



IN THE STARS

JULY 27, MONDAY.
CHCC to Host New Educator Luncheon

The Crosby Huffman Chamber of Commerce is proud to announce its upcoming "New Educators Luncheon," a special event dedicated to welcoming the newest teachers and staff joining the Crosby and Huffman Independent School Districts for the 2026-2027 school year.

Set for Monday, July 27, at 12:00 PM, the luncheon will take place in the Crosby High School Cafeteria. This annual gathering serves as a bridge between the community and its schools, offering new educators the chance to connect with local business leaders, community advocates, and essential resources while officially welcoming them to the area.

"The luncheon is a chance to show our educators just how much this community values them," said a Chamber representative. "We want to ensure their first impression is a positive and memorable one."

Community Support Requested

To make the event a success, the Chamber is actively seeking support from local businesses and residents in two key areas:

Sponsors Needed: Businesses are encouraged to sponsor the event to showcase their support for educators while gaining valuable visibility within the district.

Giveaway Items: The Chamber is asking for donations of door prizes, gift cards, school supplies, and promotional items. To ensure every educator receives a meaningful welcome gift, the organization requests that all giveaway donations have a minimum value of \$50.

For sponsorship opportunities or to donate items, please contact the Crosby Huffman Chamber of Commerce directly. The event reflects the Chamber's ongoing mission to "Connect, Support, and Welcome," embodying their motto: Investing in Educators. Investing in Our Future.

Crosby Marks America's 250th Anniversary with Liberty Tree Dedication, Community Luncheon

By Gerardo Hernandez
STAFF WRITER

CROSBY - Residents gathered in Crosby to celebrate America's 250th Anniversary with a day of patriotic events highlighted by the dedication of a Liberty Tree and a community luncheon honoring the nation's historic milestone.

The celebration began at Crosby Park, where Harris County Precinct 3 Commissioner Tom S. Ramsey joined members of the Daughters of the American Revolution's Old Three Hundred Chapter for a Liberty Tree Dedication ceremony. The newly planted tree serves as a living symbol of freedom and



Harris County Precinct 3 Commissioner Tom S. Ramsey joined members of the Daughters of the American Revolution's Old Three Hundred Chapter for a Liberty Tree Dedication ceremony.

is intended to stand as a tribute to the nation's founding ideals for future generations.

The festivities continued at the George H.W.

Bush Community Center, where community members gathered for a 250th Anniversary Luncheon. Commissioner Ramsey was joined by Harris Coun-



Harris County Precinct 3 Commissioner Tom S. Ramsey joined members of the Daughters of the American Revolution's Old Three Hundred Chapter for a Liberty Tree Dedication ceremony.

ty Judge Lincoln Goodwin and Harris County Precinct 4 Constable Mark Herman as they celebrated alongside local residents. Officials thanked every-

one who attended the events, which recognized the nation's 250-year his-

Continued. See LIBERTY TREE DEDICATION, page 6

Crosby Band Boosters Ignite Fundraising Season

By David Taylor
Managing Editor

CROSBY — The days leading up to the Fourth of July are among the busiest of the year inside the TopDog Fireworks warehouse in Crosby, where customers walk the aisles looking for cakes, Roman candles, artillery shells and other holiday favorites.

But behind the registers and throughout the store, many of the workers helping customers are not regular retail employees. They are Crosby High School band students, parents and volunteers with the Crosby High School Band Booster Club, who man the warehouse each summer and New Year's as one of the band program's largest annual fundraisers.

For the booster club,



Students who are 16 and older can be trained on the registers and handle fireworks legally. Assisting customers at the checkout are from left, Angie Darbonne, president of the Booster Club; Susan Posado, fundraiser coordinator for the Booster Club; junior Emily Whittridge; junior Emma Stephen; and senior Maria Posado.

the work is more than seasonal sales. It is a way to help keep the Crosby Big Red Machine moving forward.

"The TopDog Fire-

works fundraiser is one of the most important fundraisers our program participates in each year," said Zachary Sanchez, director of bands at Crosby

High School. "The support we receive directly impacts our ability to provide meaningful opportunities for our students, helping fund instruments, equip-

ment, travel, lessons staff, and educational experiences that enrich their time in the Crosby Big Red Machine."

Booster Club president Angie Darbonne said the effort is organized through the booster organization, with TopDog personnel training adults and students on store procedures, including the registers.

"It's all through the booster club," Darbonne said. "We pretty much man the store, so we're managers of the store. TopDog comes in and trains us on the registers, and then we have parents and students come in and help. Really, the students are the ones selling the product, talking with customers

Continued. See CROSBY BAND BOOSTERS, Page 5

Highlands Rotary Club Welcomes New President for 2026-27

By Gerardo Hernandez
STAFF WRITER

HIGHLANDS TX — The start of the new Rotary year on July 1 marked a leadership transition as **Connie Russell** assumed the role of president for the 2026-27 term.

Club members welcomed Russell as the organization's new leader and expressed enthusiasm about working with her during the coming year.

The club also recognized outgoing President **Patricia Scott** for her leadership and service during the 2025-26 Rotary year, thanking her for guiding the organization through a successful term.

Rotary clubs are community service organizations dedicated to supporting local initia-



tives, promoting leadership and fostering fellowship through volunteer service and charitable projects.(Photo credit Highlands Rotary Club)

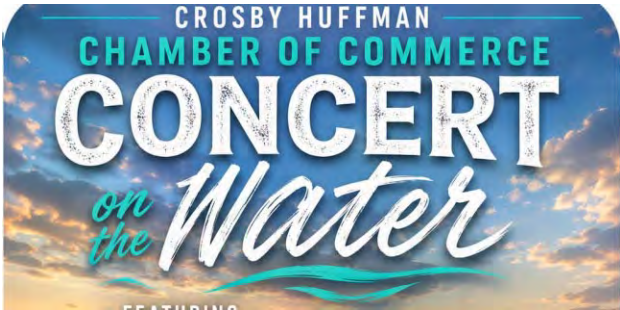
CHCC Hopes to Build on First Concert on the Water Success

By David Taylor
Managing Editor

The Crosby-Huffman Chamber of Commerce is hoping lightning strikes twice—this time with a bigger crowd, a bigger sound and another summer night on the lake.

