



Marfa Lights festival happening this weekend

By Alfredo Vasquez
Special to the Courier

WEST TEXAS – Every year during the Labor Day weekend for the past 38 years, people from all over the state, if not the country and the world, converge on the quaint Far West Texas town of Marfa to celebrate with food, music, and games an unexplainable phenomenon that has baffled the curious, the scientists, the experts for as long as the town folks can remember.

Few small towns have a festival rooted in something as enigmatic as the Marfa Lights Festival. Since the late 1980s, Marfa residents – who presently number about 2,000 – have opened their close-knit community to welcome the world each Labor Day weekend to celebrate the strange glowing orbs that have been reported on the horizon east of town for generations.

The lights, visible from a dedicated viewing area on US Highway-90, have never been fully explained, and they have made Marfa a magnet for the curious. The festival channels that fascination into the community’s most important annual celebration that is organized and promoted by the Marfa Chamber of Commerce.

And so, the small-town celebration continues again this year as preparations are in place for the 39th Annual Marfa Lights Festival. The three-day event, which is slated for Friday, September 4 through Sunday, September 6, provides a special opportunity for current Marfans as well as those individuals, who were born there but now live elsewhere, to reunite with family and friends.

The annual Saturday morning parade will meander through the downtown streets starting at 10 a.m. Following the parade will be a special performance of “Cosmic Circus” at noon, which is sponsored



– Photo by Alfredo Vasquez

STORIED EVENT – Under the vast West Texas sky, the Marfa Lights festival fills the fairgrounds around the historic Presidio County Courthouse, above, with live music, a hometown parade, arts, crafts, food vendors, and family activities.

by the Marfa Live Arts organization and the Marfa Chamber of Commerce.

The heart of the festival is the lawn area around the stately 1886 Presidio County Courthouse, where makeshift stages will host a wide-ranging lineup of regional bands. Recent editions have leaned into the borderland’s musical mix, from Tejano and conjunto to roots rock, mariachi, and indie acts.

This year’s array of musical talent that has been booked to provide entertainment throughout the special affair includes performances by Assalto, Jaime DeAnda, Conjunto 87, Tex Mex Hippies, Zodiacal, and La Nuva Fuerza.

The Marfa Lights Festival finale will be the

See **LIGHTS**, Page 3

Brooks honored with inaugural Outstanding Eagle Award



– Photo courtesy Canutillo ISD

Coach Scott Brooks

By Gustavo Reveles
Special to the Courier

CANUTILLO – Coach Scott Brooks was the recipient of the first-ever Outstanding Eagle Award. Canutillo High School (CHS) honored the head football coach during the Homecoming Parade and Community Pep Rally on September 16.

The Outstanding Eagle Award was established this year specifically to recognize Brooks and his extraordinary impact on CHS and the El Paso community. Brooks announced that the 2026 season would be his final season as head coach of the Canutillo Eagles.

Traditionally, the CHS student body honors an outstanding alumnus during Homecoming. This year, however, student leaders decided to set aside that tradition to recognize a coach who, while not a Canutillo graduate, has become an integral part of the school’s identity.

“Coach Brooks has been a prominent figure in Canutillo for nearly 30 years, and he has done more than most in promoting the name of our school not just in El Paso, but throughout the state,” said CHS student body co-presidents Mia Valle and Elias Ocon. “Coach Brooks may not have graduated from Canutillo High School, but there’s no doubt he is a Canutillo Eagle.”

Brooks began his tenure as Canutillo’s head football coach in 1999 and has built one of the most successful and respected programs in El Paso. He enters the 2026 season with 195 career victories at Canutillo, just five wins shy of the prestigious 200-win milestone recognized among Texas high school football coaches. His players and coaching staff are confident they can help him reach the mark during his final season.

Brooks’ Canutillo résumé includes a .650 winning percentage, nine district championships, 19 playoff

appearances and five 10-win seasons. Before Brooks’ arrival, Canutillo had recorded only one 10-win season from 1960 through 2006. The Eagles have accomplished that feat five times with Brooks.

He also led Canutillo to back-to-back regional semifinal appearances in 2021 and 2022 and was named District Coach of the Year in 2022 and 2023.

Perhaps the most memorable achievement of Brooks’ tenure came in 2014, when the Eagles finished 13-2 and became the first El Paso-area UIL football team to reach the state semifinal round. The historic run remains one of the most significant accomplishments in El Paso high school football history.

Brooks is also the fourth-longest-tenured active high school head football coach in Texas.

But his legacy extends well beyond

See **BROOKS**, Page 6

America needs to deicide if Flock cameras belong

We have met the enemy – and it is watching us. There’s a growing backlash against Flock cameras, the automated license plate readers that have become ubiquitous across the country.

The cameras take images of license plates, which are then stored in a searchable database that police departments can query in the course of investigations. Opponents of the cameras consider them an instrument of Big Brother, who’s not only watching, but constantly recording and tracking. Vandals have disabled and stolen the Flock cameras and even shot them. There’s a movement to get jurisdictions to cancel their contracts with Flock (the leading such company, but not the only one), and it has met with some success.

Los Angeles just let its contract with Flock lapse,

citing “serious concerns around civil liberties and civil rights issues.” There’s a reason, though, that police departments so rapidly adopted the cameras – they are an extremely useful investigative tool.

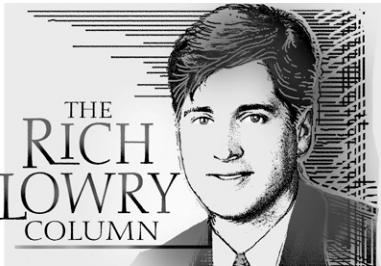
It is certainly true that the technology, like any power we give the police, can be misused. According to *The Washington Post*, “Authorities have charged or accused at least 50 law-enforcement officers of using license-plate readers for unauthorized purposes, including to stalk their exes.” The *Post* calls the abuse “rampant,” but 50 documented cases isn’t a large number given the widespread use of these devices: There are 120,000 Flock cameras across the United States scanning license plates 20 billion times a month.

It is understandable that people don’t like the idea that they are, in effect, living in a panopticon.

But license plate readers aren’t the only offender. There are all sorts of other surveillance cameras, many of them privately owned and operated, that the police access during investigations. We let our mobile phones and various apps track us all day long. And something like 60 million households have Ring or other security cameras that record what’s happening on their property and often in the immediate surroundings.

The only reliable way to ensure that you aren’t being recorded is to stay inside – and draw the

See LOWRY, Page 10



View from here

By Dr. Glenn Mollette

Kiosk ordering: Some love them, some detest them

Most likely you are. Becoming familiar with Digital Ordering Kiosks. They are called lots of things like Self-Serve Kiosks or Order Kiosks or Power Menu Boards and probably various other terms. You may love them, but I don’t care for them at all.

