NORTH CHANNEL *STAR

Your News, Your Newspaper



week, Parade Saturday Downtown. Rodeo Feb. 28 thru Mar. 19

Serving all of the North Shore -- Channelview, Cloverleaf, Sheldon, Galena Park, Jacinto City www.northchannelstar.com THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2023 VOLUME 11, NO. 7 (#457)

Galena Park grieves over two Murder Scenes

Arrest made in shooting of student

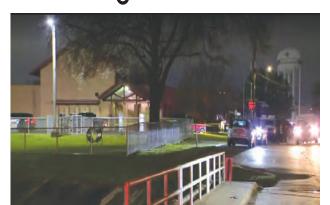
GALENA PARK, Texas - A teenager was arrested and charged in the fatal shooting of another teen that happened in the Galena Park area Thursday night, according to deputies with Harris County Sheriff's Office.

Johnny Lewis, 17, has been charged with capital murder in connection with the shooting death of Marcos Orta, who was also 17 years old.

Deputies say the shooting took place at around 5 p.m. at a community center near Galena Park High School, located in the 1300 block of Keene Street.

According to the Harris County Sheriff's Office, Orta, a Galena Park HS senior, was shot in the neck, face, and arm. He was taken to the hospital in critical condition and pronounced dead shortly

Investigators said Orta was in the parking lot of the Baggett Community Center when he was approached by two males and shot by at least one of them. The reason for the shooting is not known at this time, but investigators believe it may be drug re-



A parking lot on Keene Street, between the Baggett Community Center and Galena Park High School was the scene of the shooting death of a 17 year old student.



JOHNNY LEWIS Charged with Capital Murder

lated. A gun and some drugs were left at the scene, officials said

Deputies said the suspects then fled the scene in a silver-colored sedan, pos-

sibly a Toyota Camry. Investigators are trying to determine the identity of the second suspect involved in this case.

"We will have extra security in place to assist the School Resource Officers who are assigned to the school campuses," Galena Park Police Chief Wagner

Anyone with information about this case is urged to contact the Harris County Sheriff's Office Homicide Unit or Crime Stoppers of Houston at (713) 222-TIPS or call the HCSO Homicide Unit or Galena Park PD at (713) 675-3471.

3 murders, Suicide stun neighborhood

GALENA PARK - Four people, including three teenage girls, were shot and killed in an apparent murder-suicide at a home in Galena Park late Saturday, Harris County Sheriff Ed Gonzalez said.

Gonzalez said deputies received multiple reports of a shooting in the 2000 block of 2nd Street at around 10:30 p.m.

Gonzalez said three teenage girls, ages 13, 14, and 19, were home with a 38-year-old man who was believed to be in a relationship with the mother of two of the teens. She was not home at the time.

At some point, an argument broke out between the man and the three teens. That was when, Gonzalez said, the man pulled out a gun and fatally shot all three of them. The oldest was six months pregnant.

Gonzalez said the man proceeded to sexually assault a 12-year-old girl inside the home, then allowed her to leave.

The girl was able to grab a 1-year-old baby, who was also at the house, and ran screaming to a neighbor's home for help.



VIGIL: A crowd of family, friends, and neighbors gather Sunday evening at the home on Second Street where the gruesome murders were committed



Two of the Victims, Sisters Sayuri Gill, 19 and $$ edly said "hello" Melony Torres, 13

Officers with Galena Park PD were called to the home and discovered the bodies of the three victims. The man was also found dead with a self-inflicted

The 12-yearold girl was treated at an area hospital and is expected to be physically

gunshot wound.

Investigators believe the man was possibly jealous after someone reportto the mother. The family is

heartbroken and devastat-

okay.

A makeshift memorial

CONTINUED. See Galena Park Murders, Page 3

NS Lady Mustangs eliminated in basketball playoffs Celebrating Lewis H. Latimer

Lady Mustangs 31-Pearland Oilers 56

By Allan Jamail

February 17, 2023 the GPISD North Shore High School basketball varsity Lady Mustangs was handilv defeated in the Area Round playoff game by the Lady Pearland Oilers. Playing on a neutral field at the Pasadena Memorial High School gymnasium

CONTINUED. See Lady Mustangs, Page 3



NS Lady Mustangs team at courtside gets instructions from Assistant Coach Gigi Gaudet. (right-center) (Photo by Allan Jamail)

Black History Month - (2ND of a series)

Lewis Howard Latimer (September 4, 1848 - December 11, 1928) was an African-American inventor and patent draftsman. His inventions included an evaporative air conditioner, an improved process for manufacturing carbon filaments for the incandescent light bulbs, and an improved toilet system for railroad cars. In 1884, he joined the Edison Electric Light Company where he worked as a draftsman and wrote the first book on electric lighting. The Lewis H. Latimer

CONTINUED. See Celebrating Black History, p. 6



LEWIS H. LATIMER Black Inventor, 1848-1928

STATE OF THE STATE: CHANNEL

Abbott lists 7 Legislative Priorities

Chamber Lunch set for March 3rd

CURRENTS

Monthly meeting of the North Channel Area Chamber, March 3rd from 11:30am to 1:00pm.

PROGRAM: Generation Park Update, with Gonzalo Echeverria, Director of Design and Planning, McCord Development.

Also honoring Channelview ISD Students and Educators RSVP by 3/28 to 713-

450-3600 or info@ncachamber.com **Project Grad**

Bingo Nite Mar. 4

Lee HS Gander Project Grad Bingo Night, Sat. March 4, 2023 at 6:00pm. Baytown Shrine Club, 110 W. Main, Baytown. \$40 per player. \$450 VIP table of

8.Call 281-221-1616. Project Grad is an overnight lock-in for our grads, for a safe, drug and

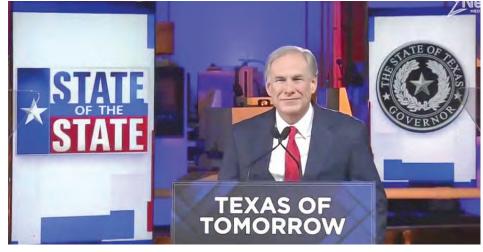
alcohol-free environment.

By Patrick Svitek Texas Tribune

SAN MARCOS - Gov. Greg Abbott on Thursday outlined his highest priorities for the legislative session, offering an agenda centered on the economy, schools and public safety, complete with some proposals to push Texas even further to the political

During his biennial State of the State speech, the Republican governor named seven emergency items that lawmakers can vote on immediately: cutting property taxes, ending COVID-19 restrictions "forever," expanding school choice, making schools safer, ending "revolving-door" bail policies, securing the state's border with Mexico and cracking down on fen-

"This session, we will



GOVERNOR GREG ABBOTT DELIVERS HIS "STATE OF THE STATE" SPEECH, AND LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES, AT THE NOVEON MAGNETICS FACILITY IN SAN MARCOS LAST THURSDAY.

ensure Texas remains the leader of this nation as an unflinching force in this world," Abbott said during the speech in San Marcos. "Together, we will build a Texas for the next generation — the Texas of tomor-

The legislative session, which began in early January, is Abbott's fifth as governor, and it comes months after he secured a decisive reelection victory for a third term. It also

comes as he has emerged as more of a national political figure for his attention-grabbing efforts to secure the border — and as a possible 2024 presidential candidate.

His speech included two

ABBOTT'S LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES:

- * CUTTING PROPERTY **TAXES**
- * ENDING COVID **RESTRICTIONS FOREVER**
- **★ EDUCATION FREEDOM**
- **★ SCHOOL SAFETY**
- **★ ENDING REVOLVING DOOR BAIL**
- * SECURING THE **BORDER ★ FIGHTING THE**
- **FENTANYL CRISIS**

references to President Joe Biden, a Democrat. Abbott said in one that Texans are rightfully "furious about the lawlessness caused by Joe Biden's open border

Continued. See Abbott's Priorities, Page 5

SHELDON ISD NEWS

Sheldon ISD Students Celebrate the 100th Day of School



Sheldon ISD elementary students celebrated the 100th day of school on February 2. Students spent the day learning about the number 100 and participated in fun activities. Some even dressed up as 100 year-old people.

