

# 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 Rabies Vaccination Clinic June 25

Jacinto City will hold their annual Rabies Vaccination Clinic on Saturday, June 25 from 8am to 3pm at 12202 Market Street in Jacinto City 77029.

### Galena Park ISD votes pay raises for staff

GPISD Board of Trustees Approves Generous Compensation Package

The Galena Park ISD Board of Trustees approved the 2022-2023 compensation package for district employees. The Board, Superintendent, and district administrators realize competitive compensation packages are important in attracting and retaining the very best staff possible. Some highlights of the district's 2022-2023 compensation package include:

--3% general pay increase for ALL employees

--Equity adjustments to maintain competitiveness for teachers with 17 to 25 years of experience

--Minimum pay rate of \$14.50/hour for custodians, bus aides, and student nutrition workers

--Starting teacher salary of \$62,750

As in the past, this year's compensation package will continue to provide:

--Master's/Doctorate stipends

--Employee Service Award (longevity) payments at every five-year anniversary with Galena Park ISD

"On behalf of the GPISD Board of Trustees, we appreciate and recognize the hard work each of you does for our students every day. While we want to ensure the district is in a stable financial situation for many years to come, we believe providing raises and additional compensation packages for our employees is very much deserved and will keep us in a position to recruit and retain quality employees," said Board President, Adrian Stephens.

## San Jacinto College is finalist for Aspen Institute \$1 million excellence prize

WASHINGTON, D.C., June 7, 2022 — Today the Aspen Institute announced the ten finalists for the Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence. Started in 2010, the \$1 million Aspen Prize is the nation's signature recognition of community colleges that are achieving high, improving, and equitable outcomes for students. The ten finalists represent the amazing potential of America's thousand-plus community colleges as engines of prosperity and social mobility.

The finalists also represent the impressive diversity of community colleges, from a 2,700-student college in Iowa granting primarily technical awards to

a 57,000-student college in Florida with a focus on transfer and bachelor's degree attainment. Excellent community colleges, regardless of their size or location, are defined by their focus on outcomes and their emphasis on developing students' talents and strengthening their regional economies and communities.

Awarded every two years, the Aspen Prize honors colleges that show outstanding performance in five critical areas: teaching and learning, certificate and degree completion, transfer and bachelor's attainment, workforce success, and equitable outcomes for students of color and students



BRENDA HELLYER  
SAN JACINTO COLLEGE PRES.

from low-income backgrounds. The winner will be announced in the spring of 2023.

"We're grateful to all the experts who have helped Aspen identify these impressive colleges," said Josh Wyner, executive director of the Aspen Insti-

tute College Excellence Program. "We can't wait to dive in to learn more about how they have achieved these measurable student outcomes so we can share what we learn with the field."

The finalists are:  
-- Amarillo College, TX  
-- Broward College, FL  
-- Hostos Community College (CUNY), NY  
-- Imperial Valley College, CA  
-- Kingsborough Community College (CUNY), NY  
-- Moorpark College, CA  
-- Northwest Iowa Community College, IA  
-- San Jacinto College, TX  
-- South Puget Sound Community College, WA  
-- Southwest Wisconsin Technical College, WI

The Aspen Prize selection process began in October 2021, when the Aspen Institute worked with an expert data panel to craft a formula to assess student outcomes at nearly 1,000 community colleges in key areas such as retention, completion, transfer, and equity. Based on those data, we invited 150 top community colleges to apply, and received 109 applications. A selection committee of 16 higher education experts reviewed applications, including extensive data and narratives on student success strategies. From the 25 highest ranking colleges

*Continued. See San Jac Finalist, Page 3*

## East Houston United wins 3rd national title

### Undefeated EHU Wins 3rd Consecutive Title

By Allan Jamail

Pasadena, Texas – June 12, 2022 at the Pal Gymnasium the East Houston United (EHU) basketball team won their 3rd consecutive United States National Basketball League's (NBL) Championship in a row. Most of the team's players are from the North Channel area (see photo cutline).

Head Coach Kevin Williams Sr. said his team went 10 - 0 this season and is 30 - 0 in the NBL and 49 - 1 overall. They're undefeated on their home



East Houston United 2022 National Basketball Champions and their former high schools.

L - R: CJ Calhoun (Furr) Josh Anderson (CE King), Coach Kevin Williams Sr., Corey Alpough (Channelview) Brandon Taylor (Galena Park), Carl Corman (Atlanta Georgia), Xavier Howard (Jack Yates), Zack Strong (Atlanta Georgia) & Maurice Redmond III (Channelview).

court. The NBL named Kevin Williams Sr. as Coach of the Year and Maurice Redmond III was league MVP (Channelview High School).

EHU traveled to Galveston and defeated the Galveston Islanders in the semi Finals 103-78. EHU's Xavier Howard from Jack Yates High School led the way with the 27 points and 4 rebounds.

EHU defeated the Houston Hurricanes 103-89 in the Championship Game for the 2022 National Title.

Brandon Taylor from

*Continued. See EHU wins Title, Page 3*

## Jake rescued by JC Police

By Allan Jamail

Jacinto City, TX. – Saturday, June 12, 2022 – The Jacinto City patrol officers got an unusual assignment from their dispatcher when they were sent to a citizen's home.

Long time Jacinto City resident Ms. Gloria Balderio called the police to report her granddaughter Justine Balderas' dog had its paw stuck in the fire place grating.

Sgt. A. Seydler and Officer R. Fisher arrived on

the scene to see a sad puppy (Jake). Jake somehow managed to get its paw caught in the grating. The officers couldn't free the paw by gently pulling on it so they quickly dismantled the grate freeing Jake.

