NORTH CHANNEL **STAR

Your News, Your Newspaper



Serving all of the North Shore -- Channelview, Cloverleaf, Sheldon, Galena Park, Jacinto City
VOLUME 10, NO. 19 (#419)

THURSDAY, MAY 12, 2022

www.northchannelstar.com

CHANNEL CURRENTS

Letter Carriers Food Drive

On Saturday, May 14 the Letter Carriers from the Post Office will hold their 30th Annual "STAMP OUT HUNGER" Food Drive. You are asked to help, by leaving a nonperishable food donation in a bag by your mailbox, no later than 9am that morning. Your letter carrier will do the rest. All of the food collected will be distributed to local food pantries.

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.

ROTARY FISH FRY THIS SATURDAY

Rotarians and the public will get together this Saturday, May 14 for the 47th Annual North Shore Rotary Catfish Fry & Crawfish Boil. That's a mouthful, but it sure tastes good.

This annual event returns to an in-person style, at its traditional location in the Rotary Pavilion behind the courthouse on Wallilsville Road.

Fish-Fry chairman Ken Wimbley promises that this will not only have the tastiest crawfish of all time, but also the best items for the Live and Silent Auctions. The Rotarians have had over a year to prepare and collect some unique and great items. All proceeds from the event will go to scholarships and other community projects benefitting North Shore.

The public is invited not only to come have lunch, but to take a chance on the Raffle, and win a new Toy-



A few of the unique items in the Live Auction on Saturday

ota Tacoma pick-up or a Toyota Camry sedan. Raffle tickets are \$100 and available at the door. They include two great fish dinners. There are a total of 20 expensive prizes in the Raffle - so, take a chance.

Additional prizes in the raffle will be a whole hog, a custom grill and firepit, HoustonRodeo tickets, sports tickets, fireworks packages, Apple iPad mini, Yeti cooler, and much more.

Except for the pandemic year, this event draws many hundreds that enjoy a day of friendship and catching up with old Rotary pals from all over the city, and lots of local folks that wish they were Rotarians, too. It's a great event that everyone enjoys.

ELECTION RESULTS:

Amendments pass, Bonds defeated

Sheldon bonds fail; Moya re-elected Mayor of Galena Park

HARRIS COUNTY – Voters went to the polls last Saturday, and voted on the few issues that were on the ballot. Two state constitution amendments, that lower property taxes, easily passed. Statewide, 1,300,000 votes were

cast, with 85% approving the amendments.

Other ballot items were local, including two bond issues in Huffman, that were defeated by over 60% of the electorate that voted, and a Sheldon bond issue that



ESMERALDA MOYA, RE-ELECTED MAYOR OF GALENA PARK

was defeated by more than 65% of those who voted. Obviously the electorate was not in a mood to spend money that might mean higher taxes for them. Both districts had stated that they needed the money to build or improve facilities to accommodate student growth.

In Crosby, three directors for Newport MUD were elected:

Earl Boykin, Deborah Florus, and DeLonne Johnson. Johnson won by only 3 votes over her opponent, John Webb by a count of 128 to 125.

GALENA PARK

In a closely watched election for Mayor and City Council, the incumbent Mayor Esmeralda Moya and her slate of four city commissioners

Continued. See Election Results, Page 5

Rotary Club of North Shore 47th Annual Catfish Fry and Crawfish Boil Saturday May 14th 11:00am-3:00pm Food Tickets Per ticket Per ticket 2022 TOYOTA TACOMA SR OR TOYOTA CAMRY SE NOTE: Photo may not represent exact vehicle or selected equipment

ADDITIONAL PRIZES WILL BE DRAWN

ou to all of our Corporate Sponsors that make this event happen!

Diamond Sponsor: KNCS Services, LLC

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Blue Northern A/C
Channelview ISD Ed Foundation
Community Toyota *Honda*Kia
Galena Park ISD Ed Foundation
San Jacinto College Foundation

14350 Wallisville Rd (Behind the Courthouse) Serving from 11:00 am--3:00pm Silver Sponsors: All Steel Welding Inc Arkema **Bestway Oilfield Boaz Export Crating Bonfire Wings** Remax East-Cary & Natalie Stephens Chevron CommunityBank of Texas, N.A. Crawfish Shack Doc & Danna Nino **Endurance Builders Everitt Industrial Supply, Inc** LyondellBasell McCord Development, Inc **North Channel Area Foundation** Palko & Associates, LLC Perdue Brandon Fielder Collins & Mott Phase 3 Services, LLC Farmers Insurance-Ramon Garza SouthTrust Bank TruMed Pharmacy **United Community Credit Union** Wendel D Ley YMCA **Woodforest National Bank**

SHELDON FD BREAKS GROUND FOR NEW STATION



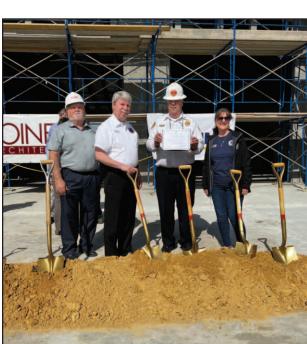
Right Perspective view of the new station

By Gerardo Hernandez

SHELDON-**Emergency Services Dis**trict #60 (ESD #60) and Sheldon Community Fire & Rescue (SCFR) had their groundbreaking ceremony for their new administration and fire station. The event took place the morning of April 8 when officials gathered on the constrcution site. The Building will be in the fully wooded site located at the corner of Uvalde Rd and Kinsman Rd, Houston TX. The site will have two buildings- one for the Administration/Fire and the other for Maintenance.

