

NORTH CHANNEL★STAR

Your News, Your Newspaper

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

EPA Waste Pits Meeting June 23

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will be holding a San Jacinto River Waste Pits Superfund Site (SJRWPSS) Community Meeting this month on Thursday night, June 23rd at 6:30 - 8:00 PM at the Martin Flukinger Community Center, 16003 Lorenzo St., Channelview, TX 77530. The meeting will be an in-person meeting, but you may also participate by phone by calling +1 202-991-0477 and entering the code 453688444#.

This meeting will contain important information the Channelview and surrounding communities and all who travel I-10 East will want to know.

C.H.I.C. WILL NOT hold our scheduled meeting at the Channelview Fire Sta. #3.

Additional info contact THEA Jackie Medcalf, Director at jyoung@txhea.org, Rachel Jordan, Asst. Director at AD@txhea.org, or Kristine Singleton at KSingleton@txhea.org or any of them phone 281 315-5242.

JC Police Arrest Catalytic Converter Theft Suspects

High Speed Chase ends in Crash, Capture

By Allan Jamail

JACINTO CITY, TX. – April 1, 2022 before noon it was no April Fool's Day for two suspects when they came into Jacinto City to steal catalytic converters. There's a nationwide epidemic of stealing expensive catalytic converters for resale. Because they're made of rare materials there's a big resale market for them. Thieves can steal them in less than 5 minutes from under vehicles in home driveways and parking lots using a \$100 portable saw.

Jacinto City Police Communication's Officer E. Perez after receiving a call from a witness of a theft in progress she quickly dispatched patrol units to the shopping center at 11420 I-10 East Service Road to investigate. Officers arriving were informed of 2 black males leaving in a silver Chevrolet Malibu eastbound after having went under a vehicle in the parking lot removing its catalytic converters.

Jacinto City's police units converged into the



Above in top of photo: Typical double catalytic converter model being stolen by sawing off from under vehicles with \$100 portable saw. Converter replacement cost from \$3,500 to \$15,000 depending on the model. (Photo by Allan Jamail)

area and were informed by citizens that the police reportee was following the suspect's car and gave the dispatcher the license plate number and location it was last seen. Officers swarmed that area and one of the police units spotted the get-a-way car and gave chase using the emergency lights and siren. The suspects refused to stop and recklessly sped at high rates of speed through the parking lots in the 12,800 block of the East Service Road.

Several police units got



Suspect Kelvin Fitzgerald Venson

involved and gave chase. At Sam's Club, Home Depot and Academy Sporting Goods while the chase was in progress there were lots



Suspect Jerald Gray (Police Photos)

of shopper pedestrians making is difficult for the pursuing officers for not wanting to hit anyone. The suspects refused to stop

and endangered the pedestrians' lives by driving fast and recklessly trying to evade the pursuing police units. The fleeing vehicle drove to the back west side of Academy where it joins the bayou and the passenger suspect jumped out and ran. He jumped into the bayou water while the driver suspect continued fleeing. An officer on foot behind Academy gave chase and finally took the suspect from the bayou into custody.

The fleeing vehicle still being chased began driving the wrong way into oncoming traffic on Uvalde and crashed into a telephone pole and another citizens car causing heavy damage and immobilizing his get-away-car. The suspect jumped out and fled on foot with officers in hot pursuit until they captured him.

The Harris County District Attorney's Office charged suspect Kelvin Fitzgerald Venson, a black male, age 21 with Felony Criminal Mischief and Felony Evading Police. They

Continued. See Catalytic Converter arrests, page 3

Abbott orders School Safety Study instead of Special Session on guns

AUSTIN – In lieu of calling a special session of the legislature to deal with new regulations to curb mass shootings, as requested by several state legislators, Governor Greg Abbott today sent a joint letter to Lieutenant Governor Dan Patrick and Speaker Dade Phelan requesting the Texas legislative leaders convene special legislative committees following last week's tragic shooting at Robb Elementary School in Uvalde. The special legislative committees will be charged with examining and developing legislative recommendations on school safety, mental health, social media, police training, firearm safety, and more.

"As Texans mourn the tragedy that occurred at Robb Elementary School in Uvalde last week, we as a



Governor Greg Abbott, center, in Uvalde after the mass murder of 21 persons, announcing action that Texas will take to address the problem of mass shootings. Others at the press conference, L to R, Lieutenant Governor Dan Patrick, Senator Ted Cruz, and House Speaker Dade Phelan. Abbott charged the leadership of the Senate and House with studying solutions that could be enacted by the State to curb future massacres.

State must reassess the twin issues of school safety and mass violence," reads the letter. "As leaders, we must come together at this time to provide solutions to protect all Texans. Accordingly, I hereby request that

each of you convene a special legislative committee. I look forward to working with you both on this important mission to make Texas safer, and I stand ready to provide any and all support."

Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick: Forms Senate Special Committee to Protect All Texans

AUSTIN - Today, Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick issued the following statement announcing the Senate Special Committee to Protect All Texans. Sen. Robert Nichols, R-Jacksonville, will serve as Chair. Sen. Brandon Creighton, R-Conroe and Sen. Lois Kolkhorst, R-Brenham, will serve as Co-Vice Chairs. Upon forming the committee, Lt. Gov. Patrick issued the following statement:

"In response to Gov. Abbott's request today, as President of the Texas Senate, I am naming the following members to the Senate Special Committee



Gubernatorial Candidate Beto O'Rourke interrupted the Press Conference, pointing to Abbott and saying "This is on You" referring to lack of action on meaningful gun regulations by the state after previous mass shootings in Texas.

to Protect All Texans:
Sen. Robert Nichols, R-Jacksonville, Chair
Sen. Brandon Creighton, R-Conroe, Co-Vice Chair
Sen. Lois Kolkhorst, R-Brenham, Co-Vice Chair
Sen. Paul Bettencourt,

R-Houston
Sen. Brian Birdwell, R-Granbury
Sen. Donna Campbell, R-New Braunfels
Sen. Juan "Chuy" Hino-

Continued. See Senate Special Committee, Page 3

Cement plant to pay \$400,000 due to air pollution lawsuit

"No one in Harris County should have to worry about struggling to breathe or suffering long-term effects from chemicals," Harris County Attorney Christian D. Menefee says.