Counseling Team Honored During National School Counseling Week

February 6-10 is National School Counseling Week. National School Counseling Week, sponsored by the American School Counseling Association (ASCA), highlights the tremendous impact school counselors can have in helping students achieve school success and plan for a career. Special thank you to our Sheldon ISD counseling staff: **High School Counselors**

Sylvia Boyd Melanie Jones Vanetta Allen **Alexis Waters** Sonva Washington Vanessa Martinez- 9th Paula Roberson- Null Mid-Grade Campus

Veronica Hubbard - 9th Grade Campus Tia Alexander- Early Col-

lege High School Carol Russell - KASE Academy

Donna Maisel Ortiz- At-Risk Specialist/School Social Worker

Middle School Counselors Candice McCall - King Middle School

Bridget Mattina - King Middle School

Mari Mar Sanches-Andrade - King Middle School Tunisia Wolridge- Null Middle School

Laura Flores- Null Middle School

dle School

Elementary School Counselors Carroll Elementary - Tara

Jennings Garrett Elementary -Franshell Eckford

Monahan Elementary -Tammie Syon Royalwood Elementary -Ruby Marroquin

Sheldon Elementary - Dinora Villarreal Sheldon Lake Elementary

- Angela Perez Early Childhood Academy Counselors Cravens Academy - Cindy

Flores Sheldon Academy - Melinda Flores

King Middle School Wins First Place in One Act Play





On Saturday, February 4, Sheldon ISD hosted the UIL Middle School Theatre One Act Play Contest at King High School for middle schools all across our region. The UIL One Act Play is the top performance competition annually for theater programs across the state, requiring student casts and crews to prepare and perform a 40minute stage production. This year, both Sheldon ISD middle schools had outstanding performances from King Middle School of "Kamikaze Kate and the Sword of Capitan Kurado" under the direction of Ms. Brianna Short

and Null Middle School of "Triangle" under the direction of Ms. Brandy Viverette. King Middle School won first place Overall Show, Best Overall Crew, and Best Performer (Phoebe Williamson). A full list of individual awards from both campus follows:

1st Place Overall Show - King Middle School (Pheobe Williamson, Lee Shelley, Maximus Jasso, Kaitlyn Staten, Jozlyn Kelsey, Kaydance Osborne, Cassandra Partida, Oscar Jasso, Rishon Rogers, Delilah Jimenez, Trinity Howard, Alyson Gamon)

Best Overall Crew -

King Middle School (Alyson Gamon, Trinity Howard, Delilah Jimenez, Rishon Rogers, Oscar Jasso, Cassandra Parti-

Best Performer - King Middle School (Pheobe Williamson)

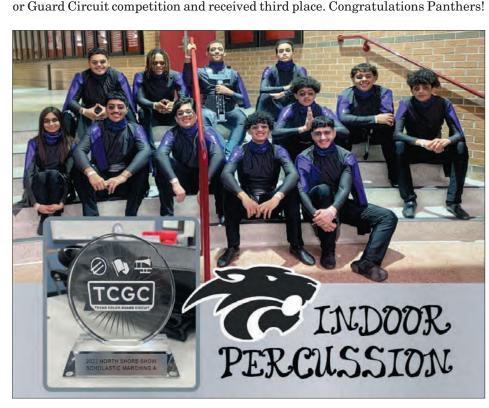
All-Star Cast - King Middle School (Jozlyn Kelsey); Null Middle School (Luannie Vasconcelos)

Honorable Mention Cast - Null Middle School (Susanna Martinez, Jaslyn Ramos-Espinosa) All-Star Crew - King Middle School (Reagan McGehee); Null Middle School (Laura Gaona)



KHS Panther Drumline Receives Third Place

The King High School indoor percussion students competed at the TExas Col-



KHS Students Qualify For **State Art Contest**



On Saturday, February 11, select King High School art students from Ms. Leslie Roades's and Ms. Jessica Little's art classes competed in the High School Visual Arts Scholastic Event (VASE) Regional Contest at Clear Falls High School. Competing students create artworks, write about their creative processes and understanding of visual art, and articulate information about their artwork during an interview with a VASE juror. There are more than 35,000 entries statewide in this competition, which is equivalent to the UIL Contests where other campus organizations

compete for Texas's art programs. Artworks receiving a Superior Rating (IV) are presented with a Regional Medal, and the very top artworks at the Regional level advance to State VASE, which will take place in April in San Marcos. The following students qualified for state VASE:

Regionals Superior Rating Medalists and Qualified for State VASE:

Monica Areco (3D Artwork, Title: "Chose One, Or Not" AND 2D Artwork, Title: "Saturday Morning")

Ashley Benegas (2D Artwork, Title: "Ojos LinSamantha Meza (2D Artwork, Title: "I Hold The Sun To My World") Amanda Moreno (2D Artwork, Title: "A Ski Trip I Will Never Forget")

The following students are Regional Superior

Rating Medalists: Leitia Arenas Alani Chavan Marlan Diaz Cristian Guzman Demetrius Hilton Janette Lopez Bianca Marin Franco Phallon McClinton Galilea Nieves Zoe Quiroga (in 2D AND 3D!)

Rosalinda Reyes Anthony Reynoso Carolina Varela Ashley Zapata Gutierrez

KHS Volleyball to Host 12 Week Elementary Program

Calling all athletes in kindergarten through fifth grade! Do you want to improve your volleyball skills and compete in local tournaments? In March - May, C.E. King

High School is hosting the annual 12 week Elementary Volleyball Program for Sheldon ISD and local school-aged athletes. Athletes may sign up for a six week season

or 12 week. Practices, tournaments and a tshirt are included in the cost. The link to sign up can be found at www.sheldonisd.com.

CHARLOTTE'S

Be The One

By Charlotte Jackson

I started off the month of January attempting to write down the name of every person in Harris County that was mentioned in the news to have been shot or killed. My primary reason was not to just pray for their survivors but to add their parents to the list to be invited for the Annual HOPE Candlelight Memorial that is held on December 6 at 7 p.m. at San Jacinto College North. One thing I have learned is that unless you have been in their shoes, you do not know how they feel or how to really help.

Unfortunately, before the third week of the year was over, I had quit keeping the list. Honestly, it had become overwhelming. What has happened in Harris County? It seems as though people have no sense of reality. If you kill one person, you affect so many more. Not only the victim's family and friends, but yours as well.

And at the same time, when you do something positive, it reaches so many others. There are crosswalk guards, smiling librarians, hall monitors and at least ten adults in the path of each student each day at school. If you are one of these, are you known for your smile? Or are you known for your frown? Are you the lady in the cafeteria who smirks at the students for being too loud in line? Or are you the one who takes the time to try to remember their names and speak to them?

I am sure that we all have experienced being around a place of business that we swear we will never do business at again and it is not due to the price, the quality of product, the time it took to complete the transaction but due to how we were treated by the employee. And we are quick to post about the horrible experience on social media. Yet when the meal is amazing or the service is exceptional, do we share? We must do a better job of speaking life into others.

People who know me know that one way to set me off is to speak negatively about east Harris County. When someone posts on social media bashing the area, look out. I am quick to ask them "what are you doing to make a positive impact?"

Within the past two weeks, football enthusiasts around the world heard about how amazing Jalen Hurts is. We bragged that he played for Channelview High School, we bragged that he grew up in North Shore. People heard so many good things about the eastside of Harris County.

And unfortunately, before the week was out, we read headlines about a 17 year old being killed in what many described as a drug deal gone bad. How do we know there were drugs involved? His family and friends were grieving and here were strangers making accusations. Just two days later, we heard of a horrific multiple murder and suicide just blocks away. Rumors surfaced about the deceased females. People were asking if the killer lived at the same house, where was the mother, had he molested more than just the young preteen? Instead of asking these questions, we needed to be asking how can we help. GPISD moved quickly to provide counseling services after the first murder, and I know there will be many offering help to the mother as well as young girl left behind in the second situation.

But what else are we going to do? Are we just going to go back to our comfortable home and wait for the next round of news? Or are we going to join with others to make a difference? You are invited to join the Eastside Prayer Gathering on the first Friday of each month at 7 p.m. to pray for the communities. You can join organizations such as Mothers Against Gun Violence and advocate for gun reform. You can support groups such as Angel Moms who host events to provide resources for families who have lost loved ones. If you need information on any of these, please reach out to charlotte.jackson@yahoo.com



COMMERCIAL PRINTING

Commercial Printing We specialize in 4 Color Brochures,

Magazines, Sale Flyers, We print Newspapers, too.

