



Photo by Alfredo Vasquez

**PROGRESS** – Construction was recently completed on this section of the Paso del Norte Trail near the intersection of Doniphan Drive and the Border Highway in El Paso County's upper valley.

## Foundation receives state funding for trail system

By Alfredo Vasquez  
Special to the Courier

EL PASO COUNTY – Texas Transportation Commission recently approved over \$31 million in funding for a project that was initially conceived by the Paso del Norte Health Foundation (PDNHF) in the early 2000s as a cemented trail that stretched for about five miles along the banks of the Rio Grande in El Paso County's upper valley.

Since then, the river trail project's scope has expanded to encompass a 70-mile pathway that will promote active transportation and ecotourism opportunities for residents and visitors throughout the entire county, according to PDNHF officials.

The newly acquired state funds are earmarked for two major segments of the on-going alternative transportation project spearheaded by the foundation. The funding approval for these two projects brings the total amount secured for the trail to \$88 million, with 21 miles already completed, and 31 miles already funded for design or construction, related PDNHF officials.

According to the trails' promoters, the funding will be used to extend two shared-use path projects. The first one

will be to work on the segment that runs along Magoffin Avenue, near downtown El Paso, and connect it to the El Paso Zoo area. The other project will be to begin construction on a segment of the trail that will run alongside the county's lower valley communities of Socorro, San Elizario, and Clint.

"This funding moves us one step closer to completing a vibrant network of trails that connects people to parks, neighborhoods, and places they love," stated Joaquín Rodriguez, director of PDNHF grant funded programs.

El Paso County Commissioner Iliana Holguin, who represents the lower valley communities, stated that, once completed, the paved trails will provide safe routes for walking and cycling to residents and visitors.

"The Mission Valley communities stand to gain safer routes for walking and cycling, strengthened cultural corridors, and new opportunities for recreation. This project reflects our commitment to enhancing quality of life and supporting healthy, connected communities throughout the county," stated Holguin.

Through transportation alternatives projects, like PDNHF's trail system, TxDOT aims to improve safety and mobility for non-motorized travelers

See TRAIL, Page 2

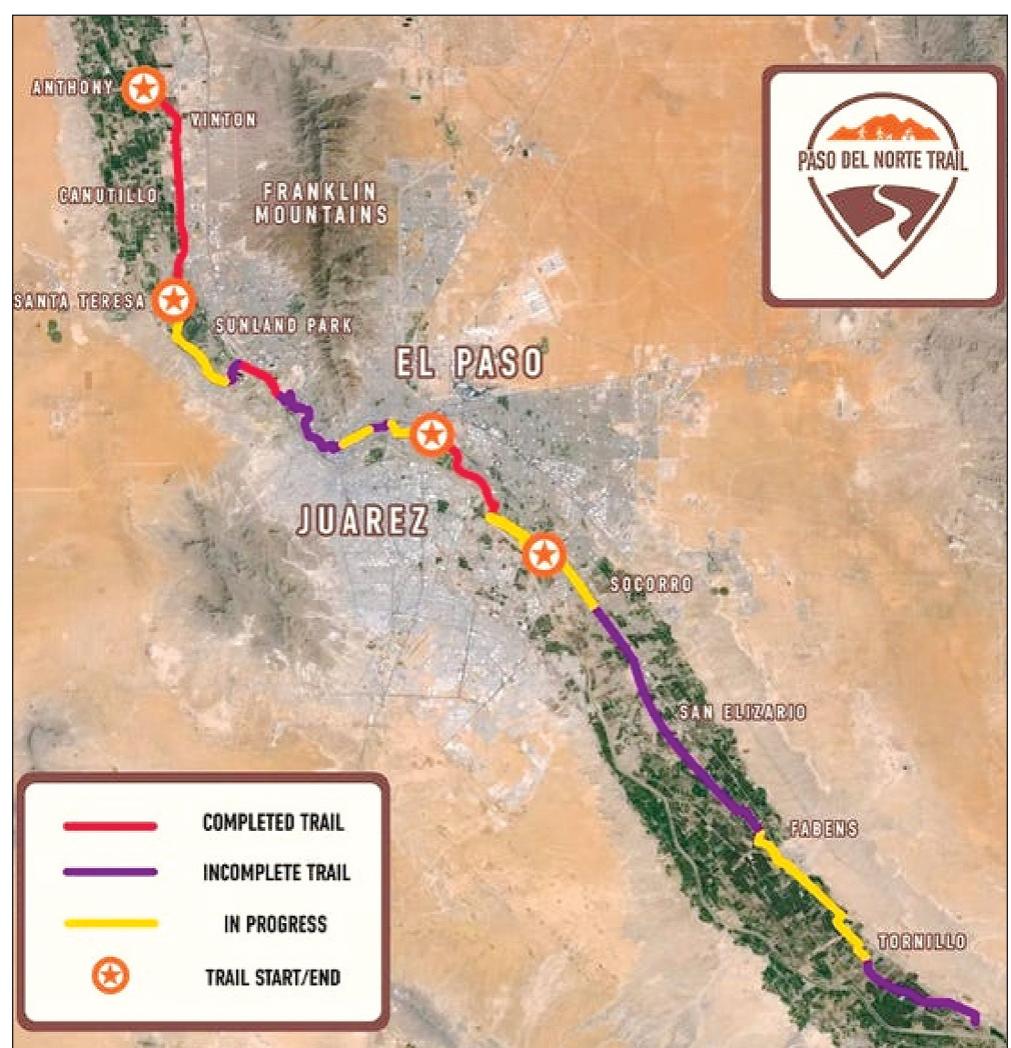


Image courtesy Paso del Norte Health Foundation

**MAPPED OUT** – The vision for the Paso del Norte Trail began in the early 2000s when the Paso del Norte Health Foundation began investing in the project's design and construction. By 2018, more than \$55 million had been secured for the project and within three years significant portions of the trail were already under construction.

# Australia's dangerous naivete

The Bondi Beach attack in Australia was shocking, but not at all surprising. Some of the details were distinctive – an idyllic spot on the Pacific Ocean instantly turned into a killing field, a father-son terror squad – but the basic picture of a radicalized

Muslim immigrant targeting a gathering of Jews was drearily familiar.

These events follow the same pattern because the fundamentalist version of Islam is, at its root, hostile to Jews. Let's say that there was a refugee

flow of Unitarians, and some portion of those Unitarians was antagonistic to traditional Christians, such that they vandalized their businesses, harassed them in the streets and launched massive protests in favor of overseas Unitarian terror groups. In that case, we'd obviously cast a skeptical eye on Unitarian immigration.

