School News, Page 2

More Barges in the River, Page 5

NORTH CHANNEL STAR

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Serving all of the North Shore -- Channelview, Cloverleaf, Sheldon, Galena Park, Jacinto CityVOLUME 11, NO. 18 (#468)THURSDAY, MAY 11, 2023www.northchannelstar.com

Drone photos reveal extent of

Jacinto City increases Water/Sewer rates by 15%

By Allan Jamail

Jacinto City – April 27, 2023 at the Jacinto City (JC) city council meeting Mayor Ana Diaz and the city council unanimously approved a hefty 15 percent increase to the residents for their water and sewer usage.



LON SQUYRES Jacinto City City Manager

City Manager Lon Squyres recommended the large increase because the city of Houston raised its rates on the city. He said JC hasn't had a rate increase in over a decade (10 years). He said the average monthly bill from Houston where JC buys its water is

CHANNELVIEW – The San Jacinto River Waste Pits southern impoundment is busy with remediation work, at the direction of the EPA.

The contractor is GHD, working for the RP or Responsible Parties. At the Southern site, work is progressing slowly, step by step. Fencing has been installed, equipment for a water treatment system has been delivered and set up, site roads have been built, a guard shack and security are in place, signage has been installed, and debris removed.

Excavation has started and some material has been sent to the landfills. Trucks can be seen on Market Street and I-10 hauling the material away. The landfills have been identified, as Republic in the Beaumont area, and Seabreeze in Angleton. These landfills can accept



remediation work at Waste Pits South

The Southern Impoundment site, as seen from a Drone. In the foreground is excavation of an area with toxic material, in the center are the offices and marshalling yard of the GHD contractor, and in the distance can be seen 4 large tanks, open on the top, as part of the dewatering remediation system. At right, excavators and a bulldozer remove material to a shallow depth. (Drone photos courtesy of Greg Moss)

Class II non-hazardous waste. Therefore workers at the site are taking only minimum protection from the toxins.

Rachel Jordan of THEA said that there had been a release, or spill, of toxic material in March, but it was a small amount and contained. However, it caused the operator to reevaluate procedures and take steps to cap open

Continued. See Waste Pits Southern Site, Page 5



Galena Park Boys Baseball Winning Season

(Photo by Linda Jamail)

By Allan Jamail

Galena Park, TX.— April 28, 2023 the Galena Park varsity boy's

The Jackets won their last 5A District game against Houston Sharpstown. The game was stopped after four innings with the Jackets scoring 12 runs to the visiting Apollos 0. They were eliminated in the Bi-District round at the Angleton High School stadium in the 2023-UIL-Texas-Baseball-State-Championships-5A-Region-1-&-3 against the Richmond Foster Falcons. Linda Jamail statistician.

Jackets Jacket

\$80,000.

Squyres said over the years JC's water and sewer rates were not enough to pay the Houston bill and they were having to make up the shortage from income obtained elsewhere in the city's revenue sources.

Former Mayor Allan Jamail asked Squyres how

Continued. See Jacinto City Water Rates, Page 3 Yellow Jackets high school baseball winning season marks an impressive wins record. Under Head Coach James Turrubiartes the team had a 83% district win record (15 wins – 3 losses). Their overall season record was 22 wins, 6 losses and 1 tie equaling a 78% win record.



Front Row: L-R: Jacob Valadez, Logan Erebia, Matthew Mendez, Angel Pina, Josue Carrizales, Jose Estrada, Gabriel Rivera, Hector Arrieta. Back Row: L-R: Joel Jimenez, Jason Soto, Jayden Guerra, Miguel Daniel, Christian Salinas, Nehomar Ochoa, Daniel Gomez, Raul Betancourt, Uriel Renteria, Esequiel Negrete.

Galena Park Girls Win District Championship Undefeated Season; Lose Playoff



Standing ~ L-R: Head Coach: Noe Vela, Ariana Daniel-Sr, Junior Varsity Coach: Anthony McKay, Aaliyah Salinas-Sr, Natalie Quintanilla-Jr, Celeste González-Jr, Victoria Miranda-Fr, Hailey Hernandez –Jr, Johanna Hernandez-Fr, Mariah DeSantiago –Jr. & Assistant Varsity Coach, Lydia Baggett.

Kneeling ~ L-R: Jaqueline Galván-Sr, Tatiana Rangel-Jr, Mia Gracia –Fr, Penelope Saenz-Jr, Natalie Montgomery-Sr, Julissa Hernandez-Jr & Jewelysa Morales-Sr. (Photo by Allan Jamail) ADDITIONAL PHOTO ON PAGE 3

By Allan Jamail

Galena Park, TX.— April 28, 2023 the Galena Park Lady's Yellow Jackets varsity high school softball team had a perfect undefeated season in district play to take the 5A district crown.

The Jackets lost a heartbreaker in their first playoff game against the Terry Rangers from Rosenberg 1 to 0. Fans of both teams were on the edge of their seats in the pitcher's duel. The game is a part of the 2023 Softball 5A Regions 1 & 3 High School Varsity Bi-District Championship.