Call for a Quote

GRAFIKSHOP

713-977-2555

Luis F. Garcia, CPA Attorney at Law

13364 Woodforest Blvd Houston, TX 77015 713-999-8006

E.luis@luisgarcialaw.com

www.luisgarcialaw.com





Call 713-266-3444 to Advertise YOUR Business in this Directory. 5,000 readers Weekly

3 Murders, Suicide in Galena Park,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

is sitting outside the home filled with candles, balloons, and teddy bears. It shows pictures of the slain 19-yearold. Family members identified her as Sayuri Gill. The 13-year-old was identified as Melany Torres. Sayuri and Melany were sisters.

David Perez says his 14-year-old niece, Laisha, was the friend who was killed. Perez says it doesn't seem real and said his niece was a sweet girl and, obviously, her mother is not doing well. The family is still trying to process what happened.

"I'm broke. I don't have words to say. I received a call last night and they told me my niece was shot. I just ran to this place. I didn't see nothing, and I didn't hear nothing. No one has said nothing to me. I'm just blank," Perez

He says the family is waiting to get more information from police. The family says they are also in the process of starting a GoFundMe Page to help with funeral ex-

The 13-year-old victim was a sixth grader in the Galena Park Independent School District, Galena Park ISD released the following statement involving her death, and the death of another teen that happened days earli-

"We are deeply saddened by the tragic events which occurred on Thursday, February 16, 2023, and Saturday, February 18, 2023, in the Galena Park community involving our students and their families. We extend our heartfelt sympathy to the student's families and friends and ask you to keep them in your thoughts and prayers. At this time, we are offering support to students and staff at the impacted campuses as needed. Our goal is to respect the families during this time of loss and provide them with services the district offers as they cope with these tragedies."

Lady Mustangs eliminated from Playoffs,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

the Mustangs were outplayed on both offense and defense by an aggressive Oiler team. It was the Pearland Oilers who eliminated the Lady Mustangs last season in the playoffs.

In past games this season it's been the Lady Mustangs who's dominated both ends of the court, but not this time. From the first tipoff the Oilers racked up 15 points to only 4 points for the Mustangs at the end of the first period. The Oilers scored double-digit points over the Mustangs in three of the four quarters.

NS Head Coach Allison Campbell's team played allout and didn't leave anything on the court, but still that wasn't enough to make a real challenge to Pearland. The Oilers a well balanced team had extremely accurate shooters anywhere on the court, several of them made 80 to 85 percent of their shots, the team's average shotsmade was 65 percent.

Leading up to this defeat the Mustangs last week (2-13-23) dominated the Dobie Longhorns to win the Bi-District game 64 – 39. They had a winning season with 13 wins and 3 losses in district play. Next season expect the team to once again be successful, of the fourteen players on the roster they'll have 11 returning. Linda Jamail, Statistician.

FREE INTERNET

Qualify today for the Government Free Internet Program

YOU QUALIFY for Free Internet if you receive Medicaid, SNAP, Housing Assistance, WIC,



CALL TODAY (888) 573-0497

Bonus offer: 4G Android Tablet with one time co-pay of \$20

ACP program details can be found at www.fcc.gov/affordable-connectivity-program-consumer-fac

ASK DIAMOND JIM

Diamond Jim: "What is a Brilliant Cut Diamond?"

Diamonds are one of the world's most prized treasures - but they don't come out of the Earth looking like a million bucks! In fact, they look like... well, rocks. The appearance is dull, and it is in the hands of cutters that the true beauty is revealed.

Diamond cutting has been in practice since at least the 14th century. Before that, they were polished to enhance some of the shine. In the centuries since, techniques have evolved, as has the skill of expert cutters. A large, brilliant cut diamond is, in many ways, the culmination of this mastery.

Brilliant Cut Diamond Definition

Many of us regard diamonds as magical objects! They are simply stunning, and brilliant cuts are designed to maximize the appeal of the stone: the shine, the sparkle, and the elegance.

When talking about the brilliant cut diamond, it is also important to become familiar with these

Brilliance: white light reflected from the facets

Fire: reflected color created when white light is dispersed through the diamond

Scintillation: the sparkle we see when the reflections interact as the stone is in motion

A brilliant cut diamond has 58 facets (including the culet). The crown (i.e. the upper portion of the stone) has 33, while the pavilion (i.e. the lower portion of the stone) has 25. But it's more involved than that: the crown has one table facet, eight bezel facets, eight-star facets, and 16 upper girdle facets, while the pavilion has eight facets, as well as 16 lower girdle facets and a culet. Cutters must ensure that these facets are perfect in terms of symmetry

Speaking of which: the table, crown, and pavilion all must be in proportion to each other. For instance, if the table is too large, then too much light can escape. This will give it a duller appearance than it should have. If the pavilion is too deep or too shallow, light is lost through the bottom, and we miss out on the brilliance we crave.

Why Invest in a Brilliant Cut Diamond?

As a professional in the jewelry industry, it is essential that we deliver the quality and aesthetic beauty that our customers want. Round brilliants are the most popular stones on the market, accounting for more than 70 percent of sales nation-wide.

The reason for this is obvious: They are iconic! When people picture the ideal engagement ring, for instance, it's most likely that a brilliant cut diamond will pop into their mind. This cut also delivers unmatched brilliance, fire, and scintillation. The beauty and glamor of the brilliant are undeniable.

Large, brilliant cut diamonds may cost a bit more than other cuts. The cutting process is laborintensive, and it must be meticulous and exacting. Even in the hands of a master, there is a good deal of waste involved in the cutting process. You may, for example, lose up to 60 percent of the carat weight as a rough diamond is transformed into a customer-ready brilliant cut stone.

However, many customers accept a higher price point in return for the quality and enduring beauty they receive.

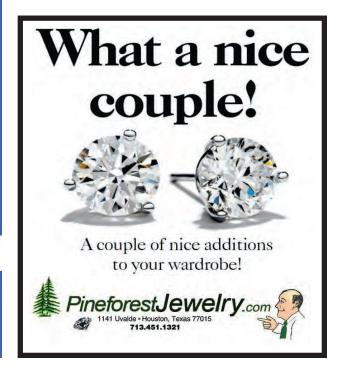
The Diamond Experts

Our expert team will help you select the right stone(s) for your jewelry. We offer a host of services to streamline your purchase experience and your enjoyment of your brilliant cut diamonds. We offer financing and custom one-of-a-kind CAD design assistance. We can handle all of your diamond needs, delivering the quality you desire at an affordable price

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 <u>jmills@pineforestjewelry.com</u>.





★ OPINION PAGE ★



Commentary, Galena Park Student Murder

By Allan Jamail

Former Jacinto City Chief of Police and NC Star writer Allan Jamail said I extend my sincere sympathy to the parents, family and friends of Galena Park High School student Marcos Orta who was shot to death this past Thursday on the grounds of the GP Community Center. Witnesses said there were illegal narcotics in plain view on the ground at the scene, it's not known if they played a role in the shooting of Orta.

Unlawful narcotics today is a multi-billion dollar business and I realize times have changed since I was police chief, but the way to combat it and save a child can be much the same as I used. Educate everyone and get everyone involved at all levels of a child's life. It takes a community to raise a child into a productive adult.

The first-line of defense to save a child from drug related crimes is their parents and anyone else who's in their world who can connect with them, be it a friend, relative, or teacher.

Most usually friends know when they have a friend taking a wrong turn towards illegal drugs; they can have a powerful influential role in steering them back and away from making a bad decision.

Parents need to be pro-active in monitoring their children's friends and their activities. Your child is priceless don't be shy; let them know you're going to check their cell phone communications without warning and do it. By turning a blind eye to your child's activities can be dangerous not just to them but to your entire family. Many times a person who's dealing in the illegal drugs market will get their own family in danger and become a target for violence by those wanting to get revenge when those dealing in illegal drugs feel cheated.

My advice to those in authority is to do as I did when I was police chief. I declared war on those in the illicit narcotics trade. My officers and I were vigilant, we kept our ears to the ground; we stopped gangs before they could organize of a meaningful size, we used every legal means we had at our disposal to fight the dope dealers. We had zero tolerance on illegal dope, large or small amounts.

My anti-narcotics program slogan was called, SAY NOPE TO DOPE. We got everyone involved, law enforcement officers, city officials, students and parents wore the slogan on buttons. All city vehicles and many citizens' vehicles had the slogan on bumper stickers. Galena Park and Jacinto City citizens came together in the battle, and we won. No adult or student lost their life during those times in either city to unlawful drugs.

