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CHANNEL CURRENTS

Newspaper Holiday for 4th of July - no paper next week

The NORTH CHANNEL STAR will take its annual Fourth of July holiday next week, and there will not be a newspaper dated July 7.

The next issue of the newspaper will be published on July 14th.

We wish everyone a Safe and Joyous 4th of July, with Family and Friends.

Imprisoned Brittney Griner draws national attention

A Russian court extended the pretrial detention of the W.N.B.A. basketball star and former AISD Nimitz HS athlete Brittney Griner on drug smuggling charges, pushing her jail stint past the four month mark, according to the official state news agency TASS. However, Russian TV showed her on Monday, June 27 going to a hearing in handcuffs, in a Russian courthouse.



Although her contact with the public has been limited, reportedly her Russian attorney is able to pass notes back and forth, and Griner has been using this method to communicate with family and supporters in the U.S.

A rally in support of her was held last month in Houston, in front of the Toyota Arena where the NBA plays their games. The rally included the presence of American Trevor Reed, recently released from Russian custody in a trade. The U.S. House has also passed a resolution demanding her return.

It has been suggested in Russian media that Griner is being held by the Russians as a potential swap for a convicted criminal, Viktor Bout, held in the U.S. The State Department has listed the release of Griner as a priority, classifying her as "wrongfully detained," but not commenting on a possible swap.

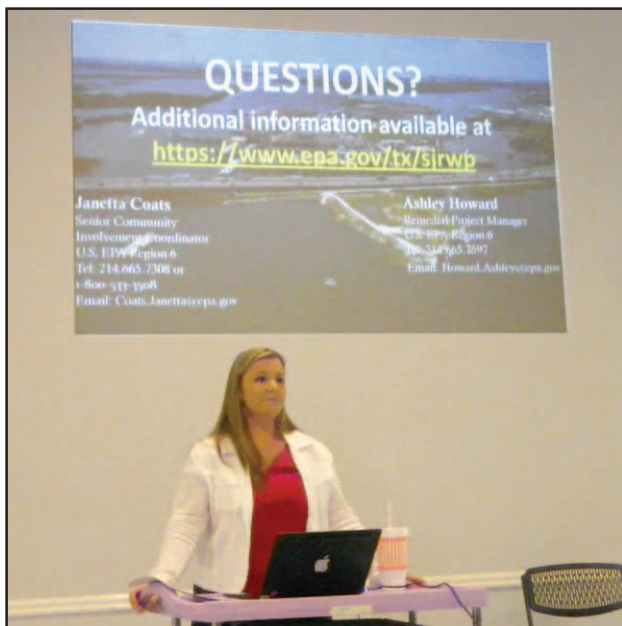
To keep attention on her plight, the WNBA this week named Griner as an honorary starter in the upcoming All Star Game to be played in Chicago on July 10th.

EPA meets with community on Waste Pits

CHANNELVIEW – Representatives of the federal EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) met with the public last Thursday evening, June 23 at the Flukinger Community Center in Channelview. The purpose of the meeting was to update interested members of the public on progress in remediation and removal of the toxic wastes in the San Jacinto River at several sites.

The slide presentation was made by the Superfund Project Manager, Ashley Howard, and a question and answer period following the talk was moderated by Jeanetta Coates.

About 75 interested members of the Channelview and Highlands com-



Ashley Howard, EPA Project manager for the Superfund San Jacinto River Waste Pits, made the presentation and update to the community last Thursday evening at Channelview's Flukinger Center.

munities attended the meeting. Many of them asked questions after the presentation.

Also attending the meeting were a number of public officials, and agency representatives. The included staff from Senator John Whitmire, Congressman Brian Babin, Representative Ana Hernandez, and County Attorney Chris Menefee.

EPA had several staff members, engineers and geologists present, headed by John Meyer, who is Acting Deputy Director of Reg. 6 Superfund Sites.

Howard showed a series of 25 slides, that covered the history of the waste

pits, the remediation solution approved by the EPA, and the current progress and schedule by the consultants for the PRP (Potential Responsible Party).

Howard's presentation was divided into details on the two sites called the Northers and Southern Impoundments. She characterized the problems and solutions and unique and different at the two locations.

Each site is about 15 acres, and the dumping of toxic waste from paper mills occurred in the mid 1960s. However, the waste is much deeper and more extensive area in the Northern site, she said.

Continued. See Waste Pits Meeting, Page 5

Galena Park PD seeks Child Sexual Assault Fugitives



Fugitive Jose De Jesus Martinez



Fugitive Abraham Albiter Orozco



Fugitive Marcial Medina Zuniga

By Allan Jamail

Galena Park, TX. – June 28, 2022 - The Galena Park Police Department is asking for assistance in providing information on the whereabouts of three fugitives wanted for violating their terms of probation by failure to report their whereabouts to a law enforcement agency.

All three of the fugitives were convicted of violations of the Texas Penal Code of Indecency with a

Child by Contact. Warrants have been issued for their arrest on failure to report under the Texas Code of Criminal Procedure Title 1, Chapter 62 - Sex Offender Registration Program as follows: Registered sex offenders are required to periodically report to the local law enforcement authority to verify the accuracy of the registration information and to promptly report cer-

tain changes in the information as those changes occur. A sex offender who fails to comply with any registration requirement is subject to felony prosecution.

