1973 53 Years 2026

West Texas County Courier

VOL. 53, No. 44 | Serving Anthony, Vinton, Canutillo, East Montana, Horizon, Socorro, Clint, Fabens, San Elizario and Tornillo | NOVEMBER 5, 2026

Sanchez receives NAMI award for mental health advocacy

By Elhiu Dominguez
Special to the Courier

EL PASO COUNTY – The National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) of Texas honored El Paso County Attorney Christina Sanchez with its statewide 2026 Charley H. Shannon Advocate for Justice Award on Friday, Oct. 23, 2026. The award – recognizing her work to improve the lives of people living with mental illness and their families across Texas – was presented during the NAMI Texas Annual Conference at the Omni Corpus Christi Hotel.

As County Attorney, Sanchez has made mental health a shared responsibility across her office. She sought mental health law training for attorneys, brought in psychiatrists to teach staff about mental illness and diagnoses, and invited NAMI El Paso to speak with employees. Her work has also strengthened partnerships with mental health providers, physicians, law enforcement, judges, advocates, and educational institutions, and has supported Assisted Outpatient Treatment.



Sanchez also supports her office's annual participation in NAMIWalks, standing with families and advocates to help reduce stigmas associated with mental health issues.

"Justice begins with listening," said Sanchez. "I'm honored to have received this award, but the work belongs to everyone in our office and to the families, advocates, and community partners who keep reminding us of that. People facing mental health challenges deserve a system that treats them with dignity and hope, and we all have a part in building it."

"Christina receives this prestigious award because she has built a culture in

See SANCHEZ, Page 5



– Photo courtesy Office of the El Paso County Attorney

ALL SMILES – From left are Daniela Chisolm, Chief of the Mental Health Unit in the El Paso County Attorney's Office; Christina Sanchez, El Paso County Attorney; and Isidro Torres, Interim Executive Director of NAMI Texas. Sanchez received the 2026 Charley H. Shannon Advocate for Justice Award in Corpus Christi, TX.

EPCC partners with Texas Tech to train dental hygienists



– Photo courtesy El Paso Community College

SHOW US THE PEARLY WHITES – EPCC Dental Hygiene student Jackie Chairez, left, and Zana Zaidan, right, of Texas Tech Hunt School of Dental Medicine take digital photographs of a patient during a check-up at Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center.

By Beau Bagley
Special to the Courier

EL PASO COUNTY – El Paso Community College (EPCC) Dental Hygiene students teamed up with Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center El Paso (TTUHSC El Paso) dental students in a collaborative effort that brought classroom learning to life while serving the El Paso community, free of charge. The event, held at the Texas Tech Oral Health Clinic on Wednesday, October 14, 2026, connected preventive and restorative dental care for local patients, demonstrating the power of partnership in healthcare education.

The EPCC 2027 Fall Cohort of Dental Hygiene students provided preventive care such as cleanings and screenings, while third-year Texas Tech dental students follow up with comprehensive exams and restorative treatment. Together, they deliver a full circle of care, from prevention to restoration, ensuring patients receive the highest level of service and continuity.

"EPCC students have recruited some of their own patients that they've treated for hygiene services, to come and get their restorative treatment here at Texas Tech," EPCC Dental Hygiene Instructor Theresa Pecina said. "And what we're hoping is that now that they've kind of started the process of building that relationship with Texas Tech, they will be more willing to come back and finish off any restorative treatment or continue comprehensive care here."

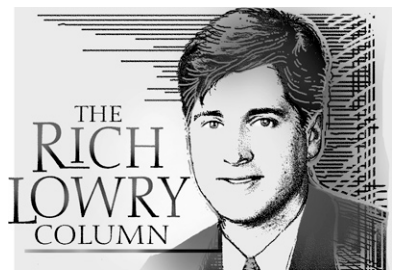
EPCC provides the community with low cost oral health services. The partnership also offers an invaluable learning opportunity for students on both sides.

"We have been very open to working with El Paso Community College, in

See DENTAL, Page 5

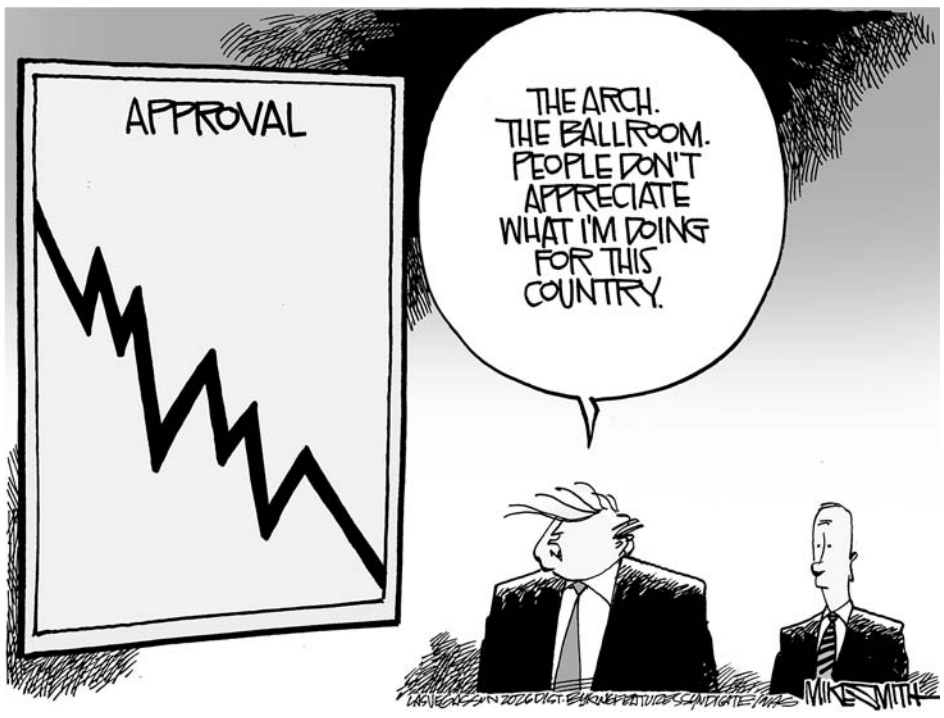
One sure sign of will power is to see not a friend with a black eye and not ask any questions. **– Quips & Quotes**

The revolt against tariffs



In 2016, Donald Trump's support for tariffs helped propel him to a shocking electoral victory. In 2026, his tariff policy became an issue for Republicans in the midterms. This turnabout came as a surprise in Trump's second term, and an unwelcome one for the president and his party.

During his political ascent in 2015-2016, Trump exploited issues where there was a disconnect between popular and elite opinion, and trade was prominent among them. His protectionism – expressed in pungent and excoriating terms – poached traditional Democratic ideological territory and appealed to the working-class voters that allowed him to crash the traditional Democratic "Blue Wall" states. In sheer political terms, what could go wrong? Well, nothing – until he got his way.



It turns out that Liberation Day was the beginning of the end for any appreciable political support for his tariff policy. The assumption has usually been that the politics of tariffs favor protectionism – the benefits are very visible and focused for specific sectors and businesses, so they will be highly committed to maintaining them, while the costs are widely dispersed among people who won't care so much.

The logic here has been turned on its head, though. The costs felt by all the people with no direct stake in protectionism are tanking support for the tariffs. On top of this, there's the fact that Trump won the second time promising to reduce prices, whereas import duties increase them. The Yale Budget Lab estimates the costs to households as about $1,000 a year. The shambolic and arbitrary rollout of the tariffs, as well as the dubious legal basis for many of them, hasn't helped, either.

According to a poll that the libertarian Cato Institute conducted with Morning Consult, 74% of Americans say the tariffs increased the prices they pay, including 66% of Republicans. Fifty-three percent of the public says that the tariffs have weakened the economy, and 49% say they have hurt

See LOWRY, Page 7

Food for thought By Dr. Glenn Mollette

The pathway to a good day

Thanksgiving seems to be overshadowed by Halloween and Christmas. Therefore, start focusing on Thanksgiving today. Let's make the rest of November Thanksgiving month, at least until Thanksgiving day.

