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AT SAN JAC
SUMMER
CAMPS

AGES 6-18

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CHANNEL CURRENTS

CHIC to hold Waste Pits Meeting May 26

Channelview Health & Improvement Coalition will be holding an in-person meeting next Thursday night, May 26th at 6:30 pm. The meeting will be held at the Channelview Fire Department Station 3 located at 1210 Dell Dale, Channelview, TX 77530. There will be a social time from 5:30 - 6:20 p.m. before the meeting begins at 6:30 p.m.

Texas Health & Environment Alliance/San Jacinto River Coalition – Rachel Jordan – Will be sharing information from the May 16th SJR Waste Pits Community Advisory Panel meeting with the EPA, provide updates regarding the Waste Pits and address your Waste Pits questions. A copy of the slides from the EPA San Jacinto River Waste Pits PowerPoint presentation at the May 17th meeting is attached for your review prior to our meeting.

Representatives from Harris County Precinct 2 Commissioner Adrian Garcia's office, Precinct 3 Commissioner Tom Ramsey's office, Pollution Control, and HC Sheriff's Office will be attending to hear your concerns and to be available to speak with you.

Sales Tax Holiday May 28-30

(AUSTIN) — Save on the purchase of certain water- and energy-efficient products during the state's Water-Efficient Products and ENERGY STAR® sales tax holidays. The holidays, created by the Texas Legislature, both take place Saturday, May 28, through Monday, May 30.

"Anyone who's lived through a Texas summer knows triple-digit temperatures, outdated water systems and inefficient appliances can put a strain on our water supplies and power grids," Hegar said. "By taking advantage of these sales tax holidays, Texans can make upgrades that will help alleviate those pressures and lower their utility bills — while saving money on state and local sales taxes."

This is the seventh year for the Water-Efficient Products Sales Tax Holiday. Products displaying a WaterSense® label or logo can be purchased tax free for personal or business use. These include showerheads, bathroom sink faucets and accessories, toilets, urinals and landscape irrigation controls.

The sales tax holiday also applies to lawn and garden products that help conserve water outdoors. Items qualifying for the exemption include soaker or drip-irrigation hoses; moisture control for sprinkler or irrigation systems; mulch; and plants, trees and grasses.

During the ENERGY STAR Sales Tax Holiday, certain energy-efficient products displaying the ENERGY STAR logo can be purchased tax free, including air conditioners priced at \$6,000 or less, refrigerators priced at \$2,000 or less, ceiling fans, compact fluorescent light bulbs, integral LED bulbs, dishwashers, dehumidifiers and clothes washing machines.



North Shore Eastside Boys team and football program's associates displaying their championship rings. Coach Jon Kay 2nd from right. (Photo by Allan Jamail)

NS Mustangs State Championship Ring Day

By Allan Jamail

HOUSTON – Wednesday, May 18, 2022 in the mid-afternoon at the GPISD football stadium the Eastside 2021 varsity team received their championship rings. Also getting rings were others who contributed to the program's winning season.

Players, coaches, trainers and other associates of the football program lined up next to tables spread out over 150 feet. They were waiting with eager anticipation of



Mustang's Coach Jon Kay receives GEICO Game Day Trophy from Dave Nelson, Owner | GEICO Local Office for their state championship victory over Duncanville, December 18, 2021, assisting Van Malone, Producer, Gameday Productions. (Photo by Allan Jamail) MORE photos page 3.

opening the sealed ring boxes on the tables. No one was allowed to see their ring until Head Coach Jon Kay gave the go-ahead to open the boxes. And when he gave the word to open, loud sounds of excitement could be heard from the recipients by the crowd of spectators gathered to watch the event.

Coach Kay received a Special Trophy given by Dave Nelson, GEICO Owner of the local office and Van Malone of Gameday Productions for the team's state championship victory over the Duncanville Panthers 17–10, Dec. 18, 2021.

The sports world of reporters has identified the Mustang's as a DYNASTY for having consistently won state championships. The five time state champion victories were in 2003, 2015, 2018, 2019 & 2021.

-By Allanj211@aol.com

Shooting rampage in Galena Park leaves 1 dead, 2 wounded

By Allan Jamail

GALENA PARK – Tuesday, May 17th in the Galena Manor subdivision in the quiet hours just before midnight neighbors were awoken by loud gunshots causing them to panic and duck for cover.

According to Willie Willis and her daughter Nadine Huff the shots rang out so loud as if they were coming into their home from across the street at 2514 Fourth Street. Willis said it was just before midnight on the 17th, she was watching her favorite religious program when all of a sudden she said she heard, "pow, pow, pow, pow, pow, pow sounds coming from a



2514 Fourth Street in Galena Manor a subdivision of Galena Park, Texas. Scene of a May 17th triple shooting 1 dead and 2 wounded. (Photo by Allan Jamail)

gun. I was so scared I got on my hands and knees and crawled to my bedroom and lay down on the floor praying I'd not be shot."

According to Harris County Sheriff Office, the Galena Park police and fire departments were dispatched to the scene about midnight. Upon arrival po-

CONTINUED. SEE GALENA PARK SHOOTING, P.5

San Jac Softball and Baseball headed back to NJCAA & JUCO

PASADENA, Texas – The San Jacinto College softball and baseball teams are headed back to their respective National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) national tournaments after winning their regional tournaments this past weekend.

