



– Photos by Alfredo Vasquez

OFF THE SCREEN ONTO THE STREET – Movie characters Stanley “The Mask” Ipkiss, Cindy Lou Who and Yoda (background) came to life during the 2025 Sun Bowl parade.

Sun City weather shines for Sun Bowl parade

By Alfredo Vasquez
Special to the Courier

EL PASO COUNTY – On a beautiful Thursday morning thousands upon thousands of borderland residents and visitors cluttered the sidewalks along Montana Street in downtown El Paso for more than two miles. They were all there to view the 89th Annual Sun Bowl Parade, which was sponsored by Glasheen, Valles & Inderman Injury Lawyers on Thanksgiving Day.
Themed “Childhood Is Where Dreams Are Born”

the parade offered viewers several decorative floats, high school bands, the UTEP marching band and cheer squad, clowns, matachines, cheerleaders, U.S. Army soldiers and armored equipment, and plenty of law enforcement and fire department personnel in their polished vehicles.
Grand marshal for this year’s event was Aaron Sanchez, renowned celebrity chef who grew up in El Paso. Known for his cookbook presentations and television appearances, Sanchez is head chef and part owner of the popular Johnny Sanchez

See PARADE, Page 4



HERITAGE – Ysleta del Sur Pueblo Tribal dancers shared a ritual performance with people along the parade route.

Amaya named to fill VP post

By Beau Bagley
Special to the Courier

EL PASO COUNTY – El Paso Community College (EPCC) President Dr. William Serrata has appointed Dr. Carlos C. Amaya to the post of Vice President of Instruction and Workforce Education/Chief Academic Officer for EPCC. The announcement was made on November 21, 2025 and takes effect on February 1, 2026. Amaya will be assuming the position from Dr. Steve Smith. Smith is set to retire on January 31 after 38 years with EPCC.
“I am deeply honored and humbled by this appointment, and I am excited to continue serving El Paso Community College in this new role,” Amaya said. “EPCC has shaped my career and my commitment to student success, and I look forward to working closely with our Instructional Division, faculty, and staff to advance academic excellence and workforce innovation. Together, we will continue building pathways that empower our students, strengthen our community, and

See AMAYA, Page 2

The Epstein conspiracy in plain sight

It’s not what you know, it’s who you know – even if you may have committed terrible crimes. That’s the Jeffrey Epstein version of the famous line about success. The massive tranche of Epstein emails released by the House Oversight Committee didn’t reveal any smoking guns about Donald Trump, but they did highlight a vast conspiracy to help the disgraced financier thrive despite his guilty plea to sex charges involving a minor in 2008.

This conspiracy wasn’t the work of the Deep State, or Israel, or the Jews. No, it was more pedestrian and damning than that. An element of the American elite embraced Epstein as one of its own, thanks to his wealth and his connections. The conservative thinker Russell Kirk once quipped of conspiracy theories about Dwight Eisenhower that Ike wasn’t

a communist; he was a golfer. In a similar vein, Jeffrey Epstein wasn’t a Mossad agent; he was a networker.

The implausible populist narrative about the Epstein case is that the government – at all levels and up to today – has protected him and others who participated in his crimes because too many powerful people have too much at stake, or because it’s too dangerous to reveal Israel’s role in the scandal, or both. Perhaps these interpretations will gain factual support as more is revealed, but it seems unlikely.

Regardless, populists have a different narrative at hand that is consistent with the known record. Namely, that some of the most privileged members of our society – at the very top of the financial, academic, political, media and social worlds – had no

standards or ethics, and embraced Epstein as a friend and consigliere.

Epstein knew influential people, so influential people felt that they should know him. They considered him fun, and useful – for advice, for banter, for introductions, for information and for donations. The emails suggest that Epstein missed his calling as a high-level, seamy advice columnist to the rich and powerful.

Want to know more about the reputation of the woman you are having an affair with? Seeking advice on how to gain political influence in



See LOWRY, Page 7

Amaya

From Page 1

ensure that EPCC remains a place where every learner can thrive.”

Amaya brings nearly thirty years of experience in higher education, demonstrating a strong record of promoting



– Photo courtesy EPCC
Dr. Carlos C. Amaya

academic excellence, workforce innovation, and student success. He holds a Ph.D. in Quantitative Biology and M.S. in Biology from the University of Texas at Arlington, as well as a B.S. in Biology from the University of Texas at El Paso.

“Throughout his distinguished career at EPCC, Dr. Amaya has served in several key leadership roles, including Vice President of Student and Enrollment Services, Interim Associate Vice President of Workforce and Continuing Education, and Dean of Architecture, Art, Mathematics, and Science,” Serrata said. “His leadership has guided the development of new facilities, such as the Architecture Building and the Advanced Science and Technology (AST) Building and fostered collaborations that have expanded educational and career

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"A NICKEL FOR YOUR THOUGHTS."



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2025

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PUBLIC NOTICE
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS AND PARTIES:
The *West Texas County Courier* will not publish the last two weeks of December. The first issue of 2026 will be January 1.
The *West Texas County Courier* office will close beginning Monday, December 8, 2025. The office will open again on Friday, December 26, 2025.