HARRIS COUNTY – An East Harris County cement facility must now pay county officials more than \$400,000 after a lawsuit highlighted unsafe conditions being emitted into the area which directly impacted local residents. According to informa-

tion released from the Harris County Attorney's Office, Menefee and The Attorney General of Texas resolved the matter with SESCO Cement Corp. out of East Harris County.

The lawsuit began when county employees decided to sue for the well-being of residents in the nearby community, citing violations of the Texas Clean Air Act, the Texas Solid Waste Disposal Act, and the Texas Water Code.

"Cement facilities that don't follow the rules put

communities at risk," said County Attorney Menefee. "They pollute the air with cement dust that is harmful when breathed by nearby residents, especially children. We inspected this facility multiple times and found many issues, including cement dust plumes, polluted runoff water, and discharges in storm drains. We expect our neighboring businesses to do things right. These kinds of vio-

Continued. See Cement plant pays \$400,000, Page 3

Galena Park child sexual assault suspect wanted

By Allan Jamail

Galena Park, TX. – June 8, 2022 – The Galena Park Police Department is asking for assistance in identifying, providing information and or any leads of who the suspect (see sketch) is who committed a Sexual Assault of a Child back in 2021.

Detective Jessica Bolanos and the police department received a report on November of



Hispanic male suspect sought

2021 of a sexual assault victim in Galena Park.

During the investigation the victim made an outcry of being sexually abused by an unknown male (see sketch).

The suspect is a Hispanic male, approximately 25 – 30 years of age, average built, with very short black hair. He has tattoos on his forearms.

If you have information about the suspect contact the Galena Park Police and or Detective Bolanos at 713-675-3471.

SHELDON ISD NEWS

Early Childhood Academy to use NEW Academic Program



For the 2022-23 school year, the early childhood academies will begin using a program called Fueling Brains to enhance the learning experience. The program is available for pre-kindergarten and kindergarten families.

Fueling Brains redefines early childhood education by gathering together some of the best experts, information and practices for science, technology, and early childcare from across the globe and merging them together into a cohesively designed program called Ready, Set, Grow!

Brain development plays a big part towards proper preparation for future school years. Poor focus, problem solving, and listening skills, poor memory, a lack of self-control, control of emotions and social anxiety; these are all common problem areas for brain development in young children, and parents do their best to find solutions. The Ready Set Grow program is the solution!

Focus, problem solving, and memory are key building blocks of brain development, and have a huge impact when it comes to each student's learning potential and ability to succeed. That's why they are the foundational areas that the Ready, Set, Grow program is built around - we teach children how to learn, not what to learn!

Every child is different, which is why the Ready, Set, Grow program connects teachers and parents to our Fueling Brains learning program. Learning that shows a child's developmental progress and provides related activities for the classroom and at home that are specific to the child's individual needs.

By reinforcing brain development lessons both at school and at home, we work together to provide real change when it comes to developmental brain growth in children that are part of the Ready, Set, Grow program.

90% of a child's brain development hap-



pens before the age of 5, and we have a small window to make a big difference! This is what Fueling Brains and the Ready, Set, Grow program is all about.

Registration for the 2022-23 school year is now open for all NEW pre-k and kindergarten students. / Las inscripciones para el año escolar 2022-23 ya están abiertas para todos los estudiantes NUEVOS de prekínder y kinder.

Enrollment has begun for all new students entering pre-k and kindergarten for the 2022-23 school year. Sheldon ISD offers all day pre-k and kindergarten at [Sheldon Early Childhood Academy](#) and [Cravens Early Childhood Academy](#). Pre-k students must be 4 years old on or before September 1, 2022.

Reserve your spot today in two simple steps:

1. Gather all required documents to upload to the enrollment website.
2. Complete the [online registration form](#). Use the form that says [New Student Online Enrollment](#).

Once all enrollment forms are completed and submitted, a staff member will contact you to process your information. Required documents include:

- Current utility bill (must be gas, water or electric) in Sheldon ISD
 - Drivers license or official picture ID
 - Birth certificate with parent name listed
 - Child's social security card
 - Immunization records
 - Proof of income from last 30 days (pre-k only)
 - Not accepting shared residence applications at this time.
- Be sure to visit our [New to Sheldon ISD website](#) for resources and information for new families.

GALENA PARK ISD NEWS

A Message From The Superintendent

Dear Galena Park ISD Family and Friends,
It's officially summertime! I wanted to take this opportunity to share some advice to help keep your children safe. Injuries among children increase dramatically during the summer months.

Exercising simple safety precautions is the key to avoiding accidental injuries from happening.

While the following precautions seem obvious, we often overlook these simple measures or underestimate their impact until it's too late.

Please allow me to share these tips for children as a friendly reminder in hopes that you and your loved ones will have fun, while staying safe throughout the summer months

- Wear safety helmets when riding a bike, scooter, or skateboard
- Make sure you have properly fitting life-jackets when participating in water activities
- Wear sunscreen and drink plenty of water when outside
- Ensure firearms are properly secured in the home.
- If children will be home alone while parents are at work, review safety plans for strangers, fire prevention/evacuation, and ensure a list of emergency contacts are easily accessible.
- Play safe on playgrounds and follow the rules! Emergency rooms treat thousands of children injured on playgrounds every summer.
- Always hike, bike, swim, play, or explore with a friend and NEVER alone.



