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CHANNEL CURRENTS

Jacinto City recognized in Texas Magazine

Celebrates 75 Years in spite of COVID pandemic

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.

By Gilbert Hoffman

Jacinto City won attention and praise in Texas Town & City magazine this January, for its planning and execution of its 75th Anniversary Celebration, in spite of restrictions caused by the COVID-19 Pandemic. The magazine is published by the Texas Municipal League for officials and the public throughout the state.

Jacinto City was all set to celebrate it's 75th Anniversary in 2021, after its incorporation as a city 75 years earlier in 1946. But the COVID pandemic was rampant, and the County was restricting all public events. It seemed a large public celebration was out of the question.



CURRENT AND FORMER EMPLOYEES AND OFFICIALS OF JACINTO CITY WERE RECOGNIZED AT THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION HELD AT TOWN CENTER.

There was no question that Jacinto City residents were affected by, and suffering from the COVID virus. The local nursing home had a majority of their residents affected, and the Senior Citizen program was curtailed, with no in-person contact. As noted in March of that year, 12 per cent of the res-

idents had been infected by the virus, and 54 persons had passed away, many from the disease.

But the city took a positive approach and fought

back. They hosted COVID test sites, had a number of drive-thru food distribution events, and sought organizations that could help provide COVID vaccine shots. All of this effort resulted in a decline in the infection rate and new hope for the future.

The city decided to proceed with the Anniversary event, but to reduce the scope and number of events. Gone were the parade, street dance, and cook-off. But a reception for past elected officials, employees and residents would occur, with the city's history as the Showcase event. A request to the public, for help in assem-

CONTINUED. SEE JACINTO CITY RECOGNIZED, PAGE 3

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

Women's History Month Celebration

PART 1 OF 2 OF A 5 PART SERIES...

By Allan Jamail

March 9, 2022 – The month of March gives us the opportunity to celebrate Women's History Month. In our today's world we're seeing more and more how women are contributing to improving the world in ways never seen before. Some call the larger roll women are now taking in the world as the "new women's movement" or "women's lib move-

ment". Regardless of how women have begun to be more instrumental in our lives, I welcome it.

Women's History
Month, a national recognition of the vital roles women have played throughout history. This recognition began in one town in 1978 when the Education Task Force of the Sonoma County Commission on the Status of Women celebrated "Women's History Week" in Santa Rosa, California. The week was chosen to include International Women's Day, March 8.

The movement spread to other communities, so in 1980 a consortium of women's groups and historians asked the federal government for recognition. President Jimmy Carter proclaimed the week of March 8, 1980 to be National Women's History Week, citing in his proclamation that the "achievements, leadership, courage, strength and love of the women who built America was as vital as

CONTINUED. SEE WOMEN'S HHISTORY MONTH, PAGE 5

Houston's Barbara Jordan

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH HONOR'S HOUSTON'S BARBARA JORDAN PART 2 OF A SERIES...

By Allan Jamail

Houston, TX. – March 8, 2022; in celebration of Women's History Month Houston Barbara Jordan is recognized for her outstanding achievements in making sustainable progress as a Black Women. Jordan, a Houston native, was the first African-American woman



BARBARA JORDAN

elected to the Texas Senate and the first African-American woman elected to the U.S. Congress from the South.

Rosemary McGowen and I have been friends for many years and she's given me personal experiences she and Barbara have had together. She's Barbara's only living sibling and she joined State Rep. Shawn Thierry today on Women's Day for the unveiling of the Barbara Jordan Memorial Parkway. It's the stretch of Highway 288 from Cleburne, which CONTINUED. SEE BARBARA

JORDAN, PAGE 5

County sets \$8mil for new Early Childhood program

HARRIS COUNTY, TX - February 22, 2022, Harris County Commissioners Court on Tuesday awarded grantees a combined total of \$7.9 million in American Rescue Plan funds provided by the Biden-Harris Administration to seed a targeted portfolio of early childhood programs, including resources for educators and new parents, and the expansion of home-based child care providers.

Commissioners approved the following contracts on a 3 to 2 vote:

-- \$4.6 million to Texas Children's Hospital (TCH) to implement Build the upWORDS Community-Based Universal and Targeted Intervention Model: The program will provide universal education, resources, and materials to parents of young children. Over three years, 20,000 children will be served and TCH will train 6,000 early childhood educators.

-- \$2.4 million to First3Years to implement Expand the Safe Babies Approach in Harris County: This initia-



tive, which will be offered to 300 young children and their families over three years, is designed to to improve family reunification by strengthening the relationship between birth and foster parents.

birth and foster parents.
-- \$906,173 to The Alliance for Home-Based Child Care Supports to expand home-based child care operations. This effort will create jobs, creating at least 23 licensed programs that will add child care capacity in low-to moderate-income communities.

-- Funding for independent evaluators to assess the impacts of the program

The contract awards mark a significant mile-

stone in the \$10 million Early Childhood Impact Fund (ECIF), a historic investment in Harris County's youngest residents. The program incubator launched in October 2020, attracting a diverse array of proposals from local, national, and international applicants. A rigorous evaluation process narrowed the pool based on potential for impact, evidence base, the organization's experience and capacity, and cost effectiveness.

childhood Early emerged as a critical issue for many Harris County residents during county-led town halls and community conversations conducted in 2019 and early 2020. Research backs this up: Early childhood programs have one of the strongest returns on investment of any type of public program. Those positive effects also endure throughout the child's life, increasing their graduation rates and

CONTINUED. SEE EARLY CHILDHOOD, PAGE 3

YEE-HAW! RodeoHouston updates NCA Chamber

Guests at the North Channel Chamber monthly luncheon last Friday, heard about the history and current attractions at the Houston Livestock & Rodeo.