Mariah DeSantiago, the Jacket's junior pitcher, pitched 6-2/3rds shutout innings. The lone Ranger run came off a blooper hit ball that fell into shallow right field barely inside the foul line putting the runner on 3rd base. Another Terry batter drove in the runner from third making it 1 to 0. Later the Lady Jackets left runners in scoring positions in a couple of innings but couldn't muster a hit to drive them home. Linda Jamail statistician.



Thank you to all of our Corporate Sponsors that make this event happen!

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SHELDON ISD NEWS

Sheldon ISD names Teachers of The Year



At the 2023 Sheldon Stars Employee Banquet, Sheldon ISD celebrated the achievements of more than 65 employees, including the naming of Teacher of the Year. The 2022-23 Elementary Teacher of the Year is Taylor Deese from Monahan Elementary and the Secondary Teacher of the Year is Joshua Raglon from King Middle School. The district Teachers of the Year were selected by their campus and a committee of administrators. Deese and Raglon each received \$500 from the Education Foundation.

Sheldon ISD honored dis-

trict retirees for more than

450 years of service in ed-

ucation, campus teachers

of the year, campus rook-

ies of the year and support services paraprofessional

employees of the year. The

Sheldon Stars Banquet

was held at the Panther

Zone on Thursday, May 4.

In addition to naming the Teachers of the Year,

23 students earn FAA Drone Pilot Certification



This week, the Sheldon ISD Drone Pilot Luncheon sponsored by Sheldon STEM, was held to celebrate 23 C. E. King HS certified FAA Drone Pilots and their Engineering teacher, Ms. Simpson. Each student received a custom vest to wear "on the job" and a certificate from Mrs. Zalesnik, Dr. Argueta and Ms. Taylor. With this license, students become official FAA pilots and have the ability to fly drones commercially and increase their income producing capacity tremendously.

Teachers and Students Recognized at May Chamber Meeting



At the North Channel Area Chamber of Commerce May 5 luncheon, Sheldon ISD recognized three students and three teachers during the Teacher and Student of the Month celebrations. Congratulations to Aaron Davila and Raquel Johnson from King Middle School, Morgan Hawkins and Racquel Edwards from Null Middle School and Hilary Tristan and Yaritza Sifuentes from King High School. Honorees received a certificate and were treated to an appreciation luncheon.

GALENA PARK ISD NEWS

Galena Park ISD Recognized All Students as Superstars

Houston, Texas: Houston, TX: Galena Park ISD recognized the Student Support Services and the Special Programs Offices for hosting the first-ever Super Star Buddy Relays.

The Super Star Buddy Relays, an athletic meet for GPISD's special-needs students, included athletes paired with a non-disabled, high school "buddy" who assisted in adapted physical challenges. Nearly 450 athletic pairs competed in challenges and supported one another during a fun-filled event. Students, teachers, and volunteers came together to host a unique event showcasing good sportsmanship and teamwork. Galena Park ISD proudly hosts inclusionary programs and experiences for all students!

A certificate was presented to the Offices of Student Support Services and Special Programs on behalf of the Board of Trustees and Dr. John Moore, Superintendent of Schools.

Story Credits: Dr. Tommie L. Smith Photo Credit: Christopher Gause



King High School Earns First Tommy Tune award, Sets school Record



During the May 4 Tommy Tune Awards ceremony, King High School theater was presented the award for Best Technical Execution for its winter performance of "Little Shop of Horrors." Earlier in the year, the department was selected for 22 nominations and four finalists for set design, light design, lead actor and technical execution. The Tommy Tune Awards (TTA) Program is sponsored by Houston's Theatre Under the Stars and celebrates the educational value, artistry and commu-

nity of high school musical theater in the Greater Houston Area. Additionally, lead actress finalist Alexandra Cordova earned a role in the Theater Under the Stars musical this summer for her participation in this process.

Pictured: Pictured: Norma Hernandez, GPISD Board Trustee; Eric Kirchner, Program Director for Special Education; Dr. Mechelle Epps, Assistant Superintendent for Student Support Services; Tammy Takeda, Director for Special Education Programs; Jennifer Boudreau, Life Skills Specialist; Stephani Garza, Early Childhood Special Education (ECSE) Specialist; and Dr. John Moore, Superintendent of Schools

Galena Park ISD Recognized School Counselor Excellence

Houston, Texas: During the April Board of Trustees meeting, Galena Park ISD (GPISD) recognized the North Shore Middle School (NSMS) counseling team for earning a Counselors Reinforcing Excellence for Students in Texas (CREST) Award.

