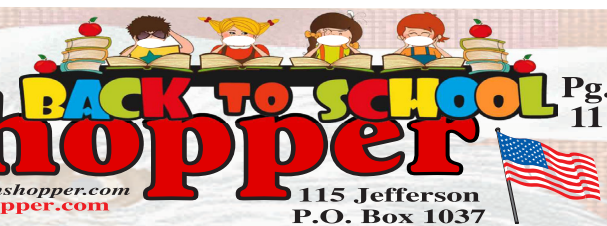


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Pg. 11



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Linda Hawk-Pickle Hill of Hopkins County Earns Royal Ms. Elite U.S. United Title



Linda Hawk-Pickle Hill
Royal Ms. US United 2021

Congratulations are in order for this local woman. Like many others senior females, Linda Hawk-Pickle Hill 'cut her teeth' in pageantry as an adult. In 2016, Linda turned 60 and 'took the plunge' with the Hopkins County Ms. Senior Classic Pageant, then advanced to the state pageant with her service dog at her side. At this point, she had more than fulfilled her granddaughter's dare to enter a pageant! But along the path, Ms. Hill had developed a drive to reach further, rise higher and discover a worthy platform she could represent as a public service. In 2020 when she placed in the Ms. Texas Elite U.S. state contest, she knew she was on her way. "I am a breast cancer survivor myself, and this pageant's mission of breast cancer awareness and knowledge resonates strongly with my personal story.

The title is more than an award, it's actually a working title, inspiring and equipping me for personal appearances and public speaking about breast cancer. One in four women in the United States, as well as some men, will be diagnosed with some form of breast cancer, so the message is urgent. Early detection and medical intervention are the best weapons we have in treating this disease". The Royal Ms. Elite U.S. United title allows her to reach further with a message she strongly believes in".

Linda's five years of pageant appearances have always included Bordeaux service dogs, which she breeds and raises. She is retired military, and her current dog Erisede offers mainly mobility assistance. He also alerts to neuro-pathway disorders, particularly Prinz Metal Angina Syndrome and vascular migraines, both of which easily trigger strokes and heart attacks if untreated. He allows her to continue serving her community.

During the national pageant, Linda stood alongside contestants from across the country and was judged in poise, stage presence and professional decorum in evening gown, fun/runway fashion and judge's interview. Although a local talent winner in the Hopkins County pageant mainly with recitations highlighting American pride, Linda chose this year not to compete in talent, but to focus mainly on the required categories, learning all she could from others. "It was intense. I was nervous at first, and my sister contestants were quite competitive, but they were very friendly too. I feel like we bonded there as lifetime friends". Recognized as the overall winner in her age group, Linda stood shocked and surprised, but very proud when she was crowned. Linda is now busy seeking opportunities to speak on breast cancer awareness. "This has become a journey of self-evaluation; what can I give and how can my efforts be best put to use in this cause, and in service to others".



Linda Hawk-Pickle Hill Ms Elite United 2021



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Answers On pg. 10

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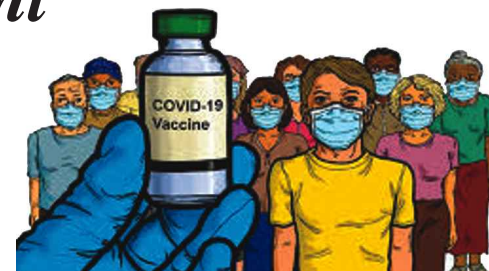
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The COVID-19 Delta Variant

WHAT TO KNOW-- HOW TO PROTECT YOURSELF



The highly transmissible COVID-19 delta variant, also known as B1617.2, was found in India in October 2020. It's now the dominant strain in the U.S. and several other countries.

It's spreading fast. As of August 4, 2021, the delta variant has reached more than 130 countries. It's already overtaken the alpha variant in number of cases in many of those countries, including the U.S. The variant is thought to be 55% to 90% more transmissible than previous COVID-19 variants. Experts believe delta is anywhere from 30% to 100% more infectious than alpha.

