



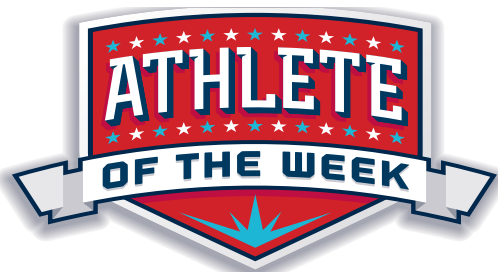
INSIDE
Squirrels:
Can't beat 'em,
feed 'em

Page 2

YOUR FORECAST



Good chance of rain
Highs today reaching 88.
Lows tonight in the lower 60s.
Highs Friday in the lower 90s.
Perfect weather for Football Friday.



See Page 6

Breast Cancer Awareness Month



Ruston Daily Leader

Thursday, October 7, 2021

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Halloween Happenings

City sets pumpkin carving, pet costume contests

By Nancy Bergeron
nancy@rustonleader.com

Area residents have a chance to show off their pumpkin carving skills and their pet's best Halloween attire during Ruston's Pumpkins in the Park and Pet Costume Contest, set for 5 p.m. Oct. 16 in Railroad Park. Both contests are free to enter.

See HALLOWEEN HAPPENINGS, page 5

Trick-or-treat for seniors

Ruston Regional Hospital event offering vaccinations

By Nancy Bergeron
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Local seniors who think their trick-or-treating days are long gone might want to the reconsider.

Ruston Regional Specialty Rehabilitation Hospital is hosting a senior expo "trunk-or-treat" from 10 a.m. until noon Oct. 15 in the south parking lot of the facility located at 1401 Ezell Street.

Seniors will drive through — they don't even have to get out of their vehicles — and receive information, as well as treats, from upwards of 25 health care-related vendors, Kristi Dunn, Ruston Regional's assistant CNO, said Wednesday.

"It's like trick-or-treating for senior citizens," Dunn said.

This is the hospital's first foray into the trunk-or-treat format. Vendors will deck out the trunks of vehicles with Halloween decorations and participants

See HOSPITAL EVENT, page 5

Board raises staff bonus pay

By Caleb Daniel
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Thanks to rising sales tax collections, public school employees in Lincoln Parish will see an increase in their November supplement checks this year.

At its regular meeting Tuesday, the Lincoln Parish School Board unanimously approved the bonus pay at \$3,200 for certified teachers and \$1,600 for support staff

—increases of \$200 and \$100 over last year's payouts.

In addition to base pay, school district employees traditionally receive two bonus paychecks each school year that are funded by sales taxes the school board collects. One is paid in November, the other in May. They're informally known as the 13th and 14th checks.

The November check is fully funded by the half-cent sales

tax passed by voters in 2000.

Those checks are not guaranteed but have been paid out at varying levels for many years based on the level of sales tax collections and health care plan costs.

"If the sales tax goes down or insurance costs go up, that may have to be reduced in the future," Superintendent Rickky Durrett said. "But as things go well, we want to pass that along to

teachers and support personnel when that happens."

In the early days of the COVID-19 pandemic, the school board cut the May 2020 supplement checks based on concerns that the stay-at-home order at the time would reduce spending in the area and curb sales tax collections significantly.

Collections dipped for about two months but quickly started

See BONUS PAY, page 5

Aiming High

Parish park celebrates archery range opening

By Caleb Daniel
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Sponsors, dignitaries, police jury personnel and others gathered at Lincoln Parish Park Tuesday to cut the ribbon on the park's new 3D archery range, which opened to the public last month.

With a bevy of sponsorships and volunteer labor, a largely unused 10-acre portion of the park's land was converted into an archery range featuring 20 true-to-life animal targets made of high-density foam, each placed at its own minimally cleared shooting station that attempts to mimic how the creature might be found in the wild.

The Lincoln Parish Archery Range was the brainchild of District 6 Police Juror Glenn Scriber, who said he's been a passionate bow hunter since his early teens.

"My motivation is to keep young people involved in it," Scriber said. "There is no more wholesome sport than archery."

The fee to use the range is \$5 per shooter, plus the existing \$3 entry fee for the park as a whole. Kids age 16 and under shoot free with a paying adult.

Visitors will walk the roughly 450-yard straight



Leader photos by CALEB DANIEL

(TOP) District 6 Police Juror Glenn Scriber speaks to the crowd gathered for the ribbon cutting of the Lincoln Parish Park's new 3D archery range.

(BOTTOM) The archery range features animal targets made of high-density foam and approved by the Archery Shooter's Association.



See ARCHERY, page 5

JACKSON PARISH

School board stands pat on quarantine guidelines

Staff Report

JONESBORO — Superintendent David Claxton informed the Jackson Parish School Board that the district would not be changing its position at this time regarding close contact quarantine guidelines at the board's monthly meeting here Monday.

"The state Department of Health and the BESE board doesn't agree with this proposal," said Claxton. "As this

is being heavily debated, we are not going to put our students at risk and our school system in a position of liability."

This was in reply to the announcement made last week by state Superintendent of Education Cade Brumley that public school students could be allowed to stay in school even if they have "close contact" with someone who tests positive for the coronavirus.

The board has declared several items as

surplus to be recycled, sold or auctioned off as well as including multiple disbursements of ESSER III funds pending Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE) approval, and payment of monthly bills.

The Quitman High School cheerleaders were also approved to travel to Jackson, Mississippi, to compete in the UCA Magnolia Cheerleading Championship.

In attendance were

board members Gerry Mims, Wade McBride, Ricky McBride, Gloria Davis, Dennis Clary and Calvin "Bart" Waggoner.

Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) funds received by the JPSB, which was part of the nearly \$190.5 billion stimulus bills approved by Congress, was authorized to be used for:

1. Stipends and benefits for staff to provide after-school tutoring

in all Jackson Parish Schools for up to eight hours per week and to provide Saturday tutoring and ACT workshops for up to 12 hours per month.

Employees are to be paid at a rate of \$30 per hour for certified staff and \$15 per hour for support staff. Additionally, bus drivers will be paid \$70 for Saturdays and \$17.70 per hour for after school tutoring. Tutoring is to be provided up to nine months per school

year. All components of salary and benefits are not to exceed \$75,000 per year for three years.

2. Payment to OWL (Outdoor Wilderness Learning) Equine Center in the amount of \$47,250 to provide SEL (Social Emotional Learning) strategies to designated students in K-5 at Jonesboro Hodge Elementary School, Weston High School and Quitman High School.

See QUARANTINE, page 5

SENSE & SENSITIVITY

Job seeker considers lying in interviews

DEAR HARRIETTE: I've just been fired for the first time in my life. I was fired for something trivial, but I'd rather not explain that in upcoming interviews. Can I lie to potential employers and tell them that I was not fired? From my experience, new employers almost never call the previous job to check.

White Lie

DEAR WHITE LIE: You do not need to volunteer that you were fired from your job, but it is not smart to lie. Instead, talk about what you learned from the job and how you benefited from working there. If asked why you left, you can say it was time to go. Ultimately, it wasn't the right fit. You are looking for something different for your life and career. Make sure that you do not include anyone from that job on your references. Instead, choose individuals who will sing your praises rather than someone who might reveal a flaw in your performance or character.



By Harriette Cole

DEAR HARRIETTE: My father was showing signs of hearing loss for a few months. After a lot of encouragement, we finally got him to go to the doctor to get checked out, and, lo and behold, it turns out he has significant hearing loss. He was given a hearing aid last week, and it is helping him tremendously even though it takes a bit to get used to it. I think that because this is the first major sign of aging that I've seen from either of my parents, I'm a little shaken up. I was not expecting to feel so bothered by this. Do you have any advice for those of us who have a hard time watching our parents age?

Aging Parents

DEAR AGING PARENTS: I consider it a blessing to have one or both of your parents still alive as they grow older. With that attitude, all the ups and downs that are bound to come can be managed with a bit more ease and grace. Yes, they will face a bevy of challenges. But the fact that they are present and able to spend time with you and, hopefully, enjoy a good quality of life is something for you to cherish. It is also time for you to do a reality check. What are your parents' health concerns? If you are not clear, consider going with them to their primary doctor to get an assessment of where they are and what they need. Ask the doctor what you can anticipate, both in the near future and down the line, based on their health today. Find out what you can do to support them as they age. Look into activities that can stimulate their minds and bodies. Invest in long-term care insurance if you are able. This can help tremendously if they end up needing more support than you can offer. For yourself, yes, it can be a challenge watching your parents age. Take it one day at a time. Celebrate the small victories. Talk to them regularly so that you know how they are and what's happening in their lives. Pay close attention. Also take care of yourself. Caregivers often take on a lot of stress as they attempt to support their loved ones.

CELEBRATIONS

BIRTHDAYS

Saturday	October 28	Gary Smith, 62
		Mary Jean Jackson, 78
October 14	October 31	Carolyn Lewis
		Pritchett
October 17		Tony Tippet
October 27	To have a celebration published call 255-4353 at least three days prior. Celebrations run as space allows.	

Send your community events or photos to Cathi Cox-Boniol, community news editor, community@rustonleader.com



Family Features

Countless backyards are battlegrounds between die-hard homeowners and squirrels fighting over bird feed. Squirrels need not be an inevitable element of bird feeding; even though keeping squirrels out of bird feeders is an age-old problem, there are ways to thwart these thieves. One common tactic is stocking feeders with seed squirrels dislike, such as safflower, nyjer, white proso millet and seed infused with capsaicin, a compound derived from hot peppers that makes mammals' tongues smart. One option features nutritious sunflower meats infused with fiery habanero chili peppers. They're a no waste, no mess feed, birds enjoy but squirrels' dislike.