The CREST Award is sponsored by the Texas School Counselor Association and is awarded to counseling programs that document their continuous improvement and commitment to campus teams and programs aligned with the Texas Model for Comprehensive School Counseling Programs, endorsed by the **Texas Education Agency** (TEA). The team at North Shore Middle School is the first school counseling team in GPISD to earn this prestigious honor. The NSMS Counseling Teaming demonstrated excellence in classroom guidance, college and career readiness, and social/ emotional skills needed to be academically success-

ful. Congratulations to the North Shore Middle School counseling team; we are proud of this accomplishment and the work you do with and for GPISD students!

A certificate was presented to each member of NSMS's Counseling Team on behalf of the Board of Trustees and Dr. John Moore, Superintendent of Schools.

Story Credits: Dr. Tommie L. Smith Photo Credit: Christopher Gause



Pictured: Norma Hernandez, GPISD Board Trustee; Robert Villarreal, Counselor; Dana Davis-Peters, Counselor; LaToya Jordon, Counselor; Maria Chavez, Counselor Assistant; Lee Sennett, Lead Counselor; and Dr. John Moore, Superintendent of Schools

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 stu-

dents with an opportunity 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 <u>www.sheldonisd.com</u>. Proceeds for the camp will benefit the C.E. King High School Theatre Company. Registration is limited for Sheldon ISD students.



Involvement

hat does it take to get people involved? This is a question I hear too many times. It does not matter if it is to vote in a local election or to attend a PTA Meeting. Too many people have become complacent. They just expect that things will happen even if they do not participate. And then when nothing happens, they sometimes want to complain.

Looking over the results from the two elections held on May 6, the turn out was pathetic. Are there that many residents who do not care who is elected to represent them on the local school board and the local community college board?

As local students are preparing for graduation, some people are complaining about the cost of parking at local arenas. As high school seniors were preparing for their proms, parents were upset over the locations as well as the costs of the events. Questions that I have heard include "why are events held so far away? And who picked these locations?" These are the same questions heard when it is time for reunions as well as other large events. There are some simple answers. Channelview ISD, Galena Park ISD and San Jacinto College do not have large enough venues to host these events. And for the proms, same thing. There is not a venue within the North Channel Area that can accommodate large events

People must get involved. When children are young, parents seem to be more involved. As they transition from elementary school to middle school, they want options, but parents still need to be involved. As they transition to high school, they want what everyone else wants but are they responsible enough to handle it all?

Even if you are not a parent, or your children are older, I still believe that as a community member, you have a responsibility to be involved and participate in activities in the area. My hat goes off to those who serve as volunteers in the area. And yet, there is always a need. Where are the ones who complain about the community? If it is the trash that is making an area unsightly, contact others to volunteer to help with the local clean ups. If you enjoy sports and you enjoy young children, volunteer with the many sports leagues that are in our area. If you want to work with young men, come out and support the East Houston United NBL Team that plays at San Jacinto College North. These young men would appreciate seeing you there as well as offering an encouraging word to them.

We all recognize the number of young people turning to the wrong sources for acceptance. The number of young women who work in sexually oriented businesses is astounding, especially when you realize they are often single moms. When you see how many young men are involved in local shootings, you question who set the example for them.

I am tired of people wanting to blame others, we all have an obligation to get involved. Again, if you do not know where to help, please contact me at $\underline{charlotte.jackson@yahoo.com} \ and \ tell \ me \ where \ you$ want to help. If you are not quite ready to commit, please visit www.exploreeastharriscounty.com and check out the EVENTS Calendar. See what is happening and test the waters. Find a place to make a difference. YOUR involvement matters.



GPHS Girl's Softball Pitcher Mariah DeSantiago



In the playoff game, Mariah DeSantiago, the Jacket's junior pitcher, pitched 6-2/ 3rds shutout innings. The Jackets lost a heartbreaker in their first playoff game against the Terry Rangers from Rosenberg 1 to 0. Fans of both teams were on the edge of their seats in the pitcher's duel. (Photo by Allan Jamail)



Rotary hears of the R.U.OK program for senior care



ASK DIAMOND JIM

Diamond Jim: "Local Ice Vendors!"

"Local ice vendors"

We're moving into the warm, warmer, and flat-out hot months. Of course, you want to have lots of ice on hand to keep cool.

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Jacinto City increases Water/ Sewer Rates 15%,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

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much over the \$80,000 Houston bill would the increase generate. Squyres said the new rates would bring in about \$145,000 or \$65,000 in surplus over and above the current \$80,000 Houston invoice. This surplus revenue can quickly accrue to make a big profit annually for the city.

Some have questioned why the city waited 10 years before adjusting the rates so that the sudden impact wouldn't hit them so hard and all at once. Others pointed out this increase was timed to wait until a month after the election filing date for Mayor and the city council positions had expired.

Since this usually is an annual rate increase from Houston to JC several people have felt it's best to pass the rate increase through to the residents more sooner than waiting 10 years to do it. Doing so would also prevent the large profit surplus from accruing annually.

Most JC residents have a low income average of \$46,000. Since learning of the rate increase some have said this large of an increase will negatively impact their livable income budget.

