



Tall Sailing Ships were on display last week in Galveston. See Story & Photos, Page 3

NORTH CHANNEL ★ STAR

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Serving all of the North Shore -- Channelview, Cloverleaf, Sheldon, Galena Park, Jacinto City
VOLUME 11, NO. 16 (#466) THURSDAY, APRIL 27, 2023 www.northchannelstar.com

CHANNEL CURRENTS

Jacinto City changes Trash Pick-up Days

Starting Monday, May 3 waste collection days will change to MONDAY and THURSDAY. The last Saturday that waste will be collected is April 29. Heavy waste collection will occur on Thursdays. See ad on page 3 or contact WM at 800-800-5804 with questions.

North Channel RELAY FOR LIFE May 5, 6pm

North Channel Relay for Life, a fundraiser that honors cancer survivors, will be held Friday evening, May 5 from 6pm to Midnight at the North Shore Ninth Grade Center Track. Everyone is Welcome. Participants will walk on the track, and light luminaires.

Free car seat check Apr. 28

Car seat check, 3pm to 6pm at 1000 Keene Street parking lot in Galena Park. Reservation required, dxsuarez@texaschildrens.org. A limited supply of car seats will be available free.

Dia Del Nino Festival Apr 28

Channelview/Cloverleaf Hispanic Festival, April 28 from 4pm to 7pm, 406 Sheldon Road (MacDonald's Parking Lot), Channelview, Texas.

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.

Sheldon ISD names Dr. Demetrius McCall Lone Finalist as new Superintendent of Schools

At the April 18 School Board Meeting, the Sheldon ISD Board of Trustees named Dr. Demetrius McCall as the lone finalist for Sheldon ISD superintendent of schools.

"We are excited to welcome Dr. McCall back to Sheldon ISD," said Board President Mr. Fred Rivas. "He brings with him a wealth of knowledge in his diverse experiences that will benefit our district greatly. His passion and enthusiasm for education match our vision to serve every child every day, and we look forward to working with him."

Dr. McCall has been the deputy superintendent for administrative services in Goose Creek CISD since 2020. He's no stranger to Sheldon ISD, hav-

ing served as an assistant superintendent of administrative services, as well as the principal of C.E. King High School. His educational career includes time spent as the associate principal of Dayton High School and a speech communication and debate teacher in Channelview ISD.

Dr. McCall has a doctorate of educational leadership from Lamar University, a master's in educational management from the University of Houston Clear Lake and a bachelor's degree in science from Western Michigan University.

His wife Candice is a counselor at Sheldon ISD's King Middle School. They have two children who attend school in Goose Creek CISD and Shel-



Dr. Demetrius McCall

don ISD. Dr. McCall is active in his church, serving as a deacon, and is a member of several civic organizations including Baytown Chamber of Commerce, Baytown Rotary, and United Way.

"I am blessed to be able to return to Sheldon ISD," said Dr. Demetrius McCall. "I look forward to working with the staff, students and families. This community holds a special place in my heart, and I am grateful for this opportunity."

Texas law requires a 21-day waiting period prior to extending a formal contract to the superintendent. Dr. McCall will be appointed as Sheldon ISD's new superintendent of schools at the regular school board meeting on Tuesday, May 16.

NS ROTARY OBSERVES EARTH DAY WITH TREE PLANTING

CHANNELVIEW -- North Shore Rotarians teamed up with Precinct 2, student groups from North Shore High School, and volunteers from local industries to accomplish a large tree planting project to mark Earth Day 2023.

Three hundred new trees were planted in River Terrace Park, a small gem of a park at the East end of Market Street in Channelview, adjacent to the San Jacinto River.

Rotary president Ken Wimbley thanked all the members of the team, about forty total, for their hard work and devotion to a worthy cause. He said that Rotary had several community projects scheduled, and this was just the first one.

Wimbley reminded the community of the 48th Annual Rotary Catfish Fry and Crawfish Boil coming up on May 20th at the Rotary Pavilion on Wallisville Road, and that the proceeds from this event are used to fund community projects such as the tree planting.



A large team collaborated to get the Earth Day Tree Planting Accomplished. Included in the photo of the team are North Shore Rotarians, students from North Shore High School Anchor Club, NSHS National Honor Society, and volunteers from Lyondell Basell and McCord Development.



The North Shore Rotary Team, including Dr. Joe Coleman from NSHS.



About 300 trees were planted in River Terrace Park.

Channelview ISD Students of Month, & Spelling Bee champs

By Allan Jamail

Wednesday, April 19, 2023 at the Channelview Board of Trustees meeting the Board recognized some of the district's student's for their outstanding performance.

This was a tremendous accomplishment since the district has nearly 10,000 students. And to be named Students of the Month, highlights how hard they have worked.

Students of the month are: Yaneli Aguilar—Hamblen Elem, Jaythan Escobar—Harvey Brown Elem, Jordan Alvarado Ibarra—Barrett-Lee Early Childhood Center, Elena Littlefield—Crenshaw Elem, Eric Guerra—De Zavala Elem, Brayden Bridgewater—McGhee Elem, Bailey Gutierrez—McMullan Elem, Zydias Yokum—Alice J. Jr. High, Humberto Arredondo—

Anthony A. Jr. High, Sofia Herrera—Channelview High, Lizette Arroyo—Endeavor High, and Kyle Fruge—Kolarik 9th Grade Campus.

