HIGHLANDS Star & Counter

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WELCOME!

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THURSDAY, JULY 20, 2023

P.O. DRAWER 405, HIGHLANDS, TEXAS 77562

STARS

Chamber welcomes New Educators at luncheon

BIRTHDAYS Jul 21–Glennis Plocheck Lydia Moore Jul 22–Tricia Schultz Jul 23-Sean Hedger Elton Sanders Gene Zadrapa Jorge Del Angel Jul 24-Tony Boyd Jackie Adams Eric Clamon Jul 25-Eddie Baver Leona Lightfoot

David Mendez Jul 26-Elton Sanders Heidi J. Shepard ANNIVERSARIES

Rose Donnell

Jul 26-Kenneth & Lisa Boudreaux

The Crosby/Huffman Chamber of Commerce New Educators Luncheon is fast approaching, scheduled for July 26th at Crosby Church, located at 5725 HWY 90 in Crosby and will begin at 11:30am. This is the Monthly Member Luncheon where the chamber hosts a lunch to WEL-COME all new educators to our Crosby and Huffman School Districts.

We give every new educator a gift bag full of items donated by our business members to welcome them to our towns. As well, we





do a drawing and gift the teachers door prizes given by our members. If you would like to make sure your company is represented and the new educators know your company please be sure to donate to this event. You can call the Chamber Office with any questions.

Please call Chamber Office at 281-328-6984 or email us at chamber@crosbyhuffmancc.org to register for this event. The price for the luncheon is \$20.00.

Barrett celebrates 37th Homecoming

Weeklong Event huge success, involving whole community

The Barrett Station community concluded a very successful 37th Homecoming reunion last Saturday, with a huge parade, BBQ Cook-off, and community Flag Football game.

Homecoming chairwoman Shalonica Cluse commented:

"On behalf of the Barrett Station Civic League Homecoming Committee, we would like to share this years awardees with you. Please join us in celebrating this achievement for ALL! You may find the awardees leading the 37th annual parade on July 15th. Let's shower them with LOVE for their hard Dwight Judge work and dedication to make the community a better place.

Feel free to share one of your favorite memories with the awardees in the comments!"



The Chick-Fil-A Mascot read about the Barrett Homecoming in the STAR-COURIER

Senior King & Queen: Mr. & Mrs. Richardson Rising Star(s): The Casanovas

Humanitarian: Mr.

Parade Marshal: Rep Harold Dutton

Please view the website for additional details

h t t p s : / barrettcivicleague.org/ homecoming-links-2023



The Senior King and Queen were Mr. & Mrs. Richardson. Congratulations. The Parade Marshal was Rep. Harold Dutton.



The Barrett Station Civic League rode in this colorful float. MORE PHOTOS ON PAGE 2



Best Float Award went to this ALOHA theme by the Crosby Cheer Team.



Crosby ISD Superintendent Paula Patterson and the School Board were in one of the colorful floats in Saturday's Parade.

San Jacinto River claims 3 lives in 2 drowning incidents

CROSBY - On Sunday the Harris County Sheriff's Office said it was searching for a man who went missing while swimming across the San Jacinto River on Sunday.

Sheriff Ed Gonzalez said the man, believed to be about 50 years old, was at Magnolia Gardens Park on the west side of the river when he swam to a small island in the river. He said the man then tried to swim across to the other side of the river but it's unknown if he made it.

Gonzalez said the HCSO marine unit helped with the rescue efforts.

This is the second drowning incident this weekend in the same area. On Saturday, two children



the body of a man who apparently drowned while swimming in the river. Crosby area. went under the water, and

did not resurface. A family is mourning

the loss of two children after authorities said they drowned in the San Jacinto River near the Extreme Off Road Park and Beach on Gulf Pump Road in the

The Harris County Sheriff's Office Marine Unit searches Sunday night for "It's very distraught. We

do have a Chaplin here that is with the family to help them get through this difficult time and our condolences go out to the fam

See DROWNINGS, Page 5

Rotary Club serves Seniors 4th of July luncheon & games

HIGHLANDS - Rotary president Denise Smith with GayLynn Prescott Milliorn and 11 others from the Highlands Rotary Club served a delayed 4th of July luncheon to senior citizens last July 11th. The delay was to accommodate everyone's holiday schedule.

Highlands Rotary hosted as their first project of the new Rotary 2023-24 year a service project for seniors. They served lunch to senior citizens at San Jacinto Community Center and played a friendly game of beanbag baseball. A good time for all.

Many thanks to our Rotarians, and Anne Woodall, and our youngest volunteers, Harper and Hope Loggins. And to Pct. 3 Community Center director Tonya Kostka.

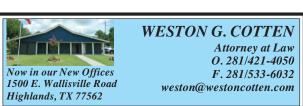
MORE PHOTOS, PAGE 5



Highlands Rotarians chose to serve the Senior Citizens as their first community service project of President Denise Smith's term.



Rotarian Sheila McDonald Parker serves a Senior Citizen with lunch.



RACHEL'S DINER Southern Cooking Buffet -- Coming Soon

14280 FM 2100 (Across from Walmart) 281-462-7349



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Barrett celebrates 37th Homecoming

Continued from Page 1



Award Rising Stars THE CASANOVAS



Award Humanitarian Award MR. DWIGHT JUDGE



CROSBY CES STARLETS FLOAT



Award SR. KING AND QUEEN MR. & MRS. RICHARDSON

FROM Lunda Jackson

BARRETT STATION we put on one heck of a show this past weekend. What an eventful week. "Together we are better" Shout out to Barrett Station Civic League, The Casanovas, and the BST

All Classes Alumni.

BST All Classes
Alumni thank you for
coming home and joing in
on the festivities. You understood the assignment.
I saw people I hadn't saw
since their graduation
day or my graduation
day. It was the reuniting

and reconnecting for me.