The higher rate will also pay for increases in the cost of operating, maintaining, and repairing the combined water and wastewater (sewer) utility system. It will protect the financial integrity of the utility systems and help to keep the city's ability to stay in compliance with state and federal environmental regulations.

Other business before the mayor and council was the opening and awarding of bids from contractors for paving projects on Lane, Switzer and Oats Road. The low bidder of the three bids went to Trinity LLC for \$202,764.00.

The mayor and council approved the sale at a public auction used equipment. (1) a Dayton air compressor model #329994, (2) a Marathon Electric-Magna One generator, (no model or serial number provided)

and (3) an Onan generator, (no model or serial number provided).

Anyone interested in seeing or bidding on the items can go to the website: govdeals.com. The site will direct bidders to where and when they can go to examine the items at public works. Or call public works at: (713) 453-7411.

Chad Burke, President and CEO of the Economic Alliance Houston Port Region gave their annual report.

graduate to always look on the bright side



Dealing with the loss of a loved one is never easy, but maybe these guys can help!

We're the only funeral home in the Houston area providing full-time certified therapy dogs for the comfort of our families and guests



In North Shore, nearly everyone reads the NORTH CHANNEL STAR. Your Hometown Newspaper.

☆ OPINION PAGE ☆



Page 4

It's not about growing old; it's about how you grow old

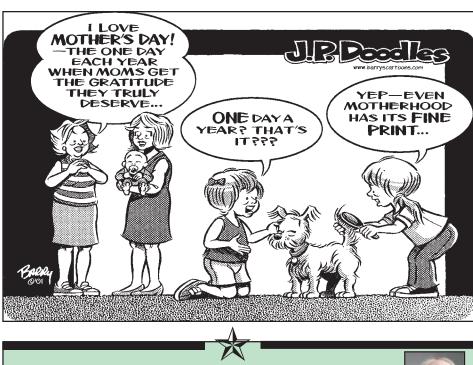
More Americans than ever are growing older and healthier these days. Consider the fact that on average we were lucky if we lived past 47 years of age at the beginning of the 20th century. Yet nowadays most men and women in the U.S. can look forward to celebrating birthdays well into their 70s. In fact, the New England Centenarian Study at Boston University tells us that the numbers of us who make it past our 100th birthday have just about doubled over the past two decades.

To be sure, the covid pandemic has taken its toll, causing an increased mortality rate in general among the elderly as well as a time out when it comes to expanded life spans. Not long ago, the Washington Post reported that "unlike flu, which impacts both the very young and the very old, the coronavirus appears to put mostly older people at higher risk of severe disease and death."

Going forward the question is, will life expectancy in the U.S. resume its growth in the future. It most likely will, say the experts. But it is not because medical science is on a quest for immortality; rather, the goal is to alleviate the illnesses that come with aging. As the website, Lifespan.io, put it: "The immune system keeps us safe from the constant invasion of viruses, bacteria, and other pathogens, helping us to stay healthy and free from diseases. However, the immune system begins to break down as we get older and we become ever-more vulnerable to diseases and infections. To solve this problem, scientists are exploring therapies to regenerate the immune system so that it is better able to fight back against diseases as it did in youth."

According to the National Library of Medicine, the risk factors of aging are the human pathologies such as cancer, diabetes, cardiovascular disorders and neurodegenerative diseases. "Aging research has experienced an unprecedented advance over recent years, particularly with the discovery that the rate of aging is controlled, at least to some extent, by genetic pathways and biochemical processes conserved in evolution ... the final goal [is] identifying pharmaceutical targets to improve human health during aging with minimal side-effects."

What it all comes down to is what Abraham



STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS By Gary Borders

Clock Ticking on getting House Bills to Senate for action

The clock is ticking on getting bills out of the House and to the Texas Senate, Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick warned last week in a story in the Austin American-Statesman. Patrick presides over the Senate and is worried many bills that have made it out of House committees but have not gone before the full chamber will not be considered before the session ends.

"I previously expressed concern the House was far behind in the passage of bills and a train wreck was coming," Patrick tweeted. At that time, more than 1,100 bills had made it out of committee but still had not been set on the House calendar. All bills must meet a May 11 deadline for a second reading to be further considered for final passage.

House Speaker Dade Phelan did not comment on Patrick's concern but has put that chamber on a six-day work schedule for the rest of the session.

POLL: RAISE MINIMUM AGE FOR GUN PURCHASES

A new poll released by the Texas Politics Project at the University of Texas at Austin indicates three-fourths of Texans polled said they support raising the minimum age to purchase a firearm from 18 to 21,the Texas Standard reported. "That included 91% of Democrats and 64% of Republicans," Joshua Blank, director of research, said. "This is a consistent finding, to be quite honest. We've asked this question before. We've asked similar questions. So, there's an appetite in some ways for stricter gun laws in Texas. It's just not something that is politically palatable in the process that we have." Attempts by some Democratic legislators to push a similar measure in this legislative session have not gained traction and appear unlikely to pass.



