



PASTRY CHEF
FINDS PASSION
THROUGH
CREATIVE
CALLING

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ROXO, KTCU CELEBRATE RENOVATED SPACES

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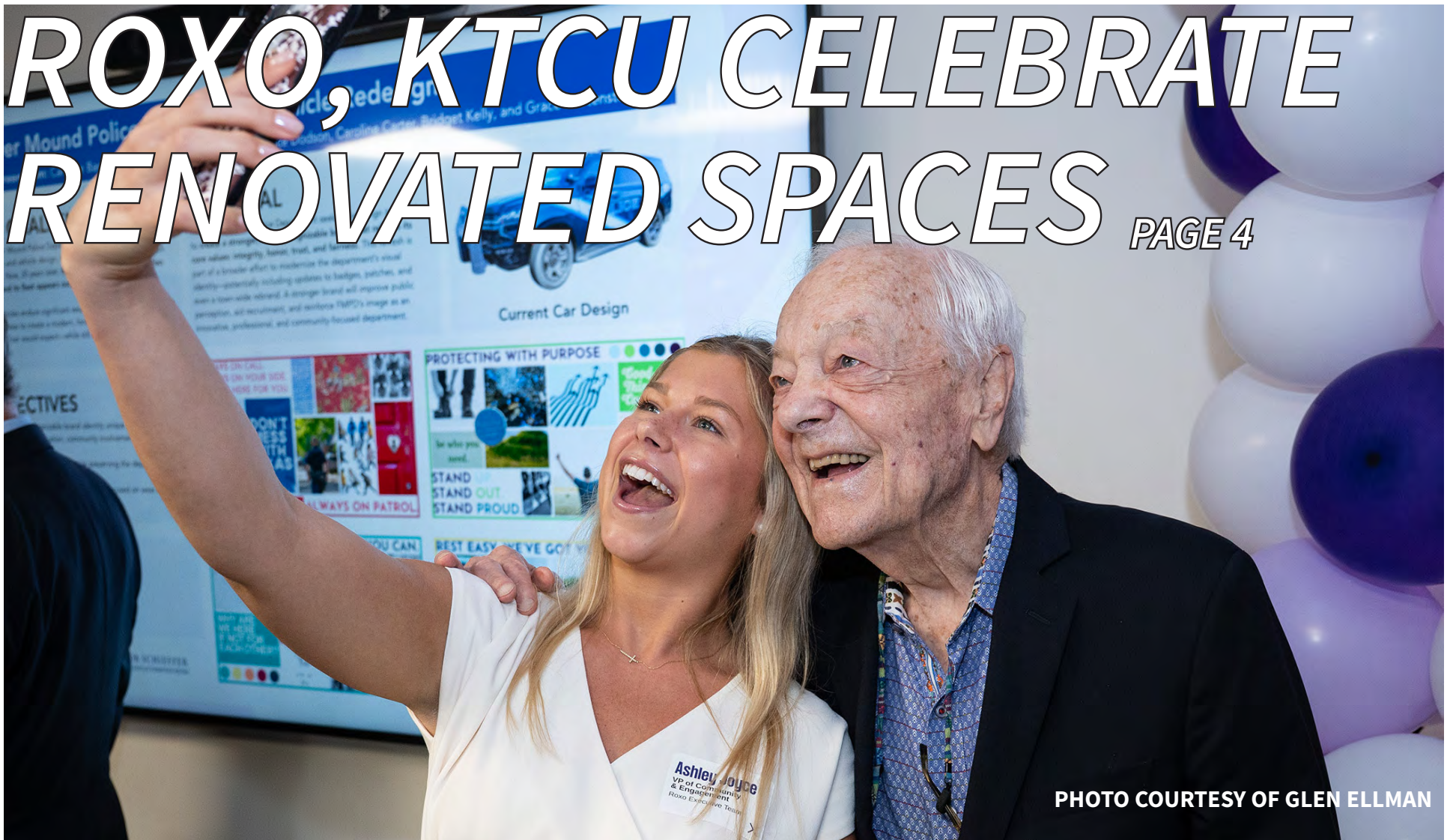


PHOTO COURTESY OF GLEN ELLMAN

SCOOTER THEFT

TCU POLICE OFFER FREE
ETCHING TO TRACK STOLEN
SCOOTERS

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TOPPING THE LIST

FORT WORTH PROVIDES
A SAFE COMMUNITY

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COMMUNITY

Fort Worth pastry chef bakes through highs and lows

By **ALEXAH MONTANES**

STAFF WRITER, TCU 360

The red brick building on Daggett Avenue would be non-descript if it wasn't for the smell of confections that greet visitors at the door.

