



IN THE STARS

EVENTS

FEB. 16, THURSDAY

Chamber Luncheon & Installation

Crosby/Huffman Chamber of Commerce February Monthly Luncheon Awards & Installation of Board of Directors

You are invited to attend our February Luncheon with Awards & Installation of Board of Directors for 2023. We will award our Business of the Year and Ambassador of the Year. The luncheon will take place on Thursday, February 16th, 11:30am at Stonebridge at Newport. The address is 16401 Country Club Dr, Crosby, Texas 77532.

Judge Lucia Bates with Harris County Pct 3 will swear in our 2023 Chamber Board of Directors!

Please RSVP You can call 281-328-6984, email chamber@crosbyhuffmancc.org to register also.

Thank YOU for your continued support as we continue to grow!

Crosby-Huffman Chamber Of Commerce
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Crosby, Texas 77532
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3rd Gun BuyBack set for Feb. 18

Harris County, Houston will pay up to \$200

HARRIS COUNTY – Residents will now have another opportunity to sell their unwanted firearms. Harris County Precinct One Commissioner Rodney Ellis, Sheriff Ed Gonzalez, and Mayor Sylvester Turner announced last Monday a third gun buyback program, to be held on Saturday February 18 from 8 a.m. until noon at Deussen Park in Northeast Harris County. (SEE MAP FOR DEUSSEN PARK LOCATION).

The city and county previously held two gun buyback events that took place in July and October of last year. City and County officials say the events were successful with huge turnouts and over 2,000 firearms collected. Residents can turn in firearms with “no questions asked” in exchange for gift cards ranging from \$50 to \$200 depending on the type of firearm collected.

“We can’t bring a life back, but we can buy a gun back and make sure it never falls into the wrong hands and causes harm to someone,” said County Commissioner Rodney Ellis “So please



Officers check guns that were turned in at the last Gun BuyBack conducted in October by Harris County and the City of Houston. Over 800 guns were turned in, and Gift Cards varying from \$50 to \$200 were paid.

do as much as you can to help make our communities safer by spreading the word about this – our third gun buyback in Harris County – two in the city and this one will be a county funded one.”

Both the city and county have allocated \$1 million in federal funding towards the gun buyback program. Last year, the county approved it’s portion of the fund to host up to 8 gun buyback events in an effort to reduce gun violence, suicides, and ac-

cidental deaths caused by a firearm.

The city’s initiative is part of Mayor Sylvester Turner’s \$63 million One Safe Houston Initiative to reduce violent crime throughout the city and allocate funding towards things like mental health programs, domestic violence, and overtime for police officers.

So far, the county has spent \$225,000 on the program and the city has not yet confirmed their amount spent.

The announcement of the third gun buyback program was also an unveiling of the “Stop the Gun Violence” Mural in front of Worthing Early College High School in SunnySide.

Mayor Sylvester Turner said the first two events surpassed the city and county expectations.

“The success of the two events demonstrated that people do want a safe space to dispose of their guns,” he said. “And sure, some may have been driv-

en by the gift cards, but the impact is undeniable – We remove guns that were unwanted and had the potential of falling into wrong and wrong hands.”

The event on February 18 will be from 8 a.m. until noon. The same rules and procedures will apply, but with more lines and staff to accommodate the possibility of a huge turnout that occurred at the first two events.

Officials said they will not be accepting any “ghost guns” or privately manufactured guns, which was a problem during the first gun buyback event in July.

“We discovered we needed more lines, and more people and more staff,” said Turner “The first one we didn’t know how many, we thought a few 100, but the lines were long.”

The program has sparked criticism on whether or not it’s actually driving crime down in the city. Over the years, homicides in Houston were reaching nearly

Continued. See GUN BUYBACK, Page 5

Small plane crashes in Crosby, 2 injured



This photo furnished by the Texas Department of Public Safety shows the wreckage of the small plane that crashed on US90 Sunday night. Two persons were injured and transported to hospitals.

CROSBY, Texas — A small aircraft reportedly crashed near a railyard in northeast Harris County, according to the sheriff’s office. The accident happened Sunday evening, around 10:00 pm. Crosby Volunteer Fire Department responded to the aircraft down, with Harris County ESD5 Crosby EMS and Huffman Fire Department assisting.

Officials said that deputies responded to where the Cessna 172H crashed near Beaumont Highway and Adlong Johnson Road.

According to officials, the plane failed at takeoff at a private airfield and struck a train at the nearby railyard.

The passenger and pilot aboard the plane were taken to hospital via Life Flight and the other by ambulance, Harris County Sheriff’s Office says.

Their status is unclear at this time, officials said.

According to documents, the plane is registered to someone in the Katy area and was coming in from the Baytown area.

Stephens spreads screening message to Super Bowl media


PHOENIX – Scott Stephens spent several days prior to the Super Bowl speaking with national media about his son’s death from SCA, or Sudden Cardiac Arrest. Stephen’s message was that all student athletes should get a screening for potential heart defects prior to their participation in stressful sports.

Accompanying Stephens was Randy Grimes, retired NFL Tampa Bay Buccaneer player and author of a book “Off Center” about recovery from painkillers.

The pair had about 30 interviews of 15 minutes each, and were able to reach a wide national audience. Stephens spoke about the work of his Cody Foundation, and his success in getting state legislatures to include screenings in high school athletic programs.



Stephens and Grimes talk with Scott Ferrall, host of the national sports podcast “Ferrall Coast to Coast.” You can listen at @SportsGrid or @SiriusXM.



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GOOSE CREEK CISD NEWS

Banuelos Student Wins Farm Fresh Competition

By: Kristyn Hunt Cathey, APR – Director of Communications

Congratulations to the winners of Franchesca’s Friends Farm Fresh Texas Produce Recipe contest. Students from across the district com-

peted in an event to create a recipe using fresh ingredients. The winners presented their dishes during the February 6th Board meeting. Brooke Heaney, a student at Banuelos Elementary School, won the Grand

Champion award for her Stuffed Jingle Bell Peppers. The Board was treated to the Grand Champion’s recipe prepared by Chef Franchesca Bland.

Photo taken by Carrie Pryor-Newman:



Superintendent Dr. O'Brien, Melanie Suarez, Isabella Lensing, Grand Champion Brooke Heaney, Tatyanna Murry and Chef Franchesca Bland-Johnson.

Dads Step Up at Travis Elementary School

By: Kristyn Hunt Cathey, APR – Director of Communications

Travis Elementary School debuted a new program designed to increase parental involvement and a male presence on the campus. Watch D.O.G. (Dads Of Great Students) hosted a pizza party kickoff in October with over 200 dads in attendance. Many of the dads signed up to volunteer multiple times throughout the school year. They are on campus the entire day and help out tremendously.

One of the fathers that stood out was Jamal Cherry. Cherry is the father of third grader, Winry Cherry; a student in Leah Moody’s class. His first day on the “job” was a scary day for the students and staff in the district. “When the shelter in place happened, he went around the room kneeling and quietly calming students who were scared,” Moody said. “I heard him reassuring some that we are safe. He could have gotten his daughter early in the day

and gone home but he didn’t. He stayed and helped us. He was very sweet and calm when working with the kids.

