

# NORTH CHANNEL STAR



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## CHANNEL CURRENTS

### Channelview ISD Ribbon Cutting for New McGhee Elementary Aug. 8

The ribbon cutting of the new McGhee Elementary will take place Monday, Aug. 8 from 6:30-7:30pm this August 8 across from Channelview High School. 1045 Sheldon Road. Overflow parking will be located at Channelview High School.

CISD primary students will be able to learn at a state-of-the-art campus safely that includes a makerspace, two playgrounds, a security vestibule, and spacious classrooms — all centered around the school's unique open concept library!

### Griner trial in Russia update

Houston native and Nimitz High School graduate Brittney Griner, a WNBA star basketball player, remains in a Russian jail after her third day of trial last Thursday. She has pleaded guilty to a minor drug charge, and the third day of her trial consisted of character witnesses. US officials were present at the proceedings.

She has been able to communicate with her family, wife, and President Biden through written out emails and letters.

Her next day in court is July 26th. Experts say her conviction is almost certain, with imprisonment for up to 10 years, unless the US is able to bargain for her release.



DURING THE TRIAL, GRINER IS IN A CAGE. IN THIS PHOTO, SHE HOLDS A PHOTO OF USA ALL-STAR PLAYERS WEARING HER NUMBER IN SUPPORT.

## City, County join in Gun BuyBack program

HOUSTON - As part of his One Safe Houston initiative, Mayor Sylvester Turner is holding a Gun Buyback program to reduce the number of guns on our streets. The City - County Partnership will reduce the number of Unwanted Guns on our streets.

To make Houston's homes and streets safer and free from violence, Harris County Commissioner Rodney Ellis, Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner's Office and Police Chief Troy Finner announce a gun buyback program that will take place July 30. With no questions asked, residents can turn in firearms in exchange for gift cards in the amount of \$50, \$100, \$150 and \$200 — depending on the type of gun. It's part of a coordinated effort to reduce violent crimes.

The event, in partnership with Harris County



Precinct One Commissioner Rodney Ellis, the Houston Police Department, and Wheeler Avenue Baptist Church, will take place from 8 a.m. - noon on Saturday, July 30, at 3826 Wheeler Ave.

Gift Cards will be available as follows:

\$50 Gift Card for non-functioning firearm

\$100 Gift Card for rifles or shotguns

\$150 Gift Card for handgun

\$200 Gift Card for an automatic rifle

The no-questions-asked Gun Buyback program is open to all members of the public. People should unload the firearm before arriving at the collection site

and place it in the trunk or the rear of their vehicle. HPD personnel will remove the gun from the vehicle and ensure the firearm is unloaded and rendered safe. Once the weapon is collected, the person donating will receive a receipt to exchange for a gift card.

One Safe Houston is a \$53 million investment aimed at crime reduction. The comprehensive violence reduction initiatives link research-based strategies to improve public safety and reduce the harms caused by violent crime.

The initiative focuses on four (4) key areas:

--Violence Reduction and Crime Prevention

--Crisis Intervention, Response and Recovery

--Youth Outreach Opportunities

--Key Community Partnerships

Mayor Turner, Commis-

sioner Ellis, and event partners will announce additional Gun Buyback program details on Monday, July 18.

"We can't solve the gun-violence epidemic overnight, but we can take action right-now by removing guns from the streets," Commissioner Ellis said.

"Gun buyback programs create an incentive for residents to turn in their firearms. I would argue there are two incentives: one is a gift card, the other is creating a safer community."

Said Mayor Turner: "The Gun Buyback program is part of my One Safe Houston initiative. Our goal is to get unwanted guns off the streets to prevent their use in a crime or an accidental shooting. I thank Commissioner Ellis, Wheeler Avenue Baptist Church, and

*Continued. See Gun BuyBack, Page 7*

## Galena Park ISD trains for School Safety

### Preparation to deal with an Active Shooter

By Gilbert Hoffman

GALENA PARK – In the aftermath of the terrible murders at a school in Uvalde, parents and students have been concerned about safety and security as they prepare to return to schools in August.

In the Galena Park school district, school safety is a top priority, with the district police department trained and equipped to handle emergencies such as active shooters.

In an interview with this newspaper, GPISD police chief Bryan Clements outlined the safety measures enacted through all the schools. In addition, the yearly simulation drill was broadcast live on local television station KPRC



As part of day-long training, GPISD officers and volunteer students enact a drill simulating how the officers would rush to take down an active shooter in a school classroom or building. This training exercise is repeated yearly, along with other other security measures in all Galena Park schools.

channel 2, with an interview with Cathy Hernandez, a Galena Park graduate.

Clements said that for a number of years, armed officers have been assigned to each middle and high school, and that this year the GPISD trustees have increased the number of police officers from 21 to

40, with the hiring of an additional 19 positions. This number provides an officer for each school, from K through high school.

Clements said that all the officers are put through rigorous training, and once a year have an 8-hour class session and drill regarding how to suppress an active shooter.

Safety and security routines are also part of each schools daily routine, Clements said. Officers and school staff are instructed that all outside doors must be locked, and classroom doors also locked during class. Officers are instructed to check each door throughout the day for compliance.



GPISD POLICE CHIEF  
BRYAN CLEMENTS

Schools are also equipped for this type of active shooter emergency, with a ballistic shield and medical equipment stocked and available at every school.

The Safety Drill was available to see on television, Clements said, because it is important for families to see that students will be protected when they come to school.

As part of the active shooter training, officers

*Continued. See Galena Park Shooter Training, Page 7*

## Garcia at White House Workforce Summit

### Comm. Garcia's Employ2Empower program recognized

Harris County, TX — Wednesday, July 13, Commissioner Adrian Garcia traveled to the White House to discuss the ARPA-funded Employ 2 Empower countywide

homeless workforce initiative, which originally began as a pilot program in Precinct 2. Commissioner Garcia joined Vice President Kamala Harris, Secretary of Labor Marty Walsh, plus other officials from around the country for a series of events to discuss EMPLOY 2 EMPOWER.