Yet, this hasn't been true of Muslim immigration. Mainstream political parties across the West that have championed this open-handed policy are, understandably, losing ground to restrictionist parties that are more

clear-eyed about the realities of immigration.

Antisemitism comes in all sorts of varieties, whether Christian, Muslim or secular.

Still, it'd startle us to learn that someone attending a fundamentalist Christian church went and shot up a Jewish event, whereas it's not that unusual in an adherent of fundamentalist Islam.

Now, there are different interpretations of Islam, and it's not the role of an outsider to say which is correct. The key point is that important Muslim authorities and countless millions of the faithful embrace a fundamentalist version influential in war-torn areas of the broader Middle East that have sent so many refugees to the West.

The fundamentalist Muslim Brotherhood – Hamas is the Palestinian branch – was markedly antisemitic well before the establishment of the state of Israel. As one analyst has noted, its anti-Jewish agitation included "boycotts, graffiti and physical violence."

Sound familiar? A rancid paranoia about the Jews runs through this worldview. The 20th century Muslim Brotherhood ideologue Sayyid Qutb

See LOWRY, Page 7

## View from here By Rick Shrum

### People are dying over dogs, fireworks and music

## Communities need to get tough on noise pollution

Noise is an epidemic in this country's communities. People are literally killing over it. El Paso County is a fairly noisy place, particularly on holidays. Fireworks and loud music top the list. But there are also loud cars and motorcycles. A friend told me not to forget dogs.

Community leaders in El Paso should step up. I know there will be disagreement with my position, but it's time to start levying some hefty fines – like a minimum

\$5,000 on fireworks on the first offense when used in communities. In Horizon City the threat of a \$500 fine doesn't stop anyone. People hide before the police can find them. Make it a bounty fine. Tie it to the owner or resident of the home if no particular individual can be identified. Everyone has a cell phone. Pass tougher firework ordinances. In cases involving fireworks offer a \$500 bounty for videos leading to arrests without revealing the source(s).

Provide a site to upload the files. Offer anonymity.

Not only are fireworks extremely loud, they are fire and safety hazards – especially the aerials. In 2023 there was an estimated \$142M in property damage directly linked to fireworks in the U.S. We live in a drought stricken region. Our homes are packed into dense neighborhoods. So not only is it a fire hazard that could destroy a house or two or more, the noise travels for blocks and blocks around. People also get hurt. There were an estimated 9,700 personal injuries requiring ER care in 2023 in the U.S.

After fireworks comes all manner of noise. Loud music, cars, motorcycles and dogs top the list. I urge everyone reading this to learn a little bit about sound. Learn how much volume is too much and how far sound really does travel.

If you have a party, keep the music on your property. You do not need stadium level volume to entertain your guests. And if you are playing music at that level, you are actually harming your guests' ears as well as irritating your neighbors. One other item:

subwoofers – absolutely the worst "music" offender of music noise pollution and a large contributor to hearing loss. They can cause homes to buzz for blocks. No big sound, just an annoying vibration.

Loud cars – sound systems too – and motorcycles are just that. Loud. It pathetically screams, "Hey, look at me." Problem is that most of the people that know you have your sweet ride never see it. They only hear it when you gun it and run up the RPMs or crank up the sound's volume.

Lastly, dogs. I have a smallish yappy dog but I do not let her stay in the yard and bark her head off – which sometimes she wants to do. Cats, from a neighbor that will not keep them indoors really get her going. But, again, I do not let her stay out yapping away. Pet owners need to train their animals or haul them inside and keep them home. You may love your dog, but I'm pretty sure your neighbor is not too thrilled with the barking. When I first moved to Horizon City in 1984 there was a problem with barking dogs. It abated after a vigilante(s), wrongly, started

### From noise to death

Deaths resulting from arguments over noise are a recurring phenomenon, with numerous incidents reported in the United States and globally. These confrontations can involve firearms and knives. Recent incidents:

- San Antonio, TX (Dec. 2025): A man was fatally shot at a Christmas party after a neighbor allegedly came to complain about the noise. The suspect has been charged with murder.

- Murfreesboro, TN (Jan. 2025): A 1-year-old child was shot and killed, and the mother wounded, during an argument over loud music. The suspect later died from a self-inflicted gunshot wound.

- Cleveland, TX (April 2023): A man killed five neighbors, including a 9-year-old boy, after they asked him to stop firing his gun late at night. He was later sentenced to life in prison.

- New York City, NY (2023): Multiple homicides tied to noise complaints were reported, including a man and his stepson who were killed by a downstairs neighbor after years of disputes, and in another instance where a man stabbed a neighbor to death over loud snoring.

Experts, such as environmental psychologists, note that noise can drive people to aggression, a problem potentially exacerbated by more people working from home since the COVID-19 pandemic. Authorities often advise residents to call the police rather than confront neighbors directly to avoid potentially fatal outcomes.

— Internet

poisoning the offending dogs. This is not acceptable. See the

See NOISE, Page 4

### Trail

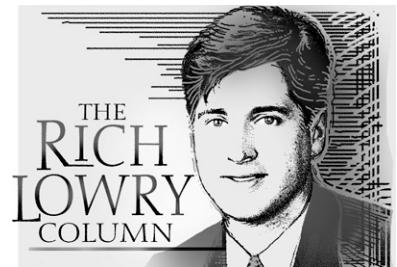
From Page 1

and mitigate congestion by providing safe alternatives to motor vehicle transportation. It is particularly interested in projects that reflect a high degree of collaboration and community consensus while directly contributing

to safety, mobility, and connectivity goals for people of all ages and abilities and enhances bicycle and pedestrian access, according to its website.

"The Paso del Norte Trail is more than a path, it's a connection point that brings communities together, supports local economies, and improves quality of life for

all residents within TxDOT's El Paso District," stated Jose Bocanegra, Transportation Alternatives Coordinator for TxDOT. "The Texas Transportation Commission is proud to support projects that expand active transportation and improve safety across the state, through the Transportation Alternatives Program," he added.



