

NORTH CHANNEL★STAR

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

NS Rotary FISH FRY May 14th

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

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

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

Jacinto City Nite Market May 14

Monthly Market by Night at the Jacinto City Town Center. Saturday, May 14th, 5pm - 9pm.

Vendors should Contact City Hall for information and an application for a booth.

Channelview ISD offering \$3,000 Hiring Incentive for New Teachers

April 19, 2022—The Channelview ISD Board of Trustees approved a new hiring incentive to any new educator who signs-on to become a teacher for Channelview ISD for 3 years, new teachers will be entitled up to \$3,000 in hiring incentives.

New secondary teachers who are certified to teach Spanish will get \$6,000 over 3 years. They will receive \$2,000 every year for 3 years. This incentive is for new teachers who sign-on as of April 19, 2022. The hiring incentive is given out in increments of \$1,000 per academic school year for three years, pending good standing with campus administrators and the Channelview ISD Department of Human Resources. All teacher contracts must be signed by August 17, 2022 to qualify for the incentive.

Channelview ISD will be hosting a job fair to recruit talented educators and paraprofessionals on Friday, April 22 at Channelview High School from 5:30 p.m. until 8 p.m.

For more information, please contact our Department of Human Resources at (281) 452-8016.

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NEWSPAPER

Rotary prepares for Fish Fry on May 14

NORTH CHANNEL – The members of the North Shore Rotary Club are hard at work, preparing for their 47th Annual “Catfish Fry & Crawfish Boil.”

This annual event raises hundreds of thousands of dollars each year, for the scholarships and community organizations that the Rotary Club supports.

Fish Fry chairman Ken Wimbley stated that this year is expected to be bigger and better than ever, now that most people have weathered the Pandemic and returned to normal activities and interests.

The Fish Fry will take place Saturday, May 14 at the Rotary Pavilion on Wallisville, behind the



The winner of the Raffle will have a choice of a Toyota Tacoma pickup truck or a Toyota Camry. In addition, there will be 20 prizes in the drawing.

courthouse. The event will start in the morning, and last all day.

Attendees can enjoy a delicious crawfish lunch, while they participate in the silent or live auction, and hope their ticket comes up in the drawing.

The Grand Prize in the

raffle is a choice of a new Toyota Tacoma pickup truck, or a Toyota Camry sedan. Given the scarcity of new cars from the factories this year, this would be a great opportunity.

Additional prizes in the raffle include a whole hog,

a custom grille and firepit from the Sheldon FFA, HoustonRodeo tickets, Sports tickets, Deluxe Fireworks package, an Apple iPad mini, a Yeti Cooler, and a gift package to a restaurant.

Tickets are available

from most every Rotarian, and local stores such as Pineforest Jewelry, CommunityBank of Texas, Crawfish Shack, Dr. Nino's office, North Channel Chamber office, Phase 3 Embroidery, and Woodforest Bank.

You can also call for more tickets information, to Ken Wimbley 832-435-1348.

Major corporate sponsors of the event include KNCS Services, Channelview ISD Education Foundation, Community Toyota, Galena Park ISD Education Foundation, San Jacinto College Foundation, and Blue Northern A/C.

GPISD Hosts: All Earth Ecobot Challenge Day

By Allan Jamail

Saturday, April 23, 2022 at the GPISD North Shore High School six school districts and a charter school sent their elementary and middle school students to compete in the 2021-2022 All-Earth Ecobot Challenge to, “Reduce Reuse Recycle Rethink”.

School districts from Aldine, Alief, Cleveland, Galena Park, Houston, Humble and charter schools of Academy of Accelerated Learning and Beatrice Mays Institute sent students. There were fifty separate student classes from the districts



Charter School Academy of Accelerated Learning located on Chimney Rock. Centered black shirts L – R: Jacqueline Moreno, Director for Elementary Math and Science, Galena Park ISD & Joe Paneitz, Owner Aha Education, LLC - www.myahamoments.org & Humble ISD Curriculum Director and Lead Teacher, All-Earth Ecobot Challenge, www.ecobotchallenge.com. Students L - R: Giosela Garcia, Haroon Abbas, Yukon Gebremichael, Jesús López, Katherine Puac, Alexa Romero, Keila Tol, Daniel Romero, Jesús López, Leandro Santa María, Ashlin Pineda, Andy Rios. Their team's names were Eclipse, Nebula, and Supernova. Teacher Sylvia Perez (not pictured). (Photo by Allan Jamail)

participating competing against each other in different fields of competition.

This year's competition board has been designed around ‘The Kingdom of Ecobot’ to answer those questions and learn more about the green and alternative technologies that exist today.

The Kingdom of Ecobot Highlights,

EcoBot Architect - This year's EcoBot Challenge, you are challenged to build a mini-house made of recycled material. Students were challenged to be an

Continued on Page 7

Election Day May 7 for amendments, School boards & bonds

HARRIS COUNTY– Voters will go to the polls on Saturday, May 7 which is Election Day. Only a few items will be on the ballot this time.

Two Texas Constitutional Amendments deal with limiting taxes on residential property, and school bond issues will be voted on in Sheldon and Huffman. In addition, there is an election of two trustees for the Galena

Park ISD board.

In Crosby's Newport subdivision, three MUD board members will be elected. Running are incumbents Earl Boykin, Debra Florus, and DeLonne Johnson. Also running is newcomer John Webb.

Candidates for Galena Park ISD board include for Position 3 Juan Flores,

Continued on Page 3

PCT. 3 COMM. RAMSEY INHERITS SJR WASTE PITS PROBLEMS

HARRIS COUNTY – After realignment of Precinct Boundaries this year, the East side of the county found Highlands split in two, with Pct. 3 on the west side of Main Street, and Pct. 2 on the east side. As a result, the area got a new Commissioner, Tom Ramsey. He is now in charge of roads and bridges, drainage, parks, community centers, and work camps that once belong to Pct. 2 and Commissioner Adrian Garcia. In this opinion

piece written for his Notes column, Ramsey opines about the San Jacinto Waste Pits and his take on the problem they present. Ramsey writes:

“In the 1960's a paper manufacturer dumped their waste into pits near the San Jacinto River. The waste was filled with harmful chemicals including the carcinogen called Dioxin. As the course of the river changed, the pits be

Continued on Page 5



**PCT 3 COMMISSIONER
TOM RAMSEY**

LyondellBasell will close Pasadena Refinery

HOUSTON, April 21, 2022 — LyondellBasell (NYSE: LYB) today announced its decision to cease operation of its Houston Refinery no later than December 31, 2023. In the interim, the Company will continue serving the fuels market, which is expected to remain strong in the near-term, and consider potential transactions and alternatives for the site.