Fugitives Jose De Jesus Martinez (6'2" – 175 lbs – black hair, brown eyes) and Marcial Medina Zuni-

CONTINUED. SEE GALENA PARK FUGITIVES WANTED, P.3

North Shore High Creates Video Gaming Competition Class

By Allan Jamail

GPISD 2022 – The North Shore Senior High School has entered into a new realm of competition and student engagement: video games (Esports). Back in the 60's in my high school days I would have loved to have had this type of a school class. The word gaming back then would have got a student sent home. The Mustang Gaming Club was created by Mr. Chris Ybarra and Mr. Lovingood in the Fall of 2019, hoping to give students an opportunity to play their favorite games with their peers in a safe place.

Through word of mouth alone, the club recruited over 100 members in its first few months. The club created competitive

leagues and tournaments in popular titles such as Super Smash Bros. Ultimate, FIFA, Madden, and NBA 2k, and used these events to raise money with the goal of purchasing equipment to create their own Esports lab.

The following year, the Mustang Gaming Club began official Esports competition in the High School Esports League, competing in titles such as Rocket League and Call of Duty.

In the Spring of 2021, the club was fortunate to win an Esports lab giveaway started by the High School Esports League, being one out of ten schools in the entire country chosen. HSEL, the National

CONTINUED. SEE NORTH SHORE VIDEO GAMING COMPETITION CLASS, P.7

NORTH SHORE ROTARY INSTALLS NEW PRESIDENT



NORTH SHORE ROTARY HELD THEIR INSTALLATION OF NEW OFFICERS AND BOARD LAST FRIDAY NIGHT, JUNE 24 AT THE MAGNOLIA EVENT CENTER IN HOUSTON. OUTGOING PRESIDENT SHAWN SILMAN, ABOVE LEFT, PASSES THE TORCH TO NEW PRESIDENT KEN WIMBLEY AT THE EVENT.

OTHER AWARDS AND MENTIONS WERE GIVEN AT THE AWARDS DINNER. THE INSTALLING OFFICIAL WAS JUDGE LUCIA BATES, AND THE ROTARIAN OF THE YEAR WAS MINI IZAGUIRRE.

SEE MORE PHOTOS FROM THE EVENT ON PAGE 5 OF THIS ISSUE.

Galena Park ISD swears in two School Board Trustees



(L)Ramon Garza and (R)Linda Clark

At the June 13th Galena Park ISD (GPISD) Board of Trustees meeting, incumbent Ramon Garza (Position 4) and Linda Clark Sherrard (Position 3) were sworn in by Judge Joe Stephens to serve on the GPISD Board of Trustees following the May 7, 2022 election. Dr. Leroy Lacy, Jr., St. Matthew Missionary Baptist Church pastor, assisted with the installation of Mrs. Sherrard.

Mr. Garza has been a GPISD trust-

ee since 2010. He is a business owner in our community and a proud graduate of the Galena Park High School Class of 1986. Mr. Garza is married and the proud father of three daughters, who are GPISD graduates and one son who attends North Shore Middle School.

CONTINUED. SEE GALENA PARK ISD NEW TRUSTEES , PAGE 3

GALENA PARK ISD NEWS

Galena Park High School and North Shore Senior High School students Recognized at Board Meeting

At the June 13th Galena Park ISD Board of Trustees meeting, Galena Park High School and North Shore Senior High School students were recognized for receiving gold medals at the Texas Art Educators Association State Visual Arts Scholastic Event held April 29-30 in San Marcos, Texas.



Galena Park High School students - Taylor Bolton, Ashley DeLeon, Jacob Lloyd, David Morales, Abigail Salinas, Madelyn Trevino, and Zaira Villegas



North Shore Senior High School students - Esau Carrillo, Diamond Hernandez, Kenji Nino, Aaron Ornelas, Kirsten Pante, and Junior Sierra

The Texas Art Educators Association State Visual Arts Scholastic Event recognizes exemplary student achievement in the visual arts by providing high school art students an opportunity to showcase works of art utilizing a variety of artistic techniques, media, and themes.

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

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.

CHANNELVIEW ISD NEWS

2022 Summer Leadership Institute



CISD Superintendent Tory C. Hill with our Board Of Trustees at the 2022 Summer Leadership Institute. We are grateful for their leadership and dedication to the students of Channelview ISD

Maintenance and Custodial Staff Service Award Reception

Congratulations to those who are a part of our maintenance and custodial staff for your years of service. Thank you for your dedication to the district. Enjoy your Service Award reception! #choosechannelview



North Shore Rotary Club Announced a New Sgt. At Arms



We would like to congratulate Anthony Mireles on becoming the New Sgt. At Arms of The North Shore Rotary Club. #Congratulations

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Tuesday: Creamy Hamburger Mac & Cheese! Fresh Garden Salad, Garlic Bread & Chocolate Chip Cookies!

Wednesday: Cheesy Chicken & Green Chili Enchiladas! Spanish Rice, Refried Beans with Enchilada Sauce & Cheese plus Churros!

Thursday: BBQ Seasoned Boneless Pork Chops, Loaded Potato Salad, BBQ Baked Beans, Fresh White Bread Slices & Grape Salad!