Taco Bell, McDonalds and various other eateries have them stationed in many of their stores. On more than one occasion I have tried to place an order the old fashioned way and have been totally ignored. A couple of times I just got back in my car and ordered in the drive through. Everything was the same there, no worries. I just simply said “Give me a chicken burrito supreme.” I pulled up to the window, paid for my food, received my burrito and drove on my merry way. There have

been occasions when some nice soul would come to the counter and take my order. I make the person taking my order knows how much I appreciate the service.

Often there are one or two people waiting to use the kiosk. They peck and poke around adding and subtracting the cheese, the sauces, the lettuce, adding something additional and often I start wondering if they playing some type of Las Vegas game. I am not real impatient but my patience is a bit thin if I’m starving and I am traveling.

There is no perfect world and I like the good old days when I walked into McDonalds and there were three or four nice people standing to take my order. They took my order for a cheeseburger, fries and a coke, handed me a tray with food on the tray for a very

reasonable price and it was simply fun. Today, it’s not fun at many fast-food eateries. It’s peek and peck on a screen. They wear me out.

Recently I saw some guy walking out of the men’s restroom in front of me. He didn’t wash his hands—he went straight to the kiosk to make an order. How many times every day does this happen? How could these contraptions even come into existence after the days of Covid?

People touch a lot of things. Credit card readers, door handles and the list is endless. Just add the menu ordering kiosks to the list.

I suppose the owners love

the kiosks? Are they really making them more money or saving them employee expenses? Are they really working? Have they made their business easier? The fact that I don’t care for them is not likely impacting anything. However, the Hardees and the Burger King around the corner from where I live still takes my order at the counter. That’s where I find myself navigating when in need of that kind of food. Time will tell if my choices will make any difference.

Kiosk ordering may or may not work for you. In a recent survey over 90% of those polled disliked or detested

the kiosk ordering boards. Some said they simply chose the drive through or chose restaurants that did not insist customers use a kiosk to order their food.

Dr. Glenn Mollette is the author of 15 books. He is a graduate of Georgetown College, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville Kentucky, Lexington Theological Seminary, Lexington, Kentucky, and is the founder of Newburgh Theological Seminary, Newburgh, Indiana. His column is published in over 600 media outlets nationally.

1973
53
Years
2026

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COURIER

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Aspiring writers sought

EL PASO COUNTY – Aspiring writers are invited to attend a free writer’s/author’s class. Don’t put off any longer that desire you have to write the epic novel or memoir hidden in your heart. The classes are held at the Oz Glaze Center, 13969 Veny Webb in Horizon City on the first and third Wednesday of the

month at 11:00 a.m. Come prepared with your questions and notebooks. Contact Michael Hillsgrove at (443) 883-1752 or Curt Noland at (915) 852-3153 for more information.

A sister event – a book sale – is set for Sunday, Sept., 27, 2026. It runs from noon to 6 p.m., also at the Oz Glaze Center. Local authors from around the El Paso area will be sharing their literary works.

– Curt Noland



Marfa Mystery Lights

When seen from the Marfa Lights View Park east of Marfa, local town folk describe the Marfa lights as “orbs of light”, which change in intensity and color, can move or remain stationary, or separate then merge. They describe the lights as being usually yellow orange, but also occasionally other hues including green, blue, and red. Witnesses stated that they usually fly above the desert vegetation but below the mesas in the background.

The first historical record of the Marfa lights was in 1883 when a cowherder saw a flickering light while he was driving cattle through Paisano Pass and wondered if it was a campfire. Local settlers have also recounted that they often saw the lights but that when they investigated they found no ashes or other evidence of a campsite.

Lights

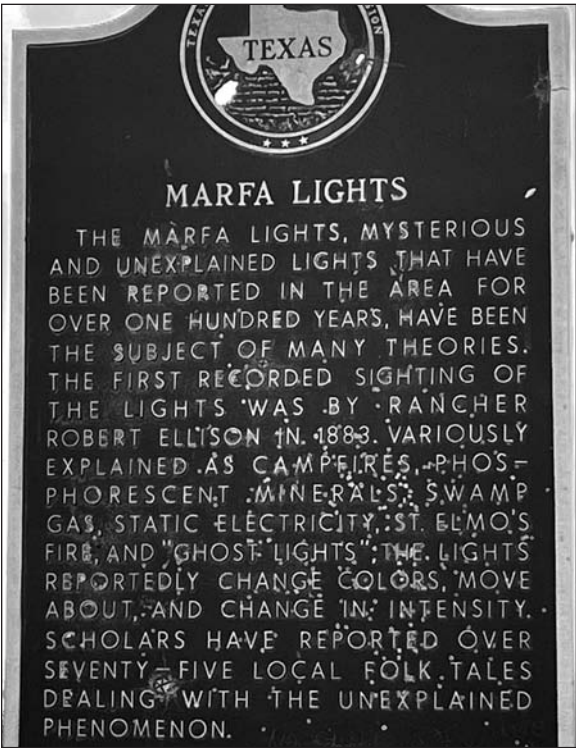
From Page 1

traditional dance. This year, the musical group Aquario will close the weekend celebration on Sunday at the Marfa Activities Center (MAC) Building. The festival is free for all ages, with the exception of the dance, which is \$15 per person or \$20 for couples.

Besides the parade, dance, and musical bands, the festival’s focal point starting Friday will be around the iconic courthouse lawn where food vendors will be selling West Texas’ favorite snacks, artisans will be displaying their arts and crafts, and game booths will be offering a variety of activities for children.

Throughout the festive weekend, Marfa visitors will have an opportunity to take the short trip to the official Marfa Lights Viewing Area to try their luck at spotting the phenomenon that gives the festival its name and its unique small-town atmosphere.

The town of Marfa is about 200 miles east of El Paso County, almost a 3-hour drive. There are two routes that road travelers can take to get there from El Paso. Both are via Interstate-10 East. One path is taking the Highway 90 junction in Van Horn; the other way is continuing on Interstate-10 East and turning off at the Fort Davis exit. Both routes offer a scenic view of the West Texas landscape.



– Internet

OFFICIALLY MARKED – Every Labor Day weekend for the past four decades, the picturesque high-desert town of Marfa throws open its streets for the Marfa Lights Festival, the community’s biggest party of the year. The festivities are built around the legend of the unexplained Marfa Mystery Lights, that can been seen from a dedicated viewing area on US Highway-90, which is a couple miles east of Marfa.