This was his first time ever to be a Watch D.O.G. and he handled like a pro!”



Jamal Cherry, father of Winry Cherry, is a proud member of the Watch D.O.G. program at Travis Elementary School.

CATCH Night a Success with Lee College Athletics

By: Kristyn Hunt Cathey, APR – Director of Communications

B.P. Hopper Primary School hosted a family science and CATCH night on February 7th. Members of the Lee College basketball and volleyball teams were in attendance. They took pictures and participated in fun activities with the students. Aramark provided healthy snacks to attendees and other local

vendors were also in attendance.

The goal of CATCH Night is to provide families with opportunities to engage in health and wellness. Each campus plans at least one family event or initiative that invites families to engage in healthy behaviors together in a fun way. A CATCH MVP Event engages the school and local community

organizations in free, fun, and healthy celebrations for students and ALL family members, as well as faculty and staff. By offering this event, schools in the district are showing their commitment to create and maintain a healthy environment and to make the lives of students and their families healthier. All photos taken by Carrie Pryor-Newman



tudents at Hopper Primary get active with members of the Lee College basketball team.



Lee College volleyball players assist a student with the proper technique to punt a ball.

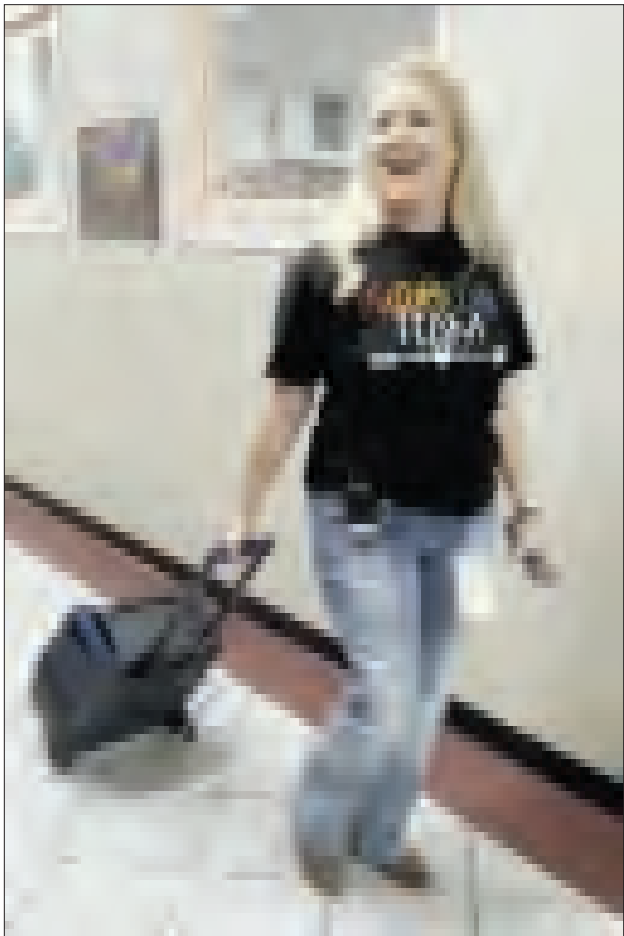
Fun Fridays at Travis Elementary School

Fridays are an exciting time at Travis Elementary School. Principal, Dr. Keri Launius, can often be found rolling her portable Bluetooth speaker down the halls, sharing a hug, and encouraging students and staff to put on their boogie shoes and dance. “Learning is most meaningful when it is active, social, and allows students to apply concepts to real life situations,” Dr. Launius said. The campus uses social media as a tool to promote CATCH (Coordinated Approach to Child Health) and other health and wellness initiatives which promote family engagement and community involvement. “The weekly traditions have extended beyond the walls of the campus, and it starts with the principal as a leader to positively impact the school culture,” shared Amanda Kennington, GCCISD Healthy Community School Coordinator, as she described how a family shared video of their Friday morning dance moves at home before school. Superintendent Dr. O’Brien spent some time dancing the halls with second graders to the song “We Are Family.” Goose Creek is proud of our “Giant” campus leadership and of the coordinated effort between families and educators as equal partners to provide places where students feel safe, healthy, and connected to learning.

All photos taken by Amanda Kennington:



.Superintendent O'Brien dances with students and staff to encourage movement and activity.



Principal Dr. Keri Launius takes her portable Bluetooth speaker with her as she prepares for the Friday dance off with students and staff at Travis.

Barbers Hill ★ Dayton Press

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VOL. 28, NO. 6 - \$1.00

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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2023

MONT BELVIEU, TEXAS 77580

ON THE HILL

Chambers County Appoints Payton as Tax Assessor- Collector

(Chambers County, Texas) - Chambers County Commissioners Court accepted the resignation of longtime County Tax Assessor-Collector Denise Hutter on Wednesday, February 1, 2023, appointing Stowell-resident Laurie Payton to replace her in the unfulfilled term.

"Denise Hutter has served Chambers County honorably for many years," said Chambers County Judge Jimmy Sylvia. "We are sad to see her leave office and can't thank her enough for her hard work."

The vote to appoint Laurie Payton to the position of Tax Assessor-Collector as Mrs. Hutter's replacement was unanimous. Mrs. Payton is a Stowell-resident and small business owner who has 35 years of experience in Tax Assessment and Collection and motor vehicle titling. During her three decades of employment in this field, Mrs. Payton has served as the Tax Assessor-Collector for Spring Branch Independent School District, Tax Assessor-Collector for Galveston Independent School District and Tax Assessor-Collector for High Island Independent School District. She is also a Past President of the Texas Association of Assessing Officers.

"My goal is to provide an exceptional level of customer service to our county by maintaining and creating a team who stays abreast of current laws and best practices," said Mrs. Payton when asked what her hope is for her time in office.

Mrs. Payton is very dedicated to her family. She is married, the mother of two

married adult children and grandmother to, as she describes them, four amazing grandchildren. She is also active in her community and is a member of Saint Louis Catholic Church and the East Chambers Independent School District Education Foundation.

"Laurie is extremely qualified for this position and we look forward to seeing the positive changes that she brings to not only the Tax Office, but to the County as a whole," continued Judge Sylvia.

For more information on the office of the Chambers County Tax Assessor-Collector, please visit the Chambers County website at co.chambers.tx.us.

\$5 MILLION BOND ON MURDER SUSPECT

Sheriff Brian Hawthorne reports that on January 7, 2023 at approximately 6:30 p.m., Chambers County Sheriff's Office 911 Dispatch received a call from Baytown Houston Methodist Hospital in reference to the suspicious illness of an emergency room patient who was transported via ambulance from Beach City, Chambers County, Texas.

Corporal Yeatman and Deputy Southwell arrived at the hospital and initiated an investigation due to inconsistencies in the information provided by the hospital staff. The deputies contacted Chambers County Sheriff's Office Criminal Investigations Detective Skyler Rocz for further investigation.

During Detective Rocz's investigation, additional inconsistencies as well as other determining factors made the illness appear more suspicious in nature. Sadly, the patient identified as Joseph Hartsfield of Beach City, died as the re-

sult of what the Sheriff's Office believes to be foul play. Through the use of search warrants and other investigative techniques Detective Rocz believed there was enough probable cause to meet with District Attorney Cheryl Lieck Henry.

