Kelsey-Seybold Clinic, Page 2

Lodge at Pine Creek , Page 8

New Mont Belvieu Development, P. 3

HIGHLANDS CROSBY

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IN THE STARS

EVENTS

SAT. JAN. 22
Crosby Library celebrates 100th Birthday

The Harris County Library system is celebrating its 100th Birthday, and joining in is the Crosby Branch Library.
Molly McGinty, Manager of the Crosby Edith Fae Cook Cole Branch Library is inviting the public to the Celebration, from 11:00am to 1:00pm, with lots of Family Fun. 135 Hare Road, Crosby.

SAT. FEB. 5
47th Annual Highlands Rotary CHILI FEAST

The Highlands Rotary Club is holding their 47th Annual CHILI FEAST, at St. Jude's Catholic Church social hall, 808 S. Main Street, Highlands. 11am to 3pm, with a Live Auction at Noon to 3pm. Raffle Tickets are $100, Meal Tickets $10 and the winner will receive a new 2022 SUV Chevy Trailblazer or Chevy Equinox. There are also other valuable prizes. Tickets from any Rotarian, or call 281-426-33558. Tickets also available from Turner Chevrolet, Central Auto Inspections.

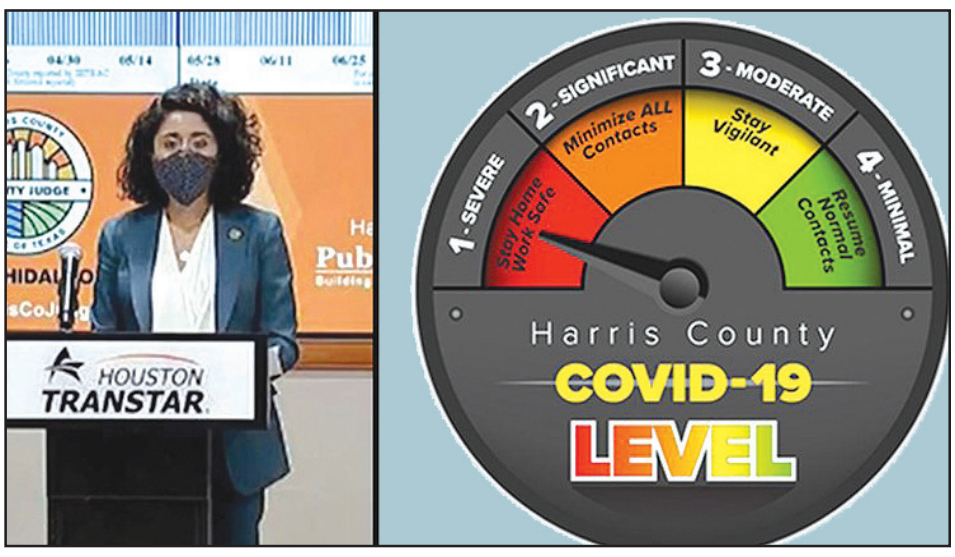
BIRTHDAYS
Jan 13–Hunter Bradford
Antonio Hernandez
Jan 14–Harold Havard
Haley Bradford
Jan 15–JoAnn Johnson
Jan 16–Connie Williams
Aleta Bennett
James Dammon
Patsy Dammon
Jan 17–Meledy Oviedo
Jaxson Matthew Boyd
Jan 18–Sharon T. Walker
Gabe Welsh
Jan 19--Hanah Hildebrand
Cullen Gleason
Lacy Robinson
Jan 20–Gary Langham
Brenda Weber
Jan 21–Ted Bloom
James Mills, Sr.
Debra Shields

ANNIVERSARIES
Jan 12–Troy & MaryAnn McCarty
Jan 14–Mr. & Mrs. Connie Clark
John & Verna Lee Shipp
Jan 15–Lee Roy & Lydia Moore
Jan 25–Jim & Ronda Laut
Feb 11–Keith & Becky Adams
Howard & Patricia Brockinton

DEATHS
David L. King, Hillsboro, Texas

County raises COVID threat level

INCREASE IN COVID-19 HOSPITALIZATIONS TRIGGERS INCREASE IN HARRIS COUNTY COVID-19 THREAT LEVEL



Harris County, Texas - January 10, 2022, Judge Lina Hidalgo today announced that she is raising the county's COVID-19 Threat Level Indicator from Level 2: Orange to Level 1: Red. A surge of the highly contagious Omicron variant has contributed to an increase in COVID transmission across Harris County.

Level 1 signifies a severe and uncontrolled level of COVID-19 transmission in Harris County. Residents experiencing symptoms should get tested and avoid contact with others, assuming they have COVID until they confirm otherwise. Any gatherings should be held outdoors and ideally with masking. Unvaccinated residents should avoid all gatherings and get vaccinated immediately.

"We're finding ourselves again at a point in this pandemic where hospital staff are being stretched way too thin," said Judge Hidalgo. "We owe it to our nurses, doctors, and teachers to take steps to protect ourselves and give them a break. If you have been on the fence about getting vaccinated, now is the time to roll up your sleeve. We are in the midst of a COVID-19 tsunami and our best defense are vaccines and booster shots. We've been here before, but this time we have more tools available and a better understanding of this virus."

The COVID-19 vaccine and vaccine booster continues to be available at no charge for all Harris County residents. To find out more information, locations and hours, click ReadyHarris.org.

Continued. See COVID Threat Level, Page 2

Highlands agency focuses on Homelessness problem

HIGHLANDS – The Marcelous Williams Resource Center is a social service agency, headquartered on Main Street in Highlands, providing services to the needy and the homeless. It was started several years ago by Eddie and Ramonia Williams, having seen the need for social services in the East Harris County area.

The agency also has an office in the Sterling Library in Baytown, staffed by Tammy Guidry, the director of community engagement and homeless services.

Tammy Guidry and Ramonia Williams, above, and Eddie Williams provide services to the community.

Director Ramonia Williams told this newspaper, "on November 16, 2021 we celebrated the 1 year Anniversary of our Homeless ServicesProgram. Through this program, we have assisted 190 clients from November 3, 2020 to November 3, 2021. Clients were able to meet with our Director of Community Engagement and Homeless Services, Tammy Guidry, to obtain services such as I.D. cards, SNAP

Continued. See Resource Center, Page 2.

This property on E. Wallisville in HIghlands is being acquired by the East Harris County Navigation Center for the Homeless, to be a transitional living center to provide services and temporary housing for the homeless, as they receive help from the organization.

