

# NORTH CHANNEL★STAR

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Serving all of the North Shore -- Channelview, Cloverleaf, Sheldon, Galena Park, Jacinto City  
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CHANNEL  
CURRENTS

**NS Rotary  
FISH FRY  
May 14th**  
North Shore Rotary Club is holding their 47th Annual Catfish Fry & Crawfish Boil, Raffle, and Live and Silent Auctions on Saturday, May 14 at the Rotary Pavilion on Wallisville..  
Tickets are \$100 each, and include 2 meals and a chance in the Raffle. They are available now from all North Shore Rotarians, and many businesses.  
Grand Prize in the Raffle is a new 2022 Toyota car or truck. There are also 20 additional prizes, plus a delicious Fish Fry platter.

## Local woman to head March of Dimes drive

Houston, TX – HCA Houston Healthcare and March of Dimes (MOD) Houston announces the appointment of Jeanna Bamburg as chair of the 2022 Houston March for Babies: A Mother of a Movement™.  
“Jeanna is a longtime supporter of March for Babies and will focus her efforts to raise awareness and critical funds for March of Dimes,” said Jen Torres, MOD senior executive director. “We are thrilled that she has accepted this opportunity to lead our local movement to make America a more equitable place and ensure that every mom and baby is healthy.”  
Bamburg is CEO of HCA Houston Healthcare Southeast, located in Pas-



A native of Highlands, and the North Channel area, Jeanna Bamburg is the CEO of HCA Houston Healthcare Southeast. Formerly she headed the HCA East Houston Hospital on the East Freeway. She will head the “March for Babies: A Mother of a Movement™” drive of the Houston March of Dimes organization.

adena, well known for its obstetrics and midwifery services. She is asking local businesses and community members to join her and HCA Houston Healthcare in supporting March for Babies. “The number of babies born preterm here in Texas and nationwide is staggering,” said Bamburg. “By joining this movement, individuals and groups can take action to help ensure March of Dimes can continue the vital research, programs and advocacy that allow moms and babies to get the best possible start.”  
Each day in the United States, one woman dies every 12 hours from pregnancy-related causes, and 1 in 10 babies is born too soon. “Although

we see thousands of healthy babies born each year in the greater Houston area, we also see thousands of babies who need life-saving treatments in our neonatal ICUs. The work of the March of Dimes is unparalleled in what they do for moms and babies, and I’m so proud to be a part of this important work that affects so many lives,” Bamburg added.  
Houston March for Babies: A Mother of a Movement™ is back in-person and will be held at 8:00am, Sunday, April 24, 2022, at the University of Houston, 4800 Calhoun Road. Visit [marchforbabies.org](http://marchforbabies.org) for more information, to donate and start or join a team.



Leading scorer #1 junior guard Shalayne Morgan makes one of her 18 points. Photo by Allan Jamail

## NORTH SHORE ADVANCES IN PLAYOFF OVER CLEAR BROOK

Lady Mustangs 68 – Wolverines 64

By Allan Jamail

February 17, 2022 6pm at the neutral court at the Pasadena Memorial Gym the GPISD North Shore Lady Mustangs edged out the Clear Brook Wolverines in overtime for the Area Finals Round (2nd playoff game).  
This game from the beginning tip-off was a barnburner till the final second in overtime. The Wolverines looked early on as the winner having led by 12 points at one time. The Eastside Lady Mustangs never gave up and clawed back several times to tie the game and sometimes have a 2 or 3 point lead.  
The lead in the game changed back and

forth all the way into the final minutes of regulation play. Clear Brook had a 2 point lead with 4 seconds 60 to 58 on the clock. The Lady Mustangs quickly got the ball down court and tied the game sending it into a four minute overtime period 60 – 60.  
The overtime period was no different with the lead changing back and forth and suddenly the Eastside girls began a noticeable fierce defensive attack, stealing the ball

away before the Clear Brook girls could score and driving down for scores.  
The game ended with North Shore advancing into the Quarterfinals against Pearland, Tuesday, February 22, 2022 at the neutral court of Pasadena Sam Rayburn High school. Linda Jamail, Statistician. Allanj211@aol.com

MORE PHOTOS ON PAGE 5



Senior #11 Makenzie Paul leaps airborne for a basket scoring 10 points. Photo by Allan Jamail

# New Initiatives to fight Crime

## Houston Mayor announces \$44 million “One Safe Houston”

HOUSTON - Mayor Sylvester Turner has announced “One Safe Houston: the Mayor’s Public Safety Initiative to Combat Violent Crime,” which focuses on four key areas:  
--Violence Reduction and Crime Prevention  
--Crisis Intervention, Response and Recovery  
--Youth Outreach Opportunities  
--Key Community Partnerships.

The plan outlines a commitment to put more officers on the streets through overtime and cadet classes and creates a \$1 million gun buyback program. It also provides \$1.5 million in additional funding to the Houston Forensic Science Center to address backlog and funds domestic violence programs with an additional \$3 million to provide more services for survivors and prevention efforts.  
“This plan represents a holistic approach to combatting violent crime on the streets while being responsive to the needs of victims and building healthier communities in



Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner announces “One Safe Houston” at a news conference last week.

the process,” said Mayor Turner. “Law enforcement efforts alone will not sufficiently address the symptoms of crime. We are faced with a public health crisis, and it will require all of us, working together to overcome it.”  
Mayor Turner also announced:  
--\$2.5 million for the implementation of the CURE Violence program in targeted communities. The Cure Violence model trains and deploys outreach workers and violence interrupters to mitigate conflict on the street before it turns violent. T  
--Increased support for the Community Re-Entry

Network Program. The program helps formerly incarcerated individuals with successful community reintegration including workforce development, mental and behavioral health resources and housing and other basic needs referrals and resources. Reducing recidivism is critical for increasing long-term public health and safety and lowering corrections costs. The proposed \$1 million dollar increase will allow a 50% increase in participants to grow from 500 to 750 annually.  
--A proposed ordinance

Continued. See Mayor’s Crime Initiative, P. 8

## Harris County allocates \$50mil for “Clean Streets, Safe Neighborhoods”

HARRIS COUNTY – County Judge Lina Hidalgo and Precinct 2 Commissioner Adrian Garcia announced a Major Crime Prevention and Neighborhood Safety Initiative.

