It’s a small world after all

By Ron Rozelle
Contributing Editor

Back when my first name was Coach instead of Mister at the school where I am still soldiering on toward retirement, I took my varsity tennis players on a field trip to Houston. This was in the early 1980s, and John McEnroe was playing in an exhibition match. I figured that watching that young fellow in action, in person, might benefit my kids in at least a couple of ways. First, in those days he was the best player in the world. So maybe some of his skills and strategies would rub off. And second, his infamous behavior – temper tantrums and racquet throwing and screaming – would provide a good object lesson for me to refer to when reminding my players how not to behave.

The match was in the old Sam Houston Coliseum, which stood about where the Hobby Center is now in the downtown theater district. On the way up, the kids wanted to know about the coliseum. It and its adjoining Music Hall were old by then, and other, newer venues were much more popular.

I told them I’d attended the Houston Fat Stock Show and Rodeo there when I was a child.

(Continued on Page 12)

Free Reindeer Run, holiday movie planned in Angleton

By Harold Allen
Bulletin Correspondent

Race or walk right into the spirit of Christmas on Saturday, Dec. 10, when the Angleton Recreation Center holds a free Reindeer Run, followed by a holiday movie.

The Reindeer Run starts at 4:30 p.m., and is a one-mile family and stroller-friendly run to either walk or run at one’s own pace, and unlike most “runs,” there is not cost to participate. Pre-registration has already begun at the Recreation Center and goes through Dec. 7. Late registration can also be completed the day of the event until 4 p.m.

Participants who register early will receive reindeer ears, but quantities are limited. The first three people to cross the Reindeer Run finish line will receive a special holiday-themed prize.

A local band, Tom’s Fun Band, will be playing live Christmas and children’s music on the Recreation Center Lawn for everyone’s pleasure. Free candy canes and hot cocoa will be handed out while supplies last. There will also be a free raffle for one of three holiday prizes, and participants must be present to win. Winners will be announced before 6 p.m.

At 6 p.m. the movie “Elf,” starring Will Ferrell, will be shown on the big screen on the front lawn of the Recreation Center Lawn for everyone’s pleasure. Free candy canes and hot cocoa will be handed out while supplies last. There will also be a free raffle for one of three holiday prizes, and participants must be present to win. Winners will be announced before 6 p.m.

Don’t throw that paper away yet

By John Toth
Editor and Publisher

My daughter the other day asked me to save for her some old papers that we take back weekly for an art project that requires lots of newspapers.

Of course, I’ll just hold them back from the recycling stack. Just remind me on Tuesdays, I said.

The SPCA also wants old newspapers, for obvious reasons.

The woman at the laundromat in Clute doesn’t need old papers anymore. Her puppy has been potty trained.

It’s a good thing that we still have newspapers. Try to cover all these requests with your notebook or tablet.

Those of you who wish that newspapers would disappear because you may not agree with a certain article or opinion piece in it, or are getting most of your information from social media, you need to think about what you are wishing for.

Not only because newspapers soak up liquids very well, but also because for a long time they have been the great equalizer in our democracy, the defenders of the underdog, the voice that politicians often do not like.

The paper itself is great for lots of things. Did I mention delivering babies? It doesn’t just happen in the movies. If nothing else is available, wrap the baby in newspaper, recommend an emergency birth website, because papers are generally germ-free, untouched on the inside pages by human hands as they roll off the press.

(Continued on Page 11)

Don’t throw that paper away yet

By John Toth
Editor and Publisher

My daughter the other day asked me to save for her some old papers that we take back weekly for an art project that requires lots of newspapers.

Of course, I’ll just hold them back from the recycling stack. Just remind me on Tuesdays, I said.

The SPCA also wants old newspapers, for obvious reasons.

The woman at the laundromat in Clute doesn’t need old papers anymore. Her puppy has been potty trained.

It’s a good thing that we still have newspapers. Try to cover all these requests with your notebook or tablet.

Those of you who wish that newspapers would disappear because you may not agree with a certain article or opinion piece in it, or are getting most of your information from social media, you need to think about what you are wishing for.

Not only because newspapers soak up liquids very well, but also because for a long time they have been the great equalizer in our democracy, the defenders of the underdog, the voice that politicians often do not like.

The paper itself is great for lots of things. Did I mention delivering babies? It doesn’t just happen in the movies. If nothing else is available, wrap the baby in newspaper, recommend an emergency birth website, because papers are generally germ-free, untouched on the inside pages by human hands as they roll off the press.

(Continued on Page 11)
Santa, parade, singing highlight Heart of Angleton Dec. 3

By Harold Allen
Bulletin correspondent

Angleton’s annual Heart of Christmas event, a testament to the spirit of Christmas and the joy of sharing with others, will be Saturday, Dec. 3, in the heart of downtown around the Brazoria County Courthouse.

In keeping with that spirit, the event, which will be 6-9 p.m., is free for the whole family.

“The festivities will include a lighted parade, which will be started by Santa at 6 p.m. and will include fire trucks, police cars and trailer floats. Parade walkers will be handing out candy along the route, which begins behind the courthouse and goes to Magnolia Street and ends at Cedar Street,” said Martha Eighme, Angleton’s economic development and tourism director, who coordinates the event.

At the end of the parade, local civic organizations and businesses will be giving away free refreshments or other items at their booths, which will be set up around the courthouse grounds.

Among these are Sonic, which will provide a light food from their menu, and Life Four Square Church, which will be serving Starbucks’ coffee, cookies and hot chocolate.

Choirs from several local churches and schools will be performing holiday music.

Other activities include face painting and rides for children, including a rockwall, zipline, various mechanical rides and inflatables.

Decorating the courthouse square will be the Christmas Tree Walk. Christmas trees will be donated and decorated by local businesses and then judged for their beauty.

After the contest and event, the trees are given to local families in need, which exemplifies the joy of sharing theme.