As police chief I had regular illegal drug prevention programs, inside the schools and throughout the community. The principals of the Galena Park schools (elementary, junior high, high school and also JC Elementary) allowed me to come to the schools and educate the staff and students on the harmful effects of narcotics and what to be on guard against.

I had state; county and local narcotics officers present their drug prevention programs to parents and students at city hall's, community centers, PTA meetings, churches, scout meetings, and other organizations. I brought in reformed prison inmates to tell students how bad the drug scene really was for them. Those reformers were very convincing to students; they listened to the voice of experience from losers who had made a bad decision.

Through the years since many of those students we saved from a criminal life has contacted me and thanked me for my administration's role in keeping them from going down life's lost highway.



nel STAR. Combined circulation of these newspapers exceeds 20,000, Readership exceeds

50,000 according to industry standards. We also print dozens of school, ethnic, and government publications on contract. Call for information to 713-977-2555.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES: In-county, \$28.00 per year. Out of county, \$35.00 per Year. POST-

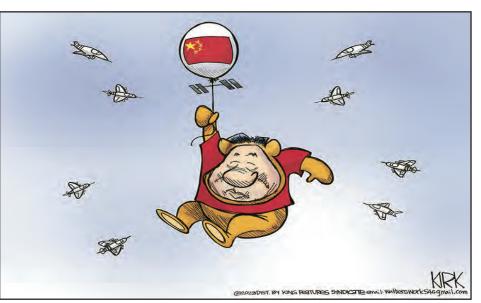
News and Ad Phones....713-266-3444

FAX Line....713-977-1188

email: grafikstar@aol.com

Member Texas Press Association





STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS By Gary Borders

Abbott lays out seven top priorities in State of the State Address

ABBOTT LAYS OUT SEVEN

TOP PRIORITIES Gov. Greg Abbott, in a State of the State address last Thursday, outlined his seven top priorities for the ongoing legislative session before an invitation-only audience at a manufacturing facility in San Marcos, the Austin American-Statesman reported. Those priorities include \$4 billion for border security, property tax relief and more school choice for parents. which he called "education freedom." He avoided use

of the word "vouchers.'
The governor, beginning his third term, announced that school safety would also be a legislative priority, while avoiding any mention on curtailing the availability of guns, something Democrats hammered on in their 10-minute rebuttal.

Abbott is proposing that \$15 billion of the state's hefty surplus go toward cutting property taxes.

PATRICK ALSO ANNOUNCES PRIORITIES

Texas Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick a few days earlier released 30 legislative priorities, which also includes property tax relief. Patrick, who presides over the state Senate, also wants to increase the punishment for illegal voting, protect children "from obscene books in libraries" and eliminate tenure at public colleges and universities.

The Houston Chronicle reported other items on Patrick's list include banning critical race theory in higher education and prohibiting COVID-19 mandates.

"Just because a bill does not make the priority list does not mean it is not a priority for me or the Senate," Patrick said in a statement. "We will pass over 600 bills this session. As I like to say, every bill is a priority to someone, otherwise, we would not pass it."

Patrick is also pushing for teacher pay raises, expanding mental health services in rural areas, and strengthening the state's power grid.

BLACK LAWMAKERS BLAST ABBOTT'S HIRING DIRECTIVE

A directive from Abbott



to state agencies ordering them to end the use of diversity, equity and inclusion practices in hiring employees has drawn the ire of the Texas Legislative Black Caucus and the Texas NAACP. Both groups met last week to urge major national sports groups to refuse to hold championship games in Texas if the governor does not reverse his ruling.

The Statesman reported that the groups called on the NBA and MLB to not host All-Star games in the state, the NFL not to hold Super Bowl games, and the NCAA to decline to host championship games in Texas, unless the ruling is reversed.

reversed.

"I am proud to say that the NAACP urges all citizens of goodwill to join us and our partners in fighting to stop our state from continuing to move back to Jim Crow," NAACP President Gary Bledsoe said. Some employment law experts have said the governor's interpretation of DEI practices is misguided.

The governor's office has said that hiring on factors other than merit violates state and federal law.

STATE PARK TO BECOME GATED COMMUNITY

A popular Texas state park located 90 miles southeast of Dallas will close at the end of the month, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department announced. After more than 50 years of public use, Fairfield State Park was notified by Vistra, the power company that leased the property to the state, that it is terminating the lease and selling the property to a private developer.

Vistra closed the coal power plant located on the lake in 2018. Despite

months of negotiation, the company would not consider selling just the parkland to the state. The new owner, Todd Interests, plans to develop a high-end gated community with a private golf course, according to The Dallas Morning News.

"This loss is especially unfathomable at a time when we are celebrating 100 years of state parks, yet absent any cooperation or interest in working with us from the developer, we have no other options," said Arch "Beaver" Aplin, TPWD chairman, said.

A number of state legislators have expressed outrage over the park's closing. State Rep. Angelia Orr, R-Hillsboro, whose district includes Freestone County where Fairfield State Park is located, has filed a bill that would allow the state to acquire the parkland through eminent domain. TPWD, however, will remove equipment and relocate staff members after Feb. 28.

SABINE PASS BATTLEGROUND SITE REOPENS

A Civil War battle-ground and memorial site closed after damage from Hurricane Harvey in 2017 has reopened after repairs were made to the seawall. The Sabine Pass Battle-ground State Historic Site in Port Arthur is now open to the public seven days a week, according to the Texas Historical Commission.

In the battle, Confederate Lt. Richard "Dick" Dowling and 46 men fought back against a Union assault on Sabine Pass, which was the main port for Confederate shipments during the war. The battle lasted less than an hour. Two Union gunboats were destroyed, along with significant casualties and the capture of about 350 prisoners. It kept Union forces from entering the Texas interior in the Civil War, according to THC.

Gary Borders is a veteran award-winning Texas journalist. He published a number of community newspapers in Texas during a 30-year span, including in Longview, Fort Stockton, Nacogdoches, and Cedar Park. Email: gborders@texaspress.com.

THE POSTSCRIPT By Carrie Classon

"Not Stubby"

My mother has a pet squirrel named Stubby.

He is not, technically, her pet, as he lives outdoors as a wild squirrel. But he spends much of his time sitting on the railing, watching my mother, and my mother spends much of her time sprinkling seeds outside for Stubby, so you cannot deny they have a relationship.

While my husband, Peter, and I were up north visiting, however, Stubby had a visitor.

"That's not Stubby!" my mother said, looking out the window at the red squirrel who appeared remarkably at home.

It's easy to identify Stubby since he lost half his tail in some unknown but unquestionably tragic accident. It was shortly after the loss of his tail that my mother took Stubby on as her dependent. The other squirrels disappeared in the winter, but Stubby remained. He dug himself an elaborate network of tunnels through the snow that went under the deck and came out on every which side, keeping him close to his supply of food, but safe from anything that might want to get what was left of his tail.

"Stubby has a great life!" I noted when I came up to visit my parents.

It had been cold, but Stubby looked healthy and well-fed. His tail had not grown back, naturally, but where it had been bitten off, new long, black fur had grown. It was a stylish and distinctive addition to his look. His tail now looked a bit like something you would see on the back end of a pheasant, and he had no trouble racing up and down the trees or balancing on the tiniest branch. Stubby was thriving with half a tail, especially now that he had my mother as his benefac-

But then, another squirrel showed up.

"That's not Stubby!" my mother repeated, looking at the squirrel who was sitting where Stubby always sat, eating the seeds put out for Stubby.

"Maybe Stubby has a girl-friend," I suggested.

"Maybe this squirrel chased Stubby off!" my mother said, apparently far less optimistic about Stubby's chances for ro-

But Stubby was missing. I just was beginning to believe my mother's theory when we spotted Stubby a short distance off. He was eating pine-cone seeds, giving the visitor a little space, but apparently going about his business as usual.

"It's very odd," my mother concluded, wondering if she now had two red squirrels to support.

But the red squirrel only stayed two days, and then disappeared as suddenly as it had appeared.

We watched intently out the window, looking for any sign of Stubby's visitor (and perhaps spending more time engaged in the activity than four grown adults should), but no visitor returned. Stubby was back on his own, contentedly eating his seeds.

"Who was that, Stubby?" I

wondered.

