

**INSIDE THIS ISSUE**  
**How was able to  
comfort my cousin  
on her last journey**

**SEE PAGE 15**

**Experts available  
at March 25 Brain  
Fair in Angleton**

**SEE PAGE 7**

## Hurricane study offers mixed results for Brazoria County

By Ernie Williamson

*The Bulletin*

I was thinking about complaining to my insurance agent about the high cost of my windstorm coverage.

Then I read a new analysis that concluded that hurricane winds, fueled by climate change, will push deeper inland and put tens of millions more lives and homes at risk in the next three decades.

### The View from My Seat

The analysis by First Street Foundation, a nonprofit that also has done studies on risks from fires and flooding, makes me wonder if we will even be able to buy insurance in coming years.

A Washington Post analysis of the First Street's data found that nearly 30 million Americans in about 235 counties across 18 states, from Texas to New England, will face new threats from hurricane-force winds.

Places as far inland as Tennessee and Arkansas could experience damaging gales by 2053.

The Post study of the data isn't all bad news for our area. Although we have a higher risk of hurricane winds than most places, the study concludes that the frequency of hurricanes in our county won't increase. In fact, the frequency outlook is slightly better 30 years out.

Here's what I mean:

I live in Pearland, and a Post survey of First Street's data shows that this year there is a 5.4 percent (See STORMS on Page 11)

# The Weekly Bulletin

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March 14, 2023

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## The 'World's Largest Shrimp Cocktail' is back

Brazoria County Day in Austin on Feb. 28 was capped off with the shrimp boil in the Branch Pavilion at Mueller Park, resuming a 50-year tradition. Pct. 3 Brazoria County Commissioner Stacy Adams is helping himself to a plate of some delicious Gulf shrimp. The biannual event was canceled in 2021 because of Covid. See more photos inside.



## Is Texas a tax haven?

*Not for businesses that pay higher taxes than in other states*

By Mitchell Schnurman  
*The Dallas Morning News (TNS)*

Texas takes pride in being a low-tax haven, thanks largely to being among the states that don't have an individual income tax.

That's a solid proposition for most families, even if annual property tax bills take a hefty bite.

But businesses are shouldering a heavier burden in Texas, paying a larger share of state and local taxes than in all except a handful of small states.

In fiscal year 2021, businesses paid 59.3% of state and local taxes in Texas compared with a national average of 43.6%, according to an annual assessment led by Ernst & Young. Business' tax burden in Texas was fifth-highest among all states and easily the highest among the most populous states.

By another metric, business tax burden as a share of gross state product, Texas was also well ahead of the U.S.

Texas offers many benefits for business, including a diversified economy, growing labor force, affordable cost of living and light regulation. That's why it consistently ranks among the leaders in busi-

(See TAXES on Page 6)

## Which one is worse: Colonoscopy or rush-hour Houston traffic?

By John Toth  
*The Bulletin*

After finishing my colonoscopy preparations overnight, another daunting task lay ahead - the rush-hour drive to Houston.

I may have dreaded that perhaps more than the prep. If not, it definitely was a close second. I don't know how people can commute back and forth daily in that mess. Hats off to all the rush-hour road warriors, except for the pickup truck that almost hit me while passing, after tailgating me for a couple of miles.

### John's Ramblings

I've had a tough night and was not the freshest driver on the road. I was only going the speed limit. That is almost criminal in the eyes of rush-hour commuters.

I usually avoid the rush hour, but this day I had no choice. The overnight preparations work best for me, and after the procedure is done, I can sleep the rest of the day away before resuming my journalism career the following day. This way I only lose one day of work because I can work while I'm fasting.

This was my third colonoscopy, so I had a good idea about what to expect, which is why I built a 30-minute cushion into our drive time. Sharon came with me, but she dreads driving in rush-hour traffic more than me, so I volunteered to drive to the clinic, and she would drive back.

This time was not as complicated as five years ago, when I was getting ready for my second colonoscopy, and my brother-in-law, Harold, was visiting.

Everything went fine until I almost (See TRAFFIC on Page 5)

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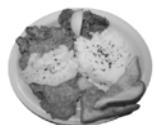
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## WEATHER HISTORY • ON THIS DAY •

**March 15,** 1987 - A winter storm in the western U.S. produced heavy snow in central Nevada, with 23 inches reported at Austin.

**March 16,** 1987 - Softball-sized hail caused millions of dollars in damage to automobiles at Del Rio, TX. Three persons were injured when hailstones crashed through a shopping mall skylight.

**March 17,** 1988 - A winter storm produced heavy snow from the northeast Texas panhandle to the Ozark area of Missouri and Arkansas. Up to 15 inches of snow was reported in Oklahoma and Texas.

**March 18,** 1925 - The great Tri-State Tornado occurred, the most deadly tornado in U.S. history. The tornado claimed 695 lives (including 234 at Murphysboro, IL. and 148 at West Frankfort, IL). The tornado picked up 16 students, setting them down unharmed 150 yards away.

**March 19,** 1935 - Suffocating dust storms occurred frequently in southeastern Colorado between the 12th and the 25th of the month. Six people died, and many livestock starved or suffocated. Up to six feet of dust covered the ground.

**March 20,** 2005 - An F1 tornado hits South San Francisco. Trees are uprooted. At least 20 homes and 20 businesses were damaged, including the city's new fire station.

**March 21,** 1990 - The first full day of spring was a cold one for the eastern U.S. Freezing temperatures damaged 62% of the peach crop in upstate South Carolina and 72 percent in the ridge area.

## The Bulletin

### 7-Day Local Forecast



**MARCH 15**  
**Wednesday**

Partly Cloudy

74 / 56



**MARCH 16**  
**Thursday**

Partly Cloudy

73 / 55



**MARCH 17**  
**Friday**

Few Showers

72 / 56



**MARCH 18**  
**Saturday**

Mostly Cloudy

71 / 52



**MARCH 19**  
**Sunday**

Mostly Cloudy

70 / 53



**MARCH 20**  
**Monday**

Cloudy

74 / 55



**MARCH 21**  
**Tuesday**

Cloudy

70 / 53

### Local UV Index



0 - 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11+

0-2: Low, 3-5: Moderate,  
6-7: High, 8-10: Very High,  
11+: Extreme Exposure

### Weather Trivia

What letters are not used to name hurricanes?



Answer: The letters: Q, U, X, Y and Z.

### Weather History

**March 15, 1988** - More than one hundred hours of continuous snow finally came to an end at Marquette, Mich., during which time the city was buried under 43 inches of snow. Unseasonably cold weather prevailed in the southeastern U.S., with forty-one cities reporting record lows for the date.

### Surfside Beach Tides

Day	High	Low	High	Low
3/15	1:36 p	3:27 a	None	None
3/16	2:29 p	4:38 a	None	None
3/17	3:10 p	5:56 a	None	None
3/18	3:43 p	7:14 a	None	None
3/19	4:08 p	8:20 a	None	9:56 p
3/20	1:56 a	9:22 a	4:27 p	9:56 p
3/21	3:17 a	10:29 a	4:41 p	10:14 p

### State Cities

City	Hi/Lo	Wx	Hi/Lo	Wx	Hi/Lo	Wx	City	Hi/Lo	Wx	Hi/Lo	Wx	Hi/Lo	Wx
Amarillo . . .	74/53	pc	73/51	cl	71/52	pc	Odessa . . .	79/54	s	75/49	cl	74/50	ss
Beaumont . . .	74/56	pc	75/55	s	73/56	ra	San Antonio . . .	77/57	mc	75/54	mc	74/55	mc
Dallas . . . . .	73/55	pc	71/52	cl	69/53	sh	Waco . . . . .	73/53	pc	69/48	mc	68/49	sh
Houston . . . . .	75/60	pc	78/62	s	76/63	sh	Wichita Falls . . . . .	74/57	pc	72/54	cl	70/55	mc

**Weather (Wx):** cl/cloudy; mc/mostly cloudy; pc/partly cloudy; r/rain; s/sunny; sh/showers; t/thunderstorms

### Peak Fishing/Hunting Times This Week



<b>Day</b>	<b>Peak Times</b>		<b>Day</b>	<b>Peak Times</b>	
	<b>AM</b>	<b>PM</b>		<b>AM</b>	<b>PM</b>
Wed	6:52-8:52	7:23-9:23	Sun	10:52-12:52	--
Thu	7:54-9:54	8:26-10:26	Mon	11:19-1:19	11:45-1:45
Fri	8:56-10:56	9:27-11:27	Tue	12:11-2:11	12:35-2:35
Sat	9:56-11:56	10:25-12:25			

### Sun & Moon

New	Day	Sunrise	Sunset	Moonrise	Moonset	Full
3/21	Wednesday	7:31 a.m.	7:30 p.m.	2:48 a.m.	12:55 p.m.	4/6
	Thursday	7:30 a.m.	7:30 p.m.	3:50 a.m.	2:00 p.m.	
	Friday	7:29 a.m.	7:31 p.m.	4:47 a.m.	3:10 p.m.	
	Saturday	7:28 a.m.	7:32 p.m.	5:37 a.m.	4:21 p.m.	
First	Sunday	7:26 a.m.	7:33 p.m.	6:20 a.m.	5:32 p.m.	
3/28	Monday	7:25 a.m.	7:33 p.m.	6:58 a.m.	6:40 p.m.	
	Tuesday	7:24 a.m.	7:33 p.m.	7:32 a.m.	7:46 p.m.	

