

83rd Year No. 50 • 7820 Wyatt Drive, White Settlement, Texas 76108 • www.suburban-newspapers.com • December 14, 2023 Around the Town with Denise Honeycutt

# **River Oaks Christmas Parade Draws Crowd**

Spectators gathered to watch the second Annual River Oaks Christmas Parade on Dec. 9.

The River Oaks Fire and River Oaks Police Departments entered their vehicles, along with decorated floats and classic automobiles.

Residents and visitors watched throughout the parade route and it was enjoyed by everyone in attendance.

Pictured right: River Oaks Mayor Darren Houk brought along members of City Council, including Yolie Rodriguez, John Claridge, Steve Holland, Brent Forester and Leigh Ann Turner and more to ride in the parade.





Tony Alva waits for the parade to begin with his festively dressed Akita dogs, Ranger and Peppa.



Joel Hernandez drove his '66 Ford F100 on the parade route.



Parade volunteers waved to the crowds of onlookers.

## Suburban Newspapers, Inc. From National Crime Prevention Council **Seniors Can Stop Scoundrels and Scams**

Financial fraud can be difficult to rec- services. ognize. This type of fraud can include identity theft, fake check and wire transfer law en-forcement agency immediately. scams, investment and credit card fraud, and bogus online charitable solicitations. from financial fraud, visit the National Unfortunately, only one in five of these Crime crimes are reported.

### The National Crime Prevention Council offers the following tips:

• It's shrewd, not rude to hang up on a suspicious telemarketer.

• Don't give personal information to people you don't know unless you initiated the contact.

• Don't let yourself get pressured into a verbal agreement or signing a contract.

• Be skeptical of online charitable solicitations and other online offers. If interested, ask to receive the information in the mail and check to be sure the company is legitimate.

• Never agree to pay for products or services in advance.

• Get estimates and ask for references on home repair offers and other products or

### Legal Notice

The White Settlement Independent School District (WSISD) is accepting proposals for a Refrigerated Box Truck. The Request for Proposal -RFP #2324-07 can be accessed and submitted online at https://wsisdebid.ionwave.net/Login.aspx. A paper copy of the bid can be obtained on the WSISD website, www.wsisd.com, by visiting the Purchasing link found on the Business Services Department page. If assistance is needed, please Escobar contact Nancy at nancy.escobar@wsisd.net. The deadline for questions is Thursday, January 11, 2024, at 2:00 pm and proposals are due by Thursday, January 18, 2024 at 2:00 pm. It is preferred that proposals be submitted online at https://wsisdebid.ionwave.net/Login.aspx. If preferred, hard copy proposals should be sent to White Settlement ISD, Attn: Nancy Escobar, 8224 White Settlement Road, White Settlement, TX 76108. Faxed or e-mailed proposals will not be accepted.

White Settlement ISD reserves the right to accept or reject any or all proposals.

If you suspect fraud, contact your local

To learn more about protecting yourself Prevention website www.ncpc.org.



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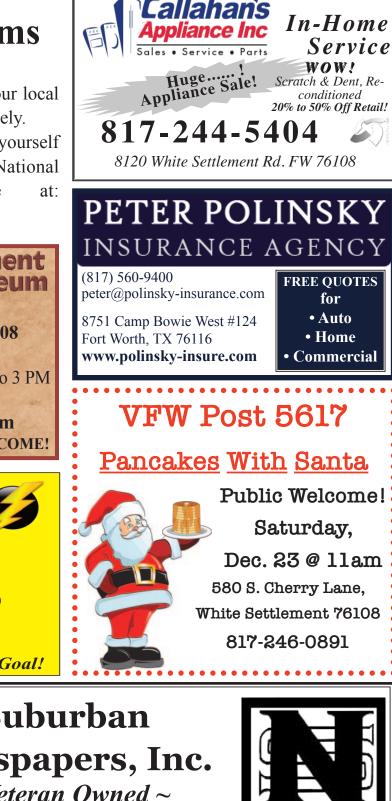
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#### **December 14, 2023, PAGE 2**



## Suburban Newspapers, Inc. From StatePoint Flu and the Holiday Season: What You Need to Know

December through March is typically peak influenza (flu) causes a significant burden every winter. season, though this season is off to an earlier start, with high activity currently across the country. While common, flu is a po- to increase across the country. The Centers for Disease Control tentially serious and highly contagious respiratory illness.

