



Annual Art Car Parade was held last weekend. More Photos inside, Page 7

NORTH CHANNEL ★ STAR

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CHANNEL CURRENTS

APR. 20, THURSDAY

Rotary Potato & Cake Luncheon

Rotary Club of Jacinto City and Galena Park brings back two great community events (Baked Potato Lunch and Cake Auction).

Thursday, April 20 at the Jacinto City Town Center, 1025 Oates Road, Jacinto City.

\$12 per plate. Lunch delivered 10am-12noon, Lunch served 12noon to 1pm at the Town Center. Open to everyone.

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!

Pilot Club Puzzle Competition May 7

Teams of 4 compete to complete a puzzle and win prizes.

Fundraiser for San Jacinto Pilot Club's Autism support and community projects.

Sunday, May 7 at Hampton Inn, 14120 Karissa Court (Beltway 8 frontage). Starts 2:30pm, Finish and awards at 5:00pm. Tickets \$25, from any club member or call 281-221-1616.



Crosby Fair and Rodeo President Ronny Ehrlich (left) and Crosby Fair and Rodeo Board Member Dwight Klise (right) receive a fully Automated External Defibrillator (AED) donated by the Cody Stephens Go Big or Go Home Memorial Foundation, represented by Melody Stephens and Scott Stephens.

AED donated to CrosbyRodeo

CROSBY – The Cody Stephens Go Big or Go Home Memorial Foundation (GBOGH), along with its sponsors Zoll-Medical Corporation and SaveStation Inc. have combined to place a fully Automated External Defibrillator (AED) at the Crosby Rodeo and Fairgrounds. Zoll

Medical Corporation donated the AED to Parent Heart Watch (PHW), the national non-profit solely dedicated to the prevention of sudden cardiac arrest and death in youth.

The Go Big or Go Home Foundation then won the AED in an opportunity drawing held by PHW to raise money for the organization. SaveStation Inc of On

Continued. See AED donated, Page 3

Turner Car Show set for Saturday



This 1965 Shelby COBRA Ford GT is scheduled to be one of the featured cars in Saturday's Car Show at Turner Chevrolet in Crosby. (If it doesn't rain, said owner Bruce Meyer). The event is from 10am to 3pm at 21002 Crosby Freeway (US90). Car fans will be able to view about 100 autos, trucks, SUVs, and other wheeled vehicles at this 2nd Annual event, according to General Manager David Mendez. There will be Food trucks, raffles for prizes, and judging of the top 20 cars on display with appropriate trophies, according to Robbie Turner. The public is welcome to this free event.

STEM & ROBOTICS SHOWCASE DAY GPISD Elementary Schools

By Allan Jamail & Linda Jamail

Saturday, April 15, 2023 the Galena Park ISD elementary, math and science hosted a stem showcase day event at North shore 10th grade campus. It was a thrilling sight to see, over 200 students participated. Many of their parents were there and learned about STEM and Robotics too and to see firsthand what their children are involved in. This was my third time to cover either robotics or ebotics and each time I'm amazed at how much our younger generation of students are advanced in the latest technologies.

Jacqueline Moreno, Director of Math & Science said all 15 campuses were invited to showcase all of their stem and robotics learning they have accom-



1ST PLACE WINNERS, MACARTHUR ELEMENTARY: L-R: Alizay Rosales, Jennette Rea, Zurimar Espinosa, Samantha Macias, Mrs. Garcia, Mrs. Pichon, Aiden Martinez, Juan Bucio, Noe Nunez, Francisco Cardenas. Bottom of photo, L-R: Alejandra Ibarra and Hope Garcia. (Photo by Allan Jamail)

plished throughout the school year.

Moreno said, "The student teams consisted of third through fifth graders

and they highlighted work with many different types of science, math, technology, and engineering. There was evidence of engineer-

ing design process, creativity, collaboration, communication, and critical thinking. These students truly showed us outstand-

PHOTOS OF JACINTO CITY AND GALENA PARK ELEMENTARY CONTESTANTS ON PAGE 6.

STORY CONTINUES PAGE 6

Auction items featured at Rotary Fish Fry event on May 20th

The North Shore Rotary Club is preparing for their big Fish Fry on Saturday, May 20. In addition to the Raffle and great seafood, they will have silent and live auctions.

The countdown is on to the 48th Annual North Shore Rotary Catfish Fry, Crawfish Boill and Live Auction! Here are just a few of the more than 76 items they will have in the live auction! They will also have some great sports and concert ticket packages as well!

Join the fun on May 20th at the North Shore Rotary Pavilion for great food and a fun time as Rotary raises money for the North Channel community!

Raffle and Meal Tickets are available from any North Shore Rotarian!



By Allan Jamail

Jacinto City, TX. April 11, 2023 – Elizabeth Flores, Jacinto City's shining star brightens the lives for many seniors in their golden years. Serving as the city's Heritage Hall Director there's no doubt without her how difficult the senior's lives would be. As I approach my 80th birthday I'm learning how my body's physical and mental abilities are changing and how valuable the city's senior program is for those who need some special care.

I often visit Heritage Hall and I can see how Flores takes care of her seniors as if they're apart of her own biological family. She gives them each a true sense that she cares for them. She's has her young college age daughter Cecilia at times volunteering to assist with the seniors



ELIZABETH FLORES, JACINTO CITY'S HERITAGE HALL DIRECTOR. See article. (Photo by Allan Jamail)

when she's not attending college.

Elizabeth began her affiliation with the city's senior program eight years ago in 2015. Then Director Cindy Miller another devoted and caring senior's heroine was leaving her position with the city so Flores stepped into the di-

rector's position then.