Spelling Bee Champions were also recognized and advancing to the Regional Spelling Bee contest are Alexander Escalante, an 8th-grade student from Anthony Aguirre Junior High and Jaedon Lee, a third-grader from Hamblen Elementary made it to the 2nd round.

Billy Lee, Jaedon's dad said, "I have a very smart and intelligent son I wouldn't trade him for anything in the world, and I always encourage him to keep up the good work." Mr. Lee of Galena Manor is a community activist helping out people in the communities of Galena Park, Channelview, Sheldon, Houston, Pasadena East End and Pleas-



SPELLING BEE CHAMPIONS, ABOVE -- At center holding certificates, L—R: Alexander Escalante & Jaedon Lee. Trustees L—R: Steven Dennis, Hector Martinez, Dennis Cedillo, V.P., Ramiro Granados, Sec., Shumona Collins, Lynette Breedlove, Alex Ybarra, Pres., Superintendent- Dr. Tory C. Hill.

antville.

Jaedon said he wants be a NASA Space Engineer Scientist and a community activist like his dad. He said he and his dad plan to go to the Space Center Houston to do some research on Space Engineer-

CONTINUED. SEE
CHANNELVIEW STUDENTS, P. 5



STUDENTS OF THE MONTH -- See story for names.

SHELDON ISD NEWS

Carroll Elementary Named Volunteer Campus of the Year



Sheldon Independent School District Partners in Education named Carroll Elementary as the Sheldon ISD Partners in Education (PIE) Volunteer Campus of the Year. Volunteers were presented a trophy for their hard work and dedication this school year during a surprise celebration during National Volunteer Week on April 21. The campus has logged approximately 1,640 volunteer hours from August 2022 to April 2023. The district also recognized Norma Enriquez as the top volunteer for Sheldon ISD with more than 681 hours. Ms. Enriquez is a volunteer at Carroll Elementary.

“We appreciate the time, energy, and attention given by our volunteers and community partners this year,” Carroll Elementary School Principal Solmaria Benavides said. “Thanks to the help of our supportive parent community, we have been g and activities that would not be possible without their help. We want to thank our volunteers for modeling the importance of community service for our students.”

The current estimate for the value of a volunteer hour is \$29.95, according to Independent Sector, the nation’s largest non-partisan coalition of nonprofit organiza-

tions. The volunteers of Carroll Elementary have contributed the equivalent of roughly \$49,118 to Sheldon ISD. Sheldon ISD volunteers across the district worked more than 6,327 hours throughout the 2022-23 school year, equating to \$189,493.65.

The Sheldon Partners in Education program creates school-support opportunities for parents, businesses and the community by offering a Families in Action volunteer program. Volunteers can donate their time and service to Sheldon ISD classrooms at any campus and all grade levels. To learn more, visit www.sheldonisd.com/pie.

Jenita Boleware Named Principal of Monahan Elementary School

Sheldon ISD is pleased to announce Ms. Jenita Boleware as principal of Monahan Elementary School. Ms. Boleware is the current assistant principal of Monahan Elementary. She has served students and families in Sheldon ISD as a math curriculum coordinator, a dean of instruction and instructional coach. She has also worked in Houston ISD where she was named Teacher of the Year.

Ms Boleware has a master’s degree in counseling from Prairie View A&M University and a bachelor of science in health science from Stephen F. Austin State University. Her role as principal will begin with the 2023-24 school year in August.



Ms. Jenita Boleware

KHS Track Students Receive Personal Best in District Meet

Last week, King High School track students competed in the district meet. Junior Rae’g Dailey placed 5th overall in long jump (21 feet and 2 inches). Junior

Jonah Lane ran a new personal record in the 300M hurdles with a time of 39.3 seconds. Senior Jontarrian Welch and junior Caleb Payton both

made it to the finals in the 100M dash. Caleb Payton placed 3rd overall in the 100M dash, and his performance has earned him a spot at the area track meet this week.



Sheldon Elementary Receives Top State Distinction



After a visit from nearly 60 AVID leaders nationwide, Sheldon Elementary was recently identified as one of only two AVID Elementary Showcase Campuses in Texas. Showcase campuses are schools that consistently pursue a college readiness system of rigor and high expectations in all content-area classrooms. AVID stands for Advancement Via Individual Determination and is a college readiness system that is designed to increase schoolwide learning and performance. Other educators visit Showcase campuses to observe effective AVID implementation and to learn from AVID teachers, administrators, and students. Congratulations to Principal Jana Rolling and her entire staff and to Mr. Heath Dear, the Advanced Academics Coordinator for his support of AVID elementary campuses.

Sheldon Early College High School Welcomes Class of 2027



Approximately 120 Sheldon ISD middle school students were initiated into Early College High School during a pinning ceremony on April 20. The ECHS allows them to graduate with an associate degree from San Jacinto College, free of cost. By 2027, these students will have the opportunity to graduate with both their high school diploma and an

associate degree from San Jacinto College.

Sheldon ISD is proud to offer a TEA-designated Early College High School. Sheldon ECHS serves students in grades 9 – 12 and is a school within a school located on the C. E. King High School campus. In partnership with San Jacinto College, ECHS offers students nine degree plans

to choose from. Students at ECHS have the opportunity to earn an endorsement, a distinguished level of achievement diploma, a performance acknowledgement, and up to 60 college credit hours within four years of high school. At Sheldon ECHS students and staff are a family where all students are supported on their path to success.

KHS Competition Cheer Earns Grand and Highpoint Champion



The King High School competitive cheer team attended the Redline Cheer Glow Tour Competition in Frisco and earned the Grand and Highpoint Champion for the small coed division. Congratulations!