Bates, HCDE provide new cars to two Head Start families

Dec. 17, 2021 — Two wishes for wheels came true this week as Bates Collision Centers and Harris County Department of Education's Head Start division presented two special moms with rehabbed vehicles filled with presents as part of their annual Responsible Parenting Award.

In its 23rd year, Bates Collision Centers presented cars No. 41 and 42 to Destini Rhodes, a teaching assistant at Sheffield Head Start, and Alionuska Montalvo Perez, a Pugh Head Start mom. Both were nominated by Head Start staff.

Twenty-eight-year-old Rhodes is a full-time employee and student at San Jacinto College pursuing an associate's degree in early childhood education. She currently relies on a borrowed vehicle to shuttle her kids and herself to and from school and work. After unwrapping her new vehicle, a 2011 Chevy Equinox, she expressed disbelief over the generous gift.

Destini Rhodes received her newly rehabbed car from Lee and Leila Bates above.

"I feel very grateful,"

Continued. See New Cars for 2 Families, Page 5

Huffman Constable guilty of cocaine trafficking

FORMER DEPUTY CONSTABLE CONVICTED IN COCAINE CONSPIRACY

HOUSTON - A 49-year-old Huffman resident has pleaded guilty to conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute more than five kilograms of cocaine, announced U.S. Attorney Jennifer B. Lowery.

Alexsander S. Reyes is a former Harris County Precinct 1 deputy constable.

On or about Dec. 5, 2020, Reyes escorted a tractor-trailer in a marked constable vehicle through Houston. They believed it contained 10 kilograms of cocaine.

For his assistance, Reyes received a total of $6000 in cash.

However, the drug load was actually part of an undercover operation and included "dummy" or fake cocaine.

Sentencing has been set for March 22 before U.S. District Judge Charles R. Eskridge III. At that time, Reyes faces a minimum of 10 years and up to life in prison as well as a $10 million maximum fine.

He has been and will remain in custody pending that hearing.

FBI Public Corruption conducted the investigation with assistance of Harris County Precinct 1 Constable's Office, Houston Police Department and Texas Department of Public Safety.

Assistant U.S. Attorneys Carolyn Ferko and Heather Winter are prosecuting the case.

ROTARY CHILI FEAST
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CRCU.org/DEBT

Threat Level raised,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Hidalgo said she made the decision because hospitalizations and ICU cases have spiked at area hospitals, along with the positivity rate.

"The 14-day average for COVID-positive ICU cases is now 18.1%; the positivity rate is now 35%," Hidalgo said. "For the sake of our hospitals and for the sake of our workforce, we have to sound the alarm once again."

This is the third time Harris County has been at level red, but Hidalgo said it could have been avoided this time if more people would get vaccinated and boosted.

"We owe it to our nurses, doctors, and teachers to take steps to protect ourselves and give them a break. If you have been on the fence about getting vaccinated, now is the time to roll up your sleeve."

Hidalgo also urged unvaccinated residents to mask up and avoid "all gatherings." Those who are vaccinated are asked to wear masks while indoors in public places and to avoid unvaccinated people.

UPDATE ON RAPID ANTIGEN TESTS AND PCR TESTS

Hidalgo said 120,000 rapid antigen tests will be provided to school districts across the county. She said the tests will help students and staff who are exposed to COVID-19 return to school sooner if they test negative.

She said thousands of PCR tests are still readily available at more than 10 county-wide sites. Another testing site will open Tuesday at Planet Ford Stadium in the Spring area.

NO LOCKDOWNS EXPECTED

While Monday's announcement moves Harris County to the highest threat level for the first time, the lockdowns and closings residents experienced in 2020 aren't likely to be repeated.

Under statewide orders from Texas Gov. Greg Abbott, local governments cannot enforce their own stay-at-home orders, as Abbott allowed them to do in the early stages of the pandemic.

Abbott's latest executive order related to the COVID-19 response, issued in July 2021, forbids local government entities from mandating closures and vaccinations.

"Business activities and legal proceedings are free to proceed without COVID-19-related limitations imposed by local governmental entities or officials," the order states.

Resource Center,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Eddie Williams is one of the founders and directors of the Marcelous Williams Resource Center, a division of the Talent Yield Coalition. They provide social services to the East Harris County population in need.

food benefits, medical services, social security cards, and birth certificates.

Twelve of our clients qualified for a new emergency housing voucher program from HUD through the Baytown Housing Authority and are now in their new apartments.

We would like to say THANK YOU to everyone who came out to celebrate with us. A special THANK YOU goes out to Sterling Municipal Library for offering us office space and for showing us so much love.

THANK YOU to our partners United Way of Greater Baytown and Chambers County, The Harris County Sheriffs Department Homeless Outreach Team, Love Network, Hearts and Hands of Baytown, and Legacy Community Health for all of the support given to assist our clients."

Williams notes that her agency has helped housing, food, medical, rent, home repair after a disaster, ID cards, utility bills, and employment opportunities.

The newest effort to help with the homelessness problem by the agency is a partnership with Tom Kelchner in a project known as the East Harris County Navigation Center for the Homeless, Inc.

Following the example of other Navigation Centers around Houston, the EHCNC plans on "supporting homeless clients on their journey from hopelessness to hopefulness."

The goal of the organization will be to serve and support individuals, families, and veterans, according to Kelchner.

They say that services and support programs will be administered by experienced case workers and program specialists.

In a promotional brochure issued by EHCNC, an extensive list of "project partners" is listed, including churches, Baytown social organizations, Harris County Precinct 2, Harris County Sheriff's Department Homeless Outreach Team, and many others.

The Navigation Center is just in the early stages of fund raising, and establishing working relationships with its partners. Acquisiton of the residential property on Wallisville is still in the due-diligence stage. It does not expect to be operational until sometime near the end of 2022, according to Ramonia Williams.

Marcelous-Williams Resource Center receives funding from the United Way, who are also sponsoring a series of meetings termed "Passport to Change" dealing with the homeless problem. The next meeting is January 25th.

Goose Creek CISD supports Toys for Tots

Goose Creek CISD is a proud supporter of Toys for Tots. Every year, the district participates in the gift giving campaign on the district and campus level. The organization works closely with the Student Services department to select the students that are in the most need.

Toys for Tots was established in 1947 by Marine Corps Reserve Major Bill Hendricks. The first unit in Los Angeles collected and distributed 5,000 toys, per the Toys for Tots website. Currently, the Marine Toys for Tots Program has distributed close to 20 million todays to seven million less fortunate families.