On Friday, February 3, District Attorney Cheryl Lieck Henry convened a grand jury, resulting in a felony indictment of murder for Sarah Jean Hartsfield, 48, of Beach City, Texas, wife of Joseph Hartsfield.

Judge Chap Cain of the 253rd District Court issued an arrest warrant and set a bond of \$5,000,000 dollars.

"This is an active case and only limited details can be released at this time. I appreciate the hard work of the deputies and detectives who followed their instincts and identified the suspicious circumstances surrounding Mr. Hartfield's death that could have been labeled as 'death due to illness' instead of murder," said Sheriff Hawthorne.



Bob Hope School- Celebrates Ribbon Cutting Ceremony

BAYTOWN - Bob Hope School, located at 304 N. Pruett St., celebrated their Ribbon Cutting Ceremony with the Baytown Chamber of Commerce, Ambassadors, staff, and future students.

Bob Hope School is a tuition-free, public charter school. Opening in August of 2023 to children entering PreK3 through 2nd grade. Looking to enroll more students and hire certified bilingual educators, BHS is eager to change lives. Today we congratulate Bob Hope School as they become official Baytown Chamber of Commerce, members!

To find out more information follow them on social media (Facebook: Bob Hope School- Baytown) or visit their website at www.bobhopeschool.org



Pictured left to right: Tracey Wheeler, Lily Lopez, Kim Kelly, Adrienne Sun, Juan Benavides, Booby Lopez, John McLendon, Neva White, Kelsey Borza, Jesus Rodriguez, Karla Opryshek, Jackie Redou, Brenda Wray, Cristal Villegas, and Carmen Parris.

THOUGHTS FROM HILLSIDE CHURCH

By Dr. Mark Trice



The Beauty of a Bible

new Bible may be, its real value is found in the words on the page, and you can't access that beauty if your Bible is left sitting in pristine condition on a shelf.

The Bible is meant to be read, and more than read. Its words are intended to be meditated on and applied to our lives. While I fully appreciate a new Bible in the hand of a believer, I appreciate even more an obviously used Bible in the same hand. In it, I can see the investment a man or woman has made in their

walk with God.

I tell my congregation that if you can't mark in your Bible you need to get one you feel comfortable writing in. It's too easy to see something exciting in the Word of God only to turn the page and forget what God just said to you. That is not what reading the Bible is about. It's not simply reading words and forgetting what they say.

Think about it. If someone you love tells you something important, don't you try to remember it? You may even go so far as to write it

down or make a note in your phone. Well, no one loves you more than God or wants to teach you more than He does. And there should be no one you love more than you love Him.

So doesn't it make sense to stop when you hear Him speaking, to listen to what He has to say, and literally take notes? When you read the Word and see something you haven't noticed before, or connect various scriptures that you've never realized were related, stop and mark it down.

When you see a passage that gives you important guidance on how to live your life, highlight it.

Dig into your Bible. Put effort into learning everything it has to offer. You never will learn it all, of course, but that's another beautiful thing. Matthew 24:35 assures us that we will live by the Word of God forever; it will always offer more than we can imagine. It is a treasure trove that none of us should leave sitting on a shelf.

When it comes to Bibles, tattered pages and worn covers are beautiful. Highlights and underlining and margin notes, even if only their author can read the handwriting, are lovely reflections of a life touched by the Word of God.

[@myhillsidefamily](http://www.myhillsidefamily.com)

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OPINION PAGE

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TEXAS MATTERS

By U.S. Senator JOHN CORNYN



Cornyn Bill to Authorize Coastal Spine Project Signed Into Law



Senator Cornyn meeting with local officials and the Coast Guard and Corps of Engineers last fall, to develop the plans for the Coastal Spine.

Authorizes Construction of Coastal Spine Project for Texas, Critical for Hurricane Mitigation

WASHINGTON –U.S. Senator John Cornyn (R-TX) released the following statement after his Texas Coastal Spine Authorization Act, which authorizes the construction of a large-scale coastal storm risk management and coastal barrier protection system known as the Coastal Spine, was signed into law:

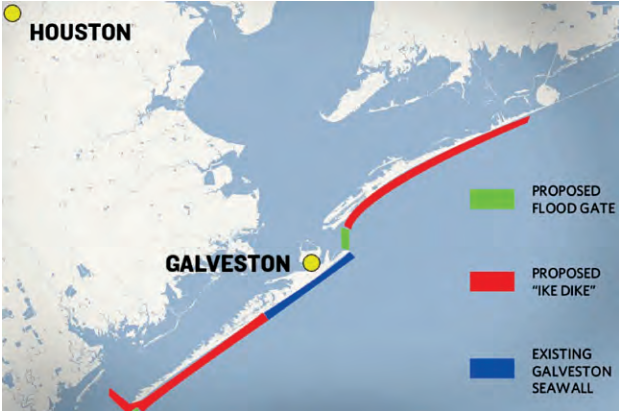
“The Coastal Spine will provide the critical infrastructure needed to protect our coastal communities and the industries that fuel our state and national economy,” said Sen. Cornyn. “After many years of hard work, I am glad to see that this project has been authorized so that the next steps can be taken to ensure the Texas Gulf Coast is prepared to weather future hurricane seasons.”

Background:

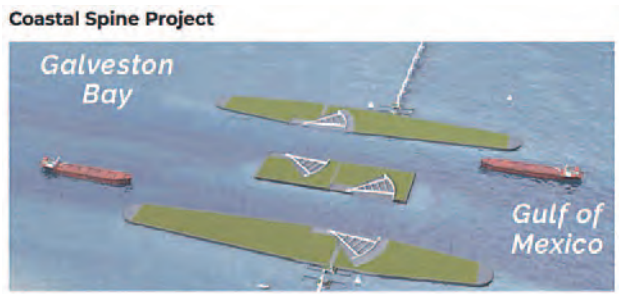
This bill authorizes the construction of the coastal barrier protection system known as the Coastal Spine, a large-scale coastal storm risk management and ecosystem restoration project that will help protect Texas’s coast from storm damage. Sen. Cornyn introduced the legislation earlier this year with Sen. Cruz and Representative Randy Weber (TX-14), which was included in this year’s National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA).

Last year, Sen. Cornyn praised the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Chief’s Report signing of the Coastal Texas Study making the project eligible to be authorized by Congress in the Water Resources and Development Act (WRDA). In Congress, Sen. Cornyn secured full funding in the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018 to ensure the completion of the study. Previously, Sen. Cornyn introduced legislation to accelerate the study and worked to obtain a critical exemption from statutory costs and time limitations. Last fall, Sen. Cornyn penned an op-ed discussing current coastal Texas projects and the steps to authorize and fund them.

