

The Weekly Bulletin

August 26, 2025

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INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Look on page 10 to see what Brazoria County parks have in store for you this fall.

John Toth writes on page 11 about a bunch of pesky calls The Bulletin has been receiving from AI-dialed fake numbers.

Should you still get the flu shot? Find out on page 5.

Read on page 6 about how Lockheed's fighter jet production has become a boon to the north Texas economy.

On page 7 you can find out how women invented the talk show format in 1934.

How does Texas rank when it comes to women's equality? See a study's results on page 8.

Find out on page 11 why consumer spending is falling in Las Vegas.



**Have a Safe
and Happy
Labor Day
Weekend**

**What to do this Labor Day weekend?
See Page 16 for some suggestions.**

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WEATHER HISTORY
• ON THIS DAY •

Aug. 27, 1964 - Hurricane Cleo battered Miami and the South Florida area. It was the first direct hit for Miami in 14 years. Winds gusted to 135 mph, and the hurricane caused \$125 million in damage.

Aug. 28, 2005 - Hurricane Katrina attained Category 5 status on the morning of Aug. 28 and reached its peak strength at 1800 UTC that day, with maximum sustained winds of 175 mph and a minimum central pressure of 902 mbars (26.6 inHg).

Aug. 29, 1960 - The storm that would become Hurricane Donna formed near Cape Verde off the African coast. It would go on to cause 150 deaths from Puerto Rico to New England over the next two weeks.

Aug. 30, 1982 - A tropical depression brought torrential rains to portions of southern Texas. Up to 12 inches fell south of Houston, and as much as 18 inches fell southeast of Austin. The tropical depression spawned 14 tornadoes in three days.

Aug. 31, 1954 - Hurricane Carol swept across eastern New England, killing 60 people and causing \$450 million in damage. It was the first of three hurricanes to affect New England that year.

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7-Day Local Forecast

 August 27 Wednesday Scattered T-storms 89 / 70	 August 28 Thursday Cloudy 88 / 69	 August 29 Friday Mostly Sunny 89 / 71	 August 30 Saturday Mostly Cloudy 93 / 73	 August 31 Sunday Cloudy 91 / 74	 September 1 Monday Partly Cloudy 93 / 73	 September 2 Tuesday Partly Cloudy 94 / 75
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Local UV Index

0-2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11+
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0-2: Low, 3-5: Moderate, 6-7: High, 8-10: Very High, 11+: Extreme Exposure

State Cities

	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday		Wednesday	Thursday	Friday						
City	Hi/Lo	Wx	Hi/Lo	Wx	Hi/Lo	Wx	Hi/Lo	Wx					
Amarillo	69/53	t	70/52	mc	72/57	mc	Odessa	84/63	t	86/64	s	87/67	cl
Beaumont . . .	90/66	t	89/65	pc	91/68	s	San Antonio . .	91/71	pc	90/70	mc	91/72	pc
Dallas	84/64	t	85/63	mc	86/67	mc	Waco	84/61	t	86/62	mc	88/66	s
Houston	89/71	sh	93/74	mc	95/78	pc	Wichita Falls .	77/60	t	79/61	cl	81/65	mc

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

Weather Trivia

Are all weather stations automated?

Answer: No. Some are automated and others are manned by meteorologists.

Peak Fishing/Hunting Times This Week

	Day	AM	PM		Day	AM	PM
	Wed	3:14-5:14	3:35-5:35		Sun	6:16-8:16	6:42-8:42
	Thu	3:56-5:56	4:18-6:18		Mon	7:08-9:08	7:35-9:35
	Fri	4:40-6:40	5:03-7:03		Tue	8:02-10:02	8:29-10:29
	Sat	5:27-7:27	5:51-7:51				

Weather History

Aug. 27, 1964 - Hurricane Cleo battered Miami and the south Florida area. It was the first direct hit for Miami in 14 years. Winds gusted to 135 mph and the hurricane caused 125 million dollars in damage.

Sun & Moon

	Day	Sunrise	Sunset	Moonrise	Moonset	
First 8/31	Wednesday	6:57 a.m.	7:48 p.m.	10:55 a.m.	10:09 p.m.	Last 9/14
	Thursday	6:57 a.m.	7:47 p.m.	11:50 a.m.	10:41 p.m.	
	Friday	6:58 a.m.	7:46 p.m.	12:46 p.m.	11:16 p.m.	
	Saturday	6:58 a.m.	7:45 p.m.	1:43 p.m.	11:56 p.m.	
Full 9/7	Sunday	6:59 a.m.	7:44 p.m.	2:40 p.m.	Next Day	New 9/21
	Monday	6:59 a.m.	7:43 p.m.	3:36 p.m.	12:42 a.m.	
	Tuesday	7:00 a.m.	7:41 p.m.	4:28 p.m.	1:35 a.m.	

Surfside Beach Tides

Day	High	Low	High	Low
8/27	5:53 a	12:45 a	8:15 p	12:43 p
8/28	5:42 a	2:06 a	10:12 p	1:16 p
8/29	11:40 p	2:00 p	None	None
8/30	None	2:55 p	None	None
8/31	1:05 a	3:53 p	None	None
9/1	2:02 a	4:51 p	None	None
9/2	2:44 a	5:51 p	None	None

Local Almanac Last Week

Date	High	Low	Normals	Precip
8/14	93	77	92/73	0.01"
8/15	91	76	92/73	0.00"
8/16	90	77	92/73	0.01"
8/17	95	75	92/73	0.00"
8/18	94	75	92/73	0.00"
8/19	91	75	92/73	0.03"
8/20	94	73	92/73	0.00"

Farmer's Growing Degree Days

Date	Degree Days	Date	Degree Days
8/14	35	8/18	35
8/15	34	8/19	33
8/16	34	8/20	34
8/17	35		

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

Strange but True

By Bill Sones
and Rich Sones, Ph.D.

Real and faked probabilities

Q. Math teacher asks half her class to flip a coin 100 times, the other half to just imagine doing so. Both record their H-T outcomes. Then she collects the unsigned papers and tries to distinguish the real flippers from the fakers. Any chance she could really do this?

A. In "The Canon: A Whirligig Tour of the Beautiful Basics of Science," Natalie Angier reports on an elementary statistics prof who starts each semester in just this way.

And the prof is almost always right in how she calls them, leaving the students aghast.

The reason she can tell is that true randomness is more haphazard than most people think.

Real coin tossing will generally include more strings than people are comfortable with, such as streaks of five heads in a row or seven tails in a row.

True, 50-50 rules over the long haul, but not in the short run, and it's the short run where the surprises lie. When Angier tried the experiment herself a

dozen times (12 100-flip trials), she always got at least one streak of 6 or 7 heads or tails, often more than one 6 per set, plus many 5's and 4's.

Once she even got 9 in a row, which she felt queasy about including in a display of faux flipping.

Moral: "The more one knows about probabilities, the less amazing the most woo-woo coincidences become."