The Proposed \$50 million smart on crime program is to target areas with high rates of violent crime driven by gun violence.  
Judge Lina Hidalgo revealed details of the new \$50 million proposal to prevent violent crime and improve neighborhood safety across Harris County. The new initiative will target distressed county neighborhoods where blight and neglect are driving violent crime. The program will improve street lighting, sidewalks, and visibility in residential areas, address longstanding blighted and abandoned structures, restore vacant lots, and implement other improvements shown to enhance public safety.  
During Judge Hidalgo’s tenure, commissioner court has increased the law enforcement budgets for every law enforcement



Judge Lina Hidalgo with Sheriff’s deputies to announce the new “Clean Streets, Safe Neighborhoods” program.

agency, including the district attorney’s office, by 13% since 2019. This brings the total funding for law enforcement in fiscal year 2022 alone to \$966 million.  
**CLEAN STREETS, SAFE NEIGHBORHOODS PROGRAM**  
By Judge Lina Hidalgo  
Harris County has passed a new \$50 million Clean Streets, Safe Neighborhoods program: a crime prevention and neighborhood safety program that uses data to target county neighborhoods where de-

cay and abandonment are driving violent crime. The program will improve street lighting, sidewalks, and visibility in residential areas, address longstanding blighted and abandoned structures, restore vacant lots, and implement other improvements shown to enhance public safety. We know this approach works due to studies by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Man  
Continued. See County Crime Program, page 8



# SHELDON ISD NEWS

## National Counselors Week

This week we celebrated National Counselors week by acknowledging our counselors on each level. Early Learning Center counselors work with students and families to help students develop academically, socially, and emotionally as they enter into the school system. Our elementary counselors serve as student advocates and assist parents and students in seeking solutions to social, emotional and academic topics. High School and Middle School counselors provide social and emotional development as well as managing academics and graduation plans in preparation for graduation and life after high school. We celebrated by making posts on social media thanking all of our counselors on each campus and the community’s response was overwhelming and heartwarming.

## HAABSE Award

The HAABSE Teacher Award and Recognition Ceremony honors teachers from all over the Houston area that exhibit excellence in and outside of the classroom. There is an ongoing need for recognizing those who are dedicated to the educational process. Therefore, HAABSE remains committed to ensuring that teachers gain recognition for outstanding achievements by also selecting a Secondary and Elementary HAABSE Teacher of the Year from the teachers nominated by their campuses and awarding cash prizes. HAABSE also has the privilege of awarding scholarships to graduating high school seniors who plan to enter the field of education. King High School senior, Tavious Mattox, was awarded a \$1,500 scholarship. I am so proud of our teachers who were nominated and recognized for their outstanding work. To view the event go to [haabse.org](http://haabse.org) to see the virtual recording.



## Parent Engagement Survey

We are conducting a district-wide parent survey to improve parental and family engagement. The survey will be available on the district’s website at [SheldonISD.com](http://SheldonISD.com) until March 31, 2022. If you have questions, contact the district at 281-727-2096. Our community becomes stronger by providing a parental engaged education for our students

YOUR VOICE MATTERS

SHELDON ISD PARENT ENGAGEMENT SURVEY

Now through March 31

Click here to participate!

## #SheldonSpirit Challenge

C.E. King Highschool is participating in the #SheldonSpirit challenge in Mrs. Langley’s floral design class! The students collaborated with our 18+ students to teach them how to make a bud vase arrangement. You can join the challenge by using #SheldonSpirit and tagging us @SheldonISD on Facebook and Twitter or @SheldonISDtx on Instagram. Sheldon ISD has a year-long challenge for the community. Let’s partner together to show school pride, unity and foster good relationships with the community by taking over our social media channels using #SheldonSpirit.



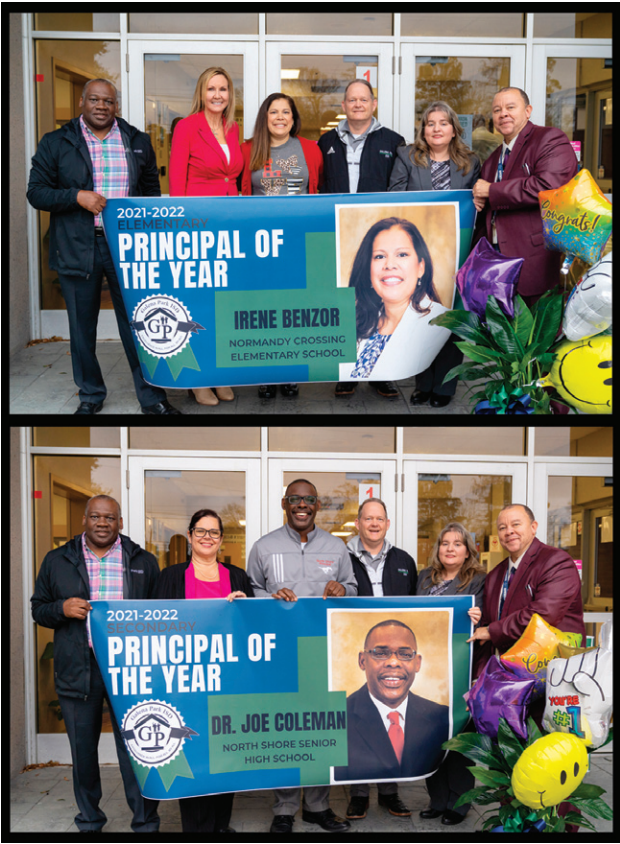
# GALENA PARK ISD NEWS

## GP ISD recognized the North Shore Mustangs Varsity Football Team

At the February 14<sup>th</sup> Board of Trustees meeting, Galena Park ISD recognized the North Shore Mustangs Varsity Football Team for defeating the Duncanville Panthers on December 18, 2021, to win the 2021 UIL Texas Football 6A Division 1 State Championship. This is North Shore’s third state championship in four years and fifth state championship overall. A certificate was presented to Athletic Director, Vivian Dancy, Assistant Athletic Director, Kae Walker, Head Football Coach, Jon Kay, coaching staff, athletic trainers, ball runners, and each Senior player and trainer on behalf of the Board of Trustees and Dr. John Moore, Superintendent of Schools. Congratulations to the Mustangs!