As director Flores assumed the awesome responsibility of having to comply with many federal, state and county governmental laws which provide oversight of senior pro-

CONTINUED. SEE FLORES SHINING STAR, PAGE 3

SHELDON ISD NEWS

Sheldon Fine Art Students Showcase Performances at Annual Event

On April 11 and 13, Sheldon ISD fine arts programs across the district performed at the annual Choral Canvas District Fine Arts Festival. The two evenings consist of choir performances from all of the 13 schools across Sheldon ISD. Additionally an art show is set up for community members to view selected artwork as well as the recognition of Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo Art winners.



KHS Theater Arts Receives 4 Finalist Nominations for Tommy Tune Awards



King High School has received four finalist nominations for the Tommy Tune Awards for the school's winter performance of "Little Shop of Horrors." The nominations include Outstanding technical achievement, lighting de-

sign, scenic design and lead. The cast will learn the results during an awards ceremony on May 4. The Tommy Tune Awards (TTA) Program is sponsored by Houston's Theatre Under the Stars and celebrates the educa-

tional value, artistry and community of high school musical theater in the Greater Houston Area. Earlier this year, King High School set a school record with 22 nominations for the awards show.

KHS Indoor Drumline Advances to State

On April 15, the King High School indoor percussion team will advance to the state championships where they will compete at Texas A&M University. This is the second consecutive year to attend the state championships.



Summer Theater Opportunity for kindergarten Through Fifth Graders

King Theatre Company is presenting its first Summer Theater Workshop Monday, June 5 through Thursday, June 15 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. There will be a final performance at the conclusion of the workshop. This program will provide students with an op-

portunity to create costumes, work on sets and theater performances to include singing and dancing. Students will be divided into classes based on age and grade level. The program is geared for students who have completed kindergarten

through fifth grade. Details can be found on the district's website at www.sheldonisd.com. Proceeds for the camp will benefit the C.E. King High School Theatre Company. Registration is limited for Sheldon ISD students.

10 Athletes Participate in Sheldon ISD's April Signing Day



On April 12, 10 Sheldon ISD athletes signed their NCAA Letters of Intent to show their commitment to play at the collegiate level. Congratulations to the following:

Kristian Lewis, East Texas Baptist University, volleyball
Aleria Lane, University of Arkansas- Pine Bluff, volleyball

Tiye Davis, Kansas City Kansas Community College, Girls Basketball
Nikevia Maxie, East Texas Baptist University, Girls Basketball
Valerie Mares, Schreiner University, Softball
Tommy Banks, University of Arkansas- Rich Mountain, Cross Country
Hannah Griffin, Jacksonville College, Girls Track/

Cross Country
Kerry Frank Tillis, Texas College, football
Dennis Wilhite, Texas College, football
Johnterrian Welch, Texas Lutheran University, football
This totals 24 athletes from Sheldon ISD sports programs that have signed to play at the college level.

CHANNELVIEW ISD NEWS

Alice Johnson Jr Virtual Art Gallery

By Mr. Everett

On Saturday March 25th, 11 of Alice Johnson's best visual arts students competed in a UIL competition known as JrV.A.S.E (Junior Visual Arts Scholastic Event). For the past few years, our students were not able to sit down with their judge to explain the process and meaning behind their work due to covid restrictions. This year was the first time since 2020 that our students were able to talk about their artwork in a professional setting - where they got meaningful feedback about their techniques, styles, and overall ideas.

I watched my students work hard and put lots of hours into their efforts and pieces. Please enjoy the slide show of the work our students did this year. You won't be disappointed.

Karla Hernandez

"Looking Through"
8th Grade High School Credit

Artist Statement
The meaning of my artwork is that it doesn't matter about the outside, the inside is what really matters. Also, an artist that influenced me is Henry Selick. His artwork inspired me as I worked on the figure of the subject.
Art Teacher: Karla Hernandez Rating: 4



Nayeli Guerrero



"Fast Passion Out of This World"
8th Grade

Artist Statement
I love hamburgers and fries and basically fast food like chicken nuggets. I'm very passionate about this type of food. I think more people should explore the types of food they love. The more types of food you try the more favorites you'll develop.
Art Teacher: Jefferson Everett Rating: 4

CHARLOTTE'S WEB

By Charlotte Jackson



Join Me

There comes a time when you must draw a line in the sand. You must stand for something, or you will fall for anything. I am so tired of hearing people say negative things about the east side of Harris County. I know that I am not alone in feeling like this and I am not going to back down. God brought my family to North Shore in 1971 largely because my parents heard so many good things about the Galena Park Schools. My dad also had a desire to spend time with his family instead of stuck on a freeway trying to get to work.

My mother was determined that as sixth and fourth grade students, my brother and I were going to not only learn at school, but we were going to become involved in the community. I still remember the first PTA Meeting at North Shore Elementary after we were enrolled. It did not matter to her if she knew anyone in the room, she and her children were going to attend and get involved. And before long, she signed up to serve as a Room Mother. She truly laid a foundation for my love of service to others. At that PTA Meeting, not only was Dr Gerald D. Cobb the speaker, but he was the Superintendent and I remember his speech. He shared that to be a success in life, it did not matter how much money was in the bank or how many accolades you collected, you could not take any of that with you when you passed away. He reminded parents to read to their children and to listen to their children as they read. He was not afraid to tell parents that they needed to take their children to church.

It was not too long after that when I met Brother John Brady, Pastor of Woodforest Baptist Church. At that point in my life, I had only attended Catholic churches, but there was something about Brother John's message. I found myself surrounded by new friends who attended Woodforest and even though it took me until 1990 to join, I always felt like I had "family" there. His influence continues now even after his death last year. Rarely does a week go by that I do not run into someone who quotes him or remembers him bringing slides of his trips to Kenya into the school to share in our Social Studies class. He truly loved our community. So many lives were changed because he was not afraid to share what was important to him. Likewise, today several of his grandchildren are serving in ministry and standing firm on what he taught them.

