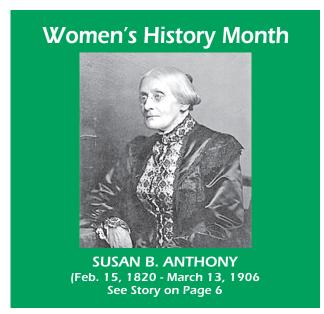
NORTH CHANNEL *STAR

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Serving all of the North Shore -- Channelview, Cloverleaf, Sheldon, Galena Park, Jacinto City www.northchannelstar.com THURSDAY, MARCH 16, 2023 VOLUME 11, NO. 10 (#460)

CHANNEL **CURRENTS**

Community Conversations:

HARRIS COUNTY CLIMATE JUSTICE ACTION PLAN

RESCHEDULED: NCA Chamber 46th GALA

North Channel Chamber invites you to their 46th Annual Awards and Installation Gala. Thursday, March 23 at 6:30pm, Sylvan Beach Pavilion. Guest Speaker Gus Dwairy, Entrepreneur and Rancher. \$90 per person. RSVP 713-450-3600.

Thursday Mar. 23

MAR. 25, SATURDAY THEA fundraiser "Clean Mud for Bugs" Crawfish Boil

This is THEA's Annual fundraiser and your chance to support their work on Houston/Harris County toxic chemical contamination.

Crawfish Boil fundraiser, Saturday March 25 from 1:00pm to 4:00pm, Karbach Brewing, 2032 Karbach Street, Houston.

New this year, a KID'S Zone and a special kid's price. AND T-shirts to purchase with THEA/Mud Bug theme. Tickets: txhea.org.

APR. 7, FRIDAY Fish Fry for JC American Legion

Channelview American Legion Post 644 is having a Fish Fry benefit. Friday, April 7 from 2pm-7pm. 16417 Market reopening of the JC Post 397

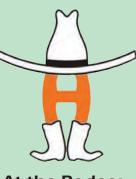
APR. 11, TUESDAY San Jacinto River Coalition

THEA/SJRC Meeting scheduled at Highlands Community Center, 6:30pm. Update on Waste Pits Remediation

NS Rotary Annual FISH FRY May 20

Catfish Fry and Crawfish Boil, Raffle for a new car, 2 auctions. Saturday, May 20 at the Rotary Pavilion on Wallisville. Tickets \$100





At the Rodeo:

TUESDAY MAR 14 Machine Gun Kelly

WEDNESDAY MAR 15 Kenny Chesney

THURSDAY MAR 16 Chris Stapleton

FRIDAY MAR 17

Cody Johnson SATURDAY MAR 18

Brad Paisley

SUNDAY MAR 19 Luke Bryan

Saturday, March 11, 2023 individuals from several cities, communities, organizations and county departments from various Harris County's precincts gathered together at the Galena Park Library to participate in Harris County's Climate Justice Action Plan's, the firstever of its kind of a meeting.

By Allan Jamail

CONTINUED. See Climate Justice Action Plan, Page 2



Attendees at the 2023 Harris County Climate Justice Action Plan. Class participation of sharing visions, stories and framing the future for a healthier planet. Attendees gathered in small groups to share how industries have harmed their communities and discuss various ways to bring their cities back closer to the way the land was when the first inhabitants lived there. (Photo by Allan Jamail)



Class Presenter, Austin's Tane Ward PhD, Educator & Community Organizer Activist of Anthropology/ Native American Studies (Photo by Allan Jamail)

Generation Park leads Northeast growth

Chamber hears of Fastest growing area in Harris County

EAST HARRIS COUN-TY - McCord Development, owners and developers of a mixed use 4230 acre project on Beltway 8, are reaching out to the surrounding communities with information about the project and its amenities, both for commercial and residential interested parties.



GONZALO ECHEVERRIA **McCord Development**

Members of the North Channel Chamber of Commerce recently heard from McCord's Director of Design and Planning, Architect Gonzalo Echeverria. He spoke about the history of the project, and how the Master Plan is evolving as the development gets built-out.

Guiding principles for

the development were an interaction between buildings, water, and nature. Although a large development, he calls it a "15minute city" where all necessary amenities are withing a 15 minute walk or bike ride. To facilitate this, the design includes a "red loop" trail, circling the site and connecting all of the mixed use buildings.

To preserve the natural beauty of the site, the design maximizes the use of natural features, with bridges over bayous, underpasses, and exising easements.

Gonzalo said that Generation Park is Houston's largest new commercial development and future home to the world's most innovative businesses. With 4,200 contiguous acres, Generation Park has the capacity and flexibility to accommodate large-scale and small-scale users alike. Its strategic location in Houston's fastest growing zip code, 77044, provides the resources companies need to grow and thrive. Unimpeded access to all of Houston's major transportation corridors means people and products move with ease. Generation Park is

CONTINUED. See Generation Park, P. 6



Generation Park is a 4230 acre mixed use development bounded by Summerwood to the north, Lake Houston to the east, Sheldon State Park to the south, and Greens Bayou watershed to the west. The development spans Beltway 8. Mixed land use shown above: Orange: office and residential; Blue: Life Sciences R & D; Dark Gray: Office; and Purple: Industrial



San Jacinto College plans on developing a biotechnology program in this new building. They also have a process technology program on their Generation Park

JACINTO CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Pastor Stearns of Joseph House Awarded key to City

By Allan Jamail

Jacinto City, TX. Thursday, March 9, 2023 at the regular Jacinto City (JC) Council Meeting the mayor and city council awarded a ceremonial keyto-the-city to Pastor R. C. (Robert) Stearns, Executive Director of the new Jacinto City Joseph House (JH) food pantry (see photo). Joseph Houses are located in several places in Harris and Montgomery County; they provide free food, clothing and other services for qualifying needy residents. They were created by Pastor R. C. (Robert) Stearns along with a host of sponsors and



Joseph House Volunteers & Jacinto City Officials. Standing: L – R: Lon Squyres, City Manager, & Councilmember's Gregg Robinson & J. J. Rivas, Mayor Ana Diaz, Councilmember's Allen Lee, Carmela Garcia & Mario Gonzales. Seated: L - R: Pat Edgett, Flo Davis, R. C. Stearns, Donna Dailey & Sam Valdez (Photo by Allan Jamail.)

Stearns upon receiving the award thanked city officials, volunteers and everyone who's made the pantry a success. He recognized the city's liaison, Councilman J. J. Rivas, and Rivas's mother-in-law Donna Parrott Dailey who began the process which ended with the city and JH partnering together for the food pantry in JC. Stearns introduced Attorney Carvana Cloud; she said she's helping the JH's with domestic violence cases.