**WEST TEXAS COUNTY COURIER**  
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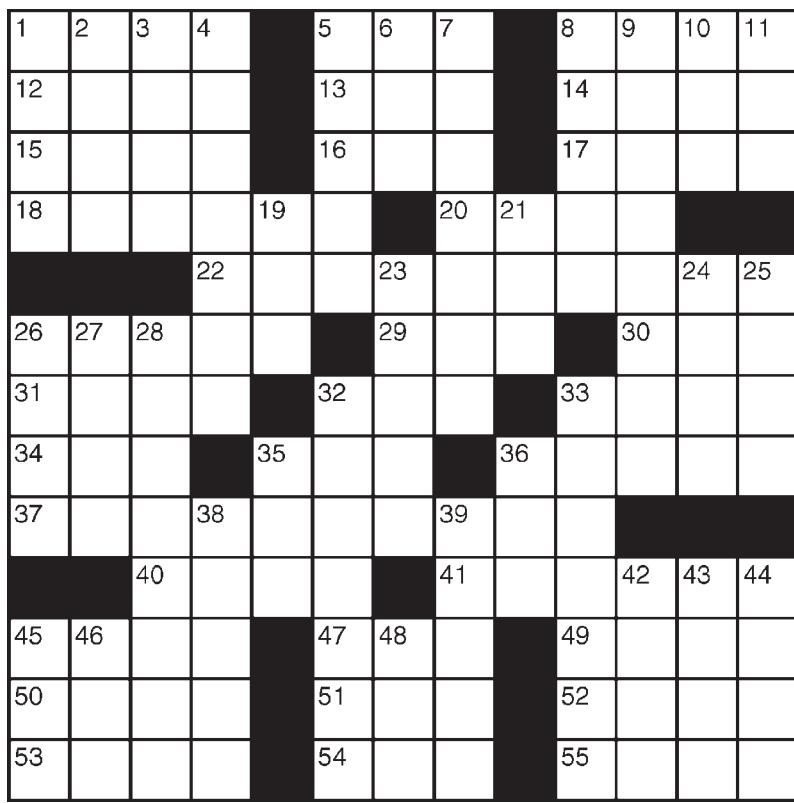
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## King Crossword

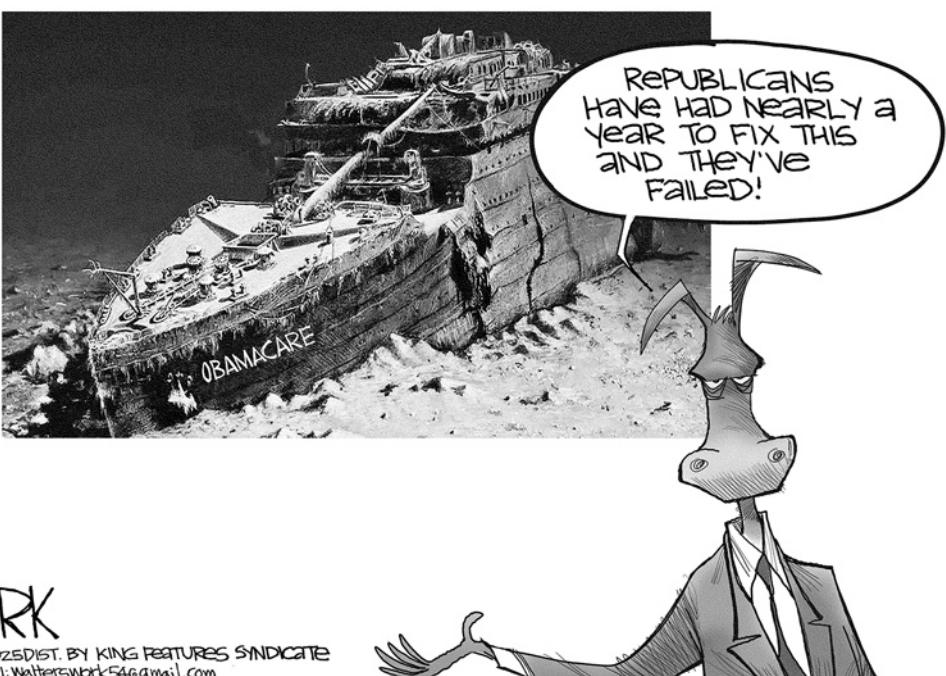


Average	31 Librarian's advice	DOWN	28 School fundraiser
Solve Time	32 Enjoy Vail	1 Utah city	32 Time with a
25 Minutes	33 Ink smudge	2 Heap	therapist
	34 Fine, at NASA	3 Idyllic place	33 Skimpy suits
ACROSS	35 Middling grade	4 Concocted	35 IRS employee
1 Pundit's piece	36 '70s club	5 "Taps" instrument	36 Aachen article
5 "Kapow!"	37 TV ratings period	6 Singer DiFranco	38 Grand stories
8 Ancient mariner	40 Relaxing refugees	7 Hawaiian island	39 Paris school
12 Carousel, for one	41 Fruity desserts	8 Civil rights org.	42 Pop
13 Half of dos	45 Spiced tea	9 Moves more	43 Rind
14 German car name	47 Wedding words	goods than	44 Blind part
15 Hgt.	49 Yuletide tune	10 USN bigwig	45 Dol. fractions
16 Baseball's Hodges	50 Body powder	11 That chap's	46 Fez, e.g.
17 \$ dispensers	51 Popeye's Olive	19 Moreover	48 Coloring agent
18 Humble	52 Concept	21 Cleaning cloth	
20 Tolkien villains	53 Canonized Fr.	23 Cockeyed	
22 Eye furtively	women	24 Fair-hiring org.	
26 Plant firmly	54 Born	25 Low-carb diet	
29 Droop	55 Pretzel seasoning	26 Eventful periods	
30 Shelter	27 Calico's call	27 Calico's call	

Answer Page 4

MARGULIES  
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## THE MIDTERM MESSAGE



## Fabens Independent School District Public Notice of Meeting

Fabens Independent School District will hold a public hearing to discuss the District's 2024-2025 Annual Report. The meeting will be held at 5:00 P.M. on Monday, January 26, 2026 in the Fabens Independent School District's Board Room at 821 N.E. "G" Avenue, Fabens, Texas.

The public is invited to attend in person. For more information, call (915) 765-2600, x2115.

### Junta Pública

*El Distrito escolar independiente de Fabens celebrará una audiencia pública para discutir el informe anual 2024-2025. La reunión se celebrará a las 5:00 p.m. el lunes, 21 de enero de 2026 en la sala de juntas de Fabens ISD, 821 N.E. "G" Avenue, Fabens, Texas.*

*Se invita al público a asistir en persona. Para obtener más información, llame al (915) 765-2600, x2115.*

WTCC: 01-08-26

## Classified Ads

### LEGALS

#### PUBLIC NOTICE

El Paso County Emergency Services District #1

#### Notice of Location

The El Paso County Emergency Services District #2 is located at 16001 Socorro Rd., (mail: PO Box 265), Fabens, TX 79838. Phone (non-emergency): (915) 851-0304; EMERGENCY: (915) 852-3204; EMERGENCY: 911; Fax: (915) 9000; Ambulance (county): (915) 852-8400. 779-2111.