I first met Dr Charles Grant in the summer of 1995 and immediately, I knew that he was passionate about the community. This was even before he became the President of San Jacinto College North. He wanted everyone to know about the college, the Chamber, local school districts and of course, about North Shore Rotary. He and I shared years working together at the college and serving as the Advisors to the Rotaract Club. Spending time with him was beyond what money could buy. His passion for making life better for others is still infectious today. If you do not know him, let me know and I will make sure you know him.

We MUST take a stand and take pride in the community but also give up ourselves. When we see a young person heading down the wrong path, we must speak life into them. When we see a young mother desperately needing help, we must be ready to share resources. When we read about people carrying guns to school, to funerals and wanting to be "grown", we must pull them aside and share with them that life is not about how quick you can get something, but instead it is about pouring positive energy into others. Serve as a mentor, offer to help with a career day at a local school or find a need and meet it. We must take a stand and do something about it. Will you please join me?

Elizabeth Flores Shining Star,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

grams. This is not an easy task and the staggering amount of reports to file is very time consuming.

Prior to joining Jacinto City's Heritage Hall Senior Center, Elizabeth worked with the City of Houston for 19 yrs under the Harris County Area Agency on Aging. She first started in the Information and Referral program in which she advocated for older adults in Harris County by ways of information, assistance and referral programs. Later, she moved to the administration program under the Harris County Area Agency on Aging. There she worked with contractors and vendors who assist in programs for older adults in Harris County.

As the director Flores oversees the physical and mental needs along with

meals for area seniors. She also manages the area "Meals on Wheels" program which provides a nutritious meal for home-bound senior citizens. She's assisted by two Program Assistants Maria Espinoza and Naomi Navarro who sacrifice personal time and money to make the lives better for their seniors.

The center also participates with Harris County Pct. 2gether senior program that allows them to use county buses, participate in Senior Olympics and parties.

Jacinto City Heritage Hall is located at 1025 Oates Rd., anyone wanting to learn how to join the seniors program should call Elizabeth Flores at: 713-554-9046 or email her: eplizabeth.flores@jacintocity-tx.gov

AED donated to Crosby Rodeo,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

tario Canada donated the custom cabinet to house the AED, which is equipped with an alarm that activates when opened. The cabinet features an image of Cody Stephens and his last Crosby show steer before he passed away of sudden cardiac arrest his senior year of high school in 2012. A QR code is featured which links to the foundations website where the public can learn more about our efforts to protect and save young hearts from sudden cardiac arrest. The AED is located in the restroom hallway near the fair office, which is accessible when the fairgrounds are in use.

The donation of this AED continues the GBOGH foundations practice of placing AEDs in public areas of the Crosby Community. Along with partners Chris and Karen Claunch and the Crosby Education Foundation, the GBOGH Foundation has placed AED's and SaveStaion towers at both the Crosby ISD football and baseball complexes.

Additionally, an AED is located at FBC Crosby and assistance was given in placing an AED at Crosby Methodist Church which houses an extensive week-day preschool program.

Additionally, work is underway to place AEDs at the county parks housing our communities little leagues. Harris Couty Precinct 3 is in the process of approving their locations and placements. Long time resident Cliff Reeves donated two AEDs to the foundation in honor of his wife, Becky, who passed away from heart complications.

The GBOGH Foundation is excited to continue making Crosby a heart safe community. Please reach out to the foundation at www.codystephensfoundation.org or 713-451-3600 for questions, donations or possible future public locations in need of a lifesaving AED.

--Scott P Stephens, MAI, AI-GRS
President, Founder and Cody's Dad
Cody Stephens Foundation

ASK DIAMOND JIM

Diamond Jim: "What is Fancy Color Diamond?"



Fancy Color Diamond

Dazzling brilliance. Captivating color. The planet's most valued gems are fancy color diamond.

Diamonds in the normal color range are colorless through light yellow and are described using the industry's D-to-Z color-grading scale. Fancy color diamonds, on the other hand, are yellow and brown diamonds that exhibit color beyond the Z range, or diamonds that exhibit any other color face-up. These rare specimens come in every color of the spectrum, including, most importantly, blue, green, pink, and red.

Gem diamonds in the D-to-Z range usually decrease in value as the color becomes more obvious. Just the opposite happens with fancy color diamonds: Their value generally increases with the strength and purity of the color. Large, vivid fancy color diamonds are extremely rare and very valuable. However, many fancy diamond colors are muted rather than pure and strong.

Fine or fancy color diamonds are the most rare and costly of all gemstones. Their ranks include the



world's most famous jewel – the Hope Diamond – and the most expensive gem ever auctioned – the Pink Star Diamond.

In this series of articles, we will explore the world of fancy color diamonds. You'll learn about the most common and the rarest colors of natural mined diamonds, as well as many other colored diamond facts.

If you are looking for any color diamond, look no further than [Pineforest Jewelry](http://PineforestJewelry.com). [Contact us](mailto:Contactus@pineforestjewelry.com) if you would like assistance deciding on the right diamond to buy.

Credit to GIA for much of the content in this article

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

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OPINION

By BILL KING



A Weekend on the National Mall



On Good Friday, I traveled to Washington, D.C., to attend the interment of a friend’s mother at Arlington National Cemetery. Cheryl and I took the rest of the weekend to hang around the National Mall. Let me tell you what we saw.

We saw thousands of our fellow Americans in every flavor you can imagine. From Americans with almost no melanin in their skin to those rich with it. Americans who had come here from every corner of the globe, many in their traditional garb. We saw dozens of interracial couples, many with their beautiful children whose faces reflected their combined heritage. We saw Americans being unfailingly kind to each other. Laughing, smiling, sharing where they were from, what they had seen, what they planned to see. We saw them volunteering to take families’ pictures for each other so entire families could be included in the shot.