The San Jac softball team (42-14) went 3-0 at the Region XIV Tournament to earn an automatic bid to the NJCAA Softball World Series. The Coyotes defeated Paris Junior College, Tyler Junior College, and Bossier Parish College to earn their sixth appearance in the national tournament.

"We are thrilled to be returning to the NJCAA Softball World Series," said Head Coach Kelly Saenz. "Our team has worked hard on the field this season to earn this spot at the national tournament, and we look forward to getting to



San Jac Softball Girls Celebrating

Arizona and playing against some of the best in the nation."

Sophomore Ronni Grofman (Kingwood/Kingwood Park HS) leads the team in batting with a .464 average. Freshman pitcher Christin Haygood (Huffman/Hargrave HS) owns a 1.35 ERA in 28 appearances on the mound.

For the baseball Gators, they return to the JUCO World Series for the 28th time in school history. San Jac (44-18) defeated Tyler Junior College and Wharton County Junior College (twice) in the Region XIX South Regional tournament; and Alvin Community College in the Mid-South District Qualifier this past weekend.

CONTINUED. SEE SAN JAC BACK TO NJCAA, PAGE 7

NS Mustangs signing day



Superintendent Dr. John Moore (left) Students and the colleges they'll be attending: Girls Soccer, Yaretz Mariaca - Trinity Valley, Girls Basketball, Atria Dumas - Tyler Jr. College, Makenzie Paul - Angelina Jr. College, J'Nyla Kennedy - Shorter University, Chrishelle Washington - North Platte CC, Girls Track, Janessa Carroll - Southern University, Boys Soccer, Hector Contreras - Bethel University, Andrew Magana - Sul Ross University, Gerardo Romo - Upper Iowa University, Ivan Sanchez - Bethel University, Football, TJ Pounds - Grand View University, Athletic Trainer, Miguel Myers - Blinn College and ESports, Osvaldo Garcia - University of St. Thomas. (Allan Jamail Photo)

By Allan Jamail

NORTH CHANNEL. – Wednesday, May 18, 2022 at the GPISD football stadium twelve seniors received college scholarships. A partial list of school officials in attendance were, Dr. John Moore, Superintendent, Vivian Dancy, Athletic Director, Assistant Athletic Director, Kae Walker and Head Football Coach Jon Kay. Over two hundred parents, coaches and teachers attended.

Girls Soccer Head Coach Ysamar Alonso said, "Today we are honoring a class that has faced many adversities, including three years of a pandemic (basically their whole high school career). To handle

CONTINUED. SEE MUSTANGS SIGNING, PAGE 5

GP YellowJackets signing day Baseball and Soccer college scholarships



L – R: Head Soccer Coach Shannon W. Summers, Senior Soccer Captain Nathan Vasquez, Head Baseball Coach James Turrubiarres & Adan Soto, Senior 1st Team All District Baseball third baseman. Back row standing, L – R: Dr. Kimberly Martin & GPISD Superintendent Dr. John Moore. (Photo by Allan Jamail)

By Allan Jamail

GALENA PARK. – Wednesday, May 18, 2022 the Galena Park Yellow Jackets had seniors Adan Soto and Nathan Vasquez receive out of state college scholarships. Superintendent Dr. John Moore and Principal Kimberly Martin were joined by over a hundred classmates and parents witnessing the event in the athletic department's workout room.

Head Soccer Coach Summers said, "It is an honor and a privilege to announce that Galena Park H.S. Boys' Soccer player Nathan Vasquez will be taking his talent to play at York College in Nebraska. Nathan has been a 4-year letterman, and a captain for 3 years. Vasquez has been a district MVP2021, a defensive MVP 2022, and a SETX Allstar MVP 2022.

Nathan may become a York College Panther, but he will always be a Galena Park Yellow Jacket. Congratulations and Good luck Vasquez."

Head Baseball Coach James Turrubiarres said, "Galena Park baseball is very excited to announce that Adan Soto will be continuing his education and playing career at McPhearson College in Kansas next season.

Adan is a hard worker. He is very focused and determined. I remember this past fall in the weight room, after every workout, Adan was covered in sweat. That's a testament to his work ethic. He was determined to be successful. He's a 3-year varsity letterman. In those 3 years, he received 1st Team All District honors at third base two years in row." Allanj211@aol.com

SHELDON ISD NEWS

Week of May 20, 2022

Monahan students receive FREE books

On May 16, students at Monahan Elementary School were surprised with free books to take home as part of the Barbara Bush Houston Literacy Foundation My Home Library program. Monahan Elementary was sponsored by Castro's Kids, an organization founded by Houston Astros catcher Jason Castro and his wife.

Maris Castro, wife of Jason Castro, read to a first-grade class prior to the grade level book distribution. As part of the sponsorship, every child enrolled in the campus (approximately 700) will receive free books to take home. Monahan Elementary has been participating in this program since 2019.