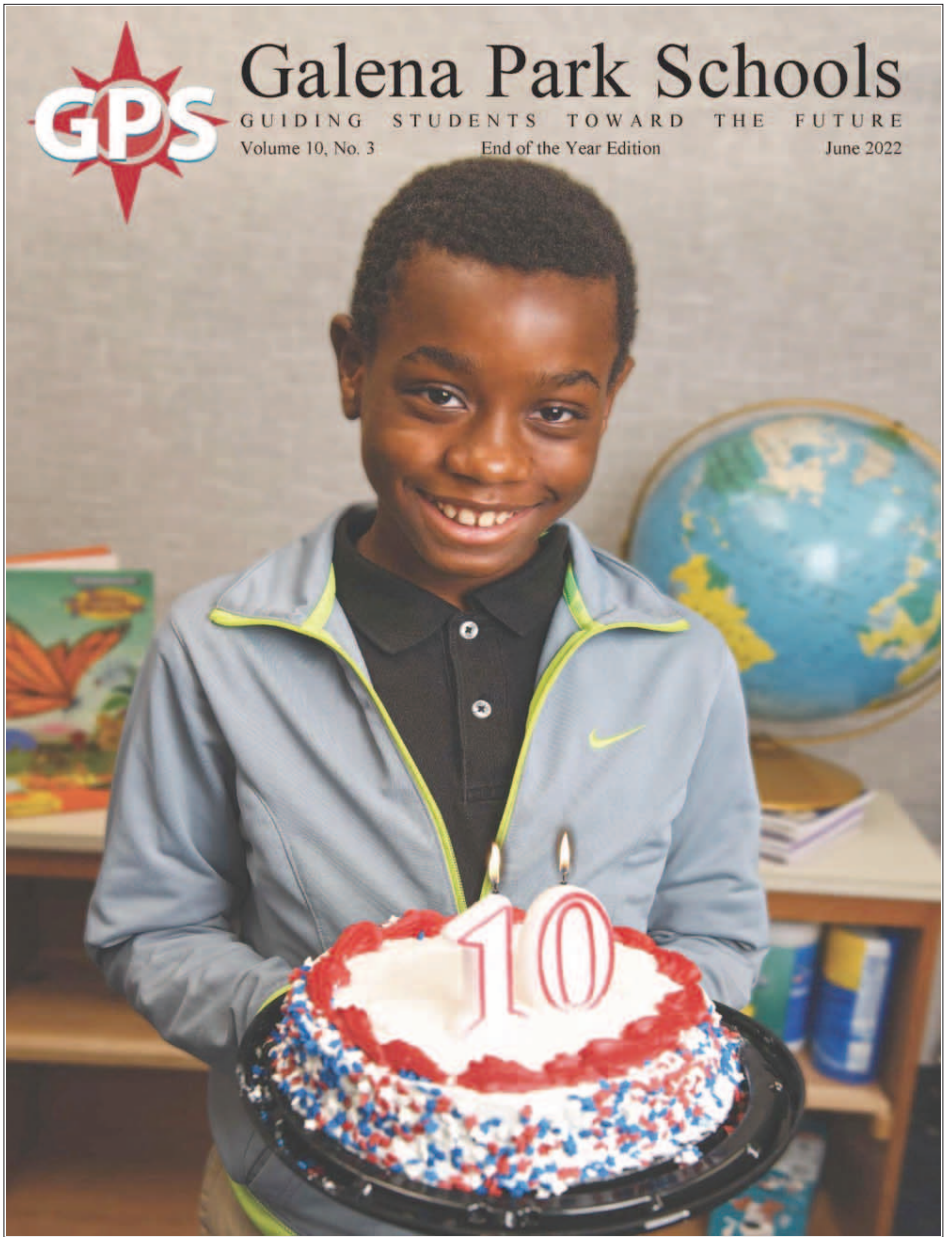
John Moore, Ed.D. Superintendent

• Adults, be mindful of your speed and traffic rules as more children will be outside during the day and bouncing balls have a way of bouncing to the street.
We all play an important role in looking out for the children of our community. I'm thankful to live and work in a community with a deep sense of responsibility for the success and well-being of its children. It's a village I'm proud to be a part of.

Have a safe, fun summer.

John Moore, Ed.D.
Superintendent of School

This year, we are celebrating 10 years of our Galena Park Schools (GPS) Magazine!



Galena Park ISD Administration Building SUMMER HOURS

Galena Park ISD Administration Building

SUMMER HOURS

Beginning the week of May 31st:
Monday - Thursday
7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Closed Fridays

*Regular business hours resume August 1st.

CHANNELVIEW ISD NEWS

2022 TPSA State Competition!

Congrats to the CHS Criminal Justice Team for their accomplishments at the 2022 TPSA State Competition! Included in their accolades are a 2nd place finish in Crash Scene Investigation and a 3rd place finish in Correctional Institute Design! Way to go Falcons!



HISTORY MADE! Congrats to the inaugural Cisd Parent University graduate class!



Check us on the go at
www.starcouriernews.com
www.northchannelstar.com

CHARLOTTE'S WEB

By Charlotte Jackson



Apathy Among Us

In the past few years, I have noticed a trend that I do not like. There are more than one, but this one truly causes me to lose sleep. And because I have never thought of a way to bring change to it, I need YOUR assistance.

When you contact an organization or business for assistance, the last thing you want to hear is the person on the other end of the phone to tell you that they do not have an answer or worse yet, that it is not their job. Every position I have ever been hired for had a job description that included “other duties as assigned” yet today, there are many people who refuse to do something not printed in the job description.

Perhaps because I remember my dad being in management and I listened to many of this after-work conversations. He taught me early in life to be on time. His words were “If you are on time, you are late. And if you are late, you are fired.” He also told me that if you lived in Houston and were unemployed more than a few days, you honestly did not want to work. He would remind my brother and me, that some job was better than no job.

His values were common among his friends. It did not matter if his friends were employed at the local steel mill or as a butcher at the local grocery store, their generation had an entirely different work ethic than many younger people today. I have been working around young people both in education as well as within government organizations. I have volunteered extensively with many non-profit organizations. I have served alongside many young people who would get upset if you gave them an assignment that only took up some of the time they were “on the clock”. They have no desire to do anything more. When I explained that they did an excellent job, but since they were still present, there were other duties that could be performed. They would rather go to the restroom and use their phone for 15 to 20 minutes instead of doing more work. I have also worked alongside of many who felt that the organization needed to furnish breakfast as well as a mid-shift snack. Somewhere they missed the information that breaks are earned and that the time they are not working so that they can eat, are not included in the total time worked for the day.

I experienced supervising a group of younger people who were working on a project and while there were certain stages, they felt they only needed to do one part. They did not understand that when you work together, not only can you accomplish more, but you build relationships. And if you have read any of my columns, you know that I feel like relationships matter more than most things.

I believe that the only way to decrease apathy is to work on building relationships. And great relationships make every day a better day.

