

NORTH CHANNEL★STAR

Your News, Your Newspaper

Serving all of the North Shore -- Channelview, Cloverleaf, Sheldon, Galena Park, Jacinto City
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Trail Rides, BBQ, Parade open RodeoHouston

NORTH HARRIS COUNTY – The Rodeo was in town starting this week, and the evidence was wag-on teams and horse riders throughout our city streets. They were headed to Memorial Park, where on Friday night they camped prior to the big Rodeo Parade Saturday morning in downtown Houston. And then on to the Rodeo, which officially starts with events and entertainment on Feb. 28. Another tradition everyone was looking forward to was the BBQ cook-off, since it was not held last year due to the pandemic



The **SPANISH TRAIL RIDE** went through Aldine and North Houston. It started in Shepherd, Texas travelling 109 miles. It has 125 riders and 9 wagons. This year is mourning the loss of its popular trail boss, Joe Cantrell to a tragic accident at home a few days ago.



The **NORTHEASTERN TRAIL RIDE** has 150 Riders and 7 wagons. Starting in Cheeks, Texas they stopped in Crosby and Sheldon, camping along the way. They also paid a visit to Sheldon Elementary School on Old Beaumont Highway to visit.

which canceled the whole Rodeo.

There are 10 Trail Rides that participate in the event, with over 2000 riders, wagons, and horses. They start in small towns around Houston, and proceed to NRG stadium and the Rodeo grounds. The tradition started in 1952 in Brenham. A unique feature of the rides are the stops they make along the way, making friends, sharing western lore, and usually introducing school children to horses and wagons.

Continued. See Rodeo & Trail Rides, Page 8

CELEBRATING BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Arts Center unveils Martin Luther King Jr. Mural

By Allan Jamail

Houston, TX. February 23, 2022 at the Houston Culture Arts Center, 13334 Wallisville Rd. celebrating Black History Month was the unveiling of a 12'X10' mural of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Program Manager Gayla Wilson of Volunteer Houston was the Mistress of Ceremony. She said the mural was created by 80 individuals who each painted a part of it by painting individual panels approximately 12"X12". Drawing on their own emotions and perspectives around Dr. King's messages of service, perseverance, and injustice and their part in creating and contributing to his vision of the Beloved Community.

Michelle L. Bonton, M.Ed, Executive Director said, "Dr. King's dream of an overall better quality of life through peace and unity was big. Like Dr. King, Harris County Cultural Arts Council is doing something big! We're using the arts to improve the quality of life and promote unity between people from different backgrounds in unincor-



The unveiling of The Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Mural was done by Program Manager Gayla Wilson of Volunteer Houston, a program of Interfaith Ministries of Greater Houston and Michelle L. Bonton, M.Ed, Executive Director of The Harris County Culture Arts Center (HCCAC) . (Photo by Allan Jamail)



Individuals witnessing and helping with the unveiling are, L to R: Nelson Espitia (Pct. 2), Darnella Wilkerson (Judge Joe Stephens Office), Ammir Shan Ibrahim (Pct. 1), Cindy Miller (Pct. 2), Lawrence Bell (Pct. 3), Vinicius I Goodin - Mayeda (Home Depot), Brenda Roberts-Hurd (Home Depot), Ex. Dir. HCCAC & Pro. Mgr. Gayla Wilson (Photo by Allan Jamail)

porated East Harris County. We're excited to have this mural as a representation of Dr. King's legacy and the one we're building for our community."

Lexi Reid was one of the artists at the unveiling, her mother Leslie Perryman and sisters Samantha Reid and Haley Bunn participated in the paintings. She said, "I painted one panel for the mural. My mom got me and my sisters each a panel as part of our Christmas gifts, then later we had a pizza and paint party to complete them. I loved how it took a community coming together to complete the mural the same way the community came together to march with Dr. King."

Dr. King an African American was greatly responsible for bringing social justice to many Americans regardless of race or ethnicity. He was assassinated April 4, 1968 when I was 24 years old.

More than 50 years have passed since Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., was assassinated in Memphis, Tennessee, but his words are just as meaningful as they were during

the peak of the Civil Rights Movement. The Civil Rights leader died at age 39, but his impact continues to this day. From his most famous "I Have a Dream" speech to his letter from a Birmingham jail, his message is truly timeless.

Martin Luther King Jr. was born and raised in the American South, but his dream of racial equality and social justice reverberated out of his region, into the whole country and around the world. And it just wasn't his vision that spanned the globe.

Volunteering to assist in the event were President Debra Johnson and members of the East Harris Chambers Liberty County Alumnae of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. (www.easthclcdeltas.org)

HCCAC staff were Sam Smoots, Director of Institutional Advancement and Kristina Zatopek, Community Engagement Manager, HCCAC. Refreshments provided by Lopez Cake (Anna Lopez) (832-614-0513). Assisting, Luz Maria Lopez a Cloverleaf Advocate. Allanj211@aol.com.

MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT:

Channelview ISD drops Mask Mandate

CHANNELVIEW – The Channelview ISD school district has decided to end the requirement for persons in their buildings to wear a mask as protection from the COVID-19 virus. The following statement was issued by Superintendent Tory Hill:

Dear Channelview ISD Parents and Staff,

It has been my pleasure to serve as your new superintendent. I have been on the job for about a month and it has been a busy yet incredibly rewarding experience. I look forward to serving

our students every single day and creating a collaborative Channelview. Our students' education and safety will continue to come first in every decision that I make.