“After thoroughly analyzing our options, we have determined that exiting the refining business by the end of next year is the best strategic and financial path forward for the Company,” said Ken Lane, interim CEO of LyondellBasell. “These decisions are never easy and



LyondellBasell will stop work at it's huge Pasadena Refinery by the end of 2023, according to the company. The sprawling plant covers 700 acres, the largest in the Houston area, and employs over 500 persons. The company said that the closure will not affect work at its other plants, including the Channelview complex.

we understand this has a very real impact on our refinery employees, their families and the community. We are committed to supporting our people through this transition.”

Lane added, “While this was a difficult decision, our exit of the refining business advances the Company's decarbonization goals, and the site's prime location gives us more options for advancing our future strategic objectives, including circularity.”

When media reached out to LyondellBasell about how many jobs would be impacted as a result, the company said “ap

*Continued. See
LyondellBasell, Page 5*

SHELDON ISD NEWS

Week of April 29, 2022

Sheldon names Jumana Mills principal of KASE Academy
Mrs. Jumana Mills has been named the new principal for Sheldon ISD’s KASE Academy.

In her 12 years as an educator at C.E. King High School, Mrs. Jumana Mills has served teachers, students, and parents in multiple capacities. She began her work as a teacher and later served as a counselor and MED Academy Principal before assuming her current role as associate principal of operations and student services. Mrs. Mills earned her Bachelor’s degree in Family and Consumer Science and a Master’s degree in Education and School Counseling from Lamar University. She is passionate about making a difference in the lives of her students.

“I believe that all children have the ability to be successful,” said Mrs. Mills. “I am looking forward to creating partnerships with our KASE Academy community to build upon the positive environment established that will have a lasting impact on our students’ learning and their personal growth.”

A native Houstonian, Mrs. Mills’ personal experiences and challenges as a young student motivated her to beat the odds and to become an example for others. Mrs. Mills will begin her new role as principal with the 2022-23 school year.



Early College High School welcomes Class of 2026

Sheldon ISD middle school students are initiated into Early College High School, which allows them to graduate with an associate degree from San Jacinto College, free of cost!

Thursday night, students from C.E King Middle School and Null Middle School walked the stage at the annual pinning ceremony initiating them into Sheldon ISD Early College High School (ECHS). By 2026 these students will have the opportunity to graduate with both their high school diploma and an associate degree from San Jacinto College, free of cost.

The ECHS new inductees walked across the Performing Arts Center (PAC) stage located at KHS and were greeted by Sheldon ISD superintendent Dr. King Davis. The students received two pins from administrators from San Jacinto College and ECHS to signify their dual enrollment, as well as a scholarship certificate that symbolizes the opportunity to earn an associate degree. Lastly, the students were given a red rose which symbolizes courage. The students were asked to give the rose to a parent or guardian as a gesture of appreciation for support.

Null Middle School student Lauren Roman had a large gathering of family and friends at the event to show their support.

“I’m extremely proud of my child. She is my second child to go to ECHS,” said Janie Espinoza.

Null Middle School student Ty Brown is ready for the next step and was accompanied by his parents Carl and Tawana. “I really do like this program because it takes two years off of my college and also I don’t have to pay for anything. That’s a free education that I am able to get from Early College,” says Ty.

“I’m really proud of this moment. He’s on an upward trajectory right now entering Early College,” said Ty’s father Carl. “He’s like an old soul. You have kids and you feel like you are supposed to teach them, but I have learned from him. So, I am happy to see the other successes that he’s going to have in life,” said Ty’s mother, Tawana.



Sheldon ISD is proud to offer a TEA-designated Early College High School. Sheldon ECHS serves students in grades 9 – 12 and is a school within a school located on the C. E. King High School campus. In partnership with San Jacinto College, ECHS offers students nine degree plans to choose from. Students at ECHS have the opportunity to earn an endorsement, a distinguished level of achievement diploma, a performance acknowledgement, and up to 60 college credit hours within four years of high school. At Sheldon ECHS students and staff are a family where all students are supported on their path to success.



Child Nutrition Director receives state award



Sheldon ISD Child Nutrition Director Robert Green has been named the School Nutrition Director of the Year. This award is presented by the Texas Association for School Nutrition and awarded for hard work and perseverance in school nutrition. Mr. Green will be recognized at the annual state conference in Dallas this summer.

Sheldon hosts C-STEM Challenge Day

Sheldon hosts C-STEM Challenge Day
On Saturday, April 23, Sheldon ISD hosted its annual C-STEM Challenge Day Competition. This event highlights the hard work of our afterschool STEM Program (C-STEM) and was the largest event to date with nine schools, 20 teams and 153 students from fourth through 12th grades. This year’s theme was “The World Water Challenge” with events in the areas of mural, sculpture, innovation and robotics.

C-STEM was founded by Dr. Reagan Flowers to help create a new generation of leaders and professionals in STEM through engaging projects in real world problem-solving with the integration of visual and creative arts and communication. This program is a great way to get students early exposure to STEM careers and hands-on fun to ignite a passion for Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics. This is Sheldon ISD’s third year to participate in the program.



GALENA PARK ISD NEWS

Congratulations to the GPHS Varsity Speech and Debate!

Our Varsity Speech and Debate is proud to announce the UIL State Advancement of two team members. Senior, Aaron Quintero and Freshman, Denneshae (DJ) Jones have both advanced to the UIL Speech and Debate State competition in Poetry interpretation. They will be competing at the University of Texas in Austin May 23-25. Coach Britni Wilson is extremely proud of her team’s success and is hopeful that they will return with State Hardware #GPIS-Dexcellence #UILState



Galena Park ISD Celebrates School Resource Officers

Galena Park ISD School Resource Officers (SROs) play an important part in our school community. They protect our schools, students, teachers and staff on a daily basis, but they also build meaningful relationships with our students and staff.

We will honor all 24 Galena Park ISD School Resource Officers and two K-9 canines for their dedication to our school district.