The chamber will host its 2nd Annual Concert On The Water from 7 to 10 p.m. Saturday, July 25, at Lake Houston Brewery, bringing live music, raffles, sponsorship opportunities and a waterfront atmosphere back to one of the community's newer summer traditions.

This year's headliner will be Sundance Head, the Texas country artist who won NBC's "The Voice" and was also a semi-finalist on "American Idol."



He will perform an acoustic set, followed by the Kingwood Dad Bods, a band described as bringing an '80s and '90s feel that should have the crowd ready to dance.

Tim Pattison of Skero's Furniture, who is chairing the event for the chamber, said the idea is to create a relaxed, community-friendly evening with a lakeside feel.

"One other thing I didn't

add was Sundance Head is going to do an acoustic version," Pattison said. "My whole thought was to do a Jimmy Buffett-type style or Kenny Chesney-type with a local celebrity, which Sundance is."

Pattison said the chamber is keeping tickets affordable, with individual admission available through the chamber for

Continued. See CROSBY-HUFFMAN, Page 2

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NCUA

Crosby-Huffman Chamber Concert on the water builds momentum,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

\$20 per person.

“If it’s date night for y’all or whatnot, we’d love for you to get a table, but if you want to come and just be a part of the fun, then come on,” Pattison said. “I’ve heard there’ll be about 250 people there. That’s my goal.”

The event also will include a raffle featuring two Adirondack-style chairs with a center table, along with a queen mattress and a recliner. Presale raffle tickets are \$5 each or five for \$20.

The chamber is also seeking additional sponsors. Pattison said Trusted Insurance and Visiting Angels have already stepped up as major sponsors, helping the chamber get the event moving. Platinum tables, located closest to the stage area, are available for \$600, while silver tables are available for \$400. Sponsorships also include banner opportunities for \$300, along with dockside and anchor sponsorships designed to give smaller businesses a way to participate.

“The reason we did that was because if a company that was small wanted to contribute but yet wasn’t able to do the \$600 or the \$400, it gave them the opportunity to be involved in it,” Pattison said.

Businesses can also receive exposure through table tents and banners placed around the venue.

“It would be so awesome in this event if you would get your business exposed on one of the railings right there by the front,” Pattison said.

Last year’s inaugural Concert On The Water, also hosted by the chamber at Lake Houston Brewery, drew more than 150 attendees, according to a Star-Courier report published July 22, 2025. The event featured local acts Bluebonnet Bastards and The Twenty Twos and was presented by Trusted Insurance Group. Attendees arrived by car, by boat and from the brewery restaurant, helping push attendance beyond the chamber’s initial expectations.

At the time, Toni Handley of the chamber said the first event was created to give the community a family-friendly summer gathering while also supporting the nonprofit organization’s work.

“This is our first annual concert on the water. We wanted to try and bring a community-friendly, fami-



ly-friendly event to the chamber for raising money,” Handley told the Star-Courier last year. “The chamber is a non-profit, and in order for us to continue to support businesses within the Crosby and Huffman communities, we have to keep our doors open too. So, this was the first of many concerts on the water.”

Handley also said last year’s event began with about 105 people through presales and VIP tables before adding another 40 to 50 attendees throughout the evening.

The chamber later thanked Trusted Insurance Group, Lake Houston Brewery, Skero’s Furniture and Mattress, Visiting Angels, Alliance Properties, Crystal A/C and Courtyard by Marriott for helping make the inaugural event a success.

Pattison said this year’s concert continues that same spirit.

“This is truly a team effort,” Pattison said. “Everything we do at the chamber is a team effort. Last year was our first year for the Concert on the Water. It was very successful and a lot of fun. So I’m looking forward to this one this year.”

Lake Houston Brewery has become a natural home for the event, offering a waterfront setting that fits the chamber’s goal of creating a casual summer night of music, food, drinks and community connection.

For the chamber, the concert is more than entertainment. It is also a way to promote local businesses, create sponsorship opportunities and build on the momentum of an event that quickly found an audience.

Tickets and sponsorship information are available through the Crosby-Huffman Chamber of Commerce.

Here are strong, single-line newspaper headlines: **Sundance Head Headlines Concert On The Water (Best choice)**

Chamber Brings Concert On The Water Back Concert On The Water Returns July 25

Lakeside Concert Returns Bigger Than Ever Sundance Head Brings Country To Crosby

Chamber’s Waterfront Concert Makes Encore

Lake Houston Brewery Hosts Summer Concert

Concert On The Water Builds Momentum Waterfront Concert Promises Big Summer Night

Crosby-Huffman Chamber Rocks The Lake

For a traditional local newspaper, “**Sundance Head Headlines Concert On The Water**” is the strongest. It highlights the biggest news angle—the nationally known performer—while immediately telling readers what the story is about.

Child Injured by Suspected Celebratory Gunfire in Channelview

By Gerardo Hernandez
STAFF WRITER

CHANNELVIEW — A 9-year-old child was injured Saturday night after being struck by a bullet while celebrating Independence Day with family in the backyard of a Channelview home, according to the Harris County Sheriff’s Office.

Sheriff Ed Gonzalez said the incident occurred at a residence in the 1500 block of Park Drive. Investigators believe the child was hit by a bullet fired during celebratory gunfire somewhere in the area.

The child suffered a gunshot wound to the arm and was transported to a local hospital. Authorities said the child was listed in fair condition.



The source of the gunfire has not been identified, and detectives continue to investigate the incident.

The Harris County Sheriff’s Office is asking anyone with information about the shooting or those responsible for firing weapons into the air to contact investigators at **713-221-6000** or **Crime**

Stoppers of Houston at 713-222-TIPS (8477). Tips may be submitted anonymously.

Law enforcement officials routinely warn that celebratory gunfire can have deadly consequences because bullets fired into the air eventually return to the ground with enough force to seriously injure or kill innocent bystanders.

