Fitzgerald stepped on the stage at Harlem’s Apollo Theater to participate in Amateur Night after her name was drawn from a hat. At the time an aspiring dancer, she spontaneously decided to sing instead, not only winning the competition after a rough start, but unknowingly setting her feet on the path to becoming a music legend.

• On Nov. 22, 1986, 20-year-old Mike Tyson knocked out 33-year-old Trevor Berbick in only five minutes and 35 seconds to become the youngest titleholder ever. He had won all 27 of the matches he’d previously fought, knocking out 26 of his opponents.

• On Nov. 23, 2002, John Herrington became the first Native American in space when he set out on a mission to the International Space Station. In honor of his heritage, he brought along several eagle feathers, a traditional wooden flute, a few arrowheads and the flag of the Chickasaw Nation.

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– Internet

Paul Foster, above, head of the Paul L. Foster Family Foundation, has established a \$5 million dollar-for-dollar matching grant to support the establishment of a new law school in El Paso County.

School

From Page 1

to the school’s goal of \$20 million to support a law school during its first 10 years, state lawmakers would take notice and be more willing to fund a UTEP law school.

To offer evidence that the community is serious about having its own law school, the Paul L. Foster Family Foundation pledged a \$5 million matching grant that the UTEP president announced during the local lawyers association luncheon. She is encouraging the legal community to join Foster in his support for a law school to serve the region. “We can’t do it alone... If you help us, we can do this,” she stated during her presentation about the venture.

In a UTEP news release, Foster, founder and CEO of Franklin Mountain Investments and chairman of the Paul L. Foster Family Foundation, stated that part of his reasoning for offering the matching grant was that good lawyers can enable business,



– Photo courtesy UTEP

UTEP President Heather Wilson, above, is working with local leaders to secure philanthropic and business commitments from the community to start a law school in El Paso County.

solve problems, and help people. “Now is the time to move forward with this idea,” he asserted.

El Paso State Senator Cesar Blanco said that the philanthropic effort by the Foster Foundation will show the state legislature that El Paso has “skin in the game.” Elected leaders, especially those at the top, want to see what the local communities are doing for some of these efforts. He stated that this would help him and other members of the El Paso state delegation to promote the law school. “These matching funds sends a message that El Pasoans want this,” Blanco said.

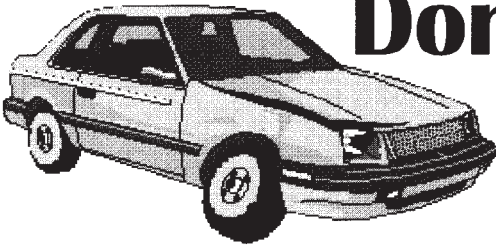
With sufficient support from the community, UTEP would be able to engage in conversations with The University of Texas System Board of Regents and Texas Legislature to secure needed approval and additional capital support, potentially submitting a formal request to start a law school during the 2027 legislative session, UTEP officials stated.



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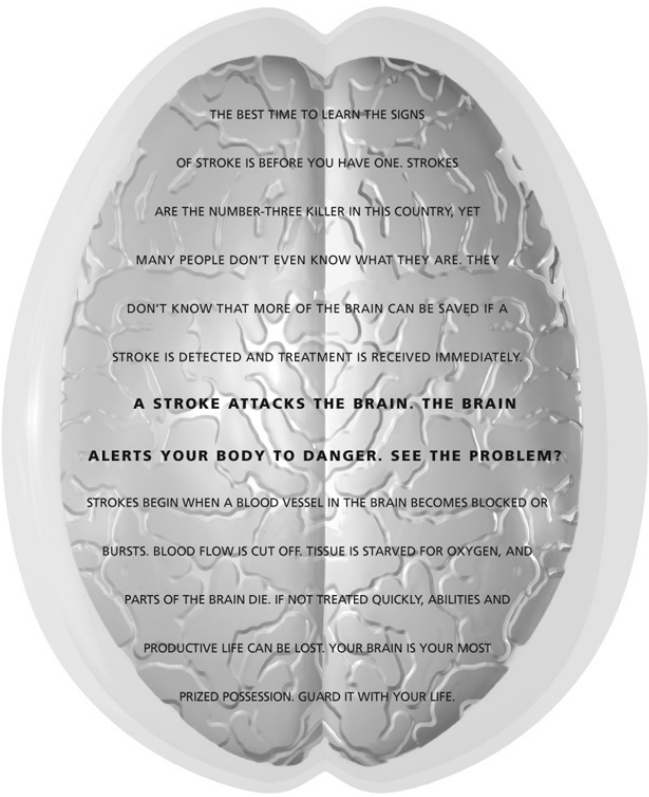


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THE BEST TIME TO LEARN THE SIGNS
OF STROKE IS BEFORE YOU HAVE ONE. STROKES
ARE THE NUMBER-THREE KILLER IN THIS COUNTRY, YET
MANY PEOPLE DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT THEY ARE. THEY
DON'T KNOW THAT MORE OF THE BRAIN CAN BE SAVED IF A
STROKE IS DETECTED AND TREATMENT IS RECEIVED IMMEDIATELY.