Sheldon Education Foundation Surprises Teachers with \$73,000 in grant funding

On May 19, the Sheldon ISD Education Foundation surprised teachers with grant funding for 28 applications totaling \$73,000. Community members, staff and donors boarded the Prize Patrol Bus to present oversized checks to the grant recipients. The Sheldon ISD Education Foundation raises funds to directly support educators in the school district through the innovative teaching grant process. To date, the Foundation has awarded more than \$193,000 in innovative teaching grants to Sheldon ISD educators. A list of all the recipients can be found at www.sheldonisd.com/sef/



District Recognizes Employees for Outstanding Customer Service

May 17, Sheldon ISD recognized Null Middle School's Principal Roberto Gonzalez, C.E. King High School's registered nurse Julia Robles, and Sheldon Early Childhood Academy's custodian Hanna Woods have been recognized for their outstanding customer service. The CARE Award stands for Caught Acting and Responding with Excellence and is a partnership with Woodforest Bank. Mr. Roberto Gonzalez is the principal at Null Middle School.

Gonzalez was nominated for his act of kindness. From working with students to sweeping floors in the cafeteria to make sure the lunchroom is ready, he wears many hats in his role at Null Middle School. Julia Robles is the registered

nurse for C.E. King High School. She is described as always willing to help others from departments, all district clinics, our custodians, and students. Robles goes the extra mile for our students and staff members with care, compassion, and her passion shows daily. Hanna Woods is a custodian at Sheldon Early Childhood Academy. Her peers describe her as a hard worker who loves her job and is always available to help others when needed.

Each recipient receives a \$100 Visa gift card from Woodforest Bank. Nominations will open for the next group of CARE Award recipients in September. To view a listing of past recipients, go to www.sheldonisd.com/care/



Last day of school for Sheldon students is May 25

Wednesday, May 25 is the last day of school for students in Sheldon ISD. Graduation for the Class of 2022 will be held at 7 p.m. Panther Stadium

Sheldon Ambassador Academy Graduates Inaugural Class

Sheldon ISD Board of Trustees recognized 14 graduates from the first Sheldon Ambassador Academy at its board meeting on May 17. Graduates received a certificate of completion and an Ambassador Graduate t-shirt. The purpose of the program is to develop a group of parent and community leaders that encourage interaction, partnership, learning and dialogue to promote and support the district's vision. The Academy is a year-long program where participants meet monthly to

get a behind the scenes look at Sheldon ISD through sessions that focus on specific areas of the district to include academics, fine arts, school finance, athletics, career and technical education, special education and more.

If you are interested in joining this community program, please call the Sheldon ISD Communications Department at 281-727-2033 or email communications@sheldonisd.com. The program will begin in September 2023.



Sheldon ISD Recognizes Top Scholars

King High School valedictorian Andrea Fuentes has demonstrated exceptional dedication to academics and excellence in the classroom. Fuentes can be described as friendly, thoughtful, and laser-focused on her dreams. Andrea is the daughter of Reina and Miguel Fuentes. While at King High School, she was an Early College High School ambassador, a member of the orchestra, color guard, student council, and National Honors Society. She is an AP Scholar with Honors and has earned her associates degree from San Jacinto College. She is a member of the National Hispanic Recognition Program. Fuentes will be attending The University of Texas at Austin to study social work. She has been awarded over \$140,000 in scholarship awards and is also a finalist for the Hispanic Scholarship Fund.



Andrea Fuentes (Valedictorian)

King High School salutatorian Jose Torres has demonstrated dedication to academics and has excelled in the classroom. He is also a leader who has shown kindness, compassion, and care for others during his time in Early College High School. His perseverance through trials and his tenacity have brought him to this place today. He is the son of Maria and Guillermo Torres. While at King High School, he was an ECHS ambassador, a member of the National Honor Society, and a member of the Historical Society. Torres has earned his associates degree from San Jacinto College and will be attending the University of Texas at Austin in the School of Informatics. He was also awarded the Dell Scholarship, making him a proud Dell Scholar.



Jose Torres (Salutatorian)

Sheldon Announces New District Leaders

Sheldon ISD welcomes Daniel Pfannstiel as the new Director of Fine Arts. Mr. Pfannstiel has seven years of administrative experience serving as an assistant principal in Humble ISD at Summer Creek High School and West Lake Middle School and most recently assistant principal at Edwin Wells Middle School in Spring ISD. His educational career began as a band director and science teacher in Conroe ISD. He holds a bachelor of music in all-level instruction and trumpet and two master degrees in music theory/composition and education administration from Sam Houston State University. Mr. Pfannstiel is pursuing his doctorate in education in public school administration from Texas A&M University. He will begin his position with Sheldon ISD this summer.



Daniel Pfannstiel Director of Fine Arts

Mr. David Baxter has been announced as Sheldon ISD's new Director of Transportation. Mr. Baxter is currently the transportation administrator for Spring ISD. Throughout his 35 year career in education, he has served in multiple capacities from superintendent in Kennard ISD to Deputy Superintendent in Crockett ISD. He has led multiple campuses as principal in Spring ISD, Crockett ISD, Houston ISD, and Aldine ISD. He holds a bachelor of science from Jarvis Christian College and a master's of education from Sam Houston State University. He will begin his role with the district this summer.