Friday: Party Tray! Egg Salad Sandwiches on White & Chicken Salad on Croissant, Fresh Fruit with Fruit Dip, Pasta Salad & Pretzel Carmel Crack! One size family meal feeds 4-6+ \$45.00, Single Meal \$11.5

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!

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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!

CHARLOTTE'S WEB

By Charlotte Jackson



Freedom

Our nation just celebrated the first officially recognized holiday of Juneteenth. This day celebrates the end of slavery in America. To many Black people, this is the official Independence Day. And next week, America will celebrate the 246th Independence Day where American became an independent nation.

Many high school graduations were held recently and to those who received their diploma, it represents freedom. The former students celebrate no more waking early, arriving to school and having teachers and administrators tell them what to do next. There were those who graduated from colleges, and they are celebrating the freedom from faculty and administrators setting their schedules. There are those who financially supported these graduates who are celebrating the freedom of no longer being financially responsible for supporting these young adults.

To the more than 160,000 incarcerated individuals in Texas, freedom is a goal to strive for and an opportunity to correct mistakes from their past. For the countless individuals who have traveled to the United States for a better life, freedom from oppression has been a dream for years.

While the United States Constitution defines many of the freedoms that Americans recognize, there are other rights for which we must still strive. Last week, the Supreme Court ruled on a case which some people feel is the right to life for unborn children while others feel is about women having the right to choose who controls their reproductive decisions. In Houston we had thousands celebrate their right to live with the sexual orientation they choose while others were opponents of the PRIDE Celebrations.

In a local neighborhood, there was a family celebrating a milestone birthday. They had notified and invited in advance that the event might be loud and crowded. During the celebration, one neighbor decided that his freedom to enjoy a Saturday night was being challenged so he contacted the police. When law enforcement explained that in Harris County there is no noise ordinance, the caller decided to take matters into his own hands. He drove to the front of the celebrations and opened fire, shooting one of the guests in the back.

While attending an annual event in our community, I witnessed a young mother feeding her children graham crackers. One of these children had obvious special needs. When she relocated during the event, there was a mess on the floor. Someone came along and reported it to a custodian. At the end of the day, it was his responsibility to clean the area, yet he was upset that they mother had made no attempt to clean up the mess her children made. Attendees were busy to point fingers as to who should have cleaned the floor. Many felt the mother should have at least attempted to pick up behind her children. Others felt the man being paid should have done it without complaining. Someone pointed out that many parents of young children have yet to balance the duties of parenting and to show grace by not making a big deal about it. Others mentioned that being a parent of multiple can be a handful especially when there is a special needs child.

Each day, we have the freedom to choose how we react to situations. We can react to what rubs us the wrong way and become bitter or we can react that we have another opportunity to be kind, to have influence and to be an example. We are free to be who we are created to be and to enjoy life, let us extend acceptance, grace and mercy as well as a smile to others.

Galena Park ISD swears in two Trustees,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Mrs. Sherrard is a retired Galena Park ISD educator, she served the students, staff and community faithfully for 38 years. Mrs. Sherrard received her bachelors and master's degree from Texas Southern University and is a class of 1970 Galena Park High School alumnus. She is married to William Jr., and together they have three sons who are GPISD graduates.

"The GPISD Board of Trustees embodies the spirit of community and brings a wealth of talent, expertise and energy to the table. We are very blessed to have a wonderful and supportive team," Dr. John Moore, Superintendent of Schools, said.

Congratulations, Mr. Garza and Mrs. Sherrard.

Galena Park Fugitives Wanted,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



ga (5'8" – 155 lbs - black hair, brown eyes) were convicted of Section 21.11 (a)(1) of the Texas Penal Code. (SEE BELOW)

Texas Penal Code Section 21.11 (a)(1): A person commits an offense if, with a child younger than 17 years of age, whether the child is of the same or opposite sex and regardless of whether the person knows the age of the child at the time of the offense, the person: (1) engages in sexual contact with the child or causes the child to engage in sexual contact; or (2) with intent to arouse or gratify the sexual desire of any person: (A)exposes the person's anus or any part of the person's genitals, knowing the child is present; or (B)causes the child to expose the child's anus or any part of the child's genitals. An offense under this section is a felony of the second degree.

Fugitive Abraham Albiter Orozco (5' – 5" 120 lbs - black hair, brown eyes) was convicted of Section 22.011 of the Texas Penal Code. (SEE BELOW)

Texas Penal Code Section 22.011: SEXUAL ASSAULT. (a) A person commits an offense if the person: (1) intentionally or knowingly: (A) causes the penetration of the anus or sexual organ of a child by any means; (B) causes the penetration of the mouth of a child by the sexual organ of the actor; (C) causes the sexual organ of a child to contact or penetrate the mouth, anus, or sexual organ of another person, including the actor; (D) causes the anus of a child to contact the mouth, anus, or sexual organ of another person, including the actor; or (E) causes the mouth of a child to contact the anus or sexual organ of another person, including the actor. An offense under this section is a felony of the second degree.

If you have information about the fugitives contact the Galena Park Police and or Detective Bolanos at

7 1 3 - 6 7 5 - 3 4 7 1 .
Allanj211@aol.com

ASK DIAMOND JIM

Diamond Jim: “What exactly is “White Gold and how’s it made?”