When Justine who's a Galena Park graduate attending a local college got the word about Jake, she rushed home and found her happy Jake with its paw out of the grating. With her help Jake wrote a thank you card and took it to the station for the officers rescue work. Jake is now a happy 13 year old Pekingese. Allanj211@aol.com

RIGHT: Jake the Dog, Owner Justine Balderas, and Officers Fisher and Seydler.



## Activists watching environmental activities in San Jacinto River

EAST HARRIS COUNTY – Whether its toxic waste dumps in the San Jacinto River, or unauthorized dredging and barge facilities, the citizens of Channelview and Highlands have two active watchdogs to monitor and protest when activities threaten the environment.

Jackie Young Medcalf and Carolyn Stone can be heard at many public meetings, questioning public authorities and requesting the proper procedures be followed. This Thursday



JACKIE YOUNG MEDCALT

the EPA will be at the Flukinger Community Center in Channelview to report on remediation work in the river, and the



CAROLYN STONE

public will have an opportunity to question progress. Prior to the meeting, Medcalf issued the following statement:

Dear Community Members,

We have two important action items for the San Jacinto River Coalition.

First: Some of you may recall that in 2019 and 2021, THEA and others raised concerns about proposed dredging and barge mooring projects in the Area of Concern around the San Jacinto River Waste Pits Superfund Site. We recently learned that a similar project is now being proposed, with a comment period that closes

Tuesday, June 21st. We need to act quickly to sign a letter to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers opposing this project!

Second: The EPA will host its first in-person community meeting in nearly three years. We are at an important point in the Superfund process as the EPA continues working through the details of the cleanup of the Northern Waste Pit and as the

*Continued. See San Jacinto River, Page 5*



# GALENA PARK ISD NEWS

# The GPISD Transportation Dept. Recognized at June Board Meeting

At the June 13<sup>th</sup> Galena Park ISD (GPISD) Board of Trustees meeting, the GPISD Transportation Department was recognized for being named one of the 100 Best Fleets in America.

The 100 Best Fleets in America award is one of the highest honors for Industry and Public Education Transportation Fleets across North America. The program recognizes and rewards peak performing fleet operations in North America. Currently in its twenty-first year, the 100 Best Fleets program identifies and encourages ever-increasing levels of performance improvement within the fleet industry.

To receive this award, the Transportation Department was evaluated in various categories including: Accountability, Use of Technology and Information, Collaboration, Creativity, Evidence of a High Trust Culture, Performance Recognition, Doing it Right the First Time, Efficient Turnaround, Staff Development and Resource Stewardship.

This is the fifth consecutive year the GPISD Transportation Department has received this award. They are also one of only four school districts in the nation to receive this award.



A certificate was presented to the Transportation Department on behalf of the Board of Trustees and Dr. John Moore, Superintendent of Schools.

# Galena Park ISD- Fidelity Manor High School Alumnus



A plaque was presented to Mr. Jones on behalf of the Board of Trustees and Dr. John Moore, Superintendent of Schools.

At the June 13<sup>th</sup> Galena Park ISD Board of Trustees meeting, Nelson M. Jones III, attorney at law, was recognized for his generous donation of \$75,000 to the Fidelity Manor Alumni Association – Arthur C. Lilly Memorial Scholarship fund. This donation will allow the Galena Park ISD Education Foundation to award this scholarship for many years to come.

At the June 13<sup>th</sup> Galena Park ISD Board of Trustees meeting, Nelson M. Jones III, attorney at law, was recognized for his generous donation of \$75,000 to the Fidelity Manor Alumni Association – Arthur C. Lilly Memorial Scholarship fund. This donation will allow the Galena Park ISD Education Foundation to award this scholarship for many years to come.

Mr. Jones grew up in Galena Park and graduated in 1968 from Fidelity Manor High School as the valedictorian. He graduated from the United States Naval Academy and earned his Juris Doctor and Master of Laws while in the Marine Corps. He currently practices general litigation law in Houston and Washington D.C.

A plaque was presented to Mr. Jones on behalf of the Board of Trustees and Dr. John Moore, Superintendent of Schools.

## Galena Park High School Principal Recognized at GP ISD Board Meeting



A certificate was presented to Dr. Martin on behalf of the Board of Trustees and Dr. John Moore, Superintendent of Schools.

At the June 13<sup>th</sup> Galena Park ISD Board of Trustees meeting, Dr. Kimberly Martin, Galena Park High School principal, was recognized for winning the 2022 H-E-B Excellence in Education Secondary Principal award.

This honor is designed to recognize principals based on leadership, campus culture, instructional leadership, management, communication and community relations.

# CHANNELVIEW ISD NEWS

# Channelview ISD Celebrates Inaugural Graduating Class of the CISC Parent University

**Channelview, TX – June 2, 2022:** Commencement exercises were held for seven Channelview community members on June 2 becoming a part of Channelview ISD's first Parent University graduating class.

Established in 2021, the CISD Parent University is a district-wide family and community engagement (FACE) program that is focused on providing Channelview families the necessary knowledge and resources to build confidence and empower families to support students academically, socially and emotionally in both English and Spanish. In its pilot year alone, the CISD Parent University has been attended by over 300 families.

The program offers courses and refreshments at no cost to families throughout the school year. The curriculum is based around the needs of Channelview families in order to address subjects the community is curious about. Courses included college, career, and military readiness (CCMR), adult and pediatric first-aid and CPR training, and financial literacy awareness. Students who demonstrated mastery in a majority of the subjects taught are eligible to graduate.