Some people find squirrels adorable, fascinating to watch and have nothing against them, even allowing them to share seed with birds. The real problem begins when squirrels take their share and then some. To combat this, consider adding a baffle to your bird feeder on a pole about five feet high so squirrels don't jump over it. Bird feeders on poles can be set in open spaces where there's no trees or structures squirrels can jump from onto feeders. Try a "squirrel-proof" feeder that employs cages, or spring-loaded doors, keeping squirrels at bay. You can then offer food specific to squirrels' taste preferences away from bird feeders.

Because squirrels are territorial, they're less likely to go to other locations once they're accustomed to eating in a designated place. Establishing a feeding space just for squirrels can satisfy their appetites and keep them out of bird feeders. You can use an open feeder or scatter feed on the ground for easy access. Try 100% whole peanuts or critter munchies, which includes ingredients squirrels love. Another way to help squirrels thrive is to provide access to fresh, clean water. Squirrels are interesting creatures and worth the watch. Consider these facts:

Tips to feed squirrels, birds to create harmony in your backyard

- Squirrels can find food buried beneath 1 foot of snow.
- Squirrels' front teeth never stop growing.
- Squirrels run zigzag patterns to escape predators.
- Squirrels "fake out" other squirrels and pretend to bury nuts to throw off potential thieves from their hiding places.
- When falling, squirrels use their tails both for balance and as parachutes. Plus, they can jump up to 20 feet and run 20 miles per hour.
- Squirrels can see behind them, but they're blind at birth.
- When given a mixture of nuts, squirrels sort them by type before burying each variety in a different area.

• Squirrels can rotate their hind feet 180 degrees when descending trees and poles.

• Squirrels are one of the most important animals for helping spread oak trees. They store acorns in the ground but only recover about 70% of them, allowing forgotten acorns to grow into healthy trees.

As for the birds: In cold weather, it's important to provide high-quality choices that offer the most fat, nutrients and energy. Look for black oil sunflower, which is rich in oil, attracting birds and providing energy. Birds also love suet, the solid fat rendered from beef, venison or vegetables, which provides concentrated energy, helping them make it through freezing weather. Some suet cakes are formulated to attract the largest variety and number of birds as well as specific bird species. Birds are greatly attracted to the taste of hot and spicy suet cakes, and some even prefer them over non-spicy suet cakes. By following squirrel proofing tips and offering food birds and squirrels prefer in separate locations, you'll see for yourself birds and squirrels can live harmoniously in your backyard while you enjoy watching both species' entertaining antics.

In the market for a new or used car? Keep these 4 tips in mind

If you're in the market for a new or used car... you're not in luck. According to CarGurus, the average price of a used car in mid-May of 2021 was over \$25,000, nearly \$5,000 more than the previous year. The inflated prices are largely due to a global automotive microchip shortage that affected the production of new cars, in turn creating higher demand for used vehicles. In addition to paying more for a car that is harder to find, your vehicle will almost always depreciate the minute it's driven off the lot. Plus, should your car be damaged in a crash, you might not even receive enough money from your insurance company to replace it,



iStock via Getty Images Plus

unless you have the right coverage. Given the current issues with pricing and demand, it's especially important to take steps to maintain as much of your vehicle's value as possible and protect yourself against the inevitable depreciation. Here are four tips that can help:

1. Buy a vehicle with a high resale value. A study from Fleet Financials found that within the same year, mid-size sedans depreciated 17.5% while compact crossovers only depreciated 12%.
2. Take care of your car. Cars in better condition with fewer miles, under 100,000, will re-sell

at higher rates. Stay on top of service and maintenance, address any issues as soon as possible and avoid unnecessary modifications such as window lettering.

3. Opt for used rather than new. The average car will be worth just 40% of its purchase price after five years. By choosing a five-year-old vehicle rather than a brand-new one, customers can save significantly.
4. Upgrade your auto insurance to cover what it would cost to replace your car. In the event of an accident, standard insurance typically covers the amount your vehicle is currently worth, not the amount it would cost you to buy another one. (StatePoint)

Happy Birthday, Erma

Friends reminisce about Hudson’s cuisine at 90th celebration

By Cathi Cox-Boniol
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CHOUDRANT — As folks began gathering in the Squire Creek Library to celebrate Erma Hudson’s 90th birthday, mouths began watering. And not because of any fancy spread enticing their taste buds.

Instead, appetites were whetted as conversation turned to the amazing culinary creations Erma shared with the community over more than seven decades in Lincoln Parish. As the “unofficial” hostess of Ruston during those years, she’s touched countless lives with her generous and crave-worthy spirit.

“She’s just a great Southern lady with such a sweet spirit,” Jean Hall shared. “Of course her cooking isn’t bad either.”

As generations of guests flocked to where the “part Southern Belle, part Steel Magnolia” was seated, everyone began recalling their favorite memories of the lady who could turn any occasion into a first-class event.

“Erma became the hostess for Temple Baptist Church after her last child was born,” Rosy Bromell remembered. “She took care of everything for the church and everything was delicious.”

Daughter Lori Wyatt points out that during that era, every shower the church hosted was held at their home.

“Mom’s favorite phrase is “if you’re gonna do it, you might as well do it right,” Wyatt explained. “So when it came time for those showers, the Fellowship Hall in the old Temple building just wasn’t very pretty and there wasn’t anything you could do to make it look



Leader photo by CATHI COX-BONNIOL

From left, Annie Baker Heard, Erma Hudson, Sarabeth Ringle, and Fran Poe share a memory and a laugh during Hudson’s 90th birthday celebration recently at Squire Creek Country Club.

nice for a shower. So mom had them at our house and they were always first-class affairs.”

Ask folks what their favorites from Erma’s kitchen might be and you get various answers. Dianne Davison raved about the famous ribbon cake.

“It had several layers and each layer was a different color and flavor,” Davison said. “You would have raspberry, pistachio, and others. It was so beautiful and you better believe it was delicious.”

Henry Roane added he made multiple trips to Erma’s house to try and learn how to make her famous pralines. However, he never quite made the cut.

“Erma told me I just couldn’t get

them dropped fast enough,” Roane laughed. “Now they tasted good but looked awful. Erma’s never looked bad, not once.”

In the mid-1980s, Erma opened a restaurant bearing her name. Nestled in the old Morgan and Lindsey store, now home of The Children’s Shoppe on North Trenton, Erma’s became the go-to place for superb downtown dining. Shirley Crump notes how women weren’t the only ones to enjoy Erma’s delicacies.

“Everything was just so good,” Crump continued. “That spinach salad was to die for. And my husband Kenny

Baton Rouge man arrested for DWI in Ruston

By Jessieca Carr
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A Louisiana State Police officer arrested a driver who failed to stop at a red light and nearly crashed into his marked unit on Tuesday at approximately 10 p.m.

The incident occurred on U.S. Highway 167 northbound as the state police officer was travelling west on the N. Service Road in Ruston. Cameron Ja’Kobi Davis, 19, was taken into custody and charged with driving while intoxicated (1st offense), possession of marijuana (approximately 20 grams), and failure to stop at red signal.

During the traffic stop, Davis admitted to the arresting officer that he had a “blunt” inside the vehicle and was smoking marijuana before he was pulled over. He was questioned about having any other substances inside his vehicle to which he allegedly replied no. The officer then performed a probable cause search of the vehicle and found a clear plastic bag containing approximately 20 grams of suspected marijuana.

Davis was transported to the Lincoln Parish Detention Center for a standardized field sobriety test and chemical test. His bond has been set at \$1,500 for the driving while intoxicated charge. He was released under his own recognizance for the other two charges.



RCT production of ‘Clue’ set for October 14-17

Staff Report

The lightning flashes during a dark, October night in Ruston. Strangers are thrown together in the middle of a mystery. Who did it? Where? With what weapon?

You’ll have to find out Oct. 14-17 at the Ruston Community Theatre’s production of the mystery-comedy “Clue,” at the Dixie Center for the Arts.

Based on the popular board game, the stage

production is scheduled for 7 p.m. and is directed by Mary Watkins. Stage manager is Monika Locke.

The cast includes Stephen Vessel as Professor Plum, Katie Peters as Mrs. White, Emily Kelley as Mrs. Peacock, Jenn Kilpatrick as Miss Scarlet, Micah Handley as Yvette the maid, Britton Kilpatrick as Wadsworth the butler and Joseph Isom Brown as Col. Mustard.

For information or tickets, visit rctruston.org or call 318-595-0872.



Submitted photo

The cast of the Ruston Community Theatre stage production of “Clue,” rehearses for the Oct. 14-17 run of the popular mystery-comedy at the Dixie Center for the Arts.