Today let's celebrate. The November election is over, we hope. My prayer is that we don't have endless vote counting and lawsuits along with the kitchen sink issues. Please, may the insanity be stopped. I'm wring this on Sunday night. By now and hopefully Tuesday night, we should know the results of the election. Television station owners are now richer. Some politicians will walk away with millions of dollars that they can donate to their nonprofits and receive salaries for life. All of it seems a little crazy.

Whatever the outcome of the election, I pray that all parties might work together to accomplish something. Lower grocery prices, gasoline prices, interest rates on loans and peace in the Middle-East. Please allow me to dream. I realize there is never going to be real peace in the Middle East, but we can hope for a season of peace. It's hard to expect much from a den of poisonous vipers. They will strike at something.

Let's go back to Thanksgiving. Try to take inventory each morning or night. Try to count our blessings, one by one.

Give thanks that we are at least allowed to vote. Give thanks that you can choose your career. There is a lot to choose from. Give thanks that our nation has a strong military. There are plenty of would-be attackers if they believe an attack might be possible. Give thanks for free speech. Such freedom came with the sacrifice of many lives. When you choose to attend church or not to be religious at all, give thanks. Tremendous sacrifices have been made for such privilege.

We all have problems and aggravations. There are millions of Americans who are struggling financially. Do you have a roof over your head? Do you have a place to sleep? Do you have food to eat? Do you have transportation? How is your health? Everyone has a different perspective. We often focus on our troubles. Our problems can seem insurmountable and sometimes they are more than challenging.

No one knows what you are experiencing or understands your daily pain. God knows and we need to take our burdens to Him daily. We should give Him thanks.

There is a story in the Bible about Jesus healing ten lepers. Only one returned to give him thanks. Jesus asked, "Where are nine who were healed?" Luke 17: 11-19. Obviously, Jesus appreciated the one who returned to say thank you.

Celebrate Thanksgiving all month and in reality, every day. The pathway to a good day begins with a thankful heart. "Give thanks in all circumstances for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you." (1 Thessalonians 5:18)

Glenn Mollette is the author of fifteen books and has recorded three studio albums. He is the founder of Newburgh Theological Seminary, in Indiana which has students in all fifty states and forty countries. This column appears nationally in over 700 publications and media sources. (Gmollette@aol.com, glennmollette.com)

1973 53 Years 2026
West Texas County Courier
Serving Anthony, Vinton, Canutillo, East Montana, Horizon, Socorro, Clint, Fabens, San Elizario and Tornillo

PUBLISHED:
Published each Thursday (minimum 50 issues) by Homesteader News, Inc. Office open Monday through Thursday.

COPYRIGHT:
Entire contents © 2026 Homesteader News, Inc. Individual authors retain all rights. Pictures, drawings and written material appearing in the West Texas County Courier may not be used or reproduced without written permission of Homesteader News, Inc.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR:
Letters must not be more than 250 words in length. They should be dated, must be signed and have an address and daytime phone number. Only the name and city will be printed with the letter. The West Texas County Courier reserves the right to edit or reject letters to the editor or other submitted material it considers inappropriate.

AD DEADLINE:
Friday 4 p.m. for the next Thursday.

PERSONAL CLASSIFIED RATES
$15 for 25 words, $20 for 40 words. Ad must be in writing and pre-paid. The West Texas County Courier reserves the right not to publish advertising it considers inappropriate.

DISPLAY RATES:
Open rate — $45 per column inch. Call for more information or to set an appointment. The West Texas County Courier reserves the right not to publish advertising it considers inappropriate.

MAIL SUBSCRIPTIONS:
Minimum 50 issues for $50.
Delivery via 1st class mail.

MAIL:
15344 Werling Ct.
Horizon City, TX 79928

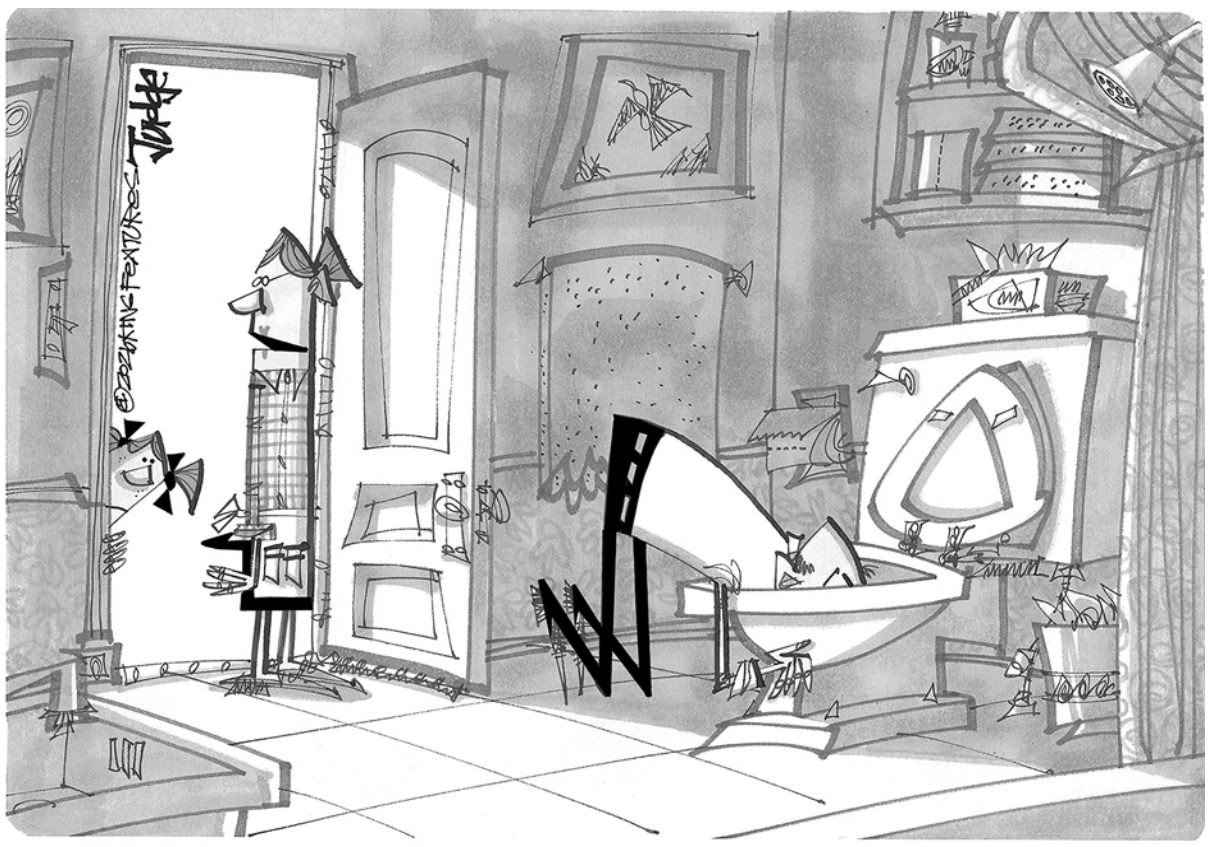
Phone: 852-3235

E-mail: wtxcc@wtxcc.com
Website: wtxcc.com

Publisher
Rick Shrum

Contributors
Alfredo Vasquez
Steve Escajeda

Homesteader Est. 1973 News, Inc.



Socorro ISD counseling teams, schools, earn statewide recognition

By Christy Flores-Jones
Special to the Courier

EL PASO COUNTY – Seven outstanding counseling teams from the Socorro Independent School District have been recognized with 2026 Lone Star Awards from the Lone Star State School Counselor Association (LSSSCA) for their dedication to student success and excellence in school counseling.

The LSSSCA honors outstanding school counselors and data-driven school counseling programs across Texas through its annual Lone Star Awards.

The awards recognize exemplary school counseling programs that support students' academic achievement, college and career readiness and social-emotional development. The Lone Star Award also serves as a steppingstone for programs seeking national recognition through the American School Counselor Association's Recognized ASCA Model Program (RAMP).

