

September 2019

# New Haven Schertz

New Haven Schertz \* 2300 FM 3009 \* 210-319-4965 \* Fax 210-319-4947\*



## Celebrating September

**Happy Cat Month**

**Sewing Month**

**International Enthusiasm  
Week**

*September 1-7*

**Labor Day (U.S.)**

*September 2*

**International Day of  
Democracy**

*September 15*

**World Alzheimer's Day**

*September 21*

**International Day of Sign  
Languages**

*September 23*

**World Heart Day**

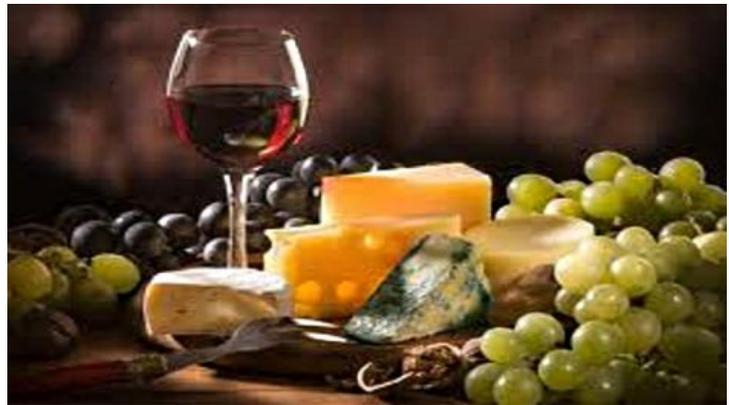
*September 29*

## **FAMILY NIGHT**

**5:30PM**

**SEPTEMBER 24, 2019**

**"LIVE MUSIC"**



**THANK YOU TO ALL THESE WONDERFUL FAMILIES,  
AND MANY MORE THAT MADE OUR FAMILY NIGHT  
LUAU SO MEMORABLE...**



## The Woman in the Moon



On the 15th day of the eighth month on the Chinese lunar calendar comes the second-grandest festival in all of China: the Mid-Autumn Festival, also known as the Harvest Moon Festival. This year, it falls on September 13.

Worshipping the moon has long been a part of Chinese culture. One legend states that the festival began when the Chinese emperors of the Zhou dynasty worshipped the moon to ensure an abundant harvest the following year. Still another legend tells the story of Chang'e, the Chinese goddess of the moon.

Long ago, 10 suns ruled the sky, but they were so powerful that they burned Earth, scorching crops and causing much suffering. The mighty archer Hou Yi shot down nine suns and saved Earth. For his triumph, the Western Queen Mother gave Hou Yi a bottle of elixir that granted immortality. Hou Yi liked the idea of immortality, but he wanted to stay at home with his wife Chang'e more. When Hou Yi's greedy archery student Pang Meng attempted to steal the elixir, Chang'e drank it rather than let Pang Meng have it. The elixir made Chang'e fly to the moon, where she has forever remained. It was Hou Yi, Chang'e's husband, who began the tradition of worshipping the moon. Children in China are told that Chang'e still lives on the moon. They look to the full moon and try to find her shape on it, much like we attempt to discern the Man in the Moon.

On the night of the full moon, families gather together for a merry feast. It is traditional to give, receive, and eat mooncakes, those dense, sweet pastries filled with red bean or lotus seed paste. Cakes are often imprinted with Chinese characters referencing the holiday and its legendary characters. Another common tradition is to light paper lanterns and release them into the night sky. It is also the perfect night to yearn for family and friends who live far away, much like Hou Yi's pining for his beloved wife.

## Greek to Me

"Neither snow nor rain nor heat nor gloom of night stays these couriers from the swift completion of their appointed rounds." While this saying is not the official motto of the U.S. Postal Service, many recognize this as the postal worker's creed thanks to its inscription on the James A. Farley Post Office building in New York City, which was opened on September 7, 1914.

The famous motto comes from the classical Greek work *Histories* by the Greek historian Herodotus. While detailing the Persian Wars, Herodotus refers to the mounted courier service of the Persian Empire, known as the *angarium*. One of the architects of the Farley Post Office building was the son of a classics scholar, and he enjoyed reading Greek. When he happened upon the phrase, he decided to incorporate it into the building. Professor George Herbert Palmer of Harvard University was enlisted to translate Herodotus' words into the motto that is so well known today.

## As the World Gurns



On September 20, the Egremont Crab Fair will get underway on the West Cumbrian coast of England. This harvest festival was first held in 1267 when the Lord of the Barony of Egremont began the tradition of giving away crab apples to the village serfs. Today, the tradition continues with the Parade of the Apple Cart, where apples are thrown to crowds lining Main Street. Over the centuries, there have been many contests held during the fair: horse races, hound dog trials, singing, teacake eating, pipe smoking, wrestling, and, of course, gurning.

*Gurning*, which means "to snarl like a dog, look savage, or distort the countenance," remains the highlight of the festival. During the Gurning World Championships, contestants don a horse collar, or *braffin*, and compete to see who can pull the ugliest facial expression.

## A Path Away from Pollution



The third Monday in September marks the start of Pollution Prevention Week. In 1990, the U.S. Congress passed the Pollution Prevention Act, charging the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) with the responsibility of implementing the act. Over the past 30 years, the EPA and companies have teamed up to develop methods and technologies to dramatically reduce pollutants and contaminants in our environment.

The top three biggest sources of pollution are transportation (cars and planes), food production, and energy production. Electric car companies like Tesla have created vehicles that emit no pollution into the air. With the advent of renewable sources of electric energy and the development of more efficient batteries that allow for long-range travel, electric cars may become the primary mode of transportation around the world. Airplanes can emit less pollution if they are designed to be more efficient, fly more efficient flight paths, and use alternative fuels.