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TOM’S HUMOR

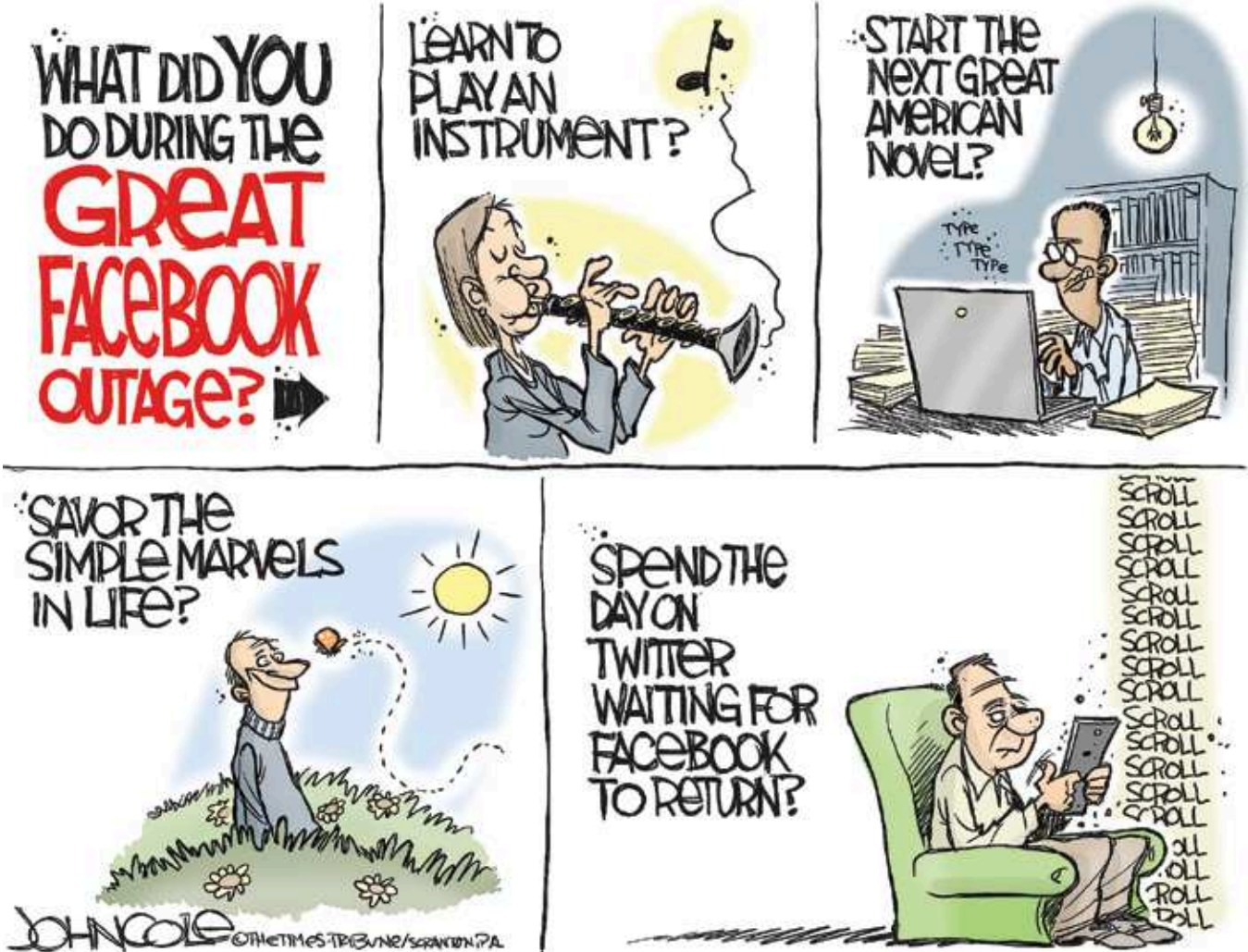
Rise and fall of the shopping mall

My buddies Ayres and Klinger and I walked its crowded corridors for hours on Friday nights, hoping to meet girls. That’s what we did at our local mall in the late 1970s, when we were teens and the American mall was in its heyday. Built in the mid-1960s, and the very first indoor mall to be constructed in Pittsburgh, “The Village” was a typical, large two-level structure with “anchor” department stores at each end, a Sears Roebuck in the middle and a variety of retail stores in between. No mall visit was complete without stopping into the pinball and games arcade or Spencer Gifts, a novelty and gag gift store that sold everything from lava lamps to Farrah Fawcett’s famous poster. The mall became the town square for suburban kids. Our younger siblings spent so much time there their generation would earn the name “mall rats.” We were clueless teenagers. We had no idea why or how the suburban mall had evolved, but its birth — and its recent rapid decline — is an interesting, though complicated, American story. According to a 2014 article in Smithsonian Magazine, the explosion of malls across America was fueled by urban flight, suburban growth and economic prosperity after World War II. But that’s not the full explanation, the magazine said. The unintended good intentions of government economic policy and federal tax codes tell the rest of the story. Smithsonian said that in 1954 Congress was eager to stimulate investment in manufacturing. To that end, it accelerated annual depreciation rates for new construction. Depreciation is a tax concept that assumes that a piece of machinery or a building has a finite lifespan — that upon being built, it begins to lose value until it eventually needs to be replaced. The Smithsonian’s article turned to the New Yorker magazine’s great writer, Malcolm Gladwell, to explain how mall developers were allowed to “deduct much larger sums, which would be counted, technically, as depreciation loss — completely tax-free money.” “Suddenly it was possible to make much more money investing in things like shopping centers than buying stocks,” Gladwell wrote, “so money poured into real-estate investment companies.” Over 1,200 shopping malls shot up in the U.S. after the earliest examples were built in the 1950s, according to World Market. As millions of suburbanites switched their shopping to the malls, many large retailers in the downtown cores of major cities and small stores on local main streets were devastated and put out of business. Malls had their golden age, but they’ve been in decline for years. After being crushed by a year and a half of COVID lockdowns, they’re being shuttered in big numbers. I wish all of them better luck than Ayres, Klinger and I had 40-some years ago. We spent hundreds of hours walking up and down our mall’s crowded corridors, but never once met any girls.

Tom Purcell is an author and humor columnist. Email him at Tom@TomPurcell.com.



By Tom Purcell



TUFF TALK

Towns, businesses, ports suffering from various supply chain issues

America is working its way out of a man-made economic shutdown that was believed to be a necessity due to a China-originated virus that spread throughout the world. It is unimaginable that anyone saw the long-term effects of this shutdown and the consequences of the shutdown. As Isaac Newton stated, “For every action there is an equal and opposite reaction.” Several months ago, I fulfilled a bucket list item. I took a cruise to Alaska, America’s last frontier. The beauty and stark wilderness of our 49th state did not disappoint. In the late 1950s I had a cousin move to Alaska with her husband and establish a bush flying business. I often wonder at the pioneer spirit that must have been with them to pick up everything they owned in Reno, Nevada and move to a state where the capital has only 30,000 residents, bears are a common companion and where cold weather is truly cold. This spirit of self-reliance has remained a part of the legacy that is in the DNA of Alaskans and though many have dismissed this spirit, it is still alive in the lower 48. We have been digging out of our economic woes for 18 months. Some felt that we needed to simply open up the economy and let nature take its course. America’s economy and society is built on a market economy and is free in nature. Unfortunately, in an effort to ease the burden on Americans, the Federal Government instituted economic parachutes that were in fact Socialistic in nature. We are now seeing the effects of these actions. Our cruise ship pulled into three ports. The first, Skagway, was the farthest north and was the jumping off place for miners coming from Seattle in search of gold in the late 1800s. A small town that use to see



By Tuffy Fields

25 cruise ships land every week, is now just seeing the first ships in 16 months and the quantity is much less than what they had once experienced. Still with all of the reductions in revenue, the spirit is alive as Alaska claws itself out of a dark place. We walked through a town that was accustomed to thousands walking the streets. When we reached the restaurant, circa 1880s, we discovered that several items were not available. The owner told us that the local supply chain was having problems. Eggs were sporadically available as was butter. Some fish could not be provided and to make matters worse, the one waitress was leaving the next day. This story was repeating itself when we reached Juneau and later at Ketchikan. Lack of labor was apparent and supply chain issues plagued a needy economy. As bad as the situation was, there was one common thread: Americans come from a unique stock and ultimately this DNA will kick in and our nation will return to what we remember. The way we perform our work, communicate, heat and cool our buildings and travel will change over time but this has always been the case. We discovered a genuine appreciation for our visit to their state. Residents at all stops were quite vocal as they thanked us for visiting Alaska. Upon arrival in Seattle, reality and the full magnitude of a broken supply chain were apparent. We drove past the Port of Seattle. Several ships were in port, but we wouldn’t have known it. Shipping containers were stacked so high and so deep that the docked ships could not be seen. Ships were backed up, thousands of containers were needed to be moved, and needed material for a desperate nation were sitting idle. Then a second epiphany presented itself. I saw no trucks entering or leaving the port; very little material was moving. What a massive bottleneck we witnessed. Seattle is not the only traffic jam for material entering the United States. California ports in Los Angeles and Long Beach are mired in container ships. Some of these ports are antiquated so additional shipping is quite detrimental to the ports’ ability to handle the cargo. There is even more impairments to the operations of our ports. Ships are landing with more and more shipping containers onboard. Long Beach has experienced a 70% increase in containers on ships landing at its dock. The impact to the port is extremely negative while an American economy that has built its industries on a supply chain with key parts coming from overseas while instituting a “just in time” manufacturing philosophy can only sit and wait for vital inventory to be delivered from the American ports. Additionally, only 10 companies around the world control 80% of the ocean shipping. This is quite a dangerous situation to be in and discloses the vulnerability of America’s soft belly. Rest assured America will overcome, but it will not be without some pain. We will see changes and amidst past calls to move American manufacturing back to America, we will see more and more of this taking place. This will especially be seen when current products are produced outside North America. Last week Ford Motor Co. announced that it will build a manufacturing facility north of Nashville that will employ 11,000 workers, will be totally green, will manufacture everything for its total electrical trucks and cars. Made in America. God Bless America.