King Crossword

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Average Solve Time 26 Minutes

ACROSS

1 Listening device

4 Wrestling style

8 Wax-coated cheese

12 Cagers' gp.

13 Jannings of old films

14 Showroom model

15 Cheek

17 Pleased

18 Sports venues

19 CEO's deg.

21 Cowboys

quarterback Prescott

22 Equivalence

26 London _

29 Allen or Tebow

30 "Kitchy-_"

31 Ore deposit

32 Madrid Mrs.

33 Small bell sound

34 '50s president

35 Layer

36 Speakers' platforms

37 Chasteness

39 Fixed

40 Search for gold

41 Salad choice

45 Designer Wang

48 Magnitude

50 During

51 Vend

52 Homer's bartender

53 First-rate

54 Lays down the lawn

55 Evening hrs.

DOWN

1 Tolkien creatures

2 Help a hood

3 Hindu hero

4 _ number

5 Inuit boat

6 Cambridge sch.

7 Dukakis of "Moonstruck"

8 Mystery writer's award

9 N.J. neighbor

10 "I _ Rock"

11 '60s chic

16 "Frasier" pooch

20 "Kapow!"

23 "_ you not!"

24 "Sula" author Morrison

25 Meditative practice

26 Radar image

27 Video-streaming brand

28 Baltic Sea feeder

29 Attempt

32 Fox's trait

33 Tribal emblem

35 Sch. fundraising group

36 Gems from oysters

38 Apple tablets

39 Berate

42 Ninny

43 Fermi's bit

44 Deli loaves

45 Cistern

46 Punk rock offshoot

47 Shred

49 "The Matrix" hero

Answer Page 4

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A political cartoon by Hitch. It depicts a group of men, likely politicians, with exaggerated features. One man in the center wears a shirt that says "IOWA STATE SKY PUPPIES". Speech bubbles from the group contain the following text: "DESPITE CLOSING THE BORDER...", "TAKING OFF THE STREET...", "AND BLOWING UP NARCO BOATS!", "NOW THIS CLUELESS TRUMP CLAIMS TO STOP THE FLOW OF DRUGS INTO THE COUNTRY!", and "I BEG TO DIFFER".

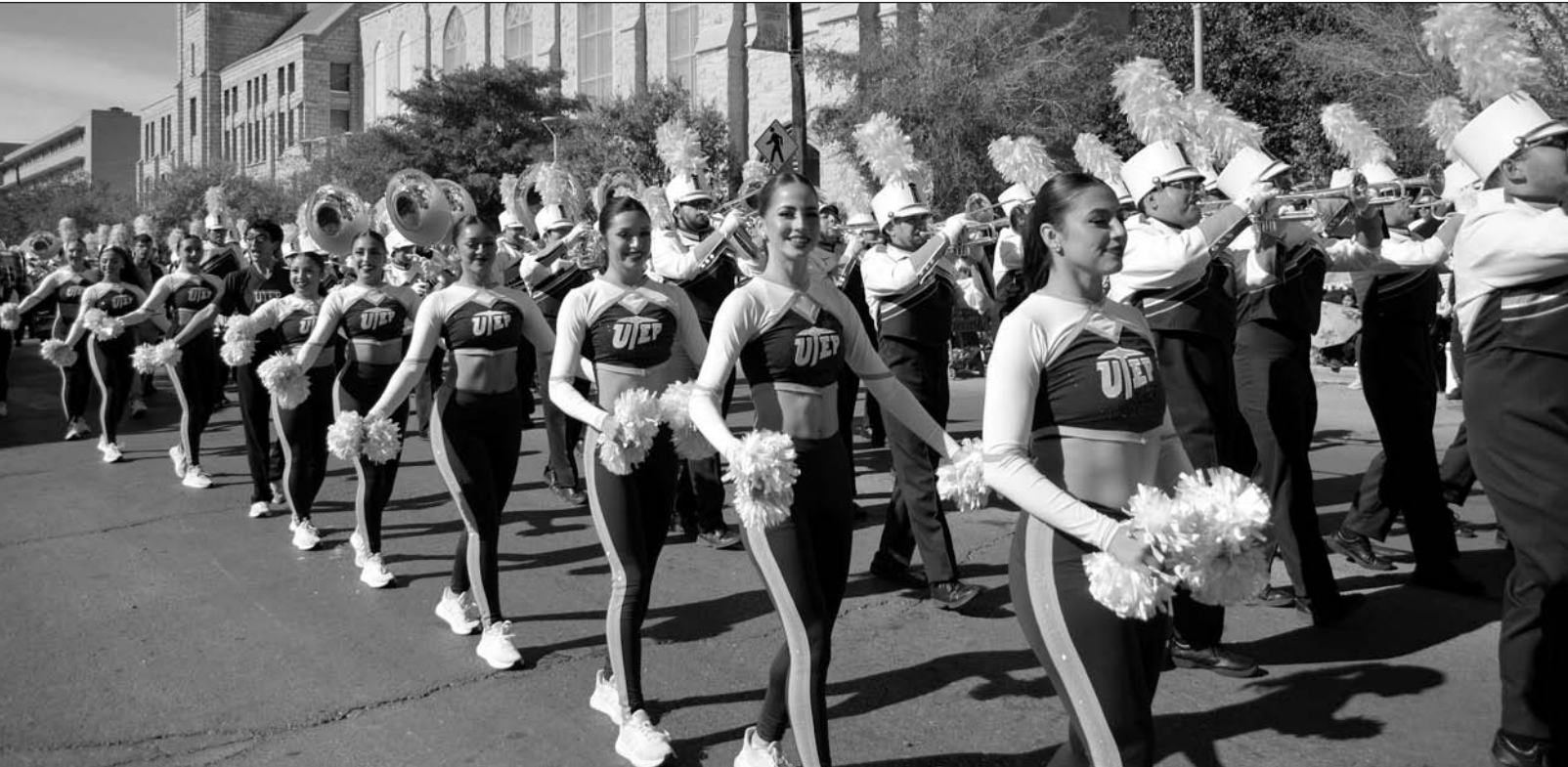
A cartoon by Mike Smith. Two men are in the foreground. The first man says, "I've got my passport." The second man asks, "You're headed out of the country?" In the background, a car with "ICE" on its side is driving away. To the right, a man is walking a dog, and a speech bubble from him says, "No, I'm taking the dog for a walk." The cartoon is signed "LAS VEGAS 12/2025 MIKE SMITH" and "DAN BYRON FEATURES/CUNY/CATE/NAAS".

