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Channelview's Jalen Hurts in Super Bowl LVII



See Stories Below

Serving all of the North Shore -- Channelview, Cloverleaf, Sheldon, Galena Park, Jacinto City VOLUME 11, NO. 5 (#455) THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2023 www.northchannelstar.com

CHANNEL CURRENTS

Stephens takes heart screening message to Super Bowl

SCA (Sudden Cardiac Arrest) came to natioinal attention last December, when Cincinnati Bengals safety Damar Hamlin collapsed on the field, and almost died. Medical personnel saved him with CPR and defibrilation

Heart defects have been an important part of Crosby's Scott Stephens life, ever since his son Cody died at home of CSA in May 2012.



Scott Stephens with an AED device.

Scott has made it his life's mission to save others by promoting and offering heart screening for youth athletes, promoting legislation by states to provide these screenings, and in many cases paying for AED machines through

his Cody Foundation.
Now he plans to attend
the Super Bowl in Arizona,
and in conjunction with
author and NFL player
Randy Grimes at "Radio
Row" to tell Stephenr' story,
and spread the word about
potential threats to athletes'

Stephens and Grimes have scheduled about 50 fifteen minute interviews with media.

For more information about the Cody Stephens Foundation, visit www.codystephens foundation.org.

DEPARTMENT OF TEXAS THE AMERICAN LEGION

JACINTO CITY'S AMERICAN LEGION POST REVITALIZATION & LEGIONNAIRES BENEFITS EVENT

L – R: R. C Stearns, Linda Jamail, Tom Marty, Rachel Muñiz, Donald Cleveland, Steven Johnson, Olga Schultz, Frank Staley, Mary Hardy, Rosa Rumph, Dwight Rumph, Dr. Shelia Wilson, Patricia LeCamus, Mike Lacy, Cheryl Cabusas, Kim Hadaway & Manuel Puente. (Photo by Allan Jamail)

AMERICAN LEGION'S BENEFITS & POST REVITALIZATION

Sgt. Alvin York Jacinto City Post 397

By Allan Jamail

Jacinto City, TX. – Saturday, February 4, 2023, American Legionnaires from the state organization and surrounding

counties came to Jacinto City's Town Center on a dual mission.

One to provide veterans with help with their current benefits and to introduce them to new benefits and how to receive them. Secondly to begin the first stages of planning a revitalization of the Sgt. Alvin C. York Post 397, named after the World War I hero.

The hall also bears the name of Marine Lance Cpl. Pedro Contreras a JC resident who gave his life in battle in the Iraqi war of 2003 – 2011. It's located at 10216 Challenger Seven Dr Jacinto City TX 77029.

Benefit sign-up and information provided were, Veterans Disability Claim Assistance, Health Care Assistance, Employment Information, Educational Benefits Information, Home Loans Information and Legion Membership Benefits. (see below contact information)

Dwight Rumph, District 8 Commander, American Legion (A.L.) Department of Texas said, "For over 8 years the Jacinto City North Shore Sergeant York A.L. Post 397 has been inactive. The Post is located at 10216 Challenger 7 Dr, where the building has been abandoned, and is in need of repairs. The A.L. mission is to provide support and assistance for the wellbeing of Veterans and their family. Therefore the Jacinto City Veterans community is in

CONTINUED. SEE AMERICAN LEGION, PAGE 5

Lady Mustangs Stampede Over Lady Eagles

North Shore 74 – Atascocita 19

By Allan Jamail

Houston, Tx. – Friday, February 3, 2023 the fast breaking North Shore (NS) Varsity Lady Mustangs plucked the wings off the visiting Atascocita Lady Eagles. Head Coach Allison Campbell's Mustangs have an 11 win – 2 loss district record, while the Eagles are 1 win – 12 losses.

Coach Campbell and Assistant Coach Gigi Gaudet continuously kept fresh players going in the

From the opening tipoff it was apparent NS was

CONTINUED. SEE MUSTANGS CRUSHED THEIR RIVAL, PAGE 3



2022/2023 NS Lady Mustangs- Standing L-R: Assist. Coach Gigi Gaudet, Mgr. J'Skya Lee-Mills, Branasia Brazelton, Aryanna Boston, Ayanna Williams, Yaslyn Gonzales, Neveah Bridges, Alexis Hebert, Mgr. J'Naya Lee-Mills & Coach Allison Campbell- Seated L-R: Kobe Johnson, Shalayne Morgan, Simran Williams & Dee Wilson (Photo by Allan Jamail)

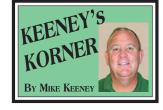
Mahomes goes for second title, Hurts first, As Chiefs, Eagles meet in Super Bowl LVII

By Mike Keeney

After all the dust has cleared after the NFL's second 18-week and 117-game season, the two teams with the best records during the 2022 season will meet in Super Bowl 57 in Glendale, AZ this Sunday.

The Kansas City Chiefs and Philadelphia Eagles both finished 14-3 on the season, were the top seeds in their respective conferences and will each carry 16 wins into Sunday's big game to determine who takes home the coveted Lombardi Trophy.

This should be a classic contest featuring two of the game's best young quarterbacks in KC's Patrick Mahomes and Philly's Jalen Hurts. Both are products of Texas high school football, with Hurts coming out of Channelview High School. In addition, this will be the first time in Super Bowl history that two African-American



quarterbacks will start in a Super Bowl.

Before we take a deeper look into the Big Game, I want to personally thank all of you who have shown me support and compassion after the passing away of my wife Sharon on Jan. 19 in our home in Humble. I do not know what I would have done without your care, calls, texts and sympathetic ears.

Sharon and I were together for 27 years and married for 21 years. She was my best friend and made me a better person. I am going to miss her more than you can know, but I will be sustained by the wonderful memories we shared for almost 30 years. I'm fortunate that I have my stepdaughter

Kim, her husband Sean, my stepson Shane, his partner Jill and our grandchildren Cooper, Vivian and Cole here for each oth-

Rest well, Babe. I will always love you.

Now, back to this year's SB column.

This will be the Chiefs fifth SB appearance, they have won two (the last being following the 2019 season when they defeated San Francisco, 31-20. The Eagles will be making their fourth SB appearance and seeking their second title after winning it all following the 2018 season with a 41-33 victory over Bill Belichick, Tom Brady and the New England Patriots.

KC head coach Andy Reid will be looking for his second Lombardi Title and has forged a 247-138-1 record in his 24 years as a head coach. This is his

Continued. See Super Bowl, Page 7

Channelview exQB will lead Philly in Super Bowl

Win over North Shore in 2014 was start of legacy

As the Philadelphia Eagles and the Kansas City Chiefs gather in Pheonix for next Sunday's Super Bowl LVII, Houston fans from Channelview and throughout the city will have their eyes on a favorite son, Eagles Quarterback Jalen Hurts.