White gold is inherently warm in color, and not dead white like platinum. White gold is not found in nature, since the element from the earth is pure yellow gold (referred to as 24k). In order to achieve a whiter hue, other metals are added to the pure yellow gold. This combination of metals is called an “alloy.” By definition, 14k gold means that 14 parts of the alloy out of the total 24 parts are gold. The remaining 10 parts in the alloy are other metals. The other metals depend upon the final color you’re trying to achieve. For example, 14k yellow gold may have copper, silver, and zinc added so that the yellow color is lightened, but still maintained. Rose gold will have more copper so that the coppery hue is achieved. And white gold will have a white metal, such as nickel or palladium added so that the resulting alloy is whiter.

Although the final color of 14k white gold is whiter than pure yellow gold, 14 parts out of its total 24 parts are still yellow gold. I like to compare it to a bucket paint: It’s like adding as much white paint to a bucket of yellow paint as you can. The resulting color will look much whiter, but that yellow paint in the bucket still remains. The same is true of white gold; It will appear whiter but its undertone is still yellow gold. *Why is it that sometimes a white gold ring will turn warmer in color over time?*

Sometimes that original warmer color is harder to see since our eyes are distracted by shiny things! Rings often start out polished, and the reflective surface makes subtleties in color hard to see. But as it’s worn, the ring’s surface becomes scuffed up, and that reflective surface dulls. White gold’s inherent color is easier for us to see due to the duller, less distracting surface. Additionally, although most of the metals in the white gold alloy do not tarnish (turn colors due to exposure to oxygen), there are tiny amounts of metals which can oxidize. This means white gold can “turn” a slightly warmer color with time. Having the ring professionally polished can make it shiny again. But something to keep in mind is that professional polishing removes a layer of metal each time. You wouldn’t want to get your ring polished too frequently since it would wear away the gold too quickly. If you prefer a whiter appearance I’d recommend going with **rhodium plating** rather than frequent professional polishing. That way the ring isn’t thinned too early in its life, and the fine texture isn’t polished away prematurely.

Rhodium is a metal in the platinum family, so it has that same grey/white color. Many commercially made jewelry will be rhodium plated to look like platinum. One downside to plating is that it requires upkeep by re-plating every so often. Some people prefer not to plate their white gold for a few reasons. The main reason is that they like the warmer color of white gold, and don’t find it to be inferior to platinum’s color. Many people prefer a whiter color in their white gold jewelry and would like to rhodium plate their rings. Rhodium plating can be done at Pineforest Jewelry in our repair shop and, unlike most jewelers who plate to a 1 micron of thickness, we prefer to plate to about 2 microns thick. This usually offers a longer lasting plating .of your beautiful jewelry. So, if you love that bright white hue, rhodium plating is a great option for you. Come see us at Pineforest Jewelry and ask Gary about Rhodium plating.

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 Rep. Armando Walle

Walle condemns Supreme Court Decision

Dobbs decision means Texas’ new “Trigger Law,” outlawing abortion and levying criminal penalties for performing abortion in Texas, will take effect 30 days after judgment

HOUSTON – On Friday, in deciding in *Dobbs v. Jackson*, the United States Supreme Court overturned *Roe v. Wade* in a 5-4 decision, upending nearly 50 years of precedent recognizing a women’s right to choose to have an abortion. State Representative Armando Walle (D-Houston) released the following statement regarding the *Dobbs* opinion:

I am devastated about today’s Supreme Court ruling in Dobbs v. Jackson—not only a massive setback for the civil rights of women but for all Americans. In setting aside nearly 50 years of precedent, the decision not only means loss of access to abortion, but reverses decades of progress in women’s rights to self-determination and autonomy.

Knowing Texas has the highest percentage of uninsured people in the country and has a history of poor maternal health outcomes for pregnant women, we know the impact of this decision will be felt hardest by people of color and those with lesser means. More than ever, it is imperative that Texas take steps to repair its public health safety net and protect the health of women before, during, and after pregnancy.

The court majority’s contortions made to overturn Roe required rolling back established principles of substantive due process. Despite the majority attempt to dispel concerns, I fear the opinion’s line of reasoning severely threatens past Supreme Court decisions affirming the rights to contraception, same-sex intimacy, and same-sex marriage. I know my fears are not unfounded when Justice Thomas specifically suggests the court “reject substantive due process entirely” and specifically suggests reconsidering “Griswold, Lawrence, and Obergefell,” the three cases which secured those rights.

It is a dark day in our nation’s history. But I will work hard in Austin to mitigate the negative impacts of this decision (and the corresponding Texas abortion ban) on my constituents and all affected Texans.

####

Rep. Armando Walle is serving his seventh term in the Texas House of Representatives and is as a member of the House Committee on Appropriations, serving as Chair of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Articles VI, VII, VIII. Walle also serves as a member of the House Committees on House Administration and Natural Resources. He represents House District 140, which includes northern portions of unincorporated Harris County and the City of Houston.

