



– Photo by Alfredo Vasquez

**HOLDING CELLS** – ICE wants to convert these warehouses – on Eastwind Avenue in the City of Socorro – into detention facilities that would house at least 8,500 immigrants.

## County Commissioners demand ICE transparency

By Alfredo Vasquez  
*Special to the Courier*

EL PASO COUNTY – Because Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) officials have provided little to no information to El Paso County residents regarding plans to build a “mega” immigrant detention facility in the City of Socorro, El Paso County Commissioners Court recently authorized legal action against the federal government to force disclosure.

El Paso County Attorney Christina Sanchez has been tasked with pursuing legal recourse for gathering information about the project’s potential impact on critical community resources including the water supply, electricity usage, and other local infrastructure needs.

The lawsuit, which is being filed in the Western District of Texas, targets what local leaders describe as a persistent pattern of secrecy by ICE officials regarding the facility’s location and development.

Recently leaked reports have indicated that the federal government acquired the property in Socorro from Delaware-based El Paso Logistics 2 LLC for \$123 million and apparently has awarded a \$30 million no-bid contract to design the three warehouses into facilities capable of housing up to 8,500 individuals.

“Given the vast scale of this facility, it could place enormous demands on natural resources, emergency services, public health systems, and local infrastructure,” Sanchez stated in news release. “Transparency is essential to ensure that both the public and local governmental entities fully understand what is happening in the community and what plans are in place to keep it safe and sustainable. Additionally, concerns raised about the federal government’s current oversight and management of migrant detention facilities only heighten the

See TRANSPARENCY, Page 4



– Photo courtesy El Paso Community College

**FUNDING** – From left are El Paso Community College (EPCC) President Dr. William Serrata, RMI Director Cecy Mauer, Scott Bain of Texas Mutual, EPCC AVP Workforce and Continuing Education Blayne Primozych, and Joe Torres of Texas Mutual with a \$100K check for the Risk Management Institute at EPCC.

## EPCC Risk Management Institute receives \$100K

By Dr. Keri Moe  
*Special to the Courier*

EL PASOCOUNTY – For the 12th consecutive year Texas Mutual Insurance Company has awarded a \$100,000 grant to El Paso Community College (EPCC) to continue funding the Risk

Management Institute (RMI). The RMI provides workplace safety and health courses for community employers, employees and the general public.

“Texas Mutual’s unprecedented support for EPCC’s Risk Management Institute has built a decade-long partnership, allowing EPCC to

See RISK, Page 4

# Yes, boldly go

So much for journalistic objectivity. The BBC science editor covering the launch of Artemis II couldn't contain her enthusiasm when the first plumes of smoke spread out

from the launch pad. "Oh, my goodness! Oh, my goodness!" she exclaimed, clapping like a schoolgirl.

As the rocket lifted off, she got visibly emotional: "It's not just what you see and you hear as the rocket lifts off. You can feel the force of it through your body. This is the most powerful rocket that NASA has ever built!"

bedroom walls. But the Apollo program was killed long ago – civil-rights activists were among those mobilizing against it, oddly enough – and nothing has captured the imagination the same way since.

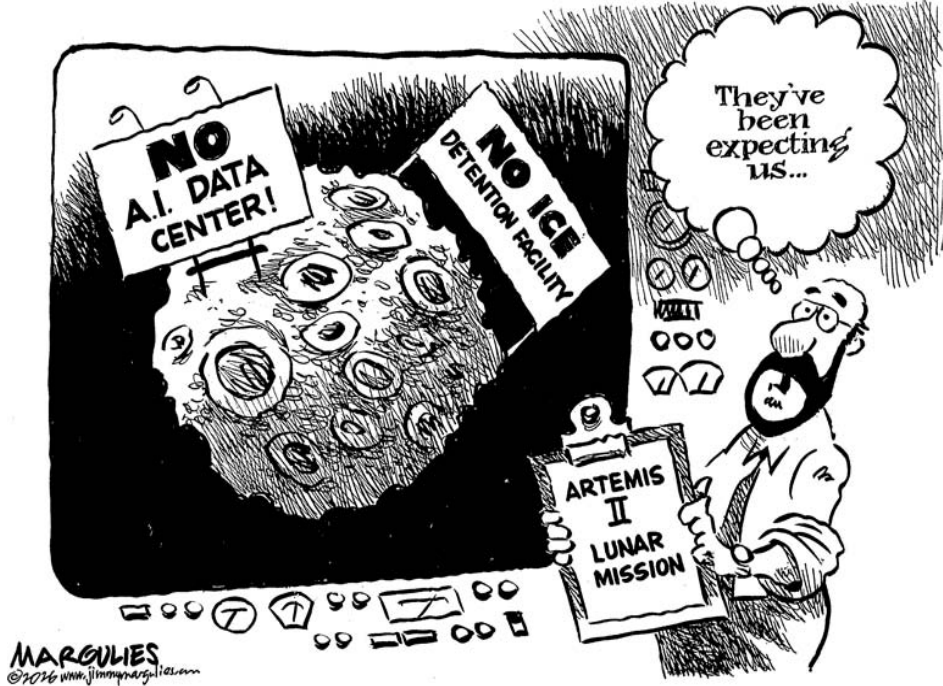
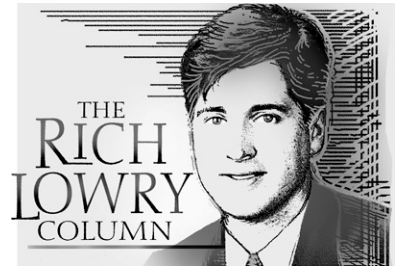
The space shuttle made space flight routine and boring, and there was nothing particularly ambitious about the International Space Station. Rovers and telescopes were worthy endeavors, but not thrilling.

There is no substitute for manned space flight. The Artemis project is not exactly boldly going where no man has gone before, since it seeks to return to the moon after we were there half a century ago. But sending astronauts 250,000 miles from Earth as part of a project to eventually set up a base on the moon is the most enterprising NASA project since Apollo.