“We want our community to know that we want to work hand-in-hand with them to help provide a better future for our kids,” said Channelview ISD Superintendent Dr. Tory C. Hill. “It takes the collaboration of all of us – educators, families, stakeholders – to not only improve the quality of life here in Channelview, but to improve the well-being and academic performance of our students.”

Among the graduates are parents of Channelview ISD schools, community stakeholders, and civil servants specializing in healthcare.

"We've made history. I never thought I would have the chance to wear a cap and gown", said CISD Parent University graduate Jaime Gonzalez. "I'm glad my sons got to witness me and my classmates graduate. I hope this motivates them to make the extra effort to do well in school."

Lila Hollin  
Executive Director of Communications  
Channelview Independent School District

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**Large Family Meal Feeds 6+ \$55 \* Small Family Meal Feeds 4+ \$45 Single Meal \$11.95**

**Surprise Family Meals available Daily! Follow us on FB for these Specials!**

**Tuesday: NEW!!** Fiesta Pork Chop Bake, Corn Salad, Chips & Salsa & Tres Leches Cake! Boneless, Fiesta Seasoned Pork Chops served up Teapot Style!

**Wednesday: NEW!!** Bacon & Cheese Steak, Buttery New Potatoes, Broccoli Salad, Rolls & Pina Colada Fluff! This is a thin hamburger steak with natural gravy and is topped with Bacon & Cheese! My mouth is watering just typing this!

**Thursday: Beef Tips & Rice, Green Beans, Rolls & Sweet Bread! Have you had our GRAVY?** I'm telling you I would eat a napkin drowned in this gravy!

**Friday: Party Tray! Ham & Swiss Honey Mustard Sliders, Little Smokies lightly drizzled In BBQ sauce, Potato Salad & Straight to the Hip Dip!**

**Saturday: Come pickup lunch & Shop with us in Crosby! We are excited to add the Glam of "Candice Rose Boutique" to The Teapot Depot at the Crosby Location!**

**We Deliver Lunch & Dinner!**

**\$40 Minimum or as close as possible for delivery**

We offer a full- service restaurant in Highlands plus a full boutique! Late Pick ups offered until 4:45 (pre-orders only)

We offer food pick up until 6:45, pre-orders & extras in Crosby plus a full boutique!

You can call in and order specialty items & family meals and have them sent to our Crosby Location!

Ask us how!

LOOKING FOR A PLACE TO HOST BUNCO? BABY SHOWER? WEDDING SHOWER?  
GIRLS DAY?

ASK US ABOUT OUR PRIVATE PARTIES!



# SUMMER'S BETTER WITH BOOKS

**BACK TO SCHOOL EVENT FOR KIDS & FAMILIES!**

Come have some fun, play games AND...  
kids get a **NEW** backpack with school supplies, learning materials and other cool giveaways!

**WHERE:** McGhee Elementary School (1045 Sheldon Rd. Channelview, TX 77530)  
**WHEN:** Thursday, June 30<sup>th</sup>  
**TIME:** 5:00pm – 7:00pm




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CHARLOTTE'S WEB

By Charlotte Jackson



## Celebrations

I love this time of year. It seems like the celebrations start around Mother's Day and these fun-filled weekends seem to continue until football season. There are high school graduations, college graduations, family reunions, vacations and much more.

There are days filled with laughter, too much food and often there is too much alcohol. And amid all of this, there is love. On Sunday night I had the joy of watching my bonus daughter perform out in Katy. For the past fifteen years, she has been touring worldwide, singing back up for performers such as Beyonce, Janet Jackson, Duran Duran, Justin Timberlake, and Jennifer Lopez. For her to be at home in Houston, playing at a local entertainment venue was a blessing.

The performances were all amazing. The crowd was diverse in many ways and the common element was enjoying Erin's unending energy.

Erin grew up in Missouri City, attended Wil-lowridge High School where she was active and participated in a variety of choirs from church to school and in the community. She graduated and attended Prairie View A & M. While at college, she was active and would sing at any opportunity that came up. With her passion for music matched with her passion for spreading love, every day is a wonderful day.

Some readers may be asking "What is a bonus daughter?" In life, we can react to the world and become bitter or react to God and become better. Shortly after my divorce, my ex-husband remarried a woman with two children. One of those children is Erin. Early on in their marriage, I realized that on the rare occasions that my children went to visit their dad, it would be an adjustment for everyone. I started praying that on those occasions, there would be no jealousy or frustration for anyone. Erin was closest in age to my oldest son Christopher. And between the two of them, nobody could have asked for better older siblings. Front day one, these two were close and nothing makes me happier than when Erin asks about Christopher's family. She has mentioned that she cannot wait to look up and see her nieces in the audience. And when my son Daniel's son was born, on Erin's next trip back to Houston, she was there to love and hug on him.

Blended families are everywhere and too often, so are problems. Our journey has not been easy, but we have arrived where we are today by the grace of God. One of the most important things I have tried to instruct my children is that family is not defined by blood or marriage. It is defined as those who love and respect you unconditionally.

And equally as important, I have tried to teach them that we never have problems; we have opportunities to stretch our faith and build relationships. Enjoy your week. Be blessed. And be thankful for the relationship that you are a part of.

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## SanJac Aspen Prize Finalist,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

es, announced as semi-finalists in April, the committee met in May to choose the 10 Aspen Prize finalists.

Next steps include:

Fall 2022: Additional data gathered on student outcomes, including in employment after college; multi-day site visits to each of the 10 finalists to gather insights about effective practices

Winter of 2023: A distinguished jury decides the Aspen Prize winner, based on quantitative data and qualitative information from each of the 10 finalists.