Photo from L-R: Tony Pena, Toys for Tots Representative; Florestela Gonzalez, Student Services Secretary; Araceli DeLaCruz, GCCISD Student Services Director; Jessica Rodriguez, GCEFCU Business Development Coordinator, and Kristyn Hunt Cathey, GCCISD Director of Communications.

The new East Harris County Navigation Center for the Homeless is proposing to purchase and use this extensive residential property at the corner of E. Wallisville Road and Thompson Road in Highlands as a transitional center for the homeless.

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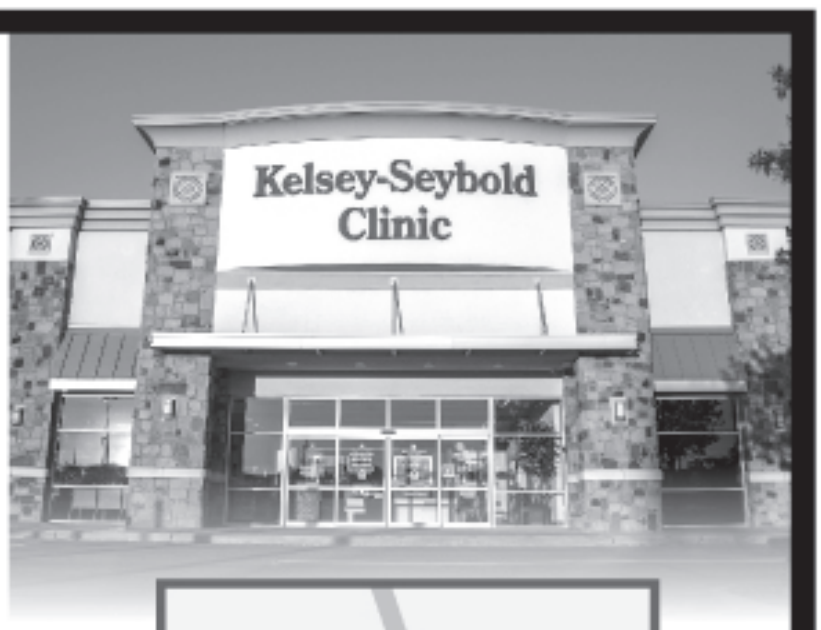

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ON THE HILL

Chambers County Sheriff's Deputies make drug arrest

Sheriff Brian Hawthorne reports, on Wednesday, December 30, 2021, Detectives with Chambers County Sheriff's Office Covert Investigations Unit conducted an operation targeting drug traffickers on the west side of Chambers County. Detectives observed a white male identified as Lee Thomas Harris, 46, of the 1200 block of Missouri Street, Baytown (Harris County), delivering over an ounce of methamphetamine in the 8700 Block of North State Highway 146, in Chambers County. Lee Thomas Harris was detained and placed into custody for Manufacture/ Delivery of a Controlled Substance (methamphetamine) PG#1 greater than 4grams less than 200grams, a 1st degree felony.

"Our Covert Investigative Unit will continue to investigate and pursue anyone dealing narcotics in Chambers County. Drug dealers from other counties will not get a free pass to sell narcotics in Chambers County. We will put forth our best effort to keep this activity away from our communities and prosecute these offenders to the fullest extent" said Sheriff Hawthorne.

BHD PRESS Pick-up Locations

Barbers Hill Bank
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Buck's Pizza
Old River-Winfrey City Hall
Post Office
Clinic
HEB Center
Chambers County Library
BHISD Admin Building
**If you would like to carry the BHD Press, call 713-266-3444

Major new development planned for Mont Belvieu

Mont Belvieu City Council has approved McGrath Real Estate Group's proposal to begin developing a 1,400-acre piece of land on the corner of Eagle Drive and FM 565. What's currently being used as farmland, will become a new master-planned community called Riceland.

Scott Swigert, Interim City Manager, says "The City of Mont Belvieu is excited to partner with McGrath Real Estate Partners to bring the Riceland master-planned community into Mont Belvieu. The vision for Riceland underscores what people love about living in Mont Belvieu; a high-quality high-amenity lifestyle that maintains our hometown feel. This is evident in the priority the developers have placed on working with the City to bring our vision of an authentic downtown, anchored by our new City Hall, into reality."

The agreement with the Riceland developers will drive major City infrastructure improvements as it begins that will benefit all of our residents. The developer, in partnership with the city, will be building new roads and improving existing roads.

The Development site is the corner of Eagle Drive and FM 565.

Developers are also working closely with Barbers Hill Independent School District to hold out land for them to accommodate any necessary schools.

The walkable downtown features of Riceland will help Mont Belvieu grow to new heights, while also keeping the small town, homegrown community feel that we all know and love. Riceland will become the largest, amenitized master-planned community in the area with plans of adding 3,800 - 4,000 new homes, a recreation building, a pool, a park system, 30 miles of hike and bike trails, and a large green space that will be used universally to hold a variety of events.

A Walkable Business District is part of the Project.

"Riceland will be the premier master-planned community on the east side of Houston and I think Mont Belvieu is the perfect place for it. The city council and I worked very hard with the developer to ensure that the improvements that will come as a part of Riceland being here benefitted all Mont Belvieu residents – both current and future – while providing high-quality neighborhoods and amenities that will continue to make Mont Belvieu a great place to live," said Mayor Nick Dixon.

McGrath, in coordination with TBG Partners, Jones Engineering Solutions, LRK, and Trez Capital, anticipates development to begin in March of 2022 with the first residential plat work beginning in the summer.

Houston Methodist Hospital Baytown

Take control with migraine treatments

BAYTOWN - (December 23, 2021 - A migraine headache may trigger throbbing pain on one or both sides of the head, causing nausea, vomiting or sensitivity to light and sound. Dealing with migraine attacks can also be mentally and emotionally draining, especially when symptoms interfere with daily life.

If you suffer from migraine headaches, you probably know what it's like to spend hours or even days in a dark room coping with symptoms.

Researchers continue to learn about the science behind migraine headaches, and there are new and effective treatments providing hope for better migraine management. The latest treatments and medical advancements can help combat symptoms and prevent future attacks.

Specialized Treatment for Migraines

gIf migraine headaches disrupt your daily activities, you should see your doctor,+h said Dr. Olga Brusil, neurologist at Houston Methodist Baytown Hospital. "A primary care physician may refer you to a neurologist who can help identify migraine triggers and offer treatments for your specific needs." Depending on your symptoms and medical history, a combination of the following treatments may be helpful.

