



"MA" FERGUSON
(June 13, 1875 - June 25, 1961)
First Texas Female Governor - See Story on Page 7

NORTH CHANNEL ★ STAR

Your News, Your Newspaper

Serving all of the North Shore -- Channelview, Cloverleaf, Sheldon, Galena Park, Jacinto City
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CHANNEL CURRENTS

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 Street, 77530. Help fund the 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.

North Shore Rotary Annual FISH FRY May 20

48th Annual Catfish Fry and Crawfish Boil, Raffle for a new Toyota Tacoma pickup or Toyota Camry car or 20 other valuable prizes. Silent Auction, Live auction. Saturday, May 20 from 11am to 3pm at the Rotary Pavilion on Wallisville (behind the courthouse). Raffle Tickets \$100 which includes two fish fry meals. Dinner Tickets alone \$15. Everyone welcome!

APR. 14, FRIDAY

NCA Chamber Luncheon

North Channel Chamber monthly luncheon with guest speaker Harris County Pct. 2 Commissioner Adrian Garcia. Program is a Precinct Update.

NOTE: Luncheon is on the 2nd Friday this month only.

Luncheon is \$25 for members, and \$35 for non-members.

San Jacinto College North Monument Room. Reservations 713-450-3600 or info@ncachamber.com.

Scholarships available from East Houston Democrats

The East Houston Democrats are proud to announce we are now accepting applications for graduating Seniors from the four following high schools:

C.E. King, Channelview, Galena Park and North Shore
Our club will be awarding one Dr. Tujuana Hunter Memorial Scholarship in the amount of \$500 to each of these four high schools this Spring. If you have a student who in graduating this Spring, please reach out to our Club President Linda Britten at 281-782-6437 or Vice President Tyna Christmas at 713-501-5087 for an application.

Little League season opens; fields renovated

NORTH CHANNEL – Houston Little League Rotary fields marked the opening of the LL season with a Field Makeover to Celebrate the return of the LL Baseball Season.

In light of the new baseball and softball season, and as part of its returning Ball Park of Dreams initiative, Ball Park@Buns revealed the newly renovated North Shore Little League Fields for the North Shore Little League, Houston's Little League team, with an outdoor celebration featuring Little League games, community gatherings, food, and more.

The field renovations, complimentary of Ball Park Buns®, included leveling two baseball fields to allow players in wheelchairs better access to play, restoring the grass field and a new, flourishing tree planted near the field to enhance shade for game watchers. Over 250 people attended this afternoon's reveal.

Please find photos and



Little League season at the North Shore Rotary Club fields. Present are the teams for the Challenger Division and the NSLL Houston. Also the regular Major League Baseball season starts this week, on Thursday March 30.



Ball Park Buns sent a team to North Shore to help with the Little League field renovations. (photo credit: Ball Park Buns®)



Levelling the fields and new grass made the fields more friendly to handicapped.

videos from today's reveal here, (credit: Ball Park Buns®), before photos here, and additional information below my signature.

As part of its multi-year partnership with Little League® Baseball and Softball, Ball Park@Buns announced the return of its Ball Park of Dreams initiative where this year's efforts will kick off with three field renovations benefiting Little League teams located Houston TX, Charlotte NC, and Oakland, CA.

Ball Park of Dreams is part of Ball Park Buns' continued commitment to help serve Little League Baseball and Softball teams across the country as the Official Hot Dog and Hamburger Bun of the Little League World Series.

A press release with more information on the event can be found here

Note: Ball Park of Dreams is sponsored by-Ball Park Buns and Rolls, not Ball Park Franks

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH... LAST OF A SERIES

Bessie Coleman – First Black Female Pilot

By Allan Jamail

In 1921 a young Black Woman arose from the poverty of the Texas cotton fields to capture the hearts of the population of America. She taught Blacks to not only overcome racial barriers but the barriers within themselves. And in doing so...dare to dream. Her name was Bessie Coleman.

Bessie Coleman soared across the sky as the first woman of African Ameri-

can and Native American descent to earn her pilot's license in the U.S. Known for performing flying tricks, Coleman's nicknames were: "Brave Bessie," "Queen Bess," and "The Only Race Aviatrix in the World." Her goal was to encourage women and African Americans to reach their dreams – and this became her legacy. She was the first Black person to earn an international pilot's license. Though her life and career



BESSIE COLEMAN
(JANUARY 26, 1892- APRIL 30, 1926)

were cut short in a tragic plane crash, her life and legacy continue to inspire people around the world.

Born in Atlanta, Texas on January 26, 1892, Bessie Coleman had twelve brothers and sisters. Her mother, Susan Coleman, was an African American maid, and her father George Coleman was a sharecropper of mixed Native American and African American descent. In 1901, her father decided to move back to Oklahoma to try to

escape discrimination. Coleman's mother decided not to go with him. Instead, Bessie Coleman, her mother, and siblings stayed in Waxahachie, Texas, and she dreamt of a larger life. Bessie was smart and determined, she learned to read. She got books from a local lending library and read to her family at night: first the Bible, then Uncle Tom's

Continued. See Bessie Coleman, Page 7

Houston Community College won't renew Chancellor's Contract

HOUSTON – On March 1, 2023, the Houston Community College (HCC) Board of Trustees voted not to extend Chancellor Cesar Maldonado's contract beyond its expiration date of August 31, 2023. HCC issued the following: Statement from HCC Board Chair Dr. Cynthia Lenton-Gary Relating to HCC Chancellor's Contract:

"Chancellor Maldonado has had a notable nine-year run, in part, expanding student achievement, ensuring a high credit rating for our institution, forging value-added partnerships with the community, and expanding the mission, vision and strategic priorities of HCC.

On behalf of the HCC governing board, we celebrate the successes of HCC under the leadership of Dr. Cesar Maldonado and extend our gratitude for his leadership and longstanding service as HCC's Chancellor."

About Houston Commu-



CESAR MALDONADO
HCC CHANCELLOR

nity College: Houston Community College (HCC) is composed of 14 Centers of Excellence and numerous satellite centers that serve the diverse communities in the Greater Houston area by preparing individuals to live and work in an increasingly international and technological society. HCC is one of the country's largest singly accredited, open-admission community colleges offering associate degrees, certificates, workforce training and lifelong learning opportunities. To learn more, visit hccs.edu.