My mother had an aunt who said she liked to visit folks to "see how they have it," and I can't imagine why squirrels might not do the same. We had just been talking about my mother's uncle, Evald, and I decided perhaps this might be some relation of Stubby's, let's call him Evald, someone who had known him before the sad loss of his tail.

"I wonder what old Stubby is up to?" Evald wondered and made the trip to visit. Evald would have found that Stubby had quite a nice setup.

"Oh, he's got it good, that old Stubby!" Evald would report back to the extended squirrel family. "Old Stubby had that terrible accident, but he really landed on his feet!"

At least, that's how I imagne it.

Till next time, Carrie

Photos and other news can be found at <u>CarrieClasson.com</u>.

Abbott "State of the State" JC Heritage Hall Priorities,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

policies." The speech otherwise included a host of priorities that Abbott has been emphasizing for months, like using the state's historic budget surplus to deliver the "largest property tax cut in the history of Texas." He also reiterated he wants to root out "woke agendas" in the classroom and let parents use tax dollars to send their kids to schools outside the traditional public education system. He repeated that he wants to do so through Education Savings Accounts, in which state funds would be deposited to help parents pay for nontraditional education expenses, like home schooling or private school.

That may be the most ambitious proposal that Abbott backed, considering school vouchers have historically run into a wall of opposition from Democrats and rural Republicans in the Legislature.

Texas Democrats responded to Abbott's speech in a 10-minute wide-ranging video that included comments from state and federal lawmakers, as well as Texans who said their lives were negatively impacted by Abbott's policies. The video began with the families of victims of the Uvalde elementary school shooting pleading for state lawmakers to do more to prevent gun violence.

"Since that day we've been begging Gov. Abbott to do what's right and institute the most commonsense gun safety laws, like raising the age from 18 to 21 to be able to buy a weapon of war in Texas, but he didn't listen," said Felix Rubio, whose daughter Lexi was killed during the shooting. Abbott and other Republicans have resisted such proposals.

The Texas House Democratic Caucus responded to Abbott in a news conference Friday morning, accusing him of ignoring a host of issues that are important to everyday Texans. Rep. Ron Reynolds, chairman of the Texas Legislative Black Caucus, said all he heard from Abbott was "red meat for his MAGA base."

Emergency items are proposals that allow lawmakers to bypass a ban on passing legislation before the 60th day of a session — which would be March 10. Thursday is the 37th day of the session.

Among his emergency items, Abbott called for legislation to permanently prevent COVID-19 mandates, like local requirements to wear masks, get vaccines and shut down businesses. While Texas long ago lifted its statewide COVID-19 restrictions, Abbott has kept in place a disaster declaration for the pandemic that has drawn some criticism from his right, and he has promised to end it once lawmakers act.

Notably, Abbott also nodded to conservative pushback by giving lawmakers more of a say in how he responds to the next pandemic.

"We must change how government responds to future pandemics, including requiring the Legislature to convene if another pandemic is ever declared," Abbott said.

In his speech, Abbott alluded to some of the biggest tests of his governorship over the past two years, including the 2021 power-grid collapse. As he did in his inaugural address last month, he said he wants to build a power grid that will endure for many years to come, but he did not designate it as an emergency item. Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick has deemed it one of his highest priorities for the session and has vowed to force a special session if he

does not get his way in the form of adding natural gas

The grid was near the top of a list of 30 legislative priorities that Patrick released Monday. Patrick's priorities featured a number of farther-right ideas that Abbott did not mention Thursday, such as banning "children's exposure to drag shows," outa w i n g gender-transitioning care for minors and eliminating tenure for public college

Abbott also talked about the most likely policy response to come out of the 2022 Uvalde school shooting: school safety. He did not get too detailed, calling for the "safest standards" and more mental health professionals in schools.

professors.

When it came to guns, Abbott focused on getting tougher on crimes involving guns, calling for a 10year mandatory minimum jail sentence "for criminals who illegally possess guns." That is consistent with a top priority of the lieutenant governor this

When it comes to public safety, Abbott has named tougher bail an emergency item before but has struggled to get one proposal across the finish line: a constitutional amendment to expand the circumstances in which a judge can deny bail. Abbott said Thursday that lawmakers "did a lot last session" to tighten bail policies but still must do

Finally, on the border, the main proposal that Abbott mentioned was imposing a "mandatory minimum jail sentence of at least 10 years for anyone caught smuggling illegal immigrants in Texas." That is a tougher proposal than the five-year minimum that Abbott suggested as recently as December.

Abbott has taken extraordinary measures to secure the border over the past two years, and he has signaled that his next major front is stopping the flow of fentanyl, a powerful and often deadly opioid. To that end, he reiterated his desire to prosecute fentanyl deaths as murders and increase the supply of Narcan, the life-saving overdose drug.

Harm reduction advocates have been pushing Abbott to go further.

"If the governor wants to confront the overdose crisis as he says he does, access to Narcan only scratches the surface," said Cate Graziani, executive director of the Texas Harm Reduction Alliance, calling for "harm reduction centers, safe use supplies, and

supportive housing." Beyond his emergency items, Abbott peppered his speech with other pet issues. For example, he said "local communities need new economic development tools this session," alluding to an effort to reinvent a popular corporate tax-break program that lawmakers let expire last

The governor has typically given the State of the State before a joint legislative session at the Texas Capitol. But Abbott chose to deliver the speech outside Austin for the second time in a row, after giving it in Lockhart two years ago during the COVID-19 pandemic.

This time, Abbott delivered the speech at Noveon Magnetics in San Marcos, a setting that has drawn some controversy. Attendees were initially asked to sign a nondisclosure agreement, with his office citing "national security and corporate espionage concerns," but the request was rescinded, according to the USA Today Network.

Noveon Magnetics, the site where Gov. Greg Abbott delivered his biennial State of the State speech on Thursday, in San Marcos. Credit: Eli Hartman for The Texas Tribune

Reporters were not allowed to cover the speech in person, but it was broadcast live on Nexstar TV stations across the state and streamed online.

Abbott opened his speech by recognizing Noveon as a "cutting-edge business in the critical field of rare earth elements." He warned that China currently dominates the rare earth materials market and that Texas needs to embrace companies like Noveon to become more self-reliant.

"The future of Texas and the United States should not depend on China," Abbott said.

Ahead of Abbott's speech, the head of the Texas House Democratic Caucus, Rep. Trey Martinez Fischer, issued a memo that said "the only emergency the Governor has in mind is that no one wants him to run for president other than himself." Abbott has not ruled out a 2024 White House run, and his aides say it is something he will consider after the session ends in late May.

The Democratic response video, which at times was jarring because of the rapidly changing scripted segments featuring both lawmakers and everyday Texans, also included a nod to Democratic support for oil and energy jobs, responding to Republican attacks against the party. Democrats also promised to vigorously oppose legislation that would take dollars away from public schools for use at private schools and to fight to expand Medicaid, which is a near impossibility in Republican-dominated Texas.

Martinez Fischer closed the response by saying the

session would not be easy. "We can promise you Democrats are going to fight because you, the people of Texas, deserve the opportunity to succeed no matter your race, life background or where in this great state you call home," said state Rep. Nicole Collier, a Fort Worth Demo-

James Barragán contributed reporting.



Valentine's Luncheon



Door prize winners of the JC Heritage Hall Valentine's Luncheon Party. Miguel Juarez, Darlene Scarber, Mary Helen Garcia, Lidia dela Torre, Betty Martin, Amadita Garcia, Briseida Lopez, Concepcion Garza, Rodolfo Pena, Debie Phillips, Linda dela Cruz, Graciela Garza, Blanca Ramos, Mary G. Morua, Gloria Moreno, Maria E. Gonzalez, Debra Cazarez, Imelda Acosta, Richard dela Cruz, Pedro Garcia, Mary Lou Casas, Olga Zavala, Enriqueta Cortinas, Lucy Lopez, Alicia Trevino, Evelyn Jones, Daniel Acosta, Jose Aguilar, Maria Aguilar and Carmia Vickery. (Photo by Allan Jamail)



Jacinto City's Heritage Hall staff, L – R: Elizabeth Flores, Senior Program Director, Maria Espinosa & Naomi Navarro, Program Assistants. (Photo by Allan Jamail)

By Allan Jamail

Valentine's Day, February 14, 2023 at Jacinto City's Heritage Hall Valentine's Luncheon seniors had foods and desserts of all types that filled the tables for the more than fifty seniors to enjoy.

