

NORTH CHANNEL★STAR

Your News, Your Newspaper

Serving all of the North Shore -- Channelview, Cloverleaf, Sheldon, Galena Park, Jacinto City
VOLUME 10, NO. 13 (#413) THURSDAY, MARCH 31, 2022 www.northchannelstar.com

CHANNEL CURRENTS

NS Rotary FISH FRY May 14th

North Shore Rotary Club is holding their 47th Annual Catfish Fry & Crawfish Boil, Raffle, and Live and Silent Auctions on Saturday, May 14 at the Rotary Pavilion on Wallisville..

Tickets are \$100 each, and include 2 meals and a chance in the Raffle. They are available now from all North Shore Rotarians, and many businesses.

Grand Prize in the Raffle is a new 2022 Toyota car or truck. There are also 20 additional prizes, plus a delicious Fish Fry platter.

Chamber luncheon April 1

North Channel Area Chamber will hold their monthly luncheon Friday, April 1 starting at 11:30am at San Jacinto College North/Monument Room. Speaker is Dr. Cecella Martin, of TEEM Leadership.

Program also features Channelview ISD and Sheldon ISD Students and Educators of the Month.

Member \$20, Non-member \$30. RSVP to 713-450-3600 or info@nca-chamber.com.

Rotary Cake & Bake Apr 14

GP/JC Rotary club will hold a Bake Potato Lunch and a Cake Auction in one combined event.

Thursday, April 14 from 10am to 12noon for lunch, and from 12noon to 1pm for the Cake Auction.

The public is invited, at the Jacinto City Town Center, 1025 Oates Road, Jacinto City. Potato lunch \$10. Info Maria at 713-539-8021.

Galena Park welcomes new Police Chief

By Allan Jamail

GALENA PARK, March 23, 2022 At the Galena Park Police Station I sat down with Chief Richard Wagner, the seventh and newest police chief for the city in seven years for one reason or another. I've interviewed 5 police chiefs in that same office in a short period of time, hopefully this one will have a long career there.

As a former police chief myself of Jacinto City, Chief Wagner and I had lots to share with each other about policing as well as a few old "war stories". I found out he's a pet lover and has a new puppy named, GALENA.

We both agreed that policing and city politics should not be intertwined. He said since he's new to the city he's not a part of any political faction and wants to be friends with all the citi-



Richard Wagner, Galena Park Police Chief (photo by Allan Jamail)

zens and make them a good chief and give them the best police services possible. It's hard enough for law enforcement to do their jobs without fear of stepping on some friend of local elected official's toes.

The city is fortunate to have Chief Wagner, he has an extensive law enforcement background in education and experience. In my opinion Chief Wag-

ner is going to make the city a good chief if he's allowed to, and given what the department needs of ample personnel and equipment.

Wagner retired from the Harris County Sheriff's Office (HCSO) in 2017 with 26 years of service to them. He began in 1991 as a jailer with the HCSO. Later he was transferred to the Patrol

Bureau in Northeast Harris County. He then became part of the Greenspoint Zero Tolerance Initiative, assisting the Houston Police Department in the Greenspoint area. Later to be assigned to the "Hot Spot" Unit doing Criminal Patrol and street level narcotics investigations.

He was transferred in 1999 to the Vehicular

Crimes Division and rode motorcycles, later becoming a Police Motorcycle Operator Instructor. Then after about 18 years in Vehicular Crimes, he went to the Homeland Security, the Marine/Industrial Unit. There he was tasked as a member of the anti-terrorism unit in the Houston Ship Channel. While in the Marine Industrial unit, he became a flood water and swift water rescue team member to be the first team of this type for law enforcement in this area.

After retiring from HCSO in 2017 he became a member of the Harris County Attorney's Office as an Investigator. He worked in the Children's Protection Division, Environmental Unit and on the Voter Strike Team during election times. He

Continued. See GP Police Chief, Page 2

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

Sylvia Mendez awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom

Women's History Month /
One of a weekly series

By Allan Jamail

March 29, 2022 Women's History Month - Sylvia Mendez at age eight, played an instrumental role in the Mendez v. Westminster case, the landmark desegregation case of 1946. The case successfully ended de jure segregation in California and paved the way for integration and the American civil rights movement. Later in life for her continued activism for civil and equal rights she was awarded the Presidential Medal of

Freedom, the United States' highest civilian honor, on February 15, 2011 by President Obama. (See Mendez wearing Freedom Medal in photo)

Upon receiving the medal Sylvia Mendez smiled through tears when President Barack Obama draped the Medal of Freedom around her neck, overcome as she remembered the desegregation fight her parents waged on her behalf.

"I never could have imagined as a child battling segregation that I would end up one day meeting the president and receiving such a tremen-



Sylvia Mendez is an American civil rights activist of Mexican and Puerto Rican heritage.

dous honor," said Mendez, 74, of Fullerton, CA. "My parents just wanted what was best for their children. So I have made it my life's work to spread their message."

In 1947 Mendez's parents challenged the practice of school segregation in California. The Mendez couple, joined by the families of Ramirez, Palomino, Estrada and Guzman, filed a lawsuit against the Westminster, Garden Grove, Santa Ana and El Modena (in Orange) school districts on behalf of 5,000 children who had been excluded from attending white-only schools.

The Mendez v. Westminster case made California the first state in the nation to end school segregation, paving the way for Brown v. Board of Education. Attorney Thurgood Marshall's amicus brief filed for Mendez on behalf of the NAACP contained the arguments he would later use in the famous Brown case.

Mendez grew up during a time when most southern and southwestern schools were segregated. In the case of California, Hispanics were not allowed to at-

CONTINUED. SEE WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH, PAGE 7

Galena Park Boys Soccer wins District & Bi-District Playoff GP Yellowjackets 2 – LaPorte Bulldogs 0

By Allan Jamail

Friday, March 25, 2022 at Clear Creek ISD Challenger Columbia Stadium the Galena Park High School Boys soccer varsity Yellowjacket's shutout the LaPorte Bulldogs 2 – 0.