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OPINION

By U.S. Senator JOHN CORNYN

Cornyn commends Supreme Court Ruling to Overturn Roe V. Wade

WASHINGTON – U.S. Senator John Cornyn (R-TX) released the following statement after the Supreme Court issued the decision on the *Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization*:

“Today, the Court has restored one of the core principles of our Constitution with this landmark ruling. This decision correctly returns the authority of states to decide the limits on abortion and will save countless innocent lives. I commend the Justices for not bowing to the vicious intimidation campaign waged by the radical Left. I join Texans in celebrating this historic victory for life and the rule of law.”

####

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

EDITOR’S NOTE: *Opinions expressed here are not necessarily that of this newspaper or its staff. YOUR OPINION is welcome. Send a letter for possible publication to Grafikpress Newspapers, 5906 Star Lane, Houston TX 77057 or an email to GRAFIKSTAR@aol.com. Please limit your words to about 200. Letters will be subject to editing. Thank you.*



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STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Gary Borders

Comptroller releases Broadband Expansion Plan

Comptroller releases broadband plan

State Comptroller Glenn Hegar last week released his agency’s plan to support the expansion of broadband internet access to areas with limited or no access. Hegar and his agency’s Broadband Development Office received feedback through a series of town halls, virtual discussions and more than 16,000 responses to a survey.

“An important, recurring theme has been the reminder that though high-speed internet may once have been a luxury, it is now a necessity,” Hegar wrote in a letter to Texas legislators. “Texans need reliable, high-speed connectivity for a wide range of potential applications including public health, safety, education and modern agriculture.”

Census data collected in 2020 indicates as many as 7 million Texans — nearly one-fourth of the state’s population — do not have broadband access. The issue disproportionately affects rural communities, low-income families and communities of color, the report said.

The report notes the statewide plan will require additional funding. The Legislature provided \$5 million to jump-start the Broadband Development Office, and the federal American Rescue Act allocated \$500.5 million for broadband expansion. In addition, the recently passed infrastructure bill allocates at least \$100 million.

By early next year, the BDO will:

- Establish a broadband-focused, federally compliant grant program.
- Publish a broadband availability map.
- Manage recurring coordination and communication opportunities across stakeholder groups.

“Texas faces a huge challenge: Connecting over 1 million households to high-speed broadband, improving connectivity for over 5.6 million house-



holds, improving affordability of broadband for 3.6 million households and assisting 3.8 million Texans with digital literacy challenges,” Hegar said.

Test scores rise slightly in three subjects

Test results released last week by the Texas Education Agency showed modest improvement in three subject areas over last year. However, they still are lower than they were before the pandemic.

High school students took the State of Texas Assessment of Academic Readiness in four subjects required to graduate: algebra, English I and II, biology and U.S. history. Compared to last year, scores rose in all but English I and II, which were largely unchanged.

Test score results are still short of the pre-pandemic results from 2019. In algebra, for example, scores are 16 points lower than spring 2019.

“We have made some progress to date, but there is still work to be done to fully recover from the academic effects of the COVID slide,” TEA Commissioner Mike Morath said.

Results for STAAR tests taken by students in grades 3-8 will be made public this week.

Texas again leads nation in jobs created

May employment numbers released by the Texas Workforce

Commission show the state has added 762,400 nonagricultural jobs since May 2021. The seasonally adjusted jobless rate in May was essentially unchanged at 4.2%.

“Texas continues to set records for employment growth with more than 250,000 jobs added from the beginning of this year through May,” said TWC Chairman Bryan Daniel. “Training and upskilling are crucial to maintain this level of employment growth, and TWC remains committed to offering innovative training programs.”

The job increase is the highest in the nation, with a record 13.357 million Texans employed, according to TWC.

Ex-boy band member wrangling litter

Wearing a cowboy hat, spurs and a fringed vest, singer and actor Joe Jonas is lassoing litter in the latest “Don’t mess with Texas” campaign.

The former member of the Jonas Brothers Band, whose hometown is Dallas, filmed a video in which he goes around the Don’t mess with Texas office, dragging a barrel and gathering trash, according to the Austin American Statesman.

“Joe understands the pride that we have in our state and in keeping it clean for everyone to enjoy its beauty, now and in the future,” said Becky Ozuna, coordinator for the Don’t mess with Texas campaign. “We are thrilled to have Joe join us in bringing attention to our litter-free message through his comedic talent and timing.”

The humorous video with a serious message can be viewed at <https://tinyurl.com/vp4hfb4x>.

State launches nation’s first Driving with Disability program

A collaborative effort between state agencies has led to a first-in-the-nation program that gives Texans the option to identify communication impairments, such as being hearing-impaired, on both the driver’s licenses and vehicle registrations.

In addition, all Texas law enforcement agencies have access to video training modules to gain a better understanding of people with a communication impediment, which also includes autism, cerebral palsy, Parkinson’s disease and other disorders drivers might have and still legally be able to drive.

“This simple addition to a driver’s license or vehicle registration removes a potential barrier and can give officers the knowledge they need to help make sure everyone feels comfortable and safe,” Steve McCraw, Texas Department of Public Safety director, said.

★

THE POSTSCRIPT

By Carrie Classon

“Lucky Squirrel”

My husband, Peter, and I went to our first concert in the park last night.

We brought our folding chairs and ate food from the food trucks. The weather was perfect, and the music was good. But upstaging the band were a pair of juvenile squirrels in the trees overhead, challenging one another to feats of greater and greater daring. I half expected to have an adolescent squirrel land in my lap.