Hot little bees

Q. The giant hornet "Vespa mandarinia japonica" invades a hive of Japanese bees upon which it preys, but they will have none of it. Within 20 minutes, the hornet is dead, even though the bees didn't sting, bite, crush or suffocate it. So what is their surprising weapon?

A. Body heat. Hundreds of the hive defenders form a huge compact bee ball around the invader and raise their body temperatures from a normal 35C to 48C, say David Halliday et al. in "Fundamentals of Physics." This higher temperature is lethal to the hornet but not harmful to the "hot-tempered" bees.

Deflated, inflated taxi fare cheating

Q. A taxi company has as its policy to run its cabs with older, well-worn tires and to underinflate them to boot. Penny-pinching economics, or a pinch of chicanery?

A. It's well known that older, worn tires have smaller radii (from maybe 30 centimeters down about 2%) and so turn around more times per kilometer or mile, causing the pre-calibrated odometers to over register and to inflate charges to customers, says Goran Grimvall in "Brainteaser Physics."

Underinflated tires will do the same. But the (short-term) winner in this category was the cab driver who reportedly put on smaller-than-customary wheels so as to fatten fares, especially to longer-distance riders. He was later fined for doing so.

Preposition tangles

Q. Can you recount Winston Churchill's classic line poking fun at critics of phrases like "something not to be sneezed at," "having a lot to answer for," "advice not worth arguing about," "letting everyone know

where you're coming from," "laughing one's head off."

A. Are you in dread of ending a sentence with a preposition because somebody told you it's not grammatically correct? Well, fear no more, says Mark Davidson in "Right, Wrong, and Risky."

One dictionary calls this "a cherished superstition," another "an entrenched myth." The silly rule got started in the 17th century and was subsequently circulated by tyrannical scholars and grammarians. Sir Winston Churchill is said to have become so annoyed by terminal prepositional overzeal that he scribbled a memo to one of his correcting secretaries: "This is the type of arrant pedantry up with which I will not put." So, anyone who tells you not to "laugh your head off" but rather to "laugh off your head" may have "a lot to answer for."

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MIKE PINGREE'S THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS



HONEY, I'M HOME! ... CRASH!: Angry at her former boyfriend, a 60-year-old woman went to a car dealership in Alton, Ill., signed out a pickup truck for a test drive, set it on fire and rammed it into his house. She pled guilty to attempted murder.

NOW SHE DOESN'T HAVE TO COME INTO WORK AT ALL: A woman in New Port Richey, Fla., wanted to get out of work early, so she set her office on fire.

OTHER THAN THAT, IT WAS A LOVELY DAY: A group of parents, attending an outdoor graduation ceremony of a sixth-grade class in Victorville, Calif., got into a major brawl that spilled over into a nearby field. Police were summoned.

CERTAINLY, MA'AM, WE HAVE A FEW CANDIDATES IN THE CELLS HERE: A 57-year-old woman called the 911 emergency line in

Alliance, Ohio, five times and asked police to find her a husband. She was jailed for three days for improper use of the 911 system. Alcohol was said to be a factor.

MY LIFE IS STILL A MESS, BUT DON'T I LOOK GREAT?: Officials in Friesland, Netherlands, plan to give unemployed woman money for a makeover, including a new hairstyle and clothes, to help them find husbands so they can get off welfare. They will also sign

the ladies up with a dating service and hire them a life coach, who will give them tips on how to attract men.

O.K. HALF NELSON, TWIST AND THEN BODY SLAM: A man was burglarizing a house in Coventry, England, when the owner, a 280-pound professional wrestler, unexpectedly came home. The wrestler promptly gave him a breathtaking demonstration of his skills in the ring until the police came and took him away.

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If you have any questions, please call (979) 849-5407, or email us at john.bulletin@gmail.com.

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It's almost flu season. Should you still get a shot, and will insurance cover it?

Yes, the flu shot is still a thing. Most insurers will cover it, and it should soon be widely available.

The flu shot was updated for the upcoming flu season, but the changes weren't drastic. Like last year's flu shot, this year's vaccine is known as a three-component or trivalent vaccine that protects against three influenza viruses — two influenza A viruses and one influenza B virus.

When is the best time to get vaccinated? September, October, or early November. This allows your body time to build up its protective antibodies as flu season begins and ensures your protection doesn't wane before it ends.

Similar to the COVID-19 vaccine, flu vaccines are best at protecting us from the most severe consequences of influenza.

That means the flu vaccine is most effective at keeping people out of the hospital or the intensive care unit and keeping people from dying.

Doctors acknowledged there are always exceptions to broad guidance. For example, people with severe allergies to flu vaccine components should not get vaccines that contain those components.

Source: Tribune News Service

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Lockheed's F-35 fighter jet is a sonic boon for North Texas economy

By Sasha Richie

The Dallas Morning News (TNS)

Lockheed Martin's F-35 Lightning II is promoted as the most advanced fighter jet in the world, and it has an outsized impact in North Texas.

Final assembly primarily takes place in Fort Worth, but the F-35 requires 1,900 high-tech subcontractors, to get

made, 1,000 of which are small businesses. Manfield's Gamma Aerospace is one of those.

Founded in 1971, the company manufactures certain parts for the F-35. Recently, it hosted local business leaders and politicians for a demonstration of the jet's cockpit.

"There's not an F-35 flying that doesn't have a Gamma

product on it," said Gamma president Jason Jackson at the event.

"The F-35 supports small businesses like ours across the country, sustaining jobs, fostering innovation, strengthening our communities," he continued.

Gamma, which employs over 100 people, according to Jackson, became a supplier for Lockheed Martin in 1990, and has built parts for the F-16 and F-22 jets. It received its first purchase order for F-35 parts in 2004, and the first F-35 flew in 2006.

Lockheed Martin says that the F-35 program supports over 270,000 jobs nationwide, and it touts an estimated annual economic impact of \$72 billion.

Depending on the variant, the F-35 costs between \$80 million and \$110 million, and the program has so far delivered over 1,000 jets to 20 countries, including the U.S.

"It's a great way to show how we do things in Texas, and that's making the best fighter jet in the world," said U.S. Rep. Jake Ellzey, who represents Mansfield's district.



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How women invented the radio talk show in 1934

By Peter Funt

Special to The Bulletin

The hit sitcom, "Hacks," starring Jean Smart as a talk show host who breaks the glass ceiling for women, just wrapped its fourth season on Max.

As delightful as the series has proved to be, it reminds us that women were actually pioneers in broadcast interviewing, not wannabes.

Three women revolutionized not only how women were viewed but also the concept of broadcast interviewing itself. Making this long forgotten bit of history more fascinating: They all used the name "Martha Deane."

The story begins in 1934 when program execs at WOR radio

in New York invented a fictional character, a grandmother with dozens of relatives, who would chat about family matters on a daily broadcast. This was a bold move.

A study on the psychology of radio showed that both male and female listeners overwhelmingly preferred male announcers.