## Principle of the Year



Congratulations to Irene Benzor and Dr. Joe Coleman for being named Galena Park ISD (GPISD) 2022 Elementary and Secondary Principal of the Year! Mrs. Benzor has served as the principal of Normandy Crossing Elementary School for eight years, and Dr. Coleman has served as the principal of North Shore Senior High School for 10 years. GPISD would like to congratulate Mrs. Benzor and Dr. Coleman and to thank them for their hard work and dedication.

# CHANNELVIEW ISD NEWS

## Channelview ISD Announces Principals Of The Year



**February 17, 2022**— Barrett-Lee Early Childhood Center Principal Emily Laird and Channelview High School Principal Robert Laird have been announced as the 2021-2022 Elementary and Secondary Principals of the year. Ms. Laird became the Barrett-Lee ECC principal in 2017. Before becoming principal she was the campus assistant principal. Mrs. Laird is a Channelview High School graduate and her entire education career has been in CISD. She obtained her Bachelor of Science from Sam Houston State University and her Master’s in Educational Management from the University of Houston-Clear Lake. “Mrs. Laird’s leadership skills are evident by the smiles you see when you step foot on her campus,” said Channelview ISD Superintendent Dr. Tory C. Hill. “She is the first principal that our families and students will encounter and we are fortunate for that, because she is extraordinary.” The Secondary Principal of The Year title goes to Principal Robert Laird. Mr. Laird has been in education for 20 years and was an assistant principal at CHS before being promoted to principal in 2017. He earned a Bachelor of Science in Agriculture Science from Sam Houston State University, a Master’s in Educational Leadership from the University of Houston-Clear Lake, and a Superintendent’s Certification from Sam Houston State University. Mr. Laird was raised in Channelview and went to school here, kindergarten through 12th grade, graduating in 1995. “Mr. Laird has been instrumental in building success among students at Channelview High School,” said Dr. Hill. “The high school has been through many renovations these last few years thanks to the 2019 bond and Mr. Laird hasn’t missed a beat. He is a very hands-on principal and our high school students are in good hands with him as their leader.”



CHARLOTTE'S WEB

By Charlotte Jackson



Genuine

Nobody wants to spend their hard-earned money to purchase something only to find out the item is fake. It does not matter if it is a designer purse or a piece of jewelry, or even some type of food. People say that imitation is the sincerest form of flattery, yet not if it was presented to you as the real thing and turned out to be fake.

The number of vehicles on the road with paper license plates has increased tremendously since the beginning of the pandemic. Part of the reason was with the issuing agency was closed or only offered limited hours to help the public. And like too many other things, those who wanted to do wrong went out of their way to make a profit selling illegal paper tags. Too often those who are out to make a quick dollar, are the first to do something illegal. It is truly a disgrace that anyone would want to take someone's money and provide a fake item.

How are these who are selling fake license tags able to get away with it? Perhaps understanding the concept of supply and demand will help understand. Many people needed a way to keep driving even though they could not wait for the vehicle registration office to open. Many of the plates were purchased by people who could not afford to purchase the mandatory liability insurance, during a time when many people were forced to stay home as their employers had closed or were limiting the number of how they were scheduling employees. Suddenly with children at home, many times one parent had to stay home with the children and incomes were drastically affected.


We have also heard about the rise in crime and the number of law enforcement agencies that are stretched to their physical capabilities.

In just the past five months, our community has seen too many deaths and too many senseless shootings. All it takes is a glance at social media or a few minutes of watching the news and your heart sinks. If you talk to many people, you notice that there seems to be a sadness that is hovering over the community.

We need to get back to basics and think about what is important. We need to make a list of what matters most to us. We need to eliminate the things that really do not matter. We need to get serious and be real with ourselves and the people in our lives. We need to eliminate the stressors and think about things that matter.

Perhaps if we set the example, others will follow. If we take the time to be genuine about the things that matter most, we will soon realize that we are being genuine about the other things that matter. In doing so, we will make an impact on our families and the others around us.

Americanisms



“Tomorrow is the first blank page of a 365-page book. Write a good one.”  
— Brad Paisley

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Firefighter injured in House Fire in the Summerwood Area



HOUSTON- Houston fire department reports that on Saturday, Feb. 12 at about 9:00 pm firefighters arrived on scene to find a house on fire and made entry through the garage, making an offensive attack. They protected nearby exposures and conducted a primary search as conditions permitted. A chimney collapse occurred, and firefighters switched to a defensive attack using aerial operations. The fire started at around 9:30pm. in the 16300 block of Camden Cove Lane. The fire was extinguished, and a secondary search was completed.

Damage to the home was estimated at \$385,000 and almost a complete loss. Residents and neighbors complained that the area did not have fire hydrants, and a fire department water truck was very late in arriving to help fight the fire.

Officials say a couple was inside the home watching TV with a firepit flaming outside at Camden Cove Lane. A firefighter was injured by falling debris and was evaluated and treated on scene. HFD Arson investigators were requested to determine the cause and origin of the fire. Firefighters from Stations 23, 45, 64, 32, 53, 56, 65, 105 responded.

Uber driver accused of assaulting 73-year-old passenger

HOUSTON – An Uber driver is accused of assaulting a 73-year-old passenger who asked her to stop texting and driving while traveling on the Northwest Freeway, according to deputies with Constable Mark Herman's Office.

Naponica Brooks has been charged with injury to an elderly person.

On Valentine's Day, Brooks picked up the elderly woman and while they were traveling to the destination, the woman asked Brooks to not text and drive after she almost struck another vehicle on the freeway, deputies said.

Brooks became angry and pulled into a parking lot. She demanded the woman get out of her vehicle then grabbed her purse and threw it. She then grabbed the woman by the arm and yanked her out, deputies said.

The victim tried to call 911 but Brooks allegedly grabbed her phone and threw it on the ground before driving off.

According to investigators, a witness who saw the assault called authorities and gave them the Uber driver's license plate number. Surveillance video also captured the incident.

During the investigation, it was revealed that Brooks was also recently charged in an aggravated assault with a deadly weapon case with the Baytown Police Department. That incident happened in early February.

The Suspect also is wanted for Aggravated assault with deadly weapon. Anyone with information on Brooks' whereabouts is asked to call Constable Mark Herman's Office or local law enforcement.



Naponica Brooks  
Uber Driver

ASK DIAMOND JIM

Diamond Jim: “Are there gems more valuable than diamond?”