The speaker was Janice Mayes-Clayton, a volunteer who has served on the speakers committee, the gatekeepers and other positions for the last few decades, she said. As a speaker, she enjoys promoting the economic, scholastic and agricultural impact the Rodeo has on our area. She also likes the fact that it promotes our Western heritage.

RodeoHouston is celebrating its 90th anniversary, having started in 1932 with its first rodeo. The entertainer for that year was Gene Autry, the "singing cowboy." He reportedly was the only act, and performed for a whole week.

For many years the Livestock Show & Rodeo was held in the Sam Houston Coliseum downtown, but in 1966 it moved to the newly opened Astrodome, where it remained until 2002, when it moved to the new NRG Stadium and surrounding grounds.

Today, the Houston



RODEOHOUSTON SPEAKER JANICE MAYES-CLAYTON

show is the 2nd largest private rodeo in the Nation, Clayton said. Only the rodeo in Calgary, Alberta Canada has a larger crowd or purse for the riders.

In terms of attendance, the Houston Rodeo has more people attending in its three week run, than any Houston sports team the whole season, Clayton said.

The most popular events in the Rodeo are the children's activities, namely the Mutton Bustin even and the Calf Scramble.

and the Calf Scramble.

Another event that attracks a lot of attention is the Trail Ride, with 10 teams from all over Texas heading into the Rodeo

week before opening, and then participating in the Rodeo Parade in downtown Houston. TV's popular series "1883" has brought a lot of interest in oldtime Western culture.

grounds the

Other important aspects of the Rodeo are the scholarships, and the entertainers. ar the Rodeo

Each year the Rodeo awards 2600 scholarships to graduating senior high students, to continue their education in any Texas college. Since its beginning in 1932, the Rodeo has given more than \$550 million for education.

The 21 entertainment acts each night are nationally known, and draw huge crowds. The most popular this year, with the largest ticket sales, is George Strait.

The return of the Rodeo this year was welcomed by a huge public response, after the pandemic cancelled last year's show, and curtailed the show the year before.

SHELDON ISD NEWS

Week of March 4, 2022

Spelling Bee Champion

Congratulations to 5th grader Aaron Hernandez, who is our District Spelling Bee Champion! Aaron will now go on to compete in the next round at the Houston Public Media Spelling Bee in late March. He received a surprise visit from his parents and district administrators, Aaron's classmates filled the halls of Garrett Elementary to recognize and congratulate him for his accomplishment. He will represent our district very well.



Sheldon FFA competed in the HLSR Tour Guiding competition.

Our students toured students from all over the Houston area and taught them about Agriculture. Our focus area for our chapter were Bees. The students did an amazing job! We placed second place in the competition.



${\bf Sheldon\ T\text{-}\ STEM\ scholars\ receive\ their\ letter\ jackets.}$

Sheldon T-STEM Scholars received their T-STEM letter jackets today! In order to receive the T-STEM patch you must be a Junior who has completed three or more San Jacinto College courses, maintained a 2.5 GPA, and also be a dual credit student.



Book Vending Machine ribbon cutting.

Mrs. Cunningham is one of our recipients from the Education Foundation Innovative Teacher grants. The new book vending machine will encourage students to read while encouraging positive behavior. The grant will also provide opportunities to students who have limited access to books at home. Each week, students will have the opportunity to earn tokens based on Craven's positive behavior model. Those tokens will be used to "purchase" books from the vending machine. All students will have the opportunity to earn a free book using a token system. Every staff member will receive a token each week. Staff members will choose a student who earns the free book.



CHANNELVIEW ISD NEWS

CISD District & Campus Administrators Read to Thousands of Students During National Read Across America Day

Throughout CISD's seven elementary campuses and early childhood center, administrators have collaborated together to enhance the curriculum by reading to students across hundreds of classrooms.



March 2 is designated "National Read Across America Day" by the National Education Association, the largest professional labor union in the United States representing public school teachers and other educators across the country. Read Across America is a program that celebrates the joys of reading to students with the goal of getting students motivated to read more books to enhance their reading comprehension skills. The centerpiece of the program is a national awareness day focused on celebrating a nation of diverse readers and books.



"Books are the most effective tools we have at our disposal to enhance the educational experience of our students," said CISD Superintendent Dr. Tory C. Hill. "We want to bring as much literacy awareness as we can to our younger students so they can grow to become lifelong readers. Exposure to many writing styles and strategies at a young age will foster a community of curious learners here at Channelview ISD and give our students more engaging questions to bring to our teachers, who are ready for the challenges developing minds can often bring."



On this day, an estimated 45 million educators, students, and community stakeholders are actively reading to students across the U.S. – including 3,960 of Channelview's smallest readers.



"Celebrating the diversity of our students means reading the books of authors that may or may not be household names," said Assistant Superintendent of Elementary Education LaKeisha LeBlanc. "Our goal as educators is to develop a well-rounded student early on in their educational journey to give students the liberty to explore their interests confidently and without regret."



CHARLOTTE'S By Charlotte Jackson

Humility

Recently I heard someone say that being humble does not mean you think less of yourself, but that you think of yourself less often. Those words seemed to explain what I had been looking for just days before.

There are too many times that we see one athlete being lifted to a higher position because of the abilities. Perhaps we see someone at work being recognized for something they have completed. Yet, why is it that sometimes those people are thought of as "non-team players"? I believe it is due to their lack of humility. They want to take credit for any recognition they receive, but if you have been alive very long, you recognize that no one person has it all.