### Local Almanac Last Week

Date	High	Low	Normals	Precip	Farmer's Growing Degree Days
3/2	76	66	69/50	0.03"	Date      Degree Days      Date      Degree Days
3/3	74	49	69/50	0.00"	3/2      21      3/6      23
3/4	74	42	69/50	0.00"	3/3      12      3/7      27
3/5	76	49	70/50	0.00"	3/4      8      3/8      24
3/6	83	63	70/50	0.00"	3/5      13
3/7	83	70	70/50	0.00"	
3/8	82	66	70/51	0.00"	

Growing degree days are calculated by subtracting the base temperature (50 degrees) from the day's average temperature.

## DID YOU KNOW?

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# Strange but True

By Bill Sones  
and Rich Sones, Ph.D.

### Languages with a common fate

**Q.** On the one hand are *Birale*, *Saami*, *Yup'ik*, *Livonian*, *Enets* and *Narau*; and on the other hand are *Hindi*, *Bengali*, *Mandarin Chinese*, *Japanese*, *German*, *Portuguese*, *Russian*, *Spanish* and *English*. What are the two hands here?

**A.** The first are a few of the world's many endangered languages, often with less than 50 speakers, says Daniel Comiskey in the "Indiana (University) Alumni Magazine." The second includes the largest languages, with maybe hundreds of millions of speakers, dubbed predator languages because they swallow up the littles.

Languages today are dying at the rate of about one every month, but number of speakers is not always the critical issue. In fact, only 20% of the world's 6,000 languages have 100,000 speakers or more. To survive, a language needs to be used in everyday life by a community of committed speakers, who speak it with their children, says New York University linguist Gregory Guy.

What stands to be lost when a language dies is the richness of diversity, says Mark Abley in "Spoken Here: Travels Among Threatened Languages." For example,

people, endangered Karbadian, of the Caucasus Mountains, has 48 consonants and 0-3 vowels. In Boro of India, "onsra" means "to love for the last time." Mohawk is polysynthetic, where "I am currently bringing the sugar to someone" becomes "tkhet-sikhe'tenhawihchten:nihs."

It's told that 19th-century German explorer Alexander von Humboldt went looking to study the Atures people of Venezuela. Led by torch-light by a neighboring tribe through the isolated village, he was taken to the cage of a parrot, which recited its limited vocabulary, says Comiskey. "Thus, the last speaker of the Atures language was a bird."

### Is it really raining cats and dogs?

**Q.** From a Cincinnati reader: "Can anyone yet explain the fish rain in Honduras and the frog rain in other parts of the world? Could it ever literally rain cats and dogs?"

**A.** Fish, frogs and strange debris, such as books, letters, a box of chicken and an ice-encrusted turtle have reportedly fallen from the sky during rain and storms, says Keith C. Heidorn, PhD., the Weather Doctor and author of "The BC Weather Book." Most likely a tornado or waterspout lifts them to great heights within a thunderstorm cloud.

Thus, fish could easily be carried

many miles and dropped on an unsuspecting population. Another possibility is that large waves from hurricanes launch the fish up into strong winds, which ferry them afar. In extreme conditions, people, cows, even vehicles have become airborne, so a dog or cat would be easy.

### Are we being used as guinea pigs?

**Q.** That new drug you're taking that just hit the market... Guess who's been included in the experimental test group?

**A.** YOU - because the testing process probably isn't over, says Robert Matthews in "A Risk We Have to Swallow" from "NewScientist" magazine. For a decent chance of uncovering side effects that show up in 1-in-1000 people, the clinical trials should as a rule include 8 million recruits. Yet, "most clinical trials involve fewer than 1,000 patients." While this is often big enough to show a drug's effectiveness, it may fail to detect side effects, even when occurring in as many as 1-in-every-10 people. The result is a drug like Vioxx that winds up being used for a while, then withdrawn as the data accumulate. "What is beyond question is that clinical trials are typically far too small to detect worrying levels of side effects."

So society can wait for years until countless small clinical trials assure a new drug's safety, or go forward, carefully monitoring benefits vs. risks. In this sense, we all become volunteer guinea pigs when we newly medicate ourselves.

### DID YOU KNOW?

- Firefighters will break the windows of cars parked in front of hydrants to fight fires.

- In Germany, it's illegal to kill any animal with a vertebrate without a compelling reason (such as illness or its danger to humans). Because of this law, practically all German animal shelters are no-kill.

- There's a cliff on one of Uranus' moons that's 10 times higher than the walls of the Grand Canyon. It's believed to be the highest cliff in the solar system.

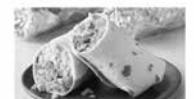
- You begin forming your strongest musical memories around the age of 14.

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## MIKE PINGREE'S THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS



### YOU KNOW, ON SECOND THOUGHT, I SURRENDER, GENTLEMEN:

A man entered a convenience store in Ellijay, Ga., with robbery in mind, covered his face with a pair of women's panties, and pulled a gun on the clerk. Then, a customer pulled out his gun and pointed it at the robber. A second customer went to his vehicle, got his pistol and returned to assist the first customer. A third armed man at the gas pump also came inside to assist. The first customer disarmed the robber and told the others not to shoot him.

### AND THOMAS JEFFERSON WOULD BACK ME UP ON THIS:

One of two passengers in a pickup truck that was being driven by a drunk driver at 100 mph and swerving in and out of lanes called the police emergency number to complain that Washington state troopers were chasing them in violation of their constitutional rights.

### HAVE YOU EVER THOUGHT OF GETTING A JOB?:

A man robbed a bank in Belle Isle, Fla., while he was on parole for robbing three banks in

Baltimore. He said that he did it because it was the only way he knew how to make money.

### I'M USED AS A BAD EXAMPLE AT THE MEETINGS: A heavily intoxicated driver, who crashed into another vehicle in Mavern, England, was on his way to an Alcoholics Anonymous meeting.

### I HATE YOU! I HOPE I MADE MYSELF CLEAR! ... CRASH!: A 19-year-old man, high on drugs 12 times the legal limit, drove past his ex-girlfriend in Kent, England, more than half a dozen times, shouting abuse and hurling insults at her until he hit two bumps in the road, lost control of the car, crashed into a tree and overturned.

**MY BUSINESS MODEL DOES HAVE A FEW FLAWS, I ADMIT:** A 62-year-old man, who sells stolen meat to restaurants at half price, was arrested with a suitcase full of packaged meat that he had taken out of a supermarket in South Euclid, Ohio, without paying for it. It was the 70th time he has been arrested.

### OTHERWISE, OUR PLAN WAS FOOLPROOF:

A pair of bur-

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glars were arrested in Merritt Island, Fla., when police pulled over their pickup truck with "stolen tag" written on a piece of cardboard where the license plate was supposed to be. One resident said, "People who commit crimes like these are not the sharpest tools in the shed."

### THE BIRD APPARENTLY HAS LEARNED HIS LESSON:

Corrections officers intercepted a carrier pigeon that flew over the wall of a prison in Abbotsford, British Columbia, and into the outdoor area where inmates congregate, with a small backpack containing

about 30 grams of crystal meth. They confiscated the drugs and let the bird go free.

### THANKS FOR COMING,

**OFFICER:** A woman accidentally butt-dialed 911 while she and her boyfriend were burglarizing a house in Poinciana, Fla. When the cops showed up, the woman tried to convince them that she really intended to make the call by saying that she wanted the police to come and help them move "their" belongings from the house that they were, in fact, burglarizing. The officers were not fooled.

### DID YOU KNOW?

- Children who are exposed to family violence display the same patterns in brain activity as army soldiers who are subjected to combat.

- Just the smell of coffee has a placebo effect that can increase focus and feelings of ambition.

- LeBron James' decision to leave Cleveland and join Miami Heat was so resented that even Osama Bin Laden's translator, who was being held at Guantanamo Bay prison, wrote a letter saying: "LeBron James is very bad man. He should apologize to the city of Cleveland."

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## TRAFFIC

(From Page 1)

finished the first part of the process. That's when Sharon decided to make things more interesting by having a concussion. It's a long story, but the end result was that she then became the focus of my attention, and I still had the second half of the medicine waiting to be taken in a few hours.

Harold and I got worried enough to call an ambulance, because Sharon had no idea where she was and would not get in the car to be driven to the emergency room. We spent half the night with her there while she underwent all kinds of tests. All turned out to be negative.