After several discussions and much research, it has been decided that we will lift the mask mandate beginning Tuesday,



DR TORY HILL
SUPERINTENDENT

March 1 at 5:00 p.m. Masks will be strongly recommended for all students, staff and campus visitors. Until then, the mask requirements will remain in effect. We still strongly recommend all of our students wear masks in an effort to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

The Channelview ISD Board of Trustees discussed this decision at the called meeting on February 28, 2022. I am grateful to have a board

CONTINUED. SEE NO MASKS FOR CHANNELVIEW, PAGE 2

NS Lady Mustangs playoff eliminated

North Shore 37 – Pearland Lady Oilers 38

By Allan Jamail

February 22, 2022 – At the Pasadena Sam Rayburn High School gym the Pearland Lady Oilers brought to a close for the GPISD North Shore Lady Mustangs playoff hopes 38 to 37. By this low score it tells the game was a defensive battle and usually when this happens in a close game as it was the team with the ball in their possession in the final seconds wins.

The game many thought would be an easy win for the Eastside girls ended up as a shock and surprise when Pearland won by one point in the final couple seconds. The shock and

surprise was because earlier in the season Nshore won against Pearland by 24 points, 54 – 30.

North Shore's coach Allison Campbell said the first time they played the L. Oilers they didn't have all their starters as they did in this game. Plus they added a new player to their team that the UIL recently cleared to play.

The North Shore team had more turnovers than normal and this was because Pearland's defense was so aggressive. Atria "Tree" Dumas the Mustangs leading rebounder and a double digit scorer

CONTINUED. SEE LADY MUSTANGS LOSE, PAGE 2



Shalayne Morgan the Lady Mustangs junior guard goes airborne as she led the team with 17 points making nearly half of their total points. (Photo by Allan Jamail)

SHELDON ISD NEWS

Week of February 25, 2022

2022 KHS Competition Cheer Team
We are very proud of our Cheer team, over the weekend they came home with a Grand Champion small Coed division & Grand Champion High Point titles over all the high schools at the Red-line Cheer Battle in Shreveport, LA.

C.E. King Boys Basketball continues in the playoffs!
Our Panther Basketball team remains in the playoffs! Our Panthers will play vs. Dawson tonight at Clear Lake High School at 7:00pm. We continue to root for our panthers!



AREA PLAY OFF GAME

C.E. KING VS. DAWSON

FEBRUARY 25, 2022

7PM

CLEAR LAKE HS

2020 BAY AREA BLVD

HOUSTON, TX 77058

Sheldon ISD

Every Child, Every Day

National School Bus Appreciation Week
Our transportation team always goes the extra mile. Our director of operations, Mr. Leroy Bradley treated our transportation staff to some snacks and popcorn. We appreciate our wonderful bus drivers for their “miles” of service to our students and community.

Tax Preparations- BakerRipley
We have partnered with BakerRipley Community Developers for our community and staff to have the opportunity to receive free tax services. The event will be held at the Panther Zone. There will be one more opportunity on March 26, for our community to take advantage of this free service. This will allow families to get their taxes done and for families to renew or apply for their ITIN along with child tax credit assistance. So, if you or someone you know have not done their taxes, take time to share the great news!

FREE

TAX SERVICES

Walk-Ins are Welcome

EHCEC is partnering with Baker Ripley and Sheldon ISD to host a free tax preparation event where East Harris County neighbors can get assistance to file their taxes. Families and individuals earning up to \$58,000 are eligible for services.

Get tax assistance from a specialist. It's completely free!

Both events will be located at:
Panther Zone at Sheldon ISD Stadium
11433 East Sam Houston Pkwy N/Houston, TX 77044

01 EVENT

Wedsday,
February 23, 2022
5:30 - 8:00 PM

02 EVENT

Saturday,
March 26, 2022
8:30 AM - 12:00 PM

FREE SERVICES

Tax return preparation

ITIN application and renewal

Child Tax Credit Assistance

REGISTER AT

Visit Us:
www.eastharriscounty.org/tax

BakerRipley

Community Developers

Sheldon ISD

Every Child, Every Day

East Harris County

Empowerment Council

Sheldon offers Blue Card program for senior citizen residents
The Blue Card Program is an initiative to honor all of our supporters in the district who are age 65 or older. One of Sheldon ISD’s goals is to create and foster an environment where all stakeholders are engaged and actively involved in the work we do for children. The success of our students is a shared responsibility of community members, parents, and educators, and we believe a community’s collective power is greater than individual efforts. To sign up to be a Blue Card member, go to www.sheldonisd.com/bluecard/

Members receive free entry to district-sponsored fine arts and sporting events as well as a free luncheon each year with an opportunity to learn more about the district and engage with district leaders.

Harris County Cultural Arts Center displays Kuba mask at MLK opening

Kuba Ceremonial Dance Headdress Mask is one of the many art items on display at the HCCAC. Free tours of the art center are available by calling 832-356-4378. (Photo by Allan Jamail)

No Masks for Channelview ISD,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

that always acts in the best interest of students. This decision was not taken lightly. We took a close look at our daily COVID-19 dashboard and noticed that COVID cases in Channelview were declining significantly.

As a reminder, we track our COVID-19 numbers every day and that information can be found on our district website. It is our responsibility to inform families of this decision in an effort to remain transparent and continue to build rapport with community stakeholders.