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Ruth Best

Stocks edge higher as Wall Street shakes off volatility

The Associated Press

Stocks are closing slightly higher on Wall Street Wednesday as investors shook off a bout of volatility after nearly a week of high volatility. Major indexes recovered from early losses after the market turned around after Senator Mitch McConnell offered Democrats a short-term extension of the debt ceiling, relieving some of the uncertainty over a possible government shutdown. The S&P 500 rose 0.4% and the Dow Jones Industrial Average gained 03% while the Nasdaq Composite closed 0.5% higher. Energy prices are retreating after a strong rally that contributed to renewed inflation fears among investors. Technology stocks have swung be-

tween gains and losses as investors reassess whether stocks have grown too expensive, particularly high-priced technology companies. Cisco Systems fell 1.7%, while Microsoft rose 1.3%. The market volatility comes as investors question the economy's path forward, amid rising inflation and the ongoing impact from the virus pandemic. Bond yields have remained relatively stable since a sharp jump late last month that signaled concern that high inflation could linger longer than economists and investors had initially anticipated. The yield on the 10-year Treasury held steady at 1.53%. It was as low as 1.32% a little more than two weeks ago. The drop in bond yields weighed on banks, which rely on higher yields to charge more lucrative interest on

loans. Citigroup fell 0.6%. Energy prices are retreating after a strong rally that contributed to inflation fears. U.S. crude oil fell 2% and natural gas plunged 9.7%. The drop weighed on energy companies. Exxon Mobil fell 1.9%. International markets also sold off, with exchanges in Japan, South Korea, Germany and France all dropping more than 1%. Investors are grappling with a long list of uncertainties, and that could mean a more durable pullback in stocks than Wall Street has experienced so far this year, said Sameer Samana, senior global market strategist at Wells Fargo Investment Institute. Inflation and the debt ceiling timeline in Washington are both key concerns, he said.

Wall Street is also still closely watching the Federal Reserve for any shift in timing for raising interest rates. Analysts have said that the central bank could act sooner than expected if high inflation persists. "The investment case for those looking for further gains, at least this year, was the expectation that rates would stay at fairly low levels," Samana said. Investors will get a closer look at how companies fared in the third quarter when companies release their quarterly financial results over the coming weeks. Wall Street is expecting solid profit growth of 27% for S&P 500 companies, but will also be listening for commentary on how supply chain problems and higher costs are crimping operations.

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Making Sense of Investing

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Courtesy photo
From left, Jackson Parish School Board members Gerry Mims, Ricky McBride, Wade McBride, Gloria Davis, Dennis Clary, Superintendent David Claxton and Calvin "Bart" Waggoner cover the board's agenda at its monthly meeting Monday in Jonesboro.

JACKSON PARISH continued from page 1

3. Pay stipends of \$30 an hour to certified staff to attend professional development activities outside of regular school hours (not to exceed \$50,000 stipend pay and \$17,000 benefits).
4. Purchase the eD2i Testing Data Software Package at a cost of \$19,250 and the D2i professional development package at a cost of \$9,980 for a total of \$29,230.
5. Hire a student support coordinator for three years. This will be funded only for the duration of the grant.
6. Hire 15 paraprofessionals (five for Quitman High School, five for Weston High School, three for Jonesboro-Hodge Elementary School, two for Jonesboro-Hodge Middle School) to target K-2, fourth and eighth grade for three years. This will be funded only for the duration of the grant.
7. Purchase Career Compass for grades 6-12 at Quitman High School, Weston High School, Jonesboro-Hodge High School and Jonesboro-Hodge Middle School at a cost of \$24,000.
8. Tuition reimbursement for staff attending college or enrolled in the ITeach program for certification purposes not to exceed \$2,500 per semester per person for a total of \$7,500 per year.
9. Payment of \$306,349.62 to Ross Bus & Equipment Sales for three Blue Bird Vision, V-8 buses, two (2) 71 passenger and one (1) 77 passenger bus.

More items approved to be paid by various funds are:
1. Payment of general fund bills. (\$3,183,506.20)
2. Payment of federal program bills. (\$234,590.19)
3. Payment of food service bills.

(\$125,624.21)
4. Payment of sales tax bills. (\$847,495.84)
5. Payment of special education fund bills. (\$54,112.37)
6. Payment of district maintenance bills. (\$247,839.62)
7. Payment of coaching stipends
8. Payment to OWL (Outdoor Wilderness Learning) Equine Center in the amount of \$16,500 for therapeutic riding sessions for student with disabilities at a cost of \$8,250 for the fall session and \$8,250 for the spring session, to be paid from IDEA funds.

In final action before adjournment, out of state travel to UCA Magnolia Cheerleading Championship in Jackson on Dec. 5 for the Quitman High School cheerleaders was approved. It was further noted that the parents would be responsible for the expenses and provide transportation.

HALLOWEEN HAPPENINGS continued from page 1

"It's all about having family fun downtown," Amy Stegall, Ruston's Main Street manager and community coordinator, said Wednesday. Downtown Ruston — that's the city's merchant organization — sponsored the first pumpkin carving contest last year as a way to continue the downtown Halloween events but in a safer, more socially distanced

environment because of COVID-19. Though the longstanding downtown trick-or-treat event has been moved this year to the Ruston Sports Complex, pumpkin contest organizers wanted to keep their contest downtown and add a pet costume contest. Last year's pumpkin contest had more than 150 entrants, Stegall said. The pumpkin carv-

ing contest is open to all ages. Entrants will bring their already-carved pumpkins to Railroad Park beginning at 5 p.m. the day of the event. Pumpkins should have a battery-operated light inside. The pumpkins will be lighted as they arrive at the park and placed along the sidewalk. Pumpkin-carving categories are Most Creative Pumpkin, Spooki-

est Pumpkin and Best Designed Pumpkin. Winners of the pumpkin contest will be announced after the pet costume contest. The pet contest begins at 6:30 p.m. on the Railroad Park stage. Pets should be on a leash or in a pet carrier, Stegall said. Contest categories are Most Creative Pet Costume, Spookiest Pet Costume and Funniest Pet Costume.

didn't care what anybody else said, he was a man eating quiche. He loved Erma's quiche. We went down there for lunch at least once a week but usually more often than that." Crump added that Miss Erma is part of a coffee club that's been meeting for more than 30 years. There the ladies offer support for one another through thick and thin, something the birthday girl has been doing for others her entire life. "She's just such a sweet Christian lady," Jan Hall said. "And then there are those cinnamon rolls." Known far and wide for both her cinnamon rolls and dinner rolls, Erma has shared those sweet treats as a means

of encouragement for decades. Whether you're celebrating a special occasion, recovering from surgery, or on the mend after being ill, a delivery of Erma's signature cinnamon rolls made everything right in the world. Memories of such thoughtfulness certainly brought the crowd together to celebrate her milestone birthday. "In 1973, Erma brought me a ceramic Santa Claus cookie jar she'd made," Bromell said. "It was full of her homemade peanut patties. It just meant the world to me and I still put it out on my counter every Christmas. It's such a sweet reminder of a sweet, sweet lady and friend."

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ARCHERY continued from page 1

sponsors came in to fund these and other startup expenses. "(Scriber) didn't come to us and say, 'Look, I got a vision, now y'all go make it happen,'" Parish Administrator Doug Postel told the ribbon cutting crowd. "Glenn went out, got the sponsors, put in the sweat equity, and turned this into a reality." Parking to use the range will

be at the grey parking lot near the park's playground. Officials said eventually the goal is to have a new road running directly to the range. Each target has several different marked shooting points at various distances for a range of skill levels. There's also a warm-up area with traditional 2D targets.

Scriber said one of the goals was to benefit the park through extra revenue and awareness without burdening taxpayers with the initial costs. He thanked all those in the community who had a hand in meeting that goal. "When you replace the pronoun 'I' and you insert the pronoun 'we,' that's when things will start to happen," he said.



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Looking for Consistency

Cedar Creek battles Sicily Island tonight hoping for two straight victories

By **Jessieca Carr**
jessieca@rustonleader.com

Cedar Creek (2-2, 2-2 district) has been on a bit of a rollercoaster ride through the first six weeks of the season.

From game cancellations to nail-biting wins and losses, the Cougars have been tested, and this week they'll be hitting the road for district play against Sicily Island High School (1-4, 1-2 district).

The game has been moved to tonight at 7 p.m.

"This is a district game for us, so we will be ready," said head coach Matt Middleton. "We want to come out fast and get ahead early."

The Cougars came out on top of a blowout win over River Oaks, 54-7, last week. CCS looks to repeat that performance by sticking to the basics.

The Cougars are building momentum as the season wears on, as witnessed by their near-upset of No. 1 Ouachita



Cedar Creek Ladd Thompson breaks away from a would-be tackler against St. Frederick earlier this season. The Cougars hit the road tonight at Sicily Island.

Photo by Darrell James

Christian two weeks ago.

Against the Mustangs last week, Cedar Creek's

offense racked up 12 first downs with 299 yards of total offense. Caden "Peanut" Middleton

steadied the offense with solid play as he threw for 113 yards and 2 touchdowns.