Katherine Ames  
Administrator

Mariana Navarrete  
District Administrator

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## CryptoQuip Answer

I can imagine somebody calling that profile of Abraham Lincoln on a penny a copper head.



## Out partying without a designated driver?



# School districts celebrate January as school board recognition month

Special to the Courier

TEXAS — School districts across Texas are showing appreciation for their locally elected board members as part of January's School Board Recognition Month.

Texas Gov. Greg Abbott recently issued a proclamation officially marking January as School Board Recognition Month in the state and acknowledging the importance of school boards.

"Ensuring an excellent education is the work of many individuals as local school board members collaborate with teachers, parents, and stakeholders to promote state and national standards in ways that reflect the community's values. By so doing, they inspire a lifelong love of learning for the next generation of Texas leaders," Abbott said.

The governor's proclamation encourages Texans to recognize their local school board members during January for their commitment to education and their communities. "They represent

the best of Texas," the governor stated.

School board members are the largest group of locally elected officials in the state, according to Texas Association of School Board (TASB) officials. School board members are not paid, volunteering their time and expertise to serve their local communities, they noted.

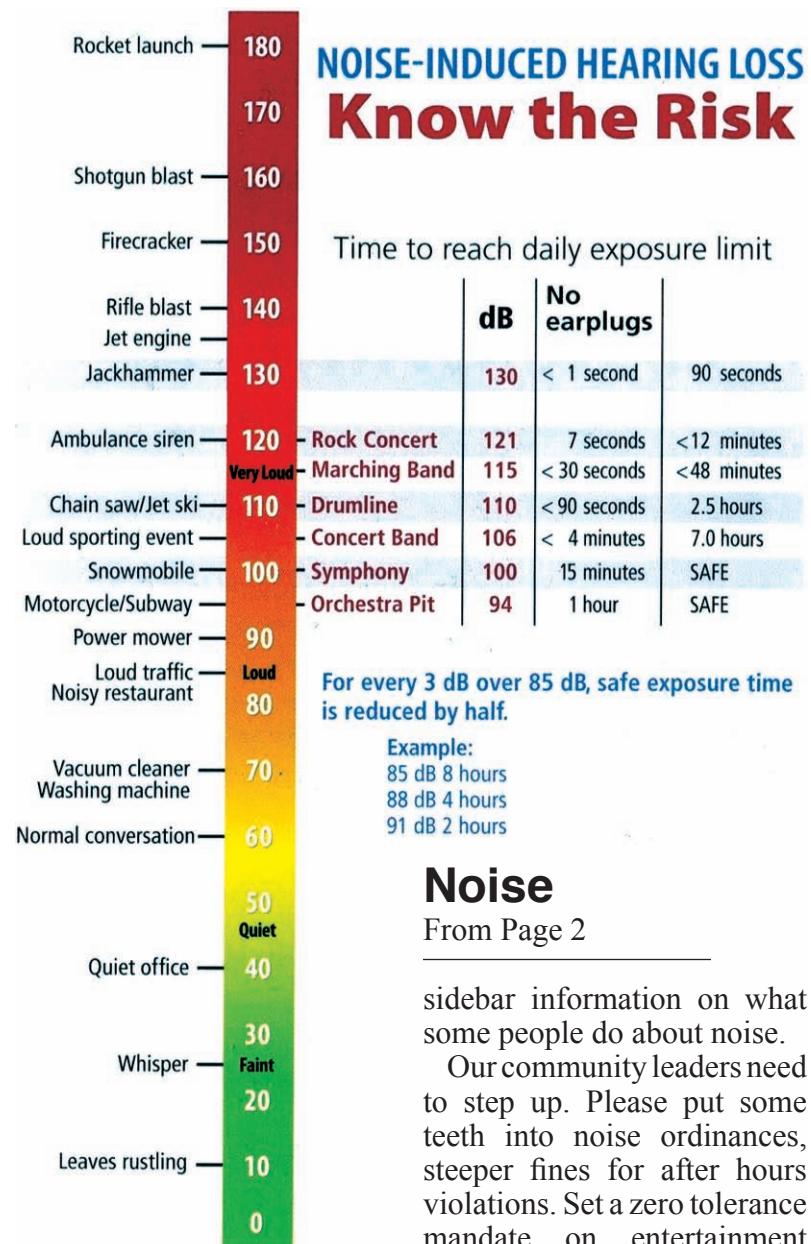
TASB Executive Director Dan Troxell, who has over 30 years of experience in public education, applauded the efforts of trustees in providing leadership and good governance so that school districts can focus on educating the 5.4 million public schoolchildren in their care.

"School boards play a critical role in shaping the future of our communities," Troxell said. "They serve as the bridge between the public's vision for local education and the day-to-day operations of our schools. Trustees work hard to ensure that our schools are responsive to the values and priorities of their communities."

Visit TASB website, [tasb.org](http://tasb.org), to learn more about school board service.



SCHOOL BOARD RECOGNITION MONTH  
JANUARY 2026



sidebar information on what some people do about noise.

Our community leaders need to step up. Please put some teeth into noise ordinances, steeper fines for after hours violations. Set a zero tolerance mandate on entertainment violations after the curfews kick in — and that should be no later than 10 p.m. even on Friday and Saturday. Mandate citations be written.

Folks, all of this comes down to common sense and courtesy. Stop using fireworks in towns. They are dangerous and invasive on multiple levels. Loud noises have detrimental effects on people and animals.

These other noise problems shouldn't be problems at all. Don't rev up your vehicle in neighborhoods. Be easy on the throttle at night. Your thrill from jumping on the gas is torquing people that are enjoying their evening quietly in their home. Yappy dog? Train it or bring it inside.

If you like loud, I ask you to consider a few things. There are people with early morning jobs that need to sleep. Many work weekends. There are people affected by phonophobia or misophonia or hyperacusis — all conditions set off by sound. There are ill people, people recovering from surgeries or with medical conditions that truly need to have regular sleep cycles. And frankly, nobody should be afflicted by anyone's noise.

How would you react after a late night of drinking, partying and disturbing all of your neighbors if they decided to make as much noise as is legal in front of your home at 7 a.m.? Reasonable people don't do and shouldn't do that. But they've thought about it.



## Strange BUT TRUE

By Lucie Winborne

• In 1997, a woman from Louisville, Kentucky, left actor Charles Bronson all of her money, a total of about \$300,000, in a handwritten will. She didn't know him, but it can be deduced that she was a fan.

• The Woolsey Hall auditorium at Yale contains an extra-wide seat built to fit alumnus and former professor William Howard Taft.

• The corpse flower was the official flower of the Bronx for 60 years.