A picture containing pink Description automatically generated



Picture courtesy of INSTORE Magazine

This remarkable gem is 50,000 TIMES RARER than diamond, 1,000 times more valuable than gold ... and they gave it a name that sounds like something on 7-11's menu. Sheesh! Thankfully, the CIBJO recommends you use a much more prosaic appellation, although it's not uncommon for many traders to casually refer to it as "scarlet emerald" in a nod to its illustrious cousin. (The CIBJO, The World Jewelry Confederation, represents the interests of all individuals, organizations and companies earning their livelihoods from jewelry, gemstones and precious metals, covering the entire industry from mine to market-place in the various production, manufacturing, trading, and retail stores.)

In gem-grade quality, it can be found at being commercially mined in one place: Utah's Wah Wah Mountains, a delightful wilderness where convenience stores are nearly as hard to find as the gem is. "Scarlet Emerald" is a market name for Red Beryl, which is not related to Emeralds but still belongs to the same mineral family.

Red beryl (aka bixbite, "red emerald," or "scarlet emerald") was first described in 1904, and while it is closely related on a chemical level to both emerald and aquamarine, it is considerably rarer than both. (The mineral's red color is due to the presence of Mn3+ ions.)

The mineral's known distribution is limited to Utah (gem quality) and parts of New Mexico (non-gem quality) and has proven exceptionally difficult to mine in an economically feasible fashion. As a result, some published estimates say rubies of similar quality (rubies being a rare gem, themselves), are roughly 8000 times more plentiful than any given red beryl specimen.

Credit to "The Diamond Authority" and "IN-STORE Magazine" for some of the content in this article

*Diamond Jim is a master jeweler, diamond dealer and precious metals broker of NTR Metals. Pineforest Jewelry has been a proud member of the IJO for many years. See more at: [www.pineforestjewelry.com](http://www.pineforestjewelry.com).*

*Thank you for reading the "Ask Diamond Jim" column and for supporting the North Channel Star Newspaper!*

*If you have questions pertaining to jewelry, watches, diamonds, precious stones, precious metals, and other questions related to the jewelry industry, email [jmills@pineforestjewelry.com](mailto:jmills@pineforestjewelry.com).*

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OPINION

By BILL KING



### Poll Shows Widespread Support For New Texas Voting Law

Last August, the SAM party conducted a survey of its members and other members of the community about their opinions of the major provisions in the Texas voting bill (SB1), which was at the time, grinding its way through the Legislature. Our survey was clearly not a scientific poll but found that at least a plurality of respondents supported all the major provisions of the bill.

In October, after SB1 had passed, the University of Houston and Texas Southern University conducted a poll asking voters their opinions about its provisions. The UH/TSU poll found even stronger support for all the major provisions in the bill than the SAM survey did, with support ranging from 58%-86%.

What is particularly surprising about the poll results are the racial crosstabs.1 While Democratic officeholders and their media surrogates constantly argued that the bill would adversely affect minority voters, they did not see it that way. While white voters supported each provision at a higher level than did Latinos or African-Americans, Latinos also supported all the propositions and African-Americans supported six of the nine.

Support for voter identification on mail-in ballots was particularly strong across all groups (whites +57, Latinos +30, African-Americans +17). It was also clear that voters really dislike ballot harvesting, with wide majorities in every group supporting severe criminal penalties (whites +66, Latinos +43, African-Americans +38).

I was surprised that all groups also supported more freedom of movement for poll watchers (whites +28, Latinos +14, African-Americans +14). Most people I talked to did not seem to care much for that idea.

Since the SAM survey and the UH/TSU poll, an issue has arisen regarding a glitch in the process for providing identification on mail-in ballots which has gotten widespread coverage. I intend to write more about this as we see how this issue unfolds during the election. But it appears to me that a relatively small number of voters will be affected and I cannot see how any particular group is disproportionately disadvantaged. Seems likely to me to be a case of Hanlon's Razor.

You certainly would not know the new law had such widespread support from the media coverage on it, like this ABC News story that appeared on Monday. It leaves the impression that voters were upset about the new rules. The only story I saw that reported the actual results of the UH/TSU poll was this story by Jasper Scherer in the Houston Chronicle on October 30.

In all, the poll to me represents the same sort of Texas common sense that we saw in the SAM survey. The vast majority of Texans want everyone to be able to vote and for it to be reasonably convenient to do so. But they also want to ensure that elections are fair and that the rules are followed. And unlike the hyper-partisans on either side, their responses indicate they care more about fair elections than they do about who wins an election.

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** *Opinions expressed here are not necessarily that of this newspaper or its staff. YOUR OPINION is welcome. Send a letter for possible publication to Grafikpress Newspapers, 5906 Star Lane, Houston TX 77057 or an email to GRAFIKSTAR@aol.com. Please limit your words to about 200. Letters will be subject to editing. Thank you.*

top ten

GEN Z SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORMS

1. Instagram
2. YouTube
3. Snapchat
4. Facebook
5. Twitter
6. Facebook Messenger
7. Pinterest
8. TikTok
9. Discord
10. Tumblr

Source: Business Insider/MediaPost

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STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Gary Borders



## Mail-in ballots applications rejected at high rate

### MAIL-IN BALLOT APPLICATIONS REJECTED AT HIGH RATE

Mail-in ballot applications for the March 1 primary are being rejected by almost 40% — largely because of a missing ID number, which is now required after a new voting bill passed the Legislature last year.

The Houston Chronicle reported that nearly four in 10 Harris County mail ballot applications had been rejected as of last week. Early voting began Feb. 14, and the deadline for mail ballot requests is Feb. 18.

Other counties across Texas also reported high rejection rates, including Travis, Williamson, Hays and Bastrop counties, the Austin American-Statesman reported. Those seeking to vote by mail must include a driver's license number, a state ID number, or in some cases the last four digits of their Social Security number. If what the applicant provides doesn't match the applicant's individual voter registration information, the application must be rejected.

Texas has one of the strictest vote-by-mail requirements in the country. Registered voters are eligible to vote by mail if they are 65 years or older; sick or disabled; out of the county on election day and during the early voting period; expected to give birth within three weeks before or after election day; or confined in jail but otherwise eligible.

Early voting continues through Feb. 25.

### DROUGHT CONDITIONS IMPROVE SLIGHTLY

The latest drought map for the state shows a slight improvement as of Feb. 1, with 84% of the state experiencing some level of drought, down three percentage points from the previous month. Dr. Mark Wentzel, hydrologist with the Texas Water Development Board, said there were some improvements in the last month, mainly in East Texas. Additional rainfall in



early February, mainly in East Texas and Central Texas, should improve conditions by the next report in March.