Building is scheduled to be completed September/mid October 2022.

Construction is currently in progress on the new Station No. 1 which will serve the southernmost part of the Sheldon district and surrounding areas, totaling approximately 100 miles. The new administration and fire station is set on 4.4 acres of land and will be 21,500 square feet. Three



Harris County E.S.D 60 and HCESD 60 Commissioners Officials L - R: Daron Mcaslin, Don T. Nesbitt, Sidney Webb Fire Chief and Margie Buentello of the NCAChambers

bays will have the capacity to house up to six apparatus. Initially, these will include an engine, a High-Water Rescue Vehicle and a tanker. Crews of four firefighters will rotate for 24/7/365 for continuous coverage. Administration will also be housed in the new facility. The project is planned for a September

2022 completion.

The facility will in-

- Up to 140 mph windrated building Category 4 hurricane safe building
- Larger bays and bay doors for safer engine response and parking
 - Larger meeting

Continued. See Sheldon FD, Page 8

SHELDON ISD NEWS

Week of May 6, 2022

Seniors Celebrate Graduation with Decision Day

Today senior students at King High School participated in the annual Decision Day. Each year senior students who are accepted and commit to a college, university, or post-secondary institution have an opportunity to participate in Decision Day. Students are treated to breakfast and during a special assembly are called down to the front to share where they have decided to go in the fall and have an opportunity to collect a prize basket filled with goodies to help them in their first year of college. Baskets are donated by Sheldon ISD schools, community and staff.



Senior students at King High School participated in the annual Decision Day.



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Registration open for NEW pre-kindergarten and kindergarten students

Registration for the 2022-23 school year is now open for all new pre-kindergarten and kindergarten students. The pre-kindergarten program is a full-day service, and students must be 4 years old on or before September 1, 2022. To register, go to $\underline{\text{www.sheldonisd.com/register/}}$

Education Foundation presents annual Sheldon Summer Scramble

To help raise funds for innovative teaching grants for Sheldon ISD teachers, the SISD Education Foundation is hosting the annual Sheldon Summer Scramble. The golf tournament will be held at 8 a.m. Thursday, June 2 at the Golf Club of Houston. Teams are on sale now for \$900. To play and support our educators and students, call 281-727-1331.

Sheldon offers Blue Card program for senior citizen residents

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

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

GALENA PARK ISD NEWS

Message From The Superintendent

Dear Galena Park ID Family and Friends.

May 2-6 is Employee Appreciation Week, and I stand in awe and extend my deepest appreciation to our teachers, campus administration teams, student nutrition staff, custodial staff, maintenance and grounds staff, transportation staff and the numerous departments in our Administration Building. The 3,000+ employees make Galena Park ID a great place to be and one of the best school districts on the East side of Houston. Please be sure to recognize your child's teachers, your coworkers or your friends who work in education for their hard work.



As we wind down the 2021-2022 school year, find reasons to celebrate and congratulate each other for completing another successful year. The future looks brighter than ever with each passing day and our preparations for the next school year are in full swing. Before you know it, the Summer months will be here!

DR. IOHN MOORE

SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

Congratulations to Dr. Kimberly Martin, Principal of Galena Park High School, for winning the 2022 H-E-B Excellence in Education Secondary Principal award!



Dr. Kimberly Martin accepting awards

On Saturday, April 30, H-E-B announced the state winners at the 20th annual H-E-B Excellence in Education Awards Ceremony during a banquet in Austin, Texas. At the ceremony, H-E-B CEO Howard Butt III presented awards to educators, campuses, and school districts throughout the state of Texas. Dr. Martin was announced as the Secondary Principal winner and received a \$10,000 cash award for herself plus a \$25,000 grant for Galena Park High School

"The thing I keep at the center of my heart, my mind and every decision I make is to treat every child like they are my own. I think that helps us do the right thing for everybody's child and the right thing isn't always easy, sometimes we have to make really difficult decisions, we have to love on the kids, and we have to support teachers," Dr. Martin said in an interview with H-E-B. "In the end if we treat each human being like they belong we can make great changes."

Since the H-E-B Excellence in Education program's inception in 2002, H-E-B has awarded more than \$13 million in funding to benefit outstanding Texas public schools, school boards, early childhood facilities, teachers, and principals.

Congratulations, Dr. Martin! Galena Park ISD is so lucky to have you.