Many years ago I met Earl Campbell. For those not familiar, Earl played football with the University of Texas Longhorns as well as with the Houston Oilers. A large number of Houstonians who remember the Luv Ya Blue days, will tell you that he was one of the greatest running backs of all times. To see this large man running from one end of the football field to the other with such ease was incredible. To see him off the field was amazing. From those early days in the mid 70's until the last time I saw him speak at a conference on mental health, one thing has always stood out. Earl is a true example of humility.

No matter what the award or the recognition, he has never been one to take all of the credit for his success. I remember being a high school student and hearing him publicly recognizing his mother for all she had done to help him succeed. Several years later when accepting another award, he was thanking Coach Bum Phillips as well as teammates for making that day possible.

We see others who want to act as though they are successful because they are a self- made person. That is a dangerous place to be. We need to remember that no one person can accomplish anything without the guidance, prayers or help of others. No person woke up and knew every detail to how to accomplish their goal.

Last week were the Texas Primary Elections. What a great example of needing others. There were many candidates and many volunteers. There were Election Workers, law enforcement officers making rounds to polling locations and friends who were dropping off food for workers. I personally feel the most important people were the voters. Yet, they could not just walk in and vote. They had to have researched candidates, registered to vote and made the effort to vote, whether by mail, curbside or in person.

In the days that followed, if you watched election coverage, it seemed as though there were many people pointing fingers and placing blame on one person, yet just as it takes many to make a success, it takes many to be sure mistakes are not made. We have all been though much in the past few years. We need to practice humility and forgiveness. We need to humble ourselves and realize we all need improvement in our own lives.

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Coast Guard helicopter rescues hunter in Crosby



A Coast Guard crewman in the helicopter, left, reaches to aid in the recovery of a rescue basket that has another crewman and the hunter inside.

CROSBY, Texas — An injured 17-year-old was rescued Wednesday night, March 2nd after falling from a hunting stand in a wooded area of Crosby.

U.S. Coast Guard helicopter crews came to the rescue of the hunter in an unusual night operation, far from the coast where they normally operate.

The rescue operation happened Wednesday night when a 17-year-old fell from a hunting stand in a heavily wooded area near Crosby. He fell about 20 feet and injured his back, according to the Coast Guard Sector Houston-Galveston Command Center.

They were asked to help by the Crosby Fire Department. They said EMS crews weren't able to transport the teen.

The MH-65 Dolphin crew spotted the victim just after 8 p.m. and dropped a crew member and basket to hoist them back up.

The teen was taken to Memorial Hermann in the Texas Medical Cen-

We primarily train and operate over the water doing low-altitude hoists, so this 130-foot hoist posed an unusual

challenge," said Coast Guard Lt. Mike Clancy, co-pilot of the helicopter crew. "Fortunately, we conduct urban search and rescue training that prepared us to tackle this medevac. Our training coupled with the quick actions and experience of the Crosby Fire Department ensured we were able to come together and help an individual in need."

ANOTHER RESCUE IN FREEPORT

On Monday night, another chopper crew rescued a missing hunter from the marsh between the mouth of the Brazos River and the San Bernard River near Free-

The 34-year-old man become got separated from his buddies, who called for help.

"Once we arrived at the hunter's last know location, we were able to quickly locate him because he had a flashlight he used to signal our helicopter allowing us to make a swift and successful rescue," said Lt. Jordyn Tolefree, an Air Station Houston MH-65 Dolphin pilot.

The man was okay and was dropped off at a boat ramp where his relieved friends were waiting.

Jacinto City Recognized,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

bling items from the past, brought a more than expected response. A treasure chest of historical exhibits was assembled and put on display, including a 1952 8mm film of the opening of the City's swimming pool.

The film included a beauty pageant, high diving contest, and speeches by elected officials.

After the decision to proceed, a great deal of work was underway, with city employees and volunteers devoting countless hours. The history was organized and displays designed. Invitations, logos, and a comemmorative USB history archive were made and distributed. A special item for employees was a name badge, with their original employment photo displayed. 19 city employees with over 20 years service were recognized, as

well as city attorney Jim DeFoyd with 54 years. A photo booth was available to add to memories for the future.

The city also provided a tour bus, so everyone could see the recent progress and changes. Included in the tour were the new Police and Fire Stations, swimming pool, athletic fields, and splash pad. The Galena Park school district provided tours of the new Jacinto City Elementary School. The evening ended with a fireworks display the hundreds witnessed.

The magazine recognized the spirit of the city, and the cooperation of city employees and citizens to bring about a memorable celebration of the 75 previous years. It noted that this spirit fortold a bright future in the next 75 years, and honored Jacinto City for its accomplishments.

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ASK DIAMOND JIM

Diamond Jim: "What can you tell us about Pearls?"

Pearl Education

Welcome to the world of pearls. With the tremendous variety of pearls on the market today, pearls are considered the least understood of all gemstones. Please take the time to familiarize yourself with the different types of pearls, pearl grading, their history and care before your make a new pearl purchase.

Types of Pearls

Akoya Pearls

For nearly 100 years, akoya pearls grown off the coast of Japan have been the classic pearl of choice. When one pictures a round strand of white pearls, they are usually thinking of akoya.

Although rare baroque shapes and natural colors like silver-blue and gold do exist, akoya pearls are best known for their perfectly round shape and sharp, reflective luster.

While exceptions do exist, most akoya pearls produced today range in sizes from 4 to 10 mm.

If you are looking for a classic strand of round, white pearls, you are probably looking for a strand of akoya pearls.

Freshwater Pearls

The most affordable pearls sold today, freshwater pearls are known for baroque shapes, white and pastel body colors and softer luster than akoya (except in the case of rare metallics).

With natural pastel colors and shapes that range from perfectly round to free-form baroque, freshwater pearls offer a widest range of options.

Common sizes range from 5 mm to 12 mm, but recent advances have led to the development of round and baroque pearls as large as 20 mm.