Sharon remembers little of that night, but I remember it as if it happened yesterday, especially when she decided to tell the emergency room staff and anyone else who happened to be around - in a really loud voice - that I had to get home to

get ready for my colonoscopy.

I'm writing about it, so obviously I don't mind if people know, but it was awkward.

The colonoscopy used to be the brunt of jokes, but now we're more educated on how important it is and how many lives it saves.

Colon cancer is the second-leading cause of cancer-related deaths in the United States, with men and women combined. It is expected to cause more than 52,000 deaths in 2023.

Most of these could have been prevented with a colonoscopy, during which a surgeon scans the colon for polyps and removes them during the procedure. It takes about a half hour to 45 minutes. That's the easy part for the patient. The hard part is the preparation.

But even that is nothing compared to what you'll have to go through if those polyps are allowed to grow and become cancerous.

Colonoscopies save lives and lifestyles, so make sure to consult with your physician and discuss your options if you're 45 or older.

Harold, my brother-in-law, and I took Sharon home to rest while I completed the second part of the preparation process. He replaced Sharon as my guardian after the procedure. We actually had a good time, except for the periods when I fell asleep during the drive home. He was driving, though.

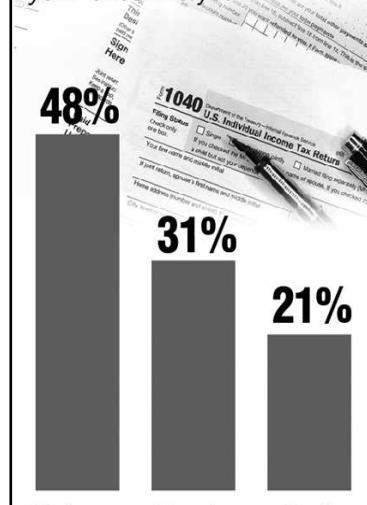
I asked Sharon not to get a concussion this time because Harold wasn't here. After three traffic jams and using up all the time cushion I built into the drive, we arrived at the clinic.

I was done. I locked the car door and told Sharon she was in charge of me from now on. I am checking out for the day. Just roll me in the operating room and roll me out. Peace.

(To be continued)

## Filing taxes

When do you plan on filing your taxes this year



Source: NRF  
Graphic: Staff, TNS

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## TAXES

(From Page 1)

ness expansions and relocations.

"Still, when it comes to taxes, Texas is at a disadvantage when compared to many of our competitor states," concludes a research brief from the Texas Taxpayers and Research Association, whose members include many of the state's largest employers.

Its recent report is titled: "The (partial) myth of Texas as a low-tax state," and the message is aimed largely at Texas lawmakers, who are currently working on the next state budget.

"One of the things we consistently hear from folks is how happy they

are that Texas is a low-tax state," said Dale Craymer, president of the policy group, known as TTRA, and a former state budget director. "We just want to educate them and let them know there's another side to this."

That will make eyes roll.

Dick Lavine, a senior fiscal analyst at Every Texan, a left-leaning advocacy group in Austin, said many businesses are effective at challenging tax appraisals and keeping property values low – often well below market rates.

Texas is a textbook example of a regressive tax system, he said.

With a heavy reliance on sales tax, the state's low- and middle-in-

come families spend a much greater proportion of their income on taxes. Sales tax exemptions for professional services, such as accounting, consulting and law, usually benefit higher earners, too.

"Just having business do well is not the whole story," Lavine said. "You want whole communities to do well."

His take on Texas businesses carrying a heavy tax burden? "I'd say the corporate sector is doing

### For families and individuals, Texas makes good on its low-tax

a pretty good job of looking out for itself," Lavine said. "And my organization is trying to look out for everyone else."

For families and individuals, Texas makes good on its low-tax reputation. That's largely due to not having a state income tax, which saves a family of three an average of \$4,000 annually, the TTRA report said.

The state's tax burden consumes an average of about 3.7% of family income, well below the national norm of 6% – and the sixth-lowest burden in the U.S., according to the report.

"Forgoing its income tax gives Texas an important tool for economic growth," said Janelle Fritts, a policy analyst with the Tax Foundation, a Washington think tank specializing in tax policy.

Property taxes are a genuine concern for both families and businesses. Texas has the sixth-highest property tax rate for homeowners, the Tax Foundation said, and lawmakers again are pledging relief on that front.

In past years, the "Lege" has increased homestead exemptions, capped appraisal increases and passed measures to lower tax rates. But some moves helped homeowners only while business property taxes also include equipment, machinery and inventories.

Various homestead exemptions remove an average 25% of market value from a homeowner's property tax, the TTRA report said. Exemptions on business amount to about a 7% discount.

Effective property tax rates on a Texas manufacturing plant are about a third higher than the rate for

homeowners – and 62% higher than the average rate in the U.S., the report said.

Texas has a record budget surplus of nearly \$33 billion, and lawmakers have pledged more tax cuts to come. Craymer's group doesn't object to increasing the homestead exemption but believes there should be "a balanced program" that spreads the savings around.

"The worst thing we could do with this huge surplus is to pick one set of winners to the exclusion of everything else in the economy," Craymer said.

While the report does not prescribe specific policy changes, many see it as a way to justify more tax abatements and incentives – and replace the so-called Chapter 313 program that expired at the end of 2022.

The Chapter 313 program allowed school districts to temporarily abate a portion of property taxes, primarily for projects requiring large

capital investments, and state funding made the districts whole.

The incentives were credited with helping attract auto plants, semiconductor factories and wind-power farms. But there were many critics, and even Gov. Greg Abbott cited concerns about oversight, transparency and the value to taxpayers.

Certainly, the approach can be improved, said Glenn Hamer, CEO of the Texas Association of Business, which calls itself the state chamber of commerce.

No one would argue the state surplus would be larger if Texas didn't use tax breaks to help land a Tesla plant or chip factories for Samsung and Texas Instruments, he said.

He insists a replacement tax-break tool would continue to pay off.

"We can make the state even more competitive and attract more advanced manufacturing and more energy development," Hamer said. "The real issue is how are we going to move forward?"



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## Library Foundation book sale planned March 18-19 at county fairgrounds

The Brazoria County Library System Foundation will be holding its book sale March 18-19 at the Brazoria County Fairgrounds.

The sale features books, audio-books, dvds and more – materials withdrawn from the collections of the 12 library branches throughout the county, as well as items donated by the public.

Most items sell for \$1 or less. Money from the sale is used to support the summer reading program and other exciting library projects. Only cash and checks are accepted.

The sale takes place during Angleton Market Days, Saturday, March 18, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.,

and Sunday, March 19, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., in the Entertainment Hall at the Brazoria County Fairgrounds, 901 S. Downing Street in Angleton.

Volunteers 16 years of age or older are also needed to help with the book sale that weekend and the set-up that takes place Thursday, March 16, beginning at 9 a.m.

Donations of gently used books, audiobooks, DVDs and other media for the sale can be dropped off at any of the 12 branches of the Brazoria County Library System.

For more information, call Library Administration at (979) 864-1505. To volunteer, email Mary Meyers at [maryhmeyers@comcast.net](mailto:maryhmeyers@comcast.net)

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## Ask the experts at the March 25 Gathering Place Brain Fair

People who attend the eighth annual Brain Fair on Saturday, March 25, will be able to pull up a chair and pose questions to neurologists Lyndon Forbes Barnwell, M.D., Blair Krell, M.D. and UTMB cardiologist Dr. Q. Cai.

The doctors are returning by popular demand and will be available from 10 a.m. until noon.

Representatives from the Kolby Jackson Area Agency on Aging can answer questions about Medicare and Medicaid, and attorney Laura Cole will answer legal queries during the event, which will be from 9 a.m. to noon at the Brazoria County Fairgrounds, 901 S. Downing St. in Angleton.



Gerontologist and LCDR Ruth Lindveit can discuss mental health issues including anxiety, depression, stress, and grief.

New experts this year include Kolby Jackson, a geriatric clinical Speech Language Pathologist, and Carolyn and Van Kent, leaders of the Parkinson's Support Group in Lake Jackson.

Dale Libby, Gathering Place CEO, said that after eight years, the Brain Fair has developed a devoted following.

"Originally, because our mission is community education and services for people affected by dementia, people thought we were just an 'Alzheimer's Fair.' The Brain Fair is an educational wellness fair with many exhibitors and experts who are resources for all types of brain disorders," he explained.

"We adopted a slogan this year: 'Optimizing brain health, at any age, at any stage.' That's what we hope to help people accomplish."

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## Port Freeport announces Take-A-Child Fishing Tournament logo-drawing contest winners



Port Commissioner Rudy Santos, third from left, presented an award to logo-drawing contest winner Elora Sanford, an 8th-grade student at Fairview Junior High School in Alvin, center. Also shown from left are Asst. Principal Melissa Compton; Principal Dale Tribble; Art Teacher Stephanie Torres, second from right; and Asst. Principal Victor Martinez.