Farm pollution, particularly the runoff of fertilizers from agricultural land, harms waterways and oceans. Animal waste, too, leaches into soil and water. Farms prevent pollution by applying fertilizers in proper amounts at specific times of the year and using no-phosphorous fertilizers. They can also do their best to prevent water runoff and stabilize soil to minimize landslides. Forested buffer zones near waterways can also catch and filter runoff before it even reaches the water.

Burning fossil fuels to produce energy releases both carbon and other pollutants like mercury and methane into the environment. Alternative energy sources like solar and wind power help reduce pollution, but there are other solutions. Technologies exist to separate carbon dioxide from emissions, capture it before and after combustion, and then safely store it so that it never enters the environment. These excellent innovations could help clean up our Earth. All we need is the will to do the hard work.

## Ötzi the Iceman

On September 19, 1991, two Germans, Erika and Helmut Simon, while hiking high in the Ötztal Alps between Austria and Italy, made a startling discovery. They had glimpsed the body of a man protruding from the ice. They believed it to be a victim of a horrible mountaineering accident but were shocked to discover that it was instead a 4,000-year-old frozen mummy! Further excavations of the site found a quiver, string, hide, grass, remnants of his clothes, a pouch for his belt, a bearskin cap, and a copper axe. The mummy, now known as Ötzi or the Tyrolean Iceman, became an archaeological sensation. It is Europe's oldest known natural human mummy and has offered an unprecedented glimpse back to the European "Copper Age." Analysis of the mummy has determined that he may have been a copper smelter who ate meats of red deer, ibex, and wild goat, as well as herb bread made from eikhorn wheat bran. After the discovery of an arrowhead in his shoulder, it is believed that Ötzi was likely killed as part of a violent encounter. His body was then covered by the winter snow and preserved.

## Out of the Tiffany Blue



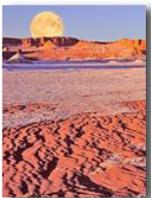
Long before those blue boxes from Tiffany & Co. promised jewelry, the store was a stationery emporium. It was founded on September 18, 1837, by Charles Lewis Tiffany and John B. Young in Brooklyn, Connecticut. In 1838, the storefront moved to Broadway in Lower Manhattan, and the store shifted its focus to luxury goods like ladies' silks, satins, and bonnets. In 1845, Charles Tiffany himself selected the color of robin's egg blue for its Blue Book, an annual catalog of its handcrafted jewels. In 1867, Tiffany's was recognized at the Paris World's Fair for its exquisite silver craftsmanship, launching it as an international brand and esteemed design house. By 1870, Tiffany & Co. had risen to become the preeminent purveyor of silver, jewelry, and timepieces in America.

## Into the Wild

Humans have settled 77% of Earth's surface, so what places are left unexplored? This September, Wilderness Month, we will take a look at some of the world's wildest places.

Antarctica definitely tops the list of one of the wildest and most remote places on Earth, but who would want to go there? For those interested in cold and inaccessible places, far from the touch of civilization, there is the Kamchatka Peninsula in Russia's Far East. It is Russia's land of fire and ice, thanks to its proximity to the Arctic and its many volcanoes. It harbors an abundance of wildlife, including brown bears, wolves, reindeer, mountain sheep, whales, sea eagles, and the breeding grounds of the spoon-billed sandpiper. The peninsula was off-limits to outsiders until 1990 due to its strategic importance to Russia's submarine bases.

Papua New Guinea also remains one of the world's least-explored places. Scientists believe that many of the world's undiscovered plants and animals live deep within the rugged, inaccessible jungles of the country's interior. Due to a lack of infrastructure, travel to and around Papua New Guinea is extremely limited.



For those looking for an otherworldly experience, there is the barren yet beautiful Atacama Desert of Chile. This high mountain desert gets almost no rainfall. Its 40,000 square miles is covered in salt basins, sand, and lava. In fact, it is so devoid of life that NASA uses it to replicate conditions on Mars. It is so far from light pollution and radio interference that it is one of the best places in the world to spy on the universe, which is why two major observatories have been constructed here.

How much longer will such wild and untouched corners of Earth exist? No one knows. But there is still ample time to protect these pristine natural jewels. It may be as easy as following the old explorer's mantra: "Take only pictures, leave only footprints."

## SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

**LAURA 9/5**

**EILEEN 9/14**



**CONGRATULATIONS  
TO OUR EMPLOYEES OF THE  
MONTH  
WE SEE HOW MUCH YOU DO AND  
ARE SO GRATEFUL!!!**

**MEMORY CARE: FRANCESCA  
ASSISTED LIVING: ROSA**

## Tolkien's Literary Magic



Those familiar with the work of author J. R. R. Tolkien know that September 22 is Hobbit Day, commemorating the birthday of both Bilbo and his nephew Frodo Baggins. For this reason, the entire week containing September 22 is celebrated as Tolkien Week. For those unfamiliar with Tolkien's fantasy writings, the words *hobbit*, *orc*, *Mordor*, and *Silmarillion* may have no meaning at all. Tolkien, after all, invented all these fantastic words during the creation of his magical world of Middle Earth. The development of the world and legend of Middle Earth grew from Tolkien's desire to manufacture a mythology for England, one of elves and faeries. Some might say that he saw this through to extraordinary ends, going so far as to invent an entire pantheon of gods and new languages for his magical races of creatures. Bilbo's adventures with dwarves and dragons and Frodo's saga with the Ring of Power have become the pinnacle of high fantasy literature.