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SUNDAY

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TRENDING 5000 year old jockeys, A2
ASTROS Bregman is back, D1
BUSINESS Ford branches out into driverless technology, B1

The most trusted source of news in Southeast Texas
BEAUMONTENTERPRISE.COM SUNDAY, MARCH 5, 2023 VOL. 143, NO. 120 \$3

THREE-PEAT?



Beaumont United guard Kayde Dotson, right, shoots as Clear Falls guard Keyne Yzquierdo defends during the first half of the Region III-6A final high school basketball playoff game, Saturday, in Houston.

Man indicted for NYE robberies

By Matt Hollinshead
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Police say a Beaumont man robbed a 7-Eleven and Family Dollar on the morning of New Year's Eve.
Derrick Derane Jones, 54, was indicted Feb. 15 by a Jefferson County Grand Jury for one count of aggravated robbery and another for robbery.
As of Friday, Jones was being held at the Jefferson County Correctional Facility on a \$130,000 bond, according to jail records.
Just before 5 a.m. on Dec. 31, 2022, Jones allegedly went to the 7-Eleven at 5590 Calder Ave. and pressed an object against a clerk's back demanding money, leaving with the money before police arrived, according to the arrest affidavit.
Around 8:30 a.m. the same day, Beaumont police were called to the Family Dollar at 2290 Gulf St. regarding a man - later identified as Jones - with a gun forcing a woman inside the store, according to the affidavit.
Police believe Jones was the man seen on surveillance video at both the 7-Eleven and the Family Dollar, per the affidavit.

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twitter.com/MattH_717

Beaumont United survives Clear Falls for spot in state tournament, chance to claim third title

By Matt Faye
SPORTS EDITOR

HOUSTON — Shots weren't falling and turnovers were far too common, but Beaumont United's defense stayed consistent to ensure the Timberwolves would defend their title next week at the state tournament.
Trailing with two minutes remaining, United turned up the defensive pressure and forced Clear Falls into crucial mistakes during the final moments of a 53-48

victory in the Class 6A regional championship game at the Campbell Center.
United, the two-time defending 5A champion, has now won 34 straight games this season. The Timberwolves ended Saturday's contest on an 8-2 run, taking advantage of multiple turnovers by Clear Falls on important possessions down the stretch.
"Defense is what we preach to the kids all the time," United head coach David Green said. "We've relied on it all season and it really helped us."

TIMBERWOLVES WIN
See page D1 for more analysis and photos from the big game

Despite controlling play for most of the afternoon, United never looked comfortable against Clear Falls. The Knights took their first led of the game with 2:02 left to play.
Seniors Wesley Yates and Trealyn Porchia were the most productive players for Regionals continues on A9

How anti-tenure bills could affect instructors

By Olivia Malick
STAFF WRITER

This Texas Legislative session could change the lives of more than 200 tenured and tenure track faculty members at area colleges, Lamar University and others across the state as lawmakers eye plans to end the practice.
But state and national organizations, state university system chancellors and some local legislators, among others, are warning against the ripple affects such a bill could have on the state's institutes of higher education.
Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick in mid-February announced 30 bills, which he has designated his legislative priorities - several of them surrounding education at the primary and secondary levels. In the announcement, Patrick "doubled down" on ending professor tenure for new hires at Texas public universities, according to the Texas Tribune.
Tenure continues on A6

Local mom starts SpotFund for modified vehicle after attack leaves her paralyzed

By Megan Zapalac
STAFF WRITER

A Beaumont mother is hoping her community can help her raise the money for a modified vehicle after her twin sons' father left her paralyzed.
Brittany Morris was paralyzed in 2019 after her ex-boyfriend stabbed her eight times - an attack that ultimately sent him to prison for 20 years.
Morris said that she was instantly paralyzed when he stabbed her spinal cord four times.
"I actually walked him out after he kicked the door in, I knew that he could possibly do something, and so I walked him outside ... so that he wouldn't do anything to my family," Morris said.
After the stabbing, Morris was in the intensive care unit for six weeks at St. Elizabeth's hospital before being transferred to Nexus Speciality Hospital in the Woodlands.
"Then I was actually discharged abruptly, and I only had steps on my house at first, and they discharged me to a bad home. I didn't have anything, I had to literally find somebody to



Brittany Morris after her graduation from Lamar Institute of Technology.

put me a piece of plywood up so I can make it to my doctors and stuff and I basically have advocated for myself along the way and figured it all out myself until I could make it to (Victims of Crime), and then they became my support team," Morris said.
After she was discharged, she went on to graduate from the Lamar Institute of Technology and is now pursuing a degree in Industrial Technology from Lamar University.
Being able to purchase this van, she says, will allow her to continue to pursue these and other goals.

Morris said that when she was first paralyzed, she started a GoFundMe to pay for medical bills but had very little luck. She's now turned a similar platform, called *spotfund, which she's hoping will yield better results.
Morris is looking to raise \$50,000 for the van, which non-profit American Lift Aids will then modify to include removable seats, a wheelchair ramp and gas and break pedals that work like turn signals.
"We can finally overcome the barrier of financial stability," Morris said. "I don't want to be on disability my whole life. I want to work, and I want to provide for myself and provide a stable home."
The van ultimately will increase her independence and leave something she can pass on to her sons, she said.
"When I can try no more, I just give it to God," she said.
Morris has raised just over \$6,000 of her goal. Her fundraiser can be found on the *spotfund website by searching her name.
megan.zapalac@beaumontenterprise.com
twitter.com/ZapalacMegan

YOUR DAY

TRENDING

Humans rode horses 5,000 years ago: study

WASHINGTON — Archaeologists have found the earliest direct evidence for horseback riding — an innovation that would transform history — in 5,000 year old human skeletons in central Europe.

“When you get on a horse and ride it fast, it’s a thrill — I’m sure ancient humans felt the same way,” said David Anthony, a co-author of the study and Hartwick College archaeologist. “Horseback riding was the fastest a human could go before the railroads.”

Researchers analyzed more than 200 Bronze Age skeletal remains in museum collections in Bulgaria, Poland, Romania, Hungary and the Czech Republic to look for signs of what co-author and University of Helsinki anthropologist Martin Trautmann calls “horse rider syndrome” — six tell-tale markers that indicate a person was likely riding an animal, including character-

istic wear marks on the hip sockets, thigh bone and pelvis.

“You can read bones like biographies,” said Trautmann, who has previously studied similar wear patterns in skeletons from later periods when horseback riding is well-established in the historical record.

The researchers focused on human skeletons — which are more readily preserved than horse bones in burial sites and museums — and identified five likely riders who lived around 4,500 to 5,000 years ago and belonged to a Bronze Age people called the Yamnaya.

“There is earlier evidence for harnessing and milking of horses, but this is the earliest direct evidence so far for horseback riding,” said University of Exeter archaeologist Alan Outram, who was not involved in the research, but praised the approach.

The study was published Friday in the journal Science Advances.

Because only a small percentage of the skeletons studied clearly showed all six markers of riding horseback, “it seems that a minority of the people at that time were riders — that does not suggest that a whole society was built on horseback riding,” said molecular archaeologist Ludovic Orlando, who is based at the Centre for Anthropobiology and Genomics of Toulouse in France and was not involved in the research.

Coronation oil consecrated in Jerusalem

LONDON — Two senior clergymen in Jerusalem have consecrated the holy oil that will be used to anoint King Charles III during his coronation, as the Anglican Church seeks to underscore the monarchy’s long history and the royal family’s links to the Middle East.

The oil was consecrated Friday morning at the Church of the Holy Sepulcher, the traditional site of Christ’s crucifixion and burial, Buckingham Palace said in a statement.

The ceremony was conducted by His Beatitude Patriarch Theophilos III, head of the Greek Orthodox Church in Jerusalem, and the Most Rev. Hosam Naoum, the Anglican archbishop in Jerusalem.



Michal Podsiadlo/Associated Press
This undated photo shows the grave of a horse rider discovered in Malomirovo, Bulgaria.

The oil was pressed from olives harvested on the Mount of Olives, which plays a prominent role in the Bible, and has been perfumed with sesame, rose, jasmine, cinnamon, neroli, benzoin, amber oil and orange blossoms, the palace said.

Charles’ paternal grandmother, Princess Alice of Greece, is buried at the Monastery of Mary Magdalene on the Mount of Olives.

“This demonstrates the deep historic link between the coronation, the Bible and the Holy Land,” the Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, said in the statement.

“From ancient kings through to the present day, monarchs have been anointed with oil from this sacred place.”

Charles will be formally crowned on May 6 at Westminster Abbey in London, during a ceremony the palace says will combine elements of tradition with modern touches that highlight the changing face of the United Kingdom and the Commonwealth.

Mellencamp to donate archives to IU

BLOOMINGTON, Ind. — Hoosier rocker John Mellencamp is donating an archived collection of his life and work to Indiana University, IU President Pamela Whitten announced Friday.

The collection will include original creative works, photographs, instruments and other significant memorabilia related to his music, artwork, social activism and philanthropy, Whitten said.

“His collection will be an incredible resource for arts scholars and a clear source of inspiration to our students,” Whitten said. A sculpture honoring Mellencamp’s artistic legacy will be commissioned for the Bloomington campus, Whitten said. The sculpture will sit near the Fine Arts Plaza on the campus and symbolize the strong connection Mellencamp has to his southern Indiana roots.

Associated Press

LOCAL ALMANAC

Beaumont through 4 p.m. Saturday

TEMPERATURE

High/low 78°/49°
Normal high/low 71°/51°
Record high 86° in 1905
Record low 23° in 2002

PRECIPITATION

24-hour total 0.00"
Month to date 0.01"
Normal month to date 0.45"
Year to date 6.39"
Normal year to date 8.86"

CONDITIONS TODAY
UV INDEX AND REAL FEEL TEMPERATURE

2	4	6	4	2	0
60°	72°	79°	80°	76°	67°

8 am 10 am Noon 2 pm 4 pm 6 pm

The higher the **AccuWeather.com UV Index™** number, the greater the need for eye and skin protection. 0-2 Low; 3-5 Moderate; 6-7 High; 8-10 Very High; 11+ Extreme. The **AccuWeather.com RealFeel Temperature®** is an exclusive index of effective temperature based on eight weather factors.

POLLEN INDEX

Ratings from 3/3

Trees	Low	Moderate	High	Very high
Grass	Absent	Low	Moderate	High
Weeds	Absent	Low	Moderate	High
Molds	Absent	Low	Moderate	High

Source: National Allergy Bureau

LAKES			
As of 7 a.m. Saturday	Level	Full Pool	Change
Rayburn	164.37	164.4	-0.03
Steinhagen	82.59	85	+0.07
Toledo Bend	170.40	172	+0.10
Livingston	131.27	131	+0.04

RIVERS				
Sabine River	Gauge Height	Flood Stage	Chg.	
at Bon Wier	23.91	30	+0.11	
at Deweyville	24.36	24	-0.01	
at Burkeville	23.87	43	+0.10	
Neches River				
at Evadale	11.50	19	+0.35	
at Beaumont	N.A.	4	N.A.	
Village Creek				
at Kountze	5.09	17	-0.12	

GALVESTON TIDES					
Today	High	ft.	Low	ft.	
	1:07 a.m.	1.1	9:08 a.m.	-0.2	
	4:52 p.m.	1.0	9:01 p.m.	0.9	
Mon.	High	ft.	Low	ft.	
	2:04 a.m.	1.1	9:37 a.m.	-0.1	
	5:00 p.m.	1.0	9:33 p.m.	0.7	

SUN AND MOON

The Sun	Rise	Set
Today	6:38 a.m.	6:18 p.m.
Monday	6:37 a.m.	6:18 p.m.
The Moon	Rise	Set
Today	4:49 p.m.	5:54 a.m.
Monday	5:45 p.m.	6:25 a.m.

Full

Last

New

First

Mar 7

Mar 14

Mar 21

Mar 28

TODAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
79° 62°	81° 67°	79° 67°	81° 68°	81° 68°	77° 53°	65° 48°

REGIONAL FORECAST

Shown is today's weather. Temperatures are today's highs and tonight's lows.

AccuWeather | Go to [AccuWeather.com](https://www.accuweather.com)

NATIONAL FORECAST

A storm will bring a swath of accumulating snow and slippery travel to the northern Plains today, with a narrow band of over 6 inches of snow possible. Farther west, coastal rain and mountain snow will extend from Oregon to Central California. Outside of a stray shower or thunderstorm in the Florida Peninsula, other areas will be dry.

Shown are today's noon positions of weather systems and precipitation. Temperature bands are highs for the day.

National high: 93° at Titusville, FL
National low: -20° at Big Piney, WY

Legend: T-storms, Rain, Showers, Snow, Flurries, Ice, Cold Front, Warm Front, Stationary Front.

Temperature bands: -10s, -0s, 0s, 10s, 20s, 30s, 40s, 50s, 60s, 70s, 80s, 90s, 100s, 110s.

National Extremes Saturday (for the contiguous US)

REGIONAL CITIES

City	Today	Mon.	City	Today	Mon.
	Hi/Low/W	Hi/Low/W		Hi/Low/W	Hi/Low/W
Alexandria	79/54/s	81/67/r	Lake Charles	79/59/s	80/67/pc
Austin	77/56/s	81/62/pc	Longview	79/53/pc	79/57/pc
Beaumont	79/62/s	81/67/pc	Lufkin	81/55/s	80/64/pc
Brenham	82/58/s	83/66/pc	Nacogdoches	79/53/pc	80/61/pc
College Station	81/59/pc	82/66/pc	Natchitoches	80/51/s	81/65/pc
Corpus Christi	84/67/pc	87/70/pc	Orange	81/62/s	84/70/pc
Dallas	78/57/s	82/61/pc	Port Arthur	77/64/s	81/69/pc
Fort Worth	77/56/s	80/60/pc	San Antonio	81/59/s	82/66/c
Galveston	75/67/s	78/70/pc	Shreveport	79/54/pc	81/59/pc
Houston	80/60/s	82/68/pc	Silsbee	81/60/s	82/67/pc
Jasper	80/56/s	80/66/pc	Tyler	79/55/pc	79/62/pc
Killeen	78/56/s	82/61/pc	Victoria	80/62/pc	85/67/pc
Lafayette	80/61/s	82/68/pc	Waco	77/54/s	81/59/pc

NATIONAL CITIES

City	Today Hi/Low/W	Mon. Hi/Low/W	City	Today Hi/Low/W	Mon. Hi/Low/W
Albuquerque	64/39/pc	63/43/c	Madison	47/35/c	43/28/r
Anchorage	23/21/s	23/22/s	Memphis	73/55/pc	75/55/pc
Asheville	65/39/s	71/51/s	Miami	88/70/s	85/72/pc
Atlanta	72/51/s	77/59/pc	Milwaukee	42/37/c	45/33/r
Baltimore	62/34/pc	57/42/pc	Minneapolis	38/30/sn	36/24/sn
Bellingham	46/32/pc	49/31/c	Nashville	72/49/s	78/54/pc
Birmingham	74/51/s	78/59/pc	New Orleans	79/63/s	84/69/pc
Boise	42/24/sf	42/21/pc	New York City	52/36/pc	52/37/pc
Boston	45/34/c	49/31/s	Oklahoma City	75/50/pc	71/45/pc
Buffalo	41/28/c	42/27/c	Omaha	59/34/c	48/29/c
Cheyenne	45/20/c	37/20/c	Orlando	84/66/pc	85/65/sh
Chicago	47/39/pc	55/34/pc	Philadelphia	58/35/pc	58/39/pc
Cincinnati	58/40/s	70/41/pc	Phoenix	71/51/s	69/51/c
Cleveland	45/32/pc	54/33/c	Pittsburgh	51/28/pc	59/36/pc
Dayton	54/41/pc	68/38/pc	Portland, ME	43/27/pc	44/25/c
Denver	55/22/s	41/21/c	Portland, OR	47/31/c	50/33/r
Des Moines	53/39/pc	47/31/c	Raleigh	68/41/s	71/54/s
Detroit	45/34/pc	43/30/r	Reno	37/18/sn	39/22/pc
El Paso	75/49/pc	77/50/c	Richmond	66/39/s	67/54/pc
Evansville	65/45/s	74/41/c	Sacramento	54/37/sh	52/37/sh
Fairbanks	19/17/pc	26/23/pc	St. Louis	65/53/pc	73/36/pc
Helena	25/14/sn	26/10/sn	Salt Lake City	42/28/pc	37/23/pc
Honolulu	80/70/pc	82/70/r	San Diego	62/48/c	61/48/c
Indianapolis	55/43/pc	68/37/c	San Francisco	53/42/sh	54/41/pc
Jackson, MS	80/50/s	82/64/c	San Juan, PR	86/71/s	86/71/pc
Juneau	25/9/s	25/9/s	Seattle	47/31/c	49/32/c
Kansas City	69/46/pc	59/33/pc	Spokane	37/22/pc	36/21/c
Knoxville	68/45/s	75/53/pc	Tucson	74/48/s	72/51/c
Las Vegas	58/43/pc	58/43/pc	Tulsa	75/57/pc	75/48/pc
Little Rock	73/51/pc	76/55/pc	Washington, DC	63/38/s	59/45/pc
Los Angeles	58/44/c	60/42/pc	Wichita	74/43/pc	63/37/pc

INTERNATIONAL CITIES

City	Today Hi/Low/W	Mon. Hi/Low/W	City	Today Hi/Low/W	Mon. Hi/Low/W
Acapulco	85/71/pc	86/71/pc	Lima	79/70/pc	81/70/pc
Amsterdam	45/35/sh	44/37/c	London	45/34/sh	46/36/c
Athens	59/49/sh	62/50/s	Madrid	50/38/pc	54/46/sh
Auckland	73/59/pc	72/58/pc	Mexico City	85/55/pc	86/51/pc
Baghdad	88/66/c	92/62/pc	Montevideo	82/65/s	89/60/s
Bangkok	93/73/s	94/74/s	Montreal	39/23/c	39/21/pc
Beijing	63/35/s	71/38/pc	Moscow	32/23/sn	30/19/c
Berlin	39/29/sh	39/30/pc	New Delhi	87/62/pc	85/61/pc
Brussels	43/33/c	43/38/c	Paris	47/36/c	47/38/c
Buenos Aires	83/75/s	88/73/pc	Quito	61/51/r	63/51/r
Cairo	91/57/s	73/54/s	Rio de Janeiro	91/78/r	85/78/c
Calgary	8/-1/sn	12/3/sn	Rome	60/46/s	59/45/sh
Cape Town	69/61/r	71/62/c	Santiago	93/58/s	88/58/c
Caracas	89/73/pc	87/72/pc	Seoul	60/29/s	59/39/s
Dublin	47/38/sh	46/26/sh	Singapore	84/74/t	85/74/c
Helsinki	30/17/c	28/10/sf	Sydney	83/72/s	98/75/s
Hong Kong	75/63/s	75/63/s	Tokyo	53/45/r	56/45/pc
Jerusalem	83/55/c	63/47/pc	Toronto	44/26/s	38/27/sn
Johannesburg	81/60/pc	82/58/t	Vancouver	45/34/sh	47/33/pc
Kabul	59/36/s	60/39/c	Warsaw	37/23/sf	39/27/c



BUYING EVENT

March 6th - March 8th

3155 Dowlen Rd, Beaumont, TX 77706
10 AM - 6 PM | Monday & Tuesday
10 AM - 5:30 PM | Wednesday
For directions please call: 409.861.3005

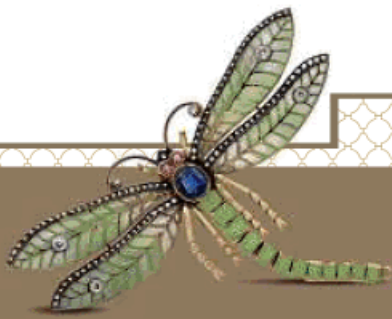
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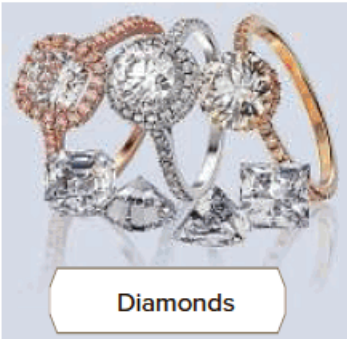
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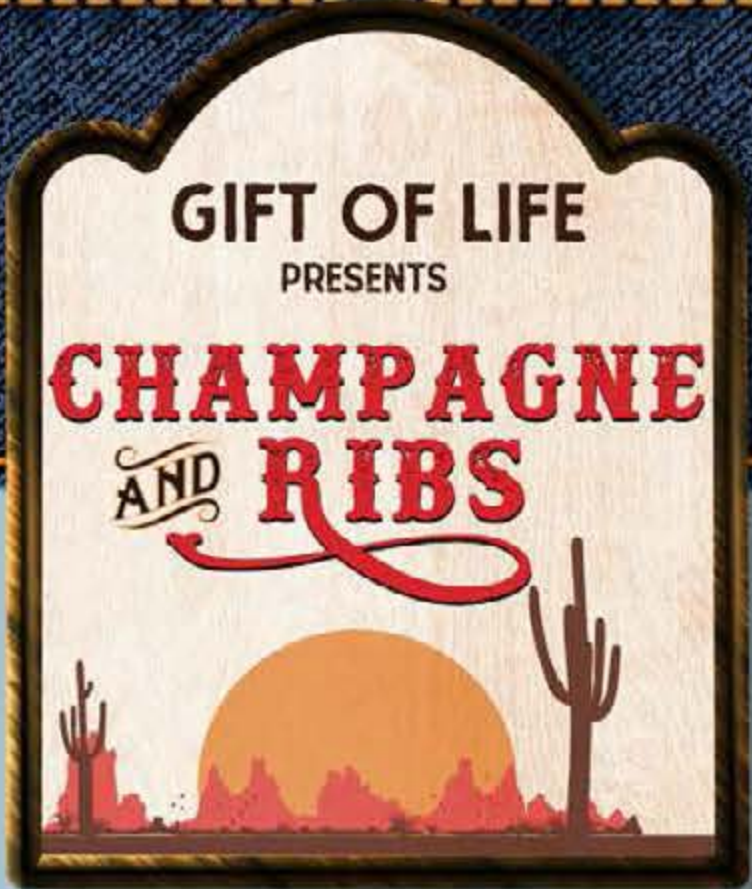
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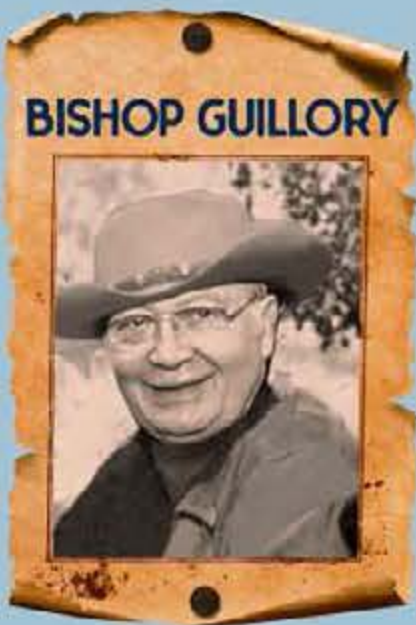


- Gloria M. ”
Both gentlemen were professional and friendly with great customer skills!
We were treated fairly and are very pleased with the results! Thank you!

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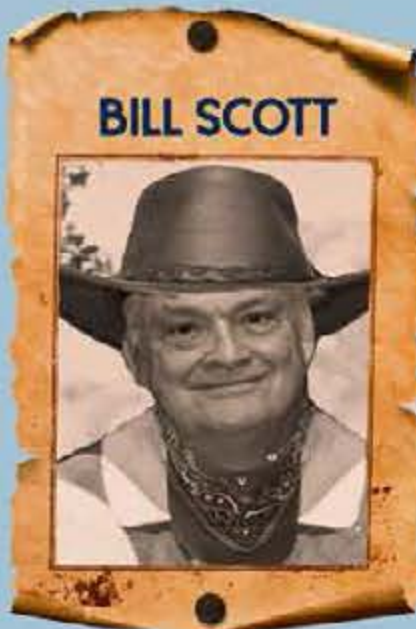
THURSDAY
BEAUMONT
Join Us
With T
Dist



BISHOP EMERITUS
CURTIS J. GUILLORY

Recently retired after 20 years of dutiful service, the Most Rev. Curtis J. Guillory, S.V.D., D.D. is a kind and loving shepherd known for boundless kinship. Appointed to the Catholic Diocese of Beaumont by St. John Paul, II, he was one of ten African American bishops and the first African American bishop to head a diocese in Texas. His motto -“For those who love God, all things work together for good” – has been the guiding light of a ministry defined by nurturing “the greater good” with humility, compassion, and inclusivity. Every Southeast Texan is a priceless part of his flock, and he has accompanied “the least of these” through the valley of their sorrows. A stalwart advocate of all

Gift of Life initiatives, Bishop Emeritus Guillory is an ambassador of hope for local medically underserved individuals and an invaluable volunteer at the organization’s annual men’s health screening sites.



WILLIAM “BILL” SCOTT

An esteemed entrepreneur, William “Bill” Scott is CEO, chairman and co-owner with his three sons of Trans-Global Solutions Inc., a leading provider of transportation, railroad, and heavy civil construction services. In 2011, Bill was appointed by the governor to the prestigious Texas State University System Board of Regents to impart his discerning insights. In addition to these enormous responsibilities, he remains active in many altruistic pursuits. Among the endeavors held most dear are past roles as president of the Three Rivers Council Boy Scouts of America and board member of Catholic Charities of Southeast Texas, the Symphony of Southeast Texas, and the Texas Energy Museum. Bill and his wife, Gay, are proud parents and grandparents who

tirelessly endorse efforts that contribute to a thriving, wholesome environment for families throughout the region. With a deep concern for the well-being of vulnerable citizens, they also are generous Gift of Life advocates and supporters.



CHELSEA TIPTON

In his fourteenth season as Music Director of the Symphony of Southeast Texas, Maestro Chelsea Tipton is an award-winning, musical virtuoso whose expressive vision has deeply enriched the 70-year history of the symphony. Chelsea also serves as the Principal Pops Director for the New Haven Symphony Orchestra in Connecticut. His profuse talents have enchanted audiences and critics alike with his characteristic flair for bold, vibrant musicality and breathtaking versatility. Music is the maestro’s mission, and he believes its power can transform the world. Having performed around the globe, he has graced such stages as the Apollo Theater and even accompanied Sting on a

European Tour. Chelsea’s influence, however, extends far past the concert hall and can be felt in an array of activities that benefit from his involvement and a deep passion for the arts instilled in future musicians mentored by a melodic master.

AY, MARCH 9 ★ 6:30 PM MONT CIVIC CENTER

and Give Cancer the Boot hese Champagne & Ribs tinguished Honorees!

BRAD KLEIN



BRAD KLEIN ♀

Prominent investment advisor Brad Klein, Senior Vice President of Wealth Management at UBS, has wielded his warmth, wit and wisdom in building a successful career as a trusted financial consultant. Brad, however, also is known for helping area organizations and businesses maximize resources for those in need. Such expertise has been a crucial component of Gift of Life's navigation through numerous economic fluctuations created by the pandemic, natural disasters and other consequential events. With his two sons and loving wife, Catherine, Brad, an adored friend to many, is devoted to giving back to Southeast Texas, particularly in the form of grilling delectable, award-winning barbecue for worthwhile causes. A prostate cancer survivor,

he also is a powerful proponent of Gift of Life's mission of early cancer detection and awareness and continuously encourages other men to protect their health.

J. MITCHELL SMITH



J. MITCHELL SMITH

Respected "Texas Super Lawyer," J. Mitchell "Mitch" Smith, greatly admired as a skilled jurist with vast courtroom experience, has been a principal at Germer for more than 20 years. A former president of the Jefferson County Bar Association and member of the Executive Board of the National Association of Railroad Trial Counsel (NARTC), he is an adherent of exacting standards of excellence in the practice of law. Having achieved the prestige of favorably litigating diverse cases across a wide range of practice areas, Mitch has been steadfast in upholding principles of hard work, ethics and benevolence. King Neches 67 and a member of the board and former president of the Art Museum of Southeast Texas, he, along with his wife Michele, has given generously of

his financial resources and time to provide assistance to organizations that promote health, equal justice and the humanities. Their loyal support of Gift of Life and free screenings for medically underserved individuals has made a lasting impact on at-risk residents who rely on its services.

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HOUSING CHOICE VOUCHER PROGRAM

Rent help ‘waiting list lottery’ now open

By Olivia Malick
STAFF WRITER

East Texas residents seeking rental assistance could be closer to finding some help.

The Deep East Texas Regional Housing Authority opened its waiting list lottery for the Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program and is now accepting pre-applications through 11:59 p.m. March

31.

Pre-applications will only be accepted online at waitlistcheck.com/TX2875, not at the housing authority’s office, nor by fax or mail, according to a news release.

“The date and time the pre-application is submitted during the waiting list lottery opening period does not determine whether a pre-application will be selected for the

waiting list,” the release states. “Pre-applications will be selected using a random lottery system.”

The Deep East Texas Council of Governments will accept 1,000 applications during the waiting list lottery opening period and applicants will be notified of their waiting list status by May 15 through their waitlistcheck.com login.

Preferences considered

by the council of governments include:

Families who live or work in the Deep East Texas Council of Governments Regional Housing Authority service area, including: Angelina, Hardin, Houston, Jasper, Newton, Polk, Sabine, San Augustine, San Jacinto, Shelby, Trinity and Tyler counties — worth 100 points.

Veterans and veter-

ans’ families — worth 5 points.

Victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault or stalking referred by a partnering service agency or consortia, or a religious organization — worth 5 points.

Families whose head, co-head or spouse is disabled — worth 5 points.

There is no cost to apply for housing and a credit report is not needed

to apply, according to the release.

“Placement on the waiting list does not indicate that the family is, in fact, eligible for assistance,” the release states. “Receiving assistance is subject to eligibility requirements.”

For more information, call 936-238-7771.

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TENURE

From page A1

Patrick first proposed eliminating tenure more than a year ago, in an effort to stop faculty members from “indoctrinating” students with critical race theory teachings.

The proposal to eliminate tenure came after the University of Texas-Austin Faculty Council passed a nonbinding resolution to “reaffirm instructors’ academic freedom to teach on issues of racial justice and critical race theory,” according to the Texas Tribune. Patrick responded on Twitter saying, “I will not stand by and let looney Marxist UT professors poison the minds of young students with critical race theory. We banned it in publicly-funded K-12 and we will ban it in publicly funded higher ed.”

In his January inauguration speech, Patrick reiterated his position, saying that Texas’ “public professors are accountable to taxpayers because you pay their salary.”

But those involved in the day-to-day of educating the state’s young adults say that largely misses the point — and the reality — of granting tenure.

“If he wants resistance to what he thinks is ‘wokeness,’ well, the wrong way to do it is to take away tenure from all of the professors who would stand up,” Texas Faculty Association Board of Directors member Elizabeth Skerpan



Chris Boswell/Getty Images

Both the Texas Senate and House met in Austin on Tuesday to begin the 88th legislative session.

said. “It’s hard to buck the tide when you don’t have tenure, when you could lose your livelihood.”

While a bill specifically targeting university tenure had yet to be filed as of Friday, Patrick has consistently ranked it amongst his legislative priorities, receiving support from Sen. Brandon Creighton, R-Conroe, who chairs the Education Committee and the Higher Education Subcommittee. Creighton represents District 4, which includes portions of Jefferson County.

In a statement regarding Patrick’s list of 30 priority bills, Creighton on Feb. 13 said he looked forward to “addressing out-

dated tenure policies” and “returning to a culture of free speech and merit based hiring at public universities by addressing diversity, equity and inclusions programs and critical race theory instruction in higher education.”

Creighton did not elaborate on how he would address the tenure policies, and multiple requests from The Enterprise for more information went unanswered.

Texas House Speaker Dade Phelan, R-Beaumont, in September broke away from Patrick, saying he opposed the proposal, according to the Austin-American Statesman.

University professors

across the state also have pushed back against it, worried it could hurt universities’ ability to recruit faculty and ultimately limit academic freedom.

“I would say that university presidents and chancellors are certainly not in favor of any restriction on tenure,” President of the Texas Conference of the American Association of University Professors Jeff Blodgett told The Enterprise. “Rather than stating their views in the press, they prefer to work behind-the-scenes...every university president or chancellor we’ve talked to has expressed that they will be sharing their concerns with their legislators against it.”

being held accountable for their job performance.”

Skerpan said that most members of the general public don’t understand how tenure works or what it even entails.

In fact, even talking with congressional aides about the issue, she said she was “shocked at how little they knew” about tenure — how it mainly

serves to defend academic freedom and allow faculty to conduct research “in a responsible way without being influenced or pressured by various groups.”

“The general view (of tenure) is, ‘Oh, you can’t be fired.’ This is not true,” Skerpan told The Enterprise, noting that a specific process exists to fire tenured professors. “I’m a tenured person (and) I’ve been reviewed every year since I’ve been at my university. People who have post-tenure review, that is triggered if they are not performing well. So, (tenure is) not a free pass to do whatever you want.”

The process of obtaining tenure is rigorous and steps can’t be skipped by administration members, Texas Faculty Association and American Association of University Professors member Cary Wintz told The Enterprise.

“When we hire new hires, we do mentor them, but if they don’t meet the standards, they don’t get it,” he said.

Skerpan said over her decades serving on hiring committees at the departmental and college level, she’s never seen a faculty member vote to approve a candidate for tenure who clearly did not meet the

Tenure continues on A9

STEPS TO TENURE

The process of even obtaining tenure is extensive, Texas Faculty Association Board of Directors member Elizabeth Skerpan, who’s served on many hiring committees, said.

“It starts even before somebody comes up for tenure,” she said. “When somebody is hired tenure track, at least in my university, in my department, there’s always been a national search. We have hundreds of applications that we read as members of the search committee. We are looking for people who have serious research agendas, who have quality teaching, who demonstrate the quality of their work. It’s a pretty high hurdle to clear, even just to be hired in a tenure track position.”

Generally, faculty members spend five to six years on the tenure track and face yearly review, Skerpan said.

“I regularly write teaching evaluations and other research summaries for our tenure track people to see that they are moving towards meeting the standards that my university sets for tenure,” she said. When somebody is in the position where they are scheduled to go up for tenure, they must submit an extensive portfolio that documents their scholarship, their teaching and their service with appropriate documentation and

statements.”

Those faculty members are first reviewed by senior faculty, typically a personnel committee comprised of tenured people in a given department, who then vote on whether the candidate is qualified or not to receive tenure.

“It has happened that the faculty will vote no because the person has not met the standards that the university sets,” Skerpan said. “Once we vote as faculty members, yes or no, then it’s reviewed by our department chair. The department chair either agrees with the faculty and passes the file on or they can dissent from the faculty.”

Once the faculty member is approved by the department chair, they are then evaluated by a college review group, typically comprised of representatives from each department of the respective college.

“For example, in my case, (the college review group includes) representatives of all nine departments within the College of Liberal Arts,” she said. “At that level, those people

review the files and they see and they measure how well does this candidate meet our standards for tenure? Again, they vote yes or no. And if it’s yes or no, the dean of the college also has to either agree or disagree with what the committee has decided.”