KHS indoor Drumline Places 6th at State



On April 15, the King High School indoor percussion team received sixth place at the Texas Color Guard Circuit State Champions at Texas A&M University. This is the highest placement the ensemble has received.

Tall Ships festival in Galveston Harbor



Photos above show the Parade of Tall Ships, as they sailed both east and west along the Seawall in Galveston last week.

GALVESTON – The Tall Ships Galveston festival was held last week, on April 13 through April 16.

The event started with the Parade of Sail on April 13, which gave people a chance to get a view of the tall ships as they sailed along Seawall Boulevard in Galveston. The ships then docked at Galveston Bay for viewing by the public.

Tourists and residents were also able to get tours of the ships and participate in other activities. There were sail-away excursions, food and music.

Organizers said almost 50,000 people attended the event. The Galveston Historical Foundation helps put on the festival.

Ships participating in the Festival included:

- 1877 ELISSA**
Elissa was taken from a scrapyard in Piraeus Harbor, Greece and brought to Galveston in 1978 so the ship could get a makeover. There are only two other ships in the world like Elissa that still can sail.
- ERNESTINA-MORRISSEY – BUILT IN 1894**
The ship was created in 1894 at the James and Tarr Shipyard to join the Gloucester, Massachusetts, fishing fleet. The vessel was taken on an expedition and was 600 miles away from the North Pole.
- GLEN L. SWETMAN – BUILT IN 1989**
This ship is a 65-foot two-masted Biloxi Oyster Schooner that was referred to as a “white winged queen.” These types of vessels were used in the late 1800s and into the start of the 1900s.
- NAO TRINIDAD – BUILT IN 2016**
This ship was built in Punta Umbria, Spain, and is part of the

- Nao Victoria Foundation nonprofit, which focuses on educating people about history. The Nao Trinidad is typically docked in Huelva, Spain, when it is not traveling.
- PRIDE OF BALTIMORE II – BUILT IN 1987**
This ship was constructed in Baltimore. She has stopped at over 200 ports in North and South America, Europe, Asia and more.
- WHEN AND IF - BUILT IN 1939**
General George S. Patton wanted this boat to built for him for “when the war is over, and if I live through it, Bea and I are going to sail her around the world.” The ship was supposed to be luxurious and built for racing.
- Thomas Jefferson – built in 1991**
This ship was a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration hydrographic survey vessel that was used until 2003.

Early voting for San Jacinto College Board of Trustees election begins Monday

PASADENA, Texas – Early voting for the May 6, 2023, San Jacinto College Board of Trustees election begins Monday, April 24, 2023. Voters within the San Jacinto College District will vote on two trustee positions.

Any qualified voter that lives within the Pasadena, Deer Park, La Porte, Sheldon, Channelview, Galena Park, and a portion of the Clear Creek, Pearland, and Humble independent school districts, can vote in person at any designated early voting branch location in Harris County. To find an early voting location, visit the Harris County Elections web page.

Early voting hours of operation are 7 a.m. – 7 p.m., Monday, April 24 through Tuesday, May 2, except for Sunday, April 30, when early voting hours are 12 – 7 p.m.

Board of Trustees Positions 1 and 2 will be filled in the election. Each position is for a six-year term. Mrs. Erica Davis Rouse (incumbent) and Mr. Brand Hance have filed for Position 1. Dr. Michelle Cantú-Wilson and Mrs. Karen K. Wheeler-Hall have filed for Position 2.

Voting Centers are open 7 a.m. – 7 p.m. on Election Day, Saturday, May 6, 2023. Additional information about the San Jacinto College Board of Trustees election can be found on the San Jacinto College website.

About San Jacinto College

Surrounded by monuments of history, evolving industries, maritime enterprises of today, and the space age of tomorrow, San Jacinto College has served the people of East Harris County, Texas, since 1961. The College is one of the top five community colleges in the nation as designated by the Aspen Institute, and was named an Achieving the Dream Leader College of Distinction in 2020. The College is a Hispanic-Serving Institution that spans five campuses, serving approximately 41,000 credit and non-credit students annually. It offers more than 200 degrees and certificates across eight major areas of study that put students on a path to transfer to four-year institutions or enter the workforce. The College is fiscally sound, holding bond ratings of AA and Aa2 by Standard & Poor's and Moody's.

For more information about San Jacinto College visit sanjac.edu.

Galena Park ISD Board of Trustees Election Early Voting started

GALENA PARK – Early voting started April 24 for three positions on the GPISD Board of Trustees. Election Day is Saturday, May 6th, from 7am to 7pm.

Candidates for Position 5 include Dianne Williams and Jose Jimenez.

For Position 6, Noe Esparza is running unopposed.

For Position 7, Norma Hernandez is running unopposed.

Early Voting is being conducted on April 24 through April 28, May 1st and May 2nd from 8am to 5pm.

Eligible Voters may vote at either of these two early voting locations:

Galena Park ISD Admin. Building, Room Q109, 14705 Woodforest Blvd. Houston 77015, or:

Galena Park Middle School, Front Hallway, 400 Keene Street, Galena Park 77547.