David Baxter Director of Transportation

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 www.sheldonisd.com/register/

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COMMUNITY WATCH

Fatal accident on I-10 at Mercury Drive



Houston police are investigating a fatal crash at 10100 East Freeway (East Interstate Highway 10) about 10:55 a.m. May 11.

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

HPD Vehicular Crimes Division Sergeant L. Ross and Officer M. Tamez reported:

The female was driving a white Box truck, entering the freeway ramp at the above address, when she changed lanes when unsafe. Her vehicle struck a tractor-trailer traveling in the westbound lanes, and then struck a concrete pillar and guardrail. Paramedics pronounced the female deceased at the scene.

The driver of the tractor-trailer was questioned and released.

The investigation is continuing.

Hit and Run kills cyclist on Sheldon Road

A bicyclist was hit and killed by a driver who sped away Sunday morning near Sheldon last week, according to the Harris County Sheriff's Office.

Police said Raymond Daniel Wike was southbound in the 9900 block of Sheldon Road just north of U.S. 90 around 9:30 a.m. Sunday. That's when the driver of an unknown vehicle, which was also southbound on Sheldon, slammed into the back of Wike as he pedaled in the far-right lane, according to sheriff's office crash scene investigators. The driver sped away after hitting Wike and was not apprehended, police said.

Paramedics rushed Wike to a nearby hospital, where he was pronounced dead. It was not immediately clear who called 911.

If caught, the driver could face a felony charge of failure to stop and render aid, a second-degree felony for drivers who flee the scene of a deadly collision. Investigators noted the driver "failed to control speed" as they slammed into the cyclist. The sheriff's office's Vehicular Crimes Division is continuing its investigation into identifying the driver.

Wike is at least the sixth bicyclist to be killed on Houston and Harris County streets since the start of 2022, putting the county on pace to have slightly fewer bicyclist deaths than those in 2021's record-breaking streak of 24 deaths . So far in 2022, a majority of the deaths occurred on roadways in the city of Houston. Wike's death was in unincorporated Harris County, the first such death recorded outside the city this year.

On Feb. 7, rider Chung Ko was hit and killed by the driver of a Toyota Tundra in broad daylight in the 7800 block of Bellaire Boulevard in Houston. On Feb. 19, Jose Gutierrez Prieto, 56, was hit and killed by a driver in the 11000 block of Mykawa Road. The driver sped away but later turned himself into police and was charged with failure to stop and render aid.

The next day on Feb. 20, an unidentified 52-year-old man was hit and killed by the driver of an Audi A4 in the 1700 block of Texas Highway 6. Another cyclist, 46-year-old Michael Allen Chadwick, was hit and killed by a semi-truck driver in the 2100 block of Houston Boulevard in the city of South Houston on March 7. Then on March 23, cyclist Bernardo Trejo was killed by a dump truck driver on Texas Loop 494 near Kingwood.

NS Mustangs Ring Day,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



Championship ring displayed by Junior Mustang center Zach Chavanne. (Photo by Allan Jamail)



Student Trainers, Guillen sisters, Mariana (left) & Maria proudly showing their well deserved championship rings. Trainers play a huge role in keeping the players healthy. (Photo by Allan Jamail)



5 Time State Champions Mustangs cap with 2003, 2015, 2018, 2019 & 2021 dates. Available at the GPSD Athletic Office (\$20) next to the football stadium, 15025 Wallisville Rd. Houston, Texas 77049 / phone - 832.386.4330 (Photo by Allan Jamail)

ASK DIAMOND JIM

Diamond Jim: “What’s the History of Father’s Day?”

The nation’s first Father’s Day was celebrated on June 19, 1910, in the state of Washington. However, it was not until 1972–58 years after President Woodrow Wilson made Mother’s Day official—that the day honoring fathers became a nation-wide holiday in the United States. Father’s Day 2019 occurs on Sunday, June 16.

Origins of Father’s Day

The campaign to celebrate the nation’s fathers did not meet with the same enthusiasm as Mother’s Day—perhaps because, as one florist explained, “fathers haven’t the same sentimental appeal that mothers have.” On July 5, 1908, a West Virginia church sponsored the nation’s first event explicitly in honor of fathers, a Sunday sermon in memory of the 362 men who had died in the previous December’s explosions at the Fairmont Coal Company mines in Monongah, but it was a one-time commemoration and not an annual holiday.

The next year, a Spokane, Washington, woman named Sonora Smart Dodd, one of six children raised by a widower, tried to establish an official equivalent to Mother’s Day for male parents. She went to local churches, the YMCA, shopkeepers and government officials to drum up support for her idea, and she was successful: Washington State celebrated the nation’s first statewide Father’s Day on June 19, 1910.

Slowly, the holiday spread. In 1916, President Wilson honored the day by using telegraph signals to unfurl a flag in Spokane when he pressed a button in Washington, D.C. In 1924, President Calvin Coolidge urged state governments to observe Father’s Day. When World War II began, advertisers began to argue that celebrating Father’s Day was a way to honor American troops and support the war effort. By the end of the war, Father’s Day may not have been a federal holiday, but it was a national institution. In 1972, in the middle of a hard-fought presidential re-election campaign, Richard Nixon signed a proclamation making Father’s Day a federal holiday at last.