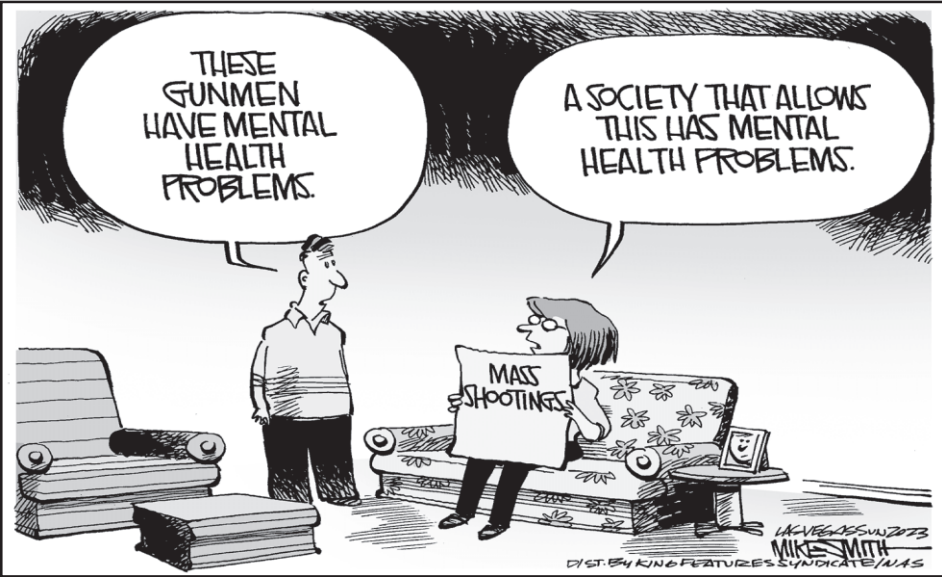
Senator John Cornyn, a Republican from Texas, is a member of the Senate Finance, Intelligence, and Judiciary Committees.



A combination of “dikes”, gates and the existing Galveston Seawall would protect the communities around Galveston Bay from damage from a hurricane storm surge.



Gates would swing closed to stop the surge of water caused by a hurricane in the Gulf.



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STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Gary Borders



Abbott Issues Disaster Declaration, Seeks Fed Help

Gov. Greg Abbot has issued a disaster declaration for Texas counties affected by the early February ice storm and is seeking a federal declaration as well for areas in Southeast Texas affected by rare January tornadoes. The ice storm caused considerable damage to property and power outages in the affected areas. The declaration for ice-storm damaged counties includes Denton, Hays, Henderson, Milam, Smith, Travis and Williamson counties.

“Through this disaster declaration, we will be able to provide additional assistance to Texans and communities who have experienced property damage and localized power outages from this ice storm,” Abbott said.

The ice storm brought tree limbs snapping and crashing onto power lines. More than 170,000 Austin households were without power for several days, with some going more than 10 days without power.

Abbott also requested a presidential disaster declaration for counties in Southeast Texas hit by tornadoes and severe storms in late January. That request includes Harris, Jefferson, Liberty and Orange counties. If that request is granted, residents and businesses in those counties would have access to federal loans and grants.

RELIGIOUS FREEDOM BILLS DRAW BIPARTISAN SUPPORT

Three bills have been filed in the Texas House aimed at improving Texans ability to practice their religions. The Austin American-Statesman reported that state Rep. Salman Bhojani, D-Eules, filed the bills to expand the state’s list of optional holidays to include more religious holy days; prevent stan-



dardized tests being given on those days; and ensure that religious leaders of all faiths can legally perform marriages.

Bhojani, one of the state’s first Muslim legislators, was joined at a news conference by Republican state Rep. Jacey Jetton, R-Richmond, who is Christian, and fellow Muslim state Rep. Suleman Lalani, D- Sugar Land.

“As legislators, it is our duty to ensure that Texas is the religious freedom state, where we can practice our faith with pride, where we can pray in a church, synagogue, mosque, temple, jamatkhana or gurdwara, where we can love God by any name,” Bhojani said.

PLAN TO BAN TIKTOK ON STATE-OWNED DEVICES RELEASED

Abbott last week also announced a security plan to ban the use of the popular video app TikTok as well as other software on all state-issued devices, as well as personal devices used to conduct state business. Abbott contends the Chinese-owned company can harvest data from TikTok user’s devices and poses

a security risk to Texas.

After Abbott issued the initial order in December, The University of Texas at Austin banned TikTok on all its Wi-Fi networks. The latest security plan also includes other lesser-known apps, such as WeChat. A number of hardware manufacturers are also prohibited from being used by state agencies and employees.

TikTok, which is known for its short videos, is owned by the Chinese company ByteDance and has more than 86 million users in the United States.

A WET JANUARY FOR PARTS OF THE STATE

January brought above-average rainfall for large swaths of East Texas while the rest of the state had below-average precipitation, hydrologist Mark Wentzel wrote in the Texas Water Development Board’s monthly report. Drought conditions expanded by five percentage points to include 54% of the state, while statewide storage in water supply reservoirs is at 72.5% of capacity, down about 10 percentage points from what is normal this time of year.

Drought conditions have been all but eliminated in the eastern portion of Texas, while much of the state is in moderate to severe drought conditions. The worst drought conditions now are in a circle of counties around Bexar County.

Wentzel predicted that except for northeast Texas, much of the state will see expanded drought conditions.

“However, with the anticipated breakup of La Niña conditions later this year, there is some hope that the rest of Texas may see at least some easing of drought conditions as early as May,” he wrote.

FINAL ROUND OF EMERGENCY SNAP BENEFITS

This month brings the final allocation of emergency food benefits provided by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and distributed to eligible households by the Texas Health and Human Services Commission. The extra minimum of \$95 per household began during the start of the COVID-10 pandemic and has provided nearly \$10 billion in added food benefits since its inception. However, Congress recently passed legislation ending the emergency benefits, which go to about 1.6 million Texas households.

“We’re thankful that we’ve been able to help millions of Texans by providing more than \$9.7 billion in additional benefits since the Families First Coronavirus Response Act was passed,” said Wayne Salter, HHSC deputy executive commissioner.

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THE POSTSCRIPT

By Carrie Classon

“Valentine Gift”

My husband, Peter, does not believe in Valentine’s Day. I mean, he knows it is a thing. It’s just a thing he prefers to ignore.

“Stupid!” That is Peter’s verdict.

Peter takes offense whenever there is a big marketing effort aimed at getting him to buy things in order to show affection. He feels this way about Christmas, believing it has become too commercialized. He feels this way about birthdays, insisting that the day of his birth is nothing to celebrate. Buying gifts for Peter is pretty easy because he doesn’t want any.

But Peter is one of the most generous people I have ever known. He never hesitates to pick up the bill. He is always a generous tipper. He contributes to organizations he believes in all the time. It just bothers him when he is expected to come up with a gift. He finds it stressful and annoying, and so I learned, long ago, that he would not give me gifts on so-called special occasions, and I wouldn’t try to figure out what he wanted.

I am very glad I don’t have to guess what Peter wants.

Peter has very particular tastes, and he enjoys further refining those tastes. If Peter buys a new shirt, he can tell me more about that shirt than I have ever known about any piece of clothing I own. It will almost certainly be sun-resistant and probably bug-resistant and possibly provide protection against a thermonuclear attack. I don’t even ask. This is equally true of every gadget he uses and every pot and pan in our house. Not having to figure out what Peter wants (or do that kind of research!) is a great relief.

Instead, I try to be nice to him.