Researchers are still unsure why the delta variant is so much more transmissible than others. They think changes in the variant's protein might make it easier to enter human cells. Another early study suggests that a mutation in the delta variant might help it blend better with human cells once it attaches itself. If it can easily blend with your cells, it's able to infect more of them and overpower your immune system.

It seems to affect younger people more often. In the United Kingdom, studies showed that children and adults under 50 were 2.5 times more likely to become infected.

Symptoms appear to be more severe and happen faster. People may be more likely to end up in the hospital if they have the delta variant. Studies suggest it might have almost double the risk of hospitalization than the alpha variant.

In China, doctors say patients with the delta variant are sicker than those they treated early in the pandemic. And their condition seems to go downhill much faster.

Data from the Zoe COVID Symptom Study, an app that allows people to track symptoms, shows COVID-19 symptoms in the United Kingdom may be changing as the delta variant spreads.

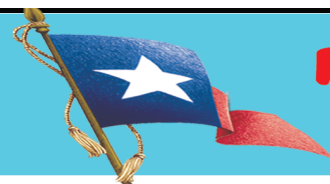
Top symptoms reported on the app include:

Headache
Sore throat
Runny nose
Fever

A cough is becoming less common and loss of smell is no longer listed in the top 10 common symptoms anymore. Researchers are concerned people may mistake symptoms for a bad cold and avoid quarantine, helping the variant spread.

Getting vaccinated is your best bet. Reports suggest two doses of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine provides 79% protection against delta variant infection. It seems to be 96% effective against hospitalization if infected.

Two doses of the AstraZeneca vaccine are 92% successful in stopping hospitalization due to the delta variant. And no deaths have been reported among those vaccinated.



TEXAS



The Alamo

Great Place To Visit!

The Alamo Mission (Spanish: Misión de Álamo), commonly called the Alamo and originally known as the Misión San Antonio de Valero, is an historic Spanish mission and fortress compound founded in the 18th century by Roman Catholic missionaries in what is now San Antonio, Texas, United States. It was the site of the Battle of the Alamo in 1836, where American folk heroes James Bowie and Davy Crockett died. Today it is a museum in the Alamo Plaza Historic District and a part of the San Antonio Missions World Heritage Site.

The historic district was one of the early Spanish missions in Texas, built for the education of local American Indians after their conversion to Christianity. The mission was secularized in 1793 and then abandoned. Ten years later, it became a fortress housing the Second Flying Company of San Carlos de Parras military unit, who likely gave the mission the name Alamo. During the Texas Revolution, Mexican General Martín Perfecto de Cos surrendered the fort to the Texian Army in December 1835, following the Siege of Béxar. A relatively small number of Texian soldiers then occupied the compound for several months. The defenders were wiped out at the Battle of the Alamo on March 6, 1836. As the Mexican Army retreated from Texas several months later, they tore down many of the Alamo walls and burned some of the buildings.

For the next five years, the Alamo was periodically used to garrison soldiers, both Texian and Mexican, but was ultimately abandoned. In 1849, several years after Texas was annexed to the United States, the U.S. Army began renting the facility for use as a quartermaster's depot, before again abandoning the mission in 1876 after nearby Fort Sam Houston was established. The Alamo chapel was sold to the state of Texas, which conducted occasional tours but made no effort to restore it. The remaining buildings were sold to a mercantile company that operated them as a wholesale grocery store.

The Daughters of the Republic of Texas (DRT) formed in 1895 and began trying to preserve the Alamo. Adina Emilia De Zavala and Clara Driscoll successfully convinced the state legislature in 1905 to purchase the remaining buildings and to name the DRT as the permanent custodian of the site. Over the next century, periodic attempts were made to transfer control of the Alamo from the DRT. In early 2015, Texas Land Commissioner George P. Bush officially removed control of the Alamo to the Texas General Land Office. The Alamo and the four missions in the San Antonio Missions National Historical Park were designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site on July 5, 2015.