CONTINUED. SEE JC City Council, PAGE 3

SHELDON ISD NEWS

Sheldon ISD After-School Program Receives State Recognition

Executive Director of Federal Programs Dr. Brenda Dearmon has received her 20 year pin for leadership in Sheldon ISD's After-School Program. She was recognized by the Texas Out of School Conference team sponsored by Westat. During her tenure as principal of Monahan Elementary School, she partnered with Harris County Department of Education Center for Af-



ter School Summer and Enrichment for Kids to apply for funds through the Texas Education Agency to offer After School programming. Now, 20 years later, Sheldon ISD continues to offer after-school programming to all students, pre-kindergarten through 12th grade at no charge. The program supports academics as well as offers enrichment activities like piano, karate, drum-line, dance, Spanish, SEL, college and career readiness, STEM, and more.

KHS Advances in One Act Play



The King High School theater department has advanced from Zone to District UIL One Act Play contest. They received several awards including Best Crew, Best Performer - Daniel Martinez Rivera, All-Star Cast - Aylecia Soto, Caleb Johnson, Mellow Alfaro and Erik Perez and All-Star Crew Hugo Palacios.

KHS Dance Wins Super Sweepstakes Team Award

The King High School dance team brought home multiple awards in their last contest on March 4 at the MDDT State Competition at Klein Cain High School. The team danced in six different dance categories and earned the following:

Pantherettes:

Super Sweepstakes Team

Choreography Awards in Novelty, Contemporary, and Pom Categories

1st Place Medium Team Novelty

2nd Place Medium Team Pom

1st Place Medium Team Contemporary

2nd Place Medium Team

Best Overall Team Novelty

Pantherettes Officers:

Super Sweepstakes Officers

Super Sweepstakes Team

Choreography Award in Jazz, Novelty, and Contemporary Categories

1st Place Medium Team Officer Novelty

Tryouts for the 2023-2024 Pantherettes will be April 4-6 from 5:00-6:30 p.m. at King High School.





Sheldon Offers Bilingual Programs for Primary Grades

Would you like your child to be bilingual? Sheldon ISD offers a dual language program for students entering kindergarten or first grade for the 2023-24 school year. Contact the multilingual department at 281-727-3650 for more information.

Parent Engagement Survey Available Through March 31

Sheldon ISD is requesting parent feedback in the annual parent engagement survey to support the district's desire for continuous improvement. Please complete only one survey for each campus your student(s) attend. The survey can be found on the school district's website at $\underline{www.sheldonisd.com}$.

Climate Justice Action Plan,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

According to Andy Escobar, Senior Campaign Coordinator, for the Coalition for Environment, Equity & Resilience (CEER) the events sponsors were. Harris County Precinct 2 – Commissioner Adrian Garcia, Harris County Office of Sustainability and the Jacob & Terese Hershey Foundation.

Attendees gathered in small groups to share how industries have harmed their communities and discuss various ways to bring the environment back closer to the original way the land was when the first inhabitants lived there.

Austin, Texas' Tane Ward was the presenter of the three hour program. He has many years experience working with Native communities to help protect lands and preserve their sovereignty in resistance to the capitalist state. From 2011-2012, he served as senior advisor to the Cabildo Gobernador of the Arahuaco pueblo -over thirty-six thousand strongin the successful campaign to stop development of mining inside Arahuaco territory.

Professionally, Tane is a movement organizer working in the Gulf South of the US, working at the intersection of environmental and racial justice. He is the Senior Organizing Manager for the Sierra Club, managing organizers throughout Texas, Louisiana and Mississippi. Tane is dedicated to anti-racist organizing principles and is a founding member of the Undoing Racism Austin Collective. He has worked extensively with community groups in Austin for many years. Tane aims to offer a space for organizers interested in the intersection of land based struggles with other social justice movements and spiritual practice that rejects new-ageism, Native appropriation and instead fosters connection with the spirit of the land and its inhabitants.

After brief introductions Tane gave his explanation and opinion to the entire assembly on how over time industries have altered their lives by harming the environment. Then the agenda for the event was broken down for class participation in smaller groups of 6 to 8 members in the group. Each group independent from the other groups presented their visions and the values of them for a healthier earth. Each group to shared stories of how their own communities have had problems with industries encroaching and causing harm to their neighborhood.

Maxine Gomez of the Generation Z, a Houston Organizer affiliated with The Public Citizen gave her opinion about the day's meeting. She said, "Precinct 2 isn't blind to the health and environmental impact of the nearby oil refineries and concrete batch plants. The effects of these facilities are all around us, so I found it vital for the community to be involved in the county's first-ever Climate Action Plan planning process.

At this meeting, I saw the drive for a healthy and prosperous community that makes our precinct unique. We don't want our experiences ignored, and the Coalition For Environmental, equity, and Resilience (CEER) and Precinct 2 did a wonderful job of acknowledging this. It was our stories that were at the forefront of our time together, and it is our community solutions that will create lasting change in Harris County.

This is part of what a county climate action plan should do - center our voices. And I hope this remains true as the county moves forward with the climate action plan." To learn more about the Public Citizen visit: www.citizen.org/texas

Carolyn Stone, one of the organizers of the Channelview Health & Improvement Coalition (C.H.I.C) said, "I do believe today's meeting is a step in the right direction. Community members are the individuals most intimately aware of the problems related to industries in their

community and the barriers community members' face that are detrimental to their ability to resolve or prevent the problems. Meetings such as today's meeting provide a platform in which community members are given the ability to interact with governing and other helpful entities to bring awareness to the problems and to, hopefully, provide input and create partnerships in resolving the problems. I think we need more meetings like this because, with the saturation of industry in our communities you cannot identify, address or resolve all the problems facing one community much less multiple communities in one meeting." To participate in C.H.I.C. contact them c.h.i.c.77530@gmail.com

Walter Mallet, an environmental activist who has been active in Houston's Fifth Ward in dealing with the Union Pacific Railroad's creosote contamination of the underground water aquifers that supplies drinking water to Fifth Ward's residents, said, "This meeting is a beginning of something that could be major in finding answers to a lot of problems that exist in our communities. Without these voices for our communities we are doomed!!!! The systems in place continue to fail the people, and the time that some of the problems are being taken care of, more problems have been introduced on us causing more threats to our communities. Industries feels like they're superior to us ordinary folks and since they are so important to ordinary people's economy they feel like they don't have to listen and or take any actions to remedy problems they're causing to communities.

Araceli Ramos, Hispanic Ambassador/ Liaison for CEER and other organizations was one of the leaders for the Spanish speaking only group. She said, "I often serve as an interpreter because the Hispanic community's faces difficulties with the lack of understanding the English language. Usually in public meetings they don't have an interpreter, the level of vocabulary they speak makes it hard to understand the laws, and we need Language Justice!"

She said, "These types of meetings are helpful to the Hispanic community because we need to know where our tax funds are going to improve our quality of life and our environment. We demand transparency and equality! The Hispanic community cannot share their thoughts, visions or values because the lack of language understanding. Language is a barrier for us in this type of a meeting."

"If our community could better understand these meetings would be helpful to make real changes in our health. There is so much pollution and Hispanics are very much affected with health issues, especially asthma. I heard one comment from a Hispanic lady today who said we don't know where to complain on the issues affecting our community."