Port Freeport has announced the winners of the 23rd Annual Take-A-Child Fishing Tournament Logo-Drawing Contest.

Brazoria County's youth ages 3-14 and in the grades Pre-K through 8th grade were eligible to enter the contest.

The first-place winner of the logo drawing contest is Elora Sanford, an 8th-grade student at Fairview Junior High in Alvin. She was awarded a \$150 Visa gift card and a framed print of her drawing.

Kaydence Crowder, a 5th-grade student at Sweeny Elementary School, won second place and was presented with a \$75 Visa gift card and a framed print of her drawing.

The third-place winner is Whitley Ferry, a 6th-grade student at Brazosport Christian School. She also received a framed print of her drawing and a \$50 Visa gift card.

The top 16 finalists will receive a restaurant gift card in appreciation of their efforts.

The Boys and Girls Club of Brazoria County had the most drawing entries submitted. Its art coordinator will receive a gift card to purchase art supplies as a thank you for encouraging the club's students to participate in the contest.

The Port Commission, Port Freeport staff and visitors voted anonymously for their favorite drawing from the top 16 finalists, which were selected from the 410 entries

submitted this year. The winning logo is used on all flyers, posters, advertisements and event T-shirts for the tournament.

"We are thrilled young artists across the navigation district share their talent with us year after year," Port Freeport Executive Director/CEO Phyllis Saathoff said. "We appreciate the youth entering the contest with their families and schools supporting them. We look forward to hosting the fishing tournament and hope our community families will join us for a fun day of creating life-long memories."

"Our community youth artwork demonstrates their familiarity with the annual fishing tournament," Port Freeport Commission Chairman John Hoss said. "The Port Commission offers our congratulations to the winners and thanks all contestants and finalists for their entries. We are grateful to the school districts and staff, along with the participants' families for supporting the contest."

The 23rd Annual Port Freeport Take-A-Child Fishing Tournament will be held on Saturday, May 6, at the Freeport Municipal Park from 8 a.m. – noon. Sponsorship opportunities are still available. For more information on how to become a sponsor, please visit the website at <https://www.portfreeport.com/freeport-community>, the Port Freeport Facebook page, or call (979) 233-2667.



Brazoria County Judge Matt Sebesta and his wife, Monica, are shown at the popular shrimp boil, held to finalize Brazoria County Day, which was Feb. 28. Various county, city, education, chamber and business leaders visited state officials regarding the county's interests and issues during the week.



Pct. 2 County Commissioner Ryan Cade, center in blue, and helpers cleaned up the last of the shrimp as Brazoria County Day came to a close.



Brazoria County District Attorney Tom Selleck and his wife, Debbie, were among those socializing at the beautiful Branch Pavilion at Mueller Park.

## Brazoria County Day in Austin



Ravi Singhania, Port Freeport commissioner who serves on various community boards, was among the smiling faces at the World's Largest Shrimp Cocktail in Austin.



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Brazoria County residents and officials attending Brazoria County Day in Austin recently included Kim Kincannon, left, Ron Giesecke, Port Freeport commissioner, Pos. 4, Pct. 2, and Sheriff Bo Stallman.

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Texas State Rep. Cody Vasut and his father, Justice of the Peace Pct. 2, Place 1, John Vasut, enjoyed the shrimp and company.



Former State Sen. Larry Taylor is shown with Brazosport Chamber President/CEO Sandra Shaw.

## Packed crowd at Brazoria County Day shrimp boil

It was an incredible turnout for the 50th Anniversary of Brazoria County Day in Austin, climaxed by the famous "World's Largest Shrimp Cocktail" on Feb. 28, in the Branch Pavilion at Mueller Park.

Congratulations to organizers and volunteers who made this event such a success.

"The World's largest Shrimp Cocktail" was the idea of Wayne Shaw, who started the event in 1973. Many counties have dropped their "Theme Day", but Shaw's idea has made Brazoria County Day one of the most popular events of the state legislative season.

The next one will be in 2025.

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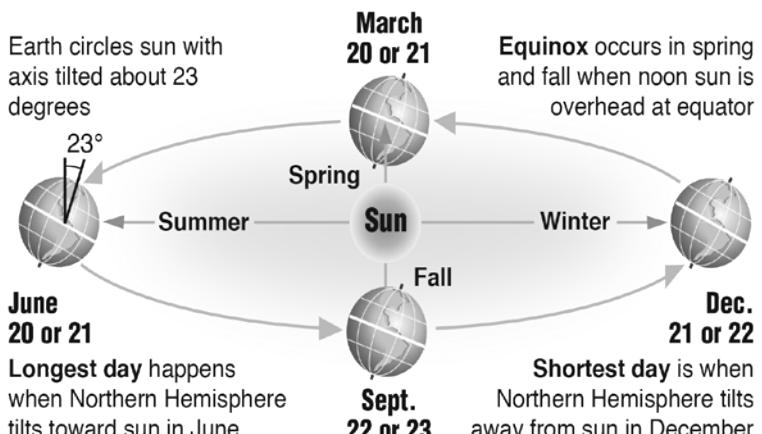
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## Spring equinox

The spring equinox (also called the March equinox or vernal equinox) falls on Monday, March 20, 2023, at 5:24 p.m. EDT. This event marks the astronomical first day of spring in the Northern Hemisphere.



Source: NOAA, almanac.com  
Graphic: Staff, TNS

## There are interesting stories at traffic court, including mine

By Jerry Zezima

Tribune News Service (TNS)

At the risk of throwing myself under the bus, which isn't much of a risk because the bus is stopped, I plead guilty to passing a stopped school bus.

I couldn't believe I had done something so stupid - and I do stupid things all the time - because I don't text and drive, I stop at red lights and stop signs, and I obey the speed limit. Or at least I don't drive like a white-knuckled, lead-footed NASCAR wannabe.

I am especially careful in school zones and am always aware, no matter where I am, of school buses. Except this time.

The proof came when I got a notice in the mail informing me of my transportation transgression.

On the citation was photographic evidence that I had violated New York Vehicle and Traffic Law Section 1174-a. There also was the link to a video, which I watched. Sure enough, I saw my car pass the red stop sign that extended from the side of the bus.

Amount due: \$250.

I had two choices: I could fight this all the way to the Supreme Court (as my own defense attorney, I'd probably end up in Sing Sing.) Or I could admit guilt, promise to mend my ways and pay the fine.

I chose the latter.

But first, I drove (very carefully) to the Suffolk County Traffic and Parking Violations Agency to see what creative excuses people use when they go to traffic court.

In the ticket office, where I got number Q689, I spoke with a defense attorney named Lindsay, who remembered one rather offbeat defendant.

"This motorcyclist was going at an

excessive rate of speed and wiped out," Lindsay recalled. "The judge said, 'Is it true you were doing 125 miles an hour?' The guy said, 'No, Your Honor. I was only doing 110.' He still had to pay a big fine, but at least, he lived."

"Have you ever had a traffic violation?" I asked.

"Not that I'll admit," Lindsay replied.

In the conference room, where dozens of defendants waited to see a judge, I met Sean and Natasha, both representing themselves in their respective cases.

"I'm here because I was driving a commercial vehicle on a parkway," said Sean.

"Was it a big rig?" I asked.

"No, it was a van," answered Sean, 23. "I also got a ticket for advertising. I work for a wholesale seafood company with its name, address and phone number on the side of the vehicle."

"I'm sorry to say this," said Natasha, who sat next to Sean, "but that's stupid."

"It sounds fishy," I added.

Sean, who missed his previous court date because, he explained, "I forgot," said he hoped to get one of the charges dropped.

"It doesn't always work," he said. "My brother is a cop, so I have a PBA card. One time I got stopped for speeding. I handed the cop the PBA card along with my license. He threw the card back at me."

"At least he was honest," I noted.

"Unfortunately," Sean said.

Natasha was there because she backed into another car in the parking lot at work.

"What's your excuse?" I asked her.

"I'm a teenage girl," said Natasha, who's 18.

"I'm not a lawyer, but I don't think that will stand up in court," I said.

"Probably not," Natasha conceded. "The real reason is that it was the end of the day, and I was in a hurry to get home."

Both she and Sean said they have received other citations in their brief driving careers but insisted that older drivers, like yours truly, are worse than young ones, like them.

"You drive too slow," said Natasha, who admitted that, like me, she had once been fined for driving past a stopped school bus.

"It cost me more than \$300," she remembered.

A few minutes later, Natasha's name was called. I wished Sean luck and accompanied her to a small courtroom, where she pleaded guilty and was fined \$220.

"Thank you, Your Honor," Natasha said before leaving.

"You're very welcome. Have a nice day," replied Judge Jeffrey Arlen Spinner, who is so nice that he would put Judge Judy to shame.

Judge Spinner, who practices law in New York and Connecticut, was wearing a necktie with pictures of cars on it.

"That's perfect for traffic court," I noted.

"I'm a motor head," the judge said.

"Have you ever gotten a driving citation?" I wondered.