**A STROKE ATTACKS THE BRAIN. THE BRAIN
ALERTS YOUR BODY TO DANGER. SEE THE PROBLEM?**

STROKES BEGIN WHEN A BLOOD VESSEL IN THE BRAIN BECOMES BLOCKED OR
BURSTS. BLOOD FLOW IS CUT OFF. TISSUE IS STARVED FOR OXYGEN, AND
PARTS OF THE BRAIN DIE. IF NOT TREATED QUICKLY, ABILITIES AND
PRODUCTIVE LIFE CAN BE LOST. YOUR BRAIN IS YOUR MOST
PRIZED POSSESSION. GUARD IT WITH YOUR LIFE.

WITH A STROKE, TIME LOST IS BRAIN LOST.

If you suddenly have or see any of these symptoms, call 9-1-1 immediately: Numbness or weakness of the face, arm or leg, especially on one side of the body • Confusion, trouble speaking or understanding • Difficulty seeing in one or both eyes • Trouble walking, dizziness, loss of balance or coordination • Severe headache with no known cause

Learn more at StrokeAssociation.org or 1-888-4-STROKE.



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American Stroke Association
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Save a Life.

#SlowDown #MoveOver



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

be great for them – and for American society at large, which spends roughly \$170 billion a year on obesity-related medical costs – if there were a safe, relatively convenient way for them to slim down?

Lo and behold, here it is. The GLP-1s started out as a treatment for diabetes and have exploded in popularity as weight-loss drugs.

Trump’s reflex to make it easier for people to obtain Ozempic and the like – while, not incidentally, boosting his reputation as the nation’s foremost dealmaker – is the correct one. Drug pricing is complicated, but by expanding the sale of the drugs direct to consumers, the companies can reduce prices. Meanwhile, Medicare will do more to cover the drugs, also bringing down their cost.

According to Gallup, about 12% of Americans report having used a GLP-1 drug at some point for weight loss, a stunning increase from about 6% in early 2024. Not coincidentally, Gallup is also now showing a slight dip in obesity. From 2008 – when the

polling organization regularly began asking about weight – to 2022, the percentage of obese Americans increased by 14 percentage points, to nearly 40%.

Where any number of fashionable diets and continual government exhortations for more physical exertion have failed (before RFK Jr., Michelle Obama was urging, “Let’s Move!”), drugs to slow digestion and reduce the urge to eat are working.

The percentage of Americans using GLP-1s will inevitably keep growing, especially if prices continue to go down, if more oral GLP-1s come online in addition to injectables, and if other medical benefits of the drugs emerge. GLP-1s could easily match the saturation level of statins, the cholesterol-reducing drugs.

By all means, we should all eat more arugula. Until then, we have found a pharmaceutical path to alleviating an ongoing health crisis. President Trump and the drug companies are to be congratulated for their creative cooperation to make it available to more Americans.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.
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Ivermectin not proven for cancer treatment

I was diagnosed with stage 4 high-grade ovarian cancer in September 2024. I underwent a major surgery in March after the tumor shrank. I see a top doctor at a renowned hospital, and I trust him. I went through seven rounds of chemo with three different meds. I handled it well as I am very fit and 64 years old. I am now on maintenance medications (Avastin and Lynparza). My numbers are going up. I know my prognosis isn’t good, but I try to live my best life. I have a lot of different things to look forward to (marriages, grandbabies, etc.). I have many friends who keep suggesting ivermectin as a treatment. (These people are also anti-vaxers.) I don’t fall into this group of people as I believe in modern medicine and have trusted my doctor. So, my question is: What are your thoughts about this treatment, and what have you heard about it within the medical community? – L.N.



I am sorry to hear about your diagnosis, but I congratulate you on your good attitude. The treatment for ovarian cancer has changed dramatically in the past few years. There are many treatments, and although they are often not able to cure cancer, they can keep cancer at bay – sometimes for many years, even decades. Having an important life event to look forward to is important to maintaining a good attitude.

As far as ivermectin goes, there is a small possibility that it will turn out to be a useful treatment for cancer. I have read some preclinical studies that suggested some benefit. However, no studies that were done on actual people have proven it to be useful for any type of cancer so far. Many promising treatments turn out to be failures after the initial clinical trials.

There are people who feel that there are hidden treatments for cancer and that there is a massive conspiracy to keep successful cancer treatments from being used. Having known many doctors and research scientists who unfortunately died from cancer themselves, I can assure you that this isn’t the case. Many scientists across the globe are working hard to find new treatments, and every year brings incremental benefits.

Ivermectin is the most recent “miracle treatment” that I have heard about. I can recall easily at least a half dozen miracle treatments in the past 20 years that haven’t turned out to be useful. Some of these are not only useless but are actively harmful. While ivermectin is generally safe when dosed appropriately for its indication of treating parasites, it can be dangerous at high doses.