Today, we recognize Deputy Brad Batson! Read our Q&A with Deputy Batson below!

Galena Park ISD
CELEBRATES
School Resource Officers

Deputy Brad Batson- Precinct 3
Master Peace Officer
Location: Cunningham Middle School
16 years in Law Enforcement
15 years with Galena Park ISD

Q: What are some of your specific duties?
A: My daily job assignments include campus security and traffic control around Tice Elementary and Cunningham Middle School.

Q: What do you enjoy most about your job?
A: I really enjoy interacting with the students, staff and parents.

Q: Why do you give back to the community?
A: I have always had a passion for helping people, especially those less fortunate than myself.

CHANNELVIEW ISD NEWS

Teacher Appreciation Week

Today and for the rest of this week, we recognize our teachers and instructors who are, at this very moment, hard at work equipping our 9,500 students with the tools and resources necessary to actively promote their success academically and in real-world applications! Thank you for all that you do for building the foundations to lifelong learning and instilling a sense of community and teamwork to our students!



CHARLOTTE'S WEB

By Charlotte Jackson



One Thing in Common

There is one thing that all of us have in common. We all have a mother. Some of our mothers are still alive. Some mothers have passed away. Some women chose to give their children up for adoption. Some women long to become a mother.

Some mothers have had a rough time but provided for their children as best as they could. Some mothers made the decision that as difficult as it would be, sometimes by letting the child live with their father or another family member, it would provide opportunities for the child that the mother could not.

I have been blessed to have bonus daughters in my life. There is a group of young women who all lost their mothers in the past 15 years who God somehow placed in my life. The first of these precious daughters entered my life when she was 15. Her journey since her mother's death has been challenging. She eventually had to change high schools as well as the community she had lived in most of her life. Now, as she approaches 30, she is happily married to an officer in the US Army. As they prepare to relocate to Germany, her heart is heavy. Not only will she be leaving her two sons with their father and stepmother in Washington State, but she knows that the bond that the boys have built with their younger sister and stepfather will be missed while they are overseas. She is missing out on what may be the last years of her grandfather's life. She misses out on spending time at the cemetery, placing flowers on her mom's grave as well as talking to her mom.

Another of these young ladies not only lost her mother to cancer on December 27, 2010 but due to poor choices her father was sentenced to 44 years in prison. This young woman and her brother have spent the last decade floating from one relative's home to friends' couches. For a brief period of time, she had a great job, great apartment, and a dog and seemed to be enjoying life. In the blink of an eye, she lost the job, the apartment and turned to alcohol to numb the depression that she was living with. Imagine, being 29 and having no parents and a huge whole in your heart?

Then there are groups of mothers that share a bond that nobody wants to know about. These are the mothers who have lost a child to death, addiction, homelessness or incarceration. I cannot help but think about my friend Jo Ann who was on the phone with her 16 year old daughter back in 2010. Ali told her mom that she was walking from the school bus to the house to change clothes. She promised to call her mom back as she walked to pick up her paycheck from a local business. That second phone call has yet to come. Instead, Jo Ann and family continue to trust and believe that one day their daughter will be found alive.

There are so many mothers that God has placed in my life who have lost their children to death. Some were killed in car accidents, some were killed in drive-by shootings, some to illness, self-inflicted gunshots, drug overdoses and other tragedies. There are mothers who have children who live with mental illness and make poor choices and end up on the streets or incarcerated.

There are some mother who have healthy relationships with their children. There are some who need to find peace and understand that they are not responsible for the choices their children make.

Even if your mother is not here or was not ideal mother, be thankful that she gave birth to you. Celebrate Mothers this Sunday and every day.

Suspect Arrested in Fatal Crash at 7800 E Freeway

Suspect Arrested, Charged in Fatal Crash at 7800 East Freeway

Charges have been filed against a suspect arrested in a fatal crash at 7800 East Freeway (East Interstate Highway 10) about 11:35 a.m. on Monday (April 18).

The suspect, Pablo Isai Frias, 31, is charged with intoxication manslaughter in the 184th State District Court. A booking photo of Frias is attached to this news release.

The identity of the female victim, 30, is pending verification by the Harris County Institute of Forensic Sciences.

HPD Vehicular Crimes Division Sergeant D Rodriguez and Officer J. Tran reported:

A tan Chevrolet Tahoe, a Kenworth tractor-trailer truck, a Ford Transit and a Peterbilt tractor-trailer truck were traveling eastbound near the above address. The Transit stopped due to traffic on the freeway and the Kenworth came to a stop behind it. The Tahoe was possibly attempting to move to another lane and struck the rear of the trailer attached to the Kenworth. The Peterbilt then struck the rear of the Tahoe.



The driver of the Tahoe was pronounced deceased at the scene. The driver of the Peterbilt, later identified as Frias, was evaluated and determined to be intoxicated. He was arrested at the scene and subsequently charged for his role in the crash. No other persons were injured in the crash.

Fatal Shooting at 10155 East Freeway

Houston police are investigating the fatal shooting of a man at 10155 East Freeway (East Interstate Highway 10) service road about 1:35 a.m. today (April 20).

The identity of the victim, 25, is pending verification by the Harris County Institute of Forensic Sciences.

HPD Major Assaults & Family Violence Division Detectives Z. Brumley and D. Crandall reported:

HPD patrol officers responded to a shooting at a hotel at the above address. The victim was found lying outside his room. He had suffered several gunshot wounds. Houston Fire Department paramedics transported the victim to an area hospital where he was pronounced deceased.

Further investigation and evidence from the scene indicated the victim walked with a female witness toward their shared hotel room. Three unknown male suspects exited a gray, four-door sedan and fired several rounds at the victim. The suspects also fired several shots at a vehicle attempting to leave the parking lot, but it is unknown if anyone in the vehicle was struck.

The suspects then got into their vehicle, possibly a Grand Marquis, and fled the scene in an unknown direction. The suspects are described only as three black males, 18 to 25 years of age.

Anyone with information in this case is urged to contact the HPD Homicide Division at 713-308-3600 or Crime Stoppers at 713-222-TIPS.

Countywide Elections May 7,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Linda Clark Sherrard, and Jeff Miller. For Position 4, Ramon Garza is the lone candidate.

Polls will be open on election day from 7am to 7pm, and you may vote at any location in Harris County for the amendments, but at designated locations for the MUD and ISD elections.