Andy Escobar, a CEER Senior Campaign Coordinator said to Allan Jamail the writer for the North Channel Star, "We want to thank you once again for taking time out of your past weekend to join us for this very important conversation. The CEER team is filled with excitement as we reflect on the rich input you all provided us as we work with Harris County and the Precincts to develop this framework for climate justice moving forward.

As we mentioned, this is the first meeting and we were so grateful to share space with community leaders, advocates, and members from every corner of the Precinct. Our plan is to continue adding to this conversation with another community meeting in Precinct 1 later this spring.

Expect more updates from CEER, Harris County, and our collaborators as we embark on a transformative effort to build a future that is safe and resilient for all."

To learn more about CEER visit: ceerhouston.org



CHARLOTTE'S WEB By Charlotte Jackson



Let's Celebrate

This week has been a refreshing time for many as schools are out for Spring Break. Families and loved ones have been able to experience the Annual Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo as well as trips to Galveston. Others have traveled out of state, on cruises or even to Mexico. As Spring begins next week, you have an opportunity to celebrate.

First Baptist Church of Galena Park will be hosting a Community Block Party on Sunday, March 19 beginning at 3 p.m. This will be an exciting time for families to gather and experience an "old fashion" community celebration. Not only will there be a message of love and hope shared but several hours for everyone to de-stress and enjoy visiting friends and neighbors while perhaps meeting some new people. Get to know those that you may only see at the local football or baseball game. Maybe your children have classmates whom you have never met their parents. This would be a great time to talk with others about what plans will be for the summer to help our children have a productive summer.

Oscar Saenz will be the guest evangelist who will be sharing a special message. Levi the Rapper will bring special music which the younger guests will enjoy and who knows, maybe some of the parents in the audience will be reunited with friends they have not seen lately.

Pastor Ramos and their church would like to provide the opportunity for community members to relax. Prayer partners will be available for those who want prayer. This is an opportunity for residents and friends to be reminded that Galena Park is a great place to live, work, worship and volunteer. It is a small town with many opportunities. Come out and share with others about why you love Galena Park. Let others know what resources you know of that can help them. Get to know others and celebrate that even though we have gone through some rough situations lately, things will get better. Time will heal hearts and relationships. Perhaps instead of jumping on social media to complain about others, let's take the time to share positive things that are happening. We have a great school district with many exciting programs for the children. Our Board of Trustees serve for FREE to keep the district operating within the guidelines of the Texas Education Agency. Administrators, teachers, support staff, transportation employees, custodians and every employee do not do it just for an income. To work in education. one must have a passion for education and

When you read this, pick up the phone and call a friend, call a teacher, call an elected official, call someone who works at the local restaurant, call someone in law enforcement and invite them to come out and enjoy Galena Park.



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Marin is new JC Police Officer



Jacinto City Police Officer takes oath. L – R: Police Chief Joe Ayala, Officer Leonardo Marin & his father Rafael Martinez. His mother Rosa Marin was present but not in the photo. (Photo by Allan Jamail)

JC City Council,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Stearns said the pantry was also for Galena Park and the surrounding area's residents. Anyone needing help should first make an appointment by calling 281-936-8175 or 281-652-836. Do not go to the 1026 Mercury Drive JC facility or the main JH food bank at 7802 Jensen, Houston without first calling and making an appointment. Joseph House Community Outreach Center is a 501c3 nonprofit organization dedicated to serving the Houston metropolitan area. For additional locations and information vishttps:// josephhousecoc.org

On the agenda prepared by Joyce Raines, City Secretary, the council approved the quarterly investment report, 101-2021 – 9-30-2022. City Manager Lon Squyres said the city doesn't invest in companies but rather in certificates of deposits.

City Attorney Jim De-Foyd gave the first reading of ordinance 2023-1 declaring unopposed candidates (mayoral & two council seats) and canceling the May 6, 2023 election, it was approved by the council.

Officer Leonardo R. Marin a former Channelview graduate was approved by council and sworn in as a Jacinto City police officer. Chief Joe Ayala said Officer Marin had been working in the Harris County Jail Division and recently graduated from a police academy in 2022, this will be his first patrol officer experience. Officer Marin's parents (Rafael Martinez & Rosa Marin), family and friends were on hand to see him take the oath and see his dad pin his badge on his uniform. (see photo).

Lt. M. Longrigg presented the annual police department's Racial Profiling Report.

Police Chief Joe Ayala said he's having his officers crack down on ordinance violations of dogs running loose, both dog and cat owners will be cited if their pets are without a collar and or wearing a city licensing tag. Also the officers will be giving citations to unhealthy public nuisances, vehicles and boats without current tags and properties with high grass enabling mosquito breeding.

Mayor Diaz said the city would begin mosquito spraying tomorrow on Friday. However there wasn't any spraying and upon checking with the public work's staff they said the city failed to get the spraying equipment approved by the county in time to catch this year's first crop of hatching mosquitoes. The city is very vulnerable

to mosquitoes since it's located on the east and south with large amount of wooded acreage holding lots of natural water ponds for mosquitoes to breed. At the time of this writing there still hasn't been any help by spraying.

City Manager Squyres reported on the Union Pacific Railroad and the City of Houston beginning a pilot program to help prevent some of Houston's most critical road crossings from being blocked more than ten minutes. He said it's not going to help JC in the near future but maybe later. He gave an example of a train blocking every road crossing in the city from the extreme east end to the extreme west end of the city all at the same time. Thus preventing emergency vehicles from responding to emergencies in a timely manner by being unable to get to the emergency. Another example he gave was when the train's engineer stopped the train, got out and walked to Popeye's Chicken for lunch.

After the meeting a couple of citizens said the city is maintaining the same dogs for months upon months in the dog pound and that's why the dog catcher doesn't pick up all the loose dogs. There's no room for more dogs to be impounded they said and people are afraid to do health walks because of the at-large dogs. Squyres said they have some temporary cages to put dogs in and that's not an issue to prevent the dog catcher from picking up more loose dogs.

The city is plagued with lots of dogs running loose and getting into garbage and creating public health nuisances. Their owners won't keep them penned up nor get them licensed as required by law; usually the owner will receive a mere warning which isn't followed up on to make them get their tags. Citizens complain about the same dogs over and over to $% \left\{ 1,2,\ldots ,n\right\}$ no avail. Mayor Diaz agreed there are too many loose dogs roaming everywhere, she said her husband's complained and said he's afraid of all the loose dogs while he's out running.

The boy's and girl's baseball parade is Saturday, March 25th at 9am on Market Street. The annual Easter egg hunt is April 1st at 1pm in the city's baseball fields.

The Channelview American Legion Post 644 is having a fish fry on Good Friday (2-7 pm, April 7 @ 16417 Market St. 77530) to help fund the reopening of Jacinto City's Post 397 which has been closed a couple of years.