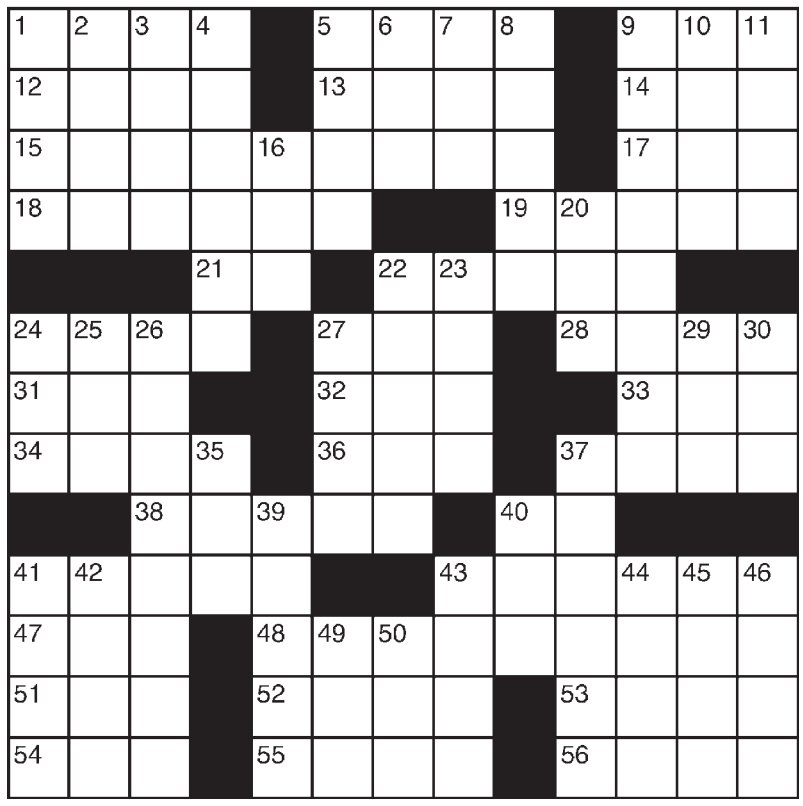
The award program features three tiers of recognition: Bronze, Silver, and Gold. Gold Award recipients were H.D. Hilley Elementary School, Carmen Bebon; Hueco Elementary School, Sandy Rulon; and Sun Ridge Middle School, Yvonne Alvarez and Yvonne Sermeño. Silver Award recipients were Americas High School, Elizabeth Ochoa Rivas, Angelica Aldaña, Gabriela Shimshock, Lizbeth Yslas, Rosie Ortiz, Claudia Preciado-Ortega and Aida Mata; Eastlake Middle School, Brenda Martinez, Saira Armendariz and Judith Olivas; Robert R. Rojas Elementary, Veronica Villanueva; and William D. Slider Middle School, Lisa Dieter and Jessica Campoya.

"We are incredibly proud of our counselors and counseling teams for earning these well-deserved honors. Their dedication, advocacy, and student-centered approach make a meaningful difference in the lives of our students and families every day," said Alma Dominguez Barrios, director of school counseling. "These recognitions highlight the exceptional work taking place in our schools every day and reflect Socorro ISD's strong commitment to student achievement and well-being."

The winners will be recognized at the LSSSCA Annual Conference Awards Gala on Nov. 15 in Frisco, TX.

To Advertise Call 852-3235
Archives: www.wtxcc.com

King Crossword

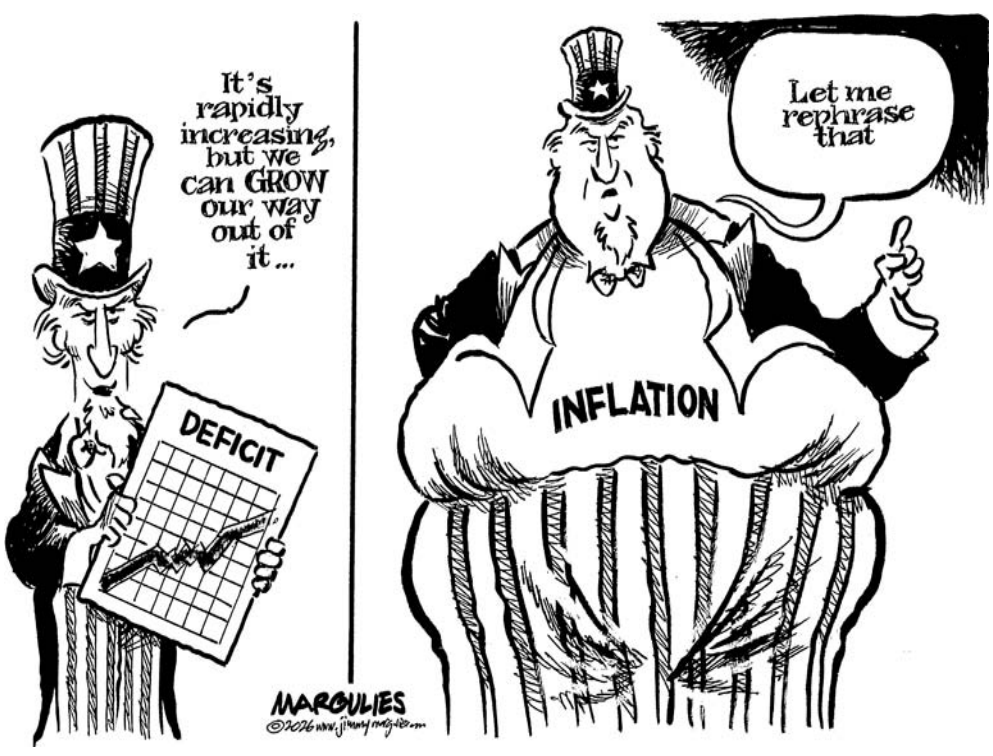


Average Solve Time 25 Minutes

ACROSS
1 Off-white
5 "Star Trek II" villain
9 Yoga pad
12 Lopsided win
13 _ the Great (kid-lit detective)
14 Yucatan "Bravo!"
15 Lead singer of Matchbox Twenty
17 Present location?
18 Most devious
19 Den fixture
21 ICU worker
22 No-frills
24 Big cheese
27 Warm-up run
28 Kitten calls
31 _ Jima
32 Noshed
33 Slangy denial
34 Arrears
36 Roast VIPs
37 Hereditary unit
38 Jazz legend Vaughan
40 Concerning
41 Prefix with violet
43 Social blunders
47 Egg _ yung
48 Workplace invitations
51 Sharing word
52 Sciences' partner
53 Coup d'_
54 Messy room
55 Diner dish
56 D.C. baseball team

DOWN
1 Blunders
2 "Neato!"
3 July birthstone
4 Says
5 Shoelace snarl
6 Deli choice
7 _ premium
8 Tree houses
9 Frenzied gathering
10 Lotion additive
11 Libretto
16 QVC alternative
20 Energy
22 Foul up
23 Ice and Bronze
24 Auction action
25 Have bills
26 Pitiful tale
27 Magazine for docs
29 Pallid
30 That ship
35 Pitch
37 Lincoln Center's David _ Hall
39 Indian prince
40 U.K. fliers
41 Sci-fi vehicles
42 Lummox
43 "Gee whiz!"
44 Greek salad cheese
45 Part of Q.E.D.
46 Swift jets
49 _ pro nobis
50 "Dynamite" band