Tribune reported. Peter Lake reiterated that more on-demand power sources, such as power plants fueled by natural gas or batteries, need to be built to increase the electric grid's reliability.

"The Texas grid faces a new reality," Lake said last week. "Data shows for the first time that the peak demand for electricity this summer will exceed the amount we can generate from on-demand, dispatchable power, so we will be relying on renewables to keep the lights on."

Pablo Vegas, CEO of the Electric Reliability Council of Texas, said at the news conference that wind and solar

energy production results

have increased considerably

more than plants powered by

"So as a result, we are ex-

pecting to have to rely more on

renewables during peak con-

ditions than we ever have be-

Supporters of renewable

Luke Metzger, director of

Environment Texas, said in a

statement that renewable en-

ergy's growth in Texas "should

be heralded and welcomed ----

not blamed, contrary to evi-

use of performance credits,

funded by an estimated 2% in-

crease in customer electric

bills. The funds would go to

companies that operate on-de-

mand power sources in hopes

of incentivizing them to build

more power plants or keep ex-

isting plants operating longer,

the Tribune reported.

The PUC is proposing the

dence, for grid problems."

energy scoffed at the view that

the grid's reliability rests on

renewable energy alone.

coal or gas.

fore," Vegas said.



"Taking Pictures"

I like taking photos when I'm out of the country.

Photographing things in Mexico is effortless. I'll never understand the nuances of every festival or ritual, but I can enjoy the pageantry and the color and the incredible effort and artistry that goes into creating so much beauty

Then I come back up north and look at the mud. It's a big change.

The skies were overcast for the first five days after my return from Mexico. The temperatures were unseasonably low. There was some rain. There might even have been some snow, if you count the white, pelletlike things that dotted the sidewalk. Maybe it was sleet. Maybe it doesn't matter.

"What is this?" I asked an innocent passerby. He shook his head disapprovingly.

"I have no idea."

And I realized that I was terribly spoiled. Taking pictures in Mexico took no skill at all. I decided I needed to start taking pictures right here at home.

The first day was not a great success. The sun stayed stubbornly behind a cloud. The few blooms that were out had been nipped by the frost. I took a photo of some branches against the gray sky and a carved stone pillar covered in green lichen. The lichen was vivid green after sleeping all winter. The lichen seemed about as happy as lichen can be, and so I figured I could make more of an effort.

The next day I happened upon some crocuses forcing their way through the muddy soil. The crocus is not a showy flower, but their sheer numbers were amazing. I found a handful of daffodils blooming in a spot where they caught the occasional bit of sunshine.

The third day was colder than ever. I headed out the door for my walk and turned right around, went inside and put on warmer clothes. The sky was dark in the middle of the afternoon. I photographed a hydrangea, left over from the previous year, bleached and brittle, shaking in the chill wind. I wanted to photograph one of the oldest houses in the neighborhood through the fence, but a row of garbage cans was in the way. I contorted into a strange position, and a woman walking by looked at me curiously. "I'm trying to take pictures," I told her, "even on the gloomy days." "Well, this is a good house to photograph when it's gloomy!" she replied. The house looked menacing under the heavy clouds. On Sunday, I went to church. A new pastor had been hired while I was in Mexico, and he preached a good sermon. The choir was especially strong. And, sometime in the middle of the service, a little bit of sun crept out. I looked up and saw the stained glass. "Oh, look," I thought. "Finally, some color." After the service, I climbed the wooden stairs to the balcony, and I looked through the vibrant stained glass. It was all the color I had been missing since coming back from Mexico.



Lincoln allegedly said: "In the end, it's not the years in your life that count. It's the life in your years."

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The 2.4 million member Association of Mature American Citizens [AMAC] www.amac.us is a vibrant, vital senior advocacy organization that takes its marching orders from its members. AMAC Action is a non-profit, non-partisan organization representing the membership in our nation's capital and in local Congressional Districts throughout the country.



Reader wants help with toxic waste from Superfund site

Please we need help our back yard is full of toxins ! I live 3000 feet from the waste pit on I-10 and my health as well as family and a dear friend who has lived here since the early 90 !!

2017 mercury lots of mercury washed up from hurricane Harvey , We were promised help but no reply from any agency !

New York Times did a story on the devastation of toxic chemicals found post Harvey but was made to make revisions to the story per EPA AND GOVERNMENT AGENCIES!

Harris county health dept left message in article they would have someone come invistigate but no one ever showed. We have proof - pictures, documentation's, years of research and finally maybe some answers ..

Sincerely

Natalie Cullom 346-417-8252

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.

PUC CHAIR WARNS OF POSSIBLE SUMMER OUTAGES

The chairman of the Public Utility Commission warned last week that the state's main power grid is at risk if wind turbines don't produce enough power when needed, the Texas

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FOR SENATE SEAT

The Dallas

video.

A three-term Dallas-area

congressman is seeking the

Democratic nomination for

U.S. Senate in hopes of facing

off against incumbent Repub-

lican Sen. Ted Cruz next year.