Harris County and Houston Community Rebuilds with the Help of Texas General Land Office

HOUSTON – (Contributed Story) The Texas General Land Office (GLO) has worked tirelessly to help residents of Harris County and Houston to recover from disasters such as Hurricane Harvey and Tropical Storm Imelda. The GLO's Homeowner Assistance Program (HAP) has rebuilt more than 1,000 homes in Houston and Harris County, with nearly 1,000 more approved or currently under construction.

At a recent event, Commissioner Dawn Buckingham, M.D., presented the keys to Earnestine Henry, an 86-year-old Houstonian whose 72-year-old home was flooded with 17 inches of water during the hurricane, causing significant damage. Henry's home is just one of the many success stories of the GLO's HAP program.

"No other state or terri-

Over 1000 homes rebuilt after disasters

GLO helps after hurricane, flooding



A milestone was marked by the presentation of keys to Earnestine Henry, an 86 year old Houstonian whose 72 year old home was flooded with 17 inches of water during Hurricane Harvey causing significant damage.

tory has performed like Texas in the recovery from Harvey," said Buckingham. "In total, the GLO has helped more than 10,000 Texas homeowners and renters by rebuilding homes and affordable rental units."

Ms. Henry's home is

now energy efficient and resilient against future storms. GLO homes meet the housing needs of the residents, including those with mobility challenges. On average, homes rebuilt

Continued. See 1000 homes Rebuilt, Page 6

MORE THAN 1,000 HOMES

completed in Houston and Harris County, with 1,000 more approved or under construction.

“My goal is simple, serve the people we are supposed to serve and do it well.”

COMMISSIONER
DAWN BUCKINGHAM, M.D.

10,000
TEXAS HOMEOWNERS AND RENTERS
have been helped across the state.

Texas General Land Office
Commissioner Dawn Buckingham, M.D.



CHARLOTTE'S WEB

By Charlotte Jackson



Be Proactive

As you travel down the streets in the neighborhood and have to dodge pot holes or broken curbs, what do you do? When you notice graffiti on an abandoned building or a dead animal on the road, do you complain on social media? Or do you make calls to report the issues?

Too often, we are guilty of complaining to anyone that will listen. But if you were craving a class of sweet tea, would you settle for tap water? No, you would put forth the extra effort and make some tea or go purchase some. So why do we think that if we complain to family and friends, something will get done?

I am not sure when our society decided that everyone else should do something but we have an obligation to do it ourselves. Somewhere along the way, maybe a generation or two ago, we began to expect everyone else to do something. Too often we demand something but give nothing to others. We except others to cater to our wants but do not put forth the effort for what we need.

Recently, I watched as a young mother quit her job and expected her aging parents to take care of her three children while she took off with her new boyfriend to travel. She would be on social media showing herself at concerts, the beach and always with a new set of nails and keeping her hair freshly colored and well-kept. Yet, her parents were struggling with the three children trying to make ends meet as well as helping the children with school.

Another neighbor, perhaps nearing the age of forty, was upset that his parents were not as excited about his arrival fourth child as they were about his first son. Could it be that they have paid child support for fifteen years as well as providing for the grandson's school uniforms, school supplies, athletic activities and much more while the son has piddled around trying to find his sweet spot? As these two adults have been catered to, they have become enabled to a point where they cannot set examples for their own children, much less others.

We need to teach responsibility and accountability. How? By example. When we see a problem, we need to sit down, research who or what agency can help. We need to call and report the issue and then follow it up with written correspondence. As we do this, we need to keep records of the issue and the steps we have taken. We need to share with our children, grandchildren, neighbors and others as to the progress made. This is not to brag, but to help them understand how to advocate for the community. Once progress has been made, take the time to send the person you contacted a thank you note. Some may ask why, since it is their job to make things happen. Yet, I learned many years ago that when we are polite and respectful, it is easier to get something done. And it usually happens much quicker.

North Channel Chamber Students of the Month Galena Park ISD

Congratulations



North Channel Area Chamber of Commerce Student of the Month Riley J., CTE Early College High School Student

Congratulations



North Channel Area Chamber of Commerce Student of the Month Joeramon T., North Shore Senior High School Student

Congratulations



North Channel Area Chamber of Commerce Student of the Month Gabriel B., Galena Park High School Student

Congratulations



North Channel Area Chamber of Commerce Elementary Teacher of the Month Demika Bookman

ASK DIAMOND JIM

Diamond Jim: “What are Ethical Diamonds?”



Diamonds have been a symbol of love, commitment, and wealth for centuries, but not all diamonds are created equal. Ethical diamonds, also known as “conflict-free” or “fair trade” diamonds, have been mined, cut, and processed in a socially and environmentally responsible way. These diamonds are a responsible and sustainable alternative to traditional diamonds that are often associated with human rights abuses and environmental destruction.

WHAT MAKES A DIAMOND ETHICAL?

An ethical diamond is one that has been mined, cut, and processed in a way that supports fair labor practices and responsible environmental management, and that does not contribute to human rights abuses. This includes ensuring that the diamond is not a product of conflict, or “blood diamond,” and that the diamond trade does not support illegal or unethical practices.

CONFLICT-FREE DIAMONDS

Conflict diamonds, also known as “blood diamonds,” are diamonds that are mined in war zones and sold to finance armed conflict against governments. These diamonds have been responsible for fueling brutal wars in Africa and other parts of the world, causing widespread human suffering and environmental destruction. By choosing ethical diamonds, you can be sure that the diamond you purchase is not a product of conflict and does not contribute to human rights abuses.

RESPONSIBLE ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

Diamond mining can have a significant impact on the environment, especially in fragile ecosystems like the rainforest. Ethical diamonds are sourced from mines that adhere to strict environmental standards and practices to minimize their environmental impact. This includes responsible waste management, reforestation, and habitat restoration programs.

FAIR LABOR PRACTICES

The diamond industry has a long history of exploitation and abuse of workers, particularly in developing countries. Ethical diamonds are sourced from mines that support fair labor practices and adhere to strict health and safety standards. What are ethical diamond mining practices? When workers are paid a fair wage and have access to safe working conditions and benefits.

DUE DILIGENCE

Pineforest Jewelry always has and always will go to great lengths to ensure that our diamond suppliers are in full compliance with the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme (KPCS) or the Responsible Jewellery Council (RJC). These organizations have strict standards for ethical diamond production, including conflict-free certification, environmental responsibility, and fair labor practices.