A cartoon by Hitch. A car labeled "DON & GREG'S MAP RIGGING" is shown with two men inside. One man says, "I DON'T REMEMBER SEEING THIS ON THE MAP...". The car is parked in front of a building with columns labeled "COURTS". The cartoon is signed "© 2025 BRUNCH HITCH HONOLULU CHRONICLE".

A cartoon by Hitch. It features a large circular graphic with "DUNCE" in the center and "CALIFORNIA GUBERNATORIAL RACE" around the bottom. To the left, text reads "ERIC SWALWELL THROWS HIS HAT INTO THE RING". The cartoon is signed "HITCH".



HEROES – Ysleta del Sur Pueblo Tribal float, above, honored Native American Veterans including Purple Heart recipients and gold star families.



SCHOOL PRIDE – The University of Texas at El Paso Miners marching band and cheer squad brought their enthusiasm to the parade.

Parade

From Page 1

restaurant in New Orleans. Headlining the annual parade was the 2025-26 Sun Bowl Sun Court including Queen Caroline Mann, Lady-In-Waiting Janais Millan, and Princesses Nikole Haro, Isabella Dickey, Aiyana Medina, Grecia Ortega, Aracely Ramirez, Laynee Stokes, Veronica Luedtke, Karen Carrillo, Elvia Yopez, Leah Perea, Meredith Niland, Jamie Shelley. The annual parade is under the auspices of the Sun Bowl Association, whose current officers are Tamara Gladkowski, president; Beau Bagley, board member; Tony Valtier, secretary; Scott Mann, board member; and Bernie Olivas, executive director.

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CryptoQuip Answer

If pastors are thirty-one, forty-three or fifty-nine years old, do people say they're prime ministers?

Strange BUT TRUE

By Lucie Winborne

- The Great Pyramid of Giza was the tallest structure in the world for more than 3,800 years.
- More than 400,000 illnesses are caused by spoiled Christmas leftovers.
- Royal Air Force uniforms in World War II included a pants button that served as a compass.
- Those lovely aromas of candy and popcorn breezing down the sidewalks of Disney's Magic Kingdom's Main Street, U.S.A. are brought to you courtesy of scent machines called "Smellitizers" that release fragrances throughout the parks.
- Spider silk is stronger than steel.
- Gambia's citizens elect their political leaders using marbles rather than paper ballots in the voting booths, a method that was adopted in 1965 due to the country's low literacy rate.
- Humphrey Bogart never actually said "Play it again, Sam" in the film "Casablanca."
- High-heeled shoes exert more pressure on the ground than a skyscraper, which is why they're even banned at certain historical sites such as the Acropolis in Athens, to prevent damage to the ancient stone.

- The phrase "Don't mess with Texas" was coined to discourage road littering.
- The first zippers were for shoes, when inventor Whitcomb Judson was granted a patent for a rudimentary form that he called the "clasp-locker," an alternative to lengthy shoelaces.
- Olo, a color described as a "blue-green of unprecedented saturation," has only been viewed by five people in a laboratory, as it's beyond the range of normal human visibility.


- Washington State designated Sasquatch as its official state monster.
- There are an estimated 3 million shipwrecks in the ocean.

Thought for the Day: "A sign of intelligence is an awareness of one's own ignorance."
– Niccolo Machiavelli

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• On Dec. 1, 1992, police in Lilly, Pennsylvania, were summoned to a video store after a concerned passerby reported seeing a gunman inside, only to come face-to-face with a promotional cardboard cutout of a gun-toting Denzel Washington from the thriller “Ricochet.” The no-doubt amused cops chose to use the experience as a training day.