Remember to bring cameras or cell phones to take free pictures with Santa.

For more information, please contact Martha Eighme at (979) 849-4364.

Texas offers grants for veterans with mental health issues

AUSTIN – The Texas Health and Human Services Commission is reaching out to community organizations to announce the availability of up to $10 million in grants to help veterans and their families manage mental health issues. The deadline to apply is Dec. 6.

HHSC recently issued a “request for applications” for the second round of Texas Veterans + Family Alliance grants, aimed at improving quality of life for Texas veterans and their families by increasing access to mental health treatment and services.

State Sen. Jane Nelson’s Senate Bill 55 established the program, which provides up to $20 million in state funds over the 2016-2017 biennium to be matched with local and private funds by the grantees. The first round of grants, worth nearly $10 million, were announced in October. Also, a $1 million state-funded pilot effort, with community match, began last summer in five locations in Texas.

Organizations that want to apply for the grants should visit the Electronic State Business Daily website here.

For more information about the grants, visit www.MentalHealthTX.org.

For more information about behavioral health services in Texas, please visit www.TexasVets.org.

Michael Allen
Strange but True

By Bill Sones and Rich Sones, Ph.D.

MANY TYPES OF SHARKS

Q. Picture a gaping mouth and pointy teeth in a watery expanse, and what comes to mind? Seems pretty accurate for a shark, doesn’t it?

A. Yes, if you’re thinking of the great white shark from the classic movie “Jaws,” but you’d be ignoring the other 500 species of shark varying in size, shape, environment and diet, says Gemma Tarlach in “Discover” magazine.

Some etymologists believe the word “shark” may derive from earlier German and Dutch words for shifty characters, as in “loan sharks” and “card sharks.” Other researchers believe the word comes from the Mayan language “Xoc” (pronounced “shoke”), a local word in the Caribbean for the “great fish.”

Though humans consider sharks a threat, the opposite is true, Tarlach suggests. Up to 100 million sharks are killed each year by finning, in which fishermen cut off a shark’s dorsal fin to sell as a delicacy and dump the rest. “The practice imperils not only sharks but entire food chains that are disrupted as the animals’ numbers dwindle.”

SHE HIT THE JACKPOT

Q. Ida May Fuller lived to the ripe old age of 100 before passing away on Jan. 31, 1975. What about her was hundreds of times more remarkable than her age at death?

A. She was the first person in the U.S. to receive Social Security benefits, getting her first check for $22.54 on January 31, 1940, says Dan Lewis in his book “Now I Know More.” When Fuller retired in 1939 at the age of 65, she had worked for three years under the Social Security system and contributed only $24.75. So by the time she cashed her second benefits check, she had already come out ahead. On Jan. 31, 1975, 35 years to the day she received that first $22.54, she passed away. “Her total lifetime Social Security benefits? $22,888.92.”

OUR SIXTH SENSE

Q. Caltech geophysicist Joe Kirschvink claims that humans possess a weak “sixth sense” entirely distinct from sight, hearing, smell, taste and touch. Explain, please.

A. Birds do it, bees do it, even bacteria do it; not to mention fish, lobsters, turtles, worms, snails, frogs, newts, mice, rats, cattle, deer and dogs, says Eric Hand in “Science” magazine. They all navigate using Earth’s magnetic field, a sense dubbed magnetoreception.

For decades now, researchers have been looking for magnetoreception in humans, but the results have been frustratingly irreproducible.

Kirschvink’s experiments are the first to rely on objective measurements of brain waves instead of subjective assessments of human behavior, revealing a consistent, repeatable effect of magnetic field direction on brain alpha waves.

A parallel study in Japan is seeing similar results. Kirschvink concludes that humans do indeed have functioning magnetoreceptors.

Do we use this sense for anything, or is it just vestigial, like an ostrich’s wings? And what’s the physical mechanism? The answers are unknown. Muses Kirschvink, “It’s part of our evolutionary history. Magnetoreception may be the primal sense.”

(Send STRANGE questions to brothers Bill and Rich at sbtcolumn@gmail.com)
Angleton Rec Center free Reindeer Run, movie Dec. 10

(Continued from Page 1)

the Recreation Center.
Chips and drinks will be available for purchase during the movie, or guests are welcome to bring their own snacks. It is suggested to dress accordingly with the weather and bring lawn chairs, and blankets, if needed.

This year’s event will also be a collection site for Toys For Tots, a toy drive sponsored by The United States Marine Corps.
Toys collected are for local children who may otherwise not have much for Christmas. So, in keeping with the Angleton Heart of Christmas event’s Spirit of Christmas theme - the joy of sharing with others - donations will help go a long way to promote this goal.
Those wishing to participate are asked to please bring a new and unwrapped toy to the event. Collection boxes will be available in which to place donations.
Anyone who cannot make the event can still donate by dropping off a toy at the Recreation Center between now and the week before Christmas.
Kimberly McGlothern, recreation specialist, Angleton Parks and Recreation Department, wants to stress this is a free event for the community to promote the holiday spirit and the community of Angleton itself.
For more information please contact Kimberly at (979) 849-4364, ext 4102, or Lauren Stroud, Angleton Parks and Recreation Department fitness recreation specialist, at (979) 849-4364, ext 4104.

Did you know?

- America’s Wikipedia page mentions “war” more than any other word, excluding prepositions and words connected to the country’s name.
- Language from Abraham Lincoln’s Gettysburg Address was woven into the current constitution of France.
- The “Fantastic Beasts” actors couldn’t take the scripts home with them - they had to lock them up in a safe at the end of the day.
- Researchers have found that they could predict how much fat a group of obese adults lost based on amount of sleep they got.
New family doctor joins Brazosport Community

CHI St. Luke’s Health - Brazosport is happy to welcome Dr. Mitesh M. Patel to their growing team of family practitioners. Dr. Patel is providing primary care services at CHI St. Luke’s Health - Brazosport Family Medicine at 208 Oak Drive South, Suite 200 in Lake Jackson.