We saw people stopping military personnel and thanking them for their service. We saw Americans standing at the Vietnam War memorial with tears streaming down their faces. We saw tourists at Arlington stopping and removing their hats or saluting as our funerary procession passed. We saw people poring over the words of Lincoln’s Gettysburg Address, many I suspect for the first time reading the greatest speech ever written in the English language.

What we did not see was the toxic polarization that the media constantly tells us is tearing our country apart. We saw almost no hats or t-shirts with political slogans. There were no protests. There was no one arguing or yelling at each other. All we saw were thousands of our fellow Americans basking in the pride of their remarkable country and its history.


Our visit to the National Mall once again reminded me of the fundamental goodness and decency of the American people. We allow ourselves to be seduced in doubting this truism by a media fixated on showing us the relatively rare examples of Americans who are not good and decent. I wish all of us could remember that, as Hans Rosling said in his book “Factfulness,” what we read and see in the media is “filtered through the mass media [executives], which love nonrepresentative, extraordinary events and shuns normality.”

It also once again underscored to me how unworthy our current government is of the extraordinary people it is supposed to represent. Unfortunately, we have allowed it to become the captive of two corrupt, power-mad political parties, which are attempting to wreck our constitutional order and allow extremist minorities to rule. A danger about which almost every Founder warned us.

Dramatic reenactments of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor have attributed a quote to Japanese Admiral Yamamoto on the victory: “I fear we have awakened a sleeping giant and filled him with a terrible resolve.”* The American people are long-suffering, and most are disinclined to actively participate in politics. But at some point, the two incumbent parties are going to exhaust the American people’s patience and find that they have awakened a giant filled with a terrible resolve.

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.*

Americanisms




“This nation will remain the land of the free only so long as it is the home of the brave.”
—Elmer Davis

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STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Gary Borders



Dueling Tax Proposals in The Lege

The Texas House passed a bill promising \$17 billion in tax relief, a measure that is at odds with the Senate’s tax break plan, according to the Austin American-Statesman. The House bill would lower by half a home’s cap on appraisal increases. It passed overwhelmingly, 141-9. However, Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick, who presides over the Senate, said that body will not approve it, preferring its plan to raise property exemptions from \$40,000 to \$70,000.

In a press conference held Thursday, Patrick reiterated his opposition, saying appraisal caps do not have much effect on property tax bills.

“So let me be very clear, I’ve said before this session, I’ve said it at the beginning of session, I’ve said recently, you don’t negotiate on bad math,” Patrick said.

House Speaker Dade Phelan took a less confrontational stand.

“I think we need to do what’s best for all Texans, and that is sit down and hammer out a compromise,” Phelan said in part. “We are ready, willing and able to do it in the Texas House.”

PARENTAL BOOK BILL PASSES THE SENATE

The Texas Senate passed a bill last week that would require schools to inform parents of all books their children check out of school libraries. The Dallas Morning News reported. The bill’s sponsor, state Sen. Angela Paxton, R-McKinney, said she sponsored the bill after being contacted about sexually explicit materials in school libraries.

“I cannot unsee what I saw,” Paxton said on the Senate floor. “More importantly, a child cannot unsee sexually explicit materials, and this certainly shouldn’t happen in a school library, of all places.”

Critics say the bill could lead to politicized book bans and undermine the work of librarians. It requires school boards to create local library advisory panels made up mainly of parents.



The bill now heads to the Texas House for consideration.

DROUGHT CONDITIONS EXPAND IN CENTRAL, WEST TEXAS

Warmer temperatures and less rain in March expanded drought conditions throughout the central and western parts of the state, hydrologist Dr. Mark Wentzel of the Texas Water Development Board reported. More than two-thirds of the state is affected by drought, up five percentage points from the previous month. The exception is in the eastern portion of Texas, which is now drought free.

The La Niña weather system, which is at least partially responsible for drought conditions in the state for the past two-and-a-half years, is predicted to give way by fall to El Niño conditions, which tend to be wetter, according to Wentzel.

“Why are La Niña, neutral, and El Niño conditions important to Texas? Each of these conditions sets up different atmospheric circulation patterns that impact weather around the world, including Texas,” Wentzel wrote.

HUNDREDS APPLY FOR HOUSTON ISD BOARD OF MANAGERS

With the Texas Education Agency taking over management of the Houston Independent School District, nearly 400 applications have been received to join the district’s Board of Managers. In

a news release, TEA said it is looking for Houston residents with “a wide array of backgrounds, experiences, and perspectives who believe all children can learn and achieve at high levels when properly supported and who can work together as a governance team.”

“I am looking for Houstonians with wisdom and integrity who can be laser-focused on what is best for students,” Texas Education Commissioner Mike Morath said. “It is exciting to see so many Houstonians express a willingness to help move the school system forward in service of students.”

The Board of Managers will hold public board meetings and has the same legal requirements and obligations as any elected school board, according to TEA.

MORE FUNDING FOR COMMUNITY COLLEGES?

A bill approved last week by the Texas House would allocate additional funding to the state’s 50 community college districts, the Statesman reported. The additional amount each district would receive would be based on several factors, including the number of degrees and certificates a college awards “that equip students for continued learning and greater earnings,” the Statesman reported.

The bill is one of House Speaker Dade Phelan’s priorities and has more than 90 co-authors.

“This would be the most significant state investment for community colleges in decades,” said Ryan Franklin, senior director of policy and advocacy for Educate Texas.

Community colleges in Texas are funded by a combination of local property taxes, tuition and fees, state revenue, and various other sources. The bill guarantees a certain amount of funding for rural community college districts that are unable to raise as much in property taxes as urban districts.

MORE THAN 18,000 CATTLE KILLED IN EXPLOSION

What is being called the deadliest barn fire for cattle on record left more than 18,000 cattle dead and one worker critically injured at a dairy farm in the Texas Panhandle, The Dallas Morning News reported. The fire swept through the holding pens of Southfork Dairy Farm in Dimmitt last week as the cattle were waiting to be milked.