If you are looking for an affordable piece or something more fashion-forward with unique combinations of colors and shapes, shop freshwater pearls.

Tahitian Pearls

Tahitian pearls grown in French Polynesia are the only naturally dark pearls. Although often referred to as black, Tahitian pearls come in a rainbow of exotic colors. Round Tahitian pearls are quite rare but other fun shapes like drops, baroques and ovals are highlysought and still considered very valuable. If you are looking for a naturally dark pearls that go well with almost any style, Tahitian pearls may be your best

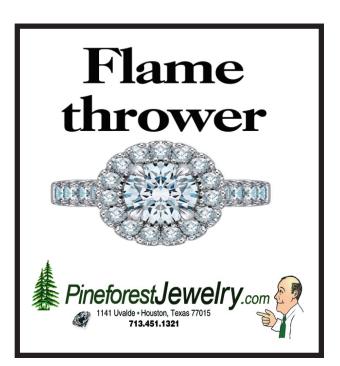
Pearl Care

Pearls are the world's only organic gemstone, and therefore, tend to be quite delicate. Proper care of your pearl jewelry is essential to ensure your investment will last a lifetime. Personal care products, such as perfume or hairspray, can severely damage the luster and beauty of a pearl.

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

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.



Early Childhood Program,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

earnings while reducing their contact with the criminal justice system.

"It takes the entire community to help children reach their full potential," said Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo. "By investing in things like language development, educator training, home-based child care, and protections for $children\ in\ foster\ care-we$ can build a Harris County built for the future. A future that includes better education, safer streets, healthier communities,

and economic security." In addition to the ECIF,

the county also established the \$4.7 million COVID-19 Childcare Assistance Program to provide some relief to parents during the COVID-19 pandemic. The program provided funding for virtual learning, after school care, early childhood learning, and early childhood care.

For more information and updates on Harris County's early childhood education initiatives, visit harriscountykids.com.

★ OPINION PAGE ★

OPINION

By Grace Chimene, President League of Women Voters of Texas

League of Women Voters of Texas criticizes the March 1 Primary Election, and SB1 Voter Restrictions

AUSTIN — Today, the League of Women Voters of Texas President Grace Chimene issued the following statement about the March 1 primary election:

"Texas held the first 2022 primary election in the nation under the additional stress of a new, massive election bill, Senate Bill 1, which created even more challenges for voters in Texas.

"During the 2020 General Election, Texans all over the state benefited from more voting opportunities, such as expansion of early voting, extended hours at the polling places, and more options to return vote-by-mail ballots.

"However, as we all expected, the new election law caused heart-breaking confusion among voters in the 2022 primary elections. Most notably, the new ID number requirements that needed to be added in Ballot by Mail applications and ballot carrier envelopes complicated voting. These new requirements hit older voters and voters with disabilities particularly hard. While we don't have the final results on how many ballots were able to be cured, we do know that an extraordinary percentage of vote-bymail ballots were rejected. But election officials were not allowed to promote or even educate voters about the new Ballot by Mail processes under threats of criminal prosecution.

"Election officials were also overwhelmed with the major changes to the election laws. The Secretary of State's office, which had the Herculean task of carrying out the massive updates to the Election Code, was late in providing updates to its website, in training county election officials and in sharing advisories to county election officials on these major changes. Voter education and voting access were the casualties of the draconian change in election law and severe delay in useful education.

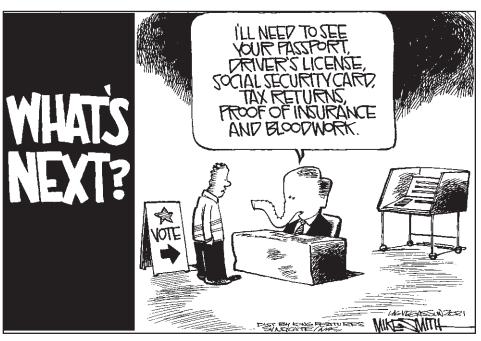
"In addition to new voting requirements, the new election law also made election officials subject to new criminal penalties and provided more authority to partisan poll watchers. "Voters reported unplanned closures of polling sites due to lack of election workers. Not surprisingly, the new privileges given to partisan poll watchers intensified the pressure on poll workers and voters at the polls.

"Our primary election did not need to be difficult for voters. The League of Women Voters of Texas and our voting rights partners warned the Texas Legislature that SB1 would have negative consequences for voter access in our state. Because of this new election law, too many voters were silenced during our primary elections. It is critical that the Secretary of State collaborate with counties well before the November General Election to address the obstacles voters faced in the primaries. The League of Women Voters of Texas will continue to support voter education and provide useful information to encourage voters to participate in our elections.

"Ensuring a safe and secure election while providing voters with the information they need to participate fully in our democracy should be a priority for the Texas Legislature, the Texas Secretary of State and county election officials. We call upon the Office of the Texas Secretary of State and county election officials to work together to improve democracy for all Texas voters."

The League of Women Voters is one of America's oldest and most trusted civic nonprofit organizations. Formed in 1919, the Texas League represents more than 13,500 grassroots advocates and 34 local Leagues across the state. The League never supports or opposes candidates for office or political parties. The League encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government. The League also seeks to influence public policy through education and advocacy. Membership is open to people 16 years and older.

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.



STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Gary Borders



The Texas Supreme Court heard oral arguments last week on the question of whether state regulators can be sued by abortion providers hoping to block enforcement of the state's restrictive abortion law, known as Senate Bill 8.

The <u>Austin American-Statesman</u> reported that abortion providers bringing the suit argued that "state agencies regulating doctors, nurses, pharmacists and the health care system have an enforcement role that makes them an appropriate target of their own lawsuit against SB8."