Commissioner Garcia gave prepared remarks at 11:40 a.m. CST, and he was available for interviews (in both English and Spanish) starting at approximately 12:30 p.m. CST.

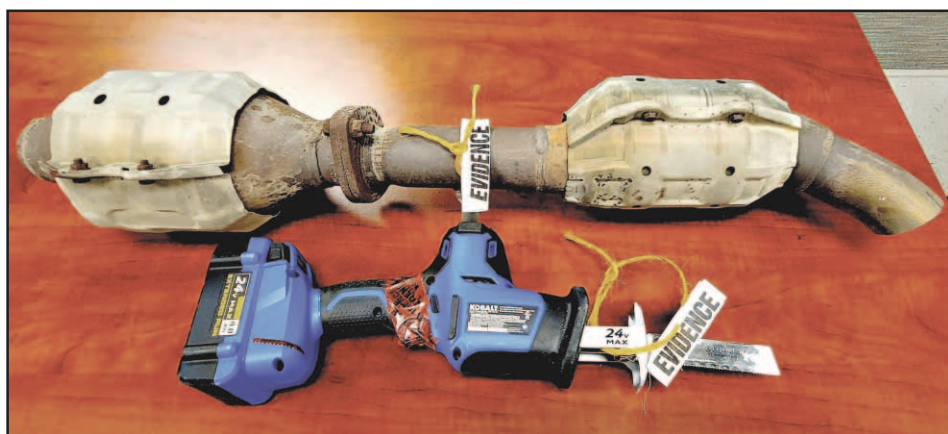
The White House Sum

*Continued. See Garcia at White House Summit, Page 7*



Harris County Pct. 2 Commissioner Adrian Garcia, second from right, participated in the Workforce Summit of the American Rescue Plan. The discussion and presentation was live streamed throughout the nation. Above, panel members are welcomed to the discussion by White House American Rescue Plan Coordinator Gene Sperling.

## JC Arrest leads to discovery of Catalytic Converter thief



Blue portable metal saw with catalytic converter discovered in the arrest of suspect Mack Arthur Kizzee. (Photo by Allan Jamail)

By Allan Jamail

Jacinto City – May, 2022 Jacinto City Police Sgt. J. Aguilera while on routine traffic control stopped a speeding violator driving a Lexus SUV. Officer Aguilera discovered the Lexus driver Mack Arthur Kizzee (see photo) did not have a driver's license and he also smelled the odor of marijuana coming from

the vehicle.

During a standard vehicle probable cause search for marijuana Sgt. Aguilera discovered a catalytic converter which appeared to be sawed off from some unknown vehicle and a blue colored portable saw with a metal saw blade attached (see photo).

As Sgt. Aguilera was attempting to place sus-

pect Kizzee under arrest for the traffic violations he resisted and fought free thus preventing from being handcuffed. He began running away from Sgt. Aguilera and Officer C. Calvillo who had arrived there moments earlier to assist with the arrest.

After a foot chase the

*Continued. See Gun BuyBack, Page 3*



## CHANNELVIEW ISD NEWS

### Ribbon Cutting for a New McGhee Elementary

SAY HELLO TO THE NEW



**WOLVES**  
McGHEE ELEMENTARY

RIBBON CUTTING CEREMONY  
COME AND TOUR OUR NEW STATE-OF-THE-ART ELEMENTARY SCHOOL!

MONDAY, AUGUST 08	6:30PM - 7:30PM
----------------------	-----------------

MCGHEE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL | 1045 SHELDON ROAD  
CHANNELVIEW, TX 77530

Dear Channelview Community Stakeholders,

Join CISD with the opening of the district's newest school, McGhee Elementary! Thanks to Channelview voters for passing the 2019 CISD Bond for making this possible!

CISD primary students will be able to learn at a state-of-the-art campus safely that includes a makerspace, two playgrounds, a security vestibule, and spacious classrooms — all centered around the school's unique open concept library!

Unlike other schools, McGhee Elementary also features a museum dedicated to the original McGhee Elementary, a schoolhouse for black

children in the early 1900s during the Segregation period. This museum tells the history of that original schoolhouse and tells the story of those students with artifacts from the period.

The ribbon cutting of the new McGhee Elementary will take place from 6:30-7:30pm across from Channelview High School. Overflow parking will be located at Channelview High School. If you can make time to see our new school.

If you have any questions or concerns, please let us know! At [C.H.I.C.77530@gmail.com](mailto:C.H.I.C.77530@gmail.com) or Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/892294181644780>

## GALENA PARK ISD NEWS

### Congratulations to Mrs. Rachel Tapner

What a proud moment for Galena Park ISD! Congratulations to Mrs. Tapner for being named a Region 4 Elementary TOY Finalist!



region 4  
ELEMENTARY  
TEACHERS  
OF THE YEAR  
FINALISTS

 <p>COURTNEY BREITENBACH ALVIN ISD</p>		
 <p>CAROLYN LOWE FRIENDSWOOD ISD</p>	 <p>RACHEL TAPNER GALENA PARK ISD</p>	
 <p>LISA MACKEY KLEIN ISD</p>	 <p>MONIKA JORDAN LAMAR CONSOLIDATED ISD</p>	 <p>BRANDON COOPER WALLER ISD</p>

### Galena Park ISD Begins Active Shooting Training at Northshore High School

Safety and Security will ALWAYS be a top priority for Galena Park ISD! It is so important for our School Resource Officers and other local law enforcement agencies to learn and for our GPISD families to see their students will be protected throughout the school day.