The candidate is then either approved or denied at the university presidential level.

“It’s ultimately the president’s decision whether or not (the candidate) goes forward to the Board of Regents,” Skerpan said. “There’s a very long process and it’s very stringent to see whether people are granted tenure or not. It’s just that simply, if you are able to attract high-quality people, their chances of meeting the standards are very good.”

A candidate is only granted tenure once the Board of Regents approves it, Skerpan said.

“We are very scrupulously reviewed and the standards for tenure and promotion are published and people have to meet them,” she said. “Somebody will not clear a hurdle if they don’t.”

International Committee on Coalition of Contingent Academic Labor member Joe Berry told The Enterprise that if tenure is abrogated or abolished in Texas public universities, it will be “much less attractive” for people to take jobs at those institutions, a sentiment that was in September echoed by Brian McCall, chancellor of the Texas State University System, to which Lamar belongs.

“The likelihood that people will be able to get to recruit people — the big names that university presidents brag about when they talk about their success in building a faculty — will be much more difficult,” Blodgett said.

In a statement to The Enterprise, Austin-based conservative think tank Texas Public Policy Foundation Chief Executive Officer Greg Sindelar said that his organization’s polling shows that Texans “don’t support protecting taxpayer-funded professors from being fired.”

“They should be evaluated on the quality of their work like all other Texans,” he said. “The campus blowback against the idea of eliminating a policy that has not improved the quality of higher education in Texas clearly demonstrates the fear professors have towards

LIFE TRIBUTES

Jean Thomas Dorrell

1926 ~ 2023





Jean Heloise Thomas Dorrell, 96, of Beaumont, Texas, passed away on February 24, 2023 in Florida at the age of 96. Jean was born on June 23, 1926, in El Dorado, Arkansas, the youngest child of Hardie Lee Thomas and Annie (Stallings) Thomas. Jean grew up in Grayson, Louisiana with many maternal cousins, aunts and uncles. Education was always emphasized in her family and Jean had a desire to be an educator at an early age. Following her high school graduation in 1943, Jean attended and graduated from Northwestern University, and also attended Louisiana State University (LSU) graduating with a Masters in Education in 1949. After graduation, Jean moved to Beaumont, Texas in 1949 to start a teaching career at Lamar State College of Technology (later Lamar University), that would last over forty years. Jean made lifelong friends with many Lamar faculty members, especially her two closest friends Dr. Mary Alice Baker and Dr. Cynthia Barnes. Jean married Earl Dorrell on September 1, 1951 in Beaumont, Texas, having met him at Lamar after he returned from serving in WW II. They settled in South Park, later moving to Vidor in 1960, where she would live most of her adult life. They had four children: Jeff, Perry, James and Jean Ann. Jean loved to read and write and she excelled as an author, as demonstrated by her winning numerous writing competitions. She also

authored several Business textbooks that were used by Lamar and other universities. She authored and presented several professional papers, both domestically and internationally. Jean was involved in the International Business Communication Association and frequently traveled internationally. In post-retirement, Jean was a certified parliamentarian and supported multiple organizations in that role. Jean is survived by sons Perry (Sue), James (Pam) and daughter Jean Ann (Dan); grandchildren Jessica Morgan (Josh), Chris Dorrell (Maggie) and Ashley Hargrove (Grayson); 5 great-grandchildren, and numerous nieces, nephews and loving friends. Jean passed on many wonderful things to her children and grandchildren including the thirst for higher education, and her love of reading, writing and travel. She was preceded in death by her son Jeff, brother Hardie Thomas, and sister Cyrille Alvarado. Jean loved nothing more than a good cup of coffee or a glass of Asti Spumante, Jeopardy, a good book, the company of her cat Tressie Mae, and the love of family. Jean’s ashes will be interred in the Welcome Home Cemetery in Grayson Louisiana near numerous other family members. A Celebration of Life will be held at a later date. The family would like to thank the Collier Park Assisted Living Center, and her special sitters and friends Julie Savoy, Elsa Watler, Leonor Cabrera and the late Monique Provost who provided loving care and support in the last years of her life.

DECEASED
Ellen Bean, 78, of Beaumont, died March 3, 2023, Memorial Funeral Home of Vidor.
Marie Frances Gonsoulin Delcambre

“Zook”, 81, of Bridge City, died March 2, 2023. Claybar Funeral Home.
Lottie Vell Faircloth, 90, of Woodville, died March 3, 2023, Stringer & Griffin

Funeral Home, Woodville.
David Samuelson, 88, of Vidor, died March 4, 2023, Memorial Funeral Home of Vidor.
Salvador Valencia,

82, of Port Arthur, died Mar. 3, 2023, Grammier-Oberle Funeral Home, Port Arthur.
Mabel Wright, 98, of Vidor, died March 3, 2023, Memorial Funeral Home of Vidor.

A&M, UH drop hiring diversity statements

By Samantha Ketterer
STAFF WRITER

The University of Houston and Texas A&M University systems will no longer require job candidates to submit statements surrounding their commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion, the latest responses in higher education to Republican-led threats against diverse hiring programs.

Texas A&M System Chancellor John Sharp directed his 11 universities and eight agencies on Thursday to follow the changes, including in admissions. UH System Chancellor Renu Khator followed suit on Friday, adding that her four universities will not continue using DEI “statements or factors” in hiring or promotion.

“The University of Houston System embraces diversity and understands and believes that it is our responsibility to foster an open, welcoming environment where students, faculty and staff of all backgrounds can collaboratively learn, work and serve,” she said in an email to the system com-



The Gerald D. Hines College of Architecture and Design building at University of Houston on Tuesday, Jan. 31, 2023 in Houston.

munity. “We will continue to ensure our policies are consistent with state and federal laws, and we stand against any actions or activities which promote discrimination in the guise of diversity, equity, and inclusion (“DEI”).”

The orders make A&M and UH the latest higher education institutions to submit to pressure on diverse hiring practices, after Gov. Greg Abbott’s chief of staff sent a letter on Feb. 6 warning state agencies, including public

universities, that programs based in Diversity, Equity and Inclusion might run afoul of anti-discrimination laws.

While some advocates argue that Abbott’s attacks are founded on a misunderstanding of such practices, the University of Texas System’s board chairman announced last week that all of its campuses were directed to pause new DEI policies and review their current practices, the Austin American-Statesman first

reported. Sharp’s directive came shortly after.

“No university or agency in the A&M System will admit any student, nor hire any employee based on any factor other than merit,” Sharp said.

Abbott is one of many conservative Republicans nationwide seeking to eliminate diverse hiring programs, arguing that they potentially discriminate against job candidates if some demographic groups are favored over others.

Defenders of DEI hiring programs say that the goal is not to discriminate, but to create more diverse pools of applicants to be considered for positions and assure that people of all backgrounds have the same chances at advancement.

Diversity hiring programs vary from university to university. At UT, each college, school and unit has a Diversity, Equity and Inclusion officer as well as a website to highlight the importance of those efforts, a change made after campuswide student protests in 2017 led to the removal of statues of Confederate soldiers like Robert E. Lee.

On its website, Texas A&M’s Office of Diversity declares its responsibility to help academic units “embed diversity, equity, and inclusion in academic and institutional excellence.”

After the system received the letter in February, Sharp ordered all A&M institutions to review their employment and admission practices to confirm their compliance, according to system spokesman Laylan Cope-

lin.

Sharp wrote on Thursday that he has now standardized the faculty and staff application process, limiting candidates to a cover letter, their curriculum vitae, statements about research and teaching philosophies and professional references.

Some of the system’s institutions didn’t have a member-wide requirement to provide diversity statements, but some of the units within those institutions did, the chancellor said. Sharp also directed the system agencies and universities to adjust any messaging dealing with employment and admission practices online or in printed materials to comply with the changes.

“We have now surveyed practices at all of our institutions, and I am issuing this further guidance to create a uniform System-wide policy on recruitment, hiring and related activities,” Sharp said in the letter. “This allows us to speak with one voice on this issue. This guidance overrides and replaces any practices in place at any university or agency or any of its components.”

Texas House, Senate debate raise for retired teachers

By Edward McKinley
AUSTIN BUREAU

The Texas House and Senate want to send more money to retired teachers this session to help with inflation. But lawmakers are still figuring out whether it will be a one-time infusion or a permanent adjustment to their monthly checks.

The budgets introduced in both chambers include language about sending extra money to retired teachers, said Brian Guthrie, executive director of the Teacher Retirement System of Texas. The retirement system is the largest public pension fund in the state and one of the largest in the country, with roughly 2 million members.

“It does speak to the Legislature’s commitment to provide something in regards to this, this session,” Guthrie said to the members of the House Pensions, Investments & Financial Services Committee. “We are working with the leadership offices, we’re working with all of you to see what we can do to help in that process.”

While the House is more open to an ongoing cost-of-living adjustment, or COLA, the Senate is leaning more toward a one-time supplemental payment, often called “13th checks.”

The Legislature has provided 13th checks to retired teachers during each of the last two sessions, as well as in 2007. Those allotments are typically capped, meaning not every retiree receives an additional, full monthly benefit check.

In 2013, the Legislature enacted a monthly cost-of-living adjustment of 3 percent, capped at \$100, but only for teachers who retired before Sept. 1, 2004. Before then, there were adjustments every two years from 1993 through 2001. The vast majority of Texas teachers do not pay into Social Security during their careers, making their TRS checks their primary income.

Although Social Security checks fluctuate with inflation trends, TRS benefits do not, meaning the recent high levels of inflation have hit retired teachers especially hard. Adjusted for inflation, the payment for a 2004 retiree earning \$3,000 a month would now be \$4,728.08, but the actual amount remains unchanged.

Members of the House Pensions, Investments & Financial Services Committee unanimously recommended “meaningful” cost-of-living adjustment for retired teachers in a report this January. That report was drafted under

the former committee chair, Dallas Democrat Rafael Anchía. The new chair of the committee was also a member at that time, and signed the report.

“I think we have a broad bipartisan consensus,” Anchía said. “We have the money to do this. Which if we front-loaded the entire amount, would be about \$5-6 billion, something in that ballpark. And that would pay for the entirety of the cost-of-living increase in perpetuity.”

As a rule of thumb, Guthrie said, a 1 percent, across-the-board adjustment for all retired teachers would cost the state about \$1.1 billion, if paid for up-front.

That number could change dramatically if, for instance, an adjustment was weighted for those receiving more or less in benefits, for those who are older, for those with more years of service or for those who have been retired the longest. Past adjustments have been financed over several years, sometimes even decades, which drives up the cost.

“There are a thousand different ways that we can construct this to achieve the ultimate goal of increasing benefits to these retirees,” Guthrie said.

Guthrie noted that, by

law, the Legislature can only consider a benefit increase if the Teacher Retirement System is on sound financial footing. In 2019 that was not the case, but this year it is.

This session, the Legislature has access to a massive budget surplus. Many different groups or lawmakers have staked claims for their preferred policies or programs, and retired teachers have been no different.

The Texas Retired

Teacher Association has had talks with members of the House, including leadership, Executive Director Tim Lee said. But it’s been much quieter from the Senate, Lee said, where Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick has prioritized a 13th check over a cost-of-living adjustment.

“The need of retirees is so big that it would be difficult to leave this session without a cost-of-living increase,” Lee said. His group is advocating

strongly for a permanent adjustment, rather than supplemental checks.

“Unless the Legislature passes those every session, retirees have a hard time planning their bills, not knowing they might have some extra money in their check,” Lee said.

“If the stars don’t align, then retirees have lost their ability to pay the bills.”

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Asian Texans decry land bill

By Benjamin Wermund
STAFF WRITER

Recent changes to legislation that would ban Chinese, North Korean, Iranian and Russian citizens from buying property in Texas did little to assuage fears among Asian Americans, dozens of whom testified before a Texas Senate panel Thursday about the effects such a ban could have on members of the fastest-growing segment of the state’s population.

Many testified before the State Affairs Committee that they have been living and working in Texas for years on employment visas and would still be unable to buy a home under the bill, even after its author added carve-outs for those with green cards or who are fleeing authoritarian regimes.

Others testified it took

them years to get green cards or become citizens because of deep backlogs and long wait times. The legislation, which has the support of Gov. Greg Abbott and other Republican state leaders, likely would have prevented them from buying homes in which they raised their families, they said.

The bill’s author, state Sen. Lois Kolkhorst, R-Brenham, says it is a response to attempts by Chinese nationals with connections to the Communist regime who have been buying land in Texas. She has pointed to a Chinese energy company’s attempt to purchase 130,000 acres for wind farms near Del Rio as alarming because it would be just 70 miles from Laughlin Air Force Base.

Kolkhorst made changes to the legislation ahead of the hearing that she said

were meant to “make it crystal clear that dual citizens and legal permanent residents are able to purchase property. In fact, anyone fleeing these authoritarian regimes will be able to purchase a home.”

More than 100 individuals were signed up to testify before the committee, said state Sen. Charles Schwertner, R-Georgetown, toward the beginning of the hourslong hearing.

Those who testified said they believe the bill is discriminatory and violates property rights guaranteed in the U.S. Constitution. They feared it would fuel the anti-Asian sentiment that has led to an increase in hate crimes since the coronavirus pandemic began.

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Welcome

Sujatha A. Goli, M.D.

Board Certified Pulmonary, Critical Care and Sleep Medicine

Accepting New Patients

Sujatha Goli, M.D., FCCP, received her medical degree from Osmania Medical College, India in 1998, completed her residency, internship and fellowship at James H. Quillen College of Medicine, ETSU in 2005. She specializes and is Board Certified in Pulmonary, Critical Care and Sleep Medicine. Dr. Goli is currently accepting new patients.

Sujatha Goli, M.D., Sambasiva Sukhavasi, M.D., Pulmonary Medicine and Anil K. Goli, M.D., Clinical Cardiac Electrophysiology are relocating to the CHRISTUS Outpatient Pavilion, Beaumont, Texas.

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Beaumont | TX 77702

Warm weather has pollen returning early

By Julian Gill
STAFF WRITER

Winter is not over, but allergy season is getting a head start with unusually warm weather this time of year.

The area tree pollen count has been “extremely heavy” throughout the week, topping 1,500 every day since Monday, according to the Houston Health Department.

Grass pollen also hit the “heavy” threshold earlier in the week.

Low temperatures, meanwhile, have hovered in the low 70s, about 20 degrees warmer than usual this time of year, meteorologists say.

Dr. Evan Li, assistant professor of immunology, allergy and rheumatology at Baylor College of Medicine, reminds allergy sufferers to start their regimen of nasal spray and other over-the-counter allergy medication.

The warmer weather usually brings people outdoors more often, and prolonged exposure



Melissa Phillip/Staff file photo

Houston Health Department officials say Thursday’s tree pollen readings were “extremely heavy,” with more expected.

to allergens can lead to eczema or asthma, he said.

“As long as the weather stays unseasonably warm, regardless of the time of year, there will be allergens in the air,” Li said in a news release.

It is safe to take nasal spray or allergy medications twice a day, if symptoms persist, he said.

Li also recommended sup-

plementing allergy defenses with distilled water sinus rinses, using neti pots, squeeze bottles or electronic machine options.

Masking, especially with N95s and respirators, and allergy eye drops also can help, he said.

Parts of the Houston metro area were expected to see rain Thursday night, but it was not expected to be enough to wash away a significant amount of pollen, said Matt Lanza, meteorologist and editor of Space City Weather.

The forecast shows temperatures easing off this weekend before rising again next week.

It is difficult to say whether a possible cold front later in the month will make an impact in amount of pollen circulating, he said.

Overall, he said, for people who suffer from allergies, “it’s just going to suck for the next several weeks.”

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CDC: Flu vaccine worked well in season that faded fast

By Mike Sobbe
ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK — Early estimates suggest the flu vaccine performed well in a U.S. winter flu season that has already dissipated.

The vaccines were more than 40 percent effective in preventing adults from getting sick enough from the flu that they had to go to a doctor’s office, clinic or hospital, health officials said during a Centers for Disease Control and Prevention vaccines meeting Wednesday. Officials generally are pleased if a flu vaccine is 40 percent to 60 percent effective.

One reason is the vaccine was a good match against the strains that spread over the fall and winter, officials say.

But one expert at the meeting was underwhelmed and said it points out the need for better flu vaccines. “It is still disappointing” that the vaccine was a good match and yet effectiveness was still modest, said Dr. Sarah Long of Drexel University.

Annual flu vaccines are recommended for everyone 6



Associated Press file photo

Early estimates suggest the flu vaccine performed unusually well in a U.S. winter flu season that has already dissipated health officials said during a Centers for Disease Control and Prevention vaccines meeting Wednesday, Feb. 22, 2023.

months and older in the U.S. About half of eligible kids and just under half of adults got flu shots in the last several months, according to CDC data. Vaccination rates were up compared with 2021-2022, but below what they were before the COVID-19 pandemic hit in 2020, said the CDC’s Brendan Flannery.

Initially, it looked like it might be a bad flu season. The virus took off in early November as COVID-19 and another respiratory virus, RSV, roiled emergency departments. Among kids, flu-related hospitalization rates in November and December were as high as any seen in recent years, Flannery said. At least 111

flu deaths have been reported in children, the most since the 199 reported in the 2019-2020 season.

The dominant flu strain was the kind typically associated with higher rates of hospitalizations and deaths, particularly among older people. In some years, the vaccines were virtually ineffective against that strain in people 65 and older. But this season’s vaccine has done unusually well, with the best results seen in at least 10 years, said Flannery, who is responsible for the CDC’s flu vaccine effectiveness data.

Flu also apparently made a very early exit, with the virus declining since the end of November. Some pockets of high flu activity have persisted this month, including in New Mexico and New York City. But for the vast majority of the country, it’s low.

It’s not clear exactly why the wave crested so early, but flu seasons have been unusually mild or otherwise strange since the COVID-19 pandemic hit in early 2020, Flannery said. CDC officials also caution that flu season might not really be over — late winter or spring second surges

have occurred in the past.

The CDC uses several systems to track flu vaccines. One is a network of hospitals that offer information on how well the vaccine prevented flu-related illnesses bad enough to require admission to a hospital. Another is a collection of urgent care clinics and hospital emergency departments, which produce estimates of how well the vaccine worked against in preventing those kinds of medical visits.

Among the findings:

The vaccine was 44 percent effective in preventing adult lab-confirmed flu visits to urgent care clinics and hospital emergency rooms, and 39 percent effective for seniors age 65 and older.

It was 43 percent effective against flu-related hospitalizations of all adults, and 35 percent against flu hospitalizations of seniors.

In kids, the vaccine was 68 percent effective in preventing illnesses severe enough to require hospitalization, and 42 percent effective for pediatric visits to the emergency department.

Teens are struggling right now. What can parents do?

By Melinda Wenner Moyer
NEW YORK TIMES

Teens are struggling right now. What can parents do?

For more than 25 years, psychologist Lisa Damour has been helping teenagers and their families navigate adolescence in her clinical practice, in her research and in bestselling books such as “Untangled: Guiding Teenage Girls Through the Seven Transitions Into Adulthood.”

This moment, she says, is like no other.

According to a report released this month by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 42% of U.S. high schoolers experienced persistent feelings of sadness or hopelessness in 2021, while 22% seriously considered attempting suicide. Adolescent girls, as well as lesbian, gay and bisexual youth, are struggling the most, but boys and teenagers in every racial and ethnic group also reported worsening symptoms.

“I am deeply concerned about the suffering teens experienced during the pandemic and the current crisis in adolescent mental health,” Damour said.

In her new book, “The Emotional Lives of Teenagers,” Damour aims to demystify adolescence and to reset the very definition of mental health: “Too often, ‘mental health’ is equated with feeling good, happy, calm or relaxed,” she said. But it’s “about having feelings that fit the moment — even if those feelings are

unwanted or painful — and managing them in effective ways.” She thinks this characterization is “far more accurate,” and, she hopes, reassuring.

Here’s what Damour had to say about communicating with teenagers, distinguishing healthy emotions from mental illness and when to step in to help. This interview has been edited.

Q: It’s normal for teenagers to have big, tumultuous feelings. But given that we’re in the middle of an adolescent mental health crisis, how can parents tell the difference between healthy teenage angst and signs of anxiety or depression?

A: Teenagers feel their emotions more intensely than children do and more intensely than adults do. So there will be plenty of days where they experience distress, maybe multiple times a day.

Most of that distress will probably be appropriate to their circumstances. If a teenager failed a test, we expect they’ll be upset about that. If somebody breaks up with them, we expect they will be very sad. What we’re interested in is how the teenager then goes on to manage their feelings. What we want to see is that they use strategies that bring relief and do no harm, such as talking to people who care about them, finding brief distractions or solving the problem.

What we don’t want to see — and where we become alert to the possibility of a mental health con-

cern — is one of two things. One, teenagers are using strategies to bring relief that actually come at a cost: So a teenager who’s very distressed and then smokes a lot of marijuana, or a teenager who’s having a hard time with a friend and then goes after that peer on social media.

The other thing we don’t want to see is feelings “running the show” — when they get in the way of a young person’s ability to do the things they need to do, such as go to school or spend time with peers.

Q: If a teenager comes home from school and seems sad or angry, what’s the best way for an adult to respond?

A: Usually, all they need from us are two things. One is curiosity — to take an interest in what they’re sharing, to ask questions. The other is empathy — letting them know that we’re sorry that they feel that way.

We have excellent scientific evidence that the mere act of putting an unwanted feeling into words reduces the sting of that emotion. So when it’s 9 p.m. and your teenager is standing in front of you suddenly describing that they are feeling very anxious, or unhappy or frustrated, the most essential thing to remember is that they are already on their way to feeling better because they put those emotions into words.

Q: What if your teenager says something cruel to you?

A: It is perfectly fine for

kids to be angry. We should expect that. What we do put parameters around is the expression of that anger.

When teenagers use hurtful language, it can be useful to respond in a way that uncouples the feeling from how it was expressed. We can say things along the lines of: “You may be very angry with me. And you probably have a point. But we don’t speak to each other that way, so take a minute and bring it back to me in a more civil way.” Even if a teenager rolls her eyes, she’ll get the message and, hopefully, try again when she’s cooled off.



Adali Schell/New York Times

A young woman rests on her mom’s lap. Psychologist Lisa Damour shares advice on how to connect, what healthy emotions look like and when to step in.

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Town reels after “circus” Murdaugh trial

By James Pollard
ASSOCIATED PRESS/REPORT FOR AMERICA

WALTERBORO, S.C. — Walterboro native Danny Murdaugh is ready for his small South Carolina town to return to normal following the double murder trial of a distant relative that drew global attention and sullied his family's surname.

He lamented the “circus” brought to Walterboro by the six-week trial of Alex Murdaugh, which ended this week with the disgraced attorney sentenced to life in prison after being convicted of murdering his wife and son.

The spectacle altered life in Walterboro for over a month as an influx of locals, tourists and media flocked to the otherwise quiet downtown area to join the gripping trial. Teachers adjusted drop-off and pickup routines at the school down the street from the courthouse. On the other side of the street, entrepreneurs parked food trucks to cash in on the crowds. A newly opened pottery gift shop nearby set up a photo opportunity that read “I was at the Murdaugh trial.”

Walterboro Police Chief Kevin Martin said the city incurred \$35,500 in overtime pay, facilities rentals and technology upgrades related to the trial — not including costs this week.

Regular appearances from elected officials like South Carolina Attorney General Alan Wilson and television personalities like legal analyst Nancy Grace also turned heads.

“The only thing I haven’t seen



Nyantara Ruth talks about life outside the Colleton County Courthouse during Alex Murdaugh trial, Friday, in Walterboro, S.C. Murdaugh was sentenced to spend the rest of his life in prison.

is elephants and acrobats,” Danny Murdaugh said.

For some the attention provided a welcome economic jolt. Nyan Tara Ruth, who runs Sister’s Seafood and Soul, said the past six weeks brought her Walterboro-based food truck more business than ever before and helped her through a period of financial trouble.

“I’m sorry that the occasion happened in the murder case,” Ruth said. “But I definitely had the opportunity to set up and I made good money here.”

Rebecca Eggers, an artist who makes clay figures and cartoons at Ahab’s Arts and Crafts Mall near the courthouse, said it was

nice to see a buzz around the downtown that is “normally dead.” She called the food trucks a wonderful alternative to other nearby chains.

For some entrepreneurs, the saga’s actual details took a backseat to its boost for business. Jessica Burdick, co-owner of the boutique Twig, said she would only receive trial updates from customers. Between her multiple jobs, she had no time to follow the proceedings intensely.

“It has its side element of intrigue,” she said. “But, alas, I have to work.”

Katie Dearybury arrived Friday from Charleston with her 1-year-old daughter. She could not

miss the end to a case where she felt like a “13th juror or 14th juror.” Others poured in from around South Carolina and the East Coast, from New York to Florida.

Now that trial put the town billed as “The Porch of the Lowcountry” on the global map, one resident celebrated that she’d never again have to tell someone where Walterboro is located.

Still, by Friday, many residents were ready for the attention to subside. Sandy Alberts, a teacher, said she was looking forward to no longer needing to allow an extra half-hour for travel when making plans downtown.

Eggers said she was ultimately

wary of the attention given the circumstances.

“It brought a lot of people into Walterboro,” she said. “Granted, it wasn’t a good type of publicity because a man’s life was on the line.”

“I’m glad things will return to normal,” she added.

Danny Murdaugh said he falls “on the poor side” of the Murdaugh family, which climbed to prominence with members such as Alex Murdaugh’s father, grandfather and great-grandfather serving as the area’s powerful elected prosecutors for more than 80 years.

“He also hurt the Murdaugh family name,” Danny Murdaugh said. “Our life has been an honorable lifestyle. We don’t go out. We don’t cause trouble. We try to help when we can.”

Other Colleton County residents severely impacted by the frenzy were the 12 jurors and lone alternate left standing by trial’s end.

After the jury delivered its verdict Thursday, Judge Clifton Newman thanked the members. He noted one juror who faced potential job loss. Before dismissing the jury, Newman also assured them he would handle any reports of harassment. And he informed them they would be ineligible for jury duty through the next year and exempt from service for two more years.

“You did not volunteer for this service. You were called upon by being summoned to appear,” Newman said. “Providence have brought you to this moment in time, to these weeks in time.”

REGIONALS

From page A1

the Timberwolves during a less-than-perfect offensive performance by the team. Yates drove to the rim and absorbed contact on tough finishes for most of his team-high 21 total points.

Meanwhile, Clear Falls couldn’t keep Porchia off the glass as United’s big man scored on put-back offensive rebounds and ended the game with 17 points.

United’s defense was on display early, holding Clear Falls without a made field goal more than five minutes into the game. Even so, Clear falls stuck around with late runs to end each quarter.

Clear Falls banked in 3-point

shots at the end of the first and second periods, and trailed just 30-27 heading into halftime.

Every time United tried to open things up, Clear Falls went on a run. The Timberwolves held a 5-point lead at the end of the third quarter, but that was quickly erased by the midway point of the fourth as United’s offense struggled.

Porchia kept United afloat with a basket and a few made free throws that kick-started the Timberwolves 8-2 run after Clear Falls led 46-45 late. Porchia also got involved in the defensive effort with multiple tipped passes that became Clear Falls turnovers.

Clear Falls’ 48 points marked the Knights’ lowest scoring total in more than a month.

“We knew how good and spe-

cial they were,” Clear Falls coach Bryan Shelton said of United. “We have played some tough opponents this season. Our preseason was tough, our district schedule is battle tested and we’re a battle tested group.”

United will makes its return to the state tournament next week. The Timberwolves will be joined by Lake Highlands, Desoto and San Antonio Brennan in the 6A semifinals.

Matchups for the semifinal games on Friday in San Antonio have not been officially set.

“It’s a blessing to be going back and we’re ready to try and go get No. 3,” Green said of another state title.

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TENURE

From page A6

standards.

And decisions of tenure bestowal and removal should stay in the hands of those committees, as opposed to politicians or university board members, Texas Conference of the American Association of University Professors Treasurer Lynn Tatum told The Enterprise.

Keeping politicians or university board members out of the process protects decisions from being swayed by institutional politics or outside pressures.

Without tenure, professors lose their guarantee of academic freedom to research certain topics, and students lose the opportunity to learn about them, Texas Faculty Association President Pat Heintzelman told The Enterprise.

At the end of the day, professor’s job is to teach students to think critically and beyond their boundaries, Blodgett said.

“This really all comes back to this so-called critical race theory,” he said. “That’s a legal theory. But in sociology and other areas, we’ve talked about race and gender and other things for a long time...the big part of (House Bill 3979, targeting the teaching of critical race theory in public K-12 schools) is that you are not supposed to make anybody, by virtue of their race, feel like they are guilty for any of these past sins or current sins. We don’t do that. We teach about the history of these things and the consequences and maybe somebody poses a question, ‘Because you are white, do you share some guilt?’ That’s not the same as saying you are guilty.”

And the number of professors even impacted by tenure is slowly declining on its own, as Brian Evans, vice president of the Texas Conference of the American Association of Uni-



Lieutenant Gov. Dan Patrick speaks after being sworn in during his inauguration at the Texas State Capitol on Jan. 17, 2023.

versity Professors said only about 21% of faculty members in the United States are tenured.

Nationwide, the number of tenured professors has decreased, as the profession has seen an increase in college instructors employed on a contractual basis, which does not provide the same benefits or protections as are given to tenured or tenure track faculty members. As a result, most tenured professors have a doctorate degree in their chosen field. And the vast majority of instructors, who typically have a bachelor’s or masters degree, don’t begin to qualify for tenure and aren’t given the same protections that come with the distinction.

“The vast majority — about 75% — are contingent faculty (faculty hired in a non-tenure track position),” he said. “These are faculty hired typically on annual contracts, they renew every year or they may have two- or three-year contracts that renew or it’s a rolling contract. But, they really don’t have job security at all and they can be dismissed in certainly in an at-will employment state (such as

Texas) really at any time.

With the many years of experience and cost of obtaining a PhD, working at a college or university without the job security offered by tenure is an economic risk many individuals simply can’t take and could hinder Texas’ future growth, Tatum said.

Though a bill has yet to be filed regarding the matter, lawmakers have until March 10 to file bills, after which point only bills related to local matters or emergency items and appropriations can be filed unless 4/5 of lawmakers present in a chamber vote to suspend the rule.

State Legislators in South Carolina, Georgia and Missouri, among others, have proposed various bills targeting tenure with varying degrees of success, according to Berry. Heintzelman said she believes such a bill is likely to pass the Senate, which the lieutenant governor oversees. She added that with Phelan’s opposition to the proposal, she’s hopeful an anti-tenure bill would not pass the Texas House.

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Mich. school can’t be sued over shooting

By Corey Williams
ASSOCIATED PRESS

PONTIAC, Mich. — A Michigan judge has ruled that staff and administrators at Oxford High School cannot be sued for a mass shooting that left four students dead and seven others wounded.

Oakland County Circuit Judge Mary Ellen Brennan also dismissed Oxford Community Schools from civil lawsuits related to the shooting, stating that the district and staff are protected by governmental immunity.

Authorities have accused Ethan Crumbley, 16, of using a semi-automatic handgun to open fire Nov. 30, 2021 on other teenagers in the hallway at the school roughly 30 miles north of Detroit. The four students who were killed were 16-year-old Tate Myre, 14-year-old Hana St. Juliana, 17-year-old Madisyn Baldwin and 17-year-old Justin Shilling.

Crumbley, who was 15 at the time of the shooting, pleaded guilty in October to terrorism and first-degree murder charges. Prosecutors have said they’ll seek a life sentence with no chance for parole.

School officials have been criticized by the county sheriff and Oakland County Prosecutor Karen McDonald for not alerting a school resource officer about their concerns with Crumbley and not searching the teen’s backpack before allowing him to return to class about three hours before the shooting.

The day before the shooting, a teacher saw Crumbley looking at

ammunition on his phone while in class. School officials left a voicemail informing his mother about it. On the morning of the shooting, Crumbley’s parents were summoned to the school and confronted with his drawings, which included a handgun and the words: “The thoughts won’t stop. Help me.”

Authorities said his parents, James and Jennifer Crumbley, refused to take him home after the 13-minute meeting and were told to get him counseling.

A lawyer representing some families of the victims who filed the lawsuit has said some teachers and a counselor at the high school were aware of Crumbley’s troubling interest in guns and violence months before the mass shooting.

But Brennan placed the responsibility on Crumbley, writing in Friday’s order that “the court concludes that Ethan Crumbley’s act of firing the gun, rather than the alleged conduct of the individual Oxford defendants, was ‘the one most immediate, efficient, and direct cause of the injury or damage.’”

Detroit-based attorney Ven Johnson said he plans to appeal Brennan’s ruling to the Michigan Court of Appeals.

“On behalf of our Oxford clients, we are deeply saddened and disappointed by Judge Brennan’s dismissal today of all the Oxford Community Schools defendants,” Johnson said. “We maintain that governmental immunity is wrong and unconstitutional, and the law should be changed immediately.”

Jasper County Sheriff shares findings of 2nd warrant in Ruso case

By Kaitlin Bain
EDITOR

A second warrant related to the 2021 disappearance of a Buna woman yielded no physical evidence.

According to a news release from the Jasper County Sheriff’s Office, the three-day search at a property in the 1900 block of County Road 777 in Buna concluded Friday.

“While no physical evidence was collected, investigators continue to gather information that

validates the direction of the case,” the release says.

A “large amount” of physical evidence collected from a home in the 1800 block of County Road 777 in Buna — the last known location of 32-year-old Cristi Ruso — late last month is still being processed by the Texas Department of Public Safety Crime Lab.

Ruso disappeared Oct. 25, 2021. Two months later, a black trash bag of her clothing was found closer to town on County Road 721 in Buna.

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Cristi Ruso

RUSSIA-UKRAINE WAR

Civilians flee town as pressure mounts

By Mstyslav Chernov
ASSOCIATED PRESS

KHROMOVE, Ukraine — Pressure from Russian forces mounted Saturday on Ukrainians hunkered down in Bakhmut, as residents attempted to flee with help from troops who Western analysts say may be preparing to withdraw from the key eastern stronghold.

A woman was killed and two men were badly wounded by shelling while trying to cross a makeshift bridge out of the city in Donetsk province, according to Ukrainian troops who were assisting them.

A Ukrainian army representative who asked not to be named for operational reasons told The Associated Press that it was now too dangerous for civilians to leave Bakhmut by vehicle and that people had to flee on foot instead.

Bakhmut has for months been a prime target of Moscow's grinding eastern offensive in the war, with Russian troops, including forces from the private Wagner Group, inching ever closer.

An AP team near Bakhmut on Saturday saw a pontoon bridge set up by Ukrainian soldiers to help the few remaining residents reach the nearby village of Khromove. Later they saw at least five houses on fire as a result of attacks in Khromove.

Ukrainian units over the past 36 hours destroyed two key bridges just outside Bakhmut, including one linking it to the nearby town of Chasiv Yar along the last remaining Ukrainian resupply route, according to U.K. military intelligence officials and other Western analysts.

The U.K. defense ministry said in the latest of its regular Twitter updates that the destruction of the bridges came as Russian fighters made further inroads into Bakhmut's northern suburbs.