“It’s mind-boggling,” Dimmitt Mayor Roger Malone said. “I don’t think it’s ever happened before around here. It’s a real tragedy. The cause has not been determined, but Castro County Sheriff Sal Rivera told KCBD-TV that overheating electrical equipment in the holding pens may have ignited methane gas. Photos and video posted on social media show a massive plume of smoke rising from the facility.

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THE POSTSCRIPT

By Carrie Classon

“3,002 Suns”

Our landlord, Jorge, loves his suns. I am sure he loves his son, Jorge Jr., as well, but I am talking about the other kind of sun.

This is why there are nearly 3,000 smiling sun faces decorating the hotel where we stay when we are in Mexico. Two more were added yesterday.

Much of the time my husband, Peter, and I are in our little apartment in Jorge’s hotel, there is a team of artists working. Fabricio is the father, and usually at least two and sometimes three of his sons work with him. They paint anything that stays still long enough for them to apply paint.

Jorge sets them to work painting ceramic suns to join the nearly 3,000 already hanging in the courtyard. They paint the outside of the hotel for the Day of the Dead and other celebrations—painting over their artwork at the end of the celebration. They paint saints on palm frond mats that are hung during Holy Week. They paint images of famous wrestlers so tourists can have their photos taken with them. They paint murals in the guest rooms. Occasionally, they even touch up the banisters in the hotel, and do not seem to mind.

Yesterday, Peter and I had lunch in the hotel. Jorge has opened up a sandwich shop in the hotel but, like so much that happens in Mexico, the long-term plan remains unclear to us.

Yesterday, for instance, we had salmon.

“Jorge is serving salmon in his sandwich shop?” I asked Peter.

“Yup.”

“It’s not really a sandwich shop anymore, is it?”

He also had a steak and a shrimp special. Peter and I had the salmon. It was fantastic.

Then I saw Fabricio on a ladder.

“What is he doing outside our door?” I asked aloud.

We ate. Fabricio painted. After we were through, I went upstairs. Fabricio had found room for two more suns over our door, and had roughed in the first colors.

“Oh! I love that color!” I told him.

There were two suns, side by side, and one of them was painted the blue-green color that I love. I showed him the approximately 11 to 13 bracelets I had on my wrist at the moment, all in shades of blue and green. Fabricio smiled. He kept painting.

Later in the afternoon, Fabricio had taken down his ladder. I stepped outside to see the finished project.

There were two suns: a smiling blue-green female sun with her eyes closed, and a yellow male sun with bright blue eyes—just like Peter’s. I realized that none of this was by accident. Fabricio had painted the two of us, as suns, right outside our door.

“Thank you for the beautiful suns!” I told Fabricio as he was on his way out, arms full of paints and paintbrushes, paint splatters all over his T-shirt and face. “They are beautiful!”

That night, Jorge was sitting at the front desk. I told him how good the salmon was. He smiled. Then I told him that Fabricio had painted two suns—and they looked just like Peter and me!

Jorge smiled and nodded. He knew. Of course he did.

Nothing happens in this hotel that Jorge does not know about. Peter and I wander around imagining all the gentle acts of kindness that surround us somehow happen by chance.

“Gracias,” I said.


I don’t know if he thought I was thanking him for the salmon or the suns or the accommodations that always feel like home, or for simply creating this unique and wondrous place.

And it doesn’t matter.

Till next time,

Carrie

Check out CarrieClassonAuthor on Facebook or visit CarrieClasson.com.



Crosby United Methodist Church

1334 Runneburg Rd.
P. O. Box 1385
Crosby, TX 77532
(281) 328-2616 Fax (281) 462-0328
www.crosbyumc.org

Greetings and blessings from the congregation of Crosby United Methodist Church to our friends and neighbors in the community at large!

To our neighbors who are looking to align themselves with a United Methodist congregation, we say simply, “Come join us!” It doesn’t matter if you were a member of a UMC that recently chose to disaffiliate, if you are new to the area and seeking a church home, or just find yourself thinking it’s time to start (or start back!) going to church, we would love to have you.

We are excited and optimistic about the future of our church. While it’s important to remember our past and how we got to this point, our focus and energy need to be forward-looking (remember, your car’s windshield is much larger than the rearview mirror for a reason!)

It’s been said that opportunity often comes disguised as hard work. Our District and Conference Leaders join us in a shared belief in the opportunities that lie ahead of us as one of the few remaining UMC congregations in our area, but we have a lot of work to do, and we will need the support of every one of our members and fellow congregants to accomplish it.

With Spring and the sense of renewal it brings, and with the promise of Easter still fresh on our minds, this is the perfect time to give some prayerful thought to establishing – or renewing – a personal commitment to Christ and His church. We are here, we feel strongly that we are poised and preparing to do great things as we move forward, and we extend a sincere and heartfelt invitation for you to share in our experience.

LEGAL NOTICE

LEGAL NOTICE

LEGAL NOTICE

TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

Notice of Draft Federal Operating Permit

Draft Permit No.: O1551

Application and Draft Permit. Arkema Inc., 2231 Haden Rd, Houston, TX 77015-6449, has applied to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) for a renewal and revision of Federal Operating Permit (herein referred to as Permit) No. O1551, Application No. 33455, to authorize operation of the Houston Plant, an All Other Basic Organic Chemical Manufacturing facility. The area addressed by the application is located at 2231 Haden Rd in Houston, Harris County, Texas 77015-6449. This link to an electronic map of the site or facility's general location is provided as a public courtesy and not part of the application or notice. For exact location, refer to the application. You can find an electronic map of the facility at: <https://gisweb.tceq.texas.gov/LocationMapper/?marker=-95.176111,29.759722&level=13>. This application was received by the TCEQ on March 18, 2022.