Head Coach Shannon Summers with assistant coaches Steven Botello and Dalton Strouse had the Jackets who won their district title playing outstanding defense and offense.

The 2 goals were made by senior Fernando Mendoza. Critical to winning the game was their good defense and senior Goal Keeper Bernardo Vazquez made several outstanding blocked goal attempts to shutout the Bulldogs.

They advance now to play Tuesday (3-29-22) in the 5A Region 3 & 4 Area Play contest against Fort Bend ISD Kemper Cougars.

Statistician & photographer Linda Jamail. Allan211@aol.com



Galena Park Boys Soccer Team with family & fans celebrating their shutout victory after the game. (Photo by Linda Jamail) MORE PHOTOS PAGE 5

PHOTO RIGHT: TOP ROW~ L-R: Andrew Gallegos, Saulo Irias, Jose De La Torre, Alexis Pena, Ernesto Villarreal, Alfredo Flores, Isaias Quiroz, Bernardo Vazquez, Diego Sierra, Alfonso Mendoza, Diego Rendon, Coach Dalton Strouse, Coach Sten Botello, Aiden Olmos, Kevin Vega Sosa
MIDDLE ROW~ L-R: Coach Shannon Summers, Emmanuel Quiroz, Esteban Gomora, Abdiel Lopez, Fernando Mendoza, Henry Marquez, Jorge Andrade, Bryan Cordova, Victor Silva, Camila Flores, Aietza Roach, Grecia Villarreal.
BOTTOM ROW~ L-R: Leo Flores, William Ramos, Leo Castro, Nathan Vasquez, Nathan Macias, Keven Reyna (Photo by Linda Jamail) MORE on PAGE 5



SHELDON ISD NEWS

Week of March 25, 2022

Percussion and Colorguard

The Percussion and Color Guard Show Case was held on Thursday, March 24th at King Middle School Gym. These students had a phenomenal performance! The students have worked very hard. This was a great show!

Boys Varsity Soccer are in the Playoffs!

Our Panthers are set to take on Deer Park in the first round of playoffs tonight at 7 p.m. GO PANTHERS! Our Panthers are 2nd in district and an overall record of 9-5-4.



C.E King Winter Guard & King Percussion presents:

Friends & Family Night

Where: Old C.E King Middle School When: March 24, 2022
6:30pm

Hope to see you there !!



Galena Park new Police Chief,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

retired again in January of 2021 until he decided to take the Chief's job in Galena Park December 1, 2021.

Wagner said he has a simple mindset when it comes to this work, "I try to make every decision with the people I serve in

mind and create a positive work atmosphere for the Police Department's staff members. I also have an open door policy for the citizens of Galena Park and welcome input and feedback from the community, the Chief said." Allanjan211@aol.com

In the North Channel area, Everyone reads the North Channel STAR

CHANNELVIEW ISD NEWS

Channelview ISD Department of Communications wins 11 Star Awards at annual TSPRA Conference

Channelview, TX – March 23, 2022: The Channelview ISD Department of Communications earned 11 Texas School Public Relations Association (TSPRA) Star Awards during the 2022 TSPRA Annual Conference.

Each year, the TSPRA Star Awards ceremony honors outstanding efforts by individuals, school districts and education foundations for their contributions towards school communications and public relations. TSPRA itself is a professional organization whose members include public information, public relations, and marketing professionals from around the state. TSPRA and its around 1,000 members are dedicated towards improving public education in Texas by implementing effective communications strategies between families and public schools. These strategies are then shared at the annual TSPRA conference with other education agencies statewide via a series of case study presentations and demonstrations over the course of four days.

"I am proud of our Communications Department and the efforts they have put forth to earn such statewide recognition," said CISD Superintendent Dr. Tory C. Hill. "I can attest first hand that our communications team are working very diligently around the district to tell the unique stories of our students and staff."



Among the various accolades, the CISD Department of Communications earned a Gold Star Award in the following categories: Calendar/Planner, Print Materials in a Language Other than English, Social Media Campaign, and Published News Release. The department also earned an additional four Silver Star Awards and three Bronze Star Awards.

"Communicating to the Channelview ISD families, staff and community is a task I do not take lightly," said CISD Director of Communications Lila Hollin. "It's an honor to represent this district and a privilege to tell CISD stories."

Channelview ISD Press Oce
Director Of Communications
Lila Hollin lila.hollin@cvisd.org

GALENA PARK ISD NEWS

Cimarron Elementary Teacher is our Finalist at 2022 HAABE Teacher of the year

Congratulations to Ms. Cipriani for being such an amazing teacher! Mr. Minerva Cipriani is one of our 2022 HAABE TOY Finalist. The winner will be announced at the HAABE Teacher of the Year Banquet on Saurday, April 30th, 2022. Visit the official website haabe.org to buy your tickets.

Good luck to all the finalist!



CHARLOTTE'S WEB

By Charlotte Jackson



Disappointments are for a Season

Looking around the arena, I saw so many young people who by no choice of their own grew up in a single parent household. Somehow, they had to learn to handle the responsibilities of life as well as the disappointments that came their way. Some of them had already become parents while others were already living a life as a parent even though they had never had children.

More and more statistics show the number of children who grow up with at least one absent parent, sometimes both. The children are left to observe the role that is traditionally assigned to their gender by watching others in the community, sometimes in their family and sometimes not. Many times these young children have to miss out on opportunities to be involved in extra-curricular activities simply due to lack of funds.