CEDAR CREEK (2-2)
VS
SICILY ISLAND (1-4)
Tonight at 7 p.m.
Sicily Island High



The Cougars even controlled the time of possession during the contest and held on to the ball for 36 minutes. Sicily Island will have to find a way to put a stop to the backfield duo of Lane Thomas and Jed Worthey. In the outing against River Oaks, the pair combined for 8 rushes for 155 yards and 3 touchdowns. The Tiger secondary may be busy all night with Creek's receivers. Ladd Thompson and Bryce Rushing proved to be favorite targets for Caden Middleton as they combined for four catches for 80 yards and 2 touchdowns.

"Lane and Jed will share duties at running back," said Matt Middleton. "We are looking to getting chunk plays in the run game and throw it around a little more.

We only took a few snaps last game, so we'll be looking for more."

If the offense is cohesive then Sicily Island's offense will have to reckon with the electric play of the Cougars' defense. Last week, CCS held the Mustangs to just 18 passing yards and limited their time of possession to just 12 minutes for the contest.

Cedar Creek's defense was spearheaded by Carson Riley as he hooked the River Oaks offense for 17 total tackles. Riley has backup in the defense in the form of Rushing and Lawson Lillo who combined for 21 tackles.

"We want to play a full game," said Matt Middleton. "We want to take away the ball, but it would be nice to get some drives going."

J-Hodge's fast start put on the line with road tilt at Bunkie

By **Josh Evans**
josh@rustonleader.com

Not much was expected of the Jonesboro-Hodge Tigers heading into the 2021 season, but the team doesn't subscribe to others' expectations.

The Tigers are having a breakout season after consecutive subpar campaigns, darting out to a 4-1 mark and receiving a vote in the latest Class 2A top 10 poll.

The Tigers have turned things around, especially from the last two years — seasons that ended with win totals of three. The Tigers recently eclipsed that win total against the North Webster Knights in dramatic double overtime fashion, winning 34-32.

"I think one thing about this team is the amount of fight they have," head coach Ter-

rance Blankenship said. "They have a lot of fight in them on both sides of the ball. I have a lot of playmakers too. Another thing is we have some speed.

"I don't have to make a perfect play call or the defensive coach doesn't have to make the perfect play call when you have guys that can make plays."

For the offense, one of those players is senior receiver and defensive back DeVontae Mozee.

"Mozee, early in the season he's been our guy," Blankenship said. "He has seven touchdowns on offense and two on defense. Teams are starting to try to find a way to slow down Mozee."

At this point, opponents' efforts have been futile. Mozee has 321 yards receiving so far this year, accounting for

7 of quarterback Tydre Malone's 9 touchdown passes this season.

Malone is another one of those playmakers for the Tiger offense. He has thrown for 813 yards this season with 9 touchdowns, and has rushed for 3 touchdowns on 79 yards on the ground.

On the defensive side of things, "Xavier Atkins, he's playing lights out. He's a sophomore who leads the state in tackles. He has a motor on full all the time. I don't think he's ever on empty," said Blankenship.

The Tigers started the season off with a loss on the road to Winfield.

At home the Tigers defeated West Ouachita 41-20 and took care of Logansport 47-26. They were the beneficiary of a forfeit win over Vidalia, who couldn't play due to COVID restric-

tions.

After the road game at Bunkie, the Tigers will travel to Ruston next week for a meeting with Cedar Creek.

JONESBORO-HODGE (4-1)

VS
BUNKIE (3-1)
Friday at 7 p.m.
Bunkie High School



Full house: Fans flow, home-field edge back for MLB playoffs

(AP) — Kevin Kiermaier and the Tampa Bay Rays fought furiously in 2020 for their first division title in over a decade, assuring themselves home-field advantage throughout the AL playoffs.

In the end, it meant little more than last at-bats and a more comfortable clubhouse in San Diego.

The reigning AL champions are back as the league's top seed, anticipating a few more travel miles and a lot more adrenaline. Plus, this time the fan noise will be real.

"It's going to be a lot different from last year," said Kiermaier, a defensive whiz in the outfield. "And obviously for the better."

Baseball's postseason is returning to its pre-pandemic format a year after COVID-19 confined most of last October's action to empty stadiums in neutral sites. It's a welcome change for players who pushed through last year's playoffs supplying their own energy on a stage normally powered by the buzz created by live audiences.

"It's still the postseason, you're still playing for something," Yankees star Aaron Judge said. "But having the fans will turn it from a 10 to a 12."

MLB expanded the postseason field after the truncated 2020 regular season for fairness and extra TV revenue, inviting 16 teams to the playoff tournament instead of the standard 10. Three-game Wild Card series were held at the home stadiums of the higher seeds before the winners shipped off for neutral site Division Series games in Texas and California.

The World Series champion Los Angeles Dodgers spent over three weeks in a baseball bubble around Arlington, Texas, for the Division Series, Championship Series and World Series at the Rangers' Globe Life Field.

The Rays were only slightly more traveled, playing their ALDS and ALCS games at San Diego's Petco Park — where the biggest perk was use of the home clubhouse — before joining the Dodgers in Arlington.

Fans began returning to games this summer, starting with an opening day sellout at Globe Life Field. Most parks severely limited capacity in the early days of the season, but as city and state COVID-19 regulations eased, those caps lifted and more seats were filled.

Teams combined to draw 45,304,709 fans, led by the Dodgers' 2,804,693.

Ruston Daily Leader

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ATHLETE

OF THE WEEK

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Photo by Amy Vessel

Lily Garrett

Ruston High

Cross Country

Lily Garrett has been dominating the competition so far this cross country season, winning three meets. Over the weekend, she captured the prestigious St. Joseph's Academy Invitational in Baton Rouge, winning by 15 seconds.

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Ruston High's Garrett, Babineaux dominate loaded field at Baton Rouge cross country meet

Teams finish runner-up on three mile course

By Josh Evans
josh@rustonleader.com

The Ruston High cross country teams flourished and outpaced 33 teams at the prestigious St. Joseph's Academy Cross Country Invitational in Baton Rouge over the weekend, with the boys and girls teams finishing second.

The St. Joseph's Cross Country Invitational is a meet where some of Louisiana's best high school long distance runners come to compete. With a mix of public and private schools in attendance, the competitive bar is set high with most of the top teams in the state on hand.

Nonetheless, senior Caleb Babineaux sped past the competition, finishing the contest in first place with a time of 15:56.17 in the 3-mile course.

Junior Lily Garrett followed suit in the girls competition, finishing



Photo courtesy of Amy Vessel
Ruston High's Caleb Babineaux sprints for the finish line at the St. Joseph's Academy Invitational in Baton Rouge.

in first with a time of 18:33.42, 15 seconds ahead of second place.

"You can almost call it a pre-state. Everyone who's going to beat state is going to be there, and for them to win is pretty cool," said head coach Dustin Cochran.

The Bearcats came

in first with individual times, but even more astonishing than that were their teammates following their lead, scoring high enough for both teams to place second.

Some reasons for the level of Bearcat excellence is the "prepara-

tion, competitive drive, and commitment," according to Cochran.

"If you're not a self-driven person. If you don't care about your teammates. If you don't show up for them early mornings and late nights. You know, do the extra stuff. Eat right.

Sleep right. Miss a football game. Miss a party. The kids put so much work into it, they get a taste of that success and they keep wanting it. If you're a competitor, you won't fold," said Cochran.

The core of this 2021-22 Bearcat Cross Country team is the system that they bought in to. "It's an environment of people who want to do the right thing. It's a commitment like no other," Cochran said.

The early mornings, late nights, and sacrifices tied in with the competitive drive of each individual and two great student leaders attribute to this success.

Both Garrett and Babineaux have undoubtedly been tearing it up this year, and it's because they've bought into the system.

With two leaders buying into the plan that the coaches laid forth in the offseason, it's not hard to see how the competitiveness of the underclassmen led to relevant point gathering times at the cross country invitationals so far.

When talking about some of the best competitors on the boys side, Cochran said, "One that really came out

of nowhere is Landon Byrd. You of course have Caleb, Bryar (Madden), and another one is Thomas Rodgers. He (Byrd) came to me this summer and said 'what do I have to do to run 15 something in the 3-mile.' I said 'hey that might be a little far fetched, maybe you aim for this.' So he's trying to prove me wrong, and now he's starting to do it."

In the last meet Byrd placed 20th with a time of 16:42.26, and even then "he's not happy with where he's at," said Cochran. How to get to where Babineaux, Rodgers, and Madden are now is what's fueling him.

The motivation of having someone who runs a 15-minute 3-mile on the regular in Babineaux pushes the rest of the team to become a better version of themselves, and of course try to catch them.

If that means buying into a system and fully committing to attain the goal, the Ruston Bearcats definitely have the competitive drive to keep getting better year in and year out.

The next cross country meet for the team will be Oct. 16 at the Watson Invitational in Clinton, Mississippi.

Tech golf finishes play at Trinity Forest Invitational in Dallas

Louisiana Tech Sports

DALLAS — The Louisiana Tech men's golf team finished 11th at the SMU-hosted Trinity Forest Invitational after finishing the tournament with a combined +26 (290-291-297-878).

Fifth-year senior Sam Murphy carded a team-best 10 birdies to lead the Bulldogs with an even-par 213 (71-68-74, 16th). Senior James Swash had his best outing of the season with a +1 (69-72-73-214, tied-17th).

Three Tech golfers carded an eagle at the invitational during Monday's rounds as Swash carded one on hole seven in round one while fifth-year senior Mac Murphy and junior Hunter Battles carded an eagle on holes seven and 14, respectively, in round two.