See HarrisVotes.com for more information and last minute changes.

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VIA TRAVEL

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ASK DIAMOND JIM

Diamond Jim: What is the Birthstone for May?

MAY BIRTHSTONE IS EMERALD

May birthdays fall right in the heart of spring, and the emerald is the perfect gem to symbolize and celebrate this month. Prized for its brilliant and beautiful green color, the emerald is often favored by the rich and famous to wear as statement pieces for big events.

But this beautiful gem is just at home in an unassuming pendant as it is in an ornate tiara.

As the birthstone for May, the emerald, a symbol of rebirth, is believed to grant the owner foresight, good fortune, and youth. Emerald, derived from the word "smaragdus," means, quite literally, "green" in Greek. Like aquamarine, emerald is a variety of beryl, a mineral that grows with six sides and up to a foot in length. Emerald color can range from light green (though there is some argument whether these very light beryls are truly emeralds) to a deep, rich green. Emeralds are also like aquamarine in that the way the color is presents itself in jewelry depends on a good cut by a skilled gemologist. The deeper or more green an emerald, the more valuable it is. The rarest emeralds will appear to be an intense green-blue. Emeralds are found all over the world, including Colombia, Brazil, Afghanistan and Zambia. The availability of high-quality emerald is limited; consequently, treatments to improve clarity are performed regularly.

The emerald was mined in Egypt as early as 330 BC, but some estimate that the oldest emeralds are 2.97 billion years old. Cleopatra is perhaps the most famous historical figure to cherish emeralds. She even claimed ownership of all emerald mines in Egypt during her reign. The Egyptians used emeralds both in jewelry, and in their elaborate burials, often burying emeralds with monarchs as symbols of protection. Like other gemstones, the emerald was believed to have many mystical powers that accompanied its beauty. There were those who thought the emerald could cure stomach problems, control epilepsy and stop bleeding. Maybe due to its soothing green color, it was also thought to be able to ward off panic and keep the wearer relaxed and serene. Today, emerald is a symbol of loyalty, new beginnings, peace and security, making it not only a beautiful gem to wear, but also a meaningful gift to be treasured by the receiver. It is still widely prized by the rich and famous, with Elizabeth Taylor's famous emerald pendant selling for \$6.5 million in 2011.

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.

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OPINION

By Rich Lowry

Editor, National Review

Let Disney Be An Exmapple

Just like that, tyranny has descended on Florida. The state legislature, with the support of Gov. Ron DeSantis, voted to repeal the “special independent district” enjoyed by Disney for half a century.

This is a sign, we are told, of the advent of an American authoritarianism that brooks no dissent — Disney criticizes a measure supported by the Florida GOP, the so-called Don’t Say Gay bill, and immediately gets targeted.

There’s a reason this fight escalated to this point, though. Disney was the aggressor in the battle over the education bill, lied about it, and pledged to work to repeal it.

Even though the bill had nothing to do with Disney whatsoever — nothing to do with its product, its business model, or its employees. The company got pushed into its stance based on pressure from a woke segment of its employees and from progressives on the outside.

Disney’s case against the bill relied on the smear that the legislation somehow threatened gay or trans people. In fact, the law merely seeks to exclude inappropriate material from being taught to young children in the classroom — an objective that once would have been considered utterly banal.

“Classroom instruction,” the law says, “by school personnel or third parties on sexual orientation or gender identity may not occur in kindergarten through grade 3 or in a manner that is not age appropriate or developmentally appropriate for students in accordance with state standards.”

Based on that, Disney went to the mattresses. And it did so, not to serve its shareholders, enhance its profitability, protect its intellectual property, or align itself with its vast and politically diverse customer base.

This was, shockingly, an iconic American brand making itself into a free-floating weapon of woke cultural politics in response to the social and political influence of a small number of vocal progressives. Like so many companies before, Disney calculated the risk/reward of gratuitously taking up a left-wing political and cultural fight and considered it all reward, no risk. The Florida legislature decided to convince it that it was wrong.

Republicans have fantasized about exacting revenge on woke corporations before, but to no effect. Disney’s problem is that it had a glaring vulnerability in the form of an arrangement that can easily be portrayed as a special favor.

The provisions allowing Disney to govern itself in its special independent district are so extensive that one analyst refers to the so-called Reedy Creek Improvement District as “the Vatican with mouse ears.”

“Never before or since has such outlandish dominion been given to a private corporation,” Florida writer Carl Hiaasen notes in his book “Team Rodent.” “Disney owns its own utilities. It administers its own planning and zoning. It composes its own building codes and employs its own inspectors. It maintains its own fire department. It even has the authority to levy taxes.”

For good measure, it can build its own airport and nuclear power plant. Now, that’s all scheduled to go away in a year’s time. Obviously, it is not a good practice for government to retaliate against a business, even a business enjoying a special status.

This fight could have welcome effects, though, if it convinces Disney that it made a mistake by allowing itself to get bullied and cajoled into becoming a combatant in the culture war, or if it convinces other corporations that there’s a potential price to be paid for joining woke mobs.

Republicans don’t want corporations to become tools in advancing their agenda; they just want them to exit the culture wars and focus, once again, on their business, an outcome that would lower the temperature in the country’s cultural fights at least a little.

Ideally, Disney and the Florida legislature work out a renewal of the company’s special district before it is set to expire, and the house of mouse — and other corporations seduced into making themselves de facto left-wing pressure groups — resolves to stick to its core competency and mission.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.