Preventive medications. For people who suffer frequent migraines, preventive therapy may include drugs commonly prescribed to treat heart disease, such as beta-blockers or calcium channel blockers. Prescription medications normally used to treat conditions, such as depression and seizures also may be helpful.

Monoclonal antibodies. Newer drugs, called calcitonin gene-related peptide (CGRP) monoclonal antibodies, may be given via injection or intravenous (IV) infusion. This type of treatment given every one to three months may help manage severe cases of chronic headaches and migraine.

BOTOX injections. "The same BOTOX, or botulinum toxin type A, used by plastic surgeons to treat facial wrinkles is also used to relieve chronic migraines, "shared Brusil. ***"With BOTOX treatment, I inject a tiny dose in certain areas of the head and neck to prevent migraine headaches.*** BOTOX may be helpful for migraines in two ways: it prevents muscle tension that can trigger migraines and blocks nerves that signal pain."

DR. OLGA BRUSIL

Alternative medicine. Nontraditional therapies may help relieve pain or reduce the number of migraines you have. Your doctor may encourage you to try the following as part of your treatment plan:

** Relaxation techniques, such as biofeedback, meditation and yoga.*

** Acupuncture, which involves having a practitioner insert thin needles into the skin in certain areas.*

** Cognitive behavioral therapy (talk therapy), which can help you understand how thoughts and behaviors may affect your response to pain.*

The specialists with Houston Methodist Neurology Associates at Baytown provide expert care for a full range of neurological conditions, including neck and back pain, neuropathies, epilepsy and seizure disorders, and sleep and memory disorders. To schedule an appointment, visit houstonmethodist.org/baytown or call 832-556-6535.

Houston Methodist Baytown is designated as a COVID-19 vaccine hub and provides first dose shots, including for children ages 5-11, as well as boosters for those meeting FDA and CDC guidelines. Walk-ins are welcome, but you may also schedule an appointment by visiting houstonmethodist.org/vaccine.

About Houston Methodist Baytown Hospital

Houston Methodist Baytown Hospital has provided Baytown and east Harris, Liberty and Chambers counties with excellent medical care since its opening in 1948. The hospital continues to grow to meet the health care needs of its growing community through an ongoing construction and renovation program that has seen the opening of a new emergency center, outpatient center and medical-surgical units. A new five-story patient tower is scheduled to open in 2023. As a health care leader, the hospital is proud to have a fully integrated residency program focused on educating and inspiring future practitioners. Today, Houston Methodist Baytown provides the most advanced and innovative procedures while never wavering from its focus on compassionate care and providing a safe, patient-centered healing environment. Houstonmethodist.org/baytown.

✯ OPINION PAGE ✯

Tribute to Betty White

"Betty White Goes Wild!" (PG) — Everyone's favorite nonagenarian comedic actress would have reached 100 years old this month, and Disney+ had already planned to re-release her 2013 NatGeo documentary in celebration of the milestone. Now it's being shown in tribute to a life well lived. In the special, Betty visits two California wild animal parks and spends time learning about all the varieties of big cats. One particularly unexpected and beautiful scene captures her remarkable ability to establish a calm rapport with a roaring lion that had the rest of her crew ducking out for safety. The lifelong animal lover and advocate was truly in her element in this show, and the joy the animals brought her is what makes watching it so pleasurable. (Disney+)

National treasure Betty White's work to be re-released as a tribute on Disney+

Earning An Honorary Degree...

It wasn't like this idea just popped into his head all at once. Great notions often take time to fester, you know. It was like that with Windy Wilson a couple of weeks back.

Our semi-legendary cowboy, camp cook, and storyteller might have seen this coming on, but we missed the signs. There was that piece in the Valley Weekly Miracle about our pal, Doc, receiving that honorary associates' degree from Jerry Hat Trick Junior College, the one financed and named for that hockey player. Now we knew Doc had more degrees than a thermometer already and it puzzled us why he needed another one.

"Doc?" said Windy over coffee, "that new diploma thingie you got is shore 'nuf nice. Does it help you operate on folks?"

Doc laughed, and so did the rest of us. "Nope. Not really. All I did was make a contribution to their new gym. This was their way of thanking me, I guess."

"Well you know," said Steve, "this changes everything. Now, instead of calling our pal Doctor, we'll have to update it and call him Associate, I guess."

"That's kinda long to say, isn't it? Now if we were to shorten it to just the first three letters…."

"That's not funny, Herb!"

"Then why are you laughing, Doc?"

I guess we all were. Truth was, they couldn't trot out too many honors for Doc. Prince of a guy.

"You know," Windy whispered to Steve, "I'd like to get one of them things my ownself. How do you do it?"

"Windy, that's one of the goofy things about an honorary degree. If you think you deserve one, you don't get one."