Solicitor General Judd Stone II argued for the state that the law was written to say only private citizens can enforce SB8 by filing civil suits against abortion providers who violate the ban on abortions after the sixth week of pregnancy.

"The goal here is just to figure out the ordinary English meaning of this statute," Stone argued. "There simply is no ordinary English interpretation that entertains any possibility of public enforcement (by state agencies or regulators)," the Statesman reported.

Abortion providers have filed a number of lawsuits in federal courts, with the U.S. Supreme Court declining to keep the law from taking effect last September as appeals are heard. The case heard in state court last week also will likely end up before the nation's highest court.

COMPTROLLER HOSTING BROADBAND LISTENING

State Comptroller Glenn Hegar began touring a dozen Texas communities this month to get insight from Texans about internet access and to receive input as the state develops its first comprehensive broadband internet plan.

The events are free but require registration in advance. The first forum was held March 1 at Prairie View A&M University, with

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others planned in Victoria, Austin, Dallas-Fort Worth, Amarillo, Beaumont, Waco, Tyler, Abilene, El Paso, Edinburgh and San Angelo.

Further information and a link to an online survey for those who can't attend can be found here: comptroller.texas.gov/programs/broadband/communities/tour

ABBOTT ORDERS ENHANCED PROTECTION AGAINST CYBERATTACKS

Gov. Greg Abbott has ordered two state agencies to "use every available resource" to safeguard the state's infrastructure as the potential for Russian cyberattacks increases. Abbott sent a letter to the Texas Department of Information Resources and the Texas Department of Public Safety to that effect last week. He ordered DIR and DPS to:

- Enhance Texas' cyber security through the use of best industry practices and
- other key measures.
 Ensure Texas can quickly detect a potential cyber intrusion through the use of software services, such as antivirus and endpoint detection and re-
- sponse technologies.Prepare for an intrusion by utilizing a cyber in-
- cident response team.

 Maximize the state's resilience to a destructive cyber incident.
- Track and report any attacks from Russian sources so the public is fully

CROSBY

Gilbert Hoffman

Kristan Hoffman

.Willie Glasgow

aware of their tactics.

"Protecting the sta

"Protecting the state of Texas from cyber threats during this time of Russian aggression is paramount," Abbott wrote.

ARREST MADE IN TIMBER FRAUD CASE

Law enforcement investigators with the Texas A&M Forest Service arrested a Magnolia man last week on two counts of timber theft. Philip Eugene McKenzie, Jr., 60, was charged.

"Mr. McKenzie had timber harvest agreements with two Walker County landowners and failed to pay them for the timber that was harvested from their property," said Texas A&M Forest Service Law Enforcement Criminal Investigator Josh Mizrany. In addition, McKenzie has a pending charge for unauthorized timber harvest in Montgomery County.

Timber theft includes harvesting timber without the landowner's knowledge or consent, to entering into a formal agreement and not paying landowners the full purchase price and even stealing timber from logging companies.

Landowners who suspect timber theft or suspicious timber sale agreements should call the forest service timber theft hotline at <u>1</u>-800-364-3470.

NOMINATIONS SOUGHT FOR TEA STUDENT HERO AWARD

The Texas Education Agency is seeking nominations for public school students in all grades who provide an outstanding volunteer service benefitting their fellow students, schools, or their communities. One student from each of the 15 State Board of Education districts will be recognized and will receive a plaque and medal from SBOE.

Nominations may be submitted by anyone. The deadline to nominate an outstanding student is 5 p.m. March 31. The form can be found here: https://tinyurl.com/mubxb7af.

COVID-19 CASES CONTINUE DROPPING STATEWIDE

The number of new COV-ID-19 cases in Texas continues to drop steeply as the omicron variant fades, with 36,814 reported in the past week by the Coronavirus Resource Center at Johns Hopkins University. That is less than 10% of the number reported at the variant's peak in mid-January. A total of 1,127 deaths were reported in the past week, also a sharp decrease. Hospitalizations are also down, with 3,949 reported as of Sunday by the Texas Department of State Health Services.

Gary Borders is a veteran awardwinning Texas journalist. He published a number of community newspapers in Texas during a 30year span, including in Longview, Fort Stockton, Nacogdoches and Cedar Park.

Email: Borders@texaspress.com.

THE POSTSCRIPT By Carrie Classon

No Time for Butter

My great-uncle John never buttered his bread.

"I don't have time for butter!" he insisted. I never knew how much time butter took, but apparently it was more than Uncle John could spare.

Time passes so often without notice. A day seems to pass in the time it takes to butter a piece of bread. Last night, my husband, Peter, said that we met seven years ago.

"Eight years," I corrected him.

We will celebrate our seventh wedding anniversary next month and, while the romance was quick, we had known one another for a year. We married on the one-year anniversary of the day we met.

"That's right," Peter said.
"Time passes too quickly!"

He is always saying that. He also says that, while he doesn't know how much time we'll have together, he knows it will not be enough. (Peter is a romantic. There's no denying it.)

We are traveling in Mexico now. My temporary desk is set up against a window. I can see the progress being made on the house next door, which is acquiring a new story. I can see the spires of the churches in the distance. I can hear the traffic of cars going by, which seems unnaturally loud as they travel over cobblestones, and the sounds of the roosters and the dogs who always seem to have something urgent to report.

We are traveling again and making plans. I have actual activities written in an actual calendar. Things are slowly returning to normal and, of course, that's a good thing. But it feels as if time is speeding up.

My days blend into one another and, before I know it, it is afternoon and I am taking my daily walk through the streets of this Mexican city, seeing something that surprises me everysingle afternoon saying hello to several dozen friendly strangers and greeting their dogs. The weather has been cool. I note the butcher's very fat pug is wearing a jacket. The jacket is a little tight, and the pug looks embarrassed.