I remember seeing the frustration on two young men's faces when I had a flat tire one day and while both wanted to help, neither had been shown how to change a tire. Another time, I watched as a young man tried to tie his tie for a formal event. I saw the pain in a young girl's eyes when she said that she could not imagine dating a man, as all of the strong people she knew were single moms. One young man was too ashamed to admit his father had been in prison most of his life, so he lied and said his father was dead. One young girl, so hurt from the abandonment she had known after her mother left shortly before her seventh birthday that by 14, she had two miscarriages and an abortion. She longed to someone to love her. For some, they try to mask the pain by joking all of the time. Others run to gangs or some other group to try to learn without being ridiculed.

It takes great courage to tell someone you do not know how to do something. Today, when so many hurting people are out here, we have to be ready to love them unconditionally and to listen to what they are not saying. Yes, we must learn to read between the lines. It takes time. It takes us away from our own agenda. Sometimes it even cost us money. Many times we end up hurt and disappointed by those we care for. Yet someone must be willing to reach out and love on this generation. Someone must be willing to teach them how to tie a tie, change a tire, teach them to cook and other things we take for granted such as paying bills. By the time they graduate even from high school, many have felt more pain than our generation feels at the age of 50. Someone must teach them to learn to trust others. Someone has to teach them to learn about faith. Someone must teach them about love and unconditional acceptance. Someone must teach them that disappointments are for a season but blessings are for a lifetime. Will you join me today in being SOMEONE?

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Happy 60th Birthday Greetings from Ana Hernandez to Charlotte Jackson



Happy Birthday, Charlotte.
Victor Trevino II and I were glad to join your family and friends today to celebrate you.
Thank you for everything you do in the Channelview and North Shore area for seniors, youth & families
We love you and cherish your friendship!
--Ana Hernandez

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LETTERS To The Editor

Martha Cantu-Perez running for GP Commissioner

Dear Citizens of Galena Park,

My name is Martha Cantu-Perez and I am running to become the Commissioner for Position 3 of Parks and Recreation. I am a High School graduate of Galena Park and have lived here for 45 years. From 2017-2019 I was the Director of the Community Building. As Director I brought different programs to our city. I organized and participated in events such as the senior citizens luncheon that was held every Friday, the 7 weeks of fun, soccer games. In addition, I started the repairs on the swimming pool and community building.

My vision is focused on bringing more programs for our citizens to participate in. I plan to create a committee of volunteers who are involved in our community to bring new program ideas for discussion and creation. Many of our seniors are no longer able to drive and have become isolated. I hope to purchase a small bus which will be used to transport them to various activities. Among those activities I will be working with the schools to bring dances back for our students and senior citizens. Several of our citizens have requested recycling. Once in office this will be one of many programs I plan to implement. Re-establishing public financing and efficient use of department funds, will help bring more activities to our city

Galena Park is a wonderful town to raise a family. Unfortunately, until the city council confronts the mayor the quality of life that every citizen deserves will never be realized. Unlike our current administration, I have no special interest groups to sway my vote. I will be an active independent member of the city council. Let's take a step forward to the future and eliminate the power, control, and self-interests of the current administration. I am hopeful that the residents will give me the opportunity to serve them and elect me as Commissioner of Parks and Recreation Position 3. My passion has always been to serve my community and I am committed to seeing our town prosper.

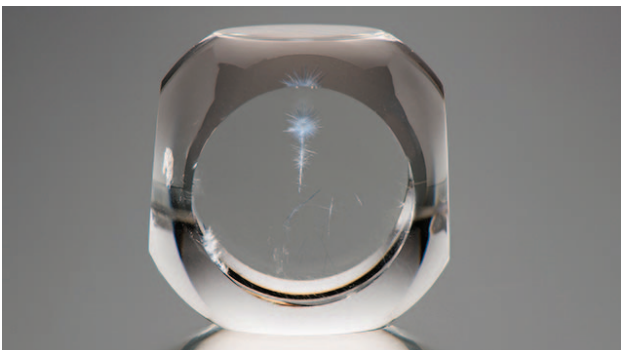
Kind regards,
Martha Perez

ASK DIAMOND JIM

Diamond Jim: Are Inclusions in Stones always a bad Thing?

When shopping for a diamond or other clear stone, we usually like stones that do not show any inclusions to the naked eye. Most people prefer a clear stone that is well cut and polished. The absence of inclusions is further defined within the 4c as "Clarity". However, the presence of inclusions is not always a bad thing.

A diamond or other stone that has an internal characteristic or inclusion can give us insight into how it was created. And, in a few rare cases, the inclusion may even add value to the stone because of how unique the inclusion is, such as the shape, size or color of the inclusion(s).



This is a picture of a cube shaped clear quartz stone that has been polished on all six sides. Inside the stone crystal is a collection of connected light blue needles. From a distance it seems to resemble the floating seed canopy of a dandelion. These needle-like inclusions were created within the stone under great pressure, heat, and time. Stones that contain such beautiful features are truly unique from all other stones. This quartz was shaped and polished specifically to show off the incredible display of blue needles as being this stone's greatest asset.

The really amazing thing that an inclusion or two offers us verification that no two diamonds, or any other stone, are exactly the same. Just like people, all gemstones are different and unique from one another. So, the next time you shop for a diamond or other stone, ask the jeweler if they could magnify the stone so that you can see its internal characteristics or inclusions. I think you will be surprised at just how amazing inclusions can be.

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

Diamond Jim is a master jeweler, diamond dealer and precious metals broker. Pineforest Jewelry has been a proud member of the Independent Jewelers Organization and the Retail Jewelers Organization for many years. See more at: www.pineforestjewelry.com.

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.

"Yes!"



in a flash!