I hope that this 37th
Annual BST Homecoming reminded you of your childhood. I hope that it brought back fond memories of what life was like when it was in its purest form pre-Adulting. We made memories, we captured moments, we did that!!!

Until next time..... Let me go steal y'all pics!!!



TEE SHIRT ART

BEST CLASSIC CAR



BARRETT STATION CIVIC LEAGUE



PRAIRIE VIEW A&M QUEEN



HOMECOMING FOLKS WITH SHALONICA CLUSE, CHAIR.



SENIORS PLAY BINGO AT THE COMMUNITY CENTER



CROSBY KINDERGARTEN FLOAT



HUMANITARIAN AWARD MR. DWIGHT JUDGE



FLOAT WITH BLUE AND WHITE BALLOONS WAS AN EYE CATCHER.



SENIOR KING AND QUEEN THE RICHARDSONS



Barbers Hill PICSS **Dayton** Dayton** Dayton**

Serving Mont Belvieu, Dayton, Baytown and surrounding communities since 1995

VOL. 28, NO. 27

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THURSDAY, JULY 20, 2023

MONT BELVIEU, TEXAS 77580

ON THE HILL

"PACK THE BUS SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE" thru August 7th

Chambers County Public Health has partnered with several community organizations to host a Back to School Bash at the end of the summer. As part of our Back to School Bash on August 12th, we are hosting a "Pack the Bus" **School Supply Drive** throughout the summer to support students in the new school year. If you have any unused school supplies to donate, please bring them to one of the locations below:

WHEN: JUNE 1ST THROUGH AUGUST 7TH

Donations will be accepted from June 1st to August 7th. Supplies will be distributed on August 12th at White's Park from 10:00am to 2:00pm.

WHERE: ALL OVER CHAMBERS COUNTY

Just look for the BUS at any of these locations!

Any Chambers County Public Health location

Any Chambers Health location Riceland Clinic in Winnie

Texas A&M Extension Office

PREVENT MOSQUITO BREEDING



Eliminate hiding spots in order to prevent breeding grounds by cleaning gutters and downspouts, emptying water containers and replacing light bulbs

Reduce female feeding sessions by staying indoors during dusk and dawn hours and wearing repellant or skin coverings

CHAMBERS COUNTY MOSQUI-TO CONTROL 409-267-2720

Chambers County Flood Reduction meeting

Flood Infrastructure Planning Chambers County is hosting a public meeting to provide an update on an ongoing flood study and gather suggestions for

Flood damage reduction projects

When: Tuesday July 25, 2023, 6-8 PM Where: Sam and Carmena Goss Memorial Branch Library

1 John Hall Drive, Mont Belvieu, TX 77580

Join Chambers County for a public meeting as we provide an update on the ongoing countywide drainage plan and gather suggestions for flood damage reduction projects.



Crumbl Cookies Ribbon Cutting

Chambers County is proud to celebrate the opening of Crumbl Cookies in the Chambers Town Center! Not only are the cookies delicious, the franchise owners worked hard to seek and employ local residents at their store which is now manned by 70 Chambers County and Baytown area residentS.

We are so happy to have them in our community & thank them for joining YOUR Baytown Chamber! We look forward to having them apart of our community and working with the schools & other nonprofits along with being a new employer to 60 of our residents! Thank you for all your efforts in making Baytown your latest location! Stop by and get you a wonderful cookie (4 or 6).... 8824 N. Highway 146 in Town Center. Baytown Chamber of Commerce - We Mean Business!



Chambers County Men at South Pole

The Stars at Night are Big and Bright...from Texas to the South Pole

Since the first expeditions in the early 1900's, only a few thousand people have ever been to the South Pole. Many visit the Antarctic on cruise ships or tours. Even celebrities have momentarily stepped foot at the Pole for publicity's sake. But only a select few actually live and work at the South Pole each year.

About 150 or so work during each summer to prepare the southernmost station for winter. Then they leave just over 40 to brave the extreme elements to winter-over each year. Once the last plane leaves in February, a skeleton crew will remain at the Pole until the summer sun shines allowing planes to land once again sometime in November. For 9 months, the crew has no way in or out and about 6 of those months will be in total darkness. To date, only 1702 have ever wintered-over at the South Pole Station.

What is special about Winter-Over 2023? There are multiple Texans weathering the elements, representing our great state on The Ice this year. At least four of them are tried & true native Texans, born and bred, long-term residents of the Lone Star State!

Originally from El Paso, Satellite Communications Engineer, **Ryan Gutierrez** initially went to the Antarctic seeking a new and exciting adventure. He is on his second season and loves that it's always cold!

Maintenance Specialist, **Jesus Maldonado Jr**, from Abilene didn't believe the opportunity was real when the facilities manager reached out to him on Indeed. He filled out the application and went through the process and is now there for his first winter.



Four adventurous Texans represent our great state for the 2023 Winter-Over Season at Amundsen-Scott South Pole Station. Left to right: Satellite Communications Engineer Ryan Gutierrez from El Paso, Maintenance Specialist Jesus Maldonado from Abilene, Chef Robert "Zeke" Mills from Groves, and Supply Acquisitions/Heavy Equipment Operator Matt Hadley from Sinton, originally from Chambers County. (Photograph by: Marc Jacquart of Ice Cube)

Zeke Mills, is a Culinary Specialist and Head Chef from Groves. He helps boost morale by keeping the crew well fed. Zeke is returning for his 3rd full year and 8th season overall at the Station.

Matthew Hadley, a Warehouse Technician and Heavy Equipment Operator, originally from Chambers County and currently residing in Sinton, turned in an application as a joke. He just wanted to see what would happen if he applied. Within just a few weeks he was stepping foot onto the

frozen continent for a 13month term at the Amundsen-Scott South Pole Station.

Texas is surely well represented this winter-over at the South Pole.