I try to remember when I am stressed or bothered that none of these feelings ever have anything to do with him. If my mind is filled with things already, I try to make room and listen closely to whatever he is telling me. I try to stay out of his way when he needs his space. I try to keep him company when he needs it.

And Peter is always giving me gifts. They are just not the kind that seem like presents.

I hate the light in the kitchen of the little place we rent in Mexico. It is bright blue-white.

“I feel like we could be doing elective surgery in here!” I tell Peter.

But the ceilings are high, I don’t have a ladder and we really do need light in the kitchen. The light does not bother Peter. He does not seem to notice the difference in light color the way I do. This is just one of the many ways (I am sure) I seem unreasonably fussy to him.

“Turn the light off as soon as you are through!” I always tell Peter, in an unnecessarily crabby voice.

But then, one day, I walked into the kitchen, and Peter was cooking in a bright, amber-colored light.

“You changed the bulb!” I said in delight.

“I did,” he said. “It wasn’t as high up as I thought.”

I don’t know how Peter got up to the ceiling to change the bulb. But everything else, I know.

He changed the bulb because he understands me. He changed it because he wanted me to be happy. He changed it because he loves me, and this was his Valentine gift to me.

“Thank you,” I said.

“You’re welcome!” he answered.

And both the kitchen and my heart were bathed in a warm light.

Till next time,

Carrie

Photos and other news can be found at

CarrieClasson.com.

We welcome your thoughts on Opinions on this page. Send to Letters to the Editor in care of our email address.

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USPS 244-500

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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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SUBSCRIPTION RATES: In-county, \$28.00 per year. Out of county, \$35.00 per year. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Star-Courier, P. O. Box 405, Highlands, TX 77562

News and Ad Phones....713-266-3444

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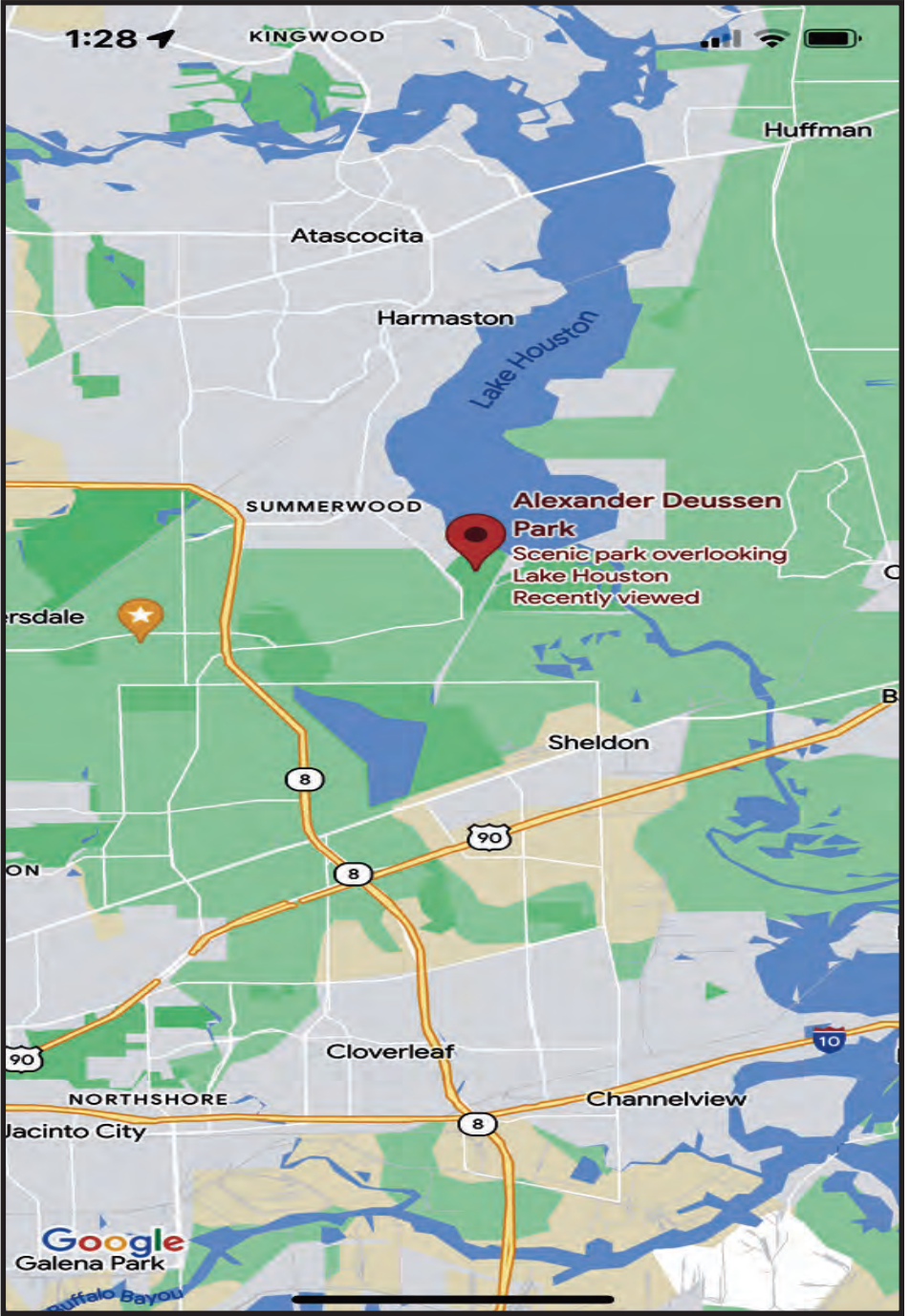
Gun BuyBack on Feb. 18,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

500, but a report presented by HPD last month showed numbers were down for 2022.

“It takes time for things to actually show that they have been successful,” said District D Council Member Carolyn Evans-Shabazz. “We know that a lot of people may question, Why did they even do those buybacks – and certainly I think it makes a difference to someone whose life was preserved because a person did not have an illegal gun.”

MAP OF DEUSSEN PARK AT LAKE HOUSTON DAM



Remembrance Murals celebrate Black History Month



Gathered at the Celebration were community leaders, including honoree Senfronia Thompson, County Commissioners Rodney Ellis and Tom Ramsey, US Representative Sheila Jackson Lee, State Representatives Ron Reynolds and Armando Walle, County Attorney Christian Menefee, and others.

HOUSTON – The University of Houston Downtown was the site on Friday, Feb. 10 of a celebration for the unveiling of Black History murals, known as “Remembrance” murals.

Hosting the event was Harris County Commissioner Rodney Ellis and other county and city leaders.

Honored at the event was State Representative Senfronia Thompson, the trailblazing Texas state legislator. A photo of Senfronia inspired the mural known as “Lady Justice.”



The Remembrance murals were created by artist Victor Ash, and created by Street Art for Mankind. They overlook Congress Plaza, which is surrounded by Harris County justice institutions.

COVID-19 Novavax Vaccine Booster Now Available for Individuals 18 and Older

Houston - Following approvals from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS), individuals 18 years and older who have completed their COVID-19 primary vaccine series will have the option to receive a COVID-19 Novavax monovalent booster vaccine instead of the updated (bivalent) Pfizer or Moderna booster vaccine at Harris County Public Health (HCPH) vaccination sites. Individuals who may not be able to receive an mRNA (Moderna or Pfizer) vaccine as a result of an allergy to a component of the vaccine will now have the Novavax booster as an option.