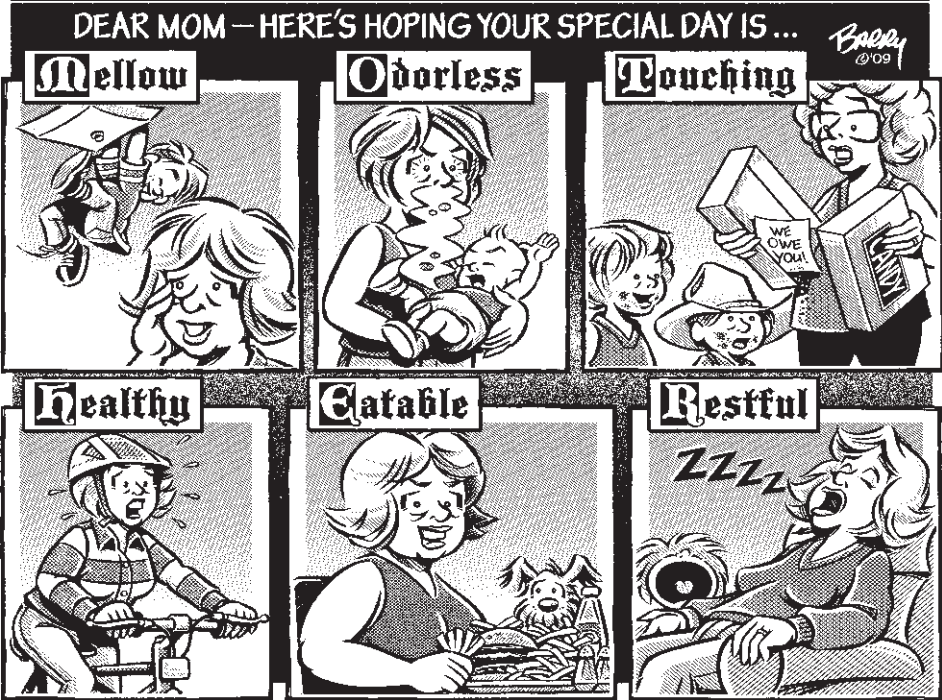
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WORDS OF WISDOM

from the Editor:

“I am not the editor of a newspaper and shall always try to do right and be good so that God will not make me one.”

--Mark Twain



★

STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Gary Borders

Early Voting Underway for May 7 Election

Early voting began Monday for local elections and two proposed constitutional amendments relating to property tax reductions. Early voting continues through Tuesday, May 3, with election day on Saturday, May 7.

One proposed amendment would authorize the Legislature to limit property taxes on homesteads of elderly or disabled residents, while the other would increase the homestead exemption for school taxes from \$25,000 to \$40,000.

Voters return to the polls later in May for runoff elections in both the Democratic and Republican primaries. Voters cannot switch parties if they voted in the March 1 primary, but voters who didn’t vote in the primary can participate in either party’s runoff. A full list of runoff races can be found on the secretary of state’s website: sos.texas.gov. Early voting for the May 24 runoff begins on May 16.

“With multiple opportunities to vote in the upcoming May elections, I strongly encourage all Texas voters to get informed about what’s on the ballot and make a plan to cast one,” Secretary of State John Scott said. To find out what is on local ballots, contact your county’s local election office.

MATERIAL SHORTAGE BEDEVILS TXDOT PROJECTS

Shortages of steel and concrete are slowing down road projects and driving up costs, according to an internal memo from the Texas Department of Transportation’s construction division director, reported last week by the Quorum Report and kut.org.

“Due to recent circumstances affected by world events, there has been significant volatility in the market for various construction materials. We



have seen the availability of some materials become very limited or the material lead time has increased significantly. We have also seen significant increases (over 100% in some cases) in some material prices,” Duane S. Milligan wrote.

TxDOT has more than 15,000 projects in the pipeline across the state. The jobs total \$156 billion, with about half either underway or set to start soon. Milligan’s memo to district engineers and construction managers suggested substituting construction materials when feasible, or removing work or materials from a road project “when the deletion will not affect the safety of the completed project.”

CONCERT SAFETY TASK FORCE RELEASES REPORT

A task force has issued its findings after investigating the tragedy at the Astroworld Festival last November, when a crowd stampede resulted in multiple deaths and injuries.

The task force formed by Gov. Greg Abbott called for unified command and control, requiring permits even in unincorporated areas, crowd safety training, planning with risk assessment, and centralized resources. Details are available in an event production guide available from the [Texas Music Office](https://texasmusicoffice.com).

“The recommendations, findings, and solutions de-

tailed in this report will help the state of Texas prevent another tragedy like that at Astroworld Festival from happening again,” Abbott said.

DISTRACTED DRIVING SPURS FATALITY INCREASE

Distracted driving deaths increased 17% in 2021 compared to the previous year, taking the lives of 431 people and seriously injuring nearly 3,000. In the wake of that, TxDOT is stepping up its “Talk. Text. Crash.” campaign. The initiative urges drivers to “keep their heads up, put their phones down and just drive.”

“Texans are killed each year simply because someone was distracted by their phone, radio, navigation system, eating or drinking, or even by others in the car,” Marc Williams, TxDOT executive director, said. “When your focus isn’t on driving, you’re putting yourself, your passengers and everyone else on the road at risk.”

The agency reminds drivers that any distraction is dangerous. It urges drivers to pull off the road entirely before talking or texting and turning off the phone while driving.

GO-KIT URGED FOR WILDFIRES, OTHER DISASTERS

As wildfires and tornadoes sweep the state with hurricane season just around the corner, the Texas A&M Forest Service urges Texans to assemble a go-kit that can be easily transported and includes supplies for several days. The kit should include:

- Supplies for both people and pets.
- Prescription medications or other necessary medical equipment.
- Important documents such as insurance and identification documents.
- Food, water, clothing, money and a first-aid kit.
- Priceless items, such as family photos and heirlooms.

“When disasters such as wildfires, hurricanes, winter storms and tornados arise requiring you to leave your home, being prepared ahead of time can save precious time and help keep your family safe during an emergency,” said Karen Stafford with the forest service.

COVID-19 CASES, DEATHS RISE

The number of new COVID-19 cases in the past week in the state rose to 23,363, and deaths more than doubled to 209, according to the [Coronavirus Resource Center](https://coronavirusresourcecenter.org) at Johns Hopkins University. The number of lab-confirmed COVID-19 hospitalizations dropped slightly, with 755 reported across the state by the [Texas Department of State Health Services](https://texas.gov).

★

THE POSTSCRIPT

By Carrie Classon

The Job I Want

“Dress for the job you want!” was advice I heard from an early age.

I took this advice to heart. I was working a lowly job in a government office while applying for jobs in businesses around town. I had never worked in business, but I had a freshly minted business degree, so I bought some suits and, every day, I showed up for my job (answering the same boring questions on the telephone) dressed for the job I wanted rather than the one I had.

The day I got the call for an interview, I clearly remember I was wearing a lavender jacket with gray slacks and a striped blouse. It was not one of my dressier outfits, but it was still considerably dressier than what anyone else in the office was wearing—other than my boss.