### 2022-2023 BACK-TO-SCHOOL REGISTRATION

**Returning Student Verification**  
Skyward Online Registration opens Monday, July 18, 2022  
Tuesday, July 19  
8:30AM-12:30PM/ 2:00PM-4:00PM  
Wednesday, July 20  
10:00AM-1:00PM / 3:00PM-6:00PM  
Thursday, July 21  
8:30AM-12:30PM/ 2:00PM-4:00PM

**RSV Support Site: North Shore Senior High School - 353 N. Castlegory Houston, TX 77049**

**New Student Enrollment**  
Skyward Online Enrollment opens Monday, July 25, 2022  
Monday, August 1  
8:30AM-12:30PM/ 2:00PM-4:00PM  
Tuesday, August 2  
10:00AM-1:00PM / 3:00PM-6:00PM  
Wednesday, August 3  
8:30AM-12:30PM/ 2:00PM-4:00PM

**New Student Enrollment Support Site: North Shore Senior High School - 353 N. Castlegory Houston, TX 77049**  
For additional registration information, please visit our District webpage at [www.galenaparkisd.com](http://www.galenaparkisd.com).  
If you have any questions or concerns, you can email us at [student\\_admissions@galenaparkisd.com](mailto:student_admissions@galenaparkisd.com).

back 2  
school bash!

celebrating a cool new year in school!

SAT, AUGUST 6, 9-11AM  
BILL NEAL CENTER  
828 SHELDON ROAD,  
CHANNELVIEW, TX

2022-2023  
New Student Registration  
July 18, 2022

2022-2023  
Annual Update  
July 25, 2022

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FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS  
THURSDAY | AUGUST 11<sup>TH</sup>





CHARLOTTE'S WEB

By Charlotte Jackson



How Do You Do It?

The one question that I am asked most often, is “How do you do it?” Life is not easy, and I doubt if there are many readers who do not feel the same way. Life has changed for all of us. Some people have experienced more changes than others. There are unique obstacles that we face. There are some obstacles which may have similarities yet, no two people experience the same life.

I find myself speaking to hundreds of people weekly on the phone. On social media, I communicate with even more. Working for a government organization now, as well as having worked for a community college for 22 years, living in the same community for 50 years and being involved with many non-profits and other organizations, I am blessed to know many people.

Within the last week, I have learned of deaths of former church members as well as three of the senior citizens that were active in the program I work with. On Tuesday evening, I drove my daughter in love to see her mother in the hospital. We had no idea that this would be the last time we would see her smile, ask about the grandbabies and fuss about being in the hospital instead of being at home with loved ones. Less than five hours later, my son called asking if I could drive his wife to the hospital as the nurse had called that his mother-in-law was in distress.

Even though I drove above the speed limit, while praying there were no deputies on the toll road, we made it a few minutes too late. Once again, I found myself calling on God to provide peace, comfort, and the right words to share. The next few hours were filled with phone calls, text messages and prayers. Before I had time to process what was ahead, I had a friend call me concerning her 62-year-old mentally ill brother who had been missing for weeks. She was struggling with how to know what to do next. Another friend reached out asking how to find help for her son who lives with Autism.

As the week rolled on, a senior citizen called to ask what to do about her son who just came up for parole and was moved to a prison unit where there are many known gang members. He had called his mother as he was afraid that the current situation. She was not sure if she should contact the Warden or the Chaplain. We prayed and she contacted the Chaplain. A young lady in our community who was just sentenced to five years in prison is having a tough time adjusting to her surroundings. Her mother and uncle are unable to visit her due to circumstances. Her mother was asking if I could send her an encouraging letter. As I hung up the phone, I realized that her mother needs one as well.

By the time Sunday arrived, I was so thankful for God’s grace and mercy. When my friend with cancer called and was asking about another friend who lives with CTE due to many concussions received while playing professional football, he asked that question again, “Charlie, how do you do it?” And I reminded him that with God all things are possible.

San Jacinto River  
2 DROWN AT  
MAGNOLIA  
GARDENS



Harris County Sheriff's Maritime Patrol deputies search for a missing swimmer in the San Jacinto River.

In two separate incidents last weekend, swimmers drowned in the San Jacinto River, near Magnolia Gardens Park. On Saturday, a 13-year-old boy swimming with his family disappeared under water and didn't resurface. His body was recovered on the river bank early Sunday morning.

In the other drowning, on Sunday a man in his 30s swam out into the river, but midway he turned to come back, and went underwater and didn't resurface. Dive teams recovered his body around 7 pm.

JC Arrest leads to  
Catalytic thief,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

officers caught suspect Kizzee where he continued to resist and fight with the officers. The officers eventually were able to take suspect Kizzee into custody and had Officer N. Frazier transport him to the police station where he was charged by the Harris County District Attorney's Office for evading arrest.

Allanj211@aol.com



MACK ARTHUR KIZZEE

ASK DIAMOND JIM

Diamond Jim: “What is  
the birthstone for  
July?”



JULY's BIRTHSTONE IS RUBY



There's no better way to demonstrate your love than by giving a ruby in celebration of a July birthday. Rubies arouse the senses, stir the imagination, and are said to guarantee health, wisdom, wealth and success in love. Fine-quality ruby is extremely rare, and the color of the gem is most important to its value. The most prized color is a medium or medium-dark vivid red or slightly purplish red. If the gem is too light or has too much purple or orange, it will be called a fancy-color sapphire.

A ruby is a pink to blood-red colored gemstone, a variety of the mineral corundum (aluminum oxide). The red color is caused mainly by the presence of the element chromium. Its name comes from the Latin word “ruber” which is Latin for red. Other varieties of gem-quality corundum are called sapphires. Ruby is considered one of the four precious stones, together with sapphire, emerald and diamond.

Prices of rubies are primarily determined by color. The brightest and most valuable “red” called blood-red or “pigeon blood”, commands a large premium over other rubies of similar quality. After color follows clarity: similar to diamonds, a clear stone will command a premium, but a ruby without any needle-like rutile inclusions may indicate that the stone has been treated. Cut and carat (weight) are also an important factor in determining the price. The world's most expensive ruby is the Sunrise Ruby. Rubies have a hardness of 9.0 on the Mohs scale of mineral hardness. Among the natural gems only moissanite and diamond are harder, with diamond having a Mohs hardness of 10.0 and moissanite falling somewhere in between corundum (ruby) and diamond in hardness.