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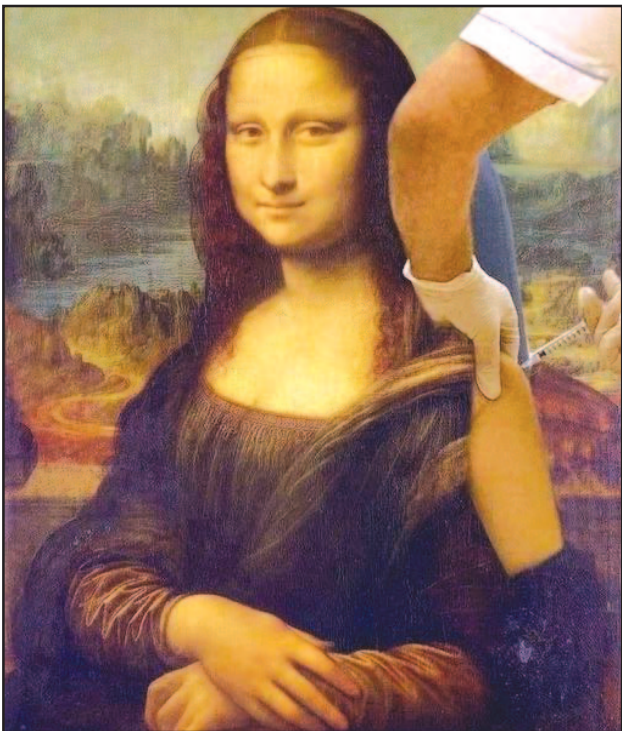
844-408-1013

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OPINION

By Dr. L. T. Tan, Ph.D
Immunization Action Coalition

Don't forget your Flu shot!



We celebrate the anniversary of the first COVID-19 vaccines this winter—and progress in controlling the virus. With vaccines readily available and recommended for everyone age 5 years and older, more people are traveling and returning to school and work.

While we welcome the return of more human connection, one unwelcome consequence is an increase in influenza activity. With COVID-19 prevention measures in place, the 2020–21 influenza season was marked by historically low influenza virus circulation. However, influenza activity is on the rebound for 2021–22. With the return of influenza comes both mild and severe illness in all ages, including infants, pregnant people, older adults, and people with chronic health conditions.

Influenza vaccines are readily available. However, vaccination rates for influenza and other routinely recommended vaccines have dropped substantially compared to last year and the year before. Lower vaccination rates for influenza with widespread circulation of influenza viruses could increase the magnitude of the wave of sick people requiring virus testing, outpatient visits, lost school time, and hospitalizations, further taxing our healthcare workers and causing unnecessary illness and suffering.

For many reasons, including the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, we are seeing a decline in influenza vaccination rates to date in all age groups and pregnant people. Comparing the week ending November 27, 2021, with the same time last season, vaccination rates are 7 percentage points lower for all children this season, 14 percentage points lower for pregnant persons, and 17 percentage points lower in the Medicare fee-for-service >65 population. And fewer people have been vaccinated at their pharmacy or doctor's offices compared to this time last year. Not surprisingly, the numbers are even lower for children and adults in racial and ethnic minority communities.

We must act quickly to turn this around.

While influenza disease burden is low right now, we're seeing outbreaks return, mostly in southern states and on college campuses. Now is the time to vaccinate. While influenza most often peaks in February, influenza can spread very quickly once transmission starts in an institution or community setting.

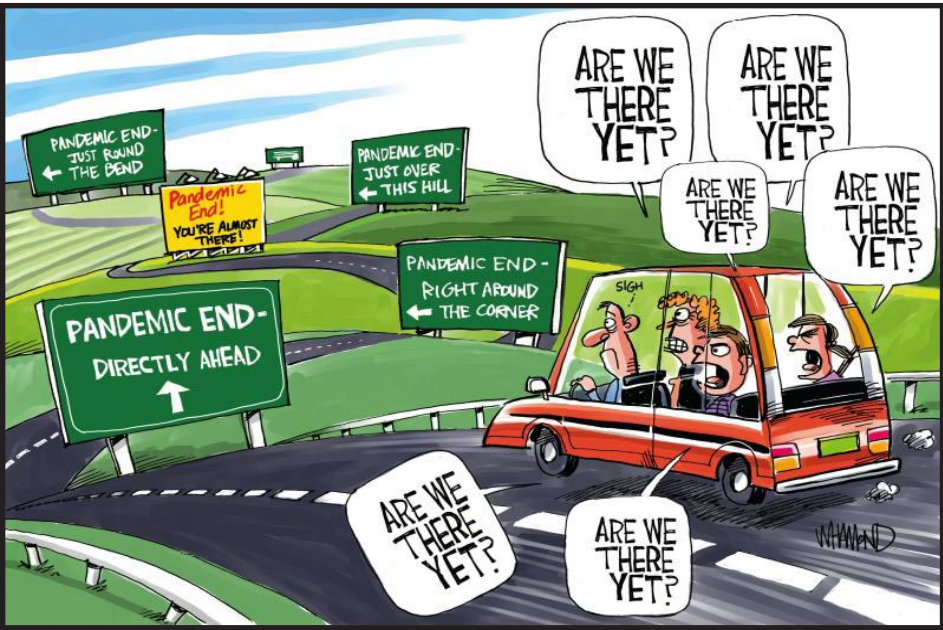
The burden of influenza is not to be taken lightly. While it varies widely each year, the CDC estimates that in the last decade, each influenza season has resulted in anywhere from 9 to 41 million illnesses, 140,000 to 710,000 hospitalizations, and 12,000 to 52,000 deaths. The average annual total economic burden due to influenza is estimated to be \$11.2 billion.

Healthcare providers' reminders and recommendations are key to improving uptake of vaccines, including influenza. Recent surveys from the National Foundation for Infectious Disease show that less than half of adults with a chronic condition report having received an influenza vaccine as of early November. Additionally, less than a third of healthcare providers say they recommend annual influenza vaccines to all of their patients with chronic health conditions.