I respect the use of alternative treatments to manage the symptoms that are caused by cancer treatments such as chemotherapy. However, people who rely on alternative treatments for treatment of their cancer do not do as well as people who are getting the best care that modern medicine currently has to offer.

I recommend that you thank your friends for their advice and tell them that you trust your medical team and will follow what your doctor recommends.

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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When you lose someone dear to you — or when a special person has a birthday, quits smoking, or has some other occasion to celebrate — memorial gifts or tribute gifts made for them to your local American Lung Association help prevent lung disease and improve the care of those who suffer from it.

1-800-LUNG-USA



Moore Texas by Roger MOORE
In 1948 Raymond Ballew, a bootlegger with an extensive police record, ran for sheriff of Hall County.

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: P equals C

PUXICYO AXZGPGTI KEU KTZ
WTAUXZ WUY VGLGIV ULNYMO
FYTATCGP YNIFGCGUIZ UW
ZUIVZ: ETAAO KOINCCN.

Answer Page 4

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Weekly SUDOKU

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

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging

Answer Page 4

♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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Claims error rate: 61%



by Freddy Groves

It’s one thing to have a medical condition that neatly slots into the VA’s presumptive chart of toxic exposure-related illnesses. If you served at a location at a certain time, your illness is presumed to have been caused by that service under TERA, a toxic exposure risk activity. As the list of presumptives grows (courtesy of the PACT Act), so do the number of veterans who qualify automatically. Disability benefits soon follow – if all goes well.

But what if you were there, at a certain time, and your toxic exposure illness isn’t on the list?

In 2022 when the PACT Act added so many presumptives, veterans submitted their claims, the how-to claims manual increased in size and things became complicated. For one thing, those veterans without a presumptive

(listed) illness were required to get a medical exam and a medical opinion. The claims people had to do extra work and request the specific exam as well as the opinion to verify that the veteran did have that illness, and that the exposure did indeed cause that illness.

And there the problems began with the denial of claims.

The VA’s Office of Inspector General stepped in and conducted a very long review to investigate whether processors handled those denials correctly.

The results of that investigation showed that 61% of denials for nonpresumptive TERA-related claims had processing errors. In some cases, there was no request for a medical exam and opinion. In other cases there was no research into whether the veteran participated in a toxic exposure activity.

It’s not surprising so many mistakes were made. Besides the standard 82-page how-to manual, processors needed to wade through eight policy documents, nine general

information documents and 94 webpages of frequently asked questions.

The OIG’s recommendations, if followed by the VA, should ease the difficulties in accurately processing the exposure claims. We can only hope they’re listening.

Veterans, if you believe your illness was caused by toxic exposure, insist on a TERA exam and medical opinion to bolster your claim.

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• “Here’s a great way to organize in the shop: Use chalkboard paint to paint the outside of cabinet doors and even drawer fronts. You can label the contents, or use the surface to jot down quick measurements if needed. Simple to erase when you make a change. I write down references for a project as I go, and it’s easier to see than shuffling through scrap papers on my workbench.” – A. in Montana

• Experts say to always crack your egg on a flat surface, rather than using the edge of a counter or bowl. More egg-tastic advice is to crack eggs into a small bowl instead of directly into ingredients. If you have a sneaky “bad egg” in your dozen, it’s better to find out before you ruin your baking.

• Another great use for baking soda: Add a cup or two to your toilet bowl. Swish and let sit for 1-2 hours. Flush for odor control and shine.

• “I love to search for recipes online. I have learned to pay attention to the comments section of recipes that are new to me. You will find a lot of explanation and frequently a tweak that many people have found successful. Comments have saved me from oversalting a recipe, as well as making necessary adjustments in temperature and cooking time. I have found complicated techniques broken down in a way that was helpful. It pays to check the comments out!” – W.G. in Missouri

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.

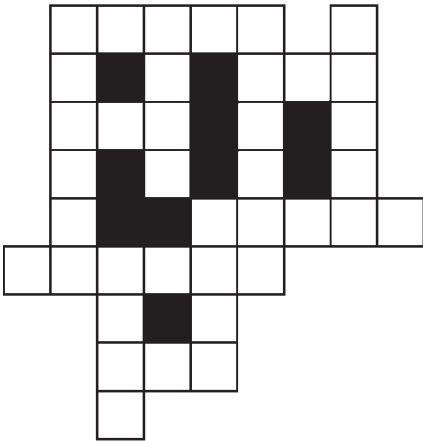
Answer Page 4

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	+		÷		= 12			
+		+		+				
	-		+		= 10			
×		+		÷				
	+		÷		= 4			
=		=		=				
85		13		4				
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9



KUA
TVREER
SCABI
RBCA
OVCRA
TAVI
♥ASKO
NOCER
♥UNB
VEBNIO
ENKIS
♥EVNA



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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