These last two years have been a bit of a roller coaster for educators, parents and Channelview. I want to take this opportunity to thank you for your support of our district and the decisions that have been made in the course of this pandemic. It has not been easy, but the community has been ever resilient toward overcoming this unprecedented challenge. I remain committed and grateful to be a part of the Channelview ISD family and look forward to building collaboration between the school district, our campuses, and our families.

Sincerely,
Dr. Tory C. Hill
Superintendent of Schools

NS Lady Mustangs lose Playoff game,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

was held to only 3 points where she always gets near 20 points a game. She was doubled teamed most of the time when she played. Coach Campbell took her out of the game for half of the first quarter and all of the 2nd quarter because Campbell said Dumas had 2 early fouls and she didn't want her to foul out.

Missed free throws by the Lady Mustangs were a major factor in their loss, especially when you lose by a mere point. Free throws can be difficult to make even for the pro's because of the stress and pressure on the shooter. The higher the stakes in a game and with a close game the more pressure on shooting them.

The team played exceptionally good all season to not even be ranked and reach the Regional Quarter-Finals is a testament of how good they are and the coaches too. They can be proud to have a 10 win 2 loss district record.

Pearland lost their next game to Summer Creek and now Summer Creek is advancing to the State Championship playoffs. Statistician Linda Jamail . Allanj211@aol.com

GALENA PARK ISD NEWS

Assistant Principle of the Year

Congratulations to Ms. Ashleigh Barrett and Mr. Lemond Mitchell for being named Galena Park ISD (GPISD) 2022 Elementary and Secondary Assistant Principal of the Year!

Ms. Barrett has served as the assistant principal at Normandy Crossing Elementary School for five years, and Mr. Mitchell has been an associate principal at Galena Park High School for four years.

GPISD congratulates Ms. Barrett and Mr. Mitchell and thanks them for their hard work and dedication.



CELEBRATING BLACK HISTORY MONTH

The Personal Librarian

By Allan Jamail

Houston, TX. February 26, 2022 at the Houston Culture Arts Center (HCCAC), 13334 Wallisville Rd. celebrating Black History Month was a book signing of *The Personal Librarian*. A New York Times Best Seller and selected by the Good Morning America Book Club.

Serving as Moderators were, Joy Sewing (left) Houston Chronicle Lifestyle and Culture Columnist and Michelle L. Bonton, M.Ed, Executive Director of the HCCAC. Ms. Bonton was responsible for conducting and bringing the event to the Art Center, she was assisted by Ms. Kristina Zatopek, Community Engagement Manager, at HCCAC.

The author Murray is an acclaimed author with more than one million books in print. She has written more than thirty novels, including, “Stand Your Ground,” an NAACP Image Award winner for Outstanding Literary Work. She’s written 28 books and 4 movies have been made from them and there’s two more movies being made from her books.

The book is a story of J. P. Morgan’s personal librarian for over 35 years. Librarian Belle de Costa Greene a light skinned Black had options unavailable to most Black’s because she could and did pass as a White person.

Such as at her college at the segregated Princeton, New Jersey. She was hired on at the university library, Greene roomed during the work week with a Princeton family; biographer Ardizzone suspects Greene’s hosts, who also had a library connection, may have been passing as well.

Weekends Belle lived with her mother who she protected from racial persecution in an apartment on West 122nd Street near Columbia University on Manhattan’s Morningside Heights, an address Greene kept for years, even after going to work for Morgan in 1906.

Belle liked to dress fashionable in gowns and wearing pearls, she liked to say, “I am a librarian, but I don’t have to dress like one.”

Photographs and sketches abound that show her appearing cool, composed, and self-aware. Magazines featured the luminous, green-eyed gamine.

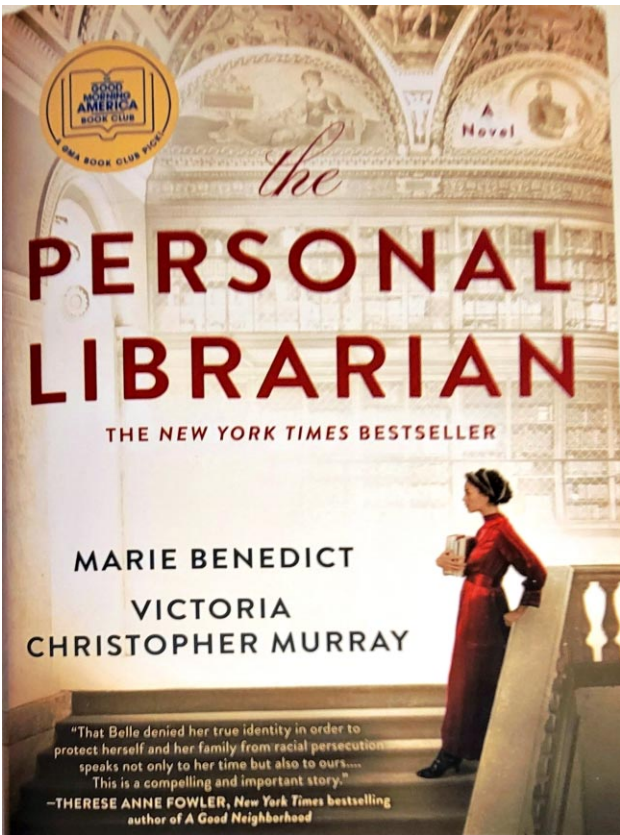
As J. P. Morgan’s librarian, Greene commanded the cantankerous banker’s campaign to assemble a collection of artworks, books, and other antiquities he hungered for. She shared Morgan’s passion for medieval European art, particularly illuminated manuscripts. To advance the cause, she cultivated contacts and experts. She traveled to Europe, working her way into artistic