Answer Page 4









AMERICAN LUNG ASSOCIATION. of Texas

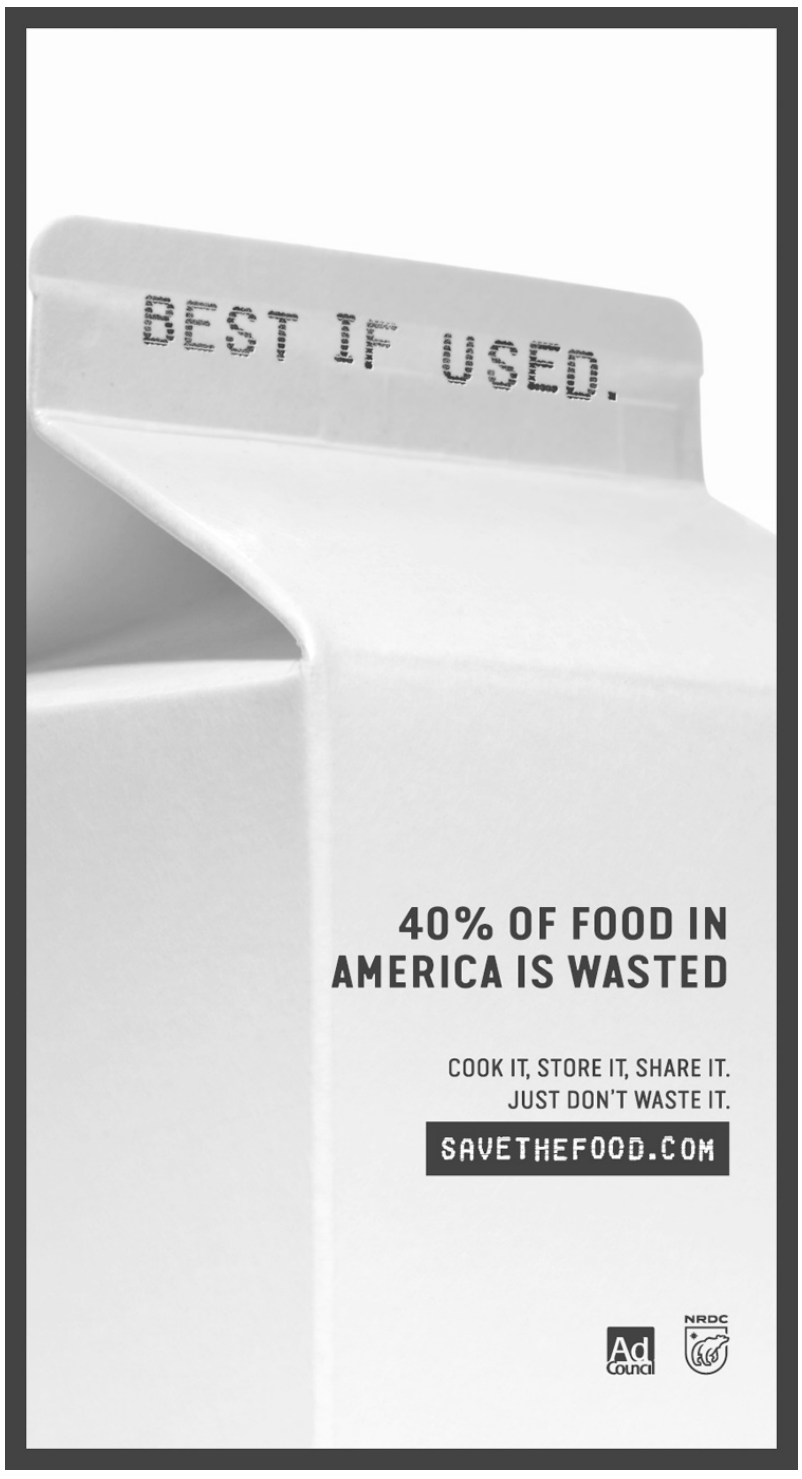
YOUR Gift IS A WAY TO CONQUER LUNG DISEASE

Find out how you can help ...

www.texaslung.org

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

1-800-LUNG-USA



1973 53 Years 2026
WEST TEXAS COUNTY COURIER
Serving Anthony, Vinton, Canutillo, East Montana, Horizon, Socorro, Clint, Fabens, San Elizario and Tornillo

Martinez earns State UIL berth four years running

By Sofia Maciel
Special to the Courier

FABENS – Fabens High School senior Alexia Martinez is headed to the UIL State Competition for the fourth consecutive year, capping off an outstanding high school cross country career with another individual qualification.

"I am so thankful to have had the opportunity to run and make it to State four years in a row! I give all the glory to God," said Martinez.

Fabens High School Cross Country Coach Monica Aguirre praised Martinez for the hard work, dedication, and heart she has demonstrated throughout her career.

"Congratulations, Alexia! I am so incredibly proud of you and all the hard work, dedication, and heart you've put into this," said Aguirre. "You deserve every bit of this moment. Keep believing in yourself and shining bright. State qualifier looks good on you!"

Fabens ISD Athletic Director Manny Estrada highlighted Martinez's determination to overcome difficult race conditions and secure her individual qualification.

"Alexia ran through the cold, mud, rain, and competition and qualified to State individually," said Estrada. "She ran an awesome race and managed to overcome all conditions."

The UIL Cross Country State Championships will be held at Old Settlers Park in Round Rock, Texas, on November 6, 2026. Martinez will now have the opportunity to represent Fabens High School and the Wildcat community at the State Cross Country Meet one final time.



– Photo courtesy Fabens ISD

Alexia Martinez

CLASSIFIED AD FORM

25 words - $15 per week; 40 words - $20 per week

1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28
29	30	31	32
33	34	35	36
37	38	39	40

Deadline: Monday, 4 p.m.
Please print. Send form and payment (no cash) to:

West Texas County Courier
15344 Werling Ct.
Horizon City, TX 79928

Contact Information:

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Archives: www.wtxcc.com

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

			F					
	F	A	R					
	R	■	E					
N	O	R	T	H	■	M	O	T
	L	■	■	E	■	E	■	I
	I	■	■	R	A	N	G	E
	C	H	U	M	■	I	■	D
		O	■	I	■	A		
		D	O	T	A	L		

E	C	R	U	■	K	H	A	N	■	M	A	T		
R	O	U	T	■	N	A	T	E	■	O	L	E		
R	O	B	T	H	O	M	A	S	■	B	O	X		
S	L	Y	E	S	T	■	■	T	V	S	E	T		
■	■	■	R	N	■	B	A	S	I	C	■	■		
B	O	S	S	■	J	O	G	■	M	E	W	S		
I	W	O	■	■	A	T	E	■	■	N	A	H		
D	E	B	T	■	M	C	S	■	G	E	N	E		
■	■	S	A	R	A	H	■	R	E	■	■	■		
U	L	T	R	A	■	■	G	A	F	F	E	S		
F	O	O	■	J	O	B	O	F	F	E	R	S		
O	U	R	■	A	R	T	S	■	E	T	A	T		
S	T	Y	■	H	A	S	H	■	N	A	T	S		

A	L	I	B	I	■	A	P	I	A	N	■	F	A	T
S	A	L	U	D	■	L	E	N	T	O	■	I	D	E
I	N	S	T	A	■	E	N	D	A	T	■	J	U	D
A	G	A	T	H	A	C	H	R	I	S	T	I	E	■
■	■	■	O	O	P	■	■	A	L	P	I	■	■	T
D	I	A	N	A	R	I	G	G	■	A	N	N	A	W
E	S	P	■	N	I	K	E	■	A	M	O	E	B	A
T	O	O	N	■	L	I	N	U	S	■	R	E	D	■
O	G	L	E	S	■	D	A	P	H	N	E	D	U	M
N	O	L	O	A	D	■	■	T	O	A	■	■	C	O
A	N	O	■	M	A	R	G	O	T	F	O	N	T	E
T	A	X	■	O	B	O	E	■	■	T	H	U	■	■
E	L	I	Z	A	B	E	T	H	T	A	Y	L	O	R
■	■	■	I	N	A	■	M	O	O	■	E	L	V	I
L	E	O	N	■	■	J	A	M	U	P	S	■	A	L
I	R	I	S	M	U	R	D	O	C	H	■	C	L	E
B	O	L	■	E	S	S	■	■	H	A	L	L	■	■
E	S	S	E	N	E	■	T	H	E	R	E	I	S	N
L	I	K	E	A	D	A	M	E	■	A	I	M	E	E
E	V	I	L	■	T	R	A	M	■	O	C	E	A	N
D	E	N	S	■	O	M	N	I	■	H	A	S	T	E

■	A	P	I	A	N	■	F	A	T	S	■	A	L	S	O
■	L	E	N	T	O	■	I	D	E	A	■	M	A	T	H
■	E	N	D	A	T	■	J	U	D	I	D	E	N	C	H
■	C	H	R	I	S	T	I	E	■	D	O	N	G	L	E
■	A	L	P	I	■	■	T	H	A	■	D	O	N	■	■
■	G	G	■	A	N	N	A	W	I	N	T	O	U	R	■
■	N	I	K	E	■	A	M	O	E	B	A	■	I	N	D
■	U	S	■	R	E	D	■	D	R	E	■	■	■	■	■
■	D	A	P	H	N	E	D	U	M	A	U	R	I	E	R
■	■	T	O	A	■	■	C	O	R	N	■	P	A	O	■
■	M	A	R	G	O	T	F	O	N	T	E	Y	N	■	A	S	A
■	O	B	O	E	■	■	T	H	U	■	■	L	E	A	D	E	D
■	T	H	T	A	Y	L	O	R	■	L	E	M	U	R	■	■	■
■	M	O	O	■	E	L	V	I	S	■	R	I	P	A	■	■	■
■	J	A	M	U	P	S	■	A	L	L	S	■	N	O	G	■	■
■	C	L	E	O	L	A	I	N	E	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
■	H	A	L	L	■	■	M	O	W	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
■	T	H	E	R	E	I	S	N	O	T	H	I	N	G	■	■	■
■	A	I	M	E	E	■	C	I	D	E	R	■	■	■	■	■	■
■	O	C	E	A	N	■	A	L	E	X	A	■	■	■	■	■	■
■	H	A	S	T	E	■	R	E	S	T	S	■	■	■	■	■	■

CryptoQuip Answer

If famous singer Dion were storing contact lenses, what fluid might she use? Celine solution.