Catalytic Converter arrests,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

also charged Jerald Gray, a black male, age 19 with Felony Criminal Mischief and Misdemeanor Evading Police. The estimate of damage to car where the converters were taken is, \$7,965.00

The outstanding police work was done by; Lt. M. Longrigg, Lt. D. Walker,

Sgt. A. Seydler, Detective C. Cazares, Officer R. Fisher, Officer c. Calvillo and Communications Specialist E. Perez. Chief J. Ayala said, “I’m proud of all my personnel in my department.”

Allanj211@aol.com

Part 1 of series of articles catalytic converter thefts

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Patrick forms Senate Special Committee,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

josa, D-McAllen

Sen. Bryan Hughes, R-Tyler

Sen. Charles Perry, R-Lubbock

Sen. Royce West, D-Dallas

Sen. Judith Zaffirini, D-Laredo

“Chairman Nichols is an engineer by profession, Sen. Creighton is Chairman of the Senate Committee on Education and Higher Education and Sen. Kolkhorst is Chairman of the Senate Committee on Health and Human Services. These three leaders have the experience and knowledge to lead this important committee. The committee members also represent a cross section of school districts and communities of all sizes across the state.

“Gov. Abbott has asked us to study 5 important areas:

- School Safety
- Mental Health
- Social Media
- Police Training
- Firearm Safety

“I have asked Chair Nichols to hold his hearing on June 23 or a date shortly thereafter. I want to give the families and the community of Uvalde time to complete all funeral services before beginning hearings so those who wish to testify may take part. I have asked Chair Nichols to coordinate with the House of Representatives Chair to hold their hearings on the same date, if possible, to accommodate both invited and public witnesses.

“Before creation of this committee, last week, I sent a letter to the Commissioner of the Texas Education Agency, Mike Morath, to request an extension through the end of the next legislative session for applying for school safety grants, which were set to expire on May 31. There is still nearly \$14 million in the fund that schools could still request.

“We will also be working with Attorney General Paxton’s office to ensure payments from the Crime Victims’ Compensation Fund, once approved, are expedited.

“All of us working together is the answer. Now is not the time for politics. It is all about doing all we can so that we never see another tragedy like this happen again in Texas.”

Cement plant to pay \$400,000 to clean up air

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

lations cannot and will not be tolerated.”

As an outcome of that investigation, SESCO has agreed to pay \$480,000 in civil penalties, and the County’s attorney fees. Officials say during the course of the litigation, the company also undertook significant clean-up of the facility.

Experts from the Harris County Pollution Control Services Department say since 2019, they conducted more than 25 inspections of the facility located at 8510 East Sam Houston Parkway North in Harris County. Those inspections resulted in several violations that have since been resolved.

ASK DIAMOND JIM

Diamond Jim: “What is Moissanite and what makes it different from Diamond?”

Moissanite, also known as silicon carbide, is a gemstone unlike any other. With more brilliance and fire than diamond, this stone has been a source of intense interest ever since its discovery more than a century ago.

Moissanite dances with sparkles of light that draw the eye and delight the senses. Its unique internal beauty lends a captivating allure to jewelry, making a magnificent statement at a fraction of the cost of other gemstones. But only you know what you paid - envious passers-by see only a grand statement of opulence.

Today’s alluring Moissanite gemstones are the end result of a 110 year old geological discovery. Moissanite was first discovered in 1893 by the Nobel Prize-winning French chemist Dr. Henri Moissan at the site of a massive meteorite strike in Arizona. The tiny particles he unearthed were initially mistaken for diamond due to their hardness and brilliant reflectiveness, but after painstaking testing, were identified as naturally-occurring silicon carbide. This intriguing new stone was named Moissanite in his honor, and Moissan spent the rest of his life attempting to re-create this exceptional mineral, which is among the hardest materials on Earth.

Moissanite vs Diamonds

The resulting gemstones exhibit more brilliance than diamond, and are more durable than ruby, emerald, and sapphire. With a refractive index of 2.65-2.69, Moissanite is truly the World’s Most Brilliant Gem®. And thanks to a dispersion level that produces 2.4 times the fire of diamond, Moissanite bends light into mesmerizing rainbow flashes of fire. By day and by night, Moissanite’s conspicuous brilliance is spectacular.

The unrivaled fire and brilliance of Moissanite is guaranteed to last forever. The sparkle that makes this gemstone so beloved will never fade or dull and is protected by a limited lifetime warranty from Charles & Colvard. Due to a hardness that is second only to that of diamond, Moissanite is highly unlikely to ever break, scratch or chip. And unlike diamonds, Moissanite stones are conflict-free and sustainable, grown as they are in a lab rather than mined from the earth.

Natural Moissanite is incredibly rare on Earth; in fact, the largest natural Moissanite gems are too small to be set into jewelry. Nearly one hundred years after Dr. Moissan’s discovery, scientists at a research laboratory in central North Carolina perfected and patented the innovative process that creates silicon carbide crystals for Charles & Colvard®.

Within a controlled environment that mimics the forces of nature, our researchers produce durable, super-hard crystals with a minimum of ecological impact, and absolutely no mining. Today, Charles & Colvard® remains committed to producing the highest quality Moissanite gemstones using innovative techniques and technologies.

Moissanite was introduced to the jewelry market in 1998. It is regarded as a diamond alternative, with some optical properties exceeding those of diamond. Its lower price and less exploitative mining practices necessary to obtain it make it a popular alternative to diamonds.

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 (IJO) and the Retail Jewelers Organization (RJO) for many years. See more at: www.pineforestjewelry.com.

If you have questions pertaining to jewelry, watches, diamonds, precious stones, precious metals, and other questions related to the jewelry industry, email jmills@pineforestjewelry.com.

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OPINION

By U.S. Senator
JOHN CORNYN



Cornyn Discusses Ukraine Visit and Support for Aid

“The Ukrainians’ spirit and will to defend their country remains unbroken and undaunted, and Putin’s plans have failed, and failed miserably. We saw this firsthand when we had a chance to visit Kyiv this weekend.”

“This funding, this support, this military and humanitarian support, is not strictly an act of altruism on our part. We are doing this also because allowing Ukraine to defend itself is in our best interest.”

“The cost of the United States doing nothing, of simply turning over this democracy, and our security, and our economy to Putin, well, that’s greater than any cost that could come by a supplemental appropriation.”