The glass cases filled with cakes, cupcakes and other desserts line the storefront. The ovens and baking areas are in the back.

Loft 22 Cakes is the calling of Tareka Lofton who found herself searching for purpose after she moved to Fort Worth 15 years ago from East Texas.

"I was turning 30, just really unhappy with my life, and I was seeking purpose," Lofton said. "I always worked a job, but I never did anything I was super passionate about."

She explored various art forms including murals, painting, sculpture and watercolor.

But her family has a background in cooking. Her father is known as the chef of the family. Her grandmother is a baking master.

Still, it took time for these connections to crystallize in her mind.

"It was always there, but it didn't click until I was 30," Lofton



Loft 22's store front can be found on E Daggett Avenue.

said. "That was when I realized, this is what I'm meant to do. Baking brought everything together; my art, my creativity, and most importantly my love of food and flavor."

A light bulb moment

"It was always there, but it didn't click until I was 30. That was when I realized, this is what I'm meant to do," she said with a smile.

"Baking brought everything together; my art, my creativity, and most importantly my love of food and flavor."

Inspired by her love of classic French techniques and her admiration for Julia Child, she set her

sights on becoming a professionally trained baker. She immediately began researching culinary schools.

"I knew I could do it from home, but I wanted to be taken seriously. I wanted to be a classically trained chef," she said. "If I'm going to do this, I'm going all the way."

Lofton enrolled at Le Cordon Bleu's pastry program with the desire to be classically trained and taken seriously.

Her entrepreneurial spirit couldn't wait for graduation as she eagerly was ready to jump in feet first.

"I was just on fire," she said. "I was taking orders and booking weddings before I even graduated.

PHOTO COURTESY OF LOFT 22

I was so passionate about this new path; it felt like the thing I was born to do."

The highs and lows

For five years, Lofton ran her bakery from home, building a client base through word of mouth and social media. She worked diligently, often putting in long hours to perfect her craft while simultaneously working at other bakeries to gain more experience in the industry.

"We started getting a huge social media following," she said. "I was posting all these artistic cakes, and we started to develop a cult following. We were

booking weddings left and right."

With business going steadily it was time to settle down. A breakthrough came in 2012 when she discovered that a space where she had previously interned was available.

With her mother's experience as a salon owner guiding her, Lofton took the leap and expanded Loft 22 to a storefront location, a moment she describes as both terrifying and exhilarating.

The bakery quickly became known for its unique designs and

exceptional quality. Loft's artistic background gave her an edge, allowing her to create pastries that were as visually stunning as they were delicious.

Lofton's talents eventually caught the attention of television producers, leading to an opportunity that would further elevate her profile in the culinary world.

"I had been approached by baking shows several times before, but I was never really interested in doing a competition show," she said. "I just like to create, to get into my zone and have fun with it."



PHOTO COURTESY OF LOFT 22

A TCU Graduation cake created by Lofton.



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PHOTO COURTESY OF LOFT 22

Lofton competing on Prime TV's Dr. Seuss Baking Challenge.

Her appearance on Prime TV's "Dr. Seuss Baking Challenge" brought national exposure to her bakery. "The pressure was real," she said. "You see the meltdowns, the tears, the stress, and in the

middle of all that, you're thinking, 'I just want to go home.' But then, when things are going well, you feel like you're on top of the world. It's an emotional rollercoaster." Despite the challenges, the experience broadened

her horizons and introduced her work to a national audience. Business was steady and growing until 2020, when the COVID-19 pandemic threatened everything, Lofton had worked so hard to build.

"When the pandemic hit, everything changed," she said. "We had weddings booked for the year, but they all started canceling or postponing. Every order we had was wiped out in an instant."

Faced with the possibility of closing her doors, Lofton drew on her creativity once more. With one final order remaining, she created a cake that would change everything: a toilet paper cake, inspired by the shortage that had gripped the nation during the early days of lockdown.

The cake, designed to look like a roll of toilet paper, was meant as a lighthearted response to a stressful situation that the world was challenged with. Lofton posted it online, hoping to give people a reason to smile during difficult times.

"The orders started coming in, and we got a local blurb on NBC. The next thing we knew, the Today Show picked it up," she said, to this day amazed by the turn of events. "From that five-second mention, we were flooded with orders from across the country. New York, San Francisco, Miami."

What had started as a creative whim became a lifeline for the bakery. People weren't just buying the cakes for themselves, but they were sending them to friends, family members and even donating them to frontline workers as a gesture of appreciation and humor during a dark time.