CONCLUSION

What are ethical diamonds? Ethical diamonds offer consumers a responsible and sustainable alternative to traditional diamonds. By choosing ethical diamonds, you can be sure that the diamond you purchase is not a product of conflict, does not contribute to human rights abuses, and is mined, cut, and processed in a way that supports responsible environmental management and fair labor practices. If you are committed to ensuring that your diamonds are ethically and responsibly sourced, then you're in the right place. Shop our diamonds or jewelry pieces today!

Credit to K. Rosengart for this article <https://www.krosengart.com>

If you are looking for gifts for any occasion, look no further than Pineforest Jewelry. We have you covered from gold to diamonds and from watches to repairs.

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

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

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

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She thinks you forgot



Happy anniversary, baby!



★

OPINION

By Allan Jamail

Gun Violence: Coming to a School Near you?

School Gun Violence – one of a series

By Allan Jamail

March 27, 2023 as a former member of the law enforcement community I feel a sense of duty to offer my opinion/suggestions to those responsible for providing safe schools for children. Do not classify me as an anti-gun person, I'm a hunter and have a Texas Department of Public Safety Supervisor's Firearms Training Qualification. But I'm very much opposed of firearms entering schools from unauthorized persons.



Allan Jamail
NC Star Writer

STOP THE SILENCE, END SCHOOL GUN VIOLENCE is my mission here.

No one can deny as never before schools have become a dangerous place for children and faculty because of school shootings, facts and data back this up. As of 2022 the past five years there have been over 5,000 teenagers ages 12 -17 killed and or injured from gun violence, not all were in-school shootings but many were. Year 2023 has recorded over 40 school shootings in the first quarter.

Just in the past few days and while writing this article there's been two more school shootings, one at a public school and the other at a private school. There's no consistent pattern as to types of schools or grade level the shootings will take place at. One consistent marker is 98 percent of school shootings are usually committed by males.

For some unknown reason schools have become a regular place to have gun violence in them. I remember growing up no one would've dreamed of bringing a gun to school much less using one. But times have changed and school officials must recognize that and school officials must change with the times.

Faculty, school officials and students have become targets and shooting victims by an alarming number, and yet no one seems to be able to stop this wave of gun violence and in reality no one can completely stop it.

But positively school districts can take measures to reduce the chance of a firearm and or knife from entering the school building to be used as a weapon. Parents shouldn't have to worry when their phone rings if it's a call that their child is a shooting victim.

School district officials should be more pro-active in the prevention of firearms entering the schools, they should get ahead of the curve, use the modern technology available.

Metal detectors placed at entrances where students and faculty enter with law enforcement monitoring them can be a huge deterrent and would have saved lives had they been in place where gun violence cases erupted. To not do so, one is denying the facts and gambling their schools will not have a shooting. One should not gamble with others lives when facts are proving there's a significant risk.

Santa Fe, Texas is a perfect example, it's about thirty minutes away; the high school there had 10 killed (8 students & 2 teachers) and 14 injured when a student opened fire in a school classroom. There was no warning, the gunman it's said wasn't a troubled student. Now, AFTER THE FACT they've installed metal detectors. Their action should serve as a wake-up-call to other school districts.

It's common for us entering sporting events like the Astros, Rockets and Houston Rodeo etc to first pass through a metal detector. This is common sense; it doesn't take a rocket scientist to know this will save lives and stop some gun violence in schools.

A child is our most valuable resource so I ask school officials why not protect them as much as you can? The cost of preventing a school shooting death and or injury is a minimal expense by using metal detectors.

Most school districts along their security team have created a plan of action should a school shooting happen. This is great, but this is only an AFTER THE FACT plan and shooters know this and it doesn't seem to prevent shootings.

Recently the shooting outside of the grounds of the Galena Park High School where a teen was killed, witnesses have said the day of the shooting the victim it's been alleged had a pistol in his possession all day before the shooting. And he showed it to classmates it's alleged. There were deputy constables there that day but they had no way of knowing anyone was carrying a gun.

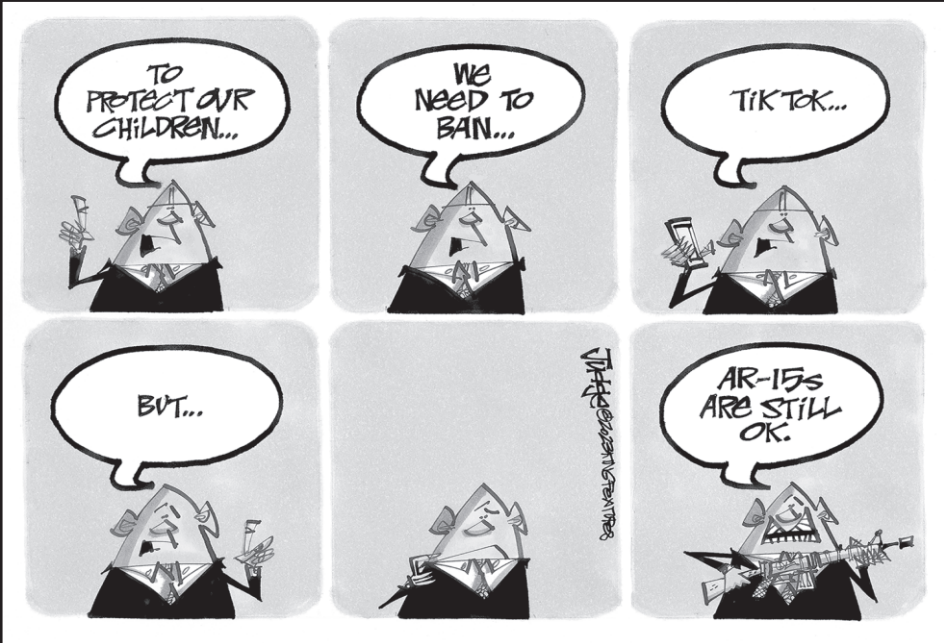
Students are carrying guns undetected in schools daily. Yet the most reasonable tool to prevent this is using metal detectors. Why haven't more school districts taken the sensible steps to use them?

I'm not suggesting metal detectors are the sole solution but it would have stopped the Santa Fe school shooting and hundreds more across the nation like it. There's sufficient evidence to suggest metal detectors could prevent gun violence. Metal detectors range in cost of \$2,500 to \$4,000 each, there's not a parent or grandparent of the shooting death of their child who wouldn't gladly pay that to have their love one back.