With many people focused on getting COVID-19 vaccine boosters for themselves or COVID-19 vaccine primary series for their children, influenza vaccination must be on the to-do list as well.

Influenza and COVID-19 vaccines may be given at the same time, a practice that CDC has advised is both safe and effective. Co-administering vaccines is key to helping patients get caught up on needed vaccines efficiently while reducing unnecessary visits.

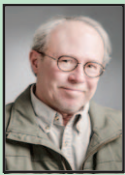
Time is of the essence. Vaccinate now, before the wave of influenza season begins its seasonal surge.



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STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Gary Borders



Sheriff's Deputy Dies in Wildfires near Dallas

An Eastland County sheriff's deputy died Thursday as wildfires swept through several small Texas communities west of Dallas, destroying at least 50 homes and charring more than 54,000 acres as of Sunday.

Deputy Sgt. Barbara Fenley died while going door to door warning people to flee, according to the [Austin American-Statesman](#).

Sgt. Fenley ran off a smoke-covered road and was engulfed in the fire, the sheriff said.

Several wildfires merged to form what is now known as the Eastland Complex fire. The blaze started last Thursday afternoon and in less than three hours destroyed 86 houses in Carbon, a town of just 272 residents in Eastland County, about 120 miles west of Dallas.

Gov. Greg Abbott issued a disaster declaration for 11 counties in response to the wildfires.

"I commend the hard work and selfless acts of thousands of first responders and firefighters who are risking their own lives to protect our communities," Abbott said. "I also ask Texans to join me in praying for those who have been affected by these wildfires, including Eastland County Deputy Barbara Fenley, who was tragically killed while trying to save lives."

TWO DOZEN TEACHERS ADDED TO TASK FORCE

The Texas Education Agency has added two dozen teachers to its recently formed Teacher Vacancy Task Force. TEA faced criticism when the original 28-member panel only contained two teachers, with high-level administrators making up the rest.

The task force was formed at the behest of Abbott in response to a growing shortage of teachers across the state. Its goal is to "better understand the significant staffing challenges facing Texas public schools and to make comprehensive recommendations to address these issues," according to TEA.

Josue Torres of Forney, an elementary school math teacher from Dallas ISD, will serve as chair of the task force.

"The reason I got into education is because I believe that a student's zip code shouldn't determine his or her fate," Torres said. "This task force has the ability to recommend the needed changes and innovative solutions necessary to ensure all Texas students have access to the high-quality educators they deserve."



2021 SECOND-DEADLIEST YEAR ON TEXAS ROADS

Traffic fatalities in the state were up 15% last year, making 2021 the second-deadliest year on Texas roads with 4,480 people killed — the highest total since 1981, according to the Texas Department of Transportation.

Commissioner Laura Ryan pointed out that roadway safety is a shared responsibility between the public, engineers and law enforcement.

In 2021, 1,522 people died because of speed-related causes, and 1,219 were killed because they were not wearing seat belts, Ryan said.

"Driver behavior is one of the causes but also one of the most important solutions," she said.

With increased focus on engineering, enforcement and on the critical role drivers play in road safety, Ryan and TxDOT leaders believe the state can end the streak of daily deaths on Texas roadways. [#EndTheStreakTX](#) is a broad social media and word-of-mouth effort that encourages drivers to make safer choices while behind the wheel, such as wearing a seat belt, driving the speed limit, never texting and driving, and never driving under the influence of alcohol or other drugs.

The last deathless day on Texas roadways was more than 21 years ago — Nov. 7, 2000.

NOMINATIONS SOUGHT FOR HEROES FOR CHILDREN AWARD

Thousands of Texas volunteer at the state's public schools, and the State Board of Education would like to recognize some of them with a Heroes for Children Award. Any Texas resident who contributes time, service or support to public schools and student can be nominated. School employees or elected officials are not eligible.

One recipient will be chosen for each of the 15 SBOE districts in the state. Award recipients will be recognized at the board's September meeting. The deadline for nominations is July 15. Additional information and access to the nomination form can be found at <https://tea.texas.gov/HeroesforChildren.aspx>.

COVID-19 CASES STILL DROPPING

The number of new COVID-19 cases dropped once again to 18,744 in the past week, according to the Coronavirus Resource Center at Johns Hopkins University, with 418 deaths recorded. Two months ago, largely as a result of the omicron variant, 440,341 cases were reported along with 2,311 deaths.

The number of lab-confirmed COVID-19 hospitalizations also dropped to 1,605, according to the [Texas Department of State Health Services](#), down 20% from the previous week.

DSHS reports 17.373 million Texans are fully vaccinated, which is 59.6% of the total population. In addition, 6,429 million of the state's residents have received a booster dose.

Gary Borders is a veteran award-winning Texas journalist. He published a number of community newspapers in Texas during a 30-year span, including in Longview, Fort Stockton, Nacogdoches and Cedar Park. Email: gborders@texaspress.com.

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THE POSTSCRIPT

By Carrie Classon

Patron of Arts

My landlord, Jorge, is a patron of the arts.

When I imagine a patron of the arts, I imagine some fabulously wealthy person in the past, supporting the creation of art in Italy or New York—someone with an impossibly luxurious lifestyle, maybe with a couple of designer dogs on diamond leashes standing at attention nearby.

None of this sounds much like Jorge. Jorge runs a small hotel in San Miguel de Allende, Mexico, and spends most days either repotting plants or greeting customers.

But I don't know what else to call him because, for more than a week now, he's kept three artists working full-time. They show up with paints and brushes and they work all day (except for a lunch break on the roof).