WASHINGTON – On the floor, U.S. Senator John Cornyn (R-TX) discussed last week’s congressional delegation trip to Ukraine, Sweden, and Finland, and how the U.S. benefits from helping Ukraine. Excerpts of Sen. Cornyn’s remarks are below.

“We visited not only President Zelensky in the presidential palace but also visited two of what we hope will be the next members of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, namely, Sweden and Finland.”

“The Ukrainians’ spirit and will to defend their country remains unbroken and undaunted, and Putin’s plans have failed, and failed miserably. We saw this firsthand when we had a chance to visit Kyiv this weekend.”

“He and his advisors warned us about the possibility of global food shortages caused by Russian blockade[s] of Ukrainian ports. This will lead to widespread famine not just in Europe, but throughout Africa, and spread the pain far afield from Europe.”

“This week, as we know, the Senate will consider a supplemental funding bill to provide Ukraine with even more security and humanitarian assistance. I know there are some who disagree with more funding for Ukraine. To them, I would say this funding, this support, this military and humanitarian support, is not strictly an act of altruism on our part. We are doing this also because allowing Ukraine to defend itself is in our best interest.”

“We can’t kid ourselves by thinking Putin would simply end with his brutal conquest of Ukraine.”

“Of course, in this situation, the cost of the United States doing nothing, of simply turning over this democracy, and our security, and our economy to Putin, well, that’s greater than any cost that could come by a supplemental appropriation.”

“I’m grateful to Leader McConnell for putting together this past weekend’s trip. I found it enormously educational.”

Senator John Cornyn, a Republican from Texas, is a member of the Senate Finance, Intelligence, and Judiciary Committees.



Cowboy 260 air conditioner

“Now Mamie,” said Windy Wilson, “the reason I expurgated myself over here to your place was to see how you was a-doin’ in this year heat.”

Mamie Dilworth refilled his iced tea glass, smiled at the old cowboy and camp cook. “Well, that’s awfully nice of you, Windy. I’m fine. Tired of this heat, just the same as everyone else around here.”

“I hear ya, and thanks for the tea. It helps a guy cool down, refrigerationally speakin’ a-course.”

“You’re welcome. What are you and Ramses up to these hot days?”

Ramses was Windy’s dog, so named because of his tendency to leave pyramids in the backyard. Windy claims he’s an Egyptian shepherd, but hasn’t been able to provide any registration papers yet.

“Pickup truck therapy, you know. Works put-near ever time it’s tried. Long’s a guy don’t run outa gas, he’s okay. Cool right down on a hot ol’ day like this one.”

“I didn’t know your pickup had air conditioning, Windy.”

“Mostly it’s a cowboy 260 air conditioner,” Windy explained. “You get your shirt and your dog wet, roll down two windows and go sixty miles an hour.”

Pick up “Home Country: Drama, dreams and laughter from the American heartland”
www.lpdpress.com.



★

STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Gary Borders



Gunman Walked into School Building Unopposed

The gunman who killed 21 people inside a Uvalde elementary school walked into the unlocked building unopposed, the Department of Public Safety said in a revised statement, as reported by the [Austin American-Statesman](#) and other media sources.

After the gunman crashed his grandmother’s truck in a ditch, he walked into the building while firing a semiautomatic weapon purchased just days after his 18th birthday. The shooter was inside a classroom for about an hour. Nineteen children and two teachers were killed before a tactical team got inside the building and killed him.

The massacre is the second-deadliest school shooting in modern U.S. history.

FIVE TEXAS REFINERIES EXCEED BENZENE LIMIT

Five Texas refineries and one in Louisiana operated by a San Antonio company last year exceeded federal pollution limits for benzene emissions, which is listed as a carcinogenic chemical by the Environmental Protection Agency. Long-term exposure to benzene has caused blood disorders, according to a story in the [San Antonio Express-News](#).

“In Texas, Marathon Petroleum’s Galveston Bay refinery, TotalEnergies’ Port Arthur refinery, Chevron’s Pasadena refinery, Flint Hills Resources’ Corpus Christi East refinery and LyondellBasell’s Houston refinery reported average benzene emissions in 2021 that were above the federal threshold of 9 micrograms per cubic meter,” the Express-News reported.

More than 6 million people in the United States live within 3 miles



of an oil refinery, according to the EPA.

BOATERS URGED TO ‘CLEAN, DRAIN, AND DRY’

As summer approaches and Texans head to the state’s lakes and rivers, the [Texas Parks and Wildlife Department](#) urges boaters and paddlers to do their part to prevent the spread of invasive aquatic species that are threatening Texas lakes.

“The best way to prevent the spread of many destructive aquatic invasive species is to clean, drain and dry your boats and equipment – every time,” Brian Van Zee, TPWD inland fisheries regional director, said.

Zebra mussels and giant salvinia continue to spread to new waterbodies in the state. Other highly invasive species that can be spread by boaters include water hyacinth, crested floating heart and quagga mussels.

“Boaters need to remove all plants, mud and debris from boats, trailers, vehicles and gear and drain the water from the boat, all equipment and on-board receptacles before leaving the lake. In addition, boats should be dried completely before visiting another lake, preferably for at least a week,” the news release said.

TEXAS HOME TO MOST FORTUNE 500 COMPANIES

Texas now leads the nation as home to the most Fortune 500 companies, surpassing New York and California in the [2022 Fortune 500 list](#).

Texas is home to 53 top companies, with New York home to 51 and California with 50. In addition, Houston and Dallas are in the top five cities in the nation for Fortune 500 companies with 21 and 11 respectively.

Fortune 500 companies represent two-thirds of the nation’s GDP with revenues of \$16.1 trillion. They employ 29.7 million people worldwide.

“Thanks to our unmatched business environment, with no corporate or personal income taxes, a highly skilled and diverse workforce, easy access to global markets, and reasonable regulatory climate, Texas has more businesses relocating and expanding here in our state than ever before,” Gov. Greg Abbott said.

NEARLY \$5 MILLION IN TRAIL GRANTS ANNOUNCED

The [Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission](#) last week awarded \$4.8 million in grants to fund 17 recreational trail-related projects across the state.