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ASK DIAMOND JIM

Diamond Jim: "What is Diamond Carat Size?"

If you are in the market for a diamond, it is important that you understand what "carat" is. Many people are under the impression that a larger carat number means a bigger diamond. This may or may not be true. Let's look at what exactly carat is and how it affects your buying process. Carat actually refers to the physical weight of the diamond, not the size of the diamond. In most cases, the more a diamond weighs, the larger the size will be. In the case of "good" to "ideally" cut diamonds, the weight and size should remain consistent. In the case of poorly cut stones, a one carat diamond could look bigger or smaller than an ideally cut one carat diamond.



HOW DIAMONDS ARE WEIGHED

Diamonds are weighed using a specific scale that measures in carats (abbreviated as: ct). Because of the precise measurement that is needed to determine the actual weight, it is important that such scales are calibrated to ensure precise weights. Many of the scales that jewelers use are made solely for the purpose of determining how many carats diamonds weigh

CARAT EFFECT ON DIAMOND PRICE

Without a doubt, a diamond that is two carats is going to cost more than a diamond that is one carat. That is why it is important to first determine what quality you want in your diamond. Work with a jewelry professional that you trust to help you find the quality and size diamond that best fits your budget.

Aside from carat weight, there are other factors that contribute to the price of a diamond including cut, color, and clarity. When it comes to the "4 C's", carat weight is last in importance. Cut, Color, and Clarity will drive retail pricing in all diamond weights. While the most popular carat weight for a diamond is usually one carat, there are smaller diamonds that are much more affordable and are just as beautiful. Remember that size is not the only thing that will make your diamond stand out, you also want to consider the cut!

HIGHER CARAT DOESN'T ALWAYS MEAN BETTER

A higher-carat diamond does not always mean that you are purchasing a diamond that is of high quality. There are multiple factors that go into determining the quality of a diamond including cut, color, and clarity. If a diamond is two carats but has an imperfect cut and does not have a lot of clarity, it might not be as expensive as a one-carat diamond that is perfectly cut and has plenty of clarity.

Try not to focus too much on the carat weight of a diamond when you are out shopping. You might find a smaller diamond that you absolutely love and are less inclined to buy it simply because of the carat size. A + carat (.75ct) diamond that shows a lot of fire, sparkle, and brilliance can easily be more valuable and more beautiful than a 1 carat diamond that is included and doesn't appeal to one's eye. Remember, if the diamond is beautiful to you, it will be beautiful to others as well. Size may matter, but when it comes to diamonds . . . quality will win out every time.

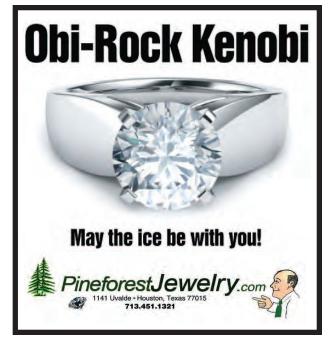
If you are looking for a birthstone, look no further than <u>Pineforest Jewelry</u>. <u>Contact us</u> if you need assistance deciding on the right gemstone to buy.

Thank you for reading the "Ask Diamond Jim" column and for supporting the North Channel Star Newspaper!

Diamond Jim is a master jeweler, diamond dealer and precious metals broker. Pineforest Jewelry has been a proud member of the Independent Jewelers Organization (IJO) and the Retail Jewelers Organization (RJO) for many years. See more at:

www.pineforestjewelry.com.

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





OPINION PAGE \bigstar \bigstar

OPINION By Paul Bettencourt Texas State Senator

Let Voters decide whether to keep Daylight Savings Time... or Not

Sen. Paul Bettencourt & Rep. Mike Schofield Say Let Texans Vote on Daylight Saving Time! SJR 86 lets voters decide to eliminate time shift that occurs this weekend; Fall vote stops "spring forward"

Austin, TX – Senator Paul Bettencourt (R-Houston) filed SB 2329 & SJR 86 to let Texans vote on eliminating Daylight Saving Time. If the voters approve, this would group Texas with Arizona and Hawaii, the only two states that do not currently observe Daylight Saving Time in the United

"When you think of hot-button public policy issues, what usually comes to mind are things such as property tax relief and school finance and pension reform. However, the issue of Daylight Saving Time has roused passions on both sides of the debate for over 100 years," said Senator Bettencourt. "Texans like me want to be on one time, and the Federal government doesn't give us the option to vote to remain on standard time. SJR 86 gives Texans the opportunity to vote on the issue and settle the debate once and for all in the Lone Star State!" He added.

SB 2329 & SJR 86 would apply to all portions of Texas using Central Standard Time and Mountain Standard Time. If passed, the bill would require a vote on the November 7, 2023, General Election, where Texas voters would decide whether or not to abolish Daylight Saving Time. If approved by the voters, the change would take effect in 2024. Daylight Saving Time was first enacted in the United States during World War I but was repealed in 1919 over the Veto of President Woodrow Wilson. It was restarted during World War II, but it was repealed again three weeks after the end of the war during the Truman Administration. A patchwork quilt remained until Congress passed the Uniform Time Act in 1966, which allows States to remain on standard time if they wish.

"Texans are tired of having to change their clocks and lose an hour's sleep for no reason," said Rep. Mike Schofield (R-Katy, Cypress), the House author of the bill (HB 417 & HJR 22.) "People would like to get home from work and play with their kids without it being dark half the time. There's no reason not to fix this."

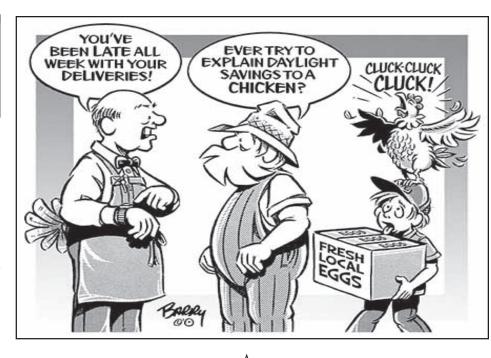
One major justification given for Daylight Saving Time is that it reduces energy consumption. However, studies on the issue have been mixed, with a 2008 Department of Energy study finding that an extended Daylight Saving Time "saved about 0.5 percent (1.3 billion kilowatt hours) in total electricity per day" over a four-week extension. A University of California Santa Barbara study however found that when Indiana moved to a statewide system in 2006 it caused a 1% increase in residential electricity use. At the Federal level U.S. Senator Marco Rubio (R-Florida) reintroduced legislation to make Daylight Saving Time permanent and end the twice a year adjustment of clocks.

"Instead of fall back and spring forward, it would be a fall vote to stop a spring forward!" Concluded Senator Bettencourt.

EDITOR'S NOTE: The above Opinion piece would eliminate Daylight Savings Time in Texas, just as Arizona and Hawaii do not observe it. The rest of the country would still be on Daylight Savings Time. HOWEVER, Senator Marc Rubio of Florida has introduced a bill in the U.S. Congress that would permanently KEEP Daylight Savings Time all 12 months, in all states nationally. It is not known whether this bill will be acted upon favorably, or adopted.