Today, the day honoring of fathers is celebrated in the United States on the third Sunday of June. Father’s Day 2022 falls on June 19th.

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.

It tells Dad more than the time



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OPINION PAGE

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OPINION

By District Attorney Kim Ogg



Statement from Harris County District Attorney Kim Ogg on Justice in Harris County

We at the District Attorney’s Office take an oath to preserve, protect and defend the Constitution, the laws of the United States and of this State, Texas. We rely upon evidence to bring cases before grand juries, courts and trial juries. Our mission is to seek justice in every single case and we are doing our job.

The nearly daily public misstatements being made by Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo about pending felony cases brought against three members of her staff now compel comment to the public by this office and by me, the top law enforcement official in Harris County. Failing to do so allows a top county official, in her official capacity, to continue to improperly influence those people of Harris County who will serve on the jury in this case. This harms everyone, including the accused, and must stop.



HARRIS COUNTY JUDGE LINA HIDALGO

HARRIS COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY KIM OGG

The process our Harris County government utilizes to issue contracts and to aid Harris County residents with problems like COVID-19 should be a totally transparent process, ethically and under law. The criminal charges currently being prosecuted by the Harris County DA’s Office were brought after a diverse grand jury indicted the defendants.

An indictment is a finding by a grand jury of probable cause that crime occurred, and in this instance that three “public servants,” while working in the County Judge’s Office, diverted an \$11 million contract to a political consultant under the guise of COVID vaccine outreach – money that a more qualified bidder could have used to accomplish the worthwhile goal of increasing awareness and participation in COVID vaccination in underrepresented communities throughout Harris County.

In this case, a grand jury spent five months reviewing evidence and listening to testimony concerning the Elevate Strategies contract procurement. Judge Hidalgo has referred to case evidence, to information the investigators and prosecutors don’t have. She has an ethical duty and responsibility to provide any evidence under oath to the Texas Rangers and she should do so immediately.

The criminal justice process is not a debate. It is not theater. It is the search for truth and the place for accountability under the law. We do not fight out our differences in the streets or on social media and I will not try this case in the court of public opinion. We will try this case, like every other criminal case, in a court of law before a jury of peers, and we will look to them for a fair outcome. When all the evidence is seen by a trial court, justice will prevail; our work continues.

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LETTERS

To The Editor

Governor Abbott Statement On Federal Court Keeping Title 42 Expulsions

AUSTIN – Governor Greg Abbott today released a statement following a federal court’s preliminary injunction keeping Title 42 expulsions in place:

“Another federal court announced today what we have known all along: President Biden is ignoring federal law with his open border policies.

While today’s court ruling rejecting President Biden’s ending of Title 42 expulsions is a positive development, hundreds of thousands of illegal immigrants remain at our southern border ready to flood into Texas.

Texas will continue utilizing all available resources and strategies to prevent this mass illegal migration, including the deployment of Texas Department of Public Safety and Texas National Guard resources, the coordination with Mexican border governors, and the activation of the Joint Border Security Operations Center.

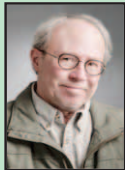
We remain vigilant in fighting the lifting of Title 42 expulsions.”



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STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Gary Borders



Early runoff voting ends Friday

Early voting in the May 24 primary runoff elections ends Friday, May 20. Under state law, voters who cast ballots in either party’s primary election must vote only in the same party’s runoff election. Voters who did not cast ballots in the primary may vote in either party’s runoff election. Topping the runoff ballots are runoff elections for attorney general. Incumbent Republican Ken Paxton faces George P. Bush, the current land commissioner. On the Democratic side, former Galveston mayor Joe Jaworski faces Rochelle Garza, a Brownsville civil rights attorney.

There are also statewide runoff races for lieutenant governor, land commissioner, comptroller and railroad commissioner, as well as several congressional seats and spots on the state board of education. See the full list of runoff races at: <https://tinyurl.com/43bzf9v6>.

ERCOT URGES TEXANS TO CONSERVE POWER

After six power generation plants went offline Friday during the start to an unseasonably hot weekend, the Electric Reliability Council of Texas urged Texans to conserve power, the Austin American-Statesman reported. As temperatures soared into the 90s and even 100s in some parts of the state, residents were urged to set thermostats to 78 degrees or higher and avoid using large appliances such as dishwashers, washers and dryers between 3 p.m. and 8 p.m. The hot weather is sparking record electricity demand across the states and it not only May.

ABBOTT’S USE OF COVID FUNDS ON BORDER MISSION PROBED

The inspector general for the U.S. Treasury De-



partment has opened a reveal into how the state spent federal COVID-19 aid funds, with approximately \$1billion in relief funds shifted to the crack-down on the Texas-Mexico border, The Washington Post reported. The aid was intended to help local governments pay front-line COVID-19 workers, purchase protective equipment and for other public health costs.