CHANNELVIEW ISD NEWS

National School Nurse Day

We celebrated National School Nurse day! Our nurses look after the wellbeing and overall health of our students throughout the day, ensuring that every student is happily healthy! All of our nurses across our campuses are experienced veterans in the healthcare

profession. They help patch up any student who suffers from injury during the school day and educate students on how to maintain a healthy lifestyle. Thank you nurses for all that you do in keeping our students healthy!



CHARLOTTE'S By Charlotte Jackson

Variety Makes it Interesting

People enjoy a variety of things. Some prefer to live in houses while some prefer to live in apartments. Take a look around parking lots, and you will see many models of cars, trucks and crossover vehicles. Some people have conservative values while others tend to be liberal. Take a five minute drive through the community and you will see a variety of restaurants. There will be traditional hamburger venues as well as pizza, chicken wings, Mexican food, and much

Perhaps as you look around, you will see many people who are educated and also find some who earned a GED. You may find some with a college degree and you may find some still enrolled in classes. You meet some people who spend 50 years working for one company and you may find others who change jobs every few months.

Many people in the community are involved in service organizations such as Rotary International or Pilot International. Others are heavily involved in professional organizations such as their local Chamber of Commerce. Still other neighbors stay busy with programs offered through organizations such as the John Maxwell Leadership Group; some with groups working with children and others working on their own

Many of the neighbors attend traditional churches, while others are studying other nontraditional religions. There has been a decline in church attendance, much due to the pandemic, yet others left traditional churches even before

Over the weekend, I experienced working at a Harris County Election location where the neighbor across from the location had very loud music competing with his neighbor's rooster throughout much of the 14 hours we worked. One conservative community member wanted into the polling location and made a comment that she had never seen such a variety of poll workers. She commented that in the 40 years she has voted, all the clerks and judges looked like her mother. On Saturday, she found a variety of workers, ranging from the 17 year old high school clerk who was on site in case there were technical issues as well as serving as a translator for those who spoke Spanish as their first language. Of the six workers, none were married. Two were biracial males that had some common experiences. One of the women working was a native of Chicago who moved to Texas looking for better health care for her now deceased spouse. Another of the females grew up in Houston but had never ventured out of her own comfort zone as far as neighborhoods and was concerned about the health of the residents who lived near the voting location as it was located in a community with industry, homes, sheep tied to the neighbor's fence and unhealthy air quality. And then there was me. (If you have read my column or known me any length of time, you know I have lived in the area for 50 years and try my best to extend love and hope to everyone I meet as well as encourage them to get involved in some community project.)

Throughout the day, we talked about many subjects and experiences. We laughed. We discussed current issues in America. We all agreed to keep in touch. We also all agreed that life each of our address books looked just like us, life would not be very interesting. We agreed that to experience life to the fullest, you need variety.



5,000 readers Weekly

Rotary sponsors North Shore Little League



Rotary Club of North Shore

Spring is in the air and that means baseball season. North Shore Rotary president Shawn Silman had the pleasure of throwing out the 1st pitch at North Shore Little League. Here he is posing for pictures with the Rotary sponsored Space Cowboys.





Rotary Club of North Shore

BEST OF HAWAII

12 days, departs year-round

centrally located lodging in

lodging on the "Big Island" of

Directors—your local experts. Includes 3 inter-island flights.

GRAND ALASKAN

CRUISE & TOUR

Skagway • Glacier Bay • Anchorage • Denali • and more - Visit Denali National Park and Glacier Bay National

and the Inside Passage as you

& Canyonlands • and more
— Experience the stunningly

red rocks of these 6 iconic southwestern national parks.

State by land and by sea

PARKS TOUR

Seattle · Vancouver · Ketchikan • Juneau •

FOUR-ISLAND TOUR

San Jacinto College and North Shore Challenger league team up for great game. After the game the players received snow cones from Kona Ice. North Shore Rotary's Wayne Oquin had the honor of throwing out the 1st pitch. We are proud to sponsor the Challenger League and the great work they do with these

FREE DATE CHANGES



ASK DIAMOND JIM

Diamond Jim: What is Alexandrite and where is it found?

Often described by gem aficionados as "emerald by day, ruby by night," Alexandrite is the very rare color-change variety of the mineral chrysoberyl. Originally discovered in Russia's Ural Mountains in the 1830s, it's now found in Sri Lanka, East Africa, and Brazil, but fine material is exceptionally rare and valuable.





This 7.19-carat alexandrite was cut to feature its beautiful color change.

Alexandrite, with its chameleon-like qualities. is a rare variety of the mineral chrysoberyl. Its color can be a lovely green in daylight or fluorescent light, changing to brownish or purplish red in the incandescent light from a lamp or candle flame. This is a result of the complex way the mineral absorbs light. Alexandrite's dramatic color change is sometimes described as "emerald by day, ruby by night." Other gems also change color in response to a light-source change, but this gem's transformation is so striking that the phenomenon itself is often called "the alexandrite

Alexandrite is also a strongly pleochroic gem, which means it can show different colors when viewed from different directions. Typically, its three pleochroic colors are green, orange, and purple-red. However, the striking color change doesn't arise from the gem's pleochroism, but rather from the mineral's unusual light-absorbing properties. Because of its scarcity, especially in larger sizes, alexandrite is a relatively expensive member of the chrysoberyl family. It shares its status as a June birthstone with cultured pearl and moonstone.