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





STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS **By Gary Borders**

Courts are supposed to re-

port all involuntary mental

health hospitalizations to the

Texas Department of Public

Safety, which then sends

them to the FBI's national

background check system.

However, problems with how

existing state law was writ-

ten led to those hospitaliza-

tions not being reported by

The measure comes after

an 18-year-old shooter in

Uvalde with a history of men-

tal health problems killed 19

students and two teachers at

Robb Elementary last year.

However, since that shooter

was never hospitalized, clos-

ing the loophole would not

have prevented him from le-

gally buying two assault ri-

Five women are suing the

state, saying its near-total

abortion ban resulted in them

being denied abortions de-

spite complications in their

pregnancies that put their

WOMEN SUE STATE OVER

ABORTION BAN

courts.

House Pushes Armed Officer at All School

Under legislation prioritized by House Speaker Dade Phelan, every Texas school would have an armed police officer, and aspiring teachers would receive extra support.

The Dallas Morning News reported the bill would also provide \$15,000 in annual funding for safety measures for each school in the state. Another bill would increase the annual allotment per student for safety measures from \$10 to \$100

Another House measure is aimed at improving teacher retention and recruitment, The Morning News reported. The measure, sponsored by state Rep. Harold Dutton, D-Houston, would create a new grant to help prospective teachers pursing special education or bilingual certification, and would increase funding for educator mentoring. Special education and bilingual teacher positions are especially hard to fill in Tex-

RISING CAR INSURANCE RATES CAUSING STICKER

Average statewide auto insurance rates are up nearly 24% over last year, according to a report by the Texas Standard. That is the highest increase in at least 20 years, according to the Texas Department of Insurance. That comes on top of increased costs for vehicles both new and used, and higher fuel

Michael Schnurman, a business columnist with The Morning News, was interviewed on the Standard and

had this to say, in part: "There are several elements that play into it. One...is the higher values of cars and used cars in particular - they really shot up during the pandemic," he said. "But the claims are also up a lot...When driving resumed, the number of accidents and the severity of accidents has really been a lot higher. If you look at fatalities, I think they were up 18%."

Schnurman suggested consumers shop around for auto insurance and look for discounts for bundling it with homeowners' insurance or



multiple vehicles on the same account.

PUC RECOMMENDS HEFTY FINE AGAINST POWER COMPANY

The Public Utility Commission has recommended that the Texas-New Mexico Power Company pay a \$1.74 million fine for inaccurate estimates of its customers' electric usage.

In a report released last week, The PUC said the power company failed to correct a violation of an order to install new meters that can be read remotely in a timely manner.

The commission said "TNMP's new meter rollout was significantly delayed," resulting in the utility "estimating thousands of meters for months on end."

The investigation found that TNMP was given threeyears' notice that the "communication backbone" of its metering system was going to be discontinued by its thirdparty provider but failed to produce a plan until halfway through that timeframe. It also failed to have a backup plan in case its vendor could not provide the 170,000 new meters on schedule, according to the PUC.

TEXAS SENATE PASSES FIRST BILL OF SESSION

The Texas Senate last week passed a bill that would close a loophole in state law that allowed gun sales to people between the ages of 16 and 18 who have been involuntarily hospitalized for mental illness. The Texas Tribune reported it was the first bill passed by the Senate this session.

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POSTSCRIPT Carrie Classon

"More Useful"

I spent last week trying to be useful.

I volunteered for a writers' conference in San Miguel de Allende, Mexico, where my husband, Peter, and I stay. I love writers' conferences. I love that people will travel from far away just to talk about writing, to meet other writers, to learn about writing, to listen to established writers, and to eat. It was a terrific week, although it was tiring because I ended up as the designated conference sheepdog.

Every event of this kind needs at least one sheepdog, and since I had fewer administrative and computer skills than other volunteers, I was happy to do it. Being a conference sheepdog is exactly like being a real sheepdog except, instead of sheep, there are lost writers wandering around and getting separated from the herd—and I didn't actually nip at their heels.

Instead, I did my best to help them get to their workshop or other event. I tried to keep them in a tight group, and when I found a lost writer, bleating in the lobby, I restored them to the herd.

"Are you always here?" the writers started asking me on the second or third day.

"Always," I told them.

I figured, in a strange hotel, in a strange country, trying to do things they had never done before, having one person they could count on at the entrance of the hotel every morning might make the whole thing a little less daunting.

And I had fun. I sat in on several talks and discussions with writers, and I had a lot of interesting conversations with a lot of folks. At the end of the week, I had blisters on my feet, and I was very tired, but the conference went well, and I was proud I'd had a small part

It got me thinking about how important volunteers are. I have to confess, I don't volunteer a lot. My parents volunteer for all sorts of things. They help homebound seniors (who I suspect are considerably younger than they are). They help with church projects and funerals and fundraisers. My parents are an active part of their community up north, and I know they make a big differ-

I have a friend who has been busy painting a set for a theater production all week. "I was on my hands and knees all day painting!" she told me. I felt bad complaining about my blis-

I don't do many things like that. I'm thinking I should do

Because volunteers of all stripes make things possible that would not otherwise happen—and the things that happen because of volunteers are some of the nicest parts of being in a community.

Volunteers help arts organizations and libraries. They help older members of their community, people new to their community, old people within their community, and people outside their community and around the world. Volunteers put out fires, teach children to read, organize concerts and festivals and parades and potlucks. Volunteers invest more than money. They spend their time. They give their hearts. Volunteers make wherever they live a better

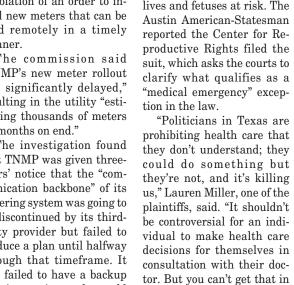
"Thank you for volunteering!" the writers said as they left the conference for the last time. I don't think I deserve a lot of thanks just for being a sheepdog. That's how I am, naturally.

And I gained a new appreciation for how important being a volunteer could be. The blisters on my paws have healed and I am already thinking of ways I could be more useful in the future.

Till next time,

Carrie

Carrie's memoir is "Blue Yarn." Learn more about her writing at CarrieClasson.com.



plaintiffs, said. "It shouldn't be controversial for an individual to make health care decisions for themselves in consultation with their doctor. But you can't get that in Texas anymore." The Statesman reported

that Miller was pregnant with twins when doctors told her one of the babies had a severe genetic condition and was not going to survive. which threatened her life and the life of the other baby. She ended up traveling to Colorado to have an abortion and is scheduled to give birth to the healthy remaining twin this month.