In time for holiday travel and festivities, a new American Lung Association campaign aims to educate Americans about the flu and steps they can take to protect themselves and others from severe flu illness. Here's what to know:

• Who is impacted by flu?

Flu can affect anyone, however, certain communities are at higher risk of severe illness and complications, such as those living with chronic medical conditions including chronic lung disease, heart disease and diabetes.

During past flu seasons, approximately 90 percent of flu-related hospitalizations were among adults with at least one underlying medical condition.

During the 2022-23 flu season, approximately 30 percent of fluenza and annual vaccination. hospitalizations were among adults with chronic lung disease. People from certain racial and ethnic minority groups are also at higher risk for being hospitalized with flu compared to non-Hispanic white adults.

• What will this year's flu season look like?



Seasonal influenza activity is already elevated and continues and Prevention estimates that as of early December, there have been at least 8.7 million illnesses and 78,000 hospitalizations.

• How can I protect myself?

While covering your cough, washing your hands frequently and staying home when you're sick can help stop the spread of flu, the very best way to protect yourself, your loved ones, and your community is with vaccination.

The flu shot is recommended on an annual basis for everyone six months of age and older and can be given at the same time as COVID-19 vaccination.

Flu vaccination is especially important for people with chronic lung disease and other chronic health conditions.

Speak with your healthcare provider to learn more about in-

• When should I see a doctor?

If you do get sick, call your doctor as soon as possible for diagnosis and treatment, especially if you're at high risk for complications.

You should also consult your doctor if you have complica-Flu activity was relatively low the last two flu seasons, but it tions such as difficulty breathing, chest pains or a cough persisting for weeks or months after other symptoms go away.

To learn more, visit Lung.org/prevent-flu.

Before you gather with loved ones for the holidays, take steps to protect them from flu.

Practice good health habits and get your annual vaccination as early as possible.

## **Food and Clothing Pantry :**

The Joseph Storehouse, located at 10180 Rolling Hills Dr. in Benbrook is available for individuals and families in need. There is also a formula and diaper bank on site.

Apply online here.

# From the Klassy Kloggers Free Beginner Clogging Lessons in January

The Klassy Kloggers will offer free beginner clogging lessons during the month of January! The classes will be held at 5:45 p.m. each Monday starting on Jan. 8 at Harberger Hill Community Center located at 701 Narrow St., Weatherford, 76086.

For those interested in signing up, contact Instructor/Director Shirley Anderson at 254-246-1972, or just show up.

## Suburban Newspapers, Inc. Texas History Minute by Dr. Ken Bridges **NASA Engineer and Flight Director, Christopher Kraft**



In the 1960s, the United States entered a new era of exploration as NASA began sending astronauts into space. It took the combined efforts of thousands of people to make each mission successful. The direction from the ground was critical given the complexity of spaceflight and how the slightest mistake could be fatal. Chris Kraft served as NASA flight director for these early missions, becoming a revered figure in Houston and across the nation.

He was born Christopher Columbus Kraft, the namesake of his father, in what is now Hampton, Virginia, in 1924. He grew up in the coastal community and in the shadow of the Langley Aeronautical Laboratory, established by the federal government just a few years before he was born as a center to design and test aircraft.

When he graduated high school in 1942, several months after the United States entered World War II, he attempted to enlist in the navy just as many other men his age were doing. Kraft hoped to become a pilot, but a burn injury from his childhood caused him to be rejected for the service altogether. Instead, he enrolled at Virginia Tech and graduated with a degree in aeronautical engineering in two years.