Some school officials have said they don't want the students to feel insecure with their safety and the presence of metal detectors lend to that thinking. That's baloney, students are not that sensitive, they're not in a vacuum, they're well aware of the threat they face daily upon entering the school. Just the opposite effect would be true; students knowing everyone in their school wasn't armed would give them a better peace of mind and better learning environment.

See next week's continuation of other preventative steps schools and parents can take to ensure their child's safety. School Shootings A Bad Sign Of The Times

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



★

STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Gary Borders

Senate Passes Tax Cut Package

The Texas Senate last week unanimously approved a \$16.5 billion package to lower property taxes and inject billions of dollars into public schools.

As reported by the Texas Tribune, the three separate bills require the state to send at least \$5.38 billion to public schools while at the same time raising the state's homestead exemption from \$40,000 to \$70,000, with an additional \$20,000 exemption for homeowners 65 and older. According to the Tribune, the proposal would save an average homeowner \$341 on their annual tax bill. Seniors would save an additional \$227 annually.

In exchange for the increased state funding, local school property tax rates would be cut by 7 cents for every \$100 in appraised value. An owner of a \$300,000 home paying the state's average school tax rate would save \$210 annually in property taxes.

"This is off-the-charts, incredible property tax relief for millions of Texas homeowners," said state Sen. Paul Bettencourt, R-Houston.

DEADLINE TO REGISTER FOR MAY 6 ELECTION NEARS

The deadline for eligible Texas voters to register in order to vote in the May 6 local elections is just around the corner, Secretary of State Jane Nelson announced.

"If you are not already registered to vote in the upcoming local elections - there is still time! Make sure to submit your voter registration application to your county voter registrar by Thursday, April 6 so that you can have an opportunity to make your voice heard in your local community," Nelson said.

Check with the local elections office to learn which municipalities, school districts and other entities are holding elections. Early voting begins on April 24 and ends on May 6, with Election Day on May 6.

PAID PARENTAL LEAVE FOR STATE WORKERS?

For the first time, state employees could get 30 days of paid leave for childbirth or adoption. A bipartisan bill



passed the Texas Senate last week with unanimous support.

The Austin American-Statesman reported that Senate Bill 222, besides allowing the 30 days of paid leave, would apply to anyone paying into the Employee Retirement System of Texas; to employees working within the executive branch of state government; and give 10 days of paid leave to employees whose spouse gave birth.

"Paid parental leave will help the state attract and retain talent while combating the workforce shortage," the bill's main sponsor, state Sen. Robert Nichols, R-Jacksonville, said. A similar bill in the House would grant 60 days of paid leave under the same circumstances detailed in the Senate bill.

AGENCY WARNS OF DANGEROUS DRUG COMBINATION

An animal tranquilizer called xylazine has been found mixed with illegal drugs distributed in the state, resulting in at least four deaths, the Texas Department of State Health Services reported.

The tranquilizer has been combined with fentanyl and other opioids, as well as Xanax and other drugs. It produces a strong sedative effect and can cause unconsciousness, low blood pressure, a slowed heart rate and breathing. It can also cause organ damage due to loss of blood flow.

Since it is not an opioid, the effects of xylazine cannot be reversed by using Narcan, officials said.

NEW FOSTER CARE MODEL LAUNCHED

Community groups representing nearly 50 counties in North and East Texas are assuming oversight of foster care from the state of Texas in a groundbreaking attempt to boost capacity and essential services for children under the state's conservatorship.

Three contracts were signed by the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services and private groups. One serves Dallas County along with eight surrounding counties. Another serves 23 counties in Northeast Texas, while a third serves the Beaumont-Port Arthur area.

"This largest expansion to date for Community-Based Care is a real turning point in our state's intensive effort to move to local control, and a better system overall for the children and youth in our care," Stephanie Muth, DFPS commissioner, said. "Those kids belong to their communities, and those communities want the opportunity to make every day better for a child in foster care."

The expansion means that community-based care is now in place in half of the state geographically, representing a third of the population.

FIRST CASE OF AVIAN FLU IN MAMMALS IN TEXAS

A striped skunk recovered from Carson County in the Panhandle has been confirmed as the first case of avian flu in a mammal in the state.

Officially called Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza, it is a highly contagious virus transmitted easily among wild and domestic birds. It has been detected in all states except Hawaii, according to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.

Transmission occurs through consumption of infected animal carcasses. Symptoms include stumbling, tremors, seizures, lack of fear of people, lethargy, coughing and sneezing or sudden death.

While transmission risk from infected birds to people remains low, precautions should be taken, such as wearing gloves and face masks if in contact with wild animals, TPWD advised.

SCHOOL CHOICE HEARING DRAWS HUNDREDS

A Senate Education Committee meeting on proposals that would give parents public money for private schools drew about 200 people and stretched past midnight last Thursday, the Statesman reported.

Supporters spoke about allowing school choice and financial relief for parents of private school students, while opponents warned against siphoning money from public districts, lack of oversight and using taxpayer money for religious schools.

State Sen. Brandon Creighton, R-Conroe, is sponsoring Senate Bill 8, which would provide \$8,000 per child for private school, homeschooling, tutoring or other educational costs. He told the Statesman that education savings accounts would not hurt public schools.

★

THE POSTSCRIPT

By Carrie Classon

"Enough Steps"

Anxiety likes numbers. I only recently realized that a lot of my anxiety fixates on meaningless numbers. I like to know how many there are of a particular thing and then attach meanings—usually sinister, sometimes hopeful, always unreasonable—to these numbers.

How many words are in this column? Six hundred exactly. Why are there 600 words? Because I once read that 600 words was a good length for a column, I have always written exactly 600. Never more. Never less. But if my wonderful editor suggests I let an extra word in or suggests a hyphen that makes two words become one, does this bother me? I am proud to tell you this does not bother me—very much.

How many pounds do I weigh? How many pounds should I weigh? Does the fact that I weigh less today mean I am at a better weight? If I weigh less tomorrow, would that be better still? How many days would it be better? When would it no longer be better? Because there is no exact answer to this question, I've decided it's better not to weigh myself. Instead, I take notice if I can no longer get into my pants.