“I know this is short notice...” the voice at the other end of my phone said, “but could you come in for an interview at 5:00?”

Since I got out of work a little past four, a change in wardrobe was out of the question. On my lunch break, I bought a little dragonfly pin and pinned it to the lapel of my lavender jacket. I arrived early to my interview with my dragonfly pin.

I got the job. I decided that dressing for the job you want was advice with some merit after all.

That was many years ago. My approach to dressing has remained more or less the same. Almost all the clothes I buy are used and, once I settle on an ensemble, I wear the same thing day in and day out.

When I went back to school for a degree in writing, the degree was paid for by teaching classes. Since I had never taught before, I figured I had better at least dress like a teacher. I chose a variety of full skirts and matching scarves.

I didn’t notice their similarity until one of my students said, “We call you ‘the green lady’ because you wear green every day.”

But green is a good color for new beginnings, and that was what I was doing. It turned out that I didn’t need to worry about dressing like a teacher anyway. I was so much older than my peers in the program that everyone assumed I knew more than they did. I did not.

During the pandemic, I nailed my “writing costume,” an ensemble that consisted of black stretch pants and the same shirt in a variety of colors. One day I’m in teal, the next in purple, but the shirt is exactly the same. I’m still wearing my writing costume. Today my shirt is black.

But I’m starting to wonder if a change might not be in order.

My husband, Peter, and I recently returned from Mexico, and spending an extended time in a different place has made me feel different. I returned to a closet full of clothes that I hardly recognize and have no desire to wear. The clothes in my closet look stodgy. The clothes in my closet seem to think I’m an older person than I am—no matter what my driver’s license might say.

I thought of my old mantra about dressing for the job I want. What would I wear if I were dressed for the life I wanted right now?

I honestly don’t know. But I’m wearing 13 bracelets all in various shades of blue, a leftover from my time in Mexico. They are impractical and a little silly and they are making me very happy. Maybe that’s a start.

Till next time, Carrie

For photos from the column and other info visit: CarrieClasson.com.

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MILESTONES PAGE

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LyondellBasell to exit Pasadena Refinery,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

proximately 550 LyondellBasell employees currently work at the Houston Refinery. We are still very early in the process. We are committed to do everything we can to assist our people through this transition. We are evaluating options for the affected employees.” It is also possible that another company would be interested in acquiring the Pasadena plant, and continuing to operate the refinery.

LyondellBasell’s Houston Refinery has a rated capacity to transform 268,000 barrels per day of crude oil into transportation fuels and other prod-

ucts including lubricants, chemical intermediates and petroleum coke.

About LyondellBasell
As a leader in the global chemical industry, LyondellBasell strives every day to be the safest, best operated and most valued company in our industry. The Company’s products, materials and technologies are advancing sustainable solutions for food safety, access to clean water, healthcare and fuel efficiency in more than 100 international markets. LyondellBasell places high priority on diversity, equity and inclusion and is

Advancing Good with an emphasis on our planet, the communities where we operate and our future workforce. The Company takes great pride in its world-class technology and customer focus. LyondellBasell has stepped up its circularity and climate ambitions and actions to address the global challenges of plastic waste and decarbonization. In 2022, LyondellBasell was named as one of FORTUNE Magazine’s “World’s Most Admired Companies” for the fifth consecutive year.

Pct. 3 Commissioner on the San Jacinto Waste Pits,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

came submerged. In 2011, the EPA recognized the superfund site, and is now known as the as the San Jacinto River Waste Pits.

Throughout my many years as a professional engineer, these waste pits have been festering, polluting, and killing innocent people and animals around it. We have waited long enough. This week at Court I directed our Pollution Control Director to work with the EPA to expedite the removal of the toxins. Jackie Medcalf, who has been the most ardent support-

er of the cleanup effort, told her story at Court as well.

Jackie developed serious health conditions including cancer from drinking well water contaminated by the waste pits. Members of her family lost their lives to the dioxins leaking from the pit. She is the voice for thousands who have shared the same experience.

Sadly, two weeks ago the responsible parties tried to delay the cleanup, offering to cap or contain the site instead. Containment doesn’t

work in a body of water as big or fast-moving as the San Jacinto River.

The river is also used by ships and barges, one of these barges barely missed the waste pits in 2019 as it careened into the I-10 bridge. During Harvey, the current cap was damaged resulting in the release of tremendous number of dioxins into the main freshwater source for Galveston Bay. We must clean up, not contain this hazard. It’s only a matter of time until the worst environmental crisis in the County’s history occurs.

★

OBITUARIES

HELEN SPIERS BLOMSTROM

Helen Spiers Blomstrom, 87, of Rochelle, Texas, passed away peacefully on April 26, 2022 in Kingwood, Texas. Helen was born on December 17, 1934 to Louis and Frances Spiers in El Campo, Texas. The family moved back to Austin shortly after Helen’s birth followed by a move to Woodland Acres in Houston. Helen graduated from Galena Park High School in 1953. Helen married Knute Blomstrom, Jr., in 1954. They were married for 66 years before Knute passed away almost two years ago. Helen was known for her love of God, family, and friends, her servant’s heart, her kindness, hospitality, and generosity, her tenacity, and her sense of humor.

She was a good friend, and she maintained close friendships with her Woodland Acres school friends from the age of 6 years until her death. Helen faithfully served in missions work in the Women’s Missionary Union, taught Sunday School, and worked in Vacation Bible School for 50 years. Helen and Knute volunteered in



the Celebrate Recovery program at Rochelle Baptist Church, where she was a member. Helen was a sports mom, 4H, FFA, and Band mom in her early years. She loved reading, singing, visiting with friends and family, and quilting. She was a charter member of the Crosby Quilt Guild.

Helen was preceded in death by her husband, Knute Blomstrom, Jr., son, Tiger Blomstrom, brother, Preston Spiers, and both parents. She is survived by daughter Karen Blomstrom (Tommy Lowden), son Chuck Blomstrom (Paula), and daughter Susan Hurst (Wayne); Grandchildren, David Vogelpohl (Catherine), Stephen Vogelpohl, and Jeffrey Vogelpohl (Stacey), Ronnie Blomstrom, Jacob Blomstrom, and Ash-

lynn Blomstrom; Great Grandchildren, Luke, Jake, and Ava Vogelpohl, Jackson and Emily Vogelpohl, and Alice Fancher; Extended family, Joyce Wilson (Randy deceased), Clint Wilson (Kissie) and children, Talia, C.J., and Jordyn, Dr. M. J. Flannery (Mike); Special daughter-in-law, Robin Morris, and children, Lacy Painter, Cody Evans, and Emily Morris; Sister, Frances Brown; Nephews, Bill Spiers (Chris) and theirs sons and families, Rod Brown (Christy) and their daughters and families, Rusty Brown (Bonnie) and sons; and Special Cousin, Margaret Ann Bierschwale.