It had been a long day.

We had just come from the funeral for one of Peter’s cousins, who died of ALS. It was a somber occasion, as he was an otherwise healthy man who, until recently, ran marathons and taught classes and painted brilliant Western landscapes. Now the world—and his family in particular—was poorer for his loss, and I was feeling a little down.

Before going to the concert, I went on my usual walk and called my old friend, Andrew. He was in a bad mood also. Andrew has been working on a fantasy novel for years and just heard about someone who sold a similar novel for an astonishing sum. When he read the description of the book, he thought it sounded terrible.

“I wouldn’t touch that book!” Andrew told me as I walked. “It sounds just awful!”

“Aren’t you glad a fantasy author is doing so well?” I asked. He grumbled. I told him how I had attended two funerals in the space of a week, and it was wearing on me. This is what you do with old friends—he brings me around when I am grumpy, and I do the same for him.

Then Andrew told me about an interview he’d recently heard with the former bass player for the Rolling Stones, Bill Wyman.

Wyman is now 85 years old and, when talking about his most cherished memories, he said, “These moments are there to be caught but you’re bloody lucky to catch them.” Andrew liked the quote so much he wrote it down, so I did the same.

“The moments are meant to be caught,” Andrew said, “but we have to do the catching.”

Just then, I noticed that some of the lilacs in the shade were still blooming, their unmistakable fragrance thick in the humid air. I admired the golden retriever passing on the other side of the street, his tail swishing cheerfully back and forth. I realized how something as simple as catching the scent of the last lilacs of the season or the sight of a happy golden retriever’s tail took the act of noticing.

“We have to reach out and catch the moment,” Andrew continued. I noticed that I was feeling less sad. I could tell Andrew was less grumpy.

Sitting under the trees at the concert, I thought again of how quickly the moments pass—how fast the spring has gone, how the summer will be over before I know it, and how the years fly by. Reaching into the stream of time and catching a moment is not easy. I am, indeed, “bloody lucky” to catch them.

At that moment, one of the daredevil squirrels overhead took an outrageous chance and leaped to a slim branch in a nearby tree—really no more than a twig—that was clearly dead and had broken off from the larger branch.

“He’s going to fall for sure!” I said as the squirrel clung to the branch, which swung once like a pendulum before he leaped a second time to safety. And he was gone.

“Bloody lucky squirrel,” I thought, filled with admiration.

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

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San Jacinto River Waste Pits Meeting,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

When some toxic waste escaped from the Northern site in the 1980s, it was declared a Superfund site and a temporary cap of stone and mesh membrane was placed over the waste pits to contain the toxins.

After extensive studies by an engineering consultant and the EPA, a permanent solution of excavation and removal inside a BMP sheet piling wall was decided upon as the acceptable solution.

A final report on this method, a 90% Remedial Design document, was due to be presented to the EPA on June 26. Then the agency said it would take at least 60 days to review the document prior to authorizing the next step. After this a 100% RD will finalize the design and the EPA will authorize remediation work to begin.

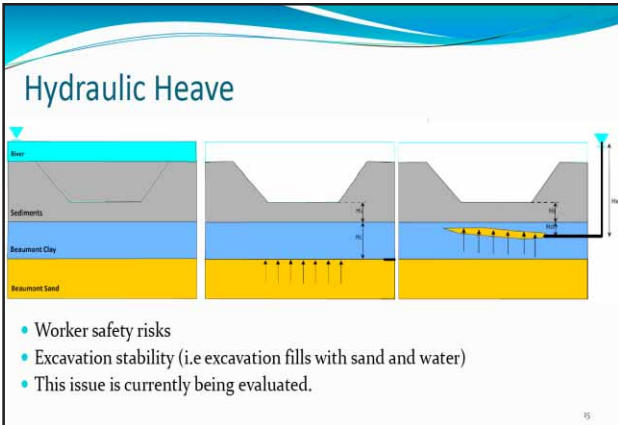
However, the consulting firm, GHD, has raised some new issues since the last 30% Remedial Design submission. They say that additional test borings have shown that the waste is deeper and more extensive than originally thought, and will require more work and more material to be removed..

They also questioned whether the design solution originally proposed was safe or even possible, and asked for additional time to study. A partial schedule extension was approved in October 2021, but another request in March of this year was denied, and the PRP were directed to continue to work on the current schedule.

Howard described one of the new problems as “hydraulic heave” where the excavated area could heave upward when water pressure from below pushes up and causes the integrity of the excavation to fail. Howard said that the con-



The Audience at Flukinger Center listened intently for almost two hours, while EPA representatives (at far right in the background) showed slides and reported on progress and the schedule. Excavation of toxic material in the Southern Impoundment site is scheduled to start in the fall of this year, but the Northern Impoundment work will not start until next year, and continue for 5 or more years.



This graphic explains the problem of Hydraulic Heave, when the overburden is removed and water pressure from below may cause the remaining material to heave upward.

sultants were still studying two methods to solve the problem, one a dry method and one a water column. In either case, a sheet pile enclosure, known as a BMP (Best Management Practice) would be required.