As it turns out, the mothers of both Matt Hadley & Zeke Mills attended Port Neches-Groves HS and graduated only a year apart in '81 & '82. Further evidence of what a large impact Texas has even miles away!

What kind of history are our Texas boys making?

ern continent. However, it is not believed to have actually been formally discovered until sometime around 1820. There was no confirmed landing until 1895 and the poles were not reached until the early 1900's. The magnetic South Pole being reached in 1909 and the geographic South Pole being reached in 1911. It is a relatively new discovered.

show evidence of the south-

Even with Antarctica as the 5th largest continent, it is the least populated. Only about 5000 total live at the residing at the South Pole at either time.

Though there are several stations and bases around the continent, Antarctica is not considered a country. Rather, it is governed and protected by the Antarctic Treaty of 1959. This agreement between the 12 countries then operating stations on the continent protect the continent from military development. It also preserves and encourages the use of the con-

various science stations

around the continent dur-

ing the summer months.

That number then drops to

1000 or less during the win-

ter with only a small per-

centage of those actually

courages the use of the continent for scientific purposes. As other countries are added to the operations, protections have been put in place to ensure that the continent is used for scientific purposes only. Mineral and oil exploration and mining or dumping of any kind as well as any military installations or testing are prohibited in hopes of maintaining the best possible, pristine environment

Our Texas boys are among an elite few that have ever visited the South Pole and among the even fewer who have lived there.

for scientific study.

What will they endure? The Antarctic continent is covered by about 2 kilometers or just over a 1-milethick sheet of ice. Though it is a frozen wonderland, it is also considered the driest **desert** on the planet due to its lack of precipitation. During its busiest time of summer, the warmest temperatures may hover around -10 to -20 degrees Fahrenheit. Temperatures start to drop extremely fast beginning in February. During the coldest and

See THE STARS AT NIGHT ARE BIG AND BRIGHT...FROM TEXAS TO THE SOUTH POLE, Page 7

darkest months of winter,



ICECUBE NEUTRINO LAB AND THE ATMOSPHERIC RESEARCH OBSERVATORY (ARO) RUN BY NOAA

The station is run by the National Science Foundation and allows scientists from all over the world to study in the pristine atmosphere of the South Pole. Aside from the scientists, a support crew of supply, maintenance, medical and culinary specialists is also needed. Though the crew is isolated for 9 months out of the year, they must function under the best possible of conditions...what the crew calls, "harsh continent, easy living".

OPINION PAGE \bigstar \bigstar



By Jim Mills "Diamond Jim"

Missing the Old Times and Old Values

I grew up in the Houston Gardens area off of Homestead Rd, and I never once questioned my Father's income. It was never a discussion. I ate homemade meals consisting of meat, potatoes, and vegetables - (which were not an optional choice). No vegetables, no dessert!!!

I grew up during a time when we moved lawns, pulled weeds, babysat, and helped neighbors with chores. We, by no means were given everything we wanted. I went outside a lot to play, run with friends, play hide and seek, or went bike riding. I rarely just sat inside. Bottled water was unheard of. If we had a soda, it was in a glass bottle(and a treat), and I didn't break the bottle when finished. We saved it. After school, I came home, changed clothes and did homework and chores, before going outside or having friends over. We would play for hours. We had to tell our parents where we were going, who I was going with, and be home before dark, or when the streetlights came on.

You LEARNED from your parents instead of disrespecting them and treating them as if they knew absolutely nothing. What they said was LAW and you did not question it and you had better know it! I watched what we said around our elders and neighbors because I knew if I DISRE-SPECTED any grown-up, we would get a real telling off or whooping, it wasn't called abuse, it was called discipline! I held doors, carried the shopping, and gave up our seat for an older person without being asked.

You didn't hear swear words on the radio in songs or on TV. Saying

"Please and Thank you", were part of our daily vocabulary! And, every day in school, we pledged our allegiance to the United States of America.

The world we live in now is just so full of people who hate and disrespect others.

Consider Re-posting if you're thankful for your childhood. I will never forget where I came from and only wish children and people nowadays had half the chance at the fun and respect for real life we grew up with! And we were never bored! Miss those days tremendously.



ain't doin' nothin' else

It was Windy Wilson's turn, unofficially, of course, to pick a coffee counter topic of learned truth and everlasting beauty. We sorta took turns without keeping score.

"Ya know," said the old camp cook, "Been thinkin'." We gave him a second or two. Didn't work. "About what, Windy?" said Doc.

"bout leisuractuvely activities. You know, what to do when you ain't doin' nothin' else." We grinned and sipped. Good topic, Windy. This works.

"I like to read catalogs," said Herb. "You can get all kinds of ideas in them. Don't much care, really, what kind of catalogs, either. So what if I don't know a thing about wrist watches? I can always learn."

"With me," said Doc, "it's fly fishing. When I've had a hard day with lots of patients, I just want to go down to Lewis Creek and whip the surface film into a froth. Doesn't even matter if I catch anything or not."

"I hear ya," said Dud. "It's a little different with me. Working on writing that mystery ("Murder in the Soggy Bottoms") takes it outa me, you know? So I like to spend my leisure time reading things other guys wrote. After about an hour of reading what some other poor soul suffered through, I'm ready to go fishing with

Doc looked over at Windy, who had initiated this topic, but strangely seemed content to sit there and listen to the leisurely ideas of others.

"What about you, Windy? How do you unwind?"

"Well, Doc, glad you asked. Them kids was on their way home from school jest t'other day and I come crost 'em when they wasn't payin' too much tension. And I could see they hadn't figured out anythin' leisure, you know? So I told 'em 'bout my sure-fire way to relax. What I do is set down on the front porch and think about fun stuff while I pick scabs off the neighbor's dog."