"I'm disappointed with what we shot this week as a team. Sam and James played pretty well for the most part," said head coach Matt Terry. "We did some things better this week as a team, but we are still making sloppy mistakes. Our game plans were a lot better, but they just

have to be executed better. That will come with time and practice. This team has some special golf ahead of them. We just have to keep working and understand success doesn't happen overnight."

Battles finished the tournament with a +15 (76-74-78-228, tied-63rd). M. Murphy +16 (80-77-72-229, tied-67th) and sophomore Will Patrick +19 (74-78-80-232, 71st) rounded out the Tech scoring.

SMU won its tournament with a combined -26 (279-273-274-826). UT Arlington -8 (276-281-287-844), Little Rock -4 (285-284-279-848), Middle Tennessee -4 (288-285-275-848) and North Texas +1 (282-286-285-853) rounded out the top five.

Tech golf will wrap up fall competition at the South Alabama-hosted Steelwood Collegiate Invitational in Loxley, Ala., on Oct. 30-31.

NOTABLES

- Tech had two golfers finish in the top-20 individually in fifth-year senior Sam Murphy with an even-par 213 (71-68-74, 16th) and senior James Swash +1 (69-72-73-214, tied-17th).



Photo by George Walker
Louisiana Tech sophomore golfer Will Patrick competes at the SMU-hosted Trinity Forest Invitational in Dallas.

- The Bulldogs carded three eagles and 34 birdies during the tournament.
- Sam Murphy led Tech with 10 birdies, followed by Swash with eight, sophomore Will Patrick with seven, junior Hunter Battles with five and fifth-year senior Mac Mur-

phy with four.

- Swash, Mac Murphy and Battles each registered an eagle at the Trinity Forest Invitational.

Tech golf will wrap up fall competition at the South Alabama-hosted Steelwood Collegiate Invitational in Loxley, Ala., on Oct. 30-31.

The 5th Quarter

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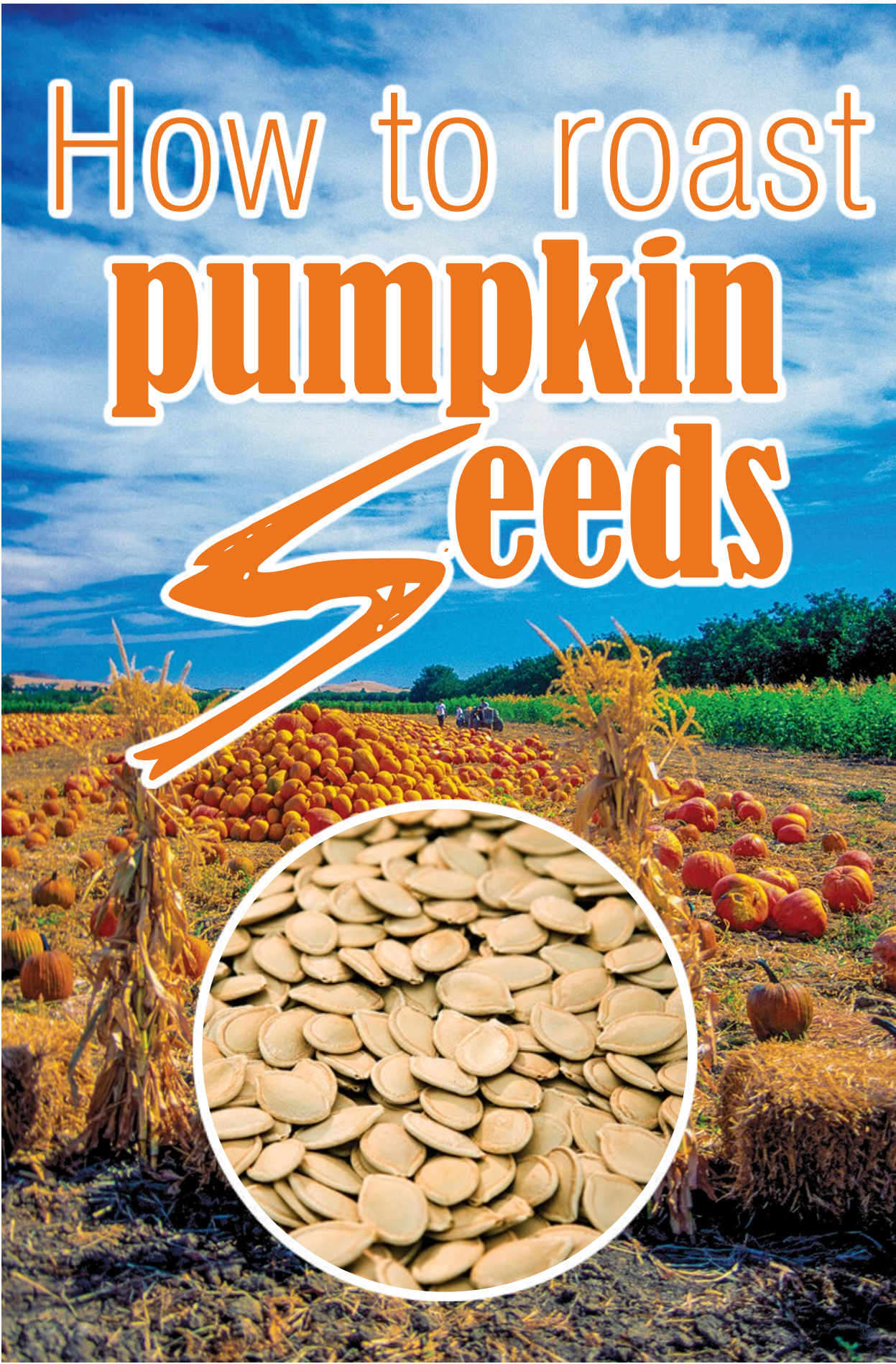


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Carving jack-o'-lanterns is a Halloween tradition that both adults and children enjoy. It's hard to resist an opportunity to carve a funny or scary face into a pumpkin that will soon make its way to the front porch, but there's another irresistible element to carving pumpkins as well.

Roasted pumpkin seeds make for a tasty, tempting treat. Seeds must be removed before carving pumpkins, so turning them into a savory snack is a great way to make use of them and cook up some fuel for family carving sessions. Roasting pumpkin seeds is a straightforward process, though some people may have their own techniques to make seeds more flavorful. The following recipe for "Pumpkin Seeds" from the Food Network reflects various ways to prepare this beloved snack, ensuring that people with varying tastes can no doubt find a way to incorporate their favorite flavors into this Halloween staple.

Pumpkin Seeds

1. Seed the pumpkin: Preheat the oven to 300 degrees F. Using a spoon, scrape the pulp and seeds out of your pumpkin into a bowl.
2. Clean the seeds: Separate the seeds from the stringy pulp, rinse the seeds in a colander under cold water, then shake dry. Don't blot with paper towels; the seeds will stick.
3. Dry them: Spread the seeds in a single layer on an oiled baking sheet and roast 30 minutes to dry them out.
4. Add spices: Toss the seeds with olive oil, salt and your choice of spices (see below). Return to the oven and bake until crisp and golden, about 20 more minutes.
5. Sweet Toss with cinnamon and sugar (do not use salt in step 4).
6. Indian Toss with garam masala; mix with currants after roasting.
7. Spanish Toss with smoked paprika; mix with slivered almonds after roasting.
8. Italian Toss with grated parmesan and dried oregano.
9. Barbecue Toss with brown sugar, chipotle chile powder and ground cumin.

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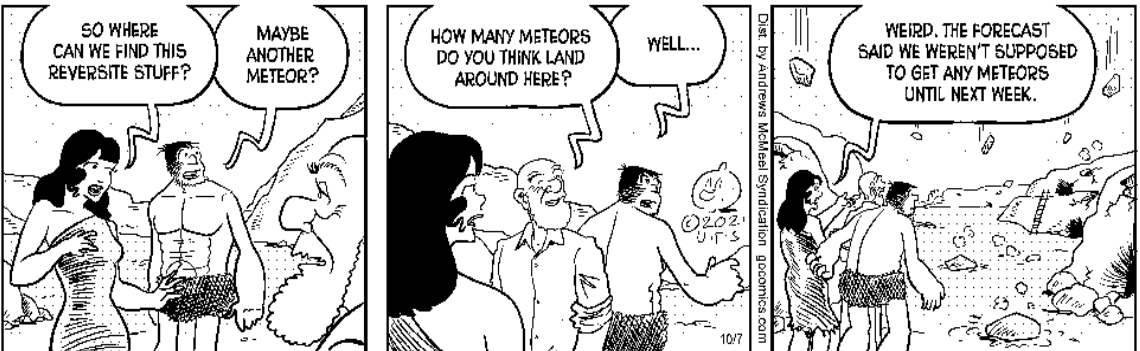
Garfield