On Election Day, voters must vote at the location corresponding to their precinct of residents. These are as follows:

Precincts 81,164, 208 - Galena Park Middle School, Front Hallway;

Precincts 162, 163 - Jacinto City Town Center, Meeting Room;

Precincts 376, 8127, 831, 872 - Cloverleaf Elementary, Room 1402;

Precincts 353, 376, 1017, 1023 - Kenneth J. Tice Elementary, Cafeteria;

Precincts 368, 413, 460, 725 - North Shore Elementary, Room 1502;

Precincts 266, 354, 824 - Green Valley Elementary, Front Hallway.

Hellyer honored at Communities in Schools gala

San Jacinto College Chancellor to be recognized for commitment to education

PASADENA, Texas — San Jacinto College Chancellor Dr. Brenda Hellyer was recognized by Communities in Schools (CIS) of Southeast Harris and Brazoria County as a 2023 Inaugural Honoree. The recognition took place on Friday, March 31, at the organization's first Round up for Kids Gala.

“This recognition is about the partnership that San Jacinto College has with Communities in School – is it an honor to be the first recipient of this recognition,” said Hellyer. “Our partnership with Communities in School is important to the success of students throughout our region, and that partnership has spanned for more than



seven years. Together, we are providing programs and events that introduce students to the possibilities that await them.”

CIS is a charitable organization which is part of a nationwide network of passionate professionals serving in public schools to surround students with a community of support, empowering them to stay in school and achieve in life. CIS currently operates in 15 school districts, and 121 schools with 140 programs.

For the past seven years, San Jacinto College has partnered with Communities in School to provide Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) opportunities and activities. Among those are fine arts expos with more than 1,000 students and families helped; NASA after school program with more than 200 students in the program; STEM fairs that served 8,500 students and families over the last seven years; representation on the Communities in Schools Board; and employee job recruitment.

Curbside Collection Day Change

Jacinto City Residents:

Effective Monday, May 1, your waste collection days will change to MONDAY and THURSDAY.

Last Saturday service day for waste collection is APRIL 29.

First new service day for regular waste collection is MONDAY, MAY 1.

Heavy waste collection will occur on THURSDAYS.

Questions? Contact WM at 800-800-5804.

Cambio de día de recolección a

Residentes de la ciudad de Jacinto:

A partir del lunes 1 de mayo, sus días de recolección de residuos cambiarán a LUNES y JUEVES.

El último día de servicio en sábado para la recolección de residuos es el 29 de abril.

El primer nuevo día de servicio para la recolección regular de residuos es el lunes 1 de mayo.

La recolección de residuos pesados se realizará los jueves.

¿Tiene alguna pregunta? Comuníquese con WM al 800-800-5804.

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OPINION

By Joyce LeBombard

League of Women Voters of Texas

TexasPreemption of Local Authority is Out of Control

AUSTIN, TX — In response to the alarming attacks on local government authority trending in the 88sth Legislative Session, League of Women Voters of Texas President Joyce LeBombard issued the following statement:

“Legislation currently in front of the Texas Legislature seeks to take over control from local governments and other vital local entities, including election administration. The League of Women Voters is alarmed at this proposed change as it threatens the trustworthy and transparent work of our local election officials.

The Texas Legislature proposes to rewrite the rules that have governed state and local relationships for decades. Lawmakers have re-adopted or proposed to re-adopt legislative district maps that significantly erode the representation of Texans in large population centers. In addition, they are debating sweeping legislation preempting local ordinances in significant areas such as natural resources, finance, and labor. These changes would be enforced through private action at the expense of local government.

The League is concerned about seeing the same pattern in elections. Real and perceived issues with election administration in Harris County in 2022 are being used as an excuse to subject election officials and election workers across the state to everything from increased criminal and civil liability to outright takeover by the State.

Examples include:

- Legislation allowing the Secretary of State to directly administer county elections based on a ‘good cause to believe,’ not actual evidence of fumbles in election administration;
- Legislation giving the Secretary of State the same power as a district court judge to order a new election;
- Legislation creating elections marshals to police local elections;
- Legislation allowing prosecution of election law violations in counties other than the county in which the alleged violation occurred;

The League remembers the axiom ‘Government is best that is closest to the people.’ Our lawmakers in the statehouse would do well to remember it also.”

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About the League of Women Voters of Texas: The League of Women Voters is one of America’s oldest and most trusted civic nonprofit organizations. Formed in 1919, the Texas League represents more than 13,500 grassroots advocates and 34 local Leagues across the state. The League never supports or opposes candidates for office or political parties. The League encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government. The League also seeks to influence public policy through education and advocacy. Membership is open to people 16 years and older. Learn more about the League of Women Voters of Texas at LWVTexas.org.

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.