History

Abundant alexandrite deposits were first discovered in 1830 in Russia's Ural Mountains. Those first Alexandrite were of very fine quality and displayed vivid hues and dramatic color change. The gem was named after the young Alexander II, heir apparent to the throne. It caught the country's attention because its red and green colors mirrored the national military colors of imperial Russia.

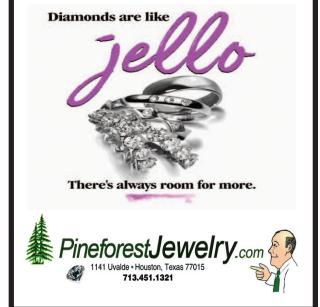
The spectacular Ural Mountain deposits didn't last forever, and now most alexandrite comes from Sri Lanka, East Africa, and Brazil. The newer deposits contain some fine-quality stones, but many display less-precise color change and muddier hues than the nineteenth-century Russian Alexandrite. You'll still find estate jewelry set with some of the famed Ural Mountain Alexandrite. They remain the quality standard for this phenomenal gemstone.

More importantly, since 2015, you can find Alexandrite right here in Houston (believe it or not) at Pineforest Jewelry. Now isn't that some-

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.





OPINION \bigstar PAGE



A Year of accomplishments with the American Rescue Plan Act

We have crossed the one year anniversary of President Joe Biden signing the \$1.9 trillion American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) to help Americans recover from the effects of COVID-19. Over the past year, we have used ARPA funds to make historic investments that touch every aspect of Harris County life -- education, housing, health, and jobs. Below are some of the projects that our County has invested in to get our residents back on their feet:

--Worked with the City of Houston and a network of nonprofits (led by BakerRipley and Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston) to distribute rental assistance to more than 70,000 families and landlords, a model referred to as an "exemplar."

--Helped 40,000 families with past-due bills or other emergency expenses via \$159 million in direct assistance.

--Provided safe and stable housing for people experiencing homelessness. We reduced homelessness by 1,000 people at the height of the pandemic, and 20% over two years (more on this

--Supported small and micro businesses with \$30 million in small business grants to assist 2,577 small businesses.

--Supplied area hospitals with hundreds of additional nurses during the height of COVID.

--Planned a new state-of-the-art residential complex that will serve as a one-stop support center for youth aging out of foster care in Harris

--Secured summer programming and enrichment for an estimated 7,000 Harris County children and youth in Summer 2022.

--Used incentives to encourage 30,000 more residents to get their first shot of the COVID-19

--Addressed the pandemic's impact on mental health by investing in community-based behavioral health services.

We've also invested in childcare access, early childhood education, tackling neighborhood blight, lead remediation, digital access, food distribution, and integrating the county's social services safety net. And we won't stop — we are always looking for cutting edge, data-driven, and research-based solutions to make the quality of life in Harris County better for every one of our residents. Fortunately, Harris County has a strong network of dedicated nonprofits and community leaders who work side-by-side with local government to improve lives. We're so proud of everything our community has achieved by working together!

Sincerely,

Lina Hidalgo



with Slim Randles

"Before we begin our regular commencement tonight," said combined elementary/high school principal Jim Albertson, "we have a special award to present. Will Windy Wilson please come up here on the stage with

Windy looked up at the stage in the gymnasium and all he saw were black choir robes and smiles. He looked at his fellow spectators and all he saw were grins and people sitting down.

"Windy?" said Jim. Windy walked up to the stage and

shook hands with the principal. "Put this on." Windy draped a black robe around himself and put the mortarboard on his head.

"Alphonse Wilson, it is the judgment of your community and friends that no one has ever worked harder for an honorary doctor's degree. Am I right on that?"

Albertson pulled a piece of paper from his shirt pocket.

The young graduates clapped and hooted, and so did the audience. Windy looked at the floor and blushed right through his grey beard.

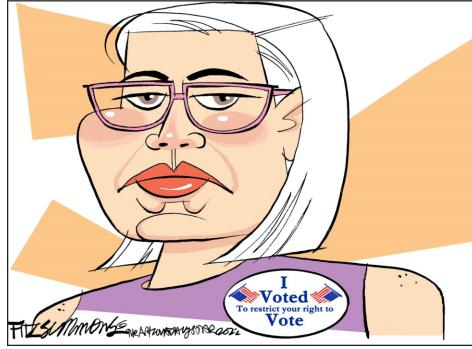
"We can't give you an honorary doctorate here because we don't have one. But your neighbors discovered that you only lacked one class to graduate from high school, and we can do something about that."