Believe in you

As the pandemic

restrictions eased and life began to return to normal, Lofton found herself reflecting on the journey that had brought her to this point.

"Looking back, I know now that betting on myself was the best decision I ever made," she said. "Nobody else can create those opportunities for you."

Today, Loft 22 continues to thrive, serving the Fort Worth community with unique, artisanal pastries that blend artistic vision with culinary expertise. For Lofton, the bakery represents more than just a business, it is the fulfillment of a passion.

Her advice to young women considering entrepreneurship reflects her own journey of self-discovery and determination.



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CAMPUS NEWS

Legacy voices reunite for KTCU and Roxo reopening

By SYDNEY JANSEN
STAFF WRITER, TCU 360

Purple socks, ribbon snips and a crowd of media hopefuls kicked off the reopening of two of TCU's most iconic student spaces: the KTCU radio station and the Roxo advertising suite. Students, faculty and alumni gathered in Moudy South to celebrate the upgrades, which blend tradition with innovation and prepare students for careers in media and marketing.

Broadcast legend Bob Schieffer, a TCU alumnus and longtime supporter of campus journalism, stood in front of the newly renovated KTCU studio wearing a grin, and yes, purple socks.

"I said if you guys win, I'll wear purple socks forever," Schieffer said, referencing to a past bet with students when TCU was in the Rose Bowl. "I didn't think they were going to win. They won."

I'm a man of my word."

Schieffer didn't just bring his quips. He shared advice rooted in decades of experience.

"One of the most important things you do on the radio is get off on time," he said.

"You have to figure out how to write something that fits the place you have where that's going to be broadcast. And remember — it's your job to tell the truth."

BOB SCHIEFFER
TCU ALUMNUS AND BROADCAST
LEGEND

He also recalled working 44 hours a week at a local radio station while attending TCU.

"Somebody asked me how I managed school with that schedule," he said. "I said, 'I'll have

to show you my grades sometime. They truly reflected that."

On graduation day, Schieffer didn't know if he had passed until he received his diploma.

"I got out of there as quickly as possible," he said, laughing. "I was worried they might try to take it away from me."

Inside the Roxo suite on September 12, donor and friend of Schieffer Roy Eaton emphasized the importance of client-focused learning.

"It's important to know what the client wants," Eaton said. "And with Roxo, they're finding that out. When they go to work out of college at a bigger agency, they'll have this background knowledge."

Eaton and his wife

funded the renovation and helped design the space to mirror professional agency environments. Students now collaborate around shared workstations and breakout areas.

"A group of seven or eight kids sitting around and talking — that's very important for getting everybody's opinion," Eaton said. "You'll come out with a much better product and a much more balanced product."

Schieffer and Eaton both stressed the importance of foundational skills: writing to time, verifying sources and understanding audience needs.



PHOTO BY SYDNEY JANSEN

Geoffrey Craig, KTCU station co-manager; Bob Schieffer; Jamie Alexander, KTCU donor; Roy Eaton, Roxo donor; and Janice McCall, KTCU station co-manager, cutting the purple TCU ribbon at the grand opening of the newly renovated KTCU radio station.



PHOTO BY SYDNEY JANSEN

Bob Schieffer meeting students and families at the KTCU and Roxo ribbon-cutting ceremonies.

COMMUNITY

Fort Worth ranked third-safest large city in the country

By ANNA GASOWSKI
STAFF WRITER, TCU 360

A new study ranks Fort Worth as the third-safest of the 50 most populous cities in the U.S.

SmartAsset, a financial technology company, considered the categories of violent crime, property crime, vehicular deaths, drug overdose deaths and excessive drinking in its analysis of the 50 largest cities. San Jose and Los Angeles, California, claimed the No. 1 and No. 2 spots.

Data from SmartAsset’s website shown in the table compared Fort Worth to other top cities in the country, even including nearby Arlington as No. 7 on the list.

The Fort Worth Police Department said they were proud to carry the top-tier ranking of

public safety, but said this doesn’t sway officers from cracking down on crime by developing new strategies to keep the community safe.

According to an article published recently by the Fort Worth Star-Telegram, Fort Worth crime is down 13% compared to this time last year. On the flip side, there was still a 39% increase in murder and manslaughter from this time last year, according to the city’s quarterly crime report.

FYPD has an 83% clearance rate for homicides, which shows that offenders are being tracked down at a quicker rate, the Star-Telegram noted.

“Overall, violent crime and property crime rates continue to trend down in Fort Worth; however, gang and gun violence are areas we remain



PHOTO BY GARRETT COOK

Downtown Fort Worth mixes its urban landscape with its historical, old-timey feel.