This is all to the good, but Artemis has been plagued by delays and cost overruns. NASA hasn't

Rebecca Morelle can be forgiven for falling in love with the subject of her story. A rocket launch is an awe-inspiring event – a controlled explosion hurling a gigantic projectile into the ether. There's the sheer power, the unavoidable risk, the questing spirit. A rocket feels and looks like the future, and there's something very human about gazing into the sky in wonder.

NASA hasn't been glamorous in decades. Once upon a time, kids were putting up glossy photos of Apollo rockets and astronauts on their



See LOWRY, Page 7

# EPCC earns Gold Status as a 'Military Friendly School'

By Beau Bagley  
Special to the Courier

EL PASO COUNTY – El Paso Community College (EPCC) was recognized with a 2026-2027 Gold Military Friendly School designation by *Victory* in the Large Community College category. Since its inception in 2003, the Military Friendly Schools list has come to set the standard for higher education institutions to provide the best opportunities for veterans and their spouses.

EPCC serves more than 3,000 service members, veterans, and their families. EPCC strives to serve students in the most effective and efficient way possible so they may achieve their

educational goals.

"As a veteran, having EPCC recognized as a Gold Military Friendly College is confirmation that everyone in the College is working together to support our military-affiliated community," Associate Vice President of Instruction and Student Success Dr. Paula Mitchell said. "Not only does it mean that our Veterans Resource Center is providing excellent service, but the Gold award also means that the entire TEAM is supporting our students and community. I'm very proud of everyone who takes that extra step to provide student service."

EPCC creates meaningful education paths for the military community, and partners with Fort Bliss to offer in-person services in Admissions,

Counseling and Advising. EPCC also offers several general education eight-week classes in the evenings at the College Center on base.

"Achieving Military Friendly Gold status is a clear validation of El Paso Community College's commitment to those who have worn the uniform, and is, plain and simple, a mission accomplished," EPCC Veterans Resource Center Director Carl B. Dwyer said. "This distinction goes beyond recognition – it reflects the disciplined, consistent work of our faculty, staff, and Veterans Resource Center team to build a true 'safe harbor' for our military-connected. At EPCC, we continue to strive daily to ensure the success of our veterans and their families that are enrolled."

Institutions earning the Military Friendly Schools Awards designation were evaluated using public data sources and responses from a proprietary survey. Over 3,200 schools participated in the survey.

Methodology, criteria, and weightings were determined by *Victory* with input from the Military Friendly Advisory Council of independent leaders in higher education. Their ability to meet thresholds for Retention, Graduation, Job Placement, Repayment, Persistence, and Loan Default rates for all students and specifically, for student veterans, were measured.

"Earning the Military Friendly

See GOLD, Page 5

1973 **53** WEST TEXAS COUNTY **COURIER** 2026

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# Drug Take Back Day is April 25

By Carlos A. Briano  
Special to the Courier

NATION – On Saturday April 25 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration will host the 30th National Prescription Drug Take Back Day at nearly 4,200 locations nationwide.

Twice a year, DEA joins forces with local law enforcement and community groups to host DEA's National Prescription Drug Take Back Day, giving the public a safe and

anonymous way to dispose of expired and unused prescription medications. By getting rid of unnecessary medications in the home, families can help prevent prescription drug misuse and reduce the potential for accidental poisonings.

Since 2010, DEA's National Prescription Drug Take Back Day has provided an easy and accessible way to dispose of medications that could pose a threat if misused. Over the past 16 years, National

See DRUG, Page 4

## King Crossword

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Average Solve Time 26 Minutes

ACROSS

- 1 Purse part
- 6 Tatter
- 9 Fr. holy woman
- 12 Borders on
- 13 In the past
- 14 Allow
- 15 Trattoria offering
- 16 Wild hurry, as on Black Friday
- 18 Divides in two
- 20 Greek mountain
- 21 Rule in India
- 23 Goat's plaint
- 24 City on the Yangtze River
- 25 Broadway failure

27 Zaps in a microwave

- 29 Argue
- 31 Portugal's place
- 35 Fix a lawn
- 37 Bath bubbles
- 38 Long-legged shorebird
- 41 Hwys.
- 43 Scale note
- 44 Spanish "but"
- 45 Rob Roy spirit
- 47 Pressed for time
- 49 Garlicky mayo
- 52 Dijon denial
- 53 Blackbird
- 54 "What's in \_ me?"
- 55 \_ Lanka
- 56 "Acid"
- 57 Crusoe's creator