King Crossword

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Average Solve Time 22 Minutes

ACROSS

1 Layer
4 Radiant
9 Soup legume
12 Dubai's country, for short
13 Kin of "Presto!"
14 Online chats, briefly
15 Keyboard piece for two
17 Impose
18 Pained sounds
19 Nobel-winning Mother
21 "Hooray!"
24 Story lines
25 Hollywood's Gabor

26 Genetic stuff
28 Nasser's successor
31 Stinging insect
33 Pop
35 Arias for one
36 Animal's nose
38 Mexican Mrs.
40 Teeny
41 "Phooey!"
43 Disney exec Michael
45 1912 Olympic legend
47 MGM motto start
48 Tease
49 Teen's formalwear
54 Under the weather
55 Perfume compound
56 To and _
57 Flamenco cheer

58 Belittle
59 Box office buys, slangily

DOWN

1 Young dog
2 Chou En-
3 Pro vote
4 Acknowledged
5 Blessing
6 Actress Lucy
7 "Get Here" singer Adams
8 Tends the lawn
9 Stops talking
10 Flightless birds
11 Hammett pooch
16 M-Q connection
20 Some HDTVs
21 Evergreen trees
22 Nobelist Pavlov
23 Latin ballroom

dance
27 Small batteries
29 Sheltered
30 Wedding cake layer
32 Kitten's sound
34 Visionary
37 Designated
39 Put on a clothesline
42 Succinct
44 Lith., once
45 Small combo
46 Mound
50 Non-Rx
51 Newt
52 _ Lanka
53 Boston squad, for short

Answer Page 4



It's too late to know if your child's in the right car seat when you're driving. Fortunately, you're only reading.



Car crashes are a leading killer of children 1 to 13. Is your child in the right car seat? Don't think you know. Know you know.



Child Car Safety

safercar.gov/TheRightSeat



TEXTING AND DRIVING MAKES GOOD PEOPLE LOOK BAD.

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NHTSA



Moments in time

THE HISTORY CHANNEL

- On Aug. 31, 2005, the World Music Awards honored Destiny's Child as the best-selling female group of all time, having sold more than 50 million records globally, including four No. 1 hits and 10 top-10 songs on the Billboard Top 100.
- On Sept. 1, 1917, American soldier Stull Holt wrote a letter home in which he described some of his battlefield experiences on the Western Front in Verdun, France. The most arresting part of his missive recounted being struck by a shell containing poisonous gas, which he likened to "the extreme terror of the man who goes under in the water and will clutch at a straw."
- On Sept. 2, 1945, Vietnamese communist Ho Chi Minh declared Vietnam's independence from France hours after Japan's surrender in World War II, though it would take another 30 years for his vision of a united communist Vietnam to become a reality.
- On Sept. 3, 1935, professional bowler Andrew Varipapa, considered by many "the greatest one-man bowling show on Earth" for his trick shot artistry still emulated by modern bowlers, set a record of 2,652 points in 10 games.
- On Sept. 4, 476 A.D., Romulus Augustulus, the last emperor of the Western Roman Empire, was deposed by Odoacer, a German barbarian who declared himself the king of Italy, presaging what many historians consider the fall of the Roman Empire.
- On Sept. 5, 1957, New York Times writer Gilbert Millstein delivered a rave review for "On the Road," the second novel by a Columbia University dropout Jack Kerouac. As his girlfriend, writer Joyce Johnson, quipped to a reporter, "Jack went to bed obscure and woke up famous." Though he wrote a total of more than 25 books, "On the Road" remains his most noteworthy.
- On Sept. 6, 1651, King Charles II of England, after losing the Battle of Worcester and his attempt to reclaim the British throne, disguised himself by cutting his hair, staining his skin with walnut oil, donning peasant clothes, and spending a day hiding in an oak tree while searchers passed beneath him, before eventually making a successful escape to France.

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Senior moment

By Matilda Charles

When will salads be safe to eat?

I'll be the first to admit that when I recently strolled through the vegetable aisles at the store, trying to decide what to buy, my overriding feeling was one of concern.

A show of hands: How many have avoided salad products for several weeks now? Between iceberg lettuce causing a massive cyclospora parasite outbreak because the defective product was sent to retailers and restaurants, we also have jalapeno peppers and cucumbers with salmonella.

They say (they, being the experts) that while we should avoid bagged salads, it's OK to eat whole head lettuce as long as we throw away the outer two or three leaves and then wash the rest under running water.

For right now, I'm going to pass. Those same experts concede that completely washing cyclospora off lettuce leaves is very difficult. Buying from your local farmers markets might be the best bet right now, until this cyclospora outbreak goes away.

Listeria has surfaced, with the producer voluntarily expanding its own recall, and the list of potential bagged items affected is long:

green beans, bell peppers, yellow and zucchini squash, and cucumbers. The produce was sold at a wide variety of retailers across many states.

But it's not only salads that are a problem right now. There are the 1.5 million dozen eggs contaminated with salmonella and sold under different brand names.

And we have organic blueberries with E. coli.

And pistachio nut butter, made in Italy and sold by a big box store, that's contaminated with salmonella.

Our best bet: Sign up for email alerts that will tell us quickly what foods are being recalled. Start with the FDA (www.fda.gov/food), and include alerts from the USDA (www.fsis.usda.gov/recalls) and FoodSafety (www.foodsafety.gov). Consumer Reports (www.consumerreports.org) will send phone alerts for food recalls if you sign up. Put "food safety alerts" in the search box.

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CryptoQuip Answer

Margerine or mayo that's approximately halfway towards its expiration date: middle-age spread.

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Paseo del Este Municipal
Utility District No. 2
Notice of Public Hearing
on Tax Rate

The Paseo del Este Municipal Utility District No. 2 of El Paso County will hold a public hearing on a proposed tax rate for the tax year 2026 on Thursday, September 10, 2026, at 1:00 P.M. (MDT) at TRE & Associates, L.L.C., 110 Mesa Park Drive, Suite 200, El Paso, Texas 79912. Your individual taxes may increase at a greater or lesser rate, or even decrease, depending on the tax rate that is adopted and on the change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in taxable value of all other property. The change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in taxable value of all other property determines the distribution of the tax burden among all propertyowners.

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

FOR the proposal: Directors Jorjorian-Raynal,
Esparza, Mezzacappa and
Wardy

AGAINST the proposal: NONE

PRESENT and not voting: NONE

ABSENT: Director Newsom

The following table compares taxes on an average residence homestead in this taxing unit last year to taxes proposed on the average residence homestead this year.