As a native to Lake Jackson, Dr. Patel graduated from Brazoswood High School in 2003 and is pleased to return back home to be a part of the community.

After graduating from medical school at Midwestern University: Arizona College of Osteopathic Medicine in Glendale, AZ, Dr. Patel completed his residency at Summa Health System/Akron City Hospital in Akron, OH.

As a board-certified physician in both allopathic and osteopathic, Dr. Patel focuses on primary care for ages 5 and older and is dedicated in providing quality comprehensive medical care to each and every one of his patients. He treats a variety of acute and chronic illnesses, performs minor office procedures and strongly emphasizes preventive care to keep the patient healthy by encouraging good life choices. Dr. Patel believes that “Your Good Health should start with Great Primary Care.”

The addition of Dr. Patel will continue to help meet the demand for primary care in the area. Dr. Patel will work alongside Dr. Na Vang and Family Nurse Practitioner Jennifer Kucera at the Oak Dr South location of CHI St. Luke’s Health – Brazosport Family Medicine.

Dr. Patel is accepting new patients. To make an appointment, please call (979) 285-3633.

For more information about the Family Medicine Center, please visit www.BrazosportRegionalFM.org.

Genius of Charles Dickens to be showcased at Clarion event Dec. 1

The Women’s Lecture Luncheon Series of the Brazosport College Foundation is pleased to bring guest lecturer, Dr. Elliot Engel, to the Brazosport Community.

On Dec. 1, Dr. Engel will present his program, “A Dickens of a Christmas,” at The Clarion at Brazosport College. The lecture will begin at 7:30 p.m.

In this light and enlightening program, Dr. Engel reveals the fascinating story of how Charles Dickens changed Christmas forever in 1843 by writing “A Christmas Carol.”

Using anecdotes, analysis and large doses of humor, Dr. Engel brings to life again the unique genius of Dickens and his enduring contribution to the Christmas spirit.

The program is being sponsored by The Infinity Group.

Dr. Engel has written 10 books, published in England, Japan, Turkey and the United States. His mini-lecture series on Charles Dickens ran on PBS television stations around the country. His articles have appeared in numerous newspapers and national magazines, including “Newsweek.”

In 2009, he was inducted into the Royal Society of Arts in England for his academic work and service in promoting Charles Dickens.

Since 1980, Dr. Engel has been President of the Dickens Fellowship of North Carolina, the largest branch of this worldwide network of clubs.

The sales of Dr. Engel’s books, CDs, and DVDs have raised funds for The Great Ormond Street Children’s Hospital, which Dickens helped found in London in 1852.

For more information or to purchase tickets, visit www.brazosport.edu/clarion or call the Clarion Box Office at (979) 230-3156.

Brazosport Regional Health System is now

CHI St. Luke’s Health Brazosport

Here is where we have provided the Brazosport community with high-quality cardiac care closer to home for decades.

Now part of Catholic Health Initiatives (CHI) and affiliated with the world-renowned Texas Heart® Institute and Baylor College of Medicine®, CHI St. Luke’s Health-Brazosport is where we’ll help more people with heart disease live longer, healthier lives.

As part of Catholic Health Initiatives (CHI) and though our affiliations with Texas Heart® Institute and Baylor College of Medicine®, CHI St. Luke’s Health is expanding world-class care to communities throughout Texas.

In affiliation with

www.chistlukesbrazosport.org
BC Law Enforcement Academy enrolling for 2017 classes

The Brazosport College Law Enforcement Academy is recruiting for enrollment in spring 2017 Basic Peace Officer Certification courses.

The Basic Peace Officer Certification course begins on Jan. 9 at Brazosport College. Application packets for the Law Enforcement Academy are available at the Brazosport College Library and must be returned to Teresa LeBlanc-Collins, Assistant Professor, Criminal Justice, no later than Dec. 14.

Prospective students must go through the application process before registering for the academy.

Successful applicants will participate in more than 600 hours of training in various subjects such as criminal law, firearms and arrest tactics, as well as emergency driving, traffic enforcement and criminal investigation.

Applicants must undergo a recruiting process, including a criminal history check and psychological evaluation. Upon successful completion of the training course, candidates will become eligible to sit for the state licensing exam. A passing score of 70 or above on the state licensing exam will make the candidate eligible for employment in the state of Texas as a police officer, deputy sheriff, constable and other law enforcement capacities.

For more information, contact Teresa LeBlanc-Collins at (979) 230-3442.

Parkinson advocacy group to meet Dec. 1

The Parkinson’s Advocacy and Support Group of Brazoria County will be meeting on Thursday, December 1, at 10:30 a.m. at the Brazoria Community Library.

Please contact Gilbert Ramirez at (210) 416-1806 or at gfram@pacbell.net to R.S.V.P. and for any questions or additional information.

The book “Cool Hand Luke” was written by an ex-con, who heard stories about Luke from other prisoners while working on a chain gang.

Alan Shepard - the first American in space - had to wet himself. NASA hadn’t made a waste collection device for his spacesuit as it was a short flight.
Schedule a Tour of Your New Home Today!

The Villages of LAKE JACKSON

504 Highway 332
Lake Jackson

Newly Upgraded Modern Apartment Homes Available Now!

- Granite Counters
- 24 Hour Fitness Center
- Shimmering Pool
- Outdoor Grill Areas

- Stainless Steel Appliances
- Bark Park
- Friendly Staff
- And Much More!