Visitation is scheduled for Friday, April 29th from 9:00 am – 11:00 am followed by the funeral service at 11:00 am at Sterling White Funeral Home in Highlands, Texas. The funeral service will be live-streamed. In lieu of flowers send donations to Rochelle Baptist Church.

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by WESTON COTTEN
Attorney for the Estate

LEGAL NOTICE

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Notice of Public Hearing to Discuss Crosby ISD's Redistricting Plan

(As required by Texas Education Code 11.052)

Crosby ISD will hold a second public hearing on Redistricting at 7:00pm, Monday, May 16, 2022, in the Operations Center, 14670 FM 2100, Crosby, TX, 77532.

The purpose of this hearing is to further discuss the following information: options for redrawing new boundaries for single-member district representation on the Crosby ISD Board of Trustees. Redistricting must be considered every 10 years following publication of U.S. Census data. The first election in which any new districts will be effective is November 8, 2022.

Redistricting does not impact school zoning or attendance boundaries. Redistricting relates exclusively to the elections of Board members.

Crosby ISD llevará a cabo una segunda audiencia pública sobre la redistribución de distritos el lunes 16 de mayo de 2022 a las 7:00 p. m. en el Centro de operaciones, 14670 FM 2100, Crosby, TX, 77532.

El propósito de esta audiencia es analizar más a fondo la siguiente información: opciones para volver a trazar nuevos límites para la representación de distritos de un solo miembro en la Junta Directiva de Crosby ISD. La redistribución de distritos debe considerarse cada 10 años después de la publicación de los datos del censo de EE. UU. La primera elección en la que los nuevos distritos serán efectivos es 8 de noviembre de 2022.

La redistribución de distritos no afecta la zonificación escolar ni los límites de asistencia. La redistribución de distritos se relaciona exclusivamente con las elecciones de miembros de la Junta.

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All Earth Ecobot Challenge,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



Students displaying a refurbished house they made with recycled rubbish.
L - R: Cheryl Willis (Robotics Coach), Paige Norris, Dennis Soto, Keegan Mason, Jessica Valdez, Hilary Benavidez, Marisol Ledesma, Alysia Ferguson (Assistant Coach). Willis retired from HISD after 43 years, she's tutoring Science & Robotics. Her Clique is, "Retired but not tired", children are her business. (Photo by Allan Jamail)

EcoBot Architect.

EcoBot Ew! – Rubbish to Runway - In the EcoBot Kingdom, students had to reuse and re-purpose trash, food and food containers in a very creative and cool science.

The challenge was to complete the chain for the EcoBot Kingdom; participants were challenged to create a Fashionista from recyclable material. Their robots had to be programmed by the students to complete specific tasks. And their robot had 2.5 minutes to accomplish as many tasks as possible.

Joe Paneitz, known as Robo Joe was the event's main coordinator, he's a 16 year teacher veteran and Founder, owner, and CEO of Aha Education, LLC and founder of Iconic Drone Education. Joe's currently a drone and robotics teacher in Humble ISD, and recently named 2020 Region IV Texas Teacher of the Year in addition to Humble ISD Secondary and Senior Teacher of the Year in 2020.

Mr. Paneitz has been the Curriculum and pro-

gramming developer for Ecobot for over a decade. Around 2016, was the Channelview ISD Teacher of the Year. He's been the inventor of the Ecobot curriculum every year for over a decade. Initially, 15 years ago, he used robotics as a way to teach complex STEM to special needs kids. When he took those special needs kids to a robotics competition they scored top ten of over 100 kids. He knew there was a huge opportunity here for all kids. That's the Aha moment that formed his roll with Ecobot and created his company, Aha Education, LLC. The Harris County Department of Education (HCDE) and Case 4 Kids contracts his company to be the curriculum and program director for Ecobot since 2010. During the pandemic, the very skills he teaches in Ecobot was the skills used to make sure Ecobot weathered the pandemic storm and came out even stronger on the other side. He took Ecobot virtual and discovered having created one of the most successful virtual STEM education programs

in the state.

Paneitz said, "I look deep into the future as I can to try and determine what skills kids will need to be successful rather than a more traditional or reactive approach. I am, by no means, a typical teacher. I'm a very progressive teacher which lines up nicely with the students I serve as we are seeing so much change in education and changes in what industries are hungry for. My instruction methods are very different. My classroom looks very different as well as my outcomes. I'm in for the outcome not the income. Students using my high school FAA commercial drone program known as Iconic Drone Education curriculum are already making more per hour than I am. I believe that youth today can and are driving what future industries look like. Students, while still in K-12 today can invent their own future or rolls in society rather than applying for an existing job idea. That is what I see driving innovative ideas that solve big

problems for all of us."

Jacqueline Moreno, is Director for Elementary Math and Science at Galena Park ISD assisted in the Ecobot Challenge Day. She involved in the schools Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math, including Computer Science (STEM) /Robotics programs. Moreno grew up in Cloverleaf and graduated from North Shore Senior High, a product of Galena Park ISD.

Ms. Moreno said, "I have a true passion to bring experiences new opportunities and exposure to the outside world to our students. Our elementary students need this opportunity with stem and robotics gets hooked into the world of science and engineering. They will have jobs in the future we can't even imagine. Our science standards at the state level are changing to include science and engineering practices, this collaboration with CASE for Kids and ECOBOT is giving us a jumpstart in the right direction."

Moreno stated due to social distance, throughout



The Mad Scientist, Mr. Neutron (Robert L. Hall) had a terrific class for students for Ecobot Challenge Day. His degree in Engineering Physics from Ohio State University gave the students challenges that provided learning experiences only a Nuclear Engineer could give. He's been with Houston's Mad Science Presenters for 20 years teaching "Sparkling Imaginative Learning". (Photo by Allan Jamail)

the pandemic, it was difficult to ensure student progress not just to the academic side of being in school but to be also more important piece of being part of the community of school. The social emotional learning part of being included, belonging, and being a contributing member to something bigger than themselves was a hard reach.