Late spring 2023: Announcement of the Aspen Prize winner

##

The Aspen Prize is generously funded by Ascendium, the Joyce Foundation, JPMorgan, and the Kresge Foundation.

Previous winners are:

- 2021: San Antonio College (TX)
- 2019: Indian River State College (FL) and Miami Dade College (FL)
- 2017: Lake Area Technical Institute (SD)
- 2015: Santa Fe College (FL)

- 2013: Santa Barbara City College (CA) and Walla Walla Community College (WA)
- 2011: Valencia College (FL)

The Aspen Institute College Excellence Program aims to advance higher education practices, policies, and leadership that significantly improve student outcomes, especially for the growing population of low-income students and students of color on American campuses. For more information, visit us at [higher.aspeninstitute.org](https://higher.aspeninstitute.org) or on LinkedIn or Twitter @AspenHigherEd. The Aspen Prize hashtag is #AspenPrize.

The Aspen Institute is a community-serving organization with global reach whose vision is a free, just, and equitable society. For 70 years, the Institute has driven change through dialogue, leadership, and action to help solve the world's greatest challenges. Headquartered in Washington, D.C., the Institute has offices in Aspen, Colorado, and New York City, and an international network of partners. For more information, visit [aspeninstitute.org](https://aspeninstitute.org).

## EH United wins national title,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Galena Park High School was named MVP scoring 27 points, 8 assist, 8 rebounds with 5 three pointers.

The National Basketball League (NBL) Championship was the final series for the NBL and the conclusion of its postseason. The championship series were played in varying best-of-three or best-of-five formats.

The National Basketball League (NBL) is a professional basketball league in the United States established in 1937. After the 1948–49 seasons, its twelfth, it merged with the Basketball Association of America (BAA) to create the National Basketball Association (NBA). Five current NBA teams trace their history back to the NBL: the Atlanta Hawks, the Detroit Pistons, the Los Angeles Lakers, the Philadelphia 76ers, and the Sacramento Kings. Allanj211@aol.com

## ASK DIAMOND JIM

## Diamond Jim: “What is the birthstone for the month of June?”

### JUNE BIRTHSTONES

June counts three gems as birthstones: pearl, Alexandrite, and moonstone.

**Pearl**

Pearls are unique as they are the only gems from living sea creatures and require no faceting or polishing to reveal their natural beauty. In the early 1900s, the first successful commercial culturing of round saltwater pearls began. Since the 1920s, cultured pearls have almost completely replaced natural pearls in the market.

The qualities that determine the overall value of a natural or cultured pearl or a piece of pearl jewelry are size, shape, color, luster, surface quality, nacre quality, and—for jewelry with two or more pearls—matching. When other value factors are equal, larger pearls are rarer and more valuable than smaller pearls of the same type. Round is the most difficult shape to culture, making it the rarest cultured pearl shape and—if all other factors are equal—also generally the most valuable. There are exceptions, though. Well-formed pear, oval, or baroque (irregularly shaped) cultured pearls are also prized by pearl lovers. Natural and cultured pearls occur in a broad range of hues. There are warm hues like yellow, orange, and pink, and cool hues like blue, green, and violet. Pearls have a wide range of tone from light to dark. Pearl colors tend to be muted, with a soft, subtle quality.

**Alexandrite**

A relatively modern gem, Alexandrite, was first discovered in Russia in 1831 during the reign of its namesake, Czar Alexander II, and is an extremely rare chrysoberyl with chameleon-like qualities. Its color is a lovely green in both daylight and fluorescent light; it changes color to a purplish red in incandescent light. Due to its rarity, some jewelers stock synthetic versions of this enchanting gemstone. (Synthetic gemstones are man-made alternatives to the natural material, possessing the same physical, optical, and chemical properties as the natural gemstone.) Alexandrite is also the gem for the 55th wedding anniversary.

**Moonstone**

The third birthstone for June is the moonstone. It was given its name by the Roman natural historian Pliny, who wrote that moonstone's appearance altered with the phases of the moon — a belief that held until well after the sixteenth century. A phenomenal gemstone, moonstones show a floating play of light (called adularescence) and sometimes show either a multi-rayed star or a cat's eye.

Considered a sacred stone in India, moonstones often are displayed on a background of yellow (a sacred color) and are believed to encapsulate within the stone a spirit whose purpose is to bring good fortune. Part of the family of minerals called feldspar, moonstone occurs in many igneous and metamorphic rocks and comes in a variety of colors such as green, blue, peach, and champagne. The most prized moonstones are from Sri Lanka; India, Australia, the United States, Myanmar, and Madagascar are also sources.

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](https://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](mailto:jmills@pineforestjewelry.com).



Solitaire can be addictive





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OPINION PAGE

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COUNTY  
CONNECTION

Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo



## We must act to stop Gun Violence



Over the past month, our nation has yet again endured violent deaths from mass shootings and gun violence. In Buffalo, we all witnessed the brutal attack driven by racism and hate that left 13 people dead at a grocery store. 17 people were shot during a mass shooting in downtown Milwaukee. And we are all still mourning the loss of two teachers and 19 innocent children murdered at Robb Elementary School in Uvalde. This violence shows no sign of letting up – between May 24th, the day of the Uvalde tragedy, and June 6th, there have been 33 additional mass shootings, including multiple mass shootings here in Harris County. No one is immune from this bloody plague.