News reported last week that

U.S. Rep. Colin Allred, D-Dal-

las, is seeking the nomination.

He released a video blasting

Cruz for hiding in a supply

closet during the Jan. 6, 2021,

attack on the U.S. Capitol, and

for leaving Texas weeks later

for a Cancun vacation during

the statewide electricity crisis

caused by Winter Storm Uri.

no cattle," Allred says in the

called Allred a "far-left radi-

cal." beat Democratic rival

Beto O' Rourke by fewer than

Thousands of Texas motor-

cyclists are seriously injured

or killed in crashes every year,

the Texas Department of

Transportation reports. In

2022, 562 motorcycle riders

3 percentage points in 2018.

MAY IS MOTORCYCLE

AWARENESS MONTH

"That's Ted for you. All hat,

Cruz, whose campaign

Morning

"People on motorcycles are more vulnerable on our roadways," said TxDOT Executive Director Marc Williams. "It's important for drivers to pay extra attention and look out for motorcycles — especially at intersections, when turning in front of oncoming traffic and while changing lanes. We all want to get home safe."

During May, which is Motorcycle Awareness Month, drivers are urged to observe these safety precautions:

Stay alert. Even a momentary distraction, such as answering a phone call or changing the radio station, can have deadly consequences

Pay special attention at intersections. That is where onethird of motorcycle fatalities occur.

Take extra care when making left turns. Always assume motorcycles are closer than they appear.

Stay back and maintain a safe following distance.

Slow down and observe posted speed limits.

SIX NEW STATE PARKS ON THE HORIZON

Texans will have the opportunity to enjoy six new state parks in the next 12 to 15 years, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department announced recently. As TPWD celebrates 100 years of state parks, it is planning the development of a half dozen new places to camp, hike, fish or just enjoy nature.

New parks in the works include Palo Pinto Mountains State Park near Fort Worth; the Dan A. Hughes Unit of the Devils River State Natural Area near Del Rio; Albert and Bessie Kronkosky State Natural Area near Boerne; Powderhorn State Park near Port Lavaca; Chinati Mountains State Natural Area near Presidio; and Davis Hill State Natural Area near Houston. And I felt a lot better.

I'm not sure if the new minister would approve, but those windows did more for my soul than his sermon and the beautiful music put together. Those windows gave a sermon of their own. Those windows lifted my spirits and made me remember how much unseen beauty there is—all the time.

They reminded me that it's not what I'm looking at that matters—it's what I'm looking through. Looking through eyes trained to see beauty, I see beauty everywhere.

I left the church, thanking the windows on my way out.

Till next time, Carrie

Drone photos reveal extent of remediation work at Waste Pits South Impoundment

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1 -- DRONE PHOTOS COURTESY GREG MOSS



Overall view of the site, looking south from Market Street and I-10.



Four large open-air tanks are part of the destering process when water is encountered during the excavation work.



Office area, storage and truck wash areas at the center of the site. Buildings in the background are Southwest Shipyard, not part of the Superfund Site.



Excavation is taking place under a tarp or membrane, to contain the toxic material from being airborn.

Waste Pits Southern Site,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

valves properly. Daily inspections of the Page 5



Excavation work in the distance. Trucks pass through a cleaning area at center in photo.

site are being undertaken by GHD, the consulting engineers for the RP, and EPA is reviewing the Emergency Response Plan. EPA is also conducting sampling, but has not announced any results.

As the work progresses,

THEA meeting held in Highlands in March had questions.

A question was asked why there is no provision for a third party full-time inspector, instead of the RP contractor's person.

It was asked whether

place as work progresses and material is disturbed. The answer seemed to be No.

the public at a recent air monitoring is taking

It was asked whether workers at the Southern site are wearing protective gear, and the answer was No.

San Jacinto River site of more barges

CHANNELVIEW – Residents of this community along River Road have been fighting a barge storage company, for over a year to keep the San Jacinto River from filling up with more barges that obstruct water flow, recreational boat traffic, and are an eyesore. They are also a hazard if they break loose in a flood.

They were surprised and angry to see last week that the company had started work on piles in an area where they want to store more barges. Residents have questioned whether they have the authority and permits to use this part of the river.

Residents of San Jacinto River Estates have been monitoring the new barge parking lot. At first they thought it was being created by TimTom since it is very near the area that TimTom/Holtmar/Buffalo (all the same people) Letters of Permission are for and we had heard that if they



Work progresses in the water to drive piles and establish mooring for barges, the first line of which can be seen in this photo ready to tie up. In the foreground is Riverside Inn and Grill, and in the distance a Union Pacific train is travelling on the line from Channelview to Highlands over this part of the

could not get the Letters of Permission approved to place the barges along the banks they would create a mooring area out in the river. The markings on the tugs and barges are from a company Chem Carriers LLC out of Sunshine, LA, Chem Carriers LLC while authorized to operate in the inland waters of the Gulf coast do not appear to have any office in Texas.