New world Screwworm Cases Up to 15

By Gary Borders,

As of Sunday, the number of confirmed New World Screwworm cases totaled 15. The Texas Animal Health Commission has placed a quarantine on parts of Coke, Edwards, Gillespie, Kerr, Kimble, La Salle, Schleicher, Sutton, Tom Green, Uvalde, Val Verde, Webb and Zavala

counties. All warm-blooded animals in a quarantine zone may not be moved without prior authorization from TAHC.

Federal and state agencies are working together to eradicate the NWS by introducing sterile male flies into affected areas. Abbott has issued a statewide disaster proclamation in response. The pest lays its

eggs in open wounds, then the eggs hatch into larvae that feast on living flesh. While it is mostly found in cattle, one case has been found in a dog.

TAHC is urging livestock and pet owners to stay vigilant, monitor their animals, and report any suspicions of NWS infestations by calling 1-800-550-8242.

Summer Kids Enjoy Texas-Themed Show, Fire Department Cool-Off



By Gerardo Hernandez
STAFF WRITER

CROSBY TX — Children attending the Crosby Community Center’s Summer Kids program enjoyed a day of music, dancing and outdoor fun during a special Texas-themed performance.

The program featured “T for Texas,” an interactive show that had youngsters singing, dancing and

participating in a variety of activities.

Following the performance, members of the Crosby Volunteer Fire Department visited the community center and treated the children to a refreshing water spray, helping them cool off from the summer heat while adding another highlight to the day’s activities.

The visit from the firefighters capped off a mem-

orable day for the Summer Kids program, giving participants an opportunity to interact with local first responders while enjoying an afternoon of family-friendly entertainment.

Community center staff thanked the Crosby Volunteer Fire Department for helping make the event a fun and memorable experience for the children.

Rural Counties Face Hurdles in Regulating Data Centers

By Gary Border,

Rural counties trying to slow or even block data center construction are finding they have limited legal authority, the Texas Standard reported. Hill County, for example, rescinded a one-year moratorium on data center construction after being sued for \$100 million by a company planning a large-scale data center project near Hillsboro.

RCM Hill argued that the county lacked the legal authority to impose the temporary ban, which came after the company had already secured contracts for more than 800 acres for more than \$80 million.

“You’re not going to see anybody else trying a moratorium at this point because they’ve seen what happens when you do it,” said Robert Paterson, a professor at the University of Texas at Austin who specializes in land use law. “You basically just get clubbed with a ridiculous amount of money.”

In Hood and Somervell counties, both southwest of Fort Worth, at least nine proposed data center projects are under consideration. Concerned citizens are filling county commissioner meetings, saying the projects could raise electricity bills, strain water resources, and harm tourism.

Earlier this month, Gov. Greg Abbott ordered the Public Utility Commission to ensure that new data centers actually reduce residential electric bills and proposed that new laws be passed during next year’s legislative session to further regulate the data centers.



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VOL. 31, NO. 26

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THURSDAY, JULY 9, 2026

MONT BELVIEU, TEXAS 77580

Mont Belvieu City Marks Completion of New Wastewater Treatment Plant Project

By Gerardo Hernandez
STAFF WRITER

MONT BELVIEU — City officials, staff and community leaders gathered June 24 to celebrate the completion of Mont Belvieu's new Cotton Bayou Wastewater Treatment Plant, cutting the ribbon on a major infrastructure project aimed at supporting the city's rapid growth for decades to come.

The project doubles the plant's treatment capacity from 1.5 million gallons per day to 3 million gallons per day, providing additional capacity for new homes, businesses and future development as Mont Belvieu continues to expand.

The upgraded facility includes new aeration basins, clarifiers, sludge holding tanks, headworks screening equipment, tertiary filters, chemical and electrical buildings, pump stations and an emergency backup generator. The improvements are designed to increase the reliability and efficiency of the city's wastewater system while ensuring it can meet growing demand.

During the June 24 ribbon-cutting ceremony, city officials described the project as a long-term investment in Mont Belvieu's future.



"This isn't just a new facility—it's an investment in the future of Mont Belvieu, ensuring our city is ready to serve residents today and for generations to come," the city said in announcing the completion of the project. "The future is bright here in Mont Belvieu."

The wastewater treatment plant is one of several infrastructure projects undertaken by the city in recent years to keep pace with its steady residential and commercial growth. Located in western Chambers County, Mont Belvieu has become one of the fastest-growing communities in the Houston metropolitan area, driven by new housing developments, expanding business activity and its proximity to the region's energy industry.

City officials have emphasized that investing in critical infrastructure such as water and wastewater systems is essential to maintaining reliable public services while accommodating future growth. The completion of the Cotton Bayou Wastewater Treatment Plant expansion represents a significant step toward meeting those long-term needs and positioning the city for continued success. (Photo credit to MB facebook and ITX Industrial TX Corp website)

Barbers Hill Eagles Names Amanda Tacquard New Head Volleyball Coach

MONT BELVIEU — Barbers Hill High School has selected Amanda Tacquard as its new head volleyball coach, bringing an experienced educator and coach to lead one of the area's premier volleyball programs.

Tacquard, a native of Santa Fe, Texas, joins the Eagles along with her family. She has more than 17 years of coaching ex-



perience, including 14 years in Alvin ISD and Santa Fe ISD and the past three years as a head volleyball coach.

A former collegiate volleyball player, Tacquard began her career in education as a teacher and coach, developing student-athletes both in the classroom and on the court.

In a statement announcing her hiring,

Tacquard said she is excited to become part of the Barbers Hill community and looks forward to leading the Lady Eagles program.

"My goal is to inspire confidence, foster leadership and prepare student-athletes to thrive on and off the volleyball court," she said.

Barbers Hill ISD welcomed Tacquard to the Eagle family, expressing confidence

that her experience and leadership will continue the tradition of excellence established by the Lady Eagles volleyball program.

Tacquard is expected to begin preparing the team for the upcoming high school volleyball season as Barbers Hill looks to remain among the top programs in the region.