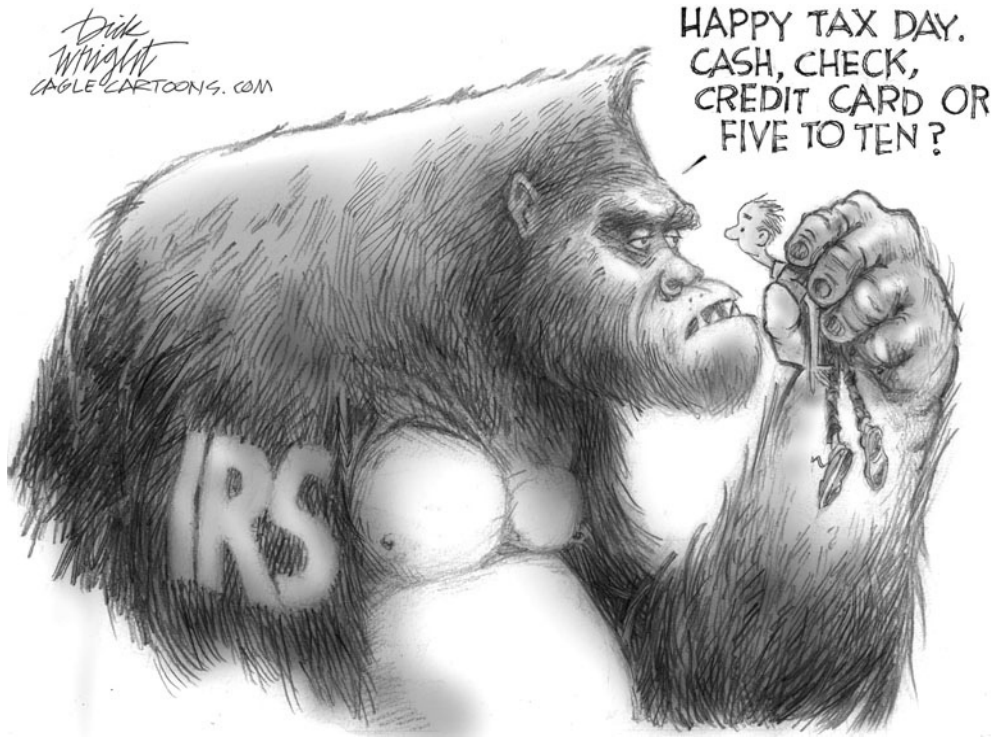
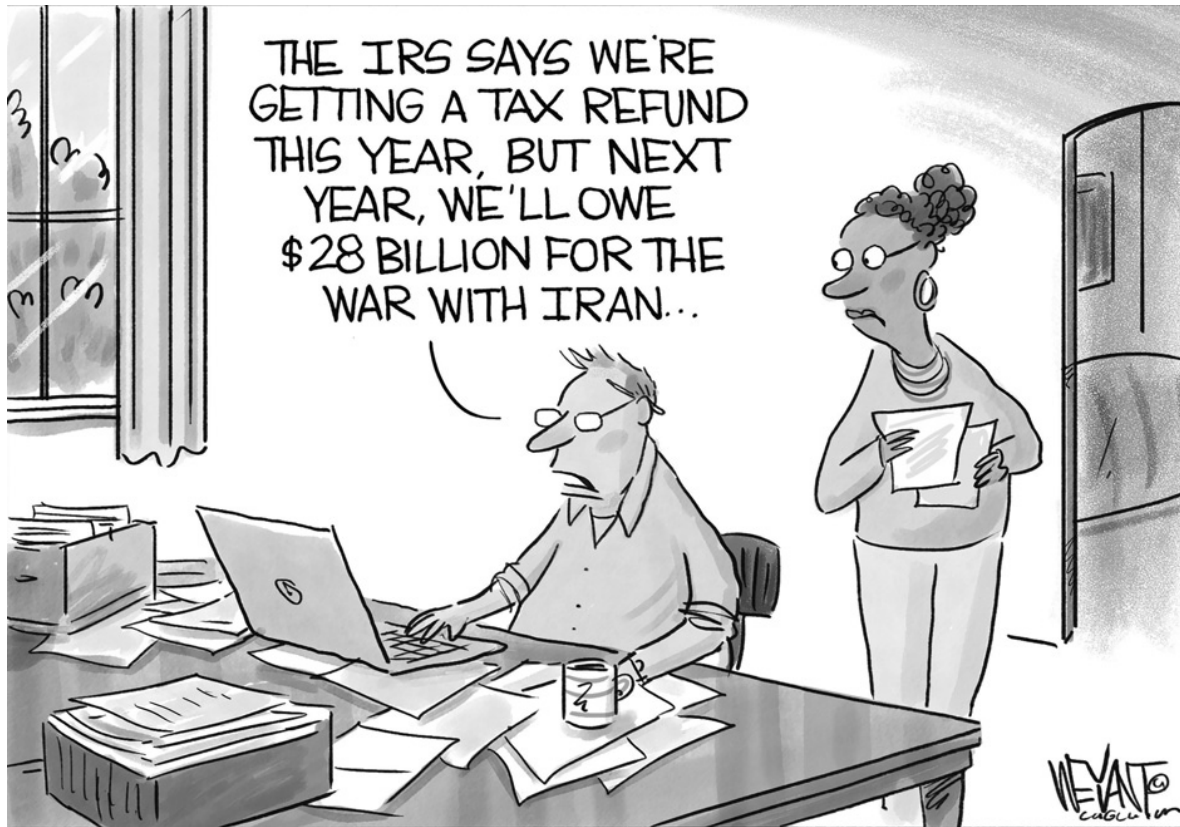
DOWN

- 1 Enervate
- 2 TV schedule abbr.
- 3 Work that's done ASAP
- 4 "\_ boy!"
- 5 Sacred song
- 6 French Baroque composer
- 7 Turkish officials
- 8 Deity
- 9 Melting snow
- 10 "Selma" actress Thompson
- 11 Patriot Allen
- 17 Awakens
- 19 Wind indicators
- 21 "Mayberry \_"
- 22 Hearty brew
- 24 Spider's home
- 26 Sitting room

28 Youngster

- 30 Hanoi holiday
- 32 Exit in haste
- 33 Altar promise
- 34 Visual communication syst.
- 36 Corsage flower
- 38 Whirls
- 39 Choir member
- 40 Resident of Tabriz
- 42 Composed
- 45 Taxpayer IDs
- 46 Refer to
- 48 "Friendly skies" co.
- 50 Brit's restroom
- 51 Fury

Answer Page 4





— Photo by Alfredo Vasquez

**TELL US** – “Time and again, our community has been left in the dark about federal detention operations happening right here in El Paso County. When transparency is denied, accountability must be demanded,” said Iliana Holguin, El Paso County Commissioner for Precinct 3 which includes the Lower Valley. Holguin is shown in photo above participating in last year’s San Elizario’s Veterans Day parade.

### Center

From Page 1

urgency of obtaining this information,” the county attorney asserted.

The basis for the county’s litigation efforts is the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), a federal law that ensures that the public can access government documents to promote transparency and keep the government accountable.

According to the County Attorney’s Office, a formal records request was submitted to the federal government in February, but ICE officials did not comply with the law’s mandatory 20-day response deadline.

Subsequently, the county’s proposed lawsuit is seeking a federal court order that declares ICE’s failure to respond against the law and that compels the agency to disclose all records related to the facility’s planning, funding, and environmental impact.

The County’s action follows significant community opposition to any expansion of immigration detention facilities in El Paso. Hundreds of county residents have urged the county commissioners to investigate the

*“The Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requires federal agencies to respond within set time limits. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) officials have missed every statutory deadline, leaving the El Paso County Commissioners Court with no other option but to seek judicial intervention.”*

– El Paso County Attorney Christina Sanchez

proposed project, citing concerns about the scale of the “mega” facility, its potential strain on limited resources and reports of abuse at the existing immigration detention sites, such as Fort Bliss’ Camp East Montana.