One million dollars of the amount allocated came directly from state Sporting Good Sales Tax funds dedicated to the Recreational Trails Program through a measure passed in the last legislative session.

The rest of the funding comes from a portion of the federal gas tax generated by gasoline purchases for off-road vehicles. Under the National Recreational Trails Fund, 30% of total grants it awards goes for motorized trails, with an equal amount going for non-motorized trails, while the rest is discretionary.

WILDFIRE RISK ABATES SLIGHTLY

Recent rainfall has reduced the potential for widespread wildfires for much, but not all, of the state, according to the [Texas A&M Forest Service](#). However, hot and windy conditions are expected to return this week, bringing with them the increased risk of more wildfires, particularly in the Rolling Plains, Hill Country and South Texas areas of the state.

As of Friday, there was one active wildfire, in Taylor County. The Mesquite Heat Fire consumed nearly 11,000 acres and was 82% contained. There are currently 132 counties with [burn bans](#).

★

THE POSTSCRIPT

By Carrie Classon

“Verne Knows”

Verne knows me too well.

For the first time in our lives, my husband, Peter, and I live in a building with a front desk. It’s nice to have someone there when packages are delivered, or contractors show up, and this person is usually Verne.

Verne is a natural for the job. He knows everything going on in town. He knows when music is playing in the park and where the food trucks are parked and what time deliveries are made. But what interests Verne most is what goes on inside the building. Verne knows what we are all up, to and he is never short on advice.

“I wouldn’t go there,” Verne told me when I was contemplating a Mexican restaurant. “It’s cute on the outside, but the food is ordinary.” He suggested a different restaurant.

“Oh! I like your hair,” a complete stranger said to me in the lobby one day.

“She’s overdue to get it colored,” Verne said. “Her roots are showing.”

“Verne!” the stranger said. “That’s a terrible thing to say!”

“Oh, no,” I told the stranger. “It’s all part of the full suite of services Verne provides.” (I colored my hair that week.)

One day I had to go to Home Depot twice for the same thing. “Two trips to Home Depot in one day is not a good day!” I told Verne. (Although to be fair, the folks at Home Depot were terrific.)

“Are you sure this is a problem?” Verne asked., “Or is this just your OCD talking?”

Verne had me.

“It’s my OCD talking and it’s a problem!” I said as I got on the elevator with another resident.

“Verne knows me too well,” I complained to the pink-haired young woman in the elevator.

“Verne knows us all too well!” she said.

“I know everything!” Verne agreed, as the elevator doors shut.

But there is something very comforting about having Verne at the desk in the late afternoons.

“Where are you going tonight?” Verne will ask. He’ll suggest things I should look for in the neighborhood, and I’ll come back and report to him. It’s nice, knowing there is someone at the door to greet me, someone who is interested in where I’ve been and where I’m going.

Then, one day, we got some awful news. Verne was retiring.

“I’m turning 70!” Verne said. “I can’t keep working five days a week.”

“But what will we do without you, Verne?” I asked.

“Oh! You won’t be without me,” Verne said. “I’m just going to work the weekend shift instead. John is retiring.”

John is also very nice, but he is nearly blind and requires a cane to get around. It was probably a good time for John to retire. So, there was a big retirement party for John, and Verne took over the weekends.

One Sunday afternoon, John came back to visit. Now, instead of a cane, he needed a walker to get around. But he had a big smile on his face. He had come to visit Verne.

“Pull up a chair!” Verne said. “Would you like a cup of coffee?”

“I would!” John said.

“Would you like dessert to go with that?” I asked Verne.

“What kind of dessert?” he asked me.

“None of your business. Do you want some or not?”

“Of course!” Verne said.

I had some leftover pumpkin cake, and I brought down two pieces.

“Thank you for the cake,” Verne said later on, after John had left. “That was very nice.”

“Oh, it was nothing,” I told Verne. “What would we do without you?”

Till next time,

Carrie

Follow me on Facebook at: [CarrieClassonAuthor](#).

★

OBITUARIES

DR. MELANIE RENE (STARRETT) TUMINO-HALLISEY

Dr. Melanie Rene (Starrett) Tumino-Hallisey, 61, passed on from this life on May 31, 2022 after a long and courageous battle with cancer and lymphedema.

She was born on November 5, 1960 to her parents Elizabeth “Betty” May (Tweet) and Chester Starrett in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Dr. Melanie married Dr. Thomas Hallisey in the fall of 1982.

She, and her husband, were the founders and owners of East Loop Chiropractic in Houston, Texas, in addition to the previous practice she had opened in the 80’s. Dr. Melanie was the secretary of District 11 Chiropractic Association, and was the first woman to perform manipulation under anesthesia.

While she took care of others, she did not forget to take care of herself; she took pride



in her healthy lifestyle and was a bodybuilder.

Dr. Melanie was a fantastic cook, and she loved to share a home-cooked meal with anyone at her table. She was also a member of the San Jacinto Pilot Club, and a life member of the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo. Dr. Melanie touched many lives throughout her life, and she will forever live on in the hearts of all who knew her.

She is preceded in death by her parents. Left to cherish her memory is her husband of 40 years, Dr. Thomas Hallisey; sisters, Michelle Savage and

husband Scott, and Melody Gibson; in addition to numerous employees that are family, and many friends.

The family would like you to join them for a visitation at Carter-Conley Funeral Home on Saturday, June 11, 2022 from 11:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M. with celebration of life services for Dr. Melanie to begin at 1:00 P.M. A graveside service is to immediately follow at San Jacinto Memorial Park Cemetery at 2:30 under the direction of Carter-Conley Funeral Home. Memorial donations can be made in Dr. Melanie’s memory to the ASPCA.

★

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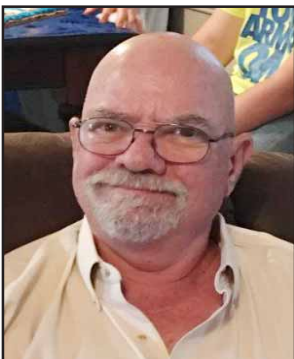
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JAMES “JIM” MICHAEL PAAR

James “Jim” Michael Paar, 75, of Dayton, Texas, passed away on Friday, June 3, 2022, in Baytown, Texas, with his loving family by his side. He was born on May 28, 1947, in Waterloo, Iowa, to the late Bertram Anthony and Dorothy Marie Condon Paar. Jim graduated from Corpus Christi Academy, class of 1965. He attended college at Del Mar College, in Corpus Christi, where he was the president of the business club. Jim formally worked as a police officer in Kingsville, Texas. Before his retirement, Jim settled into a career working in the chemical industry as a boilermaker for Shell Refinery.