"Of course," he answered. "Who hasn't?"

His last one was in 1989.

"I've been careful ever since," said Judge Spinner, a fellow father and grandfather who treats defendants with dignity and respect. "It's what every person who comes before me in court is entitled to," he said. "You never know what their stories are."

"My story is that I passed a stopped school bus," I admitted.

"It happens," Judge Spinner said. "Just make sure to pay the fine. And drive home safely."

(Jerry Zezima writes a humor column for Tribune News Service and is the author of six books. His latest is "One for the Ageless: How to Stay Young and Immature Even If You're Really Old." Email: JerryZ111@optonline.net. Blog: jerryzezima.blogspot.com.)



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## BC Regents discuss strategies at annual professional development workshop



Brazosport College President Dr. Vincent Solis and the Board of Regents posed recently during the Board of Regents Workshop at the College's Corporate Learning Center. Pictured are, back row from left, Daniel Yates, Roland Hendricks, Steven Solis, Jay Gibson, Brazosport College President Dr. Vincent Solis; front row, Board Chair Robert Perryman, Ronald Barksdale and Vice Board Chair Jason Cordoba. Not pictured is Jennifer Monical.

Brazosport College's Board of Regents recently held its annual board workshop at the College's Corporate Learning Center.

Among the topics covered in the meeting were the President's Leadership Goals, which are related to student success and the college's sustainability plan; an overview of 2022 Measurable Objectives and Vision 2025; a 10-year financial forecast and a reaffirmation of the Mission, Vision and Core Values; among other items.

As part of the professional development workshop, the Regents participated in a student panel conversation, which provided feedback on the college experience from the perspective of current BC students.

Another discussion panel, which

### NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS AGAINST THE ESTATE OF RONALD ALLEN YATES

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of RONALD ALLEN YATES, Deceased, were issued on March 1, 2023, in Cause No. PR43293, pending in County Court at Law #3 of Brazoria County, Texas, to DENISE DAMIAN. Claims may be presented in care of the attorney for the Estate, addressed as follows:

DENISE DAMIAN, Independent Executrix  
Estate of RONALD ALLEN YATES, Deceased  
C/O Patton D. Ritter, Attorney  
BTR Law  
221 N. Velasco  
Angleton, TX 77515

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

Dated this 6th day of March, 2023.

## STORMS

(From Page 1)

chance of damaging winds. That drops to 5.2 percent by 2053.

For those in Zip code 77515 (Angleton), the data show an 11 percent chance of hurricane-force winds in 2023 and a 10 percent chance in 2053.

In Zip code 77541 (Freeport), the chances of hurricane-force winds in 2023 are 14 percent and 13 percent in 2053.

The experts say the slight drop in hurricane chances for our area in coming years is because more hurricanes are likely to track northward.

Now for the sobering news.

While the projections show the county won't necessarily see more hurricanes, the storms that do come our way will likely be more powerful.

Research shows that of the storms that have formed in the North Atlantic, the proportion of major hurricanes, Category 3, 4 or 5, has increased significantly since the 1980s.

In those years, major hurricanes accounted for about 10 percent of storms. Today, the figure is about 40

percent.

The projections from First Street take into account more than 50,000 possible hurricane tracks, based both on historical data and what scientists know about changes in ocean temperatures, sea-level rise and other environmental factors.

Other findings from the analysis:

- The top 20 cities in danger of experiencing a major hurricane in the next decades are all in Florida. Because of northerly tracks, however, Miami-Dade County might face a slightly lower future wind risk, while spots such as Brevard County, near Orlando, will see more.

- Northerly tracks will mean Mid-Atlantic states will see the largest increase in wind speeds and the

Northeast would see annual wind damages increase by 87 percent by 2053.

- The wind-damage threat appears to disproportionately affect communities of color. In 2023, more than 40 percent of the country's Black population lives in zones deemed at risk for hurricane wind damage.

By 2053, 55 percent of the Black

population could be at risk.

- People continue to move to problematic areas. The Post analysis of First Street's statistics found people have been moving to counties categorized as high risk for hurricane-force winds at six times the rate of other counties.

As interesting as I found this study by First Street and the Post, I urge you to keep one thing in mind: We in Texas know all too well that hurricane experts have a hard enough time predicting hurricane patterns a year out, let alone 30.

Still, despite the cost, I am going to renew my insurance.

(Contact Ernie at [williamsonerie@gmail.com](mailto:williamsonerie@gmail.com). Or, send letters in care of The Bulletin, PO

## DID YOU KNOW?

- Just 14 years after the Choctaw population was forcibly relocated in the Trail of Tears, the tribe put together \$170 (well over \$5,000 in today's money) to help the victims of the Potato Famine in Ireland. The generosity sparked a bond between the two which exists today. That was more generosity than they received.

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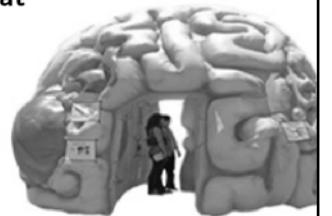
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# Weekly Bulletin horoscope

By Magi Helena

Tribune Content Agency

## ARIES (March 21-April 19):

Repel the possible urge to disturb the balance of things while on the job by debating minor points. Utilize your charm and prove you are willing to be a team player. A loved one may show extra affection to you.

## TAURUS (April 20-May 20):

New might not always be better, but you may receive new insights and inspirations that may lead to helpful changes. You might need to be methodical and prudent when spending money to fend off possible buyer's remorse.

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 20): Your originality and resourcefulness are a blessing, but you may need to travel a more conventional route for the moment. You might be tempted to intensify a family or legal situation. Remain true to yourself to find a more peaceful resolution.

**CANCER** (June 21-July 22): You may find yourself facing a minor misunderstanding. Your sympathy and valuable energy may be your wisest resources in finding a resolution. You may have many opinions to share, but this may be the time to keep them close to your chest.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22): You may be savvy in the ways of finances, but things may be unsteady if you are unable to diversify. You might face a tense or stressful situation, but you may prevail by focusing on your projects, studies or work.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You might find ideas to be easy to promote, but you may find some subjects to be more controversial than others. You may need to be conscious of how you approach certain topics and be wary of what you choose to defend.

## DID YOU KNOW?

- An assassin tried to kill Franz Ferdinand while Ferdinand was riding in a car. However, the killer didn't realize there was a delay on the grenade and missed. He then tried to commit suicide, but his cyanide pill was expired, and the river he jumped into was 4 inches deep.

- White chocolate doesn't actually contain any chocolate
- During prohibition, vendors would sell grape-concentrate bricks with warning labels that said: Do not mix the concentrate with yeast and leave it to ferment for 21 days because it will turn into wine.
- Chicago has the largest population of Polish citizens outside of Poland.
- Sciamachy (noun): A battle against imaginary enemies.

## LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22):

You may be an excellent judge of character, willing to look past the surface and appreciate someone's integrity. Others could see imperfection; you see more deeply. Your loved ones could be pumped to get started on a project with you.

## SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21):

You may need to focus on communication to gently get your point across to those closest to you. Work on ways to be wise. You might work with someone with an abundance of enthusiasm but lacking in logic.

## SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21):

You may have several opportunities for relaxation and some casual fun. You might find yourself baited by someone into making rash decisions. Seek council from a helpful collection of trusted friends and coworkers to find the right path.

## CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19):

You might find yourself on a quest for the truth; make sure you leave no stone unturned. You may be torn between enforcing policies or being popular. You can create a positive change with clear communication and some unique ideas.

## AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18):

You may find yourself needing to take a step back and reappraise your family needs to prevent possible conflict. You can avoid possible criticism from others by being considerate and keeping a well-organized schedule.

## PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20):

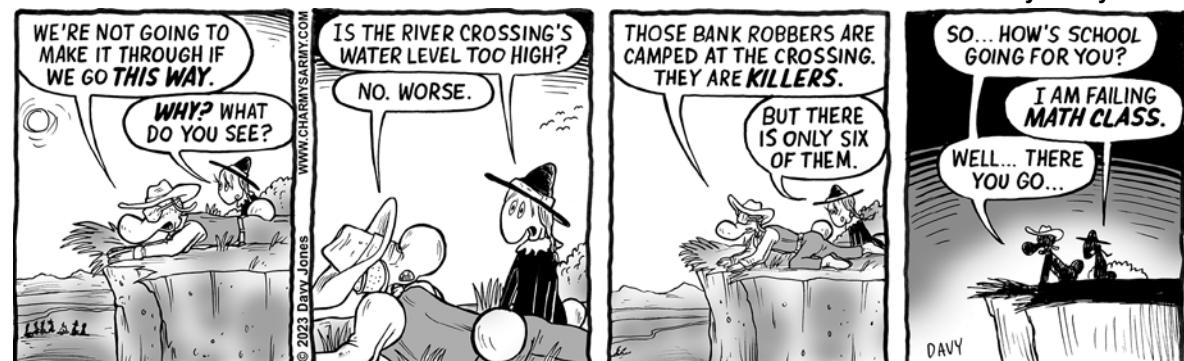
You could find yourself bogged down by practical concerns that may temporarily hold you back. Discuss key issues with loved ones so you can come to a compromise and make necessary changes. Focus on creative and constructive projects.