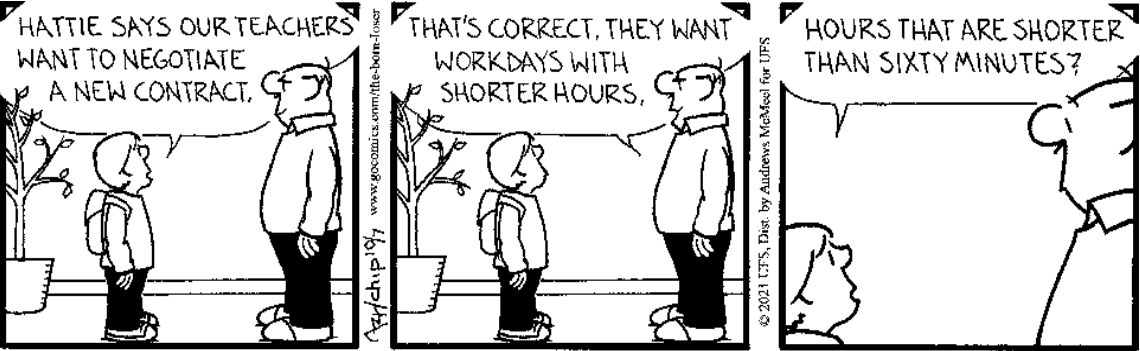
Peanuts



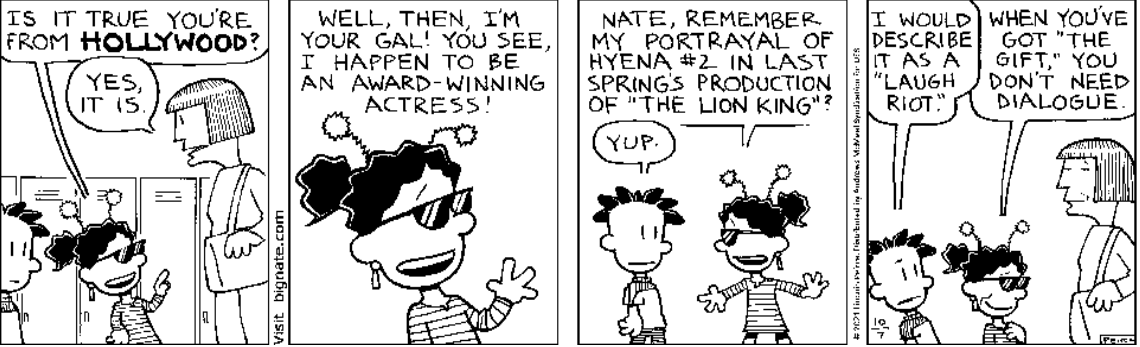
Alley Oop



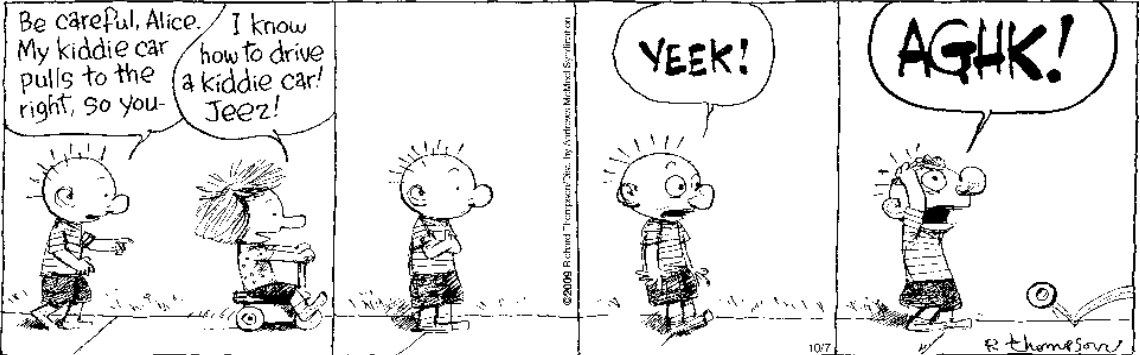
The Born Loser



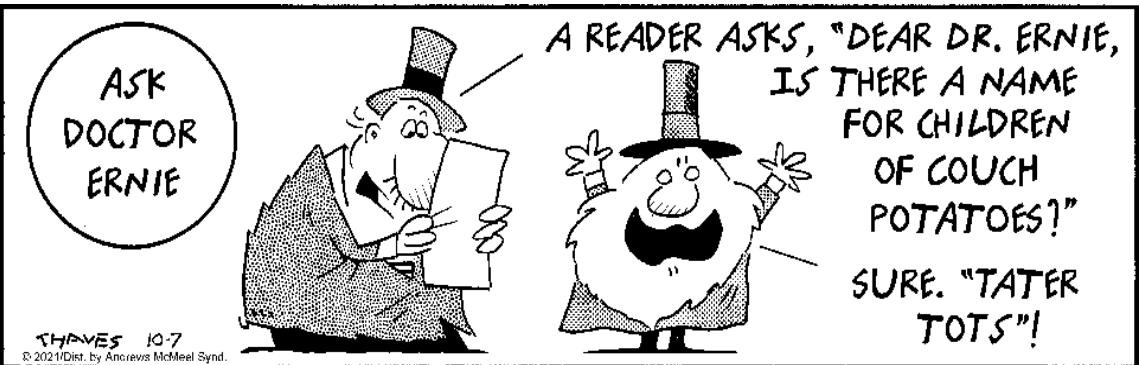
Big Nate



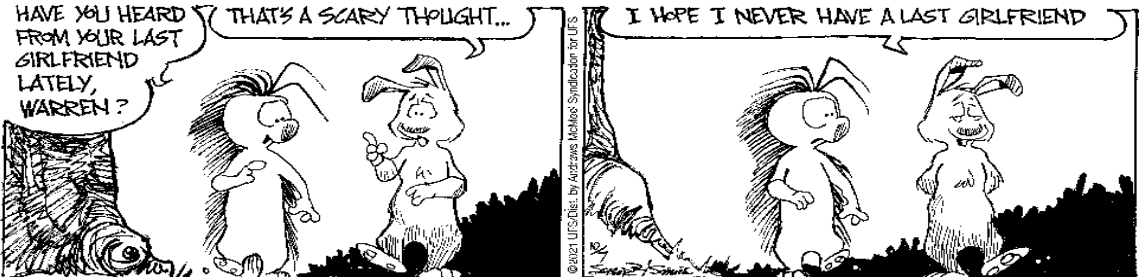
Cul De Sac



Frank n Ernest



Grizzwells



ACROSS

- 1 Volcano's output
- 5 Musical sign
- 9 Luau memento
- 12 Nonstop
- 13 Very large
- 14 W-2 collectors
- 15 Courteous chap
- 16 Borodin prince
- 17 Actress Issa
- 18 Trying experiences
- 20 Entertainer Della —
- 22 Hosp. scan
- 23 Folks
- 24 Poisonous
- 27 Feudal tenant
- 30 Iowa college town
- 31 Feel poorly
- 32 Pet shop cutie
- 34 Auric's creator
- 35 Namath or Pesci

DOWN

- 1 Toy block brand
- 2 Say decidedly
- 3 Peddle
- 4 Goddess of the hunt
- 5 Hot pepper

TODAY'S ANSWERS



- 6 Carries with difficulty
- 7 The "I"
- 8 — wheel
- 9 Trevi Fountain coins, once
- 10 Bullpen stats
- 11 Shrink's reply (2 wds.)
- 19 Part of a circle
- 21 Printer's measures
- 23 Curly-leaved veggie
- 24 — chi
- 25 General — Bradley
- 26 Lucy Lawless role
- 27 Fat fiddle
- 28 Does a takeoff
- 29 Grease job
- 31 Barely open
- 33 Walk quietly
- 36 Go on a rampage (2 wds.)
- 38 Nov. follower
- 39 Annoying
- 40 Shark feature
- 42 Irascible
- 43 Dog's ancestor
- 44 Travel option
- 45 See
- 46 Thailand, once
- 47 Big book
- 48 Stove part
- 49 Find a tenant
- 52 Wave maker

HOROSCOPES

FRIDAY,
OCTOBER 8, 2021

Finish what you start. Leave nothing to chance. Don't labor over what you should do; just do what you must and keep moving forward. Stabilize your home base, and rid yourself of dead weight. Seek the freedom to follow your heart and to head in a direction that brings you joy. Be true to yourself.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) -- Establish what's happened and what you want to do, then get the ball rolling. Make decisions that will lead to personal growth and new beginnings. Work to quickly resolve sensitive issues.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) -- Follow through with your plans. Let your imagination lead the way. Sign up for something that brings you joy. Make a decision that will improve your lifestyle and encourage you to follow your heart.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) -- Examine your current situation, then consider what you can do to improve your day-to-day living conditions. Rethink how you use your skills and find a way to boost your qualifications.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) -- You are overdue for a change, but first evaluate the pros and cons. Refuse to let anyone push you in a direction that isn't going to have long-term benefits. Keep your anger level down.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) -- Emotions will spin out of control if you let personal matters escalate. Stand back and be observant, and you'll come up with a solution that will put you in an excellent position.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) -- Look for a unique investment that will supply financial stability. Stick to a budget and be cautious of any deal that requires shared expenses. Moderation will be essential.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) -- Align yourself with people who get what you are trying to do and are willing to assist you in reaching your goal. The information you share will help you adapt and head in a positive direction.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) -- A change may not be welcome, but it will be in your best interest. Take a moment to think matters through, and you'll come up with a plan that will encourage you to use your skills.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) -- Plan to get out and have some fun. Mix business with pleasure by getting to know some of the people in your industry or neighborhood, and you'll receive some interesting perspectives.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) -- Say less and do more. Reach out to someone who shares your sentiments and interests, and you will avoid getting involved in an argument. Make home improvements.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) -- Don't make promises you can't keep. Problems at home will mount if you are overly generous with outsiders while neglecting domestic issues. Be prepared to do something special for a loved one.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) -- Check in on someone who may need help. A kind gesture will make you feel good and help you realize how lucky you are. Time spent with someone who faces different hurdles will be eye-opening.