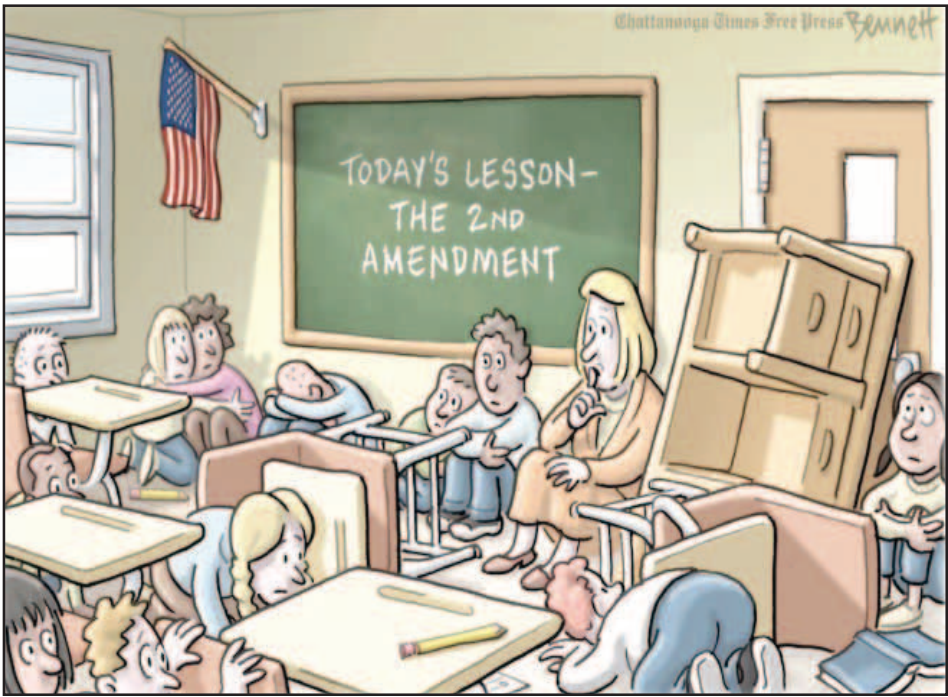
Today, our nation and our county is in the midst of a vital conversation about violent crime and what needs to be done to prevent it. The truth is, we cannot talk about addressing violent crime without talking about the role that guns play in fueling it. On the same day as the tragedy in Uvalde, we released new data from Harris County’s Institute for Forensic Sciences from which the conclusion could not be more clear – we are not just suffering from a rise in homicides, but also from a rise in the percentage of homicides caused by guns. In 2018, gunshot wounds caused 76% of homicides in Harris County. In 2021, that number was 84%. This year’s percentage is at 87%. And we aren’t unique. Statewide, the rate of gun homicides in Texas increased 90% between 2011 and 2020, from a little over 3 deaths per 100,000 people to about 6 deaths per 100,000.

You’d think after decades of enduring tragedy after tragedy, our nation and our state would have had enough and passed common sense gun safety laws to save lives. But no. Texas has actually moved in the opposite direction and eliminated some of the few common sense gun regulations we had. Last year our state legislature passed an extreme permitless carry law which makes it legal to carry a concealed weapon without training or a permit. And yet, polls show a broad coalition of Americans oppose permitless carry and support background checks and other common sense gun safety initiatives. The majority of Americans know that when it comes to fighting violent crime, keeping guns out of the hands of dangerous people is an essential part of the solution.

So we must continue fighting every way we can here at the County level. We’ve made historic investments to fund law enforcement and other smart-and-tough on crime initiatives in Harris County. Our \$1.4 billion budget for justice and safety this year is bigger than any other time in Harris County history. We’re also investing in youth crime prevention initiatives and targeted enforcement in high crime micro-zones. We’re addressing blight and pushing to shrink our criminal court backlog. We’ve also worked with law enforcement and other anti-crime groups like Moms Demand Action to educate the community about how to store guns safely and distribute gun locks. And on the same day we lost 19 children and two teachers in Uvalde, Harris County Commissioner’s Court declared June Gun Violence Prevention Month in Harris County to honor victims of these senseless tragedies.

We’ll never stop pushing our state legislature and congress to do what is right – to act to stop our children, our family, our best friends, our neighbors from being murdered by weapons of war in schools, grocery stores, movie theaters, churches, or anywhere else you can imagine.

Sincerely,  
  
Lina Hidalgo



★

STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Gary Borders



## Anti-gun Violence Protests and more School Safety Measures

Anti-gun violence protests were held in multiple cities across the state over the weekend, while the state has imposed additional measures designed to strengthen school security.

Texas State University’s Advanced Law Enforcement Rapid Response Training (ALERRT) program will be provided to all Texas school districts. The course is “designed to improve integration between law enforcement, fire, telecommunicator and emergency medical services in active attack/shooter events,” according to its website.

Gov. Greg Abbott also requested ALERRT to provide an after-the-fact debrief of the school shooting at Robb Elementary in Uvalde once the ongoing investigation is complete.

“We sadly recognize we cannot do anything to bring back the precious lives that were taken; however, we must do everything in our power to prevent the same tragic ending from happening again,” reads the governor’s letter.

In addition, the Texas Education Agency has been directed to create the position of Chief of School Safety and Security. The chief will be a “recognized expert on school security and public safety issues, an effective coordinator of multidisciplinary teams, a resource to school districts and the legislature, and effective at implementing programs,” according to a TEA news release.

### POLICE CHIEF EXPLAINS DELAY IN CONFRONTING SHOOTER

The Uvalde schools police chief explained the delay in confronting the gunman who killed 19 children and two teachers by saying he couldn’t obtain a key to locked classroom door.

“The only thing that was important to me at this time was to save as many teachers and children as possible,” Pete Arredondo



said in a [Texas Tribune](#) report. He said he tried dozens of keys that failed to work.