How many steps have I taken? How many should I take? Should it bother me that I took 500 fewer steps today than I took yesterday? Should I try to take 500 more tomorrow? What if that works out to be an odd number? Wouldn't it be better if it were a nice even number? Should I run around the bed a few times until there are at least two zeros at the end of whatever number it is? For obvious reasons, I have never had a fitness watch. It was my brother-in-law who pointed out that a watch that counted my steps would be a very bad idea. I was a little embarrassed that he knew me so well.

Waiting also increases anxiety, and that's what I'm doing right now. I'm waiting to see if a publisher is interested in my first novel. How many days will it take an editor to read my novel before replying? How many days would it take them if they liked it? How many days will it take them if they hated it? At what hour of the day will I know that I am waiting for nothing? Will I ever know?

This is a very long process—and I knew it would be. But knowing something will take a long time and actually waiting for it—day by day, week by week, sometimes minute by minute—is a very different thing. It makes me worry more about other things—like whether I have more or less hair than I used to and how much sugar I am eating. It makes me take longer walks than usual, and it makes me grateful to my brother-in-law, once again, because I do not have a fitness watch.

Instead, I just walk. I realize that whatever I weigh, it's about right. I realize that, in reality, I have not been waiting very long for publishers to read. I realize that my hair is actually looking pretty good these days (a stranger even gave me a compliment!), and I probably don't need to worry about going bald. And, after enough steps (although I cannot tell you how many), I realize, once again, what a lucky girl I am to be able to do all these wonderful things and have all these wonderful opportunities.

I'd tell you more, but I've hit 600 words—exactly.

Till next time,
Carrie

Check out CarrieClassonAuthor on Facebook or visit [CarrieClasson.com](#).

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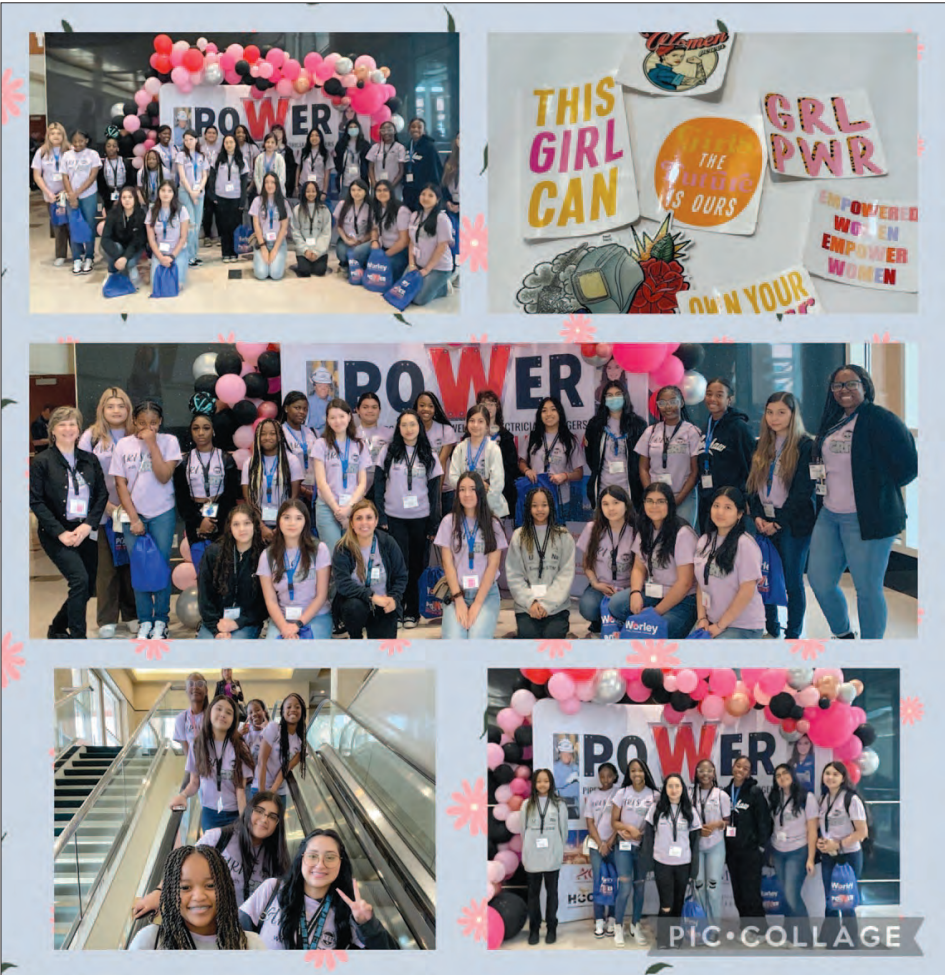
SHELDON ISD NEWS

Panthers Experience Magical Time in Disney World



The King High School Panther band visited Disney World over Spring Break. They were able to watch shows and performances to commemorate the end of a wonderful season.

Community Partnerships Provide KHS Students with Real-world Experiences



The King High School Girls with GRIT had an amazing experience this week thanks to Lyondell Basell and the Women in Industry. Students learned about high-paying petrochemical career experiences. There was an opportunity for networking and learning. Sheldon ISD is appreciative of the partnership businesses provide our students. Their support is instrumental to students’ success as they prepare for their futures.

Carroll Elementary Girls Attend NASA Women in STEM Wednesday

As we celebrate Women’s History Month throughout March, 50 fourth and fifth grade girls from Carroll Elementary were selected by their science teachers to attend NASA’s Women in STEM Wednesday. This was a great, inspiring time for our young learners to be able to ask questions and receive hands-on learning opportunities in a smaller group setting.



Please Support Our Local Newspaper and Local Business

GALENA PARK ISD NEWS

Message from the Superintendent,

Dear Galena Park ISD Family and Friends,
Springtime in GPISD is a time when we are growing, blooming, and embracing brighter days. Like the Spring season, I look forward to us being re-invigorated and energized. Let’s continue our hard work and welcome the new season with a renewed spirit!
Spring Break week is this month! Take the time to enjoy what you have planned, and remember to be safe! As that week begins, don’t forget to “Spring Forward” for Daylight Saving Time by moving your clocks forward one hour on Sunday, March 12th. That gives you more time to soak up the sun.
The character traits for March are respect, courtesy, and gratitude. Respect includes considering how words and actions impact others. Having courtesy involves being polite and friendly. Similar to courtesy, gratitude is pausing to notice and appreciate some things we take for



granted. In the words of the Dalai Lama, “when you practice gratefulness, there is a sense of respect toward others.” Please help us encourage all GPISD students to behave respectfully and reflect on how fortunate we are.
Thank you for making GPISD a great place to be!
Sincerely,
John Moore,
Ed.D. Superintendent of Schools

CHANNELVIEW ISD NEWS

The State Marching Auxiliaries Dance Competition!