They started out by making more suns. When my husband, Peter, and I checked into his hotel, Jorge had 2,504 smiling sun faces hanging from every wall of the courtyard. The artists made another dozen sun faces, some of which look like superhero suns, and I assumed that was why they were here—maybe there was a goal to hit 3,000 by year's end. What do I know?

But the artists never left. Yesterday, they showed up with two enormous blank canvases and set them up in the courtyard. I was terribly curious about what they were up to, but was afraid figuring that out would require more Spanish than I could manage.

I eventually learned that these canvases were going into hotel rooms. Depictions of the town's skyline, with the stunning 17th century gothic church, were being painted on both and, naturally, there would be a smiling sun in the bright blue sky. The artists were working from little photos Jorge provided, but the photos were small and fuzzy, in black and white and, of course, there were no smiling suns in the photos.

I think it's a wonderful idea. The artists are down in the courtyard right now and appear to be having an excellent time. I see these artists working away and it touches my heart.

"Where does Jorge get his money?" Peter wanted to know.

Peter worries that we are not paying Jorge enough and when the eight-room hotel is not full, Peter frets that Jorge will go out of business. But Jorge has been doing this a long time, so I tell Peter not to worry.

I was walking through the artisan market, as I do almost every day, when I saw a hand-painted T-shirt that I loved. I told the young woman running the shop that I loved it, but it was too big.

"Eduardo could make you a smaller one," she told me in Spanish.

"Eduardo?" She pointed to the T-shirt. At the corner of the artwork, there was a signature. It said, "Ed."

"Oh! Does Eduardo paint all the clothing here?"

"Yes!" The young woman said enthusiastically. "Eduardo... or his mother."

That sealed it. I had to have a T-shirt now that I knew it would be personally painted by Eduardo... or his nameless mother. In a world where so much of what I experience and own is so much the same, it's wonderful to know there are artists out there, making beautiful things one at a time.

My T-shirt was finished four days later and I've been wearing it nearly nonstop. I don't think this makes me a patron of the arts, certainly not on Jorge's level, but it thrills me to know I have a shirt that is exactly like no other and that I provided a little work for Eduardo... or his mother.

Till next time,
Carrie

Carrie Classon's memoir is called "Blue Yarn." Learn more at CarrieClasson.com.

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Production Manager.....Gerardo Hernandez

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WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

Sylvia Mendez awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

tend schools that were designated for “Whites” only and were sent to the so-called “Mexican schools.” The school principal when denying Sylvia to attend said, “Her skin is too dark for her to attend here.” And told her parents she'd have to attend Hoover Elementary that was a two-room wooden shack in the middle of the city's Mexican neighborhood, along with the other Hispanics.

When Sylvia Mendez was denied enrollment to a “WHITES ONLY” school, that event prompted her parents to take action and together organized various sectors of the Hispanic community who filed a lawsuit in the local federal court. The success of their action, of which Sylvia was the principal catalyst, would eventually bring to an end the era of segregated education.

On May 23, 2018, the school Sylvia was denied to attend the board of Berke-



Sylvia Mendez when she was 8 years old.



Felicitas Gómez Martínez de Mendez & Gonzalo Méndez parents of Sylvia Mendez.

ley Unified School District voted unanimously to rename Le Conte Elementary School, Sylvia Mendez Elementary School. The school is a Spanish-English two-way immersion school. Mendez has been a spokesperson at Berkeley schools and her story has been inspirational to Berkeley students, teachers, and parents.

Houston watches, worries for Griner in Russian jail

Brittney Griner, all-star WNBA basketball center, continues to be held in a Russian jail, after her arrest on Feb. 17 at Sheremetyevo airport near Moscow. Russian authorities charged her with possessing vape cartridges with hashish oil, an illegal drug. Reports say that her trial has been set for May 19.

Griner is well known in the Houston area, having played during her school years for Nimitz High, and later for Baylor University. She is considered by many as the best basketball player in the WNBA, where she currently plays for the Phoenix Mercury. Griner is a 7 time WNBA All-Star center, and a 2 time Olympic Gold Medalist. During the off-season, she has been playing in Russia for the UMMC Ekaterinburg team, since 2014.

Friends and former teammates in the Aldine area have expressed con-



Griner in Russian Jail



cern about her well-being while held in a Russian jail. Reportedly she has had limited contact with American officials, mostly through her attorney team. Observers feel that the current situation in

Ukraine may make her arrest and incarceration more difficult, and have pressed the U.S. government to take a more active role in her case.

The arrest of this high profile professional athlete has attracted national attention from media and officials. Recently her high school coach, Nimitz girls basketball coach Debbie Jackson, was interviewed on ABC network for her recollections and career information about Griner. Others, such as Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee, have spoken out for our government to more strongly intervene on Griner's behalf.

EDITOR'S NOTE: If you would like to share your recollections or stories or well-wishes about Griner, you can send them to this newspaper at nenewsroom@aol.com and we will publish a select few for our readers and Griner's friends.

Galena Park Boys Soccer wins District & Bi-District Playoff
GP Yellowjackets 2 – LaPorte Bulldogs 0



#10 Fernando Mendoza GP senior Yellowjacket scores games 2 points to advance team to 5A Region 3 & 4 Area Play contest. (Photo by Linda Jamail)

Rep. Sylvia Garcia secures \$10mil for Houston, South Houston, Galena Park and Jacinto City Projects

Washington, D.C. – Congresswoman Sylvia Garcia (TX-29) voted to pass the historic \$1.5 trillion Bipartisan Omnibus Appropriations Bill. As part of the package, 9 Community Project Funding (CPF) requests led by Congresswoman Sylvia Garcia were secured. The bill's transformative investment will help Texas families with cost-of-living increases, good-paying jobs, and local community projects.

“I was proud to secure nearly \$10,200,000 in Community Project Funding for Houstonians across our community,” said Congresswoman Garcia. “These critical funds will invest in local neighborhoods, strengthen communities, and foster economic development for Texans. This will improve our district and benefit all district residents for years to come.”