Rank	State	Violent crime per capita	Property crime per capita	Drug overdose deaths per 100,000 people	Percentage of adults reporting excessive drinking	Traffic deaths per 100,000 people
1	San Jose, CA	0.0053	0.0265	17.4	17.8%	6.9
2	Los Angeles, CA	0.0082	0.0286	23.0	19.4%	9.5
3	Fort Worth, TX	0.0137	0.0349	17.9	18.0%	10.8
4	Omaha, NE	0.0045	0.0376	17.1	21.3%	8.6
5	Virginia Beach, VA	0.0121	0.0284	25.4	20.8%	6.8
6	Las Vegas, NV	0.0048	0.0321	28.0	19.3%	10.4
7	Arlington, TX	0.0206	0.0359	17.9	18.0%	10.8
8	El Paso, TX	0.0154	0.0271	16.7	19.7%	11.9
9	Charlotte, NC	0.0075	0.0385	23.4	20.8%	9.5
10	Raleigh, NC	0.0191	0.0365	19.5	20.5%	7.9
11	Long Beach, CA	0.0149	0.0418	23.0	19.4%	9.5
12	Miami, FL	0.0151	0.0410	13.8	20.0%	12.2
13	San Diego, CA	0.0093	0.0265	27.7	23.0%	8.5
14	Phoenix, AZ	0.0079	0.0251	36.6	19.7%	12.7
15	Sacramento, CA	0.0194	0.0414	28.5	18.2%	12.6

PHOTO COURTESY OF SMART ASSET

Data comes County Health Rankings & Roadmaps (2025), the FBI (2023) and NeighborhoodScout.com.

focused on,” Tracy Carter, FYPD public information officer, said.

TCU Police has a close partnership with the Fort Worth Police Department, Carter said. “We have an NPO (neighborhood police officer) dedicated to the TCU area that is the primary point of contact between FYPD and TCU PD in the immediate areas around campus,” Carter said.

In recent years, police have increased patrols and security in off-campus areas that students frequent.

“If you are downtown, in West 7th, the Stockyards or any of our other entertainment areas, there will be officers nearby — if you don’t feel safe or you see something wrong, say something,” Carter said. Fort Worth ranked

on the low end of drug overdoses compared to other cities in the ranking.

“We have a narcotics enforcement team that is dedicated to investigating overdose cases and filing homicide cases on the dealers that are found to have provided the narcotics that led to the overdose,” Carter said.

One contributing factor to a decrease in drug overdoses overall has been the increased awareness and education about drug overdoses, as well as the prevalence of Narcan. The TCU Substance Use & Recovery Services office offers training on how to administer Narcan each fall and spring semester.

“Historically, there have been very few overdoses reported on the campus,” TCU Police Commander

Steven Enright said. “The police department is very fortunate that our community can avail itself of the TCU Substance Use & Recovery Services. They are in a unique position to help individuals with services to cope with the stresses of university life.”

Some students recognize how safe the TCU campus feels, but aren’t completely confident in the safety of Fort Worth as a whole. Campbell Mannschreck, a sophomore early childhood education major, cited homelessness and shootings prevalent in the West 7th area.

“Yes, crime is down and the streets are safer, but it is never something we take for granted,” Enright said. “Being a large metropolitan city

has inherent problems. We employ a strategy of high-profile patrol, which incorporates police cars, bike patrol, walking patrol and golf cart patrols.”

Strategies like these allow TCU students to feel more confident while walking around campus alone, but TCU Police still stresses the importance of being on the lookout for crime, especially with many students being from out of state.

“Always report something that doesn’t seem right to you,” Enright said. “I can tell you the police would rather go through an entire career of false alarms than to see one person harmed. We do our best to treat each student as if they were one of our own family.”



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Horoscope

The stars show the kind of day you'll have:

- ★★★★★-Dynamic
- ★★★★-Positive
- ★★★-Average
- ★★-So-so
- ★-Difficult

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★This is a good day to rally your troops and set them marching. Enjoy interactions with friends. Share your ideas. If you're involved in groups or organizations, today is a strong day to encourage others to act on new ideas or explore new paths. Tonight: Improve your workspace.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★ You're high-viz today, which means people notice you more than usual. Fortunately, you make an excellent impression on everyone. This is the kind of day where people are receptive to ideas, even instructions and orders, which means if you want to make things happen, step up to the plate. Tonight: Socialize.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★ Choose today to explore opportunities in publishing, the media, medicine and the law. Likewise, it's an excellent day to learn or study something new. Pursue travel plans. Basically, all aspects of promotion and communications will flow smoothly for you. Nice! Tonight: Tweak your digs.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★ This is actually an excellent day for banking and negotiating issues related to

inheritances, wills, taxes and debt. Matters related to home and family are also highlighted today, especially discussions about shared property. Look for ways to improve your home and family scene. Tonight: Warm conversations.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★ Be prepared to go along with what others want today. However, you will have a chance to put in your two cents. Cooperate and work with partners and close friends to achieve your goals. Communicate your wants and needs; you will be convincing. Tonight: A gift?