	Last Year	This Year
Total tax rate (per \$100 of value)	\$0.7173/\$100	\$0.7386/\$100
	Adopted	Proposed
Difference in rates per \$100 of value	+ \$ 0.0213	
Percentage increase / decrease in rates (+/–)	+ 2.97%	
Average appraised residence homestead value	\$ 425,409	\$ 427,602
General homestead exemptions available (excluding 65 years of age or older or disabled person’s exemptions)	\$ –	\$ –
Average residence homestead taxable value	\$ 425,409	\$ 427,602
Tax on average residence homestead	\$ 3,051.46	\$ 3,158.27
Annual increase / decrease in taxes if proposed tax rate is adopted (+/–)	+ 106.81	
and percentage of increase (+/–)	+ 3.50%	

If the proposed combined debt service, operation and maintenance, and contract tax rate requires or authorizes an election to approve or reduce the tax rate, the Paseo del Este Municipal Utility District No. 2 proposes to use the tax increase for the purpose of administrative expenses or to reimburse amounts owed to developers.

NOTICE OF VOTE TAX RATE

If the district adopts a combined debt service, operation and maintenance and contract tax rate that would result in the taxes on the average residence homestead increasing by more than 3.5 percent, an election must be held to determine whether to approve the operation and maintenance tax rate under Section 49.23602, Water Code. An election is not required if the adopted tax rate is less than or equal to the voter-approval tax rate.

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

Paseo del Este Municipal
Utility District No. 3
Notice of Public Hearing
on Tax Rate

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

FOR the proposal: Directors Adauto, Drozd,
Quintana and Smith

AGAINST the proposal: NONE

PRESENT and not voting: NONE

ABSENT: Director Boswell

The following table compares taxes on an average residence homestead in this taxing unit last year to taxes proposed on the average residence homestead this year.

	Last Year	This Year
Total tax rate (per \$100 of value)	\$0.6792/\$100	\$0.6908/\$100
	Adopted	Proposed
Difference in rates per \$100 of value	+ \$ 0.0116	
Percentage increase / decrease in rates (+/–)	+ 1.71%	
Average appraised residence homestead value	\$ 297,187	\$ 296,705
General homestead exemptions available (excluding 65 years of age or older or disabled person’s exemptions)	\$ –	\$ –
Average residence homestead taxable value	\$ 297,187	\$ 296,705
Tax on average residence homestead	\$ 2,018.49	\$ 2,049.64
Annual increase / decrease in taxes if proposed tax rate is adopted (+/–)	+ \$ 31.14	
and percentage of increase (+/–)	+ 1.54%	

If the proposed combined debt service, operation and maintenance, and contract tax rate requires or authorizes an election to approve or reduce the tax rate, the Paseo del Este Municipal Utility District No. 3 proposes to use the tax increase for the purpose of administrative expenses or to reimburse amounts owed to developers.

NOTICE OF VOTE TAX RATE

If the district adopts a combined debt service, operation and maintenance and contract tax rate that would result in the taxes on the average residence homestead increasing by more than 3.5 percent, an election must be held to determine whether to approve the operation and maintenance tax rate under Section 49.23602, Water Code. An election is not required if the adopted tax rate is less than or equal to the voter-approval tax rate.

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

Brooks

From Page 1

wins and championships. Generations of Canutillo athletes have passed through Brooks’ program, carrying with them lessons about discipline, perseverance, teamwork and leadership. His influence has helped establish Canutillo football as a source of pride for the school and the broader community while opening doors for student-athletes to pursue opportunities at the collegiate level and beyond.

“Coach Brooks is a legend, not just in Canutillo, but throughout El Paso. He helped build a football culture that has given so many young athletes the confidence, discipline and opportunity to chase their goals,” said LJ Martin, BYU star running back and Canutillo High School alum who played for Brooks. “I’m proud to call him my high school coach. This may be his final season, but his impact will last far longer.”

Canutillo ISD Superintendent Dr. Josue Borrego noted Brooks’ legacy would have a lasting presence at Canutillo High School and our entire community. “Coach Brooks has spent nearly three decades building more than a football program,” Borrego said. “He has built a culture, developed generations of young people and helped put Canutillo on the map. He may not have been born an Eagle, but he has certainly earned his wings.”

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By Lucie Winborne

- While several companies claim to be America’s oldest soft drink brand, including Moxie, Dr Pepper, Vernors Ginger Soda and Hires Root Beer, all of which were created in the late 19th century, the inventor of carbonated water was Swedish chemist Joseph Priestley, in 1767.
- The Grand Canyon is so large that it can be seen from space.
- When language barriers caused confusion during international soccer tournaments, English referee Ken Aston was inspired to create the yellow and red card system while sitting at a traffic light. The cards were introduced at the 1970 World Cup.

- On average, it takes between 12 to 14 dates before couples will trade house keys.
- Ancient pagan cultures such as the Celts believed that benevolent, helpful spirits lived in trees. Knocking on tree trunks roused a spirit for protection, which led to the saying “knock on wood.”
- The rocket frog can jump more than six feet by releasing energy it stores in its tendons.
- The Statue of Liberty’s thumbnail is over a foot long.
- Ancient Romans sent slaves into the mountains to collect snow that they flavored with fruits and juices to create their own version of ice cream.
- Sunlight hitting Earth for one hour contains more energy than the world uses in a year.
- In 1915, the Kansas legislature introduced a bill that would make it a misdemeanor for a woman

- under age 44 to wear lipstick because it would “create a false impression.”
 - In 2013, the Chicago Sun-Times laid off 28 of its full-time photographers and trained its reporters to take their own iPhone photos.
 - Bees contribute to more than \$15 billion worth of crops every year through pollination.
 - Wagyu beef, generally held to be some of the world’s best, usually comes from cows raised in Japan with such luxuries as massages, a better diet and longer lifespans.
 - Studies have shown that mice have dropped dead after breathing some new carpet fumes.
- Thought for the Day: “One thorn of experience is worth a whole wilderness of warnings.”
– James Russell Lowell
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Canutillo Independent School District
Public Notice of Special Education Services

Canutillo Independent School district provides the following educational program/services to identified disabled children who reside within the District beginning on the third birthday through age twenty-one.

Instructional Programs including: 1) Early Childhood (beginning on the third birthday through age five), Resources (grades K-12) and Self-Contained (grades K-12); 2) Diagnostic Services; 3) Transportation Services; 4) Speech Therapy; 5) Counseling Services; 6) Adaptive Equipment Services; 7) Physical Therapy; 8) Occupational Therapy; 9) School Health Services; and 10) Homebound Services.

Services are provided to identified children with visual or auditory impairments who reside within the District from birth through age twenty-one.

In compliance with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 and Public Law 105-17, parents and adult students have the right to inspect educational records. District policy FL provides for record access, confidentiality, and complaint procedures.

If you would like more information or know of a disabled child who is not receiving educational services, please contact: Melissa Mena, Special Education Director, phone office (915) 877-7448, or email: mmena@canutillo-isd.org.