DROUGHT MAP SPREADS IN PARTS OF STATE

Drought conditions by the end of February covered 62% of the state, up nine percentage points from a month earlier, according to Dr. Mark Wentzel, hydrologist with the Texas Water Development Board. Drought-free areas include all of East Texas up to Dallas County to the west and Jefferson County to the south. The most severe drought conditions are in the far northern edge of the Panhandle, the counties surrounding San Antonio, and nearly all of South Texas.

"The latest seasonal drought outlook from the National Weather Service is optimistic for East and North Central Texas," Wentzel wrote. "Through the end of May, that part of the state is expected to remain droughtfree. Unfortunately, drought is expected to expand in the rest of the state."

Judge Stephens speaks to a class at Crosby Middle School



Judge Joe Stephens recently spoke to a class at Crosby Middle School, about the pitfalls of vaping and the keys to success. Judge Stephens thanked Robert Destin for the opportunity. He also said that the students were a very attentive group, and that they were on the right path because they listened and had great questions. He praised Crosby ISD and it's faculty, staff and administration for doing a great job of educating their students.

Crosby Bicentennial Committee planning huge 200th celebration



CROSBY 200 CBC COMMITTEE MEETING 2-28-23

Bottom row L-R: Kim Harris, Co-Chair for CBC representing the Crosby-Huffman Chamber of Commerce; Molly McGinty, representative from Crosby Edith Fae Cook Cole Branch Library; Donna Davenport Co-Chair for CBC representing the Crosby Historical Society; Jody Fuchs, CBC member and representing the Crosby Historical Society; Amanda Brown, Co-Chair for Firetrucks, Ambulance, Big Trucks, etc. Committee; Alicia Spear, Chair for Social Media and Chair for Advertising and Promotions, Co-Chair for Vendors.

Top row L-R: Emily Armstrong, Co-Chair for CBC Cookbook Fundraiser; Jayne Anne Clifton, Chair for Raffle and Auction and CBC Quilts; Gene Hicks, Chair for Dance and representative for Crosby Fair and Rodeo; Rachel Hicks, Chair for Pin Buttons; Karen Foster, Chair for

CROSBY - The Bicentennial committee is meeting monthly, according to co-chair Donna Davenport, and plans are proceeding for a spectacular 200th Birthday Party for Crosby involving the whole community.

As can be seen in the photo, various chairpersons are planning a parade, cannon salute, dance, vendor booths, Mayor for a Day, car show, quilt show, auction, art show, cookbook, business involvement, birthday cake --

You're invited to get involved. Next committee meeting is March 28, contact Donna Davenport at 281-731-7010.

community size, CISD students, drill team, and



Dear Friend,

It's hard to believe the first month of the 88th Legislative Session is over! This week, the Speaker of the Texas House of Representatives, Dade Phelan, announced committee assignments. I am honored and humbled to continue working on three powerful com-

This session I will continue to serve as Vice-Chair of the House Committee on State Affairs, which oversees a broad range of issues that affect our state government, from the electric grid to cyber-security, and everything in between. I will also continue to serve on the House Committee on Licensing and Administrative Procedures, which tackles challenges facing our state's fast-growing industries, including over 200 occupational licenses. Additionally, I will continue to serve on the House Calendars Committee, which sets the agenda and floor schedule for the Texas House of Representatives.

Over the next few weeks, committees will begin hearing legislation. I look forward to working with my colleagues and stakeholders to identify policies that are reflective of the needs and interests of all Texans.

Below, you will find legislative and community updates. As always, my staff and I remain at your service. If you have any questions about activities at the Capitol or in the District, or if you would like assistance with an issue, please do not hesitate to call us at either (713) 675-8596 or (512) 463-0614.

Kind regards, Ana Hernandez

Advocacy Visits

Representative Hernandez with members of the Associated General Contractors on February 8th.



On February 6th, #TeamHernandez hosted Channelview ISD teachers, Mr. Johnson and Ms. Ballard, from Lance Corporal Anthony Aquirre Junior High. I am grateful for Mr. Johnson and Ms. Ballard for taking the time to discuss ways the Legislature can support our educators and students.



#TeamHernandez welcomed the Texas Retired Teachers Association on February 8th to discuss their legislative priorities. Our teachers took care of us as students. Let's make sure we take care of them with a meaningful cost-of-living adjustment.



Community Updates

Houston Crushed Concrete TCEQ Public Meeting



On February 6th, the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) held a public meeting on Houston Crushed Concrete's application for Air Quality Permit Number 170524. Community members met at the Holiday Inn - East Freeway to ask questions and provide public comment. The Executive Director of TCEO must now respond in writing to all public comments before approving or denying the permit.

SNAP Replacement Benefits

The Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) has received federal approval to allow Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) recipients to apply for replacement benefits for food lost or destroyed due to recent severe winter weather by dialing 2-1-1.

Houston Public Library

Fines Update

The Houston Public Library is now fine-free! From now until February 18th, you can visit any library in the HPL system to request all of your past dues be cleared.



LET'S TALK FOOD!

Harris County Precinct 2 Commissioner Adrian Garcia and Precinct2gether, Inc. are serving FREE hot meals to qualifying homebound seniors in your area delivered by our dedicated food delivery drivers Monday through Friday.

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Generation Park Development,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

located:

--10 minutes to George Bush Intercontinental Airport (IAH Airport)

--15 minutes to the Port of Houston

--20 minutes to downtown Houston

Redemption Square, the 52-acre mixed-use lifestyle district comprised of class A offices, hotels, luxury apartments, restaurants, shops and daily services, is designed to provide all the amenities your employees want and need in one central location and promotes a healthy walkable and bikeable lifestyle. Adjacent to Generation Park you will find thousands of homes, Texas' best schools, and a plethora of recreation in the Lake Houston community.

Over 2 million square feet of improvements have been completed at Generation Park to date, includcorporate headquarters, retail, luxury apartments, and a hotel. Many of these first buildings are in an area on Beltway 8 known as Redemption Square. Already built in this area are offices, residential apartments and condos, a Courtyard by Marriott hotel, and the FMC Headquarters building. Additionally, an area known as College Crossing includes buildings that house Lone Star College Kingwood, and San Jacinto College.



Overall view, with buildings integrated with water and nature: Beltway 8 at right.



Office Building in Redemption Square.



Proposed plan for a San Jacinto College campus in Generation Park.

Women's History Month

SUSAN B. ANTHONY (Feb. 15, 1820 - March 13, 1906 See Story on Page 6

Women's History Month... one of a series. By Allan Jamail

Susan B. Anthony (born Susan Anthony; February 15, 1820 – March 13, 1906) was an American social reformer and women's rights activist who played a pivotal role in the women's suffrage movement. Born into a Quaker family committed to social equality, she collected anti-slavery petitions at the age of 17. In 1856, she became the New York state agent for the American Anti-Slavery Society.

Anthony embarked on her career of social reform with energy and determination. Schooling herself in reform issues, she found herself drawn to the more radical ideas of people like William Lloyd Garrison, George Thompson and Elizabeth Cady Stanton. Soon she was wearing the controversial Bloomer dress, consisting of pantaloons worn under a knee-length dress. Although she felt it was more sensible than the traditional heavy dresses that dragged the ground, she reluctantly quit wearing it after a year because it gave her opponents the opportunity to focus on her apparel rather than her ideas.