“Through this lawsuit, we are asking the Court to demand the federal government to immediately process this FOIA request, order disclosure of all non-exempt records, and prevent ICE from withholding documents.” Sanchez stated.

### Risk

From Page 1

EPCC created its RMI to offer education on workplace health and safety for employers and employees in the community. A wide range of courses are available through the program, including OSHA 30-hr and OSHA 10-hr for the construction and general industries, hazard communication, lockout/tagout, fall protection, ergonomics, and OSHA recordkeeping, among others.

In November 2022, El Paso Community College’s Risk Management Institute was recognized by OSHA’s El Paso Area Office as an Alliance Program Ambassador – a first of its kind recognition in OSHA’s five-state region including Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Texas. Ambassadors are recognized for working collaboratively on safety and health issues raised by stakeholders and sharing timely and relevant safety and health information.

Since the program’s inception, more than 20,000 employees have been trained through the Risk Management Institute. “Texas Mutual values the vital role community colleges play in shaping a skilled and resilient workforce across our state,” said Eric Bourquin, vice president of safety services at Texas Mutual. “

### Drug

From Page 3

Prescription Take Back Day has removed more than 20 million pounds of unwanted medications from communities across the United States.

DEA and its partners will collect tablets, capsules, patches, and other forms of prescription drugs. Liquid products, such as cough syrup, should be securely sealed in their original container. Syringes, sharps, or illicit drugs are not collected.

Visit [www.DEATakeBack.com](http://www.DEATakeBack.com) to find the Take Back Day location nearest you.

*El Paso locations were not available before the Courier went to press. The locator function on the DEA site was down for maintenance from April 10 -15.*

## Strange BUT TRUE

By Lucie Winborne

- The chess-playing supercomputer Deep Blue could calculate 100 to 200 billion different positions in less than three minutes.
- One study found that people who drank sugary soda daily had shorter telomeres – linked to aging – equivalent to about 4-5 additional years.
- Each spacecraft headed for Mars gets a thorough cleaning beforehand as a precaution against contamination from Earth.
- TV’s classic “Jeopardy” theme was composed by Merv Griffin as a lullaby for his son.
- Forget about naming your new baby IKEA in Sweden, thanks to the country’s 1982 naming law prohibiting monikers that “can be supposed to cause discomfort” for the ones saddled with them.
- Chihuahuas have one of the largest brain-to-body size ratios of any dog breed
- “Star Wars” sage Yoda was partially modeled from a photo of Albert Einstein.
- During the Cold War,

Ronald Reagan and Mikhail Gorbachev agreed to lay aside their differences in the event aliens ever invaded Earth.

- Waste fat from bacon was turned into glycerin and used to make explosives during World War II.
- In 1674, the Women’s Petition Against Coffee declared that the popular beverage was turning British blokes into “useless corpses” and proposed that anyone under the age of 60 should be banned from consuming it.
- Astronauts can grow up to three inches taller in space due to spinal expansion caused by weightlessness.
- Lint in your belly button is caused by abdominal hairs funneling fibers into it.
- Pablo Picasso became a suspect in the 1911 Mona Lisa theft after it was discovered he had kept sculptures stolen from the Louvre by a friend.
- In the United States, lawyers are the third-least trusted professionals, ranking higher only than lobbyists and business executives.

Thought for the Day: “Until you value yourself, you won’t value your time. Until you value your time, you will not do anything with it.”

– M. Scott Peck

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### CryptoQuip Answer

If the actors Affleck, Stiller and Kingsley are all good buddies, I suppose they’re Ben pals.

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T	E	A	S	E	E	N	I	G	M	A	S	A	R	G	A	I	S	S

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**Moments in time**  
THE HISTORY CHANNEL

• On April 13, 1012, a ransom of 48,000 pounds was paid by King Aethelred the Unready and British authorities to the Viking army led by Thorkell the Tall for the liberation of Canterbury, after a raid on the city and the capture of Alphege, Archbishop of Canterbury, who was murdered a few days later because he refused to let his followers pay for his release.

• On April 14, 1831, 74 soldiers from the 60th Rifle Corps, marching in step, caused the Broughton Suspension Bridge in Manchester, England, to collapse when their rhythmic footsteps led to the snapping of a poorly forged iron bolt in the bridge's supporting stay-chains. Around 40 men were thrown into the Irwell River, but there were no fatalities, as the water was shallow. The unexpected incident led, however, to the British army's prohibition of marching in unison while crossing bridges.

• On April 15, 1911, Walter "the Big Train" Johnson pitched a record-tying four strikeouts in a single inning for the Washington Senators.

• On April 16, 1946, auto racer

Arthur Chevrolet, brother of Chevrolet auto namesake Louis Chevrolet, died at the age of 61 by hanging himself in his garage in Slidell, Louisiana, following a long struggle with depression.

• On April 17, 1961, the Bay of Pigs invasion began when a CIA-financed and trained group of Cuban refugees landed in Cuba and attempted to topple Fidel Castro's communist government. The mission failed completely, ending in the deaths of more than 100 and the capture of more than 1,100 men.

• On April 18, 2012, Dick Clark, the TV personality and producer best known for hosting "American Bandstand," died of a heart attack at age 82 in Santa Monica, California. Affectionately dubbed "America's Oldest Teenager," he also hosted the annual holiday show "New Year's Rockin' Eve" and headed an entertainment empire that developed game, awards and talk shows, as well as made-for-TV movies and other programs.

• On April 19, 2020, Turkey surpassed Iran as the Middle Eastern country with the most COVID-19 cases, with 86,306 infections, though Iran continued to experience the most fatalities from the virus.

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**Gold**

From Page 2

designation is more than a badge of honor; it is a reflection of an institution's deep-rooted values and strategic commitment to those who served," Kayla Lopez, Vice President of Memberships, Military Friendly, said. "These schools don't just open doors for veterans and military spouses, they build sustainable pathways for academic success and long-term impact. Their support is transformative, proving that investing in military-connected students is both a moral imperative and a standard for educational excellence."