All natural rubies have imperfections in them, including color impurities and inclusions of rutile needles known as “silk”. Gemologists use these needle inclusions found in natural rubies to distinguish them from synthetics, simulants, or substitutes. Usually the rough stone is heated before cutting. Almost all rubies today are treated in some form, with heat treatment being the most common practice. However, rubies that are completely untreated but still of excellent quality command a large premium.

Some rubies show a three-point or six-point asterism or “star”. These rubies are cut into cabochons to display the effect properly. Asterisms are best visible with a single-light source and move across the stone as the light moves or the stone is rotated. Such effects occur when light is reflected off the “silk” (the structurally oriented rutile needle inclusions) in a certain way.

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](http://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).

I was born  
to flash





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OPINION PAGE

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OPINION

By BILL KING



## Gun Deaths in America by the Numbers

The horrific slaughter of nineteen children and two teachers in Uvalde, has once again focused the attention of the nation on the toll taken on American lives by guns. As with most highly charged emotional issues, and particularly ones that fall on the partisan divide, I find there is little objective analysis of the actual data and even less perspective on what the data implies.

There are many who object to a statistical analysis of such events as being cold-hearted and that doing so minimizes the tragedy of the loss of even a single life. While I appreciate that sentiment, I respectfully disagree. To the contrary, the more consequential, or in this case the more horrific, the problem, the more urgently we need to call on our full intellectual capabilities to fashion solutions. So, after Uvalde I began to dig into the data on deaths caused by firearms and found quite a bit that surprised me.

Prior to 2015, the number of deaths from a firearm on an annual basis had moved in a fairly narrow range, averaging about 34,000, which was about 10-11 firearm deaths per 100,000 Americans or slightly over 1% of all U.S. fatalities. However, since 2015 firearm deaths have been consistently moving higher each year and then took a sharp upturn in 2020, reaching an all-time high of 45,222. Preliminary data for 2021 indicates that number was perhaps slightly lower than 2020. The rate per 100,000 Americans has moved up to 13.7.

Most gun deaths in the U.S. are either suicides (~54%) or homicides (~43%). The remaining ~3% are due to accidents, police shootings or undetermined causes. Both suicides and homicides committed with a gun have been increasing over the last two decades, but most of the significant increase in gun deaths over the last two years has been due to an increase in homicides.

The significant increase in homicides coincides with an explosion in the number of gun sales in the U.S. The home security research group, HomeSafe.org, estimates that gun sales soared by over 150% in 2020 and 2021.

However, a series of Gallup surveys found that the percentage of U.S. households that own a gun has been slightly declining since 1972. This perhaps suggests that the increase in gun sales is more attributable to existing gun owners adding to their inventory, as opposed to a large number of new gun owners.

There is no question that the U.S. is an outlier when it comes to private gun ownership compared to other countries. The Small Arms Survey, an independent Swiss research group, estimated in its 2018 report that Americans, while making up only about 3% of the world's population, owns nearly half of the world's roughly 850 million privately owned guns. Their survey estimated that there were about 120 guns for every 100 Americans. That rate dwarfs all other countries. India came in second with just over 50. Canada was 34. The global average outside of the U.S. is about 7.

Next time, I will explore the issue of suicides and whether this ready access to guns has an effect on the incidence of suicide in our country.



★

STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Gary Borders



## TEA Releases STAAR results for grades 3 through 8

The Texas Education Agency has released the 2022 State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness

Results for grades 3-8, which showed across-the-board improvements in all grades and subjects, with especially significant gains in reading.

"The investments that the state is making in reading academies and accelerated instruction are clearly paying dividends for our students, and the results are a testament to the hard work of teachers across our state," Texas Education Commissioner Mike Morath said. "While we still have much work to do to recover from COVID-related learning loss in mathematics, the improvements our students have made in reading are clear."

The spring results include exams in mathematics and reading for grades 3-8, 5th and 8th grade science, and 8th grade social studies.

### MILITARY BASES HAVE BIG IMPACT ON STATE'S ECONOMY

A study analyzing the impact on the state's economy from U.S. military installations concludes they contributed at least \$114.1 billion to the Texas economy last year and supported more than 600,000 jobs across the state. Texas is home to 15 military installations and the U.S. Army Futures Command, which is located in Austin and runs modernization projects for the U.S. Army.

The study was completed by the comptroller's office at the behest of the Texas Military Preparedness Commission.

"It is amazing to see the tremendous economic impact these military installations have in Texas," said Texas Comptroller Glenn Hegar. "The importance of these bases reaches far beyond direct jobs and personal income. The facilities, and the men and women who work and are stationed at them, form the backbone of communities and support countless businesses and induced jobs throughout the state."

### FORMER NFL PLAYER INDICTED FOR BOGUS MEDICAL CLAIMS

Former NFL player Narond



STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS  
By Gary Borders

"Roc" Alexander was indicted recently for submitting fraudulent health reimbursement claims totaling more than \$25,000 to a health program for former NFL players. The case was brought by Texas Department of Insurance investigators along with the Bexar County District Attorney's office.

Alexander allegedly filed the bogus claims between 2014 and 2018 under the Gene Upshaw NFL Player Health Reimbursement Plan, which helps pay certain medical care expenses for former NFL players. He could face up to 10 years in prison and a \$10,000 fine if convicted.

"Insurance fraud hurts the people who actually need these funds to cover their health care costs, like the NFL players who benefit from this particular fund," Bexar County District Attorney Joe Gonzales said. "This indictment allows us to seek justice on behalf of the NFL players with legitimate claims who rely on these funds."

After playing for the University of Washington, Alexander signed with the Denver Broncos in 2004 and later played for the Houston Texans.

### GRANT PROGRAM TO BENEFIT TRAVEL INDUSTRY

The travel industry, hard hit by the COVID-19 pandemic, is set to receive \$180 million of funds under a grant program funded by the federal American Rescue Plan Act of 2021. The program is designed to provide grants for the recovery of Texas businesses in the tourism, travel, and hospitality industry affected by the pandemic.

demic.

"Travel and tourism are critical components to both the state and local economies," said Gov. Greg Abbott. "Visitor spending at Texas destinations brings new money into communities and spurs local job creation across industries in every region of the state."