• On Dec. 2, 2023, KISS completed their final “End of the Road” tour at New York City’s Madison Square Garden with a performance featuring the band’s digital avatars. After the actual musicians left the stage, their virtual versions launched into a performance of “God Gave Rock and Roll to You.”

• On Dec. 3, 1847, escaped slave-turned-abolitionist Frederick Douglass, assisted by philanthropist Gerrit Smith, published his first antislavery newspaper, The North Star. The title referred to the bright star Polaris that helped guide fleeing slaves to the North, and freedom. The paper later merged with Smith’s under the new name Frederick Douglass’ Paper.

• On Dec. 4, 1942, a group of Polish Christians in Warsaw, led by Zofia Kossak and Wanda Filipowicz, put their own lives at risk by setting up the Council for the Assistance of the Jews. As their fates were not clear, it is also uncertain whether their mission was ultimately successful.

• On Dec. 5, 1873, Bridget Landregan was found dead in the Boston suburb of Dorchester, the first victim of Warren Avenue Baptist Church sexton Thomas Piper, aka the Boston Belfry Murderer. His second victim, Mary Sullivan, was killed the following year, and his third and fourth victims in 1875 and 1876. Piper was finally arrested and confessed to all four crimes, and was hanged in 1876.

• On Dec. 6, 1921, the Irish Free State (later renamed Eire and now known as the Republic of Ireland), comprising four-fifths of Ireland, was declared, ending a five-year struggle for independence from Britain.

• On Dec. 7, 1909, the U.S. Patent Office granted chemist LEO Baekeland a patent for “a method of making insoluble products of phenol and formaldehyde,” the first synthetic plastic. Dubbed Bakelite after its inventor, it would be marketed as “the material of 1,000 uses.”

Food for thought By Dr. Glenn Mollette

The Christmas Spirit

We can’t think about December without thinking about Christmas. December is saturated with Christmas. Christmas shopping, Christmas baking, Christmas Carols, Christmas television programs, Christmas religious services and the Christmas spirit.

Christmas has an accelerated pace of hustle and bustle but it also has an eerie haunting side. I was going through my cell phone contact list this morning and was appalled at how many contacts I have in my phone who are now deceased. Every time I turn around I discover an acquaintance has passed. For so many of us, we can’t really arise to the crescendo side of Christmas celebrations without wading through the mire of grief. We think about parents, spouses, children and friends whom we loved so much who are not here to celebrate Christmas with us. We remember old times that were good times. Those times aren’t as possible as they once were. So, this presents a major

hurdle for many of us to overcome and it’s not easy.

Christmas presents a yearly challenge for us to create a new and special time. What was, will not be again. Thus, we have to recreate our holidays which means they will be different. They can’t be the same, because what was no longer exists. Therefore, what was, cannot happen again.

The baby Jesus was born in Bethlehem. He was God in the flesh. He came with a divine purpose to bring joy and life. He brought joy to Mary and Joseph, the shepherds and the wisemen who traveled from afar to worship him. Unfortunately, Jesus was troubling to some who did not understand his mission and purpose.

This month of December we will not forget those who were so special to us. They helped make Christmas bright. Let’s focus on the one who really brings light to our lives and is the light of the

world and that’s the baby Jesus, who said, “I am the light of the world.” We need his light to navigate the darkness. Yes, the world has a dark side. Death and grief are difficult to navigate. We need the Christ child who came to help and save us to lead us through this month and the rest of our lives.

This December let’s focus on loving those we know and those who are here. Let’s draw close to each other. Jesus will help us. He said, “If I be lifted up, I will draw all men unto me.” He will make our journey lighter and brighter. Reach out to others. Don’t wait for your phone to ring. You make the call. Send the text and reach out. Spread God’s love and spread well wishes and goodness to all you know.

When we give love and hope to others, it comes back to us. If we invest in others, the invest in some way will be returned. Jesus is our example. He came to earth. He lived, loved and walked among us. We are the benefactors of his life. As we look to Him this season, may others be the beneficiaries of the Christmas spirit that dwells in you.

Amaya

From Page 1

respect of faculty, staff, and community partners alike.



– Photo courtesy EPCC

Dr. William Serrata

opportunities for students across the region.”

In his most recent role as Vice President of Student and Enrollment Services, Amaya successfully led enrollment growth initiatives, implemented technology solutions that enhanced the student experience, and managed the distribution of over \$50 million in federal relief funds to support students during and after the COVID-19 pandemic. His collaborative, student-centered approach has earned him the resident’s Excellence Award and the

Notice of Public Meeting To Discuss Socorro Independent School District’s State Financial Accountability Rating (FIRST)

The Socorro Independent School District will hold a public meeting at 6:00 p.m., Wednesday, December 17, 2025 in the District Service Center Board Room, 12440 Rojas Dr. El Paso TX 79928.

The purpose of this meeting is to discuss Socorro Independent School District’s rating under the state’s financial accountability system. Public participation in the discussion is invited.