Mission

In 1716, the Spanish government established several Roman Catholic missions in East Texas. The isolation of the missions—the nearest Spanish settlement, San Juan Bautista, Coahuila was over 400 miles away—made it difficult to keep them adequately provisioned. To assist the missionaries, the new governor of Spanish Texas, Martín de Alarcón, wished to establish a waystation between the settlements along the Rio Grande and the new missions in East Texas. In April 1718, Alarcón led an expedition to found a new community in Texas. On May 1, the group erected a temporary mud, brush, and straw structure near the headwaters of the San Antonio River. This building would serve as a new mission, San Antonio de Valero, named after Saint Anthony of Padua and the viceroy of New Spain, Baltasar de Zúñiga y Guzmán Sotomayor y Sarmiento, Marquess of Valero.

Military

In the 19th century, the mission complex became known as "the Alamo". The name may have been derived from a grove of nearby cottonwood trees, known in Spanish as álamo. Alternatively, in 1803, the abandoned compound was occupied by the Second Flying Company of San Carlos de Parras, from Álamo de Parras in Coahuila. The buildings were transferred from Spanish to Mexican control in 1821 after Mexico gained its independence. Soldiers continued to garrison the complex until December 1835, when General Martín Perfecto de Cos surrendered to Texian forces following a two-month siege of San Antonio de Béxar during the Texas Revolution.

Battle of the Alamo

With Cos' departure, there was no longer an organized garrison of Mexican troops in Texas, and many Texians believed the war was over. Colonel James C. Neill assumed command of the 100 soldiers who remained. Neill requested that an additional 200 men be sent to fortify the Alamo, and expressed fear that his garrison could be starved out of the Alamo after a four-day siege. However, the Texian government was in turmoil and unable to provide much assistance. Determined to make the best of the situation, Neill and engineer Green B. Jameson began working to fortify the Alamo. Jameson installed the cannons that Cos had left along the walls. Heeding Neill's warnings, General Sam Houston ordered Colonel James Bowie to take 35–50 men to Béxar to help Neill move all of the artillery and destroy the fortress. There were not enough oxen to move the artillery to a safer place, and most of the men believed the complex was of strategic importance to protecting the settlements to the east. On January 26, the Texian soldiers passed a resolution in favor of holding the Alamo. On February 11, Neill went on furlough to pursue additional reinforcements and supplies for the garrison. William Travis and James Bowie agreed to share command of the Alamo.

On February 23, the Mexican Army, under the command of President-General Antonio López de Santa Anna, arrived in San Antonio de Béxar intent on recapturing the city. The siege ended in a fierce battle on March 6. As the Mexican Army overran the walls, most of the Texians fell back to the long barracks (convent) and the chapel. During the siege, Texians had carved holes in many of the walls of these rooms so that they would be able to fire. Each room had only one door which led into the courtyard and which had been "buttressed by semicircular parapets of dirt secured with cowhides". Some of the rooms even had trenches dug into the floor to provide some cover for the defenders. Mexican soldiers used the abandoned Texian cannon to blow off the doors of the rooms, allowing Mexican soldiers to enter and defeat the Texians.

The last of the Texians to die were the eleven men manning the two 12 lb cannon in the chapel. The entrance to the church had been barricaded with sandbags, which the Texians were able to fire over. A shot from the 18 lb cannon destroyed the barricades, and Mexican soldiers entered the building after firing an initial musket volley. With no time to reload, the Texians, including Dickinson, Gregorio Esparza, and Bonham, grabbed rifles and fired before being bayoneted to death. Texian Robert Evans was master of ordnance and had been tasked with keeping the gunpowder from falling into Mexican hands. Wounded, he crawled towards the powder magazine but was killed by a musket ball with his torch only inches from the powder. If he had succeeded, the blast would have destroyed the church.

Santa Anna ordered that the Texian bodies be stacked and burned. All, or almost all, of the Texian defenders were killed in the battle, although some historians believe that at least one Texian, Henry Warnell, successfully escaped. Warnell died several months later of wounds incurred either during the final battle or during his escape.

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Gary "G.W." Wayne Moon

October 29, 1960 ~ August 6, 2021 (age 60)

An obituary is not available at this time for Gary "G.W." Wayne Moon. He and his father Dudley will be greatly missed by family and friends.