El Distrito Escolar de Canutillo
Aviso Público de Servicios de Educación Especial

El Distrito Escolar Independiente de Canutillo provee los siguientes programas/ servicios educacionales a niños que son identificados como desabilitados que viven dentro del distrito comenzando con el tercer cumpleaños hasta los 21 años.

Programas de instrucción: infancia temprana (comenzando con el tercer cumpleaños hasta la edad de cinco años), cuarto de recurso (K-12) y clases contenidad (K-12); 2) servicios diagnósticos; 3) servicios de transportación; 4) terepia de habla; 5) servicios de consejo; 6) servicios de equipaje adaptivo; 7) terapia fisica; 8) terapia ocupacional; 9) servicios de salud escolar; y 10) servicios de clases en el hogar.

Se provee servicios a niños identificados con discapasidades visuales y audivas que viven dentro del distrito desde nacimiento hasta la edad de 21 años.

Conforme al Acto de Derechos y Confidencia Educacionales de Familia de 1974 y Ley Pública 105-17, padres y alumnos adultos tienen el derechos de ver los archivos educativos. Poliza FL explican los derechos, la confidencialidad, y el proceso para quejarse.

Si usted desea mas información o sabe de un niño/niña desabilitado que vive en el distrito escolar de Canutillo que no esta recibiendo servicios educacionales, favor de comunicarse con: Melissa Mena, Directora de Educación Especial, teléfono: (915) 877-7448, o correo electrónico: mmen@canutillo-isd.org.

Public Notice
Canutillo Independent School District
504 Child Find

If you suspect an infant, child, or young adult of having a developmental delay or disability, CISD wants you to know that we can help. The student may be eligible for services at no cost, under Federal and Texas Laws. IDEA – (Individuals with Disabilities Education Act) provides resources and guidelines for children with disabilities. According to the Law, disabilities may include intellectual disability, dead or hard of hearing, visual impairment, speech and/or language impairment, emotional disability, orthopedic impairment, autism, traumatic brain injury, other health impairment, or specific learning disability; and who by reason thereof, need special education and related services.” If you reside within the Canutillo Independent School District, please contact the Special Education Office (915) 877-7448, or check out the CISD website under CHILD FIND.

Aviso de Identificación de
Estudiantes Incapacitados
Bajo la Sección 504

Si usted so specha que un niño o joven tiene algún retraso en su desarrollo o discapacidad, el Distrito escolar de Canutillo quiere que usted sepa que podemos ayudar. El alumno(a) puede calificar para recibir servicios sin ningún costo como dicta la Ley federal y las leyes de Texas. IDEA – Ley educativa para individuos con discapacidades) provee recursos y lineamientos para niños con discapacidades. Según la ley, discapacidades puede incluir lo siguiente: Discapacidad intelectual, en el habla, sordera, ceguera, trastornos emocionales, impedimentos ortopédicos, autismo, heridas al cerebro otros trastornos de salud o específicos a las discapacidades del aprendizaje por los cuales necesitan atención especial educativa o los servicios relacionados. Si usted vive en el Distrito escolar independiente de Canutillo, favor de llamar a la oficina de Servicios de educación especial (915) 877-7448, o visite el Sitio Web de CISD y busque CHILD FIND.

Paseo del Este Municipal
Utility District No. 4
Notice of Public Hearing
on Tax Rate

The Paseo del Este Municipal Utility District No. 4 of El Paso County will hold a public hearing on a proposed tax rate for the tax year 2026 on Friday, September 11, 2026, at 9:30 A.M. (MDT) at TRE & Associates, L.L.C., 110 Mesa Park Drive, Suite 200, El Paso, Texas 79912. Your individual taxes may increase at a greater or lesser rate, or even decrease, depending on the tax rate that is adopted and on the change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in taxable value of all other property. The change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in taxable value of all other property determines the distribution of the tax burden among all propertyowners.

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

FOR the proposal: Directors Lascurain, Campbell, Gonzalez, Franco and Lopez

AGAINST the proposal: NONE

PRESENT and not voting: NONE

ABSENT: NONE

The following table compares taxes on an average residence homestead in this taxing unit last year to taxes proposed on the average residence homestead this year.

	Last Year	This Year
Total tax rate (per \$100 of value)	\$0.8018/\$100	\$0.7654/\$100
	Adopted	Proposed
Difference in rates per \$100 of value	– \$ 0.0364	
Percentage increase / decrease in rates (+/–)	– 4.54%	
Average appraised residence homestead value	\$ 319,463	\$ 346,356
General homestead exemptions available (excluding 65 years of age or older or disabled person’s exemptions)	\$ –	\$ –
Average residence homestead taxable value	\$ 319,463	\$ 346,356
Tax on average residence homestead	\$ 2,561.45	\$ 2,651.01
Annual increase / decrease in taxes if proposed tax rate is adopted (+/–)	+ \$ 89.55	
and percentage of increase (+/–)	+ 3.50%	

If the proposed combined debt service, operation and maintenance, and contract tax rate requires or authorizes an election to approve or reduce the tax rate, the Paseo del Este Municipal Utility District No. 4 proposes to use the tax increase for the purpose of administrative expenses or to reimburse amounts owed to developers.

NOTICE OF VOTE TAX RATE

If the district adopts a combined debt service, operation and maintenance and contract tax rate that would result in the taxes on the average residence homestead increasing by more than 3.5 percent, an election must be held to determine whether to approve the operation and maintenance tax rate under Section 49.23602, Water Code. An election is not required if the adopted tax rate is less than or equal to the voter-approval tax rate.

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

Paseo del Este Municipal
Utility District No. 5
Notice of Public Hearing
on Tax Rate

The Paseo del Este Municipal Utility District No. 5 of El Paso County will hold a public hearing on a proposed tax rate for the tax year 2026 on Thursday, September 10, 2026, at 10:30 A.M. (MDT) at TRE & Associates, L.L.C., 110 Mesa Park Drive, Suite 200, El Paso, Texas 79912. Your individual taxes may increase at a greater or lesser rate, or even decrease, depending on the tax rate that is adopted and on the change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in taxable value of all other property. The change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in taxable value of all other property determines the distribution of the tax burden among all property owners.

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

FOR the proposal: Directors Alonzo Jr., Juarez, Ortega and Valdez

AGAINST the proposal: NONE

PRESENT and not voting: NONE

ABSENT: NONE

The following table compares taxes on an average residence homestead in this taxing unit last year to taxes proposed on the average residence homestead this year.