In summary, Howard said they are working to solve three problems: the excavation technique just mentioned, the Northwest corner of the site where the greatest heave potential exists due to its depth and configuration, and the coordination with TXDOT as they plan on a replacement

bridge for I-10 over the river. TXDOT has expressed concerns over interference with a permanent construction around the waste pits, construction access, and the potential liability to the stability of the I-10 bridge when material is excavated next to the foundations of the bridge.

Howard said that she expects many of these questions to be answered in the 90% RD submittal, due this week. Then all agencies affected by the work will have an opportunity to review and comment on their concerns.

SOUTHERN IMPOUNDMENT REPORT:

Howard said that the Southern Impoundment is on schedule, and excavation and removal should start in Fall 2022. She said that it has not been determined yet where the toxic material will be sent. She showed a colored map, indicating that excavation will only need to be 10 feet deep at the most, and none of it will be under existing buildings or structures. She indicated that below 10 feet some toxic material might remain, but the toxicity would be at accept-

able levels. She said the whole excavation process should take about two years. After remediation work is completed, the sites will be under Institutional Controls forever, and EPA will monitor them every 5 years.

A lengthy question and answer session followed, with many attendees not satisfied that the remediation would be complete and satisfactory.

Questioning covered bacteria growth in the water, which Howard said they were not aware of.

Also questioned was

whether the Remedial Design took into account the barge activity adjacent to the site, and the hurricane potential during remediation. Howard said they were aware of both problems, and that the RD would address them. She said remediation work is limited to November to April, out of the storm season.

Some of the questions came from THEA representatives, several of whom were present. Rachel Jordan asked if there were plans to repair the CAP after a hurricane or barge strike. John Meyer of EPA said that the contractor now has a stockpile of extra stone and membrane in the area, ready to use for repairs if needed.

Carolyn Stone of CHIC asked if there was a master list of agencies that would be notified if a problem arose at the site, and if they were trained to handle toxic materials. She was told that a list existed, and that coordination meetings were being held.

One question was whether remediation called for the BMP wall to be removed, and the excavation filled with clean material. The answer to both questions was yes.

On the Southern Impoundment site, a person asked why the material was not completely removed so that it was 100% non-toxic. And if not, whether property owners would be compensated for any decrease in land value. John Meyer of EPA explained that decisions were difficult and complex, and many times factors included compromise with cost and capability. He said that EPA maintains a department that is just involved in “re-use of property” on Superfund sites, and they were involved in these decisions.

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Notice is hereby given that Original Letters Testamentary for Docket No. 504879; Estate of MAE (JEANNETTE) HEARD NOVAK A/K/A MAE JEAN NOVAK Deceased; In Probate Court No. 3 of Harris County, Texas, were issued on JUNE 8, 2022.

JACK LEE NOVAK

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 22, 2022.


by WESTON COTTEN
Attorney for the Estate

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NOTICE TO CREDITORS


Notice is hereby given that Original Letters Testamentary for Docket No. 504367; Estate of JACK GARLAND SHAW Deceased; In Probate Court No. 3 of Harris County, Texas, were issued on MAY 18, 2022.

JO ANN SHAW

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

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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.
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A mandatory pre-bid meeting will be held on July 19, 2022 at the Public Works Facility. 12202 Market St., Jacinto City, Texas at 10:00 a.m. Specs may be picked up at Jacinto City, City Hall, at 1301 Mercury Dr. or download at jacintocity-tx.gov under the public notice tab.

The City reserves the right to reject any and/or all bids and to accept any bid or part thereof which in the opinion of the city council is most advantageous to the city.

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Top Seller of Fish Fry tickets is B.R. Hendrix, congratulated by Fish Fry chairman Ken Wimbley. Other top sellers were Dr. Donald Nino, Bill Palko, Wayne Oquin, Derrill Painter, and Mike Bilnoski.



Judge Lucia Bates performed the installation ceremony for new President Ken Wimbley.

North Shore High School Video Gaming Competition Class,

Continued from page 1

Guard, and their partners attended an event at North Shore 10th Grade Center and assisted students in building the six high end PCs by hand using computer components worth a total of over \$12000.

The Mustang Gaming Club wasted no time in using their new Esports lab to further their competitive aspirations. In the Fall of 2021, the Mustangs won their first National Championship, winning gold in the HSEL Spring Major for Call of Duty. The four students on the team won scholarships totally \$2000 and an opportunity



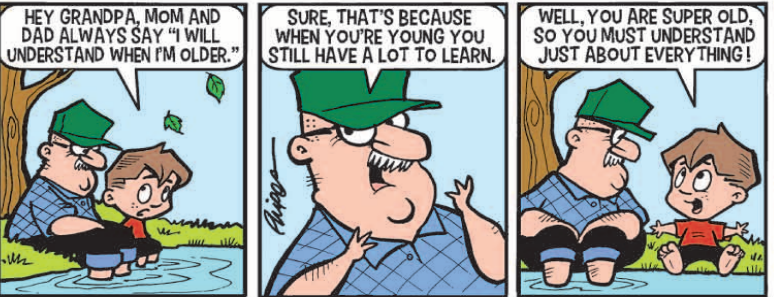
North Shore Mustangs Gaming Club (far right) Christopher Ybarra, Class Sponsor, Behavior Specialist Teacher

to compete in the Grand Championships this May for more scholarships and glory. One student from the team accepted a scholarship worth \$15,000 a year to play Esports at the collegiate level at the University of St. Thomas. As Esports competition becomes more main stream in high schools,