The Novavax booster option will be available to eligible individuals regardless of their primary series vaccine type. The booster dose is recommended for individuals 6 months after they have completed their J&J, Moderna, Pfizer or Novavax primary vaccine series. The Novavax primary series first became available to the public in August so those who first received their Novavax primary series are not yet eligible for the Novavax booster dose.

Individuals who would prefer the Novavax monovalent booster dose are encouraged to call 832-927-8787 for scheduling or visit any HCPH vaccination site to sign up.

Novavax uses a different technique than the other COVID-19 vaccines from Pfizer and Moderna. Instead of using mRNA, which provides the instructions for your body to create the COVID-19 spike protein which in turn induces your body's immune response, Novavax's vaccine injects a small protein that your body detects and triggers its immune response. The Novavax vaccine is based on a well-established method of vaccine development that has been used for years in other vaccines such as the human papillomavirus (HPV), hepatitis B, influenza, and shingles.

COVID-19 primary and booster vaccines available at Harris County Public Health sites include:

- Pfizer-BioNTech (mRNA vaccine)
- Moderna (mRNA vaccine)
- Novavax (protein subunit vaccine)

Moderna, Novavax, and Pfizer are recommended for primary vaccination and Moderna and Pfizer are recommended for booster doses. A person's eligibility for a booster dose depends on age and the time interval from the last dose received. Fully vaccinated is considered 2 weeks after the final dose in a primary series. People are considered up to date with COVID-19 vaccines when they receive all the doses in their primary series and a booster, when eligible.

HCPH urges residents to get vaccinated against COVID-19 if they have not done so already and get a booster shot, for those who qualify. All COVID-19 vaccines and boosters are safe, effective, and provide strong protection against severe illness, hospitalizations, and death. Vaccines provided by HCPH are free and appointments are not required though encouraged.

If you would like to schedule an appointment, go to ReadyHarris.org, vacstrac.hctx.net, or call 832-927-8787. To find a location near you, click here.

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Feb 16—Sandra Gross
Feb 17—Donnie Cravatt
Feb 18—Fay Blackmon-Slot
Ray Blackmon
Rebecca Nibbe
Mandy Carville
Nakomi Stone
Billy Nash
Feb 19—Stephanie Lane
Lina Hidalgo
Feb 20—Stormy Fulmer
Herman Bradford
Beau McCrary
Feb 21—Lyndsie Hennigan
Leah Moyer
Tera Smith
Feb 22—Calzin Rutledge
Diane Currie
Feb 23—Don Bird
Audrey Cornman
Christina Woodall
Feb 24—Will Oviedo
Feb 25—Mrs. Charles Marchard
Beth Phillips
Cheyenne Ward
Jackie Rosas
Feb 26—Alice Etzel
Shane Tappan
Feb 27—Joe Price
Terry Whittaker
Caleb Wingate
Kaylin Morgan
Elise Guidroz
Feb 28—B.E. Hales

ANNIVERSARIES
Feb 24—Jim & Linda Hildebrand
Feb 26—Thomas & Geene Parrish
Mar 3—Jimmy & Teri Gleason
Mar 5—Raymond & Mary Helen James
Mar 16—Yvonne & Dale Browder
March 31—William & Susan O'Neal

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Legislature releases first Budget draft

State Rep. Walle statement on State Budget

AUSTIN – The initial draft of the Texas state budget has been released for fiscal years 2024/2025. The draft leaves more than \$40 billion additional dollars in general revenue unspent. Contingent on how the various spending limits end up and on the different funding mechanisms used, legislators will have the opportunity to allocate billions of surplus dollars by the end of this Legislative Session.

Rep. Armando Walle (HD 140), who currently serves as the chair of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Articles VI, VII & VIII and who also sits on the Legislative Budget Board, released the following statement in response.

“Our state’s economy is thriving right now. With the state’s general operating budget covered in this initial draft, legislators will now need to work out how to spend this unprecedented and historic surplus of dollars.

“This money came



State Representative Armando Walle
On Budget Committee

from the people of Texas, and should be invested back into our communities in meaningful ways that bring about lasting change. This session, I will fight for these dollars to go to creating good jobs, improving our education system — not least by increasing teacher pay — and to expanding access to life-saving health care.

“I look forward to continuing my work with Speaker Dade Phelan, Chairman Greg Bonnen and all of my colleagues over the next few months to use this surplus to foster opportunities for every Texan.”

TEXAS HOUSE BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

SUMMARY
As proposed, the total funding of House Bill 1 is **\$288.7 billion**, a decrease of **2.9 percent**. While remaining well below the Pay as You Go limit, constitutional tax spending limit, and the newly created consolidated general revenue limit, the 88th Legislature has identified a series of priorities that are addressed through this fiscally conservative budget and will meet the needs of Texans.

EDUCATION
\$38.4 billion in General Revenue for the 88th Legislative Session.
\$15 billion to deliver property tax relief to homeowners.
\$600 million for school safety equipment and safety measures.
\$2.5 billion to strengthen research-based funding at universities.

INFRASTRUCTURE
\$1.95 billion dedicated to water and transportation infrastructure.
\$1.45 billion to support the Gulf Coast in trade and natural disasters.
\$500 million for maintenance and land acquisition by Texas Parks and Wildlife.

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
\$2.3 billion for increased capacity and renovations at mental health facilities.
\$55.5 million for Crisis Services, specifically targeting youth.
\$20 million increase to the Alternatives to Abortion Program.

PENSIONS AND LEGACY OBLIGATIONS
\$1 billion to ensure the soundness of the state’s employee pension fund, resulting in **\$5.5 billion** in interest savings and retiring the fund **5 years** early.
\$1.14 billion to retire unfunded liabilities of law enforcement and judicial retirement systems, and the Texas Guaranteed Tuition Plan.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY
\$4.6 billion maintaining our commitment to border security, including **\$1 billion** to the Governor’s office for constructing physical barriers.
\$334 million for the Texas Juvenile Justice System.
\$22 million to improve the state crime lab and eliminate testing backlog.

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LEGAL NOTICE
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Notice is hereby given that Original Letters of Administration for Docket No. 491656; Estate of DENISE MICHELLE HAWKINS Deceased; In Probate Court No. 1 of Harris County, Texas, were issued on FEBRUARY 7, 2023.
KENNY RAY MIERSCHIN
The residence address of the administrator is in Harris County, Texas. The mailing address is:
c/o Weston Cotten
1500 E. Wallisville Road
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 FEBRUARY 13, 2023

by WESTON COTTEN
Attorney for the Estate

LEGAL NOTICE
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Notice is hereby given that Original Letters Testamentary for Docket No. 510711; Estate of DOLORIES ANN (HALE) RACHAL Deceased; In Probate Court No. 1 of Harris County, Texas, were issued on FEBRUARY 2, 2023.
THOMAS E. RACHAL
The residence address of the administrator is in Harris County, Texas. The mailing address is:
c/o Weston Cotten
1500 E. Wallisville Road
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 FEBRUARY 8, 2023

by WESTON COTTEN
Attorney for the Estate

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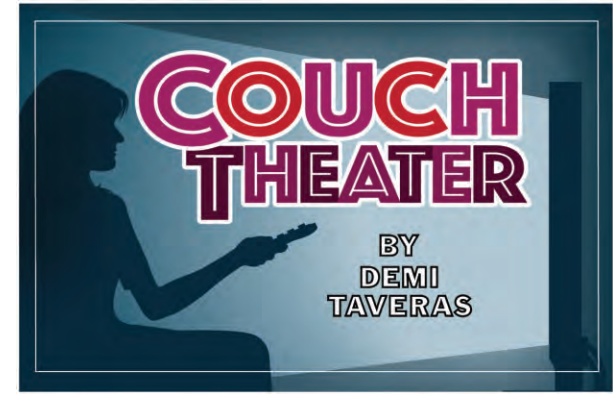
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Justice Smith, left, and Julianne Moore star in “Sharper.”