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★ Discussions about finances, earnings and cash flow will go well today. Likewise, your efforts to reorganize or deal with your possessions will also bring results. This is also an excellent day to think of moneymaking ideas, ways to boost your income or how to find a better paying job. Ka-ching! Tonight: Wardrobe shopping?

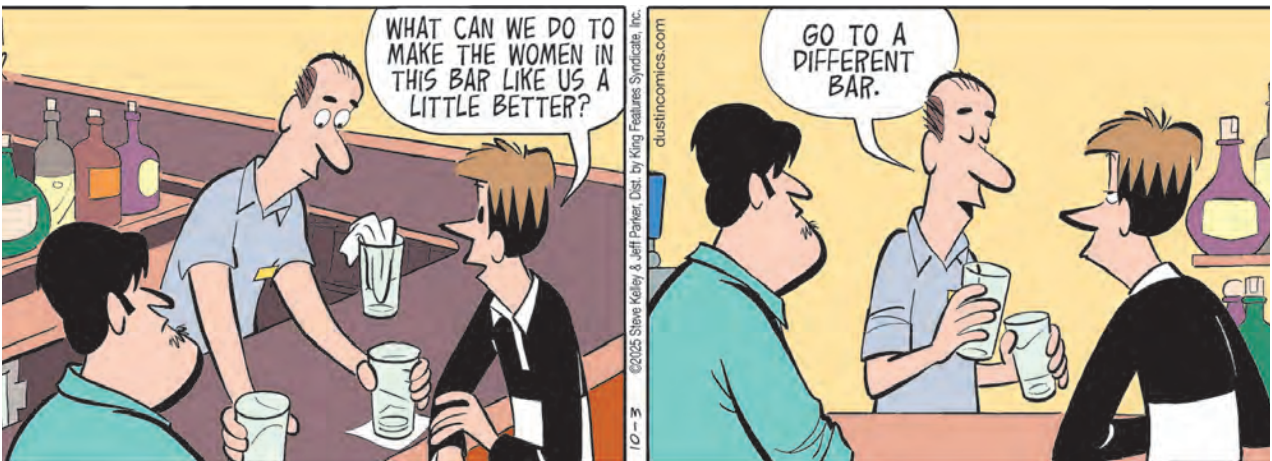
LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★ This is a strong day for you because the Sun is in your sign dancing nicely with the Moon, which is sitting in the most playful part of your chart. You can use this advantage to teach young minds or explore your creative expression in the arts, the entertainment world or the hospitality industry. Tonight: Appreciate privacy.

Comics

Carpe Diem by Niklas Eriksson



Dustin by Steve Kelley and Jeff Parker



SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★ Basically, this is a feel-good day. Take time to relax or "hide" if you can. Discussions with female family members will go well. Likewise, relations with friends and members of groups are also good. This is an excellent day to process information. Tonight: Share information.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★ This is a popular day for you! Not only will you enjoy reaching out to others, in turn,

they want to see your face. This is a strong day for sales, marketing, teaching, acting and chatting with neighbors, relatives and siblings. What can you learn? Tonight: Share advice.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★ Today is a wonderful day to teach, promote or share information. Meanwhile, you look great to others. This is an advantage, because people will more likely listen to you and look to you for guidance. Travel

will appeal to you, along with romance with someone "different." Tonight: Travel plans.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★ Today the Moon is in your sign, which does two things: It will heighten your emotions, and it will also slightly improve your good luck, giving you an edge over all the other signs. Obviously, this is the day to demand the advantage! Go after what you want. (Why not ask?) Tonight: Check your finances.