	Last Year	This Year
Total tax rate (per \$100 of value)	\$0.6816/\$100	\$0.6996/\$100
	Adopted	Proposed
Difference in rates per \$100 of value	+ \$ 0.0180	
Percentage increase / decrease in rates (+/–)	+ 2.64%	
Average appraised residence homestead value	\$ 290,781	\$ 285,464
General homestead exemptions available (excluding 65 years of age or older or disabled person’s exemptions)	\$ –	\$ –
Average residence homestead taxable value	\$ 290,781	\$ 285,464
Tax on average residence homestead	\$ 1,981.96	\$ 1,997.11
Annual increase / decrease in taxes if proposed tax rate is adopted (+/–)	+ \$ 15.14	
and percentage of increase (+/–)	+ 0.76%	

If the proposed combined debt service, operation and maintenance, and contract tax rate requires or authorizes an election to approve or reduce the tax rate, the Paseo del Este Municipal Utility District No. 5 proposes to use the tax increase for the purpose of administrative expenses or to reimburse amounts owed to developers.

NOTICE OF VOTE TAX RATE

If the district adopts a combined debt service, operation and maintenance and contract tax rate that would result in the taxes on the average residence homestead increasing by more than 3.5 percent, an election must be held to determine whether to approve the operation and maintenance tax rate under Section 49.23602, Water Code. An election is not required if the adopted tax rate is less than or equal to the voter-approval tax rate.

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

Paseo del Este Municipal
Utility District No. 6
Notice of Public Hearing
on Tax Rate

The Paseo del Este Municipal Utility District No. 6 of El Paso County will hold a public hearing on a proposed tax rate for the tax year 2026 on Thursday, September 10, 2026, at 2:00 P.M. (MDT) at TRE & Associates, L.L.C., 110 Mesa Park Drive, Suite 200, El Paso, Texas 79912. Your individual taxes may increase at a greater or lesser rate, or even decrease, depending on the tax rate that is adopted and on the change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in taxable value of all other property. The change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in taxable value of all other property determines the distribution of the tax burden among all property owners.

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

- FOR** the proposal:
- Directors Huit, Peterson, Rico and Romero
- AGAINST** the proposal:
- NONE
- PRESENT** and not voting:
- NONE
- ABSENT:**
- Director Wheeler

The following table compares taxes on an average residence homestead in this taxing unit last year to taxes proposed on the average residence homestead this year.

	Last Year	This Year
Total tax rate (per \$100 of value)	\$0.7500/\$100	\$0.7855/\$100
	Adopted	Proposed
Difference in rates per \$100 of value	+ \$ 0.0355	
Percentage increase / decrease in rates (+/–)	+ 4.73%	
Average appraised residence homestead value	\$ 316,873	\$ 313,124
General homestead exemptions available (excluding 65 years of age or older or disabled person’s exemptions)	\$ –	\$ –
Average residence homestead taxable value	\$ 316,873	\$ 313,124
Tax on average residence homestead	\$ 2,376.55	\$ 2,459.59
Annual increase / decrease in taxes if proposed tax rate is adopted (+/–)	+ \$ 83.04	
and percentage of increase (+/–)	+ 3.49%	

If the proposed combined debt service, operation and maintenance, and contract tax rate requires or authorizes an election to approve or reduce the tax rate, the Paseo del Este Municipal Utility District No. 6 proposes to use the tax increase for the purpose of administrative expenses or to reimburse amounts owed to developers.

NOTICE OF TAXPAYERS’ RIGHT TO ELECTION TO REDUCE TAX RATE

If the district adopts a combined debt service, operation and maintenance, and contract tax rate that would result in the taxes on the average residence homestead increasing by more than eight percent, the qualified voters of the district by petition may require that an election be held to determine whether to reduce the operation and maintenance tax rate to the voter-approval tax rate under Section 49.23603, Water Code. An election is not required if the adopted tax rate is less than or equal to the voter-approval tax rate.

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

Paseo del Este Municipal
Utility District No. 7
Notice of Public Hearing
on Tax Rate

The Paseo del Este Municipal Utility District No. 7 of El Paso County will hold a public hearing on a proposed tax rate for the tax year 2026 on Thursday, September 10, 2026, at 3:00 P.M. (MDT) at TRE & Associates, L.L.C., 110 Mesa Park Drive, Suite 200, El Paso, Texas 79912. Your individual taxes may increase at a greater or lesser rate, or even decrease, depending on the tax rate that is adopted and on the change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in taxable value of all other property. The change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in taxable value of all other property determines the distribution of the tax burden among all property owners.

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

- FOR** the proposal:
- Directors Hansen, Goldfien, Garnica, Moye and Ulrich
- AGAINST** the proposal:
- NONE
- PRESENT** and not voting:
- NONE
- ABSENT:**
- NONE

The following table compares taxes on an average residence homestead in this taxing unit last year to taxes proposed on the average residence homestead this year.

	Last Year	This Year
Total tax rate (per \$100 of value)	\$0.7196/\$100	\$0.7500/\$100
	Adopted	Proposed
Difference in rates per \$100 of value	+ \$ 0.0304	
Percentage increase / decrease in rates (+/–)	+ 4.22%	
Average appraised residence homestead value	\$ 282,599	\$ 273,801
General homestead exemptions available (excluding 65 years of age or older or disabled person’s exemptions)	\$ –	\$ –
Average residence homestead taxable value	\$ 282,599	\$ 273,801
Tax on average residence homestead	\$ 2,033.58	\$ 2,053.51
Annual increase / decrease in taxes if proposed tax rate is adopted (+/–)	+ \$ 19.93	
and percentage of increase (+/–)	+ 0.98%	

If the proposed combined debt service, operation and maintenance, and contract tax rate requires or authorizes an election to approve or reduce the tax rate, the Paseo del Este Municipal Utility District No. 7 proposes to use the tax increase for the purpose of administrative expenses or to reimburse amounts owed to developers.

NOTICE OF VOTE TAX RATE

If the district adopts a combined debt service, operation and maintenance and contract tax rate that would result in the taxes on the average residence homestead increasing by more than 3.5 percent, an election must be held to determine whether to approve the operation and maintenance tax rate under Section 49.23602, Water Code. An election is not required if the adopted tax rate is less than or equal to the voter-approval tax rate.

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

After surgery issues may take a diagnostic team

DEAR DR. ROACH: I have a friend who had gallstones and ultimately got her gallbladder removed. When they went in, they saw lots of infections, cleaned her out, and put drains in her liver. She's been feeling awful and weak, and she wants to get a second opinion. Which type of specialist should she see? – D.L.G.



Treatment for a complex problem like hers often takes a team of specialists – in this case, certainly a surgeon and very likely a gastroenterologist and an infectious disease specialist. The ideal person to see now might be any of these specialists, especially one who saw her in the hospital and knows her case. However, it sounds like she may have lost confidence in the team who initially treated her.

Getting a useful second opinion would require getting this specialist the information that they'd need, which would include imaging studies, operative reports and microbiology reports at a minimum. A surgeon is unlikely to be interested unless it's clear that further surgery may be necessary, so I suggest that she starts with a generalist or a gastroenterologist.