*Visit [www.militaryfriendly.com](http://www.militaryfriendly.com) for complete information and the full Military Friendly Campus report on EPCC.*

EPCC offers many services to support military affiliated students, including the Veterans Resource Centers. These centers serve students who are active duty, retired, reservist or National Guard veterans, spouses of veterans and dependent children of service-disabled veterans. The Veterans Resource Center at El Paso Community College is a "one stop" service for veterans who want to pursue education.

EPCC maintains staff at Fort Bliss in Building 641 on Taylor Road. For information on Fort Bliss classes, please call (915) 831-5511. Visit [www.epcc.edu/Services/Military](http://www.epcc.edu/Services/Military) for more information about EPCC classes, registration, and counseling at Fort Bliss.

**Clint Independent School District  
NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING**

**Applying for Federal Grant Funding Opportunities**

The Clint Independent School District is providing public notice with the intent to apply for grant funding under the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) and other federal funding opportunities through the Texas Education Agency (TEA) for the 2026-2027 school year.

- Title I, Part A – Improving Basic Programs / Parent and Family Engagement Evaluation
- Title I, Part C – Education of Migratory Children
- Title II, Part A – Supporting Effective Instruction
- Title III, Part A – English Language Acquisition (ELA) and Immigrant
- Title IV, Part A – Subpart 1 Student Support and Academic Enrichment
- Nita M. Lowey – 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers (CCLC) Program
- Perkins V – Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century
- Special Education – (IDEA B Formula and IDEA B Preschool)

**The public meeting is scheduled to be held on Thursday, April 30, 2026 at 8:30 AM in the Central Administration Office/Board Room located at 14521 Horizon Blvd., El Paso, TX., 79928.**

It is the policy of Clint ISD not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, gender, national origin, disability, age, or any other basis prohibited by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended; Title IX of the Education Amendment of 1972; and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended. (<https://www.clintweb.net/domain/64>)

**Clint Independent School District  
AVISO DE JUNTA PÚBLICA**

**Solicitud sobre los programas de fondos federales**

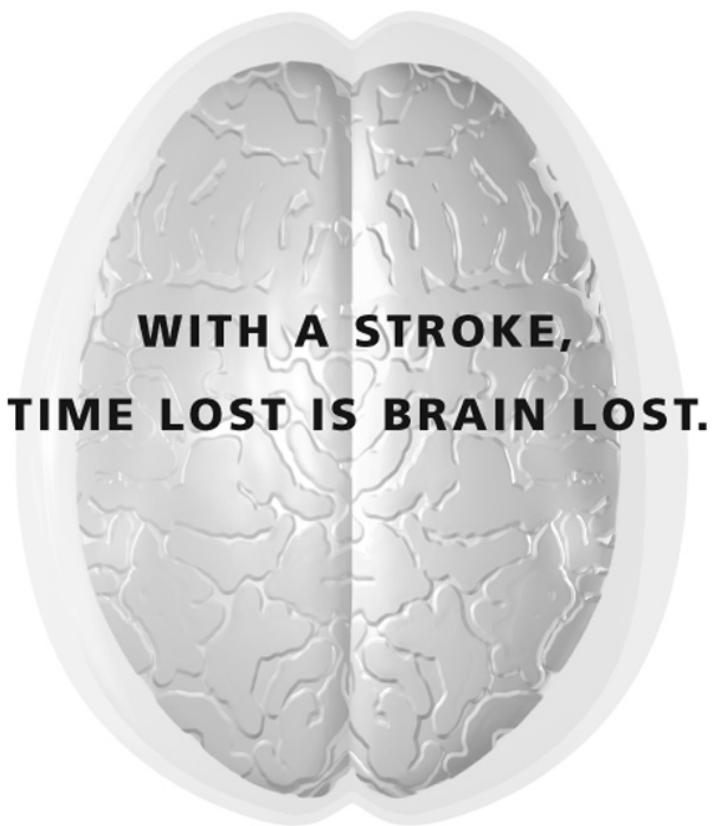
El Distrito Escolar Independiente de Clint está proporcionando un aviso público con la intención de solicitar oportunidades para fondos federales bajo la Ley Cada Estudiante Triunfa (ESSA) y otras oportunidades de fondos federales a través de la Agencia de Educación de Texas (TEA) para el año escolar 2026-2027.

- Título I, Parte A – Mejorando Programas Básicos / Evaluación de participación de padres y familias
- Título I, Parte C – Educación de niños migrantes
- Título II, Parte A – Apoyando la instrucción eficaz
- Título III, Parte A – Adquisición del idioma inglés (ELA) y Inmigrante
- Título IV Parte A – Sub-parte 1 Apoyo estudiantil y enriquecimiento académico
- Nita M. Lowey – Programa de centros comunitarios de aprendizaje para el siglo XXI
- Perkins V – Fortalecimiento de carreras y educación técnicas para el siglo XXI
- Beca de educación especial (IDEA B formula y IDEA B preescolar)

**La reunión pública está programada para el jueves, 30 de abril del 2026 a las 8:30 de la mañana en la Oficina de administración central/Sala de juntas ubicada en el 14521 Horizon Blvd., El Paso, TX., 79928.**

Es la póliza del Distrito Independiente de Clint no discriminar por motivos de raza, color, religión, sexo, género, origen nacional, impedimento físico, edad o cualquier otro motivo en sus prácticas de empleo tal como lo prohíbe el Título VI de la Ley de Derechos Civiles de 1964, según enmienda; el Título IX de las Enmiendas en la Educación de 1972, y la Sección 504 de la Ley de Rehabilitación de 1973, según enmienda. (<https://www.clintweb.net/domain/64>)

WTCC: 04-16-26



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](http://StrokeAssociation.org) or 1-888-4-STROKE.

# UTEP loses its entire basketball team

By Steve Escajeda  
Special to the Courier

In the movie *Groundhog Day*, Bill Murray wakes up over and over to the same day. No matter what he does, when the clock hits 6 a.m., everything is the same as it was the day before.

I'm beginning to think that UTEP basketball coach Joe Golding is beginning to feel a little like Bill Murray.

Yet again, as has been the case year after year, Golding wakes up to the reality that he has lost a ton of players to the transfer portal and will have to build a brand new team again for 2026-27.

This year, however, is a littler different because instead of losing eight or nine or 10 players, every single UTEP player has left the program, leaving him with zero returners.