Dudley Moon

February 9, 1936 ~ August 7, 2021 (age 85)

An obituary is not available at this time for Dudley Moon. He and his son Gary will be greatly missed by family and friends.



Jerry Ray Ragan

February 18, 1968 ~ August 2, 2021 (age 53)

Jerry Ray Ragan, age 53, died peacefully in his sleep at home surrounded by loved ones on August 2, 2021, after a long courageous battle with cancer. Ray was born February 18, 1968, to Gerald L. Ragan and Judy Turley Ragan in Commerce, Texas. He graduated from Sulphur Springs High School in 1986. Ray began his law enforcement career 25 years ago, as a police officer before going on to attend and graduate from the DPS training Academy and beginning his career as a Texas State Trooper. He worked as a highway patrolman for 12 years before earning his pilot's license. He then joined the Aircraft Operations Division where he served as a Lieutenant for the last 8 years of his career up until his retirement in 2020. On January 31, 2004, he married the love of his life, Gracy Ortega Ragan. Ray is survived by his wife Gracy, mother Judy, daughter Kortney, her husband Russell, two sons Dominic and Joseph, sisters Lynn, her husband

Mike, Leah, her husband Wesley, a brother Andy and Staci, two grandsons, numerous nieces and nephews. He is preceded in death by his father, Gerald. Besides spending time with family and friends, Ray enjoyed flying, going on hunting trips, farming, and gardening with his mother. He was a lover of the outdoors and you would rarely ever find him inside. His servant's heart was evident to all who knew him. The Legendary Ray Ragan will be deeply missed. Funeral services were at 2:00 p.m., Friday, August 6, 2021, at League Street Church of Christ with Bro. Daniel Lewis officiating. Visitation was held at 1:00 p.m., prior to service time. Interment followed at Arbala Cemetery with Marc Tomerlin, Clay Lacey, Saben Emery, Jason Roland, Kris Edgmon, Nick Moore, Johnny Phillips, and Jonas Helm serving as pallbearers. Honorary pallbearers were Andy Ragan, Wesley Winstead, and Wade Kimble. Memorials may be made to the GBM (Glioblastoma) at www.glioblastomafoundation.org. Arrangements were under the direction of West Oaks Funeral Home. www.westoaksfuneralhome.com

Lisa Simmons

June 17, 1959 ~ August 6, 2021 (age 62)

Memorial service for Lisa Renee (Moore) Simmons, age 62 of Dike, TX will be held at 12:00P.M. on Friday, August 20, 2021 at Murray-Orwosky Funeral Home with Jimmy Nutt, Sr. officiating. A private family interment will follow at Como Cemetery. Mrs. Simmons passed away on August 6, 2021 at Christus Mother Frances, Sulphur Springs.



Kimberly Jones

November 29, 1984 ~ August 4, 2021 (age 36)

Our sweet Kimberly Konganmach Jones passed away on August 4th, 2021 at the age of 36. Kim is survived by her husband Justin Jones and their daughter Azalea Jones. Her father Amnach "Tom" Konganmach and her brother Nicholas Konganmach, sister-in-law Claudia Konganmach and her nephews Cameron and Ethan Konganmach; and many more dear relatives and friends. She was preceded in death by her mother, Diana Konganmach and their 6 week old angel baby. A celebration of life service will be held on Sunday, August 15th at 1pm at the Murray Orwosky Funeral Home, 419 Gilmer St, Sulphur Springs, TX 75482. Kim will be laid to rest in the Nelta Cemetery following the celebration service.



Jackie Lucille Swinney-Page

October 25, 1947 ~ August 5, 2021 (age 73)

A memorial service for Jackie Lucille Swinney Page, age 75, of Sulphur Springs, TX will be held at a later date. Mrs. Page passed away on August 5, 2021 in Tyler, TX. Jackie was born on October 25, 2021 in Clarendon, Texas to Dalton Howard and Mary Lucille (Parker) Swinney. She was a retired retail sales agent. Lucille was a member of the Church of Christ. She is survived by her daughters, Marlena Fields, Christi Howell, Amanda Riehl and Brigitte Painter; seven grandchildren and ten great grandchildren. Jackie was preceded in death by her parents; great grandchild, Makila O'Brien Painter; brothers, Jerry Swinney and Jimmy Swinney; sister, Cydne Randall.