The Institute for the Study of War, a Washington-based think tank, assessed late on Friday



Vadim Ghirda/Associated Press

Tetiana Hurieieva, the mother of Volodymyr Hurieiev, a Ukrainian soldier killed in the Bakhmut area, cries during the funeral in Boryspil, Ukraine, Saturday. Pressure from Russian forces mounted Saturday on Ukrainians hunkered down in Bakhmut, as residents attempted to flee with help from troops who Western analysts say may be preparing to withdraw from the key eastern stronghold.

that Kyiv's actions may point to a looming pullout from parts of the city. It said Ukrainian troops may "conduct a limited and controlled withdrawal from particularly difficult sections of eastern Bakhmut," while seeking to inhibit Russian movement there and limit exit routes to the west.

Capturing Bakhmut would not only give Russian fighters a rare battlefield gain after months of setbacks, but it might rupture Ukraine's supply lines and allow the Kremlin's forces to press toward other Ukrainian strongholds in the Donetsk region.

Civilians spoke about daily struggles as the fighting raged on nearly nonstop, reducing much of Bakhmut to rubble. Husband and wife Hennadiy Mazepa and Natalia Ishkova, who chose to remain in the city,

said they lack food and basic utilities.

"Humanitarian (aid) is given to us only once a month. There is no electricity, no water, no gas," Ishkova told AP on Saturday.

"I pray to God that all who remain here will survive," she added.

At the United Nations on Friday, deputy spokesman Farhan Haq said U.N. humanitarian staff reported "intensive hostilities" near Bakhmut and the few humanitarian partners on the ground were focusing on evacuating the most vulnerable.

Also Saturday, Russia's defense chief traveled to eastern Ukraine to inspect troops and award them with state decorations, the Defense Ministry said.

Defense Minister Sergei

Shoigu visited a command post where he was briefed by regional commander Rustam Muradov, according to a video published by the ministry. It did not disclose the command post's location.

Elsewhere, Ukraine's emergency services reported in the morning that the death toll from a Russian missile strike that hit a five-story apartment building in southern Ukraine on Thursday rose to 11.

Emergency services said in an online statement that rescuers pulled three more bodies from the wreckage overnight, some 36 hours after a Russian missile tore through four floors of the building in the riverside city of Zaporizhzhia. A child was among those reported killed, and the rescue effort was ongoing.

Russian shelling on Saturday

also killed two residents of front-line communities in the surrounding Zaporizhzhia region, the local military administration reported.

A 57-year-old woman and a 68-year-old man also died in Nikopol, a town farther west near the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant, as Russian forces fired artillery shells and rockets at Ukrainian-held territory across the Dnieper river, regional Gov. Serhiy Lysak reported.

In the western city of Lviv, hundreds of kilometers from the front lines, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy met Saturday with the head of the European Union parliament. Hours earlier, Zelenskyy held talks with U.S. Attorney General Merrick Garland and top European legal officials on how to hold Russia accountable for its actions in Ukraine.

In a joint press briefing with Zelenskyy, European Parliament President Roberta Metsola said that "all those responsible" for suspected Russian war crimes in Ukraine, including Russian President Vladimir Putin, must be brought to justice before a durable peace is achieved.


Metsola voiced support for the EU's announcement Thursday that an international center for the prosecution of the crime of aggression — the act of invading another country — would be set up in The Hague.

She also called for Ukraine to start negotiations on joining the 27-nation bloc as early as this year and urged Western nations to keep arming Kyiv as it battles Russian forces in the east and south.

The EU agreed in June to put Ukraine on a path toward membership, setting in motion a process that could take years or even decades. However, Moscow's invasion and Ukraine's request for fast-track consideration have lent urgency to the negotiations.

"Ukraine's future is in the European Union. We will walk all the way with you," Metsola said on Twitter late Friday.

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Gonzales' GOP break results in censure

**By Paul J. Weber and
Ken Miller**

ASSOCIATED PRESS

AUSTIN, Texas — Republican U.S. Rep. Tony Gonzales of Texas was censured Saturday in a rare move by his state party over votes that included supporting new gun safety laws after the Uvalde school shooting in his district.

The Republican Party of Texas voted 57-5 with one abstention, underlining how the two-term congressman's willingness to break with conservatives on key issues during his short time in office has caused GOP activists and some colleagues to bristle.

That independent streak includes opposing a sweeping House GOP immigration proposal over the U.S.-Mexico border, which includes a large portion of his South Texas district. He has also voted to defend same-sex marriage and was an outright "no" against a House rules package after Republican leader Kevin McCarthy became speaker.

Gonzales was defiant before the vote and did not attend the



Andrew Harnik/Associated Press

Rep. Tony Gonzales speaks at a news conference at the Capitol in Washington, July 29, 2021.

meeting of Texas GOP leaders and activists in Austin.

"We'll see how that goes," he told reporters in San Antonio on Thursday.

Gonzales spent the day working, according to Sarah Young, his

spokesperson.

“He talked to veterans, visited with Border Patrol agents, and met constituents,” Young said in a statement. “The Republican Party of Texas would be wise to follow his lead and do some actual

work."

The vote followed an hourlong, closed-door executive session in which party members were allowed to debate the resolution.

There were no public comments by members before or after the executive session, and the vote was held about one minute after the meeting resumed, followed by applause and cheers from committee members.

In practical terms, a censure allows the state party to come off the sidelines if Gonzales runs again in 2024 and to spend money to remind primary voters about the rebuke. Passage of a censure required a three-fifths majority, or 39 votes of the State Republican Executive Committee, according to committee Chair Matt Rinaldi.

More than a dozen county GOP clubs in Gonzales' district had already approved local censure resolutions.

Gonzales cruised through his GOP primary and easily won reelection last year in his heavily Hispanic congressional district. He first won in 2020 to fill an open seat left by Republican Will Hurd

— who also didn't shy from breaking with the GOP, and whose aides say is now considering a run for president.

The censure illustrates the intraparty fights that still flare in America's biggest red state even as Republicans celebrate 20 years of having full control of the Texas Legislature and every statewide office.

Last year, former Texas GOP Chairman Allen West stepped down from the job to mount a faint primary challenge against Republican Gov. Greg Abbott. The state party in 2018 also censured a former moderate Texas House speaker who opposed bathroom restrictions for transgender people.

After the Uvalde school shooting, which killed 19 students and two teachers, Gonzales supported a sweeping and bipartisan gun violence bill signed by President Joe Biden. He is also the only Texas Republican in the statehouse or Congress who has called for the resignation of the state's police chief over the fumbled law enforcement response to the attack.

DC conflict reflects effort to undermine local control

**By Ashraf Khalil and
Gary Fields**

ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — Congress' expected vote next week to overturn District of Columbia laws dealing with criminal justice and voting has created a political tempest in the nation's capital — and reflects a contentious political dynamic that is playing out more broadly across the country:

Predominantly white legislative bodies are seeking to curb or usurp the authority of local governments in cities with large Black populations, particularly on issues related to public safety and elections.

Local activists decry it as the latest effort to undermine cities' ability to determine their own future.

U.S. senators — lawmakers from all 50 states — are expected to vote on a measure to reject a sweeping rewrite easing some penalties in the city's criminal code, approved unanimously last year by the District's 13-member council. The measure killing the local changes seems likely to pass despite the slim Democratic majority in the Senate, and President Joe Biden has indicated he will sign it.

It's a fresh chapter in a tortured relationship between Congress and Washington's local elected lead-

ers, who have long complained about congressional interference in their affairs. Similar inroads on local authority are happening elsewhere around the country, often intertwined with issues of race.

In Missouri, the state House of Representatives has approved a bill that would effectively give Republican Governor Mike Parson control of the St. Louis police department. Last month, the same body voted to strip power from St. Louis' elected prosecutor

In Mississippi, the state House has approved a measure to create a new court district in part of the capital city of Jackson with judges who would be appointed rather than elected. It also would expand areas of the city patrolled by a state-run Capitol police force.

The Mississippi Senate has voted to create a regional board to take control of Jackson's troubled water system. Democratic state Sen. John Horhn calls that "a symbolic decapitation of Black elected leadership."

Amir Badat, with the NAACP Legal Defense Fund, draws a connection between the "seemingly discrete and unconnected events" in Missouri, Mississippi and Washington.

D.C.

"I do think that there's an overall, overarching connection between what we're seeing, and that is predominantly white governments trying to exert control and authority over Black communities and large Black jurisdictions in the states." He also pointed to the recent push by George

gia's State Election Board to review elections in Fulton County, which includes Atlanta.

"Here are all sorts of

sue is strongly flavored by the District's deeply emotional quest for independence and statehood. Under terms of Washington's Home Rule authority, all District of Columbia laws are automatically reviewed by Congress.

Although it has been decades since Congress completely overturned a Dis-

trict law, members of Congress regularly use budget riders to limit or influence those laws. Such riders have been used to block the District from using the city budget to help women seeking abortions or to create a regulatory framework for cannabis sales despite a referendum approving legalization.

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SNOW DAMAGE

Heavy snowfall continues to jolt California

By John Antczak,
Amy Taxin
and Ben Finley
ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES — Emergency crews in California scrambled Wednesday to shuttle food and medicine to mountain communities stranded by back-to-back winter storms that have dumped so much snow some residents can barely see out their windows.

In San Bernardino County east of Los Angeles, around-the-clock plowing is underway but it could take more than a week to reach some areas, said Dawn Rowe, chair of the county's board of supervisors. Residents are dealing with as much as 7 feet of snow, and sheriffs' authorities have conducted 17 rescue operations to help off-road-ers and skiers. Emergency crews are trying to reach residents who need assistance.

In Crestline, the entire roof of Goodwin and Sons Market collapsed Wednesday even as safety inspectors were onsite checking up on reported damage. Officials raced to salvage food residents sorely need from its shelves.

Rowe said no one was injured. "We know that roofs are starting to collapse," she said. "There are other businesses that will likely be affected by the weight of the snow."



Salgu Wissmath/Associated Press

Residential properties peak out behind several feet of snow in Lake Tahoe, Calif. Wednesday

The county has set up a hotline for residents dealing with issues like frozen pipes, roof problems, and food shortages.

The San Bernardino Mountains are a major tourism and recreation destination but also home to a large year-round population in small cities and communities around lakes and scattered along winding roads. About 80,000 people live either part- or full-time in the communities affected, said David Wert, a county spokesman.

Anthony Cimino, a 51-year-old retiree, said he's been snowed in for about a week in the mountain community of Running Springs.

He finally managed to clear his decks, but not for long.

"I woke up this morning and there was another two-and-a-half feet on them," he said. "It was kind of like Groundhog Day."

Residents of these towns are grappling with so much snow they're running out of space to put it; clearing one area adds heaps to another. Grocery shelves had run bare of some items, like bread, and were running low on eggs and milk Tuesday. Cars remained buried under snow and roads closed.

At David and Kelli Góra's home in Big Bear Lake, the snow on the roof is now touching the

snow on the ground. They shoveled a small area to let their dogs go outside, but are mostly hunkered down.

"We've been through some big storms ... but this is just unreal," David Góra said. "I've never seen anything like it anywhere."

While the West Coast grappled with wintry weather, forecasters warned a new, powerful weather system will affect most of the lower 48 states this week. Six to 12 inches of snow could eventually fall in upstate New York, Vermont and New Hampshire, meteorologist David Roth said.

At the opposite end of the spectrum, record high tempera-

tures were expected Wednesday along the Gulf Coast and into the Ohio Valley while the southern Plains to the mid-South braced for possible tornadoes Thursday, according to the National Weather Service.

The heavy snow was expected to end in California on Wednesday afternoon after an additional 1 to 2 feet falls, according to the weather service. In Arizona, snow began falling Wednesday morning as the storm moved eastward and was poised to dump as much as 2 feet of snow in northern Arizona by Thursday morning.

The Sierra snowpack provides about a third of California's water supply. Tuesday's water content of the snowpack — in a state grappling with years of drought — was 186 percent of normal to date, according to the state Department of Water Resources' online data.

The next, larger weather system was expected to spread across much of the country Thursday, and areas such as the lower Mississippi Valley and Tennessee Valley could see heavy rain, thunderstorms and some flash flooding. The high temperatures could top 100 degrees across far south Texas, and windy, dry conditions would make for a critical risk of wildfire in parts of the Southwest for the next few days, according to the weather service.

TRANSPORTATION

Paid express lanes popular in once-reluctant South

By Jeff McMurray
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Trucker Tim Chelette has been making the same twice-daily drive for 16 years hauling empty whiskey barrels from Louisville, Kentucky, to the Jack Daniels distillery in Tennessee, yet his workday keeps getting longer due to time lost in Nashville traffic.

Although trucks wouldn't be eligible for the pay-to-use express lanes Republican Gov. Bill Lee is advocating for some of Tennessee's most-congested highways, Chelette supports them because he thinks enough drivers in the fast-growing state capital would take advantage to benefit everyone.

"They're going to have to do something," said Chelette, of Murfreesboro, Tennessee, who gets paid by distance, not time — even when his 245-mile return trip to the Lynchburg distillery spikes by an hour or more during afternoon rush. "When I get stuck in traffic, I lose money."

Unlike traditional toll plazas where every vehicle that passes through pays a standard fee, price-managed lanes allow some drivers to pay up to circumvent congestion — and the fee usually increases as the traffic does.

According to the International Bridge, Tunnel and Turnpike Association (IBTTA), which lob-



Andrew Nelles/Associated Press

Traffic creates streams of light along I-24 and I-65 in Nashville, Tenn.

bies on behalf of the projects, 54 of the 89 tolling facilities that opened in the U.S. in the past decade were for price-managed lanes. They can be found across the South in Texas, Florida, Georgia, North Carolina and Virginia, as well as such other places as California, Colorado, Washington and Minnesota.

Opponents call them "Lexus lanes," implying that only drivers of expensive cars can afford to use them, but Lee prefers another name: "choice lanes."

"I think (the name) is brilliant. I wish I had invented it," said Robert Poole, director of transportation policy at the libertarian Reason Foundation and a vocal advocate for price-managed lanes.

The marketing pitch is impor-

tant, particularly in the conservative South where voters have long resisted anything resembling a tax hike. But with fuel tax revenues and federal infrastructure payments failing to keep up with the need to repair aging roads or add capacity to reduce congestion, the projects are winning favor — even, and perhaps especially, in Republican-led states where "toll" has been considered a four-letter word in more ways than one.

Supporters counter that the lanes are a way to pay for roads without raising taxes, though they acknowledge they're sometimes a tricky sell — particularly the public-private partnerships that have funded many of the projects.

California's experience with

tolling — both traditional plazas and price-managed lanes — has provided fodder for advocates on both sides of the heated debate.

A grand jury in Orange County examined a state agency that was created to build three traditional toll roads. Its report, issued in 2021, found that on one hand, California produced "excellent roads with minimal tax dollars." But on the other, the jurors found ballooning debt and the need to change the initial plans amid financial downturns meant that drivers are on pace to shell out \$28 billion by 2053 for roads that cost a tenth of that to build.

The nation's first price-managed lane opened in 1995 in Orange County, using a public-private partnership to fund it.

Poole, who advised on the project and still calls it a model for others, said officials agreed not to add free lanes on the corridor for 35 years. Surging growth ultimately made that impossible, so the county terminated the contract and paid the company for its lost revenue. New bonds were issued, and the tolls had to stay in place to pay for them.

Tennessee's governor is seeking legislative support to authorize a public-private partnership for the project — one of 14 states that don't have tolls on any roads.

Republican state Sen. Frank Niceley said he expects Lee will get enough votes to pass the plan, but he strongly opposes it — even pointing out that fascist Italian dictator Benito Mussolini liked public-private partnerships, too.

The governor's administration brushes off such criticism. Will Reid, chief engineer and deputy commissioner at the Tennessee Department of Transportation, said the state is uniquely positioned to establish a partnership that avoids the financial pitfalls seen in California and elsewhere.

"We're one of six no-debt states," Reid said. "We own every piece of pavement. We own every bridge. We have a strong belief in paying as we go, and paying for the things we decide to build."

‘DREAMERS’ PROGRAM

Biden urges judge to allow latest ‘Dreamers’ rule

Suzanne Monyak
CQ-ROLL CALL

WASHINGTON — The Biden administration has urged a Texas federal judge to preserve the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program in a case that threatens protections for hundreds of thousands of undocumented immigrants who came to the country as children.

The Justice Department argued Thursday that the administration's latest version of the DACA program, which provides work permits and deportation relief for certain immigrants brought to the U.S. as minors, is a legal use of the government's authority to decide which undocumented immigrants to prioritize for deportation.

The Department of Homeland Security's "resources are limited," which requires the government to reduce the priority for undocumented immigrants who have strong ties to the country, including those who were brought as children and "have never known another country as home," the DOJ



Kena Betancur/TNS

A woman holds a banner during a protest supporting DACA, Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, in New York.

wrote in a court filing.

"DACA is carefully designed to address a difficult national problem involving severe resource constraints and significant humanitarian and policy concerns," the government said.

The Justice Department is fighting to protect DACA against a court challenge by a group of Republican-led states that argue they face financial

costs for housing and employing recipients of the program, known as "Dreamers."

Judge Andrew Hanen of the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Texas previously ruled against the Obama administration's version of the program but left the policy in place for current recipients. But while the government's appeal was pending, DHS put the pro-

gram through the formal regulatory process and published a formal rule to address some of Hanen's concerns about how the immigration program was issued.

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the 5th Circuit backed Hanen's earlier ruling but did not review the latest version of the policy, so it sent the case back to Hanen to consider.

In a court filing in January, the Republican states asked Hanen, again, to strike down the latest version of DACA. They argued that while the Biden administration's new rule "remedies the procedural defects of the DACA Memorandum, it suffers from the same substantive flaws."

The states also asked the judge to issue a ruling that would block the government from approving new DACA requests, as well as prevent the government from approving renewal requests from current recipients after two years.

In Thursday's brief, the government asked that, if Hanen does rule in favor of the states, he allow DHS to wind down the

program at its own pace, and that if he must impose a time frame, that he set one "substantially longer" than two years.

The DOJ also asked Hanen to limit his ruling to apply only in states that have proved they were harmed by the DACA program, which would allow individuals living in other states to continue to qualify for protections.

While the DACA program remains under court threat, congressional Democrats face an uphill battle to pass legislation codifying protections for "Dreamers" in a divided Congress. Republicans, who control the House, have signaled they would be unwilling to consider protecting "Dreamers" until they have secured more border security funding and restrictions.

At Democrats' conference earlier on Thursday, caucus chair Rep. Pete Aguilar, D-Calif., said he was "not optimistic about this Congress" reaching a bipartisan immigration deal "because any Republican who supports any type of reform gets tabooed."

Best Buy reports lower holiday revenues, sales

By Nicole Norfleet
STAR TRIBUNE

Fewer laptops and earbuds were under the Christmas tree this past holiday season, leading to electronics retailer Best Buy having its most lackluster end-of-year season of the last few years.

In November, December and January, consumers, burdened with higher prices for food, energy and other needs, spent less on home electronics, resulting in revenue dipping about 10% compared to the same time the year before to \$14.7 billion. It was the lowest it had been for Best Buy for that season in more than five years.

Best Buy's profits for the quarter and the year also dropped, though not as considerably as other major retailers like Target, which reported its earnings earlier this week. For the full year, Best Buy's profit fell more than 42% while Minneapolis-based Target's dropped 60%.

The Richfield-based electronics retailer dealt with numerous challenges in 2022 that abruptly put an end to a period of pandemic-fueled prosperity. However, for the most part, it was a setback Best Buy executives and Wall Street anticipated.

"Throughout Q4 and FY23, we remained committed to balancing our near-term response to current conditions and managing well what is in our control, while also advancing our strategic initiatives and investing in areas important for our long-term performance," Best Buy CEO Corie Barry said in a statement.

In its fiscal fourth quarter, sales fell 9.3%. Best Buy earned \$495 million for the quarter, or \$2.23 a diluted share. It matched analyst expectations of \$14.7 billion in revenue and came in a little above the consensus prediction of \$2.11 a share, however profit was still down 20.9% from the quarterly net earnings of \$626 million a

Best Buy continues on B2



The exterior of a Walmart Health Clinic in Rogers, Arkansas.

Walmart/TNS

Texas to get more Walmart Health clinics

Dallas-Fort Worth will get 10 clinics in 2024; eight for the Houston area

By Maria Halkias
DALLAS MORNING NEWS

Walmart is pushing ahead with its in-store health clinics and said Thursday it plans to open 28 more including 18 in Texas' two largest metro areas.

Dallas-Fort Worth will get 10 Walmart Health clinics in 2024, and eight are planned for the Houston area also next year. Six will open in Phoenix and four in Kansas City, Mo.

Walmart hasn't yet said which stores will get the new clinics, but soon it plans to begin recruiting for 300 health care jobs in D-FW and 240 in Houston.

Walmart, Walgreens and CVS have all been moving into the patient care business in recent years by partnering

with other companies and making acquisitions. Amazon closed its deal in February to buy primary care provide One Medical. VillageMD, which is majority owned by Walgreens, has opened dozens of clinics in areas where health care facilities are scarce. Store pharmacies have been key links in dispensing all kinds of vaccinations over the years, including since the pandemic started, and now retailers want more of the primary and urgent care business.

"Everyone is doing their own thing, but for us, we've got a lot of stores in Texas and a lot of associates in Texas and a lot of customers in Texas and they trust us," said Dr. David Carmouche, senior vice president at Walmart

Health. "We think they want affordable basic health care from us."

Walmart has 176,000 employees in Texas and operates 592 Walmart, Neighborhood Markets and Sam's Clubs.

The largest U.S. retailer formed its Walmart Health division in 2019 after trying smaller primary care clinics in about 1,500 square feet of store space.

Walmart Health clinics offer both primary and urgent care services and average about 5,750 square feet. On-site labs, X-ray and EKG machines and treatment for behavioral health, dental, hearing and other services are part of each location.

So far locations are in Arkansas, Florida, Georgia and Florida, and Walmart said it

expects to have 75 operating in the U.S. by the end of 2024.

Walmart Health clinics take insurance but also list prices for people who don't. Sick or injury visits are \$100, annual check-up for children is \$90, a lipid panel lab test is \$29 and a pap smear is \$50 to \$70.

Price transparency is part of the program, Carmouche said. Dental crowns are priced at \$750 and root canals are \$600 to \$850.

Walmart's own employees are a key population using the facilities, he said. "Our general philosophy is that we want to keep health care affordable. Where we can pass along value to consumers we will, and we'll price responsibly so that we can continue to grow new centers."

Ford launches new automated driving tech subsidiary

By Jordyn Grzelewski
DETROIT NEWS

Ford Motor Co. on Thursday announced the formation of a unit that will develop automated driving technology for the automaker's vehicles.

Dubbed Latitude AI, the unit will be a wholly-owned Ford subsidiary that initially will focus on developing a hands-free, eyes-off system for next-generation Ford vehicles, according to a news release.

The announcement comes months after Ford disbanded Argo AI, a self-driving vehicle technology company in which the automaker was a major investor along with Volkswagen AG. Ford said in October that it was shutting down Argo due to the immense challenges and steep costs associated with developing Level 4 fully self-driving advanced driver assistance systems. Executives said continuing down that path would have required at least five more years and billions more dollars in investment in Argo after Ford previously expected to bring Level 4 ADAS technology to market by 2021.

Instead, executives said Ford would focus on L2+ and L3 ADAS systems. Ford hired about 550 Argo employees to continue working on ADAS technology for the automaker,



Carlos Osorio/Associated Press

Ford Motor Co., President and CEO Jim Farley announces the automaker's new BlueOval Battery Park, Feb. 13.

in areas including machine learning and robotics, mapping, and cloud platforms.

"We're optimistic about a future for L4 ADAS," CEO Jim Farley said at the time, "but profitable, fully autonomous vehicles at scale are a long way off, and we won't necessarily have to create that technology

ourselves."

In announcing the creation of Latitude, Ford said the initiative supported its "strategic shift" to focus on Level 2 and Level 3 autonomy for personal vehicles.

Latitude's work will build on Ford BlueCruise, Ford's hands-free highway driving system.

"We see automated driving

technology as an opportunity to redefine the relationship between people and their vehicles," Doug Field, Ford's chief advanced product development and technology officer, said in a statement. "Customers using BlueCruise are already experiencing the benefits of hands-off driving. The deep experience and talent in our Latitude team will help us accelerate the development of all-new automated driving technology — with the goal of not only making travel safer, less stressful and more enjoyable, but ultimately over time giving our customers some of their day back."

The decision to shut down Argo — which analysts regarded as a setback for the autonomous vehicle industry — contributed to Ford posting a net loss in the third quarter of 2022, thanks to a \$2.7 billion non-cash, pretax impairment Ford recorded.

At the time, Field, a former Apple Inc. and Tesla Inc. engineer, said the work Argo was doing was "what I consider to be the hardest technical problem of our time. It's harder than putting a man on the moon to create an L4 robotaxi that can operate in a dense urban environment, safely, and navigate to its destination."

Latitude will be headed up by Sammy Omari, executive director of ADAS technologies at



Ford Motor Co./TNS

The logo for Latitude AI, Ford's new subsidiary focused on developing automated driving technology.

Ford. Peter Carr will serve as chief technology officer overseeing Latitude's product and technical development. And David Gollob will serve as president, overseeing business operations.

"The expertise of the Latitude team will further complement and enhance Ford's in-house global ADAS team in developing future driver assist technologies, ultimately delivering on the many benefits of automation," Omari said in a statement.

Latitude is based in Pittsburgh, where Argo was headquartered. The team will be supported by additional engineering hubs in Dearborn, Mich., and Palo Alto, Calif., Ford said. The unit also will operate a highway-speed test track in Greenville, S.C.

Majority of Hispanic Americans own a home as incomes rise

By Alex Tanzi
BLOOMBERG

A majority of Hispanic Americans now own a home, a milestone that was reached in part thanks to demographics and income growth.

The ownership rate among the group rose 4 percentage points in ten years to top 50%, according to a report by the National Association of Realtors. It means almost 3 million more Hispanics owned a home in 2021 than in 2011.

The rate for Hispanics remains well below the national average of 65.5% — and that of White Americans, at 72.7%. Owning a home is a major factor of building wealth over a lifetime. Lower ownership rates among minorities, who often face racial disparities in the mortgage market, has been source of widening inequalities for generations in the country.

The growth in Hispanic homeownership was boosted in part by the rising number of people reaching prime home-buying years.

Latino buyers have a substantially higher level of income than any other groups, the NAR report also found. They are younger than White and Black owners, and are more likely to be married and to opt for a multi-generational home with greater square footage.

“One of the biggest factors in Latino homeownership is basic demographics,” said Rick Ar-



Carline Jean/TNS

Realtor Maria Montalbano, middle, talks to potential buyers during an open house in Parkland, Florida, on May 25, 2021.

vieto, co-founder and chief executive officer of mortgage lender New American Funding. “Not only does the population of Latinos in America keep growing but their age skews younger.”

By 2030, an estimated 56% of all new homeowners will be Hispanic, according to a Freddie Mac report.

Half of Hispanic home buyers hold at least a Master’s or professional degree, a bigger share than anyone else, according to the NAR report. About 70% have at least two income earners in the household, also higher than the other demographic groups.

“The relationship between education and income is

strong,” said Nadia Evangelou, NAR’s director of real estate research. “Educational attainment among Hispanics has been changing rapidly.”

The U.S. Census Bureau recently also found that the median income of Hispanic households was 12% higher than it previously calculated, based on novel research. Should

this experimental measurement hold, it may have helped some afford a home.

The homeownership rate for Hispanic Americans varies widely by state in the NAR report. The highest ones are in West Virginia, New Mexico, and Vermont. The NAR survey is based on 4,854 responses from primary-residence buyers.

Texas leads in new corporate projects for 11th year

By Steve Brown
DALLAS MORNING NEWS

Texas in 2022 topped the rest of the country for new corporate facilities — the 11th year in a row the Lone Star State had headed the annual list.

Site Selection magazine sponsors the yearly ranking of U.S. states with the most new and expanded corporate facilities.

With 1,028 projects, Texas had more new corporate projects than the next two states in the ranking — Illinois and Ohio — combined, according to the Atlanta-based magazine’s Governor’s Cups listing.

Texas’ 2022 projects total was down slightly from 1,123 in 2021, but not enough to knock the state off its top perch.

“Texas truly is America’s economic engine, and we stand apart as a model for the nation,” Texas Gov. Greg Abbott said in response to the annual award. “When choosing where to relocate or expand their businesses, more and more innovative industry leaders find



Lola Gomez/TNS

Texas had 1,028 corporate projects in 2022, according to Site Selection magazine’s annual ranking.

themselves at home in our state.”

Some of the largest projects

that helped Texas keep its first place spot in 2022 were an \$8.5 billion chemical plant in

Orange, an \$8.5 billion liquefied natural gas plant in Corpus Christi and the \$5 billion Glob-

alwafers chip plant in Sherman.

Wells Fargo’s new regional office campus in Las Colinas — which Site Selection valued at \$200 million — also made the list.

“The Lone Star State’s economy is larger than that of Canada, South Korea and Australia,” Site Selection said in its March issue.

Looking at metro areas, Chicago was ranked the top city market with 448 projects in 2022. Dallas-Fort Worth was a close second with 426 new corporate facilities, followed by Houston with 255 projects.

Austin and Dallas-Fort Worth were the top metro markets on a per capita basis.

Kansas was the leading state per capital for new corporate deals.

To make Site Selection’s annual list, projects must have a capital investment of at least \$1 million, create at least 20 new jobs or total at least 20,000 square feet. The listing does not include government, retail, education and hospital projects.

BEST BUY

From page B1

year ago. Best Buy shares surged past \$84 in early trading Thursday but closed down 2.1% at \$80.79.

On Thursday during a call with analysts, Best Buy executives said the company continues to reduce its store footprint and modify its store layouts. Throughout the last three years, Best Buy has closed about 70 large-format stores or 7% of its portfolio. Best Buy plans to close about 20 to 30 large-format stores this year with plans to close an average of 15 to 20 traditional large-format stores per year after that.

The company is shuttering 17 stores just this week.

Some of Best Buy’s remaining larger stores are being converted into locations where people can have hands-on trials with new products and other stores where there is less sales floor square footage and more backroom space to fulfill orders. It’s a store evolution Best Buy has tested since 2020 when a record number of online sales made it important for the company to analyze how to more efficiently fulfill online orders. It is also opening more smaller-format and outlet stores.

“The purpose of the changes we’re making is, first and fore-

most, to meet a changing customer,” Barry said, on Thursday.

Sales have slumped the entire year for Best Buy as consumers have shifted their spending to other purchases after stocking up on home electronics during the height of the pandemic. Comparable sales, those at stores open at least a year, dropped 9.9% for the fiscal year, which ended in January.

A year ago, company leaders predicted same-store sales, or sales from stores open at least a year, would decrease by 1% to 4%. However, worsening economic conditions that emerged last spring led Best Buy executives to lower their sales expectations more to a 3% to 6% drop.

During the summer, Best Buy leaders said customer demand “softened even further” and recalculated that comparable sales could be down 11%. In the fall, executives slightly raised their outlook for the full fiscal year to a 10% decline after its earnings beat analyst expectations.

Still, Best Buy continues to make investments that company leaders say will pay off in the long run. It is growing its products in new categories like electric transportation and over-the-counter hearing aids.

It is also re-imagining some of its stores. At the end of last year, the retailer redesigned 40



Nelvin C. Cepeda/TNS

Customers carry new flat screen televisions from Best Buy in Mission Valley during Black Friday sales, on Nov. 27, 2020, in San Diego.

stores to offer more in-store experiences so customers can test out technology.

The retailer is doubling down on different models to gain customers who want service help. In late 2021, it launched a customer service membership called Best Buy

Totaltech that combined Geek Squad tech support, extended warranties and pricing deals.

For the current fiscal year, Best Buy predicts comparable sales to decline 3% to 6% as the consumer electronics industry continues to deal with the realities of its situation.

“At the same time, we remain incredibly excited about our industry and our future,” Barry said, “there are more technology products than ever in peoples’ homes, technology is increasingly a necessity in our lives and technology innovation will continue.”



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Sunday, March 5, 2023

Your new home awaits at 5920 Pinkstaff Lane in Beaumont

If you're looking for a beautifully laid-out home that is perfect for entertaining and just got a major renovation, look no further than this gorgeous property in West End.

Every room in the house been freshly fitted with new interior paint and brand new carpet has been installed in all four of the bedrooms.

The spacious kitchen comes fitted with granite countertops, a breakfast bar and stainless appliances.

The family area has plenty of room for entertaining, and will be an inviting space for family and guests, featuring tile flooring, accented wood beams, and a warm wood burning fireplace for those colder winter months. It also features french doors that open out into a delightfully landscaped backyard, complete with a deck for when you want to take your gatherings outdoors.

The master bedroom is charming and spacious, while the primary bathroom is fitted with a jetted garden tub, separate shower and double sinks.

The house also features an additional guest room with a full



bathroom downstairs, and many amenities upstairs, including a small wet bar with plenty of storage space, and enough room to fit in a fridge or ice-maker of your choice.

The car port has plenty of parking space and comes with an additional washer/dryer hook-up

At a glance:
5920 Pinkstaff Lane
Beaumont, Texas 77706

Price: \$398,000

Bedrooms: 4

Bathrooms: 4

Square feet: 3,263

Contact:
Kris McLemore,
RE/MAX One,
409-790-3352

Q: What are the benefits of having a buyer's agent represent you when buying a home?


A: If you're ready to buy, you want somebody who's looking out for you and who can be in close contact with you to let you know what's going on with the market. You want to let your buyer's agent guide you through the process, including getting you pre-approved by helping you find a lender that can get you that important pre-approval letter. If you have a good buyer's agent, they're going to educate you on the home-buying process so that you know what to

expect, with no surprises. For example, a lot of people don't realize that, as a buyer, they're going to need three sets of money

going in. The first set of money is the earnest money, which a buyer needs upfront. Once the offer's accepted, the second set of money pays for the home inspection. The third set of money is the down payment and closing costs, which depends on the kind of loan you have. Clients don't want to be surprised. They want to know, going in, what to expect, and a good buyer's agent will inform them from the beginning, so that there are fewer problems.