Barbers Hill's Salt Dome Theatre Company Secures Second Place at UIL State One Act Play Meet with "The Elephant Man"

MONT BELVIEU - Barbers Hill High School's Salt Dome Theatre Company continued its legacy of excellence on the state stage, earning a second-place finish at the UIL State One Act Play Meet with its powerful production of *The Elephant Man*.

The Eagles also brought home multiple individual honors, highlighting the depth of talent within the company and the strength of the program's decades-long tradition in Texas high school theatre.

Leading the production was senior Parker Wright, whose portrayal of John Merrick earned two of the competition's highest hon-

ors — Best Performer and Overall Outstanding Performer. The recognition marks only the second time in school history that a Barbers Hill student has received the prestigious Best Performer distinction during the program's 24 appearances at the UIL State Meet.

Additional honors for the company included:

-State All-Star Cast — Parker Files as Dr. Frederick Treves

-State Honorable Mention All-Star Cast — Grayson Fisher as Ross

Bernard Pomerance's *The Elephant Man*, originally written in 1977 and later awarded the Tony Award for Best Play, tells



the story of Joseph Merrick, a severely deformed man living in 19th-century

England. The emotionally demanding production follows Merrick's

rescue from a sideshow exhibition by Dr. Frederick Treves and his eventual journey toward dignity and acceptance within London society. The play is widely regarded as one of the most challenging and rewarding works in one-act competition theatre due to its emotional complexity and technical demands.

Under the direction of Sarah Kouba and Technical Director Chris Irwin, the Salt Dome Theatre Company spent more than four months preparing the production for competition. The One Act Play season requires extensive dedication from every member of the company,

including performers, technicians, designers and crew members, each playing a vital role in the success of the production.

The state runner-up finish adds another milestone to Barbers Hill's storied One Act Play tradition, which has become one of the most respected programs in Texas UIL theatre competition.

With another state trophy added to its collection and individual honors recognizing standout performances, Barbers Hill's Salt Dome Theatre Company once again demonstrated why it remains among the premier high school theatre programs in Texas.

A Tribute to America’s 250th Anniversary

As our community reflects on the celebration of Independence Day and the nation’s 250th anniversary, we pause to honor the courage, vision and sacrifice of those who dared to imagine a free nation.

On July 4, 1776, the founders adopted words that have inspired generations of Americans:

“We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.”

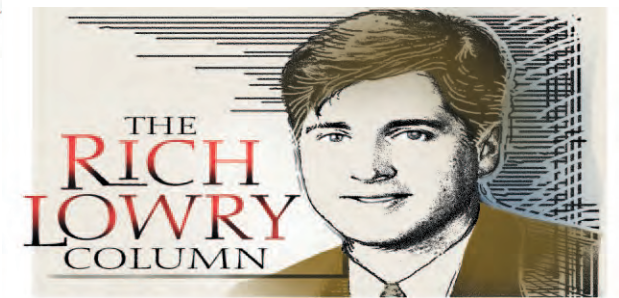
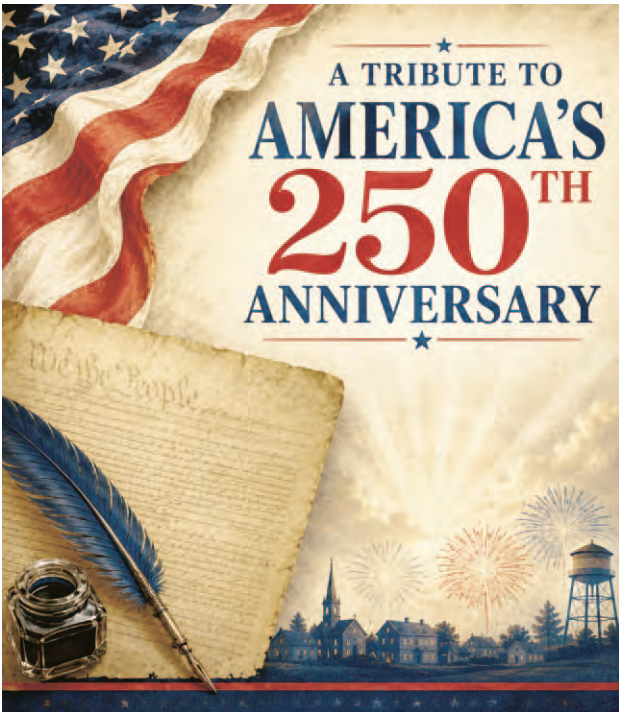
For two and a half centuries, those enduring principles have challenged each generation to preserve liberty, strengthen democracy and build a more perfect union. Freedom carries both privilege and responsibility.

As the fireworks fade and the celebrations conclude, the ideals expressed in the Declaration of Independence remain as meaningful today as they were in 1776. May we continue to honor those who have defended our liberties, strengthen our communities, and inspire future generations to uphold the values that unite us.

The celebration may have passed, but the promise of America—and the enduring pursuit of liberty, equality and opportunity—continues every day.

Happy 250th Anniversary, America.

-The North Channel Star Editorial Staff



Trump’s Three Retreats

President Trump has been musing about whether he's the most powerful man in world history, and judging by the results lately, the answer is definitely "no."

It's certainly true that Trump has technical tools at his disposal that would have astounded famous pre-20th-century contenders for the title of most powerful man, whether Caesar, Alexander the Great, Charlemagne or Napoleon.

Trump's power, though, isn't defined by, say, the precision and explosive punch of the Tomahawk missile. As the leader of a constitutional republic that disperses power and depends ultimately on democratic consent, Trump is operating under constraints that routinely blunt his ambitions.

If the theme of the first year of his second term was aggression on all fronts, his second year has so far been defined by significant retreats.

Late last year, Trump surged DHS forces into Minneapolis, seeking to make an example of the Twin Cities after Somali immigrants were implicated in welfare fraud schemes. When the operation was met by fierce opposition from city and state leaders and resistance in the streets, the Trump administration steeled itself for a gargantuan test of wills — before Trump, realizing he was losing the battle of political optics, sent Tom Homan to Minneapolis to unwind the operation.