The legislation includes the following Community Project Funding secured by Congresswoman Sylvia Garcia:

— Project: City of Galena Park Water Line and Fire Protection Improvements

Amount: \$3,000,000

Background: This project would replace and upgrade the aging system and allow the city to guarantee delivery of potable water to residents and provide adequate firewater in case of fire. The project would replace over 52,000 linear feet of water mains and install over 100 new fire hydrants for fire protection.

—Project: Asian American Health Coalition of Greater Houston, d/b/a HOPE Clinic, Houston, TX for a health initiative, including facilities and equipment

Amount: \$1,000,000

Background: The funding would be used to develop a school-based clinic at Aldine Middle School. The clinic would deliver both physical and mental health services to the nearly 16,000 in the school's feeder patterns.

—Project: South Side Water Main & Fire Hydrant Construction
Amount: \$997,365



Background: This water infrastructure project will replace existing 80-year-old water mains serving a region from Market Street to Lane Street. This will

yield a significant increase in water flow and pressure to ensure access to potable water and required water pressure for fire protection.

—Project: YMCA of Greater Houston, TX for the Early Childhood English Language Learner Initiative

Amount: \$700,000

Background: The project proposes to create and pilot the Early Childhood English Language Learner Initiative/ECLELI that aims to support the success of English Learners enrolled in licensed childcare facilities and home childcare programs in underserved communities.

—Project: The Houston Financial Empowerment Center (HFEC)

Amount: \$621,000

Background: The HFEC

launched in January 2020 as a free, on-demand, professional financial counseling service for all Houstonians regardless of income, employment status, or resident status. The professionally trained counselors help individuals manage their finances, pay down debt, increase savings, establish and build credit, and access safe and affordable mainstream banking products. The program has three locations, including the Magnolia Park Multi-Service Center.

—Project: TXRX LABS, Houston, TX for employment and training activities, an apprenticeship program, and a youth STEM initiative.

Amount: \$550,000

Background: The project proposes to train more than 150 veterans and second-chance residents, and service another 75 adults through the apprenticeship programs. The youth STEM initiative will train over 500 local high school kids in innovative and relevant job skills for the future of our workforce.

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LEGAL NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE OF TEST OF AUTOMATIC TABULATING EQUIPMENT

Notice is hereby given that the automatic tabulating equipment that will be used in the Crosby Municipal Utility District Election for Maintenance Tax for the District to be held on May 7, 2022 will be tested on Wednesday, April 6, 2022 at 2:00 PM at 103 W. Wahl, Crosby, Texas 77532 to ascertain that it will accurately count the votes cast for all offices and on all measures.

JoAnn Matthiesen
District's Election Agent

AVISO PÚBLICO DE PRUEBA DEL EQUIPO DE TABULACIÓN AUTOMÁTICA

Por la presente, se da aviso que el equipo de tabulación automática que será utilizado en la Elección del Distrito Municipal de Servicios Públicos de Crosby para el Impuesto de Mantenimiento para el Distrito, que se celebrará el 7 de mayo de 2022, será sometido a una prueba el miércoles 6 de abril de 2022 a las 2:00 PM en 103 W. Wahl, Crosby, Texas 77532, para averiguar que dicho equipo contará con precisión los votos emitidos para todos los puestos y todas las medidas.

JoAnn Matthiesen
Agente del Distrito para la Elección

THÔNG BÁO CÔNG KHAI VỀ VIỆC THỬ NGHIỆM THIẾT BỊ LÂM BẢNG TỰ ĐỘNG

Nay thông báo rằng máy đếm tự động xử dụng trong Cuộc Bầu Cử Thuế Bảo Trì cho Khu Vực vào ngày 7 tháng Năm 2022 của Khu Vực Tien Nghi Công Cộng Crosby sẽ được thử nghiệm vào lúc 2 giờ chiều thứ Tư ngày 6 năm 2022 tháng Tư tại 103 W. Wahl, Crosby, Texas 77532 để chắc chắn rằng máy sẽ đếm chính xác số phiếu bầu cho mọi chức vụ và mọi mục đích.

Jo Ann Matthiesen
Viên Chức Bầu Cử của Khu Vực

自动计票统计设备测试公告

特此通知, 将2022于 4 月 6 日星期三下午 2:00 在103 W. Wahl, Crosby, Texas 77532对在2022 年 5 月 7 日举行的克罗斯比市政公用事业区维护税选举中使用的自动制表设备进行测试, 以确定其能够准确计算所有部门和所有提案的投票。

JoAnn Matthiesen
地区选举经办人

NOTICE OF SALE

Notice is hereby given pursuant to Chapter 59 of the Texas Property Code that CROSBY BOAT, RV & MINI STORAGE, located at 15118A FM 2100, Crosby Texas 77532, will hold an online sale from March 28th to April 4th until 10:00 o'clock a.m., at the following link <http://wbuctioncrosby.hibid.com/auction/current> to sell for cash only the contents of Unit A-5 and Unit B-9, Joetta Stevens in order to satisfy a Landlord's Lien. The property to be sold is Bicycles, Motorcycle, Furniture, Tools, Household items and etc.....

11-2T

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LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that Original Letters Testamentary for Docket No. 500965; Estate of GISELA H. GAEKE Deceased; In Probate Court No. 2 of Harris County, Texas, were issued on MARCH 3, 2022.

JOHNNY O. GAEKE

The residence address of the administrator is in Harris County, Texas. The mailing address is:

c/o Weston Cotten
1500 E. Wallisville Road
Highlands, TX 77562

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law. Dated this MARCH 28, 2022.