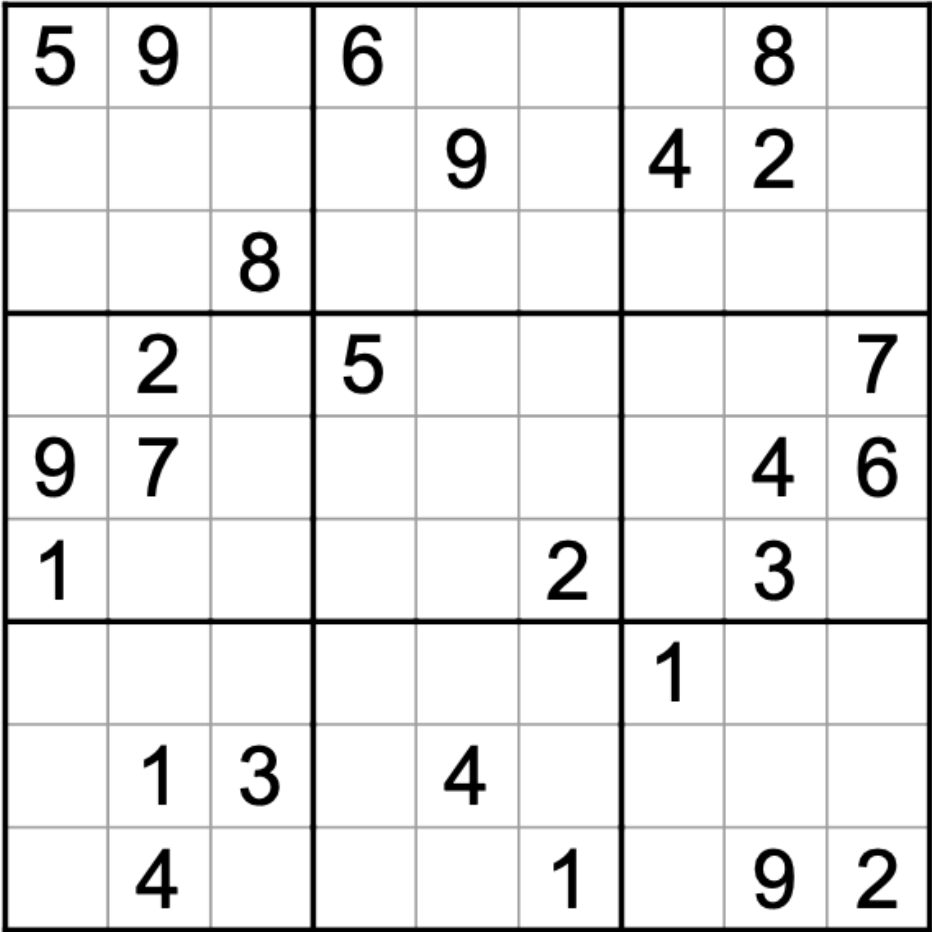
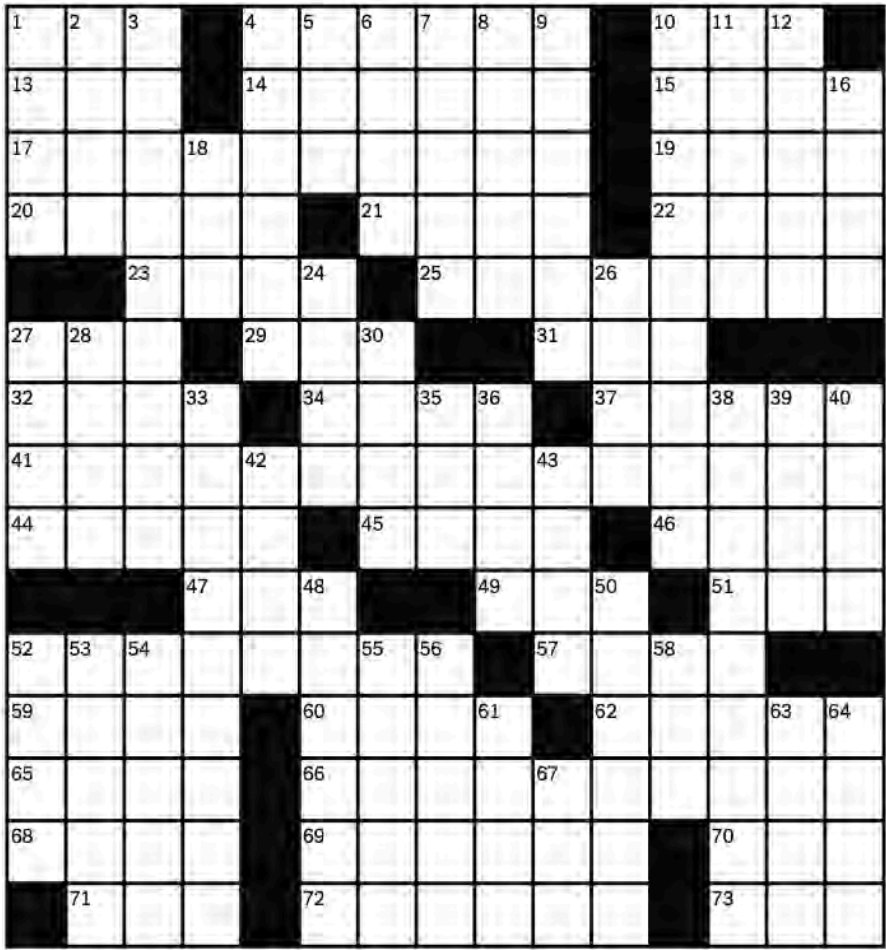
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★ Information is flowing freely today, and for your sign, much of this information will come from research or hidden sources. In fact, someone might share a secret with you. Very likely, whatever you learn will boost your assets and benefit you financially. Tonight: Conversations.