Nevertheless, WOR hired Mary Margaret McBride, a newspaper reporter from Missouri to be Martha Deane. After a few weeks, she became so confused by the details of her faux bio that she confessed to listeners, "I'm not a grandmother! I'm not a mother. I'm not even married ... The truth is I'm a reporter who would like to come here every

day and tell you about places I go, people I meet."

What could have been a career-ending scandal turned out to be a stroke of genius.

Listeners loved her candor. Shedding the fictional backstory while retaining the pseudonym, McBride continued as Martha Deane at WOR for six years, earning the unofficial title, "First Lady of Radio."

Later, using her real name, she worked at CBS, NBC and ABC. At the height of her popularity, McBride's audience was estimated at nearly eight million people. Her 10th anniversary was marked by an event at a sold-out Madison Square Garden.

On her 15th anniversary, the party was attended by 54,000 adoring fans at Yankee Stadium and was hosted by none other than Eleanor Roosevelt.

When McBride left WOR, she hand-picked one of her closest friends to succeed her, the veteran journalist Bessie Beatty. Beatty had been a foreign correspondent for Hearst newspapers and for a few years was editor of McCall's Magazine.

Rival, Time magazine, once labeled her "Mrs. Know-it-All."

Beatty only played the Martha Deane role for two years and was succeeded by Marian Taylor Young, who took over in 1941 and remained there, five days a week for 32 years, conducting over 10,000 interviews.

Beatty honed an approach to interviewing that was unique for the times - appealing to a large female audience without bothering with what was commonly known as a "women's angle." "Women's angle? What's that?" she once asked. "Women are people. If a story is good, it's good. If it's bad, it's bad."

In the season finale of "Hacks," Jean Smart's character quits her show with a rant about network interference. She sounded like a real Martha Deane.

(Peter Funt's latest book is "Inside Fantasy Football.")

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Texas Is 2025's 2nd worst state for women's equality

In order to determine where women receive the most equal treatment in American society, WalletHub compared the 50 states across 17 key metrics. The data set ranges from the gap between female and male executives to the disparity in unemployment rates for women and men.

Women's Equality in Texas (1=Best; 25=Avg.):

Overall Rank: 49th
24th – Earnings Gap
34th – Executive Positions Gap
23rd – Work Hours Gap
40th – Unemployment Rate Gap
20th – Entrepreneurship Rate Gap
39th – Political Representation Gap

The 10 worst states are Ohio (41), Virginia (42), New Jersey (43), Wyoming (44), Oklahoma (45), Louisiana (46), Arkansas (47), Idaho (48), Texas (49) and Utah (50).

The best 10 states, according to the study, are Hawaii, Nevada, Maryland, Maine, Oregon, New Mexico, California, Iowa, Alaska and Vermont.

Hawaii is the best state for women's equality because men and women enjoy very similar conditions in the workplace, in schools and in politics.

There is no gap in the rate of men and women who are minimum-wage workers in Hawaii, which is encouraging because it's typical for a lot more women to earn the minimum wage than men. Moreover, women are 0.5% less likely to be unemployed than men, and they also have a 3.2% better job security rate, which means conditions for getting and keeping jobs are pretty equal, or may even be more favorable for women.

Finally, Hawaii has no gender disparity in the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives, with an equal share of political representatives being men and women.

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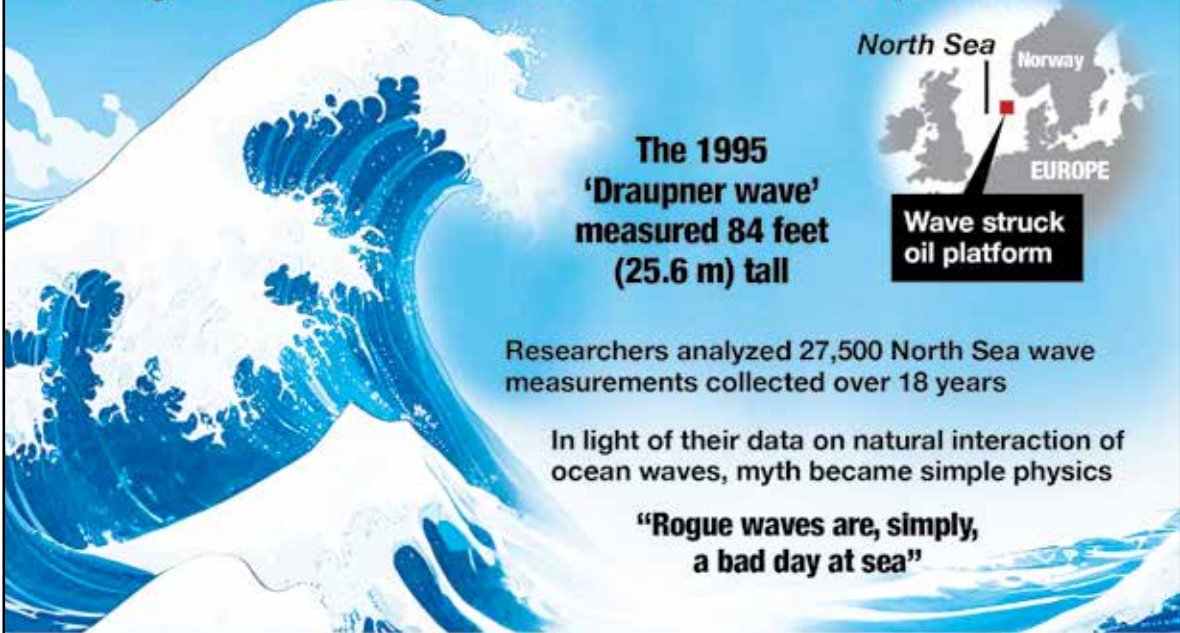
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Science Matters

'Rogue' wave: Myth becomes fact

On Jan. 1, 1995, a monster North Sea wave slammed the Draupner oil platform – the first time a "rogue wave" of sailors' legend had ever been measured in the open ocean.



The 1995 'Draupner wave' measured 84 feet (25.6 m) tall



Researchers analyzed 27,500 North Sea wave measurements collected over 18 years

In light of their data on natural interaction of ocean waves, myth became simple physics

"Rogue waves are, simply, a bad day at sea"

The researchers found that average-magnitude waves expand in two ways:



Linear focusing:

Waves traveling at different speeds and directions align at the same time and place and stack together to form a much taller crest than usual.



Bound nonlinearities:

Natural wave effects stretch a wave, making its crest steeper and taller and flattening its trough. The distortion makes big waves even taller by 15-20%.



Mika P. Malila photo

Study used observations from Ekofisk B oil and gas platform in the central North Sea. Lasers in the footbridge measure wave height, timing and distance length between wave crests.

© 2025 TNS
Source: Francesco Fedele of Georgia Institute of Technology; Nature's Scientific Reports journal
Graphic: Helen Lee McComas, Tribune News Service

Rogue wave important facts

Rogue waves are now known to occur in all of the world's oceans many times each day. Rogue waves are now accepted as a common phenomenon. Professor Akhmediev of the Australian National University has stated that 10 rogue waves exist in the world's oceans at any moment.