Weston Cotten
by WESTON COTTEN
Attorney for the Estate

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Channelview ISD Awards

The Channelview ISD TCLAS Decision 4a: Grow Your Own Grant Scholarship

Channelview ISD awarded the following paraprofessionals the Channelview ISD TCLAS Decision 4a: Grow Your Own Grant Scholarship.

Nitzya Mendez, Edith Elizondo, Daniela Alvarado, Brenda Watts, Benito Mares

The grant funds are to be used for tuition and expenses they accrue while pursuing their bachelor's degree with teacher certification. They will receive \$18,000 over the course of two years, which equates to \$4,500 per semester.



Brenda Watts Awarded



Edith Elizondo Awarded



Benito Mares Awarded



Nitzya Mendez Awarded



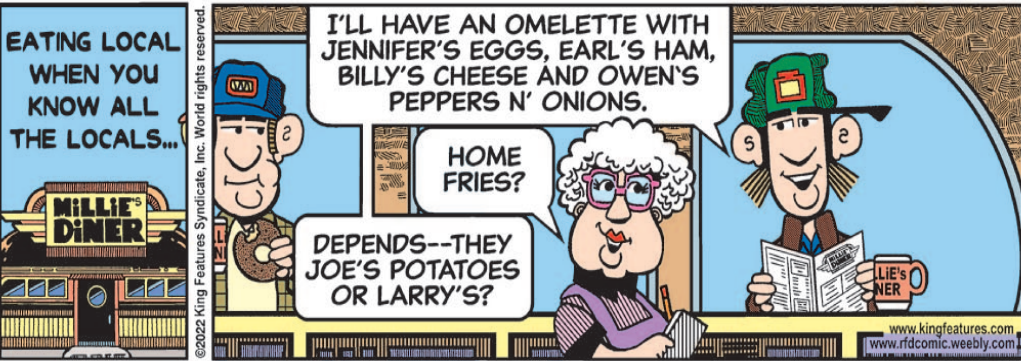
Daniela Alvarado Awarded

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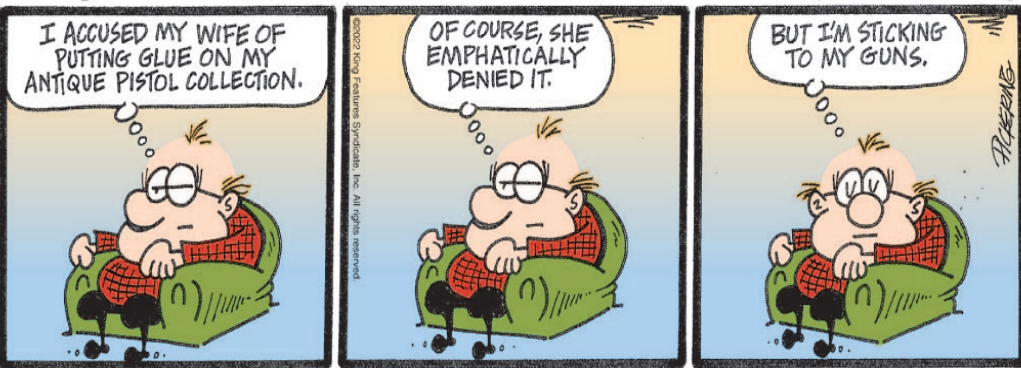
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R.F.D.



The Spats



Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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 BOLTINGOFF

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

Differences: 1. Hat is different. 2. Bush is missing. 3. Arm is moved. 4. Shirt is different. 5. Valentine is missing. 6. Poster is missing. 7. Tail is missing. 8. Tail is missing. 9. Tail is missing. 10. Tail is missing.

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March 28, 2022 Posting Date

King Crossword

ACROSS

1 Bar legally

6 Decorator's theme

11 Floodgate

12 Apple music service

14 Maidens of myth

15 Nap

16 Doctrine

17 Varieties

19 Up to

20 Casual tops

22 — Paulo

23 Optimum

24 Passover repast

26 Heller and Conrad

28 Chips go-with

30 Small barrel

31 High-ranking angels

35 Nintendo princess

39 Neural transmitter

40 Snitch

42 Eye drop

43 Spasm

44 Croc's kin

46 GI's address

47 Runs off to wed

49 Transforms (into)

51 Safe and sound

6 Identified incorrectly

7 Elevator name abbr.

9 Foot part

10 Fixation

11 Tizzies

13 Mariners

18 British rule of India

21 Auto style

23 Sire

25 Shred

27 "— who?"

29 Sentence parts

31 Fills up

32 Driven out

33 Highly ornate

34 Perched

36 Figure skater, at times

37 Author du Maurier

38 Got up

41 Actress Marisa

44 Richard of "Chicago"

45 Crucifix

48 Young dog

50 HDTV brand

DOWN

1 Parisian palace

2 Tallied

3 Bit of advice

4 Folksinger Phil

5 Mexican money

6 Dawn-of-mammals epoch

7 Ninnies

8 "— you!" (challenger's cry)

1 Parisian palace

2 Tallied

3 Bit of advice

4 Folksinger Phil

5 Mexican money

6 Dawn-of-mammals epoch

7 Ninnies

8 "— you!" (challenger's cry)

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Trivia Test Answers

1. A term used to describe the natives or residents of a country, state or city: 2. Swimmer's ear; 3. Black Sea; 4. Almonds; 5. Robert Frost; 6. One-eighth of a circle, or 45 degrees; 7. Tail; 8. Porcupette; 9. Skipper; 10. Ireland

King Crossword

Solution time: 21 mins.

Answers

1. Bar legally

6. Decorator's theme

11. Floodgate

12. Apple music service

14. Maidens of myth

15. Nap

16. Doctrine

17. Varieties

19. Up to

20. Casual tops

22. — Paulo

23. Optimum

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37. Author du Maurier

38. Got up

41. Actress Marisa

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