Last month, the Department of Justice settled Donald Trump's \$10 billion suit against the IRS over the leak of his tax returns. The department agreed to create a \$1.8 billion fund for the compensation of victims of Democratic lawfare, a slush fund for his allies, presumably including Jan. 6 rioters. Faced with adverse legal rulings and opposition in the Senate, the administration abandoned the scheme that it had initially touted as a means to "right the wrongs that were previously done while ensuring this never happens again."

Then, of course, Trump signed a ceasefire with Iran that wasn't close to the "unconditional surrender" that he had once demanded. The 14-point agreement included more U.S. than Iranian concessions, and Trump admitted that the Iranian closure of the Strait of Hormuz had forced his hand.

TITLE: None of these were incidental initiatives. They all involved core commitments of this president — to mass deportation, to turning on its head the lawfare campaign against him and to denying the Iranian regime a nuclear weapon.

They were also overreaches that displayed a heedlessness born of hubris. Trump had already driven down overall migration when he surged into Minneapolis; already pardoned the Jan. 6 rioters when his DOJ created the weaponization fund; and already struck a punishing blow against the Iranian nuclear program via Midnight Hammer when he launched Operation Epic Fury.

Trump isn't one for incremental progress toward an objective. He prefers the grand gesture and big gamble. He's drawn to the bridge too far when a drive a couple of blocks down the street would do just fine.

The worry about Trump was that he'd be unconstrained in his second term, and indeed, he's fashioned a team that is loath to tell him "no." But he's subject to checks from the other branches of government and, even more, from routine political pressures.

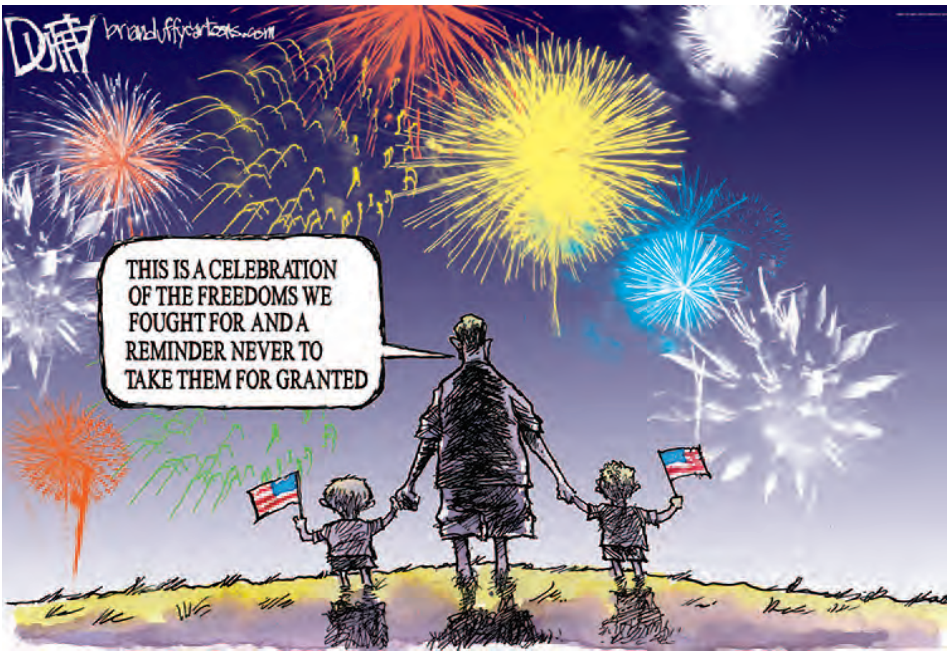
There was nothing that formally compelled him to remove DHS forces from Minneapolis or to relieve the military pressure on Iran, both of which were within his legitimate powers. It was the poor polling and the potential damage to Republican prospects in the midterms that obliged Trump to declare victory and go home.

The president may enjoy thinking of how he can do things that a Roman emperor never would have imagined, yet Marcus Aurelius wasn't hypersensitive to how stories were playing in the mass media, or to the latest public-opinion surveys.

As the creature of a democratic republic, Trump inherently is mindful of those considerations, which is one reason that it's been a year of retreats. Trump, surely, doesn't think of it that way. As Gen. Oliver Smith put it during the Korean War, he's merely attacking in a different direction — although not the one he'd intended.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.
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STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Gary Borders



Cornyn: Closed Primaries Could Backfire on Texas GOP

Sen. John Cornyn is warning Texas GOP leaders that closing party primaries would be “paving the way to minority party status,” The Texas Tribune reported.

The Texas Republican Party and its top elected leaders are pushing to require voters to register with a party, thereby prohibiting them from crossing over in party primaries. Texas is one of 17 states with open primaries.

Cornyn, who was defeated for reelection in a runoff by Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton, commented on an op-ed published in The Dallas Morning News, sharing its title — “Closed primaries are a threat to Texas voters.” He added, “Exactly,” and “Democrats haven’t turned Texas blue; Republican’s [sic] might.”

Paxton has joined the GOP’s pending lawsuit to strike down open primaries in court.

SUPREME COURT RULING COULD AFFECT 147K TPS RECIPIENTS IN TEXAS

The U.S. Supreme Court’s ruling that the Trump administration can revoke Temporary Protected Status for immigrants from Haiti and Syria means more than 147,000 migrants in Texas under the program face imminent risk of arrest and deportation, the Texas Standard reported.

Texas hosts one of the largest concentrations of TPS holders in the nation, and University of Houston constitutional law professor Seth Chandler said the ruling has dramatic consequences for them.

“It basically streamlines the ability of the Trump administration to revoke TPS status, not just for the Haitians and Syrians who were litigating in the case the Supreme Court decided today, but with respect to Hondurans, Nepalis, Af-



ghans, and perhaps critically for Houston, potentially Venezuelans as well,” Chandler said.

The decision could have economic consequences, since many immigrants in the country under TPS work in sectors already experiencing labor shortages.