On Nov. 29, 2022, a rogue wave hit the Viking cruise ship Viking Polaris while she was on her way to Ushuaia, Argentina. One passenger died and several were injured.

Waves up to twice as high as the surrounding wave heights occur about every 3,000 waves and that a rogue wave may occur every 15,000 waves.

How to survive a rogue wave? If you can, it's best to maneuver your vessel toward the wave's shoulder, where it doesn't reach its peak height. You may be able to avoid the most dangerous impact. Overall, it is better to face a rogue wave head-on than to turn at an angle.

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•14 miles of sandy beaches.

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•One historic site.

•Bird watching.

•Shelling (peak season Dec.-Feb.)

•Year-round special events.

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Brazoria County Parks Director

Bryan Frazier

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Secretary: Rebecca Hay

Commissioners: Walter Branson,

Alvie Merrell, Clarence Wittwer and

Andrew Pikoff.

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Brazoria County Parks is grateful for the tremendous support provided by volunteers, partners, donors and sponsors who help in countless ways, giving generously of their time, money and resources. Organizations such as Freeport LNG, Olin, the Town of Quintana, the Brazoria County Petrochemical Council, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Conservation and Reclamation District 3, Ocean Village Hotel, The SFA 500, Friends of the River, Texas Master Naturalists, The Bulletin, Cradle of Texas Conservancy and many others provide much-needed and much-appreciated help and support. Their efforts make all of our lives better.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Saturday, Sept. 6, 10 a.m. – noon: Discover Archery. The staff at Camp Mohawk County Park will show you how modern-day bows and arrows are used to have a great time. Topics covered will be safety, equipment, shooting skills and shooting practice. After the class, you try out your skill on our archery range. Bows and arrows will be provided. For more information or to register, contact the park interpreter at nathanm@brazoriacountytx.gov or (979) 864-1152.

Coming Soon on a Saturday in September: Hanson Trail Biking. Come out to Hanson Riverside County Park for a three-hour ride along the backcountry of the Harris-Beal Unit. The distance will be determined by the group. For information or reservations, call (979) 864-1152 or email nathanm@brazoriacountytx.gov.

Saturday, Sept. 20: Texas Adopt-A-Beach Fall Clean-Up. Volunteers gather at 9 a.m. at Stahlman Park for a general beach clean-up. Dress for the weather and bring along some water. Supplies provided; lunch afterward. For more information, contact the park interpreter Nathan at (979) 864-1152 or nathanm@brazoriacountytx.gov.

Thursday Sept. 25 - Sunday Sept. 28: ACA Kayak Symposium. For certified kayak instructors to gain endorsements for their instructor certification. For those who do not have their Level 1 certification, they can attend the Thursday and Friday class to get certified before the weekend courses. For more information or to register, contact the park interpreter at nathanm@brazoriacountytx.gov or (979) 864-1152.

Sunday, Sept. 28, 2-3 p.m.: Music and Tales at Stephen F. Austin Statue. Music and Tales is an amalgamation of music, how to play a mountain dulcimer and storytelling. Brought to us by our own living history volunteer, Ralph Hoeting, who has a knack for both! He plays a variety of instruments, including mountain dulcimer, fiddle, and fife. If you own any of these instruments and would like to come out and play, practice, learn, or provide valuable musical knowledge to the group please do. The group usually does not meet following an event here at the statue/community or right after a holiday. Consult the Stephen F. Austin Statue Facebook page or call (979) 849-5965 with questions.

Saturday, Oct. 4, 10 a.m. – noon: Discover Archery. See Sept. 6 listing above. For more information or to register, contact the park interpreter at nathanm@brazoriacountytx.gov or call (979) 864-1152.

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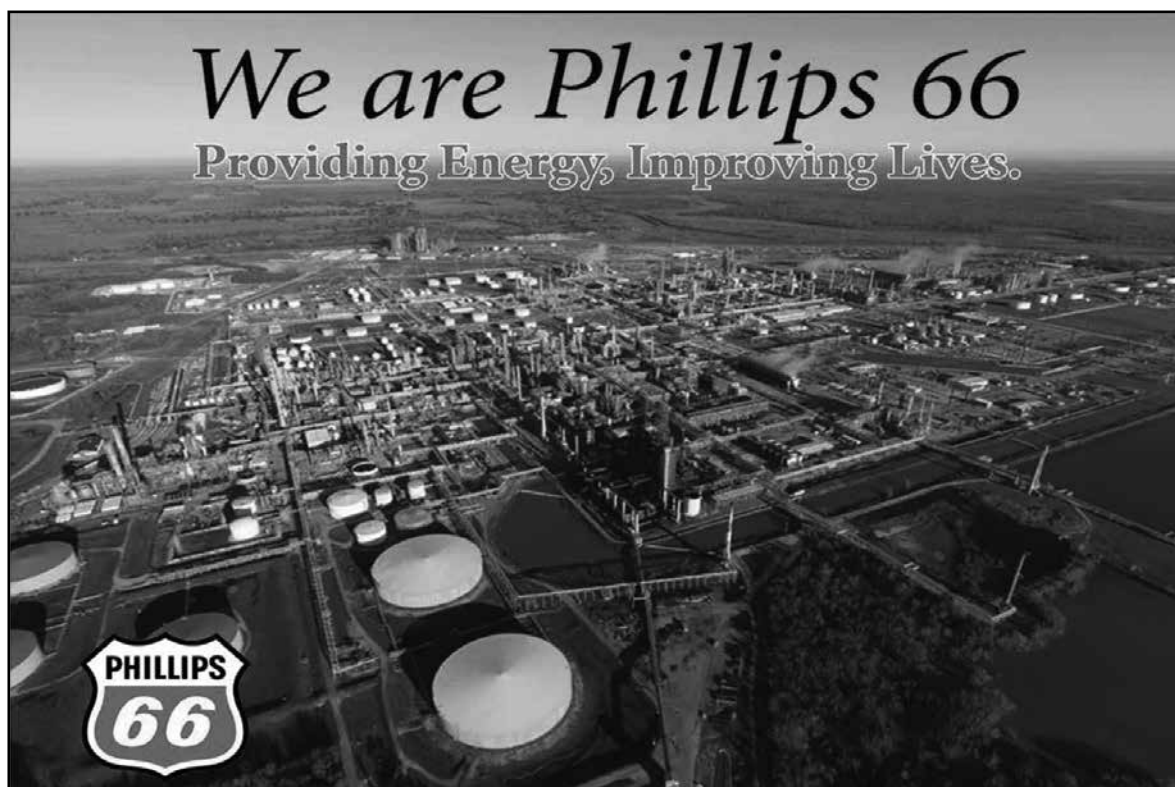
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Pesky calls remind me of past mischief

By John Toth
The Bulletin

We have been inundated every day by calls to The Bulletin for weeks, but not in a good way.