The Ruston Daily Leader's

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028 STORAGE

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068 MACHINERY/

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Celebrity Cipher

by Luis Campos Celebrity Cipher cryptograms are created from quotations by famous people, past and present. Each letter in the cipher stands for another. "OLGRY RG DMVHEHK AF RKHPG. RN FML KMX'S JPBH YUPERSF MN RKHPG, FML'EH ZLGS YMOOLXRYPSRXC GJHHE GMLXK." — FM-FM OP "Music is powered by ideas. If you don't have clarity of ideas, you're just communicating sheer sound." — Yo-Yo Ma TODAY'S CLUE: M Stamba A © 2021 by NEA, Inc., dist. by Andrews McMeel Syndication 10-7

Sudoku

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

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

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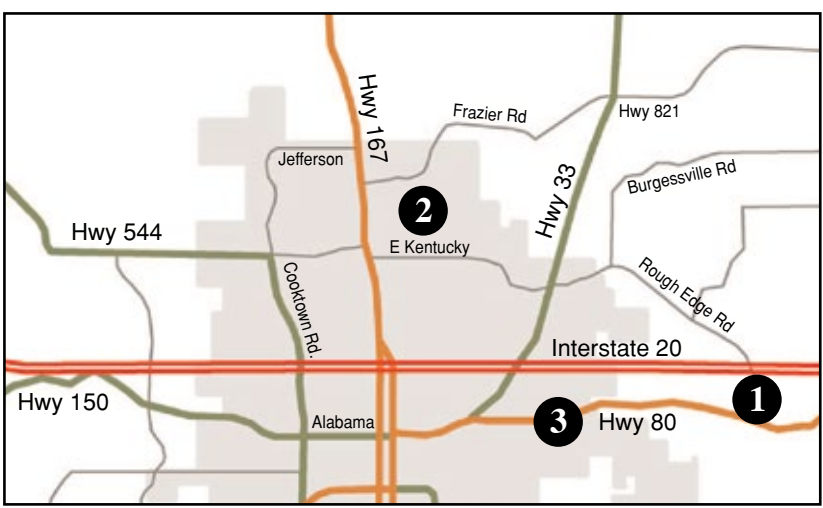
TODAY'S ANSWERS

L	Z	8	9	7	9	L	E	6
E	7	9	L	L	6	Z	8	9
9	L	6	Z	8	E	L	9	7
8	L	9	6	Z	L	9	7	E
Z	9	7	8	E	9	6	L	L
L	6	E	7	9	L	9	Z	8
9	8	L	E	9	Z	7	6	L
4	9	L	9	6	8	E	L	Z
6	E	Z	L	L	7	8	9	9

HOW TO PLAY: Each row, column and set of 3-by-3 boxes must contain the numbers 1 through 9 without repetition.

GARAGE SALES

- Friday, October 8. 7a-7p. 201 Rough Edge Road. Aluminum boat, washer, dryer, fire disk cooker, luggage, photo props, scrapbooking supplies, household items. Lots of good stuff!
- Sat. October 9. 7a-10a. 154 E Woodhaven. Clocks, door decor, craftsman grass catcher, dogbeds, king-size quilt, paint rollers, beach bag, kitchen accessories, house and garden flags, house decor, iron candle holders, metal decor, fleur de lis, dachshund cutting board, artwork, wall mirrors, clothes, shoe, vinyl rollup shade, decorative plants.
- Saturday, October 9, 2021. 8a-5p. 3943 Hwy 80. Multifamily Craft and yard sale!! Lots of items for sale!



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Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS

- 1 Volcano's
output
- 5 Musical sign
- 9 Luau
memento
- 12 Nonstop
- 13 Very large
- 14 W-2 collectors
- 15 Courteous
chap
- 16 Borodin
prince
- 17 Actress Issa
- 18 Trying
experiences
- 20 Entertainer
Della —
- 22 Hosp. scan
- 23 Folks
- 24 Poisonous
- 27 Feudal tenant
- 30 Iowa college
town
- 31 Feel poorly
- 32 Pet shop cutie
- 34 Auric's
creator
- 35 Namath or
Pesci

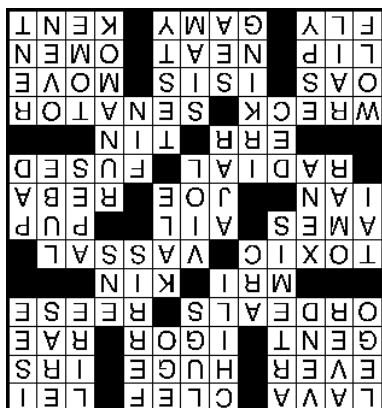
36 “Fancy”

- singer
37 Type of tire
40 Used solder
41 Foul up
42 Light metal
43 Ruin
46 Capitol
worker
50 Western
treaty grp.
51 Osiris' sister
53 Relocate
54 Backtalk
55 Undiluted
56 Foretelling
57 Take wing
58 Strong, as
venison
59 Superman,
incognito

DOWN

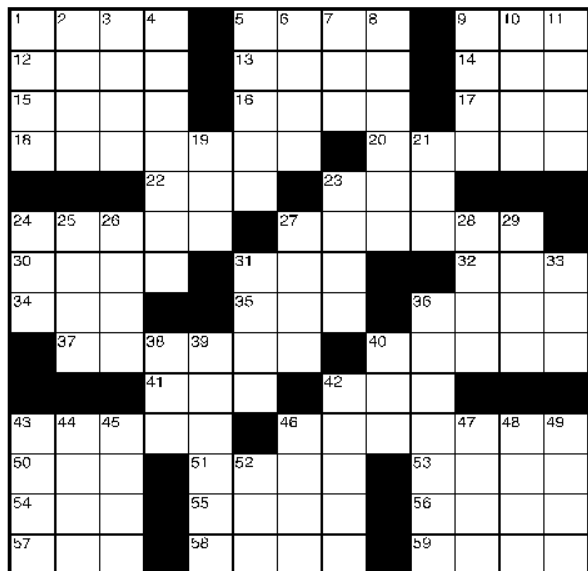
- 1 Toy block
brand
2 Say decidedly
3 Peddle
4 Goddess of
the hunt
5 Hot pepper

TODAY'S ANSWERS



- 6 Carries with
7 difficulty
8 — wheel
9 Trevi Fountain
10 coins, once
11 Bullpen stats
12 Shrink's reply
13 (2 wds.)

- 19 Part of a circle
21 Printer's measures
23 Curly-leafed veggie
24 — chi
25 General — Bradley
26 Lucy Lawless role
27 Fat fiddle
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29 Grease job
31 Barely open
33 Walk quietly
36 Go on a rampage (2 wds.)
38 Nov. follower
39 Annoying
40 Shark feature
42 Irascible
43 Dog's ancestor
44 Travel option
45 See
46 Thailand, once
47 Big book
48 Stove part
49 Find a tenant
52 Wave maker

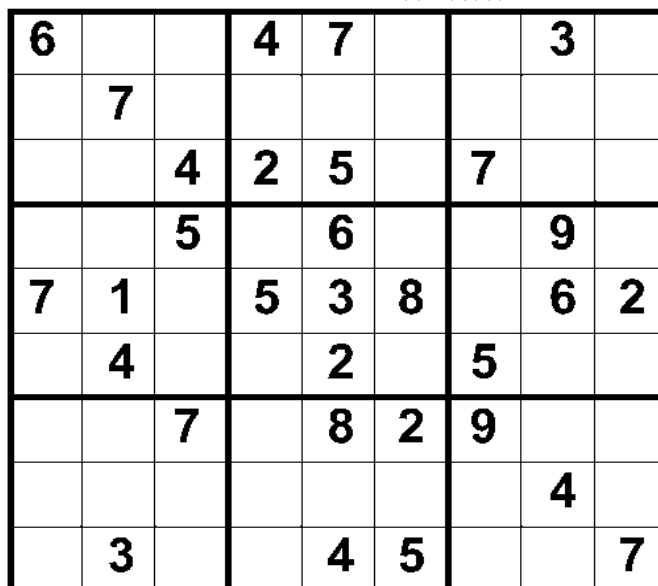


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Sudoku

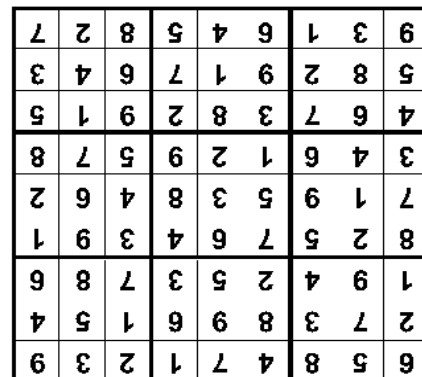
DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆



10:7

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TODAY'S ANSWERS



HOW TO PLAY:

Each row, column and set of 3-by-3 boxes must contain the numbers 1 through 9 without repetition.

Celebrity Cipher

by Luis Campos

Celebrity Cipher cryptograms are created from quotations by famous people, past and present. Each letter in the cipher stands for another.

"OLGRY RG DMVHEHK AF RKHPG. RN
FML KMX'S JPBH YUPERSF MN RKHPG,
FML'EH ZLGS YMOOLXRYPSRXC GJHHE
GMLXX." — FM-FM OP

"Music is powered by ideas. If you don't have clarity of ideas, you're just communicating sheer sound." — Yo-Yo Ma

TODAY'S CLUE: *M sjenbo A*

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