"What a nice jacket!" I say to the butcher in Spanish, and the butcher laughs. The pug wags its tiny tail but doesn't look too sure. And another day passes.

It is a cliché, but it is still true that time is the only thing we cannot buy. It is our most limited commodity and our most precious resource. I guess that's why it shocks me how much of it I allow to slip away without notice.

But when I think back on a year ago today, time did slow down for a while. Peter and I stayed at home and the only people we saw were Peter's sister, Lori, and her husband. Every week, Peter cooked and I read and time seemed to slow to a stop. There was no pressure to do more—there was nothing more we could do. And so, we talked until Lori was tired and, a few days later, we did it again. Lori died later in the year.

Now time has resumed its normal pace, and it's good to be traveling and seeing friends and family again. But sometimes it feels as if I've forgotten something important about the time that just passed. Sometimes it seems to me that there was a lesson in that time that I could use now, as my calendar fills.

Because the time that just passed was not like the time that came before or the time after. For a while, time took time off. For a while, I had time for butter.

Till next time.
CARRIE





Melissa Silva, M.D.

Channelview Family Medicine Welcomes New Physician

Dr. Melissa Silva joined the CFM family on October 1, 2021.

Dr. Melissa Silva is a Family Medicine physician who has joined Channelview Family Medicine and the Pasadena community in October of 2021. Dr. Silva received a double degree from the University of Houston with a BS in Biology and a BA in History. Dr. Silva went on to obtain her Doctorate of Medicine from the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston. Dr. Silva's residency in Family Medicine was with the Memorial Family Medicine Program. Dr. Silva is bilingual in both English and Spanish. We look forward to welcoming her back to her hometown community and the Channelview family.

To book an appointment, call 281.452.4747 To learn more, visit channelviewfamilymedicine.com



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for a free consultation and info guide.

Houston's Barbara Jordan,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

runs into Texas Southern University where Jordan earned an undergraduate degree, to the Beltway 8.

"I'm delighted this is being done in her honor and celebrates the accomplishments she made," McGowan said.

Representative Thierry wrote the bill to rename the highway. It was signed into law on June 19, 2019, also known as Juneteenth. the day in which enslaved Texans learned of their freedom. Because the state does not appropriate funds for signs, Thierry said CenterPoint Energy is underwriting the cost of the signs.

"It really has been a labor of love visualizing and then working on this project for so many years," State Representative Shawn Thierry said. "This highway dedication is a permanent memorial for future generations to witness." "We are honoring an iconic woman who was

such an inspiration. This is a permanent memorial to a great woman for all to see," Thierry said.

BARBARA CHARLINE JORDAN HISTORY: She was a product of Houston's Black Fifth Ward; she opened the door in the political arena for both Blacks and women. Elected a State Representative from Texas; February 21, 1936; she was educated in the public schools of Houston; graduated, from Phillis Wheatley High School, in 1952. She got her B.A., at Houston's Texas Southern University in 1956 and her law degree at Boston University School of Law, Boston Mass. 1959. She was admitted to the Massachusetts and Texas bars in 1959 and commenced practice in Houston in

Jordan was elected to the Texas senate in 1967 and re-elected and served until 1972; served as administrative assistant to Harris County's Judge. In 1966 she was a delegate to Texas State Democratic conventions, 1967, 1969 and a delegate to Democratic National Convention of 1968.

She was elected as a Democrat to the Ninetythird, Ninety-fourth and Ninety-fifth Congresses (January 3, 1973-January 3. 1979); and was not a candidate for re-election in 1978 to the Ninety-sixth Congress. She was a professor at the Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs at the University of Texas in Austin, 1979-1982, and Lyndon B. Johnson Centennial Chairman in National Policy, 1982-1986; She chaired the Commission on Immigration Reform: was a resident of Austin, Tex., until her death there on January 17, 1996; her interment is in Texas State Cemetery. Allanj211@aol.com

Women's History Month,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

that of the men whose names we know so well."

The recognition was renewed by later presidents until 1987, when Congress designated March as "Women's History Month."

Women's contributions through the years have often gone unappreciated and forgotten. The month of March provides us a time to set aside for reflection, appreciation, and celebration; it's our time to recognize contributions both large and small they've made to change our lives for the better.

Each of us can reflect back on our personal history of how significant our own mother was to us and her care and influence she made on us. My mother has passed but her memories live on within me daily. I think of her care for me as well as the disciplining of me, both she dished out because of her love for me. It made me a better person and her lesson on life still influences my behavior.

Sadly to say women have been discriminated against is so many areas of life, equal pay, job promotions, sexual harassment to name a few.

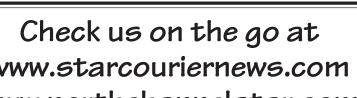
Laurie Fickman, of the University of Houston (UH) released the study by the University of Houston Institute for Research on Women, Gender & Sexuality (IRWGS) stating that women lag far behind men on multiple fronts in Harris County. Women are almost 50% more likely to live in poverty than men and the wage gap for men and women by race and ethnicity is considerably greater here than nation-

In Harris County during 2017, women's poverty

rate (15.3%) was nearly 50% higher than the male poverty rate (10.4%). The gender gap is higher than observed nationally, statewide (Texas) and in comparable counties in the United States.

Wage gap data for men and women by race/ethnicity in Harris County is considerably greater than the national wage gap, with the median non-Hispanic (NH) white woman here making 69.4 cents on the dollar made by the median NH white man; the median NH Asian woman making 63.6 cents; the median NH black woman making 47.1 cents; and the median Hispanic woman making 33.5 cents.