I've been involved in cases where a person who had a complex hospital course at a different medical system was admitted to my inpatient service, and getting the necessary information required many hours of work. With electronic medical records that can communicate with each other (sometimes), this can be done much more easily now. It's more feasible in the inpatient setting, but I hope your friend doesn't get any sicker that she needs to go in the hospital.

DEAR DR. ROACH: My son's going to be spending several weeks on a lake. I was looking at a permethrin-impregnated sleeping bag liner, and I'm wondering if this type of treated sleeping bag is good to prevent bites from various insects. Is it worth the money? – J.M.M.

Permethrin-impregnated clothing is highly effective. Studies have shown an 80% to 90% reduction in bites when it's used. (Permethrin can't be used on skin as it's inactivated by skin oils.) Sleeping bag liners and bed nets aren't as well-studied, but they're still recommended by expert groups.

While I can't answer whether it's worth the money to you, I'd want myself or my child to have as much protection as possible. The permethrin in factory-applied gear lasts longer than self-applied permethrin, but it'll gradually become less effective, especially when it gets exposed to sunlight and oxygen.

The cost for a sleeping liner online was about \$80 when I checked. A bottle of spray is about \$25 and lasts for about six weeks on clothing or gear. There's an additive effect of using permethrin-impregnated products and topical skin repellants, and I certainly recommend both. I think it'd be worth it just to avoid itchy and unpleasant mosquito bites.

If he's going to be in an area with high amounts of tick-borne diseases (like Lyme disease, ehrlichiosis or babesiosis), I'd say that the sleeping liner would help prevent an infection, which could potentially ruin his time on the lake or even cause health issues that might require him to leave.

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.



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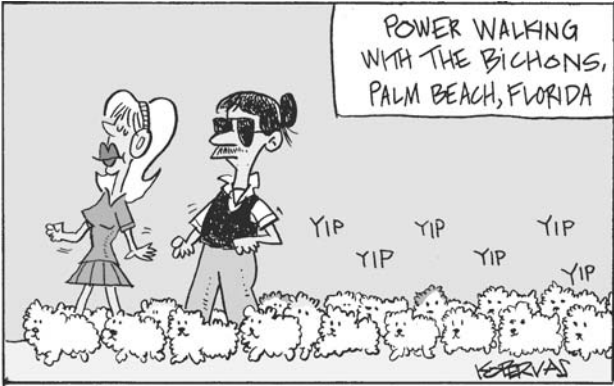
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Lowry

From Page 2

curtains. Officers who abuse the license-plate readers deserve to be fired and, if appropriate, charged with crimes, which is often what happens. Strict rules around what constitutes a legitimate query of the system and routine audits should make it harder for rogue officers to use the cameras for nefarious purposes.

The police officials who are advocating for Flock aren't doing it so the cops can track the average person's trip to the grocery store or yoga studio. The cameras routinely aid in the identification and apprehension of the perpetrators of serious crimes, the location of missing persons and the recovery of stolen cars.

According to the Jacksonville, Florida, sheriff's office, since 2024, the cameras have "helped solve 15 murders, 17 kidnappings, six forcible sex offenses, nearly 100 shootings and 172 missing-persons cases."

A website set up by Charles Lehman of the Manhattan Institute is tracking news items about Flock contributing to successful police work. There are such stories every day, all

over the country. Two recent entries related the arrest of an armed robbery suspect in Grass Valley, California, and the rescue of two kidnapped teenage girls in Bulloch County, Georgia. After getting a tip, the authorities used Flock to find the suspect in the Brown University shooting last year.

Perhaps these crimes would get solved anyway, but if even a fraction of them didn't, Flock would be making a meaningful contribution to public safety. It used to be that America had, in effect, ungoverned spaces where malefactors could hide in plain sight. To use an extreme example, the Symbionese Liberation Army operated for a couple of years out of various safe houses in the San Francisco Bay area during the 1970s, something almost unimaginable in our technologically advanced age of constant information sharing.

Rolling back Flock won't reverse this tectonic change that's been decades in the making, but it will deny law enforcement a valuable asset.

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

Paseo del Este Municipal
Utility District No. 8
Notice of Public Hearing
on Tax Rate

The Paseo del Este Municipal Utility District No. 8 of El Paso County will hold a public hearing on a proposed tax rate for the tax year 2026 on Friday, September 11, 2026, at 10:30 A.M. (MDT) at TRE & Associates, L.L.C., 110 Mesa Park Drive, Suite 200, El Paso, Texas 79912. Your individual taxes may increase at a greater or lesser rate, or even decrease, depending on the tax rate that is adopted and on the change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in taxable value of all other property. The change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in taxable value of all other property determines the distribution of the tax burden among all property owners.

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

FOR the proposal: Directors Quiñones, Silva, Hunt, and Bruder

AGAINST the proposal: NONE

PRESENT and not voting: NONE

ABSENT: Director De Alba

The following table compares taxes on an average residence homestead in this taxing unit last year to taxes proposed on the average residence homestead this year.

	Last Year	This Year
Total tax rate (per \$100 of value)	\$0.6237/\$100	\$0.6454/\$100
	Adopted	Proposed
Difference in rates per \$100 of value	+ \$ 0.0217	
Percentage increase / decrease in rates (+/–)	+ 3.48%	
Average appraised residence homestead value	\$ 265,248	\$ 256,300
General homestead exemptions available (excluding 65 years of age or older or disabled person’s exemptions)	\$ –	\$ –
Average residence homestead taxable value	\$ 265,248	\$ 256,300
Tax on average residence homestead	\$ 1,654.35	\$ 1,654.16
Annual increase / decrease in taxes if proposed tax rate is adopted (+/–)	– \$ 0.19	
and percentage of increase (+/–)	– 0.01%	

If the proposed combined debt service, operation and maintenance, and contract tax rate requires or authorizes an election to approve or reduce the tax rate, the Paseo del Este Municipal Utility District No. 8 proposes to use the tax increase for the purpose of administrative expenses or to reimburse amounts owed to developers.

NOTICE OF VOTE ON TAX RATE

If the district adopts a combined debt service, operation and maintenance and contract tax rate that would result in the taxes on the average residence homestead increasing by more than 3.5 percent, an election must be held to determine whether to approve the operation and maintenance tax rate under Section 49.23602, Water Code. An election is not required if the adopted tax rate is less than or equal to the voter-approval tax rate.