Within the good calls are embedded AI-dialed calls with fake return phone numbers that are local enough to make us pick up the phone and say: "The Bulletin of Brazoria County. How may I help you?"

That's when we hear talking in the background, and then someone chimes in with: "Hello, how are you today."

Then someone begins to pitch something about free money if we sign up to some Medicare plan.

Sharon, who answers the phone at Bulletin Headquarters most of the time, then responds: "This is a business. Could you take us off your call list?"

That apparently is an impossible request, and the line just disconnects.

No matter how many times Sharon (co-publisher, and phone answerer - most of the time) asks to be removed from the calling list, the calls just continue, often every few minutes.

While this is frustrating, it also reminds me of an incident that occurred a few decades ago at Stand-Up Defensive Driving, which we owned and operated at Brazos Mall for 19 years and then three more years at other locations before Covid shut the business down.

We hired stand-up comedians, certified in our curriculum, to teach the class. One Saturday, I was doing all the sign-ins and transactions, while comedian and instructor Dennis Fowler warmed up the class. In exchange for attending a 6-hour class, students received a certificate with which they could dismiss their traffic tickets.

It was a fun way to make money, even though we had to jump through state regulation hoops, which were at times cumbersome. And, we provided a service to the community. We were one of three in-person schools in south Brazoria County at the

time, but the only one at the mall, and the only one offering stand-up comedy.

At 9 a.m., Dennis started the class, and the phone started ringing. I picked it up, and there was silence. Two minutes later, the phone rang again. While I was there to wrap up the paperwork for the class, the phone rang every two minutes. I finally disconnected the line from the wall (cellphones were not prevalent yet) and told

Dennis to plug it back in if he needed to call me

for any reason.

Then I filed a report with the Lake Jackson Police Department and gave them all the details and times the calls came in. I thought that would be the end of it, and that there would be no findings of any kind, or locating the phone number from where the calls were placed.

A few days later, I received a call from LJPd, telling me that they traced the calls to a house in a nearby city, owned by the parents of a man who also held a defensive driving school class on Saturdays, in a restaurant across from the mall.

As it turned out, the owner of that class still lived with his mom and dad and seemingly was using a computer program that made our Stand-Up phone ring every two minutes, while he was teaching a class across the street.

We decided not to pursue the matter any further. The LJPd's excellent work was enough to put an end to the harassing calls,

Jumping ahead a couple of decades, I think I have also solved The Bulletin's problem. I noticed a pattern in the fake call-back numbers. Now, I just push the green button on the phone, followed by the red button. The calls have stopped, at least for now.

No, I don't want any "free" money along with my Medicare plan. I'm doing fine as is, and I just hope that Medicare and Social Security remain available while I enjoy my golden years.

Wait, strike that - my late middle-age years.

John's Ramblings

Consumer spending falls in Las Vegas as tourism slides

By Eli Segall

Las Vegas Review-Journal (TNS)

Consumer spending in Las Vegas is down in several ways, state data shows, amid a slump in tourism to the casino mecca and national economic jitters.

Sales at food and beverage outlets; car and auto-parts dealers; clothing, shoe and jewelry retailers; and furniture, electronics and appliance stores in Clark County, Nevada, all fell in a recent 11-month period as compared to the prior same stretch, according to the state's Department of Taxation.

Overall, the figures point to a pullback in spending at restaurants, clothing stores and other businesses as Las Vegas' main economic engine slows down and as the local jobless rate hovers among the highest in the nation for big metro areas.

There are essentially fewer consumers in the Las Vegas area due to its sliding visitor volume, which itself could lead to cutbacks in local workers' hours and paychecks, according to Bryan Wachter, president of the Retail Association of Nevada.

He also cited ongoing inflationary pressures and noted that when households pay more for essentials, they often pull back on discretionary

spending.

Clark County has about 2.3 million residents and welcomes millions of visitors monthly.

Some categories of shrunken spending encompass locals and tourists alike.

Food services and drinking outlets, for instance, logged

nearly \$11.7 billion in sales in Clark County from July 2024 through May 2025, down 1.6 percent from the same period a year earlier, state data shows.

The percentage drop looks small but amounts to a huge pile of money - a decline of almost \$191.5 million.

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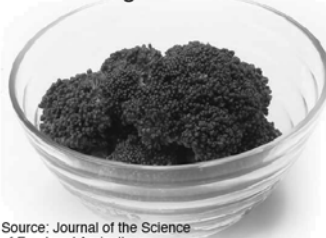
Healthy Living

How not to cook broccoli

Microwaving broccoli can destroy beneficial flavonoid chemicals, as well as some of the vegetable's nutrients, in particular vitamin C and folate.

Flavonoids left after ...

Steaming	100%
Boiling	34
Microwaving	3



Source: Journal of the Science of Food and Agriculture, TNS Photo Service

Weekly Bulletin Horoscope

By Magi Helena

Tribune Content Agency

ARIES (March 21-April 19):

Work to resolve any inner disharmony that is holding you back. Become a student of the skills you truly need. Finish an important task with a focused burst of energy, feel the satisfaction of completion.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Money might come up now, and you could have big feelings about resources you share with others. New creative ideas may guide you toward efforts that feel meaningful and rewarding.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Your heart may lean toward a special someone. If you're

single and dating, make decisions based on discernment, not wishful thinking. Remind yourself regularly of your accomplishments, both big and small.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Lead with grace and confidence in all that you do. Clarify your stance in your career or any public-facing role. A partner or colleague may step in to offer meaningful support.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Home could be the peaceful retreat you need now. Be proactive with financial matters. Choose spaces that align with your energy, when it's not possible, keep your energy aligned with the space you need to be

in.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Intrusive thoughts may ease if you get busy focusing on something productive. You naturally bring what others need. Consider making thoughtful tweaks to your job or business to better support evolving goals.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Friends may feel overwhelming right now; you may need to cocoon. If the mood feels right, express your feelings. Also, consider stepping outside your lane to share financial wisdom that could benefit someone.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Coming in too hot might not serve you well right now, a more muted entry could yield much better results. Getting things done may have felt harder lately; be patient. Someone might prioritize being right over being cooperative.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): A gentle and empathetic approach can lead to happy outcomes. Financial issues with a partner may come to the forefront now. Seek inspiration and practical solutions from diverse sources.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Be the person of the hour, even if a heckler tries to throw you off your game. Domestic matters may need careful untangling. Apply quiet, steady logic to money matters - even if someone else is being reactive.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Confidence is ultimately attractive when it's authentic, never when faked. Keep your communications brief and on point to avoid misunderstandings. Offer support where it's genuinely needed.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): A peaceful getaway could restore your soul, though you may need to push through some necessary duties before you can go. Craft your offerings, presentations or just daily tasks with care and intention.

On This Day In History

August 27

1858 - The first cabled news dispatch was sent and was published by "The New York Sun" newspaper. The story was about the peace demands of England and France being met by China.