Jalen has become well-known nationally, leading the Philadelphia Eagles this year to the Super Bowl, with a 14-3 record in the regular season, and subsequent play-off wins.

However, his rise to fame began in October 2014, when as a junior quarterback for his high school team, the Channelview Falcons, he led his underdog team to a 49-48 victory over the dominant North Shore Mustangs with a 38-yard Hail Mary pass with no time left. Thus began his claim to fame and his legacy.

Jalen was playing under the tutelage of Averion Hurts, the head coach for Channelview and his father. After that win in 2014, recruiters began to follow his performance. He continued to show promise with a technique that included record set in passing and rushing.

Jalen excelled through hard work and determination to succeed. He was recruited by top football schools such as Texas A&M but chose Alabama under coach Nick Saban. At Alabama he was the SEC Offensive Player of the Year, and Freshman of the Year, but lost 35-31 to Clemson in the National Championship Game.



Jalen Hurts, native of Channelview, is the QB for the Philadelphia Eagles

Thus would start a tale of doubts and setbacks along with his successes. Although he led the Crimson Tide to the 2018 Title Game against Georgia, he was pulled for Tua Tagovailoa in the game that Alabama won. He spent much of the next year as a back-up, and decided to transfer to Oklahoma.

Continued. See QB Jalen Hurts, Page 2

SHELDON ISD NEWS

Sheldon ISD Staff Recognized 14 Athletes Sign NCAA for Excellence in Education

The Houston Area Association for Bilingual Education (HAABE) recognizes outstanding bilingual and ESL educators from Houston and its surrounding areas. It is with heart-felt congratulations that we recognize the inaugural inductees into the Sheldon Bilingual/ESL Teachers of the Year for the 2022-2023 school year:

were selected by the multilingual department to represent Sheldon ISD. They were then voted by their peers, who were asked to provide great quotes describing their coworkers' stellar contributions to the classroom and beyond.

Our three candidates will move forward to the

These three teachers Houston regional contest and compete against surrounding area teachers. The winners will be announced at the April banquet. The winners of the HAABE teachers of the year then move forward to the Texas competition in the fall of 2023 and ultimately the National competition which will take place in 2024.



Bilingual Elementary Teacher - Teresa Moreno, 4th grade dual language at **Royalwood Elementary**



ESL Secondary Teacher - Aleiza Cabrera, newcomer 6th-8th grade at King Middle



ESL Elementary Teacher - Ida Gaines, kindergarten dual language at Sheldon Early

CHANNELVIEW ISD NEWS

Three Elementary Schools Qualifed for NCAA's 'Read To The Final Four' Bracket

Channelview, TX — January 23, 2023: Crenshaw, De Zavala at Schochler, and McMullan Elementary Schools qualified in the top 68 elementary schools in the Houston Metropolitan Area for the National Collegiate Athletic Association's (NCAA) literacy initiative dubbed "Read To The Final Four".

The NCAA's Read To The Final Four program is an annual literacy challenge designed to build a lifelong love and interest in reading for students in the cities in which the Men's and Women's Final Four basketball tournaments are held. Beginning in Houston in 2016, the literacy tournament has grown from 6,800 participants in its inaugural year to 39,000 participants across 391 schools and 11 school districts in 2023.

post as Superintendent, our teams across multiple departments have been focused on integrating literacy as a core tenant in our students' lives", said CISD Superintendent Dr. Tory C. Hill. "We are now beginning to see the fruit of our labors. I am proud of the work our students and staff have put in, but our job is not finished yet. Our work is done when we have earned the respect of our students by showing them why literacy is so important to their lives, academically and in the real-world."

Channelview ISD competitors are 3rd grade stuwho have contributed to the 26 million minutes logged in books leading up to the 2023 Final Four tournament. Out of 27 elementa-

"Since I've taken this ry schools in the North Channel Area, McMullan, De Zavala at Schochler, and Crenshaw Elementary are the only schools to qualify and compete in the city-wide literacy challenge.

> "We are honored to qualify and I am proud of our students and staff who put in the work at school and at home to help us get here," said De Zavala at Schochler Elementary School Principal Ann Garza. "Now that we've made it, we will make our school and community proud by continuing to instill that love for reading."

Lila Hollin

Executive Director of Communications

Channelview Independent School District

Letters of Intent









On February 1, 14 athletes on the C.E. King High School Football team participated in National Signing Day. The school celebrated them with a ceremony with coaches, administrators, teachers and family. Congratulations to:

Anthony Bates Jr. for Texas A&M at Kingsville Kam'Ron Bizor for Arkansas Pine Bluff Univer-

Albert Calles Villalta for Culver-Stockton College

Elias DeJean for Stephen F. Austin State University

Ivan Gallevos for North-

western Oklahoma State University Duaine Harris Jr. for

Texas Wesleyan Universi-Daniel Hernandez for

Trinity Valley Junior Col-Denim Johnson for

Friends University Jo'laison Landry for Texas State University

Logan Mackey for Weber State University

Bryce Morton for Abilene Christian Univer-

Ntienyong Williams for Tyler Junior College Keith Willis Jr. for Lou-

isiana Technical Universi-

Dylan Spencer for Texas Technical University

Our student athletes from other sports will celebrate their own signing event on April 3.



CHARLOTTE'S WEB

By Charlotte Jackson



Finding Hope in the Community

In a world of hurting people, do you know where to find help to restore your hope? Many people claim to have a personal relationship with God, yet they still get discouraged and need the help of humans. If you have a family member who is struggling with drugs, alcohol or a mental illness, where do you find the help they need?

For many years, in our community we only had two resources and of those, one took insurance and one did not. To make an appointment with either of these offices, you needed patience as often the first appointment was weeks away. Fortunately, there have been resources in the community offered by Uvalde Baptist Church as well as Alcoholics Anonymous. Yet, sometimes the person in addiction or dealing with a mental illness needs more than a group setting. Not to mention that their loved ones need to know how to cope with the stretch of the journey that seems neverending

Thanks to the dedication of several area residents as well as funding from East Harris County Empowerment Council, there are several graduates of their leadership program who now have a more active presence in the area.