They started creating the mooring area or barge parking lot and as a unregulated floating chemical storage facility (FCSF), on Fri. April 28th. First they brought in a crane barge to help install two spud barges to moor barges to in the sandbar area in the middle of the SJR in between the Riverside Grill and Marina and the UP railroad trestle. After they installed the spud barges they removed the crane barge and used three tugs, two of which are the Frank Banta, Jr. and Ben Hayes. They



San Jacinto River. The waterfront area is close to Meadowbrook Park, a Precinct 2 nature park, and adjacent to housing in San Jacinto River Estates. Residents in the area are opposed to any type of mooring, and against any dredging required in regard to development of a mooring area. (Photos Greg Moss)

then moored two barges CCL 5 fand CCL 31. All vessels tie back to Chem Carries. Since then it appears they have been using the tugs to "dredge" the sandbar with their prop washes to deepen the area for additional barges.

According to residents the sandbar is a shrimp and flounder estuary. The mooring area activites have already disturbed the marine life on the sandbar and if it remains it will do further harm. The chosen area is in a FEMA Special Hazard Floodway which is the pathway the San Jacinto river takes across I-10 when we have a flooding event. It is in very close proximity to the UP RR trestle. We are all very aware of what happens during a flood event in this area, we now do not only have to worry about barges we have to worry about railroad trestle strikes, damage to Meadowbrook Park, the San Jacinto

River Estates area and the possibility of barges being moved by flood waters onto I-10 itself. Also to be considered is a repeat of a loose barge striking one of the pipelines which run through the San Jacinto River such as the incident in 1994 which set the river on fire.

An example of the frustration and anger at the abuse of the river is voiced in a statement to this newspaper by nearby resident Greg Moss:

"The barges are coming in the river being moored close to Riverside Marina. We knew it was coming and tried to stop it. These barge companies privatized a public water way for their profit. How can anyone in the government allow this. These barge companies charge a mooring fee. This is a public waterway. I'd like to know how I get my percentage of the fee since it just as much my river as it is Buffalo Marine's."

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and/or designated staff. Any proposal received after the time for opening shall be returned unopened. Proposals submitted via faxes or electronic media will not be accepted. A complete bid packet can be picked-up at: HCESD 6 located at 332 Freeport St. Houston, Texas 77015. Complete packet must be submitted and shall be addressed to: HCESD6 Surplus Vehicle, and clearly marked: "SEALED BID -"SURPLUS VEHICLE 2023". HCESD6 reserves the right to postpone, to accept or to reject any or all proposals, or to waive any informalities in the process. Please direct your questions to Roland Hobbs 713-637-0900. Vehicle is ready to be viewed at 325 Freeport Houston, Texas 77015.

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school year. The meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 23, 2023, from 9:00 - 10:00 a.m. If you are interested in participating or have questions, please contact Dr. Brenda Dearmon, Executive Director of Federal Programs & Grants for Sheldon ISD at (281) 727-2096.

LEGAL NOTICE

Atención a Las Escuelas Privadas Sin Fines de Lucro, Los Educadores en el Hogar, Los Padres y Los Miembros de la Comunidad en el Distrito Escolar Independiente de Sheldon

Las escuelas privadas, sin fines de lucro, que califican legalmente como una organización sin fines de lucro (actualmente tienen un certificado 501-C3), educadores en el hogar, padres y miembros de la comunidad están invitados a participar en una reunión con representantes del Distrito Escolar Independiente de Sheldon para obtener más información sobre los programas y servicios financiados por el gobierno federal disponibles para el año escolar 2023-2024. La reunión se llevará a cabo el martes 23 de mayo del 2023, de 9:00 a 10:00 a.m. Si está interesado en participar o tiene preguntas, comuníquese con la Dra. Dearmon, Directora Ejecutiva de Programas Federales y Subvenciones de Sheldon ISD al (281) 727-2096.

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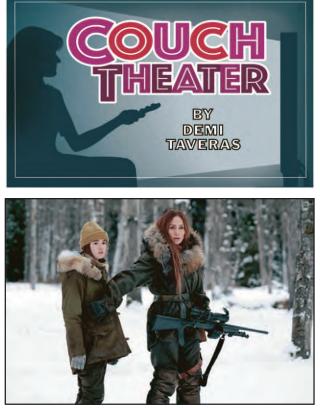
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Lucy Paez and Jennifer Lopez star in "The Mother."

"The Mother"

<u>"THE MOTHER"</u> (R) In this action-drama film directed by Niki Caro, Jennifer Lopez stars as the nameless titular character, an ex-assassin who cuts a deal with the FBI. Forced to leave her newborn baby girl behind, the mother-assassin goes into hiding in order to keep her daughter safe, since there are other dangerous assailants on the lookout for both. So, the Mother remains in hiding until news of her now-12-year-old daughter's kidnapping reaches her. Now, she must resort back to her killer roots to find her daughter and free her from her captors.