A series of webinars are slated to provide information for specific businesses. To get more details and register, go to: <https://ttir.gov.texas.gov>.

### DEMOGRAPHIC CENTER ANALYZES STATE CENSUS RESULTS

The U.S. Census Bureau has released its 2021 population estimates, and the Texas Demographic Center has crunched the numbers to determine:

- Texas is growing both older and more diverse. Median age increased to 35.4 years in 2021, up from 33.6 in 2010.
- Texas has more Black residents than any other state.
- All urban core counties in Texas, except for Travis County, lost non-Hispanic white population.
- The state has the third-largest Asian population in the country.
- Harris County has more Black residents than all other counties in the country except Cook County, which includes Chicago.

### SHARING THE ROAD WITH LARGE TRUCKS

Anyone who has driven the state's major highways recently likely has noticed the number of 18-wheelers on the road has risen as businesses and industries work to fill demand in many sectors. The Texas Department of Transportation is reminding motorists to take extra care when driving around big trucks.

Drivers are especially at risk in the state's energy sectors, according to TxDOT. Last year, more than 79,000 crashes occurred in the state's five major energy production areas, resulting in 1,119 deaths — a 20% increase over the previous year.

Among the safety tips offered by TxDOT are staying away from a truck's blind spot; not tailgating; when passing a truck, making sure you can see both of the truck's headlights before moving back into your lane; and never crossing behind a truck that is backing up, since the driver can't see you.

### COVID-19 CASES INCREASE AGAIN

The number of new COVID-19 cases reported in Texas during the past week by the Coronavirus Resource Center at Johns Hopkins University rose again to 84,417, with 115 deaths recorded. Both numbers are up modestly compared to what was reported the previous week. However, lab-confirmed COVID-19 hospitalizations in the state continue to rise steadily, with 3,007 reported by the Department of State Health Services. That's up 22% from the previous week and more than double what was reported a month ago.

★

THE POSTSCRIPT

By Carrie Classon

## "The Perfect Pet"

My mother has found the perfect pet. She just doesn't realize it yet.

A clever little red squirrel has been trying to get my mother's attention for months. "He's such a pest!" my mother complains. But the squirrel does not give up.

He has become quite tame, hanging out below the bird feeder, waiting for seeds to drop. He would much prefer to get them from the feeder himself, but my father has inconsiderately installed a length of stovepipe on the pole that holds the feeder, and the squirrel cannot climb up the slippery metal. Instead, he waits impatiently for the birds to drop seeds—which they always do—eating them as fast as they drop. When he runs out of seeds, he finds other things to do, like dig up my mother's planters, leaving dirt all over her deck.

"Is he digging something up, or burying something?" I asked my mom.

"I have no idea! He's a troublemaker!"

Last night, a bear finally finished off the birdfeeder my father made a few years back. The poor feeder had been knocked to the ground countless times by countless bears, and my dad always nailed it back together. This time, it was shattered beyond repair.

My dad went down to his workshop and started building a new feeder. I wonder how many times this feeder will be knocked to the ground and survive. It looks pretty stout—but so did the last one.

In the meantime, my mother didn't want the birds to suffer, so she put a meatloaf pan filled with seeds at the top of the pole. My dad removed the stovepipe while he was working on the feeder and, in no time flat, the red squirrel climbed to the top of the pole and knocked the pan down, then sat at the foot of the bird feeder, gorging on the seeds piled below.

"This is more like it!" I could almost hear the squirrel say.

My father replaced the stovepipe, my mother refilled the meatloaf pan, and order was restored. The little red squirrel, however, was not happy. We were sitting outside on the deck and the squirrel positioned himself over my mother's head.

"Chip, chip, chip!" he said loudly.

"Be quiet!" my mother said. The squirrel shook his tail and got noisier.

"He has a serious beef with you, Mom," I told her. "He is trying to be your friend, and you are not very friendly."

"He is not my friend!" my mother said, almost as loudly as the red squirrel.

"He's a perfect pet," I continued. "I don't know why you pamper those birds and ignore this fellow who wants to be your friend." The squirrel continued. We could no longer carry on a conversation with him ranting away. He sounded like a late-night radio host on a tear.

My mom jumped up, stomped her feet and waved her fists at the squirrel. "You get out of here!" she hollered. The squirrel ran up the tree.

A moment passed. "Plunk! Plunk!" A handful of pinecone seeds dropped onto the deck.

"Is it raining?" my dad asked.

More pinecones fell, directly on our heads.

"It's that squirrel!" my mom said. "You stop that right now!" A shower of pinecones fell.

I think my mother should just give in and adopt the little red squirrel. Sure, he's a troublemaker and full of mischief, but he obviously wants to be part of the family. I suggested it.

"He's not my pet!" my mother said, indignantly.

But I'm not sure she gets to decide.

Till next time,  
Carrie  
Carrie Classon's memoir is called "Blue Yarn." Learn more at [CarrieClasson.com](http://CarrieClasson.com).

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# UPDATE ON COVID SHOTS FOR CHILDREN

## Harris County Public Health Now Administering COVID-19 Vaccine for Children Under 5 Years Old

*Vaccination for children 6 months to 4 years follows the recent approval by FDA, CDC, and DSHS*

**Houston** – Harris County Public Health (HCPH) is now administering the COVID-19 vaccine to children 6 months to 4 years old. This follows the recent emergency use authorization given to both Pfizer and Moderna by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), along with approval by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS).

HCPH encourages parents or guardians to first seek a COVID-19 vaccine for their children from their primary care provider or pediatrician. HCPH will provide vaccines to children at its vaccination sites to residents who cannot obtain it otherwise.

All COVID-19 vaccines and boosters are safe and effective and have proven to provide strong protection against severe illness, hospitalizations, and death, including the latest version approved for children aged 6 months to 4 years old.

“Receiving the approval by the FDA and CDC to have children under 5 years vaccinated is another major step for us to reduce the spread of COVID-19 and hospitalization for everyone,” said Ericka Brown, MD, MBA, FACHE, interim local health authority for HCPH. “We encourage all parents or guardians to contact their children’s pediatrician or primary care provider and consider the options for a vaccine.”

The Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine for children ages 6 months to 4 years old is a three-shot series, and each dose is one-tenth the dosage given to adults. Children would receive two doses three weeks apart, and a third dose at least two months later.

Moderna’s vaccine approved for children from 6 months to 5 years is given in two shots (four weeks apart) and each dose is one-quarter the dose of that used in adults.

Vaccines provided by HCPH are free, and appointments are not required. To find a location near you, click here. Parents who wish to schedule an appointment online will be able to do so through ReadyHarris.org or vacstrac.hctx.net starting Monday, June 27.

## COVID-19 Vaccine Booster Now Available for 5–11-year-olds

Following CDC, DSHS, and FDA approval of the Pfizer vaccine booster

**Houston** – Following approvals of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS), Harris County Public Health (HCPH) encourages parents to have their children aged 5 to 11 receive the COVID-19 Pfizer vaccine booster. All child boosters must be administered at least five months after the primary series. If you or your child have not received the COVID-19 primary series, please do so as soon as possible.

Parents/guardians can seek a COVID-19 vaccine booster for their children from a primary care provider, pediatrician, or local pharmacy. HCPH will provide free vaccine boosters to children at its vaccination sites to residents who cannot obtain it otherwise. Residents who would like to have their children receive the COVID-19 Pfizer vaccine booster can do so now by visiting ReadyHarris.org to find the location closest to them or visiting HCPH’s vaccine registration page.

All COVID-19 vaccines and boosters are safe, effective, and provide strong protection against severe illness, hospitalizations, and death, including this latest version approved for children aged 5 - 11. This version of the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine booster for young children is a smaller dose or one-third of the version approved for adults and teens.

Vaccines provided by HCPH are free and appointments are not required. If you would like to schedule an appointment, go to a ReadyHarris.org, vacstrac.hctx.net, or call 832-927-8787. To find a location near you, click here.

###  
HCPH is the local public health agency for the Harris County, Texas jurisdiction. It provides a wide variety of public health activities and services aimed at improving the health and well-being of the Harris County community.

# HOLLYWOOD

by Tony Rizzo

HOLLYWOOD — I was 11, and Carol Burnett was 26 when we first met. I haunted a candy store next to the off-Broadway Phoenix Theater, where Carol was starring in “Once Upon a Mattress.”

When she became a regular on “The Garry Moore Show,” I was her guest at tapings each week. Had it not been for Carol, you might not be reading this. “The Carol Burnett Show” became a classic CBS variety series, and she became a legend.

At 89, Carol’s in her third marriage to Hollywood Bowl Orchestra drummer Brian Miller, and they’re celebrating 21 years together come November.

The “Carol Burnett Show” and “Mama’s Family” have been huge successes in syndication for years. She could easily rest on her laurels, but happily, she’s signed to be a regular in the 10-part Apple TV+ series “Mrs. American Pie,” produced by and starring Oscar-winner Laura Dern, who’s assembled a great cast: Kristen Wiig, Allison Janney, Ricky Martin and Josh Lucas. It’s about a woman trying to break into Palm Beach Society. Thanks, Carol, for pointing me in the right direction.

\*\*\* Obviously taking a cue from Lin-Manuel Miranda’s mega-successful “Hamilton,” which depicted all of our forefathers diversely (the only non-person-of-color being King George III), a revival of the classic musical “1776” is now headed to Broadway, getting booked



CAROL BURNETT

for the Ahmanson Theater in Los Angeles from April 5 to May 7, 2023.

This production will feature a cast of female, trans and nonbinary performers. Since the show originally consisted of mostly 23 men and only 2 women — being about the Continental Congress’ creation of the Declaration of Independence — the question is, Are they rewriting history, or are they just taking many liberties?

\*\*\* Movie theaters may finally be getting their audiences back. It’s going to be a three-way fight between “Top Gun: Maverick,” which joined the billion-dollar film club after one month in release; “Jurassic World: Dominion,” which reached a billion-dollar gross in half the time; and “Elvis,” which swiveled out of the gate strongly and is nipping at their heels.

Moviegoers were stunned by Tom Hanks’ portrayal of Col. Tom Parker, partly because they didn’t know Parker was a greedy, ruthless man who purposely held Elvis Presley back to make more money.

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26-4t

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Channelview I.S.D. will accept Sealed Request for Qualifications for the following:

RFQ# 2122-007 – Architectural Services

Bids will be received until 4:00 p.m., Monday, August 01, 2022, at the Channelview ISD's E-bidding website. Please visit the electronic bidding website at <https://cvisd.ionwave.net> All necessary information may be obtained by calling the Business Office at (281) 452-8003, or the district website [www.cvisd.org](http://www.cvisd.org), under Departments Business Office Purchasing. The Board of Trustees reserves the right to reject any or all bids.

27-2T

LEGAL NOTICE

LEGAL NOTICE

LEGAL NOTICE

LEGAL NOTICE

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL NOTICE – RFP #23-001

The Barbers Hill Independent School District is accepting proposals for:

Delivery of (6) SIX Trucks

Interested parties may contact the BHISD Business Office for a copy of the specifications which can also be obtained at the District website. Please direct all proposal questions to Amy Presley, Purchasing Coordinator, (281) 576-2221 ext. 1268.

Proposals will accepted until 2:00 p.m. August 22, 2022

The school district reserves the right to accept or reject any or all proposals, waive any formalities and/or technicalities in the proposal and award the contract to the best proposal that serves the interests of the district. The district may negotiate with vendors that submit viable proposals.