1859 - The first oil well was successfully drilled in the U.S. by Colonel Edwin L. Drake near Titusville, PA.

1921 - The owner of Acme Packing Company bought a pro football team for Green Bay, WI. J.E. Clair paid tribute to those who worked in his plant by naming the team the Green Bay Packers.

1998 - "Titanic" became the first movie in North America to earn more than \$600 million.

August 28

1830 - "The Tom Thumb" was demonstrated in Baltimore, MD. It was the first passenger-carrying train of its kind to be built in America.

1907 - "American Messenger Company" was started by two teenagers, Jim Casey and Claude Ryan. The company's name was later changed to "United Parcel Service."

1963 - Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., gave his "I Have a Dream" speech at a civil rights rally in Washington, DC. More than 200,000 people attended.

August 29

1886 - In New York City, Chinese Ambassador Li Hung-chang's chef invented chop suey.

1971 - Hank Aaron became the first baseball player in the National League to hit 100 or more runs in each of 11 seasons.

1977 - Lou Brock brought his total of stolen bases to 893. The record he beat was held by Ty Cobb for 49 years.

August 30

905 - Ty Cobb made his major league batting debut with the Detroit Tigers.

1945 - General Douglas MacArthur set up Allied occupation headquarters in Japan.

1984 - U.S. President Ronald Reagan, and several others, were inducted into the Sportscasters Hall of Fame.

1996 - An expedition to raise part of the Titanic failed when the nylon lines being used to raise part of the hull snapped.

August 31

1852 - The first pre-stamped envelopes were created with legislation of the U.S. Congress.

1920 - The first news program to be broadcast on radio was aired. The station was 8MK in Detroit, MI.

1950 - Gil Hodges of the Brooklyn Dodgers hit four home runs in a single game off of four different pitchers.

September 1

1906 - Jack Coombs of the American League's Philadelphia Athletics pitched 24 innings against the Boston Red Sox.

1939 - World War II began when Germany invaded Poland.

1952 - The Ernest Hemingway novel, "The Old Man and the Sea", was published.

September 2

1901 - Theodore Roosevelt, then Vice President, said "Speak softly and carry a big stick" in a speech at the Minnesota State Fair.

1938 - The first railroad car to be equipped with fluorescent lighting was put into operation on the New York Central railroad.

1963 - "The CBS Evening News" was lengthened from 15 to 30 minutes.

Columbia Historical Museum

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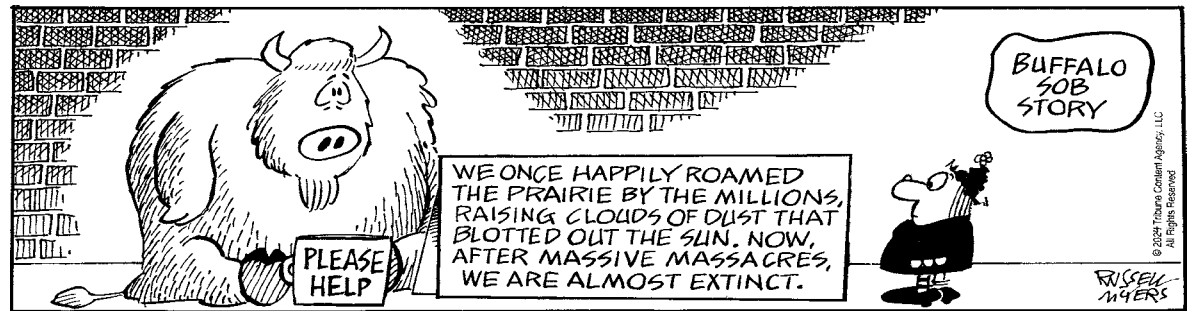
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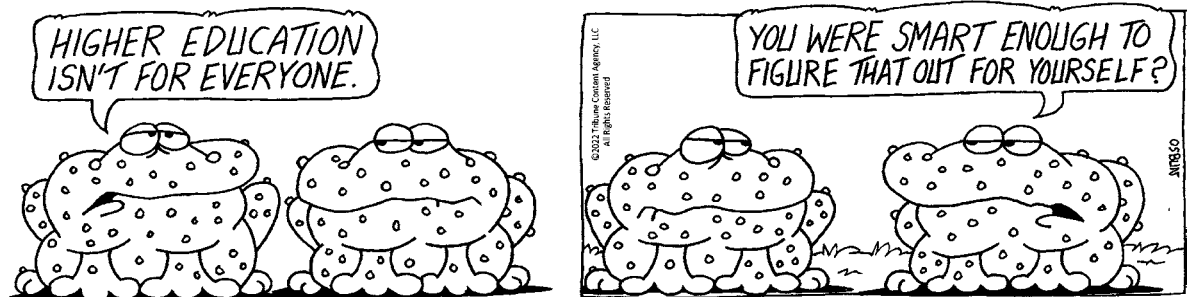
BROOM HILDA

By Russel Myers



ANIMAL CRACKERS

By Fred Wagner



MR. MORRIS

By Rick Brooks



CHARMY'S ARMY

By Davey Jones



TEX AND CLEM

By Jim Cox



Thank you readers, advertisers, for 31 years

Humor from the copy desk

Why did the journalist stare at the orange juice container?
Because it said "concentrate" on it.



JUMBLE

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

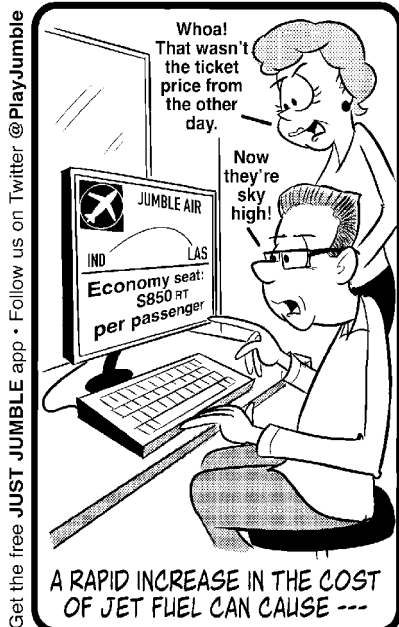
Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

SSSYA

INFLA

RMWARO

LTELAR



A RAPID INCREASE IN THE COST OF JET FUEL CAN CAUSE ---

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

TO

Answers: A rapid increase in the cost of jet fuel can cause ---
Jumbles: SASSY FINAL MARROW TALER

Bulletin Crossword Puzzle of the Week

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
14						15					16			
17						18					19			
20						21					22			
	23		24	25				26	27					
			28					29				30	31	32
33	34	35				36	37					38		
39						40					41	42		
43						44					45			
46			47	48					49					
			50					51	52				53	54
55	56	57						58				59		60
61						62	63				64	65		
66						67					68			
69						70					71			

Solutions on the right side of this page

- ACROSS**
 1 The "O" of EGOT
 6 Pulitzer winner Jennifer
 10 Some primates
 14 Frighten
 15 Mouse catcher
 16 See 4-Down
 17 Dr. Seuss work featuring an elephant who declares, "A person's a person no matter how small"
- 20 IM pioneer
 21 Single
 22 Maker of EcoTank Supertank printers
 23 Skeptical reply to an assertion
 28 "That ship ___ sailed"
 29 Harrison Ford's "Star Wars" role

In memory of Greg Wilkinson

VocabPower!