The purpose of a federal operating permit is to improve overall compliance with the rules governing air pollution control by clearly listing all applicable requirements, as defined in Title 30 Texas Administrative Code § 122.10 (30 TAC § 122.10). The draft permit, if approved, will codify the conditions under which the area must operate. The permit will not authorize new construction. The executive director has completed the technical review of the application and has made a preliminary decision to prepare a draft permit for public comment and review. The executive director recommends issuance of this draft permit. The permit application, statement of basis, and draft permit will be available for viewing and copying at the TCEQ Central Office, 12100 Park 35 Circle, Building E, First Floor, Austin, Texas 78753; the TCEQ Houston Regional Office, 5425 Polk St Ste H, Houston, Texas 77023-1452; and the Harris County Library North Channel Branch Library, 15741 Wallisville Rd, Houston, Texas 77049-4607, beginning the first day of publication of this notice. The draft permit and statement of basis are available at the TCEQ Website:

www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/tvnotice

At the TCEQ central and regional offices, relevant supporting materials for the draft permit, as well as the New Source Review permits which have been incorporated by reference, may be reviewed and copied. Any person with difficulties obtaining these materials due to travel constraints may contact the TCEQ central office file room at (512) 239-2900.

Public Comment/Notice and Comment Hearing. Any person may submit written comments on the draft permit. Comments relating to the accuracy, completeness, and appropriateness of the permit conditions may result in changes to the draft permit.

A person who may be affected by the emission of air pollutants from the permitted area may request a notice and comment hearing. The purpose of the notice and comment hearing is to provide an additional opportunity to submit comments on the draft permit. The permit may be changed based on comments pertaining to whether the permit provides for compliance with 30 TAC Chapter 122 (examples may include that the permit does not contain all applicable requirements or the public notice procedures were not satisfied). The TCEQ may grant a notice and comment hearing on the application if a written hearing request is received within 30 days after publication of the newspaper notice. The hearing request must include the basis for the request, including a description of how the person may be affected by the emission of air pollutants from the application area. The request should also specify the conditions of the draft permit that are inappropriate or specify how the preliminary decision to issue or deny the permit is inappropriate. All reasonably ascertainable issues must be raised and all reasonably available arguments must be submitted by the end of the public comment period. If a notice and comment hearing is granted, all individuals that submitted written comments or a hearing request will receive written notice of the hearing. This notice will identify the date, time, and location for the hearing.

Written public comments and/or requests for a notice and comment hearing should be submitted to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, Office of the Chief Clerk, MC-105, P.O. Box 13087, Austin, Texas 78711-3087, or electronically at www14.tceq.texas.gov/epic/eComment/ and be received within 30 days after the date of newspaper publication of this notice. Please be aware that any contact information you provide, including your name, phone number, email address and physical address will become part of the agency's public record.

A notice of proposed final action that includes a response to comments and identification of any changes to the draft permit will be mailed to everyone who submitted public comments, a hearing request, or requested to be on the mailing list for this application. This mailing will also provide instructions for public petitions to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to request that the EPA object to the issuance of the proposed permit. After receiving a petition, the EPA may only object to the issuance of a permit which is not in compliance with the applicable requirements or the requirements of 30 TAC Chapter 122.

Mailing List. In addition to submitting public comments, a person may ask to be placed on a mailing list for this application by sending a request to the Office of the Chief Clerk at the address above. Those on the mailing list will receive copies of future public notices (if any) mailed by the Chief Clerk for this application.

Information. For additional information about this permit application or the permitting process, please contact the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, Public Education Program, MC-108, P.O. Box 13087, Austin, Texas 78711-3087 or toll free at 1-800-687-4040. Si desea información en Español, puede llamar al 1-800-687-4040.

Further information may also be obtained for Arkema Inc. by calling Mr. Ankur Dass at (713) 450-5830.

Notice Issuance Date: March 24, 2023



ANA HERNANDEZ

State Representative
District 143



Dear Friend, We are halfway through the Legislative Session! The Capitol is bustling with activity as legislators hold committee hearings, present bills before committees, and vote on legislation on the House Floor.

Under the Texas Constitution, the Legislature is only required to pass one bill - the State Budget. Next week the House of Representatives will deliberate and vote on the budget to fund critical services for the state. As always, I will continue to advocate for programs that are reflective of the needs and interests of all Texans.

Below you will find information on #TeamHernandez's activities in the Capitol and District. If you have any questions 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

Capitol Updates

This week six of my bills were presented before their respective committees.

HB 1242 would extend unemployment compensation eligibility for a parent who leaves the workplace to care for their minor child due to an unexpected illness, accident, or other unforeseeable event where no reasonable alternative care was available.

HB 1380 would incorporate awareness training on domestic violence, human trafficking, and sexual assault in the continuing education requirements for barbers and cosmetologists.

HB 1381 would improve government efficiency and save taxpayer funds by providing cities the option to host just one public hearing for applications before their zoning commission.

HB 2016 would improve safety by including sexual assault and aggravated sexual assault as a reason for ineligibility for licensure in the massage industry.

HB 2224 would make streets safer by extending the option for municipalities to declare a lower speed limit in residential streets without requiring them to perform an engineering or traffic investigation, as is already allowed for counties.

HB 3020 would assist efforts to eradicate human trafficking by preventing massage establishments from denying law enforcement, the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation, or their authorized representative access to their premises when conducting an inspection.



Celebrating World Down Syndrome Day

March 21st marks World Down Syndrome Day. People with Down Syndrome play a vital role in our lives and communities, and we commit to raising awareness and advocating for their full participation and inclusion in our society



James B. Havard 25th Anniversary

Congratulations to James B. Havard Elementary School on celebrating their 25th anniversary! #TeamHernandez was honored to join the celebration and present a certificate of recognition



STEM & ROBOTICS SHOWCASE DAY

GPISD Elementary Schools

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

ing work.