Jim was a faithful member of Crosby Church of Christ, the Liberty VFW Post 5621, and the American Legion Post 512, in Dayton. He was the founder and president of Eastgate Yacht Club. Jim proudly served his country in the United States Army. While in the Army, he served two tours in Vietnam and was a member of the Army’s fire department. During his time in the military, he served 4 years of active duty. Upon his separation from the army, he bravely made the decision to reenlist. After his discharge for the second time, he



remained in the reserves until 1972. For his heroism, Jim was awarded the Air Medal Award and a Bronze Star Medal, both being received while in combat.

Jim pursued many interests, some of which were traveling, leather tooling, duck hunting, and collecting guns. One of his greatest treasures in life was his family and his grandchildren, with grandson Blake being his pride and joy. Jim was a jokester and would go to any measure to make everyone laugh. If something were said, he was always quick to have a comeback. He will be deeply missed by all who knew and loved him.

Jim was preceded in death by his parents. He leaves behind to cherish his loving memory his twins Lori Hall and husband Chad of Mont Belvieu, and Michael Paar and wife Jennifer of Dayton; his grandchildren Blake Paar and wife Hope of Frisco, Aimee Baumgartner and husband John of Sarasota,

Florida, Erinn Stevens and husband Craig of Saint Louis, Missouri, William Hall and fiancé Vicky of Baytown; his great-grandchildren Michael, Madeline and Emma Stevens all of Saint Louis; his siblings Larry Paar and wife Betty Jo of League City, and Patricia Drieling and husband Kenneth of Deer Park; his rescue donkeys Boudreaux and Thibodaux; his grand puppies; his numerous nieces, nephews; and a host of other loving relatives and friends.

Friends are invited to visit with the family from 5pm until 7pm, on Wednesday, June 8, 2022, in the chapel of Sterling Funeral Home, in Dayton. A funeral service will be held at 10am, on Thursday, June 9, 2022, in the sanctuary of Crosby Church of Christ, 3737 US-Highway 90, Crosby, Texas 77532. Burial will follow at 1:15pm, in Houston National Cemetery, 10410 Veterans Memorial Drive, Houston, Texas 77038

Condolences can be shared online with the family by visiting www.SterlingFuneralHome.com

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RFP# 2122-003 – Waste Removal

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RFP# 2122-005 – Landscaping Services

RFP# 2122-006 – Annual Financial Audit Services

Bids will be received until 4:00 p.m., Thursday, June 30, 2022, at the Channelview ISD's E-bidding website. Please visit the electronic bidding website at <https://cvisd.ionwave.net> All necessary information may be obtained by calling the Business Office at (281) 452-8003, or the district website www.cvisd.org, under Departments Business Office Purchasing. The Board of Trustees reserves the right to reject any or all bids.

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NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Notice is hereby given that Original Letters Testamentary for Docket No. 504790; Estate of MARJORIE LYNN ELLIOTT Deceased; In Probate Court No. 1 of Harris County, Texas, were issued on MAY 24, 2022.

ROY MILTON ELLIOTT, JR.
The residence address of the administrator is in Harris County, Texas. The mailing address is:

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

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.
Dated this JUNE 6, 2022.

Weston Cotten
by WESTON COTTEN
Attorney for the Estate

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Notice is hereby given that Original Letters Testamentary for Docket No. 503926; Estate of VAN WALLACE JOHNSON Deceased; In Probate Court No. 1 of Harris County, Texas, were issued on MAY 3, 2022.

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

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

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.
Dated this MAY 9, 2022.

Weston Cotten
by WESTON COTTEN
Attorney for the Estate

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GBGH Foundation meets with East Houston Medical Association



East Houston Hospital & Clinics

March 31 at 3:47 PM •

The East Houston Medical Association welcomed Melody Stephens and Ashlee Valavala from the [Cody Stephens Go Big or Go Home Memorial Foundation](#) to discuss Sudden Cardiac Arrest (SCA) and the lives they hope to save through regular screening. Melody and her husband, Scott, are co-founders of the foundation which was started after the death of her youngest son. Cody was otherwise healthy and before this, neither of his parents was aware that he had a heart condition. After his death, his parents began a mission to get young athletes screened for heart issues, though Melody pointed out that this can happen to anyone and their focus on athletes is because they regularly go through health screenings before undergoing physically taxing exercise.

The mission of the Cody Stephens Foundation is to partner with schools to implement heart screening programs with electrocardiograms as a part of pre-participation physicals and raise awareness that Sudden Cardiac Arrest is preventable. This presentation marked the first EHMA meeting since 2021. If the next presentations are anywhere near as educational and accessible as this one then members and guests of EHMA are in for a treat.

Chappell Hill Art Gallery features New Paintings by Mei



Texas Artisans Art Gallery in Chappell Hill is now featuring oil and acrylic paintings by Mei Hoffman. Gallery is on the main street, and open weekends and some weekdays by appointment. Call 713-703-3841 or Mei at 713-906-4585.

Crosby Rodeo

June 3 - June 11

JUNE 3, FRIDAY

5pm Cook-Off
CARNIVAL KICK-OFF
7:30pm BAG OF DONUTS

JUNE 4, SATURDAY

8am BBQ-Cookoff
10am Parade
7:30pm DREW PARKER

JUNE 7, TUESDAY

10am Cowpoke Pageant

JUNE 9, THURSDAY

4pm Buyers Dinner
5:45pm Awards
6:00pm Livestock Auction

JUNE 10, FRIDAY

10am-12pm FFA & 4-H Day
7:30pm CPRA
Championship Rodeo
JOSH WARD &
JON WOLFE

JUNE 11, SATURDAY

10am Little Wrangler Rodeo
7:30pm CPRA
Championship Rodeo
DOS BORRACHOS
KEVIN FOWLER
ROGER CREAGER

GREAT FINAL WEEKEND FOR CROSBY RODEO

Livestock Auction, Concerts, Rodeo events this week

By Gilbert Hoffman

CROSBY – June is Crosby Rodeo month, from the BBQ cookoff to the Livestock Auction to the CPRA Rodeo events, and now the final two music acts Friday and Saturday night. Good weather and great entertainment has brought out crowds this year.