"Alphonse Wilson ... known to all as Windy ... this school ... these young graduates ... and all your friends and neighbors are proud to bestow upon you an honorary high school diploma.'

Jim placed a ribbon with a medal hanging from it around Windy's neck and handed him a rolled-up certificate. Not too many aging cowboy camp cooks and

philosophers receive standing ovations, but then, there's nothing very ordinary about Windy Wilson and we all know that.

Brought to you by Saddle Up: A Cowboy's Guide to Writing, by Slim Randles, now available at Amazon.com.





STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Gary Borders



Texas challenged by nursing, trucker shortage

Texas has the fourthlowest nurse-to-population ratio in the country, with only 9.25 nurses per 1,000 residents, according to a recent report by the <u>comptroller's office</u>.

The state's aging population, along with the COVID-19 pandemic, has put increased pressure on all categories of nursing. The largest shortage of registered nurses and licensed vocational nurses is occurring in inpatient hospital settings and nursing homes.

"COVID-19 has really increased the shortage," said Texas Board of Nursing's executive director, Kathy Thomas. "Nurses are walking out. They're worn out, they're burned out and they're stepping away from their jobs."

Job shortages are also taking place in the trucking industry, which moves 72% of U.S. domestic freight, according to the American Trucking Associations.

A shortage of commercial truck drivers is contributing to increasing supply chain issues. John Esparza, chief executive officer of the Texas Trucking Association, said it will reach 160,000 drivers by the end of the decade.

"We are losing a generation of drivers, and we aren't replacing them with a generation of potential drivers that is large enough," he said.

Texas is home to nearly 200,000 commercial truck drivers, the most in the nation. The median wage in the state for truck drivers is \$47,000.

Turnover is extremely high, according to Ken Tidwell, dean of San Jacinto College's workforce development program, which offers a commercial driver's license program that is invariably full.

TPWD BACKING WILDLIFE **RECOVERY ACT**

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department says the <u>Recovering America's</u> Wildlife Act now being considered in Congress could bring \$50 million to



the state to protect wildlife, restore land and provide the state's residents more way to enjoy the outdoors.

"The litany of ways natural resources bolster the Texas economy and improve our quality of life is seemingly endless," said Carter Smith, executive director of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.

"While it would do uch to protect fish and wildlife that need it most, the Recovering America's Wildlife Act would also mean a long-term investment in the public health and well-being of all Texans, as well as stewardship of our home ground," Smith added.

TPWD is urging the public to contact their representatives in Congress to support the legislation.

The bill would provide \$1.4 billion nationwide in dedicated annual funding, according to TPWD. It would come from existing revenues.

The Texas outdoor recreation economy generates 327,000 jobs and \$3.5 billion in state and local tax funds, according to the Outdoor Industry Associ-

DON'T LEAVE THE LIGHTS ON IN MAY

It is bird migration season, and Texas is the epicenter of the annual voyage, with one of every three birds migrating through the United States this spring passing through our state.

BirdCast is urging homeowners and businesses to turn off the lights through its Lights Out Texas initiative. An estimated one billion bird deaths occur annually in the country from collisions with buildings and structures as birds become disoriented by night lighting.

Building owners, businesses and homeowners can protect migrating birds by turning off all non-essential lights from 11 p.m. to 6 a.m., according to BirdCast.

HEALTH INSURER AGREES TO SHUT DOWN

Houston-based Salvasen Health has agreed to stop selling unauthorized health insurance under a consent order issued by the Texas Department of Insurance.

The agency said Salvasen was providing health insurance without a license from TDI, which received "numerous complaints saying the insurance plans sold by Salvasen did not offer the health coverage buyers had been promised."

Under the terms of the order, Salvasen must keep paying claims until all obligations are met. If any assets remain after that. the company must pay back premiums it collected.

The company marketed health insurance policies across the country, selling roughly 65,000 unauthorized health plans.

TEXAS AGAIN RANKED #1 FOR BUSINESS

For the 18th year in a row, Texas has been named the best state for business by CEO Magazine, although controversies over pro-life and anti-LGBTQ legislation have caused concerns for some CEO's, according to the magazine, which polled nearly 7000 chief executives and business

The state of Florida finished second, followed by Tennessee and Arizona. At the bottom were Illinois, New York and California.

"There's a big spread across the Sun Belt from Raleigh to Charlotte to Tampa and Jacksonville, and the big metro areas of Texas, on to Phoenix that are all in various respects growing fast," said Cullum Clark, director of the Bush Institute-SMU Economic Growth Initiative. "It's a distinctive model."

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 $\underline{gborders@texaspress.com}.$



A Great Time to get

"It's a great time to get old!" That's what my husband, Peter, says.

He's right. And getting old is—as the saying goes—better than the alternative. I was thinking this while waiting for my father to get a pacemaker.

My father had no idea he needed a pacemaker until two days before he got one. They had been monitoring his heart because he was suddenly so tired that he was getting winded going up a flight of stairs. My dad typically climbs a lot of stairs, so this was not a good development. The monitor revealed that his heart was beating much more slowly than it was supposed to.