The Personal Librarian, Author Victoria Christopher Murray (right) with Moderator Joy Sewing (left) Houston Chronicle Lifestyle and Culture Columnist. Photo by Allan Jamail



“The Personal Librarian” Author -Victoria Christopher Murray (center) surrounded by members of the East Harris Chambers Liberty County Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc as they honor their Sorority Sister at the book signing. Photo by Allan Jamail
L-R: Dionne A’quanakhann, Debra Johnson-President, Author Victoria Christopher Murray, Alice Lewis & Carol Massey.



The Personal Librarian by Marie Benedict and Victoria Christopher Murray. Selected by Good Morning America Book Club and a New York Times Best Seller. The story of J. P. Morgan’s personal librarian for over 35 years. Librarian Belle de Costa Greene a light skinned Black woman denied her true identity to protect her family from racial persecution. Available on Amazon.com Photo by Allan Jamail



Author Victoria Christopher Murray signs her book *The Personal Librarian* for President Debra Johnson of the East Harris Chambers Liberty County Alumnae of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. (www.easthclcdeltas.org) Photo by Allan Jamail

and literary circles. She haggled. At least once, she smuggled. In 1910, the library acquired “Da Costa Hours.”

Greene could scarcely have landed in a more public, yet protected spot. In 1902 Morgan, a voracious collector of all kinds of art, had hired star architect Charles McKim to design a library adjacent to his home at Madison and 36th Street. Four years later, the magnificent result resembled a three-room palazzo of Renaissance Italy, with vaulted ceilings and two stories of glass-front bookcases to protect Morgan’s treasures.

Greene told Morgan she wanted his library to be “preeminent,” hoping someday to outdo the British Museum and France’s Bibliothèque Nationale. Within two decades the Morgan collection with Belle’s work comprised more than 46 illuminated manuscripts and nearly 5,000 books, as well as etchings and drawings.

Belle was asked one time if she was Morgan’s mistress and all she said was, “we tried.”

I don’t want to continue this article about Belle and all the interesting information available in the book so I’ll close this and hope you’ll get a copy. I did and it’s full of history you’ll not get elsewhere. Another leading author was present, Ms. ReShondra Tate Billingsley, her book *Miss Pearls Girls* is worth a read. Allanj211@aol.com

ASK DIAMOND JIM

Diamond Jim: “What is the birthstone for March?”



MARCH BIRTHSTONES

For the lucky individuals born in March, two birthstones are associated with this early spring month: aquamarine and bloodstone.

Both stones are very different from one another in appearance, but each share a similar symbolism of preserving or enhancing the health of the wearer. Learn more about each March birthstone by browsing the links below.

AQUAMARINE

The serenely colored aquamarine invokes the tranquility of its namesake, the sea. In fact, the name *aquamarine* is derived from the Latin word *aqua*, meaning water, and *marina*, meaning *the sea*.

Aquamarine is most often light in tone and ranges from greenish blue to blue-green; the color usually is more intense in larger stones, and darker blue stones are very valuable. This gemstone is mined mainly in Brazil, but also is found in Nigeria, Madagascar, Zambia, Pakistan, and Mozambique. Not only is aquamarine one of the March birthstones, it’s also used to celebrate 19th wedding anniversaries. It’s a beautiful stone with little or no yellow in it, so it looks great in many settings with different colored metals and gemstones.

The stone is also considered to be a great addition to mental health and is used widely as a symbol in Tarot as well as a meditation aid and is said to help one cultivate more inner tranquility. It is also considered by some to be a great aligner of the spiritual and the physical, for those who feel out of harmony or alignment with oneself. No matter how you use aquamarine, either as a piece of jewelry or as an aid in a spiritual journey, its cool, tranquil color is the perfect complement to any skin tone or setting.

BLOODSTONE

The second birthstone for March is *bloodstone*, a dark-green stone flecked with vivid red spots of iron oxide. Generally found embedded in rocks or in riverbeds as pebbles, primary sources for this stone are India, Brazil, and Australia.

For those looking for a good quality bloodstone, it is generally considered that a solid green color with visible veins of red is best. It also comes in many shapes and cuts including traditional cuts like emerald, oval, and cushion.

Many people cherish bloodstone as a lucky charm or amulet and is prized by athletes or those who wish to increase their personal strength. Some believe it helps with mental clarity or increasing creativity or even boosting overall energy.

No matter how you use or wear bloodstone, it’s a unique stone great for everyday use when you want to look good or even feel good.

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.

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.



Finally!

 **PineforestJewelry.com** 

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OPINION

By U.S. Senator
JOHN CORNYN



Cornyn Statement on Russian Invasion of Ukraine

“The United States has played no part in creating this crisis, but we have a responsibility to support the Ukrainian people as they fight to defend their own sovereignty.”