top ten

Most Independent U.S. States 2022

1. Utah

2. Colorado

3. Massachusetts

4. Virginia

5. Nebraska

6. Florida

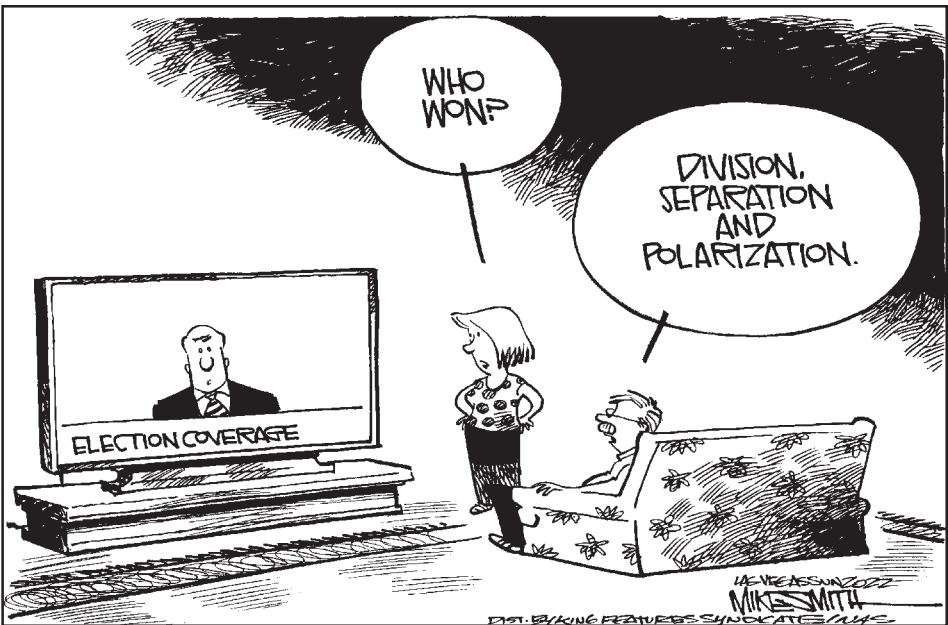
7. Idaho

8. Wisconsin

9. Washington

10. Delaware

Source: WalletHub



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STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Gary Borders

Senate, House Begin Budget Reconciliation Process

The Texas Senate unanimously approved a \$308 billion two-year budget last week, the Austin American-Statesman reported. The next step is to reconcile that budget with one passed earlier by the Texas House.

The Senate’s budget funds \$10 billion in electric grid reforms, provides pay raises to state employees, and devotes more than half of its budget to funding education.

“Over the next few weeks, I will be working with my colleagues in the Senate and the House to reach a consensus on the differences between the two chambers, and I look forward to sending the final appropriations bill to Gov. (Greg) Abbott before the legislative session ends,” state Sen. Joan Huffman, R-Houston said in a statement. Huffman chairs the finance committee.

The main difference in the two budgets is in how to provide property tax relief. The House version dedicates \$17.3 billion to cutting the annual amount a home’s appraisal can increase, from 10% to 5%. The Senate budget allocates \$16.5 billion for property tax relief by increasing the homestead exemption from \$40,000 to \$70,000, with added breaks for homeowners 65 and older.

MEDICAID EXPANSION FOR NEW MOMS POSSIBLE

The Texas House has passed a bill that allows low-income moms to stay on Medicaid for a full year after childbirth.

The Texas Tribune reported that is a marked increase from current practice, in which postpartum Medicaid expires two months after birth in Texas.

The bill has widespread support, including from Gov Greg Abbott and more than 170 groups in the state across the political spectrum. However, Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick, who presides over the Senate, has not publicly stated his position on the measure.



sition on the measure.

Texas has the largest uninsured population in the country, with nearly 1 in 5 Texans lacking health insurance, the Tribune reported.

“As I have said before, it is essential that the Texas House makes meaningful progress this year on better supporting mothers and children in the state — and that starts with extending health coverage for new moms to a full year,” House Speaker Dade Phelan, R-Beaumont, said previously when outlining his priorities for the legislative session.

BILL BANS ‘SEXUALLY EXPLICIT’ BOOKS IN SCHOOL LIBRARIES

The Texas House last week passed a preliminary measure that requires vendors to assign a rating to books with sexual content before selling them to school districts, The Dallas Morning News reported. The measure requires one more vote in the House before heading to the Senate, where it is likely to pass.

“This bill is about radically sexual content in the hands of unaccompanied children in public school libraries,” state Rep. Jared Patterson, R-Frisco, the bill’s sponsor, said from the House floor Thursday.

Opponents to the measure are concerned it would lead to books about LGBTQ people being banned from libraries. About a dozen people with the Texas Freedom Network held a reading in the Capitol rotunda’s

floor as the bill was being debated.

State Rep. Venton Jones, D-Dallas, is one of eight openly LGBTQ legislators. He said the bill would hurt children who grow up feeling out of place because of their sexual orientation.

“I remember going to my school library looking for books when healthy conversations with my loved ones were not always available or always comfortable,” Jones said. “What I was looking for was materials that spoke to me and for stories of the people who came before me.”

BILLIONS MORE FOR UNIVERSITY RESEARCH LIKELY

Billions of dollars for higher education research appear likely as two bills have passed the House, the Statesman reported. One measure changes the name of the National Research University Fund to the Texas University Fund, while another proposes a constitutional amendment to enact the bill and allocate \$3.5 billion to the fund. Both bills were filed by state Rep. Greg Bonnen, R-Friendswood.

“This is a transformative piece of legislation that will allow Texas for generations to come to be the intellectual capital of the world,” Bonnen said last week. “It changes the eligibility requirements for access to this fund, and it does so in a merit-based approach and in an approach that, as other universities grow and enhance their research performance, they will be able to access this fund and not dilute the ones that are currently in the fund.”

Similar measures have already passed the Senate, though that body allocated \$1 billion less than the House measure.

LIGHTS OUT’ ACROSS TEXAS HELPS BIRDS MIGRATE

The annual migration of birds through Texas to northern breeding grounds has begun, and Texans are urged to help by turning off outdoor lights at night from now through May 12, according to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.

Bird mortalities are associated with light pollution, which disorients our winged friends. One of every three birds migrating through the United States comes through Texas in the spring and fall – nearly 2 billion in total, according to TPWD.