WTCC: 12/04/25

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TEXAS AUTO BURGLARY AND THEFT PREVENTION AUTHORITY

The Dallas Cowboys may not be dead after all

By Steve Escajeda
Special to the Courier

Before the season even started there were two moves that turned all the experts, and most fans, away from the Dallas Cowboys.

The first was their choice for head coach. After the team and former coach Mike McCarthy mutually decided to end their relationship after the 2024 season, Dallas had to find a replacement.

Of course, being the Dallas Cowboys, a big-name coach with tons of head coaching experience was the obvious choice.

But owner Jerry Jones did what he does so often, he surprised everyone with a disappointing decision.

Instead of going with the experienced head guy, Jones decided to go with an assistant from his staff, Brian Schottenheimer, who no one ever heard of and has never been a head coach at any level.

Almost everyone rolled their eyes and criticized Jones for being stubborn and not doing what we all thought he should.

The second dumb decision the Cowboys made was getting rid of their best player.

Jones took forever to sign Dak Prescott to an extended contract, but he signed Dak. Jones took forever to sign CeeDee Lamb to an extended contract, but he signed Lamb.

So, when Jones was taking forever to sign Micah Parsons to an extended contract, we all knew he would eventually sign Micah.

But the Cowboys’ owner did the unthinkable, he traded Parsons to the Green Bay Packers.

And if choosing a head coach with no experience wasn’t enough, getting

rid of their best defense player was the final straw for a lot of Dallas fans.

It was especially the final straw for the NFL experts who wondered whether Jerry was either flirting with Alzheimer’s, or doing his best Joe Biden imitation, and losing his ability to make sound decisions.

To prove everyone correct, the Cowboys only won three of their first nine games and were battling just to stay out of last place in their NFC East division.

I mean when the Cowboys lose to the Carolina Panthers and the Arizona Cardinals, you know it’s over.

But sometimes things aren’t always as they seem.

Somehow, somehow, the season is not over for the Cowboys.

After falling to 3-5-1, Dallas has suddenly won three straight games to improve to a winning 6-5-1 record and are back in the playoff hunt.

And it’s not just that they’ve won three games in a row, it’s that the last two wins have come against the two

teams in the Super Bowl last year, the Philadelphia Eagles and the Kansas City Chiefs.

So, what is really is going on?

The Cowboys had a miserable defense which only got a lot worse when they rid of Parsons. They couldn’t stop the run, and their secondary was leaving opposing wide receivers wide open for completion after completion.

But Jerry Jones made a trade here and a trade there to pick up guys to help on the defensive side and they have.

Dallas’ defense isn’t great, but it’s a lot better than it was. And with the Cowboys’ explosive offense, all they need their defense to be is “not terrible.”

Speaking of that offense, quarterback Dak Prescott is plying as well as he ever has, Javonte Williams is doing a great job running the ball, wide receivers CeeDee Lamb and George Pickens are the best catching duo in the NFL.

Throw in tight end Jake Ferguson and speedster KaVontae Turpin, and the Cowboys have turned into an almost unstoppable machine.

There’s no doubt that the Cowboys have the best offense in the league. But it had one of the worst defenses in the league as well.

Well now that the defense is playing better, the Cowboys are starting to make the rest of the league take notice.

Don’t get me wrong, they still have a small chance to make the playoffs, and the percentages are against them. But just a couple weeks ago, they had absolutely no chance.

And as much as I hate to say it, maybe Jerry Jones does know what he’s doing. Maybe he can still figure things out and make football intelligent decisions.

There is no bigger villain in the NFL than Jerry Jones. But sometimes, it’s a little fun to root for the bad guy.

As long as America’s Team keeps winning.

Senior moment By Matilda Charles

Why do we turn down help?

All too frequently we seniors don’t ask for help when we need it, using as an excuse that others need it more. Sound familiar?

Our local senior center decided to host a free holiday dinner a few weeks before Christmas this year. It was to be a full turkey dinner, with several courses, a sit-down affair with table service from the Community Club at the high school. They needed to limit it to 100 people, and advance signup was required. Color them amazed when a full week after the announcement, there were still well over 50 dinner slots available.

Staff starting manning the phones, calling senior center members to ask if they’d heard about the dinner. Yes, people had heard. Yes, it sounded lovely. But no, they wouldn’t be signing up for it. Other people, many stated, needed the free dinner more.

This did not surprise me. After all the times I’ve talked to seniors around me about how it was OK for them to

go to the food bank, that it was OK to ask for help – no, I wasn’t shocked that many were turning down a free holiday dinner at the senior center.

Does this describe you? Someone who would turn down free things, saying that others might need it more?

There’s more to it when we decline help, other reasons, if we’re going to be honest with ourselves. Mostly we fear loss of independence. Somehow we equate getting help at the food bank – or a free turkey dinner – with not being able to take care of ourselves, thus possibly inviting scrutiny from others who might start questioning our ability to manage our lives.

I was not surprised when the senior center changed their promotion for the free dinner to say they would welcome donations, and the rest of the slots filled up.