AUSTIN –U.S. Senator John Cornyn (R-TX) released the following statement in response to Russia’s invasion of Ukraine:

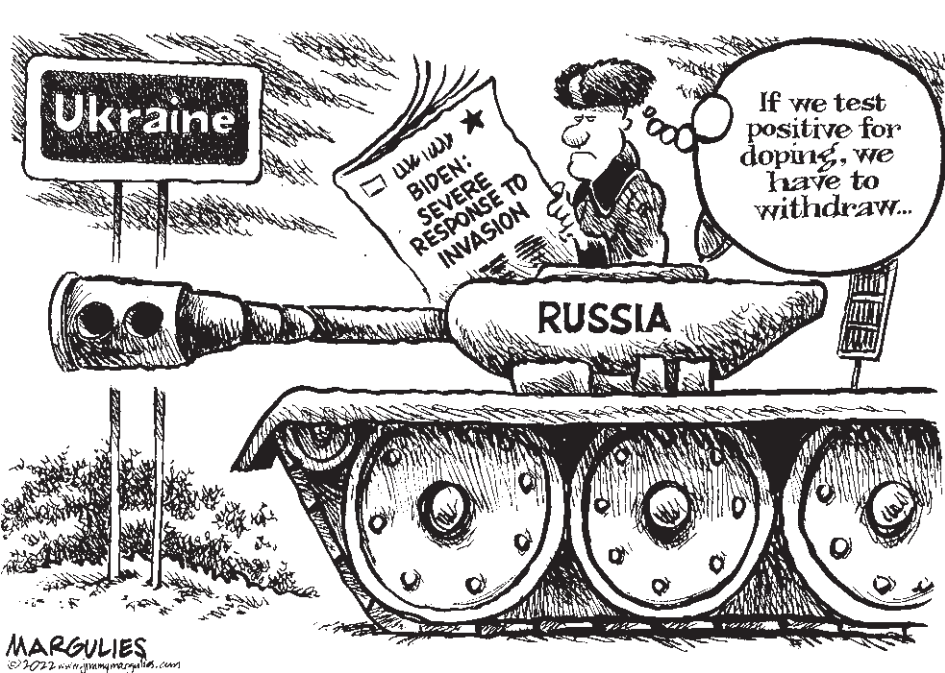
“America stands with Ukraine, and we will do everything we can to help them defend themselves against the Russian Federation.”

“The United States has played no part in creating this crisis, but we have a responsibility to support the Ukrainian people as they fight to defend their own sovereignty.”

“Putin has tried to get away with as much as he can, and it would be naive to think that he will stop at Ukraine. Ukraine is on the front line of a crisis, but the security of Europe is also in question.”

“This is not just about Ukraine. This is not just about Europe. This is about America’s credibility and that of our friends and allies around the world and our willingness to stand up for our values and defend our freedoms. If the U.S. fails to support Ukraine, other authoritarian movements like those in China and Iran will take note.”


Senator John Cornyn, a Republican from Texas, is a member of the Senate Finance, Intelligence, and Judiciary Committees.



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STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Gary Borders



Early voting for March 1 primary

EARLY VOTING FOR THE MARCH 1 PRIMARY ENDS FRIDAY.

Initial reports indicate turnout has been low, as is traditional in midterm primary elections, with less than a fourth of registered voters going to the polls most years.

Voters will pick nominees for Texas’ governor, lieutenant governor, attorney general, land commissioner, agriculture commissioner, comptroller and railroad commissioner, as well as legislative and county races.

Texas Secretary of State John. B. Scott’s office provides a website that allows voters to see who is on the ballots in all races at votetexas.gov. Texas law allows registered voters to participate in either party primary, but not both. In addition, a voter in the Republican primary cannot participate in any runoffs in Democratic races, and vice-versa. However, in the November general election, voters are free to choose candidates from both parties.

WILDFIRE ACTIVITY INCREASES WEST OF I-35

Blustery winds and freeze-dried vegetation are increasing the number of wildfires reported west of Interstate 35 and into South Texas, according to the Texas A&M Forest Service.

“Wildfire activity has increased across the state and is driven by underlying drought and above-normal grass production from last year’s growing season,” said Wes Moorehead, Texas A&M Forest Service fire chief. “We have increased the number of personnel, equipment and aircraft in state to assist with response as we’re concerned about large areas of the state.”

Since Feb. 14, local and state firefighters have responded to 91 wildfires that burned 7,312 acres.

Nine out of 10 wildfires in the state are caused by humans, according to TFS, which has fully staffed task forces and fire-suppression equipment staged in Victoria, Kingsville, Childress, Amarillo, Lubbock, San Angelo, Burk Burnett, Fredericksburg, Smithville, McGregor, San Angelo and Mineral Wells.

NUMBER OF IMPRISONED TEXANS STAYS STEADY

After a drop last year when some inmates were released due to COVID-19 concerns, the state’s prison population has stayed steady, according to the Texas Department of Criminal Justice. As of January, 118,733 adults were in Texas prisons, up about 1,000 from a year ago.

The state’s total operating capacity is 129,681 beds, according to TDCJ.

More than \$112 million in cancer prevention grants



The Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas announced 74 new cancer research and prevention grants totaling more than \$112 million.

“The grants awarded today illustrate the broad spectrum of CPRIT’s impact in the fight against cancer,” said Wayne Roberts, CPRIT’s chief executive officer. “From recruitment awards bringing topflight researchers to Texas, continued investment in cancer prevention and screening programs across the state and supporting cancer-fighting innovation in early-stage companies, Texas just took another major step forward in becoming a national leader in conquering cancer.”