“Your Place or Mine”

“Your Place or Mine” (PG-13) — Since the arrival of February marked the beginning of the most romantic time of the year, it is the perfect opportunity to dive into a rom-com!

First up is a new film out now from rom-com veterans Reese Witherspoon and Ashton Kutcher. They star as Debbie and Peter, a pair of long-distance best friends who once hooked up on the night they first met.

Twenty years later, they're both single, and Debbie's barely gotten a break from taking care of her teenage son, Jack. So, Peter offers to take care of Jack, switching places with Debbie for a week while she stays in his apartment and enjoys a well-deserved vacation.

But little do Peter and Debbie know how much this one

week will uncover deeply buried feelings from the both of them. (Netflix)

“Spoiler Alert” (PG-13) — The second rom-com film for this week brings a bit more drama with its comedy. Based on the memoir by Michael Ausiello, this film features Jim Parsons (“The Big Bang Theory”) and Ben Aldridge (“Fleabag”) as Kit and Michael, and just as the title suggests, the spoiler comes before the story actually begins.

In the first scene of the film, Kit dies in his husband Michael's arms after an 11-month battle with terminal cancer, with the rest of the film depicting their love story through Michael's eyes. As with any relationship, the two go through ups and downs, but every circumstance ends up making them stronger, leading up to that moment where Kit takes his very last

breath. Sally Field and Antoni Porowski (“Queer Eye”) also star in this very touching film, out now. (Peacock)

“Sharper” (R) — For those who'd rather skip all the mushy-gushiness, “Sharper” — with an impressive cast comprised of Julianne Moore, John Lithgow, Sebastian Stan and Justice Smith — is a psychological thriller that premieres on Feb. 17.

Lithgow portrays billionaire Richard Hobbes, who's in a relationship with Moore's character, Madeline. Madeline's son, Max, is a con artist, who's dying to get his hands on the type of money Richard has. This leads Max to convince his girlfriend, Sandra, to get her claws into Richard's sheepish son, Tom, and make him fall for her so that the two can eventually con him out of Tom's huge inheritance.

But don't be fooled — nobody, not even sweet Madeline, is who they seem to be. (AppleTV+)

“Halloween Ends” (R) — Did you miss the final installment of the newly rebooted “Halloween” trilogy in theaters? Have no fear ... or maybe have some, because “Halloween Ends” premieres right on Valentine's Day. Jamie Lee Curtis reprises her role as Laurie Strode, who has lived with her granddaughter, Allyson, since the death of her daughter, Karen, by Michael Myers. Michael has “vanished,” but his aura is still present throughout Haddonfield. Meanwhile, Allyson begins dating a man named Corey, who increasingly begins to show signs of malicious intent. Corey discovers Michael hiding in a sewer, and Corey's so entranced by him that he starts making plans to follow in his footsteps. While this is the least impressive film in the series by far, at least we got to tie a bow on the end of Michael Myers' terrifying reign. (I hope.) (Prime Video)



HOLLYWOOD — Will Harrison Ford ever slow down? The 80-year-old superstar has completed “Indiana Jones and the Dial of Destiny,” due June 30. Then he steps in for the late William Hurt as Thaddeus Ross in “Captain America: New World Order,” due May 3, 2024. July 2024 brings “Thunderbolts,” where Ford will reprise the role of Thaddeus Ross.

His Paramount+ Western series “1923” premiered Dec. 18, 2022, and will run for two seasons, eight episodes each. You'd think Ford would take time to spend his \$300 million enjoying time with his wife, Calista Flockhart, and his children!

But his 77-year-old co-star, Oscar winner Helen Mirren, is no slouch either. Both “Golda” (as in Golda Meir) and “Shazam! Fury of the Gods,” with Zachary Levi, hit screens this March, followed by “Fast X” and “White Bird: A Wonder Story” this May.

In 1968, while shooting celebrities during a press screening of Steve McQueen's film “Bullitt,” I got into an altercation with Elliott Gould, then married to Barbra Streisand. We four photographers had to walk backward as they rushed out, and when Streisand saw us, she went crazy and kept covering her face with her hands, saying “You have enough, don't you?”

I answered her with: “If you'd been polite and stopped for us, we wouldn't have to bother you now!” An infuriated Gould lunged at me, grabbed my heavy Nikon Camera chain, and lifted me off the ground. He threw me into the street, pummeling me against a parked car. Doctors at UCLA Medical Center said I had a dislocated shoulder as well as other injuries.

It took three years to get to court, at which time I won all three charges for battery against him. I was awarded four figures, but I told Gould that at the time,



Harrison Ford and Helen Mirren as Jacob and Cara Dutton in “1923”

it wasn't about money. It was about principal and precedent.

Everytime I encountered him after that, he was civil, saying, “They told me to be nice to you.” Once, at a charity event, he offered me a marijuana joint as a peace offering, but I declined.

A few weeks ago, I went into a local Smart & Final store, and when I reached the glass cleaner aisle, I was astounded to see Elliot Gould there. I said to him, “Do you recognize me?” He said, “You look familiar.” I replied, “Does the name Tony Rizzo mean anything?” “Oh,” he said, “You're that guy who won a lawsuit against me.”

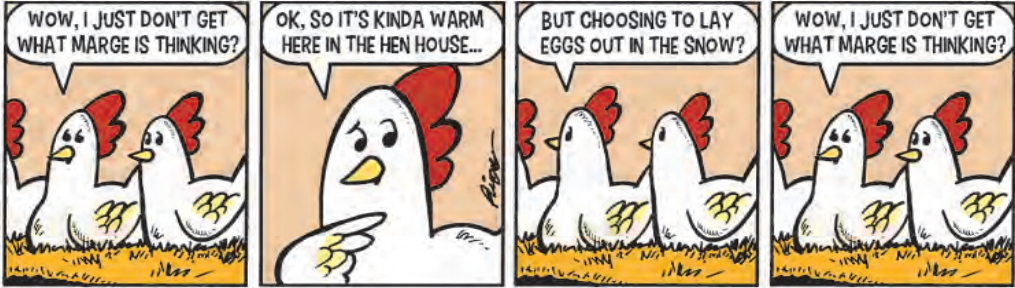
I said, “I hope you know I never blamed you. You, Ryan O'Neal, Don Johnson and Jon Peters all acted as Barbra's protectors when she saw photographers and flipped out.”