• Adults typically produce about 2 pints of gas each day, in an average of 14 farts. However, it's apparently quite normal to pass gas up to 21 times per day.

• At his inauguration, Teddy Roosevelt wore a ring with a lock of Abraham Lincoln's hair.

• In 1866, Cathay Williams became the first African American woman to serve in the U.S. Army. Women were barred from joining the military at the time, so she enlisted as a man under the pseudonym William Cathay.

• Crime novelist James Patterson co-wrote the famous "I'm a Toys 'R' Us Kid" jingle.

• The American Psychiatric Association's DSM-5 handbook classifies caffeine withdrawal as a mental disorder.

• Because Lancaster, Pennsylvania, is home to a large Amish population, Costco constructed a livestock parking stall for customers arriving via horse and buggy, with a rail for the animals and a roof to shield them from bad weather.

• When that "inner voice" speaks in your head, it triggers small muscle movements in your larynx.

• Parthenophobia is a fear of virgins.

• Sometimes it snows on Mars, but the snowflakes are made out of carbon dioxide rather than water. The flakes don't fall, but create a fog-like effect.

Thought for the Day: "The aim of art is to represent not the outward appearance of things, but their inward significance."

— Aristotle

## Moments in time THE HISTORY CHANNEL

• On Jan. 5, 1914, Henry Ford made the welcome announcement that he was doubling his assembly-line employees' pay. However, there was a perhaps not-so-welcome catch — home inspections to check for alcohol consumption and untidy living quarters.

• On Jan. 6, 1996, snow began blanketing Washington, D.C., and the eastern seaboard in a blizzard that killed 154 people and ended up costing more than a billion dollars in damages before it ended.

• On Jan. 7, 1891, future novelist and folklorist Zora Neale Hurston was born in Notasulga, Alabama. Though she would eventually publish more books than any other Black woman in America, by the time she died in 1960 she'd failed to gain a mainstream audience and was poor and alone in a welfare hotel. Today she is considered one of the most important Black writers in American history.

• On Jan. 8, 1963, Leonardo da Vinci's masterpiece, the Mona Lisa, was exhibited for the first time in the U.S. at Washington, D.C.'s National Gallery of Art. More than 2,000 dignitaries, including President John F. Kennedy, came out to view it. The exhibit opened to the public the following day.

• On Jan. 9, 1984, Angelo Buono, one of the Hillside Stranglers, was sentenced to life in prison for his role in the rape, torture and murder of 10 young women in Los Angeles. His cousin and partner in crime, Kenneth Bianchi, testified against Buono to escape the death penalty himself.

• On Jan. 10, 1863, the London Tube, the world's first urban underground railway, opened. Since its first tunnel ran under the River Thames and had no ventilation, it was always filled with smoke.

• On Jan. 11, 1775, Francis Salvador, the first Jewish person to hold an elected office in the Americas, took his seat on the South Carolina Provincial Congress. In July he earned the nickname the "Southern Paul Revere" when he rode 30 miles to warn of a Cherokee attack on backcountry settlements, and just a month later he became the first recorded Jewish soldier to be killed in the Revolutionary War.

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# School Boards Make a Difference

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James P. Vasquez



Rosy Vega-Barrio

Superintendents

## Thank You For Serving

# NCAA must do something about its broken bowl system

By Steve Escajeda  
Special to the Courier

This year's Tony the Tiger Sun Bowl was one of the most exciting ever, with Duke outlasting Arizona State 42-39.

In fact, the Sun Bowl has had some real close games over the last decade. Those close games include Louisville over Washington 35-34; Pitt over UCLA 37-35; Central Michigan over Washington St. 24-21; Stanford over Pitt 14-13 and Stanford over North Carolina 25-23.

Those exciting games have been great for the Tony the Tiger Sun Bowl and for CBS. Let's face it, the 44,975 fans didn't look bad on TV.

But that doesn't change the fact that there are so many things wrong with collegiate sports.

As many of you know, these student athletes (or these professional athletes as I like to call them) get paid thousands of dollars (in some cases, millions) to play sports. They get to transfer to another school every single year if they like, and college conferences change schools almost every other year depending on where the money is.

All that is bad enough, but there are even more problems with the college bowls.

First of all, many of the star players choose not to play in the mid-tier bowl games, like the Sun Bowl, because they are totally focused on prepping for the NFL.

Secondly, one team this year – Notre Dame – decided not to play in a bowl game because they believe they were cheated out of the 12-team playoff. I agree that they were cheated, I don't agree with them choosing not to play.

Third, the entire bowl system and the 12-team college playoff was thought up by a bunch of people who didn't take the time to think it all the way through.

Deciding to go with 12 teams instead of eight or 16 just causes all kinds of mathematical problems with the scheduling. With 16 teams, you play eight games which leaves eight winners. Those eight then play four games leaving four winners. The final four leads to two winners for the championship game. Pretty simple if you ask me.

But because they didn't ask me, they start with eight of the 12 teams playing four games at four home-field locations. The other four teams don't play the first week. The four teams that got a bye now play the four winners at bowl game sites. Then the four winners play their final four which leads to the title game. Too complicated!

Here's another thing, the four teams that get a first-round bye, don't play

a game for 2-3 weeks. In the first two years of this expanded playoff, the (higher ranked) bye teams are 1-7 because they got rusty.

I agree with the idea that Oregon coach Dan Lanning put out last week.

He suggested that conferences get rid of their championship game and start the playoffs the week after the end of regular season. This way everything will be finished by New Year's Day.

Because they do it the way they do, the championship game isn't until Jan. 19.

Meanwhile, the football transfer portal runs from Jan. 2-16. Are coaches coaching their teams right now or are they recruiting players in the transfer portal?

Coaches have to travel and meet potential recruits while preparing their

teams for games this week at the same time.

Why can't they start the bowl games and playoffs earlier or start the transfer portal a little later?

If I were in charge, I'd go to 16 teams in the playoffs. It would be made up of 10 conference champions and six at-large teams. It would start a week after the regular season ends. There would be no byes and no home games. The opening round games would be played at eight current bowl game sites, like the Sun Bowl. The winning eight teams would then meet in the bigger bowl sites, like the Rose Bowl, Cotton Bowl, Orange Bowl, Fiesta Bowl, and so on with the championship game at a huge stadium.

It's not that difficult.

You know that saying about not being able to see the forest because of all those trees in the way. Well, the guys in charge of the college bowl system can't see the easy solutions because of all those dollar bills in the way.



## Senior moment

By Matilda Charles

## AI-assisted scams against seniors

It's not that scammers are getting smarter, but they have a new tool now: AI, artificial intelligence. For our own protection, we need to learn about AI and how to avoid becoming a victim of fraud.