Makeover in Christ was founded several years ago and works with individuals to overcome the insecurities which often lead a person to drugs or alcohol. Diane Pinkney is the founder of this program and is very familiar with families in the area, as she works for a lock school district and sees the effects of addiction in the faces of many of the students she works with. Sometimes when a student is acting out, it is due to what they see at home. The children feel that they have nowhere to turn but Diane has been a blessing to the students and they sense a trust factor and often ask for help. Their parents will reach out to her for lists of resources and she is there to help.

An additional resource is Strategic Recovery Solutions. This organization offers a variety of group meetings as well as individual coaching. They believe to meet a person right where they are and to help them to the path to recovery is essential for recovery. Conveniently located at 5144 East Sam Houston Parkway North, Suite115, there are groups that meet almost daily at various times for different needs. For more information, please contact Coach Dee at 832-582-4355.

While both of these resources are great for women and children, often there is a huge need for a man to speak life into someone battling addictions or perhaps needing some guidance for a father figure. Keep Enriching Youth Success (K.E.Y.S.) of Houston provides this and more. Darrel Sims believes in helping young people so they do not end up in the criminal justice system. He offers support groups as well as coaching services to help young people "get back on track" before they end up with issues in the courts. Some of his clients come from the courtrooms when they are court-ordered to participate in behavior modification programs. Others simply reach out to him to find resources and employment opportunities. If you need assistance, please reach out to him at 832-564-7887.

Together we can make a difference in our community. If you know of a resource that you would like to share, please contact Charlotte.Jackson@yahoo.com

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Mustangs Crushed Their Rival

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



Coaches receive team gifts at the season's last home game. L-R: #1 Shalayne Morgan, Head Coach Allison Campbell & Assist. Coach Gigi Gaudet (Photo by Allan Jamail)



#1 Shalyane Morgan, Lady Mustang goes airborne to make a layup basket over out stretch hands of Eagle players. (Photo by Allan Jamail)

going to dominate on both offense and defense. They led by double digits throughout the game. NS three leading scorers, Simran Williams 20, Dee Wilson 17 & Shalayne Morgan 14. Linda Jamail, NC Star Statistician.

Scoring by period:

| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | Fina |
|----|----|----|----|----|------|
| NS | 28 | 17 | 14 | 15 | 74 |
| A | 1 | 4 | 6 | 8 | 19 |

Coach Campbell's Lady Mustangs (11-2) travel to play the Kingwood Lady Mustangs (4-9) for their last district game of the season, Tuesday, 2-7-23 @ 7pm. Time Keeper/Clock Ann Semler.

Dealing with the loss of a loved one is never easy, but maybe these guys can help!

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ASK DIAMOND JIM

Diamond Jim: "What is My Birthstone?"

Birthstones are gemstones that symbolize the birth month of a person. Gemstones are minerals chosen for their beauty and durability, then cut or faceted to make jewelry.



Birthstones Month by Month

January - Garnet

Garnet is admired for its fiery colors and the sparkle in all colors. Some believe that garnets are protective stones.

February - Amethyst

Amethyst is a crystalline form of quartz that comes in many colors. It has a hardness rating of 7, which means it's scratch-resistant and perfect for any jewelry. Amethyst is associated with spirituality, loyalty, and healing.

March - Aquamarine

Aquamarine is the blue-to-blue-green member of the beryl family. It is named after the color of seawater. Some associate aquamarine with marital bliss, love and hope.

April - Diamond

Diamonds are the most popular gemstone choice among ring designs. With their extreme hardness, undeniable beauty and overall durability, diamonds are associated with strength and eternal love.

May -Emerald

Emerald in Greek means green stone. A fine emerald is a truly spectacular sight. Emerald is believed to give the wearer good fortune.

June - Pearl

The only gems found within living creatures; mollusks. However, most pearls are cultured or cultivated since they now rarely occur in nature. Pearl is naturally associated with honesty, purity and wisdom.

July - Ruby

One of the most famous traditional jewelry stones. Ruby is exceptionally durable and has vivid colors. Fine quality rubies are some of the most expensive stones. Rubies have long been associated with physicality and strength.

August – Peridot

Peridot has been valued as a gemstone since ancient times. The specific shade of peridot depends on its source and where it was formed. Peridots are believed to protect

September - Sapphire

Sapphire has been valued throughout history for its intense blue color and phenomenal durability. However, not all sapphires are blue. Sapphire is believed to offer protection

October - Opal

Opals are unique and beautiful but require special care: they're the most delicate gemstone commonly worn. Opals are associated with love and passion.

November - Citrine

Citrine is a yellow-to-red-orange variety of crystalline quartz, which has recently enjoyed increased popularity. Citrine is associated with health and happiness.

December - Blue Topaz

In its natural state, topaz is pale or colorless. This gemstone must be subjected to laboratory processes to make it vivid greenish blue. Blue topazes are both beautiful and inexpensive. Blue topaz is popularly associated with wealth.

If you are looking for a birthstone, look no further than <u>Pineforest Jewelry</u>. <u>Contact us</u> if you need assistance deciding on the right gemstone to buy.

Thank you for reading the "Ask Diamond Jim" column and for supporting the North Channel Star Newspaper!

Diamond Jim is a master jeweler, diamond dealer and precious metals broker. Pineforest Jewelry has been a proud member of the Independent Jewelers Organization (IJO) and the Retail Jewelers Organization (RJO) for many years. See more at: www.pineforestjewelry.com.

If you have questions pertaining to jewelry, watches, diamonds, precious stones, precious metals, and other questions related to the jewelry industry, email jmills@pineforestjewelry.com.





OPINION PAGE \bigstar \bigstar



Time to Get America's Fiscal House in Order: Here are the First Steps

The national debt is \$31.5 trillion and counting. If it were divided among all income taxpayers, each person would be on the hook for nearly \$250,000.

Will we ever be in a situation where the average taxpayer receives a quarter-million-dollar bill from the U.S. government? Not a chance. But it's startling to see how much debt the United States has taken on, and even more jarring to realize there's no plan to address it.

Making matters worse, we're quickly approaching an alarming deadline. Unless action is taken soon, the U.S. will default on its debts in the coming months, sending our wobbly economy into a fullblown spiral.

This looming crisis didn't pop up out of nowhere. The U.S. narrowly avoided a debt crisis in 2021, but we've been moving toward this unavoidable reality for years. Out-of-control spending habits have driven the national debt from \$3.2 trillion in 1980, to \$9.7 trillion in 2000, to \$31.5 trillion today.

Washington can't continue to borrow and spend like there's no tomorrow. It's time to address the root causes that brought us here.

First, Congress needs to return to regular order in funding the government each fiscal year. It must abandon the habit of stopgap funding bills and lastminute omnibuses and pass regular, on-time appropriations bills.