———-

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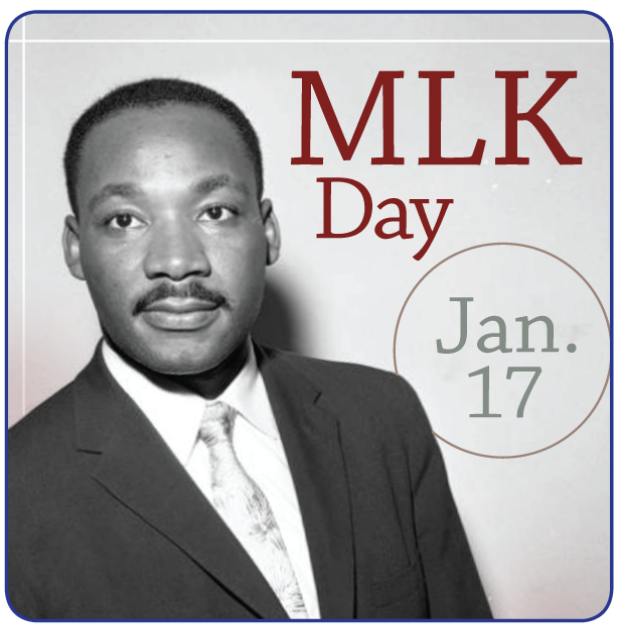
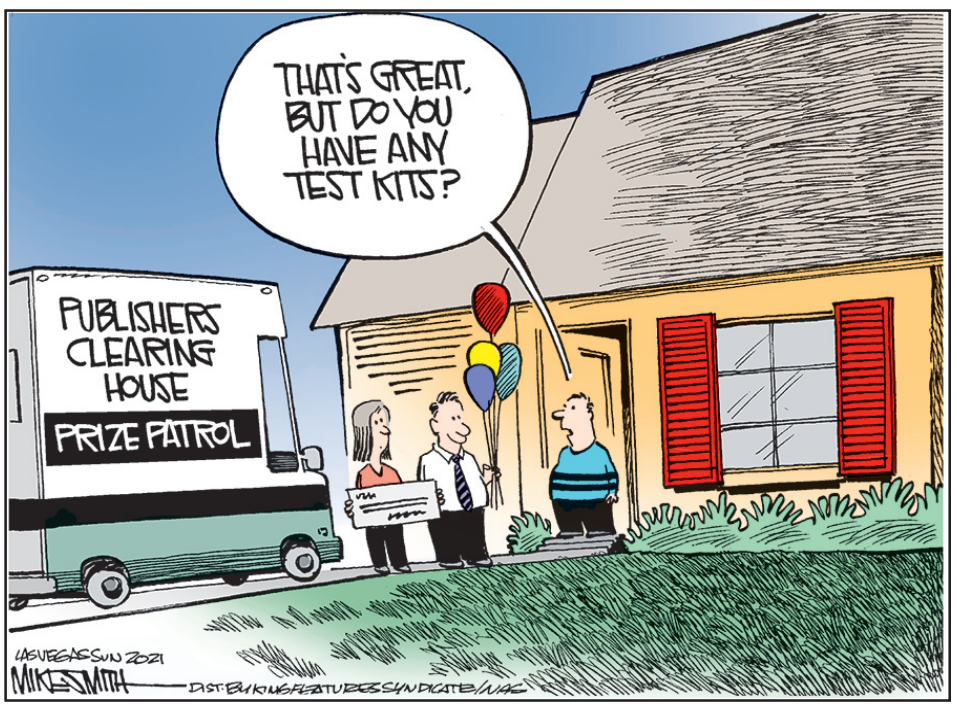
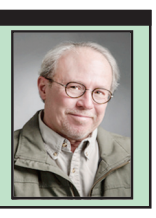
MONDAY





STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Gary Borders



State's Workforce surpasses Pre-Pandemic high

The Texas labor market exceeded the previous pre-pandemic high in February 2020 by hitting just under 13 million nonagricultural jobs in November, the Texas Workforce Commission reported last Friday. The adjusted jobless rate was 5.2% last month, down slightly from the previous month.

"Reaching this milestone for job creation in Texas shows the strength of our economy," TWC Chairman Bryan Daniel said.

The Amarillo area had the lowest unemployment rate among Texas Metropolitan Statistical Areas at 3.1%, followed by the Austin-Round Rock MSA at 3.2% and College Station-Bryan at 3.5%.

"Texas continues to reach unprecedented milestones thanks to our unwavering commitment to economic freedom and our young, skilled, growing, and diverse workforce," Gov. Greg Abbott said.

PUC APPROVES ELECTRIC GRID RELIABILITY MEASURES

The state Public Utility Commission last week voted unanimously to enhance both short-term and long-term reliability of the state's electric grid through what it termed "major reforms" to the state's wholesale electricity market.

"In prior years, any single one of these changes would have been considered significant. Taken together, they are a generational shift in the Texas electricity market," said Peter Lake, PUC chairman. "This (is) a move away from the crisis-based business model we have operated under for the past two decades. This new model centers on reliability."

Some of the major changes:

• Changes in the mathematical formula used to price electricity when reserves become scarce. The change will provide earlier price signals to add additional generation of power and for large consumers to reduce demand.

• Increasing incentives for large consumers to cut usage when the grid needs additional power.

• New or revamped ancillary services that increase the capacity for generators to react to sudden swings in electricity supply and demand.

Phase two of the process will provide "long-term incentives for investment in reliable power generation infrastructure to ensure Texas will have the power the state's needs for decades," according to the news release.

COUNT OF FATAL JOB INJURIES FOR 2020

RELEASED

A total of 469 people working in Texas died in work-related incidents in 2020, according to the Texas Department of Insurance. That is a 23% decrease from 2019. The state's incident rate for fatalities was 3.9 per 100,000 full-time employees in 2020, while the national incident rate stood at 3.4.

The construction industry accounted for 27% of the fatalities, with 127 incidents, according to TDI. Fatalities in the transportation and warehousing industries had the second highest, accounting for 20.4% with 96 people killed. Natural resources and mining recorded the third-highest number with 54 fatalities, or 11.5%.

RAISING THE BAR FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

The Commissioner of Higher Education said last week the state is raising the bar for higher education. In an address before nearly 200 higher education leaders, Harrison Keller released "an ambitious vision for higher education," according to a news release from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

The updated strategic plan for the state's higher education system includes:

• Adding a new goal for 35- to 64-year-olds who need new skills to compete in today's economy.

• A broader range of postsecondary credentials of value to fit workforce needs.

• The goal of students having no college debt or at least a low, manageable debt.

• A greater focus on research and development to drive innovation.

• Renewing the state's commitment to advancing equity for all Texans to complete post secondary degrees and certificates.

Keller called the present time "the greatest opportunity since the end of World War II to make an impact in higher education."

"As we emerge from the global pandemic, we arrive at another defining moment in history," he said. "In Texas, the window of opportunity is open for us to work together to advance and enhance this vision for higher education and enrich the lives of generations to come."

VACCINE BATTLE MANDATE LIKELY HEADED TO SUPREME COURT

The fight over a federal COVID-19 mandate for companies with more than 100 employees is likely headed to the U.S. Supreme Court after the 6th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals overruled a lower-court decision that had paused the mandate nationwide. The mandate from the U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration is now scheduled to take effect Jan. 4.

Republican state attorneys general in 27 states, including Texas, are suing OSHA over the mandate, joined by conservative groups, business associations and individual businesses, The Dallas Morning News reported.

The Biden administration issued a statement after the appeals court ruling: "Especially as the U.S. faces the highly transmissible Omicron variant, it's critical we move forward with vaccination requirements and protections for workers with the urgency needed in this moment."

Meanwhile, Abbott announced last week that he had sent a letter to U.S. Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin reaffirming the state would not enforce the mandate on members of the Texas National Guard.

"The state of Texas will not enforce this latest COVID-19 vaccine mandate against its guardsmen," Abbott said. "If the federal government keeps threatening to defund the Texas National Guard, I will deploy every legal tool available to me as governor in defense of these American heroes."