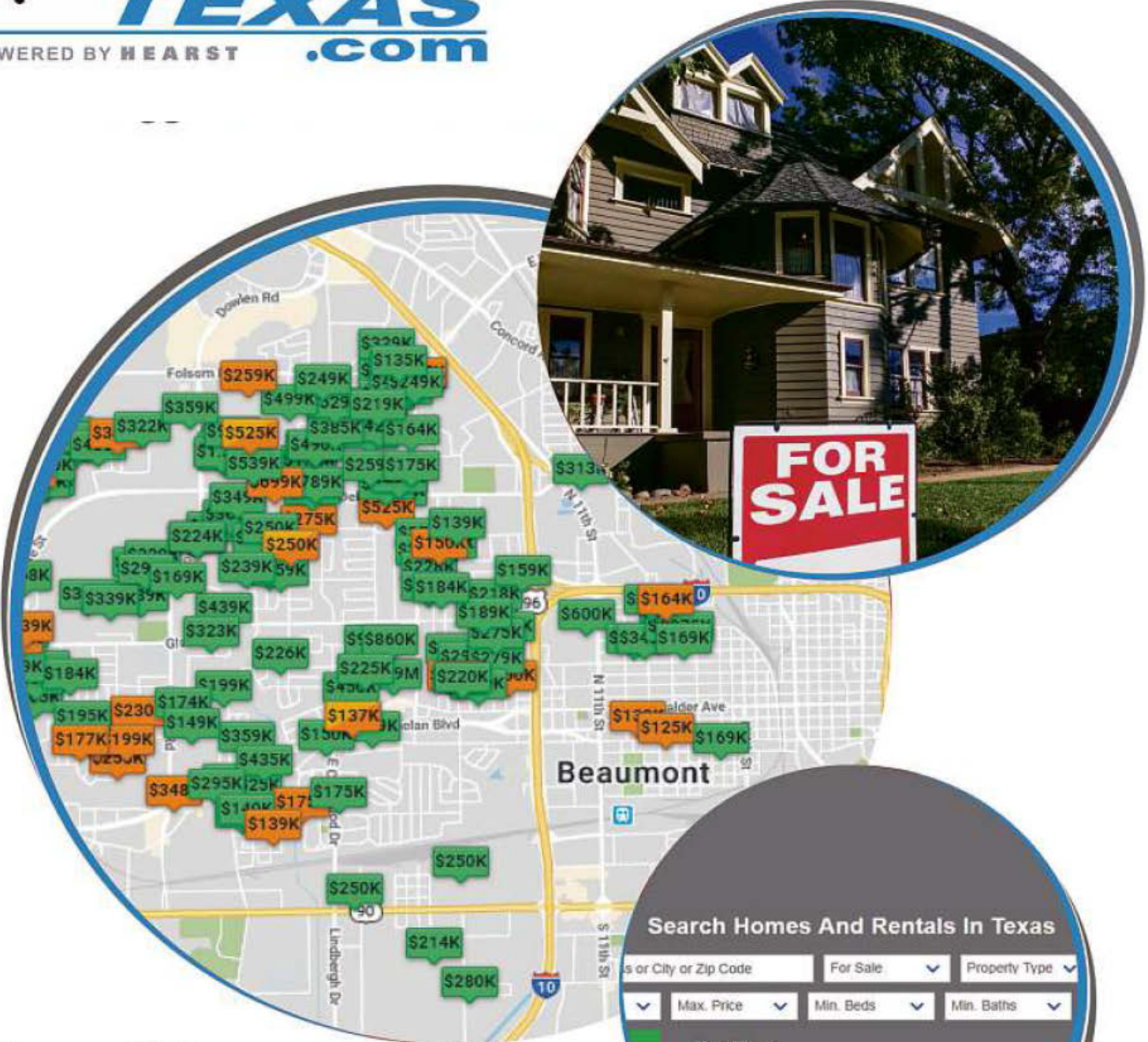
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ON THE WATER! OVER 400 FT BULK HEAD! 425/2 on a dead end street. This sprawling home has it all. Gourmet kitchen with large breakfast bar, formal, den with a vaulted ceiling that looks out over the water. A vacation all in one. Split floor plan with a master suite comes with his and hers, plus a patio off the master. 3 Bedrooms to the other side 2.5 baths attached garage. Boat storage, with a boat launch straight in for fishing! Fish cleaning station, outdoor kitchen that over looks large Oak trees and the bayou. This is a must see!!

COMMERCIAL or RESIDENTIAL. Great kitchen formally Healthy Ways Café. Has separate 2 bedrooms full bath. Was a duplex and converted to a full out stainless steel kitchen with Health dept. location approved. Seller will give his client base 150, assigned phone # and all commercial equipment. Ion Maker 2 gas stoves with ovens, 3 commercial double door refrigerators and stainless steel table. Kitchen has a half bath. Plus a second smoker outdoor kitchen with a screened cook house complete with 2 grills, a smoker, boiler, and large pots. Health Department Approved location! Residential 3/15 was a duplex that could go back to residential. Never Flooded no water on property per seller.

This home sits on a corner lot with easy access. Come pick your colors here if you hurry! This is nearing completion and is gonna be a beautiful home. It already has the love and care needed. It will be ready for move-in before your loan can be approved. 3/2 is showing like NEW! Owner has done all the work here! You can sit back and relax! Lots to offer! It will have all new appliances, a stove, dishwasher, and microwave hood! Has a new hot water heater, central air-condition and new heat. Colors can be picked only if approved, and if not already started painting.

Beautiful spacious newly remodeled home. New tile and granite throughout with warm fresh paint colors. Large living room den area with a fireplace. Large inside laundry room. 3/3/2 workshop with A large yard and plenty of room to grow. Quiet neighborhood. Located in Beaumont Colony LUM/Kountze area.

Location, location, location, north 105 sets on 3.95 acres. Come give your TLC or live there while building your dream home. Beautiful place to build your dream home in North Vidor. Home can be fixed with a little TLC. Some storage buildings will be removed from the property before closing. Large oak trees and partial fenced to help kick it up a notch!! Come see!!

Cute and cozy home! Great location, easy access to IH-10 to Orange or Beaumont. This home is a 3/1.5/1 carport corner fenced-in backyard for the furry friends. This home has a treehouse for the kiddos! VISD and should be in the new OAK forest Elementary school! Just off Hwy 12 call to see!

Shows like a new home. This home has all new wiring, pex plumbing, new central ac's and heat with completely new duct work. All new insulation, walls rolled and oiled down. Beautiful new custom cabinets and classy fixtures. The flooring is beautiful throughout. Front and back porches with exterior fans to sit and enjoy the day. This property is in the county, but has Vidor city water and sewer. Yard is fenced and is generally located near town. Colors are light and fresh. Rooms are roomy. The master suite has a large walk-in closet, custom tiled shower with bench, double sink and bedroom is large and roomy. This is a must see!!

Great home with porches front and back! 3 BEDROOM 2 BATH 1 carport 2 CAR DETACHED GARAGE. Nice fenced yard with giant shade trees and porches to relax and drink coffee/wine. No flooding in this home in any of the hurricanes per sellers. Nice open concept. Gas and electric. Laminated flooring. Architectural composition roof. Indoor laundry room. Large master suite off back. This neighborhood is highly sought after. Won't last long! Motivated sellers per seller!!

Nestled in one of the great little neighborhoods in Vidor Heritage Park off Orange St. quick and easy access to IH-10 to Beaumont or Orange. 3/2/2. Plenty of space for a family. The and granite. Primary suite with a lg walk-in closet and a private full bath. The great room has a large surrounding window, wood burning fireplace and a covered patio off to the back yard. Large oaks trees with a fenced yard. This home has a Kohler Home electric power station for when electricity goes out. Landscaping and some outside lighting. This home is a must see, call for an appointment today!

Charlotte Ragan,
CRS, GRI, ARB, CRB, LTG
658-8888

Interest rates are still low!

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SUNDAY BEST

BEAUMONT ENTERPRISE SUNDAY, MARCH 5, 2023 SECTION C



Everett Green and Sade Chick perform during the Junior League of Beaumont's 7th annual Dancing with the Stars on March 3.

Photos by Kim Brent/The Enterprise

Dancing with the Stars draws a packed crowd

By Kim Brent
PHOTOJOURNALIST

Eight couples vied for the coveted Mirror Ball trophy at the Junior League of Beaumont's 7th Annual Dancing with the Stars event Friday.

By the end of the night and by popular vote from the crowd that packed the Civic Center, Sade Chick and dance partner Everett Green tokk home the trophy after stealing the show.

The event is one of Beaumont's favorite fundraisers — always packing the venue for a night of entertainment while helping to raise money that the league uses to support community organizations.

kbrent@beaumontenterprise.com
twitter.com/kimbpix



Guests take in the show.



The Mirror Ball trophy sits among other awards.



Andrew McCluskey and April Tolbert perform on stage.



Ines Alvidres and Representative Nick Lampson perform.



Guests socialize at the cocktail hour before the show begins.



Ines Alvidres and Representative Nick Lampson perform.

TELEVISION

TELEVISION Q&A

‘Criminal Minds’ revived as new streaming series

By Rich Heldenfels
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

You have questions. I have some answers.

Q: Do you know the status of “Criminal Minds”?
A: Following a broadcast run from 2005 to 2020, “Criminal Minds” was revived as a streaming series with much of the original cast under the name “Criminal Minds: Evolution.”
That series had a 10-episode run on Paramount+ and has been picked up for a second season on the streamer. The new season will begin production sometime this year.

Q: What happened to the original stars of “The Wild Wild West”?
A: Fans well remember the 1965-69 adventure series starring Robert Conrad as James T. West, “the James Bond of Westerns” according to one book, and Ross Martin as his master-of-disguise partner Artemus Gordon.

This was Conrad’s second series, following “Hawaiian Eye” in 1959-63. He would go on to star in different TV series in the ‘50s, ‘60s, ‘70s, ‘80s and ‘90s. He was famous as well for his Eveready battery commercials and for TV movies including “Will,” where he played G. Gordon Liddy, and the mini-series “Centennial.” He and Martin also reunited for two “Wild Wild West” TV movies.

But not all was good in his life. As The New York Times reported, in 2003 he “was charged with driving drunk after his car crashed into another vehicle, seriously injuring the other driver and himself.

Mr. Conrad, who was left with some right arm and hand paralysis, was fined and sentenced to six months of house arrest.” He died of heart failure in 2020; he was 84.

Born in Poland and educated as a lawyer, Ross Martin’s skilled TV work before and after “West” was mainly in guest-starring roles; he also did some stage and movie work. He had health problems along the way, at one point taking a break



Joe Mantegna as Agent David Rossi in “Criminal Minds: Evolution.”

Monty Brinton /Paramount+/TNS

from “West” following a heart attack (Charles Aidman filled in as another character). He died at the age of 61 in 1981 after another heart attack.

Q: I watched “A Million Little Things” when it first came out but never figured out what happened with the guy who committed suicide. Why did he do it?
A: The ABC drama, now in its fifth and final season, somewhat explained Jon Dixon’s suicide in its first-season finale. According to The Hollywood

Reporter, while you can’t usually say there is only one reason for a suicide, Jon had had a long-secret trauma: “On Sept. 11, 2001, Jon was booked on Flight 11 out of Boston, one of the planes that was hijacked during the 9/11 terrorist attacks. While he missed the flight by seconds, his then-best friend Dave did not, leaving Jon with a case of survivor’s guilt from which he never fully recovered.”

Q: Will we ever see another season of “Taboo” with Tom Hardy?

A: It has been about six years since a second season of the drama was ordered, but there’s still no air date, and it may be still longer before there is one. According to British publication Broadcast, showrunner Steven Knight said in 2022 that he hoped to start production on Season 2 “towards the end of (2023).” That would probably put it on the air in 2024. Although COVID-19 played a role in the delay, a bigger challenge is fitting the show into Hardy’s heavy schedule as a movie

actor.

Q: Do you know the status of “Criminal Minds”?
A: Following a broadcast run from 2005 to 2020, “Criminal Minds” was revived as a streaming series with much of the original cast under the name “Criminal Minds: Evolution.”
That series had a 10-episode run on Paramount+ and has been picked up for a second season on the streamer. The new season will begin production sometime this year.

TONIGHT ON TV

PRIME TIME	6 PM	6:30	7 PM	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30	
FOX-4 (2)	Next Level Chef		Simpsons (N)	The-North	Burgers (N)	Family Guy	Fox 4 News	Attkisson	The National	Desk (L) (N)	
CBS-6 (3)	60 Minutes (N)		The Equalizer (N)		East New York (N)		NCIS: Los Angeles (N)		News (N)	(:35) Reporter	
ABC-12 (5)	Funniest Home Videos (N)		American Idol "603 (Auditions)" (N)				Company (N)		12 News (N)	9-1-1	
NBC-12 (11)	Dateline NBC				Magnum P.I. "NSFW" (N)		The Blacklist (N)		12 News	Sheldon	
CW (10)	The Good Doctor "Stories"		Animals	Animals	Whose Line	Whose Line	Liquidator	Chicago P.D.		WOW (N)	
KUIL (15)	Two Men	Big Bang	Friends	Mom	Sunday's/Country		9-1-1 "Ocean's 9-1-1"		Storm of Suspicion		
KITU (16)	Hagee Min	Robert (N)	J. Osteen (N)	Turning (N)	Huckabee (N)		The	Creflo (N)	Praise (N)		
PBS (8)	(5:30) Italy Made With Love		Doo Wop, Pop and Soul Generations (My Music)					Suze Orman's Ultimate Retirement Guide			
A&E (60)	(5:00) Biography "DX"		Biography: WWE Legends "Chyna" (N)				WWE Rivals		(:05) WWE Rivals		
AMC (23)	(5:00) 🦋★★ The Mummy ('99)			(45) 🦋 The Mummy Returns Imhotep's minions kidnap the O'Connells' precocious son.					Movie		
BET (61)	Neighbor	(:35) Neighbor	(:10) Neighbor	(:50) Neighbor	(25) The Neighborhood		America in Black (N)		Tyler Perry's Sistas		
BRAVO (69)	Housewives/Potomac		The Real Housewives of Potomac (N)			SWV & Xscape (N)		Watch What	Housewives-Atlanta (N)		
COM (45)	(4:30) 🦋★★ The Internship		The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	
DISC (54)	(5:00) Naked and Afraid (N)		Naked and Afraid "No Gear, No Fear" (N)				(:05) Naked and Afraid		(:05) Naked and Afraid		
DISN (78)	🦋 Beauty and the Beast (2017,Fantasy)				(15) Bunk'd		(40) Villains	(05) Villains	Jessie	Ladybug Ladybug	
ESPN (33)	NBA (N)	NBA Basketball New York Knicks at Boston Celtics (L) (N)					Basketball Memphis Grizzlies at Los Angeles Clippers (N)				
ESPN2 (34)	Player 54	Player 54	XFL Football San Antonio Brahmas at Houston Roughnecks (N)						SportsCenter (L) (N)		
FOOD (38)	Guy's Grocery Games		Tournament of Champions "Win or Go Home" (N)				Alex vs America (N)		Alex vs America		
FREE (29)	(4:35) 🦋 The Princess Dia...		(:15) 🦋★★★ The Parent Trap ('98) Reunited twin girls try to get their parents back together.								Movie
FX (30)	🦋★★★ Jumanji: Welcome to the Jungle ('17,Adv) Dwayne Johnson					🦋★★★ Jumanji: Welcome to the Jungle ('17,Adv) Dwayne Johnson					
GALA (47)	XH Derbez (N)		¿Cuál es el bueno? "Reto entre comediantes"				Faisy Nights (N)		+ noche		
HALL (40)	🦋 Winter in Vail (2020,Drama) Lacey Chabert				The Way Home (N)		Gold Girls	Gold Girls	Gold Girls	Gold Girls	
HBO (700)	(:10) To Be Announced				The Last of Us (N)		The Last of Us		Last Week	(:35) The Last	
HIST (43)	Built America		Built America		Built America (N)		(:05) Built America		(:05) Built America		
HGTV (50)	Home Town "Blue Heaven"		Home Town (N)		Home Town (N)		Hunters (N)	Hunt Intl (N)	Hunters	Hunters Int'l	
ION (73)	NCIS "Death From Above"		NCIS "The Numerical Limit"		NCIS "Sight Unseen"		NCIS "One Step Forward"		NCIS "Two Steps Back"		
LIFE (28)	(5:00) 🦋 My Landlord W...		🦋 Stranger Next Door (2022,Thriller) (P) Vicky Jeudy				(:05) 🦋 Black Girl Missing (2023) Garcelle Beauvais				
LMN (74)	(5:00) 🦋 Nightmare Neigh...		🦋 Nightmare PTA Moms (2022,Thriller) Brianna Cohen				🦋 Killer Stepmom (2022,Thriller) Julia Terranova				
NEWSN (9)	NewsNation Prime (L) (N)		NewsNation Prime (L) (N)		NewsNation Prime (L) (N)		NewsNation Prime		NewsNation Prime		
NICK (31)	(5:00) Awards	Big Nate	Patrick Star /(:15) 🦋★★★ The Croods: A New Age (2020,Animated)					Friends	Friends	(:35) Friends	
OXY (72)	Snapped "Carleen Charlie"		Snapped		Snapped "Denice Smith"		Snapped "Jaclyn Martin"		Cold Justice "Trajectory"		
PARMT (39)	Bar Rescue		Bar Rescue		Bar Rescue		Bar Rescue (N)		Waco "Visions and Omens"		
SHOW (728)	Your Honor		The Circus	The Circus	Your Honor (N)		Waco "Visions and Omens"		Your Honor "Part Eighteen"		
SYFY (59)	🦋★★ Jurassic Park III (2001,Adventure) Sam Neill				🦋★★ Jurassic World (2015,Adventure) (P) Chris Pratt					Movie	
TBS (42)	Big Bang	Big Bang	Big Bang	Big Bang	Big Bang	Big Bang	Silicon	(:40) 🦋★★★ Star Wars: The Last Jedi			
TCM (24)	(3:00) 🦋 Gone With the ...		🦋★★★★ Casablanca (1942,Drama) Humphrey Bogart				🦋★★★ The Way We Were ('73,Rom) Barbra Streisand				
TLC (51)	(5:00) 90 Day: Other		90 Day: Other "Lies Have Got No Legs" (N)				MILF Manor (N)		90 Day: Other (N)		
TMC (746)	(5:00) 🦋 Fatal Attraction		🦋 Wifelike ('22) Jonathan Rhys-Meyers			(45) 🦋 The Survivalist ('21)		(:20) 🦋 The Blackcoat's ...			
TNT (41)	(5:00) 🦋★★ Rampage ('18)		🦋★★★ Black Panther Black Panther springs into action when an old enemy returns.							🦋★★ 21 Bridges ('19) (P)	
USA (25)	Law & Order: SVU "Beef"		Law & Order: SVU		Law & Order: SVU (N)		(:05) Law & Order: SVU (N)		(:05) Law & Order: SVU		

TODAY IN HISTORY

On **March 5, 1770**, the Boston Massacre took place as British soldiers who'd been taunted by a crowd of colonists opened fire, killing five people.

On this date:

In **1849**, Zachary Taylor was inaugurated as the 12th president of the United States. (The swearing-in was delayed by a day because March 4 fell on a Sunday.)

In **1868**, the impeachment trial of President Andrew Johnson began in the U.S. Senate, with Chief Justice Salmon P. Chase presiding. Johnson, the first U.S. president to be impeached, was accused of "high crimes and misdemeanors" stemming from his attempt to fire Secretary of War Edwin M. Stanton; the trial ended on May 26 with Johnson's acquittal.

In **1933**, in German parliamentary elections,

the Nazi Party won 44 percent of the vote; the Nazis joined with a conservative nationalist party to gain a slender majority in the Reichstag. In **1946**, Winston Churchill delivered his "Iron Curtain" speech at Westminster College in Fulton, Missouri, in which he said: "From Stettin in the Baltic, to Trieste in the Adriatic, an 'iron curtain' has descended across the continent, allowing police governments to rule Eastern Europe."

In **1953**, Soviet dictator Josef Stalin died after three decades in power.

In **1979**, NASA's Voyager 1 space probe flew past Jupiter, sending back photographs of the planet and its moons.

In **1982**, comedian John Belushi was found dead of a drug overdose in a rented bungalow in Hollywood; he was 33.

Associated Press

TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS

Actor Paul Sand is 91. Actor James B. Sicking is 89. Actor Fred Williamson is 85. Actor Samantha Eggar is 84. Actor Michael Warren is 77. Singer Eddy Grant is 75. Rock musician Alan Clark (Dire Straits) is 71. Actor-comedian Marsha Warfield is 69. Magician Penn Jillette is 68. Actor Adriana Barraza is 67. Actor Talia Balsam is 64. Rock singers Charlie and Craig Reid (The Proclaimers) are 61. Pro Football Hall of Famer Michael Irvin is 57. Actor

Paul Blackthorne is 54. Rock musician John Frusciante is 53. Singer Rome is 53. Actor Kevin Connolly is 49. Actor Eva Mendes is 49. Actor Jill Ritchie is 49. Actor Jolene Blalock is 48. Model Niki Taylor is 48. Actor Kimberly McCullough is 45. Actor Karolina Wydra is 42. Singer-songwriter Amanda Shires is 41. Actor Dominique McElligott is 37. Actor Sterling Knight is 34. Actor Jake Lloyd is 34. Actor Micah Fowler is 25.

HOLLYWOOD

Tom Sizemore, 'Private Ryan' actor, dies of brain aneurysm

Christi Carras and Emily St. Martin
LOS ANGELES TIMES

LOS ANGELES — Actor Tom Sizemore, known for his work in films such as "Saving Private Ryan," "True Romance" and "Black Hawk Down," has died at 61 after a brain aneurysm.

Sizemore died Friday at a hospital in Burbank, according to his manager, Charles Lago. The actor had been taken to the intensive-care unit of Providence Saint Joseph Medical Center in Burbank on Feb. 18, where he was listed in critical condition and remained in a coma.

Earlier this week, Lago released a statement on behalf of the "Heat" actor's kin: "Doctors informed his family that there is no further hope and have recommended end-of-life decision."

Lago said in a statement that Sizemore "passed away peacefully in his sleep ... at St Joseph's Hospital Burbank. His brother Paul and twin boys Jayden and Jagger were at his side."

In 1998, Sizemore starred opposite Tom Hanks and Matt Damon in Steven Spielberg's Oscar-winning World War II drama "Saving Private Ryan." Sizemore



Gonzalo Marroquin/TNS

Tom Sizemore is shown at the premiere for "Night of the Tommyknockers" in Beverly Hills, California.

portrayed Capt. Miller's (Hanks) right-hand man, Sgt. Mike Horvath, a loyal and courageous soldier who delivers the movie's titular line and keeps souvenirs from each military tour he's completed.

Born Nov. 29, 1961, Thomas Edward Sizemore Jr. grew up in Detroit. His father was a lawyer and professor and his mother an ombudsman for the city.

Eventually, Sizemore's family relocated to the suburbs until his parents got a divorce, and the children moved back to Detroit with their mother. By the age of 16, Sizemore

more "wanted to get on with" his life.

After attending Wayne State University, Sizemore earned a master's degree in theater from Temple University and moved to New York City to pursue acting. His first break came when Oliver Stone cast him for a small role in "Born on the Fourth of July."

Sizemore played tough-guy roles throughout the 1990s in films such as "Natural Born Killers," "Wyatt Earp" and "Heat" and later had a recurring role in the television series "China Beach." In 2000, he received a Golden Globe

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS

- Trombone slide
- Mascara target
- A bit creepy
- Food on a skewer
- Football shoe part
- Arm bone
- Dulls
- Be of benefit
- Kind of dressing
- Good, in Oaxaca
- Fade
- Derek & the Dominos tune
- Place
- Barely manages
- Globe
- Above, to a bard
- Actress Merkel
- Ontario neighbor
- Prefix for "trillion"
- Discourteous
- Smitten
- Pipe joint
- Ginger or nutmeg
- Beat the field
- Genuine
- Eat soup impolitely
- Said to be
- Singer — James
- Lustrous fabric
- Leaf sources
- Seven-veil dancer
- Govern
- Chops fine
- Midnight —
- Stair post
- Scour
- Japanese port
- Rubberneck
- Force
- Daintily, perhaps
- Kangaroo feature
- Adjoining
- NFL scores
- Crushes
- — moment's notice

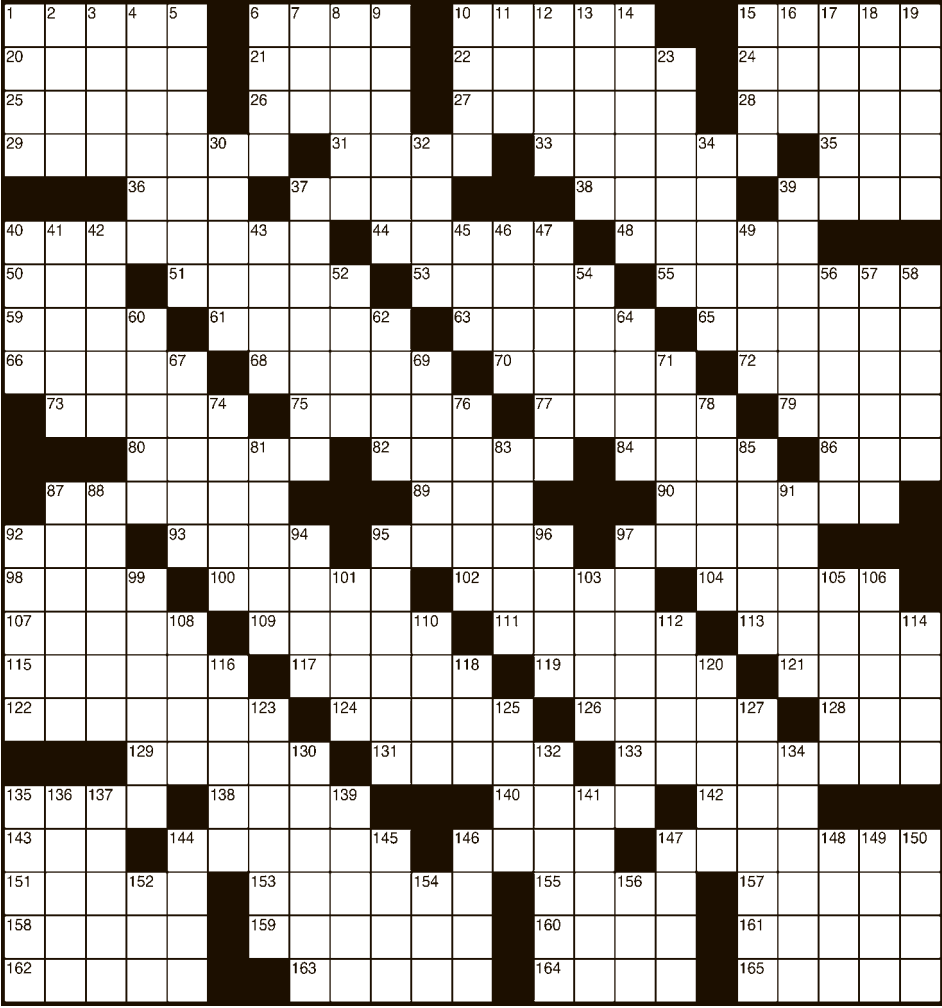
DOWN

- Historical periods
- Mug
- Business encl.
- Wed secretly
- "The Vampire Diaries" protagonist
- Blarney stone site
- Pleats
- Official imprints
- Specialized vocabulary
- Tag — (accompany)
- Standing tall
- Big Dipper neighbor
- Davenport
- Stockpiled
- Nerdy
- Shipments
- Sound bounce
- Probate concerns
- Doctrine
- Javelin
- Herd animal
- Walked back and forth
- Dwindled over time
- Exceptional
- Piquancy
- Once again
- Rocket trajectories
- Comrade
- Pollution control org.
- Pack animals
- Psychic's intro (2 wds.)
- Writers' credits
- Tan
- Had a discussion
- Overwhelm with humor
- Listless
- Actress — Zellweger
- Salad green
- Gill opening
- Landscape
- Fall flower
- Prescribed amounts
- Time long gone
- Hurled

DOWN

- Old TV hookups
- Asian mountains
- Furnished
- Clean house
- Fuel additive
- Garage service
- Frazier foe
- Look of disdain
- Tearjerker need
- Recedes
- Bracket type
- Reproaches oneself for
- Unsuitable
- Writes with acid
- Green vegetable
- Actress — Longoria
- Sluggish water
- Felt under par
- Proclaim noisily
- Himalayan guide
- Container weights
- Morays and congers
- Fence parts
- Version
- Walked unsteadily
- Aquarius' tote
- Reminders
- Shenanigan
- "I say!"
- Diner order, briefly
- Mine and thine
- Monkey —
- Big family
- Muscle spasms
- Orchard product
- Date regularly (2 wds.)
- Improves by editing
- Shoulder muscles
- Be in accord
- First-quarter tide
- Look over quickly
- Makes void
- "Cheers!"
- Show obeisance
- Musical key (2 wds.)
- Jalopies
- Send packing
- Point of debate

- Clad like many superheroes
- Bracer
- Comforters
- Remove weeds
- Kayak
- Refrain from
- Neutral shade
- Avoid
- Nobleman
- Slips away
- Wholly absorbed
- Superman alias
- Burma neighbor
- Handbag logo
- LPGA star Lorena —
- Japanese clog
- Yothers of "Family Ties"
- Ovid works
- Wolf's plaint
- Stick-on design
- Barnyard enclosure
- Overly sentimental
- Legislature
- Crumpet
- companions
- Pragmatic one
- Insist upon
- Like an evening gown
- Boxing hold
- Veld grazer
- "En garde" weapons
- New Orleans pro
- Emerson's middle name
- Musical instrument
- Villain's expression, perhaps
- Travels on powder
- Dangerous March date
- Computer memory unit
- At no time, in poetry
- Oceangoing bird
- Goulash
- "You don't say!"
- First lady?
- Balloon filler



KENKEN

EASY

2÷	4+	12×	2
			6+
3-			
3	7+		

CHALLENGING

2÷	2-	3÷	4	4-
		6	3-	
2÷	11+	12×	5	2-
			1-	
4-	3	1-		14+
	3-		1-	

WORKSPACE:

RULES

Each row and each column must contain the numbers 1 through 4 (easy) or 1 through 6 (challenging) without repeating.

The numbers within the heavily outlined boxes, called cages, must combine using the given operation (in any order) to produce the target numbers in the top-left corners.

Freebies: Fill in the single-box cages with the number in the top-left corner.

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SUDOKU

Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit, 1 to 9.

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

2÷	6-	3÷	4	5
3	4	6	2	5
4	6	2	5	1
2	5	1	6	3
1	3	5	4	6
5	1	4	3	2

2÷	4+	12×	2
4	1	3	2
2	3	4	1
1	4	2	3
3	2	1	4

VALVE	LASH	EERIE	KEBAB
CLEAT	ULNA	BLUNTS	AVAIL
RANCH	BIEN	BLEACH	LAYLA
SITUATE	EKES	SPHERE	OER
UNA	ERIE	TERA	RUDE
ENAMORED	ELBOW	SPICE	
WON	LEGIT	SLURP	ALLEGED
ETTA	SATIN	TREES	SALOME
REIGN	DICES	SNACK	NEWEL
SCRUB	OSAKA	CRANE	DINT
	ELFIN	POUCH	NEXT
QUELLS	ATA	EPOCHS	
CUP	SASE	ELOPE	ELENA
EIRE	TUCKS	SEALS	LINGO
ALONG	ERECT	DRACO	COUCH
STORED	UNHIP	LOADS	ECHO
ESTATES	TENET	SPEAR	COW
	PACED	WANED	ESPECIAL
ZEST	ANEW	ARCS	PAL
EPA	LLAMAS	I SEE	BYLINES
BEIGE	TALKED	SLAY	INERT
RENEE	ENDIVE	SLIT	SCENE
ASTER	DOSES	YORE	THREW

More puzzles at BeaumontEnterprise.com/puzzles

On the mark

Robert Motherwell at Menil Drawing institute celebrates process

By **Andy Coughlan**
CONTRIBUTOR

A drawing is a mark. It can be as simple as a dot on blank page, maybe a straight line. Add some complexity and it can be swirling lines, maybe that intersect and overlap.

Or, in the hands of a master, the drawing can be an explosion of dynamic movement. The drawing encompasses a scale that transcends size. The great Abstract Expressionist Robert Motherwell is such a master of drawing and the current exhibition at the Menil Drawing Institute is an absorbing delight.

“Robert Motherwell Drawing: As Fast as the Mind Itself,” on display through March 12, is an overview of his creative experimentation with the medium — from drawing to spontaneous splotches to collages of torn paper. In effect, if it can be used to make a mark on paper, Motherwell did it.

The earlier works in the show are representational, not to be confused with realistic. The small watercolor and ink works feature abstract figures that resemble Arshile Gorky (considered a father figure to the Abstract Expressionists) and have a Picasso-esque in feel. “Kafka’s Big Room,” from 1944, is similar in composition to a Picasso interior.

In 1948, Motherwell produced the drawing “Elegy to the Spanish Republic” his meditation on the Spanish Civil War, which led to arguably his most famous series of paintings. It is a composi-



Robert Motherwell “Lyric Series” installation view.

Paul Hester/© 2022 Hester + Hardaway



Courtesy photo

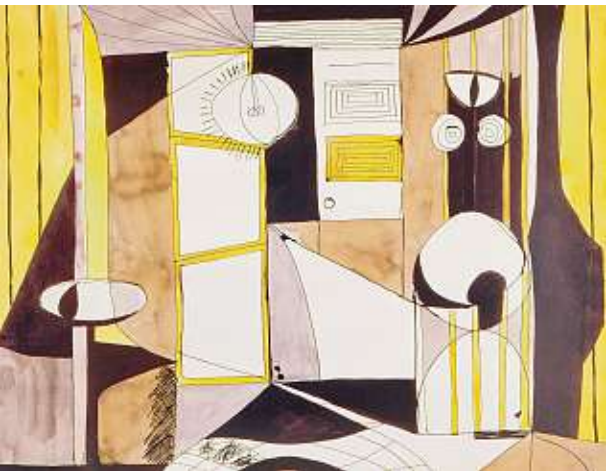
Robert Motherwell, Rimbaud Series No. 3, 1967.

tion that fascinated him, and he produced multiple paintings in the “Elegies” series and continued to play with a similar composition over his entire drawing career.

The 1995 acrylic “Elegy to the Spanish Republic,” although small, still echoes the epic scale of his famous painting. Motherwell returns to the theme

by using various techniques, sometimes with color, sometimes in black and white. The sketch contains the poetic lines, “I knew who had sent them in three green cases./Who doesn’t lose his mind will receive like me/That wire in my neck up to the ears.”

I have always been a fan of the artist’s black



Courtesy Photo

Robert Motherwell, Kafka’s Big Room, 1944.

and white drawings, his shapes are consistently intriguing, evocative and enticing.

Through a few bold shapes, such as in the oil sketch “Elegy Study C,” he has the ability to create a dynamic balance. The paint splatters explode the shape which is balanced by the black rectangle that anchors the right side of the frame.

A series of black and white images on large paper incorporate splatters and lines are both

playful and serious. They are conceptually articulate but always allowing for the spontaneous. Motherwell is a thoughtful artist, and one senses the deep intellectual questioning that is taking place. Yet there is also a sense of play. He balances bold shapes with dribbles and splatters. One can imagine the fun he must have had creating the marks, seeing what images reveal themselves through the process. The wall of ink and

gouache drawings, “Lyric Suite,” comprises 24 pieces that are each unique but interconnected through attitude and intention. Motherwell applied ink to Japanese rice paper which accepts the ink into itself. How the ink spreads and absorbs in impossible to control, a process that Motherwell embraced. To stand in front of them is revel in the joy of making the work. They are just a few of the more than 500 pieces he produced for the “Lyric Suite.”

Motherwell’s collages are interesting as he uses the torn paper to create color shapes in perfect balance. In “Scarle with Gauloises #8” contrasts the iconic blue cigarette packets with a solid red ground.

The “Rimbaud Series” from 1967 features eight gestural ink drawings on acetate. Once again, they are a delicate balance between soothing shape and dynamic energy.

In 1979’s “Drunk with Turpentine,” the oil paint bleeds into the paper and separates from the pigment, a slight brown tinge around the image staining the paper.