Richard K. Delmar, the deputy inspector general, issued a statement citing his office’s mandate “for monitoring and oversight of the distribution” of the stimulus spending, which Texas received under a federal initiative known as the Coronavirus Relief Fund, the Post reported. “In exercise of that responsibility,” Delmar said, “We are currently conducting a review of Texas’s uses of CRF monies.” A spokesman for Gov. Greg Abbott defended how Texas used federal funds received under the Cares Act.

MORE THAN 900 MIGRANTS SENT TO D.C.

Under Abbott’s direction, the state has sent 35 chartered buses with 922 migrants to Washington, D.C. since mid-April, The Dallas Morning News reported. The governor has called it a “fun” way to get President Joe Biden’s attention, harshly criticizing

the president for the administration’s border policies. However, The Morning News reported the impact on the nation’s capital has been minimal, with the migrants being processed and sent to live in different cities until their cases can be heard in court.

“He’s [Abbott] no longer even making a big deal about it. You’re not seeing it on the nightly news. It’s a dud,” said Abel Nuñez, executive director of the Central American Resource Center, one of the groups helping migrants who arrive from Texas. “It’s happening in silence now. This is not giving him the political win that he wanted.”

The state of Arizona has also begun busing migrants to Washington, D.C.

DROUGHT CONDITIONS PERSIST ACROSS STATE

As a hydrologist for the Texas Water Development Board put it, “April wasn’t great” in terms of rainfall. However, about a sixth of the state did get abundant rainfall, in parts of Central Texas, North Texas and South Texas. Dr. Mark Wentzel wrote that rainfall received in May could be key to getting through the

summer without widespread severe drought.

“May, historically, has been the wettest month for Texas,” Wentzel wrote. “We get an average of 3 1/3 inches of rainfall in that month, making it the wettest month of the year for us. We want to be cautiously optimistic.” The most severe drought conditions are found in the Panhandle and High Plains and in the Big Bend area. April showers in much of East Texas brought both May flowers but an easing of drought conditions, according to the U.S. Drought Monitor.

COVID-19 CASES AGAIN RISE SLIGHTLY

The number of new COVID-19 cases in the state during the past week rose slightly to 24,092, according to the Coronavirus Resource Center at Johns Hopkins University, with 73 new deaths reported - also a slight increase. Once again, the number of lab-confirmed COVID-19 hospitalizations in Texas stayed steady, with 772 reported by the Texas Department of State Health Services.

The number of Texans who are fully vaccinated now stands at 17.641 million, or 60.5% of the state’s population; 6.821 million Texans have received a booster dose, according to DSHS.

★

THE POSTSCRIPT

By Carrie Classon

Poking and Clicking

“You gotta keep poking and clicking,” a friend tells me. “That’s what my daughter does.”

By this, she means that learning new technology is not a straight path. I have to play with it. I have to find the process of learning fun and challenging and not get hung up when I make mistakes along the way.

I know I’m not the only one who finds the “poke and click” mindset a challenge when I just want to get the darned thing done and move on to something I enjoy. Like reading a book. With real pages.

My current frustration is with my phone. I use my phone for taking photos and, occasionally, for making actual phone calls. I don’t do well with texting. If you send me an email (and I hope you do!), I’ll likely respond within minutes because I am sitting at my computer all day pretending to write. Getting an email gives me an excuse to leave whatever I am working on and send off a cheery note.

My phone, on the other hand, sits on the corner of my desk, ignored. It must make a noise or something when people text me, but I never notice. It isn’t until I pick it up to make an actual phone call (which could be a very long time) that I see I have a message. “Uh-oh. I hope it’s not Mom.”

It won’t be my mom. She learned her lesson ages ago and no longer sends me text messages because I never see them. She sends me an email, which—she will tell you—I respond to immediately.

I have never bonded with my phone. I don’t use it much because I’m already on my computer. I have this gigantic monitor, and switching over to the itty-bitty screen doesn’t make sense to me. I might have to put on my reading glasses. I don’t see the point.

The result is that I don’t know how to use my phone very well. But my phone isn’t helping me any. It doesn’t even take pictures easily. The response time is so slow that the person I am trying to photograph has allowed the smile to fade from their face. The dog I am photographing has been distracted and is looking in the other direction. The sun has gone under a cloud—or possibly set—before my phone gets around to snapping a photo.

“You need a new phone,” my husband, Peter, said after taking six photos in a row that looked as if the subject was under-water.

And so, after a lot of consideration, I decided to buy a new phone. I tried to buy one from a phone store, but they didn’t answer their phone. I realized what a dumb bunny I was. You’re not supposed to call a phone store. Duh.

So I did what they wanted me to do and ordered it online. Now it is coming in the mail, and I am filled with a faint dread because I am sure I will have to do something complicated to get it up and working—something involving a lot of poking and clicking—before I am allowed to simply take less fuzzy photos and ignore my text messages in peace.

It’s good for me, I suppose. Poking and clicking will fend off Alzheimer’s perhaps and make me believe I am not too old to learn new tricks.

But the truth is, I’m not really looking for new tricks. Today, I’d be perfectly happy with some old tricks that worked.

Till next time, Carrie
The Postscript is now available as a podcast! Check your favorite streaming service or visit: CarrieClasson.com.