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

Paseo del Este Municipal
Utility District No. 9
Notice of Public Hearing
on Tax Rate

The Paseo del Este Municipal Utility District No. 9 of El Paso County will hold a public hearing on a proposed tax rate for the tax year 2026 on Friday, September 11, 2026, at 11:30 A.M. (MDT) at TRE & Associates, L.L.C., 110 Mesa Park Drive, Suite 200, El Paso, Texas 79912. Your individual taxes may increase at a greater or lesser rate, or even decrease, depending on the tax rate that is adopted and on the change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in taxable value of all other property. The change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in taxable value of all other property determines the distribution of the tax burden among all property owners.

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

FOR the proposal: Directors Bustamante, Lascurain, Grenier, Zuniga and Romero

AGAINST the proposal: NONE

PRESENT and not voting: NONE

ABSENT: NONE

The following table compares taxes on an average residence homestead in this taxing unit last year to taxes proposed on the average residence homestead this year.

	Last Year	This Year
Total tax rate (per \$100 of value)	\$0.7048/\$100	\$0.7308/\$100
	Adopted	Proposed
Difference in rates per \$100 of value	+ \$ 0.0260	
Percentage increase / decrease in rates (+/–)	+ 3.69%	
Average appraised residence homestead value	\$ 273,412	\$ 263,695
General homestead exemptions available (excluding 65 years of age or older or disabled person’s exemptions)	\$ –	\$ –
Average residence homestead taxable value	\$ 273,412	\$ 263,695
Tax on average residence homestead	\$ 1,927.01	\$ 1,927.08
Annual increase / decrease in taxes if proposed tax rate is adopted (+/–)	+ \$ 0.08	
and percentage of increase (+/–)	0.00%	

If the proposed combined debt service, operation and maintenance, and contract tax rate requires or authorizes an election to approve or reduce the tax rate, the Paseo del Este Municipal Utility District No. 9 proposes to use the tax increase for the purpose of administrative expenses or to reimburse amounts owed to developers.

NOTICE OF VOTE ON TAX RATE

If the district adopts a combined debt service, operation and maintenance and contract tax rate that would result in the taxes on the average residence homestead increasing by more than 3.5 percent, an election must be held to determine whether to approve the operation and maintenance tax rate under Section 49.23602, Water Code. An election is not required if the adopted tax rate is less than or equal to the voter-approval tax rate.

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



Moore Texas by Roger Moore
September 2, 1862: New Confederate conscription law includes all males 18-45.

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: L equals Y

EXFSXFHIG AF EXLA MKXM'Q
XJJFAZHEXMGPL KXPTOXL
MAOXFV HMQ GZJHFXMHAI
VXMG: EHVVPG-XSG QJFGXV.

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Weekly SUDOKU

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

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!

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New clinical trials at the VA



by Freddy Groves

The VA has started two important trials.
The first trial, titled “Psilocybin Intervention for Veterans Overcoming Treatment-Resistant Depression,” is to determine the effectiveness as well as the safety of a compound that’s used to treat depression and post-traumatic stress disorder: psilocybin.
Psilocybin is a mushroom, more commonly known as “magic mushrooms,” that converts to psilocin in the body, altering brain activity. Its use as a solution to mental health conditions that haven’t responded to previous treatment is hoped to bring relief to sufferers.
The trial will compare two different dosages and study how they affect depression levels, PTSD and side effects. They will be held at five different VA locations: Birmingham VA Health Care System, Tuscaloosa VA

Medical Center, VA Portland (Oregon) Health Care System, Corporal Michael J. Crescenz VA Medical Center and VA Puget Sound Health Care System.
The other new trial will take a diabetes drug, semaglutide, a GLP-1 receptor agonist, and explore its use as treatment for alcohol use disorder. Semaglutide appears to affect the rewards part of the brain. Researchers took their clues from a prior study that concluded that GLP-1 helped with alcohol, cannabis, cocaine, nicotine and opioid use disorders, following study participants for up to three years.
There are over 400,000 veterans who’ve been diagnosed with alcohol use disorder, and GLP-1 has been shown to reduce the rate of emergency hospital visits, hospitalizations and other adverse outcomes. The goal of the trial is to determine whether it can reduce alcohol use disorder in veterans.
The study (“Cessation or Reduction of Alcohol Consumption in Veterans”) will be held at 18 VA medical centers starting with an initial enrollment of 600 veterans. Participants will either receive a placebo or semaglutide shot every week for 24 weeks while researchers track the outcomes.
Contact your nearest VA medical center or look for the trial by name at ClinicalTrials.gov to learn about participating in either trial.

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- Soaking window decals with baby wipes will soften the adhesive, allowing you to remove a decal from glass easier.
- “Last week, we found my son’s favorite sippy cup half-filled with sour milk under the couch. I washed it very well with hot soapy water, but it still smelled bad. I stuffed the cup with newspaper pieces and screwed the top back on. The newspaper absorbed the smell. I took about a week, but it’s back in use.” – T.L. in Texas
- “My pup loves to ride in the car, and my car seats love his hair, too. Seems like it’s impossible to get out! A vacuum didn’t work, so my neighbor suggested I use dish gloves. Just put a latex rubber glove on your hand and wipe over seats. A very lightly damp sponge can work as well.” – P.I. in Washington

- Lotion scent too strong? Purchase a pump bottle of unscented lotion, and remove about a third to a small bottle or even a plastic zipper-top bag. Add your scented lotion, and mix well by shaking the bottle or stirring with a long stick. The scent will be diluted, and you can always add more scented lotion or top off with the excess unscented lotion.
- Great ways to remove stuck labels: nail polish remover (NOT for use on plastics), WD-40 oil, soaking in hot water, rubbing alcohol.

Send your tips to Now Here’s a Tip, 628 Virginia Drive, Orlando, FL 32803. ©2026 King Features Synd., Inc.

GO FIGURE!

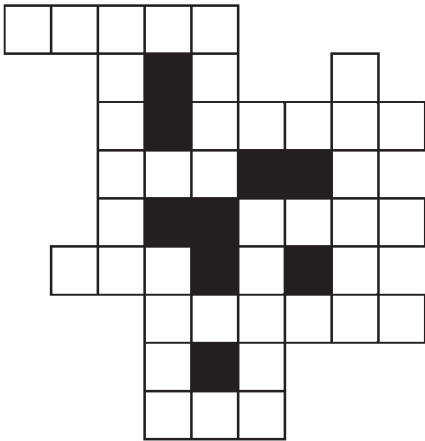
The idea of Go Figure is to arrive at the figures given at the bottom and right-hand columns of the diagram by following the arithmetic signs in the order they are given (that is, from left to right and top to bottom). Use only the numbers below the diagram to complete its blank squares and use each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

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



- HET
WOPNUT
♥ ARMCO
EWOM
REACNA
♥ MYA
♥ ENMA
AWMCA
♥ ENW
SORRAT
PYNPI
♥ RYNA



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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