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STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS **By Gary Borders**

House Democrat's Tax Plan Would Help Renters

Texas House Democrats unveiled a \$20.9 billion plan for property tax relief that drops tax rates, increases the homestead exemption, gives annual rebates to renters, and includes pay raises for teachthe Austin American-Statesman reported.

The newest proposal comes as the Legislature continues wrangling over the issue in the second special session this year.

The bill, proposed by Rep. John Bryant, D-Dallas, is a combination of previous proposals with the added wrinkle of providing benefits for renters, who do not directly pay property taxes. The proposal also would raise the state's perstudent funding to public schools by \$1,000 and give a permanent annual raise of \$4,300 for teachers.

"Our effort is one that recognizes that you can't talk about property taxes without talking about public education," Bryant said of his proposal to raise the state's basic allotment for school funding by \$1,000.

passed a proposal to increase the homestead exemption to \$100,000 and give a \$2,000 pay hike for teachers in urban districts and a \$6,000 increase to teachers in rural districts over the next two years.

PAXTON WON'T TESTIFY AT IMPEACHMENT TRIAL

Attorney General Ken Paxton won't testify at his upcoming impeachment trial in the Senate, according to his lead defense attorney, Tony Buzhee

"We will not bow to their evil, illegal, and unprecedented weaponization of state power in the Senate chamber," Buzbee said. The Senate could still try to force Paxton to testify, but Buzbee's statement makes it apparent the defense would fight those efforts, the Statesman reported.

The House impeached Paxton in late May on 20 counts of misusing his office and other alleged crimes. He was immediately sus-



pended from office pending the trial, which is set for Sept. 5. The rules adopted by the Senate give Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick as presiding officer the "power to compel the attendance of witness-

Paxton was indicted on securities fraud charges in 2015. In 2020, several whistleblowers in his office claimed he had abused his powers to assist Austin developer Nate Paul, who was charged in June with eight felony counts of making false statements to lenders.

TXDOT SEEKS INPUT ON \$100 BILLION PLAN

The Texas Department of Transportation is seeking public input on a proposed 10-year, \$100 billion transportation plan. The Unified Transportation Plan for 2024 is the agency's road map to developing projects across the state.

"It's important to work with our transportation partners and hear from the public to guide transportation improvements that address congestion and enhance safety," Marc Williams, TxDOT executive director, said.

Projects included in the plan seek to ease congestion and improve connectivity. They address all types of transportation, including aviation, rail, freight, maritime and public transportation. The public comment period ends on Aug. 7. To weigh in, go to txdot.gov and click on the public in-

STATE GETS \$60 MILLION

FROM FEDS FOR GRID



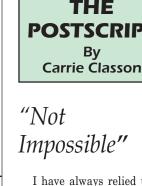
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I have always relied upon my cousin Dane.

We grew up together. I'm a year older, but he's the closest in age of my many cousins. Our families went camping together and bought a cabin up north together, and I've gotten into the habit of asking Dane for help whenever I've needed it, because Dane is the kind of guy who can be relied upon.

Dane works as a stage rigger, and he's the road manager for a band, so he has to know a lot about a lot of things. He understands electrical gadgets of every kind. He knows how audio systems and lighting work. He is quiet and mechanical and practical and laidback. His garage is the tidiest I've ever seen, with a tool of every kind, all neatly labeled.

is providing \$60.6 million to

the Texas Division of Emer-

gency Management to help

utilities strengthen the

state's power grid, the Tex-

as Tribune reported. The

grant program is funded by

the Bipartisan Infrastruc-

ture Law passed in late

modernize the electric grid

to reduce impacts of ex-

treme weather and natural

disasters while enhancing

power sector reliability,'

U.S. Secretary of Energy

Jennifer Granholm said in

will decide how to use the

money. Possibilities include

improving how power-pro-

ducing equipment performs

in extreme heat or cold, or

trimming trees near power

Since Winter Storm Uri

caused widespread outages

in 2021, other storms have

also caused power crises.

An ice storm in late Janu-

ary and early February sent

tree limbs crashing into

power lines, particularly in

Austin. In June, severe

storms swept through East

Texas, again knocking out

be distributed by the De-

partment of Energy across

the nation to address pow-

er grid reliability issues.

PROPOSED FOR HOUSTON

The four area codes serv-

ing the greater Houston

area — 281, 346, 713, and

832 — will run out of avail-

able numbers in about two

years, prompting the Pub-

lic Utility Commission of

Texas to take public com-

ments regarding a propos-

al for a fifth area code to be

added by the North Ameri-

can Planning Administra-

clude Brazoria, Chambers,

Fort Bend, Galveston, Har-

ris, Liberty, Montgomery,

San Jacinto, and Waller.

The phone numbers of ex-

isting customers would not

be affected, and customers

in the current area codes

already have to dial all 10

ment, go to this link: https:/

/tinyurl.com/44scxfs5.

SAHARAN DUST BRINGS

HAZY SKIES TO STATE

To make a public com-

Dust from Africa's Saha-

ra Desert is once again

sweeping across Texas,

making for hazy skies, pret-

tv sunsets and a reduced

chance of tropical storms

forming in the Atlantic, ac-

caused by thunderstorms

kicking up dust from the

desert and sending it sev-

eral thousand feet in the

air, where easterly winds blow it across the ocean

and, eventually, into the

suppress tropical cyclone

formation and also slow

down the intensity of the

storms that do form.

The dusty air plumes

southern United States.

The waves of dust are

cording to KXAN-TV.

digits to place local calls.

Counties affected in-

NEW AREA CODE

A total of \$2.3 billion will

power lines.

State emergency officials

a statement.

"These grants will help

He's the kind of guy who sits back in a room and listens to everyone trying to solve a problem and, after they've exhausted themselves trying to figure something out, he'll say, "You know, what you might try is..." And whatever he suggests, it will be exactly the right thing

Because I have always relied on Dane, I didn't think I could be surprised if someone said that Dane had come around to lend a hand. But last week, I was surprised.