I asked him why he was there, and he just said, “My maid sent me to get Wind-ex.”

Such is the price of fame and fortune! (c) 2023 King Features Synd., Inc.

ENTERTAINMENT

Amber Waves



Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

	1		3				4	
9		4		7			8	
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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. Snow fort is missing. 2. Sign is missing. 3. Cap differs. 4. Snowball stack is smaller. 5. Picture is missing. 6. Pendants is missing. 7. Little armored one. 8. Little armored one. 9. Samuel Hooster's Nest. 10. Little armored one. 11. Little armored one. 12. Little armored one. 13. Little armored one. 14. Little armored one. 15. Little armored one. 16. Little armored one. 17. Little armored one. 18. Little armored one. 19. Little armored one. 20. Little armored one. 21. Little armored one. 22. Little armored one. 23. Little armored one. 24. Little armored one. 25. Little armored one. 26. Little armored one. 27. Little armored one. 28. Little armored one. 29. Little armored one. 30. Little armored one. 31. Little armored one. 32. Little armored one. 33. Little armored one. 34. Little armored one. 35. Little armored one. 36. Little armored one. 37. Little armored one. 38. Little armored one. 39. Little armored one. 40. Little armored one. 41. Little armored one. 42. Little armored one. 43. Little armored one. 44. Little armored one. 45. Little armored one. 46. Little armored one. 47. Little armored one. 48. Little armored one. 49. Little armored one. 50. Little armored one. 51. Little armored one. 52. Little armored one. 53. Little armored one. 54. Little armored one. 55. Little armored one. 56. Little armored one. 57. Little armored one. 58. Little armored one. 59. Little armored one. 60. Little armored one. 61. Little armored one. 62. Little armored one. 63. Little armored one. 64. Little armored one. 65. Little armored one. 66. Little armored one. 67. Little armored one. 68. Little armored one. 69. Little armored one. 70. Little armored one. 71. Little armored one. 72. Little armored one. 73. Little armored one. 74. Little armored one. 75. Little armored one. 76. Little armored one. 77. Little armored one. 78. Little armored one. 79. Little armored one. 80. Little armored one. 81. Little armored one. 82. Little armored one. 83. Little armored one. 84. Little armored one. 85. Little armored one. 86. Little armored one. 87. Little armored one. 88. Little armored one. 89. Little armored one. 90. Little armored one. 91. Little armored one. 92. Little armored one. 93. Little armored one. 94. Little armored one. 95. Little armored one. 96. Little armored one. 97. Little armored one. 98. Little armored one. 99. Little armored one. 100. Little armored one.

February 13, 2023 Posting Date

King Crossword

ACROSS

- Sailing vessel
- Clear the deck?
- Kitten's cry
- A Marx brother
- Low digit
- "Xanadu" band
- Baby hooter
- Florida city
- Handsome guy
- Convent dwellers
- Brooch
- Tool set
- March honor-ee, for short
- Fed. food inspector
- Grinding tooth
- "At once!"
- Attention-getting call
- Senior member
- Lingerie fabric
- Houston play-er
- Sports drink suffix
- TV spots
- Foolproof
- Go places
- Florida city
- Revise
- Tokyo, once
- "Humbug!"
- Keaton of "Annie Hall"
- Lair
- Bikini top
- Old anesthetic
- HBO compet-itor
- Attorney's field
- Florida city
- Pundit's piece
- "The Chosen" author Chaim
- Cuban rum cocktail
- Burden
- Zing
- Convened
- Justice Kagan
- In the — way (very much)
- Preambles
- Spock por-trayer
- Young seal
- Leb. neighbor
- Paulo
- President Jackson
- Carter of "Wonder Woman"
- Overly
- Florida city
- Vintage
- Approves
- Soft leather
- Check the fit of
- Dodge
- Russian ruler
- Send forth
- Flow out
- Away from SSW
- Aachen article

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Weekly SUDOKU

Solution time: 26 mins.

Answers

King Crossword

Trivia test

by Fifi Rodriguez

- TELEVISION: What was the name of the saloon in the 1960s series “Gunsmoke”?
- GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: To date, how many people have walked on the moon?
- GEOGRAPHY: What is the capital of the Canadian province Nova Scotia?
- MOVIES: How many “Police Academy” movies have been produced?
- U.S. STATES: Why is Indiana known as “The Hoosier State”?
- FOOD & DRINK: What percentage of a cucumber is water?
- HISTORY: Which company published its first mail-order catalog in 1872?
- ANIMAL KINGDOM: What does the armadillo's name mean in English?
- LITERATURE: What is author Mark Twain's real name?
- CELEBRITIES: What is one of singer/actor Frank Sinatra's famous nicknames, based on a physical attribute?

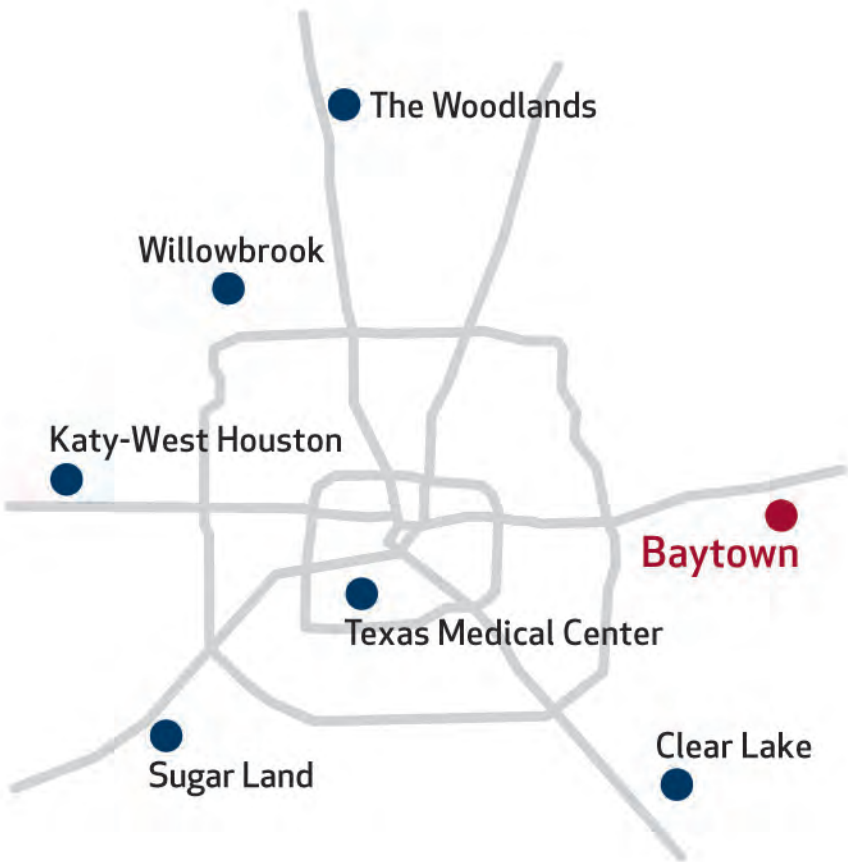
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