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“NO SURRENDER!”
ACROSS
1 Covered
decoratively, as walls
8 Info to input
12 Bygone rival of
Delta
15 Widespread
19 More foam-filled
20 “My turn now”
21 Wrestler Flair
22 English prep
school
23 “Assuming this is
relevant...”
25 Very angry
27 “Illmatic” rapper
28 Large burden
29 Farthest down
30 Chop to bits
33 Far enough not to
be in danger
38 Unlock, in verse
39 Rocket interceptor,
in brief
41 Truncates
42 Corp. VIPs
43 Covert org.
44 Easy victory
46 Beer barrel
47 Heats a little
48 Pricey plane
section
52 “Yes, that’s what I
said”
56 Figure skater Kulik
57 Boston
basketballer
59 Beginner, in slang
60 Jazz wailer

61 “Maintain self-
control!”
66 “The Mary Tyler
Moore Show” actress
Georgia
67 Bridles
68 1924 Edna Ferber
novel
72 Become a queen,
as a princess
79 Commercials
82 Kingdom in
Genesis
83 “The Mary
Tyler Moore Show”
character Nivens
84 German city on
der Rhein
85 Test the suitability
of
89 Advice that may
calm someone
91 Clingy wrap
92 Pro at CPR
94 In _ (in its original
place)
95 Summer, in
Soissons
96 Writer Bagnold
97 Set in motion
102 Kylo of “Star Wars”
103 Atmosphere
104 2008 novel by
John L. Parker Jr.
109 Sounds
110 Head, in Nice
111 Hairstyles
112 Camps in the wild,
e.g.

115 Subject of the
adage formed by the
starts of nine long
answers in this puzzle
120 Tot’s query
121 Observe
122 District
123 Plane pilot
124 Boatloads
125 Singer Rita
126 Covert “Hey!”
127 Belt holes

DOWN
1 Tire pressure
meas.
2 “_ Wiedersehen”
3 PalmPilot, e.g., in
brief
4 Channel for
college sports
5 Split to bits
6 Wiggly fishes
7 Soft & _
8 Singers Ross and
Krall
9 Attack from hiding
10 City south of
Topeka, KS
11 Gibbon, e.g.
12 Old TV tube
13 Beneficial to both
sides
14 Entry
15 Patronize Hertz or
Avis
16 TGIF’s “I”
17 Enemy
18 Terminate
24 Military bed

26 Virginia hrs.
29 Terminate
30 Trust (in)
31 20th Greek letter
32 Splitting
33 Magic charm
34 Glenn of the
Eagles
35 Quiz whizzes,
perhaps
36 Key next to a
period
37 Newark’s county
40 Lawn bowling
variety
45 Soft mineral
47 Indiana river
49 Fills totally
50 Gawk
51 Fathered
53 Linking word in
Leipzig
54 “Hath _ sister?”:
Shakespeare
55 “That’s icky!”
58 Detailed
evaluations, in brief
62 Affix with paste
63 Bidirectional, as a
door
64 Tartrate, e.g.
65 Thom of
Radiohead
69 Using logical
operators
70 Using Nero’s
language
71 Kids of boomers
73 Nav. officer
74 Bus. firms

75 Bygone U.K.
record label
76 Old Hollywood’s _
Code
77 Whole
78 Fed. bond
79 Sailing
80 Partner of Sturm
81 Iraq neighbor
86 Appearing
gradually, as a film
scene
87 Sixth Greek letters
88 Arab chief
90 Flee fast
93 Torn clothes
97 “True indeed”
98 More prying
99 Cold brew,
informally
100 “But wait, _ more!”
101 Really vexes
105 Japanese dance-
drama
106 “No kidding!”
108 Violinist Stern
111 “Whip It” rock band
112 TV brand
113 Granola tidbit
114 Party card game
115 Mushy food
116 Ryder vehicle
117 To the _ degree
118 Iowa college
119 Trauma ctrs.

Answer Page 4

Super Crossword

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18			
19							20				21			22						
23							24				25			26						
			27				28				29									
30	31	32				33				34						35	36	37		
38				39	40			41							42					
43				44			45			46					47					
48			49					50	51		52		53	54	55					
56					57					58			59				60			
61				62							63	64				65				
66								67							68		69	70	71	
			72			73	74	75					76	77	78					
79	80	81		82						83						84				
85				86					87	88		89			90					
91								92		93			94				95			
96					97	98	99				100	101		102				103		
104					105								106			107	108			
				109							110					111				
112	113	114							115					116				117	118	119
120						121				122				123						
124						125				126				127						

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

Europe? Wondering how you’re handling your interactions with a potential mistress? Looking for insights about Donald Trump? Trying to survive sexual harassment allegations? Need a reference for a gastroenterologist? Well, then, ask Jeffrey Epstein.

He emailed with former Harvard president Larry Summers, the linguist Noam Chomsky, venture capitalist Boris Nikolic, Emirati businessman Sultan Ahmed bin Sulayem, Trump activist Steve Bannon, the journalist Michael Wolff, the artist Andres Serrano, the department store scion Jonathan Farkas and former White House counsel Kathryn Ruemmler, among others. It’s not as though Epstein was particularly insightful, but if he knew so many important people, he must know something, right?