"It's been a cold spring," I told him. "Maybe you're just going into hibernation.'

The cardiologist did not seem to think this was the case. She told my dad that he should get a pacemaker.

"Not interested," my dad said.

My dad has avoided making major purchases since he turned 80 a few years back. He says he won't live long enough to get enough use out of them.

He has not replaced the come-along that is missing a few teeth. He claims it was entirely user error when the come-along failed to catch and he applied his full strength to it when he was pulling his Bobcat out of the woods. With no resistance on the winch, my dad flew over backward and broke a bone on his ankle.

"You need a new comealong," I told my dad.

"I'm not going to live long enough to buy a new comealong!" he told me. My sister got him one for Christmas.

So I was not surprised that his initial reaction to the pacemaker was that this was another extravagant acquisition he did not need. The cardiologist disagreed. She told my dad that it was no big deal. They could get him in the next day, and he would spend only a few hours in the

My dad relented. The procedure went without a hitch, and my dad's heart is now beating at a more chipper

"It's a great time to get old!" I told my dad. My dad agreed.

I have noted that conversations with friends are now dominated by discussions of their latest ailments. It used to be-before GPS and when my friends were youngerwhen there was a lull in conversation, the favorite topic was: "The Best Way to Get

"You came up 35, huh? I always think it's a little faster to follow the river, and then when you get to..." And

I remember thinking this was the dullest subject ever—comparing routes and trying to determine which one might shave 10 minutes off your driving time.

You just wasted 15 minutes talking about it!" I wanted to scream.

Now there is little point in discussing navigation since we have relinquished those decisions to our phones. Instead, the most frequent discussions lately are entitled, My Current Ailment."

'Yeah, I've had that, too. And lately, I've been getting pains in my..." And so on. Thankfully, I don't have a

lot to talk about. And my dad is an excellent role model. He savs, "Everyone is going to have something go wrong with them, eventually. It's just a question of what it will

When my dad left his meeting with the cardiologist, he asked what he should do differently before the pro-

"Just try to act like an 80year-old for a few days, would you?" she suggested.

I think she was kidding. My dad said he would try.

Till next time,

Carrie

For photos from the column and other info visit: <u>CarrieClasson.com.</u>



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Founding Member North Houston Chamber (now Houston Intercontinental) Member Texas Press Association

MILESTONES PAGE

Election Results,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

were reelected. For months this administration had drawn criticism on social media and the attention of voters and the press. However, when given the chance to change, the actual number of voters that went to the polls was about half the number that voted 4 years ago, in 2020 when Moya was elected.

Vote Totals are as fol-

lows MAYOR: Esmeralda Moya 598 Mark Groba 16 Maricela Serna 353 POSITION #1 Zenaida Granados 566 Maria Barraza 373 POSITION #2 Cecilio Almazan 326 Jorge Rodriguez 615 POSITION #3 Veronica Garcia 603 Martha Cantu-Perez 342 POSITION #4 Hilda Barrientos 581 Rosemary Reed Coreathers 367

GALENA PARK ISD

Two trustee positions were open on the board, and voters chose Ramon Garza, unopposed, and Linda Clark Sherrard, with 599 votes who defeated Juan Flores with

106 votes and Jeff Miller with 416 votes.

NEXT: RUN-OFF On May 24 voters will be asked to return to the polls, to determine winners in elections that took place in the March Primary and require a run-off. Early voting for

this will starts May 16th. NEXT ELECTION **MAY 24**

Texas voters overwhelmingly approved two proposed amendments on May 7 that will provide property tax relief to homeowners.

Nearly 85% of voters supported Proposition 2, which raises the homestead exemption from \$25,000 to \$40,000 starting this year. That will save the average homeowner about \$175 in school property taxes.

Another proposition that easily passed corrects an oversight to a 2019 bill passed by the Legislature, which didn't apply to homeowners who are disabled or 65 and older, because their school taxes were already

The state will reim-

burse school districts for tax funding lost by both propositions, with the Legislative Budget Board anticipating the amount at more than a half-billion dollars, according to the Statesman.

Meanwhile, Texas voters get another opportunity to castballots starting May 16 in primary runoff elections slated for both Republican and Democratic candidates. The election is May 24, with early voting running until May

Statewide runoff races are slated for attorney general and land commissioner in both parties, lieutenant governor and comptroller in the Democratic race, and railroad commissioner on Republican side of the ticket.

More information can be found about particular races at votetexas.gov. Voters who cast ballots in one party's primary cannot vote in the other party's runoff election. However, voters who did not cast ballots in the primary can vote in either party's runoff.

United States moves Griner status to priority

Nimitz HS star in Russian prison; WNBA teams show support

WASHINGTON - The Biden administration has determined that WNBA star Brittney Griner is being wrongfully detained in Russia, meaning the United States will more aggressively work to secure her release even as the legal case against her plays out, the State Department said.

"The U.S. government will continue to undertake efforts to provide appropriate support to Ms. Griner," the department said.