5	+	3	×	9	= 72
+	■	+	■	-	■
2	+	6	×	7	= 56
×	■	÷	■	+	■
8	+	1	+	4	= 13
= 56	■	= 9	■	= 6	■

Moments in time
THE HISTORY CHANNEL

• On Nov. 2, 1986, Norwegian distance runner Grete Waitz won her eighth New York City marathon, finishing the 26-mile, 385-yard course more than a mile ahead of the second- and third-place women in the race. In 1988, she won it for the ninth time, something no other marathon runner had accomplished.

• On Nov. 3, 1900, the first U.S. auto show opened at Madison Square Garden in New York, with automakers displaying 160 vehicles. Since early internal combustion engines were noisy, noxious and quite jarring, potential buyers of the period, not surprisingly, tended to favor steam- and battery-powered models.

• On Nov. 4, 1842, Abraham Lincoln, then a struggling lawyer, married Mary Todd at her sister's home in Springfield, Illinois, after a two-year courtship and previously broken engagement that some historians believe was linked to Lincoln's history of depression.

• On Nov. 5, 1968, Republican Richard Nixon defeated Vice President Hubert Humphrey in one of the closest presidential elections in American history, by less than 500,000 votes. Due to third-party candidate George Wallace's strong showing, neither Nixon nor Humphrey received more than 50% of the popular vote.

• On Nov. 6, 1988, Soviet scientist and human rights activist Andrei Sakharov embarked on a two-week visit to the United States, during which he petitioned the American government and citizens to support Russian leader Mikhail Gorbachev's policies of glasnost (political openness) and perestroika (economic reforms).

• On Nov. 7, 1996, former NFL running back and Heisman trophy winner Mike Rozier narrowly survived being shot three times in his hometown of Camden, New Jersey, by Louis Pierce. Pierce was originally convicted and sentenced to life in prison, while maintaining his innocence and claiming he'd been incorrectly identified, but was released on $50,000 bail after serving 20 years of his sentence.

• On Nov. 8, 2011, asteroid 2005 YU55, which was at least 1,300 feet wide according to radar measurements, passed about 201,700 miles from Earth, the closest known approach by an asteroid of its brightness since 1976.

©2026 King Features Synd., Inc.

Strange BUT TRUE

By Lucie Winborne

• A dashboard was initially a piece of wood attached to a horse-drawn carriage to prevent mud from splattering up from the horses and onto the driver.

• Silver conducts electricity better than any other substance.

• The origin of the phrase "to put someone on hold" was Alexander Graham Bell handing his telephone to his partner, Mr. Watson, and saying, "Here, hold."

• There are 86 LEGO bricks for every person on earth.

• Barbie was co-designed by engineer and professional missile designer Jack Ryan, who was also the sixth husband of Zsa Zsa Gabor.

• Scientists believe that the nictitating membrane (the small pink tissue in the corner of a human eye) is the remnant of a third eyelid, similar to the semitransparent eyelid used by birds, reptiles, fish and other mammals.

• One of Stan Laurel's favorite practical jokes was a trick toilet built into the bathroom of one of his homes. When flushed, it sank into the floor.

• An ounce of gold can be stretched more than 50 miles.

• The first prototype of cold cream was created around 150 C.E. by the Greek physician Galen.

• Chefs traditionally wear white because the chef of the first prime minister of France believed it was the most hygienic of colors.

• Over 80% of patients on the U.S. national transplant waiting list need a kidney.

• The first movie fashion fad was Hollywood star Mary Pickford's long curls.

• The flute requires more air than any other instrument, including the tuba.

• About 90% of all harvested olives are turned into olive oil.

Thought for the Day: "Life begins now – right now – not tomorrow or the next day or the next. Every minute of every hour of every day, life begins anew. That means everything can change in an instant. It also means you can have a new beginning whenever you want."
– Neale Donald Walsch

©2026 King Features Synd., Inc.

Dental
From Page 1

particular, the dental hygiene program," Texas Tech Assistant Professor of Dental and Public Health said. "This collaboration is part of a program that we have for our dental students called the Community Practical program, where we divide our students into teams, and those teams work with an external community partners, try to identify a need, and the bridge of the gap with this need. So, this team collaborated with EPCC, the dental hygiene program. They identified this gap with the restorative treatment for the patients."

"The dental hygiene program has tested me in a bunch of different ways. For sure, it has built my character and helped show me different leadership skills and helped me to learn to be more compassionate, and be able to take criticism, work under pressure, and build my integrity," EPCC Dental Hygiene student Dylan Wilburn said. "The opportunity to help change people's lives by providing oral care services with oral hygiene instructions, doing teeth cleanings, and just making people feel comfortable at the dentist is really important."

Through this initiative, both institutions emphasize a shared goal: improving access to comprehensive dental care while preparing the next generation of oral health professionals. The collaboration highlights El Paso's commitment to advancing health education and serving the community through teamwork, innovation, and compassion.

Visit www.epcc.edu/Academics/Health/dental-hygiene for more information about EPCC's Dental Hygiene Program.

Sanchez
From Page 1

the County Attorney's Office where mental health is treated as everyone's responsibility," said Isidro Torres, MBA, Interim Executive Director of NAMI Texas. "The result is an office where people who feel they have run out of options walk in and get heard. Christina has shown attorneys that compassion is not separate from justice. It is part of justice."

The Charley H. Shannon Advocate for Justice Award honors visionary leadership in improving mental health legislation, laws, and conditions. It is named for Charley H. Shannon, who founded the NAMI San Angelo affiliate with his wife, Jackie Shannon. Jackie Shannon later served as president of NAMI Texas and as president of NAMI's national Board of Directors from 1998 to 2001.

NAMI Texas, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, works to improve the lives of people affected by mental illness through education, support, and advocacy. NAMI Texas is part of the nation's largest grassroots mental health organization, which challenges stigma and champions supportive policies. To learn more, visit www.namitexas.org.

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

The Socorro Independent School District will hold a public meeting at 6:00 p.m., Tuesday, November 17, 2026 in the District Service Center Board Room, 12440 Rojas Dr. El Paso TX 79928.

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

WTCC: 11/05/26

Notice of Public Hearing to Discuss Tornillo Independent School District's State Financial Accountability Rating (FIRST)

Tornillo Independent School District will hold a public meeting at 5:30 PM, Wednesday, November 18, 2026, in the boardroom of the W.E. Neill Service Center, at 19210 Cobb Ave., Tornillo, Texas 79853.

The purpose of this hearing is to discuss Tornillo Independent School District's rating on the state's financial accountability system.

WTCC: 11/05/26



Walden's future at UTEP is hanging by a thread

By Steve Escajeda
Special to the Courier

Major League Baseball manager Leo Durocher coached on and off from 1939 to 1973. He managed the Brooklyn Dodgers, New York Giants, Chicago Cubs and the Houston Astros.

He won a total of four World Series titles, two as a player and two more as a coach.

He was a tough guy with a tough reputation, who never backed out of a fight, and probably started a few.

As successful as Durocher was on the field, he'll always be remembered for his famous quote, "Nice guys finish last."

And though I don't always agree with that statement, I do think of it now and then, especially when I think of UTEP football.

I've got to admit that there aren't many nicer guys out there than UTEP football head coach Scotty Walden. He's respectful, he listens, he helps in the community, he fights for his players, answers all the questions and is the eternal optimist.