Students being a part of the ECOBOT challenge are able to be creative, develop critical thinking skills, collaborate with one another and communicate about their thinking and their ideas to complete a mission. These soft skills are so important to develop at an early age. Kids need to know that it's okay to fail as long as they try again. Coding with the robots teaches them the skill of perseverance. If the coding program doesn't work the first time, you try and try again and that's where the learning takes place, it's in the struggle. It's an honor to host the ECOBOT

challenge this year because our kids deserve it, Moreno said.

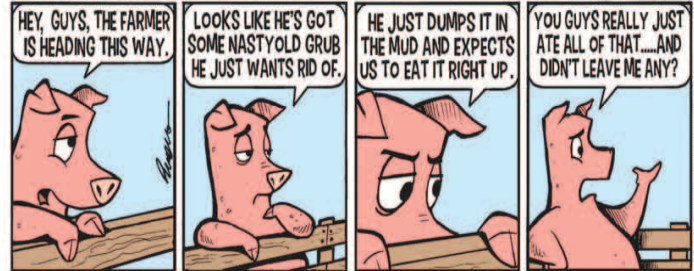
The ECOBOT Challenge results were, Elementary Schools, #1. Cimmaron "Masters Team", #2. Beatrice Mayes Institute "Mr. Brickly Steam Team", #3. Sam Houston "Mexican B.M.O. Team", #4 Beatrice Mayes Institute "Team Blackout" & #5. Cimarron "Analyzers". Middle Schools, #1. Change Happens "CHYE", #2. STEM Urban Perspective "STEM UP Team", #3. Beatrice Mayes Institute "Rumplestiltskin Team", #4 Academy of Accelerated Learning "Nebula Team" & #5 Cleveland "CMS Pink Parrots". The Best House Challenge, #1. High School Ahead, #2. MacArthur Mac Bots & #3. Academy of Accelerated Learning "Super Nova". Also assisting in the Ecobot Day was Dr. Lisa Caruthers, Director for Center for Afterschool, Summer and Enrichment (CASE) for Kids. Allanj211@aol.com

ENTERTAINMENT

May 2, 2022 Posting Date

Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



R.E.D.

by Mike Marland



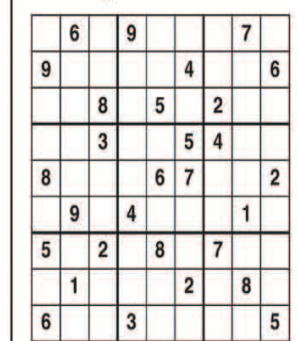
The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle



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

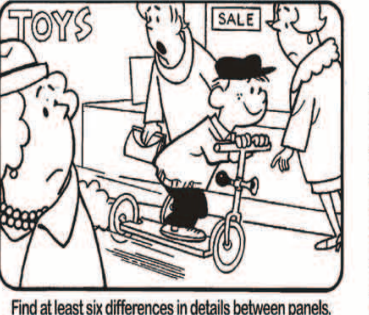
DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging ♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

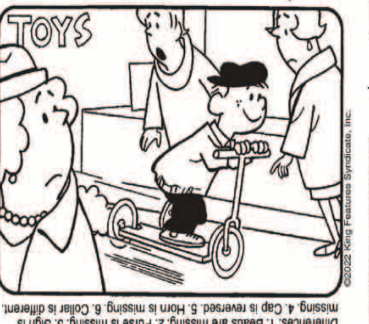
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HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Beards are missing; 2. Purse is missing; 3. Sign is missing; 4. Cap is missing; 5. Horn is missing; 6. Color is different; 7. Sam Rayburn (17 years); 8. Frank Capra; 9. 52; 10. Rubble

King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Knock
- 4 "The Thin Man" dog
- 8 Tabloid writing
- 12 Post-op area
- 13 Pace
- 14 Allie (Fr.)
- 15 Sushi fish
- 17 "Hi, sailor!"
- 18 "Burnt" crayon color
- 19 Melody
- 21 Ordinal suffix
- 22 Game fish
- 26 Looks intently
- 29 Chaps
- 30 Man-mouse link
- 31 Has bills
- 32 — de deux
- 33 Mythical birds
- 34 Capote nickname



DOWN

- 1 Eyeglass frames
- 2 Antioxidant berry
- 3 Brownish purple
- 4 Reptiles
- 5 Jazz poet
- 6 Dead heat
- 7 Country stores?
- 8 June birthstone
- 9 "This tastes awful"
- 10 Asian language
- 11 Layer
- 16 Leg joints
- 20 Author Fleming
- 23 Earth orbiter product
- 24 Killer whale
- 25 "One-Llama" poet
- 26 Attend
- 27 Wrong
- 28 Jupiter counterpart
- 29 Spring month
- 32 Sunshade
- 33 Copter blade
- 35 Skirt edge
- 36 Singer Timberlake
- 38 North African capital
- 39 Steinway product
- 42 Privation
- 43 Hoodwink
- 44 Coup d'—
- 45 HBO rival
- 46 Possessed
- 47 Hot temper
- 49 Comic Philips

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Trivia test

by Fifi Rodriguez

- 1. SCIENCE: What is an organism that depends entirely upon another organism for its existence?
- 2. HISTORY: When did the Suez Canal open?
- 3. GEOGRAPHY: What nation's second largest island is called Mindanao?
- 4. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: Where was sherry invented?
- 5. MUSIC: Who was known as "the king of swing"?
- 6. DISCOVERIES: In what century was the ancient city of Troy rediscovered by archaeologists?
- 7. GOVERNMENT: Who was the longest-serving U.S. House Speaker?
- 8. MOVIES: Who directed the movie "It Happened One Night"?
- 9. ARCHITECTURE: How many churches did Christopher Wren design for London after the Great Fire of 1666?
- 10. TELEVISION: On "The Flintstones," what is Bam-Bam's last name?

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Answers: 1. Parasite; 2. 1869; 3. Philipines; 4. Spain; 5. Benny Goodman; 6. 19th; 7. Sam Rayburn (17 years); 8. Frank Capra; 9. 52; 10. Rubble

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