Wide swaths of the Panhandle and the Great Plains are experiencing the worst drought conditions.

### TEXAS TOP EXPORTING STATE FOR 20TH YEAR

Data released last week by the U.S. Census Bureau showed Texas as the top exporting state in the nation for the 20th consecutive year. The state exported \$375.3 billion in goods last year, more than California and New York combined. The state also led the nation in tech exports for the ninth year in a row.

"Made in Texas is a powerful global brand, and the Lone Star State continues to dominate the nation in exports, thanks to our unrivaled and productive workforce, robust infrastructure and welcoming business environment," Gov. Greg Abbott said.

### FUNDING AVAILABLE FOR CLEAN SCHOOL BUS PROGRAM

An estimated \$13 million in grant funding is available under the Texas Clean School Bus Program to replace or retrofit school buses to reduce exposure to their diesel exhaust. The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality is accepting applications from school districts statewide.

Grants are given on a first-come, first-served basis. Dis-

tricts can be reimbursed for all of the costs to retrofit buses, or 80% of the costs to replace older buses with newer, cleaner models, according to TCEQ.

Only buses used daily are eligible. While the deadline is in October, funding typically runs out when enough applications are received. More information can be found at [www.terpgrants.org](http://www.terpgrants.org).

### POWER GENERATORS UNDER INCREASED SCRUTINY

During early February's winter storm, the state's electrical grid withstood increased demand, with few outages reported. Regulators are crediting increased inspections by the Electric Reliability Council of Texas during December.

The Dallas Morning News reports ERCOT inspected 324 generators and transmission systems in December; the Public Utility Commission handed down \$7.5 million in fines for companies not filing weatherization plans by the deadline.

"We've been working for the last year to make sure that this grid is more reliable than it ever has been in the past — and it is," interim ERCOT CEO Brad Jones said a few days before snow and sleet hit.

In addition to increased inspections, legislation passed last regular session required power generators to winterize their plants. Additionally, alternate fuel sources are required if natural gas isn't available. While this year's storm wasn't nearly as severe as Winter Storm Uri in 2021, thus far the grid has stood up to increased demand.

The state's largest power generator, Vistra, is spending up to \$80 million to ensure its plants keep generating electricity despite whatever Mother Nature throws at them, The Morning News reported.

### COVID-19 CASES CONTINUE TO DROP SHARPLY

It is beginning to look as if the omicron variant of COVID-19 really has peaked, with new cases in the state during the past week dropping to 109,990, according to the Coronavirus Resource Center at Johns Hopkins University. That's a decrease of 75% in the past month, while new deaths at 1,398 were essentially unchanged.

The Texas Department of State Health Services reported a total of 8,140 COVID-19 hospitalizations, down 23.6% from the previous week. The number of Texans who are fully vaccinated topped 17 million, or 58.6% of the state's population. Just more than 6 million Texans have also received a booster dose, which has proven effective in preventing more serious symptoms from the omicron variant, researchers say.

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THE POSTSCRIPT

By Carrie Classon

### "Listenin to the Bells"

The bells ring more or less all the time here.

My husband, Peter, and I are in San Miguel de Allende, Mexico, a city filled with old churches. Every old church has at least a couple of old bells, and all the bells are rung frequently. Since there is so much I do not understand when I travel to another country, I assumed that the bells rang according to some sort of system that everyone else understood and I did not. (This is an assumption I've made about a lot of things over the course of my life, but that's another story.)

As it turns out, none of the English speakers in town have any idea what is going on with the bells.

"I thought it was military time because it rang more than 12 times," someone said. "But then it rang 34 times!"

"There is no rhyme or reason," someone replied. "They don't ring on the hour and they don't ring any number of times that makes sense!"

"Well, they are all rung by people," someone else added. "It's not automated. Maybe they just ring them when they feel like it?"

So now I'm listening to the bells.

I was right in the center of town, near the largest, oldest church, when the bells started. "One... Two... Three... Four." They stopped. I checked the time on my phone. It was exactly 4 o'clock.

"Well!"

Now I'm thinking the bells are just rung to get our attention. Maybe we would pay more attention to them if we knew they were right all the time.

The roosters in town operate on a similar principle. Every town in Mexico I have ever spent a night in has had multiple roosters alerting me to the first hint of sunrise. But at our temporary home here, we have one who has decided to up his game. He lets us know that it is 4 o'clock in the morning and that sunrise is only a couple hours off, in case we were interested.

None of the other roosters are following his lead. I suspect the other roosters think this guy is a showoff, crowing his head off in the dark. But he keeps it up. It gets our attention, and I guess that is the point. He's letting us know that he is keeping track of the time. It's not morning yet, but morning is on the way.

We have lots of ways to keep track of time and, honestly, I'm not sure why it is so important that the bells ring at any particular time. Peter and I are not meeting anyone at a given time. We have no appointments to keep. This idea that we need to keep track of time is a little odd, given the circumstances.

And yet, nearly every day, Peter or I will say, "Can you believe it's 2 o'clock already?" as if 2 o'clock had some special significance. As if we had something special we had to prepare for at 3 o'clock.

I am rather pessimistic that I will ever solve the mystery of the bells. I think they will keep ringing when I least expect, at odd intervals, for an indeterminate amount of time. But every time they ring, I will be reminded of the time—even if it's not the actual time. Even if I have nowhere to go.

They'll remind me that time is passing and will pass. They remind me that sometimes the very best thing I can do with my limited time is to stop whatever I'm doing and listen to the bells.

Till next time,  
Carrie

Carrie Classon's memoir is called "Blue Yarn." Learn more at [CarrieClasson.com](http://CarrieClasson.com).

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# NORTH SHORE ADVANCES IN PLAYOFF OVER CLEAR BROOK

Lady Mustangs 68 – Wolverines 64



Senior #32 Atria "Tree" Dumas uses her 6'-3" height to toss up a basket making 17 Lady Mustang points in the game. Photo by Allan Jamail



#21 Junior guard Branasia Brazelton making 2 points of her 9 point game. Photo by Allan Jamail



#2 Freshman guard Simran Williams adds a basket to her 7 point game. Photo by Allan Jamail

## County Crime program,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

hattan Institute for Policy Research, and others that show that investments like these not only reduce crime, but save taxpayer dollars. We also issued a resolution in support of the addition of two courts to our justice system to help us get through the court backlog that has slowed justice in our county to a crawl.