“Robert Motherwell Drawing: As Fast as the Mind Itself” rewards the curiosity seeker. To appreciate the images, one needs only to embrace to sense of exploration Motherwell brings to the process. It is a show that really leaves a mark.

The Menil Drawing Institute is located at 1412 W. Main St. in Houston. For more information, visit menil.org/drawing-institute.

McFaddin-Ward House SOARs into spring

By **Andy Coughlan**
CONTRIBUTOR

Butterfly kites will fill the skies around the McFaddin-Ward House today, as the museum hosts its SOAR Family Day. The free event, which takes place from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., will include butterfly bikes, a butterfly art garden, crafts, music and a picnic area.

“Butterflies are a representation of renewal and rejuvenation,” Rayanna Hoeft, House education director, said. “And we feel like that’s what we want to do, to come together with our community to celebrate coming out of this dreary, dreary winter.”

House communications and marketing manager Sarah Parker said the house will be decorated specially for the event.

“The outside display is going to be this incredible installation of butterfly kites,” she said. “They will be affixed to the house draped down on a net. We have a butterfly garden that was created by local artists. We sent out these wooden butterflies to local artists and they painted their own incredible works of art. There will be a selfie station. The grounds are so beautiful.”

SOAR visitors will be able to contribute to the garden’s decoration, Hoeft said.

“We’re doing a community art garden, so folks can paint their own little wooden butterfly with acrylics and then we’ll spray them to make them waterproof,” she said. “And we created a huge, framed fence contraption, and folks will hang their butterfly on the fence which will be an installation in our garden.”



Photo by Andy Coughlan

Local artists have contributed works for the butterfly garden at the McFaddin-Ward House. The installation is part of SOAR Family Day, March 5.



Photo by Andy Coughlan

Rayanna Hoeft, left, and Sarah Parker sort through butterfly kites in the McFaddin-Ward House Visitor Center in preparation for the SOAR Family Day

Visitors will be able to ride butterfly bikes with large wings on them as well as participate in rock painting, making seed balls, beaded caterpillars and face painting. Sophia Bouey is hosting a community art project.

The Andre Harness Quartet will play live jazz from 1 to 3 p.m. For those who don’t want to bring a

picnic, the Bread Bus food truck will be on site serving boudin quesadillas.

A variety of other organizations will offer programs during the event. Hoeft said about 30 or 40 years ago, there was a movement that museums should serve as third spaces for their communities and be

places of respite and be places of learning and places of community gathering.

“We were we were intentional in bringing in our cultural heritage partners as well as members of other nonprofit organizations,” she said.

Other participants include Beaumont Botanic Gardens, the Beau-



Photo by Andy Coughlan

Local artists have contributed works for the butterfly garden at the McFaddin-Ward House.

mont Heritage Society, and the Oaks Historic District.

“Most of these people have some kind of a service connected to this theme of nature and conservation education,” Hoeft said.

The Houston Museum of Natural Science is bringing its Bugs on Wheels from the Cockrell Butterfly Center. The Sabine-Neches Chapter of Master Naturalists will host a game for children

about the butterfly’s life cycle.

“We are serving as a connector between a group of non-profits in the community,” Hoeft said. “It’s not just what we can do, it’s a little bit more broad than that.”

Hoeft said the event is not only fun, but it is also educational.

“From an ecological perspective, this is a way for us to teach the community how important it is to take care of the butterflies,” she said.

“They’re an important part of our ecosystem. So, not only is this a beautiful visual activity and theme that we’re embracing, it’s also a moment to teach, and how we can have a conversation about our environment and be good stewards of the environment.”

SOAR kicks off a month of activities at the McFaddin-Ward House, with two “Music at the McFaddin’s” events, with Backporch Friends on March 10 and Night and Day Orchestra on March 30.

Parker said the museum is aiming to be a hub where local groups come to spend time and get enrichment.

“The house has so much to offer, not just its history, but the grounds,” she said.

Hoeft said SOAR is an event where people can come together and enjoy the beauty that’s offered through the McFaddin-Ward gardens, as well as learn new things.

“These events are a great connector for us to the community as well,” she said. “I feel like it creates community partnerships.”

Besides, Hoeft said, “Everything about butterflies is beautiful.”

For more information, visit mcfadin-ward.org.



A fried scorpion adds crunch to a pickled pizza.

Photos by Bao Ong/The Enterprise

Wacky carnival foods are big, bold, definitely creative

We taste everything from rattlesnack nachos to Cheetos street corn

By Bao Ong
STAFF WRITER

As a new Houstonian, I hear the endless jokes from non-Texans about how everything is bigger in Texas.

When it comes to RodeoHouston, it's all over the place: One vendor is called Big "6" Bar-B-Que. Big Texas corn dogs are advertised around the midway section. One vendor says it'll only sell you a

piece of funnel cake bigger than your face.

So I can confirm the rodeo goes big when it comes to zany, over-the-top carnival food. This goes for recipes served on a stick (like the Gold Buckle-winning deep-fried BLT) and funnel cakes topped with Fruity Pebbles.

While you can order one of Bun B's Trill Burgers or typical carnival fare on steroids — I wanted to inhale an entire order of fries the size of a loaf of banana bread — there's a different thrill of trying the craziest dishes available during the rodeo's few-weeks run.

Sweet, savory or salty,

it's all up for grabs. Following are some highlights we tasted the past few days.

Rattlesnake nachos

If the thought of rattlesnake season arriving in Texas has you feeling queasy, the Pioneer Wagon located outside of the NRG Center may be a hard pass.

But like a lot of the rodeo's over-the-top dishes, the bark is worse than the bite. (Or in this case, is it the venom? Let's not dwell on that, even though the snakes here are sourced from West Texas.)

Exhibit A: Snake Bite Nachos (\$14), where chips are loaded with gooey cheese and crumbled pieces of rattlesnake sausage. Owner Chris Taylor squirts on a generous amount of "venom sauce" — it's really just avocado and green chile — before handing over your order with an ever so sly everything-is-going-to-OK smile.

The rattlesnake itself isn't gamey. If anything, it tastes like bland ground turkey instead of the chorizo so many Houstonians love in their queso and breakfast tacos.

There was no line on a recent visit, but in its second year at the rodeo, Pioneer Wagon nabbed a finalist nod in the Most Creative Food category for the Gold Buckle Foodie contest and plans to come back next year.

"We wouldn't miss it," Taylor said. "It's the best rodeo in the world."

Cheesecake on a stick

I'm no stranger to foods served on a stick and may even claim to be a bit of an expert.

The Minnesota State Fair, one of the largest and oldest fairs in the country, was an annual summer



Snake Bite Nachos get a nod for being creative.

pilgrimage for my family. We tasted everything on a stick back in the day — from a deconstructed, deep-fried casserole dipped into a side of Campbell's Cream of Mushroom soup to an eggroll the size of a corn dog.

Sills Funnel Cakes, which is based in Spring, served a cheesecake version I couldn't pass up. An order with strawberries and whipped cream (\$13) was better than most cheesecakes, which I often find too bland. You break through the golden exterior to find silky cream cheese in the middle that's warm like a just-out-of-the-oven brownie.

Southern-fried Alfredo ball

If you're a member of the fried food fan club, hit up the Dallas-based Southern Fried Saloon, also just outside of NRG Center.

One of Southern Fried's new items is a tennis ball-size serving of Alfredo that's been fried and doused with a cream sauce. The sweet-talking, polite workers will sell you on it, but sadly, espe-

cially for someone who loves all forms of carbs (especially if it's deep fried), this wasn't something I'd order again. It was a tangle of mashed up pasta lacking any seasoning — for \$20 on top of that. It comes with a piece of garlic toast and a few sprigs of asparagus for posterity, though.

Scorpion pickle pizza

The flashy signs adorning Swain's Pizza seemed to goad me on: Pick your poison?

Pickle pizza, which can also be sold on a stick, is enough to make anyone do a double take. But add fried bugs — a scorpion, if you must — and I paused for a second before a colleague told me I had to try it.

I survived.

Eating bugs is nothing new for many cultures across the world, but Americans get squeamish when we see critters on the menu. Just close your eyes and bite, I told myself.

The slice of pizza was covered in a white sauce dotted with pickles — a good enough balance of

salty and sour. But when it came to taking the scorpion out of the plastic bag to garnish my dish, I had to remind myself that I've eaten crickets before.

You can't taste anything except for a crunch. Your mind thinks about the horror movies and National Geographic specials before you swallow the bug. If anything, the cheese and pickle saves the day.

Flamin' street corn

A common theme with carnival food this year is Flamin' Hot Cheetos.

It's a sure win for anyone that appreciates a bit of heat and salt, more than a doctor probably recommends. Vendors are putting it in ramen, hot dogs and perhaps its best use, on corn.

Paradise Burgers of Pearland sells a generous serving of elote (\$8.50) topped with crushed Flamin' Hot Cheetos. The luminescent mix of yellow and orange is like a '90s fever dream, combining street and junk foods that many can appreciate.

bao@chron.com



The Southern-fried Alfredo ball lacked seasoning.



Fried cheesecake on a stick was filled with silky cream cheese and topped with whipped cream.

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— Orange —

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A high school diploma or equivalent is required as is knowledge of food preparation, food storage, and sanitation regulations. Duties are performed in a café/food preparation environment.

This position is security-sensitive and thereby subject to the provisions of the Texas Education Code §51.215.


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Closing Date: April 2, 2023

Interested applicants can apply at <https://jobs.lsc.edu/postings/2519> before the closing date. Documents required for a complete application are a resume and cover letter.

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For more information, contact LSCO’s Human Resource Office at 409-882-3931.

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Full job requirements for each job posting can be viewed online at www.careers.totalenergies.com/en.

To view job requirements and apply:

- Visit www.careers.totalenergies.com/en
- Type **70544BR** in the keyword box and click search jobs
- Click on the job title to review job requirements
- Qualified applicants should click on “Apply to Job”
- Create a profile if this is your first-time logging in
- Deadline to apply is midnight on **Wednesday, March 15, 2023**.

Minimum Requirements

- Bachelor of Science degree in Chemical Engineering
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You may email your resume to jobs@eyecenterset.com. or fax to 409-838-4824 (attn: Nicole).

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Notice
Virtual Public Hearing
US 190 at Neches River Bridge Replacements
Neches River Relief Bridge and Neches River Bridge
CSJs: 0213-07-047, 0213-08-074
Jasper and Tyler Counties, Texas

The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) Beaumont District is proposing to replace the existing United States Highway (US) 190 Neches River Relief Bridge and US 190 at Neches River Bridge at B.A. Steinhagen Reservoir in Jasper and Tyler Counties, Texas. This notice advises the public that TxDOT will be conducting an online virtual public hearing (no in-person option) on the proposed project. The virtual public hearing will consist of a pre-recorded video presentation and will include both audio and visual components. The presentation will be posted online on **Tuesday, March 21, 2023, by noon**. To log onto the virtual public hearing, go to the following web address at the date and time indicated above: www.txdot.gov and, in the keyword search box in the upper-right hand corner, enter "US 190 at Neches River." If you do not have internet access, you may call the TxDOT Beaumont District Office at 409-898- 5732 between the hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, to ask questions and access project materials during the project development process.

Members of the public may call 409-203-2579 to provide verbal testimony from noon on March 21, 2023, through 11:59 p.m. on Wednesday, April 5, 2023. Formal written comments may also be provided by mail or email, as explained below. All verbally provided testimony and timely written comments will be considered by TxDOT and included as part of the official record. Responses to verbally provided testimony and comments will be prepared by TxDOT, included as part of the hearing and project record, and made available online at www.txdot.gov.

The project area would be approximately 1.11 miles in length along US 190 between the cities of Woodville and Jasper and would replace the two existing US 190 bridges described above. The project would construct one bridge adjacent to the north side of the existing bridges and would remove the two existing bridges and approaches. The approach roadways and new bridge would consist of two 12-foot- wide travel lanes (one in each direction) with 10-foot-wide outside shoulders.

The project would be constructed entirely inside of the existing 200 to 300-foot-wide permanent transportation easement (which is used as right of way [ROW] and referred to as such for the purposes of the project), and no new ROW would be required. Approximately 8.90 acres of temporary construction easements are proposed outside of the existing ROW, and a 0.25-acre temporary construction easement is proposed inside the existing ROW.

The proposed project is anticipated to impact (or "use") the following properties protected under Section 4(f) of the Department of Transportation Act of 1966 and Chapter 26 of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Code: the US 190 at the Neches River Bridge (NBI No. 201220021308074) and Martin Dies Jr. State Park. The US 190 at Neches River Bridge, which is listed in the National Register of Historic Places and is classified as a historic site under Section 4(f) of the U.S. Department of Transportation Act of 1966 and Chapter 26 of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Code, would be replaced as described above. Two temporary construction easements would be required within Martin Dies Jr. State Park. It is anticipated the impacts to the park would meet the threshold for exceptions to the Section 4(f) requirements because the duration of occupancy would be temporary, there would be no change in ownership of the land, there would be no anticipated permanent adverse physical impacts, there would be no interference with the protected activities, features, or attributes of the property, and the land would be fully restored to conditions at least as good as those which existed prior to the project. Furthermore, it is anticipated the officials with jurisdiction, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, will document agreement that the proposed temporary construction easements meet the thresholds of the exemptions for the Section 4(f) property. Public comment on the effects of the proposed project on the activities, features, or attributes of the US 190 at Neches River Bridge and/or Martin Dies Jr. State Park may be submitted as described below.

The proposed project would involve construction in wetlands and would involve an action in a floodplain.

Environmental documentation, studies, maps/drawings showing the project location and design, tentative construction schedules, and other information regarding the proposed project are on file and available for inspection Monday through Friday between the hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. at the TxDOT Beaumont District Office, 8350 Eastex Freeway, Beaumont, Texas, 77708. An appointment can be made by calling 409-898-5732. Project materials are also available online at www.txdot.gov.

The virtual public hearing will be conducted in English. If you need an interpreter or document translator because English is not your primary language, or if you have difficulty communicating effectively in English, translation will be provided to you. If you have a disability and need assistance, special arrangements can be made to accommodate most needs. If you need interpretation or translation services or you are a person with a disability who requires an accommodation to participate in the virtual public hearing, please contact the TxDOT Beaumont District Public Information Office at 409-898-5745 no later than 4 p.m., Thursday, March 16. Please be aware that advance notice is required as some services, and accommodations may require time for TxDOT to arrange.

Written comments from the public regarding the proposed project are requested and may be submitted by mail to the TxDOT Beaumont District Office, Re: US 190 Neches River, 8350 Eastex Freeway, Beaumont, TX 77708. Written comments may also be submitted by email to bmtprojects@txdot.gov. All written comments must be received on or before **Wednesday, April 5, 2023**. Additionally, as stated above, members of the public may call 409-203-2579 and verbally provide testimony starting from noon on Tuesday, March 21, 2023, until 11:59 p.m. on Wednesday, April 5, 2023. Responses to written comments received and public testimony provided will be available online at www.txdot.gov once they have been prepared.

If you have any general questions or concerns regarding the proposed project or virtual hearing, please contact the TxDOT Beaumont District Office at 409-898-5732 or bmtprojects@txdot.gov.

The environmental review, consultation, and other actions required by applicable Federal environmental laws for this project are being, or have been, carried-out by TxDOT pursuant to 23 U.S.C. 327 and a Memorandum of Understanding dated December 9, 2019, and executed by FHWA and TxDOT.

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We Value Your Input!

The South East Texas Regional Planning Commission (SETRPC) is the designated Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the Jasper-Jefferson-Orange-Hardin Regional Transportation Study (JJOHRTS) area, comprised of Jasper, Jefferson, Orange and Hardin Counties. In conjunction with the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT), the SETRPC/MPO is responsible for securing various sources of operating funds for South East Texas Transit in FY 2023. A portion of these funds are obtained through a Section 5310 Grant for enhanced mobility of seniors and individuals with disabilities. This grant is provided through the TxDOT Public Transportation Division (PTN)

As part of the continuing, cooperative, and comprehensive transportation planning process, the SETRPC-MPO will be hosting a public meeting to provide Partners, Stakeholders and citizens an overview of, and an opportunity to comment on the needs and opportunities of public transportation in the Mid-County area (the cities of Nederland, Port Neches and Groves) of the SETRPC region. The meeting will be held on Friday, March 10, 2023, at 10:00 a.m. at the City of Port Neches City Hall Council Chamber, 1005 Merriman Street, Port Neches, Texas 77651.

NOTE:
Please attend the meeting to provide input. For more information or for special needs requests (48 Hours), contact Bob Dickinson at (409) 899-8444 extension 7520 or bdickinson@setrpc.org.

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SPORTS

BEAUMONT ENTERPRISE SUNDAY, MARCH 5, 2023 SECTION D

CLASS 6A REGIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP Beaumont United 53, Clear Falls 48



Beaumont United celebrates the team's win over Clear Falls in the Region III-6A final high school basketball playoff game, Saturday, in Houston.

Timberwolves at their best when backs against the wall



Matt Faye
STAFF COLUMNIST

I never think the Beaumont United boys basketball team is going to lose. And why would I? The Timberwolves have never given me a reason to doubt them.

Even when the outlook is bleak, Beaumont United always seems to pull victory from the jaws of defeat. Case and point, the Class 6A regional championship on Saturday against Clear Falls. With two minutes left in the game, the Timberwolves were on full-blown upset alert. They couldn't make a shot, and Clear Falls had just taken its first lead of the game at 46-45. You think this Timberwolves team was fazed? Think again. All they did was rip off an 8-2 scoring run when it was needed most to survive and advance with a 53-48 win.

United showed its championship pedigree on Saturday, and is booking a hotel in San Antonio because of it.

This isn't the first time the Timberwolves have shown a flare for the dramatic. They've been here many times before.

Remember Terrance Arceneaux's game-winning shot to secure the 2021 state championship in double overtime? Or how about last year, when the Timberwolves earned four



Beaumont United guard Kayde Dotson, right, catches a pass as Clear Falls Prince Hegwood defends during the second half of the Region III-6A final high school basketball playoff game, Saturday, in Houston.

come-from-behind playoff victories on their way to another 5A title.

Just ask Mansfield Timberview, last year's 5A state runner-up, what it's like to hold a late lead against United.

Arceneaux is gone to the University of Houston, but United's other major contributors returned with state experience in hand. Wesley Yates, Kayde Dotson, Trealyn Porchia and Clarence Payia all know how to navigate tense moments. They don't get flustered when things go wrong. They respond. The Timberwolves are at their best when their backs are against the wall.

So what am I supposed to think now as the state tournament nears next week.

If there's a weakness to United's team, it's the fact that the Timberwolves do seem to get sidetracked at times. As I stated, United has made a bad habit of waiting until the final minutes to show up.

That shouldn't worry Timberwolves fans very much, though. I've seen nearly three years worth of evidence that tells me United will be the better team in clutch time.

If the Timberwolves are to win a third state title, they'll likely have to show that clutch gene at least one more time.

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MLB

Bregman gets back to work

By Chandler Rome
STAFF WRITER

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. — In the final at-bat of his first Grapefruit League game, Alex Bregman barreled a pitch to his pull side, the sort of swing that's encouraging this early in camp.

The baseball sailed down the left-field line and landed just foul. Bregman had to sprint out of the batter's box in case it didn't. A pitch later, Bregman repeated the same sequence. He trudged back toward the box afterward, stared up and started to hustle.

"The swings felt good in the cage," Bregman said with a smile, "but couldn't really think today running back in (the batter's box) trying to swing."



Alex Bregman

Bregman learned Friday what teammates have said all spring: baseball's new pitch clock can create a hassle for hitters. He finished his Grapefruit League debut 0-for-2, but left with more timing adjustments in store.

"It was fast, but it's out of my control, so I just have to learn and adapt," Bregman said. "Everyone their first few games is just looking at the clock the whole time, not really paying attention to anything but just watching the clock and learning to adapt, get a feel for it. It's definitely different, but out of our control, so we just want to figure out how to adapt to it and keep going."

As part of a prescribed plan, Bregman played five innings and took two at-bats against the Braves during his spring debut. Among everyday players, only Michael Brantley and Yordan Alvarez have yet to appear in a Grapefruit League game.

"I felt good," Bregman said. "Great to play, great to be back out there. Felt awesome and ready to get after it for another year."

Bregman is trying to build off a brilliant second half last season. He slashed .287/.379/.515 in 282 plate appearances after the All Star break. Aside from a three-week shutdown to allow his broken left index finger to heal, Bregman finally enjoyed a healthy winter free of lingering lower-half injuries.

"I feel great," Bregman said. "My workouts this offseason were great. I got a great routine down, got a great staff here that's been helping me ramp up and get ready to go for the season. Overall, the offseason buildup was great and I'm ready to play."

Added manager Dusty Baker: "I think he's going to have an outstanding year. He appears to be way ahead of where he was last year at this time. It was abbreviated for all of us."

COMMENTARY

'Pressure is a privilege' for top-ranked Houston Cougars

Drive through the endless construction on Cullen Boulevard, enter a state-of-the-art practice facility located next to a recently remodeled arena, walk through a darkened hallway, and a large silver-framed picture stares back at you.

Kelvin Sampson, head coach of the No. 1 college basketball program in America, smiles while shooting a Super Soaker water gun inside a cramped locker room that is forever frozen in mid-celebration.

Kellen Sampson, assistant coach for a University of



BRIAN T. SMITH
COMMENTARY

Houston team that could be a month away from playing in the NCAA men's Final Four in the Cougars' backyard, stands inches away from his father in the same photograph, shooting his own water gun and

sharing a joyous smile.

"He taught us all how to do this," said Kellen, referring to a 67-year-old leader whose team has spent the 2022-23 campaign being better than Kansas, Baylor, UCLA and Gonzaga.

But how exactly did UH do this?

And how do the Sampsons and their Coogs keep doing it during a one-and-done era that has seen Duke, North Carolina and Kentucky fall while a once-forgotten program playing in the American Athletic Conference has risen

UH continues on D3



Houston guard Tramon Mark (12) shoots during the game against Wichita State, Thursday, in Houston.

Kevin M. Cox/Associated Press



Sam Greenwood/Getty Images

Kurt Kitayama plays a shot from the 17th tee during the Arnold Palmer Invitational in Orlando, Fla.

PGA

Kitayama holds onto Bay Hill lead after third round

By Doug Ferguson
AP GOLF WRITER

ORLANDO, Fla. — Kurt Kitayama steadied himself down the stretch Saturday at Bay Hill, closing with two birdies over the last three holes to escape with an even-par 72 and a one-shot lead in the Arnold Palmer Invitational.

Now comes the hard part for Kitayama, a 30-year-old Californian going after his first PGA Tour victory.

Defending champion Scottie Scheffler had five birdies over his last seven holes in warm gusts that made Bay Hill tough as ever. He finished with a 68 and was one shot behind, along with Viktor Hovland of Norway (66).

Hovland finished runner-up to Scheffler a year ago at Bay Hill.

The rest of the contenders are what was to be expected with a \$20 million event and every PGA Tour member from the top 50 in the world.

Rory McIlroy, Jordan Spieth, Justin Thomas and Max Homa all were within range of Kitayama if he were to lose ground or if Bay Hill was baked and brittle as it typically is for the final round.

For now, Kitayama held his own.

His two-shot lead was gone when he sent his drive well to the right and out-of-bounds on the par-5 fourth hole, and he went out in 39 as Hovland planted himself at the top and McIlroy made his move with a remarkable bogey-free round of 68.

Two shots behind Kitayama was Tyrrell Hatton of England, who won the Arnold Palmer Invitational for his first U.S. victory in 2020, the last PGA Tour event before the COVID-19 pandemic. He also played bogey-free for a 66.

There was plenty of evidence of trouble at Bay Hill, as always.

Corey Connors of Canada was among four players who had at least a share of the lead at one point Saturday, only to shoot 40 on the back nine. He finished with a shot into the 18th that caromed off the rocks, into the rough and then trickled back down the rocks. He made bogey for a 75.

Spieth opened bogey-bogey playing in the final group with Kitayama. He still was within two shots of the lead but then went the final 12 holes with no birdies and one bogey for a 74. Thomas played bogey-free until missing a 4-foot par putt on the last hole for a 72.



Meg Oliphant/Getty Images

Joey Logano, driver of the #22 Pennzoil Ford, smiles after winning the pole award at the NASCAR Cup Series Pennzoil 400 in Las Vegas, Nevada, Saturday.

NASCAR

Defending Cup champion Joey Logano wins pole in Las Vegas

By Mark Anderson
AP SPORTS WRITER

LAS VEGAS — Defending NASCAR Cup Series champion Joey Logano, who won the October race at Las Vegas, won the pole Saturday for Sunday's Pennzoil 400.

Logano qualified at 186.053 mph as the Team Penske No. 22 Ford. He has won three of his past eight Cup races at Las Vegas Motor Speedway.

“It really handled well, and obviously it's got really good speed,” Logano said. “You hope you make the right adjustments and right changes from the fall over to here. Some of them

were pretty good then, but you've got to keep evolving and try things, and it gets a little nerve-wracking when you try to make these changes that you're married to.

“Hopefully, that transfers to the race tomorrow. I think it will.”

William Byron, in the Hendrick Motorsports No. 24 Chevrolet, qualified second at 185.153 mph.

The rest of the top five were Ryan Blaney in the Penske No. 12 Ford (184.9), rookie Ty Gibbs in the Joe Gibbs Racing No. 54 Toyota (184.54) and Kyle Busch in the Richard Childress Racing No. 8 Chevy (184.489).

College basketball Men's Top 25 fared

Saturday
No. 1 Houston (28-2) did not play. Next: at Memphis, Sunday.
No. 2 Alabama (26-5) lost to No. 24 Texas A&M 67-61. Next: TBA.
No. 3 Kansas (25-6) lost to No. 9 Texas 75-59. Next: TBA.
No. 4 UCLA (26-4) vs. No. 8 Arizona. Next: TBA.
No. 5 Purdue (25-5) did not play. Next: vs. Illinois, Sunday.
No. 6 Marquette (25-6) beat St. John's 96-94. Next: TBA.
No. 7 Baylor (22-9) lost to Iowa St. 73-58. Next: TBA.
No. 8 Arizona (25-5) at No. 4 UCLA. Next: TBA.
No. 9 Texas (23-8) beat No. 3 Kansas 75-59. Next: TBA.
No. 10 Gonzaga (26-5) did not play. Next: vs. TBA, Monday.
No. 11 Kansas St. (23-8) lost to West Virginia 89-81. Next: TBA.
No. 12 Tennessee (22-9) lost to Auburn 79-70. Next: TBA.
No. 13 Virginia (23-6) beat Louisville 75-60. Next: TBA.
No. 14 UConn (23-7) at Villanova. Next: TBA.
No. 15 Indiana (20-10) did not play. Next: vs. Michigan, Sunday.
No. 16 Miami (23-6) vs. No. 25 Pittsburgh. Next: TBA.
No. 17 Saint Mary's (Cal.) (25-6) did not play. Next: vs. TBA, Monday.
No. 18 San Diego St. (23-6) vs. Wyoming. Next: TBA.
No. 19 Xavier (22-8) vs. Butler. Next: TBA.
No. 20 Providence (21-10) lost to Seton Hall 62-58. Next: TBA.
No. 21 Maryland (20-10) did not play. Next: at Penn St., Sunday.
No. 22 TCU (20-11) lost to Oklahoma 74-60. Next: TBA.
No. 23 Kentucky (21-10) beat Arkansas 88-79. Next: TBA.
No. 24 Texas A&M (23-8) beat No. 2 Alabama 67-61. Next: TBA.
No. 25 Pittsburgh (21-9) at No. 16 Miami. Next: TBA.

Women's Top 25 Fared

Saturday
No. 1 South Carolina (31-0) beat Mississippi 80-51. Next: vs. TBA, Sunday.
No. 2 Indiana (27-3) lost to No. 14 Ohio St. 79-75. Next: TBA.
No. 3 Utah (25-4) did not play. Next: TBA.
No. 4 LSU (28-1) vs. Tennessee. Next: TBA.
No. 5 Maryland (25-5) at No. 7 Iowa. Next: TBA.
No. 6 Stanford (28-5) did not play. Next: TBA.
No. 7 Iowa (24-6) vs. No. 5 Maryland. Next: TBA.
No. 8 Virginia Tech (26-4) beat No. 13 Duke 58-37. Next: vs. Louisville, Sunday.
No. 9 UConn (27-5) beat Georgetown 69-39. Next: vs. Marquette, Sunday.
No. 10 Notre Dame (25-5) lost to Louisville 64-38. Next: TBA.
No. 11 Villanova (26-5) vs. DePaul. Next: TBA.
No. 12 Texas (22-9) at Kansas St. Next: TBA.
No. 13 Duke (25-6) lost to No. 8 Virginia Tech 58-37. Next: TBA.
No. 14 Ohio St. (25-6) beat No. 2 Indiana 79-75. Next: vs. TBA, Sunday.
No. 15 Gonzaga (27-3) did not play. Next: vs. BYU, Monday.
No. 16 Oklahoma (24-5) beat Oklahoma St. 80-71. Next: TBA.
No. 17 Michigan (22-9) did not play. Next: TBA.
No. 18 North Carolina (21-10) did not play. Next: TBA.
No. 19 UCLA (25-4) did not play. Next: vs. Washington St., Sunday.
No. 20 Colorado (23-8) did not play. Next: TBA.
No. 21 Arizona (21-9) did not play. Next: TBA.
No. 22 UNLV (28-2) did not play. Next: vs. TBA, Monday.
No. 23 Iowa St. (19-9) beat Texas Tech 76-52. Next: TBA.
No. 24 Middle Tennessee (25-4) beat UTEP 72-68, OT. Next: TBA.
No. 25 South Florida (26-5) did not play. Next: vs. TBA, Tuesday.

NBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Milwaukee	45	17	.726	—
Boston	45	19	.703	1
Philadelphia	40	22	.645	5
Cleveland	39	26	.600	7 1/2
New York	38	27	.585	8 1/2
Brooklyn	35	28	.556	10 1/2
Miami	33	31	.516	13
Atlanta	32	31	.508	13 1/2
Washington	30	32	.484	15
Toronto	31	33	.484	15
Chicago	29	35	.453	17
Indiana	28	36	.438	18
Orlando	27	37	.422	19
Charlotte	20	45	.308	26 1/2
Detroit	15	48	.238	30 1/2

WESTERN CONFERENCE				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Denver	45	19	.703	—
Memphis	38	24	.613	6
Sacramento	37	25	.597	7
Phoenix	35	29	.547	10
Golden State	34	30	.531	11
Dallas	33	31	.516	12
Minnesota	33	32	.508	12 1/2
L.A. Clippers	33	33	.500	13
Utah	31	33	.484	14
New Orleans	31	33	.484	14
L.A. Lakers	30	34	.469	15
Oklahoma City	29	34	.460	15 1/2
Portland	29	34	.460	15 1/2
San Antonio	16	47	.254	28 1/2
Houston	13	49	.210	31

Sunday's Games
Phoenix at Dallas, Noon
Golden State at L.A. Lakers, 2:30 p.m.
Indiana at Chicago, 2:30 p.m.
Charlotte at Brooklyn, 5 p.m.
Portland at Orlando, 5 p.m.
San Antonio at Houston, 6 p.m.
Utah at Oklahoma City, 6 p.m.
Milwaukee at Washington, 6:30 p.m.
New York at Boston, 6:30 p.m.
Memphis at L.A. Clippers, 9 p.m.
Monday's Games
Boston at Cleveland, 6 p.m.
Philadelphia at Indiana, 6 p.m.
Portland at Detroit, 6 p.m.
Atlanta at Miami, 8 p.m.
Toronto at Denver, 8 p.m.
New Orleans at Sacramento, 9 p.m.
Tuesday's Games
Milwaukee at Orlando, 6 p.m.
Washington at Detroit, 6 p.m.
Charlotte at New York, 6:30 p.m.
Philadelphia at Minnesota, 6:30 p.m.
Brooklyn at Houston, 7 p.m.

Sports on TV Sunday, March 5

AUTO RACING
8:55 a.m.: ESPN — Formula 1: The Gulf Air Bahrain Grand Prix, Bahrain International Circuit, Sakhir, Bahrain
10 a.m.: FSI — NASCAR Cup Series: Qualifying, Las Vegas Motor Speedway, Las Vegas (Taped)
11:30 a.m.: NBC — NTT IndyCar Series: The Firestone Grand Prix of St. Petersburg, St. Petersburg, Fla.
2:30 p.m.: FOX — NASCAR Cup Series: The Pennzoil 400 presented by Jiffy Lube, Las Vegas Motor Speedway, Las Vegas
Midnight (Monday)
2:30 p.m.: CNBC — Monster Energy AMA Supercross Championship: Round 8, Daytona Beach, Fla. (Taped)
COLLEGE BASEBALL
11 a.m.: SECN — Miami at Florida
2:30 p.m.: SECN — Georgia Tech at Georgia
COLLEGE BASKETBALL (MEN'S)
11 a.m.: BTN — Maryland at Penn St.
11 a.m.: CBS — Houston at Memphis
11:30 a.m.: FOX — Illinois at Purdue
Noon (Monday)
10 p.m.: MLBN — Spring Training: Detroit vs. Minnesota (Split Squad), Fort Myers, Fla. (Taped)
1 p.m.: BTN — Nebraska at Iowa
1 p.m.: CBS — Missouri Valley Tournament: TBD, Championship, St. Louis
1 p.m.: CBSN — Patriot League Tournament: Army at Colgate, Semifinal
1 p.m.: ESPN — South Florida at Wichita St.
2 p.m.: ESPN2 — Atlantic Sun Tournament: TBD, Championship
3 p.m.: CBSN — Patriot League Tournament: American U. at Lafayette, Semifinal
3 p.m.: ESPN — Southern Tournament: TBD, Semifinal, Asheville, N.C.
3:30 p.m.: CBS — Michigan at Indiana
5:30 p.m.: ESPNNEWS — Southern Tournament: TBD, Semifinal, Asheville, N.C.
6:30 p.m.: BTN — Northwestern at Rutgers
6:30 p.m.: FSI — Wisconsin at Minnesota
COLLEGE BASKETBALL (WOMEN'S)
11 a.m.: ESPN — Atlantic 10 Tournament: TBD, Championship, Wilmington, Del.
Noon: ESPN — Atlantic Coast Tournament: TBD, Championship, Greensboro, N.C.
2 p.m.: ESPN — Southeastern Tournament: TBD, Championship, Greenville, S.C.
2 p.m.: FSI — Big East Tournament: TBD, Semifinal, Uncasville, Conn.
4 p.m.: ESPN — Big Ten Tournament: TBD, Championship, Minneapolis
4 p.m.: ESPN2 — Pac-12 Tournament: TBD, Championship, Las Vegas
4:30 p.m.: FSI — Big East Tournament: TBD, Semifinal, Uncasville, Conn.
5 p.m.: ESPN — Big South Tournament: TBD, Championship, Charlotte, N.C.
COLLEGE HOCKEY (MEN'S)
5 p.m.: FS2 — Big Ten Tournament: Michigan St. at Notre Dame, Quarterfinal, Game 3 (If Necessary)
COLLEGE HOCKEY (WOMEN'S)
11 a.m.: ESPNNEWS — NCAA Women's Ice Hockey Selection Show: From Bristol, Conn.
COLLEGE LACROSSE (WOMEN'S)
3 p.m.: ACCN — Pittsburgh at Louisville
COLLEGE WRESTLING
3:30 p.m.: BTN — Big Ten Tournament: Championships, Ann Arbor, Mich.
6 p.m.: ACCN — Atlantic Coast Tournament: Championships, Raleigh, N.C.
8 p.m.: ESPN — Big 12 Tournament: Championships, Tulsa, Okla.
8 p.m.: PAC-12N — Pac-12 Tournament: Championships, Stanford, Calif.
GOLF
11:30 a.m.: GOLF — PGA Tour: The Arnold Palmer Invitational, Final Round, Bay Hill Golf Course, Bay Hill, Fla.
1:30 p.m.: GOLF — PGA Tour: The Puerto Rico Open, Final Round, Grand Reserve Country Club

Golden State at Oklahoma City, 7 p.m.
Utah at Dallas, 7:30 p.m.
Memphis at L.A. Lakers, 9 p.m.