So, we can look at this news in one of two ways.

The bad news is that UTEP has lost every single player from last year's team. The good news is that UTEP has lost every single player from last year's team that went 11-20 and didn't even qualify for the Conference USA postseason tournament.

So really, how bad can things be?

Golding has been at UTEP for five years and has posted an 81-83 record. For some programs, that would be called an even-steven record. For UTEP and its rich history of winning basketball, that record is unacceptable.

But for some reason, the UTEP athletic bosses have accepted it. After

his fourth disappointing season a year ago, UTEP gave Golding a brand new contract for three more years.

To be honest, you really can't blame Golding for the departure of all the players. This kind of thing is happening all over the country. The NIL rules have players transferring left and right, looking for that bigger paycheck.

Heck, schools like Kansas, Kentucky, Villanova, Tennessee, Notre Dame, Oregon, Georgia, Texas Tech, Indiana and Houston, among many others, have lost a lot of players to the portal, which is open from April 7-21.

And though we know these big programs can afford to pay the big bucks to their athletes, it's just never enough.

Golding, who has not established himself as a good recruiter of talent at UTEP, will have to change that, especially with the Miners entering the Mountain West Conference next season.

The thing about the transfer portal is that a team can gain players as well as

lose them.

It remains to be seen whether Golding and the Miners will be able to pluck some good talent from the portal, but it appears that they've gotten off to a good start with the younger lads.

It's still way too early to judge what UTEP's recruiting season looks like, but at least the Miners have filled four spots for their first season in the MWC.

Three high school standouts have been signed so far. And if familiarity is important toward making a team successful, these three guys come from the same high school.

Four-star guard Donovan Criss, 3-star 6-11 center Delano Tarpley and 3-star 6-6 forward Isaiah Ward, all from San Antonio Brennan High School.

UTEP has also signed 7-foot center, Alexandre K'Medehouto, out of South Plains Junior College.

Criss is the #9 recruit out of Texas while Ward is #20.

What the Miners haven't had in

years are players who can shoot the ball and big guys that can rebound.

These two big guys, Tarpley and K'Medehouto, have long wingspans, can run the floor and look like they can rebound and block shots.

UTEP President Heather Wilson and Athletics Director Jim Senter have been busy either appearing on talk shows or writing letters to the community, explaining to all Miners fans that it all comes down to money.

Just like all the bigger schools around the country, UTEP needs donors to pitch in so they can offer more money to better talent.

When UTEP has any players who show a little promise, they are swooped up by the richer schools. Well, Golding is going to prove he can recruit by swooping up some talented players from equal of smaller schools.

UTEP basketball will have an entirely new team as it competes in a new conference later this year.

Let's just hope they can return to their old ways and start winning again.

## Senior moment By Matilda Charles

# Don't fall for scam emails

I received an email from a company that I use for computer repair and malware protection. No surprise there; they've sent me annual emails over the years when it was time to renew the service. I opened the email and it was an invoice indicating they would be charging my credit card several hundred dollars today!

But I took a closer look. The area code of the phone number at the bottom of the invoice was not for the state where the real company is located. The address at the bottom of the invoice was for yet another state. The amount was wrong. The name of my service plan was wrong. And I knew that my subscription wasn't due to renew for several months. The email asked me to click a link to contact them to verify the information.

In other words, a typical scam involving a large amount of money and an urgency (today!) designed to get me to act quickly before I could think it through. To be sure, though, I called the real company using a number I knew,

not the one in the email. Yes, they said, it was a scam, and yes, my account was fine. They were able to check my account and quoted to me information that I knew was accurate – the upcoming renewal date and the amount. They thanked me for letting them know and had me forward that email to their fraud department.

The question, of course, is whether the scammers really know I have a service plan with that company. Probably not. Chances are they send millions of those emails hoping someone will respond.

Bottom line with emails: Know your business transactions and subscriptions. Know when they are due to renew. Beware even if it's a company you know. Don't click anything. And call the company if you aren't sure it came from them.

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**Send Your News To:**  
**wtxcc@wtxcc.com**