While not everyone agrees with the views of CNN's Lou Dobbs, a self-described populist, all ought agree that his communication skills include a prodigious vocabulary. All ten words below have come out of Dobb's voluminous mouth.

1. polemics
 A. politics
 B. deception

C. argumentation
 D. smokescreen

2. confluence
 A. confusion
 B. gathering

C. conference
 D. partnership

3. xenophobe
 A. immigrant
 B. terrorist

C. reactionary
 D. anti-foreign

4. flummox
 A. perplex
 B. pummel

C. fiasco
 D. padding

5. unabated
 A. unsolved
 B. nonstop

C. w/o basis
 D. left open

6. drivel
 A. sprinkle
 B. babble

C. sediment
 D. driving force

7. decry
 A. condemn
 B. describe

C. boast
 D. lose voice

8. perturbation
 A. agitation
 B. mixture

C. trembling
 D. boiling point

9. extrication
 A. puzzle
 B. solution

C. disengagement
 D. deportation

10. weak-kneed
 A. lame
 B. nervous

C. timid
 D. arthritic

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

— Greg Wilkinson

- 33 More slippery, as a winter sidewalk
 36 Spring shape
 38 Pea holder
 39 Very remote place
 43 Chowd down
 44 Fashion's Spade
 45 Tries to avoid being seen
 46 Tampers (with)
 49 Ryan of rom-coms
 50 "Should I stop pouring?"
 55 Dads
 58 Stately tree
 59 "Blue Bloods" actor Cariou
 61 "My motives have to remain a secret"
 66 Math course with many functions, for short
 67 Word after "all the" or "just the"
 68 Geek Squad clients
 69 Long sandwich
 70 Say the rosary, e.g.
 71 Magazine edition

DOWN

- 1 Federal org. that approves protective gear
 2 Shaggy's pal, informally
 3 Celebrity chef Hall
 4 With 16-Across, style of L.A.'s Griffith Observatory
 5 ___ Speedwagon
 6 Prefix with "musicology"
 7 Color of a correctly placed letter in Wordle
 8 Small battery size
 9 "Weekend Edition" ainer
 10 Learns to fit in
 11 Church seats
 12 Sound that bounces back
 13 In a few minutes
 18 Dozes (off)
 19 Actor Astin
 24 Leave fur on the sofa, maybe
 25 ___ Grey tea
 26 Kvetch
 27 Saintly glow
 30 Opinion column
 31 Traditional tales
 32 Poetic tributes
 33 Muslim leader
 34 Give credit to
 35 Carded, briefly
 36 Sail (through)
 37 Many times o'er
 40 Barely gets (by)
 41 "Glad that's over!"
 42 ___ and mighty
 47 "___ Unchained": Tarantino film

- 48 Unbridled desire
 49 "Good gravy!"
 51 Alabama home of the National Voting Rights Museum
 52 Bowling venue
 53 Cary of "The Princess Bride"
 54 Jawaharlal who was the longest-serving prime minister of India

- 55 White part of an orange
 56 Vineyard measure
 57 Au __: nanny
 60 Wall St. index
 62 Cook's meas.
 63 Corn shucker's unit
 64 Yes, in French
 65 Letters on the starship Enterprise
 TRIBUNE CONTENT AGENCY, LLC.

Cherokee divorce

To divorce her husband, a Cherokee woman simply put his belongings outside their home. In their society, women owned all property, giving them immense authority and respect.

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.

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

Solutions

H	E	R	O	P	A	I	S	S	U	E
T	R	I	G	S	A	M	E	U	S	E
J	C	A	V	E	L	L	E	T	Y	L
P	A	P	A	S	T	E	L	M	W	L
M	E	D	L	E	S	T	A	S	A	H
A	T	E	K	A	T	E	H	I	D	E
M	I	D	D	L	E	O	F	W	H	E
J	C	I	E	R	L	O	I	L	P	O
O	L	O	N	H	A	V	H	A	S	L
B	A	S	E	S	E	N	O	O	E	S
N	O	S	E	P	E	N	O	E	P	S
O	H	A	W	A	S	A	R	S	A	W
S	C	A	R	E	T	R	A	P	D	E
O	S	C	A	R	E	G	A	N	A	P

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

Budget conscious consumers favor Walmart

The Minnesota Star Tribune (TNS)

Walmart continues to gain momentum - and market share - as back-to-school shopping winds down, leaving competitors like Target struggling to keep up.

Executives at both companies said they remain cautious about the all-important holiday shopping season, as tariffs slowly push up prices.

However, Walmart executives said consumers were still willing to spend, even as middle- and lower-income shoppers pull back on some discretionary purchases.

Walmart and Target are widely seen as predictors of consumer mood because they carry a wide selection of merchandise and have stores nationwide. With costs rising because of tariffs and other factors, the retailers said they were making decisions daily about which merchandise to buy and how to price items.

Seek medical help for depression and turn to God

From the writings of the Rev. Billy Graham

Q: *I deal with depression often and am more concerned about the frequency than the depression itself. I'm not sure if it is actually depression or discouragement. Maybe it's just disappointment, but are there examples in the Bible of people who followed God yet dealt with these struggles?* – D.A.

A: There are many forms of depression. From a medical point of view, doctors urge people to seek professional help - particularly when depression reoccurs.

But it is also possible to receive help from God to deliver people from unknown fears. He helps His people and strengthens them spiritually and emotionally. It's so important to learn to trust God in every circumstance and to keep our eyes on Him.

The great Prophet Elijah got so discouraged that he even asked God to take away his life (see 1 Kings 19). There were probably many things that contributed to Elijah's depression – physical weariness, hunger, and sense of defeat. He felt he had not been successful, fearing the future; perhaps fearing that his enemies would kill him.

But the heart of the matter was that Elijah was concentrating on his circumstances rather than on God. God's answer was to meet his physical needs by giving him rest and food, but more than that, God gave him a new vision of the glory and power and love of God. Elijah went on to do many great things in the Name of the Lord.

God loves His people, and He wants us to know that He is with us in every situation. Christ can take away our fears. *"Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name; you are Mine"* (Isaiah 43:1, NKJV). This can be our experience as we walk with Christ each day.

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New Cracker Barrel logo change sparks protest, stock loss

Bloomberg News (TNS)

The slide in Cracker Barrel Old Country Store Inc.'s shares deepened as a conservative backlash to the restaurant chain's logo change intensified across social media.

Shares of the Southern-inspired casual dining operator, known for its home-style cooking, fell as much as 15% as negative posts after the market close the prior session, flooded X.

The notable drop follows Cracker Barrel's announcement that it would be removing the image of an old man leaning against a barrel from its logo, leaving just the words Cracker Barrel.