As for his scrape with the law, clearly all had been forgiven and forgotten. If he was in the good graces of the social wrangler Peggy Siegal, whose job was to get bold-faced names to accept invitations, he must be OK. For

some of Epstein’s correspondents, it was part of his appeal that he was disreputable. Larry Summers, who leaned on Epstein for romantic advice, asked him at one point: “How is life among the lucrative and louche?”

Epstein’s social currency is one reason that he got off so easily the first time he was prosecuted – he hired the best, most connected defense attorneys, who outclassed and intimidated his prosecutors.

As for Trump, he is guilty of enjoying Epstein’s company a couple of decades ago, presumably for the same reason so many others did. But he had a falling out with Epstein long ago. Trump didn’t have anything to do with him at the time that so many others in these emails were socializing with Epstein, confiding in him and asking him for insight on Trump. That’s a disgrace, and it’s always been in plain sight. In the Epstein story, it’s not so much follow the money – although that’s important and still mysterious – as follow the social network.

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

Puncture site still painful after medical procedure

DEAR DR. ROACH: I recently had a medical procedure under general anesthesia. One of the lines was put in the artery in my left wrist. Aside from deep bruising that went halfway up my forearm, it seems that there is some nerve damage. I have constant pain from my thumb, through my wrist, and up to about 3 inches on my arm. Overnight, the pain becomes intense and radiates all the way up to my shoulder. Tylenol and an arthritis sleeve only provide minimum relief. Should I request to see a neurologist, or is there another type of doctor to seek out for a diagnosis? This has become life-altering, and I’m hoping it will eventually be healed. – B.F.



I suspect that the bruising on your forearm was caused by bleeding from the puncture site of the artery in your wrist. (This type of line is used to measure blood pressure accurately and instantaneously.) The hematoma (blood collection) inside the wrist might be compressing the median nerve in your carpal tunnel, which causes a neuropathy very much like carpal tunnel syndrome.

If I am right, then the condition should improve as your body absorbs the blood, which takes pressure off the nerve. However, there are case reports of permanent damage to the nerve from complications of an arterial puncture. In general, if the nerve compression is serious enough to cause weakness, it needs to be acted upon urgently.

The doctors who performed your procedure need to know about this complication, and a neurologist is exactly the right person to see. A simple nerve test could confirm my suspicion or disprove it by finding a different cause if your symptoms persist.

DEAR DR. ROACH: I’m an active 60-year-old who took a soccer ball to the groin some time back. After a few months, I noticed a change in my sexual organ. Narrowing and bending of my organ developed, and it seems to be getting worse. My general doctor seems to think it’s Peyronie’s disease. After researching this, I started taking vitamin E and COq10 supplements. I scheduled a urologist exam but was hoping for some insight on this. – G.

I suspect your general doctor is correct, and an evaluation by a urologist is certainly indicated. Peyronie’s disease is often triggered by trauma in a person who is genetically susceptible to the condition. (Your trauma was very clear, but it isn’t always clear in everyone what the trauma might have been.)

The diagnosis is made by an examination showing a bend in the penis, along with plaque that can be felt during an examination in most cases. Some men, but not all, will have pain.

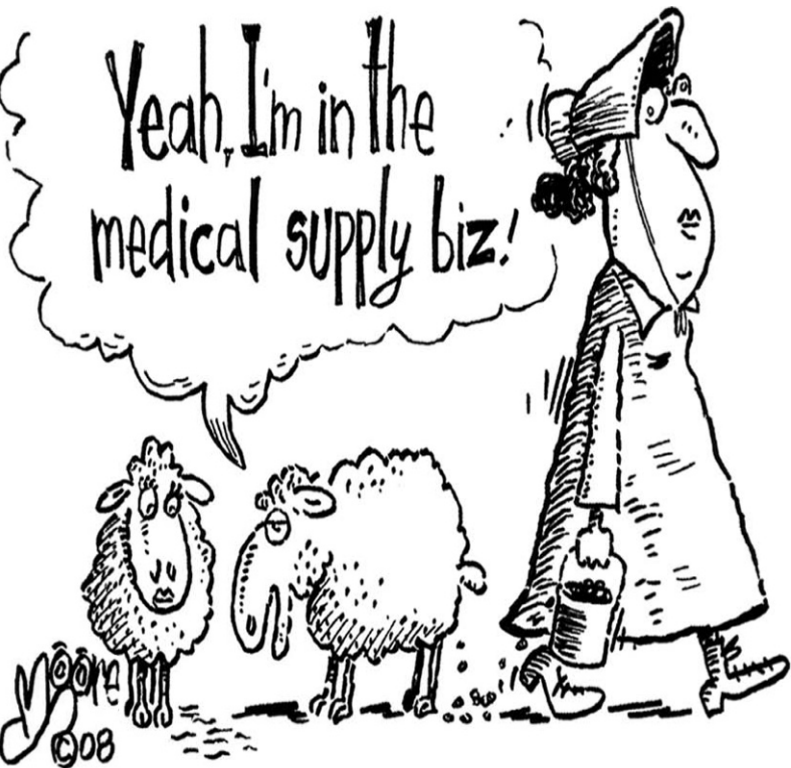
In men who are in the active phase of the disease (where the curvature is getting worse), urologists will often prescribe pentoxifylline for three to six months in hopes of stabilizing the condition and preventing the curve from worsening.