MR. MORRIS



By Rick Brooks

CHARMY'S ARMY



By Davey Jones

SOUR GRAPES



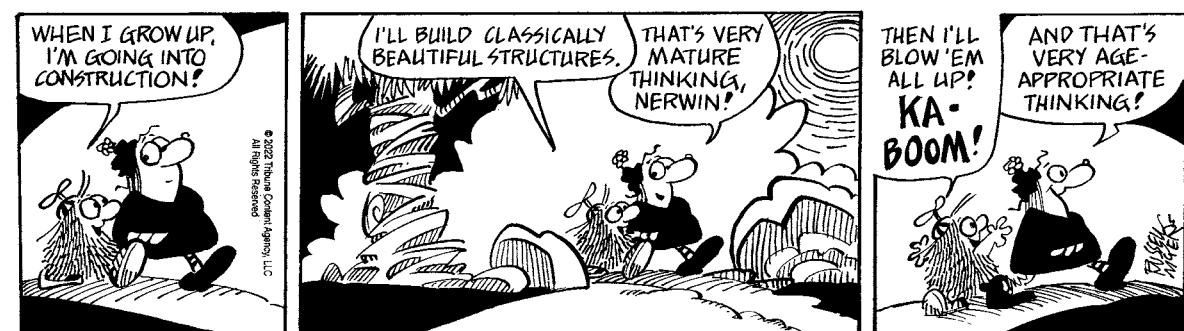
By Tim Jones

TEX AND CLEM



By Jim Cox

BROOM HILDA

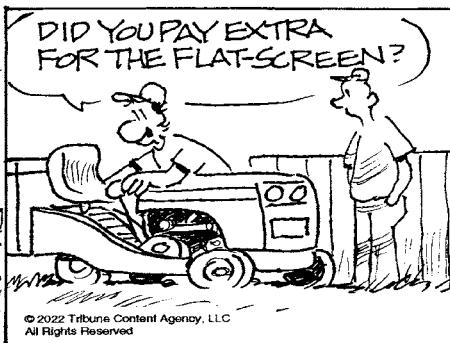
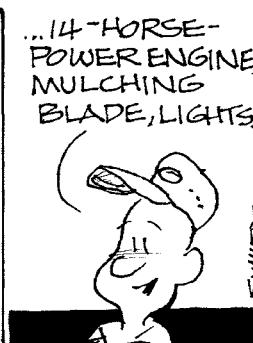
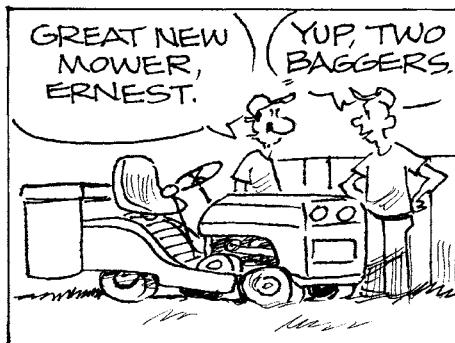


By Russel Myers

## ANIMAL CRACKERS



## THE MIDDLETONS



By Fred Wagner



By Ralph Dunagin and Dana Summers



"Why ruin a good thing? I love my job when I'm not doing it!"

## History of the World On This

**March 15**

44 BC - Roman Emperor Julius Caesar was assassinated by high-ranking Roman Senators. The day is known as the "Ides of March."

1493 - Christopher Columbus returned to Spain after his first New World voyage.

1913 - U.S. President Woodrow Wilson held the first open presidential news conference.

1937 - In Chicago, IL., the first blood bank to preserve blood for transfusion by refrigeration was established at the Cook County Hospital.

**March 16**

1836 - The Republic of Texas approved a constitution.

1917 - Russian Czar Nicholas II abdicated his throne.

1963 - "Puff The Magic Dragon" was released by Peter, Paul and Mary.

1964 - U.S. President Lyndon B. Johnson submitted a \$1-billion war-on-poverty program to Congress.

1989 - In the U.S.S.R., the Central Committee approved Gorbachev's agrarian reform plan.

**March 17**

1930 - In New York, construction began on the Empire State Building. Excavation at the site began on January 22.

1972 - U.S. President Nixon asked Congress to halt busing in order to achieve desegregation.

1973 - The first American prisoners of war (POWs) were released from the "Hanoi Hilton" in Hanoi, North Vietnam.

**March 18**

1881 - Barnum and Bailey's Greatest Show on Earth opened in Madison Square Gardens.

1911 - Theodore Roosevelt opened the Roosevelt Dam in Arizona. It was the largest dam in the U.S. at the time.

1937 - More than 400 people, mostly children, were killed in a gas explosion at a school in New London, TX.

1949 - The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) was ratified.

1969 - U.S. President Nixon authorizes Operation Menu. It was the 'secret' bombing of Cambodia.

**March 19**

1628 - The Massachusetts colony was founded by Englishmen.

1977 - The last episode of "The Mary Tyler Moore Show" aired.

1985 - IBM announced that it was planning to stop making the PCjr consumer-oriented computer.

1987 - Televangelist Jim Bakker resigned from the PTL due to a scandal involving Jessica Hahn.

2000 - Vector Data Systems conducted a simulation of the 1993 Branch Davidian siege in Waco, TX. The simulation showed that the government had not fired first.

**March 20**

1852 - Harriet Beecher Stowe's book "Uncle Tom's Cabin," subtitled "Life Among the Lowly," was first published.

1965 - U.S. President Lyndon B. Johnson ordered 4,000 troops to protect the Selma-Montgomery civil rights marchers.

1989 - It was announced that Cincinnati Reds manager Pete Rose was under investigation.

1990 - The Los Angeles Lakers retired Kareem Abdul-Jabbar's #33.

**March 21**

1910 - The U.S. Senate granted ex-President Teddy Roosevelt a yearly pension of \$10,000.

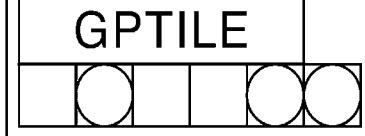
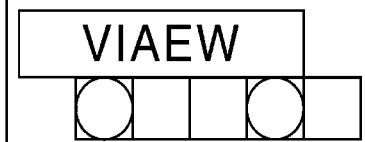
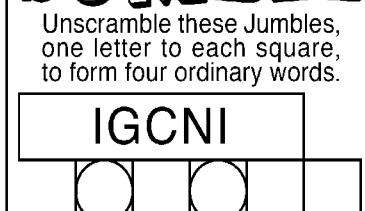
1928 - U.S. President Calvin Coolidge gave the Congressional Medal of Honor to Charles Lindbergh for his first trans-Atlantic flight.

1946 - The United Nations set up a temporary headquarters at Hunter College in New York City.

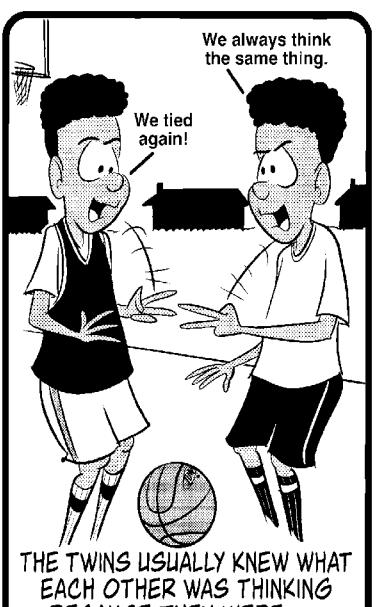
1965 - More than 3,000 civil rights demonstrators led by the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. began a march from Selma to Montgomery, AL.

## JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME  
By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek



Get the free JUST JUMBLE app - Follow us on Twitter @PlayJumble



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

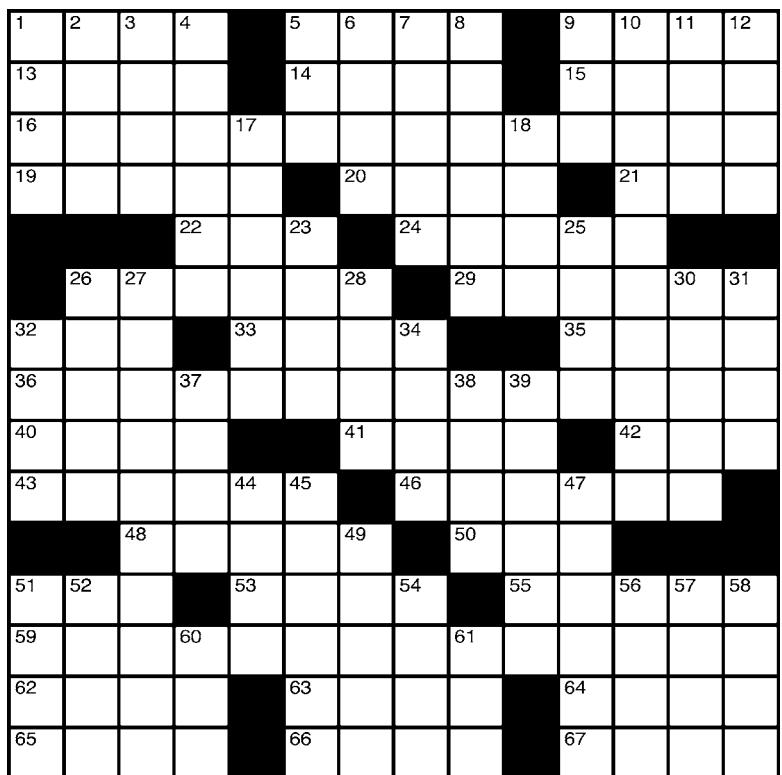
"

Jumbles: ICING WAIVE PIGLET NOTION  
Answers: The twins usually knew what each other was thinking because they were -- IN-TWO-LIVE.

## Bulletin Crossword Puzzle of the Week

### Across

- 1 Apple discard
- 5 Cash dispensers
- 9 Edinburgh resident
- 13 Highest point
- 14 Metal corrosion
- 15 Novelist Tokarczuk who won the 2018 Nobel Prize in Literature
- 16 Where to watch pillars and frames?
- 19 Professional org.
- 20 Big name in ridesharing
- 21 Observe
- 22 "Rugrats" dad
- 24 "Almost Famous" director Cameron
- 26 Low-scoring tie
- 29 Guzzles (down)
- 32 Serious hwy. crime
- 33 One-sixth of an inch, to a typesetter
- 35 Uncommon



Solutions on the right side of this page

In memory of Greg Wilkinson

## VocabPower!

*Egalitarian* has nothing to do with eagles, egos, or eggs, but everything to do with equality. Not just eggheads but everyone has equal opportunity for an exceptional vocabulary — not for an inflated ego, but to soar like an eagle to new word heights.

### 1. egalitarian

- A. reciprocal
- B. x = y
- C. split in half
- D. equal for all

### 2. egret

- A. heron
- B. exit
- C. passageway
- D. weasel

### 3. egest

- A. hint
- B. excrete
- C. consume
- D. digest

### 4. egis

- A. shield
- B. mineral
- C. crown
- D. tributary

### 5. egregious

- A. reluctant
- B. friendly
- C. sorrowful
- D. really bad

### 6. egghead

- A. bigot
- B. bald guy
- C. intellectual
- D. scrambled brain

### 7. narcissism

- A. favoritism
- B. egotism
- C. tale-bearing
- D. hero worship

### 8. aquiline

- A. greenish
- B. of water
- C. geometry term
- D. eagle like

### 9. albumen

- A. egg white
- B. chemical
- C. feather tuft
- D. soup stock

### 10. e.g.

- A. either/or
- B. exact type
- C. for example
- D. ever grateful

— Greg Wilkinson

1d 2a 3b 4a 5d 6c 7b 8d 9a 10c; answers

- 36 Where to watch Stonehenge and Big Ben?
- 40 Bengay target
- 41 Smell
- 42 Ultrasound goop
- 43 "Onwards!"
- 46 Put a hex on
- 48 Play idly, as a guitar
- 50 Stitching target
- 51 "Frankly," in texts
- 53 Coup d'\_: sudden regime change
- 55 Modern creatures that are technically dinosaurs
- 59 Where to watch tracks and tunnels?
- 62 Facts and figs.
- 63 Egg on
- 64 Volcano on Sicily
- 65 "The Martian" actor Damon
- 66 Writes the wrong ZIP code, say
- 67 Filter (through)

### Down

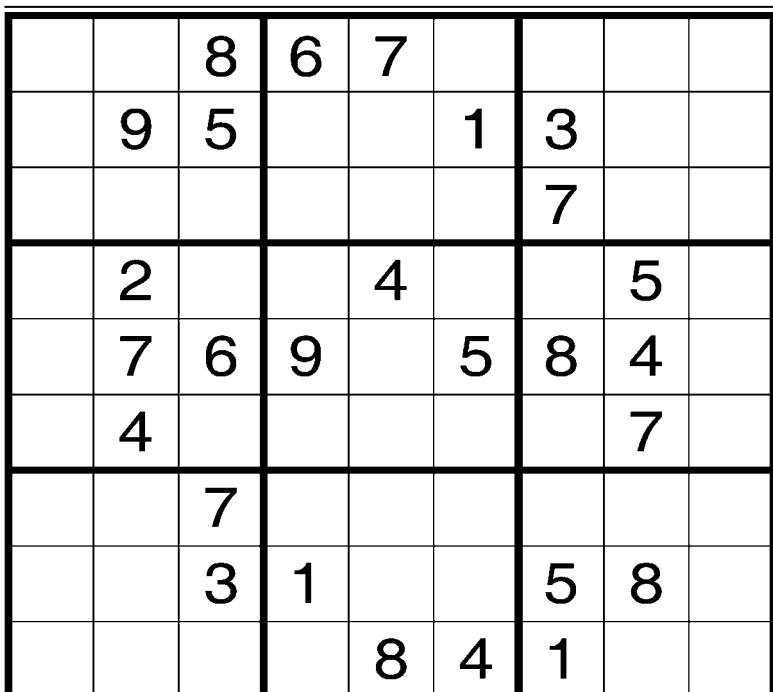
- 1 Spanish house
- 2 Magnum \_\_: masterpiece
- 3 Gym sets, briefly
- 4 Tell-all news story
- 5 Flight update abbr.
- 6 Ballet skirt
- 7 "The Beat With Ari Melber" broadcaster
- 8 Has the wheel
- 9 Female pig
- 10 From a short distance, with "at"
- 11 Big, mean giant
- 12 Help oneself to
- 17 Ocean floor dwellers with many arms
- 18 Sci-fi film with light cycles
- 23 Aussie colleges
- 25 Wave a red flag at
- 26 Postal scale unit
- 27 Workforce during the wee hours
- 28 Amazon gadget activated by saying "Alexa"
- 30 Set loose
- 31 Unload for cash
- 32 Start a card game
- 34 Rock band with the album "Powerage"
- 37 "\_\_\_ we forget"
- 38 Length of many TV dramas
- 39 Joyful Spanish shout
- 44 Mushroomed
- 45 Power interruption
- 47 Treats with petty malice
- 49 City hall bigwig
- 51 Barbershop request
- 52 "Dirty John" actor Eric
- 54 Ruler of imperialist Russia
- 56 Solemn observance
- 57 "All finished!"
- 58 One of the Rice Krispies trio
- 60 "Thanks a \_\_\_!"
- 61 QB stats

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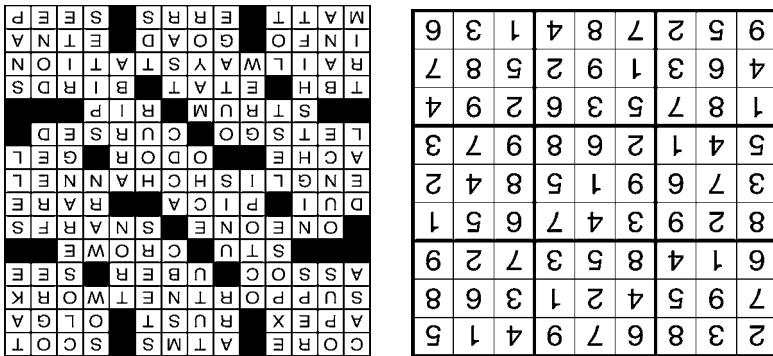
## SUDOKU

THE SAMURAI OF PUZZLES By The Mepham Group

Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit 1 to 9. For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit [www.sudoku.org.uk](http://www.sudoku.org.uk).



### Solutions

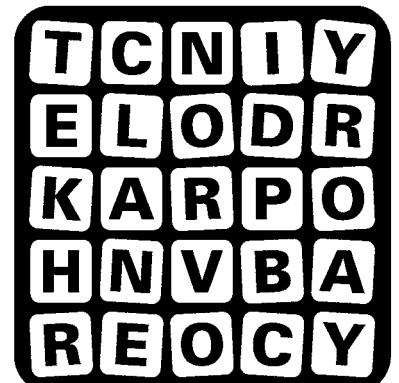


INSTRUCTIONS: Find as many words as you can by linking letters up, down, side-to-side and diagonally, writing words on a blank sheet of paper. You may only use each letter box once within a single word. Play with a friend and compare word finds, crossing out common words.