After each school team showcased their learning they peer voted to determine which campuses deserved awards. MacArthur elementary gained first place, Jacinto City Elementary came in second and Galena Park Elementary earned third place.”

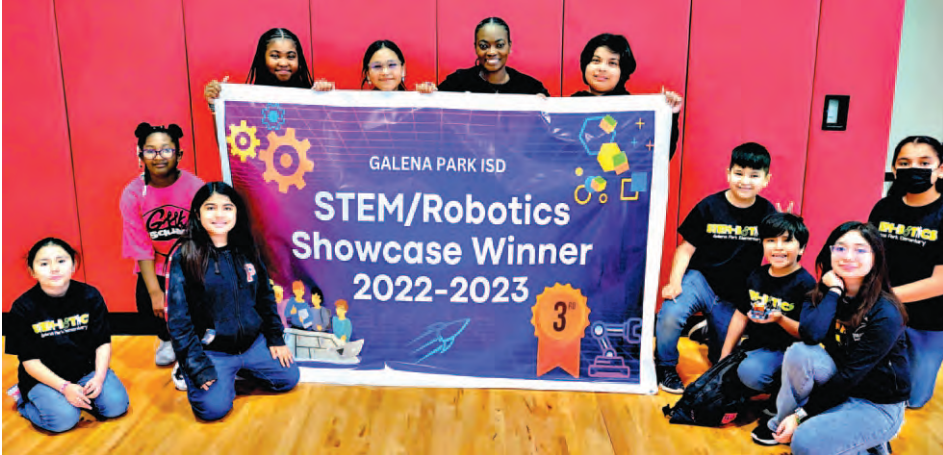
In addition to the showcase, students had the opportunity to participate in a stem expo and members of the community, parents and STEM parents were also invited to participate.

Precinct2Together gave a donation, the public library came to visit, GPHS and NSSH both brought robotics teams and well as Girls Who Code. Discovery Education came with a science experiment, local restaurants gave coupons, and many volunteers gave time. This was truly a community event to support our students in STEM.

Some but not all of the district’s staff overseeing the event with Mrs. Moreno were, Ms. Burgos, Mrs. Boutte and Mrs. Benitez.



2ND PLACE WINNERS, JACINTO CITY ELEMENTARY: L-R: Rolando Olveda, Lucas Martinez, Lucas Colon, Mrs. Andrade, Santiago Rocha, Mia Hurtado. Bottom of photo, L-R: Horacio Pena and Abigail Tamez. (Not pictured, Felipe Sanchez) (Photo by Allan Jamail)



3RD PLACE WINNERS, GALENA PARK ELEMENTARY: L-R: Kimberly Macias, Rehal Kelley, Isai Mendez, Faith Browning, Suzette Vazquez, Ms. Kaneice Washington, Armando Reyes, Jacob Velez, Yared Arriaga, Isabella Flores, Daniela Cruz (Photo by Allan Jamail)

Sales Tax Holiday

April 22-24, for Emergency Supplies

(AUSTIN) — With the severe weather season upon us, Texas Comptroller Glenn Hegar reminds Texans they can purchase certain items tax-free during the state’s sales tax holiday for emergency preparation supplies, which begins at 12:01 a.m. on Saturday, April 22, and ends at midnight on Monday, April 24.

“While we can’t know in advance when the next flood, tornado or hurricane may strike, we can make sure our families, homes and businesses have the supplies they need to face these and other emergencies,” Hegar said. “This tax holiday can help Texans save money while stocking up for emergency situations. Don’t wait for disaster to strike. Take the time now to get prepared.”

The Comptroller’s office estimates shoppers will save nearly \$2 million in state and local sales taxes during the tax holiday, which was approved by the Texas Legislature in 2015.

There’s no limit on the number of qualifying items you can purchase. These include:

- household batteries, fuel containers and flashlights priced less than \$75;
- hurricane shutters and emergency ladders priced less than \$300; and
- portable generators priced less than \$3,000.

For purchases made online, note that delivery, shipping, handling and transportation charges are part of the sales price. Consider these charges when determining whether an emergency preparation supply can be purchased tax-free during the holiday.

For example, if you purchase a rescue ladder online for \$299 with a \$10 delivery charge, the total sales price is \$309. Because the total sales price of the ladder is more than \$300, tax is due on the \$309 sales price.

Purchases that do not qualify include:

- batteries for automobiles, boats and other motorized vehicles;
- camping stoves, camping supplies;
- chainsaws;
- plywood;
- extension ladders and stepladders; and
- tents.

A list of emergency preparation supplies that may be purchased tax-free can be found on the Comptroller’s website.

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LEGAL NOTICE

LEGAL NOTICE

LEGAL NOTICE

TRACTOR WORK

TRACTOR WORK

TRACTOR WORK

POSITION AVAILABLE

POSITION AVAILABLE

POSITION AVAILABLE

LEGAL NOTICE

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS, THE CITY OF JACINTO CITY HAS RECEIVED A VARIANCE HEARING APPLICATION FROM JENNIFER BUSAMANTE AT 1001 HOLLAND AVE. SHE IS REQUESTING TO HAVE A MECHANIC REPAIR SHOP AT THAT ADDRESS.

THE BOARD WILL HEAR THE PETITION ON APRIL 18TH, 2023 AT 6:00 P.M. AT THE CITY HALL ANNEX, 10301 MARKET STREET. ANY INTERESTED PERSON MAY ATTEND.

TRACTOR WORK

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JOE FLANAGAN

832-530-0054

POSITION AVAILABLE

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MARKETING SPECIALIST POSITION OPEN

Responsible for managing, coordinating, and administering marketing and branding efforts on behalf of the East Aldine Management District, served by Hawes Hill & Associates LLP, in accordance with the district’s approved Service and Improvement Plan. The Marketing Specialist reports to and works under the general supervision of the district’s Executive Director.