The projects approved include 65 academic research grant awards, seven prevention awards, and two product development research awards, which were granted to 16 institutions and companies across the state. The awards are designed to expand access to clinical trials, incubate innovative cancer research, support the state’s emerging biotechnology industry, provide needed cancer screenings for underserved Texans and recruit outstanding cancer researchers to Texas, according to the news release.

UTSA, BAYLOR GAIN TIER ONE ACADEMIC RANKING

The University of Texas at San Antonio and Baylor University have earned the national research ranking of Carnegie Tier One, joining nine other

Texas universities that have been recognized for academic excellence at doctoral universities with “very high research activity.”

In addition, Prairie View A&M University, Sam Houston State University, Tarleton State University and The University of Texas at Tyler have earned Tier Two research rankings for “high research activity.”

“The Lone Star State is truly brimming with promise,” Gov. Greg Abbot said. “The 22 Texas universities now ranked among the best in the nation as Carnegie Tier One and Tier Two research universities are a reflection of the breadth and depth of academic excellence at our institutions of higher education as they open the doors to opportunity for all Texas students.”

The Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education was developed in 1970. It is based on an institution’s annual research expenditures and other factors.

COVID-19 CASES STILL DROPPING, BUT DEATHS UP

The number of new cases of COVID-19 cases in the past week again dropped dramatically to 65,521, down 40% from the previous weeks and 85% from the record high set the week of Jan. 17. However, the number of new deaths in Texas increased to 1,588, according to the Coronavirus Resource Center at Johns Hopkins University. The Texas Department of State Health Services reported 5,681 COVID-19 hospitalizations in the state, down 30% from the previous week.

Since the pandemic began, there have been 6.575 million confirmed COVID-19 cases in Texas with 83,648 deaths reported, according to the Coronavirus Resource Center. Meanwhile, the number of Texans who are fully vaccinated has slowly trickled upward to 17.16 million, with 6.18 million receiving a booster dose.

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THE POSTSCRIPT

By
Carrie Classon

“Adequate Accommodations”

“I can always sleep in my rain jacket,” my husband Peter announced.

Vacationing in rental homes is usually a bit of an adventure. We don’t need luxurious digs, and instead look for apartments offering a hefty discount if we stay for a full month.

We did this three years ago in Pamplona, Spain. The apartment required climbing six flights of stairs, but it had a great view of the city—because we were right in the center of it. Only at night did this become a problem, as we discovered that the residents of Pamplona didn’t have dinner until 9 o’clock and really didn’t get going until midnight. It was loud. There was drunken singing and bottle-smashing and hollering seven nights a week. Miraculously, the streets were swept clean by morning. The next night, it began all over again.

“Let’s stay a little more out of the way next year,” Peter suggested.

The next year we stayed in a little village in Spain. The apartment was described as “cozy,” which every Realtor everywhere will tell you is code for “tiny,” but it was historic and on a quiet street and we were only two people. How bad could it be?

It turns out that, several hundred years earlier, this apartment had provided very adequate accommodations for cows—who were quite a bit shorter than Peter. Peter spent the entire month ducking his head as he went from room to room and, inevitably, missing a few times. The bathroom was located up a very narrow and impossibly steep flight of stairs. Peter started taking a hiking pole with him to the bathroom at night for security. I would hear “Tap! Tap! Tap!” and know Peter was beginning his harrowing ascent to the bathroom.

“Let’s get a little bigger place next year,” Peter suggested.

The next year’s trip did not happen, but this year we are staying in the mountains of Mexico and got an especially terrific discount—because we rented it a year in advance, at the height of the pandemic, hoping things would work out. We thought others might join us but no one did, so Peter and I are rattling around in an enormous three-story home—like pennies in a jar. We’d booked it because the location is ideal and the pictures were lovely, showing little gas fireplaces in every room.

When we arrived, we were told how to turn on the television and the Wi-Fi, but no mention was made of the charming gas fireplaces.

“How do we light these?” I asked the property manager.

“You don’t,” he said. “If you are cold, there are extra blankets.”

Before I had time to ask anything further, he left. For the first few days, this didn’t seem as if it was going to be a problem. Then it got cold—not below freezing, but fairly close.

That’s when Peter’s rain jacket came out.

I was already in bed, wearing a puffer jacket when Peter donned his bright green jacket, hopped into bed, and turned off the lights.

“I wonder how many people have slept in their rain jacket?” Peter wondered aloud.

“Oh, I imagine the folks who climb Mount Everest and camp on the North Pole do. It’s an elite crowd,” I assured him.

Peter started to laugh, and his jacket made crinkling noises as he did.

“We came here to escape the cold, as I recall,” he said.

And we did. But, more than that, we came to do something new, to see another part of the world, and to experience life in a different way.

And we are.

Till next time,
Carrie

Carrie Classon’s memoir is called “Blue Yarn.” Learn more at CarrieClasson.com.

top ten

MOST POWERFUL MILITARIES

1. United States

2. Russia

3. China

4. India

5. Japan

6. South Korea

7. France

8. United Kingdom

9. Brazil

10. Pakistan

Source: Global Firepower

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10. Volkswagen

Source: Fortune Global 500

*Revenue

★

OBITUARIES

JIMMY GEORGE EVANS

Jimmy George Evans, 45, from Richmond Texas was called home to the Lord on February 9, 2022 in Galveston, Texas.