The Senate and House Appropriations Committees are charged with writing 12 separate bills to fund different components of the federal government prior to Sept. 30, the end of the government's fiscal year. That didn't happen in 2022 or 2021. The Democrat-led Senate did not pass a single regular appropriations bill and instead used stopgap funding measures to keep the wheels of government turning while they compiled a massive spending bill. All of this happened in a rushed fashion, completely out of the public's view.

This is a maddening way to fund the government, and it's time for change. Public hearings, debates, and votes on individual appropriations bills are the only path forward. Temporary funding legislation and 4,000-page appropriation bills are not the picture of responsible governing.

Next, we need to reform spending. There's bipartisan agreement that entitlements, which account for nearly two-thirds of the federal budget, are unsustainable in their current form. Projections show Social Security recipients will see a reduction of almost 25% in their benefits if we do nothing – an unacceptable outcome. It's time for tough conversations and significant reforms to protect the longevity of these programs for the people who need them most. Sen. Mitt Romney's, R-Utah, TRUST Act, which seeks to rescue the Social Security Trust Fund, is a great starting point for these conversa-

Finally, Congress should pass a balanced budget amendment – similar to ones I've authored and voted for previously - to make clear that the government can't spend more than it takes in. There's realworld evidence that balanced budget requirements work. Virtually every state in the nation has one, including Texas, which just started its legislative session with a \$33 billion surplus. States, families, and businesses across the country have no choice but to operate on a balanced budget. The federal government should do the same.

There are a range of other measures Congress can take to address the financial fire that's raging.

Congress should ban earmarks to ensure critical funding bills are not a playground for quid pro quo. I've opposed the use of earmarks and voted to strip them out of the most recent omnibus bill.

Senate Republicans have offered a laundry list of bills to restore order and accountability in federal

Sen. Mike Braun's, R-Ind., No Budget, No Pay Act would suspend pay for members of the House and Senate if Congress fails to pass a budget or spending bills on time.

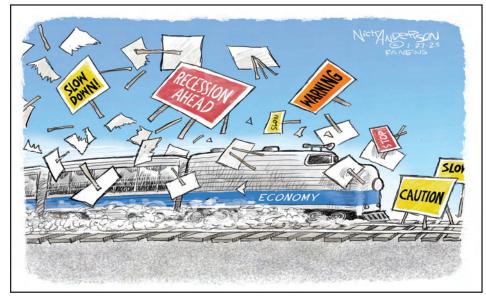
Sen. Mike Lee's, R-Utah, CBO Show Your Work Act would require the Congressional Budget Office to publish the data and models it uses analyze the cost of legislation.

If government funding is not enacted on time, Sen. James Lankford's, R-Okla., Prevent Government Shutdowns Act would force Congress to stay in session until funding agreements are reached, and ensure the government stays open until that

These are just a few of the countless proposals Senate Republicans have put forward that deserve serious consideration.

President Biden needs to ditch his head-in-thesand approach to this crisis and work with Republicans to get our financial house in order. He was in the room when Congress negotiated the 2011 Budget Control Act, which was the last meaningful attempt to restrain Washington spending. If the president wants to lead, this is his chance.

The national debt will haunt every generation until enough leaders show the courage to make tough choices and fix this mess. There's never been a more important time for action. I encourage my colleagues to join me in this process.





STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Gary Borders



Ice Storm Wreaks havoc in Much of State

Residents in Central and Northeast Texas are still cleaning up after a winter storm last week snapped power lines and tree limbs, causing widespread power outages, canceled flights and damage to homes and ve-

At its peak, nearly 400,000 Texas households were without power, according to poweroutage.us. As of Sunday, that number had dropped to 62,456.

The outages were due to downed power lines, not by problems with the state's power grid. The Texas Railroad Commission said the state's natural gas supply also held steady, with natural gas utilities reporting no service issues during the storm.

Airports in the state's metropolitan areas reported several hundred flight cancellations because of icy conditions. Many schools in the Dallas area and around Austin were closed for the entire week.

The Texas Department of Insurance offered some advice to homeowners dealing with damage cause by fallen tree branches landing on vehicles and homes. That includes taking photos of the damage before moving the tree; making temporary repairs and contact your insurance agent as soon as possible; and saving all receipts for labor and repair materials to be reimbursed.

While the danger from last week's storm has largely passed, the Texas Department of State Health Services provided advice for future winter events, urging people to use extreme caution with electric generators and heaters that produce carbon monoxide.

Generators should only be used outdoors, at least 10 feet away from buildings. Outdoor grills, camp stoves and other heaters that produced carbon monoxide should only be used outside. Carbon monoxide is an odorless and colorless gas that can cause death.

FENTANYL TEST STRIPS BACKED **BY LAWMAKERS**

Test strips that would determine whether pills, powders, or other forms of drugs are laced with deadly fentanyl might be legalized, if a bipartisan group of lawmakers have their way.

The percentage of overdose deaths tied to fentanyl has ris-



en to 97%, according to a report in the Austin American-Statesman. Gov. Gregg Abbott has ended his opposition to legalizing the strips, and several nearly identical bills have been filed in both the House and Senate as a result.

"They deserve action, action that will save other innocent families from the devastation they have suffered," Abbott said in January. "And they will get that action this session."

Legislators are also considering measures to increase the penalty for manufacturing or delivering fentanyl even in small amounts to a third-degree felony. Right now, it is a state jail felony.

Meanwhile, the state comptroller's office is being pushed to speed up distribution of more than \$1 billion in funds from the Opioid Abatement Settlement Fund, intended to mitigate the fentanyl crisis. The money comes from settlements with opioid manufacturers and distributors.

"We've somewhat sacrificed expediency in getting dollars out the door," Hegar said. "We have to create a system that treats everybody fairly and everybody understands the pro-

DSHS data indicates 1,569 Texans died of a fentanyl-related overdose last year, according to the Statesman report.

STATE PARKS CONTINUE CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

Texas state parks turn 100 years old in 2023 and are celebrating with a host of events. This month includes several celebrations in North Texas, East Texas, Huntsville and San Antonio, including a variety of events marking Black History

Texas Parks and Wildlife

Foundation is partnering with TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and H-E-B for the celebrations, with the grocery chain donating \$1 million to help the parks system engage Texans to discover and enjoy their state parks. For more information on the

celebration, including community events, the history of Texas State Parks and how to make a day visit or overnight reservation, visit the Texas State Parks 100 Years website at TexasStateParks.org/ 100years.

HOUSING COST BURDEN **EXAMINED**

The Texas Demographic Center has used census data to examine housing cost burdens in the state. That is when a household spends more than 30% of its monthly income on housing costs, including rent or mortgage payments, utilities and other costs.