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TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY



NOTICE OF RECEIPT OF APPLICATION AND INTENT TO OBTAIN
AIR PERMIT (NORI) RENEWAL

PERMIT NUMBER 9383

APPLICATION. ALTIVIA Oxide Chemicals, LLC, has applied to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) for renewal of Air Quality Permit Number 9383, which would authorize continued operation of a ALTIVIA Oxide Chemicals Facility located at 16503 Ramsey Road, Crosby, Harris County, Texas 77532. This link to an electronic map of the site or facility's general location is provided as a public courtesy and not part of the application or notice. For exact location, refer to application. <http://www.tceq.texas.gov/assets/public/hb610/index.html?lat=29.921666&lng=-95.053055&zoom=13&type=r>. The existing facility is authorized to emit the following air contaminants: chlorine, chlorine dioxide, ethyl mercaptan, ethyleneimine, hydrogen bromide, hydrogen chloride, hydrogen cyanide, hydrogen sulfide, methyl mercaptan, nitric acid, carbon monoxide, hazardous air pollutants, nitrogen oxides, organic compounds, particulate matter including particulate matter with diameters of 10 microns or less and 2.5 microns or less and sulfur dioxide.

This application was submitted to the TCEQ on April 19, 2022. The application will be available for viewing and copying at the TCEQ central office, TCEQ Houston regional office, and the Crosby Branch Library, 135 Hare Road, Crosby, Harris County, Texas beginning the first day of publication of this notice. The facility's compliance file, if any exists, is available for public review in the Houston regional office of the TCEQ.

The executive director has determined the application is administratively complete and will conduct a technical review of the application. In addition to the renewal, this permitting action includes the incorporation of permits by rule and standard permits related to this permit. The reasons for any changes or incorporations, to the extent they are included in the renewed permit, may include the enhancement of operational control at the plant or enforceability of the permit. **The TCEQ may act on this application without seeking further public comment or providing an opportunity for a contested case hearing if certain criteria are met.**

PUBLIC COMMENT. You may submit public comments to the Office of the Chief Clerk at the address below. The TCEQ will consider all public comments in developing a final decision on the application and the executive director will prepare a response those comments. Issues such as property values, noise, traffic safety, and zoning are outside of the TCEQ's jurisdiction to address in the permit process.

OPPORTUNITY FOR A CONTESTED CASE HEARING. You may request a contested case hearing if you are a person who may be affected by emissions of air contaminants from the facility. If requesting a contested case hearing, you must submit the following: (1) your name (or for a group or association, an official representative), mailing address, daytime phone number; (2) applicant's name and permit number; (3) the statement "[I/we] request a contested case hearing;" (4) a specific description of how you would be adversely affected by the application and air emissions from the facility in a way not common to the general public; (5) the location and distance of your property relative to the facility; (6) a description of how you use the property which may be impacted by the facility; and (7) a list of all disputed issues of fact that you submit during the comment period. If the request is made by a group or association, one or more members who have standing to request a hearing must be identified by name and physical address. The interests the group or association seeks to protect must also be identified. You may also submit your proposed adjustments to the application/permit which would satisfy your concerns.

The deadline to submit a request for a contested case hearing is 15 days after newspaper notice is published. If a request is timely filed, the deadline for requesting a contested case hearing will be extended to 30 days after mailing of the response to comments.

If any requests for a contested case hearing are timely filed, the Executive Director will forward the application and any requests for a contested case hearing to the Commissioners for their consideration at a scheduled Commission meeting. Unless the application is directly referred to a contested case hearing, the executive director will mail the response to comments along with notification of Commission meeting to everyone who submitted comments or is on the mailing list for this application. The Commission may only grant a request for a contested case hearing on issues the requestor submitted in their timely comments that were not subsequently withdrawn. **If a hearing is granted, the subject of a hearing will be limited to disputed issues of fact or mixed questions of fact and law relating to relevant and material air quality concerns submitted during the comment period.** Issues such as property values, noise, traffic safety, and zoning are outside of the Commission's jurisdiction to address in this proceeding.

MAILING LIST. In addition to submitting public comments, you may ask to be placed on a mailing list for this application by sending a request to the Office of the Chief Clerk at the address below. Those on the mailing list will receive copies of future public notices (if any) mailed by the Office of the Chief Clerk for this application.

AGENCY CONTACTS AND INFORMATION. Public comments and requests must be submitted either electronically at www14.tceq.texas.gov/epic/eComment/, or in writing to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, Office of the Chief Clerk, MC-105, P.O. Box 13087, Austin, Texas 78711-3087. Please be aware that any contact information you provide, including your name, phone number, email address and physical address will become part of the agency's public record. For more information about this permit application or the permitting process, please call the Public Education Program toll free at 1-800-687-4040. Si desea información en Español, puede llamar al 1-800-687-4040.

Further information may also be obtained from ALTIVIA Oxide Chemicals, LLC, P.O. Box 180, Haverhill, Ohio 45636 or by calling Mr. Jason Patrick, ESH Manager, at (740) 532-3420.