Born March 30, 1976, in Jacinto City, Texas to Jimmy Wayne Evans and Kathy Nell Evans. Jimmy was a proud graduate of The High School for Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice (now High School for Law & Justice). He went on to have a successful career as a CADD Manager in the civil engineering field in Houston. He worked as a civil designer at AECOM Technical Services for 21 years and Pape Dawson Engineering for 3 years.

If you ever took a car ride with him around Houston, you could hear him recount detention ponds,



subdivisions, parks, and parking lots that he helped create. He taught, motivated, and mentored many aspiring engineers, CADD drafters and team members. He was a beloved son, brother, uncle, farther, mentor and friend. His bright smile, big laugh and Dad jokes were his calling card. Always interested in making sure everyone was having a good time, he would work the room of an event, no matter how uncomfortable new

places and faces made him. He loved to BBQ with his band of brothers and anyone who stopped by could hear old country music playing and laughter filling the air.

He is preceded in death by his father, Jimmy Wayne Evans.

Jimmy is survived by sons Jacob and Ezra, and daughter Aliza, his mother Kathy Evans, sister and brother-in-law Amy and Roland Hobbs, nieces, and nephews Lauren Hobbs (Ben), Ryan Hobbs(Sydney), Kaity Malek (Jonathan), Keagan Bear(Rachel), and great-niece Clara Malek.

We are grateful to have loved him and heartbroken to have lost him.

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Remembering my high school teacher, Mrs. Gibbs
By Bill Palko

As Black History Month nears it's ending this year, I want to recognize Mrs. Myrtis Myrtle Gibbs of Fidelity Manor and North Shore High School.

Mrs. Gibbs taught math and came to North Shore High School in 1970 when desegregation in American schools began and GPSD closed its only African American High School Fidelity Manor. That same year, I became a sophomore at NSHS and had Mrs. Gibbs as my Algebra teacher. A lot of what I will say is from 50+ year old memories so bear with me.

Mrs. Gibbs was a tough bird. She took no prisoners and demanded her students perform or get out of her class. But, if



you dedicated yourself to learn in her classroom, you would find no better advocate and teacher than Mrs. Gibbs. She would stand beside you and do everything in her power to help make you the best possible student and person you could be.

I became one of her project students. She was going to make sure I reached my full potential in her class. I admired her



so much, I took her again in my Junior year for Geometry and my Senior year for Trigonometry.

I presented Mrs. Gibbs with a gift when I graduated high school.

Here's what I remember, admire and respect of her story. She put herself through school. During WWII while her husband was overseas serving she worked in a shipyard helping in the effort to build warships. Together, she and her husband raised 6 of their own kids and 9 foster kids. And I never heard her complain or say a negative word about anything she had to go through.

She stuck by my side for 3 years in HS and taught me so much more than math. Be like Mrs. Gibbs. Inspire and teach others to reach their full potential.

RIP Mrs. Gibbs. You were one of a kind.

Galena Park has openings for Police Officers, Dispatchers

Galena Park is having a Civil Service Exam seeking 6 full time officers. We are also hiring 2 full time Dispatchers.

Richard A. Wagner
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GALENA PARK POLICE DEPARTMENT
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County moves COVID threat to Level 2 ORANGE

Harris County Judge Lowers COVID Threat Level to Orange

Harris County, Texas - February 24, 2022, Judge Lina Hidalgo today announced that she is lowering the county's COVID-19 Threat Level Indicator from Level 1: Red to Level 2: Orange. The move comes as positive cases and COVID-19 ICU populations are decreasing.

"The omicron wave hit Harris County very, very hard," said Judge Hidalgo. "In fact, only now have our hospitalization rates dropped to levels that don't immediately threaten the capacity of our healthcare system. While we're moving in the right direction, there are no guarantees we won't see another wave in the future. My hope is that the on-demand availability of vaccines and treatments will help us to avoid another dangerous spike. I continue to urge folks to



get vaccinated. Doing so will allow us to deal with COVID-19 as a manageable risk rather than an emergency that unnecessarily threatens lives and the capacity of our entire healthcare system."

Level 2: signifies a significant and uncontrolled level of COVID-19 in Harris County, meaning that there is ongoing transmission of the virus. At this level, unvaccinated residents should continue to mask, physically distance, and avoid all medium and large gatherings. Vaccinated individuals should follow the latest local public

health guidance on whether to also wear a mask while indoors in public places, in crowded outdoor settings, and for activities with close contact with others who are not fully vaccinated.

After two years, the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo will kick off at the end of the month. The Harris County Public Health team urges residents to wear face coverings, given the continued presence of the Omicron wave in our community and asks that unvaccinated individuals, per the threat level system, avoid medium or large gatherings.

The COVID-19 vaccine and vaccine booster are available at no charge for all Harris County residents 5 and above. To find out more information, locations and hours, click here.

For a complete list of indicators, guidance, and related information visit ReadyHarris.org.

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2022 RODEOHOU- STON ENTERTAINER LINEUP

Individual RODEO-
HOUSTON tickets went
on sale to the public
Thursday, Jan. 13, 10
a . m . ,
at rodeohouston.com.
Ticket prices start at
\$20, plus a \$4 conve-
nience fee.