All across America, violent crime has increased — and sadly Harris County has not been immune to this national trend. It's no secret what is driving crime both here and across the nation — the economic consequences of the pandemic and the widespread availability and use of guns on our streets. COVID-19 has left more than just a body count in its wake. A secondary consequence has been victims of crime and a criminal court backlog that continues to delay justice for too many. The very same neighborhoods that have long been ignored by the county, by private investment, and by so many other institutions are the same ones that have been victimized the most by rising crime and gun violence. Blighted buildings, dark streets, and unsafe and abandoned structures serve as incubators of crime and gun violence.

The good news is that we are not powerless against this challenge.

Over the past three years we've made historic anti-crime and neighborhood safety investments. Each year, we've increased the budgets for every law enforcement agency in the county, including the District Attorney. We've freed up law enforcement to focus on the most violent criminals by reinforcing them with public health experts who can cover them for non-violent, routine calls. We've launched crime interruption programs designed to break the cycle of gun violence through community policing and outreach. We've allocated millions to tackle the unacceptable backlog in criminal court cases in our county, hiring more judges, expanding jury operations, and allocating more than \$17 million for overtime and equipment to speed court cases along. We've invested millions to support our law enforcement as they focus on the most violent crimes.

We owe it to the law enforcement officers and communities we serve to put skin in the game — to have tools at the ready to help them and our courts prevent and fight violent crime from all sides. There is no silver bullet, but by working smart and investing in solutions that fight the root causes of crime in our community, we can make a difference now and for years to come.

## CHIC meeting on February 24 to discuss neighborhood safety, crime reduction

Channelview Health & Improvement Coalition will be holding an in-person meeting Thursday night, February 24th at 6:30 pm. The meeting will be held at the Channelview Fire Department Station 3 located at 1210 Dell Dale, Channelview, TX 77530. There will be a social time from 5:30 - 6:20 p.m. before the meeting begins at 6:30 p.m.

Harris County Sheriff's department will be returning to provide updates regarding the Harris County Safe program and concerns presented at C.H.I.C.'s January meeting. If you were unable to attend the January meeting this is another opportunity to be directly heard and speak with the Sheriff's Office regarding your specific concerns. To help with the Harris County Safe Pro-

gram the Sheriff's Office is also conducting a total of three surveys to obtain feedback on the top concerns from the citizens in our area and find ways to assist with resolving these challenges. If you have not already participated in the survey here is the link for the first survey <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1hYpV1Eo3ZyJsShE0gxP4mIMXYeFW87pBHXaCetZpz68/edit>.

We hope to see you on the 24th.

Carolyn Stone  
Channelview Health & Improvement Coalition  
Channelview, Texas  
C.H.I.C.77530@gmail.com  
FaceBook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/892294181644780>  
"A voice for Channelview"



The HC Safe Program is a targeted program geared toward the specific needs of a neighborhood, community or area that has been put into place by the HCSO instead of a one size fits all approach. The CPOP Deputies are using a proactive approach to policing and crime reduction. In this approach they identify and target crime "micro-zones", specific neighborhoods or communities where crime is concentrated, and utilize the HCSO resources best suited for that particular "micro-zone" i.e. technology such as Shot Spotter, cameras and crime analysis and/or crime reduction, patrol, or

investigative units. This is better policing and better use of resources. One such targeted policing action was observed in Channelview prior to the C.H.I.C. meeting and the HC Safe Program presentation. Captain N. Douglas has followed up with C.H.I.C. the results of that operation. These results are being shared with you so you can see for yourselves the benefits of this program. These results are a great reflection of what targeted action can accomplish, the benefits to the community and why community members should provide information through the Safe Program survey.

## Mayor's Crime Initiative,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

for council approval requiring security cameras on certain classes of businesses where the increase in crime is concentrated.

--A proposed ordinance for city council approval requiring that a bail bond company charge a premium which is equal to at least ten percent of the amount of the bail bond set by the court.

"This is a comprehensive approach to lowering the crime rate that focuses on police initiatives and touches on the true causes of violent crime such as social issues. I am grateful that Mayor Turner is committing not just to HPD but also to social service agencies in our city."

This is a public health

crisis and as a City, we will and must address the crisis through law enforcement, public health practitioners and community partners working together. NO ONE CAN ESCAPE ACCOUNTABILITY.

The strategy we outlined today is a blueprint for the City that can guide us beyond 2022.

With the collaboration of all stakeholders, including business owners, faith-based leaders, and organizations that work with those experiencing family violence and mental illness, I am confident that we will reduce violence and emerge as One Resilient City – One Unified City – One Safe Houston.

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<div style="text-align: center;"><b>BARBERS HILL INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT</b> <b>9600 Eagle Drive, Mont Belvieu, TX 77523</b></div> <hr/> <div style="text-align: center;"><u><a href="http://www.BHISD.net">www.BHISD.net</a></u></div> <div style="text-align: center;"><b>REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL NOTICE – RFP #22-004</b></div> <p>The Barbers Hill Independent School District is accepting proposals for:</p> <div style="text-align: center;"><b>2022 DISTRICT PROPERTY INSURANCE PROGRAM BUILDINGS AND CONTENTS/BOILER AND MACHINERY</b></div> <p>Interested parties may contact the BHISD Business Office for a copy of the specifications which can also be obtained at the District website. Please direct all proposal questions to Amy Presley, Purchasing Coordinator, (281) 576-2221 ext. 12.</p> <p>RWL Group will assign markets to agents beginning on Monday, February 28.</p> <p>The school district reserves the right to accept or reject any or all proposals, without formalities and/or technicalities in the proposal and award the contract to the agent that serves the interests of the district. The district may negotiate with vendors on non-viable proposals.</p>				



LEGAL NOTICE

LEGAL NOTICE

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TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY



NOTICE OF RECEIPT OF APPLICATION AND  
INTENT TO OBTAIN WATER QUALITY PERMIT RENEWAL

PERMIT NO. WQ0010195001

**APPLICATION.** City of Jacinto City, 1301 Mercury Drive, Jacinto City, Texas 77029, has applied to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) to renew Texas Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (TPDES) Permit No. WQ0010195001 (EPA I.D. No. TX0053970) to authorize the discharge of treated wastewater at a volume not to exceed an annual average flow of 1,640,000 gallons per day. The domestic wastewater treatment facility is located at 12202 Market Street, Jacinto City, in Harris County, Texas 77029. The discharge route is from the plant site directly to Hunting Bayou. TCEQ received this application on December 28, 2021. The permit application is available for viewing and copying at Jacinto City Hall, 1301 Mercury Drive, Jacinto City, Texas. This link to an electronic map of the site or facility's general location is provided as a public courtesy and not part of the application or notice. For the exact location, refer to the application.  
<https://tceq.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=db5bac44afbc468bbddd36of8168250f&marker=-95.222777%2C29.766111&level=12>

**ADDITIONAL NOTICE.** TCEQ's Executive Director has determined the application is administratively complete and will conduct a technical review of the application. After technical review of the application is complete, the Executive Director may prepare a draft permit and will issue a preliminary decision on the application. **Notice of the Application and Preliminary Decision will be published and mailed to those who are on the county-wide mailing list and to those who are on the mailing list for this application. That notice will contain the deadline for submitting public comments.**

**PUBLIC COMMENT / PUBLIC MEETING.** You may submit public comments or request a public meeting on this application. The purpose of a public meeting is to provide the opportunity to submit comments or to ask questions about the application. TCEQ will hold a public meeting if the Executive Director determines that there is a significant degree of public interest in the application or if requested by a local legislator. A public meeting is not a contested case hearing.

**OPPORTUNITY FOR A CONTESTED CASE HEARING.** After the deadline for submitting public comments, the Executive Director will consider all timely comments and prepare a response to all relevant and material, or significant public comments. **Unless the application is directly referred for a contested case hearing, the response to comments, and the Executive Director's decision on the application, will be mailed to everyone who submitted public comments and to those persons who are on the mailing list for this application. If comments are received, the mailing will also provide instructions for requesting reconsideration of the Executive Director's decision and for requesting a contested case hearing.** A contested case hearing is a legal proceeding similar to a civil trial in state district court.

TO REQUEST A CONTESTED CASE HEARING, YOU MUST INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING ITEMS IN YOUR REQUEST: your name, address, phone number; applicant's name and proposed permit number; the location and distance of your property/activities relative to the proposed facility; a specific description of how you would be adversely affected by the facility in a way not common to the general public; a list of all disputed issues of fact that you submit during the comment period and, the statement "[I/we] request a contested case hearing." If the request for contested case hearing is filed on behalf of a group or association, the request must designate the group's representative for receiving future correspondence; identify by name and physical address an individual member of the group who would be adversely affected by the proposed facility or activity; provide the information discussed above regarding the affected member's location and distance from the facility or activity; explain how and why the member would be affected; and explain how the interests the group seeks to protect are relevant to the group's purpose.

Following the close of all applicable comment and request periods, the Executive Director will forward the application and any requests for reconsideration or for a contested case hearing to the TCEQ Commissioners for their consideration at a scheduled Commission meeting.

The Commission may only grant a request for a contested case hearing on issues the requestor submitted in their timely comments that were not subsequently withdrawn. **If a hearing is granted, the subject of a hearing will be limited to disputed issues of fact or mixed questions of fact and law relating to relevant and material water quality concerns submitted during the comment period. TCEQ may act on an application to renew a permit for discharge of wastewater without providing an opportunity for a contested case hearing if certain criteria are met.**

**MAILING LIST.** If you submit public comments, a request for a contested case hearing or a reconsideration of the Executive Director's decision, you will be added to the mailing list for this specific application to receive future public notices mailed by the Office of the Chief Clerk. In addition, you may request to be placed on: (1) the permanent mailing list for a specific applicant name and permit number; and/or (2) the mailing list for a specific county. If you wish to be placed on the permanent and/or the county mailing list, clearly specify which list(s) and send your request to TCEQ Office of the Chief Clerk at the address below.

**INFORMATION AVAILABLE ONLINE.** For details about the status of the application, visit the Commissioners' Integrated Database at [www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/cid](http://www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/cid). Search the database using the permit number for this application, which is provided at the top of this notice.

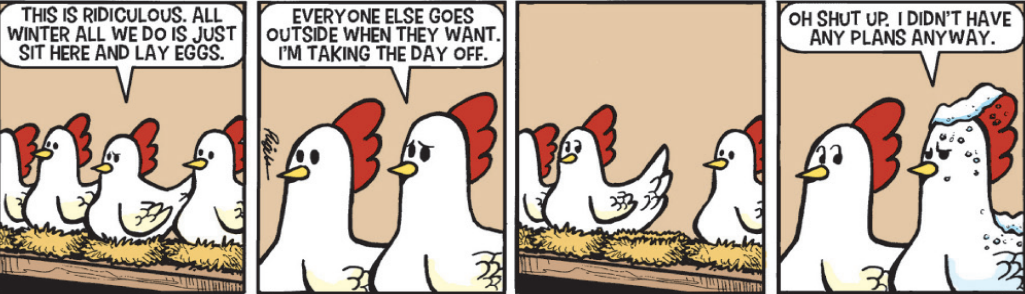
**AGENCY CONTACTS AND INFORMATION.** Public comments and requests must be submitted either electronically at <https://www14.tceq.texas.gov/epic/eComment/>, or in writing to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, Office of the Chief Clerk, MC-105, P.O. Box 13087, Austin, Texas 78711-3087. Please be aware that any contact information you provide, including your name, phone number, email address, and physical address will become part of the agency's public record. For more information about this permit application or the permitting process, please call the TCEQ Public Education Program, Toll Free, at 1-800-687-4040 or visit their website at [www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/pep](http://www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/pep). Si desea información en Español, puede llamar al 1-800-687-4040.

Further information may also be obtained from City of Jacinto City at the address stated above or by calling Mr. Kyle Vincent, P.E., LJA Engineering, Inc., at 713-657-6024.