Call To Hear About Our Move-in Specials and Preferred Employer Discounts

979-480-0022

We Also Offer Short Term Lease Options

www.villageslakejackson.com

---

Visit with Mr. & Mrs. Santa Claus 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm nightly
Sweet Potato the Clown 6:30 - 8:30 pm Dec. 9th & 10th
- Dance Group Performances • Choir Performances
- Arts & Crafts • Vendors (Indoors & Outdoors)
- Christmas Music • Crackling Fire • Free Marshmallow Roast
- Pony Rides • Lighted Christmas Tree Forest and Displays
- Variety of Free Inflatables to enjoy

For More Information call 979-265-6392 or email: cluteparks@gmail.com

---

Coolest Holiday Destination

ICE LAND
Ice Sculptures
Caribbean Christmas

EIGHT HOLIDAY ATTRACTIONS

*** ONE VENUE ***

November 12 – January 8

Ice Land • Festival of Lights • Cirque Joyeux Noel
3D Films • Rudolph 4D • Ice Skating • Arctic Slide • Train Rides
Plus Live Entertainment, Great Food, Group Rates, Hotel Packages and More!

f 800-582-4673  •  moodygardens.org  •  Free Parking
The Brazoria Lions Club’s traditional, decade plus old annual gun raffle drawing (99 long guns and a new Polaris 4-Wheeler ATV) takes place on Thursday, Dec. 8, with doors opening at 6 p.m. at the Brazoria Heritage Foundation Lloyd Thomas Gym, 205 North Nevada St., Downtown Brazoria.

The raffle tickets (only 3,500 tickets will be sold) are for chances on 99 long guns (shot guns and rifles) and a Polaris four wheeler. Though winners need not be present to win, ticket holders are entitled to a barbecue sandwich, chips and a drink (catered by Kenjo’s) at the event for no additional charge.

The meal and social hour is from 6–7 p.m. immediately followed by the drawing. There will also be a silent and a live Auction (with Floyd Scott as auctioneer) for a very limited number of items and additional “Card” drawings at the event.

The 100 prizes of the gun raffle are listed on the raffle ticket, and all prizes MUST be claimed within 30 days of the drawing. Winners will have choices of calibers, and gauges on model drawn on hand – first come, first choice. All gun winners must pass a NCIS background check.

This is the major fundraising effort for the Brazoria Lions Club. Proceeds benefit Brazoria Lions Club Projects dispensing monies to West of the Brazos community such as the Brazoria Heritage Foundation, The Brazoria Community Library, the needy elderly, the Little League, Boy Scouts, sending handicapped children to the Lions camp in Kerrville plus many more initiatives as necessary. For more information, call: (979) 798-4444.

Brazoria Lions gun raffle drawing Dec. 8
The Greater Angleton Chamber of Commerce will host the ninth annual Fa La La Ladies Night Out, presented by Back Road Beauties Boutique, on Dec. 1 at the Brazoria County Fairgrounds Auditorium.

Attendees will be able to pamper themselves with a night filled with dinner, desserts, shopping and more!

More than 20 local vendors will be present, so attendees can shop for last-minute holiday gifts and be pampered by the very best.

The tree and ornaments will be on display from Nov. 30 to Jan. 2.

The ideas behind the ornament was that I wanted to create a fun design that represents Alvin,” McClish said. “I am a fan of space architecture, machinery and design, and NASA is just 20 minutes away, so the design seemed even more appropriate.”

McClish said she is also happy to see that her work will also benefit a future student at the college.

“I am just very blessed to work at ACC and to be a part of the tree,” she said.

For more information about the tree, or to see past ornaments, visit www.house.texas.gov/resources/holiday-ornaments.

ACC Painting and Drawing instructor Jennifer McClish, right, hands over her ornament that she designed for the Texas Capitol Christmas tree to Liz Sitta, Texas District 29 director.
Home for the Holidays
ALVIN, TEXAS
CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL

FRIDAY, DEC. 2\textsuperscript{ND} & SATURDAY, DEC. 3\textsuperscript{RD}

FRIDAY NIGHT AT WELLBORNE THEATER
Kid’s Craft Activity 6pm • Home Alone Movie 7pm

SATURDAY AT NATIONAL OAK PARK
Pet Pictures with Santa 10am–12pm • Food Vendors • Christmas Market
Kid’s Activities • Snow Hill • World’s Tallest Snowman • Holiday Entertainment
Light Parade at 5:30pm & Much More!

281.388.4299 | 281.585.3359 | AlvinTexas.org | #alvintx
Alvin holds many of its best outdoor events. National Oak Park is located at 118 S. Magnolia Street. Due to some expected road closures, easy parking access to the park can be found at New Hope Church along the southern border of the park.

Saturday’s activities start with pet pictures with Santa from 10 a.m. - 12 p.m., so be sure to bring your family pet or two and a camera to take pictures of extended family members with Santa. This will be held at the Alvin Historic Train Depot, located at 119 E. Willis.

A favorite pasttime of children during the day will be Snow Hill, where they can frolic on a hill of man-made snow built by Artificial Ice Events of Houston. The World’s Tallest Snowman also will keep children amused as they hop and play on this 30-foot bounce house.

Mobile food trucks will include Sparta Houston, serving gyros and other Greek food; Mill’s Smokehouse, offering barbecue; Bobbie Jean’s, serving Southern food; and Wylie St. Tacos. Other vendors will include Alvin Sunrise Rotary, serving turkey legs; Alvin High School Project Graduation, selling hot chocolate, and K’s Koncessions will be frying funnel cakes and offering traditional cuisine. Residents and visitors may also bring their own food and drinks.

There will be a Christmas market offering a range of merchandise for sale, including hand-made crafts and jewelry. Produce vendors from the Alvin Depot Market will be selling their fresh locally grown products for holiday meals.

Music at the festival will be provided by the Alvin Community College Jazz Band and the Alvin High School Choir.

Saturday’s festivities will conclude with the second annual light parade with holiday-themed lighted floats downtown beginning at 5:30 p.m. with the parade marshal stationed in front of the Alvin Public Library on Gordon Street. Candy and presents will be passed out by individual float sponsors.