Texans can help by:

- Turning off all nonessential lights from 11 p.m. to 6 a.m. during this migration period.
- Not using landscape lighting to illuminate trees or gardens where birds may be resting.
- Aim security and safety lighting downward.
- In commercial buildings, ensuring custodial work is done by 11 p.m., and lights are turned off.

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THE POSTSCRIPT

By Carrie Classon

“Fireworks in the morning”

I start noticing the planes overhead when it’s nearing the time to go.

Planes don’t fly low over this small Mexican city. San Miguel de Allende doesn’t have its own airport, so the few planes flying overhead are high in the sky, headed off to somewhere else. I rarely notice them at all until it’s time to leave.

Now I’m watching them leave a trail in the sky and wondering about the people inside. Are they happy to be going wherever they’re going? Are they sad to be leaving wherever they were? After almost three months here, in our little apartment in Mexico, everything we do in the last week takes on a new significance.

Will these flowers last until we leave? How many potatoes should I cook? Should we buy one more small jar of honey? We wonder where we should go out to eat, and we keep using the expression “one last time,” as if we will never return. We plan to return. We even have tickets. But life is uncertain and leaving, even for a few months, feels momentous.

At 6 o’clock this morning, we heard fireworks.

“Pop! Pop! Pop!” My husband, Peter, mumbled something in his sleep. “Fireworks,” I told him.

He went back to sleep. He doesn’t mind. Peter is used to them now. Fireworks in the morning are not unusual. There are reasons for them, we are told, but they are complicated. They have to do with births and deaths and things we will never fully understand. This morning, I was wide awake at 6 o’clock, listening to the fireworks and wondering how they ever could have bothered me in the past.

I’m having a hard time remembering our home in the U.S.

I try to remember what pots and pans I use, and I can’t quite picture them. It seems odd that my other life has grown so fuzzy in such a short time. I have forgotten how many houseplants we left to be watered. (Very few, is the answer.) I try to remember what vase I put my flowers in and what coffee cup I use. It seems important that I remember these things. Otherwise, it feels as if I will be flying into a void.

I wonder if winter is finally over. (Not really, is what I am hearing from my family.) I

wonder if the crocuses will be coming up when we get back. Unlike the kitchen and my coffee cup, I can picture the crocuses with vivid clarity, scattered across the lawns, growing oblivious to property lines, spreading brilliant purple blooms everywhere for just a couple of short weeks, then disappearing again for a full year. I look forward to the crocuses.

And I miss my parents and spending time with my family. I will enjoy my walk through the old neighborhood. It will be fun to see spring finally arrive and meet all my old dog friends who will be eager to smell whatever was hidden beneath all that snow.

When you read this, I’ll be back. And I’m sure I’ll feel happier about it than I feel today.

Today, I think I’ll miss the fireworks.

Psychological studies report that, if I want to keep enjoying something, I need a little time away. I need to do something different for a while to keep the appreciation fresh. I believe this is true. But right now, I don’t feel like going away. Right now, I feel like taking in the brilliant colors and the warm sun and even the fireworks for at least one more day.

Till next time, Carrie

Check out CarrieClasson-Author on Facebook or visit CarrieClasson.com.

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CHARLOTTE'S WEB

By Charlotte Jackson



Mental Health

When I was younger, I never gave mental health a thought. Life was simple. I lived in a comfortable home with my parents and my brother. My father worked in the same profession until he retired in 2004. My mother worked several years during my teenage years, but for the most part, I remember my mother spending many hours in service to our church and our community.

Most of my classmates had similar lives. It was not until fifth grade that I met someone who had had a stepfather. And there were few classmates that lived in apartments. On Sunday mornings, area church parking lots were packed. Sunday afternoons typically included a family meal and maybe even taking a Sunday afternoon ride. In the mid-1970s, San Jacinto College opened their location on Uvalde Road.

By the time I graduated from high school, the influence of the world was creeping into our lives. I went off to Austin to attend college. Before my freshman year was over, I had sat in the lounge at my dormitory with fifty other girls glued to the television learning details of President Ronald Reagan being shot. This was probably the first time I heard about mental illness.

In the years that followed, I would occasionally see updates on the young man who shot him. We would hear about him being mentally ill. He had acted out trying to get attention. Flash forward and it has unfortunately become something that is all too common. On Sunday while taking a nap, my sleep was interrupted by numerous phone calls, not just from our community but from as far away as Oklahoma City, with people wanting to check on my safety. Once again, there had been a shooting in my community. This time it was on a Sunday afternoon, inside the local Wal-Mart. I had friends within feet of the shooter. I had friends in the parking lot running for safety. I thank God we had law enforcement officers responding quick enough that the shooter was caught. The victim was taken to a local hospital. (I wondered where, since our community lost our full-service hospital in 2017, but that is another subject.)

As much as I try to stay positive, there are days I wonder what pushes people to harm others.

We do not know the journey of anyone else. We do not know if they have been a victim of child abuse, domestic abuse, sexual abuse. We know that many people turn to drugs, alcohol, food, sex, entertainment, gambling and to attempt to ease the pain. We know that there is a stigma attached to admitting that you have a mental illness. Too often those with a mental illness do not receive the professional help or medication they need. Often it is because of the shortage of resources. For over twenty years, our community has had limited counselors and mental health services. When trying to get an appointment for a psychiatrist, frustration would build as those in Houston often took six weeks or longer to be seen.

As we approach Mental Health Awareness Month, I ask that you do some research. Learn about the different types of mental illness. From anxiety to schizophrenia, there is much to learn. Whether it is learning to find the needed resources, memorizing the number 9-8-8 for those in a crisis, to helping erase the stigma, each of us can learn to be a difference maker.