My husband, Peter, and I were up visiting my parents while my sister, her husband and her son were on their way to California, camping along the way. My niece, Isabelle, is taking summer classes at the university and working at Target, so she stayed behind to watch the pets.

Isabelle called one night right before dinner.

"Did you hear what happened with the camper?" she said, a little breathless.

"What happened to the camper?" my mother wanted to

"It came right off the hitch! While they were on the free-"Oh, no!" my mother said.

"It did! But the chain caught

I tried to imagine careening down the highway with a popup camper attached to the back of the car with only a safety chain. It sounded awful.

"But they got off to the side of the road to fix it. Then you'll never guess what happened." "What?" my mother and fa-

ther and Peter and I all wanted to know.

"Dane came and helped them get the camper back on." This made no sense at all.

My sister and her family were in Nevada. Dane lives approximately 1,800 miles away. "Dane?"

"Dane! He said he saw them pulled off to the side of the road and he stopped to help."

I talked to Dane a little lat-

"You helped my sister with her camper—in Nevada?"

"Yup. About 30 miles out of

"How does that happen? What are the odds of that?"

"I dunno. I was driving back from the show, and I saw this camper pulled off the side of the road and I thought that looked like your sister, so I stopped."

"You realize what the odds against something like that happening are? If you read that in a novel, you'd say it couldn't happen."

"Well, it's not impossible, I guess."

That was all Dane had to say. He helped them back onto the road and headed off in the opposite direction. I thought how lucky it was to have someone as helpful as Dane show up exactly when he was neededas Dane is apt to do.

"That's crazy," I told Isabelle when I next saw her.

"It is crazy," she agreed. But not impossible, as Dane pointed out.

Till next time, Carrie



Rotary Club serves Seniors 4th of July luncheon & games



ABOVE: SENIORS WERE TREATED TO A 4TH OF JULY LUNCHEON, BY PRECINCT 3 AND THE HIGHLANDS ROTARY CLUB.

AT RIGHT: ROTARIAN PATRICIA SCOTT THROWS A BEAN BAG IN A **BASEBALL GAME THAT THE ROTARIANS PLAYED WITH THE** SENIOR CITIZENS OF THE COMMUNITY CENTER.

SPONSORS FOR THE EVENT WERE PCT. 3, SENIORS HELPING SENIORS, HIGH-TOWN INC., AND ROTARY CLUB OF HIGHLANDS.



3 lives lost in Drownings,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

ily," said Major Jesse Razo with the Harris County Sheriff's Office.

Deputies received a call around 9 p.m. on Saturday regarding a 6-year-old boy and 12-year-old girl, who went missing in the water near the park. Officials said the children were swimming, went under and never came back up.

A Marine and Dive Team deployed a robot with sonar capabilities to search the area. It found two bodies in the water. Deputies also used a K-9 during the search.

"Our divers went in and did recover two bodies. They did match the description of the children who were in the water," Razo said.

Just last month, a good Samaritan drowned in the same area after he and several men jumped in the water to save a woman

who was swimming at night. The woman and the other men made it out safe-

"You shouldn't swim at night especially in a river. The river is unpredictable... you never know it's always changing," Steven Wingate said.

Experts said these are several drowning prevention tips:

- --Wear a life jacket
- --Learn CPR --Use the buddy system
- --Know the risk of natural waters
 - --Avoid alcohol
- or hold your breath for a long time

Its steps Wingate already practices with his

"When you are around the water you have to watch your children because sometimes the boats pull up there, and it cre-

ates a hole with the propellers when they leave. Those holes can get deep, so you really have to watch your children because they can be gone like that," he

The Harris County Medical Examiner's Office will verify the identity of the victims.

Xtreme Off-Road Park said the drownings occurred at the marina side of the river and not on the part owned by the park.

"Last night 2 young children drowned at the Marina side, not Xtreme off -Don't hyperventilate road. We want to ask parents to please keep an eye on their children! The river is already a dangerous place itself, let alone at night and being left alone like these kids were. Sadly their parents were not there to watch them, this could have been avoided Condolences to the family."

ABBOTT TO SIGN PROPERTY TAX RELIEF BILL

AUSTIN - Governor Greg Abbott today released a statement on the Texas Legislature's passage of historic property tax cut legislation during Special Session #2:

"I made a promise to Texans during my campaign that the State of Texas would use at least \$13.5 billion from our historic budget surplus to provide substantial relief to property taxpayers across Texas. Today, we will deliver even more with over \$18 billion in property tax cuts. The Texas House and Senate fulfilled our promise with an agreement that delivers a comprehensive, long-lasting solution to increasingly burdensome property tax bills. I thank my partners in the Texas Legislature for coming together to honor the best interests of hardworking Texans who want to own their property—not rent it from the government. I look forward to signing this legislation into law to provide Texans with the largest property tax cut in Texas history."

Speaker Dade Phelan on the Passage of Property Tax Legislation

AUSTIN, Texas – Texas Speaker of the House Dade Phelan today issued a statement following the passage of the House's \$18 billion property tax relief package:

"I am thrilled to announce the overwhelming passage of the House and Senate's omnibus property tax legislation. The passage of this \$18 billion package is a testament to the unwavering commitment of Texas leaders to address the concerns of taxpayers and provide significant relief from the burden of escalating property taxes.

"I want to express my gratitude to the Lieutenant Governor for his productive negotiations on this matter, to State Representatives Will Metcalf, Morgan Meyer, and Charlie Geren for their relentless work to get

these bills over the finish line, and to all the members who voted to give Texas property owners the largest state property tax cut in this nation's history. Their dedication and leadership have been instrumental in making this historic achievement possible, and Texas taxpayers will be the winners because of it."