While the story sounds like it's been done a few times before, Lopez's performance as an action star carries the film, along with other great performances by Gael Garcia Bernal and Joseph Fiennes. Premieres

May 12. (Netflix)

"BUPKIS" (TV-MA) -A new series described as the dramatized version of Pete Davidson's life is out now on streaming. The eight-episode, action-comedy series follows the comedian-actor as he tries to navigate his unique family dynamics and the complexities of rising to fame, according to the Hollywood Reporter.

Joe Pesci ("The Irishman") and Edie Falco ("The Sopranos") play main roles as Davidson's relatives, while a myriad of big names in Hollywood make guest appearances throughout the half-hour episodes, including Bobby Cannavale, Steve Buscemi, Al Gore, Kenan Thompson and Machine Gun Kelly. While viewers should anticipate lots of self-deprecating humor and absurdist elements,

expect some profoundly heartwarming and human moments in between. (Peacock)

<u>"TILL"</u> (PG-13) — The brutal murder of 14-yearold Emmett Till during the Civil Rights Movement in 1955 swept over our nation.

His tragic story catapulted the young African-American boy into becoming a historic symbol posthumously, no doubt due to the fact that his mother Mamie Till-Bradley, refused to let him die in vain. Making conscious choices to leave Emmett's casket open and speaking publicly about the circumstances that lead to his death, Mamie uses an experience that no mother should have to face as a way to help bring about justice for Emmett.

This biographical film emphasizes Mamie's powerful activist acts and the weight they still carry decades later. Premieres May 9. (Prime Video)

<u>"CRATER"</u> (PG) — From the producers of "Stranger Things" comes a sci-fi adventure film taking place on a mining colony on the moon! In the year 2257, a boy named Caleb. who spent his entire life in the colony, is about to relocate to a faraway planet after his father passes away. But first, Caleb wants to travel across the moon to a mysterious crater full of wonders that his father once told him about. Opting to bring along his three best friends and a new friend from Earth for the ride, the gang of five steal a rover and embark on a journey of a lifetime. Isaiah Russell-Bailey and Mckenna Grace star, with Scott Mescudi (aka rapper Kid Cudi) taking on the role of Caleb's father. Out on May 12. (Disney+)

by Tony Rizzo

HOLLYWOOD - Jonathan Majors hardly had time to bask in the success of "Creed III" (which grossed \$272.2 million) when he stepped in some deep doo-doo. Everything's come crashing down after allegations of violence in an incident on March 25 in New York, when he allegedly had a dispute with a 30-year old woman, who, afterward, was taken to a hospital with minor injuries to her head and neck. His court date was set for May

As a result of this incident, he's been dropped from "The Man in My Basement" with Willem Dafoe, from the Texas Rangers baseball team's ad campaign, and from the forthcoming Otis Redding biopic. Once upon a time, you were innocent till proven guilty, but rats desert a sinking ship as soon as the waters start churning.

One star who seems invincible is Sylvester Stallone. At 76, he's on fire. He's starring in and producing the Prime Video film "Never Too Old to Die," as well as Prime's crime series "Tulsa King," which had one of the biggest cable debuts in 2022.

Stallone reprised his role of Stakar Ogord in "Guardians of the Galaxy: Vol. 3," which opened May 5, and he's launching his Paramount+ reality series "The Family Stallone," co-starring his real-life family. Still upcoming for the actor is 'The Expendables 4," with Jason Statham, Dolph Lundgren and Andy Garcia, due Sept. 22.

The 1996 classic "Twister" starred Bill Paxton (who died in 2017), Helen Hunt and Philip Seymour Hoffman (who died in 2014) — the latter two being Oscar winners. The film grossed \$495.7 million. Twenty-seven years later, it will finally get a sequel, starring Anthony Ramos (of "Hamilton" and "In the Heights"). Ramos is also the upcoming star of "Transformers: Rise of the Beasts," opening on June 9. Then, he'll be everywhere you turn, in



Jonathan Majors ("Creed III")

the Marvel series "Ironheart," Sony's "Dumb Money" with Paul Dano and Sebastian Stan (due Oct. 20), and the sci-fi film "Distant" with Zachary Quinto, due at year's end.

Pedro Pascal, who began acting in 1996 at the age of 21, has finally hit the big time. Now, at 48, he's definitely ready for anything they throw at him. Despite headlining two of the hottest shows on cable -Disney+'s "The Mandalorian" (as Din Djarin) and HBO Max's "The Last Of Us," (as Joel Miller) — he still found time to star in Ethan Coen's solo directorial film opening on Sept. 22, "Drive-Away Dolls," with Margaret Qualley and Beanie Feldstein (whose Broadway "Funny Girl" turn was less than great).

Pascal also has the drama film "Freaky Tales," opposite Ben Mendelsohn. As if that weren't enough, he's executively producing and starring in the HBO series "My Dentist's Murder Trial."

Only 27 years of auditions ... is that all it takes to become an overnight sensation? (c) 2023 King Features Synd., Inc.



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