The public and all potential buyers are invit-



DOS BORRACHOS, or Kevin Fowler and Roger Creager, will close out the Crosby Rodeo Saturday night.

ed to a Dinner Thursday night at 4:00pm at the Rodeo Pavilion, as a warm-up to the bidding later at 6:00pm for the livestock that the FFA students raised all year. A big crowd and big bids should be the atmosphere of the evening, considering that the COVID pandemic held back the event results the last two years.

On Friday, FFA and 4-H events will take place at the pavilion, and then in the evening the CPRA rodeo events kick-off (literally) at 7:30pm, fol-

lowed by the entertainment for the evening, Josh Ward and Jon Wolfe.

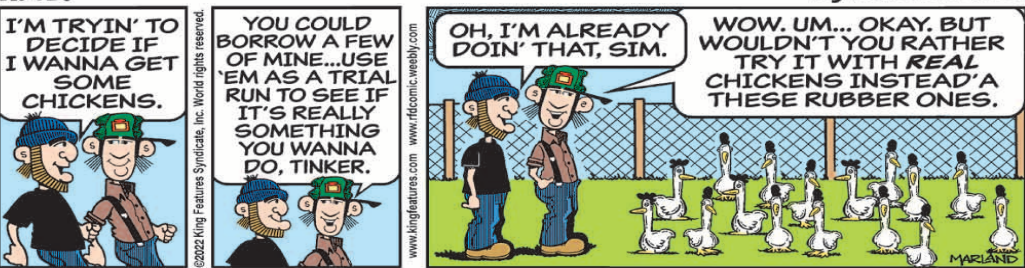
On Saturday starting at 10am the Little Wrangler Rodeo will entertain the kids and their parents, with events that everyone looks forward to. In the evening, the Rodeo will come to a high point with the CPRA final events and the DOS BORRACHOS music entertainment, the popular Kevin Fowler and Roger Creager returning for one of their many appearances in Crosby.

ENTERTAINMENT

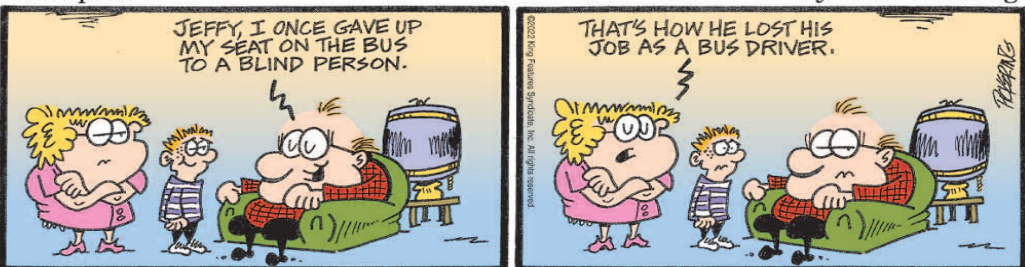
Amber Waves



R.F.D.



The Spats



Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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5			9			1		
		4		8				2
		9	6				4	
7				2				5
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2				6			3	
	9		7			5		
		8			9			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 ♦♦ Challenge
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

Differences: 1. Roof panel is missing. 2. Glove is missing. 3. Shirt is different. 4. Number is different. 5. Arm is moved. 6. Sign is missing.

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June 6, 2022 Posting Date King Crossword

- ACROSS**
- Bridge
 - Dallas hoopster, briefly
 - Untalkative one
 - Architect Saarinen
 - Inseparable
 - Reply to "Shall we?"
 - Legal document
 - Sailor
 - Privy to
 - Debriefed person?
 - Crib cry
 - Enigma
 - Mudville slugger
 - "Certainly!"
 - Half of CIV
 - Exploits
 - Goof up
 - Fine spray
 - Pickle holder
 - "— was saying ..."
 - "Olympia" artist
 - Batting position
 - Scruff
 - Help
 - Eager
 - Energy
 - Yon folks
 - Anti-fur org.
 - Before

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50				51				52		
53				54			55			

- DOWN**
- Stitched
 - Andean land
 - Saharan
 - Observes
 - Slogan
 - Santa — winds
 - Dutch artist
 - Scale
 - "Chocolat" actress
 - From — Z
 - AOL rival
 - Devious
 - TV spots
 - Aleppo's land
 - French river
 - Chanteuse
 - Eartha
 - Stephen King pooch
 - Now, in a memo
 - Peace
 - Emilio of "The Breakfast Club"
 - Address for Toscanini
 - Venomous viper
 - Roast VIPs
 - Tennis star Rafael
 - Identified
 - "If — a Hammer"
 - Big rig
 - Ilk
 - Suitable
 - Dog doc
 - Rage

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53				54			55			

Solution time: 25 mins.

Answers

King Crossword

Trivia test

by Fifi Rodriguez

- GEOGRAPHY: Which country owns the Canary Islands?
- MOVIES: Which movie features the song "Moon River"?
- LANGUAGE: What does the Latin phrase "non ducor, duco" mean in English?
- ANIMAL KINGDOM: What is a group of ducks called?
- LITERATURE: Which 20th-century novel features a character called Sethe?
- TELEVISION: What drive-in diner is featured in the 1970s TV sitcom "Happy Days"?
- MUSIC: When did Lynyrd Skynyrd's anthem "Sweet Home Alabama" chart in the Top 10?
- U.S. STATES: Which state's motto is "Eureka"?
- HISTORY: When did Wyoming give women the right to vote, hold public office and own property?
- U.S. PRESIDENTS: Which president had an estate called The Hermitage?

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1. Spain; 2. "Breakfast at Tiffany's"; 3. "I am not led, I lead"; 4. A rift; 5. "Beloved"; 6. Arnold's; 7. 1974; 8. California; 9. 1869; 10. Andrew Jackson

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- Physical therapy to improve mobility and range of motion
- The latest technology, including minimally invasive surgical techniques that help reduce recovery time