If you've posted any pictures on social media, take them down. Make it your task for January to remove any photos you've put up, especially if – heaven forbid – there are snaps of your children and grandchildren.

If you routinely attach photos in emails to friends and family, and if they tend to post those on their own social media, ask them to remove the pictures. If they don't comply, stop sending them photos. I know, that's harsh. But you have to protect yourself and those dear to you.

Photos are the tip of the iceberg, however. Consider what scammers can do with innocent information about a vacation you took. They can personalize their scam against you and pretend to have met you on that trip. If you've posted the names of family members, or even the

name of your dog, they can pretend to actually know you. It will sound so innocent if they then ask for your home address or the correct spelling of your name so they can send you a souvenir.

It gets worse: Scammers can clone voice samples they find online. If you've posted a video of a teen grandchild, scammers can convert that into a fake video call wherein the child appears to be upset and asks for help, which is another version of the grandparent scam.

One of the best sites I've found to learn about AI scams is McAfee's Guide to Deepfake Scams and AI Voice Spoofing at [www.mcafee.com/learn/a-guide-to-deepfake-scams-and-ai-voice-spoofing](http://www.mcafee.com/learn/a-guide-to-deepfake-scams-and-ai-voice-spoofing). Also go online and search for "how scammers use AI against seniors."

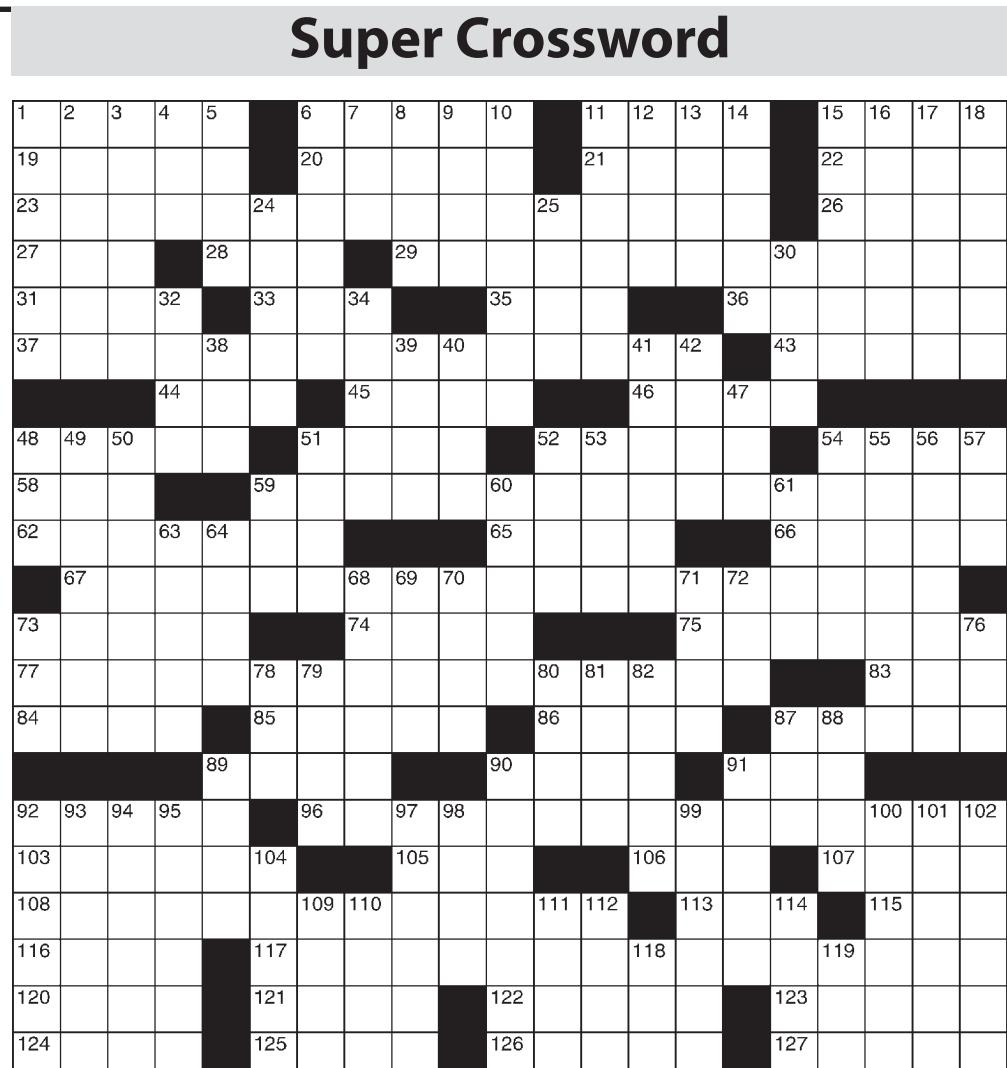
If you suspect you've been a victim of fraud, report it to the FBI Internet Crime Complaint Center at [ic3.gov](http://ic3.gov).