Channelview Channelettes, Reserves, and Steady Soulz bring home Outstanding Awards at the State Marching Auxiliaries Dance Competition!	Steady Soulz Boys Dance Team Small Classic Division 1st Place Novelty 1st Place Hip Hop 1st Place Open 1st Place OVERALL Small Team Team Sweepstakes Reserves 1st Division Superior JV Pom Channelettes XL Classic Division 1st Place Jazz 1st Place Lyrical 1st Place Pom	1st Place OVERALL Team Team SUPER SWEEPSTAKES! Ensembles Glori-Ann and Miguel Morin - 3rd Place OVERALL Senior Duet Amaris Cervantes and Violette Ruiz - 1st Division Duet 1st Division Soloist Haylie Beasley Miguel Morin Alexis Rivera Amaris Cervantes Glori-Ann Nguyen Jilainy Rosa Amarie Jones Gisselle Recio Violette Ruiz
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Dance Team Brings Home SUPER SWEEPSTAKES



1st Row: Natalie Montanez-Manager, Glori-Ann Nguyen-Jr Captain, Amaris Cervantes-Sr Captain, Violette Ruiz-Major, Jaanai Suarez-Sr Captain, and Dia'mond Gallien-Jr Captain
2nd Row Channelettes: Brianna Bustos, Abigail Guerrero, Alexia Alvarado, Miguel Morin-Social Officer, Gisell Aguilar-Social Officer, Vannesa Torres-Social Officer, Evelyn Rocha, Ingrid Zaragoza, and Genesis Williams
3rd Row Channelettes: Alexis Rivera, Ruby Arredondo, Kate Mayorga, Jilainy Rosa, Madison Carrizales, Amarie Jones, Susan Gomez, Isabel Robles, Julia Perez, Emily Correa, Haylie Beasley, Gisselle Recio, and Jareczy Moya
4th Row: Reserves/New Cettes, Ms. Heather Keith - Asst. Director, Zoe' Holt, Annette Cardenas, Yarezi Santos, Ke'era Jones, Laila Sierra, Valeria Enciso, Amerie Garcia, Melissa Leal, Anastacia Sanchez, Angelina Suarez, Makayla Vaughn, Camila Rosas, Yesenia Sanchez, Liliana Garcia, Hannah Lee, Jocelyn Moreno, Sabrina Morales, Melanie Morales, and Mrs. Suzanne Hutchins-Channelette Director
5th Row Steady Soulz: Kevin Granados, Ulises Cortez, Logan Vassaur-Desselle, Erik Argueta, Calam Cerda, Cristian Cardenas, Anthony Cerda, and Paulino Granados

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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



Texas GLO Commissioner Dawn Buckingham, Harris County Attorney Christian Menefee, and Harris County Commissioners Adrian Garcia, Rodney Ellis, Tom Ramsey, and Lesley Briones

through the Homeowner Assistance Program increase the value of the property by \$85,765. Not only is the homeowner's investment protected, but their safety is as well.

The GLO's HAP program has successfully reached the hardest-hit, low and moderate-income, vulnerable, and historically hard-to-reach families and individuals in Houston, as defined by the Fair Housing Act and required by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Programs administered by the GLO have significantly outperformed the federal requirement. 80% of GLO disaster recovery funds help those most in need, even though HUD

only requires 70%. Nearly 90 percent of all approved applicants identify as Black or Hispanic, and 89 percent of homeowners are considered low-to-moderate income, with 63 percent of applicants making less than 30 percent of the area median income.

Of her new home, Ms. Henry stated, "To the GLO, I thank you all. You all have helped us very, very much. God is still blessing me."

The GLO's HAP program is not just about rebuilding homes; it's about rebuilding communities. The program's success is evident in the stories of people like Earnestine Henry, who can finally return to her house and rebuild her life after the

devastation of Hurricane Harvey.

Protecting our Community Investments

On Tuesday, March 14, Commissioner Dawn Buckingham, M.D., held a joint press conference with members of the Harris County Commissioners Court. Since her first day in office, Commissioner Buckingham has made it her commitment to serve all Texans impacted by natural disasters and to do it well. One of her top priorities is to streamline communication between local and state officials and the General Land Office. As a former member of the Texas Senate, she recognizes that it is essential to work together to ensure remaining unspent disaster recovery funds are used to benefit the people of Harris County and Houston both efficiently and effectively.

Commissioner Buckingham understands the necessity for collaboration with Harris County leadership in order to best serve our mutual constituents, and this press conference will mark a new beginning for disaster recovery in the Harris County region. Commissioner Adrian Garcia has graciously offered to host the event at the Leonel Castillo Community Center in his district, and Commissioners Rodney Ellis, Tom Ramsey, and Lesley Briones joined together for the announcement.

"My goal is simple, serve the people we are supposed to serve and do it well," added Buckingham. "This collaboration is critically important as time is running out. We are in a use it or lose it situation as these federal dollars go away if they are not used by August 2026. I want to thank the members of the Harris County Commissioners Court for your partnership and communication on this topic. Together we will work to identify HUD eligible projects and ensure these dollars are used to protect Harris County communities from future flooding and other elements."

Authorities search for Walmart fire suspect

NORTH CHANNEL – The Harris County Fire Marshal's Office and Crime Stoppers need the public's assistance identifying the suspect involved in a commercial fire that occurred in the late evening hours on February 18, 2023, at Walmart located at 13750 East Freeway, Houston, TX. 77015.

HCFMO Fire Investigators determined the suspect ignited a flammable liquid at Walmart, causing approximately \$5,000 worth of damage.

If you recognize the person in the pictures or video, call Crime Stoppers.

Crime Stoppers will pay up to \$5,000 for information leading to felony charges or an arrest of the suspect(s) in this case. Information may be reported by calling (713) 222-TIPS (8477) or submitting tips online at www.crimestoppers.org. All tipsters remain anonymous.