“If you look at our plaintiffs in the Syria case, for example, we have a highly sought-after pediatrician,” said Hussein Elbakri, attorney at the International Refugee Assistance Project.

“We have somebody who is a special needs teacher by day and is training to be a nurse at night. We have construction workers. We have people in the food services industry, and we have many, many people, especially in the Haitian community, who are home health care workers, Elbakri said.

TESLA ACCUSED OF ALLOWING TOXIN RELEASE FROM REFINERY

Two Texas property owners have filed a class action suit against Tesla, accusing the company of dumping toxins from its lithium refinery near Corpus Christi onto their property, according to the Houston Chronicle. They claim that Tesla has violated its state-issued wastewater discharge permit by allowing contaminated water to flow onto their property.

The company’s permit allows it to discharge up to

231,000 gallons a day of treated industrial water into Baffin Bay, according to state records. A review of the water leaking into a drainage ditch by lab hired by the Nueces County Drainage District revealed two toxic metals — arsenic and the carcinogen hexavalent chromium, as well as elevated levels of other chemicals.

Tesla did not respond to a request for comment.

MAJORITY OF TEXANS OPPOSE DATA CENTERS IN THEIR COMMUNITY

A new poll from the University of Texas’ Texas Politics Project indicates that a majority of Texans oppose having data centers in their community, according to the Texas Standard. The state has become the nation’s top destination for data centers, which provide the infrastructure for artificial intelligence and cryptocurrency mining.

The poll found 43% of Republicans oppose data centers, while 42% support their construction. More than 60% of people who identify as Democrats oppose new data centers.

“I think people are objecting for different reasons,” said James Henson, director of the polling center. “On one hand, lots of environmental concerns about water and resource use. But if you’re living next to these data centers or in the region... they have a big impact on people’s lives.”

Both Gov. Greg Abbott and Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick have made regulation of data centers a legislative priority in next year’s session.

TEXAS GOP ELEPHANT LACKED MANDATORY PERMIT

When Paige the elephant made an appearance at the recent GOP state convention in Houston, its owner did not acquire the required city permit to bring wild animals into the city, The Dallas Morning News reported.

Public records acquired by the paper indicate Trunks and Humps, the elephant’s owner, has been cited repeatedly for federal animal welfare violations and failed to apply for a permit before bringing Paige to the June 12 convention.

The elephant arrived as the finale to Abbot’s speech. A video of the event went viral after the elephant urinated on the convention floor.

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

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THE POSTSCRIPT

By Carrie Classon

Beautiful Houses



Every day, I walk by dozens of beautiful houses.

I am an admirer of grand old houses. I live downtown, just blocks away from some of the oldest neighborhoods in the city, where lumber barons and early merchants built their houses when the city was young. I admire the tall and pointed windows, the large trees in front, the ornate brickwork, the pointy roofs and occasional turrets (I admire the turrets so much that I wrote a book called “The Turnip House” about a house with a turret that looks like an upside-down turnip.)

I walk down the sidewalks, admiring these lovely houses, often at night, and sometimes I even peep through the windows. It’s hard not to when the windows are large and the lights are on. (My friend Verne calls me a Peeping Tom, and he may be just a little bit right.)

But I love the woodwork and the 8-foot Christmas trees put up for the holidays. I admire the antique furniture and the lights shining through the stained glass. Some of the houses still have slate roofs. Some have wooden shingles. All of them have a character and charm and lasting beauty that makes me enormously grateful their owners have preserved them and that they are standing so proudly on the street for everyone to enjoy.

And right after I have enjoyed looking at a particularly beautiful house, I’m glad I don’t own it.

I’ve never owned a large house, but I once owned a rather small old farmhouse. I sanded every floor in that house and covered the floors with polyurethane. I sanded the cedar siding down to bare wood and painted it twice. I tiled the backplash and replaced the furnace and insulated every wall inside. I no longer remember what all I did to that old farmhouse, and I honestly don’t remember hating the work at the time.

But because the house was nearly 100 years old, something would go wrong. The front porch foundation disintegrated. The septic tank was prone to clogging, and when it was dug out, I discovered I had not one septic tank but three — one after the other — heading off into the thick woods that were part of the property.

And yes, there are parts of it I miss. The quiet of that wooded spot. The creak of the old boards beneath my feet. The endless collection of wildlife parading past my windows. The brilliant maple leaves I looked into as I took a bath. I have many wonderful memories of living in that farmhouse. But when I am honest, I am glad they are a memory.

Because owning an old house is constant and unending work.

This is why I am so glad there are people (people other than me) who are happy to do it. There was a time when many of the grand old houses I walk by every day were in ruins. It took a tremendous amount of work and money — far, far more than my little farmhouse — to get those houses to look the way they do today, and I hope their owners get many years of enjoyment and pass them on to their families to do the same.

But I know what an old house needs. And right now, it feels good to know that this condo is enough. Our little apartment in Mexico is enough. I am happy with a life that is comfortable and easy, even if it is not grand. I can visit beautiful houses every day just by walking down the sidewalk — or by writing a story.

Till next time,
Carrie

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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., 5832 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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Crosby band boosters turn fireworks sales into student support,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

and working the registers, and we only step in when there's a need.”

Darbonne said students who are 16 and older can take on more responsibilities in the store, while younger students help in limited roles such as greeting customers and bringing baskets in from the parking lot. Ninth- and 10th-graders are required to work two shifts during the season, while students 16 and older are required to work six shifts, she said. Each shift runs about four to five hours.

The work also ties into scholarship opportunities for band students.

“Working TopDog is part of the requirements,” Darbonne said, explaining that participation is one of the qualifications for seniors seeking band scholarships. “It’s pretty much the biggest qualification to receive a band scholarship.”

The booster club receives 10 percent of sales as long as the store balances, Darbonne said. Those funds help cover a wide range of expenses for the band program, including snacks for away football games, meals on contest days, private lesson teachers and clinicians who work with students on music and marching.

“We use the money for a variety of things,” Darbonne said. “The biggest portion of it goes toward private lessons, private lesson teachers and clinicians to come out and specialize and help give feedback for the kids, for their music and for their marching.”