Auto racing NASCAR

zapLineupNASCAR Gander Outdoors Truck
Victoria's Vase Foundation 200 presented by Westgate Resorts Results

Friday
At Las Vegas Motor Speedway Las Vegas.
Lap length: 1.50 miles (Start position in parentheses)
1. (1) Kyle Busch, Chevrolet, 134 laps, 0 points.
2. (7) Zane Smith, Ford, 134, 45.
3. (9) Ben Rhodes, Ford, 134, 47.
4. (15) Corey Heim, Toyota, 134, 33.
5. (4) Ty Majeski, Ford, 134, 42.
6. (12) Christian Eckes, Chevrolet, 134, 31.
7. (8) Carson Hocevar, Chevrolet, 134, 43.
8. (3) Chase Purdy, Chevrolet, 134, 36.
9. (17) Grant Enfinger, Chevrolet, 134, 41.
10. (14) Jake Garcia, Chevrolet, 134, 27.
11. (11) Matt Crafton, Ford, 134, 36.
12. (19) Matt DiBenedetto, Chevrolet, 133, 41.
13. (16) Tanner Gray, Toyota, 133, 27.
14. (22) Stewart Friesen, Toyota, 133, 23.
15. (18) Tyler Ankrum, Toyota, 133, 22.
16. (25) Dean Thompson, Toyota, 133, 21.
17. (10) Kaz Grala, Toyota, 133, 0.
18. (27) Colby Howard, Chevrolet, 133, 19.
19. (20) Daniel Dye, Chevrolet, 132, 18.
20. (21) Lawless Alan, Chevrolet, 132, 17.
21. (30) Max Gutierrez, Ford, 131, 16.
22. (26) Timmy Hill, Toyota, 131, 15.
23. (31) Spencer Boyd, Chevrolet, 130, 14.
24. (23) Ross Chastain, Chevrolet, 130, 0.
25. (29) Kaden Honeycutt, Ford, 130, 12.
26. (15) Matt Mills, Chevrolet, 129, 11.
27. (32) Mason Massey, Ford, 129, 10.
28. (28) Kris Wright, Chevrolet, 126, 9.
29. (24) Rajah Caruth, Chevrolet, 122, 18.
30. (2) Nicholas Sanchez, Chevrolet, accident, 103, 7.
31. (13) John H. Nemechek, Toyota, vibration, 98, 0.
32. (5) Haile Deegan, Ford, accident, 59, 5.
33. (34) Brennan Poole, Toyota, rear gear, 20, 0.

(Old), Rio Grande, Puerto Rico
1:30 p.m.: NBC — PGA Tour: The Arnold Palmer Invitational, Final Round, Bay Hill Golf Course, Bay Hill, Fla.
3:30 p.m.: GOLF — PGA Tour Champions: The Colonial Classic, Final Round, Omni Tucson National - Catalina Course, Tucson, Ariz.
HORSE RACING
2 p.m.: FS2 — NYRA: America's Day at the Races
MLB BASEBALL
5 a.m.: MLBN — MLBN — Spring Training: Pittsburgh vs. Philadelphia, Clearwater, Fla. (Taped)
8 a.m.: MLBN — Spring Training: Houston vs. Boston, Fort Myers, Fla. (Taped)
Noon: MLBN — Spring Training: Miami vs. Boston, Fort Myers, Fla.
3 p.m.: MLBN — Spring Training: Minnesota vs. Pittsburgh (Split Squad), Bradenton, Fla. (Taped)
7 p.m.: MLBN — Spring Training: NY Mets vs. St. Louis, Cape Coral, Fla. (Taped)
10 p.m.: MLBN — Spring Training: Philadelphia vs. Toronto, Dunedin, Fla. (Taped)
1 a.m. (Monday)
10 p.m.: MLBN — Spring Training: Oakland (Split Squad) vs. San Diego, Peoria, Ariz. (Taped)
3 a.m. (Monday)
10 p.m.: MLBN — Spring Training: Detroit vs. Minnesota (Split Squad), Fort Myers, Fla. (Taped)
5 a.m. (Sunday)
10 p.m.: MLBN — Spring Training: Chicago Cubs vs. Colorado, Scottsdale, Ariz. (Taped)
NBA BASKETBALL
Noon: ABC — Phoenix at Dallas
2:30 p.m.: ABC — Golden State at LA Lakers
6:45 p.m.: ESPN — New York at Boston
9:05 p.m.: ESPN — Memphis at LA Clippers
NBA G-LEAGUE BASKETBALL
2 p.m.: NBA-TV — Grand Rapids at Lakeland
NFL FOOTBALL
Noon: NFLN — NFL Scouting Combine: Offensive Linemen and Runningbacks, Indianapolis
NHL HOCKEY
2 p.m.: TNT — Tampa Bay at Carolina
5 p.m.: NHLN — Detroit at Philadelphia
RODEO
7 p.m.: CBSN — PBR: The U.S. Border Patrol Invitational, Championship Round, Little Rock, Ark. (Taped)
RUGBY (MEN'S)
2 p.m.: CNBC — HSBC: World Rugby Sevens Series, Vancouver, B.C.
SKIING
11 a.m.: CNBC — FIS: Freestyle Skiing & Snowboarding World Cup, Aspen, Colo. (Taped)
SKIING/SNOWBOARDING
9 a.m.: CNBC — FIS: Freestyle Skiing & Snowboarding World Championships, Bakuriani, Georgia
SOCCER (MEN'S)
5:55 a.m.: CBSN — SPFL: Celtic at St. Mirren
8 a.m.: USA — Premier League: Everton at Nottingham Forest
10:30 a.m.: USA — Premier League: Manchester United at Liverpool
SPEED SKATING
4 p.m.: CNBC — ISU: World Allround & Sprint Speed Skating Championships, Heerenveen, Netherlands (Taped)
SWIMMING
12:30 p.m.: CNBC — TYR: Pro Swim Series, Fort Lauderdale, Fla. (Taped)
TENNIS
9 a.m.: TENNIS — Dubai-ATP Singles Final
2:30 p.m.: TENNIS — Santiago-ATP, Austin-WTA, Monterrey-WTA Finals
9 p.m.: TENNIS — MGM Rewards The Slam Exhibition
XFL FOOTBALL
Noon: FX — St. Louis at D.C.
3 p.m.: FX — Orlando at Arlington
7 p.m.: ESPN2 — San Antonio at Houston

Baseball Spring Training

AMERICAN LEAGUE			
	W	L	Pct.
Boston	5	0	1.000
Kansas City	8	1	.889
Houston	4	2	.667
Chicago	5	3	.625
Toronto	5	3	.625
Los Angeles	4	3	.571
Detroit	5	4	.556
New York	5	4	.556
Texas	5	5	.500
Cleveland	4	4	.500
Seattle	4	5	.444
Tampa Bay	3	4	.429
Minnesota	3	5	.375
Oakland	2	4	.333
Baltimore	2	5	.286
NATIONAL LEAGUE			
	W	L	Pct.
St. Louis	5	2	.714
Philadelphia	5	3	.625
Los Angeles	3	2	.600
Atlanta	4	3	.571
Chicago	5	4	.556
San Diego	5	4	.556
Colorado	4	4	.500
Milwaukee	4	5	.444
New York	4	5	.444
Washington	3	4	.429
Arizona	3	6	.333
Cincinnati	2	4	.333
San Francisco	3	7	.300
Pittsburgh	1	5	.167
Miami	1	6	.143

Friday's Games
Houston 11, Atlanta 8
Boston 9, Minnesota 4
St. Louis 8, Miami 3
Detroit (ss) 6, Philadelphia 3

Toronto 7, Tampa Bay 6
Washington 11, N.Y. Mets 6
Chicago White Sox 6, Cincinnati 4
San Francisco (ss) 3, Colorado 2
Kansas City 6, Oakland 4
Cleveland 7, Milwaukee 4
Texas 11, San Francisco (ss) 7
L.A. Dodgers 2, L.A. Angels 2
Pittsburgh 1, Baltimore 1
Detroit (ss) 5, N.Y. Yankees 3
Chicago Cubs 4, San Diego 0
Saturday's Games
Atlanta (ss) 3, Baltimore 2
Houston 4, Boston 4
Atlanta (ss) 7, Minnesota 5
St. Louis 9, Washington 6
Tampa Bay 14, N.Y. Yankees 10
Philadelphia 4, Pittsburgh 3
Toronto 18, Detroit 5
N.Y. Mets 15, Miami 4
Chicago Cubs 2, L.A. Angels 0
Arizona (ss) 9, San Francisco (ss) 5
Cleveland 4, Oakland (ss) 4
Kansas City (ss) 12, Cincinnati (ss) 6
Chicago White Sox 5, Texas 4
Colorado 7, Seattle 1
San Diego 5, Arizona (ss) 4
Milwaukee 14, San Francisco (ss) 2
Cincinnati (ss) vs. Oakland (ss) at Las Vegas, Nevada, 3:05 p.m.
L.A. Dodgers vs. Kansas City (ss) at Surprise, Arizona, 7:05 p.m.
Sunday's Games
Baltimore vs. Tampa Bay at St. Petersburg, Florida, 12:05 p.m.
Detroit vs. Minnesota (ss) at Fort Myers, Florida, 12:05 p.m.
Miami vs. Boston at Fort Myers, Florida, 12:05 p.m.
N.Y. Yankees vs. Atlanta at North Port, Florida, 12:05 p.m.
N.Y. Mets vs. St. Louis at Sarasota, Florida, 12:05 p.m.
Washington vs. Houston at Palm Beach, Florida, 12:05 p.m.
Minnesota (ss) vs. Pittsburgh at Bradenton, Florida, 12:05 p.m.
Philadelphia vs. Toronto at Dunedin, Florida, 12:07 p.m.
L.A. Angels (ss) vs. Texas at Surprise, Arizona, 2:05 p.m.
Arizona vs. Cleveland at Goodyear, Arizona, 2:05 p.m.
Chicago White Sox vs. L.A. Dodgers at Phoenix, Arizona, 2:05 p.m.
Kansas City vs. San Francisco at Scottsdale, Arizona, 2:05 p.m.
Chicago Cubs vs. Colorado at Scottsdale, Arizona, 2:10 p.m.
Cincinnati (ss) vs. L.A. Angels (ss) at Tempe, Arizona, 2:10 p.m.
Seattle vs. Milwaukee at Phoenix, Arizona, 2:10 p.m.
Oakland (ss) vs. San Diego at Peoria, Arizona, 2:10 p.m.
Cincinnati (ss) vs. Oakland (ss) at Las Vegas, Nevada, 3:05 p.m.
Monday's Games
Detroit vs. Boston at Fort Myers, Florida, 12:05 p.m.
Houston vs. St. Louis at Sarasota, Florida, 12:05 p.m.
Miami vs. Tampa Bay at St. Petersburg, Florida, 12:05 p.m.
Philadelphia vs. Baltimore at Sarasota, Florida, 12:05 p.m.
Arizona vs. Kansas City at Surprise, Arizona, 2:05 p.m.
San Diego vs. L.A. Dodgers at Phoenix, Arizona, 2:05 p.m.
Chicago Cubs vs. Seattle at Peoria, Arizona, 2:10 p.m.
Cleveland vs. L.A. Angels at Tempe, Arizona, 2:10 p.m.
Texas vs. Colorado (ss) at Scottsdale, Arizona, 2:10 p.m.
Pittsburgh vs. N.Y. Yankees at Tampa, Florida, 5:35 p.m.
Colorado (ss) vs. Cincinnati at Goodyear, Arizona, 7:05 p.m.

Transactions

Saturday
BASEBALL
MLB
American League
TEXAS RANGERS Signed LHP Will Smith to a one-year contract. Designated INF Mark Mathias for assignment.
National League
COLORADO ROCKIES Reassigned INF Grant Lavigne, C/INF Hunter Goodman, C/Roniker Palma and RHP Case Williams to the minor league camp. Agreed to terms with LHP Brad Hand on a one-year contract. Placed RHP Tyler Kinley on the 60-day IL.
BASKETBALL

NBA
NBA Suspended Minnesota G/F Dillon Brooks one game without pay for receiving his 16th technical foul for the 2023 season in a game on March 3 against Denver.
MILWAUKEE BUCKS Signed 7 Meyers Leonard to a 10-day contract.
UTAH JAZZ Signed G Kris Dunn to a 10-day contract.
FOOTBALL

NFL
INDIANAPOLIS COLTS Named Brian Mason special teams coordinator.
HOCKEY
NHL
ARIZONA COYOTES Reassigned Ds Vladislav Kolyachonok and Michael Kesselring and F Milos Klemen to Tucson (AHL) on loan.
BUFFALO SABRES Reinstated D Rasmus Dahlin to the active roster from injured reserve.
CALGARY FLAMES Recalled RW Walker Duehr and LW Jakob Pelletier from Calgary (AHL).
DALLAS STARS Recalled G Matthew Murray and LW Fredrik Olofsson from Texas (AHL) loan. Reassigned G Adam Scheel to Idaho (ECHL) from Texas.
DETROIT RED WINGS Assigned G John Lethemton to Grand Rapids (AHL) from Toledo (ECHL).
LOS ANGELES KINGS Recalled F Quinton Byfield and C Rasmus Kupari from Ontario (AHL).
NASHVILLE PREDATORS Reassigned F Zach Sanford to Milwaukee (AHL). Recalled LW John Leonard and F Luke Evangelista from Milwaukee.
PITTSBURGH PENGUINS Recalled LW Drew O'Connor from Wilkes-Barre/Scranton (AHL).
TAMPA BAY LIGHTNING Recalled D Darren Raddysh from Syracuse (AHL) loan.
VANCOUVER CANUCKS Recalled D Wyatt Kalynuk and LW Phil Di Giuseppe from Abbotsford (AHL) loan.
SOCCER
MLS
NEW ENGLAND REVOLUTION Loaned D Ben Reveno to Birmingham Legion FC of USL Championship for the 2023 season.
NYFC Signed D Stephen Turnbull to a short-term contract.

FORMULA ONE

Verstappen's on pole as he bids to end barren run in Bahrain

By Jerome Pugmire
AP AUTO RACING WRITER

Formula One champion Max Verstappen is in the right place to win his first Bahrain Grand Prix by starting from the pole in Sunday's season-opening race.

The desert track has been barren for Verstappen, who failed to finish three of his first four races there. The two-time reigning champion seemed cursed in Sakhir last year when his Red Bull failed just laps from the end with a steering problem.

Ferrari clinched a 1-2 finish with Charles Leclerc and Carlos Sainz Jr. and appeared to be Verstappen's top challengers for last year's title. But after opening 2022 with two DNFs in three races, Verstappen recovered to win an F1 record 15 races in a dominating year.

“Hopefully no crazy things will happen,” Verstappen said of Sunday. He will be joined on the front row by Red Bull teammate Sergio Perez.

Perez beat Leclerc to qualify second, .138 sec-



Ariel Schalit/Associated Press

NBA

Video appears to show Morant with gun

By **Tim Reynolds**
AP BASKETBALL WRITER

Ja Morant will be away from the Memphis Grizzlies for at least their next two games, the team announced Saturday, not long after the NBA opened an investigation into a social media post by the guard, who livestreamed himself holding what appeared to be a gun at a nightclub.

Morant said in a statement distributed through the agency that represents him that he takes “full responsibility” for his actions and that he was going to “take some time away to get help.”

The video was streamed by Morant on his Instagram page early Saturday, hours after the Grizzlies played in Denver. They were flying to Los Angeles on Saturday for games against the Clippers on Sunday and the Lakers on Tuesday.

Morant will miss those two games, at minimum, the Grizzlies said, without further comment.

“We are aware of a social media post involving Ja Morant and are investigating,” NBA spokesman Mike Bass said earlier Saturday.

The league will try to speak with Morant as part of that investigation, though it is unclear when any meeting may occur. Morant apologized in a statement released by Tandem Sports + Entertainment.

“I take full responsibility for my actions last night,” Morant said. “I’m sorry to my family, teammates, coaches, fans, partners, the city of Memphis and the entire Grizzlies organization for letting you down. I’m going to take some time away to get help and work on learning better



David Zalubowski/Associated Press

NBA opened an investigation into a social media post by Memphis Grizzlies guard Ja Morant, who livestreamed himself holding what appeared to be a gun at a nightclub early Saturday.

methods of dealing with stress and my overall well-being.”

It was not immediately clear what Morant meant by “help” or if he planned to be away from the team for longer than the two-game minimum announced by the Grizzlies.

The league, if it finds wrongdoing, could fine or suspend Morant. Based on the Grizzlies’ statement, the earliest Morant could play is Thursday at home against Golden State. His Instagram and Twitter accounts were disabled shortly after the Grizzlies announced his absence.

Memphis is currently No. 2 in the Western Conference standings, led by Morant, a two-time All-Star averaging 27.1 points and

8.2 assists per game.

This is at least the second time in the last few weeks that Morant has been the subject of a league investigation. Morant’s actions were investigated after a Jan. 29 incident in Memphis that he said led to a friend of his being banned from home games for a year.

That incident followed a game against the Indiana Pacers, citing unnamed sources, The Indianapolis Star and USA Today reported that multiple members of the Pacers saw a red dot pointed at them, and The Athletic reported that a Pacers security guard believed the laser was attached to a gun.

The NBA confirmed that un-

named individuals were banned from the arena but said its investigation found no evidence that anyone was threatened with a weapon.

Morant responded to that incident by tweeting that the reports “paint this negative image on me and my fam. & banned my brother from home games for a year. unbelievable.” During the Jan. 29 game, there was barking between Pacers players and friends of Morant seated along the sideline. A close friend of Morant’s, Davonte Pack, was escorted from the arena as Pacers bench players shouted in Pack’s direction.

Pack and Morant also are involved in a civil lawsuit brought after an incident at Morant’s

home this past summer, in which a 17-year-old alleged that they assaulted him. The Shelby County district attorney’s office said in January that it was “aware of the incident, and after careful review of the facts, decided that there was not enough evidence to proceed with a case.”

There is precedent for the NBA when sanctioning a player over conduct involving guns. In January 2010, then-Commissioner David Stern suspended Washington’s Gilbert Arenas indefinitely without pay after saying the player’s behavior made him “not currently fit to take the court.”

The suspension followed Arenas playfully pointing his index fingers in a gun imitation at his teammates while he was under investigation by federal and local authorities after admittedly bringing guns into the Wizards’ locker room. He missed 50 games, the rest of the 2009-10 season.

Morant, the No. 2 pick in the 2019 NBA draft, has become a full-fledged superstar. His five-year, \$194 million extension with the Grizzlies kicks in to start next season and would rise to about \$230 million if he makes an All-NBA team this season.

He also is a sought-after endorser. On Christmas, Nike unveiled Morant’s first signature shoe. And Powerade just announced a multiyear endorsement deal with Morant.

On the same day the Powerade deal was revealed, The Washington Post published a story, based on police records it obtained, detailing how Morant and some associates “have been accused of threatening and even violent behavior,” the newspaper said.

UH

From page D1

to the peak of the modern game?

This is part of the truth. “It’s an intense family,” said junior guard Jamal Shead, who struggled with the Cougars’ all-in culture as a freshman but has become a critical member of a 28-2 team.

This is another part. “We’re not for everybody,” Kellen said. “You’re going to have to work here.”

For most of the country, it’s Valentine’s Day.

Bruce Springsteen and the E Street Band will play nearby Toyota Center, Kelvin’s former NBA home with the Rockets, that night.

A father’s son sits in his office early on a Tuesday morning, balancing game preparation with a rare blend of pressure that never goes away.

For UH, the local road to the Final Four won’t be defined by seedings, regions and brackets.

For these family-first Coogs, the path toward the end is always the same.

UH must be tougher than everyone else.

That’s how the Sampsons started building their unique world in 2014 and keep hanging banners in 2023.

That’s how the No. 1 team in America in early March will be the last team standing April 3 inside NRG Stadium, celebrating a historic championship for the University of Houston in Houston.

“Every year we are on a complete mission, from the first day of summer workouts, to be more tough than we are talented,” Kellen said.

Master delegator

Spend a day around UH and this is the first thing that stands out: Kelvin doesn’t do everything.

Assistant coach Quannas White is the primary reason the Cougars landed freshman forward Jarace Walker, who is expected to be an NBA lottery selection in a few months.

Pre-practice individual and position workouts are run by assistants, not a tough-love head coach who is 227-72 since taking over the Cougars and followed a Final Four run in 2021 with an Elite Eight appearance last year.

“Spending that individual time, you’re usually able to sniff out a problem,” Kellen

said. “You’re checking body language. You’re kind of doing a diagnostic.”

And while Kelvin is part of a 10 a.m. staff meeting, the man who represents the public face of UH basketball and furiously stomps on the sideline during blowout wins inside a sold-out Fertitta Center doesn’t lock in with his team until 3 p.m. on Feb. 14.

“(The players) get used to hearing our voice,” Kellen said. “They get used to seeing us in a position of power. And so now when we do talk, there’s the appropriate level of respect, whether it’s myself, K.C. (Beard), Hollis (Price) or Quannas. And it just flows. It’s effortless.”

For Kelvin, the alternating hands-on and -off approach is completely intentional. When he tries to reach and get more out of the young men who comprise the best team in the country, the Coogs’ head coach wants maximum impact without wasted time.

“He’s a legend,” Kellen said. “But he understands that his voice can get tired this time of year.”

The man who represents the rebirth of UH basketball is also passing the game on and elevating those around him.

Kelvin, who balances blue-collar pride with pure self-deprecation, joked that he doesn’t try to be the smartest person in the room because it would be futile.

Then he reveals another inner layer that has helped the Cougars average 28 wins over the last six seasons.

Kelvin believes in delegation, which he learned from Gregg Popovich with the San Antonio Spurs.

Kelvin also believes that assistant coaches, especially Black assistants, should do more than just bounce around the basketball world trying to convince young athletes to join the team.

“It always bothered me a little bit when I was coming up,” Kelvin said. “They were recruiters — they’d just recruit. They didn’t get to do anything else.”

By allowing his staff members to take part in the Cougars’ system, Kelvin makes UH stronger with all the shared weight.

“Part of my growth is growing my assistant coaches,” Kelvin said. “They deserve a lot of credit for what we’ve done here. I think the more you empower people, the more ownership they take.”

Selling a culture

Less than three miles from a college arena that theoretically tops out with a crowd of 8,000, a billboard towers above wrapped-together interstates, office buildings and downtown Houston.

Kelvin’s oversized face, #ForTheCity and a collection of UH players capture a moment almost a decade in the making.

Inside the Guy V. Lewis Development Facility on Valentine’s Day, Kellen eats breakfast while playing out an imaginary conversation that he keeps hearing.

Where’s the Final Four this year?

Oh, it’s in Houston. Hey, Houston’s pretty good this year ...

“Wish I had noticed. Thanks,” Kellen joked, lowering his voice and sounding like his father.

Then Kellen really sounds like Kevin, turning a cliché into a powerful truth that symbolizes the local vacuum UH currently exists in and what six consecutive NCAA Tournament wins would mean for a team, a program, the city and the Cougars’ rededicated fan base.

“We talk about it a lot, but pressure is a privilege,” Kellen said. “Because you are on a team that is having a good year, it comes with it. If we were having a bad year, it wouldn’t matter.”

This is everything that the Coogs have been building toward and more than the Sampsons ever dreamed in 2014, when year one on Cullen became 13-19 with an eight-game losing streak and embarrassingly small crowds.

How did UH do this? This is also part of the truth.

“The best gift we were given that first year is we were allowed to be bad,” Kellen said. “It was great. We didn’t want people — they would have seen how bad we were. If we had to bench a guy, nobody knew. We got to build the bones of this and the foundation of this away from any scrutiny.”

Two old stories are told to prove a point.

Danrad “Chicken” Knowles was benched because he didn’t dive for a loose ball.

Rob Gray, a pivotal early recruiting coup for UH who scored 39 points in a 2018 NCAA Tournament first-round victory over San Diego State, was once benched be-

cause he wasn’t passing the ball.

“We got to establish the law, lay the law down, and nobody knew it,” Kellen said. “The best thing we did is we established who the sheriff was and you’re going to play by the laws that (Kelvin) set for us.”

A new story reemphasizes the point.

Walker was pursued by No. 2 Alabama, North Carolina, Michigan and more. The five-star recruit might soon become a top-five NBA draft pick, and Kellen believes UH has the freshman in uniform for only another month at best.

But landing Walker was another coup for the Coogs, who leap into the Big 12 next season and will be forced to compete in the best conference in the country. He bought into a culture that was first established when no one was watching and for years has emphasized teamwork over individual ego.

“Maybe the best part of coach (Kelvin) is he gives us the freedom and the permission to evaluate,” Kellen said. “If the kid’s not a good fit, we just don’t recruit him.”

Five years after Gray’s Coogs fell to No. 3 Michigan in a last-second 64-63 second-round heartbreaker, Sampson Ball is at the heart of the No. 1 team in the country.

Offensive and defensive rebounding, relentless hustle, teamwork, real defense.

If you ever hear someone say college basketball isn’t what it used to be, they haven’t watched UH up close.

“At this point, you know what you’re signing up for,” Kellen said. “You’re not coming here to get your (butt) kissed. You’re coming here because you trust that, look, I need to be part of that culture, that system. It’s going to be hard, but I’m going to elevate.”

The path to joy

There is yelling. There is praise and celebration.

There is screaming. There is love, sacrifice and unity.

“Coach (Kelvin) isn’t for everybody,” Shead said. “But if he is for you, he’s going to do everything in his power to be the best version of himself every day for you. That’s probably the best part of him: that he never wavers. Same dude, every single day, no matter the occasion.”

For a basketball team that practices as hard as UH, there’s also a ton of on-court joy.

Rhythmic clapping. Free-throw and 3-point competitions.

Constant energy that fills a near-empty Fertitta Center. “(Kelvin) is the master at humbling these dudes without belittling them, which is a really fine line,” Kellen said. “But he is really, really good at humbling them and making sure they are in the moment for each other.”

Two days before another game, Kelvin maximizes the impact of his voice.

Kellen sprints in the middle of it all, running drills like a former college guard.

A shout of “No mistakes! Eliminate mistakes!” is followed by a triumphant “Yeah, boy!”

Then a whistle is blown, and the head coach of the Coogs calmly says, “Bring it in.”

It’s an intense family that is truly a family.

“(Kelvin is) direct. But he’s always right. He’s rarely off-base. I can’t think of when he’s read it wrong,” UH athletic director Chris Pezman said. “I’ve got one of the great coaches, and then I’ve got a coach in waiting (Kellen) that has an unlimited ceiling. ... When that chance comes, he’s going to be — I don’t want to even talk about it, because I don’t want to sell him to anybody else, because we’ve got him here.”

Here is Houston. Here, in one month, is the Final Four.

Will the No. 1 team in America be playing in a sold-out stadium that doubles as a home court, six miles from the construction on Cullen?

Kellen is asked if this UH team is as good as the ones that ignited this era. Gritty and resilient teams led by Fabian White, Quentin Grimes, Corey Davis, Armoni Brooks, DeJon Jarreau, Galen Robinson Jr. and Gray.

The answer tells you how the Coogs did this and how they keep it going, winning within all the pressure and trying to become the best UH team the Sampsons have coached.

“This is our fight: This team is more talented than those teams,” Kellen said. “Those teams were more tough. Those teams won the fight, and that’s the internal fight that we talk about as a staff all the time.”

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Rice powers Longhorns over rival Kansas

By Jim Vertuno
AP SPORTS WRITER

AUSTIN — Sir’Jabari Rice scored 23 points and a smothering defensive effort carried No. 9 Texas to a 75-59 win over No. 3 Kansas on Saturday that earned the Longhorns a second-place finish in the Big 12.

Kansas, which had already secured the league championship earlier in the week, had its seven-game winning streak snapped.

Texas entered the day in a three-way tie for second but the win and losses by Kansas State and Baylor left the Longhorns alone in the spot.

Tyrese Hunter made 9 of 10 free throws and scored 20 points for the Longhorns (23-8, 12-6).

Big 12 scoring and rebounding leader Jalen Wilson led Kansas (25-6, 13-5) with 23 points and 10 boards.

Texas swarmed Kansas with a defensive effort that frustrated Wilson and the Jayhawks from the opening tip.

Kansas scored just 12 points over the first 12 minutes and missed nine of 12 3-point attempts in the half. Wilson, who scored just two points when Kansas beat Texas on Feb. 6,



Sir’Jabari Rice drives to the basket against Jalen Wilson during the Longhorns’ win on Saturday.

struggled to find open shots or even open passes.

Hunter made consecutive deep 3-pointers late in the half as Texas built a 32-24 lead at the

break.

The Longhorns quickly stretched the lead in opening minutes of the second half. Dylan Disu scored the first five

points after halftime, and Rice’s 3-pointer pushed the lead to 15.

Kansas got within eight when Gradey Dick made consecutive 3-pointers, his first

Chris Covatta/Getty Images

baskets of the game, before Texas answered with six consecutive points. Rice then ran off seven straight points, including a 3-pointer from the left corner, and Texas led 68-52 with 3:30 to play.

Big picture

Kansas: The Big 12 champs won a league many consider the toughest in the country and are still a contender for a No. 1 seed for the NCAA Tournament. The defending national champions head into the Big 12 tourney having won nine of their last 12.

Texas: Interim coach Rodney Terry’s future with the program was probably always going to depend on the Longhorns’ post-season success. He might have eased that pressure had Texas won at least a share of the program’s first conference title in 15 years. But finishing second with an emphatic win over the league champ is better than many would have predicted when Texas fired coach Chris Beard in midseason.

Up next

The Big 12 Tournament starts Wednesday in Kansas City, Missouri. Kansas will be the No. 1 seed. Texas will be No. 2.

Taylor leads No. 24 Texas A&M over No. 2 Alabama

By Kristie Rieken
AP SPORTS WRITER

COLLEGE STATION, Texas — Wade Taylor took a minute to reflect on his team’s journey after No. 24 Texas A&M knocked off No. 2 Alabama on Saturday to wrap up the regular season.

“We’ve had a bunch of ups and downs,” Taylor said. “On Dec. 20 we were 6-5 and nobody would have thought we’d be in this position we’re in today. This team is very resilient.”

Taylor scored 28 points and the Aggies beat Alabama 67-61, making their late free throws after Crimson Tide star Brandon Miller fouled out.

“In the figurative fights they’ve learned not to flinch,” Aggies coach Buzz Williams said. “Our team has improved with each passing game and I think today was another example.”

The loss snapped a four-game winning streak for the Crimson Tide (26-5, 16-2 Southeastern Conference). Alabama played the last two minutes minus Miller, who fouled out after scoring a team-leading 19 points.

“We just didn’t quite have enough,” Alabama coach Nate Oats said. “They were ready to go and we weren’t. We can’t keep coming out and getting behind double digits early.”

The Aggies (23-8, 15-3) led by two with two minutes left when Miller fouled out chasing down a loose ball. Dexter Dennis made both free throws to make it 61-57.

A basket by Jahvon Quinerly cut the lead to two again with a minute to go, but Taylor made two free throws to make it 63-59



Sam Craft/Associated Press

Texas A&M guard Wade Taylor IV (4) scored 28 points against Alabama in College Station, Texas.

with 30 seconds remaining.

Rylan Griffen missed a 3 for Alabama and the Aggies added two more free throws to pad the lead. Quinerly missed a 3-pointer and A&M made two more free throws with 6 seconds left to seal the victory.

It was another big win for the Aggies, who downed then-No. 11 Tennessee on Feb. 21. They should get a spot in the NCAA Tournament for the first time since 2018, which will be their first trip since Williams took over.

Texas A&M’s 15 conference wins are the most in school history, besting the 1979-80 and

1975-76 teams which each won 14.

“We stayed together throughout this whole process and ... we’re not done,” Taylor said. “Just to finish up conference with the most wins in conference in school history is the end of chapter of that book we just wrote. So now it’s time to start volume two.”

SEC champion Alabama lost for the first time since courtroom revelations tied freshmen Miller and Jaden Bradley to the scene of a fatal shooting. Neither has been charged or accused of a crime, but teammate Darius Miles and an-

other man are facing capital murder charges.

Police said Miles texted Miller asking him to bring the gun. Miller has started every game and the university said he is a cooperating witness, not a suspect.

The rowdy sellout A&M crowd took every opportunity to heckle Miller. They booed him each time he touched the ball and chanted “lock him up” and “guilty” when he shot free throws.

Alabama took its first lead of the game after a 5-0 run, capped by a 3 from Quinerly, made it 54-51 with 4½ minutes remain-

ing.

Taylor tied it with a 3-pointer soon after that and the Aggies took a 56-54 lead when Tyrece Radford made two free throws after Alabama lost the ball on a charge by Miller.

Miller then picked up his fourth foul when he fouled Taylor on a 3-point attempt. Taylor made all three free throws to push it to 59-54 with less than three minutes to go.

An 8-2 run by Alabama cut the lead to 6 early in the second half. But the Aggies made 3-pointers on consecutive possessions to power a 6-2 run that made it 42-32 with 12½ minutes to go.

The Crimson Tide then scored the next eight points, with 3s from Quinerly and Noah Clowney, to get within 42-40 with about a 11 minutes left.

The Aggies ended the run by making three free throws, but Miller hit a 3 soon after to start a 5-0 spurt that tied it at 45-all.

The Aggies led 32-22 at halftime after limiting Alabama to its fewest points in a half this season. The Crimson Tide got off to a poor start on long-range shooting, making just 2 of 19 3-pointers before halftime.

Oats was asked about his team’s slow starts recently.

“If we had the exact answer I would try to fix it,” he said. “I’m not sure, but we’re going to talk about and see if we can fix it. We’ve got to figure out a way to get them more prepared.”

Up next

These teams will be in the SEC Tournament in Nashville next week where Alabama will be the top seed and Texas A&M will be No. 2.

Iowa State ends 4-game skid with 73-58 win at No. 7 Baylor

By Stephen Hawkins
AP SPORTS WRITER

WACO, Texas — Iowa State coach T.J. Otzelberger got everyone involved in the regular-season finale, and the Cyclones got a big boost going into the Big 12 tournament after the dismissal of one of their key players.