- |                                           |                                      |                                                      |                                |                                               |
|-------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|
| <b>LANGUAGE GROUP</b>                     | 60 Rembrandt, Vermeer or Hals        | solvers of this puzzle                               | 36 Pack-carrying equine        | 83 Former space station                       |
| <b>ACROSS</b>                             | 64 Hush-hush                         | 125 Debate topic                                     | 37 Actress Issa or Charlotte   | 85 Nagging pain                               |
| 1 Knee, elbow or shoulder problem         | 66 Horse father                      | 126 "Pata Pata" singer                               | 38 Blogger Klein               | 86 Bird's refuge                              |
| 9 Pop's Easton                            | 67 Like galaxies                     | 127 Frat party dispensers                            | 39 "Je _" ("I am," in Paris)   | 89 "-Ca-Dabra" (1974 hit song)                |
| 15 Koranic faith                          | 68 "Well now!"                       | 128 Make fun of                                      | 40 Decorative enamelware       | 90 Sport played on horseback                  |
| 20 Make hostile                           | 70 Alternative to Kool-Aid or Hi-C   | 129 Mystery                                          | 42 "Celebrity Rehab" host      | 92 Maui gift                                  |
| 21 "Omoo" writer                          | 74 One or more                       | 130 With 53-Across, section of the northern Atlantic | 46 _ Reader (magazine)         | 93 Like much music of the '90s                |
| Melville                                  | 75 Israelites' Promised Land         |                                                      | 47 Rodeo lasso                 | 94 Bit of a giggle                            |
| 22 Cheese, in Chihuahua                   | 77 Makes illegal                     | <b>DOWN</b>                                          | 48 Debt note                   | 95 Corn serving                               |
| 23 Instruments such as maracas and congas | 78 To a great degree                 | 1 Indonesian island                                  | 49 Jan. preceder               | 96 Godzilla or Grendel                        |
| 25 Slow-moving mollusk                    | 80 The Bollywood film industry       | 2 Mongolia's _ Bator                                 | 50 Infant's cry                | 97 Stratagem                                  |
| 26 "Little" girl in "Hairspray"           | 83 "Ask _" questions..."             | 3 Baptism or matrimony                               | 53 Stair part                  | 98 Ultimatum ending                           |
| 27 Comment just after waking              | 84 Self-motivation mantra            | 4 Expropriate                                        | 55 Lost tabbies                | 99 City near San Diego                        |
| 28 Certain Fed                            | 87 Snow vehicle                      | 5 Rustic hotel                                       | 56 Oscar winner                | 100 Mendeleev who created the periodic table  |
| 30 "Nuts!"                                | 88 Bumped into                       | 6 Pudding thickener                                  | 57 Paris airport               | 104 Self-description after a lifestyle change |
| 31 Angry rock subgenre                    | 89 "Je t'_" ("I love you," in Paris) | 7 Bullet point                                       | 59 Swiss money                 | 105 Runner Bolt                               |
| 33 Loose-skinned citrus fruit             | 90 Tranquillity                      | 8 Blood fluid                                        | 60 Entertainer Ross or Rigg    | 106 Zodiac lion                               |
| 38 Upper-left PC key                      | 91 Skip off to the altar             | 9 Mu _ shrimp                                        | 61 Banquet liquid holders      | 107 Ticket ends                               |
| 41 Anxious condition, for short           | 94 Adar, Nisan and Tishri            | 10 "_ So Fine"                                       | 62 PC shortcut                 | 109 Decaf brand                               |
| 43 Tranquillity                           | 97 Flax-colored                      | 11 Lifesaving sites, in brief                        | 63 Tennis' Arthur              | 113 General site                              |
| 44 City in Ohio                           | 100 Precious                         | 12 Political exile                                   | 65 Indian tea                  | 115 A long time                               |
| 45 Famed ethnic fighters                  | 101 Pine_ (disinfectant)             | 13 2020 U.S. Open winner Osaka                       | 66 Old Thailand                | 116 Floor decor                               |
| 49 Uncool character                       | 102 Match unit                       | 14 Former U.N. chief Kofi                            | 68 Folkie Phil                 | 117 Mexican money                             |
| 51 Big melees                             | 103 5 and 10, but not V and X        | 15 Mensa stats                                       | 69 Hard rain                   | 119 Inferior grade                            |
| 52 Pop's Celine                           | 108 Rejections                       | 16 Most fancy duds                                   | 71 "Likely story!"             | 121 Smoked thing, for short                   |
| 53 See 130-Across                         | 110 Short note                       | 17 Found out, to Brits                               | 72 "I volunteer!"              | 122 Omelet meat                               |
| 54 Gas brand in Canada                    | 111 Bandleader Amaz                  | 18 Italian cheese                                    | 73 "I haven't gotten word yet" | 123 Sumac of song                             |
| 58 Speller's clarifying words             | 112 LAX listings                     | 19 Liquefied by heat                                 | 76 Extra benefit               | 124 Assoc.                                    |
| 59 Mrs., in Essen                         | 114 Gp. for people 50 and up         | 20 IRS hiree                                         | 79 Legal claim on property     |                                               |
|                                           | 118 Intermingle                      | 21 Central point                                     | 81 Little demon                |                                               |
|                                           | 120 Apt directive for Tanzania       | 32 Cuts, as a lawn                                   | 82 Originally named            |                                               |

Answer Page 4

## Super Crossword

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19		
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51						52						53				54	55	56	57	
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110						111						112		113			114	115	116	117
118					119			120			121	122	123				124			
125								126						127						
128								129						130						

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

been able to replicate the urgent, mission-driven approach that characterized the Apollo program. It took eight years to get to the moon the first time, while Artemis has been going for nine years and we still aren't back.

NASA projects tend to get caught in a cycle: One president proposes a big new initiative, only for it to get canceled by his successor, who proposes his own initiative that is canceled in turn. The worst case scenario is that a Democratic president elected in 2028 nixes Artemis because President Trump favored it.

That said, the space expert Robert Zubrin notes that space is particularly appealing to Americans as a people defined, in part, by the frontier. JFK talked of "the New Frontier," and the famous open of the TV show "Star Trek" called space "the final frontier."

Certainly, the American space program is a marked contrast with that of the Europeans, the European Space Agency. NASA's budget is several times larger. We've sent men to the moon, whereas they haven't. And we've

sent multiple successful landers and rovers to Mars (the first lander in 1976, the first rover in 1997), whereas the ESA has only managed two unsuccessful landers.

Getting back to the moon is nice, but it is a manned mission to Mars that should be our ultimate objective. It would truly be another giant leap for mankind, opening up a vista of homo sapiens as a multi-planetary species. The technological challenge would be significant, requiring Apollo-like exertions, while there's much of scientific importance to be learned on the Red Planet.

Right now, the most popular movie in America is "Project Hail Mary," a sci-fi thriller about a desperate mission into space. The film plays to our inherent interest in journeys into the unknown, and to our admiration for those who have the courage to explore new worlds, from Francis Drake to Neil Armstrong.

Artemis II tapped into the same thing, which is why that BBC reporter – and so many of the rest of us – were so moved.

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

**Diabetic ulcers should receive expert care**

*DEAR DR. ROACH: I have a diabetic nonhealing ulcer on my right heel. I was told that the blood circulation in my foot isn't very good, which is why the ulcer isn't healing. Five years ago, I had a nonhealing ulcer in my left heel. It got infected, and the infection went into my heel bone. After several months, I agreed to an amputation. But this time, I was prescribed antibiotics with bandage changes that happen every two or three days. The ulcer hasn't healed now for over a month. Is it still possible that healing could take place? – L.H.*



I hope so. Most diabetic ulcers can be healed if they are treated the right way early enough. We really want to avoid amputations as they are bad for your function and cause worse outcomes later on.

One major issue is poor blood flow to the area. People with diabetes may develop poor blood flow due to large arteries being blocked, or when the small vessels aren't working well. If there are blockages in the large vessels, such as the femoral artery or one of its branches, then a vascular surgeon may be able to bypass the blockage. Newer techniques of angioplasty and stents may also be used and are less invasive and risky. An angiogram is usually necessary to determine whether this approach would be useful.

If the poor blood flow is due to the small vessels, then surgical approaches aren't as important as medication and proper wound care. Diabetes needs to be meticulously managed with blood sugar levels kept in the normal range as much as possible; a continuous glucose monitor can help determine if your regimen is adequate.