Conservative critics saw the decision to remove the man, long known as Uncle Herschel, as an attempt by corporate executives to strip the chain of its history and character.

This isn't the first time there was an uproar over a redesigned Cracker Barrel logo. In early 2021, a new logo sparked widespread debate on social media over whether it depicted a slaveholder's whip. The company responded at the time on social media saying the logo "does not depict and has never depicted a whip."

PUBLISHED NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that Letters Testamentary for the Estate of FRED A. V. DELOACH, Deceased, were issued on August 20, 2025, in Docket Number PR45652, pending in the County Court at Law No. 3, Brazoria County, Texas, to Amanda Herndon, Independent Executor.

The address of record for the Estate of FRED A. V. DELOACH, Deceased is c/o Matthew B. Edquist, Attorney at Law, 120 West Myrtle Street, Angleton, Texas 77515.

All persons having claims against this Estate are required to present their claims within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

Dated on this 20th day of August, 2025.

Matthew B. Edquist, Attorney for the Estate of FRED A. V. DELOACH

LEGAL NOTICE

CITATION BY PUBLICATION

THE STATE OF TEXAS

CAUSE NO. 118876-CV

149th District Court

Lloyd Knowles

vs.

Jarad Donely, et al

TO: Certain named Defendants and unknown heirs, assignees, transferees, and/or persons claiming any interest in the Property which is the subject of this suit, being the entirety of the Adjoining 2.00 and 4.00 Tracts and Parcels of Land In the S.M Williams League, Abstract 139, Brazoria County, Texas whether by, through, or under any of the named parties Defendant, or otherwise, including, the Estate of Ike Rhodes, Deceased, and a class of Unknown Defendants, comprised of unknown heirs, assignees's, transferees, and/or persons claiming any interest in the Property the subject of this suit, whether by, through, or under any of the named parties Defendant, or otherwise authorized. These parties defendant are referred to collectively herein as the "Unlocated and Unknown Parties Defendant."

NOTICE TO DEFENDANT: "You have been sued. You may employ an attorney. If you or your Attorney do not file a written answer with the Clerk who issued this Citation by 10:00 a.m. on the Monday next following the expiration of 42 days after the date this Citation was issued, a Default Judgment may be taken against you. In addition to filing a written answer with the clerk, you may be required to make initial disclosures to the other parties of this suit. These disclosures generally must be made no later than 30 days after you file your answer with the clerk. Find out more at TexasLawHelp.org."

You are hereby commanded to appear by filing a written answer to the Plaintiffs First Amended Original Petition for Perfection of Title by Adverse Possession at or before 10:00 o'clock a.m. on the Monday next after the expiration of 42 days after the date of issuance of this Citation, which is a legal holiday; therefore, the same being Tuesday the 2nd day of September, 2025, before the Honorable 149th District Court, Brazoria County Courthouse, Angleton, Texas. Said Plaintiff's Amended Petition was filed in said court on the 23rd day of September, 2022 in the

above entitled cause.

A brief statement of the nature of this suit is as follows, Clear title to land to-wit: PARCEL ONE: Being that certain 4.00 tract or parcel of land in the S. M. Williams League, Abstract 139, Brazoria County, Texas, being the same property described by metes and bounds in that certain Warranty Deed from Minnie Bell Williams to Julius Knowles dated October 13, 1995, recorded under clerk's file number 95-034926 of the Official Public Records of Brazoria County, Texas and also being described in a deed from Julius Knowles and Myra Knowles to the Trust dated November 3, 2007, recorded under Document Number 2007063826 of the Official Public Records of Brazoria County, Texas. It is also the same property identified as Tract 32 (PT) listed under Property ID #162648 by the Brazoria County Appraisal District. PARCEL TWO: Being that certain 2.00 acre tract of land in the S. M. Williams League, Abstract 139, Brazoria County, Texas, being the same property described in a deed from Julius Knowles and Myra Knowles to the Trust dated November 3, 2007, recorded under Document Number 2007063824 of the Official Public Records of Brazoria County, Texas, being the same property identified as Tract 32E, listed under Property ID Number 162649 by the Brazoria County Appraisal District, as is more fully shown by Plaintiff's Amended Petition on file in this suit.

If filing Pro Se, said answer may be filed by mailing same to: Brazoria County District Clerk's Office, 237 E. Locust, Suite 206, Angleton, Texas, 77515-4678 or by bringing said answer in person to the aforementioned address.

The name and address of the Attorney for Plaintiff is Wes Griggs, 301 South 17th Street, PO Box 517, West Columbia, TX 77486, 979-345-5188.

The Court has authority in this suit to enter Judgment. Any such Judgment will be binding upon you.

Issued and given under my hand and seal of said Court at Angleton, Texas, on the 15th day of July, 2025.

THE STATE OF TEXAS
CASSANDRA TIGNER, DISTRICT CLERK

Brazoria County, Texas

By: Clarissa Longoria Deputy

**Our 31st year of publishing.
Thank you Bulletin readers and advertisers!**



Things to do Labor Day Weekend

Thank you
FOR YOUR
Hardwork

- **Enjoy the outdoors:** Go for a hike, visit a park, or have a picnic at local parks, such as Hanson Riverside County Park, or the many other parks in the county.
- **Go swimming or enjoy water activities:** Head to a pool, lake, or beach for some fun in the sun. Summer may be over, but it doesn't have to end.
- **Explore nearby attractions:** Visit the Houston Museum District, the Houston Zoo, or take a drive to Galveston Island or Surfside Beach, Quintana Beach or Bryan Beach.
- **Take a day trip:** Explore a nearby city like San Antonio and visit attractions like the Riverwalk or the Alamo.
- **Brazoria County Parks:** Several parks offer opportunities for outdoor recreation like hiking, fishing, and camping, including Camp Mohawk County Park, Brazos Bend State Park, and Brazos River County Park.
- **Museum of Natural Science:** Explore one of the most attended museums in the country. Visit North America's largest dinosaur hall. See the beauty of the Lester and Sue Smith Gem Vault and Sue Smith Gem Vault and many more. The museum is regularly voted one of the top attractions in Houston
- **Visit San Antonio's many missions,** including The Alamo, free of charge. Also, enjoy Brackenridge Park and visit the Japanese Tea garden free of charge. The zoo and the train ride for kids are also there.



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- **Brazos Bend State Park:** Hike, observe wildlife, and enjoy the scenic views. See how many alligators you can spot.
- **Brazoria National Wildlife Refuge:** Photograph wildlife, walking trails, self-guided tours. Open daily sunrise to sunset.
- **Sea Center Texas** in Lake Jackson: check hours.
- **Brazos Mall:** Cool down, see a movie, shop sales.
- **San Bernard National Wildlife Refuge:** It's south of the towns of Sweeny and Brazoria. There is no charge to visit any of the public use areas.
- **Local museums in county, including the Brazosport Museum of Natural Science:** Check for days and hours.

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