After their covered dish

meal 30 seniors won door prizes donated by State Representative Ana Hernandez, Constable Jerry Garcia, Councilmen Gregg Robinson and Mario Gonzales.

Seniors in the local area (1025 Oates Rd. @ Challenger 7 Drive) are encouraged to become members of Jacinto City's senior program. A weekday daily meal is provided along with games and exercising classes for those interested. To join contact Director Elizabeth Flores at: Phone: 713-554-9046 / elizabeth.flores@jacintocity-

North Channel's Deputies Appreciation Luncheon,

Singer Arleth Santos & Family



North Channel Singer Areth Santos Valentine's Appreciation Luncheon for Harris County Sheriff Deputies. L - R: Family friend: Maria Dolores Sanchez & HCSO Deputies: Mordecai, Ramirez, Berry, Lai, Alvarado, Martinez, Magallanes & Sgt. D. Williams, Singer Arleth Santos photo center. (Photo by Allan Jamail)

By Allan Jamail

Cloverleaf, TX. - February 8, 2023 the 10 year old talented North Channel singer Arleth Santos and her family provided HCSO deputies with a Mexican lunch. The singer's family wanted to express their appreciation to the Harris County Sheriff Deputies who patrol and keep their community safe.

Cloverleaf is not within any municipal city limits and rely on Harris County Sheriff Ed Gonzalez' department for all law enforcement needs. Anyone living in Harris County desiring to prevent being a crime victim is encouraged to visit: www.harriscountvso.org/ ContactUs/Community-Engagement / To report emergencies in Harris County call: 911.



CALL TODAY (888) 573-0497

Celebrating Lewis H. Latimer

Black History Month - (2ND of a series)

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

House, his landmarked former residence, is located near the Latimer Projects at 34-41 137th Street in Flushing, Queens, New York City.

Lewis Howard Latimer was born in Chelsea, Massachusetts, on September 4, 1848, the youngest of the four children of Rebecca Latimer (1823-1910) and George Latimer (1818-1897).[1] Before Lewis was born, his mother and father escaped from slavery in Virginia and fled to Chelsea, Massachusetts on October 4, 1842. The day they arrived in Boston, George was recognized by a colleague of his former slave owner and was arrested a few days later, on October 20, 1842. George's trial received great notoriety; he was represented by Frederick Douglass and William Lloyd Garrison. He was eventually able to purchase his freedom and live with his family in Chelsea, Massachusetts.

When Latimer was young he spent time (before his father left) helping his father in his barbershop. He also spent time at night hanging wallpaper with his father.

When Latimer was 10, his mother decided to split the family after the Dred Scott case ruled individual slaves needed to prove they had the consent of their owner to legally become free; many slaves at the time such as the Latimer's had lived free by

escaping into free states and becoming state citizens who often would not be sent back to their owners if apprehended by interstate slave catchers. This caused Lewis's father, George Latimer, to flee for his family's safety because he had nothing to prove he was free from enslavement. So, he fled to protect his family.

After his father had to flee and his mother had to split the family, Lewis and his brothers were sent to a farm school, and his sisters were sent to stay with a family friend.

Latimer joined the U.S. Navy at the age of 16 on September 16, 1864, and served as a Landsman on the USS Massasoit. After receiving an honorable discharge from the U.S. Navy on July 3, 1865, he gained employment as an office boy with a patent law firm, Crosby Halstead and Gould, with a \$3.00 per week salary. He learned how to use a set square, ruler, and other drafting tools. Later, after his boss recognized his talent for sketching patent drawings, He was promoted to the position of head draftsman earning \$20.00 a week by 1872 (\$438.59 to-

Latimer married Mary Wilson Lewis on November 15, 1873, in Fall River, Massachusetts. Mary was born in Providence, Rhode Island, the daughter of Louisa M. and William

Lewis. The couple had two daughters, Emma Jeanette (1883-1978) and Louise Rebecca (1890-1963). Jeanette married Gerald Fitzherbert Norman; the first black person hired as a high school teacher in the New York City public school system, and had two children: Winifred Latimer Norman (1914-2014), a social worker who served as the guardian of her grandfather's legacy, and Gerald Latimer Norman (1911-1990), who became an administrative law judge.

In 1879, Latimer and his wife, Mary, moved to Bridgeport, Connecticut, along with his mother, Rebecca, and his brother, William. They settled in a neighborhood called "Little Liberia," which had been established in the early 19th century by free blacks. Mary died in Bridgeport in 1924.

In 1874, Latimer co-patented (with Charles M. Brown) an improved toilet system for railroad cars called the Water Closet for Railroad Cars (U.S. Patent 147,363).

In 1876, Alexander Graham Bell employed Latimer, and then a draftsman at Bell's patent law firm, to draft the necessary drawings required to receive a patent for Bell's telephone.

In 1879, he moved to Bridgeport, Connecticut, and was hired as assistant manager and draftsman for the U.S. Electric Lighting Company, a company owned by Hiram Maxim, a rival of Thomas A. Edison. While Latimer was there he invented a modification to the process for making carbon filaments which aimed to reduce breakages during the carbonization process. This modification consisted of placing filament blanks inside a cardboard envelope during carbonization. While in England on behalf of the Maxim light company he taught the entire process for making Maxim lights, including glassblowing in 9 months to get the factory up and running.

In 1884, he was invited to work with Thomas Edison. Along with the work he did with Edison, he was also responsible for translating data into German and French, as well as gathering that information. He also developed a forerunner of the air conditioner called "Apparatus for cooling and disinfecting". In 1894, he pursued a patent on a safety elevator that prevented the riders from falling out and into the shaft. In 1924, after the Board of Patent Control dissolved Latimer went on to work with Hammer and Schwartz until he retired.

Latimer died in Flushing a neighborhood in the north-central portion of the New York City borough of Queens.



Dear Friend,

The 88th Legislative Session began on Tuesday, January 10th, 2023. This marks my 18th year in office and 9th legislative session since I was first elected in 2005. Your support has allowed me to become the longest-serving Latina currently in the Texas House of Representatives. I am grateful for the trust you have placed in me and look forward to continue serving you.

As the legislative session moves forward, I will be providing you with updates on what is happening in the Capitol as well as what is happening in

As always, my staff and I remain at your service. If you have any questions about activities at the Capitol, ideas for legislation, or have an issue that you would like assistance with, please give us a call at either (713) 675-8596 or (512) 463-0614.



ASTROS AT THE CAPITOL

This month we honored the 2022 World Champions, the Houston Astros, at the Texas Capitol. Representing the Astros were Ryan Pressly, Jason Castro, Giles Kibbe, Anita Sehgal, and Jim Crane. Go 'Stros!

CLEANING

SERVICES

CLASSIFIED ADS

Call 713-266-3444

Your AD will reach up to 40.000 readers in our FIVE newspapers, with a combined circulation of 20,000 copies. Get ACTION on your AD. Rates start at only \$18 for 20 words. A bargain!

Consumer Cellular Off First Month of New Service! USE PROMO CODE: GZ590 CALL CONSUMER CELLULAR 855-821-6277

OXYGEN

Portable Oxygen Concentrator May Be Covered by Medicare! Reclaim independence and mobility with the compact design and long-lasting battery of Inogen One. Free information kit!

LEAF FILTER

Call 855-333-1888

Eliminate gutter cleaning forever! LeafFilter, the most advanced debris-blocking gutter protection. Schedule a FREE LeafFilter estimate today. 15% off Entire Purchase. 10% Senior & Military Discounts. Call 1-346-299-9169

HELP WANTED

HELP WANTED

NEWSPAPER MARKET-**ING/SALES PERSON** Position available for AD SALES repre-

sentative. Experience helpful but not necessary. Possible to work from home. Suitable for Part Time, or Full Time. Commission plus. Send letter of interest to GRAFIKSTAR@aol.com or call 713-252-8000.

HELP WANTED

HELP WANTED

NEWSPAPER MANAGING

EDITOR

Position available for journalist or manager with local newspaper. Experienced in writing, interviewing, sourcing, computer layout, ad sales, record keeping, promotions. Salary plus benefits. Send letter of interest

to grafikstar@aol.com or call 713-

Looking for an affordable maid service to get your home clean? Look no further, I Got You

CLEANING

SERVICES

CALL

Covered!