And that sounds great – if you're running for office.

But he's not running for office. He's been hired to win football games, nothing else.

The trouble is that he isn't doing what he was hired to do. The Miners lost again last Saturday, this time to North Dakota State 31-7.

With the loss, UTEP's record fell to 1-7. Walden's record has now fallen to 6-26 in the two-and-a-half years that he's been the head man.

The Miners are ranked near the very bottom of many statistical categories. No matter how bad you are, that's hard to do.

There are three phases to every team, offense, defense, and special teams.

If you want some facts proving the Miners are bad at all three – here are some numbers.

Out of 138 collegiate teams, UTEP's offense is dead last (138th) in converting third downs, they rank 132nd in passing, they are last in red zone scoring and they're 137th in total offense.

On defense, UTEP is ranked 126th in allowing third-down conversions, they rank 119th in red zone defense and are 120th in rushing defense.

On special teams, the Miners are 127th in punting, they rank 122nd in punt return yards allowed, and their kicker is just 3-8 on field goal tries.

But if all that isn't enough – here's the one stat that totally defines a bad football team. The Miners rank dead last,138th, in scoring points, and they rank 133rd in scoring defense.

Every week, Walden keeps saying that he's proud of his team's effort, which is getting painfully old. But really, at this point what else can he say? What would you say?

At first, Walden's enthusiasm was infectious. We loved it when he promised a fast-paced offensive attack. We loved when he painted himself blue at a UTEP basketball game. We loved how his teams jumped up and down on the sidelines, showing their enthusiasm.

But all the flashy hype now feels like wasted energy.

While the Miners are jumping around of the sideline and Walden is going a hundred miles an hour like a kid on a sugar rush, the other teams and coaches look calm, composed, confident and business like.

If this were jumping jacks, or jump rope, or a game of who can drink the most caffeine, UTEP would be unbeatable. But it's not. It's a game of poise, control, wits and outsmarting your opponent.

Too many times, the UTEP sideline, the players, the coaches look so confused and frustrated. Honestly, it often looks like the Miners' right hand has no idea what the Miners' left hand is doing.

And of course, all that comes down to coaching and being a leader of men.

UTEP fans are smart enough to know that UTEP isn't going to win the Mountain West Conference anytime soon. All they ask for is a competitive team.

Take away the Miners' 51-10 win over Texas Southern – a lower division school – and UTEP has been outscored 282-62 by schools its own division.

The shouts of "Fire Walden" are getting louder and louder.

And who knows, he might be let go at the end of the season.

The facts are the facts, and, the UTEP football program is probably the worst in the country.

I hate to admit it, but at least in this case, Leo Durocher was right.

Send Your News To: wtxcc@wtxcc.com

Senior moment By Matilda Charles

Give a holiday gift to yourself

The best gift we can give ourselves during the coming holiday season is not becoming the victim of a scam. This year it's going to be tough to manage that. Thieves are constantly fine-tuning their skills. Your job is to know what form scams against you can take and to sharpen your intuition when things don't seem right.

The fact to keep in your mind at all times is that scammers want your money and you need to keep them from getting it.

If your senior center holds a seminar on avoiding scams, go. Take notes. If they don't have such seminars or classes, ask for one to be held. You won't be the only one to benefit from it.

If you buy online, don't click any links (including from search engines) to get to any store. Type in the name yourself. It's too easy for a scammer to create a false address that looks correct but will instead take you to their fake website.

If you get email that says your package has been delayed, don't click any link in the email. If you get a call demanding that you pay extra shipping fees, hang up and call the seller on a number you know to be correct.

Gift card scams are big now, and most requests you will get to pay for something with a gift card will be a scam.

If you get a phone call where you're told you owe a bill (or that your account is in jeopardy for some reason), don't let yourself be pressured into acting quickly. Hang up and call back on a number you know is correct. Ask if they've tried to reach you.

In fact, feel free to be suspicious of any phone call or email you weren't expecting if you're asked to give any information or money. Whether it's charity requests, tech support, your bank, be suspicious.

©2026 King Features Synd., Inc.

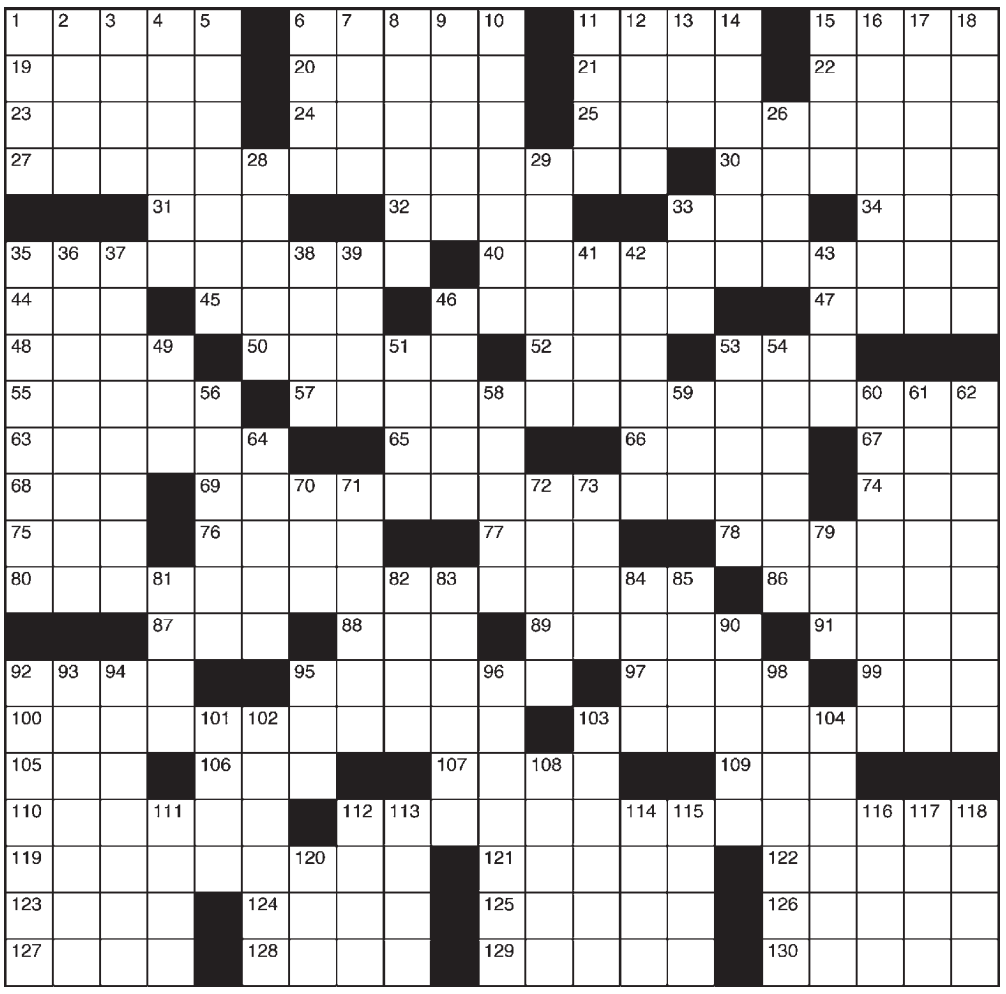
Super Crossword

TITLEHOLDERS

ACROSS
1 Perp's excuse
6 Bee-related
11 Lipids
15 In addition
19 "Cheers!," in Spain
20 Cousin of largo
21 Concept
22 Geometry, e.g.
23 Photo-sharing app, casually
24 Be finished by
25 "Shakespeare in Love" Oscar winner
27 "A Pocket Full of Rye" novelist
30 Device connecting to a computer port
31 "Alley _!"
32 High mountain peaks, in Italy
33 "J to _ L-O!" (2002 album)
34 Put on
35 Portrayer of Emma Peel on "The Avengers"
40 Longtime editor-in-chief of Vogue
44 Purported psychic gift
45 Reebok rival
46 One-celled swimmer
47 _ 500 (auto race)
48 Ren or Stimpy, e.g.
50 "Peanuts" blanket toter
52 Cherry-hued
53 "Dr." of rap
55 Gazes at creepily
57 "Rebecca" novelist
63 Fee-free, as a mutual fund
65 Come _ halt
66 Succotash ingredient
67 Kung _ chicken
68 12-month period, in Rio
69 Longtime Royal Ballet luminary
74 Sick-dog link
75 Levy
76 Conical-bore woodwind
77 Wed.-Fri. link
78 Kind of gas that's banned for autos
80 Best Actress winner for "BUtterfield 8"
86 Large-eyed primate
87 _ jiffy
88 Cattle call
89 Presley called "The King"
91 Morning TV's Kelly
92 Trotsky of Russia
95 Copier clogs
97 Free-for-_ (melees)
99 Eggy drink
100 "The Good Apprentice" novelist
103 1986 Grammy winner for Best Jazz Vocal Performance
105 La Paz's country: Abbr.
106 Tee preceder
107 See 53-Down
109 Cut the lawn
110 Old Jewish ascetic
112 With 119-Across, "South Pacific" song ... or a declaration about the nine women featured in this puzzle?
119 See 112-Across
121 Mann of pop
122 Apple drink
123 Pernicious
124 British trolley
125 Atlantic, e.g.
126 Siri's cousin?
127 Bears' lairs
128 1980s Dodge
129 Quickness
130 Catnaps, e.g.