Next week we'll honor more women's social, economic and political achievements. Allanj211@aol.com





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House in Summerwood suffers extensive damage due to lack of water hydrants

The Houston Fire Department reports a House Fire in The Lake Houston Area. The fire occured on Saturday, Feb. 19 around 9:45pm. The house was located in the 14500 block of Lakeside Terrace.

Although some of the building was saved, the damage was estimated at \$280,000 in property

Houston police are in-

vestigating a fatal crash

at 300 East Loop (East

Interstate 610 South)

about 2:55 a.m. on Sun-

The identity of the de-

ceased male, 23, is pend-

ing verification by the

Harris County Institute

Division Sergeant D.

HPD Vehicular Crimes

of Forensic Sciences.

day (February 20).

damage, with only \$95,000 in estimated property saved. The cause of the fire is under investigation.

Firefighters arrived on scene within five minutes to find fire coming through the roof of a 2story home. Sheldon and Crosby fire departments were called for water tankers due to no hy-

Fatal crash on Ship Channel Bridge

Louang-Pho reported:

The deceased male was

driving a white Chevrolet

Traverse southbound at

the above address when

the vehicle struck the

rear of a white Freightlin-

er Cascadia 18-wheeler

towing a trailer. The

traverse spun around,

struck a concrete wall,

and then caught fire.

Rose and Officer J. Houston Fire Depart-

drants. Two additional HFD engines were added for water as well.

The fire was extinguished and HFD Arson investigators were requested to determine the cause and origin. Crews from Stations 23, 64, 32, 56, 65, 102, 105, 30 and Rescue 42 responded to this incident.

ment paramedics pro-

nounced the male

The driver of the

Freightliner remained on

scene and was questioned

and released. He did not

show signs of intoxica-

continuing.

The investigation is

deceased at the scene.

Free Flu Vaccines and Immunizations in March from Harris County Mobile

HOUSTON (Feb. 28, 2022) — During March, Harris Health System's

Troubleshooters Mobile Immunization Program is offering free immunizations for children two-months to 18-years of age and free flu vaccines to children sixmonths to 18-years of age.

To receive immunizations, a parent must be present with the child's shot record. All shots will be given based on availability.

Schedule

(All times are 9 a.m.-1 p.m. except when noted)

- Tuesday, March 1, Trini Mendenhall Community Center, 1414 Wirt Rd., Houston, TX 77055, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.
- Wednesday, March 2, C. E. King High School, 11433 E. Sam Houston Parkway
- N., Houston, TX 77044 ■ Thursday, March 3, BakerRipley Gulfton Sharpstown, 6500 Rookin St.,
- Houston, TX 77074 Monday, March 7, Hambrick Middle School, 4600 Aldine Mail Rd., Houston,
- Tuesday, March 8, BakerRipley Cleveland, 720 Fairmont Pkwy,
- Pasadena, TX 77504 Wednesday, March 9, North Forest
- High School, 10726 Mesa Dr., Houston, Thursday, March 10, Cloverleaf
- Elementary, 1035 Frankie St., Houston, TX 77015 • Friday, March 11, Memorial
- Assistance Ministries, 1625 Blalock Rd., Houston, TX 77080, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

- Monday, March 14, South Houston Library, 607 Avenue A, South Houston, TX 77587, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.
- Tuesday, March 15, Northeast Multi-Service Center WIC, 9720 Spaulding St., Houston, TX 77016
- Wednesday, March 16, Consulate General of Mexico, 3200 Rogerdale Rd., Houston, TX 77042
- Thursday, March 17, Alief WIC, 12660 Beechnut St., Houston, TX 77072
- Friday, March 18, Memorial Assistance Ministries, 1625 Blalock Rd., Houston, TX 77080, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.
- Monday, March 21, Major Elementary School, 16855 Sugar Pine Dr., Houston, TX 77090
- Tuesday, March 22, Steve Radack Community Center, 18650 Clay Rd., Houston, TX 77084, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Wednesday, March 23, Drew
- Academy, 1910 W. Little York, Houston, TX 77091 Thursday, March 24, Hoffman Middle
- School, 6101 Little York, Houston, TX Friday, March 25, Woodson K-5,
- 10720 Southview St., Houston, TX Monday, March 28, Hambrick
- Middle School, 4600 Aldine Mail Rd., Houston, TX 77039 ■ Tuesday, March 29, Hambrick Middle
- School, 4600 Aldine Mail Rd., Houston, TX 77039 Wednesday, March 30, Hines-
- Caldwell Elementary, 5515 W. Orem Dr., Houston, TX 77085, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

20

46

35

planet

head

singer

47 Teeming

48 Harrow rival

computer

52 Scot's refusal

49 Island in a

game

53 Saute

40 Loafers, e.g.

42 Sashimi fish

43 Conks on the

"May It Be"

cafe owner

"Casablanca"

48

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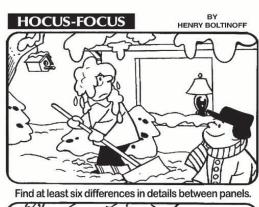


Weekly **SUDOKU** by Linda Thistle 1 6 5 5 4 8 9 6 2 5 1 7 9 8 8 3 9 3 2 1 7 2 4 6

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! © 2022 King Features Synd., Inc





Differences: 1, Birdhouse is missing. 2, Handle is shorter. 3, Jacket is shorter. 4, Lamp is missing. 5, Scart is shorter. 6, Buttons are missing

8. "Ulysses" (James Joyce); 9. Neptune; 10. "The Social Network" 4. Tsunami; 5. Thomas Jefferson; 6. A leveret; 7. Bromine and Mercury; I. Wyoming; 2. William O. Douglas (36 years); 3. "Sons of Anarchy"; Trivia Test Answerst