28-2t

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TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY



NOTICE OF RECEIPT OF APPLICATION AND INTENT TO OBTAIN WATER QUALITY PERMIT RENEWAL

PERMIT NO. WQ0010184001

APPLICATION. Harris County Fresh Water Supply District No. 6, 117 Tower Street, Channelview, Texas 77530, has applied to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) to renew Texas Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (TPDES) Permit No. WQ0010184001 (EPA I.D. No. TX0027111) to authorize the discharge of treated wastewater at a volume not to exceed a daily average flow of 400,000 gallons per day. The domestic wastewater treatment facility is located approximately 285 feet southwest of the intersection of De Zavalla Road and Elsbeth Road, in Harris County, Texas. The discharge route is from the plant site to a Harris County Flood Control District Ditch, thence to the Carpenters Bayou portion of the Houston Ship Channel Tidal. TCEQ received this application on June 9, 2022. The permit application is available for viewing and copying at Harris County Fresh Water Supply District Office, 117 Tower Street, Channelview, Texas. This link to an electronic map of the site or facility's general location is provided as a public courtesy and not part of the application or notice. For the exact location, refer to the application.  
<https://tceq.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=db5bac44afbc468bbddd36of816825of&marker=-95.105833%2C29.766944&level=12>

ALTERNATIVE LANGUAGE NOTICE. Alternative language notice in Spanish is available at <https://www.tceq.texas.gov/permitting/wastewater/plain-language-summaries-and-public-notice>. El aviso de idioma alternativo en español está disponible en <https://www.tceq.texas.gov/permitting/wastewater/plain-language-summaries-and-public-notice>.

ADDITIONAL NOTICE. TCEQ's Executive Director has determined the application is administratively complete and will conduct a technical review of the application. After technical review of the application is complete, the Executive Director may prepare a draft permit and will issue a preliminary decision on the application. **Notice of the Application and Preliminary Decision will be published and mailed to those who are on the county-wide mailing list and to those who are on the mailing list for this application. That notice will contain the deadline for submitting public comments.**

PUBLIC COMMENT / PUBLIC MEETING. **You may submit public comments or request a public meeting on this application.** The purpose of a public meeting is to provide the opportunity to submit comments or to ask questions about the application. TCEQ will hold a public meeting if the Executive Director determines that there is a significant degree of public interest in the application or if requested by a local legislator. A public meeting is not a contested case hearing.

**OPPORTUNITY FOR A CONTESTED CASE HEARING.** After the deadline for submitting public comments, the Executive Director will consider all timely comments and prepare a response to all relevant and material, or significant public comments. **Unless the application is directly referred for a contested case hearing, the response to comments, and the Executive Director's decision on the application, will be mailed to everyone who submitted public comments and to those persons who are on the mailing list for this application. If comments are received, the mailing will also provide instructions for requesting reconsideration of the Executive Director's decision and for requesting a contested case hearing.** A contested case hearing is a legal proceeding similar to a civil trial in state district court.

TO REQUEST A CONTESTED CASE HEARING, YOU MUST INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING ITEMS IN YOUR REQUEST: your name, address, phone number; applicant's name and proposed permit number; the location and distance of your property/activities relative to the proposed facility; a specific description of how you would be adversely affected by the facility in a way not common to the general public; a list of all disputed issues of fact that you submit during the comment period and, the statement "[I/we] request a contested case hearing." If the request for contested case hearing is filed on behalf of a group or association, the request must designate the group's representative for receiving future correspondence; identify by name and physical address an individual member of the group who would be adversely affected by the proposed facility or activity; provide the information discussed above regarding the affected member's location and distance from the facility or activity; explain how and why the member would be affected; and explain how the interests the group seeks to protect are relevant to the group's purpose.

Following the close of all applicable comment and request periods, the Executive Director will forward the application and any requests for reconsideration or for a contested case hearing to the TCEQ Commissioners for their consideration at a scheduled Commission meeting.

The Commission may only grant a request for a contested case hearing on issues the requestor submitted in their timely comments that were not subsequently withdrawn. **If a hearing is granted, the subject of a hearing will be limited to disputed issues of fact or mixed questions of fact and law relating to relevant and material water quality concerns submitted during the comment period. TCEQ may act on an application to renew a permit for discharge of wastewater without providing an opportunity for a contested case hearing if certain criteria are met.**

MAILING LIST. If you submit public comments, a request for a contested case hearing or a reconsideration of the Executive Director's decision, you will be added to the mailing list for this specific application to receive future public notices mailed by the Office of the Chief Clerk. In addition, you may request to be placed on: (1) the permanent mailing list for a specific applicant name and permit number; and/or (2) the mailing list for a specific county. If you wish to be placed on the permanent and/or the county mailing list, clearly specify which list(s) and send your request to TCEQ Office of the Chief Clerk at the address below.

INFORMATION AVAILABLE ONLINE. For details about the status of the application, visit the Commissioners' Integrated Database at [www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/cid](http://www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/cid). Search the database using the permit number for this application, which is provided at the top of this notice.

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

Further information may also be obtained from Harris County Fresh Water Supply District No. 6, at the address above or by calling Mr. Kyle Vincent P.E., LJA Engineering, at 713-657-6024.

Issuance Date: July 13, 2022



# Garcia at White House Summit,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

mit on the American Rescue Plan and Workforce with Vice President Harris was held on July 13 in Washington DC.

The White House Summit on the American Rescue Plan and the Workforce was headlined by Vice President Kamala Harris and hosted by the White House American Rescue Plan Implementation Team, and the White House Office of Intergovernmental Affairs. This event featured state and local leaders across the country and highlighted model American Rescue Plan investments in workforce development across the areas of care and public health, infrastructure, and expanding the workforce.

The program included:

11 a.m. (10 a.m. CST): Opening remarks from Vice President Kamala Harris, Labor Secretary Marty Walsh, Senior Advisor to

the President and White House American Rescue Plan Coordinator Gene Sperling, and Senior Advisor to the President and Director of the White House Office of Intergovernmental Affairs Julie Rodriguez.

11:10 a.m. – 12:40 p.m. (10:10 – 11:40 a.m. CST): Roundtables and Various ARPA-Funded Programs Highlighted.

12:40 p.m. (11:40 a.m. CST): Expanding Access to the Workforce for Underserved Populations: Featuring Harris County (TX) Commissioner Adrian Garcia, Memphis (TN) Mayor Jim Strickland, Employ Milwaukee CEO Chytania Brown, and WRTV Big Step President Lindsay Blumer.