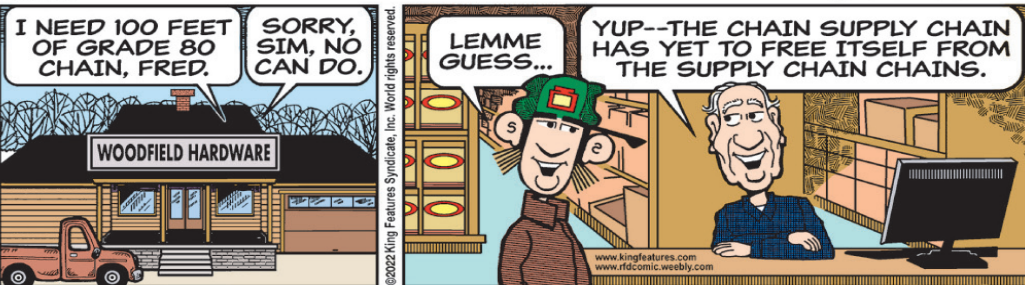
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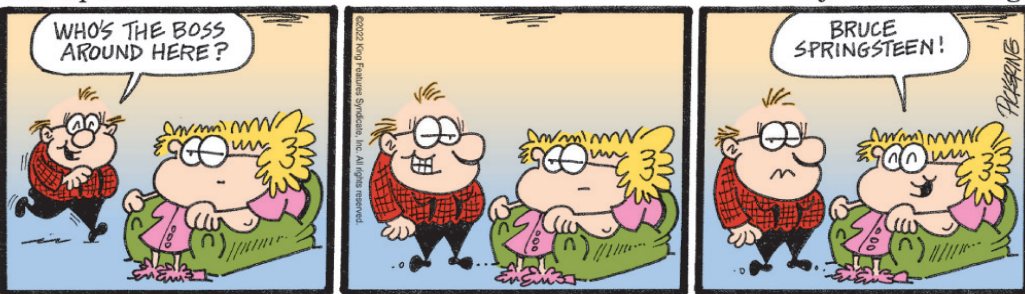
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R.F.D.



The Spats



Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging ♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

Differences: 1. Tree is different. 2. Tag is missing. 3. Scarf end is missing. 4. Tail is different. 5. Tag is missing. 6. Curtains are missing.

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- ACROSS
- 1 Atlas page
  - 4 Ivy League University
  - 9 Science room
  - 12 GPS suggestion
  - 13 Haunting
  - 14 Docs' org.
  - 15 1989 Al Pacino film
  - 17 Decks in the ring
  - 18 Small battery
  - 19 Yard tools
  - 21 "Understood"
  - 24 Membership
  - 25 Tolkien beast
  - 26 Civil War soldier
  - 28 Pulitzer category
  - 31 Abound
  - 33 Narc's org.
  - 35 Dr. McGraw
  - 36 Anticipate
  - 38 Chips go-with
  - 40 Sugar suffix
  - 41 Mark Harmon TV series
  - 43 School break
  - 45 Shun
  - 47 Owned
  - 48 Sashimi fish
  - 49 New York City's — Park
  - 54 Decay
  - 55 Ryan or Tatum

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- 56 Gaiety
- 57 Sauce source
- 58 Actions
- 59 Turf
- 8 Required
- 9 Sierra Nevada resort
- 10 Cupid's specialty
- 11 Low range
- 16 Granola grain
- 20 John Irving hero
- 21 Teeny bit
- 22 Got bigger
- 23 Maryland beach town
- 27 Nap site
- 29 Avoid
- 30 Pub orders
- 32 Lansing's st.
- 34 Dunce
- 37 Steering system part
- 39 Gems from oysters
- 42 Pigs
- 44 LPs' successors
- 45 Jug handles
- 46 "Scram!"
- 50 Churchill gesture
- 51 Conditions
- 52 Pair
- 53 Conclusion

Trivia test by Fifi Rodriguez

1. MOVIES: Which 2000 animated movie's tagline is "Escape or Die Frying"?

2. HISTORY: When was the Peace Corps established?

3. LANGUAGE: What does it mean in British English to be "knackered"?

4. AD SLOGANS: Which company featured this 1985 ad campaign: "It's everywhere you want to be"?

5. ANIMAL KINGDOM: Which animal has the longest tongue in relation to its body size?

6. LITERATURE: Which 20th-century novel begins with the line, "It was a bright cold day in April, and the clocks were striking thirteen"?

7. MUSIC: Which country music songwriter, singer and activist once sold Bibles for a living?

8. ANATOMY: What is the common name for the coccyx in human anatomy?

9. FOOD & DRINK: Which restaurant chain is known for its "Grand Slam" breakfast?

10. U.S. STATES: In which U.S. state was the first official World Fair held?

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1. "Chicken Run"; 2. 1961; 3. Tired; 4. Visa; 5. Chameleon; 6. "1984"; 7. Willie Nelson; 8. Tailbone; 9. Denny's; 10. Philadelphia, Pennsylvania (1876)

Solution time: 22 mins.

King Crossword

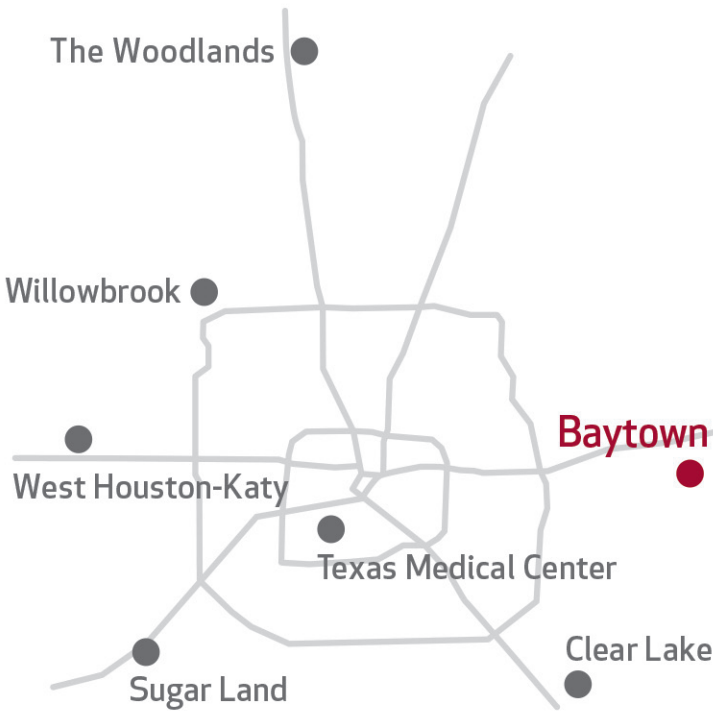




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