For more information, call the Alvin Convention & Visitor Bureau at (281) 388-4299.
Don’t throw your community newspapers away just yet; There is a lot of life left in them

(Continued from Page 1)

But the main purpose is to get you to read the newspaper before doing all these other things with it.

Almost all of the big stories during the elections were broken by newspapers. The other media, including the cable news channels, jumped on them even before the presses stopped rolling.

Newspapers cannot deliver information minute by minute because of the nature of the web printing press. It takes time to get a story to print, and then the paper to readers. In our case, it takes a week. The dailies do it once a day.

When I started working for the Houston Chronicle in 1983, we had afternoon and morning editions, and deadlines. By the time I left 12 years later to start The Bulletin, we were down to one late evening deadline and the morning editions.

Papers are not competition to breaking news delivered by the electronic and social media. But they run groundbreaking stories that other forms of media do not have.

It felt great when I broke a story for the Chronicle, the newswires picked it up, and everyone else followed it the next day. I basked in the glory for a very short time before resuming the chase and looking for a follow-up story that nobody else had.

After that story fizzled, I went looking for another one, and so on. It was a never-ending cycle. When I got beaten on a story, the pressure was on to catch up and pull ahead.

I broke a bunch of stories back in those days, and I am really proud of them. Some of my state prison stories are now referenced in college textbooks. These stories would have been hard to get if I had to lug a camera crew around with me. And the nature of the story would have changed also. People behave differently on camera than when talking to a reporter with a notebook and pen.

When we started The Bulletin, we carried a lot of county government stories that made a difference, and we stuck our necks out many times. I still run into people who remember the old days, and we spend too much time reminiscing. Those days are gone. Our county is run efficiently by current elected officials. For many years now we have refocused the paper to make it a fun read.

“When I start showing up at your meetings, something has gone wrong,” I joked with a county official the other day. “As long as you don’t see me, everything is good.”

The power of the press is very important on all levels.

I’m talking about the web printing press - that messy, noisy machine that transfers print rapidly onto a cheaper quality paper meant to withstand the elements wherever it is distributed for a day – or a week. And when you finish reading all the important stories that affect your life, the entertaining features, sports and comics, then it’s time to change the paper’s purpose to

Rozelle: World looks a lot bigger through children’s eyes

(Continued from Page 1)

before the Astrodome had been built. Then I told them how enormous the coliseum was, and how far away my family’s seats had been from the roping and riding and bucking.

When we arrived, I had to eat those words.

The arena that I recalled as gigantic looked, all those years later, like a high school gymnasium. There were, in fact, exactly two sets of restrooms in the whole place.

This has happened to you, I’ll bet.

You’ve remembered something as colossal from your childhood, only to find when seeing it as an adult that it has shrunk significantly.

Memory is an amazing thing, and as a writer it is a bank account that I draw on constantly. But memory can also be a liar. My grandparents’ house up in Livingston was not, I realize on the rare occasions when I see it again, the palatial behemoth that I thought it was when I was a little boy. It’s just a house, it turns out, and hardly one of the wonders of the universe.

Oddly, this fallible concept of size works exactly opposite when it comes to the actual universe. As I get older, I am more and more amazed at the size and depth of space. Especially on clear nights when a multitude of countless stars are spread out against the heavens. It’s easy to get lost in all of that, and to feel awfully small and insignificant.

I’m no Einstein (you really don’t need to email your agreement on this point; I’m not taking a vote). But I have tried on occasion to grasp the enormity of the cosmic fishbowl we’re trapped in, and always came up short. Until recently, that is.

One day a little book that my wife, Karen, used to use with her third-grade class caught my eye, so I opened up “The Book of Planets” by one Clint Twist. And it wasn’t until I read that children’s book — a process that took all of about 10 minutes — that the sheer vastness of the universe finally clicked. It was sort of a “out of the mouths of babes” experience. Or, more correctly, “out of a book intended for babes.”

In that handsome volume, this fine analogy was put forth: If the sun were the size of a basketball, the earth would be a pea about 250 feet away. And Pluto – which has been unceremoniously downgraded from planet to dwarf planet to large ice cube – would be a tiny seed about twenty miles — that’s right, twenty MILES — beyond the pea.

That little lesson in size and distance and perspective really hit home. It also, of course, made me feel even smaller when stargazing.

The perception of size has been elusive for me. When I was a child I saw some things as bigger and more impressive than they actually were, or at least bigger and more impressive than they would later be. Like my grandmother’s house. But with time, and lots of it, I’ve come to realize that the universe is infinitely larger and more complex than I ever imagined it could be.

So, why the big switch in thinking regarding size? And what does all this mean?

I have no idea. I thought we were in agreement that I’m no Einstein.

Ron Rozelle’s columns can be accessed at ronrozellewordsmith.wordpress.com. He is the author of “Writer’s Digest’s Write Great Fiction: Description & Setting,” and nine other books of fiction and nonfiction.
His goal came after a bit of trouble. Now that’s what you call a cut above. Matt Calvert scored the winning goal recently for the NHL’s Columbus Blue Jackets in the third period — after taking 30 stitches to his forehead the period before. Calvert had taken a slap shot to the noggin, causing the damage.

Mets prospect Tim Tebow hit just .194 in the just-completed Arizona Fall League. Hey, don’t laugh — that’s still four percentage points higher than the Philadelphia 76ers have batted the past three-plus seasons.

Unbeknownst to the other, golfer Phil Mickelson (sports hernia) and his caddie of 20 years, Jim “Bones” Mackay (double knee replacement), both wound up in surgery Oct. 19, Golf Digest reported. Not surprisingly, both offered up the same advice for their surgeons: “Replace your divot!”