In 1851, she met Elizabeth Cady Stanton, who became her lifelong friend and co-worker in social reform activities, primarily in the field of women's rights. Together they founded the New York Women's State Temperance Society after Anthony was prevented from speaking at a temperance conference because she was female. During the Civil War they founded the Women's Loyal National League, which conducted the largest petition drive in United States history up to that time, collecting nearly 400,000 signatures in support of the abolition of slavery. After the war, they initiated the American Equal Rights Association, which campaigned for equal rights for both women and African Americans. They began publishing a women's rights newspaper in 1868 called The Revolution. A year later, they founded the National Woman Suffrage Association as part of a split in the women's movement. The split was formally healed in 1890 when their organization merged with the rival American Woman Suffrage Association to form the National American Woman Suffrage Association, with Anthony as its key force. Anthony and Stanton began working with Matilda Joslyn Gage in 1876 on what eventually grew into the sixvolume History of Woman Suffrage. The interests of Anthony and Stanton diverged somewhat in later years, but the two remained close friends.

In 1872, Anthony was arrested in her hometown of Rochester, New York for voting in violation of laws that allowed only men to vote. She was convicted in a widely publicized trial. Although she refused to pay the fine, the authorities declined to take further action. In 1878, Anthony and Stanton arranged for Congress to be presented with an amendment giving women the right to vote. Introduced by Sen. Aaron A. Sargent (R-CA), it later became known colloquially as the Susan B. Anthony Amendment. It was eventually ratified as the Nineteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution in 1920.

Anthony traveled extensively in support of women's suffrage, giving as many as 75 to 100 speeches per year and working on many state campaigns. She worked internationally for women's rights, playing a key role in creating the International Council of Women, which is still active. She also helped to bring about the World's Congress of Representative Women at the World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago in 1893.

When she first began campaigning for women's rights, Anthony was harshly ridiculed and accused of trying to destroy the institution of marriage. Public perception of her changed radically during her lifetime, however. Her 80th birthday was celebrated in the White House at the invitation of President William McKinley. She became the first female citizen to be depicted on U.S. coinage when her portrait appeared on the 1979 dollar

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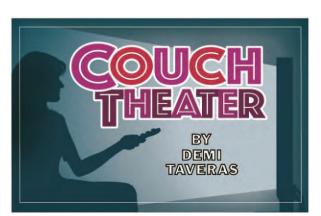
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Stephanie Hsu, Michelle Yeoh and Ke Huy Quan star as the Wang family in "Everything Everywhere All At

"Everything Everywhere All at Once"

"Everything Everywhere All at Once" (R) — Evelyn Quan lives in a state of chaos in her everyday life. She is the owner of a laundromat and mother to her misunderstood daughter, Joy, and a million other tasks always seem to snatch up her attention.

Because of this, her relationships begin to fall apart, leading up to one seemingly ordinary day when her life gets flipped upside down. A version of her husband, Waymond, from an alternate universe, visits her in need of her help from the evil Jobu Tupaki, who plans to destroy each existing universe one by one. As this alternate Waymond teach-

es her about the multiverse, Evelyn learns she has a much bigger purpose than she ever imagined in the fight against Jobu.

With Michelle Yeoh and Ke Huy Quan taking home Golden Globes for this visually stunning film, "Everything Everywhere All at Once" is incredibly profound — and a mustwatch.

Out now. (Showtime) "You People" (R) — Ezra Cohen (Jonah Hill) hasn't had much luck in his quest for love, although marriage is something he definitely sees in his future. When he accidentally wanders into Amira's (Lauren London) car, thinking that she's his Uber driver, he begs her for the chance to make it up to her.

Ezra and Amira begin to hit it off, and Ezra finally feels like he's found the right person for him. As he makes plans to propose to Amira, Ezra's friend, Sam, tells him he needs to speak with Amira's family. So, Ezra sits down with Amira's parents (Eddie Murphy and Nia Long), and he finds that integrating his Jewish family with Amira's Black family isn't as seamless as he thought it'd be.

Julia Louis-Dreyfus and Mike Epps also star in this relatable comedy film, cowritten by Hill and director Kenya Barris. "You People" premieres Jan. 27.

(Netflix) "Shotgun Wedding" (R) - Originally starring Armie Hammer as the male lead before abuse allegations came out against him, this romantic comedy film about a destination wedding replaced him with Josh Duhamel in the male lead role, with Jennifer Lopez as his op-

They play a couple named Tom and Darcy, who are about to say their "I do's" in the perfect tropical setting. At first, Tom and Darcy think the worst of their worries will be dealing with their eccentric family members.

But then, right before the wedding, plans get interrupted by a heavily loaded gang of criminals. The criminals take Tom and Darcy's families hostage, but the couple manages to escape and attempts to get help while simultaneously running from the captors. Is there any better way to start the rest of your lives together?

This Prime Video original film premieres Jan. 27. (Prime Video) (c) 2023 King Features Synd., Inc.

ZQTMSQTM Q ZGUTME OSQTJFQR?

KOHQBQSTME HGOSO.

by Tony Rizzo

HOLLYWOOD — Vancouver-born Ryan Reynolds, now 46, is returning to Canada to build a 1.2-million-square-foot movie studio in Markham, Ontario, Canada, for a mere \$1.5 billion. Reynolds got more gold than Fort Knox from starring and producing "Deadpool" (2016), which cost \$58 million and made \$782.6 million, and "Deadpool 2" (2018), which cost \$110 million and made \$785.8 million. The upcoming "Deadpool 3" will cost \$200 million and costar Hugh Jackman and Leslie Uggams.

Lest we forget Tom Cruise, whose "Top Gun: Maverick" grossed upward of \$1.4 billion, making it the 12th top grossing film of all time. "Maverick" falls behind No. 1 grosser "Avatar" (\$2.9 billion), No. 2 "Avengers: Endgame" (\$2.7 billion) and newcomer and No. 3 "Avatar: The Way Of Water" (\$2.2 billion).

Cruise began shooting "Mission: Impossible — Dead Reckoning Part One" and "Dead Recknoning Part Two" back in February 2020, but they were shut down due to COVID and restarted shooting March 24, 2022. The films wrapped December 2022, with a total cost of \$290 million. "Part One" opens July 2023 and "Part Two" opens June 2024. "Mission Impossible: Fallout" (2018) cost \$178 million and grossed \$791.7 million. Need we say more?

Patricia Heaton (who filmed 209 episodes of "Everybody Loves Raymond" and 215 episodes of "The Middle," before being disappointed by only 18 episodes of CBS' "Carol's Second Act") is moving back into movies with the psychological thriller "The Beldham," co-starring Corbin Bernsen. Heaton's already completed "Mending the Line," with Brian Cox, and "The Unbreakable Boy," with Zachary Levi. Bernsen has the upcoming HBO miniseries "White House Plumbers," with Woody Harrelson, Justin Theroux, Domhnall Gleeson and Lena Headey, as well as the Showtime series "The Curse," starring Emma Stone, due soon.