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## Super Crossword

SIX-E-SOMETHINGS	58	WWW address	124	Loads	38	Futuristic sci-fi	81	Fix text
ACROSS	59	Longer-than-normal prison term	125	Stitches up	39	Single-named supermodel	82	_ nous (in confidence)
1 Audibly	62	Cat breed	126	Lunchtimes, often	40	Mortgage claim	87	"The Simpsons" bartender
6 Mission _, California	65	Region	127	Pack-toting equines	41	Case for ova	88	Admin. aide
11 Spill the beans	66	Long-unshaven			42	Italy's capital	89	With 118-Down, do a surfing stunt
15 Golf coups	67	What "have solved" is in, in terms of grammar			47	Beige	90	Brewski container
19 Perceive	73	Ad awards			48	Gloomy _ maiden	91	Fastener fitting
20 _ Good Feelings	74	Utilize a Juul device, e.g.			49	Level just below major league	92	Helper in the Himalayas
21 Many a "Hee Haw" character	75	Aided in evil			50	Lucidness	93	Lace into
22 Boxing event	77	In bed			51	Plow beasts	94	"OK, but still..."
23 Involuntary leg reactions	83	Yoko of the avant-garde			52	Feudal peon	95	Red Cross founder Clara
26 Stimulate	84	Utters			53	Concept, in Calais	97	Film director
27 _ yung (Chinese dish)	85	Stimulate			54	Signified	98	Lubitsch and physicist Mach
28 Rocket downer, for short	86	"Dame" Everage			55	Jennifer of "The Switch"	99	Liver spread
29 Relative of a tank top	87	Cleric's home			56	Lint catchers	100	Wipes clean
31 "O Fortuna" composer Carl	89	Oregano, e.g.			57	Lock partner	101	Actress Suzanne
33 Some arm muscles, informally	90	Telly watcher			59	Memphis-to-Atlanta dir.	102	Epoch of the first whales
35 No. on a road sign	91	"Help us!"			60	Has the gumption	102	"Blade" star Wesley
36 "And that's that"	92	Cat food brand			61	Fare-well	104	_ a jealous mistress
37 Note that recommends a job applicant, e.g.	96	Innermost parts			63	Feline cries	109	Jennifer of "Zero Dark Thirty"
43 Wood-dressing tools	103	Cuba's largest city			64	Cato's "to be"	110	"So nasty!"
44 Pigsty stuff	105	"Norma _"			68	Cathode-ray picture producer	111	Hence
45 In the thick of	106	Get it wrong			69	Oom-(tuba sounds)	112	Architect Saarinen
46 Dark, gloomy rock genre	107	Cel figure			70	Sword type	114	Singer McEntire
48 Fast, sporty auto	108	Fir or spruce			71	"Ciao!"	118	See 89-Down
51 "My treat"	113	Lingus			72	Samantha Bee's station	119	Boxing wallop
52 Greek "S"	115	Cato's 1,101			73	"NCIS" network	120	That girl's
54 Face cover	116	Monopoly expense			76	Stag's mate	121	Insufficient
	117	2020 drama thriller			78	Prior to, in odes	122	
	120	El _ Texas			79	Opposite of south, in France	123	
	121	"Why should you?"			80	That girl's	124	
	122	Concur			81		125	
	123	Carried, as a load			82		126	

Answer Page 4



## 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

referred to "the tricks played by world Jewry so that the Jews may penetrate into body politic of the whole world and then may be free to perpetuate their evil designs."

The original 1988 Hamas charter reads like a transcript of the Candace Owens podcast, except with an armed wing attached. It avers that the Jews "strived to amass great and substantive material wealth," and used it to take "control of the world media." They are responsible for the French and Bolshevik revolutions, indeed, "most of the revolutions we heard and hear about." They founded "secret societies, such as Freemasons, Rotary Clubs, the Lions and others in different parts of the world for the purpose of sabotaging societies."

They started World War I and World War II – indeed, "there is no war going on anywhere, without having their finger in it." The document pronounced its support for Muhammad's prediction: "The Day of Judgment will not come about until Muslims fight the Jews

(killing the Jews), when the Jew will hide behind stones and trees. The stones and trees will say O Muslims, O Abdulla, there is a Jew behind me, come and kill him."

On top of all of this, it is believed that any territory once ruled by Muslims (i.e., all of Israel) must be retaken for Islam, and there is a feeling of bitter resentment at the power and success that the Jewish state has been able to amass while Muslim countries in the region have been torn apart by civil strife and stifled by catastrophically poor governance.

All of this is a toxic brew, and yet a swathe of the Muslim world is beholden to these beliefs. It is foolish to think that some element of Muslim immigrants to the West won't share this worldview and act on it – to our great regret.

Australia welcomed a large influx of Muslim immigrants over the last several decades and accommodated a surge of antisemitism after Oct. 7. The resulting atrocity at Bondi Beach was heartrending and all too predictable.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review. ©2026 by King Features Synd., Inc.

## Weighing the pros and cons of a colonoscopy

DEAR DR. ROACH: I am a 79-year-old female who is currently on biannual infusions for osteoporosis and high cholesterol. In 2018, I was diagnosed with Lynch syndrome with an MSH6 deviation. The genetic testing was done after I had breast cancer, endometrial cancer, and a colectomy for three years in a row. Yearly colonoscopies have been included in my preventive care. In 2022, during my colonoscopy, I experienced excessive vagal tone and needed atropine to restore my heartbeat. Since this time, I have been given Robinul prior to the procedure, which has prevented another incident of bradycardia. My gastroenterologist isn't recommending any more colonoscopies due to this cardiac issue and my age. I have always been told that colonoscopies are necessary to prevent cancerous polyps from occurring. Is the risk of a colonoscopy under these circumstances greater than the risk of my getting colon cancer due to Lynch syndrome? – F.M.



People with Lynch syndrome are at an increased risk for a variety of cancers, especially of the colon but also other parts of the gastrointestinal tract (stomach, small intestine, pancreas and bile duct). People with Lynch syndrome are also at an increased risk for endometrial and ovarian cancer (in women), prostate cancer (in men), and other cancers including skin and brain cancer. Gastroenterologists know that cancer of the colon can arise without a polyp.

For people with Lynch syndrome, a genetic analysis is recommended. The exact gene may help determine the optimal beginning time and frequency of a colonoscopy. The decision of when to discontinue screening via a colonoscopy is not agreed upon by experts, but clearly when the risk of performing a colonoscopy is greater than the expected benefit, it's time to stop. This is less about reaching a certain age than it is about underlying medical conditions.

You have a slow heart rate during sedation for the colonoscopy, and it sounds as though your doctors have found a way to do the colonoscopy safely. Your lifetime risk of colon cancer, given your MSH carrier status, is estimated to be 20%, but at age 79, you have outlived much of your risk. Most cases of colon cancer in Lynch syndrome occur before age 80.

In my opinion, both the risks of a colonoscopy and the risk of developing colon cancer are low, which means that it is difficult to make a recommendation as to which way you should go. Stopping is reasonable, but if you feel strongly that you want to continue, this is also reasonable.

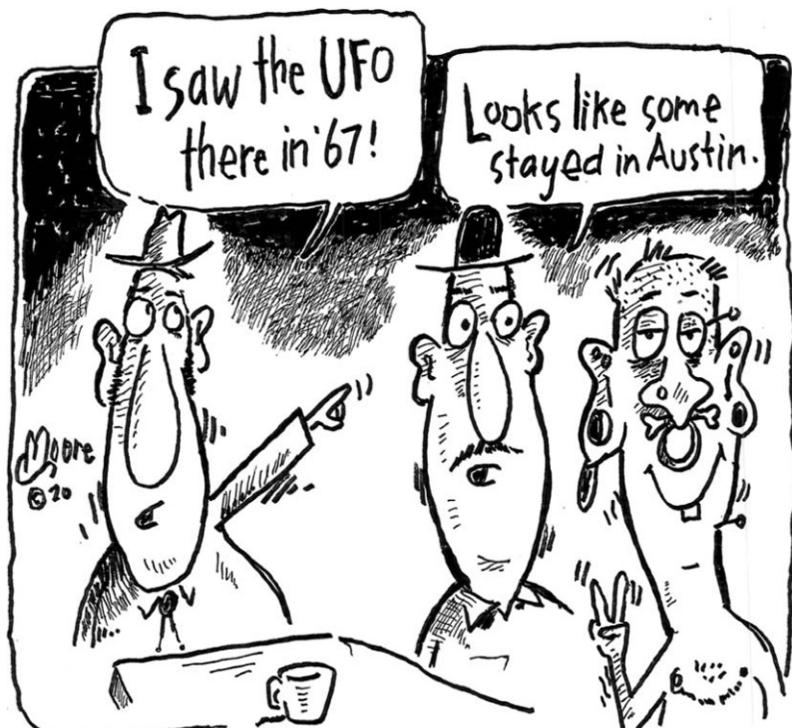
DEAR DR. ROACH: I am an 80-year-old female who had shingles 30 years ago for six weeks. It subsequently came back permanently (herpetic neuralgia). I take 2,500 mg of gabapentin daily, which mostly controls the pain but does not help the tingling and numbness in the soles of my feet. Do you have any suggestions? – P.S.V.