Hockey legend Wayne Gretzky has lent his voice to “The Simpsons” for a “heroes of winter” episode set to air Dec. 11. Puck pundits were shocked — to see that Gretzky boasts more teeth than Homer.

—Brad Rock of Salt Lake City’s Deseret News, on rumors that Oregon sugar daddy Phil Knight is offering $10 million annually for a new football coach: “At that price, they should hire Denzel Washington and really get something done.”

—Comedy writer Alex Kasieberg, after Patriots tight end Rob Gronkowski was knocked woozy against the Seahawks: “When they held up three fingers and Gronk said, ‘Two,’ they knew he was O.K.”

Chambers announce Holiday Tour of Homes

The Brazosport and Angleton Chamber of Commerces are hosting their Holiday Tour of Homes on separate weekends.

Brazosport Chamber’s event will be Sunday, Dec. 4, from 1 to 5 p.m., and tickets are $20 for a tour of four area homes in Freeport and Lake Jackson. The homes of Ben and Lee Ann Rudolph, Danny Pearson and Luke Guidry, Jason Edwards and Judy Nolen; and Andrew and Katie Tolchin will be on display from 1 to 5 p.m.

The tour is sponsored by CAER, and tickets are available at the chamber, Carriage Flowers, Tammie’s Touch and LJ Flower Co.

Angleton’s home tour will be Sunday, Dec. 11, from 2 to 5 p.m., and six residences in Angleton and Danbury, including a “barnominium,” will be highlighted. They include those of Derrick and Angela Dees; George & Kurstie Davis; Rick and Cara Drenner; Jamey and Sara Machacek; Lee and Mandy Kay; and Bruce and Donna Cranfill.

Tickets are $20, and can be purchased at the chamber office. Sponsors for the Angleton area tour are Comfort Air and Brazoria County Truck Outfitters, and Aaron’s Sales and Lease is the refreshment sponsor. Refreshments will be served at the Cranfills. For more information, call (979) 849-6443.
S.F.A statue gets spruced up, thanks to volunteers, sponsors

Thanks to a cadre of dedicated volunteers and sponsoring companies, the large statue of Stephen F. Austin near Angleton no longer resembles an incarnation of the Jolly Green Giant.

A decade of standing beside a major thoroughfare takes its toll on a statue. “Big Steve,” as the statue is affectionately termed by our volunteers, was badly in need of cleaning, repair, and painting. The job required a full week’s work – a week of clear weather and enough of a lull in commercial work to allow the companies to send employees to the site.

“The SFA Statue looks absolutely great,” said Bryan Frazier, Brazoria County Parks Dept. director. “What a difference cleaning, repairing and patching makes! He’s as good as new.”

From a taxpayer standpoint, this is a very good thing – the effort was underwritten entirely by the companies involved without county funding.

The entire project was coordinated by Pat “Cotton” Brewer, I.C.S. Maintenance. Supt., who served as organizer, photographer, cook and server. Without Brewer’s constant involvement, this service to the citizens of Brazoria County would never have happened.

“On behalf of the Brazoria County Parks Dept., we can’t thank everyone enough for this herculean volunteer effort to make the statue look so good again,” Frazier said. “Large work crews have spent lots and lots of time on this; we recognize it is a big deal. This was so helpful, serving a legitimate need, and has easily saved our taxpayers thousands of dollars by donating this valuable service, equipment and time.”

Meet Lil’ S.F.A

Guests entering the Visitor Center at the Stephen F. Austin-Munson Park will be greeted by a life-sized statue of the Father of Texas. The smaller statue recently was moved to a special area built just for it in the center of the building.

This statue was constructed by sculptor David Adickes as a prototype for the larger statue at the park entrance, and was used in promotion and fundraising for the larger monument early in the process. Current plans are to refurbish the life-size statue, to repair much of the damage incurred by years of travel around the county, and to install educational materials on the backdrop wall.

SPONSORS

Dow Texas Operations supports environmental conservation and outdoor fun.

Visit www.facebook.com/DowTexasOperations to see what we’re doing in our communities.
Students, volunteers help S.F. Austin celebrate birthday

More than 300 local students descended upon the Stephen F. Austin Munson Historical County Park on Nov. 3 to celebrate the birthday of the Father of Texas. The children were on site for an educational field trip.

Jane Long, Stephen F. Austin, and Angleton’s Northside Elementary were joined by several home school students and several curious adults as the site opened with a presentation of the Texas flag. The children were organized into groups to visit 13 educational stations, where volunteers expounded on the meaning of various flags from Texas history, demonstrated rope-making, or involved the children in militia drills – armed with wooden muskets. Other stations featured story-telling, campfire cooking, historical personas, and pioneer toys. A special birthday cake was provided by the Daughters of the Republic of Texas. This annual event is held each year on a school day close to Austin’s birthday. Planned by the Stephen F. Austin Celebration Committee, composed of several local heritage organizations, the birthday celebration and similar events are run by volunteers and designed to accommodate local school children at no cost to either the schools or to the county.

Upcoming field trip events at the site include Texas Independence Day on March 2 and San Jacinto Day on April 21.

National Oak Park work almost finished

Construction is winding down at Alvin’s National Oak Park. The Brazoria County Parks Department handled CIAP Grant funding for the project, acting as a pass-through agency. A nice observation deck has been built overlooking Mustang Bayou as well as a new parking area, a pavilion, and some trails were reworked. Visit the site on Gordon Street at the old Depot.

Schedule of events

Saturday, Jan. 7: Stephen F. Austin Funeral Re-enactment. Take part in a unique event recreating the state funeral of the Father of Texas. The event begins at 9 a.m. at the First Capitol Replica in West Columbia with political speeches and a musket volley, followed by a reception at the Columbia Historical Museum. The event continues at noon at the Gulf Prairie Cemetery in Jones Creek with memorial speeches by Sam Houston, Anson Jones, and others, punctuated by a musket volley, Masonic funeral service, and a 23-round artillery salute. For information, call the Department Office at (979) 864-1541.