The Mustang Gaming Club hopes to continue being the place to be for students who want a safe place to play with their friends and for aspiring Esports athletes. Allanj211@aol.com

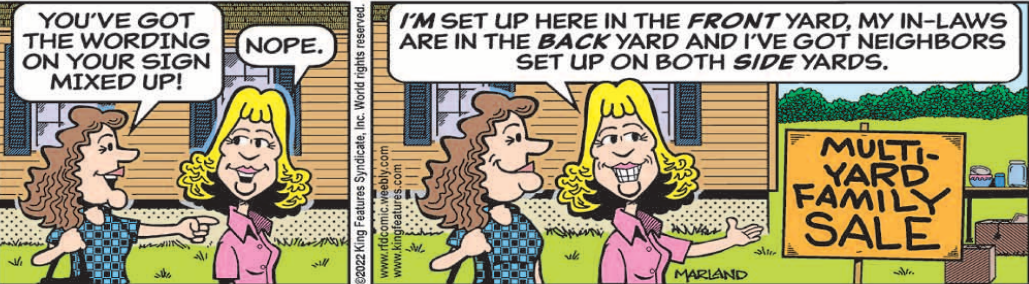
ENTERTAINMENT

Amber Waves



by Dave T. Phipps

R.F.D.



by Mike Marland

The Spats



by Jeff Pickering

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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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. Trash can is missing. 2. Shovel is missing. 3. Steam shovel is missing. 4. Sailboat is missing. 5. Glasses are missing. 6. Whistle is missing. 7. Trash can is missing. 8. Glasses are missing. 9. Whistle is missing. 10. "Bonnie and Clyde"

1. Stockholm; 2. Union of Soviet Socialist Republics; 3. 1870; 4. Pomegranate; 5. New York; 6. Bats; 7. Thomas Jefferson and John Adams; 8. Theodore; 9. "The Shining"; 10. "Bonnie and Clyde"

June 27, 2022 Posting Date

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ACROSS

- Chantilly, e.g.
- Chicken —
- Leg, in slang
- Mr. Stravinsky
- Sparkling Italian wine
- Have bills
- Bouncing toy
- Retrieve
- Ruby and Sandra
- Apple products
- Buy more Time?
- Handle
- New Mexico resort
- Monotonous
- Work unit
- Chair designer Charles
- Odometer start
- Winter road clearer
- Remain
- Buckwheat porridge
- Physicist Enrico
- Slightly
- White House nickname
- Company emblems
- Grazing land
- Scott Turow

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25				26	27				28	29
30				31				32		
33			34					35		
		36					37			
38	39				40	41				
42				43	44			45	46	47
48				49				50		
51				52				53		

- book
- Valentine
- flower
- Curvy letter
- Yuletide tune
- Faction
- footballers
- '60s footwear
- Dumbstruck
- Citi Field team
- Stitch
- Not neg.
- Numbered rds.
- Deserve
- Restricted zones
- Recognized
- Shopper's delight
- "As I see it," to a texter
- Ancient mariner
- Maja painter
- Delta follower
- Typing speed stat
- Nymph pursuers
- Tool set
- Dossier
- Stretches (out)
- Baseball's Tommie
- Weevil's target
- Music's Yoko
- "Ulalume" writer
- Computer key
- Filming site

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Trivia test

by Fifi Rodriguez

- GEOGRAPHY: What is the capital of Sweden?
- HISTORY: What was the whole name of the nation once called U.S.S.R.?
- GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: When did July 4 become a federal holiday?
- FOOD & DRINK: Which fruit is used to make the cocktail mixer grenadine?
- U.S. STATES: In which state is Niagara Falls located?
- ANIMAL KINGDOM: Which is the only mammal that can fly?
- U.S. PRESIDENTS: Which two presidents died within hours of each other on July 4 — the 50th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence?
- TELEVISION: What was Beaver's real first name on the "Leave It to Beaver" sitcom?
- LITERATURE: Which 1977 horror novel features a hotel called The Overlook?
- MOVIES: Which 1967 movie tagline is, "They're young ... they're in love ... and they kill people"?

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

Answer

Weekly SUDOKU

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36
37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45
46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54
55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63
64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72
73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81

Answers

Solution time: 23 mins.

King Crossword

REACHING NEW HEIGHTS

Right Here in Baytown



Houston Methodist Baytown Hospital Is Expanding With a New Patient Tower

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

Every aspect of this space was designed with you and your loved ones in mind:

- **Private patient rooms:** Expansive rooms provide patients and visitors with a peaceful environment for healing and convenient amenities such as Wi-Fi connected tablets, smart speakers and room service with online meal ordering
- **Advanced imaging and technology:** A hospital-of-the-future design featuring the latest lifesaving tools and equipment to enhance surgical precision and speed patient recovery
- **Specialized care:** A new intensive care unit featuring cutting-edge medical technologies as well as an entire floor dedicated to childbirth and obstetrics services
- **World-class physicians and nurses:** A skilled and compassionate team of experts who work together to provide outstanding, personalized primary and specialty care
- **Convenient campus parking:** Fully covered parking garage allows visitors to park with ease and access the entire hospital campus, so parking is one less thing to think about



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