The number of new cases of COVID-19 reported last week stood at 36,508, according to the Coronavirus Resource Center at Johns Hopkins University, down slightly from the previous week, while deaths rose to 478.

The number of law-confirmed COVID-19 hospitalizations totaled 3,117 on Sunday, virtually unchanged from the previous week, according to the Texas State Department of Health Services.

Gary Borders is a veteran award-winning Texas journalist. He published a number of community newspapers in Texas during a 30-year span, including in Longview, Fort Stockton, Nacogdoches and Cedar Park. Email: gborders@texaspress.com.

THE POSTSCRIPT

By Carrie Classon

Stringing Lights

I walk around my neighborhood later in the evening these days, mostly so I can see the lights.

There are some impressive houses just a mile or so away, and I walk down the sidewalks and see what has appeared on the lawns and in the windows now, right before Christmas.

Some of the houses clearly had outside assistance. There are lights hung in places that only a cherry picker could reach. One house had four such enormous trees in a row, all in uniform white lights, until the top half of one of them went out (which completely spoiled the look) and all four trees have been dark ever since.

I see florist vans parked outside some houses as elaborate arrangements of pine and birch and colored berries are delivered. The result is splendid, if a little predictable. Some houses have an electric candle in every window—and there are a lot of windows. Some have put a lit Christmas tree in the attic window. One house has matching trees shining out of two windows on the second floor, decorated in brilliant red lights. It's a stunning sight.

But the thing that stopped me in my tracks the other night was a single small tree and a woman an stringing lights just before Christmas.

It was dark, and I was across the street. The house was large and old and on the porch was a skinny tree—a live Christmas tree—and there was a woman stringing lights around it. The woman was also old. Her movements were slow, and I could see she was a little bent over. But she was determined to decorate this little tree, standing to the side of her front door, and I watched as the lit bulbs were wound with infinite care around the narrow tree frame.

Progress was slow. But it was a warm night and the action, for some reason, transfixed me. The woman had large golden bulbs wound around the center of the tree from the bottom to the top, and now she was winding smaller golden lights around the exterior of the branches. The lights were nested densely together, and it looked as if the tree was ablaze with warm yellow light. It was the only decoration in the front of her big house, and I could tell she was determined to get it exactly right. And, by the end, it was. Her little tree, covered in golden lights of different sizes, was this small, perfect thing, blazing from her porch, visible up and down the street.

Something about that tree made my heart hurt.

I wanted to tell that woman how much at least one passer-by appreciated her small, bright tree, and how I knew how long and hard she'd worked to get it right. I wanted to tell her that, while the season is short, I will enjoy her tree every time I walk by it, and I will remember it long after it is taken down.

But it was more than that.

I wanted to be like that woman who did this one beautiful thing so well. I wanted to be like her tree that shone so brightly from the porch, creating a sort of magic that stopped me on the sidewalk. I wanted to lift someone's spirits in the way that tree lifted mine and be a reminder of the small, bright things that fill our lives if we only stop long enough to enjoy them.

But the best I can do is to tell you about it. And so I have.

Till next time,

Carrie

Carrie Classon's memoir is called "Blue Yarn." Learn more at CarrieClasson.com.

☆ MILESTONES PAGE ☆

THOUGHTS FROM HILLSIDE CHURCH

By Dr. Mark Trice

Watch for the Poison

Why do there have to be so many weeds in the world? I mean, really. When you're a rancher, you don't just randomly send your cattle out into a pasture. Depending on where you live, you may have to ride it first, looking carefully to make sure there are no poisonous plants growing out there. The most innocent looking weed, under the wrong conditions, can wreak havoc with a herd.

Which is funny, in a way. You see these massive animals and they look like nothing should be able to hurt them. As they stand there, staring at you, they appear invincible. But they're not. Nibbling on the right (wrong) poisonous plant can drop them in short order. The same holds true in your home. If you have pets and love plants, you learn quickly that there are certain plants, weeds or not, that you must keep away from your four-footed friends. You have to watch out for those things and guard your animals' health.

Bitterness is much like a weed; it takes root quickly, spreads with abandon, and is always poisonous! When we let bitterness get firmly rooted in our lives, when we're not on the lookout for evidence of its presence and miss its appearing, it sours our stomachs and poisons us just as surely as some plants poison our cattle or pets. It may not kill us physically, but it definitely affects us physically, and it can destroy a man spiritually along with his relationships and a lot more.

I've said for years that "bitter never gets better." Bitterness tends to be invasive and as fast growing as the worst plant out there. It holds on with fierce determination – especially when you choose to hold onto it. Like the weeds in the pasture, it must be completely destroyed if one is to truly flourish as a Christian. It must be pulled up by the roots and burned up by the Holy Spirit.

This is one of the advantages we have when the Holy Spirit is our helper. The Spirit alerts us to the problems, and then helps us deal with them. When we truly submit to the work the Holy Spirit wants to do in us, we are empowered to get in there and dig that bitterness out by the root, planting good seed in its place so that the pasture of our spirit becomes fertile again, green and a blessing to us in spirit, soul, and body.

So I urge you, stay sensitive to the Holy Spirit, leaning on and submitting to that special gift that we have the honor and privilege of receiving every day. Watch for poisonous plants like bitterness, envy, strife…and yank those suckers up before they can do you any more harm.

Watch for the poison!

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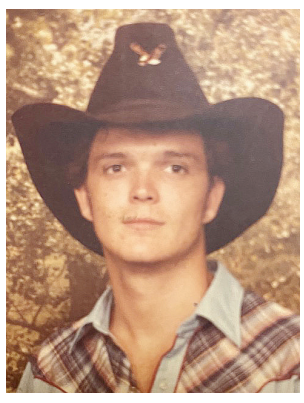
OBITUARIES

DAVID L. KING



David L. King went home to be with the Lord on Thursday January 6, 2022.

David was born March 10, 1963 to Dale and Virginia King in Stafford, KS. His family moved to the east side of Houston Texas in 1972. He was a Channelview HS graduate in 1981, then entered into the Army 5 days later. After the army he returned home and became a volunteer fire fighter, then went to work at the refineries as a sandblaster and painter. David married the love of his life Rachel Marcantel on May 1, 1987. They made their life in Galena Park, TX.