The center concludes that counties with the highest percent of households dealing with housing cost burdens are in the so-called Texas Triangle along the Austin-San Antonio corridor, as well as some border counties.

The study found that nearly half of Texas renters – 1.7 million — spent more than 30% of their income on housing costs from 2017-2021, with a median monthly housing cost of \$1.146. Among homeowners, 21% experienced housing costs burden during the same period, with median monthly housing costs of \$1.747.

Texas ranked 10th in median gross rent from 2017-2021. Hawaii was the most expensive state, followed by California.

TEXAS COMPANY HOPES TO BRING BACK DODO BIRD

A Texas company is hoping to bring back the long-extinct dodo bird, along with the wooly mammoth and the Tasmanian according tiger, a Statesman story.

Colossal Biosciences, with offices in Austin, Dallas and Boston, is using gene-editing technologies to restore extinct animals.

The dodo bird, closely related to the pigeon, went extinct in 1662 in its native Mauritius, an island nation located in the Indian Ocean. It was wiped out due to human settlement and ecosystem competition.

The company was founded in 2021 to work in the field of deextinction and combatting climate change. It recently announced an additional \$150 million in new funding.

"Being able to recreate something that is functionally similar to an extinct species that's as prevalent in people's minds as the dodo is hopefully going to create a little bit of enthusiasm for thinking about consequences of human cost extinctions," Beth Shapiro, a paleogeneticist with the company, said.

NEW COVID-19 CASES, DEATHS

The number of new cases of COVID-19 in Texas during the past week rose to 38,947, more than 15,000 from the previous week, according the Coronavirus Resource Center at Johns Hopkins University.



"Barely Remembered"

"The worst thing," I told my mother, "was when you made us eat venison sausages for lunch. That sausage lasted for-

I am visiting my parents, and we somehow got to discussing our less-than-favorite foods. My mother always made wonderful school lunches with fresh fruit and a homemade cookie. But memory is fickle. What I remember most clearly was when my father brought home from work what seemed to me, as an elementary-school-age kid, a venison sausage the size of a baseball bat, and I had to eat sandwiches made from itforever, as I recall.

"That was not the worst thing," my father said.

"No, you're right," I agreed. "The worst thing was when you made tongue sandwiches. I didn't eat those.'

"When did I make you a tongue sandwich?" my mother asked.

"You made it for my lunch!" "How did you know it was tongue?" she asked. "It had bumps!" I told her,

suddenly reliving the experi-"It couldn't have had many

bumps," my mother said. "How many bumps do you think it needs for an 8-year-old

to refuse to eat it?" I asked. My mother laughed. She's not a fan of tongue, either.

We were talking after dinner. My husband, Peter, and I were visiting my parents in their home "up north." We were having my mother's pumpkin bars for dessert and talking about old times and relatives I barely remembered—if at all.

I knew my mother's father had a brother named Evald, and I knew they used to go fishing. I remember my grandmother saying that grandpa was not going up north to fish but to drink beer with Evald. I figured with 11 kids to raise and 50 cows to milk, drinking a little beer with Evald once a year wasn't the worst thing a guy could do.

"I've never seen the house you lived in when you were little!" I told my mom.

"It's in kind of sad shape, last I saw," she told me. "But it's still there. You need a tour!" "I do," I agreed.

Memory is a funny thing. It seems to disappear completely, then slaps us with a vivid clarity—like an image of the bumps on a tongue sandwich eaten (or not eaten) 50 years ago.

I'm going to take a tour of the house my mother and her siblings grew up in the next chance I get. Even if the old farmhouse isn't looking as fine as it used to, even if it's been empty for a long time. I'd like to hear what memories my mom has when she sees it again and try to imagine some of the things that are now barely remembered.

"That was not the worst thing," my father said again. "We didn't make you eat the

"What was the worst thing?" I asked him, trying to think what could be worse than a tongue sandwich in elementary school.

"You remember what your Uncle Evald gave us?" my dad asked my mom.

"No!" my mother said.

Uncle Evald lived off the land, up in the north woods, occasionally driving a school bus, from what my mother said.

"It was canned bear meat. In a jar. The fat had separated from the rest of it."

"I don't think I ever saw that," my mother said.

"That wasn't the worst of it," my dad continued. "There was hair in the jar!"

"No!" my mother said.

"There was," my dad said. "So, it could have been worse than venison sausage for lunch."

I had to admit, my dad was right.

Till next time,

Photos and other news can be found at <u>CarrieClasson.com</u>.



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YELLOW JACKET COLLEGE SIGNING DAY

Soccer Star Iris Marie Garcia

By Allan Jamail

Galena Park, TX. - January, 25, 2023 College scholarship signing day for Iris Garcia took place at the Yellow Jacket's sports complex. Attending the event was Spiro Amarantos, Head Football Coach/Athletic Coordinator, Soccer Head Coach Alejandra Cruz, Assistant Coach Brittany Bray, family members, teammates and a host of classmates.

This past December girl's senior soccer player Iris Garcia received a fullride athletic scholarship offer from Nebraska Wesleyan University. She was also accepted into NWU's Nursing Program where she plans to earn a Bachelor of Science in Nursing.

As a freshman Iris made the Junior Varsity Team, the following year, she earned a letter in varsity soccer, as a sopho-



Soccer Star Iris Marie Garcia, seated in the center with parents, family members, coaches and teammates.- Family seated, L to R: Jonathan Garcia, Osvaldo Garcia, Isaac Garcia, Iris Garcia, Betty Garcia, Elvis Garcia, Aidan Garcia.- Coaches & teammates standing, L to R: Joselin Hernandez, Melanie Cortes, Idalis Hurtado, Desirae Vasquez, Allison Flores, Giuliani VIIIanueva, Sarahi Jacome, Emily Zamora, America Zuniga, Alexa Garcia, Coach Cruz, Italia Estrada, Coach Bray, Alessandra Garcia, Jimena Castro, Maritza Sanchez, Katia Marquez, Teresa Diaz, Genesis Heinaman, Arely Montemayor, Wendy Escamilla (Photo by Allan Jamail)

more and this year as a senior she earned a captain band. She appeared in 52 varsity games and counting. She led our team this year in the district with 6 goals and 3

assists in 4 district games. Aside from the soccer program she's also part of the Dash Youth Soccer Club and is a dual credit student at San Jacinto Com-

the Medical Assistant Pro-

Coach Alejandra Cruz said, "Iris's perseverance and self-motivation al-

Legion Event,

munity College and part of lowed her to be the phenomenal person she is today. It saddens the GPHS soccer program to lose such an incredibly wellrounded Yellow Jacket

Jacinto City American

student-athlete, but most importantly it brings joy to see the success she has ahead of her in her new home as a Prairie Wolf at Nebraska Wesleyan."