Kraft initially hoped to move away from Hampton, but in 1944, he won a position with the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics which promptly assigned him to the Langley Research Center. President Dwight D. Eisenhower transformed NACA into the National Aeronautics and Space Ad- conceptual design for the space shuttle. With ministration in 1958. Kraft was then chosen NASA reaching new heights in manned exas one of 35 engineers to design what became the Mercury program, the first American manned space mission.

the flight program – organizing the launch, flight, and landing of the space capsules. In space station. Then other craft would take the process, he became the first flight director. He oversaw a team of engineers and realized that the complexity of the equipment by 1985 before a wave of budget cuts ended would require rigorous testing and then constant monitoring during flight as well as a team of experts to correct any problems.

1961 and 1963 put a small one-man capsule into low orbit. Kraft made sure nothing was left to chance. He quickly developed a reputation for precision and perfection. He personally oversaw each detail of each mission. But as demanding as he was, he also fostered an environment of trust. In the end, the craft and the missions were so complicated that the astronaut, flight director, and the army of engineers behind it all had to trust one another. Because he insisted on having the last word with any aspect of the mission, he often clashed with senior NASA administrators and astronauts.

each mission had special problems that could have turned these flights into deadly tragedies. The coordination that Kraft developed inspired the creative thinking and expert analyses needed to avoid disaster.

The Gemini and Apollo missions required a more advanced flight control center, leading to the creation of what is now the Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center in Houston in 1963. Kraft joined the move and became a per- 95. manent resident. With the continuing success of the space program, Kraft became almost as famous as the astronauts themselves. In 1966, his home town of Hampton, Virginia, named its new elementary school in his honor.

NASA moved him into more senior positions with the Apollo lunar missions. Ultimately, NASA promoted him to director of the Manned Spacecraft Center in 1972.

In the 1970s, Kraft helped develop the ploration, the shuttle seemed the next logical step. Kraft and others at NASA fully believed that lunar exploration would become The group tasked Kraft with designing increasingly common and that the shuttle would bring astronauts to a future orbiting them to the Moon, Mars, and beyond. NASA projected it would send men to Mars lunar landings after 1972.

In spite of the cutbacks, Kraft kept NASA's focus on the mission of exploration. The seven Mercury missions between He oversaw the first four shuttle launches in 1981 and 1982, inspiring many Americans with the nation's return to manned flight. The success of the shuttle missions showed the importance of astronomical discoveries and the importance of studying the effects of zero gravity environments. By 1982, he decided it was time to retire from NASA.

> Still only 58 years old, Kraft worked for several years as a consultant. He also worked for the Houston Chamber of Commerce.

Kraft spent several years travelling and speaking about space exploration. He wrote his autobiography, "Flight: My Life in Mis-In spite of the preparation and expertise, sion Control in 2001" reflecting on the development of the space program and his thoughts about its future.

> In 2011, NASA renamed the flight control room at the Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center after him.

> Though he had never been a pilot or astronaut himself, the Aviation Hall of Fame inducted him in 2016.

He died in Houston in July 2019 at age

#### Legal Notice

Application has been made with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for a Wine and Malt Beverage Retailer's On-Premise Permit with Food and Beverage Certificate by Louisiana Seafood and Fish Mkt, LLC dba Louisiana Seafood and Fish Mkt, to be located at 1505 E Berry St, Fort Worth, Tarrant County, TX 76119. Officer of said LLC is Keith Armand - Manager

# Suburban Newspapers, Inc. From the National Fire Protection Association **NFPA Urges Added Caution this Holiday Season: Christmas Day and Christmas Eve Among Leading Days for U.S. Home Fires**

Many hallmarks of the holiday season, including Christmas trees, holiday decorations, and festive meals present potential fire hazards that contribute to an annual increase in U.S. home fires at of candle fires in each of these months. this time of year. According to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), Christmas Day and Christmas Eve are among the leading days of the year for home fires.

"December is a leading month for home fires, in large part because many of the activities we engage in during the holiday season reflect leading causes of home fires year-round," said Lorraine Carli, NFPA vice president of Outreach and Advocacy. "Plus, as colder temperatures impact much of the country, use of heating equipment increases significantly."

Fortunately, Carli notes, the majority of winter fires can be prevented with a little added awareness and planning.

"By knowing where potential fire hazards exist and taking some basic safety precautions to prevent them, people can enjoy a festive, fire-free holiday season," said Carli.