“Each time I tried a key I was just praying,” Arredondo said. It took 77 minutes after the May 24 massacre began for officers to unlock the door and kill the gunman. Besides the Department of Public Safety, Arredondo is the only other law enforcement official to give a public account of the police response to the shooting.

In addition to the state probe, the [U.S. Department of Justice](#) has launched a review of the police response.

### FIRST MONKEYPOX CASE IN TEXAS CONFIRMED

A single case of monkeypox virus infection was confirmed in a Dallas County resident who had recently traveled internationally, the Texas Department of State Health Services has announced.

“Monkeypox is transmitted to humans through close contact with an infected person or animal. It can also be transmitted from person to person by inhaling large respiratory droplets or through close contact with body fluids and lesions, as well as bedding and other contaminated materials. Those infected may experience fever, rash and swollen lymph nodes, as well as more serious complications,” the [DSHS release](#) said.

The patient is in quarantine at home. DSHS said

the virus does not currently present risks to the general public, though it is reaching out to passengers who might have been exposed to the patient on a flight from Mexico to Dallas.

### A DRIER AND WARMER MAY FOR MUCH OF STATE

May brought some rain but not as much as hoped, according to Dr. Mark Wentzel, hydrologist for the [Texas Water Development Board](#).

“This May’s modest rainfall and high temperatures combined to provide only small improvements in drought conditions across our state,” Wentzel wrote. “Every little bit counts, but that little bit of recovery is disappointing considering that May has historically been the wettest month of the year for Texas.”

Drought conditions covered 78% of the state by the end of May.

### ELECTRICITY DEMANDS BREAKING RECORDS

As temperatures soared across the state during the first days of June, demand for electricity set daily and monthly records, according to numbers released last Friday by the Electric Reliability Council of Texas and reported in the [San Antonio Express-News](#).

Triple-digit temperatures were reported across the state over the weekend — several days before the official first day of summer.

ERCOT asked power generators to defer maintenance over the weekend to ensure adequate generating power.

“ERCOT will continue to deploy all available tools to manage the grid reliably and coordinate closely with the Public Utility Commission, generation resource owners and transmission utilities to ensure they are also prepared for the warm weather across the state,” Christy Penders with ERCOT said.

### AGENCY RELEASES LATEST COVID-19 WORKERS’ COMP CLAIM TALLY

The number of workers compensation claims related to COVID-19 claims reached 83,000 in May, with 448 fatalities reported to the [Division of Workers’ Compensation](#). Just more than half of these claims and fatalities involved first responders and correctional officers.

Most of the claims paid were to compensate people for lost wages.

### COVID-19 CASES UNCHANGED IN LAST WEEK

The number of new COVID-19 cases reported in Texas during the past week stayed essentially unchanged, with 47,582 reported by the [Coronavirus Resource Center](#) at Johns Hopkins University. A total of 77 deaths were recorded. DSHS reported 1,488 lab-confirmed COVID-19 hospitalizations, up 27% from the previous week.

★

THE  
POSTSCRIPT

By  
Carrie Classon

## “White Dresses”

I’ve been under some stress lately.

I’ve written a novel, and now I have to wait to find someone who thinks it’s worth publishing. (I happen to think it is, for the record.) So, while I wait, I get more and more nervous.

I know all the standard advice for this, and I try to follow it. I try to get plenty of sleep. (But how am I supposed to sleep when I don’t know what will happen tomorrow?!) I try to eat healthy foods at healthy times. (But how am I supposed to avoid snacking at midnight when I’m roaming around the house like a nervous ghost, unable to sleep?!) I listen to guided meditations where this super-calm voice tells me that “everything is happening in perfect timing.” But this meditation was recorded years ago, and there’s no telling if the timing of things might have changed since then (what with the pandemic and all), and I realize I haven’t heard a word she’s said for the last several minutes.

I told my doctor I was stressed, and she offered me some sort of serotonin pills, which do absolutely nothing as far as I can tell, so I forget to take them. I could reduce my coffee intake but, come on, I don’t want to be stressed and dead, so what’s the point in that? I try to read books, but I start to wonder who published them and how long the author had to wait before they were published and if they went crazy in the meantime and if they had some sort of secret edge and how could I get that edge and then I notice I have not read a single word. No. The only thing I’ve found that really helps to calm me down is shopping for dresses.

“Do you need more dresses?” my husband, Peter, asks.

This is such a silly question. Of course, I do not need more dresses. The truth is, I don’t even buy that many dresses. What I do is go to my favorite online consignment shop and look at dresses. OK, occasionally one of them makes it to my house. But that is not the point. It is the focus; it is the hypnotic quality of looking for the perfect white dress. This is very calming.

“You already have a white dress,” a buttinsky voice in my head points out.

“Did I ask you?” I reply. Obviously, I don’t have the particular kind of white dress that I am looking for now and, whose business is it anyway, if I want to buy a \$13 white dress and own two totally different white dresses! I could be roaming the streets looking for hard drugs in my current state of mind. Instead, I am stuffing my closet with white dresses which, it is true, I might not wear that often—if at all.

But that is why dress shopping is so alluring. It has almost nothing to do with the dresses.

Shopping for dresses allows me to imagine where I would wear the dresses, and the places I imagine I would wear them are all pleasant places. They are evenings out where I am not stressed—parties and celebrations and gatherings of friends. These dresses remind me that these things have happened and will happen again, and this current period of sitting in my pajamas in the middle of the night eating snack food is temporary.

Life has its ups and downs. When things are calmer, I plan to wear a lovely new white dress.