STAR ENTERTAIN- MENT

The following enter-
tainers will perform on
the RODEOHOUSTON
stage in NRG Stadium,
Feb. 28 – March 20.

- Monday, Feb. 28:** Cody Johnson
Tuesday, March 1: Keith Urban
Wednesday, March 2: Tim McGraw– Armed Forces Appreciation Day
Thursday, March 3: For KING & COUNTRY
Friday, March 4: Ricky Martin
Saturday, March 5: Jon Pardi
Sunday, March 6: Los Tucanes de Tijuana– Go Tejano Day
Monday, March 7: Luke Bryan – First Responders Day
Tuesday, March 8: Maren Morris
Wednesday, March 9: Kane Brown
Thursday, March 10: Journey
Friday, March 11: Bun B's H-Town Takeover – Black Heritage Day
Saturday, March 12: Parker McCollum
Sunday, March 13:



The Spanish Trail Riders continued their tradition first started in 1961, but held the ride in honor of their deceased Trail Boss, Joe Cantrell. His son Larry was in charge this year.



Spanish Trail Riders trail boss Joe Cantrell was mourned. He led the ride for 42 years, until his fatal accident only a few days ago.



The RodeoHouston Parade was held Saturday morning in downtown Houston, with all 10 Trail Ride units participating.



Here is one of the colorful wagons of the Northeastern Trail Ride, as they proceeded down Old Beaumont Highway in Sheldon.



The HCSO Texas Mounted Patrol is gearing up for their 73rd annual Pony Express Ride to Austin this Sunday. The Pony Express will hand deliver invitations to the 90th anniversary of the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo to Texas elected officials.

- Dierks Bentley
Monday, March 14: Sam Hunt
Tuesday, March 15: Gwen Stefani
Wednesday, March 16: Khalid
Thursday, March 17: Chris Stapleton
Friday, March 18: Marshmello
Saturday, March 19: Brad Paisley
Sunday, March 20: Concert-only performance George Strait, with Ashley McBryde

The 2022 Rodeo is scheduled for Feb. 28 – March 20. The 2022 World's Championship Bar-B-Que Contest, presented by Cotton Holdings, is scheduled for Feb. 24 – 26. For more information, visit rodeohouston.com and connect with #RODEO-HOUSTON online via Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and YouTube for all the latest news.

The Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo promotes agriculture by hosting an annual, family-friendly experience that educates and entertains the public, supports Texas youth, showcases Western heritage and provides year-round educational support within the community. Since its beginning in 1932, the Rodeo has committed more than \$550 million to the youth of Texas and education.

ENTERTAINMENT

Amber Waves

WOW, IT IS REALLY COLD THIS MORNING.

THIS IS INTOLERABLE. I CAN'T STOP SHIVERING!

HMM, I GUESS THAT WOULD MAKE YOU A "MILKSHAKE."

HILARIOUS... I GUESS THAT MAKES YOU A "COLD CUT."

by Dave T. Phipps

R.F.D.

SHOULD PROB'LY GO UP THERE AND SHOVEL THAT DARN SNOW OFF THE ROOF.

SHOULD PROB'LY GO SEE IF I CAN TALK MY BROTHER INTO DOIN' IT FOR \$25.

by Mike Marland

The Spats

I JUST SOLD OUR VACUUM CLEANER.

WHY?

IT WAS ONLY GATHERING DUST.

by Jeff Pickering

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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. Scrolls are missing. 2. Controls are missing. 3. Cord is shorter. 4. Locker is missing. 5. Cap is different. 6. Word is different.

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February 28, 2022 Posting Date

King Crossword

ACROSS

1 Offend

5 Vegas lead-in

8 Biting remark

12 Jacob's twin

13 Antlered animal

14 Latin love

15 Printout

17 Earring site

18 Roscoe

19 More slothful

21 Filled fully

24 — colada

25 Cupid's alias

26 Street vendor's vehicle

30 Sawbuck

31 Attorney's load

32 Bee follower

33 Barber's offerings

35 Panache

36 Aachen article

37 Utter impulsively

38 Architectural style

41 Hero sandwich

42 Actress Perlman

43 Ski lodge cupful

48 "A Room of — Own"

49 Prior night

50 Not so hot?

DOWN

1 "I'm not impressed"

2 "This — recording"

3 Distant

4 Fakes, as figures

5 Author Uris

6 Jungfrau, for one

7 Urban silhouettes

8 French novelist

9 Mine, to Marcel

10 Judicial garb

11 Rabbit's title

16 Cow's chaw

20 &&&&

21 Actor Rogen

22 Location

23 Singer Braxton

24 Stickum

26 Hindquarters

27 Rights advocacy org.

28 Bring up

29 Bivouac shelter

31 Roman 202

34 Go over again

35 Macaroni shapes

37 Tampa Bay NFLer

38 Pirate's drink

39 "It can't be!"

40 Golf props

41 Dance move

44 Eggs

45 Cornfield noise

46 Mouths (Lat.)

47 Music booster

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Trivia Test Answers

King Crossword

Solution time: 23 mins.

Answers

1. Three: the city/states of Vatican City, Monaco and Singapore; 2. Snow White; 3. Cumulonimbus; 4. Meg, Jo, Beth and Amy; 5. Fear of Bathing; 6. Synapses; 7. "General Hospital"; 8. Not of sound mind; 9. Franklin Roosevelt; 10. A criteria



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