Griner was detained at an airport in February after Russian authorities said a search of her bag revealed vape cartridges containing oil derived from cannabis. Since then, U.S. officials had stopped short of classifying the Phoenix Mercury player as wrongfully detained and said instead that their focus was on ensuring that she had access in jail to American consular affairs officials.

Now, though, U.S. officials have shifted supervision of her case to a State Department section — the Office of the Special Presidential Envoy for Hostage Affairs — that is focused on negotiating for the release of hostages and other Americans classified as being wrongfully detained in other countries. A consular officer did visit in March.

"Brittney has been detained for 75 days and our expectation is that the White House do whatever is necessary to bring her home," said Griner's agent, Lindsay Kagawa Colas.

The president of the WNBA players' union, Nneka Ogwumike, noted in a separate statement that "it has been 75 days that our friend, teammate, sister, Brittney Griner, has been wrongfully detained in Russia."

"It is time for her to come home," Ogwumike added. "Having learned that the U.S. government has now determined that BG is being wrongfully detained we are hopeful that their efforts will be significant, swift and successful.'

The WNBA released a statement Tuesday night saying: "Today's news on Brittney Griner is a positive development and a next step to getting her home. The



Griner in Russian Jail in February

WNBA is in constant communication with the U.S. government on Brittney's case, working together to get her home safe and as soon as possible."

It was unclear what prompted the shift in approach to Griner's case, though President Joe Biden's administration had been under pressure from members of Congress and others to make her release a priority.

The U.S. last week secured the release of Marine veteran Trevor Reed as part of a prisoner swap that also resulted in a convicted Russian drug trafficker being freed from prison in the U.S.

Besides Griner, another American regarded as unjustly detained in Russia is Paul Whelan, a corporate security executive from Michigan who was arrested in December 2018 while visiting for a friend's wedding and was later sentenced to 16 years in prison on espionage-related charges his family says are bogus.

ESPN first reported the classification in Griner's case.

Meanwhile, the WNBA announced Tuesday that it would honor Griner with a floor decal and allow the Mercury to pay her without it counting against the team's cap. The decal will feature Griner's initials, BG, as well as her No. 42.

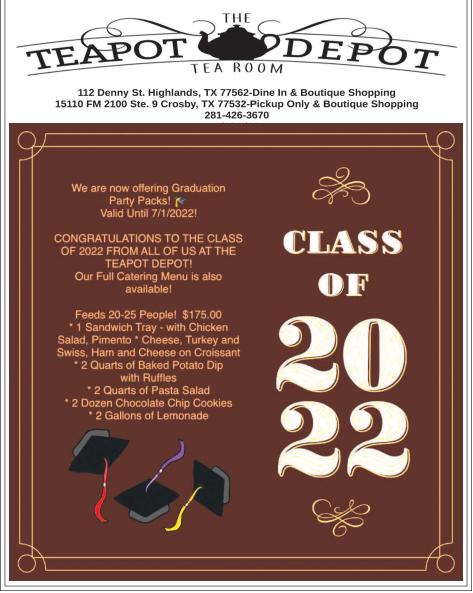
All 12 teams will have the decal on their home courts starting with the season opener Friday night. The Mercury open their season at home that night against the Las Vegas Aces.

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Attention Non-Profit Private Schools, Home Schoolers

Non-profit private schools and homeschoolers who legally qualify as non-profit (currently hold a 501-C3 certificate) are invited to meet with a representative from Channelview Independent School District to learn more about federally funded services available for eligible residents of Channelview ISD. Please contact the district, Dr. Patricia Glaeser (patricia.glaeser@cvisd.org), Director of Federal Programs, no later than Friday, May 27, 2022.

Atención Escuelas Privadas y Educados En Casa

Escuelas privadas sin fines lucrativos y estudiantes educados en casa, que legalmente califican como una entidad no lucrativa y que tengan un certificado 501-C3, son invitados a una junta con representante de Channelview para aprender más sobre servicios financiados por el gobierno federal que están disponibles para los residentes elegibles en dichos distritos. Por Favor de contactarse con Dr. Patricia Glaeser la coordinadora del Programa Federal de Distrito de Channelview (patricia.glaeser@cvisd.org), a no más tardar el día Viernes, 27 de Mayo del 2022.

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Notice for Private Nonprofit Schools with students who reside in the Galena Park ISD attendance

Please be advised that Galena Park ISD will hold a Zoom meeting for administrators of all Private Nonprofit Schools that have students who reside in the Galena Park ISD attendance area. Information on program planning, availability, and eligibility criteria of Federal funds and services (Title I, II, III, IV and Special Education programs) will be held on Tuesday, May 31, 2022 at 9:00 am & 1:00 pm. For additional information about this meeting, please contact Amy Cole at 832-386-1028 or acole@galenaparkisd.com.