Till next time,  
Carrie  
*Follow me on Facebook at: CarrieClassonAuthor.*

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# Sheldon Road Clean-up continues Saturday June 25

C.H.I.C. is conducting a monthly cleanup of Sheldon Rd. from to Woodforest Blvd. this SATURDAY June 25th from 7:00 am - 11:00 am.

Please come out and join us. Volunteer's do not have to stay the entire length of the cleanup, participation of any length of time will be greatly appreciated and is needed. During this cleanup we will concentrate on removing trash from the medians and roadsides north of Market St. towards Woodforest Blvd. while performing maintenance trimming of the trees we addressed in previous cleanups.

Saturday's Cleanup Plan:  
Date & Time: Saturday, 06/25/2022 @ 7:00 - 11:00 AM  
Meeting Location: Foodtown parking lot\* 435 Sheldon Rd., Channelview

\*We will move further down Sheldon as cleanup progresses. Please make sure to sign-in before you start cleaning.

Please Wear Bright Clothing. Preferably Safety Yellow or Orange Shirts or Vests if you have them.

Equipment to Bring: Gloves and your personal protective gear (safety glasses, gloves, closed toed shoes, etc.). Some tools such as gloves, rakes, shovels, wheelbarrows, pruners, trash cans may be provided, but you are encouraged to bring your personal lawn care equipment for your use (i.e. pruners, clippers, shears, and lawn mowers). Wagons are also very helpful to have.

Clean Up Plan: We will begin at the roadside and the medians north of I-10 East in front of Foodtown and work our way North up Sheldon Rd. cleaning and trimming as much area as we can with the number of people participating and tools provided. We will work in groups based on the number of participants and equipment brought.


Cautions: We will be working in a traffic area. You will be responsible for your own safety for yourself and equipment. NO SMALL CHILDREN! It is just not safe conditions for children and we do not want to see them harmed. Older children, teenagers, can participate if they are responsible and safety orientated. Again they, and yourself, will be your responsibility and you will be participating at your own risk.

We look forward to seeing you Saturday June 25th!

Carolyn Stone  
Channelview Health & Improvement Coalition

THOUGHTS FROM  
HILLSIDE CHURCH

By Dr. Mark Trice



## Staying Sensitive

Dena and I have a friend who once signed up for a special cruise excursion – riding a horse in the sea. This friend doesn't get to ride much, but she's experienced enough to know how to use her legs to tell a horse to speed up, and she gave in to the temptation during the ride. It wasn't long before she heard her guide call out, "I know what you're doing, Texas! Slow that horse down!" (Yep, she's from this great state too.)

The horses were swimming, which meant that everyone's legs were hidden under water. Her horse's change of speed was the only evidence of the silent communication going on between her and the animal, but it was enough that her guide knew she and the horse were "talking." The guide, though he told her to slow it down, was amused. Apparently, no one else had a clue what she'd done.

The Holy Spirit works with us in much the same way as our friend worked with her horse. Just like the well-trained horse pays attention to its rider, those of us who are children of God must learn to stay sensitive to the Holy Spirit. Romans 8:14 makes this clear: "For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God." If you're not led by the Spirit of God, are you a child of God? Think about it.

Like our friend did with her horse, the Holy Spirit gives us a lot of signals under the water, so to speak. Other people can't see what He's up to but, if we've made a point of being sensitive to His touch, we can feel those gentle nudges. When we react to them in obedience, moving as He tells us, responding to the pressure He puts on us in all the right places, His effect on our lives becomes evident in our actions. We move forward into His plans for us and do our part to help Him reach His goals.

And that's something we all need to remember. He put mankind here to fulfill His purposes and plans. When He tells us in Matthew 6:33 to seek His kingdom and righteousness first, that's what He means. Modern culture would have us believe that life is all about us but, even after all this time, it's still about Him. Our lives are meant to bring Him glory and accomplish His purposes here on Earth.

Like all cowboys, I appreciate a well-trained horse, one that knows me, trusts me, and responds to me consistently. That horse and I can be a powerful team of two and accomplish great things. God feels the same way about us. Not that we're horses, obviously, but that, as we submit to the Holy Spirit and let Him guide us, we are a vital part of a supernatural team that will consistently strive to fulfill His plan until the day He comes for His own.

www.myhillsidefamily.com @my-hillsidefamily

## San Jacinto River environment,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Southern Waste Pit nears remediation later this year.

In the last couple of months, the parties responsible for the cleanup of the Northern Pit have made another attempt to stall and alter the cleanup. The EPA held firm, requiring the companies to continue moving forward, and now we need to show up and let them know that the community needs the toxic pits cleaned up as soon as possible.

There are two ways that you can attend - IN-PERSON or by PHONE, see details below.

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The Flukinger Community Center  
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Notice is hereby given that Original Letters  
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County, Texas, were issued on JUNE 13,  
2022.  
  
JUSTA ELAINE FLETCHER BLACK, N/K/A  
JUSTA ELAINE ANDERS  
  
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  
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prescribed by law.  
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by WESTON COTTEN  
Attorney for the Estate

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Providing Penalties and Violations Thereof. A copy of the Ordinance is on file at the principal  
office of the District, 103 W. Wahl Street, Crosby, Harris County, Texas, where it may be read in  
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24-2T  
  
/s/  
President, Board of Directors

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# Chappell Hill Gallery has new paintings by Mei Hoffman



Texas Artisans Art Gallery in Chappell Hill is now featuring oil and acrylic paintings by Mei Hoffman. The Gallery is on the main street, and open weekends and some weekdays by appointment. Call 713-703-3841. See more at [paintingsbyme.com](http://paintingsbyme.com).