Highlights of the \$18 billion tax cut legislation in-

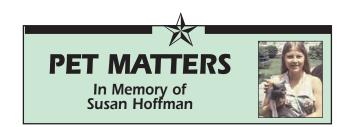
- -Over \$12 billion will be spent on reducing the school property tax rate for all homeowners and business properties.
- Every homeowner who homesteads their home (approximately 5.7 million homeowners) will get a \$100,000 homestead ex-
- emption. - Non-homesteaded

properties, valued at \$5 million and under, including residential and commercial properties, will receive a 20% circuit breaker on appraised values as a 3-year pilot project.

- In counties with a population of 75,000 or more, three members will be added to the Central Appraisal District board of directors, to be elected in nonpartisan elections. This change aims to bring diverse perspectives and accountability to the decision-making pro-

- Legislation will also include savings on the franchise tax for small business-

After the Governor signs the bill, it will still need approval from the voters in the general election in November, since it requires a Constitutional amendment to become law.





Small Dog's Aggression Is a Worry

DEAR PAW'S CORNER: I have a small, mixed-breed, mostly terrier named Cookie. He's a darling to me and my son, but to anyone else, he's a terror. He is a rescue, so I don't know what his early life was like or if he was properly socialized. But I'm worried about having company over because he will bark ferociously at any strangers. What can I do to stop this? - Janice L., Trenton, **New Jersey**

DEAR JANICE: A lack of socialization or an abusive home could be factors in Cookie's aggression. Genetics can also be at play: Some dog breeds were developed to be guard dogs or hunters and may be more aggressive if not trained well.

However, Cookie has accepted you and your son as family, and that is a positive sign. Follow these tips as you begin the process of reducing his

Never force Cookie to meet new visitors or strangers on the street. Let him approach visitors on his own, with you supervising.

- Ask visitors (and people on the street) not to approach Cookie or try to pet him.

Create a safe space where you can put Cookie when visitors arrive. A kennel cage with water, soft bed and favorite toys is ideal.

If Cookie is physically aggressive (charging or snapping), he must stay in his kennel when visitors come, and should always be leashed and wear a muzzle when walking outdoors.

Next, talk to Cookie's veterinarian about a combination of antianxiety medication along with a training routine. I recommend working with a trainer so you can implement effective training methods as quickly as possible. With love, training and care, Cookie can become a confident, less aggressive dog.

Send your tips, comments or questions to ask@pawscorner.com.

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Headline

DEAR PAW'S CORNER: Please warn your readers to watch out for a new scam targeting pet owners. These despicable people look for "Lost Pet" signs and call the owner's number, claiming that they are a nearby shelter and that they've found their pet. But there's a catch: In order to get the pet back, the owner must pay the shelter using an online payment app or by send-ing gift cards. And here's the cruelest part: The scammers don't have their pet. They just take the money and disappear. Please sound the alarm. — Denise O., San Francisco

DEAR DENISE: Absolutely, and thank you for this alert! Losing a pet is heartbreaking. Scammers always strike when we're at our most vulnerable, and it's easy to fall for their scheme when we would do anything to get our pet back home.

More details on the rise of this scam in the San Francisco area can be found here: https://tinyurl.com/3dnmtsjs.

And here's info on a similar scam in the Rochester, New York, area that targets your phone number: https://tinyurl.com/yt96mhn9. If you're contacted by someone

claiming to have found your lost pet, always use caution. Look for these red The person claims you need to

pay a fine to get your pet back, using an online payment service or gift The scammer says they need to

send you a Google verification code. The scammer refuses to send you

photo of your pet. Here's what to do next:

Call a friend and get their perspective. It's hard to think clearly when you're upset.

Call the scammer's number back. If they don't answer, or it's a wrong number, it's a scam.

 Report the scam call to the local police department. They can't recover your pet, but they can alert others in your community.

Send your tips, comments or questions to ask@pawscorner.com.

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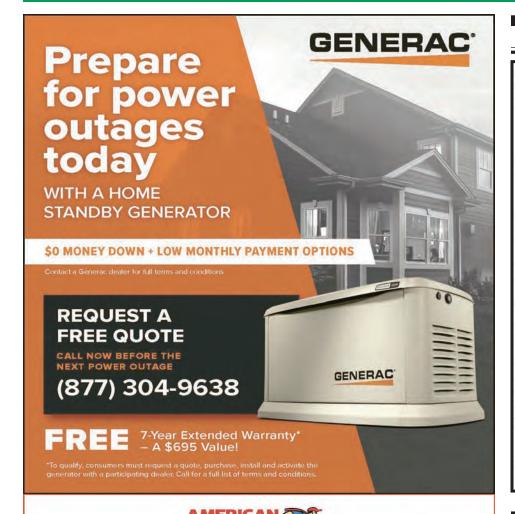


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Students residing within the Crosby Independent School District attendance boundaries, but attend private non-profits schools, may be eligible to receive supplemental educational equitable services from the following programs:

- Title I, Part A Improving Basic Programs
- Title II, Part A Preparing, Training, Recruiting High Quality Teachers, Leaders, Principals and other School Leaders
- Title III, Part A English Learners
- . Title IV, Part A Student Support & Academic Enrichment Grant

A private school must have nonprofit status to be eligible to participate in federally funded services. Private, nonprofit schools interested in learning more about the federal program services are invited to attend an informational and planning meeting on July 25, 2023, at 10:00 am or July 26, 2023, at 10:00 am. Individuals can attend this meeting in the Board Room located at 14670 FM 2100, Crosby Texas 77532. Please email a request to attend including a valid email address to ihebert@crosbyisd.org by July 21, 2023 indicating which meeting you plan to attend in-person.

All parents of students served on participating Title I campuses are also invited to attend this informational and planning meeting. Schools that receive federal program services must comply with all required federal policies and procedures.