Argument leads to shooting inside Channelview Walmart



EAST HARRIS COUNTY — Gunfire erupted inside a store in east Harris County on Sunday, according to deputies. At about 12:49 p.m., the Harris County Sheriff's Office deputies responded to the shooting at 5713 East Sam Houston Parkway at Wallisville. HCSO confirmed they had units on the scene within four minutes of the call and had the suspect detained within eight minutes.

Investigators told Eyewitness News that one man was taken to the hospital, and the accused gunman was detained after shots were fired during an argument inside the Walmart.

HCSO confirms the victim was shot in the abdomen and was taken to a local hospital. In an update, Sheriff Ed Gonzalez said the victim is expected to be OK.

A Harris County Sheriff's Office Major said they believe the gunman and the victim know each other but would not determine how or what led up to the shooting.

"I heard people yelling running. I couldn't make it out of the store. I ended up going into a dark room un-

til I ended up running out the store," a Walmart employee said.

HCSO Major Suarez said the suspect called 911 from a convenience store in the same parking lot as the Walmart where the shooting unfolded. "Only information we got is that he called 911 and advised he was at this business and he had barricaded himself," Suarez said. The suspect surrendered without incident, HCSO said.

As of Sunday evening, HCSO confirmed the suspect is detained and undergoing questioning.

What started the argument or how the two know each other is still under investigation.

The media relations office for Walmart corporate sent the statement to ABC13 after confirming the store reopened at 6 p.m. following the incident.

"Associate and customer safety is our top priority. We are thankful for our local first responders and will continue to work with them as they continue their investigation," said Kelsey Bohl with Walmart media relations.

HCSO has not released the suspect's name as of Sunday.

Channelview Students,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

ing. And he said he's going to go to Houston Community College to learn drone cyber security and the cyber Apple Swift coding program.

"I love all sports and going to the park to play baseball, soccer, football and basketball. When I

have time I enjoy playing with my Nintendo switch. This summer every chance I get I'm going to the library, Jaedon said."

Teresa Gomez, CISD Communications' Specialist assisted with this article.

ASK DIAMOND JIM

Diamond Jim: "Why Gold is a must-have during a banking crisis!"

I have been buying and selling bullion for years. Never have I seen a greater need to understand the dangers of fiat money than today. Fiat money is paper money without value. Hard money is gold and silver. Your fiat money is no longer backed by gold and silver. There are over 182 banks poised to fail. The following is an excerpt that I think describes the situation in which we find ourselves:



By Stefan Gleason
Reprinted from Money Metals

There are many reasons to buy and hold physical gold. The lack of counterparty risk, the diversification, and the hedge against inflation are among the top reasons to own the monetary metals.

The public is only in the early process of figuring out why gold ownership is an absolute MUST during a banking crisis. Several big banks have already failed. Silicon Valley Bank had nominal assets of \$209 billion. Signature Bank of New York failed with nominal assets of \$118 billion.

These banks became two of the nation's top three failures in history!

The only larger one was the ignominious 2008 failure of Washington Mutual which had assets of over \$300 billion.

Meanwhile, many other banks may be overleveraged and – despite new liquidity “tools” created by the Federal Reserve – may ultimately be unable to cope with a rush of depositors looking to yank their deposits. The world may also be set heading toward negative scenarios, as concerns about a global recession and even a global war are rising.

Consider, for a moment, what it could mean to you if your bank closed down. What if you were unable to pull cash to go to the grocery store, buy gasoline, or heat your home? Or what if you *were* able to get cash, but discovered that cash was now nearly worthless?

Both scenarios are possible – and may now be becoming more likely. The impetus for holding non-bank forms of money may never have been higher in recent history. Fortunately, doing so is not difficult.

Gold is a great substitute for Federal Reserve note “dollars” when it comes to longer-term savings – in fact, holding gold is an upgrade. Gold is valued, traded, and hoarded all over the globe. And central banks have recently been acquiring gold at a record pace. Over time, gold goes up and down – and mostly up. While fiat currencies go up and down – and mostly down.

It's prudent to diversify away from holding large amounts of Federal Reserve notes or their electronic equivalent. From an ease of transacting standpoint, it's highly practical to hold *some* dollars. But the risks may outstrip the benefits as you get into larger amounts.

Bank fears combined with inflation fears have sparked a major increase in demand for physical gold (and silver) over the past six weeks.

If you are interested in purchasing gold and/or silver, please call or email us ASAP. No more paper certificates of gold ownership. No more “24K gold plated” commercials. Understand what spot means, and what the costs are for you to purchase. Let us make this easy for you.

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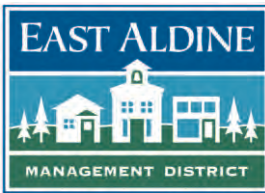
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National Library Week, April 23-29

Turner Car Show displays dozens of the best collectable and show vehicles

By Allan Jamail

April 23-29, 2023 is National Library Week is the perfect time to visit your library. Many libraries have special events planned for the week. Bring the kids or invite your friends. Meet the librarians. Check out books or other great items in your library's collection or attend a program.