## COMMUNITY WATCH

### Drive-by shooting kills 8 year old sleeping in his bed in East Houston

HOUSTON – The Harris County Sheriff's Office provided updates on a possible suspect after 8-year-old Paul Vasquez was shot and killed during a drive-by shooting in east Harris County on Sunday, June 12.

According to authorities, the shooting happened in the 13800 block of McNair Street around 10:45 p.m.

Deputies said Vasquez was in his bed inside of his room when a bullet pierced him in his chest. Investigators said the boy was able to tell his mother what happened before collapsing.

Authorities say there were about nine to 10 shots fired during the incident.

He was rushed to Ben Taub hospital where he was later pronounced dead.

Officials are now searching for those responsible, stating it may be more than one suspect who remains at large.

Deputies released a photo of the suspect's car, describing it as a Gray KIA Optima with damage to the front right side.

Surveillance video captured the car in question, deputies say, and witnesses are helping with the investigation.

Deputies said the boy's two brothers were also in the home when the shooting happened.

According to HCSO,



PAUL VASQUEZ



VASQUEZ HOUSE AT 12821 MCNAIR STREET, CHANNELVIEW



SUSPECT CAR, A GRAY KIA OPTIMA WITH DAMAGE TO THE RIGHT FRONT FENDER AND BUMPER, AND TIRE WITHOUT ORIGINAL WHEEL.

there is no motive for the shooting.

"Outraged to learn that a 7-year-old child was killed during a drive-by shooting," Sheriff Ed Gonzalez said in a tweet. "I urge the community to come forward with any information related to this senseless act of gun violence."

Anyone with information on this shooting is urged to contact HCSO at (713) 274-9100 or Crime Stoppers at (713) 222-TIPS.

### Fatal Cycle Crash at 12900 East Freeway

Houston police are investigating a fatal crash at 12900 East Freeway (East Interstate Highway 10) service road about 4:55 p.m. Friday (May 20).

The identity of the male victim, 45, is pending verification by the Harris County Institute of Forensic Sciences.

HPD Vehicular Crimes Division Sergeant G. Lopez and Officer F. Serna reported:

The victim was operating a Harley Davidson motorcycle eastbound on the service road near the above address when he failed to stay in a single lane and crashed. Houston Fire Department paramedics responded to the scene and transported the victim to Ben Taub General Hospital where he was pronounced deceased.

No other vehicles or persons were involved in the crash.

The investigation is continuing.

## ENTERTAINMENT

### Amber Waves



### R.F.D.



### The Spats



Weekly **SUDOKU**

by Linda Thistle

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

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ◆◆◆

◆ Moderate ◆◆ Challenging ◆◆◆ HOO BOY!

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HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTIKOFF

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

Differences: 1. Arm is missing. 2. Boat string is missing. 3. Cloud is different. 4. Sail is different. 5. Camera is missing. 6. Log is missing.

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June 20, 2022 Posting Date

King Crossword

ACROSS

1 "Dream on!"

5 Clothing protector

8 Greet

12 Well-read folks

14 Celestial bear

15 Beatles drummer before Ringo Starr

16 Algeria's neighbor

17 Occupation, for short

18 Straw hat

20 Young horses

23 Printer's blue

24 New York canal

25 Talkers' marathon

28 Bankroll

29 North African capital

30 Josh

32 Doctor's order

34 Trellis climber

35 Missing

36 Mature, as fruit

37 Small porches

40 Spelldown

41 Ms. Brockovich

42 Oater setting

47 "— Lang Syne"

48 Pokey

49 Disarray

50 Toronto's prov.

51 Artist Bonheur

DOWN

1 Swiss peak

2 "Sprechen — Deutsch?"

3 Addams cousin

4 Weak

5 Folk singer Joan

6 TGIF part

7 Gradually

8 Compassionate

31 Lion's home

9 "I smell —!"

10 Cruise stop

11 Hideaway

13 Baseball stats

19 Lummoxes

20 Hardly any

21 Verbal

22 Opera set in Egypt

23 Is able to, old-style

25 "Recognize my voice?"

26 Omit

27 Fork prong

29 Sporty car roof

33 Light-headed folks?

34 TV audience member

36 Some wines

37 Line of fashion?

38 Verifiable

39 Monet's supply

40 Inky stain

43 Charged bit

44 Id counterpart

45 "Mayday!"

46 Former Delta rival

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Trivia test

by Fifi Rodriguez

1. TELEVISION: Which TV show is set at UC-Sunnydale?

2. FOOD & DRINK: What is an affogato?

3. MOVIES: Which famous movie features a character named Almira Gulch?

4. HISTORY: Which U.S. state was the first to legalize marijuana for medicinal use?

5. ENTERTAINERS: What rapper/songwriter's real name is Calvin Cordozar Broadus Jr.?

6. SCIENCE: What part of the brain controls hunger?

7. GEOGRAPHY: The Gulf of Cadiz lies off the coasts of which two countries?

8. LITERATURE: Who are the best friends of Nancy Drew in the mystery series?

9. LANGUAGE: The archaic term "grippe" was used to describe what common ailment?

10. ASTRONOMY: What kind of star is the sun in our solar system?

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Solution time: 22 mins.

Answers

King Crossword

1. "Buffy the Vampire Slayer"; 2. Italian dessert of coffee and ice cream; 3. "The Wizard of Oz"; 4. California, 1996; 5. Snoop Dogg; 6. Hypothalamus; 7. Portugal and Spain; 8. Bess and George; 9. Influenza; 10. Yellow dwarf



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