Saturday, Jan 21, 9 a.m. - noon: Dunes Day. Volunteers meet on Surfside Beach to rebuild, restore, and strengthen our dunes. For more information, contact the parks department at (979) 864-1541.

Thursday, March 2: Texas Independence Day Celebration. Join volunteers and students at the Austin Statue at Hwy. 288 and Hwy. 35 for a celebration with historical characters, activities, exhibits, music, and refreshments. This program is geared to school groups. Free event sponsored by local groups. For information, call the SF Austin-Munson Park at (979) 248-5961.

Friday, April 21, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.: San Jacinto Day Celebration. Join volunteers and students at the Austin Statue at Hwy 288 and Hwy 35 for a celebration with historical characters, activities, exhibits, music, and refreshments. This program is geared to school groups. Free event sponsored by local groups. For information, call the SF Austin-Munson Park at (979) 248-5961.

Saturday, April 22: Texas Adopt-A-Beach Spring Clean-Up. Volunteers gather at 9 a.m. in Surfside and Quintana for a general beach cleanup. Dress for the weather and bring along some water. Supplies provided; lunch afterward. For more information, contact the coordinators (979) 864-1541 (Surfside) or Patty at (979) 233-1461 (Quintana).

May 18-21: Seventh Annual Fishing Tournament at San Luis Pass County Park. Starts at noon on Thursday and runs through 9 a.m. on Sunday. Registered campers only. Call (979) 233-6026.

Small Watercraft Club – Join the fun as we learn about canoes and kayaks. From basic watercraft safety and skills to short trips on local waterways, this growing club is a good fit for family activity and learning. Dates, times, and locations vary by season. For information call (979) 864-1541.
Did you know?

• The Linx Smart Cycling Helmet with open-ear bone conduction lets riders listen to music and take calls while allowing them to hear traffic.

• A 70-year-old man robbed a Kansas City bank and then sat down in the lobby, saying he'd rather live in jail than with his wife.

• While alcohol is known to increase people's risk of cancer, a study found that regular exercise nearly cancels out this increased risk.

• "Dwarf planets" aren't full-on planets because they haven't achieved gravitational dominance over their orbital region.

• "Honey, I Shrunk the Kids" is not a grammatically correct title—it should be "Shrank."
**Bulletin Horoscope**

**ARIES** (March 21-April 19): Spread your wings. Cultivate new friendships and widen your circle of acquaintances in the week to come. A close companion or significant other may sweep you off your feet with a brilliant business idea.

**TAUROS** (April 20-May 20): You can become your own better business bureau. You may be inspired to offer the extra services that people need and want. A friend may help you accomplish one of your most important goals in the week ahead.

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 20): Use your head and solutions will jump out at you. Small gifts or kindnesses shared with loved ones might raise your self-esteem and confidence levels. Your focus will shift from group dynamics to family as the week progresses.

**CANCER** (June 21-July 22): There is no end to friends. Those who are in close connection might be tired of humdrum routine. Be the best possible friend to your significant other in the week ahead and consider ways to break the monotony.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22): New friends, ideas, and viewpoints could inspire you in the week to come. Singles would be wise to steer clear of pursuing new love interests unless looking for a short-lived romance. Strangers might offer helpful financial advice.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Stay cool, calm, and collected. Avoid overreacting if a significant other seems too attractive to a new friend. Peace and harmony could be marred by misunderstandings that can be easily avoided in the week ahead.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You may meet a variety of people from all walks of life during the work week ahead. When you are at home, however, you may prefer to mingle with those who are more familiar and reliable even if they are less exciting.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Don’t put your money where your mouth is. New people in your immediate environment may seem exciting and tweak your interest this week, but financial ventures and romantic notions could swiftly be squashed.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Think new and improved. Make a resolution to find ways to enhance your creative projects by using the latest technology. Scratching the itch to do something different might lead to a step forward this week.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You stave off boredom by going overboard. A backlog of boundless enthusiasm can be put to good use in sports, games, or travel as this week unfolds. Come out on top of the heap in healthy competitions.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): The harder you pull on the oars, the further you will row your boat and make your dreams come true. Someone close could keep a steady hand on the rudder while you merrily float through the week ahead.

**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20): Focus on financial finesse and friendliness. Employing modern techniques and scientific methods can help you make money. Something trendy or quaint might tempt you to loosen the purse strings in the week to come.

---

**History of the World**

Nov. 21: ON THIS DATE in 1877, Thomas Edison announced the invention of his phonograph. Later that year, he showed the device at the Chicago World’s Fair, where it generated a great deal of interest. Edison continued to refine the phonograph, and in 1878, he patented it.

Nov. 22: ON THIS DATE in 1955, President Eisenhower suffered a mild stroke during a speech in New York City. The stroke was not severe, and Eisenhower continued to serve as president for the rest of his term. In 1956, he was re-elected to another term.

Nov. 23: ON THIS DATE in 1897, President William McKinley was assassinated while riding in a motorcade in Buffalo, New York. The assassin, Leon Czolgosz, shot McKinley with a revolver as he greeted crowds in the city. McKinley died the next day from internal bleeding.

Nov. 24: ON THIS DATE in 1963, Lee Harvey Oswald was assassinated in Dallas, Texas. Oswald was shot and killed by Jack Ruby, a Dallas nightclub owner. The assassination of President Kennedy was one of the most shocking events in American history.

Nov. 25: ON THIS DATE in 1864, a Confederate plot to burn New York City was thwarted by Union troops. The plot was discovered by Union intelligence and foiled by troops sent to New York City.

Nov. 26: ON THIS DATE in 1955, the first issue of LIFE magazine was published. LIFE was a weekly news magazine that was known for its high-quality photography and in-depth reporting. The magazine was founded by Henry Luce and Elia Kazan.