Jaren Holmes scored 16 points and the Cyclones used all 11 available players within the first 7½ minutes of a 73-58 win over seventh-ranked Baylor on Saturday that ended their four-game losing streak, and came only three days after veteran guard Caleb Grill was dismissed from the team.

“We’ve got a lot of depth on this team, we’ve got a lot of heart,” Otzelberger said. “And we need to re-harness or bring in with our group, that togetherness, that unity, everyone playing for each other. And there’s no better way to get everybody playing for each other than to get everybody in the



Chris Jones/Associated Press

The Iowa State bench reacts on a score against Baylor, Saturday, in Waco, Texas.

game and to feel that energy and that enthusiasm.”

Tre King, who started for only the second time this season, had 13 points and seven rebounds for the Cyclones (18-12, 9-9 Big 12).

Grill had started 22 of his 25 games, and was Iowa State’s third-leading scorer (9.5 points a game) when Otzelberger said the guard had failed to meet program expectations. Grill said later on social media that

he has been dealing with mental illness.

The Cyclones, who had lost six of their previous seven games, built as much as a 14-point lead before halftime. When Baylor had a 10-0 run to cut its deficit to 36-32 with 15:29 left in the game, Iowa State scored 11 in a row with a 3-pointer by Gabe Kalschur’s 3-pointer capped the run that pretty much sealed it.

“We were hungry for a win, and we were desperate,” said Kalschur, who had 12 points. “And we did a great job of all just coming up saying what we’re going to do and doing it.”

Adam Flagler had 20 points with five 3-pointers for the Bears (22-9, 11-7), while LJ Cryer added 13 points.

Baylor’s 77-62 loss at Iowa State in the Big 12 opener on New Year’s Eve was part of an 0-3 start in conference play. The Bears had won 12 of 15 since, but shot only 35.8% (19 of 53) from the field, 55.6% (10 of 18) on free throws and were outrebounded

36-24 in likely their last Big 12 home game in the 35-year-old Ferrell Center.

“They’re a physical defense ... we didn’t do a good enough job running our offense and fighting to get our offense lower and executing,” Baylor coach Scott Drew said. “When we did get good looks, and we didn’t have enough of them, we didn’t make them. It looked like everything was short today. The things that have made us a good team we didn’t do.”

Baylor is moving next season into the Foster Pavilion, which is still under construction just down the street on the edge of campus. The plan is to play their non-conference games in the Ferrell Center and debut in the new arena at the start of Big 12 play.

Up next

The Big 12 Tournament in Kansas City. Neither team will have to play in the opening round, and will start in the quarterfinals Thursday.

OPINIONS

BEAUMONTENTERPRISE.COM • SUNDAY, MARCH 5, 2023 • SECTION E • PAGE 1

GUEST COLUMNIST

A college student's plea to get a flu shot

By Katie Miller

SOUTHERN METHODIST UNIVERSITY
STUDENT/FAMILIES FIGHTING FLU
JUNIOR BOARD MEMBER

Spring Break month is here, another popular travel holiday. As a student preparing to journey to gather with friends or home to see loved ones, it is important to get a flu shot beforehand. I would like to share a personal story on why I advocate for doing so:

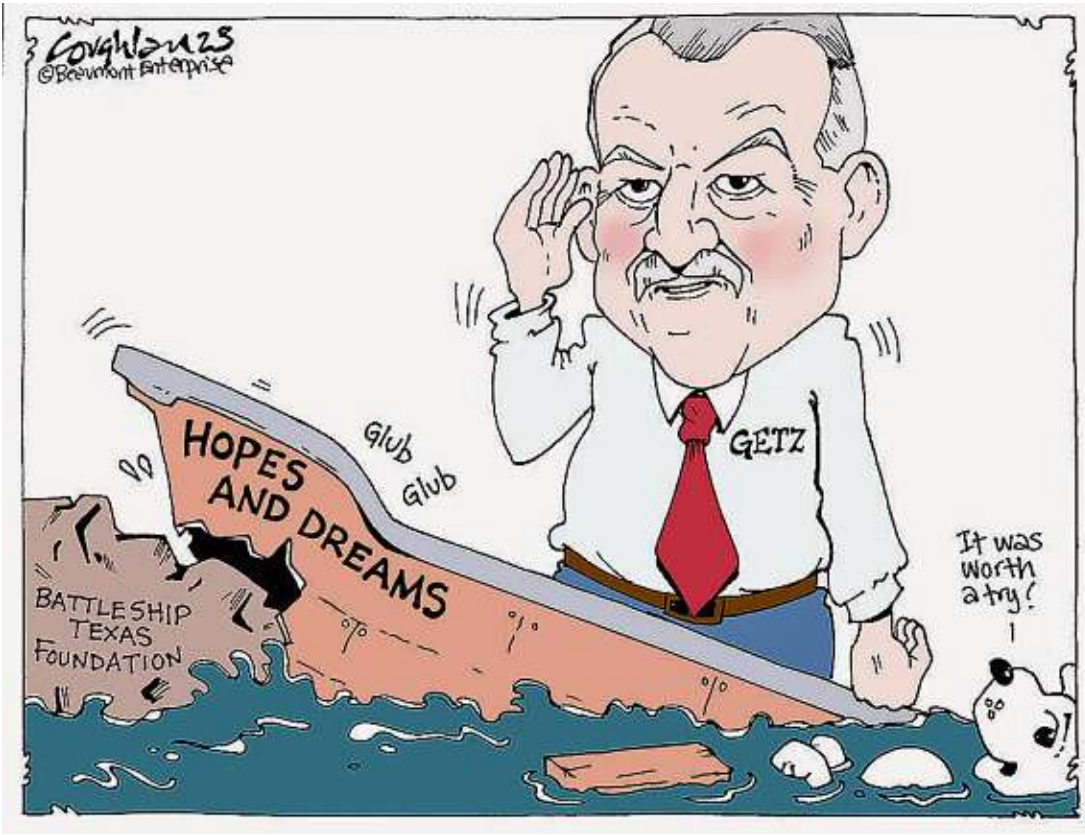
Ten years ago this past December, influenza almost claimed the life of my then five-year-old sister, Caroline. A few days before winter break 2012, Caroline came home from school with mild cold symptoms. Within a few hours, Caroline's symptoms worsened, and breathing became more difficult. In the middle of the night, my parents took her to the local hospital where she was diagnosed with influenza A and double pneumonia. She was given oxygen to help with her breathing.

This hospital staff felt they were not equipped to deal with this severe pediatric case, and Caroline was transferred to a larger local hospital. Her symptoms worsened at the second hospital, and she slipped into accurate respiratory distress syndrome. She was intubated, and the hospital informed my parents that nothing more could be done for her. She was then airlifted via helicopter to the Children's Hospital of Philadel-

phia and placed on an oscillating ventilator. She remained intubated and on a ventilator for nearly two weeks.

I spent Christmas in Caroline's hospital room and ate waffles with the nurses. I decorated her room with paper snowflakes, and my parents took shifts between the hotel and hospital rooms. On December 30th, she was removed from her medically-induced coma. In the following weeks and months, Caroline would slowly have to re-learn to walk and attend regular physical therapy sessions. Her recovery was a long and challenging process, and even set her back in school a year. My younger sister was a sassy and energetic kindergartener who loved swimming, dancing and running, and within 36 hours, influenza took everything out of her.

No family should ever experience the trauma of almost losing a child or sibling to a vaccine-preventable disease. My sister Caroline's story is an important reminder of how ill one can become when not protected with a flu shot, and just how fast one's health can decline. While her story eventually has a happy ending, there are many others each year that are not so fortunate. For this reason, I encourage you and all fellow college students to get a flu shot to protect yourself as well as your loved ones and friends before travelling or gathering this Spring Break holiday.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Enterprise should have more local letters, nationwide articles

I realize I'm not the target audience for the Enterprise, but it's rather amusing after all the hoopla about subscribers seeing themselves in the paper and featuring more stories about the Golden Triangle, the Op-Ed page prints letters from people in Utah, Wyoming, Florida and Australia but very few by the local gentry who might have opinions of interest — no food for thought or discussion. The Op-Ed page has become a farce. You've brought in the clowns. Are there no adults in the room? Where is Tom Taschinger when we need him?

I understand I'm probably one of a small minority, but for me, the Enterprise has lost much of its charm. It has always been more than just a "home town" paper, but that's what it is becoming. It used to be so much more than that. There is so much going on in the country, in the world; subscribers would be better served to read some of those articles than the full page stories on local events or people, which could easily be covered in two or three columns rather than a half or full page. The bylines and long articles are important to local journalists, who want to climb the corporate ladder, but enough is enough.

I used to spend a couple of hours each morning reading the paper as I enjoyed my cup of tea — only takes half an hour or so now. I read the first couple of paragraphs of a story, then move on to another article. But that's just me. The Enterprise staff is probably patting themselves on the back saying what a great job they are doing, how the paper is serving the community, but there's a whole world of news out there that many readers are interested in and it's not being covered.

Alice Wilder, Beaumont

Trump still lesser of two evils

Dennis Wright is on target — neither former President Donald Trump nor President Joe Biden should be on their party's ticket in 2024.

We know of Mr. Wright's disdain for Trump, refusing to give him credit for his many accomplishments. When COVID first reared its ugly head, so little was known and Trump made some mistakes, but it was under Biden's watch

that COVID became the disaster it was. There was all the misinformation, the outright lies from Fauci and the White House, the lockdowns, school closings, businesses closing, loss of jobs, unnecessary vaccine mandates, many people dying and the money wasted, lost and unaccounted for. The pandemic is over and we're still paying for it in many ways.

True, Trump didn't get much of the wall built, thank you, Joe Biden. Now we see wide open borders, a huge influx of immigrants and the already financially-stressed taxpayers footing the bill for luxury hotel rooms, food, medical bills and educating their children. Fentanyl is a subject by itself. Perhaps other leaders didn't like Trump, but they didn't laugh at him or see weakness on the world stage. As for Trump's budget failures, have you looked at the current waste and mismanagement? NATO countries didn't like it when Trump told them to pay up, but they did.

If you believe in woke policies and cancel culture, Biden is your man. Our military, the Pentagon and intelligence community are failing us. Chinese leader Xi Jinping is probably laughing. When it comes to character and personal flaws, Joe's reputation precedes him. He lies through his teeth, has sold us out to China for a few dollars more and is trying to make this a Socialist country, a la Bernie Sanders. You may not want to admit it, but this country, the world, was much better off, much safer under Trump. Sometimes we have to choose between the lesser of two evils — I'll put my money on Trump.

Alice Wilder, Beaumont

Texans won't play with children's education

Texas Gov. Greg Abbott begins by stating "the facts are different today." He then goes on to state as facts that 1. School funding is at an all time high in Texas and 2. A "woke agenda is being pushed on" children in school.

Let's just fact-check these new and different facts:

Texas has historically underfunded public schools. In 2011, Texas schools were decimated under severe budget cuts. House Bill 3, which was passed in 2019, was meant to begin the process of fully funding schools, but our Legislature has not fulfilled that promise. Texas currently ranks 33rd in per-student funding and 25th in teacher

pay. Factor in a scatter shot system of funding schools that lacks equity, and the claim that school funding is at an all-time high scores a FAIL.

Now, let's take a look at the facts surrounding the "woke agenda" Abbott claims is so upsetting to parents. State curriculum is set by the State Board of Education. Republicans held the majority on the last board and picked up one more seat in the last election. Is Abbott suggesting the SBOE under Republican control has been creating "woke" curriculum? That "different" fact just does not hold water and scores a FAIL.

Facts are just facts and when the governor tries to sell Texans on alternative facts, he might want to bear in mind that we won't play that game with our children's education. Rebranding vouchers as education savings accounts is just an attempt to put lipstick on a pig all rolled up in a set of "different" facts that still translates to decimating our public schools just like in 2011.

Maybe Abbott would consider going on a tour to fully-fund our schools? Now that is something Texans can get behind!

Judith Peek Lee, Beaumont

Republicans should pay national debt, not cut programs

U.S. Rep. Randy Weber has already been called out for blaming Democrats for the massive debt increase, including the tax cut mainly benefiting the affluent and corporations. He's also absolving Republicans of targeting Social Security. Two GOP congressmen took aim, advocating sunset votes on all programs, including Social Security, and otherwise trimming it. Yet another wants to abolish the IRS, and replace it with a national sales tax, at — wait for it! — 27%.

The GOP's plan? Former President Donald Trump's budget guru has suggested slashing programs he considers "woke" — food stamps, housing, health care, education and such. Weber calls on President Joe Biden to "put his money where his mouth is" and negotiate. There's nothing to negotiate. The national debt is for programs already spoken for. Fleshing out the budget, maybe trimming, is a task for another day. Trying to combine the two is a ransom note, holding Uncle Sam hostage. Weber says Republicans will always "honor the Constitution". They can start by paying our debt.

Thomas C. Watson, Bridge City

GUEST COLUMNIST

Three ways Texas can recruit, retain teachers

On March 2, we celebrate Texas Independence Day! On that day in 1836, a delegate from each of the 59 existing settlements in Texas signed the Texas Declaration of Independence. This document officially declared Texas' independence from Mexico and created the Republic of Texas. The delegation met at Washington-on-the-Brazos and also organized the interim government, naming Sam Houston commander-in-chief of the republic's military forces.

Here are five things happening around your state:

1. Teacher Vacancy Task Force releases recommendations

Last week, the Teacher Vacancy Task Force released recommendations to help with teacher retention and recruitment. The task force was established in March of last year by Governor Abbott to examine the challenges teacher's face and why teachers are leaving the profession. The state is facing a severe teacher shortage and school districts are doing their best with the resources they have. The task force included teachers and school administrators from across Texas. The task force developed three key areas that need to be addressed: compensation, training and support, and working conditions. According to the task force, teacher's need an increase in overall compensation, including benefits, and additional strategic compensation strategies. There is also a need to improve the teacher pipeline, expand training and support for teacher mentorship, and provide access to high-



Robert Nichols

TEXAS
SENATOR

quality instructional materials. Lastly, the task force identified working conditions that led to a lack of value for teachers' time and a need to ensure culture and discipline supports.

To read more about the task force's findings, go to tea.texas.gov/tvtf.

2. Senate Bill 3 filed, raises homestead exemption to \$70,000

This week Senator Paul Bettencourt filed Senate Bill 3 and Senate Joint Resolution 3 which would raise that homestead exemption to \$70,000. This would be a 75 percent increase in the current homestead exemption which is currently \$40,000. All 31 members of the Texas Senate, including me, have signed on as co-authors to the bill and the constitutional amendment. This change would provide an additional \$341 in savings on school taxes for the average homeowner each year. Senate Bill 3 is one of Lt. Governor Dan Patrick's top priorities. Delivering property tax relief has never been more important as property values and inflation rise. I look forward to voting for this important legislation and working with our counterparts in the House to pass meaningful property tax relief.

3. Jobs and Education for Texans grant application now available

The Texas Workforce Commission announced the agency

Nichols continues on E2

PAUSE TO PRAY

Lord, Help us seek and obey the words of wisdom that teach us how to be a friend to our fellow man. Amen.

BEAUMONT ENTERPRISE

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LETTERS WELCOME!

The Beaumont Enterprise welcomes letters to the editor from our online and print readers. This is a great opportunity for you to share your views with thousands of other people. Please limit your letters to 300 words or less and include your name, mailing address and phone number so we can contact you to verify that you sent it, although only your name and city of residence will be published. The Enterprise won't run letters regarding personal disputes or attacks, legal cases, conspiracy theories or issues which are not of interest to other readers. You can email your letter to Opinions@BeaumontEnterprise.com or mail it to Letters to the Editor, Beaumont Enterprise, P.O. Box 3071, Beaumont, Texas, 77704. If you have something to say, we want to hear from you!

POINT | COUNTERPOINT Should Alec Baldwin face charges for the deadly shooting at a movie set in New Mexico?

Baldwin should not face criminal charges for an unintentional shooting

By Lisa Monet Wayne
INSIDESOURCES.COM

The unintentional shooting death of cinematographer Halyna Hutchins in 2021 on the set of the film “Rust” in New Mexico is tragic. But not all tragedies translate to criminal behavior and being accused of a crime. The Santa Fe County district attorney’s decision to charge actor Alec Baldwin (who is also one of several producers on the film) with involuntary manslaughter is part of a troubling trend in American law, where everything bad that happens, even if unintentional, is treated as a crime.

Criminal Law 101 teaches that two critical requirements of criminal law demand that the government prove two things: (1) that the defendant committed a wrongful act; and (2) that the defendant acted with criminal intent, known in Latin as a “mens rea” — a guilty mind.

The power to prosecute and imprison a person is the greatest power that the state routinely exercises over its citizens. Because of the harshness of criminal penalties, criminal laws almost always seek to avoid prosecution of people who did not intend to do anything wrong. With few exceptions, unintentional conduct is not a crime.

There appears to be no doubt that Baldwin shot Hutchins. But the power given to a prosecutor is the ability to use a commonsense approach in determining if it is a criminal act. This includes asking if there is evidence that he was aware that his actions would result in her death. The evidence indicates that not only was Baldwin’s conduct not intentional, but it was also likely not even careless. It has also been widely reported that he carefully followed the trusted advice of the set’s armorer and directors that the gun was “cold” — that is, not loaded. Baldwin did not have a “mens rea,” a guilty mind.

Our legal system has in place a comprehensive and robust system of appropriately compensating people harmed by unintentional, but negligent, conduct: civil lawsuits that seek monetary compensation for those losses. Thankfully, in this case, that system of laws has already



Santa Fe County Sheriff’s Office/TNS
Alec Baldwin on the “Rust” set immediately following the shooting of Halyna Hutchins and Joel Souza.

worked. It was reported that Hutchins’ family reached a financial settlement with the film’s production company and Baldwin in October 2022.

This was the right way for this case to be resolved. There is an essential difference between civil lawsuits for injuries that rightly compensate the affected parties and criminal laws that seek to punish people needlessly for accidental conduct. This case is sadly similar to the death of actor Brandon Lee, son of the actor and martial artist Bruce Lee, who was killed in 1993 on the set of the film “The Crow” after being unintentionally shot by fellow actor Michael Massee with an improperly prepared prop gun. In that case, the parties reached a civil settlement, but, thankfully, Massee was not charged with any crime.

The result should be the same in this case. Our country has a problem with mass incarceration. The United States incarcerates more people per capita than almost any other country in the world. There are as many people in jails and prisons in the United States as in China, even though the latter is an openly authoritarian country with four times the population. One way to put a small dent in our country’s era of mass incarceration is to enforce stringently the “mens rea” requirement in criminal laws and to stop treating every tragedy as a crime.

Lisa Monet Wayne is the executive director of the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers. She wrote this for InsideSources.com.

Baldwin, the star, failed every gun safety rule and acted without due caution

By May Mailman
INSIDESOURCES.COM

We can all agree that Alec Baldwin did not mean to kill cinematographer Halyna Hutchins, leaving her husband a widower and her then-9-year-old son motherless. He should not be, and was not, charged with murder. But, nor should this killing be brushed off as an accident, a tragedy of working with superstars in which a family’s only hope is to squeeze some money out in civil proceedings.

Baldwin should be charged, as he was, with involuntary manslaughter, which involves the “commission of a lawful act which might produce death ... without due caution.”

To see why, it’s worth considering the three purposes of criminal punishment. One is retribution, the idea that society demands justice. If a mother watches her baby get murdered and the perpetrator roams free of consequence, she might take matters into her own hands. To prevent devolving into anarchy, we punish criminals to vindicate the victims. Perhaps society does not demand Alec Baldwin be jailed, so we move on to the next purpose.

The second is incapacitation, the need to keep dangerous people off the streets. Most people feel perfectly fine around Baldwin, so jail will not serve this purpose.

But the third is deterrence, not so much to prevent Baldwin from shooting additional movie staffers but to change the behavior of others. And here, Baldwin’s prosecution fits.

Handling weapons, like transporting vinyl chloride or bungee jumping, requires a certain level of care. As any graduate of a concealed carry course can tell you concerning guns, the requisite level of care involves four elements. First, always keep the firearm pointed in a safe direction, even when dry firing. Second, treat all guns as though they are loaded. Third, keep your finger off the trigger until you are ready to shoot. And four, always be sure of your target and what’s beyond it. Baldwin failed them all.

Remember, involuntary manslaughter involves an act that causes death “without due caution.” By failing every gun safety rule, Baldwin acted without due caution. This is an easy case.

Baldwin’s only conceivable defense would be that he did not realize the gun was real, in which case he would have been using appropriate caution for a fake gun. But he knew the gun was real and instead claims he never pulled the trigger. That is far-fetched, and even if true, he still failed gun safety 101. So he is still liable for involuntary manslaughter.

And not only is this an easy case but it’s also a necessary one for appropriate deterrence. We commonly put ourselves in danger willingly because we assume others have done their job. We visit haunted houses, assuming the man with the chainsaw safely operates the chainsaw. We go skydiving, assuming the instructor has inspected the parachute. We live near railroads, assuming the operators have checked their brakes. And when it comes to guns, we need to know the operators are not careless, drunk or ill-trained. Even if they are famous.

Some may think that Baldwin, the star, exercised due caution because he was permitted to rely on his staff. Maybe, under this thinking, he’s more like the bungee jumper — who does not need to check the parachute — than the instructor, who does. But this question is precisely why this case is essential, to explain that operators of weapons always have a duty of care. With guns, we cannot outsource safety, as law-abiding gun owners fervently agree.

Maintaining dangerous equipment and activity in society is a necessary thing. Airplanes, cars, guns, chemicals and so on are essential to society. But they require prosecutors and courts to continually demand that operators of these dangerous activities exercise caution. Baldwin is no exception.

May Mailman is a senior fellow with the Independent Women’s Law Center. She wrote this for InsideSources.com.

NICHOLS

From page E1

is now accepting applications for Jobs and Education for Texans (JET) grants. JET grants are given to public junior, state, and technical colleges, and Texas independent school districts, open-enrollment charter schools, and the Windham School District. The funding is for career and technical education programs, including equipment, in those education enti-

ties. The education courses lead to a license, certificate, or post-secondary degree and many include dual-credit and technical education programs. The JET program also supports employers by preparing students for careers in high-demand jobs in local businesses. The program currently has \$8.6 million available. Applications are now open with a deadline of March 14.

4. Senate Bill 2 raises illegal voting penalty

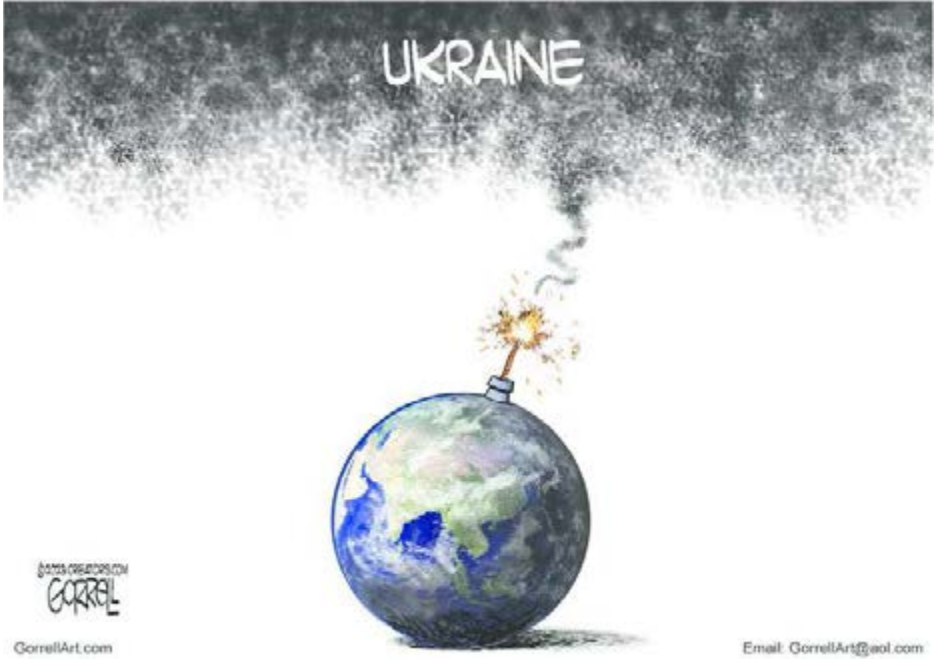
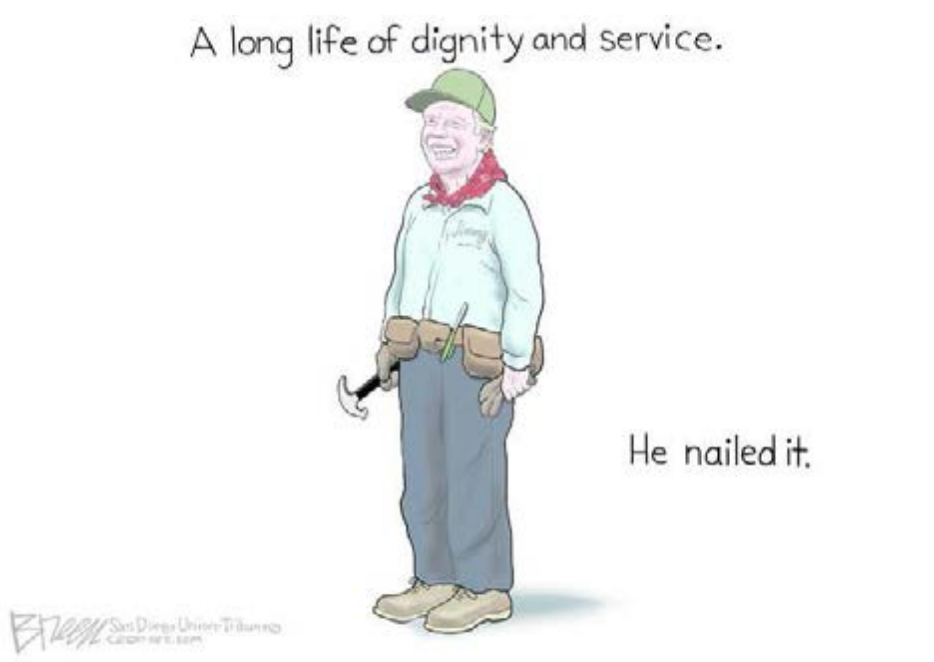
The Senate State Affairs Committee voted out Senate Bill 2 this week. The bill, authored by Senator Bryan Hughes, would increase the penalty for illegal voting from a misdemeanor to a second degree felony, which was the penalty prior to 2021. Illegal voting has been a felony for almost 50 years, and this bill treats it with the degree of seriousness it deserves. This bill is also a priority of the Lt. Governor this session and I look forward to working with the rest of the

members of the Senate and the House on this legislation.

5. TxDOT developing record \$100 billion plan for projects

The Texas Department of Transportation is proposing a record \$100 billion unified transportation plan that will increase the number of projects approved over the next ten years. This is projected to be \$15 billion more than the 2023 Unified Transportation Program (UTP) and is based on revenue

for the state, derived from the growth in Proposition 1 revenues. The projects would improve congestion, maintain roadways, and increase safety across the state. TxDOT currently has more than \$33 billion in transportation projects under constructions throughout Texas with more than 7,000 transportation projects underway or scheduled to break ground in 2023. TxDOT will be evaluating projects for inclusion in the 2024 UTP through May.



Biden tries to save social security he once cut

By Andrew G. Biggs and James C. Capretta
THE WASHINGTON POST

President Biden has pledged to oppose any and all cuts to restore the critically underfunded Social Security system to solvency. This makes for good politics for Biden and congressional Democrats. But it is bad for the Americans who will depend on the nation's retirement and disability program in the future. With most Democrats opposing benefit reductions and Republicans opposing any tax increases, policymakers are at an impasse. Waiting to act until 2035, when the system's trust fund is projected to run dry, will only make the solution more painful.

Biden himself should know this - because he was directly involved with one bipartisan compromise that kept Social Security solvent for decades and another that failed to pass.

The successful compromise was reached in 1983, when Social Security was mere months away from insolvency. For two years, Republicans and Democrats had been engaged in heated rhetoric over what to do about it. The main players in this drama were a who's who of the era: They included noted economist Alan Greenspan, appointed by President Ronald Reagan to head a commission on the retirement program; House Speaker Thomas P. "Tip" O'Neill Jr. (D-Mass.); Rep. Dan Rostenkowski (D-Ill.), chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee; and Sens. Daniel Patrick Moynihan (D-N.Y.) and Bob Dole (R-Kan.), who eventually led the bipartisan compro-



President Biden is shown at a White House reception last Month.

Demetrius Freeman/The Washington Post

mise. They fought for their positions and then negotiated a plan that served the country's interests. The reforms they settled on reduced benefits in three important ways. First, the "normal retirement age" at which full benefits could be received was gradually increased from 65 to 67. This provision did not restrict the age at which benefits could be claimed, but imposed an effective 13 percent benefit cut on anyone claiming benefits before the normal age. Second, the reforms made Social Security benefits subject to income taxes, a de facto means test on retirees with incomes above \$25,000. And third, cost-of-living adjustments (COLAs) for retire-

ment benefits were delayed. Together, these benefits reductions accounted for more than two-thirds of the reforms' improvement to Social Security's finances. Tax increases, which included an increase in the rate paid by self-employed workers and the more rapid implementation of a payroll tax rate increase already scheduled to take place, generated most of the rest of the improvement.

Twenty-six Senate Democrats voted to support the agreement, including Biden. In April 1983, Reagan signed it into law. And Social Security remained solvent for decades.

In 2012, the Obama-Biden administration proposed a budget for the next fiscal year

that would have reduced Social Security COLAs as part of a "grand bargain" with congressional Republicans to reduce budget deficits in general. The proposal would have adopted a new measure of inflation to calculate COLAs, the "chain-weighted" consumer price index, which the Bureau of Labor Statistics considered to be an improved measure of the cost of living but would result generally in lower COLAs, including for seniors already taking their Social Security benefits. As vice president, Biden was the administration's point man in the bipartisan budget talks, which eventually broke down when Republicans backed away from tax-rate increases. But it's im-

portant for Democrats to note that the Obama-Biden administration had been ready to accept reducing Social Security benefits for current retirees as part of a compromise.

Congressional Republicans, for their part, need to banish any illusions that a bipartisan deal would not include tax increases, most likely on higher income Americans. Republicans don't have to like raising taxes any more than Democrats like reducing the growth of benefits. But accepting policies you don't like is the price of a bipartisan fix - the only possible solution to Social Security insolvency.

Social Security's financing hasn't gotten any better since 2012. In fact, the Congressional Budget Office predicted last year that over the next 75 years, the system will be underfunded by 27 percent - more than double the shortfall the agency predicted 10 years earlier. Perhaps worse, both political parties' willingness to engage on fiscal issues has only declined as past concerns over deficits and debt are being ignored.

Biden has an opportunity to be a president who - like Reagan - saves Social Security. His decades of experience on Capitol Hill, including previous efforts on Social Security reforms, are what is needed to get Democrats and Republicans in Congress to put aside their differences and make the difficult decisions needed to protect this important program for current and future retirees.

Andrew G. Biggs and James C. Capretta are senior fellows at the American Enterprise Institute.

A large GOP presidential field won't necessarily help Trump

By Henry Olsen
THE WASHINGTON POST

The consensus among political elites holds that a large, divided GOP presidential field would help former president Donald Trump. That view is likely wrong.

The common wisdom goes something like this: In 2016, Trump offered a vision that attracted a plurality of Republicans, but not a majority. The large number of major candidates - 17 at one point - kept a clear opponent from emerging. Too many candidates stayed in the race for too long, allowing Trump to win a large majority of convention delegates with plurality victories. By the time the field winnowed down to two serious contenders, Trump and Sen. Ted Cruz (R-Texas), Trump's lead was essentially unsurmountable.

There's something to this view. Trump won all 50 of South Carolina's delegates with less than a third of the vote as five candidates split the other two-thirds. He also won similarly lopsided delegate advantages with mere plurality victories in Super Tuesday contests

in Alabama, Georgia and Tennessee. The fact that Sen. Marco Rubio of Florida and Ohio Gov. John Kasich remained in the race in crucial primaries between Super Tuesday and March 15 also gave Trump huge delegate hauls from Florida, Missouri and Illinois despite winning less than 50 percent of the vote.

But this simplistic view overlooks that Trump really secured the nomination after the field winnowed down. Cruz and Kasich secured early outsized delegate victories with pluralities of the vote in Texas, Ohio, Wisconsin and Kansas. Cruz could have surged ahead of Trump as the race turned to the Northeast in early April. Instead, as some Republican candidates dropped out, Trump swept the field by winning all six April "Acela Corridor" primaries with majorities of the vote, winning between 54 and 64 percent in each state and garnered 199 committed delegates to his rivals' combined 14. He then smashed Cruz in conservative Indiana, besting him 53-37 and winning the Hoosier State's 54 delegates.

It's easy in retrospect to see

why this happened. Republican voters behaved exactly as I described in my 2015 book, "The Four Faces of the Republican Party." When a voter's first choice drops out, she or he always looks for the second-best choice. For most Republicans, Trump - and not his rivals - was closer to their views than either Cruz or Kasich.

Trump's 2016 strength was the polar opposite of what it is now. Today, he is the choice of the most-committed conservatives, but those voters were Cruz's bastion two presidential cycles ago. Exit polls showed that Cruz won voters who called themselves very conservative in almost every state. He even carried them in Indiana despite being clobbered statewide. Cruz lost because moderate Republicans were Trump's primary base, and the party's decisive swing vote - the "somewhat conservatives" - preferred Trump to the man who had risen to national prominence by tarnishing them as RINOs.

2016's experience poses two lessons for 2024. First, an early large field does not automatically redound to Trump's benefit. Too few delegates are at stake in

the early races for him to build a lead with plurality victories. But it is crucial that candidates with no chance of winning drop out before Super Tuesday. That's why Democratic candidates in 2020, such as Amy Klobuchar and Pete Buttigieg, abandoned their campaigns and endorsed Joe Biden within hours of Biden's thumping South Carolina win in 2020.

It's also essential that the non-Trump candidate who emerges from 2024's early contests is broadly acceptable to most Republican voters open to nominating someone other than the former president. In a way, Biden fit this sort of "compromise" candidate for Democrats in 2020, when Sen. Bernie Sanders started off as the leading candidate. Neither Cruz nor Kasich did the same for Republicans in 2016. This poses challenges for each of Trump's potential foes. Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis is flying high now because many MAGA-oriented voters like his brash persona. But that brashness rankles many of the more traditional Republicans, who remain a large force within the party even as they no longer control

it. If DeSantis leans too far toward Trumpian rhetoric and policy, these voters might decide there is not a dime's bit of difference between him and Trump.

Others such as former U.N. ambassador Nikki Haley, former vice president Mike Pence or Sen. Tim Scott of South Carolina face the opposite challenge. They could rise to relevance by poaching traditional Republicans' first-choice votes. But if one of them drives DeSantis out without gaining favor with his MAGA-friendly support, Trump would get those second-choice votes, just as he did when the field winnowed in 2016. Republican elites should fret less about the number of candidates and worry more about their quality. The party's voters will eventually settle on the person who comes closest to representing the party's wide range of viewpoints. If Trump's opponents push someone who doesn't do that, he will prevail no matter when the field shakes out.

Henry Olsen is a senior fellow at the Ethics and Public Policy Center.