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tion challenges. Sadly, every Spring we see a huge jump in the number of cats and dogs in need. But there is a rewarding way for you to help! By fostering adopting a dog or cat, you can give a loving

pet the home they deserve. All animals adopted are spayed or neutered, are microchipped, receive

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have their pet license for

King Crossword

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May 9, 2022 Posting Date

You can find out more about adopting or fostering a pet by visiting the Harris County Pets website here, or call (281) 999-3191 for more information.

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ACROSS

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Solution time: 21 mins.

Answers King Crossword -

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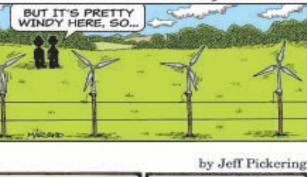










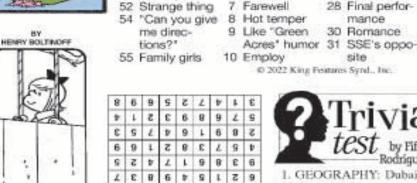




HOCUS-FOCUS











Rodriguez 1. GEOGRAPHY: Dubai is the largest city of which country

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23 Reuben bread

24 Stanley Cup

25 Caviar base

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39 Not as good

Alpine air?

*Bohemian

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Shall we?

48 Western tribe

42 Pre-weekend

2. U.S. PRESIDENTS: What was President Richard Nixon's Secret Service code name? 3. TELEVISION: In which year did the first episode of the animated comedy "South Park" air?

4. HISTORY: What was the former name of the Hoover Dam on the Colorado River?

5. MUSIC: Which instrument is Pablo Cassals famous for playing?

6. LITERATURE: What are the names of Harry

Potter's deceased parents in the book series?

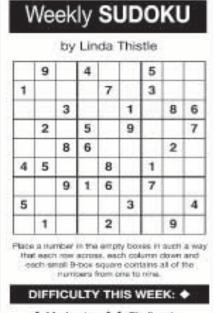
7. LANGUAGE: What does the Latin phrase

"bona fide" mean?

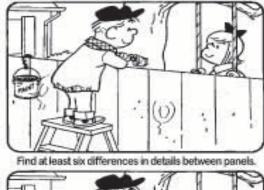
8. ANIMAL KINGDOM: What is a baby fish called?

ACRONYMS: What does BMW stand for? 10. MOVIES: What is the song playing in the famous twist scene of "Pulp Fiction"?

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♦♦♦ HOO BOY! 69 SODA King Feetured Shrift . Not





9. Bayarian Motor Works; 10, "You Never Can Tell," Chuck Berry the 1940s; 5. The cello; 6. James and Lily; 7. In good faith; 8. A fry or fingerling; I. United Arab Emirates; 2. Searchlight; 3, 1997; 4. Boulder Dam, for a short time in Trivia Test Answerst





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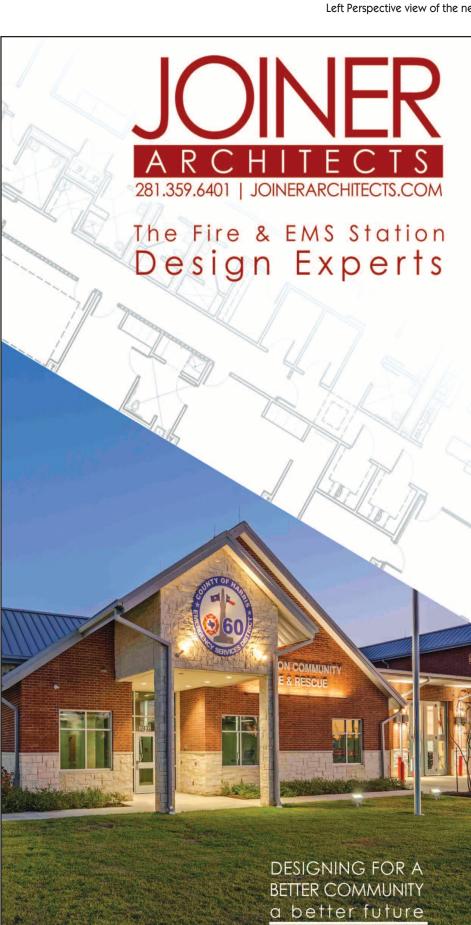
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The new facility design and engineering is by Joiner Architects with general contractor Gamma Construction Company. The project is overseen and under the supervision of Delbert Moffett. ESD#60/SCFR would like to thank the community for their continued support. The department is a 501c3 Non-Profit organization.



Left Perspective view of the new HCESD #60 Administration facility



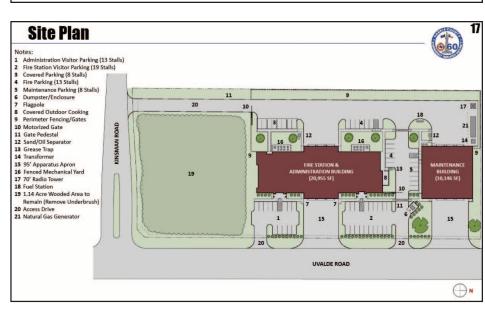
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