+ (346) 562-8491

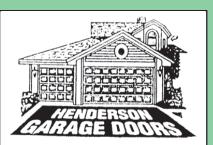
* Residential, Move-In/ Out, after party, Apartment, Condo, Townhome, Studio,

House

SHOP LOCALLY -- Save Time & Money

Business Directory

SHOP LOCALLY -- Save Time & Money



281-428-1187 1-800-345-8471 Sales & Repair Service Baytown, Texas John Henderson 628 Cedar Bayou Rd.



713-702-3200

JOHNNY GAEKE OWNER-INSPECTOR

911 S. MAIN HIGHLANDS TX. 77562

119 Listi Ln, Highlands

FILL DIRT BANK SAND ROADBASE LIMESTONE hillmaterials.com

WE DELIVER TO YOU (281) 843-5000 residential · commercial · industrial



www.graphicsunlimitedinc.net 213 Kernohan • Crosby, TX 77532

Graphics Unlimited, Inc.



nomes are now selling at Crosby Park Villagel Residents njoy an excellent LLC. Equal Housing Opportunity location in Crosby

CROSBY PARK VILLAGE Now Open!

CORPORATE GRAPHICS AT ITS BEST

Call 713-590-4342 to Schedule a Tour KHOV.COM/ CROSBYPARKVILLAGE 415 Calamint, Crosby TX 77532 Offered by K. Hovnanian of Houston II.

12750 Woodforest Blvd. Houston, 77015

Monday-Saturday, 11:00 AM-8:30 PM and Sunday 12:00 PM-5:00 PM. Our social media is INSTAGRAM.COM/PURECB-DHOUSTON our website is: WWW.PURECBDHOUSTON.COM and FACEBOOK.COM/PURECBDHOUSTON

SMALL ADS BRING **BIG** RESULTS

Ask about our Business Directory

Package

13 Weeks + Story + Display for \$260 Ask about our Ribbon Cutting Package Photo + Story + Web for \$260

713-266-3444

To advertise in the Business Directory, please call 713-266-3444 for details



by Dana Jackson

—Q: Is Tina Fey working on any new shows? Did the one about the mayor get canceled? I really loved "30 Rock," and I'm hoping she'll do a reboot of it someday.

-S.L. A:It was recently announced that Fey and her former "Saturday Night Live" Weekend Update co-anchor, Amy Poehler, will be going on a comedy tour together. Since they are very busy women, they only have time for four cities, at least for now. According to Deadline.com, they'll kick it off with their first performance on April 29 in Washington, D.C., then on to the improv capital of the world, Chicago, on May 29. From there, Fey and Poehler will appear at Boston's MGM Music Hall at Fenway on June 9 and will cap off their tour in Atlantic City's Hard Rock Live at Etess Arena on June 10. The Tina Fey & Amy Poehler: Restless Leg Tour is calling itself a celebration of "thirty years of friendship with an evening of jokes, iconic stories and conversa-

Another pair of comedy legends, Steve Martin

tional entertainment."



Tina Fey in new Restless **Leg Tour**

and Martin Short (who star in Hulu's "Only Murders in the Building"), did a similar stage tour last year. Incidentally, Fey had a recurring role on their series as well. There aren't any plans for a "30 Rock" reunion, which would prove especially difficult given star Alec Baldwin's recent legal troubles. Her most recent creation, "Mr. Mayor," starring Ted Danson, was canceled after two seasons. Despite recently striking out, I'm sure it won't be long before Fey hits another creative home run.

*** Q:When does the new season of "The Masked Singer" begin? I usually catch it midway through, and I want to

watch it from the beginning this time.

- L.A. A: Season nine of the hit singing competition show began on Feb. 15 at 8 p.m. ET/PT on Fox. Hopefully, you caught the commercials during the Super Bowl and don't miss any episodes, but if you do, you can catch encore episodes via OnDemand, FOX NOW, Hulu and Tubi. According to "Entertainment Weekly," this season's theme nights include Abba Night, DC Superhero Night and '80s Night. Returning panelists include Ken Jeong, Nicole Scherzinger, Jenny McCarthy-Wahlberg and Robin Thicke. Also, expect some star cameos.

*** Q:I read a rumor that Sheryl Lee Ralph didn't really sing at the Super Bowl — that she lip-synced instead. Doesn't she have a fantastic voice?

— U.J. A:Yes, long before she won an Emmy for her comedy chops in the sitcom "Abbott Elementary," Sheryl Lee Ralph was nominated for a Tony Award for her powerful vocals in Broadway's "Dreamgirls." After she wowed ticketholders at the Super Bowl with her rendition of "Lift Every Voice and Sing," viewers at home wondered if she lip-synced the lyrics instead of singing live. The following day, Ralph neither confirmed nor denied, telling "The Hollywood Reporter," "Does it matter? ... No.

Thank you." Send me your questions at NewCelebrityExtra@gmail.com, or write me at KFWS, 628 Virginia Drive, Orlando, FL 32803. (c) 2023 King Features Synd., Inc.

by Tony Rizzo

HOLLYWOOD — Former California governor and Hollywood superstar Arnold Schwarzenegger is starring in "Kung Fury 2," with Michael Fassbender. He's also starring in the new actionadventure Netflix series "FUBAR," with his "Terminator: Dark Fate" costar Gabriel Luna. The 75-year-old former Mr. Olympia is still in great shape. And don't forget ... as he promised in "The Terminator" — "I'll be back!"... and back again!

*** In 1959, a 26-year-old Carol Burnett starred in the musical adaptation of "The Princess and the Pea," called "Once Upon a Mattress."

I was 13 and hung out at a little candy store next to the Phoenix Theater where "Mattress" was playing. Carol got her coffee at the candy store before her shows, and she'd joke with me and my two friends who were always there.

I had a huge crush on her, and when "Mattress" moved to Broadway and she became a regular on "The Garry Moore Show," I commuted to the tapings. She got me a seat for every Friday show. One night, I was barred from the studio because they said I was cutting tape by laughing and clapping so that I could hear myself on TV. But what they didn't know was that I'd meet Carol after dress rehearsal at the Studio 54 coffee shop and she'd tell me where she needed laughter to put over a routine.

There I sat, frantic on the floor outside the studio, and a well-dressed, very handsome guy asked me why. I explained why, and he said, "Wait here - I'll see what I can do." He came back a few minutes later and said he'd vouched for me, and we ended up sitting in the fourth row. When Garry Moore did his audience warm-up, he excitedly introduced a celebrity in the fourth row. "Ladies and gentlemen," he said, "I'd like you to meet the Yankee Clipper." Joe DiMaggio stood up and

- Godiva

"Star Trek II"

Sisters" sister

"Three

40 Dict. info

villain

one

films

51 Inventor's

insurance

42

43 "Hail,



Arnold Schwarzenegger in "Terminator: Dark Fate" (2019)

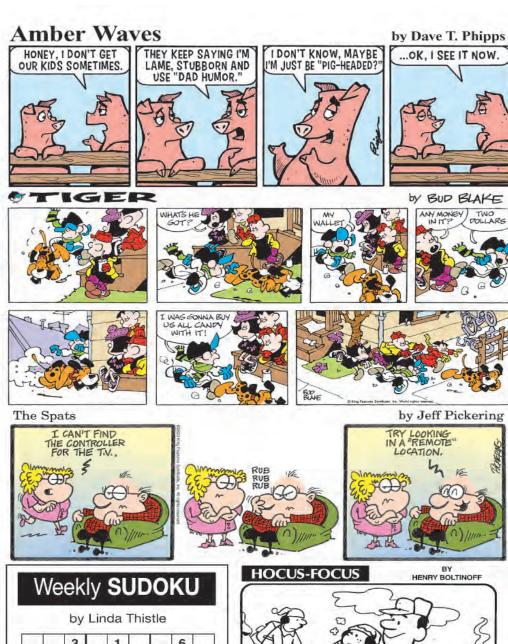
waved, and it was then that I realized he was the man who came to my rescue. After the show, we went to Carol's dressing room and then to dinner at China Song next door.

On April 26, which will be Carol's 90th birthday, NBC will celebrate her in a two-hour special, co-starring her famous friends — Julie Andrews, Lily Tomlin, Cher, Bernadette Peters, Katv Perry, Vicki Lawrence, "Annie" star Aileen Quinn and too many more to name. The special features moments from "Once Upon a Mattress," "The Garry Moore Show," "Julie and Carol at Carnegie Hall" and "Mama's Family" as well as her films "The Four Seasons," "Pete 'n' Tillie" and "Annie." Of course, it will also feature moments from her 11-year run of "The Carol Burnett Show."