Vitamin E was not found to be superior to a placebo treatment. CoQ10 was found to have a benefit in a small trial, and since it is very safe, this was a reasonable treatment for you to try.

Depending on your symptoms and degree of curvature, there are several options for treatment. Medication can be injected directly into the penis; men treated with this were found to have about a 34% improvement in curvature. Traction therapy is also frequently used.

In men with more severe disease that does not respond to the previous options, surgical treatment can be considered. This should be done in men whose sexual function is affected by the disease and in cases where medical treatments have failed to improve their symptoms adequately.

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.



Moore Texas by Roger Moore
In early Texas, pioneers made a home remedy for pneumonia by boiling sheep droppings.

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: I equals P

ZK ISYDPXY SXO DBZXDH-PEO,
KFXDH-DBXOO PX KZKDH-EZEO
HOSXY PNC, CP IOPINO YSH
DBOH'XO IXZGO GZEZYDOXY?

Answer Page 4

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Helping other veterans throughout the holidays



by Freddy Groves

The holidays are here, and for many veterans they won't be very merry. It's one struggle after the other, and the holidays just bring additional burdens.

There are presents to buy for the kids, there is the weekly dilemma of how to maneuver the rising costs of groceries, etc. We want to step in, but sometimes the needs seem endless and we don't know if or how we can help.

But, we can. Even a small effort on our part can go a long way to helping fellow veterans make the holidays a little less of a struggle.

If you're a member of a veterans group, like the American Legion or Disabled American Veterans, you're in a perfect position to give some real assistance to other veterans.

Here are some ideas to get you started, either as part of a group or individually:

Call Voluntary Services at the closest VA medical center and ask what you can do. You might be asked to run the parking lot shuttle and bring veterans from their car to the door. You might be asked to do one-on-one visits with patients who don't have friends or relatives to stop by. You might be asked to read to patients with vision problems. If your group is big enough (as well as having a good budget), you might want to host a holiday party for a whole ward, with food, drinks and presents for each patient. Hint: You can seek donations from the community to defray the cost of purchases.

Take a local veteran and family under your wing and ask what they need, whether it's meals, presents for the kids, a warm pair of boots or some home repairs.

Work a shift at a homeless shelter that serves a large

population of veterans. You might be cooking, serving meals at the tables or helping veterans find warm winter gear among the donated coats and gloves.

Whatever you do, your help will have an impact.

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• "When there are big family jobs to be done (like getting ready for the holidays), we write all the tasks down on slips of paper and put them in a hat. We take turns choosing tasks until all the paper is divvied out. Sometimes we trade, but we all get a fair chore list." – V.O. in Oregon

• "Let one person be responsible for putting prep dishes, pots and pans in the dishwasher while another prepares the bird and side dishes for the table. You will be halfway done with dishes by the time the meal is over." – M.A. in Washington

• Leftover bread can be repurposed as croutons or breadcrumbs. In fact, this is an excellent job for kiddos. With clean hands and a butter knife, older children can cut leftover rolls into manageable size pieces. Spray with olive oil cooking spray and bake at a low temperature (225 F) to dry out. Or crumble stale bread into crumbs and store in the freezer.

• If you love to burn candles, then the odds are good that you have a lot of candle "ends" that can no longer be used. You can purchase new wicks at the craft store and make a new candle from your leftovers. Simply scrape out the leftover wax into a clean tin can with one end removed. Set this can into a pot on your stovetop. Add a few inches of water, and boil to melt the wax. Then, holding the wick in place, you can pour the melted wax back into a candle-safe jar to let cool. Burn away!

• If you have ever had a tough time threading a needle, try this trick. Spritz the end of the thread with a shot of hairspray. It makes the thread stiffer, and it goes right through with no fuss.

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

Weekly SUDOKU

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

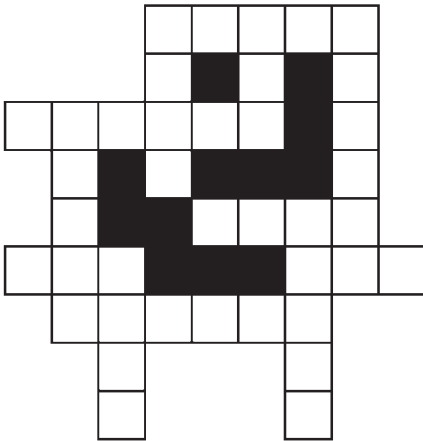
Answer Page 4

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	-		+		= 13			
-		+		-				
	+		÷		= 9			
×		÷		+				
	+		-		= 2			
=		=		=				
15		1		13				
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9



GPE
♥ RIPDOT
OSSIA
TPOL
NEOGHI
♥ DSA
IRPD
CRAHN
♥ INP
GLASNO
♥ TEPDO
♥ YOGR



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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