The New York Times

Edited by Will Shortz

Sudoku

DIRECTIONS Fill in the grid so that every 3x3 box, row and column contains the digits 1 through 9 without repeating.



- ACROSS**
- 1 “Table” for one’s TV dinner, perhaps

4 Messy abode

10 Texting format, in brief

13 Period that begins with a day of pranks: Abbr.

14 Weakness

15 ___ Highway (Maui tourist attraction)

17 Recently dated

19 Many a citizen of Abu Dhabi

20 It’s used for wrapping up a film

21 Gained a wider following

22 Riddled (with)

23 Top up

25 No guts

27 Where someone might ask for a screwdriver

29 Early tech giant

31 Fair Deal prez

32 Like Frodo at the end of the “Lord of the Rings” trilogy

34 Chaps

37 Poem that’s typically unrhymed
- DOWN**
- 41 Battle carriers

44 Mythological beast able to regenerate its heads

45 Commuter option

46 Non-fruit ingredient in a green smoothie

47 One of three in the Domino’s logo

49 Syllable akin to “Tsk!”

51 Audiophile’s collection, for short

52 Packed lunch

57 Wail

59 Shade in a picturesque island scene, maybe

60 Follower of Joel

62 Here’s the scoop!

65 Colossally bad consequence, as with finances

66 Feature of the clues for 17-, 25-, 41- and 52-Across

68 Wizard

69 Some underground networks

70 “Kapow!”

71 Fleur-de-___

72 Follow, with “to”

73 “Come ___?” (Italian for “How are you?”)
- 1 Problems with a livestream, maybe

2 For one

3 Mark one’s words?

4 Rice dish seasoned with saffron

5 Stop for the night, say

6 Social studies subj.

7 Resident of a hidden mushroom village

8 Go-getter

9 Hebrew name for God

10 Reality show whose contestants give pitches

11 Red-clad brother of 54-Down

12 Major mess

16 Provide support for something crooked?

18 “___ ever!”

24 Take it easy

26 First Black male tennis player to be ranked #1 globally

27 ___ party (pre-wedding activity, informally)

28 Ghostly in appearance

30 The Batcave, for one

33 They might have their noses turned up

35 Basis for how you’re wired, so to speak

36 Bit of camp entertainment

38 “That one’s mine!”

39 Member of a marine “forest”

40 Functions

42 Innocent sort

- 43 Mess up

48 Kind of TV

50 Gay ___, author of “Honor Thy Father”

52 Stable environment?

53 Like 4! and 24

54 Green-clad brother of 11-Down

55 Psyched

56 John Lennon had one that sold for more than \$31,000 at a 2011 auction (fittingly, to a dentist!)

58 Word with price or proxy

61 Ticked off

63 It’s partly an assessment of logical reasoning, for short

64 ___ D’Arcy, co-star of HBO’s “House of the Dragon”

67 Conjunction used in logic

LAST WEEK’S SUDOKU SOLUTION

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

LAST WEEK’S CROSSWORD SOLUTION

O	A	R	S		S	P	A	N	S		I	C	I	E	R
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PUBLIC SAFETY

Scooter thefts linked to nearly 14% of TCU PD reports

By **FABIAN ALVIDREZ**
STAFF WRITER, TCU 360

Scooter theft is one of the most reported campus crimes, according to the TCU Police Department’s daily crime log.

Scooter prices range from around \$150 to \$500, according to online retailers such as Amazon, Walmart and Best Buy, with some costing more than \$1,500.

With scooters being a major target for theft as well as a valuable item, students may want to take certain security measures.

Most incidents occurred near the Walsh Athletic Center and King Hall.

As of Aug. 8, 2025, eight scooters had been reported stolen from the Walsh and Justin Athletic Centers and three from King Hall, with as many as three reports of scooter theft in a single day.