Lady Mustang College Star Atria "Tree" Dumas

By Allan Jamail

February 3, 2023 last year's North Shore's (NS) Lady Mustang basketball star, Atria "Tree" Dumas as a college freshman wasted no time making the starting team for the Tyler Junior College Lady Apaches. At NS she averaged 20 points per game helping to take them to the playoffs.

The defending national champion Tyler Junior College Apache Ladies had a Region XIV women's basketball game with the Angelina Lady 'Runners in Lufkin recently. "Tree" had 23 points and 13 rebounds to lead Tyler to a dominating 73-63 win.

"Tree" who's majoring in engineering got her nickname from her 6'-3" height, as a power-forward she's averaging double digit points per game as the Lady Apaches are eyeing a playoff season.



Atria "Tree" Dumas makes a layup shot for Lady Apaches. (Photo by Allan Jamail)

need of this A.L. Post."

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Olga Schultz, Houston Community College - VA Certifying Official explained how HCC can benefit veterans with the HCC Veteran & Military Affiliated Student Success (VMASS) program. She said, "Educational benefits are available for veterans and their dependants. They can apply at: Vets.gov then complete the online admission application at: hccs.edu/apply and continue through the online prompts." To learn more, call; 713-718-8522 or m a i l vmassonline@hccs.edu, or visit www.hccs.edu/veter-

Worker for the Veterans Affair (VA) said, "Emergency suicide prevention is available instantly by dialing the free VA's hotline; dial 988 and then press 1. The veteran's crisis hotline can also be used for nonemergencies dealing with emotional and or mental health related issues. Call the same 988 and then press 1, or 1-800-273-8255 then press 1. Or a confidential chat VeteransCrisisline.net or text to 838255. I encourage veterans to explore the many benefits and resources available to them at: www.va.gov, Cabusas said."

The VA also provides non-healthcare benefits which include disability compensation, vocational rehabilitation, education assistance, home loans, and life insurance. The VA also provides burial and memorial benefits to eligible veterans and family members.

Tom Marty, Vice Com-

mander, A.L. Department of Texas said regarding the revitalization of the Jacinto City post, "The A.L. is here today, to reach out to the veterans of this community. We visit to show our support and offer assistance where needed. The A.L. has been here for the last 103 years and we plan to be here for at least the next 100 years. Why join A.L. visit: the membership@legion.org

Michael Lacy, State Service Officer said. "Thank you Allan for covering our event. We've had a great turnout and helped several veterans with questions and issues with the VA. The American Legion is based on four pillars: Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation, National Security, Americanism, and Children & Youth. Each of these pillars encompasses a variety of programs that benefit our nation's veterans, its service members, their families, the youth of America and ordinary citi-

As I am the state service officer for the A.L. here in Houston my primary goal is to assist with our first pillar, Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation. Outreach events like the one in Jacinto city help us reach veterans in the community and surrounding area who may not know of their benefits or are unaware of what the American Legion can do for them. I would suggest Legion.org or TXlegion.org for more information on the Legion and what we can do for veterans and families.

Kim Hadaway, President, American Legion Auxiliary Galena Park post 499 was present to recruit members said, "We honor our veterans and we would like to give back through event and community connections." Hadaway and Photojournalist Allan Jamail will be meeting to discuss ways to recruit more members into the GP auxiliary.

Patricia LeCamus, President of the Galena Park Seniors Fun Club was present to help several veterans she knew needing help.

R. C. Stearns Chief Executive Officer of the Joseph House (JH) and Dr. Sheila Wilson, Director of the JH in Jacinto City were present to offer their services to veterans.

Veteran Frank Staley who was present said, "For all those veterans that have served our country. and the sacrifices they gave, surely God has a special place for them in Heaven."

Jacinto City citizen Rachel Muñiz, said she was glad to see the needed event and offered her help and support for veterans. Her husband the late Joe Muñiz was active in the community and JC post.

In closing remarks Commander Rumph said, "In the next few months we're planning fund raisers to try and raise funds to repair and renovate the JC Post building. We're looking for donations, and volunteers to help with the renovation. The Post has a long history of Veterans being active in the Jacinto City community. Please contact me, we need anyone's help, regardless if a veteran or not call: 832-797-1508 or email: rumphd@sbcglobal.net.

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Kris Dahlquist wins Chili Feast Car

held their 48th annual Chili Feast last Saturday, and awarded a new 2023 Chevrolet Trailblazer in their raffle, to Highlands resident Kris Dahlquist.

Hundreds attended this annual community get-togather, and enjoyed delicious chili dinners and socializing with many folks they hadn't seen since last

AT RIGHT, Rotarian Andy Scott, Tony Dahlquist, Kris Dahlquist, and Rotarian Denise Smith with Kris' new car, won in the Highlands Rotary Chili Feast Raffle.



This is the main fundraising event for the Rotary club, and the proceeds of about \$100,000 are used throughout the year for community and Rotary projects and scholarships. Last year the club awarded 18 scholarships, totalling over \$32,000, mainly from proceeds of this event. Over the 48 years of the event, Highlands Rotary has returned almost \$1 million to the community in improvements and

CONTINUED. See Chili Feast Winner, Page 5

project support. The Chili Feast was chaired this year by Denise Smith, who said:

"Highlands Rotary Club Fundraiser is a big success!!!!

Many thanks to all Rotarians for your commitment & hard work. Special shout out to the Chinquapin Interact Club and North Shore Anchor Club..we absolutely could not hold this event without you. Thanks to all who bought sponsorships, raffle tickets, donated & bought auction items and volunteered on Saturday. We had a successful event thanks to all of you."

Major sponsors included Daniel's Meat Market, Right Way Sand, and Hill Materials. Rotary president Andy Scott thanked all the Rotarians, Chinquapin Interace and North Shore Anchor club and the community for the support and assistance given to this event.