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BIDS FOR PAVING

The City of Jacinto City will be accepting bids for Type D 2" asphalt Overlay of existing residential streets within the city limits. Contractors will be responsible for all labor cost, materials, traffic setup (lane closure signage) and notification to residents. The contractor is to ensure grading of asphalt meets Harris County specifications for proper drainage and and installation. Bids must be turned in to City Hall, 1301 Mercury Drive no later than 5:00 p.m. on April 27, 2023 and will be opened at regular Council Meeting on said date at 10301 Market Street at 6:00 p.m. All bids submitted to City of Jacinto City must be accompanied by a bid bond in the amount Of 5% of total bid. A copy of the RFP can be requested by e-mail joyce.raines@jacintocity-tx.gov or picked up at City Hall, 1301 Mercury Drive, Jacinto City, Texas 77029.

A mandatory pre-bid meeting will be held at the Jacinto City Public Works Facility, 12202 Market Street, Jacinto City, Texas On April 11, 2023 at 10:00 a.m..

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

12-2T

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WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH... LAST OF A SERIES.

Bessie Coleman -- First Black Female Pilot

(January 26, 1892 - April 30, 1926)
Continued from Page 1

Cabin and books about Booker T. Washington and Harriet Tubman.

Coleman grew up helping her mother pick cotton and wash laundry to earn extra money. By the time she was eighteen, she saved enough money to attend the Colored Agricultural and Normal University (now Langston University) in Langston, Oklahoma. She dropped out of college after only one semester because she could no longer afford tuition.

At age 23, Coleman went to live with her brothers in Chicago. She went to the Burnham School of Beauty Culture in 1915 and became a manicurist in a local barber-shop. Meanwhile, her brothers served in the military during World War I and came home with stories of their time in France. Her brother John teased her because French women were allowed to learn how to fly airplanes and, in the United States, Coleman could not. Her brother's stories, along with other news of pilots in the war, inspired her to become a pilot. She applied to many flight schools across the country, but no school would take her because she was both African American and a woman.

Robert Abbot, a famous African American newspaper publisher told her to move to France where she could learn how to fly. Since her application to flight schools needed to be written in French, she began taking French classes at night. Finally, Coleman was accepted at the Caudron Brothers' School of Aviation in Le Crotoy, France. She received her international pilot's license on June 15, 1921 from the Fédération Aéronautique Internationale. She then returned to the United States.

Coleman's dream was to own a plane and to open her own flight school. She gave speeches and showed films of her air tricks at churches, theaters, and schools to earn money. She refused to speak anywhere that was segregat-



ed or discriminated against African Americans. In 1922, she performed the first public flight by an African American woman. She was famous for doing "loop-the-loops" and making the shape of an "8" in an airplane. People were fascinated by her performances, and she became more popular both in the United States and in Europe. She toured the country giving flight lessons and performing in flight shows, and she encouraged African Americans and women of all Races to learn how to fly.

Only two years into her flight career, Coleman survived her first major airplane accident. In February 1923, her airplane engine suddenly stopped working mid-flight and she crashed. She was badly hurt in the accident and suffered a broken leg, a few cracked ribs, and cuts on her face. Thankfully, Coleman fully healed from her injuries. This accident did not stop her from flying. She went back to performing dangerous air tricks in 1925. Her hard work helped her to save up enough money to purchase her own plane, a Jenny - JN-4 with an OX-5 engine.

She became a darling of the white press. She returned to her hometown in Texas to perform for a large crowd and did air shows in Houston and Dallas.

Since Texas was segregated, the managers planned to create two separate entranc-es for African Americans and white people to get into the stadium. Coleman refused to perform unless there was only one gate for everyone to use.

After many meetings, the managers agreed to have one gate, but people would still have to sit in segregated sections of the stadium. She agreed to perform and became famous for publicly standing up for her beliefs.

On April 30, 1926, Bessie Coleman took a test flight with a mechanic named William Wills. Wills piloted the plane while Coleman sat in the passenger seat. At about 3,000 feet in the air, a loose wrench got stuck in the engine of the aircraft. Wills could no longer control the steering wheel, and the plane flipped over. Coleman was not wearing a seatbelt. At the time, airplanes did not have a roof. Due to her un-fastened seatbelt, when the plane flipped over Coleman fell out of the open plane. She did not survive the fall. Wills crashed the aircraft a few feet away and also died in the accident. Her death was heartbreaking for thousands of people across the world. At her funeral in Chicago, famous activist Ida B. Wells-Barnett delivered her eulogy.

Though she died at the age of 34, her legacy continues to inspire communities all over the country. In 1931, the Challenger Pilots' Association of Chicago started a tradition of flying over Coleman's grave every year. Many aviation clubs were named in her honor, including the Bessie Coleman Aero Club, organized by William Powell in the 1930s, and the Bessie Coleman Aviators, which formed in Chicago in 1977. In 1995, the "Bessie Coleman Stamp" was made to commemorate all of her accomplishments. In 2023, the U.S. Mint released a special quarter featuring Bessie Coleman as part of the American Women Quarters Program.

Four of Coleman's quotes: "If I can create the minimum of my plans and desires, there shall be no regrets." "The air is the only place free from prejudice." "You've never lived till you've flown!" "I refused to take no for an answer."

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH... LAST OF A SERIES.

"Ma" Ferguson – First Texas Female Governor

Miriam Amanda Wallace "Ma" Ferguson

(June 13, 1875 – June 25, 1961)

By Allan Jamail

Miriam Amanda Wallace "Ma" Ferguson (June 13, 1875 – June 25, 1961) was an American, Texas politician who served two non-consecutive terms as the governor of Texas: from 1925 to 1927, and from 1933 to 1935. She was the first female elected as governor of Texas, replacing her husband Governor James Ferguson who was impeached as governor.

Ma Ferguson was born Miriam Amanda Wallace in Bell County, Texas. She studied at Salado College and Baylor Female College. When she was 24, she married James Edward Ferguson, a lawyer, at her father's farm near Belton in Bell County, Texas.

The Senate found her husband Governor James Edward Ferguson guilty on five charges relating to mishandling of public funds and abuse of power in relation to the University of Texas.

The vote was 25-3, but the day before the conviction was certain to come down, Governor James Ferguson cleverly resigned, claiming then that the Senate couldn't uphold an impeachment for someone who wasn't actually in office. The Texas Supreme Court disagreed, so he had his wife run in his place. And she won.