The thefts prompted Assistant Vice Chancellor for Public Safety, Adrian Andrews, to email a warning to students and urge them to take preventive measures to safeguard their scooters.

Andrews also suggested that students visit the police station to have their scooters permanently etched for free.

Etching the scooters makes them more identifiable and links them to the student via their student ID. They etch the frame of the scooter, one of the sides and below the floor plate.

“The etching process was super smooth. It took three to five minutes.”

- **ISAAC CARNEY**
JUNIOR KINESIOLOGY STUDENT

“They told me if I got the etching, then campus police would be able to identify the scooter if it was stolen.”

Students should also keep track of their scooter’s factory serial number, which is located under the frame of many scooters. Including a serial number in a report allows police to enter stolen scooters into the national stolen property database. This makes it easier to share information with other agencies, such as the Fort Worth Police Department.

Should scooters be recovered away from the TCU campus, police departments will still be able to cooperate and be aware that the property is stolen.

Other preventive measures include properly locking scooters or adding tracking devices.

Most reported scooter thefts remain either pending or unfounded, indicating that investigations are ongoing. As investigations continue, Andrews encourages cooperation between students and police to help resolve campus-wide theft.

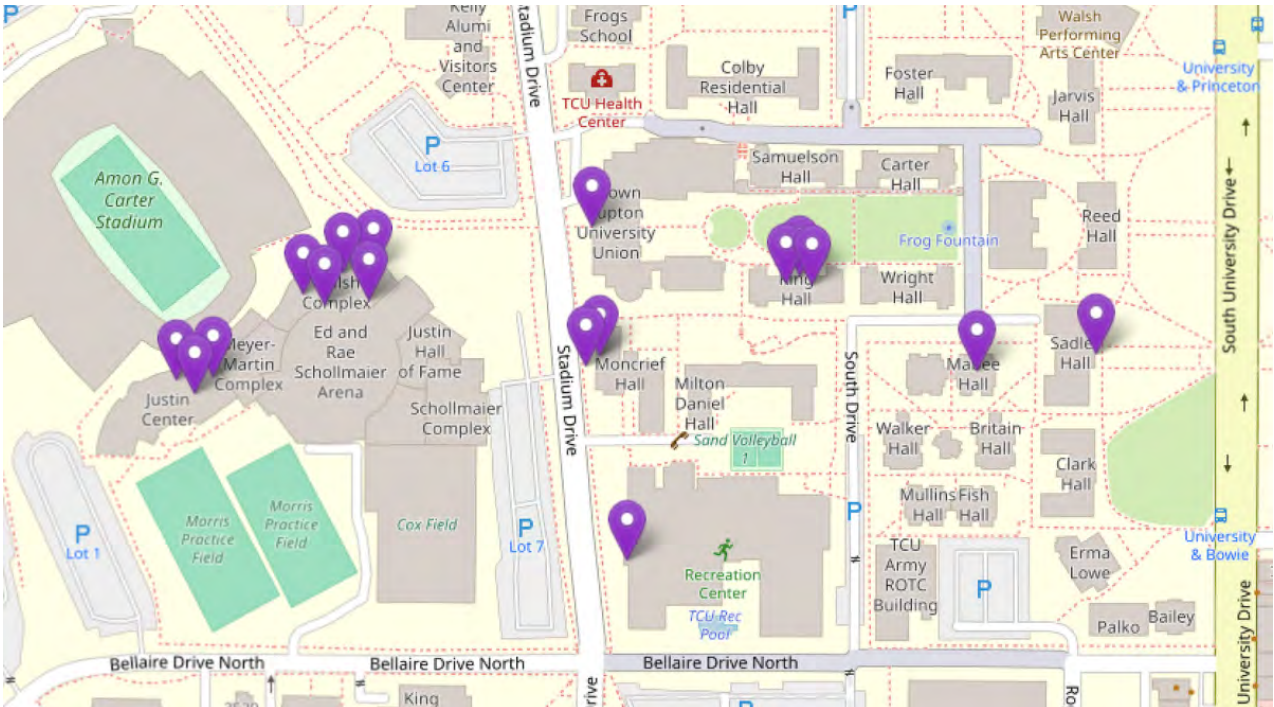


PHOTO BY FABIAN ALVIDREZ

A TCU map displays the locations of 17 scooters reported stolen between August and September 2025. The majority of scooter thefts have been reported near the athletic facilities, King Hall and South University Drive.



PHOTO BY FABIAN ALVIDREZ

A scooter parked outside of Moudy North with a wheel lock. According to the TCU Police crime log, 17 scooters have been reported stolen since Aug. 15, 2025.