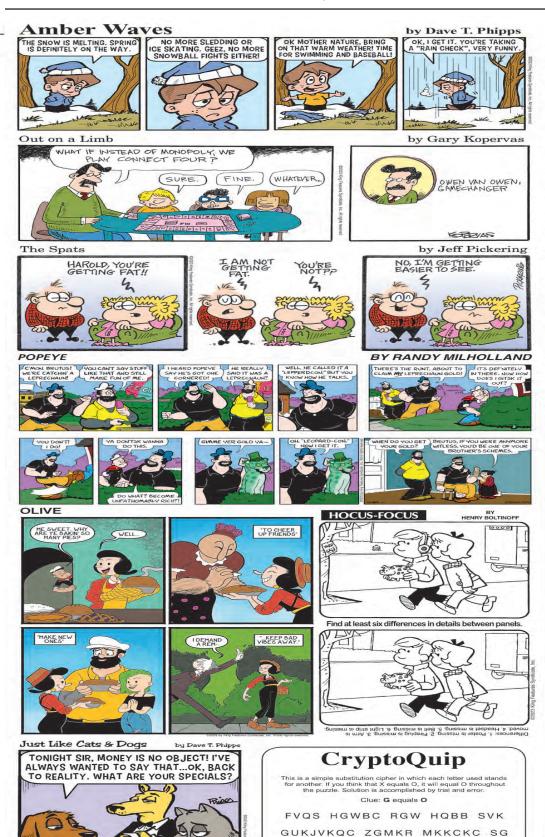
Raquel Welch ("The Three Musketeers")

Here's a final word on Raquel Welch, who died Feb. 15 at 82. When she passed, the last vestige of the classic Hollywood sex symbol went with her. The many times I saw her, she created the kind of stir accorded with Elizabeth Taylor or Marlene Dietrich, and she was always beautiful, approachable, glamorous and — above all — classv.

In 1973, I was writing five columns a month for movie magazines, and I was taken by her stunning performance in "The Three Musketeers" (and said so in print). One night, while covering an "A list" party at a private club, I saw Raquel Welch walking toward me. She said, "Hi, you've been pointed out to me as Tony Rizzo." I nodded that I was, and she continued, "I spend a small fortune on clipping services and have read several articles you've written praising my acting. I just wanted to thank you in person." She extended her hand, then turned and walked away. I said, "Don't let me down," to which she replied: "Don't worry I won't!" Now that was class! (c) 2023 King Features Synd., Inc.

March 13, 2023 Posting Date

ENTERTAINMENT



SCRAMBLERS

TANGE PONIE MARCH ARODE





WORD LADDERS Can you go from COINS to SPIES in 6 words? clam ploy

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STOWERS King Crossword



land?
3. TELEVISION: Eric Camden is a minister on which TV dramedy?
4. CHEMISTRY: Which element has the Latin name stannum (Sn)?
5. LITERATURE: Which book is first written in C.S. Lewis' Chronicles of Narnia series?

nia series?
6. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: What is the name of the bird logo on Twitter?
7. ANIMAL KINGDOM: How long does it take a sloth to digest food?
8. PSYCHOLOGY: What is the irrational fear represented by coulrophobia?
9. MYTHOLOGY: Which Greek god stared at his own reflection until he died?
10. INVENTIONS: What did Alessandro Volta invent?
© 2022 King Features Synd., Inc.

10. The electric battery. days.

8. Fear of clowns.

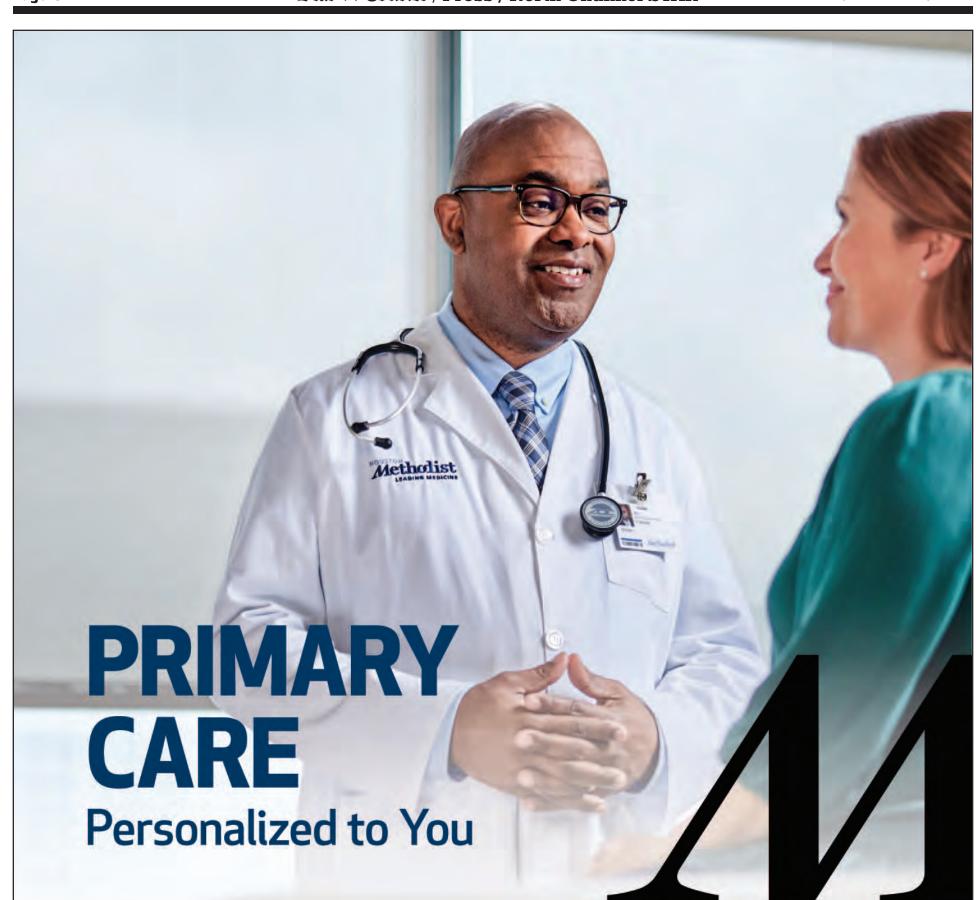
9. Marcissus. Larry. An average of 16 days, and up to 30

Answers 1. Bonnie Blue Butler. 2. Tasman Sea. 3. "Tht Heaven." 5. "The Lion, The Witch and the Ward-5.°" DOCTOR 1. Agent 2. Opine; 3. Charm; 4. Adore SLAY, PLAY, PLOY

CLAM, CLAW, SLAW, - WORD LADDER

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