I am sorry that you had this complication, which is one of the most known painful conditions. Gabapentin is an effective treatment for many people with painful neuropathies of any kind. A dose of 2,500 mg is very high but is often needed to get control of the pain; however, many people cannot tolerate this dose due to the fatigue and sleepiness that it often causes.

In my experience, some people can get pain relief from gabapentin without getting relief from the numbness and tingling. It is possible that even higher doses might help (the maximum dose is 3,600 mg), but before trying this, your doctor might consider a second type of treatment for neuropathy, such as a tricyclic agent or an SNRI.

These drugs were developed for depression but can be used for neuropathy symptoms. Sometimes, multiple medicines allow for better symptom relief with less side effects than very high doses of just one medicine.

Dr. Roach regrets that he is unable to answer individual questions, but will incorporate them in the column whenever possible. Readers may email questions to [ToYourGoodHealth@med.cornell.edu](mailto:ToYourGoodHealth@med.cornell.edu). ©2026 North America Synd., Inc. All Rights Reserved.



**Moore Texas** by Roger Moore  
Austin was visited by a light blue UFO in June of 1967. Some aliens stayed.

## 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: C equals M

T BYQ TCYPTQG EXCGOXSV  
BYMMTQP ZNYZ HJXATMG XA  
YOJYNYC MTQBXMQ XQ Y  
HGQQV Y BXHHGJ NGYS.

Answer Page 2

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## Weekly SUDOKU

	1	8				6	4	
7						8	9	2
	4	2						
4		5			1		6	
	2		7	6				9
			8	5				
5	4		1		9		8	
		8	9			6	5	
8	6			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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## Raising puppies

### VETERANS POST

by Freddy Groves

If you're looking for a project for the new year that will provide big benefits to a disabled veteran, you can do no better than to raise a puppy.

Yes, a puppy. A small, young dog.

Puppies who end up as service dogs for disabled veterans aren't born that way. They need a solid first year of socializing and basic obedience, and that's where you come in, should you want to take on this worthwhile project.

Take a look at [www.guidedog.org/puppy](http://www.guidedog.org/puppy) for an explanation of what is expected. If accepted as a puppy raiser, you would receive a very young puppy and spend the next year getting it socialized and used to different environments, with good house manners and basic obedience, and exposed to various situations to give

it confidence.

If you're not sure you can commit to such a long project, see the link above for other possibilities: short-term fostering to provide socialization opportunities for the puppy, co-raising with another individual or family, and in some states there is a prison puppy program that has inmates raise and train the dogs during the week before handing them over to weekend volunteers who provide experiences outside of the prison walls.

Your next step is to go online to search for groups near you that provide trained dogs to veterans in need. Contact them to ask about becoming a puppy raiser. (For more incentive, see [www.vetdogs.org](http://www.vetdogs.org) for the list of states where weekend volunteers are needed now.)

If you love dogs, perhaps the hardest part of the whole project will be to give up the dog at the end of its time with you when it goes on to its official training to be a service dog for a specific veteran

in need. But you'll console yourself knowing just how valuable your efforts have been in giving a good start to a dog that will be a life-changer for a veteran.

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by  
Jo Ann  
Derson

- "Want to keep your pants from creasing on the hanger? Grab an empty paper towel tube, and slit it down the side. When you slip it over the bottom of the hanger, it creates a curve for the pants to lie across, and no more crease!" – M.U. in Colorado

- To prevent candle wax from sticking to a candleholder, swipe the inside with a little olive oil. It'll do the trick!

- Just in time for soup season (and my new year's resolutions), here's a great fat swap: Drain and rinse two cups of white beans and puree with a cup of no-sodium vegetable broth. You can use this as a thickener in place of heavy cream for soups and stews.

- Experts say that those who write down or journal their nutrition and exercise are more likely to keep it up. This can be as simple as a pencil and notebook paired with a calorie guidebook or one of the many great apps for your smartphone. In any case, set yourself up for success this year. You deserve it!

- "Cutting corn off the kernel can be tricky business, but you only need to recruit the right equipment. The next time you're making corn for dinner, grab a Bundt pan. The corn gets set upright in the center and you cut down. The corn falls right into the pan on all sides." – A.S. in Texas

- A can opener's crevices can be cleaned by "opening" a length of waxed paper. Kitchen scissors can be sharpened by folding a piece of aluminum foil and cutting it with the scissors.

Send your tips to Now Here's a Tip, 628 Virginia Drive, Orlando, FL 32803. ©2026 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 2

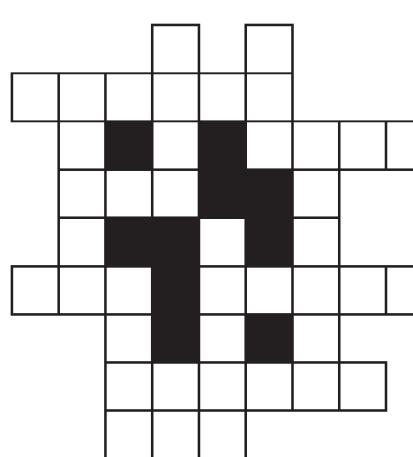
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	+		+		= 20
+		+		-	
	-		-		= 1
-		+		÷	
	+		÷		= 7
=		=		=	
14		15		5	
1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	6	7	8
9	8	7	5	6	5

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9



AOB  
ALDBMA  
ABCEL  
♥AAGL  
♥BIRDEN  
KAR  
♥AFEL  
LYBMA  
♥ELG  
LOUCRA  
♥ARSEC  
IKC



Answer Page 2

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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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