DOWN
1 China's home
2 Singer k.d. _
3 "Casablanca" woman
4 Part of a blouse or a mouse
5 Boise native
6 A Baldwin brother
7 Phnom _, Cambodia
8 How RuPaul performs
9 "Garfield: _ of Two Kitties" (2006 film)
10 "Move to inbox" email phrase
11 Pacific island nation
12 In unison, in music
13 TV coach Lasso
14 Voiced a quick greeting
15 "That's for sure!"
16 "Arnie" actress Sue Ane _
17 City NW of Minneapolis
18 Classic chocolate candy bar
26 _ about-face (flip-flop)
28 May preceder
29 Unrefined source of element #50
33 Pan Am rival
35 Explode, as a bomb
36 Having equal angles
37 Moon-landing mission
38 "Just jokin' with you"
39 Actress Rowlands
41 Must-have
42 Carry off illegally
43 Arena level
46 Take _ at (try)
49 Prefix with colonial
51 As many as
53 With 107-Across, he had many hit songs with John Oates
54 Small stream
56 Apia native
58 Three-nation pact of '94
59 Skier Tommy
60 Small tablet from Apple
61 De-intensify
62 Driver's fit of anger
64 "Yabba _ doo!"
70 Fish eggs
71 Become irate
72 "That's for sure!"
73 _ and void
79 _ Lingus
81 California wines, in brief
82 _ sapiens
83 "Ooh, good comeback!"
84 Circle relative
85 Irritate
90 Replay mode, for short
92 Defamed in print
93 Causing to wear down
94 Raincoat fabric
95 Srs., last year
96 Ancient Egyptian king
98 Toy racer
101 Actress Suvari
102 In the habit of
103 Regions, weatherwise
104 For a bit
108 Camera brand
111 Morays, e.g.
112 IRS guy, e.g.
113 Half: Prefix
114 Chair part
115 Hawaiian goose
116 _ of March
117 Following
118 Mardi _
120 Chair part

Answer Page4

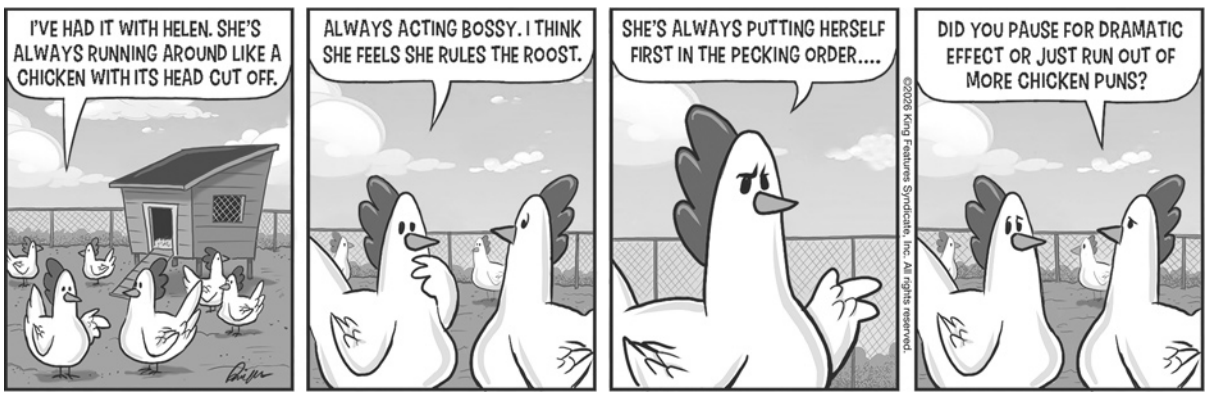


Comix

OUT ON A LIMB By Gary Kopervas



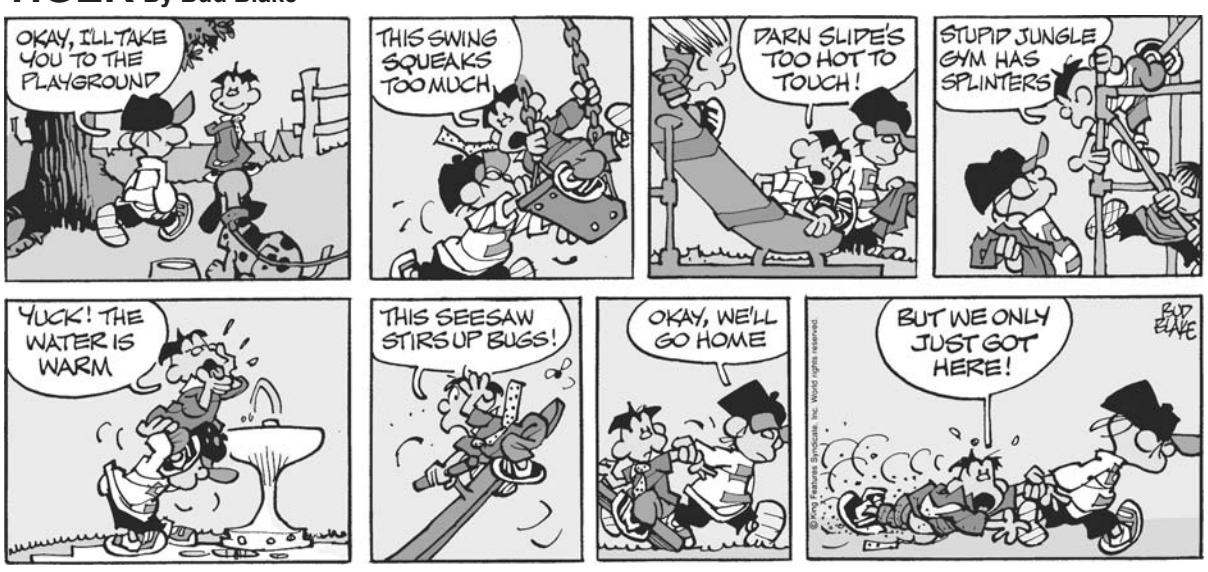
AMBER WAVES By Dave T. Phipps



THE SPATS By Jeff Pickering



TIGER By Bud Blake



Lowry

From Page 2

their quality of life. Regarding the latest trade spat with Canada, a Politico/Public First poll found that 56% of Americans think the tariffs against Canada were "wrong." According to a CBS/YouGov survey, people prefer a representative that opposes Trump's tariffs over one who supports them, by 26 points.

Democratic Senate candidates ran on a promise to reverse Trump's tariffs. And some Republican candidates running in states that trade heavily with Canada came out against the trade war with Our Friendly Neighbor to the North in hopes of controlling campaign damage from the rift.

The Midwest continues to be a trouble spot for the tarrifs, and it's not hard to understand why. China cut its purchases of U.S. farm products in retaliation for Trump's tariffs, and the farm sector has been slammed. Exports of wheat, cotton, beef and pork to China plummeted last year, and overall agricultural exports to China fell by 66%.

When you layer on top of this the price of diesel fuel jumping 80% and fertilizer increasing 15% because of the Iran war, it's a formula for a revolt. The tariffs grew into a political hot potato a little more than a month before the election. Trying to address complaints about high grocery prices, the administration wanted to relent on beef tariffs to help consumers. But farmers – hurt by other tariffs – balked at a measure that would reduce prices at a time when they are struggling.