I cannot recommend highly enough an experienced wound care nurse, who is the expert in managing nonsurgical wounds (and postsurgical wounds, too). The pressure must come off of the heel.

Nonhealing diabetic foot ulcers are one of the clearest indications for hyperbaric oxygen therapy. This therapy isn't available to everyone, but it can be very useful in addition to standard therapy. Finally, antibiotics are guided by the results of wound cultures. These cultures need to be done by an expert to get the correct results.

*DEAR DR. ROACH: I'm a 78-year-old white male who is a nonsmoker; I am 5 feet, 6 inches tall, weigh 135 pounds, and consider myself to be in excellent health. A diagnosis from a recent bone density scan showed that my FRAX 10-year probability of a major osteoporotic fracture was 11.6%, and my probability of a hip fracture was 7.3%. I exercise seven days a week and believe that my diet is excellent. My standard blood panel results are always normal in all categories. Would it be advisable for me to take Fosamax at a 70-mg dosage? – C.Y.*

The FRAX score is the easiest way of understanding the results of a bone density scan. Even though the odds are that in 10 years, you won't have had a fracture, your risk of a hip fracture is high enough that most experts recommend treatment to lower your risk.

Generally speaking, treatment is recommended with a FRAX score above 20% for any major osteoporotic fracture or a score that is more than 3% for a hip fracture. Your risk for a hip fracture is significantly above the recommended threshold, even though your overall risk isn't, which leads me to suspect that your hips are preferentially affected by osteoporosis.

If medication is recommended, a bisphosphonate such as alendronate (Fosamax) would be the first-line treatment for men, and 70 mg weekly is a common dosage.

*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. ©2026 North America Synd., Inc. All Rights Reserved.*



**Moore Texas by Roger MOORE**

Grand Saline, Texas, is built over a salt deposit big enough to supply the world for 20,000 years.

**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: A equals B

SR BNJ LWBZVK LRRUJWX,  
KBSUUJV LDT XSDPKUJC LVJ  
LUU PZZT AFTTSJK, S  
KFMMZKJ BNJC'VJ AJD MLUK.

Answer Page 4

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**Weekly SUDOKU**

		7					2	4
						9	8	
8	4	9	2	1	5	3		7
5		4	7					8
9	6	8		2				
	9			8	2	4		5
	2	5		7	3	8	1	9
3			4				7	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  
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

Answer Page 4

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**The slow road to uncovering fraud**



by Freddy Groves

How is it a scammer can impersonate a veteran for over 30 years and not get caught?

Not only did this thief collect Social Security under the veteran's name, but he got medical care from the VA. And he didn't exactly behave during all those years – he was convicted of multiple serious crimes along the way.

When he was finally nabbed, he was living in VA-provided homeless/transitional housing and getting food, clothing, services and transportation. His impersonation was discovered when he was trying to get health care at a VA medical center.

At this point he's in the pen awaiting sentencing, charged only with making false statements, which can get him as little as five years in prison (after committing fraud for 30 years?) and be

fined a quarter of a million dollars.

Consider all the possible points where the thief's identity could have been revealed: the Social Security data base, VA records being compared with the real veteran, criminal records ...

Then there was another thief, this time a woman, who not only stole over \$1 million from the VA, but also pulled her sister and son into the scam.

This scammer managed to get disability benefits by claiming she couldn't walk, was partially paralyzed and bedridden, and needed care around the clock.

The truth? She was able to buy a second home and go on fancy international trips. The son and sister said they were caring for her around the clock, while they were actually working at real jobs and she was traveling alone. This fraud went on for 12 years.

The penalties? The scammer is only getting 17 months in prison. The sister was sentenced to only time served and the son to 14

months.

Is there no way to check, no way to uncover this level of fraud before the hit to the American taxpayers reaches a million dollars? It would only take one photo of her trotting off to catch a plane, right?

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- Quinoa is a popular grain alternative. It's very small and requires rinsing before cooking to remove potentially bitter residue. Here's a great trick to rinse your quinoa without losing half of it to the holes in your colander: Use a French press coffeemaker. The fine mesh and pouring spout make rinsing a breeze.

- To halve a lot of cherry tomatoes, try sandwiching them between two plastic lids. Press down lightly and slice through the opening to make short work of them.

- Keep your crisper drawer clean by lining with fresh newspaper. It will absorb smells and liquid, and can be replaced easily.

- "Candle nubs – the little bit left when the candle has burned down all the way – can be easily removed from a candleholder by setting the whole thing in the freezer for 10-15 minutes. The wax surface hardens and shrinks, making it easier to chip out. Same goes for linens that have wax drips: freeze and chip away, then use a degreasing spot cleaner." – Y.G. in Arkansas

- Easily thread a needle with hairspray. Spritz the end of your thread with a little high-hold hairspray and pull taut. It will be much easier to thread this way.

- "Fun get-together project for kids: Have everyone doodle on a large poster board. At the end of the night, you can trace a puzzle pattern and cut it up, making a large floor puzzle. You can bring these out at the next play date. The smaller the children, the larger the pieces!" – A.L. in Florida

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.

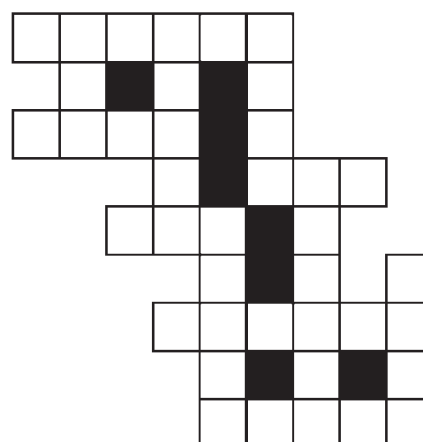
	+		+		=	14		
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	+		+		=	17		
=		=		=				
14		1		10				
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

Answer Page 4

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- EAC
- IPIRAM
- ♥ GREDI
- ♥ TPSE
- ♥ PADMEC
- OTR
- ♥ SEPA
- ♥ ERDTE
- ♥ PNI
- SPACUM
- ♥ TOPNI
- IRNE



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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