THE HUSHPUPPY KING

Tumbleweed Smith



Tumbleweed Smith

Leon Word of Gladewater had a 30-year career with Eastman Chemical. When he retired in 2004 he went to work doing what he likes to do most: make hushpuppies. His company makes a lot of them, sometimes a million and a half a week.

"I think I'm a hushpuppy connoisseur," Leon says. "I know what a good hushpuppy ought to taste like. When I started I actually used donut-manufacturing equipment to make them. It was a little hopper and you turned the crank and it spit out 3 hushpuppies into a tabletop fryer."

He experimented with a recipe one afternoon until he got it right, then started peddling his hushpuppies to stores, demonstrating them on the premises.

"I kinda looked like Sanford and Son going down the interstate. I had a trailer on the back of a pickup that had 4 freezers running off a generator but that's how I distributed my product: north of I-20 one day, south one day east to the Shreveport area one day, west one day then Sunday afternoons I'd be making dry mix for the next week."

The demand for his product grew way beyond what he could make in his kitchen, so he decided to go with a food jobber.

"I knew I had a good product. In 5 years we've grown from sitting on the front porch wondering if we would cook today to distributing a couple of 18-wheeler loads a week all over the country including Hawaii and Alaska, even Puerto Rico.

"Our product goes exclusively to Wal-Mart under the Great Value label. You can find it next to the frozen shrimp. They're crispy on the outside and light and fluffy on the inside no matter how you cook them. The best way we've found is air frying. If you have an air fryer set the temperature at 350 degrees and go from freezer to air fryer 8 minutes and they're perfect.

"You can think of a hushpuppy as a cornbread substitute that you don't have to mix up and cook in a pan. They're great with chili and are a great accompaniment to any home cooking. I've had people just fix them as snacks."

Leon is one talented salesman. It goes with believing in his product. At trade shows he would amaze people by showing up with just an air fryer. They were surprised that he didn't have an old-fashioned hot oil frying apparatus with him. He says he could have sold a truckload of air fryers at those shows. He was extremely reluctant to give up his recipe, knowing it was a good one. He went through several food brokers before he decided on one he could trust. His product is made in Tennessee. Arkansas sells more hushpuppies than any other state.

"I just want people to know we started from scratch and we know where we came from. The Lord has blessed us in ways that I couldn't have ever imagined. We just want people to enjoy a good hushpuppy."

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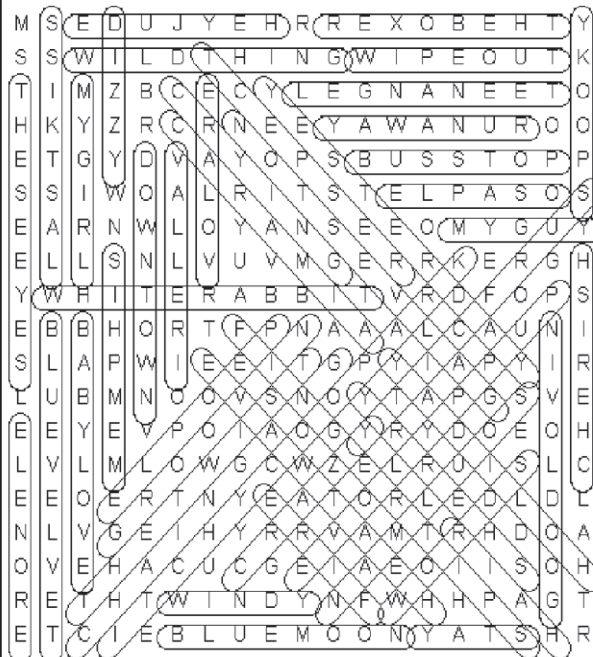


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