Highlands Rotary Chili Feast RAFFLE 2023 LIST OF WINNERS

| TICKET DRAWING ORDER | PRIZE DESCRIPTION | WINNING TICKET NUMBER | NAME ON TICKET |
|----------------------------|--|-----------------------------|-----------------------|
| Early Bird | \$300 Visa Gift Card | 28 | Jennifer Bell |
| 1st | \$200 Gift Card | 348 | Don Hill |
| 50 th | 32" Smart TV | 189 | Brett & Jessica Marsh |
| 100 th | Portable Ice Maker | 584 | Don Hill |
| 150 th | \$200 Gift Card | 591 | Victor Chavez |
| 200 th | Air Comp/Batt Charger | 363 | Rogers S'mmons |
| 250 th | Beats headphones | 0003 | Hunter Harris |
| 300 th | \$200 Gift Card | 35 | Ricky Hinojosa |
| 350 th | Air Fryer | 301 | David Kostka |
| 400 th | 65qt Arctic Cooler | 1800 | Linda Mills |
| 450 th | Shotgun | 108 | Jeff Dyson |
| 500 th | \$200 Gift Card | 289 | Wester Cotter |
| 550 th | 28" Black Stone Cooker | 0065 | Lana Gaeke |
| 600 th | Propane Fire Pit | 0258 | 147 Fillin |
| 650 th | 22-250 Rifle | 0610 | Diana Weaver |
| 699 th | 55" Smart TV | 0190 | Haavey Little |
| 700 th | 2023 Chevy Trailblazer or Chevy Equinox SUV | 0120 | Chris Dakkquist |

Highlands Rotary thanks everyone who helped make this 2023 Chili Feast a Success.

ROTARY CLUB NEWS



NEW MEMMBERS AT GALENA PARK/JACINTO CITY ROTARY: Jodi Carmichael Lynn S. Nutt Wayman Randolph Dr. Tony Gardea WELCOME TO ROTARY!



UKRAINE RELIEF MEDICAL SUPPLIES Galena Park/Jacinto City Rotary Club donates \$3,500 from the Baked Potato Sale, to Medical Bridges organization, represented by Bonnie Oggero, volunteer coordinator, and Trevonna Hendrix, Director of Global Health.

Also in the photo, Rotarians Maria Cortez, Mr. Shepard, and President Julian Guillory. Guillory is also named as Rotarian of the Year. CONGRATULATIONS!

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Directors of Harris County F.W.S.D. No. 6, Channelview, Texas, Harris County, will be received at

Harris County F.W.S.D. No. 6, 15902 Market Street, Channelview, Texas 77530 until 2:00 P.M.,

Thursday, March 2, 2023, and then publicly opened and read for construction of the "New Water

Accompany Bids with acceptable Cashier's or Certified Check in the amount of five percent (5%) of

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Dollars (\$100.00 non-refundable plus cost of delivery) (\$50.00 for electronic copy) for each set of

documents, which sum will not be refunded. A printed set can be picked up at LJA Engineering,

Examine documents at the East Houston office of LJA Engineering, Inc. Amtek Plan Room, Dodge

A Mandatory Pre-Bid Conference will be held on Thursday, February 23, 2023, at 2:00 P.M. at

the Harris County F.W.S.D. No. 6, Conference Room, 15902 Market Street, Channelview, Texas

approved surety company, as a guarantee that bidder will enter into a contract.

Inc., East Houston Office, 11821 East Freeway, Suite 360, Houston, TX 77029.

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Mahomes goes for second title, Hurts first, As Chiefs, Eagles meet in Super Bowl LVII

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

10th year as the Chiefs head coach after spending 14 years as the Eagles head man. During his time in Philly, Reid had a 130-93-1 record, led the Eagles to four appearances in the NFC Championship Game, one NFC title and one SB appearance, where Philly lost to New England and the Belichick and Brady duo following the 2004 season,

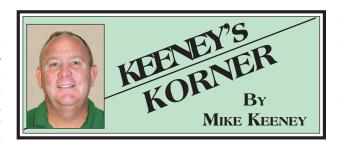
The Eagles were the class of the NFC led by brash second-year head coach Nick Sirianni. Sirianni has gone 25-11 in his two years leading the Eagles and has made the playoffs in each of his first two seasons as a head coach.

Reid is only the sixth head coach in NFL history to lead two different teams to the Super Bowl. The other four are: Don Shula (Baltimore and Miami). Dick Vermeil (Philadelphia and St. Louis Rams), Bill Parcells (New York Giants and New England Patriots), Mike Holmgren (Green Bay and Seattle) and Dan Reeves (Denver and Atlanta).

Both men will have their teams ready come Sunday, but will Reid's experience in playing and preparing a team three times for a Super Bowl be that big a difference? It very will could be.

While Reid and Sirianni prepare their teams, it's the players who will make the biggest difference in this game.

This game has the potential to be a high-scor-



ing affair thanks to the fact that weather will not be a factor come Sunday. The game will be played indoors on a fast track at State Farm Stadium, which should be a benefit to Mahomes and Hurts.

The health of a number of key Chiefs players will be a big concern this week as they prepare for the Big One. Starting cornerback LJarius Sneed is in concussion protocol, two of Mahomes targets at wide receiver are hurting as JuJu-Smith Schuster (78 receptions, 933 yards, 3 TDs during regular season) has a knee injury and speedy wideout Mecole Hardman has a pelvis injury. Starting linebacker Will Gay Jr., suffered a shoulder injury in KC's 23-20 win over Cincinnati in the AFC title game.

Mahomes (5,250 passing yards, 41 TDs during regular season) is also dinged up as he sustained a high ankle sprain in the Divisional round win against Jacksonville. The former Texas Tech star did return to the game and played all of the AFC title game. In two playoff games, Mahomes has thrown for 521 yards and has tossed 4 TDs). Having an extra week to rehab the ankle should have Mahomes at just about full speed come Sunday.

If Schuster and Hardman are out on Sunday. Mahomes will once again look to Mr. Reliable, tight end Travis Kelce (110 receptions, 1,338 yards, 11 TDs). In two playoff games, Kelce has grabbed 21 catches for 176 yards and 3 TDs. He tweaked his back two days before the Cinci game, but should be good to go for the SB. If Schuster and Hardman are out, or limited come Sunday, KC will need fellow wide receiver Marquez Valdes-Scantling to step up. He played well in the AFC title game grabbing eight

Rookie running back Isiah Pacheco (930 rushing yards, 3 TDs in regular season) could be a key factor in this game, especially in the passing game. Pacheco has blazing speed and has started for a good portion of the season. Mahomes could look for him out of the backfield on screens and circle routes to let him do his thing in the open field.

passes for 116 yards and

a touchdown.

Mahomes is the best QB in the NFL at the moment, but he will face a stern test Sunday when he faces an Eagles defense whose front seven has wreaked havoc all season long against opposing QBs.