One way or another, someone is going to be unhappy. Even if Trump's theory of the tariffs is correct – that higher import duties will lead to re-industrialization – the policy involves immediate disruption and increased costs in exchange for a protectionism-driven build-out that will take years to be fully achieved.

Long before then – indeed by January – opposition in congress on both sides, hostile to the president's tariffs may be entrenched in Washington. In politics, it's often "careful what you wish for," especially if it involves higher prices on an inflation-fatigued public.

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

Find a specialist to pinpoint lung issue

DEAR DR. ROACH: I was recently admitted to the hospital with pneumonia in both lungs. Given the recent outbreak of Legionella where I live, I was concerned whether I might've had this instead. They did do some tests in the hospital to try to find out. – R.C.



I looked at the labs you sent me, and several of them are consistent with Legionella. You had a very high C-reactive protein level, a relatively low procalcitonin level, pneumonia in both lungs, low blood sodium, and a relatively low heart rate. All of these suggest Legionella rather than pneumococcal pneumonia (the most-common type). However, your doctors did two urine tests for Legionella, and they were both negative.

The urine test for Legionella isn't perfect. It detects 70% to 80% of only one of the several serogroups of Legionella (serogroup 1 – the most-common type and what's implicated in the current outbreak in New York). It doesn't detect the other serogroups at all.

Physicians often need to reconcile conflicting clinical information, and sometimes there are formal mathematical models to help. In your case, you meet at least three of the four criteria for Legionella. In one study, people with three or more criteria points had a 98% to 100% likelihood of having Legionella. Busy clinicians who are taking care of sick patients usually don't have the time to read research papers and calculate point scores to help determine the likelihood of a Legionella infection versus pneumococcal pneumonia.

However, clinicians need to know that they shouldn't exclusively rely on one test result against the results of many other tests. When there's uncertainty, clinicians should choose a treatment that will be effective against both possibilities. Many patients have a hard time understanding that our lab tests aren't perfect.

Now that you're out of the hospital and (presumably) mostly recovered, it still may be prudent to complete a course of an effective treatment for Legionella, such as azithromycin. I advise a consultation with an expert in pulmonology or infectious diseases.

DEAR DR. ROACH: Last week, I had some blood work done. Some tests for my liver didn't come back well. My thinking is that it's because I no longer have a gallbladder. My alkaline phosphatase level was 151 U/L. (Normal in my lab is up to 104 U/L.) My AST level was 31 U/L (normal being up to 35 U/L), and my total bilirubin level was 1.5 mg/dL (normal being up to 1.2 mg/dL). Is my thinking correct? – T.

Immediately after surgery, liver enzymes such as alkaline phosphatase and AST (aspartate aminotransferase) transiently increase. However, when a person is 10 or more years out from surgery, there's still an increased risk of an elevated alkaline phosphatase level (but not AST or bilirubin).

Your alkaline phosphatase level is mildly elevated, and your AST is normal. Your bilirubin level, however, is also mildly elevated. I can't tell you definitively whether this is worrisome, but I don't think that the gallbladder surgery explains everything. Some people have a benign condition called Gilbert's syndrome that causes elevated bilirubin levels of no clinical significance.

What's important is why these tests were obtained. It's not recommended to get them just for screening. If your doctor ordered them because they were worried about a medical issue, then the next step might be an ultrasound to look for a liver problem that blocks bile flow, such as a retained gallstone or primary biliary cholangitis.

If there wasn't a particular reason for you to get these tests, then my suspicion of there being something wrong is small. There are simple reasons as to why the lab tests might be abnormal. A fatty meal right before testing could explain it. Your "normal" levels may simply being higher than most others is another.

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



Moore Texas by Roger Moore

November 9, 1936: The Texas Institute of Letters first met.

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: **E** equals **F**

BE EKGQWN NBAHCL YBQA

SCLC NMQLBAH VQAMKVM

FCANCN, SJKM EFWBY GBHJM

NJC WNC? VCFBAC NQFWMBQA.

Answer Page 4

©2026 King Features Synd., Inc.

Weekly SUDOKU

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

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

© 2026 King Features Synd., Inc.

Adaptive sports programs

VETERANS ★ POST ★

by Freddy Groves

In a repeat of last year, the VA is set to give $16 million in grants to 91 groups around the country that host the annual adaptive sports program. What has gone up is the number of veterans who will be able to participate. This year the VA has enrolled an additional 290,000 veterans in healthcare.

The adaptive sports program, as well as the therapeutic arts program, is run by community, regional and national grant recipients to provide opportunities for disabled veterans to participate.

If you're interested in competing or training in these events, whether you want to aim for skiing, the wheelchair games, golf, the Golden Age games or the arts, there is a place for you.

If you want to become a Paralympic athlete, there's even a training allowance, a monthly stipend for those who are selected to compete with the national Olympic team.

For the National Disabled Veterans Winter Sports Clinic, the adaptive ski program, see wintersportsclinic.org. Veterans with spinal cord injuries, visual impairment, traumatic brain injury and more are eligible. The clinic runs from March 27 to April 3 next year. Click "Participate" to see how to register and to review the participant requirements.

The Golden Age Games, for veterans age 55 and above, includes 20 medaled sports events broken into eight age categories. Whether you're into archery, track and field, bowling, horseshoes or any of the 19 sports, there is room for you. Competitions will be held June 23 to June 29, 2027.

The National Veterans Creative Arts Festival submission window will be February 1 to March 15, 2027, and covers a wide range of artistic endeavors, from creative writing to dance to music to art, and more. See department. va.gov/veteran-sports/national-veterans-creative-arts-festival for more information.

Keep an eye on department. va.gov/veteran-sports for information on all the categories and events, and especially the registration dates.

As always, volunteers are needed. These events can't take place without the hundreds of volunteers who step up to ensure that disabled veterans have the opportunities to participate.

©2026 King Features Synd., Inc.

GO FIGURE!

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

Answer Page 4

©2026 King Features Syndicate, Inc.

	+		×		= 72
+		+		-	
	+		×		= 56
×		÷		+	
	+		+		= 13
= 56		= 9		= 6	

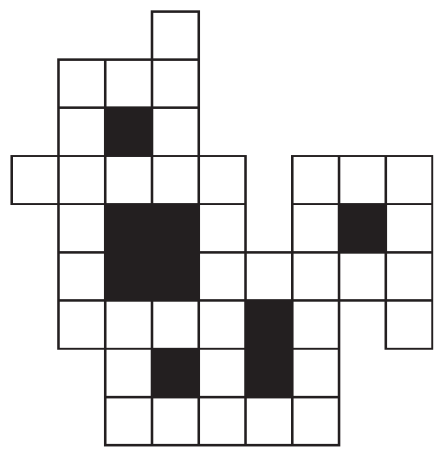
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

FEAR KNOT™

By: rj johnson

DOUBT? ...OR DARE!

HDO
ANIMLE
♥ NERGA
♥ HCMU
RITHEM
♥ RAF
RTFE
OLTDA
♥ OMT
CRIFLO
♥ RTNHO
♥ IETD



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.

©2026 King Features Syndicate. All rights reserved.



• "If you are serving many side dishes at your large family holiday gathering, try this trick to keep casseroles and oven-cooked meats hot while waiting for other items to finish in the oven. Use a clean ice chest to store hot sides. Simply cover the bottom with a few trivets or a couple kitchen towels, and set dishes inside. Most people use a cooler to keep things cold, but the insulation works just as well to keep hot things hot – at least a little while." – M.E. in West Virginia

• Recipe Substitution: If you need 1 teaspoon of pumpkin pie spice, use 1/2 teaspoon cinnamon, 1/4 teaspoon ginger, 1/8 teaspoon nutmeg and 1/8 teaspoon ground cloves.

• Blood pressure can be affected by many things: Seeing the doctor is one of them. Request that your blood pressure be taken by a nurse or physician's assistant. Having a full bladder can also make your pressure reading higher, as can positioning your arm below heart level.

• Remove the annoying sticky residue from price tags with WD-40 or baby oil. This is for use only on hard surfaces. If you are unsure, test in an inconspicuous place first to make sure the oil doesn't leave a stain where the tag was.

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