Your input will provide the district with valuable information. Please make plans to attend this important meeting. $$^{26\text{-}2\text{T}}$$

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HELP WANTED

HELP WANTED

Cooper Power Systems LLC – Houston, TX –Lead Power Systems Engineer– Work as part of a multi-disciplinary control sys & tech engg team to analyze customer app needs & propose solutions. Serve as power sys protection SME. Pos is fixed based in Houston, TX office; However, telecommuting from a home office loc anywhere in the U.S. is allowed. Send resume to https://career41.sapsf.com/sfcareer/jobreq careerpvt?jobId=8050&company=eatoncorpo&st=4A5D3779322EC8B F69E1FD0061226C0420F7A35B, Requisition: 8050.

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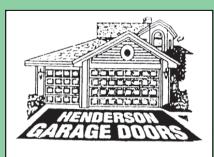
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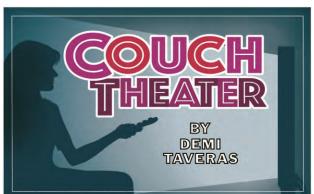
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ed series produced by Warner Bros. and DC Stu-

dios, the humble origin of one of the most popular su-

perheroes of all time takes the spotlight. Jack Quaid





From left, Teyonah Parris, Jamie Foxx and John Boyega star in "They

two interns, Paul and

Sophie, as they're hired by

the organization J.W.

Wells & Co. The firm,

headed by CEO Humphrey

Wells, claims to be behind

those coincidental mo-

ments in life that we think

of as "serendipitous." Paul,

however, is tasked by

Humphrey to find a porta-

ble door somewhere

around the firm that can

magically take one wher-

ever they wish to go. But little does Paul know that

once he finds the door, he'll

also unleash the hidden,

villainous motivations of

the firm. Christoph Waltz,

Patrick Gibson and Soph-

ie Wilde star in this film

reminiscent of the "Harry

Potter" and "Fantastic

Beasts" franchises. Out

WITH SUPERMAN"

(TV-PG) — In this animat-

"MY ADVENTURES

now. (Prime Video)

"They Cloned Tyrone"

"THEY CLONED TY-RONE" (R) - John Boyega, Jamie Foxx and Teyonah Parris play quite the stylish trio in this comedymystery film described as "Friday" (1995) meets "Get Out" (2017). Boyega (the "Star Wars" sequel trilogy) portrays drug dealer Fontaine, who gets killed by his rival, but wakes up the next day in his bed unharmed. Attempting to get to the bottom of this peculiarity, Fontaine finds his way to a government laboratory with the help of Slick Charles (Foxx) and Yo-Yo (Parris). The trio then discovers that, within this laboratory, the government has been secretly experimenting on the Black population within their neighborhood, which means it's up to them to bring this government conspiracy to light. Premieres

July 21. (Netflix) "THE PORTABLE **DOOR"** (PG-13) — Based

("The Boys") voices Clark Kent just as he's beginning to build up his superhero identity. Meanwhile, Clark breaks stories at a newspaper, the Daily Planet, alongside a pixyish Lois Lane (Alice Lee) and photographer Jimmy Olsen (Ishmel Sahid). Critics have given the show positive reviews for maintaining a character-driven story and creating a more relatable, younger Superman - in contrast to the confident, undefeatable Superman fans are normally used to watching. The first three episodes are out now, with new episodes releasing on Fridays. on the 2003 novel of the same name by Tom Holt, this fantasy film follows

"SPACE ODDITY" (PG-13) — Alex (Kyle Allen) is the son of a farmer who has his sights set far away from Earth - on Mars, to be exact. Eyeing an opportunity to travel to the Red Planet in 10 years on a one-way ticket through a private space program, Alex secures life insurance for the trip, but unexpectedly forms a rare connection with his insurance agent, Daisy (Alexandra Shipp). As Daisy and Alex spend more time together, Alex realizes his far-out dream might not be all it's cracked up to be, and his efforts might be better focused here on Earth. Although it might be heartwarming for its romantic aspects, this film could have been better focused — on the believability of its plot, characters and overall message. Kevin Bacon and Madeline Brewer co-star in "Space Oddity," premiering July 21. (Hulu) (c) 2023 King Features Synd., Inc.

The Stars at Night are Big and Bright...from Texas to the South Pole,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3



MARTIN A. POMERANTZ OBSERVATORY WHICH HOUSES THE BICEP ARRAY. THE 10-METER SOUTH POLE TELESCOPE (SPT FOR SHORT) IS HOUSED IN THE DARK SECTOR LAB (DSL) ALONG WITH BICEP 3.

temperatures are known to fall well below -80 with wind-chills dropping to -120 or lower. The coldest parts of winter can get well below -100. As many of us are complaining about our 103 + summer heat, these Texans are enduring -103 or colder. (YES, that's MINUS degrees folks!)

These temperatures are the complete opposite of the extreme heat sometimes endured in their home

Being at the bottom of the earth, the sun does not rise east to west as most of us are accustomed. The sun will move in a spiral around the horizon to its summer, high-noon peak in December. Then it will begin its spiral descent towards the horizon leaving the crew in about six months of darkness during the peak of winter. It is during this extreme darkness that our Texas boys will witness some of the most amazing views of our cosmos. The stars may be big and bright deep in the heart of Texas but this is one area where the Antarctic will certainly shine even brighter. This is also when they will witness the occurrence of the Aurora Australis, or Southern

ACROSS

Artist Chagall Witty one Infatuated - about (roughly) 13 Copper head? 14 Arkin or Alda

15 Famed circus impresario A deadly sin 18 Tuscan city 19 Rapscallions 21 Craving "- was saying ..." 25 Pocket bread 28 Chart toppers 30 Cagers' gp. 33 Author Tan 34 Highway divi-

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37 Staffer

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36 LP speed

38 College VIP

39 Luau bowlful

43 Chin covers

Cold War ini-

35 City area, for

Lights...the Antarctic version of the Aurora Borealis or Northern Lights as viewed from the northernmost regions of our planet.