Harris County Commissioner Adrian Garcia discussed the Precinct 2 E2E Program, or Employ2Empower Program.

# Gun BuyBack Program,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

the Houston Police Department for the partnership. But we cannot have a successful event without the public participating in making our streets safer.”

With no questions asked, residents will be able to receive a \$50 gift card for every nonfunctioning gun, \$100 for a rifle, \$150 for a handgun and \$200 for an assault rifle. All firearms must be unloaded and in the vehicle's trunk.

This program is part of a broader strategy recently implemented by Harris County to get at the root causes of crime. The County's Violence Interruption Program works with trusted and trained community messengers to de-escalate local conflicts, provide pathways out of gangs, and provide resources and support

in terms of jobs, substance use, health and education.

The County's Holistic Assistance Response Team (HART) sends trained first responders to assist people struggling with issues related to mental health, substance use, or homelessness so they can receive help they need. This also eases the burden on law enforcement by allowing them to focus on serious violent crimes.

“We need your help to spread the word about this initiative,” Commissioner Ellis said. “Other cities have removed hundreds of unwanted firearms, eliminating the chance of these weapons cycling through illegal networks or being discovered by a curious child or teenager at someone's home.”

# Galena Park Active Shooter Training,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



IN THE TRAINING DRILL, OFFICERS BREACH THE CLASSROOM IMMEDIATELY, AND ENGAGE THE PRETEND ACTIVE SHOOTER, SEEN AT THE LEFT IN THIS VIEW. TRAINING PHOTOS COURTESY OF KPCC CHANNEL 2.

found injured victims in a hallway of the North Shore 10th Grade Center. The officers went straight to a classroom where two pretend shooters were with students. The police chief said they had three priorities: stop the killing, stop the dying, and evacuate the injured.

Clements said the simulation training gives the officers a unique learning experience in stressful situations. He said he wants



GALENA PARK SUPERINTENDENT DR. JOHN MOORE AT THE TRAINING EXERCISE

his officers to know what to do if a situation arises such as a shooter.

The training was open to the public to see, in person and on television. Participating were local fire and EMS personnel, and law enforcement agencies including Constables from Pct. 2 and 3.

Galena Park Superin-



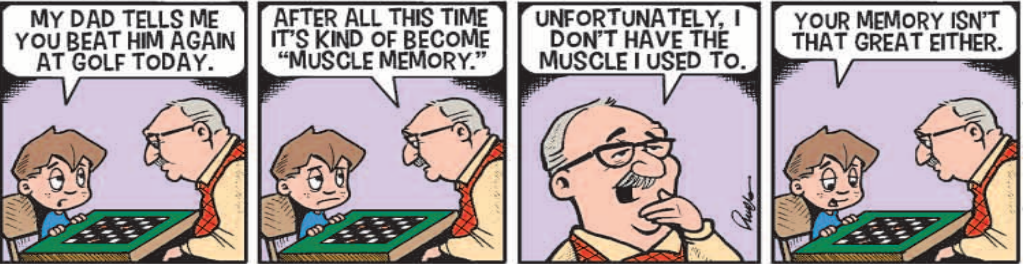
OFFICERS IN THIS DRILL LEARN TO BYPASS THE WOUNDED LYING ON THE FLOOR, AND TO RUSH TO THE SCENE OF THE ACTIVE SHOOTER TO SUPPRESS HIM. THE PRIORITIES TO BE LEARNED, ACCORDING TO CHIEF CLEMENTS, ARE “STOP THE KILLING, STOP THE DYING, AND EVACUATE THE INJURED.”

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## ENTERTAINMENT

### Amber Waves



### R.F.D.



### The Spats



Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

		3			4		6		
	2		9			5			
1				8					9
8			5					7	
		1			6				4
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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. Fence is shorter 2. Raincoat is different 3. Leaf is shorter 4. Stripe is missing 5. Sign is missing 6. Fuddle is smaller

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July 18, 2022 Posting Date

King Crossword

ACROSS

1 Baseball's Ripken

4 Glacial

7 Mrs. Flintstone

12 Baton Rouge sch.

13 Extinct New Zealand bird

14 Figure of speech

15 "— show-time!"

16 Parthenon locale

18 "The A-Team" actor

19 Le — (French news-paper)

20 Pear type

22 Sugary suffix

23 Actress Tyne

27 Director Howard

29 Cut up, as a pizza

31 Metric measure

34 Desert haven

35 Tam topper

37 "Ray Donovan" actor

38 Money maven Orman

39 Vichy water

41 Latin love

45 Shadow

47 Mimic

48 Maryland's

capital

Composer Rorem

53 Got wind of

54 Kreskin's claim

55 Big D.C. lobby

56 Authority

57 ACLU issues

58 Small batteries

leader

Butterfly protector

6 Tales

7 Use a sponge

8 Altar promise

9 Dogpatch

10 Miss Piggy's pronoun

11 Early hrs.

17 Rhyming tributes

21 Thin pancake

23 Hunting goddess

24 Rm. coolers

25 Island garland

26 QB's gains

28 Spanish gold

30 Privy

31 Vinyl records

32 Debtor's letters

33 Celeb gossip site

36 Office note

37 Legal expert

40 More skilled

42 Food from heaven

43 Verdi work

44 — a beet

45 High hairstyle

46 Nile vipers

48 Spa sounds

49 PBS funder

50 Opposing vote

51 MGM motto start

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King Crossword

Solution time: 26 mins.

Answers

1. Princess Leia; 2. The Sahara; 3. President Theodore Roosevelt; Peace Prize; 4. Bone marrow; 5. "Deliverance"; 6. Massachusetts; 7. Sea of Tranquility; 8. "The Member of the Wedding"; 9. "Love Me Tender"; 10. Walgreens

Trivia Test Answerst



# 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



Visit [houstonmethodist.org/baytown](https://houstonmethodist.org/baytown) or call **281.428.2273** to make an appointment with our primary or specialty care physicians, or for a physician referral.