After her husband's impeachment and conviction, Ma Ferguson ran in the primary for the Democratic nomination for governor and was successful, openly supported by her husband, whom she told voters she would consult for him for advice. She was elected to office in the 1924 general election making her the state's first female chief executive officer. She was the second female state governor in the United States; her campaign manager was Homer T. Brannon of Fort Worth,



a puppet candidate for her husband, saying voters would get "two governors for the price of one". Her speeches at rallies consisted of introducing her husband and letting him take the platform. A common campaign slogan was, "Me for Ma, and I Ain't Got a Durned Thing Against Pa." Patricia Bernstein of the Houston Chronicle stated "There was never a question in anyone's mind as to who was really running things when Ma was governor."

After her victory in the Democratic primary, Ferguson defeated George C. Butte, a prominent lawyer and University of Texas dean who emerged as the strongest Republican gubernatorial nominee in Texas since Reconstruction. Due to the widespread corruption of her husband's term, resulting in his impeachment, thousands of voters crossed party lines in the general election to vote for the Republican candidate. Republicans usually took between 11,000 and 30,000 votes for governor, but Butte won nearly 300,000 votes, many of them from women and suffragists. It was still primarily a Democratic state, and Ferguson received 422,563 votes (58.9 percent) to Butte's 294,920 (41.1 percent). Butte had been supported in the general election by former governor William P. Hobby, who had succeeded James Ferguson in 1917 and won a full term

in 1918.

In 1926, Dan Moody Democrat State Attorney General, who had investigated her husband James for embezzlement and recovered \$1 million for Texas citizens, ran against her in a Democrat Party run-off election. He defeated her to become the next and then-youngest governor of Texas. Suffragist activism provided a major contribution to her defeat, as these women rallied behind Moody and campaigned for him.

Ferguson ran again in 1932. She narrowly won the Democratic nomination over incumbent Ross S. Sterling, then soundly defeated Republican Orville Bullington in the general election, 521,395 (61.6 percent) to 322,589 (38.1 percent). It was a year of Democratic successes as Franklin D. Roosevelt was elected as President of the United States.

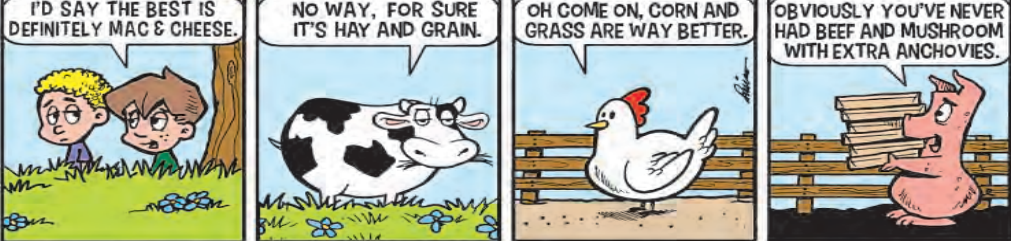
Ferguson's second term as governor was less controversial than her first. It was rumored that state highway contracts went only to companies that advertised in the Fergusons' newspaper, The Ferguson Forum. A House committee investigated the rumors, but no charges were ever filed. Ferguson issued almost 4,000 pardons during her two nonconsecutive terms in office, many of them to free persons who had been convicted of violating prohibition laws.

Her husband, James, died of a stroke in 1944. Miriam Ferguson died from congestive heart failure in 1961 at the age of 86. She was buried in the Texas State Cemetery in Austin.

Her nickname, "Ma", came from her initials, "M. A.", and the fact that her husband was known as "Pa" Ferguson. They had two daughters: Ouida Wallace Ferguson, and Dorrace Watt Ferguson.

ENTERTAINMENT

Amber Waves



Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging ♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTHOFF

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

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March 27, 2023 Posting Date

King Crossword

ACROSS

- Pot brew
- Rosary component
- Tempo
- Rowing need
- Scarce
- "Damn Yankees" vamp
- Polish composer Chopin
- Squad
- Oust from office
- Not 'neath
- Show to a seat, slangily
- Established rule
- Kick out
- Cat's coat
- Ms. Longoria
- Chaste
- River blocker
- Till bills
- Wyo. neighbor
- Corral
- Sanctify
- acid
- Luau bowlful
- Khan title
- Blacksmiths' blocks
- Indolent
- Curry powder spice
- Dayton's state

DOWN

- Bean curd
- Deserve
- God of war
- Chicken serving
- Third rock from the sun
- "Exodus" hero
- Propriety
- Book jacket write-up
- Long time
- "The Greatest"
- Make lace
- Wimbledon tie
- Where Lux. is
- Actress
- Russo
- Currier's partner
- Mama — Elliot
- Monumental
- Dame Dench
- Part of Q.E.D.
- Summer cooler
- Illinois city
- Martini garnish
- Glutton
- Witticism
- Synthetic fabric
- Seg-ments
- Persia, today
- Rickey flavor
- Kilt wearer
- Part of UCLA
- Sashimi fish
- Sharp turn
- French article

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Weekly SUDOKU

Solution time: 26 mins.

Answers

King Crossword

Answers

King Crossword

Answers

Trivia test

by Fifi Rodriguez

- GEOGRAPHY: Which U.S. states share a border with Mexico?
- MOVIES: Which movie was the first sports film to win the Best Picture award?
- U.S. PRESIDENTS: How many former first ladies are still living?
- TELEVISION: What is the name of Bart's teacher on "The Simpsons"?
- LANGUAGE: What does the Japanese phrase "domo arigato" mean in English?
- CHEMISTRY: What is the lightest element?
- GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: Who is Marie Laveau of New Orleans?
- AD SLOGANS: Which product was advertised with the slogan, "Great taste, less filling"?
- U.S. CITIES: In which city would you find Thomas Jefferson's Monticello?
- LITERATURE: Who wrote the autobiography "Dreams From My Father"?

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1. Four: California, Arizona, New Mexico and Texas.; 2. "Rocky" (1976); 3. Five: Rosalynn Carter, Hillary Clinton, Laura Bush, Michelle Obama and Melania Trump.; 4. Edna Krabappel.; 5. Thank you.; 6. Hydrogen.; 7. Famous voodoo queen.; 8. Martini.; 9. Charlotte.; 10. Barack Obama.



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