The Philly defense has recorded 70 sacks this year and forced 27 turnovers (17 interceptions and 10 fumble recoveries). Philly became the first team in NFL history to have four defensive linemen record doubledigit sacks. Javon Hargrove had 11. Hasson Riddick had 16 (3.5 in the playoffs and a fumble recovery), while Josh Sweat and Brandon Graham each recorded 11 sacks this season. The Eagles added 8 sacks in their first two playoff games.

The Chiefs offensive line will need to play its best game of the year and can't struggle like it did early against the Jags and Bengals. If Philly's front seven tees off on Mahomes early, it could be a long day for the Chiefs.

Offensively, Hurts (3,701 passing yards, 22 TDs/760 yards rushing, 13 TDs in regular season) has struggled in the passing game throwing for only 275 yards and 2 TDs in his first two playoff games. Big-play wide receivers A.J. Brown (88 receptions, 1,496 yards, 11 TDs in regular season) and Devonta Smith (95 receptions, 1,196 yards, 7 TDs) have been limited in the postseason. Brown has been limited to 7 catches for just 50 yards and no TDs in the playoffs, while Smith has been limited to 8 catches for 97 yards and 1 TD in the second season.

I expect that duo to get back on track against a suspect and beat up KC secondary. Should they struggle again, look for Hurts to turn to tight end

ACROSS

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16 Museumfunding org. 17 Verdi opera

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20 Funhouse feature

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Dallas Gooedert (55 receptions, 702 yards, 3 TDs in regular season; 10 receptions, 81 yards, 1 TDs in playoffs).

Hurts could still be feeling the effects of a shoulder injury he sustained in Week 15 at Chicago. He hasn't been good throwing deep in the playoffs, and like Mahomes, perhaps the extra week of rest will help with his shoulder.

While the Eagles have struggled in the passing game, they have been rolling on the ground. In two playoff games, Philly has rushed for 416 yards (208 yards a game) and 7 touchdowns. Reserve running back Kenneth Gainwell has been the team's leading rusher in the postseason with 160 yards and 1 TD, while starter Miles Sanders (1,269 yards, 11 TDs in regular season) has added $132\,$ yards and $2\,$ TDs.

The KC defense will need a big game from defensive tackles Chris Jones (2 sacks in AFC title game) and Frank

Clark to slow down the Philly running game and apply pressure to Hurts, who is an excellent scrambler.

The Eagles appear to be the better and healthier team on paper, but I think Mahomes' experience (this will be his third Super Bowl game in the last four years) will be a huge factor in the game, plus his big-play ability.

Hurts will make plays with his arm and legs and the Eagles defense will look to get to Mahomes early. Look for the KC offensive line to play its best game of the season. They, and Reid, know their only chance for a second Lombardi Trophy in the last four years rides on keeping Mahomes upright so he can make plays downfield to Kelce and his wideouts.

This has the potential to be a classic Super Bowl, and at the end of the day, Chief fans will be smiling once again thanks to No. 15. My pick, Kansas City 34, Philadelphia 30

QB Jalen Hurts in Super Bowl,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

At OU he led the Sooners to a winning record in 2019, losing only to LSU in the semi-finals. He finished second in the voting for the Heisman Trophy, after LSU's Joe Burrow.

In the 2019 NFL draft, Jalen was the second round pick by Philadelphia, and named starter late in the season. He led the Eagles to the play-offs last season, and this season was one of five finalists for the NFL MVP Award

Jalen continues to get

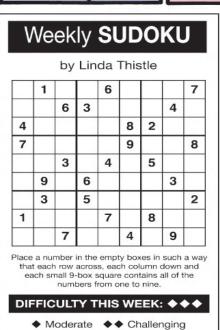
support and advice from his coach father, his brother Averion Jr., and support from his whole family who usually attend his games. This year they will again be in the stands, for the Super Bowl in Glendale, Arizona.

His father summed it up, saying "I am proud of the man he has become." And this feeling is shared by all of his fans, friends and former teammates, as he continues to represent the best of Houston's #Eastside.

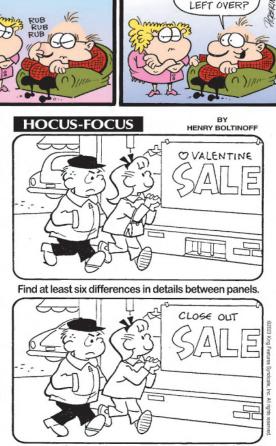


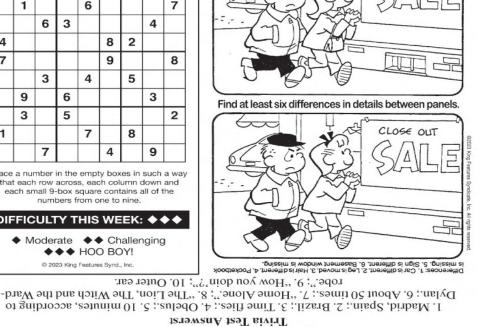
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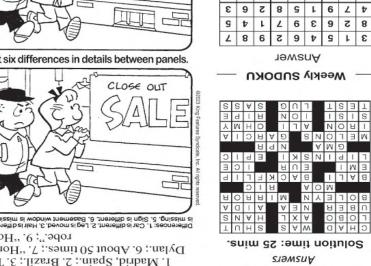


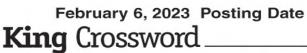


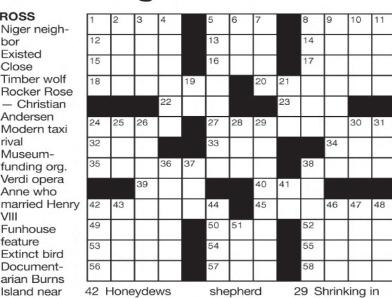
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Golf bag item Vagrant 3 Genesis

28 Arctic seabird © 2023 King Features Synd., Inc.

29 Shrinking in fear

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51 Singer Rawls

1. ART: Where is the Prado Museum located?

2. GEOGRAPHY: What is the only country that the Equator and the Tropic of Capricorn pass through? 3. LANGUAGE: What does the Latin phrase

"tempus fugit" mean?

4. MATH: What is another name for the divi-

5. MUSIC: How long did it take singer Bob Dylan to write the big hit "Blowin' in the Wind"? 6. ANIMAL KINGDOM: How many times on average does a ruby-throated hummingbird flap its wings in one second?

7. MOVIES: Which movie features the line,

"Keep the change, ya filthy animal"? 8. LITERATURE: Which novel features four children named Peter, Susan, Edmund and Lucy? 9. TELEVISION: What is Joey's famous line in

the sitcom "Friends"? 10. ANATOMY: What is a common name for

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