Senior Samantha Hamilton is joined by juniors William Maness and Alyssa Mooney who have gathered a slew of fireworks to fulfill an order for a customer. The students worked the late shift on Monday from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m.

The Crosby warehouse began selling for the season on June 24 and will remain open through the holiday rush. Darbonne said the store will stay open until 1 a.m. after July 4 and will also have shorter hours on July 5 because of an extended state sales window connected to the 250th celebration.

For customers, Darbonne said the warehouse offers several advantages over smaller roadside stands, including air conditioning, more room to shop and a larger selection. Shoppers can take their time walking through the aisles, compare prices and scan QR codes on products to see what kind of show each item provides.

“It’s great to shop because you have AC, and it’s so hot outside,” Darbonne said. “It’s nice to be able to pick up a basket and just kind of meander

through the store and check prices. You can take your time.”

Students also help customers choose items and build the type of fireworks display they want. Some products include buy-one-get-one deals, including select cakes, Roman candles and swords, according to student volunteers.

Darbonne said business typically builds as the Fourth of July gets closer, with the biggest crowds expected July 3 and 4. While the early part of the season had brought a few large sales, she said the steady rush had not yet arrived.

“That’s typical,” she said. “I’m just thankful the community supports the band.”

Sanchez, who was appointed head band director in May after serving as assistant band director since fall 2021, said the fundraiser is one more ex-

ample of the community’s role in supporting the program.

“Having spent the past five years working with our students, families, and staff, it has been an incredible honor to step into this leadership role,” Sanchez said. “I am deeply grateful for the support of our community, and fundraisers like TopDog Fireworks allow us to continue building a program that provides exceptional experiences and lasting memories for our students.”

Fireworks Safety Rules

—Know where you can legally shoot fireworks. All local cities ban shooting fireworks within their boundaries. Additionally, fireworks may not be shot within 600 feet of a church, hospital, day care center or school, within 100 feet of a place where flammable liquids or fireworks are stored and may



Junior Brett Charles assists senior Ethan Lucas as they continually stock the warehouse with new deals on each aisle of the store. Seniors who may be seeking scholarship opportunities must work shifts in the store each year.

not be thrown from a motor vehicle.

—Always read and follow label directions.

—Have an adult present. Supervise children—fireworks are not toys!

—Always shoot fireworks on level ground away from buildings and vegetation.

—Stay away from illegal explosives. Never experiment or make your own fireworks.

—Always have water handy (a garden hose or a bucket).

—Never try to re-light a “dud” firework. (Wait 15-20 minutes and then, if it doesn’t go off, soak it in a bucket of water and dispose of it safely.)

—Light only one fire-

work at a time.

—Never throw or point fireworks at other people.

—The shooter should wear eye protection. Never have any part of your body over the firework.

—Dispose of fireworks properly by soaking them in water and then disposing of them in your trash can. Do not put fireworks that are still hot in the trash can—this can lead to house and/or garage fires.

—If necessary to store fireworks, keep them in a cool, dry place.

—And be courteous to your neighbors. Don’t shoot fireworks in the early morning hours and pick up your debris.

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Atom X



Liberty tree dedication highlights an historic nation’s 250th anniversary,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

tory while bringing the Crosby community together in a spirit of patriotism and civic pride.

The celebration was hosted by Commissioner Ramsey’s office in partnership with local organizations and community leaders.



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Pursuant to Chapter 59 of the Texas Property Code, Crosby Boat, RV & Mini Storage at 15118A FM 2100, Crosby, TX 77532, will hold an online auction to satisfy a landlord’s lien at <http://wbauctioncrosby.hibid.com/auction/current> from, July 06, 2026 to July 13, 2026 at 10:00 a.m. Unit H-7, Donvan Nash, includes but is not limited to: washer/dryer, trampoline, microwave, heavy duty large (possible 18 wheeler) tarps, and miscellaneous items.

NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE OF SALE

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Notice is hereby given that Original Letters Testamentary for Docket No. 544192; Estate of ARTHUR L. SANDS Deceased; In Probate Court No. 5 of Harris County, Texas, were issued on JUNE 18, 2026 to:

STAR L. HILL

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 JUNE 24, 2026

Weston Cotten
by WESTON COTTEN
Attorney for the Estate

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Chiwetel Ejiofor stars in "Backrooms."

“Backrooms.”

“**Obsession**” (R) — No doubt you’ve heard the buzz all over the internet about this supernatural horror film! Shot with a budget of \$750,000, this film became Focus Features’ highest-grossing film of all time with grosses of \$371 million. “Obsession” follows music store employee Bear (Michael Johnston), who has a crush on one of his co-workers, Nikki (Inde Navarrette). (Sounds normal enough so far.) Before hanging out with Nikki and a few other co-workers, Bear decides to buy her a novelty toy that grants one wish per person when broken. Later that evening, Bear breaks the toy himself in frustration and wishes that Nikki would “love him more than anyone in the

world.” Shortly after, their relationship finally turns romantic, but what follows isn’t for the faint of heart. Out now to rent. (Apple TV)

“**Backrooms**” (R) — Eating at the heels of the previous entry is this psychological sci-fi film starring Chiwetel Ejiofor (“The Old Guard 2”) and Renate Reinsve (“Sentimental Value”). This film was produced with a budget of \$10 million and has grossed \$330 million, making it A24’s highest-grossing film to date. Add on top of it that it was directed by 21-year-old Kane Parsons in his feature-length directorial debut, and it’s nothing short of a filmmaking phenomenon. (Parsons also scored the film alongside Edo Van Bree-men.) Taking place in

June 1990, the film follows Clark (Ejiofor), the owner of a furniture store, who struggles with alcohol and marriage issues. While in his store, he encounters a glowing slit in one of the walls, where he’s able to enter a chilling reality called “The Backrooms.” Eventually, Clark fully disappears into The Backrooms, leaving none other than his therapist, Mary (Reinsve), to attempt to get him out. Available to rent on July 7. (Amazon Prime Video)

“**The Five-Star Weekend**” (TV-MA) — Jennifer Garner (“The Last Thing He Told Me”) leads this heartwarming drama miniseries that drops on July 9, and it’s based on the 2023 novel from Elin Hilderbrand. Garner portrays food influencer Hollis Shaw, whose world gets unexpectedly turned upside down when she receives news that her husband died in an accident. Ever productive and stuck in her domestic ways, Hollis decides to host a girls’ weekend at her house with four friends from different chapters throughout her life. As Hollis tries to process her grief, each of her friends grapples with obstacles of their own. Regina Hall (“One Battle After Another”), Chloe Sevigny (“After the Hunt”), D’Arcy Carden (“Sunny Nights”), and Gemma Chan (“Josephine”) co-star. (Peacock)

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Q: Is it true that Zendaya and Tom Holland are married? There have been rumors about it, but was it ever confirmed? — A.O.