Ukrainians are begging for cluster munitions to stop Russians

By Josh Rogin
THE WASHINGTON POST

Ukrainians have been fighting heroically - but they're still outnumbered and outgunned. Russia has mobilized hundreds of thousands of troops and still enjoys substantial superiority in materiel and equipment. Ukrainians know perfectly well that time is not on their side. A fresh Russian offensive could come at any moment.

The United States and its European partners have provided Ukraine with billions of dollars worth of weapons, but are still denying Kyiv's requests for planes and long-range missiles. Even if President Biden signed off on the planes today, it would take several months to get them into the fight. Western tanks are on the way, but only a few dozen will reach the battlefield in time. Ukrainian forces are expending munitions faster than Western countries can produce replacements.

But there's a weapon that could do a great deal to help

Kyiv stave off future attacks - and it can be provided in large amounts at short notice: cluster munitions. Giving them to Ukraine would be a controversial move with real risks. But that might be the only way to save more Ukrainian towns from death and destruction, as several officials from Kyiv told their American and European counterparts last month at the Munich Security Conference.

The Ukrainian requests have prompted considerable discomfort among some of Ukraine's allies. More than 100 countries have signed the Convention on Cluster Munitions, which bans their stockpiling or use. The weapons, which consist of a single munition that breaks into dozens of smaller bomblets over a target, are highly indiscriminate and especially dangerous to civilians. The United States, with one exception, hasn't used them since 2003.

Human rights groups rightly point out that cluster munitions are also worrisome because the bomblets sometimes don't explode on impact, litter-

ing the battlefields with potentially lethal material long after the fighting is over. Deploying them is not to be taken lightly. Critics also argue that supplying the munitions will undermine the West's moral authority, because we've also criticized Russia for using these same weapons.

But those are concerns Ukrainians don't have the time or luxury to parse. For them, this is a life-or-death situation. Ukrainian officials have said that the weapons would only be used against Russian troops and tanks. They tell me that the areas in Eastern Ukraine that would be targeted are already largely depopulated. And besides, they argue, it's their territory, which they will have to clean up after the war anyway - if they live that long.

"Either we will all be killed today, all of us, or we will win the war and then deal with the consequences later," Ukrainian member of parliament Oleksii Goncharenko told me.

As he pointed out to me, Ukraine has not ratified the

Convention of Cluster Munitions and neither has the United States (although successive U.S. administrations have pledged to abide by it). Kyiv's cold calculation is that more innocent lives will be saved if Ukrainian forces can kill more invading Russians faster.

"The U.S. has all the legal right to give us these munitions, and we have all the moral right to receive them" because Ukraine is not the aggressor, Goncharenko said. "We just want to protect ourselves."

There are many types of cluster munitions, but the one most commonly discussed is the dual-purpose improved conventional munition (DPICM). The Defense Department has about 3 million Cold War-era DPICM rounds in its inventory, many of them stored in Europe. These can be fired with the artillery pieces Ukrainian forces have now. Turkey has reportedly supplied cluster munitions to Ukraine already, although its government officially denies it. European countries reportedly

also want to send Ukraine cluster munitions, but are awaiting permission from their suppliers in Washington or Berlin.

Several U.S. defense officials and lawmakers support the idea of exporting cluster munitions to Ukraine, which would require Biden to issue a new waiver on an export law prohibiting such transfers. The Biden administration has "concerns" about the weapons but hasn't ruled them out.

The Ukrainians know that using cluster weapons comes at a political and diplomatic cost for them, but they have decided they need to use them anyway. Because it is their lives on the line, it is their risk to take, and we should honor their request.

Josh Rogin is a columnist for the Global Opinions section of The Washington Post. He writes about foreign policy and national security. Rogin is also a political analyst for CNN. He is the author of the book "Chaos Under Heaven: Trump, Xi, and the Battle for the 21st Century."

HEALTH

The only way to ‘reverse’ Type 2 diabetes is to control it

Q: Any suggestions on how to reverse Type 2 diabetes?

A: Strictly speaking, once you have diabetes, you always have diabetes, as the diagnosis is considered “stable,” or life-long. However, many people can get diabetes under control without medications so that the blood sugar is always in the normal range, which is pretty close to reversing diabetes.



Dr. Keith Roach
TO YOUR GOOD HEALTH

The three most important areas of controlling diabetes are diet, exercise and weight. While there is much information I can give on diet, the most important single factor is reducing sugar and

starches (which rapidly turn into sugar). It's not all carbohydrates that are bad — vegetables and legumes, which are mostly carbohydrates, have very little starch and sugar and high amounts of fiber, forming one of the bases of a healthy diet for diabetes, along with healthy protein sources. A registered dietitian or nutritionist is an essential partner in diabetes care. Entirely (or nearly) cutting out breads, pastas and rice makes an enormous difference in blood sugar.

The body makes its own sugar, and regular exercise not only uses up blood sugar, but it also trains the muscles to use sugar more efficiently. Exercise alone will not reverse diabetes in people who have a poor diet, but the combination of a good diet and regular exercise is better than either alone.

Weight has an independent effect on blood sugar control, as a higher weight usually correlates to more resistance to insulin. However, a person can have Type 2 diabetes and be very thin, and most people who are overweight do not have diabetes. For most people, a diabetic-friendly diet and regular exercise will end up leading to weight loss, but it will always lead to improved health, even without losing a pound.

Q: Lately, I've been hearing about a relationship between the COVID vaccines and a significant increase in heart-related deaths. Please



Getty Images

Diet, exercise and watching your weight are three key elements to consider when seeking to control diabetes without medication, so that blood sugar levels are always in the normal range.

review the latest information on this subject, and your recommendations.

A: While there are multiple studies published and, unfortunately, misleading conclusions on social media based on faulty analyses, the best data come from the U.K., where all-cause mortality is very significantly reduced in people who have had the COVID vaccine, compared to unvaccinated people.

A separate analysis from the Florida Department of Health also found lower all-cause mortality in all age groups among vaccinated compared to unvaccinated. This is likely due to the fact that getting COVID is a major risk in multiple types of death, and the vaccine is effective at preventing serious COVID.

Certainly, in high-risk groups, such as people with heart failure, the vaccine prevents death very powerfully. Unvaccinated people are three times more likely to die from any cause than those who have been fully vaccinated.

My recommendation remains consistent. Everyone

who can get the vaccine should get the vaccine, and it's more important for people who have more risk factors. Older people, those with heart or lung problems, and those with problems in their immune system due to a medical condition, or its treatment, are at a particularly high risk and should ensure that they are fully boosted with the vaccine.

Q: I am having trouble finding a reliable recommendation for the daily supplement zinc. I purchased 50-mg pills, but I think this may be too much. I am 74 and female, and I would like to include zinc in my daily supplements, as my hair has begun thinning quite a bit, straight down the top of my head.

A: Zinc is an important nutrient, and it is certainly true that zinc deficiency may lead to hair loss. However, most people with hair loss do not have a zinc deficiency, and there are no convincing data that giving extra zinc to a person with normal zinc levels will help with hair loss. Hair loss along

the midline is consistent with female pattern hair loss, which is very common among women in their 70s and usually has nothing to do with zinc.

Very high amounts of zinc supplementation can be dangerous (and impair your body's ability to absorb other trace metals such as copper), but 50 mg is a safe amount. Still, the most effective therapies for female pattern hair loss include minoxidil (usually topical, but low-dose oral is increasingly used), spironolactone and finasteride. A dermatologist is the expert on hair loss and can give you a better diagnosis by exam than I can by your description.

Q: My youngest son has to have both of his hips replaced. He is only 37 but is in a very strenuous job of being a boilermaker in an oil refinery. This is the hardest job in a heavy industry. His doctors are telling me that his hips deteriorated due to alcohol consumption — is this even possible? Even if he can get through this ordeal, he is still locked into

this physical type of work. The doctors say he will need another hip replacement in 10 to 15 years if he stays in this line of work. Do you agree with these statements?

A: Let's take them one by one.

The most common cause of hip disease requiring hip replacement is osteoarthritis of the hips, but it is quite unusual to see someone of your son's age require a hip replacement. Alcohol is not a recognized risk factor for osteoarthritis of the hips, but alcohol is a known underlying cause of a much less-common condition: osteonecrosis of the hips, also called avascular necrosis.

The more a person drinks, the more likely they are to get this rare condition, even though most heavy drinkers will never get this condition. Not every person with osteonecrosis of the hip will require a hip replacement. It is frequent to have both sides of the hip with disease.

Untreated congenital hip dysplasia may also lead to severe hip damage requiring a total hip replacement, and it is also one cause I see in a person of your son's age.

Prognosis after a modern hip replacement is very good. More than 90 percent of people are doing well, pain-free and without complications 15 years after surgery. Of course, some kinds of activities, such as heavy lifting and high-impact movements, could make the surgical prosthetics wear out faster, but regular activities, such as walking, stair climbing and most sports that are not high-intensity or high-impact, can be done without damage to the prosthetic.

Although further alcohol use will not affect the prosthetic hips or other bones, many other body systems are very much affected by alcohol. So, if he has been a heavy drinker, it is time to stop. His doctors can help him find many of the available resources.

Dr. Roach regrets that he is unable to answer individual letters, but will incorporate them in the column whenever possible. Readers may email questions to ToYourGoodHealth@med.cornell.edu or send mail to 628 Virginia Drive, Orlando, FL 32803.

Grapefruit juice can boost potency of statins



JOE AND TERESA GRAEDON
PEOPLE'S PHARMACY

Q: I told my endocrinologist that I wanted to stop taking my statin due to reports about serious side effects. He said, “I’ll make you a deal, pal: I’ll cut your dose in half, and you start taking grapefruit juice.” Done deal.

My lipids are all good, and I'm free of statin side effects so far. I've had 71 pretty good years. Would it make sense to stop the atorvastatin in favor of red yeast rice and grapefruit juice?

A: Grapefruit juice turbocharges certain statin blood levels by slowing the body's metabolism of such drugs. For example, a daily glass of this juice boosts simvastatin and lovastatin by 260 percent if taken at the same time (American Journal of Medicine, January 2016). Even drinking grapefruit juice 12 hours later can increase blood levels by 90 percent.

Atorvastatin interacts less strongly. Grapefruit juice only increases blood levels by 80 percent. Cutting your dose in half and adding grapefruit juice



Getty Images

A daily glass of grapefruit juice can boost the potency of some statins by 260 percent.

would put you back approximately where you started.

Some people are more sensitive to statin side effects than others. Because red yeast rice supplements frequently contain lower amounts of statin compounds such as lovastatin, many individuals can tolerate them even if they have trouble with statins. Since you have not experienced any statin side effects, you may not need to make any adjustments.

Q: After taking just a couple escitalopram pills, I found myself wondering which side of my neck was

best for cutting. I had no idea where that disturbing thought came from.

When I told my doctor, he told me to stop taking the drug. Is it possible for antidepressants to trigger suicidal thoughts? What else could I do to shake my depression?

A: Escitalopram (Lexapro), like many similar drugs, comes with this warning: “Antidepressants increased the risk of suicidal thoughts and behaviors in pediatric and young adult patients in short-term studies. Closely monitor all antidepressant-treated patients for clinical worsening and for emergence of

suicidal thoughts and behaviors.”

There is controversy about whether antidepressants have this effect on middle-aged individuals as well. Anyone who experiences thoughts of self-harm should follow your example and check with the prescriber immediately.

You can learn more about other strategies for managing depression in our “eGuide to Dealing With Depression.” This online resource can be found under the Health eGuides tab at PeoplesPharmacy.com. It discusses talk therapy, exercise, light therapy and some supple-

ments.

Q: I have Parkinson's disease, which has led to 14 years suffering with restless leg syndrome. This keeps me awake at night. I also deal with pain and spasms as soon as I rest.

I take ropinarole for the PD. It is also supposed to help with the RLS, but I haven't noticed much effect.

The only relief I have had was after my Moderna COVID-19 vaccination. I called it a miracle because the relief was incredible. Sadly, it didn't last more than a month or so.

Have you heard of others reaching this way?

A: Two years ago, we received a message from a reader who had been suffering from RLS for years. After getting the Moderna vaccine, his symptoms disappeared. They eventually came back but at a much lower level.

Since then, we have heard from a number of other readers who have reported reduced RLS symptoms after vaccination. On the other hand, Japanese doctors report one case of RLS developing in an 87-year-old woman after getting the Pfizer vaccine (Neurology and Clinical Neuroscience, May 2022). So far, we have no scientific explanation for this effect.

Contact the Graedons at peoplespharmacy.com.

Mort Walker's
beetle bailey

HOW DO YOU GET GUYS TO NOTICE YOU? I DON'T

IS LT. FUZZ SINGLE? PROBABLY. WHY?

I THINK HE'S KIND OF CUTE

MORE LIKE IMMATURE

HE JUST NEEDS SOMEONE TO MOTHER HIM GOOD LUCK

YOU'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO COMPETE WITH HIS REAL MOM

DID YOU FINISH MY LAUNDRY YET?

BY
MASTROIANNI AND HART

OKAY, WOW!

I KNOW A LUCKY SHOT WHEN I SEE ONE.

I THINK YOU MEANT TO SAY, SKILLFUL.

I KNOW SKILL. YOU, SIR, LACK IT.

IS THAT SO?

YES. IT IS SO.

TELL YOURSELF THAT WHEN YOU'RE ASKING ME FOR LEFTOVERS NEXT MONTH.

THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By **Phil Keane**

THREE AT LAST! I WAS 'AGINNIN' TO THINK I WAS NEVER GONNA GROW UP!

3-5

JEFF AND PHIL
WWW.FAMILYCIRCUS.COM

HAGAR THE HORRIBLE

BY **DIK BROWNE**

LAST TIME I LOOKED, THE PANTRY WAS FULL! WHAT HAPPENED?!

HAGAR HAPPENED.

GET YOUR COAT! WE'RE GOING OUT FOR LUNCH!

WE CAN'T. HAGAR IS TAKING THE WAGON OUT!

YOU SHOULD HAVE YOUR OWN WAGON! NO WAY!

I NEVER WANT TO BE ON THE SAME ROAD AS HAGAR!

HEY!

OUT OF MY WAY!

HI AND LOIS

BY **BRIAN AND GREG WALKER**

I DON'T LIKE TO NAG, BUT... SERIOUSLY?

WHAT ABOUT THE "JOB JAR"?

THE POST-IT NOTES?

FIX THIS

DRIP

THE "HONEY DO" LISTS?

HONEY DO
-CLEAN GARAGE
-WASH WINDOWS
-PAINT LIVING ROOM

THAT'S NOT NAGGING. WHAT IS IT?

HELPING YOU TO BECOME THE BEST VERSION OF YOURSELF.

CANDORVILLE

BY **DARRIN BELL**

I KNOW WHAT YOU'RE GOING TO ASK: "WHAT BRINGS YOU TO THERAPY?"

DR. NODDLE

I WAS GOING TO SUGGEST MY WIFE AND EVERYONE AT THE "INTERVENTION" WAS BEING UNFAIR!

LET'S START WITH MY MOTHER'S LISTEN. MY MOTHER WAS A SAINT, SO YOU'RE BARKING UP THE WRONG TREE.

MAYBE YOUR WIFE NEEDS THERAPY? THAT'S WHAT I TOLD HER!

IS THE ONE WHO NEEDS THERAPY? THAT'S WHAT I TOLD HER!

HEY, YOU'VE GOT TO LET ME

DIAGNOSE HER? WITHOUT EVEN MEETING HER? ISN'T THAT UNETHICAL? WHAT KIND OF QUACK ARE YOU?

FINISHING OTHERS' SENTENCES IS SOMETIMES A TIME-SAVER? YOU'RE WELCOME.

DENNIS THE MENACE
BY **HANK KETCHAM**

YESTERDAY DENNIS FIGURED OUT THE PASSWORD ON MY TABLET.

HE ORDERED 50 CAGES OF CHEWY CRITTERS AND A BICYCLE!

I MANAGED TO CANCEL IT JUST IN THE NICK OF TIME!

HE MUST BE SO SMART TO BE ABLE TO DO SOMETHING LIKE THAT!

TRUE.

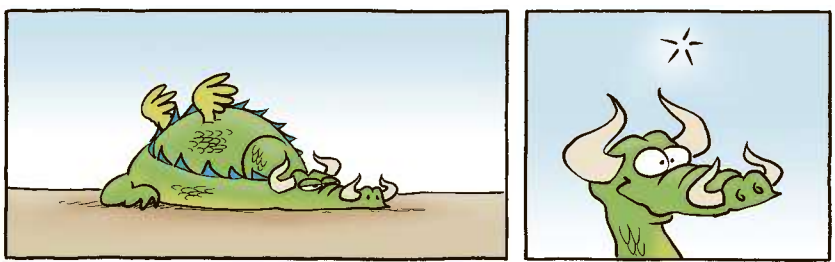
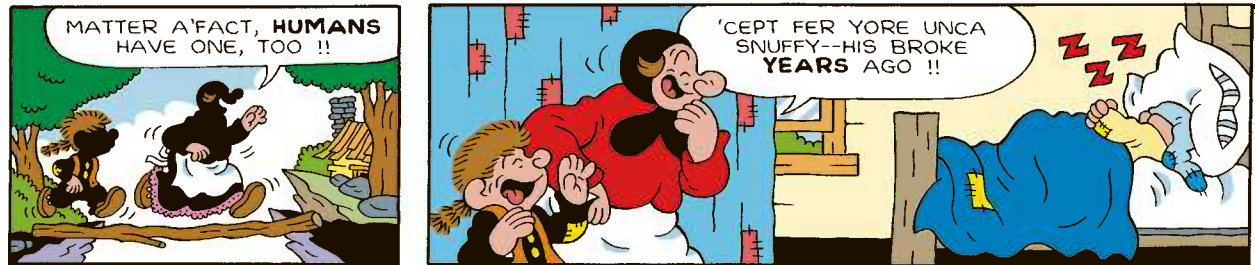
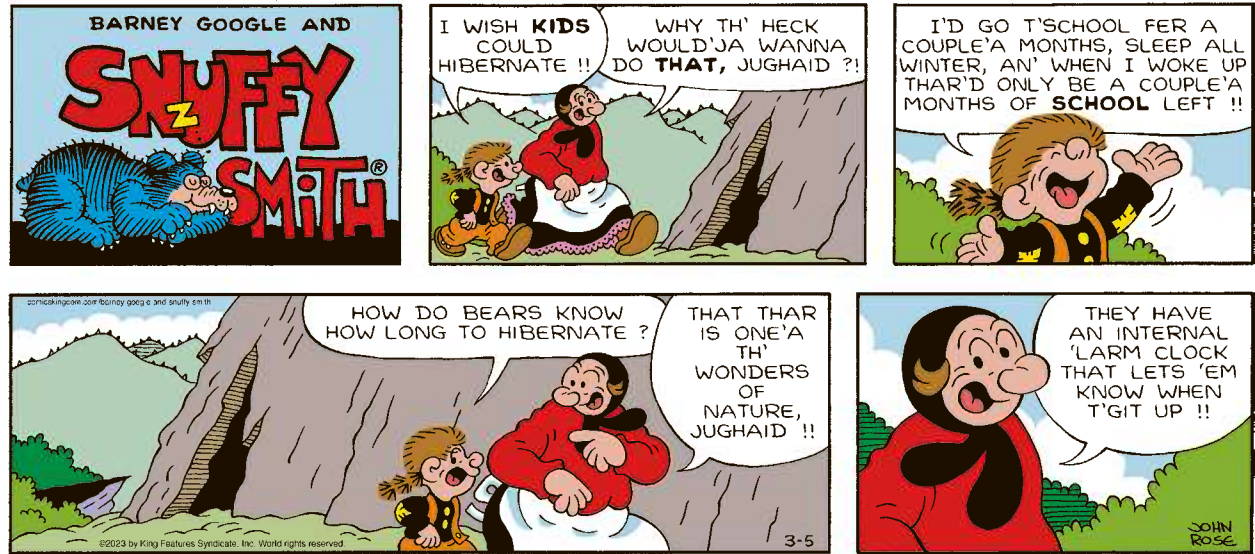
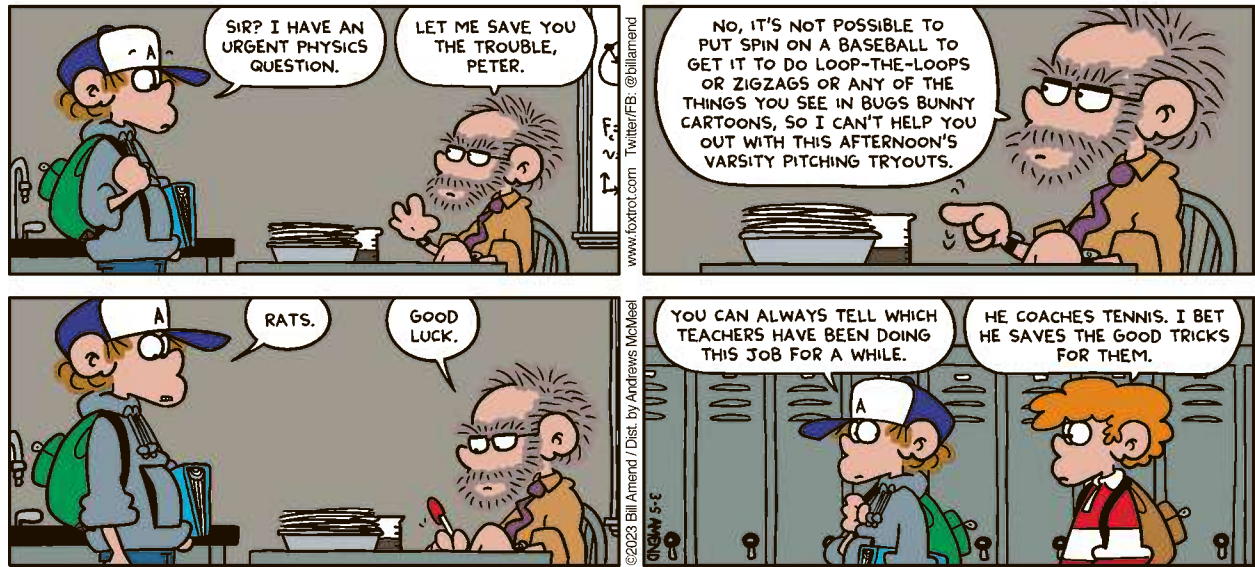
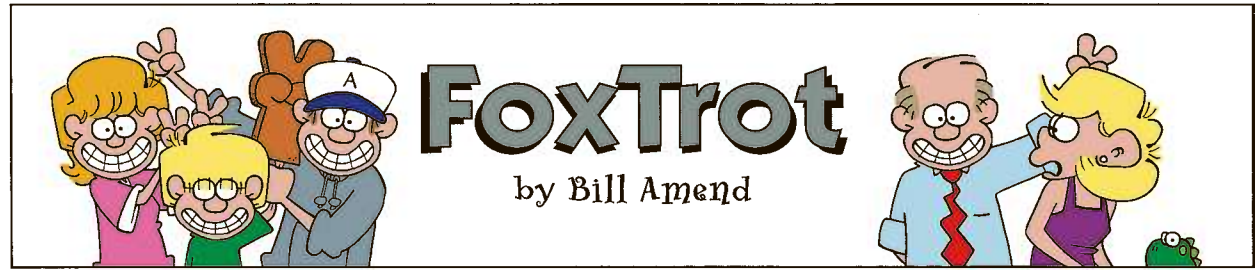
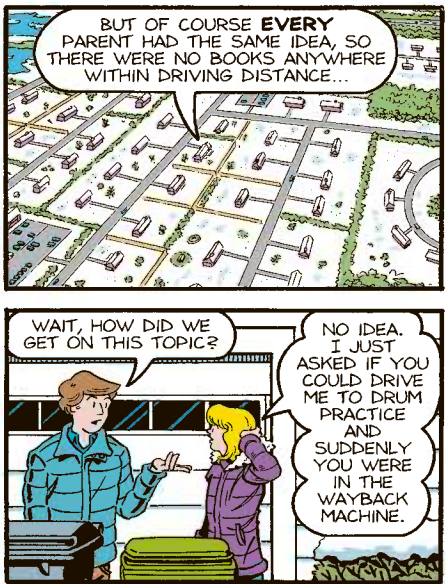
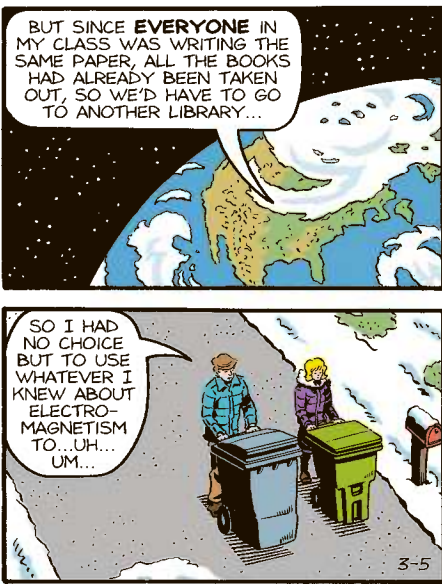
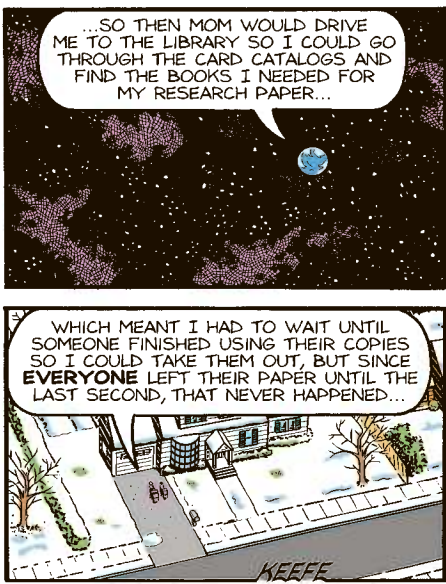
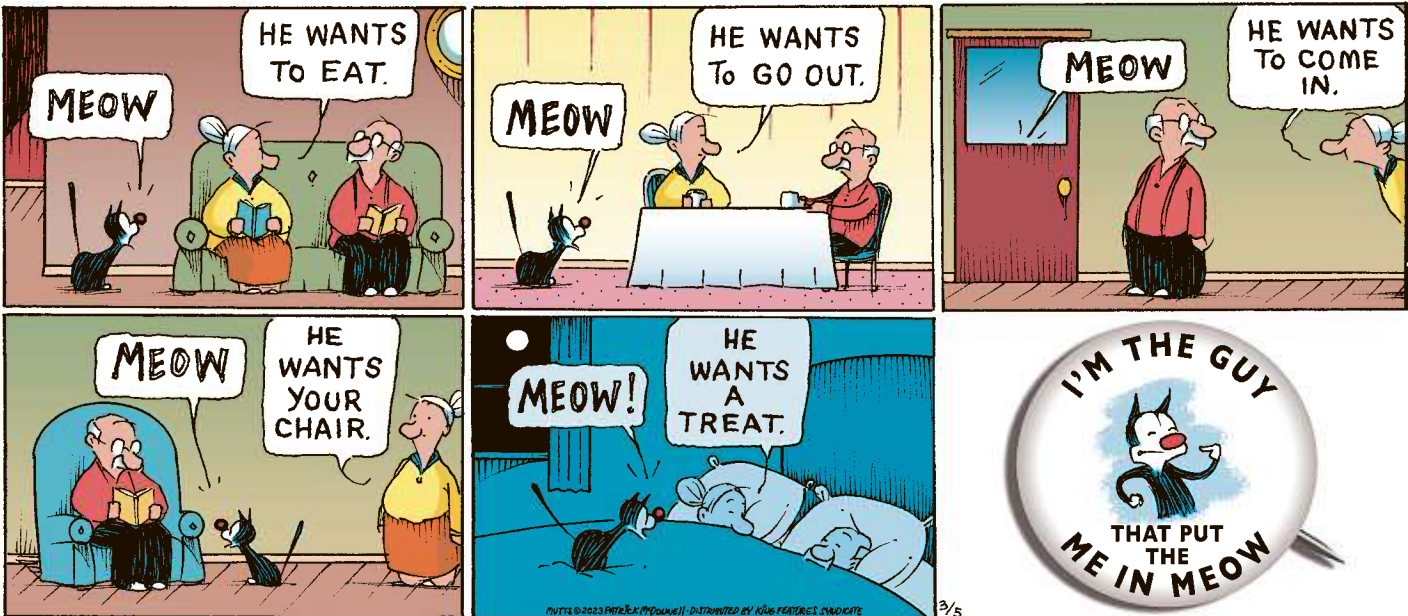
MOM! I'M STUCK!

BUT THEN AGAIN, THERE ARE MOMENTS LIKE THIS.

"MUTTS"

by
Patrick
McDonnell

6

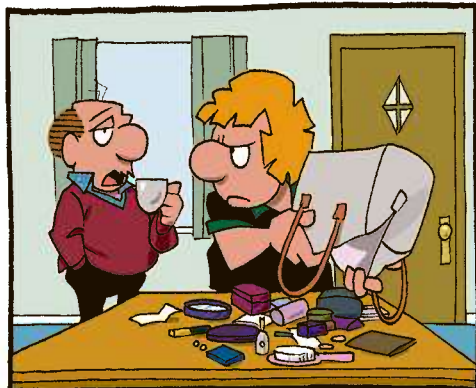


THE LOCKHORNS

BY BUNNY HOEST AND JOHN REINER



"FINE! CALL ME AMBIVALENT... SEE IF I CARE."



"THAT REMINDS ME OF ALL THOSE CLOWNS IN A TINY CAR."



"IF YOU WERE GOOD AT GOLF, LEROY, IT WOULD MEAN YOU HAD NOTHING BETTER TO DO."



"THAT ONE ALWAYS HOLDS LEROY'S ATTENTION."

Last night's storm exposed buried pirate treasure on a California beach. The elephant claims the treasure belongs to him because he found it at 9:00 AM, before Shady arrived. Shady Shrew insists he found it first, just as the sun rose over the ocean horizon. Why doesn't Slylock Fox believe Shady?

Solution -- The sun rises in the east. The ocean horizon is west of the California shore. Shady lied. Can you believe that?

HOW TO DRAW a spider 3-5

YOUR DRAWING Today's terrific artist is Hannah, age 10

The scrambled words are things found in the Slylock Fox beach scene. How many can you unscramble?

- 1) NSDA
- 2) ULDO SC
- 3) RANERGI
- 4) NOSTIFRPOT

Answer -- 1) Sand 2) Clouds 3) Earning 4) Footprints

Spot six differences between these panels.

Have fun solving a new comic puzzle every day at www.slylockfox.com

Shoe

By Gary Brookins & Susie MacNelly

WHAT ARE THE ODDS OF ME MEETING A GREAT GUY IN THIS TOWN?

THE ODDS ARE GOOD...

BUT THE GOODS ARE ODD.



Blondie

By Dean Young & John Marshall

DO YOU NEED HELP WITH DINNER BEFORE I HIT THE SOFA, HONEY?

NO, I'M GOOD, DEAR...ENJOY YOUR NAP

COOKIE, IS YOUR LAPTOP WORKING OKAY?

IT'S WORKING FINE NOW, DADDY, THANKS

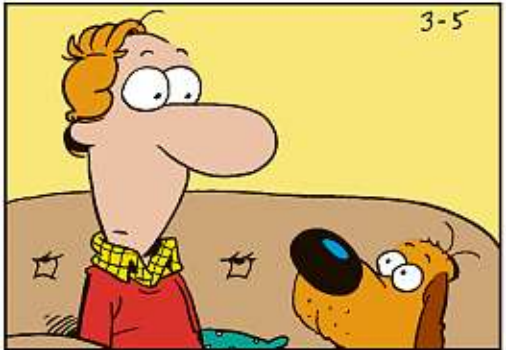
ALEX! I WAS GOING TO WASH YOUR MOM'S VAN AFTER DINNER

ALMOST DONE, DAD...NO PROBLEM!

IT'S ALMOST TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE!

I THOUGHT YOU WERE GOING TO GET SOME QUALITY NAP TIME

THE SUSPENSE WOULD HAVE BEEN WAY TOO MUCH FOR ME



For Better or for Worse

By Lynn Johnston

BOY, IS THE WIND EVER STRONG TODAY!

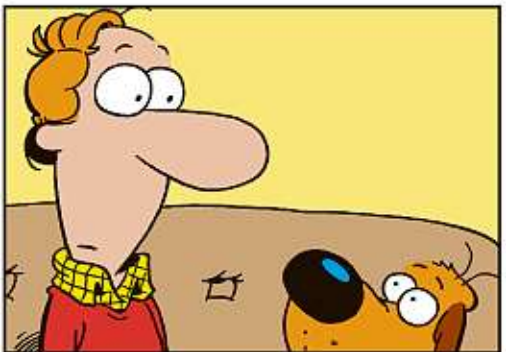
YEAH! YOU CAN ALMOST LEAN AGAINST IT!

HEY, I BET WE COULD LEAN AGAINST IT!

THAT WIND IS LIKE A HURRICANE!

AND COLD, TOO!

—IT'S A GOOD THING THE KIDS ARE WEARING WARM JACKETS.



Hal Foster's Prince Valiant

PRINCE ARN, FEELING THAT HE HAS LOST HIS WAY AS A LEADER, HAS SOUGHT ARTHUR'S ADVICE. THEY TALK BEFORE THE RETIRED KING IS ALERTED THAT, STRANGELY ENOUGH, HE HAS A SECOND VISITOR THIS DAY. "HELP AN OLD MAN WALK TO SEE THIS MIRACLE..."

"...TWO VISITORS TO MY LONELY MONASTERY IN ONE DAY! WHO COULD IT BE?" ARTHUR LEADS THE WAY TO THE ORDER'S DINING HALL, WHERE THEY FIND A CLOAKED FIGURE DOWNING A GREAT MEAL AS IF HE HAD NEVER EATEN BEFORE.

THE NEWCOMER'S HOOD FALLS BACK. "VALANT HIMSELF!" CHUCKLES ARTHUR. "NO ONE ELSE DEVOURS DINNER WITH SUCH ABANDON--AND BEFORE GREETING MYSELF OR THE SON WITH WHOM HE IS SO CONCERNED."

ARN GLARES AT HIS FATHER, AND VAL BEGINS TO OBJECT...

BUT ARTHUR BRINGS A QUICK STOP TO ANY BICKERING: "YOU TWO HAVE BEEN BUTTING HEADS LONG ENOUGH! ARN, YOU HAVE THE DISADVANTAGE OF BEING THE SON OF AN IMPORTANT MAN, AND ONE WITH MANY FLAWS. VALANT, YOU ARE A BRILLIANT TACTICIAN AND A CLEVER TRICKSTER..."

"...BUT YOU HAVE NO TALENT FOR GOVERNING, WHICH IS ARN'S GREAT SKILL, SINCE YOU HAVE BOTH SOUGHT MY COUNSEL. LISTEN--RIDE TOGETHER INTO THE WEST! RIDE TOGETHER AND SEE FOR YOURSELVES WHAT TURMOILS BROUGHT THIS DIALYOOD TO POWER!"

"RIDE TOGETHER AND LEARN HOW TO COMPLEMENT EACH OTHER'S STRENGTHS!" NEXT: Unlikely saddle mates