As a dad, he was never a sideline viewer in his children's lives, he wouldn't just sit and watch an event his children was in he had to become involved himself. When they played T-ball, he was a coach then an umpire. When the Boy Scouts went camping he was there, from archery, hiking, and cooking to snipe hunts. When his daughters had dance recital's, he was there all day from dress rehearsal to entire preformance, recording the day. He didn't want to miss out on any memories with his family.

He became a nurse in 1993; in 2003 his job relocated the family to the Waco area. He devoted his career to the care of Geriatrics and loved it when he could get someone to smile or play. He had the gift to bring out the inner child in an elderly person.

He enjoyed being outdoors and loved, hunting, fishing, and camping. Some of his hobbies included playing softball, working in the garden, woodworking in his shop, or doing anything on the farm. David was a devoted husband, father, and grandfather his family was always his first priority, after God.

Preceding him in death was both his parents and his younger brother Loren Douglass King. He leaves behind, Rachel, his wife of 34 years, his son Joshua and grandsons Dorian and Cameron, his oldest daughter Jessica and grandkids Alexis and Jaden, and his youngest daughter Janetha and grandson Levi. He also leaves holes in the hearts of many cousins, friends, and extended family.

Funeral arrangements through Cornerstone Funeral Home

In Hillsboro, TX. Or see cornerstonehillsboro.com

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New cars for 2 Families,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

said Rhodes, a single mother of 3 children. "I've never been given anything in my life before. I've always had to work for everything. I can't even believe that I'm being recognized for being a good parent. It's something that you just do because you're a parent."

Throughout the year, the Bateses search for salvaged or donated vehicles that can be fixed up and given to deserving parents during the holiday season. Bates employees donate their time and skills to work on the cars and help fill them with gifts. Other community members and businesses donate gas, insurance, and materials needed to rehab the cars.

Shop owners Lee and Leila Bates have made this annual giveaway a priority because they recognize the sacrifices parents often make to provide for their children.

"Destini is an example of the kind of family that we are really searching to help with this project," said Bates Collision Centers co-owner Leila Bates. "She's not just sitting back waiting for good things to happen. She's making good things happen for her family."

Leila Bates with Destini Rhodes and her family, receiving their newly rehabbed automobile from Bates Collision and HCDE.

Montalvo Perez, a Cuban immigrant who arrived in Texas five years ago in search of a better life for her family, also received a vehicle this week—a 2013 Mazda 3. Her 4-year-old son, Jencarlos Millan, is enrolled at the HCDE Pugh Head Start center.

"I am so grateful and relieved," she said. "Now I can go out with my son and go to the grocery store whenever I want. When I take the bus, it becomes a whole-day ordeal. This car is truly a blessing."

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Notice is hereby given that Original Letters Testamentary for Docket No. 499791; Estate of CHARLES GLENN EDWARDS Deceased; In Probate Court No. 1 of Harris County, Texas, were issued on DECEMBER 29, 2021.

KAREN MICHELLE EDWARDS

The residence address of the administrator is in Harris County, Texas. The mailing address is:

c/o Weston Cotten
1500 E. Wallisville Rd
Highlands, TX 77562

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.
Dated this JANUARY 6, 2022.

by WESTON COTTEN
Attorney for the Estate

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an online sale from January 24th to January 31st until 10:00 o'clock a.m., at the following link
http://wbauctioncrosby.hibid.com/auction/current to sell for cash only the contents of Stall F-20,
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Associate Publisher.....Mei-Ing Liu Hoffman
Assistant Editor.....Julieta Paita
Marketing Manager.....Willie Glasgow
Production Manager.....Gerardo Hernandez

Entered as Periodicals Class at Highlands Post Office, Highlands, TX 77562. Under the Act of Congress of March 3, 1879. Published 50 weeks per year, on Thursday, by Grafikpress Corp., 5906 Star Lane, Houston, TX 77057. Opinions in this paper are those of the authors, and not necessarily this newspaper's. Any erroneous statement which may appear will be corrected when brought to the attention of the publisher. Liability for errors is limited to the reprinting of the corrected version. Submissions are encouraged, in person, by mail, by Fax, or by email, to grafikstar@aol.com.

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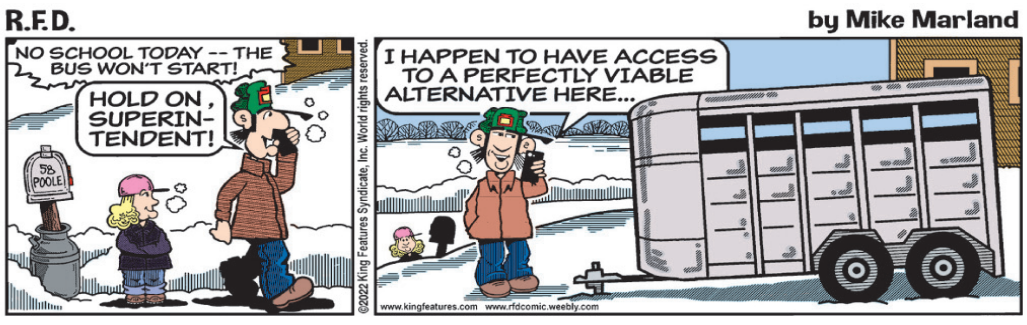
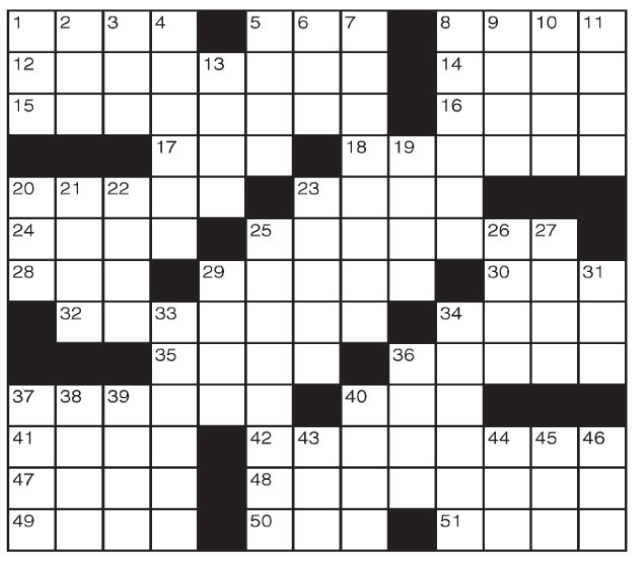