Kelly Yang, 2023 National Library Week honorary chair said, "I am so honored to serve as honorary chair of National Library Week for 2023! As a young immigrant child, I came to this country when I was six years old with no English. I know firsthand that there's so much more to the story when it comes to libraries, just like there's more to my story. I am the product of amazing libraries and librarians, who saw me, supported me, and nurtured me. Through books, movies, games, giveaways, and engaging programming, I found the courage to go for my dreams. So it is with the greatest joy that I join ALA in celebrating libraries everywhere and all they do to inspire, invigorate, and lift up communities!"

National Library Week, allows us to promote our local libraries and their workers. From Harry Potter and Matilda, to Lord of the Rings and Game of Thrones, we're sure at some point you've dashed to the library to borrow your favorite book.

Then comes studying. Haven't we all spent end-



Kelly Yang, National Library Week Honorary Chair

less hours in the library revising for our exams, borrowing textbooks, free journals and using their online resources? Do you remember that feeling of getting a brand-new library card – of whipping it out when you borrowed a mountain of DVD's?

Of course, times have changed since the millennium, but aren't the staff always so professional and kind? Libraries are pivotal to society to both universities and to schools. Celebrating them, means celebrating silent reading, our communities and getting into college. Therefore, it's an obvious good deed. This National Library Week, let's look back on our love for the smell inside an old book, and wholeheartedly thank our local public libraries.

Research has revealed that by the mid-1950s, Americans were spending significant amounts of time listening to the radio, watching TV and playing musical instruments. Through concern that people were not reading enough; in 1954 a non-profit book committee was

established by the American Library Association (ALA) and the American Book Publishers. National Library Week was first sponsored in 1958, and the weeklong event was developed with the intent to motivate people to read as well as to support and show appreciation to their local libraries.

The yearly affair is also doubly sponsored by the American Library Association (ALA) who decided that this week be observed every April. When first set out, the aims of this week were described as ambitious. Some goals were thought to be over-zealous. Things like, expecting this week to improve American household incomes and health, and helping to develop strong and happy family lives.



BEST OF SHOW award went to Derek Harmsen for his Red 57 Chevy Belair (shown right), presented by Robert Turner. BEST ENGINE Bruce Meyer 65 Shelby Cobra, BEST PAINT Daniel Pohorily 60 Chevy Biscayne, BEST INTERIOR Mark Alford.



BEST OF SHOW, DERIK HARMSEN, 57 BELAIR



2007 JEEP WRANGLER, ANGELA BOONE

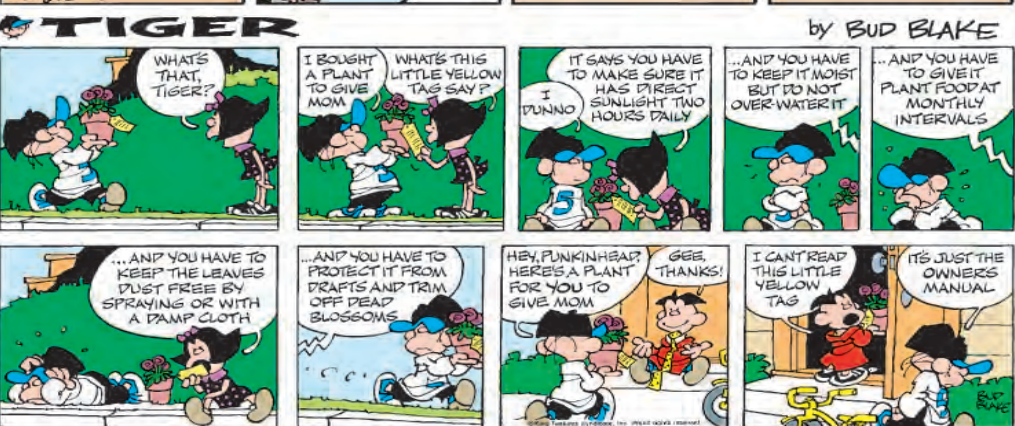


BEST ENGINE, BRUCE MEYER, 65 SHELBY COBRA



ENTERTAINMENT

Amber Waves



Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

8			3				9	
		7			6			4
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		1		5			3	
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Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 3-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 BOLTINOFF

April 24, 2023 Posting Date

King Crossword

ACROSS

1 Chanteuse Edith
5 Links org.
8 Too
12 Kott of "Today"
13 Filch
14 500 sheets
15 Rat-
16 Eternally
18 Large gong
20 Try to hear better, maybe
21 Author Bagnold
23 Nabokov novel
24 Symbol of stability
28 La Scala solo
31 — tai (cocktail)
32 Van Gogh venue
34 Mafia boss
35 Hostels
37 Vespers
39 Secret agent
41 Ms. Brockovich
42 Ceremony
45 Slanted type
49 The whole crowd
51 Actress Fisher
52 Lure
53 Some coll. degrees

DOWN

1 Excellent, in slang
2 Speck
3 Leading man?
4 Plump up
5 Opening night
6 State VIP
7 Genesis shepherd
8 Fleet
9 "Mona Lisa" painter
10 Rani's wrap
11 Portent
17 Stephen of "Still Crazy"
19 "Puppy Love" singer
22 Look (into)
24 Brit. record label
25 Moving vehicle
26 Genius
27 Most skeptical
29 Charged bit
30 "Life of Pi" director Lee
33 Tizzy
36 Gushes forth
38 Slowpokes
40 "Rah!"
42 Ms. McEntire
43 Infamous tsar
44 High tennis shots
46 Aspiring atty.'s exam
47 "Would — to you?"
48 Shopper's aid
50 Scot's refusal

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Trivia Test

Answers

King Crossword

Solution time: 22 mins.

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