If not for Carol Burnett, I might not be a photojournalist or writing this column now. (c) 2023 King Features Synd.,

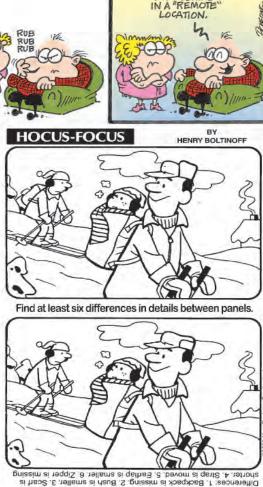


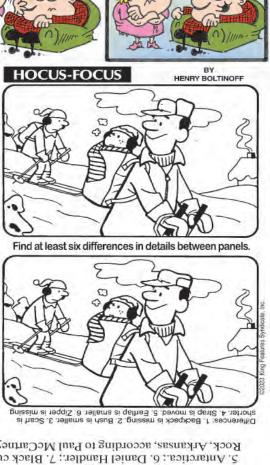
ENTERTAINMENT





each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine. **DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ◆** Moderate ◆◆ Challenging ♦ ♦ ♦ HOO BOY! 2023 King Features Synd., In





SL 1 5 6 t 4 2 9 8 3 1 L 9 8 1 3 8 2 5 L 6 b 6 8 1 2 9 7 8 9 1 8 8 3 4 9 4 9 3 4 1 8 8 6 2 9 7 7 8 9 5 1 8 5 4 3 1 3 t 8 2 9 8 6 4 8 3 7 1 9 2 6 5

Answer Weekly SUDOKU



Solution time: 21 mins. SISWERA

King Crossword

February 20, 2023 Posting Date King Crossword

AC	ROSS		1	2	3	4	5	-	6	7	8	9	10	
1	Shade of blue	70.	_		_	-			_	-		-	-	
	Wanderer	11			-		12		12	19	1 -		123	13
11	Physician, slangily	14							15					
12	2 Lessened		1	1		17		18			100	19		1
14	Veep before				-						100			
	Biden	20			21		22				23			
15	- del Fuego	24	+	+	+	25		26	+	27		+	+	-
	Some fridges	24			100	25		20		21				
	Egypt's Anwar				28		29		30					
19	Have a bug	31	32	33				34	30	35		36	37	38
	Sunrise direc-	39	+	-	+		40	-	44	-	42	-	-	-
20	tion	39					40		41		42		100	
22	- Alamos	43	1	1	12.1	44			1	45	7	46		
	Faction		-	-						-			-	-
	Cybercom-	47	1 =	16.4	48		100		49	1	50		100	166
	merce	51	1	+		+	1	3 1	52	1	1	+	1	1
26	Pungent relish													
	Scratch		53						54	1 -				
30	Pub pint	1	-	_	_	_	_		_	_	_			
31	Passageway			gon d lern				ibwa an E				Purse er	e fas	ten-

53 Modern messong sages 54 Actions

DOWN 1 Prepare left-

overs 2 Black Sea port

Caesar!" 44 Carvey and Delany ciple "- had it!" High cards 47 Winter, for

Boris' cartoon 49 Lon of horror partner

Final notice 8 West of Hollywood

10 Mock "Me and 11 Bobby -13 Longtime

Chicago mayor 21 "Lassie" lad

Feminine prin-23 Porterhouse, e.g. 25 PC linking Faithful

© 2023 King Features Synd., Inc.

system Einstein's birthplace 29 Stinging insects

32 Attack

33 Think up 34 Hankering 36 Polished 37 Sanctuaries

38 In the blink of 18 Elmer, to Bugs 41 Confronted 44 Word of warn-

ing 45 Actress Elisabeth

48 Gender 50 Bio stat

Rodriguez

I. TELEVISION: Which cable TV series features a character named Don Draper?

2. MOVIES: What subject does Professor Minerva McGonagall teach at Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry?

3. HISTORY: Where was civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr. assassinated? 4. U.S. PRESIDENTS: Which president had

a sign on his desk that read, "The Buck Stops Here"

5. GEOGRAPHY: Where is the world's largest desert? 6. LITERATURE: What is the real name of the

author Lemony Snicket? 7. FOOD & DRINK: What is the fruit that gives

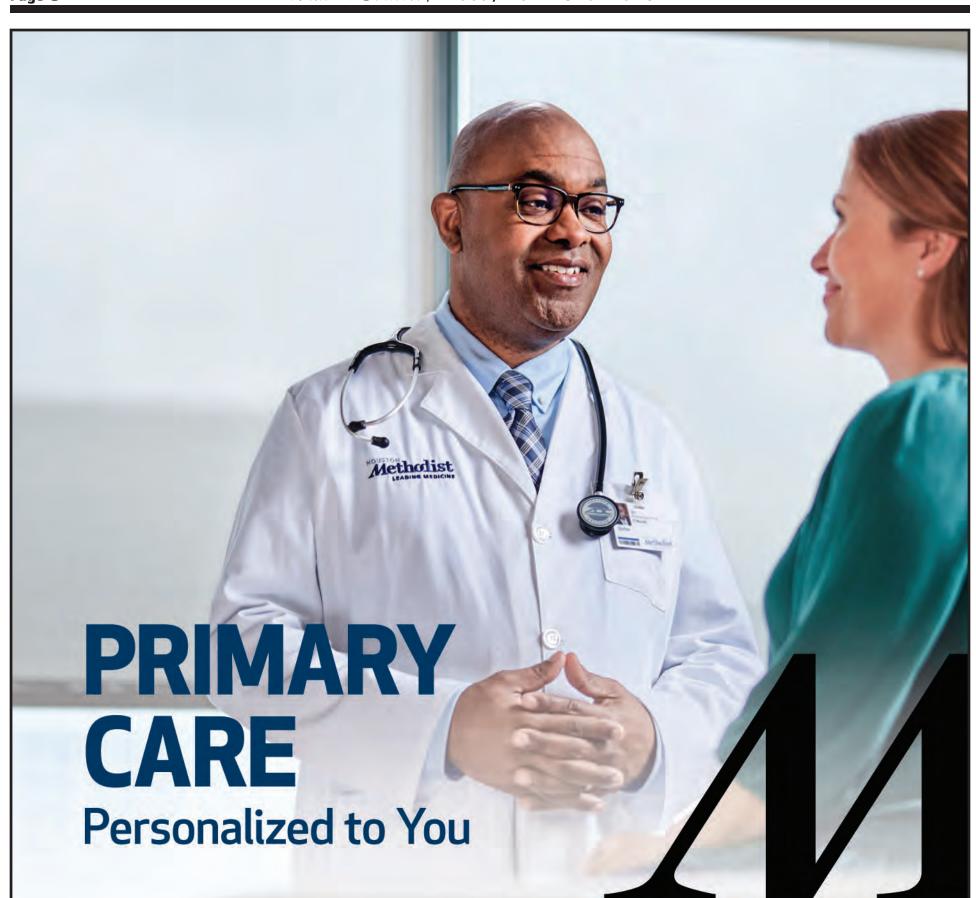
the liqueur creme de cassis its flavor? 8. MUSIC: What inspired the Beatles' song "Blackbird" 9. CELEBRITIES: What is singer/actress Judy

Garland's birth name? 10. ANIMAL KINGDOM: What are squirrels' nests called?

© 2022 King Features Synd., Inc.

Rock, Arkansas, according to Paul McCartney.; 9. Frances Ethel Gumm.; 10. Dreys 5. Antarctica.; 6. Daniel Handler.; 7. Black currants.; 8. Civil rights unrest in Little I. "Mad Men.": 2. Transfiguration.; 3. Memphis, Tennessee.; 4. Harry Truman.;

ITIVIA 1est Answerst



Convenient, customized care — close to work or home.

Our Houston Methodist primary care doctors in Baytown and Mont Belvieu provide personalized care for you and your family, including physicals, immunizations and preventive health services.

Many of our practices:

- Provide in-person and virtual visits with online scheduling
- Offer same-day sick visits
- Are conveniently located close to work or home
- Accept most major insurance plans

Your health and safety are our priority. We are taking every necessary precaution to keep you safe.





houstonmethodist.org/pcg/east 281.428.2273