Stars The Night...outshine us all! What an experience!

Why are they at the **South Pole?**

The pure climate, extreme darkness, lack of habitation and overall distance from any concentrated population of the South Pole makes it one of the best places for scientific study. The Amundsen-Scott station is home of the Martin A. Pomerantz Observatory which houses the BICEP array. The 10-meter South Pole Telescope (SPT for short) is housed in the Dark Sector Lab (DSL) along with BICEP 3. Also at Pole is the IceCube Neutrino Lab and the Atmospheric Research Observatory (ARO) run by NOAA. There are also dozens of other small experiments being run that do not have their own designated buildings. It's a quiet place where still much exploration contin-

Science and just the experience of it all was intriguing to our modern-day

An otherworldly view of the IceCube Laboratory at Amundsen-Scott South Pole Station. The <u>IceCube</u> neutrino detector is the largest in the world, with thousands of digital optical modules frozen into a cubic kilometer of ice.

Want to learn more? Visit these websites to be enlightened...

https://www.nsf.gov/geo/

opp/support/southp.jsp htp s : education.nationalgeographic.org/ resource/antarctica/ https:/ /www.britannica.com/place/ Antarctica https:// www.nasa.gov/audience/ forstudents/5-8/features/ nasa-knows/what-is-antarctica-58.html

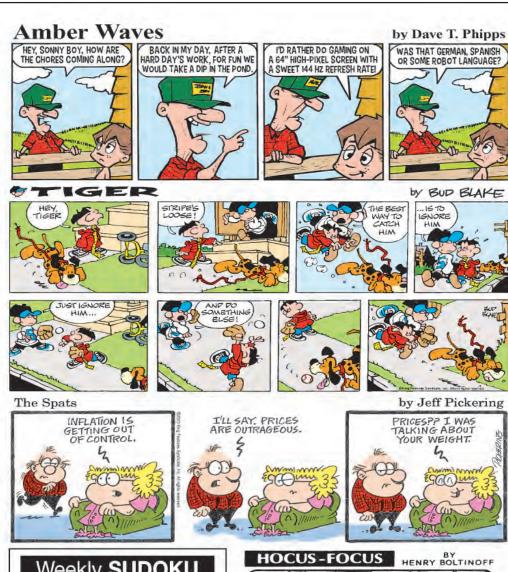
For information on the science of the station visit:

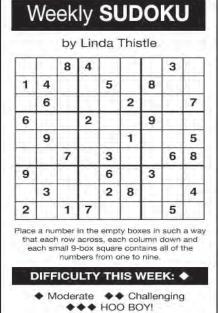
<u>h t t p s : / </u> pweb.cfa.harvard.edu/facilities-technology/telescopesinstruments/bicep https:// icecube.wisc.edu/

To view the live webcam at the station...https:// www.usap.gov/videoclipsandmaps/spwebcam.cfm

To follow the experiences of our Texas adventurers, they often post on Instagram...Matt posts as @0v3rrat3Jesus posts as @Dr.chuy92Zeke posts as @zeketravels 1536

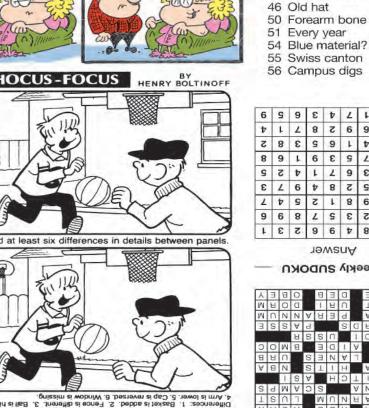
ENTERTAINMENT





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Weekly SUDOKU



Solution time: 24 mins. ANSWERS KING CTOSSWORD

July 17, 2023 Posting Date King Crossword

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57 Hefty volume 10 React in hor-58 Cotillion celeb ror 59 Follow orders 11 Picnic invad-

DOWN

Floor cleaners 20 Mama Elliot Con 3 Judicial garb

tors 5 Pallid

Jewels 54 Blue material? 8 Kitchen foil

- Dhabi

Grand parties

23 Brahmanist Brain protec-25 Standard 26 Little rascal

16 Squealer

22 Spiced tea

27 Ear membrane 29 Casual tops 31 Buddy

"Shark Tank" network © 2023 King Features Synd., Inc.

34 Set down "The

Godfather" star 40 Emulate

Lincoln 42 Resort

43 Small statue Ticklish Muppet

Tater 47 Uppity sort

48 Foolproof 49 TV trophy

52 Before

53 Tease

1. WEATHER: What is the name of the hot wind that blows from the Sahara Desert to the southern coast of Europe?

Rodriguez

2. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: What is the name of the condition of seeing human faces in random or ambiguous objects or patterns?

3. GEOGRAPHY: What is the only country that borders the United Kingdom? 4. THEATER: Which Broadway play features a

helicopter on stage? 5. LITERATURE: Who wrote the novel "One

Hundred Years of Solitude"? 6. MEDICAL: What is the common name for

the ailment called epistaxis? 7. TELEVISION: Which TV comedy popular-

ized the phrase "Yabba Dabba Do"? 8. MOVIES: What is the nickname that Steven

Spielberg gave the mechanical shark in the movie 9. HISTORY: When did the Boxer Rebellion

take place in China? 10. MATH: Which number doesn't have a cor-

responding Roman numeral? © 2022 King Features Synd., Inc.

Garcia Marquez.; 6. Nosebleed.; 7. "The Flintstones."; 8. Bruce.; 9. 1900.; 10. Zero. 1. Sirocco.; 2. Pareidolia.; 3. Republic of Ireland.; 4. "Miss Saigon."; 5. Gabriel Trivia Test Answerst



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