Notice Issuance Date: April 28, 2022



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San Jac softball & Baseball back to National Tournaments,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

San Jac is led by freshmen infielders Harold Coll (Boston, Mass./Georgia Premier Academy) and Sabin Ceballos (Rio Grande, Puerto Rico/Puerto Rico Baseball Academy HS). The pair are each hitting .350. On the mound, freshman Lex Garcia (Lubbock/Monterey HS) leads a solid pitching rotation with a 1.43 ERA.

For Baseball Head Coach Tom Arrington, returning to Grand Junction, Colo., is always special. "This is the culmination of a season of hard work and dedication from our team. They had a goal of getting back to Grand Junction to play in the JUCO World Series, and that's what they did. We're excited to be back and we look forward to a great tournament."

The NJCAA Softball World Series takes place May 24-28 at Pacific Avenue Athletic Complex in Yuma, Arizona. The Alpine Bank JUCO World Series will be held May 28-June 4 at Sam Suplizio Field in Grand Junction, Colorado. All games will be broadcast on NJCAA TV.

About San Jacinto College

Surrounded by monuments of history, evolving industries, maritime enterprises of today, and the space age of tomorrow, San Jacinto College has served the people of East Harris County, Texas, since 1961. San Jacinto College is among the top five community colleges in the nation as designated by the Aspen Institute for Community College Excellence, and was named an Achieving the Dream Leader College



of Distinction in 2020. The College spans five campuses serving approximately 41,000 credit and non-credit students annually, and offers more than 200 degrees and certificates across eight major areas of study that put students on a path to transfer to four-year institutions or enter the workforce. San Jacinto College's impact on the

region totals \$1.3 billion in added income, which supports 13,044 jobs. The College is fiscally sound, holding bond ratings of AA and Aa2 by Standard & Poor's and Moody's.

For more information about San Jacinto College call 281-998-6150, visit sanjac.edu or join the conversation on Facebook and Twitter.

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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
♦♦♦ Bold Boy!

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Trivia Test Answers

1. Rhode Island; 2. High cholesterol; 3. Fear of committing sins or imaginary crimes; 4. Fermented anchovies; 5. Greenland; 6. Virginia, with eight presidents; 7. Florence, Italy; 8. Skopelos, Greece; 9. Dionysus; 10. Northern Ireland

King Crossword

May 23, 2022 Posting Date

ACROSS

1 Ancient Brit
5 Started
8 Fail to see
12 River to the Baltic
13 Spanish gold
14 "Do — others ..."
15 Opera set in Egypt
16 Used a Hoover, say
18 Baseball divisions
20 Diving ducks
21 Leb. neighbor
22 Ostrich's kin
23 Sousa composition
26 Empty, as a stare
30 Commotion
31 Melody
32 "Top Hat" studio
33 Flu forestaller
36 Autocrats
38 Tummy muscles
39 Chatter
40 Skirt style
43 Set of words
47 Work break
49 Nitwit
50 Pedestal occupant
51 In shape
52 Ancient Dead Sea land
53 Taxpayer IDs

DOWN

1 Furnace fuel
2 Falco of "Nurse Jackie"
3 Spartan queen
4 Very sad
5 Paramour
6 Historic periods
7 Physician's nickname
8 Hawaiian garment
9 "By the power

vested — ..."
10 Leftovers recipe
11 Lays down the lawn
17 Gomer Pyle's org.
19 Show to a seat, slangily
22 Hearing thing
23 Dallas hooper, briefly
24 Nabokov novel
25 Sinbad's bird
26 Complete
27 Man-mouse link
28 Kiev's land

(Abbr.)
29 "Mayday!"
31 Reply (Abbr.)
34 Suez and Erie, e.g.
35 "Yeah, right"
36 Levy
37 Web master?
39 Streisand title role
40 Hertz rival
41 Young fellows
42 PC picture
43 Pork cut
44 Musical finale
45 Bloodhound's clue
46 Alaskan city
48 Conditions

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Trivia test

by Fifi Rodriguez

1. U.S. STATES: Which state is the smallest in land area?
2. MEDICAL: What is a common name for the medical condition called hyperlipidemia?
3. PSYCHOLOGY: What is the abnormal fear represented by peccatophobia?
4. FOOD & DRINK: What fish is the basis of Worcestershire sauce?
5. GEOGRAPHY: Nuuk is the capital of which island constituent country?
6. U.S. PRESIDENTS: Which state has produced the most presidents?
7. ART: In which major city would you find the Uffizi Gallery?
8. MOVIES: What is the main setting of the "Mama Mia!" movies?
9. MYTHOLOGY: What is the name of the Greek god of wine?
10. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: Where is the rock formation called Giant's Causeway located?

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1. Rhode Island; 2. High cholesterol; 3. Fear of committing sins or imaginary crimes; 4. Fermented anchovies; 5. Greenland; 6. Virginia, with eight presidents; 7. Florence, Italy; 8. Skopelos, Greece; 9. Dionysus; 10. Northern Ireland

REACHING NEW HEIGHTS

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Houston Methodist Baytown Hospital Is Expanding With a New Patient Tower

As part of Houston Methodist Baytown's \$250 million hospital expansion project, we are building a new state-of-the-art, five-story patient tower. Currently under construction, this facility will expand capacity and services to our community so we can continue delivering exceptional care, advanced treatments and an outstanding patient experience — all close to home.

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