The NFPA Winter Holidays page offers a wide variety of tips and resources to reduce the risk of fires, while the latest NFPA statistics underscore the increased risk of fire during the holiday season and beyond:

#### **Christmas Trees**

• An estimated average of 160 home fires involving Christmas trees caused two civilian deaths, 11 civilian injuries, and \$12 million in direct property damage per year between 2016 and 2020.

• Some type of electrical distribution or lighting equipment, including decorative lights, was involved in more than two of five (44 percent) of home Christmas tree fires. Nearly one in five Christmas tree fires (19 percent) were started by decorative lights.

• The majority (74 percent) of Christmas tree fires occur in December and January.

#### Decorations

• An estimated average of 790 home fires that began when decorations (other than Christmas trees) caught fire caused an average of one civilian death, 26 civilian injuries and \$13 million in direct property damage per year between 2015 and 2019.

• One in five home decoration fires occurred in December.

• Year-round, 35 percent of home decoration fires began with candles; in December, the number jumped to 45 percent.

• In more than two of every five fires (44 percent) involving decorations, the decoration was too close to a heat source such as a candle, cooking or heating equipment.

#### Candles

• An estimated average of 7,400 home fires (2 percent) started by candles caused an average of 90 civilian deaths (three percent), 670 civilian injuries (6 percent), and \$291 million (4 percent) in

direct property damage per year between 2015 and 2019.

• Candle fires peak in December and January with 11 percent

• In three of every five candle fires, the candle was too close to something that could catch fire.

• Christmas is the peak day for candle fires with roughly 2.5 times the daily average; Christmas Eve ranked second.

• Falling asleep was a factor in 10 percent of the home candle fires and 12 percent of the associated deaths.

#### Cooking

• Cooking is the leading cause of reported home fires (49 percent) and home fire injuries and the second-leading cause of home fire deaths.

• Unattended cooking is the leading cause of home cooking fires.

• Thanksgiving is the peak day for home cooking fires, followed by Christmas Day and Christmas Eve.

Fires caused by heating equipment, the second-leading cause of U.S. home fires year-round, peak during the winter months, when temperatures drop and more people use heating equipment to keep their homes warm. Put a Freeze on Winter Fires, an annual NFPA campaign with the U.S. Fire Administration (USFA), works to educate the public about ways to stay safe during the colder months, offering tip sheets and other resources to help reduce the risk of heating fires and other winter hazards.

About the National Fire Protection Association® (NFPA®)

Founded in 1896, NFPA is a global self-funded nonprofit organization devoted to eliminating death, injury, property and economic loss due to fire, electrical and related hazards. The association delivers information and knowledge through more than 300 consensus codes and standards, research, training, education, outreach and advocacy; and by partnering with others who share an interest in furthering the NFPA mission. For more information, visit www.nfpa.org. All NFPA codes and standards can be viewed online for free at www.nfpa.org/freeaccess.

The offices of Suburban Newspapers, Inc. will close for the holidays Monday, Dec. 24 through Friday, Dec. 29 and Monday, Jan. 1. There will be no newspapers on Dec. 28. The deadline to appear in the Jan. 4 digital publications is Friday, Dec. 22 at 4 p.m. The office will reopen Tuesday, Jan. 2 at 10 a.m.

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# Three Day Weekend Forecast



# Friday, Dec. 15:

<u>AM</u> - Rain. High near 52. East wind around 10 mph becoming north northeast in the afternoon. Chance of precipitation is 80%.

**<u>PM</u>** - A 40% chance of rain, mainly before midnight. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 43. North northwest wind 5 to 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.





<u>AM</u> - A 20% chance of rain before noon. Partly sunny, with a high near 53. North northwest wind around 15 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph.

<u>**PM</u>** - Partly cloudy, with a low around 36. North northwest wind 10 to 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.</u>



# Sunday, Dec. 17:

<u>AM</u> - Sunny, with a high near 56. North northwest wind around 10 mph. <u>PM</u> - Mostly clear, with a low around 37.

# **Extended Forecast Click Here**