Solution time: 24 mins. Answers - King Crossword

March 7, 2022 Posting Date **King** Crossword

ACROSS

Taj Mahal city Chatter

12

15

18

- Pugilist's weapon
- Regrets 13 Half of bi-
- 14 Bygone Peruvian
- Diamond parts
- Miles away Thai or Korean Oscar contenders
- Leaves
- Medit. nation
- 25 Buckeye State 28 Take five
- 30 Yoga pad 33 Mafia boss
- 34 Emulate
- Lincoln
- Bedazzle
- 36 Dict. info Nick and
- Nora's pet
- Arm bone Fireplace resi-
- due Luminary
- Charlton
- Seraglio
- 50 Aware of
- Endless time or space
- 55 Automobile

9 1 8 5 7 3 2 Þ

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3 1 8 6 7 9 8 1 2

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Answer

Weekly SUDOKU

t 9 1 DOWN

59 Faxed

1 Met solo

56 Sci-fi fleet

58 Lock opener

57 Declares

- Heston film
- 54 Burning heap
- 2 Weaponry 3 Mortgage
- again, for short
- 4 Italian cheese
- 5 Actor Brynner
- 6 Moreover
- Galileo's birth
 - place

7 9 2

Decrees

39 40

Messes up 23 Plane assignments

55

58

9 Casual

10 Cicatrix

20 Refer to

11 Old salts

16 Rock's Brian

- Peculiar
- 26 Garden tool 27 Foot soldiers
- 29 Sports figure? 31 Bristle
- Chai, e.g. 32 34 Diamond
- Head locale 38 Seventh
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 $extit{ extit{CST}}_{ ext{Rodriguez}}$ by Fifi

1. GEOGRAPHY: In which U.S. state is the Devils Tower monument located?

2. LEGAL: Which U.S. Supreme Court justice served for the longest period of time? 3. TELEVISION: Which biker drama is set in

the town of Charming, California? 4. WEATHER: What kind of natural disaster is caused by an underwater earthquake or volcanic

eruption? 5. U.S. PRESIDENTS: Which president founded the University of Virginia? 6. ANIMAL KINGDOM: What is a young hare

7. CHEMISTRY: Which two elements on the

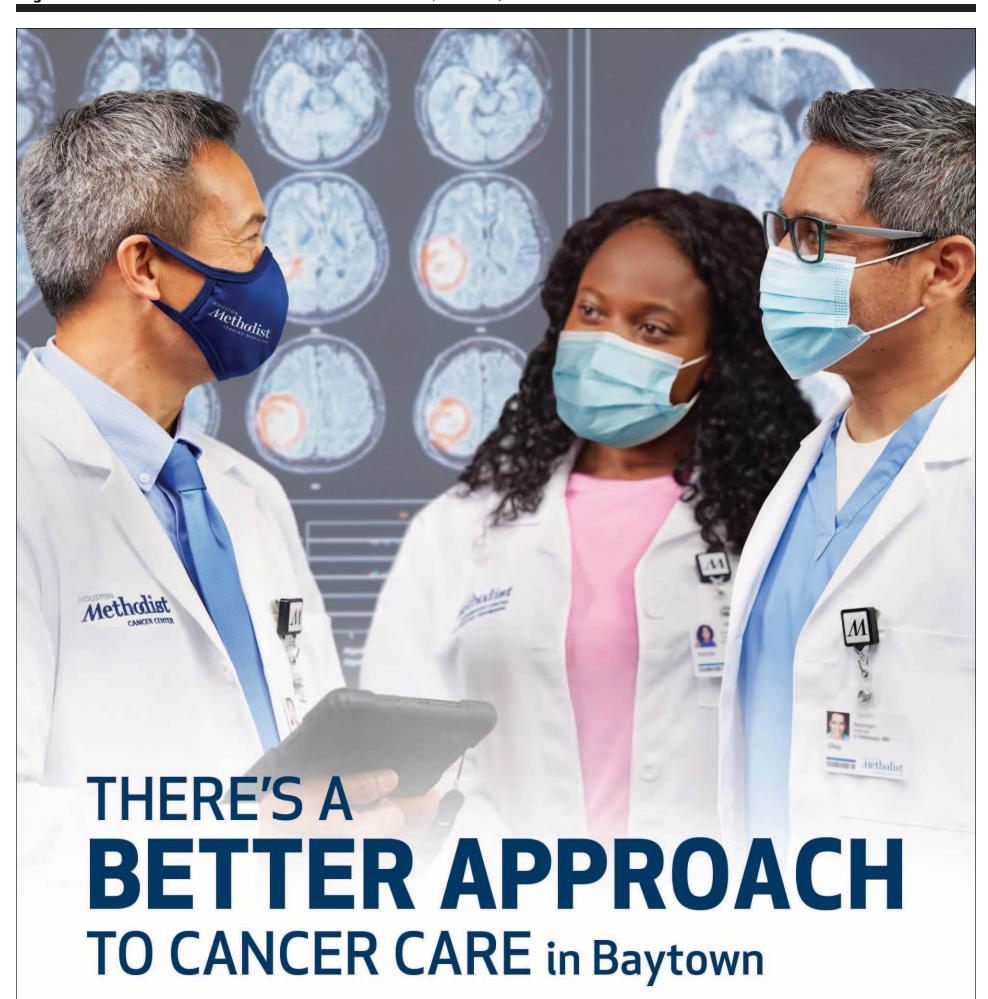
Periodic Table are liquid at room temperature? 8. LITERATURE: Which 20th-century novel features the characters Leopold and Molly Bloom?

9. ASTRONOMY: What planet in our solar system is the farthest from the sun? 10. MOVIES: Which movie portrays the begin-

nings of Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg? © 2022 King Features Synd., Inc.







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