Salary range: \$65,000 - \$80,000 annually, depending on qualifications and experience. Benefits include health, basic dental, life and disability insurance, SIMPLE IRA retirement plan, vacation.

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HELP WANTED

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Position available for journalist or manager with local newspaper. Experienced in writing, interviewing, sourcing, computer layout, ad sales, record keeping, promotions. Salary plus benefits. Send letter of interest to grafikstar@aol.com or call 713-252-8000.

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36th Annual Art Car Parade

Allen Parkway, Saturday, April 15, 2023



ENTERTAINMENT

Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps

CHECK OUT THAT FLOCK OF BIRDS LOOKING AT US.

THERE'S AN AIRPLANE RIGHT ABOVE. I BET THEY CAN SEE US DOWN HERE.

OH LOOK, HERE COMES A WEATHER BALLOON.

OK. NOW I FEEL LIKE I'M BEING WATCHED.

TIGER

by BUD BLAKE

HEY, WE GOTTA QUIT.

I'M LATE, I GOTTA GO HOME NOW, TIGER.

WHAT YOU LOOKING FOR?

A QUARTER. I MUSTA LOST IT WHILE WE WERE WRESTLING.

FINDERS KEEPERS!

GET OUTTA HERE!

The Spats

by Jeff Pickering

I'M LIKE A FINE WINE...

... I GET BETTER WITH AGE.

MAYBE I SHOULD KEEP YOU IN THE CELLAR.

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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 BOLTIHOFF

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

Differences: 1. Shrubbery is shorter. 2. Fence is shorter. 3. Cap is reversed. 4. Fats are different. 5. More than 40. 6. Insects. 7. Franchium, because it has 49 more neutrons than protons. 8. Sesame seeds. 9. New Orleans. 10. Four.

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April 17, 2023 Posting Date

King Crossword

ACROSS

1 Burden
5 "Terrif"
8 Confront
12 Guesser's words
13 Rushmore face
14 Big-screen format
15 Banner
16 Actuality
18 Prepare for printing
20 Staffers
21 Small batteries
22 "Today" rival, briefly
23 Bizarre
26 "The West Wing" actor
30 Altar constellation
31 Group of whales
32 Pledge
33 Was behind schedule
36 "Thank Me Later" rapper
38 — tear (raging)
39 Sticky stuff
40 Cockeyed
43 Worldly
47 Stop signal
49 Small iPod
50 Story
51 Calendar abbr.

DOWN

1 Barn storage area
2 Paris airport
3 Now, on a memo
4 Ersatz book-mark
5 Taxi costs
6 Help a crook
7 Arthur of "Maude"
8 Re offspring
9 During
10 Sidewalk eatery
11 Former mates
17 Mary's follower
19 Melancholy
22 Deity
23 Series of battles
24 Historic period
25 007 creator
26 Fleming
27 Lab eggs
28 Stir-fry pan
29 Lamb's dam
31 School support org.

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Fifi Rodriguez

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

Answers

1. TELEVISION: Which drama focuses on the inhabitants of Wisteria Lane?
2. GEOGRAPHY: The Aswan Dam is located on which river?
3. LANGUAGE: What is the only word in the English language that ends in "mt"?
4. MOVIES: What is the name of Ryan Reynolds' Alaskan hometown in "The Proposal"?
5. U.S. CITIES: How many buildings in New York City have their own ZIP codes, including the Empire State Building?
6. SCIENCE: Entomology is the scientific study of what?
7. CHEMISTRY: Which natural element is the most unstable?
8. FOOD & DRINK: What is the condiment tahi made of?
9. LITERATURE: What is the setting for John Kennedy Toole's novel "A Confederacy of Dunces"?
10. ANATOMY: How many lobes are in the human brain?

Solution time: 23 mins.

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Trivia test

by Fifi Rodriguez

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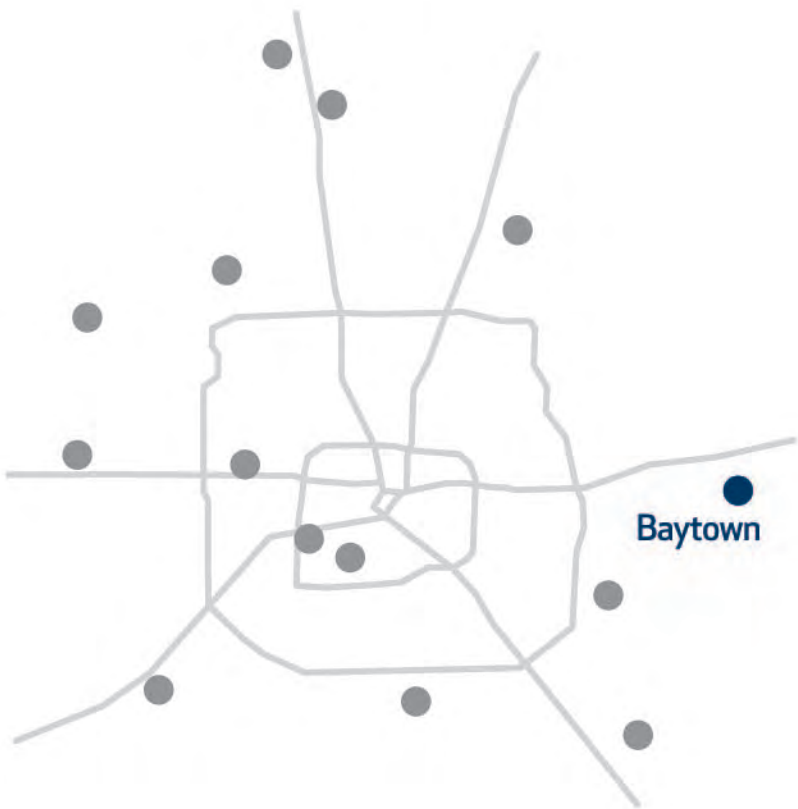
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