---

**Did you know?**

- Humans can’t digest grass because our bodies don’t have what it takes to break down the cellulose found in the plant.
- You can now buy a 180,000-square-foot, seven-story building that looks like a picnic basket for $5 million.
- A cat named Moon Unit disappeared from a London home in 2007, only to somehow turn up in Paris in June of 2016.

---

**Jumble Answers**

**Answer:** Easy to turn a fifty into -- A PEN AND TWO FIVES

---

**Sociology 101**

**Question:** In 1803, Spain ceded its claim to the Louisiana Territory to what country?
VocabPower!

Try this "fr" tongue twister four times fast: Fresh fried fish, fish fresh fried, fried fish fresh, fish fried fresh I tried. Now that you're warmed up: Freckle-faced Freddie's French frogs frolicked. More "fr"s for free, easier on the tongue, harder on the brain:

1. fritter
   a. pester  b. swindle  c. odd critter  d. waste by bits
2. friable
   a. fleshly  b. crumbly  c. can burn  d. can irrigate
3. fructify
   a. to bear  b. sweeten  c. graft onto  d. edify
4. frivolous
   a. errant  b. jovial  c. trivial  d. false
5. froward
   a. bold  b. direction  c. contrary  d. accidental

6. frigate
   a. large fee  b. war ship  c. "fr" sound  d. rear gate
7. frippery
   a. nonsense  b. buds  c. frozen land  d. gaudy clothes
8. fraxious
   a. moody  b. in parts  c. rebellious  d. rambunctious
9. frond
   a. leaf  b. in parts  c. outs kirts  d. agreement
10. fratricide
    a. chatting  b. cheating  c. friendship  d. brother murderer

answers: "fr"  "fr"  "fr"  "fr"

In memory of Greg Wilkinson

(c)2016 TRIBUNE CONTENT AGENCY, INC.
The Resort at Schlitterbahn is open all year! It's the perfect base for your explorations of the Texas Hill Country, excursions into San Antonio, or world-class shopping expeditions. The Resort at Schlitterbahn is located in the heart of New Braunfels, a historic German town filled with great restaurants, museums, and attractions. With a challenging golf course located right next door and the charming Gruene Historic District down the street, there's a little something for everyone.
Do home remedies for the common cold really work?

Seema Yasmin
The Dallas Morning News (TNS)

Kids have an average of six to eight colds each year and adults have two to four. Which home remedies do you use for colds and do you know if they really work? News that a homeopathic teething remedy has caused the deaths of at least 10 children has raised questions about the safety and effectiveness of alternative medicines for treating common problems.

**VITAMIN C**

Vitamin C was first mentioned as a treatment for the cold in the 1970s. Since then it's been studied in dozens of trials. Some have found that if taken daily before you catch a cold, vitamin C can decrease the severity of symptoms such as sore throat and runny nose.

It's also been found to shorten the duration of colds by about 10 percent if taken soon after symptoms begin. That means the 12 days of feeling sick from a cold that adults typically experience each year could be reduced to about 11 days with the help of vitamin C. However, in some studies where vitamin C is compared to a placebo pill, people taking vitamin C are no better off than people taking a placebo.

Vitamin C is found in citrus fruits and berries. The recommended daily dose is 90 mg for men and 75 mg for women. Some people take a higher dose, especially during cold season, but doses higher than 2000 mg per day have been linked to stomach problems and kidney stones.

**ECHINACEA**

The jury is still out on the effectiveness of echinacea, a flowering herb which is made into tinctures and teas and commonly used to combat colds. Some studies show it boosts the number of white cells which could mean a stronger immune response to infections. But other studies find echinacea doesn’t really do much.

It seems the worst that can happen with echinacea is an allergic reaction that causes a rash, and in some people, serious anaphylactic shock. A more common side effect of the herb is an upset stomach. Echinacea can cause liver problems if combined with heart medicines such as amiodarone.

**ZINC**

A study published in 2011 found zinc supplements shortened the duration of a cold and reduced the number of days kids skipped school because of illness. The study reviewed the results of 15 experiments and found taking zinc also cut the use of antibiotics.

Some of the studies showed zinc only seemed to work if taken within the first day of symptoms. People who took supplements soon after they fell ill were sick for one day less than those who took a placebo pill.

Again, there are mixed results on the effectiveness of this supplement. A 2009 study found there simply wasn’t enough evidence to recommend zinc as a way to prevent and treat colds.

Zinc may interfere with one of the most common causes of the cold — rhinoviruses. The supplement has been found to stop rhinoviruses from replication and could block the virus from latching on to human cells.

**GARLIC**

Some small studies found garlic supplements reduced the number of colds a person experienced and quickened the pace at which they recovered from a cold. But these were studies of only a few hundred people.

A larger analysis which grouped together the results of eight experiments found there was not enough evidence to say that garlic wards off colds. Garlic breath might ward off people, which could be one way of staying germ-free during cold season!

Everything you need to know about the common cold

What causes of a cold?
Although many types of viruses can cause a common cold, rhinoviruses are the most common culprit. A cold virus enters your body through your mouth, eyes or nose. The virus can spread through droplets in the air when someone who is sick coughs, sneezes or talks.

How do you catch a cold?
Here are some surefire ways to catch a cold:

- Become a sneeze guard. Cold viruses get spread around by mucus and saliva flung out of the body by sneezes and coughs. ...
- Touch everything and never wash your hands. ...
- Stick your nose out. ...
- Walk barefoot in the cold. ...
- Hang out in the city. ...
- Stress out. ...

What is the incubation period for the common cold?
The incubation period for a common cold is usually around two days before symptoms start. You are most infective when you have the early symptoms of sneezing, runny nose and cough. The viruses replicate in the cells lining the nose and they are coughed or sneezed out in droplets of mucus.