BOGGLE POINT SCALE	YOUR BOGGLE RATING
3 letters = 1 point	151+ = Champ
4 letters = 2 points	101-150 = Expert
5 letters = 3 points	61-100 = Pro
6 letters = 4 points	31-60 = Gamer
7 letters = 6 points	21-30 = Rookie
8 letters = 10 points	11-20 = Amateur
9+ letters = 15 points	0-10 = Try again

## Boggle® BrainBusters!

By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek



Boggle® BrainBusters Bonus  
We put special brain-busting words into the puzzle grid. Can you find them?

Find AT LEAST SEVEN BODIES OF WATER in the grid of letters.

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BAY LAKE COVE POND OCEAN INLET HARBOUR

# As I was dealing with a brain tumor, God allowed me to comfort my cousin on her last journey

By Edward A. Forbes

*The Bulletin*

Sometimes misfortune strikes us, and we wonder, "Why me?", when we should be looking to see what this misfortune has waiting around the bend. It was 20 years ago (2003) when I was diagnosed with a brain tumor.

I was aware of a hearing loss, but I basically ignored it. What got my attention - while carrying my grandchild down the street - was that I kept "pulling to the right." As I was fairly certain I didn't require a front-end alignment, I went to see Dr. Weiner. After discussing current events and telling a few jokes, he referred me to Dr. Bruce Meyers, ENT, in Lake Jackson.

Dr. Meyers had an audiologist give me a hearing test. You know - the one when you are told to push a button when you hear a tone - and you never know if it's real or imaginary. After looking at the results and a protracted interview, he sent me to the hospital to have a MRI.

"Don't come back without the film" was his departing remark. At the hospital, I got the MRI (the first of many), and I told them I needed

the film for Dr. Meyers. The young and very nice lady assured me that they didn't do that, so I called the doctor, and he asked to speak to the very nice young lady. I don't know what was said, but I received the film in short order.

The long and short of it was a referral to an ENT Oncologist in Houston. Dr. Joseph Chang and a neurosurgeon, his Physician Assistant (PA) and Dr. Chang's PA did a 13-hour procedure that removed a 5-centimeter tumor off the eighth cranial nerve. Tumor was benign, and the surgery was successful, except for damaging the myelin sheath on the nerve.

This left me with a total loss of hearing on the right side and a Bell's palsy like paralysis on the right side of my face. My right eye wouldn't close, nor would my mouth. It was basically annoying and inconvenient. Doctors said that it would get better in time. I decided to be proactive.

I was familiar with acupuncture and decided I would see if that would help. Insurance wouldn't pay for it, so I had to find a more financially acceptable way of having

a prolonged course of therapy.

I found the American College of Oriental Medicine and Acupuncture off of Wesleyan and Richmond in Houston. (Sadly, this location is now closed.) This is where my misfortune guided me to an appreciation of life's many intersections.

While my saga was progressing, my dear cousin, Judy, was having a crisis of her own. She was a health nut. Diet (think twigs, nuts and berries) and exercise were her thing. She fell while hiking in New Mexico and broke her arm.

When she got back to Houston and saw her orthopedic doctor, she mentioned that her abdomen was distended, and at times, was painful. The doctor (I should say the good doctor) immediately sent her for X-rays and MRI. She had cancer.

## Columbia Christian Senior Citizens Center Menu

**629 E. Bernard, West Columbia, TX, (979) 345-5955**

Meals served at 11:30 a.m. Menu subject to change. Meals-on-wheels available - call before 9:30 a.m. Low salt/low sugar meals available - call before 8 a.m. Take-out orders also available, call by 10:30 a.m. for pick-up at 11 a.m. Transportation to the center available - call by 8:30 a.m.

**Thursday**, March 16: BBQ Chicken, squash casserole, pinto beans, turnip greens, slaw, garlic toast, dessert.

**Friday**, March 17: Hamburger with trimmings, bun, corn, Boston baked beans, potato salad, dessert.

**Monday**, March 20: Spaghetti with meat sauce, corn, broccoli, tossed salad, garlic sticks, dessert.

**Tuesday**, March 21: Chicken pot pie, spiced apples, cheese cauliflower, jello salad, sliced bread, dessert.

**Wednesday**, March 22: Mexican casserole, pinto beans, vegetable medley, slaw, cornbread, dessert.

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That cursed big C had invaded her body. It was an aggressive type, and nonsmoker that she was, invaded her lungs, bones, and eventually, brain.

I normally worked 50-hour weeks, but the acupuncture therapy required me to go to Houston three times a week. I quickly found that since Judy was either at home or in the hospital, I could call on my cell phone and talk for the duration of my drive to Houston.

After therapy, if she was up to it, I paid a visit. If God hadn't given me that tumor, I wouldn't have been able to share Judy's journey to the extent I did. Her daughter got

married and had a small reception at the Debakey Palliative Care Unit lobby. I got to see the happiness on Judy's face and in her heart. She left us a few days later.

"Why me", indeed. How fortunate I was that it was me. I believe God arranged that intersection, that crossing of our paths. Why me, indeed.

A sad emoji with a small smile is appropriate for those days.

(Edward Forbes wants to hear from you. Email him at [eforbes1946@gmail.com](mailto:eforbes1946@gmail.com) or send comments by snail mail to The Bulletin, PO Box 2426, Angleton TX. 77516.)

## Parents must nurture physically, morally

*Based on the writings of the Rev. Billy Graham*

**Q:** I'm going to become a mother for the first time. I'm excited and afraid - all at the same time. I want to be sure that I instill in my child the most important aspects of life. I want to believe God will help me do this. - Y.M.

**A:** Expectant mothers often imagine that when their baby arrives it will be fun and exciting, not stopping to consider the sleepless nights and hard work. Children need constant care if they are to survive. Much of what we do as parents - feeding our children, taking them to the doctor, protecting them, and warning them about dangers - we do in order to help them survive the perils of life.

Parental responsibility doesn't stop with providing for children's physical needs. They may grow into healthy young men and women, but if that's all they become, we have failed to prepare them for life. More than that, we have failed to help them become the individuals God wants them to be. God gives parents children to help them develop mentally and emotionally. Without this, they will enter adulthood ill prepared and doomed to failure.

Children may become adults physically, mentally and emotionally, but if they have no moral and spiritual foundations, they will never know lasting stability. If children are raised never being taught right and wrong or never hearing God's message of salvation, their souls will be impoverished. Spiritual character doesn't just happen. We cannot make our children believe as we do, but we can point them to Christ and to His Word. The Bible tells parents to teach their children God's instructions and show them the way to live and behave (see Exodus 18:20). Most of all, the Bible tells us to ask for God's guidance, and He will supply.

*Tribune Media Services*

(Send your queries to "My Answer," c/o Billy Graham, Billy Graham Evangelistic Association, 1 Billy Graham Parkway, Charlotte, N.C., 28201; call 1-(877) 2-GRAHAM, or visit the Web site for the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association: [www.billygraham.org/](http://www.billygraham.org/))

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## Shamrock or blarney?

An Irish shamrock is a wildflower, but the ones sold in U.S. flower shops are often impostors, clover-like sorrels easily grown in greenhouses.

### 'Original' Irish shamrock

- "Shamrock" comes from the Irish "seamrog" or little clover
- Probably closest to today's *trifolium repens* (white clover), which originated in Europe
- May have a triangular mark (a crescent or watermark) on upper surface
- White flowers, sometimes with pink hue

White clover



### Familiar shamrock

- Oxalis acetosella* (wood sorrel) is a variety sold often for St. Patrick's Day
- Three heart-shaped leaflets; easily mistaken for clover, but leaves are paler green, softer
  - Fold easily at midrib; many plants fold leaves up at night
  - White or pink flowers

Wood sorrel

### Why shamrocks?

According to legend, St. Patrick used the shamrock to explain the Holy Trinity to Christian converts in Ireland

## St. Patrick's Day historical fun facts

St. Patrick's Day is a feast day (March 17) of St. Patrick, patron saint of Ireland. Born in Roman Britain in the late 4th century, he was kidnapped at the age of 16 and taken to Ireland as a slave. He escaped but returned about 432 CE to convert the Irish to Christianity.

By the time of his death on March 17, 461, he had established monasteries, churches, and schools. Many legends grew up around him; for example, that he drove the snakes out of Ireland and used the shamrock to explain the Trinity.

Ireland came to celebrate his day with religious services and feasts.

St. Patrick was a real person, but some of the traditions associated with him and the holiday are actually myths. For instance, you'll often see the four-leaf clover on St. Patrick's Day. However, according to legend, Patrick used a three-leaf clover, or shamrock, as part of his teachings. Even though it's possible for a shamrock to grow a fourth leaf, a four-leaf clover is just considered a symbol of good luck.

It wasn't until 1798 (the year of the Irish Rebellion) that the color green became officially associated with St. Patrick's Day. Before then, another color was originally associated with St. Patrick.

Leprechauns are actually one reason you're supposed to wear green on St. Patrick's Day - or risk getting pinched! The tradition is tied to folklore that says wearing green makes you invisible to leprechauns, which like to pinch anyone they can see.



St. Patrick

## Happy St Patrick's Day!

Friday

March 17



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