A: Fashion stylist and TV personality Law Roach let it slip back in March that engaged A-listers Zendaya and Tom Holland (both of the most recent “Spider-Man” franchise) secretly wed. Neither of the stars confirmed the nuptials until June, when the very private Holland pretty much admitted to a reporter that it was true. But he stayed mum on the details, simply stating that his relationship with Zendaya is “the happiest [he’s] ever been.”

The newlyweds are starring in the upcoming Christopher-Nolan-directed epic film “The Odyssey,” which will be released in theaters on July 17. They’ll also return in “Spider-Man: Brand New Day,” which releases in theaters on July 31.

Q: What ever happened to the show “S.W.A.T.” with one of my favorite actors, Shemar Moore? I think I’ve seen all the episodes, but I’m not certain. — S.A.

A: “S.W.A.T.” was canceled for the third and final time after eight seasons on CBS. I say the third time because it was given its first pink slip after season six but returned after viewers demanded it. Unfortunately, no amount of rallying by fans or by star Shemar Moore on social media could save it after season eight in 2025, when the series ceased production.

Now “S.W.A.T.” is returning yet again but in the form of a spin-off. “S.W.A.T. Exiles” will air exclusively on the Starz pay cable channel beginning on Sept. 25 — at least at first. According to People magazine, there have been discussions about a “second window under Netflix,” but these details haven’t been solidified yet.

You’ll be pleased to know that Moore will be reprising his role of Daniel “Hondo” Harrelson Jr. in “an experimental S.W.A.T. unit made up of untested, unpredictable young recruits,” according to an article in TVLine. Ronen Rubinstein (“9-1-1: Lone Star”), Freddy Miyares (“When They See Us”), Lucy Barrett



Zendaya and Tom Holland in “Spider-Man: Far from Home”

(“Charmed”), Zyra Gorecki (“La Brea”), and Adain Bradley (“All American”) will round out the cast.

Q: I was surprised to see Lauren Koslow playing Jill Abbott on “The Young and the Restless.” Is she leaving “Days of Our Lives?” — V.V.

A: When Jess Walton, longtime portrayer of Jill Abbott on “Y&R,” couldn’t travel from Oregon to film scenes as Jill on the set in Los Angeles, “Y&R’s” head writer Josh Griffith (who used to write for “Days”) called on Lauren Koslow. The two soaps coordinated her schedule, allowing Koslow to film her short arc of just five episodes as Jill with short notice.

If you’re a longtime “Y&R” fan, you’ll remember that Koslow played Lindsey from 1984-1986 when she blackmailed Jill! Jill was played by Brenda Dickson in those days, but it was also during that time that Koslow met the man who’d become her future husband, “Y&R” make-up artist Nicky Schillace.

Send me your questions at NewCelebrityExtra@gmail.com.

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ENTERTAINMENT

Amber Waves



The Spats



Weekly SUDOKU

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

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!

HOCUS-FOCUS BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

Differences: 1. Pocket is missing. 2. Ear is different. 3. Hand is added to pot. 4. Leg is moved. 5. Bush is smaller. 6. Blanket is smaller.

July 6, 2026 Posting Date

King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Gas station fixture
- 5 Doo follower
- 8 Rabbit's tail
- 12 Pantene's business
- 14 Peddled item
- 15 Figure out
- 16 "Das Lied von der —"
- 17 Indian lentil stew
- 18 iPod accessory
- 20 Cool veggies
- 23 1504, in old Rome
- 24 Fr. holy women
- 25 Evening affairs
- 28 Bit of ink
- 29 "SNL" segments
- 30 Wager
- 32 Stockings
- 34 Ham's dad
- 35 Resort near Snowbird
- 36 Tubular pasta
- 37 As a whole
- 40 Duo's pronoun
- 41 Hoopster
- 42 Strongman of myth
- 47 Needle case
- 48 Implanted
- 49 Lavish affection (on)

DOWN

- 1 Third degree?
- 2 Dubai's country, for short
- 3 Amp plug-in
- 4 Lion packs
- 5 Wonka's creator
- 6 "— you awake?"
- 7 Geneticist's study
- 8 Veer
- 9 Sugar or starch, for short
- 10 Language of Pakistan
- 11 Ticked (off)
- 13 Tax prep pros
- 19 Broadcasts
- 20 Chicago winter hrs.
- 21 Beehive State
- 22 High-fat diet
- 23 Kelly of "One Tree Hill"
- 25 Courtroom artist
- 26 Black, in verse
- 27 Penn or Astin
- 29 Missile shelter
- 31 Chance — Rapper
- 33 — Mae (loan offerer)
- 34 Poet Pablo
- 36 Brownish purple
- 37 Scratshed (out)
- 38 Post-WWII alliance
- 39 Very dry
- 40 Spheres
- 43 911 responder
- 44 "Bad" cholesterol
- 45 Sushi fish
- 46 Radical '60s gp.

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Trivia Test Answers

1. Heisenberg; 2. May; 3. Illinois; 4. Stabilizers; 5. The Moon; 6. Avocado; 7. Rabbit; 8. Ka; 9. The four regions are Australasia (Australia and New Zealand), Polynesia, Melanesia and Micronesia; 10. Far wax

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