The Spats

by Jeff Pickering

January 10, 2022 Posting Date

King Crossword



ACROSS
1 Even
5 Apply cream
8 "The Good Earth" heroine
12 "Please go ahead"
14 Fork prong
15 The National Pastime
16 Circus structure
17 Cacophony
18 Scalawags
20 Basilica areas
23 Diving duck
24 Soccer legend
25 Brewing gizmo
28 Greek letter
29 Not — out of place
30 Scull need
32 Kook
34 Ordered
35 Skin breakout
36 Notorious
37 Port city of Poland
40 Former Mideast org.
41 Pealed
42 Pitcher's tactic
47 "American —"
48 Consume too little
49 Lion's pride?
50 Meadow
51 Sciences' partner

DOWN
1 Bar bill
2 "— tree falls ..."
3 UFO crew
4 One of the Ramones
5 Cannon of film
6 MSN rival
7 Reduced-rate postal delivery
8 Canada's capital
9 Actor Schreiber
10 Green Gables girl
11 Tennis barriers
13 Baseball stats
19 Cornhusker's st.
20 iPhone download
21 Mexican money
22 Lost traction
23 Black Panthers leader Bobby
25 Appreciative
26 Rich soil
27 Stow cargo
29 Grade-school basics
31 Flushed
33 Hang loose?
34 Diva Streisand
36 Kismet
37 Bleak
38 Baby's father
39 Unsigned (Abbr.)
40 Fed. food inspector
43 Chemical suffix
44 — Lingus
45 Back muscle, briefly
46 USN officers

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

6			2			9		
	1			4			6	
		5			8			1
		4	3				2	
	3			9		8		
2					4			6
8			9				5	
	6				5			3
		2		1		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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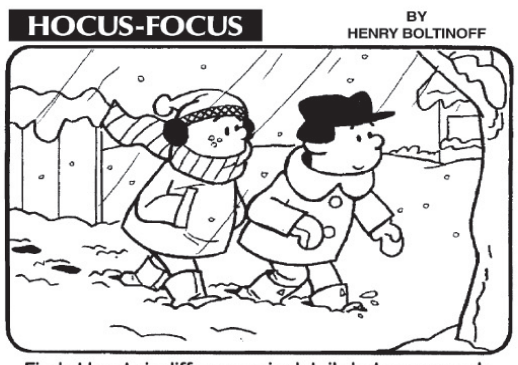
HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.

Differences: 1. Fence is shorter. 2. Scarf is shorter. 3. Cap is different. 4. Collar is different. 5. Arm is moved. 6. Window is smaller.

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Trivia test

by Fifi Rodriguez

1. LITERATURE: What was the title of Stephen King's first published novel?
2. ADVERTISING SLOGANS: Which restaurant chain has the advertising slogan, "Have it your way"?
3. U.S. PRESIDENTS: Who was the first president whose likeness appeared on a U.S. coin?
4. TELEVISION: What is the family's last name in the "Family Ties" sitcom?
5. LANGUAGE: What does the Latin phrase "lupus in fabula" mean?
6. GEOGRAPHY: What did the city of Mumbai, India, used to be called?
7. MOVIES: Which movie features a character called Rooster Cogburn?
8. LITERATURE: Which 20th-century novel features a type of language called "newspeak"?
9. SCIENCE: What temperature is the same on the Celsius and Fahrenheit scales?
10. FOOD & DRINK: Where was Coca-Cola first sold?

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— Weekly SUDOKU —

Answer

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

— King Crossword —

Answers

Solution time: 22 mins.

— Trivia Test Answers —

1. "Carrie"; 2. Burger King; 3. Abraham Lincoln; 4. Keaton; 5. The wolf in the story; 6. Bombay; 7. "True Grit"; 8. "Nineteen Eighty-Four," by George Orwell; 9. -40 degrees C and and -40 degrees F ; 10. Atlanta

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Available for immediate move-ins!
All eligible residents and employees have received the COVID-19 vaccine. Health screenings are performed for guests.

A perfect blend of senior living options to fit your lifestyle in a one-of-a-kind retirement community. Offering Independent Living cottages and apartments, single-story Assisted Living homes, specialty Memory Care, and a host of amenities and services, our resort-style community is surprisingly affordable.

THE LODGE AT PINE CREEK
BY ABBY SENIOR LIVING

INDEPENDENT & ASSISTED LIVING | MEMORY CARE

825 Hunt Road | Baytown, TX 77521
832-572-5592 | LodgeAtPineCreek.com

Follow us on Facebook
@LODGEATPINECREEK

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STOP CHILD ABUSE.
END NEGLECT.

If you suspect a child is being neglected or abused please call Texas Family and Protective Services:
1-800-525-5400

CHILI FEAST Raffle Tickets make great Gifts - and you might win a new car! 281-426-3558

Highlands Rotary Club's
47th Annual
CHILI FEAST
Raffle & Auction

St. Jude's Catholic Church
808 S. Main Street, Highlands
11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Live Auction Noon-3
Saturday, February 5, 2022

Chester's Famous Recipe

Win a new Vehicle. Your choice of
2022 CHEVY TRAILBLAZER or 2022 EQUINOX SUV
from Turner Chevrolet.

Raffle Tickets $100.00 Donation
Meal Tickets $10.00

Raffle Tickets purchased by Jan. 6, 2022 will be eligible for $300 Gift Card Drawing.
Winners need not be Present to Win!
Payment of all local, state and federal taxes will be the responsibility of the winner.
Proceeds donated back to our Community for Scholarships & Community Programs.

TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM ALL HIGHLANDS ROTARIANS

TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM MANY AREA & HIGHLANDS STORES

ADDITIONAL PRIZES:

Early Drawing	$300 Gift Card
1st Ticket Drawn	$200 Gift Card
50th Ticket	32" Smart TV
100th Ticket	Portable Ice Maker
150th Ticket	$200 Gift Card
200th Ticket	Air Compressor/Battery Charger
250th Ticket	Beats Solo 3 Wireless Headphones
300th Ticket	$200 Gift Card
350th Ticket	Air Fryer
400th Ticket	65 Qt. Artic Cooler
450th Ticket	Shotgun
500th Ticket	$200 Gift Card
550th Ticket	28" Black Stone Cooker
600th Ticket	Outdoor Propane Fire Pit
650th Ticket	6.5 Rifle
699th Ticket	55" Smart TV
700th Ticket	2022 Chevy Trailblazer or 2022 Chevy Equinox SUV (Color & Model may vary from Pictures)

Posters Courtesy of the Highlands STAR-Crosby COURIER